

FOR \$1.50
You can get THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT and Weekly Pittsburgh Post, both one year for \$1.50. All the news worth having for the LEAST MONEY.

The Centre Democrat.

MOST NEWS
THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT and Weekly Pittsburgh Post, both one year for \$1.50. All the news worth having for the LEAST MONEY.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1897.

VOL. 19, NO. 37.

PRIVATIONS OF EARLY SETTLERS

An Interesting Sketch From Penna. Archives

THRILLING INDIAN STORIES

Who Were the Early Pioneers of the Bald Eagle Valley—Captain Sam Brady Avenge the Death of His Kin—Bald Eagle Chief Killed by Him Near Milesburg—Mode of Living Then and Now.

The following interesting sketch was prepared for publication by Mr. S. S. Pletcher, formerly of Howard, Pa., who holds a position in the Navy Department at Washington, D. C. He gathered his information from the records in the Penna. archives:

As a general rule Pennsylvanians know very little about their own state. We read the papers and interest ourselves in individual localities, which is natural, we see our beautiful running brooks, margined by arable land bosomed among the mountains and are satisfied. When health or pleasure induces us to leave home, we betake ourselves to the seashore, bask on the sands of the beach, weary ourselves in body and mind on the piazzas of fashionable watering places, sit day after day in the same place and at the same table, eat trash that we would not look at when at home, and bask night after night in the same bed chamber. What a contrast would be a journey for the same length of time through our valleys, over mountains, stopping at the village taverns, breathing fresh air, feeding our bodies with wholesome food and draughts of sparkling spring water, and enjoying the new sights as we journey with our desires would lead us.

We do not realize the hardships, trials, and disadvantages that our ancestors encountered in fitting the country in the condition we enjoy it at the present time. How little appreciation is shown for the names of such men as Captain Sam Brady, Hawkins Boone, Moses Van Campen, who scouted the settlements from the Delaware to the Ohio, Lieutenant Baker who served with Braddock at Fort Duquesne, and many other hardy pioneers who devoted all their time to fitting the site of the home for their succeeding generations.

All the lands of Central Pennsylvania are included in a deed, recorded in the colonial deed book "F.", Volume 8, page 242, September 3, 1700, to Pennsylvania by the sachems of the Susquehanna Indians. This indenture was far reaching in its vague form, including the Susquehanna river, all its islands and all lands on both sides. This sale was made to the Earl of Limerick, who acted as agent for William Penn, and existed until November 5, 1768 when another purchase and division was made at Fort Stanwix, which, to a limited extent, encroached on the former territory. This latter deed is recorded in the roll office, deed book number 3, page 23. Following these purchases from the aborigines, came surveys within the original grants, some of which were indentured to sundry individuals for services done in the French and Indian wars. One of these surveys or grants was issued, February 4, 1769, in favor of Dr. Francis Allison, for 1600 acres above the mouth of Bald Eagle creek. The next of these were special grants to officers who served in the Indian wars from 1755 to 1758. This survey, made in March 1769, by Surveyor John Lukens, began on the west side of Dr. Allison's tract, and contained lands for miles along Bald Eagle creek. About 216 acres were granted to an Esauja by name of McMeens, 282 acres to Lieutenant H. Hunsicker, which included the site of the present village of Flemington, and 524 acres to Captain Green, which included the mouth of fishing creek. Charles Lukens, by appointment of the Surveyor General, was the surveyor of these tracts and the district to which he was assigned extended as far as the head waters of Bald Eagle creek, embracing Bald Eagle, Nittany, Sugar, Nipponoes, White Deer Hole, and White Deer valleys. The cost of a farm in one of our fertile valleys during those early days was small in comparison with it now. \$1.50 for office fees, and any amount your explorer or guide may charge for services, was the total cost of a survey at that time.

