KEY WEST TO DEDICATE ARCH TO ROBERT E. LEE

Bayview Park Scene of Honor to Confederate General, Though City Remained With Union.

By SAM HARRIS.

THOUGH Key West was the only city south of the Mason and Dixon line that remained in the possession of the union throughout the civil war, yet so many of her sons escaped from the island in small boats, made their way to the mainland and fought with the southern forces that a memorial arch in their honor will be dedicated in Bayview park, Key West, on January 19, the anniversary of the birth of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Money to erect the arch was subscribed by the Robert E. Lee chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, and at its dedication many of the state officers of the organization will be present.

The late Col. Walter C. Maloney, in his history of Key West, tells of "the disruption of social, conjugal, fraternal, political and even of religious ties in the southern states, the "Gem of the Seas" as a result of the starting of the war. Colonel Maloney was a staunch unionist, while his son, Walter C. Maloney, Jr., was among the foremost residents who favored secession.

The son was the captain of the Key West guards, the only survivor of whom is Dr. Joseph T. Porter, who now lives in Jacksonville, Fla. Dr. Porter was only 14 years of age, and he says that, though the guards numbered about 75, only a few of them had muskets. Despite that fact, their disunionist captain sent a demand to the union commanding officer in Fort Jefferson, demanding that if Captain Maloney repeated his impudent demand, he, the commanding officer, would turn the guns of the fort on the town and blow it to pieces.

HE did not frighten Captain Maloney, however, whose Irish and Scottish extraction made him as intrepid as D'Artagnan in fiction and Collins in real life. He was unable to remain impassive, so one morning he and several Key Westers were missing in the town. As was learned later, they slide away at night in a sailboat, reached the mainland and enlisted in the southern army. Colonel Maloney was installed boss, or as near boss as he dared to come, which was Tampa, after having fought in several battles and had been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. As soon as he recovered sufficiently from his wounds he reenlisted and served throughout the war.

Mr. Maloney's widow, Mrs. Eugenia Maloney, is still living as also are two brothers, William Wade and Francis Rigby Maloney; two daughters, Mrs. O. H. Bacon, who resides in Miami, and Mrs. Douglas Wilson, and four sons, William F., Charles S., Frank and Joseph T. Maloney.

Colonel Maloney, in describing the conditions in Key West at the beginning of the war, continues: "Shocked to a great degree by what some considered at least bad faith in many of the leading men in the nation, who had precipitated the war by the ill-fated Hughes incursion into Virginia, at Harper's Ferry, and almost driven to despair of the republic by the unsatisfactory condition in which the nation was left at the adjournment of a boisterous congress, and the weakness of the then federal government, our citizens, though deeply moved, awaited events with ill-concealed anxiety.

"THE success of the free soil or republican party at the election in the fall of that year, coupled with the action of the state of South Carolina—to which was soon added a proclamation by the governor of Florida for a convention of the people to take into consideration the then present and future relations of Florida toward the U. S. government—brought boldly prominently to view the question of union or disunion, by some at that time derisively and taunt ingly expressed as secession or submission.

"In pursuance of a previous notice for that purpose, the citizens of this island, in larger numbers than ever before met to discuss the question, whether of political, assembled at the county courthouse on the evening of the 12th of December, 1860. What transpired at that meeting was published in the city newspaper of that time, The Key of the Gulf, edited and published by William H. Ward, and read as follows:

"Pursuant to a previous notice, a large meeting of our citizens was convened at the courthouse on the evening of the 12th inst. for the purpose of nominating delegates to the state convention, to assemble in Tallahassee on the 3d day of January, 1861, for the purpose of taking into consideration the dangers incident to the secession of this state in the federal union, etc. It was the largest meeting ever held in this city.

"Hon. J. F. Baldwin was called to the chair, and Charles Tift and Peter Cruser, Esqrs., were appointed secretaries. The chairman having explained the object of the meeting, speeches were made by the following gentlemen:

"HON. WILLIAM MARVIN, U. S. Judge for this district, was for the union; wait for the border states and secede with them. He announced himself as a candidate for the convention.

"William H. Ward, Esq., in favor of secession and a southern confederacy. (Mr. Ward's paper was later confiscated.)

"J. J. Douglas, Esq., for a southern convention, and failing to get what it should demand, to go out with them.

"W. C. Maloney, Esq., said he was for the union first, the union last, and the union always.

"E. C. Dennis, Esq., favored waiting for the border states, and announced himself as a candidate for the convention.

"William Pinkney, Esq., wished to wait for the border states.

"Asa F. Tift, Esq., would go with the southern states.

