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The Centre Democrat.

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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1898.

VOL. 20, NO. 5.

SECOND WEEK OF COURT

A Brief Statement of the Cases Disposed

VERDICTS AND SENTENCES

Several Interesting Cases Called and Heard—Others Continued—Sentence Imposed on Ardell Campbell—Reported by S. D. Gettig, Esq.

Court convened on Monday morning, at nine o'clock, with Hon. John G. Love, president judge, on the bench.

Considerable time was consumed in hearing petitions and motions presented by the several members of the bar.

The list of jurors was then called and absentees noted.

The sheriff gave notice of special returns to sundry writs on Wednesday afternoon.

J. B. Ard and P. F. Bortoff vs. The Pine Grove Water Company; summons in ejectment, plea not guilty. Continued.

Lillie E. Essington vs. Mary M. Boileau, summons in capias ad respondendum in trespass, plea not guilty. Continued.

Mary V. Hale and Ellen H. Andrews vs. The Central R. Co. of Penna., summons in ejectment, plea not guilty. Continued.

Delores R. DeCassanova, guardian vs. Harry Keller, administrator of etc., of Emilia C. DeVillayerde, summons in scire facias, sur judgment, plea nil debit. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$10,000 with interest from July 1, 1898.

Henry Fryer, use of John Hoffa, Jr., vs. The Iron City Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburg, Pa., summons in assumpsit, plea non-assumpsit. This suit was brought to recover on a policy of insurance against fire, placed upon the house and personal property of the plaintiff at Coburn, Pa., by the defendant company, which property so as aforesaid insured was totally destroyed by fire on the 26th day of August 1896, after which time Mr. Fryer assigned the proceeds of this policy to Mr. Hoffa for a valuable consideration. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$751.90.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to use of Elizabeth Weaver and Anna Gentzel vs. Charles C. Bartiges and Ivy W. Bartiges, executors of etc., of John Hettinger, in lunacy, and William Pealer and P. W. Heckman, sureties, summons in assumpsit, plea non-assumpsit. Settled.

W. E. Delmage, now for the use of W. H. Black vs. A. M. McClain and Isaac Thomas, partners, trading as A. M. McClain & Co., summons in assumpsit. Continued.

Mrs. A. R. Long vs. Cyrus Gordon, summons in assumpsit, plea non-assumpsit and payment with leave. Continued. at costs of plaintiff.

Margaret C. Brockerhoff and Andrew Brockerhoff, administrators of etc., of Henry Brockerhoff vs. Caroline A. Orvis and E. L. Orvis, executors of the last will and testament of John H. Orvis, deceased, summons in assumpsit, plea non-assumpsit. This case grows out of the sheriff's sale of the William Stump farm in Potter township, lying on both sides of the Bellefonte and Youngmanstown Turnpike, in January 1870, against which Henry Brockerhoff had had liens amounting to about \$15,000, and on the 26th day of January, the day set for the sale of the said farm an agreement was entered into by and between the law firm of Orvis & Alexander, and Henry Brockerhoff by the terms of which the said firm of Orvis & Alexander were to buy the said farm; after which portions of the farm were to be sold and thus liquidate—the liens held by the said Brockerhoff against the farm. Sometime in November 1871 the sheriff acknowledged his deed poll to Henry Brockerhoff for the one-half interest and to J. H. Orvis and C. T. Alexander to each one-fourth interest, and about the same time a portion of the farm was sold for \$9,000, which reduced the liens to about \$6,000. About the same time a bond and mortgage was executed and delivered by the said Orvis & Alexander to Henry Brockerhoff for \$3,500. Some years afterwards Judge Orvis' interest was sold to the Bellefonte Building & Loan Association, and afterwards purchased by Mr. Brockerhoff, whereupon this suit is brought to recover from the estate of Judge Orvis the one-half of this mortgage, which the representatives of the estate allege has long since been paid as the mortgage has been in possession of the mortgagor premises. On Tuesday morning the plaintiffs offered to amend their pleadings in the case, and a juror was withdrawn and the case continued at the costs of the plaintiffs, and a rule granted on the defendants to show cause why the plaintiffs should not be allowed to amend their pleadings.

