# The Centre Democrat.

# CHAS. R. KUR ', Proprietor,

# BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1902.

# VOL. 24. NO. 35-4

# AUGUST COURT

Postponed.

# BECKWITH MURDER TRIAL ON

Large Number of Witnesses Present-Disposed of-Attendance Large this cases was imposed by the court. Week-Reported by S. D. Gettig.

This Thursday morning, the court having cleared up most of the Commonwealth cases, the Beckwith murder trial was called. F. W. Beckwith, of Hannah, Ridge, Pa., February 16th, 1902, because she had been unfaithful to him. The case will be a hard-fought one is assured from the array of legal talent employed. Judge John G. Love will sit in the case. District Attorney Newton B. Spangler will be assisted in the prosecution by Edward R. Chambers, a successful criminal William E. Grav, C M. Bower and Ellis will be that of unsound mind and the great provocation he endured

gone against the defendant.

August sessions of court convened ou Monday morning with Judge Love on the bench, and considerable time was consumed in hearing motions and petitions, returns of sale of real estate in the Orphans' Court, appointing guardians, appointing road viewers and presenting of auditors reports.

List of grand jurors called and Jared Harper, a retired merchant of Bellefonte, was chosen foreman, and after being fully instructed in their duties and the various grades of crime and their attention called to the nature of some of the indictments to be laid before them by the District Attorney, retired to their room to pass on the several bills.

Returns of the constables of the several townships and boroughs of the county were then taken, and such as required handed to the District Attorney for his attention at next session.

cannot write and that his sister wrote his name to the note at his direction and PROCEEDINGS that he does not know how Mr. Shamp's name got on the aote, in this he was corroborated by the sister, who signed the The Miller-Roach Murder Trial name of the defendant. Verdict on Tuesday morning of guilty as indicted, and

will be sentenced later in the week. Com. vs. Edward Kane, indicted for betrayal, prosecutrix Effie Krumbine. This case is from Spring township and Centre Hall. The defendant plead A Grist of Commonwealth Cases guilty and the usual sentence in such Com. vs. J. Frank Uzzle, charged with

assault and battery; prosecutor John Hill. Bill ignored and the prosecutor to pay the costs.

Com. vs. J. C. Nason, charged with assault and battery ; prosecutor William is indicted for shooting his wife at Sandy Donley. Bill ignored and the county to pay the costs.

Com vs. J. C. Nason, charged with assault and battery; prosecutor Alfred Weaver. Bill ignored and the county to pay the costs.

Com. vs. Myrtle Myers, indicted for first count larceny, second count receiving stolen goods; prosecutor Robert lawyer. Beckwith will be defended by Spicer. This defendant, prior to May 1st, of the present year, had been mak-L. Orvis. There are about 125 witnesses ing her home with the prosecutor and is summoned for the trial. The facts of about nineteen years of age, and some the shooting are admitted. The defense time after the noon hour on the first of May she took from the drawer of a stand in an upstairs room seventy-five dollars Superstitious persons are predicting and then walked with the prosecutor to Beckwith's conviction because of the fact Bellefonte. During the afternoon she that his case is No. 13. April term. An made some purchases at several places inspection of the court docket shows that in town and then took the 4:44 train and with very few exceptions No. 13 has went to Greensburg, Pa., where she was arrested sometime afterwards and brought and lodged in jail, where she has been since. She plead guilty and made a clean confession of it, and after hearing the statements of the defendant and the Commonwealth's counsel, the court remanded her back to jail, and

will pass sentence later. Henry Hoy, of Millheim, was discharged under the insolvent laws of the Commonwealth.

Levi E. Miller was discharged under the insolvent laws of the Common wealth. Com. vs. George Walker alias Elijah Record, indicted for first count larceny, second count entering with intent to steal, third count receiving stolen goods; prosecutrix Carrie M. Holt. On the night of the 15th of June last the horse buggy and harness of the prosecutrix was taken from her stable about one mile

A COLONY OF OCTOROONS

Founded on the Borders of Centre County.

