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THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN

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

[By Col. S. L. Stever, Bunker Hill, Ill.]
PART III.

The exigencies of the Revolutionary War were such that the armies for defense in any engagement or state were drawn from local sources largely and there was never much of a general continental army drawn from the colonies as a whole. The Germans of Pennsylvania did their share in recruiting the continental army and in protecting their own borders from invaders and from Indians. No other colony did more in those days. The Pennsylvania militia were notably well organized and active in the revolutionary period. And supplies from Germans saved the army of Washington from cold and famine at Valley Forge.

In the War of 1812 the Germans of Pennsylvania were as active as others under similar circumstances, and yet there was not much for any state to do so far removed from the seat of war, and especially on the high seas where most of the military operations were carried on by the sea-faring portion of the people of the country.

For the Mexican War the most of the recruits for the army were from the South where the war was a popular event on account of the prospect of enlarging the area for slavery.

In the Civil War from the Germans of Pennsylvania came about 80,000 of the enlistment of 360,000, or nearly one-fourth of the whole. On the whole the Germans of Pennsylvania have never cared much for public office or for political or sectional strife, and they have generally been more inclined to do the home work and to supply the needs of war than to go into the field and do the fighting. Yet they have done their share as it came to them, and have done it well.

In the civil history of the state, the Germans have had a large and honorable share. In the early history of the transportation agencies of the state they were superior. They owned and operated over 10,000 large freight wagons in Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary War.

John Fitch had steamboats running on the Delaware, conveying freight and passengers, before Fulton successfully launched the Clermont on the Hudson.

The Germans established the first paper mill in this country at Germantown. They owned and operated nearly all the flouring and saw mills in Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary War, and a majority of them since. They were the best farmers, millers, mechanics, merchants, tanners, lumbermen, teamsters, printers, and publishers before the Revolutionary War in their own state. They owned and published ten of the eighteen newspapers in the state before that war, and many since. They first published the Bible in German in this country, long before it was printed in English here.

They had schools side by side with their churches from the very first in Pennsylvania. They had scholars who could teach not only German but Latin and other learned languages before they were taught in New England. They kept records of births, of baptisms, of confirmations, of marriages and of deaths in a systematic way from the first, such as most of the states have since provided for tardily by law.

They founded such colleges as Franklin, Marshall, Pennsylvania and others, at an early period in the state.

They had an educated ministry from the first and prided themselves in supporting their churches with liberal and generous provisions.

They persecuted no one and, though they were the first protestants, they never took down the cross from their steeples and substituted a rooster, they never burned witches, exiled Quakers, or ceased to observe Christmas as was done in New England. They produced no religious fanatics or schismatics or heretics or criminals. They sent the first missionaries to the Indians in Pennsylvania. They treated the aborigines with justice and civility and had no Indian wars of their making. They were quiet and peaceable in all things and loved home, hospitality, generosity, justice, simplicity, honesty and honor. They were frugal and industrious but very charitable and kind to strangers of all kinds. They practiced the simple life and loved God and man, homely as they were in their manners and customs in many respects, in their earlier history in the state. Now no more urbane and refined and polished gentleman can be found anywhere than the educated and enlightened Pennsylvania German. In the possession of school property of all kinds and in educational affairs of the state they are now leaders and prominent.

But no account of the Pennsylvania German. (Continued on next column.)

CENTRE COUNTY GRANGE ENTERPRISES.

(Paper by Miss Florence Rhone, read before Pomona Grange.)

It is but just to the County Grange that an annual review should be made of the growth and achievements of the County Grange, so that the members of the order generally may comprehend the scope of work the Grange is doing and join it in celebrating its achievements.

We, as members of the order, should intelligently understand the work the County Grange is doing for the benefit of the members of the order. It was a great achievement of the Grange when it succeeded in bringing the farmers together and uniting them into local Granges, so as to enable them to act together for their common good. Then again to bring these local organizations together into the County Grange as one organization, through which the several local Granges are enabled to act together in a larger capacity to promote the best interests of the agricultural class of the entire county.

Through the instrumentality of the Grange many farmers have been brought forward and educated to fill useful positions in life, so that the County Grange has qualified men and women to intelligently fill any position to which they may be called in the Grange or before the public.

