

The Centre Reporter.



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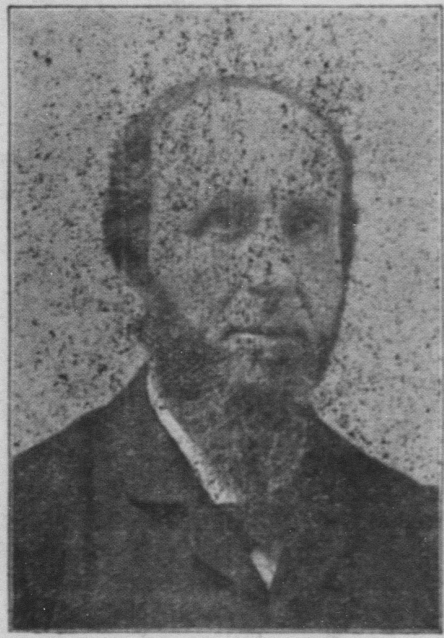
NO. 32.

REUNION OF THE PENN HALL-SPRING MILLS ACADEMY ALUMNI.

An American author in his story of the "Stone Face" portrays a man who in his youth on beholding a profile of a man's face delineated on a rock on the mountain, regarded it as a type of a great and good man who should come and bless the inhabitants of his village, so lived and walked before his fellow-men day by day that when he became an old man, while still dreaming and speaking of his ideal, his friends assembled at his house and told him that he was that man, that the very qualities he had anticipated in another were unconsciously developed within himself.

A man who sets ideals blesses his fellowmen. It is by the ideal that we live: by the real that we exist.

Thus on the theme "My boys and girls" Dr. D. M. Wolf, designated as "The Grand Old Man of Penns Valley", and the principal emeritus of the Penn Hall-Spring Mills academy, whose alumni



DR. D. M. WOLF

held a reunion at Spring Mills, August 6th, closed his address. Reviewing a work so well done and a life so nobly lived, picturing the joys of his career and the unlimited good to which so large a concourse of his former students and friends attested, deep emotion almost overcame him, that as he concluded his address by quoting a stanza of Heber's hymn and substituting a phrase of his own, an applause of heartfelt gratitude welled up from every one of his "boys and girls" assembled.

The address of welcome by Prof. S. Ward Gramley, principal of the Millheim schools, left no doubt as to the open-hearted hospitality extended by the old academy town to its former citizens in the making.

This royal welcome was cheerfully responded to by Dr. A. E. Gobble, a member of the faculty of the United Evangelical College at Meyerstown. Both these opening addresses given by the natives of the academy's immediate



OLD BUILDING AT PENN HALL, ERRECTED 1866.

environment, breathed the spirit of welcome and appreciation. Dr. Gobble reviewed the life of the Penn Hall academy, when in its infancy a great struggle had to be put forth to maintain its existence, but a few men in the community saw the need and merit of the work and came to its support. He gave reminiscences of his early life and the source of his educational impetus received from Dr. Wm. C. Schaeffer and his successor, Prof. Wolf, to fit himself for life's duties. Dr. Gobble's address was very forceful and practicable.

An excellent address on "Our Pennsylvania Germans" by Rev. Dr. L. K. Evans, which is printed in its entirety elsewhere in this issue, then followed.

While an ordained minister of the Reformed church, yet Dr. Wolf, made the academy nonsectarian. Students of his training entered institutions of all classes. The presence of Dr. John S. Stahr, ex-president of his alma mater, Franklin and Marshall College, and his life-long friend was present to deliver the invocation and show the high

esteem of that institution toward Dr. Wolf. In one way he said he felt like an interloper but from his intimate associations with Dr. Wolf and of the sterling and manly character of the students sent forth by Dr. Wolf, he felt that he had a perfect right to add his word of testimony. No one individual sent as many students to Franklin and Marshall College as did Dr. Wolf, and the bond of union that bound him to his friends was similar to the family tie—a tie that is silent but all powerful like the electric power over a trolley to move a mighty train, not loud and boastful like a thunder clash. Such a silent influence is a precious bond of fellowship. His life has stood for principle. When the martyr, Wycliffe, was burned at the stake because he would not recant his belief's, his ashes were thrown into the Severn, and triumphantly was it said, that "the Severn to the sea does flow", and, of course, the sea to all humanity.

