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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Proprietor.

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OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

Another Chapter on Indian Atrocities in this Section.

JOHN ARMSTRONG MURDER

Along the Juniata River in 1744—Search for the Bodies—The Murderer Apprehended and Taken to Philadelphia.

XXV.

Sometime in the year 1744, John Armstrong, a trader among the Indians, west of the Susquehanna, with two of his servants or men named, James Smith and Woodworth Arnold, was murdered by an Indian of the Delaware tribe, named Musemeelin, on the Juniata river. Seven white men and five Indians went in search of the bodies of those murdered; after some search, found and buried them. The murderer was afterwards apprehended, and delivered up by his own nation, and imprisoned at Lancaster, whence he was removed to Philadelphia, lest he should escape, or his trial produce an unfavorable impression on his countrymen about to assemble for a conference with the whites at Lancaster.

Alexander Armstrong, of Lancaster county, a brother of the deceased, addressed a letter to Allumoppies, King of the Delawares, at Shamokin, touching the death of his brother, and some threats made by some Delaware Indians upon his life.

APRIL 25, 1744.

To Allumoppies, King of the Delawares: Great Sir, as a parcel of your men have murdered my brother, and two of his men, I wrote you, knowing you to be a king of justice, that you will send us in all the murderers and the men that were with them. As I looked for the corpse of my murdered brother; for that reason your men have threatened my life; and for that reason I cannot leave my house. Now as we have no inclination or mind to go to war with you, our friends; as a friend, I desire that you will keep your men from doing me harm, and also to send the murderers and their companions.

I expect an answer; and am your much hurt friend and brother.

ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG.

A similar letter was sent by Alexander "To Sicalamus, the King's Great Councillor."

A party of men had made search for, and found the bodies of the murdered, as appears from Armstrong's letter above, and the following deposition:

PAXTON, April 19, 1744.

The deposition of the subscribers testified and saith, that the subscribers having a suspicion that John Armstrong, trader, together with his men, James Smith and Woodworth Arnold, were murdered by the Indians. They met at the house of Joseph Chambers, in Paxton, and there consulted to go to Shamokin, to consult with the Delaware King and Shickalmy, and there council what they should do concerning the affair, whereupon the King and Council ordered eight of their men to go with the deponents to the house of James Berry, in order to go in quest of the murdered persons, but that night they came to the said Berry's house, three of the eight Indians ran away, and the next morning these deponents, with five Indians that remained, set out on their journey peacefully, to the last supposed sleeping place of the deceased, and upon their arrival these deponents dispersed themselves in order to find out the corpse of the deceased, and one of the deponents, named James Berry, a small distance from the aforesaid sleeping place, came to a white oak tree, which had three notches on it, and close by said tree he found a shoulder bone, which the deponent does suppose to be John Armstrong's and that he himself was eating by the Indians, which he carried to the aforesaid sleeping place and showed it to his companions, one of whom handed it to the said five Indians to know what bone it was, and they, after passing different sentiments upon it, handed it to a Delaware Indian, who was suspected by the deponents, and they testify and say, that as soon as the Indian took the bone in his hand, his nose gushed out with blood, and directly handed it to another. From whence these deponents steered along a path about three or four miles to the narrows of Juniata, where they suspected the murder to have been committed, and where the Allegheny road crosses the creek, these deponents sat down in order to consult on what measures to take to proceed on a discovery. Whereupon most of the white men, these deponents, crossed the creek again, and went down the creek, and crossed into an island, where these deponents had intelligence the corpse had been thrown; and there they met the rest of the white men and Indians, who were in company, and there consulted to go further down the creek in quest of the corpse, and these deponents further say, they ordered the Indians to go down the creek on the

other side, but they all followed these deponents, at a small distance, except one Indian, who crossed the creek again; and soon after, these deponents seen some Bald eagles and other fowls, suspected the corpse to be thereabouts; and then lost sight of the Indians, and immediately found one of the corpse, which these deponents say, was the corpse of James Smith, one of said Armstrong's men; and directly upon finding the corpse, these deponents heard three shots of guns, which they had great reason to think were the Indians, their companions, who had deserted from them; and in order to let them know that they had found the corpse, these deponents fired three guns, but to no purpose, for they never saw the Indians any more. And about a quarter of a mile down the creek, they saw more Bald eagles, whereupon they made down towards the place, where they found another corpse (being the corpse of Woodworth Arnold, the other servant of said Armstrong) lying on a rock, and then went to the former sleeping place, where they had appointed to meet the Indians; but saw no Indians, only that the Indians had been there and cooked some victuals for themselves, and had gone off.

