

The Centre Democrat

CHAS. R. KURTZ, - - - PROPRIETOR

FRED KURTZ, SR. (EDITORS. CHAS. R. KURTZ.)

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EDITORIAL

If Abr. Miller should be re-elected to a 3rd-term in the commissioners office, what would he ask for next.

RUMOR says that Chile and Peru are once more on the verge of war over the old problem of the disputed provinces of Teana and Arica. Thus it goes, arbitration is of little account when nations quarrel.

A NUMBER of communications were received the past week bearing upon the county superintendent canvass in this county which will terminate on next Tuesday. Some of these articles contain personal attacks that should not be considered. We think the school directors of the county amply well informed, and presume they will act for the best interests of our schools.

A PHILADELPHIA assessor, whose list showed that there were about twice as many names on it as there were actual voters, has been acquitted of the charges of fraud made against him on the ground that he put down only the names of persons that were furnished him by the householders. A lot of the names on the list were shown to be those of persons dead or long removed. This case affords further evidence of a proper personal registration law.

The canvass for county superintendent is becoming animated as the time for election approaches. Prof. Etters has a hustle on and realizes that he is not exactly having things his own way. Supt. Gramley is on the move and James A. Feidler, John A. Daley and others are putting up a stiff fight in his behalf. Circular letters to the directors are going out thick from various sources and the best of feeling does not prevail. What the result will be, we cannot predict.

FROM St. Petersburg comes the intelligence of a plot to kill the Czar and his kinsmen being discovered among the troops of the Imperial guard. Many officers are involved, the very men upon whom the imperial family depends for personal safety. Governor General Trepoiff's secret agents unearthed the plot and assert that several of the conspirators of noble birth were in possession of large quantities of dynamite. The discovery has unnerved the Czar at Tsarskoe-Selo.

WHEN John G. Love addressed the recent Republican Convention, Democrats were likened to "dogs in the manger" they impede progress, block the way, and that when a community permits its politics to change they don't gain anything. The speech published in the last issue of the Gazette, had all that omitted—it was a deception. Did the Gazette misquote Love, or did the speaker become ashamed of his remarks and dictate something else? The speech in the court house and the one reported in the Gazette are far from being the same.

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF CENTRE COUNTY

Continued from page 1.

result of his night's work netted him a watch and a few dollars in money.

Monks was hung on Saturday, January 23, 1819, by John Mitchell, Esq., then High Sheriff, Wm. Armor, a fifer of the war of 1812, played the "Dead March" under the scaffold. An absurd rumor started shortly after Monks' execution that he had been seen alive afterward, and he became children's "spook" for some years. The county paper of the day had several articles, one favoring the apparition and arguing the possibility of his resuscitation, and others "pulling down the ghost."

Samuel Wilson, of Potter, the last surviving juror, died September 18th, 1880, aged 90 years.

Joseph, son of Reuben Guild, died some eight years ago at Powsheik, Iowa. It was his watch his father wore when murdered, and he was a witness in court to identify it.

HOPKINS' EXECUTION, 1890.

W. Seeley Hopkins lived at Philipsburg this county. He there met Maggie Wigan whom he courted and married. He was a carpenter by trade, and was employed in that town. His married life was one of constant quarrels and strifes. He lived in the same house with his mother-in-law and her son Robert. Seely accused his wife of infidelity and the mother-in-law of being mean towards him. Hopkins it seems grew reckless and refused to contribute anything towards the family expenditures. He was arrested twice for abusing the women and a week before the murder, was arrested and released on the supposition that he would leave the town. He returned on Saturday evening, September 21, 1889, and crept into the cellar of the house and slept there until the next morning when he went up in his stocking feet and shot his wife down in the kitchen and then killed Mrs. Wigan in her room up stairs. Both women died instantly and he rushed out on the street and tried to end his career by shooting himself in the head twice but only made a wound which caused paralysis of his left limbs. He recovered from his wounds, was tried at the next term of court and was found guilty of murder of the first degree.

