Unsolved Mystery in the Tragedy of a Faro Deal

"The rumors current regarding 'brace' dealing and other forms of crooked gambling since Jerome made the Canfield raid recall experiences of the early days of the Southwestern and bonanza mining camps," said a man who in his younger days was a pioneer in the Western mines, to a group discussing the possibilities of crooked dealing at faro with detection. "Brace dealing originated in the West, although the men who turn the tricks now may never have been beyond the Mississipi. Connected with the crooked play of those days is the memory of the killing of Johnnie Keefer, probably one of the sudden and unexpected tragedies even for that time of sudden takings off. At that time brace dealing was a mighty uncommon thing in those Western camps.

"Johnnie Keefer had both the nerve and the skill, and in addition he was a strong example of the truth that you can't tell a bad man by his outward appearance. Johnnie was plump, short, had a good natured face and one of the blandest expressions ever given a man. A stranger would never have suspected Johnnie of anything tougher than playing marbles, and could have readily believed that he would have been shocked at the idea of playing that game for keeps. Yet in the whole Southwest there probably wasn't a man who could deal brace better, had faced death oftner or had a more utter disregard for human life when in a corner. Had it not been for the treachery of a woman he probably would never have been caught and might have retired with a big stake, although that was a fate which generally awaited few of the old time professionals.

"It's all well enough to talk of mechanical devices for dealing brace, but to do it successfully needs a mighty clever man behind the little box. This was specially true in Johnnie's case. Even after we understood his method it was a dood deal of a mystery how he had succeeded so long without detection. In the back of the box he used was a little slit, or more exactly two of them, so small they were scarcely perceptible even to persons who knew they were there and were looking for them. Then Johnnie had made minute marks on the cards, so that these marks showed on the two cards below the one exposed on top of the pack. It must have taken persistent practice for him to be able to see these marks, but he could do it all right. Then when he dealt a turn Johnnie by some dexterous sleight of hand could make the shift so that these two cards came out, not in their natural order, but in the order which would be to the advantage of the house. When you appreciate that this shift must have been made right under the eyes of perhaps two score men who were watching every motion, it will be seen what skill was required by Johnnie's methods. Of course, unless the bank was hard hit or the play was very big, Johnnie dealt straight. But he must have made that little shift of the cards thousands of times when the least false move meant instant death.

"Where Johnnie came from no one knew or cared, it not being etiquette in those days to inquire into a man's past. He drifted into our camp in the boom time and began dealing for Len Townsend. I don't know whether Len knew he was crooked, but it wasn't long before Johnnie was drawing the highest wages of any dealer in camp. After a little he started up a bank of his own. It was a success from the first, and Johnnie was making big money when the entanglement with the Mexican girl that led to his death came.

"The girl was one of the sort common in camps of that day. Occasionally she used to take a turn at dealing bank in one of the halls for the purpose of drawing trade, as she had all kinds of good looks. Finally she tried dealing on her own account, having sayed up quite a little money. But she had a run of bad luck and it was apparent her bank roll was almost gone when Johnnie came to the rescue.

"First he dealt a few times for her, and every time the house won. Then he made the mistake of his career. He showed her his trick of dealing brace, and put in all the time he could spare from his own game in teaching her how to make the shift. And that was simply signing his own death warrant. He had delivered himself over to an unusually treacherous specimen of a treacherous class.

"Of course, after a little while some occasion for dispute arose between them, and the girl, having the temper of a beautiful friend, began to hate Johnny more than she liked him at first. In the camp was a miner named Judson, who had had two or three little disagreements with Johnnie, and, in addition, had gone broke trying to beat Johnnie's bank. The Mexican girl sent word for Judson to come to her place. Then she explained to him Johnnie's method of dealing and showed him a box similar to the one Johnnie used himself—a box he had made for her. Judson tipped off two or three other men who had lost heavily at the game, and they laid their trap to catch Johnnie and put a permanent end to his career as a brace dealer.

"It was arranged that two of the men should play and play high, while Judson was to stand at one side, behind the lookout, as if he was just watching the game. He was to give the signal. Then all three were to begin shooting, for they knew Johnnie Keefer, and were certain that when the time for action came there would be no taking. After the first word about brace dealing was uttered things would begin to happen mighty sudden It was before the days of self-cocking revolvers, but a trained shot, by snapping the hammer back with his thumb, could get about as quick action as a man with the most modern gun.

"For nearly an hour Judson stood at one side looking—while his confederates played. The bank had been hit pretty hard, but either Johnnie had dealt straight, or else even the men who knew how he shifted the cards were unable to feel certain he had turned a trick. Finally it came near the end of a deal. The ace and seven were both cases and the ace had won three times in a row, while the seven had lost correspondingly. When it came time to call the turn nearly everybody at the table put down a big bet calling the ace to lose and the seven to win. Judson and his partners exchanged glances. If the dealer was going to shift the cards it would come just at this turn.

