

The Centre Reporter.



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OLD LANDMARKS

THE FORGOTTEN CITY OF THE DEAD.

Penns Valley Away Back.—Farms in the Family Name to the Fourth and Fifth Generations.

To the present reader of the CENTRE REPORTER there is much of interest in the early history of Penns Valley, running back one hundred years and more, when the red man roamed here, and the valley was a vast forest of stately pines and oaks and hemlocks, which have bowed to smiling fields of wheat and corn and oats, and the Indian tent has disappeared before the cozy homes and spacious barns of the farmer.

Near Centre Hall there was a fort, and in Haines township, on the south side there was also a fort, where the early settlers could find shelter when the wild man made his incursions upon the settlers. These forts have disappeared, and happy villages, churches and school houses have taken their places.

Along the foot of Nittany Mountain, between it and the Brush Valley road, within a rifle-shot of the CENTRE REPORTER office, a little to the north-east, is a dilapidated and almost forgotten cemetery, which we struck on a stroll the other day. As a matter of interest to our readers, we explored this little city of the dead, and noted the inscriptions on the yet standing—or rather leaning slabs.

Once it was a clear spot, comprising an acre of ground, donated as a burial ground by John Bitner, owner of the farm upon which William Bible now resides. The acre is now overgrown with young mountain pines thirty feet high, and it has grown back as a part of the original forest, trees of nature's planting, over and between the graves. For aught, we know, there may be a hundred departed ones beneath the sod, and it was possible for us to find crude head and foot stones, and depressions to mark the final resting place of upwards of fifty.

The acre has no enclosure; but in the centre there is an inclosure, 20 x 30, pale fence, of which three sides are pretending to be erect, and the fourth, or south side, is rotted down. This enclosure contains the graves of the Pennington family, who were prominent here half a century and more ago.

Only two of the graves outside the Pennington inclosure have slabs with inscriptions. At the north-east corner at the edge of a deep sink, the first grave has a common sandstone slab, with the following inscription:

"Moses, son of James and Sarah Phelemy, died Feb. 28, 1832, aged 11 months."

Another slab of similar stone has on it: "John, 4th son of David and Eliza Mitchell, died April 29, 1835, aged 2 months and 2 days."

All the other graves have nothing but common mountain stones for head and foot marks, many being graves of children.

The graves in the inclosure are supplied with marble slabs, and have the following inscriptions:

"In memory of a young son and Ann E., daughter of Robert and Ellen Pennington. Ann E. died Dec. 16, 1827, aged 2 years."

"In memory of Margaret G., daughter of Robert and Ellen Pennington, who died Jan. 10, 1835, aged 9 months and 5 days."

"John David, son of James W. and Rebecca Pennington, died Feb. 12, 1849, aged 6 months and 18 days. Also, Catherine Ellen, died May 27, 1853, aged 1 year and 7 days."

"In memory of R. Henry Clay, son of Robert and Ellen Pennington, who died April 4, 1850, aged 7 years and 27 days."

"In memory of Sarah Pennington, who departed this life, Oct. 12, 1850, aged 35 years and 7 months."

"In memory of Margaret, wife of Henry Pennington, died January 5, 1853, in the 77 year of her age."

"In memory of Henry Pennington, who departed this life March 20, 1838, in the 63rd year of his age."

"In memory of Robert Pennington, who died February 3rd, 1854, aged 55 years and 5 months."

"In memory of Rebecca, wife of Robert Pennington, who died Oct. 17, 1824, aged 65 years."

"In memory of Robert Pennington, who died April 22, 1826, aged 72 years."

"In memory of Rev. John Pennington, son of H. and M. Pennington, who died January 22, 1830, aged 29 years."

"In memory of Eliza Pennington, daughter of Henry and Margaret Pennington. Departed this life July 5, 1833. Age, 17 years and 20 days."

This was the only graveyard in the vicinity at that day. Nearby stood a Methodist church, built of logs, eighty years ago. It had high ceilings, and one of the high, old-style pulpits. Our friend, Samuel Stover,

remembers attending singing school in this church, back some fifty years ago.

The church was sold thirty or thirty-five years ago, torn down, the logs sawed into lumber; and out of the product were built the Harpster properties opposite the REPORTER office.

This was the first M. E. church built in this valley; it was erected in 1814, on the then Pennington, now the William Bible farm. Mr. Bible thinks the house he lives in was erected about one hundred years ago.

