



STORIES OF THE SECRET SERVICE

BY Capt. Patrick D. Tyrrell

STORY No. 1 THE LINCOLN TOMB ROBBERS

Being an Account of the Attempted Desecration of the Grave of the Martyr President at Springfield in 1876, and the Capture and Conviction of a Gang of Counterfeiters That Preceded It.

By CAPTAIN PATRICK D. TYRRELL

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PART I.—Continued.

Mrs. Watson was apparently stylishly and was agreeable in manner. Those who came into contact with them decided that Clinton had made a valuable business and social acquisition when the "Watson" family settled there.

It was shortly before this—a few days, in fact—that I had had my first look at the man I believed from the meager description to be Nelson Driggs.

Between "Demarest" and the last two arrivals there was apparently no acquaintance nor communication; but under cover of the darkness at night and in the most cautious manner possible "Demarest" did communicate with the strangers, one at a time.

At La Clare "Watson" made his way to an old stone house on the river bank and spent some time in the company of a middle-aged man, who occupied the house with his wife.

After the visit of "Watson" to La Clare I had little difficulty in establishing in my own mind the identity of the man on whom "Watson" had called as Ben Boyd, the most expert plate-cutter in the United States and the man on whose skill and activity there depended the success or failure of the entire band of "koniackers," male and female, then operating in

the middle west. The discovery of the whereabouts of Boyd through the visit of Driggs, who was none other than "Watson" of Clinton, was a long stride toward success in a search that had looked hopeless enough at the start.

From that time the three houses were carefully watched and the movements of the inmates minutely noted. A little later Driggs paid his friend Boyd another visit, and soon after that Boyd returned the calls at the Driggs home in Clinton. This exchange of calls on the part of the two principals convinced me that they were preparing to get down to business, and this conviction was confirmed by the assistant who had been watching the "Schafer" home.

While this maneuvering was in progress an investigation had been prosecuted concerning the "Schafer" family, and the results of that investigation may properly be given at this point. The real family name was Stadtfeldt. Nicholas was the head of the family, the other members living in the Clinton house being Barbara, the wife; Charles, the son, and Mollie, a daughter, who was married to Henry Clinton. Nicholas Stadtfeldt had been a counterfeiter in Germany before he came to the United States to ply the same trade.

Nelson Driggs had married Gertrude Stadtfeldt, an older daughter of Nicholas, in Dayton, O., in 1874, illustrating the tendency of men in this particular line of criminality, where the utmost secrecy is absolutely necessary, to marry women from counterfeiting families.

The establishment of the facts relative to the Stadtfeldt family and the clinching of the identities of Driggs and Boyd had made the future of the case much clearer. During the months under which the principals to the manufacture of the Traders' national fives and other important counterfeiters were under surveillance at Clinton and La Clare I was convinced, both from theory and observation, that neither Driggs nor Boyd was actively engaged in the commission of any overt counterfeiting act; but I was equally certain that the Stadtfeldts had been running their mill and grinding out bogus bills for circulation among the unwary, and the subsequent fact was developed, as previously told, that they had run off from their press \$95,000 of the Traders' national fives for Pete McCartyney.

Aside from any specific information on the subject, however, I would have been firmly convinced that neither Driggs nor Boyd was at that time ac-

In the case in hand I knew that the principals were men versed in all the approved methods of the "coney men," and that it was extremely unlikely that the conferences between Driggs and Boyd were for any purpose other than the arrangement of the details of some big job to be done. Therefore, in addition to maintaining a strict surveillance, the principal task before me was to watch for the puff of wind that was to scatter the "koniackers" to their respective places for work.

While affairs stood thus, one of my assistants, during the course of his daily report to me on the movements of Driggs, said:

"Mr. Demarest, this is a big thing. Driggs has lots of money, and I am satisfied you could make \$15,000 by losing him."

I had been somewhat doubtful of the integrity of this assistant for some time, but up to this point had had no



tangible reason for thinking that he would do anything traitorous toward the secret service. I asked him how he knew the money could be made, and he explained the circumstances that led him to estimate the probable reward of treachery on our part at \$15,000. I then said to him:

"I am here to get these men, and am going to do it. If you make one move that spoils our game I shall kill you as I would a dog."

He seemed convinced that I meant what I said, for there was nothing in his actions or conversation after that time to indicate that he had not done his full duty.

It may seem strange that when we knew \$95,000 of counterfeit money was being made in the Stadtfeldt house we did not descend on the establishment, arrest the inmates and confiscate the plant, but it must be remembered that the Stadtfeldts were actors of secondary importance in the drama that was being played. Boyd, as the cutter of plates, was the man on whom the operations of all the others depended, and Driggs, as a man of great shrewdness and large means, was the most dangerous dealer in the country. Besides striving primarily for the capture of these two I had hoped to be able to land Pete McCartyney, whose standing in his chosen profession was so high that he was known as the "King of the Koniackers," and who was closely in league with Driggs, Boyd and the Stadtfeldts. To have raided the Stadtfeldt plant, therefore, would have flushed the big game and made them the more wary in a future chase.

The capture of the plates in the possession of Boyd and Driggs was of almost as much importance as the capture of the men themselves, and besides, in order to convict and imprison the principals, it was necessary to catch them in the act they were charged with committing. These reasons I considered sufficient to allow the Stadtfeldts to leave Clinton unmolested, which they did on August 25. The moving of the Stadtfeldts I took to be one of the signs of the approaching flight of the others, and in this my calculations proved correct, for one day about three weeks later mysterious movements were discernible in the Driggs residence.

