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# The Centre Democrat

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BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, JULY 31st, 1913.

Vol. 36, No. 30.

## CHILDREN SHOT BY WEDDING CELEBRANT

TRAGIC ENDING OF JOY PARTY AT CATO.

## GIRL DEAD, BROTHER WOUNDED

John Masarash, in Jail, Charged With Criminal Negligence That Caused the Terrible Tragedy on Tuesday—Claims It Was an Accident.

What was to have been a joyous wedding celebration was turned into a tragedy at Cato, near Clarence, Centre county, on Tuesday morning by one of the participants, John Masarash, who while carelessly handling a revolver, shot and killed a 10-year-old girl and seriously wounded her younger brother, aged 8 years. The parties are all Polish, a portion of the foreign element who are largely represented in that part of the county. The little victims were Annie and John Duke, children of John Duke, Sr., who resided at Clarence. Masarash claims that the shooting was unintentional. Eye witnesses are scarcely able to tell just what took place, but from what we can gather from those who reside in that vicinity the particulars are as follows:

The wedding of Andy Torcyk and Annie Puskas had taken place early Tuesday morning at Cato, and the party had gone to the railroad station to meet a number of guests who were to arrive on the train from Clarence and Snow Shoe. Among those at the station was John Masarash, a fellow-countryman, who had a loaded revolver which he used in celebrating the event by discharging it in the air. Among the guests to arrive on the train were John Duke and his two children, Annie and John, and as they stepped upon the platform Masarash became more hilarious than before, and in his enthusiasm seemed to have become careless in his manner of handling the revolver. Instead of keeping the weapon pointed in the air, he lowered it. As the man's shots rang out the little Duke girl and her brother, who were close together were sent to fall. Spectators who ran to their aid were horrified to discover the girl dead, shot through the heart, and the boy bleeding from a serious wound in the abdomen near the right side. The dead child was tenderly picked up by those about the station and the boy was returned to Clarence on the next train. A physician who was summoned at once made preparations for the boy's removal to the Lock Haven hospital, which was accomplished as soon as possible.

In the meantime Masarash made no attempt to escape. As the tragedy meant a postponement of the wedding celebration, Masarash walked quietly to his home, where he was found later by constable Thomas Hayes and placed under arrest. Later accompanied by John Boyce, the constable brought his prisoner to Bellefonte, arriving here about 7:30, and placed him in jail.

Wednesday forenoon District Attorney Fortney went to the scene of the tragedy and under the direction of Justice of the Peace Alfred Thompson, of Snow Shoe, as coroner pro tem, an inquest was held. The jury consisting of Dr. Ed. Harris, David Chambers, John Boyce, James Uzzel, W. R. Haines and Frank Bartley, rendered a verdict to the effect that the shooting was the result of criminal negligence on the part of John Masarash. He will accordingly be held for trial at the Common Pleas court. Masarash is a man of about thirty years of age, and has a wife and two children. He appears to regret the unfortunate occurrence greatly and feels keenly the sorrow his carelessness has caused.

## BAD WRECK AT TYRONE.

Trains Crash and Engineer Killed and Many Passengers Injured.

In an rear end collision which occurred at the Tyrone station at 15 minutes of 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, when Chicago Mail, No. 13, plunged into the rear of Chicago Limited, No. 15, Engineer George R. Funk, of Harrisburg, of train No. 13 was instantly killed and between 49 and 50 people were more or less injured.

A partial list of the injured is as follows: Chester Anderson of Altoona, employed by W. W. Blake; leg injured. Continued journey westward. Robert Brandt, 1245 Court street, Lebanon; side hurt. Daniel Gallagher of Chestnut Hollow; injured about chest. Mrs. Roy Mills of Pitcairn; injured about head.

A. W. Black of Harrisburg, conductor of No. 13, Civil war veteran; severely injured; in Altoona hospital. Oscar Cook of Harrisburg, conductor of No. 13, head hurt and leg broken. Edward Barton of Harrisburg, fireman of No. 13; head hurt. Kenneth Johnson of Huntingdon; shaken up.

A relief train from Altoona, conveyed most of the injured to the Altoona hospital. Both trains were westward bound. No. 15 was late and had stopped at Tyrone to discharge passengers. The mail train does not stop at Tyrone and is said to have been running at a high rate of speed when the collision occurred.

The impact was so terrible that Funk's engine ploughed almost half way through the rear car on the stationary train, which was a wooden Pullman, "Cape May." How the passengers of this car escaped instant death is miraculous.

