

# The Centre Democrat.

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## OUR HISTORIC REVIEW

### Desperate Attempt to Defy Millin County Courts

### ARMED POSSE AT LEWISTOWN

Surrounded the Court House and Tried to Seize the President Judge—The Story Told by the District Attorney.

Millin county formed in 1789. In 1800 gave part of her territory for the formation of Centre, that territory now comprises a large scope of Penns valley in Centre county. So many of the citizens of Millin and Centre are yet bound by ties of consanguinity and socially, that the narrative which follows below will be of interest to all such as well as to others:

In 1791, there was quite a serious riot in Lewistown, as will fully appear from the following, which are given without abridgment:

A REPORT OF THE RIOT IN LEWISTOWN. Sir:—

On Monday the 12th of September, 1791, the Hon. W. Brown, James Bryson and James Armstrong, Esquires, met in the forenoon, in order to open the Court and proceed to business; but Thomas Beale, Esq., one of the Associate Judges, not having arrived, their honors waited until three o'clock in the afternoon, at which time he arrived, and was requested to proceed with them and the officers of the court to the court house, he declined going, and the procession moved on to the court house, where the judges' commissions were read, the court opened, and the officers and the attorneys and the attorneys of the court sworn in, and the court adjourned till ten o'clock next morning.

About nine o'clock, while preparing business to lay before the grand jury, I received information that a large body of men were assembled below the Long Narrows, at David Jordan's tavern, on the Juniata, and were armed with guns, swords and pistols, with an avowed intention to proceed to Lewistown, and seize Judge Bryson on the bench and drag him from his seat, and march off before them, and otherwise ill-treat him. This information was instantly communicated to Messrs. Brown, Bryson and Armstrong, the judges, who agreed with me that Samuel Edmiston, Esq., the Prothonotary, Judge Beale, — Stewart, Esq., — Bell, Esq., should, with George Wilson, Esq., the sheriff of Millin county, proceed and meet the rioters; and the sheriff was commanded to enquire of them their object and intention, and if hostile, to order them to disperse, and tell them the court was alarmed at their proceedings.

Two hours after this the court opened, and a grand jury was impanelled. A life was heard playing, and some guns fired, and immediately the mob appeared marching toward the court house, with three men on horseback in front, having the gentlemen that had been sent to meet them under guard in the rear, all of whom on their arrival at Lewistown, they permitted to go at large, except the sheriff, whom four of their number kept a guard over. The court ordered me, as the representative of the commonwealth, to go and meet them, remonstrate against their proceedings, and warn them of their danger, which order was obeyed, but all endeavors were in vain, the mob crying out, march on! march on! draw your sword on him! ride over him! I seized the reins of the bridge that the principal commander held, viz: — Wilson, Esq., brother of the sheriff aforesaid, who was well mounted and well dressed, with a sword and I think two pistols belted round him, a cocked hat, and one or two feathers in it. He said he would not desert, but at all events proceed and take Judge Bryson off the bench, and march him down the Narrows to the judge's farm, and make him sign a written paper, that he would never sit there as a judge again.

The mob still crying out, march on, he drew his sword, and told me he must hurt me, unless I would let go the reins. The crowd pushed forward, and nearly pressed me down; one of them, as I learned afterwards, a nephew of Judge Beale, presented his pistol at my breast with a full determination to shoot me. I let the reins go, and walked before them until I arrived at the stairs on the outside of the court house, when Judge Armstrong met me and said, since nothing else will do, let us defend the stairs. We instantly ascended, and Mr. Hamilton and the gentlemen of the bar, and many citizens; and the rioters, headed by Wm. Wilson, Col. Walker and Col. Holt, came forward, and the general cry was, march on, damn you, proceed and take him. Judge Armstrong replied, you damn'd rascals, come on; we will defend the court and ourselves, and before you shall take Judge Bryson, you shall kill me and

many others, which seems to be your intention, and which you may do. At this awful moment one Holt seized Judge Armstrong by the arm, with intent to pull him down the stairs, but he extricated himself. Holt's brother then got a drawn sword, and put it into his hands, and damned him to run the rascal through; and Wilson drew his sword on me with great rage, and young Beale his sword, and cocked his pistol and presented it. I told them they might kill me, but the judge they could not, nor should they take him—and the words, fire away! shouted through the mob. I put my hand on his shoulder, and begged him to consider where he was, who I was, and reflect for a moment. I told him to withdraw the men, and appoint any two or three of the most respectable of his people to meet me in half an hour, and try to settle the dispute. He agreed, and with difficulty got them away from the court house. Mr. Hamilton then went with me to Mr. Alexander's tavern, and in Wilson and Walker came, and also Sterrett, who I soon discovered to be their chief counsellor.

