

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Prop.

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DEATH OF A PROMINENT CITIZEN

Hon. John B. Linn Died on Sunday Afternoon

WAS AN EMINENT HISTORIAN

Was Secretary of the Commonwealth—Biographical Sketch—Other Deaths During the Past Week of Centre County Citizens. With Short Sketches.

Sunday afternoon, about 1:30 o'clock another honored and highly respected citizen of Bellefonte passed to that bourne from which no traveler has ever returned. This time the call came to Hon. John Blair Linn, who for years had been a leader in this community both socially and politically. His death was sudden and a great shock to his family and friends, although it was evident that the time was fast approaching when his life's work would end. About four years ago he had a slight stroke which gradually affected his spine. He began to grow feeble until finally he could not walk out without the kindly assistance of some of the family. He had been confined to the house for about two weeks and on Thursday of last week began to grow worse, although it was thought by his physician that he might linger for several weeks, but in an unexpected moment he calmly passed away.

By his bedside were found his devoted wife and son Henry, who have been his comfort and stay during his illness. His daughter, Mary Hunter Linn, an instructor in the ladies' school at Bryn Mawr, had been spending her vacation here but was compelled to start back on Saturday owing the fact that during the holiday vacation one of the teachers in her department had died. She, however, had no idea that her father was so near his end.

John B. Linn came from a long line of distinguished ancestry. William Linn, his great-great-grandfather, emigrated from the northern part of Ireland in 1732 and settled in Chester county, Pa. Since then his descendants have located in Cumberland, Franklin, Union and Centre counties, and during peace and in war have figured very conspicuously. They also cleared forests and became large land owners and took a great interest in establishing churches and promulgating christianity.

The deceased was born in Lewisburg, Pa., October 15, 1831, and was 67 years, 2 months and 17 days old. He was the son of James F. Linn, a prominent attorney of Lewisburg. He was prepared for college at the Lewisburg Academy under John Robinson, Esq., late of the Philadelphia bar, entered Marshall College at Mercersburg, Pa., in May, 1846, where he graduated at the age of seventeen in the same class with Hon. Charles A. Mayer, now president judge of Clinton, Elk and Cameron counties. He read law in his father's office and was admitted to practice September 16, 1851. The years 1852 and 1853 he spent in Sullivan county, which had just been formed, where he was elected district attorney. He returned to Union county in 1854 where he practiced his profession until his removal to Bellefonte in April, 1871. On April 10, 1873, he was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth by the Hon. M. S. Quay, and May 15, 1878, upon the resignation of Mr. Quay, he was commissioned Secretary of the Commonwealth, in which incumbency he remained until after Governor Hoyt was inaugurated, when he returned to Bellefonte. Mr. Linn and Dr. Egle were made editors of the second series of Pennsylvania Archives, the publication of which was recommended by Governor Hartman in his annual message January 7, 1874, and they were issued in twelve volumes, under Mr. Quay's supervision. In 1879 Mr. Linn published the "Annals of Buffalo Valley," being a history of Union county principally. While Secretary of the Commonwealth there was published under his direction "Duke of York's Laws, 1679-82, and Laws of Province, 1682-1700." In 1882 he edited a "History of Centre and Clinton Counties," which has preserved all that is of value of "Men and things in these counties" in a readable and entertaining shape.

Mr. Linn was an exceptionally bright man and while in Harrisburg was a leader among men. He was possessed of more than ordinary wit and intelligence which made him a peer among the State officials and his counsel was often sought after by those who occupied high positions of trust. As a lawyer he was learned in his profession and was careful and accurate in counseling his clients. As a genealogist and historian he had but few equals, and for the sake of accuracy he spent much time in research and investigation, of which he was passionately fond. He belonged to the Bellefonte Presbyterian church and for years made the Bible a constant study, not theoretically but in a practical manner, translating verse by verse from Greek, so that he could be called a fountain of Scriptural truths. For a number of years he served as justice of the peace of the North ward of Bellefonte and his decisions were

always fearless and prompted by an honest heart. It can be said of John B. Linn that his learning, legal ability, integrity and Christian life have given him a name that will live long in the hearts of the people of this community.

