

Thrilling War Incident--The Capture of the Steamer Underwriter by the Confederates.

Col. J. Thomas Scharf, of Baltimore, an officer in the Confederate Navy, recently furnished an interesting account of the capture of the steamer *Underwriter*, the Nashville and the Patrick Henry, to the Maryland historical society, accompanying three pictures of these vessels. The account concluded with a description of the capture of the *Underwriter*, in February, 1864, by an expedition under command of John Taylor Wood, of Maryland, of the Confederate States privateer *Tallahassee*, and subsequently an aid on the staff of Jefferson Davis. The account is as follows:

Early in the year 1864, Col. Wood, who had a short time before captured a few federal gunboats in the Rappahannock river, solicited and obtained permission from the secretary of the Confederate States navy to fit out boats for the capture of federal blockading vessels, by boarding them in the night.

In the month of January, 1864, the Confederate States naval commanders in the ports of Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington and Richmond received instructions from the naval department at the last-named city, to select a boat's crew of fifteen able and trusty seamen at each port, from the iron-clads then in commission, and with their boats to report at Wilmington, N. C. About the latter part of January, everything being in readiness, well armed, and accompanied by four boats and two launches, we left Wilmington via the Kingston railway. Our destination was a matter of much conjecture, and more than one quillman puzzled his brain over the problem.

At the junction of the Neuse and Trent rivers, situated on a point of land, its shores washed by either stream, lies the town of Newbern, a place of some note in North Carolina. After the fall of Roanoke island, on the 14th of February, 1862, it fell into the hands of the federals, who immediately after its surrender threw up fortifications which extended over an area of twenty miles. To further increase the strength, and to render the town proof against surprise or capture, some three or four gunboats were either anchored off the wharf, or cruising up and down the Neuse or Trent. The largest of these was the *Underwriter*, which fired the first gun on Roanoke island, and whose capture forms the subject of this sketch.

On Sunday morning, Jan'y 31st, our boats being dragged by men from the tars and launched in the Neuse at Kingston, we immediately embarked and were soon under way, pulling hard to Newbern. The trip was one of no little interest, but would exceed proper limits to give a detailed account of it. I shall therefore confine myself to few generalities. Those who remember the winter of 1864 will recall it as one of unusual severity, and on the morning of our expedition we saw little trace of the almost tropical luxuriance for which our southern country is noted, the river wide and deep with floating masses of ice, through which the waves flowed with a hoarse surge and high; low banks, utterly destitute of vegetation, arose on either side, bordered with gnarled cypress trunks whose branches, trailing with gray moss and leafless vines, formed a skeleton wall, through the openings of which we caught an occasional glimpse of the bare forest woodlands, succeeded further on by swamps, and marshes, whose rank grasses and debris of fallen logs and dead trunks seemed a vast battle-field, over whose funeral pyre neither victor or vanquished staid to shed a tear.

Winding and crossing in many a curve and turn, flashing in and out, the river seemed a succession of tiny lakes; wild ducks started at our approach, rose from the banks, whirled for an instant above our heads, and then flew on rapid wing to the forest coverts beyond. Silently our boat sped down the stream, issuing no sound save the steady splash and dip of the oars as they fell into the water. Occasionally a fallen log, covered with sleet and ice, stayed our progress, and the monotony of the hour was varied by a boat aground, and now and then, as night appeared, the low, solemn screech of the night-owl was borne o'er the stillness and hush of the dark waters. The night grew very dark--a night in consonance with our work of daring and danger--and soon, as the darkness thickened and blackened, our way could only be traced by the faint light of the sky glimmering through the tree tops. At about eleven o'clock our way grew clearer, the shores seemed to separate, and we soon emerged into the open country above Newbern.

