OUR HISTORICAL

REVIEW

A Short Sketch Relating to the Huntingdon Presbytery.

ORGANIZED APRIL 15, 1795.

First Church on the Musser Farm East of Penn Hall-Data furnished by Dr. Vantries, Giving Brief History of the Organization.

Our Historical Review for this issue is mainly devoted to the coming dedication. October 8th, of the marker erected over the grave of Rev. Martin and the organization of the Huntingdon Presbytery. This will be matter of historic interest to our Presbyterian readers especially, as well as to others. Facts that herewith appear in print were but vaguely known and would have been lost altogether if they had not been gathered at this time, through interest aroused by the action of the Presbyterv as noted in our Review. We have gathered the material facts relating to the almost forgotten grave of the Rev. Martin and its location, as well as some notes relating to the Huntingdon Presbytery in the pioneer days.

The next meeting of the Huntingdon Presbytery, will be one of historic interest to the Presbyterians especially, and the people of Centre county in general, as it relates to the first organization of that Presbytery, 1795, in Pennsvalley, and of which the Centre Democrat has gathered the facts below, and deems same worthy a space in its Historical Review. The first church of this denomination was a log house said to have been on the Musser farm, about a mile east of Penn Hall, on the road that leads north of the old Condo smith shop to the foot of the mountain. The burial ground is not over a quarter of a mile from the turnpike, on this by-road. Presbytery, we see by its action at Everett, Pa., April 7, 1902, ordered as

"Presbytery will hold its stated October meeting in the Sinking Creek church at Centre Hall, Pa., Monday. October 6th, 1902, at 3:15 p.m. Presbytery resolved to go on Wednesday, October 8th, to the site of the East Penn's Valley church where the Presbytery was organized April 14, 1795, and where the Rev. James Martin, the first pastor of said church, is buried. The Rev. Joseph C. Kelley is requested to defiver a historical address and the Hon. James A. Beaver a Memorial address in connection with the dedicatory exercises of the marker recently erected there by direction of Presbytery."

Presbytery deserves great credit for its action in this regard. All those neglected narratives and incidents of the early days in this county can be rescued from falling into utter oblivion, if they were given for publication by parties conversant with same by memory as related by parents and grandparents. In Linn is recorded the following as to the grave of Rev. Martin :

"An ancient burial-place is that located on the Musser farm, where the old Union Church formerly stood. It was used as early as 1790, although all traces of the early graves have long ago become extinct. The only remaining grave which bears any distinguishable marks is the one of the Rev. James Martin, the pioneer Presbyterian pastor. The following inscription appears upon his tombstone:

"Here lies the body of the Rev. James Martin, Pastor of the first Presbyterian Congregation in Penn's Valley, who died June 20 A. D. 1795, aged about 65 years.

"Deep was the wound, O Death, and vastly wide,

When he resigned his useful preath and died.

Ye sacred tribes, with pious sorrow

And drop a tear at your dear pastor's

*Concealed a moment from our longing eyes.

Beneath this stone his mortal body lies. Happy the spirit lives, and will. we

In bliss associate with his pious dust." This ourial ground contains two markers, the one over the grave of Rev. Martin, and the other has no inscription if rightly informed. The spot is fallen into neglect and was the abode of weeds and other growths as to almost hide it from the view of passers-by. The Huntingdon Presbytery will hereafter keep the spot sacred and have it becomingly cared for as of historic value to that church as well as in the annals of Centre county. Rev. Joseph Kelley, who will deliver the historical address, resides at Williamsburg, Blair county, Pa.

This paragraph, from Linn : "Presbyterian Churches: The first in what is now Gregg was organized before 1789, erected on the Musser place. After Rev. James Martin's death the congregation gradually decreased, and the church passed to the Lutheran and Reformed people. In 1840 a reorganization took place, and the Presbyterians in conjunc-

the hill. Subsequently the Presbyterians erected a place of worship for themselves. Before the reunion the latter were connected with the New School branch of that church. The Methodist people occupy the old building."

