

The Centre Democrat.

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OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

Early Settlers Were at the Mercy of Outlaws.

TWO NOTED ROBBERS KILLED

The Story of Lewis and Connelly Briefly Retold—What Constituted the Accomplishments of a Schoolteacher in Those Days.

In the early days the settlers were at the mercy of outlaws, as much as by the Indians. Robberies were numerous by outlaws, many homes were plundered, the robbers finding secure hiding places in the mountains. These desperadoes would be in hiding along the roads to pounce upon the traveler. The most daring of these outlaws were Lewis and Connelly.

Horse thieves and cut-throats, in fleeing from justice or for the purpose of following their profession, often passed through the country, and occasionally stopped long enough for their characters and designs to become known. In many instances the inhabitants became unmistakably aware of their presence in their midst, by the loss of a horse or something else equally valuable. Then, as now, houses and stores were burglariously entered and plundered, and travelers were frequently robbed on the highway.

In those days the people were at the mercy of outlaws much more than now. The facilities for defence and capture were exceedingly limited, and the thinly settled condition of the country rendered the operations of bandits comparatively easy and safe. The boldness and daring with which they sometimes performed their exploits were truly astonishing. For weeks at a time they would remain in a certain district, daily committing robberies, in utter defiance of the law and the people. Such was the case with Lewis and Connelly, who are well remembered by the older citizens of the county.

Lewis was a native of Centre county, it is said. Connelly was an Irishman, and a powerful man. Their deeds of daring and lawlessness were numerous, to such an extent had their robberies been carried on that the government offered a reward of six hundred dollars for their bodies, dead or alive. During one of their excursions down Bald Eagle Valley they robbed a wagon loaded with store goods, belonging to Hammond and Page of Bellefonte, and took the spoils down the creek in a canoe to a point just above Lock Haven, and finding that they had more than they could conveniently carry, or fearing that it might lead to their detection, they built a fire and burned a portion of it. Some of the citizens then living in Lock Haven, seeing the smoke, and knowing that Lewis and Connelly were in the neighborhood, surmised its origin, and made an effort to capture the robbers. The attempt was ineffectual, and thinking the locality a little too warm for them, the desperadoes left for new fields of operation and were soon heard from on the waters of the Sinnemahoning, whereupon twelve armed men started from Centre county, determined upon their capture. It was not long before they were discovered near the creek "shooting at a mark" close by the house of a settler, who, no doubt, had been in the habit of sharing their plunder. An attack was immediately made, which was desperately resisted by the robbers, who, however, were both wounded, Connelly through the bowels and Lewis in the arm, which was badly shattered. With much difficulty they were then secured and taken down the river in a canoe to Lock Haven, where Connelly soon after died. His remains were buried just outside the old cemetery. Lewis was taken to Bellefonte, where he also soon died from the effects of his wound. The skull of Connelly was afterwards taken up and used by a lecturer in illustrating phrenology.

That part of Potter township remaining in Northumberland county east of Spring Mills by order of court in 1790, was given the name of Haines, as a compliment to Reuben Haines (brewer) of Philadelphia, who owned large bodies of land in the township.

The first store at Potter's Mills was opened by James Potter, Jr., (afterwards Judge Potter) in the fall of 1790, with Robert McKim and W. A. Patterson as clerks. The first entry in the ledger is a charge, Nov. 9, 1790, Samuel Edmiston, one bushel of salt, ten shillings. In 1791 he erected the distillery. John Earnest was the distiller. Whiskey was sold from the distillery at the price of four shillings per gallon. The name of Gen. Potter's old army servant appears upon the ledger as "Hero Wade."

The following additional residents of Potter were taken from the assessments, but in some cases it would appear not to be the date of the person named coming

to the valley, as in the case of John Barber and Dr. Andrews it is evident they were early residents.

Andrews, Dr. John.
Barber, John.
Beers, Samuel.
Benn, Henry, Jr.
Biggs, Alexander.
Clover, Paul.
Clover, Philip.
Davis, Joseph.
Framton, Arthur.
Graham, James.
Graham, John.
Graham, Robert.
Huston, Paul.
Jack, Michel.
Jordan, Hugh.
Kerr, William.
McKim, David.
Palmer, Solomon.
(father of Floyd.)
Pastorius, William.
Potter, James (taxed with a grist mill, saw mill, and slave.)
Rankin, James.
Sankey, Ezekiel.
Sankey, James.
Sankey, Jeremiah.
Sanborne, Joseph.
Watson, James.
Wilson, Peter.

