

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., April 23, 1897.

A STRANGE STORY ENDED.

Were Fanny Sweet and Rachel Brown the Same Person—She Lived a Double Life—A Court Decides They Were the Same and Thus One Woman Has Fastened Upon Her Many Adventures—Romance as Well as Tragedy.

The contest over the succession of Fanny Sweet Mills, upon which the civil district court of Louisiana passed finally on Tuesday, December 8, brought to light a series of stories so marvelous that a novelist would be accused of sensationalism if he gave them in any romance.

On January 6, 1896, Mrs. Wm. R. Mills died in New York at the age of 70. She was the widow of one of the most distinguished members of the New Orleans bar, who had been the leading counsel in the famous Myra Clark Gaines case, which resulted in the city's paying \$2,000,000 to the Gaines heirs.

She was 70 years old when she died, and her death was a miserable enough ending even for a woman so stained with sin and crime. Mrs. Mills was a wealthy woman, yet died of starvation. She had \$100,000 in bonds in her wardrobe, but died of lack of food.

Then followed a curious episode in her life which was largely responsible for the decision of the court giving her property to the Brown heirs. Maria Hineckley, after wandering around the world and changing her name at every place to which she went, after going through the most remarkable proceedings to cover up her past and lose her original name, returned to Rome, O., her birthplace, after an absence of thirteen years.

She came back as a respectable and well-to-do widow, to find her mother dead. She built a handsome and expensive monument over her mother's grave, on which she had carved an entire poem, written by herself. Whether she was tired of her life of wandering and adventure and wanted to settle down to a quiet, respectable life, no one except herself could ever say.

She unfortunately got into a quarrel with her brother-in-law, McVey, whose wife got half her inheritance. There were recriminations in which Mrs. Maria Hineckley was generally successful, but they so disgusted her with her family that she again shook the dust from her feet and came back to New Orleans, where she changed her name and became Fanny Sweet.

It was just as the civil war broke upon the country. Willis G. Stephens secured the contract from the confederate government to supply the trans-Mississippi department with gunpowder. He was to buy it abroad, and started for Europe via Mexico, as New Orleans was then blockaded.

He had as partners in the business young Fred Sweet and a leading merchant of New Orleans. After traveling through Texas the merchant was surprised to find that Fred was a woman, in fact was Fannie Sweet, who found that male dress suited to her adventures, and who in after life went as often in trousers as in petticoats.

The confederate agents got as far as the Rio Grande, where Stevens was taken dangerously ill, and was nursed by Fannie Sweet. The nursing did not seem to agree with him, and when he died and Fanny came into most of his property she was publicly accused of murdering him; but in those times of civil war the criminal courts were practically suspended, and although the charge of murder was made repeatedly, Fanny Sweet was never molested.

She came back to New Orleans, said that Stevens was largely indebted to her, brought suit against his heirs, and secured a large part of his succession. From that time to her death Fanny Sweet never left New Orleans. She came a part of its criminal history. She built on the famous shell road, just on the edge of the city, a palatial mansion, surrounded by the handsomest gardens. There the wildest revelries went on, and the police were frequently called on to restore order; but she had friends and influences and defied all police regulations.

Nothing afforded her more satisfaction than to drive in a handsome carriage through the city, dressed in male attire, firing her revolver in the air. This, however, was mere trifling, and there were several more serious episodes in her career at the shell road house. A young man of conspicuous family was murdered in her garden. Then a young woman was killed, and there were whispers of Fanny's wild jealousy and unscrupulous temper and her quickness to use her gun, but it was during a period of the grossest police corruption, and no one cared to trifle with Fanny, and the murder was never made public; but it was returned as a suicide.

Sixteen years ago Fanny Sweet then well beyond fifty, further astonished the world by marrying the distinguished lawyer, William R. Mills. The marriage shocked Mill's friends but it seemed to have been a happy one, for when he died, eleven years afterward, he left his entire property to "his beloved wife," whom he styles "Fanny Minerva Seymour Hineckley," including a large proportion of her aliases. After that Rachel Brown, Minerva Seymour, Fanny Smith, Fanny Gaines, Maria Hineckley, Fred Sweet, Fanny Sweet or Mrs. Mills led a quiet life, soothing her sorrows with opium, became blind, and finally died of starvation insisting to the last that she was originally an English bar maid, Minerva Seymour. For over ten months the court has been busily engaged in hearing testimony about her career, and has brought out the facts here given, but there are hundreds of other incidents of her career untold.

A farmer's son up in the country conceived a desire to shine as a member of the legal profession and undertook a clerkship in the office of the village pettifogger at nothing a week. At the end of the first day's study the young man returned home with the words, "Tobe, how d'yer like the law?" "Tain't what I's cracked up to be, replied Tobe. Sorry I learnt it."