Mr. Linn was twice married—first, October 22, 1857, to Julia J. Pollock, daughter of F. W. Pollock, of Milton, and their children were Sarah P. and Bessie W., who make their home in Williamsport. His second wife was Miss Mary E. D. Wilson, daughter of Samuel Hunter and Mary Benner Wilson, her mother being a daughter of the late Gen. Phillip Benner, one of the old pioneers of this county. They were married in the old Presbyterian church by Rev. Yeomans, then assistant pastor to Rev. James Linn, D. D. By the second marriage there were two children—Miss Mary Hunter Linn and Henry Sage Linn, who is reading law and greatly assisted his father in the office.

Deceased was a brother of the late Merrill Linn, Esq., of Lewisburg, who was a prominent lawyer and historian.

Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock a bar meeting was held in the court house which was presided over by Hon. John G. Love. Ex-Prothonotary W. F. Smith acted as secretary. Ex-Judge Furst, Col. James P. Coburn and J. C. Meyer were appointed a committee to draft resolutions on the death of the deceased and report at another meeting. A resolution was then passed that the members of the bar should attend the funeral in a body, which was carried out.

The funeral took place Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock from his late residence on Allegheny street and was largely attended. The services were conducted by Rev. William Laurie, D. D., pastor of the Presbyterian church, who spoke in high terms of the deceased. He was assisted by Rev. James Hughes, principal of the Bellefonte Academy. The pall-bearers were W. F. Crider, J. C. Meyer, Esq., Col. J. P. Coburn and Hon. A. O. Furst, Frank McCoy, W. P. Humes. Interment in the Union cemetery.

Death of Wm. Irwin.

Thursday evening 27th, William Irwin, of Jacksonville while surrounded by his children and some of his neighbors at supper, he suddenly complained of not feeling well and putting his hand to his head quietly passed away due to heart failure. About one week ago he was kicked by a horse and it is thought this accident might have hastened his death.

William Irwin was born at the old Irwin homestead in Jacksonville, in the same house in which he died, making his age 70 years and 2 months. Early in life he engaged in the occupation of farming which he followed many years.

For a number of years was a resident of the west, and also farmed at Buffalo Run, 3 miles west of Bellefonte. In 1862 he married Miss Susan J. Allison, who preceded him to the grave several years ago. The following named children survive to mourn the loss of a kind and indulgent father: Gertrude, D. Allison, Eleanor, Susan, Lulu, of Jacksonville; Mrs. J. Will Mayes, of Howard, and Mrs. Samuel Allen, of Pittsburg. A son, William, Jr., died about eighteen years ago. Interment at Jacksonville Monday.

Knowing to Many in this Section.

Daniel Smith, of Platteville, Kendall Co., Ill., was born in Howard, Centre county, Pa., Sept. 17, 1817, and died Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 24, 1898, aged 81 years, 2 months and 7 days. He was married to Caroline Gardner, of Howard, March 14, 1844. Eight children were the fruits of this marriage, six sons and two daughters, two sons in South Dakota, one in Kansas, the others in Illinois. His widow and these children survive.

Out of a family of nine children, two brothers and the only sister are still living: Gideon, of Platteville; Ebenezer, Methodist minister of Massachusetts; and Mrs. Lizzie Copenhaver, of Tyrone. He was a carpenter by trade and worked on the dry docks fourteen years in Pennsylvania.

Death of Robert Ray.

The venerable Robert Ray, died Wednesday morning at his home on Willowbank street. He had been suffering for some time with heart disease and the end was not unexpected.

Robert Ray was born in Buffalo Run valley, Nov. 16th, 1822. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Strohm, of Aaronsburg, who died June 6th, 1894. The following named children survive: Mrs. C. T. Cheeseman and George T. Ray, of Mill Hill, John C., of Milton; R. W., of Avoca, Iowa; Sylvester D., Ambrose S. and Calvin T., all of Bellefonte. Funeral Friday morning. Interment in Union cemetery.

Death of Mrs. George Benner.

