

Nebraska State Historical Society
Lincoln, Neb.

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Published In
Nebraska

THE OMAHA GUIDE

5 CENTS
PER
COPY

JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

ALL THE NEWS WHILE IT IS NEWS

HEW TO THE LINE

VOLUME 13
NUMBER 43

Entered as Second Class Matter at Postoffice, Omaha, Nebraska.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1937

655th EDITION

NEGRO SLAVE COMPOSED NOTED SONG

Compose "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" While Chopping Cotton

The world-famous spiritual, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," was composed by an Oklahoma slave and his wife before the Civil War. This illuminating fact is detailed in The American Guide, an exhaustive research into folklore and history compiled by works progress administration writers.

The deeply moving first poured from the homesick lips of Wallace Willis, known as "Uncle Wallace" and "Aunt Minerva," on a cotton plantation in the Choctaw nation, near the Red river.

This couple also composed, by singing, two other spirituals popular throughout the world: "Steal Away to Jesus," and "I'm a Rollin'."

The interesting and little known story is set forth in this excerpt from the Guide:

In the sultry stillness of an 1840 August noon, in the extreme southern part of the Choctaw nation, Indian territory, what is now Choctaw and McCurtain counties, a middle-aged kindly faced Negro paused in his work of chopping cotton to wipe the perspiration from his brow, and gather up energy and courage to go on with his task anew.

As his eyes took in the level fields of cotton, stretching endlessly away from the southern plantation he straightened up, leaned on his hoe, and looked far beyond the horizon to where Red river lay shimmering in the distance. He loved to look at it, for it brought him memories of his home back on the banks of the Mississippi. Suddenly a wave of homesickness engulfed him, and he wondered if he should ever be allowed to go back to the scenes of his childhood, save in death. He thought, too, with simple faith, of the promise of a heavenly home of rest and happiness. And as he reflected, he broke into song, one which was later destined to become famous, a song containing all the spiritual longings of a lonely soul.

"Swing low, sweet chariot,
Comin' fo' to carry me home....."
That Negro slave was Wallace Willis, better known to his master and fellow slaves as "Uncle Wallace," his wife, Aunt Minerva, joined in low crooning, as she, too, leaned on her hoe, and looked far away into the distant blue.

"I looked over Jordan, an' what do I see,
Comin' fo' to carry me home....."
"Swing low, Sweet Chariot....."
Uncle Wallace and Aunt Minerva were Negro slaves, belonging before the Civil War, to Brit Willis, a wealthy plantation near Doaksville. Willis had brought the slaves with him from Hickory Flat, Miss., where he had owned a plantation on the banks of the Mississippi.

During the winters, these two were leased as servants, for a few years at Old Spencer academy, a board school for Choctaw Indian boys. It was here the Rev. Alexander Reid, who was superintendent of the academy in the years 1849 to 1861, heard them sing the Negro spirituals, which were later to become a part of the world's music.

Reid relates how on a visit to New York, he helped the Jubilee Singers, a Negro troop from Fisk university, in Tennessee, who gave concerts to raise educational funds for the freedom of the south, by giving them some of Uncle Wallace's songs the slaves had sung demy.

Three of the spirituals became very popular, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "Steal Away Jesus," and "I'm a Rollin'." "Steal Away to Jesus" was one of the two song sung before Queen Victoria, who called for an encore of this song. Professor White, director of the chorus, assured Mr.

John Adams Active In Legislature Sessions

Atty. John Adams, jr., state senator from Omaha, is reported as being very active in the organization of Nebraska's Unicameral body which is now in session in Lincoln. Senator Adams states that Miss Dorothy Scott of Omaha has been approved as one of the ten stenographers for the Unicameral legislature through his recommendation. Miss Scott is the first colored girl to ever serve the legislature in such a capacity. She graduated from Central high school last summer. Mr. Adams said that Miss Scott is very competent and is making a success of her work.

Out of 37 employees, the legislature has four colored: Miss Dorothy Scott, stenographer; Mr. Harry Bradley of Seward, Nebraska, head custodian; Rev. Whitelaw of Omaha, custodian and Mr. Trago McWilliams of Lincoln, check-room attendant.