Proposals were made by me, that they should return home, offer no insult to Judge Bryson or the court, and prefer to the governor a decent petition, stating their grievances (if they had any) that might be laid before the legislature; and that in the meantime, the judge should not sit on the bench of this court. They seemed agreed, and our mutual honor to be pledged; but Sterrett, who pretended not to be concerned, stated that great delay would take place; that injuries had been received which demanded instant redress, and objected to the power of the governor as to certain points proposed. At this moment young Beale and Holt came up, the former with arms, and insisted on Wilson's joining them, and broke up the conference. I followed, and on the field among the rioters, told Wilson, "your object is, that Judge Bryson leave the bench, and sit not on it this court;" him and Walker said "yes." "Will you promise to disperse and go home, and offer him no insult?" he said "yes," and our mutual honor was then pledged for the performance of this agreement.

Mr. Hamilton proceeded to the court, told the judge, and he left his seat and retired. I scarce had arrived until the life began to play, and the whole of the rioters came on to the court house, then headed by Wilson. I met them at the foot of the stairs, and told them the judge was gone, in pursuance of the agreement, and charged them with a breach of the word, and forfeiture of honor, and Walker said, it was so, but he could not prevail on them. Wilson said he would have the judge, and attempted going up the stairs. I prevented him, and told him he should not, unless he took off his military accoutrements. He said he had an address to present, and complied with my request, and presented it, signed "The People." Young Beale, at the moment I was contending with Wilson, cocked and presented his pistol at my breast, and insisted that Wilson and all of them should go; but on my offering to decide it by combat with him, he declined it, and by this means they went off swearing, and said that they were out-generated.

The next day Col. M'Farland with his regiment, came down and offered to defend the court, and addressed it; the court answered, and stated that there was no occasion, and thanked him. Judge Bryson read a paper, stating the ill-treatment he had received, and mentioned that no fear of danger prevented him from taking and keeping his seat; but that he understood an engagement had been entered into by his friends that he should not, and on that account only he was prevented. The court adjourned until two o'clock that day, and were proceeding to open it with the sheriff, to wait on him and request him to walk with them; he returned and said the judge would not walk or sit with Bryson, and addressed Judge Bryson with warmth, who replied to it in a becoming manner. The sheriff struck at him, and kicked also. Judge Armstrong seized the sheriff, and commanded the peace, and took the sheriff's rod from him; the coroner took his place, and the sheriff was brought up before the court. I moved he might be committed to gaol, and his mittimus wrote and signed, and the court ordered the coroner a gaoler to take him, and he submitted. The court adjourned. After night the drum beat, and Holt collected about seventy men, who repeatedly huzza'd, crying out "liberty or death," and he offered to rescue the sheriff, but the sheriff refused.

At ten o'clock at night I was informed expresses were sent down the Narrows, to collect men to rescue the sheriff, and Major Edmiston informed me he was sorry for his conduct, and offered to beg the court's pardon, and to enter into recognizance. I communicated this to the Judges Brown and Armstrong, and requested they would write to the gaoler

## VARIETY OF COUNTY NEWS

### Items of Interest Gathered From All Sections

### SHORT AND TO THE POINT

What Transpired Worthy of Brief Mention, the Past Week—News From Over the County—For Hasty Readers—A New Department.

Several cases of diphtheria are reported from Boalsburg.

Walker Shutt is seriously ill with typhoid fever at his home near Boalsburg. Grace E. Forshay, of Philipsburg, is a student at the West Chester State Normal.

Pennsylvania State College defeated Franklin and Marshall at base ball Friday by a score of 15 to 7.

The farm occupied by Henry Meyer, west of Boalsburg, known as the Hobson place, has been purchased by Mrs. Sparr, price, \$5500.

On May 7th, at the residence of bride's parents, Chas. A. Bitner, and Miss May Bechtel were united in marriage by M. C. Frich, at Blanchard.

Mrs. Jesse King, of Millheim, is still showing signs of improvement from the pistol shot received at the hands of her husband, over a week ago.

Mrs. Julia Dieninger, who had been at Millheim, Centre Co., for several months returned to Middleburg and will again make her home with A. S. Beaver.

Harry Hoffer and Miss Grace Pearce, both of Philipsburg, were married at Osceola Wednesday evening 8th. The groom is a son of the late H. O. Hoffer.

From the present indications, the way that all the cherry, peach, plum and apple trees are blooming, there will be an immense crop of all kinds of fruit this year.

