

The BLUE CAT

#707

Sept/Oct 2020

MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

This is

O A t

P Great

E Intervals

R This

A Appears

T To

I Inflamm

O Optic

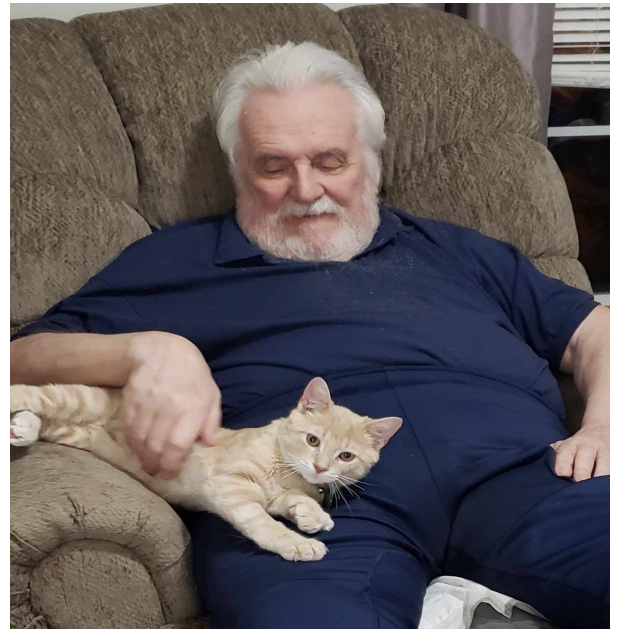
N Nerves.

#2242

Dagon, a now occasional fanzine of commentary on science, science fiction, fantasy, mystery novels, comic art, history role-playing games (RPGs), family, genealogy and anything else that seems like a good idea at the moment, is published by John Boardman, 2548 Carrington Way, Frederick, MD 21702. My landline phone number is 301-801-7970 (the ringer is not always on due the volume of robocalls) However, I may also be reached through Deirdre via cell # 301-514-7073, or at her email address - Deirdrebp@gmail.com.

*

As stated in the last issue, the title of this newsletter has been changed. The new title being the BLUE CAT. This new name refers to the youngest member of our household, a tan and orange kitten which Deirdre's daughter Melissa found using Facebook. Last March, Melissa's older daughter, Elliana, was promised a pet and she decided on a kitten, however with our local Humane Society closed due to COVID-19 the promise was difficult to fulfill. Deciding that the "temporary" time off from school and being under a shelter in place order would be a good time to focus on acclimating a kitten would work perfectly. In April, an orange and tan striped tabby kitten was located on a nearby farm who owns a fully functional female barn cat, and She therefore frequently has a kitten surplus. That kitten is now eight months old, and has been named BLUE after the startling color of his eyes when he was acquired. His eyes have since changed to more of an Amber color, but the name of Blue stands. He is very playful, and a pleasure for all of us to watch.



The human inhabitants of this house are, myself, John Boardman, my daughter Deirdre Boardman Perez, her daughter Melissa Perez, and Melissa's two daughters Elliana, eight, and Alicia, three. Elliana has begun third grade at home through a virtual learning process. Alesia will begin kindergarten in 2022 hopefully schools will be open by then! Our house's other inhabitants are Smitty, a ten-year-old black cat with the usual white spot on his throat, and an eight-year-old white English bulldog who is name is Tank, because he resembles one. All three of our animals are denatured males.

I am particularly grateful for Deirdre's help in publishing The Blue Cat because it is very difficult for me due to a progressive macular degeneration in my eyes. We are using voice to text method to put the words to 'paper' and then Deirdre edits and corrects any issues.

*

Several readers have written to us about the last issue of all Dagon and some have sent in changes of address and other information. Of them, a few to bring up were from Gladys Cardwell informed me of her husband Paul's death. Fred Lerner also wrote to inform me of the death of his wife Sheryl. Paul Kenny has informed me that he has put recent issues of Dagon into a time capsule.

