



PENNINGTON HISTORICAL NOTES.

A Brief History of Early Methodism in Penns Valley, With Special Reference to the Pennington Burial Grounds, Near Centre Hall.

[Read at the dedication of the Pennington Burial Grounds, June 23rd, 1909, by Miss Florence Rhone.]

This Memorial day is an important event in the memory of the Pennington family, who were early settlers in Centre county and the pioneers of the Methodist church in Penns Valley.

Robert Pennington, the elder, and his wife, Rebecca Benn, with Fergus Potter, the elder, and wife, came to this valley in 1786. The Potters settled on McKee's Run, east of Linden Hall; and the Penningtons settled east of Centre Hall on what are now the George H. Emerick, Samuel Bruss, Wm. Bible, Simon Harper and Jacob Sharer farms.

The Pennington and Potter families were of Scot-Irish descent, and a few years prior to this time came across the seas, when it took months to journey from the Old World to the New. They came with the tide of immigration, seeking the Promised Land of America, where there was promise not only of a homestead, but of freedom of religious thought as well as personal and civil liberty for every settler that came to the new country.

As already stated, Robert Pennington came to our country in 1786, and Henry Benn in 1787. A Methodist class was soon formed, and Robert Pennington's dwelling became a station on the circuit, which, in that early day, extended over what now comprises several counties, and the Pennington homestead became the center of religious services in the community.

One of the family, Rev. John Pennington, became a regular minister of the Methodist church on the circuit, as it was then known, and owing to the great hardships and exposure on the long journeys in his ministry, this young man, at the age of twenty-nine years, died of pneumonia, and was buried in this cemetery. You will find the grave plainly marked.

The first Methodist church, in Penns Valley, was built in 1814 on the Pennington homestead, about one-half mile east of Centre Hall, just north of the Brush Valley road. Rev. Ebenezer Doolittle preached the dedication sermon.

Services were regularly held in this church, as near as we could ascertain, until 1854, when Robert Pennington, the younger, died and the Pennington descendants followed the tide of immigration westward, with the expectation of growing up with the country as did their ancestors, when they came to America.

Robert Pennington, the elder, was born January 17th, 1754; died April 22nd, 1826. His wife, Rebecca Benn, was born April 16th, 1759; died October 17th, 1824. Both are entombed on this acre of their homestead, which they dedicated to their beloved church.

Their only child, Henry Pennington, was born February 19th, 1776; died March 26th, 1835. His wife, Margaret Potter, was born in Tyrone county, Ireland, February 1st, 1776; died January 5th, 1853. Both are buried in the Pennington cemetery.

Their children were: Robert, born September 3rd, 1798; died February 2nd, 1854. John, born May 6th, 1800; died January 22nd, 1830. Rebecca, born January 10, 1802; died December, 1887. Nancy, born August 17th, 1803. Henry, born February 28th, 1805. William M., born February 1st, 1807; died June 17th, 1886. Sarah, born April 27, 1809.

Margaret, born March 11, 1812; died August 11th, 1868. Isaac, born January 15th, 1814. Eliza, born January 15th, 1816; died July 5th, 1833. Mary Ann, born August 29, 1818. James Wesley, born October 15th, 1820; died November 19th, 1901.

Robert Pennington, the younger, was married to Ellen Watson, and to them were born the following children: Margaret (Tonner), Watson, Agnes (Benn), John Asbury (married Sarah Slack), Susan (Seely), Robert and Marjorie.

John Pennington, a Methodist preacher, was married, and had one daughter, Margaret.

Rebecca married James Sankey, and to them were born thirteen children: Mari Anne Elizabeth, Margaret, Sarah Catherine (married Adam Stahl), an infant daughter, Rebecca (married John Wolf), Nancy Jane, James Wesley, Henry (married Emma Rhone), Jeremiah Asher, Robert (only one of family living, married Emily Rodgers), Isaac, Mary Margaret (married Leonard Rhone), and John Emory.