These guides were, generally, expert woodsmen and the principal one of Bald Eagle and Nittany valleys was Hawkins Boone, who was one of the early adventurers from Tuscarora valley, Cumberland County, to Bald Eagle valley. He was killed in the fight with McDonald's Indians at Fort Freeland, June 30, 1779. The routes for travel from one settlement to another were generally along the streams and an occasional Indian path furnished the outline of the trip from one part of the state to another. The great path from Shamokin to Kittanning was of much note during the early days and if it were possible for it to reveal all of the sad scenes and divulge all the occurrences along its line, many of the mysteries of early days would be cleared of the doubt which enshrouds them. This path, beginning at Shamokin, continues along the river through Buffalo valley, passes around the rocks and enters White Deer Hole valley, thence along White Deer Hole creek, near where Elmsport now stands, from there across the mountain into Nipponoes valley. It extends its winding course out of the valley, past Bald Eagle's nest at Milesburg, to Kittanning. Later on in years when the settlers began to have produce, grain, etc., to ship to the markets in the east the travel was confined more to the rivers and their tributaries. Their means of transportation was by the method known as arks, whose average capacity was of about 30 tons and a cost of \$65. The outlet from the fertile valleys of Nittany and Bald Eagle was down the Susquehanna river, the starting point being at

Great Island, now Lock Haven. The average expense to run an ark from Lock Haven to the head of tide water was about \$120, and once at their destination they were of no use as they could never get up the river again, hence they were sold for any amount that the owner could get for them, which was about \$15. Many of the arks, with all their load, were lost during their voyage down the river.

What was known then as Great Island is where the city of Lock Haven now stands, and contained the east end of the pleasant vale, of lime stone bottom, averaging five miles in width and containing in 1779, sixty families known as Bald Eagle. Judge Fleming, the McCormicks, Wm. Reed, "Cooksey" Long, were among the early settlers. It was at the junction of the creek with the Susquehanna river that Col. Kelly's regiment was stationed during the year 1777 to try and protect the inhabitants from the savages who were roving around the country spreading havoc and death at a fearful rate. These were soon to be the dark days of the settler. The trouble became graver between the mother country and her colonies, "Taxation without representation" was heard far back in the wilderness. Great Britain sent her armies and ships to coerce the patriots into an humble submission to laws unjust and oppressive in the extreme. As matters progressed the then most civilized nation on the face of the earth added another of her dastardly blots to her record by sending out agents to bribe the Indians to murder, not only the soldier, but the women and children of patriotic families. The news from Bunker Hill and Lexington taught the Crown that he had undertaken no easy task, when he attempted to force his subjects in America to obey his unjust mandates. Owing to bribery the whole Indian population became an ally to the British Government to assist to murder, plunder, and destroy. Premiums were offered for the scalps of the settlers and here a new danger hove in sight to our little settlements in the wilderness.

All along the borders of the Susquehanna and its tributaries forts had to be erected to protect the lives of the women and children. John Brady, afterwards killed by the Indians, built a fort where the present town of Muncy now stands and which was named Fort Brady. Several miles north of this was another named Fort Muncy, near the mouth of Locoming creek was erected Fort Huff, and another named Fort Antes which was built by Col. Henry Antes, who was born in 1736 near Philadelphia and afterwards distinguished for heroic services in the revolutionary war. The last and the one farthest upon the frontier at that time was Fort Reed near the present village of Lock Haven and which protected the lower ends of Bald Eagle and Nittany valleys. It was in this neighborhood where Moses VanCampen, on the morning of the 16th of April 1782, with his party of twenty-five men met with eighty-five Indian warriors and a severe conflict took place. VanCampen and five of his men were taken prisoners and the other nineteen were killed. This however, was not the first visit of VanCampen to the redskins of the West Branch of the Susquehanna, for in August 1777, he joined Col. John Kelley's regiment stationed at Great Island, and here he remained for three months. About this time the heartless savage, actuated by the premiums on human scalps offered by His Majesty, Geo. III., began to weave a chain around the settlements on the frontier. From the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico the settlers were harassed by the British Tories and Indians. There remained no longer any safety for the inhabitants, as the fires were nightly lighted from the dwellings of their murdered victims. All the able-bodied men were needed at the seaboard to oppose the British and thus the defence of the interior was weakened. Patriotism flashed from every eye and death was now more preferable than submission to the English. In the words of the poet the spirit of the colonists was described in the lines from the "Day Star of Liberty":

"On Lexington's sward,
Down Bunker's steep side,
From the breasts of the slain
Ran the crimson life tide.
Across Delaware's stream,
Through bleak Valley Forge,
Where blood marked their steps
In that wild mountain gorge,
Still Freedom's best hope those heroes
led on to death,
To battle and death till triumph was won."

