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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POST-OFFICE.

April 1st, 1798, saw the opening of a post-office in Bellefonte. James Harris was its first master. He was succeeded in order by R. T. Stewart, Hamilton Humes, Charles Troziyulny, William Humes, Ellen Graffius, Henry McLaughlin, J. Kidd Shoemaker, Capt. William Cook, W. W. Montgomery, John T. Johnson, Dr. James H. Dobbins, J. A. Fiedler, under whom the free delivery service was incorporated, and D. F. Fortney, Esq. the present incumbent.

BELLEFONTE A COUNTY SEAT.

When Centre county was erected in 1800 the town of Milesburg was vying with this place for the location of the county seat and the apathy that was born between the towns, then struggling for the honor of being the seat of justice, has existed in one manner or another ever since. It is not so very long ago that venturesome Bellefonte boys invariably met with a good pounding when they visited Milesburg and it is needless to say that the youngsters from down that way carried home many a black eye, the result of contact with Bellefonte fists. This nagging spirit was not confined to the youth alone. The continual fighting between the residents of the places has become almost traditional, though we are glad to say the best of feeling exists at the present day, as will be evidenced by the participation of several Milesburg organizations in our Centennial parade.

The latter place set up the claim of standing at the head of navigation on the Bald Eagle creek, but this was successfully contested when the Bellefonte boomers piled a lot of second hand furniture on an old flat boat and dragged it up Spring Creek, to where the present Half Moon road crosses Logan's Branch at Phoenix mill in this place, with a team of mules. The old stove that formed part of the cargo of that boat is now in the possession of S. A. McQuiston, of West High street, but unfortunately so true a relic of the town is not on exhibition with the other early day curios at the school house. Straightway they sent courtes to Lancaster to announce that Bellefonte was

started in Smith's place where Gerberich, Hale & Co's, mill now stands.

He tired of such a life, however, and built a tavern, in 1814, on the site now occupied by the new Brockerhoff building, "Temple Court." A year later he traded his tavern for John Irvine's store, on the Diamond, and began to build up the mercantile business that was the foundation for the great wealth of the estate recently left by his son, the late E. C. Humes. James Watson and Jacob Rothrock then became proprietors of the hotel, the latter naming it the "Conrad House" after some Philadelphia friends. In 1811 John Irvin, Jr. opened a shoe shop on the

THE GROWTH OF THE TOWN.

Owing no doubt to the limited means of travel the early growth of the town was slow. Fifteen years after it was founded we find only 203 inhabitants; five years later the number had grown to 433. In 1830 there were 699 souls in the town and in 1840 the census shows a population of 1032. In this year there were 2 engaged in farming, 11 in commerce, 138 in manufactures and trades, 1 in navigation, and 21 in learned professions and engineering. The borough then boasted 130 dwellings, a Presbyterian, Methodist, United Breth-

was issued until July 1874, when it was discontinued. In 1875 the same gentlemen issued the first number of a paper called the Industrial Advocate, which had an existence of but a few months. In 1878 The Centre Democrat was started by a stock company under the management of Hon. S. T. Shugert and Maj. R. H. Forster. It is still owned by the company, and published under its direction. The publication of the Daily News was begun in 1880 by the proprietors of the Republican. The Keystone Gazette was first issued by Cassidy & Fiedler in 1885, and the Centre Magnet, a temperance paper by N. S. Bailey in 1893. Of all the papers named above the WATCHMAN, Democrat, Gazette, News, Magnet and Republican are the only ones issued at this time.