It must be said to the credit of the Grange that in pursuit of its work it has never been compelled to go outside of its membership for qualified persons to prepare the plans of the many business enterprises organized to promote the welfare of the farmers and the business interests of its membership. Indeed many of its members have become good writers, speakers and readers before the public. No school ever established in a rural community has done so much to intelligently educate the farmer and his family for the daily duties of life.

It is to be regretted that there are still some farmers who deprive themselves and their families of the educational advantages that the Grange affords to its members.

The County Pomona Grange was organized in Sept. 1875, and has continued in successful operation for nearly thirty-four years, and has established numerous business enterprises in the interest of the farmer. The Grange Fire Ins. Company was organized in the spring of 1876, with an insurance of \$206,000, and was incorporated by the state under the laws governing insurance companies. The plans for its government were drawn by its own membership, so that there is not a rule or law that has not been devised and perfected by the County Grange.

Its sole purpose is to insure the most humble as well as the most affluent member that has a home that the order has pledged itself to protect. The company has now been in active operation for thirty-three years and carries an insurance of \$6,270,942.00, at an average cost of 21 cents per hundred dollars of actual insurance for thirty-three years, which is twelve cents less per hundred dollars than the average cost in all mutual companies doing business in Pennsylvania for the same period, and from two to seven cents less per hundred than

the average cost in all other companies doing business in Centre county for the same length of time. The average cost in all mutual companies doing business in Pennsylvania for the last year was forty-nine cents per hundred dollars of insurance.

Our company has paid to distressed patrons who lost their homes by fire since its organization, in 1876, \$159,445.23. It is doubtful whether any other fraternal organization has contributed a larger amount for relief of its distressed membership during the same period of time.

Then again, the County Grange has organized its own Encampment and Fair Association, which was started as a one day picnic in 1874, and enlarged into a three day encampment in 1887, and was still further enlarged, in 1891, into not only an encampment, but into the Grange fair, the County Grange purchasing twenty-eight acres of land at Centre Hall which has been converted into a park. In starting this enterprise the County Grange had but \$250 to back it up but by economic management and the united effort and loyal support of the membership throughout the county, the County Grange has been enabled to build up one of the finest fair grounds in the central part of Pennsylvania.

with convenient and attractive buildings, equipped with a complete outfit of over one hundred tents, without a single dollar of debt resting upon its property, and for the last two years has paid cash premiums for every meritorious article placed on exhibition. The County Grange has also helped to organize and capitalize other business enterprises in the interest of the order, besides holding stock in National Banks that are worth in the market \$140 per share, and ten shares in Building and Loan Associations that are now worth \$77 per share; it also holds shares of stock in fourteen branch telephone companies.

The County Grange organized the Patrons Rural Telephone Company in the fall of 1905, which has now under its management fourteen branch companies, with an estimated paid up capital of \$6,000, under an incorporated company with an authorized capital of \$10,000, and has upwards of 250 phones in use on its lines, giving service to its members at from \$5 to \$7 less per instrument than that given by the old line companies, all brought about in the short period of three years by the united and loyal support of the membership of the order.

Besides the business enterprises enumerated, there has been under consideration by the Grange the feasibility of organizing a co-operative Grange Bank, with other needed organizations, to help the farmer market his crops in a more economic and profitable way through associated effort and capitalization.

The foregoing are only a few of the successful achievements of the County Grange which, with all their prosperity and success, are not to be compared with the great fraternity it has built up among the farmers of Centre county, establishing confidence and good fellowship among the people of the rural communities.

Transfer of Real Estate.

W. C. Meyer to Marion Meyer, Dec. 24, 1908; lot in State College. \$400.

Rose L. Bickle et al, to T. E. Greist, Oct. 9, 1908; lot in Unionville. \$250.

State Deposit & Trust Co., of Philadelphia, to George W. Beamer, Aug. 12, 1902 81 acres, 35 perches in Taylor twp. \$162.44.

Christ Decker et ux, to George Roockey, May 28, 1908; lot in Walker twp. \$100.

George Roockey et ux, to Christ Decker, May 28, 1908; lot in Walker township. \$100.

[Continued from Previous Column.]

Germans would be complete without reference to their services and eminence in the political affairs of the state.

Delaware was the first state to ratify the Constitution of the United States a few days after came Pennsylvania. Of the sixty-two members of that Convention, thirteen were Germans. All these Germans voted for the adoption of the Constitution while nineteen of other nationalities voted against adoption.

