

# The Centre Democrat.

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## VINCENT SHARP CONFESSES

### He Took the Money From Curtin's Flouring Mill

## HE PLAYED THE OPOSSUM

### Told a Clever Story of the Robbery Un- til Tricked by the County Detective— Money Returned—No Proceedings Instituted Against Him

This section of the state was treated to a series of sensations the past few weeks that seemed remarkable for daring. First came the killing of the telegraph operator near Oak Grove, and soon after was the robbery at Roland, this county. Full accounts of these were published recently.

At Roland, Vincent Sharp was in charge of Harry Curtin's roller flouring mill; Tuesday evening, November 24th, the miller came in and found the young man lying underneath a table, apparently unconscious and the money drawer robbed of over a hundred dollars. When the young man revived he told of a stranger by the name of J. Jackson coming to the mill for a sack of corn meal and returning later asked for change of a five dollar bill, and while in the act of opening the money drawer was struck on the back of the head and fell unconscious where found. The young man gave a detailed description of the man, even went with the officers to Mill Hill to try to identify a man who was arrested on suspicion.

The story of the crime caused a great sensation and the railroad people had their officers searching trains all along the road to catch such a party. All through the Baldeagle valley parties were on the alert to capture the offender and great uneasiness prevailed. So daring was the deed that it was the topic of conversation and speculation ever since. But now the mystery is solved, the guilty party has confessed, and it turns out to have been a set-up job on the part of the young man, Vincent Sharp, to rob his employer by a clever scheme; and the confession was secured by a piece of clever detective work on the part of Joseph Rightnour, of Bellefonte.

It seems that there was some suspicion in that community that the alleged robbery was not genuine. Some of the leading citizens down there sent for County Detective Rightnour and employed him to investigate the affair. He had his ideas of the case and at once went to young Sharp and got him to narrate all the incidents of the affair, and in doing so the young man got his story mixed and told the detective, among other things, that when he was carried out of the mill unconscious they locked the door, also told in detail how the man struck him, and other things that were not plausible. Rightnour then played a bluff. He notified young Sharp that he knew all the particulars of the robbery, and that he, Sharp, played a fake and took the money. That was on Wednesday of last week. Rightnour said he was going back to Bellefonte, but would return in a few days and would put the young man under arrest unless he returned the money. Last Saturday Rightnour again went to Roland and Sharp was anxious to see him, and without much hesitancy made a full confession to having taken the money and played the opossum as to being knocked down by a stranger. He went to the house and brought a roll of bills and told the men to look back of a stone in the cellar wall where the balance was secreted, which consisted mostly of silver, the total being a little short of the amount taken.

Up to this time no move has been made to have the young man put under arrest, it looks as though no legal proceeding will be instituted. The young man comes from a good family and this act is a great blow to his parents who have resided in that community for many years. His conduct prior to this has been that of an industrious young man, and one in whom Mr. Curtin always reposed confidence.

It is said that the idea for perpetrating such a deed may have come from the young man's incessant habit of reading dime novels where such plots and schemes are narrated and form the basis for the exciting stories.

## For a New Inter-County Bridge.

Commissioner Gummo and Attorney T. M. Stevenson, of Lock Haven, were in Bellefonte Monday conferring with the Centre county commissioners in reference to the proposed new bridge across Beech creek at Hubbard's farm near Beech Creek. Testimony was taken that showed the necessity of a bridge at that point. If built the structure will be erected and maintained by both counties.

Pork is said to be plenty all through the country, and a slight drop in prices is predicted. Beef has dropped several cents in the western stockyards.

## SMALL-POX SCARE.

Wm. Nestlerode, his wife, child and sister, were taken from a train at Altoona and quarantined in the county pest house because a physician on the train discovered that Nestlerode and his sister had the smallpox. These people had been visiting at the home of his father, John A. Nestlerode, near the Eagleville station for several days and were returning to their home at Youngstown, O. The school directors of Liberty township and the board of health of that borough acted on the strength of the published account of their detention at Altoona and as a result placed under quarantine several families who had been in direct contact with the visitors.

It has been learned from the authorities at Holidaysburg that William Nestlerode has the smallpox in its worst form and the family are confined in the county pest house. The family in Beech Creek borough and those at the Eagleville station remain under quarantine, pending developments. It is the opinion of the Holidaysburg authorities that when taken from the train, Nestlerode's case was in a contagious form. The Mountain school, near the Eagleville station in Liberty township, has been closed.