What Bellefonte was during the early years of its organization can be understood from the above. What Bellefonte is to-day with its great buildings, magnificent residence, its mills, its shops, its scores of mercantile establishments, its pure and abundant water, its electric light, steam heat, gas and other modern improvements, its clean shaded streets, beautiful drives and happy and prosperous people can only be known and appreciated by being seen. Brief biographies of its public men and short notices of its public institutions, its schools, churches and newspapers will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The story of Bellefonte since 1800 has hardly become history yet. Most of our institutions of to-day were in existence then and memory will serve our readers if they desire to recall what has transpired in the last three and one-half decades. Bellefonte has become exactly what you see her to-day, beautiful, substantial, prosperous. It might, however, have occurred that none of you have realized what has brought about this crown of a century. You need but look about you to comprehend the milk in the cocoanut. Situated as she is on so many hills perfect health is assured, the best of sanitary conditions are natural with the town, since an underlying strata of lime stone makes a most excellent channel for the drainage, the hilly streets are cleaned with every rain and the water supply from the "big spring" is without an equal anywhere in the country.



Bellefonte in 1822.—Reproduced for the WATCHMAN from the oldest photograph of the town that is known to have been taken. The view was made from the "old Milesburg road" at the turn, which is now the corner of Allegheny and Linn streets, and looks south on the former thoroughfare. The first house on the right was an old stone house that stood where the Episcopal church now stands and right across the street from it can be seen the site of the "Red Lion" hotel and later, Gov. Hastings' home. The old filling mill, the Presbyterian church and the Academy are to be seen on the right, while the Court House and Methodist church are on the hill on the left.

"Diamond" and worked there until 1822. In 1811 Samuel Harris opened a furniture store at the corner of Bishop and Spring streets.

It would seem that business grew rapidly for in 1814 a newspaper the American Patriot, was established by Alexander Hamilton and there were

ren and Catholic church, an academy, 7 stores, a tanning mill, a woolen factory, 2 tanneries, a printing office issuing a weekly newspaper and 4 schools at which 120 scholars were taught.

NEWSPAPERS BELLEFONTE HAS HAD. The first newspaper published in Bellefonte was the American Patriot

High and Thomas streets with right resting on Water.

THE ROUTE OF PARADE

will be out Spring street to Bishop, Bishop to Allegheny, Allegheny to Linn, Linn to Spring, Spring to High, High to P. R. R. depot, countermarch on High to Spring, Spring to Bishop, Bishop to Allegheny and pass reviewing stand to Howard street, after which all organizations and exhibits will drop out of line.

All exhibitors who cannot turn their displays in the countermarch at the P. R. R. depot will pull aside on North Spring street and fall into line in their proper place when that division again enters Spring street. The parade will form at 10 o'clock a. m., and all organizations and exhibitors are hereby notified that it will move at 11 o'clock a. m., sharp.

In the afternoon Gen. Beaver will deliver the historical address in the court house at 3 p. m. The visiting bands will give a grand concert in the evening. The display of fireworks from along the water of Spring Creek near the P. R. R. station will conclude the exercises and Bellefonte's days of centenary revelry.

AN EXHIBITION OF RELICS.

The ladies comprising the Committee on Relics have arranged a most complete exhibition of articles and curios that have significance with the history of the town. It is being displayed in the North ward school building and is such that every citizen and visitor should see it to fully comprehend what Bellefonte was in her infancy. Among the most remarkable exhibits are some of the original deeds for properties in town. For instance the lot now the home of the late Gov. Curtin's family sold for only \$48, while the present national bank site commanded \$40, neither one could now be purchased for \$20,000. Next week we will give a complete review of the exhibit.

Some of the Visitors and Their Connection With the Town.

—Miss Helen Hastings, daughter of Gov. Hastings and great-granddaughter of William Rankin the second sheriff of the county. Her grandfather, James A. Rankin was a member of the Bellefonte Bar from 1841, till his death in 1893.

—Mrs. W. S. Simpson and the Misses Simpson, of Lock Haven, are the guests of Mrs. Margaret Brockerhoff. More than forty years ago, Henry Tammany Mrs. Simpson's father, in company with John Mitchell operated the Hecla furnace. The family home was an old stone house where the Episcopal church now stands.

—Among the former residents of the town, who have come back to see what kind of a place the home of their birth has become, is Col. James E. Kent, who is now a prosperous stock broker at Grand Junction, Col. He was born here in 1829 and was a grand son of the venerable S. T. Shugert, whose first wife was John Dunlop's daughter, Deborah.

