

# Gainesville Daily Sun.

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TEN CENTS A WEEK

## NEGRO SAYS HE WAS WITH PEARY AT POLE

### And Shared In The Glory By Helping To Unfold The Stars and Stripes.

BATTLE HARBOR, Labrador. (By Wireless Telegraph via Cape Ray, N. F.,) Sept. 16.—“We hoisted the Stars and Stripes twice at the North Pole,” said Matthew Henson, Commander Robert E. Peary's colored lieutenant and the only other civilized man, according to Peary, who ever saw the pole.

Henson last night gave to the Associated Press an account of the night and two days he and Commander Peary and four Eskimos camped at ninety degrees north latitude. Henson personally assisted in raising the American flag, and he led the Eskimos in the cheers, and an extra cheer for old glory in the Eskimo tongue.

“Having spent eighteen years with Commander Peary, and a considerable portion of that time in the Arctic,” said Henson. “I have acquired a knowledge of the dialect of the Northern Greenland Eskimos, who probably are superior to any other. As is commonly known to travelers in the far North, the Eskimo entertains a strange prejudice toward any tongue, but one, and it is therefore necessary for successful dealing with them to study their unwritten language.

“We arrived at the pole just before noon, April 6, the party consisting of the commander, myself, four Eskimos and thirty-six dogs, divided into two detachments equal in number and headed respectively by Commander Peary and myself. We had left the last supporting party at 87 degrees, 53 minutes, where we separated from Capt. Bartlett, who was photographed by the commander. Capt. Bartlett regretted that he did not have a British flag to erect on the ice at this point, so that the photograph might show this as the farthest North to which the banner of Great Britain had advanced.

#### Made Snow Shoes.

“I kept a personal diary during this historic dash across the ice field. Our first task on reaching the pole was to build two igloos as the weather was hazy and prevented taking accurate observations to confirm the distance traveled from Cape Columbia. Having completed the snow houses, we had dinner, which included tea made on our alcohol stove, and then retired to rest, thus sleeping one night at the North Pole.

“The Arctic sun was shining when I awoke, and found the commander already up. There was only wind enough to blow out the small flags. The ensigns were hoisted toward noon from tent poles and tied with fish lines.

“We had figured out the distance pretty closely and did not go beyond the pole. The flags were up about

mid-day April 7, and were not moved until late that evening. The haze had cleared away early, but we wanted some hours to take observations. We made three close together.

“When we first raised the American flag its position was behind the igloos, which according to our initial observation, was the position of the pole, but on taking subsequent observations the Stars and Stripes was moved and placed 150 yards west of the first position, the difference in the observations being due perhaps to the moving ice.

#### Eskimos Showed Pleasure.

“When the flag was placed, Commander Peary exclaimed in English: ‘We will plant the Stars and Stripes at the North Pole.’ In the native language I proposed three cheers, which were given in the Eskimos' own tongue. The Eskimos danced about and showed great pleasure that the pole at last was reached.”

Henson, who reached the farther North with Peary three years ago, said that conditions were about the same at the pole as elsewhere in the Arctic circle. All was a solid sea of ice, with a two-foot lead of open water two miles from the pole.

Commander Peary conversed further yesterday with the representative of the Associated Press regarding his journey to the North Pole. He spoke particularly of the flags he raised at the pole and the records he left there, and he touched again on some of the assertions credited to Dr. Frederick A. Cook.

Commander Peary said that when he reached the pole the first flag to be thrown to the breeze was a silken American emblem presented to him by his wife fifteen years ago. He had carried this flag on every one of his expeditions to the North, leaving a piece of it at the highest point he attained. The last remnants were raised and left at the pole. The explorer then raised the navy ensign, the flag of the navy league, then the flag of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and finally, a flag of peace.

Commander Peary yesterday received a cablegram asking him to make a statement regarding a report from a Danish source that he had posted a notice on the Greenland coast to the effect that Dr. Cook was dead, making this notice a pretext for the appropriation of Dr. Cook's supplies. The explorer said to the Associated Press representative that he knew nothing of this; that it evidently was a newspaper publication.

In referring to the reception being planned for him when he reached home, Commander Peary asked the

#### THE NEGRO AND THE GOPHER.

Incident in Which a Negro, a Gopher and Ventriloquist Figured.

A rather amusing incident is related at the expense of a negro recently employed by T. J. Swearingen at Kanapaha, which caused the man to lay down his tools and quit the place.

