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Veiled Beauty Was Encha

Belles Knew Charm Secret

Tight Pantaloons, Loud Checked Suits, Big Watch Chains and Ascot Ties Characterized Male of the Species Who “Put on the Dog.”

COUNT LAMAR, LEAD MATTHEWS CUT WIDE SWATH IN SOCIETY

Present-Day Tempo Has Sacrificed Culture, Refinement and Exclusiveness, Old Timers Say.

By LOUIS LAUTIER

What was society of the Gay Nineties like? Who composed the more favored or fashionable set? How did they enjoy life?

Oldtimers describe the Naughty Nineties as the good old days. They refer to the days of Dandyism, dandy figure, bare-knuckled prize fighters, and dandies. They were the days of beef trust chomuses and slick river gamblers.

Feminine fashions were inclined toward creations of silk and satin. lace, feathered, lace-ruffled and decolletage, jeweled trimming, embroidery, feathers, fur and flounce.

Veiled Beauty Enchanting

Woman of the 90s usually had several layers of heavy ruffles supporting the hours of their dresses. They wore two for reasons: they felt that veiled head and face gave them more than just a glimpse of allure and they knew such veils would protect their complexion.

A typical sports costume of the era was a tight-fitting shirt, a long skirt with a flare, and a broad-shouldered sailor hat. Costumes were curvaceous. Corsets were like hayracks.

The sporting gesture wore some pantaloons, loud check suits and Ascot ties were also no vagaries. Anybody wanted a long skirt with a flare, and a broad-shouldered sailor hat. Costumes looked that way.

The Veil. Decade, as the present is sometimes called, has the horse and buggy age. Everybody wanted a fast horse and buggy with rubber wheels. Frederick Douglas, the abolitionist and diplomat, who lived at Cedar Hill in Anacostia, was frequently seen driving his white

considerable property. They were highly respected, cultured and refined. High Government officials visited them in their homes.

Unfortunately, Washington society has deteriorated, said a descendant of one of the prominent families of the Nineteenth Century. “Of course, the intellectual development of today surpasses that of the 90s, but the influence of the 90s was more widespread. But people of those days could entertain anybody in their homes and feel perfectly at ease.”

The Douglases and the House of Lloyd

The tempo of the 90s was probably set by Mrs. Douglas. He had remarried in 1884 after the death of his first wife. His second wife was Miss Helen Pitts, a white woman, who belonged to one of the best families in Western New York. He and his wife were invited to all public functions at the White House.

As an illustration of the character of the period, William L. Houston, a special assistant to the Attorney General, who had come here from Evansville, Ind., at the beginning of the 90s, relates the following bit of conversation with Paul Laurence Dunbar, the poet.

“How do you like Washington?” Mr. Houston says he asked Dunbar.

“Why don’t you come and visit me?” the poet answered.

Register of the Treasury Again in 1897

He had previously served as Register of the Treasury under President Garfield. He was Register of the Treasury, under President Garfield, who later became an assistant superintendent of schools here.

Three Brothers

The other family were descendants of Sandy Bruce. There were three brothers — Sandy Bruce, Jr., Robert Bruce, and William H. Bruce. Sandy Bruce, Jr., was the father of John C. Bruce, the supervising principal of the thirteenth division of the public schools. Charles Bruce was the son of Miss Kitty Bruce, a teacher.

The Whistler’s Mikawinas were the residents of Quality Row. Mr. McKivain was a broker. His office was at 695 F Street, Northwest. On Go-Go days it resembled a bank. Government employees crowded it paying and receiving their notes.

Whenever the late Booker T. Washington visited the District of Columbia he always stopped with the McKivains in Quality Row.

Daniel Murray was assistant librarian of the Congressional Library.

The Terrells

The Terrells, the list of those who played a big and little in the society of the Gay Nineties could be continued. For instance, the late Robert H. Terrell and Mrs. Mary Church Terrell and the late Daniel Murray and Mrs. Anna
Count Lamar

There was also Count Lamar, who was in the money lending business himself. Lamar was 10 per cent a month. He had a spot of race horses that was very popular. He drove his horse hobbled to a street corner last week.

Paraded His Board

He was always immaculately dressed. He was said to keep in the middle. His business flourished for available on the street. Cleveland administration came in, there was an exodus of Re- publicans. Lamar was there. He lost everything, except one horse, and all through his hard work and brains.

He was reduced to such straightened financial circumstances that he had no money enough to have horses. In fact, he did not have enough to buy shoes for himself. But he kept that horse until he died.

It was the most pathetically beautiful horse. It was commented the narrator who received this incident of the Gay 90's.

Lead Matthews

There was also Lead Matthews, who lived in Eleventh Street, Bowling Green, Ohio. His residence was located where the home of Miss Robert M. McKnight was. Matthews was also a broker. He had offices in the Board Building at Eighth and F Streets, Northwest, to which he was drifted. He had a phaeton with a coachman and a footman in livery.

James Merriweather

James H. Merriweather also had his coachman and footman. He was also a member of the Department. He became separated from the service and entered the employment of others. His widow, Mrs. Mary L. Merriweather, now lives at 361 S. Ninth Street, Northwest. His daughter is the wife of T. Gillis Nutt, an attorney, of Charleston, W. Va.

Society Exclusive

Washington then was not so thickly populated as it is today. Some society was exclusive. Colored people had good jobs and owned houses near the squares, where they felt they were "colored" beauty was more enchanting then. In 1937 they knew well they would protect their complexion.