To understand the plan of attack, it will be necessary to explain briefly. Gen. Pickett, then commanding, was to open fire on the enemy's lines in the morning, thus concentrating their attention inland, while we, taking advantage of the diversion, if possible, capture one or more of their gunboats, and clear the river. When in sight of Newbern we ran into a small creek, and hauling our boats close to the shore landed upon an island whose tall grasses and shrubs afforded a temporary haven. At midnight the men were called to quarters, arms inspected, and ammunition distributed. To distinguish him each man was furnished with a white badge, to be worn on the left arm, and the password ("Summer") being given, the brave fellows were ready and eager for action. The firing of Pickett was now heard at its height, and again launching our crafts in the Neuse, the boats were arranged in two divisions, the first commanded by Colonel Wood, and the second by

spring upon the foe when and wherever he came in sight. When about three hundred yards from the gunboat her hull loomed up, and again through the stillness came the sharp ring of her five bells for half past two. Suddenly some one hailed us, "Boat ahoy!" "Boat ahoy!" again shouted the watch, and at the same time sprang the rattle which summoned the men to quarters, their hurrying figures becoming dimly visible as all abreast we bore down upon them. "Give way!" shouted Col. Wood. "Give way, boys, give way," repeated Lieut. Loyal; and give way we did with a vim. It was a moment of terrible anxiety and uncertainty, not unmingled with misgivings. Were the enemy aware of our approach, destruction were inevitable. Retreat was impossible now; death lurked in the still silent guns ahead and in the waters around.

The instructions were that one division should board forward and the other astern, but through some mistake a large number of boats went forward, Col. Wood amidst them. The enemy, who had gathered in the ways just ast of the wheel-house, greeted us as we came up with volley after volley of musketry, which, flashing in our very faces, rendered plainly visible the position of our opponents. Our men worked with a will, cool and determined, in spite of the deadly fire that now and then struck down one of their comrades. As soon as our boat struck the sides of the *Underwriter* the grapple was thrown aboard, bringing us close alongside, and we were soon scrambling up her sides, the firing continued unabated. Lieut. Loyal was first on deck, with Gill, engineer, and Col. Wood at his side, leading the men onward. Following in their steps came Lieuts. Hoge, Kerr, Roche, Gardner, Roby, Wilkinson, Cooke and Scharf.

At this time the fire was hotter than I had known during three years experience of the war, both in the army and navy, and I hardly dared hope that one-half of our number would escape with their lives. Col. Wood, a brave son of our glorious old State, I feared every moment to see fall, but standing upright in his boat, issuing his orders as coolly as before the enemy were in sight, he seemed to wear about him a charm which rendered him bullet-proof. One after another, in fatal succession, our men were shot down, crushing in their fall others. Once on deck, the fighting commenced in earnest, hand to hand, with cutlasses and pistols, each on with a rush selecting his man, and so unequal were our numbers that some struggled with three opponents at the same time. In a few minutes the capture of the *Underwriter* was complete. After defending their ship gallantly, fighting desperately in all parts, their brave commander slain, and the majority of their men killed or wounded, the enemy called for quarter.

Our loss was over one-fourth of our number--six killed and twenty-two wounded. Poor Gill was lying in the gangway mortally wounded, shot in the chest, and Midshipman Sanders, a gallant youth, cut down in a hand-to-hand fight, was breathing out his young life on deck. The fight was ended, the boarders successful. The *Underwriter* being moored head and stern under three large batteries and scarcely a stone's throw from the shore, the report of the musketry had aroused the soldiers on shore, and they were soon on the move, their rifles and bayonets fixed to their own prisoners aboard they fired a shell into us, which, striking the upper machinery and exploding on deck produced a terrible shock. Fast and heavy they succeeded each other, and we soon found that the shore batteries had opened on us.

The prisoners were ordered into the boats and the ship soon made ready for action. Lieut. Hoge opened with magazine and manned the guns, but the steam being down and the machinery disabled, was found impossible to take time to get away under the heavy fire of the batteries, not a hundred yards distant; so, taking time only to hurry the prisoners into the boats and remove the wounded, the vessel was fired, and five minutes after our evacuation of her the *Underwriter* was one mass of flames, consuming the dead bodies of the federals killed in the action.

REES'S IMPROVED PATENT Farming Implements!

