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printed weekly, at Clearfield, Pa., by D. W. MOORE
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Clearfield Republican.

A WEEKLY PAPER: DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, MORALITY, AND FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Volume 3. Clearfield, Pa., March 5, 1852. Number 15.

Prices of Advertising.

1 square, 1 insertion,	$0 50	3 squares 6 months,	$ 6 00
1 do 3 do	1 00	3 do 6 months,	7 50
Each subsequent do,	25	3 do 12 months,	10 00
2 squares 3 months,	2 50	1 half column, 3 months,	6 00
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From the New York Evening Post.

Reminiscences of the American Revolution.

BY SEVENTY-SIX.

Washington at Valley Forge—Col. Hamilton sent forward to address the People—Washington pursues Sir Henry Clinton—Victory at Monmouth—Arrest of Major General Lee.

To the Editors of the Evening Post:

Having recently been favored with a visit from one of the survivors of the Revolution, I have taken down some interesting recollections from one who is among the last of those who remain to give the present generation the details of what he saw and experienced in those days of trial.

Late in the season of 1777, Washington, from various causes, was undecided where to winter his army, or even how to protect them till spring. Council after council had been called, of his general officers, who were required each to furnish his written opinion upon this subject, but so great were the difficulties surrounding them, that no decision was made till December 15th, when Washington, contrary to the views of a large party in Congress, and many of his general officers, took the responsibility of ordering the army to Valley Forge, where he marked out the ground in person, and with a shovel in his hands threw up the first earth in the presence of the whole army. After which, in general orders, each colonel or commanding officer in the regiment was required to superintend the erection of huts for his command, according to a general plan furnished by Washington. The whole army was divided up into parties of twelve, which number of men were assigned to one hut—14 feet by 16; sides, roofs and roofs made of logs, and the roofs made tight with splits slabs, or in some other way—fire places made of wood; one hut to each general officer, one to the staff of each regiment, and one to the commissioned officers of the companies, &c. Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Knox, remained in these miserable accommodations with the army nearly the whole winter, silencing by their fortitude and example, all complaints, until the distress for provision became unendurable—the camp sometimes for three and four days without meat, and then as long without bread—and this in the dead of winter. Many of the soldiers could not leave their huts for want of clothes to be decent! At length the day arrived when provisions must be had, or a general mutiny and dissolution of the whole army. Congress were powerless. They had foreseen this, and given Washington all the powers they could give. Colonel Hamilton, as aid-de-camp, was sent out to hold meetings in Jersey, and address the people upon the condition of the perishing army.

Col. Matthew Ogden was ordered to lead a detachment into the country, and seize provisions, teams, cattle, grain, &c., in case the appeal of Col. Hamilton proved unsuccessful. But the people of Jersey did not need military coercion—they voluntarily threw open their barns and contributed a portion of all they had. My informant remembers seeing one family turn out an ox—another a bag of corn—another a straw, and so on, as the army wagons passed through the towns collecting for the army. In this way the army was saved. At the same time there was not money enough in camp to pay for an express.—(This is confirmed by official letters.) At length spring approached, and Washington remained still, watching the movements of Sir Henry Clinton, who had been feasting with his army in Philadelphia during the winter, and had now determined to march to New York, not supposing the American army were in a situation to appear before him.

June 18, 1778 the British army left Philadelphia. As soon as the express reached Washington, confirming this, he put in motion six brigades and followed in person with the whole army within a few miles of Monmouth. After a forced march he came up to Sir Henry Clinton, and sent forward his second in command, General Lee, with 5,000 men, to commence the charge upon the British army, Washington following with the main body to support him, and his troops disencumbered of every article except arms and amunition. The disgraceful retreat of Lee followed, and Washington was obliged to change in consequence, his whole order of battle in presence of a superior enemy; nevertheless he resolved to attack, and drove back the British and took possession of their dead and wounded. Night came on, the whole army dropped upon the ground and slept upon their arms, Washington himself among them. During the night the British *stole* away in such silence that they had gained several miles, and too near the shipping to bring them to battle.