As relating to the organization of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, we obtain the following valuable facts from Dr. VanTries, of this place, as of additional nterest upon this subject :

The Presbytery of Huntingdon was formed from a part of the Presbytery of Carlisle, at a meeting of the Presbyterian church held in Philadelphia in May A. D. 1794. The Assembly appointed its first meeting to be held at Mr. Martin's church in East Penns Valley, on the second Tuesday of April 1795, one hundred and seven years ago. The congre-Half Moon." Rev. Jas. Martin accepted a call from these congregations April 15, 1789. He lived on what was known as the Musser place, east of Penn Hall, and the church was erected on his land. He died here on the 20th of June A, D. 1795, about two months after the organization of the Presbytery in his church. He was a native of Ireland, and came to America in 1774. Soon after his death the East term. Penn's Valley church disappears from the records of Presbytery, and the Sinkplace. The East Penn's Valley church building was erected in 1785. It was a plain log structure, seating about 200 people. This was followed by a build-1793. After being remodeled, it served the congregation until 1842, when it was superseded by a handsome brick building costing about \$8000, which was first occupied in 1843. We forbear to say what has become of this building.

At the time of its organization in 1795, the Presbytery of Huntingdon included about 15 counties, extending from the Susquebanna river to the Allegheny

It now contains about 75 congregations. and some 70 ministers, including the counties of Blair, Bedford, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Centre and the greater part of Clearfield county. Each congregation is entitled to be represented at the meetings of Presbytery, by their pastor and one Elder.

WEST PENN'S VALLEY.

This congregation first worshipped in a (Printed through the courtesy of Pennsylvania log school house near the head of Cedar Creek in Harris twp. General Jas. Pot. F. Reeder, Esq , and Edward R. Chamter gave ten acres of ground for a church and burial purposes near Linden Hall both attorneys defend him, which they on Cedar Creek. Logs were hewn and likely will do, as the necessary provision hauled for a church at this point, but it is being made by Mr. Miller to retain was never built. The graveyard alone them. remains to indicate where the Cedar Creek church was begun, but never completed. This old graveyard is situated on the hillside a few rods south east of taken up. First all the petty Commonthe present residence of Mr. George second wife of General James Potter.

was too near Centre Hill for a preachit g The Miller case might be continued into point, the congregation resolved to build the following week. on the Slab Cabin Branch of Spring Creek, about one mile north west of the erected a log building in the year 1794. In this building unfinished, without completed in April 1802. In 1832 they quence. repaired and enlarged this building. It was destroyed by fire on the 18th of issue we give the following relative to April, 1847, about one year after the the episode: entered free of debt January 7, 1872.

1888. A chapel was also built at Boalsburg, in 1892, for the convenience of the | in the latter case. members of the Spring Creek church re-

siding in that vicinity. Sinking Creek and Spring Creek churches were organized in 1780 and were under the same pastorate from 1789 to 1875, a period of 86 years. Their pastor, the Rev. Robert Hamill, D. D., then 1875, acepted a call for all his time from the Spring Creek church at Lemont.

Pine Grove, Bald Eagle and Buffalo Run churches are all children of the Spring Creek church, that is, they are each located in territory covered by the Spring Creek church at the time of its

A church was erected at Centre Hall within the bounds of the Sinking Creek congregation in 1888. The church a Centre Hill has been abandoned as a place of worship for several years. Although Warrior Marks and Half Moon were originally part of the Penn's Valley congregation, yet they soon made other connections. So their subsequent tion with the Methodists built a church on history does not concern us at present.

MURDER TRIALS AUGUST COURT

Frank Beckwith and David Miller May be Called.

SECOND WEEK POSTPONED.

Some Interesting Events in the Career of David Miller-He was not a Model Man-Old Court Records Recount Other Wrongdoings.

tion to the court asking that the customary second week of August court, devoted to the trial of civil cases, be eliminatgregation was then known as "East and ed this term. As in former years, this West Penns Valley, Warrior Marks and likely will be done. During August many of the attorneys with their families are out of town. It also is difficult to aged 6 months and 11 days. obtain the attendance of important witnesses at this season of the year. Cases that naturally should come for trial are continued to the November session.

F. M. Beckwith, the man who shot his wife at Sandy Ridge, last winter, will likely receive his trial at this August In April his case was continued owing to the illness of one of his attorneys W. E. Gray, much against the pro- in a chair at the home of his son Uriah, On the commissioner contest there is ing Creek church at Centre Hill takes its test of the Commonwealth, who urged a at "Sunny-Side" in Spring township, little heard. Bailey, of Ferguson, and this is one



ROBERT ROACH. Grit, Williamsport.)

bers. Esq., separately and desires to have

It is the opinion of some attorneys, that since the second week of court has been cancelled, the two murder trials may be wealth cases would be ground out and Swab. Here repose the remains of the then the Beckwith case would be called, and jurors empanneled also for the Probably thinking that Cedar Creek Miller case and balance discharged.

