

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

Published Twice a Week—Tuesdays and Fridays.

W. F. MARSHALL, Editor and Proprietor.

DEVOTED TO THE PROTECTION OF HOME AND THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY.

One Dollar a Year in Advance.

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GASTONIA, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1903.

NO. 11.

THE STILL WAS UNDERGROUND

And It Did Business Ten Years Before the Officers Discovered It.

Raleigh Dispatch to Richmond News.

Huldah Nines, a white woman, pleaded guilty to running a blockade still and was sentenced at the recent December term of the United States court in this city to two years in the penitentiary at Nashville, Tenn., where she now is. The convict is a woman of good sense, but without education, and is a typical moonshiner. She is about forty years old, and if she had on good "store" clothes would be a comely woman.

She appeared before the court wearing an old split bonnet and with a snuff-dipping toothbrush in her mouth, the corners of which were reddened by the snuff she had been dipping. She is about medium height, with light hair, and with rather pleasant features. Her "blockade still" was successfully hidden from the revenue officers for ten years. The officers knew there was a still near Hester & Thompson's mill, in the northern part of this county. This portion of the county which adjoins Granville county, is known as the "dark corner" and along the banks of the Neuse river, there is an immense cane break which is known among those who live in the "dark corner" as the "Harricane." The land forming the "Harricane" is uncultivated and is covered by a dense growth of cane, which is from seven to ten feet high. The ground is swampy, and the strip covered with cane is about three miles wide and five miles long.

WARNING ALWAYS GIVEN.

In this cane break the moonshiners do a flourishing business all the year round. A public road runs through the west end of the swamp, and at this point two men by the name of Hester and Thompson have a mill, which is propelled by Neuse river there is a dam across the river about fifteen feet high, and Hester and Thompson do a thriving business grinding corn and wheat, sawing lumber and ginning cotton. For years the revenue officers have been searching for a "blockade still" near this mill. They have found several places where stills had been set up and run, but they had been "pulled out" when the officers got there, they had raided every foot of land for a mile around the mill without finding any signs of a still.

DUCKS GAVE THE TIP.

During the month of November last Revenue Agents Starkey Hare and Dr. Perkins were raiding near this mill, and they found many wild ducks on the river. The agents concluded they would kill ducks for a few days. While they were ambushed on the banks they observed that the ducks were continuously eating something that appeared to be on the top of the water. Investigation proved this to be bran from cornmeal, and it appeared to have been cooked. Hare and Perkins were hunting below the mill, and they at once concluded the bran came from the slop of a still which was being emptied into the river. Again the search began for the still without success. The officers came to Raleigh because their presence was generally known in the neighborhood. They went back immediately, and by another route. They could not find any bran about the mill dam, but immediately below the dam they found bran. For this reason they were satisfied the still was connected in some way with the mill-house.

WATCHED THE MILL.

This structure is of wood, two stories high, with a chimney at the end near the dam. In cold weather the mill-house is heated by a huge fire made of wood. The officers had before this hid themselves in the woods some distance away from the mill and watched with their glasses all who went to the place. They had seen Huldah Nines go in and remain a short time and come out, but they had never seen any kegs or barrels brought away from the mill. For days at a time the river would show no signs of bran; then again bran would be seen on the surface of the water for several consecutive days, but the officers could not find whence it came. In hunting up and down the river they found what appeared to be a landing place for something. A further examination of the water exposed several kegs. One of these was taken

out and proved to be full of newly-made corn whiskey. It was put back and none of the kegs were molested.

The dam across the river is about fifteen feet high and about eighty yards long. Water pours over the dam all the time.

Hare and Perkins returned at night to the mill-house, effected an entrance, concealed themselves and awaited developments. This was early in the night. They remained in the mill until nearly daylight and no one came. They then left the mill and hid themselves in the woods, and all day watched the structure with their glasses. Early in the morning they saw the miller, a man by the name of Ray, and Huldah Nines go into the mill. They observed the miller during the day, but did not see Nines again until nearly dark, when she came out of the mill and went off in the direction of her home, which was about two miles from the mill.

MISS NINES VANISHED.

During the day the chimney had been giving out a continuous heavy black, angry smoke. As it grew dark the officers moved up near the mill and their long vigil was rewarded by seeing Nines return and unlock the mill and go in. The officers thought they had her now. After waiting a few minutes they effected an entrance as before and went in and searched everywhere but failed to find her. They could not imagine what had become of Miss Nines; she had vanished. They remained until nearly daylight and then left and hid again in the woods. As they left the mill-house they noticed that there was no fire in the chimney place. When it became light they were surprised to see a heavy, black smoke boiling out of the top of the chimney. They were certain now that there was some other connection with the chimney, but where was it?

