

# The Centre Reporter.

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## HISTORICAL NOTES.

By MR. J. D. MURRAY.

NOTE.—In the historical notes in last issue of the Reporter, in reference to General James Irwin as candidate for Governor on the Whig side in opposition to F. Francis Shunk, Democrat, the date should have been 1817 instead of 1819. This was a typographical error and not an error of the writer.

Another of our oldest inhabitants was Levi Murray, who was a tanner by trade, who settled on the bank of Penns Creek, Union county. He was frequently annoyed with inundations and made up his mind to leave the Creek. At that time there was no other mode of travel except that of a pedestrian or equestrian. He chose the latter and mounted a horse, taking a roll of leather behind him and wended his way to Centre county, where he made a purchase with no fears of ever having an overflow of water. He made his choice on Nittany Mountain, on what is now known as the Peter Hoffer farm. There he landed with his family April 2nd, 1801, and remained there until his family had grown up and left the parental roof. He had acquired a competency and was getting old; he went to Brush Valley and died a very old man.

Samuel Huston was an old resident of this valley. He owned and lived on the farm Perry Breon now occupies, (one of the most valuable farms in the valley,) and belonged to a very ancient family. His mother was at one time captured by the Indians and had to remain with them quite a while; she was but a young girl at that time. She and her husband lived on and improved what is known as the old Samuel Huston farm. We know of them having but three children, Thomas, Samuel, and Catharine. Samuel and Catharine remained at home with their parents. Mrs. Huston was the ruling spirit in the family, and ruled with an iron hand.

Samuel Huston died first and was buried on the farm. Samuel, the son, was at this time a young boy but they continued to farm. They were industrious and frugal and prospered accordingly, but, like people of all ages and generations, they made mistakes to their financial detriment; they would grab at pennies at times and allow dollars to fall. This, however, could not have been a frequent occurrence with Mrs. Huston. To illustrate this we have a calf hide for sale and sent her son Samuel to the tanners with it, and as a price on the hide, and not knowing the value of a hide of the kind she put entirely too high a value on it. The tanner could not pay the price; Samuel's orders were, not to take any less, so he took it home. The next year she sent it again; by this time the hide had almost ruined it, but his orders were, to take what he could get, and he got one shilling. Mrs. Huston died and Catharine and Samuel remained on the big farm. They continued to save money and were called rich. Neither of them ever appeared to have any particular love for the opposite sex; they believed in celibacy and carried it out through life. The institution of marriage had no charms for them; they even disliked the idea in other people, and as there were no direct heirs the property went to the next of kin.

In order to show their opposition to marriage and dislike for children, they, during their long life of single blessedness took but one child to raise and this was when they were pretty well advanced in life. Her name was Sarah Rhoads; she was a likely child and grew up to be obedient to aunt Catharine and kind to uncle Samuel, and they became attached to her. About the time she was budding into womanhood, the young man whom uncle Samuel had about him on his farm seemed to notice Sarah more and more each year. Aunt Catharine was not suspicious herself and therefore was not apprehensive; she thought her sex were all constituted very nearly alike, and she was very sure love had never swelled her veins and as Sarah had grown up under her training she felt very sanguine that a word from her now and then would be sufficient to settle the most profound love case in which Sarah was ever likely to become engaged. When fall came and most of the farm work was done and uncle Samuel could dispose of most of his hired help, (he, as a rule, retained only one man, a married man,) Catharine would have been resting very secure had it not been for a few of her lady friends who kept whispering something in her ears about a young man by the name of Jacob Working, who had worked for them during the past summer. Catharine was of an incredulous disposition, but she was not entirely void of evil apprehensions and began to think this man Working might make her some trouble; a little circumstance happened that greatly augmented her fears.

