

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., June 14, 1895.

Historical Address.

Delivered at the Centennial Anniversary of Bellefonte by co-Governor James A. Beaver.

FELLOW TOWNSMEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

One hundred years ago our forefathers, with wise forethought and keen foresight, laid out and founded a village where we now reside which they believed would be a centre of influence, a desirable place for residence and to which would naturally gravitate the business of the surrounding region. The year was propitious. Probably in no other single year of the history of Pennsylvania were so many enterprises of like character and equal success started as in the year 1795. The locality was, in all respects, happily chosen and fully satisfying. One hundred years of practically continuous and uninterrupted progress and prosperity fully vindicate the wisdom of the choice of our founders. We, their successors, have not overestimated the importance of this anniversary nor have we celebrated it with too much of acclaim and eclat.

No celebration of an event of this kind in our country seems to be complete without an address, and, inasmuch as you have kindly imposed the duty of making this address for the occasion upon me, I approach its discharge with much of delicacy and diffidence, for the reasons, first that I am not "to the manor born," and, second, that there are so many who have fuller knowledge of the facts and are in many ways better qualified than I for meeting the requirements of the occasion.

History is more than a mere narrative of human events. To be worthy the name of history such a narrative must recite a series of events in the life of our race which directly or indirectly, positively or negatively, by imitation or avoidance, tends to advance civilization and promote the general welfare. If this be true, the lives of those who preceded our immediate forefathers in this locality are entitled to but little consideration. They contributed nothing to the civilization of the generations following them and left them little which in our day can be regarded as worthy of imitation. The influences which combined and centre in the settlement of Bellefonte can be traced directly backward along the stream of history for many centuries. To do this, however, is not the purpose of such an address as this. I must confine myself within very narrow limits so as not to transgress the proprieties of time and place.

In dealing with locality, a lawyer's first concern relates to the title, and I must, therefore, say a word as to the title under which our ancestors held the lands upon which we now reside. You are well aware that, by a royal charter from Charles II. of England, bearing date the 4th of March, 1681, there was conveyed to William Penn a grant of territory bounded practically on the East by the River Delaware, lying between the 40th and 43rd parallels of northern latitude and extending westward five degrees of latitude. This, of course, included all of Centre county, and, in accordance with the ideas and customs which prevailed in that day, recognizing the right of discoverers to all the lands discovered, gave a good title to William Penn, the proprietor. Penn, however, did not share in the views in regard to the rights of the discoverer of territory as then entertained and determined to secure, in addition to those rights, the title claimed by those who were in possession of the territory granted to him by royal charter. In pursuance of this policy, he extinguished the titles of the Indians from time to time by various purchases to all their lands east of the Susquehanna river and south of a line drawn from the mouth of which is now called the Mahontango creek, in the Susquehanna river south of Sunbury to the mouth of the Lackawanna creek in the river Delaware. In the year 1754 at Albany a treaty was made with the Six Nations of Indians (so-called) by which, as it was claimed by the successors of Penn, the title of the Indians to all the lands north and west of previous purchases to the extreme boundary of the province was extinguished. The Indians claimed however, that they were over-reached in the transaction and did not understand the terms "northwest" and "west" and this point being apparently conceded by the Penns a new arrangement, negotiated by Richard Peters and Conrad Wiser on behalf of the proprietors, was made in 1755 by which a deed of confirmation and compromise, dated October 23d of that year, executed at Easton, conveyed the title of the Six Nations to all the lands included within the boundaries which follow: Beginning at the Kittatinny or Blue Hills on the west bank of the Susquehanna river and running thence up the said river, binding thereon to a mile above the mouth of a creek called Kaarondiniah (or John Penn's creek); thence northwest and by west to a creek called Buffalo's creek; thence west to the east side of Allegheny or Appalachian hills; thence along the east side of said hills binding therewith to the south line or boundary of said province; thence by the said south line or boundary to the south side of the Kittatinny hill; thence by the south side of said hill to the place of beginning. There is a rude map annexed to this deed intended to represent the waters on line from Buffalo creek to Allegheny mountain, which line is represented as passing very near the junction of Spring creek with the Bald Eagle. It is now conceded that this was the true line of this purchase. Inasmuch, however, as the Indians were dissatisfied and the proprietors were extremely anxious to retain their good will, no lands were allowed to be taken up by settlers

north of a line of which the Nittany mountain and a line running west from the end thereof was the boundary. This, of course, excluded from settlement all lands in the Nittany valley.