The annual commencement exercises at The Pennsylvania State College will be held this year June 9th to 12. Dr. Colfelt, of Philadelphia, will preach the baccalaureate sermon.

R. A. Kinsloe, who recently sold the Philipsburg, Pa., Bituminous Record, took his departure for Philadelphia, where his family now resides and where he himself will remain permanently.

The dwelling house, known as the David place, at Howard, was destroyed by fire last week. The house was owned by Mrs. James Peeling, of Lock Haven, and was unoccupied; origin of the flames is not known.

Samuel Miller, son of S. H. Miller, of Rock Spring, who a year ago enlisted in the regular army as a member of Troop E, Fifth U. S. Cavalry, is now located at Fort Grant, Arizona, after spending some time with his troop in Porto Rico.

Rev. R. P. Miller, for thirteen years pastor of the Homestead Presbyterian church, has been tendered a call from the Presbyterian congregation at Philipsburg. Rev. Charles D. Russell, of Loganton, has accepted a call to the Lutheran church at Philipsburg.

C. P. Long, of Spring Mills, has three cub bear which were captured during the recent mountain fires. The little cubs and mother bear were driven by the flames to the saw mill of Bearley & Molten, where they were captured. The old bear was pierced with several bullets, but she made good her escape.

Jerry Miller and family of Centre Hall, are now residents of Du Bois. Mrs. M. and her son left on Tuesday morning's train, to join the rest of the family in the above named place. We are sorry to see them leave, having been life-long residents here. The number of persons leaving our town in a short space of time has been large. Good wishes of all go with Jerry and family.

The shower last Thursday again put out the mountain fires. This is the third time this spring that Providence put out the forest fires by sending rains. Many of these fires are the work of bad men. The lumber dinkies running over the tram roads daily, no doubt throw out sparks that cause some of the mountain fires, but this destructive work is oftener the work of bad men. Thirty years ago there were no tram roads in the mountains that were used to run dinkies on, yet the mountain fires occurred all the same, and as frequently as in these days, and were always charged to incendiary characters who should have been in state's prison.

IN ADJOINING COUNTIES.

There is no similarity between a wire puller and a piano tuner.

Lock Haven is to have Lee's great London circus Wednesday, May 23rd.

Clearfield court, in session last week, had a criminal list of 85 cases to contend with.

Dr. S. S. Koser, the Williamsport physician who sued for divorce from his wife has lost his case.

An unofficial rumor is current to the effect that another passenger train will be put on the Beech Creek district.

We learn that Benjamin Cooperthwait is disposing of his hotel at Sandy Ridge, and will erect a brick plant at Houtzdale.

E. R. Howard, a Beech Creek district brakeman, had the large toe of his right foot mashed at Panther Run, a few days since, while he was getting aboard a moving train.

Engineers are making the survey for the proposed trolley line from Jersey Shore to Antes Fort. The work of constructing the road will begin as soon as the survey is complete.

Martin L. Rhinesmith has been arrested and placed in jail at New Bloomfield, Perry county, charged with setting fire to Clarke M. Adams's barn, which was burned about two weeks ago.

William P. Moyer, of Loganton, has been appointed notary public by Governor Stone. He has lifted his commission and is now ready to give attention to business pertaining to his office.

James Lenhart, who is serving a sentence of fifteen years in the Eastern Penitentiary for the murder of Newton Motz, in Lewistown is reported in a bad state of health and broken down physically.

Two Italians were taken before Squire Rosser at Mill Hall last Thursday charged with dynamiting fish in Fishing Creek at Salona. In default of bail the men were taken to jail at Lock Haven for trial at Court.

The fine dwelling of David Johnson, near Home Camp, Clearfield county, which cost \$5 200 when it was built, was burned on the morning of the 4th inst., with all its contents. There was but \$500 insurance on the property.

When the new schedule goes into effect on the Pennsylvania railroad, Sunday, May 26, a new train will be placed upon the Tyrone & Clearfield branch, leaving Tyrone at 7:20 o'clock every Sunday evening, and returning to arrive at Tyrone at 6:35 o'clock each Monday morning. This train is put on for the summer.

Speer G. Burrell, of near Penn Hall, is enthusiastic in the prospects of finding coal. Mr. Burrell has a half interest in the findings, the estate of Samuel Burrell holding the other half. Gregg Burrell, northwest of Spring Mills, is reported as having interested a number of persons who will purchase a drill and prospect on his tract at that point for coal.

The Tyrone Herald says it is said that the owners of the Blandburg fire brick works purpose erecting thirty-two double houses this summer. They will probably be built at Bear Loop on the line of road to the clay field on Bell's Run. Fifty new buildings are up and occupied in the town and more than a hundred men are under contract. Many of Blandburg's new houses are being built from timber brought from Houtzdale, that town going down hill and the houses there being torn down.

