

# Memories of the Civil War By Terre Haute men who gave their services.



While no one man could have changed the result of the civil war, and while no one man can truthfully claim to have led the nation to victory in that struggle, there is no denying the fact that General Sherman was an important factor in the war and that his loss would have been a severe blow to the union. A remark made by a veteran of Terre Haute probably saved the life of General Sherman and the crew of a union gunboat, and thus rendered a great service to his country. This man was James Miller, who saw much service along the eastern coast on the gunboat Wabash, the flag ship of the DuPont fleet and the first ship to pass the batteries at Hilton Head and Port Royal.

Comrade Miller was a New Yorker when the war broke out and was working in the Brooklyn navy yard. His patriotism blazed up when he heard that Fort Sumter had been fired upon and as he was experienced in naval affairs, he joined the navy, where he could do his best work. He was an experienced mechanic and enlisted for this branch of the service. He was assigned to duty on the Wabash, one of the six biggest and best equipped gun boats bearing the Stars and Stripes at the opening of the war. Captain Mercer was in charge of the fleet at this time. On the first day of his service a severe storm swept along the coast, and the Wabash was compelled to put to sea with 700 men on board her, in order to keep from being blown on the reefs of the North Carolina coast.

#### Aboard Blockade Boat.

The Wabash was assigned to the South Atlantic squadron, which was blockading the southeastern coast. Its first step was the bombardment of Hatteras. After encountering much heavy

weather the fleet finally appeared off Hatteras in a somewhat dilapidated condition, but even in this fix they were such a formidable force that the confederates evacuated their position soon after the bombardment commenced. Comrade Miller was busy with the machinery of the Wabash during this action, and has no very clear idea of the engagement.

The Wabash was then stationed at Charleston and in October was ordered to Philadelphia, where one of her smooth bore "11's" was removed and a Parrott rifle mounted on her, in preparation for the attack on Hilton Head and Port Royal. These two forts stood at the mouth of the bay, guarding the entrance, and were held by the confederates. In the capture of these strongholds the land forces were to cooperate with the fleet and a number of barges and small boats went with the flotilla on the southern trip. The start was made on a still dark night which was regarded as threatening by the seamen, but in the excitement and hurry of the departure, the weather was forgotten. With their lights ablaze and the bands playing the ships presented a beautiful sight as they wended their way out of Hampton Roads. The ships had hardly gotten to sea, when they were struck by one of the worst gales of the year, and the storm broke in full force. All formation was broken up and many of the vessels were blown far out to sea. Many of the ships were in bad condition as they swung into line for the proposed attack, but the Wabash was in good fighting trim although she had been hit hard by the gale.

#### Made the Flagship.

Admiral DuPont decided on the Wabash as the flagship of the fleet during the attack, and he at once transferred his flagship emblems and his staff to the vessel, so that she was the leader in the battle that followed. All of the extra men on board the ship who were not actually engaged in manning the guns, were ordered on deck before the advance, and as Com-

rade Miller was one of these, he took his position. On ship board, at this time, fire departments were organized for emergency use, and Comrade Miller was assigned to one of these. At first the men remained in line, shoulder to shoulder, waiting for the first shot. The forte started the music and the Wabash was in the range of both batteries. The first shell from the rebels went through her rigging and the second shot pierced the main mast. Then the gunners on board the ships were given orders to open fire. With the gunners firing at will and using 10-second fuses, in the old-fashioned shells, the fleet began to circle in front

of the batteries. The Wabash was in the lead, and sailed between the forts. Their fire was heavy and deadly, and the gunboat ran past both forts trying to get out of range of one, and in a position to train her guns on the other. The move was successful and the gunboat got out of range of the Hilton Head batteries.

#### A Dangerous Task.

Then came the order that the fuses for the shells were to be cut to five seconds and this gave Comrade Miller a dangerous job. The ship headed directly for the fort, getting in close to it, and using the short fuses. Com-

rade Miller was given the job of changing the fuses as the shells were sent up from the hold. Sitting across a hatch, over a cargo of highly explosive ammunition, the veteran removed each fuse and cut it to five seconds before passing the shell on to the gunners. This work was done while the ship was in the midst of a storm of exploding shells from the confederate forts. A rather ticklish position.

