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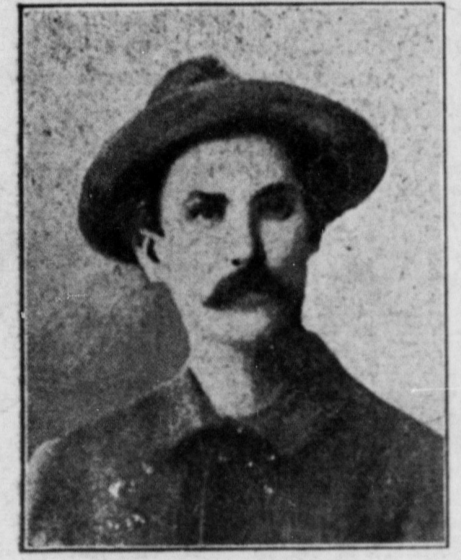
GUILTY OF MURDER IN FIRST DEGREE

CLEARFIELD JURY'S VERDICT AGAINST JOHN O. KEELER.

A FORMER BELLEVILLE CITIZEN

On Trial For Shooting a Clearfield Brewer, Concluded Last Friday— Only Defense Was That He Was Intoxicated.

The trial of John O. Keeler, the former Belleville man charged with the murder of Joseph W. Roessner, proprietor of the Clearfield brewery, came to an end at Clearfield on Friday noon, when the jury after deliberating eighteen hours, returned a verdict of "Guilty of Murder in the first degree." Keeler's attorneys at once made the usual motion for a new trial, there-



John O. Keeler.

By courtesy of Clearfield Republican

fore no sentence will be pronounced until that matter is disposed of, Judge Smith has set December 16th as the time for making his reply to the motion.

When Keeler was arraigned Tuesday morning he entered the formal plea of not guilty, and the work of securing the jury was then taken up, which occupied the balance of the day. During nearly all the time consumed by the trial Mrs. Keeler sat by the side of her husband. She broke down just before the jurors came in, but when the verdict was read did not shed a tear. The prisoner was a keen observer all through the trial, watching the witnesses and prompting his lawyers, and showed very little nervousness.

Many witnesses were called by both sides. The chief witness for the commonwealth was John Kircher, the brew-master, who was shot twice by Keeler. His testimony alone showed that Keeler from his own words went to the brewery on September 14th with murder in his heart, intending to kill someone. Kircher told how Keeler came to the "tapping room" about 5 o'clock and that he gave him two glasses of beer. On leaving the building Kircher was informed of threats Keeler had made when he arrived at the scene, and on returning to the room where the employees were getting their beer according to the rule of the brewery, he refused to allow Keeler another glass of beer. Keeler demanded another and when refused told Mr. Kircher that he had better give it to him and that the least said the better it would be for him. He again refused and Keeler told him it was the last time he would refuse anybody any beer—that he just wanted about five minutes more. About this time Mr. Roessner came in and told Keeler that his son wanted to see him outside. Keeler then said, with an oath, that he would not go out and they could not put him out. Mr. Roessner said he wanted him to leave the premises and would call a policeman to have him removed. He started into the office by the back door and Keeler started for the front door. Kircher said he then heard the shooting in the office and Mr. Roessner exclaimed "I am shot." He then started in through the passage from the "tapping room" to the back office where he met Keeler with the smoking revolver in his hand coming for him. "Leveling the revolver Keeler said, 'now, damn you, I came for you and I am going to get you.' With that he fired and the bullet passed through Kircher's right hand, which he had thrown up to protect himself. He had thrown up to get away. Keeler fired again, the bullet striking him in the center of the back and entering his body, where it still remained. Keeler pursued him into the next room and as he and George F. Carson were attempting to get out of the door together Keeler fired again, this bullet passing through Carson's arm and entering his body where it also remained.

