

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KUIP, Proprietor.

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OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

Some facts Relating to the Juniata Valley.

MASSACRES BY THE INDIANS

Several Settlements were Annihilated by them—Thrilling Experiences as Told by "Loudon's Narrative"—Narrow Escapes.

XXXVI.

A number of persons were killed by the Indians, from 1756 to 1763, residing on the Juniata river; some in this county, others within the present limits of Perry.

The following narrative, though already given in substance, will, it is believed, not be considered out of place here.

"The next I remember of, was in the year 1756—the Woolcomber family, on Sherman's creek: the whole of the inhabitants of the valley were gathered to a fort at Geo. Robison's; but Woolcomber would not leave home; he said it was the Irish who were killing one another; these peaceable people, the Indians, would not hurt any person. Being at home, and at dinner, the Indians came in, and the Quaker asked them to come and eat dinner; an Indian answered that he did not come to eat, but for scalps; the son, a boy 14 or 15 years of age, when he heard the Indian say so, repaired to a back door, and as he went out he looked back and saw the Indian strike the tomahawk into his father's head. The boy then ran over the creek, which was near to the house, and heard the screams of his mother, sisters and brothers. The boy came to our fort and gave us the alarm; about 30 went to where the murder was done, and buried the dead.

In the second war, on the 5th July, 1761, the Indians came to Juniata, it being harvest time, and the white people were come back to reap their crops; they came first to the house of Wm. White, it was on the Sabbath day; the reapers were all in the house; the Indians crept up nigh to the door, and shot the people lying on the floor, and killed Wm. White, and all his family that were there, excepting one boy, who, when he heard the guns, leaped out of the window and made his escape.

The same party went to Robert Campbell's, on Tuscarora creek, surprised them in the same way, and shot them on the floor where they were resting themselves; one Geo. Dodds being there harvesting, had just risen and gone into the room and lay down on the bed, sitting beside him; when the Indians fired, one of them sprung into the house with his tomahawk in his hand, running up to where a man was standing in the corner; Dodds fired at the Indian not six feet from him; the Indian gave a halloo and ran out as fast as he could. There being an opening in the loft above the bed, Dodds sprung up there and went out by the chimney, making his escape, and came to Sherman's valley. He came to Wm. Dickson's and told what had happened, there being a young man there which brought the news to us, who were harvesting at Edward Elliot's; other intelligence we got in the night. John Graham, John Christy and James Christy, were alarmed in the evening by guns firing at Wm. Anderson's, where the old man was killed with his Bible in his hand; supposed he was worshipping; his son also was killed, and a girl had been brought up from a child by the people. Graham and the Christys came about midnight. We hearing the Indians had got so far up the Tuscarora valley, and knowing Collins' family and James Scott's were there about harvest, 12 of us concluded to go over to Bigham's gap and give those word that were there; when we came to Collins' we saw that the Indians had been there, had broke a wheel, emptied a bed, and taken flour, of which they made some water-gruel; we counted 13 spoons made of bark; we followed the tracks down to James Scott's, where we found the Indians had killed some fowls; we pursued on to Graham's, there the house was on fire, and burned down to the joists. We divided our men into two parties, six in each; my brother, with his party, came in behind the barn; and myself, with the other party, came down through an oats field; I was to shoot first; the Indians had hung a coat upon a post on the other side of the fire from us; I looked at it, and saw it immovable, and therefore walked down to it and found that the Indians had just left it; they had killed four hogs, and had eaten at pleasure. Our company took their track, and found that two companies had met at Graham's, and had gone over the Tuscarora mountains. We took the run gap; the two roads meeting at Nicholson's; they were there first, heard us coming, and lay in ambush for us—they killed five, and wounded myself. They then went to

Alexander Logan's, where they emptied some beds, and passed on to George McCord's.

The names of the 12 were, Wm. Robison, who acted as captain, Robert Robison, the relater of this narrative, Thomas Robison, being three brothers; John Graham, Charles Elliott, William Christy, James Christy, David Miller, John Elliott, Edward McConnell, William McAlister, and John Nicholson; the persons killed were William Robison, who was shot in the belly with buckshot, and got about half a mile from the ground; John Elliott, then a boy about 17 years of age, having emptied his gun by random, out of his powder horn, and having a bullet in his mouth, put it in the muzzle, but had no time to ram it down; he turned and fired at his pursuer, who clapped his hand on his stomach and cried och! then turned and fled. Elliott had run but a few perches further, when he overtook William Robison, weltering in his blood, in his last agonies; he requested Elliot to carry him off, who excused himself by telling him of his inability to do so, and also of the danger they were in; he said he knew it, but desired him to take his gun with him, and peace or war, if ever he had an opportunity of killing an Indian, to shoot him for his sake. Elliott brought away the gun, and Robison was not found by the Indians.