Joseph S. Ford, executor of etc., of George W. Ford, deceased, vs. William

J. Jackson, Eleanor H. Jackson, David D. Woods and John Shook, summons in ejectment, plea not guilty. Continued at the cost of the plaintiff.

G. G. Snyder and James Snyder, trading as Snyder Bros., use of etc., vs. Thomas Collins, summons in assumpsit, plea non-assumpsit. Continued at the costs of the defendant.

John Curtin and H. R. Curtin, trustee vs. J. L. Bathurst, summons in ejectment. Continued at the costs of the plaintiffs.

Mary S. Thomas vs. Thomas Butler and Burdine Butler, feigned issue, plea general issue. This case grows out of the placing in the hands of the sheriff sometime during the summer of 1897 an execution to enforce the collection of a note he held against David R. Thomas, the husband, upon which Burdine Butler is bail, whereupon the sheriff levied upon a lot of farming implements and household goods in Patton township as the property of David R. Thomas, and which Mary S. Thomas claims as her property, having received a portion of it from home and the balance by virtue of a bill of sale executed and delivered to her from her husband David R. Thomas on a valid claim which she alleges she held against him and this action is brought to test the title to the property levied upon by the sheriff. Verdict on Wednesday forenoon, in favor of the plaintiff generally.

On Wednesday evening, just before court adjourned, the sheriff acknowledged his deed poll for property sold on Saturday before court, and continued two until March argument court.

Ardell Campbell, convicted of larceny last week, was sentenced to pay a fine of one dollar, costs of prosecution and undergo imprisonment in the penitentiary for a period of two years and three months.

On Wednesday forenoon the case of Alice Garbrick vs. J. B. Gentzel, summons in trespass, plea not guilty, was taken up. This case grows out of a dispute of a line between lands of both the plaintiff and the defendant in Spring township.

(Reported by S. D. Gettig, Esq.)

PREACHER ARRESTED.

Monday morning, February 7th, is the time fixed for an interesting hearing before Justice Keichline, in Bellefonte.

As there is much rumor afloat in the matter, and the public is anxious to know what are the facts, as in all similar cases, it is the plain duty of the press to give it.

About a week ago Mr. Wm. Crust, of near Pleasant Gap, appeared before Justice Keichline and made information against J. H. Erdman, of Centre Hall, of a serious nature. According to his sworn statement J. H. Erdman, a married man, and a preacher of Centre Hall, Pa., in company with Miss Celia Noll, a single lady, registered at the Bush House, Bellefonte, Pa., on the night of January 14th, 1898 as "J. H. Erdman and wife, Lewisburg, Pa." and occupied a room at that hotel, that night. That at divers times in the past year, before and since that date, these parties were guilty of undue intimacy of like character. A warrant was issued, and on Monday constable John Dunlap served same on Mr. Erdman, at his home, at Centre Hall. Bond was given by D. I. Tressler, of Linden Hall, for Mr. Erdman's appearance at a hearing before Justice Keichline, on Monday at 10 a. m.

J. H. Erdman is an ordained minister of the "Evangelical Association of North America," commonly known as the Escher branch of the Evangelical church. For some years he has been located, with his wife and several children, in the Evangelical parsonage, at Centre Hall, and has filled numerous appointments throughout the county.

Comment on this matter is improper at this time. The Rev. insists that he is the object of an unjust attack and demanded a hearing. It is hoped that the position guilt or innocence of the parties will be established. The public should know the facts in the case.

Kicked in the Temple.

On Tuesday morning while Wesley Meyers, of Boalsburg, was leading a horse into Greib's livery stable at State College, an animal tied in a stall kicked at them and struck Mr. Meyers on the temple. Since then he has been vomiting and spitting blood. He was removed to his home, at Boalsburg, and it is thought that the skull was not fractured. Mr. Meyers is a middle-aged man and for a number of years was engaged in the butcher business at that place. It is thought that he is not in danger.

An Accident.