Mrs. George O. Benner, formerly Miss Cordie Chatham, daughter of John Chatham, Lock Haven, died at Centre Hall, Monday morning. Interment at Lock Haven, on Thursday.

SAD AFFAIR AT PHILIPSBURG

One of the Foremost Citizen's Untimely End

DEATH OF O. PERRY JONES

Took His Life by Use of a Revolver—While His Family was Away—Cashier of a Bank and a Prominent Business Man of That Community.

O. Perry Jones, cashier of the First National Bank, of Philipsburg, and one of the best known business men and coal operators in the region, committed suicide by shooting himself at his residence Friday evening.

He took his family to the opera house but did not stay for the entertainment. When his folks returned from the concert they found his lifeless body on the second floor. He had taken off his outer shirt, smoking jacket and collar and laid them on a chest, and then evidently laid down on his back, and shot himself in the breast and in the stomach, both balls passing entirely through him. The revolver was a 32 calibre, and when found was still in his clasped hand. Both balls were afterwards found. Why he committed the deed will possibly never be known, but it is thought he had temporarily lost his reason from over-work. We are assured on the very best of authority that his estate is perfectly solvent. Mr. Jones has for some years past been cashier of the First National Bank of Philipsburg. His death in no way involves the bank.

Born in Tyrone Oct. 29, 1847, he has lived almost continuously in Philipsburg since 1860. His father, Benjamin Jones, survives him here. His mother, Margaret (Rye), died here early in the present year.

For a year and a half Mr. O. P. Jones lived in Nebraska City, where he began his training in the banking business under Dwight J. McCann. The McGirk and Perks Banking Company recalled him to Philipsburg, and he became cashier. In the Allport, Jones & Co.'s lumber business he was a partner; also in the Philipsburg Banking Company; and ever since he has been closely identified with every business interest, and prominently connected with every public enterprise of Philipsburg; an active, able and zealous leader and helper in the development, growth and improvement of our town.

Mr. Jones was married in Lebanon on October 6th, 1870, to Miss Annie Virginia Mull. Their son Robert Mull died on November 1, 1886, at the age of 14 years. Their only living child is Margaret Elizabeth. The funeral services were held on Monday at 2 p. m.—Journal.

Harrison Barr.

Harrison Barr, died at Julian Furnace Friday morning, December 23, of ailments incident to old age. He was in his 79th year. His wife, Mary A. Barr, preceded him to the grave in April, 1897. He is survived by the following children: Mrs. Arvilla Hersh, of Flemington; Mrs. Eliza Bricker, of Elmira, N. Y.; John P., of Altoona; Mrs. Clara Elliott, Beaver, Centre county; G. W., of Buffalo, N. Y.; Robert, of New Kensington, Pa.; Mrs. Sarah Holt and W. H., of Julian, Pa., and F. C., of New Kensington, Pa.

Death of an Old Citizen.

H. M. Schwenck, one of the oldest and best known citizens of Sugar valley, died at the home of his son, B. N. Schwenck, aged 78 years, 10 months and 9 days. Interment in the cemetery at that place. Deceased is survived by his wife and five sons, Sharon, Benjamin, Edgar and J. H., of Sugar valley, and C. M., of Washington state.

An Aged Lady.

Mrs. Wian died on Wednesday afternoon, at the home of her son, Daniel Wian, in Spring township, from gangrene which had afflicted her for some time. She was an aged lady past 80 years. The interment takes place at Pleasant Gap, in the Lutheran cemetery, Friday at 1:30 p. m.

Henry McCloskey.

Henry McCloskey died at Potter's Mills on last Friday and was buried at Spracetown on Monday. His age was about 80 years.

Fishburn—Struble.

On Wednesday evening, December 21, a very pretty wedding was celebrated at the home of Mr. Watson Struble. The parties were Mr. William N. Fishburn, farmer and Miss Margaret I. Struble, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Watson Struble. Rev. H. C. Holloway, pastor of the Lutheran church of Bellefonte, pronounced the words which united them for life. The guest present were over one hundred in number.