A writer has the following sketch of the old teacher's which may be a slight bit strong, but true in a measure:

With here and there an exception the school masters of the past generation were deficient in nearly all the qualities that make the good teacher. They were intemperate, tyrannical, illiterate; and considered unfit for any business except school teaching. We hear of many who used profane language in school, and had habitually a bottle of whiskey secreted somewhere about the school house. They were not expected to teach anything except the three "R's," and if one made application for a school, his head was not probed seriously by officials to fathom the profundity of his knowledge. Proficiency in writing, skill in making quill pens and physical vigor to "thrash" unruly boys—were the qualifications that commended him most to his patrons; and his prerogative of flogging he usually exercised to an amazing degree. He was more lavish than discriminating in meeting out punishments. If some luckless urchin among a number of still more luckless mates fell into mischief, the teacher did not waste time endeavoring to discover the culprit but seized one of his long rods and flogged the whole row simultaneously.

The foregoing description applies mainly to the teachers of sparsely settled districts where teaching did not pay very well; in a few popular and wealthy districts were maintained good schools, open nearly the whole year round, and in charge of better instructors.

LICENSE COURT.

Tuesday morning the annual session of License Court was held at this place with Judge Love presiding. There were forty-six applications for various forms of license. The court granted all the old applicants, except in the case of the Old Fort hotel, near Centre Hall station, where two parties filed applications, on account of their being a dispute as to who holds the hotel lease for the ensuing year. S. B. Shaffer the present landlord, and Isaac Shaver, who some years ago was proprietor of the hotel, are applicants for this license. This application was continued until April 1st. Remonstrances were filed against the applications of Charles P. Reese, for hotel license, in Boggs twp.; I. I. DeLongo, hotel license at Blanchard; and Alonzo Grove, hotel at Moshannon. All of these were continued to March 25th. The application for brewer license of Robert J. Hass, in Benner twp., at Roopersburg, was also held over till March 25th. The court gave some of the landlords a combing down for the manner in which they conducted their hotels and warned them a continuance would warrant him in revoking their license. He also gave the landlords to understand that their personal deportment at all times should be gentlemanly and would be a matter for the court to consider. The remarks were sharp and direct.

Insurance Rates Increased.

By a recent statement published, giving the profits and losses of the millionaire insurance companies, it is seen that the net underwriting loss for 1901 is \$7,758,510, and for the last three years the net losses for the same companies are \$19,501,014. On account of these losses, which were caused by the many recent disastrous conflagrations, the rates on all manufacturing risks, and other special hazards and the contents thereof, and on all mercantile risks in all states east of the Rocky mountains have been increased twenty-five per cent. The increase went into effect March 1.

Murder at Karthaus.

A fatal shooting affray occurred at Karthaus on Saturday night between four laborers on the West Branch railroad. Ross Stewart and his brother, white men from North Carolina, had an altercation with two Italians, one of the latter fired three shots from his revolver one taking effect in Ross Stewart's heart killing him instantly. The Italians made their escape.

A quiet wedding occurred Thursday evening at the parsonage of Rev. Thos. Perks pastor of the United Brethren church. The happy couple were Carl Lilledahl, of Williamsport and Miss Grace S. Barlett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Barlett, of Bellefonte. Mr. Lilledahl is employed by the Pennsylvania R. Co., at Altoona. They left for Altoona where they will make their future home.

BELLEFONTE WAS FLOODED

Much Damage to Property in this Section.

HIGHEST RISE EVER KNOWN

Bridges Were Swept Away—Buildings Inundated, Fences Washed Away—The Town Without Water, Light or Mail Connection.

One week ago, last Friday, there was much excitement about Bellefonte, as well as in other points of the county over the flood. It was disastrous, and in some places was higher than the memorable June flood of 1889. Centre county was not alone in the affliction, as it extended over the greater portion of the State.

Two weeks ago there was an unusually heavy snow fall of from 14 to 24 inches in various localities. That, along with the former snows, made a deep covering. While the ground was frozen hard and deep with several inches of ice in most places next to the earth, the mild weather on Wednesday and Thursday caused the snow to melt rapidly, and on Thursday there was a rain fall, and more at night, that very quickly dissolved the snow. The frozen earth would not take up the water and the result was that it rushed to the water courses which in a short time became swollen, overflowed the banks and became raging torrents. There was apprehension of a flood as soon as the weather began to moderate, but not of the severity with which it came. The waters began to rise Thursday evening and by night danger was apprehended. More rain during the night brought on the calamity. The waters kept rising until noon on Friday when at this place, it was about a foot higher than the June flood of 1889.

