

TWO GIRLS THE HARDIEST OF LAKE ERIE'S FISHERS

They Brave Storms, Risk Drowning and the Shots from Warships.



Have Bought a Home with their Savings.

For three years past perhaps no more exciting or adventurous life has been lived by any woman in America than by two brown fisher maids, whose home is on Lake Erie's shore, near Conneaut, in the northwest corner of Ohio.

They are in the fishing business for gold, and during the three years have saved \$5,000 from their earnings. Many thrilling experiences have been their portion in that time.

Caught in fierce storms, they have battled for life time after time. Their fishing vessel, which they call themselves, has been wrecked, and they have been cast like modern female Robinson Crusoes upon an uninhabited island.

They have even been fired upon by the Canadian revenue cutter Petrel, which, until a short time ago, guarded the Canadian fishing waters around the Pelee Islands. Miss Kate Matthews, one of these courageous girls, has been compelled to swim for her life three different times, and Miss Bertha Miggins, the other, once came so near drowning that she lost consciousness.

Almost three years ago these girls began fishing, but only during the last two years have they had a boat of their own, of which they are both crew and masters.

The only other member of the crew—an occasional member—is an old man, John Huelman, an uncle of Miss Matthews, who lives in Huron, from which point the girls carry on their hazardous occupation during the fishing season. Huelman accompanies the girls only half the time, spending the other half ashore mending nets and transacting other business which he is capable of doing.

Miss Matthews is a strong, well-set young woman of twenty-two years. She possesses a powerful voice, a strong eye, a ready wit and plenty of courage.

Her partner, Miss Miggins, is a slender girl, and exceedingly pretty. She possesses an abundance of bright, brown hair, laughing blue eyes, and is three years younger than her companion.

Both girls come naturally by their love for the sea. Thirty years ago Captain Albert Matthews was a well-known navigator of the lakes. Henry Miggins, father of Bertha and mate of a freighter, lost his life in a collision off Point Pelee, leaving his daughter and wife in rather poor circumstances.

When they were still young, the two girls took many sailing excursions together, and each became adept in the management of a small sailing craft. As they grew older, the necessity of making a living some way impressed them.

"Why not engage in fishing?" one asked the other. "Why not?" was the reply. Many men of the town had been successful for years as fishers; why should not girls succeed?

Accordingly, the two girls engaged in fishing. So successful have they been that they now own the home in which they live, as well as the sloop in which they sail the lake, and each has some money in the bank.

American fishermen in Lake Erie sometimes cross over into the protected grounds on the Canadian side. When they do this intentionally, they are called poachers, and the Canadian revenue cutter promptly puts out after them, if it is in the neighborhood.

While out intending to become poachers, Miss Matthews and Miss Miggins were occasionally drilled over

the forbidden line while busy in pursuit of fish.

Upon one of these occasions they were chased by the Canadian revenue cutter Petrel, commanded by Captain Dunn.

It was a chilling October day, with a white mist in the air that would conceal a full rigged ship at the distance of a mile. On this day Miss Matthews and her companion had gone out without the company of Huelman, and had fished with such success that they had about 500 lbs. of herring in their boat.

For several hours they had been busy, and while Miss Matthews devoted herself entirely to the nets, her companion kept a sharp watch for the revenue cutter.

"There's shooting at us!" shrieked Miss Miggins.

"Let them shoot!" was the other's reply. Those seven words were all that were said during the thrilling experience.

One, two minutes passed, and each seemed like an age. Then there came the boom of another gun. The girls closed their eyes, expecting to be cut to pieces at each report, but the little sloop swept on toward the American line. A third gun was fired, but that was the last. The cutter changed its course, and the pursuit was given up.

There was a very interesting sequel to this adventure. Some time later Capt. Dunn visited the city of Erie. When the Petrel anchored in the harbor, the fishermen of the city planned to give the Canadian captain a big entertainment.

Capt. Dunn accepted the invitation, and it was soon advertised far and wide that he was to be entertained by the men with whom he had been

at times, fighting. The fishing season was at an end, and from Conneaut the two fisher girls came down to Erie.

A Chivalrous Captain.

They met the captain and Miss Matthews asked him if he remembered a certain episode, which she described. Capt. Dunn is said to have the best memory of any man on the lakes.

"I remember the incident well," he exclaimed. "You know I seldom shoot to hurt ladies, and, for the life of me, I could not bring myself to injure that little craft."

"You would never have forgiven yourself if you had killed us, captain," said Miss Miggins, smiling at the old sailor.

"What?" cried the captain. "You don't mean—"

"Yes, we do," interrupted Miss Matthews. Then she related their story to him.

"Well, ladies," said the chivalrous captain, after he had recovered from his astonishment. "If you had surrendered, I would have given you a Canadian fish, and would then have escorted you to your port."