The defense in opening their side of the case stated that they expected to be able to show that Keeler's mind was so affected by drink at the time of the killing that he did not know what he was doing. A number of witnesses testified to Keeler's peaceful reputation. The prisoner in his own defense stated that he had been dissatisfied with his work from time to time, but denied wholesale the stories and threats imputed to him by a number of the Commonwealth's witnesses. He said he drank considerably during Friday and Saturday and remembered getting on the train from DuBois and getting off when it stopped at the brewery, and then going up to the bar-room in rear of the office, said he saw Kircher there and then his memory failed him and he did not come too again until down on the railroad bridge below the tannery where his son told him he had shot Mr. Osden.

Crowds hung around the court house until a late hour. Thursday night waiting for the verdict, and many ugly remarks were said to have been made as to what should be done to a jury bringing in less than a first degree verdict under the evidence in the

(Continued at bottom of next col.)

NEW LAW IN EFFECT.

Pensioners to be Paid Without Separate Vouchers Under New Act.

From this date Tyrone people who receive pensions from the federal government, will be paid except in certain cases, without separate vouchers or receipts from the pensioners, in accordance with an act of congress approved August 17, 1912, which directs that the checks for such payment shall be transmitted to the pensioner's last known address and provides further—

That postmasters, delivery clerks, letter carriers, and all other postal employees are prohibited from delivering any such mail to any person whomsoever if the addressee has died or removed, or in the case of a widow believed by the postal employee to be entrusted with the delivery of such mail to have remarried; and the postmaster in every such case shall forthwith return such mail with a statement of the reasons for so doing and if because of death or remarriage, the date thereof, if known.

For the purpose of identification of the mail matter to which said provision applies, the envelope will have on its face, in addition to the return request, the following instructions:

To the postmaster: This act of August 17, 1912, prohibits the delivery of this letter to any person if the addressee has died or removed, or being a widow, is believed to have remarried, and requires its return forthwith, in any such case, with a statement of the reasons for so doing, and if on account of death or marriage, the date thereof, if known.

Paragraph 2, section 642 of the postal laws and regulations of 1912, as amended by postmaster general's order No. 852 will govern the delivery of such mail, except in so far as modified by instructions, from pension agencies not carrying such instructions will be subject fully and solely to the directions of said paragraph, which reads as follows:

Letters from a United States pension agency addressed to a pensioner or payee of the pension (in whole or in part) of another person must be delivered to the addressee or to some member of his or her family specially authorized by him or her to receive them. If, however, the addressee has been declared mentally incompetent they are to be delivered only to his or her duly appointed guardian. If the addressee, being a pensioner has died, they are to be delivered only to the duly qualified and acting executor or administrator of his or her estate or returned to the agency at the expiration of the time named in the card request if there be no such executor or administrator. If the deceased addressee was not a pensioner, but the payee of the pension of another person, they are to be returned to the agency.

ARRESTED AT SON'S FUNERAL.

Constable Wait Retakes Mrs. Drake, Who Returned to Lock Haven.

An unusual scene occurred at the Flemington cemetery on Tuesday afternoon after the remains of Charles Drake had been laid to the grave and the ceremonies were concluded, when Constable George J. Wait placed deceased's mother, Mrs. Mary Drake, under arrest. Mrs. Drake had been arrested several months ago on the charge of conducting a disorderly house, and after Constable Wait had reached the Lock Haven jail with the woman she asked the constable to go in the sheriff's residence to telephone a party to go her bail, and that she be permitted to wait outside. The constable, in the goodness of his heart, as requested, when Mrs. Drake took her heels and running the street several alleys disappeared, and had not been seen since until she made her appearance at her son's funeral. The constable got in the vehicle with Mrs. Drake and other members of the family, but had considerable trouble in keeping her in the rig, and it is said her relatives became so incensed and acted in such a threatening manner after reaching their home that Constable Wait called on Constable Pettinill, who happened along for assistance, and no further trouble was experienced after that. Later the case was called off on the promise of Mrs. Drake to leave the city.—L. H. Democrat.

SUES THE COMMISSIONERS.

Sheriff of Northumberland County Testing Legality of 1911 Fee Act.