Ebenezer Doolittle preached the first sermon in this church from the text, Prov. ix, 1: "Wisdom hath builded her house. She hath hewn out her seven pillars."

PASSED THE CENTURY MARK.

The Stover Farm in Haines Township 105 Years in the Family.

The Stover farm, one and one-half miles west of Woodward, in Haines township, along Pine creek, has remained in the family at least 105 to 110 years, going down from Frederick Stover to his son Martin, and is now occupied by Martin's son, Michael Stover.

Frederick Stover was an early settler, took up this tract some 110 years ago, cleared it and erected the first building, log, as was the custom at that early day. Finer buildings, modern in style took the place of the original log habitations.

Frederick Stover had a son named Frederick, who died June 25, 1861, aged 72 years. He was born on this farm, and being dead thirty-three years, would make a period of 105 years since he was born upon the homestead in Haines township.

Frederick, the son, died near Centre Hall, and is buried in the cemetery at this place. He was the father of Samuel Stover, who now resides with William Bible, a short distance from our town. Thus the Frederick Stover connection might celebrate at least the 105th anniversary of the original homestead still in possession of descendants.

OVER THE HUNDRED.

The Hess Farm 108 Years in the Family Connection.

The Hess farm, two miles west of Woodward, in Haines township, has remained in the family name 108 years up to this time.

Matthias Hess bought the tract of land in 1786, and cleared it. After his death his son Michael Hess came in possession of it, and died on the place, when his son, John Hess, became the owner of the farm, and upon his death his son Michael purchased it and farmed it a number of years and retired, leaving his son on it as tenant, who is now farming it, making the fifth generation of the Hess family up to this time, in a period of 108 years, to occupy the ancestral homestead, and it is likely to remain in the same name many years yet. It is one of the best farms in this valley.

108 YEARS.

The Motz Property also 108 Years in the Family.

The well-known Motz property, mill, tavern and farm land, in and adjoining Woodward, has remained in the family name 108 years.

John Motz was an early settler there and made a purchase of a survey in 1786, and built a grist mill in later years. He died in 1802. His son John came in possession of the property, including the mill, which was destroyed by fire, and erected the present mill on the same site. At his death, his son John C. Motz, became the owner of the property. He died a few months ago, and the property is still in the possession of his estate, and his sons, or one of them, is likely to become owner of it, and it will likely continue thus in the name of Motz for many years to come.

101 YEARS.

Potter Homestead, in Harris, 101 Years in the Same Family.

The Potter homestead, three miles west of Centre Hall, in Harris township, has remained in the family 101 years, this month of June.

Fergus Potter came to this country from Ireland, and in June of 1793, he purchased the survey now constituting the Potter farm. After his death his son Joshua Potter continued on the place, where he was born, lived and died. After the death of Joshua, which was not many years ago, the farm continued in the family by his son Henry Potter and sisters, who occupy the homestead, and will likely remain there all their lives. This continues the Potter farm in the same family down to the third generation. The descendants of Fergus Potter had intended celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the event last

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REPUBS NOMINATE

THE FAITHFUL TURN OUT IN CONVENTION.

Convention Held on Tuesday at Bellefonte.—Large Attendance.—Nominations and Work of the Convention.

The unterrified and faithful Republicans held their convention on Tuesday morning. Owing to the interest manifested over the judicial contest, and the conjecture on Legislature, the turn out was good, the court house being well filled. During the forenoon little groups could be found all about the court house setting up their schemes and doing a little wire pulling, but the slate had been set up and only needed a knock on the head to send it through.

The convention was called to order at eleven o'clock by county chairman Reeder. A roll call of delegates was made, with but one or two absentees. Substitutions and corrections were made, and the convention then began the real work of the day.

For chairman of convention S. Cameron Burnside was unanimously elected. He took the chair and proceeded to work, after a few words of thanks to the convention for honor conferred. For secretaries, C. F. Deininger, of Centre Hall, and J. E. Rickard were elected. For reading clerk H. C. Quigley, of Bellefonte was elected. A form of business was adopted which greatly facilitated the work of the convention.

A committee of five were appointed to draw up resolutions. They were J. L. Holmes, R. T. Conley, S. S. Miles, M. F. Loy, J. A. Hatch.