Thomas Robison stood on the ground until the whole of his people were fled, nor did the Indians offer to pursue, until the last man left the field; Thomas having charged and fired a second time, the Indians were prepared for him, and when he took aim past the tree, a number fired at him at the same time; one of his arms was broken; he took his gun in the other and fled; going up a hill he came to a high log, and clapped his hand, in which was his gun, on the log to assist in leaping over it; while in the attitude of stopping, a bullet entered his side, going a triangular course through his body; he sunk down across the log; the Indians sunk the cock of his gun into his brains, and mangled him very much. John Graham was seen by David Miller sitting on a log, not far from the place of attack, with his hands on his face, and the blood running through his fingers. Charles Elliott and Edward McConnell took a circle round where the Indians were laying, and made the best of their way to Buffalo creek, but they were pursued by the Indians; and where they crossed the creek there was a high bank, and as they were endeavoring to ascend the bank they were both shot, and fell back into the water.

A party of 40 men came from Carlisle, in order to bury the dead at Juniata; when they saw the dead at Buffalo creek, they returned home. Then a party of men came with Capt. Dunning; but before they came to Alexander Logan's, his son John, Charles Coyle, Wm. Hamilton, with Bartholomew Davis, followed the Indians to George McCord's, where they were in the barn; Logan and those with him were all killed, except Davis, who made his escape. The Indians then returned to Logan's house again, when Capt. Dunning and his party came on them, and they fired some time at each other; Dunning had one man wounded.

I forgot to give you and account of a murder done at our own fort in Sherman's valley, in July, 1756; the Indians waylaid the fort in harvest-time, and kept quiet until the reapers were gone; James Wilson remaining some time behind the rest, and I not being gone to my business, which was hunting deer for the use of the company, Wilson standing at the fort gate, I desired liberty to shoot his gun at a mark, upon which he gave me the gun, and I shot; the Indians on the upper part of the fort, thinking they were discovered, rushed on a daughter of Robert Miller, and instantly killed her, and shot at John Simmeson; they made the best of it that they could, and killed the wife of James Wilson, and the widow Gibson, and took Hugh Gibson and Betsy Henry prisoners. While the Indian was scalping Mrs. Wilson, the narrator shot at and wounded him, but he made his escape. The reapers being 40 in number, returned to the fort, and the Indians made off.

I shall relate an affair told me by James McClung, a man whom I can confide in for truth, it being in his neighborhood. An Indian came to a tavern, called for a gill of whiskey, drank some out of it; when there came another Indian in, he called for gill also, and set it on the table, without drinking any of it, and took out the first Indian, discoursing with him for some time; the first Indian then stripped himself naked, and lay down on the floor, and stretched himself; the other stood at the door, and when he was ready, he stepped forward with his knife in his hand, and stabbed the Indian who was lying down, to the heart; he received the stab, jumped to his feet, drank both the gills of whiskey off, and dropped down dead; the white people made a prisoner of the other Indian, and sent to the heads of the nation; two of them came and examined the Indian, who was a prisoner, and told them to let him go, he had done right.—(Loudon's Narrative).

GAZETTE'S CHARGES UNFOUNDED

The County Commissioners' Reply to Editor Harter.

APOLOGY SHOULD BE MADE

The Records Show that Prothonotary Gardner Charged No More than his Predecessors—Late Campaign Dodge Exploded.

The Gazette, last week, made a comparison of the fees drawn by Prothonotary Gardner, with those drawn by Prothonotary Smith, the former official, which is grossly unfair to Mr. Gardner—not only unfair, but notoriously one-sided, lop-sided and decidedly misleading. The Gazette takes the total of almost two years of Mr. Gardner's fees and then takes only a part of the items for which Mr. Smith drew pay. This is too glaring an injustice—inexcusable too—in the face of the facts which were accessible to the Gazette manipulator, had he cared to seek the truth and be fair. When one takes the items of fees drawn by Mr. Gardner and takes the same items of fees drawn by Mr. Smith, it puts an entirely different face upon the allegations that Mr. Gardner had drawn illegal or exorbitant sums. The article of the Gazette recoils upon itself—it conveys the idea that Mr. Smith's fees were just and proper, which is undisputed, hence Mr. Gardner's fees stand in the same light. The official financial statement shows that Mr. Gardner did not draw more than Mr. Smith. Hence the Gazette is in all honor bound to make reparation for the wrong done and commend Prothonotary Gardner for having been a strictly honest and faithful official.

