

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Proprietor.

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1901.

VOL. 23, NO. 40.

OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

A Remarkable Law Suit in Mifflin County

INVOLVING EARLY HISTORY

The Title to the Grey Farm in Tuscarora Valley Connected With Indian Raids—Captives Taken to Canada and Then Returned.

XXXV.

"The first settlements in Tuscarora Valley were made by Scotch Irish, from the Cumberland Valley, about the year 1749. Centre county at that day, was included in the territory that comprised Cumberland county. In 1833, at the circuit court sitting at Mifflin, an important lawsuit was tried, involving the title to a farm of 390 or 400 acres of the best land in Tuscarora Valley, about six miles from Mifflin. The farm was in controversy for about 50 years, before various courts at Carlisle and Lewistown. It is known among lawyers as the Grey property case, report in 10, Sergeant and Rawle, page 182. Many of the facts given in evidence are interesting as elucidating the history of the times; and the whole case, with the amusing scenes that occurred at the trials, and the marked originality of many of the principal personages, would constitute an excellent theme for an historical novel. The following statement of the case is derived, partly, from a sketch by Samuel Creigh, Esq., published in Hazard's Register, and partly from verbal conversation with a number of the eminent counsel in the case:

"Robert Hagg, Samuel Bigham (or Bingham), James Grey and John Grey were the four first settlers in Tuscarora Valley, and the first white men who came across Tuscarora mountain, about the year 1749. They cleared some land, and built a fort, called Bigham's fort. Some time in 1756, John Grey and another person went to Carlisle with pack-horses, to purchase salt; as Grey was returning, on the declivity of the mountain, a bear crossed his path and frightened his horse, which threw him off. He was detained some hours by this accident; and when he arrived at the fort he found that it had just been burned, and every person in it either killed or taken prisoner by the Indians. His wife, and only daughter, three years old, were gone—also Inni's wife and children. A man by the name of George Woods (he was the father-in-law of Mr. Ross, who ran for governor, and afterwards lived in Bedford) was taken outside the fort, with a number of others.

"John Grey joined Col. Armstrong's expedition against Kittanning, in the autumn of that same year, in hopes of hearing from his family. The hardships of the campaign prostrated his health, and he returned to Bucks county, his original home, only to die. He left a will, giving to his wife one-half his farm, and to his daughter the other half, if she returned from captivity. If his daughter did not return or was not alive, he gave the other half to his sister, who had a claim against him of £13, which she was to release.

"In the meantime, George Woods, Mrs. Grey and her child, with others, were taken across the mountains to Kittanning, then an Indian village, and afterwards delivered to the French commander of Fort Duquesne. Woods was noted for his gallantry, and during their captivity at Fort Duquesne he represented to Mrs. Grey how much better married than single persons fared among the Indians, and proposed a match. Mrs. Grey had no inclination for a partnership in misfortune, and peremptorily declined. Woods was given to an Indian by the name of Huson; and Mrs. Grey and her child were taken charge of by others, and carried into Canada. About a year after the burning of the fort, Mrs. Grey concealed herself among some deerskins in the wagon of a white trader, and was brought off, leaving her daughter still in captivity. She returned home, proved her husband's will, and took possession of her half the property. She afterwards married a Mr. Enoch Williams, by whom, however, she had no issue. Some seven years after her escape, in 1764, a treaty was made with the Indians, by the conditions of which a number of captive children were surrendered, and brought to Philadelphia, to be recognized and claimed by their friends. Mrs. Grey attended, but no child appeared that she recognized as her dear little Jane. Still, there was one about the same age whom no one claimed. Some one conversant with the conditions of John Grey's will, slyly whispered to her to claim this child for the purpose of holding the other half of the property. She did so, and brought up the child as her own—carefully retaining the secret, as well as a woman could. Time wore away, and the girl grew up, gross and

ugly in her person, awkward in her manners, and, as events proved, loose in her morals. With all these attainments, however, she contrived to captivate one Mr. Gillespie, who married her. A Scotch-Irish clergyman of the Seceder persuasion, by the name of McKee, became quite intimate with Gillespie, and either purchased the property in question from him, or had so far won his good graces, that he bequeathed it to him. The clergyman made over the property to one of his nephews, of the same name. The clergyman had also a brother, McKee, who, with his wife, was a resident of Tuscarora Valley. His wife "old Mrs. McKee," was a prominent witness in the subsequent trials. After a lapse of years, the children of James Grey, heirs of John Grey's sister, got hold of some information leading them to doubt the identity of the returned captive; and the lawsuits consequent upon such a state of things were speedily brought, about the year 1789. It would literally "puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer" to describe the multifarious and complicated phases which the case assumed during a legal contest of more than 50 years, and would besides throw no light upon the history of the valley. The Williamses, the Greys, and the McKees, all claimed an interest by inheritance, to say nothing of the Beales, the Norrises, and others who had bought into the property, and several lawyers with large contingent fees. Many of the facts stated above were elicited during the examination, although some of them were not admitted by the court as legal testimony.