After the adoption of the first state constitution in 1790, down to 1808, Thomas Mifflin and Thomas McKean, each serving three terms of three years each as governors, bring the service of the English and Scotch-Irish in that office through the first eighteen years. Then, with the exception of three years and that due to the death of one of the governors, there was a succession of German governors for thirty years, to 1838, when a new constitution was adopted.

The worst about the long green is that it doesn't remain long enough.

Agriculture in Public Schools.

In Illinois agriculture is taught in the public schools, in all grades. Prof. Cyrus Grove, superintendent of the Stephenson county public schools, forwarded the Reporter a copy of the semi-annual examination questions on all topics. Those referring to agriculture are especially interesting, and one can infer that the pupils under Prof. Grove's jurisdiction are acquainted with topics in agriculture with which many farmers are strangers, but ought to have an intimate acquaintance. There is much to learn in agriculture, there are secrets beyond the comprehension of the average farmer and pupil in the public school, but there is also much that can be learned by the boy or girl who studies agriculture from the first to the last years of school life. Much of the knowledge that may be acquired by children prior to sixteen years of age, made five or six hundred farmers from all parts of Pennsylvania assembled at Pennsylvania State College, just a short time ago, gave in wonderment that such knowledge existed. Many bits of the most valuable information concerning agriculture could be learned by the pupil in the public schools more easily than to acquire them after attaining an age when everything new—to them—is regarded with suspicion. Pennsylvania should teach agriculture in the public schools as well as Illinois, and Prof. Grove's pamphlet is proof that the subject can be taught and the pupils comprehend it in the first year of school as well as in the last.

Talk is cheap until you go to buy a box at the opera.

Don't stretch the truth. It is apt to fly back and sting you.

NEW SCHOOL LAW.

Much of the Legislation in Existing Laws Will be Re-Enacted.

The bill drafted by the State Educational Commission to take the place of the existing school laws was presented by Senator Miller, of Bedford, and Representative Lydick, of Allegheny.

The bill repeals all of the 2000 odd existing school laws, and re-enacts many of them. The bill is divided into 29 articles. In addition to making radical changes in the laws it groups all school statutes under the one head. The chairman of the commission is Superintendent of Public Instruction Schaeffer.

The bill provides for a State board of education advisory to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and changes the educational system generally.

It also provides that the State forestry reservations shall be considered the basis of a State school fund, all income from them to be applied to educational purposes in order to safeguard the schools of the future.

The bill creates three classes of school districts. First, cities of over 400,000 people, which includes only Philadelphia and Pittsburgh; second, all cities, boroughs and townships of over 5000; third, all having less.

The commission recommends that the school directors be elected as non-partisan, advocating a change of the election laws so that election of directors is taken out of politics.

Grove Family Organized.

A number of Groves, representing the branches of the various Grove families in Centre county, met at the Garman House, Saturday afternoon and perfected a county organization. D. C. Grove, of Zion, was elected president, and William M. Grove, of Spring Mills, secretary. Among other business transacted was to decide to hold a reunion on Grange Park, Centre Hall, June 10th.

Keith's Theatre.

Arturo Bernardi, the wonderful protean player, is making his first appearance in Philadelphia at Keith's Theatre, this week. He is presenting a one-man drama in which he plays nine distinct parts. Claude Gillingwater & Company are playing a welcome return in "A Strenuous Rehearsal." La Petite Revue is a novel presentation of impersonations of stage celebrities. Howard's musical ponies and comedy dogs are a special delight to the children. Franco Piper, the banjo king, is on the bill, as is Sadie Jansell imitator of stage celebrities. Carroll Johnson, "The Beau Brummell of Minstrelsy," appears with new songs, stories and parodies.

Millheim Sees Its Error.

The following item taken from the Journal indicates that Millheim is beginning to see its error in permitting a private company to erect a water plant and cede to it privileges that should have been retained. The Journal says:

"An effort is being made by prominent citizens of the borough to raise a company to put in another water plant in Millheim. The poor facilities the borough has in the present water plant for fire protection is the reason for the move. The borough granted the franchise to the Millheim Water company in good faith with the understanding that the company would furnish a good and sufficient supply of water for fire protection, and as everybody knows, it has not done so. As a sufficient supply of water is necessary in case of fire, as shown at the recent fire, this move is projected for the safety of our homes."

