

The Centre Reporter.

VOL. LXXIV.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1901.

NO. 19.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

By MR. J. D. MURRAY.

The commencement of the village of Centre Hall proper dates from the year 1846. The land that is now within the limits of the borough was owned by three different parties: That portion of land lying north of the Brush Valley road, now Church Street, and west to the turnpike, belonged to Frederick Stover, father of Samuel Stover, of this place, who at that time owned a large tract of land east and southeast of Centre Hall. The land across the pike west and north on Church Street was owned by Moses Felmlee. Mr. Felmlee was a very old resident, and kept a hotel on the hill, on the very spot where the Jacob Ripka house now stands, at present occupied by Samuel Rowe.

The exact date when Mr. Felmlee started in the hotel business on that site cannot be given, but it was about the time this turnpike was being made and that was in the years 1833 and 1834. In 1853 Mr. Felmlee died at the age of ninety-three years, and was buried in the old grave yard a half mile east of Centre Hall, towards the mountain below where George Emerick now lives. Shortly after the death of Mr. Felmlee this hotel took fire and was entirely consumed. After that the heirs commenced to sell off lots on both sides of the pike as far down as their land extended.

All the land south of the Brush Valley road to the Manor line, and from Arney's line to the Lingle line west. This tract as described, contained five hundred acres and was owned by Christian Hoffer, a native of Lebanon county, Pa., who emigrated to this county in 1834; also a man by the name of Philip Krider. Together they bought this tract from a man by the name of Lyons, who was engaged in the iron business at Pennsylvania Furnace. He made some improvements on the land; built the brick house now occupied by J. J. Arney, also two barns; the one where J. J. Arney lives was always called the yellow barn, and where S. W. Smith lived the red barn. He also cleared some land and put it in such condition that it could be cultivated; this land was such as belonged to what was called plains land.

There was at that time very little timber standing; it is, however, not to be supposed that this land was denuded of its trees by the woodman's axe, but by the regular course of nature. It was at this time covered by a growth of small oaks ranging in height from two to three and four feet. The plan adopted to clear this land of this brush was somewhat unique. They had a plough of more than ordinary size made of all wrought iron, very sharp, and fastened this plough to the front carriage of a strong wagon; hitched two to three yoke of oxen and one span of horses to it. This plan required three men to work the plough, which would lift most of these little oaks out of root; they would be left a month or two until tolerably dry, then they set fire to them, followed with the harrow and pulled out the roots, then gathered those roots on piles and burned them; they were ready then to put out the wheat crop, which was always done on newly subdued land.

This plains land, of which Centre Hall now occupies a portion, was not as some might imagine, a big country. From what can be learned, there was a spot where Centre Hall is located about four miles north and south and as many miles east and west. Over about Potters Mills there was some very fine white pine timber, also some very good oak timber. In spots along the foot of the mountain there was fairly good timber. Mr. Lyons lived in the brick house now owned by J. J. Arney and Michael Homan lived in the old S. W. Smith house. This man Homan was Mr. Lyons' principal farmer, but unfortunately for both men it was at the time the war of 1812 was going on, and Mr. Homan was drafted, but only for nine months. It suited him, a farmer, very badly; they came to the conclusion that Mr. Homan should hire a substitute, but as he was a man in very moderate circumstances, that did not suit him. Mr. Lyons was a rich man, and together the substitute was hired, and by the way, that substitute was my father, George Murray. This was in 1813.

Mr. Lyons went on clearing land and making some other improvements with the view of making a great place out of it, a model country home. Long before he had accomplished what he had intended doing he became very tired of his job and moved back to where part of his iron business was going on; Mr. Homan then moved over and occupied the brick house. Mr. Lyons now offered the entire property for sale, but it was a slow seller; the buildings were thought to be too expensive and the tract was large. No opportunity to sell presented itself until 1834 when Christian Hoffer and Philip Krider came from Lebanon county and bought out the entire tract, five hundred acres. They divided the property, Mr. Krider getting the east end and Mr. Hoffer the west, the division line running north and south. Mr. Krider became dissatisfied with his home and traded it to old Mr. John Irvin for some property about Linden Hall and Mr. Irvin in his old age moved down and occupied the brick house. He did not like the place and prevailed on Mr. Hoffer to buy him out. Mr. Hoffer finally agreed to buy, and by this purchase he was in possession of all the land from the Arney line west to the Lingle line and from the mountain south to the Manor line containing five hundred acres.