The engine was stripped of its cab and the tender was thrown across the track. A steel mail coach immediately back of the tender was hurled from the track into the station building ten feet or more away, and landed in the ladies' waiting room. A portion of the station building was torn out.

While Engineer Funk was the only person killed outright, a number of others were perhaps fatally injured. His fireman was injured internally and is said to be serious. A number of colored porters who were in the dining car on train No. 13, just in front of the wooden Pullman, were seriously injured.

The Ward House, the hotel near the station, was turned into an emergency hospital, and the injured as fast as they could be extricated from the wreck were taken there. All the physicians of Tyrone were summoned to the place and gave temporary aid. When the collision occurred train No. 15 was just pulling out. The flagman who had been guarding the rear had been called in. It is said that Funk evidently disregarded the danger signals which otherwise would have held him back until the forward train would be out of the way. Whether the storm had anything to do with the cause of the wreck has not been learned yet by the officials.

## NEW LAWS THAT ARE NOW IN EFFECT

SIGNED THE PAST WEEK BY GOVERNOR TENER.

## PHYSICALLY UNFIT CANNOT WED

New Act Governing Marriage Licenses Is Strict—Many Soldiers Disappointed in the Vetoing of Pension Bills.

Among the numerous bills passed by the recent Legislature and made laws by the signature of Governor Tener, the following are perhaps of the most interest: The non-partisan act which provides for the non-partisan nomination and election of all judges in the state and all city officers in the second class cities of Pittsburgh and Scranton. This year the non-partisan law will apply to the election of two superior court judges in the state at large. The ballot for use at the primary is to be white and labeled "Non-Partisan Ballot." It is to be separate from party ballots. Each elector votes only for as many candidates as are to be elected at the general election. All candidates will be arranged on the ballot alphabetically, under the title of the office sought. Should one candidate for non-partisan office, such as judge, receive at the primary fifty-one per cent. of the entire vote cast, his name will be the only one to be placed on the ballot at the election. In other words his nomination would be equivalent to an election. Where there is just one man to be elected for an office and no one gets the fifty-one per cent. vote at the primary, then the two candidates receiving the larger number of votes will go on the ticket for the general election. A very important provision of this bill is that no candidate can withdraw from the ticket after the primary. If he qualifies to go into the election, he must remain on the ballot, unless death should ensue. In the latter case the candidate polling the next highest vote at the primary takes the deceased man's place.

The female employment measure which was the subject of constant debate throughout the closing days of the recent legislature has been made a law. It reduces the legal work day for women from 12 to 9 hours. Richard's marriage license bill, which prohibits the issuing of marriage licenses to persons afflicted with transmissible diseases, is now a law. This it does not require a physician's examination, an oath must be made by persons contemplating matrimony to the effect that they are physically fit for marriage. Imbeciles, epileptics and persons of unsound mind are also prohibited from marrying. The law provides that no license to marry shall be issued except upon written and verified application to the clerk of the orphan's court, which application shall contain, in addition to information now required, regarding name, color, etc. a statement that neither of the contracting parties is afflicted with a transmissible disease. Applications for license to marry are made uniform throughout the state and the state department of health is directed to furnish a form for application. The law also prohibits the issuance of licenses to any applicant under the influence of liquor or narcotic drug. Licenses are valid for a period of sixty days.

## New Office Created.

A new office with a minimum salary of \$1,000 attached has been created by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Tener. The new official will be known as the Sealer of Weights and Measures. It requires the county commissioners of every county of the state and the mayors of second and third class cities to appoint a sealer for their respective districts. Centre county will likely be joined with some other county and one official do the work for both counties. The new law is designed to bring about a more efficient, rigid and vigilant inspection of measures and scales. Monthly reports are called for. One feature of the bill provides that the sealer shall hold office during good behavior and shall not be removed, discharged or reduced in pay or position except for inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming employees or other just cause.

## Vetoed Pension Bills.

The two bills to pension soldiers who served in the Civil war and those who answered the call as emergency men were vetoed by Governor Tener Saturday night on the ground of insufficient state revenue. The Matt bill, carrying \$1,547,000, provided for pensions to men who served one year or less, and the Gray bill for the emergency men carried \$19,000. The veto of the Matt bill covers both.

## Festival Will Be Held at Cooperstown.

A festival will be held at Cooperstown, Saturday evening, August 2nd. Everybody invited.

## WATCHMAN PUBLISHED MALICIOUS LIES.

When Supplied with Information and Official Records Proving Guilt, the same are Suppressed --Meek, Disloyal to his Country and a Traitor to the Democratic Party.