The following testimony of the Commissioners, should be sufficient to put the quietus on the charge against Mr. Gardner:

Office of the Commissioners of Centre county, Bellefonte, Pa., October 29, 1901.
MR. THOMAS HARTER,
Editor of the Keystone Gazette,
Bellefonte, Pa.,

Dear Sir:—In justice not only to M. I. Gardner, but also to ourselves, we feel it our duty to the tax payers of the county that we correct a misstatement made by you in last week's issue of the Keystone Gazette. If it were true, that for the same work Mr. W. F. Smith did in 1897 for \$468 55 we paid Mr. Gardner \$1581 49, as stated by you, we would certainly be abusing the trust placed in us by the citizens of Centre county. We therefore give below a true and correct statement of accounts, as passed on by the County Auditors, and approved by them, and issued in our "Financial Statements" of 1897, 1898, 1899 and 1900.

Account of W. F. Smith for 1897:	
Commonwealth Costs.....	\$342.25
State Tax Expense reporting.....	158.29
Judgments.....	488.55
Costs in other proceedings.....	498.50
	\$1489.59

Account of M. I. Gardner for 1899:	
Commonwealth Costs.....	\$380.75
State Tax Expense reporting.....	142.50
Judgments.....	381.40
Costs in other proceedings.....	498.50
	\$1383.15

Account of M. I. Gardner for 1900:	
Commonwealth Costs.....	\$541.50
State Tax Expense reporting.....	105.40
Judgments.....	49.00
Report to Board of Public Charities.....	4.51
Costs in other proceedings.....	4.13
	\$705.44

We, the undersigned Commissioners of Centre county, do hereby certify that the above statement is true and correct.
DANIEL HECKMAN,
Attest: PHILIP MEYER,
BOYD A. MUSSER, Commissioners.
Clerk.

In Mr. Gardner's last item the amount is larger than the others for the reason that the presidential year imposes additional duties on the prothonotary. Mr. Miller, the republican county Commissioner, we are told has expressed his entire satisfaction as to the correctness of the above statement, but did not wish to sign the article for personal reasons.

This charge of the Gazette, as we are told, was supplied them for publication by other parties. They no doubt regret the publication of that article, and can now show that they are honest and reliable by a complete retraction accompanied by a manly apology.

The Gazette was at fault in not thoroughly examining the records to definitely know what they were publishing.

Will Soldiers Get Bounty?

It seems that one of the old Federal laws, which provide for a bounty of \$194 for each soldier upon enlistment, have been repealed, and that therefore all the veterans of the last war are entitled to that amount. This will be added to by a Pennsylvania statute which gives a further bounty of \$20 for each soldier who enlisted within the borders of the state. Both laws were passed during the days of the Civil war when volunteers were difficult to find.

Our school shoes for children are for the very best to be had.—Yeager & Davis.

INDEMNITY PROMPTLY PAID.

When Book-keeper D. M. Wolfe recently confessed to the embezzlement of \$12,000 from the funds of the First National bank of Tyrone, where he had been a trusted employe for years, the bank held the bond of the American Surety company of New York, in the sum of \$10,000, guaranteeing the fidelity of Wolfe and insuring the bank to the extent of that sum, against pecuniary loss through any wrong-doing of the book-keeper.

Upon the discovery of the defalcation Cashier D. S. Kloss notified the American Surety company of the unfortunate affair, and the company promptly sent one of their inspectors to Tyrone, to investigate all the facts. The investigation soon satisfied him that the bank's claim for indemnity was quite just and he so reported to the company. He left Tyrone last Monday, having taken in hand the pursuit of the fugitive.

Friday morning the First National bank received the check of the American Surety company of New York, for \$10,000, in full payment for the amount of loss against which the company had insured the bank.

AFTER DEAD BEATS.

Seven hundred employes of the Pennsylvania railroad at Altoona are having a somewhat original experience. These employes have been indebted to various merchants for some time, the amounts in many cases being uncollectable. Not long since a representative of a collection agency having its headquarters in West Virginia called upon these Altoona merchants and bought these accounts. They then entered suit against the Pennsylvania railroad company in West Virginia taking such action as to compel the company to hold up the pay of its Altoona employes or foot the bills themselves. Accordingly, on the last pay day, to the consternation of these employes, their checks were withheld. The employes affected, have formed an organization to fight the matter in the courts, and the proceedings will be watched with considerable interest. Should they lose their fight it will doubtless revolutionize the relation towards employes by railroad and other corporations owning property in West Virginia. In that state wages can be attached for debt, while in Pennsylvania this cannot be done.