Last week we published a full account present village of Lemont. Here they of the murder of Robert Roach, near Osceola, on Monday evening of last week, by his father-in-law David Miller. pews, pulpit, floor, ceiling, or windows, There are some conflicting stories as to they worshipped for some time. It was the shooting, but of no material conse-

In addition to our account in the last

Rev. Dr. Robert Hamili had entered David Miller, the man who killed Robupon the pastorate. It was replaced by ert Roach, was a veteran in the civil war a plain frame structure about two years and is a member of the G. A. R. He is after the fire. In this house the congrega- a small stocky man well set, ruddy comtion worshipped for about 25 years. It plexion and sandy mustache. In his was then decided to change the location younger days he was known as a "good to Lemont, the present neat and substan- man," one who could take his own part tial stone structure was built there, and anywhere. His past record will not bear the closest scrutiny. The records in the Cedar Creek was abandoned as a place Prothonotary's office show that in 1857 of preaching soon after the church at one David Miller was convicted for the Slab Cabin Branch was erected. The illegal traffic in liquor and sentenced to congregation has ever since been known a term in the county jail. In 1867 the as the Spring Creek church. The con- records show that David Miller was congregation at State College is a branch victed of larceny and was sentenced to from this church, and a building was the Eastern Penitentiary for 14 months. erected there and dedicated March 18, | There is no doubt but that the present prisoner is the same person mentioned

> The worst feature of his past life is that of bigamy. We are reliably informed that for many years David Miller had two wives, sisters, who occupied the same house with him, one of whom died about a year ago. He is father of seventeen children, eight being born to the one and nine to the other woman. The question is raised as to whether a legal marriage form was observed in either case. These are unfortunate circumstances that surround this case, and for which the prisoner alone is responsible.

Last Thursday evening N. B. Spangler District Attorney, and by his direction, Doctors Reed, of Osceola and Henderson, of Philipsburg, held a post-mottem examination, the result of which revealed the fact that the bullet had penetrated the hip bone and passed through marriage prove a failure.

the large intestine. The finding of the jury of inquest was to the effect that Robert Roach met his death by a gunshot wound at the hands of David Miller.

The murdered man was buried at Os ceola Mills, Thursday at 10 a. m. The funeral services took place in the Presbyterian church.

RECENT DEATHS.

WALTER B. RIDGE :- died at the home of his parents Mr. and Mrs. Jessie B. Ridge, Eagleville, on Sunday morning, July 20th; age 6 months and 8 days. Was The attorneys have prepared a peti- their only child. Interment in the Baptist cemetery.

> GILEN EMERON BOHN :- youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Bohn, born at Millheim, Centre Co., Pa., died of heart failure at the home of his parents, at Stuben Hurov Co., Ohio, July 22nd, 1902,

MARGARET FORTNEY HUNT :- the little daughter of William T. Hunt, of Renovo, died very suddenly Monday, aged about nine months. The little one doin," the boys have not been limbered dear, I know you look it, dear, but I. is the grand-daughter of Ex-Sheriff up, the lubricator is scarce, and that didn't. were brought to Bellefonte Tuesday morning where interment was made.

GEORGE HOUSEL :- Died while sitting boodlers are sad. ing him are his children : Mrs. Richard first ballot. Lutz, Uriah, Foster, Mrs. George Harpster and Mrs. Calvin Gates. Interment at Zion last Saturday.

MISS NANCY PEARCE :- died at her will be at the primaries. home at Potters Mills, on Saturday July 27th, 1902, at the advanced age of eightyseven years. She was the daughter of Rev. Marmaduke Pearce a pioneer Methodist minister, and resided all her life in Centre county, and for many years past, with her. She is also survived by her brother Rev. John J. Pearce, of the Central Pennsylvania Conference M. E. church, and was an aunt of Mrs. Margaret Hutchinson, of Bellefonte, Mrs. Kate Hughes McCormick, of State College, and Charles P. Hughes, Esq., of Erie. Interment at Sprucetown ceme-

JASPER B. WOLF :- a resident of Bellhis sister, Mrs. D. M. Weaver n Bellwood. He had been ailing for about three weeks, but his death was from heart disease. He was born at Wolf's Store, Centre county, and most of his life had been spent there. Recent years had spent in Bellwood. He is survived by his aged mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Wolf, whose home is with her daughter, Mrs. Weaver; two sisters, Mrs. D. M. Weaver, at whose home he died, and Mrs. W. J. Musser, of Orangeville, Ill., who is at present the guest of Mrs. Weaver; one brother J. Newton Wolf, of Garrison, Ia. The funeral service will be held Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Weaver, conducted by Rev. Mathers. Interment in Logan Valley ceme-

THE FAIR GROUND AGAIN O. K.