SPECIAL GRANGE MEETINGS.

At the meeting of Pomona Grange, held in Milesburg, December 23, 1898, after hearing reports from the Subordinate Grange, it was resolved to hold a series of meetings for the benefit of the local organizations in different parts of county, during the winter of 1898-99. The officers of the County Grange, to be assisted by L. Rhone and Mrs. Wright, Rhone and Weaver, were directed to prepare a program, select speakers and arrange the places and name dates for holding the same.

The committee met and after due consideration agreed upon the following places and dates:

- ZION—Tuesday, Jan. 31st, 1:00 p. m. and 1:30 p. m.
- FEBRUARY MEETINGS.
- MARION—Wednesday, 1st, 10 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.
- HOWARD—Thursday, 2d, 10 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.
- UNION—Friday, 3d, 10 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.
- VICTOR—Tuesday, 7th, 10 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.
- WASHINGTON—Wednesday, 8, 10 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.
- BENNER—Thursday, 9th, 10 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.
- LOGAN—Friday, 10th, 1:00 p. m.
- MADISON—Tuesday, 14th, 9:30 a. m.
- MILES—Tuesday, 14th, 1:30 p. m.
- PROVIDENCE—Wednesday, 15th, 10 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.
- GOOD WILLS—Wednesday, 15th, 7:00 p. m.
- SPRING MILLS—Thursday, 16th, 1:00 p. m.
- FAIRVIEW—Friday, 17th, 1:00 p. m.

These meetings will not be open to the public unless specially requested, the object being to enlist the active cooperation of the entire membership. It is hoped the Granges will make a special effort to have a full turnout.

A number of officers of the County Granges, and other able and well known Patrons (ladies and gentlemen) have been invited, several of whom will be present at each meeting.

Fraternally,
GEO. DALE, Master
J. C. GILLILAND, Sec'y.

POMONA GRANGE MEETING.

Centre County Pomona Grange, No. 13, will hold its first regular meeting in the hall of Walker Grange, Hubersburg, on Friday, January 20, 1899.

There will be two sessions, 10 a. m. and 1:15 p. m. All 4th degree members are cordially invited to be present as there will be important business relating to the future work of the organization considered and passed upon. An excellent programme has been prepared for this gathering.

New Officers Elected.

On Tuesday the Patrons Fire Insurance Company of Centre county, held their annual meeting in Bellefonte. Twenty-four directors were present which was a good attendance. The reports show that there has been an increase of \$200,000 in insurance. At the conclusion of the year's work the new board was reorganized by the election of the following officers:—President—Isaac Fraim, of Abdera; Vice-President—Sam'l Bailey, of Boalsburg; Secretary—James A. Keller, of Centre Hill; Treasurer—Wm. Kerr, Centre Hill. This organization has been carefully and economically conducted and the result is that farmers get their fire protection at the lowest possible rate, thus saving them much in this line.

Furnace News.

The furnaces at this place have been started so often, on paper, that one hesitates about further commenting on the matter. The recent advance in the price of iron has had some encouragement for those connected with our local plant. Rumors have been afloat the past week that repairs on the Valentine Furnace would be commenced by January 15th. Inquiry was made regarding this. On Monday a letter was shown the writer, from capitalists in Baltimore, saying that all financial difficulties had been arranged and the money was secured for making necessary repairs, which would be done sooner than most expected. The entire import was that the furnace would be put in operation as soon as possible.

That is the best information we could secure, and it was from reliable parties. It is reasonable to expect that the plant will soon be in operation again.

Wedding at Beech Creek.

A very pleasant wedding took place on Wednesday evening 28th, at the residence of Squire Liggett. Miss Elsie Viola Bitner, of Blanchard, and George L. Kunes, of Beech Creek, were the contracting parties.

Married.

William Beveridge and Annie Huston were married at the residence of John D. Brown, J. P., on Saturday evening, Dec. 31, 1898, at Snow Shoe, Pa.

INTERESTING STATISTICS

Showing The Births and Deaths In Centre County

THE MALES ARE INCREASING

As Reported by Register G. W. Rumberger, for Our Readers—Some Comparisons in Ages of the Death List.