At that time there was no building here except an old log school house which stood on the corner where the hotel now stands, and on the opposite corner, where the Bank building stands, there was a blacksmith shop. After the school law was passed in 1834 this school house was converted into a dwelling for a blacksmith. The first smith who came here to work at his trade was a man by the name of Swann; the next man who worked here was George Harpster; after Harpster there was a man by the name of Peter Zeigler smithed there. He was fond of whiskey and was in the habit of going out to the Old Fort to get his drinks. One cold winter night he went out and after having imbibed freely he started for home but only got as far as where Lyman Smith's house now stands; there he either lay down or fell and before he was found he was so badly frozen that he died in a short time.

Mr. Hoffer was all this time trying to get a town started; as he owned the land on both sides of the pike south to Manor line he was prepared to offer building lots for sale, and he was anxious to get some one to come and build a hotel and start a store as he believed it would be a good place for both and a great convenience to the farmers, as all on this side of the valley had to go a long distance for anything they needed. Mr. Henry Witmer, a brother-in-law of Mr. Hoffer, lived in Aaronsburg, where he conducted a store and a hotel. The Hoffers went to Aaronsburg for the principal part of their supplies for a number of years. Mr. Hoffer was at this time farming on a pretty large scale. There were many cattle buyers with droves of cattle going east and they would call on Mr. Hoffer for pasture for their cattle, and as there was no place to entertain the men and their horses it would necessarily devolve on the Hoffer family, and as this was not their business they did not like to do it; therefore, they wanted some person with means to come and build a hotel and start a store.

Those were the years 1836, 1840, 1845, 1846; about 1844 Mr. Witmer made up his mind to come to this place and build. At this time there was not one house here, but when Mr. Hoffer was certain that Mr. Witmer was coming, in order to encourage the movement, he went to work and built the house in which the Reporter is now printed. This was a short time before Mr. Witmer began operations, and when he did, this printing office building was used for a boarding house to board Mr. Witmer's working men. This boarding house was run by a Mrs. King, the grandmother of the young man, Jesse King, who shot himself a week ago in Millheim. So you observe, the printing office was the first house built, and the hotel next. In the fall of 1846 Mr. Witmer had, his hotel about completed with some other buildings, such as stables and sheds and he and his family and Mr. William Wolf, his clerk, moved from Aaronsburg to this place, and they had a grand opening.

This was a grand and festive occasion, and the surrounding country was well represented by all the lads and lasses of the sparsely settled country fully equipped in their best bib and tucker, to welcome the two accomplished young daughters who had just recently left the Female Seminary at Lititz, Lancaster county, and Mr. William Wolf, who held the position of chief clerk to Mr. Witmer, and who was a young man of unimpeachable character. These three young persons were considered quite an advantageous accession to their rural homes and district, they therefore conceived the true idea that a warm reception would engender a mutual fellowship between them, and even ripen into something more, and we hope it did.

It was not on these young people Mr. and Mrs. Witmer had their eyes fixed; it was the middle aged men and matrons. He knew they were the bone and sinew of these plains; to them he would have to look for patronage, and in his business and to him the farmers would look for accommodations and honest dealing, and the hard-fisted yeomanry did make themselves conspicuous with their wives and smaller children, and this pleased Mr. Witmer.

[Continued on page four, bottom of third and fourth columns.]

PROGNOSTICATION.

The following are extracts from the DAILY CENTRE REPORTER, date of Wednesday, June 1, 1921. Items from other and later editions will appear from time to time.

The Centre Reporter.

VOL. XCIV.

CENTRE HALL, PA., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1921.

NO. 150.

Daily Centre Reporter.

S. W. SMITH, Editor.
TED BAILEY, Associate Editor.

The Democratic majority in Centre county is steadily increasing. At the last election it was over 200, and at the coming election it is estimated F. M. Crawford, Esq. will carry by 200.