FIRE AT TUSSEVILLE

On Saturday afternoon last, while the family was at dinner, the brick dwelling of James Runkle, a short distance above Tusseville, took fire and was totally destroyed with all its contents. The fire originated in a wooden kitchen attachment, and was caused by a defective flue. The flames spread very rapidly and neighbors not being immediately on the premises there was very little gotten out of the burning building. The loss may be something like \$3000. It being late in the season, Mr. Runkle will not begin to erect another residence this fall. This sets hard on our friend Runkle, who is a respected and hardworking farmer, and one of the old residents of Potter township. He is the father of attorney Will Runkle, of Bellefonte. No insurance.

Will Locate in Jersey Shore.

Hon. John T. Hyatt, a member of the Union county bar, having passed a successful examination, was admitted to the practice of the law in the several courts of Lycoming county, Wednesday morning, and now will locate in Jersey Shore. Mr. Hyatt is a graduate of Bucknell university. He was appointed by President Cleveland vice consul at Santiago, Cuba, and was retained by President McKinley until the outbreak of the war with Spain. He has written a number of excellent articles for magazines, and is the author of a book on Cuba. Our young friend Hyatt has the Centre Democrat's best wishes for success.

Church Re-opening.

Re-opening services of the Stormstown M. E. church will take place Sunday, November 3rd. Rev. J. Ellis Bell will preside, and preach the sermon in the morning, and Rev. R. H. Wharton, of Milesburg, in the evening. The church is very handsome. The work was done by Harry Wilson, of Altoona. The total cost of repairs is \$375. Rev. Clepher, of Huntington, will give his lecture, "A Family Quarrel," on Friday evening Nov. 1st. Rev's. Shriener, Kapp, Lashaw and Aller will preach during the following week.

Church Re-Opening.

The re-opening of the M. E. church at Port Matilda, will take place Sunday, Nov. 3. Services all day. All come out. Everybody welcome. Rev. E. S. Lashaw is the pastor and he desires you to remember the date, Nov. 3.

Shoes for children with weak ankles.—Yeager & Davis.

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.

L. S. Bricker has been appointed postmaster at Boalsburg and C. C. Workman, postmaster at Mingoville, Centre county.

Mrs. T. W. Walker, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. T. M. Gramley, of Spring Mills, left for Kane county, Illinois, to visit their sister, Mrs. Charles Gramley.

Mrs. Cal. Gfrer, of Axmann, severely ill for several weeks of typhoid fever, is considerably improved and may be up in a few days.

John Albright, north of Spring Mills, was appointed constable to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Reuben Kline, who for thirty years was constable of Gregg township.

F. L. Shope, late of Marietta, O., a week ago moved back to near Runville, where he purchased the farm of Elmer Resides, 52 acres, and will henceforth be a Centre county farmer again. The family came with him.

The Aaronsburg Lutheran charge completed their election of a pastor Sunday 20th, which resulted in the selection of Rev. Isaac Kreider, of Duncansville, Pa. The reverend gentleman will without a doubt accept the new pastorate.

Asking for a charter for a new water company at Coburn, are P. S. Meyer, J. M. Weaver, W. E. Braucht, Daniel Meyer and Jackson Stover, to supply pure water to the public residents in the town of Coburn and vicinity. This would give Coburn two water companies, one having started two years ago.

H. N. Shope has erected a fine new house at Curtins bank near Roland; it is a balloon frame and 2-story. A few more houses are in prospect of erection there, on account of the starting up of the old furnace, idle for some years, and repairs are now under way to light the fires again. Mr. Shope's new dwelling is on the lot which was the home of the aged Mrs. Barger, who died some 2 years ago at the great age of 106 years, 7 months and 14 days, and of whom the Centre Democrat several years ago gave an extended notice.

Centre Hall almost had a serious fire this morning. On the opening of Benner's store it was found filled with dense smoke, and examination showed that the floor under the stove was burned away making a hole through which the stove would have dropped into the cellar. The fire was put out by this timely discovery. A spittoon filled with sawdust, under the stove, into which some one is believed to have thrown a lighted cigar the night previous, may have been the cause of the fire.

IN ADJOINING COUNTIES.

The 10 year old granddaughter, of William Strunk, Beech Creek, is ill with diphtheria.

Bella, the 9 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Dorblaser, of Clintondale, died Thursday evening at 7 o'clock of diabetes.

The grist and flouring mill at Youngdale was totally destroyed by fire on the night of the 23rd. The fire is supposed to have been started by a spark from a Beech Creek locomotive. The Youngdale mill was built in 1843 by Michael Throne, and was one of the oldest flouring mills in the county.