The execution took place in the Centre county jail on Thursday 20th, 1890, under Sheriff Robert Cooke. The scaffold was built by Samuel Gault and during the time it was being erected, Hopkins became much interested, as he could hear the carpenters at work, and by aid of a mirror could gain a view of the operations. He frequently spoke to the workmen, and in a peculiar manner urged them to make it "good and strong." When it was completed, the day prior to the execution, he was permitted to examine the structure and, being a carpenter, carefully examined every point and said it was strong enough to hang a bull. Next he took a look at his coffin; this unnerved him and his limbs trembled. He inquired of the undertaker as to the process of embalming his body and seemed interested in all the details.

He had an abundance of spiritual aid, and professed a change of heart, and claimed to be prepared to meet his doom. He slept well the last night, and in the morning ate a hearty breakfast. At ten he partook of a turkey dinner, which was furnished at his request. He said he deserved his fate, but that he committed the crime under great excitement. When the time for the execution arrived he marched to the scaffold without any hesitation and made a short address. When the drop was sprung the rope broke; the limp, unconscious body fell to the ground. Hopkins was carried up again, a second noose was adjusted and the second drop was more successful.

The following were the jurors officially selected to witness the execution: I. N. Gordon, W. F. Reynolds, and Wm. Houser, Bellefonte; Dr. Dunwiddie, Philipsburg; D. H. Ruhle, Spring Mills; Cephas Gramley, Rebersburg; D. B. Kunes, Blanchard; W. E. Landon, Philipsburg; J. S. Barton, Flemington; J. P. Sebring, Loveville; Samuel Benton and Samuel Aley, both of Walker, Pa.

The following attorneys were represented in the Hopkins trial: J. L. Spangler and District Attorney J. C. Meyer for the prosecution; and W. F. Reeder, Esq., for the defense.

ANDREWS' EXECUTION.

Of all these crimes none was as dastardly, none was as cowardly, none was as foul and bloody as the killing of that poor innocent girl, Clara Price, who never gave cause or offence for the perpetration of such a deed.

It was on the 27th of November, 1889, that Clara Price left the house of Eugene Meeker, in Burnside township, to go to Karthaus, about two miles distant, to do some shopping and visit her parents.

She was seen passing down that road that morning by different persons. Some few minutes after, a man wearing a black derby hat and light colored suit with short coat was seen walking down the road in the same direction. Several persons saw him and noticed a peculiarity in his walk and others recognized him as Alfred Andrews, a young man who had lived at Karthaus some time before. The last person who saw Clara going down the road that morning was

Mrs. Watson, who lives in the last house from where the deed was committed. When she saw Clara last, she noticed the same man going the same direction and a short distance behind.

A short distance on the road enters the woods and winds about. That morning James Marsteller, William Oswald and James Bechdel went down that road and when a mile beyond Watson's house and in the woods, they found the body of the girl lying in the middle of the road. She lay face downward and blood came from her mouth. The body was still warm but she was dead. They at once went to Karthaus and gave the alarm.

Squire Rankin soon arrived on the ground and made a careful examination of the surroundings. He found two kind of tracks: small tracks which were those of Clara Price, and larger ones which measured ten and one half inches, and evidently were those of a man. The man's tracks came up the road and then turned into a thicket and then came out again to where they found the young girl's tracks; for some distance the tracks were very irregular and indicated that a scuffle followed. From there to where the body lay her tracks indicated that she had broken loose and started to run and was shot down. The man's tracks came up to the body and on a short distance and into the woods.

A half an hour later Andrews was seen at Moyer's lumber job about a mile distant and pretended to be after work but left without seeing the foreman. From there he went on to his home, Brisbin, Clearfield county.

Detective Harry Simler, of Philipsburg, arrested Alfred Andrews, at his home in Brisbin, the following Sunday and he was at once brought to Bellefonte and held for trial.

