

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1908.

SUPPORT FLAG STORY.

Direct descendants of Betsy Ross at Willow Grove, Pa., declare that the truth about making of the first American flag by the Philadelphia woman was a matter of common knowledge in their family; and that they entertained not the slightest doubt that the flag had been made in the little house on Arch street by Betsy Ross one day between May 25 and June 7, 1777.

"The controversy is ridiculous," said David Newport, prominent member of the Society of Friends, writer and author, and former Government official. Said Mary Satterthwaite of Willow Grove, a granddaughter of Betsy Ross, and a sister of David Newport's wife: "Dear Grandma, if she could only know that such a fuss was being made about the first flag."

Mary Satterthwaite, like Betsy Ross, can in the twinkling of an eye twist a piece of paper and with one snip of a pair of shears cut out a five-pointed star—just as perfectly and just as quickly as is declared Betsy herself did when she persuaded General Washington that the stars of the flag should be five-pointed instead of six-pointed.

David Newport is 86 years of age and is known all over Eastern Pennsylvania because of his connection with the Society of Friends and because of his writings. He lives on a splendid country estate with his wife, who was Miss Susan Satterthwaite, a granddaughter of Betsy Ross. Mr. and Mrs. Newport have been married more than 61 years.

"There wants to know about the flag?" asked David Newport. "Well, there is to my mind no doubt that Betsy Ross made the first flag. Neither is there any doubt in the mind of my wife nor her sister Mary. Both in their childhood days had heard the story—it was common knowledge, not hearsay in the family that Betsy Ross made the flag."

"When the British took Philadelphia, the Arch street house was used to quarter British soldiers. Betsy Ross hated the British and she also hated Stephen Girard, because of his hard dealings."

"It was the most natural thing in the world for General Washington and George Ross, and uncle of Betsy Ross, to go to her when the question of the flag was under consideration. And I have absolutely no doubt but they did go to her."

"When the design of the flag with its thirteen stars was shown to Betsy Ross, and she saw that the stars were six-pointed, such as were on the British flag, she took a pair of shears and a piece of paper, quickly cut out a five-pointed star. It is our belief that the suggestion of using the five-pointed star was the direct result of Betsy Ross' hatred of the British. This hatred was accentuated because the British who were quartered in the Betsy Ross house had termed her the 'little rebel'."

A Summer Substitute for Meat.

In the August *Woman's Home Companion* Fannie Merritt Farmer gives a number of hot-weather substitutes for meat. One such substitute consists of cheese and macaroni croquettes:

"Break macaroni in half inch pieces; there should be two-thirds of a cupful. Cook in boiling salted water until soft, drain in a colander, and pour over two cupfuls of cold water, to prevent pieces from adhering. Add thick white sauce made of two and one-half table-spoonfuls of butter, one-third cupful of flour, one cupful of milk, one fourth of a teaspoonful of salt and a few grains of pepper; then add one-third of a cupful of grated cheese. Spread on a plate to cool. Shape, dip in crumbs, egg, and crumbs again, fry in deep fat, and drain on brown paper."

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Not Play, But Work.

Aiming to Put Citizen Solidarity on Constantly Higher Plane of Efficiency.

Commenting on the annual encampment of the National Guard of the State at Gettysburg this week, the *Erie Times* says: "The annual encampment of the National Guard is an event whose importance is not properly rated by the average citizen. He is apt to look upon it as a summer 'lark'. As a matter of fact the encampment is an event for work, not play. The citizen soldiery is being placed on constantly higher plane. The National Guard is being given the opportunity to become of real, practical advantage to the nation, and the opportunity is being improved. Time was, and not so long ago, when the National Guard were referred to as 'petticoat soldiers,' and were regarded as a type of tin soldier dandies. All this is passing. The men who make the National Guard of the present are men in serviceable suits of khaki, made for wear and tear and dirt and grime, men who look upon soldiering as a business, who while they are keenly alive to every opportunity for a 'good time' have passed the point where recreation is deemed the one and only object for enlisting in the citizen soldiery."

About Log Drags.

Appreciating the great help that local Good Roads associations can render the cause of good roads, the Illinois highway commission in their last report devote considerable space to their importance and the work of several Illinois associations. One in particular, the Galva Good Roads Improvement association, is singled out for special mention because of its splendid work encouraging the general use of the split-log drag on the dirt roads leading to Galva. President Miller, of this association, speaking of their work of grading, draining and dragging, recently states: "We have specimens of road where the grade was completed in this manner and drain tile laid where the water line was within one foot of the surface, and through which for many years people waded hub deep in mud in the spring, and sometimes in the fall when it rained; but these portions of the road are now as firm and as good as any we have." He also stated that the highway commissioners have made contracts with the farmers to keep their roads dragged for eight dollars a mile and that the cash system of road tax is heartily approved by both the taxpayers and road users.

Speaking of the excellence of these roads A. N. Johnson, Illinois state highway engineer, says they "could well serve as model earth roads."

