Reviews Old Times

J. THOMAS MITCHELL REVIEWS BELLEFONTE AS IT WAS FROM 1800 TO 1815

the big "big city." and how it was

to investigate the town.

The young men decided first to see the famous "spring," so they walked down High Street past the Petrikin store. Half way to the creek they noticed a spring house and quite a little stream flowing from it to the brow of the hill below. Following this runlet they stopped just short of the covered
walked down High Street past the Petrikin store. Half way to the control of the State Senate and a candidate for Congress in that year. Occupying the side, then a member of the State from Chester county who is looking from Chester county who is lookin stopped just short of the covered-

recovering from the late war, they natural curiosity William exclaimed, lot.

bridge and saw a footpath running "Mr. Huston is at the courthouse,"

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BOB DAVIS

BELLEFONTE

to be several outlets for the water ing him." "Thank thee," said Wil-

reach the site of the spring. At that in a hurry for it or I would go with time, even as now, there appeared you but you'll have no trouble find-present columned-porch and with a wide. "I won't bother you today," these public hydrants without any

time this afternoon, Mr. Thomas," faced the public grounds on the when court is not in session." fonte Trust Co. lot, east of it was time and expressions of gratitude to part of our borough." He led them the home and office of Robert T. Petrikin and Mitchell for their cour- down High sireet and across the the was as though thousands of terches Stewart, and next the home of Jere- tesies, the young men took their covered bridge. He indicated the mish Menin. On the northern side leave and sauntered westward to stone-arch construction of the piers, were hulled through the air and of the public plot where the Hever ward the "Diamond." At the edge which its builders calmed would they have an all over the erly building now stands was the of the street was the first stone last for a century. It did stand all area. . . at least 500 or 600 feet erly building now stands was the of the street was the first stone last for a century. It did stand all area . . . at least 500 or 600 feet erly building now stands was the of the street was the first stone last for a century. It did stand all area . . . at least 500 or 600 feet erly building now stands was the of the street was the first stone last for a century. of the court, and next the home of could be obtained. They strolled record. Alexender Vandyke, while just above northward along Allegneny street. As they arrived on the west bank fire in the wet sod died out it stood the county jail which con- past Dr. Curtin's home and John of the creek, Henry pointed again

the county for several years.

liam, "we will lock for him." As the liam. "Come with me, I will be glad while we have been looking at your from Simon and Cameron Thaddeus leaders of their eating habits. young men stood at the office door to introduce you to him," said the town.' they could see their tavern, a tan-old gentleman. They went across the "My father, the Recorder, told me for work on the Bald Eagle canal tritional well-being in the Pennsyl- thanks by entertaining the guests nery and its yard above it, then a pavement to the southern offices that you had been at the court showing payrolls, etc., the story of vania mass nutrition studies, and of with a musical number in which he shoemakers shop with a huge wood- where they found David Mitchell, house," Henry replied, "He also said the "canal riots," and a letter from their efforts to eat the proper foods sang songs and played the guitar. en boot in front of it, and what the County Clerk. "Have you seen that Mr. Huston," said Petrikin. "These you had ideas of purchasing the amount of "ark" travel of Baid should have. The Rhoads family has as an entertainment feature of Teen looked like a produce store lifted a great Eagle Creek 110 years ago east, with a large frame building gentlemen are Mr. Thomas and Mr. Dunlop plants. It will be a great Eagle Creek 110 years ago where the Murphy store now stands. Valentine from Chester county who thing for Bellefonte to get them gowhere the Murphy store now stands. Valentine from Chester county who thing for Bellefonte to get them gothe society would be delighted to supplied with both fresh and canned the State.

Beyond it was the Pennsylvania are locking for him." "I am glad to ing again, since Miles of Milesburg, receive and preserve any letters regetables.

House on the northern corner of meet you both," said Mitchell, who Benner at Rock, and Lyon at Penr- prior in date to the late Civil War.

At a luncheon following the morn-

listened to Mr. Lowrey's description of Bellefonte and its surroundings.