Nancy married Simon Pennington and lived in Venango county. Henry was twice married. First to Jane McClellan and their children were: Thomas, Henry and Ann Lucy. His second wife was a Miss Sweetwood, and to her was born one daughter, Ellen.

William married Mary Ann Carner and lived at Hubersburg. Had no children.

Sarah was married to James McClellan

and resided at West Greenville, Mercer county. To them were born three children: Robert, James and Ellen.

Margaret married Henry Holtzman, and adopted Mercer county as their home. Had no children.

Isaac Pennington was twice married. First to Sarah Keller, and after her death to Phian Will. His children were: Henry, Catherine (married to Isaac Miller), Eliza (married to John Musser), Margaret, Jane, Anzonia, Gertrude and Robert.

Eliza died at the age of seventeen. Mary Ann married James Campbell, and resided near Meek's Church, Centre county. Their children were: John, Henry Clay (married to Jane Ann Bailey), Hannah Margaret (married to John Williams), George Boston (married to Mariah Potter), Isaac (married to Jessie Graham), Robert (married to Mattie Wright), Ann Eliza (married to John Homer Miller), James Washington (married to Mary Bloom), and Mary Laura (married to Hamilton Proffitt).

James Wesley, the youngest son of Henry Pennington, was married to Mary Jane Van Valzah. Their children were: Whorton, Thomas, Flora (married to Isaiah Fleisher), and Margaret (married to James Hunter).

While it is pleasant and profitable to pay a loving tribute to the names of this family and these friends, it is still more profitable and valuable to recall their loving deeds and their life's achievements. The fact that they acquired a great family homestead in this new country of their adoption, amidst a comparative wilderness, in the early days of the settlement of Penns Valley, marks them as being well-to-do people, giving them a foremost place in a community founded by a people who came to America to build christian homes in a land where religious liberty and civil freedom were guaranteed.

We, as the descendants of the Penningtons and early settlers, look back in loving remembrance to their achievements in the material things that make a community. And while these privileges cannot be too highly appreciated, they are not to be compared to their labor of founding the christian churches and christian homes that now dot every hillside and valley which give permanency and stability to our civilization.

The debt we owe to these early settlers of our country can never be fully paid. To their labors we owe the comfortable homes, magnificent churches, excellent schools, and all social advantages. Blessings that these pioneers permanently assured to us by founding christian communities in this new country.

While most of the Penningtons followed the tide of westward immigration, or moved to other localities, as is the way of man, their labors left an impress upon the community for all time. The Methodist church, at Sprucetown, was an offspring of the Pennington Methodist Church; the home of Rebecca Pennington, who was married to James Sankey, becoming another preaching station on the circuit, which led to the building of the church at Sprucetown in 1830, and the church at Centre Hall, and, no doubt, other churches owe their origin to the same influence.

The sincerity and earnestness of these pioneer church workers can be read today in every church of our land. They preached and sang, when the music was not led by choirs and great church organs, but when every member felt it a religious duty to sing in the spirit as well as pray in the spirit, and possibly more members were sung into the church by Methodist hymns than were preached in, and to this day Methodist choruses stir the people to a religious fervor as no other service can.

The Penningtons came to this new world of promise and have gone with others to new fields of labor, but the impress of their good works upon the community will redound to their honor through all time and eternity.

As a proper appreciation of the important services these early settlers rendered to the community, and as a record of the beginning of Methodism in the valley, a suitable monument should be erected to their memories as a milestone recording this important event in the history of the Methodist church.

Let us take courage from the achievements of our departed friends and keep their memories in loving remembrance.

"Lives of great men all remind us, We can make our lives sublime, And departing, leave behind us, Footprints on the sands of time, Footprints that perhaps another, Sailing o'er life's solemn main, A forlorn and shipwrecked brother, Seeing, shall take heart again."

"Let us then be up and doing, With a heart for any fate; Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labor and to wait."

