

New Ulm Review

Wednesday, July 5, 1911.

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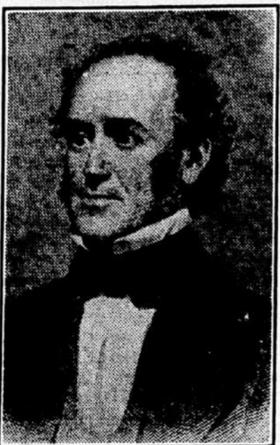
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AFTER NINETY YEARS FLAG FLOATS OVER ITS LAUREATE'S GRAVE

By ARTHUR JAMES.
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WITH all due respect to "The Star Spangled Banner" and James Whitcomb Riley's "Old Glory," the one banner poem that continues to float to the breeze above all is "The American Flag," by Joseph Rodman Drake. I cannot read that poem to this day without wanting to shoot firecrackers and deliver a Fourth of July oration. Of course I do neither, since shooting firecrackers is against the law and delivering Fourth of July orations ought to be. In these days we must seek milder and more humane ways of showing our patriotism. But the cutting out of platitudes and noise does not detract from Drake's performance. His is really the noblest flag poem ever written. It is so filled with freedom, stars, milky baldric—whatever that is—red streaks and eagles that on perusing it we can scarcely restrain ourselves from giving three cheers and going out to march our legs off in defense of the country.

It was fitting, therefore, that when Joseph Rodman Drake park was opened in New York city something more than a year ago—on Memorial day, 1910, to be exact—a fine American flag was unfurled over the poet's grave. The orator of the occasion was Charles De



FITZ-GIBBENS HALLECK, CLOSEST FRIEND OF JOSEPH RODMAN DRAKE AND AUTHOR OF THE EULOGY "NONE KNEW THREE BUT TO LOVE THREE," ETC.

Kay, Drake's only grandson. De Kay is also a poet, likewise an art critic and a founder of clubs. To get at the matter at first hand I hunted him up not long ago, finding him in the National Arts club, one of those he was instrumental in starting.

"So you have the spring fever to write a story about the neglect of Joseph Rodman Drake's grave?" he said when I had explained my errand. "Every spring, when the news is scarce," he went on, "some editor discovers that Drake's tomb needs attention and proceeds to bestow it, at least to the extent of a story."

Later on Mr. De Kay explained that the descendants of Drake and of others buried in the same little cemetery near Hunt's Point provided a watch man who looked after the graves. As for the wild scene, the tangle of vines and the apparent neglect, that was the sort of place Drake loved and in which he would wish to rest.

But now all is changed. The little cemetery is a park, the tangled vines are cleared away, the knoll is rounded and all in apple pie order.

Drake was born in 1795 and died at the age of twenty-five from consumption. His best known poem other than "The American Flag" is "The Culpit Fay," the scene of which is laid in the Highlands of the Hudson. There is nothing like this poem in American literature. Only in an earlier school of the English poets is found anything approaching it. The "Fay" was written as the result of an argument between Drake and some of his friends, the poet contending that American scenes lent themselves to romance and romantic treatment. Despite its artistic finish, the poem was written with great haste. When I was in the Highlands a few years ago the natives pointed out the very mountain said to be the scene of the poem. It was old "Cro'nest," just above West Point, which also inspired some of the songs of George P. Morris. Drake was passionately fond of nature and spent most of his time with a relative at Hunt's Point, overlooking Long Island sound, some of the scenes of which were also woven into the "Fay."

The young poet studied medicine and in due time annexed the resultant title to his name, as is indicated by the inscription on his monument. For a time he collaborated with Halleck in skits for the New York Evening Post over the signature of "The Croakers." The "Flag" did not appear until 1819, one year before Drake's death. It is said that Halleck had a hand in this, writing the last four lines. That one poem made Joseph Rodman Drake immortal. As long as the American flag floats the author of this its noblest panegyric will be remembered, and it is indeed a fitting tribute to his memory that after he has slept ninety years in an obscure and lonely little graveyard that flag has been raised at last over his tomb.

