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HISTORICAL NOTES.

By MR. J. D. MURRAY.

In the years 1851 and 1852 there was no school house in Centre Hall, and the most convenient school house the children of Centre Hall had, stood a short distance east of where Samuel Bruss now lives. It was called Mount Liberty. The children who went from Centre Hall to Mount Liberty to school were about six in number, namely: John Harpster, Annie Shannon, Mary Felmie, Frank Minich, Thomas Minich, and Henry Minich. The citizens of Centre Hall were at that time principally young persons and had no children to send to school. The oldest family in town was the Witmer family, who kept the first store and hotel in this place; they had two daughters, but they were both beyond the free school age, twenty-one years.

This was the first year of the county superintendency, and a man by the name of Gipson was the first chosen. He was a Presbyterian minister; a man who had the reputation of being very well educated, about fifty years of age, but he was a very poor pupil orator, having an impediment in his speech. From all accounts Mr. Gipson performed the duties of his office very well, and perhaps there was no other man who could have been selected, who would have done better. He was the first to fill that position and did not have the advantage of the experience of a predecessor. Henry Witmer was at that time one of the school directors on the south side of Potter township and it devolved upon him to find a teacher for Mount Liberty, also for the Plum Grove school.

He engaged a man for Mount Liberty school by the name of Price. He was an old man, full of experience in his profession, and a fluent and easy talker. It was at once seen that Mr. Price had met with the favor of Mr. Witmer. Knowing Mr. Witmer's credulous disposition, many persons preyed upon his credulity either for profit or jokingly, but mostly for gain. Mr. Price opened his school; the first school the few citizens of Centre Hall had any interest in. The majority of the school was made up of children from the surrounding country, and yet it was only a small school. This school had no particularly bad name; there had not been much trouble in governing it. It appears that the school had been taught a few years previous to this by young men or rather boys, and Benjamin Franklin Minich, whom we have mentioned above, was generally the author of all trouble, and those young men or boys did not have courage enough to make any great effort to subdue this boy.

B. F. Minich at one time had a piece of chalk in his hand and was gapping around his father's stable, and when he came to the door he put his initials on it in large letters, "B. F. M." In a few days John Harpster with another boy walked around to this stable and noticing the three large letters; he looked at them very intently for a moment, knowing what they meant and who put them there and he read them thus: "Bolover Frozy McElroy," and the boy was ever after that called Bolover, a nick name he carried all the time he lived in this village, and when he left for a time, was married and then came back to reside here he was Bolover as before, and if we have occasion to mention his name while writing up the history of this school it will always appear by the assumed name of Bolover.

John Harpster was the next older brother to Jacob Harpster, who left this town for Montana about six or seven years ago, he being one of the very first settlers of this place. John Harpster was a bright boy and much inclined to study; he managed to get to College at Gettysburg and was there when the war broke out. He left College and went to the war; after the war was over he continued his college course and after graduation took a regular course in Theology and became a very popular Lutheran minister. He was a fine orator and did not preach long in this country; he thought it was his duty to become a missionary and the church sent him to India. He was there either five or seven years then came back to this country and soon received a call to a church in one of the larger cities in the state of Ohio. While in Ohio the church conferred upon him a degree and he was made a D. D. By this time he was pretty well advanced in life; he married a lady from his native state and they remained in Ohio a few years, when he again decided to do missionary work and was sent to India, where he is still doing a good work. At the present time he and his wife are making a tour of the continent and will visit this place before they return to India.

It was now drawing towards winter and the longest school term consisted of but four months. Mr. Witmer gave notice that school would open at Mount Liberty on Monday, the last week of November, with Mr. Price, his chosen teacher, on the chair behind his desk. When Monday came the six pupils were seen wending their way towards Mount Liberty to meet their gray-haired teacher, Mr. Price, who was a very bold, intelligent looking man. His gray hair stood on end; he was a large man and possessed all the life and vigor of manhood, and when he was examined by the first county superintendent, Mr. Gipson, he passed a very creditable examination. Mr. Gipson told Mr. Witmer that he held the best certificate the law allowed him to issue. This was another bright jewel in Mr. Witmer's crown and he seemed to take great pride in saying, "the Mount Liberty school has the best educated man in the whole township of Potter." We have no means of knowing, but are inclined to think Mr. Price was a fairly well educated man.