Hon. Col. Monckton was among the dead left by Sir Henry Clinton upon the field. This move of Washington cost the British, in killed, wounded and deserted, over two thousand men.

Col. Schammel, the Adjutant General was after the battle sent to arrest General Lee, under the following charges:

First—Disobedience of orders in not making the attack as ordered.

Second—bad behavior before the enemy, by making an unnecessary, disorderly and shameful retreat.

Third—Disrespect to the Commander-in-chief upon the field, and subsequently by letter.

General Lee, upon his trial made a most powerful defence. Major General Lord Stirling was President of the Court Martial, which continued for three weeks adjourning from place to place as the army moving. Lee was found guilty of all the charges, and suspended—Congress soon after, doubting his patriotism, dismissed him from the army. General Lee had been an aid to the King of Prussia. The American people looked upon him, previously, as the man to command, in case Washington should fall—but from this proud eminence he fell, until at last his dogs was his only society—and he died in the garret of an obscure tavern—his dying words were, while delirious—*stand by me my brave grennediers!*

This battle was fought on Sunday—one of the hottest days in June. The sufferings of the army for water, in a sandy country, were awful, both for man and beast—many men dropped dead in the ranks—and the surgeons reported against a forced march after the retreating enemy. Congress bestowed upon Washington a vote of thanks for his wonderful activity in leaving Valley Forge, pursuing Sir Henry, and bringing him to battle under such extraordinary circumstances.

NO. 2.

Murder of Captain Huddy by the British—Peremptory demand of Washington on Sir Henry Clinton for the Murderer—Retaliation by Lot—Capt. Asgill—The French Court, at the instance of his Mother, intercede with Washington for his release.

My venerable friend has spent his evening in detailing his recollection of the sensation produced by the inhuman murder of Captain Huddy.

It appears that this gentleman, while commanding a post in New Jersey, was taken prisoner by a band of tories, after a gallant defence. They conveyed him to New York, and then imprisoned him.—After a time, these tories took him out into the country and hung him. The people at once rose in arms, and determined upon revenge. General Forman, who was an influential military man, took the lead, procured evidence, and waited upon Gen. Washington with the facts duly authenticated. All the papers were at once submitted to a council of general officers, and each was required to give his answer in writing to the following queries:

First.—Upon the state of facts in the above case, is retaliation justifiable or expedient?

Second.—If justifiable, ought it to take place immediately, or should a previous representation be made to Sir Henry Clinton, and satisfaction demanded of him?

Third.—In case of representation and demand who should be the person or persons to be demanded?

Fourth.—In case of refusal and retaliation becoming necessary, of what description shall the officer be—on whom is it to take place—and how shall he be designated for the purpose?

Twenty-five persons sent in their opinions in writing. Their unanimity of sentiment was remarkable. They were unanimous that retaliation was justifiable and expedient, and that the leader of the party should be demanded from Sir Henry Clinton, and if refused, then an officer of equal rank with Captain Huddy, should be selected by lot from the British captains, who were prisoners. Three other officers were of opinion, that immediate retaliation and execution should follow, and without notice to Sir Henry Clinton.

The American officers were ordered by General Heath, to give their opinion without any consultation, one with another, and seal up their respective opinions and send them direct to the Commander-in-Chief.

Fortified with these opinions, Washington sent a flag to Sir Henry Clinton, demanding of him the murderer. He said, "To save the innocent, I demand the guilty. In failure of his surrender I hold "myself justifiable in the sight of God and "man, for the measures to which I shall "resort. I desire an immediate reply, for "which my resolution is only suspended."