The nomination of a candidate for jury commissioner was first in order. Jacob Yarnell, Charles Smith, W. S. Williams, John D. Decker, and H. H. Osman were placed before the convention. The balloting resulted as follows:

Ballots.	1	2	3
Chas. Smith	18	14	8
Jacob Yarnell	23	21	19
W. S. Williams	25	28	29
John D. Decker	47	50	66
H. H. Osman	2	3	

Decker having received the majority on the third ballot was declared nominated and his nomination was then made unanimous.

For assembly, P. E. Womelsdorf, of Phillipsburg; H. R. Curtin, of Boggs township, and James A. Fiedler, of Bellefonte, were nominated. The balloting resulted as follows:

P. E. Womelsdorf	110
H. R. Curtin	79
J. A. Fiedler	56

Womelsdorf and Curtin having received a majority were declared nominated.

For associate Judge, Benjamin Rich, of Unionville, was nominated. Being the only candidate his election was made by acclamation.

For senatorial conferees, A. T. James W. I. Fleming, and Frank Clemens.

W. E. Gray in a pointed little speech placed before the convention the name of John G. Love, Esq., for President Judge. When Love's name was announced the applause was great. A letter was read by the clerk from Hon. A. O. Furst withdrawing his name from before the convention. He was no longer a candidate. Love received the unanimous vote of the convention.

J. G. Platt, John M. Dale and W. L. Mallin were elected congressional conferees. For judicial conferees, W. E. Gray, S. Cameron Burnside and J. W. Duwiddie were elected.

W. T. Reeder was reelected county chairman by the unanimous consent of the convention.

The committee on resolutions then reported.

They endorsed the candidacy of Hastings and did not denounce Democracy, etc., which was disappointing.

John G. Love was then called upon, and was escorted to the bench. The applause that greeted him was vociferous. He addressed the convention at length and was frequently interrupted by applause.

Col. James Coburn, of Aaronsburg, was next called on for an address. He was loaded and primed for a speech and his disappointment would have been great could he not have unloaded. Unlike all other addresses delivered before the convention, his was a veritable verbal diarrhoea. When a man has lost all sense of argument he resorts to abuse. So it was with Coburn. He denounced the Democrats and the Democratic party, and laid all calamities and ills that the flesh is heir to at their door.

T. H. Harter, editor of the Gazette, was next called upon for an address, which was spirited and pointed.

P. E. Womelsdorf, the nominee for assembly was next called and responded with a carefully committed address. He was followed by H. R. Curtin.

A motion was made to adjourn at 12.40 and the convention was over.

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CAPITOL GOSSIP

SENATOR QUAY DABBLES IN SUGAR STOCK.

The Pennsylvania Senator Before the Investigation.—His Evidence Not Surprising.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Secretary Carlisle, in common with many prominent Democrats, thinks the passage of a bill introduced by Representative Coombs, of N. Y., and now being considered by a sub-committee of the House committee on Banking and Currency, would be a very desirable thing. The bill provides for the appointment of a non-partisan currency commission, which shall devote the rest of this year to investigation and study of the subject and then report to Congress a bill for a complete banking, coinage and currency system which shall come nearer to meeting the demands of the country than what we have at present. The authors of this bill are C. N. Jordan, U. S. Sub-treasurer at New York City, and W. D. Trenholm, who was Controller of Currency under the first Cleveland administration, both of whom have appeared before the committee to argue in favor of its being favorably reported to the House. In view of the difference of opinion on this subject among Democrats in Congress, so radical that it has so far defeated all attempts at financial legislation, it would seem that this bill is one upon which men of all opinions could unite. It could certainly do no harm, and, if the commission was properly made up, might do much good.

Senator Harris has to grit his teeth and bear the unexpected delay in reaching a final vote on the tariff bill as best he can, being unable to get and keep forty-three Senators on the floor continuously in order to force things along faster. The Republicans took advantage of this to stretch the debate on the wool schedule out of all proportions and at this writing they are threatening to filibuster against taking a vote upon it until wool is taken from the free list, and the charge is made, but I will not vouch for its correctness, that they have been informed by several Democrats of their willingness, if it can be done by agreement, instead of a recorded vote, to help them get a small duty on wool.

The attempt of a local paper to get a little notoriety by insinuating that Representative Richardson, of Tenn., had engaged in real estate transactions that were not entirely right and proper, with representatives of a street railway syndicate that is seeking Congressional legislation, was a failure even before Mr. Richardson had taken the unnecessary trouble to make an explanation to the House. The man or newspaper which attacks the integrity of men like Mr. Richardson must present absolute proofs, not vague insinuations, before the public's attention can be secured.

