

## EARLY CHURCH HISTORY.

### THE SALE OF CENTRE HILL CHURCH RECALLS INCIDENTS.

Presbyterianism in this Section is not on the decline.—Early History and Trials of the Church.

At a congregational meeting of the Sinking Creek Presbyterian church held recently, and in view of the fact that services were abandoned at the Old Brick church at Centre Hill, they decided to dispose of the church and lot. It being one of the old landmarks in our valley, an organization having been established there over a century ago, it may be of some interest to your many readers to recall some of the incidents connected with this church, as well as the early history of Presbyterianism in Penn's valley, as gleaned from the records of the church, and of those who were all their lives associated with the organization.

The first settlers of Penns valley were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. (Linn's history gives that as far back as 1775.) At that date there were only twenty-eight families in the valley, of whom twenty-two were subscribers to the fund to pay supplies sent here by the Presbyterian church.

Rev. William Linn was the first supply who ever penetrated Penns valley. He found these people had voluntarily united in congregations, without any formal organization. They were Godly men, and had brought with them their Bibles, Confession of Faith and psalm book, and with the love of the church of their fathers, they gathered about for social worship, without the formality of a church organization.

The first church building in Penns valley was erected in the year 1785, by the East Penns valley congregation. It was a plain log structure, with seating capacity for about two hundred. This building was on the Musser farm, north east of Penn Hall.

The Huntingdon Presbytery was organized in this church on April 14th, 1795. Rev. James Martin was Pastor of this church at this time. He died June 20th, 1795, and was buried in the grave yard of the East Penns valley church, where his remains lie beneath a slate or limestone slab.

In the year 1793 a building of the same style but somewhat larger than the one above mentioned, was erected at Centre Hill, by the Sinking Creek congregation, on the lot of ground now occupied by the cemetery. This, after having been remodeled, served the congregation until 1842, when it was superseded by a handsome brick building, at a cost of about eight thousand dollars, which was entered in 1843.

This edifice, after being occupied for seventeen years, was thoroughly repaired, being remodeled, repainted, papered, cushioned, and carpeted, at a cost of about two thousand dollars, and thus remains until this day. With the exception of the roof, the building is well preserved for having stood fifty-seven years, which goes to prove that it was a well constructed building, and the best of material having been used.

The Rev. William Adams was the Pastor at this time. The building committee consisted of Messrs. James Potter, Wm. Hewes, Esq., Samuel W. Wilson, Samuel Davis, and Thomas Mayes, Esq.