No answer being received, Washington ordered Col. Heason to assemble all the Captains from Lord Cornwallis' army, and to select by lot, one for retaliation, and at once under a strong guard to march him to head-quarters. In mean time Sir Henry was recalled, and the command of the British army devolved upon Gen. Robertson. This change caused delay in the execution of Capt. Charles Asgill, a young nobleman 19 years old, heir to a large estate, and the peerage—an only son—on whom the lot had fallen for immediate execution. The British officers, prisoners, made no complaint against Washington, but loudly censured Sir Henry. They asked permission for a flag to go and wait upon Sir Henry, and delay of the execution for that purpose. Washington granted the request. A court martial was called by the British General, and Washington was assured that justice should be done. During these delays the sentence of death hung over poor Asgill. At length his situation reached his mother in England.—Instantly she put in requisition all her powerful influence, and implored the King and Queen of France to intercede with Washington to save her son. Count De Vergennes despatched a frigate to America, with a letter to Washington, setting forth the distress of Lady Asgill, and that the Queen on reading her application to the French Court had been moved to tears.—He also stated that the King and Queen would feel gratified by having Capt. Asgill pardoned, which to be acceptable must be unconditional, and no other victim substituted.

This application was at once sent by Washington to Congress, who immediately resolved: That the Commander-in-Chief be directed to set Capt. Asgill at liberty. Washington gladly received this order, and forthwith enclosed Capt. Asgill a full pardon and permission to join the British army in New York, remarking that the pardon would not be to Capt. Asgill a greater relief than it was to himself.

Count de Vergennes, in his application to Washington, remarked—"Capt. Asgill, "sir, is doubtless your prisoner. But as "the arms of the king assisted at York-"town to place him in your hands, I trust "you will pardon the request for his par-"don, should circumstances render you un-"able to grant it. Washington replied that Congress had granted the pardon without his intervention, and thus ended this interesting tragical affair, second in interest but not in importance, to the execution of Andre.

Peace being now anticipated, and Gen. Carleton having arrived, with large powers, he requested Washington to order a cessasion of hostilities, as the next arrival would bring news of peace. The reply was, that Congress alone could do that, but under his assurance, *he would order all the outposts of the army to act only on the defensive till the pleasure of Congress could be known.*

NO 3.

Arrival of Rochambeau at Newport—Treason and Escape of Arnold—Capture and Execution of Andre.

Rochambeau arrived at Newport R. I., in July 1780. He landed with his staff and walked up the street, to the hotel without any parade. The people of the town were sitting at the windows, holding their hands almost in a state of despair at the depressed condition of public affairs. The streets were deserted, and the country people had discontinued coming to market, as there was no money to buy their produce, the currency having fallen to sixty to one. Washington was in full retreat before the British, and for days and weeks he had not 3,000 men, and these were flying before an enemy, all well appointed, of ten times the force of the Americans; indeed the cause was generally considered as lost.

Thus matters stood when Rochambeau reached the Hotel in Newport. As a matter of respect, several of the most respectable men at once visited him, when he announced to them, that the French King had determided to support the Americans with all his power—that these ships were the first division of the French army, comprising twelve battalions of infantry, and that he had on board funds, in gold and silver, sufficient to pay, in cash, for all the supplies the French might need. In a few moments the news of Rochambeau's mission spread over the town. The bells commenced—the people poured in to the streets—guns fired—bonfires blazed, and the whole town became intoxicated with joy. Never was there such a sudden transition from extreme depression to the highest exhiliration. Expresses were sent into the country, and the next day the town was filled with all kinds of produce, vegetables, meat, poultry, &c., &c., which the French purchased at liberal prices, and paid for in silver, which was then a very rare article. These fresh provisions refreshed the French troops, who were soon landed and encamped in the town.—Their discipline was so exact that the pigs and chickens walked about unmolested, and fields of corn, fruit, &c., adjoining the camp, had not a branch trken from them. This deportment of our new friends soon inspired the people with the highest regard and veneration for the French King, and for the army he had so generously sent to their rescue.

In the meantime Rochambeau had informed Washington of his arrival, commencing his communication in this way—"Sir: Being ordered by the King, my master, to come and put myself under your command, I arrive with the deepest feelings of submission, of zeal and veneration for your person. I am now, sir, under your command. I enclose a copy of my orders from the King; also, a copy of my secret orders, as I choose to have no secrets with my general."

These sentiments inspired Washington and the whole country with the highest hopes from the aid of the French, and all agreed that the King of the French was the friend of the Americans.

