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# PRESBYTERIANS IN PENNSVALLEY Members of the Church Over fifty Years ago

SKETCH BY DR. VAN TRIES

Reminiscences of the Sinking Creek Church-Dedication of the Marker ing of Presbytery

Ed. DEMOCRAT :-- You sometime ago pubished a brief history of the Presbyterian church in Penns Valley, in connection with a notice of the meeting of Huntingdon Presbytery to be held at Centre Hall, October 6, 1902. As it may be of interest to some of your readers, I herewith present a list of the ruling elders, and older male Creek Presbyterian church at Centre Hill, Ta., fifty years ago (A. D. 1852) with some reflections upon the decline of Presbyterianism in that valley.

RULING ELDERS.

William McCloskey Esq., John W. Irvin, Joshua Potter, Sr., William Milligan. MALE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS.

Dr. Wm. I. Wilson(E) James Potter Dr. Wm. I. Wilson(E) James Potter Sam'l Van Tries (E) John M. McCoy John Benner John Hewes David Wasson Walter Aitkins Robert McCormick William Kerr (E) John Milligan John R. Gilliland Joseph Carson (E) John A. Krise Phillip Foster James Barber John A. Krise Phillip Foster James R. Foster Thomas Mayes George W. Boal Thomas Lingle Dr. Jas. P. Wilson David Brisbin William W. Love James Love Robert Lee Guyan Irvin John Leach Robert Ross muel R. Patton Samuel K. Patton Wm. Burnside (E) Gen. Jas. Irvin Alexander McCoy Francis McCoy Elijah C. Hewes Enjah C. Hewes John Gemmill Daniel Sherrick William Aitkins Thomas Sankey Alexander Kerr James A. Boozer Robert Gilliand David Gilliland ohn Goodhart Jeorge Woods amuel Huston ohn S. Foster Richard Conley Francis Alexander Robert Watson James Lingle Jank Brisbin ohn Love ohn Lee, Sr. riah hn Ross as Davis

Those persons having (E) after their names were elected ruling elders after This list has been prepared from hemory, aided by a number of the older citizens and church members. Possibly there may be some errors or omissions in it. In the days of his boyhood and early manhood the writer knew all of these men. Most of them were well-to-do, and comfortably fixed in life. A number of them hy. Nearly all of them w then men of middle life, or past it. So it is perhaps not strange that not a man of them is living today. This list does not include any of the many excellent Christian women belonging to the church at that time : nor their sons and daughters, many of whom were then active and efficient members of the church. The Spring Creek or Slab Cabin church became the successor of the old West Penns Valley or Cedar Creek church. This congregation and the Sinking Creek church at Centre Hill were both organized in 1780, and were included in the same pastoral charge from 1789 to 1875, a period of eighty-six years. It would occupy too much time and space to give the history of baskets. their different pastors during all these years.

true of the young people, the fault does **OUR HISTORICAL** not lie entirely with them. The tempting iducements held out to farmers to settle in the far west have induced many of maturer years to cast their lot in that eldorado of farm life. Unfortunately, these same influences have wrought like results among nearly all our country churches.

Yours truly, THOS. C. VAN TRIES.

SPRING MILLS AND AARONSBURG. Knowing your special interest in local at Penn Hall, October 6th-Meet- history, I herewith add a brief sketch of the Spring Mills and Aaronsburg churches, omitted in your article of July 31.

The History of Presbyterianism in Penn's Valley would be incomplete without a reference to these churches. Previous to the division of the Presbyterian church into Old School and New School by the disruption of 1837, these churches were part of the Sinking Creek congregation and worshipped with it. Somemembers and adherents of the Sinking time after the division of the church, they connected themselves with the New School branch. This separation from the mother church was perhaps due more any very serious doctrinal differences. In 1842 they erected the neat and attractive building still standing at Spring Creek; thence a direct line to the head-Mills. They owned a third interest in the German Reformed church building at Aaronsburg, and worshipped in it for the Sasquehanna to the place of beginmany years. They also had a small ning. church at Hublersburg. Their ruling Elders fifty years ago were Dr. Charles Coburn, Peter Wilson, Thomas Huston, and Thomas Hutchinson.

The most prominent male members and adherents at that time were James Duncan, John Foster, James P. Coburn, Wm. Cook Duncan, Dr. R. F. Van Valzah, David Duncan, Samuel Woods, Robert Cook, Anthony Carner, and John Divens.

