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## FIRST STORM WAS SEVERE.

Dr. Stoker's Barn at Stillwater Struck by Lightning and Destroyed.

## HORSES AND COWS PERISH.

Rarely, so early in the season, is this section of the country visited by an electrical storm of the violence and severity which characterized Monday's visitation.

The storm began to gather shortly after the noon hour, and continued mustering its forces until about four o'clock when it broke.

Daylight was suddenly changed into darkness. The thunder rolled, sharp, glaring lightning at brief intervals illuminated the skies, and the rain descended in torrents.

Everything betokened a storm of cyclonic proportions. People gazed apprehensively at the skies, and then hurried to their homes or sought shelter in the various places that afforded protection along the street. It rained hard, but there was no damage done in Bloomsburg. The storm evidently spent its fury before reaching here.

From all reports Stillwater and vicinity was the hardest hit. The large substantial barn of Dr. Stoker, a veterinary surgeon, situated a short distance below Stillwater, was made the target of a fiery bolt, and the structure with all its contents consisting of two good horses, three valuable cows, hay, grain and farming implements were consumed. The barn was seventy feet in size. There was but little insurance on it.

The barn on the farm of G. M. Shoop, situated about three miles from Washingtonville, was partly unroofed by the storm. Many fine trees as well as fences were blown down at different points. At Briar-creek a number of telegraph poles were leveled to the ground and the service interrupted for several hours.

At Washingtonville a portion of W. J. Messersmith's furniture warehouse was unroofed.

At Danville a newly constructed house was lifted in the air and then set back on its foundation. It was a peculiar freak of the storm, the like of which has very infrequently been known. None of the timbers in the building were broken, though the foundation was somewhat damaged.

A number of trees and telephone wires were blown down and for a while it was impossible for the telephone operators to remain at the switch board so severe was the lightning flashes. On the other side of the river the storm was particularly severe and a number of trees were uprooted by the wind.

At Espy the storm was severe and there was a great down pouring of rain, the wind blew a gale and it was so dark that the residents for awhile had to use lamps. The lightning struck the house of Nathan Miller but fortunately the damage was very slight.

## BUILDING OPERATIONS.

Among the improvements now in progress, or soon to commence, are the erection of the addition to the Hospital on Fifth street, the addition to Mr. Ratti's house, and the erection of a handsome residence by F. G. Yorks, on Market street. The excavation for the cellar of the latter is now going on. The house will be fire-proof, and contains all modern improvements, and it is said by those who have seen the plans, that it will be one of the finest in the town. The neighbors will be delighted especially for this improvement, as it will remove what has been an eye-sore for many years, not only to them but to the whole town.

The millinery store of Mrs. Eyer at Benton was threatened with destruction Friday evening. A large lamp suspended from the ceiling of the room, fell to the floor and exploded. The flames quickly spread about in an alarming manner, but the prompt use of some rugs smothered them before much damage was done. The firemen were called to the scene, but their assistance was not needed.

## LIVELY MEETINGS OF TOWN COUNCIL.

Incongruity of Opinion Among Members Creates Fun For Onlookers.

## There Was Little Unanimity.

If the first two meetings of the recently elected Bloomsburg Town Council, are samples of what may be expected during the ensuing year, there is all kinds of fun in store for those who enjoy disputation and controversy. The sessions were tumultuous in all that the word implies. Unanimity was almost an unknown quality, and nearly every matter taken up, precipitated a lively, lengthy discussion, and it was exceptional when President Yetter's vote was not necessary to decide.

Every member was on hand early and eager for the fray.

Acting upon instruction from President Yetter, Mr. James Magee, who had been appointed to serve in the capacity of secretary until a new one could be elected, proceeded to call the roll. Before the secretaryship, which according to the order of business, was the first to be taken up, was attacked, it was suggested that the salary for the office be fixed first, whereupon Rhoades made a motion that the compensation be \$20 per month. Runyon voiced a second and it was so ordered. When the time for nominations for secretary arrived there was out one presented, that of Freeze Quick, and he was accordingly unanimously elected.

After it had been decided that the compensation of the town treasurer be the same as last year, viz, one per cent on all moneys paid out, the election of that officer was taken up. There were two candidates, John Lewis and F. J. Richard. The first ballot resulted in a victory for Lewis, he receiving four out of six votes cast.

The election of a street commissioner was one of the hardest propositions of the evening, and on it the council was completely divided. There were three candidates, Henry Dieffenbach, John Cadman and Chas. B. Ent, and it required three ballots to decide the matter. Ent received one vote on the first ballot, Cadman two and Dieffenbach three. The second gave Cadman and Dieffenbach each three, when Yetter, after casting the deciding vote in favor of Cadman, declared him elected. From the spectators standpoint, this was the leading event of the evening. Each Councilman took a hand in free for all discussion, and there was more than mere traces of bad feeling, before the matter was disposed of.

There was no opposition to Miles Betz for constable, and he was unanimously elected, and his salary was fixed at \$50 per year.

There came another division, this time on the Town Solicitorship. The members were at variance not only in the election of the man to fill the place, and the compensation he is to receive, but also on President Yetter's right to vote. Yetter claimed the right to vote on every question, and Magee very strenuously disputed it. The argument was loud and long, but Yetter, in spite of the protests, continued to vote.

