

# Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., October 16, 1925.

P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

To Correspondents.—No communications published unless accompanied by the real name of the writer.

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A sample copy of the "Watchman" will be sent without cost to applicants.

## THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

Judge of the Superior Court,  
WILLIAM A. MCGUIRE, of Johnstown.

Judge of the Courts of Centre County,  
W. HARRISON WALKER

District Attorney,  
WILLIAM GROH RUNKLE.

Jury Commissioner,  
JAMES C. CONDO.

## Philipsburg Brewery Seized and Then Surrendered.

Four state policemen raided the Philipsburg brewery, on Monday afternoon and placed under arrest E. C. Beezer, Fred J. Beezer, William E. Beezer, Lawrence Nugent, J. T. Steinkirchner, David Chambers and George Snuchta, all of whom were in the brewery at the time. The charge was possession of high power beer in violation of the State prohibition laws. The officers found seven hundred barrels of near beer and beer containing an illegal percentage of alcohol, all in vats. All the men arrested furnished bond in the sum of \$1000 for a hearing before "Squire Hancock" at a later date.

The men placed under arrest are all stockholders or employees of the brewery. It is reported that a sale of the property was about to be consummated and the men were all at the brewery to close the deal. The beer on hand had been brewed months ago and had been held with the expectation that the federal government permit to manufacture near beer which had been withdrawn several months ago, would be renewed. So far no effort has been made on the part of the state officers to destroy the beer, but they will keep it under constant guard.

The raid on the brewery was in a line with a campaign carried on that day all over the State. Every brewery in the State, it is said, was visited. At St. Mary's the officers are reported to have found beer in bottles and other containers and the entire stock on hand was emptied into the sewers. At the Philipsburg brewery not a keg, bottle or other container holding beer was found, the entire stock being in vats, and no evidence, whatever, of intent to ship any of the beverage.

The officers took charge of the property until Wednesday morning when they called Mr. E. C. Beezer, the president, and asked him to take charge of it, as they had overstepped their authority in the matter.

## The Coming Week at the Y.

Secretary John W. Stewart, of the Bellefonte Y. M. C. A., has arranged a program of athletic events at the Y for the coming week, as follows, beginning this evening:

**Friday:**  
7:30 P. M.—Men's Gym Class.  
8:30 P. M.—Bowling League Games, Kiwanis vs. Hazel and Co. Alleys 1 and 2. Governors vs. Clerks. Alleys 3 and 4.

**Saturday:**  
9:30 P. M.—Junior Boys Gym Class.  
1:30 P. M.—Intermediate Boys Gym Class

**Monday:**  
4:00 P. M.—Academy Boys Gym Class.  
7:00 P. M.—Intermediate Boys Gym Class.  
7:30 P. M.—Bowling League Games, American Lime vs. Electric Supply. Alleys 3 and 4. Titan Metal vs. Potter-Hoy. Alleys 1 and 2.