The trial of Andrews took place at January term of court 1890. Excitement ran high and the town was thronged with people for several days interested in the outcome—some fearing even violence should there be a failure in the verdict.

The execution of Andrews took place Wednesday, May 9th, 1890 under Sheriff Robt. Cooke. The trial of Andrews was one of the most remarkable events in our court. No one saw the deed committed, and his conviction was secured purely upon circumstantial evidence in which the late Hon. John H. Orvis was leading counsel. He wove around the man a network that was so complete and convincing that the jury had little difficulty in arriving at a verdict. His address to the jury to this day is remembered and commented upon as being a masterpiece in its line.

Shortly after the trial Andrews made a complete confession, in which he declared that the crime in its very details occurred precisely as Mr. Orvis proved it in court and presented it to the jury. Andrews soon professed Christianity and at times became "happy" under his strong religious fervor. He read his Bible constantly and at frequent intervals read chapters to the other prison inmates and exhorted them to better lives and accept Christianity. During his confinement in the jail he never wavered and always expressed himself anxious to meet his fate, forfeit his life for the crime he had committed.

The night before the execution he asked to see his coffin, and the rope by which he was to be hanged. He was pleased with the coffin; the rope also interested him and he placed it around his neck to see how it would fit. Andrews enjoyed a sound sleep, ate a hearty breakfast and spent the last hours in religious exercises with his advisors. Contrary to expectation, he went to the scaffold without a sign of fear and from it he read a chapter in the scriptures and addressed the spectators upon the importance of a Christian life. He regretted the crime and among other things said, "I trust I may meet the blessed girl whose life I have stolen from the world. May I meet her in Heaven and clasp her hands and say, 'I know you.'" As his limbs were being pinioned he kissed Sheriff Cook good by and thanked him and Deputy Wilson for the kindness they had shown him. This time when the drop fell the execution was more successful. The following composed the jury: S. R. Pringle, Port Matilda; O. E. Miller, Milesburg; A. I. Katherman, Centre Hall; Isaac Smith, Gregg twp.; M. Miller, Howard; G. G. Mattern, Matternville; Abraham Trimble, Philipsburg; H. M. Walker, Roland; Christ Decker, Zion; C. M. Bower, Bellefonte; Geo. Hastings, Bellefonte, and Geo. R. Boak, Pine Glenn.

In the Andrews case the following attorneys were engaged: Hon. John H. Orvis and District Attorney J. C. Meyer for the prosecution; and J. L. Spangler and E. R. Chambers for the defendant. There was much criticism over Sheriff Cooke's conduct in those two executions. Crowds hovered about the jail for days prior to the execution, as though the condemned men were a sideshow. To the execution he denied admission to anybody connected with any democratic newspaper in the county. At the same time all his political retainers from far and wide were extended special favors. It even was charged that questionable characters had too many privileges; the ministers of the town protested against the unseemly lack of propriety about the prison.

A public subscription was made later and a fine marble table was erected on the spot where the unfortunate Clara Price was murdered, along the road in Burnside township leading to Karthaus.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

Monday the members of the Democratic County Committee met in Bellefonte, at the call of the county chairman. The purpose of the meeting was to apportion the delegates in the county according to the vote cast at the last presidential election. According to the rules one delegate is allowed for every 50 votes cast. The excess vote in the various districts that did not reach 50, in aggregate left eight delegates and they were awarded to those districts that had the largest fractional part of 50. Each of the following districts was given one of the eight delegates, as follows: Bellefonte, N. W.; Philipsburg, 2nd W.; Haines, E. P.; Centre Hall boro; Miles, M. P.; Penn; Potter, S. P.; Walker, M. P. The following table shows the vote and delegates awarded as submitted and approved:

Table with columns for District Name, Votes, and Delegates. Includes districts like Bellefonte N. W., Centre Hall, Milesburg, etc.

A few short addresses were made and matters pertaining to the primaries and the campaign were discussed.

ANOTHER CHARGE REFUTED.