That evening Driggs and his wife came to the Revere house. Every move made by him was closely watched, and our surveillance was rewarded in a few hours, for after most of the guests had retired Driggs and his wife quietly left the hotel and boarded the midnight train to Chicago. Without going into the details of Driggs' subsequent movements, it is enough to relate that he went to Chicago, where he stopped at the Hatch house for a day; then to Dixon, Ill., from there to Decatur and thence to Centralia, at each step of the journey covering his tracks as carefully as possible.

Previously Charles Stadtfeldt, in the role of a St. Louis drummer, had moved to Centralia and rented a house. These facts, of course, established Centralia as the next base of operations of Driggs and the Stadtfeldts, and for the time there was no move to be made on the part of the government but to keep the prey constantly under its eye. For that purpose I sent my assistants to Centralia.

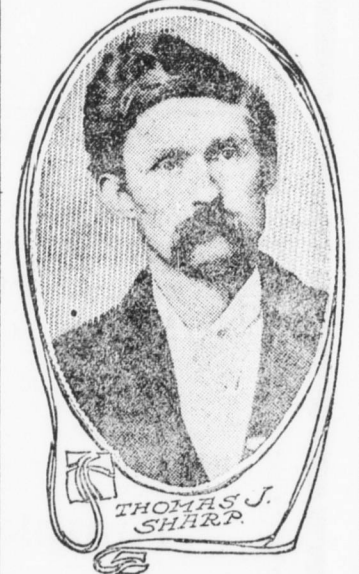
[To Be Continued.]

Broke Him.

"She returned all of my love letters in one package," sighed the flit suitor.

"Poor chap," sympathized his friend, "that must have nearly broken you up."

"It did, indeed. There was 25 cents postage due on them and I had only a dime to my name."—Chicago Daily News.



tively cutting plates or "showing" bogus money, for this reason: It had been my observation and that of every other secret service man who had had to do with counterfeiting cases that professionals in the fine art of making and passing counterfeit money never held any communication with one another during the time they were actively engaged in their work. The different processes of labor through which a counterfeit bill passed between the cutting of the plate to its actual unloading on the public were devised purely for purposes of safety—in order to break the chain by which secret service operatives might follow them. In addition to this division of the work the universal custom prevailed for the men engaged in the issue of "queer" money to place long distances between each other after the plan was arranged. They made rendezvous in one town or city, perfected the details of the plot, and then scattered as a puff of wind would scatter the down of the dandelion, to meet again at a place agreed on three, six or more months after, as the extent of the job dictated.

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In effect May 28, 1905. TRAINS LEAVE EMPORIUM EASTWARD 8:10 A. M.—Sundays only for Renovo and Week days for Sunbury, Wilkesbarre, Scranton, Hazleton, Pottsville, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 6:23 P. M., New York 9:30 P. M., Baltimore 6:00 P. M., Washington 7:15 P. M., Pullman Parlor cars from Williamsport to Philadelphia and passenger coaches from Kene to Philadelphia and Williamsport to Baltimore and Washington.

10:30 P. M.—Daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations arriving at Philadelphia 7:17 A. M., New York 9:35 A. M., weekdays, (10:38 A. M. Sunday); Baltimore 7:15 A. M., Washington 8:30 A. M. Pullman sleeping cars from Erie, Buffalo and Williamsport to Philadelphia and Buffalo, Williamsport to Washington. Passenger cars from Erie to Philadelphia and Williamsport to Baltimore.

RIDGWAY AND CLEARFIELD R. R. CONNECTIONS (Week days).

Table with columns: SOUTHWARD, Stations, NORTHWARD. Lists train times for various stations like Renovo, Driftwood, Emporium, etc.

Table with columns: Stations, times. Lists train times for stations like Mill Haven, Croftland, Blue Rock, etc.

BUFFALO & ALLEGHENY VALLEY DIVISION. Leave Emporium Junction for Port Allegany, Olean, Arcola, East Aurora and Buffalo. Train No. 105, daily, leaving Emporium at 4:55 P. M.

LOW GRADE DIVISION.

Table with columns: STATIONS, 109, 113, 101, 105, 107, 951. Lists train times for stations like Pittsburg, Red Bank, etc.

Table with columns: STATIONS, 105, 106, 102, 114, 110, 952. Lists train times for stations like Via P. & E. Div, Emporium, etc.

WESTBOUND.

Table with columns: STATIONS, 105, 106, 102, 114, 110, 952. Lists train times for stations like Via P. & E. Div, Emporium, etc.

By Day, except Sunday. (Sunday only, 7:15 p.m.) On Sunday only train leaves Driftwood 8:20 a.m., arrives at DuBois, 10:00 a.m. Returning leaves DuBois, 2:45 p.m., arrives at Driftwood, 2:10 p.m., stopping at intermediate stations.

For Time Tables and further information, apply to Ticket Agent.

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Effective Sunday, May 29, 1905. Eastern Standard Time. Time of Trains at St. Marys.

DEPART. 7:55 A. M.—For Kersey (Arr. 8:14 a. m.), Hyndale (Arr. 8:56 a. m.), Weedville (Arr. 9:03 a. m.), Elbon (Arr. 8:46 a. m.), Shawmut (Arr. 9:08 a. m.), Brockwayville (Arr. 9:42 a. m.).

ARRIVE. 11:05 A. M.—From Brockwayville, Shawmut, Elbon, Kersey and Hyndale. 1:45 P. M.—From Wayland, Hornoltsville, Canaseraga, Angelica, Friendship, Bolivar, Buffalo, and Clearmont.

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