

OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

Thrilling Adventures During the Revolutionary War

INDIANS, BRITISH AND TORIES

Invalidate the Interior of Pennsylvania and Bloody Encounters Follow—Many Scalps Taken—Historic Adventures of Pioneers.

CHAPTER X.

From the narrative of Lieut. Moses Van Campen, during the War of the Revolution, 1779, giving some thrilling experiences in Central Pennsylvania—continued from last week:

We had been on our farms about four or five days, when on the morning of the 30th of March, we were surprised by a party of ten Indians. My father was thrust through with a war spear, his throat was cut and he was scalped, while my brother was tomahawked, scalped and thrown into the fire before my eyes. While I was struggling with a warrior, the fellow who had killed my father, drew his spear from his body and made a violent thrust at me. I shrank from his spear; the savage who had hold of me, turned it with his hand, so that it only penetrated my vest and shirt. They were then satisfied with taking me prisoner, as they had the same morning taken my uncle's little son and Pence, though they killed my uncle.

We were now marched off up Fishing creek, and in the afternoon of the same day we came to Huntingdon, where the Indians found four white men at a sugar camp, who fortunately discovered the Indians and fled to a house; the Indians only fired on them, and wounded a Captain Ransom, when they continued their course till night.

The day passed away and having encamped for the night, we lay as before. In the morning we came to the river, and saw their canoes; they had descended the river, and run their canoes upon Little Tunkhannock creek, so called; they crossed the river and set their canoes adrift.

I renewed my suggestion to my companions, to despatch them that night; and urged that they must decide the question. Disarm them and each take a tomahawk, and come to close work at once. There are three of us; plant our bows with judgment, and three times three will make nine, and the tenth one we can kill at our leisure.

They agreed to disarm them, and after that, one take possession of the guns and fire, at the one side of the four, and the other two take tomahawks on the other side and despatch them. I observed that would be a very uncertain way; the first shot fired would give the alarm; they would discover it to be the prisoners and would defeat us. I had to yield to their plan. Peter Pence was chosen to fire the guns, Pike and myself to tomahawk; we cut and carried plenty of wood, to give them a good fire; the prisoners were tied and laid in their places; after I was laid down, one of them had occasion to use his knife; he dropped it at my feet; I turned my foot over it and concealed it—they lay down and fell asleep. About midnight I got up and found them in sound sleep. I slipped to Pence, who rose; I cut him loose and handed him the knife; he did the same for me, and I in turn took the knife and cut Pike loose; in a minute's time we disarmed them. Pence took his station at the guns. Pike and myself, with our tomahawks, took our stations; I was to tomahawk three on the right wing and Pike two on the left. That moment Pike's two awoke, and were getting up; here Pike proved a coward and laid down. It was a critical moment. I saw there was no time to be lost; their heads turned up fair; I despatched them in a moment, and turned to my lot, as per agreement, and as I was about to despatch the last on my side of the fire, Pence shot and did good execution; there was only one at the off wing that his ball did not reach; his name was Mohawk, a stout, bold, daring fellow. In the alarm, he jumped off about three rods from the fire; he saw it was the prisoners that made the attack, and giving the war-whoop, he darted to take possession of the guns; I as quick to prevent him; the contest was then between him and myself. As I raised my tomahawk, he turned quick to jump at me; I followed him and struck at him, but missing his head, my tomahawk struck his shoulder, or rather the back of his neck; he pitched forward and fell; at the same time my foot slipped, and I fell by his side; we clinched; his arm was naked; he caught me round my neck, at the same time I caught him with my left arm around the body, and gave him a close hug, at the same time feeling for his knife, but could not reach it.

In our scuffle, my tomahawk dropped out. My head was under the wounded shoulder, and almost suffocated me with

his blood. I made a violent spring and broke from his hold; we both rose at the same time, and he ran; it took me some time to clear the blood from my eyes; my tomahawk got covered up, and I could not find it in time to overtake him; he was the only one of the party that escaped. Pike was powerless.

