

The Centre Democrat.

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OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

How the Pioneers Cleared the Dense Forests.

THE EARLY LOG CABINS

Were Rude Structures Compared with Modern Dwellings—Logging Bees and Husking Bees Were Great Frolics.

XXVIII.

Old customs—how the settlers cleared lands, erected homes, &c., is described by "one who was there," and will be of interest at this day, as well as in the future. Some of the present readers of the Centre Democrat have heard their fathers and grand-fathers tell how they went about it to found homes on the frontiers:

"When we wish to clear a piece of land, we, in the first place, stake it off, and provided with a grubbing hoe, take up by the roots every sapling which a stout man can shake in the root, by grasping the stem and bending it backwards and forwards. If the roots give to this action, it is called a grub—dogwood, ironwood, and witch-hazel, are always cleared among grubs, whether they shake in the root or not.

After the land is grubbed, the brush is picked in heaps. We then chop the saplings; that is, every thing is cut down which does not exceed twelve inches across the stump. Such parts of the saplings as are fit for ground poles, are chopped at the length of eleven feet; such parts as are fit for firewood are left for that purpose, and the top brush thrown upon the heaps made of the grubs. Next, the trees are deadened, leaving one or two for shade. This process of deadening is called *belting*. The manner of doing the work is this: to chop entirely around the tree a curve of three or four inches wide. A tree is not well deadened unless it is cut to the red; that is, the axe must penetrate through the sap (*alburnum*), but it is not thought necessary to chip out more than the bark of oak timber. Sugar maple, gum, &c., must be chipped out half an inch or an inch deep, to kill them.

As soon as the brush is burnt, it is fired, and every particle consumed. The fire sometimes gets away from the workers, and great havoc is committed on fences, woods, and mountains. After the clearing is burnt, the rail timber is chopped and logged off, the rails maulled, and the tops of the rail timber hauled home for firewood. If saw-logs, or building timber is wanted, they are cut down and hauled off.

At any time between the 1st of September and middle of October, the ground is *scratched*; that is, rough ploughed; a bushel of wheat per acre sown broadcast, harrowed in and crossed. New ground is sometimes ploughed twice, but this is so seldom done as scarcely to form an exception, though it is admitted that a second ploughing adds a fourth to the crop.

Wheat is universally the first crop sown on new land, unless we clear a patch for potatoes. The average crop is from 12 to 20 bushels per acre. The second crop is rye; oats follow, and then corn. This is the usual course. It is then left out a year or two, and then the course begins again until it will produce nothing.

In eight or ten years the timber begins to fall rapidly. When the ground is pretty well covered with old logs, the farmer goes in "to nigger-off." This is effected by laying the broken limbs and smaller trees across the logs and putting fire to it. Boys or women follow to chunk up the fires. In a day or two the logs are "nigger off" at the length of 12 or 15 feet; sometimes the entire tree is consumed. When they are thus reduced to lengths that can be handled by men, the owner has a *log-rolling*. He gives the word to 18 or 20 of his neighbors the day before the frolic, and when they assemble, they generally divide the force into two companies. A company is chosen by acclamation for each company, and the captains choose their companies, each naming a man alternately. When the whole is formed, they set to work, provided with handspikes, and each company exerts itself to make more log heaps than the other.

Nothing is charged for the work, and the only thing exceptional in these frolics, is the immoderate use of whiskey. In general, great hilarity prevails; but these meetings, like many others in this county, are sometimes disgraced by dreadful combats between the persons composing them.

The general price of clearing land is five dollars per acre, put under fence six rails, and a ground pole 4 feet round and ready for the plough. Sometimes it is cleared on the shares, and then if the proprietor finds the grubber in boarding

and lodging, finds horses, feed, and puts it in himself, the grubber gets the first crop, or the half of the two first. If the undertaker finds every thing, he gets the two first or the three first crops, according as he can make his bargain, and the bargain is usually determined by the quality of the land and the difficulty of clearing. Meadow land is cleared for from four to seven crops.

In addition to our log-rolling frolics, we have frolics to haul dung, to husk corn, to raise our buildings.

The dung-hauling frolics are nearly out of vogue—and never ought to have been practised, because a man can do it himself. The corn husking is done at nights. The neighbors meet at dark; the corn has been previously pulled, and hauled in a pile near the crib. The hands join it, the whiskey bottle goes round, the story, the laugh, and the merry song is heard. Three or four hundred bushels are husked by 9 or 10 o'clock—a plentiful supper is provided, and sometimes the frolic ends with a *stag dance*; that is, the men and boys, (without females) dance like mad devils, but in good humor, to tune of a neighbor's *cat gut* and horse hair, not always drawn with much judgment.

