

The Centre Democrat.

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MAGNIFICENT DEMONSTRATION

"Old Centre" Scores a Triumph in Her Centennial

TWO DAYS OF FESTIVITIES

Wednesday's Rain was a Dampener but Thursday Proved a Brilliant Success—Many Thousands Came and Enjoyed Themselves—Brief Outline.

The centennial program was opened on Tuesday evening upon the arrival of the train from Tyrone on which was the special Pullman car chartered to bring the two distinguished guests from Washington, Gen. Miles and Post Master General Charles Emory Smith, and several others. As escort to this place a committee consisting of Col. W. P. Reeder, chairman of the Executive Committee, Col. J. L. Spangler and Jno. M. Dale were sent to Washington, D. C. to accompany the gentlemen to our city. When the train pulled into Bellefonte the town was fully prepared for this the preliminary portion of the program. The vast amount of work and preparation for the centennial was now finished and the town showed abundant evidence of the same. It was in gala holiday attire. Thousands of visitors were already here for the event. The arrival of Gen. Miles in our city meant that he be accorded the customary military salute consistent with the high rank he holds as the head of the United States Army, and from Halfmoon Hill fifteen cannon pealed forth the salute. At the depot there was a large throng, and the party were soon hustled into the carriages and the parade started. First came a troop of provisional cavalry, then a band and Co. B. followed by a detachment of Grand Army men of this place. Following these were the carriages containing the mayor of the town and the Reception Committee with the guests. They proceeded up High to the diamond where the court of honor was illuminated for the first time. There was a blaze of colored lights along the entire route that made the procession an imposing affair. The guests were escorted to the residence of Gen. D. H. Hastings where an informal reception was held upon their arrival, and a great many passed up to greet them.

WEDNESDAY'S PROGRAM.

Something with the Centennial must have incurred the ill will of the Gods, and especially that of old Jupiter Pluvius, for the heavens seemed to be chuck full of his liquid element, even to overflowing. From early morning until late that night there was a procession of downpourings that could not have been more unfavorable. It was rain, rain and rain, and the longer it lasted the harder it came, drenching the buildings with their gorgeous decorations and the arches, and especially the thousands of visitors who took possession of our town. It was shameful, and that don't express it.

To say where the crowds came from is impossible, from all points of the compass—from far and wide. The town was overrun with people and rain. The parade, scheduled for the morning, was postponed to the afternoon at two o'clock. An occasional gleam of hope in a bright spot among the clouds was followed by brisk showers, but the parade finally formed and in the rain they marched. It was principally a military demonstration, consisting of ten companies N. G. P. from adjoining towns, a body of G. A. R. on foot and in carriages, Spanish-American war veterans, public officials, K. G. E., P. O. S. of A., Modern Woodmen of America, provisional cavalry, the Sheridan Troop of cavalry, and fire companies. They were reviewed by Gen. Nelson A. Miles, and it was a large and splendid affair. Owing to the downpour about one-third remained out of the lines.

The exercises appropriate to the Centennial and the dedicatory ceremony of the Curtin Memorial ground were held in the court house in the afternoon. Ex-Gov. Hastings and Gen. Miles made the principal addresses. Owing to an important cabinet meeting, Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith was unable to leave Washington.

The rain prevented the afternoon races scheduled for the opening of the new race course, and the fire works in the evening as well.

Notwithstanding all these discouragements, everybody had the highest words of praise for the elaborate preparations Bellefonte made for the opening day. The rain seemed to be a big joke. Everybody was jolly and smiled at his friend's sloppy footwear and bedraggled garments.

It was a soaker.

THURSDAY'S SUCCESS.

"Be still, sad heart, and cease repining; Behind the clouds the sun is shining." While these famous lines gave little

consolation to Wednesday's unfortunate weather, yet there was a full realization of it next day. The weather could not have been finer. The result was an immense outpouring of people, and especially from the county.