WARRANTED
The Best, Cheapest and most Economical Ever Offered the Public.
No. 1. A long, steel-pointed, straight Scooter. No. 2. A long, keen, diamond-pointed Scooter, with one-half patent land-side. No. 3. A long, rakish, sub-soil, double-ended, turning Scooter, with patent adjustable handle. No. 4. A turning shovel, steel-pointed, half patent land-side, and self-sharpening. No. 5. A one-horse turning Plow; works equally well on light, clean or stiff stubble, or prairie land. No. 6. A two-horse stable or prairie Plow, same as No. 5, but larger.
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, fit the same stock--Persons wishing any of these celebrated Plows, together with a more varied and complete assortment of the best CULTIVATORS, HARROWS, SIDE-HARROWS, SWEEPS, SCALPERS and SEED-PLANTERS, all adapted for a deeper and more thorough cultivation, will please call on my Agents at Vienna, Pickensville, where we intend keeping a full supply, and will sell at reasonable prices.
EDWIN REESE, Inventor and General Agent, Jan 21 1874 9-2m

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We will say to our friends that we still hold the Old Stand, No. 87 Market Street, where they can buy Iron, Nails, Locks, Hinges, Plows, Harrows, Cotton Planters, Saws, Axes and

ALL KINDS OF TOOLS

as cheap as they can be had any where in this country--for CASH.
We would respectfully call the attention of all persons indebted to us to the fact that WE WANT OUR MONEY. There is no excuse for not paying us.
If you have no money, send old Iron, Brass, Copper, Wood, dry or green Hides; Deer, Coon, Mink, Otter or Beaver Skins.
If you are not indebted to us, we will pay you cash or goods for the above articles.
We are prepared to do ALL KINDS OF WORK, such as Repairing Guns, Locks, Saws and Machinery of all kinds at short notice. We work for cash.
J. L. MOSS & CO., 87 Market St., Columbus, Miss., January 11, 1874. 24

The West Alabamian,

PUBLISHED AT CARROLLTON, ALA., BY HENRY & GILBERT.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:
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The ALABAMIAN was established in 1849, and has over one thousand subscribers. It circulates in a rich cotton growing district, making it a most valuable advertising medium, through which merchants can make known their business. We respectfully solicit the patronage of those wishing trade from this section of country.

Court Calendar.

The following is the time fixed by law for holding the several Courts of Pickens County, viz:

Circuit Court--On the third Monday in March and third Monday in September. Hon. L. R. Smith, Judge; W. F. Johnston, Solicitor; J. F. Langdon, Clerk; Wm. L. Lipsey, Sheriff.
Chancery Court--21st of July and 20th of November, 1873. Hon. A. W. Dillard, Chancellor; Maj. E. D. Willet, Register.
Probate Court--Regular Term, second Monday in each month. Hon. R. R. Bogie, Judge.
Commissioners Court--Regular Terms, 2nd Monday in February and 2nd Monday in August, and 1st Monday in April and 1st Monday in November. Commissioners--H. B. Tweedie, W. L. D. Jones, John Sigmant, J. C. Assessor--John C. McCafferty.
TAX COLLECTOR--James Kilpatrick.
COUNTY TREASURER--Andrew Henry.
COUNTY SURVEYOR--Thos. G. Williams.

Religious Notice.

Regular services at the Baptist Church on the 2nd and 4th Sabbaths in each month--Elder Robert Keith, Pastor.
There will be preaching in the Presbyterian Church in this place on the 3rd Sabbath in each month.
Divine service in the Methodist Episcopal Church at Carrollton on the 1st Sabbath in each month. Rev. R. J. Sampler, Pastor.

Patrons of Husbandry.

SPRING HILL GRANGE No. 2 will hold its regular meetings at Spring Hill Academy on the 3rd Saturday in each month. J. N. BAIN, Sec'y.

CARROLLTON GRANGE No. 3 will hold its regular meetings in Carrollton on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in each month. B. S. COCKRELL, Sec'y.

PROVIDENCE GRANGE No. 5 meets at Liberty Academy on Saturday before the 3d Sunday in each month. D. U. DUNCAN, Sec'y.

MR. PLEASANT GRANGE No. 7 meets on the 3d Saturday in each month. G. B. BARNETT, Sec'y.

PICKENSVILLE GRANGE No. 8 will hold their regular meetings on the first and third Thursdays in each month, at 10 o'clock a.m., at Picken'sville Female Institute. Prompt attendance is requested by the worthy Master. GEO. M. MULLEN, Sec'y. 25-4f

FAIRFIELD GRANGE No. 174 holds its regular meetings on the 1st Wednesday in each month. O. G. JONES, Sec'y.

I. O. O. F. G. T. CARROLLTON LODGE No. 93, I. O. O. F. G. T. meets every FRIDAY NIGHT in the Court House, at 7 o'clock, P. M. A. E. HILL, W. C. T., W. S. PERSINGER, W. S.