DISTRICT EPWORTH LEAGUE.

Meets in Convention in Altoona—Prominent Speakers Discuss Interesting Topics.

Through the kindness of Rev. J. Max Lantz, pastor of the Penns Valley Methodist church, the Reporter is able to give a brief account of the District Epworth League Convention held recently in Altoona:

The program arranged and carried out was highly interesting and profitable. The entertainment provided by the members of the First Church was all that one could desire. Space does not permit of a detailed account of the proceedings.

The convention theme "Young People and the Social Life" was thoroughly treated in the light of modern living. Rev. M. E. Swartz, of Clearfield; Hon. J. Banks Kurtz, of Altoona; Rev. D. N. Miller, of Montoursville; Rev. W. W. Hartman, of Hollidaysburg, and Dr. Joseph Paciarelli, of Altoona, occupied the time during the first session.

In the evening Dr. Homer C. Stuntz, of New York, spoke on Foreign Missions. His address was most interesting and at the end of one hour and twenty-five minutes the audience was anxious to hear him longer. Fourteen years in the Philippines, India and South America furnish him with practical information, comprehending every phase of the great problems of "how to deal with those looking to us for example, and educational help."

It was marked by singular power of eloquence, pathos, diction and striking personality.

The second day's program was not less interesting than the first day's. The theme, "The Field of Activity in the Epworth League," comprising the Spiritual, World Evangelism, Mercy and Help, Social and Literary departments, was a practical discussion of the possibilities for greater efficiency.

The revival echoes sounded marvelously clear and the incidents stated confirm our belief that the "pentecostal power is just the same today."

Dr. C. L. Mead, of Hoboken, New Jersey, was the speaker of the evening. Subject, "Power." This address was unique and forceful, set in a composition of words, for elegance and precision seldom heard.

Over eighty delegates from the Leagues were present not including pastors.

Baby Without Arms and Legs.

Sunday night Dr. M. A. Kirk, of Bellefonte, made a professional call to the home of James Kelley, who resides at Valleyview, along the mountains, above Coleville, says the Daily News. At that time a little girl was born into the household which is a great curiosity and goes on record as being the most helpless babe ever born in this county or perhaps in Central Pennsylvania. The child is perfectly developed except that it has no hands and its arms extend only down to the elbow. It is also minus feet, its legs only extend to its knees. The left leg has several toes which spread out like a webfoot. The child is in perfect health, and the indications are that it will be healthy and strong outside of its deformities.

The only cause that can be assigned for this strange incident is that the mother became terribly frightened last February when Garbrick's store burned which threatened the destruction of the entire village. This is the second child in the family, the first being fully developed in every way.

Local Option Meeting.

Rev. F. A. Gaupp, the district superintendent of the Anti-Slavery League, will fill the appointments of Rev. B. F. Bieber, next Sunday as follows:

Spring Mills, 10 A. M. Centre Hall, 2:30 P. M. Tusseyville, 7:00 P. M.

While these meetings are held at the hours for the appointments of Lutheran services, Rev. Gaupp is coming to talk to members of all denominations, and any outside of the church who care to hear him. A most cordial invitation is extended to all—both ladies and gentlemen.

Rev. Gaupp has done effective work as district superintendent, and comes here from his home in Du Bois with the best recommendations. He is thoroughly acquainted with his subject, and will be able to impart valuable information.

Millheim School Teachers.

The Millheim school board elected Clarence E. Toole, of Freeburg, principal of the Millheim schools; M. C. Hains, of Rebersburg, grammar; Miss Mabelle Norris, of Filmore, intermediate; Miss Clara Condo, Penn Hall, primary. Mr. Toole is a graduate of Ursinus College. Prof. W. S. Gramley, who taught the high school last term, was not an applicant.

The Millheim fire company will hold a festival Saturday evening, July 3rd.

I. O. O. F. OPEN NEW ORPHANAGE.

Grand Lodge Officers Dedicate \$40,000 Building at Sunbury with Imprestre Ceremonies.