#### On deck.

The Wabash moved in close to the fortress and in spite of the terrific fire directed at her, she sent her shells through and through the fort. The confederates could not stand this and soon they evacuated. With one fort silenced the other could not last long, and soon both of them were silent. The land forces then took possession and the fleet laid in for an overhaul. Comrade Miller had been ill before the battle and the excitement had aggravated his malady, so that he was ordered home for treatment, and leaving his ship he went to New York.

#### Aboard the Harvest Moon.

Comrade Miller again entered the service in about a year and helped to build many of the new monitors, the little ironclad vessels that defeated many a larger ship. On re-enlisting Comrade Miller was made second assistant engineer of the Harvest Moon, a side wheel, armed vessel, that later became Admiral Dahlgren's flagship. Soon after he was assigned to her the Harvest Moon was struck by a schooner in Chesapeake bay, and narrowly escaped being sunk, but Comrade Miller was acting engineer and kept the men at their posts in the fire room, so that the vessel reached a dock in time to save her.

It was while on the Harvest Moon

that Comrade Miller, taking the opportunity to tell of the condition of the bunkers. General Sherman hurried below and consulted with the commander and the vessel was ordered to run into Tiber, where she arrived just ahead of the storm that swept the eastern coast and sent many a good ship to the bottom. General Sherman said that the information from the engineer undoubtedly saved the ship and all on board her.

The Harvest Moon went to Savannah after General Sherman had taken that city and then returned to Georgetown, where she was sunk by a torpedo. It was a cold morning when they arrived and the men were on the deck doing their morning work when the explosion happened which sent the boat to the bottom in three minutes. Comrade Miller was in his room when the water began to rush in and realizing what had happened, he gathered the ship's papers, a silver watch and the tinytpe of a pretty girl who afterwards became Mrs. Miller, and rushed to the deck. The Harvest Moon sank in shallow water, so that her upper decks were clear of the wash and every man escaped with the exception of a Chinese cook.

#### When Lee Surrendered.

After this Comrade Miller was transferred to the Pawnee and then to the Briston and saw much service on each of these boats. He was on the expedition to Wright's Landing when Lee surrendered.

Comrade Miller answered the last roll call recently at his residence on North Eleventh street and he was a staunch and ardent supporter of the Union to the last.

# Our Own Spreading Chestnut Tree

#### OUT OF SEASON.

"War stories are fashionable these days," remarked Nick Filbeck.

Admiral, though, when the most startling war stories, told by the most thoroughly scarred and amputated veterans, were merely yawned at.

"Our civil war veterans did, some of them, bore us considerably, and no mistake. They told their war stories in season and out. I remember an old veteran who told a very bloody war story one day at a gay wedding breakfast.

"Yes," he said, addressing himself to the bride, "in that fight over 300 of our boys lost a leg or an arm, to say nothing of the fingers and toes lost. I saw one man's head cut off by a shell as clean as a whistle. Another poor fellow had all four limbs smashed to a pulp under an exploding cannon. A sergeant had half his side torn away by—"

"I guess that must have been the place," said the bride's father-in-law, indignantly, "where you had your brains blown out, wasn't it, Major?"

#### AN OPPORTUNIST.

One of Jake Finklestein's brought on stories:

"There flourishes in a Washington office building a colored janitor who is very conscientious. One day someone passed him a counterfeit bill. When presenting this bill to the superintendent he discovered that it was bad and he became greatly excited. He would know, if he saw him again, the man who had swindled him, and day after day he would stand in front of the building in the hope of catching the rascal going by.

"The superintendent several weeks later happened to think of the janitor's counterfeit and asked him if he had succeeded in finding the man who had cheated him.

"No," said the janitor, "the man didn't give me the bill he ain't never come around no more. But what's the difference? Some days, suds, I thinks it's bad. So I am waiting for one of dem days when I thinks it's good and then I passes it out."

#### OH, DOCTOR!

Here's one of Herb Boyce's made-up yarns:

Dr. Jenkins has a patient that he ought to appreciate. This patient can imagine a lot of things. The other day he paid his second visit within a week to Dr. Jenkins' office.

"Doctor," said he, "I'm a victim of insomnia. I can't sleep if there's the least noise, such as a cat on the back fence, for instance."

"This powder will be effective," replied the physician, after compounding a prescription.

"When do I take it, doctor?"

"You don't take it. You give it to the cat in some milk."