Bellefonte seems to have suffered more damage than any other section of the county.

Spring Creek was a flood of yellow mud and filth, drift and rubbish. This lodged at the railroad trestle above the P. R. R. station and banked the waters back. The drift and timbers worked under the railroad track and gradually it began to raise. Being built in a curve it could hardly be broken, but was lifted up and floated to the side of the creek and now lies across on the little island. The next to suffer was the Palace Livery stable which had several feet of water in it, and the horses and carriages were moved out in short order. Water rose over the walls of the Watchman office basement and reached the middle of the window sills. The back window was soon broken by drift and in the mud and filth poured covering all the presses and destroyed several hundred dollars worth of paper stock.

The Bellefonte Republican office had a similar experience in their basement, where the presses are located. They lost considerable paper and their presses were littered with filth and slimy mud. All the cellars in that section were flooded, so were the coal yards, and Peter Keichline's store across the race had a number of props knocked out by drift and there was danger of it collapsing into the race. Farther down, the race broke at the forebay of Gerberick's mill, and cut a swath through Crider's lumber yard taking some lumber with it. The board walk along the banks of the creek from the laundry to the Central R. R. depot is nearly all washed away and the road is cut deep with furrows. The large borough truss bridge across the stream at the mill was in danger of being moved as the water came up to the floor and the large cakes of ice and timber that came down would strike it with such great force that the whole structure would tremble, but it was not moved. Had any of the lumber piles from Crider's gone down the bridge would have gone out. The foot bridge at the P. R. R. round house was carried away and so was the railroad trestle across the creek to Morris' limestone kilns. Below that stood the Spring twp iron truss bridge at the nail works. For a long time it stood the force of the waters, but had to give way and was carried down about a hundred feet below the grand stand of the fair ground and is lodged in the bed of the creek.

DAMAGE AT THE FAIR GROUNDS.

Probably more damage was done to the Centre county Fair Grounds than anywhere else in this vicinity. On the west side of the ground along the railroad most of the fence is gone, the western portion of the race course is cut bare, leaving only the staves that were used for filling. About one-half of the track is washed out including the upper turn and the fence around it taken away. The exhibition building was swung off its supports and lies humped and broken. The grandstand was not harmed. The stables on the sides did not suffer

much, but those at the lower end of the ground were swept away entirely. The ground is generally cut up and washed. About two hundred feet below all the drift is lodged against the trestle work leading to the Armour Gap lime operations. On to Milesburg the same destruction was caused along the course of the stream.

NO LIGHT AND NO WATER.

One of the inconveniences attending the flood was the closing down of the water works as the water rose to the middle of the boilers, and put out the fire. From Friday forenoon until the next morning there was little water in the pipes for domestic purposes. Many persons had to haul water from the spring. This scarcity of water compelled the electric light plant to close down Friday night and in consequence the streets were dark and most of the stores had to use oil lamps or sperm candles. A pile of lumber passing under the High street bridge broke the water and gas mains on Friday and the West ward was put to great inconvenience until a temporary connection could be made.

For several days we were cut off from the outside world. There was no telegraphic communication and few of the telephone lines about the county were in working order. The last trains were those on Thursday afternoon that left town. We got no newspapers until Sunday and Monday and then they were several days old. The editions of the Watchman and the Gazette did not get out over the county until Monday as no trains could get in or out of town. The P. R. R. tracks from below the nail works to almost the depot were washed out and unsafe. When the Bald Eagle R. R. began running trains, passengers and mail came to Bellefonte from Milesburg by private conveyance on Saturday and Sunday. The Lewisburg branch had several bad washouts along the line. The first being the railroad bridge at Bellefonte, but they can still get to the town. Up beyond Linden Hall the track was washed out at several points. Near Spring Mills there is a long stretch of trestle across Sinking creek and several spans of this was swept out or carried away. Below Spring Mills there was another bridge moved so that the trains could not run through for several days. On the Bellefonte Central there was about the same trouble. No trains were able to get to State College until Sunday, when they took up the line in the evening. Sunday morning Postmaster Montgomery sent to Milesburg to meet the Tyrone train for mail that had been accumulating the past few days. It filled up a cab and then could not take all, there being about thirty sacks. It took the postal clerks several hours to handle and distribute the same. Monday the trains were moving with some regularity and the mails were coming in on better time.

