



HISTORICAL NOTES.

By MR. J. D. MURRAY.

Dr. Wilson lived quite a number of years at Erytown, where he practiced his profession, and became very much endeared to the people of the plains.

Gen. Potter came to this valley shortly after the Revolutionary war, in 1773; he and his exploring party came up the West Branch, then up Bald Eagle Creek, and crossed over Nittany Mountain, south somewhere, not far above or below where Centre Hall is now located.

Gen. Potter was a very large land holder; his estate was immense. At that time there was an old English law in force in the colonies and state, that was called the entailment law.

About the year 1830 there was an old farmer came from the eastern part of the state to visit some of his friends in Centre county, who had formerly lived in the east.

In some five or six years the sad news was heralded over the country that the Potters, with the Lewistown bank, had failed.

It was undoubtedly a great misfortune; many of our forefathers lost largely of their hard earned money; some old persons who were living on a meagre income had their deposits there.

When the dark clouds of dispondency had partly passed away and the sky became more serene, many of the good people expressed their opinion that they believed it was a blessing in disguise that the Potters failed and left the country.

(Continued on page 18.)

VICIOUS MOUNTAIN FIRE.

Two Homes Entirely Destroyed.

A vicious mountain fire raged in the Seven Mountains Tuesday afternoon, and resulted in the destruction of the house and stable of John Harper, near Potters Mills, set fire to nearly every dwelling in the settlement at Huyett's mill along the pike, badly scorched Huyett's stove mill, Perry Krise's buildings, licked up the latter's fences and destroyed thousands and thousands of young trees, and today, (Wednesday) the fire is going merrily on, performing the same escapades that it did when the flames were only a few hours old.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

The fire originated by a spark from the chimney of E. Klinefelter's house, who lives at E. M. Huyett's, upper stove mill, in Boal's Gap, back of Colyer. This was at about two o'clock.

The fire divided, one branch of the flames running down the "First Mountain," and the other down Treaster and Sand Mountains and White Oak Flat. In a little more than an hour's time the raging flames reached the Bellefonte and Lewistown pike, and threatened the destruction of every dwelling and all the improvements in the settlement back of Potters Mills.

While Mr. Huyett's mill hands were doing their utmost to save the mill and adjoining properties, and thinking others safe, John Harper and Frank Pennington were working like demons to save the former's dwelling, stable and outbuildings. The task proved more than they could accomplish. After repeatedly extinguishing

the flames on one or the other buildings, flames simultaneously struck up on the house and stable, and the two men were unable to baffle them. The dwelling house, stable and outbuildings, furniture and household goods of all descriptions were totally destroyed. The improvements were the best along the pike, and the loss to Mr. Harper is fully \$1000, besides the furniture, etc.

OTHERS IN DANGER.

Among others who were in imminent danger of losing all their possessions were Messrs. Dan. Slutman, at the toll gate; Malachi Summers, Joseph Parker, Stuart Ripka, John Royer, Wm. Fry, Alfred Rickard, George Klinefelter, John Shunk, Ezra Confer.

Perry Krise, who has a nice little farm and comfortable buildings in Treaster Valley, narrowly escaped losing his home. The flames destroyed many of the fences, which led up to the buildings. The flying embers repeatedly set fire to various portions of his home, but each time the flames were extinguished.

Wednesday morning the dwelling house of Mrs. Mary Long, occupied by John Confer, located along the mountain, back of A. McCoy's was also totally destroyed by the flames. A large slab pile near by had been burning all night, and about nine o'clock the house took fire. In the absence of the occupants, its contents were also all burned. There was no insurance.

The fire played havoc in its hurried flight through Decker Valley, below the pike. The buildings of Ex-Commissioner John Decker were threatened, the outbuildings having taken fire and several of them burned. John C. Ripka's buildings also narrowly escaped, the barn at one time having been on fire. The same is true in the case of J. B. Lingle, who after great effort saved his building. Some of the outbuildings on each of the three named premises were destroyed.

The pasture lot of E. M. Huyett was almost entirely run over by the flames. The pasture during the foreground of the summer will amount to nothing on this tract.