There was little difficulty experienced in forming the parade and at the scheduled time it moved. It was an industrial demonstration that well represented the county. The merit of the many elaborate floats was of high order, and some quite artistic, while others were original. There was an endless variety too.

In the afternoon the races at the fair ground were well attended and some good time was made although the track was a bit heavy from the rain. The attendance was large and about a thousand people took in the sport from the adjoining hills.

Nothing of any importance occurred during the afternoon except the band concerts in various sections of the town.

The fireworks in the evening at the school house ground were exceedingly fine and contained many original effects. The moving pictures were also quite a treat.

NOTES OF THE EVENT.

Time is too short to give an extended account and details of the centennial.

The hospital established at the Y. M. C. A. rooms was a wise provision but there fortunately was nothing of any importance to need their assistance.

The police patrol was on duty and did effective work.

Pickpockets were plenty and they scooped up considerable money. At least a dozen persons lost purses. As a result the police kept on the track of them and about a dozen toughs are in the county jail.

There was no limit to the number and the variety of fakes and fakers. All seemed to be prospering.

There was a good sale of "Art Souvenirs" and "Histories of Centre county." Still some left.

State College made a fine display in the industrial parade. Scotia Ore operations were original in their display. Link Musser had a big lot of farm machinery in line.

The hotels were taxed to their utmost capacity yet there was no occasion for anyone to go hungry unless he be extremely fastidious, and such are out of place on such an occasion.

The music by the Repasz band, of Williamsport, was a rare treat. Gregg Post did a creditable thing by furnishing a splendid dinner for all the visiting comrades and we have been asked to publicly acknowledge this kindness.

THE RACES:

The following is the result of the opening races on Thursday giving the names of the winners, only, of the different events:

2:50 trot and pace; purse \$250—won by "Cedar Hill", Wm. A. McNitt, Reedsville, Pa.; second, "Myopia," G. E. Brindle, Bellville, Pa. Time 2:34 1/2.

2:25 trot and pace, purse \$300—won by "McChestney," Charles M. McFarlane, Altoona; second, "Hai Braden," Jr., W. E. Lilley, Chicora. Time 2:27 3/4.

Running race, purse \$150, 1/2 mile—won by "Hope" of Altoona. Time 53.

The races scheduled were postponed one day and for that reason we will have some fine races at the park to-day.

The prospects are that the attendance for this event will be large from adjoining towns.

Firemen's Tournament.

Wednesday the town was filled with visiting firemen. The competition among them resulted in the following awards:

Steamer contest; Hope Engine Co., Lock Haven, \$50.00.

Hose race: Hand in Hand Hose Co., Lock Haven; \$20.

Largest company: Lewisburg Fire Department; \$25.

Best uniformed company: Hand in Hand Hose Co., Lock Haven; \$25.

Best band in line: no award made yet.

Jail Blown Up.

The Clarion county jail at Clarion was badly wrecked Monday night by an explosion purposely arranged by some of the inmates. The explosives were given to the prisoners secretly and they used great thought and care in laying the train and putting off the explosives. The walls of the building were shattered and the prisoners escaped easily. The windows in the bank building, located some distance further down street, were shattered.

Serious Accident at Millinburg.

While A. P. Wilson and wife, of Millinburg were descending the large hill south of town, part of the harness broke and the horse started to run away. Mr. Wilson, who is still weak from a stroke of paralysis, had his skull fractured and had not regained consciousness Tuesday morning. Mrs. Wilson almost had an ear torn from her head. It is reported that it may yet have to be taken off.

CENTRE COUNTY.

Some Snap Shots From Her Early History Compiled From Older Histories and Tradition.

(The following extracts are from the "Centennial History of Centre Co., by Hon. Fred Kurtz, the Official Historian. The history is compact, in 32 pages; was issued from this office where additional copies can be secured for 10 cents a copy.)

