

THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED. KURTZ, Editor and Prop'r

CENTRE HALL, PA. THURS, APRIL 5, 1888

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LOCAL ITEMS.

Flittings have about all flitted. Wonder whether Millheim is dry in wet spells? Quite a number of new families have come into Centre Hall. Miss Kate Curtin, youngest daughter of ex-Gov. A. G. Curtin is to be married May next. Work has been resumed on the new Presbyterian church, and will soon be completed. Miss Gertrude Spigelmeyer of Spring Mills spent a few days of this week among friends at this place. The horse of Geo. Emerick, which hurt itself so seriously by getting on an iron bolt, is likely to recover. Rev. J. H. Miller the new evangelical minister arrived with his family at this place on last Saturday morning. Mr. Whitman and Mr. Keller have begun work on their new houses. Keep up the boom, as long as there's room. Oris McCormick and section boss Smetzler had a good old time at their flittings, and gave folks a chance to have some enjoyment. The Sunbury Democrat says United States Marshall A. H. Dill will be a candidate for nomination for Judge in Monitor and Columbia district to succeed Judge Elwell. Easter in Centre Hall passed very quietly, the weather was a real taste of spring. Easter sermons were delivered in the morning by Rev. Fischer and in the evening by Rev. Land. Rev. J. Heckman and family of the M. E. church, this week took their departure for Siontown, Pa. The family will be missed here, and they go with the best wishes of all. The list of expenditures published for last year town council does not set forth what a single cent was spent for as the law means it should. Looks as if they lacked courage to show their hands. A lot of lawyers have been appointed to view and report upon the propriety of vacating the pike from Bellefonte to the 7 Mountains. We guess the reason a lot of lawyers has been appointed is because they are not supposed to know anything about the matter. This week C. F. Harlacher, one of our best citizens moved to Halfmoon, on his wife's farm. Mr. Harlacher came to this town about 25 years ago. Of the citizens who were then here, only four remain, viz: Jacob Harpster, Wm. Wolf, J. D. Murray and J. O. Deisinger. The banking house of W. F. Reynolds & Co., now occupy their new rooms in Reynolds' building, at Bellefonte. The new building is a model of architectural design and is one of the most imposing buildings in the town. The interior is handsomely furnished and is complete in every particular. Gottlieb Haag, leaves Pleasant Gap this spring and will occupy the Cummings House, Bellefonte. Mr. Haag vacates the Cummings house and takes charge of the Old Butts house on the corner. Both of the above hotels will be run on prohibition principles—something new for Bellefonte. A Georgia negro, having hurt his leg, treated the wound with mud from the Ocala swamp, and found when he removed the bandage that the wound was healed and that the leg had turned almost white. The result is that the negroes of the vicinity are flocking to the swamp and covering themselves with mud, hoping that it will turn them white. Mr. Clark Gramley of near Rebersburg, was a caller at this office this week. Mr. Gramley has taken an agency for this county for the Buckeye Farm Implements and inserts an advertisement in this issue. He expects to make a thorough canvass among farmers in this valley and can give them special inducements in the line of farm implements. The snow having passed away leaves the grain fields looking in fair condition. In fact we observe many wheat fields looking first rate—fresh, green and a fine set of wheat; other fields look a little worse from the recent wintry blasts, yet enough is there, with a favorable spring, to make them catch up and yield a good harvest. With a favorable season from this on to harvest, we have every prospect for good crops. A small man with club feet was killed by a large man who wore a red shirt and blue pantaloons, on Friday morning, at Birch Island Run, six miles from Keating in Clinton county. The instrument used to do the killing was a handspike. They were lumbermen, but their names do not seem to be known. The murderer escaped into the woods. That much was related in the Lock Haven Express on Saturday. Our young friend, Will Conley, we find has settled down to business at last, as an assistant in Meese's store, Bellefonte, on Alleghany st. This house is one of Bellefonte's leading business establishments and enjoys a large and lucrative trade. They carry a complete line of dry goods, fancy goods, ladies' finishing goods, and a complete line of fresh groceries. Will has charge of the dry goods department which is complete in every particular, and contains everything in that line. To his friends in this section, he extends an invitation to call and see him, when in Bellefonte. The town council's financial report for last year, appeared on Wednesday last, three weeks later than the law directs and is as clear as mud, and not made out itemized as the law directs, and every cent was spent for. Not a single item of expenditure is named. This was done, no doubt, by the late council to hide their blunders, especially so that no one could tell whether money was spent for the board walk contrary to law. We defy a single man to tell from the report what a single cent was spent for in the list of expenses of town council. They were afraid evidently to let the citizens know. Potter township and a dozen other reports from all sections are itemized as the law directs but the Centre Hall report dodges the thing. Brave set of councilmen.