STRANGE ROMANCE RETOLD

Girl Fell in Love With an Escaped Slave -Forsook Comforts of Home, and Friends-Where Spooks, Witches and Superstition Prevail.

The roar of the trains on the new West Branch Railroad, just opened, disturbs the slumbers of one of the strangest communities in the State. The shricks of the locomotives will drive out of that neighborhood witches that up to this time have held unbroken sway, and the superstition that grew from childhood in the minds of the incongruous race that inhabit this queer neighborhood may soon be dissipated by the daily visits of new people. For So years both witches and superstition have found in this unique community of octoroons most flourishing soil. This isolated community is found on the very tops of the Allegheny Mountains, in the western county, but a few miles from the border line of Centre county. There, more than hemlock forests.

The negroe's name was Smoke, and he was a magnificent specimen of man, physically. He was then but 23 years of age and had escaped from the South a year before. Though followed to Harrisburg by men sent out by his master, the young negro managed to reach Williamsport. There he was employed by a man of considerable wealth. The negro was without a name, and because of his peculiar brown complexion his new master gave him the name of Smoke. The daughter of the household, a handsome girl of 20 years, became infatuated with the negro, and one night they ran away together. It was 10 years before anybody knew where they had gone, when one day a lumberman going through the hemlock forests of West

had been incinerated in his own mill that night. TRIED THEIR SPELLS IN VAIN. Then came the story of a white dove that flitted tirelessly back and forth at all hours of night, as though seeking

someone in whom to confide a secret. And old women consulted works on witchcraft and tried their alleged occult power, but John Rohn's body would not be unlocked from its secret grave. Nowaday-or nights-at a certain cross road, it is said that a gray-haired, decrepit ghost makes its appearance, and again the scrawny fingered women are seeking aid from the supernatural by which to solve the mystery of the apparition. But the reverberation of the West Branch freight engine whistles has broken the spell that so long bound the West Keating township. Sleepy Hollow set-

tlement, and the ghosts and the witches and the spooks will have to seek new quarters .-- Record.

# \$20,000 IN DRY GOODS BOX.

Two Very Uncomfortable Days Spent by a Clearfield Man.

Speaking the other evening of "old times" in Clearfield, in the days before man was his own banker and every business man invariably kept all his cash in and about his premises, "Jim" Moore told of a couple of uncomfortable days spent by his uncle, the late Judge Leon-

That spring the judge had a large amount of timber on the river and was fortunate in getting everything through to Marietta. There he sold at a good price and went to Philadelphia to buy a year's supply of goods for the general store of Leonard & Moore, then located on Second street, where the Mc-Gaughey office building stands.

At Philadelphia he purchased everything he wanted and had over \$20,000 in cash left. He did not feel like carrying all the money home on his person, so he decided to place \$20,000 in one of the large boxes containing the dry goods purchased from Hood, Bonbright & Co. An being so small as not to be seen, and arrangement was made by which this their bite, burning hot as sparks of fire amount was concealed in one of the packor hot ashes. One of the converts relatages and placed in a certain "W" box ed the following Indian myth : that the which the judge marked so he or anyone aforecited Indian hermit and sorcerer. properly instructed could identify it. after many years having been killed by The goods were then shipped by freight one, who had burned his bones. The over the Pennsylvania to Tyrone, from Keating township-nearly 100 miles which point they would be hauled to

Notes From the Expedition of John Ettwein, 1772.

## MEANING OF PUNXSUTAWNEY

**OUR HISTORICAL** 

Some of the Difficulties and Perils Encountered in Traversing the Unbroken Forests-Methods of Securing Food.

From Rev. John Ettwein's Notes of Travel from the North Branch of the Susquehanna to the Beaver River, Pennsylvania, 1772, we copy that portion of his journey through this section of the state, as of local interest : (Concluded from last week.)

