

The Centre Democrat.

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OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

Some of the Early Executions in Centre Co.

"NEGRO DAN" AND MONKS

Accounts of their Crimes and Trials—Hanged the Second Time—An Old Story Retold of a Bloody Highway Murder.

Our county had no less than a dozen murder cases, with less than half as many executions. One condemned murderer broke jail under sheriff Cook. Another, the Garman House hostler, for killing Koch, sentenced to the penitentiary, was pardoned before serving part of his term. Others served on their terms in the county jail or state's prison.

"The first case of capital punishment in the county was that of Daniel Beyers, or 'Negro Dan' as he was called, who murdered James Barrows on the night of the 15th of October, 1802, in Spring township. The jury returned with their verdict a valuation of him; 'valued him at two hundred and fourteen dollars.' He was executed on the 13th of December, 1802, by James Duncan, Esq., then high sheriff. A large crowd, consisting of forge-men and other original characters, had assembled to witness the execution, and a company of horse, under the command of Captain James Potter, (Gen. Potter, 2d.) was drawn up near the scaffold. With the first swing the rope broke and negro Dan fell to the ground unhurt; with that the crowd shouted 'Dan is free,' and headed by Archy McSwords and McCamant they made a move to rescue him. Sheriff Duncan, who always carried a lead loaded riding whip, drew it promptly, and struck McSwords a blow that might have felled an ox. McSwords scratched his head and said, 'Mr. Duncan, as you are a small man you may pass on.' With that Captain Potter's company made a charge, and William Irvin, of the troop, leveled McCamant with a blow of his sword, cutting his cap-rim through. Meanwhile Wm. Petriken stepped up to Dan and patted him on the shoulder, saying, 'Dan you have always been a good boy, go up now and be hung like a man,' which he did."—LINN.

The case of James Monks, who was hanged for the murder of Reuben Guild, created considerable excitement at the time. The circumstances are given as follows: Monks was a native of Potter township, Centre county. At the time he committed the deed he was about twenty-four years old, and lived with his wife and two children on Marsh creek, in Howard township. According to his confession, written while he was under sentence of death in the Centre county jail, he was on his way home from Clearfield county, on Sunday, the 16th day of November, 1817, and in a lonely place in the road, met a man on horseback, "and," to use his own language, "as he passed we bid each other 'good evening.' I passed him a few steps, and I know not what came over me. I thought that I must kill that man! There was no one with him. I then shot him! The ball entered his back on the right side, just at the upper edge of the waistband of his pantaloons, and went slapping through his body and came out just by his breast. This wound brought him down from his horse, and as he fell he gave a loud shriek; I laid my gun down in the road and went up to him. He said, 'My friend you have killed me.'

"The horse ran a few rods and stopped; I went after him to catch him, but he would not let me. I then went back to the man—he was not quite dead. I went to my gun and set it out of the road. I then went again to the horse, when he had begun to feed by the side of the road. I then caught him and took him back to where the man was lying. I tied him to a brush and went to the man; he was dead I believe; but fearing that he might not be dead I took my tomahawk and struck him twice on the head, for at that time I did not know how he was shot; if I had known that the shot was so deadly, I do not think that I would have struck him on the head.

"I then dropped my tomahawk and caught him under the arms and dragged him into the woods; and just by chance I came on a place where a tree had been blown out of root; it was surely by chance that I came on that place, for I went backward and trailed him after me. I left him there, went back and looked for my tomahawk. I found it—then I went to the horse and untied him from the brush, intending to go to the man, but could not find him. I then tied the horse again and hunted the man; I found him and stripped off his clothes. I found a watch in his fob; I took it out. I also found one dollar and twelve and a half cents in silver in his pocket. I found his pocket-book in the side pocket of