And that night, the deponents further say, they had great reason to suspect that the Indians were then thereabouts, and intended to do them some damage; for a dog these deponents had with them, barked that night, which was remarkable, for the said dog had not barked all the time they were out, till that night, nor ever since, which occasioned these deponents to stand upon their guard behind the trees, with their guns cocked that night. Next morning these deponents went back to the corpses which they found to be barbarously and inhumanly murdered, by very gashed, deep cuts on their hands with a tomahawk or such like weapon, which had sunk into their skulls and brains; and in one of the corpses there appeared a hole in his skull near the cut, which was supposed to be with a tomahawk, which hole, these deponents do believe to be a bullet hole. And these deponents, after taking a particular view of the corpses, as their melancholy condition would admit, they buried them as decently as their circumstances would allow, and returned home to Paxton, the Allegheny road to John Harris, thinking it dangerous to return the same way they went. And further these deponents say not.

These same deponents being legally qualified, before me, James Armstrong, one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Lancaster, have hereto set their hands in testimony thereof.

JAMES ARMSTRONG.

Alexander Armstrong, Thomas M'Kee, Francis Ellis, John Florster, William Jaskins, James Berry, John Watt, James Armstrong, David Denny.

The atrocity of this murder was so aggravating, that a Provincial Council was held, and it was resolved that Conrad Weiser, the Provincial interpreter and Indian agent, should be sent to Shamokin, to make demands, in the name of the governor, for some others concerned in the murder.

Conrad Weiser was accordingly sent to Shamokin. He writes, in his Journal, Shamokin, May 2nd, 1744: This day I delivered the Governor's message to Allumoppies, the Delaware chief, and the rest of the Delaware Indians, in the presence of Shickalmy and a few more of the Six Nations. The purport of which was, that I was sent express by the Governor and Council to demand those that had been concerned with Musemeelin in murdering John Armstrong, Woodworth and James Smith; that their bodies might be searched for, and decently buried; that the goods be likewise found and restored without fraud. It was delivered them by me in the Mohawk language, and interpreted into Delaware by Andrew, Madame Montour's son.

In the afternoon Allumoppies, in the presence of the aforesaid Indians, made the following answer:

Brother, the Governor: It is true that we, the Delaware Indians, by the investigation of the evil spirit, have murdered Jas. Armstrong and his men; we have transgressed, and we are ashamed to look up. We have taken the murderer and delivered him to the relations of the deceased, to be dealt with according to his works.

That Musemeelin owing some skins to John Armstrong, the said Armstrong seized a horse of the said Musemeelin and a rifle gun; the gun was taken by James Smith, deceased. Sometime last winter Musemeelin met Armstrong on the river Juniata, and paid all but twenty shillings, for which he offered a neck-belt in pawn to Armstrong, and demanded his horse, and James Armstrong refused it, and would not deliver up the horse, but enlarged the debt, as his actual custom was, and after some quarrel, the Indian went away in great anger,

Continued on 4th page, 8th column.

INTENSE HEAT INJURES CROPS

The Mississippi Valley Farmers Suffer Great Loss.

WESTERN CORN IS DAMAGED

Some of the other Products Scorched by the Withering Heat—Result of the Drouth as Reported by the Weather Bureau.

The weather bureau's weekly summary of crop condition is as follows: The states of the Middle Rocky mountain and Missouri and Mississippi valleys have experienced the third consecutive week of intense heat. With an almost entire absence of rain the crops in the region named have been subjected to most unfavorable conditions. In the states lying immediately to the eastward of the Mississippi river very high temperatures have also prevailed, but the heat has been less intense and its effects not so serious as in the districts to the westward.

The great corn states of the Central valleys has materially deteriorated and has sustained serious injury over the Western portion of the corn belt, especially in Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. A very large crop is late, however, and this has witnessed the trying conditions of drouth and heat remarkably well and with early rains will still make a fair crop. In the upper Ohio valley corn, while needing rain, has improved, and in the Atlantic coast districts the crop has made excellent progress. In the northern states the outlook continues favorable. Harvesting is expected to begin in Northern Minnesota by the 18th. In Oregon spring wheat is needing rain.