The studio of Ralph G. Phillips will be closed on Friday for the summer. Mr. Phillips and family will leave for Eagles Mere.

Suicide at Turbotville.

Peter Kisner, aged about 65 years, a widower, and woodsman by trade committed suicide by hanging himself in the stairway of the barn at the Eagle Hotel, Turbotville, some time Sunday morning. Kisner had been at the house for some days, as was his habit when in that section, and his disappearance on Sunday was not unusual, and nothing was thought of it until young Randall Ellis, son of Landlord Frank Ellis, of the hotel, Monday afternoon attempted to go up the barn stairs, when he ran against the lifeless body of Kisner suspended to a joist of the second floor, his feet almost touching the lower step.

The young man gave the alarm, when a crowd gathered and it was soon discovered the man was dead, and after an inquest held by Squire Troxell, Justice of the Peace, the fact developed that Kisner was last seen Sunday morning near the barn, and inasmuch as no visit to the second floor had been made in the meantime, it is quite conclusive the act was committed as stated, Sunday morning. Kisner is survived by one son, living close by, who with Undertaker Grittnr took charge of the remains.

Coal to Last 490 Years.

Expert so Estimates Duration of Pennsylvania's Supply.

That the coal originally in the Pennsylvania anthracite fields aggregated 21,000,000,000 short tons, and in the bituminous fields 112,574,000,000 short tons, leaving still in the ground 17,000,000,000 short tons of anthracite and 110,000,000,000 of bituminous, is the estimate of the situation reported by M. R. Campbell, of the United States Geological Survey.

He figures that at the rate of production reached in 1907, the available coal supply in Pennsylvania would last about 490 years.

When Shad Were Plenty.

Caught by the Thousands in This Vicinity—Many Fisheries Near Here.

In an old report of the State commission of fisheries, is much interesting information. In the account of the old shad fisheries the name of Danville has a prominent place. Included among some memoirs, is that of Joseph Van Kirk, of Northumberland, who says:

"I take pleasure in saying that my recollection of the shad fisheries dates back to the year 1820. In that year and the succeeding two or three seasons I fished at Rockafeller's island, near Danville. In our party there were six of us. We fished with a seine one hundred and fifty yards long, and caught something like from three thousand to four thousand marketable shad, weighing from three to nine pounds. At that time there were eight fisheries between Danville and Line's island. At all of these fisheries large quantities of shad were caught and they were sold from twelve and one-half to twenty-five cents apiece. I have heard of hauls containing from three thousand to five thousand and three hundred was a very common haul. People came from twelve to fifteen miles for the shad and paid cash exclusively for them."

"The cutting of the shad supply was a great and serious loss to this community from both a monetary and economic view, since the fish in its season was a staple article of food, and employed in the taking and hauling quite a large proportion of our inhabitants. This industry was wholly abolished by the erection of dams, and thousands of dollars capital invested in the business were instantly swept away out of existence. All of the fisheries were profitable investments and the loss of them to this section of the country was incalculable."

The late John K. Grotz often told of the shad fisheries at Bloomsburg. He remembered when the fish were caught here by the wagon load, and sold at a shilling apiece.

Wrote on Newspapers.

Mailed Them at Third Class Rates.

Postal Inspector Herbert E. Lucas, of Williamsport, went to Shamokin last Friday and interviewed several young men who had been writing love epistles on newspapers and sending the same through the mails by using a one-cent stamp.

The postal laws provide that all papers, etc., containing writing shall be classed as first-class mail and be paid for at that rate. The youths had written their love messages on the margins of the paper and then mailed the same under the newspaper and periodical rate. For this violation of the law they were made liable to heavy fines or imprisonment. Having acknowledged their error the young men were given their freedom after paying fines. The inspector stated that this ruling is frequently violated by persons and that the government officials are making a determined effort to break up the practice.

Special Campaign Offer.

Here is an excellent offer and opportunity to keep in touch with the presidential campaign and what the world is doing. Give your postmaster, newsdealer or rural carrier \$1.00 and *The Philadelphia Press*, *The Great Metropolitan Daily*, will be mailed to you six days each week until December 1. This is a very liberal offer and a great reduction in price and is good only during the presidential campaign.

The Philadelphia Press contains all the up-to-date political news, is always accurate and reliable. It contains the best market reports, all the news of the world of sport. You can get the Summer resort news and also a daily paper for women. It is truly the one great home newspaper. Hand your order in at once, for this offer is good only a short time. Do it now, for this is the only way to keep posted.

An Eye on the Future.

Tommy's maiden aunt had called attention to some of that young man's misdemeanors, thereby causing him to be punished. Tommy pondered a while, then asked, "Papa, will little sister Gladys be an aunt to my children when I am a man?"

"Yes, Tommy," answered his father, much interested. "Why do you ask?"

"Cause she might as well get married and have a home of her own, for I don't intend to 'low any aunts to stay around my house, making trouble for my children."

—*Woman's Home Companion* for August.