Sunbury Daily: Determined to have what he says rightfully belongs to him, Sheriff Glass has instituted suit against the county commissioners in order to test the legality of the 1911 fee bill, which he says is unconstitutional, stating that he should be paid under the act of 1901.

The act of 1901 would give him an increase of fees of from \$2000 to \$2500 per year more than he would get under the 1911 act. Arguments were heard before Associate Law Judge Moses Monday. Attorneys Schaffer and Oram represented the sheriff, County Solicitor McDivitt looked after the county's interests and Ex-Judge Voris Auten argued for the taxpayers' association.

Chester and Somerset counties have already declared the 1911 act unconstitutional. Under the 1911 act 14 counties, Philadelphia being the largest, are excluded in the fee bill. Dauphin, with 136,000 people, is the smallest, all counties under 120,000 being included in the 1911 act.

Vogel's Minstrels Tonight.

One of the many features to be presented by John W. Vogel's Big City Minstrels, which will appear at the opera house tonight, is a beautiful and up-to-date dancing number, entitled, "The Great Event." The idea was conceived by Manager Vogel and arranged by Barney Fagin, the world's master producer of intricate dances and torchlight parades. The scene is laid at the famous Sheepshead Bay race course, and the prancing thoroughbreds are at the post awaiting the signal for the start, they get the word "They're off," hoof-beats are heard in the distance and immediately after the finish the jockeys appear neatly attired in the regulation colors, representing the world's famous owners and stake winners.

In case, it is said that Keeler told a couple persons on Thursday evening that he preferred a verdict in the first degree to one in the second.

REMONSTRANCES AGAINST LICENSES

STRONG PETITIONS FILED FROM PHILIPSBURG.

OPPOSED TO ALL APPLICANTS

From That Place—Includes Hotels Wholesale Dealers and the Brewery —Signed by 356 Citizens—Claim They Are Not Needed.

The annual session of liquor license court for Centre county is set for Saturday morning, December 14th. At that time the petitions of those who desire license during the coming year, in this county will be presented to the court. The complete list will be found on page 2 of this issue, as advertised by the prothonotary and comprises 34 applicants. The list has been practically the same for the past few years, with only some change in the names of the proprietors. The number now is smaller than some years back, when there were over forty places in the county licensed to sell liquor.

At this coming session there will be a large number of remonstrances from Philipshurg that cover every place heretofore granted in that town. The list comprises 9 hotels, 3 wholesale, and 1 brewery. There is one general remonstrance against all the applicants in that town, and then there are thirteen separate remonstrances, one against each individual applicant. The remonstrances are based on the allegation that liquor licenses are not deemed necessary for the accommodation of the public and the entertainment of strangers and travelers in Philipshurg. This is the wording on the general and the individual remonstrances.

The remonstrances have 118 signatures from the First Ward, 166 from the Second Ward, and 132 from the Third Ward, or a total 356 from the town. The remonstrances will be represented in court by Richard R. Gilbert, Esq., of Tyrone.

It is not expected that there will be any special attention given to the remonstrances on Saturday, further than they will be regularly presented to the court by the prothonotary, and the court will likely fix a date for the taking of testimony bearing on the various applications and remonstrances, at which time this is completed argument will likely be had on the individual cases and the general remonstrance.

Heretofore the court has granted all these licenses on the ground that they were necessary for the "accommodation of the public and the entertainment of strangers and travelers." For that reason it will be the burden of the remonstrators to show that such a condition does not exist in that community.

There seems to be a general complaint that there are entirely too many places in that community for the sale of liquor, and that means will be used to have some of them, at least, dispensed with. It is held that a number of places are maintained merely for the purpose of selling liquor, and that the "accommodation of the public and the entertainment of the stranger and traveler" is only a side issue to secure the privilege. If it can be shown that some of these places do not have proper accommodations and conveniences to entitle them to the distinction of being hotels, they may find that the chances of maintaining their liquor license will be difficult in the future.

These remonstrances have the support of many leading citizens in that community and a determined fight is on, in which the hotel people will make every effort to maintain their license in the future.