Our buildings are made of hewn logs, on an average 24 feet long by 20 wide, sometimes a wall of stone, a foot or more above the level of the earth, raised as a foundation; but in general, four large stones are laid at the corners, and the building raised on them. The house is covered sometimes with shingles, sometimes with clapboards. The advantage of the latter kind of roof is, it requires no laths, no rafters, no nails, and is put on in less time. It has been called a *poor man's make shift*, and its use can only be justified by the poverty and other circumstances of the country. The ground logs being laid saddle shaped, on the upper edge, is cut in with an axe, at the ends, as long as the logs are thick, then the end logs are raised and a *notch* cut to fit the saddle. This is the only kind of tie or binder they have; and when the building is raised as many rounds as it is intended, the ribs are raised, on which a course of clapboards is laid, butts resting on a *butting pole*. A press pole is laid on the clapboards immediately over the ribs to keep them from shifting by the wind, and the pole is kept to its berth by stay blocks, resting in the first course against the butting pole. The logs are run up on the building on skids by the help of wooden forks. The most experienced "axemen" are placed on the building as "corner-men"; the rest of the company are on the ground to carry the logs and run them up.

In this way a building is raised and covered in a day, without a mason, and without a pound of iron. The doors and windows are afterwards cut out as the owner pleases.

For windows, when the early pioneers had their log building up and the place for light cut out, over this opening there was an oiled paper used in place of glass, as window glass was high in price on account of the stamp tax on each pane of glass. The women assisted the men in all kinds of work connected with clearing the land, erecting their log houses, making fence, and in putting out and harvesting the crops. The last of the pioneer women passed away only a few years ago. The aged grand-mother Korman, of Miles township, who died within recent years, was one who saw and aided much in the hardships of the early settlers' life.

In summer, farmers work from sunrise till sunset, allowing an hour or an hour and a half for breakfast, and the same for dinner. In winter they breakfast by candle-light, and join their work by the dawn of day; they are all called to dinner, eat and go it again.

Methodist Church Destroyed by Fire.

The Methodist church at Munson, near Philipsburg, which of late had been put in thorough repair and was a beautiful little place of worship, was totally destroyed by fire night of 30 ult. That the building was set on fire was evidenced from the fact that in an open space between the foundation and the frame work, where a stone had been removed, were found pieces of charred kindling saturated with coal oil. The loss is estimated at about \$3,700, on which there is an insurance of \$1,700. The church will be rebuilt at as early date as possible, and an effort made to run down the incendiaries.

Fire Near Eagleville.

The dwelling house of Charles Wagner, on Marsh Creek, 1½ miles west of Eagleville, burned to the ground at seven o'clock Saturday morning. The origin of the fire is attributed to a chimney burning out. Only the household goods on the first floor were saved. Loss \$600. Insurance \$400.

The woman who tries to take up two seats in a car must be beside herself.

THE MACHINE DENOUNCED

Ex-Gov. D. H. Hastings Takes a Courageous Stand.

REBUKES CORRUPT MEASURES

A Severe Arraignment of Gov. Stone's Course, and the Vicious Legislation of the Last General Assembly Reviewed

Last week we gave our readers a careful account of the proceedings in the recent Republican Convention of Centre county. In connection therewith we give in this issue Ex-Governor D. H. Hastings' severe arraignment of the doings of Quay, Stone and the machine at Harrisburg. It is a remarkable utterance, from the fact that the speaker was the former Governor of Pennsylvania and received the greatest majority of any candidate for that office. To assail his successor in the executive department and denounce the present leaders of a party that so signally honored him, requires rare courage or gross imprudence. There is but one excuse made by Gen. Hastings, and that is that *he spoke the truth*, and thereby simply performed a common duty.

Whether Ex-Gov. Hastings was justified in this course, remains for each one to draw his own conclusions, based on the substance of his remarks given in full below. We urge every reader of the Centre Democrat to carefully peruse it and then hand it to any neighbor who does not receive this paper.