*

George Phillis wrote-in about the song I put in the last issue "Georgie Doodle". Actually, Georgie Doodle was a hoax I wrote as if it had been a satirical song to the tune of "Yankee doodle" about George Washington, satirizing the fact that he led the fight for American freedom while denying freedom to his hundreds of slaves. Phillis wrote that there were slaves in New England, so I should not have mentioned that the satire might have been written by a New Englander. However, they were not nearly as many slaves in New England as there were in the South. Eventually, New England became the strongest anti-slavery part of the United States. Also, the New England Emigrant Aid Society resisted, violently and successfully, the attempt of Missouri slave-holders to extend slavery into the new western territories. As a result, Kansas was admitted to the union as a free state in 1861.

*

I originally intended to put two spaces between the end of one sentence and beginning of the next however, Deirdre informs me that the custom now is to put only one space between a sentence and its follower. I have since heard a discussion on television about this very topic which followed because when I took a typing class in my freshman year of high school I was taught that two spaces were to be left between the end of one sentence and the beginning of the next. In an article title "Nothing Says Over 40 Like Two Spaces after a Period!" By Jennifer Gonzalez it is explained-

Here's why: Back when we used typewriters, every character was given the exact same amount of space on the page. That meant the letter i was given the same amount of space as the letter m, even though it clearly didn't need it. This is called *monospaced typesetting* and it's, well, spacey. We needed that extra space between sentences to make it easier to see the beginning of new sentences.

Word processors and computers and everything that is not a very old typewriter use mostly proportionally spaced fonts, which adjust spacing to the size of the letter. That's why a proportional font can squeeze 12 letters into the same space where a monospace font can only fit nine.

FILK song file

This song is a sardonic commentary on some of the sentimental, nostalgic songs about southern fables and foibles. For example, when Stephen Foster (1826 -1864) wrote the "Old Folks at Home" he needed for his songs theme, rhyme, and meter the name of a two-syllable southern River. He did not use the Pee Dee River. Probably because he suspected that parodies might call it the "PEE-PEE" river. Nor did he choose North Carolina's Cape Fear River because it did not fit the mood of the song. He eventually chose the Suwannee River because he knew that singers would pronounce it "SWANEE". The song below should be sung in as extreme a Southern accent as you can manage, particularly by dropping the "g" at the end of the syllable "-ING" .

I WANNA GO BACK TO DIXIE - Tom Lehrer

I wanna go back to Dixie
Take me back to dear ol' Dixie

That's the only li'l ol' place for li'l ol' me
Ol' times there are not forgotten
Whuppin' slaves and sellin' cotton
And waitin' for the Robert E. Lee
(It was never there on time)

I'll go back to the Swanee
Where pellagra makes you scrawny
And the Honeysuckle clutters up the vine
I really am a-fixin'
To go home and start a-mixin'
Down below that Mason-Dixon line

Oh, poll tax, how I love ya, how I love ya
My dear old poll tax

Won'tcha come with me to Alabammy
Back to the arms of my dear ol' Mammy
Her cookin's lousy and her hands are clammy
But what the hell, it's home

Yes, for paradise the Southland is my nominee
Just give me a ham hock and a grit of hominy

I wanna go back to Dixie
I wanna be a dixie pixie
And eat cornpone 'til it's comin' outta my ears
I wanna talk with Southern gentlemen
And put my white sheet on again
I ain't seen one good lynchin' in years

The land of the boll weevil
Where the laws are medieval
Is callin' me to come and nevermore roam
I wanna go back to the Southland
That you all and "shet-ma-mouth" land
Be it ever so decadent
There's no place like home

