

The Centre Democrat.

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OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

Massacre of Friendly Indians at Middle Creek, Snyder Co.

BY STUMP AND IRONCUTTER

Who Were Arrested and taken to Jail at Carlisle to await Trial—It Caused much fear of an Uprising among the Indians.

Massacre of Indians by whites, in territory contiguous to Centre, now part of Union county, an interesting narrative, as found below:

Below is given an account of this horrid murder, Stump's apprehension, and proceedings of government relative thereto:

Two or three families of Indians, one called the White Mingo, another Cornelius, one Jonas and one Cammell, three Indian women, two girls and a child, had removed from the Big Island, on the West Branch of Susquehanna, in the spring of 1767, came and built themselves cabins on Middle creek, about 15 miles above the mouth of said creek; where they lived and hunted, and were on friendly terms with their white neighbors—were always well received and kindly treated. In the month of January, 1768, they came to the house of William Blyth, who lived at the mouth of Middle creek. He treated them kindly. From his house they went to Frederick Stump's, who lived near Blyth's, where it is supposed some differences happened. Here four of the Indians were murdered; their bodies cast into Middle creek, through a hole in the ice. Stump, with his servants, Ironcutter, (Eisenhauf), then proceeded to a cabin about four miles from his house, where he found two Indian girls and one child, whom he also murdered, and setting fire to the cabin, endeavored to consume the remains.

The body of one of those thrown into Middle creek, was afterwards found, "lying dead within the water-mark of the river Susquehanna," some distance below the Harrisburg bridge, and interred in Allen township.

The murder of these Indians produced a prodigious excitement, at the time, as will appear from all the facts and proceedings arising from and connected with it. As soon as this atrocity was made known to the governor of the province, and to Sir William Johnson, Penn issued his proclamation, offering a reward for the apprehension of Stump and Ironcutter, promising to punish them with death; and this declaration, with two strings of wampum, he sent to be made known to the Indians living on the Susquehanna, requesting them not to break the peace in consequence of the murder. A message was also sent to the same effect, says Heckewelder, by the governor to the Christian Indians, with the request that they should make it known in public assembly; and soon after, a special message was sent to the Christian Indians (at Friedenshueten) from Sir William Johnson, desiring if they knew of the relations of those persons murdered at Middle creek, to send them to him, that he might wipe the tears from their eyes, comfort their afflicted hearts, and satisfy them on account of their grievances. Sir William Johnson also invited the chief of the Six Nations, and other tribes of Indians living on Susquehanna, and on the Ohio to an amicable convention. A convention was held, peace and friendship again re-established.

Sworn at Philadelphia the 19th day of January, 1768, before me, William Allen. As soon as Capt. William Patterson, (formerly of Lancaster county, then residing on the Juniata) heard of this atrocious act, went, without waiting orders from the governor, with a party of nineteen men, and arrested Stump and Ironcutter, and delivered them to John Holmes, sheriff, at Carlisle jail. Aware that the relatives of the murdered Indians would be, on the receipt of this news, exasperated, he sent one Gersham Hicks, with a message to the Indians at Big Island, on the west branch of the Susquehanna.

Carlisle, January 23, 1768. The 21st instant, I marched a party of nineteen men to George Gabriel's house at Penn's creek mouth, and made prisoners of Frederick Stump and John Ironcutter, who were suspected to have murdered ten of our friendly Indians, near Fort Augusta; and I have this day delivered them to Mr. Holmes at Carlisle jail.

Yesterday I sent a person to the Great Island, that understood the Indian language, with a talk; a copy of which is enclosed.

Myself and party, were exposed to great danger, by the desperate resistance made by Stump and his friends, who sided with him. The steps I have taken,

I flatter myself, will not be disapproved of by the gentlemen of the government; my sole view being directed to the service of the frontiers, before I heard his Honor the Governor's orders.—The message I have sent to the Indians, I hope will not be deemed assuming an authority of my own, as you are very sensible I am no stranger to the Indians and their customs.

I am, with respect,
Your most obedient
humble servant,
W. PATTERSON.

Juniata, January 22, 1768

"Brothers of the Six Nations, Delaware, and other inhabitants of the West Branch of Susquehanna, hear what I have to say to you. With a heart swelled with grief, I have to inform you that Frederick Stump and John Ironcutter, hath, unadvisedly, murdered ten of our friendly Indians near Fort Augusta.—The inhabitants of the Province of Pennsylvania do disapprove of the said Stump and Ironcutter's conduct; and as a proof thereof, I have taken them prisoners, and will deliver them into the custody of officers, that will keep them ironed in prison for trial; and I make no doubt, as many of them as are guilty, will be condemned, and die for the offence.