One evening while Samuel and Catharine were sitting in the house, supposing all was quiet about the line, this big six-footer of a Jacob Working came in. They could easily see what that meant, there was no mistaking the sound, but "aunt Katie," (as she was called by almost every person) thought she was equal to the occasion. Jacob expected to work for uncle Samuel the coming summer but Catharine made up her mind to nip this business in the bud; her idea was to say to Samuel Huston, "that must be stopped, I don't want you to hire Jacob next summer and that will break up this intimacy which seems to be growing between he and Sarah; I want to nip it in the bud and that is the way to do it." Well, of course, Uncle Samuel had no experience in love affairs and had no idea how deep rooted such matters will become and how hard they are to eradicate. This bud was not nipped; it bloomed and brought forth fruit; matrimonial fruit.

Sarah was not an adopted child and therefore could not have any legal claims on the estate, and she had been taught this. Now, she would like to marry Jacob, and not displease uncle Samuel and aunt Catharine. This she could not do and she was at her wits end to know how to get away at all. She found aunt Catharine was contemplating a visit to some of her relatives; here was an opportunity; they did not fear Samuel so much; they could get away without him noticing them, but they came back the same day and told uncle Samuel.

In a few days Catharine returned feeling glad to get back to the old stone mansion. She reined up her noble steed in front of the door; the steed by neighing and pawing appeared to be as glad to get home as Catharine herself. The first person to appear at the door was Samuel, with a very downcast countenance. Catharine's discerning eye soon discovered there was some trouble, and at once asked, "are you sick?" "No, Katie, I am not sick." "Well, what ails you?" Poor Samuel was slow to communicate the terrible news, at last he gathered courage and said, "Katie, Sarah is married." This almost knocked Katie from her restless horse but as quick as a flash she burst forth, "now Sam. Huston don't tell me that." Samuel, with his head on his breast exclaimed, "Ah, indeed Katie, it is only too true."

They seemed however, to be able to overcome this great calamity, but the consoling, flattering and soothing words of Dr. George Irvin had much to do in the way of mitigating their sorrows. This Dr. Irvin was a young man who came from Millin county about the year 1814. He was a man who had a faculty of being able to ingratiate himself into the good graces of many persons. At that time there was no Centre Hall, and Dr. Irvin settled on the Huston farm north toward the mountain from the Huston homestead, about a half mile, and enjoyed quite a lucrative practice for a number of years. It is to this doctor we are largely indebted for information concerning the Huston family and their peculiarities. Dr. Irvin was not the first man who practiced medicine in this sparsely settled county.

The first doctor of whom we have any knowledge was a man by the name of Dobbins, who traveled many a mile up and down and across the plains, as the country was then called. He did not spend all his days in this valley but went to Bellefonte and gained quite a reputation as a doctor of the old calomel, jalap and blood letting school. He died in Bellefonte and was buried there, and as a token of love and respect there was a monument erected over his grave with proper inscriptions.

The next doctor who settled here on the plains was doctor William J. Wilson, who came from Lewisburg, Union county. The correct date of his coming and settling at Earlytown can't be given but approximately 1808 or 1810. He had his office opposite where Samuel Durst now lives; there was a hotel there at that time kept by a man named Walter Longwell. At that time the townships as well as the counties must have been very large; the people in the neighborhood of Linden Hall, Oak Hall and Boalsburg went to Earlytown to vote. Abel Moor, who lived in a house one mile west of Linden Hall, lived in three counties, and in the same little log house all the time.

Tradition tells us how Samuel Huston came in possession of that fine body of land that is still in the hands of the Huston descendants. Samuel's father was the owner of two slaves, man and wife, and traded those two colored people and forty bundles of straw for the land; that was all he paid for it.

## Death Calls to Rest.

MRS. ELIZABETH FROM.

Mrs. Elizabeth From, of Tusseyville, died at the home of her son, William F. Rockey, at that place, Saturday evening. Mrs. From had been ailing with various diseases for some weeks, which finally culminated in neuralgia of the heart, which was the direct cause of her death. She was tenderly cared for by her son and his wife, with whom she made her home for a number of years.

The deceased's maiden name was Elizabeth Rossman. Her first marriage was to Jacob Rockey. The surviving children to this union are William F., Tusseyville; Catharine, wife of John Ungert; Mary, wife of Wilson Kline, of Lakewood, Ohio; J. Ross, of Clifton Park, Ohio; Mrs. Samuel Jordan, Lewisburg; Maggie, wife of John Davis, Altoona; Mrs. Flora Perkins, Rocky River, Ohio.