Oats have suffered in common with other crops from heat and drouth in the states of the central valleys. Harvesting is now progressing in the northerly sections. Having been retarded by rains in the New England and Middle Atlantic States, but has made good progress in the Ohio and upper Mississippi valleys. The yield will be very light in the states of the Missouri and Central Mississippi valleys, but a good crop is generally indicated in the lake region, upper Ohio valley and extreme Northwest. The prospect for apples has been greatly lessened, especially over the Central valleys, as a result of heat.

L'ESTONE DEAL.

Some important moves were made in the limestone business in this section the past week. It appears that some of the leading lime and limestone operators are making an effort to consolidate this industry in the state. To accomplish this they are now trying to secure the control of all the large operations. In such a deal the operations in the vicinity of Bellefonte come in for an important consideration, as they have some of the purest rock to be found and for that reason may be the most valuable of all the operations. We understand that options have been secured on the limestone properties of McCalmont & Co., A. J. Morris, A. A. Stevens and the operation at Salona. On Monday a number of gentlemen from Pittsburg were here and made an inspection and inventory of the different properties, and the general impression is that same will be sold to the trust or company that is after them. The new organization has for its president A. J. Cassatt, Jr., which means that it will be closely identified with the Pennsylvania railroad interests, which is a large user of the product of these quarries in the shape of ballast for their extensive roadbeds, and that they want to secure the control of the carrying trade.

If this deal should be consummated, it is the opinion of parties in position to know that the operations about this place will be operated on a more extensive scale than formerly. The reason is that Bellefonte lime has the reputation of being the highest grade on the market on account of its purity, and it is not likely that such a valuable property would remain idle, and inferior grades placed on the market. For that reason the interests of this community are not likely to suffer by the prospective deal, or formation of a lime trust in this state.

Pleasure Steamer Wrecked.

The excursion steamer, "Montour," was wrecked Saturday morning at 9.30 o'clock, at Sunbury, and completely demolished by the explosion of the boiler. The only person on board at the time the explosion occurred was the engineer, a man named Frymire who was killed. He was making preparations to start at 10 o'clock with the boat to take Superintendent E. B. Westfall and a party of friends for an excursion on the river. There were a number of boys on a flat, which lay alongside of the steamer, fishing. One of these, a boy named Petzer aged 12 years, was killed and two others, named Keller and Pullen, were badly injured and may die.

TERRIFIC THUNDER GUST.

Cloudburst East of Linden Hall Floods the Town and Fields.

The most terrific thunder gust for many years passed over sections of this county last Tuesday afternoon, accompanied by flash after flash of lightning and deafening peals of thunder. The down pour of rain was heavy in most sections, but there was no violent wind-storm.

From Coburn to Centre Hall the rain was unusually heavy. Many corn fields were damaged by wash-outs and hay and wheat shocks were washed away. Much hay was rendered unfit for use by being covered with sand and dirt. Fences, both wire and rail, were torn away by the rush of water.

The worst, however, happened between Gregg Station, west of Centre Hall, and Linden Hall, where a cloudburst created a raging river of water, washing fields, inundating the railroad track to a depth of several feet, carrying off fences, tons of hay and much wheat on the shock. A short distance east of Linden Hall such a mass of hay, fence material, and mud was carried on the railroad as to prevent the afternoon train east from proceeding until the rubbish had been removed, causing considerable delay. One section of track had been moved by the violence of the flood and trains had to move cautiously to pass the dangerous spot. The breadth of the wild waters was several hundred yards, which gathered volume and violence as it neared Linden Hall. At Linden Hall all the houses between Hess' store stand to near the mill were surrounded by the flood and the citizens along that part of the street were cut off from their outbuildings, and all cellars were filled with the muddy water. On some parts of the street the flood was three feet in depth.

The damage to fields by wash-outs, and to the growing crops will be quite large. Some corn fields were entirely ruined. The thunder gust set in about 2 p. m., and raged until 3 p. m. All the farms between Gregg Station and Linden Hall, on either side the railroad, suffered great damage by the flood, and also some west of Linden Hall.

Buffalo Run got over bank full from last Tuesday afternoon's rain, and some wash-outs were caused in fields. Mr. Rocky sustained some damage thereby on the farm occupied by him.

THAT SAME SNAKE.

The residents of near Elm postoffice, Lancaster county, are badly frightened over the presence in the woods near the village of a monster blacksnake. Persons who have seen the reptile say that it is over twelve feet long and as thick as a child's body. A snake of this "bigness" was seen in the mountains above Aaronsburg some 40 years ago, by John Moyer, who ran home awfully scared. As that reptile has not been seen since, alive or dead in that place, we suppose it wandered off into Lancaster county.