July 17 .- Advanced only four miles to a creek, that come out from the northwest.\* Had a narrow and stony spot for our camp.

\*Anderson's Creek, in Pike Township. July 18 .- Moved on without waiting for Roth and his division, which on account of the rain had remained in camp. Today Shebosch lost a colt from the bite of a rattlesnake. Here we left the West Branch three miles to the northwest up banks and trust companies, when every the creek, crossing it five times. Here the path led precipitately up the mountain to the summit, to a spring, the first waters of the Ohio.\*

\*Probably the sources of the north branch of the Mahoning, which rises in Brady Township, Clearfield County, and empties into the Allegheny, ten miles above Kittanning. July 19 (Sunday) .- As yesterday, but two families kept with me, because of the rain, but we passed a quiet day and dried our effects. In the evening the ponkis were excessively annoying, so that the cattle pressed towards and into our camp, to escape their persecutors in the smoke of the fires. This vermin is a plague to man . and beast, both by day and night. But in the swamp, through which we were now passing, their name is legion, and hence the Indians call it Ponks-uten-ink i. e. "the town of Ponkis"-The word is equivalent to living dust and ashes, the vermin FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

REVIEW Bright Sparkling Paragraphs-Selected and Original.

A SONG OF GROWTH.

Ip the heart of a man Is a thought unfurled : Reached its full span It shakes the world. And to one high thought, is a whole race wrought.

Not with vain noise The great work grows, Nor with foolish voice, But in repose-Not in the rush, But in the hush.

From the cogent lash of the cloud-herd wind The low clouds dash. Blown headlong, blind; But, beyond, the great blue Looks moveless through.

O'er the loud world sweep The scourge and the rod, But in deep beyond deep Is the stillness of God-At the Fountain of Life No cry-no strife !

Of all sweet words of tongue or pen That women can bestow The sweetest words to her are when She says: "I told you so!"

Cast iron-quoits. If a man has hives let him be. Curiosity uncovers a multitude of sins. A boil on the stove is worth two on the

neck. It's the deaf man who wants a little hear below.

Marriage and colic are two things that double us up.

The scissors has no trouble in making both ends meet.

The clothing salesman has got to be clothes-mouthed.

If a barber's sharp that's the way he'll keep his razors.

Even the most expensive balloon can be bought for ascent.

It's strange that the longer an account runs the longer it stands.

It's easy by taking up a collection to get the cents of a meeting.

The man who keeps a speak-easy seems to think that Sunday is Thirstday. It's strange that the more industrious a smuggler is the more he shirks duty. There's plenty of room at the top, but not at the top of a church steeple.

RUSSELL SAGE.

wind blew his ashes into the swamp and Says Combinations of all Industries are

part of West Keating township, Clinton So years ago, a negro and a white woman who had eloped from Williamsport, "squatted on a section of wild land, and ard, back in the spring of 1857. began to hew a small farm out of the

RAN OFF WITH THE NEGRO.

The civil trial list was gone over and the following cases disposed :

D. W. Johnstonbaugh vs S. R. Pringle, an appeal from judgment of a justice of the peace. Continued by agreement.

M. Shires vs Peter Mendis, an appeal from the decision of a justice of the peace ; plea non assumpsit. Settled.

Lizzie Bible and Anna Bible vs Borough of Centre Hall, an appeal from judgment rendered by Squire Keichline; plea non assumpsit. Continued.

Catharine J. Thomas vs. overseers of the poor of Benner township, an appeal from judgment of Squire Harshberger ; plea non assumpsit. Settled.

H. Y. Stitzer, now for the use of F. W. Crider vs. H. H. Benner, who survives Lydia Benner and H. H. Benner and Harry C. Baney, heirs at law of Lydia Benner, deceased, and Robert V. Miller, terre tenant, summoned in scire facias sur mortgage, plea nil debit. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$1191.30 and an attorney's commission of forty-five dollars.