A few facts and figures relating to the registration of the births and deaths in Centre county as furnished by our obliging Register, G. W. Rumberger. The following is a tabulated statement of the births and deaths in the various districts of the county, from May 1893, to Dec. 1898, a period of six months:

District	B.	D.	District	B.	D.
Bellefonte n. w.	16	9	Haines w. p.	18	11
" s. w.	21	5	Harris	14	9
" w. w.	5	5	Halfmoon	7	1
Centre Hall boro	7	7	Howard twp	13	7
Howard boro	7	7	Huston	17	5
Milesburg boro	10	3	Liberty	14	8
Millheim boro	6	5	Marion	22	3
Philipsburg 1 w.	8	8	Miles e. p.	3	4
" 2 w.	17	3	Miles m. p.	11	3
" 3 w.	16	9	Miles w. p.	13	3
South Philipsburg	8	4	Fallon	13	2
Unionville boro	7	3	Penn	12	2
Benner n. p.	8	4	Potter n. p.	2	3
Benner s. p.	10	3	Potter s. p.	17	9
Boggs e. p.	1	5	Rush n. p.	17	10
Boggs w. p.	8	3	Rush s. p.	14	3
Boggs n. p.	3	1	Snow Shoe e. p.	24	12
College boro	28	8	Snow Shoe w. p.	18	7
Hurnside	5	1	Spring n. p.	19	11
Curtin	9	2	Spring s. p.	21	7
Ferguson e. p.	14	11	Spring w. p.	21	7
Ferguson w. p.	7	3	Union	13	5
Gregg n. p.	5	2	Walker e. p.	11	7
Gregg e. p.	14	5	Walker m. p.	19	5
Gregg w. p.	17	6	Walker w. p.	4	4
Haines e. p.	11	2	Worth	8	4

From May 1st to Dec. 1st 1898, there were 572 births and 281 deaths. 302 males and 266 females were born—a majority of 36 males. The oldest death in that period was Mrs. Nancy Barger, aged 106 years. Only two persons died above the age of 90, 22 between 80 and 90, 47 between 70 and 80.

Of the 281 deaths, 190 were aged persons and 67 were children of one year old and under, 12 of whom were of Spring township. In Haines township there were 13 deaths, 12 of whom were aged persons, the ages averaging 69 years. In Howard boro, 7 persons died all adults; average age 59 years; Penn township, 7 died all old people, whose average age was 77. In Bellefonte boro there were 19 deaths, 6 of whom were under 1 year of age, 13 were adults whose ages average nearly 54 years. Philipsburg boro had 20 deaths, 5 were under 1 year old, 1 was 12, and 14 adults their average age being 59.

The registration shows that a very large percentage of the persons who died in that period were old people. Only 14 died between the ages of 1 year and 21 years being only about 5 per cent of the whole number.

Unsettled Lands Sold.

One of the biggest deals in the unsettled lands in Centre county has just been completed with the entering for record in the Recorder's office of twenty-eight mortgages aggregating a quarter of a million dollars as security for the net sum of \$125,000. At the commissioner's sale of unsettled lands in April, 1892, Rensselaer Sims, of Troy, N. Y., and Theodore Vail, of Philadelphia, were present and for the nominal sum of \$267 purchased thirty-eight tracts with an aggregate of 11,715 acres. Commissioner's deeds for the same were at once secured and placed on record, the entire cost to the investors being not more than \$500. It is on this land that they have just succeeded in placing the mortgages as given above. Centre county unsettled lands offer a wide field for speculators. Four years ago, however, a Philipsburg gentleman paid \$25 for a piece of land in Rush township, and in less than six months thereafter sold the tract for \$25,000. It proved to be underlaid with a very good vein of coal.

Company B Mustered in.

On Thursday evening Company "B" of the Fifth regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania, was mustered into service, with fifty-six enlisted men and three officers. Captain Hugh S. Taylor takes his place as commanding officer of the organization with George L. Jackson as first lieutenant and Charles J. Taylor as second lieutenant.

