

Millheim.

Mrs. George Sechrist has been seriously ill the past few weeks.

The Millheim hunting party report a deer and a four-hundred pound bear.

Russell Wolfe has gone to Beech Creek where he has employment.

Claude Musser left on Monday for Pittsburgh where he will stay a few days on his way to Akron, Ohio.

Joseph Hoffman, an officer in the United States Navy, has a leave of a few days and is visiting his parents in this place.

P. P. Leitzell has sold his property on Penn St., occupied by Fred Colyer, to Harry Auman. Consideration, \$500.00.

Mrs. Chas. Hassinger and Anna Rhoads attended the funeral of John Seylor, at Rockville, Monday morning.

S. W. Gramley, Lloyd Auman and George Frankenberg had a fine exhibit of fancy poultry at the Farmers' Institute, Monday and Tuesday.

Henry Breen has sold his property to J. W. O. Houseman; also his personal belongings at public sale, and will go to live with his daughter, Mrs. Harry Weaver, at Salona.

S. Ward Gramley boasted his percentage in the hunting game last Wednesday by killing a two-prong buck, the only deer killed this season by the Potters Mills party up to last Saturday.

REBERSBURG

Henry Stitzer is musing a painful felon on his finger.

Oliver Stoner lost a valuable farm horse by death; the animal had colic.

During the past week our stores received their Christmas decorations.

William Minnich of State College spent last Saturday and Sunday at this place with his son Lester.

Since last week Lee Weber is a happy man because the stork left that wee little baby at his home.

Mrs. Edwin Greninger is confined to her bed because of sickness. Her condition is not encouraging.

Last Friday night after a lingering illness with cancer of the stomach, John Syler died. His remains were buried in the union cemetery at this place on Monday forenoon.

C. O. Malory, who resides three miles west of this place, will make public sale of his live stock and farm implements and some household goods on Dec. 23. On the same day he will offer his home for sale. Mrs. Malory's health is failing and she will enter a hospital for treatment and Mr. Malory will go to Pittsburgh to his son Charles.

PENN HALL

Irma Shook spent Sunday with her friend, Florence Bartge.

Mrs. Sarah Hartman spent Saturday at the home of Frank Musser and family.

A few young folks from State College visited their friends, Lola Ulrich, over Sunday.

Gross Shook and his mother made a trip to the John Detwiler home, near Centre Hall, on Thursday.

Andrew Reash and Therman Braught from below Coburn spent Saturday at the home of George Shook.

James, Charles and Christie Shook spent Sunday at the home of Frank Shultz at Rebersburg, and made the trip down to the Brush Valley Narrows to the Rebersburg hunting camp and saw the three large bucks hanging there.

Georges Valley

Mrs. J. W. Gobbie and daughter, Miss Mary, spent Sunday at the home of E. E. Gobbie.

Milton and Robert Barger spent Friday and Saturday at Millroy with their sister, Mrs. O. L. Pecht.

E. D. Foust and E. L. Lingle visited the Foust hunting camp on Sunday and report four of the finest deer hanging in camp they ever saw.

On Sunday the Locust Grove Sunday-school elected the following officers for the coming year: J. R. Confer, superintendent; L. M. Barger, assistant superintendent; Anna Reasch, secretary; Mary Reasch and A. E. Gill, librarians; C. W. Lingle, treasurer; Elizabeth Hennigh, organist.

Stone Mill.

William Lingle lost a horse on Sunday.

Bertha Harsberger visited at the H. E. Grove home on Sunday.

Miss Vonada was unable to teach school on Friday on account of sickness.

Mrs. J. F. Houseman is visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Hosterman.

Farmers in the valley who must depend upon cisterns for their water supply are facing the unpleasant task of driving stock to watering places, owing to the light fall of rain. On many farms not only the cisterns have played out but wells likewise are giving little if any water. No rain of any account has fallen for four weeks, and with the approach of winter the water question threatens to become a serious one for many farmers.

EDUCATION IN PENNS VALLEY SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

(Continued from first page.)

was to include in this article a history of the academies mentioned above, but it has already exceeded the limits assigned it, so there is only time and space for a very brief account of the origin, rise, and progress of these respective schools.