J. H. Lytle, a resident of Pine Grove Mills, Centre county, aged about 50 years, fell on an east side curb about 1 o'clock Tuesday morning and broke his left arm at the shoulder. The fracture was reduced by Dr. A. L. Feltwell. Mr. Lytle returned to his home the same day.

—Altoona Tribune.

THE OLD TOWN OF KARTHAUS

Something Concerning the History of an Old Place

LAI D OUT IN THE YEAR 1830

It is in the Midst of a Very Rich Iron Ore Region Which Has Now Lain Idle for Over Half a Century.—Many Murders Committed There.

During the past month frequent rumors have been afloat about capitalists buying up ore land in the vicinity of Karthaus, Pa., being on the border line of Centre and Clearfield counties. These rumors are without foundation, we believe, but have awakened some interest in regards to the early history of that section. The following recently appeared in the Altoona Tribune:

Considerable interest has been stirred up by the announcement that local capitalists are negotiating for the purchase of the rich iron ore mines of the locality of Karthaus, which have lain idle now for over half a century. Though considerable secrecy has been observed in the dealings, enough has been learned to know that the deal is being made in the interest of eastern capitalists, and if the parties are successful in obtaining all the land, it will mean the development of the mines, and the most prosperous times for Karthaus the village has ever known.

The great drawback to the development of these mines in the past was that the only outlet is over the Keating branch of the Philadelphia and Erie to Keating, from whence shipment would have to be made over the Philadelphia and Erie, and west over the same road to Driftwood, and thence over the Allegheny Valley to Pittsburg. But now the growing scarcity of native ores as rich as the Karthaus mines, which are regarded as among the highest in per cent. of any hematite belt in the country, doubtless makes the matter of outlet a minor consideration.

The history of Karthaus, which is known to but very few people now alive, is so unique as to be unequalled by any other locality in the commonwealth. Located in the very heart of the Allegheny mountains, along the West branch of the Susquehanna river, it was up until 1830 only a spot in the wilderness. In the year 1829 Porter Karthaus came to this country from Germany, and after a short stay in Wilmington, Del., started up the Susquehanna river in an old flat boat, his main object being one of exploration with a view of locating at any point he found most favorable. He journeyed through all the southeastern tier of counties, and choosing the West branch of the river, continued his journey until he arrived at the point in the Alleghenies now marked by this place. Here his journey was interrupted by a twenty foot fall in the stream which, from the frothy condition of the water as it rippled over the walls, he at once named the "Buttermilk Falls." Karthaus had been interested in iron manufacture in the old country and his practiced eye at once discerned the presence of iron ore hereabouts. Being possessed of a considerable fortune he at once secured a large tract of land from the government and proceeded to build a town. A number of unpretentious houses were built, and as a basis for the maintenance of the place the man imported workmen and at once opened up ore mines.

A furnace was built and also one of the first burr grist mills in the county, but the latter was short-lived, as Karthaus never had any grain to grind save that brought there by himself, a fact he might have known beforehand, as there was not a farm at that time within twenty-five miles of the place. However, he operated his furnace some eight years. The pig iron was at first packed to market on the backs of horses, and later transported down the Susquehanna river in boats and arks built specially for the purpose. But in this enterprise Karthaus was also unlucky, as so many of his boats and arks were wrecked going down stream as to render the work of carrying on the operations a losing venture. Shortly after Karthaus had firmly established the town, he returned to Wilmington and married the belle of that city, a Miss Marston, and brought her to his solitary mountain home. They had one child, Peter Karthaus, Jr.

In addition to its wild surroundings, Karthaus became one of the most outlawed localities in the state. Upwards of a dozen murders were committed there inside a dozen years, and, strange as it may seem, not one man arrested for the crime was ever convicted. The younger Karthaus was found one morning with his throat cut, and the last of the notorious crimes was the murder of a man named Babb. Just two months prior to this murder, John Agar had been killed in mistake for James White. For the murder of Babb three men were arrested,

namely, Daniel Moore, James Curley and John Leonard. They were all tried separately in the quarter sessions of this county, but there being no direct evidence against them, all three got off, although public opinion condemned the trio. Later, James Curley was shot while committing robbery in Oil City; Leonard died in the western penitentiary, where he was serving a term for counterfeiting, and Moore still lives, a farmer in the wilds of this county, now past 80 years of age and regarded quite wealthy. This ended the array of crime in this locality for a period of thirty years, until in 1890 when the beautiful Clara Price was murdered by the fiend Andrews, who was convicted in Bellefonte and hanged April 17, 1891. A monument in the shape of a broken shaft was erected to the memory of Miss Price on the spot where the body was found, and now stands the one thing to first attract the attention of the traveler on his way here from Snow Shoe.