P. Gray Meek, EX-"Secretary of the Democratic State Committee," EX-"Surveyor of Customs of Philadelphia," and now EX-in general, is the "reputed" editor and publisher of the "Democratic Watchman," an alleged Democratic organ that has been sadly out of tune the past two years because, for the first time in almost fifty years its greedy proprietor has been forced away from the public crib, and also lost his long and profitable hold on the party tent. No wonder he now rails and wails, whines and pines, for the "pap" he so long enjoyed.

Centre county citizens know Brother Meek and can easily diagnose his ailment as the squeal of a disappointed, disgruntled, and supremely selfish man.

In three recent issues of the "Democratic Watchman," (on June 13th, June 20th, June 27th,) Mr. Meek published several untruthful charges about the writer, and publisher of this paper, who was installed as "Surveyor of Customs" at Philadelphia on June 9th, 1913. The principal charge was: Appointment of two Republican Deputy Surveyors, at \$2,500 salaries each, and thereby ignored deserving Democrats, and by doing which I was guilty of base treachery and disloyalty and ingratitude to my party. If I were guilty of such a charge I would merit all of Mr. Meek's censure and more.

Having lived in Centre county almost fifty years, over half of which time was exclusively devoted to newspaper effort, and active work for the best interests of the Democratic party, my record can not be altered by the jealous hatred and envious, petty spite as recently exhibited by Mr. Meek in these attacks. It may be a mistake to dignify these personal charges, but the purpose of this article is to show the public that the "Democratic Watchman" not only is unreliable, but that the publisher will deliberately lie through the columns of that paper when he deems it convenient to do so. The untruthful attacks made on the writer are a mere sample of his numerous untruthful attacks not only on the recent and present Democratic state organization but much of the national organization as well. As he was disloyal to this "Union" in 1860, he now is equally disloyal to the party that nourished, and even sustained, him all these years.

## Three Untruthful Articles:

(From Democratic Watchman, June 13.)  
"Is Fixed Himself, Others Can Lookout for Themselves."  
"Centre county's recognized representative of its new kind of Democracy—the kind that takes a pride in boasting that it has been 'reorganized'—was sworn into his \$5,000 office on Monday last. Immediately after getting his own name upon the government pay roll, his first official act was to appoint two Republican deputies at salaries of \$2,500 each."

(From Democratic Watchman, June 20.)  
"Still Waiting an Explanation."  
"Although our up town contemporary, whose owner and reputed editor, now kept busy drawing a \$5,000 Democratic salary, finds ample space to further insult the Democrats of the county by a reiteration of its foul and truthless insinuation as to their willingness to be the creatures of a boss and the purchased tools 'of corporations and whiskey distillers,' as charged by it, in the issue of May 22, it has not room for a single line explanatory to its own's appointment of two Republican assistants, (at \$2,500 each), to the only places he had at his disposal in the office given him by the Democracy."

"These two stories were the only explanation made. 'Our readers can imagine how much manliness or truth there is in a creature who thus skulks his own doings and has not the courage to acknowledge his 'first official' act.'"  
(From Democratic Watchman, June 27.)  
"Mr. William M. Croll, the newly appointed Democratic Naval officer was sworn in on Monday last. To the credit of his party and the Democrats of Berks county who backed him for the position, he didn't make his 'first official act' the appointment of two Penrose henchmen to the two best salaried positions in his department, nor did he make public announcement of the fact that he 'did not contemplate any further changes in his department.' So far, at least, Mr. Croll has acted as a Democrat, and which is more than can be said of some of his brother officials in the custom service."

## Charges Proven Malicious Lies:

In order to prove that the above charges, made by Meek are untruthful, we reproduce the following official correspondence, under the seal of the Customs Department of Philadelphia, the original manuscripts having been shown to numerous parties in Bellefonte the past week:

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE  
PORT OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.**  
Secretary, Third U. S. Civil Service District,  
Post Office Building,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
June 12, 1913.

Sir: In order that I may be fully conversant with the privileges or rights I may have in regard to appointments to positions as Surveyor of Customs at the port of Philadelphia, I would appreciate your kindness if you will, at your earliest convenience, furnish me with the following information: Are all the positions in my department under the Federal competitive classified Civil Service? If there are any positions in my office that are excepted from the competitive Civil Service examinations, I will thank you to name them. When a vacancy occurs in any position in my office, am I required to make a request upon you for a certificate, giving a list of names of persons who are eligible for appointment?  
Respectfully,  
CHAS. R. KURTZ,  
Surveyor of Customs.

**THIRD UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.**  
Hon. Chas. R. Kurtz,  
Surveyor of Customs,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
June 26, 1913.