After the reunion of the Old and New were again united with the Sinking Creek church into one pastoral charge, and continue so to this day. The church at Hublersburg has been abandoned. I am largely indebted to Col. James P. Coburn of Bellefonte, for the main facts in the history of these churches,

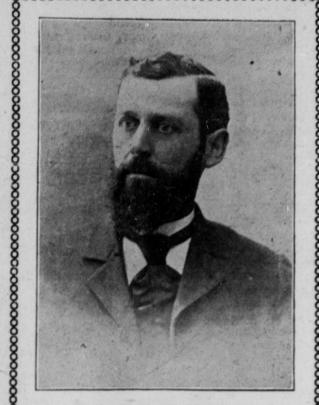
PRESBYTERIANS IN 1795.

T. C. V.

The Presbytery of Huntingdon will part of Wayne township in Lycoming has been elected and is qualified for meet in Centre Hall, Monday, October | county which includes the east end of the fifth term. 6th, at 3:15 p. m. On Wednesday, the Sugar valley, beginning on the summit of 8th, Presbytery will go to the site of the church where it held its first meeting water-pond on the division line between ty were he lives. Frequently he is selectlunch to members of Presbytery, also convey them free from the Spring Mills station to the grounds. For the accommodation of others, William Ruhl, of Spring Mills, will run a hack, charging 25cts for round trip, and the Penn Hall band will furnish a lunch at a reasonable price to those who may not care to bring

# BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1002.

The Centre Democrat.



W. J. CARLIN, of Miles twp. 

### FOR CO. TREASURER.

W. J. Carlin, Democratic Nominee of Miles Township.

Mr. Carlin is a native of this county, being a son of George and Catharine Carlin, born at Potters Mills, Potter were considered a continuation of Tussey. township, in 1850. He was eduated in Shortly after the erection of Potter, in public schools, and the Lewistown, Pa., 1774, its southern boundary must have Academy, worked at painting axes and been limited to the Seven Mountains, as by the day, at various times clerked in stores. Carryied on a general merchanportion of Armagh, disappear from the tile business at different times in his Potter assessment. But the processes of early life ; taught school for six or more persons, and don't pretend to know as change of township boundaries cannot years. He then entered into the mer-School churches in 1869, these churches be traced by the records, and we are in chantile business for himself at Rebersdoubt how the eastern line of Centre burg, his home town, in 1893, and by dilichanged from a northwesterly line to a gence, fair and honest dealings, he has northeasterly line. When Hartley was established a fine business. A careful, erected, in 1811, the county line from the methodical business man whose success four-mile tree in the Narrows is spoken is due entirely to perseverance, enterprise and good management. In such The change of direction of the north- esteem and regard is he held by the peoern portion of the east boundary line of ple of Miles township, and they have Centre is explained by the annexation such faith in his good judgment, that for meetin" and tore old Hamilton to of some of the territory of Lycoming by a periord covering twenty years he has denounced the Quay machine at Harris-

Several weeks ago a communication was published from a certain "Pennsvalley Voter," and he has again soliceted space. As his article shows that he is a close observer of events and a man of bors. good sense we give his communication space as he touches up some important issues in the campaign :

A PENNSVALLEY DEMOCRAT.

Monday, Sept. 22, 1902. DEAR SIR :- Kindly permit me to say a tew things to my fellow readers. We country people are not as smart as some much as certain fellows. At the same time we can remember from year to year and try to be consistent at least. I wish some smart chap would explain to us country people the following :