About ten years ago a fervor of excitement was created here by the announcement of the discovery of gold on the adjacent mountains. The report soon spread and every day brought hundreds to the scene to dig for gold. The excitement kept at fever heat for several weeks, but soon died out when the fact became known that the gold-bearing quartz was very scarce, and what there was of it contained such a small per cent. of gold that it would not pay any one to spend their days hunting for it. However, a company was formed for the purpose of developing the quartz mine, but after spending considerable money, for which no return was received, the scheme fell through, and since that time Karthaus has known only a humdrum existence, as all the coal mines of the Allegheny mountains are located too far from this place to bring any degree of prosperity here.

PLEASANT AFFAIR.

State College 1032 I. O. O. F. Entertain Their Friends.

State College Lodge No. 1032 I. O. O. F. invited their friends and members of the order to partake of their hospitality on last Thursday evening, January 27th.

Over one hundred and fifty accepted the invitation and were present in the lodge room at 8 o'clock when the programme of the evening was opened by Brother George Graham, chairman of the entertainment committee, who announced the opening overture by Miss Maud Kennedy, the accomplished daughter of Ex-postmaster Thos. F. Kennedy, which was listened to with marked attention.

At the conclusion of Chaplain Percival Rudy's invocation the College quartette, consisting of Messrs Atherton, Cochran, Cartwright and Wentzel, ably assisted by Dr. John F. Harter, rendered a very fine selection. Rev. Dr. Coldfelt was then introduced and delivered the address of the evening. This address, which better deserves the name of sermon, was listened to with undivided attention. The Dr. dwelt most earnestly and feelingly upon the vital necessity of man making some provision against the time of want, which shall so surely come to us all; and of the blessed and peaceful thoughts which come to every man, who knows beyond the least shadow of a doubt, that when he shall have left this world of sorrows, those whom he has left in this vale of tears, shall—may, will—receive the kindest care and the sweetest comforts which generous, kind-hearted, whole-souled Odd Fellowship has to offer the needy and afflicted.

At the close of the address the quartette rendered another fine selection.

The chairman then announced that supper would be served at Brother Grieb's popular hotel, just across the street from the lodge room. The crowd went over in sections, and from nine to twelve ate, drank and were merry indeed.

One need only to have glanced over the tables, at anytime during the evening, to understand how thoroughly representative in its character is Odd Fellowship in this community. Around the festive board, so richly laden with good things, were seated, ministers, lawyers, doctors, college professors and instructors, merchants, farmers, clerks, and mechanics—representatives of all the trades. No one is mentioned, because all cannot be, sufficient is it to say that members and visitors, one and all, had a splendid and thoroughly enjoyable time. Special thanks are due to Brother Grieb and to Brother Geo. Graham, chairman of the committee of entertainment, Brother C. H. Evey, chairman of the committee of arrangements, and Brother Jas. Williams, chairman of the reception committee, for the evenings success.

A Small Fire.

On Tuesday a smoke house, ice house and bakeoven shed were destroyed by fire, on the S. F. Ishler farm, about one mile west of Boalsburg. It was only by a favorable turn of the wind that the dwelling house was saved.

CENTRE CO'S FINANCES

Comments on the Co. Commissioners Statement

THE AUDITORS SURCHARGES

The Tax Rate Has Been Increased From 3 to 3 1/2 Mills—Some Interesting Sundry Items—Big Pay for Detectives—Expensive Assessments—The County Assets.