Samuel T. Dixon vs. overseers of the poor of Snow Shoe township, an appeal from judgment rendered by J. M. Keichline, J. P., plea non assumpsit. This case is brought to recover for the burial of a daughter of John Sarvey, by the plaintiff who is an undertaker at Snow Shoe, sometime in the early part of 1899, and a charge made in plaintiff's book against John Sarvey and afterwards the plaintiff had his bill approved by two justices of the peace. At the close of plaintiff's case the defendants moved a compulsory non suit, which was granted, and at the same time a rule was granted on the plaintiff to show cause why non suit should not be stricken off; returnable at argument court.

Same vs. same. This case is brought to recover for the burial of a child of Catharine Miller some time in 1897. Case disposed of the same as the preceding case. Both of these suits were tried together.

Com. vs. Bruce Yarnell, indicted first count forgery, second count uttering and publishing forged papers ; prosecutor A. J. Lytle. After some negotiating Robrt Campbell, of near State College, sold his horse and buggy to the defendant in the fall of 1901, taking in payment therefor a cow valued at sixteen dollars and a judgment note dated November 6th. 1901, for balance of seventy-four dollars, purporting to be signed by the defend-ant and P. W. Shamp. Mr. Shamp is the grand-father of the defendant and with libel; prosecutor swears positively that he never signed this note. The defendant swore that he

east of Curtin, in Boggs township. The sorrel mare was valued at one hundred and twenty-five dollars, the buggy at from twenty-five to thirty dollars and the

harness at about ten dollars. The officers were at once notified and it was learned that a stranger took dinner at Frank Gettig's in the neighborhood, who said he was from Cambria county and suspicion centered on him, and on the morning of the 30th of June Mr. Gettig

saw this same man near Keiffer Leathers, and notified the officers and he was followed to Mill Hall where he was placed under arrest. When apprehended he had a horse, harness and cart, and the harness was identified as that of Miss Holt's, and he was brought to Bellefonte and lodged in jail, when it was learned that the horse was at Brookville, Jefferson county, the prosecutrix then, in company with the county detective, went to Brookville, where it was found that the horse was traded to a man by the name of Paff, a liveryman in that town, but was identified by the prosecutrix and brought back. The defendant having stated to Mr. Paff that he was from

Mt. Jewett, and that he wanted a larger horse for his business of hauling. At the close of the Commonwealth's case, the defendant changed his plea from that of not guilty to that of guilty. The court then sentenced him to pay the costs of prosecution, one dollar fine and six years in the penitentiary.

Com. vs. Jos. Resides indicted first count cruelty to domestic animal, second count cruelty to domestic animal causing death; prosecutor Wm. A. Carson. This case is from Spring township and the defendant was in the employ of the prosecutor on the farm for some time prior to July 21st, and on that day was put to driving for his employer at the mine bank and drove during that week, and on the following Saturday night one of the horses he had been driving died. The Commonwealth alleged that during the week the defendant was driving at the mine bank, that he frequently beat this horse with a club, and this could have caused the death; on the other hand the defendant denied cruelly beating the horse. Verdict, on Tuesday afternoon, of guilty on the first count in the indictment.

On Tuesday afternoon the case of Commonwealth vs. David Miller, being for the killing of Robert Roach near Edindale was continued on account of the illness of E. R. Chambers, one of the coun-

Com. vs. J. C. Hosterman, charged with libel; prosecutor J. H. Reifsnyder.

(Continued on page 4)

from Williamsport-came upon the little Clearfield on wagons. farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Smoke. He

recognized in the white wife of the negro the daughter of the Williamsporter. But in that 10 years both her parents had load and particularly charged him to died. She had become the mother of bring the box containing the money, four children. She was contented, and preferred not to hear anything about her money.

### A QUEER COMMUNITY.

old home.