The appointment of President Judge of Centre County C. M. Bower to the State Supreme Court is commented on very favorably by the leading state dailies.

Yesterday the only inmate of the poor house from this city was carried to the cemetery. The deceased was a merchant, whose name is omitted, who in his young days rarely advertised. The institution is overcrowded with similar characters from the once flourishing town of Bellefonte who never so much as asked for a side table.

County Treasurer D. A. Booser, was in town on business pertaining to his business interest in this place. Mr. Booser, after the expiration of his term of office January, 1922, will again become a citizen of this city.

State Superintendent of Public Schools John D. Meyer, wife and family, are in Centre Hall, and guests of the former's father, D. J. Meyer. Superintendent Meyer became active in life as a school teacher in Alexandria, later was selected principal of the Bellefonte High School, and was called to the superintendency of the county schools, and while serving the third term was appointed state superintendent by Governor E. L. Orvis.

ADJOURNMENT IS GREAT WAY OFF.

The Legislature May Not End Present Session Until July.

Both the Senate and the House adjourned Saturday until Wednesday. The indications now are that final adjournment will not be reached until far into June, and possibly until July.

The House has enough bills on its calendar to keep it working steadily for two months. The Senate's calendar is practically cleared, and that body manages to keep up with its work by holding three or four sessions a week, while the House keeps plugging away at the rate of three sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and one session on Mondays and Fridays.

The scene of the controversy over the completion of the Capitol has been shifted from the Senate to the House. The Fox bill has passed the Senate, and will be taken up by the House next week for second reading. The bill has been amended by the House committee to provide that the architect for the building shall be a Pennsylvanian, and that the State shall supply its own heat and light.

The Legislative apportionment bill, increasing the membership of the House from 204 to 207 members, was read the first time on Wednesday in the House and sent back to committee for amendment. The Senate Congressional apportionment bill will be taken up to-day for third reading and final passage. It increases the number of Congressional districts from 28 to 32.

The Hall oleo bill, which legalizes the sale of oleomargarine and permits it to be colored in imitation of butter, will come up in the House for second reading to-day.

The Snyder bill, restricting the sale of oleo and prohibiting its coloring to imitate butter, has passed the House and is being held up in the Senate and sanitation committee for a hearing.

Not Next!
The capital removal episode is dead. Representative Voorhees, who introduced the bill, declared that so far as he was concerned there was nothing more to be done. He said:—

"The members of the House of Representatives seemed to think that they were to inhabit the legislative halls forever. They voted in the belief that at every recurring session they would be members. The incident is closed. Harrisburg will remain the capital city, but those who opposed the proposition of removal will live long enough to regret their action."

Minister's Leg Broken.

Rev. W. F. Noble, of State College, was on Friday last the victim of an unfortunate accident which resulted in a broken leg. The reverend gentleman was preparing for a horseback ride and while saddling the horse the animal suddenly delivered a vicious kick which struck him on the leg. The fracture is a serious and painful one and will likely incapacitate Mr. Noble from attending to his ministerial duties for some weeks.

Married.

Sunday evening, May 5, at the Lutheran parsonage, Centre Hall, Johnathan Sheets, of Wolf's Store, and Mrs. Susan Stoner, of Millheim, were united in marriage by Rev. J. M. Reisk.

W. F. Bradford, superintendent of the Lewisburg and Tyrone railroad, yesterday returned from an extended trip through Florida.

Lawyer Harry Keller is a candidate for congressional honors in the Republican party. While his nomination is insured there is no hope of his election.

Among the leading barristers of the Bellefonte bar who took an active part in the ceremonies attending the completion of the foundation of the Governor Curtin monument to-day were Messrs. N. B. Spangler, W. Harrison Walker, H. C. Quigley, John Bower, T. J. Sexton. Before two more preparations pass away it is intended to have the monument almost ready for unveiling.

John Q. A. Kennedy is reaping a harvest from the sale of building lots. Many of the finest residences are in that portion of the city. Kenndale is the Darby of Centre Hall.

The date fixed for the formal opening of the government post office building is July 1.

Political Announcements.

State Senate:
J. Frank Raine, Millheim.
J. Nevin Meyer, Mills twp.
D. Paul Fortney, Bellefonte.