This issue contains a supplement giving the statement of the receipts and expenditures, the financial condition, of Centre county. The expenditures of the various offices are set out so that the taxpayers may see to what purpose the public monies are devoted.

Last Saturday the county auditors completed their work and filed their report. Herewith is given their report. It is not customary for us to publish this statement, but as it throws some additional light on the commissioners statement, it will be read with interest:

AUDITORS REPORT.

To the Honorable Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Centre county:

The board of auditors of Centre county convened at the court house, Bellefonte, Pa., January 3rd, 1898, it being the first Monday of January, for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the commissioners, county treasurer and other county officers for the year 1897. The members present were G. G. Fink, Frank W. Hess and J. D. Wagner.

G. G. Fink was chosen president and F. W. Hess secretary, notices were served on the several officers of the county that the county auditors were in session, and to submit to them all books and papers pertaining to their several departments for examination and audit.

The board continued their labors from day to day until they had examined and passed upon all the accounts, books, etc., presented; and therefore beg leave to report that they have examined the accounts of M. F. Riddle, Thomas W. Fisher and Daniel Heckman, commissioners of Centre county; Harrison Kline, county treasurer; W. M. Cronister, high sheriff; W. F. Smith, prothonotary; and C. L. Gramley, county superintendent, for the year ending January 3rd, 1898, and respectfully submit the following:

That the books of the commissioner's office showed an expenditure of sixty thousand one hundred and forty-nine and 04/100 (\$60,149.04) dollars, and that the amount paid out on certificate is eleven hundred and two and 04/100 (\$1,102.04) dollars, making a total expenditure of sixty-one thousand two hundred and fifty-one and 13/100 (\$61,251.13) dollars for the year 1897.

That the accounts of Harrison Kline, treasurer, were carefully examined and compared with the vouchers and found to be correct; that the receipts of the office exceed the expenditures, which leaves a balance in his hands of \$15,959.51 dollars.

There appears to be a balance of \$3,704.36 due the several townships for road, school and poor purposes.

The account of W. M. Cronister, sheriff, was examined and passed upon and a balance found to be due him of \$930.54.

The account of W. F. Smith was examined and found correct, showing an amount due him of \$869.30.

The Treasurer's accounts show a balance in his hands of \$215.41 of sheep funds arising from dog tax.

We desire to enter our protest against what we consider an unreasonable allowance to Joshua Fouk for watching at the county jail. Mr. Fouk was employed as watchman at the court house prior to his being transferred, by the county commissioners, to the jail to act in the same capacity. For the services at the court house he received one dollar per night; after he was transferred to the county jail, and without any solicitation on his part, his wages were increased, by the commissioners, to two dollars per night. Mr. Fouk went on duty at the jail at 9 o'clock in the evening and left at six o'clock in the morning. He was stationed in a warm apartment and his duties were not onerous. Many other persons just as competent would have rendered the same services for one dollar per night and would have been glad for the opportunity. The auditors are unanimously of the opinion that there was no occasion to increase the wages of the said Joshua Fouk. He is credited with having served 119 nights at \$2 per night while at the county jail, making the sum of \$238. We regard the sum of \$119 as a ample compensation for the work, and therefore surcharge the county commissioners with the sum of \$119, or \$39.66 to each one as follows:

To M. F. Riddle..... \$39.66
 Thos. W. Fisher..... 39.66
 Daniel Heckman..... 39.65 119.97

Another item has been called to our attention which we do not feel like passing unnoticed. The county commissioners entered into a contract with the G. B. Perkin's Detective Agency for the purpose of ferreting out the persons supposed to be engaged in incendiary fires. While the commissioners may have authority to employ detectives and offer rewards for the apprehension of any person charged with or perpetrating any felony, etc., yet it does seem to us that the payment of the sum of \$1292.46 was excessive and beyond reason.

An examination of said bill shows a considerable amount that was expended for cigars, liquors, pocket-books, handkerchiefs, etc., and were it not for the fact that the law legalizes contracts of this kind, we would feel like reducing said bill at least one half.