In August, 1901, about a year ago, at the Republican County Convention, John Hamilton, some call him "Oleo John," offered a resolution denouncing Wm. Allison for not working and voting with the Quay gang at the last corrupt session of the legislature. Do you remember how Dan. Hastings got up "in act of Assembly of March 23, 1818. That served them as Justice of the Peace, and burg and then ripped John K. Thompnames. I read the account in this pape August 8, 1901, and have that copy Now what puzzles me is that since the County Chairman W. F. Reeder and Dan. Hastings are managing the republicans in Centre county, why they stood up for Allison so fiercely last year and es appropriate to the dedication of the an east course to the head-waters of trator, executor or trustee of large es- pummeled Hamilton all to pieces, and then this year fotsake Allison, drop him, direction. The Spring Mills church Barner's farm; thence a south course to responsibilities are always discharged to I put these two things together it looks to and their friends will furnish a free the Union county line, was annexed to the entire satisfaction of the Courts and me as though Allison was the same man as a year ago, but the other fellows have sold out, are mighty crooked in their politics, and think we country people can't remember from year to year. We know Mr. Allison did not ask to go back to the legislature, because he knew Hastings had turned his coat again, swallowed all the ugly things he said a year ago about the machine, and a man like Allison was not wanted. They took Jim Strohm instead, because he is a politician ; some fellows say he is smart; he is the kind of a fellow who makes no promises to the people and if west side of the river into a separate years giving the party his earnest sup- he gets to the legislature can do as he pleases. Strohm stands for that gang ; he always was a political rooster of a smooth order. Further, why is Strohm selected for so many offices? There are over 4000 other republican voters in Centre county and many of them just as good, as he. Look what he has had : He was appointed Census Enumera-tor in 1890. Next he was made Mer-cantile Appraiser of Centre county. Next he was appointed Clerk to County Commissioners ; then he defeated John Decker for County Commissioner, the man who secured Strohm his clerkship He held this office six years. Then he tried to get the Recordership the year Cal. Harper was elected, but the leaders sidetracked bim to the Register's office. During these years he had an applica tion on file at Washington for an appoint ment, which he never got. As a candidate for Register, he got left. Next he was again made CLasus Enumerator in 1900. Last session of teachers institute he announced his candidacy for County Superintendent and after a short skirmish dropped out of the race. In Potter township most every year he must have ne local office. In fact, for the last 15 or 20 years, he has been on the political "sliding board" -continually after an office. Honestly, in my judgment, it is a seri-ous question whether such men are the right kind to send to Harrisburg. I don't believe in feeding men on ' pap" all the time, and what we most ed at Harrisburg is not "smart" men (there are too many there now) but men who are honest and will take care of the people's interests, instead of standing in with a political machine, and seeking The farmer doed not buy but the agent That is why I think Jim Strohm not the proper man; and Schoonover will be so badly turned down by his own peo-ple, in Philipsburg, that I hear his party has given him up. I listened to what Pattison said at Grange picnic about the legislature and how he cautioned the farmers to be careful about the men they send to Har-risburg. If the people would only listen to men like honest Bob. Pattison how much better it would be for all of us and theistate of Pennsylvania. Yours truly

VOL. 24. NO. 3%

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs-Selected and Original.

> Now doth the truly plous Quay Improve each shining minute. And shake the corporations down For everything there's in it.

He laughs best who laughs last. Leaves, like pride, go before a fall. Even railroad hands have to be trained.

The coal dealer is giving us a cold

deal. The folding bed is a case of put up and

shut up. A dead beat can generally te told by the touch.

It takes three to make a pair, counting the minister.

It takes considerable drilling to make a safe robber.

When a girl steels her heart no one else can steal it.

The apothecary always conducts his business on a small scale.

It's only natural that there should be springs in the bed of a river.

The man who has just left a barber shop may have clean-cut features.

Punctures will take the wind out of the pneumatic manufacturer's sales.

When a girl loses her appetite for ice cream soda it's time to call in the doctor. A man doesn't have to have an automobile in order to run down his neigh-

"This is a turn for the better," remarked the gambler as he spun the roulette wheel.

It's all very well to kiss and make up. but women can generally make up without kissing.

It's generally the woman with a scrawny neck who talks against decollete gowns.

When a man boasts that he doesn't owe a cent in the world, it may be because he can't get any credit.

ODD FELLOWS NUMEROUS.

At the meeting of the 78th annual session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows, in Des Moines, Iowa, last week the following statistical report was submitted by the Grand Sire showing that there were 127 grand lodges established, of which six were in foreign coun-The total number of subordinate tries. lodges is 12.802, and subordinate en. campments 2780.

#### Mountain; thence by the summit of said mountain, by the lines of Haines township in Northumberland county, Potter township in Mifflin, and Franklin township in Huntingdon county, to a point three miles southwest of the present line to madequate church privileges, than to between Mifflin and Huntingdon counties; thence by a direct line to the head

of the Southwest Branch of Bald Eagle waters of the Moshannon; thence down the same to the Susquehanna, and down

The northeast corner of Miles was the southeast corner of old Lamar, and Tussey Mountain in the act must mean the Seven Mountains, which no doubt the McNitts, who lived on the eastern of as a south line.

# Centre County Erected and Its Boundaries. **DISPUTES OVER THE LINES**

REVIEW

Boundary Between Union and Centre Indefinite-Other Lines Defined Between Adjoining Counties-Old Surveys Given.

