

ERSKINE DALE—PIONEER

By JOHN FOX, Jr.

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"GENTLEMEN!"

SYNOPSIS—To the Kentucky wilderness outpost commanded by Jerome Sanders, in the time immediately preceding the Revolution, comes a white boy fleeing from a tribe of Shawnees by whom he had been captured and adopted as a son of the chief Kahoto. He is given shelter and attracts the favorable attention of Dave Yandell, a leader among the settlers. The boy warns his new friends of the coming of a Shawnee war party. The fort is attacked, and only saved by the timely appearance of a party of Virginians. The leader of these is fatally wounded, but in his dying moments recognizes the fugitive youth as his son. At Red Oaks, plantation on the James river, Virginia, Colonel Dale's home, the boy appears with a message for the colonel, who after reading it introduces the bearer to his daughter Barbara as her cousin, Erskine Dale. Erskine meets two other cousins, Harry Dale and Hugh Willoughby. Dueling rapiers on a wall at Red Oaks attract Erskine's attention. He takes his first fencing lesson from Hugh. Yandell visits Red Oaks. At the county fair at Williamsburg Erskine meets a youth, Dane Grey, and there at once arises a bitter antagonism between them.

CHAPTER VI—Continued.

The bully rushed. Dave caught him around the neck with his left arm, his right swinging low, the bully was lifted from the ground, crushed against Dave's breast, the wind went out of him with a grunt, and Dave with a smile began swinging him to and fro as though he were putting a child to sleep. The spectators yelled their laughter and the bully roared like a bull. Then Dave reached around with his left hand, caught the bully's left wrist, pulled loose his hold, and with a leftward twist of his own body tossed his antagonist some several feet away. The bully turned once in the air and lighted resoundingly on his back. He got up dazed and sullen, but breaking into a good-natured laugh, shook his head and held forth the buckles to Dave.

"You won 'em," Dave said. "They're yours. I wasn't wrestling for them. You challenged. We'll shake hands."

Then My Lord Dummore sent for Dave and asked him where he was from.

"And do you know the Indian country on this side of the Cumberland?" asked his lordship.

"Very well."

His lordship smiled thoughtfully. "I may have need of you."

Dave bowed: "I am an American, my lord."

His lordship flamed, but he controlled himself.

"You are at least an open enemy," he said, and gave orders to move on.

The horse race was now on, and Colonel Dale had given Hugh permission to ride Firefly, but when he saw the lad's condition he peremptorily refused.

"And nobody else can ride him," he said, with much disappointment.

"Let me try!" cried Erskine.

"You!" Colonel Dale started to laugh, but he caught Dave's eye.

"Surely," said Dave. The colonel hesitated.

"Very well—I will."

At once the three went to the horse, and the negro groom rolled his eyes when he learned what his purpose was.

"Dis hoss'll kill dat boy," he muttered, but the horse had already submitted his haughty head to the lad's hand and was standing quietly. Even Colonel Dale showed amazement and concern when the boy insisted that the saddle be taken off, as he wanted to ride bareback, and again Dave overcame his scruples with a word of full confidence. The boy had been riding pony races bareback, he explained, among the Indians, as long as he had been able to sit a horse.

The astonishment of the crowd when they saw Colonel Dale's favorite horse enter the course with a young Indian apparently on him bareback will have to be imagined, but when they recognized the rider as the lad who had won the race, the betting through psychological perversity was stronger than ever on Firefly. Hugh even took an additional bet with his friend Grey, who was quite openly scornful.

"You bet on the horse now," he said.

"On both," said Hugh.

It was a pretty and a close race between Firefly and a white-starred bay mare, and they came down the course neck and neck like two whirlwinds. A war-whoop so Indian-like and curdling that it startled every old frontiersman who heard it came suddenly from one of the riders. Then Firefly stretched ahead inch by inch, and another triumphant savage yell heralded victory as the black horse swept over the line a length ahead. Dane Grey swore quite fearfully, for it was a bet that he could ill afford to lose. He was talking with Barbara when the boy came back to the Dales, and something he was saying made

the girl color resentfully, and the lad heard her say sharply:

"He is my cousin," and she turned away from the young gallant and gave the youthful winner a glad smile.