The visitors then imbibed some of Mrs. Lowrey's warming drinks and Mrs. Lowrey warming drinks and Mrs Mrs. Lowrey's warming drinks and Street and found Hustons office in office of Dr. Daniel Dobbins, then found two men busily engaged in "We have told thee no real news should be head to be they spent the night. In the morn- the house next above that of James a hat-making shop and a marble- checking the lines of a tract of land then," said Reuben, "but nothing they spent the night. In the morning the flower leaf that above that above that above that above that above the flower land a flat-making shop and a flat-making man who said his name was Potter. home and office of Thomas Burn-rikin said, "Here is Mr. Thomas Henry, "please forget that part of his father's farm which adjoins the

East of the "Diamond" in about stood before him and could hardly have a real blrough water-system," along the edge of the creek south- said Potter. "He has asked me to the same position it now occupies realize that the ugly little man he explained. "The poor people of the same position it now occupies realize that the ugly little man he explained. "The poor people of the same position it now occupies realize that the ugly little man he explained." ward along which they tramped to copy this paper and I know he is was the courthouse, then a plain speaking to him was the great land the town, or those off the main plain sloped upward to about the to have made thy acquaintance. I level of the present stone portico only wish to make an appointment level of the present stone portico only wish to make an appointment of the present stone portico only wish to make floor. The courthouse at that time to talk over my father's law suit \$2,000 to start an academy here, and had two wings, one to the north and and give one some information he one to the south, built of brick and sent by me. May I present my cou-

Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds," returned the elder man. "My name is Petrikin. I think you will find Mr. Huston engaged with the county surveyor in the south office." The speaker was William Petrikin who had been a resident of the town for 20 years, had built its second building, had been its first.

am sorry the County Commissioners Curtin at the Eagle Forge are all celebration of the sequecentennial of recovering from the late war, they "Father told me to see Charles Hus- listened to Mr. Lowrey's description "Father told me to see Charles Hus- As they strolled up High street are not in today. Mr. Huston is in trying to get our forgemen and fur- the town next year.

one to the south, built of brick and sent by me. May I present any extending further west than the sin, Reuben Valentine." "It is a ning to erect a stone building withmain building. A stone terrace ran pleasure to see you both," said Husingtone to see you both," said Husingtone to see you both, said Husingtone to see you both, and the pleasure to see you between the pleasure to see y where the present stone pavement surveyor." "Come to my office any reservoir."

"We have been to the big spring," A house owned by Elisha Moore he continued, "I am usually there said Reuben. "Co! You've seen our prize possession then," said Henry, field, which had been a hay fie'd north end of what is now the Belle- With the accustomed bows of the "Well, let me show you the new

tained the Sheriff's residence as Rankin's house on Pike alley to the toward the south, "Lere's an iron well.

The young men walked to the of"The town must be going to amount iron," he said, indicating a little fices on the north which they found to something, William," were the plant which stood just below the were the headquarters of their host words of Reuben as they came to the dam, "and the new buildings which of the day before, John G. Lowrey, paper's sign, "this looks like the of-Prothonotary of the county. There fice of a real news-sheet."

Were two rooms in this little annex

Alexander Hemilion, the paper's Ware." He was to be a real news-sheet." were two rooms in this little annex and from one of them came an old gentleman who tendered his services. "I am William Thomas from Chester Valley and I am locking for Charles Huston, the lawyer," said Charles Huston, the lawyer," said William "I hold the said pients of the paper's ware." He took stem to an elevation the train crew, therefore, knew that owner and editor, stood at the door a few hundred yards beyond the ask had been hit, and the freight continued to Orvision before they newcomers, advanced to greet them, of the Micesburg Forge which the continued to Orvision before they wind was blowing around the end.

Mr. Miler gave his eye-witness in the town Introductions tol- of Muney hill "There well by and a secount of the accident to Coroner with the second to the seco William. "I hold the position of lowed, and the editor took them of your competitors and in the other Dr. W. J. Shoemaker who said that

second building, had been its first would be five possible additions to are going concerns, but they say second building, had been its first the population and that they ex- that there is much more demand for Clark, acting as Register and Recorder of pested to reopen the Dunlop iron irons than both of these plants can be seen to the doubt the population and that they ex- that there is much more demand for Clark. ine county for several years.

