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12-8-1885

The Tri-Weekly Kentucky New Era, December 8, 1885

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Recommended Citation

The Tri-Weekly Kentucky New Era, "The Tri-Weekly Kentucky New Era, December 8, 1885" (1885). *Kentucky New Era Tri-Weekly*. 25.
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1885.

Deer Hunting in Arkansas.

On the morning of Nov. 7th, 1885, the Club gathered in the city of Clarksville, Tenn., for its annual hunt. There were present Sam, J. White, captain by unanimous consent, because of his eminent fitness; J. R. Caudle, on whom the captain's mantle always falls in his absence; Henry Drake, George Hart, Gano Henry, J. Ed. Walker, Lyman McCombs, D. W. Williams, James S. Parrish, James T. Coleman, Frank Holaway, T. L. Burk, J. Posey Glass, Gustavus Adolphus Bonier, Austin Peay.

Many of these were old and tried hunters, who had seen the leaves of Arkansas lose their lustre of green and fade into the bare and yellow, for more than a dozen years. Others were new men, the welcome invited guests of the hunt.

The morning was wet and dreary and all day the rain fell in intermittent torrents but the men were on time. Five white men; six faithful and efficient negroes, 33 horses, and two wagons, the complete outfit of the hunt.

We quickly unloaded our hungry and weary horses and filed in a long column through the streets of Clarksville to the stable of Capt. Forrest, where they were well cared for, and then to the Peabody to a breakfast good enough for a king.

The sun has come out warm and brilliant with the festive glow of early summer rather than late autumn but it is delusive, for the cold wave flung in ominous warning from the top of the T. S. Custom House.

Late this evening, under the pleasant guidance of Capt. Barton Mallory of the firm of Mallory, Crawford & Co., who do a large business in the city, we were shown the various beauties of the city.

Memphis does a large and prosperous business, and is the largest city in the south. The general population carried in through the Cotton Exchange building, and we saw how and where the heavy staple was bought and sold. The Exchange is a fine structure and cost nearly two hundred thousand dollars.

Upon its inner walls are exhibited statements of the present market value—not only of cotton—but of all the principal commodities of our country, in all the quarters of the earth.

As an evidence of the city's thrift, she sells from six to six hundred thousand bales of cotton per year. The receipts this year, so far, have been the largest in her history, amounting to one hundred and sixty thousand bales.

There were over four thousand bales and on Monday last over twelve thousand. Memphis may be uncertain about the day of her streets, whether their foundation should be wood, stone or a conglomerate concrete, for it seems to be a stranger that they are always undergoing a change of some sort, but she knows her cotton god and worships him with an Eastern devotion.

About sunset we marched down to the river, and after some waiting got everything aboard the E. W. Cole, which at 9 p. m., with a "Heave ho!" shipped anchor, hauled in staging and moved in grandeur down the broad stream of the Great River.

The cold wave signal was correct, for the wind blows cold and keen from the north, while the stars have an icy glitter. The boat went well, and the stars were warm and we were comfortable for the first time since our start.

To-night is a night of rest for the weary and sleep for the sleepless. No one lies awake to count the fleeting hours or listen to the steady and monotonous splash of the boat's wheel. Even Mr. Glass, who is the midnight snorer, forgot to sound any notes from his deep bassoon, or if he did, they were softened and mellowed by a conflict with the boat's horse bells and floated away unheeded.

Mr. Glass and Walker Williams have been to Cypress creek fishing today. They caught about fifteen pounds of cat and drum, and Walker also caught with his small bamboo rod an alligator gar, two and a half feet long, and eight pounds in weight. They also shot a muskrat.

Our neighbors of the adjoining camp, the silent hunters—are over to see us to-night, and are in a charming humor.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11th.

We have labored faithfully to-day, and it has been a barren of any reward. We have ridden over miles and miles of woods started deer after deer and yet not one has been killed. And why? Because these bottoms are so extensive that it is hardly possible to hem up and drive a deer to any certain point. There are numbers of deer here, we never start in a side, but the deer jump a deer and in a flash he is gone.

Candle and Henry shot at a buck which they jumped in the brush and which the only shot that has been fired at a deer to-day. We speak of moving camp in the morning, nearer to the Arkansas river where we have been hunting, about six miles from this camp. The captain is not well to-night.

THURSDAY, NOV. 12th.

As was suggested in the minutes of yesterday we moved to break camp this morning and move to a more desirable locality. Capt. White with half of the men and all of the dogs, went on ahead while Caudle with the rest was to strike the tents and pack up all of the baggage.

Before three o'clock everything had been changed over to our new camp, and Mill boy was in the past. We are camped now in a house on the bank of the old channel of the Arkansas which is now only a lake, the water has long since ceased to run along this course. The prospect here is something charming to the eye. Where we are camped now, was once one of the most prosperous plantations in Arkansas. The Montgomery plantations, but now owned by Mr. Allen, of Memphis, for the war or just at its close, the owner was offered one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars for his lands and he refused the offer. Then they were valuable, now almost worthless. His fine house, which was a hundred yards from the river, commanding a splendid view and the boats from the Mississippi only ten miles distant landed at his very door. His broad acres were spread out before him, where the cotton grew almost spontaneously, the woods were full of game, the rivers and lakes of fish, and the water was so clear that when the cold of the North drove them South in countless numbers, around him were his servants to do his bidding and his man of all his friends.