For the population, there are more licenses in Philipshurg than at any other part of the county, but then there is a different class of people in that section who consume more liquor than others, and if the number of licenses are cut down it may create a monopoly in that section, that will be extremely valuable. Again, it is a question whether cutting out of all the licenses in that place would be advisable, as there are numerous places in the adjoining counties where there is an abundance, and conditions might become worse without licenses than with carefully conducted hotels, where men try to comply with the law as closely as can be expected. For fear that we may be accused of interfering in this fight now on, we had better cease further comment.

Railroad For State College.

Everybody about State College appears to be confident that they will have their hopes for a good railroad connection with the Pennsylvania lines realized in the near future. For some time there had been rumors to that effect, and they were justified by the appearance of railroad officials who went over the proposed line from Lemont to State College and then with the westward to Fairbrook, to connect with the Bruce Creek branch to Tyrone.

For the past month a corps of engineers has been located at State College who were engaged in running lines from Lemont to Fairbrook, and are still at work on the job.

There are intimations, from those who are in position know, the completion of the connecting link is assured. We give this from what we consider reliable information. All objections to the building of the road appear to be overcome and active operations may be expected at an early date.

Red Cross Seals.

In every city and town in the United States a determined effort is being made to sell the greatest number of seals ever sold. This comes through the fact that so much good is being done in the fight against tuberculosis that it is hoped to procure more money than ever to strengthen and maintain the forces. There is nothing you can do with your money to which so large a part goes right to the work done than by buying Red Cross seals. Several local merchants have them on sale at one cent each.

FREE TUBERCULOSIS EXHIBIT AND LECTURES

TO BE GIVEN NEXT WEEK IN CENTRE COUNTY.

BY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Display in the Grand Jury Room at the Court House—Lectures to School Children, and the Public in the Even- ings.

Next week there will be an important display in the grand jury room at the Court House, in Belleville, by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, that should call the interest of everyone in Centre county. The time selected for the exhibit will be from the 16th of December to the 23rd, and it will be devoted entirely to the great enemy of the human race in all climates known as tuberculosis, or commonly termed consumption. The Department of Health has been conducting a general crusade throughout the state on this topic. Other states are co-operating along similar lines, and the federal government has devoted much attention to the same topic.

The aim of the department is to supply the public with illustrations that will show the nature of the disease, and the fatality that is connected with it. There will be displays showing under what modes of life the disease is more likely to be contracted, and what are modern sanitary conditions for the prevention and spread of this contagious disease. Illustrations will deal with the large institutions that are maintained by the state known as tuberculosis sanitariums where those afflicted in the early stages can secure treatment that is almost sure to spare their lives.

The benefits of the fresh air treatment of those at home, and the best kind of nourishing foods for patients will be dwelt upon in the illustrations, and the lectures that will be delivered.

The display will be under the supervision of Dr. S. M. Huff of this place who was appointed the County Medical Inspector on November 15th, to succeed the late Dr. Geo. F. Harris. Dr. Huff is arranging for the details of this public display and will be assisted by Dr. Wm. S. Miller of the State Health Department. They have secured the arbitration room in the court house where this display will be open for public inspection during all of next week. During the day Dr. Miller will deliver talks to the school children in different parts of the county and in the evenings the general public will be invited to attend his lectures. These lectures will deal with every phase of the dread disease tuberculosis, and the aim is to educate the public to live under the proper condition so as to make themselves liable to contract this disease.

It is a matter of great importance to many important people of the county the supply of an abundance of fresh air in our homes in winter and summer. The proper ventilation of public buildings, sanitary clothing and homes, etc., on which all of us have much to learn. How to fight the disease in its early stages will also be another part of the discussion that will interest all.

Remember that the state bears all the expense of sending Dr. Miller here with his exhibit, and there will be no charge to those who attend the various sessions and lectures over the local points that they supply suitable rooms for the lectures; in most cases the school houses will be used for this purpose.

AIMS TO BOOM PHILIPSBURG.