The first purchase of territory from the Indians and embracing Centre county, was in 1754. This purchase the Indians believed would take in the territory extending to the headwaters of the Juniata instead of including the West Branch of the Susquehanna which ended at the western boundary of the state. This misunderstanding caused a quarrel between the Whites and Indians, which led to the massacre of the settlers on Penns Creek, and was the cause of fearful bloodshed. "Many of the Indian tribes, seeing their lands gone, joined the French, and in the following year fatally evinced their resentment at Braddock's field. The settlers were driven into the interior, their improvements were laid waste, and desolation marked the path of the warriors." When this dispute was settled in 1758, Penns, Brush and Nittany valleys to Rush township, fell to Cumberland county. From 1789 to 1800, Liberty, Curtin, Barnside and parts of Marion, Walker and Gregg, and townships west of them, were in Mifflin county.

Penns Valley Discovered:—Capt. James Potter, an officer in the British service, in the summer of 1764, discovered Penns valley. Stationed at Fort Augusta, near where Sunbury now is, he obtained leave of absence, and proceeded up the river to the mouth of Bald Eagle creek, thence to the mouth of Spring creek, from there to the top of Nittany mountain, traveling a distance of 100 miles with an attendant. From the top of this mountain a grand valley of forest and prairie broke upon his astonished vision (as it strikes the stranger to-day,) and Capt. Potter exclaimed to his attendant: "BY HEAVENS, THOMPSON, I HAVE DISCOVERED AN EMPIRE." He descended and reached the spring which became historic from his erection of a fort close to it, and known at this day as "OLD FORT," earlier as Potters Fort. By neglect of our county and state authorities, this historic spot remained unmarked, and the site where the fort stood was among the unknown to the mass of posterity until a few years ago, when those noble women, composing the patriotic order of Daughters of the American Revolution, Bellefonte Chapter, gathered up what little remained from reliable tradition, ascertained the exact location of the fort, and planted an imperishable marker of granite close by it with an appropriate inscription, and thus for all time will the site of Potter's Fort be preserved to future generations, as one of our county's sacred jewels of historic value—thanks to the interest and patriotic spirit and efforts of these noble ladies; well may they feel proud of their act, which deserves recognition in the history of our county.

From here Capt. Potter struck Penns creek at its head—the cave—followed the creek to its mouth, little dreaming it was to guide him by a near cut, to Fort Augusta, now Sunbury.

With the mouth of Penns creek he was familiar, on account of its close proximity to Fort Augusta, but he had the impression that its headwaters were in a different territory. Potter soon after obtained a warrant for all the territory from Penn Hall up. Col. Hunter and Reuben Haines, learning of the great discovery made by Capt. Potter, hastened to share in the benefits and before Capt. Potter knew what they were up to, they succeeded in a measure, by getting a grant to a large slice of the land which Capt. Potter laid claim to by right of discovery. By a compromise, Haines obtained the territory from Penn Hall east, and Capt. Potter all from Penn Hall west.

First Settlers:—Andrew Boggs is recorded as the first settler in this county in 1769, erecting a house near the mouth of Spring creek. Boggs and the settlers had to cross Muncy, Nittany and the Seven mountains to reach a mill on the Juniata river for flour and shipped their wheat down the Bald Eagle and Susquehanna to market at Northumberland where they laid in a year's supply of all they needed, camping on the banks of these streams at night. Settlers who came after Boggs had to do as he did to obtain supplies of flour and other necessities. The same was true of the early settlers in Penns valley. They traveled in canoes down Penns creek to Selinsgrove for their supplies; some took the Indian paths through the mountain region along Penns creek. The settlers west of Spring Mills followed the Indian paths leading across the Seven mountains to the Juniata for their supplies. These were hardships which neither the following generation, nor the present experienced, clouded as they were with the danger of meeting the wild man of the forest. Yet many now here remember the fireside stories from grand and great-grandfather and mother, of dangers they faced from the Indians and other causes—stories that sent the little ones to bed with fear and trembling, breeding dreams of horrible things, as they slumbered in their log cabins—stories that would make hair stand on end like quills on the fretful porcupine, to use the language of Shakespeare.

