

MR. GILLILAND'S ADDRESS.

"The Regular Hunting Club" is Dined by James S. Reish.

Friday of last week James S. Reish, proprietor of the Potters Mills Hotel, dined "The Regular Hunting Club" of which he is a member. The participants are unable to express their delight with the host's entertainment.

The following address prepared by Joseph M. Gilliland, of New Bloomfield, was read by one of the members present:

Members of the Old Regular Hunting Club, Ladies and Gentlemen:  
To be, as the oldest living member of our club, as now organized, the very pleasant duty of preparing a brief history of our organization has been assigned. This Hunting Club had its origin sixty-eight years ago. In the year 1833 the Palmers, Gillilands, James Hayes and Wm. Ecken formed a party to hunt for deer in Clinton Co., Pa. In a range of mountains in the lower end of Sugar Valley, extending to near the river at Milton. This party continued their hunt each fall in the mountains of Clinton county and in that part of the Alleghenies embraced in the western part of Centre and Clearfield counties until about the year 1850. Prior to this time deer were almost unknown in the Seven Mountains, but as the native panther and wolf began to retreat before civilization, deer became more plentiful in this range and from this time on these pioneer hunters confined their huntings to the Seven Mountains.

About the year 1850 the McClinticks became members of this party; some time later, possibly in 1854, Henry Fry joined them, and in the fall of 1855, thirty-six years ago, your humble servant became a member. D. R. Sweetwood joined the party the following year—the fall of 1856; Samuel Farmer came next, then Thomas Palmer, followed by Rev. George W. Bouse, John Wilkinson, Sr., Samuel McClintick, John Wilkinson, Jr., Edward Allison, Harvey Musser, William Hatman and Frank Meyer, coming down to the present membership of the club. Enough has been said to convince you that we rank as the oldest organization of hunters in central Penn'a.

The liberal, broad-minded spirit which has always characterized this organization has had very much to do with starting other hunting parties. In our earlier history we never refused to take with us any who were inclined to hunt; we taught them the range of our mountains, showed them our crossings, and taught them how to hunt; thus other organizations have sprung into existence through our liberality. Allow me to note one other characteristic of this famous club, and that is our reputation for honor amongst other hunters. Never in our history have we been accused of taking any game which was not ours by right. Indeed I can recall several instances in which we gave up our right in game to others, thus putting into practice that Scriptural injunction "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

In this day and age we have much accidental shooting amongst hunters. In our history, covering a period of sixty-eight years, but one accident has occurred. On the 10th day of November, 1859, it was my misfortune to lose the index finger of my left hand by the accidental discharge of my rifle while standing on the crossing about one and a half miles southwest of Potters Mills. In December of that same fall Solomon Palmer was lost while hunting with this party on the Big Flat, near the head of the Kettle. There was quite a deep snow on the ground at the time, and very cold weather. He spent the night near the west end of Slate Ridge without fire, as he had no matches; he found his way to Hiram Ross' in Stone Valley the following day, which was the Sabbath. On Monday he was taken by sleigh to Pine Grove Mills, where he took the stage on Tuesday morning for Centre Hall, arriving at his home at James McClintick's, near Centre Hill, the same evening.

A word as to our success. We are not only the oldest organization of hunters in the state, but we have killed more game than any other party I am very sorry to record has been kept of game killed, but I believe 200 or more deer would be a very conservative estimate.  
We have had many noted marksmen among our number, men skilled in handling the rifle. Pardon me when I refer to several of these who are still living at 60 or 70 years of age, although far advanced in years and somewhat infirm. D. R. Sweetwood, during the years ranging from 1856 to 1880, was considered by all who knew him the finest rifle shot in the country. For keenness of vision and steadiness of nerve he has never been excelled; his skill was simply marvelous; more than one buck has been caused to bite the dust at a range from eight to fifteen hundred yards. Harvey Musser, in his younger days, was a noted running shot; his reputation for quickness in handling a rifle extended throughout the state. I recall one instance in which he shot two magnificent bucks, one with each barrel of his rifle before either one reached the ground after the first jump from where they lay. These are some of our best marksmen. No other organization that I have any knowledge of can compare with us for real enjoyment and a rollicking good time. My memory carries me back to some of our old camping grounds—Slate Ridge, Kettle Gap, Spring-house Field, Underwood's saw mill, the post pile and others. My imagination pictures some of the famous crossings—Indian Path Big Break, Tan Kill, Sand Kettle, Grass Mountain, Hessian's

Path and Crow Field. Oh what recollections they recall and what scenes pass before the mind's eye! I hear the bang! bang! bang! all along the line, followed by the cry "all right!" and then the cheering begins until the echo reverberates from mountain to mountain; then the meeting around the dead buck with his mighty antlers! Who can describe the scene! Language fails me; it baffles all description. One who has not passed through experiences of this kind knows nothing about real fun. And then the gathering to camp after the day's hunt! The supper! How can I describe it? Such boiled cabbage and baked beans! No bill of fare at any hotel on the American Continent can compare with it. After supper a recital of the day's sports followed by the O venor's possum story, and then the fun begins. But I must hasten on. A word to the younger men of our club: To you gentlemen, has been left a blessed heritage. Our achievements in the past are worthy of emulation. Do nothing to bring dishonor upon our fair name. Strive to keep our organization in the future what it has been in the past—a party of honorable gentlemen—and as the oldest members grow feeble with advancing years, continue to take them along to camp, although the step may have become slow, the ear dull and the eyes dim, honor them for their past record and help to make their declining years bright and cheerful, and when the last chase has been made, the last shot fired, may they rest in peace on the "Happy Hunting Grounds Across the River."

I feel that in writing this brief history my duty will not be fulfilled without making some mention of our noble ladies. To you, mothers, wives and daughters, we owe very much, for, in these many years, you have been contributing your full share to the success of this honored club. The well filled boxes of magnificent bread, pies and cakes that have filled our commodes at camp for years speak your praise in no uncertain sound. Your remaining at home caring for the little ones and the interests of the home while Dave and John and Joe and Bill and Sam and Tom were in camp having a glorious good time meant sacrifice on your part. Many an uneasy hour have you spent for fear some loved one would meet with an accident while on the chase. For this noble sacrifice we honor you to-night. May your remaining pathway through life be strewn with the flowers of happiness and your days be permitted to wear a queenly crown.

J. M. GILLILAND  
New Bloomfield, Pa., Mar. 18, 1901.

The Newport Ledger says: It is the present intention of Morrow Bros., Iron Founders and Machinists, to move their business from this place to Burnham, Mifflin county. In an interview with one of the firm it is learned that if they go new buildings will be erected at that place and their business conducted more extensively. If they locate at Burnham they are promising much work from the Baldwin Locomotive Works.

Headache often results from a disordered condition of the stomach and constipation of the bowels. A dose or two of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets will correct these disorders and cure the headache. Sold by Mrs. J. H. Keller, Linden Hall; J. F. Smith, Centre Hall.

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We most respectfully solicit at least a share of your patronage.

Smith, the Photographer.  
W. W. Smith, the Photographer, wishes you to sit for photos Friday of this week at his gallery at Centre Hall.

Business Stand for Sale.  
W. W. Boob, of Centre Hall, offers for sale his private residence, business place, and established retail carriage and wagon hardware trade. This is a first-class stand for any one wanting to carry a general line of hardware in addition to the above. The established trade in bicycles, plumbing supplies, etc., will be included in the deal. The location is the best to be had in the town. Satisfactory reason will be given for selling. This will be a good opportunity for a hustler who will act quick.

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