

# The Centre Democrat.

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## OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

An Interesting Story by S. Peck, of Nittany.

### ABOUT THE EARLY SETTLERS

How Grain and Farm Products Were Taken to Market—Teaming Through the Narrows to Derstown—Other Incidents.

A descriptive account of the "fitting" of an early settler into our county, in connection with a graphic account of how teaming was done to Derstown, will add interest to the Centre Democrat's Historical Review, hence a contribution from the pen of Solomon Peck, Esq., of Nittany, "one who was there and knows," is deserving of record as follows:

In the fall of 1845 my father and my grandfather walked from Harrisburg, Pa., to Wolf's Store, Centre county, Pa., to make a visit to Melchoer Poorman and family, a step-uncle of my father's. At this time my father purchased a small place north of Wolf's Store, and in the spring of 1846 he and his family moved to this place; on the first day of April we started from three miles east of Harrisburg, with a covered wagon and three horses hitched to it, with all our belongings packed in the wagon. My mother, with six children, was driven in a carriage up the river to Creamers Ferry, opposite Liverpool, preceding the wagon ten days. When my mother made known to Mr. Creamer, the ferryman, that she and her children would like to cross the river, he said the water is very high, and the wind blowing very hard, and unless the wind would fall he would not undertake to cross. At sunset it got quite calm and we started in a row boat with Mr. Creamer and his two twin sons; the boys took the oars and he had a long pole in hand acting as pilot. On the opposite side we rowed out over two fields before they could land; we then went to my grandfather's house on my mother's side. The reason we had to ferry the river was on account of the high water that spring having taken all the wagon bridges away crossing the river. In ten days when father and the team came across the river, we joined them. My mother and the small children got in the wagon [I walked] and we started, we come by way of Mifflinburg and the Brushvalley Narrows. On the third day of our journey, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, we were at Heberling's tavern, at the east end of the narrows, when my father said to the teamster we would stop for the night; but Mr. Grove, the teamster, objected, he said the day was yet quite long, but father said we have now a fourteen mile narrows to drive through without a habitation, as at that time the old road was still in use, crossing the mountain. However we started into the narrows, going up the big mountain we met a two horse team loaded with shingles and the road but one track wide. In order for the teams to pass the men built a wall to the lower side of the track and cut long poles and pried the shingle wagon out on the wall and then passed and crossed the mountain. At ten o'clock p. m., we came to Spruce Run, in the middle of the narrows, the horses fagged out by crossing the big mountain; there we unhitched, turned the horses to the wagon tongue and fed them; we had fed and some provision along. My mother got out of the wagon and made some coffee over the fire and we ate some supper, then all got in the wagon and slept until morning when we started on our way and landed at our destination about one o'clock in the afternoon.

In the year 1845 Anthony Wolf built a stone grist mill on his land at Wolf's Store; he owned at that time three good farms, all in one body, well improved, a grist mill, sawmill, oil mill, plaster mill, and a store. He was one of the great rich men. John Weaver, Sr., adjoining lands with Anthony Wolf, owned three large farms in one body and a large distillery; he also was one of the great rich men of the place. The farms being well improved yielded large crops of wheat, oats, rye and corn. To thrash the crops by four-horse power machines and to get to market, took a whole winter, as the grain had to be hauled to Derstown [now Lewisburg] on wagons or sleds, about 35 miles. In the winter as soon as the snow would fall and sledding be good, the farmers would get ready to haul grain. They would send word from one to the other that on a certain day we start for Lewisburg—this was done in order to get as many as possible to go at the same time. I would drive a team for some farmer; we would start about four o'clock in the morning; the first stop would be at Stover's tavern at the west end of the narrows, get warm etc. The next stop was in the middle of the narrows where the Half-way House, a tavern, was located. Their we all had to take "a warmer" etc., then we would

go to the next stop at the east end of the narrows, at Heberling's tavern, a stop again; and here we all had to "warm" twice, for it was the last stop to Derstown, where the grain was unloaded, and plaster, salt, etc., loaded up for the next day home, when the usual stops had to be made to get "warm" and even then some few could not keep "warm" they had to carry little stoves in their pockets to "warm" at between stops. The number of teams would vary from ten to fifty. I was along when there were forty sleds in one gang and we had lots of "jolly." My hauling of grain was done in 1854 to 1857 and at that time a man could not step up to the telephone in his own house and say, "Hello, John Walls, what are you paying for wheat now?" The farmers would load up and go and never get less than one dollar.