The next purchase from the Indians was made in 1768 and included all the land west of previous purchases, beginning at a point on the North Branch of the Susquehanna river near Owego; thence through what is now Bradford county to the West Branch of the Susquehanna; thence by the several courses and distances of the Susquehanna to Cherrytree in Indiana county; thence by a straight line to Kittanning on the Allegheny river, and thence to the western boundary of the province, and thence by the boundaries of the province, and the lines of other purchases to the north-east boundary of the province, and thence westward to the place of beginning. By this purchase all of Centre county became vested in the proprietors and the lands contained therein were opened to settlement. The fact that the lands of Nittany valley were not open to settlement earlier may account for the fact that Captain James Potter, who visited this county in 1807 on his return from a western military expedition, coming by way of the Bald Eagle and Spring creek, passed by the Big Spring and beyond the Nittany mountain, before he found lands for which he made application, the first surveys in this county, as is well known, being made in Penna valley in 1766. After the purchase of 1768 the lands in this valley were opened to settlement, and early in the year 1769 one Griffith Gibbon made the following application to the land office:

"Griffith Gibbon applie on the usual terms for three hundred Acres of Land situate and beginning on the South side of the Bald Eagle Creek and Below and Joining James Sharons land or ground claimed located by him on said Creek."

It is quite remarkable as to its spelling and the use of capital letters. I have a copy of it by me but can convey no adequate conception by reading it to you. It is not dated but was evidently received at the land office on the 3d of April, 1769. The application was honored, a warrant for a survey was issued and a survey made in pursuance thereof July 20, 1769. Who was Griffith Gibbon? He does not seem to have retained the title to the land for any length of time; for, when it was returned for patenting on the 5th of February, 1794, William Lamb had evidently secured whatever title belonged to him. The land was patented to William Lamb, 7th of February, 1794, and is known as tract No. 248, and has the additional taking title of "Innocence." After the Indian purchase of 1768 and after the warrant for the survey of the Griffith Gibbon tract had been issued, the title of the Penna became extinguished by reason of the revolutionary struggle and the purchase by the commonwealth of all their interest. When, therefore the patent was made to William Lamb it was the deed of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and represented the title of England, based upon discovery, conveyed to William Penn, the title of the Indians, subsequently conveyed to his heirs and the title of the commonwealth which had been acquired from them. The official survey of this tract of land contains within its boundaries the representation of a large spring flowing into a running stream a few rods distant. It is probable that William Lamb agreed to convey at least a portion of this tract shortly after he secured the patent therefor to John Dunlop, although the deed therefor was not made until November 3, 1797. The spring was no doubt regarded as a desirable acquisition, as is shown by its representation upon the original survey. It doubtless determined the location of the town and the two French words signifying "beautiful fountain" suggested an appropriate and euphonious name for the new village. The town was laid out by Colonel James Dunlop and James Harris, esq., and the name—said to have been suggested by Tallyrand—was given to it by the wife of the latter who was the daughter of the former.

The centre of activity, business, commerce, trade and residence seems to have been at first at the intersection of Spring and High streets. The four corners made by the intersection of these two streets were soon occupied. The first house was erected by Colonel James Dunlop, a portion of which is said to be included in the residence of Jacob Valentine. The next residence was erected by William A. Pettrikin on the corner diagonally opposite, where the residence of Daniel German now stands. McKee's tavern, which was erected on the lot opposite, now occupied by the residence of the late T. R. Reynolds, was erected in 1797. Many will recall the date, which was plainly marked upon one of the stones in the old building which was torn down, when Mr. Reynolds erected his residence thereon.

The first mention of Bellefonte in the legislation of the state, so far as I know, occurs in the act of the 13th of February, 1800, entitled "An act for erecting parts of the counties of Mifflin, Northumberland, Lycoming and Huntingdon into a separate county." Section 3d of that act provides that "The judges of the supreme court, and the president of the Fourth district, of which district the said Centre county is hereby declared to be a part, as well as the associate judges who shall be commissioned in and for the said Centre county, shall have like powers, jurisdictions and authorities within the same as are warranted to and exercised by the said judges in other counties of this commonwealth, and that the courts of quarter sessions of the peace and of common pleas in and for the said Centre county shall be open and holden, on the Mondays next succeeding the general county courts held in the county of Mifflin in each year, at the house now occupied by James Dunlop in the town of Bellefonte, in the said Centre county, until a court