The term “white sheet” refers of course to the uniform of the Ku Klux Klan. This was originally an organization of Confederate veterans, organized in Tennessee about eight months after Lee surrendered to Grant. In essence, these were confederate soldiers who turned in their gray uniforms for white sheets. Following the Civil War, they attempted to continue the fight against the US government, “Radical Republicans”, the newly liberated southern African-American’s, and other people they perceived as enemies, including a tribe of original Americans, the Lumbees in North Carolina. Their name comes from a distortion of the Greek word “KYKLOS”, meaning “circle”, And the word klan refers to the fact that many of the settlers in that part of Tennessee were of Scottish origin. Many people seem to believe that lynching was merely hanging someone from the tree, but it was actually a more complicated and ritualized process than that. Victims were often mutilated, both before and after death. There were several cases in which pregnant women’s fetuses were cut out and stomped on. Often, a note was attached to the body explaining the klan’s reason for the lynching. In one case, such a note read “this N-word voted” which in the eyes of the klan was a very serious offense. The poll tax is a tax not only expected to cover the cost action, but was actually a means of preventing voting by African-Americans. White uses of the term “MAMMY”, does not mean the white woman who gave him birth, but the black woman who brought him up and taught him to mind his manners.

The enmity felt by the Ku Klux Klan against the Lumbees lasted long beyond the post-Civil War period. In 1958, there was another skirmish between the Ku Klux Klan and the Lumbees a satirist wrote an anthem for the klan during this struggle:

THE BATTLE OF MAXTON FIELD - Malvina Reynolds

Now brave the Klansmen rallied there
In Maxton town that night,
All armed with knives and pistol guns
And honin' for a fight.
Oh, rally round, you Klansmen bold,
But do not show your face.
We'll burn the fiery cross tonight
And save the Nordic race.

Chorus:

Oh the Klan,
Oh the Klan,
It calls on ev'ry red blood fighting man
Who is free and white and bigot,
Gets his courage from a spigot,
And protects his racial purity the very
best he can.

The Indians, the Indians,
They are our natural foe,
They lure our girls with coke and pie
And take them to the show,
They wear blue jeans and leather
coats,
But anyone can see,
They are not real Americans
The like of you and me.

The heroes left their stores and plow
Their pool-halls and their bars,
And in their gallant hooded shirts
They drove up in their cars,
For in this grave emergency
That mustered every soul,
Who should appear to lead the fight
But Wizard Jimmy Kole!

Now as the cars were drawing in
An ominous sound was heard.
Was that an Indian battle cry
Or just a gooney bird?
Is that a gooney bird I see
Or grandpa's fighting cock,
Or is it a Lumbee war bonnet
That comes from Chimney Rock?

(Chorus)

The headlights shone, the Klansmen
stood
In circle brave and fine,
When suddenly a whoop was heard
That curdled every spine,
An Indian youth with steely eyes,
Sauntered in alone,
He calmly drew his shootin' iron
And conked the microphone.

Another shot, the lights went out,
There was a moment's hush,
Then a hundred thousand Lumbee
boys
Came screaming from the brush.
Well, maybe not a million quite,
But surely more than four,
And the Klansmen shook from head
foot
And headed for the door.

The Lumbee Indians whooped and
howled
In the ancient Lumbee way,
And the Klansmen melted off the
ground

Like snow on a sunny day.
Our histories will long record
That perilous advance,
When many a Klansman left the field
With buckshot in his pants.

(Chorus)

The coppers listened from afar,
They did not lift a gun.
They heard the noise, they said, "The
boys
Are having a little fun."
But when they saw the nightshirt lads
Trooping down the road,
They knew that something went amiss,
The wrong switch had been thrown.

When the coppers reached the
battlefield,
They saw no single soul;
In Pembroke town, the Indians
Were hanging Jimmy Kole.
Not James himself, for he had fled
With his shirt-tail waving free,
But all the joyful Lumbee boys,
They hanged his effigy.

Final Chorus:

**Oh the Klan,
Oh the Klan,
They've hung their little
nightshirts in the can,¹
If you want to see them run,
Shoot a pistol toward the sun,
And give an Indian warwhoop
like a joyful Lumbee man.**