Before proceeding with the history of the academies it is thought best to add a word as to the primary organization of the Centre County Teachers' Institute. There seems to be no record of the date and place of its origin, and it is almost impossible to obtain reliable information concerning an event which occurred seventy years ago when it is not a matter of record. It has met annually, and its 69th session was recently held at Philipsburg. So it evidently was organized about the year 1846 or 1847. From the testimony of several of the older citizens it seems to have originated at Oak Hall, in Harris township, about the year 1846 or 1847. William G. Waring, Thomas Hollman, John H. Orvis, and Orrin T. Noble, were likely the originators of that movement. Their efforts were heartily endorsed by Christian Dale, Henry Keller, and other citizens. It has been a most potent factor in promoting the educational uplift of the last sixty years. District Institutes were instituted soon after it in different parts of the county, and also did much to awaken public sentiment on the subject of education. The County Superintendency was not established until 1854, Rev. Dr. Wm. J. Gibson being the first County Superintendent.

The first County Institute the writer attended was held at Milesburg between the holidays in 1857, just 58 years ago. J. Ilgen Burrell was County Superintendent, an excellent man and fine scholar.

We now return to the history of the academies. The school year of all academies in those days consisted of two terms of five months each. The summer term usually began the first of May, and the winter term the first of November. These terms often closed with an exhibition given by the students. There was much friendly feeling between the schools, and they attended their respective exhibitions. The writer well remembers when a boy of fourteen or fifteen years, riding back and forth on a two horse road wagon from Potters Mills to Boalsburg and Pine Grove for this purpose. The home trip was generally made after the close of the exhibition. The roads were not as smooth then as now.

POTTERS MILLS ACADEMY.

Mont View Academy at Potters Mills was founded by Dr. Wm. I. Wilson, and Samuel Van Tries in the spring of 1852. They secured the principal, and before the school was opened obligated themselves to pay him a salary of \$50.00 a year. John Williamson was the first principal. He was a raw Irishman, a good scholar, but not a successful teacher. He taught one term, and was succeeded in the fall of 1852 by John S. Love, a graduate of Jefferson College. Mr. Love was an excellent teacher, a man of pleasing personality, and executive ability. Under his management the school flourished and saw its palmiest days. He taught three terms, and then resigned to study medicine. He was succeeded by John B. Davidson in the spring of 1854; he was also a graduate of Jefferson College, a good scholar, but lacking in some of the essential qualities of a successful teacher. The school was very much hampered by the want of a suitable building, and the patronage began to fall off. He taught two terms, and was succeeded in the spring of 1855, by S. S. Orris. He was a most excellent man, a fine scholar, and had few equals as a teacher. The state of his health unfitted him for the work, and he only taught one term. Mr. Orris was afterwards professor of Greek in Princeton University for 25 years. While this school had a patronage of from 70 to 75 scholars under Dr. Love, yet all the other academies outlived it. At that time the village contained quite a number of cultured, refined, and intelligent families, yet the community did not encourage the school as much as they ought to have done. Social antagonisms sometimes interfere with, and blast business projects.

BOALSBURG ACADEMY.

The Rev. David McKinney, D. D., pastor of the Penns Valley Presbyterian church, opened a select school in the village in the year 1836. It continued in successful operation until 1841. It was well patronized. After an interval of eleven years it was revived in the year 1852, with Rev. James G. Austin as principal. In the spring of 1853 the academy building was erected by a joint stock company. The lower story was occupied by the Reformed congregation as a house of worship, Rev. Austin being their pastor. The upper story was used for school purposes until the building was torn down in 1892, and the present Presbyterian church was erected on its foundations. The school flourished under Mr. Austin's administration. He closed his labors as principal in 1856. He was succeeded by Theophilus Weaver. After him the principals were as follows in the order named, viz:—Capt. James J. Patterson, 1858-1862; Rev. L. Kryder Evans, 1863; Rev. D. M. Wolf, 1863-1865. The school continued under sundry principals until the year 1892, when the building was torn down. It

had a large patronage and did a good work.