ABOUT THE STATE

News of Especial Interest to Minnesota Readers.

DUMAS HELD TO GRAND JURY

Mayor of Cass Lake Bound Over on Charges of Arson and Robbery. Yeggman State Witness.

Following a preliminary examination at Bemidji Dr. D. F. Dumas, mayor of Cass Lake, held on charges of attempted arson and robbery in connection with an alleged plot to burn the postoffice building at Puposky, eighteen miles north of Bemidji, on June 17, was bound over by Court Commissioner H. A. Simons to await the action of the grand jury.

His bail bond was fixed at \$10,000, which was furnished by Fred Dumas of Minneapolis, father of the defendant.

The grand jury does not meet until the second Tuesday in September.

The state's star witness was Martin Behan, caught at Puposky while in the act of robbing the store, as the result of a trap laid by Pinkerton detectives. Behan was wounded at the time and his condition is still serious. He had to be assisted to the witness stand. He made the flat statement that Dr. Dumas and R. E. Smyth, owner of the Puposky building, had planned with him and Mike Davis to rob and burn the store, for which Behan and Davis were to receive \$300.

Assistant Attorney General Alexander James, who conducted the case for the state, said he never had seen a witness tell a more convincing story than did Behan.

On the other hand Judge Spooner, chief counsel for the defendant, put Behan through a grilling cross-examination and caused him to make weak assertions and answer so hesitatingly some of his testimony that the defendant's attorney improved the opportunity to insinuate the possibility that Behan has been coached in his confession.

Only five witnesses were examined. Behan was the first and he was followed by John Larson, owner of the saloon where it is alleged the robbery plans were made. C. E. Battles, a Bemidji hardware man, told of selling Dr. Dumas a revolver. Carl Swedberg, clerk in the Puposky store, identified Behan as one of the men who came to the store on the afternoon of the robbery and William Munnall closed the testimony by telling of a conversation over the telephone with Dr. Dumas in which Dumas asked as to the whereabouts of Behan.

BEHAN RELEASED ON BAIL

Reward for Turning State's Evidence Against Dr. Dumas.

Martin Behan, captured in the battle of Puposky on the morning of June 17, has been released from the county jail at Bemidji on a bond signed by his wife and J. B. Meyer.

The arraignment of Behan was arranged by Fire Marshal Charles E. Keller. The bail bonds were passed upon by Thayer Bailey, who appeared for the state, and were accepted by Court Commissioner Simons, before whom the proceedings were held.

Behan, who is in the last stages of consumption, will be taken to Wisconsin by his wife and sister.

It is generally understood that his release at this time is, in a measure, a reward for having turned state's evidence, which implicated Dr. Dumas at the preliminary hearing of the mayor of Cass Lake when he was bound over to await the action of the grand jury under bonds of \$10,000. Persons representing the state do not deny this.

EXPLOSION IN BOATHOUSE

Two Young Men Drown Trying to Escape Flames.

An explosion and fire in a boathouse on Long lake, a resort near Ely, resulted fatally for two young men, while three companions were badly burned. The victims were drowned when they jumped into six feet of water to escape from the flames. The dead are:

George Johnson, aged twenty-two years, single, a bartender; Lawrence Williams, aged twenty-two years, single, a buttermaker.

Child Shoots Baby Brother.

Dale Watkins, four years of age, shot and instantly killed his two-year-old brother in the cabin of their father, William Watkins, a settler at Day's High Landing, Itasca county. The boy found the rifle standing in a corner of the cabin. The father was absent at the time and the children were alone with their mother. The coroner decided that it was merely a case of leaving dangerous weapons within reach of a child and did not fix any blame.

State of Minnesota Loses Suit.

The state, through a decision of the supreme court, lost its case to enjoin the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad from giving free storage in terminal warehouses. The state brought suit to enjoin the practice on the ground of discrimination. The supreme court holds that, since the privilege is offered to all shippers, the practice is fair.