"Mrs. Grey (or Mrs. Williams) said that when they were crossing Sideling hill she had examined the child Jane, and found a mark on her by which she had been able to recognize her. Mr. Innis was one of the captives, and remained with the Indians until the treaty; and when one day he chided Mrs. Williams for keeping a child not her own, she replied, "you know why I keep this girl." Mrs. Innis told her that her daughter was not returned, that this was a German girl, and could not talk English when she came to Montreal. Mrs. Innis herself had lost three children. One the Indians put under the ice because it was sick—the other two she got. One of these a gentleman of Philadelphia had, and refused to give it up, until Innis proved the child his by a private mark. Mrs. Williams said to one witness, "No, this is not my daughter, but George Woods knows where my daughter is, as he has promised to get her." The real daughter, however, never was recovered.

"Old Mrs. McKee, the principal living witness at a number of trials, and who spoke with a rich Irish brogue, on one occasion became quite garrulous, and entered largely into the history of the valley, to the great amusement of the court. Among other things, she described the spurious girl as a "big black ugly Dutch lump," and not to be compared to the beautiful Jenny Grey." Her historical developments so much interested one of the jury at Lewistown, an old settler himself, that he—forgetting the restraints of a jurymen—sent for the old lady to come to his room at the hotel, and enter more at large into "the days of auld lang syne." The old man was a little deaf, and the old lady's voice could be heard throughout the house. One of the counsel, whose side of the case wore rather a discouraging aspect, overheard the old lady; and the next morning exposed the poor jurymen, amidst a roar of laughter from the court and the bar. The case of course had to be ordered for trial before another jury. The following is the deposition of George Woods, written by him or at his dictation, at Bedford, in 1780, but never sworn to. It was not without great resistance on the part of counsel, that the facts were introduced as testimony. The case was finally decided in 1833 or '34, against the identity of the adopted child, and the property vested accordingly.

"Personally appeared, &c., &c., &c., George Woods, and saith, that about the 12th or 13th of June, 1756, he was taken by the Indians in the settlement of Tuscarora, in the county aforesaid [of Mifflin] and that the wife of John Grey and his daughter Jane, and others, were taken at the same time; that we were all carried to the Kittanning town on the Allegheny river, and there divided among the Indians, and some time in the month of July next, the said Indians delivered me together with Jane Grey to a certain Indian named John Huson; which said Indian took me and the said Jane Grey to Pittsburg, then in possession of the French; and after some days the Indian Huson delivered me to the French governor, Mons. Duquesne; from which time I heard nothing of the said Jane Grey until the winter after Stump killed the Indians up Susquehanna; at which time I found out the said Indian called John Huson, who informed me that little Jane Grey was then a fine big girl, and lived near Sir William Johnson's, which information I gave to

(Continued on page 4 column 4.)

UNION PARTY ORGANIZED

They Will Assist Democrats to Down Bosses

FOR YERKES AND CORAY

A Fusion Ticket in the field That Every Good Citizen Should Support—Union Party Active in Centre County—Their Organization.

Many people do not know what the "Union Party" means. It will be an important factor in Pennsylvania politics this year. The Union Party was organized for the campaign in Pennsylvania this year. It represents the independent republicans who have become dissatisfied with Quayism, Gov. Stone's corrupt administration and the last legislature. They can not vote for the republican state ticket because they know that those candidates represent political debauchery—are known tools of the Quay machine. Recently the revolt effected an organization in Philadelphia with delegates from every county in the state, and will be known as the Union Party and put up the following state ticket: Judge Yerkes (the democratic nominee) for Supreme Court judge, and Representative Coray (independent republican) for State Treasurer.

