

# Have You a Copy of This "Rare Old Newspaper"?



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

**S**OME day when you are rummaging through an old trunk in the attic or examining that bunch of old papers left you by your father or grandfather and you come across a newspaper which is yellowed with age, don't become too excited if you discover that it's a copy of the Ulster County Gazette for January 4, 1800, and that it contains an account of the funeral of George Washington. And don't report the discovery of this "rare old newspaper" to the editor of the local paper and expect him to write something about it for his paper, nor ask him to find out for you how much it's worth. If you do, you're pretty likely to be disappointed. For the chances of its being a "genuine, original Ulster County Gazette" are approximately one in a million. If it should be, however, you could name your own price and probably get it. If, as it's approximately 1,000,000 to 1 that it is, your copy is one of the innumerable reproductions of that famous old newspaper, then it's worth from ten to twenty-five cents as a curiosity and no more.

This edition of the Ulster County Gazette has been called "the most famous of all American historical ghosts" and it has taken nearly a century to lay that ghost. It is true that there once was such a paper, that it was established May 5, 1798, at Kingston, N. Y., by Samuel Freer and his son, Samuel S. Freer, both staunch Federalists in the early days of the Republic, and that in the edition of January 4, 1800, it did devote a large amount of space to the account of Washington's funeral. But the Ulster County Gazette went out of existence in 1822 and of the total edition (probably not more than 300 copies) for that date most of them went the way of any newspaper after it has been read. A few probably were saved by those who are accustomed to preserve newspapers containing an account of an important historical event but even these copies seem to have disappeared eventually.

How then to account for the thousands of "reproductions" or "reprints" which have flooded the country and which many possessors believe to be "originals"? As a matter of fact, the making of reproductions began as far back as 1825. According to the best evidence obtainable, reprints of the January 4, 1800, edition were issued from the shop of the People's Advocate, published in Kingston by Samuel S. Freer (who had started that paper in 1824), as a quarter century memorial to Washington and were first offered for sale on July 4, 1825. In 1848 another edition of reprints was issued in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the paper and again in 1850—the fiftieth year after Washington's death.

Other reprints probably appeared during the fifties and sixties but the real flood began in 1876. In that year the Centennial exposition in Philadelphia revived interest in the Revolution, in Washington and in American history, in general, and there were several reprints of the famous Ulster County Gazette by printers who saw a chance in this to make some extra money and who turned out tens of thousands of copies. One of them, a certain Walter Gilliss, is said to have had the contract for supplying them for sale on the exposition grounds and more than 100,000 copies were sold at five cents each. In fact they were distributed as souvenirs of the exposition by the armful. So if your father or your grandfather or any other member of your family attended the Centennial exposition that year, the chances are that the copy of the Gazette which you have just found in that old trunk was one of the Gilliss reprints.

The issuing of reproductions did not end in 1876, however. It has been going on incessantly ever since and as recently as 1923 an edition was printed for an American Legion post in Missouri to be sold to other Legion posts at 25 cents each or to the public at 25 cents

each. So famous had the Ulster County Gazette and its many reprints become that years ago efforts were made to learn if there was in existence anywhere a genuine, original copy of the paper. Naturally, hundreds of copies were produced as originals but all of them were soon proved to be reproductions. Finally authorities on the subject were ready to declare that "not a single genuine, original copy of the Ulster County Gazette for January 4, 1800, is now in existence."

And then the impossible happened! In November, 1930, the Library of Congress received an inquiry regarding three issues of the Gazette—December 28, 1799, and January 4 and January 11, 1800. Several years previous to that time Clarence S. Brigham of the American Antiquarian society had been told of the existence of three original issues of the Gazette but had been unable to locate them. The dates of these were the same as the dates on those reported to the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress knew of this and was not slow in putting two and two together. The result was that it secured from their owner, Mrs. Mary Crawford Lydon, descendant of Peter Decker, a Revolutionary soldier who lived in Ulster county near Kingston, the three originals and they are now in the national library. So at last a famous historical ghost was laid and it was proved that there WAS an original Ulster County Gazette for January 4, 1800, in existence.

And now as to the method of telling an "original" from a "reproduction." There is one simple test. Look at the second line of the heading and see whether or not there is a comma after the word "County." If there is none, that copy of the paper is probably an original. A genuine copy must also have the following reading for page one, column four, line one: "Command the town; and notwithstanding." Other qualifications, according to a circular issued by the Library of Congress, to prove that the copy is an original are as follows:

1. It should be printed on the paper used in 1800, hand made from rags, soft, pliable and rough in texture.
  2. This paper should have as watermarks throughout, slender parallel lines 1 1/16 to 1 3/16 inches apart.
  3. Title in italic capitals should measure 6 15/16 inches in length.
  4. Print should show the blurred edges of hand inked, hand press work.
  5. The second column on page 1 should measure 2 7/8 inches in width between rules, and 13 3/4 inches in length.
  6. The old style "s" should appear frequently as in the words "Published," and "Ulster" in the heading and in the words "President," "House," "Representatives," and many more in the text.
  7. The last line of page 1, column 1, should read "liberal execution of the treaty of amity."
  8. One full-length mourning slug should appear on page 2; and 2 full-length slugs on page 3.
  9. Mourning rules should be used between columns and across top and bottom and along outer edge of pages 2 and 3.
  10. The "Last Notice" on page 3, column 2, concerns "the estate of Johann Jansen," and should be signed by "Johann J. Jansen." The word "deceased" is spelled "Decceased," the second "c" being out of line.
- Thanks to the innumerable reproductions of the January 4, 1800, issue of the Gazette, most people are familiar with the account of Washington's funeral which appeared in that issue. But the issue of December 28, 1799 is fully as interesting as the more famous issue, for in it is found the announcement of his death as it first reached the people of Kingston. It contains extracts from two letters from Alexandria, dated December 15, the day after his death, giving the details of Washington's last hours and the preparations for his funeral. "We are close to our houses and act as we should do if one of our family had departed. The bells are to toll until he is buried, which will not be until Wednesday or Thursday." . . . "As a mark of respect to him all business will be suspended here tomorrow; and it will stand recorded forever hereafter, as a day of mourning."
- The news story itself reads as follows:
- ON Monday last, the inhabitants of this town, received the mournful information of the death of GENERAL WASHINGTON.—On this unhappy event sensations of grief and sorrow pervaded every countenance.
- In order to pay their last homage of respect for that great and good man, the Reformed Dutch Church was dressed in mourning, and the bell thereof muffled and tolled from twelve to one o'clock for several days. Yesterday being the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, the members of Livingston Lodge, convened together and celebrated the day in a manner highly redounding to their honor.—Guided by the sacred flame of brotherly love, they adjourned after taking an affectionate parting from each other.
- They all had Mourning bands in consequence of the melancholy news of the death of their illustrious Brother and beloved Chief, GEORGE WASHINGTON.

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### How Lindbergh's Father Found "Man" in His Son

Charles A. Lindbergh's father discovered "the man" in his son when they went fishing for the first time, according to the story of "The Lindberghs" in McCall's Magazine. Charles was twelve years old. They started from Lake Itasca and for two weeks were alone on the river and lakes in northern Minnesota. They were two men who cooked their meals together over a fire in the open and slept out. When they returned Congressman Lindbergh said:

"That trip with Charles was one of the happiest times in my whole life. I learned to know my boy in those two weeks as I had never known him before. I found the man in him. He has good stuff and will stick. He stood up under the discomforts of that trip as I never expected he would. A good experience, that was, for both of us."

If you fall in with a lucky crowd, you will get part of the luck.

## "SICK HEADACHE?"

It is not necessary to give-in to headaches. It is just a bit old-fashioned! The modern woman who feels a headache coming on at any time, takes some tablets of Bayer Aspirin and heads it off.

Keep Bayer Aspirin handy, and keep your engagements. Headaches, systemic pains, come at inconvenient times. So do colds. You can end them before they're fairly started if you'll only remember this handy, harmless form of relief. Carry it in your purse and insure your comfort while shopping; your evening's pleasure at the theatre. Those little nagging aches that bring a case of "nerves" by day are ended in a jiffy. Pains that once kept people home are forgotten half an hour after taking Bayer Aspirin! You'll find these tablets always help. If



you get real aspirin, you'll get real relief. In every package of genuine Bayer tablets are proven directions which cover headaches, colds, sore throat, toothache, neuralgia, neuritis, sciatica, rheumatism, etc.

The tablets stamped Bayer won't fail you, and can't harm you. They don't depress the heart. They don't upset the stomach. So take them whenever you need them, and take enough to end the pain.



### Cardiac Vigor Affected by Pleasure and Pain

The heart is called by Dr. Charles Flossinger "the signal bell of the emotions." It responds to the least nervous shock, breaks into sudden palpitation, slows up, and resumes its normal rhythm.

But it does not always react in the same way. Its behavior varies according to whether it is affected by an exciting emotion or by a depressing one. Joy, pleasure, agreeable events, act in one way; deception, anguish, grief, or pain have entirely opposite effects.

There is no better tonic for the heart than pleasure. Under its influence an affected heart may regain health, or at least may recover from its past injuries; a heart moved by happy feelings beats more quickly and powerfully.

Professor Merklen tells a story of a missionary, suffering from dilation of the heart, who recovered completely when he heard of the conversion of a group of Chinese. His delight had worked a miracle.

The inverse is no less true. Any depressive emotion acts to diminish cardiac vigor. Persons have been known whose hearts responded to each onset of ill-fortune. This action may be powerful enough to bring on syncope, or even sudden death. But such cases are fortunately exceptional. Cases of gamblers who have died at the baccarat table in the course of an exciting game have been several times reported, though rare.

Patients who suffer from attacks of angina may also succumb in the course of quarrels or discussions. They do not even cry out, but faint, and never revive.

## When your MIND feels SLEEPY

Inactive bowels cause inactive minds. Don't let sluggishness and a heavy, tired feeling get the best of you. Drink that constipating feeling away with a cup of fragrant Garfield Tea. A simple, natural, good old-fashioned remedy, Garfield Tea consists of pure, fragrant, utterly harmless herbs.

At your druggist's

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