I always have had a reverence for Christian devotion. Pike was trying to pray, and Pence was swearing at him, charging him with cowardice, and saying it was no time to pray, he ought to fight; we were masters of the ground, and in possession of all their guns, blankets, match coats, &c. I then turned my attention to scalping them, and recovering the scalps of my father, brother and others. I strung them all on my belt for safe keeping.

We kept our ground till morning, and built a raft, it being near the bank of the river where they had encamped, about fifteen miles below Tioga Point; we got all our plunder on it, and set sail for Wyoming, the nearest settlement. Our raft gave away, when we made for land, but we lost considerable property, though we saved our guns and ammunition, and took the land; we reached Wylusing late in the afternoon. Came to the narrows; discovered a smoke below and a raft lying at the shore, by which we were certain a party of Indians had passed us in the course of the day, and had halted for the night.

There was no other alternative for us, but to route them, or go over the mountain; the snow on the north side of the hill was deep; we knew, from appearance of the raft, that the party must be small; we had two rifles each; my only fear was of Pike's cowardice. To know the worst of it, we agreed that I should ascertain their number and give the signal for the attack; I crept down the side of the hill, so near as to see their fires and packs, but saw no Indians. I concluded they had gone hunting for meat, and that this was a good opportunity for us to make off with their raft to the opposite side of the river. I gave the signal; they came and threw their packs on to the raft, which was made of small, dry pine timber, and had got nearly out of reach of shot, when two of them came in; they fired; their shots did no injury; we soon got under cover of an island, and went several miles; we had waded deep creeks through the day; the night was cold; we landed on an island, and found a sink hole, in which we made our fire; after warming, we were alarmed by a cracking in the crust; Pike supposed the Indians had got on to this island, and commenced calling for quarters; to keep him quiet, we threatened him with his life; the stepping grew plainer, and seemed coming directly to the fire; I kept a watch, and soon a noble raccoon came under the light. I shot the raccoon, when Pike jumped up and called out, "Quarters, gentlemen; quarters, gentlemen." I took my game by the leg, and threw it down to the fire; "Here, you cowardly rascal," I cried, "skin that, and give us a roast for supper."

The next night we reached Wyoming, and there was much joy to see us; we rested one day, and it being unsafe to go to Northumberland by land, we procured a canoe, and with Pence and my little cousin, we descended the river by night; we came to Fort Jenkins before day, where I found Colonel Kelly and about one hundred men encamped out of the fort; he came across from the West Branch by the heads of Chillisquaka to Fishing creek, the end of the Nob mountain, so called at that day, where my father and mother were killed; he had buried my father and uncle; my brother was burnt; a small part of him only was found.

In the summer of 1781 a man was taken prisoner in Buffalo Valley, but made his escape; he came in and reported there were about three hundred Indians on Sinnemahoning, hunting and laying in a store of provisions, and would make a descent on the frontiers; that they would divide into small parties, and attack the whole chain of the frontier at the same time on the same day.

Colonel Samuel Hunter selected a company of five to reconnoitre, viz: Capt. Campbell, Peter, and Michael Groves, Lieut. Cramer and myself; the party was called the *Grove Party*. We carried with us three weeks' provisions, and proceeded up the West Branch with much caution and care, we reached the Sinnemahoning, but made no discovery, except old tracks; we marched up the Sinnemahoning so far that we were satisfied it was a false report. We returned, and a little below the Sinnemahoning, near night, we discovered a smoke; we were confident it was a party of Indians, which we must have passed by, or they got there some other way; we discovered there was a large party, how many we could not tell, but prepared for the attack.

As soon as it was dark we new primed our rifles, sharpened our flints, examined our tomahawk handles, and all being

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LOCAL POOR FARMS ARE IMPOSSIBLE

An Interesting Question Raised From Boggs Township.

COUNTY SOLICITOR'S OPINION

There is no Specific Legislative Enactment for Such an Institution—A Question Often Agitated by Tax-payers—Proper Care for Insane.