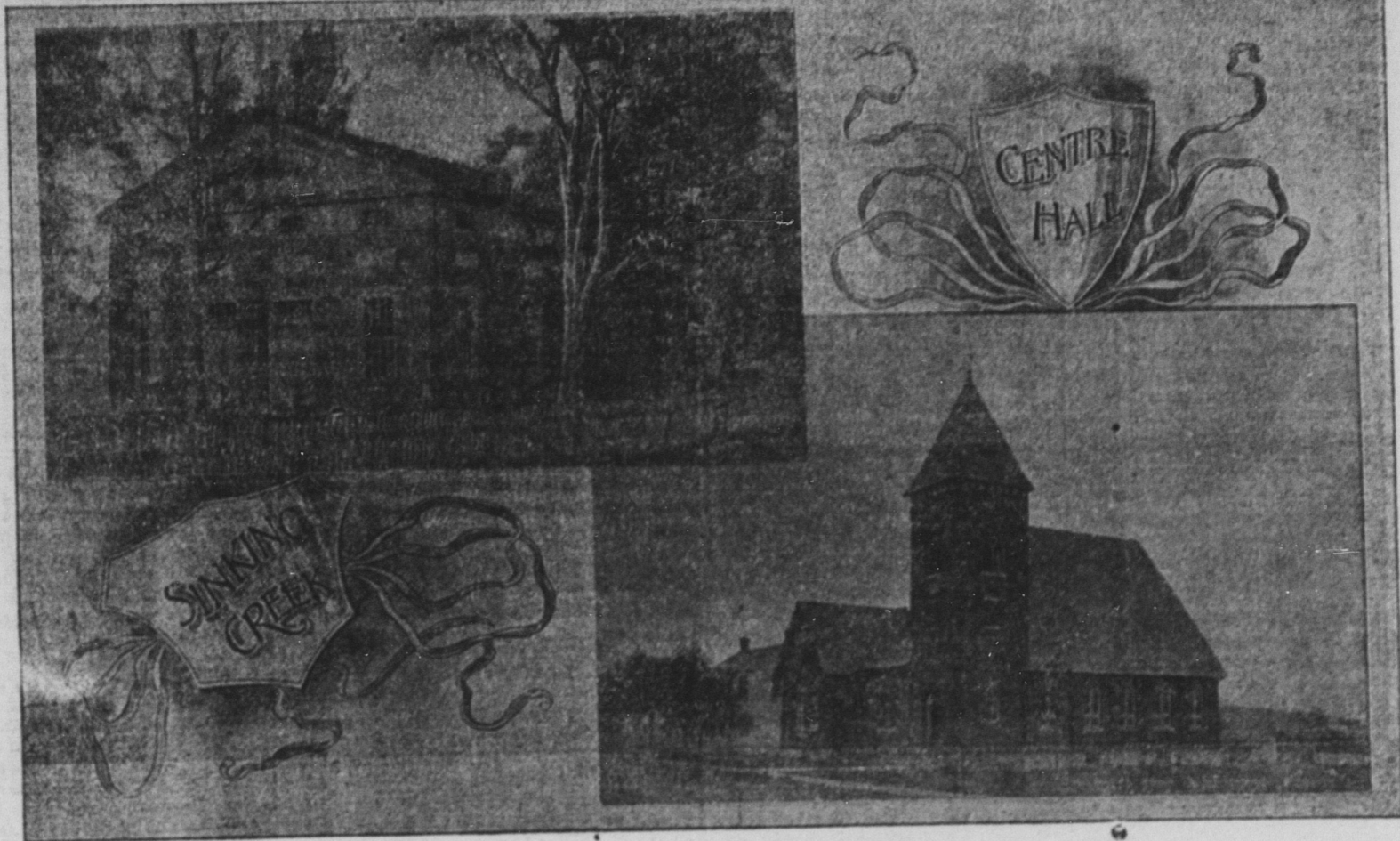
Shortly after the completion of this church the Rev. Adams resigned, and in the year 1846 a call was made out for Rev. Robert Hamill, and he continued Pastor of this church for twenty-nine years.

In those days families who were members of this church would come a distance of five and even up to ten miles to attend services. In former years this building was at times too small for the congregation, there being more people than there were pews to accommodate them. The congregation diminished by death and by emigration and other churches being built in close proximity to it, and the members saw the congregation dwindle, until the regular services ceased.

The village of Centre Hall springing up in these latter years, and being in the bounds of this congregation, they saw the necessity of having a place of worship there, if they desired to hold the membership and perpetuate Presbyterianism in this part of Penns valley. The Sinking Creek congregation decided and did erect a neat church edifice there in 1888, at a cost of over four thousand dollars, for the better accommodation of the members and families residing in that vicinity.

It was by no means a new organization, but a branch of the old plant and is recognized by the higher courts of the church as part of the Old Sinking Creek church. The abandoning of the old church therefore does not mean that Presbyterianism is dying out in our valley, but reminds us of the changes and growth of our valley, thereby making many changes in the location of our churches as well as our places of trade and business.

There are many sacred memories



associated with the old church. When we look back to the time when our fathers and mothers worshipped there, and on the list of membership we find the names of many of the most prominent citizens of our valley, devout men and women who were members of this church have all passed away, and recently, the demise of Rev. Robert Hamill, D. D., who was the Pastor of this church for twenty-nine years, and who had survived all the old members of this church, and had attained to the great age of eighty-five years—was called away, he being the last one on the records of the church, as a member at the time of the erection of the church as it now stands.

The cemetery connected with this church is the oldest burial ground in the valley. The remains of Rev. William Stuart lies entombed in this cemetery; he was installed in the year 1801 and continued Pastor of this church for thirty-three years, and many of the oldest residents of the valley are buried here. After the church is removed the marble slabs will remain and will remind us of the hallowed spot where our fathers worshipped in the Old Sinking Creek Presbyterian church as well as marking the graves of our loved ones. G. L. GOODHART.

