

Reunion of Centre County Veterans at Grange Park.

The fifty-second annual reunion of the Centre County Veteran Club was held at Grange Park, Centre Hall, on Wednesday of last week, twenty-seven veterans being present. Among those who passed away during the year, and who were invariably found in the ranks on reunion day, were Capt. George M. Boal, of Centre Hall, for many years president of the club; Charles Smith, of Pine Grove Mills; George Cox and James Reed, of Bellefonte. According to the secretary's report the mortality list of the past year numbered twelve.

In compliment to the veterans the Citizens' band, of Ferguson township, was present and gave a number of patriotic concerts during the day. At 10:30 o'clock in the morning the soldiers were called to attention by the president of the association, W. H. Bartholomew. Rev. G. W. Emenhizer delivered the address of welcome after which secretary W. H. Fry read the minutes of the last meeting. Following the appointment of committees the meeting adjourned for dinner, which was by no means one of bacon and hardtack. In fact every old soldier was able to make a full hand at dispensing with the good things spread before them.

On reassembling at 1:30 o'clock Dean R. L. Watts, of State College, spoke briefly in response to the address of welcome. The committee on the nomination of officers reported the following: President, W. H. Bartholomew, Centre Hall; first vice president, Henry Meyer, Rebersburg; second vice president, B. D. Brisbin, Centre Hall; chaplain, Rev. G. W. Emenhizer, Coleville; secretary and treasurer, W. H. Fry, Pine Grove Mills. All were elected.

The committee on place of meeting reported in favor of Grange park, during the Grange picnic week.

Among those who made brief talks were Rev. Arthur Price, Rev. S. V. Bergen, Rev. J. Max Kirkpatrick, Rev. Forbes and Miss Rebecca N. Rhoads, who told of her work at the soldier camps during the past year. Rev. C. L. Chase, the colored evangelist, of Phillipsburg, entertained "the boys" with a number of southern melodies, and Hon. J. Laird Holmes, of State College, a son of a veteran, made a brief talk. Treasurer W. H. Fry reported \$34.59 in the treasury.

The committee on resolutions reported as follows:

Resolved, That after a lapse of more than 52 years since the organization of the Centre County Veteran Club we are grateful that so many survivors of the great Civil war are again permitted to meet in annual reunion, to clasp hands and renew old acquaintances.

Resolved, That we learn with regret of the loss of so many of our comrades (twelve) who have answered the last roll call, never again to mingle with us in our annual social gatherings.

Resolved, That our thanks are due the Grange association of Centre county for their kind invitation to meet on their attractive grounds, and use their buildings for our meeting.

Resolved, That our thanks are due the Citizens band for their excellent music throughout the day.

Resolved, That our thanks are due all those who through pure patriotism favored us with such interesting addresses and made the program one of more than the usual interest.

Following is a list of the veterans present, with their age and company in which they served:

- Rev. G. W. Emenhizer, 82, Co. H, 45th Regiment.
- S. H. Griffith, 80, Co. G, 21st Regt.
- D. W. Eberhart, 92, Co. C, Eng.
- William Plack, 80, Co. H, 45th Regt.
- B. D. Brisbin, 83, Co. G, 148th Regt.
- W. H. Bartholomew, 79, Co. F, 2nd Cav.
- W. H. Fry, 82, Co. E, 45th Regt.
- T. A. Snyder, 81, Co. D, 1st Cav.
- Cyrus Walker, 83, Co. E, 7th Cav.
- J. B. Foster, 79, Co. H, 59th Regt.
- Ben Espenshade, 86, Co. E, 79th Regt.
- Philip Dale, 83, Co. G, 149th Regt.
- William Hoy, 84, Co. H, 59th Regt.
- John Griffith, 83, Co. D, 100th Ohio.
- W. E. Tate, 82, Co. G, 136th Regt.
- C. H. Martz, 77, Co. C, 21st Cav.
- G. D. Houtz, 83, Co. D, 78th Regt.
- J. I. Williams, 82, Co. D, 46th Regt.
- B. P. Hoy, 82, Co. H, 46th Regt.
- C. J. Campbell, 84, 49th P. V.
- L. A. Chase, 80, U. S. Troops.
- J. M. Jacobs, 78, 13th P. V.
- A. H. Waring, 84, Co. D, 143rd Regt.
- M. W. Morrison, 77, Co. D, 1st Bat.
- R. G. Forges, 78, Huntingdon.
- W. R. Evans, 82, Co. C, 49th Regt.
- M. Noll, 80, Milton.