The matter of compensation for the Solicitor was finally decided upon. He is to receive a retaining fee of \$175 per year, for which he is to do all the Town's business, with the exception of trials, in which event, the fee is to be arranged between council and solicitor.

There were three candidates named for Solicitor, Grant Herring, William Chrisman and G. M. Tustin. The latter figured in only one ballot, when he received the vote of Magee. In this count Chrisman had three and Herring two. The second ballot gave Chrisman and Herring each three, and Yetter broke the tie by voting for Herring.

The salary of the Chief of Police was fixed at \$10 per month, and two suits. The election of this officer caused another tilt. Arlington Shultz and Wesley Knorr were the nominees. Each received three votes. It remained for President Yetter to say who should fill the office. He dropped his head for

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several minutes, evidently considering the fitness of the nominees. He finally picked up the applications, which reposed on his desk before him, and after reading each carefully, he, in a frank voice, declared himself for Knorr. His decision was greeted with applause from the audience.

Wilbur Fisher and Samuel Shaffer were elected superintendent of the fire alarm and building inspector, respectively. The former to receive \$10 per month, and the latter \$15 per year.

James C. Brown was unanimously elected Town engineer. He to receive \$5.00 per day and 50 cents per hour.

Next came the matter of compensation for labor and team work on the road. This was a stumbling block. Each member expressed himself, some of them very emphatically. Rhoades and Mifflin favored \$1.50 per day. Magee said there were lots of men who were not worth more than 75 cents a day, and inferred that to give them 75 more would be robbing the town treasury. Rhodes moved that the price be fixed at \$1.50 per day. Magee moved to amend the motion, so as to make \$1.50 the maximum amount, and let the street commissioner exercise his discretion, as to what men are worth that amount. A vote was taken on the amendment, resulting in three ayes and four nays, Yetter voting nay. This left the matter just as it was before the ballot was taken. After a few explanatory remarks Yetter moved that the rate be fixed at \$1.50 and \$1.25 per day. Rhoades took exceptions to the President making a motion, and Yetter withdrew it. It was finally decided to lay the motion over till the next meeting.

President Yetter announced the appointment of the following committees:

Streets and Highways, Giger, Deily and Runyan.

Finance—Runyan, Mifflin, Magee.

Fire and Water—Rhodes, Giger, Deily.

Light—Deily, Magee, Mifflin.

MONDAY NIGHT.

Monday night's meeting differed but little from the previous one. There was manifested the same determination on the part of the members to hold out to the end. An agreement was reached however that the wage rate be fixed at \$1.50 per day for laborers, and \$3.50 per day for double teams, and \$2.50 per day for single teams.

Upon the suggestion of President Yetter, who spoke of the importance of the tax rate, it was decided to hold the matter over for a joint meeting of the President, the financial committee and the solicitor.

Chief Knorr, submitted a list of men which he recommended for appointment as special policemen. It wasn't to the entire liking of the members, however. Rhoades want-

[Continued on 5th page, 4th Column.]

## DEATH OF SAMUEL PURSEL.

Few men in their life have suffered as did Samuel Pursel, none ever bore their affliction more patiently, or with greater resignation than did he. Never a word of complaint did he utter, through the long seige of illness, and he kept up the struggle against the great destroyer, death, with a heroism that was truly remarkable.

The end came at his home on West Fifth Street Tuesday morning. About a year ago he went to the Miners Hospital at Fountain Springs, where he had a cancerous tumor removed from his neck, and one from his back. He improved considerably, and it was believed that his life would be prolonged, but the tumors appeared again, and in a more malignant form. On January 1st he took his bed, from which time on 'till his death his condition was critical.

He is survived by a wife, formerly a Miss Masters, daughter of Morris E. Masters of Philadelphia, a mother, and two children.

He graduated from the Normal in 1886, and for some time afterward taught school near Pittston. He later returned to Bloomsburg, and secured a position as teacher in the Fifth Street School. He was promoted to the principalship of the school where he remained until he was transferred to the Third Street building. He was twice elected town councilman.

Mr. Pursel was a member of the Baptist church and took an active interest in its affairs.

The funeral was held today at 2:30. As a mark of respect the schools of town were dismissed at noon.

## A Narrow Escape.

Last Monday afternoon while Hon. A. L. Fritz was driving from Benton, he was overtaken by the storm this side of Stillwater, and found it necessary to seek shelter. He at first thought of driving into Dr. Stoker's barn, but as the storm was not yet very severe, he concluded to risk going further, and so drove on to a barn this side of Stoker's. While in there he saw smoke and flames in the distance, but did not know until he reached Bloomsburg that the burning building was Stoker's barn in which he came so near seeking shelter. The barn was struck by lightning and entirely destroyed with its contents including two horses. Had he stopped there the results might have been very serious.

Dr. A. K. Aldinger, Gere Jayne, Gerald Gross, Freas Hicks, Bion Hagenbuch and Geo. W. Keiter are the end men who will serve up the latest in witticisms and funny sayings at the Wheelmen's big minstrel show two weeks from tonight, April 27. The demand for seats will greatly exceed the supply, so get yours in time. The diagram will open four days in advance at Bidleman's book store.



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