John Howard Acquitted.

John Howard, of Osceola, was on Saturday night acquitted of the murder of Andrew Slaski. The trial occupied the attention of the Clearfield court for three or four days. Howard, who resides at Osceola, was mine boss for the Liveright's at McCartney. Slaski was under the influence of liquor and applied for work. He was told that there was no opening for him at the time. He became enraged, and made an attack on Howard. The latter picked up a shovel to defend himself, and struck Slaski on the head. Unfortunately the blow proved fatal. Howard at once gave himself up to the authorities, and entered bail for his appearance at court. The result of the verdict is said to have been received with deafening applause in the court house.

Wrëck in Sugar Valley.

Early Thursday morning 9, a wreck occurred on the Vinton narrow gauge railroad at the east end of Sugar Valley. The particulars of the accident in the Journal are as follows: The engine attached to 3 trucks, loaded with prop timber running down a heavy grade jumped the track at a curve and landed on its side in the rocky brook below. Arch Beck, the engineer, Alex Lehman, foreman of the axe crew, and John Taylor, the brakeman, saw danger ahead and jumped off in time to save their lives. The trucks were smashed to pieces and the engine badly crippled.

Each Received a Penny.

The Rev. W. Emerson Karns, Methodist minister at Jersey Shore, who advertised that he would distribute money to every one attending his church Sunday evening last, kept his promise. The church was packed to the doors. To each person was given an envelope containing one cent. The clergyman preached his sermon from the Parable of Talents, and said he expected every person to whom he had given a penny to invest it and turn in the proceeds on September 1, to help pay the church debt.

## ENCOURAGES CORRUPTION

### How the Present Election System is Deficient

### WHY A CHANGE IS NECESSARY

Representative Cooper Gives an Instance of Modern Elections—Republicans Promised a Revision of the Law—Public Disappointed.

Mr. Cooper, of Delaware county, a veteran politician, who was formerly chairman of the Republican State committee, stated that by the operation of the circle ballot in his county Governor Hastings got 1,000 Democratic votes in the campaign of 1894 that were intended for his Democratic opponent. And as to just how the circle ballot is made a convenient instrument of fraud Mr. Cooper made this explanation:

Experience in my own county shows that the circle has become a snare and a crime in the opportunity it has given for the purchase of votes. It led there to the candidacy of the very rich, because of the facility which the circle gives for purchase, and the assurance that the votes are delivered as paid for. Here is how it was done. The purchasing agent would procure a ticket either from the printer or from someone having access to official ballots before their delivery. He would plant himself across the street in a saloon or around the corner, mark one ballot with ink in the circle, give it to the voter and tell him that on his return with the ticket given him by the election officer he would be paid.

He thus gives a receipt that he has delivered his vote, and the purchaser is furnished with an endless chain of ballots and keeps up his work of purchasing votes all the day long. I say this was so well done in my own county that Governor Hastings got 1,000 Democrats' votes, all purchased for the sole purpose of reaching a certain candidate. This evil is spreading.

The mode of swindling and corrupting the ballot box indicated by Mr. Cooper has come into general practice throughout the State, where the purpose exists to commit the crime, and the heeler is supplied with money to work his ends. It accounts for the statement of the non-partisan ballot reform association of Philadelphia that in that city 60,000 illegal and fraudulent votes have been polled or returned at one election. Mr. Cooper well called this plan of cheating the ballot box "an endless chain of rascality." That is what it is. Detection and prevention is almost impossible.

These facts are well known to the Republican leaders who decreed the defeat of the Guff y ballot reform bill, and they defeated it for the reason that it stood in the way of their carry elections by the most damnable crimes—crimes more infamous and craven than high treason.—Post.

### GUBERNATORIAL PISCATORIALS.

Saturday two distinguished trout fishing parties were in this territory, close to the line of Clinton and Centre counties, and perhaps only a few gunshot distance apart on separate streams. The one was Governor Stone and party, and the other Ex-governor Hastings and friends. Governor William A. Stone arrived in Lock Haven, Friday and was the guest of Hon. A. C. Hopkins; with Ex-sheriff Peck left on a trout fishing expedition, the next morning, out along Fishing Creek in the vicinity of Colby's Gap. On same morning General and Mrs. Hastings and little daughter Sarah, his son-in-law Mr. Hiccock and wife, and sister, of Harrisburg; and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Roney, of Philadelphia, had a trout fishing outing at Hecla Park, Editor Harter acting as pilot. Both the gubernatorial parties enjoyed the fishing trip very much, although neither party was aware of the close proximity of the other.