"Gentlemen, I have lived among you for the past 34 years. I have been honored by you and my party far beyond my deserts. I am not a candidate for office and have no further political ambition, but I love my party and its principles and am still and always will be a defender of its faith. As a private citizen I cannot resist the opportunity which you have given me to raise my voice in behalf of the great Republican party of Pennsylvania against the unfortunate and suicidal tendencies which have recently prevailed against its good name and its honorable achievements. The Republican party is not an asset to be bought and sold as the drover buys and sells a herd of cattle. The true Republican party is an association of free men, having for its purpose the advancement of the best interests of every condition of humanity throughout the land. Whatever tends to the happiness, upbuilding and prosperity of all the people is a part of our creed. This has not been, I am sorry to admit, the rule followed by those who claim to be our party leaders. The record of recent legislation, the work of these self-appointed leaders, has been fraught with baneful results. The best interests of the people of the State were lost sight of in dishonest and cruel efforts for personal gain, to advance individual ambition and to make impregnable the control by a few men of a political machine organization, which they wrongfully call the Republican party. Last fall, when Pennsylvania gave her splendid majority to William McKinley, the voters of the State were innocently turning the grindstone to sharpen the knives which were to carve the fundamental law of the State to atoms and to rip into shreds laws, elections and constitutional rights; to despoil local and home government and to sell out for profit the great party of Lincoln like a flock of sheep.

PUBLIC MONEY PAYS OFFICIAL PERFDY.

"Have you ever stopped to think who they are who have thus trampled under foot their party's principles, its platforms its tradition and its great achievements? Can it be laid at the doors of the men who make up the Republican party in Centre County? No, not one—excepting one. Can it be charged to the great body of voters who have made the Republican majorities in Philadelphia, Allegheny, in Lancaster and other strongholds of Republicanism? No, it is directly chargeable to those who have trifled with their pledges and promises and hoodwinked the great Pennsylvania army of Republicanism until securely seated in place and power, where the dignity, the honor, the efficiency and the authority of official stations have been perverted to the basest uses for personal emolument and official security.

"You have seen men, elected to represent the people and their best interests, basely sell their birthright for the mess of pottage secretly paid them by those who assume to be the sages and prophets and the leaders of Republicanism.

"You have witnessed the adroit use of legislative machinery, crawling like a reptile by devious ways and into the darkness of assumed ignorance of the general public, to draw forth the money in the public treasury to pay the price of official perfidy.

MAY LEAD TO AUTOCRACY.

You have witnessed the betrayal of a publicly expressed pledge to give to you a ballot law that would correct the evils of the existing statute and provide swifter protection against election frauds and ballot stuffers. This pledge you have

seen willfully ignored by the authority of its maker, moreover, the attempt made by the honest Democratic members of the recent Legislature to carry out the will of their party for ballot reform was by the same authority persistently opposed and finally thwarted.

"You have witnessed the consummation of legislation to overthrow the government of great municipalities, and to deprive citizens of the just fruit of their ballot, all for the purpose of promoting a friend, punishing an enemy, or of advancing selfish interests or political ambitions. The precedents which have been thus established, if not overthrown, but carried to their logical result, may any day return to plague the people who permit it by substituting the will of a single official for the inalienable right of self-government. It is revolutionary and among the boldest efforts of recent years to overthrow free American government.

"You have beheld the legislative sale of almost invaluable franchises to a self-constituted few, whereby millions of dollars have gone into their individual pockets instead of the public treasury, where it belonged.

THE CAPITOL BUILDING JOB.

"In Governor Pattison's last term the Legislature, by enactment, decided to erect and there was in pursuance thereof erected a creditable building for the use of the Executive, the Auditor General, State Treasury and State Library, at a cost of less than half a million dollars. The next Legislature following appropriated \$550,000 to construct another building for the use of the General Assembly, its officers and employes. The public will, as reflected in these two official acts, made it clear that the people of the State approved the erection of a group of buildings in successive years on the spacious grounds of Capitol Hill, adequate for the use of the entire State Government. This was in accordance with the most advanced thought in architecture and the expense for each building would have been so small as to be practically out of the reach of temptation. The will of the people was again trampled under foot and the money appropriated for the Legislative building was basely perverted to the partial completion of a foundation and walls for a building for which \$4,000,000 have just been appropriated, and the simple citizen who thinks that \$4,000,000 will be all the money required will, if he lives to see future Legislatures exist, find the same crowd or some of it knocking again at the door of the Treasury for additional appropriations.

"You have witnessed the legislation which has created Judges where the people of the counties themselves protested against the alleged necessity and the expense. Do you ask why? Because there were political debts to pay and Judges to be appointed to pay those debts, regardless of expense, necessity or the will of the people.