"The influence of the academy in Character building" was ably elucidated by J. C. Meyer, Esq., of Bellefonte. Referring to the apt address of Dr. Evans on the Pennsylvania Germans Mr. Meyer said he was proud of his German ancestry. While the German may lack the egotism of the New Englander nevertheless if he is forced to it he is able to assert himself and often with much credit to himself. Thirty years ago he came to the Penn Hall academy as a beardless youth with all his hopes and ideals in the future, but now taking a retrospective view one is surprised to see what changes have taken place. It is said that an artist in order to paint a beautiful scene must have a full knowledge of the prospective, and so to judge a life work as that of his beloved teacher, the product of his work showed the real worth of his workmanship. Dr. Wolf inspired his pupils, his life was exemplary. He lived the prayer of Izaak Walton, "I pray only for that simple grace, that I may look my neighbor in the face day by day". When Philip of Macedon wished a teacher for his son, who afterwards became Alexander the Great, he chose Aristotle, and the influence of Aristotle's personality was shown in Alexander's subsequent career. In the years that may still be allotted to him he hoped for much good to come from Dr. Wolf's life. To himself he had been an anchor. To him he owed much to his silent persuasive qualities, his inner strength of character, combining the qualities of Socrates and Aristotle, a face has gone out that has often been unnoticed, and like the acorn falling to the ground but in later years when the mighty oak appears, we see its majestic power that only passing years can reveal what has been wrought. In the sunset of his life the alumni should meet oftener than every six years. We are what we are by virtue of our experiences, and the impress of Dr. Wolf's life upon his students is a permanent one, because the man was in his work. What his students have accomplished in life they owe to him and they should tell him so.

Rev. F. Wetzel, of Rebersburg, spoke on "The Place of the Academy in Our Educational System." The speaker thought that our educational system was not far enough advanced to dispense

with the academy, though we have good township high schools, yet the work is too complicated to prepare pupils for all lines of college work. The academy fills a gap that cannot easily be superseded and its influence cannot be measured. From our small academies our colleges and universities receive their best students. Also the academy lays the foundation of a complete education. A working outline of educational possibilities is given to a student so that he may the better continue, unaided if need be, for the higher avenues of intellectual accomplishments and aspirations.

But the climax of the program was reached when the venerable Doctor Wolf was presented by the president of the Alumni Association, W. M. Grove, and slowly advanced to the front of the platform. He said in substance: "My boys and girls and my good friends, I hardly know where to begin or what to say after all the kind and good things that have been said. It is thirty-seven years since I began teaching in a private school and fifty-six years since I began

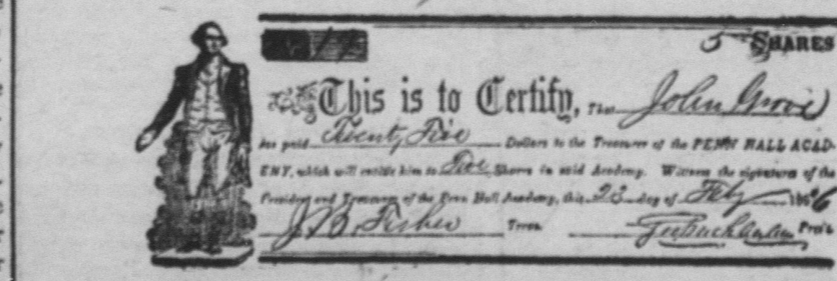
my public school work. My boys and girls, where shall I begin to speak of them? When I see so many of them here with silvered hair, boys who have made life a success and girls who have been good homekeepers. Oh, how often I think of them. Often when sitting alone in my room I see their faces and their characters pass before me in review and I think of the spirit and knowledge I tried to impart to them. They do credit to me, they are all doing good. They are scattered from the eastern to the western shore and some even in lands beyond the seas. I frequently hear from them, and they are not only working with minds that can say two and two are four but are putting their inner selves into their work as



NEW BUILDING AT SPRING MILLS, ERRECTED 1882.

well. But all have grown up and are a blessing to their day and generation. Here the blessing is confirmed, in that the wicked shall endure for three generations but the good shall endure for endless generations. Happily referring to a former speaker's eulogy upon himself as a master workman he said that it should not be forgotten that he had good material to work upon, too, and for that reason the work was so good. He wished to say most emphatically that the work *was* good." But his heart was too full for utterance. Language was inadequate for such an occasion. His life's work was the testimony.