In a few days Mr. Witmer mounted his horse, Perry, to call upon his newly appointed teacher at Mount Liberty; he was at this time acting under a spasmodic interest in the schools, and more particularly Mount Liberty, as that was where his greatest interest had centered. We, the boarders at his hotel, oftentimes thought Mr. Witmer was deservingly of a great deal of credit for the interest he was taking in the schools; he had no one to send, neither had we, but we were too much inclined to judge all men alike. We felt some interest in schools knowing very well that they were of great value and ought to be encouraged but we could not understand how a person could take so great an interest in something in which he had no apparent direct or indirect interest or claims. What he wished to secure we did not know; that he could be actuated by any mercenary object that might be in view was not possible, for there was no pay in it. He visited the school more frequently than directors generally do and always came home with the same old story, that Mr. Price was getting along so well and had good order; at one time he said in speaking of the good conduct: "Why, even Bolover is behaving himself better than he ever before did at school." We had to hear so much about this school that it became to us a trite theme.

We now came to the conclusion that for our own satisfaction, we would go to work on the case and try, if possible, to ferret out the cause, if any, of Mr. Witmer manifesting so much concern about this school. We did not do in this case as Mahomet did when he was studying out his new and untried religion. He shut himself up in a case and abstained from food for many days at a time, in order to become oblivious of all the world around him. He was successful as a solitary student and did not fail to establish some kind of religion of which he has thousands of followers today.

Our case not being a desperate one we concluded that a casual thought, perhaps even mingled with some other thoughts of more or less importance might bring the proper answer. But in order to come to a conclusion we must in this case do as the lawyer does when he has a witness before him; he will ask the witness many questions that an observer might think would have no bearing on the case at all, but when he begins to sum up we find every question and answer did have something to do with the case. So in this case, we must call your attention to something that apparently has nothing to do with the subject we are discussing.

As has been mentioned, Mr. Witmer was the oldest citizen in the place and there was not at that time any other man here who was worth one thousand dollars. Mr. Witmer was a man who took great pride in having a good selection of small fruit, and had spent much time, labor and money on his fruit patch and it was just beginning to bear fine specimens of carefully selected fruit of all kinds, except apples, not having been here long enough for them to bear. He was not a stingy man, and nothing afforded him more pleasure than to pick the finest specimen to send to the sick or give to his friends. But he had great trouble with the pilfering boys, and it appears Bolover was the ringleader in all the depredations committed against him. He would tell the boys to wait until the fruit was ripe and he would divide with them and this he did as the fruit ripened and in that way sometimes effected a compromise with the boys.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Treasler, of Penn's Cave, Sundayed with the family of Edward Sellers.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HEINLE

Nominated for President Pro Tem of the Senate by His Party Caucus.

In nominating Senator Heinle, of Centre county, as the democratic nominee for president pro tem. of the senate, Senator Wentz, of Montgomery, paid a merited tribute to a faithful democrat and able senator. Senator Wentz said:

Mr. President—I take pleasure in compliance with the request of the democratic caucus to place in nomination for the office of president pro tem. of this senate the name of one of our most distinguished fellow members. During his senatorial career, which is now drawing to a close for the present term his every act has been one of good service to the people and an honor to himself. We feel in placing this honor upon him that we have honored our party by recognizing his sterling qualities as a man and a democrat. He stands for everything that is good and true in politics as he stands in other walks of life and I feel that every member of our party will regard it an especial honor to be granted the privilege of voting upon this occasion for the Hon. William C. Heinle, of Centre, whose name I place in nomination for the exalted office of president pro tem. of this body.

VARIETY TESTS OF WHEAT.

The Effect of Late and Early sowing of the Crop.