A reunion of its students was held September 9th, 1897, and an account of it published in the Bellefonte papers. It contains an extended history of the school.

PINE GROVE MILLS ACADEMY.

William Murray, William Burehfield, and Thomas F. Patton interested themselves in establishing a school at Pine Grove in the year 1852. They secured as the first principal Mr. B. F. Ward, a graduate of Jefferson College, an energetic, scholarly man, of genial manners, and pleasing personality. The writer remembers him well although it is more than sixty years ago. He taught two years, and the school was a decided success during his administration. He was followed by a Mr. Campbell who taught one year. He was succeeded by a Mr. Kennon and a Mr. Davis; each of them taught one term. In the Fall of 1855 the citizens formed a joint Stock Company and proceeded to erect an academy building which is still standing (1915). The school opened in this building in the Fall of 1856 under the charge of Prof. J. E. Thomas, a graduate of Jefferson College. It continued under his care until 1862 when he along with a number of his students enlisted in the army. After his return he again took charge of the school, and continued to be its principal until his death, October 28, 1872. He was a good man and did a good work. He was succeeded by others whose names I cannot now give. I do not know just when the academy was abandoned, I think the building is now used for public schools purposes. A reunion of the old students was held June 18, 1897, when Mr. D. F. Fortney gave a very complete history of the school in an historical address. The school sent out quite a number of men who attained eminence in church and state. If time and space permitted it would be interesting to give reminiscences of some of them.

AARONSBURG ACADEMY.

This school was organized in 1854. The men chiefly interested in its origin were the Rev. M. J. Alleman, D. D., pastor of the Lutheran Church; Rev. Martin Smith, pastor of the Reformed Church; Henry S. Gross, John B. Holloway, Thomas Yearick, and George W. Shoup. The first principal was Ezra Shield Knecht. He taught one year. The second principal was John Ilgen Burrell, who taught two years, and then became County Superintendent. J. W. Schwartz had charge of the school for a time. The third principal was Rev. J. R. Dimm, who took charge in the Fall of 1857. The academy building was erected in 1856. The school flourished under Dr. Dimm. He had from 70 to 75 students. A number of men who afterwards became prominent as ministers were students under him. Mr. Spangler Keffler probably succeeded Dr. Dimm. Dr. Jeremiah Hoy, and Rev. Wm. H. Gotwald, D. D., were also principals for some time. All of the men who were at any time principals of the academy were graduates of Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, Pa. The school was very prosperous, and ran up as high as 130 students at one time. The writer cannot say how long it continued or when it suspended.

Space and time are too limited to give a detailed statement of the history of these schools and those identified with them. Each school would afford abundant material for a separate article.

THE SITUATION TO-DAY.

The writer trusts he may not be misunderstood, or his motive misconstrued, in publishing this article. In writing the early history of the valley he had to deal with facts as he found them. While he has spoken plainly, he meant no disrespect to the worthy and estimable people of that day. He lived among them during twelve years of his boyhood days, and knew them well. They were a kind, accommodating, and hospitable people. The masses of them were good neighbors and upright citizens.

The thoughtful reader, as he has gone over this narrative, has doubtless been instinctively led to compare the situation in those days with present conditions. There has been very marked improvement in everything relating to school affairs. The standard of scholarship, methods of teaching and school government, along with teachers wages have all undergone a radical change. Perhaps the greatest change has been in public sentiment. It has been completely revolutionized, no man now dares to oppose education. He knows better. He wants his children to have all the advantage of it. He realizes that it promotes their interests.

Some of the best schools and teachers of the county are now found in Penns Valley. All the County Superintendents, except two, have come from it. It is not claimed that all this elevation of the standard of intelligence has resulted entirely from the improved schools. A knowledge of the outside world greatly enlarges our conceptions of life and its duties. Railroad facilities and travel add vastly to our store of knowledge.

The Grange has also done much to improve the social condition, and promote intelligence, among the farmers. They have become a reading people, many of them take the daily papers.

In conclusion, it may be truthfully said that Penns Valley in all these particulars, will today compare favorably with the majority of rural communities. In some things it surpasses them.

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