J. D. Murray Successful.

After a great deal of effort and correspondence J. D. Murray, the popular druggist, has succeeded in getting the Dr. Howard Company in making a special half price introductory offer on the regular fifty-cent size of their celebrated specific for the cure of constipation and dyspepsia.

Dr. Howard's specific has been so remarkably successful in curing constipation, dyspepsia and all liver troubles, that Mr. Murray is willing to return the price paid in every case where it does not give relief.

Headaches, coated tongue, dizziness, gas on stomach, specks before the eyes, constipation, and all forms of liver and stomach trouble are soon cured by this scientific medicine.

So great is the demand for this specific that Mr. Murray has been able to secure only a limited supply, and everyone who is troubled with dyspepsia, constipation or liver trouble should call upon him at once, or send 25 cents, and get sixty doses of the best medicine ever made, on this special half price offer with his personal guarantee to refund the money if it does not cure.

It keeps many a fellow busy looking for a job.

FARMERS' UPLIFT.

The Commission Finds the Farmer of Today Unlike the Farmer of a Decade Ago.

The farmers' uplift commission, now at work in Washington, already finds that the real farmers—those who grow the cattle and raise the crops which city people must have to live—have undoubtedly been, on the whole, the most prosperous element in the country during the past year. Their staples have brought almost uniformly good prices. The mortgages which burdened so many farms have generally been paid off. This is notably the case in the Middle West, where the possession of fast horses, pianos, and even automobiles is common among men who were ready to listen to Populist preachers a dozen years ago. As for the isolation of farm life, this also has been signally modified.

More than forty thousand rural free delivery routes now serve nearly twenty millions of people. Thanks to Hon. Leonard Rhone, who was the first to plead with Postmaster General Wanamaker for an appropriation for experimental rural mail service.

Over fifteen thousand miles of trolley lines run through country districts where they were unknown a generation back, connecting villages and neighborhoods, and affording means for quick and cheap transit from one place to another.

The country telephone—often owned and operated by mutual associations of farmers for their own local use as in the case with the Patrons Rural Telephone Company in Centre county—link literally hundreds of thousands of homesteads into chains over which instantaneous communication is possible at all seasons, day or night.

Lecture for Farmers.

Of the Howard Creamery Corporation, of which W. Gross Mingle is general manager, has issued two hundred or more invitations to farmers in Pennsylvania to attend a lecture to be given in Grange Arcadia, Friday evening of this week, by Prof. H. E. Van Norman, professor of Dairy Husbandry at Pennsylvania State College. Stock feeding and milk production will be two of the subjects which will be discussed. Prof. Van Norman is a pleasing speaker and is well acquainted with the subjects on which he will talk. The farmer who receives a card may consider himself fortunate to be able to hear such an able discussion at the expense of the Howard Creamery Corporation.

After the lecture is over a light lunch will be served to the invited guests.

Fire at Valley View.

Early Thursday morning of last week fire broke out in the building occupied by A. I. Garbrick at Valley View, in Buffalo Run Valley, as a store and not having any fire protection the building and entire contents, together with an adjoining stable were entirely destroyed. The second story of the store building was occupied by the families of Edward Imel and Edward Walker and all their household goods were burned. The loss to Mr. Garbrick was quite heavy, although he had his stock and buildings partially insured. Mr. Walker had a little insurance on his furniture but Mr. Imel had none.

Auditor General Suggests.

State Auditor General Robert K. Young, in his annual report, suggested legislation along the lines contended for by the State Grange and the local Granges throughout the state. He thinks real estate is bearing a too large proportion of the taxes, and suggests that a larger share be placed on personal property, and that deposits with trust companies and in banks be taxed. He also favors the returning to the counties the whole of the county taxes collected on personal property, instead of three-fourths of them, as is the case now. As a whole the Auditor General's recommendations are commendable.

Slight Fire.

A fire occurred at the residence of Mrs. Elizabeth Glenn, mother of Dr. W. S. Glenn, in State College, and but for its timely discovery might have proved a serious conflagration. Mrs. Glenn attempted to blow out the flame in a Rochester lamp when it exploded and the burning fluid splashed over her, burning one side from the knee up. Fortunately the flesh was not burned deeply.

