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The War Record of The Holt Family

HOLT OF WESTON SPURNS
UNITED STATES FLAG AS
SOCIALISTS CHEER HIM

Headline from the
CLARKSBURG EXPONENT
(Democratic)

APRIL 12, 1917



The War Record of The Holt Family

The following quotations from newspaper articles and editorials speak for themselves regarding the war record of Dr. M. S. Holt, of Weston, West Virginia.

1. A news dispatch under heavy headlines appeared on the front page of the *Clarksburg Exponent* of Thursday, April 12, 1917, as follows:

Holt of Weston Spurns United States Flag as Socialists Cheer Him.

“Saint Louis, April 11—In a dramatic appeal to the gathering not to assist the United States in the war with Germany, Dr. M. S. Holt, of Weston, West Virginia, today addressed the meeting of socialists in convention at the Planters’ Hotel, and was loudly cheered when he stated that he would not let his boy fight for the stars and stripes.

“‘I sent my boy to South America so that he would not have to go to war,’ declared Holt. His declaration brought the audience to its feet, and he was given round after round of applause.

“Ida A. Beloff, one of the delegates from Kansas, urged mothers not to allow their sons to defend the flag.

“‘Why should mothers lie down in the jaws of death and become mothers to permit their sons to be gun fodder,’ said she.

“Mrs. Kate O’Hare, of this city, one of the delegates from Missouri, urged the bitterest criticism against the war. She defied the government to interfere with the speeches, declaring that Saint Louis was opposed to war.

“‘We will not be molested for free speech in Saint Louis,’ said Mrs. O’Hare, ‘because the people of this city are against war, and the authorities are afraid to molest us.’

“Thomas Williams of California was hissed from the rear of the convention hall when he declared that he was an American. He said that the convention was too pro-foreign to do justice to Americanism and openly showed its pro-Germanism.”

2. On Friday, April 13, 1917, the following editorial appeared in the *Clarksburg Exponent*:

An Underhand Holt

“‘If I were an American as I am an Englishman, while a foreign troupe was landed in my country I would lay down my arms—never! never, never,’ quoth William Pitt, in a speech in England, November 18, 1777.

“‘I sent my boy to South America so that he would not have to go to war,’ quoth Dr. M. S. Holt in a speech in Saint Louis, April 11, 1917.

“The Exponent is not prone to dignify traitors to the flag of this nation with editorial discussion, but Dr. Holt lives and enjoys the blessings of freedom in our neighboring city of Weston, West Virginia, and we take notice of his anti-American statements as they were wired to the Exponent by the Saint Louis Republic, on the same basis that it is sometimes necessary for a gentleman to step aside long enough to kick a dog.

“But first let us have the predicate! ‘In a dramatic appeal to the gathering not to assist the United States in its war with Germany, Dr. M. S. Holt, of Weston, West Virginia, today addressed the meeting of socialists in convention at the Planters’ Hotel, and was loudly cheered when he stated that he would not let his boy fight for the stars and stripes,’ says the dispatch from the Republic.

“‘I do not believe that the state can last in which Jesus and Judas have equal right in public affairs,’ declared Carlyle to an American clergyman. The Exponent sometimes wavers in its faith of the perpetuity of American institutions when travesties on mankind are allowed to rear on their hind legs and deliberately insult the American Flag even while the flag is being fired on by a hellish foe abroad and abused and dragged in the mire by copperheads, traitors, renegades, perfidious and disloyal folk like Holt at home.

“We are rather amazed at Weston folk—rather astonished that they permit a nuisance to go unnoticed in their midst. Are Westonians, yea, West Virginians, losing their patriotic pep? Has the unmatched, unafraid spirit of Stonewall Jackson, George A. Custer, Lewis Wetzel and many thousand others who have marched from this domain in every war that the nation has fought right up into the jaws of hell to fight for the old flag that makes such damnable counterfeits as M. S. Holt, died?

