

SECOND WEEK OF COURT

Only a Few Civil Cases Tried This Week

THE KEENAN MURDER TRIAL

A Brief Account of the Proceedings—Verdict Not Guilty—Other Cases Disposed Last Week—Fully Reported by S. D. Gettig, Esq.

On Friday forenoon after the verdict in the Keenan homicide case had been rendered, court adjourned until Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Other cases on this week's list were disposed of as follows, to wit: John A. Hunter vs. George Taylor, appeal from decision of Justice of the Peace, plea non assumpsit. Continued.

Criminal cases entered to November sessions and not already reported were disposed of as follows:

Com. vs. Harvey A. Shrack, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Hortense Snook. Continued.

Com. vs. Edward Williams, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Lina Hartsok. Settled.

Com. vs. Matthew Conoway, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Lucy Watkins. Continued.

Com. vs. Edward Denning, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Mary Dean. Continued.

Com. vs. Reuben Ritzman, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Bessie Long. Continued.

Com. vs. Abner Rider, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Bessie J. Peters. Continued.

Com. vs. Thomas Park, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Minnie Witherite. Continued.

Com. vs. Amelia Shilling, Maude Haupt, and Mary Irvin, charge assault and battery; prosecutor Jacob Cole. Nolle prosequi entered.

Com. vs. George Veihorfer, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Rebecca Mayes. Settled.

Com. vs. Ambrose Davis, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Bessie Lytle. Settled.

Com. vs. William P. Irvin, charge assault and threats; prosecutrix Elizabeth Irvin. Settled.

Com. vs. H. Greeley Reese, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Emma Flick. Continued.

Com. vs. Thomas Dennison, alias Murphy, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Rosie Maher. Continued.

Com. vs. Morgan L. Richards, charge desertion and maintenance; prosecutrix Maggie Richards. Settled.

Com. vs. George Vaux, charge betrayal; prosecutrix Anna Frank. Continued.

Com. vs. Joseph Watson, charge desertion; prosecutor John S. Longwell, overseer of the poor. Continued.

Com. vs. John Carter, charge assault; prosecutor Louis Larson. Settled.

Court convened at 2 o'clock with President Judge Love, and Martin Bell, president judge of the Blair district, on the bench. Juries were challenged and sworn in the two cases open for trial and all jurors not empaneled in the juries were discharged. Judge Love holding court in the arbitration room and Judge Bell in the courtroom.

Miss Ollie Mitchell, stenographer in the office of J. M. Dale, Esq., is assisting Mr. Burrows in reporting for the Court while the two courts are going on.

Fannie Barnhart by her father and next friend, Thompson M. Barnhart, vs. The Borough of Bellefonte, summons in trespass, plea not guilty. This case was tried before Judge Love and is brought for damages for a fall on Curtin street in this town on the evening of November 17, 1898, which was caused by the lowering of the grade of the street by order of the borough, which was done in front of a property and not in front of the next, thus leaving an off-set, and the plaintiff not knowing the fact, was walking along above-named street at the time above stated and fell, injuring herself, no danger signal having been placed. Verdict on Wednesday morning in favor of the plaintiff for five hundred dollars.

Lehigh Valley Coal Company vs. Beaver Lumber Company, Mary I. Ardell, John Ardell, Jr., George Lucas, David Hoover, D. C. Shope, Isaac Lanning, Frank Lanning, Alfred Ammerman and Wilson Wolford, summons in ejectment, plea not guilty. This is an action to recover three tracts of unseated lands in Rush township by the names of Robert Morris, Reuben Haines and Martha Houston. The plaintiff claims them on a claim of title from the Commonwealth down to the present time and having paid the taxes regularly. The defendants claim the tracts by virtue of a tax title. It is a question of location and the trial will last all week and is being tried before Judge Bell of Hollidaysburg.

KEENAN NOT GUILTY. Last Thursday morning at the time of going to press the Keenan trial was taken up and for that reason could give no account of it. It was brief, few or no new facts developed, and resulted in his acquittal. The following is a brief report of the trial:

The case was called at 8:30 Thursday morning 27th before Judge Love. The prisoner was under indictment for both "voluntary manslaughter" and "involuntary manslaughter." The prisoner was brought into court by Deputy Sheriff Jackson, and was entirely composed and apparently unconcerned. With District Attorney Spangler sat J. Calvin Meyer, prosecutors for the Commonwealth; and William E. Gray, counsel for the defense was assisted by W. Harrison Walker.