his strait coat; I took it out and put it in my own pocket—I did not open it till the next morning. I pulled off his shoes and stockings, and tried to put the shoes on but they were too small for me; I took out my knife and cut one of them down in the vamp, but still could not get it on. I laid my knife down and forgot it; I also laid the shoes down. I then laid the man on his face in the hole and covered him with leaves. Then I went and got the horse and lead him to the place where the clothes lay, and took off the saddle-bags and put the leggings, waist coat, bloody shirt, and what things I had in my bundle into them. I suppose that when I opened my bundle my song-book fell out, and I did not discover it for I was very drunk, and it was dark. Then I spread my blanket over the saddle and laid the pantaloons and strait coat on it, and then doubled the blanket over them. I put on the great coat and went back to the road, and got my gun, and got on the horse and started."

Monks rode for some distance that night, and then laid down on the ground and slept till daylight. On examining the pocket-book he had taken from the murdered man's pocket he found it to contain several dollars in money, some letters, &c. On the fly-leaf were written the words, "Reuben Guild's Pocket Book, This Pocket Book is my property now, but I know I won't own it long." Monks was arrested on suspicion, and tried and convicted at November term 1818. He was ably defended by Messrs. Norris, Burnside and Potter. The commonwealth attorneys were Messrs. Eiting, Bradford and Blanchard. Nearly fifty witnesses were sworn on the part of the prosecution. On the first day of December he received the following sentence, pronounced by Hon. Charles Huston, then president judge: "James Monks, it is considered by the court that you be taken to the common jail of the county of Centre, there to remain until you are taken to the place of execution, and there to be hanged by the neck until dead." He was hanged on Saturday, January 23, 1819, by John Mitchel, high sheriff, on gallows located in the hollow south of the court house. On his way to execution under guard of a company of military, "Mary's Dream," a plaintive air, was played, at his request, by the fifer, William Armor, instead of the Dead March, used on such occasions.

Sharper Caught.

Two Italians, Elia Carmelo and Gaetano Catarno, are minus upward of \$50 each, the result of over-confidence in a fellow countryman. The sharper gave his name as J. Brown, claiming to be in the employ of the United States government. At Clearfield lately he made the acquaintance of the two first named and represented to them that he wanted to hire two men to go to Washington to work about the public building, promising them \$45 per month each and all expenses for board, etc., paid by the government; that the cost to get them to Washington would be \$50 each, which amount they gave their sharper benefactor, and \$1.50 to pay postage, etc. On Wednesday evening the trio went to Tyrone and put up at the Ward house, intending to go on to Washington the next morning. The two dupes woke up to find that their short time acquaintance had boarded St. Louis express west during the previous night, when it dawned upon them that they were victims of misplaced confidence. When here Brown wore the dress of similar make of the United States cavalry service of former days, containing a good many yellow fixings.

The crook was captured later and is now in the Hollidaysburg jail awaiting trial.

Gas, Oil or Coal.

A move has been made at Aaronsburg to prospect for gas, oil, or coal, in the gap that has the spring which supplies the town with water. The drilling is to begin soon, money having been subscribed by some of the citizens to defray the expense of drilling. A good many years ago Thomas Cronmiller, a citizen of that town, had a coal "expert" to prospect on his land in that gap, and this "smeller" gave it as his opinion that there was coal there. The fellow got the job of putting down a shaft to considerable depth, but got no coal. We would rejoice to see better luck in this effort, be it coal, oil, or gas." H. H. Weaver, who had some experience in the oil regions at the outbreak of the fever in Venango county, we understand, will direct the effort now to be made.

Pretty Entertainment.

An interesting and pretty entertainment will be given by the Lutheran Sunday school, in the church, on evening of 2nd Sunday in April. The main feature will be an exhibition of the crosses and an explanation of their meaning, by twelve young ladies each with a little girl attendant, preceded and closing with tableaux of fine order, music, and etc.

EVANGELICAL CONFERENCES

Held at Lock Haven and Hazleton, Recently

SOME OF THE APPOINTMENTS

Statistical Reports, on the Condition of the Church—New Berlin College May be Moved—Other Information of the Church.

