

A Forgotten Land Reformer

Keansburg, a resort for excursionists and summer boarders on the New Jersey coast, back of a creek running through some low lands, are three graves. On one of these is the following inscription:

"In Memory of George H. Evans.

Born in Hertfordshire, England, March 25, 1805.

Died in Granville, N. J., Feb. 2, 1856.

The great object of his life was to secure homes for all by abolishing the traffic in land and limiting the individual possession of it. As Editor of *The Man*, *The Radical* and *The People's Right and Young America*, he triumphantly vindicated the Right of Each Human Being to a share in the Soil as essential to the Welfare and Permanence of the Republic."

A neighboring stone commemorates the death of his wife Laura in 1850 and states that "she bore without murmuring the privations of her husband in his efforts for the causes he had espoused." A daughter born in 1833 and dying in 1837 occupies the third grave.

George Henry Evans (for that was his full name) came to Keansburg, (now Keansburg) with his brother in 1820. He was a printer and was engaged in various publishing enterprises. In addition to the papers named on the grave there was *The Workingman's Friend* published in New York City. He is mentioned briefly in some biographies. In one he is said to have advocated the abolition of slavery and imprisonment for debt.

The Evans' graves with their inscriptions were shown some years ago to our friend George White of Long Branch. Mr. Ramsay, former mayor of Keansburg, now deceased, and Mr. Ramsay told Mr. White that there was a connection between one of the publications of Mr. Evans and the *New York Tribune* of Horace Greeley. The tradition will not down that Evans and Greeley were closely associated and that the founder of the *New York Tribune* was in strong sympathy with the views of the young English writer. This indeed may be gathered from Greeley's writings. It is even asserted that one of Evans' publications was taken hold of by Mr. Greeley and became the *New York Tribune*.

It would be of interest to LAND AND FREEDOM readers to know if any mention is made of Evans in the biographies of Greeley, and in what way they were connected. Also it would be interesting to have extracts from or facts regarding any of the Evans' publications. The Historical Society of Monmouth County would appreciate any such further information.

Also because Evans was one of our first land reformers it would seem desirable that some effort should be made to restore and preserve for posterity the graves of these devoted souls. The gravestones are of marble and the elements have rendered almost illegible the wording

upon them. Unless the people join in some enterprise of enclosure and caretaking all signs of cemetery use will soon be obliterated.

In the Monmouth County Historical Society is preserved one work printed by Evans in 1837, and entitled "The Moral State of Nations," by John Stewart. On one of the fly-leaves of the book appears a list of the works advertised for sale by Mr. Evans. Among them is "The Rights of Man to Property," price \$1.25, and a pamphlet advertised at 2 cents (author's name not given) bearing the title "Hard Times and a Remedy Therefore."

All traces of Evans' writings have disappeared, though doubtless they exist somewhere. Also all efforts to discover descendants of those related to him have been unavailing. It is for the purpose of eliciting further information regarding him that may be in the possession of some one that this article is printed. Mr. White has been unremitting in his efforts to unearth the facts regarding George Henry Evans and his labors. But it is clearly evident that here was one of the great souls of his time who if he did not see it all realized the real evil at the foundation of society and saw, even as "through a glass darkly," the star that Henry George saw years later.

Same Old Story

EXACTLY 1900 years ago, in the year 33 A. D., according to the current bulletin of Stone & Webster, Inc., "the whole Roman world, embracing the shores of the Mediterranean and most of Western Europe, was shaken to its foundations by a widespread panic."

The trouble started with the failure of two giant commercial houses. One was the firm of Seuthes & Son, ostrich feather and ivory dealers of Alexandria, and the other the purple dye company of Malchus & Co., centered at Tyre with factories at Antioch and Ephesus.

Runs started on the big Roman banks and several failed. The great Corinthian bank of Leucippus' Sons became insolvent. Financial institutions in Carthage, Byzantium and Lyons folded up. The government, in desperation, passed a law compelling the rich to invest a portion of their funds in farm lands.

In order to obtain money with which to buy real estate, the wealthy were forced to liquidate other assets. Throwing of vast properties on the market further depressed business, even land prices dropping to lower levels than previously ever had been known, while auctions dotted the land and the unemployed roamed over it vainly seeking work. Deflation was in full swing, with all its attendant evils.

The unwise farm land law was repealed. The imperial treasury made available a large amount of money for loans. The historian Tacitus made the terse comment: "Thus was confidence restored."

The world has changed little, in basic economic matters, in 1900 years.—Seattle Times Star.

OUR ground rent is a community product. Instead of paying it as a perpetual pension to parasites, use it all to buy the public utilities' physical property at its scrap value, give every public service free to users, as they now ride free in skyscraper elevators, add free hospitals, and pay all operating costs and future construction from the public fund, ground rent, which grows as free public service grows. This combines the best in the Single Tax and Socialist programmes. It gives Free Land and Free Public Service at the same time, and is guaranteed to be no more insane than the system we now have and must throw into the garbage can of history.—GEORGE CARTWRIGHT.