An hour was consumed in the selection of the following jurymen: William H. Brown, plumber, Bellefonte; Emer Swartz, farmer, Spring township; Gottlieb Haag, gentleman, Bellefonte; Samuel Orris, painter, Milesburg; P. A. Hoover, farmer, Taylor township; P. A. Sellars, farmer, Patton township; K. S. Haines, laborer, Liberty township; John Moore, farmer, Worth township; Adam Zeigler, clerk, Harris township; John Rote, laborer, Axe Mann; John Raymond, laborer Spring township; Henry Detwiler, Rebersburg.

MRS. ROBBINS, THE FIRST WITNESS. In opening the case, District Attorney Spangler took just nine minutes, then called Mrs. Amelia Robbins, mother of the murdered girl, as the first witness for the prosecution. Her testimony was as follows:

"Live at Moshannon, this county. Am married, with 11 children living. Have lived there several years. Know John Keenan. First saw him last April, at the Summit. The Wednesday before Easter Sunday Keenan took dinner at my house. The next day my daughter, Annie, went to Snow Shoe and Keenan came home with her. Annie is dead. Keenan was with Annie again on Saturday, also Sunday, but went away Monday. Twice during the week Keenan was with Annie, and on Saturday Keenan went with my husband to Elk county. The following Tuesday Annie also went. They both worked at the same place until in June when Keenan came to my home. In July he went to Cameron county, but did not stay long and in August he went to Falls Creek, where he remained until in the early part of September, when he came to our house with an injured hand. He was there until brought to Bellefonte after the shooting. On Sunday before Sept. 25 both Annie and Keenan were at our home. On the next day, Monday, they were also there. Had some difficulty that day as they did not speak until evening. I asked Keenan what was wrong and he said, "Oh, nothing." On Tuesday I asked Keenan to see Patrick Ward about a team to go for wood. He got the team, accompanied by Annie and Alice went for wood Wednesday morning. They went to the Lucas sawmill on Moshannon creek, about two miles away.

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MORE ABOUT THE INDIANS

Our Historical Review of Centre County Continued

SOME PECULIAR CUSTOMS

Among the Indians who Once Lived and Roamed Over our Hills and Mountains—Short Sketches Published Each Week.

If, in their travels, they had occasion to pass a deep river, on arriving at it they set about it immediately and built a canoe, by taking a long piece of bark, of proportionate breadth, to which they gave the proper form, by fastening it to ribs of light wood, bent so as to suit the occasion. If a large canoe was required, several pieces of bark were carefully sowed together. "If the voyage was expected to be long, many Indians carried everything they wanted for their night's lodging with them; namely, some slender poles, and rush-mats, or birch bark."

When at home, they had their amusements. Their favorite one was dancing. An amusement that is excusable even at this day, among those whose "taste and education," like the simple sons of the forest, preponderate that way. The Indians, like some whites of this day have, had several kinds of dances.

"The war dance, which was always held either before or after a campaign, was dreadful to behold. None took part in it, but the warriors themselves. They appeared armed, as if going to battle. One carried his gun or hatchet; another a long knife, the third a tomahawk, the fourth a large club; or they all appeared armed with tomahawks. These they brandished in the air, to show how they intended to treat their enemies. They affected such an air of anger and fury on this occasion, that it made a spectator shudder to behold them. A chief led the dance, and sang the warlike deeds of himself or his ancestors. At the end of every celebrated feat of valor, he wielded his tomahawk with all his might against a post fixed in the ground. He was then followed by the rest, each finished his round by a blow against the post. Then they danced all together; and this was the most frightful scene. They affected the most horrible and dreadful gestures; threatened to beat, cut, and stab each other. They were, however, amazingly dexterous in avoiding the threatened danger. To complete the horror of the scene, they howled as dreadfully as if in actual fight, so that they appeared as raving madmen. During the dance they sometimes sounded a kind of rattle, made of reed, which had a shrill and disagreeable note. The Iroquois used the war dance even in times of peace, with a view to celebrate the deeds of their heroic chiefs in a solemn manner."