Centre county was crected Feb. 13,

1800 with the following boundary : Be-

ginning opposite the mouth of Ouinn's

Run, on the West Branch of the Susque-

hanna; thence to the northeast corner of

Miles township to the summit of Tussey's

The Rev. Robert Hamill, D. D. became pastor of these churches in the spring of 1846. He continued to be their pastor until 1875, when he resigned the pastorate of the Sinking Creek church, then worshipping at Lemont. He continued pastor one family ! Richaad Barrett, a painter of this church until 1891, having served it and paperhanger, who has been a resiforty-five years. He was also stated clerk dent of Wilkinsburg for a number of of the Presbytery of Huntingdon for fortyfour years.

We cannot speak advisedly, but the membership of the Sinking Creek church a settlement he was making before leavfifty years ago, probably exceeded two ing the borough he confided to Justice prosperity in this church. They were marked by extensive revivals of religion. health. In fact, there has never been an wrought in this church during these fifty years. It has sadly declined in numbers sets of triplets and every year since their

has been due to the inroads made upon its rett is 45 and his wife 43 years of age. membership by the German-speaking churches. Fortunately this has not been the case. The Presbyterians have stood by their colors. The descendants of those ter county met last tweek at the home who were Presbyterians fifty years ago of of George C. Blair in Williamsburg, are Presbyterians still. Hence, the cause near Pittsburg, to formulate a plan of this decline must be sought for in other directions. The advent of railroads into residents could be organized. It was brought out at the meeting that between the spirit of discontent pervading our modern social life, have been potent factors in are living in Allegheny county and invibringing about the decline of churches in tations were sent to all whose addresses our rural districts. The monotany of farm life with its toil and drudgery no longer Park on Saturday, September 30, besatisfies the rising ambition of our young tween 3 and 8 o'clock, to organize a club. people. They want to see something of the outside world. So the quiet home life of the farm is exchanged for the din of manufacturing centres, and the excitement Dr. George L. Hays, George C. Blair of the marts of trade. While this has been | J. B. Waite.

W. H. SCHUYLER, Chairman of Committee.

#### Reduced by 24 by One Family.

There was an exodus from Penn avenue, Wilkinsburg, that reduced the population of the borough by just 24 persons. And they were all members of years and whose modesty has been his safeguard, removed his family recently from Wilkinsburg to Swissdale. During hundred. The early years of Dr. Hamill's Creelman that he was the father of 22 ministry were seasons of great spiritual children-11 boys and 11 girls-all of whom are living and enjoying good Many souls were brought into the King-occasion since the birth of any of the children to call a physician. Mr. Barret bership in those days included many de- is a worthy Irishman and his wife is an vont and spiritual-minded people. But English woman. They were married we cannot fail to notice the many changes when the husband was 17 and the wife 14. There have been born to them three and in influence, and we naturally seek marriage has seen a fulfillment of the for the causes which have led to this result. Scriptural injunction to multiply and re-There is a popular impression that the plenish the earth. The eldest of their decline of Presbyterianism in Penns Valley offspring is now 28 years old. Mr. Bar-

## Centre Countians Form Club.

A number of former residents of Cenwhereby a club of former Centre county 300 and 400 old residents of Centre county were obtainable, to meet at Kennywood Among those who are advocating the movement are W. T. Speer, Charles Dorworth, W. L. Runkle, C. P. Deininger,

April 14, 1795, to participate in exercis- Lycoming and Centre counties; thence ed by those interested to act as adminismarker recently erected there under its Sinking Fishing Creek, including Henry tates. The duties pertaining to these Miles township, Centre county. This all parties interested. was the northeastern territory of the present township of Greene in Clionton his business and other transactions, he county

> However the change occurred, there was a difficulty and dispute about the line, arising from the fact, no doubt, that well fitted by experience, education and the act erecting Union county, March 22, business training to fill the office of 1813, made no locally identified boundary, merely erecting all that part of ancestors, a thorough democrat, regu-Northumberland county lying on the larly and at all times in the past 31 county to be called Union. port.

The dispute was settled by the report of Jacob Kryder, of Centre county; James Dale, of Union; and John Hanna, of Lycoming county, who were authorized by act of Assembly, passed March 28, 1820, to employ two practical surveyors to run the division line between Union and Centre counties, and the line agreed upon by the commissioners, or a majority of them, was to remain of record as the established line between the said coun-

These commissioners, in a report dated May 23, 1820, state that they employed Abraham Weber, of Centre county, and Adam Wilt, of Union county, as surveyors. and that they ran and marked the line from Hendrick's saw-mill on Penn's Creek to the top of the mountain north of the Brush Valley road, according to a draft accompanying their report.