These were the days of our forefathers, and how little do we, the present generation, understand the physical suffering and mental tortures borne by them, as we enjoy the fruits of their hardships, in the beautiful orchards, magnificent houses, peaceful homes, and acres of cultivated farms of rich, abundant producing soil.

Moses VanCampen, who figured more than ordinary as an Indian scout and protector of settlements on the West Branch at this time, was a native of Northumberland County, and but 18 years old when the Declaration of Independence was declared. His father and brother were scalped by the savages, and he made a prisoner on different occasions, one of which he escaped only by killing the captors as they slept by their camp fire calm in the belief that their prisoner was securely bound. After his capture Great Island in April 1782 he was delivered up to the British at Fort Niagara. Inducements were offered him to enter the service of the English, such as gold, high official rank in the army of the King, commission as General, but his obstinate refusals bore testimony of the true heart of the American patriot, and his loyalty to his people sounds encouragement in the words: "My life belongs to my country, give me the tomahawk, the stake, or the scalping knife before I will dishonor the charter of an American Officer." He was kept a prisoner until the first of November when he was exchanged and immediately went into service of his country again. On the 16th of November, the following year, 1783, he was finally dis-

(Continued on page 5.)

ARRESTED FOR MURDER

Peter Mendis Charged With a Serious Crime.

POISONING OF JAMES MARIA

Who was a Partner with Mendis in the Rag Business at Bellefonte—Died Jan. 6th, 1896—Body Exhumed on Wednesday—Evidences of Poison.

A decided sensation was sprung in this community, on Wednesday evening, by the arrest of Peter Mendis, a rag gatherer and carpet cleaner, who is charged with the murder of James Maria.

James Maria was an Italian who had been engaged in buying rags, bones, etc., at this place for several years, and was known to have accumulated some money. He often remitted sums by postal orders to his family in Italy. In the year 1895, about the middle of summer, another Italian joined him, by the name of Peter Mendis who assisted in the business and are said to have been partners. They had their headquarters at different points about town and were always together. About Jan. 3, 1896, James Maria took sick and Dr. Henry Mullen attended him. After an illness of about three days he died, hemorrhage of the lungs was said to have been his ailment, caused from a strain in lifting. An order for relief was made, and the Overseers of Poor of Bellefonte had the body interred in the Catholic cemetery at this place. Charles Dann, an Italian, was appointed administrator and closed up the deceased's estate which was small. About an insurance policy on his life, very little could be learned—the amount is said to be small.

Maria had sent for his family, in Italy, to join him and they arrived in New York at the time of the husband's burial and they were at once notified and returned to their former home.

CAUSE OF THE ARREST.

For over a month District Attorney Singer has been in receipt of information from parties in this community that aroused suspicion as to the death of Maria, and during the past week it was of such a character that he found he was warranted in making an investigation. Upon receipt of further evidence he notified the county Coroner, M. J. Locke, to exhume the body of Maria, on Wednesday afternoon the body was taken up. The examination showed that the stomach and certain other organs were better preserved than other parts of the body which were considerably decomposed.

This latter statement is rumor. The Coroner and District Attorney both stated that the result of the examination justified the suspicion of poisoning and a warrant was at once issued. It was served at 5 p. m. by officer Henry Montgomery who soon found the man at his establishment on Bishop street, and in a short time had him in the county jail. Mendis did not appreciate the gravity of the charge preferred against him and could hardly understand that he was indicted for poisoning his fellow countryman and partner. He sent for H. S. Taylor Esq., and wanted to be released at once so that he could look after his place of business.

ANOTHER RUMOR.