Andreas Haerter (Harter) was among the pioneers of the east end. He came to Penns valley in 1800-1, from Lancaster county. Arriving at what is known as Wolf's chappel, 2 miles east of Aaronsburg, he left the valley road and with two blind horses struck through woods and thicket in a south-westerly direction two miles, and located a mile south of Aaronsburg, where he settled in what was then a dense wilderness. In his trip over these two miles the thicket was so dense that he had to use his tomahawk to cut a passage for his horses to get through. Here he cleared a tract of land which became one of the richest farms in the county. The next day after his arrival on the spot, with the assistance of his wife, he felled small trees and put up a log hut, filling the cracks with mud. For windows oiled paper was used, and blankets served as a door. This was intended as a home to bridge him over for a year, but he occupied it twelve years as his home, when he built a two story log weather boarded house, still serving as the farm house (1902). He cleared all the land now in the farm, with the assistance of his wife. While clearing a dutch-oven was taken out in which his wife cooked their dinner, moving it from one log-fire to the other, and when the dinner hour arrived the warm meal was carried to the house. His surplus grain Mr. Harter would haul to Reading, the nearest market, requiring five days for the trip, and received 30 cents per bushel for his wheat, and other produce in proportion. During his absence on such a trip his wife remained alone in her log hut with only a dog to protect her and little children. Upon one of these trips while the wife was alone she heard a commotion on the outside, during the night, which indicated that the large dog was having a fight with some wild animal. In her fright she moved tables and such other furniture as was in the room, against the blanket that served as a door to bar out the wild animal should it attempt to enter. Next morning the noble dog was found seriously wounded and almost dead from the injuries received from the animal, which had made its escape. In his trips to Reading, the old pioneer always spent a night in the long Narrows, horses tied to the wagon, while himself crept under the hay and wrapped in a blanket, had the wagon for his bed room. He lived to a ripe old age, although he never wore an overcoat or any under-wear. This is a sample of the lives of the other early settlers in Penns valley. The farm remained in possession of the family, (falling to his son William Harter) until of recent years, when it was purchased by Jacob Moyer R. The children of this pioneer were William, Andrew, John, Jacob, Mrs. Henry Swartz, George, Mrs. George Moyer, all now dead. Their descendants, mostly in Centre county, are numerous.

The old pioneer led a strictly christian life; he was an ardent democrat, the wrongs committed in the days of the alien and sedition laws, persecutions, cutting down liberty polls, etc., by the "federalists," made him a dyed-in-the-wool democrat, and he died in the faith.

### Murder at Brisbin.

Charles Wagner, of Brisbin, was shot and killed by an Italian named Dominico Jericho, at Windber, Saturday night. The shooting took place along the railroad in the outskirts of that place, where two Hungarians had been held up and robbed about an hour before. The Italian claims that Wagner tried to hold him up and rob him and that he shot in self defense. One bullet struck Wagner in the head and another in the abdomen. The Italian has been arrested and the coroner is investigating.

### Joked About Death.

David Ross, of Penfield, a coachman employed by Dr. S. E. Hayes, was joking Wednesday night with the doctor's young daughter, Marguerite, about death. He said: "All I need to do to die is to turn on my left side." The next morning he was found dead in bed, lying on his left side.

## CONFERENCE CONCLUDED

Plenty of Excitement but no One Was Injured

### MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Swallow Controversy was the absorbing Topic—Evidences of Whitewash Applied to Political Preachers.