Prothonotary.

Frank M. Fisher, Greeg.
Donner Emerick, Centre Hall.
F. E. Wieland, Linden Hall.

Sheriff.

F. M. Crawford, Bellefonte.

Register.

John Foreman, Jr., Centre Hall.

Married.

A pretty wedding took place on Church street this a. m., when Miss Anna Lutz and Charles Bartholomew were united in marriage. More than twenty years ago, when the young man was a clerk in the bank which he now is president, he became enamored with his bride. Both proved true to courtship agreements, which were fulfilled to-day.

Deaths.

JESSE GHEEN.

Jesse Gheen, formerly of Rauchtown, died at the residence of C. W. Conser, Loganton, Tuesday morning of dropsy, aged 78 years. He had been an invalid many years.

MRS. ANDREW HARTER.

Mrs. Harter wife of Andrew Harter, of Rockford, Ill., died Saturday. Her age was about fifty years. The deceased was born and raised in Union county, and her father Mr. Ruhl, still resides there. The husband of deceased is a brother of Mrs. Rebecca Murray, of this place.

W. T. LEATHERS.

W. T. Leathers, one of Howard's most respected citizens, died at his home in that place Wednesday, May 8th, of diabetes after an illness of several weeks. Mr. Leathers was the inventor of the Excelsior roofing paint, was an old soldier and was fifty-six years old. A wife and eight children survive. The interment took place at Curtin Friday.

MRS. GUTELIUS.

Mrs. Katharine Keen Gutelius died at her home in Millheim Wednesday evening of last week, at the age of sixty-nine years, seven months and ten days. She was born in Pennsylvania, this county, and was a daughter of George and Sarah Keen. She was married to George Gutelius in 1849, and for the first few years lived in Millheim, later moving to Mifflinburg, where they since resided. Death was the result of heart trouble along with other complications. She is survived by a husband, five sons and four daughters.

Shipping to Foreign Countries.

W. W. Boob, the wheelman, at Centre Hall, last week received two foreign orders, one of which was from Capetown, South Africa, and the other from Marrobel, South Australia. One order called for goods to the amount of \$600.00. Mr. Boob advertises in his home paper, in papers published in all parts of the United States, and in foreign papers, and when there is trade he gets his share because people know he is in business.

Monday Mr. Boob received another order from Jamaica, from a customer of seven years' standing.

Boalsburg.

Three of Boalsburg's young ladies, Misses Mary Reish, Nora Miller and Edie Long were to Bellefonte shopping Saturday.—Samuel Bailey was to the county seat Monday attending to business at the commissioner's office.—James Fortney, of Pine Grove Mills, was in town Monday.—Edward Woomer is building a new portico to the front of his house which adds greatly to its appearance.—Boalsburg is doing considerable building and repairing.

Oak Hall.

E. B. Peters and wife transacted business in Bellefonte Saturday.—Wm. Everhart, of the Branch, is frequently seen in town.—C. W. Korman and Clay Witmer, of Buffalo Run, passed through town with young cattle, on their way to Reitz's Gap, near Boalsburg.—Homer Barr and wife were in town Saturday.—Mrs. John Close visited her mother, Mrs. Meyers, at Boalsburg, Sunday.—Miss Maggie, daughter of George Homan, of Pinehall, visited her uncle, B. F. Homan, Sunday.—Mrs. Tammie Keller, of Linden Hall, visited at the home of Mr. Lonberger Sunday.

Cattle Diseased.

A number of cattle are afflicted about Linden Hall with chest drops, or as is usually termed yellow water. The disease is one that should not create alarm, as it is not regarded contagious or necessarily fatal.

J. D. Murray, who twenty years ago wrote up the early history of this city for the Centre Reporter, which was then published weekly, is a man possessed of unusually strong mental faculties. At the advanced age of ninety-three years he spends much of his time reading and enjoys a social chat as well as ever.

The Central Electric railroad connecting Centre Hall with Lewistown and points east, is a venture that twenty years ago was spoken of but never expected to be realized. To-day it is carrying passengers by the thousands.