The following story was related to the writer, that may be correct: At present, Mrs. Anna Spierly is confined in the county jail for keeping a disorderly house, which had been the resort of Italians. Since she has been in prison she made demands for money upon Peter Mendis to pay her fine. This was not forthcoming and she, in revenge, gave secrets away to the watchman at the jail. This was to the effect that Mendis had caused the death of his partner in business, James Maria, by administering poison to him while sick. This information was furnished to the District Attorney and led to the investigation and arrest on Wednesday.

On Wednesday evening the Coroner carefully sealed and shipped by express the stomach, taken from the corpse, to a chemist and specialist, in Philadelphia for careful analysis to search for any traces of poison. The result of this analysis will be an important part of the evidence, and will decide whether the prisoner should be held for trial or not. Dr. Locke left for Philadelphia on Thursday morning, and will give the matter his direct attention.

Messrs H. S. Taylor, Esq., and J. K. Johnston, Esq., have been retained by the prisoner and had a long consultation with the accused man on Wednesday evening. They were seen later and had nothing of special interest for publication, only that the man seemed to be totally ignorant of the serious situation and insisted on his prompt release. Mendis is a single man, about 35 years of age. He is industrious and frugal and

appeared to be saving some money at cleaning carpets, and buying rags and other old wares. He has a large building on an alley, of East Bishop street. It is equipped with a steam engine and an ingenious machine for cleaning and renovating carpets.

A story afloat that at the examination of the body, a bullet hole was found at the back of the skull, is untrue.

Died at the Hospital.

Mrs. Amanda, wife of John Scruders, died at the State hospital, at Warren, Pa., Saturday morning, where she had been taken in July last for treatment. Her remains were brought to the family home in Tyrone. The deceased was a native of Centre county and was about 42 years old. She is survived by her husband and two children, Stella, aged 13 years, and Clyde, aged 9. Two sisters and two brothers also survive, Mrs. J. W. Sunday, of Rock Springs; Miss Lizzie Gumm, of Tyrone; James Gumm, of Punxsutawney; and William Gumm, of Snow Shoe Intersection.

Baby Was Lying on a Snake.

A telegram from Williamsport says: A 3-year-old child of Mrs. James Cross, who resides in the Beech Creek region, was bitten by a copperhead snake Sunday while in its crib. The child began crying and told its mother that its back was cold. The mother investigated and found that the child was lying on a snake that had coiled up in the bottom of the crib. The snake had bitten the baby on the neck, but home made remedies prevented the poison spreading. The snake measured over six feet in length.

Henry Hoover Dead.

Henry Hoover died at his home in Bald Eagle, Sunday night, September 12th. He was buried at Unionville on Wednesday. Mr. Hoover was one of Centre county's old lumbermen, and a number of years ago made a fortune in the mountains of old Centre, but continual reverses came and it took wings and flew away. He was very well known in Bellefonte and throughout the State, especially among prominent business men, and his death is lamented. He had been ill for about a year.

Two Citizens of Milesburg Dead.

Mr. William Adams, of Milesburg, died on Friday of typhoid fever. He was a man of about 58 years. A widow with several grown up children. The interment took place on Monday.

Mr. Adam Shope an old citizen of Milesburg, died at 3 o'clock Thursday morning of last week, after a brief illness, aged about 70 years. He leaves a wife and several sons. Funeral took place Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

A Former Centre Countian.

James Benn, an aged and respected citizen of Altoona, died at his home Friday evening, of dropsy and heart failure, after a lingering illness. The deceased was born in Centre county 66 years and 11 months ago. He has been a resident of Altoona since 1892, and was, during the past six years, employed as janitor at the Second United Brethren church of which he was a member.

John E. DuBois Married.

John E. DuBois, probably the wealthiest man in Clearfield county, was married last week, to Miss Millie Gambill, of Norfolk, Va., at the home of the bride. Miss Gambill spent several summers at the DuBois home, and is a lady of rare accomplishments. The groom is one of leading business men of Clearfield county, and the owner of more property than any other citizen.

Death.

