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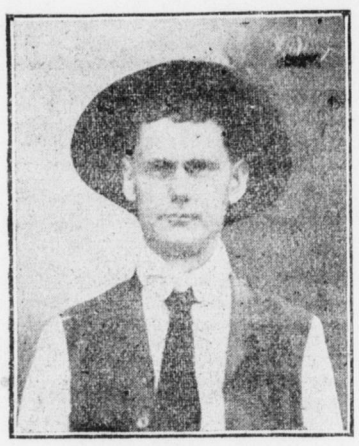
ODELL, BRAVE TO THE LAST

Orrin W. Odell, Convicted of the Murder of His Wife, July 1907, pays the penalty, Tuesday Morning.



The long talked about and distressing Odell case has at last gone into history. The last chapter—the death penalty—took place in the Emporium jail yard on Tuesday morning, after a vain effort to secure a reprieve by Governor Stuart. Promptly at 9:30 Sheriff John D. Swope and District Attorney J. P. McNarney met the Sheriff's jury and administered the oaths, according to law, after which the march to the jail was ordered, the jurors lining up in front of the scaffold, awaiting the arrival of the condemned and his guards. After short religious services at the jail conducted by Revs. Shriner, Dixon and Johnson, the Sheriff and his deputies quietly marched to the fatal spot, the prisoner standing erect and fearless, in fine condition and perfectly composed At this juncture he said: "Hello Doctor," looking at Dr. Falk, "this is rather a tough way to be taken away, but I suppose it is according to law." Nothing more was said, when Sheriff King adjusted the rope and pulled the back cap over his head. At 10:11 a nod from Mr. King to Sheriff Swope was notice that all was ready when he, Sheriff Swope, cut the rope severing the heavy 213 pound weight. The prisoner bounded up in the air. His neck was broken, death being almost instantaneous—not a muscle moved except a slight movement of the feet. At 10:18 Drs. Falk, Bush and Smith pronounced him dead. The execution was pronounced, by those familiar with such scenes, to be the most successful they ever witnessed.

Undertaker LaBar's assistant, Chas. W. Rishell, took charge of the remains and removed them to their undertakieg establishment awaiting further orders. The crowd then gathered around and many were anxious to secure a piece of the rope.

Thus closed the first execution ever held in this county and would that it be the last. It has been an expensive matter for the tax payers to meet, amounting to about $2,000.

Odell Makes a Statement.

Prisoner Odell some days ago expressed his willingness to give the PRESS a statement for publication. Accordingly we called on him at the jail Monday evening and in the presence of his Night Watch, Mr. Albert Murray, passed an hour or more. We give his remarks as dictated to us: "I am a poor hand to relate what comes to my mind but guess you can fix it so that it will be readable. My correct name is Orrin Warren Odell; was born at Omro, Wis.; am in my 39th year; came to Emporium in 1889 and first worked for F. D. Leet and resided here continually up to the time of my trouble that placed me where I now am. For years, six or seven, I was a hard drinker before the awful crime was committed, July 18, 1907. There never was any serious trouble between myself and wife other than what might be expected by aggravating her during my drinking. We always got along pleasantly. At the time I committed this crime, I had promised my wife to take an oath to stop drinking, which pleased her. She remarked that she knew if I took an oath I would keep it. I went up town with the oath in my pocket, dated July 20th, and intended to secure a pint of liquor to sober up on and sent a man to purchase it. He did not come as soon as I expected when I found another fellow and sent him for a bottle. Both finally came and I then had one quart. I remember purchasing the revolver that we had often talked about, yet at the time I was not responsible for we needed other things, better than the gun. I do not remember anything that happened at the time I committed the crime and when arrested I knew I was in a buggy or wagon but did not know where I was going or what I said. My mind was completely a blank. I meet my last call resigned to my fate and no fear as to the future, having made my peace with God. I freely forgive all persons whom I once felt had injured me and bear no ill feeling against any one. I call upon all men to take warning from my fate and keep away from drink, the cause of my doing, and injuring dear ones by my weakness.