Sir: In response to your request of the 25th instant for information as to the positions in the customs service at Philadelphia, which are not subject to civil service examination, you are advised that the following positions in the classified service are excepted from examination under section I, subdivision III, of Schedule A of the Civil Service Rules: One confidential clerk to the Collector of Customs. One confidential clerk to the Appraiser. There are no other positions in your office or in the customs ser-

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## DEATH CAME SUDDENLY TO WELL KNOWN FARMER

MORRIS FUREY'S DEMISE IS A SHOCK TO FRIENDS.

## OTHER OBITUARY WRITE-UPS

Jacob M. Kepler, a Prominent Citizen of Pine Grove Mills, Passed Away Last Week—Was Formerly a Newspaper Man.

FUREY.—This community was greatly shocked when the news became public that Morris Furey, one of our best known citizens, had died suddenly at his country home about two miles from town, early Saturday evening. Mr. Furey was in town Friday apparently in his usual good health and on Saturday he was up and about his house all day, although complaining of a slight attack of indigestion in the morning. About half past five in the afternoon he came from a walk around the house and told his wife and daughter that he would lie down on the couch until supper time. When supper was ready, Mrs. Furey called him, but receiving no answer went to his side and attempted to arouse him, but without avail, for the spirit of Morris Furey had quietly returned to its maker. Wharton Morris Furey was born in Benner township, February 3rd, 1845, and was therefore aged 68 years, 5 months and 23 days. He was the son of John M. and Margaret Furey. His mother died when he was three years old and his father passed away several years ago. Forty-six years ago he was married to Miss Annie M. English, daughter of the late Rev. George W. English and Lydia English of Milroy, Mifflin county. Surviving him are his wife and the following children: William M. Furey, of Pittsburgh; George English Furey, of Martinsville, Ill.; Mrs. S. W. Karstetter, of Curwensville; Mrs. John G. Limerick, of Carmel, and Miss Margaret at home. He also leaves two half sisters and a half brother, namely, Mrs. Will Florey, of Pleasant Gap; Mrs. Lida Storm, of New York, and Milton Furey, of Williamsport. Mr. Furey was engaged in farming, quite extensively, all his life, within a radius of a few miles of Bellefonte. Eleven years ago he retired to a small country home located on the Lewis-town pike about two miles from town, which was his pride and comfort up to the time of his sudden demise. Probably no man in Centre county was better known than Morris Furey, a man of kindly, sunny disposition, strictly honest in all his business dealings he was admired and respected by all. His sudden death is a sorrow not only to his family, but to the entire community. The funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from his late residence, Rev. S. S. Clark, the Baptist minister at Milesburg, and Rev. John Hewitt, of Bellefonte, conducted the services. Interment in the Union cemetery.

KEPLER.—The death of Jacob M. Kepler, which occurred at his home near Pine Grove Mills, on Thursday of last week has removed one of Ferguson's township's most prominent citizens. Mr. Kepler's death came not unexpected, as his ailment, attributed to hardening of the arteries, had been gradually drawing him closer to the brink for some time past, which by reason of his advanced age he was unable to successfully combat. The end came peacefully at the above stated time while surrounded by members of his family. He leaves to survive his wife and the following children: Hon. J. Will Kepler, of Pine Grove Mills; Nellie K., wife of James D. Davis, of Tionesta, Forest county; Aaron C., at home; Mrs. Francis Mead, of New York, and Mrs. Sarah Craft, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Funeral services were held from his late home on Monday morning at 10:30, conducted by Revs. Aikens and Spangler. Interment was made in Pine Grove Mills cemetery. Deceased was born in Ferguson township, March 9, 1825, a son of Jacob and Katherine (Musler) Kepler, both of whom were natives of Centre county and of German extraction. Jacob M., who was aged 50 years, 4 months and 15 days at the time of his death, was the third of the children born to the above parents, and was the last member of the family to pass away. The subject of this sketch received his primary education in the common schools and this knowledge he supplemented with an academic course in the Pine Grove Mills and Potters Mills schools. When a young man he successfully engaged in teaching for several years. In 1859 he embarked in the hotel business at Phillipsburg, which he continued until 1871, when he went to Petroleum Centre, Venango county, and for some time was successfully engaged in the oil business. Later he went to Tionesta, Pa., and became associated with the lumber trade. In 1880 Mr. Kepler founded the "Forest National Democrat," the first Democratic newspaper in Forest county, and continued in the capacity of editor and proprietor until 1892, when he suspended its operation on account of ill health. Leaving Tionesta he came back to Centre Co. and settled upon his large farm in Ferguson township. In 1863 Mr. Kepler was united in marriage with Mary Jane Hutton, who survives him as above stated. Mr. Kepler always took an active part in promoting the interests of the Democratic party, and served with credit a term as chairman of the Democratic County Committee. Centre county has indeed lost a good citizen in the death of Jacob Kepler.

