

# Heirs of Unclaimed Fortune Discovered

(By Lillian Ferguson.)

In appearance a ragged tramp; in reality a millionaire whose money could purchase neither the rest nor the happiness which for a lifetime he had craved—this was the man who left his useless wealth behind him when, a few months ago, he was placed in a cot at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Los Angeles.

His fortune has gone a-begging until now. A big legal battle will be fought over it in the courts.

That in this prosaic workday world the heart of man may break with grief and still beat mechanically on is evidenced in the unusual and romantic story which Charles Hill, tramp millionaire, wove silently into the warp and woof of a loveless existence, day by day, year by year.

They were the most desolate of days. They were the loneliest of years.

In the long ago, love came into Charles Hill's life in the rosyate way that passion dawns when one is young and the future an enticing pathway illumined by its radiance.

In the long ago, love crept sadly out of Charles Hill's life, leaving stricken in the darkness of despair, under a shadow that was nevermore to be lifted.

He loved and lost; not as men sometimes love and lose, by a sweet-heart's perfidy, to become cynical and prejudiced thereafter, but by the hand of death, which removes an idol without destroying an ideal—which robs the heart of its dearest treasure yet cannot dim the sacred halo of a fond memory.

The girl who was to have been his wife became the bride of death on their wedding day.

Between the grave in Ohio where, kneeling, Charles Hill bade a final farewell to the love of his youth, to the cot in the Los Angeles hospital, lie more than sixty years.

During those sixty years the silent, reticent man known as Charles Hill was always an enigma to those with whom he came into occasional business contact. Of social ties he had none. He was in the world but not of it. Isolated even among his fellows, touching elbows with mankind, yet never revealing himself to any one excepting as the demands of commercial association necessitated, he drifted here and there, keeping his own counsel, avoiding attention; a mysterious man, but not a morose one; uncommunicative, yet not unkindly; heart-broken man who could not forget his sorrow, and to whom time, the great comforter, brought no healing balm.

In Charles Hill's tattered clothing the public administrator who took charge of his estate found greenbacks to the amount of \$2,000.

He also found a key to a safe deposit box.

When the official went the rounds of the Los Angeles banks to learn

whether the unknown old man, dead in the hospital, was connected with any of them as a depositor, he made a surprising discovery. At the Union Bank of Savings it transpired that the ragged rich man had engaged a deposit box on the 26th of April. President Bartell of the bank accompanied the administrator to the vault and the box was formally opened.

Several packages were revealed, each done up in white cloth covered with wrapping paper on which "Receipts" was written in a large, firm hand.

But they were not receipts.

They were paper of quite different value. Each package contained a thick bundle of crisp, crinkly, new greenbacks. The president and the administrator did a little careful counting and the total figures amounted to \$40,000.

With the \$2,000 found in the ragged apparel, there was the sum of \$42,000 for disposal. But who were the legal heirs, and where? Failing to locate any such, the old man's wealth would in law eventually revert to the State of California. At the hospital no one had been able to win the stranger's confidence. The accumulation of wealth had been his only interest in life, and when he felt his hold upon existence weakening, his mind turned indifferently from the empty riches in the vault, and from his emptier heart came the only cry that he was ever heard to utter:

"I have no one to care for me—no one! No relatives or friends in all the world!"

Then he turned his face to the wall and spoke no more.

There was no specific explanation of death. "Old age" was the only apparent cause.

Several weeks passed, and a Los Angeles detective discovered what he thought was a thread that, being diligently worked upon, would unravel the mystery of Charles Hill's life. Among the latter's belongings was found a small notebook filled with indecipherable hieroglyphics. Entries in the book dated from 1889. At the top of each page, in the middle, the year was written backward. Under this, and extending across the pages, were columns of figures.

Footnotes on the pages referred to the numerals above. Several pages were covered with the names of towns all over the United States, Texas being oftenest written.

After considerable scrutiny the detective announced with perspicacity and solemnity that the cipher was a record of dark doings, and that Hill was probably at the head of some gang of crooks and had come by his money dishonestly. But the detective had hold of the wrong thread. What proved to be the real one was found quite by accident. A Los Angeles correspondent, in a Cincinnati, Ohio, paper, one day last month,

mentioned the death of Charles Hill, an aged tramp, in the Good Samaritan Hospital. "Somewhere in the world," said the correspondent, "there is some one entitled to \$142,000. Where is he?"

The answer came to the question from a Cincinnati woman who happened to pick up the paper; Mrs. Margaret A. Roberts, wife of a painter living on East Court street. She claims the fortune left by Charles Hill in cash, as well as all property left by him in other form elsewhere, on behalf of her widowed mother, three brothers and a sister. Mrs. Roberts says that Hill was her father's half brother. Mylord Tyree, a well-known Cincinnati attorney, has been working on the case since Mrs. Roberts recognized the photograph of her uncle published in connection with the news of his death. Attorney Tyree will shortly make a journey to Los Angeles to lay his client's proofs before the proper authorities.