Some time ago a man who appeared to be intelligent enough, but rather “down and out,” appeared at the Swearingen commissary for a job. There was nothing for him at the time, but, being of a rather witty and entertaining disposition, he was invited to sit down for a while.

The invitation was accepted, and by his clever versatility the man was entertaining quite a crowd who had assembled about him. Presently he saw the negro in question advancing with a gopher under his arm.

“Boys,” he said, “I am somewhat of a ventriloquist. Watch us have some fun with that nigger.” As the negro approached he hesitated, being prompted by curiosity at the crowd at the commissary. As he paused almost in front of the ventriloquist the latter threw his voice into the gopher.

“What yer gwine ter do wid me?” came apparently from the gopher.

“Fer de Lawd's sake, people, I b'lieve dis gopher dun said sum'n,” remarked the negro in astonishment.

“Tell me, what yer gwine ter do wid me?” again emanated from the throat of the gopher.

This was too much for the negro “I tells yer what I'm goin' to do wid yer; I'se gwine ter put yer down right here, an' I don't want nothin' else to do wid yer.”

With that, amid a roar of laughter, the negro dropped the gopher, made a hasty retreat, and has not been heard from at the Swearingen place since.

#### MR. WILBURN INJURED.

While Cleaning Rifle Contents Went Into Hand, Which Caused Pain.

Friends of H. R. Wilburn, one of the efficient salesmen in the store of the Gainesville Hardware Company, will regret to learn of his recent misfortune, which has caused no end of pain and trouble.

While engaged in rubbing up a rifle at the store, which it appears had been loaded, the piece was discharged, the ball entering one of his hands. A physician was summoned and rendered professional aid, but at last accounts the wounded member was giving him considerable trouble, and it is feared blood poison will set in.

#### Lieutenant McCormick Married.

Lieutenant Harvey McCormick, U. S. N., was married in San Rafael, California, Wednesday, to Miss Ethel Cramer, a well-known and popular young lady of San Francisco.

Lieutenant McCormick is well-known in this city, where he was reared. He is a grandson of Mrs. S. M. Adamson, and a graduate of the Gainesville Graded and High School, where he was always regarded as very bright in his studies. After graduating, he entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis, from whence he was assigned to the Pacific Coast. He is now a lieutenant on the torpedo boat “Truxton,” and has just returned from a cruise in Alaskan waters.

The only relative of the groom present at the ceremony was an uncle, C. B. McCormick, of Leesburg.

Lieutenant McCormick's numerous friends throughout this section join in extending congratulations.

Associated Press to publish the following statement:

“From such fragmentary reports as I have received I am more touched, gratified and honored than I can say at the way the public has treated my work.”

The best place to buy your goods is at the store which invites you to come through an ad. in The Sun.

Isn't there something which only a want ad. can do for you today?

## R. H. OWEN IS AGAIN IN THE PUBLIC PRINT

### Declares He Was Not Given Chance of a Dog in His Trial in This County.

R. H. Owen, the condemned Alachua county murderer, has again broken into public print, as shown by the following from last Wednesday's Jacksonville Metropolis:

“Strongly denying his guilt, under the unwritten law,” R. H. Owen, the white man who for some weeks has been held at the Duval county jail for fear he might be lynched by people of Alachua county, where he killed A. L. Shatto and Staslevante, has addressed a letter to The Metropolis, in which he declares Governor Gilchrist will pardon him, that he was not given the chance of a dog in his trial, and that certain officers will go to the chain gang on account of his prosecution. He takes The Metropolis to task for using the term ‘cold-blooded murder,’ which was used only in expressing the opinion of those responsible for his prosecution and conviction.

#### Owen's Letter.

“Owen's letter, which was re-written because he did not express himself plainly and spelled poorly, is as follows:

“To the Editor of The Metropolis: “I notice in writing me up in your paper you charge me with cold-blooded murder. I want to ask your

readers what cold-blooded murder is, and what you call a right of home duty—a gentleman's duty to take care of his house and his life. The man I killed came to my house, coming up the back way, trying to murder my wife, when she was at her own home. When I heard them cursing my wife I went to her at once, as a husband will, for it is his duty, and a right granted him by the law to protect and defend his wife.

