

The Columbian.

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NO. 36

WILLIAM H. SMITH

Editor of the Benton "Argus" Dies Suddenly.

The startling information that William H. Smith, editor of the Benton *Argus*, had been found dead in his office, was received here last Friday at about one o'clock. This week's issue of the *Argus* gives the following account of the occurrence:

"His death was caused by apoplexy. He had been complaining for several days of severe pains in his right arm and shoulder, and thought that he had a slight attack of rheumatism. From this pain he seemed to suffer more on Friday morning than any time before. At 12 o'clock all the employees of the office went to dinner, leaving Mr. Smith sitting in his office chair, as he always was the last one to leave the office; no particular attention was paid to him, as at that time he seemed to be in as good health as he had been for the few days before. When Mr. Brewington, the foreman of the office, returned from dinner at 12:45, he found Mr. Smith lying on the floor in front of the door of his private office. He at once summoned Dr. McHenry who was at the side of the stricken man in a few minutes. He at once pronounced Mr. Smith dead.

The deceased is survived by a widow, two daughters, Mrs. W. C. Creasy of Mifflinville, Mrs. Aaron Batrof, of Watsonstown, and one son, Raymond, who is yet at home, also one brother, Mr. G. N. Smith, of Orangeville. He was laid to rest in the Benton cemetery, Monday afternoon, September 3."

The funeral services were held in the Christian church at Benton, and were conducted by the pastor, Rev. W. H. Sawtell, assisted by Rev. Mr. Martin, pastor of the Orangeville Presbyterian church. The ceremonies at the grave were in charge of the P. O. S. of A. of which the deceased was a member. The attendance was very large, showing the high esteem in which the deceased was held.

Mr. Smith was born in Fairmount township, Luzerne county, on October 12, 1846, and was therefore aged 53 years, 10 months and 19 days. On June 25, 1868 he was married to Miss Mary J. Gibson, who survives him. He was a man of indomitable pluck and energy, and he persevered in his undertakings until success crowned his efforts, where most men would have given up in despair long before. When a boy, an attack of scrofula made a cripple of him, and that or some other cause impaired his hearing and made his vision defective.

As a boy he worked at the tinner's and coppersmith's trade, and afterwards conducted the business for himself at New Columbus, and later had a tin store at Orangeville.

Freeze's History of Columbia County gives the following account of what we believe was Mr. Smith's first venture in the newspaper field:

"The *Independent Weekly* was started by William H. Smith and Edward E. Orvis, in Benton, April 1, 1874, as a democratic newspaper. It was continued by them until October 1, 1875, when it removed to Orangeville with the *Messenger & Laborer*, when and where Smith & Orvis dissolved, the *Independent* being continued by Smith. On the first of April, 1876, the *Independent Weekly* returned to Benton, where it was published until September, 1877, when it was removed and established in Milton, Northumberland county, by the name of the *Argus*."

He remained at Milton until 1892, and then sold his paper and returned to Benton where he established the *Argus*. He was a staunch Democrat and fearless in his denunciation of wrong. He made the *Argus* a bright, newsy paper, and built up for it a large patronage in the upper end of the county.

At Milton his office was greatly damaged by a flood, and again it was almost totally destroyed by the great fire. After this he got together what material he could, and for a time published his paper in an old freight car, and thus worked along until he had succeeded in again equipping a printing plant. He was a progressive citizen, and Benton owes much to him for his push and energy in his advocacy of a borough organization, and for his giving them a live and influential newspaper under adverse circumstances that would have appalled most men.

Mr. Smith was a member of Milton Council of Royal Arcanum, and through this his wife will receive three thousand dollars, the amount of his certificate of life insurance.

HAS JOINED THE BENEDICTS.

Samuel S. Hess Weds Miss Annie Louisa Smith at Conyngham.

At 12 o'clock Wednesday Rev. Richard Brooks, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Conyngham pronounced the words which united in marriage Dr. Samuel S. Hess, of Freeland, and Miss Anna Louisa Smith, of Drums.