If the evidence taken by the House committee on Naval Affairs can be substantiated, the government should at once cancel the contract with the Carnegie companies for armor plate for our war ships, and begin suits for the recovery of every dollar that has been paid to those concerns for plates that are not what they purport to be. This would, of course, result in delaying the completion of those ships yet to be armored, but it would be better that they never be completed, than that the crookedness which has been testified to should be allowed to go unpunished. The committee is still taking testimony. It will probably be necessary to remove plates from a number of the ships in order to ascertain whether witnesses have told the truth or not, and that will consume considerable time, and make it impossible for the committee to conclude the investigation in time to report during the present session of Congress.

Every Senator at present in Washington, except Quay, of Pa., has declared under oath that he neither speculated in nor gave information to others to be used in speculating in the stock of the sugar trust. Quay says he has been speculating in sugar stock whenever he felt like it and that he is going to continue. The evidence did not surprise any sensible person, but all the same it was wise in the investigating committee to examine all the Senators; beginning with themselves; it closes the mouths of the buncombe speakers and writers who have been continually asking "why not swear the Senators?" The only features in the examination of the Senators that varied from the stereotyped denial of the eight leading questions asked enough to arouse any special interest were the confession of Senator Quay and the statement of Senator Ransom, that he had a day or two before learned that his son had during the month of April speculated in a Washington bucket shop to the extent of \$45, and that \$30 of it had been placed upon the stock of the sugar trust. It was, of

course, a foolish thing for young Mr. Ransom to have done, but the amount invested is of itself sufficient to clear the young man of any suspicion of having acted upon any information beyond his own desire to bet his own money upon his own judgment. When a man goes into a speculation on inside information he puts up more than \$20. Senator Ransom has never bought a share of speculative stock of any kind since he became a member of the Senate.

Farmers do the Handsome.

J. C. Neff, residing on a farm near Petersburg, Huntingdon county, was a great sufferer from the recent flood, many of his fences being swept away and a fifteen acre field in which he had corn was completely inundated and covered with mud to the depth of several inches, which necessitated plowing and planting again. The neighbors around remembering that a "friend in need is a friend indeed" decided as soon as the ground became dry enough, to come and help their unfortunate neighbor plow his field.

On Wednesday morning of last week, about eight o'clock, there was seen teams coming from all directions, some from the valley, Alexandria and Petersburg. In a short time all were ready, and the signal for starting was given. With the genial proprietor at the head, the procession started around the fifteen acre field. Truly when all were in line it was a sight to behold. "Round and round the jolly plow boys went, stopping of course at noon to regale themselves with a sumptuous dinner, and by half past five the fifteen acres were ploughed, after which the boys assembled on the banks of the Juniata and gave three rousing cheers which went echoing and re-echoing over valley and hill.

No More Corkscrews.

The board of public buildings and grounds, at Harrisburg, whose duty it is to furnish the necessary supplies for senators and members of the lower house, have gone over the list of requisitions for the coming session and weeded out a large number of things considered "unnecessary" by the various chiefs of the departments, but not considered as "essential" by the board. On the list of things which will not be furnished are seven Webster's dictionaries, four sets Purdon's digest, pearl handle penknives, cut glass inkstands, card cases, gilt-edged memorandum books, gold-mounted fountain pens, spiral pocket pencils, ivory knife erasers, scissors, Russian leather memorandum books, silver key rings, silver match safes, cases for postage stamps, envelope openers and corkscrews—presumably for opening ink bottles—and reduction was made in lounges at the rate of from \$300 to \$150, and the whole list in proportion. It is said that the bill for "necessaries" will thus be reduced fully forty per cent., which will be a great saving to the state. The only item which will be most missed by the law-makers, we presume, is the corkscrews; it is always hard to open an ink or mucilage bottle with a pen knife.

A Pension Ruling.

Assistant Secretary Reynolds, of the interior department, has rendered an important decision, which is far-reaching in its effect and will involve the immediate cancellation of thousands of pension certificates issued under a ruling of the last administration.

He holds that where a claimant for pension has deserted from his first service and enlisted in another and different organization, and where the war department refuses to remove the charge of desertion or recognize the legality of the second service but holds him to be in a continuous state of desertion, that department has exclusive jurisdiction, the correction of its records and the legality of the soldier's service, and until the charge of desertion is removed by the war department the claimant has no pensionable status.