CHEW OF TOBACCO IS FATAL

Captain Durance, Who Fought Under Eight Flags, Chokes to Death.

Captain Jules Durance, a civil, mechanical and mining engineer, a soldier of fortune who fought under eight flags, including the Stars and Stripes, and who had been several times wounded and had escaped many perils by land and sea, died from the effects of a chew of tobacco that he got in his throat and could not dislodge, near Four Pore siding, sixty miles from Duluth, at the age of seventy-three.

He died fully dressed and on the greensward as befitted a man of his adventurous character and experience.

The captain, who also had the title of major, was an Indian fighter in the Black Hills in the early seventies and in 1880 was a well known military figure in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

DOG GUARDS MASTER'S BODY

Canine Has to Be Killed Before Corpse Can Be Touched.

The traditional faith of the dog for its master was never better exemplified than at a lumber camp at Brevator, this state, when a dog guarded the dead body of its master so zealously that nobody dared to approach the body until the animal had been shot.

Maurice Trentell and his dog had occupied the camp and the man lay dead on the floor when a chance passer looked in. The dog was on guard and the man went away for assistance. With others he returned and no amount of strategy or coaxing could get the animal to leave the side of its dead master.

SAYS THE WOMAN CONFESSED

County Attorney Alleges She Told of Killing Father.

Gena Carlton, who, with her husband, Lloyd Carlton, are charged with the murder of Peter O. Neste, father of the woman, has confessed, according to the county attorney of Hubbard county, who says he has a signed statement of the woman, in which she relates the details of the murder. Carlton is alleged to have corroborated the confession of his wife.

According to the alleged confession the couple quarreled with the aged man, killed him and after his body had lain near a chicken coop until it was frozen they dragged it into the wood and attempted to burn it.

SHORT MORE THAN \$21,000

County Attorney Talks of Minnesota University Funds.

That J. D. Bren, former treasurer of the state university, is short in his accounts more than \$21,000, mostly accounted for, was the statement of James Robertson, county attorney of Hennepin county, following the testimony of John Brady, an expert accountant, before a sub-committee of the grand jury.

The committee is making an exhaustive inquiry into the status of the university finances. Aside from probing into the alleged embezzlement of funds by Bren the grand jury wants to know how the agents have handled the funds for years back.

RISKS LIFE AND FALLS DEAD

Former Minnesota Public Examiner Stops Runaway.

While a cheering crowd stood around him in front of the Willard hotel at St. Paul after he had stopped a runaway horse that dashed past the corner of St. Peter and Seventh street, Anton Schaefer, former public examiner, noted athlete, prominent in national guard, fraternal, political and banking circles and member of the executive committee of the United Commercial Travelers, fell dead.

It was a tragic termination of an incident in which he had risked personal harm to stop the horse, coming out unscratched, but succumbing to the heat and excitement.

TWO IRON RANGE MEN KILLED

Sit Too Close to Track and Train Hits Them.

Two men were killed by a south-bound extra on the Duluth and Iron Range railroad near Athens. One is said to be Jacob Rantella of Embarrass. The other man was unidentified. The men were sitting too close to the track and disregarded the warnings of the engine's whistle and bell. Rantella leaves a family.

President May Visit Duluth.

The Duluth Commercial club has invited President Taft to visit the Head of the Lakes during August, on the occasion of his visit to Houghton, Mich. The president has taken the invitation under consideration and will probably accept it.

Duluth Man Crushed to Death.

A garage belonging to M. J. McMartin of Duluth, under which a new foundation was being built, toppled to one side, catching Gus Drier, an employe, between it and a post and killing him. Death was instantaneous.

Two Men Killed in Wreck.

Two St. Paul men are dead and two others seriously injured as a result of a freight wreck on the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad eight miles north of New Prague. The dead men are John Nelson and Swan Swanson.

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