So that you may not be confused in the following conference reports, it should be remembered that there are two separate bodies of Evangelicals. First those who style themselves the original Evangelical body, and second, when the Dubbs Esher controversy arose the Dubbs element withdrew and formed the United Evangelical Association. Both wings are represented in this section of the state and herewith we give reports of their conferences:

EVANGELICAL CONFERENCE.

The East Pennsylvania conference of the Evangelical church met last week at Hazleton. The Committee on Statistics reported as follows: Conversions, 1,156; gain, 1,219; members, 8,711; preachers, 126; adults baptized, 168; infants baptized, 682; Sunday schools, 150; scholars, 15,329; officers and teachers, 1,874; Young People's alliances, 84; membership, 3,803; value of churches, \$574,085; value of parsonages, \$84,175; value of other property, \$17,510; missionary collections, \$7,941.24; amount of all collections, \$81,473.97; paid for pastors' salaries, \$26,341.85.

The committee reported a bequest of \$500 by Mrs. F. G. Boas of Reading to the Board of Church Extension and one by the estate of Jacob Miller of Easton to the missionary cause of \$1,625.79.

The Rev. I. F. Heister of Pottstown, was chosen conference collector. Bishop Brevogal conducted a rally in the interest of this cause and subscriptions to the amount of \$4,200 were received from the ministers.

The assignment of ministers in the Williamsport district for the year were as follows: W. A. Leopold, presiding elder; Williamsport, Market street, J. Willet Boyer; Pottsville, Ira F. Bergstresser; Oriwigsburg, A. E. Williams; Schuylkill, G. H. Burrell; Tamaqua, E. R. Seip; Lansford, Coaldale and Mauch Chunk, P. W. Brown; Bressona, C. B. Bowman; Ringtown and Hantersville, D. A. Brown; Shamokin, H. W. Gross; Williamsport, J. J. Kreisel; Uniontown; J. H. Wallauer; Reiner City and Hegins, D. S. Manning; Lykens and Wiconisco, B. L. Romberger; Elizabethville, C. N. Wolfe; Millersburg, S. I. Shortess; Sugar Valley, J. L. Boyer; Penn's Valley, O. L. Buck; Spring Mills, J. F. Penstermaker; New Columbia, J. G. Martin; Port Trevorton, B. E. Haney; Liberty and East Point, G. Heinrich; Lock Haven, W. L. Kenter; Waller, L. H. Yerger; Millin, A. S. Bierly. J. S. Newhart, member of Pottsville quarterly conference.

One of the features of the conference was the resolution condemning the use of patent medicines. Following is an excerpt: "The Government, instead of trying to check the growth of the liquor evil, appears to be pandering to its interests; that unprincipled persons for gain have concocted compound or so-called 'cure alls,' the base of which is alcohol or often bad whisky, which causes users to become addicted to strong drink."

UNIT. EV. CONFERENCE.

During the past week the United Evangelical conference of Central Penna., convened at Lock Haven and adjourned Tuesday evening. The attendance was large from all sections.

The most interesting is the statistical report which shows over 2,000 conversions, and 2,422 accessions during the past year; total membership, 18,218; Sunday school enrollment 25,000; K. L. C. E. membership, 6,790; missionary moneys raised, \$15,520.

The United Evangelical church is represented by three annual conferences, in Pennsylvania. The East Pennsylvania conference, with a membership of 16,895, occupies the territory east of the Susquehanna river. Its property is valued at \$996,109. The Central Pennsylvania conference is located in the center of the state. It has a membership of 17,881, and holds property valued at \$644,459. The western part of the state is occupied by the Pittsburgh conference, with a membership of 8,002, and property valued at \$321,890. The three conference aggregate 42,578 members, and hold property valued at \$1,962,458.