Washington's reply to Rochambeau was equally courteous: "Among the obligations we are under to your prince, I esteem it one of the first, that he has made choice, for the command of his troops, of a gentleman, whose high reputation, and happy union of social qualities, and military abilities, promise me every public advantage and private satisfaction." "The gentlemen under your command must understand, that it is out of my power to offer them any reward for their sacrifices in aiding us, except their share in the glory of the field." After this introduction by letter, the most perfect harmony prevailed between these two great captains. Rochambeau brought with him the highest military reputation. He had been in conflicts where fifteen thousand Frenchmen had been killed or wounded before him.

All Washington's plans were, by this arrival, at once changed, and it soon became necessary for him to have a personal interview with the French commander. Hartford was the place for the conference. On the 16th of September, 1780, Washington placed Greene in command of the army on the Hudson, and left to meet Rochambeau. His parting orders were, "I leave all in your discretion, except that you will understand, it is not our business to seek an action, or accept one, but on advantageous terms."

The next morning, in the general orders, of Greene, he says, "His Excellency the commander-in-chief is going to be absent for a few days, which will no doubt become known to the enemy, the general desires officers of all rank to be in perfect readiness to meet them at the shortest notice. The out-guards must be kept vigilant and attentive, and the patrols active and watchful."

This was the moment for Arnold to execute his scheme of treason. Andre was at once sent for to come on shore, and finish the business. On his return, he was captured, and the three militia men who took him brought him into Col. Jameson's camp, who was bewildered with the circumstances, and could not see into it.—Major Tallmadge, (afterwards General, and the father of our late Recorder and present Marshal,) the second in command to Col. Jameson, at once saw Arnold's treachery, and protested, but in vain, against allowing Andre to write to Arnold, This letter alone enabled Arnold to escape.

Washington reprimanded Jameson most severely for his stupidity, and wrote Congress but for that, he would have secured Arnold and saved Andre. Major Tallmadge was a brave and spirited officer.—Wasnington presented him with a sword, and ordered him to divide among his gallant party all the property taken by them, in a bold enterprise on Long Island. In general orders his gallantry was commended, and his good conduct reported to Congress for their consideration.

Andre was confined within the command of Major Tallmadge—who furnished my old friend with many particulars. As soon as he avowed himself the adjutant-general of the British army, every tenderness consistent with safety was extended to him. His capture produced the greatest distress to Sir Henry Clinton; who sent in flag after flag, soliciting his release—offering every possible inducement. General Greene took the stern stand on his court-martial—"He is guilty or not guilty—if guilty he must die as a spy—if not he must be acquitted." Col. Hamilton was his warmest friend. His powerful pen turned the public sympathy in his favor.

The superior education of Andre, his refined modesty, great gentleness of character, with his bold determination not to implicate others to save himself, together with his noble avowal, exonerating Sir Henry from all blame for sending him into his unfortuarte position, created in the minds of all, particularly in the feelings of the general officers comprising the court-martial, a regard almost amounting to veneration. Up to the last hour Sir Henry continued to implore Washington to spare Andre. His last struggle was accompanied by two officers of the highest rank.

Washington sent Green to the landing to receive them. With masterly ability, for hours, they contended for his pardon. Green felt that upon his report the fate of poor Andre might hang, therefore he reduced the arguments to writing, had them signed by both parties, and annexed these papers to his report of the interview.—Washington found their, reasons for his release unavailing, and at once ordered the execution for the next day at 12 o'clock.—In the meantime the sympathy for poor Andre had become universal, and he died without a dry eye to witness the execution.

No event unsettled the public mind so much as this; expresses were sent to every command near the Hudson, to double guards, &c., as the enemy might, with their information from Arnold, attack that very night. The doubt and distrust in the mind of Washington, at that moment, is seen in his orders to the different posts. He concludes, "*you will, within a few hours, either see me or hear from me again.*"

Col. Frank and Col. Varick, aides-de-camp of Arnold, sent in a request for a court of inquiry upon them. Washington replied, that no court could be ordered, as there were no charges or suspicion against them.