"Rev. Mr. Young, for secession."

"The meeting was continued till midnight, without a decision having been reached and was adjourned to the following evening, when Winer Bethel and William Pinkney were elected delegates.

"While the Key Westers were holding a session to name the delegates to the state convention, Capt. John M. Brannan, who was in command of the coast artillery company, stationed in the barracks, in the northeastern section of Key West, evacuated their quarters there and without noise or parade marched to Ft. Taylor, which place considered of strongold. Residents generally did not know of Captain Brannan's action till the following day.

"On May 16, 1861, residents of Key West, numbering 109, of whom Colonel Maloney was one, passed the following resolution:

"WE, the undersigned citizens of Key West, believing that the distracted conditions of the country demands that our services should be offered to her in this, her hour of need, that we most noble in preserving the honor of our flag, upholding the laws and quelling rebellion, do hereby agree to form a volunteer company and tender ourselves subject to the control of the United States forces in Key West.

"The company was provided with arms and held drills regularly, so that it was in a high state of efficiency two years later, when it was disarmed and disbanded by Col. Joseph Morgan of the Ninetieth regiment, New York volunteers, who was sent from Key West to assume the military command of the island.

But Colonel Morgan's action did not stop with the disbanding of the local volunteers. Apparently fearful of an uprising on the island he shortly afterward ordered the arrest of many Key Westers, of both sexes, who had some relatives in the confederate armies. Six hundred residents, including many members of the volunteer company and other citizens, were crowded aboard a ship, which was not large enough to properly accommodate half that number, and were ordered to be shipped to Milton, Mead, Ala., and from there to be transferred to some confederate post.

"As a result of the order "the town has been in the utmost state of excitement," says the account. "Men sacrificing their property, selling off their all, getting ready to be shipped to parts unknown, women distracted at the thought of being sent among the rebels. It was impossible for any good citizen to remain quiet and unconcerned at such a time. Expostulations from the United States officers got from the naval officers at the station were fruitless. Colonel Morgan was "inflexible."

NO hero, in an oldtime thrilling western movie, lying on a railroad track and tugging at his bonds to try to free himself before the oncoming train, seen in the background, racing at a mile a minute, would crush out his life, was ever more dramatically rescued in the nick of time than were the Key Westers, who had been held and crowding the deck of the ship, had given up all hope of being saved from banishment.

You've seen other movies, where friends of the hero were shown, for a breathless second only, as the scenes shifted, madly racing to his assistance as he was about to be strung up. The Key Westers, who had been held, was as closely and as dramatic as that of the movie hero. The lookers of the ship were about to be unfastened from the wharf, and a quartermaster was at the wheel ready to steer her out into the channel, when another ship was seen to round Ft. Taylor and head directly toward the wharf. The ship was ordered to stop till the arrival of the other ship.

But on the other ship was Col. J. H. Good, with the Forty-seventh Pennsylvania regiment, who had been ordered to Key West to relieve Colonel Morgan and his command. The first thing Colonel Good did after notifying Colonel Morgan of the mistake, was to revoke the order of banishment and to direct the 400 Key Westers to return to their homes. "It used scarcely be said," Colonel Maloney writes, "that rejoicing everywhere took the place of the grief that had been so manifest."

IN appreciation of Colonel Good's action the residents of Key West presented him with a gold-hilted sword, which is now in the possession of the Lehigh County Historical society of Allentown, Pa. Colonel Maloney, who made the presentation speech, said in part:

"The people of Key West have called upon me to represent them today, and in their name and on their behalf, to present you with a sword as a token of their regard and in appreciation of your merits as a gentleman and a soldier. And permit me to say, sir, that heretofore in instances almost without number have I been called upon to speak in behalf of my fellow citizens of 28 years among them, and that many of those calls have been attended with positions of honor, trust and emolument, but upon no occasion have I felt the honor more great or my sympathies more in accord with the duties devolved on me than upon this present occasion."

Colonel Good replied in part: "I accept at your hands this magnificent gift and beg you to accept in return my utmost heartfelt thanks. Duty possible that no acts of mine as an individual have merited it. I shall regard the presentation of this testament to the cause I have the honor to represent, and of your devotion to our common country. It shall ever serve as an additional memento, if one is needed, to remind me of the pleasant days passed among you, and of the kindness and courtesy shown to one so already greatly indebted for many kindnesses. It shall be sacredly preserved and I hope that no act of mine will ever disgrace it or cause you to regret your generosity."

Doubtless Mr. Mellon wants to be remembered as the man who put the in tax.—Life.

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