

THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN

As Pictured by a Potter Township Colonel Before the Pennsylvania Society of St. Louis.

[By Col. S. L. Stiver, Bunker Hill, Ill.] PART I

When an old colored minister of my town invites your speaker, for the third time in quick succession, to attend his Sunday services to hear a new sermon on the Book of Revelation to be delivered to his congregation, slowly gathered during many years, consisting of himself, his wife and one old "auntie," "your orator," to use a legal phrase, feels it his duty to respond and to make as large a contribution to the cause through the collection basket as he can conveniently spare at the time.

It is not likely that the Pennsylvania Society of St. Louis will claim to be any better informed than the Lord as to the personal history of the speaker and his right to represent the Germans of Pennsylvania. He will say, therefore, at once, that he was born at Potters Mills, Potter township, Centre county, Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and was brought up among Pennsylvania Germans chiefly, and he hopes, well and worthily, until he attained his majority, after which he spent some years at College in Northampton county, in proximity to many ancient Pennsylvania German families. Later he added to his acquaintance a goodly number of German people in Lancaster and in Franklin counties, and has been acquainted with the language, properly called Pennsylvania German, from his youth.

General James Potter, of Philadelphia, was commander of the Pennsylvania Militia during the Revolutionary War and, on one of his excursions to central Pennsylvania during that time to inspect the defenses of the scattered population in that region against the Indians, he looked down from the top of Nittany Mountain over beautiful Penns Valley and exclaimed: "Here is the site of an empire."

Quakers in influence, even in Philadelphia and very early in its history. The Germans come next and they settled in Eastern Pennsylvania just west of the Quakers and from that region penetrated into central and other portions of the state, overflowing later into Ohio and aiding in the settlement of the northern half of the Mississippi Valley, many going into northern Illinois and some locating even in St. Louis where they seem to have joined this society in considerable numbers.

Of the Scotch-Irish element, it needs only here be said that they were mostly Presbyterians, were usually well educated, were aggressive as leaders, settled in the richest valleys everywhere, had much influence in the state from the first, and have always had their honorable share in every department of the varied interests and achievements of the Keystone state. From their ranks have come such men as governors Mifflin, McKean, Curtin, (probably) Hastings and Stuart, and such prominent characters as Cameron, Quay, Knox and many others. But it is to Pennsylvania Germans that our attention must now be especially limited.

"Pennsylvania Dutch" is a misnomer. Of Hollanders in Pennsylvania there have always been so few that they have no need of special mention here. The German words, "Pennsylvania Deutch," should be translated "Pennsylvania German" and not "Pennsylvania Dutch." "Hollander" is the equivalent for Holland Dutch. Those who understand the German language will readily grant this. Nor are all the Germans who live in Pennsylvania entitled to be called "Pennsylvania Germans" as these words were first used in that state. The first Germans who came to Pennsylvania came from the Palatinate on the Rhine and spoke, in the Palatinate, the dialect of German called by the English in Pennsylvania, by way of distinction from other German, Pennsylvania German. The true and distinctive Pennsylvania German now preserved in Dr. Harbaugh's little volume of Pennsylvania German poems, was simply Palatinate German; and other Germans in Pennsylvania did not and could not speak it at all.

In the course of time all Germans in Pennsylvania came to speak a German corrupted by contact with the predominant English, and so helped to break down the differences between Palatinate German and other German. Finally all Germans in the state descended from those who came over in early times, have come to speak good English. From these we must except a few in regions remote from English speaking communities. Pennsylvania German is not spoken now in Germany for similar reasons as it is fast becoming a "dead language." So much for the proper use of terms.

Shipping Regulations.

The state sanitary board has sent notices to all railroad agents in Centre county that the county has been placed under quarantine and that cattle, sheep, swine, hides, hay, straw and fodder must not be shipped out of the county unless a proper certificate accompanies the shipment that it did not come from a farm where the food and mouth disease had afflicted the cattle. The shippers from this station have only to conform to the regulations to obtain permits since there was never at any time a case of the disease in the county. The only reason for including Centre county in the quarantine district is because of its being close to points where the disease had been prevalent.