LUT. SHAFER HANGED.

HE CONFESSES

THE DROP FALLS AT 11:22; HIS NECK WAS BROKEN; PULSATION CEASED IN 18 MIN.

Special to the Reporter.

LOCK HAVEN, Tuesday, April 3.—On my way here, at the stations, in the cars and at the hotels, the principal topic of conversation is in regard to the execution of Luther Shaffer, which is to take place to-morrow in the county jail. Every one in this section of the state is acquainted with the facts of the brutal murder of Isaiah and Nora Colby, at their home, in the narrows, last August, of which he has been found guilty and doomed to pay the full penalty of the law. The gallows to be used were shipped from Williamsport and have been set in place and tested by the sheriff in order to have it work properly when the time arrives. This same death trap has been in use since 1869, and has been used in five previous executions, and is quite a demon awaits another victim, who is guilty of the most diabolical deed in the category of crimes. No one is allowed to visit the jail to-day, so Shaffer may not be disturbed by outsiders, who for months passed, have been admitted to see the convicted men. An old man, who is in good health and bears up remarkably well under the circumstances. He does not have that defiant attitude so marked during his trial and confinement. A dispatch was received this morning to the effect that Gov. Beaver refused to grant a respite, and Shaffer realizes that his time to face the trying ordeal is soon at hand. His defiant, composed attitude has changed to that of resignation; an indifference to intense interest in regard to his spiritual welfare. As we noted some time ago he has accepted the Catholic faith and spends much of his time reading and conversing with Father Seibert, of this city, whom he selected as his spiritual adviser. Father Seibert thinks that Shaffer is sincere in the matter, and that he has made his peace with his Creator and God. Of late various rumors have been afloat in regard to Shaffer. When I arrived the first thing I heard was that he had made an attempt at suicide by biting open an artery in the wrist; but like other reports was untrue. The sheriff has been greatly annoyed with applications for admission to witness the execution, and yesterday was compelled to close his office to get rid of the personal appeals, and constant annoyance. All sorts of schemes are being worked; politicians are implored to use their influence; friends to make personal application and any method at all to get a pass. This evening the prisoner was led into the jail yard and was shown the gallows, and afterwards taken to the sheriff's office, a cell was permitted to see his cell. These had no effect and evidently failed to impress him of his fate.

WEDNESDAY MORNING. A clear sky overhead and the genial rays of the sun prophesied fair weather. Early in the morning people came pouring in from the surrounding country for many miles around, while many from a distance arrived on the morning trains. Lumbermen, farmers, mechanics, young and old, turned out. Small groups gathered about the jail at an early hour to gaze upon the massive walls which contained one of the most depraved of mankind; one guilty of the most diabolical crimes ever committed in a civilized community.

SCHAFFER'S LAST NIGHT. He spent the early part of the evening playing checkers with the sheriff and then spent a short time with his spiritual advisers. He retired at 12 and was permitted to remove his chains. Father Seibert remained with him. He slept soundly until morning. He ate heartily at breakfast; mass was said and he then was ready to receive his friends.

A SAD PARTING. His father and two sisters called soon after to bid him farewell. Their final parting was touching in the extreme. The heart broken father and sisters wept bitterly as they withdrew and returned to their home.

THE TIME AT HAND. At 11 o'clock the sheriff's jury was admitted and then all persons holding passes from the sheriff were permitted to follow. A large crowd at the gate caused great annoyance and delay in entering, and many failed to get in.

FROM THE CELL TO THE GALLOW. The procession was formed with Sheriff Leahy at the head, then came Shaffer, Father Seibert and Sheridan, with the deputy in the rear. Shaffer mounted the steps to the platform of the gallows with a firm step. He was dressed in a new black suit, wore a lay down collar, dotted necktie. He is about 23 years of age, medium weight and about 5 feet 9 inches in height. As he stood on the scaffold he was a little paler than usual. He has a full round face, prominent nose, a rather wicked eye that does not impress you favorably; wears a heavy brown mustache curved upwards at the ends and is considered a handsome young man. On his vest was pinned a small key with a crucifix beneath; a chain passed around his neck, attached to it was another crucifix that rested on his breast. In his hand he held another crucifix and gazed steadily upon it while his advisers chanted prayers, etc., with him. He then knelt on the trap in prayer. I had committed the robbery would be found out. I also determined shortly afterwards to kill the woman for the same reason. When he went for the grass I made up my mind that I would accompany him and kill him while he was cutting it, but then I thought he might make some outcry and frighten his wife and that she might get away; so I waited till he got back to the run, which was the house. I then dropped behind him, and shot him once in the back. He then turned his face towards me as he was falling and