The weather bureau says that the floods in the southwest are the greatest that were ever known. Noah has the floor.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

ing in the world. New Orleans, lively as it then was, was too tame for the widow. She drifted down to South America, and when the discovery of gold in California started the wild rush to the Pacific coast, Fanny Smith was among the first pioneers.

She fitted into the wild civilization of the mining camps, and was the belle of Sacramento. She was the mistress of Rube Raines, who ran the biggest gambling saloon in Sacramento, El Dorado, while she was the head of a dance house, the palace. Fanny Raines, as she was now known, was perhaps as desperate and as quick with her gun as any man in California. She was unfortunate in using it, however, for one of her first victims was Albert Putnam, one of the most reputable citizens of Sacramento. It was at the time that the law and order movement in California was organizing, when the people of the Pacific coast had grown tired of the crimes committed there, and of being ruled and domineered over by gamblers, murderers, and blacklegs.

Mr. Putnam was one of those who took a lead in the movement for peace and order and when he was killed by the mistress of one of the worst gambling in the town, the tragedy so stirred public sentiment that there seemed every probability that Fanny Raines, in spite of her sex, would be lynched, but she had friends in Sacramento, and, strange to say, she ran across her missing sister, Sarah, there who, after marrying her name Swartout, McCormick and Green was then living in California, under the alias of Leah Duell. Her friends hurried her aboard a boat, got her away from Sacramento before the lynchmen could find her, and she started for new fields, going first to Acapulco, Mexico, then to Havana, where she met Abraham Hineckley, of New York, who was engaged in business there. He was infatuated with the woman, and took her to New York where he married her, and she dropped the names of Minerva Seymour and Fanny Smith and became Maria Hineckley.

She enjoyed her second marriage but a year. She visited her husband in Panama, traveled to Cuba and other countries and finally wound up in New Orleans, where she seemed to have grown tired of married life, for she brought suit for divorce and got it.

Then followed a curious episode in her life which was largely responsible for the decision of the court giving her property to the Brown heirs. Maria Hineckley, after wandering around the world and changing her name at every place to which she went, after going through the most remarkable proceedings to cover up her past and lose her original name, returned to Rome, O., her birthplace, after an absence of thirteen years. She came back as a respectable and well-to-do widow, to find her mother dead. She built a handsome and expensive monument over her mother's grave, on which she had carved an entire poem, written by herself.

Whether she was tired of her life of wandering and adventure and wanted to settle down to a quiet, respectable life, no one except herself could ever say. She unfortunately got into a quarrel with her brother-in-law, McVey, whose wife got half her inheritance. There were recriminations in which Mrs. Maria Hineckley was generally successful, but they so disgusted her with her family that she again shook the dust from her feet and came back to New Orleans, where she changed her name and became Fanny Sweet.

It was just as the civil war broke upon the country. Willis G. Stephens secured the contract from the confederate government to supply the trans-Mississippi department with gunpowder. He was to buy it abroad, and started for Europe via Mexico, as New Orleans was then blockaded.

He had as partners in the business young Fred Sweet and a leading merchant of New Orleans. After traveling through Texas the merchant was surprised to find that Fred was a woman, in fact was Fannie Sweet, who found that male dress suited to her adventures, and who in after life went as often in trousers as in petticoats.

The confederate agents got as far as the Rio Grande, where Stevens was taken dangerously ill, and was nursed by Fannie Sweet. The nursing did not seem to agree with him, and when he died and Fanny came into most of his property she was publicly accused of murdering him; but in those times of civil war the criminal courts were practically suspended, and although the charge of murder was made repeatedly, Fanny Sweet was never molested.

She came back to New Orleans, said that Stevens was largely indebted to her, brought suit against his heirs, and secured a large part of his succession. From that time to her death Fanny Sweet never left New Orleans. She came a part of its criminal history. She built on the famous shell road, just on the edge of the city, a palatial mansion, surrounded by the handsomest gardens. There the wildest revelries went on, and the police were frequently called on to restore order; but she had friends and influences and defied all police regulations.

Nothing afforded her more satisfaction than to drive in a handsome carriage through the city, dressed in male attire, firing her revolver in the air. This, however, was mere trifling, and there were several more serious episodes in her career at the shell road house. A young man of conspicuous family was murdered in her garden. Then a young woman was killed, and there were whispers of Fanny's wild jealousy and unscrupulous temper and her quickness to use her gun, but it was during a period of the grossest police corruption, and no one cared to trifle with Fanny, and the murder was never made public; but it was returned as a suicide.