Rev. Lewis Robb, D. D., of Wilkingsburg, an alumnus and former principal of the academy, in whose face is delineated the mirth and sturdy qualities of Centre county's choicest product of academic training, was the last speaker. Dr. Robb said they—meaning the speakers—were all philosophers like his friend who made wheels and the longer he spoke the greater the tire. This inference that his speech was going to be a long one brought forth applause. When a barefooted boy on the steep hills of Curtin township, while Prof. Wolf as county superintendent visited his father's home, it was through him that he was inspired to attend the Penn Hall Academy. "The Kind of an Education the Academy Stands For" was the line



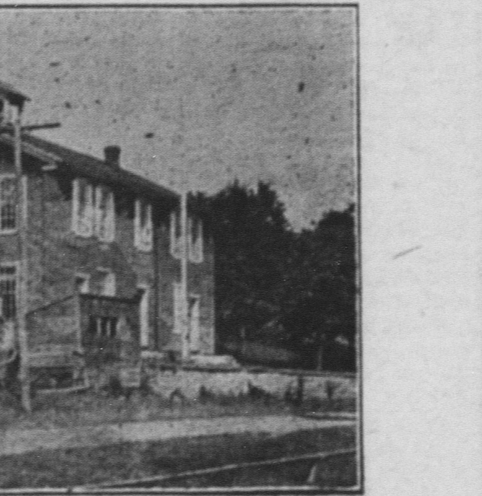
of thought of Dr. Robb's address. He said further and in part that when he first saw the old academy building he had a sense of disappointment and chagrin. It had no equipment, no maps and not even a globe. When the State Educational Department wrote to Prof. Wolf for a list of his apparatus he was compelled to reply that he had none. Two years ago when visiting Washington and Jefferson college, and seeing the old original buildings, which looked more like a stable than a school house, he plainly saw that what made Presbyterianism so strong in Western Pennsylvania was the teaching force of that old college and not the equipment. But one important asset this Penn Hall Academy did have was a man, a personality; there was an educational and inspirational life that moulded his pupils and led them on to aspire to higher things. "The mind is the standard of the man," implied Dr. Robb. Dr. Wolf's life shows that.

"We hold this thing to be grandly true, That a noble deed is a step toward God, Lifting the soul from the common sod, To a purer air and a broader view." This has been the secret of our nation's greatness. Wherever in this land a man has given himself to make others great and strong, the nation has gained a better citizenship. It is a law of life that a teacher can reproduce himself. In this is the hope and joy of a noble life. The embodiment of a personality whom none dare affront radiates and sheds light forever. The teaching of morals and religion as well as intellectual abilities make a symmetrical combination. Garfield said that a log with a pupil at one end and Mark Hopkins at the other end constituted a college. A personality makes a university. To come in contact with such a life changes one's ideals. In concluding Dr. Robb

said that Dr. Wolf had the happy faculty of getting his pupils to work. Again, turning to the jovial side, the preacher said that the reason such good results came from Dr. Wolf's work was due to the skill of the master himself—his acute sense of a pupil's needs. A minister always ties the knot well if he has good stuff to work on, but to the teacher is given a power to make a permanent impression and stamp his personality indelibly upon his pupils' characters.

Cheering and grateful letters were read from alumni from all over this land by Secretary T. M. Gramley.

"God be with you till we meet again" was sung by the entire audience at the conclusion of Dr. Wolf's address. Instrumental music was furnished by the Coburn band.

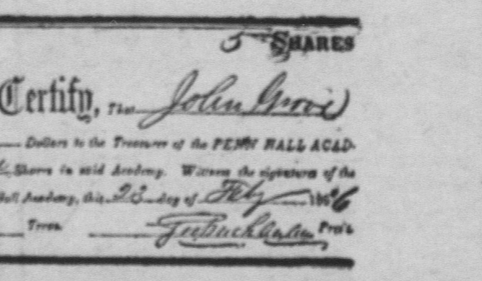


THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN.

An Address by Dr. L. Kryder Evans Before The Alumni of the Penn Hall-Spring Mills Academy.

Dr. L. Kryder Evans, who is located in the heart of a German settlement at Pottstown, Montgomery county, imbued with the spirit of his surroundings, spoke to the alumni of the Penn Hall-Spring Mills Academy at the reunion of that institution, on "The Pennsylvania German." The Pennsylvania German for two hundred years has not laid claim to the history made by his fathers in the early period of the colonies, and the development of the States. The German acted an important part during the formative stage of this great government, as well as being foremost in the religious field at that time. Of late, however, the Pennsylvania German is looking into the history of its early ancestors, and is bringing forth such facts as are related in the address following.