The Clearfield Republican of last week shows the unreliability of the Gazette by the following:

"The Keystone Gazette, of Bellefonte, erred grievously last week in its criticism of Judge Orvis' disposition of the liquor license list in Centre county in the following:

"John Boyce, mercantile appraiser of Clearfield county, a resident of Clearfield town and supporter of Judge Smith, was granted a license." (at Snow Shoe.) John Boyce was not a supporter of Judge Smith in any sense of the word. The very reverse is true. During the campaign resulting in Allison Smith's election over Cyrus Gordon John Boyce and all the rest of the Boyces were enthusiastic Gordon men and did not try to conceal that fact.

John Boyce then lived in the Third ward of Clearfield and he handled much of the booze spent in that ward in Gordon's interest. John Boyce is a Republican and never was anything else. He was a supporter of Judge Gordon and never was a supporter of Judge Smith. He was one of the most ardent Gordon men in the county and no man anywhere felt or looked sorer when the news came in that Gordon was defeated than did John Boyce.

If the balance of the Keystone Gazette tirade against Judge Orvis is not more truthful than that charging John Boyce as a supporter of Judge Smith, the friends of Judge Orvis need not lose any sleep over it or its effect upon the public mind.

Why, if John Boyce would have ever expressed a desire to see Smith beat Gordon, his brother Bill of Winburne would have shot him before dark of that same day, so intense were the Boyces in their devotion to Gordon and his cause in 1903.

JUST ONE POINT.

Life is too short and space too valuable to refute all the misstatements in the Gazette. But we deem one allegation in the last issue of that paper, on the license question, worthy of brief attention. It is this:

"The Centre Democrat this week, in the face of the indisputable methods employed against Mr. Chambers, comes out with a statement impugning the honesty of that gentleman by alleging that he had claimed to have worked and voted for Mr. Orvis. This is an unmitigated lie."

ANSWER: A letter to that effect, over David Chambers' signature, was sent soon after the election last fall to Mr. Orvis, who still has it in his possession. If Davy did not write it, we owe him an apology. The Gazette, by David Chambers' permission, could secure this letter for publication. We defy it to do so, and thereby prove who has been guilty of an "UNMITIGATED LIE."

Watch the Gazette do it.

School Report.

The following item is an extract from a Report of the Marsh Creek school, Boggs twp., March 29th 1871, which was published in the "Republican."

Report of Marsh Creek school for the month ending March 29th, 1871. J. L. Butler, teacher. Whole number in attendance, 70; average of attendance for month, 57.

The following is a correct list of the number of words missed in spelling 3,000 words in Sander's Union Speller, commencing on page 73, class A.

Ella E. Heaton, none; Wm. T. Fetzer, 5; Wm. H. F. Pownell, 8; Lucy Poorman, 6; Elizabeth E. Yarnell, 2; Martha J. Confair, 15; Sarah J. Butler, 8; Harris S. Walker, 5; Amanda Poorman, 1; Wm. C. Williams, 12; Sarah A. Shank, 3; Eliza A. Walker, 2; Susan C. Butler, 2. The term closing with this day, the school was visited by about 35 of the different citizens, male and female. After enjoying quite a pleasant time, hearing the scholars recite their essays and declamations, the rewards of merit were distributed, and the school closed.

TUESDAY NOON a large delegation left here for Harrisburg to attend the Republican State Convention. As our townsman Judge Beaver was renominated for the superior court bench, they went down to show their appreciation; it was a nice compliment to the Judge.

A FINE ANIMAL.

On Tuesday, April 18th, 1905, I. N. Smeck, representing the Hartman Stock Farm of Columbus, Ohio, sold to a number of leading farmers in College, Ferguson, Patton and Harris Townships, Centre county, associated together under the title of the State College Horse Company, the imported French Percheron Gray Stallion "Voultigeur." This stallion stands nearly seventeen hands high, is splendidly built for draft and farm purposes, and weighs about nineteen hundred pounds, and should be a valuable factor towards improving stock in this county. The Hartman Stock Farm has treated those composing the Horse Company fairly and its guaranty of the stallion is ample and satisfactory and will no doubt be fully complied with on its part.