For a number of years the East Pennsylvania conference has maintained what is now Albright college. The institution was advanced to full college grade several years ago. It occupies the building formerly used by the Palatinate college, at Myerstown, Penna. The enrollment of students was 119.

The Central Pennsylvania and the

Pittsburg conferences jointly support Central Pennsylvania college. This institution, formerly known as Union seminary, is located at New Berlin, Penna. Its endowment fund, including a bond from the Central Pennsylvania conference of \$20,000, and one of \$5,000 from the Pittsburg conference, amounts to \$69,320. For the year 1900 its current receipts were \$4,796.35. One hundred students were in attendance during the same time.

For some time these conferences felt that if their educational interests could be consolidated, it would result in economy of expenditure and make the maintenance of a larger and more successful institution possible. Consolidation would bring to the new institution an endowment of \$129,320 and a current income of about \$15,000 in addition to the interest in the endowment fund."

Representatives of three conferences will meet March 25 to perfect plans for the consolidation. The following delegates were elected to the general conference which meets at Williamsport October next: Revs. W. E. Detwiler, A. H. Irvine, U. F. Swengel, S. P. Remer, E. Crumbling, J. W. Messinger, N. Young, A. Stapleton, I. Hartzler; laymen, J. M. Cooper, Charles A. Shaffer, I. S. Frain, J. S. Austine, Dr. J. S. Hetrick, H. W. Shaffer.

The following appointments were announced for this section:

Center district—E. Crumbling, presiding elder; Altoona, M. I. Jamison; Bellwood, C. F. Garrett; Milesburg, M. T. Crouch; Bellefonte, W. H. Brown; Howard, I. N. Blair; Nittany, J. M. Price; Sugar valley, A. S. Baumgardner; Rebersburg, P. A. Smith; Centre Hall, J. Z. Shultz; Spring Mills, S. E. Koontz; Millheim, J. D. Shortess; Millmont, S. A. Aund and W. E. Peffley; Millersburg, C. C. Mizener; Buffalo, L. Rice; New Berlin, W. F. Wallis; Centerville, J. J. Dubs; Middleburg, J. Shambaugh; McClure, A. D. Gramley; Port Trevorton, H. T. Searle; Lewistown, C. H. Goodling; Patterson, J. Womeldorf; Prof. A. E. Gobble, president of Central Penna. college, and C. W. Guinter, member of Port Trevorton, and G. Joseph, member of Lewistown quarterly conference.

There is a rumor in circulation to the effect that Bishop R. Dabs, D.D., L.L.D., of Chicago, who presided at the United Evangelical conference, has been offered by President Roosevelt the appointment of consul to Germany.

Franchise Grab Unconstitutional.

Judge C. R. Savidge, of Northumberland, specially presiding in the Columbia county court, has handed down an opinion in the case of Catawissa and Bloomsburg street railway company vs. the Columbia and Montour electric railway company and M. F. D. Scanlon and E. L. Mumma, trading as M. F. D. Scanlon & Co., in which he declares unconstitutional the street railway franchise grab passed by the last legislature. The court dissolves the injunction heretofore granted and dismisses the bill of complaint at the cost of the plaintiff, the Catawissa and Bloomsburg company. The opinion has a state-wide interest.

Locusts are Coming.

Deputy Secretary Martin, of the state agricultural department, says that the seventeen year locusts are due this summer in many parts of Pennsylvania. Many of the fruit growers are apprehensive of serious damage by these insects and have deferred planting young trees until next spring. Mr. Martin looks for the locust to make its appearance in July or August and says there is no known preventive for it. The insects cause great damage to young fruit trees and the tender branches of large trees.

Burglars at Lewisburg.

A bold burglary was accomplished down at Lewisburg, Monday morning, when the vault of the Buffalo milling company was robbed of \$80 in cash and a check for \$120. The burglars after failing to get the vault open from the inside of the building went outside and cut a hole through the brick walls of the building and vault. After this was accomplished all they had to do was to reach in and help themselves, which they did. The work was accomplished between midnight and morning.