—Mrs. Katharine Lieb, who came up from her brother Dr. Andrew Lieb's home in Bethlehem, to enjoy the Centennial next to a daughter of the late John D. Lieb's. Her father was for years a prominent business man and Methodist in the community and her mother, Margery Mitchell, was a grand-daughter of Hon. Andrew Gregg.

—Robert Cassidy of Ohio, appeared on the scene Tuesday and although it is forty years since he worked as an apprentice boy in "Bill" Brown's printing office he can relate many a good incident our moss covered citizens have forgotten. Shortly after the war he went to Canton, where he is the head of a good paying job office, a respected Methodist and an ex-Mayor, yet with it all he still hankers after Bellefonte.

—Very few of the residents and not any of the visitors are better posted on the town and its affairs than Thomas Campbell of Richmond, Ind. In '92 he and his brother built the stone house on Howard street, which next door to Henry Harris' and it is fifty years since he left Bellefonte. Mr. Campbell is over 80 years of age but he is so well and active and bright that he will enjoy the Centennial more than many a younger man.

—Mrs. J. R. Loomis, of Lewisburg, Her grandfather Hon. Andrew Gregg was a member of the House of Representatives of the United States for sixteen years, was United States Senator from 1807 to 1813, was Secretary of the Commonwealth under Gov. Hiester and was the first president of the old Centre Bank located in what is now Mrs. Eliza Curtin's home on the southeast corner of Allegheny and Howard streets. Mrs. Loomis' husband was for several years president of Bucknell University.

—Mrs. Clevean Dinges, of Williamsport. Her father F. Potts Green is a direct descendant of Col. Samuel Miles, 1st Mayor of Philadelphia. Gen. Joseph Miles, his son, was one of the first officers of the old Centre bank and for fifty years was identified with the business interests of the county. He built the stone house on the northwest corner of Allegheny and Howard streets, which has long been occupied by the Humes family and from him his grand children the Greens inherited much that is historical and valuable.



A Birds-eye View of Bellefonte in 1895, from a photograph taken from the "Half Moon" hill by Fred Blair.

application No. 2681, April 3rd, 1769 and the James Sharon, No. 1923, of same date. Both of these latter tracts were owned originally by William Lamb and were deeded to James Harris in 1707.

NAMING THE TOWN.

The town was laid out with the streets running parallel and perpendicular with the south line of the original tract upon which it was located. When it came to naming the place Mrs. Harris conceived the idea that the wonderful spring, which had had much to do with its site, should bear some significance in it. Accordingly she suggested the French for beautiful fountain and it was christened Belle Fonte in deference to her wishes.

FIRST PROPERTY OWNERS.

Besides the proprietors the following persons owned lots in the new town: William Petrikin, the lot now occupied by Daniel Garman's residence; Adam McKee, the lots now occupied by the T. R. Reynolds estate and Miss Mollie Petrikin's houses on High street; Alexander Diven, the lot on High street now occupied by the W. R. Jenkins house; John Hall, the lot on Spring street now occupied by Mrs. Mary Hastings' house and Hugh Gallagher, the lot now occupied by Mrs. Louisa Bush's on Spring street.

The first house was Col. Dunlop's part of which can be seen in a picture on another page. It was used for the first courts that sat in the town in 1801. The next house to be built was that of James Harris which stood near Willowbank, the present poor house, on the banks of Spring Creek. Petrikin's house was the third one and Adam McKee's tavern was fourth. John Hall was a blacksmith who had come up from Chester county at the solicitation of Mr. Harris. He built the first blacksmith shop in 1797 and in the same year Alex Diven built his house. The Bellefonte forge was built in 1797 at the edge of town and three years later Dunlop's son-in-law, James Smith, built a grist mill on the site now occupied by Gerberich Hale & Co's mill and right beside old William Lamb's saw mill. That same year Roland Curtin opened a store where Joseph Bros. & Co's. building stands now. It was not until 1807 that a great demand encouraged Harris to build a mill on the present site of the Phoenix mill.

the true head of navigation, since the first freight boat had reached this place but a few days before. The act was passed accordingly and Bellefonte became the capital of the new county.

