

The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not responsible for the loss of or damage to any submitted material so please keep a copy for your records. Please include a note authorizing Anderson Historical Society to publish the material. We need two things from all members or those interested in local history: please be sure the Society has an updated email address and please spread the word to friends and neighbors about the Newsletter. Please contact us at:_____.

The May 2017 edition contains three articles: "Mail Order Brides," "Willie Pope Wallace: Soldier or Secret Agent?" and a research question, "Who is Miss Jeanette Seawright?"

Mail Order Brides
By Ron Jolliff

It is well documented that within a very short time the early miners were thinking about female companionship. With the high ratio of men to women there were limited choices. Some married native Wintu, some by force and some by real mutual affection. Many more returned to the east and brought back families left behind or returned with newly married wives. As the number of families in California grew the ratio became closer but it was not until 1920 that the ratio was close (1,814,000 men to 1,613,000 women) and not until 1950 did it reach parity. One attempt to solve the problem was mail order brides.

The first attempt in 1849 was a failure. Eliza Farnham advertised that proper ladies were to arrive on the ship Angeline in San Francisco. Hundreds of bachelors were waiting at the ship's arrival and when only three ladies disembarked there was a near riot. Mrs. Farnham, who had been a reformer at the women's ward of Sing Sing Prison in New York and an activist for the blind, remained in California until 1856. Mrs. Farnham became famous as one of California's first authors (California Indoors and Out and My Early Days). In 1859 she organized a society to assist destitute women in finding homes in the west.

The cry to resolve the problem was taken up by newspapers and this led to an eventual workable solution. The newspapers published a periodical devoted totally to marriage: the Matrimonial News. Parties wrote personal ads that were then numbered by the publisher to keep the names and addresses secret. The periodical forwarded the responses to the author of the personal ad who then could initiate correspondence with whomever they chose. Editions were published in most major cities. Here are a few examples from the Kansas City edition of January 8th 1887:

280. A lovely widower of 40, looking much younger, 5 feet 7 inches high, weighing 145 pounds would like to correspond with some maiden or widow lady of honor who would like a good home, kind husband and plenty.*

241. I am a widow, aged 28, have one child, height 64 inches, blue eyes, weigh 125 pounds, loving disposition. I am poor; would like to hear from honorable men 30 to 40 years old. Working men preferred.*

To see if the process was used in Shasta County, Roy Graves of Ono was interviewed and knew of three cases in western Shasta County. The first was Don Noble of what is now called Platina. Don's first wife, Fannie, died giving birth to twins in 1901, leaving him with four children in an isolated area. About 1910 Don began corresponding with an English divorcee in London named Lena. Over time Don proposed but there seemed to be some misconception about the town of Noble's Station. When Lena arrived and first saw the "town" she climbed a nearby hill and refused to come down. After three days Lena came down and took up residence with Don Noble. Don died in 1936 and Lena died at Napa State Hospital in 1940 where she had been a patient since 1935.

Another case was Max or Mac McCabe who had a mining claim on Duncan Creek. The bride would have been a second wife as Mr. McCabe had two sons at the time, Floyd and Charles. The bride who was crippled came in on the stage and had to be transferred by wheelbarrow. It did not seem to be a long-term relationship as Mrs. McCabe departed later after a fight in which Mr. McCabe was hit in the head with a stick.

The third case was the mother of Jean Linton who later married Clarence Griswold. Little is known of the circumstances other than they met via correspondence and she married William Linton and settled in Beegum. According to the story William met his new bride in Red Bluff where he also purchased a boar hog that shared the wagon trip back to Beegum with them. The boar must not have been too boorish as the relationship between the couple was stable and long lasting.

If anyone has other stories on local mail-order brides to share, the Newsletter would appreciate their submission.

*From Hearts West by Chris Enss

Willie Pope Wallace: Soldier or Secret Agent?

Ron Jolliff

While walking the Anderson Pioneer Cemetery the headstone of William "Willie" Pope Wallace stood out because it states he was a captain, CSA (Confederate States of America). It stood out even more when the grave stone data was entered into the computer and two hits returned: 1) a connection to the rich, landed, and distinguished Preston family of Kentucky and Virginia, and 2) his testimony in the Lincoln Assassination Trials.