New Board of Trade Plans to Enroll Many Members.

Philipshurg's new Board of Trade, permanently organized Saturday, will begin work early in January with a banquet to which all the business and professional men in the town and vicinity will be invited, with the object of enrolling them in a big organization to make business boom.

Officers, with the exception of a secretary-manager, a position with a salary of \$1500 to \$2000 a year attached, were elected as follows: L. W. Nettall, president; David Altherr, first vice president; Dr. W. W. Andrews, second vice president; William F. Holt, treasurer; William L. Burchfield, recording secretary; H. D. Rumberger, H. B. Scott, J. N. Schoonover, C. H. Rowland, R. H. Zerbby, E. C. Beezer, Joseph Pritchard, T. J. Lee, P. E. Womelsdorff and Rev. F. T. Eastment, directors.

The New Window Glass Industry.

It is gratifying to learn that the citizens of Belleville are in entire sympathy with the movement afoot to locate a new industry in Centre County. The skilled glass workers here together with the services of the Mercantile and Realty Company, promoters and financiers, of Pittsburgh, have without the question of a doubt shown the public, during the last week, that the new industry is absolutely assured, since these men are indefatigable workers. These men say they feel confident that all the money needed for the thorough establishment of this industry can easily be secured in Belleville.

It is understood that during the forepart of the week these promoters were appealed to by neighboring towns to locate the new industry "in that town" instead of Belleville, with the assurance of "that town" that "their" business men are willing and ready to put up the required capital. But the promoters here are more than pleased with the success they are meeting in the securing of the desired funds for the new industry. They say the Belleville people are wide awake and the industry will stay in Belleville.

Will Apply For License.

Jacob Basinger, of Johnsonburg, who recently purchased the brick hotel property on Main street, Beech Creek, is circulating a petition for signatures asking the Clinton county court for liquor license. Beech Creek borough has been without license for the past thirty years.

POOR HOUSE ONLY ONE INMATE.

Remarkable Decrease of Dependents After Farm Was Established.

A decrease of from 79 inmates in a township almshouse down to a mere single lonely individual is a record that is hard to beat. This state of affairs is not attributed to the prosperous times nor any other natural phenomena but is due to the aggressiveness, sincerity of purpose and efficiency of administration of the two overseers of the poor of Rush township, Centre county.

Rush township's almshouse was aptly named. There was always a good rush for shelter and aid and included in the rushers were a number of rich grafters. Last year ninety-seven persons were supported by the township poor fund, but this year there is but

TALL CORN GROWN IN CENTRE COUNTY

PHOTOGRAPH OF A FIELD NEAR AARONSBURG.

STALKS WERE 15 FEET HIGH

Many Ears Were 13 Inches in Length— Part of an Ensilage Crop Grown by Luther Stover—A Large Yield— How It Was Cultivated.

Have you ever heard the fairy tales from Kansas where they raise the most remarkable corn on record? Where the stalks grow so high that



(Photo by Sumner C. Musser, Jr., Aaronsburg, Pa.)

one in the poor house to be kept, although the building is large, steam heated and electric lighted, and there is plenty of wholesome food to be served.

Poor Overseers Thomas R. Dubbs and William Wood, when they assumed office last January, found the poor district in debt \$1,800 and \$700 was being expended each month for the maintenance of dependents. Investigation showed one man receiving support who had a bank account of \$1,000. Another regularly receiving aid possessed property worth \$2,000 and was getting \$20 a month from a bequest order. Still another, who had not been a resident of the county for fifteen years, was supported by the poor fund.

As a result of these disclosures the court granted the overseers the right to establish the poor farm. It contains thirteen acres, located within a mile of Philipshurg. The overseers say the farm will be self supporting next year.

EXTRA PAGES.

In order to accommodate the unusual demand of our merchants for space in the Centre Democrat to announce their holiday goods, it was found necessary this week to add four additional pages to this issue, so that the space for reading matter would not be cut down. It is a rule of this paper never to run an excessive amount of advertising, as we consider our first duty is to furnish our readers with a large amount of news. In other words, we prefer to run a news-paper, instead of an advertising sheet.