The following communication is one of some importance as it awakens a subject of much interest to our tax payers.

Yarnell, Pa., March 7th, 1801

DEAR SIR:—I think the taxpayers in some townships, where they are burdened with a unusually large number of poor people, are greatly behind the times. Centre county is able to provide a comfortable home for the poor and dependent ones among us, but the sentiment of our county is not in favor of it, as it was defeated the last time the question was voted upon. We can not make it a county affair, but could not a plan be devised whereby those townships, favorable to the idea, combine and form one district in which there should be established by them a poor farm or home for the dependent ones? If the Overseers of the Poor in such townships would get together and establish such a home or farm, and put the poor to suitable employment and not oppressive—making brooms, sewing carpet rags, cultivating a few acres, etc., and the surplus sold—they would earn something and there would be some return for the investment. In this way, in townships where there are lots of lazy bums, many able persons would have to go to work or do without public aid. Then there could be an annex built to the home for the care of the insane. According to the last Commissioner's Report there was paid the Warren, Danville and Wernersville asylums \$125 36 last year—almost enough to build a local home for their support. I believe such an investment, by those townships that have a large amount of poor tax to pay each year, would be a great improvement and a better method of handling the poor. I would like to have the opinions of other farmers, in this paper, on this question, as they are the ones who must pay the bulk of these heavy taxes.

Yours, with respect,

BOGGS TWP. FARMER

Several years ago the question of establishing a county poor farm was voted on in this county. The result showed that the people were largely opposed to it. In the strong agricultural districts the people have a comparatively small poor tax, and they handle the charges at small expense. In the mining and manufacturing sections like Spring Bener, Boggs, Rash, Snow Shoe and other townships the poor tax is much larger and in some cases is burdensome on the farmers. In Penns and Nittany Valleys the farmers are opposed to a poor home while the other sections of the county would favor it. For that reason we doubt if there ever will be a county poor institution voted for in Centre county. Most of the people realize this and for that reason the question of establishing local poor farms is often debated and advocated.

The above communication was submitted to the County Commissioners. They were emphatic in saying that it was impossible for any section of the county to attempt the establishing of local poor homes or farms, as there was no authority for such a move. No such local institutions are in existence anywhere in the state, and could not be until there would be special legislation enacted for their erection. Any single municipality can erect its own poor home, but several can not combine. Realizing that this was a question in which the tax payers of late were interested and debating they referred us to the County Solicitor, J. C. Meyer, Esq., who kindly furnished the following brief opinion for publication:

COUNTY SOLICITOR'S OPINION.

At the request of the editor of the Centre Democrat, I have made some examination as to the feasibility of the combination of several local poor districts in the erection of a house for the poor, and indigent insane, of these several districts. The project has evidently been suggested through the inability hitherto to secure authority for the erection of the county into a poor district, and the consequent burden upon many poor districts in the large centres of population and the mining sections of the county growing out of the needs of the destitute in these localities.

As far back as 1771, by the act of March 9th of that year and by subsequent legislation, each township is constituted to be a poor district with corporate rights and liabilities, and by the act of June 13th, 1836, the duty of the overseers of the poor in each township or poor district to provide for every poor person within their respective districts, having a settlement therein, applying to them for relief, is strictly enjoined. The legislature of the Commonwealth by the act of June 4th, 1879, provided that each county of the state be created and designated as a poor district, and if under the provisions of this act a majority of the qualified voters have indicated a desire for the erection of the county into a poor district the County Commissioners shall, within a reasonable time, at their discretion, purchase suitable real estate, &c. for the purpose. By the act of June 30th, 1885, it is made lawful for the overseers of every district to contract with any

person for a house or lodging for keeping, maintaining and employing such poor persons of the district as shall be adjudged proper objects of relief, and there to keep, maintain and employ such poor persons; and by the same act the overseers are (with the approbation of Court of Quarter Sessions) to purchase suitable real estate in fee, or for a term of years, and to improve the same, and to receive the benefit of their work and labor for and towards their maintenance and support.