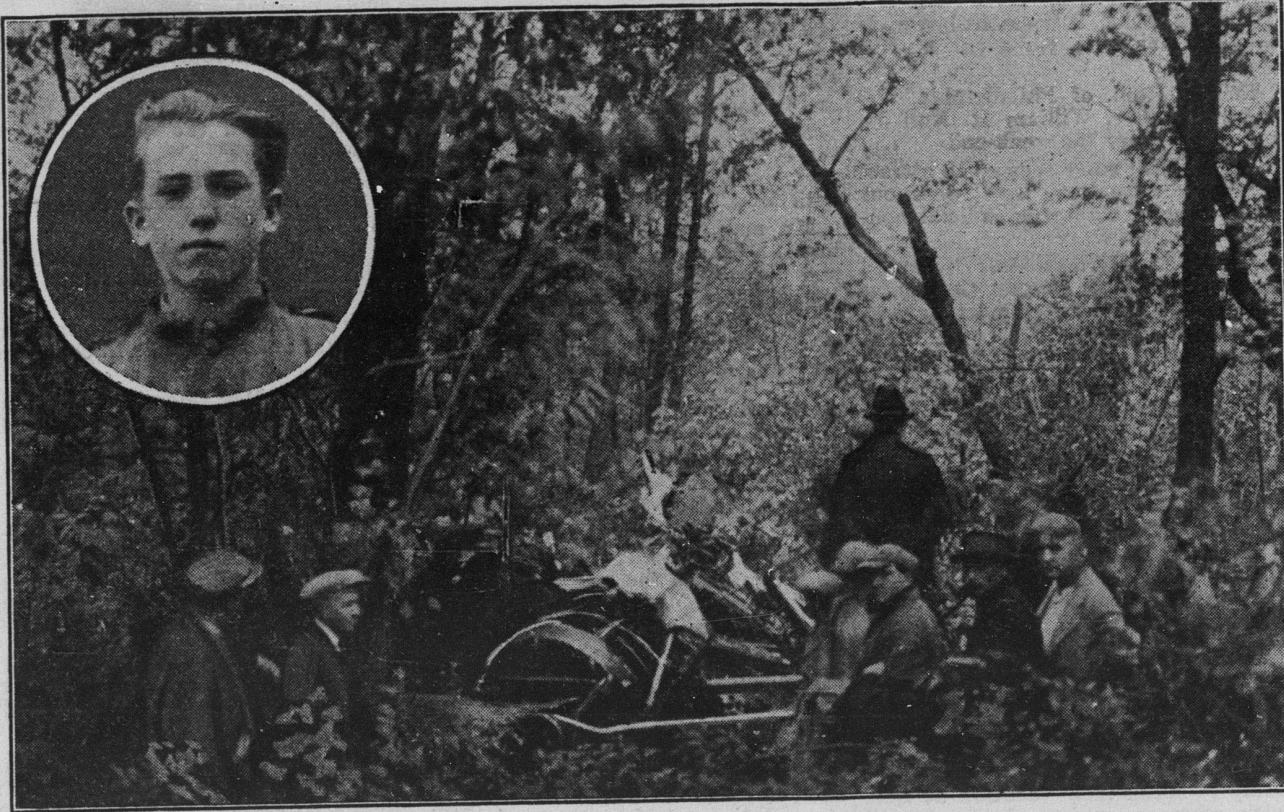
**Tuesday:**  
4:00 P. M.—Junior Girls Gym Class.  
7:30 P. M.—Men's Gym Class.

**Wednesday:**  
4:00 P. M.—Junior Girls Gym Class.  
8:00 P. M.—Bowling League Games, Clerks vs. Sycamore. Alley 1 and 2. Chemical Lime vs. Kiwanis. Alleys 3 and 4.

**Thursday:**  
4:00 P. M.—Intermediate Girls Gym Class.  
7:30 P. M.—Ladies Gym Class.

## Blanchard-Moshannon Stockholders to Get Report.

A meeting of the preferred stockholders of the defunct Blanchard-Moshannon Coal Mining company will be held within the next week when a report will be made to them by the trustee and receivers as to the present condition of affairs. At the receiver's sale some weeks ago the property was purchased by Robert F. Hunter, as trustee for the stockholders, and at the time everybody had hopes that some arrangements could be made to finance a new company and save the property for the stockholders. All efforts in this direction having failed the property was taken over by a Pittsburgh gentleman at the price paid by the trustee at the receiver's sale. This is the end of the Blanchard-Moshannon company and wipes out all equity it ever possessed in the coal lands near Karthaus.



A Good View of the Wrecked Mailplane which Carried Pilot Charles H. Ames to His Death on the Nittany Mountains Thursday, October 1st. Inset, Johnny Dearthmitt, who Found the Dead Pilot and Wrecked Plane on Sunday, Ten Days After the Accident.

## AIRMAIL PILOT FOUND ON NITTANY MOUNTAIN SUNDAY MORNING.

Still Sitting in the Seat of His Wrecked Machine, was Evidently Killed Instantly when Plane Crashed Into Mountain Thursday Night, October 1st.

Lost for almost ten days airmail pilot Charles Hayden Ames and his wrecked mail plane were found on Sunday morning on the south side of the second ridge in the Nittany mountain range at the Hecla gap, within half a mile of the Hecla gap beacon light, by a party of searchers from Hecla. The dead pilot was still sitting in the seat of his badly wrecked machine, with his legs crossed around the control stick, the upper portion of his body hanging out of the cockpit and his head resting on his right arm. A hole in his forehead, the right side of his face badly crushed and a hole in the control panel where his head struck when the monster plane landed nose on against a huge rock were mute evidences that the pilot was killed instantly, and probably never realized what had happened. The plane was a total wreck. The right wing had been torn off by coming in contact with a tree just before the crash to earth and the other wing was smashed in the fall. The landing gear had been knocked off through contact with trees, the propellers smashed and the big Liberty motor broken through the impact with the huge rock it landed against. The machine was lying almost on its right side, the gas tank had been broken and the clock on the control panel stopped at the numeral 3. But this did not tell the story of the time of the accident, as the clock, an eight day timepiece was run down, not damaged, and when rewound, began ticking off the time as usual. The mail in the cockpit had not been disturbed and only three bags of the thirteen comprising the load were slightly wet as the result of the rains of the week the wrecked plane lay in the mountains.