straps around his feet, then his knees, then passed a strap about the elbows, and drew his arms behind his back and fastened by securing his wrists with a pair of nicked handcuffs. To the above proceedings he paid no attention; he never wavered, flinched or moved a muscle; the same cold, stolid and composed expression of his face was maintained to the end. Father Seibert kissed him farewell and the sheriff carefully adjusted the noose, to which was attached a white hood, and drew the knot under the man's ear. All then left on the platform; the sheriff stationed himself with a pistol in the fatal lever. Then there was pause of a few seconds, and a painful silence prevailed.

DROP FALLS AT 11:22. At 11:22 the trap was sprung, the hinged door parted and Shaffer dropped about 8 feet with sickening thud, his body swung between heaven and earth. In his dying agonies he repeatedly drew up his knees and violently wrung his arms as if to break the fetters which bound him. He held a crucifix which he clutched with an iron grip until his quivering fingers became purple, then the muscles relaxed for a moment and he dropped to the ground. Father Seibert replaced the crucifix, standing close I could see the blood oozing from beneath his finger nails. The contortions of the body were ghastly to behold. He drew his knees and clenched the crucifix several times thereafter, gradually growing weaker. His hands had turned white, nails and tips of his fingers grew dark blue, and his neck purple.

After hanging 18 minutes the doctors in attendance found no pulsations and at 35 minutes was cut down and placed in charge of the undertaker. His neck was broken by the drop. Thus the mandates of the court were carried out; the law maintained and the brutal murderer of Isaiah and Nora Colby, has gone to meet his God, from whom he must seek mercy and pardon.

"Vengeance is mine," thus saith the Lord, "I will repay." The body was taken to the home of his sister Mrs. Mosher in Lock Haven and will be interred on Thursday morning at 9 o'clock a. m. It will be held in the German Catholic church.

During the afternoon many persons viewed the corpse. The features were very little distorted, his neck was hidden from view by a white cloth. During the time of the execution a newspaper man of Williamsport turned from the ghastly scene and fainted. He was led into the hall-way and swooned the second time.

Relic hunters were on hand to get pieces of the rope, splinters, nails and screws from the scaffold. Quite a number of Centre county folks witnessed the execution. In the yard I noticed Sheriff Cook, Miles Walker and John Powers, of Bellefonte, John Hoy of Walker, Sgt. Snyder of Millheim, Commissioner Decker, and others whom I cannot recall at present. Joe Fry, formerly of our county, reported for his paper, the Clinton Democrat.

Photos of Shaffer, sold by boys on the streets for 25 cents, had a large demand and were a fair likeness. While passing through the jail, saw Johnson in his cell, he was standing at his door smoking a cigar; the corpse passed his door a few seconds previous and he had a full view. He was slightly nervous and deathly pale.

Father Colby was present and viewed the execution with considerable satisfaction. He said that he saw his son and adopted daughter, who he said was lying in bed sick and is growing; but has been sick the last few days. C. R. K.

SHAFER'S CONFESSION. From Shaffer's confession sworn to before Alderman Dares, of Lock Haven, March 13, we make extracts of the part that relates particularly to the murder, and the other simply gives his wanderings around Shaffer's cell, and others whom I cannot recall at present. Joe Fry, formerly of our county, reported for his paper, the Clinton Democrat.

I took a drink at the spring. I then went to the bridge crossing Fishing Creek near Klimes, on the narrow road and waited until a man and a woman came along in a one horse wagon. I demanded his money. He threw it down for me and passed on. I picked up his purse and went on about a mile towards Tylersville, where I met another man who also dropped a sum of money for me. I went to Cherry Run bridge, near which I demanded the money of a man named Glantz. This was just before day light. Sometime after sunrise Ellis Fantz came along. I demanded his money and his watch and got them both. About 8 or 9 o'clock, as near as I can tell, I went to the house where Isaiah Colby lived. I went there to get my breakfast. I did not know that Colby lived there when I went there. Mrs. Colby was at the house. I asked her if I could get some breakfast. She said I could, and got me a warm breakfast. I ate it and paid her for it. I remained there until about eleven o'clock. Sometime after I went there Isaiah came in. I talked with him some, as explained to you when how I happened to be there by telling them that I had been out all night hunting a pair of horses that had run away from me. I told them my name was Witeox. I did not recognize them as people that I had ever known before and did not think they recognized me. They did not intimate on this occasion that they knew me. Isaiah stayed the night. When I left the house I went by their private road to Cherry Run bridge. Up to this time I had formed no design of killing them. From a point up the mountain I could see the greater part of their farm, remained there till near 4, afternoon, and saw Isaiah nearly all the time in the outside. I then came down and concealed myself in the bushes near the run. I went to the house and asked Mrs. Colby where her husband was. She said in the outside, and I went to him; asked him about staying all night; he said it was all right. He asked me if I was not Luther Shaffer. I said I was not. Mrs. Colby then came on the ground. . . . Soon he took his basket and said he was going to cut some grass for his cow.

