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Evelyn Pierce

A Story of the Old U. S. Army

By EDWIN THORNTON

The days of army posts on the western frontier, a garrison shut up by itself with no outsiders to see or talk with or even hear about, are over. Men, too, in those days—they are not so far distant—occasionally Indians must be driven back on to their reservations, and sometimes they would be too strong for the little garrison, and days and nights of agony would pass in expectation of their making a break in the walls and murdering every one inside the inclosure, including women and children.

Yet there was a pleasant side to the life. The garrison shut off from the world constituted a family consisting of two divisions, the one being composed of the officers and their families, the other of the men and their families. Between officers and men was a dividing line as to association on familiar terms, but there was a union of heart. The enlisted men understood that this line had from time immemorial been considered necessary to the discipline and efficiency of an army.

Years ago there was one of these army posts in what is now a sovereign state in the American Union. One day when a supply train arrived it brought something to stir the tiresome life of the officers' division—a young lady. She came to visit Mrs. Major Bertrand, wife of the commandant, whose niece she was. Her coming had been talked about, but her appearance was disappointing. She was not especially pretty, though she possessed a soft dark eye which was very expressive, though of what no one could exactly determine.

Within four hours after her arrival she had divided the garrison into two sections, consisting of those who liked and those who distrusted her.

However, it was not long before her friends were converted to the opposite side by the fact that she was caught talking with a private in the ranks named Conover. A few of those who had fancied her remonstrated with her, telling her that perhaps she didn't know that association with an enlisted man by the families of the officers was prohibited. She listened to them demurely with those singular eyes of hers fixed on them, but said nothing. Nevertheless only a few days had passed when she was again seen talking with the same man.

The matter now came to the ears of Mrs. Bertrand, who gave her niece a lecture and told her that if she was against caught noticing any one of the enlisted men as an equal she should be sent home. Then Evelyn—Evelyn Pierce was her name—asked with real or feigned innocence—her aunt could not tell which—why she could not treat one in the ranks just as she would treat an officer. Mrs. Bertrand could only say that it wasn't the custom and has been an unwritten law in the army. And so Miss Pierce was in disfavor. Those who showed their condemnation most openly were the women of the garrison. The officers, whatever they thought of the young lady's action, though they refrained from showing her marked attention, always treated her with studied politeness. This was due the commandant's wife, whose niece and guest she was. But it was not long before several of the unmarried officers began to find it difficult to let Miss Pierce alone. There was something about her that the cloud hanging over her could not obscure. Furthermore, she had voluntarily brought that cloud upon herself and gave no evidence of being ashamed of it. Possibly an attraction in her was that no one could quite make her out. Some said she was a fool, others that she was very shrewd.

One day an Indian came into the fort and told the major commanding that those of his tribe on the reservation the fort was intended to keep in order were preparing for war. He said that he knew in the end an uprising would be disastrous to his red brothers and that the move would be a grievous error. At any rate, he had come to warn his white brother, and, having

come, he could not go back. He must remain in the fort or be killed. He was, of course, suffered to remain.

The coming of this redskin, who soon became known as Uncas, cast a deeper blot upon Miss Pierce. He was seen to look at her covetously, and she was seen chatting with him, as she had chatted with Private Conover. Soon after this conversation she went to the major and told him to look out for Uncas. The major asked her on what she based her distrust, and she replied that he had a wicked eye. The major told his wife what Evelyn had said, but as no one else had noticed any wickedness in the redskin's eye and as Mrs. Bertrand was very much troubled about Evelyn's actions she lost her equality and attributed her niece's accusation to a desire to hide the real cause of her treatment of him. The major did not entirely agree with his wife, but he couldn't send Uncas out on suspicion to be murdered by his own people, so he took no action in the premises.

One evening when darkness had fallen Uncas met Evelyn just going into her aunt's quarters and beckoned her to follow him, whispering, "I show you something to prove me the white man's friend." She did as he desired, and he led her to the back of the magazine, which was hidden from view, and, removing some rubbish, exposed a hole through which, by stooping, one might pass.

"Go in," he said. "I show you what I mean."

Evelyn drew back.

"I show you that somebody here is traitor; he goin' blow up magazine."