The Central Pa. Conference of the M. E. church, which assembled in this place March 25th, adjourned Wednesday noon, and will long be remembered by the church and as well by some of its most eminent members who were brought before it on most serious charges.

Although the ordinary business of conference attracts close attention, this time people had little or no concern for this part of the proceeding and the general inquiry was "How is the Swallow case coming along?"

As heretofore mentioned, Dr. Silas Swallow, the fighting parson, of Harrisburg, was on trial before this conference for lying, etc. charges preferred by Rev. C. V. Hartzell, of Harrisburg, and others. In turn Dr. Swallow brought a series of serious charges against his accusers which implicated their integrity and character. They were: Dr. Geo. E. Reed, State Librarian and President of Dickinson Seminary at Carlisle; Rev. J. Wesley Hill, pastor Grace church, Harrisburg; Presiding Elder Ezra H. Yocum and Rev. C. V. Hartzell. To enumerate the various specifications with a history of same and the hearing before the different investigation committees would be tedious. These investigations were all supposed to be secret, but the proceedings leaked out continually.

This controversy at times threatened to break out in the open conference and at times did become exceedingly bitter, strong language was exchanged, but fortunately for the church no open eruption marred the public sessions. There were sympathizers on both sides, with evidence that guilt was not confined to but one man.

The organization of conference, from the Bishop down, from general comment we would judge to have been unfriendly towards Dr. Swallow, and there was a general effort in committees to "whitewash" as much as possible for the purpose of sparing the various accused divines, all of whom were found not guilty, but were badly scared and will be more prudent in the future. Evidence that was damaging, on some trivial technicalities, was ruled out wholesale and at times rulings to suit emergencies would be reversed the same day by the Bishop, and committees were packed with persons who were Dr. Swallow's open and bitter enemies. These allegations were openly made and published far and wide. On the other hand Swallow is declared a disturber, fanatic, agitator, one who speaks before he thinks, etc. and we presume there is more or less truth on both sides of the ugly contention—it always takes two roosters to make a good fight.

### OUR VERSION OF THE AFFAIR.

In this unfortunate controversy everybody is volunteering opinions and giving advice, and for that reason we will have a few words on the issue although we don't belong to the church and it may be none of our business. We believe that 80 per cent. of the M. E. Conference are republicans. When the head men of the church like Bishops Newman and Fowler step out of their pulpits, throw off the ministerial garb, rather forsake their duty, to dabble in politics, travel up and down the country venting their political spleen and are paid fine salaries for such service out of campaign funds, they are open to censure. Of late years, inspired by men like Fowler and Newman, too many others have been nosing in politics for filthy lucre or official preferment.

When Dr. Swallow assailed the corrupt machine (the Quay gang) he prodded some of these political preachers and trouble ensued. Swallow, while he told much truth, probably overstepped the mark. Whenever you run across an anti-Swallow preacher or layman invariably you have a Quayite who is squealing.

Had Rev. Hill, Dr. Reed, Rev. Hartzell and others been attending to the ministrations of the church instead of nosing around political headquarters and kept in their pulpits instead of stumping speaking they would not have suffered from the charges made by Swallow. To our mind the Methodist church will prosper more abundantly if her ministry stay off the political stump, keep away from political spoils, and confine themselves to the greater cause for which they are better fitted.

This advice, we believe, will not be acceptable to some, but there are times when even the ministry need a little ca-

did advice. The pulpit is frequently pouring its hot shot into the sensational, corrupt, yellow press, and by way of a friendly exchange we offer the above for their reflection.

N. B.—The above comment should not be confined alone to the political preachers of the Methodist church. There are others, as well.

In the case of Dr. Swallow the verdict, was that the charges of lying and insubordination are not sustained, but that he is found guilty of highly imprudent conduct and deserving of a reprimand before the bar of the Conference. Dr. Swallow appealed from the verdict to the Judicial Conference, and Bishop Walden stated that the penalty could not then be imposed.