## IN GEORGES VALLEY.

The three cases in the family of P. P. Herman, over in Georges valley, are slowly improving, and their condition is considered satisfactory. Mr. Herman was able to be out of bed for the first on Tuesday. There are no new cases in that section.

## He is After Them.

At the direction of B. H. Warren, superintendent of the State pure food department, H. L. Bantshoff, an agent of the department, recently made information before Alderman J. J. Irwin, of Altoona, against nearly all the hotel proprietors in Altoona and all the hotel men in Tyrone except the management of the Pennsylvania house. All of the Tyrone and all of the Altoona landlords except J. W. Braeme, of the Commonwealth, J. P. Wertzberger, of the Merchants, and F. Nothhaft, of the Altoona, have appeared before the alderman and been fined \$5 each, with \$5 added for record fees. The three who have not yet paid were given a hearing later. There is no disposition, it is said on the part of the officials of the pure food department, to prosecute liquor dealers and the suits were brought with the idea of warning hotel men to discontinue the sale of adulterated liquors.

Well, when will Warren go to the root and prosecute the big manufacturers of impure foods? He is after the little ones only, it seems.

## Hand Cut Off by a Shredder.

Mr. Al. C. Grove, the dairyman, living a short distance from town out by Valentines, met with a sad accident on last Tuesday morning at his home. He was operating a corn shredder and his hand, unfortunately, was caught by the machine, cutting off the member between the thumb and wrist. He was taken to the hospital to have his serious injury treated. What makes this sad happening all the more unfortunate, he met with a similar accident to his other hand about a year ago, when Mr. Grove was instructing some one present how to work the corn shredder, his hand was caught and all the fingers were cut off. This leaves the unfortunate man in a bad plight, having lost the use of both his hands within a year. We sympathize with Mr. Grove in his great misfortune.

## Masonic Home Project.

The movement to establish a home in a central part of the state for Master Masons, their wives, widows, and children, was unanimously approved at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, which concluded its sessions in Corinthian hall, Masonic temple, Philadelphia, last week. The proposed home will cost, it is expected, in the neighborhood of \$300,000. A committee was appointed to inquire into the most suitable location for the structure.

Why not the Bellefonte Masons get a move on in an effort to have Bellefonte chosen for the location of the home. For health, romantic scenery, noble citizens, pure water, etc., no locality in the state could put up a stronger claim.

## Nebraska Bars Bible.

A writ of mandamus has been issued by the Supreme court of Nebraska against a teacher in the public schools, restraining her from reading the Bible to her pupils. The case came up some time ago and the court now decides that sectarian knowledge must not be imparted in the public schools.

## Shot Ninety Rabbits.

The Howard sporting club, composed of Clyde Long, Eugene Fletcher, Louis Fletcher, James Shaw, James Gallagher, with John Baney as captain, spent last week in the mountains in quest of rabbits, and were very successful, killing ninety.

## DEATH OF MRS. A. G. CURTIN

### Widow of Bellefonte's Famous War Governor.

## A STROKE OF APOPLEXY

### Proved Fatal on Monday Afternoon— Reached a Ripe Age—Came of Revolu- tionary Stock and Was a Promi- nent Woman.

Death brought a shock to our town, in taking from our midst Mrs. Kathryn Irvine Curtin, widow of ex-Gov. A. G. Curtin. The call of the grim messenger was sudden, and death almost instantaneous. Mrs. Curtin, during the afternoon, was taking her accustomed walk, on Monday, about noon the weather being fine. When about a square from her home, as she was returning, the writer met her on Allegheny street, was greeted by her in her accustomed manner, and accompanying her to her door she chatted pleasantly, seemed cheerful, and remarked that her health was good and that she enjoyed the pleasant weather. At the entrance to her home we parted with the usual salutations—little did we opine that death was stealing upon her. This was Mrs. Curtin's last appearance outside her home, at 1 p. m. A few moments later she sat down to dinner and was taken by a stroke of apoplexy, and was led to the library, placed on a couch, and never gained consciousness—death claimed her.

The news soon spread over the town and brought a gloom to every household, where she had been so long and favorably known.

Mrs. Curtin was a noble lady in all that pertains to making the true woman. She was modest in her entire demeanor—yet there was a charm in her every manner that endeared her to all, rich and poor, in her large circle of acquaintance. Domesticity was one of her best qualities, a greeting for all was a pleasure, her manner was winning and becoming. Social to a proper degree, hospitable and kindhearted, none met Mrs. Curtin but to feel pleasure at her recognition. As a wife, mother and grand mother, she was a pattern of dutifulness and amiability—she was in the fullest enjoyment when surrounded by her children and grand-children, to whom the Curtin home was like unto a paradise upon earth.