They had critically examined the mill-house before that day. It was built alongside of the river and into the hill. The chimney foundation was down even with that of the mill-house and was up against the hill and was simply an ordinary chimney. From where the top of the ground struck the chimney to the foundation of the mill-house was fifteen feet. The dam was built in the usual way to a rise of fifteen feet, and then to prevent logs from catching on the dam, a plank bed six feet wide was built to aid the logs over the dam.

AWAITED EVENTS.

About sundown of the second day Miss Nines was seen coming out of the mill again. As soon as it was dark the officers again effected an entrance and awaited events. In about two hours Miss Nines and a man by the name of Tilly came into the mill. The officers did not disturb them, but watched to see where they went. They went down to the foundation of the mill and walked along beside the fobay and through the water as it poured over the dam and then they disappeared and did not return. The officers remained in the mill until nearly daylight and then returned to the woods. Early in the morning Nines and Tilly came out and went off. As soon as it was dark the officers went into the mill and went under the dam. As soon as they got under the dam they noticed in the side of the hill something that looked like a door, but it was securely locked and the officers could not get it open. Here was a defeat; what now to do? The officers as yet had no tangible evidence of a "blockade still." They went back into the mill and wet some flour into a paste and took an impression of the keyhole and then returned to the city of Raleigh. Immediately they had a key made from the impression, and, taking T. F. Brockwell, a locksmith, with them, they returned to the scene of their search. They found the river full of ducks and the water covered with corn bran. From this sign the officers knew the still must be running in full blast. They watched all day from the hill and saw black, heavy smoke pouring out of the chimney. About night Nines and Tilly came out and went off. The officers and Brockwell tried the key Brockwell had made. It did not fit, but after considerable labor with Brockwell's tools, the key did its work and showed an entrance under the ground.

ENTERED A TUNNEL.

All entered and closed and locked the door and took the key out. A tunnel about six feet long was found, which led into a

room twenty-five feet long and twelve feet wide. The excavation had been made and the dirt thrown into the river, and with plank from the saw-mill the opening had been walled up as it had been made.

In the large room was a complete whiskey distillery. The water from the still was taken from the dam, and was run back into the river below the dam and the slops from the still were turned off in the same way. An additional chimney had been built to the other one and covered up with earth, and into this was run the furnace that ran the still. About the middle of the room was a tunnel up through the ground into the heavy cane alongside the dam, which served as a ventilator, in addition to door under the dam, which was always left open at night when the still was running.

The officers were heavily armed and they hid themselves the best they could behind the still house paraphernalia to await the return of the moonshiners. They knew that a desperado by the name of Charles Pearce, who had been convicted and put in the penitentiary for four years, and who had escaped, was in the neighborhood, and they expected he was interested in the still, and that he might return with Nines and Tilly. In about two hours the officers heard the door open and in walked Nines. The officers did not show themselves, and Nines threw off her rubber clothes, which she wore to protect her from the water pouring over the dam. She then commenced to kindle up the fire under the furnace when the officers exposed themselves.

HULDAH'S FIRST REMARK.

Nines looked at them in utter consternation, and as soon as her power of speech returned, she said:

"Well, well, well! I have been running this still for ten years and I never expected you to find it." Huldah said the distillery was the handiwork of a man who had been dead several years. She was asked what became of the whiskey they made. She got up, took a keg, rolled it to the door, put it into the river, and turned it loose, saying: "You will find that keg in a few minutes at a landing place about four hundred yards down the river, where it is taken out." Hare winked at Perkins and Huldah caught the wink and said: "I see you have been to the landing." The officers waited until nearly daylight in the distillery, but no one came and they left and brought Huldah to jail. So much for Huldah "blockade distillery."

As they rode to Raleigh Huldah asked the officers if they knew how Charley escaped from the penitentiary, and then she told this story:

"You remember that Charley Pearce, soon after he was put in the penitentiary, was made a trusy and was put to minding the drove of cows on the land beyond the prison walls at Raleigh. Charley was not being punished much, but he pined for the 'dark corner' and his blockade still." He sent me word to come and see him and to bring a citizen's suit of clothes. I went and he told me what day to return, and that he wanted me to put on his striped suit of clothes and mind the cows in them all day while he was making good his escape. I went back on the day he said and he put on the suit I brought, and I minded the cows all day, and about night I got into the bushes and made my way back home, where I found Charley when I got there."

The officers told Huldah that if she would help them arrest Charley Pearce they would see that she was not punished. She refused and said she would take her punishment for her part, but she would not betray her accomplices. She said further that she and Charley would have been married some time ago, but that they could not get the license, because Charley was in the woods evading arrest.