**Funeral of Rev. Hamill, D. D.**  
The Rev. Robert Hamill D. D., passed to his Eternal reward, on the evening of February 16th, from his home in Philadelphia. A brief illness preceded his translation, in which there was but little suffering. So sudden was the summons, that it came but a few hours after he had written a letter. His departure brings sorrow and great comfort. To his children, it is the loss of a most kind and deeply beloved father. He held a large place in their respect and affection. Wise, kind, judicious, considerate, loving, his removal has created a deep chasm. A void which none but the loving Savior can fill. But there is comfort for them. His memory will be a perpetual benediction to the writer of these lines—for many years he was the tried and trusted friend, and had more influence in shaping his life and character than any other man. He is most glad to lay this tribute at his feet. His name has been mentioned many, many times by hundreds in your beautiful valley, with that respect and reverence which the true sense of his word has prompted. His dignity of character, correctness in life, and affectionate manner will long be remembered by those who were privileged to greet him in their homes. His pulpit ministrations will be treasured for their reverence, and their instruction, their ability, and the deep and lasting impressions produced by them. The great day alone will tell of the number that have been brought to the Savior through the ministry of that faithful messenger of his grace. The funeral services took place at his late residence in Philadelphia, and were conducted by the Rev. M. A. Bronson, D. D., Rev. Jas. W. Boal, D. D., and Rev. S. T. Lowery, D. D. A number of ministerial brethren of the city were present to show their respect to an honored and faithful servant of Christ, who had doubtless heard from the lips of his Master the welcome—"Good and faithful servant enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

JAS. W. BOAL.  
Port Carbon, Pa., Feb. 22.

**Death of a Son of the Revolution.**  
John Evans, the oldest citizen of Lewistown, died last Friday, aged 93. His father was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and his wife a granddaughter of Peacock Major, a Lieutenant in the same war.

## CRONJE SURRENDERS.

Hemmed In an Army of 4000 Boers is Captured by General Roberts.

After one of the most heroic defenses in history, General Cronje, commander-in-chief of the Boer forces, surrendered unconditionally to the British forces on Tuesday, with 4000 men, to Lord Roberts who had 60,000 men.

A large number of women and children formed part of the Boer camp. The decision of Cronje to surrender was due to the fact becoming known to the Boer leader that Lord Roberts had prepared to commemorate Majuba Day by making a desperate assault on the Boer position.

Without ammunition, his artillery disabled, most of his force wounded or utterly worn out by the ten days' fighting, since the retreat from Magersfontein, General Cronje preferred capitulation to what would certainly have amounted to a massacre of his men.

Roberts, in his report of the surrender says: "Cronje asked for kind treatment at our hands and also that his wife, grandson, private secretary, adjutant and servants might accompany him to Cape Town, whither he was to be sent. I assured him his request would be granted."

Only some of the light artillery was captured, Cronje having sent his heavy guns to a safe place for service in other operations.

**Foster's Weather Forecast.**  
My last bulletin gave forecasts of the storm wave to cross the continent from March 1 to 5, and the next will reach the Pacific coast about 6, cross the west of Rockies country by close of 7, great central valleys, 8 to 10, eastern states 11.

Warm wave will cross the west of Rockies country about March 6, great central valleys 8, eastern states 10. Cool wave will cross the west of Rockies country about March 9, great central valleys 11, eastern states 13.

Temperature of the week ending 8 a. m. March 5, will average below normal in the great central valleys, below in the eastern states, above on the Pacific slope. Rainfall for the same period will be above on the Pacific slope, below in the great central valleys, and below in the Atlantic states.

About the date of this bulletin a moderately high temperature wave will be on the Rockies and will cross to the Atlantic States in two or three days.

March temperature is expected to average about normal. First and last weeks will be cold and middle part of the month will be cold.

A severe cold wave will cross the east of Rockies country about 4 to 9, after which temperature will rise till 18 to 20. From 20 to April 4 a great fall in temperature may be expected, the greatest change being about 20 to 24 in the great central valleys, a little later in the eastern states.

Conditions will be favorable to tornadoes not far from March 3, in great central valleys, between parallels 35 and 40.

**Texas Cattle Syndicate.**  
A big cattle syndicate is about being organized. The results of expert appraisals show that 73 companies have options on their properties, which include 20,000,000 acres. The average price put on the land was \$1.90 per acre. The cattle number 900,000 head, and were appraised at \$21.37 per head. The total value of all the properties comprehended in the syndicate is \$40,000,000. They also have an option on 30 cotton seed oil mills in Texas to supply the cattle with oil cake for food.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

### THE MINORITY WIN A POINT ON THE TARIFF BILL

The Republicans Forced to an Amendment to Secure Votes.—The Gold Standard Bill in Bad Shape.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The Democrats of the House have a right to claim the amendment of the Porto Rican tariff bill, which the Republicans were compelled to make at the eleventh hour in order to get the Republican votes needed to pass the bill, as a party triumph. The firm and united attitude of the Democrats was what enabled the Republican objectors to force the amendment of the bill.