#### HIS BETTER HALF.

"I desire to tell a story about a young husband who likes to gamble," said Charley Fox, the motion picture and real estate and insurance magnate. Given encouragement he proceeded:

"Husband person came home and said—

"Here's \$50 I won playing cards at the club last night. You may have it to buy that dress you wanted."

"Reluctantly the conscientious wife took the money; then said, with an expression of rigid rectitude:

"I simply shudder at the thought of using money gained in such a way. Henry, promise me that after you have won enough for me to buy the hat to go with the dress you will never again touch those awful cards. I don't want my husband to become a gambler."

"Who are you?" demanded the breezy one.

"I am the proprietor."

"Oh, you are! Good! I was just going to send for you. Why isn't the orchestra playing?"

#### PLENTY OF NERVE.

"Here's a hot one on one of our prominent road house keepers," said Charley Layman. "A breezy fellow came into the place with two girls, and ordered a bottle of mineral water and three plates. The man thereupon produced some sandwiches he had brought with him, and the little party prepared to enjoy itself."

The proprietor was overcome by this outrage. He approached the breezy person and said:

"I should like to inform you that this is not a—"

"Who are you?" demanded the breezy one.

"I am the proprietor."

"Oh, you are! Good! I was just going to send for you. Why isn't the orchestra playing?"

#### HIS WIRES CROSSED.

Sheriff Denny Shea tells this one about Louis Katzenbach, one of the genial deputies. Denny says that Charley Layman, the motion picture and real estate and insurance magnate. Given encouragement he proceeded:

"Louis hesitated a moment and when Mrs. Katzenbach saw his embarrassment, she said to the guests:

"Mr. Katzenbach always says the grace."

Louis determined to make good and rose to his feet. He began:

"Dear Sir—"

made an address in behalf of the young ministers of the state.

#### Gets Job in University.

By Special Correspondent.

**SULLIVAN**, Ind., Oct. 17.—Herr Combs, of Farmersburg, formerly a student in Wabash college, has been appointed to the chair of physics in the University of Wisconsin, and has gone there to take up his work. He was formerly deputy in the office of the county auditor in this city.

#### Lad Injured by Horse.

By Special Correspondent.

**SULLIVAN**, Ind., Oct. 17.—Robert O'Haver the thirteen-year-old son of Edward O'Haver, of near Carlisle, was painfully injured, and rendered unconscious, when he was dragged a considerable distance down the road, after being thrown by the horse he was riding.

#### WHEN IN DOUBT.

Try The Tribune.

## Suffragist News Notes

One of the most successful meetings held by the Franchise league in many months was that at the Chamber of Commerce rooms Saturday evening, when Mrs. M. S. Jones, member of the National Speakers' bureau of the suffrage organization, spoke on the constitutional convention. A large audience heard the address, the majority being women, but with a good sprinkling of men. The greatest interest was shown and a lively discussion followed. A resolution was passed endorsing the plan for a new constitution and pledging those present to do everything possible to make it carry.

Mrs. Jones will address a socialist meeting Sunday evening at the Modern American hall, Sixth street and Wabash avenue. She will talk on suffrage and will tell of her experiences campaigning in the west and also in Chicago.

After she returns to Chicago she expects to be sent to one of the campaign states to work there until election.

The National Suffrage Association is sending every available speaker to the campaign states, but reserved four for Indiana for this constitutional convention day.

At a called meeting the Council of Women decided Wednesday to work at the polls on election day for a constitutional convention. They will secure quantities of literature and sample ballots, and will distribute as much as possible of the former before the election.

At its board meeting Friday the

Morton and Bainbridge will hold a joint constitutional convention meeting at the former place Sunday afternoon. Prof. Lockridge, secretary of the Citizens' League of Indiana, has promised to send them a speaker for the occasion.

The Brazil Franchise league celebrated the day Saturday in a novel but effective manner. Members of the league in groups went to all the factories in the town distributing constitutional convention literature, and where opportunity was given, speaking to the employees.

Monday was suffrage day in the W. C. T. U. convention held there. The session was largely attended and interesting, and was followed by a suffrage banquet which was considered by those who attended it to be a great success.

The Brazil league has arranged a meeting which will be held at one of the churches Sunday afternoon to hear Mrs. M. S. Jones, of Chicago, who will

CUT AND MAIL TO DAY  
J. C. HUTZELL, Druggist, 464 West Main St., Fort Wayne, Ind.

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