"Johnnie always pushed out the cards pretty fast, especially near the end of a deal. Just how the cards would have come out this time no one ever knew, Johnnie had just begun pushing off the exposed one when Judson called out:

"'You're dealing'——

"Probably he meant to say 'brace,' but the sentence was never finished. At the first syllable Johnnie, apparently without taking time to look up, sent his hand to his coat pocket. Three or four shots rang out in the same instant. Then two more, and Johnnie slipped to the floor. He had four wounds, any one of which would have been mortal. When we picked him up it was plain he had dealt his last deal at either straight or brace faro.

"When Judson spoke his first words Johnnie had fired through his coat at one of the men across the table, who was just drawing his gun. The shot missed the man's heart, but by decidely small margin. Before Johnnie could fire again the bullets from the others took effect, Judson's first shot going through his head, just above the right eye. These men had been prepared, while the emergency came to Johnnie without a warning. If he had had half a chance he might have won out, even against such terrible odds.

"And when we came to look at the faro box we couldn't tell whether Johnnie meant to deal a crooked turn or not. In the excitement the box had got knocked off the table and the cards fell or were knocked out. Perhaps Johnnie Keefer was on the point of making an honest deal when the end came."

DR. MACKENZIE SUES AGAIN.

Claims $100,000 Damages From the Tome Institute.

The suit of Dr. James C. Mackenzie against the Tome Institute of Port Deposit, Md., for alleged breach of contract, which was decided adversely to him by Judge Pearce, at Chestertown, on December 6 last, was renewed in the United States Circuit Court Saturday by Attorneys Albert Constable, of Elkton, and Bernard Carter, of Baltimore. The suit is by titling, no cause of action being stated. The claim is for $100,000 damages.

On June 19, 1899, the trustees of the Tome Institute adopted a resolution to engage Dr. Makenzie as director of the institute to develop it. He was to receive a salary of $6,000 a year and a house. He remained only a short time. His counsel at the trial said it would be shown that Dr. Mackenzie was dismissed as the result of an intrigue in the management of the institute. It was said for the institute that Dr. Mackenzie was not as successful as was expected.

Judge Pearce took the case from the jury, saying that Dr. Mackenzie's own actions precluded the submission of the case to the jury. Dr. Mackenzie's attorneys took a non pros., which gave them the privilege of renewing the suit.

Before becoming connected with the Institute Dr. Mackenzie was head master of a school at Lawrenceville, N. J. He went to New York after quitting the institute.

CASTORIA.
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. The Kind You Have Always Bought

Found no Relief.

It is strange that the majority of people prefer existence, simply making a good living, to making a life. It is even more remarkable that so many, though positive relief may be had, are willing to suffer, losing interest in work, in people, and even in life itself. Says E. K. Frazier, Frederick, Md., "This is to certify that I was sorely afflicted with Rheumatism for 10 years and found no relief till I used Victor Liver Syrup and Victor Liniment". Call upon your Druggist or Merchant for these wonderful remedies. They cure.

Insurance Statements.

STATEMENT OF THE ÆTNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY of Hartford, Conn., to December 31 1902.
Total Admitted Assets.....$63,401,214 07
Total Liabilities..... 57,902,677 68
Surplus..... 5,498,536 39
SAMUEL RIGGS of R. S. A., Rockville, Md.
MEIGS & HEISSE, Managers, Baltimore, Md.

STATEMENT OF THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY of Liverpool, to Dec. 31, 1902
Total Admitted Assets.....$7,797,760
Total Liabilities..... 5,351,263
Surplus..... 2,446,497

STATEMENT OF THE PHOENIX INSURANCE COMPANY of Hartford, Conn., to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$2,000,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 6,497,612
Total Liabilities..... 3,159,689
Surplus..... 3,337,923

STATEMENT OF THE GERMAN AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY of New York to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$ 1,000,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 10,319,177
Total Liabilities..... 4,623,296
Surplus..... 5,695,881

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY of Philadelphia, Pa., to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$ 500,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 2,534,985
Total Liabilities..... 1,855,164
Surplus..... 679,821

STATEMENT OF THE METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY of New York, to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$ 2,000,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 88,942,172
Total Liabilities..... 78,579,048
Surplus..... 10,363,124

STATEMENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY of Philadelphia, Pa., to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$ 400,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 5,797,584
Total Liabilities..... 3,200,486
Surplus..... 2,597,098