The Centre County Fair ground, althan the old, and is now an ideal trotting credit to Bellefonte, the county and the of them were seen lingering about Clemhenceforth.

Large Mortage.

A mortgage given by the American Lime trustee, for \$500,000, has been entered for record in the office of the recorder of and Huntingdon counties, are bound by the mortgage, the proceeds of which will be expended in the betterments, of this extensive and valuable industrial plant and the acquirement of other properties.

When a wife has everything in her name she ought to feel protected should

SOME RANDOM

Gossip Gathered From Republican Politicians in the County

THE CONGRESSIONAL FIGHT

Is not Causing Much Commotion-No Inspiration for the Boys-Miller and Bailey Feel Sure of Nomination-McKinley Working

The republican primaries take place on this coming Saturday, naturally there is some activity among politicians. The congressional fight, since W. E. Gray will not be a candidate, is not arousing much comment. Dr. Locke and Clement Dale, Esq., are eying each other closely, but up to this date there has been no inspiration thrown into the campaign. That word "inspiration" may mean various things in politics. In our way we insinuate that "nothin" is Woodring of this city. The remains makes dry bearings at republican primaries. Gen. Hastings being abroad- that they raise potatoes on the South beyond reach-there is little hope; the Side so large as to require the aid of a

some time during Wednesday night 23. Miller, the present minority member of Mose Johnson-Dat liniment you sold In the case of David Miller who last He had not been in good health for a few the board, are doing little canvassing, me did mah wife lots ob good. Druggist week shot and killed his son-in law Robe days and for the last few nights had feeling assured of securing the nomina - - Why, that was horse liniment! You ert Roach at Edendale, near Osceola, it been sitting up in an easy chair, because tion. Ed McKinley, (that poor man of said you wanted it for a horse! Mose ing of the same style, but larger and is not so certain when his case will be he had more comfort that way than by Milesburg with a large family for whom Johnson-Ah did, suh. But dar ain't more costly, erected at Centre Hill in heard. On Monday be sent for Wilbur trying to lie down. Deceased was 75 the Gazette had so much sympathy a nuffin' to good fo' mah old woman-jess years old and had spent most of his life year ago) is out bustling, making a per- vo' understan' dat! in Walker and Spring townships. Years sonal canvass, and is very hopeful of ago he farmed for the Curtins. Surviv- having a showing that will nominate on tended a wedding recently and had a

tests to be decided, and there is so little programe that the especially emotional interest manifested in the result that few feature of the evening occurred. J. J.

The vacancy caused by the death of Dr. John F. Harter has caused quite a crop of applicants for the Deputy Revenue collectorship. The following are some of the names from this county: John Burket, of Stormstown; M. S. Harter, of State College; R. D. Musser, of Spring Mills; H. B. Pontius, W. C. Cassidy, G. W. Rees, Linn Harris, Hard Harris of Bellefonte; John A. Daley, of Romola; and James P. Hale, of Philips-

Every now and then we hear of new returns up to this date. postmasters being appointed in this county, and it always is a republican wood for a number of years, died sud- making way for another republican. dealy Tuesday morning at the home of For quite a while the Love-Chambers-Gray crowd were in the business, rooting up and weeding out all Insurgents. Now the other process is in progress. The Hastings-Reeder faction are taking a hand at the same game. Over the county there are some exceedingly uneasy officials who will be lopped off unless they toe the mark and fall in line. Even here in Bellefonte aspirants are hustling around to get in W. W. Montgomery's post office shoes. His term of four years paid. will expire next March and a number are figuring. The reason for this is that the appointment of Mr. Montgomery was made in direct disregard of the wishes of the ex-Governor, who championed Sam Williams at the last. It was considered a humiliation to Hastings and we believe he accepted it accordingly. General Hastings always stands by his friends and in this case may not change his course, although Mr. Montgomery is one of our most prominent nost ruined by the great flood last win- citizens, is a splendid official and we beter, has been put in first class trim again, lieve has given the community the most and will be better than previous to the efficient postal service. Such is the conflood in all respects. The race track dition of affairs, and we know several aphas been replaced and will be more solid plicants are now after the appointment.