THAT ELECTION

Television commentary about the upcoming national elections on November 3, 2020, there has been mention by some Republicans Commentators about a “Democrat party”. I suspect this may be a suppositious party created by Republicans in a way to draw votes away from the Democratic party and that increases the likelihood of a win by President Trump. Readers should be very careful to check their ballot to ensure that the candidates of the Democratic party are listed, including former vice President Joe Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA), including all candidates for lower offices. Despite tRumps growing unpopularity, there may be difficulty in converting his popular vote to Electoral Votes. Thanks to some 18th-century jiggery-pokery written into the constitution in 1787, you are not actually voting for the presidential candidate whose name appears on the ballot, you are voting for a slate of electors pledged to him. Your state has as many electors as the total number of senators and representatives. In many cases, these electors are not legally required to vote for the candidates for which they are pledged. Several times in the Americas history, the candidate who receives the most votes from the voting public has lost the electoral vote. This happened in the election of 2016, when the Republican candidate lost the popular vote but was elected by the electoral vote. It could easily happen in the 2020 vote. Be sure to also vote for Democratic candidates for the Senate and the House of Representatives, since they may have to pick up the pieces if the vote count last for an unreasonably long time following election day.

In America’s 58 presidential elections there has been five cases in which the winner of the popular vote was not the winner of the electoral vote. In the most recent such cases were the elections in 2000 & 2016. In both elections, the Democratic candidate won the popular vote, but the Republican candidate won the electoral vote.

Several states have enacted laws requiring their electors to vote for the candidate to whom they are pledged. However there is no such law in the Constitution, which overrules state laws. And, there have been several cases involving electors who voted for a candidate other than the one to whom they were pledged.

On election day, the election officials may not have available list of all the people who have already voted by mail. However, if someone follows President tRump’s recommendation that people who voted by mail are to go to their voting place on election day and ask whether they have been recorded as voting by mail, some problems may develop. The election officials may not yet have consulted or even assembled, a list of people who have already voted by mail, and therefore may not be able to answer this question. In this event, tRump has recommended to his voters, that they also vote at the polls thus being able to cast two votes in the same election. This act, or even recommending it, is against the law.

In some states the name of the rapper Kanye West as a presidential candidate has been placed on the ballot by petition. This could also be an attempt to draw voters away from Joe Biden and thus make tRump’s re-election more likely.

Further difficulties may develop after the votes are counted. To judge from what President tRump has already said, he might insist that the vote was fraudulent because so much of it was cast by mail. The FBI has denied any fraudulent votes casting has been a major element in past elections. tRump may basically deny the

(Continued on Page 10)

FAMILY MATTERS - VI

William Thomas (b.1845-d.1901 Lincolnshire, England) and Elizabeth Catherine (née Mayer b.1852-d.1910 Stephenson Co, IL) Melton had one daughter and four sons, one who died in infancy as many did in the 19th century. The two oldest sons were Alvin “Alvi” William (b.1874-d.1957) and George Frederick (b.1878-d.1943) Melton. Sometime around 1900, Alvin and George Melton bought in partnership 360 acres (144 hectares) of first-rate farm land in Cherokee county, Iowa. That farmland was divided by a dirt road in Afton township and was about 7 miles north east of the county seat town of Cherokee. The farmhouse of Uncle “Alvi” stood on the west side of that dirt road, and the farm of my grandfather, George, stood on the east side of the road a little to the south of uncle Alvi’s farm house.

Uncle Alvi and his wife Nora Belle (née Steward b.1872-d.1956) had two children, Lester Alanson (b.1902-.1978) a daughter Lula Irene (b.1907-d.1942). In 1914 that farmhouse gained some more residents, possibly relatives, from England who may have come to America because England just got involved in World War I and they wanted their children to be kept safe in the event of a German invasion. One of them, a girl named Louise Audrey “Louie” (née Beardshaw b.1901-d.1996) and Lester fell in love. When the rest of the family returned to England after the war, Louie married Lester (m.1923) and remained on the farm. Louie was about the same age as my mother and her sister Ruth and they all were good friends. She had a way of surprising everyone who met her. She looked, dressed and behaved like a typical Iowa Farmer’s wife, but when she opened her mouth to speak out came pure Yorkshire. After Uncle Alvi retired, Lester and Louie occupied their farm house and farm. When my family and I last visited the farm in 1967, it was run by “Bill” Melton (Alvin William b.1928), the second son of Lester and Louie, and by his four sons and four daughters. My step-daughter, Karina, was 11 at the time and greatly enjoyed the tour of the farm animals that her cousins gave her, but Deirdre was only two then and doesn’t remember the visit. From what Deirdre has found, we believe the farm is still with the family and being run by one of Bill’s sons Kevin J. Melton (b.1963).