house shall be erected, as herein before directed, and shall then be held at the said court house." It was provided by the 9th section of the same act that "Andrew Gregg, William Swanzy and Robert Boggs, of Bald Eagle, be, and they are hereby appointed trustees for the county aforesaid, with full authority for them, or the survivors or survivor of them, to purchase or take and receive by grant, bargain or otherwise as well all such assurances for the payment of money and grants of land as hath been stipulated for by James Dunlop and John Harris by their bond to the governor of this commonwealth, as also any moneys, bonds or other property that may hereafter be offered to them, in trust to sell and convey or otherwise dispose of the same to the best advantage and to vest one moiety of the neat proceeds thereof in some productive fund for the support of an academy or public school in the said county and with the other moiety of the neat proceeds of the land or lots aforesaid and with other moneys duly assessed, levied and collected within the said Centre county for that purpose, which it is hereby declared it shall be lawful for the commissioners thereof to do or cause to be done, to build and erect a court house, prison and other buildings for the safe keeping of the public records of said county on such parts of the public square laid out in the said town of Bellefonte as to them shall appear most suitable; and the said trustees shall from time to time render due and faithful accounts of the expenditures of the same to the commissioners and to the auditors of the county who are here authorized to adjust and settle the same. It would appear from the provisions of the act of assembly of the 13th of March, 1795, as if the inhabitants of Bellefonte at the time town was laid out and subsequently thereto, until they were included in a separate election district, 7th of January, 1801, were included in the district which held their annual elections in the house then occupied by Richard Miles, in the town of Milesborough. By the seventh section of the act approved upon the date mentioned it was provided that "the township of Upper Bald Eagle and Centre, in Centre county, shall be a separate election district, to be called the 'First election district, and the electors thereof shall hold their elections at the place where the courts are held in the town of Bellefonte.'"

The limits of the town, as originally laid out, are not definitely known to the speaker. Lot No. 1 is situated on the west side of Spring street, north of Howard, upon which Mrs. Hastings now resides. The lots are numbered thence consecutively from north to south, from No. 1 to No. 19, the latter of which is the northwest corner of Spring and Bishop streets. No. 20 is nearly opposite No. 1 on Spring street, and No. 21 fronts on Allegheny street, the rear of it being immediately across the alley from the rear of No. 20. Whether this indicates that the northern line of the town, as originally laid out, was the northern line of lots 1, 20 and 21 and thence eastward, and the southern line was the northern line of Bishop street is not certain, but the numbering would seem to indicate this as the probable size of the town, as originally intended by the founders.

The town was incorporated into a borough by an act of the legislature approved the 28th day of March, 1806, the corporate title being "The Borough of Bellefonte," this being the first time in the history of legislation when the final "e" is added to the name. The borough, by the terms of the act, is bounded and limited as follows, viz: By lands of John Dunlop and Nathaniel Simpson on the south and east, by land of James Dunlop on the north and by Spring creek and land of James Harris on the west. These boundaries, although very indefinite with the exception of Spring creek, evidently included all of the town as at present laid out lying between Lamb street on the north and Logan street on the south, Spring creek on the west and Wisdom's way—which seems at that time to have been a street thirty feet wide running north and south back of the public grounds where the jail is now located—on the east.

By the act of the legislature, approved the 18th of March, 1814, the towns of Bellefonte and Smithfield, in the county of Centre, within the boundaries therein described, were erected into a borough of Bellefonte. The boundaries were as follows: Beginning at Spring Creek where Lamb street adjoins the said creek; thence by the said street to the end thereof; thence so as to include all the outlots sold by the proprietors of the town of Bellefonte; thence to the head of the Big Spring; thence to the head of the Big Spring; thence to the creek therefrom in the borough; thence by Spring Creek to the lane which divides John McKee's field from Benjamin William's lot; thence along said lane and the road leading to the Bellefonte mills to the north side of James Steel's lots, to the place of beginning. By subsequent legislation and decrees of our courts the limits of the borough have been, from time to time, enlarged until they occupy a space practically a mile square, extending a half mile, or nearly so, in every direction from Allegheny street in front of the court house.