Philosophy of Solon Silonis.

Several weeks ago we published "A Fable" from the pen of a naturalist of world-wide reputation, who writes under the pseudonym, "Solon Silonis." Recently we received the following meaty paragraph from the same contributor. Evidently he knows something of Centre county.

"There's a Chinese saying that 'Nothing matters much in this world, although it is sometimes worth while to plant bamboo.' Now the fine irony of this saying is better understood when it is recalled that, as botanists tell us, some of the bamboos require sixty years to reach maturity, after which they fruit but once, and die down. Certainly.—If the voters of Centre insist on voting the Republican ticket against their own interest, and even at a loss to their pride, 'nothing matters much,' and they had better set the time-piece of constructive citizenship back, and go to raising bamboo.

—For good, reliable news always read the "Watchman."

Obsession of Death Made Empires Great

We have taken a brief and cursory glance at a civilization (Egyptian) which, though its qualities were but mediocre, endured for more than four thousand years. It is, with that of China, the longest that history has ever known. For 40 centuries, while the rest of the world was given over to barbarism, massacre, brigandage, rapine and monstrous disorder, it procured for the people who lived under it a happiness and tranquillity, security and peace that might well be envied by the people of today who rank among the most fortunate.

What were the forces that kept this civilization together? Obviously and above all, the priestly oligarchy that held the reins, an oligarchy of wise and thoughtful men who jealously guarded their secret; while above them were kings not only by divine right but actually divine, the monarch not being merely the representative of the god on earth, but the god himself, and so concretely and actually god that not one, himself to begin with, for one instant doubted his divinity, of which he was so sincerely, so deeply convinced that he worshipped his own image and did it obeisance.

But there were other peoples who were governed by prudent oligarchies and kings who held themselves to be gods, and that nevertheless did not last long. In the Egyptian people, as in the Chinese, side by side with the divine authority that strengthened the social edifice from its base to its crown there existed a certain force that never left them, an authority humbler than the other but more effective, inasmuch as it permeated, saturated, the entire organism; and this was the obsession of death and the adoration of the corpse. Strangely enough, wherever the thought of death is unpermitted, persistent, and paramount, life takes a firmer grip, quickens, multiplies, flourishes. The two civilizations that endured the longest, that were the most stable and tranquil of all that are known to us, had the same ideal: a coffin.—Maurice Maeterlinck, in the Forum.

American Languages

Albert D. Richardson, who traveled in Missouri in the fifties, wrote of the pioneer's vocabulary. "Tolerable," he noted, was one of the most familiar words in the Missouri vernacular. He tells of asking his way:

"Is it a good road from here to St. Joseph?"

"Tolerable good, sir."

He found it "intolerably bad." So, meeting a teamster, he changed the form of the question.

"A bad road from here to St. Joseph, is it not?"

"Tolerable bad, stranger."

Then he asked a negro boy:

"Is it a straight road from here to St. Joseph?"

"Tolerable straight, Massa," was the reply.

But eastern vernacular was as strange to the Missourians. Richardson tells of a native who observed: "I've lived on the frontier all my life. I know English and the six languages and have picked up a smattering of French, Spanish, Choctaw and Delaware; but one language I can't understand is this infernal New York language!"

He Had an Excuse

A very dignified looking gentleman stopped at a Park Row news stand and purchased two very staid, conservative newspapers and an extremely literary monthly magazine.

He paid for them—but after a moment's hesitation asked in addition for a certain monthly magazine bearing a decidedly zippy title.