The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's parents in Drums, and was witnessed by a large number of friends of the bride and the most intimate acquaintances of the groom. Victor A. Oswald, of town was the groomsmen, and Miss Laura Smith, a sister of the bride, was bridesmaid.

Immediately after the ceremony dinner was served, and later the bridal party departed, amid congratulations and good wishes, for Hazleton, where they boarded the 3 o'clock Lehigh Valley train. A week will be spent in Philadelphia and Atlantic City.

The bride is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Smith and is known as one of the most accomplished young ladies of Butler Valley. The esteem in which she is held by her friends was shown in the number of handsome and useful presents received.

Dr. S. S. Hess is a graduate of Philadelphia Dental College. Since locating in Freeland, something over a year ago, he has succeeded in establishing an excellent practice, and has also made many social friends, all of whom wish the young couple a long and happy life.

Upon their return from their wedding tour, Dr. and Mrs. Hess will take up their residence in Freeland—*Freeland Tribune*

The groom is a son of George W. Hess, of Forks, this county, and for three years was a student in the office of Dr. S. M. Hess.

USED U. S. MAIL ILLEGITIMATELY.

That is the Charge Against Israel Maier, of Danville.

Israel Maier, of Danville, is in the toils, charged with having made improper and illegitimate use of Uncle Sam's mail. Our readers will remember that he is the same person who early last spring was going to tell the present administration how to run the government, but when the hour arrived for the lecture to begin, but thirteen people were present, and the speaker did not appear. We clip the following from yesterday's *Danville News*:

"Deputy United States Marshal Joseph Stewart, of Williamsport, came to this city yesterday afternoon and took into custody Israel Maier, the well known clothier.

The charge against Mr. Maier, it is said, is the illegitimate use of the United States mail, and, it is alleged, that he wrote a number of objectionable letters to his wife, who lives in Sunbury. Marshal Stewart took Mr. Maier to Williamsport on the 4:35 Lackawanna train, where he will be given a hearing before United States Commissioner Bentley to-day.

The United States Circuit Court convened in that city on Monday, Judge Buffington, presiding, and it is probable that Mr. Maier's case will be disposed of sometime during the week."

Lightning's Pranks.

Scarcely does a week go by that we are not called upon to chronicle the destruction wrought by a storm of some sort. Lightning has been the chief factor in the many losses that have been recorded within the past several weeks. Monday night's storm appears to have been equal in destructiveness to those which preceded it. From all around us come reports of property losses. At Stillwater, lightning struck a large barn on the Joseph F. McHenry property, consuming the building with all of its contents, consisting of the crops. One horse was so badly burned that it had to be killed. The building was located near the B. & S. station. The tenant on the farm is Oscar D. Hagenbuch, Mr. McHenry's son-in-law. The property is said to have been insured. Henry Smith of near Nescopeck also suffered the loss of a barn and contents.

J. R. Fowler has placed an acetylene gas outfit in the Opera House block, and the Grand Restaurant and the Opera House are now lighted by that means. It gives a brilliant light. This is the first plant of the kind in town. The work was done by W. O. Holmes & Son.

SETTLED AT LAST.

County Must Pay For Blanks and Stationery.

Even since the passage of the Act of 1889 which refers to the matter of stationery to be furnished for the several county offices by the county, there has been a dispute with county commissioners as to what is included in the term "stationery," the commissioners contending that it included only envelopes and printed headings and blank paper, and not the printed legal blanks.

In December last Prothonotary Henrie brought suit to recover \$90.70 for blanks and stationery. The case was submitted to Judge Little under an agreement as to the facts, and he filed the following opinion last Monday.

OPINION.

The question presented by this case stated is:—whether the county is liable for the payment of the blank forms or writs of summons, scire facias, license blanks, blank forms for writs of execution, blank certificates, envelopes, etc., required and used by the Prothonotary and clerk of the several courts having his office in the Court House, at the county seat.