We are also of the opinion that there is undue extravagance in making the assessments of the county. The assessments for the year 1897, cost the sum of \$240.66. For instance, one borough with about sixty voters and a population of 348, it required ten days to make the assessment, and another borough with a

population of 748, it required nineteen days to make the assessment. These matters should be corrected and we call the attention of the county commissioners to the fact, in order that they take note of the same.

In witness whereof, we have hereto set our hands and seals this 29th day of January, A. D., 1898.

GEO. A. FINK, (seal)
 J. D. WAGNER, (seal)
 FRANK W. HESS, (seal)
 Auditors.

H. B. PONTIUS, Clerk.

What the court will do in regard to these surcharges against the commissioners, remains to be seen. To most persons the salary paid Mr. Fouk does seem a little high.

In the matter of cost of making assessment, there is no doubt but that some assessors charge too much. In some townships the assessors must travel many miles to do their work and their pay is much smaller than that paid to assessors in the towns, where the work is much easier.

The auditors are right in calling public attention to this matter. During the past year two important events occurred in this county that attracted unusual attention. The first was the attempt to unseat Sheriff Cronister, and put Abram V. Miller in that office. It was an unequalled and unnecessary proceeding, instituted by a set of meddling republican politicians who recklessly made oath to irregularities in the election that did not exist, and of which they had no personal knowledge. The result was that an expensive contest was authorized that proved a complete fizzle for the republican rotters, and as a climax the expenses of this political scheme were unjustly thrown on the taxpayers.

Nowhere in the commissioner's statement can we find a line that sets out how much the county had to pay for the Sheriff contest. There appears to be an effort to hide it from public attention.

Another unusual affair—No mention is made of the monies paid to the detectives, brought here to hunt the parties accused of burning buildings. No where in the statement of the commissioners can that be found. Why is it concealed? The auditors refer to it as being \$1292.46—an immense sum. Yet it is not mentioned in their statement—not set out so the public can read it. This statement is published exactly for this purpose, and not to cover up. Indeed it looks as though they wished to conceal these items.

Gentlemen, you should plainly state how much it costs to attempt to take Sheriff Cronister's office from him. You should also state how much money was spent to secure a conviction of James Cornely by a detective's unsupported testimony, which many openly discredit.

The word "sundry" is a very useful article in such a statement. It is quite an innocent little thing. But can be used to cover up a multitude of sins. Under the head of "Commonwealth Costs." Sundry is used to good advantage, for instance:

Paid sundry witnesses for services and mileage in sundry com. cases and costs and expenses in sundry com. cases—\$121 75—\$121 75

"Sundry" comes very high. Quite expensive, indeed.

A COMPARISON.

In 1891, when the former democratic board of commissioners, T. F. Adams and Geo. L. Goodhart, took charge of the office, there was a deficit of \$7,000. After six years, instead of a deficit there was a surplus of \$13,701.70, which makes a total of \$20,701.70 of a gain in six years, or an average of \$3,450.28 gain per year in assets. Last year the assets were \$13,701.70, now \$14,550.86, of a gain of \$849.16 in assets for the first year of the republican board. In other words, the annual increase of assets under the democratic board, \$3,450.28, was four times as large as under the republicans.

MILLAGE INCREASED.

The millage has been increased from 3 to 3 1/2 mills this year. The explanation given for this is, the last assessment is \$1,200,000 lower than formerly, and that 3 1/2 mills will not bring in more funds than under the former 3 mill assessment. That needs further explanation to make clear.

Another item not to be forgotten is that in the year '96 the democratic board had to pay over \$3,000 for condemned turnpikes, while in the past year no such items were necessary. There also appear quite a numerous lot of items for clerical hire. If they are all necessary, requirements of the office have largely increased in the past year.

We think the finances of the county are in a creditable shape. Outside of the \$400 for the sheriff's contest, the \$1200 or more for detective service, the Joshua Fouk bill for watching, the clerical hire, the large pay to many assessors, and probably some other items, the commissioners appear to have kept their expenses to a reasonable figure. Of course there have been no disastrous floods, murder trials or other unavoidable expenses to drain the treasury. In view of these conditions we are somewhat in doubt as to the expediency of increasing the tax rate for the ensuing year.