GROVER CLEVELAND ELECTED.

Made First Vice President of a Fish and Game Protective Association.

Washington Post.

Princeton, N. J., Feb. 1.—Ex-President Grover Cleveland has been elected first vice president of the Princeton Fish and Game Protective Association, and Prof. Ulric Dahlgren, of the histological department, was elected president.

The other officers elected are: Vice presidents, Dr. Henry Van Dyke, M. Taylor Payne, and Prof. William Libbey, and Secretary and treasurer, H. L. Robinson.

SAMPSON'S FATAL MALADY.

Admiral Sampson Suffered From Aphasia for Years—Organic Brain Disease Developed Long Before Spanish War.

Washington Post, 2nd.

A pension of \$30 a month was recently granted to the widow of Admiral W. T. Sampson, of the navy. That was done under the general law of Congress governing the Commissioner of Pensions in such cases. It is the same rate of bounty allowed, according to rank, to the widows of all military officers who lose their lives from causes arising out of the performance of duty in the service of their country.

The medical record of the case however, is not without interest to all those who have followed the stirring events that began with the blowing up of the Maine in Havana harbor and culminated in the sea battle of Santiago. For fully five years prior to his death Admiral Sampson was afflicted with aphasia, according to the medical records upon which the pension was granted. This has been duly certified to, and the facts were compiled from official records made by surgeons of the navy who attended the distinguished officer during various illnesses of that malady when it came upon him in a form more or less acute.

FIRST ATTACKED IN APRIL, 1897.

The first record of such an illness of Admiral (then Captain) Sampson was in April, 1897, when he was incapacitated for some time and a patient at the Naval Dispensary in Philadelphia. The rigid rules of the service as to such matters made it imperative that information about his illness should be forwarded to the Navy Department where it was undoubtedly known, because of Admiral Sampson's prominence as an officer, not only to the surgeon general, but likewise to the Secretary of the Navy and his several chiefs of bureau, who keeps informed as to the personal fitness of officers for various important duties.

Some ten months later—in January, 1898—while he was in command of the battleship Iowa, of the North Atlantic Squadron, Capt. Sampson was again incapacitated by the same malady, which seized him with sufficient virulence to prevent his performance of duties.

IMPORTANT DUTY WHILE MENTALLY FAILING.

Within a month after he had recovered from the attack of aphasia, while in command of the Iowa, Capt. Sampson was detailed as president of the commission, which examined the destruction of the Maine. For weeks the country and Congress awaited with expectancy the verdict of Captain Sampson and his colleagues, which, it was fully realized, meant either war or peace for two nations, and results that were important to all the civilized world. Lives of thousands of men—for aught any one knew then the lives of hundreds of thousands of men—depended on the decision, not to mention expenditures of millions and millions of dollars, and the destinies of Spain and the United States.

While the knowledge of that insidious mental disease was fresh in the minds of officers of the Navy Department, another important assignment was bestowed upon Capt. Sampson, who was promoted temporarily to the grade of rear admiral and assigned to the command of the entire naval fleet on the Atlantic.

The Century Dictionary gives the following definition of aphasia:

In pathology the impairment or abolition of the faculty of using and understanding written and spoken language. Independent of any disease or paralysis of the vocal organs.

Organic Aphasia, when uncomplicated, is inability to express one's ideas in spoken words while the patient understands perfectly what is said to him, and reads and writes as usual. Organic aphasia has been applied to cases where the patient is unable to recall the word which he wants, though able to speak if when prompted. Memory aphasia is where the patient fails to comprehend spoken or written words; it comprises word deafness and word blindness.

Aphasia, especially staccate aphasia, seems to depend in most cases on a lesion of the inferior frontal convolution, almost always on the left side of the brain.

ORGANIC BRAIN DISEASE.

Dr. A. B. Richardson, the superintendent at St. Elizabeth's where there are always a considerable number of patients suffering from aphasia, said last evening that it was a serious organic brain disease.

"Aphasia primarily impairs the facilities for speech," added Dr. Richardson.

"Would two or three attacks of it affect one's capacity for performing responsible duties?" "I have never seen a case yet," he replied, "where aphasia in adults did not affect the judg-

ment. Patients are also aware of their inability to speak correctly and it irritates them. The disease is almost invariably fatal, but the time for which it runs varies with different patients."

Physicians are agreed that among patients past middle life aphasia is, saving in exceedingly rare instances, eventually ended in death. Aphasia is almost always accompanied by agraphia, a form of the disease in which the patient is unable to write correctly.