Once a fellow and his girl—as the story went—were on the said mountain for berries and being tired sat down on a log to rest. The log began to move, and so did the lovers—they sat on Moyer's big snake.

A Shower of Toads in Lock Haven.

After one of the heavy showers that passed over Lock Haven Thursday afternoon, it was noticed in places that the streets and sidewalks were literally covered with little toads. In the first ward the tiny creatures were especially numerous, and it was almost impossible to walk along the pavement without crushing them under the feet of pedestrians.

The toads seemed to be all of the same size, about as large as a bean and were as lively as crickets. They were of a dark color, in fact almost black. When a person passed along the sidewalk the toads could be seen hopping in every direction. Along some of the streets they were quite numerous yet Friday morning.

Many people are of the opinion that the toads came down during the shower, in fact rained down. Others, however, think they were only recently hatched and were waiting a cloudy shower time like that afforded Thursday afternoon to make their appearance and begin toad life in earnest.—Express.

Neck Broken.

John Isenberg, aged 20, of Graysville, this county has lived since Saturday 6th, with a broken neck. On that day he fell from a wagon and his whole body was paralyzed. The doctors said he had a paralytic stroke, but this week they made a further examination and found that his neck was broken. The young man died on last Sunday. He regained consciousness and was able to recognize his family and friends. Deceased was the son of the late Thomas Isenberg, a well known citizen of that community. He was 20 years of age and unmarried, and is survived by his mother, seven sisters and three brothers. Interment at Graysville last Tuesday.

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.

R. M. Butler has been appointed postmaster at Yarnell.

Mrs. Amos Parker, widow, of Linden Hall, was granted a pension of \$5.

John McMonigal, of Hannah, has been placed on the pension rolls at \$10 a month.

A horse of I. W. Musser, of Millheim, died from the effects of the heat, a short time ago.

Prof. H. C. Rothrock, of Millheim, has purchased from W. Fred Reynolds the John Bitner farm two miles west of Centre Hall.

Prof. H. C. Rothrock, of Millheim, has accepted the principalship of the Catawissa schools.

The United Evangelical Sunday school of Woodward will hold a festival on Saturday evening, July 20.

It is rumored that Rev. Gearhart, of the Aaronsburg Lutheran charge, has received a call from a Philadelphia congregation.

Rev. Gearhart, pastor of the Aaronsburg Lutheran charge, has received a call from the church at Anville, Lebanon county.

J. Norris Bogle and sister, Miss Sarah, who have been traveling in Europe for the past year, returned to their home at Howard on Thursday of last week.

William Fakhahl, a freight brakeman, of Renovo, Thursday evening slipped and fell, the wheels passed over his foot. It was amputated in the Kane hospital.

Frank Swartz, son of Jacob Swartz, fell from a cross-beam in the barn of Thomas Bowers, on Marsh creek Wednesday afternoon 10th and dislocated his left elbow.

Hiram Durst, of Spring Mills, Michael J. Decker, W. F. Rearick and Michael Spicher, all of Centre Hall, left Monday for Chicago, and will visit Minnesota and other states, sightseeing and visiting friends.

Thursday of last week, there was a cloudburst on the mountain above the Brouckhoff farm, in Benner twp., occupied by Wm. Gross, on a section where there never was a stream known to form. It came down the mountain side in large volume and swept off two-thirds of Mr. Gross' corn crop.

At the Blair county democratic convention, held in Altoona Monday, Judge Yerkes, of Bucks county, was endorsed for the Supreme court nomination, and Representative E. A. Coray, Independent Republican, of Luzerne county, for State Treasurer. This course meets with approval in all parts of the state.

During a severe storm Tuesday afternoon, Ira Hayton, a farmer, of near Julian, and three other men, took refuge in a barn. The building was struck by lightning, and Hayton was instantly killed, and the other men were stunned for a short time. Hayton was 35 years old. He leaves a wife and six children, one of whom is an infant.

The Philadelphia Ledger says: The Centre and Clearfield Street Railway Company, one of the Sweigard system of trolley lines, has selected a site for a power house and car barns at Philipsburg. Surveys of the route of the road are making. When they are completed, which is expected in ten days, bids for construction work will be advertised for.

