

HISTORY OF ELK COUNTY.

By A. Northwestern Pennsylvania.

FORMATION OF ELK COUNTY.

REUBEN WINSLOW.

Endowed with a vigorous constitution, and an intellect above mediocrity—he was well fitted to enter upon the hardy enterprise of carving out a fortune.

THE COUNTY SEAT QUESTION.

The county seat of Elk having been fixed by the Commissioners, county buildings finished, courts regular, taxes lower than was anticipated, county orders at par, and everything going on smoothly, it was reasonable to conjecture that the time for disturbing the county by its removal was past.

St. Mary's was comparatively in its infancy, and from the peculiar character of its settlement bid fair to grow up into "quite a town," the surrounding lands bidding fair for speculation and settlement.

Will. A. Stokes, Esq., of Philadelphia, took an interest in the scheme of selling these lands to "actual settlers" at a profit of some seven or eight hundred per cent., and which would be accelerated by having the county seat at St. Mary's.

No sooner was the introduction of his bill to remove the county seat known in Ridgway and other parts of the county, than a meeting was held to remonstrate, and we cannot better give a view of their temper towards the originator of the scheme than to republish their expression as published at the time.

WHEREAS, We are apprized that secret movements are in progress to effect a removal of the county seat of Elk county by privately circulating petitions in certain sections of the county, and by simultaneous efforts of one or more individuals at Harrisburg, (who are personally and pecuniarily interested) to procure hasty, and of course unfair legislation to effect their object; that as citizens of Elk county, we regard this attempt to forestall and coerce legislation, as impolitic, unfair and mischievous, and as impolitic as the country is yet new, population sparse, and the county buildings already erected and finished, the location convenient, and fixed by Commis-

sioners appointed by a former Legislature—unfair, as the grounds were conveyed and the buildings constructed by private donations, incurring but little expense comparatively to the county—mischievous, inasmuch as changing the county seat when located legally and judiciously with regard to present and future convenience, would be establishing a precedent that in a few years may again agitate the citizens of the county whenever aspiring and interested landholders, or the more subtle and private intriguing of the temporary sojourner, may see fit again to disturb its location, its prospects or permanency.

Mr. Stokes must have felt chagrined at this allusion to himself; and he at a subsequent meeting appeared and demanded the author of that "preamble," a citizen immediately arose announcing its paternity. Mr. S. did not follow his inquiries further than to say it was unjust towards him. An Irishman upon the levee at Pittsburgh, "spoiling for a fight" had placed a chip upon his shoulder, and was stalking among the "wharf rats" daring any one to knock it off. Soon was the chip flying in the air above the head of the challenger.

The county seat was not removed.—Mr. Stokes did—he was evidently disgusted with the inhabitants and county. He purchased a handsome place in Greensburg, Westmoreland county, and was for many years the distinguished counsel of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The first court in the new county of Elk was held at Caledonia, December 19th, 1843. Ridgway was de facto the proper place; yet Mr. Winslow, as a chosen Commissioner, (the two others yielding), claimed the authority to appoint the place for holding courts, as no public buildings were yet erected.

Judges James L. Gillis and Isaac Horton, Benj. R. Petriken, George R. Barrett and Lewis B. Smith were sworn in as attorneys, W. J. B. Andrews, Prothonotary, and Reuben Winslow and Chauncey Brockway as Commissioners; Mr. Brooks, the other one, not present. There was but little business done otherwise.

The second court was held at Ridgway in the school house on the 19th of February, 1844. Present—Alexander McCalumet, President Judge, Isaac Horton, Associate, Eusebias Kincaid, Sheriff, and N. W. Goodrich, Prosecuting Attorney. Constables and erior were duly qualified, and all the paraphernalia, and due observances of the duty and dignity of a court were strictly observed.

From its very simplicity; the personal acquaintance among the audience; the freedom from acrimony among the litigants; the little mistakes of newly appointed servitors of the court; the innocent repartees among the little crowd, all combined to render this little "Judiciary" an episode long to be remembered by the one who chronicles its little history. Many who participated in its action, have passed away, others have grown gray and retired, whilst the wandering boys, who watched its proceedings with so much interest, are now acting and directing the affairs of courts and the political government's of their county and State.