The Douglass Tempo

The tempo of society of the Gay 90's was probably set by Mr. and Mrs. Douglass of 19th Street. In 1884 after the death of his first wife, Miss Helen P. Douglass, he belonged to one of the best families in Washington. He and his wife were invited to all public functions at the White House.

As illustrative of the character of Washington society of that period, William L. Houston, a member of the Committee on the General, who had come here from Evanston, Ill., at the beginning of the week, relates the following bit of conversation with Paul Laurence Dunbar, the poet:

"How do you like Washington?" Mr. Houston says he asked Dunbar.

"Well, I like it mainly for this reason," Dunbar is quoted as saying, "in Washington you can select your friends with the greatest of ease and as many as you please."

At that time Dunbar was an assistant at the Carnegie Library, W. Dean Howells, a novelist and critic, who sponsored Dunbar's work, was impressed with the young poet that he bought Herbert Pym, the first novel he wrote, and made the reader to the Blind in the Capitol. His salary was $75 a month.

The Dunbar Fad

Dunbar and his bride, Alice Dunbar Nelson, lived in Elm Street. Dunbar remained there for a while. The popularity was growing and the demand for him as a reader of his poems increased. It became quite the fad for the wealthy people of that era to have Dunbar give readings of his poems in their fashionable teas.

Important Clubs

The men of the club of the Gay 90's were the Pen and Pencil Club, the Benevolent and the Cosmos Club.

The Pen and Pencil Club was formed after the Gridiron Club. It numbered among its members Dunbar, William A. Thomas, Edward E. Cooper, Andrew F. Hillyer, Arthur S. Gray, Charles H. Matson, Hiram L. Houston, and Charles E. Hall. Hillyer and Gray were clerks in the Treasury Department and held what were considered in those days important offices.

Dr. A. M. Curtis, formerly surgeon-in-chief of Freedmen's Hospital, went out of existence. A new generation admitted to the Bachelors' Club. That was the incipiency day Beneficent-Benedict Club.

Cosmos Club

The Cosmos Club numbered among its members most of the notable employers of the day. It was organized by the Benevolent Club when it went out of existence. A new generation admitted to the Bachelors' Club. That was the incipiency day Beneficent-Benedict Club.

Dr. C. S. Monson, artist, was a member. Other members were:

- Dr. C. Monson, artist
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- Dr. C. S. Monson, artist

The Terrells

A list of those who played parts big and little in the social circles of the Gay 90's may be continued. For instance, the late Robert E. Terrell and Mrs. Terrell were members of the Cosmos Club, Daniel Murray, a political writer, and Anna J. Murray.

In that era Judge Terrell was a high school principal and student. Before his death he was appointed Judge of the Municipal Court of the District of Columbia. A member of the Old Law School, from which he had graduated in law.

On Education Board

Mrs. Ann M. Coburn, a member of Oberlin College, was a member of the Board of Directors. Judge Terrell himself had received a liberal education at Harvard College. Mrs. Coburn, a librarian of the Library of Congress.

Miss Mary J. Treadwell, a graduate of Oberlin College, was largely responsible for the introduction of black community school system of the District of Columbia.

The Wormleys

The Wormleys were one of the prominent families. Jim Wormley ran a Wormley's Hotel which was located at the southwest corner of Fifteenth and H Streets, Northwest. Recently, the National Land Trust Company now stands.

Famous for Food

He made famous Maryland fried chicken and Chesapeake Bay oysters. Eclipses from all over the country were attracted to Washington to feast on his Maryland fried chicken and Chesapeake Bay oysters. He even shipped his terrain to Europe.

The Bruce

The Brues were also prominent. There were two families.

There were the family of Senator Charles E. Bruce, who served in the United States Senate from 1873 to 1881. He was president of the District of Columbia from 1881 to 1883 and was appointed...
The following is a list of teachers on the retired list. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were in the service in 1892:


*Miss F. S. Bell, Miss Georgia Brooks, *Miss F. S. Bruce, Miss E. V. Campbell, Miss B. L. Chase, *Miss F. M. Costio, Miss M. D. Dodson, Miss E. V. George, Miss A. A. Gray, Miss Angelina Grimke, *Miss A. E. Hughes, Mrs. T. S. Jackson,


*Miss E. V. Smith, Miss K. E. Tayleur, Mrs. I. S. Thompson, *Mrs. M. V. Ware, N. E. Westley, et al, Miss M. O. H. Williams, *Miss E. F. Wilson, Miss A. Worthley, Miss J. E. Wray.

Ten DC Teachers Serving in 1892 on Active List

Ten teachers who were serving in 1892 are still on the active list, and twenty-six are on the retired list. Those in active service are:


Retired

The following is a list of teachers on the retired list. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were in the service in 1892:


*Miss F. S. Bell, Miss Georgia Brooks, *Miss F. S. Bruce, Miss E. V. Campbell, Miss B. L. Chase, *Miss F. M. Costio, Miss M. D. Dodson, Miss E. V. George, Miss A. A. Gray, Miss Angelina Grimke, *Miss A. E. Hughes, Mrs. T. S. Jackson,


*Miss E. V. Smith, Miss K. E. Tayleur, Mrs. I. S. Thompson, *Mrs. M. V. Ware, N. E. Westley, et al, Miss M. O. H. Williams, *Miss E. F. Wilson, Miss A. Worthley, Miss J. E. Wray.