"Brothers, I being truly sensible of the injury done you, I only add these few words, with my heart's wish, that you may not rashly let go the fast hold of our chain of friendship, for the ill conduct of one of our bad men. Believe me, Brothers, we Englishmen continue the same love for you that hath usually subsisted between our grand-fathers, and I desire you to call at Fort Augusta, to trade with our people, for the necessities you stand in need of. I pledge you my word that no white man shall molest any of you, while you behave as friends. I shall not rest night or day, until I receive your answer.

Your friend and brother,
W. PATTERSON.

The following is an answer to Captain Patterson's message, of January 22, 1768.

"February 11th, 1768.

"Loving Brother:
I received your speech by Gertham Hicks, and have sent one of my relatives with a string of wampum, and the following answer:

Loving Brother:
I am glad to hear from you—I understand that you are very much grieved, and that the tears run from your eyes—with both my hands I now wipe away those tears: and as I don't doubt but your heart is disturbed, I remove all the sorrows from it, and make it easy as it was before. I will now sit down and smoke my pipe. I have taken fast hold of the chain of friendship; and when I give it a pull, if I find my brothers, the English, have let go, then it will be time for me to let go too, and take care of my family—There are four of my relatives murdered by Stump; and all I desire is, that he may suffer for his wicked action; I shall then think that people have the same goodness in their hearts as formerly, and intend to keep it there. As it was the evil spirit who caused Stump to commit this bad action, I blame none of my brothers, the English, but him.

I desire that the people of Juniata may sit still on their places, and not put themselves to any hardships, by leaving their habitations; whatever danger is coming, they shall know it before it comes on them.

I am,
Your loving Brother,
SHAWANA BEN.

To Capt. William Patterson.

The Council, after examining Mr. Blyth, immediately took this most important matter into consideration, and were of opinion that warrants should forthwith be issued by the chief justice, directed to the sheriffs, and other officers of the Province, and particularly to those of the counties of Cumberland, Lancaster and Berks, for the apprehending of the above mentioned Frederick Stump, and bringing him before one of his Majesty's Justices of Oyer and Terminer, to be dealt with according to law. The Board also advised the Governor to issue a proclamation offering a reward of £200 for apprehending said offender, and bringing him to justice.

But before those letters, and the proclamation of chief justice Allen reached the magistrates and sheriffs, Stump and Ironcutter, as above stated, had been lodged in jail; but before they were brought to trial, were rescued from prison by their friends and neighbors, whose fears were excited that Stump and Ironcutter were to be taken to Philadelphia, there to be tried, they "not properly distinguishing between examination and trial," rescued them from prison, on the 29th of January, and carried them off.

Governor Penn sent a message express to the chiefs on Great Island, on which he deplores the death of the Indians.

The murdering of the Indians, and Ironcutter, produced a great excitement, not only at Carlisle, but through the whole country. The magistrates and sheriff, it appears had been censured. But, the general impression appears to have been, judging from documentary evidence, that the officers, sheriff and magistrates, did not favor the prisoners.

EXPERIMENT WITH ANGORA GOATS

W. Fred Reynolds Purchased flock in Texas FOR HIS BENNER TWP. FARMS

An Animal With very fine fleece—Can Endure the Extremes of Temperature—Is Exceedingly Cleanly and considered Profitable.

Col. W. Fred Reynolds will make a new venture, the raising of Angora goats. He recently purchased a choice flock of 600 in Texas and will have them shipped here about the first of April and they will be taken to a strip of several hundred acres of land above Roopsburg, in Benner twp. For a distance of about two miles. Spring creek flows through his farms and the land along the stream is hilly and rocky and unsuitable for farming. The high bluffs and stony peaks are ideal pasture ground for these animals and there they will need very little special attention. The Angora goat is a larger animal than the common sheep and is highly prized for the long silky fleece that is used in the manufacture of the finer garments. The animal is an extremely cleanly one in its habits and choicy as to its food, and in this respect differs much from the ordinary goat or sheep raised by our farmers. The fleece cut from the Angora goat is so clean that it can be turned into the machines for making cloth without any previous washing. The flesh of this animal is of the highest quality for table use and finer than any kind of mutton, as it does not have the woolly taste. The animal will easily endure the extremes of heat or cold, but is absolutely afraid of getting in the rain, and a soaking of its fleece is dangerous to its health. For that reason it will be necessary to build sheds at convenient points, for their shelter when the heavy rains come up.

