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IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Released December 31, 1908



Code Word:---WAR Length, 1000 Feet

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THE SELIG POLYSCOPE CO., Inc.

45-47-49 Randolph Street
CHICAGO, ILL., U. S. A.



In the Shenandoah Valley

See SHERIDAN'S GREAT RIDE

It is the morning of April 12, 1861, a day destined to be fraught with action, the result of which would cause the greatest civil strife the world has ever known.

A ball is in progress at the winter home of the Ellinghams, a Virginia family noted for its hospitality and famed for its patriotism and wealth since early Colonial days. Robert Ellingham and Captain Kerchival West had been classmates at West Point and are now both officers in Colonel Thoburn's regiment of the U. S. Regular Army stationed at Charleston. Beauregard had already sent his famous message to Major Anderson, "I shall open fire in one hour," and the inhabitants of Charleston had gathered in the grey twilight of the morning to witness the bombardment.

As our story opens Ellingham and West are discussing the probability of war. Ellingham, a hot, impetuous Southerner, has just remarked that if war does come he will join the Confederacy, to which West quietly answers, "I hope to God, Robert, we may never meet in battle." Their Colonel arrives with an order from Washington commanding all officers who are to prove loyal to the government to report to Colonel Lyon at St. Louis, and dismemberment of the regiment begins.

Robert's beautiful sister, Gertrude, is in love with Robert's friend, Kerchival West, but West has a rival. Edward Thornton, a dissolute resident of Charleston and a rabid Secessionist, is also in love with Gertrude, and during our opening scene he attempts to force his attentions on the distracted girl. She repulses him and he, becoming enraged, so far forgets himself as to actually take her in his arms, saying, "If it was that Northern soldier, West, who held you I suppose you would not object." West enters the room and overhears this remark. "Excuse me, Miss Ellingham, if you will kindly retire I think I can answer Mr. Thornton's remark to his entire satisfaction." The girl, knowing Thornton's reputation, leaves the room in fear and trepidation, and as she disappears Thornton turns to leave. He is halted by the cool voice of West. "Mr. Thornton, you are a contemptible coward." Words such as these to a man of Thornton's nature can lead to but one result, a duel, and he turns on West and strikes him in the face with his heavy riding glove. Before the affair can go farther several of the male guests enter the room and separate the rivals. A duel is quickly arranged, and Gertrude, seeing Thornton and his friends leave the house, returns to Kerchival to express her regrets. "Miss Ellingham, I may never see you again, for, as you know, my duty will call me to the defense of the Union, while you will no doubt return to your home in the Shenandoah Valley. But before we part I must tell you that I love you and always shall. If I live, may I return to you after the war is over. Can I ever hope to win your love?" The brave girl placed between love and duty hesitates. At that moment there is the sullen boom of a distant gun, a slow, bright line of fire in the sky—Beauregard has kept his word. A shell breaks upon the fort, Major Anderson opens fire on the shore batteries, and the inevitable has happened—war with all its horrors has come to the American people. The girl decides. "No, no! I am a Southern woman. We are enemies!" She sinks sobbing to

her knees. West turns despairing from the woman he loves to go and avenge the insult Thornton has offered her.

Our next scene shows the Botanical Gardens at Charleston, where the duel takes place. Thornton is wounded, but not seriously, and West generously offers his hand in pardon. "No, damn you, we will meet again. You have marked me for life, but my turn will come."

IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY OCTOBER 19, 1864.

Four years later our next scene opens at the home of the Ellinghams, twelve miles from Winchester. A regiment of Union cavalry, under the command of Colonel Kerchival West, are quartered on the Ellingham plantation. A scout, disguised as an aged farmer, steals up to the gate and leaves two letters for Gertrude. One a secret dispatch addressed to Captain Edward Thornton of the Confederate Secret Service, which she is asked to deliver and which she determines to do. The other is from her friend, Miss Thoburn at Washington, telling Gertrude of West's assignment to duty in the Valley and wondering if she and West still meet. "You know, Gertrude, you told me in Charleston that you loved him."

A meeting between the lovers follows. Then we see the brave girl deliver the dispatch to Thornton, only to be arrested with him and brought back to face Colonel West as prisoners of war. The girl is paroled, but Thornton is searched and the dispatch found upon him. Realizing that his fate is sealed, he determines to revenge himself upon West. Seizing a drawn sabre from one of the guards, he slashes at West, slightly wounding him, then makes a dash for freedom. He is followed by Sergeant Barker, West's favorite orderly, and shot by him just as we see a detachment of Confederate cavalry charge and capture a Union battery. This is one of the most thrilling reproductions of grim visaged war ever produced in motion pictures.