The electric railway is somewhat antiquated, and the Central Electric Company is apprehensive that after the completion of the Central Electric Navigation Company places a sufficient number of air ships at the disposal of the traveling public, the traffic will be of little service except for local shopping. The idea of forming this company was first conceived by Ralph Booser, who interpreted Messrs. Claude Stahl and John Stover. Mr. Booser at that time was offered a professorship at the Pennsylvania State College, but he preferred to carry out this particular scheme, which was first considered absurd. After operating the lines for several years from Clinton to Conowingo, all fears of failure have been dispelled.

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Cattle Diseased.

A number of cattle are afflicted about Linden Hall with chest drops, or as is usually termed yellow water. The disease is one that should not create alarm, as it is not regarded contagious or necessarily fatal.

Hon. W. B. Mingle, the first cashier of the Penna Valley Bank, when there was but one institution of the kind on this side the county, is home from the Pacific coast where he spent some time in recreation. After the adjournment of the State Democratic convention to be held in this city next week, Mr. Mingle will resume his duties as first assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, at Washington, D. C.

While driving his 130 pacer on Penn Avenue yesterday, Congressman George F. Meek experienced a peculiar accident. The horse fell throwing the congressman into the main Philadelphia pavement. The accident, which was being repaired at the point of the accident, the speed at which the horse was going, placed the distinguished gentleman with such velocity that the momentum could not be checked until Harrisburg was reached. After attending the dedicatory ceremony of the state capital from 2:30 p. m. he reached Centre Hall in Air Ship No. 40, at 4 o'clock, and drove to his Bellefonte residence.

E. M. Huyett, Esq., who for thirty-five years or more has been actively engaged in the lumber business and held several positions of public trust, has retired to private life with laurels to his credit.

REPAIRING OLD WHEELS costs more than new ones when you can get four good new wheels at \$7.75 per set with tire on or with axles for \$10.00.—W. W. BOOB, Centre Hall, Pa.

FINEST SHOES IN Bellefonte

Just in.—A. C. MINGLE.

WANTED—Four elevator boys

in the Reporter annex.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY.

The New Bill if Signed by the Governor, Will Decrease Compensation.

A bill passed both house and senate fixing the salaries of county superintendents of schools at ten dollars for the first one hundred schools within his jurisdiction, five dollars for each school above one hundred and not over two hundred, and two dollars for each school above two hundred, provided that the salary shall in no case be less than \$1000 per annum nor more than \$2000, and provide further that in all counties having 1200 square miles or a school term exceeding seven and one-half months the salaries of the superintendent shall not be less than \$1500.

According to the 1900 census Centre county has an area of 1130 square miles, which is just seventy square miles less than the area required to place the county superintendent in the \$1500.00 salary list, which rank he occupies today. The census of 1890 gave Centre county an area of 1227 square miles, which fact fixed the salary of Superintendent Gramley at \$1500.

The superintendent's salary, according to this bill, will be rated according to the number of schools, thus: Centre county has one hundred and eight schools. One hundred schools at \$10, or \$1,000; eighty schools at \$5.00, or \$400.00, making a total of \$1400.

COUNTY GRANGE.

Meets at Hubersburg, Tuesday, May 28, at A. M.

Centre County Pomona Grange will meet in The Hall of Walker Grange, Hubersburg, Tuesday, the 25th inst., at 10 o'clock for the transaction of such business as may properly be brought before it. Patrons are respectfully invited and requested to be present. All 4th Degree members are eligible. Members will take Lunch Baskets. Ample accommodation for dinner in the spacious dining room on first floor of Hall. Let the attendance be general.

PROGRAM, 10 A. M.

Opening of Grange in Fourth degree. Reading of minutes. Roll call of officers and directors of insurance company.

Address of welcome—Walker Grange. Appointment of committees. Revision—member of Zion Grange. Song. Should Nature Studies be introduced into the Common Schools? By Worthy Deputy John S. Dale and D. K. Keller.

RECESS FOR DINNER.

1:30 P. M. Song. Recitation by member of Progress Grange. Reports of committees. Song. Quarterly report of secretary of fire insurance company. What has the Grange accomplished in legislation during the present session? Hon. L. Rhone, member of legislative committee of State Grange.

Should agriculture be taught in our public schools? Opened by I. S. Frain. Conferring 5th