The two cent passenger rate law passed by the last legislature helped the judges in the state earn the extra increase in salary. The judges have all been busy issuing decrees permitting the railroad to charge the old rate of three cents a mile. Judge A. O. Allison was the last to decree, giving the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg Railway Company the benefit of the old law.

Lightning never strikes twice in the same place, except the brand known as Jersey lightning.

From South Dakota. Rev. D. J. Mitterling, Ph. D., D. D., pastor of the Presbyterian church, of Madison, South Dakota, and formerly from Potter township, writes the Reporter thus:

It may be of interest to many to learn of the recent religious revival experienced in Madison, South Dakota. It proved one of the greatest in the history of this great state. Six of Protestant churches of the city united in the project and erected a tabernacle with a seating capacity of fifteen hundred. Evangelist, Rev. R. E. Johnson, and his singer, Prof. I. A. Wegner, conducted the work for five and one-half weeks. A certain degree of the usual opposition to the work of God's people was manifested but by united effort on their part the wall of the enemies was laid low; the crowds increased and the Spirit of God laid hold on saint and sinner. Eight hundred and twelve professed Christ as Saviour; over sixty-five per cent. of this number were men, the young men predominating. The last day seventy-five professions were made and the work might have continued except for other arrangements. Evangelist Johnson is a mighty man in prayer and a great power in the use of the Word in its specific application to all conditions of sin. His instructions to converts are thoroughly biblical, heart-searching and light-giving to such as seek the way from sin to the Saviour. Prof. Wegner is a great organizer and director of the musical forces and the music was a prominent feature of the meetings. Many of the opera devotees expressed a preference for the music over that highly paid for at the opera house. The city, from a religious consideration, is literally transformed and the Bible is studied in many of the business places, as opportunity is afforded. The ministers of the city are now busy gathering the converts into the different churches, and the Presbyterian church will nearly double its membership.

Sugar Valley Fire Insurance Co.

The stockholders of the Sugar Valley Mutual Fire Insurance Company, held a meeting in the office of the company for the purpose of electing a new board of directors for the ensuing year. The following were elected: T. R. Harter, Loganton; J. C. Strohecker, Booneville; Samuel Suiter, Lock Haven; George Garbrick, Bellefonte; Beneville Zerbe, Collinsville; Nelson Rowe, Jersey Shore; Chas. Noll, Lewisburg; W. L. Shollenberger, Heppburnville; A. N. Heckman, Lamar; S. L. Mull, Ellinsport; Wm. Gummo, Beech Creek, and A. E. Bartiges, Millheim.

Prof. J. E. Wagner Promoted.

The Bellefonte Daily News says: At a meeting of the Bellefonte school board held on Friday evening Prof. Jonas E. Wagner was elected Supervising Principal of the schools of Bellefonte to succeed Prof. John D. Meyer, who resigned to accept a position in Altoona. He is elected to fill out the unexpired term of Prof. Meyer, but in all probability will be given the full term. Prof. Wagner has been principal of the High School for some time and has been quite successful in his work. His election to the Supervising Principalship is a well deserved promotion and we feel that the Bellefonte schools will continue to advance under his leadership.

From Johnstown Again.

This is what Mr. Luther Smith, of Johnstown, a business man in that city, writes the Reporter: The "Prosperity Wave" promised if Taft would be elected has not yet struck this city. There are thousands out of work and cannot buy the necessities of life. They are anxiously awaiting the promised prosperity wave. Yes, we have a cut in wages, a rise in the prices of the necessities of life, and soup houses. Nuf sed.

Keith's Theatre.