The draft shows that they commenced at a spruce on the north side of Penn's Creek, opposite a small island, and ran N. 47º E. 40 perches to a spruce; thence N. 83° E. 100 perches to a gum; thence N. 47º E. 1960 perches, crossing Cherry Run (twice), then Laurel Run, to the four-mile tree on the Penn's Valley road. At this point they have dotted "the old county line," as running across the road in the direction N. 22%° W. From the four-mile tree they ran N. 35°, 2250 four-mile tree they ran N. 35°, 2250 ciously false) to prevent them from suc-perches to a pine north of Rapid Run ceeding them in public favor." and a little beyond the Brush Valley road.

This was not the extent of the east line, but probably as far as settled the dispute. Just fifty years afterwards, April 1, 1870, R. F. Brown, of Union county; H. P. Treztyniny, of Centre; ohn Swartzell, of Mifflin; and Aaron K. Gift, of Snyder, were authorized by act of Assembly to run the boundary line between Union county and Centre, etc. (P.

(Continued on page 7.)

Mr. Carlin is a man well known for a mountain north of Sugar valley, at a reliability and integrity in the communi-

> As a Justice of the Peace and in all keeps a better record, the neatest and cleanest books and accounts it has ever been our good fortune to inspect. He is County Treasurer. He is, as were his

### A SLIGHT BELCH.

Persons with sour stomachs usually make their ailments known by belching. Last week, after Editor Harter, of the Gazette, read our article he took a violent fit and belched out another dose of abuse, this time belaboring the poor editor of the Democrat. As almost everybody in Centre county now reads the Centre Democrat, they necessarily must know the editor to be a very bad, BAD man, a thing generally conceded, and for that reason Harter's personal illusions were unnecessary ; as usual the Gazette got off the track, missed the issue. As the character of the writer is not in question at this time, we pass.

The last part of his answer only merits a bit of attention and we copy with comment in parrenthesis :

"We have been appealed to from all sides to avoid personalities (No doubt that is true, since the last issue of the Centre Democrat) in this campaign, and we will make an honest effort to comply, (That would be unusual as well as re-markable) but it is a difficult task (Yea ! verily [1] to sit down and complacently fold our hands while these political buc-caneers are flaunting the black flag in our face, and, Aguinaldo-like, assassinating our candidates (absolutely and vi-

Opera House Attractions for Fair Week Manager Garmau has booked the following opera house attractions for Fair week : The attractions include "hipman Bros, "Prisoner of Zenda," Tuesday evening; J. H. Wallack in the "Bandit King and Cattle King." Eight trained horses, will appear Wednesday and Thursday nights.

--Watsontown shoes at Mingle's.

Yours truly "PENNSYALLEY VOTER."

ORDER'S BIG MEMBERSHIP.

The entire membership of the order reaches 1,002,272. During the year there were 99,393 initiations in the subordinate lodges, including those initiated in other branches. The total reached 185.845.

The amount of relief disbursed was \$3,939.785.68, an increase of \$203,093.08. The financial statements show : Reveaues from all branches, \$10,826,976.76 increase, \$666,025.19. Expenses, \$8,706 .-195.30; increase, \$436.353.03 surplus revenues, \$2,030,775.35. Invested funds, \$29.952,769.38; increase, \$1,309.076.28.

The report says that since 1830 there have been 2,544,120 members initiated into the subordinate lodges, 2,565,907; members relieved 256,656; widowed families relieved ; 252,354 members died; total relief, \$192.665,214.47; total revenues, \$240,430,422,21.

# Married.

A pretty wedding took place on the 19th, at the home of the bride's parents, in Runville, the contracting parties being Howard E. Wells, of Picasant Gap, and Miss Lula M. Shirk, of Runville. There were about twenty-one guests present. Miss Sally Hancock played the wedding march ; the ceremony was performed by Rev. G. A. Sparks, pastor of Runville U. B. church, after which congratulations were received, following this they were all invited to partake of a bountiful repast, to which all did justice. The bride was the recipient of many handsome and useful presents, and is the accomplished daughter of W. T. and Mollie Shirk, of Runville; a worthy young lady. The groom's parents reside at Pleasant Gap; he is a fine mechanic. May their voyage over the sea of life be pleasant and prosperous, may their pathway be strewn with flowers. (x)

### A New Swindler.

A new swindler is capturing some of the New York farmers. A man comes leaves the tongut to be called for in a few days. Shortly another of the gang comes and sees the tongue, is very favorably impressed with it and offers \$400 for it. The farmer thinks he sees his chance to make some money, sends the first man \$250 for the light to han dle the tongue, and that is the end of the matter. Man No. 2 disappears and seeks new fields to conquor.

-School shoes-the kind that we use-Mingle's.