The funeral took place Tuesday morning, interment at Tusseyville. Rev. Kershner, of the Reformed church, pastor of the deceased, officiated. Her age was sixty-six years, three months and nine days. After the death of her first husband the deceased married William From, whom she also survived.

Mrs. Ungert, Mrs. Kline and J. Ross Rockey, all of Ohio, arrived Tuesday afternoon, having for some reason been delayed. With the exception of Mrs. Perkins, the remaining members of the family reached the old home. Jennie Morrow and Thomas Davis, of Altoona, also attended the funeral. The following brothers and one sister survive: Calvin Rossman, Siglerville; Henry and Michael Ross-

man, Tusseyville; Mrs. Thompson, of McAlevy's Fort.

CAPT. JACOB BREON.

The death of Captain Jacob Breon in Altoona, will be a surprise to residents in this portion of Centre County. The death occurred Sunday evening. His condition was not regarded serious until within a few days previous to death.

Captain Breon was born in Spring Mills, Centre County, May 30, 1829. Before the war Capt. Breon lived at Potters Mills, from which place he enlisted as a private in Company F, 148th Regt., of which Judge Beaver was colonel. After serving three and one-half years he returned to his home and went to work in Allison Bros. woolen mills. He lived at Potters Mills twenty years. He had been a resident of Altoona since 1882. He was a carpenter by trade, which occupation he followed the greater part of his life.

Capt. Breon was married November 20, 1849, to Mary Burrell, who with these children survive: Mrs. Simon Smull, Mrs. H. C. Smith, William H. and George E., all of Altoona.

Among those who attended the obsequies from Spring Mills were David Burrell and daughter, Mrs. Edwin Ruhl, Gates Kenneley and wife, Mrs. Ezra Harter and H. M. Catn; and Mrs. James Smetzler, Centre Hall.

WILLIAM S. GALBRAITH.

William S. Galbraith, at the age of about fifty-seven years, died Saturday at the home of ex-sheriff Woodring, Bellefonte, after an illness of several months.

## BRIEF LOCALS.

Dr. J. F. Alexander Monday went to Philadelphia for medical treatment.

Mrs. Bowersox, and pretty little daughter, of Centre Hill, were callers Monday.

Edward Riter has employment with the Commercial telephone company as a lineman.

The skilled mason, J. R. Strong, of Potters Mills, was called to Yeagerston, Millin county, to do some fine mason work.

Prof. E. W. Crawford is teaching a class in music made up of members of the Lutheran church.

Andrew and O. T. Corman, of Spring Mills, were in Centre Hall Monday on business, and paid this office a visit.

Mrs. H. H. Miller and Mrs. Nevin J. Meyer, of Rebersburg, were guests of Mrs. D. J. Meyer, in this place, over Sunday.

Mrs. James Armstrong and Mrs. Sarah Foust, of Potters Mills, spent last Thursday with their sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Love, at Centre Hall.

Samuel Shoop and John Puff, prominent Odd Fellows, have special invitations to the 32nd anniversary of that order in Williamsport Friday.

The first car on the Lewistown and Reedsville Electric Railroad passed over the bridge in Mann's Narrows, Wednesday last week, opening the road to Reedsville.

Clayton McKinney, wife and handsome little daughter, after spending a week with Mr. McKinney's parents, at Potters Mills, returned to their home in Altoona Monday.

C. H. Splitstone, of Crawford county, a student at Pennsylvania State College and member of the sophomore class, spent Sunday with his friend, Miles Arney, in this place.

Twenty-seven girls, students at the Hallsburg Female Seminary, were poisoned Saturday by eating rhubarb that had been stewed in a kettle in which the inner lining was worn.

Frank Lee, of near Bellefonte, is the owner of a fine Guernsey cow that gave birth to a calf which at the age of one day weighed within a fraction of one hundred and twenty pounds.