According to the laws of California, Hill's estate will remain in the hands of the public administrator for seven years. At the expiration of that time, if the lawful heirs have not established their claim, it passes into the hands of 1,500,000 heirs—the people of the state.

Letters by the hundred are being received by the officials, from all over the country, the usual crop of "claimants" having sprung up to quarrel over the old man's money—the poor, rich old man who to the last maintained that he had no relatives nor friends.

The resemblance between his photograph and a photograph of Mrs. Roberts' father is so marked as to carry conviction to strangers that some tie of blood must have existed between the two men. Mrs. Roberts says that Hill, her father's missing half-brother, was born in Edinboro, Scotland, November 22, 1818. That would make him eighty-four, just the supposed age of Charles Hill, who died in the hospital.

Hill's own father, according to Mrs. Roberts' story, died in Scotland, and his widow, Elizabeth Hill, married Mrs. Roberts' grandfather, H. P. Norris. After the birth of a little son, whom they named Hiram P. Norris, Jr., the family, including Charles Hill, Norris' stepson, came to America. They finally located at Troy, Ohio, where Charles Hill and Hiram P. Norris were brought up as brothers.

Hill was a bright, happy boy, but at twenty-one a great sorrow, somewhat like that of the ill-starred poet Edgar Allen Poe, made his heart grow ashen and sober, as the leaves that were withering and sere, and he became a restless wanderer in search of forgetfulness. Ambitious and brave, Charles Hill had boasted to his sweetheart in the country town of Troy of the great fortune he would make for her sweet sake. Kiss-

ing his promised bride good-by, he left for Indianapolis, Ind., to lay the foundation for the realization of his dreams. He secured a position and letters told his aged step-father in Troy, as well as the waiting sweetheart, of the first money earned and heart of the first wedding. On the day the marriage was to take place Hill came back to Troy, to find that his affianced bride had died of a malignant fever at dawn.

Over the girlish form he pledged himself to be thenceforth a recluse. Hill's half-brother supported the stricken man at the funeral and, shortly after he disappeared.

Hill's stepfather died and his half-brother married and had a family of children growing before Hill returned to Troy. He was apparently a tramp, disowning home, occupation and friends. When his half-brother chided him for his carelessness, Hill would take his little niece, Margaret Norris, now Mrs. Margaret A. Roberts, on his knee and say: "Don't you lose faith in me, little one! Be good, and some day I'll leave you a lot of money. It is worthless to me now!" Norris, the child's father, laughed at such statements coming from a man practically in rags and made Hill's supposed fortune the subject of many a joke.

The half-brothers when boys in school invented a cipher, by means of which they communicated and laid mischievous plans during school hours. When the notes were intercepted nothing could be made of them by the teacher, so that the jads revelled in their fun unmolested. This childish cipher was revived by Hill on his second visit to Troy, when he began to keep a diary which he carried in his vest pocket. This is the second link in Mrs. Roberts' chain of evidence, the photographic resemblance being the first.

Hiram P. Norris, the half-brother, was born in Edinboro, Scotland, November 29, 1829. He died in Troy, Ohio, during the latter part of 1895. His wife, Phoebe Anne Norris, still lives at Troy, with one unmarried daughter, Jennie, and a son, Charles. Seven children were born to Hiram P. Norris. Two are dead. The remaining children, who will share Charles Hill's wealth if the relationship is proven, are James Norris, Indianapolis; William Norris, Troy, Ohio; Mrs. Margaret A. Roberts, Cincinnati, Ohio; and Jennie and Charles Norris, who live with their mother at Troy. James, William and Margaret are married and have one child each.

The missing man wrote to the Norris family at various times from Kansas City, Mo.; Denver, Col.; many different points in Texas and from San Francisco. The last letter came from San Francisco saying he had made a lucky speculation in some mining venture.

At Auditorium—The Senator.

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way any movement that would end the strike; the operators have refused to listen to any suggestion of compromise or arbitration.

A way must be found to stir them up. A committee of mediation, such as has been suggested, with its influence and the whole force of public opinion behind it, would be able to do it. At least the effort should be made.

**City Ownership.**

Glasgow, Aug. 23.—Glasgow, foremost of British cities in municipal enterprises, has just given London, slayer of all British cities, a lesson in municipal management of city-owned street railways that is invaluable.

Glasgow owns and operates all its street car lines and it does it with a profit that would make any traction company in the United States envious.

During the last few years the horse car lines have been gradually displaced and have now disappeared from the streets. Although working expenses during the transition period are not perhaps so low as they will be, yet they remained practically the same as the previous year, although the revenue increased from \$2,400,000 to \$3,070,000.