An initial check in Robert Krick's Staff Officers in Gray confirmed that William Pope Wallace was Aide-de-Camp and Acting Assistant Adjutant General on the staff of his cousin, Brigadier General William Preston. In October 1861 Preston was appointed colonel in the Western Department commanded by his brother-in-law, General Albert S. Johnston. On his own merits he was promoted to Brigadier General and commanded troops at the Battles of Shiloh, Stones River and Chickamauga. One of General Preston's commands was the 1st Kentucky Brigade,

CSA, also known as the “orphans” as they joined the Confederacy while the State of Kentucky remained in the Union. Due to disagreements with his immediate commander, General Bragg, Preston was transferred to protect the invaluable salt works and railroads in Virginia. In January 1864, President Jefferson Davis selected General Preston for a diplomatic mission to Mexico to secure recognition of the Confederate States of America. He was in part selected because prior to the Civil War he had been minister to Spain and attempted to purchase Cuba. General Preston’s mission took him to Bermuda, Havana, Canada, London and Paris but he was not received in Mexico.

It is not sure if Willie was appointed captain when William Preston was commissioned a colonel in October 1861. There is a note that Willie was commissioned in 1861 and cited for Bravery at Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1862. It is more likely that he was made A.D.C. when his cousin was promoted to brigadier general. Due to the close working nature of an Aide-de-Camp it was fairly common practice in the Mexican War and Civil War for leaders to select relatives.

The heads of the Preston family were William Preston (1729-1783) and his wife, Susanna Smith (1740-1823). The couple had multiple children. One, William Preston (1770-1821) married Caroline Hancock (1785-1847) and their son was General William Preston (1816-1887). Another child, Susanne Preston (1772-1833) married Nathaniel Hart Jr. (1770-1844). Their daughter, Letitia Preston Hart (1802-1866) married Arthur Hooe Wallace (1794-1878) and their son was Captain William Pope Wallace. I believe that makes Captain Wallace a 2nd cousin to General Preston.

When the Civil War erupted General Preston followed his brother-in-law General Albert S. Johnson in joining the confederacy. Willie and other family members joined their example. While they fled south the families remained in Union occupied Kentucky. General Preston gave his family instructions not to give offense but should conditions become intolerable they were to seek shelter in Canada that gave both sides a belligerent nation status. In July 1864, General Preston’s wife and three children fled to Montreal, Canada where they were met by Captain Wallace.

Captain William Wallace was called to testify in Canadian Court concerning Lt. Young who led the confederate raid from Canada on Saint Albans, Vermont. The testimony in the case was later incorporated in the trial of the Lincoln Assassination Conspirators. Wallace testified that prior to coming to Canada that he had been on the staff of General Preston of the Army of the confederate States of America and as such was familiar with orders issued by the confederate War Department. He stated that he had been in Canada since June 1864 and he was currently the companion of General Preston’s family. He further testified that he resided in the Province of Quebec during the entire period except for two months in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Captain Wallace was testifying as an expert witness on the sealed orders of Lt. Young. Young was an escaped prisoner of war from General Morgan’s raid into Ohio who made it into Canada. He quickly recognized the vulnerability of the northern states from raids from Canada and upon returning to the Confederacy suggested a special operations mission. Young was returned to Canada where he and twenty other cavalrymen were authorized to raid into Vermont. The raid netted \$208,000 but had the effect of turning many Canadians against the Confederate

States of America so it was never attempted again. The raiders escaped back into Canada with the Union government demanding their arrest, extradition and return of the stolen money. The Canadians arrested the group recovering \$88,000 but a Canadian Court was to determine their status before extradition would be considered.

Captain Wallace was questioned during the trial about knowing any of the accused and admitted knowing two prior to the trial and meeting all of the accused during the trial. He was not asked about his exact business in Canada even though the tone of his testimony intimates he had an official capacity. His exact travels were not examined nor were his relationship to others in the Confederacy questioned. He was related by blood and marriage to many in the General Staff and government of the Confederacy. Another cousin from the Preston family tree was Major General Breckenridge, the last Confederate Secretary of War. The testimony was very specific to the Lt. Young case and additional information was not volunteered.