Our next six scenes reproduce in rapid succession historical incidents of one of the world's greatest battles.

General Jubal Early, in command of the Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley, learns through his secret service that Sheridan is away from his army, having been called to Washington. He quickly decides to surprise the Union forces on Cedar Creek. Their leader being away will render them easy prey, and so it proves. Thoburn's position on the extreme right is attacked just at daylight. The surprise is complete. His position is turned in an instant, and within two hours from the firing of the first shot Sheridan's entire magnificent army is streaming back on the pike towards Winchester. Sheridan has, however, returned, and stopped over night at Winchester Tavern. As he finishes his breakfast a scout from Custer's cavalry rides up with the intelligence that there is heavy firing in the direction of Cedar Creek, and Sheridan starts on his famous ride destined to be an epoch-making event in American history. We see Sheridan and his entire staff with foam flecked horses drawing nearer and nearer to the scene of battle. At last they reach a mass of stragglers, who, wounded and bleeding are struggling to the rear.

Pond, in his history of the Civil War, thus tersely describes the effect of Sheridan's ride:

"Far, far in the rear was heard cheer after cheer. 'Reinforcements are coming!' flies from lip to lip among the retreating soldiers. Not reinforcements but a host. General Phil Sheridan, the most beloved leader of men our great war produced."

"Turn back, boys, we'll lick 'em yet," he yelled as he dashed by, and his potent personality turned defeat to victory, for every soldier able to handle a gun followed little Phil. Quick, sharp, decisive orders. Mounted

officers flying here and there with them soon brought order out of chaos, and the Confederate forces who, two hours before, were streaming over the battlefield of Cedar Creek a conquering legion, found themselves face to face with a foe, reformed into a victorious, unconquerable army, and all this the result of man's love for leadership.

The confidence of the Army of the Potomac in Phil Sheridan amounted to an absolute belief in his infallibility. He was their hero, and with him to lead them not a man in the army believed there was such a word as fail.

AFTER THE BATTLE.

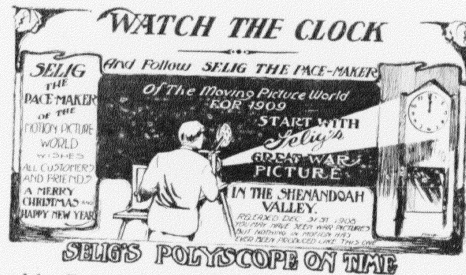
Our next scene, "After the Battle," finds a hospital corps under a white flag, sent by General Thoburn at the request of Miss Ellingham, to search for the body of Colonel Kerchival West. No words of ours will help this scene. Its action truly speaks louder than words.

We next see the wounded colonel in an old church which has been converted into a hospital, there being nursed back to health and strength by his Southern sweetheart. Love, the great conqueror, has wiped out sectional feeling, and her woman's heart belongs to her lover and not to her country.

Six months later peace has been declared and Gertrude and Kerchival are united. The war is over and they are now preparing to leave for General Thoburn's home in Washington.

LIVING THE BATTLE OVER—THE REUNION.

We are then privileged to witness a scene which, in 1865, was being enacted in almost every city in this great country—the bringing together of the living members of the disrupted families. Our old sergeant has called to pay his respects to his colonel, and is at once asked to again rehearse for them the stirring scenes of the battle of Cedar Creek, and to tell them where he last saw the missing colonel—Kerchival West. Barker sets up a battery of teacups and lays out the mimic battlefield for the guests. But in his excitement at the recollection of General Sheridan's arrival he sweeps over the teacup battery like a whirlwind, much to the disgust of old Margery, the guardian of the china. "Never mind, Barker," laughs the general. "Tell us where you last saw Colonel West." "The standard bearer of the battery fell mounted on a swift black horse spurred by the battery. It was Colonel West, and leaning forward he swept Old Glory from her lowly position and, followed by a hail of Confederate bullets I saw him disappear behind a little school house right about there." (Pointing with his cane.) A lady reaches over his shoulder and, taking the cane from his trembling hand, corrects "No, Barker, not over there, but over here, at the little church where we were married this morning." And the happy guests turn to find Colonel West and his pretty Virginian wife standing clasped in each other's arms.



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