Except the acts of assembly quoted there is no authority in law to provide real estate or lodging for the poor, other than in the poor district of the county or of the township. To say nothing of the want of legislative sanction for the combination of several districts for the purposes set forth in the acts of 1879 and 1885, it is obvious that such a procedure would result in quite confusion and would doubtless be quite unsatisfactory. Without some authoritative determination of the territory composing a poor district and fixing responsibility for the care and management of such an institution, serious contentions would arise as to the proportionate share of the burden to be borne by each township or poor district in the maintenance of such a home. In the absence of specific authority no binding rules could be established for the proper care of those who might become inmates of such an institution nor could any punishment be meted out to those responsible for the mismanagement of such a place, should occasion for the same arise. In townships or boroughs where individual homes have been provided wherein all the poor of the respective boroughs or townships have been maintained, the expense so far as I can learn, has been very much reduced as compared with the old and indiscriminate method of caring for the needy; and until the voters of the county determine upon a poor district, co-extensive with the county, there is to my mind no better way to provide for the comfort of the destitute in the various boroughs and townships. For any system for the combination of several contiguous poor districts there is no legislative authority.

Respectfully,
J. C. MEYER.

As to the idea of having our insane kept in local homes, the commissioners say that the rate at which these unfortunate persons are maintained in the state asylums is so low that it should not be attempted at home. Again, the care of the unfortunate ones who are bereft of reason requires the highest grade of medical supervision along with that of professional services, of men who have made this a life study. To us it would seem almost inhuman, even cruel, to put these in poor houses where they would suffer much for the want of proper attention. It would, in our opinion, be a bad step and there would not be any authority, we doubt, for such a course when the state has provided splendid institutions for this very purpose.

Ruffianly Act.

At Reedsville, on Sabbath evening when Mrs. William Rowe, whose husband was at church, was sitting alone in her home, she heard a rap at her back kitchen door and on opening it a tall man stood in the shadow who inquired if her husband was in. She replied that he was at church and he might see him there, thinking it might be some one wishing Mr. R. to go to work at Burnham as is often the case, but he replied "he could see him some other time," and at the same time struck her a severe blow in the stomach, felling her to the floor and rendering her unconscious, from which she did not recover until 12 m., and the attack was made at 7 o'clock. The wretch then took her apron off and bound her hands tightly, took a cloth from a sideboard and bound her feet, stuffed a kerchief in her mouth tied a cloth tightly over her face and dragged her into another room. He then went up stairs and ransacked all the apartments, but nothing was taken.

Examining Broken Back.

Dr. Dumm returned to Mackeyville Thursday morning from Philadelphia, to which city he had taken Herman Transue, the man with the broken back, of Porter township. Dr. Dumm reports that Dr. White made a personal examination of Mr. Transue's injury at the University hospital. He is inclined to think that the spinal cord is torn out, and there is little hope for the man. He, however, reserves giving a final opinion until after other specialists have made X-ray examinations. It is the intention to take X-ray views of the injury while Mr. Transue is in different positions. It will require about a week's time to complete the examinations.

EX-PRESIDENT HARRISON DEAD.

Ex-president Harrison died yesterday afternoon at 4:30 after lying unconscious several hours.

When a fellow pawns his watch he feels that his time is not his own. People with hot tempers may sometimes give rather cool treatment. Few men's trousers get baggy at the knees from saying their prayers. Even the fellow who rides a hobby stands a chance of being thrown.

Does the chair-seater do his work quicker when he puts in a rush bottom?

EVANGELICAL CONFERENCE

Held at Red Lyon, Pa., During the Past Week.

ASSIGNMENT OF MINISTERS

In Central Pennsylvania—Other Items of Interest From Proceedings—The Next Session Will be Held at Lock Haven.