CASTORIA.
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Signature of J. C. Watson

QUEEREST MEN ON EARTH.

Wear No Clothes, While a Few Leaves Satisfy Their Women.

Earth's oddest and oldest race of men has been brought prominently into notice again through the wide spread interest aroused by sending a batch of Indian political agitators to the penal settlement on the Andaman Islands, that beautiful coral-bound archipelago in the Bay of Bengal. This remnant of this most primitive human species in evidence will soon be nothing but an ethnological memory, says a Calcutta Correspondent. Contact with advanced civilization has been followed, as usual, with a train of infectious diseases which are steadily thinning the ranks.

Owing to the ancient course of trade, the Andamanese have been known about from the earliest times. Ptolemy's Agathan Daimonos Nesos probably preserves the misunderstanding of some term applied by sailors to a place in or near the modern Andamans. Notices of them by travelers, Asiatic and European, are continuous from the seventh century, and the islands regularly appear in some shape on maps of those regions from the Middle Ages down.

The Andamanese live in a Hesperidian garden, where they toil not, neither do they spin. For the product of the spinner they have no use, as the men go stark naked and the women wear one or more leaves in front and a bunch of leaves tied round the waist behind.

The average height of the men is 58 inches; that of the women 54 inches.

They appear to dwell free from care in a country that is everywhere beautiful and varied.

In the ordinary attainments of human beings, however, unenlightened, the Andamanese are amazingly deficient. During all the ages of their intercourse by word of mouth they have not developed a medium worthy of the name of language. Before the arrival of the British the tribes, except actual neighbors, had no intercourse. Even clans of the same tribe found difficulty in the details of dialogue with one another. There is a change of jargon along about every twenty miles of the coast. They have no words for ordinary greetings, salutations, or expression of thanks.

Such language as they have, however, is exceedingly interesting from the philological point of view. It possesses a quality which would be invaluable were the Andamanese a business people. In their speech only what is absolutely necessary is usually expressed. These mites of humanity could do just as well probably without any words at all. They have an expressive sign language, which they employ almost as much as the spoken words. Their speech is jerky, disjointed, and helped out often by a grimace, a gesture, or a sudden change in tone.

The Andamanese knows scarcely anything and has no desire to increase his stock of knowledge. He has never learned any sort of agriculture. Until the English taught him to keep dogs he did not know how to domesticate any animal or bird. He cannot count even with his fingers, and doesn't see the need of counting. All his ideas are hazy and inaccurate. On one point, however, he is levelheaded. He belongs to a race of fighters, knows it and will never attack unless certain of success.

FLORIDA CAMPHOR GROVE.

One of 2000 Acres Started by a Manufacturing Concern.

Secretary James Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, in a recent address delivered before the American Club of Pittsburgh declared that the United States was successfully experimenting in the production of camphor. He said, in part:

"For years the Department has been distributing camphor tree seed and thousands of trees are now growing throughout the South and in the Pacific Coast States. Two years ago a serious effort was made to develop the manufacture of camphor from these trees."

"By improvements in manufacturing processes satisfactory results have been accomplished and a large manufacturing concern is now building up a camphor grove of 2000 acres in Florida, from which it hopes to make its camphor. This firm uses more than \$300,000 worth of camphor every year."

Hardening Iron.

When phosphorus is applied to heated iron it has the effect of facilitating the absorption of carbon by the iron. By taking advantage of this fact a new iron-hardening process has been invented in Germany. With the aid of phosphorus, carbon is caused to penetrate the iron rapidly to a considerable depth and causes it to become so hard at a depth of about a millimeter that it can be neither cut nor chipped with the best chisel. At the same time the welding properties of the iron are not injuriously affected.

Remove Fountain Pen When Stuck.

When a fountain pen becomes stuck so it cannot be unscrewed with the fingers a good plan, says Popular Mechanics, is to place a strip of fine emery cloth around the part to be unscrewed, with the emery side in, and clamp the ends in a vise or pliers.

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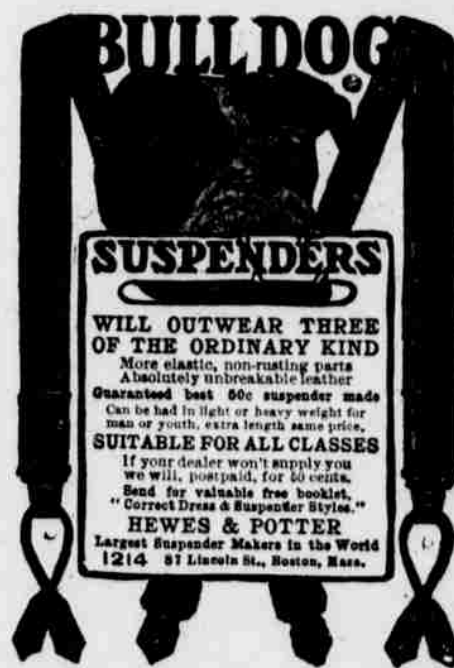
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