The searching party that was instrumental in finding the missing pilot and mail plane was organized at Hecla on Saturday evening by L. H. McMullen and Charles Workman. It included the following twenty-four men and boys: L. H. McMullen, Charles Workman, E. J. Dearthmitt and his fifteen year old son, John Dearthmitt; J. E. Herman, William Harnish, R. M. Hoy, Richard Workman, Earl Harter, Joseph Weaver, Orvis Yarnell, Bruce Beightol, A. L. Henry, Ford Henry, Melvin Miller, John Dunkle, Philip Yarnell, Joe Yarnell, George Carson, Robert Funk, Emery Miller, Lee Dobson and A. F. Hockman.

Equipped with sandwiches for an all day hunt the party left Hecla shortly before nine o'clock and went through the gap and up to the point of the second ridge in the Nittany mountain range. Before starting on the hunt a compact was made that any and all rewards paid should be divided equally between the members of the party in the event they were successful in finding the lost aviator. Mr. McMullen was chosen captain of the crew and he formed his men in a line about fifty feet apart, extending over the crown of the ridge and down on both sides. The orders were to keep close enough together to see every foot of ground, as well as keep sight of each other. Then the hunt started. The party traveled a mile or more when John Dearthmitt espied ahead of him, almost buried in the laurel and underbrush, the wrecked plane. He started on a run to the spot, tripped and fell over a rock, then yelled, "Here it is, I found him." Almost at the same instant the wrecked plane was seen by Mr. Workman, who was fifty feet higher up the mountain, and signaling to the other members of the searching party it took only a few minutes until all were gathered around the wrecked plane. Because the Dearthmitt lad was the first to see the wreck he was delegated as one of the searchers to return to Hecla and report the find. Two other boys accompanied him, and alternately running and walking they made good

time to the McMullen residence and excitedly blurted out that the long-lost pilot had been found. Miss McMullen hastily telephoned the tidings to the Bellefonte field where assistant manager Forrest Tanner received the news.

Summoning assistance he went to Hecla in one of the field trucks, picked up the waiting boys as guides and within forty minutes was at the scene of the wreck. He found the dead pilot still strapped fast in his seat, and cutting the belt and cutting off his parachute he lifted him out of the pit. A portion of one of the broken wings was used as a litter and on this the dead body was placed and covered with a robe of silk stripped from a broken wing. The wrecked plane was almost half a mile from the road and members of the searching party carried the lifeless form through the underbrush to the waiting truck. The mail was removed and carried to the truck and the broken wing with the dead pilot placed on top, and thus the cavalcade slowly descended the rough mountain road, already swarming with curious sight-seers who had hurried to the scene of the wreck. The body was brought to Bellefonte and turned over to undertakers F. W. West & Co. The mail was taken direct to the field and dispatched on a special plane for Chicago.

As soon as word of the find was received at the Bellefonte field general superintendent Carl F. Egge, who was still at Clarion directing the search there, was notified by telephone, and he came to Bellefonte by airplane, reaching here at one o'clock. He remained at the Bellefonte field all afternoon and materially assisted the limited force on duty there. Manager Fred J. Gelhaus and Samuel Weaver were out in the Karthaus region and it was four o'clock before they could be located and notified of the find. All the ships on duty in the Clarion district sailed for Bellefonte. Paul Ames, who was at Clarion, left there in a plane for Bellefonte but the pilot was compelled to sit down at DuBois owing to motor trouble and Slim Lewis was sent from Bellefonte to bring him over, reaching here about five o'clock.