There is only one other flock of Angora goats in the state, at Wellsboro, and the owner was very successful in the past year with them. They average in price at about \$10 per head, and are clipped once a year and the fleece yields about three pounds each, and brings a much better price than wool. This experiment of Col. Reynolds will be watched with much interest by our farmers in this section. There are plenty of hills and knobs in the county that could be used for such a purpose, that now are useless.

A NEW COURT.

Representative Connell's bill for the creation of a new Federal judicial district in Pennsylvania, to be known as the Middle district, was favorably reported in the Senate Monday by Senator Hoar, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and was shortly after taken up and passed at the request of Senator Penrose. The House passed this bill February 9, and as no change was made in it by the Senate it now goes to the President for his signature.

The provisions of this bill are that this court be immediately established so as to begin work next month. In that case it is expected that the President will not deliberate long in making the necessary appointment. In some sections of the state the opinion prevails that Judge Archibald, of Scranton, will be the appointee, at the request of representative Connell, who is the promoter of the measure. On the other hand it is claimed that the present state administration, the two state senators and other stalwart dignitaries about Harrisburg, are urging the appointment of John G. Love, of this place, who by the way is a personal friend of President McKinley and was one of his classmates at the Albany law school when a young man. The belief is expressed here that if they can satisfy Connell in some other appointment for his friend, that Judge Love will get the position. As it stands, it is hard to predict the result, as both claims are strong, and both men are abundantly well qualified for the position.

In the event of Judge Love's appointment it will make a lively scramble in local politics, as the governor would have to appoint some one to sit on the bench in this county until a successor could be elected this fall. That would open up the judicial fight on both sides of the political fence from the very day the announcement would be made. At this time there is a painful silence and a serious suspense among the judicial timber in this county, which is abundant at this time.

Serious Charge.

Mrs. Jennie Ream, charged with infanticide, was apprehended while in hiding in Reedsville, Mifflin county, Wednesday night. At the inquest Thursday the jury returned a verdict charging her with the death of the child. She was committed to await trial.

A GOLDEN WEDDING.

Aged Frederick Decker and Wife Celebrated that Happy Event.

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1901, was an eventful day for the family of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Decker, at the Decker homestead about two miles east of State College. After a period of half a century of married life Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Decker, together with sixty-five friends, including children, grandchildren, and neighbors met to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.

Fifty years ago at the bride's home at Pine Hall, on Feb. 20, 1851, Frederick Decker and Miss Elizabeth Strouse were united in marriage by Rev. Daniel Moser, then pastor of the Lutheran church. The bridesmaid, now Mrs. Maria Stover, was present and sat with the aged couple while they received congratulations of all present. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Decker one of whom died forty years ago at the age of two years. The seven who are among the best and most prosperous citizens of Centre county are living.

Over a Thirty Foot Embankment.

A serious accident happened last Thursday night about half past seven o'clock as Mr. and Mrs. Philip Iddings, who live back of Milesburg, were driving home in their two-horse wagon. Mr. Iddings drove too close to the edge of the 30-foot embankment and before he knew it the wagon was over the bank. Iddings sprang out and grabbed the horses, but the wagon was torn loose and went down over the embankment to the creek below, carrying Mrs. Iddings with it.

The accident occurred at the highest point along the pike, it being thirty feet from the road to the creek below. At one time there was a guard rail there but it had been torn away and through someone's negligence was never replaced. It seems that the location of the township line here is in dispute. The supervisors of Boggs and Spring townships each put up a guard rail a certain distance, but 100 feet space between is left where there is no guard rail, and here lies the trouble for one or the other. Mrs. Iddings was found seriously injured; examination showed her collar-bone was broken and it is feared that she is injured internally.

Alighted on Cattle Guard.

Tuesday night Ira Hutchison and Ed. Laughlin left on a late freight train on the Bald Eagle Valley road to search for work in a town near Bellwood. When near Howard, Laughlin's hat blew off and both men jumped from the train to get it. In alighting Hutchison struck a cattle guard and slipped back. The wheels of two cars ran over his leg, crushing it above the ankle. Laughlin ran back, when Hutchison informed him of his accident. Laughlin with the help of a few men from the iron works and a farmer's sled, took the injured man to a doctor's office in Howard. Hutchison was brought to this city on the morning train and taken to the hospital. He is about 20 years old, and up to a week ago was employed at the silk mill. The foot was amputated Tuesday afternoon above the ankle, says the Lock Haven Democrat.

Strike at Lewistown.

On account of a reduction of 10 per cent. in the wage scale at the works of the Mann Edge Tool company, at Lewistown, all the employes, about eighty in number, refused to go to work Monday last. A notice posted next day states that unless the employes returned to work Wednesday morning the plant will be closed permanently.