Sixteen years ago Fanny Sweet then well beyond fifty, further astonished the world by marrying the distinguished lawyer, William R. Mills. The marriage shocked Mill's friends but it seemed to have been a happy one, for when he died, eleven years afterward, he left his entire property to "his beloved wife," whom he styles "Fanny Minerva Seymour Hineckley," including a large proportion of her aliases. After that Rachel Brown, Minerva Seymour, Fanny Smith, Fanny Gaines, Maria Hineckley, Fred Sweet, Fanny Sweet or Mrs. Mills led a quiet life, soothing her sorrows with opium, became blind, and finally died of starvation insisting to the last that she was originally an English bar maid, Minerva Seymour. For over ten months the court has been busily engaged in hearing testimony about her career, and has brought out the facts here given, but there are hundreds of other incidents of her career untold.

A farmer's son up in the country conceived a desire to shine as a member of the legal profession and undertook a clerkship in the office of the village pettifogger at nothing a week. At the end of the first day's study the young man returned home with the words, "Tobe, how d'yer like the law?" "Tain't what I's cracked up to be, replied Tobe. Sorry I learnt it."

The weather bureau says that the floods in the southwest are the greatest that were ever known. Noah has the floor.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Properties of X Rays. Efforts to Determine the Effect of the Rays Upon the Human System—Prof. Lannelongue Believes That the X Rays Discoveries Will Change the Treatment of Sunstroke.

Discoveries of the properties of the X rays go on apace, in Paris, and the scientific world is watching with the closest interest the experiments that are being made to determine the effect of the rays upon the human system. At a meeting of the Academy of Sciences recently there was a discussion of the latest X rays phenomena, which was participated in by several authorities.

Prof. Sorel of the Havre Lyceum declared that he had found danger in the use of the rays, they having caused in many persons violent inflammation of the lungs. Prof. Crookes, the inventor of the tubes bearing his name, which are used in developing the rays, was present and took part in the discussion. He said that the effect of the rays was varied, and that some patients like the burning sensation produced by them.

Prof. Lannelongue, a distinguished French surgeon, gave an extremely interesting account of a phenomenon he had recently witnessed. He said that a number of children were playing in a courtyard in the shadow of a wall, the top of which was under strong sunlight. Suddenly several of the children began to act in a most peculiar manner, dancing around, each with his hand on his head, and crying out: "My head burns."

Prof. Lannelongue examined the heads of the children and found blisters on their scalps. In trying to account to himself for the phenomenon he wondered if the blisters had been produced by X rays projected from the top of the wall. He instituted in his laboratory a series of experiments upon several persons. Some of these when exposed to the action of the rays were protected by strontium glass. These were not affected, but the other persons experimented upon who were not similarly protected were burned as the children had been.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke. He added that the ancient Greeks were no fools when they covered their heads with brass helmets and their chests and backs with light metal cuirasses, which were impervious to X rays. Perhaps an anti-sunstroke helmet, he concluded, would be made in the future of strontium glass.

"I suppose you've got rid of the girl in the next room who played the piano?" "Yes, but there's a woman in there now who keeps her husband awake half the night coaxing him for a new bicycle."

"Do you know the woman?" "Yes; she's my wife."

"I hold to the theory that a man has the right to do what he pleases with his own money."

"Of course you do. You are single."

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria. Fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on the wrapper of every bottle of Castoria.

When baby was sick, we gave her Castoria, when she was a child, she cried for Castoria, when she became Miss, she clung to Castoria, when she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Business Notice. TESTED GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS AT HALF PRICE.

SOMETHING NEW. TESTED GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS AT HALF PRICE.

CONKLIN WAGONS. In short, we have everything for the Farm and Garden. Don't fail to visit us and examine our stock before purchasing. Everybody is welcome.

Wall Paper Store. AN IMMENSE STOCK OF—OF—Picture and Room Mouldings, Curtain Poles, and Fixtures at Wonderfully Low Prices.

ILLUMINATING OIL. THE BOOKLET ON "LIGHT" AND IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE.

ASK FOR—THE BOOKLET ON "LIGHT" AND IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE.

ASK FOR—THE BOOKLET ON "LIGHT" AND IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE.

ASK FOR—THE BOOKLET ON "LIGHT" AND IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE.

ASK FOR—THE BOOKLET ON "LIGHT" AND IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE.

ASK FOR—THE BOOKLET ON "LIGHT" AND IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE.

ASK FOR—THE BOOKLET ON "LIGHT" AND IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE.

Pike county has but one newspaper with 9,000 population, while Cameron with 7,000 has four.

Tourists. To Travelers and Others. Are you going West? If so, we beg to call your attention to the lines of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway—Block system: through trains between Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Council Bluffs, Omaha, Sioux City, Cedar Rapids and Kansas City, connecting with all lines at St. Paul, Omaha and Kansas City for all points West, Southwest and Northwest.

Prof. Sorel of the Havre Lyceum declared that he had found danger in the use of the rays, they having caused in many persons violent inflammation of the lungs.

Prof. Crookes, the inventor of the tubes bearing his name, which are used in developing the rays, was present and took part in the discussion.