The following are some extracts from the proceedings of the Evangelical conference in session at Red Lyon, Pa., last week, that may be of interest to many of our readers: There are about one hundred churches, and the conference is attended by from 130 to 140 pastors. The invitation of the Lock Haven congregation was unanimously accepted and it was decided that the conference will meet here the first Thursday in March, 1902.

Over 2,000 conversions were made and \$8,000 paid on mission church debts during the year. The committee on boundaries submitted a supplementary report that Mifflinburg, Pa., be taken up as a mission.

The managing board of the church extension society was authorized to purchase the Presbyterian church offered at Mifflinburg, Pa.; Presiding elders were stationed as follows: Rev. U. F. Swengel, York district; A. Stapleton, Carlisle district; S. P. Reemer, Center district; N. Young, Lewisburg district; E. Crumpling, Williamsport district. According to the report of Rev. W. E. Detwiler, treasurer of the conference, collection of the year amounted to \$1,789.63, and of the twentieth century thank offering \$1,634.

CONFERENCE MAKES CHANGES.

The conference makes several changes in the boundaries of charges. Among others, Hecla appointment was taken from Howard charge and added to Nittany charge. Renovo was taken up as a mission, the pastor to be supplied. Grace church was detached from Williamsport circuit and constituted a mission to be known as Grace mission.

The following assignments of ministers was announced for this section of the state:

CENTRE DISTRICT.

S. P. Reemer, Presiding Elder. Altoona: J. A. Hollenbaugh; Bellewood: C. F. Garrett; Milesburg: P. A. Smith; Bellefonte, W. E. Brown; Howard, I. N. Blair; Nittany, J. A. Foss; Sugar Valley, L. Dice; Rebersburg, N. J. Dubs; Centre Hall, J. F. Shultz; Spring Mills, S. E. Koontz; Millheim, H. W. Buck; Millmont, J. M. Price; Mifflinburg, C. C. Mizener; Buffalo, A. S. Baumgardner; New Berlin, W. N. Wallis; Centreville, S. Aurand; Middleburg, J. Shambach; McClure, A. D. Gramley; Post Trevorton, H. T. Scarie; Lewistown, C. H. Gooding; Patterson, J. Womeldorf; Professor, A. E. Goble, president of Central Pennsylvania College, R. E. Wilson and C. W. Guinters, members of New Berlin; S. E. Davis, member of Fort Trevorton, and J. Joseph, member of Lewistown Quarterly Conference.

LEWISBURG DISTRICT.

N. Young, Presiding Elder. Lewisburg, J. W. Thompson; Milton, D. L. Kepner; Milton Circuit, I. O. Biggs, Muncy, Valley, E. B. Dunn; Dashore, W. J. Campell; Bernice and Lopez, D. F. Young; Bloomsburg, J. W. Bentz; Espy, S. S. Mamey; Waller, W. A. Faus; Columbia, E. E. Shaffer; Berwick, J. J. Lohr; Neyscopeck, E. D. Keen; Luzerne, E. L. Kessler; Zion's Grove, W. H. Stover; Nanticoke, H. Minsker; Ransom, B. F. Keller; Scranton, Zion, J. W. Messinger; Susquehanna, F. W. Myers; B. Bengst, evangelist; G. Hunter, A. L. Reeser, I. M. Pines and W. P. Thomas, member of Lewisburg; C. J. Dick, member of Berwick Quarterly Conference.

WILLIAMSPORT DISTRICT.

E. Crumpling, Presiding Elder. Williamsport, First Church, M. F. Fosselman; St. Paul, G. W. Curran; Newberry, W. E. Detwiler; Grace, A. C. Price; Williamsport Circuit, J. M. King; Warrensville, W. N. Falcomer; Hughesville, J. D. Shortess; Wildeer, C. M. Sanner; Lycoming, P. C. Weidmeyer; Jersey Shore, C. L. Sones; Lock Haven, J. F. Dunlap; Lock Haven Circuit, J. R. Sechrist; East Point, S. Smith; Liberty, W. C. Bierly; Grover, W. Rhoads; Wayland, L. M. Dice; Steuben, H. C. Guthrie; Renovo, to be supplied; D. Miller and R. Young, members of First Church, Williamsport Quarterly Conference.