It seems that he must have sensed something of the inconsistency of his purchase and felt that some kind of explanation was due—even to so un-literary a fellow as the particular news dealer in question.

"Er—I hope," he said, as he laid down the necessary amount for the magazine, "that you don't think I read this paper. Er—I'm just a contributor."—Monterey News.

"Hobble" Stairway

In a certain building in Skowhegan, Me., is an unusual flight of stairs which have a rise of five inches and a correspondingly narrow tread, looking as if they were made for the convenience of small children. This stairway was built according to the idea of Dr. Henry Leavitt, a dentist in the building. It was the day of the hobble skirt. Clad in a hobble skirt, any woman ascended a flight of ordinary stairs with difficulty and Doctor Leavitt planned the stairs with this style in mind. About the time they were finished, the style passed to await its resurrection, but the stairs still remain—a memorial to a forgotten freak of fashion.

Piano Autograph Book

The head of a music house in Washington lays claim to having a unique autograph "book." His book is a grand piano. On its lid are scratched the names of famous artists who have played there on that piano. Paderewski's name leads all the rest, the date after it being 1893.

Swiss Roses for Rockies

An effort will be made this year to transplant Swiss mountain roses to the Canadian Pacific Rockies. These roses, brought from Switzerland by Doctor Huesscher, late Swiss consul at Montreal, are extremely hardy, and only thrive above elevations of 3,000 feet.

English Writer Tells "Tall" Fish Stories

The winter garden of the Savoy hotel, London, was the scene of a double tragedy a few weeks ago. For many years two goldfish, named Ernest and Eva, made their home in the fountain there. Guests from all parts of the world admired them, for the fish were famous on account of their tricks.

As soon as a cork was put in the water, Ernest would leap over it in a flash of gold, and sometimes would turn a somersault in the air. One day, however, a thoughtless guest flicked some cigar ash into the fountain, and the fish were poisoned.

Another notable goldfish died recently. His name was Peter, and for fourteen years he lived in the garden fountain of St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, London.

Legends of long-lived fish are numerous. One of the most interesting concerns the "Holy Trout of Killgeever." This fish lived for many years in a well in the west of Ireland. Tradition says that, when French troops landed there more than a century ago, they ran short of food, and certain soldiers decided to have the trout fried for dinner. When they put him on the pan, the trout disappeared up the chimney and found his way back to the well, where he lived for many years.—London Tit-Bits.

Tramp's Quiet Remark Made Big Impression

I remember once two or three of us children had climbed up a high chestnut tree near the gate of our home (reminisces Sir William Orpen in "Stories of Old Ireland and Myself"). A broken-down old tramp was passing painfully along the road, but he stopped when he heard our laughter, and at last detected where we were above him.

"Ah, children," said he, "I would like to be up there with you!"

We laughed still more at the idea of this old man climbing a tree. And one of us said:

"What on earth, old man, do you want to come up here for?"

To which he replied:

"Wouldn't I be nearer to heaven?"

And away he moved on his weary tramp of the roads. But we were very quiet for a bit after what he said.

Testing Gold

To test gold, dig the point of a knife into it, and if it powders it is not gold. Gold is richly yellow, but to tell it from pyrites when in very minute flecks, turn it so that the light catches it from various directions. Gold will not alter in shade, but pyrite does. A drop of nitric acid will cause a fuming on pyrites, but does not affect gold.

You must pan creek sands and gravel to find gold. It may be near the surface, but generally the heaviest deposits of placer gold are on and close to bed rock, which may be a few feet or many feet deep. Gold placers are best found in a big bend in a creek, which allows it to be deposited, or on the upper side of a reef or ledge crossing the stream. Sometimes it is a dry deposit, up where the stream formerly flowed, and is called a "bench" placer.—Victor Shaw, in Adventure Magazine.