It is known that General Preston was assigned to the diplomatic corps in January 1864. His mission departed from Wilmington, North Carolina in mid-January and he and the mission traveled to the Bahamas then Cuba. At the time Wilmington was one of the main blockade running ports of the Confederacy. The closure of the Mississippi River after the Battle of Vicksburg dictated that the mission utilize the sea route. After a short run to British Bahamas, passengers boarded neutral vessels, which were generally safe from search by the Union Navy, to reach foreign ports. Captain Wallace was known to be in Wilmington in February 1864 so he appears have separated from General Preston. He reached Canada in June 1864 but his status was not identified and General Preston's family had not yet fled to Canada. Captain Wallace was said to have served to the close of the civil War so he must have had some official status in Canada.

In May 1864 the Confederate States of America appointed a Special Commission to Canada. The leader of the mission was Colonel Jacob Thompson of Mississippi. C.C. Clay of Alabama who was appointed secretary of the mission, and J. P. Holcomb of Virginia were extra commissioners. Due to arguments, Colonel Thompson established his headquarters at Toronto close to the United States border and numerous large prisoner of war camps. C. C. Clay established his headquarters at Montreal and generally acted independently. Captain Wallace was known to the mission but nothing has been found that establishes his status: civilian protector of the Preston family, low level diplomat, or facilitator of Confederate secret military operations?

To understand the question of status one has to understand the official Canadian political position in the Civil War. Economically England, France, and to a lesser degree Canada were tied to the South and leaned heavily towards supporting the Confederacy. Practical concerns about the ability of the South to win prevented open recognition of the confederacy. The political response was to recognize both sides as co-belligerents giving the confederacy some legal status in Canada. Confederate military personnel guilty of acts of war against the Union forces outside of Canada were not subject to extradition as long as they violated no Canadian laws. Violations of Canadian law were tried in Canadian Courts. In the Lt. Young case in which Captain Wallace testified it was essential to Young's defense that he be found

to be a properly commissioned officer of the Confederate Army. As a civilian he could have been extradited for the charges of robbery and arson. The Union demanded extradition as common criminals so the Canadian Court was tasked with making a determination on the raider's status.

The Confederacy depended on Canada as a trans-shipment point and source for military supplies. Multiple agents of both the central government and individual states had been in Canada since early in the war to assure that the flow of goods continued. The Confederacy as long as it could win on the field of battle worked hard not to abuse their privileges but as the tide turned against them in early 1864 the Confederate government turned to ways of creating a political solution. The special commission was organized to fill that political need. Some of the operations initiated by the commission included the liberation of Confederate prisoners held at Camp Douglas (Chicago) and Springfield, Illinois as well as plans to capture the gunboat Michigan and Steamers Philo Parson and Island Queen to release prisoners on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie then disrupt Union commerce. Other plans included the raid on St. Albans, Vermont and for cooperation with the Sons of Liberty to start revolutions in Chicago and New York. Later plans became more desperate and included attempts to burn Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Boston and New York with the aid of Greek fire. One of the more sinister plans was the introduction of yellow fever contaminated clothing into Union camps in Virginia and elsewhere. The plan was to reduce Union troop strength through germ warfare. There were plans to rescue Confederate generals being held at Buffalo and Dunkirk, New York as well as plans to capture the Union Vice-President, Andrew Johnson. Following the reported Union raid to kill President Jefferson Davis the commission in Canada also became involved with John Wilkes Booth and the assassination of President Lincoln.

In addition to covert operations the commission conducted legitimate military services. The commission aided escaped prisoners of war in returning to the South and assisted Confederate Navy vessels such as the CSS Tallahassee that terrorized the coast of New York and New England. The commission worked with blockade-runners especially in Halifax to help supply the South. The commission also recruited escaped POWs for "detached or special servicer" in Canada. While most of the legitimate military activities had some degree of success, the "special services" generally failed. The Union expended great sums of money to watch Confederate activities in Canada, or on attempting infiltration operations, or in attempting to turn Confederate operatives to the Union side. The Union was forced to increase the strength of some northern garrisons such as Chicago thus keeping troops from the battlefield. The Union also vigorously protested to Canada about Confederate activities from Canada and vigorously participated in attempting to extradite those engaged in actions in the United States. The Union argued that many of the plans were criminal in nature and so had no legitimate military authorization, while the confederates cited the "crimes" committed against Southern civilians by General Sherman in South Carolina and General Hunter in Virginia. The Confederates particularly cited the sacking and burning of Darien, Georgia as a defense for their actions.