Again Hugh and Dane Grey were missing when the party started back to the town—they were gone to bet on "Bacon's Thunderbolts" in a cock-fight. That night they still were missing when the party went to see the Virginia Comedians in a play by one Mr. Congreve—they were gaming that night—and next morning when the Kentucky lad rose, he and Dave through his window saw the two young roistersers approaching the porch of the hotel—much disheveled and all but staggering with drink.

"I don't like that young man," said Dave, "and he has a bad influence on Hugh."

That morning news came from New England that set the town a-quiver. England's answer to the Boston tea party had been the closing of Boston harbor. In the House of Burgesses, the news was met with a burst of indignation. The 1st of June was straightway set apart as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer that God would avert the calamity threatening the civil rights of America. In the middle of the afternoon my lord's coach and six white horses swung from his great yard and made for the capitol—my lord sitting erect and haughty, his lips set with the resolution to crush the spirit of the rebellion. It must have been a notable scene, for Nicholas, Bland, Lee, Harrison, Pendleton, Henry and Jefferson, and perhaps Washington, were there. And my lord was far from popular. He had hitherto girded himself with all the trappings of etiquette, had a court herald prescribe rules for the guidance of Virginians in approaching his excellency, had entertained little and, unlike his predecessors, made no effort to establish cordial relations with the people of the capital. The Burgesses were to give a great ball in his honor that very night, and now he was come to



The Two Backwoodsmen Had Been Dazzled by the Brilliance of It All.

dissolve them. And dissolve them he did. They bowed gravely and with no protest. Shaking with anger my lord stalked to his coach and six while they repaired to the Apollo room to prohibit the use of tea and propose a general congress of the colonies. And that ball came to pass. Haughty hosts received their haughty guest with the finest and gravest courtesy, bent low over my lady's hand, danced with her daughters, and wrung from my lord's reluctant lips the one grudging word of comment: "Gentlemen!"

And the ladies of his family bobbed their heads sadly in confirmation, for the steel-like barrier between them was so palpable that it could have been touched that night, it seemed, by the hand.

The two backwoodsmen had been dazzled by the brilliance of it all, for the boy had stood with Barbara, who had been allowed to look on for a while. Again my lord had summoned Dave to him and asked many questions about the wilderness beyond the Cumberland, and he even had the boy to come up and shake hands, and asked him where he had learned to ride so well.

Before Barbara was sent home Hugh and Dane Grey, dressed with great care, came in, with an exaggeration of dignity and politeness that fooled few others than themselves. Hugh, catching Barbara's sad and reproachful glance, did not dare go near her, but Dane made straight for her side when she entered the room—and bowed with great gallantry. To the boy he paid no attention whatever, and the latter, fired with indignation and hate, turned hastily away. But in

a corner unseen he could not withhold watching the two closely, and he felt vaguely that he was watching a frightened bird and a snake. The little girl's self-composure seemed quite to vanish, her face flushed, her eyes were downcast, and her whole attitude had a mature embarrassment that was far beyond her years. The lad wondered and was deeply disturbed. The half overlooking and wholly contemptuous glance that Grey had shot over his head had stung him like a knife-cut, so like an actual knife indeed that without knowing it his right hand was then fumbling at his belt. Dave too was noticing and so was Barbara's mother and her father, who knew very well that this smooth, suave, bold young daredevil was deliberately leading Hugh into all the mischief he could find. Nor did he leave the girl's side until she was taken home. Erskine, too, left then and went back to the tavern and up to his room. Then with his knife in his belt he went down again and waited on the porch. Already guests were coming back from the party and it was not long before he saw Hugh and Dane Grey half-stumbling up the steps. Erskine rose. Grey confronted the lad dully for a moment and then straightened.