Today there is in West Keating town- lar to get the box described by the judge. ship, as the gradual outgrowth of that and started on his return trip. The roads union, a community of prettier young women, more homely men and more superstitious old women than can be found between the cover of a novel. Girls with complexion pink as an apple blossom; teeth like rows of carved ivory; eyes as languorous as the sun that lingers long in the lap of the evening; forms plump as the lambs that bleat in the daisy cap. of the road at the Herxthal store, unped meadows-but with hair that has hitched his team and rode to his home, about it the unmistakable kink of the two miles distant, leaving the "store African.

The homes there are little, ramshackle dwellings-part poles, part logs, part boards-overrun by grapevines and ivy, while in the little gardens grow rows of sage, tansy, coriander, pennyroyal and evening and when they did not arrive matherworth-bitter, ill-smelling herbs that are used in the making of teas and brews calculated to drive out bad spirits, fear, for in those days highwaymen were and which, when taken with whisky or huckleberry wine, are supposed to be panaceas for about all the ills to which flesh is heir.

MAN DISAPPEARED MYSTERIOUSLY.

Public attention was first prominently drawn to this odd community four years ago, when John Rohn, a wealthy lumberman, whose home is not far away, dropped out of sight one morning, since which time his disappearance has been an unfathomable mystery, The last seen of Rohn was when he crawled over a fence at the edge of a woods, disappearing therein. 'From that moment to this, though hundreds of men have searched high and low, not a scintilla of information as to his whereabouts has been secured. But it was not a month until the wrinkled old women of the octoroon settlement were wagging their tongues and shaking their heads in strange stories concerning the old man's disappearance. One old woman, looking across the fields at midnight from her bedroom window, saw blue, ghastly flames in the boiler room of the Rohn saw mill; a yellow smoke rolled from the stack against the starlit sky and now and then she could discern in the boiler room the black form of a man hurrying to and fro. For days and days this old woman's story was the talk of the neighborhood, and everybody believed as she did-that Rohn's body

When the woods were due at Tyrone. July 20 .- We traveled on through the Judge Leonard sent the late Samuel P. Wilson, of Bradford township, over for a

without telling him anything about the Mr. Wilson went to Tyrone and loaded his wagon with goods, being particuwere very bad that spring and instead of reaching Clearfield on Saturday as both he and the judge expected, it was late that night that he found himself at Wood-

land with a very tired team. Not knowing there was anything but "store goods" in the load Mr. Wilson stopped at Woodland, drove to the side goods" and the \$20,000 standing out on the road unprotected from thieves or the

elements. Judge Leonard expected the "goods" in Clearfield not later than Saturday until Monday the two intervening days were passed amid much misgiving and numerous in these parts and "holdups" on the highways were not infrequent. But when Sam Wilson's team hove in sight early Monday morning with the particular box intact in his load all fears were dispelled .-- Clearfield Republican,

WAS A FINE SUCCESS.

The Reunion of Former Residents of Centre County Saturday.

There were about seven hundred people at the reunion of ex-Centre countains, who now reside in Blair county, at Glasgow's park near Bellwood on Saturday last. The weather was ideal and the pleasure of renewing acquaintances occupied much of the early part of the day. After dinner a business meeting was held and the following officers were chosen to serve during the ensuing year: President, Dr. A. R. Markel; first vice president, A. Bucher; second vice president, S. J. Musser; treasurer, Samuel Felty; secretary J. W. Smith.

Addresses were made from the platform and the Tyrone Symphony orches-tra provided instrumental music to the tra provided instrumental ight of the picnickers. Samuel Davis, who is aged 86 years, was the oldest per-son present. He carried a caue which was made in Germany one hundred and fifty years ago. There were present quite a number of persons from State College, Pine Grove Mills, Boalsburg, Oak Hall, Centre Hall, Spring Mills, Millheim, Bellefonte and Milesburg.

they became living things the ponkis.

swamp, and after five miles, crossed the path that leads from Franktown\* to Goshgoshink and two miles beyond this point, encamped at a run [a branch of the Mahoning.] At five o'clock p. m. came Peter, Boas and Michael, with fourteen unbaptized Indians from Langundontenink, to meet us, with four out to hunt, and in half an hour Michael brought in a deer to my fire. Esther hunted up the large camp-kettle, and soon all hands had their fill of venison and rice. That night and the tollowing morning, there were four deer shot by my company.