The Union Party is strictly a state organization, on national questions they are in harmony with the republican party and its principles. In this campaign the issue with them is good state government and hope to defeat the Quay gang by fusion—that is joining with the democrats on one set of candidates, and since Palm, the nominee by the democrats, has withdrawn in favor of Coray, fusion has been accomplished. The Union Party now has local organizations in every county of the state and will wage an active campaign from this on to the day of election. In Centre county the organization is as follows:

CHAIRMAN—John C. Miller.
SECRETARIES—F. H. Thomas and Hard P. Harris.

TREASURER—Geo. L. Potter.
And they have committeemen appointed in every election precinct in our county who will see that the campaign is carried on and the vote gotten out. While they have no local party paper to disseminate their literature, arrangements have been perfected by them to reach the voters in due form.

This is fusion, designed to rid this state of the present republican bosses. It is the practical way and every good citizen, democrat or republican, who favors a change, should vote for the fusion ticket, Yerkes (democrat) for Supreme Court and Coray (independent republican) for State Treasurer.

Persons who oppose such fusion, need watching under all circumstances.

Mosers Heirs Lose.

In the suit of the heirs of Burkhardt Moser, who claimed lands worth \$20,000,000, now occupied by the Lehigh Valley Coal Company, Judge Bechtel, of Schuylkill county ordered the jury to render a verdict in favor of the company. In charging the jury Judge Bechtel said that if the suit had been brought 50 years ago the heirs might have won, but the evidence they were able to produce at this time was not sufficient to constitute even a prima facie case. The heirs have applied for a new trial.

The Centre Democrat mentioned this case several times in the past two years, as the Mosers (Mussers) of Centre county, claimed they were among the heirs.

Barn Burned.

The big barn of Henry Snyder one and a half miles north of Pine Grove Mills, was destroyed by fire of an incendiary origin about 12 o'clock Wednesday night, 2nd. All the contents of the building including grain, hay and farming implements went up in smoke, except the live stock, all of which was rescued. The building is insured in the Centre Hall Fire Insurance Co., \$1000 on barn and \$500 on contents. Mr. Snyder his wife and their daughter, Mrs. Ralph Illingsworth, were able to get all of the stock out.

New Brick Works.

The American Fire Brick company began active operations on Monday towards erecting their plant on twelve acres of ground not far from Agar's grove near Mill Hill. The main building will be 70x212 feet and will have an L addition of 70x40 feet for the grinders and pans. There will also be a few large sheds for storage purposes and six kilns, each 35x35 feet erected. Siding from both the Beech Creek and the Bald Eagle tracks will be constructed to the plant. The plant will ultimately have a capacity of 20,000 fire brick a day.

—We guarantee every pair of our \$2 shoes for ladies—Yeager & Davis.

A SPLENDID INSTRUMENT.

Our Estey Organ Arrived this Week and is a Good one.

The Estey Chapel Organ which this paper purchased and will give to some church or Sunday school in the county as a present, asking our patrons to make the selection, arrived on Saturday from the factory and is now on exhibition in M. C. Gephart's music store, Bellefonte. The instrument surpasses our expectations in every respect. The case is plain and massive with high polish finish. The tone is exceptionally sweet and the action allows many pleasing combinations that are necessary in sacred renditions and choir use. In volume it can not be surpassed, has more than the average instrument.

The workmanship indicates the old saying that "Estey organs never wear out," and, while they cost a trifle more than some, give more service and better satisfaction among musicians. As stated heretofore, we will make a present of this \$700 instrument to some church or Sunday school in the county and ask the patrons of the paper to make the selection or award, on certain regulations published elsewhere in the paper.

Now, while we have nothing to say as to where the instrument should go, it is our desire and preference that it be awarded where it will be most appreciated, to some struggling congregation who have not the means of making such a purchase for their house of worship—and there are many in the county who have no instrumental music to assist in the services. We have no desire to give, where there is abundance to make such purchases.

Next Wednesday evening the first count of coupons will be made. If you are desirous of having such an instrument we will publish an announcement to that effect you may wish to make. State where the church or Sunday school is located with a brief description, and in that way you can enlist the interest of friends elsewhere. It is important to start early if you want it.

On Monday County Commissioner Philip S. Meyer, of Boalsburg, was called in to see the instrument. As he is one of Centre county's noted musicians his opinion should be of value, which is as follows:

PROF. MEYER'S TESTIMONIAL.

By request, I examined the Centre Democrat's Estey Chapel Organ on exhibition at M. C. Gephart's music store, Bellefonte. The action in this instrument is good and especially designed for church music, as effective combinations are easily produced; tone is exceptionally fine and has great volume. I pronounce it a good instrument, and an ornament as well.—PHILIP S. MEYER, Bellefonte, Pa., Oct. 7, 1901.

