

A day Darlington would like to forget

Confederate forces hanged Amy Spain 94 years ago

DARLINGTON, S. C. (AP) — Ninety-four years ago a day dawned that Darlington would like to forget. The April day began like all other spring days—with promise and with a song. In this case the song was sung by one Amy Spain, a 19-year-old mulatto girl, who up to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, had belonged to Major A. C. Spain of Darlington.

And the song Amy Spain fashioned that morning of April 30, 1865, was to be her swan song. It is said the mulatto thrilled something to the effect that she "thanked God she was free."

Yankees More In
It all started a few days earlier — when the Second Regiment, Maine Volunteers, had swept into Darlington, hell-bent on teaching those "high and mighty Rebels, a thing or two." There was no one left in Darlington to teach, except the aged and infirm. It turned out to be a hollow charge indeed as about the only persons the Yankees saw were the small crowd of former slaves that gathered by to cheer them as conquering heroes.

Among these last were Amy Spain and her brother Willie, 22. The pair had been raised carefully by the Spains. Because of their light color, the Spains considered themselves a

clarer. "The affrighted woman, young to girlhood, showed more bravery than the entire Confederate Army. As she awaited her death, standing erect in an ox cart, she smiled bitterly and only asked that they be done quickly."

According to Mrs. Mammie Spain Hayden's account it was not a "Mob of Darlington citizens, who hanged Amy," but the hard-driving cavalry of Wheeler.

Wheeler, driving into Darlington, contacted the Maine Second Regiment, two miles west of Florence, and soundly defeated them in battle. Arriving back in Darlington, the Confederates were appalled to find conditions what they were.

Robbery and violence came hard on the heels of the Yankee troops. Negroes were pillaging the homes of their former masters right and left. Gaping warehouses were everywhere in evidence. Bartolomed former slaves walked boldly down the streets with stolen "stovepipes" hats atop their heads, flour-chalk cold-topped walking sticks, which had not been purchased.

Amy Ringleader
But now the shoe was on the other foot. Soon to Wheeler came a delegation of citizens with pertinent information. Amy Spain, they said, was a ringleader. It was she who had pointed out to the Yankees, the secret burial places of much of the town's silver plate and other valuables.

Wheeler thought it over. War is a stern taskmaster. Something would have to be done. His cavalry could not remain at Darlington very long; there were battles to be fought and precious little troops with which to fight them. An example must be made. Amy Spain must swing.

Mulatto Seized
The order went out. Amy was not captured immediately. It was not until the next morning, April 30, that the mulatto was seized just as she left her cabin.

She was placed in a wagon. A rope was thrown over her head. She was asked the whereabouts of her brother Willie. She refused to give the information. It may well be that had Amy turned in her brother, he would have remained in the town.

On the edge of the courthouse lawn loomed a lone scaffold. The wagon was driven under it. The rope was tossed over a high beam, and Amy was hoisted up. Her arms were bound at her sides. No mask covered her head, the Yankee sergeant and the eyes scolded terribly and so Amy Spain was dead.

A bit later the military cut down the body. It was wrapped in a saddle blanket and taken away. There on the Spain property, they buried what was left of the 19-year-old mulatto. A victim of war.

Man, 71, dies on eve of wedding
AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — W. H. Davenport, 71, a retired Postoffice Tex. insurance man, came to Austin to marry a girl friend of 30 years.

He collapsed and died less than 24 hours before the wedding.

Before the turn of the century, Davenport and Mrs. Ruth Ragdale of Austin were friends. Each married some one else.

Mrs. Ragdale's husband died more than 40 years ago. Davenport's wife died last year.

Recently the two old friends decided to marry and spend their last years together. They prepared a home in Austin and set the wedding date for 10 a.m. Saturday.

Davenport arrived here Friday morning. Mrs. Ragdale, 67, met him at the station. He opened the door to her car and collapsed.

Davenport was dead on arrival at a hospital.

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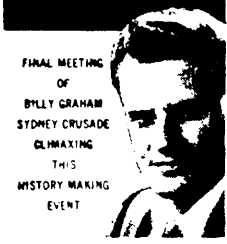
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HONEST J I'll be on D

Augusta again fi refund

ATLANTA (AP)—A has been filed by Augusta wholesale I 1950 claims \$22,800. from him by a 1950

The new suit, filed Superior Court, by Schaffer names as de enue Commissioner I as the successor to liams Sr. who uppe liquor warehouse che a gallon in 1955.

Schaffer, whose lic voked by Williams, of selling in dry con that the "floor tax" Williams' warehouse crease amounted to tax and was this of the original suit. Schaffer in Fulton S. after Williams had quest for a refund request was denied l a letter dated Jan. a few days after I Williams as revenue

Investitt of mons set this v

The Rt. Rev. M. Bourke, pastor of the the-Hill Catholic Ch invested as a Dome Savannah Tuesday.

At the investiture other priests of the elevated to monsign John XIII recently, flarly invested.

The ceremony will 8 p.m. the Cathedra the Baptist. The Mos as J. McDonough, a op at Savannah, as Very Rev. John, To Rev. Bartholomew chaplains, will invest sniors. The Rev. F will deliver the ser

Reception Pl Prior to the invest of the Diocese at the tel. A reception will following the service.

In addition to Msgr ers to be invested: J. McNamara, rector edral of St. John, Savannah; Msgr. An Donald, chancellor o at Savannah; Msgr. man, pastor of the ment Church at St Msgr. Herman Dein the Holy Family C lumbar.

To attend I

Rev. K. Mack det of the Babu met in Augusta. two day conference the August 10-11. presiding, and guests 1000. He is con served as a mpe the Diocese, B ards.