The railroad bridge taken away in town may not be built for some time as there are other repairs to the lines that are more important for the present. The Central R. R. of Pa., was more fortunate this time than heretofore as they had very little trouble on their route and trains were running on pretty good time.

County Commissioner Daniel Heckman had a fright on Friday morning. The water being high he concluded to drive his daughter out to Coleville where she teaches one of the schools. On the way out he had to cross Buffalo Run creek at the lower furnace bridge. At that time the water was up close to the floor of the bridge. Some men were standing there as he came along and they assured him that the bridge was solid and over he went. When on the structure he noticed that it was giving way and hurried across. When he reached the other side it sank down in the stream and soon Heckman had to leave his horse and buggy out there and came back to town over the hills. It seems that the water had undermined the masonry of the bridge and that as soon as they were on it the additional weight caused the structure to settle down.

George Bush, of this place, had a dangerous and unpleasant experience at Milesburg on Saturday. He put on his rubber hip boots and went to Milesburg to get a satchel that he had left in the depot. Down there he came across high water and in attempting to get to the depot he got off his bearings and stepped into a cesspool that had been left uncovered and went down to his shoulders. There was a swift current and considerable drift going which made his predicament rather serious, but help came and he managed to get out, without any serious injuries and rather unrepresentable in appearance.

Some parts of Milesburg, rather Central City, suffered considerably from the rise of the Bald Eagle. The floating ice formed a gorge above the town and when that came down there was a big rise. Huge cakes came along the streets

ACCIDENTS FROM THE FLOOD

Charles Dutton's Narrow Escape from Drowning.

A BOY'S PECULIAR DEATH.

Falls Into a Deep Sink Filled With Water at Pleasant Gap—Crushed by Falling Rock—A Heroic Effort of Young Hile.

Charles Dutton, a traveling agent from Williamsport, had an exciting flood experience, on Friday last. With a horse and buggy he was on his way from Jacksonville to Howard, and when in the gap near Wm. P. Lucas' mill, he struck a washout, where a heavy current crossed the road. His horse at once got into deep water, and Dutton jumped from the buggy intending to save the horse, but as he grabbed the animal's bridle he found himself in danger of drowning and had to abandon the horse and buggy, and reached land in time to save himself. Looking ahead, he saw the horse floating around a bend, beyond rescue, where it was drowned. He had a stack of samples in the buggy, which were also lost with the horse, robe and buggy. Mr. Dutton is a traveling salesman for Geo. Bubb & Son, grocers of Williamsport. The horse was owned by the firm and the buggy was hired from Lew Bullock, of Milesburg.

It is said that an action will be brought by Mr. Dutton, to recover the loss, against Marion township for negligence as the washout was caused by a culvert, under the road from Lucas' mill, becoming closed some time ago. The supervisors claim that Lucas was repeatedly notified to remove the obstruction which had caused a serious washout at the same place about a year ago.

A PECULIAR ACCIDENT.

On Saturday a peculiar accident happened at Pleasant Gap that resulted in the death of a young man, Charles Rimmey, a son of David Rimmey, of that place. Young Rimmey, in company with Freeman Hile a lad of about 13 years, were down at the sink below the school house, in what is called "Hornstown," where the water from the mountain stream flows in a deep hole. Owing to the high water and the floods this sink was filled with water and was quite deep. While young Rimmey was sitting on a ledge or loose rock at the sink it gave away and down in the water he went with the rock, and another came after them.

His companion was startled by the sudden accident but had the presence of mind to grasp his companion as he came up the second time and pulled him out. This was a very perilous task as he had to crawl out on some slender bushes that overhung the deep pool that would hardly support him. He held the boy for about fifteen minutes until a little girl ran for help. When they got young Rimmey out on safe ground he was found to be unconscious and died soon after. His death was not due to drowning as an examination was made and it was found that his body was severely bruised and some of the internal organs were ruptured so that his death was almost instantaneous. This was caused by the heavy rock falling or rolling over him as they went down into the water. The interment took place at Pleasant Gap on Monday afternoon.

Masons Buy a Property.