When he told me in the field that I looked like Luther Shaffer, I immediately determined to kill him, for I thought that through his face that I had committed the robbery would be found out. I also determined shortly afterwards to kill the woman for the same reason. When he went for the grass I made up my mind that I would accompany him and kill him while he was cutting it, but then I thought he might make some outcry and frighten his wife and that she might get away; so I waited till he got back to the run, which was the house. I then dropped behind him, and shot him once in the back. He then turned his face towards me as he was falling and

I shot him in the eye. I cannot account for only one wound being found on him as I cannot believe I missed him the first time I fired. The first I saw of Mrs. Colby after this was when I looked away from him and started toward the house. She had got to the opposite bank of the stream and was standing there; I still moved toward her till I got to the middle of the run, which was very shallow; she passed me in the middle of the run going in the direction of her husband. I shot her three times, the last shot being the one that caused her death. Afterwards I entered the house, took the watch and gun and started for Lock Haven. I took the gun both to prevent anybody from pursuing me with it and to demand my rifle at long range in case of pursuit. I left by the usual route, taking the private road to Cherry Run bridge and then down the public road. It was dark when I left; it was dusk when the murder was committed. I found a light in the house when I went in. I went through Clintondale and down the Fishing Creek road toward Lock Haven.

Shaffer then closes by pronouncing Johnson innocent. COBURN. Monday John Wiebly moved into the house vacated by Capt. Vanvald. This finishes the moving, except Joel Kerstetter, who moved on Tuesday to the farm that J. F. Forbert bought at Woodward; Dory Casler moved his family to Union county last Thursday. Sorry to see John leave. We lost a good neighbor and citizen, and no doubt the boys will miss him, as he was always jovial and had a kind word for everybody.

Some of our citizens are getting a little wild over the ore business, and reports are circulating that they have leased big tracts of land. Guess it didn't take very much capital to lease all they have leased. If it does amount to anything, there are parties that have it and intend to do the business on, and investigate it thoroughly, and see if there is anything in it. Hope it will pan out to be worth working, as it would be a benefit to the place.

Monday we had license again and everything passed off quietly, if we had back beer to commence on. S. R. King is Mr. Shaffer's bar tender. Very good selection, and no doubt he will do his duty and will treat his customers with courtesy. Simon has many friends in this section. Mr. Shaffer keeps a good livery and his charges are liberal. The traveling community will find it to their interest to go to him a call. Monday you could see the demijohn brigade marching to the still house; it appears they didn't have any out of bond, so they couldn't sell any. Guess we won't hear anything more about the traveling bar that some of the Bellefonte people talked about last fall. We think that has quit traveling, or ought to and should have long ago. Billy Kerstetter feels proud. He says it is a bouncing girl. Val Kerstetter has concluded to help his father on the farm, so Bob is minus a good clerk. We noticed Andy Stover on our streets on Saturday, for the first time for three months. Glad to see him out again. Mrs. W. H. Kreamer received a telegram on Sunday evening that her mother was very sick, and she left on Monday morning's train. R. F. Whitmer, of Sunbury, came up on Monday evening on business. Attorney Reeder, of Bellefonte, was here, we suppose, on professional business. Business has been lively here for some time, but will not be so brisk now as moving time is over. E. Loe, and son J. W. Loe, and Reed Alexander loaded their furniture on Monday. They will move to Fairview. O. K.