INSTITUTIONS AT MERCY OF BOSS.

"You have seen Courts and Judges and judicial patronage, the rural postmaster and other Federal officeholders hurried to the support of the central power by specious promises of better and other offices or threats of removal from those held. You have seen a judicial and Congressional apportionment, which outstripped in intricacy the famed puzzle of the Chinese, solely for the purpose of rewarding a friend or punishing an enemy.

"I believe you will agree with me when I say that I would rather cut off a million dollars from the Capitol appropriation than take that sum from the public schools. I would rather let the Capitol want altogether than deprive the unfortunate inmates of our insane asylums of the care and treatment which the instincts of humanity demand at our hands.

"If you have watched the recent course of legislation you have seen legislators compelled to vote for measures at which they revolted, in the fear of offending a power that could deprive worthy local charities of the usual and necessary State support. The present system of State support for charities should be corrected. It places every such charitable asylum or institution at the mercy of the designing politician and constitutes every unfortunate inmate a club to compel those who stand sponsors for them to yield to the demands of an arrogant boss or endure the consequences of refusal.

REMEDY FOR MACHINE RULE.

"These are but a tithe of the whole lamentable recital which has continued until the fair name of Pennsylvania has become a by-word in her sister States. Is it possible that the public sense of right and justice has become so blunted or so calloused that the true Republicans in Pennsylvania will not rise in their sovereign might and drive from place and power those who have profited by this domination, who are responsible for it, who manage it, and who claim that they themselves are the Republican party of the State? They do not con-

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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.

Geo. Tibbins, of Rote, had two fingers nearly sawed off at Cramer's mill last week.

Millheim's base ball team were defeated by Spring Mills in the first game played by Millheim this year.

The Centre County Pomona Grange will meet in the Hall of Washington Grange State College Friday August 16.

The United Evangelical church, at Aaronsburg, having been repaired, will be open with appropriate ceremonies on August 11. Several ministers will be present.

Harvest home sermons will be preached by Rev. Black, at the Reformed church in Boalsburg, Aug. 11; and at Pine Hall Aug. 18; Houserville, Aug. 25, in the fore noon.

Wedding bells will ring at Salona this Thursday evening when the nuptial knot will be tied for Miss Lenore Krape, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Krape, and Samuel Claude Herr.

John Dunkle, formerly of Salona, but now a painter in Chicago, fell from a scaffold a few days ago. He was seriously injured, as several bones were broken. He was taken to a hospital in that city.

The ladies of the Howard Mite society of the U. Ev. church will hold their festival on the school house lawn, on Saturday, August 19th. Ice cream, cake, fruit etc., will be served. Proceeds for benefit of the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Luce, of Tyrone, and little grandson, Paul Oscar Luce, departed for Penn's valley, to spend two weeks among their numerous relatives there. Mr. Luce was a resident of Penn's valley for forty years.

The boys at Hecla Park have a good ball team and have been doing some good work of late. Last Friday they defeated the Montoursville nine by a score of 14 to 0. Arrangements are being made for a return game.

Mrs. Samuel H. Kanes, of Blanchard, is seriously ill with blood poisoning. Her left arm is greatly swollen and she suffers intense pain. The origin of the trouble is supposed to have been caused by a thorn running in one of the fingers.

The fourth annual reunion of the Decker homestead near Lemont, August 14th. All friends and neighbors and any one having any desire to attend are cordially invited. It will be held as a basket picnic.

Ex-sheriff Shaffer has 1500 peach trees on his land in Nittany valley, all choice fruit and trees full of it. He expects a large yield. On the Geo. Kister orchard in the lower end of Penn's valley, there is also a large crop of peaches now coming ripe.

Newport Ledger: S. W. Clark had a flock of fifteen small quail which he was endeavoring to raise. They were developing nicely until last Thursday evening when a heavy peal of thunder caused them to drop over dead. They all died at the same time.

A twelve acre field of wheat on one of the Reynolds farms threshed 22 bushels to the acre. The wheat on the rest of those farms is estimated will yield an average of from 15 to 18 bushels to the acre. The potato crop on forty acres is very light and may not yield the seed.

Albert Jones, of Port Matilda, was robbed of \$100 while in town Thursday. He suspected Howard Reber, of Williamsport, who was hostler at the Garman House, with having taken the money and had a warrant issued for his arrest. Reber left town on the 2:40 train and has not since been seen.

