

AERONAUTS AT PLEASANT SPRING

MYSTERIOUS GERMAN AIR TRAV- ELERS ENCOUNTERED BY FARMER AND HIS SON.

PLEASANT SPRING, Tenn., April 22.—(Special.)—Herman Schubert, who lives almost on the edge of town, and is a well known citizen of the county, is authority for the statement that the "German Aeronauts," who have been reported from Dickson and Bold Spring, have visited this section. Mr. Schubert's son, a 16-year-old lad bears out his father's statement. Mr. Schubert is a German, but settled here a number of years ago and is the father of an interesting family of young Americans.

Mr. Schubert finds little remarkable in the story he tells, as he regards the strange travelers as merely visitors from what he calls "the old country." Of a stolid temperament, with little sense of humor and of that nature in which wonder is rarely excited, Mr. Schubert views with equanimity happenings which would arouse the wildest interest in the average American.

The Schubert family occupies a 110-acre farm, half of which is in cultivation. There is a large spring on the farm, at the edge of a forty-acre wood lot. The spring bubbles up through solid rock into a sort of natural basin twenty feet wide. This small section of rock is the only outcropping within a mile of the rock formation, which underlies this whole section. The spring is the head-water of a small stream, which, from its rise on the Schubert farm, is known as Schubert Creek.

Mr. Schubert and his boy, Carl, were down at the spring-house Sunday evening, and tarried until near dark. The boy finished his labors first and sat on the edge of the natural rock basin waiting for his father. The old man was surprised by the call of his son, given in a half-frightened tone, and he hastened outside. From this point the narratives of both father and son agree in every essential degree.

At an elevation of several hundred feet the two saw a large airship or balloon; from their account it is impossible to decide which. Suspended from the body of the air machine was a large closed car, very similar to the body of a stage coach, except that it was probably thirty-five feet long, and had an entrance on either side instead of at the end.

The airship dropped lower and lower, and appeared about to alight on the edge of the clearing, a few feet from the spring. Mr. Schubert called his son and the two re-entered the spring-house, from which a view of the visitors could be secured. As the car touched the ground, a company of twelve or fourteen people walked toward the spring. Their attitude was one of reverence, as though standing on sacred ground, or in a sacred presence.

On reaching the spring the party ranged along the edge and knelt, apparently in silent prayer, being thus engaged for several minutes. They then started to return to the car. Mr. Schubert, decided the matter had gone far enough, and addressing no one in particular, he asked what they were doing there and who they were.

The party, with one exception, continued unheeding on the way to the car. Only one of the party took note of Mr. Schubert's request. Turning toward the two this one of the travelers said, without raising the head covering: "Sie haben nicht gebeten; Rede uns nicht an," which Mr. Schubert says is the German equivalent for "Thou hast not prayed; address us not."

Mr. Schubert spoke to them in German, and the spokesman replied, evidently surprised at hearing the tongue: "Unsere wohlfarth is noch nicht vallented; in guten zeit wird die welt alles wissen." This, Mr. Schubert says, is German for: "Our pilgrimage is not yet completed; the world will know all in time." The spokesman then turned and followed his companions into the car, which rose rapidly and took a southerly direction.