Got Desperate.

A shooting affray took place at the Henderson settlement near Houtzdale, on Friday last. It was a case where a girl flatly refused to marry a young man and it seems that he was determined that she shouldn't marry anyone else. The girl was shot in the side; was taken to the Philipsburg hospital and will recover.

The Colored Question to be Tested.

George B. Brandon, formerly of this place, but now proprietor of the Mansion House at Carlisle, has been arrested by James A. Summers, a colored man of Harrisburg, who charges him as having refused to accommodate him at his hotel account of his race and color. Mr. Brandon gave bail for court.

An Aged Lady's Serious Fall.

Mrs. James Mauck of Rote, fell down stairs Tuesday morning. Both bones in her arm were broken, and several gashes were cut in her head. She was unconscious for some time, but was restored by Dr. Dunn. She is 70 years old. Her chances for recovery are good.

Appointed Mail Clerk.

Clyde Shilling, of Clintondale, has been appointed railway mail clerk. He was teacher of a Porter township school. Miss Alma Pletcher, of Nittany, was elected to fill the vacancy in the school.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' DUTY DEFINED

Why they Should Create Sentiment and not follow it.

SOME THOUGHTFUL REMARKS

An Able Paper Read Before the State School Directors Association Prepared by D. F. Fortney, Esq.—All should Read it.

The following paper was read before the State School Directors' Association in session at Harrisburg on last Thursday Mr. Fortney was on the program for this discussion and when the time came he became indisposed and was unable to attend in person, but he was fortunate in securing the services of Senator Heinle, at Harrisburg at the time, who read it for him, and it was received with much favor. Mr. Fortney is a man who has made a study of school questions for these many years and his views are always interesting and sought after by leading educators. As many of our readers over the county are also intensely interested in the advancement of our public school system we publish Mr. Fortney's article entire, believing that it will be appreciated:

"THE RELATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD TO PUBLIC SENTIMENT."
(a) IN LEADING IT,
(b) IN BEING LED BY IT.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Assoc.: In this discussion I shall confine myself to the first part of the question. Every cause has its leaders. They are either the outgrowth of the sentiment that created the cause, or they have created the sentiment and are right leaders of the cause. In a country, and under a government like ours, where all questions are sooner or later discussed before, and passed upon by all people, public sentiment is a great power.

It is in full keeping with the subject to have a definition of what sentiment is. The dictionary gives it as a feeling toward or respecting some person or thing. The word sentiment, agreeably to the use made of it by our best English writers, says Stewart, "expresses in my own opinion, very happily, those complex determinations of the mind which result from the cooperation of our rational powers and of our moral feelings." Or as Pope puts it "Alike to council or the assembly name, With equal souls and sentiment the same."

So much from the lexicographers. An eminent citizen of our country in an address to the students of one of our Universities, gave this as a proper definition of the feeling expressed by the word: "Sentiment is the cement which keeps in place the granite blocks of governmental powers, or the destructive agency whose explosion heaps in ruins their scattered fragments." The same authority said, "Sentiment is the very life blood of our Nation." Our government was conceived amid the thunders that echoed "All men are created equal" and was brought forth while free men shouted "We the people of the United States."

The ideas which constitute the sentiment underlying our national structure "Are known to be a reverent belief in God, a sincere recognition of the value and power of moral principle, and those qualities of heart which make a noble manhood, devotion to unreserved patriotism, love for man's equality, unquestioning trust in popular rule, the exaction of civic virtue and honesty, faith in the saving quality of universal education, protection of a free and unperverted expression of the popular will."

This seems to be full and complete enough to cover the purpose of the question proposed for discussion. Public sentiment in relation to public education and the advantages it has been, and now is, to the public, has been a growth among the people of the Common, wealth.

At the inception of the public school system, even before it was known whether it would produce good or evil, and when all sentiment both among the people and in the halls of legislation was against it, Thaddeus Stevens inspired by his theme, seeing all down the ages a great multitude to be educated, helped and prodded by a system of public education and declaring "that he placed himself under the banner that streamed with the light," created a new sentiment, overthrew all opposition and saved to the youth of our state a system of public education which has since grown not only to be loved and cherished by our people, but admired and followed by other states and nations.

So, again, at the legislative session of 1855, when an attempt was made to abolish the office of County Superintendent, which had been created under the Act of 1854, and under which act the whole system had been reorganized and perfected, public sentiment was against the advancement created by legislative enactment, and it would have turned the advance into an ignominious defeat, but for the fact that the then governor of the Commonwealth, sustained by a few great leaders, sustained by the faith, sentiment, if you please, that public education was a great blessing and help to the people, "had declared that no backward step in common school affairs should be taken during his term of office."