Prof. Lannelongue, a distinguished French surgeon, gave an extremely interesting account of a phenomenon he had recently witnessed.

Prof. Lannelongue examined the heads of the children and found blisters on their scalps.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

Prof. Lannelongue declares that he believed that X rays discoveries would cause a change to be made in the whole treatment of sunstroke.

New Advertisements. ROCK CRUSHERS AND ROAD MACHINES—The Altman Co., of Canton, Ohio, warrant their machin...

Saddlery. THESE CRUSHERS ARE MOUNTED THE BEST. For particulars address, J. S. ROWE, Centre Hall, Pa.

HARNESS, HARNESS, HARNESS. SADDLES, BRIDLES, PLAIN HARNESS, FINE HARNESS, BLANKETS, WHIPS, Etc.

THE LARGEST STOCK OF HORSE COLLARS IN THE COUNTY. JAMES SCHOFIELD, BELLFONTE, PA.

Travelers Guide. ST. LOUIS & SAN FRANCISCO R. R. (PACIFIC LINE)

ST. LOUIS. BETWEEN ST. LOUIS AND SPRINGFIELD, JOPLIN, PITTSBURG, WICHITA, EUREKA SPRINGS, FL. SMITH, PARIS, DALLAS, SAN ANTONIO, HOUSTON, GALVESTON.

THE COAST LINE TO MACKINAC. TAKE THE MACKINAC, DETROIT, PETOSKEY, CHICAGO.

NEW STEEL PASSENGER STEAMERS. THE GREATEST PERFECTION yet attained in Boat Construction—Luxurious Equipment, Artistic Furnishing, Decompression and Efficient Service, insuring the highest degree of COMFORT, SPEED AND SAFETY.

TOLEDO, DETROIT AND MACKINAC. PETOSKEY, "THE SOO," MARQUETTE AND DULUTH.

BETWEEN DETROIT AND CLEVELAND. Connecting at Cleveland with earliest Trains for all points East, South and Southwest, and at Detroit for all points North and Northwest.

CENTRAL RAILROAD OF PENNA. Condensed Time Table.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Travelers Guide. PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD AND BRANCHES. Schedule in effect Nov. 16th, 1896.

VIA TYRONE—WESTWARD. Leave Bellefonte 9:53 a. m., arrive at Tyrone 11:10 a. m., at Altoona 1:00 p. m., at Pitsburg, 6:05 p. m.

VIA TYRONE—EASTWARD. Leave Bellefonte 9:53 a. m., arrive at Tyrone 11:10 a. m., at Altoona 1:00 p. m., at Pitsburg, 6:05 p. m.

VIA LOCK HAVEN—SOUTHWARD. Leave Bellefonte 9:53 a. m., arrive at Lock Haven 10:30 a. m., at Harrisburg 12:40 p. m., at Philadelphia 6:25 p. m.

VIA LEWISBURG. Leave Bellefonte 9:53 a. m., arrive at Lewisburg 11:30 a. m., at Harrisburg 1:30 p. m., at Philadelphia 6:25 p. m.

TYRONE AND CLEARFIELD, E. R. NORTHWARD. EXPRESS. MAIL. SOUTHWARD. EXPRESS. MAIL.

Nov. 16th, 1896. P.M. P.M. A.M. A.M. Lv. Arr. P.M. P.M. A.M. A.M.

TO-DAY PRICES HAVE DROPPED. THE LARGEST STOCK OF HORSE COLLARS IN THE COUNTY.

JAMES SCHOFIELD, BELLFONTE, PA. Travelers Guide.

ST. LOUIS & SAN FRANCISCO R. R. (PACIFIC LINE) BETWEEN ST. LOUIS AND SPRINGFIELD, JOPLIN, PITTSBURG, WICHITA, EUREKA SPRINGS, FL. SMITH, PARIS, DALLAS, SAN ANTONIO, HOUSTON, GALVESTON.

THE COAST LINE TO MACKINAC. TAKE THE MACKINAC, DETROIT, PETOSKEY, CHICAGO.

NEW STEEL PASSENGER STEAMERS. THE GREATEST PERFECTION yet attained in Boat Construction—Luxurious Equipment, Artistic Furnishing, Decompression and Efficient Service, insuring the highest degree of COMFORT, SPEED AND SAFETY.

TOLEDO, DETROIT AND MACKINAC. PETOSKEY, "THE SOO," MARQUETTE AND DULUTH.

BETWEEN DETROIT AND CLEVELAND. Connecting at Cleveland with earliest Trains for all points East, South and Southwest, and at Detroit for all points North and Northwest.

CENTRAL RAILROAD OF PENNA. Condensed Time Table.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.

Read Down. No. 1 No. 5 No. 3. Read Up. No. 4 No. 2 No. 1.