Maud, the little daughter of merchant Harry Prantz, of Pine Grove Mills, came near being burned to death Monday morning. The mother had the child in her arms and was working about a gasoline stove when it suddenly exploded. The child was very badly burned about the face, arms and breast, and it is now in a precarious condition. Mrs. Prantz was also burned but not seriously. The child is about one year and a half old.

The Thirtieth annual Camp Meeting at Newton Hamilton opens August 13th, and closes August 23rd.

The American Fire Brick company has just been organized at Lock Haven with a capital of \$125,000.

The merchants of Williamsport close their stores every Friday afternoon, opening again Saturday morning.

Lock Haven is agitating a movement to hold the Business Men's picnic at Agar's Park this year instead of Hecla.

The Union county fair, September 24 to 27, has every promise this year of having greater attraction than ever before.

They have had a mad dog scare in

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FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

THE TWO SIDES OF IT.

There was a girl who always said Her fate was very hard; From the one thing she wanted most She always was debarred. There always was a cloudy spot Somewhere within her sky; Nothing was ever quite just right, She used to say, and sigh.

And yet her sister, strange to say, Whose lot was quite the same, Found something pleasant for herself In every day that came. Of course, things tangled up sometimes For just a little while; But nothing ever stayed all wrong, She used to say, and smile.

So one girl sighed and one girl smiled Through all their lives together; It didn't come from luck or fate, From clear or cloudy weather. The reason lay within their hearts, And close to hope and one to mope, And so they smiled and sighed. Priscilla Leonard.

WISHING.

Do you wish the world were better? Let me tell you what to do: Set a watch upon your actions, Keep them always straight and true, Rid your mind of selfish motives, For your thought be keen and high. You can make a little Eden Of the sphere you occupy.

Do you wish the world were wiser? Well, suppose you make a start, By accumulating wisdom In the scrap book of your heart. Do not waste one page on folly; Live to learn and learn to live. If you want to give men knowledge You must get it ere you give.

Do you wish the world were happier? Then remember day by day Just to scatter seeds of kindness As you pass along the way; For the pleasures of the many May be oftentimes traced to one As the hand that plants an acorn Shelters armies from the sun. Youth's Companion.

It runs in the family—grandfather's clock.

Nickel plated—a "small" dish of ice cream.

The Chinese who put up tea are all boxers.

The girl who plays the violin is sure of at least one bow.

Sugar-coated compliments are sometimes hard to swallow.

People who live in glass houses shouldn't turn up the lights.

When you remove your gloves just do it in an off-hand sort of way.

Is a woman picking locks when she goes and selects her false hair.

A man's heart may be in the right place and still on the left side.

When men go to a "smoker" they don't always wear stove-pipe hats.

The woman who goes shopping makes counter charges against her husband.

TURNPIKE CONDEMNED.

Friday afternoon a jury returned a verdict whereby the Bald Eagle, Nittany and Brush valley turnpike from Walker township across the mountains to Emanuel Harter's in Miles township, should be condemned and fixed the value of same at \$104.20. The jury was composed of Joseph Hoy, Sr., Henry C. Campbell, Daniel Hall, Nathaniel Bierly and S. D. Ray. C. M. Bower, Esq., represented the petitioners, C. G. and S. D. Purst, of Lock Haven, and Clement Dale, Esq., of Bellefonte, the Turnpike company, and J. C. Meyer, Esq., the county.

One day was devoted to going over the route of the turnpike, one day was taken up by the petitioners in producing testimony in favor of condemning the turnpike, while four days were divided about equally between the owners of the turnpike and the county in furnishing evidence as to the amount of damages to be allowed. The master, W. G. Runkle, Esq., appointed by the Court, presided over the deliberations.

The report of the master, as above indicated, will be presented at August term of court and if no exceptions be filed thereto, inside thirty days by either party, it will be confirmed.

Only Axle Grease.

A corn doctor is said to have swindled the people of different towns in the western part of the state. He sells what is termed "Moore's Ointment," warrant to cure the worst kind of a corn in a few hours. The salve is nothing more than axle grease obtained at the various stores and wagon-making shops. The fakir has his pockets filled with small tin boxes labelled "Moore's Ointment." These boxes he fills with the axle grease and sells at fifty cents and one dollar, according to the size.

Snow Shoe Defeated the Colored Team.

The Snow Shoe Base Ball Team defeated the Karthaus colored team on Saturday 13, at Karthaus in a one sided contest of eight innings, by the score of 18 to 8.