At the time Andre was captured, Washington expected that the court would continue a long time, during which, his intention was to send spies into New York and get Arnold, and then try to save Andre.—His benevolence was frustrated by the open and frank avowal of Andre when brought before the court, which rendered the examination of witnesses unnecessary. Thus situated, events connected with the trial and execution were crowded into a narrow space; his guilt was sure, and stern policy required immediate action.—Andre implored the favor of being shot, and dreaded the halter.

This dying request was submitted to the general officers, who decided that the Commander-in-Chief must adhere to the sentence. Andre supposed, when he was led out for execution, that his request was to be complied with, till he came in sight of the gallows—the sight of which caused him to halt—for a moment he could not utter a sound—at length, recovering his fortitude, he said, "I am reconciled to my death, but detest the mode." In general orders, Sir Henry announced his lamented death to the British army, in the most tender feeling and respectful manner.

The three militia men who took Andre, were "lions" in camp—particularly when Washington delivered to them their medals and pensions of two hundred dollars each per annum, for life, awarded by Congress, which Washington deemed ample and liberal. Andre offered them any sum to release him, and proposed that the two others should keep him in the woods, while the other went to Sir Hunry for the ransom, payable either in gold, or in dry goods, which in those days were more valuable than cash.

WATCH MAKING.—Almost every body knows what a watch is, and most people understand its use; but, after all, very few are aware of its mechanism, nor have they any idea of the number of tiny pieces of which it is composed. It is, in fact, one of the greatest curiosities that human invention ever produced.

Mr. Dent, in a lecture before the London Royal Institute, made an allusion to the formation of a watch, in which he stated that a watch consisted of 992 pieces; and stated that 24 trades, and probably 215 persons, are employed in making one of those machines.

The iron, of which the balance spring is formed, is valued at something less than a farthing; this produces an ounce of steel, which is worth 4½d., which is drawn into 7,250 yards of steel wire, and represents in the market 66 dollars.

Still another process of hardening this originally farthing-worth of iron, renders it workable into 7,850 balance springs, which will realize, at the common price, 2s. 6d. each, £846 5s., the effect of labor alone. Thus it may be seen the mere labor bestowed upon a farthing worth of iron gives it the value of £8485s., or $4,55, which is 25,880 times its original value.

Who could believe that the small article he carries in his pocket, to denote the time of day, was the work of 215 persons?—Yet it is doubtless so.—*Ploughman.*

Nutritive Properties of the Potato.

The potato, it is well known, is one of the most valuable edibles of the farm. Its nutritive properties have also been universally regarded as great; yet, very few, perhaps, have ever appreciated them so highly as they deserve. Compared with the articles below named, the relative value of the potato, for alimentary purposes is as follows, which I, have no doubt will be interesting to your readers:

One hundred pounds of good mealy potatoes are equal to

Meat, clear, without bone,	25 lbs
Beans,	28 "
Wheat Bread,	35 "
Parsnips and carrots,	190 "
Turnips,	300 "
Cabbages,	400 "

The experiments upon which this table was predicated, were conducted by Berry & Herring, and doubtless very correctly.

BEET SUGAR;—The manufacture of beet root sugar is attracting considerable attention. In 1841 the production of this article in Europe was estimated at 55,000 tons; in 1847 it was said to be 100,000 tons, and in 1850 it was calculated to be 190,000 tons. The manufacture is said to be rapidly increasing, and realizing a great profit to those engaged in it.

DUTIES:—Every man ought to pay his debts—if he can. Every man ought to help his neighbor—if he can. Every man and woman ought to get married—if they can. Every man should do his work to suit his customers—if he can. Every man should please his wife—if he can. Every wife should please her husband—if she can. Every wife should sometimes hold her tongue—if she can. Every lawyer should sometimes tell the truth—if he can. Every man should mind his own business—if he can; and every woman too. Every one should take a newspaper, and *pay for it*—any how.—*Exchange paper.*

Important to Dairymen.

Our readers have all, in years past, heard of the success of Alonzo D. Fish, of Litchfield, Herkimer County, in the dairying business, a business in which he had been largely engaged, and in which he has done great service to others, who are pursuing the same branch of agriculture.

