

THE CENTRE REPORTER

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1908.

Democratic County Ticket. For Congress: W. HARRISON WALKER. For Assembly: J. CALVIN MEYER. For Sheriff: FRED F. SMITH. For Register: G. F. WEAVER. For Recorder: F. PIERCE MUSSER. For Treasurer: J. D. MILLER. For County Commissioners: C. A. WEYER, J. L. DUNLAP. For Auditors: J. W. BECK, JOHN L. COLE.

S. S. Convention Postponed. The district S. S. Convention to have been held at Farmers Mills last Friday was postponed on account of the rainy weather. The date for same will be announced later.

Pink Label This Week. The pink label appears this week. Those who paid subscription between April 21st and May 18th will find credit given. The pink label appears on all papers, but the attention of those who remitted between the dates named is especially to the figures on the label with a view correcting errors, if any exist.

Meehan-Bayard. Mrs. Laura S. Bayard, of New York City, well known to many Reporter readers, was married, May 4, to M. Frank Meehan, of that city. The groom is a well known and popular hotel man, and the present proprietor of the St. Charles hotel, in the great metropolis. The bride, nee Laura Strohm, is a sister of James B. Strohm of this place. The Reporter joins with their many friends in extending congratulations.

Woodward. Among those who attended the Sunday school convention at Rebersburg, last Thursday, were: Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Stover and son, George, Samuel Kremer and son, Clair, D. J. Benner, E. F. Orndorf, W. C. Walter and wife, Mrs. C. D. Motz and son, Emanuel Musser and Miss Mabel Wolfe. George Smull and wife, of Smullton, spent Sunday with C. D. Motz. James Gulswite and family entertained a number of friends Sunday afternoon.

James Vonneida and wife, accompanied by Benj. Cohen and Miss Susan Bruner, spent the Sabbath with Charles Wolfe, near Aaronsburg. Henry Brendell and lady friend, of Buffalo, N. Y., are spending a short time with their friend, Charles Musser. William Hingon died at the home of Andrew Moyer, Thursday morning of last week. His death was caused by Bright's disease and old age. His wife preceded him in death a number of years ago. He was a member of the Evangelical Association since childhood. Interment was made in the Union cemetery Saturday morning, services being conducted by Rev. E. E. Hauey.

Nittany Mountain. From last week. James Dubbs, who had been stocking Robinson's stove mill ever since the mill started on the Fred Houser tract, has quit and gone to Petersburg, Virginia. Old Mr. Calahan, who has been keeping bachelor's hall, is not in very good health. Tone Noll and family drove to Millheim Sunday, to visit Mrs. Noll's brother, Joseph Swanger. W. T. Noll, of Jeannette, stayed one night last week with his brother, A. G. Noll, on the mountain. Florence Halsey has a light attack of measles. The stork in making his rounds found that he had missed Will Houser for a good many years, and thought he was amply able to keep more than one child, so he left a fine baby boy for Will to raise. Mother and child are doing nicely, and Will is as proud of his boy as he was of the last spanking his father gave him. Charles Pecht bought the horse, buggy and harness of Harry Hockenberry, who went with Jas. Dubbs to Virginia. Wm. Parker is the busiest man in this part of the country. He is farming for the Bible sisters, east of Centre Hall, and is putting out thirty-five acres of corn, oats, barley and potatoes. He is getting it out in good time and shape, too, but he says it is taking the long hair off of his mule. Ellis Horner was on the sick list for several days last week. Amos Campbell visited his cousin, John Garver, last week. Amos is counted a good man on a telephone line, but he has been all over the country and finds more men than work. He is now helping his father, John Campbell, who has lots of work, but not as big pay as Amos is used to.

The homes of A. G. Noll and James Calahan are quarantined. The Calahan family have chicken pox, while the Nolls are suffering from scarlet fever. All are improving. A. M. Lombarger lost a mare and colt, last week. John Garver and lady were out driving on Sunday. The Bellefonte High School will hold its commencement exercises Thursday, 23-d inst.

DEATHS.

MRS. ISABEL M'CORMICK. Mrs. M'Cormick, widow of James M'Cormick, died at the home of her son, William, in Tyrone, Wednesday night of last week. She was aged almost eighty-two years.