"The Pennsylvania German Monthly" is a periodical published in Philadelphia and is devoted to exploits of the German. Dr. Evans' address is a choice bit of history, which he has kindly permitted The Centre Reporter to reprint, because of the large number of its readers who have Pennsylvania German blood coursing through their veins. Dr. Evans said:



"THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN." I shall endeavor to serve you at this festive gathering by giving you a few facts gleaned from the early history of our German ancestors after their exodus from the fatherland to Pennsylvania. I shall not detract from the merits or standing of any nationality that has contributed its full share in making our country great as it is, but I shall humbly endeavor today, to bear testimony to the integrity and worth of the so-called "Pennsylvania Germans."

There is scarcely a nook or corner in our Keystone State that is not hallowed by the memory of our German ancestors. But more especially in Eastern Pennsylvania, where they first landed and settled. That whole region is full of sacred relics and precious memories of the dangers and trials and sufferings of the first German settlers, and it is with justifiable pride that we can point to their sterling integrity, their piety and loyalty to God and their newly adopted country. They built their humble churches and school houses side by side as a foundation for the development of a broad, conservative and substantial character. We need not be ashamed that we come from Pennsylvania German stock; we need not make any apology because German blood courses in our veins. Only too long have we suffered the noble deeds and valiant service of our fathers to "lie in dark oblivion and desert shade".

The stories of the landing of Columbus in this New World and the landing of the pilgrims of the "Mayflower" at Plymouth rock we are familiar with from our youth. These stories have been perpetuated in painting, poetry and song, and justly too. But how few have as yet risen up to tell and pass down to posterity the story of the trials and hardships of the 4000 pilgrims that landed at New York under

Conrad Weiser, Sr.; the cruelties and indignities they endured at Livingston Manor and Schoharie in New York state; their subsequent sufferings and perils down through the wilds of Pennsylvania until they finally settled in Tulpehocken, Berks county. How little has yet been told of the brave Palatinates who came into Eastern Pennsylvania and of their subsequent trials and sufferings, and yet who, in their day, contributed so liberally of their treasure and blood to redeem the wild and waste howling wilderness and helped forward the triumphs of a christian civilization and make this great Keystone State what it is today. All honor to Columbus, who first discovered this New World; all praise to the Pilgrims that founded a New England. But no less honor to the pilgrims and exiles from the Palatinate. Columbus was backed by the power and treasure of Spain; the "Mayflower" by the power, treasure and sympathy of England. But our German forefathers had no backing whatever. Harassed by wars and oppressed by tribute at home, they were thrust out—compelled to forsake their native land and the precious dust of their fathers and kindred, and venture, by faith and trust in God, across the broad Atlantic into the wilderness of a New World. It was not love of adventure that brought them hither. Besides, the thousands that came were naturally the poorer and weaker, but for all that the most important of all the different nationalities that came. They came so rapidly and in such numbers that the English colonists were seized with alarm. Even such men as James Logan, the confidential secretary of William Penn, and Dr. Ben. Franklin, the scholar and statesman—even these men feared that Pennsylvania would cease to be a British Province. By order of the Assembly (1717) naturalization was refused all coming hither who could not speak the English language. This was the kind of welcome our German ancestors received on their arrival. Ten years later (1727) the Assembly, instructed by the home government, (England) passed an act imposing a duty of forty shillings per head on all foreigners landing here. But our German fathers rose in their majesty and entered a strong but patriotic protest. Then a committee was appointed by the Assembly to inquire into the affairs of these Germans. Here is the report of that committee: "The Germans imported into the province have honestly paid for their lands, and have conducted themselves respectfully toward the government, paid their taxes readily, and are a sober and honest people in their civil and religious duties." (Bravo!) Rev. Thomas, in a letter (1747), says: "I believe the Germans of Pennsylvania are three-fifths of the total population (200,000); that they have, by their industry, been the principal instruments of raising the state to its present flourishing condition beyond any of his majesty's colonies in North America."

Besides the unfounded prejudices our German ancestors had to contend with in securing their rights, they had still more cruel foes to meet in the merciless savages. The hardships they endured amid the most frightful massacres of fire and pillage have never yet been, or ever will be told. Yet amid every adversity they maintained their ground and gradually transformed the wilderness into fertile fields. Flouring mills and factories were built, which soon gave evidence of their enterprise and thrift. As early as 1760 the produce of Eastern Pennsylvania was so great that it required between eight and nine thousand wagons to haul it to market. Right glad was Benjamin Franklin to avail himself of the services of the Pennsylvania German farmers to haul the provision and ammunition for Braddock's expedition and which "old Virginia" was unable to furnish. And there is a little scrap of history to show how honestly and loyally they filled their contract. In a letter to Gov. Morris, Braddock himself smarting under his painful defeat, writes: "In short, in every instance, but in my contract for Penn's German wagons, I have been deceived and met with nothing but lies and villainy."