Lumbermen Sue Contractors.

A number of damage suits will be brought against the contractors building the West Branch railroad by Clearfield county lumbermen. The claim will be made that the obstructions placed in the river at various points between Clearfield and Karthaus have greatly impeded the floating of logs and necessitated a vast amount of extra labor and expense in getting said logs to their destination—the mill at Williamsport. A score or more suits will be brought at once.

If you are in arrears on subscription remember that April 1st is coming.

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

Give us a trial at your job printing.

Thomas Weaver, of Tylersville, has been granted a pension of six dollars a month.

George Bower, of Carroll, Sugar valley, caught a cub bear in the forest near that place this week. He has the young ter caged.

Harry and Calvin Young, of Boalsburg, left Wednesday for Stevenson Co., Illinois, where both have secured employment.

The ladies of Mt Eagle will hold a social in the school house at that place on the evening of March 15th, for the benefit of the M. E. church.

J. D. Nearhood has taken possession of the Irvin shop at Baileyville and will branch out in the wagon making and blacksmithing business.

Mrs. John Kerstetter, of Millheim, in attempting to reach something on a high shelf, fell from the chair on which she was standing and broke one of her ribs.

The Italians murderers of Ross Stewart, at Karthaus, are still at large and there is little likelihood of them being apprehended as they had sufficient time in which to get out of the region before officers could be put on their tracks.

Charles F. Weaver, of Blanchard, and Miss Mary Cox, of Beech Creek, were united in marriage at the M. E. parsonage in Howard on Tuesday evening 4th by the Rev. G. F. Boggs. We wish the happy couple a pleasant voyage through life's journey.

We learn that Earl Beamer, son of John Beamer, of Phillipsburg, at one time a clerk in Crissman & Brown's drug store, had both eyes blown out as a result of an explosion of chemicals in a chemical works in New Jersey in which he had recently been employed.

Several days ago Hughesville was stirred over the elopement of Russell Sterner, and Miss Florence Shortess, the eighteen-year-old daughter of Rev. J. D. Shortess, pastor of the United Evangelical church who formerly had a charge in Pennsylvania this county.

IN ADJOINING COUNTIES.

John Boose, of Loganton, received another stroke of paralysis and is very low. The drillers on the Gummo farm, near Lock Haven, are now down 130 feet in the fourth sand where the drill was when the stem broke. They are still hopeful of striking oil.

At Cross Forks on Sunday while a number of small boys were fishing drift-wood out of the river they found a lard can containing the body of a baby. The can and its contents had evidently been frozen in the ice all winter.

The last flood broke the river dam at Lock Haven which will give them low water during the summer. Owing to sewerage they fear it will cause pestilence unless it is repaired. It is thought that the P. R. R. will repair it.

At a meeting of the Blair County Commissioners Friday, the county tax rate for the year 1902 was reduced to three mills. The present assessed valuation is nearly \$32,000,000. The former rate of taxation was four mills.

Elmer Gaily, of Atkinson's Mills, Mifflin county, was pulling straw out of a stack and the stack fell over on him. The straw was very heavy with snow and rain, making it very difficult for him to get out. He has been under the doctor's care for several days, but hopes are entertained for his recovery.

A letter from T. G. Hosterman, formerly of Coburn, Pa., says: "Kindly change address of the 'Democrat' that you send to T. G. Hosterman and K. H. Stover, to Arboreale, W. Va., to read Collins, W. Va. We have now a post-office in our town. When we came here last August there was not a house here, but now we have three stores, and seven dwellings." Yours Respt'y, T. G. Hosterman & Co.

Blairsville Courier: Robert Jellison, who has had his burial clothes in readiness for the past twenty years, has taken them from the cedar chest and had them pressed, that they might be in proper shape when his death occurs. This was brought about by the recent death of his sister, Miss Lizzie Jellison, who also had her burial clothing ready for a number of years.