I desire to thank the good ladies of the Free Methodist Church for their kindness to me during my long confinement; also Revs. Shriner, Dixon and Johnson for their consoling words.

To Sheriff Swope and family, as well as my Watchman, Albert Murray, I wish to thank for their many kind acts. Also all friends for their consoling words and prayers.

And now realizing that my time is short here, that there is only one kind of a life to live—and it took me a long time to find it out—and that is the life of a Christian.

ORA W. ODELL.

WITNESS:—ALBERT MURRY.

Emporium, Pa., June 1st, 1998.

VISITORS.

Many officials and others from adjoining counties attended the execution, among the many being: Ex-Sheriff Henry Sigel, Olean, N. Y.; Sheriff Hackrael, Ridgway; Deputy Sheriff Chas. Wefling, Coudersport; Dr. W. J. McGianor, Editor C. O. Laymon, Jos. M. Butler, Port Allegany, Pa.

History of the Crime.

From PRESS of July 25th, 1907.

The most horrible crime committed in Emporium for many years startled our people last Thursday afternoon when we stopped the press to announce that Ora O'Dell, of East Emporium, had shot his wife, then turned the gun on himself. While our town has become, in a measure, hardened to the sudden taking away of our citizens, this case being only the second murder ever committed here, it caused great excitement, regret and indignation. The only reason the brute was not lynched was the hope of all that his wound would prove fatal.

THE MURDERER.

Ora O'Dell, who seldom of late years worked at his trade or calling as stone mason or plasterer, but devoted most of his time to drink and abusing his wife—it being nothing for him to knock her down, drag her around the house and kick the poor woman unmercifully. Last March the PRESS called attention to the inhuman treatment this poor woman was subjected to and we then hoped he would be locked up and thus prevent just what happened—murder.

Last Wednesday the fiend in human shape went to Stephens & Saunders hardware store and purchased some window screens, a pair of shears and a 22 calibre Iver Johnson revolver, presenting a check (probably given him by his wife). Nothing being noticed out of place by Mr. Saunders he gave the man his change, when he went down town, stopping at Norris & Tompkins, where he purchased a shirt. This was about noon. He secured a bottle of whiskey at the hands of one of those men who are always ready to procure rum if they are sure to get a drink. The following day he hung around the house in his usual sullen mood, until about two o'clock when a gun report and screams startled the neighborhood. What took place in the store can only be guessed at, that his wife refused him more money for drink, when he whipped out his gun, knocked the poor woman to the floor and held her while he fired three shots into her head, the first shot severing the jugular vein—any one of the three would prove fatal. He then turned the gun on himself and fired the shot proving only a scalp wound, but dazed him. The poor woman struggled to her feet and walked to the front door when neighbors met her. This fearlul sight was witnessed by little Jennie O'Dell, aged nine years, and a young lad named Browker, aged abont ten. The boy says he saw him standing over the prostrate form of his wife and fire two shots into her head. No attention was paid to the husband, all assistance being rendered the wife, who was rapidly passing away. The dying mother, with great effort, managed to make her mother understand that she wanted them to care for her children. She passed away within one hour from the time the brute who promised to "love, honor and protect her" had cruelly fired the fatal shots that made two orphan children, and many aching and bleeding hearts.

Murderer O'Dell attempted suicide Tuesday morning, about 2:30 o'clock, by slashing his throat with a piece of tin, torn from a pepper box. Nightwatch, Henry Piehenton, himself a prisoner, gave the alarm, which aroused the Sheriff. Dr. H. S. Falk was called and upon examination found the prisoner's throat torn on both sides, besides several cuts on left wrist and forearm. Unfortunately the wounds were not fatal. It is said the prisoner made an attempt to hang himself by using a towel.

THE DEAD WIFE.