Again, when we recall the dark days of the Revolution and gather up the muster rolls we will find many German names. Right loyally did they do their part in wresting this country from England, contributing their full share in treasure and blood, both in laying the foundation of our Republic as well as in promoting the triumphs of a Christian civilization.

In 1787, when our statesmen were assembled at Philadelphia earnestly engaged in the framing of the Constitution of these United States, and when the question of adoption came up in the several states, Pennsylvania was the first of the great States to declare in favor of it. The Assembly was then composed of sixty-two members, and when the question of adoption came up there were forty-three votes in favor of it, and nineteen against it. But how about the Penn's German members of that Assembly? There were thirteen

of these Germans in that body and, to their praise and everlasting honor, be it said, every man of them voted in favor of the Constitution. In the war of the Rebellion 80,000 Germans fought on the Union side. In every great movement in the history of our Commonwealth the Penn's Germans have born a conspicuous part. Only too long have they failed to assert themselves and suffered the records of their early history to lie buried. Truthfully indeed has the historian Bancroft said: "Neither they nor their descendants have laid claim to all the praise that was their due."

But our German ancestors were not only distinguished as farmers, mechanics and patriots. There were among them teachers of languages, higher mathematics, music and painting. There was a German Reformed preacher, George Michael Weiss, down near Skipack, in Montgomery county, who could speak and write Latin as well as Doctors Rush and Franklin could the English. He advertised in the "American Weekly Mercury" (Feb. 1729) that he was prepared to teach logic, natural philosophy, metaphysics and other branches to those who desired it.

Our Pennsylvania Germans were among the first to start the printing press (1738) and printed the first German Bible ever printed in America (1743), nearly forty years before the first English Bible was printed by Aiken, and fifty years before a Bible was printed by the descendants of the "Mayflower" in Puritan New England. Down to the time of the Revolutionary War, there were eight newspapers published in Pennsylvania in English and ten newspapers published in German. The Bible was printed in German in the American colonies three times before it was printed in English. The New Testament was printed in German seven times before it was printed in English. Besides other publications in German were to be found essays on music, bibliography, pedagogy and astronomy. The history of our country amply proves that no nationality has shown greater devotion to the cause of education than the Penn's Germans. You may take the Governors of our Commonwealth from Wolf down to Stuart and you will find enthusiastic advocates both of free schools and higher education. Two of the leading Normal Schools of our state—Millersville and Kutztown—are thriving in Penn's German communities. Today eight Penn's German counties in our Commonwealth own school property worth over three million dollars, that is, one-fifth of all the school property outside of Philadelphia. And more—we have placed over the 24000 schools of Pennsylvania a typical Penn's German, a type of thorough scholarship, business tact and progressiveness, Dr. N. C. Schaeffer. Franklin college, now Franklin and Marshall, the oldest, except one, in the state, was founded by our Penn's ancestors, 121 years ago. We have men in our pulpits and occupying professorial chairs in the leading theological and literary institutions of our country—men whose fame has reached beyond this Western Continent challenging the recognition and respect of the ablest scholars in Europe.

In this my native county, the prolific mother of governors, statesmen, jurists, physicians, ministers and educators, there rises before me in memory a long line of worthies who have left their names indelibly upon the community in which they lived and wrought and taught.

And him whom we delight to honor today—is he not only a typical Penn's German product at his best, but who has combined in his love for his work a thoroughness and mastery of his profession, and became an inspiration and an uplift to a little army of noble men and women scattered all over our fair domain, and who, with many of us here today, will rise up and invoke upon him a fervent benediction.

THE ACADEMY REUNION.

A Grand Success Through the Efforts of the Committee—Brief History of the Institution.

It is due the organization to say that the grand success of the Penn Hall-Spring Mills Academy Alumni Reunion was due to the untiring efforts of the officers of the organization and the various committees. The officers were:

W. M. GROVE, president
T. M. GRAMLEY, secretary
Hon. W. M. ALLISON, treasurer

BRIEF HISTORICAL NOTE
Prior to 1866 the Gregg township school directors were about to erect a school building, and as there was an educational spirit in the vicinity of Penn Hall the idea suggested itself that that community should have an Academy. Those mostly interested formed a stock company, and with \$800 collected by subscription, added a second story on the township school building being erected at that time. On this company General George B. Buchanan was president, and Major J. B. Fisher, secretary-treasurer. There were thirteen

(Continued on page 8.)