"I have never met Charles Huston, hat does he look like?" said Wilhat does he look like?" said Wilhat does he look like?" said Wiltook them into that establishment. introducing them to John Norris grist-mill which James Smith has the cashier, When Norris discovered fust enlarged. The Harris mill is ing. and the brother, John Strech, that his visitors were possible pur- also running full time, and these chasers of the Dunlop plants, he of- things should give an idea that the visit, lived on the other side. fered them the services of the "Cen- new addition to our borough is a

tre Bank of Pennsylvania." William busy one." William then broke in with the reinformed him that his elder brother when they left the bank again I should think that this would be with Mr. Hamilton, he called their the most livable part of your comattention to the watch-box on the date William A. Thomas purchased byterian church in Claveland, Ohio. northern portion of Schaeffer's of his life.

hardware building, and the stone house built by Philip Benner as a residence for Judge Walker, who presided over the courts at that time. He further told them that a Mr. Humes was preparing to build a large brick house being between the courts at that time as has been pointed to the Rev. Rebert Detiman. Pilgrim Holiness paster, officiating. Interment was made in Clark cometery.

Centre Hall Man

Cited as War Worker a large brick house between the that time, as has been noted, there two, and it was rumored that Judge was a footpath leading southward Potter was to build a house for his from High street to the "Spring," son, William, who had just been ad-but no roadway, while to the north mitted to the Bar, on the constant the waters of the mitted to the Bar, on the opposite the waters of the creek washed along the bank until just before the Hall mill was reached.

corner from where they stood.

They took their leave of Mr. Ham-The young men waiked back to ilton and walked further north on the McKee tavern, where they bade Allegheny, noticed the house of goodby to Petrikin after thanking Henry Vandyke on the Howard him for his courtesy, and found street corner and the undertaking that the three elder men had just establishment of Samuel Harris to arrived at the inn. After hearing the east of the Vandyke lot with of their trip with the reporter, its coffin sign, and came shortly to Jacob said. "Well, there was no a place where the roadway was bad- harm done, everything was satisfacly cut up by a waterway running tory with the administrators, so you across it about where Burrows alley have not told any secrets. We have now exists. "We might as well re- about decided, William, to lease the vania State Council of Defense, and turn to the tavern and wait for my properly until we can arrange for the Nutrition Council, they told brothers," said Reuben, "Very well," the purchase money, if that will be teachers, extension workers, Red replied William, "it's a very hilly satisfactory to thy father."

place, does thee think they will ever Old Bellefonte Manuscripts make a real town out of it?" "What During the lifetime of the Hon. do we care," retorted Reuben, "we John B. Linn, whose "History of are only interested in the iron business and we won't sell pigs or bars in Bellefonte." They retraced their lously collected, many valuable steps over the wooden sidewalks of papers of James Harrs, Charles the streets, stumbling occasionally Huston, Thomas Burnside, Philip where the boards were uneven and Benner and others were accessible muddying their boots at the cross- for his use. Many of these hoards ings, to enjoy the warmth and dry- of historical data have disappeared, ness of the tavern when it was but lately some of the James Harris papers have been discovered by Mr. While the young men were sitting John L. Sommerville, one of his

before the inn fire they noticed a descendants.
well grown boy entering the front Some five years ago Mr. Sommerdoor, who came directly toward ville presented to Centre county a them. "Good morning, gentlemen," file of surveys made by James Harris, he said, "I am Henry Petrikin the as deputy-surveyor of the commonreporter for the 'Patriot.' I saw you wealth, which are preserved in the with Mr. Hamilton this morning office of the Recorder of Deeds. and he told me to inquire about our Lately he has found more of these five new citizens. I hope you'll for- surveys which have been added to give me for being so forward, but I those files.

