

# The Centre Democrat.

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## McBRIDE LOCATION MAY BE CHOSEN

OPTIONS SECURED ON OVER 3400 ACRES.

## THE ENTIRE COMMISSION COMING

Will Be in Bellefonte Next Wednesday for Final Inspection—Includes 20 Fine Farms—Price of Land Satisfactory—May Get Penitentiary.

During the past few days rumors have been numerous regarding the prospects for securing the new penitentiary site near Bellefonte, and at this time we can say with some certainty that the prospects are exceedingly bright, but the matter is not definitely settled.

Last week the commission that was here went over the McBride location in detail and from here went to Pennsylvania and gave that section a very close inspection and then returned to Bellefonte where they spent the evening gathering data and any information bearing on the locations. From here they went to Westmoreland county and other points.

When the commission left here they were not satisfied with the price asked for some of the land in the McBride location, and as much as intimated that while the location appeared to them very favorably, they would consider the offer off. In the meantime the matter was again taken up and options were secured on all the land selected by them at the price that they had agreed to pay, and these options were forwarded to Mr. Frances on Monday. This step seemed to please him and he intimated that he would not concern himself further regarding other sites, and he has arranged to make another and final trip to Bellefonte on next Wednesday when the entire commission will be here, the president of the commission not having been with them on any of the former inspections at this place. Governor Tener will also likely be with them on that occasion. The fact that the entire commission is coming so soon again and under these conditions, warrants us in assuming the chances of the new penitentiary being located here are exceedingly favorable, at this time.

The tract that has been selected, or rather proposed, comprises 3400 acres and includes the following properties: H. E. Zimmerman farm, I. J. Dreese farm, John P. Ishler farm, Hoy farm and the sixteen farms owned by Col. W. Fred Reynolds of this place which will include his large peach and apple orchards and the power site on Spring creek at Rock Mills which would furnish considerable electrical power for the institution. The entire commission will be here in the choice of this location. Under these conditions the selection of the site is not definitely settled but those who have been in touch with the commission on previous occasions are more than hopeful as to the result of the meeting next Wednesday, for they feel they have furnished the commission all that they desired and the prices that are asked for the land by the various individuals is really lower than the average market price for land of a similar character in this section.

## School Men Meet at State College.

The Round Table Conference held at State College on Friday and Saturday of last week was a successful gathering of the principals and superintendents of Central Pennsylvania. About one hundred men were present at the conference, and three new counties were admitted to membership. They are Jefferson, Union and Mifflin, and their accession brings the number up to 11. Many important reports were adopted, among which was that Central Pennsylvania will have uniformity in the minimum time to be spent on each recitation and in the keeping of students' records in the future. Lock Haven was decided upon as the next place of meeting, to be held some time in March. The same officers were re-elected.

A reception was given to the delegates at State College on Friday night which proved a pleasant social event. Some of the members were entertained at the home of President Dr. E. E. Sparks.

## Work Soon to Begin on Scootac Plant.

Progress is being made in the work of closing up the arrangements preliminary to beginning the construction work of the Scootac Electric Power plant, says Monday's Lock Haven Express. L. M. Patterson, the president of the Scootac company, was an arrival in Lock Haven in Monday morning on business connected with the argument of a law suit and expects to return to the east as soon as possible to have matters arranged for starting the building of the plant in a very short time. It is proposed to spend \$2,000,000 on the building and equipping of the plant.

## The Maine Explosion.

As to the proof of the source of the explosion which destroyed the Maine obtained by an inspection of the uncovered wreck, the evidence is rather contradictory. The engineers who have spoken most positively on the subject find from the appearance and disposition of the fragments of the vessel conclusive proof that an explosion on the outside did the damage. Probably the question will never get entirely beyond the sphere of dispute, but will be one on which authorities will differ and laymen will continue to divide.

## A Large Pumpkin.

C. Allison Williams, the merchant of Blanchard, grew a pumpkin of the sweet variety which weighs 75 pounds and measures at its largest circumference 5 1/2 feet. It was not "fed" nor otherwise forced, but developed naturally. Mr. Williams says the seed was planted the first of July and thinks he has established a record for this variety of pumpkin.