S. C. MUNGER,

Wholesale and Retail Manufacturer of

AND DEALER IN



Bridles, Harness, Whips, Collars, Hames, Chains, &c. 89.....Market Street.....89

Columbus, Miss.

RETURNING THANKS TO MY many friends and customers of Pickens and adjoining counties, for the very liberal patronage heretofore extended to me, I would respectfully solicit a continuance of the same for the future. I would call attention of the community at large to my Full and Complete Stock

of Saddle and Harness,

for the durability and neatness of finish cannot be surpassed. I have a large stock of LEATHER--One-tanned Harness, Bridle, Skirting, Sole and Upper Leather. Also, Hame and Sole. A full supply of plantation goods always on hand, such as Wagon and Plow Harness, Blind Bridles, Buck-Bands, &c. I manufacture a Buck-Band that you will find superior to anything in the market.

To my merchant friends who want Saddles, Bridles, &c., I would say that I am determined to sell my goods as cheap as you can buy them in St. Louis, Louisville, or Cincinnati. I would ask you to call in and examine my goods and prices before purchasing elsewhere.
I give my strict attention to business, and fair dealing with all, to merit a continuance of patronage heretofore received.
S. C. MUNGER, Columbus, Miss., June 14, 1873--1y

Cotton Storage.

FROM and after this date we will store cotton at 25 cents per bale per month, 10 cents for marking; no charge for weighing or sampling. Other charges as heretofore.
B. S. LONG & SON, December 16th, 1873.--3m

Professional Cards.

D. C. HODO, LYONS & LAY, AND Solicitor in Chancery. CARROLLTON, ALABAMA. April 22, '71.....17-1y

M. L. STANSEL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Carrollton, Pickens County, Ala. February 1, 1870. 6-4f

L. M. STONE, ATTORNEY AT LAW, AND SOLICITOR IN CHANCERY, CARROLLTON, ALA. Will practice in all the Courts of the 7th Judicial Circuit. April 11th, 1866.....15-1y

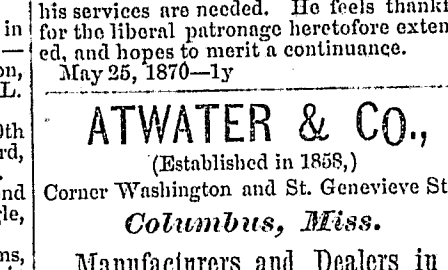
D. S. F. & S. H. HILL, CARROLLTON, ALA. September 7, 1870. 6-4f

DR. W. W. WESTMORELAND, WILL CONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY in Pickens county. Persons can have his services by advertising in this paper, or by calling on him at Carrollton, Ala., or Columbus, Mississippi. He will always be in Carrollton during the terms of the Circuit Court, and at such other times as his services are needed. He feels thankful for the liberal patronage heretofore extended, and hopes to merit a continuance. May 25, 1870--1y

ATWATER & CO.,

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WE again call the attention of the citizens of Pickens and adjoining counties to our stock of VEHICLES, and will be pleased to see any of them when they come to Columbus. We propose to give better and cheaper work than any first class house in Mississippi, while our profits will be used for building up home manufactures. Our home made and western wagons took the premium over all others at the late Fair--Come and see us if you want good and faithful work for your money. ATWATER & CO., Columbus, Miss. October 22, 1873. 43-1y

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AND Ex-Officio Justice of the Peace. PICKENSVILLE, ALABAMA.

Eclipse Livery Stable,

No. 100 Main Street, COLUMBUS, MISS.

THIS undersigned having purchased the entire stock of the Eclipse Stable is now prepared to accommodate all who may call on him. The Stable, Stalls and Lots are in splendid order, and will be kept clean and neat. Special preparations made for Drivers. Also, Carriages, Buggies, Hacks, Wagons and Saddle-Horses are kept constantly on hand. Patronage solicited. 2-3m. R. A. COOK, Proprietor.

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Columbus, Miss.

A. M. King, Proprietor.

MR. W. B. BRYAN is in charge of the office in this establishment, where he will be pleased to meet his Alabama friends. Columbus, Miss., Sept. 10th, 1873.--6m

University of Columbus.