This is the 1000th week of continuous vaudeville in Keith's theatre, Philadelphia, and the bill is a notable one. Julius Steger is a headliner, in his own musical-dramatic playlet, "The Fifth Commandment." The Gainsborough Girl is a grand classical spectacular novelty. Ray Cox, "The Girl from Dixie," will sing, and Violet Allen & Company are offering a comedy entitled "Keeping an Appointment." "Jessie, Jack and Jerry" as presented by Bradles, Martin & Co., is one of the amusing skits of the season. The Brothers Artois are giving some European comedy bar wonders. Rastos Brown, singing and dancing comedian; Jeanne & Ellsworth, in a vocal and instrumental novelty, are two other interesting features, while Captain Winston's educated seals are of great interest to the children.

Caucuses in Potter.

An item in the Reporter last week, which stated that the caucuses throughout the county would be conducted under the old system confused a number of voters in Potter township. Potter township, up to a few years ago, was a law unto itself, and conducted the caucuses at a central point, the voters from the three precincts assembling there and placing in nomination candidates for the various offices. A few years ago this method was changed, the caucuses being held in each of the various precincts in the township on the same day and hour. This is the method by which nominations will be made Saturday, 23rd instant, and the caucuses will be held at from two to four o'clock, at the following places—

North precinct, at Old Fort. South precinct, at Potters Mills. West precinct, at Colyer. This manner of holding caucuses is the "old method," the "new method" is under the uniform primary law, which law is ignored in Centre county as far as applying to the winter primaries is concerned.

Next Week's Corn Show.

The man who grew the Grand Champion ear of corn at the late National Corn Show, at Omaha, will send his best ear to the Pennsylvania Corn Show to be held at Harrisburg, January 25-29, so our corn growers can compare notes. Every Pennsylvania corn-grower should send ten ears of his best corn to W. H. Moody, Chestnut Street Hall, Harrisburg, at once, and try to win one of the nine silver cups or one of the 45 cash prizes offered for good corn by the Penn's Live Stock Breeder's Association. There are no entry fees.

LOCALS.

The old question of incorporating Reedsville is again being discussed. Mrs. Charles Harbach, of Sugar Valley, mother of James Harbach, of Rebersburg, died at the age of seventy years. The Millburg Telegraph says: Mrs. William R. From is visiting her daughter, Miss Maude, in Williamsport, also friends in Muncy.

Frank J. Lee, the negro who killed George Porter, in Lewistown, a few weeks ago, has been captured in Houston, Halifax county, Virginia.

Emanuel Swartz, moved from Madisonburg and now occupies his own residence, on North street, Millheim, lately purchased from Mrs. Taylor.

While chopping pulp wood near Graysville, J. C. Norton almost severed his right foot. The same time Jacob Harpster almost severed his big toe on his left foot.

Miss Roxanna Brisbin returned from Hartford, Connecticut, the latter part of last week, after a stay there of several weeks among friends. She also visited at other points.

George Johnson, of near Pine Grove Mills, is in hard luck again. On going to his barn one morning recently he found one of his horses dead in the stall. This is the seventh one.

Wednesday night of last week it snowed about four inches; Thursday there was fine sleighing; Thursday night it rained; Friday the sun shone, and melted much of the snow; Friday night it froze up.

The Lutheran church, at Tylersville, was remodeled at an expenditure of almost \$400, most of the improvements having been confined to the interior. The pastor is Rev. J. B. Guiney. Rev. J. M. Hearick, of Salona, and Rev. H. C. Bixler, of Rebersburg, assisted in conducting the dedicatory services.

The Sugar Valley Journal has been revived, Volume Eighteen, No. 1, bearing date of 14th inst. The editor is S. Bird Taylor, and he admits in his first issue that he is not in the business solely for his health. The Reporter hopes Editor Taylor's health will continue good, and his wealth swell.

Manager Garman of the Bellefonte opera house has a number of first class shows booked for the latter half of the season in that place. Among the number are "Ma's New Husband," which will be there this week; "The Arrival of Kitty," "Graustark," "The Mummy and the Humming Bird," and a number others of equally high class reputation.