The Senator said that he was studying the advisability of presenting a bill for the election of the school board by wards or districts.

"I will also introduce a resolution to ratify the child labor amendment to the Constitution of the U. S. This amendment need the ratification of eleven more states; and a resolution memorializing Congress to enact an anti-lynching bill," concluded Mr. Adams.

Reid that by giving the Jubilee Singers these songs just at that time, he had made the most valuable contribution to Fisk university ever made by any one person.

"Uncle Wallace and Aunt Minerva are the parents of Mrs. C. H. Abrams of this city, who is spending the winter in Oklahoma City, Okla. with her son, Mr. George Abrams and two daughters, Mrs. C. Bates and Miss Dorothy Abrams. Children in Omaha are Mrs. C. Nalls, Mrs. C. Banes, Miss Minerva Abrams, Charles and Jack Abrams, and Mrs. Booker Simms.

CONSOLIDATION FAILS

Rev. F. B. Banks supposed consolidation of the Morning Star Baptist church with Paradise Baptist church failed in municipal court when Judge Wheeler ruled the consolidation illegal according to the baptismal discipline. Attorneys for the Morning Star, were Adams, Adams, and Adams.

MANY MOTOR TO CLEVELAND TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF CLARENCE C. GREEN

"Daddy" Green Buried Friday From Wynne Funeral Home

By Gene Ray
Cleveland, O., (Special to the Omaha Guide)—Nearly a hundred limosines bearing license plates from the principal cities of a half dozen states, were in the long procession which wended its way from the Arthur E. Wynne's funeral home, 5909 Hawthorne avenue, here Friday afternoon, to the Woodland cemetery, where the remains of the late "Daddy" Clarence Clifton Green, 66, were deposited. Green, known from coast to coast members of the sporting world, died at the Cleveland City hospital, Sunday, January 3rd at 10:00 a. m.

His daughter, Mrs. Leona Green Elliot and her husband Tom Elliot, who is co-owner with Clarence "Pigment" Jones, of the Heat Wave, Bar and Grill at 1991 Seventh avenues, New York City, motored here to take charge of the funeral arrangements. They were accompanied by Robert Booth and John Roland of New York City and Dave

OMAHA GIRL GRADUATES IN MISSOURI

To Take Missouri State Board Examination In February

Miss Juliette Thelma Lee, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Lee, 2863 Maple street, was graduated on January 9th from the General hospital Number 2 Nursing Training school, where she in the upper fourth of her class.

At present she is visiting with her parents, but she will return early in February to take the Missouri State Board examination for registered nurses.

Southern White Women Against Lynching Negroes

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 20—Mrs. Jessie Daniel Amos said today white women of the south are rapidly forming opposition to the use of their skirts as blinds for Negro lynchings.

She said substantiation of her statement was gathered here this week at the first biennial session of the Association of Southern Women for the prevention of Lynching. Mrs. Amos is director of the association.

"Economic creed is the cause of more lynchings than the protection of white women's honor, Mrs. Amos declared.

She said 35 thousand women in 13 southern states have signed pledges to fight lynching.

OMAHA'S FIRST NEGRO "MAYOR" IS DEAD

"Mayor" Harry Young was found dead at 10 a. m. Saturday January 16th. He was "mayor" of the "Proverty Plats District" located in the vicinity of 15th and Marcy Sts. He was 56-years-old.

Lucky and Virgil Maddock of Pitts- burgh, Pa. Mrs. Lulu Robinson Green, 2515 Grant St., Omaha, the widow arrived Thursday evening for the ceremonies which were held Friday at two o'clock at the Wynne Funeral Home.

The Rev. Dr. Marion F. Washington, pastor of Liberty Hill Baptist church officiated and was assisted by Rev. David Mosely of Tridestone Baptist church. Miss V. McLeod of McLeod's Floral shop, served as pianist and rendered a number of religious instrumental selections. Miss Susie Porter read as a tribute, "A Psalm of Life," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; Gene Ray, owner of Ray's Specialty Service and organizer-executive director of the Negro Rescue Federation, 3617 Cedar avenue, presented a condolence from neighbors and friends and read the obituary.