The commission had operational problems from the very beginning when Colonel Thompson operated out of Toronto and C.C. Clay operated almost

independently in Montreal. The third member, J. P. Holcomb was stationed in Halifax until August 1864 when he left for the South with dispatches. The operations also involved a number of shady characters such as Sandy Kieth the unofficial "Confederate consul" in Nova Scotia who went on to known as the "dynamite fiend" for his post war destruction of ships for insurance claims. The commission had organized less than a hundred Confederate soldiers in Canada for operations and a majority of these were from Kentucky and previously under the command of Generals Forrest and Morgan. The one thing that the commission had in excess was money. During its short existence it spent hundreds of thousands of Union dollars and some say millions. Some of the agents such as Captain Hines of Kentucky, Captain Castleman, Lt. Eastin, Colonel Marmaduke and Lt. Young became known to Union intelligence. Many evaded detection like part of Lt. Young's command in the St. Alban's raid. They were listed in court documents as "and others" and their identities were never obtained as they used assumed names in Canada.

The Union intelligence assets in Canada knew of Captain Wallace through his testimony in the Lt. Young case and through his association with Colonel Thompson but his personal activities never seemed to set off official bells and whistles. When Captain Wallace applied for parole at the conclusion of the Civil War it was granted. He was never charged as part of the Booth Conspiracy or for any other act during the Civil War. So what would indicate that there might be more to his story?

What wasn't said creates a number of questions. The first is his status: was he a civilian or a serving military officer? He was a serving officer when he took ship for Canada, so when did he resign. The family history cites serving until the close of the war and his surrendering to Union authorities prior to parole would indicate he still considered himself a serving officer. If he was simply a civilian in Canada to assist General Preston's family why did he arrive in Canada prior to their flight to Montreal? Captain Wallace was in Halifax in June and July 1864 and met with Lt. Young and another St. Alban raider but why? Captain Wallace testified that he had met W. H. Huntley, who went by Hutchinson in Canada and was one of the St. Alban raiders, when he was at Wilmington, North Carolina. He also testified that he met both Huntley and Lt. Young in Halifax prior to the raid. Halifax was the operational center for the raid. Colonel Thompson who resided in Toronto called Captain Wallace to testify in the Lt. Young trial. Colonel Thompson had sufficient background history to know that Wallace could testify about War Department procedures when direct evidence from the Confederate War Department was unavailable.

Another item left unsaid concerned a Captain Breckenridge. Union attorneys stated that Lt. Young was only commissioned for the raid on St. Albans and that his commission was faulty. During an earlier attempt to capture the gunboat Michigan, Lt. Young was sent to Sandusky, Ohio to assist. A member of that operation was Captain Breckenridge who was the son of Major General John Cabell Breckenridge. Both father and son were Captain Wallace's cousins from the Preston family tree. As a Brigadier General, John C. Breckenridge commanded the 1st Kentucky Brigade before General Preston. Prior to the Civil War John C. Breckenridge had been Vice-President of the United States and ended the Civil War as the Confederate Secretary of War. Captain Wallace was able to testify about signatures, War Department

procedures sufficiently for the Court to find Lt. Young's commission valid and release all the raiders in Canadian custody.

It was never asked why Captain Wallace left the service of General Preston. After the failure of the mission to secure a meeting with Emperor Maximilian in Mexico, General Preston decided to resume his military duties. Due to the blockade he had to enter northern Mexico and cross the Rio Grande up river into Confederate held Texas. Once in Texas he joined with General Kirby Smith. Preston was promoted to Major General in command of General Prince Polignac's division. His promotion was never confirmed due to the Union occupation of the entire Mississippi Valley. General Polignac was a French born Prince and had been sent on a last ditch effort to secure recognition of the Confederacy by France similar to General Preston's mission to Mexico. The majority of field commanders in Texas resisted surrender but the inevitable happened on June 2, 1865. General Preston had attempted to move some of the Confederate forces into northern Mexico but in the end he, five other generals and three former governors fled into Mexico alone. In October 1865 General Preston joined his family in Quebec. In December 1865 using family influences, General Preston returned to Washington, D.C. where he was paroled.