But alas! a change came. Like that unhappy individual spoken of in Holy Writ, he was built on a foundation of sand. The storm came; the waters rose; the levee broke, and the overflowing scourge spread over his lands, his house, his out-houses, and the most serious disaster of all the subsiding water left a heavy stratum of sand rising to the fertility of the soil and depositing innumerable seeds of the cotton-wood and willow which sprang into life, and now covers the whole open land, with sprouts from ten to thirty feet in height. To add more misfortune, the Arkansas river, a fine navigable stream, changed its course and left him a lake where once the river was. The lands are now worthless, the house abandoned although something of their former splendor clings around them, now their broken doors and windows, their silent halls and fireless chimneys are but sad monuments of the past and of man's fruitless struggle with elemental wrath. It is here we are camped, occupying a house with 8 rooms, and no one to care for us.

FRIDAY, NOV. 13th.

The weather is clear and cold, and no one could ask for a better morning for hunting, and the boys have made it a fine luck out of which to start. A soon breakfast was served. A soon breakfast was served and Captain White makes the drive northwest of camp, the men placed next the lake, and on a line below the stands not a quarter of a mile from camp, a doe jumped in front of Parrish and Mr. Parrish, who was shooting, or trying to shoot, a magazine gun, and before he could learn the new tricks the deer had been shot.

He succeeded in shooting, after a long struggle, and before he could learn the new tricks the deer had been shot.

The dogs were wild and coursed the woods in a hurry. Deer seemed to be running in all directions. A fine doe ran to Deacon McCombs who fired one shot and knocked her over handsomely at sixty yards. Another ran to Dick Blakemore, who fired both barrels long shot, but on she went. A fawn ran to Jim Coleman and was killed, he firing two shots. On the lake side a large buck bursted up below the stands and was shot at by a hunter, who lives near by. The dogs were all gone and Captain White getting some more from camp, drove the dogs between the lake and the river. The dogs soon laid up a deer and carried it at a fast rate over the levee and into the woods beyond the lake.

Boys started a small deer, crossing the levee, a long shot. We had no dogs or drivers now and the stands mounted and scoured the old fields, the deer returned to camp. Parrish and Blakemore also shot at a fawn four times, close to him, and finally fired, but the deer got away. Frank Holaway shot at a doe, but she was too quick for him. The doe was shot at by a hunter, who lives near by. The dogs were all gone and Captain White getting some more from camp, drove the dogs between the lake and the river. The dogs soon laid up a deer and carried it at a fast rate over the levee and into the woods beyond the lake.

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first five or six miles was along the banks of the Great River, where the settlements were pretty thick and fine fields of cotton were white with the opening cotton bolls. Negroes largely predominate. The next six miles were across abandoned fields and through the deep woods until Mill boy was reached, where our camp was pitched on its east side. Water clear and good. The tents, two of them were soon up, and leaving some of the men and the negroes to fix up the balance, Caudle, with Henry and Mr. Watson, went into a short drive west of the camp. Men placed along the road through the woods. Several deer were gotten up; Mr. Watson and Henry saw two, but they ran back and from the stands, and no one had a shot. The men, some of them amused themselves shooting squirrels, which are numerous—gray, red and black in color. Mr. Glass killed two ducks on the bayou. Capt. White has been gone with the two wagons all the evening. In search of horse feed and didn't get back until after dark. Across the bayou a few yards is a cove of still waters, who are thoroughly disgusted at our coming. One of them said he had killed sixteen deer himself in two weeks.

Before retiring the Captain gathered the men around him and every one was assigned to some duty. Parrish and Caudle were chosen as his lieutenants.

TUESDAY, NOV. 10th.

This morning we were up early and off to the woods. The stands were placed in a triangle through the woods, on Redford bayou, while White, with Holloway and Mr. Watson, drove the woods in from the river, shooting or trying to shoot, a magazine gun, and before he could learn the new tricks the deer had been shot.

He succeeded in shooting, after a long struggle, and before he could learn the new tricks the deer had been shot.

The dogs were wild and coursed the woods in a hurry. Deer seemed to be running in all directions. A fine doe ran to Deacon McCombs who fired one shot and knocked her over handsomely at sixty yards. Another ran to Dick Blakemore, who fired both barrels long shot, but on she went. A fawn ran to Jim Coleman and was killed, he firing two shots. On the lake side a large buck bursted up below the stands and was shot at by a hunter, who lives near by. The dogs were all gone and Captain White getting some more from camp, drove the dogs between the lake and the river. The dogs soon laid up a deer and carried it at a fast rate over the levee and into the woods beyond the lake.

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It was soft and warm as mid-summer, but tonight it is raining and we hope a change will come and with it some weather so that the ducks and geese will come.

Alex. and Dick Blakemore reached camp to-night. We had expected them and they were joyfully received.

FRIDAY, NOV. 13th.

The weather is clear and cold, and no one could ask for a better morning for hunting, and the boys have made it a fine luck out of which to start. A soon breakfast was served. A soon breakfast was served and Captain White makes the drive northwest of camp, the men placed next the lake, and on a line below the stands not a quarter of a mile from camp, a doe jumped in front of Parrish and Mr. Parrish, who was shooting, or trying to shoot, a magazine gun, and before he could learn the new tricks the deer had been shot.

He succeeded in shooting, after a long struggle, and before he could learn the new tricks the deer had been shot.

The dogs were wild and coursed the woods in a hurry. Deer seemed to be running in all directions. A fine doe ran to Deacon McCombs who fired one shot and knocked her over handsomely at sixty yards. Another ran to Dick Blakemore, who fired both barrels long shot, but on she went. A fawn ran to Jim Coleman and was killed, he firing two shots. On the lake side a large buck bursted up below the stands and was shot at by a hunter, who lives near by. The dogs were all gone and Captain White getting some more from camp, drove the dogs between the lake and the river. The dogs soon laid up a deer and carried it at a fast rate over the levee and into the woods beyond the lake.

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