



THE HISTORY OF PENNS CAVE.

Ex-Governor Martin called it "Pennsylvania's Greatest Nat'l Wonder." An interesting article from the pen of Henry W. Shoemaker.

[Henry W. Shoemaker, banker, writer, naturalist, who has discovered so many natural wonders in Central Pennsylvania that he has written volumes concerning them, recently wrote the history of the famous Penns Cave, near Centre Hall, and the Reporter herewith publishes extracts of the article which appeared in the Altoona Tribune.]

It is not generally known that the ancestors of America's greatest poet, Edgar Allan Poe, were the first white men to own Penn's Cave in Centre county. These hardy frontiersmen who fought the Indians in the mountains of Maryland and Pennsylvania took up many tracts of land in the Pennsylvania mountains and became citizens of prominence. The original name spelled Poh, but became altered like so many other of the old time names, into its present form. The Penn's Cave farm or tract of land, as it was known in the early days, was surveyed in pursuance of two warrants granted to James Poh or Poe and dated January 5, and November 3, 1773. A patent for these lands was issued by the commonwealth of Pennsylvania to James Poe, dated April 9, 1789. James Poe only lived on the Penn's Cave farm a short time, spending most of his days at his homestead in the valley bearing his name in the southern part of Centre county.

About 1860 a young Quaker by the name of Isaac Paxton who had resided in Chester county became teacher at the public school in Spring Mills. He was a nature lover and fond of taking long trips through the hills and valleys, to study the birds, flowers, trees, and geological formations. Accompanied by his chum, Albert Woods, a successful bee-culturist, residing at Spring Mills, he walked to Penn's Cave and entered the dry cave. The young men became convinced that they saw a light out in the direction of the water-course entrance. Previous to this time there was no knowledge of water in the "dry" cave, being the same stream that rises at the main entrance of the cave, nor that the two parts of the cave led into one another. Paxton and Woods came out of the dry cave, went down to the saw mill which stood close to where the water emerges from the cavern, and from which water power it was run, and secured enough lumber to build a raft. They carried this lumber to the main, or present entrance of the cave, nailed it together and with the aid of a pine torch and a long pole traversed the water course in Penn's Cave for the first time. They found that the water-way led into the dry cave and made other interesting discoveries.

Presbyterian preachers must have had a fondness for visiting caves as a few days after Rev. J. E. Long, the Presbyterian pastor of the valley, whose place of residence was at Hublersburg, in Nittany Valley, came over and hearing of the adventure of Messrs. Paxton and Woods, persuaded them to repeat the trip so that he might accompany them. So the three gentlemen returned to the cave, reconstructed the raft into a small boat and traversed the gloomy water-way. The news spread rapidly and as the Fourth of July was approaching a small picnic of members of "old-line" was gotten up to spend the holiday at the cave and make use of the boat. Among those in the party were two aged ladies, Mrs. Margaret Foster and Miss Sarah Vanvalzah. Because of their venerable age the compliment was paid them of having the boat named for them, the "Sarah-Margaret". Among those in the merry party were Miss Mary Wilson, Miss Lizzie Cook, Miss Mary Duncan, Miss Mary Woods, Miss Ida Vanvalzah, Mrs. Robert Duncan, John Foster, John Wilson, Frank Vanvalzah, Harry Vanvalzah, Dr. John Woods, Robert Duncan and Miss Mary Buchanan. Miss Ida Vanvalzah later became the wife of Col. John A. Churchill, of St. Louis, a distinguished officer in the United States army. Dr. John Woods practiced the profession of medicine at Boalsburg, Centre county, for many years. Miss Mary Woods, who is now living at Spring Mills, furnished the list of names of the happy party, most of whom are now enjoying their reward. Miss Ada Vanvalzah and Miss Mary Woods were the first ladies to enter the boat and go through the cave. All during the day one load would be rowed back as far as the dry cave in the rear of the cavern and left to explore the dry rooms while the boat returned for another load. For years following this picnic the country became so excited over the Civil War that little interest was taken in the cave until about 1870, when another picnic party visited the picturesque spot. This time the boat was hauled on a wagon from the Beaver Dams,

New Salary Schedule for Rural Mail Men.

A new salary schedule for rural carriers throughout the country went into effect Saturday by an order promulgated by Postmaster General Burleson in accordance with the recent act of Congress providing for \$1200 as the maximum annual pay for carriers.

Under the new schedule the basis of computation for maximum compensation requires the transportation of one parcel post package a day of the maximum weight of its equivalent of other mail matter over the length of a standard route of 24 miles. In event of failure to do so, however, the carrier would be entitled to the limit compensation if he handled an average of 400 pieces of mail daily.