When the trustees named in the act providing for the erection of Centre county endeavored to discharge the duties enjoined upon them in reference to the erection of the public buildings, they found that it would be impracticable to erect the jail upon the public square or ground which had been set apart for that purpose. In the building of the court house excavations were made in the hill in the rear of which for many years were regarded as stone quarries, and are so noted in one of the early drafts of the borough. They did not seem to think it advisable to erect the jail upon the top of the hill as it is now and, as a conse-

quence on the 7th of January, 1801, it was provided by the legislature "That, Whereas, by the 9th section of the act to which this is a supplement, the trustees of Centre county are authorized and directed to erect a court house, prison and other buildings for the safe keeping of the public records on the public square in the town of Bellefonte, but as it appears intelligible that a prison should be erected on the public square of the said town, therefore the trustees of Centre county are hereby authorized to erect a prison for said county on any of the lots in the town of Bellefonte conveyed to them by James Dunlop and James Harris, which may appear to them most suitable and best situated for the same." In pursuance of this authority there was erected upon lots on the north side of High street, nearly opposite the court house, a small building thirty feet long and twenty-five feet wide in the clear with a dungeon in the cellar twelve feet by nine in the clear, covered above with hewed logs laid close together along the plank of the floor and a proper trap door to let into the dungeon. This was a prison fashioned after the models of that day, and it is perhaps well to say incidentally that in nothing has the civilization of this age made greater advances than in the treatment of prisoners who, through fault or misfortune, are necessarily separated for a time from their fellows. This primitive prison was succeeded by a stone building for the residence of the sheriff and for a jail for the custody of prisoners, which is well remembered by many now living and which continued to be used for such purposes until the new jail was erected on the top of the hill where it now stands.

It will have been observed that in the act of assembly erecting the county of Centre the trustees for the county were authorized to receive such assurance for the payment of money and grants of land as hath been stipulated for by James Dunlop and James Harris, by their bond to the governor of this commonwealth, and any moneys, bonds or other property that may hereafter be offered to them, in trust to sell and convey, or otherwise dispose of the same to the best advantage and to vest one moiety of the neat proceeds thereof in some productive fund for the support of an academy or public school in the said county. Whilst it is undoubtedly true that the assurance for the payment of money and grants of land stipulated for by James Dunlop and James Harris, by their bond to the governor of the commonwealth, were made for the purpose of securing the location of the county seat at Bellefonte, it is worthy of note that the founding of an academy or public school was considered quite as important by the founders as the erection of the county buildings. Indeed in a hurried review of the town and county as it has been written and a somewhat careful examination of the legislation relating to the town, the careful solicitude of the early settlers for the education of the young and the provision which they made therefor, has impressed me more than anything else.

Although provision was made for the funds for the erection of an academy or public school in 1800 in the law providing for the erection of Centre county, the academy was not incorporated until the 8th of January, 1805. At that time a law was enacted which provides that "There shall be established, and hereby is established, in the town of Bellefonte, in the county of Centre, an academy or public school for the education of youth in the useful arts, sciences and literature, by the name, style and title of Bellefonte Academy." On the 9th of January, 1806, the governor was authorized to draw his warrant on the state treasurer for the sum of \$2,000, which was granted out of any money not before that specially appropriated which may be in the treasury of Bellefonte academy, to be applied in erecting a suitable building for the accommodation of the said institution. There was coupled with this appropriation a provision that "there shall be admitted into said academy any number of poor children who may at any time be offered, in order to be taught gratis, provided the number so admitted and taught shall at no time be greater than six, and that none of the said children shall continue to be taught gratis in the said academy longer than two years." Much of the legislation relating to Bellefonte, after its erection into a borough, has been for the benefit of its schools. In 1844 the school directors of the Bellefonte borough school district, in the county of Centre, were authorized to assess upon each scholar in the said district any sum not exceeding one dollar per quarter, at the discretion of said directors, to be paid by the parent, guardian, master or other person having charge of such scholar, in proportion to his ability to pay, in such manner as is hereinafter provided. Provision is also made for the collection of the said tax. By the 8th section of the act of the 3d of May, 1852, it was provided that "the town of Centre are hereby authorized to cause all lands owned or kept in said borough to be assessed, returned and taxed at such rates as to them may seem reasonable, and to have such taxes collected as school taxes are now collected, provided that all moneys arising therefrom shall be appropriated to the support of the common schools of said borough and to no other purposes."