How the Mennonites Choose a Minister.

A Harrisburger who attended the services incident to the selection of a minister by Mennonites at Salunga, Lancaster county, during the week gives this version of the choosing. As many Bibles as there were candidates were placed on a platform. In this case there were ten. In one of the Bibles was placed a slip of paper. The candidate selecting the Bible containing the paper was the person called to the ministry.

The ten candidates were seated according to age and, strange as it may seem, the slip of paper which designated him for the place, was drawn by Hiram Kauffman, of Landisville, the youngest of the ten, and therefore the last to make the selection. Ordination services followed the selection.

For Sale.

A fine Short horn bull, thorough bred, 1 1/2 years old, for sale by Samuel Slack, Potters Mills. June 14-31

STRUCK THE TREE

THREE YOUNG BOYS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

Under the Shelter of a Tree they are Stunned and Horribly Burned by the Electric Fluid Striking it.

Three young boys of Bellefonte, Winfred and Edgar Lose and Charles Hunter, all under sixteen years of age, narrowly escaped death by lightning last Monday, when the heavy rain and storm passed over Nittany and Penns Valleys.

The three boys in company with others had gone up Spring Creek, about a mile above Roopsburg, where they went in swimming. All but those mentioned left before the storm came on. Those remaining, seeing a storm approaching, betook themselves to a large tree near by the creek for shelter.

Here they sat more or less disconcerted by the violence of the storm, when instantly the tree shattered and was felled to the ground, and they knocked into insensibility.

Winfred Lose, who is about fifteen years of age, suffered the slightest shock and alone is able to tell the story of their tragic experience.

It was about three o'clock when they took shelter. Winfred's younger brother, Eddie, was standing close to the trunk between them, and was crying. He said he wanted to go home. This was the last word uttered. About ten minutes later he came to and found himself lying on the ground. At first he could not tell where he was. He saw his hat lying some distance away, he was numb and was too weak to rise. He looked around and saw his companions lying on the ground. Eddie's clothing was smoking. He made an effort to arouse them, but could not, and concluded they were dead.

Win, started for help a mile distant, and arrived in an exhausted condition, and told his story of the fate of the boys.

A search was instituted and Charley Hunter was found in a comatose condition at the root of the tree. A few feet away in the brush Edward Lose was found struggling in an effort to get up, apparently unconscious and visibly exhausted.

The boys were taken to their homes at Bellefonte. Win's left arm was paralyzed and burned where the fluid struck him. The flash struck him back of the neck and passed down his body burning him in a frightful manner. His under shirt was almost consumed, a few shreds only remaining. His left arm was burned and a piece of flesh was torn out of the left leg.

Charley Hunter was severely burned also. His face was swollen and covered with a number of bright red spots. Eddie Lose, who suffered the severest injuries died Wednesday at two o'clock. The other two boys will likely recover.

Arrested at Tyrone.

Officer Andy Barr, of Tyrone, arrested a fellow named Ed. Couch, aged twenty-two years, wanted at Huntingdon for larceny and murder. Officer Barr says that Couch was in the company of another young man and two girls and that he administered to the young man, whose name was William Miller, a knockout dose and then robbed him of his gold watch and chain. Miller never recovered from the dose administered and died some time during the night. When Barr arrested Couch he admitted the robbery but said it was done while he was drunk, and not knowing that Miller was dead, said he would be able to get the matter fixed up all right with William as they were both good friends and had been on a drunk together. Couch some years ago lived at Tyrone and seemed to be a quiet and very innocent fellow, but since then he has fallen into bad company and become somewhat of a moral wreck. He is a barber by trade but owing to his habits has not done much for some time. The dose administered to Miller consisted of laudanum, whiskey and nutmeg.

Hungry Coxeyites.

The Coxey army is hard up for "vittels", as the latest advices from Washington say. Food has given out in the Coxey camp and unless some very lively hustling is done the men will likely dine on river water only. Coxey and Browne have been so busy this week trying to get an opportunity to talk before the Congressional committee that the commissary has been neglected. The committee of citizens who have been soliciting contributions for the Coxeyites have about reached the end of their rope and find it very hard now to get a wagon load of provisions.

Badly Lamented.

Jacob Bortoff, of Lemont, informs us that the heavy rains a few weeks ago did about \$1000 damages to his farm. Four of his fields having been washed of their soil.