Nothing in the evidence indicates that Captain Wallace was a civilian while living in Canada but nothing contradicts that he was a low level functionary operating within Canadian law. The Union government did not pursue him for "illegal" operations. The Lincoln Assassination trial investigation looked at Confederate "terrorism" especially the involvement of Jacob Thompson and Clement Clay and because Booth had visited Confederate agents in Canada. Captain Wallace was only connected to the Lincoln Assassination trial because the St. Alban trial was annexed to the report of the military tribunal. But there are a number of facts that would cast doubt that his presence in Canada was simply the protection of General Preston's family. A majority of the special services personnel were recruited from Kentucky troops many of which Captain Wallace had contact with as Aide-de-Camp of the 1st Kentucky Brigade. His cousin, Captain Breckenridge was a special services officer in Canada who engaged in operations in the Union North. He knew two of the St. Alban raiders and met with them prior to the raid and was integral to their defense after the raid. Captain Wallace was known to Colonel Thompson who had his headquarters in Toronto, and he was known to have been in two other operation centers: Montreal and Halifax. Last he was associated with multiple Confederate generals both by blood and by his duties on the staff and directly related to the Confederate War Department.

Are the facts sufficient to claim that Captain Willie Pope Wallace was definitely a special service agent involved in Confederate operations from Canada? No, but the circumstantial material may be sufficient to leave his status in limbo pending more evidence.

It is not known when Captain Wallace returned to the United States or if he remained with General Preston's family until October 1865 when General Preston reached Canada. The next recorded event was in 1867 when Captain Wallace married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Henry Edmunds (born 1844 Kentucky) in Christian County, Kentucky. In 1870 he was listed as a farmer in Christian County with assets

of \$24,000 in real estate and \$2,500 in personal property. Also listed on the 1870 Census entry were his wife's family and Dr. Joseph Fontleroy Daingerfield, his wife America Edmunds and their family. Dr. Daingerfield moved to Sonoma in 1871 where he died in 1873. Captain Wallace is first shown in California in 1878 where he was listed as a clerk in San Francisco. On the 1880 U.S. Census Captain Wallace is listed as a farmer in Anderson with Lizzie and three children: Arthur H. 1869 Kentucky (died 1919 in Sonoma County), Jean 1871 Kentucky (died 1919 in Sonoma County), and Randolph E. 1878 California (died 1905 in Sonoma County). Captain Wallace died in 1881 and was buried in the Anderson Pioneer Cemetery. After her husband's death Lizzie moved the family to Sonoma County. In 1900 Lizzie was living with her daughter Jean and her husband Charles Rankin in Sonoma County. Lizzie survived all her children and died in Sonoma County in 1932.

Who is Miss Jeanette Seawright

Question: In the September 3rd, 1920 edition of the Anderson Valley News there was a brief article and picture stating that Miss Jeanette Seawright had been awarded the Cross of Saint Anne by Russian Admiral Kolchak for the rescue of one thousand Russian waifs. Miss Seawright was shown wearing a World War One officer's uniform with Red Cross insignia and had just returned from serving twenty months with the Red Cross in Siberia. The article provided no personal connection to Anderson. The following research found supporting data for the article but no personal information to complete the story. Can anyone complete the story?

RESPONSE: the American Expeditionary Force in Siberia began service in August 1918 and remained until April 1920. The Red Cross formed an integral part of the force and was required to wear military style uniforms while overseas. Red Cross personnel members were authorized to wear the U.S. Army's overseas bars, a gold colored chevron on the lower left sleeve for each six-month period of overseas service. Miss Seawright would have been authorized to wear three chevrons, the maximum awarded for that expeditionary force. Military members were authorized the World War One Victory Medal but the Red Cross opted to award no medals other than a memorial medal to the next of kin of those who died while in Siberia.