"The Indians, as well as 'all human flesh,' were heirs of disease. The most common were pleurisy, weakness and pains in the stomach and breast, consumption, diarrhoea, rheumatism, bloody flux, agues, inflammatory fevers—and occasionally the small pox made dreadful ravages among them. Their general remedy for all disorders, small or great, was a sweat. For this purpose they had in every town an oven, situated at some distance from the dwellings, built of stakes and boards, covered with sods, or were dug in the side of a hill, and heated with some red-hot stones. Into this the patient crept naked, and in a short time was thrown into profuse perspiration. As soon as the patient felt himself too hot he crept out, and immediately plunged himself into a river, or some cold water, where he continued about thirty seconds, and then went again into the oven. After having performed this operation three times successively, he smoked his pipe with composure, and in many cases a cure was completely effected."

Indian doctors never applied medicines without accompanying them with mysterious ceremonies, to make their effect appear supernatural. The ceremonies were various. Many breathed upon the sick—they averred their breath was wholesome. In addition to this they spirted a certain liquor made of herbs, out of their mouth, over the patient's whole body, distorting their features, and roaring dreadfully. In some instances physicians crept into the oven, where they sweat, howled, roared, and now and then grinned horribly at their patients, who had been laid before the opening, and frequently felt the pulse of the patient. Then pronounced sentence, and foretold either their recovery or death. On one occasion, a Moravian missionary was present, who says, "An Indian physician had put on a large bear-skin, so that his arms were covered with the fore legs, his feet with the hind legs, and his head was entirely concealed in the bear's head with the addi-

tion of glass eyes. He came in this attire with a calabash in his hand, accompanied by a great crowd of people into the patient's hut, singing and dancing, when he grasped a handful of hot ashes, and scattering them into the air, with a horrid noise, approached the patient, and began to play several legerdemain tricks with small bits of wood, by which he pretended to be able to restore him to health."

Their *Materia Medica*, or the remedies used in curing diseases were, such as rattle snake root, the skins of rattle snakes, dried and pulverised, thorny ash, toothache tree, tulip tree, dogwood, wild laurel, sassafras, Canada shrubby elder, poison ash, wintergreen, liverwort, Virginia poke, jalap, sarsaparilla, Canadian sanicle, scabians or devil's bit, bloodwort, cuckowpint, ginseng, and a few others.

Death and burials among them, are described by one who spent years among them, as follows: Immediately after the death of an Indian, the corpse is dressed in a new suit, with the face and shirt painted red, and laid upon a mat or skin, in the middle of the hut or cottage. The arms and effects of the deceased are then piled up near the body. In the evening, soon after sunset, and in the morning, before daybreak, the female relations and friends assemble around the corpse and mourn over it. Their lamentations are loud, in proportion to the love and esteem they bore to the deceased, or to his rank, or the pains he suffered in dying; and they are daily repeated, till his interment.

The burying places were at some distance from the dwellings. The graves were generally dug by old women, as the young people abhorred this kind of work. Before they had hatchets and other tools, they used to line the inside of the grave with the bark of trees, and when the corpse was laid down, they placed some pieces of wood across, which were again covered with bark, and then the earth thrown in, to fill up the grave.

At an early period, they used to put a tobacco-pouch, knife, tinder-box, tobacco and pipe, bow and arrows, gun, powder and shot, skins, and cloth for clothes, paint, a small bag of Indian corn or dried bilberries, sometimes the kettle, hatchet, and other furniture of the deceased, into the grave, supposing that the departed spirits would have the same wants and occupation in the land of souls.

William Penn, the founder of the province, says, "their language is lofty, yet narrow; but, like the Hebrew, in signification, full; like shorthand, in writing, one word serveth in place of three, and the rest are supplied by the understanding of the hearer."

Wars, among the Indians, were always carried on with the greatest fury, and lasted much longer than they do now among them. The offensive weapons were, before the whites came among them, bows, arrows and clubs.