On Monday the official board of inquiry for the eastern district, composed of H. B. Shaver, assistant division superintendent; Fred J. Gelhaus, manager of the Bellefonte field, and J. D. Hill, senior pilot on the eastern division, and accompanied by Slim Lewis, went to the scene of the wreck and made an official investigation. Their report will be made direct to the Postmaster General. While there was nothing about the wreck to indicate the time it happened it is the general belief that Pilot Ames crashed into the mountain on his direct trip to Bellefonte. That he was flying under the clouds of that night in the valleys and hopping over the mountain ranges and for some reason miscalculated his altitude when he struck the second ridge in the Nittany mountain range on which the beacon light is located. The fact that the machine was headed for Bellefonte would indicate that he had not been lost or circling around above the clouds. Had he been two hundred feet higher he would have been above the tops of the tallest trees. Just two hundred feet stood between life and death, and death won.

The body of the dead aviator was taken by auto hearse by undertaker E. E. Widdowson to Cleveland for cremation. He left Bellefonte at four o'clock on Monday afternoon. There was no demonstration of any kind and so quietly was his departure that few knew of it until after he had gone. The cremation took place at 3:30 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. The ashes were taken from Cleveland to Stoddard, Mich., where funeral services were held and burial made yesterday.

Pilot Ames was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Ames, of Hollywood, Cal. He was thirty-five years old and had been in the airmail service since 1920. His parents and two sisters survive.

## NOTES OF THE CLOSING INCIDENT.

John Dearthmitt, the Hecla boy who first spied the wrecked plane, was fifteen years old Sunday, and it will be

a birthday he will long remember. He is a bright young lad and while not posing as a hero is naturally glad that he found the missing ship and pilot.

The composite picture accompanying this article was made from photos taken by William J. Sager, of Bellefonte.

Already there has been considerable talk among outsiders over the probability of a quarrel over the reward offered for the finding of the body of pilot Ames, but nothing of the kind is likely to happen. Every man and boy who composed the searching party will stand by the compact made to divide the reward equally, and no one has given a thought to demanding more than his share.

Souvenir hunters despoiled the wrecked ship of numerous valuable instruments, ever prying off the side of the ship the dead pilot's name plate. Unless everything is returned to the men in charge at the Bellefonte field postal inspectors will be sent here to hunt them up and arrests and prosecution will follow.

Some people think it strange that airmail pilots flying back and forth across the route did not discover the wrecked ship, but it was so shielded by the trees and underbrush that it could not be discerned from the air. The men in charge of the search for the ship were also badly confused by the many conflicting reports from widely separated places that the mail plane had been both seen and heard, all of which are now proved as being incorrect.

The first and most authentic photos of the wrecked plane were taken by William J. Sager, of Bellefonte. Prints were in great demand a hundred or more copies were sent out.

During the eleven days following pilot Ames' disappearance over 47,000 words of press matter were sent out from Bellefonte through the Western Union telegraph office. In addition probably ten thousand words went out via the telephone. It was a record never before equalled in the history of Bellefonte.

Members of the crew from the Bellefonte field went down to the wreck on Tuesday, stripped the machine of all valuable parts that had not been carried away by souvenir hunters, then burned the wreckage. The big Liberty motor, damaged beyond repair, was left lay where it fell and in future years will be a marker where the daring pilot, Charles Hayden Ames, plunged to his death.

## Bellefonte Chapter D. A. R.

For the first regular monthly meeting of its year the Bellefonte Chapter D. A. R. met at the Woman's building, State College, Thursday evening, October 1st. Miss Louise B. Moss, Miss Bogart, Miss Donethen, Miss Dozier, Mrs. W. B. Mack were the hostesses.

After the completion of the business for the evening Professor Espenshade gave a summary of his book, "Place Names in Pennsylvania," to a very much interested audience.

Accustomed to the skilled and experienced leadership of the long years' duration—of Miss Helen E. C. Overton, the chapter can congratulate itself upon its choice of her successor, Mrs. William Frear, of State College. To the first vice-regency Mrs. R. G. H. Hayes, of Bellefonte, was elected; to the second, Mrs. David Allen Anderson, of State College. Mrs. P. B. Brennenman, of State College, is recording secretary; Mrs. David Dale, Bellefonte, corresponding secretary; Mrs. N. B. Spangler, treasurer; Mrs. John I. Olewine, historian; Mrs. James A. Beaver, registrar; Mrs. Austin O. Furst, Mrs. W. Wayne Rogers, Mrs. James I. Thompson, Mrs. Charles W. Stoddard, Mrs. John Curtin, Mrs. P. H. Dale, Miss Anna Allison McCoy, directors.