"Here's another one wants to fight," he said thickly. "My young friend, I will oblige you anywhere with anything, at any time—except tonight. You must regard that as great honor, for I am not accustomed to fight with savages."

And he waved the boy away with such an insolent gesture that the lad, knowing no other desire with an enemy than to kill him in any way possible, snatched his knife from his belt. He heard a cry of surprise and horror from Hugh and a huge hand caught his upraised wrist.

"Put it back!" said Dave sternly.

The dazed boy obeyed and Dave led him upstairs.

Dave talked to the lad about the enormity of his offense, but to Dave he was inclined to defend himself and his action. Next morning, however, when the party started back to Red Oaks, Erskine felt a difference in the atmosphere that made him uneasy. Barbara alone seemed unchanged, and he was quick to guess that she had not been told of the incident. Hugh was distinctly distant and surly for another reason as well. He had wanted to ask young Grey to become one of their party and his father had decisively forbidden him—for another reason, too, than his influence over Hugh: Grey and his family were Tories and in high favor with Lord Dummore.

As yet Dave had made no explanation or excuse for his young friend, but he soon made up his mind that it would be wise to offer the best extenuation as soon as possible; which was simply that the lad knew no better, and not yet had the chance to learn, and on the rage of impulse had acted just as he would have done among the Indians, whose code alone he knew.

The matter came to a head shortly after their arrival at Red Oaks when Colonel Dale, Harry, Hugh and Dave were on the front porch. The boy was standing behind the box-hedge near the steps and Barbara had just appeared in the doorway.

"Well, what was the trouble?" Colonel Dale had just asked.

"He tried to stab Grey unarmed and without warning," said Hugh shortly.

At the moment the boy caught sight of Barbara. Her eyes, filled with scorn, met his in one long, sad, withering look, and she turned noiselessly back into the house. Noiselessly too he melted into the garden, slipped down to the river bank, and dropped to the ground. He knew at last what he had done. Nothing was said to him when he came back to the house and that night he scarcely opened his lips. In silence he went to bed and next morning he was gone.

The mystery was explained when Barbara told how the boy too must have overheard Hugh.

"He's hurt," said Dave, "and he's gone home."

"On foot?" asked Colonel Dale incredulously.

"He can trot all day and make almost as good time as a horse."

"Why, he'll starve."

"He could get there on roots and herbs and wild honey, but he'll have fresh meat every day. Still, I'll have to try to overtake him. I must go, anyhow."

And he asked for his horse and went to get ready for the journey. Ten minutes later Hugh and Harry rushed joyously to his room.

"We're going with you!" they cried, and Dave was greatly pleased. An hour later all were ready, and at the last moment Firefly was led in, saddled and bridled, and with a leading halter around his neck.

"It make me laugh. I have no use. I give hole dam plantashun Barbara."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Always on Full Time.

Mills may start and mills may stop, but the divorce mill runs on forever.

—Boston Transcript.

MAKING LEATHER ON SMALL SCALE

There Are Times When Farmer Finds It Profitable to Do His Own Tanning.

DETAILED DIRECTIONS GIVEN

Suggestions as to Usual Practices, Rates and Methods of Payment Are Made in Circular of Department of Agriculture.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Tanneries are equipped to make all the leather the country needs and can make better leather more economically than the farmer can, but there are times when the producer of hides finds that the margin between the price paid for the raw material and the price asked for finished leather is so great



Removing the Flesh That Was Left On in Improper Skinning.

that he determines to do his own tanning. For example in certain large sections of the country a farmer can hardly give away the hides he has, yet leather in small pieces costs him from \$1 to \$1.50 a pound. To help him in such emergencies the United States Department of Agriculture has just issued Department Circular 230, Home Tanning, which gives detailed directions for making leather for various purposes.

Best Way of Handling.