The Delaware and Iroquois were very informal in declaring war; they often sent out small parties, seized the first man they met, belonging to the nation they had intended to engage, killed and scalped him, then cleaved his head with a hatchet, which they left stick in it, or laid a war club, painted red, upon the body of the victim. This was a formal challenge; in consequence of which, a captain of an insulted party would take up the weapon of the murderers, and hasten into their country, to be revenged upon them; if he returned with a scalp, he thought he had avenged the rights of his own nation.

FATAL HUNTING ACCIDENT.

Charles Pritchard Instantly Killed by Accidental Discharge of a Gun.

Charles Pritchard had gone out hunting with three companions, Walter Shaw and the Hollabaugh brothers, all of Phillipsburg, Thanksgiving morning. Thinking the load too hard on the team coming up the hill from Nason's camp, Pritchard and one of the Hollabaugh men got out to walk. They went to the rear of the wagon to take out their guns, supposed to be empty, and in drawing them out of the wagon bed the trigger of Hollabaugh's gun struck and it discharged, emptying its contents in Pritchard's face. The shot entered the mouth and penetrated the brain, producing instant death. The deceased was engaged in the livery business with his brother Joe, and was well known.

Killed a Big Bear.

Last week a trio of Milton hunters were out hunting in the mountains near Stovers, Centre county, and succeeded in killing a long black bear, which weighed 216 pounds. It was a fine large specimen, measuring seven feet from tip to tip. The party bagged 22 pheasants, 5 rabbits, and a wild turkey. Another party camping in that vicinity killed two bears and two deer last week.—Lewisburg Journal.

Residents of the great Nutmeg State need not go far to find a nutmeg grater.

OUR DECLINE IN POPULATION

Reasons Assigned for the Decrease Since 1890

ARE EMPLOYED ELSEWHERE

A Number of our Large Manufacturing Industries Closed in the Past Ten Years—Gains in the Western Part of the State.

The result of the recent census of Centre county was more than a surprise to most of our people. In the state, since 1890, there has been an increase of over a million or about 20 per cent.; that is a rapid growth in ten years. In 1890 the population of Centre county was 43,269. Now had this section experienced a pro rata increase by this time our population, at a 20 per cent. gain, would total 51,923; instead, it is 42,894 or 375 less than in 1890.

This is a surprise to many, but then when the situation is reviewed, the explanation is evident. The birth rate is far in excess of the number of deaths, and the loss in population is not due to the mortality but due to removals. The rural districts have hardly as great population as ten years ago for the reason that improved machinery is taking the place of manual labor on the farm. Crops are put out, harvested and marketed today with less labor than formerly and for that reason farm hands are not as numerous as heretofore and they naturally have sought employment as mechanics or in the large manufacturing centres. In ten years, this tendency, while not great, is still perceptible.

Ten years ago there were more extensive lumber operations in this county than today, for the reason that very little virgin forest remains in this county and in a few years it will be practically cleared out.

Ten years ago the Mann Ax factory at Axemann, near this town, was in operation and the three departments employed a large number of skilled workmen who had their homes in that vicinity. Since then the plant was absorbed by the axc trust, was closed up, dismantled and the workmen have mostly gone to either Mill Hill or Lewis town.

In 1890 the large mill plant at this place was in operation and gave employment to over a hundred skilled workmen. Soon after the firm failed, the plant shut down and most of the men removed with their families to other points.

In 1890 the Valentine furnace near our town was in full blast, and in addition thereto hundreds of men were employed about the mine banks. Now the plant is shut down, and when operated most of the ore is shipped here from the lakes.

On the other hand the lime stone operations in this section are more extensive than formerly and the match factory has brought some new families to this immediate community, both of which hardly compensate for the loss by the closing of the other industries.

In Snow Shoe, Burnside and Rush townships it is a question whether the coal boom has directly increased their population, but the report of the various districts will explain that. The coal boom has been a wonderful help to Clearfield county.

The question is, what has become of the natural increase of population in the last decade? In former years there was a large migration to the western states, but that recently has been a small item. Today there are an unusual number of Centre county mechanics and laboring men located in the western part of this state which is becoming one of the greatest industrial centres in the world. Within a radius of fifty miles of Pittsburg in the past ten years countless thrifty towns have sprung into existence due to the location of all forms of iron and steel industries, glass factories, etc., attracted to that locality by the cheap fuel, transportation facilities and local mineral wealth. We believe almost a thousand Centre countians by birth are now living in the vicinity of Pittsburg. The new coal towns of Windber and other sections, also Altoona have drawn on our population.