The present Act of Assembly relating to the subject, approved June 18, 1895, reads:—"Be it enacted etc., that the Act entitled "An Act to authorize and require the County Commissioners of the several counties of this Commonwealth to furnish supplies and fuel for certain County officers" approved April 25, 1889, consisting of one section which reads as follows:— * * * be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:— That from and after the passage of this Act the County Commissioners of the several counties of this Commonwealth, shall at the proper cost of the respective counties, furnish the office furniture, blank books and stationery required for each of the County officers, whose offices are located in the County buildings at the County seat; also printed Court Calendars and trial lists of the respective Courts of Common Pleas for the use of the officers and attorneys of said Courts and all needed fuel and light."

It is urged upon the behalf of the county that the term "stationery" cannot be held to comprise the printed blank forms used in the Prothonotary's office; and that all that was intended by the use of that term, was such ordinary stationery as is used by the public in general.

In the case of the Commonwealth vs. Lloyd, 2 Superior Court Reports 6 it is stated that the following proposition has become a legal maxim in Pennsylvania: "That the title of an Act is part of the act and a guide to its right construction." The title to this act is "An Act to authorize and require the County Commissioners * * * to furnish supplies and fuel" for certain counties. The greater part of the supplies to be found in the public offices at the county seat, consists of the printed blank forms daily used by the respective officers. The employment of the term "stationery" as therein used, should not receive the restricted application contended for. The printed blank forms of writs, etc., required and used by the Prothonotary and clerk of the Courts, are comprised within the meaning of the term "stationery" as employed in this Act.

The question before us was decided by Bell, P. J. in the case of Plummer vs. Blair County, reported in *Lancaster Law Review*, Volume 14, page 136. It was there held "that the provision in the Act of 1889 requiring the County to furnish 'stationery required' includes inventory and appraisal and proof of death blanks in the Register's office."

Now September 3, 1900, judgment is directed to be entered upon the case stated in favor of the plaintiff, and against the defendant for the sum of \$90.70 and costs of suit.

BY THE COURT.

Married.

LEMON—DELONG:—At the Reformed church Parsonage, August 31, 1900, by Rev. J. D. Thomas. Mr. Warren Lemon of Bloomsburg, Pa. to Miss Lulu DeLong of Orangeville, Pa. The young people expect to make Bloomsburg their future home.

Mrs. Patterson, wife of Rev. I. M. Patterson, died at her home in Trenton, N. J., on Wednesday of last week. She had been in very poor health for a long time. Rev. Patterson was formerly pastor of the Presbyterian Church of this town. He, with two daughters and two sons, survive.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

There was a short session of court held Monday, convening at 9 o'clock. Hon. R. R. Little presided, with both the Associates Kurtz and Fox on the bench.

Restaurant license of Derr & Conner, situate in Bloomsburg, transferred to Harry Derr and Wm. Derr, (Derr Bros.)

In the matter of the removal of a pauper from Main poor district to Beaver. Rule to quash order and petition for payment of costs. Rule granted, returnable first Monday in September at 2 p. m.

Catherine Sittler (now Lohrman) vs. Thos. Elmes. Judgment in favor of plaintiff for \$65.74, payable as of April 1st, 1901. No execution or other process to be issued for the collection until said date.

W. H. Henrie vs. the County of Columbia. Case stated for opinion of court. Judgment in favor of plaintiff and against defendant for the sum of \$90.70 and cost of suit.

Order of court filed for venire to issue to jury commissioners to empanel jury for adjourned session of the several courts to be held Tuesday, Oct. 26, 1900, at 9 o'clock a. m.

Estate of Peter Appleman. Exceptions to report of auditor. Opinion and order of court filed.

Estate of Robert Potter. Order of sale granted.

Henry Berger sworn and admitted as a citizen of the United States.

C. H. Marks and C. E. Kreisher sworn and admitted as members of the bar of Columbia county.

John Derr, lunacy. Petition for appointment of committee of estate. Geo. M. Dupuy appointed committee.

Estate of Geo. L. Kostenbauder, deceased. Petition for partition. Inquest awarded.

Geo. L. Kostenbauder, deceased. Partition. Agreement of children of Geo. L. Kostenbauder, deceased, to sale of real estate. Court order and decree sale of real estate of said decedent by Geo. W. Reifsnnyder, and that he give bond in the sum of \$8,000.