The report of the committee on the Book Room at Harrisburg to the Conference was presented. It affirms that there is no relation existing between the Book Room at Harrisburg and the Central Pennsylvania Conference.

Missionary giving this year aggregates \$51,115 00 which is a large increase.

Dr. Reed's report of Dickinson College, at Carlisle showed an enrollment of 504 students, being a large increase. The following young men were admitted as probationers:

Revs. E. E. Sponsler, Charles W. Briener, J. R. Woodcock, Wm. E. Ruth, S. B. Bidlack, James McK. Riley, Frank T. Bell, Martin C. Fiegal, Otho C. Miller and Samuel J. Pittinger.

The Conference Treasurer presented the following receipts for the year:

Missions	\$51,115
Church extension	3,065
Sunday school union	523
Tracts	468
Freedmen's aid	3,410
Education	4,381
Bible cause	472
Woman's Home Missionary	5,523
Woman's Foreign Missionary	4,94
Conference claimants	4,776
Bishops	2,776

Total amount received..... \$89,713

The Statistical Secretary reported in part as follows:

Paid for building churches	\$15,784.
Parsonages, number 199, valued at	\$49,425.
Old debts paid	\$71,927.
Debts remaining	\$200,786.
Number Probationers	6,042.
Full members	63,640.
Local preachers	148.
Deaths	84.
Number of Baptisms	2,000.
Scholars in the Sunday schools	17,005.

The report of various committees in conference on the condition of the church showed a healthy growth in membership and the improvement of many buildings and acquisition of new properties. It had been an exceedingly prosperous year for this conference.

The members of the Bellefonte congregation are delighted to know that Dr. Shrinier will remain with us another year, as it was feared that Williamsport might secure him. Dr. Shrinier has been one of the most successful and acceptable pastors in this field and this congregation as well as the public fully appreciate his ability and worth.

Conference adjourned Wednesday noon; will meet next year at Altoona, Pa.

### ALTOONA DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS.

- J. Ellis Buhl, Presiding Elder, Altoona.
- Allegheny: John A. J. Williams (supply).
- Altoona: Chestnut Avenue, Joshua K. Lloyd.
- Circle, William L. Chilcote (supply)
- Eighth Avenue, Thomas S. Wilcox.
- Epworth—Abbey, H. W. Hartsock.
- Fairview, Elbert V. Brown.
- Fifth Avenue, Hiles C. Pardoe.
- First Church, Horace L. Jacobs.
- Junata, Emer E. Hart.
- Nimpton Church, Jos. F. Anderson.
- Walnut Avenue, Marshall C. Piper.
- Barnesboro: Harry J. Schuchart.
- Bellefonte: Wilford P. Shrinier.
- Bellwood: William Moses.
- Birmingham: Nathan B. Smith.
- Centre, and Sandy Ridge: George M. Shimer (supply).
- Clearfield: Milton K. Foster.
- J. McKendree Reiley.
- West Side: Charles A. Biddle.
- Irwin: Charles W. Karns.
- Curwensville: John W. Rue.
- Duaneville: Jacob P. Benford.
- Glen Hope: John Yrooman.
- Half Moon: Edwin L. Estinger.
- Hastings: John Horning.
- Holidaysburg: Alfred S. Bowman.
- Houtzdale: Frank W. Leidy.
- Howard: George F. Boggs.
- Karlsruhe: John B. Durkee (supply).
- Lumber City: William C. Wallace.
- Mahaffey: William C. Charlton.
- Martinsburg: Andrew P. Wharton.
- McKees Gap: Henry N. Minnich.
- Milesburg: Richard H. Wharton.
- Unionville: Norman H. Smith.
- Morrisdale: George W. Mellinay.
- Munson: John B. Shaffer (supply).
- New Millport: John C. Young.
- New Washington: John C. Young.
- Oseola Mills: Fletcher W. Hiddle.
- Patton: Edwin H. Witman.
- Penn's Valley: Theodore W. Haven.
- Philipsburg: George D. Penepacker.
- Pleasant Gap: Bert A. Saitter.
- Port Matilda: Elliot S. L. Latschaw.
- Raney: William W. Reese.
- Roaring Springs: George M. Glenn.
- Shawville: Abraham L. Frank.
- Snow Shoe: Theodore S. Faus.
- State College: Edgar B. Heckman.
- Tyrone Columbia Ave.: Isaac Heckman.
- First Church: John A. Wood, Jr.
- Uchaville: Edmund White.
- Wallacetown: Rollin S. Taylor.
- Warriors Mark: Ellisworth M. Aller.
- Williamsburg: Charles C. Snavely.
- Woodland: Robert W. Runyan.
- Bradford: Lewis A. Rudisill, Superintendent of Mount Lake Park Association, Member of Eighth Avenue, Altoona, Quarterly Conference.
- SEBURN: REBERIES—Wilbert W. Cadie.
- SUPERANATES: George Warren, George B. Ague, Benjamin H. Hanlin.