The Williamsport Consistory of the Scottish Rite Masons 32nd degree will hold their ninth annual reunion at Williamsport in the magnificent Howard Cathedral on Jan. 27th, continuing for three days, when it will wind up on Friday night with a banquet. The class to receive the degrees already numbers about forty, there being several from Centre county. It takes three full days to confer all the degrees from the 4th to the 32nd inclusive. Wednesday night, the 27th, a musical and dance will be held for the members and their ladies and is generally a swell affair.

Lumbering in the Seven Mountains.

There is yet some lumbering to be done in the Seven Mountains where it was thought the timber had been cut and removed some years ago. A. W. Neff tells the Reporter that Messrs. Whitmer & Steele have their headquarters at his place, the old Kerlin farm, and with a number of men and fifteen head of horses are taking the prop timber from a tract of two hundred and fifty-one acres purchased from him and from one hundred and seventy acres purchased from the Colyer estate. Unless the firm can sell some of the timber fit for bill stuff, they will erect a saw mill.

The Neff Brothers—C. R. and C. B.—have cut into logs one hundred thousand feet of timber from the Riechley tract, which tract will soon pass into the hands of the state. Much of this timber is choice, but is expensive to get to where a saw mill can be erected. Mr. Neff has granted the Neffs privilege to erect a mill near his buildings, which will be done sometime in the future. Part of this timber will be used in the construction of a circular barn proposed to be erected by Prof. C. R. Neff, and part for a large straw shed which Charles B. Neff intends building. The choicest logs will be cut into plank and put on the market. Much of the timber, and is the finest one can wish for. The only reason it was left standing is because of the difficulty in trailing it to where it could be skidded and hauled out. This phase of the problem the Neffs have already almost overcome.

The Farmers' Mut. Fire Ins. Co.

The annual meeting of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company was held in Petriken hall, Bellefonte. The board of directors elected for the ensuing year included the following: J. B. Goheen, Frank McFarlane, J. B. Strohm, F. M. Fisher, Robert Reed, W. Fred Reynolds, H. E. Duck, G. B. Haines, George Mitchell, Frederick Kurtz, Z. D. Thomas and J. H. Beck. The board organized by electing the following officers: President, Frederick Kurtz; vice president, H. E. Duck; secretary, D. F. Luse; treasurer, J. R. Brungart.

Applications for insurance aggregating fifty thousand dollars were passed upon by the directors. The annual statement showed the total of insurance risks carried by the company to be \$2,816,195, all in Centre county. It was decided to make an increase of two per cent. upon the premium note for gasoline engines. The loss on the J. W. Lee farm was adjusted to eight hundred dollars on the building and one hundred dollars on his share of the contents.

Judge Hall on License.

Judge Harry Alvin Hall in a plain talk to the constables of Elk county, in open court said: "The man who holds a valuable franchise like a liquor license and has not the sense to preserve it by observing the law is not fit to have a license and shall not have one in my district. . . . I want it distinctly understood that I will permit no violations of the liquor law in this county, neither will I permit the constables to tolerate them."

Judge Hall further told the constables that if they persisted in permitting violations of the liquor laws without returning the same to the court, he would prosecute the officers themselves.

Hoffman Guilty.

Edward Hoffman, who created a sensation in Millburg several months ago by writing threatening letters to W. F. Brown, of that borough, in which he demanded \$300 to be placed in a box at a designated place, was tried before the Union county court and found guilty. It will be remembered that Hoffman was captured by a posse just as he approached the spot he had designated as the one where the money should be put. He got three years in the pen.

Pastors Exchange Pulpits.

Rev. Daniel Gress and Rev. E. T. Rhodes, of Lewisport, will exchange pulpits Sunday, January 24. Services in the morning at Spring Mills, in the afternoon at Union, and in the evening at Centre Hall.

Rev. E. T. Rhodes is pastor of the Reformed church at Lewisport which is still a mission church. He desires to receive an offering on Sunday for the benefit of his mission.