The Chapter, unwilling to forget the past, made its first organized regent, Mrs. Austin O. Furst, and its for many years enthusiastic and excellent one, Miss Helen E. C. Overton, honorary regents.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

**SLACK.**—John Alexander Slack, a life-long resident of Potter township, died at one o'clock on Sunday morning at the home of his niece, Miss Elizabeth Slack, of Potters Mills, as the result of general debility; he having been in declining health for some months.

A son of Uriah and Isabelle McEwen Slack, he was born in Potter township on September 3rd, 1839, hence had reached the age of 86 years, 1 month and 8 days. When he grew to manhood he engaged in farming and all his life, up to about ten years ago was a tiller of the soil. Some six years ago he moved from the farm into Centre Hall where he lived until last July when he and Mrs. Slack went to the home of his niece at Potters Mills. A quiet, unassuming man, he lived his life as he best saw the light, manfully striving to do his duty as a citizen, a husband and a father.

He was twice married, his first wife having been Miss Sarah Ellen Spangler, who died in 1890. Two children survive as the result of this union, Charles W. Slack, of Centre Hall, and Mrs. Alfred Catherman, of Hartleton. Two sons died a number of years ago. Following the death of his first wife he married Miss Anna Miller, of Spring township, who also survives. He was the last of a family of ten children, five boys and five girls.

He was a member of the Reformed church and the funeral services, held at two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, at his late home at Potters Mills, were in charge of his pastor, Rev. Delas Keener, assisted by Rev. J. Max Kirkpatrick, of the Presbyterian church, after which burial was made in the Zion Hill cemetery, near Tusseyville.

**POORMAN.**—Mrs. Catherine Poorman, wife of Solomon Poorman, of Bellefonte, died at the Centre County hospital last Saturday. She had been a sufferer with arterio sclerosis for two years or more and a few weeks ago fell and fractured her hip bone which necessitated her being taken to the hospital.

She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Poorman and was born in Centre county on January 19th, 1846, making her age 79 years, 8 months and 21 days. She was twice married, her first husband having been Henry Garbrick. Two children survive as the result of this union, George Garbrick, of California, and Mrs. Frank Wion, of Bellefonte. Following the death of her first husband she married Solomon Poorman, who survives with three children, Mrs. Ida Grove, of Bellefonte; Ira M., of Brooklyn, N. Y., and E. B., of Ambridge, Pa.

Funeral services were held at her late home on Tuesday afternoon by Rev. Arnold, of the Lutheran church, of which she was a member, after which burial was made in the Union cemetery.

The husband and children hereby extend thanks to all those who so kindly assisted them during their bereavement.

**KINKEAD.**—Mrs. Emma Kinkead, widow of the late David Kinkead, for many years a resident of Philipsburg, died last Friday morning at the home of her son, Allen Kinkead, at Jersey Shore, following an illness of eleven months as the result of a stroke of paralysis. She was a native of Berks county and was almost seventy-nine years old. Going to Philipsburg when a young girl she was married in that place to David Kinkead in 1868 and that had been her home until the death of her husband a few years ago. She was a member of the Methodist church of Philipsburg all her life.

Her surviving children are Mrs. J. L. Devine, of Jersey Shore; Ole Kinkead, of Clearfield; Mrs. Thomas Williams, of Jersey Shore; Edward, of Warren; George, of Tyrone; Allen, of Jersey Shore; Howard, Warren and Lawrence, of Philipsburg. The remains were taken to Philipsburg where funeral services were held on Monday morning and burial made in the Philipsburg cemetery.

**TIBBENS.**—Mrs. Sarah Tibbens, widow of William Tibbens, died on Tuesday at her home near Pleasant Gap, as the result of general debility, she having been in failing health for some months.

She was a daughter of George and Catherine Sellers Rumberger and was born in Buffalo Run valley on September 15th, 1849. Her husband died thirteen years ago but surviving her are two sons, George, of Bellefonte, and Wilbur, of Pleasant Gap. She also leaves one brother, George W. Rumberger, of Unionville. The funeral will be held this (Friday) afternoon.

Mrs. Tibbens was a woman of rare personality. The glory and goodness of life were radiated in her every contact with others and even tempered kindness was habitual with her. The benediction of her lovely disposition is a rich inheritance for those who are left to mourn her going.