Of the above number fifty men served with company B, in the recent war with Spain.

Captain Taylor will take the usual interest in the organization which always ranked among the best in the regiment.

Company M, at this place, has about fifty five members and they are well equipped and in good shape. Measurements were taken last week for their new overcoats, which they expect to wear at the inauguration of Gov. Stone, January 17th.

Fire Near Unionville.

Tuesday evening of last week the barn of Edward Peters, situated about one and a half miles beyond Unionville caught fire and was burned to the ground. One valuable horse was burned besides all the implements hay, grain etc. The loss is estimated at \$1,000. Origin of the fire is a mystery.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

A Column of Pithy Paragraphs that Sparkle with Wit and Humor.

Berries white or berries red,
If a girl be jolly
It matters not if overhead
Hangs mistletoe or holly.

What moment is there here below
So galling to the average man
As when his friends say, "Told you so,"
Because he's failed in some one plan?

Now for the New Year!
Don't borrow trouble; lend what you have.

Hard times cause many a man to look "hard."

Every tailor knows a lot of promising young men.

"Man proposes" and the majority of women accept.

There's not much left of the Spanish fly in Havana.

A man may choose to chew and still be a Christian.

Among lovers the old, old story is never a chestnut.

Don't rush out of single bliss into double blisters.

It's an ill wind that blows nobody's hat off but yours.

Begin practicing on "99" at the date line of your letters.

A bad debt and a bad egg are similarly good for nothing.

Like its predecessor, the new calendar will be strictly up to date.

Resolutions and revolutions are synonymous with some men.

It's a wise son who doesn't neglect the education of his parents.

A bachelor may have no real happiness, but he escapes a lot of misery.

The breath of suspicion is generally directed against persons with a suspicious breath.

Money in Rattlesnake Skins.

A bundle of 179 rattlesnake skins and a pint and a half of snake oil, representing a year's harvest, were shipped to the New York market recently by Head Warden Eiters, of the Spruce Run Game and Fish preserve. These will net the warden about \$200. The oil is claimed to possess innumerable medical virtues, while the skins are made up into pretty belts and pocketbooks.

Eiters goes hunting for the rattlers with a forked stick, which he thrusts down on their necks, holding them fast, so that he can safely handle them. He has been warden on the preserve for twenty years, and in that time has killed thousands of snakes for market. He is a brother of Prof. D. O. Eiters, of Bellefonte.

Fatal Cattle Disease.

An unusually fatal disease has broken out among the cattle in Penn's Valley. Farmer's who have suffered loss so far and whose herds are afflicted, are Hon. Leonard Rhone, John Spicker, Alfred Grove, Howard Durst and Andrew Rote. From eight to a dozen head have died thus far. The owners are at a loss as to what the ailments. In all cases death has followed very shortly after the sickness of the animal was observed.

Various opinions have been expressed that it might be what is known as "corn-stalk" disease. However, a more thorough investigation will be made at once, and in the meantime every precaution possible is being taken to prevent contagion and spread of the disease should it prove to be anything of an infectious or contagious character.

Rush to Be Cut in Two.

There is a movement on foot among some of the residents of Rush township, those of the southern end particularly, to have the township divided. Rush, from which the borough of Philipsburg is a chunk, is by far the largest township in Centre county, being 30 miles long by 10 wide, perhaps as large as some whole counties in the State.

The Court has so far listened to them as to establish a division line, and the question now awaits the action of the voters of the township. The question may be voted upon at the general spring election, but not necessarily at that time, as it is a point privileged to receive a decision by special election.

New Dry Goods Store at Mill Hill.

A. W. Reese, of Port Matilda, has purchased a lot from George Barrett at Mill Hill. The lot is 220x30 feet and is situated on Main street, alongside the K. G. E. building. Mr. Reese intends erecting a store room and dwelling and will open a dry goods store as soon as the building is completed.

Alter Coal.

On the farm of Penn Hall, Centre county, there are encouraging signs for finding coal, and to an extent warrant sinking a shaft to reach the possible black diamonds.