Legislature Resumes Work.

Monday the General Assembly got down to active work, the task of organization having been perfected in the recess. There is much to do in the twelve weeks elapsing before the time fixed for the adjournment, April 15. Schools, roads, pensions and tax rates will be the subjects of greatest general concern. It will be a task of more than usual difficulty to meet the demand for heavier outgo by adequate provision for revenue.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Hon. Harry R. Curtin is seriously ill at his home at Curtin. The first half of the borough school term closes this week. Four more months follow.

John G. King has recovered sufficiently to be out of bed, and now Mrs. King is suffering greatly from a beating in her head.

Byron Garis is having his dwelling house weatherboarded, which will add to the comfort of the occupants and to the general appearance.

Jonas Bible and Wilbur Dashem, of Centre Hill, spent a few days with the former's son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Bible, in Altoona.

Fire did considerable damage to the stock of goods in the Andrew Korman store room, at Spring Mills, Thursday morning of last week. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Second Lieutenant Richard Taylor was made First Lieutenant of Company B, 5th Regiment, N. G. P. The vacancy was caused by the resignation of First Lieutenant S. D. Gettig.

It is said John Stoner will rebuild the store room recently burned at Millheim. The same was occupied by Nevin Auman. Mr. Stoner expects to have the new building ready for occupancy by the first of April.

Miss Gardner, late head nurse in the Bellefonte hospital, is now in charge of the Miners' hospital, at Spangler, and Miss Lorrab, also a graduate of the Bellefonte hospital training school, is an assistant in the same institution.

Phillip J. Auman, of Johnstown, was at Potters Mills last week, coming one day and returning the next. His mission to Potter township was to visit his aged father, who makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. William Blauser, at Potters Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Bible, of Centre Hill, and Samuel Bible, of Oak Hall Station, were visitors at the home of the Bible sisters, east of Centre Hall. Some weeks ago Samuel Bible had a mishap that injured his arm, but the member is gradually recovering.

Calvin Ruhl has accepted the offer made by C. N. Kryder, the Virginia lumberman, to become boss of a number of men in the woods, and will go to Covington this week. His family will remain here until spring, at which time they will likely locate at Bellefonte.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Union County Agricultural society held in Lewisburg the following officers were elected: President, Harry Gast, of Millburg; treasurer, M. H. Leaser, secretary, Francis T. Baker; librarian, J. C. Kunkle, of Lewisburg. There were fifty-seven vice presidents elected, representing every section of the county.

The Reporter regrets to note that John T. Harrison is confined to his home, in Jersey Shore, all the time at present. He has been in delicate health for several years, but was able to be about for at least some of the time until recently. Mr. Harrison, when a young man, went to school in Centre Hall, and many of the Reporter's readers will recall him.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will be pleased to note in the urgent deficiency bill an item of \$12,000 for the purchase of automobiles for the President. Mr. Taft will not use horses much, though he will probably not give up carriages and pairs of horses entirely. Horses qualified to carry him have been reported in various parts of the country, but he is not expected to appear often in the saddle.

Samuel E. Weber, the junior partner of the firm of Weber Brothers, doing business at Centre Hall and Oak Hall Station, was in Centre Hall last week. Mr. Weber spends a considerable part of his time on the road looking up the interests of the firm, whose business has become quite extensive and covers a large territory. Their flour and feed mill at Centre Hall is running regularly, and is shipping large quantities of flour and feed. The firm is also dealing largely in hay and straw.

Saturday noon snow began falling, and by Sunday morning fully six inches of the beautiful had fallen. Sunday night the high wind set in, drifting the light dry snow in many places several feet deep. Monday the sun shone brightly. By six o'clock mercury fell to fourteen degrees above, and by midnight the record was broken, mercury standing at zero. Sometime after midnight the mercury went down to seven and one-half degrees below zero. These figures are from a government high class outfit, one of the thermometers of which marks the lowest point to which the mercury has fallen and can be read at any time.