### Hail and Snow.

During the thunder storm Saturday evening there was a heavy fall of hail in the vicinity of Rosecrans, Clinton county. The hail was not large but there was a great deal of it. Sunday evening there was a snow squall in Sugar Valley. The snow fell thick and fast for a few moments but melted as fast as it fell. A shower of rain followed the snow.

### Four Men Killed.

By the explosion of a locomotive boiler on the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad at Mt. Dallas Friday morning four trainmen met instant death. The dead are: A. S. Berkstreser, engineer; D. S. Edwards, fireman; C. A. Hollingshead, conductor, and R. C. Ritchie, brakeman. The cause of the explosion is not known.

### Bath Kills a Tramp.

An unknown tramp, who applied for admission to the Uniontown, Pa., almshouse, on Friday, expired suddenly when subjected to a bath. Whether the water was too cold, or the rubbing too severe, or the change too sudden, may be a fine point for a Coroner's jury to determine.

## FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

### THREE VIEWS OF MARRIAGE.

When a modern maiden marries, In delightful dreams she tarries; As her fancy surely shifts To the thought of wedding gifts, Every friend who would be pleasant "Must," she muses "send a present, All acquaintances must pay Tax upon my marriage day, Fans and furs and rare old laces, Gold embellished dressing cases, Rings and brooches, silver mugs, Entree dishes, elated jugs— Tables will with these be laden When I marry," gliaats the maiden.

When a modern bachelor marries, In his heart grim fear he carries, "With," he thinks, "our income small We don't want such gifts at all. There's that grand piano—gracious! That involves a house more spacious; Then that dressing bag, alas, That can only go first class! Silver center dish and cup, too, How can we such things live up too, Every present of pretense Means for me increased expense. Would that I such gifts could ban When I marry, thinks the man.

When a man and a maiden marry, Hearts of lead their friends all carry; Custom, as they know, demands Costly presents at their hands; Ostentation, too, coerces, So they empty out their purses, Fearful lest their name be missed From the always published list, But in private, in a passion, They denounce the sordid fashion, Crying in most bitter strain: "Only fancy, freed from again! Bah! 'Tis an event to dread When a man and maiden wed." —London Truth.

Why is the man disconsolate? Why seems his misery so great? Why loves he now abroad to roam? And not till very late come home? Why does he stay downtown to eat, And say he has a man to meet? Is it his nature to carouse? No, but his wife is cleaning house.

Damaged by water—milk. The straw hat will soon make its bow. It is no crime to be poor; neither is it a virtue.

A sty is a sore eye and a pig sty is an eyesore. Takes cross-stitches—the irritable seamstress.

Shad fishermen and dog catchers go in for net gains. You can't help looking down on a man when he's in a hole.

Lots of men are cranks, and yet you can't turn them down. The dealer in kitchen utensils is one sort of pan-American.

Do twenty-four sheets of lightning make a heavenly quire? You can't paint the town red unless you have the long green.

The wind isn't tempered to the shorn lamb in the stock market. When thieves fall out they have a foe-man worthy of their steal.

Tell-tale blushes ofttimes reveal the fact that they are of rouge. Dry humor is the kind usually displayed by the barroom wit.

Every woman has a "b" in her bonnet if it is spelled correctly. People do not complain of short measure when it's a peck of trouble.

An editor printed an item which stated that "the man who was hugging the hired girl had better stop it or his name would be published." In a few days about twenty-five citizens paid up their subscription and told the editor to pay no attention to foolish stories going around.

### Special for Babies.

We offer a special rate on our best \$5 00 grade of Cabinet Photographs to all babies, at \$3 00 per dozen dating May 18th to July 18th. Moore Studio, Crider's Exchange, Bellefonte, Pa.

### Big Fire at Lock Haven.

Rich Bro's woolen mill, employing over forty hands, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday. Loss \$25,000. The mill was erected in 1830 and has been controlled by the Rich family through three generations.

### Large Meteor.

A meteor fell near Hyndman, Bedford county, and exploded when within 200 feet of the ground. Windows in the upper part of the town were rattled and the explosion was heard for several miles. It lighted up the heavens, and was seen distinctly at Hoblitzell, some miles away.

### New Water Works.

The citizen's water company of Philipsburg have commenced work on the erection of a new plant at that place. The pipe is porcelain lined, a modern improvement that ensures a greater degree of purity in the water supply than is possible under other conditions. The main supply pipe will be 15 inches and will draw its supply from a large dam that will be constructed on Cold Stream, above Moolley dam.