J. H. Miller, of Millheim, and J. F. Harter, revenue collector and dentist of State College, were in town Friday. Mr. Miller made the rounds of the town and called on his old friends before leaving.

Orie Weaver, of Wolf's store, last week killed an eagle which measured five feet from tip to tip of wings. The bird flew on a tree near the dam, and on that perch it was killed by the young marksman.

Squire M. L. Rishell, of Farmers Mills, found time to spend an hour in the Reporter office Thursday of last week. The Squire spends much of his time settling up estates, in which he has had great experience.

Henry Meyer and Fred Weber, of Boalsburg, were in town Friday transacting business of considerable importance to the former gentleman, who is engaged in farming near Boalsburg, and belongs to the class of soil-tillers who make farming pay.

## JUDGE LOVE SUSTAINED.

SCORED ONE OVER INSURGENTS.

The supreme court Monday sustained the constitutionality of Governor Stone's action in cutting off by veto \$1,000,000 from the public school appropriation made by the State Legislature in 1898.

The governor's right to veto certain parts of appropriation bills was carried to the supreme court by the Patton township school district of this county, on appeal from the decision of President Judge Love, who held that the veto was constitutional. The township's school board instituted proceedings to recover its portion of the money which was lost to the township schools by the governor's veto and applied to Judge Love for a mandamus. The petition was refused and the case was immediately carried to the supreme court.

The supreme court seems to have been assisted in reaching a conclusion favorable to the veto by the fact that any other decision would lead to confusion and difficulty. The Legislature appropriated \$11,000,000 for public schools. The governor scratched off \$11,000,000 and wrote it \$10,000,000 and signed the bill. If that is not valid, what do the schools get under the law? Not \$11,000,000, for the governor never appropriated that appropriation; not \$10,000,000, for the governor never appropriated that particular sum. In fact, if the governor's approval of \$10,000,000 is invalid the whole school grant fails for want of a legal executive approval. But the money has already been paid out and expended, and the only way the supreme court could save the state infinite trouble was for it to stand by the governor and affirm that what he did is right.

Judge Mestrezat files a very able dissenting opinion in which he argues with great fullness and power against the right of the Supreme Court to review the veto case trumped up in Centre county without proper jurisdiction and also against the right of the Governor of Pennsylvania to reduce items in an appropriation bill. He holds that to declare the Governor's reduction in the appropriation unconstitutional would make the original grant of \$11,000,000 valid, since the Governor's signature was appended to the bill, and his illegal editing of it was of no force and could therefore be ignored. In this country, however, the majority rules in the Supreme Court as elsewhere, and Judge Mestrezat's strong argument has but the efficiency of a single vote in a full court of seven judges.

## BENCH, BAR, AND JURY.

WHAT WAS DONE IN THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE.

The first week of April term opened Monday at 9 a. m., Hon. John G. Love presiding. W. H. Fry, of Ferguson township, was appointed foreman of the grand jury, after which the court delivered the usual charge. The usual motions and petitions were presented and the civil list for the first and second week was called and causes for trial noted.

Messrs. Poorman, Kline, Guisewite and Klinger waved the finding of the grand jury and plead guilty of assault and battery and resisting an officer. They paid the costs and the court suspended sentence, pending the good behavior of the defendants.

Court adjourned at 11 a. m. and reconvened at 2 p. m. The first case called was that of Com. vs. John D. Auman, charge, assault and battery; prosecutor, Annie Auman, the wife of the defendant. Verdict, not guilty; cost to be paid by the defendant.

The remainder of Monday afternoon and part of Tuesday morning was occupied by the trial of the civil suit of John A. Hunter, vs. George Taylor. This controversy arose out of a dispute in regard to rental due the landlord, John A. Hunter; evidence closed at 9.45 a. m. Verdict for defendant.

In the case of Com. vs. Martin Hayes, charge assault and battery, the defendant plead guilty and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$40.00 and costs of prosecution. Verdicts were taken on the following cases after they had been amended by striking out the terre tenants:

C. T. Gerbrick vs. Anna H. Tipton, et. al.; verdict \$688.75.

Clement Dale, vs. R. J. Tipton, et. al.; verdict, \$522.25.