## Service in the Lutheran Church.

Next Sabbath morning and evening at the usual hour, there will be preaching in the Lutheran church by Rev. P. J. Shriver, of Galeburg, upon invitation to preach trial sermons.



Daniel A. Grove—For Commissioner.

It is important that the Board of County Commissioners should have at least one farmer, among the three. The reason for this is that the farming interests in Centre county predominate over all others. For that reason a County Commissioner who is in touch with the farming interests, who has some conception of the value of real estate and personal property, who has a farmer's experience and knows the farmer's burdens and the frugality and economy he must observe to be able to meet all obligations, and taxes especially, that truly is the kind of man that is needed in that office. The simple fact that a man is merely a farmer is in itself a poor qualification, and lacks much. There are many very poor farmers, as well as poor lawyers, poor merchants, etc., in every business, who would be a failure as County Commissioners. We commend Mr. Grove to Centre county taxpayers because he has been a successful farmer. He resides in Collette township where he successfully conducts a farm, on business principles. He is a careful, methodical man, of good judgment and sufficient force of character to be firm and stable, and could not be pulled to and fro by political posters with all kinds of schemes to make unnecessary expenditures and then mortgage future generations for such extravagance. Mr. Grove would have a mind of his own, and would exercise it.

In addition to farming Mr. Grove has had additional business experience. For about eight years he successfully conducted a coal and grain business at Lement and about ten years ago returned to the old homestead farm. In connection with his farm he deals extensively in western horses and cattle, and in this line he has succeeded, because farmers get good stock through him; they know he is honest and have full confidence in his judgment. In conclusion let us say, here you have a representative farmer and business man; one who comes from one of the best families in the county; a man who is clean, sober and upright; a man who is competent, efficient and ripe in experience. All men who believe that there should be a change in the Commissioners Board in the hope of securing a better board should support Daniel A. Grove, for County Commissioner.

## Birthday Party.

On Thursday evening, Oct. 5th, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Musser at Dale Summit, was the scene of a pleasant birthday party, when about thirty-five of Mrs. Musser's friends and neighbors, invited by her daughter, gathered to celebrate her 44th birthday anniversary. The evening was spent very pleasantly in friendly and neighborly intercourse. Refreshments were served at 10 o'clock. She received many handsome and useful presents.

## Special Fast Ball Train.

Account of the Penn State foot ball game Saturday, October 23th, a special train of ten coaches from State College to Philadelphia will be run on Friday, leaving State College at 11:45 a. m. passing through Bellefonte at 12:25 via Bellefonte Central Railroad, Central Railroad of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia & Reading Railway, arriving at Philadelphia at 6:45 that evening in time for the theatre. Returning this train will leave Philadelphia on Sunday evening and reach Bellefonte about 8 a. m. Monday.

Fare for the round trip from State College and Bellefonte \$6.75, and tickets must be purchased in advance from Bellefonte Central offices either at Bellefonte or State College. Through Pullman sleeping cars on return train from Philadelphia.

## "A Pair of Country Kids."

Did you ever sit on a mossy bank and look at the sun-kissed brook as it merrily dances in glees around the protruding pebbles and feel glad that you were alive? Well, that is the same sensation that you experience when you go and see "A Pair of Country Kids" at Garman's opera house next Monday night. It is a laughing, bubbling pure heart and home story. When the curtain drops on the last act you feel as though you had been refreshed by a drink of good cool spring water. The kids are full of fun and these two characters alone insure a good performance.

## Buck Sheep Gets Bad.

Those who happened to be in the vicinity of the Dr. Hayes farm, east of town last Thursday, witnessed the attack of a buck sheep on a 5-year-old boy by the name of Houser. The little fellow and a girl companion of about the same age were playing along the road when the ram jumped the boy in the face several times, bruising him each time he hit him. The animal would undoubtedly have killed the boy had assistance not come from several men who happened to be nearby, and who drove him away with whips. The sheep belongs to Dan Shuey, of the above named farm.

## Beech Creek Butcher Scalded.

Charles W. Hunter, one of the proprietors of the local meat market in Beech Creek, was painfully scalded while rendering a kettle of lard in the work room in the rear of his shop on Friday afternoon. Mr. Hunter was dipping the boiling liquid out of the kettle into buckets, using a dipper with a double bottom. Suddenly the dipper exploded, throwing its contents all over the room, and some of the hot lard burned him badly where his clothing did not cover the skin. His worst burn was on the right forearm, while spots on his hands and face were painfully burned also.