The order further provides that on routes less than the standard length, where carriers have received less than the former maximum pay of \$1100 a year, an increase or decrease of \$12 per annum greater or less than the schedule pay shall be made to or from the prescribed salary for such route for each 100 pieces and for each 100 pounds of mail handled monthly up to the maximum of \$1200 per annum. It also stipulates that an allowance of \$12 per year shall be made for each closed pouch or sack of mail transported by carriers to rural post offices.

The Postmaster General declared that the order was a step toward greater efficiency of the rural mail service and the elimination to a large extent of the enormous disparity between receipts and expenditures in this service.

Doing Repair Work on State Road.

Repair work on the state road over the Seven Mountains has been in progress for a week or more. Fifteen men, under the supervision of Joseph Carson, are covering the road with red shale, digging ditches, and otherwise putting the road in shape for the state engineers. Rapid progress has been made in the work which will be completed in a few days.

below Spring Mills, which in those days was a favorite spot for canoeists and boatmen generally. No signs were found of the old boat, the "Sarah-Margaret." Previous to the last picnic in 1868, Samuel Vantries sold the farm to George Long, who lived in the old farm house and used the water from the "spring" which in reality is the overflow from the cave. Mr. Long was a man of serious nature and objected strongly to pleasure-seekers entering the cave. Furthermore, he did not want people to contaminate what he now realized was his water supply. During his regime few people visited the cave. Upon his death, in 1884, the property passed into the hands of his two sons, Jesse and Samuel. These two young men had traveled extensively and realized the financial possibilities of the cave. It was worth much more than the farm, in their estimation. In their rambles they had visited the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky, which they declared was in no way superior to their own cavern. They built a larger boat and began charging admission to the cave. About 1895 they constructed the handsome building now known as the Penn's Cave Hotel. For a time they prospered and hundreds of people visited their unique resort annually.

In December, 1905, the farm was sold to John A. Herman, of Pleasant Gap, Centre county. In January, 1908, the farm and cave again changed hands and became the property of its present owners, Dr. H. C. and R. P. Campbell. Previous to this, for several years, owing to financial embarrassments, the Long brothers had abandoned the hotel and the place was deserted. The Campbell brothers, who are graduates of the Pennsylvania State College, and young men of education and foresight, improved the property extensively, making it one of the most unique resorts in Central Pennsylvania. To use the words of Mr. R. P. Campbell, who is the active manager of the hotel and cave, "Now has come the age of the automobile and the cave again has become a place of interest to the tourists. The number of visitors has increased steadily, each year since we bought the place, and we expect 1914 to be the banner year."

The Campbell brothers, according to experienced travelers, know how to keep a hotel. They provide good food, clean beds, baths and running water and other conveniences for their guests. Their charges are moderate, especially when one considers the nature of the accommodations furnished. But what appeals mostly to tourists and automobile parties is the air of courtesy and politeness which pervades the place. Everyone, from Mr. Campbell down, seems anxious to please and the tired traveler will find nothing to ruffle his overstrained nerves. The scenery about the cave is magnificent, in fact there is none finer in Central Pennsylvania. The Brush

CANDIDATES AT BELLEFONTE.

Palmer Was Not in Party Owing to Illness—McCormick and Others Street Hounded at Brockhoff House—Such Enthusiasm Manifested.

An enthusiastic gathering of Democrats from all parts of the county turned out at Bellefonte Friday evening to greet the nominees on the state ticket. The party arrived from Philipsburg about six o'clock and took up headquarters at the Brockhoff House. Much to the regret of all, Hon. A. Mitchell Palmer, candidate for United States Senator, was not in the party, owing to sickness. Upon the advice of a physician he cancelled all engagements for the week. The other candidates, Vance C. McCormick, William N. McNair, William E. Tobias and William H. Patterson, were on hand and greeted hundreds of voters personally on their arrival.

About 7:30 o'clock "Our Boys Band" of Milesburg rendered a concert in the street in front of the hotel. This band, averaging about sixteen years in age, is gaining a reputation as being one of the best bands in the county.

The candidates delivered short addresses from the balcony of the hotel to an audience that filled the street from curb to curb. The issues in the State campaign were fully explained and the crowd remained until the last speaker was through. It was an orderly assemblage of people that listened attentively to all that was said, appearing greatly interested in the questions that will be solved at the fall election.

Mr. McCormick and his party attended the picnic of the Sugar Valley Grange, Saturday, at Loganton. Here they were joined by William T. Creasy, W. Wayne Hindman of Clarion, and J. J. Ruersdan of Williamsport, candidates for State Senator and Congressman, respectively.