Mr. Smeck, their salesman, has been at State College for about two weeks and those dealing with him have always found him to be fair, honest, and a man of his word. He has treated the Horse Company and all those with whom he has come in contact honorably, and has made many friends in this county, who will be glad to hear of his future success and welcome him back whenever he may return.

Those composing the Horse Company, above mentioned, are as follows: F. H. Clemson, F. W. Krumpholtz, Adam Krumpholtz, A. F. Markel, Geo. B. Thompson and Lytle, W. C. Meyer, B. D. Thomas, John H. Breen, E. W. Hess, Newton E. Hess and Charles H. Foster. It is the Company's present intention to exhibit their stallion at the Centre County Fair next fall.

A BILL has been passed and signed by the governor authorizing borough councils to pay the burgess a salary. By another act he also becomes the presiding officer at the annual meeting of the council and can cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.

The democratic county convention will be composed of 81 delegates, which is based on the last presidential vote in the county. It formerly was 92. The vote for Parker falls far short of being a safe estimate of the party strength.

It is said that a married man can live on less than a bachelor—if his wife takes in washing.

It's all right to say what you think, but it's safer to think what you say.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

All persons who will seek nominations for office on the Democratic Ticket in Centre county, according to the rules adopted by the party, cannot be voted for at the primary elections unless they have registered their names in a book kept by the County Chairman for that purpose, three weeks before the primary election, paid him a certain fee, for defraying necessary party expenses, and pledged themselves to vote for and support the ticket thus nominated.

The regular Democratic primaries for Centre county for the year 1905 will be held in the various voting precincts of the county on SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD, and the Democratic convention of Centre county will convene in the Court House, at Bellefonte, on TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH, H. S. TAYLOR, Co. Chairman.

We are authorized to announce the following named persons as Democratic candidates for the various offices named, subject to the decision of the Democratic county convention:

- Sheriff. ELLIS S. SHAFER, of Miles Twp. County Treasurer. JOHN D. MILLER, of Walker Twp. DR. F. K. WHITE, of Philipsburg Boro, Register. D. WAGNER GEISS, of Bellefonte. HARRY JACKSON, of Bellefonte, Recorder. JOHN C. ROWE, for re-election. Auditor. J. W. BECK, of Howard Boro. S. H. HOY, of Benner Twp. JAMES W. SWAB, of Harris twp. Co. Commissioner. JAMES J. GRAMLEY, of Miles Twp. W. H. FRY, of Ferguson Twp. JOSEPH L. NEFF, of Boggs Twp. CALVIN WEAVER, of Penn Twp.

Weather Report.

Table with columns for DATE, TEMPERATURE (Maximum, Minimum). Includes data for Apr. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.

Bellefonte Trust Co. Successors to JACKSON, HASTINGS & CO. Capital \$125,000. OFFICERS: J. L. Spangler, President; Ross O. Hickok, Vice President; John F. Harris, Treasurer; Isaac Mitchell, Asst. Treas. DIRECTORS: J. Henry Cochran, A. C. Milg're, J. L. Spangler, Ross O. Hickok, C. T. Gerberich, John P. Harris.

THERE IS A HEAP IN CLOTHES MAKING. to which the ordinary tailorman fails to respond, for, with the majorities the necessary skill and taste are lacking. Our garments owe their style and appearance to the manner in which they are "worked out" and tailored. Its the Result of the Best Talent the Tailor Craft Affords. You'll know the joys of tailoring contentment, style, fit and service if we sell you your Spring suit. The best dressed men and young men find us magnificently equipped in the Spring, Summer and Mid-summer styles. This fact is thoroughly vouched for by the best and most fastidious dressers. We sell clothes with merit. Our effort gains for us your satisfaction which is our record of honor. SIM, THE CLOTHIER GOOD CLOTHES STORE.