## THE LEADING ISSUE.

That is of Most Importance to the Taxpayers of Centre County.

Possibly the most absorbing issue in this campaign to the voters of Centre county is the selection of the next Board of County Commissioners. The taxpayers over the county have been giving careful thought to the proposition, and it looks to us at this time as if the work of the present board will not be approved at the polls. The more the people carefully study the situation the clearer it presents itself. In order to grasp the important points, let us in a general way, review the present board's work:

When the present board went into office, three years ago, they found the finances of the county in excellent shape. There was practically no debt confronting them, and the county tax rate was among the very lowest in the state. There had been an economical administration, no unnecessary expenditures had been made, and yet the public affairs had been administered in a most satisfactory manner.

There was a demand for a general overhauling of the Court House. There is not a particle of doubt that it was absolutely necessary, and a large majority of the best people of the county sanctioned the move. Plans and specifications by several noted architects were submitted and considered. Then the commissioners filed a statement in the Prothonotary's office setting forth that the cost of the improvements would not exceed \$60,000. The public was assured also that the architects would give a bond that it would not exceed \$50,000. Upon these assurances, doubly made, the taxpayers of the county approved of their intention to remodel the building, but at a cost of \$60,000. There was no serious objection from any quarter.

The Court House has been completed, but all the furnishings have not been secured. Up to last January, 1911, the amount of bills paid to that time, when the building was unfinished, aggregated over \$122,000, and work was still in progress continuously up to the date of dedication in May. Careful estimates of the entire cost now bring it close to THE ENORMOUS SUM OF \$135,000.

Naturally building estimates are low, and the final cost frequently exceeds the original calculations. But in this case there was the assurance of the careful estimate of experienced architects and a bond to limit the expense to \$50,000. Now we find the expense more than doubled, with no evidence of a bond in existence!

The promise was \$60,000—absolutely made and assured. In reality the cost of repairing the Court House is over twice that amount, or about \$135,000. This one fact alone is sufficient to condemn this board. They failed to keep the pledges, carefully and deliberately made, and still on record in the Prothonotary's office. The excess is so great as to amaze our taxpayers. It can hardly be attributed to a lack of judgment for their contracts should have originally given them some conception of the final cost.

No! a jump from \$60,000 to \$135,000 is too great to be attributed to an error or oversight. It shows a disregard of former pledges, a careless disposition to spend other peoples' money; or an absolute display of incompetency as public officials, and a confession that they are not qualified to discharge the duties of that office.

But there is further proof of incompetency: That \$100,000 bond issue for 30 years at 4 per cent. was a costly financial blunder, and the closer it is studied the more appalling it appears, that a body of officials would permit such an outrage to be perpetrated on future generations. There was no doubt that a \$100,000 bond issue was necessary, but the terms are all against the county. Instead of retiring the bonds annually in series, they run for 30 long years at 4 per cent.; \$4,000 interest must be paid annually when most of the present taxpayers and voters will be dead and in their graves—a mortgage on future generations. We have seen numerous calculations how many thousands of dollars would have been saved had these bonds been retired in series; instead we will pay a total of \$120,000 in interest.

The principal is to be paid by putting \$1,100 semi-annually in a sinking fund for 30 years, or \$66,000. Were this money invested at compound interest at 4 per cent. it would aggregate many thousands more than the original debt of \$100,000. The banks in Centre county would have carried this loan, while the taxpayers in Centre county, if given a chance, would have taken such a loan, and the \$120,000 in interest would have been paid back to Centre county people. Instead, the fat deal, for some unaccountable reason that up to this time, no one has attempted or even dared to explain, was quietly peddled to the city by a local politician! This deal costs the people about \$30,000 more than it should, and now it is a question if the county can lift these bonds in 30 years. As they put \$1,100 semi-annually in the sinking fund, the bonds require also the payment of the 4 mills state tax on money drawing interest, which will average \$200 on sinking fund and \$400 on bonds \$600 annually, leaving only \$1,600 annually instead of \$2,200 for a sinking fund.