None of these brave men and women of bone, sinew and muscle, daring and courageous, are now living, yet some of those now here, of three and four score years, have listened to their tales of frontier life among wild men and wild beasts, the denizens of the forests that we now behold turned into a paradise, the work of their pluck, daring and industry.

In 1772 Indians were still in these neighborhoods. Fire-

Continued on page 5.

HISTORIC EXHIBITION

A Wonderful Collection of Interesting Relics

WAS A SUCCESSFUL FEATURE

Old and Rare Curios Assembled—Portraits of Centre County's Eminent Men—The Work of the D. A. R. of the place.

The most interesting feature of the Centennial was the exhibit in the North Ward school house, where the D. A. R. had their "Loan and Art Exhibition." Those who were most active in the collection are: Mrs. Isaac Mitchell, president; assisted by Mrs. John Lane, general manager. The latter having as aids: Mrs. Wilber Reeder, Mrs. J. L. Montgomery, Mrs. Harry Valentine, Mrs. D. H. Hastings, Mrs. J. L. Kurtz, Mrs. E. B. Calloway and Miss Sarah Benner.

These ladies had been working most zealously for weeks past to make the exhibition a most successful event of the past century. Upon entering the building you were greeted by five massive portraits of the governors—by the way, the pride of Centre countians—each showing his individual character. Among the many portraits surrounding the governors were many of the early settlers, one most notable, James Potter, grandson of the original Gen. James Potter, early settler of Centre county, who had a treaty with Bald Eagle and James Logan. A well worn flag was an interesting exhibit. It was captured at the battle of Monmouth, 1778, by Capt. Wm. Wilson and was presented to Gen. LaFayette, who took it to Paris, and on his return to America presented it to Capt. Wilson's descendants.

The rooms are overflowing with rare and quaint heirlooms, carried down from generation after generation. For months the attics have been sought, bringing to light numerous relics such as china, laces and shawls which would cause the envy of our city cousins; cradles, chairs, quaint dressing bureaus, quilts and coverlets by the hundreds resurrected from cedar chests which have not seen the light of the sun for many, many years.

In the culinary department we find brass kettles, spiders, pans, pewter ware without number, each and all carrying their reminiscence onward to the next generation.

It would be impossible to describe the rare and handsome pieces of china, many 150 years old, coffee urns, platters, fruit dishes. In fact shelf after shelf are heavily laden with their precious weight. The numerous time worn books are quite attractive. One especially is the envy of the sight seers, that of the sermons preached before Parliament during Cromwell's time—over 250 years old—owned by the son of the late Hon. J. B. Linn. German Bibles are quite numerous, one printed in the 16th century seems to be the attraction of all books. Many rare silver spoons are seen, some of them made in Dublin, Ireland, 120 years ago. There is silver money coined during the reign of George III of England. Also spoons from Dickens' "old curiosity shop," of London. These and many hundreds too numerous to record constitute the exhibit.

Indian relics have been many, recalling many war-like incidents of an hundred years ago. The ladies of the G. A. R. are very grateful to the friends throughout the county for the kindness which they have shown in loaning their rare and valuable treasures for the exhibit. A small charge is made for admittance, the proceeds to be appropriated to the monument fund.

STRONG OPINION.

The humors or tragedies of the campaign are apparent in a recent letter of E. L. Godkin, for many years and until lately editor of the New York "Evening Post," on the presidential candidates. Of one he says:

I have a deep-seated prejudice against William McKinley and the men who surround him and act with him.

This prejudice is so strong that it can only be modified by facts of which I am neither in possession nor can attain. My opinion of them, formed long ago, is that they are the most dangerous set of scoundrels by which any civilized country was ever beset.