## GUBERNATORIAL MATERIAL

Centre County Can Supply the Democratic Ticket

### A GOOD MAN SUGGESTED

Reasons Why the Nomination of Col. John A. Woodward, is Being Considered—Has Many Qualifications for the Place

"A Wyoming Democrat writes to 'The Record' suggesting Colonel John A. Woodward, of Centre county, as a clean and a new man whom the Democratic party might profitably unite upon as a candidate for Governor. He says Colonel Woodward would make a sweep of the farmer vote, and adds: 'There is no man in the State better known or better liked by the farmers.'"

The above appeared in the Philadelphia Record of March 26th. "The Wyoming Democrat" who suggested Mr. Woodward as a candidate for governor certainly did a good thing. Should the democracy of the state nominate him we would have as strong and capable a candidate as could be presented. No man within the limits of the state is so well known to the farmers, and indeed we can truthfully say, to all classes of people, as is Mr. Woodward.

For years past he has been engaged from November to April in farm institute work. This work has been done with such a degree of energy and ability as to meet, not only the entire approval of the Board of Agriculture and later the Department of Agriculture, but the enthusiastic endorsement of the farmers of the state. Mr. Woodward has done very much in this line of work, more perhaps, than any one man within the limits of our broad Commonwealth to advance agriculture and the interest and education of the individual farmer.

Mr. Woodward is moreover a farmer. For thirty years or more he has given his best efforts to the practical side of farming. What he has taught at the farmer's institutes, as necessary, useful and practicable for the farmer to do, has been wrought out on his farm before he has undertaken to instruct others. Mr. Woodward is not only well educated, as the word is generally used and understood, but is a man of broad culture, and knowledge acquired in the experiences of life that fit him well to fill any position to which he may be called by his fellow citizens.

Mr. Woodward has had quite a large experience in the holding of public positions and the discharge of public duties. Twice has he represented Centre county in the Legislature of the state, and to his credit and honor, it can be said, he came through that hot bed of filth and corruption with his honor and integrity unscathed. During his service in the Legislature he looked well after the interest of Centre county and her institutions, and whatever he could do to advance the educational interests of the state was done.

The two years' service in the Legislature, to a man of his ability, keen observation and faculty to acquire knowledge, go a great way to inform him of the needs, interests and industries of our great Commonwealth.

In 1892, Mr. Woodward was appointed Deputy Executive Commissioner of the World's Fair Commission. To him was entrusted the preparation of the Pennsylvania exhibit, at that wonderful exhibition, and it is not detracting from others nor in any way robbing them of any laurels, to say that the Pennsylvania display in the character of exhibits, showing the mineral, industrial and educational interests of the state, was more complete than any other of the state exhibits.

As the "Wyoming Democrat" says: "Mr. Woodward is a clean and a new man." He is in no way tangled up with or allied to any party faction. He has always supported the party nominees. In different campaigns he has rendered most efficient service to the party not only in the county but in various sections of the state, and no man on the stump made better speeches.