These extracts and a reference to later laws, authorizing loans for school purposes are sufficient to show that the desire of the founders for the education of youth has been followed by a like desire on the part of those who have succeeded to the care of the interests of the community. Two reflections, based upon these facts, are pertinent and appropriate. First. The founders of our town were broad-minded, intelligent, thoughtful men. They realized fully the value of education and the debt which they owed to posterity. It is to their lasting credit that they endeavored to discharge that debt to the extent of their ability. Second. Nothing said or done by the founders of the town during their life-time

has so linked them to the present and has so thoroughly and honorably perpetuated their memory as their interest in and efforts for the cause of education. James Dunlop and James Harris are better known and more highly honored for what their wise foresight prompted them to do for the cause of education than all else in their lives combined. The academy, which crowns one of the prominent hills of our town, is their monument and the hundreds who have gone out from its walls are indebted to them for the training which has enabled them to take their place in the world alongside those who have enjoyed equal or superior advantages. The lesson is obvious. Those who wish to link themselves to coming generations and live in the future should ally themselves with institutions which live and are likely to live and whose mission it is to help to elevate mankind. In our age and country no institutions have larger promise for long life and prosperity than those established for the education of the young, and the man who desires to leave a fragrant memory behind him should ally himself, by strong and indissoluble ties, to such institutions. We have them in our midst. They need enlargement and endowment. Would far-seeing and as beneficent as those who were the founders of Bellefonte and the promoters of its educational institutions.

In the discharge of the duty which you have assigned to me, two temptations present themselves. The one is to generalize—to enter the domain of national and state affairs and to traverse the whole realm of science, art, literature and progress. The other is to specialize—that is to confine one's self to the delineation of individual characteristics and the portrayal of personal peculiarities. No one century in all the history of the world furnishes a larger theme for generalization, than the one which we have under contemplation to-day, and the community—certainly none in our commonwealth—presents a more inviting field for personal and biographical delineation than our own. The limits of time and the proprieties of the occasion, however, forbid the yielding to either of these temptations. There has lately been developed, in the growth of the art of photography, what is known as the composite picture. By this process of producing such a picture, the peculiarities of the individual features of the larger number and are reduced to an asymmetrical and harmonious unit. The task is confessedly difficult and yet I would, if I could, in the little time that remains, gather together the general characteristics of those who have preceded us, which have given to Bellefonte its present enviable status and its prominence in the larger community and commonwealth of which it forms a part.

Our fathers and founders were careful of the foundations. Solidity rather than show characterized their earlier efforts to establish a prosperous community. None better than they knew that the foundations are out of sight and yet none more fully than they realized that no substantial and abiding superstructure could be built, without such foundations. Hence their willingness to sacrifice the immediate present for the larger hopes and promises and possible achievements of the future. Hence their desire to secure for their children the privileges and advantages which had been denied to them. Hence their efforts to establish their earlier efforts to establish a prosperous community, for it must be remembered that the school and the church went together, that the efforts of the schoolmaster and the preacher—often combined in the same person—were early invoked for the development and nurture of a broad, vigorous, conservative and substantial character. The physical features of our town and surroundings doubtless contributed to this distinguishing characteristic. Solidity is written all over this region. Our solid beds of limestone, our great deposits of iron—early discovered and their value fully appreciated—the everlasting hills which rear their impressive crests in sublime beauty upon us—all taught this lesson. How well the lesson was learned is shown by the men whose substantial and rugged character is as well known and better appreciated than at the time in which they lived; by the enduring character of the institutions which they founded; by the very houses which they built, some of which remain with us until this day; by the constant, continuous and uninterrupted progress of the community in material advancement; by the regular and healthful growth of the population, and by the constantly growing appreciation of those who followed, of the wisdom, strength and self-sacrifice of those who, possibly building better than they knew, have transmitted to us the goodly heritage which we now enjoy.

Another distinguishing characteristic of the founders of Bellefonte and of those who immediately followed them, was the disposition to secure solid and enduring comfort, at the sacrifice of show and sham. This is only another development of the solidity which has been spoken of and yet it is worthy of special note, for it has given to us not only the earlier conveniences and comforts for which our town is noted but has so taught the community that, up to the present time, no development of science or art which ministers to the comfort or convenience of a community has been withheld from the practical use and enjoyment of our people. The establishment of our water works soon after the incorporation of the borough is a striking illustration of this fact. For nothing has the town been so ready to expend money, save perhaps only in the cause of education, as in the effort to furnish an adequate and practically unlimited supply of the pure, clear and unfailing water from our unrivaled spring, which is one of the distinguishing physical features of our locality. Forty years ago, with a population of scarcely more than 1,000, we introduced, for the accommodation of our people, the distribution of manufactured gas as an illuminant, being at the time the smallest town in the state to secure this convenience. The steam heating system and the plant for electric lighting have followed and are in successful operation, not so much because of their commercial value and dividend

paying capacity as for the reason that our people are desirous of enjoying what ever ministers to real and substantial comfort and convenience. The more general avenues of intercourse with the outside world have not been neglected. Largely by the energy, enterprise and foresight of our own people we were early connected with the canal system of the state by the Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Navigation company's canal. Later came the primitive telegraph by the way of the West Branch, and subsequently the later railroad developments, which made us a little railroad centre of our own and converge at this point six or seven lines of communication with the people of our own region and those of the world about us.