To those accustomed to life on the lakes it seems almost impossible that two young women could stand the hardships of a fishing life, yet both of these Conneaut girls are highly pleased with it.

Their boat is easily handled; their nets are only about a third as large and heavy as ordinary nets, and they have to divide profits with no one but themselves, and with Huelman, when he accompanies them.

While the price paid for herring is seldom above four cents a pound, the books of these fisher girls show that they have never sold fish under four and one-half cents a pound, and frequently they have obtained five cents.

Most of their fish goes to Detroit. But occasionally these plucky girls have had luck as well as other fishermen. Such a stroke came last autumn, in an adventure in which over a thousand pounds of fish were lost, and in which Miss Miggins came within an ace of drowning.

The girls had made one of the largest catches of the season, and were

well under way for Huron, when a storm broke upon them. For an hour they were buffeted about by the wind and waves, then the storm grew in strength, until it seemed that the boat would be hurled under the seas.

During the next hour Miss Miggins threw out 1,000 pounds of fish, while her stowee companion attended to the management of the boat. Safely they weathered the storm, until the entrance of the Huron was reached, when a boom flew around, and striking Miss Miggins across the shoulders, flung her into the water.

The girl was a splendid swimmer, but, weighed by her clothes and exhausted by the exertions of the last few hours, she was in no condition to battle for her life, and, after a struggle of two or three minutes, she disappeared under the water.

In vain Miss Matthews tried to bring the boat around to her unfortunates. While doing so she had divested herself of her outer garments, and now, seeing the hopelessness of effecting a rescue from the boat, she plunged into the river and reached her friend in time to save her life.

The swim to the drifting boat was a fearful struggle, but Miss Matthews reached it with her unconscious burden, and a few minutes later succeeded in getting help from the shore.

It is said among the fishermen of Huron and Vermillion, that the two daring girls are the most fortunate of all those who drag nets for a living, and that, no matter how good or how bad the season may be, they will lay up a good sum of money.

Often Aided by Men.

This is true, not because the young women are particularly skillful fishermen, but because half of the men and boys who leave those ports have their hearts set on the girls.

At first the girls objected to this, but it did no good. On one occasion last year they had very bad luck, and were running to port with almost no fish.

A friendly tug ran alongside, "got wind" of the girls' situation, and, despite their angry protestations, two men shoveled herring aboard the sloop for several minutes.

Then the tug broke away and in the result that by the time the fisher girls reached port, they carried a ton of fish, worth \$50.

Many times, when signs of approaching storm hurried the fishing fleet into port, tugs have thrown a line to the girls and their boat, and have towed them to safety.

Once, however, there came a storm when no tug was near, and when the girls themselves were unable to handle their boat. Around Pelee are a number of small, uninhabited islands, occasionally used during the summer as camping grounds, and full upon one of these the fishing boat was driven.

The girls had little difficulty in reaching the shelving beach in safety, and in fastening their boat there. For a time they enjoyed their predicament. Then night came, and they were compelled to shelter themselves among the trees upon the island.

The storm showed no signs of abatement in the morning, and the last of the food which the girls carried with them on their trip was eaten. This was not sufficient to appease their hunger, and, by the time night came again, they were suffering considerably.

All through that night the girls watched and prayed for the storm to abate. The following morning, although a heavy sea was still running, the girls ventured out, and reached home in safety.

Between 1891 and 1901 one and three-quarter million emigrants left the United Kingdom. On the other hand, we received over a million from the Peak Gavern, in Derbyshire, is entered by a natural arch forty-two feet high and 120 feet wide. It penetrates the mountain for nearly a mile.

Out of every 1,000,000 letters that pass through the British post office only twenty go astray.

Workers in the United States earn an average income of £132.

The Armonian church celebrates Christmas on January 15th.

DAILY FADING AWAY.

The Story of a Woman Made Well by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Bad blood means bad health. That is why Dr. Williams' Pink Pills make good health. They actually make new, rich blood which strengthens every nerve and every organ in the body. That is why people who use Dr. Williams' Pink Pills feel bright, active and strong. Mrs. Arthur Haggan, Marshville, Ont., is a witness to the truth of these statements.

Mrs. Haggan says: "For nearly three years I suffered from anæmia (bloodlessness) and during that time consulted and took medicine from several doctors, without beneficial results. My complexion was of a waxy appearance, my lips and gums seemed bloodless. I suffered from headaches, dizziness and palpitation of the heart. My appetite was so poor that I did not care whether I ate or not and I grew so weak, and was so much reduced in flesh that my friends thought I was in consumption. As I have said I do not regret without benefit, until the last doctor whom I consulted advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I followed his advice, and less than a dozen boxes have made me the well woman I am to-day. All the symptoms of my trouble have vanished and I enjoy the very best of health. I know there are hundreds of women who are drifting into the same condition I was, and to all such I would strongly urge the immediate use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills do not act upon the bowels; they do not interfere with mere symptoms; they go right to the root of the trouble in the blood. That is why they cure common ailments like rheumatism, neuralgia, kidney trouble, headaches, and backache. St. Vitus' dance, and special ailments that afflict so many women and growing girls. Sold by all medicine-dealers or by mail at 50c. box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

The Armonian church celebrates Christmas on January 15th.