STATEMENT OF THE ST. PAUL FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY of St. Paul, Minn., to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$ 500,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 3,322,902
Total Liabilities..... 1,927,099
Surplus..... 1,395,802

STATEMENT OF THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, Newark, N. J., to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$ 2,000,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 60,245,340
Total Liabilities..... 50,723,935
Surplus..... 9,521,405

STATEMENT OF THE SPRINGFIELD FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY of Springfield, Mass., to Dec. 31, 1902.
Capital.....$2,000,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 6,027 413
Total Liabilities..... 2,515,343
Surplus..... 3,512,071

STATEMENT OF THE HOME INSURANCE COMPANY of New York, to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$ 3,000,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 17,108,635
Total Liabilities..... 9,672,596
Surplus..... 9,436,039

STATEMENT OF THE PHOENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY of London, England, to December 31, 1902.
Total Admitted Assets..... $3,063 484
Total Liabilities..... 2,397 218
Surplus..... 666,266

STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CASUALTY COMPANY of New York, to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$ 300,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 1,478,935
Total Liabilities..... 928,935
Surplus..... 550,713

STATEMENT OF THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA of Philadelphia, Pa., to December 31, 1702.
Capital.....$ 3,000,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 10,664,183
Total Liabilities..... 5,714,999
Surplus..... 4,950,189

STATEMENT OF THE UNION CENTRAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY of Cincinnati, Ohio, to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$ 1,000,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 33,925,816
Total Liabilities..... 28,878,036
Surplus..... 5,047,780

STATEMENT OF THE NORWICH UNION INSURANCE COMPANY of Norwich, England, to December 31, 19.2.
Total Admitted Assets.....$2,411,475
Total Liabilities..... 1,685,710
Surplus..... 725,764

STATEMENT OF THE ORIENT INSURANCE COMPANY of Hartford, Conn., to December 31, 1902.
Capital.....$ 500,000
Total Admitted Assets..... 2,109,516
Total Liabilities..... 965,421
Surplus..... 1,144,095

STATEMENT OF THE FIDELITY MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY of Philadelphia, Pa., to December 31, 1902.
Total Admitted Asset.....$4,663 376
Total Liabilities..... 4,033,594
Surplus..... 629,682

The State of Maryland.

OFFICE OF THE
Secretary of State,
ANNAPOLIS, March 20. 1903.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is Hereby Given, That application has been made to His Excellency John Walter Smith, Governor of Maryland, for the pardon of J. HERMAN GALE, who was convicted at the October term, 1899, of the Circuit Court for Kent county, of burglary, and sentenced to be confined in the Maryland Penitentiary for four years.

The Governor will take up the said case for final decision, on or after Monday, the 30th day of March, 1903, until which time protests against such pardon will be heard, and the papers filed open to inspection, at the discretion of the Governor.

By order of the Governor,
WILFRED BATEMAN,
mh28-tf. Secretary of State.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Kent county letters of administration on the estate in Kent county, Md., of

SAMUEL MERRITT,

late of Kent county, Md., deceased.

All persons having claims against said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the proper vouchers thereof, to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of September, 1903, otherwise they may be excluded by law from all benefits of said estate. All indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the subscriber.

Given under my hand this 17th day of March, 1903.

HIRAM M. BROWN,
March 21—4t. Administrator c. t. a.

THE BEST CUTS OF BEEF can b purchased at ROLAND'S BUTCHER SHOP, on High street.

FOR SALE.

A BUILDING LOT, 40x132 feet, on Calvert street, Chestertown. Apply to
1t*, DR. G. ALLEN JARMAN.

WE'RE
READY FOR SPRING!

Unequalled by any previous display and unexcelled in point of style and quality. Our stock of materials for

SUITS & TROUSERS

is beyond doubt the best ever displayed. Drop in and look at the line. The designs are exclusive and the quality excellent.

Suits from $13.00 Up.
Trousers from $5.00 Up.

Every garment cut to individual measurement and a perfect fit is assured. Place your orders early so as to get the best selection.

JOHN R. ROLLISON,
Custom Tailor, - Chestertown, Md.
Second Door Below Savings Bank.
JOHN I. EVANS, Cutter and Designer.

HARBINGERS *of* SPRING

The novelties which have lately found their way into our stock are sure indications that spring is at hand. Our store is a cheerful place to visit now a days. The display of new goods makes it so.

The Silverware and Cut Glass

sparkles almost as brightly as do the diamonds and other gems. Even the very inexpensive little article newly placed in stock have a "sprightly" appearance which savors of the coming season.