Mrs. M'Cormick had been in her usual health, and on the evening of the night of her death enjoyed the pleasures of a social gathering with a number of friends who had gathered at the home of her son. During the night illness came; a physician was summoned; the pain was allayed, but later her heart began giving alarm, and in a brief time life was extinct.

Interment was made Saturday afternoon, in Tyrone, services by the pastor of the Presbyterian church.

Mrs. M'Cormick was well known in Centre Hall and Potter township, having lived near here for many years. Her husband died on the VanValzah farm, west of Centre Hall, about twenty-five years ago.

Seven children survive, namely, Mrs. Agnes Snyder, Tyrone; Mrs. Jane Miller, Alexandria, Virginia; J. Orris, Spring Mills; Kate, Cora and William, Tyrone, and J. Witmer, Columbia, South Carolina.

Mrs. M'Cormick maiden name was Isabel Pollock, from Hublersburg, where the M'Cormicks lived before coming to this valley.

O. P. CROMLEY. The following is from the Orangeville (Illinois) Courier:

Oliver P. Cromley died at his home in Cedarville, Friday morning, after an illness of several years of heart trouble and dropsy. He had been confined to his bed the past two weeks.

Mr. Cromley was born in Centre county, and came west in 1867. In 1875, he was married to Miss Deppen. To this union were born two children, Roy and Josephine, who live at home. Besides the wife and children he is survived by a brother in Chicago, and a sister, Mrs. H. Richart, of Cedarville. He was aged sixty-three years and four days.

MRS. ORLANDO HARTSOCK.

Mrs. Orlando Hartsock died at her home in Philipsburg. Her health had not been the best for a number of years, but her case was not considered serious. Unlooked for complications set in, however, and her death followed speedily.

Her maiden name was Miss Annie Boozer, being a daughter of John and Sarah Boozer, and was born at Pottery Mills almost fifty years ago. In addition to her husband she is survived by two children, Edna and Maurice, her aged mother and one sister, Mrs. Frank Glasgow, of Bellwood. She was a woman of a kind and loving disposition and her death is widely regretted.

FREDERICK BOWER.

While eating his dinner Monday of last week Frederick Bower, a well known citizen of Howard, choked to death on a piece of fish. He had been suffering from an affection of the throat and this no doubt was the cause of his unfortunate death.

He was aged fifty-five years, and had spent most of his life at Howard, where, since the death of his wife, he made his home with the family of Theophilus Pletcher. He was a member of Washington camp, P. O. B. of A.

JOHN W. BROWN.

John W. Brown, an old Centre countyman, died at his home in Mill Hall Wednesday evening of last week of paralysis. He was a son of the late Nathaniel Brown, and was about forty-six years of age. He is survived by a wife and one son, Roy, of Hanover; also one brother, T. Clayton Brown, of Bellefonte, and two sisters, Mrs. Jennie Miller, of Atlantic City, and Mrs. James A. Feldler, of Williamsport.

RHODY V. McMULLEN.

Rhody V. McMullen died very suddenly of apoplexy at State College, Monday of last week. He was employed in superintending the work of grading the new athletic field and had been at work only a short time when he was stricken, dying a few minutes later.

Deceased was about sixty years of age and was a resident of Tyrone most all his life, being employed as track foreman on the Pennsylvania railroad.

MRS. TUCKER GEARHART.

For the fourth time within eleven months death entered the home of Tucker Gearhart, near Philipsburg, and took therefrom the wife and mother, Mrs. Nora Gearhart, who died after a two month's illness. She was aged twenty-seven years, three months and is survived by her husband and one son Harry, aged three years.

JOHN BROWN.

As a result of an apoplectic stroke, John Brown, of Mill Hall, died Wednesday of last week. His wife and son, Ray, at Hanover, survive, as does also the one brother, T. Clayton Brown, of Bellefonte, and one sister, Mrs. James A. Fiedler, of Williamsport.

THE HEADLESS COACH

A Warning Phantom That Roams the County Cork.

QUEER IRISH SUPERSTITIONS.

One Dreaded Apparition is the Fairy Horse, Whose Mission is One of Malice—The Lure of the Poukeen and the Song of the Fir-Darrig.