T. C. Belsher, A. M., Pres't.

THE Fall Session begins the first Monday in October and closes February 15th. The Spring Session begins February 15th and closes the last Thursday in June. Since obtaining a charter from the Legislature converting the Male High School into the University of Columbus, the prospects of the Institution have greatly improved. Diplomas and Degrees will be conferred upon those successfully completing the course of study. Expense as low as at any other institution in the South. Send for catalogue. Columbus, Miss. August 27, 1873. 55-2m

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All Cotton consigned to us on classified steamboats is insured if not otherwise ordered. Indorsing a Bill Lading "not insured" does not cancel the policy. Patrons not desiring insurance will please to instruct before shipping.

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

Bacon, Lard, Molasses, SUGAR AND COFFEE, Rice, Brandies, Wines, Whiskies, SALT, MACKEREL, CHEESE, &c.

Have just received a large supply of GROCERIES, which they are selling at low figures.

Crooks & Co., Will buy your Cotton and pay the highest market price for it.

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Watches, Clocks and Jewelry repaired on short notice, and warranted to be done in the best workmanlike style. November 13, 1872. 46-4f

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(Next Door to S. C. Munger's Saddle Shop.) Columbus, Mississippi, DEALERS IN

First Class Furniture of every description, at cheap prices. Also, keeps constantly on hand Metallic Burial Cases--All Sizes.

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Business Continued.

WE have good Houses, with brick chimneys, for campers--room to accommodate all that come.

Will have stable-room to accommodate a good number of horses.

We will keep a large stock of Dry-Goods and Family Groceries, to which we invite the attention of close buyers. Will also keep Money on hand to buy ALL the Cotton offered us.

All persons indebted to us will please pay us with Money, Cotton, Corn, old Mules, Chickens, or anything we can eat, wear or use.

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"Look to Four Interest."

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Hollow-Ware and House-Furnishing Goods, Coal Oil, Lamps, &c. 84.....Market Street, Columbus Miss.....84

Prices Low as the Lowest.

Satisfaction guaranteed in all work, such as Kooling, Gutting, &c. Give me a call and examine for yourself, and see that I am selling as cheap as anybody. Columbus, Miss., April 13, 1873.--6m

Leroy Brewer, 1874 (Hugh L. Hopper Thos. Duggan, C. A. Harris.

L. BREWER & CO.,

DEALERS IN

Northern and Western Goods, Rectifiers and Dealers in

Domestic and Imported Wines and LIQUORS.

ALSO COTTON FACTORS, AND General Commission Merchants

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AGENTS of the Orange Powder Works, Home Bitters, French Cognac Bitters, Gold Seal Champagne. Jan'y

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Prescriptions Compounded with Care and Dispatch. January 1, 1873. 1-1y

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Carding is done at all seasons of the year. He keeps on hand supply of Fur and Wool Hats and Saddle Blankets manufactured at his Factory, which he will exchange for Wool, Fur, Skins and country produce, at his Factory.

Terms for Carding, Liberal. I. D. SANDERS

Hats and Blankets. A supply of Hats and Blankets may be found at the Store of Gardner & Roberts, Carrollton, Ala. L. D. S. September 17th, 1873.

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THE undersigned would respectfully inform the citizens of Pickens and surrounding counties, that in addition to his large stock of Saddles, Harness and Wagons, he is now receiving a large and select stock of Carriages, Buggies and Hacks, from some of the best makers in the North, East and West. Give me a call before purchasing. You will find it to your interest to do so. P. GALVIN, 85 Market Street, Columbus, Miss, July 24th, 1873.--1y

Gid. D. Harris. Jno. B. Hudson,

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A full line of all Goods, embracing the LATEST STYLES, always on hand. Special attention given to orders. 18-1y

STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, BOOTS, SHOES, NOTIONS, &c., &c.

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DEALER IN

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THE undersigned is now receiving a large and well assorted Stock of Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots, Shoes, &c., to which he respectfully invites the attention of the public. Be sure and call and examine my Goods. Carrollton, Ala., September 24th, 1873.

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Harrison & Foster,

General Commission Merchants and

DEALERS IN

WESTERN PRODUCE, Bagging, Rope, Twine and Iron Ties,

No. 9 North Commerce Street, Corner of Exchange Alley.

Mobile, Alabama. Mobile, Ala., Dec. 24th, 1873. 3m