From bulletin No. 55, just issued from the Agricultural Experiment station, Pennsylvania State College, showing the yields from various varieties of wheat, it is determined that the varieties of wheat vary greatly; that the bearded varieties give the largest yield of both wheat and straw, and that the measured bushel of bearded wheat is heavier than the beardless. These conclusions are somewhat contrary to the general belief in reference to the productiveness of the bearded and beardless varieties of wheat.

Another important conclusion arrived at in the experiments mentioned, is that the beardless varieties were injured more by the Hessian fly than the bearded chaff varieties.

An attempt was also made to discover the most favorable time for sowing wheat, but the seasons varied so much that the most advantageous period for sowing could not be determined upon. The late sowing, however, in a series of years, was less effected by the fly than the early sowing, but the difference in stand obtained by early sowing frequently largely overbalanced the difference in fly destruction.

The writer can say from personal observation, that wheat sown as late as October 4, 1900, is more or less effected by fly, but not nearly to as large a percent as the sowing accomplished September 1, yet the stand of the late sowing is far superior to that of the early sowing. These facts are given to prove that the seasons largely control the yield of wheat with reference to late and early sowing. For a period of years, wheat sown from September 1 to 10, has yielded about the best.

Encampment and Exhibition.

The coming Encampment and Exhibition of the Patrons of Husbandry to be held at Centre Hall Sept. 14 to 20, will be made more attractive than any held heretofore. It is the purpose of the committee, as has been in the past, not to permit any thing of a disreputable character on the grounds over which they have control. There are enough opportunities given elsewhere outside of Centre Hall to fleece the innocent, and since the principles of the grange are in direct opposition to permitting any questionable performance or methods, the committee is only doing its duty towards the organization which it represents by allowing only such on the grounds whose presence would be permissible any where.

Hotel Guests.

The following is a partial list of the guests at the Centre Hall hotel during the past week, James W. Runkle, proprietor:

Charles C. Karas, Lewistown; Helen Sterro, Milroy; E. H. Kiehl, Williamsport; A. Winifred Wieland, Freda Hess, J. Mitchell Garbrick, Linden Hall; Harry A. Brown, B. L. Davidson, Milroy; W. M. K. Kamp, E. F. McClintic, Tyrone; W. W. Smith, State College; J. J. Croft, Spring Mills; George Stewart, Millheim; Mullin Wayne, Springburg; Dr. Smith and wife, Elizabeth, Id.; A. A. Hildroth, F. C. James and wife, Harrisburg; L. V. Burkholder, Chicago; Miss B. Jacobs, Bellefonte; J. M. Barr and wife, Newport; George W. Steward, Susquehanna; David Dale, Lemont; A. B. Menth, D. S. McNeil, Siglerville; F. N. Reber, Lewisburg; James H. Perry, Philadelphia; J. W. L. Winters, New Berlin; J. M. Bommersbach, Coburn; G. J. Koush, Millburg; Ed. Mowery, Spring Mills; H. W. Orwig, Hartstown; Harry Fralley, Altoona; W. H. Troxel, Shamokin; Frank Sherman, Hazleton; John C. Morris, Harrisburg; Charles Kyle and lady, Milroy; Ralph H. Taylor, Mary M. Smith, Reedsville.

The Yarn for 50 Cents.

No, but Smith's one dollar per dozen cabinets, (regular price \$2.50) is a bonanza for any one who wants pictures. For a limited time only.

W. W. SMITH, Centre Hall Friday, July 12.

STAMP TAXES ABOLISHED.

Cannot Redeem Less than \$2 Worth of Stamps.

The act of March 2, 1901, amending the war revenue law of 1898, went into effect on Monday, July 1, and will remove entirely many stamp taxes.

The Government has made provision for the redemption of the stamps, but the red-tape requirements are so intricate that holders of the stamps in small lots are likely to prefer to lose them rather than to try to sell them. The smallest amount redeemable is \$2. Furthermore, the claimant must make an affidavit and file it with the internal revenue office of the district.

ITEMS REPEALED.