Mrs. Curtin was a devout Christian, a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and in her true Christian spirit was pleased to oft attend services in churches of sister denominations.

She was a daughter of William J. Wilson, an eminent physician, well known in Central Pennsylvania. She was born at Earlstown, this county, on January 17, 1821. Her age was 82 years, 10 months and 14 days.

She was the mother of six children, two sons and four daughters—a son and daughter died in infancy. The children that grew up were: Mrs. Dr. G. F. Harris at home; Mrs. W. H. Sage, died some ten years ago; Mrs. K. R. Breeze, of Downingtown; W. W. Curtin, of Philadelphia, and Mrs. M. D. Barnett, at the Curtin home. Ten grand-children and six great-grand children also survive her, as well as four sisters: Mrs. Geo. Elliot, Miss Mary Wilson and Miss Alice Wilson, of Bellefonte, and Mrs. Lucy Moyer, of Potters Bank.

Funeral will be private. Services at the house, this, Thursday, afternoon at 2 p. m., to which all are invited. Interment, Union cemetery, this place.

Mrs. Curtin came of revolutionary stock, her mother having been a granddaughter of General James Potter, who served in the revolution. Her ancestors came from County Carin, Ireland, and participated in the battle of Boyne in 1690. Descendants came to Pennsylvania as early as 1736 and settled in the so called "Irish Settlement" in Northampton county.

On May 30, 1844, she was married to Andrew G. Curtin, then a young lawyer at the Centre county bar. From 1860 to 1866 she dispensed charming hospitality as lady of the executive mansion at Harrisburg during her illustrious husband's term as governor of Pennsylvania, and later when President Grant appointed him minister to Russia, she accompanied him and won golden opinions by her grace and dignity.

## "Human Hearts."

The theatrical manager of a decade ago used to believe that when a play had been established in public favor, that any kind of a cast could be employed to exploit it before the public, and for that reason and no other can a great many of them ascribe their ultimate failure. Not so with W. E. Nankeville, manager of "Human Hearts," which comes to us on Dec. 15, evening, at Garman's opera house.

## RAILROAD NOTES.

All news concerning the survey now being made, presumably for an air line railroad from Pittsburg to New York, will interest Centre Democrat readers. We quote as follows from an article in the Pittsburg Post of Friday. The headquarters of Engineer-in-Chief Hamilton and his corps of surveyors are now in Tyrone:

"Are the Goodyears backing the air line railroad that is now being surveyed from here to New York? This question seems the more likely to admit of an affirmative answer from the fact that the extension of the Goodyear interest railroad, the Buffalo & Susquehanna, southward from Sinnemahoning to Skyesville, thence on down from Jefferson county into Pittsburg, as has been noted in this column, takes precisely the same course through Indiana and Armstrong counties that the surveys made by the air line projectors indicate. The Goodyears are buying large tracts of coal lands in Indiana county, they already having had for some time extensive holdings in the Plumville district some 10 miles northwest of Indiana.

"Samuel Hamilton, of New York, is engineer-in-chief of the air line project. W. W. Graham, of New York, is the active directing spirit of the surveys, while J. Craig Smith is at the head of the engineering corps. Whether these men have any connection with the Goodyear interests cannot be learned, as they refuse to divulge who the projectors of the air line are. The corps of surveyors, under the direction of Mr. Smith, is now working in Indiana county about eight miles north of the town of Indiana. Another corps of engineers is working westward from near Inglesby, Centre county, through Clearfield county, and the northwestern part of Cambria county. It is asserted that the project will be carried to completion at the earliest possible date, and that the air line is backed by enough money to insure its operation as a four-track system. A 100-foot right of way is being surveyed.

"If the Goodyear interests are promoting the road, as seems plausible, Pittsburg would be given another route to Buffalo, the Buffalo & Susquehanna paralleling the Buffalo and Allegheny Valley division of the Pennsylvania and the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg for considerable distance. The "fork" or "Y" of the line to New York and that to Buffalo would be not far distant from Cherrytree, Indiana county. The Buffalo & Susquehanna Railway company, has secured extensive terminal properties in Buffalo and has undertaken the construction of the lines from Wellsville, N. Y., the northern terminus of the Buffalo & Susquehanna railroad, to Buffalo. The importance of such a system as would thus be made possible cannot be questioned, inasmuch as the lines pass through some virgin timber, mineral and agricultural sections of Pennsylvania."