Evelyn hesitated, but not for long. Possibly the man whom she knew had been captivated by her appearance—for she had spoken to him but once and then to warn him not to trouble her—had a secret which he would give to her alone. Bending low, she went through the opening. She could see nothing for the darkness. On a shelf stood a lantern, which Uncas instantly lighted; then, after pretending to look for something, seizing her and clapping his hand over her mouth, he dragged her through another opening, and she found herself outside the fort.

What she had suspected was plain to her now, though so great was her terror that it only flashed through her mind. Uncas had come to the fort to effect an entrance for his comrades. He had secretly made the opening to the magazine, concealed it and made another through the wall of the fort. Desiring to possess her, he had arranged to take her with him when he went back to his people. Doubtless long before dawn he would lead them through the magazine into the fort and massacre the garrison before they could form to repel the attack.

Evelyn was very strong for a girl. She had not been captured long before summoning all her strength for a supreme effort—it was enhanced by terror—she wrenched herself from the Indian, and before he could get his grip on her again she darted away for the fort. She ran in the dark, but took no thought of falling. Fortune favored her in this, while it deserted the Indian. He fell, and while he was getting on his feet again Evelyn gained sufficient advantage to reach the opening into the fort and pass through it. When Uncas entered through the same aperture she was standing by a barrel of gunpowder, from which the head had been removed, holding the lantern directly over it.

"Come a step farther," she said, "and I'll drop it."

She stood at bay ready to sacrifice herself and the Indian. Savage as he was, he at once began to look for some strategem by which he could again get the advantage of her. Drawing away, he feigned fright, then penitence, telling her he had been tempted by his passion for her to take her to his own wigwam and make her his wife. He would rather die than harm her.

This and other things he said, watching her like a cat for an opportunity to catch her off her guard and get her again in his power. Meanwhile she was thinking how to get out of his clutches. She could bear a sentry walking on the parapet, though his steps were only audible to her when he came to that end of his beat nearest the magazine. He had turned and gone to the other end when she formed a resolution. She listened to Uncas as though moved by his penitence till the sentry came back to the end of his beat nearest her, then gave a shriek so loud that had it not been inclosed would have awakened the garrison.

Major Bertrand had given orders that a key to the magazine door should hang in the sentry box of the man who guarded it. Since the magazine was never unguarded the key was always within reach of a sentinel. The man, hearing the shriek, seized the key and, opening the door, saw Evelyn standing by a powder barrel. The moment she saw him she pointed to the hole in the wall leading from the magazine by which the Indian had beaten a retreat.

A hasty explanation ensued, and within a few minutes men on horseback started after Uncas. In his fall when chasing Evelyn he had received a sprain which deterred him in his flight. Hearing his pursuers near upon him, he crawled under a bush, but they had caught sight of him and, pressing on, dragged him

When they reached the fort with him they took him to the commandant's quarters, where Evelyn had gone and, after a fainting spell, had regained somewhat of her equanimity.

After a brief examination Uncas was taken out and shot.

So ended an attempt of the Indians to gain by strategem possession of the fort, which doubtless would have been successful had not the man to put it in practice lost his head over a woman. Had he not attempted to take Evelyn with him he could easily have introduced his red brothers and caught the garrison napping.

A great change came over those who had turned a cold shoulder upon Evelyn. She had warned them against the savage and by her heroism had saved them from being massacred. And not long afterward another matter was cleared up.

Private Conover was not Conover at all, but Eugene Werner, a gentleman's son, who had enlisted in the ranks for the life, the experience and a possible commission in the army. Evelyn had recognized him as such when the others had either failed to do so or had declined to take notice of the fact. After the episode which had nearly become a tragedy Evelyn openly associated with him, and Major Bertrand for her sake recommended the young man for a commission. Then he and Evelyn became engaged and were married at the fort.

It was then that a latent infatuation several of the officers had conceived for Evelyn flamed up, and they condemned themselves for not having made an effort to win her.

Demonstrations Farms in N. B.

Ottawa, Aug. 7.—The following demonstration farms have been chosen by the commission of conservation in the Province of New Brunswick for the purposes of illustrating to the farmer how most economically to get the best out of their land: Kings County, farm owned by Mr. John Raymond, Bloomfield, and farm owned by Mr. John Keith, Cornhill; Kent County, farm owned by F. Vator, St. Louis. In each case the owners of the farms have consented to be guided by the agricultural experts of the commission, Messrs. F. C. Nunnick and John Fexter. The farms are intended to become illustration centres for the localities, and a meeting of farmers will be held from time to time under the supervision of the experts.