A large number of Odd Fellows from twenty-three counties, interested in the Odd Fellows' Orphanage, near Sunbury, Thursday of last week, attended, along with relatives and friends, the dedication of the handsome new \$40,000 brick building, which will hereafter be used by orphans of deceased members, while a frame structure vacated by orphans will be utilized for the permanent home of old and indigent members of the fraternity and wives.

The ceremonies were of the most elaborate and impressive character. After the arrival of excursion trains, there was an inspection of the grounds and buildings. Raider's band and the Glee Club of John Stine Lodge, No. 1150, Mt. Carmel, rendered instrumental music, after which there was a reception to Grand Lodge officers. A procession a quarter of a mile long, from the old home building to the new structure, lined up as follows:—

Band, patriarch militant, past grand patriarchs, past presidents of Rebekah State Assembly, past grand masters, speakers, directors, representatives of home superintendents, matrons, officers of Home Orphans and attendants, Rebekahs, Odd Fellows and visitors.

On approaching the new building the column opened ranks, allowing the speakers, orphans and officers to pass through. After the opening cde of the order, by the audience, Grand Lodge officers dedicated the building. J. S. Montgomery, of Philadelphia, grand master, delivered the principal address.

Mrs. Hattie Mendal, of Allegheny, president of the State Assembly of Rebekahs, also spoke after which one hundred inmates of the orphan home, dressed in white, gave a patriotic vocal selection. J. W. Stroh, of Sunbury, and Rev. B. H. Hart, of Harrisburg, past grand master, preceded E. C. Wagner, of Girardville, in an address, the latter detailing the conception and advantages of the home, which now occupies part of 176 acres of the prettiest part of Shamokin Valley. Mr. Wagner also stated that a permanent fund of \$100,000 was about to be started by Odd Fellows and Rebekahs for the maintenance of the orphanage, which was rendered free of debt by the raising of \$4000 from the crowd during the day.

Refreshments were served from booths scattered about the premises and presided over by Daughters of Rebekahs, who helped along with the sale of souvenirs to cancel the total debt.

The oldest Odd Fellow in attendance was Nathan F. Martz, of Sunbury, who joined the fraternity sixty-seven years ago in the Mauch Chunk Lodge, No. 760.

Sol Boyer, of Sunbury, a member for forty-one years, also came in for congratulations at the hands of the many visitors.

Prominent among Grand Lodge officers in attendance were Joseph H. Mackey, Alexander Edgar, of Philadelphia; W. H. Mohr, Allentown; A. Hall, Philadelphia; Melville Chubbuck, Towanda; Rev. E. W. Stillman, Harry Smith, Philadelphia, and Mrs. Mary N. Joslyn, Philadelphia.

Officers of the home are: E. C. Wagner, president, Girardville; J. W. Stroh, first vice president, Sunbury; Evan Ohals, second vice president, Wilkes-Barre; Robert Davis, treasurer Mt. Carmel; S. B. Hillard, secretary, Watsonstown; H. I. Romig, assistant secretary, Beaver Springs; E. E. Chubbuck, superintendent; Mrs. E. E. Chubbuck, matron, Sunbury.

The Dedication Committee was composed of Robert Davis, D. D. Griffith, Plymouth; T. J. Chase, Wilkes-Barre; G. M. Smith, Driftwood; S. H. Bernheiser, New Bloomfield; D. D. Dyke, Mt. Carmel; A. Abarbanel, Shenandoah; Peter Rudy, State College; J. G. Lowney, Pottsville; A. B. Kenyon, Elkwood; T. W. Hoffman, Millersburg; W. H. Dendee, Pittston; W. H. Kiess, Williamsport.

Republicans Name Candidates.

The Republicans in convention assembled in Harrisburg, nominated the following ticket: for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge Robert Von Mochszieker, of Philadelphia; for Auditor General, Arthur E. Sison, of Erie; for State Treasurer, Jeremiah A. Stober, of Lancaster.