It is an established fact that you get the most news for the least amount of money in the Centre Democrat. The price for advertising space in the paper is the highest of any paper in the county, but it is the cheapest in the end, for the reason that it reaches several thousand more subscribers by its regular edition, than any other paper in the county. Merchants get the best returns for their money when they advertise in the Centre Democrat, because it goes into the most homes.

Light Plant Purchased.

The owners of the "Nittany Light, Heat & Power Company of State College" transferred their entire plant and franchises on Saturday to a new firm. The deal was consummated at the office of A. A. Dale, Esq., in Belleville. The name of the old company will be continued, and the plant will be conducted for the time by the same employees. The plant was purchased by the company who contemplate the erection of the large steam power electric station on the Moshannon and have franchises through all this section of the county.

Among those who were here to attend to the formalities of the transfer were Asbury Lee, A. J. Musser, and Mr. Wrigley, of Clearfield, and Senator Fisher, of Indiana county. On Sunday morning they started for home by way of Snow Shoe in their automobile. Further developments are assured at an early date that will interest this community.

Horse's Kick Proves Fatal.

William Butler, aged about 15 years, son of Harry Butler, living two miles south of Woodland, while attending to some horses in the stable last Friday evening, was kicked in the groin by one of them, and so severely injured that he died the next day.

they have to chop them down to gather the crop. The ears are so immense that they split them with dynamite to get them on a wagon. We have been told that in the growing season they spring up so rapidly that men have been carried up in the air on them, and had to be rescued with rope and tackle, while the stems are handled like heavy growth of timber. If course this kind of corn grows only in Kansas, and it is only vouchered for by people from Kansas.

These things are brought to mind only through the above photo of a field of corn that actually grew in Centre county, and here is the proof. The above picture was taken in a small town lot that adjoins Aaronsburg, and many of our readers in that section can vouch for it. There is no fake about the picture, on the part of the man who made the negative—it is the real thing. Having seen this picture we naturally had our curiosity aroused, and upon inquiry learned that it was the product of Mr. Luther E. Stover, farmer and dairyman, of that place, from whom we solicited the following information for our readers.

He conducts a dairy which consists of nine milk cows. There are maintained by a number of small parcels of land, about that town, consisting mostly of town lots which receive his careful attention. In order to secure feed for the entire season, he has about twenty acres of land and the most of this he plants in ensilage corn. This is cut and stored in two silos at his barn, that are 10x25, and the other 8x20 feet. After the silos were filled this season, he had one-half acre of ensilage corn which was left stand and mature. The photo shows the result.

The stalks reached a height of between fifteen and sixteen feet, and in the picture you see Mr. Stover who, although he measures over six feet, appears like a small boy. This gives you some idea of the relative height of this corn. From this field Mr. Stover husked 123 bushels of corn ears. Some of the ears were between 13 and 14 inches in length, the quality is good and is very sweet, making most delicious roasting ears. This variety requires more time to mature and for that reason it must be planted early, and it ripens later in the season.

This particular field lies close to the mountain and is sandy soil which had been in pasture for at least a dozen years. Last season it was plowed up in the fall, and during the winter was given a light top dressing of manure. In the spring it was cultivated nearly as deep as it had been plowed, and before planting was gone over and fertilized with the grain drill. During the summer he cultivated the field five times, shallow and level. The name of the variety is Pride of Maryland.

From the above it must be conceded that Mr. Stover is a good farmer and gave his field the best of culture, so that most any kind of corn would have attained a large growth under these conditions. As an instance of his intensive farming we can cite that he had three ears of wheat that yielded him 96 bushels, while three acres of corn produced 458 bushels.

Roosevelt Gets California.

Roosevelt carried California by 174 votes, although he will have but 11 of the State's 13 electoral votes. The other two will be cast for Wilson. These figures are final, but will not be made official until the returns from Los Angeles county have been formally added.