Bank checks, 2 cents.
Bond, or obligation by guarantee company, one-half of 1 cent on each \$1.
Certificates of deposit, 2 cents.
Certificates not otherwise specified, 10 cents.
Charter party, \$3 to \$10.
Chewing gum, 4 cents each, \$1.
Commercial brokers, \$20.
Drafts, sight, 2 cents. Drafts and orders for the payment of money otherwise than at sight or on demand, and foreign bills of exchange and foreign orders for the payment of money, remain taxable, as provided for by section 8, paragraph 5, of the act.
Export bills of lading, 10 cents.
Express receipts, 1 cent. Domestic freight bills of lading, remain taxable at 1 cent.

Insurance—Life, 8 cents on each \$100; marine, inland, fire, 1 cent on each \$1; casualty, fidelity and guarantees, 1 cent on each \$1.
Lease, 25 cents to \$1.
Manifest for custom house entry, \$1 to \$5.

Mortgage or conveyance in trust, 25 cents for each \$1,500.
Order for payment of money on sight or on demand.

Perfumery and cosmetics, 1 cent for each 5 cents.
Power of attorney to vote, 10 cents.
Power of attorney to sell, 25 cents.
Promissory notes, 2 cents for each \$100.

Proprietary medicine, 1 cent for each 5 cents.
Protest, 25 cents.
Telephone messages, 1 cent.
Postoffice money orders, 2 cents for each \$100.

Warehouse receipts, 25 cents.

Surprise Party.

Tuesday evening, July 9th, as Mrs. Kate M. Carson, of Pottery Mills, returned from a pleasure drive to the Seven Mountains she was surprised beyond expression, upon opening the door of her home to find about fifty of her friends assembled to celebrate her sixty-seventh birthday. So complete was the surprise that not until the beloved friend and mother had opened the door and the rooms were filled with the sweet tones of violins and singing did the first thoughts of such a gathering enter her mind. To add to her surprise, upon entering the dining room Mother Carson found her tables laden with abundance of ice cream, cake, and fruits and many valuable and much appreciated presents, the principal one being a handsome twenty-dollar couch. After spending a pleasant evening together they bade the aged mother good night, wishing her many repetitions of the day celebrated. Those present were:

Daniel Daup and wife, J. R. Bible and wife, M. J. Miller and wife, Wm. M. Coran and wife, J. M. Carson, wife and two daughters, J. O. Steyer and wife, James Armstrong, and wife, Thos. Palmer and wife, Wm. Motter and wife, W. C. Bible and wife, Samuel Bible and wife, Mrs. M. F. McKinley, Mrs. Wm. McKinley and daughter, Mrs. Eliza McKinley, Mrs. Eliza Palmer, Mrs. Sarah Paine, Mrs. James Palmer, Mrs. Wm. Springer, Mrs. James Springer, Misses Eliza and Malou Springer, Margaret Evans, Fannie Himmels, Caroline McKinley, Messrs. M. A. Salk, J. H. Binger, Elwin Evans, Isaac McKinley, Lloyd Smith, Cyrus Conifer, Charles and Thomas Miller.

Married.

At the Reformed parsonage, Boalsburg, by Rev. A. A. Back, July 4, Heskiah Hoy, Houserville, and Miss Sallie Benner, Rock View.
At the Reformed parsonage, Boalsburg, by Rev. A. A. Back, Lloyd R. Smith, Centre Hall, and Miss Laura Ellen Brown, Linden Hall.

Marriage Licenses.

Harry Miller, Howard.
Ella E. Bodie, Donora.
Wm. Sayers, Walker.
Christina Diets, Howard.
John Oscar Diehl, Linden Hall.
Nora Ellen Fry, Tusseyville.
Harry Wars, Bellefonte.
Hecetas Davis.
John E. Wion, Bellefonte.
Gert E. Johnsonburg, Bellefonte.
Wm. Bisher, Howard.
Verna Brickley, Ramoth.
Geo. M. Bartley, Spring Mills.
Nora Ellen Fry, Tusseyville.
Lloyd R. Smith, Centre Hall.
Laura Ellen Brown, Linden Hall.
John D. Dugst, Aaronsburg.
Gert Ida M. Stover, Aaronsburg.

The Reporter's force is indebted to W. H. Dinges for a box of choice raspberries. Mr. Dinges is devoting most of his attention to the growing of fruit, and has a great variety of berries, grapes, cherries, apples and peaches growing. His fruit is carefully boxed and reaches the consumer in the best condition.