In other words the cost of this transaction in 30 years is as follows:

\$4,000 interest annually for 30 years.....	\$120,000
\$1,100 deposited semi-annually for 30 years (sinking fund)....	\$66,000
600 annual interest tax to state.....	\$18,000
	\$204,000

But \$1100 deposited semi-annually and compounded at 4 per cent. in 30 years would have earned about \$135,000 instead of \$100,000, and there is where the county loses \$25,000 by this transaction and it should be charged up as expenses.....

\$135,000	
Total cost of Bonds in 30 years.....	\$241,000

## ONLY PART OF THE STORY.

When Woodring and Zimmerman filed their financial statement in May 1909 in the Prothonotary's office they had a debt of \$54,000 and \$29,000 assets, or a net debt of \$25,000. To meet this debt and repair the Court House (at \$60,000) they borrowed \$100,000. But they spent \$75,000 above their estimate, and had no resources to meet it—hence we absolutely have, in addition to the \$100,000 loan issue, an unsecured Floating Debt of about \$70,000 confronting the taxpayers of Centre county. During the past year the present Board of Commissioners have been imploring, and pathetically appealing to the leading banks in Bellefonte, Phillipsburg, and elsewhere for temporary loans to tide them through their financial difficulties, hoping that the public may not learn, during this campaign, of their troubles. By rumor, we have it that some banks turned down their request, because they believed the commissioners had already exceeded their legal limit of indebtedness.

Time will not permit us to go into detail to discuss some of the contracts let for supplies in the rebuilding of the Court House. There was about the same lack of business capacity shown elsewhere as in this extravagant bond issue. There seemed to be political deals all through. Tales are told of competitive bidding and large contracts awarded to political favorites by scarcely a dollar margin—strange to relate. Then the entire program would be changed, new specifications, alterations and additions, and the favored contractor would fix his own price.

The course of this board in the High Street bridge scandal, when they privately awarded contracts without authority of law or the courts, illegally made payments of several thousand dollars; and then a second time gave the contract before the report of viewers was "confirmed absolute," is sufficient to settle in the minds of anyone that the present Board of Commissioners were absolutely incompetent to comprehend their duties, and lacking in the ordinary business qualifications to guard or protect public interests.

Throughout their entire term, same as in the Court House repairs and the bridge lettings mentioned, there has been the same unbusiness-like, extravagant administration. Lacking in those peculiar traits that fit men to grasp business propositions, without any business training other than that encountered in ordinary farm life, apparently devoid of any executive ability whatever—though honest of purpose and with no intent to commit wrong—Messrs. Woodring and Zimmerman, although regarded by all as good citizens, by their record that has loaded down our people with debt and put a mortgage on property, have demonstrated their utter lack of capacity, to successfully fill the office of County Commissioner. We have not a word of censure; we believe they did the best they knew how. In the utter failure they have made they have our sympathy; but we do not believe they are again entitled to the support and vote of careful, prudent, thoughtful taxpayers, seeking the best interests of Centre county and the welfare of our people.

## A CHANGE IS NEEDED.



Arthur B. Lee—For Sheriff.

A. B. Lee, the Democratic nominee for Sheriff, is a typical self-made man and one of the best citizens of Pennsylvania where he was born and reared. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Lee was born in Potter township about forty-three years ago. His education was received in the public schools of that township and the first twenty-four years of his life were spent on the farm and were uneventful. Seventeen years ago he purchased a steam threshing outfit and for ten years he traveled through Pennsylvania threshing out the golden grain, and it was while engaged in this occupation that he formed acquaintances all through Pennsylvania and earned the reputation of honesty and integrity. One year Mr. Lee spent in York, Pa., where he was a driver of the steam fire engine of the Goodwill fire company, and did good work, but he saw an opportunity to return to Pennsylvania and came back. During the past six or seven years he has been located at Tusseyville as a blacksmith where he succeeded James Moyer. Mr. Lee is serving his last year of a term of five years as justice of the peace of Potter township, and he has the very enviable record of never returning a single case to court. Every action brought before him was always amicably and satisfactorily adjusted to the best interests of the contending parties, and at the least possible cost. Mr. Lee is a big-hearted, generous fellow, who has a kindly word for all no matter of what political faith. In his canvass for the nomination he was frank and fair and not an unkind word or unmanly act was laid to his door, by anyone. Mr. Lee is a broad-gauged man, who would fill this office to the best interests of all. He could be firm with those who deserve punishment, and generous to the unfortunate and those in financial distress. Arthur B. Lee would make an ideal sheriff and merits your support.