Mr. Bryan takes the right stand on the Chinese question. He endorses the action of the government in sending troops to China to rescue our imperiled citizens and in holding that the United States need not go to war unless it is demonstrated that the Chinese government was a party to the attacks on them. If it was, he thinks that Congress can find a remedy. But Congress will get no opportunity to pass on the question until next fall. Until then, McKinley will be the whole thing. Make a note of this.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

PRACTICE VERSUS PREACHING

"It is easy to sit in the sunshine
And talk to the man in the shade."
It is easy to float in a well trimmed boat,
And point out the places to wade.

But once we pass into the shadows
We murmur and fret and frown,
And our length from the bank, we shout
For a plank,
Or throw up our hands and go down.

It is easy to sit in your carriage
And counsel the man on foot:
But get down and walk, and you'll change
your talk,
As you feel the peg in your boot.

It is easy to tell the teller
How best he can carry his pack:
But no one can rate a burden's weight
Until it has been on his back.

The up-curl'd mouth of pleasure
Can preach of sorrow's worth:
But give it a sip, and a wryer lip
Was never made on earth.
Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

The less we have the easier it is to share it with others.
A true man would as soon be knocked down as pitted.

Better retrace a wrong step than pursue a wrong course.
Disappointment is the saucer belonging to the cup of sorrow.

Life seems to be made up of ardent desires and vain regrets.

A man is compelled to keep his word when no one will take it.

If there were no fools in the world wisdom would be at a discount.

When the rich baker feels in his pockets his hands are in the "dough."

A man's actual measurement is never marked off on his tombstone.

Always think twice before purchasing anything offered at a sacrifice.

In the census, the colored population generally are put on the black list.

Many a married couple could save money out of what a bachelor spends.

People who are discreet have eyes but see not, and ears but hear not.

It takes a smart man to conceal from others the things he doesn't know.

It is better to be imposed upon occasionally than to doubt indiscriminately.

The game cock wins his fight on the spur of the moment.

RELENTED AT THE LAST MINUTE.

General Gordon is still the idol of the Georgia ex-confederates, relates the New York Commercial. For a man who was in state and national politics so long he has made surprisingly few enemies at home. There were times, however, when younger and more active men sought to wrest his political honor and influence from him, but generally with no success, even in the smallest matters. It is related of an old soldier of Barnesville that he was offended at Senator Gordon on account of a postoffice appointment and set himself to work to defeat his return to the senate. He got himself elected to the legislature as an anti-Gordon man, and vowed vengeance on the general in the Democratic caucus. He stormed and raved against his old commander at all times and places, and when it came to voting he marched resolutely up the aisle with an anti-Gordon ballot in his hands. There on the platform sat the old general, the scars of battle still disfiguring a face that had once been handsome.

As the Barnesville veteran approached the ballot box his heart began to fail him when he caught sight of Gordon. His frame shook with emotion, but he tried to serve himself for the ordeal. Then turning suddenly and facing the caucus he cried out, as the tears streamed down his bronzed cheeks:

"It's no use boys! I can't do it! Here goes my vote for John B. Gordon. It was all up with me, boys, when I saw that there scar. Forgive me General." Gordon jumped down from the platform, threw both arms about the old Barnesville soldier, and led the caucus in a mighty cheer that nearly lifted the roof.

A Slick Swindling Scheme.

A slick swindling scheme is being worked over the country by a trio of sharpers. Their method of working is to go to a town, advertise for some property they want to buy, go to the owners and drive a close bargain for the properties. They make a deposit and ask for the deed, which they want to have their attorney to look up. The deed is taken to a firm who deals in real estate and a loan is asked on the property. The firm turns the deed over to their attorney, who looks it up and find that the deed is all right, and then the loan is made, the holders of the deed giving a mortgage on the property. After they secure the loan, they return the deed to its rightful owner, saying that the property does not quite suit them and that they have bought a property in another part of the town. In due course of time, the owner of the land has notice that a mortgage is recorded on the property.