

Remnants Of Lone Balloon Owned By Confederacy Shown

Washington—Old fragments of silk dresses, a letter signed "A Lincoln" and faded photographs given to the Smithsonian institution by the almost forgotten story of the first commander of America's air forces.

The collection belonged to Prof. Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, fighter and explorer, the forefather of Lindbergh, Byrd and Rickenbacker. It was presented by members of his family.

Lowe was the commander of the

unpublished but effective balloon corps that tinkered the Confederacy during the civil war with launch of General Longstreet's wrote mournful letters home about it.

The war, incidentally, kept Lowe from attempting to fly across the Atlantic in a balloon. He had constructed his bag. The citizens of Philadelphia intended to give him enough gas to fill it but the south was belligerently upset. Lowe decided to wait.

C. G. Abbot, Smithsonian secretary, beamed today as he made the response to the presentation speech by Mrs. H. M. Brownback of Norristown, Pa., Lowe's granddaughter. The institution has a sentimental interest in it. Joseph Henry, its secretary in 1861, was Lowe's friend in lieu of the Atlantic flight. He advised him to go aloft to see if there were not a west to east air current.

Lowe went to Cincinnati but the wind was not right. It blew the wrong way or didn't blow at all until finally the gentleman put on his silk hat and went to a dinner in his honor by a Cincinnati editor. He was in the midst of soup when word came the wind had changed. He seized his silk topper and rushed to the field. The editor followed and just as Lowe was soaring away he was lost in several newspapers.

The explorer came down in South Carolina, 800 miles away. He had satisfied himself of the air current but Fort Sumter had fallen. A hawk over a chicken yard could not have created more excitement than his balloon. Nobody believed his story. He was accused of being a Union spy and it looked like the firing squad until he thought of the papers in the balloon.

Henry aided him in his plan to form a balloon corps after he returned to Washington. Abraham Lincoln looked speculatively at the round object in the sky and decided it was not a bad idea. Lowe went to see Gen. Winfield Scott but the general had his mind on the infantry, cavalry and artillery.

Lowe went back to the White House and spent the night. The next morning—July 25, 1861—Lincoln took a goose quill pen and wrote: "Will Lieutenant General Scott please see Professor Lowe once more about his balloon?"

As a reinforcement he took Lowe by the arm and they dropped in to call on the general. The result was five balloons and about 50 men. They floated high above the lines of McClellan's army on sunny days. Longstreet wrote: "We watched with envious eyes their beautiful observations. A genius arose and suggested that we send out and gather all the silk dresses in the Confederacy and make a balloon."

The Confederate balloon had a sad history. It was mounted on a barge in the James river. One day the barge got on a sand bar. Along came the federals and took bar, boat and balloon.

Longstreet wrote: "With it went the last silk dress of the Confederacy."

"This capture was the meanest trick of the war and one I have never forgiven."

Lowe got the remnants of the balloon. The original stripes and designs still clear in the fabric. It rests in the Smithsonian, reminiscent of wide acres pillared—homes—the gleam of candle light on stately ballroom and pretty women.

Everything in the collection has its memories. In it is the first airplane used to direct artillery fire and a set of binoculars with which he scanned the Confederate lines.

Lowe took sick just before Gettysburg. That ended his active service but his ballooning from their pen saw the disintegration of the Confederacy. Lowe went to California after the war and was the founder of Lowe's observation.

"Whispering Wreckers" Cause Much Trouble—Need Punishment

In Charlotte the First National bank close several days ago. This was followed by the closing of the first of the next week of three or four banks at Gastonia, and several small institutions at other points.

Rumors began circulating about the condition of some other banks. Two North Carolina judges, speaking from the bench, called attention to the law against circulating false information about banks and urged prompt prosecution of offenders.

In connection with the situation the Charlotte News published a front-page editorial of general application, which is reprinted below.

"Against the mean, gossiping slanders, and malicious spread of false reports about business institutions, about individuals, about firms and banking institutions in these admittedly difficult times and in the midst of the present inflamed and excited public mind, the citizenship of every community ought to assemble itself into a solid phalanx of steadfast confidence and determined resistance.

"There is undoubtedly abroad in North Carolina a sort of rumor-mongering bent solely on mischief and malice. His talk is directed against the best men that every community has, against the best firms, against the best institutions, against everything that means the unbroken continuation of our social and economic structure.

"The Communist would like to see every bank in North Carolina made to crumble. It would do his heart good just as it would delight him to see every home in this commonwealth disrupted and the hell-inspired gospel of free love and licentious living introduced. He wants to see every vestige of our present social, business, industrial, financial and moral and religious system broken up. Anybody who would belong to an organization that trooped in steady march through the streets of Moscow to attend 'The Funeral of God' would, of course have no conscience about spreading reports which would rend asunder every institution in America against which Communism is set up.

"The resounding slanders that have been repeated in this state about banks have caused some of them already to be closed and others to suffer material and hurtful runs. If they are continued and unless the robust and red-blooded American citizen arms himself with courage and determination to resist these wild and reckless rumors, there is no way to tell what ultimate damage may be done.

"It is time to do something with this kind of cattle—the folks who are spreading the false and malicious insinuations against our banking institutions, such as was responsible for a run on the strong and invincible Wachovia in Asheville, the Commercial in Raleigh and others elsewhere.

