

square feet of pasturage. The skull was almost intact; all the teeth save two molars were still in their places, and there was a scar on the left parietal bone which looked like a memento of some fierce cavalry charge. The humerus of the right arm was shattered, but save the three defects just mentioned the skeleton, when put together, was without blemish.

"The tree in falling, I should have mentioned, was rent asunder—a task not difficult of accomplishment when I refer to the fact that an examination found that at some remote date the very heart of the oak had been cleft by lightning. From a spot twenty feet from the ground upwards to the first great fork—a distance of ten feet—a hollow extended, and from this cavity the skeleton had been hurled. 'If we but knew who he was,' thought my informant, Mr. Rogers, and strange to say a few minutes later the twain discovered that the tree had also disgorged a thrilling history.

An old-fashioned leather pocket or memorandum book lay in a remarkable state of preservation, which no doubt had been dropped into the rent made by the lightning, and thus been preserved while its master decayed. A few brass buttons of old and unique pattern were found near the memorandum, but it is with the latter that we have to deal. This old leather purse, entirely moneyless, contained sundry papers covered with rude pencillings quite difficult to trace, as they were written on the backs of army passes and military consignments which dated as far back as 1776.

"Mr. Rogers conveyed the bones to his house and set about to read the memorandum of the captive of the tree. But owing to his failing eyesight he could decipher but little, and this little a conglomerate mass of disconnections. But still he read enough to learn that the man's name was Roger Vanderberg, a native of Lancaster, Pa., and a captain in the Revolutionary army. He was an aide to Washington during the retreat across the Jerseys, and served at time in Arnold's headquarters at West Point. In 1791 he marched with St. Clair against the Northwestern Indians, and in the famous outbreak of that General on the Wabash, November 3 of the year just written, he was wounded and captured. But while being conveyed to the Indian town at Upper Piqua he effected his escape, but found himself hard pressed by his savage foes. He saw the hollow in the oak and with the aid of a beech that grew beside the giant then, he gained the haven and dropped therein. Then came a fearful discovery. He had miscalculated the depth of the hollow and there was no escape. O, the story told by the diary of the oak's despairing prisoner! How rather than surrender to the torture of the stake, he chose death by starvation; how he wrote his diary in the uncertain light and snows! Here is one entry in the diary:

"November 10.—Five days without food! When I sleep I dream of luscious fruits and flowing streams. The stars laugh at my misery! It is snowing now. I freeze while I starve. God pity me."

"The italicized words were supplied by Mr. Rogers, as the trembling hand oft-times refused to indite plainly. Never was such a record of suffering traced by human hand before. The entries covered a period of eleven days, and in disjointed sentences it told the story of St. Clair's defeat. Mr. Rogers has written to Lancaster to ascertain if any descendants of the ill-fated captain live; if so, they shall have his bones.

"Should no such descendants survive the narrator of the discovery proposes that the patriotic people of Miami county shall erect a monument to the luckless captain's memory."

The Fate of Franklin.

The Buddington party saved such valuable manuscript from the wreck of the *Polaris*, but Mr. Smith, of Tressick, is said to have documents which belong to Captain Hall quite as valuable as any others likely to have been left by him. Hall and Bessels both frequented Smith's house, and meeting there one evening, came to very strong language regarding each other. Subsequently Hall confided to Smith four boxes, some of which referred to his researches into the fate of Sir John Franklin. Hall never permitted these notes to be published, being determined, he said, to keep the secret till after the death of Lady Franklin, out of regard to her feelings. The suppressed data were to the awful purport that Franklin's party were reduced to eating each other. The discovery or evidence of such a calamity, awful as it was, would of course have added a great exploit to the list of Hall's achievements. To keep ever about with him these precious memoranda for which he had

sought so ardently, to delay, as it proved, beyond his own death, the full realization of his fame, out of regard to the feelings of the aged and mourning widow, makes altogether an exhibition of real chivalry that attests the true hero stuff in this man. It is not alone his ice-hewn grave that challenges the world. The heart within it was brave and tender.

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