May Stoddard-O'Dell was in her thirty-third year. Thirteen years ago last March she was married to O'Dell. Two children—Emery, aged 12, and Jennie, aged nine—are left to mourn. During all these thirteen years the poor woman slaved, prayed, begged and hoped that she could yet prevent a separation. To enumerate the awful ill-treatment and abuse heaped upon this woman by the wretch is sufficient to cause an indignant public to have long ago banished him from our midst. Even his poor children were driven from home and they stood across the street, asking if they "dared come home." The little store, kept by the industrious wife, afforded a good living for the family, she having by hard work built up a good trade. It is the saddest case that ever came under our observation and the degenerate who could not appreciate the sacrifice will, we hope, pay the full penalty of the law.

DEATH-S DOINGS

OLMSTED.

MRS. MARTHA M. CUSHING-OLMSTED, aged 65 years, wife of our esteemed citizen and friend, Mr. Herbert C. Olmsted, of Emporium, after an illness covering several years, during which time she suffered patiently, passing through two serious operations. All that could be done by her faithful husband and kind children could do to comfort her were ever rendered, but death had claimed this excellent Christian lady and she peacefully slept away last Thursday afternoon, surrounded by her family. Being fully conscious on Wednesday that her end was near, she requested that her children and husband, all well known singers, should sing some of her favorite hymns. Trying as the ordeal must have been all responded and she felt satisfied and then called each to her bedside and gave her final message of love.

Always devout in her church duties, both as Sunday School teacher and mother, she took great interest in all good works, especially in the Baptist church, to which she early in life connected herself. Her husband and all of the children—seven in number—are members of the same religious body. All of the children were present at the last hour, viz: Mrs. C. Jay Goodnough, Mrs. W. E. Jackson, Kingsdale, N. C., Mrs. Frank T. Beers, Washbourn, Wis., Herbert M., Ridgway, B. H., Myrtle and Vera at home.

Deceased was born at Painted Post, N. Y., Sept. 28, 1843, and was married at Ulysses, Potter county, Pa., Sept. 10th, 1865, to Herbert C. Olmsted. The family moved to Emporium in 1874 and have ever since been closely identified with our town, respected and honored by all.

The funeral took place from their commodious home, West Fourth street, Saturday p. m., at 2 o'clock, Rev. Calvin, of Watsontown, (her former pastor) officiating: Interment in Newton Cemetery in the family plot.

The following relatives attended the funeral: Hon. A. G. Olmsted and wife, H. Clinton Olmsted, Frank Andrews and wife, Coudersport; Wilson Cushing (brother), Mrs. Eugene Leet (sister) of Ulysses, Pa., Mrs. Della Sparrow Coudersport, and other names we did not learn.

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DOUGHERTY.

The many friends of Mrs. Jas. J. Dougherty at this place were shocked to learn of her death, which occured at the home of her mother at Bradford, last Thursday. She is survived by her husband and two small children. Mr. and Mrs. Dougherty resided here until about one year ago, when they moved to Bradford.

Coal Sale.

The Emporium Machine Co., offers hard coal for sale at $6.25 per ton delivered from the car. This sale and price will last for this week only. 1t

Moved to Sheffield.

Mr. Lemuel Evans and family have moved to Sheffield, Pa., where "Lem" is employed in the big saw mill. They resided here many years and leave a host of friends.

Remember the Banquet.

Our citizens should bear in mind the Banquet to be given at the New Warner Monday evening, by Emporium Board of Trade. Prominent speakers will be present. If you received an invitation you will confer a favor by sending your acceptance at once to Mr. Richard Kuehne, that all may be provided for. Do it NOW.

Sorely Afflicted.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Day are certainly having more than their share of trouble. Last Monday Mrs. Day received a telegram announcing the sudden death of her married brother at Brooklyn, N. Y. This makes four deaths in the family since last Nov. Our heart feels for this family in their affliction.

Mrs. Day and brother Arthur left for Brooklyn Monday night. funeral.

Looks Like Business.

Plenty of coke and other stock arriving at the furnace looks like business.

LATER—The furnace goes in blast Sunday or Monday. This is good news.

Will be Sold for Repairs.

The undersigned will sell at auction, on June 6th, 1908, a couch recently repaired and made as good as new. Call and see it. Total charges $13.00. Auction at 3.00 o'clock.