From Indianapolis, Omaha "Daddy" Green was a native of Indianapolis where he attended the public schools. He went to Omaha, Nebr., many years ago, where he met and was happily married to Miss Katie Coffee who died while their daughter was still a small

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Second Inaugural



Franklin D. Roosevelt

"We are determined to make every American citizen the subject of his country's interest and concern; and we will never regard any faithful law abiding group within our borders as superfluous. The test of our progress is not whether we add

more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little."

From President Roosevelt's Second Inaugural address January 20, 1937.

Fighters Are Shy Of Jim McVey

San Francisco, Calif., Jan. 23 (ANP)—George Godfrey once told a group of Pacific sports writers that he was able to secure more ring work after he lost a match, than when he won. Some of these same writers laughed at that time, but they are ready to admit the truth of "Gawge's" statement now, since learning the difficulty Sunny Jim McVey is having in getting ring opponents.

McVey, who was recommended by Champion John Henry Lewis to his father, who conducts a gymnasium in Oakland, hails from Pittsburgh and since arriving on the coast last year, is undefeated. With the wallop of a mule in either hand, Sunny Jim has kayoes more than half of some dozen foes. His prowess in the squared circle has reached far and wide, but too his sorrow, as the ofay leather pushers turn thumbs down when a bout with the Negro boy is mentioned. Maybe Jim should lose a few bouts like Godfrey.

Pilgrim Baptist Gets Goodwill Musical

L. L. McVay

The committee made up of presidents of the leading colored choirs of Omaha met last Sunday at the home of L. L. McVay, 2868 Corby St. and voted to go to Pilgrim Baptist church at 25th and Hamilton Sts. for the third annual Goodwill Spring Musical, Sunday Mar. 14th. Note this will be the second Sunday in March and not the fourth as was once stated.

The fine spirit of the members of this committee give light that the spirit will be inclined to make this years program even better than the years before.

The choir is now getting started on the way to a fine program for this day. A day when all minds will be centered on a closer relationship between churches and choirs.

This is the time for the members of the different choirs of the city to show their love for their church and choir by coming to regular practices and help to make their choir just what it should be.

Now are people from the other group, who are already looking forward to this day and I am sure we are also and will do our best to make this day a success in every way.

LELAND UNABLE TO ATTEND INAUGURATION

Mr. Harry Leland of 2824 N. 24th St., deputy in the Port of Entry department of Nebraska and prominent in Democratic circles, although in receipt of several invitations both to the ceremonies and after-entertainment; states he was unable to attend this terms Inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, as President of the United States on January 20th, because of the illness of his wife.

WEDDED

The announcement of the marriage of beautiful Miss Helen Singleton to Eugene McMullan came as a shocking but pleasant surprise to their many friends and admirers.

Both young people are popular favorites with the social set, and they are constantly being congratulated and showered with good wishes for a happy future.

The couple were wedded several months ago, but kept their marriage a secret until last Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. McMullan are at home to their friends at 2408 Maple St. The residence of the groom's mother, Mrs. M. E. Sterling.

SHORE PHYSICIAN LAUDS PROVIDENT HOSPITAL'S POST GRADUATE COURSE

Cites Good Work Done By Medical Staff and Nurses in the Hospital

Atlantic City, N. J., Jan. 23—Growing tribute was paid to the work being done through the directors of Chicago's Provident Hospital and Training School when Dr. Albert E. Forsythe of Atlantic City spoke before the Essex County Tuberculosis League on January 6th in Orange, N. J.

The occasion was the first meeting of the New Year for the Negro Advisory Committee of the Essex County League. The prominent guest speaker, Dr. Forsythe, was one of several Negro physicians who pursued a four week's course in general medicine at Provident hospital last September. Following this experience, he engaged in extreme work in pneumothorax therapy at New York's Seaview hospital and in December, took advantage of the opportunity to spend four weeks of intensive training at Bennie Burn Sanatorium, a county institution at Scotch Plains, N. J.

Incidentally, Dr. Forsythe was the first colored physician to be connected with Bennie Burn hospital in a position equivalent to staff member.

Man Killed In Fight Over 50c

Dice Game Causes Fatal Fight

Participants Have Criminal
Records

Julius Shinehouse, 1320 1-2 North 24th St., was sentenced to seven years in the State pen by Judge Fitzgerald, Tuesday January 19th after pleading guilty to manslaughter in the fatal wounding of Arthur Patterson, 2626 Franklin St., last week at the home of Shinehouse's sister, 1320 1-2 North 24th St.