The following civil suits were settled or continued:

A. Hausoom vs. Jacob Q. Jiggle; continued.

D. W. Clark, vs. James E. Tibbens; settled.

J. S. McCarger vs. R. B. Montgomery; settled.

The following criminal cases were settled:

Com. vs. Mark and John Hartsock; charge, assault and battery; settled.

Com. vs. Elmer Lyle; charge, indecent assault; settled.

Com. vs. Tobias Wetzel; charge, felonious rape; settled.

Com. vs. Charles Rodgers; charge, threatening to use fire arms; settled.

Com. vs. J. W. Kitchen; charge, violating pure food laws; settled.

Com. vs. Cyrus Shoop; charge betrayal. Verdict, guilty; usual sentence.

The first case called on Tuesday afternoon was that of Com. vs. Jonas Auman and Samuel Hoover; charge, larceny. Samuel Hoover plead guilty; Auman plead not guilty and was tried by the jury. The facts in the case are that a belt was taken from the saw mill of Mr. Ertle last January and afterward several pieces of the belt were found in possession of Joe Rider, who said the belt was given him by Jonas Auman. On motion of N. B. Spangler a nol pros was entered for Jonas Auman. Hoover was sentenced to the Huntingdon Reformatory.

Com. vs. George Sikora; charge, assault and battery; defendant plead guilty to the assault; sentenced to pay a fine of \$20.00 and costs.

Com. vs. Charles Schadt and Milton Nayman; charge, cutting timber trees.

On motion of attorney a nol pros was entered at the close of the Com. testimony, county to pay the cost of record and no witness fees to be charged.

Com. vs. Cunningham McIntire; charge, entering a store to commit a felony. On April 7th, 1901, McIntire entered a store room in Phillipsburg and went through the money drawer. Suspicion was directed to McIntire by the fact that he had in his possession an amount of money in small change.

Com. vs. E. L. Irvin; charge, attempt to commit abortion, causing the death of the woman. Eight counts. The above stated case was called at 2.30 Wednesday afternoon and the greater part of the day was occupied in empaneling the jury. Reeder and Quigly moved to quash the indictment after argument. The court refused the motion. At the time of going to press the Com. had heard only a small portion of the testimony. This case will probably occupy all of Thursday and part of Friday.

Stepped from a Bridge. Mrs. Witmyer, of Coburn, while crossing the Penns Creek bridge at that place one night recently, accidentally stepped off the bridge, and was precipitated a distance of about twelve feet. Her shoulder was dislocated by striking some object in the descent. Dr. Frank, of Millheim, rendered the necessary aid to the injured lady.

Attempted Murder and Suicide. Bert Painter, alias Harvey Spangler, was arrested for non-support at Col. Fred Reynolds' farm near Bellefonte, by a Lewistown woman, who claims to be his wife. Painter lived with a woman, to whom he was supposed to have been married, and when she heard of wife No. 1, she attempted to commit suicide by the use of a razor, but was prevented. She also threatened to kill her child.

John Snavely, of Spring Mills, is putting out a circular calling the attention of property owners to the advantages of having their buildings properly rodged, thereby protecting the same against destruction by lightning. Mr. Snavely is offering to do business on a small margin, and any one contemplating having their buildings rodged will do well by calling on him.

Few people are aware that in the mountains of North Carolina there exists an Indian republic whose government is quite outside the jurisdiction of the state or of the United States. Mr. Landon Knight has visited this little republic in the interest of the Woman's Home Companion, and his description of it will appear in the June number, fully illustrated with photographs.

An order permitting mail carriers to wear shirt waists during hot weather has been issued by the Post Office Department. This information is given here especially for the benefit of Messrs. D. A. Boeger and James Horner, who no doubt will take advantage of the new ruling.

On Hoffer street the good effects of a road scraper may be observed. A scraper was used last fall and the street today is in fairly good condition, but should have a little attention before washing begins.

THE CENTRE REPORTER is becoming more and more appreciated as an advertising medium. Why should it not?