Are you interested in seeing what child labor does to baby faces? Look at the pictures on pages 75-88 of Everybody's Magazine for July. And then would you like a hearty laugh? Turn to Joseph C. Lincoln's "A Vialion Sent," page 13, of the same periodical.

Children's Day services were held in the Lutheran church last Sunday, and the Sunday previous in the Presbyterian church.

FROM CANONSBURG.

W. A. Kriss Writes the Reporter from the Pittsburgh District.

Last Saturday, 12th inst., we shook the dust—did I say dust? I should have said mud, of the Flood City from our feet and journeyed further westward. At the Iron City, better known as the Smoky City, we were met by friends who had come all the way from Canonsburg to meet us. There we took the trolley for the latter place, a distance of twenty-two miles, where we arrived after a ride of one hour and thirty minutes.

Canonsburg is a town of about 5,000 population. It contains the Standard tin plate mill, the Fort Pitt bridge works, a large rolling mill, the Buffalo coal plant, and a number of smaller industries. It is a dry town as far as license goes, but beer comes to town by the car load every now and then. The country is dotted with oil wells, but many of them are giving out and most of the new ones drilled are dry.

When oil is struck it is at a depth of about 2000 feet, or as they say here, in the fifth sand. The gas wells, however, show no signs of giving out. The people light and heat their homes with natural gas, and do all their cooking with it. I haven't seen a coal stove in the town, as every room in most of the houses has a fire place in it.

Most of the coal, except what is used in the different industries, is shipped away. The country is rolling, but that is characteristic of nearly all of western Pennsylvania, and eastern Ohio, many of the hills being nearly as high as some of the mountains, but not running in any order as they do.

The surface is a kind of slate, sometimes called rotten limestone, very similar to the Philip Durst farm, and, like it, is underlaid with limestone rock. Most of the land west of the Allegheny mountains, except the region bordering on Lake Erie, is of this character.

Washington county is the hot bed of Presbyterianism. Canonsburg, while not larger than Bellefonte, has four Presbyterian churches, two of them being United Presbyterian. It has two Methodist and two Baptist, one of each being colored; also two Catholic and one Episcopal church.

In the country the Presbyterians, the Reformed Presbyterians, and the United Presbyterians outnumber all the others combined.

Last Monday, 14th inst., about one hundred Masons from many of the Pittsburgh lodges, and some twenty or more from the Washington lodges paid a fraternal visit to Chartiers lodge located here, and I was very much surprised after the adjournment of the meeting at the number of Centre county boys that I found among them. Some from Pittsburgh, several from Washington and one or two from Canonsburg. But I am asking too much space of your paper so I will close.

W. A. KRISS.

Francis Heberling Shot to Death.

While alighting from a street car, in Canton, Ohio, Francis Heberling, formerly of Ferguson township, was shot and almost instantly killed. There was a disturbance among a lot of foreigners in the locality where the killing was done, and it is not known whether the bullet was a stray one, or whether it was directed at the victim it hit.

Francis Heberling was born at Scotia, this county, January 4th, 1891, hence was eighteen years, five months and eight days old. He was a son of Stuart and Amelia Heberling and a member of one of the oldest and best known families of Ferguson township. Six years ago he with his parents moved to Juniata and there he finished his education. He was a member of the Young Men's Christian Association, a young man of good habits and popular with all who knew him. In addition to his parents he is survived by five brothers and one sister, as follows: Randall, William, James, Guy, LeRoy and Ella.

After brief services at the home of the parents, the body was taken to Gatesburg, this county, where interment was made.

Potatoes, but no Stalks.

The daily papers, within the past ten days, gave an account of York county farmers being puzzled over the fact that in a number of instances potatoes planted failed to shoot sprouts, but developed tubers. This condition was also found to exist in the potato field of the writer. The soil was excavated where there were missing stalks, and much to the surprise of Harry Reish, who was making the investigation, the seed potato was found as well as several new potatoes the size of bulled walnuts. There was not the least sign that the seed had sprouted to develop a vine.