**CURTIN.**—John Ardell Curtin, youngest son of Harry and Elizabeth Ardell Curtin, of Curtin, died at the Centre County hospital last Friday. About two months ago he was taken to the hospital for an operation for appendicitis. During the ensuing six weeks recovery was slow but apparently sure and two weeks ago he was taken home. Two days later he suffered a relapse and was taken back to the hospital and from that time his condition gradually grew worse until his death.

Had he lived until Sunday he would have been four years old. In addition

to his parents he is survived by an elder brother, Harry. Funeral services were held at the Curtin home on Sunday afternoon and burial made in the Curtin cemetery.

## Centre County Bankers' Association Organized.

A meeting of representatives of the fifteen banks in Centre county was held in the grand jury room in the court house, Bellefonte, on Monday at which an organization was perfected to be known as the Centre County Bankers' Association. The officers elected were as follows:

President, Charles M. McCurdy, president of the First National bank, of Bellefonte; first vice president, John E. Fryberger, cashier of the First National bank, of Philipsburg; second vice president, David F. Kapp, cashier of the First National bank, of State College; secretary, Lloyd E. Stover, cashier of the First National bank, of Millheim; treasurer, Theodore C. Jackson, cashier of the Moshannon National bank, of Philipsburg.

The purpose of the organization is to promote the general welfare and usefulness of banks and banking institutions, and to secure uniformity of action, together with the practical benefits to be derived from personal acquaintance and the discussion of subjects of importance to the banking interests of Centre county, and to secure co-operation by the banks in the development of the agricultural, industrial and other interests of the county, and for the protection against loss by crime and otherwise.

Centre county banks are all affiliated with Group 6, of the bankers' association, but it has grown so large as to become unwieldy and the National and State bankers' associations have for some time advocated the organization of county organizations, hence the action taken by Centre county bankers on Monday.

## Paralyzed Man Carried to Death Chair for Electrocutation.

Edward Stevenson, negro, of Fayette county, was electrocuted at the Rockview penitentiary on Monday morning for the murder of deputy constable Robert Mason during a gambling raid in Uniontown in February, 1924. Stevenson escaped after the killing and was captured in West Virginia, being shot in the hip while resisting the officers. The wound caused complete paralysis of the legs and the man lay on a cot during his trial, was carried into court on a cot when sentenced to death, was brought to the death house on Saturday on a cot and had to be carried to the chair on Monday morning by guards. The body was unclaimed and was buried in the penitentiary cemetery.

## Long Time Escaped Prisoner Recaptured at Butler.

James Edward Bowser, who escaped from the Rockview penitentiary on July 19th, 1924, by scaling the stockade, was recaptured at Butler on Tuesday and brought to the Centre county jail the same night. Bowser, who was sent up from Lawrence county for 2 1/2 to 5 years, was one of the three who made their escape fifteen months ago, the other two being Edward Goss, of Venango county, and Frank Hale, of Clinton county.

## Another Takes French Leave of Rockview.

Between 7 and 8-30 o'clock Wednesday evening Frank Murkoff cut his way through the stockade surrounding the penitentiary at Rockview and is still at liberty.

He was sent up from Washington county for from 7 to 9 years for robbery with arms.

Murkoff is 5 feet 9, 24 years old, weighs about 150 pounds. Has light blue eyes, chestnut brown hair and medium fair complexion. He wore blue pants, blue coat, blue cap and a sweater that was probably blue.

—As a result of the recent boiler explosion in the capital building at Harrisburg, through which two men lost their lives, chief engineer Albert Emerick has been dismissed from the service. Mr. Emerick went to Harrisburg about twenty-five years ago from State College, where he had been connected with the engineering department. He is a man of such splendid character that he could have been held to responsibility for the accident only through the possibility that one of the men under him, and in whose employment he probably had no voice, failed to do his duty.

—A benefit card party for the Centre County hospital will be given by the Bellefonte Chapter of the D. A. R., at the Elks home, on Friday evening, October 23rd. Admission fifty cents. Bridge and five hundred will be in play and the playing will begin at 8 o'clock. Tables can be made up at any time, while those not arranged for can report to the committee after arriving at the Elks on the night of the party.

## Real Estate Transfers.

B. F. Shaffer, sheriff, to R. N. Barlow, et al, tract in Worth township; \$455.

Mary Beckwith to Mary F. Meyers, tract in Worth township; \$2,000.

Mary F. Meyers, et bar, to Susan E. McKinney, tract in Worth township; \$25.

Kathryn M. Brown to W. R. Shope, tract in Bellefonte; \$1.