BATHURST.—Lawrence Bathurst, one of the oldest and best known residents of Curtin, Centre county, died Monday morning at 8:30, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. D. W. Varner, at Altoona, death being due to senility. The aged man had been residing in that city for the past ten months with his daughter, with whom he had gone to visit. Shortly after arriving there he was stricken with illness. His condition would not allow his returning to his home at Curtin, and he gradually became worse

## ROLANDS, MORRIS CHOSEN CHAIRMAN

WILL LEAD DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PENNA.

## GUTHRIE & BLAKESLEE RESIGN

Not a Discordant Note Heard—Harmony Prevailed Throughout—Palmer Makes a Stirring Address—Encouraging Reports Made.

Last Wednesday, July 23rd, an interesting and important meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee was held at Harrisburg, the proceedings being too late to appear in our edition last week. The fact that Hon. Geo. W. Guthrie, who so ably filled the position of State Chairman, as set forth in our issue of the party in the past few years, had been honored by President Wilson with the appointment as the new Ambassador to Japan, and that Secretary James I. Blakeslee now is serving as the 4th Assistant Postmaster General at Washington, these two positions had to be filled by new men, as their new duties are such that they could not give the necessary attention to the party organization. One of the notable features of the gathering was the fact that practically every district in the state was represented when the meeting was called to order, and in addition there was a very large representative gathering of prominent Democrats from all parts of the state in attendance. The proceedings of the committee were marked by the most cordial feeling throughout, as there was not a discordant note expressed or ripple of discontent shown from any section. The resignations of Messrs. Guthrie and Blakeslee were presented; also the report of the work of the party was set forth in detail showing what had been accomplished in the way of constructive legislation largely through the efforts of the Democratic organization; also what might have been done had the Progressive Republicans been consistent and stood up manly and supported the same measures that the Secretary, Hon. James I. Blakeslee for several years had unselfishly served in that capacity without a single penny for salary, and in addition he paid from his own purse his individual expenses, and gave the organization the benefit of the time and efforts, all that time, without any recompense. This is a striking comparison with the custom or former practices in the party where secretaries prospered and revelled in party spoils.

The selection of a slight contest in the selection of two division chairmen, but that failed even to attract passing interest. The leading feature of the gathering was the inspiring address delivered by National Committeeman A. Mitchell Palmer who came up from Washington and gave his hearers a graphic account of the work that was being accomplished by President Wilson in the first few months of the new Democratic administration to redeem the pledges made to the American people one year ago. Representative Palmer never spoke to a Democratic gathering with more inspiration and enthusiasm than on this occasion, and his sentiments were met throughout with rounds of approval. One thing that he emphasized was that he was glad to know that the Democratic party was not composed of place hunters and that, instead, he found them men of convictions which stood the test for scores and scores of years. He also hurled back in the teeth of the Philadelphia Record, the insult that the present organization of the party was supported only by a lot of lickspittles, office-seeking politicians. This brought forth the greatest applause of the day and evoked the universal regret that the Democracy of Pennsylvania was unfortunate in not having a reliable, trustworthy Democratic daily paper in the city of Philadelphia, like in the days when the late Wm. Singler directed the affair of that publication. The election of Roland Morris, Esq., of Philadelphia, for Chairman as Mr. Guthrie's successor, was made without a dissenting vote. Mr. Morris is a young aggressive attorney in Philadelphia and a man of the highest type, morally and intellectually. He has stood for clean politics and straight Democracy all his life, and in season and out of season has fought against the Democratic-Penrose bipartisan machine in this state that formerly betrayed the party and made it a laughing stock in the eyes of all good people. Roland Morris is also a man of courage and has convictions; at the same time he does not purpose to drive anyone from the party who will stand by the party pledges and platforms, and votes for the party nominees. He will give his best labors to accomplish a united democracy, but there will be no compromise with dishonor in his leadership. Mr. Morris is well known to many of our Bellefonte citizens, being a great-grandson of the noted Judge Thomas Burnside, a distinguished jurist who formerly resided in Bellefonte and has relatives here. We congratulate the Democracy of Pennsylvania on their new leader. Samuel W. Kunkle was re-elected treasurer. The secretary will be appointed later by Chairman Morris. Those Democrats who are interested in the welfare of their party should read the editorial of the Philadelphia

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