Centre county has furnished three Governors to the state within a period of less than forty-five years, barring the opportunities that the civil war gave a man to do great things, Mr. Woodward, in all that is needed to make a clean, strong and able governor is the equal of any of them.

The democrats of the state will make no mistake should they come to Centre county for their candidate for governor in this campaign. All that is needed in a candidate to win, is found in Mr. Woodward.

### Fears for Doctor Talmage.

The Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, D. D., is lying dangerously ill at his home on Massachusetts avenue, Washington, D. C., and it is feared he will not recover. It is said by friends of the family that a fatal termination would not be a surprise.

## FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

GOOD TIME COMING. The time is coming, pretty soon, When joy will reign supreme; When nature will be all in tune And life a happy dream.

The banker will forget his cares, The laborer all his woes; The lawyer all his legal snares; The scrapper all his foes.

Then men will meet on common ground, The rich and poor, yes, all; And each will shout with joyous sound When Empire cries "Play ball!"

The poor, benighted Hindoo, He does the best he kindo; He sticks to his caste from first to last, And for pants he makes his skindo.

Handy things—gloves. The lay of the land—eggs. A wise man never gives advice until he is asked for it.

Success consists of doi g what you can do and doing it well.

The principal want of mankind seems to be the want of funds. Stealing a watch has caused many a fellow to wind up in jail.

Noah played a great game. He drew pairs and got a full house. The man who sells alarm clocks should do a rousing business.

Some fellows' only idea of a good time is to have a headache next day. A good word in behalf of others costs you little and is worth much.

Oil of eloquence is frequently mixed with water of weak argument. Burglars are not the only people who take things as they find them.

Better be a healthy beggar with a dollar than a prince with dyspepsia. A man never realizes how sick he has been until he gets the doctor's bill.

It sometimes happens that education unfits a man for earning an honest living. Long-winded individuals are usually short when it comes to paying their debts.

When a political candidate has a nightmare it generally takes the form of a dark horse. Everything is now attributed to microbes. The insurance companies are even taking precautions against fire bug.

King Edward has revived the custom of snuff taking. We trust Envoy White-law Reid will learn to sneeze gracefully. They Are Not All Like This

A Nebraska drummer tested how a Battle Creek preacher told the effects of hard times on his congregation. At the conclusion of his sermon he said: "Let all persons in this house who are paying their debts stand up."

Instantly every man, woman and child—with one exception—arose to their feet. The preacher seated them and said: "Now let every person who is not paying his or her debts stand up."

The exception noted, a care-worn, hungry-looking individual, clothed in his last summer's suit, slowly assumed a perpendicular position.

"How is it, my friend," asked the minister, "that you are the only man in the congregation that is unable to meet his obligations?"

"I run a newspaper," he answered meekly, "and the brethren who stood up are my subscribers, and—"

"Let us pray," exclaimed the minister.—Chicago Ledger.

### COLLEGES CONSOLIDATED.

Evangelical Institutions at New Berlin and Meyerstown United.

The Evangelical colleges at New Berlin and Meyerstown were consolidated at a meeting of trustees of the church conference held at Albright College, Myers-town, last Wednesday. The East Pennsylvania, Central Pennsylvania and Pittsburg conference at recent sessions passed favorably upon the consolidation plan and each of the conferences was represented at the meeting.

It was decided to locate the consolidated college at Meyerstown temporarily, and Bishops R. Dubs and W. M. Stanford and Prof. T. C. Bowersox and Revs. W. F. Heil and W. E. Detweiler were appointed a Committee on Permanent location.

Rev. J. D. Woodring, of Reading, was elected president of the college; Prof. C. A. Bowman, formerly president of the Meyerstown College, was elected professor of mental and moral sciences; Prof. A. E. Gobbie, formerly president of the New Berlin College, was elected professor of Latin language and literature.

### Sensible Idea.

The success of one man means much to a community. For instance, if one man succeeds, it encourages others and is the greatest stimulus to ambition. No man should envy the success of his fellows, but should take it as a spur to his ambition, and lift himself up to an enviable place.