LOCAL SQUIBS. —Boozer keeps the very best kind of harness oil, try it. —D. Ve Meyer has a new scheme to get even with minors who often become troublesome. —There is talk of wanting to have the turnpike from Old Fort to Union county vacated. —The old M. E. church at Spring Mills will be used as a town hall, since the erection of a new church. —Rev. S. G. Shannon's new Luth. church, at Sunbury, will be one of the finest in its interior finish in the state. —Spring and summer stock of ready made clothing is being unpacked at the Rochester clothing House, Bellefonte. —Mrs. Judge Divens has been appointed post mistress at Huhlersburg, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Goodhart. —Stop in at Flemings, fashionable tailoring establishment, Bellefonte, and see the new styles in gents clothing for spring and summer. —Stover & Mott, the marble men, at Bellefonte, received recently a car load of marble and are offering tombstones and monuments at reduced rates. —Stover & Mott, the marble men at Bellefonte buy their marble in car loads and can put out their work for less money than any other firm in this county. —Fleming the tailor, Bellefonte, has opened up his new stock for suitings, for spring and summer wear. New styles will be worn this year and he has them in stock. —Correspondents will please send their communications to this office not later than Wednesday morning. Please observe this and by so doing will greatly oblige us. —Mr. Geo. Loeburger, sawyer at Sober's saw mill, moved into the house, vacated by Mr. Smetzler, on Monday and expects to make this place his permanent home. —Jacob Pennington, one of the oldest citizens of Clearfield county, died at his home in Chest township a few days ago. He was married three times and was the father of twenty nine children; quite a respectable number. —Young man if you want to keep up with the styles stop buying second hand cheap clothing and go to Fleming, the tailor, Bellefonte, for a fine fitting suit. Keeps only the latest styles and the best workmen. Give him a trial and have the latest. —Why is the financial statement of the boro withheld, in utter violation of law? Is there anything the council of last year do not wish the people to know? According to law the statement should have been published several weeks ago. —M. Fauble, proprietor of the celebrated Ro-heser Clothing House, in Reynolds new building Bellefonte, was in the city this week and brings back the finest line of ready made clothing and gents furnishing goods ever seen in this county. —Please call and examine our large stock of cloths and cassimeres suitable for any garment in men's wear—a full assortment of overcoats "READY MADE." The largest line of hats, caps and furnishing goods in the county—all work guaranteed to fit or no sale. —MONTGOMERY & CO. Bro-kerhoff B-w & Homes Block.

MARRIED. At the Reformed passage, Centre Hall, Mar-29, by Rev. Thos. S. Land, Mr. James W. Shires and Miss Anne Rager.

DIED. Near Tusseyville, on March 18th, Mrs. Ada L. Lee, wife of John Lee, aged 28 years and 27 days.

CAUTION.—THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY having been purchased of Jacob Caserman, by the undersigned, at constable's sale, and will be left in his possession at my pleasure, namely: 1 team of horses and harness, 1 cow; persons are hereby cautioned against meddling with the same in any manner. DALE & CO. ap25 Centre Hall.

BUCKEYE IMPLEMENT AGENCY, REBERSBURG, PA. To the Farmers: I have taken the agency for Centre Co for the sale of the Celebrated Buckeye Farm Implements, manufactured by C. Aultman & Co., Canton, Ohio, whose machines are considered the very best made in the country.

BINDERS! The light Buckeye Folding Binder challenges the world for durability, perfection of work and lightness of draft. It folds so as to pass through any common gate.

BUCKEYE MOWER Is considered the best in the market. REAPERS, TWINE REAPERS, TWINE STREAM ENGINES, STEAM ENGINES, NEW MODEL THRESHER, NEW MODEL THRESHER.

I can give you better machines and for less money than any. Call on or address C. M. GRAMLEY, ap53m Rebersburg, Pa.

W-A-L-L-P-A-P-E-R-O H. H. SCHREYER, BISHOP ST., Bellefonte, Pa.

WM. WOLF & SON have received a new stock of Wall Paper, some beautiful patterns, and at prices about fifty per cent. less than heretofore. See their styles before you buy. Remember they are only half the price of last year.

HORSE WANTED. A good draft horse, weight about 1100, white, stating price, to be sent to GEORGE MAHE, Wilkesbarre, Pa.

WALL PAPER Having just purchased the largest stock of wall paper ever brought to Central Pennsylvania, at such prices that it cannot be manufactured for. We are ready to sell at equally low prices such will astonish you when you see them.

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H. H. SCHREYER, BISHOP ST., Bellefonte, Pa.

CARPETS. In order to make room for our Big Spring Stock we are offering some patterns, ends, etc., at Greatly Reduced Prices.

We have carpets as low as 20cts. per yard—and right good at that. Rag carpet 25 cents per yard up. We are also headquarters for heavy and light draperies, curtain poles, etc.

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