There were also many voters of all political faiths, not only from the surrounding country, but also from Bellefonte, Lock Haven, Renovo and Williamsport. All during the day, there was a spirit of harmony and united support manifested for the ticket by the Clinton county voters that left small room for doubt in which column this county will line up at the November election.

Deaths of Centre Counts.

Owen L. Johnson, a Civil war veteran, at Philipsburg. Death came Friday evening after an extended illness with Bright's disease. He was aged seventy years.

Samuel McGlathery McDowell, in Juniata, Thursday evening of last week. He was a native of Centre county and was eighty-five years of age. He had the unique record of passing through his long term of life without ever requiring the service of a physician until the day before his death. He died of embolic pneumonia.

Mrs. Charles Lauber died at McConnell, Illinois, July 21st. She was born in Centre county November 29, 1830, and her maiden name was Sarah Price. In 1846 she was married to Charles Lauber in Centre county, and in 1854 they located in the state of Illinois. Five children, all in the west, survive. Her husband preceded her to the grave several years ago.

Henry Felmeie, aged eighty-four years, in Boggs township. Mr. Felmeie met his death Friday, July 24, by being kicked on the head by a colt while assisting his son in mowing grass on the farm occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George Shupey in the Curtin gap. Mr. Felmeie was walking alongside the team and when the son struck the colt with the whip the animal kicked and hit the aged man, crushing his skull. He died on the way to the hospital.

Political Squabbles Ends in Arrest.

The arrest Friday evening of J. F. Lesher, editor of the Huntingdon Monitor is the high water mark of a fight in the democratic camp over the question of who is going to be county chairman.

The two wings of democracy in Huntingdon county have been having a squabble since the democratic convention was held there on June 27, when Joseph G. Lesher, editor of the Huntingdon Monitor, was elected to the county chairmanship, defeating J. Murray Africa for the office by a vote of 55 to 52. The election was at once contested and as a result W. S. Hencane, county commissioner, was placed under arrest last Thursday on the charge of forgery, preferred by Africa, and admitted to \$2,000 bail.

Friday morning the Monitor came out with an article headed "Continued Spite Work By Africa, Bollinger and Company." The case was reviewed and the opinions were freely discussed. As a result J. F. Lesher, the editor, was arrested for slander and libel, preferred by A. Bollinger, secretary. He was admitted to bail and waived a hearing.

NEWS OF 1880.

Notes Taken From Files of The Centre Reporter of Thirty-four Years Ago.

June 10th—On Thursday morning last there was a sharp frost in some sections of this valley.

Rev. S. G. Shannon has accepted the call from the church at large to engage in the missionary cause for a period of six months, and already entered upon his travels.

The good people of Millheim were startled on last Monday evening by a suicide in that boro. Elmer Brown, son of Henry Brown, a blacksmith, had, as it appears, appropriated to himself \$5 of his father's funds, and for which he was called to account and reprimanded, and asked to make restitution. The young man intimated that the affair would be settled by his not being about much longer. On Monday evening he was noticed going down street, and arriving in front of the residence of Jonathan Harter, he sat down upon the sidewalk. A young man by name of Lamey passed him as he sat down, and observed that young Brown seemed to press something against his side, and as he passed on a few steps he heard a report, thinking it was only a fire cracker, and looking back saw that Brown leaned slightly forward pressing his hands to his side. He passed up the street and remarked to some persons that some fellow down street had either shot himself or was acting the fool, and upon examination Brown was found upon the spot dead, having shot himself through the heart. He was 21 years of age and of late years fell into wayward habits. He lived with John Odenkirk, near Centre Hall, about a year ago.

June 17th—Col. Josiah Neff is getting his Centre Hill farm to look neat as a pin, with pale fence all around the outside and whitewashed, fields in splendid trim, etc.

Potato bugs and grasshoppers are very numerous in the Farmers Mills section, according to a report from Squire Rishel, and are doing much damage.

Harris township lost one of its oldest citizens on Monday in the death of Thomas Davis, aged about ninety years.

Married—On Wednesday, June 2, by Rev. F. K. Fowler, Mr. William B. Allison of Potters Mills, and Laura B. Higman of Blossburg, Tioga county.

Transfers of Real Estate

Andrew Lytle et ux to Charles Ghaner, tract of land in College twp. \$120.

Charles W. Wilcox et ux to Eva Rylatt, tract of land in S. Philipsburg Boro. \$150.

P. E. Womelsdorf Atty fact to Ervin Schnare, tract of land in Rush twp. \$100.

Mary E. Barr et al to William H. Silver, tract of land in Potter twp. \$2986.