The proceedings of that little court will no doubt have made an impression on those who attended it far more enduring than any court thereafter held in the county, being more near to the reminiscences of childhood, which are so indelible, and remain the last.

The author of that little song, "Oh, I wish I were a Boy Again," exhibited more the poet than the philosopher. It would have been more appropriate, more like an acquaintance with human nature, to have said "Oh, would I were an old Man (or Woman,)" for then would bubble up the fountains of memory—then would the childish plaything be enjoyed without the anxieties for their acquisition or tears for their loss—the pleasures of school, without the mental fatigues of study—the sports of the ring or with the ball, without its physical endurance—all the little pleasures of childhood, its feelings of dependence and love of mother, all the enjoyments of youth, unalloyed by the disappointments they practically experienced—loom up before them, and they mentally rejoice that they are a boy again.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

A Western editor published a long leader upon hogs. A rival paper in the same village upbraids him for obtruding his family matters on the public.

NEW CASH GROCERY STORE.

JAMES McCLOSKEY, Dealer in Groceries &c., would respectfully inform the citizens of Kersey and vicinity, that he has gone into the Grocery business, and will open on or about the middle of May. He keeps constantly on hand an extensive stock of

- TEAS, FLOUR, SUGARS, SEGARS, WHISKEY, TOBACCOES, LAMP OIL, MEDICINE, PAINTS, LEAD, LUBRICATING OIL, TANNER'S OIL, PERFUMERIES, VARNISH, BRUSHES, DYE-STUFFS, CONFECTIONERIES, RAISINS, CITRON

by the barrel or quart, and everything connected with a first class Grocery Store.

I will sell for CASH and consequently can afford to sell CHEAPER than the CHEAPEST. I invite everybody to call and satisfy themselves.

JAMES McCLOSKEY. May 3d, '66.—6m.

KEROSENE AND GAS STOVES.

TEA AND COFFEE BOILERS, GLUE, POTS, OIL CANS, &c., &c.

All the cooking for a family may be done with Kerosene Oil, or Gas, with less trouble, and at less expense, than by any other fuel.

Each Article manufactured by this Company is guaranteed to perform all that is claimed for it.

Send for Circular.

LIBERAL DISCOUNT TO THE TRADE.

KEROSENE LAMP HEATER CO., 206 PEARL STREET, N. Y. July 19'66.—1y.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.—The partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

W. P. WILLIAMS, H. O. McCONNELL. August 1st, '66.—3c.

VALUABLE LOTS FOR SALE.

The undersigned has laid out a village upon his ground adjoining the Ridgway Depot, to be called ELK. The lots are 50 feet front by 100 feet deep—fronting towards the railroad.

Terms.—For the first lot sold, \$100. For the second lot sold, \$110. For the third lot sold, \$120—and so on increasing in price as lots are sold.

First purchasers get the choice lot at the cheapest rates.

Purchasers will be registered in the order of their application. Ten per cent of the purchase money must be paid at the time of the application.

Applications will be made to John G. Hall, Esq., Ridgway, Pa. J. S. HYDE. Ridgway, mar. 29'66.—1f.

ITCH! ITCH! ITCH! Scratch! Scratch! Scratch! WHEATON'S OINTMENT

Will Cure the Itch in 48 Hours

Also cures SALT RHEUM, ULCERS, CHILBLAINS, and all ERUPTIONS OF THE SKIN. Price 50 cents. For sale by all druggists. By sending 60 cents to WEEKS & POTTER, Sole Agents, 170 Washington street, Boston, it will be forwarded by mail, free of postage, to any part of the United States. (June-7'66.—1y.)

BLACKSMITHING!

H. S. BELAP desires to inform the citizens of Ridgway and vicinity that he has leased J. S. Hyde's Blacksmith Shop on Mill street, and has employed good workmen who will be ever ready to make anything from a buckle to an anchor.

Particular attention given to the shoeing of horses. All task is a fair trial. May 17'66.—1y.

NEW SHOP.

TIN! TIN! TIN!!!

STOVES! STOVES!! STOVES!!!

John Sosenheimer & Co.,

WHOLESALE & RETAIL DEALERS.

ST. MARY'S, PA.

Keeps constantly on hand and for sale, a large and well selected stock of TIN WARE, STOVES &c. We have everything generally kept in a Tin Shop.