As predicted, the gold standard bill, reported from the conference committee is a little bit worse than was either the House or the Senate bill. It contains every objectionable feature that was in both, and has made most of them more objectionable. As the Republicans have the votes, the Conference bill will probably be rushed through this week. It has already been agreed that the Senate shall vote upon it Thursday.

Quay is in sight of success. A test vote has made it sure that he will get the seat when the final vote is taken. A number of Democrats will vote to seat him as a matter of principle. Senator Butler, Chairman of the Populist National Committee, expresses the opinion that the attempt to create friction between the Democrats and Populists, will fail. Speaking of the nomination of Col. Bryan, Senator Butler said: "Bryan will be the choice of three elements, the Democrats, the Populists and the silver Republicans. The two latter will meet on the same day, if present arrangements are carried out, and will, in all probability unite upon the same candidate for Vice President."

Representative Richardson, the Democratic leader in the House, has, by a new resolution, added the steel trust to the sugar trust, the paper trust, the tin trust and the oil trust, the products of which previous resolutions authorize the Interstate Commerce Commission to prohibit the transportation of an Interstate Transportation lines whenever they have knowledge that the prices asked for the goods produce profit in excess of 4 per cent. on the actual capital invested in the trust which controls them.

Mr. McKinley has tendered places on the new Philippine Commission, to two gold Democrats—Gen. Luke E. Wright, of Tenn., and Mr. Henry C. Ide, of Vermont. Inasmuch as both of these gentlemen are supposed to endorse the financial as well as the foreign policy of the Republican administration, it is farcical for Mr. McKinley to expect the Democratic party to recognize them as its representatives on the Commission. It is equally farcical to label the new Commission, non-partisan, when everybody knows it to be thoroughly imperialistic.

Although the Wisconsin Democrats made a strong and almost a winning fight for Milwaukee, none of them have shown the slightest disapproval over the choice of Kansas City for the National Convention, by the Democratic National Committee. Like all other good Democrats, they believe in majority rule, and accepted the vote of the Committee as ending the controversy. It is the same with those Democrats who advocated holding the convention ahead of that of the Republicans. Upon second thought, every Democrat recognizes how fitting

it is that the party which stands for the true American construction of the Declaration of Independence, and of the Constitution, should hold its National Convention on Independence day.

Indianapolis has been named as the place and Sept. 5 as the time for holding the National Convention of the Association of Democratic Clubs, by the Executive Committee of the Association. At the same meeting the resignation of Hon. Chauncey F. Black, of Pa., as President of the Association, and of Representative Sibley, of Pa., as a member of the executive committee were accepted. The new President will not be announced until April 13, Jefferson Day, when the Association will give a big banquet in Washington. Gov. Benton McMillin, of Tenn., Chairman of the Executive Committee, will act as President until then.

The clique of real estate speculators, who are after a big wad of Uncle Sam's money, in exchange for the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, which, notwithstanding its being a quagmire in which no solid foundation for a large building can be had without driving piles through thirty or forty feet of mud, they have been talking up as just the place to locate future public buildings, received an unexpected check when the Washington Centennial Committee came out strong for the projected Federal Avenue, from the Capitol to the proposed Memorial bridge to Arlington, over the Mall, upon which all future Federal buildings shall be located. The Mall is owned by the government and there would be no pickings in the erection of buildings by the government upon its own ground.

Senator Vest thus sized up the Republican policy, in a short speech: "The proposition that the U. S. can hold territory as a colonial possession and its people as vassals, is the most preposterous and dangerous that has ever been advanced in the course of my public life."

## LATE NEWS NOTES.

The Quay managers claim he will get his seat by the aid of a few Democrats. Some doubt it, others fear it is true.

Colonel Gutley, who was in Washington a few days ago, says there is no indication yet that Quay will succeed.

Says a prominent Boer authority: "Even if General Cronje wanted to surrender his men would not let him do so. Every one is determined to fight to the bitter end. And even if General Cronje's forces should surrender, that would not end the war. We have done the British no wrong, and we have never deserved the underhanded tricks they have employed upon us since the first."