Wednesday the fire raged furiously in the vicinity of Colyer's farm, back of Colyer. The territory about Potters Mills is burned over entirely. This (Thursday) morning's rain extinguished the flames.

SECOND WEEK OF COURT.

In the case of the Commonwealth against E. L. Irvin, which was before the court when the last issue of the Reporter went to press, the defendant was found guilty of the fifth count: using unknown instruments to produce an abortion, the death of the woman ensuing. Reeder and Quigley, defendant's counsel moved for a new trial, reasons to be filed within ten days and arguments to be heard at the June argument court. Defendant meanwhile held under \$4,000 bail surety approved by the court.

The second week of April term of court opened at 9:30 Monday morning with Hon. John G. Love on the bench. The most important case that was to have been tried was that of Rose Sternberg Lyon, vs. Gustave Lyon, but on Saturday last satisfactory terms of settlement were agreed upon and the case fully settled, hence is not on the calendar for the week.

The six cases on the week's list in which A. D. Potts is plaintiff and A. McCoy and J. Frank McCoy trading as A. McCoy & Son, were all continued on account of the illness of one of the principals.

W. I. Henry vs. Flora I. Lucas; settled.

Robert Kluck vs. Rose L. Pierce; continued.

S. M. Stancliff & Co. vs. Thomas B. Way, et al.; settled.

S. M. Stancliff & Co. vs. Huston township; settled.

Lehigh Valley Coal Co. vs. Jacob Falmer, adm'r; continued.

Laura H. Mull, et al. vs. Coaldale Mining Co.; continued.

J. B. Ard vs. J. N. Everts; settled.

After the list had been called Monday morning it was found that the cases intended to be tried had been settled and consequently there was nothing for trial and court adjourned until 2 p. m. In the afternoon a jury was called in the case of Lehigh Valley Coal Co. vs. Samuel Marsh, et al.

The case of S. M. Stancliff & Co. vs. Thomas Meyers vs. Adam Cowber, et al., was called on Tuesday morning. After the close of the testimony the court ordered a compulsory non suit; court immediately granted a rule to strike off non suit. Court adjourned at 1:30 p. m.

Court called at 8:30 Wednesday morning and the following case was called for trial:

R. J. Walker vs. Isaac Reese and sons and Geo. Merrill. Replevin for lot of railroad iron located in and about the Black Diamond mines in Rush township. In 1898 Reese & Sons bought the Powell tract in Rush township. At the time of the purchase Mr. Jackson was the lessor of said mine. After Jackson quit operating the mine he attempted to dispose of the railroad iron which rightfully belonged to Reese & Sons. Reese & Sons seized the property and this suit resulted. The plaintiff was represented by Messrs. Reeder & Quigley and Mr. Hicks, of Tyrone. The defendants were represented by John M. Dale and Orvis, Bower & Orvis. All of Wednesday was occupied by the trial of this case, much interest being shown in the many nice legal questions involved.

The West Precinct.

"West Precinct" will be the name of the new voting district in Potter township if the report of Commissioners S. D. Ray, C. W. Patterson and George Keller is finally confirmed by the court.

The line beginning at county line runs west of Samuel Slack, east of George Spangler, and W. F. Rocky, from which point it runs north on the east side of Dr. Lee's farm, crossing the North precinct line a little west of that point, thence west on the south side of the John Cummings and Bitter farms to the Harris township line. This bit of territory taken from Potter North will reduce its vote by about twenty-five.

The West precinct will be overwhelmingly Democratic and the South precinct Democratic majority will be reduced to a very narrow margin.

State Democratic Editorial Association. The annual meeting of the State Democratic Editorial Association was held Wednesday last week at Harrisburg, at which the following officers were elected: President, P. Gray Meek; vice presidents, J. Irvin Steele and Jere Zeamer; secretary-treasurer, W. P. Hastings; executive committee, J. Irvin Steele, Jere Zeamer, P. Gray Meek; D. A. Orr, George E. Elwell, J. W. Maloy, John B. Colston, John P. Sipes and W. P. Hastings.

Boalsburg

The normal school organized a literary society with D. L. Mothersbaugh, president; Miss Rebbie Jodon, vice president; Charles Fisher, secretary; Irvin Zeigler, editor.