DEATHS.

Persons Who Have Gone to the Beyond—Brief Sketches.

MRS. LEONARD MESMER.
Mrs. Leonard Mesmer, residing about one and one-half miles north of Penn Hall, died very suddenly at her home on July 4. She was ill but four days, having received a severe paralytic stroke. The interment took place at Green Grove Saturday, Rev. Fenstermaker, of the Evangelical church of which deceased was a member officiating. Her age was about sixty-seven years.
Besides the husband, the deceased leaves a family of seven children, namely: Jacob, State College; John, Joseph and William, and Mrs. Henry Wagner, near Penn Hall; and Anna and Matilda, at home.

REV. DANIEL LEITZELL.
Rev. Daniel Leitzell died at his home in Brookville, Jefferson county, Pa., last week. Rev. Leitzell was raised in Aaronsburg, and was a brother of Mrs. John R. Lawlers, deceased, Earlstown; Martin Leitzell, deceased, Lewistown; Emanuel Leitzell, Kansas, William, of Welsh, West Virginia; Rev. Charles, Newton, Iowa, and Edward, at home, are sons. Rev. Leitzell was twice married, the first wife being a daughter of Judge W. W. Love, deceased, of Tusseyville, and the second wife, who survives him, was Miss Over. Rev. Leitzell was well-known about here by the older residents and was held in high esteem.

MRS. MARY S. JOHNSTON.

Mrs. Mary S. Johnston died at her home in Pottery Mills, June 27, from gangrene of the foot, after suffering for one week. The deceased's maiden name was Mary Eliza Armstrong, and was first married to Isaac Shenefelt, to which union three children were born, namely: Mrs. Joshua Folk, Bellefonte; Mrs. F. E. Arney, Centre Hall, and Newton. After her first husband's death she married John Johnston, one son, Samuel, surviving.

Mollie, a daughter, preceded the mother to the grave. Deceased's age was sixty-four years, seven months and twenty-seven days. The funeral took place June 29, Revs. Kershner and Haven officiating. Mrs. Johnston was a very estimable woman, and beloved by all who knew her. Her husband died five or six years ago.

MISS LAVINA GATES.

Miss Lavina Gates, an aged maiden lady, died at the old Gates home in Tadpole valley, near Gatesburg, Sunday morning, of consumption, aged 70 years and 1 month. She was the daughter of the late Frederick Gates, and was born on the old homestead where she died. Two sisters survive her, namely, Mrs. Mary Bollinger, of Millheim, and Mrs. Matilda Rumbarger, of Pine Grove Mills. She was a consistent member of the Lutheran church and enjoyed the friendship of a large circle of friends. The funeral occurred Monday morning. Interment at Gatesburg.

U. S. POPULATION IS 76,333,387.

Alaska, Hawaii, the Indian Territory and Reservations are Included in Report.

The census report issued last Friday at Washington gives the total population of the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, the Indian Territory and Indian reservations, as 76,333,387. Included in this aggregate are 129,548 Indians not taxed.

The population of Porto Rico, according to a numeration made by the War Department, is 953,243. The population of Cuba, according to the same Department's report, is 1,572,797.

The total population in 1880, which is given in the report as a basis of comparison with the census just completed, was 63,069,756, comprising 62,622,250 persons in the States and Territories, 32,562 persons in Alaska, 100,182 Indians and other persons in the Indian Territory, 145,272 Indians and other persons on Indian reservations and 88,990 persons in Hawaii.

Rhode Island, the report states, with 407 inhabitants to the square mile in 1900, is the most densely populated state in the Union. Massachusetts is next with not quite 349 inhabitants to the square mile, while New Jersey is third, with 250, and Connecticut fourth, with 187 inhabitants to the square mile. Four other states have more than 100 inhabitants to the square mile—New York, with 152 1/2; Pennsylvania, with 140 1/2; Maryland, with 129 1/2, and Ohio, with 102 inhabitants to the square mile. Alaska had but one person to every ten square miles in 1900, and Nevada only four persons to a like area. Wyoming had not quite one inhabitant to the square mile; Arizona 1 1/2, New Mexico 1 1/2, Montana 1 1/2, and Idaho 1 1/2. Hawaii shows a density of population of not quite 24 persons, ranking between Maine with 23 1/2 persons to the square mile and Arkansas with 24 1/2 persons.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Sunday's sun dried many tons of hay.