## WORKING NEAR TYRONE.

The corps of civil engineers who had been in the vicinity of Coburn for several weeks are now in the upper end of this county. After leaving Coburn they went down into Union county and ran lines extending from Pardee to Sunbury and then moved their quarters to near Tyrone. Since then they have been traversing territory leading from State College across through Halfmoon township near Stormstown into the Bald Eagle valley, and from there on up past Hannan, and then taking a northwesterly direction, following the famous Dix Run route that has been surveyed by numerous railroad people. This course indicates that they want to get into the bituminous coal fields of Centre and Clearfield counties. What this survey means we will not venture any opinion.

## Elusive Moser Millions.

The suit of the heirs of Burkhard Moser against the Lehigh Coal & Navigation company, as the wrongful possessors of 273 acres of coal lands in Schuylkill county, valued at \$1,250,000 was thrown out of court by Judge Bechtel on Monday.

The entire town of Tamaqua was involved in the suit, a bill in equity. The court decided that this was not the proper procedure, but that the suit should have been brought in the regular way to eject the defendant.

## Big Purchase of Timber Land.

A. Williamson, a well known lumberman of Bellefonte, has purchased from heirs of John Rohn estate over 1,000 acres, of excellent timber land lying along the West Branch railroad in the vicinity of Karthaus. The tract contains over three million feet of lumber. The consideration was \$7,000. John Rohn is the man who mysteriously disappeared about four years ago, and no trace of him was ever found, it being the general supposition that he was murdered and his body hidden.

—White Malaga grapes—at Sechlers—a very fine article.

## OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

### Another Thrilling Indian Story Retold.

## A UNION COUNTY INCIDENT

### Capture of the Kleinsmith Girls and their Remarkable Escape—Shot Through the Body but Lived to Old Age.

There is, perhaps, no record in the annals of Pennsylvania of a more thrilling escape from hostile Indians than that of Elizabeth and Catharine Kleinsmith, daughters of John Baltzer Kleinsmith, of Buffalo Valley, in Union county. The facts in their case show the strong nerve, resourcefulness and quick perception to act in emergencies of the woman of Colonial days. They were trained in the hard school of experience. The father of these young heroines was a German, who arrived from the Fatherland in 1752. Some 20 years later he removed from one of the lower counties to that region and was one of the first settlers. His plantation was at cross-roads midway between the Dreisbach church and Shamokin, or New Berlin mountain. In the application for a pension by his widow it is recited that he had been a soldier in the Revolution, during which time his family was exposed to constant peril. In the year of 1780 he was at home assisting in the protection of the valley.

On Friday, July 14, of that year, which proved so disastrous to the settlers, Kleinsmith, with his son, John Baltzer Jr., and daughters, Elizabeth aged 16, and Catharine, aged 14 years, were engaged at work in a field some distance from the house. Discovering some fine squirrels on a tree the son was sent back to the house to fetch the gun, which, strange to say, they had left behind.

## KILLED THE FATHER.

During his absence a party of Indians took the father and girls captive. Being unarmed, resistance was useless. The hostiles were on their way to Dry Valley, just across the mountains, and evidently concluded that Kleinsmith would give them trouble if taken along. Accordingly, at a spot still pointed out by people of the locality, they killed him and proceeded on their way, near this place lived George Brooks, Sr., who with his family were not disturbed by the savages.

The Brooks family soon learned of the fate of their neighbor, and, constructing a litter, bore his body to his home, about a mile distant. Among those who assisted in this sad task was Sabina, the 18-year old daughter of Brooks, who afterwards married Martin Dreisbach, Sr., and was the mother of the late Judge Martin Dreisbach, of Lewisburg, who was her youngest child.

## THE GIRL'S HEROIC ESCAPE.

We now follow the fate of the Kleinsmith girls. After crossing the mountain, a distance of several miles, the Indians and their young captives stopped at a fine spring a short distance north of the present town of New Berlin, and still known as the "Indian Spring." Here the savages planned another foray. Leaving the girls and their plunder here in charge of an old man of their number, they set out to pillage. Soon after the departure of the party it began to rain and the old man berked to the girls to gather brush and cover the plunder to keep it dry. This task gave the girls an opportunity to consult in an undertone about attempting an escape.