“When I saw I was overpowered I ran to the other house, just a few yards away, but I was crowded, and had to stop and defend myself, and shot. The coroner's jury wanted to turn me loose, but I will tell you the truth. Governor Gilchrist, when he finds out more about my case, will give me my liberty, and some of the officers of the law will get on the chain gang.

“I was not given the chance of a dog. I gave up like a man, and my wife and self have been dealt with like common dogs. It is a disgrace to the State at large to allow a poor family to be dealt with in such a way as we have been. I have written it all up, and will publish it at some early date. Respectfully,

“R. H. OWEN.”

#### MONNIE MELROSE.

MELROSE, Sept. 16.—Rev. W. H. Williams, editor of The Florida Christian Advocate, is expected to preach at the morning service of the Methodist church next Sunday, the 19th.

Miss May Barnett left yesterday for a visit to Jacksonville.

The young people had a novelty in the amusement line one evening last week in the shape of a “peanut boiling” at the foot of Front street.

L. M. Baldwin has returned from a business trip to Baltimore, where he made extensive purchases for the fall trade, buying amongst other things a carload of furniture.

Mrs. A. A. McRae has returned from a pleasant visit to White Springs. Letters are being already received

with inquiries about cottages to rent for the coming winter season. As the supply is short somebody is sure to be disappointed.

The last week in October will see quite a number of our regular visitors in town.

#### Remove the Bottles.

Complaint has been made that the manufacturers of bottled soda, etc., in this city, do not collect the empties with sufficient regularity, and that sometimes cases filled with empty bottles are permitted to stand for some time, thus permitting a feast for the flies and other insects. This should be remedied, as the stench of half-drained bottles is obnoxious to the public.

## Eight People Are Killed And 15 Hurt in R. R. Wreck

NASHVILLE, Sept. 16.—Eight trainmen killed and fifteen passengers injured, two fatally perhaps, is the result of a collision between a passenger and a freight train yesterday morning on the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railroad at Pegram station, twenty miles west of here. In the fire that followed at least two of the mangled bodies were completely consumed.

The dead are: Will Morgan, traveling engineer, Nashville; Joe Gower, engineer on passenger train, Nashville; Jesse Tarkington, engineer on freight, Nashville; Walter Roach, messenger, Nashville; Sam Whited, fireman on freight, Nashville; S. B. Welp, brakeman; W. S. Staleup, mail clerk, Martin, Tenn.; and L. C. Bailey, mail clerk, Martin.

Those seriously injured are: Bob Hailey, fireman, Nashville, two ribs broken and left side injured, and internally, may die.

Besides these the following were slightly injured: Capt. T. Jobs, Burton, N. C.; William Lunsford, Peachtree, N. C.; W. L. Thomasson, Peach

tree, N. C.; R. W. Boyd, Almond, N. C.; Mrs. L. M. Lee, Tullahoma, Tenn.; Mrs. Temple Lunsford, Murphy, N. C.; Mrs. A. C. Thomasson, Murphy, N. C.; May Thomasson, Murphy, N. C.; Mrs. Mary J. Jackson, McLean Branch, Tenn.; Mrs. Joseph S. Lively, McMinnville, Tenn.; Mrs. John Dunn, Cumberland Furnace, Tenn.; and Mr. John Dunn, Cumberland Furnace, Tenn.

The collision occurred about 8 o'clock and was between passenger train No. 4, westbound, and fast freight No. 51, en route to Nashville. The wreckage at once caught fire. The baggage, mail, express and smoking cars of the passenger train and several of the freight cars were burned. But one bag of mail was saved. Through the almost superhuman strength exerted by the passengers the three day coaches and the Pullman were pushed back from the fire, and the equipment saved. It is the general impression among passengers and trainmen that the fault was the passenger crew, as the orders to meet at Pegram had been issued, and the wreck occurred west of that station.

## Big Meeting of Alabamians To Fight Prohibition

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Sept. 16.—Three thousand representative men from all sections of the State, in conference here yesterday, adopted resolutions attacking the proposed prohibition amendment to the State constitution. A general campaign committee was named and plans made to defeat the proposed amendment at the special election to be held November 29th.

The resolutions direct special attention to the section of the proposed

amendment authorizing the search of residences for liquors. This clause follows:

“We view this section with alarm, as indication of a purpose by future laws to invade the rights of the citizens in their homes, however remote such homes may be from business centers, and to subject them to the humiliation of search and seizure.”

You may find what you are looking for through a want ad. in The Sun.