For further information as to how this instrument will be awarded, turn to page 8, first column, where you will find regulations, and newspaper coupon which you should cut out each issue as some one will be glad for it.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY.

Farmer Rhone, of Fillmore, Roughly Handled by an Unknown Villain.

Jeremiah Rhone, a farmer, of Fillmore, was in Philipsburg on Friday morning on business. During the day he fell in with a young man aged about thirty years, who was a total stranger to him. It seems that they "made up" with each other most freely, and took an occasional drink together. About 7:30 in the evening they wandered down the P. R. R. to the watering tank, near the engine house. Here the young man, whose name he afterwards gave as Calvin Stiles, and who it is thought lives near Snow Shoe, proceeded to "do up" his farmer friend and relieve him of his money. He choked him, hammered him until he was presumably unconscious. Then he rifled his pockets, and in words that were overheard by the farmer, said, "I'll get a coupling pin and do the rest." Just then he heard the "Jerk Water" passenger returning from Houtzdale, and throwing the old gentleman on the track said, "It will do the balance." Then he hurried away, and the old gentleman, hearing the train approaching, rolled off the track far enough to allow it to pass. He was soon able to get up, and at once reported the affair to the men at the engine house. He was in pretty bad shape, and was helped to the Continental hotel by a couple of the railroad employes. Chief of Police Sankey was notified, and after getting a description of the culprit, started out to find him. He overtook him a half hour later, brought him before Mr. Rhone, who identified him as the man who had assaulted him and robbed him of about \$17.00. He was consequently placed in the lock-up, and given a hearing before Squire Sandford, who held him under \$400 bail, in default of which he was taken to Bellefonte jail by officer William Batcheler.

A peculiar nautical fact is that when the fleets go on the cruise the crews go on the fleet.

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.

Farmers had fine weather to do their seeding and cutting corn.

Picked apples are selling at from 40 to 60 cents per bushel, as per quality.

Chas. Smith is adm'r of the estate of Heston S. Arney, late of Haines twp.

Bass fishing on the Bald Eagle is not as good this fall as in former seasons.

The Estey organ coupon will be found on last page. Cut it out and vote it.

Samuel H. Glossner, a prominent business man of Blanchard, is reported on the sick list.

Typhoid fever cases are still lurking in many localities, through not many cases at a time in any one section.

Homer Harry, of Rebersburg, who had his back broken a year ago while working in the woods, is in a very critical condition.

The first really sharp frost set in on last Thursday and Friday nights, and nipped the leaves on the trees and outdoor plants. They were real Jack Frosts of the white sort.

Callers from the mountain section inform us the chestnut crop will not be large this fall. All the same the little and big boy will stay from Sunday school for the few as for many.

Edward Louzhey, who has been division foreman on the Bald Eagle Valley railroad for 36 years, has resigned. He was a faithful employe; and ill health was the cause of his resigning.

W. H. Denlinger, of Patton, and James A. Allport, of Hastings, both former Philipsburgers, are among the incorporators of a new street railway company to run from Johnstown to Ebensburg.

Mrs. Michael Walizer, of Mackeyville, while shaking her tablecloth, fell off the porch and dislocated her right shoulder. If things go that way, guess we'd better go back to the days when table cloths were not used.

On Saturday the State College foot ball team were to Philadelphia where they played the University of Penna. team. The score was 23 to 6 and this was a surprise as it was not expected that State would be allowed to score against this strong team.

Sheriff C. T. Brungart was in Philipsburg last week to serve a temporary injunction on the boro, issued at the instance of the Philipsburg Water company, to restrain them from making a new contract for the boro water supply. The hearing was held at Bellefonte, Monday, October 7.

Frank Rupp, of Aaronsburg, has been granted an honorable discharge from the United States navy, after a three years and six months' service during which time he had an interesting experience. His record shows that he sailed 153,000 nautical miles while in service—a distance almost six times around the earth. He was on the battleship Iowa during the Santiago fight, saw service in the Philippines and in China. During the latter part of his enlistment he was on the Cruiser Chicago, and this spring was as far north as the Siberian coast where the thermometer registered 33 degrees below zero, and again in six weeks thereafter lay in Manila Bay where the mercury climbed up to 130 in the shade. He served as second gun captain of a six-inch gun in the Santiago scrap, and on the Chicago was the captain's stenographer. He has concluded to abandon the sea and will take a course in the Williamsport Commercial College where he will perfect in stenography.