H. M. Hosterman et ux to Theo. Davis Boal, tract of land in Harris twp. \$354.57.

Jonathan Tressler et ux to J. H. Ross et al, tract of land in Harris twp. \$2100.

Thomas Hess et ux to Dr. C. P. W. Fisher, tract of land in Harris twp. \$152.50.

James Logue et ux to Thomas C. Hess, tract of land in Harris twp. \$155.

H. N. McAllister et ux to Jonathan Tressler, tract of land in Harris twp. \$2357.15.

Mrs. Linn Lucas et bar to J. L. Maurer, tract of land in Philipsburg Boro. \$2000.

Joseph W. Harvey et ux to Alice A. Harvey, tract of land in State College Boro. \$500.

Arthur B. Lee Sheriff to Wm. A. Thomas Trustees, tract of land in Bellefonte Boro. \$1850.

Charles D. Loraine Exr. et al to Annie C. Rowland, tract of land in Philipsburg Boro. \$5500.

Thomas Foster et ux to Minnie O. Tripp, tract of land in College Twp. \$400.

Penna. Savings Fund and Loan Association to John F. Harpster, tract of land in Rush twp. \$550.

Reunion of Ripka Families.

The second annual reunion of the Ripka families will be held this year on the Daniel Ripka farm at Beaver Dam, south of Spring Mills, Thursday August 13th. Arrangements have been made that east and west bound trains will stop on the ground. Each one of this connection and their friends, are cordially invited and requested to be present. It is also requested by the committee that all use the trains if at all possible, or it may be impossible to have the train stop in future years.

Committee.

Unclaimed letters in Centre Hall postoffice, August 1: Joe Deal, Frank Burd, L. H. Smith, Flaciub, W. L. Loesch, M. A. Katharine Garrett, Mrs. A. L. Wright.

BREEZY LETTER FROM ILLINOIS.

J. M. Stiffler of Freeport Reports Farm Conditions Fine, But Apple Crop a Failure.

FREEPORT, Ill., August 1st, 1914.

Editor Reporter:

The writer, in making his annual remittance to you, finds his mind flooded with the many pleasant memories of his recent visit, or sojourn, in Centre Hall and its immediate vicinity. What a happy human sensation is created when we meet, clasp hands, briefly visit with, or enjoy the hospitality of friends whom we have not seen or met for a number of years. We believe that all natives of Centre county, wherever now located in business in this great country, are still truly loyal to the "old sod" and all of their old friends.

We have had a siege of very hot weather the past two months; July averaged several degrees warmer than in the past ten years. We had only a few light local showers during July. The harvest ended about July 20th, and threshing will all be done in a few days. Wheat, rye and barley yielded well, but oats is light, due to drought and heat. The hay crop was fair and was harvested in fine shape. The early potato crop is good; some of our local potato growers sold the product from their gardens early, at \$2.40 per bushel. The price at present is around one dollar per bushel. The market is now well stocked with early sweet corn. Late potatoes appear thrifty but must have rain soon or the yield will be reduced. Corn here presents a remarkable growth for this time of season. Many fields resemble second growth forests at a distance. The writer saw stalks, grown in this vicinity, that measured nine feet in length on the 9th day of July. On July 16th some one near here, reported a stalk 14 feet in length. All crops with us this year are several weeks in advance of the ordinary, (the crop of candidates for the various county offices not excepted.) When cultivation is carried on and continued properly in this county there need be but little fear of a crop failure on account of drought. Our clay subsoil is capable of absorbing and storing sufficient moisture to bridge us over quite extended dry spells. Organic matter incorporated into our soil enables capillary action to be carried on toward the surface, while shallow but thorough cultivation, pulverizes the soil, and fixes the dust mulch. This prevents rapid evaporation of moisture and furnishes support for all vegetation in dry spells. Small fruit was abundant and prices ruled high particularly on raspberries, which sold at from 20 to 25 cents per quart. Apples are nearly a minus quantity in this locality this year. We are in the market for train loads of delicious New York and Pennsylvania apples for fall and winter supplies. We hope that some of your enterprising business men and shippers will take this into account, as eastern apples are always given preference by those fastidious in their requirements. Little damage was done by the white grub here, this season. Some complaint is made of the ravages of the army worm in various localities but no general or serious results are anticipated. At this date however, no one would venture to predict what the vast armies of the whole of Europe now have in contemplation. War is h—, as Sherman interpreted it.

Yours truly,
J. M. STIFFLER.

Take Young Man to Asylum.