On the 27th day of August, 1897, Mrs. Eliza McGhee died of appendicitis, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. M. E. Shope, where she has made her home, for a number of years. She was 71 years of age, was born and raised in Milesburg. Interment was made at Curtins.

Died at Lock Haven.

Mrs. Lennie DeLong, of Romola, died at the hospital in Lock Haven on Sunday. Some time ago she had been operated upon at the Philadelphia hospital. She then came home and about a week ago was admitted to the Lock Haven hospital. She was 36 years 3 months and 10 days old.

Farmers' Institutes.

Prof. Hamilton has made the following appointments of Farmers' Institutes to be held in this county:

At Spring Mills, December 13-14.
At Hubersburg, December 15-16.
—You can't do better—THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT and the weekly Pittsburgh Post both one year for \$1.50.

WASHINGTON LETTER

"Pension Payments Might Be Curtailed" Some

MORE MCKINLEY HOME RULE

More of the Family Put in Office—General Fitzhugh Lee to Return to Cuba—The Administration and New York Politics.

In view of the officially estimated deficit in the payment of pensions for the current fiscal year there may be some emphatic talk on this subject at the coming session of Congress. Lest some of your republican readers should say that this idea of pension deficit was concocted by the opponents of the administration, the following language used by H. Clay Evans, Commissioner of Pensions, is given: "I estimate that the total payment for the year will not exceed \$147,500,000, and the appropriation for the year is \$141,263,880." Mr. Evans speaks of this probable deficit of six and a quarter millions of dollars as indifferently as though he were talking of purchasing a pint of peanuts, and when his attention was called to the probability that the failure of the new tariff to produce the estimated amount of revenue might cause congress to object to passing a deficiency pension appropriation bill for this year, he gave away the republican plan for meeting such a contingency by saying: "If there should be an unexpected falling off in the revenue, the pension payments might be curtailed towards the end of the year."

The Home Rule Plank of the Republican National Platform cuts no ice when it comes to providing for a cousin of Mr. McKinley, as was shown by the announcement that Frederick E. McKinley, of New Mexico, had been appointed Receiver of Public Moneys at Guthrie, Oklahoma. A cousin of the Vice President also was provided with an office, but not quite so big an office as he applied for. This was Edward F. Hobart, who aspired to be Governor of New Mexico, and who was appointed Receiver of Public Moneys at Santa Fe.

Indiana Commissioner Jones hasn't resigned, and is not likely to do so voluntarily, although Boss Hanna's man has been appointed Assistant Commissioner over the protest of Jones. This is another straw showing the uselessness of republican objections to the carrying out of any of Hanna's wishes.

Ex-Secretary Hoke Smith passed through Washington a day or two ago, and he was fairly bubbling over with satisfaction at the bright prospects ahead of the united Democratic party, which always wins. He thinks the success of the democrats in Greater New York is certain, and that it will start a wave of party harmony that will result in the election of a Democratic House next year and of a Democratic President in 1900.

All the talk about Gen. Fitz Lee remaining at home and taking part in the Virginia Campaign, was settled for good and all, when General Lee, in deference to a request of Mr. McKinley, made during a long conference between the two men at the White House, agreed to resume his duties as U. S. Consul General to Cuba as soon as the leave of absence upon which he came home, expired, which will be early in October. General Lee is mum about the situation in Cuba, but his opinions as well as the drift of his sympathy are pretty well known, and it is not believed that he would have agreed to return to Cuba had he not been given to understand that some action was soon to be taken by this Government that will put an end to the present deplorable condition there.

Boss Platt is using all his wiles to get Mr. McKinley to take sides against the candidacy of Seth Low for Mayor of Greater New York, and he is very sly about it, too. He is trying to convince Mr. McKinley, and has almost succeeded, that if he doesn't help to kill the aspirations of Low, he will have him to fight as a candidate for the Presidential nomination at the next Republican National Convention. Mr. McKinley is somewhat of a politician himself, and will not do all that Platt wants him to do, without exacting loyalty from Platt in 1900, but present indications are that he will join Platt in fighting Low, which will make it all the easier for a democrat to be elected Mayor of Greater New York.