IN ADJOINING COUNTIES.

J. R. Wolfe, of Bellwood, is visiting his old home at Rebersburg.

The Knecht Bros. will rebuild their big flouring mill that was recently destroyed by fire at Parvin, Clinton county.

Rev. W. H. Schuyler, D. D., accompanied by Elder Wm. Goodhart, of the Spring Mills church, attended Presbytery at Altoona, last week, which adjourned beginning of this week.

The next meeting of the Central Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran church will be held September, 1902, in St. John's English Lutheran church, Lock Haven.

No tidings have been received yet of the whereabouts of Dr. Charles F. Dietz, the young Lock Haven dentist who has been missing since the evening of September 26th.

The Lock Haven Democrat says:

Continued on page 4.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Oh, he who fights and runs away,
On either land or sea,
May live to fight another day
In a Court of inquiry.

She married a fireman,
She knew he was brave
When houses or lives
He was called on to save.
He will put out a fire,
But she finds that he's scolding
To get up and make one
For her in the morning.

She married a soldier,
A wearer of blue;
She called him her "hero,"
Both vowed to be true.
The war is all over,
She works with his will
To support him, because
He is "soldiering" still.

Still they rot—the potatoes.
Stands to reason—the debater.
In the hop districts—ball rooms.
A grave yard—three feet of crape.
A discharged office boy dreads the fire.

Fame is often a bubble that comes from puffing.
A good egg, unlike a good joke, will bear cracking but once.

Treat a carpet like a man and don't beat it when it's down.
A soft answer may turn away wrath, but never a book agent.

It's funny that when we're tired we only get rest by retiring.
The saloonkeeper is what you might call a male bar gain hunter.
The stray dog realizes that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound.

BANQUET FOR THE CO. B BOYS.

The gallant boys of Co. B, the finest and best drilled organization in the State National Guard, re-elected Capt. Taylor as their commander for another term of five years, without a dissenting voice, an act which did not only give Capt. Taylor deserved honor, but reflected great credit upon Co. B as well, than which there is not in the state a finer looking, better disciplined and better behaved company, which is universally admitted wherever Co. B is known. Bellefonte is, and well may be, proud of these, her soldier boys, for they have shown their true soldierly qualities by at once responding to the country's call for the war with Spain in Cuba. Capt. Taylor, on account of the past good behavior of the boys under his command, and for the honor they bestowed upon him by an unanimous reelection, showed his appreciation of this esteem of the boys by giving them a banquet in the armory on last Friday night to which, in addition to the members of his company, a few honored guests were invited. When called to arms—or rather, knives and forks—all sat down to one of the finest banquets, as knowing ones pronounced it, ever spread in Bellefonte, which exactly sized up to the princely qualities of the getter-up, Capt. Taylor.

The attack was made, all charged with a will and valor, with sprinklings of geniality around the board, becoming such occasions. The tables were handsomely decorated with floral devices and the "feed" was all that an epicure could crave. The charge being a success, next the finest brands of cigars were passed and all were enjoying them when the host of this happy gathering arose and in befitting words introduced Fred Kurtz, Sr., one of the guests of the evening. Mr. Kurtz responded with a neat little speech. George R. Meek was next called on and in his usual way made a speech full of fun and humor. Francis Speer was the next speaker to make some clever hits. He was followed by Gen. John I. Curtin whose words touched every soldier's heart. James R. Hughes, an old member of the company, told a great many interesting incidents. Others to speak were Assistant Surgeon Robt. G. Hayes, Sergeant Major Boyd Musser, and Col. R. A. Beck.

Accidental Shooting.

Pleasant Gap had a shooting accident last Saturday by which Charles Packer, the sixteen year old son of Richard Packer, accidentally received a gun-shot wound in the stomach. Henry Knoffsinger was cleaning a gun and did not know it was loaded. The accident occurred at Knoffsinger's home and young Packer walked a distance of about a mile and a half after being shot. His recovery is doubtful.

Trap Shooting Tournament.

The first annual trap shooting tournament of the Philipsburg Gun Club will take place on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 10 and 11 at that place. There will be 22 events and some valuable prizes are listed. The American Shooting Association rules will prevail and a magnum trap will be used. Further information can be obtained from either A. J. Graham, president or H. W. Todd, secretary.

Our line of ladies \$2 shoes is the very best in Centre Co.—Yeager & Davis.