The earth weighs 5,532 millions of tons.

Weighted 425 pounds.

The war office in Canada to report supplying horses 16,000.

After spending and all my money, come, get the famous, 899 Princess.

Wm. Murray, 27 BR.

New Carriages, etc., for sale.

Sale of Horses.

HOME.

After spending and all my money, come, get the famous, 899 Princess.

Wm. Murray, 27 BR.

New Carriages, etc., for sale.



Miss Kate Matthews, Captain of the Fishing Sloop "Hone"



Miss Bertha Miggins, Mate of the Sloop

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

Any even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Provinces, excepting B and 25, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person the sole head of a family, or male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section, of 160 acres, more or less.

Application for homestead entry or inspection must be made in person by the applicant at the office of the local Agent or Sub-agent.

An application for entry or inspection made personally at any Sub-agent's office may be filed at the office of the local Agent or Sub-agent, at the expense of the applicant, and if the land applied for is vacant on receipt of the telegrams, such application is to have priority and the land will be held until the necessary papers to complete the transaction are received by mail.

In case of "personation" the entry will be summarily cancelled and the applicant will forfeit all priority of claim. An applicant for inspection must be eligible for homestead, and only one application for inspection will be received from an individual until that application has been disposed of.

A homesteader whose entry is in good standing and not in violation of the regulations, may, subject to approval of department, relinquish it in favour of father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister, if eligible, but so no one else, on filing declaration of abandonment.

When an entry is summarily cancelled or voluntarily abandoned, the applicant for inspection will be entitled to prior right of entry.

Applicants for inspection must state in what particular the homesteader is in default, and if subsequent to the statement found to be incorrect in material particulars, the homesteader will lose any prior right of re-entry should the land become vacant, or if entry has been granted it may be summarily cancelled.

Notice—A holder is required to perform the conditions under one of the following plans—

(1) If the settler has his permanent residence upon a farm in the vicinity of the land in question, he must cultivate the land in each year during the term of three years, or if the father is deceased, a homesteader residing upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for by such homesteader must cultivate the land in each year.

Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa, of his intention to do so.

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST MINING REGULATIONS.

Coal—Coal lands may be purchased at \$10 per acre for soft coal and \$20 for anthracite. Not more than 500 acres can be acquired by one individual or company. Royalty at the rate of ten cents per ton of 2,000 pounds shall be collected on the gross output.

Quartz—A free miner's certificate is granted upon payment in advance of \$5 per annum for an individual, and from \$50 to \$100 per annum for a company according to capital.

A free miner, having discovered mineral in place, may locate a claim 1,500x1,500 feet.

The fee for recording a claim is \$5. At least \$100 must be expended on the claim each year or paid to the mining recorder in lieu thereof. When \$500 has been expended or paid, the locator may claim the land at \$1 per acre.

Complying with other requirements, purchase the land at the rate of \$2 per acre. The patent provides for the payment of a royalty of 25 per cent on the value of placer mining, and 10 per cent on the value of lode mining, payable yearly.

A free miner may obtain two leases to develop for gold of five miles each, at the discretion of the Minister of the Interior. The leases shall have a duration in operation within one season from the date of issue of each five miles. Rent \$10 per annum for each five miles. Rental royalty at the rate of 25 per cent collected on the output after it exceeds \$10,000.

W. W. COBE, Deputy of the Minister of the Interior. Unauthorised publication of this advertisement will not be held for.

The earth weighs 5,532 millions of tons.

Weighted 425 pounds.

The war office in Canada to report supplying horses 16,000.

After spending and all my money, come, get the famous, 899 Princess.

YEAR

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John M

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This is a rare

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McAULY'S

Buy now and s

money.

Thanks to the

very liberal patr

last month.

Yours

GRANT

TUESDAY,

Queen's Glee Sing

Orchestra, assisted

Adams, Violinist

Royal Conservatory

Germany.

Prices 25c., 30c.

Plan at Uglow's,

Seats now on Sale

MONEY IN

More profitable than

any other investment.

Get the famous

899 Princess.

Wm. Murray, 27 BR.

COTTAM

32 Bathurst St.

THE ARCALVA

Have Mines at

rounding Death

to the end of the

selling at four

to ten cents ju

250,000 shares

from

JOS. F. SW

Wm. Murray,

27 BR.

New Carriages,

etc., for sale.

Sale of Horses.

HOME.

After spending

and all my money,

come, get the famous,

899 Princess.

Wm. Murray, 27 BR.

Weighted 425

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