My grandparents, George and Harriet Augusta “Hattie” (née Bushnell b.1881-d.1969) Melton had six daughters and no sons. The daughters were Ruth Evelyn (b.1905-d.1979), my mother Helen Lourene (b.1907-d.2000), twin sisters Doris May (b.1912-d.1989) and Dorothy (b.1912-d.1928), Marjorie (b.1918-d. 2017), and Harriet Jeanne (b.1922-d.2005). After my grandfather died in 1943, my grandmother then moved to town and rented the farm to a succession of renters, eventually including my father. While my grandfather was alive I had visited the farm many times in company with my mother and my two brothers, but I didn’t see it again until my college years when my father was running the place for a time in the early 1950s. About the time I graduated with my MS from Iowa State University, my grandmother sold the land out of the family in 1956.



“Farm Life” George Frederick Melton C. 1932

Ruth married Vernon Dale Goodrich in 1931 and moved to Florida, but they divorced in 1942 and had no children; my mother, Helen, married my father Arthur Charles Boardman in 1931 moving around a bit, first to California, where I was born, shortly after to Rochester, Minnesota, where both my brothers (Karl Martin b.1935-d.2010 and Keith Roger b.1938-d.2005) were born, then to Davenport, Iowa, then Geneseo, IL, back to Iowa again, in 1942 returned to California, my parents then moved back to Iowa in 1949, and in the late 50s they finally settled permanently in California. Dorothy died as a teenager and never married. Doris May married twice, first to LeRoy Fink in 1935, then later to Francis "Heine" Uken in 1939, they had an adopted son George Walter (b.1949-d.1994). Marjorie lived in the Washington DC area, well known in her field working for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, never married, nor had any children. The youngest Harriet, or Jeanne as she went by, married John Muldowney (b.1921-d.1988) in 1943 and had four children, Terry, Jonna, Dan and Judy.

Wanted to include some family photos for family and anyone who might enjoy them!



Circa 1920 L-R
Standing-Ruth, Helen, Hattie
Seated-George, Marjorie, Dorothy, Doris.
(Jeanne not yet born)