The members of the Masonic order, at this place, have had under consideration the purchase of the building occupied by Miss Mary Magill as a boarding house, on Allegheny street, known as the Humes' property. It is a fine three-story, pressed-brick, substantial building, prominently located. Miss Magill, owing to ill health, has concluded to discontinue the boarding house and it was offered for sale. The Masons now have a fine suite of rooms on the third floor of Reynolds' bank building. At a meeting Tuesday evening, we are informed, the purchase of the Humes' property was decided upon at \$6,000, and the sale will be concluded soon.

It will be the purpose of the order to remodel the building and raise the roof of the third story. The rooms on the first floor will be modeled for public offices and will be desirable locations. The upper portion of the building will be occupied by the order, devoting the second floor to reading room and other social features along with a well equipped culinary department. The third floor, when the roof is elevated, will make an ideal lodge room. With these improvements the Masons will have a fine home.

Every pair of \$2.50 Blitt Well shoes are guaranteed. Veager & Davis.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

A goat has a good head for business. Short friends often make long accounts. Man is but a freckle on the face of time.

The low-cut ball gown is open to inspection. It doesn't pay to advertise for lost opportunities.

The elevator does a lot towards uplifting the race. Consistency is often but another name for contrariness.

When a man is on his uppers it means that he is pretty low down. Dazzling prospects seldom make one blind to one's own interests.

When paper hangers go to the wall their creditors do not suffer. The girl who is faithful to her ideal is very apt to remain an old maid.

If beauty is only skin deep a lot of people ought to be turned inside out. A heated argument is one of the things the wise man quickly drops.

When a married man goes on a tear he has occasion to worry over the rent. After a woman gets a man under her thumb he meekly asks for the rest of her hand.

During his sojourn on earth a man must put up with a lot and put up for a lot more.

The college football player who is quarterback on the field is likely to go away back in his class.

The honest man who pays his rent has to hustle and the dishonest one who doesn't has to keep moving.

A cow belonging to a farmer up in Sullivan county ate three bushels of sweet apples, and at the next churning the churn was discovered to be half full of apple butter.

Mayes-Segner

Married, at 6 p. m., Feb. 26 at the home of Michael Segner, at Boalsburg, by Rev. G. W. Leisher, Mr. Jared D. Mayes, of Lemont, and Miss Sophronia A Segner, of Boalsburg. The wedding was attended by quite a number of guests, principally the parents and near relatives of the bride and groom and including Mr. Nathaniel Grove and wife, of Lemont. The wedding party was conducted to the presence of the officiating minister by W. S. Evey, of Lemont, groomsmen and Miss Ellie Segner sister of the bride as bridesmaid. After the ceremony and congratulations by the company, supper was announced and all sat down to a sumptuous feast to which they did full justice. The newly married pair expect to settle down in a cosy nest in Lemont where they will be at home to all their many friends. The groom is the son of J. B. Mayes, Esq., of Lemont, the well-known marble cutter and will assist his father in the business. The bride is an estimable young lady and will make a charming wife. We wish them a long life of happiness.

Their Pay Withheld.

When the Pennsylvania pay car arrived at Sunbury last week a large number of employes who appeared for wages due them were refused, the pay clerks explaining that the money had been attached by two collection agencies, incorporated under the laws of Virginia. The claims were placed in the hands of the agencies by firms to whom the men are indebted, and from present indications the wages will not be paid over by the railroad company until the matter is definitely settled in the courts.

—Call and examine our \$2.50 Blitt Well shoe for men. Veager & Davis.

A Heavy Snow.

Wednesday we had another surprise in weather, during the day a snow storm prevailed and by evening we had a fall of about 23 inches. Owing to the storm with its drive roads are blocked and railroad traffic is again impeded. The afternoon train for Lewisburg did not go out, and with hard work the Bald Eagle Valley was kept open, but trains were several hours late. A clear sky and bright sun promises mild weather today, which may bring another serious flood.

Moving Time.

Many of our readers will change their postoffice address after April 1st. In order that you do not miss your paper it is well to notify us in advance stating where you move. Then be sure to give your old address and the new one as well. Read your notice carefully before mailing so that no mistakes occur. This is important to both.

—J. H. Reifnyder, Esq., of Millheim, who last week surprised his friends by taking unto himself a better half, was in town on Tuesday and plead guilty while accepting the congratulations of numerous friends.

(Continued on page 8.)