George Long, of Penfield, a trapper, found two of his traps gone out of pens yesterday. Following the trail he overtook, in one case a big bear, in the other a good-sized cub. Long killed both and brought them in, says the Philipsburg Journal.

Lee's Statue Full of Honey.

It was discovered that in the heroic equestrian statue of General Lee, in Richmond, Va., there are probably hundreds of pounds of honey. Both the horse and rider are of bronze, and hollow. For months bees have been going in and out at the parted lips and nostrils of the horse and the rider.

It was noticed that the bees went in and out in almost a constant swarm. The bees began to enter the statue last summer, and have been making honey ever since. There is no way to get inside the statue without damage to it. The fear is that vandals may try to get at the honey.

Our Harris \$3.50 patent kid shoes for ladies at \$2.75 are guaranteed not to break.—Yeager & Davis.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

ADMIRAL SCHLEY.

They're fighting the battle all over again: The big guns are booming once more; And Sampson today lingers far, far away While Schley bears the brunt—as before On the old fighter's track the entire snarlings pack Have followed with hue and with cry, Till now, when he faces them all, they sink back From the sight of brave Admiral Schley. When heroes were needed, he stood on the bridge And met the proud navy of Spain. He followed it on till the battle was won And its vessels went down in the main. When heroes are honored he's slighted and spurned.

While others are praised to the sky, He yet is deprived of the glory he earned, Our gallant old Admiral Schley. But though he's insulted by puppets in power, The people are slow to forget. They only await a more fortunate hour To crown him in victory yet. His fame is secure. When the scroll is unrolled His name will be written on high. 'Mid those of our gallant sea-fighters of old, Made brighter by Admiral Schley. The man who is right can afford to repose In the homage and love of the just: To reckon that Time is his friend; and his foes.

At last will go down in the dust, The victim of hate with assurance can wait For wrong and detraction to die. The world holds a crown of esteem and renown For the brow of brave Admiral Schley J. A. Edgerton, in Nebraska Inde.

Comfortable headquarters—pillows. The jailor is known by the company he keeps.

An old saying—"Three score years and ten."

When autumn comes we see the autumn leaves.

Of course she bangs—the daughter of the regiment.

We all want to see the show that's "out of sight."

Some fellows could't raise a mustache with a derrick.

The inquisitive milkman is fond of pumping people.

No man is such a success that he cannot have a successor.

Apples of discord are never found where there is not a pair.

Somehow it's the woman who is in the market that oftentimes gets sold.

The flowers on many a man's grave are choked by the widow's weeds.

Whenever a small boy begins to smoke cigarettes the undertaker chuckles in anticipation.

Lots of husbands and wives look as though they had found each other at a rummage sale.

Many of our cities are progressing rapidly, but West Virginia has the only one that's Wheeling.

"This is a remarkably healthy climate, they say," said the Easterner. "You're right, that," said Arizona Al. "For instance, not long ago a tenderfoot with a weak chest and a pale face dropped in ter the 'Miner's Delight,' called me a liar, an', o' course, I had to clean up. 'Bout two months after a big suburnt cowboy stopped me on the street, wiped the earth up with me and slammed me up in a tree to recuperate. Same feller. Best climate in the world, pard."

A Bear in a Corn Field.

The appearance of a big black bear in the corn field of Michael Decker, near Centre Hall a day or two ago, caused much excitement in the village.

To reach the corn field the bear passed through the yard in front of the premises of E. E. Arney. Bruin passed slowly through the field husking an ear, occasionally, until he finally came upon Frank Decker, who was engaged in husking corn. Decker ran for help and soon returned with three men and as many guns. A young man named Schrecken-gast when within fifty feet of bruin fired, killing him instantly. The bear weighed over 200 pounds.

A Sensible Opinion.

Judge Stewart, of Franklin county, handed down an opinion on Thursday, having a direct bearing on public sales of real estate. In effect it means that fictitious bids constitute a violation of the law, and that the practice so often resorted to, known as "puffing" is nothing else but fraud. The court holds that any one guilty of such bidding is a party to the fraud and can be held responsible for damage sustained by the purchaser.

Saw Mill Burned.

The saw mill of George Lucas at Mc-Brides Gap, near Pleasant Gap burned completely to the ground early Tuesday morning, 22. The mill was a valuable property and the proprietor busily engaged sawing lumber for P. B. Crider & Son, of Bellefonte. The cause of the fire is not known. Mr. Lucas will probably not rebuild, owing to the fact that he has another saw mill in operation down Bald Eagle Valley.