The composite picture of beauty, symmetry, grace and glory which comes to us out of this century and which I hold up for your view to-day, the same in all ages and in all the world, specially prominent in our locality is that of the crowning glory of man and the capstone of human achievement—self-sacrifice. I can imagine those of you who are older, as I hold up this picture to your view, tracing the streams of memory to their source and noting the exceptions which will readily occur to you, but I am not speaking of exceptions to-day. What Bellefonte is and what Bellefonte enjoys in its beauty of immediate environment, in its solid and substantial comfort, in its self-complacency at home and reputation abroad, is due to the sacrifices made by our founders and those who immediately followed them. I have seen the balance sheet of the final settlement of the founders of the town with the commissioners of the county—the purchase price of every lot specifically noted. An absolute horizon cut out of one-half of the proceeds to the proprietors and the other half equally divided between the fund for the establishment of the academy and that for the erection of our county buildings. I do not follow, for fear of making invidious distinctions, the lives and the career of those who followed, but it is absolutely safe to say that the men who to-day most enjoy the confidence, the esteem, the love and the veneration of our people are those who made the largest sacrifices for the general welfare, and it is also true that these are the men who secured for themselves the largest enjoyment while they lived and have left a memory which will longest endure, fragrant and un fading.

I will not trespass upon your patience by a continuance of this delineation. What shall I say more? It is not my purpose and time would fail me, if it were, to speak of the great army of worthies whose names are our pride, whose achievements are our heritage, whose lives are our inspiration and whose memory is our sacred trust. I do not individualize and yet I cannot refrain from mentioning the names of some of the men out of whose lives I have briefly and imperfectly sketched the composite picture herein delineated. The Arnors, the Benners, the Blanchards, and the Burnises, the Curtins, the Dobbines and the Dunlops, the Gillilands and the Greggs, the Hales, the Harrises, the Humeses and the Hustons, the Irvins, the Linnns and the Mileses, the Potters and the Pettrikins, the Walkers and the Wilsons—where are they? The fathers all gone—some of the names scarcely more than a memory in our community, and yet these are the men who subdued savages, who in colonial, revolutionary and later times braved danger and resisted opposition in order to give us our present heritage of peace, freedom, prosperity and comfort, who made our laws, interpreted them and helped to execute them, who in their day wrought righteousness and taught purity and the precepts of the Gospel of peace on earth and good will to men, who in their day endured all things that the thing for which they hoped might be a realization to us, whose monuments are all about us in what Bellefonte is, and in what its possibilities for the future may be, who through their wisdom and toil and self-sacrifice have given us this goodly heritage, whose memories are green as the sod which grows above the graves of the most of them in our City of the Dead, whose example wherever worthy of imitation we invoke for our guidance for the future and whose spirits all about us beckon us to nobler resolves, purer purposes and higher achievements than theirs, inasmuch as we have with us the inspiration of their lives, the benefit of their experiences, the incentive of their successes and the glory of their renown.

My neighbors and friends, are we worthy of such an ancestry? Are we worthy carrying forward the work which they began? Are we as usefully as they giving ourselves to the development of the present for the benefit of the future? I do not answer this question for you. We are each answering it in our individual lives. It will be answered many, many times by those who come after us; and, if answered affirmatively, at the next centennial purchase our names will be linked with those of the men who have gone before us as worthy of a place in the list of Bellefonte's benefactors and heroes.

Young man, what is your ambition? What are your aims? What are your purposes? To what have you dedicated your life? If, in your thoughts and in your plans and in your efforts you are seeking to gather to yourself for selfish purposes any of the things which in this day of greed and gain is considered desirable and essential to your present enjoyment or your future fame, learn from this short review of the century past that they enjoy most who sacrifice most and that those who will be longest remembered who most faithfully serve not themselves but the generation in which they live.

Century gone, you have taught us impressive lessons; you have furnished us brilliant examples of what life is and and what it ought to be; you have left us a glorious heritage! Century to come, we turn to thee: All hail! May the men who are born to thee be equal to their opportunities and worthy of their inheritance! Beautiful Bellefonte, may this be but the beginning of your development and the starting point of your progress! May your men and your women be your pride as in the past and may your future be as enduring and glorious as your past has been solid and beneficent.

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