With the issuance of this publication the department now has for distribution, information on the handling of hides from the skinning of the animal to the care of the leather in the finished article such as harness, belts, boots, and shoes. Farmers' Bulletin 1055, Country Hides and Skins: Skinning, Curing and Marketing, recently revised and reprinted for the third time, tells how to perform these operations in the most efficient manner. In Farmers' Bulletin 1183, The Care of Leather, also recently revised and reprinted, are directions for making leather last longer. Any, or all, of these bulletins, including the new circular, may be obtained free by writing to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Suggestions as to Rates.

In the circular just issued the farmer who wishes to do tanning on a small scale may find explicit directions for making bark-tanned sole and harness leather, chrome-tanned leather, and alum-tanned lace leather. But in case he wishes to have the tanning done for him he will find suggestions as to the usual practices, rates, and methods of payment. It is the custom among some tanners who do work for farmers having only a few hides to tan a hide for half the leather. That is, the farmer sends in a hide and gets back one-half of it made into leather, usually paying the shipping charges both ways.

A list of tanneries that will tan one or more hides for farmers may be obtained from the bureau of chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

When high prices are charged for leather in small quantities it is usually possible to buy at a comparatively low price by taking more at a time. If a side of leather is bought, instead of a couple of pounds at a time says the circular, it is often possible to buy it at only 10 to 20 per cent above wholesale prices.

NEW TYPE OF MILK BOTTLES

Department of Agriculture Has Not Approved or Disapproved Any Specific Container.

A number of inquiries recently received by the United States Department of Agriculture seem to be based upon newspaper reports that the government had approved a new kind of milk container made of paper. So far as the department is concerned, no statement of either approval or disapproval has been made regarding any specific type of milk container, from either the sanitary or the economic standpoint.

STATES GETTING WAR MATERIAL FOR ROADS

All Sorts of Supplies and Equipment Delivered.

Texas and New York Lead With Nearly \$8,000,000 Worth and Other States Go Over Million Dollar Mark—Lots Left.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Surplus war material valued at \$139,773,986 was delivered to the states for use in road construction up to July 1, reports the bureau of public roads, United States Department of Agriculture. The material, which consisted of all sorts of supplies and equipment suitable for road building for which the War department had no further need, was distributed on the same basis as monetary federal aid.

In value of material delivered, Texas and New York lead with nearly \$8,000,000 worth of material, and every state with the exception of five of the smaller ones received supplies valued at over \$1,000,000.

This material has been of great value in road construction, and there is hardly a county in the United States in which some of it has not been used.

Probably of greatest value has been the 29,325 motor vehicles distributed, consisting of 24,752 trucks and 4,573 automobiles, and in addition a large number of tractors.

The system of distribution has been so arranged that the states requisition only material useful to them. In some cases they fall behind in allotments in order to wait for material particularly desired. Many of the states have shown great ingenuity in conditioning worn equipment, using war material to equip shops in which other war material is made suitable for use.

There is still a large quantity of material in this country for distribution. This will be further increased by material used by the army of occupation in Germany soon to be brought back.

NEED PERMITS FOR BANDING

Biological Survey Is Anxious to Have as Many Collaborators as Possible for Success.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Federal permits are necessary in all cases for bird-banding work, says the biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. The survey is anxious to have as many collaborators as possible, but success depends largely on complete co-operation between officials and collaborators.

State permits also are required in many cases. Some states issue them



Bird With Band on Leg.

without charge to collaborators, when notified by the biological survey that the applicant has a federal permit. Others have taken the position that the federal permit is sufficient authority. Each operator should be informed as to the attitude of his state game officials and be prepared to co-operate with them at all times.

BOYS INTRODUCE PUREBREDS

Among Other Things, Wyoming Club Brings Into County Nearly 200 Poland-China Pigs.

A boys' pork club, organized three years ago in Niobrara county, Wyo., according to reports received by the United States Department of Agriculture, has accomplished the following: Introduced nearly 200 purebred Poland-China pigs into the county, including one of the best boars in the state; helped organize a county purebred Poland-China association; developed a county standard for purebred Poland-Chinas, and contributed materially to the success of county, county and state fairs through its exhibits and its interest in stock judging.