No wonder strange superstitions linger in the scattered hamlets by the sea or in the lonely cabins on the rocky islands round the Iron coast, for on winter nights when the mighty surges break thundering against the towering cliffs and the storm wind walls weirdly through the hollow caverns and ivied ruins, where the deserted fortresses of the powerful chieftains of bygone days look down on the foaming waves and the cry of the gulls and curlew echoes over rock shores and across wide bays and estuaries, one might well fancy that the sounds were the voice of giants or wizards doomed for their sins to wander forever round this coast, the mournful wail of the "ban-sheeh" or of "the White Lady of the Cliffs"—a famous Munster apparition.

Women and children, crouching over the fire of driftwood, peat or furze branches flaming fitfully on the open hearth, cross themselves as a louder wail rings through the darkness or a rumbling sound is heard that to their ears seems to be the rolling of the wheels of "the headless coach" or "death coach," so called in the County Cork because horses and driver are supposed to be headless. The coachman is the dullahan—that is, a dark or sullen person, a goblin of most malignant disposition.

This phantom is said to "follow" many old Munster families, the vehicle lumbering heavily up the avenue and stopping at the front door whenever a death is about to occur in the house. I know numbers of persons—and not by any means merely uneducated peasants—who are persuaded that they have heard the rumbling of the headless coach. Needless to say, the noise of a heavy cart at night along an unfrequented road is sufficient to terrify superstitious people into believing that they have heard the death coach. They take good care not to see it!

Another much dreaded apparition is the phooka, or fairy horse, a very malicious spirit that is said to appear in the shape of a beautiful coal black steed with fire darting from his eyes and nostrils.

Occasionally he adopts the form of a black bull or goat, and sometimes he appears as an awful compound of several black animals—horse, bull, goat and ram. In his equine form he is said to amuse himself by enticing solitary travelers whom he meets after dark into mounting him, and as he invariably looks like a "nate cut of a horse," such as every Irishman appreciates, he is said to succeed very frequently in his nefarious plan.

The instant the rider is on his back the elfin steed dashes off madly through stream, lake and bog hole, thicket and coppice, hedge and ditch, marsh and ravine, till the terrified mortal, drenched, torn and bruised, shrieks for mercy or perhaps remembers to gasp out a prayer, when with a furious bound the phooka flings him off, preferably into a muddy pool or a furze brake, and darts away, leaving the unhappy rider to pick himself up, invariably finding that he is miles out of his way.

Sudden falls are attributed to this malignant spirit, and many a man who has lost his way or met with an accident coming home from fair or funeral on a dark night is convinced for the rest of his days that he has been led astray by the phooka, although his troubles were possibly due to a yet more potent spirit. Dangerous rocks and crags are often called "carrig-na-phooka" (rock of the phooka), just as deep pools or holes in a river or bog are "pou-nu-phooka." A beautiful waterfall in Wicklow bears this name.

The "poukeen," as he is sometimes called, is also said to adopt the form of a great black bird or a bat. The latter is greatly feared by the country folks. In the bat form he is supposed to lure people into climbing ivied walls and towers, from which he throws them, an idea which seems to bear some relation to the vampire stories of eastern Europe. He is the pouke of Spenser, and from breaking the necks of the unwary to spoiling the blackberries on Michaelmas eve in order to vex the archangel there are few enormities of which he is not guilty, according to popular belief.

"Puck, the household fairy," of English legend finds his Irish counterpart in the fir-darrig, or red man, a merry goblin, very similar to the Scotch red cap, or brownie. He is said to be dressed in scarlet. The attire of most of the Irish faeries is supposed to consist of a green suit, red shoes, long white stockings and a red or black cap with an eagle's feather. This little red clad sprite is said to be remarkable for the extreme beauty of his voice, which, according to the now fast disappearing race of story tellers, is "like the sound of the waves," "the music of angels or the warbling of birds." A sweet voice is highly esteemed in Erin, where a girl possessing that "excellent thing in women" is said to be able to "coax the birds off the bushes."—New Ireland Review.

The Only Difficulty. Ted—You're wasting your time, old man. You're courting the wrong girl. George—No; she's the right girl, all right. I'm afraid the trouble is that I'm the wrong man.—Illustrated Bits.

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