After \$250,000 has been set aside for depreciation, the profit for the twelve months ending May last was \$1,450,000, a sum sufficient to pay a dividend of 15 per cent. on the whole capital expenditure, which is more than the capital borrowed, and to carry \$250,000 to the reserved fund. What Glasgow did after paying its interest and sinking fund charges and presented \$62,500 to the general city fund, was to carry \$500,000 to its reserve fund.

**Pension Money**

Washington, Aug. 28.—The annual report of the auditor of the interior department shows that the disburse-

ments from the appropriations for army pensions for the year ending June 30, 1902, amounted to \$133,550,039 as follows:

Survivors of the Mexican and Indian wars and the war of 1812, \$963,920; invalids, \$100,707,109; widows, \$38,155,677; minors, \$1,112,304; dependent relatives, \$2,400,161; helpless children, \$123,030; army nurses, \$93,362.

The disbursements for navy pensions for the same period amounted to \$3,844,702, as follows:

Invalids, \$2,617,907; widows, \$1,114,939; minors, \$33,989; dependent relatives, \$76,091; helpless children, \$1,776.

The total payments to pensioners was \$137,400,471 during the year ended June 30, 1902.

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**Ordered Out Troops.**

Tamaqua, Pa., Aug. 23.—General Gobin ordered the battalion of the Twelfth Regiment, stationed at Manilla Park, to Smith-Myers washery, two miles south of here, at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon, on the report that a serious riot had started at that place, imperiling the safety of citizens and property.

New York, Aug. 23.—The crisis in the coal situation is imminent. It was the general understanding in Wall street and about the offices of the coal roads today that an effort would be made to start up the mines within a week.

Those who discussed the plan were free in expressing their dread that the coal companies could not resume operations in the face of the strike without disturbance and disaster, the extent of which no man can guess the bounds.

The labor leaders have worked like giants to prevent violence and so far have succeeded, except in a few sporadic instances, but the whole operation is proceeding on the verge of a volcano. There must be no let-up in the effort to restore harmony between the operators and the miners and save the world the horror of another Homestead or another Latimer.

The mighty force of undivided public opinion must be brought to bear on the men whose uncompromising attitude barred the way to an understanding. Let the most eminent men in the community form a committee of mediation and put the naked truth before the contending powers.

If they remain obdurate to the desperate last, the blood of those who go down before the rifles and revolvers will be on their heads and the whole country will know them as men who shed human blood rather than stir a hair's breadth from the position they have taken.

The miners have repeatedly expressed their willingness to meet half-

Valdez, Aug. 26.—Reports of a rich gold quartz strike on the headwaters of the Matanuska have been circulating around town the past week but cannot be traced to anything definite. The story of the first discovery of the rich quartz is like many of the tales which have been circulated in Alaska. It is said that a party of Swedes from Cook inlet were prospecting on the Matanuska a couple of seasons ago when they made the discovery of some phenomenally rich quartz. They staked what they wanted and started to go out for the winter. They met Chris Hansen, however, and told him of their find. The season was too late for Chris to go to the property that year and he decided to wait and return with the original locators the next spring. The party of Swedes started from the head of Cook Inlet in a small boat to a point where they could catch a steamer for the outside. But they met with an accident and the whole party was drowned.

When Hansen returned to the inlet he heard of the drowning and decided to return to the property alone. But some of the people of Cook Inlet had heard of the strike and been shown samples of the ore and when Chris started out he was closely followed so did not go to the property. Last fall he came to Valdez. He had in his possession a piece of white quartz literally covered with gold. Chris showed this to a few people, a representative of The News among the number, but of course he failed to state the locality from which it came.

Chris went broke here during the

winter and in order to go to the property this year he was compelled to accept a grub stake which he had little trouble in securing. He, in company with Dick Windmuller, started over the glacier this spring and nothing has been heard of them since, except the report which was received this week that they were sending out location notices for record. But no one seems to know anything further and the interior mail, by which it was expected the notices would be sent, failed to bring them. Whether any such ledge exists in this section of Alaska as is claimed is left for the reader to determine, but it is a fact that the party was drowned in Cook Inlet and that they had samples of rich ore, similar to that possessed by Hansen.

Ladies' new walking skirts, dress skirts, underwear, and all kinds of fall goods at Mrs. Lueders'.

**\$50 Reward.**

Stolen Sunday, June 8th, one mal-amute dog, very dark grey, white breast, light chops, light grey stripe running from point of nose up between eyes, front legs white, hind feet white, extreme tip of tail white, belly light color; always carries tail curled over back or left side, nose very small like a fox or coon. I will pay the above reward for any information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the thief and recovery of dog.

Answers to name of Prince.

F. J. HEMEN.

Klondike Nugget.

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