thought you'd rather know just what Mr. Sommerville has also present-I was doing than to try to beat ed to the Centre County Historical Society other of the Harris papers The young visitor, who in later which include manuscripts showing years was to become the owner of the original signatures of many of the paper and to be the ponucus the early Bellefonte citizens. These boss of Centre county for a genera- date from 1791 and bear the followtion, was then a good-looking young ing names in their own handwritfellow with a frank and open coun-ing; James Harris, John Canan, tenance. After only a slight hesita- Elias W. Hale, John G. Lowrey, tion, Reuben spoke out. "We, my Thomas Burnside, James Dunlog, brothers and my coustn, have made Roland Curtin, Patrick Cambridge, an agreement to purchase the Dun-lop works and lands if our examin- James M. Petrikin, Franklin B ation of them satisfies us. The others Smith, Samuel Bunter, Wilson and have been looking over the books others.

and plant with John G. Lowrey! Among these papers are letters

Stevens. There are also found bills They told of being tested for nu-other bonds and expressed his

Three Killed In Army Plane Crash

of the distinguished barrister who a large iron hydrant. "You see we heard a change in the sound of the crescendo of the fittin of the motor increasing . becoming louder and straighten it out. But he didn't level ff. It came straight down, the lights

As it hit the ground there was a terrific roar then one huge furnace of fire, the flames leaping up, possibly 600 or 700 feet in the air. The this summer, was lit up like day.

home and office of Dr. Constans pavement they had seen in the town the next of it was a house occul, pavement they had seen in the town the next of it was a house occul, and the red Curtin, east of it was a house occu- and at its curb stood a large iron years but was then broken down by of wood or metal or cloth. The sod pied by Richard Miles, our first clerk hydrant from which drinking waser the highest torrent of which we have of plane burned themselves out, the

Aged Beech Creek Woman Is Killed

in which the engineer sat. None of

Harry Strech lived beyond the cross to whose come she was going for a

In addition to these two brothers, she is also survived by a third brother, William Strech, of Glen Unwas president of the Bank of Ches-ter county and he and Norris be-the west back of the creek seems of Beech Creek, and Mrs. Minnie ter dammter, and three grandchil-

night from midnight to sundse. He all of the Smith laids then r main-also pointed out to them the house ing in his state and made his home day afternoon at the Bechdel fu-erected by Robert Boggs, now the in that section for the remainder the Rev. Behavi. Deliman, Pilerin

Fair contests and the older box Robert, has three ribbons to his

The "typical war family," accompanied Dr. Pauline Beery Mack, director of the Ellen H. Richards Institute at the College, and director of nutrition for the State Council of Defense, to a state-wide nutrition meeting held in Harrisburg last Saturday where they were guests-of-

At the conference, which was sponsored by the Nutrition Committee of the War Services, Pennsyl-Cross workers, and other nutrition



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Then feel the wonderful relief come as you breathe in the steaming medicated vapors that penetrate to the cold-congested upper breathing passages! See how this soothee fritation, quiets reaching and below their time. ughing, and helps clear the ad-bringing grand comfort,

isaid he will place the gift with his a Victory Garden, which keeps them Age Centers in the central part of

gave Mrs. Rhoads a gift of flowers.

While they were gazing at this what is now the Brockerhoff Hotel came forward to shake hands. "I sylvania Furnace, as well as Sheriff since they would be of value in the ing meeting, Mrs. Edward Martin. Pyt. Frank'in H. Shawley, son of first lady of the Commonwealth, Mr. and Mrs. Miller Shawley of presented Mr. Rhoads with a war Bellefonte, who entered service early bond, and Mrs. Worthington Scran- this month, is now taking basic ton, commander of war services, training at Little Rock, Ark.

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LEWISTOWN

87 times straight - I've been lucky!

87 times I've gone out - and come

When your score gets that high, they usually let you quit for a while. But sometimes that isn't possible.

perhaps till your number is up. Out here, you get to understand those things. There's no question of quitting-no matter how much you've

You just have to keep on going-

Back home, it's the same way

good when you count up and realize what a high score you've got. You feel you deserve a rest, too.

But the war isn't over yet. And until it is, I'll make a bargain with you: You keep on buying, and I'll keep on fighting till the last Jap drops!

The 6th War Loan is on. And it's every American's duty to invest in at least one extra \$100 War Bond. If you haven't bought yours yet, do it



about buying War Bonds, You feel .

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BELLEFONTE