Circa 1940s
George & Hattie with their
five surviving daughters



Hattie (Bushnell) & George
Frederick Melton with daughter
Ruth Evelyn



Ruth, George and Marjorie

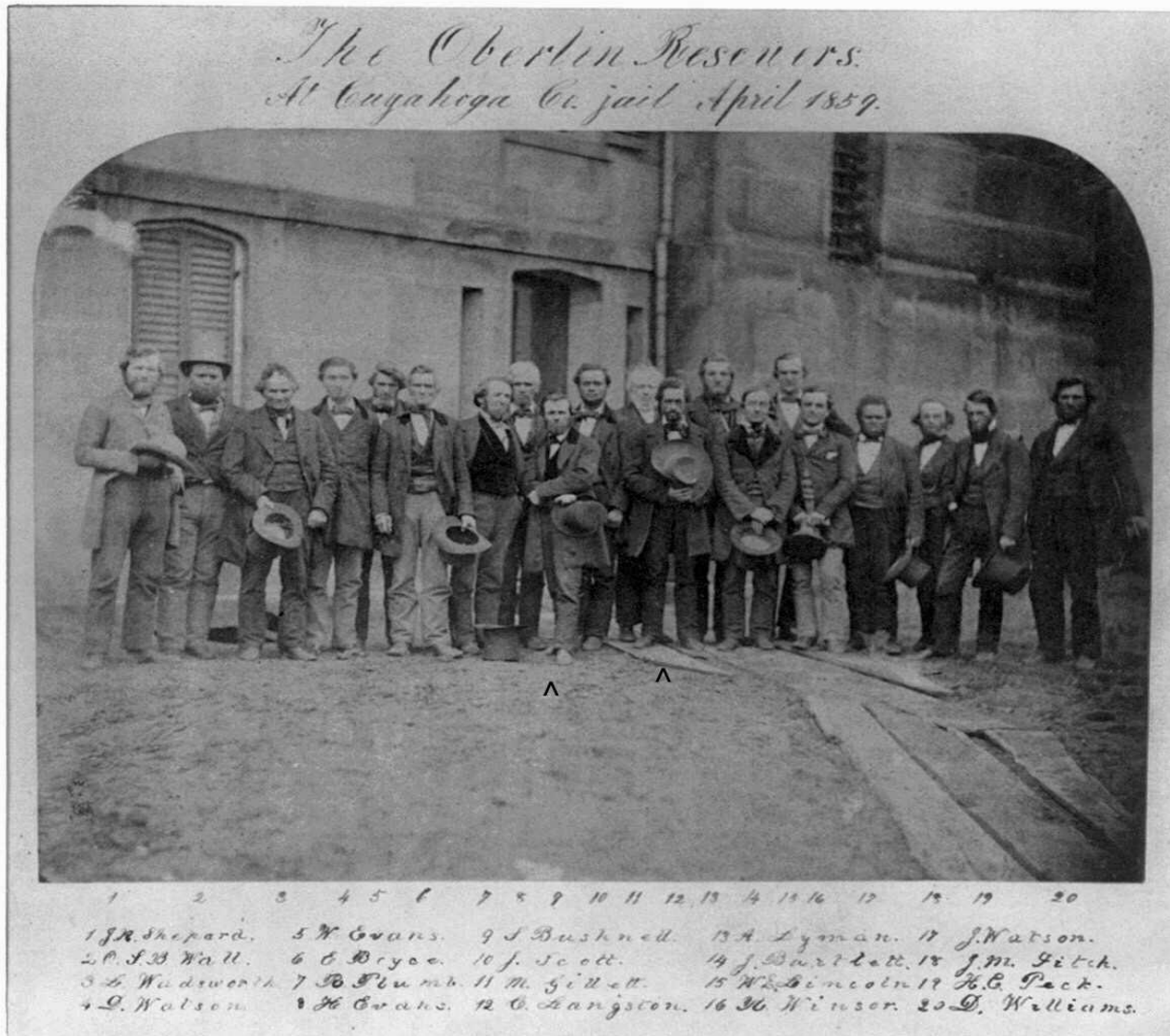


Hattie, Doris (or Ruth?)
George with Jeanne in front.



Hattie, Marjorie, and
George with Jeanne in front

Delving into some distant family, my maternal grandmother came from a prominent American family name Bushnell they all seem to be descended from a Francis Bushnell, who would be my 9th great-grandfather who came from Berkshire England to Connecticut in 1635. Several Bushnell's were prominent in business or in politics, the latter as Republicans. They were eventually scattered throughout the country. My grandmother Melton was born in the town of Cherokee and married my grandfather Melton there. One the more interesting relatives on the Bushnell side of the family was my 3rd cousin 5x removed, Simeon Bushnell (b.1829-d.1861). He, along with two of his uncles, brothers Daniel and Rev. Horace Bushnell (who's son Asa would one day be the Governor of Ohio for two terms), were "conductors" on The Underground Railroad during the 1850s. Although very well know now, for many years whenever I mention the Underground Railroad, many white people asked me what it was about. However, I never got such a question from any black person. They almost always know of or have some family ancestry of someone who was liberated from enslavement by the Underground Railroad. Simon Bushnell lived in Oberlin, Ohio, where he worked as a clerk in a bookstore. Oberlin was also the home of Oberlin College where Simeon also had attended, which still exists, and which was a pioneer in American higher education. It was the first college that accepted women on the same basis as men. It also was one of the first college to admit African-Americans in on the same basis as whites. In 1858, Simeon Bushnell and a black colleague named Charles Langston (eventually to be the grandfather of Langston Hughes) were two of several assisting a man, named John Price, who had recently escaped from enslavement, to go through Ohio to Lake Erie, where he could cross that lake and enter Canada, where he would automatically be free.



Simeon Bushnell is the 9th man from the left, while Charles Langstrom is the 12th.