It is cheaper to subscribe for the Centre Democrat than to borrow it each week.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

The Steel Trust is on its mettle. Drum music is not sold by the pound. A bookkeeper rejoices in the name of Adam Upp.

A rich bachelor sometimes makes a poor husband.

Success sometimes depends upon the things we don't do.

For a free country we seem to have a great many bosses.

The young man who sows his wild oats depends upon irrigation.

A woman never proposes until she has good reason to think a man won't.

Some people prefer to believe what they hear rather than what they see.

When an old bachelor likes babies all the women say it's a shame he never married.

Some men get up with the lark, while others want a swallow the first thing in the morning.

We copy the following from the Tones-ta Vindicator, not knowing where the Vindicator man got it: "In a little town in this state the other day a dozen tired and bedragged husbands appealed to the court for some remedy against card and euchre parties. The women had gone duff on the subject of cards and gambling for prizes. One poor devil with his trousers worn through at the bosom and out at the knees said his wife talked nothing but cards. She has won a score of prizes at parlor gambling bouts, gave a euchre party at her home once a week and was out the other nights playing like a fiend at her neighbors."

From the Marietta (O.) Register we learn that the hugging society for the benefit of the North Greenfield church was a brilliant success. Of course it was the girls and women who were hugged, and the men who paid. Handsome females are numerous in North Greenfield, and it is said they sacrificed themselves for the welfare of the church with resignation, much grace, and with a charm acquired by long practice. The scale of prices were fixed by a young lady whose own service we are informed netted a very satisfactory sum, and were as follows: Girls under fifteen years, fifteen cents for a two minutes hug; a short squeeze being only ten cents; over fifteen and under twenty years, fifteen cents; over twenty years and under twenty-five, seventy-five cents; school teachers, forty cents; another man's wife, one dollar; old maids three cents, and no time limit. The church debt was boosted to quite an extent, but some of the more experienced ladies of the church fear the practice may lead to complications, and have protested against a repetition of the social.

Wants Easier Problems.

An exchange tells of a man near that place who wrote his boy's school teacher the following letter:

"Sir—Will you in the future give my son easier some to do at nites? This is what he's brought home two or three nites back: 'if fore gallins of bere will fill thirty to pint bottles, how many pints and half bottles will nine gallins of bere fill? Well, we tried and could make nothin' of it at all, and my boy cried and laughed and sed he didn't dare to go back in the mornin' without doin' it. So I had to go and buy a nine gallon keg of bere, which I couldn't afford to do, and then he went and borrowed a lot of wine and brandy bottles. We filled them and my boy put down the number for an answer. I don't know whether it is right or not, as we split some while doin' it. P. S.—Please let the next some be in water, as I am not able to buy more bere."

A. J. Lindsey, who operates the Bald Eagle Furnace flouring mill, on Tuesday of last week had both bones of his right leg below the knee fractured, and the left severely cut, by the kick of a horse. Farmer Deyer drove to the mill from the Fowler place, and while Mr. Lindsey was examining and admiring a new set of harness Deyer had bought the animal let loose with both hind feet, with the result as stated.

Colonel R. C. Elder, the new commander of Fifth regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania, has announced these staff appointments: Adjutant, Captain James S. Stackpole, of Lewistown; chaplain, Captain J. B. Lloyd, of Altoona, former incumbent under Colonel Theodore Burchfield; regimental clerk, Howard O. Lantz, Esq., of Lewistown, who was formerly connected with the regiment as first lieutenant of Company G.

Special Sunday School Convention.

A special Sunday school convention will be held at Howard, on the afternoon and evening of March 21. Mrs. A. M. Drinkwater, of Williamsport, will speak in the afternoon on primary work and Hugh Cork, of Pittsburg, will speak in the evening on the association's work.