Located in Venango.

July 21 .- The rear division came up, and the destitute, viz. such as had lived solely upon meat and milk, were supplied each with one pint of Indian corn. We proceeded six miles to the first creek, and camped.

July 22 .- We journeyed on four miles, the first fork, where a small creek, comes down from the north.

July 23 .- Again, today, four miles to the second fork-to a creek coming in from the south-east.

July 24 .- The path soon left the creek. over valleys and heights to a spring. We now had left the swamp and were free from the plague of ponkis. Huckelberries were found in abundance, which were enjoyed. Our today's station was five miles, and about so far we advanced

July 25 .- Encamped at a salt lick, where we kept a religious service, three miles from the large creek, which run in a horse shoe and which is navigable for canoes when the water is high. It is a where the Ohio is struck, whereas by four strings of fish.

(convert) Nathaniel Davis and others, hav got Anof to Atten to Enny Business, who up to this time had brought up the am Strictly Morrel. Don't use Tobacco rear, came to my camp. Both preached Nor Whiskey." He is anxious to have in the morning and I at evening. At her understand that her "Age, Compleckthis place a sufficiency of fish were taken tions, wait and All Suits me to atee, Kind to supply the entire camp, large pike Loving Girl, I have only one Thing to and salmon, but especially a large offer, And it is Neither Lands Nor Gold. species unknown to us all resembling But a Strong Arm and a True Hart, and the sheepshead, in these parts called the will Lay Down My Life for the Rite Girl Buffalo-fish. In place of a skull they had two small white stones (probasis?) Alone. The Girl that Steels my Hart lying towards each other-the mouth re- and takes my Name for the Remainder sembles that of a sucker, but without of My Life I will make Happy, for i am teeth; instead in the throat, it has two Hunting a Girl that i can idleise and

a Menace to-True Government.

Russell Sage, in an interview, referred to a published statement, quoting J Pierpont Morgan as saying that the era of great trusts had just begun, and that more gigantic corporations are stored in the near future, some of which may overshadow the steel trust. Mr. Sage says : "Whether Mr. Morgan said that or not, combinations of all industries are a menace to true government. Not only so, but they are the oppressors of the people."

"What will be the result of such an era ?" asked a reporter,

"In such an event the American people will revolt against them and there will be financial ruin, the like of which this country has never seen-or any other." It was suggested to Mr. Sage that there was a general opinion that combinations at certain times were good things for the country.

"Yes," Mr. Sage replied, "when several industries are starting out in business it is well for individuals to combine for mutual protection until the business is firmly established. When the business is so established, the combination should be disrupted and conducted on individual lines. Then if one individual became embarrassed it would not mean the wrecking of the industry. I believe it is best to have such industries divided among several individuals rather than combined into one great combination, the embarrassment of which would mean the ruin of all,"

**REPLY TO MATRIMONIAL "AD."** 

The following letter was sent by a Mississippi man in answer to a matrimofour days journey by water to this point, nial "ad :" "I cloas my photegraf with my Full Description. It shows the featand, the point can be reached in one ures are nachel as can bee, only it is day. Some of our young people went to dark; I am very lite Complexion Grey the creek to fish, others to hunt, and at eyes, Orbon hair 6 feet high, weight 190 sunset they came in with two deer and Lbs., inclined to be humped shouldered ; A Muskler man and a widower 28 years July 26 (Sunday) .- Early today Anton old, with a common school Equation, but and Be happy for I am Tired of living Make a Angel of."

(Continued on page 8).