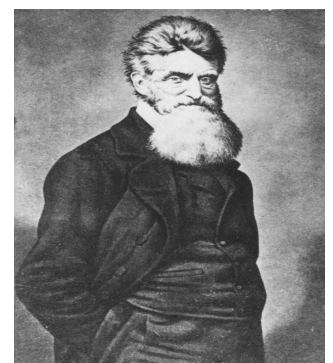
Of the many men arrested 1859, Bushnell and Langston were the only two to stand trial in Cleveland for violating the Fugitive Slave Act. President Buchanan wrote to a judge in the trial, urging him to pack the jury for conviction. Such an act would be illegal as was the letter urging it. However, the jury accordingly found Bushnell and Langston to be guilty and they were sent to prison. If this story was widely known, it may account for the fact that an 1860 Democratic Party did not nominate president Buchanan for a second term, and instead split between northern and southern divisions each of which nominated a candidate with widely separate views on the whole topic of slavery. Accordingly, because of the split opposition Abraham Lincoln was elected the nations first Republican president. After they were released from jail, Langston and some other men from the Oberlin, notably Lewis Leary, traveled across the mountains into Maryland to a farm not far from Frederick. There they enlisted with a tall New Englander whose name and beard were both Brown. This was the famous abolitionist John Brown, who was at this farm organizing a group of men, both white and black, to raid a federal arsenal at the town of Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in order to obtain weapons to enable slaves to fight for their freedom. Unfortunately, Simeon Bushnell was not able to join the raid. Shortly after the arrest and trial he became unwell. His illness was later diagnosed as tuberculosis, which under the conditions of the 19th century was often fatal and he succumbed to it by Dec 1861.

Brown and his trainees were already in violation of the law since many southern states made it unlawful to teach African-Americans, free or slave, to use firearms. Eventually Brown and his followers decided to raid the arsenal. The raid lasted from Oct 16-18, 1859. However, the local militia, armed townspeople, and members of the insurrection resisted this attack. On the way to Harpers Ferry, Brown captured two slaveholders, Weiss Washington and John Allstadt, to be used as hostages. Brown and his men were attacked by the militia, and several men were killed including Leary and Brown's two sons. Brown was taken prisoner and eventually put on trial for treason. This was fairly ironic, since the state of Virginia was itself preparing to commit treason. Brown was sentenced to death and hung on Dec. 2, 1859. Virginia militia men were called on to guard the grounds of the execution, because the state was worried that a huge number of abolitionists or Republicans might come down for the northern states and try to save Brown's life. In both cases the militia called upon included an actor named John Wilkes Booth, of whom you may have heard. Booth later joined the confederate army in which he advanced to the rank of corporal. Charles Langston eventually married Lewis Leary's widow, and adopted his daughter, who was just a little girl. When she grew up and married a man named Hughes, she named their son Langston. He later became a famous African-American author and poet, who wrote mainly about slavery and how it was ended.

In the next "Family Matters" column, I will have a brief item about some more distant relatives on my father's side, which will give information that will relate all the descendants of my great grandfather Martin Boardman (1858 to 1925) and with some problems with people who wanted to live in a big white house in Washington.



A daguerreotypes, on the left, of Brown, taken by African-American photographer Augustus Washington in Springfield, Massachusetts, c. 1846-47. shows Brown is holding a flag of Subterranean Pass Way, his militant counterpart to the Underground Railroad. He did not grow his infamous beard until preparing for the raid as a form of disguise.



THAT ELECTION

(Continued from Page 5)

FBI's remarks, and refuse to vacate his office on January 20, 2021 and try to continue to govern the country, he has 78 days between the election and inauguration day in which to do this.

We may find ourselves in a situation where Donald Trump continues to run the country after inauguration day, insisting that no valid election has taken place. These consequences could very well involve armed force. Keep your options open in this case.

There will be further discussion of this matter in the next issue of The Blue Cat, which will probably be printed in December.

The Blue Cat #707

John Boardman
2548 Carrington Way
Frederick, MD 21702

() - if this space is checked,
you may find something of
interest to you on page ____.