RESIDENTS IN 1801.

Had a census of the town been taken in 1801 the following residents would have been found: William Alexander, hatter; Col. Dunlop, Hugh Gallagher, tavern keeper; John Hall, Conrad Kyler, weaver; John McCord, Adam McKee, George McKee, Samuel Paterson, William Petrikin, William Riddle, mason; George Williams, carpenter; Joseph Williams, tanner; Dr. William Harris, David Irvine, lawyer; Abraham Lee, Isaac Lee, John G. Lowery, John McKee, shoemaker; Jesur Miles, cabinet maker; John Miles and Robert T. Stewart, lawyers. These men with their families made up the inhabitants of the village.

INCORPORATED AS A BOROUGH.

In 1806, on March 28th, the borough was incorporated and included the most part of its present territory except that portion lying west of Spring creek and Logan's Branch. That district was called Smithfield and did not come into the borough until March 18th, 1814. Even after the admission of Smithfield the relation between the residents of the united towns was not of the friendliest, for as late as 1860 there was a continual warfare kept up between them. Smithfield came to be called "Cheapside" and whenever a boy from that portion of the town ventured to poke his head through the old covered bridge, that spanned Spring Creek near where the WATCHMAN office now stands, a perfect hail of stones and other missiles told him that the original Bellefonte youth were jealous of their uptown territory and who can say that there is not still a lurking feeling of this self same sort.

WHO WERE EARLY DAY BUSINESS MEN.

William Petrikin was the first merchant in the town. He was a tailor and had a shop in 1796. Roland Curtin followed him in 1800 and these two seem to have held sway until Robert Stewart and his brother William opened places of business in 1809. The town was growing then and Hamilton Humes was attracted hither to embark in the milling business. He

many additions to the business houses in the town. W. C. Welch had embarked in the shoe making business, Ebenezer McFee went to cabinet making, William Keever and A. Vandyke were saddlers, J. Kline made things interesting for his competitor Petrikin in the tailoring business, Thomas Beatty opened a general store and Benner & Cambridge flourished in the same business until 1817.

Not much is known as to the exact date of beginning of many of the other early business houses in the town, but from files of the old Centre Patriot we find the names of these merchants here between 1821 and 1829. James and Andrew McClelland, proprietors of the Bellefonte Mills; J. Lambert & Bro., weavers; Dr. Fisher (who advised any patrons not understanding or speaking German to bring an interpreter); William Armor and Charles Callahan, tailors; Abraham Weaver & Co., tinners; Stewart & Carland, tailors; John McKee, general store; Rankin & Steel, wool-carders; W. Robinson, silversmith; Charles Johnson, silversmith; Charles Mackey, wagon-maker and blacksmith; Eli Cadwallader, cooper; William Wood, tailor; James Rothrock, fur-buyer; S. W. Hull, saddler; Jacob Roop, gunsmith; W. Myers, tailor; George Rothrock, saddler; William Alloway and Elijah Reeves, watchmakers; John Hammond, general store; Gillespie & Smith, shoe-makers; Hammond & Page, general store; James Kent, wagon maker; Theophilus Kekeler, general store; William Eaton, tavern; Joseph Udegraff, landlord of the Gen. Jackson House; William C. Welch, shoemaker; Barr, Pruner & Baker, carpenters; William Mann, Sr., blacksmith; Cook & Ammerman, carriage-makers; Beaty & Humes, copper and tinmiths; P. Cambridge, general store; Cambridge & Black, general goods; John Rankin, tavern-keeper; C. F. W. Seligman, druggist and grocer; Peter Felmile, wagon-maker; W. Ward, tobacconist; Harris & Smith, druggists; Franklin B. Smith and Andrew Gregg, Jr., general store; Abiel Davis, wagon-maker.