"No institution, it would seem, nor any set of business men, are exempt from the vicious assaults of these slanderous tongues. And it becomes the urgent duty of every right thinking citizen of this and every other community to knock the tones of such gossip off the tongues of these corrupt Communistic curs 'who seem to be bent upon the utter destruction of our banks as well as our homes and everything else that mean anything to our contentment and happiness and welfare.

"Let's have done with them! Let's have recourse to our better selves and better judgment when such whisperings reach us and let us meet these wreckers with our unrelenting and immovable courage and confidence in our business leaders and in our financial institutions."

Double Shoals News Of the Current Week

Holiday Visiting Recorded. Miss Ruby Washburn Entertains Young Folks.

(Special To The Star.) Double Shoals, Jan. 3.—Miss Nettie Jones of Boiling Springs junior college spent the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Lovelace.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Brooks visited Mr. and Mrs. Sammie Brooks Saturday night.

Miss Bertha Hawkins visited Miss Selma Davis Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Greene and daughter, Evelyn, spent last Friday night in the Union community visiting Mr. and Mrs. Billy Powell.

Miss Selma Davis a student at Boiling Springs junior college spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Davis.

Miss Ruby Washburn visited Miss Eliza Brooks Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Brooks spent several days in the community last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Brooks and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Schlemman McSwain and children, Mr. and Mrs. Berry McSwain and children and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Gold and daughter spent Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. M. Brooks.

Mr. and Mrs. Cone Hoyt and son, J. C. Jr., of Georgia visited relatives in the community during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Brooks spent

Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Lee.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Hamrick and children of Shelby visited Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Hamrick Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Bridges and daughters, Polly and Betty, spent Wednesday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bridges.

Mrs. W. J. Powell and Miss Della Powell, Messrs. Foster and Audie Powell and Mr. and Mrs. Vess Powell and children spent the day Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Greene.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Hamrick near Hollis Thursday.

Mr. Troy Martin of Winston-Salem is spending a few days this week as the guest of Mr. Yulan Washburn.

Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Pink Greene and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gold of Chesnee visited their mother, Mrs. J. C. Greene Thursday.

Miss Ruby Washburn entertained the young folks of the community last Friday night with a pound party. A large crowd was present and the table was filled with many good eats. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Washburn and sons, James and Edward, of Shelby, and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Washburn and family spent Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Washburn.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wright and children, Claris and Joe Harris, of Shelby and Jane Bridges were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bridges Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Brooks and children, Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Brooks and Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Washburn and children were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Wright Saturday evening.

Mrs. Fletcher Davis and daughter, Sunshine, spent last week with Mrs. J. E. Davis.

Mesdames J. E. Davis and Fletcher Davis visited Mrs. W. H. Gardner Wednesday.

Bees Make Money For Onslow Farmer

Jacksonville—L. W. Hawks, of Onslow county, has sold \$6,000 worth of honey from 500 hives of bees within the past year. County Agent N. M. Smith reports.

The bees produced 40,000 pounds of honey which sold for an average of 15 cents a pound.

There were only 375 hives at the start of the honey flow, but these were increased to 500 hives during the season.

The hives produced an average of 80 pounds of extracted honey and there was a sufficient amount left in each hive for proper feeding during the winter, Mr. Smith said.

Hard Times, Me Eye! America Has Just 511 Millionaires

Washington—The high tide of 1928 in financial affairs brought the golden harvest of incomes above a million dollars to 511 Americans.

The Internal Revenue bureau showed this in compilations made public. At the same time the treasury sent to Congress the account of another rich reaping by taxpayers—refunds last year aggregating \$126,336,333. This sum included \$37,971,711 of interest. Also the treasury allowed as abatement \$176,398,377 and as credits against unpaid income taxes \$36,935,245. The total of refunds was way below the 1929 total of \$190,000,000.

The 1928 receivers of millionaire income included 74 women, 29 of them single. Twenty-six persons received more than \$5,000,000. These were spread over the map from coast to coast but eleven lived in New York.

That rich year showed total net incomes of the nations amounted to \$25,226,326,910, more than two and a half billions higher than the previous year. The government obtained \$1,164,254,037 as tax. Altogether 4,070,851 persons filed tax returns, but only slightly more than two and a half million of these were taxable. The millionaire income class paid a total of \$185,140,211 on a total income of \$1,108,863,041 for an average of 15.90 per cent compared to 4.65 per cent as an overall average.

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have about enough of cotton raising, and say they will plant mostly food crops. They intend to boycott the guanner agents, but unless they get more cash than they now have, it looks more like the guanner agents will boycott them. Things is down in the dumps as to farming and if a change ain't made by the farm bored, somebody is going to get hungry before blackberries and water melons get here. (Mr. editor, rite or foam if you get this article, as I want it to come out next Monday.)

yours trulle,
Mike Clark, rtd.

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.
Notice is hereby given of the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Union Trust company of Shelby, N. C., for the election of directors for the ensuing year and for any other business coming before the meeting at their banking house in Shelby, N. C., on Tuesday, January 20th, 1931 at 11 o'clock a. m.
FORREST ESKRIDGE, Cashier.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.
Having qualified as executor of the estate of Dr. F. H. Lacey, deceased, late of Cleveland county, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at Fayette, N. C., on or before the first day of December, 1931, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 1st day of December, 1930.
R. A. LACEY, Executor of Dr. F. H. Lacey, deceased.

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