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My Mother's Escape From Slavery With Five Children

(By Mrs. Charles Walker)

PART III.

Leesburgh, West Virginia is noted for its hills and it is a very beautiful sight to stand on top of one of these hills and look over the others; so it was with Marse Giddings when he sat on his beautiful verandah and gazed over those beautiful hills, when to his surprise these twenty-five soldiers appeared to him. You can imagine yourself the fright he was in, scared to death as he was of the Northern Soldiers, after hearing how they killed and beat and destroyed belongings of the slave-holders. No wonder he ran to Emily with his cry of "Save me Emily! Save me."

As I have told you previously, Emily was loyal to the master and his family and they thought a wonderful lot of her and her children. Now Marse Giddings ran to Emily because he knew there was no one else that would help him.

Emily wiped her hands out of the water in which she was washing clothes when Marse Giddings ran to her for help. Emily said, "Those look like Northern Soldiers coming and he said, "Yes Emily and for God's sake hide me," or they will kill me.

The soldiers were nearing and Emily had to think quick so she suddenly remembered a loose board in the attic floor, so up to the attic they went and she told Marse Giddings this is the only place I can think of in a hurry, so you'd better crawl under there and lie very still for I'm afraid they'll search every nook and corner of your house for you." The houses in those days were built of big heavy timbers with wide spaces between and one could get in very easy. Marse Giddings crawled in between these boards not knowing whether he would live or die, but knowing he would sooner die there than have the soldiers get him.

When mother returned from the attic she found the mistress in great terror, wondering what was going to become of her, not asking what she had done with the master but all concern for herself. By that time the soldiers were at the house. Emily being one of the most trusty slaves there were on the plantation the mistress left it to her to go to open the door.

As mother opened the door they said to her "Are you the servant of the house, and where is your Master?" Emily's reply was she did not know but she did not think he was on the plantation as she had not seen him for some time, so they replied that they wanted him and were going to get him and would not leave until they had done so. They hunted the house from cellar to garrett, Emily going with them. Not a room or closet but which was searched, things thrown and upset just to do damage to Marse Giddings beautiful home. You can picture in your mind the feelings of the Master when these soldiers were walking in the attic and just a move of him would let them know where he was.

Now they reached the cellar where

thousands of dollars were hidden (by Emily) under old vinegar barrels, money which he had made by selling slaves and had entrusted to Emily to hide for him. These soldiers walked all over and around this money, but you must remember that Emily was guiding them. Nothing was there for them to take so they went to the smoke house and there they took hundreds of hams and chickens and thence to the spring house where they took butter and eggs galore. Then they turned to Emily and asked him where the Master kept his saddle horses and she told them in the barn. Where are the riding saddles? She said they were in the attic, so back to the attic they went to get them. Imagine Emily's fear when they went back to the attic again. She was frightened near to death but they walked right over where he was hidden, took all the saddles and down again. Of course these saddles were very beautiful, but he should care if they took everything in the house but himself.)

The soldiers felt quite satisfied that Giddings was not there so departed with plenty of supplies at the expense of him.

Emily went back to her wash tub until they were well away, and then a mad rush for the attic to see about Marse Giddings, but he was very much alive and said, "Oh Emily, thank God you have saved me, you have saved my life."

(Part Four to follow)

ST. CATHARINES

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dorsay's youngest daughter, Nellie, celebrated her 11th birthday on Friday, June 11th. Many of her school friends were present. She received many gifts. The tables were decorated with flowers and flags.

Rev. Jackson, of Detroit, Mich., delivered a very inspiring sermon on Sunday evening, using as his text, John 3: 14.

Rev. and Mrs. H. F. Logan left Friday evening for Toronto to attend the funeral of the late Miss Mary E. Thompson.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Dorsay and the Misses Viola and Olive Williams of Lockport, N.Y., motored to St. Catharines on Sunday, visiting relatives and friends.

Miss Bessie Bell, now residing in Buffalo made a flying trip to her home on Sunday.

Sunday, July 4th is Rally Day. We trust it will be a success.

The Church Officers are holding a lawn fete and entertainment at the home of Mr. Alex Nicholson, 63 Vine Street, on Monday evening, July 5th.

Miss Verita Smith has been confined to her home with a severe cold.

FRENCH LIGHTWEIGHT ARRIVES

NEW YORK, June 21st.—Fred Bretonnel, French lightweight boxer has arrived for a bout with Stanislaus Loayza, Chilean pugilist, next month.