Fred W. Weber and J. Henry Meyer drove to Bellefonte Saturday. Frank and Janet McFarlane entertained friends from Millin county Sunday. Will Fisher, of Sunbury, visited his house this week. Dr. Kidder is repairing his house; the masons have finished the wall for the addition of an L. Carpenters are razing the Boal barn. Miss Sallie McClenahan is visiting in Boalsburg. John Bricker left for Pittsburgh Monday where he secured work. The Reitz Bros. have opened their butcher shop.

Linden Hall.

Wm. Worrel, of Cambria county, expects to move into Fergus Potter's tenement house as soon as his goods arrive; he was formerly of this place, but for the last two years has been living in the above county.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Goss, of Pine Grove Mills, spent Sunday with J. H. Ross and family.

Among the visitors to the county sent from this place the past week were, James Kimport, Mrs. Perry Cole, Miss Freda Hess, and Mrs. F. E. Wieland.

The masons have completed the work on Robert McClellan's barn wall and have begun work on the wall for the new mill which J. H. Ross will erect this summer.

F. E. Wieland is at Pennsylvania Furnace this week attending to the loading of several cars of hay and oats which he is shipping from there.

Irvin Burris, formerly of this place, but now of Centre Hall, spent a short time looking up old friends here on Tuesday.

Little Bertha Bradford, who has been quite ill with tonsillitis, is improving, and Mrs. Edward Lucas, who had been quite ill with fever is now able to sit up.

Oscar Goodlander spent Sunday with his family at Pardee. Miss Mary Dale is teaching music in Linden Hall and vicinity; she has a class of thirty-three and it takes all her time to give each one a lesson once a week.

A gang of gypsies have pitched their tent in Curtin's woods, south of town. They have made known their intention to remain several weeks.

J. W. Wolf, of Ardmore, is confined to bed with bronchial pneumonia.

Resolutions of Respect.

At a meeting of the S. S. class consisting of Misses Maybelle Keller, Lizzie Snyder, Jennie Thomas, Edith Risher, Estelle Ackler, Carrie Sporer, and Mrs. Della Reib, the following resolutions were drafted:

Since it has pleased Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in His all-wise Providence, to remove our friend and classmate, Lizzie Keller, from among us by death, we desire to place on record our sense of her true worth and of the great loss and affliction the school, and we ourselves, as well as her relatives and family, have sustained, and we accordingly

Resolve, That we unanimously join in the expression of our affectionate regard for one who while in our midst led a blameless life, was pure in heart, amiable in disposition and correct in deportment.

That we thank God for the Christian example she set before us, and pray that we may have grace to follow it and that we may reach the same happy rest which we believe she has now entered. And further, that we extend to the bereaved family our most sincere condolences and invoke upon them and us the consolation of Divine grace.

John McClenahan Dead.

John McClenahan, of Potters Mills, died Wednesday night at 11 o'clock at the age of fifty-five years. He had been ill all winter from consumption. Funeral will take place Saturday morning; interment at Milroy.

The deceased leaves a widow and five children, namely: Mrs. Mollie Perkins, Altoona; Jesse, Erie; Harry and Lot, Philadelphia; Cora and Sallie at home.

Unclaimed Letters.

The following letters remain at the Centre Hall postoffice unclaimed: Mrs. Kate C. Brann, Mr. C. C. Frazer, Mr. Ed. Hoover, John Hamilton, T. Temple Jackson, Miss Maudie Smith, T. K. Szigard, Jno. Ulrich, Mr. R. J. Wolf, Lock Box 270. Persons calling for above letters please state they are called for.

G. M. BOAL, P. M.

Dr. Alexander is being treated at the German Hospital, Philadelphia, by Dr. Deamer. The last news from him states that he is improving.

The bill appropriating \$1,000,000 to the public schools to make up the cut made by the Governor two years ago, passed finally Wednesday.

Secretary Long has appointed a board of naval officers, headed by Captain Converse, to consider the desirability of having the torpedo boats rendezvoused at some central point, where they may be taken out of water during periods of inactivity.