In 1829, Theophilus Kekeler started a cotton factory near where the Snow Shoe depot stands, and in 1830, October 28th, the firm of Brockerhoff & Kekeler, merchants at Bellefonte, was formed.

by Alexander Hamilton who issued the first number Feb. 15, 1814. How long it was continued is unknown as but three issues of it can be found. In 1816, Hugh Maxwell established the Independent Republican, which had a brief existence of less than one year. In 1818, Gen. William Brindle issued the first number of the Bellefonte Patriot, which was continued under different publishers, until 1838, when it was removed by W. A. Kinloch to Lock Haven and published under the name of the Lycoming Eagle. On the 1st of November 1827, Gen. Philip Benner established the Centre Democrat under the management and editorial control of Thos. Simpson. It was continued under different publishers, as the Democratic organ of the county, until 1854, when it was sold to M. P. Crostwright and W. W. Brown who changed it to a Know-nothing paper. It steadily lost influence and standing and in 1862, was abandoned by its owners and went out of existence.

A paper called the Free Press was started, by the Federalists or Whigs in 1808, under the management of Jas. F. Hale, Esq., Dr. Harris and Isaac B. Gara. It had an existence of less than a year.

In 1851, John Kidd Shoemaker, started the Democratic Whig, which was published until 1858, when the office was sold to John G. Kurtz, who changed the name of the paper to the Central Press. It was published as such until 1868, when it was sold to a company and the name was changed to the Bellefonte National.

November 1855, Henry Hays issued the first number of the Democratic Watchman. After numerous changes it became the property of its present proprietor in 1862, and has since been continuously under his control and management.

In 1869, the Bellefonte Republican was started by A. B. Hutchinson & W. W. Brown, and in 1870, the Bellefonte National was consolidated with it. In 1871 what was known as the "Bellefonte Press Company" started a monthly paper under the title of The Christian Union Work which was afterward changed to the Union Work and later to the Christian Giver. The same company published for a short time the Christian Temperance Alliance, and the Safe Guard all of which papers ceased to exist after a short and expensive career. Feb. 1873, W. W. Brown, started Brown's Bellefonte Republican which

In the heart of a county so richly endowed in mineral and agricultural wealth, is it any wonder that Bellefonte has profited by her location. From the sturdy farmers of her fertile surrounding valleys she draws tribute in trade; from the earth she claims royalties in iron and coal and profit in lime. Nature seems to have contributed with a most lavish hand to her wealth.

The town is located in 40°51' north latitude and longitude 40° west of Washington. The rain-fall averages forty inches per year and we look down from an altitude of 737 feet above sea level. With such conditions as these, a citizenship that has always been active in pushing the town into recognition, remarkable facilities for manufacturing and transportation of products, there is little wonder that Bellefonte sees the dawn of a new century kissing the peaks of her many hills with a rosete glow of prosperity.

CENTENNIAL DAY.

To-day the Centennial anniversary proper will be held, the order of which will be as follows:

The sides to Chief Marshall Dr. H. K. Hoy, and Col. Amos Mullen, Major J. L. Spangler and John Shugert. The first division will be marshalled by Joseph Montgomery with T. K. Morris and H. C. Valentine as aids, and will consist of National Guards and G. A. R. posts. The State College cadet corps having decided not to come at a meeting yesterday morning, they will not appear as intended in this division. The second division will be marshalled by J. C. Meyer, Esq., with Hard P. Harris and J. Will Conley as aids, and will consist of the military and semi-military branches of the Knights of the Golden Eagle, other civic organizations and firemen.

The third division will be marshalled by Robert F. Hunter with Chas. R. Kurtz and John N. Lane as aids, and will consist of living pictures representing our march in progress from very early history to the present time, followed by a grand display of industrial exhibits.

The association of wheelmen will lead the parade. In the formation of the parade the wheelmen will form on High street, east of Spring, with right resting on Spring. The first division will form on north Spring with right resting on High. The second division will form on High street west of Spring, and north Water street, with right resting on Spring. The third division will form on West