At the Pension Office the records of Admiral Sampson's illness are more carefully guarded and no information about them is vouchsafed. The details of the aphasia cannot be stated, as to how acute or how mild it was in the first two serious attacks upon him prior to the Spanish war. With patients well along in years the disease is generally accompanied by other complications. It is known that the medical record shows Admiral Sampson as having suffered for years from cephalalgia, which is headache not traceable to any immediate cause. The inability of sufferers from aphasia, following one or two severe attacks of it after fifty years of age, to safely perform important mental work is universally recognized by the medical profession.

PATHERIC ATTENTION TO DUTY.

The painful efforts which Admiral Sampson must at times certainly have been put to in trying to perform his duty make a pathetic feature of his naval career. The energy of Capt. Chadwick in coming to his assistance at intervals when the admiral's indisposition was pronounced has been emphasized more than once long ago. The stress of controversy over the famous Fourth of July dispatch, after the victory of Santiago, eventually brought out the statement from some of those near him that it was not written at all by Admiral Sampson, but by one of his aids—his chief of staff.

Aphasia in adult life generally marks the breaking up of the brain faculties, a condition that will be brought vividly to mind by those who not a great while after the Spanish war used to see Admiral Sampson walking along the streets in the residence section, his frame bent, his face haggard, recognizing only vaguely, if at all, the friends who greeted him as they passed. It was a favorite theme of certain prominent newspapers to herald that Admiral Sampson was dying of broken heart, due to the harshness of his critics and the failure of the public to appreciate his great service. Quite probably in the last year or two of his life he knew little or nothing of what his critics were saying of him. Less than a year before he died, while the prolonged court of inquiry was sitting at the navy yard, the Navy Department stoutly refused to permit his appearance as a witness in that famous proceeding.

Rival Accomplishments.

Progressive Farmer.

A new boy has moved into the neighborhood. He was sitting on the fence that separated his particular back yard from the yard pertaining to the next-door neighbor, and was proceeding to cultivate the acquaintance of the next-door neighbor's boy.

"I've gone through grammar school," he said. "I can do every sum in mental arithmetic, and I always got a hundred mark in my history and geography."

"Well," responded the other boy, thrusting out his lower jaw, "I can move my ears, and you can't."

General Nelson A. Miles was the guest of the King and Queen at dinner at Windsor Castle last Sunday night. The Prince and Princess of Wales and others were among the party.

THE OLD RELIABLE



THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE.

MOVING!

Roman, the Clothier is moving this week into his new stand next to Torrence's Jewelry Store. Now better prepared than ever to serve our growing trade. We invite you to call on us at our new place. A cordial welcome and many bargains await you. Too busy moving to write more.

ROMAN, The Clothier. GROWING

NOTWITHSTANDING THE rough winter weather THE GAZETTE'S circulation continues to climb. We have done no outside soliciting during the month, but for the 33 days already past we have made a NET GAIN OF FIFTY-SIX

in our circulation. These are not high pressure subscribers, they come of their own accord, and have, we believe, come to stay. We give them a hearty welcome to THE GAZETTE'S large and growing family, and thank them for coming.

Last year was THE GAZETTE'S banner year. Our friends have started out to make this year another. We are going to help them.

Twice a Week; One Dollar a Year.

Mortgagee's Sale of Land.

By virtue of power vested in me by a mortgage...

Notice is hereby given that the following described tracts of land...

Saturday, Feb. 14, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following described tracts of land...

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White Barber Shop.

J. W. WALTERS, Prop.

Assisted by G. H. Moore and J. H. Watson.

Only white barber shop in the city.

Service as neat perfect as we can make it.

Hot and Cold Baths.

Give us a call. Main street west to Gastonia Furniture Company.

NEW BARBER SHOP.

R. S. Alexander.

Forbes Building, Cor. Third and Market.

I am glad to say to all my friends that I have opened shop again. They are all invited to pay a visit to my shaving parlor just opened on the Forbes corner.

I will have an up-to-date shop and will give good satisfaction. Call to see me.

R. S. ALEXANDER.

Notice of Application for Charter.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will apply to the Legislature for a charter for a loan and trust association, incorporating the same under the name of "Gastonia Loan and Trust Company."

W. T. Love,

E. G. McLean,

Geo. W. Watson.

This the 13th day of January, 1903.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the present General Assembly of North Carolina to amend the charter of the town of Belmont and to extend its corporate limits.

A. J. Barry, Mayor.

Jan. 15, 1903.

BEST-SCENT PENCIL on earth

is sold at the Gastonia Book Store, 25 cents. For artists, draughtsmen, and business men.

S. N. BOYCE, Treasurer Prohibition Fund.

Prohibition Fund.

Prohibition Fund.

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