Mrs. Greninger, widow of A. M. Greninger, formerly of Bellefonte, and her four children are all in a Philadelphia hospital and dangerously ill with typhoid fever. Mr. Greninger died of the same disease on July 2nd. The North American in a recent issue had a photograph of the afflicted family.

IN ADJOINING COUNTIES.

The Newton Hamilton camp meeting opens Tuesday, August 13th, and closes Friday, August 23.

Jacob Long, of Cole's Summit, Huntingdon county, now past 76 years of age, while mowing last week found a tortoise that he had cut his initials on in 1861, just 40 years ago. He found it near the same place he did in 1861, and he says

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FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Hard luck is mine. I am about the worst card in the deck. Why, I can't get a boil without I get it in the neck!

Some people work for glory, some for financial ends, while some grow old and hoary by simply working friends.

The bottler is a regular corker. A square meal is one that will go 'round.

The undertaker usually has a large following. A good many city residents are holding moth balls this season.

The tight-rope walker is in danger of falling off if he's too tight.

You can't tell some women anything because they always have so much to tell you.

Anthrax at Sandy Ridge.

Farmers who have cattle pasturing on the wild lands in the vicinity of Sandy Ridge are very much alarmed about a disease that has broken out among their herds that very much resembles anthrax.

The herds most affected are those owned by Warriorsmark and Halfmoon valley farmers, among them being Isaac Beck, Isiah Beck and James Fisher. The range covers six hundred acres of mountain land near flat Rock and already about twenty-five cattle have died, while lots of others are reported to be sick.

Saturday veterinary W. S. Shriver, of Altoona, accompanied by Dr. W. F. Beck, of Tyrone, and others, visited the reservation and found the situation fully as serious as it had been reported. On their return word was immediately sent to the Board of Agriculture at Harrisburg, and soon afterwards Dr. Pierson, the State Veterinary Surgeon, was on the ground.

Anthrax is a blood disease. At a certain stage the blood becomes thin and discolored, and instead of coursing through the veins collects and passes out of the animal through the bowels. The disease effects the entire system of the animal, eats the life out of the blood and causes the inactivity of all the organs. The disease is caused by decomposition of organic matter.

Again in the Toils.

James Reed, of this place, was arrested last week at Hecla Park, charged with having stolen two watches, the property of Al. Mann, of Mill Hill, who is camping with his family at the Park. The watches were taken from Mr. Mann's camp quarters and when the discovery of the loss was made suspicion pointed to Reed who was immediately apprehended. When accused of the crime he stoutly denied his guilt but as the stolen property was found on his person his protestations of innocence were of no avail. Reed was brought to Bellefonte and placed in jail where he awaits a hearing. Reed less than a year ago was released from the Huntingdon Reformatory.

Rev. A. R. Lambert, Ph. D., D. D.

The Craftsman's Journal: "We are glad to learn that Rev. A. R. Lambert, of Minneapolis, Minn., a Methodist preacher well known here who was reared in Boggs township, this county, has just had conferred upon him the degree of Ph. D. by Taylor University, Indiana, and the degree of D. D. by Ohio University. Mr. Lambert is yet a comparatively young man and these degrees conferred by the most eminent institutions, are certainly a deserved recognition of his ability and fitness to receive them."

Rev. Dr. Lambert was formerly pastor of the Methodist church at Pleasant Gap and is well and favorably known in this vicinity.

Philipsburg Races.

The races at Philipsburg last Thursday attracted a large crowd. In the 2.17 class, purse \$200, two entries, won by Rex Princeton, in three straight heats, 2:23½, 2:20½, 2:24; Strathblue, second.

In the 2:40 race purse \$150, John Shugert's "Billy Howe" won three heats; time 2:39¾, 2:34¾, 5:32¾. Tom Oakes, second and Merrell 3rd.

In the 3:00 race, purse \$100; Lew Bullock's, Milesburg, "Clark" won three heats; time 2:35, 2:38½, 2:34¾. Sam, second; Harry B., third; and Tom Sharkey, fourth.

Legal Bonds Require Stamps.

Bonds of administrators and executors, which were formerly held to be exempt as bonds used in legal proceedings, require, after July 1, 1901, a fifty cent stamp. The bonds of guardians, receivers or trustees are taxable. Such bonds as are used as prosecution bonds, injunction bonds, bonds upon appeal, writ of error, for costs and those given in claim and delivery action for property not taxable.