Smallpox

A mild case of smallpox was discovered in the North End on Tuesday. The one afflicted with the dreaded disease is the one year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Philbrick, who reside on Pokiok Road. The child was removed to the Isolation Hospital, and the house is in quarantine. The mother is with her baby at the hospital. How the child contracted the disease is a mystery both to the doctors and the parents. The doctors state that the case is only a mild one, and that the child will recover.

The house, in which three or more families live was placed in quarantine and a guard stationed outside. On Tuesday the infected part was fumigated and in the evening all the windows and doors were wide open and the guard was chatting pleasantly with the inmates.

The arrival of the ambulance and the smallpox sign on Tuesday naturally caused quite a flurry among the quiet residents of the district; but the excitement has passed, and some of the mother-wise women of the district regarded the case as merely one of chicken-pox.

S. John Globe

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The New March of The Black Death

From The Journal of the American Medical Association

"Black Death," now known as the bubonic plague, is, for the fourth time in the world's history, slowly creeping around the globe.

The present epidemic of the plague, the fourth in the world's history, began in 1894. From the southwestern province of Yunnan, bordering on Thibet and and Burma, plague spread to other parts of China and to Formosa and Japan. It reached Bombay in 1896, and from that point spread throughout India. Jedda became infected in 1897, and again in 1899. In 1899 the disease made its appearance in Malagascar and Mauritius. In 1900 Mecca became infected, also the Transvaal, South Africa. Later, during the same year, it was found among the dock laborers of Oporto, Portugal.

In 1900 the disease obtained a footing on the western coast of the two Americas. To-day we admit its presence in South America, and are not sure that it is not present on the Pacific coast of the United States.

The present epidemic is similar to those of the past in that the disease has advanced along the highways of commerce, save that its present distribution has been principally by sea routes in contradistinction to the overland routes of former ages.

Circuses in the West have brought their menageries up to date by featuring the bull moose. The time has come when no responsible circus is complete without one.

Meat Prices in Canada Not To Advance

Montreal, Aug. 7.—The soaring of meat prices in the United States will have no effect in Canadian cities, according to local abattoir men who have been making a special study of the situation during the past week. The fire at the Abattoir Company's plant revealed the fact that the ice houses were crammed with meat and it was charged that all of the city ice houses were also full, the alleged object in holding back the supply being to advance Canadian prices to somewhat the level prevailing across the line. This is strenuously denied by the packers, however, Mr. Brogan, of the Montreal Abattoir Company, today declared that the company's ice houses were full at the time of the fire because they were "caught" during the warm weather with more meat

than they could dispose of and they were storing it to the lumber camps—what is known as the "shanty trade."

Mr. W. E. McLean, member of the Harris Abattoir Company said some of the high class cuts of meat will perhaps go a little higher in Eastern Canada and particularly in the Maritime Provinces, but the medium price and cheaper meat will fall down.

The Abattoir men declare that the kill in Canada has been larger than ever before and that there appear to be plenty of cattle offering.

New England Aids Boycott on Meat

Boston, Mass., Aug. 5.—Mayor John F. Fitzgerald's suggestion that persons all over the country cease eating meat as a protest against the high cost of living is being discussed all over New England. No definite action toward putting a boycott into effect has been taken, but Mayor Fitzgerald believes his suggestion has already cost meat dealers thousands of dollars.

"I have received many letters," he said to-night, and all the writers pledge themselves to join with me in abstaining from meat until prices are lowered."

Nearly all of New England's mayors favor Mayor Fitzgerald's programme for fighting the beef "barons."

Mayor Roberts, of Burlington, Vt., says:

"If every one would follow Mayor Fitzgerald's suggestion prices would undoubtedly drop."

Mayor Edward C. Smith, of Manchester, N. H., said: "I'm not sure what the effect would be, but I believe the experiment is worth trying."

The most densely populated of all the countries of the world is Belgium, with 636 inhabitants to the square mile.

The first skyscraper was planned (but not built) by a Parisian architect in the year 1601. It was to be over 300 feet high and provide room for 500 persons.

Krupp Concern Gives \$3,500,000 As Gratuities

Essen, Germany, Aug. 7.—In honor of the centenary of the great Krupp works at Essen, the company has donated \$3,500,000 to be distributed as gratuities to the 65,000 workmen as welfare fund for citizens of Essen, and for the army and navy.