During the past few days republican course. The buildings are in good shape politicians and postmasters have been for exhibits, the ball ground is fine and dropping in town like the fellows on will delight the lovers of the game. The show day, here purely on private busimanagement has spared no expense in ness. It is an indication that they came restoring the fair ground to all purposes to get the proper tip and the result of the for which it is intended, and it will be a primaries may explain that. Very few Fair Association. Farmers are now safe ent Dale's flaw offices, and that fact is in getting ready for the next Fair which significant. Mr. Dale naturally feels will open Sept. 30 and continue Oct 1, 2, that the prominence and strength of the and 3. The fair will no doubt exceed Dale family should entitle them to rethe previous two fairs, as the Association spectful consideration. They have not is resolved that Centre county shall have been office holders and for years have a first class county fair this year and been ardent loyal supporters of the party by voice and vote.

"Hoy" Family Reunion.

The children and grandchildren with and Stone company, of Tyrone, to the many invited guests, assembled Thurs-Girard Trust company, of Philadelphia, day 24, at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. Hezekiah Hoy on his beautiful farm in Benner township, near Bellefonte, deeds, in Centre county. Forty-nine to celebrate the annual reunion of their tracts of land, situated in Blair, Centre family. Those present were Jacob Hoy, wife and children; Henry, wife and children; Ursinius, wife and children; Clayton Royer, wife and children; Grant Pifer, wife and children; Mrs. Dr. Shuey, of wife and children; Mrs. Dr. Shuey, of Ohio, and Miss Carrie Hoy, of Bellefonte.

There were seventeen grandchildren in evidence. At the proper time they were all invited to sit down to an appropriate of the former events, promises to be a howling success. There will be loads all invited to sit down to an appropriate of fun for all, great and small-co repast which all thoroughly enjoyed.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

POINTERS Bright Sparkling Paragraphs-Selected and Original.

> Eating pie makes a dyspeptic crusty. Tears are to a woman what cuss words are to a man.

The chiropodist makes his patients acknowledge the corn.

When a fellow is on his uppers he generally feels downcast.

A good many prize fighters seem to be interested in paper mills.

The shoemaker expects his customers

to get there with both feet. It is said that coeducation transforms

college into match factories. One can't judge a man's character by

his hat as it's frequently put on.

Rain is essential to the success of crops. It even takes rain to raise umbrellas.

The girl with freckles may not have trouble with her eyes, and yet she wears

She-Everybody says you married me only for my money. He-But I didn't,

The Williamsport Evening News says four foot iron bar to pry them out of the ground. They must be "whoppers" or

The editor of the Oil City Blizzard atcurious experience. He says in com-That is about the substance of the con- ment : It was during this feature of the Anderson, father of the bride, who never before had shed a tear, found several of them rolling down his sunburned cheeks as he came forward to kiss the bride, remarking that she was his 'last baby.' Immediately several of the ladies began to shed tears, everybody was somewhat excited, and in the slight confusion the writer hereof found himself embracing a lady who stood conveniently near and who proved not his wife. He immediately apologized to the lady and was forgiven. He apologized again, later on, to his wife, with no very definite

NEWSPAPER LAWS.

Some Rules that it Would be well for Subscribers to Understand.

The following rules are laid down by the Government for the protection of

Subscribers, who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscription. If subscribers order the discontinuance

of their periodicals, the publishers may continue to send until all arrearages are

If subscribers move to other places without informing publishers, and papers are sent to the former direction. they are held responsible. The courts have decided that refusing

to take periodicals from the office before removing, and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intention-If subscribers pay in advance they are

bound to give notice to the publisher at the end of that time, if they do not wish to continue taking it; otherwise the publisher is authorized to send it on, and the subscriber will be responsible until an express notice, with payment of all arrears, is sent to the publisher. It is a dangerous trick for a man to al-

low his subscription account to run on from year to year unpaid, and tell the postmaster to mark "refused," or to send the editor a notice to discontinue the paper.

Bucktail Reunion. The sixteenth annual reunion of the

Bucktail regiment will be held at DuBois on Sept 16, 17 and 18. Only 294 men survive of the total enlistment of 1198, who came down the Susquehanna river on rafts at the breaking out of the Rebellion. The writer on the Democrat had the honor of being a guest in the camp of the bucktails.

Postoffices Discontinued.

Owing to the establishment of rural delivery mail routes in College township the postoffices at Shingletown and Houserville have been discontinued and become part of State College office. The new rural delivery route from

Zion will open on Friday of this week, with Franklin Grove as carrier.

Fantastic Carnival.