14-3t. HENRY JAEGER.

Council Proceedings.

Regular meeting Borough Council, Emporium, June 1, 1908.

Present: Messrs. Freindel, White, Cummings, Mumford, Hamilton, Goodnough, Rishell and Norris.

Absent: Mr. Marshall.

Minutes of last regular meeting read and approved.

The committee appointed to confer with Emporium Water Company were continued until next regular meeting.

The bills were read and Mr. Norris moved, seconded by Mr. Goodnough, that all bills as read be paid with exception of bill from W. W. Knickerbocker for $2.50. Motion carried.

Joha Welch, Work on Streets		$ 9 83
James Murrry,	do	7 54
John Fleming,	do	88
John Robinson,	do	88
Harry Troup, Work on Elec. Lt. Line		2 40
Jake Troup,	do	1 89
Struthers-Wells Co., Invoice		13 58
F. V. Heilman & Co.,	do	25 53
Keystone Powder Co.,	do	5 75
Levi Smith,	do	18 63
National Carbon Co.,	do	69 62
G. S. Allen, Bond of Treasurer		12 32
Emporium Independent, Adv, Ordinance and Auditors Report		46 60
Cameron County Press, Adv. Ordinance and Auditors Report		46 60
Novelty In. L. Co., Repairing Spark Plugs		75
C. B. Howard Co., Invoice		5 10
Western Electric Co., Invoice		40 80
E. D. White, Paid freight bills		1 75
St. Marys Gas Co., gas for March and Apsil		82 15

Treasurer's report read and ordered filed. Receipts for May, $3,983.63, balance in hands of Treasurer $3,137.86.

Moved by Mr. Goodnough, seconded by Mr. Cummings, that Fire Department be exouerated from paying license fees for their show. Unanimously carried.

Moved by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Cummings, that the Theatorium and Dreamland pay license fee of fifty cents per night. Same to take effect on the 2nd day of June, 1908. Unanimously carried.

Moved by Mr. Goodnough, seconded by Mr. Mumford, that loans of Mr. Mundy and Dr. Smith be paid. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Goodnough, seconded by Mr. White, that the Councilman of the East Ward determine location of the gas regulator house and whistle pole which are to be erected by the St. Marys Gas Co, in the East Ward. Unanimously carried.

Moved by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Mumford, that matter of electric light at corner of East Allegheny Avenue and Alley at A. F. Andrews' house be referred to Electric Light Committee. Carried.

Council then adjourned to meet Monday night, June 8th at 8 o'clock, p. m.

R. C. MOORE, Sec'y.

Birthday Party.

A very pleasant birthday party was held at Winfield Summerson's Sinnamahoning, on last Saturday afternoon, Decoration Day, in honor of two of his children, Minnie and Lester, who have the same birthday and they are not twins. The following were in attendance:

Mamie Gore, Lucy Saint Clair, Arthur Saint Clair, Edward Saint Clair, Chester Summerson, Merriel Summerson, Lester Summerson, Charles Crane, James Summerson, George Summerson, Mrs. J. S. Summerson, Mrs. G. S. Hill, Mrs. A. L. Saint Clair, Mrs. W. E. Summerson, Mr. Henry Snyder, Mr. Thomas Snyder, Misses Grace Saint Clair, Burnas Saint Clair, Gussie Logue, Belva Bennett, Ruby Losey, Teoka Summerson, Minnie Summerson, Lola Smith, Delva Bushaw, Hazen Bennett, Mina Wheaton and Mable Wheaton.

Eye Specialist.

Prof. W. H. Budine, the well known Eye Specialist, of Binghamton, N. Y., will be at R. H. Hirsch's jewelry store, Emporium, Pa., June 13th. If you can't see well or have headache don't fail to call and see Prof. Budine, as he guarantees to cure all such cases. Lenses ground and fitted in old frames. Eyes tested and examined free. All work guaranteed.

May Rainfall.

Rain fell on 22 days of the month and totaled 7.62 inches, being over 3 inches more than the normal rain fall for the month of May.

Religious.