Miss Romie Van Pelt Monday went to Williamsport.

There were many visitors at Penn's Cave on the Fourth.

Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Schuyler spent Tuesday of last week in Aaronsburg.

A festival will be held on the lawn at the Reformed church Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Ray Morgan and son Louis, of State College, were in town Sunday.

The hottest days in the country are more pleasant than the ordinary hot days in the city.

Mrs. Mary Fredericks, of Spring Mills, is spending the week with relatives in this place.

Mrs. Annie McClenahan, of Pottery Mills, returned from a visit to Mill Hall and Jersey Shore.

Miss May Rete, of Ridgeway, Pa., has been the guest of her friend, Miss Bertha Wolf the past week.

Mrs. Elmer Campbell and Miss Elizabeth Davis, of Linden Hall, were visitors in Centre Hall last week.

Miss Nellie Leisher, of Renovo, is spending several weeks with her sister, Mrs. Samuel Kaup, at Boalsburg.

J. E. Decker, of Pottery Mills, will offer at public sale Saturday, July 27, a house and lot on Main street, Millheim.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Boob, of this place, Saturday went to Cincinnati, O., where they will remain for several days, returning Friday of this week.

Notice the change of advertisement of Ira C. Korman, implement dealer, Oak Hall, who will talk Osborne binder to you upon the least provocation.

Chauncey Frankenhouser, of Bar, Mifflin county, has been arrested, charged with setting fire to mountain lumber at that place. He was released on \$500 bail.

James Smith, of Williamsport, who is engaged in a music store at that place, rode to Centre Hall on his bicycle Saturday and has been stopping with his parents since.

P. M. Weber, wife and son are spending their vacation among friends in Boalsburg and community. Mr. and Mrs. Weber just returned from the Pan-American Exposition, and were delighted with the trip.

Miss M. Eloise Schuyler, daughter of Rev. W. H. Schuyler, will return to her home in Centre Hall on Saturday. Miss Schuyler has been teaching in the schools at Lansdowne, Pa., and after the closing of the school term took an extended trip including West Chester, Syracuse, Niagara Falls and other points.

During this session of Legislature an appropriation of \$2000 was secured for State College for investigations in tobacco culture by the tobacco growers of the State. This appropriation was not solicited by the College and goes to show in what regard the agricultural experimental work of the College is held by the industrial class.

Dr. and Mrs. D. G. Smith Monday returned to their home in Elizabeth, Jo Davies county, Illinois. They came together as far as Buffalo, where Mrs. Smith came to this place and the doctor went on to New York, joining her at this place last week. Dr. Smith is enjoying a good practice, and is much pleased with his Illinois home.

Prof. Frank J. Meyer, who holds a very desirable professorship in the Andromed High School, just outside Philadelphia, is at his home near Penn Hall. He has been re-elected to the same position, and in September will occupy a \$65,000 light stone building now in the course of construction. Last fall while Prof. Meyer was experimenting in one of the laboratories there was a defective flue from which the gas escaped, causing an explosion which set the building on fire and totally destroyed it.

Colonel Samuel L. Stiver, A. M., B. D., Ph. D., of Bunker Hill, Illinois, arrived in Centre Hall Monday morning to look after the estate of his mother, Mrs. Mary Stiver, deceased. Col. Stiver owns and conducts the Banker Hill Military Academy, an institution recognized by the state of Illinois for its advanced educational work. Col. Stiver is a graduate of Lafayette College, 1870, and of the Union Theological University, N. Y. He till now Centre Hall a very pretty little town, and was surprised at its growth and the many beautiful homes. Mrs. Stiver and son are also east. Mrs. Stiver is instructor in Modern Languages and Harmony in the institution founded by her husband.