John Glatky sworn and admitted as a citizen of the United States.

Petition for county bridge over west branch of Briarcreek, near dwelling of Daniel Keichner. J. C. Brown, James Williams and Charles Ross appointed viewers.

Estate of Robert Potter, deceased. Petition for sale of real estate. Sale ordered.

Thomas Kelly appointed Burgess of Centralia Borough to fill vacancy caused by death of Patrick Kelly.

T. E. Aten appointed Judge of Election of Mifflin township.

Court adjourned to meet: September 10, 1900, at 9 a. m.

Fine Stationery.

The job department of the COLUMBIAN is now prepared to show its patrons a fine line of stationery, in bond and linen papers, for unruled letter and note heads, in blue, white or cream, with envelopes to match. It is suitable for either pen or typewriter. Admirers of fine stationery are invited to call and see it. The prices are very low for the class of goods.

—Albert Ward, aged 18 years, was drowned in the Shenango river at Sharon, on Monday, being seized with cramps. His body was recovered.

J. C. WELLS,

Successor to S. F. Peacock & Co., Market Square.

Fodder Tar Rope,
10c. Lb.

Corn Cutters, 25c.

—NEW LINE—

DELFT WARE,

JUST RECEIVED.

Just in—Single and Double Barrel, Hammer and Hammerless

GUNS.

Leggins, Coats, Belts, Shells, Etc.

J. C. WELLS,
GENERAL HARDWARE.

New Sack Suits

Plain or fancy goods, regular or military cut, single or double breasted vests; please yourself in style and price.

These Hart, Schaffner & Marx suits are the finest in America, most graceful, most perfect in fit.

H.S.M.

They are made by skilled tailors and the quality of every garment is guaranteed.

Our Hats are now all in, and we can give you all the newest styles. Just returned from New York and brought the latest Hat along. It is

"THE OXFORD."

Ask to see it.

Ben. Gidding.

Come in and see us—we'll treat you right.

As the cooler weather approaches, we know our lady readers are thinking of housecleaning, and many of them, of Fair time. This means that something new will be needed in the way of dress goods for your person, and carpets and furniture for the house.

How much it adds to the attractiveness of a home to have something new. The old things are good enough, but one gets tired of the same carpet, the same furniture, and the same dress. A change is physically good for the system.

You know our motto is to keep only fresh goods. We would rather pay a little more and do with a smaller profit, and buy just what suited our trade. We can have our selection and pick out only the nicest patterns and styles.

DRESS GOODS.

We do not buy these by case lots. Every piece is selected with an eye as to how it will please you, and selected singly. If we bought a whole case we would have to take patterns and colors that we would be ashamed to see on you. We think we chose the best line of dress goods that could be found in New York and Philadelphia. Let us show you the goods.

CARPETS.

They say that keeping everlastingly at it brings success. Our success in this department is selling goods, and our ability to sell goods depends entirely on our ability to please you, in price, quality and pattern. We have combined these three elements, we think, to your satisfaction. Take, for instance, our leader,

A WOOL VELVET CARPET, MADE, LAID AND LINED, 90c.—The Carpet Works has orders for thousands of rolls of these very goods. At the price there is nothing in the country to beat them. This may sound big, but it's true, nevertheless.

Another leader. A heavy weight Ingrain Carpet for 50c. per yard. Any cotton in it? Yes! A little, but the colors of which are such that do not fade. Same weight per yard as an all-wool carpet. Every pattern new, and all the popular colorings. Then we have them better, for 65 and 75c. per yard. Anything cheaper? Oh, yes. 22½c. per yard for a good carpet. 30c. will give you a better one.

Rugs, from the smallest sizes up to carpet sizes, and prices to suit all. Full assortment of art squares.

GROCERIES.—Every month our grocery department shows an increase in business. Means just what we are telling you! We are selling satisfactory goods at satisfactory prices. May we have a portion of your business?

THE LEADER STORE CO., LTD.

Fourth and Market Sts.