These are instances of the exhibition of public sentiment toward the establishment of a system of public education. The sentiment against the whole system, if history tells the truth, was strong and positive, not only in legislative halls, but in nearly all parts of the state. As to the men who led the fight in the halls of legislation for the establishment of the system we are indebted for the sentiment that carried them through; so the few self sacrificing, aggressive and progressive men in the various school districts of the state, men who believed in education as the best means of advancing the moral and material interests of the youth of our Commonwealth, and the public school as the best means through which this could be done, that were fortunate enough to be elected to the office of school director, and who with persistent energy labored in season and out of season for the advancement of the schools, we are indebted for the senti-

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

There was a girl in our town Who never posed as wise; But she could make a batch of bread And bake delicious pies, So while her sisters sought to wed, To make a "splendid catch," She "tended to her knitting" and Made far the better match.

High strung—telegraph wires. Strictly religious grounds—church sites.

The belle never tires of being told about it. Well bred (?) people are oft-times the crustiest.

When a forger is detected he thinks it's a bad sign. Some people's shortcoming is that they are so long going.

It's funny that the girls who don't fancy work do fancy work. It isn't slang to say "Hang it all," when you refer to wall paper.

The passing show—one that's given before an audience of deadheads.

A CLOSE CALL.

Unprecedented Record of Broken Bones in the Grove Family.

On Wednesday of last week, soon after dinner, Franklin C., a son of Daniel C. Grove of Zion, in company with two brothers, Michael and Hiram, and another young man, Edward Poorman, while engaged in cutting trees for logs and posts, on the ridge about one and a quarter miles from Hecla, one of the trees in falling lodged against a tree nearby, breaking off a large limb which fell down and struck Frank on the side of the head, glanced and lodged with all force on his shoulder knocking him unconscious to the ground; wearing a heavy fur cap his head received a severe bruise which might have resulted fatally if the cap had not acted as a protection, but the blow on the shoulder broke the young man's collar bone. Benumbed somewhat with cold he did not feel but slight pain and was unaware of the injuries he had received, and continued to work on until evening when he went home with his companions to Zion three miles distant. After having entered the house severe pains set in and on examination by Dr. Fisher it was found there was a serious fracture of the collar bone. The fracture was set; he suffered greatly but is now on the way to recovery. His age is 21 years.

The family of D. C. Grove, the father, has an eventful history for accidents resulting in broken bones. The father, when three years old, in 1838 fell from a fence and had his right arm knocked out of joint. When seven years of age, in 1842, he had both bones of the same arm broken and arm out of joint, caused by falling from a horse, and Dec. 5, 1856, had his right arm broken. In 1885 his mother-in-law, Mrs. Lydia Stem, was laid up three months from a broken hip joint by falling on the ice. Three years later his daughter, Lydia H., now Mrs. Rocky, had her collar bone broken; her grandmother had her mount a bedstead to stretch the cord, and the girl falling over the side of the bed, sustained the injury aforesaid. Michael H. Grove, a son, in 1882, while wrestling with a neighbor's boy, was thrown and had his arm broken. John W., another son, in 1890, was thrown under a stumbling horse and had several ribs broken by the horse falling on him. Next Hiram R., another son, Nov. 21, 1898, while in a tussle with a schoolmate, had his right arm broken, and the same son in 1899, had a finger broken at the last joint, which also happened at school.

If this Grove family didn't go through the bone-breaking mill then tell us of another to show a greater record in that line; and they are all on deck yet, wonderful to tell, and all stand a good chance of having a natural death in the end.

Burned to Death.

The large bank barn on the farm owned by C. G. and J. B. Furst, near Salona, was entirely destroyed by fire Tuesday morning with all contents. The only articles that could be saved by Mr. Bicker, the tenant, was a spring wagon, a buggy and a sleigh. In addition to the building four head of horses, fifteen cows, all the farm implements and the remainder of last year's crops were burned. Eighteen sheep belonging to George Hyatt, and a separator, owned by Thomas Leshar, were also destroyed. The loss on the building alone is about \$2,000. This loss is covered by \$1,000 insurance. No insurance on contents.

Sounds Like a L—

Chas. Whiteman, a hackman, of Williamsport, Monday found \$40,000 worth of government bonds in an old trunk in the attic of his home. The bonds belonged to his father, who died years ago, Mrs. Whiteman, his mother, is ill at the Williamsport hospital.