“If the people of Weston do not keep M. S. Holt’s son in South America and put a curb bit on M. S. Holt himself when he shows up there after he spilled that diarrhoea of bunk and damnation in Saint Louis, we shall be amazed. Any man who

would utter such sentiments against the nation that protects him when it is at war with a foreign foe, should be strung up by the thumbs and attended to with a base ball bat.

"*The Exponent* is not a hell-bender for war, but it is distinctly and everlastingly for the old Flag, as Stephen Decatur once said, right or wrong. *The Exponent* hopes that if it ever falls so low as to utter anything in the order of the flannel mouthed copperhead of Weston that its tongue will cleave to the roof of its mouth and its good right arm wither and die."

3. On the front page of the *Weston Independent* of Tuesday, April 17, 1917, was an article which in effect stated:

(a) That at an agricultural meeting in the High School Building, City Clerk, Dana Young, called attention to an editorial of a Clarksburg paper which condemned Dr. M. S. Holt for his unpatriotic utterances in Saint Louis, as stated by the Saint Louis Republic.

(b) And that a resolution was adopted condemning Dr. Holt.

4. Also, in the same issue of the *Weston Independent* appeared the following letter:

"Editor Independent—

"Will you allow me to correct the statement made in the *Clarksburg Exponent* relative to the mass meeting held in the High School Building for the purpose of organizing Lewis County Patriotic Food Production Club. *The Exponent* makes it appear that the meeting was called for the purpose of condemning the speech of Dr. M. S. Holt made in Saint Louis, and that the Chairman of the meeting introduced Dana Young. Nothing is ever gained by misstating facts and in justice to all parties concerned let the truth be known. The resolution concerning Dr. Holt's speech which was so heartily adopted, was made by Dana Young, who stated that he would not ask a second, and was only an incident to the meeting. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Young without the previous knowledge on the part of the chairman, that he intended to make it. The part taken by the Chairman was his vote in favor of the resolution and his commendation of Mr. Young for his bravery in doing what was an unpleasant, but necessary duty.

(Signed) E. E. WHITE.

Weston, April 16, 1917."

In a front page article the *Clarksburg Exponent* of April 14, 1917, carried an account of the repudiation of Dr. M. S. Holt by the people of Weston. In substance the article stated:

(a) A mass meeting presided over by Rev. E. E. White and attended by more than 500 people was held.

(b) City Clerk, Dana Young, a prominent Democrat of Lewis County, read the news dispatch contained in the *Clarksburg Exponent* giving the nature of Dr. Holt's unpatriotic Saint Louis speech. Also, Mr. Young read the *Exponent's* editorial of April 13, quoted above.

"Everybody who endorses the *Clarksburg Exponent's* editorial in this connection will please stand up," said Mr. Young, and the entire audience arose with a shout, many children and women waving handkerchiefs, hats and miniature flags, along with the men.

In a long editorial on April 17, 1917, the *Clarksburg Exponent* quotes Judge Haymond Maxwell as follows:

"I heartily commend my Weston friends for their emphatic denunciation of the disreputable and disloyal conduct and utterances of M. S. Holt."

5. In an editorial the *Clarksburg Exponent* of April 18, 1917, quotes a letter which Dr. M. S. Holt had published in the *Clarksburg Telegram*. The quotation follows:

"My son in the last week left America at his own volition and by desire of his mother. Why! he left to go to a country where they had peace. My son went to South America, started within the last week. He may go to Brazil, but I want him to go to a country that is at peace. I did not raise my boy for cannon fodder. Millions of mothers over this country today are looking forward to see what is going to be the result of this convention. I left my wife with tearful eyes on account of her sons, one approaching the age and the other at the age when he could be conscripted. He is in technical school, studying to be a chemical engineer. Now, gentlemen, Prussianism drove the best men out of Prussia, and drove them to America. Are we going to adopt Prussianism here, and drive our best men to some other country? That is the question."

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