The decision was quickly reached. They could not afford to lose time in carrying their purpose into execution, as one or more of the band might return any moment. They determined to kill the Indian, otherwise he would pursue them, or make an outcry which would quickly bring the others on the ground.

The Indian was evidently much fatigued, as he paid but little attention to the girls. Partly reclining on his tomahawk, he fell into a doze, which proved fatal to him! As the girls passed him with the brush they deftly moved the weapon with their feet in such a manner that the handle could be easily grasped. If the old Indian was awake he evidently considered it accidental, and the girls did not disturb his unsuspecting repose.

When the proper moment for action came Elizabeth gave her sister the signal to run, while she herself, with the nerve and strength of a Titan, grasped the hilt of the tomahawk and, before the old man could collect his senses, she brought the weapon down upon his head, which must have proved fatal. Had they delayed their desperate work a few moments longer it would have been too late.

The Indian gave a terrible yell for pain, and without waiting to repeat the blow the young woman bounded after

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## FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

### Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Select- ed and Original.

## A JOB WITH DRAWBACKS.

I'd like to be the sultan,  
With thirty wives or more  
To quickly do my bidding,  
To open and shut the door;  
With one to darn my stockings  
And one to bring my paper,  
And one for my cravat;  
With one to wash my tootsies  
And one to dry the same,  
With one to cook my pancake  
And one to roast the game;  
With ten to mind the babies  
When I would take a nap.  
I'd like to be the sultan;  
The job must be a snap.

I'd like to be the sultan—  
But let me think a bit—  
With thirty different women  
How long would I be it?  
While one of them was pouting  
And one of them was cross  
And one of them was weeping  
Because she couldn't boss,  
And one of them was sulking  
And one was breaking plates  
To show her independence  
Before her pretty mates;  
With ten of them declaring  
To me right home they'd go  
If hats were not forthcoming  
And tickets for the show,  
I doubt if I could handle  
With pleasure such a mob.  
I wouldn't be the sultan;  
I'll let him keep the job.

## PESSIMISM.

I try to keep contented  
But I'm discouraged, some,  
I'll stand around and argue  
Till I'm nearly deaf and dumb,  
And when the question's settled  
And things are running right,  
Somebody always comes along  
And starts another fight.

No man is in business for himself if he is married.

Beware of the barber who illustrates his stories with cuts.

A slip of the tongue is often worse than a slip on the ice.

Writing paper may go up in price and still remain stationary.

In lending money lots of people are also borrowing trouble.

Industry is the watch dog that keeps the wolf from the door.

The looking-glass casts reflections, but it always tells the truth.

When a man's furnace won't work he is apt to get hot about it.

It is hard for a man to stand on his dignity in a crowded street car.

Champagne drinking affects the eyes; it makes a \$5 look like 30 cents.

Some women go on the lecture platform, and others don't need platforms.

"Does your wife do much fancy work?" "Fancy work? She won't even let a porous plaster come into the house without crocheting a red border round it and running a yellow ribbon through the holes."

A deaf man, lately married, was asked at the club about his bride:

"Is she pretty?"

"No," replied the deaf gentlemen, "no, she is not. But she will be when her father dies!"

During a lecture on the position of woman in civilized nations Professor John Basset Moore, of Columbia University, recently said: "Two kinds of polygamy are practiced in the United States—simultaneous polygamy in the West and successive polygamy in the East. In the West it is sanctioned by their religion, and in the East by the Divorce Courts."

A clergyman visiting the house of one of his parishioners caught a young lady of the house in the act of curling her hair with a curling iron. He exclaimed:

"My dear young lady, if God intended your hair to be curly he would curl it himself!"

"He did curl it when I was little," she replied, "but I am now grown up. He thinks I can take care of it myself."

## An Over Worked Woman.

I stopped to get a glass of milk the other day at a farmhouse, said a harvest machine salesman at the Southern, and the female head of the establishment, who had six children playing around, was inclined to repine at her hard luck in having so much work to do.

"I run this whole farm," she remarked in a tone which indicated that she was ready to resign.

"How many acres have you?" I inquired.

"A hundred and forty."

"Got any stock?"

"Ten head of cattle, two cows, six hogs and work horses for the place."

"And you run the whole business?" I asked.

"Indeed I do every hole an, hair of it," she sighed.

"Don't you hire some help?"

"Of course, but tain't hired help that takes the load off one's body."

There was some philosophy in that and I paused a minute.

"Haven't you got a husband?" I then asked sympathetically.

"Yes," she said, sternly; "but you see I have to run him, too."