There is, perhaps, no man, in this country, who has done more to promote the speed of practical information among dairymen, and to encourage a desire and thirst for knowledge, in this department, then Mr. Fish. It is therefore with much pleasure, that we copy the following article from the Herkimer Democrat, and we call attention to the experiments so carefully detailed, in his communication.

There is no branch of Agricultural pursuits more important to the public, than the making of Butter and Cheese, none in which producer and consumer are more equally interested, and we hail an improvement in it, with great pleasure. We do not, however, design to endorse the principles laid down in Mr. Fish's article, having no practical knowledge of the experiments in question, but the known ability of Mr. Fish to judge in such matters, and especially after an experiment so carefully made, is a sufficient reason for introducing it to our readers:—*N. Y. Farmer.*

"MR. EDITOR:—If you think the following report suitable to your columns, I should like to see it in print, because I believe the amount of cheese per gallon has never been beat, if equalled.

Number of cows, 4; price paid, $22 per head in March; age, from 5 to 8; time of coming in, middle of March and 1st of April; number of lbs. of cheese on hay and 1 peck of carrots a day, 3½; on grass only, in May or June, 4 lbs. per cow; number of quarts which they gave, 6 to the milking; number of gallons per day, 12; number of gallons put into a cheese, 24; weight of cheese after done pressing 32 lbs; number of cheese made, 40: all sold at home market for 6 cts. per lb; number of lbs. per gallon 1½, rate per season, 720 lbs.

MODE OF MAKING:—First day's milk put into 2 air tight cans, holding 6 gals., each, and lowered into the well; below the surface of the water; second day's treated after the usual manner, the night's milk, cooled more thoroughly; the whole raised to 1000 and over; rennet applied and stirred briskly 5 or 10 minutes. In from 15 to 30 minutes more, cut with a wire cutter to a fineness of corn, stirred with a wooden paddle till cooked hard; number of degrees of heat in scalding 100 to 110, according to hardness or softness of curd no separation of cream took place in the first day's milk and a trifling in the last night's.

QUALITY OF MILK USED:—Cheese was made during four days and cream churned alternately: quantity of butter made 12 lbs.

HINTS:—From certain observations which I have made during several years of failure to produce the best and most cheese from a given quantity of milk, I came to the following conclusions. That electricity is the vitalizing principle of all animal substances. Milk being an animal product, contains a portion of it; the more recently drawn from the bag the more there is in it, and the more rennet it will take to digest a given quantity. Physicians have noted the fact that new milk dose not digest as readily as that which has first cooled, and then been warmed or scalded. The nearer souring also, the more electricity it contains, it being the nature of acid to excite electricity.—Any degree of heat alone will not sour milk. It will remain for several days in the bag at a temperature of 100 degrees without souring, though it coagulates. At the same time let it be drawn into the air and it will sour in 10 hours or less in a temperature of 70 degrees or 80 degrees. So butter will remain sealed up from the air for years without change, but will become rancid, if exposed, in 48 hours.—The first point then is, to exclude the air completely from milk while standing. The second, to extract the electricity or animal heat as soon as possible. Small air-tight vessels are the best for this process; but if these should be deemed cumbersome and expensive, a wooden follower is recommended, with cotton cloth tacked around the edges, and fitting close to the inside of the vat, to be pressed hard down upon the milk. The expenses of such an article would not exceed one dollar; and it will pay for itself in the making of one cheese. Milk cooled in large masses, only on the bottom and sides, is longer in cooling, and raises its cream more rapidly. After it has cooled to a temperature of the air, above, a color of caloric passes down through it to the colder water below producing decomposition. As to the advantages of the above process of making cheese I can do no more than state the facts; others must judge of the quality of the article. Several small cheeses were made while pursuing the above mode, in the old way, which fell short in weight one quarter. The quality you can judge of Mr. Editor, as you are presented with one of an average.

A. D. FISH.

Litchfield, Herk. Co., Jan. 14, 1852.