W. W. Spangler Farm Sold.

James S. Relish, the Potters Mills hotel keeper, purchased the W. W. Spangler farm, near Potters Mills, for \$5000. The farm contains about 101 acres of tillable soil, and 40 acres of woodland. The price is considered very fair, looking at it from either side. The farm is now occupied by George Jordan, who will remain for at least one year.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

A Farmer's Institute will be held at Pine Grove Mills on 24th and 25th inst.

Mrs. Ezra Harter, of near Spring Mills, is seriously ill from an attack of pneumonia.

The liquor license of the Centre Hall hotel was held up until Wednesday of last week when it was granted.

Samuel D. Gettig, Esq., and J. Kennedy Johnston, Esq., of Bellefonte, have returned from a business trip to New Mexico.

William Randolph purchased the Bubb farm adjoining Pine Grove Mills, and expects to make it his home in the future.

John Grove, of near Rockview, was taken to a Philadelphia hospital by Dr. P. S. Fisher with a view of having a growth on his neck removed.

R. D. Killian, who is now located at Lewisburg, but formerly a resident of Centre Hall, is most of the time at Strawberry Ridge, Montour county, where he has lumber interests.

The Methodist church, at Pleasant Gap, has been remodeled, and will be re-opened Sunday next. Rev. Thomas A. Elliot and Rev. James B. Stein will assist the pastor in conducting the services.

Tuesday, February 9, at 10 a. m., is the hour set for a continued hearing before the auditor, S. D. Gettig, Esq., at his office in Bellefonte, in the case of Lydia Ann Faust, late of Potter township, deceased.

The number of horses in the United States is given at 20,640,000, an increase over last year of 645,000. Their value has been placed at \$1,974,000,000. What was that prophecy regarding the "passing of the horse?"

Several families living in Centre Hall who desire to remain here will be obliged to move elsewhere after April 1st, unless some unforeseen conditions arise between now and that time. Too bad that such conditions exist.

Editor Wagonseller, of the Middleburg Post, who has labored to point out the uselessness of associate judges, will use his influence to have a bill introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature doing away with that office.

Alvin McCool, who last year farmed for James H. McCool, near Tusseyville, moved to Spring Mills and will be employed by Elmer Ripka on a lumber job. He moved into the house recently purchased by W. M. Grove from Daniel Kennelly.

Samuel Everhart had a run away on the way to Colyer. Going down a steep hill the neck yoke broke and the team got the better of the driver. Fortunately he jumped in time and landed on top of a load of pork. After a half mile run matters were righted and the journey continued.

Miss Edith Summy, of Philadelphia, has accepted a position as clerk under Prof. Van Norman, in the Agricultural Department at Pennsylvania State College. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Summy, expect to move from Philadelphia to State College sometime during the present year.

At the annual meeting of the White-rock Quarries, at Pleasant Gap, it was decided to increase the board of directors from nine to eleven and the following were elected: Noah H. Swayne II, Thomas A. Shoemaker, T. Larry Eyre, Dr. George F. Harris, Col. W. F. Reynolds, John M. Shugert, George R. Meek, William H. Noll, E. H. Richard and Henry C. Quigley.

W. M. Grove went to Harrisburg Monday with the view of looking up data to aid him in making extensive surveys in Clinton county for several prominent lumber firms. Mr. Grove has had considerable experience in tracing old markings in wooded country, and his knowledge of surveying coupled with this developed trait has furnished him profitable employment in more than one instance.

Messrs. John S. and Willard Dale, of State College, Wallace White, of Pleasant Gap, and the writer, met at the home of Hon. Leonard Rhone, in Centre Hall, as a committee of the Patrons Rural Telephone Company to transact a bit of business looking toward the interests of the branch telephone companies comprising the corporation just named.

Aaron W. Ulrich, who lives in Penn township, near Greenbrier, has in his possession a meat vessel that is one hundred years old, according to an item in the Millheim Journal. The vessel was made by Nicholas Bressler, the great-grandfather of Clayton Bressler. Mr. Ulrich's grandfather, Mr. Yakely, moved to Millheim from Dauphin county in 1808, and that year the vessel was made. It is still in good condition and ten of the original wooden hoops are still on it. At the time Mr. Yakely moved to Millheim the town contained but ten houses.