A large portion of the excess population in the lower or eastern section of the Bald Eagle valley has drifted along the Beech Creek railroad or up the Philadelphia & Erie railroad to new towns like Johnsonburg, or the extensive lumber operations in Elk, Forest and adjoining counties.

Lack of employment is the reason our population is drifting away and locating in other industrial centres.

Pensions Granted.

Andrew Cramer, of Hublersburg, has been granted a pension of \$10. Richard Gibbs, of Milesburg, has been granted a pension of \$14. The minor children of Philip Bradley, of Axe Mann, have been granted a pension of \$14 per month.

THE WONDERS OF THE COURTS.

It is wonderful how slow the courts are at times.

It is wonderful how derelict jurors and witnesses often are.

It is wonderful what an amount of false swearing there often is.

It is wonderful how lawyers often do their best to confuse witnesses and get them to contradict themselves by trap questions.

It is wonderful how many petty, trifling cases are sent to court that never should find an open door there.

It is wonderful how anxious some are to be witnesses and jurors.

It is wonderful how many incompetent, but otherwise good, citizens are put into the jury wheel.

It is wonderful how big a sum of taxes could be saved if some of these evils were checked.

MORE CONQUEST.

A Washington correspondent of the "Journal" reiterates a statement that the United States has decided to participate in the dismemberment of China and asserts that the State Department has confirmed the story. He declares that all the foreign diplomats called upon Secretary Hay recently and that he explained to them the attitude of this government regarding China, intimating that the United States will participate in the dismemberment program. The correspondent asserts that the State Department has abandoned all discussion of a mere port, and that a good slice of territory is to be this country's portion when the carving is done is certain. The strip will in all probability be bounded by Foo Chow on the north and Swatow on the south, with Amoy, a port located conveniently near the Philippines, and only a short distance father away from the archipelago than is Hong Kong.

Doomed To Destruction.

The Lock Haven dam seems to be doomed to destruction, says the Express, unless the damage caused by the recent flood is repaired during the winter and the structure strengthened before the ice floods occur next spring. Since the flood has subsided to a low rattling flood, it can be plainly seen that not only has the sheathing timber been swept away, but some of the timber and stone of the main structure has gone. Rivermen are unanimously of the opinion that a heavy ice flood will destroy the dam, and its complete destruction is only a matter of a short time now, unless the structure is repaired this winter.

Undertakers Must Register.

The supreme court on Monday sustained the act of June 7, 1895, which makes it a misdemeanor for any person to engage in the business of an undertaker without registering with the state board of undertakers. The act was brought before the court on the appeal of D. S. Hanley, who was convicted under the statute in Erie county.

Tyrone's Religious Census.

The result of the recent house to house visitation in Tyrone, shows the religious preferences of the 6,329 people. Of this number 1,411 are Presbyterian in their belief; 2,666 Methodist Episcopal; 516 United Brethren; 562 Lutheran; 480 Roman Catholic; 122 German Baptist; 122 African Methodist; 127 German Lutheran, and 89 Episcopal.

Mercantile Appraiser Appointed.

On Tuesday the County Commissioners elected their Mercantile Appraiser in the county for the coming year. The choice fell to L. D. Orndorf, of Woodward, and it was made unanimous. Mr. Orndorf is a capable young man and will make a good official for the place.

New Church Dedicated.

The new Methodist church at Clarence, on the Snow Shoe circuit, was dedicated Sunday by the presiding Elder, Rev. J. Ellis Bell, who preached morning, afternoon and night. The church is a very neat little place of worship, costing \$500, and the remaining indebtedness, amounting to about \$300, was provided for.

Mystery at Ridgway.

Lloyd Cody was found early Sunday morning in his father's store at Ridgway with the top of his head crushed in, and he died a short time afterward without speaking. The young man was found in an unconscious condition by his father. The affair is shrouded in mystery.

Sold by Sheriff.

The Juniata Valley camping grounds were sold at sheriff's sale for \$100 to J. K. Rhodes, one of the directors.

THE regular army is to be increased to 96,000 men, the administration having fixed upon that number.

READ first editorial on page 4—some good points there.