## Dropped Dead at Tyrone Station.

On Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Louisa Dunlap, whose home is presumably at Olania, Clearfield county, dropped dead at the Tyrone passenger station just after alighting from a train. She is supposed to have boarded the train at Philadelphia, as she had a ticket from that place to Clearfield. When train No. 16 pulled into Tyrone, Mrs. Dunlap alighted and carrying a suitcase walked down the steps and passed through the subway. Just as she emerged from the subway she suddenly staggered forward and fell face downward to the walk. She was picked up and carried into the depot where a physician who was summoned pronounced the cause of her death as heart failure. The lady was about 70 years of age, and letters found in her suitcase would lead to the belief that she had been visiting relatives in Wyoming, Del., and her home-coming was anxiously awaited.

## Another Negro Affair at Coatsville.

Coatsville has many troubles with the negro population. After spending possibly \$5,000 in the trial of lynchers, she has a murder thrust upon her. The crime occurred on Monday night directly in front of the Coatsville opera house, when Daisy Boyer shot and fatally wounded Foster Brown, both parties being colored. The bullet which struck Brown passed through his neck and there is no chance of his recovery. The couple quarreled as they were walking along the street and the woman drew a revolver and fired both parties being colored. At the time of the shooting theatre-goers were leaving the opera house and the stray bullets flew among the frightened people as they rushed to get out of range of the enraged woman. She was at once arrested and placed in jail.

## Accident at Tyrone Paper Mill.

Hurled around a huge wheel in the Tyrone paper mill on Monday afternoon, Edward Garber, of Foush Mills, came near losing his life. As it is his usual habit to wear a cap, it was pinned to his forehead and he was hurled into the machinery. The man's clothing had caught in a belt attached to the huge wheel and he was drawn into the whirling machine before he was able to help himself. When the machinery was stopped his fellow employees found his body a bleeding mass of flesh, and he was removed to the Altoona hospital, where his injuries were dressed. He is now recovering but it will be several months before he will be able to return to his work.

## Found Baby on Door Step.

Upon answering a knock at her front door on Saturday morning, Mrs. Margaret Champ, a widow woman residing in Phillipsburg, was surprised to find a basket on the step, wherein was neatly tucked a week-old white baby. With the infant was a bottle of milk and a change of clothing. There is no clue to the identity of the mother of the baby, and the poor overseers of Phillipsburg will provide a home for her.

## Hospital Notes.

Operations: Mary Hartwick, aged 11, appendicitis, of Bellefonte; Sanford Drake, aged 4, of Bellefonte; Alma Bury, of Lock Haven; Roy Adams, of Danville.

Admitted for treatment: Edward Walker, Valley View; Elizabeth Catherine, aged 5 months, of Bellefonte.

There are twenty-one patients now in the hospital.

Henry Chapman, of Patton, well known in Centre county, is critically ill at his home. He is expected to enter a hospital in a short time for an operation.

## DEATH OF FORMER CENTRE COUNTY LADY

AT HER HOME IN ST. MARYS ON SUNDAY.

## MRS. SUSANNA GEARY HALL

Was the Mother of Hon. Harry Alvan Hall, President Judge of Clinton County—Brief Notices of Others Who Have Passed to the Great Beyond.

HALL:—After a well spent life of 72 years, Mrs. Susanna Geary Hall passed away at her home in St. Marys at 6:45 o'clock Sunday morning. She was a woman of remarkable personality, and her qualities of mind and heart were such as to endear her to everyone with whom she came in contact. Despite her advanced age she had enjoyed the best of health up until about ten days ago, when she was stricken with apoplexy, which paralyzed her left side. Nevertheless she retained her faculties and her consciousness up until a few hours before her demise. Deceased was born at Hartleton, Union county, Pa., October 13, 1819, a daughter of John and Julian Geary. She came of Revolutionary stock, both of her grandfathers having participated in the great war for American independence. When she was seven years old her parents removed to Nittany valley, in Centre county, where, in 1826, he rather erected the large building known as Nittany Hall, an old landmark which is still standing, and from which the village surrounding it takes its name.