Love is blind, in spite of all the oculists.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

A nine-foot snake of the racer species was killed by Mrs. John Oman in her back yard at Shingletown.

Every shoe and price mentioned in our ads can be found in our store—Mingles Shoe Store, Bellefonte.

Miss Katharine Allison, daughter of Archey Allison, of Bellefonte, is the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Lillie Alexander.

A valuable mare died for Farmer George Earhart, at the Old Fort, which will cut down the profits for this year's farming.

John Wolf, of Roberts Mills, was a caller Friday, and brought with him Socialistic literature that he thinks ought to be convincing that Socialistic principles are right.

Mrs. John Kreater came back from the Bellefonte hospital, last week. She had a very serious time of it during the past six weeks, but it is hoped she will again recover her former health.

Contractor John D. Lucas, who is building a dwelling house at State College, is being assisted by Messrs. Irvin Zettle, Levi Walker, John Knarr and Charles Walker. They are making good progress in their work.

George W. Lanich died at his home at Dublin, Ind., aged about seventy-eight years. Mr. Lanich was a former resident of Millheim. He was a veteran of the civil war and a member of Company A, 14th regiment.

W. Harrison Whicker attended the commencement exercises of Dickinson College, at Carlisle, and being a graduate of the law department of that institution, he was tennmaster at a banquet held by the Delta Chi Legal Fraternity.

Miss Nellie Kerlin, a faithful employee of the Reporter for six years, is taking a well earned vacation. Thursday morning of last week she left for Cincinnati, where she will spend several weeks with her brother, Walter M. Kerlin.

The Ferguson township school board finances are in good condition, as there are about \$300 in the hands of the treasurer and \$500 uncollected. The new board organized by electing J. D. Neidigh, president; Ira Harpster, treasurer, and W. S. Ward, secretary.

It is reported that the application for admission to the State College for next year already exceeds that of last year by nearly a hundred and it is getting to be a question where to put them all even with all the contemplated new houses to be built and finished this summer.

T. B. Motz, of Millheim, left about a week ago for New York City, from which place, in company with others, he will go to the state of Durango, Mexico, to inspect a gold mine in which some of his friends are interested. Mr. Motz is an experienced gold miner and expects to be gone a month or more.

Beginning August 3rd, a new Rural Free Delivery Route will be established from the Stormstown postoffice, which will serve the portions of this end of Halfmoon, and the upper Buffalo Run valleys, connecting with the route from Bellefonte, which thus gives service to the entire scope of country between the two offices.

Mrs. Amelia Reiter, widow of Dr. William Reiter, is in every way comfortably in Berrien Springs, Michigan, as is stated by James F. Zorby, a resident of that Michigan town. Mrs. Reiter is a daughter of Jacob Runkle, deceased, and when a girl with her parents lived on the Samuel Slack farm, near Potters Mills, now owned by C. F. Thomas.

The Bellefonte Republican was recently sold by Register Earl Tuten to Charles E. Dorworth, who will assume charge the beginning of August. The Republican has been under the control of the Tutens—father and son—for many years. The new owner contemplates making radical changes in the office of the paper. Mr. Dorworth is at present political reporter for the Philadelphia Press.

After living in Michigan for a period of thirty-three years, Jonas F. Zorby made his first trip to his former home at Colyer, arriving during the past week. When a resident of Potter township he was a mason by trade and built the foundations for a number of dwellings in Centre Hall. After locating in Michigan he followed carpentering until rheumatism obliged him to retire from active work. At present Mr. Zorby makes his home with his sister, Mrs. Rebecca Fleisher, in Berrien Springs, and is enjoying the ease in his declining years that is the inheritance of a thrifty, frugal, life. Mr. Zorby will remain for some time, and will visit among his relatives and acquaintances in this valley.