Friday morning Ex-sheriff Cyrus Brungart, accompanied by W. W. Harpster, took Calvin Thomas to the asylum at Danville. The unfortunate young man's condition for a week or more prior to his removal was worse than for any time previous, and it was with the hope of restoring his mental balance that he was taken to the institution. Al. Osman, who has been in the same place for several months, is reported to be in a serious condition. He is confined to bed all the time.

Spring Mills Wins Over Aaronsburg.

The Spring Mills baseball team defeated Aaronsburg Saturday afternoon at the former place by the score of 10 to 7. The Spring Mills boys have been cleaning up everything in the lower end of the valley lately despite the fact that their opponents have always "loaded up" for them. Carl Auman, an alumnus of the Spring Mills academy, did the twirling for the winners.

MORE TEACHERS NEEDED.

Good Positions Go Begging for Good Teachers, Well Trained in a Normal School.

The supply is less than the demand. It will pay to prepare for teaching. This can best be done at a normal school. Write to P. M. Harbold, Principal, Millersville, Pa.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

The summer session for teachers at State College closes this week.

Huckleberries are a good crop and many big patches are to be found on Nittany Mountain.

The Mission Band of the Presbyterian church held a picnic in Old Fort woods Friday.

F. P. Geary canvassed Spring Mills Monday, demonstrating and taking orders for gasoline irons, for which he has the agency.

Miss Margaret Jacobs went to Mifflinburg Friday, and until Saturday was entertained at the home of her cousin, Mrs. Lizzie Kleckner.

Archie Bodtolf of Yesertown is being entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Colyer, on the big Colyer farm near Old Fort.

Messrs. John and Christ Durst were in Bellefonte a few days the latter part of last week looking after the repairs of their threshing engine.

Mrs. Eliza Stump, below Centre Hall, who had been confined to her bed for some time on account of stomach trouble, is able to be about again.

The stork visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Musser of Millheim early Saturday morning of last week and left a bright bouncing baby boy to gladden the home.

Samuel Stump has turned carpenter, and his first effort was to construct a pig sty on the Stump property, east of Centre Hall, that is the talk of the neighborhood.

Guy W. Jacobs, who had been at Tampa, Florida, for some time, has been sent to Houston, Texas, by the York Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of refrigerating machinery.

Clymer McClenahan and Henry Mitterling returned from their motorcycle trip to Philadelphia and Atlantic City, Friday night. They had numerous punctures along the road.

While hauling in wheat, Charles Snouffer, of near Mexico, Juniata county, found twelve young turkeys dead under the shocks. He also found and killed the perpetrator of the deed, a weasel.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Q. A. Kennedy, Mrs. I. M. Arney, and Lycurgus Lingle attended the funeral of John Taylor at Milroy, Friday. There was a distant relationship between the above people and the deceased.

Phillipsburg is soon to have a \$50,000 Y. M. C. A. building. The building will be constructed next spring and will be the gift of the Harbison-Walker Refractories Co., a corporation owning about thirty fire brick plants.

Miss Grace B. Maxwell of Lansdowne was the guest of her friend, Miss Velma Simkins, from Saturday until Monday. Miss Maxwell is a teacher in history in the Swarthmore high school and is attending the summer session at State College.

W. S. Krise of Johnstown, accompanied by his sons, Fred and Charles, were arrivals in Centre Hall Monday and for the week will be at the home of his parents, Prof. and Mrs. W. A. Krise. They drove the entire distance of over one hundred miles, and on Sunday covered sixty-seven miles.

William Roman is again having hard luck with his horses. It will be remembered that last year he lost two valuable western animals, and at the present time four of his beasts—two work horses and two colts—are suffering from distemper. The older animals are in harness again and getting better but the colts are in rather serious condition.

Sixty-one members of the Mission Bands of the Lutheran church of Centre Hall and Tusseyville held a picnic in a woods on the farm tenanted by C. E. Flink, near Tusseyville, Saturday. Mr. Flink furnished transportation for the local organization, using his commodious hay wagon to transport the children to and from the picnic grounds.

Mrs. G. W. Van Damant and daughters Helen and Jean of Electra, California, are spending a short time at the Bartholomew home in Centre Hall. They have been in Centre county for about a month, the greater part of which time was spent with relatives at Spring Mills. Mrs. Van Damant and Miss Helen Bartholomew are intimate friends.

The threshing outfit ordered by the Farmers' Threshing Co., arrived on Monday, says the Millheim Journal. The engine was "steamed up" and the outfit taken to the home of the president of the company, Charles F. Stover, where the initial threshing was done on Tuesday afternoon. Ed. Frank of Rebersburg, an experienced thresherman, has been engaged to superintend the outfit during the season.