We have the largest stock and most up-to-date Jewelry Store on the Eastern Shore, and our prices are the lowest. You will save money by dealing here. You have a cordial invitation to come and see the truth of what we say.

J. H. SIDES,
Jeweler & Optician,
Opp. Stam's Hall,
CHESTERTOWN, MD.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Kent county letters of administration on the estate in Kent county, Md., of

ANNIE F. BROWN,

late of Kent county, Md., deceased.

All persons having claims against said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the proper vouchers thereof, to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of September, 1903, otherwise they may be excluded by law from all benefits of said estate. All indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the subscriber.

Given under my hand this 17th day of March, 1903.

LEWIS D. THOMAS,
March 21—4t. Administrator.

MARYLAND RUSSELL 9751.

16-Hand Bay Stallion. **Trial Record 2.40.**

Formerly Owned by W. H. McKee,

Will make the season of 1903 from March 20th to June 20th.

RATES:—$15 to insure, $10 season, $5 single service.

This horse is the best bred large horse in this section, his colts being well known, good disposed, large and stylish.

For further information apply to
A. LEON BROWN,
f21-3mos.* CHESTERTOWN, MD

HORACE B. CONSTABLE,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
CHESTERTOWN, MD.

☞ Prompt attention given to all Business Office with Wm. W. Beck, Esq., located on Market Space. f14 tf.

SPARKS & JEFFERSON

DRY GOODS, NOTIONS AND MILLINERY — OUR SPRING STOCK IS NOW OPEN FOR INSPECTION.

Dress Goods.

THE LATEST WEAVES IN A WIDE RANGE OF PRICES.

Etamines, Voiles, Crepelines, Albatross, Batiste, Mohairs.

ALL THE ABOVE MATERIALS IN BLACK AND COLORS.

White Goods.

COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF THE LATEST

Mercerized Fancies, Figured & Striped Brocades

THESE GOODS ARE IMPORTED AND HAVE EVERY APPEARANCE OF A HANDSOME SILK AND WASHING IMPROVES THE LUSTRE,

SPECIAL LOT OF 12½c DRESS GINGHAMS AT 7½C

-:Millinery:-

Our line of SPRING MILLINERY is now open for your inspection, and we iuyite you to call and look through our store.

We have an EXPERT TRIMMER from one of the largest wholesale millinery houses in the business, and you can have the benefit of her experience free of charge.

SPARKS & JEFFERSON

SUCCESSORS TO R. BERGEN.

R. F. PARKS & SON.

1903 **1903**

R. F. PARKS & SON.

BEST VALUES IN SPRING MERCHANDISE

Attractive Styles
Attractive Prices

Will open to-day two cases soft finished PERCALES, usual 12½ and 15 cent values; our price per yd. for this splendid bargain..... **10c**

Will open to-day one case fine soft finish WHITE MADRAS, 15c. quality; our price for this great bargain..... **10c**

Will open to-day fine MERCERIZED TABLE DAMASK. Our price per yard for this beautiful goods..... **50c**

Goods well bought are half sold.
On this basis we operate. ✻

6¼c to 25c.
We will open to-day 25 pieces fine WHITE INDIA LINEN, ranging in price from 6¼ to 25c per yard. Best value in the county.

10 to 12½c.
We have opened a fine line of Plain and Fancy MADRAS GINGHAMS at the above prices.

Our Price 50c.
DRESS GOODS, Fancy and Plain. Will open to-day a nice line of Batistes, Albatross, Viole Clohes, in new shades. Best values.

50c to $1.10.
A New Line of BLACK DRESS FABRICS, embracing Serges, Mohairs, Albatross, Henriettas. Assortment varied.

Hamburgs, Edgings, Appliques, Trimmings, Etc.,
PRICES ATTRACTIVE and LOW.

50c to $3.00.
SHOES AND SLIPPERS for Men, Women and Children. Job Lot of Women's Shoes from 50c, up per pair. Come see us before buying.

9½c to 37½c.
MATTINGS! MATTINGS! We have the stock. Largest line, lowest prices, best values. Direct from importers. Thousands of yards.

For $7.75.
HARNESS—Wagon, Carriage and Plow Harness. A good set of Double (body parts) Wagon Harness for $7.75.

For $10.00.
CARRIAGE HARNESS. A good set Single Strap Carriage Harness, solid leather, imitation rubber, for only $10.00.

Our Price $16.50.
A good set Single Strap Fine Moffett Leather, Hand-made, Smith & Sons' goods, New York, for this exceptional bargain.
BEST PLOW BRIDLE on the market for $1.25.

For 27½c.
Don't forget we have a few more of the 27½c. LINOLEUM REMNANTS, worth 50c.

R. F. PARKS & SON.

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