Shinehouse in confessing said that he and Patterson had been gambling and that after he had won all of Patterson's money, he was asked for a loan by Patterson of \$2, which he gave him. Shinehouse said Patterson followed him to the home of his sister where he demanded another loan of 50c to which Shinehouse's sister objected thereby causing an argument, culminating in the fatal fight. Shinehouse said that Patterson "made for" his pocket as if to draw a knife where upon he hit Patterson with an empty whiskey bottle knocking him to the floor, where Patterson finally succeeded in drawing his knife. The convicted man said he hit Patterson several more times and broke the bottle and slashed the slain man's face.

According to Oscar Doerr, Asst. County Attorney, both men have long criminal records. Patterson having been convicted twice for murder an Shinehouse having numerous sentences for petty larceny and vagrancy. Patterson who was removed to the Nicholas Senn hospital after the fight, died from injuries Sunday at 5 p. m. The body is at Myers funeral home. Patterson was 56 years old.

Speaking of the opportunities that could be created for colored physicians, reference was made to a letter from Dr. John W. Lawlah, Medical Director of Provident Hospital, detailing a comprehensive course of study which the staff had succeeded in arranging upon request. The letter indicated the manner in which the all Negro staff of the institution as the University of Chicago and Billing's Memorial hospital with its excellent library and other facilities to the end that colored physicians may enjoy fuller opportunities for professional advancement.

Dr. Forsythe, a member of the Atlantic City Medical Association and the New Jersey Medical Society, discussed in detail the present status of tuberculosis work from the medical viewpoint, and also conditions confronting those who seek training in efficiently combating the disease. Both Seaview hospital and Bennie Burn Sanatorium, he explained, are using extensively the collapse type of therapy for pulmonary tuberculosis. This is now supplementing the rest, fresh air and diet treatment that has here-

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GRADUATE NURSES HOLD CONFERENCE

Will Have Several Meetings in the Next Three Months

New York, Jan. 21—The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses announces plans for four regional conferences during March and April. To Hampton Institute on March 19th and 20th, the nurses will come from the southeastern region. Mrs. Cora Esnes of Greenwood, South Carolina is president of this region.

On March 26th and 27th the nurses of the northeastern region will meet in Richmond, Va., at the Phillip hospital school of nursing. Mrs. Marion Hernandez of New York is president of this region. The west central conference will be held in Louisville, Ky. on April 2nd and 3rd. Mrs. Willa Maddux of Chicago is the president.

Youth Day Program Given At Zion

Tau Kappi Chi, formerly "The Critic Club", entertained Omaha Church attendees with a very interesting "Youth Day" program Sunday at the Zion Baptist Church. At the eleven o'clock service the auditorium was jammed with many interested spectators, both old and young.

Mr. Charles Davis, a member of the organization did a splendid job as chairman of the service. His sophisticated atmosphere added a charming touch and eloquence to the occasion.

Rev. M. K. Curry, pastor of Zion chose his text from the book of Joseph. His subject was "Joseph's Coat of Arms". Rev. Curry clearly defined the problems facing the youth of that day in comparison with the youth of today. "Courage and fidelity is self helps to solve the problems. Experience and assistance from parents will aid on the other hand." Rev. Curry emphasized the need of Christianity in every home, and parental guard over children.

Mr. B. E. Squires, executive of the Urban League, spoke briefly on, "Negro Youth In a Change in Social Order". Mr. Squires as guest speaker bewildered many in the audience with his public speaking ability; his liberal views on timely topics and questions of not only local interest but National as well, were astounding. "Youth must be given a chance to develop and exercise their talent abilities and potential powers." He took his seat among facial expressions of approval.

Zion's Senior Choir in songs and Lloyd Lee in instrumental gave several appropriate numbers for the occasion.

The organizations' president, Henry L. Levells, spoke briefly on the motives and ultimate objectives of the groups. "The an education above all.

Voices uttering words of approval closed the service. The president stated the organization intended to make such a service an annual affair as is done in other wideawake cities.