**Killed 15 Cows.**  
George Belles, a Lycoming county dairyman, killed 15 of his best cows last Friday by shooting them. A state veterinary surgeon had examined the cattle, and decided they were suffering from tuberculosis.

A. R. De Fluent, editor of the Journal, Doyelstown, Ohio, suffered for a number of years from rheumatism in his right shoulder and side. He says: "My right arm at times was entirely useless. I tried Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and was surprised to receive relief almost immediately. The Pain Balm has been a constant companion of mine ever since and it never fails." For sale by J. H. Ross, Linden Hall; S. M. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Potters Mills; H. F. Rossman, Spring Mills; J. F. Smith, Centre Hall.

## LOCAL ITEMS.

Cullings of More than Ordinary Interest from Everywhere.

### A Day Well Spent.

If we sit down at set of sun,  
And count the things that we have done,  
And counting find  
One self-denying act, one word  
That eased the heart of him who heard;  
One glance most kind,  
That fell like sunshine where it went,  
Then we may count the day well spent.

But if through all the livelong day  
We've eased no heart by yea or nay;  
If through it all  
We've nothing done that we can trace  
That brought the sunshine to a face;  
No act most small  
That helped some soul and nothing lost,  
Then count that day as worse than lost.

Don't be a sneak,  
Don't be a fool,  
Nor otherwise,  
As the fool.  
Don't be a meddler,  
Nor gossip peddler,  
Nor seek deceiver,  
Nor neighbor griever.  
Be free but fair,  
Your own needs all your care.

Daniel Hess, the founder of Linden Hall, now 82, reads and writes without glasses.

George W. Reber, once of Miles twp., has left Wisconsin and moved to Harrison, Ill.

A broken arm resulted to the wife of Henry Snavely, west of Coburn, from falling on the ice last week.

The town council of Shamokin are under arrest for wrong-doing which they attempted to conceal.

Nature's windworks were put to severest test from Saturday to Monday and proved in best working order.

Rev. Rearick's appointments, Sunday, March 4: Centre Hall, 7 p. m.; Spring Mills, 2 p. m.; Tusseyville, 10 a. m.

Not fifty miles from this town, a Miss Cold married a Mr. Slauch. They have a little youngster and named him Cold Slauch.

The shingle mill, edgers and trimmers, for the Linden Hall Lumber Co's new sawmill, are now in position, ready for operations.

A horse of Wm. Throsel, of Woodward, was shot one day last week, suspected of being mad, and bitten by a mad dog while lumbering in Brush valley.

Robert N. Ellenberger, of State College, traveling salesman for the Osborne Manufacturing Company, died very suddenly in Jefferson county, aged 45 years.

Clark Gramley, of Rebersburg, purchased machinery and patterns of the Agar foundry at Lock Haven and will make his shops at Rebersburg hum with greater music.

Rev. Warden's revival services in the Lutheran church draw a large attendance. His remarks make deep impressions upon his hearers, and lasting ones for good upon many.

John T. Lee having served upon the school board very creditably for a number of years, leaving an impress for harmony and good upon the board and schools, ends his last term with the current year.

Judge Frazer, of Pittsburg, has rendered a decision that a man need not support his wife's mother. In the case on trial the court points out that the daughter is married and has no property and that her husband cannot be compelled to support his mother-in-law.

George Emerick's teams for a number of weeks have been busy hauling fine logs from his chopping on the mountain a little east of town. The McNitt teams, with immense wagon loads of staves, also pass through here daily to the station.

Queer: Carloads of horses are being bought up in this valley and shipped east, whilst carloads are brought in from the west and sold to our farmers. Perhaps the ones shipped out are the \$5, \$10 and \$15 plugs, to be ground into boulogna sausages in the cities.

The members of the Centre Hill Presbyterian congregation will take a lively interest in the sale of the furniture, etc., March 10, so as to secure articles as mementos of that old and once flourishing church, now supplanted by the Centre Hall church.

We had a cold wave that was full of arctic music. Saturday 24, it was mild with indications for rain. At 3 in the afternoon the western horizon showed dark clouds looming up and before dark high winds howled and snow to the depth of 1 inch covered the surface. The storm howled all night, was worse on Sunday and at night terrific, continuing all day Monday. Tuesday was calm, bright, but cold. The thermometer on the mornings of these days registered as follows: Sunday 3 below 0; Monday 3 above; Tuesday at 0. With a greater snowfall drifts would have closed all the roads.