Mercury

Mercury is a metallic element existing in a liquid form except when exposed to a very low temperature. It is commonly called quicksilver. It is a metallic element, just as iron or gold is an element, that is, it cannot be subdivided into anything else; but there are many compounds of mercury, that is, mercury in chemical combination with other things such as compounds of mercury and oxygen, mercury and nitrogen, etc. A large part of the world's supply of mercury is obtained in California where ores are found containing mercury in combination with other matter, separated by various chemical processes. Gold dust readily unites with mercury forming an amalgam. The mercury is afterwards removed by distillation.

Famous English Regiment

The name "Ironsides" was given to a famous regiment of one thousand horse that served under Oliver Cromwell, in allusion to the iron courage displayed by it at the battle of Marston Moor, 1644. Members of the "Ironsides" were chiefly recruited from the eastern counties of England. They were extremely religious, almost to a man, and enjoyed the proud distinction of never having been defeated in battle. Cromwell said of them in a speech, the year before his death, "truly they were never beaten, but whenever they were engaged against the enemy they beat continually."—Kansas City Star.

Great Christian Creed

The Athanasian creed was one of the three great creeds of Christendom—the two others being the Apostles' creed and the Nicene creed. It derives its name from Athanasius, the opponent of Arius and champion of orthodoxy, by whom it was supposed to have been written. It is the most rigid of three creeds mentioned, and was the standard of orthodoxy during the Middle ages. It is famous for its so-called "damatory clauses." By many it is thought to have been written by Sergeant Hilary of Arles about 450; some argue for a later date, between 700 and 800, while others pronounce it a forgery.—Exchange.

Plaster of Paris Houses.

Gypsum, commonly called "plaster of paris," which has been used for centuries for plastering walls, is the essential part of a new fireproof building material. Mixed with cinders,

gravel, crushed stone or furnace slag, and poured in forms, it can be used in the construction of one and two-story houses at a cost that compares favorably with that of wooden buildings, says Popular Science Monthly. In a recent laboratory test the outside of a six-inch gypsum concrete wall was subjected to a temperature of 1,700 degrees for an hour, and at no time did the interior surface become warm.

—Read the "Watchman" and keep well informed on everything.



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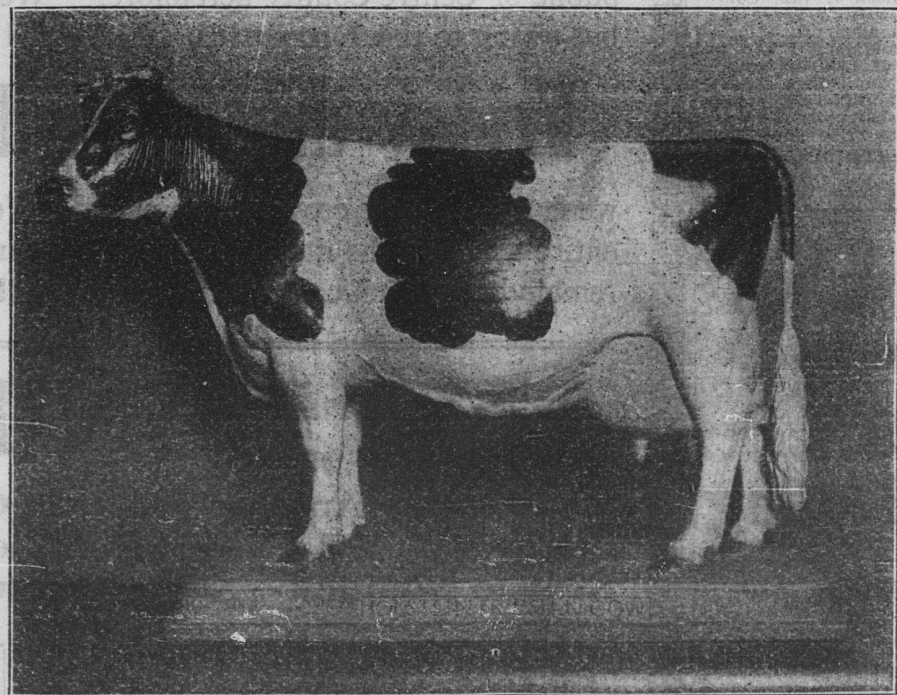


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