Rev. W. H. Hunt, of Westfield, Pa., will preach in the Baptist Church, next Sunday, June 7th, morning and evening. All welcome.

The Epworth League of the M. E. Church will give a sock social in the parlors of the church, Thursday evening, June 4 at 8 o'clock. A cordial invitation is extented to all to come and bring as many pennies to correspond with the size sock you wear.

THE WEATHER.

FRIDAY, Showers.
SATURDAY Showers
SUNDAY, Fair.

ASSETS

$799,827.07

First National Bank,

EMPORIUM, PA.

At the close of business June 3, 1908.

PATRIOTISM.

A man who saves a dollar is a benefactor. A dollar put in this bank at compound interest takes root instantly. It is not killed by frost or sleet. It cannot be injured by heat or by cold, by famine or pestilence, by fire or flood. It will not be lost through a hole in the pocket, nor borrowed by some friend or boon companion.

It is beyond the reach of earthquake or lightning, accident, sneak thief or thug.

INTEREST PAID ON CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT.

DR. LEON REX FELT,
DENTIST.
Rockwell Block, Emporium, Pa

DR. H. W. MITCHELL,
DENTIST,
(Successor to Dr. A. B. Mead.)
Office over A. F. Vogt's Shoe Store,
Emporium, Pa. 12l

Home Wanted.

A good home wanted for a male dog. Call on Mrs. Ed, Morse.

Emmanuel Church Notices.

Whitsunday, June 7th, 10:30, a. m., celebration of the Holy Communion. Offering for General Missions.

Notice.

A strawderry and ice cream festival will be held on the More Hill church lawn for the benefit of the church Saturday evening, June 6th, 1908. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Board Organized.

The Shippen School Board organized on Monday. The following officers being elected: President, Harry J. Newton; Sec'y, Fred K. Zimmer; Treasurer, Delbert Towner.

Teachers will be employed at next regular meeting, July 11th.

Bonds for Sale.

The undersigned has fifty thousand dollars ($50,000.00) worth of a Water Power Company, first mortgage 7 per cent. gold bonds for sale.

These bonds are a high-class security, and are amply secured by real estate. Interest payable semi-annually. Will be issued in the denomination of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) each. Said bond issue is under the control and certification of the Scranton Trust Company.

For further particulars apply to the undersigned.

E. R. W. SEARLE,
Office of Clerk of U. S. Court, Scranton, Pa. 13-4t.

Ritchie—Lion.

Miss Kathrine Ritchie and Mr. Chas. Lion were married at St. Marys last Monday morning. Miss Mayme Cummings, of Emporium, was bride's maid. The newly married couple passed through Emporium on Monday noon flyer east on their bridal trip to eastern points. Miss Ritchie formerly resided here and was congratulated by many friends. The PRESS especially extends its best wishes.

Odell Buried.

The remains of Odell will be burried this (Thursday) afternoon at 2:30 in Wiley's Cemetery, the Wiley family donating the lot. Rev. Shriner, who was the constant and kind friend of the prisoner during his confinement and up to the last minute encouraged him, will conduct the services at the grave.

Seriously Injured.

Chas. H. Edwards, woods foreman for C. B. Howard Co., met with a painful accident last Saturday, while assisting in rolling a large hemlock log. One of the men lost his hold on the log, letting the full weight on Mr. Edwards. He rolled over with the log, his back being seriously iujured on left side. He is confined to his residence on Sixth street and we are pleased to say is getting along nicely.

Liberal Reward.

R. K. Mickey will pay a liberal return for his English Bull Dog, that estrayed or was stolen May 27th. Dog is marked on right side of face brindle color and answers to name of "Wag."

NEW TO-DAY.

Geo. J. LaBar—New adv.
J. H. Day—New adv.
First National Bank—New adv.
R. Kuehne—new adv.
T. W. Welsh—Change.
Pennsylvania Railroad—New adv.
Humphrey Med Co.
Emporium Machine Co.—Local.
R. K. Mickey—Local, dog lost.
Mrs. M. F. Conway—New adv.