Our Stock of STOVES consists in part of ANTI-DUST PARLOR & COOKING STOVES, ALSO—IRON GATE & WHEAT-SHEAF STOVES.

STOVE PIPE can be had at our shop either riveted or grooved.

SPROUTING AND ROOFING, done on short notice and at reasonable rates. June 14'66.—1y.

GROVESTEEEN & CO.,

PIANO FORTE MANUFACTURERS,

499 Broadway, New York.

THESE PIANOS received the Highest Award of Merit! at the World's Fair, over the best makers from London, Paris, Germany, the cities of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston; also the Gold Medal at the American Institute, for FIVE successive years!! Our Pianos contain the French Grand Action, Harp Pedal, Overstrung Bores, Full Iron Frame, and all Modern Improvements. Every instrument warranted FIVE years. Made under the supervision of MR. J. H. GROVESTEEEN, who has a practical experience of over thirty five years, and is the maker of over eleven thousand pianos forte. Our facilities for manufacturing enable us to sell these instruments from \$100 to \$200 cheaper than any first class piano forte. July-19'66.—1y.

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DYE-STUFFS,

CONFECTIONERIES,

RAISINS,

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This preparation, long and favorably known, will thoroughly reinvigorate broken-down and low-spirited horses, by strengthening and cleansing the stomach and intestines.

It is a sure preventive of all diseases incident to this animal, such as LUNG FEVER, GLANDERS, YELLOW WATER HEADS, COUGHS, DISTEMPERS, FEVERS, FOUNDER, LOSS OF APETITE AND VITAL ENERGY, &c. Its use improves the wind, increases the appetite, gives a smooth and glossy skin—and transforms the miserable skeleton into a fine-looking and spirited horse.

To keepers of Cows this preparation is invaluable. It increases the quantity and improves the quality of the milk. It has been proven by actual experiment to increase the quantity of milk and cream twenty per cent, and make the butter firm and sweet. In fattening cattle, it gives them an appetite, loosens their hide, and makes them thrive much faster.

In all diseases of Swine, such as Coughs, Ulcers in the Lungs, Liver, &c., this article acts as a specific. By putting from one-half a paper to a paper in a barrel of swill the above diseases will be eradicated or entirely prevented. If given in time, a certain preventive and cure for the Hog Cholera.

Price 25 Cents per Paper, or 5 Papers for \$1. PREPARED BY

S. A. FOUTZ & BRO.,

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For Sale by Druggists and Storekeepers throughout the United States.

Sold at Manufacturers prices, by Bordwell & Messenger Ridgway, Agents for Elk county.

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Thrilling Stories of the Great Rebellion.

Comprising heroic adventures and hair-breadth escapes of Soldiers, Scouts, Spies and Refugees; daring exploits of Smugglers, Guerrillas, Desperadoes and others; Tales of Loyal and Disloyal women; Stories of the Negro, &c., with incidents of Fun and Merriment in Camp and Field. By Lieutenant Colonel S. Greene, late of the United States Army. Handsomely illustrated with engravings on steel and in oil colors.

Send for circulars and see the liberal terms offered.

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WHEELER & WILSON'S SEWING MACHINES.

The undersigned having been appointed Sole Agent for the sale of Wheeler & Wilson's Sewing Machines for Elk county. He keeps an assortment constantly on hand. Machines sold at Philadelphia and New York prices.—Any parties desirous of obtaining them can address

J. K. WHITMORE,

March 9'66.—1y. at Ridgway, Pa.

JOB WORK of all kinds and descriptions done at this office.

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TREMENDOUS RUSH TO THE

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DAILY ARRIVING

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HOW CHEAP YOUR DRESS GOODS ARE

My stock consists of

DRY GOODS,

ROCERIES,

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TIN WARE,

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FLOUR,

FISH,

SALT,

BUTTER,

EGGS,

POTATOES,

GRAIN,

HIDES,

CALFSKINS

and all country produce taken at market price, for goods.

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Centreville, June 1st '66.—1y.

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A very large and well selected STOCK of the best made, and warranted in every respect

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I say, to one and all, that my stock is full and complete, and will be sold at small profits.

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St. Mary's, Nov. 26'66.—1y.