The American forces entered Siberia to protect war supplies given to the Czarist government and to assist the Czech Legion attempting to reach France and enter the war on the side of the Allied Forces. The action was initiated in response to the Communist government that after overthrowing the provisional government had signed a separate peace treaty with the Germans. Siberia was left in chaos with multiple socialist, communist, Czarist, White, nationalist, and other groups seizing control of parts of Siberia. The action also affected other non-Russian groups such as the Polish Corps that had been fighting alongside the Russians and the Czechs who were being organized from Austrian prisoner of war to fight for the Allies and potentially form a post-war independent nation from Austrian territory. In November 1918 Admiral Kolchak instituted a White (anti-communist) government in Omsk and went on the offense against the Reds (communist). It was into this

political chaos that a twenty-four year old Miss Seawright and the Red Cross entered Siberia.

In January 1920 Kolchak's offensive had failed and the Admiral was forced to resign. Admiral Kolchak was executed by Red forces during February 1920. As such Miss Seawright would have earned the Russian award prior to January 1920. The Order of Saint Anne came in four classes but the article did not state a specific class for Miss Seawright. The order was awarded for distinguished civilian service although it could also be awarded "with swords" for military valor. Russian tradition was to award the class according to the rank of the recipient or according to the rank of any previous awards. Miss Seawright who was a nurse and therefore considered a lower grade officer probably received the 3rd Class. It would have been worn as a traditional breast medal on a red ribbon with narrow yellow edges.

Red Cross Bulletin #16, dated April 14, 1919, provided some facts on the Red Cross mission. There were 153 women in the Siberian mission (109 nurses and 44 aids). The activities extended from Vladivostok in the east to Ekaterinburg 4,126 miles to the west, Chelyabinsk 4,100 miles to the west, Omsk, the Western Main Depot, 3,570 miles west, and Habroutsk 500 miles north, all connected by a disputed thread of a railroad and an uncertain telegraph system. The mission also extended southward into Manchuria, China.

In December 1918 the Red Cross supported thirteen hospitals (two in Manchuria, China and one for the Czech Legion). The mission provided supplies for other hospitals and ran an anti-typhus train for the Allied forces. The mission also set up anti-typhus disinfecting and bath centers for civilians and helped move refugees to secure centers. They cared for seven groups of children at Erbit, Tumen, Talgar, Petropoulosk, Ufa, Irkutsk, and Utskay-Stanits. As political conditions worsened the wounded, many of the refugees and especially the children were steadily moved eastward to Red Cross barracks in Vladivostok. The Czech Legion was evacuated by the Allied Forces in part, but their last troops did not leave Vladivostok until September 1920. One estimate of the troops and refugees evacuated from Vladivostok was 67, 739. Many refugees also fled into China. Miss Seawright probably worked with one of the seven children groups assuring its evacuation eastward.

Miss Seawright probably had no association with Anderson or Shasta County other than a possible visit promoting the American Red Cross. After linking Miss Seawright to a passport application filed in Vladivostok on 25 May 1920 some of her personal data fell into place. The problem in tracking her may have come from the fact that from 1920 onward she used the name Searight. Jeannette was born in San Francisco on August 17, 1894. Her father was Beath Paul Seawright born in Ireland in 1856 who immigrated to San Francisco in 1875. Her mother was Jennette Seawright born 1866 in California. Her father was a wholesale merchant by trade. On Miss Seawright's passport application she states she left for Vladivostok November 15, 1918 and arrived on November 28, 1918. On May 25, 1920 the application stated she was doing Red Cross work for the American Red Cross Commission in Siberia. She was requesting a passport for a four month long visit to China and Japan. In the 1920 U.S. Census done in March she is listed in Vladivostok with the Military and Naval Forces and her civilian trade is listed as stenographer. In

1930 and 1940 she was listed as the proprietor of a gift shop in Berkeley, Alameda County. Jeannette died in 1984 in Santa Cruz County.

NOTE: Miss Seawright must have remained in Siberia after the U.S. forces withdrew in April 1920. The area around Vladivostok was still occupied by the Japanese Army and politically a new "buffer state" was formed in April 1920, the Far Eastern Republic (it survived until November 1922). Since Miss Seawright applied for her passport in May 1920 at Vladivostok the U.S. Embassy must have also remained in the Far East Republic when the troops left and it is possible that there was also a Red Cross presence after April 1920.