SWEET CLOVER GOOD SILAGE

Growing of This Kind of Hay Provides Valuable Forage for Both Steers and Cows.

Sweet clover, as you know, spoils easily, and is probably one of the hay crops most difficult to put up in good condition during rainy seasons. Yet the growing of this kind of hay not only provides valuable forage for both steers and milk cows, but also enriches the soil wonderfully.

Indigestion and Dyspepsia Overcome

Victims of stomach trouble, indigestion, dyspepsia and their allied complaints find Tanlac an ever-ready source of relief and comfort. Thousands of people have refound the joys of health by its use after everything else they tried had failed.

"Tanlac helped me wonderfully," said Mrs. W. H. Hoeker, 84 Rose Ave., Clifton Forge, Va. "For over a year I suffered tortures from indigestion, and had to live on the simplest foods. I became almost a nervous wreck. Tanlac restored me to the best of health."

Tanlac helps the stomach digest the food properly and eliminate waste. Soon the whole system is built up, the blood is purified and the entire body takes on new tone, vitality and energy. Get a bottle today and start on the road to health. For sale by all good druggists.—Advertisement.

1918 Record Coal Year. The world's record output of coal was 579,386,000 tons, in 1918.

MRS. LULA VANN FULTON, ARK.

Suggests to Suffering Women the Road to Health

Fulton, Arkansas.—"I used Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for a soreness in my side. I would suffer so badly every month from my waist down that I could not be on my feet half the time. I was not able to do my work without help. I saw your Vegetable Compound advertised in a newspaper and gave it a fair trial. Now I am able to do my work and don't even have a headache every month. I cannot praise your Vegetable Compound enough and highly recommend it to those who have troubles like mine. I am willing for these facts to be used as a testimonial to lead all who suffer with female troubles, as I did, to the right road to health."—Mrs. LULA VANN, Box 43, Fulton, Arkansas.



Its this sort of praise of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, given by word of mouth and by letter, one woman to another, that should cause you to consider taking this well-known medicine, if you are troubled with such symptoms as painful periods, weak, nervous feelings, miserable pains in your back, and cannot work at certain times.

Here is a woman who is so grateful and glad to be relieved from a painful and nerve racking physical condition that she wishes to tell all sick women.

We have noticed that during August no one has much of a rash on.

Freshen a Heavy Skin

With the antiseptic, fascinating Cuticura Talcum Powder, an exquisitely scented, economical face, skin, baby and dusting powder and perfume. Renders other perfumes superfluous. One of the Cuticura Toilet Trio (Soap, Ointment, Talcum).—Advertisement.

Prohibition.

Knecker—"They say the Big Dipper is breaking apart." Boeker—"Is that inverted bowl we call the sky going dry?"

Backache Is a Warning!

Those agonizing twinges across the small of the back, that dull, throbbing backache may mean serious kidney weakness—serious, if neglected, for it may lead to gravel, stone in the kidneys, bladder inflammation, dropsy or fatal Bright's disease. If you are suffering with a bad back, have dizzy spells, headaches, nervous, despondent attacks or disordered kidney action, heed Nature's warning. Get after the cause. Doan's Kidney Pills have helped thousands. They should help you. Ask your neighbor!

A Nebraska Case

P. W. Ledyard, retired traveling man, Creighton, Neb., says: "I was troubled with my kidneys. If I stood long at a time, my back ached, and I had to sit down. I was bothered day and night and my kidneys acted too often. Doan's Kidney Pills proved to be the remedy I needed, for in a short time I was cured."

Get Doan's at Any Store, 50c a Box
DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS
FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

Women Made Young

Bright eyes, a clear skin and a body full of youth and health may be yours if you will keep your system in order by regularly taking



The world's standard remedy for kidney, liver, bladder and uric acid troubles, the enemies of life and looks. In use since 1895. All druggists, three sizes. Look for the same Gold Medal on every box and accept no imitation.

W. N. U., LINCOLN, NO. 36-1922.