On June 25, 1857, when but 18 years old, she was married at Hahlersburg to Benjamin McDowell Hall. She resided there for some time and afterwards in Milesburg, until 1855, when the family removed to Karthaus, Clearfield county, where they resided until 1857, when they removed to St. Marys, which was thereafter her home until the time of her death. She had seven children, all of whom were born in Centre county, except the youngest, who was born at Karthaus. They were the Honorable John G. Hall, a noted railroad contractor and corporation lawyer, and at one time a senator who died at Liverpool, England, in 1889; Dr. William E. Hall, a noted physician of Renovo, who died at Newport News, Va., in 1909; H. J. K. P. Hall, now senator from the 26th district, and formerly a member of Congress; Mrs. B. E. Wellendorf and Miss Mary E. Hall, both of whom resided with her at the time of her death; E. Frank Hall, who died in Philadelphia in 1909, and Hon. Harry Alvan Hall, formerly senator, afterwards United States attorney and now president judge of Clinton county. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, and by one brother, the venerable W. C. Geary, Esq., of Ridgway, Pa. The funeral was held from the Hall homestead on Tuesday afternoon, services being conducted by the venerable Archdeacon Radcliffe, assisted by Revs. Bates, Mitchell and Graybill.

SMITH:—Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, wife of J. Frank Smith, merchant of Centre Hall, died at her home in that place on Thursday morning, 19th, aged 44 years, 5 months and 22 days. She had been an invalid for almost three years, and at times was a great sufferer, due to an affliction of a dropsical nature. Mr. Smith, who is a candidate for register, was called home on Wednesday by the critical turn in his wife's illness, and was at her bedside when she passed away. Deceased was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hosterman (both deceased) of Centre Hall, at the homestead at Centre Hill. Beside her husband she is survived by five children, who are of such an age that they will greatly miss the mother's loving care. Their names are: Nellie C. Calvin J. Charles, Stewart and John E. She also leaves two brothers, James, who resides in Missouri, and Thomas, at Centre Hill. Deceased was a devout member of the Lutheran church and in that edifice funeral services were held on Monday morning at 10 o'clock, conducted by Reverends Barry and Snyder. Interment was made in the Centre Hall cemetery.

CRISSEMAN:—John A. Crissman, a brother of our townsman, Homer Crissman, died at his home in Lockport, on Monday afternoon of last week, aged about 70, and had been ill for some time with a complication of diseases. He was an expert book-keeper and was connected with many coal and lumber companies in that capacity. He served his country in the Civil war. Deceased is survived by his wife, one son, Harry, and two daughters, Mrs. Michael Probst of Lockport, and Mrs. Fred Baldwin of West Chester. The following brothers and sisters survive: Harry Crissman, Pittsburg; Judson, Dolobis; Homer, Bellefonte; and Mrs. Molly Probst, Snow Shoe. The funeral was held on Thursday afternoon.

CHASE:—Mrs. Emma C. Chase, a sister of Mrs. William Fulton, of Milesburg, died at the Altoona hospital Sunday morning, of pneumonia. She had been a resident of that city for a number of years and was prominently identified with several of the women's lodges. She was aged 52 years, 8 months and 25 days. One son and one daughter survive.

CHAPMAN:—Alexander Chapman, a former resident of Centre county, died at his home in Patton, on Sunday, October 15th, after a two weeks' illness with pneumonia. He was aged 68 years, 10 months and 5 days. Surviving are his wife, seven children, father, two brothers and five sisters.

WILCOX:—George Wilcox, whose earlier years were spent at Phillipsburg, being a son of the late Henry Wilcox, died on Saturday night at the General Hospital in Braddock, the result of brain fever, after a comparatively brief illness. He was aged 37 years, 10 months and 23 days.

CUSTER:—Samuel Tibben Custer, son of Tibben J. and Jennie E. Custer, died on Sunday morning at the home at Bald Eagle, after an illness of three months with rheumatism of the heart. He was born May 22, 1865. Funeral services and interment occurred on Monday at Bald Eagle.