A Serious Accident.

J. C. Wilson met with a serious accident in Zeigler's sawmill, Abdera, Tuesday evening. Wilson was sitting on a log that was being sawed. He allowed his left hand to come in contact with the rapidly revolving saw. All the fingers and the thumb were cut off. The fingers were cut off close to the hand and it is feared that the hand will have to be amputated.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Milkmen are addicted to white lies. Bachelor quarters are only worth 25 cents.

The Judge has many trying experiences. A help to the rising generations—alarm clocks.

Throws light on the subject—the photographer. United States out-posts—the street mail boxes.

The man of letters is frequently short an X or a V. Society's upper crust is often more short than rich.

Some men go off mad when they are called a son-of-a-gun.

Love may laugh at the locksmith, but never at the goldsmith.

Women are not likely to fish for a man who has the reputation of being a "shark."

It is when his customers "smile" the most that the liquor seller grins with satisfaction.

MODERN HOTEL RULES.

1—The motto of this hotel is: "Eat, drink and be merry when your bill is presented, but don't get gay."

2—Travelers without trunks will be fastened to the bedpost with a chain, and the chain will be locked. The key will be placed in the safe over night. Any one caught filing the chain will be charged \$2 extra.

3—We hereby give warning that letters written on the stationary washtub will not go.

4—The elevator in this hotel has been running for three years, and must now be about 11,987 miles away. Those who fall down stairs, when they don't feel like it, do so at their own risk.

5—There are three departments—upstairs, downstairs and outdoors. Outdoors is the cheapest.

6—If the bell in your room is broken, bring the towel.

7—The proprietor absolutely refuses to furnish alarm clocks. They might go off without setting up. Before retiring wind up your bed and hear the ticks.

8—Any one wishing to take a drive after dinner can repair to the woods and drive nails.

9—Guests who desire to have night-mare will find the harness in the refrigerator.

10—To prevent guests from carrying fruit from the table, we will have no fruit.

11—Thirteen at the table is a bad sign, and if it can be found out who is to blame he will be punished severely.

12—Each room will be supplied with a coal scuttle in summer, and an ice-cream freezer in winter. Also, a handsome chromo card, with the following sentence from Shakespeare: "Honesty is the best policeman when you're on the beat."

13—If the sun shines in your window too feverishly, notify the clerk, and he will remove the sun to the other side of the house.

14—When a bride and groom appear at dinner for the first time, nobody must refer to them as tablespoons, under a penalty of sixty cents and ten years in jail.

15—Any guest who thinks his bill exorbitant may argue the matter with the bull-terrier in the backyard, who is kept hungry for that purpose.

16—No extra charge for gas after midnight, because the Gas Company failed six months ago. Tallow candles may be had at the office, when the guests furnish the tallow.

17—If the bellboy doesn't come when you call, run down to the office and report the matter. The exercise will do you good. Besides, this is the bellboy's day off.

18—In case of fire jump out the window and turn to the left.

19—The imitation ice in the water pitchers is copyrighted, and must not be removed from the premises.

20—Breakfast, from 7 to 8; dinner from hand to mouth, and supper, if there is anything left. Guests will have to leave the table, because it has a hardwood finish, and is not digestible.

Boiler Burst

The steam saw mill owned by Albert Douty, near Rebersburg, was destroyed Tuesday morning by the bursting of a boiler. The explosion was so terrific that nothing but pieces of the mill are left. Several of the employees were injured.

Henry Wohlfört, of Rebersburg, sustained the most severe injuries. The right side of his face was scalded, a gash was inflicted in the temple and his thigh was fractured. His recovery is doubtful.

Wallace Bierly's right arm was badly bruised and his face was scalded.

Reuben Musser's right leg was badly bruised.