Barn Struck by Lightning.

About half past seven o'clock Friday evening while a heavy thunder storm was passing over this section the barn of Frank Lutz, near Mill Hill, was struck by lightning and burned with all its contents. The flames spread so rapidly that none of the contents of the barn could be saved. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

Mysterious Death of Cattle.

The following is going the rounds of the papers. We know nothing of its truth: Last spring a number of farmers of Pennsylvania banded together and drove their young cattle to the mountains, south of the valley, for the summer, the cattle to be tended and salted by a man engaged for the purpose. Little attention was paid by the farmers to their stock until lately, and then it was discovered that out of sixty head taken out all were dead but twenty-two. The woods is strewn with the carcasses of the dead beasts. Some of them have the appearance of having been killed by a mysterious wild beast, while others bear no marks at all. The cattle yet remaining alive have been brought home, looking gaunt as spectres, and an investigation is being made to ascertain, if possible, the cause of the wholesale slaughter of the stock. It is more than likely that state aid may be called for.

Important Case.

The case of trespass brought in this county, and transferred to the United States Circuit court, which was tried last week at Williamsport, in which Mr. Edward C. Perkins and others were plaintiffs and Messrs. Jacob Torne, George Seligman, William Resides, William F. Powell and others were defendants, resulted in a verdict of \$3,200 in favor of the plaintiffs, whose attorneys were ex-Judge Furst, of this place and Lawyer Ball, of Lock Haven. The land in dispute is located on Eddy Lick run, this county, and heretofore has been subject to much litigation, which caused much interest to be taken in the termination of the suit. The verdict was for prop and other timber taken from the land by the defendants.

The case will be carried to the Supreme court for final disposal.

A Great Fake.

Two young men are credited with originating the greatest fake on record. They recently straddled their wheels and rode to New Maryville, a small town which divides Clarion and Armstrong counties. From there they rode out into the country about fourteen miles to the locality of the "petified" man, who it is reported was turned into stone while blasphemously shooting at God, because the weather did not suit him. Of course they found nothing of the kind. They then hired a farmer to put on a mackintosh and go out into a field between two large trees, and stand with his gun pointed toward heaven while they leveled their kodak on him. The picture proved to be a good one and is now being engraved for an Eric paper.

New Railroad.

The state department has granted a charter to the Pittsburg, Johnstown and Eastern railroad, with \$1,500,000 capital. The road will be sixty miles long and will run from the Baltimore and Ohio tracks in Johnstown to Ebensburg and thence to the Beech Creek tracks near Philipsburg. The construction of this road will give the Baltimore and Ohio not only connection with the Beech Creek railroad through the centre of the state, which it has never had, but will give it access to the Clearfield coal region, which important route it has been after for a long time.

Gaining Prominence.

On Monday the New York World contained the pictures of four of the prominent foot ball captains this season. They were: Garret Cochran, Princeton; J. B. Wombacker, Ann Harbor; J. B. C. Eckston, Dartmouth; and S. V. Hosterman, Franklin and Marshall. Of the latter it says: Franklin and Marshall's eleven will be captained by S. V. Hosterman, who ranks as one of the best individual players in the country. He expects to do wonders with his team. Mr. Hosterman is a son of Dr. G. W. Hosterman, dentist, of Centre Hall.

Legal Holidays.

The last legislature gave us two additional holidays, the 12th of February, or Lincoln's birthday, and the third Tuesday in February, or election day. The holiday list for Pennsylvania now stands as follows: New Year's Day, Lincoln's Birthday, February Election Day, Washington's Birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, November Election Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and every Saturday after 12 o'clock noon.

A One Legged Man Climbing Poles.

A one legged lineman with a cork leg is climbing poles in the telephone gang now operating in this section and has no difficulty in climbing poles with the spurs ordinarily used. A short time since, while fixing a wire at the top of a pole in Williamsport, he caught hold of a live electric wire and would have been killed had not a comrade who saw the accident immediately cut the wire.—Tyrone Herald.