

Reviews Old Times

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

(Continued from a previous issue) After giving the latest news about the big "big city" and how it was recovering from the late war, they listened to Mr. Lowrey's description of Bellefonte and its surroundings. The visitors then imbibed some of Mrs. Lowrey's warming drinks and returned to the McKee tavern where they spent the night. In the morning the three elderly men set out with Mr. Lowrey for the ironworks, while Reuben and William decided to investigate the town.

which seemed to bubble to the surface as though under pressure. While they were gazing at this natural curiosity William exclaimed, "Father told me to see Charles Huston about his lawsuit in Huntingdon County. Lets try to find him." They retraced their steps to High Street and found Huston's office in the house next above that of James Dunlop across the street from their tavern. Here they were met by a very pleasant well-dressed young man who said his name was Potter. This was William W. Potter, a grandson of Col. James Potter the great-man of Penna Valley, who was to become very prominent in Centre County in the years to come. "I am William Thomas and this is my cousin, Reuben Valentine," said William, "we are looking for Charles Huston."

William, "we will look for him." As the young men stood at the office door they could see their tavern, a tannery and its yard above it, then a shoemakers shop with a huge wooden boot in front of it, and what looked like a produce store further east, with a large frame building where the Murphy store now stands. Beyond it was the Pennsylvania House on the northern corner of what is now the Brokerhoff Hotel lot. As they strolled up High street along a narrow wooden boardwalk they passed a house belonging to Elisha Moore, next to the home and office of Dr. Daniel Dobbins, then a hat-making shop and a marble-yard exhibiting some half-finished tombstones, these latter located on the present Y. M. C. A. lot, and the home and office of Thomas Burnside, then a member of the State Senate and a candidate for Congress in that year, occupying the northwest jut of the public square, which had come to be known as the "Diamond," was the tavern of Benjamin Patton, a part of which building was taken up with the store of Robert McClanahan.

East of the "Diamond" in about the same position it now occupies was the courthouse, then a plain rectangular building without the present columned-porch and with a plain sloping roof. The ground in front sloped upward to about the level of the present stone portico. The courthouse at that time had two wings, one to the north and one to the south, built of brick and extending further west than the main building. A stone terrace ran from the one to the other about where the present stone pavement exists. A house owned by Elisha Moore faced the public grounds on the north end of what is now the Bellefonte Trust Co. lot, east of it was the home and office of Robert T. Stewart, and next the home of Jeremiah Menin. On the northern side of the public plot where the Hevly building now stands was the home and office of Dr. Constans Curtin, east of it was a house occupied by Richard Miles, our first clerk of the court, and next the home of Alexander Vandyc, while just above it stood the county jail which contained the Sheriff's residence as well.

The young men walked to the offices on the north which they found were the headquarters of their host of the day before, John G. Lowrey, Prothonotary of the county. There 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 looking for Charles Huston, the lawyer," said William. "I hold the position of Registrar 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 of town." The speaker was William Petrikin who had been a resident of the town for 20 years, had built his second building, had been its first justice of the peace, and had been acting as Registrar and Recorder of the county for several years. "I have never met Charles Huston, what does he look like?" said William.

William, "Come with me, I will be glad to introduce you to him," said the old gentleman. They went across the pavement to the southern offices where they found David Mitchell, the County Clerk. "Have you seen Mr. Huston," said Petrikin. "These gentlemen are Mr. Thomas and Mr. Valentine from Chester county who are looking for him." "I am glad to meet you both," said Mitchell, who came forward to shake hands. "I am sorry the County Commissioners are not in today. Mr. Huston is in the other room with Mr. Kerr."

"They walked through the door to the eastern room of the building and found two men busily engaged in checking the lines of a tract of land in which Huston was interested. After a moment's delay the lawyer looked up from his work and Petrikin said, "Here is Mr. Thomas from Chester county who is looking for you." "You must be Colonel Thomas son of whom he wrote," exclaimed Huston. "I am very pleased to see you out here. I hear you are planning to go into the iron business."

William had heard many stories of the distinguished barrister who stood before him and could hardly realize that the ugly little man speaking to him was the great lawyer whose reputation was a state-wide fame. "I am very pleased to see you out here. I hear you are planning to go into the iron business," he continued. "I am usually there when court is not in session."

Efficiency Plus! PRINCE GARDNER Registrar BILL FOLDS \$1.50 to \$10.00 PLUS FED. TAX BOB DAVIS BELLEFONTE LEWISTOWN



87 times straight - I've been lucky! Buy at least one extra \$100 War Bond Today! CENTRE OIL & GAS COMPANY BELLEFONTE PENNA.

William then broke in with the remark, "This stretch of land along the west bank of the creek seems to be the only level part of your town. I should think that this would be the most livable part of your community." Just 20 years after this date William A. Thomas purchased all of the Smith lands then remaining in his state and made his home in that section for the remainder of his life.

They came to the edge of the creek, saw the tilt-mill buildings of John Hall along the lower part of the stream, pointed out the lot where the Presbyterian church is expected to build their new church. At that time, as has been noted, there was a footpath leading southward from High Street to the "Spring," but no roadway, while to the north the waters of the creek washed along the bank until just before the Hall mill was reached.

The young men walked back to the McKee tavern, where they bade goodby to Petrikin after thanking him for his courtesy, and found that the three elderly men had just arrived at the inn. After hearing of their trip with the reporter, Jacob said, "Well, there was no harm done, everything was satisfactory with the admiral's story, so you have not told any secrets. We have about decided, William, to lease the property until we can arrange for the purchase money, if that will be satisfactory to thy father."

During the lifetime of the Hon. John B. Linn, whose "History of Centre County" is outstanding for the amount of data which he laboriously collected, many valuable papers of James Harris, Charles Huston, Thomas Burnside, Philip Benner and others were accessible for his use. Many of these hoards of historical data have disappeared, but lately some of the James Harris papers have been discovered by Mr. John L. Somerville, one of his descendants.

Some five years ago Mr. Somerville presented to Centre county a file of surveys made by James Harris, as deputy-surveyor of the commonwealth, which are preserved in the office of the Recorder of Deeds. Lately he has found more of these surveys which have been added to those files.

87 times I've gone out - and come back. When your score gets that high, they usually let you quit for a while. But sometimes that isn't possible. You just have to keep on going - 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 done. Back home, it's the same way about buying War Bonds. You feel good when you count up and realize that 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!

6th WAR LOAN logo and text: 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 today!

Among these papers are letters from Simon and Cameron Thaddeus Elewens. There are also found bills for work on the Bald Eagle canal showing payrolls, etc., the story of the "canal riots," and a letter from James D. Harris showing the amount of "ark" travel of Bald Eagle Creek 110 years ago.

The society would be delighted to receive and preserve any letters prior to the late Civil War since they would be of value in the celebration of the sesquicentennial of the town next year.

At a luncheon following the morning meeting, Mrs. Edward Martin, first lady of the Commonwealth, presented Mr. Rhoads with a war bond, and Mrs. Worthington Scranon, commander of war services, gave Mrs. Rhoads a gift of flowers. A regular bond buyer, Rhoads said he will place the gift with his other bonds and expressed his thanks by entertaining the guests with a musical number in which he sang songs and played the guitar. He frequently presents this program as an entertainment feature of Teen Age Centers in the central part of the State.

Training in Arkansas Pvt. Franklin H. Shawley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Miller Shawley of Bellefonte, was entered service early this month. He is now taking basic training at Little Rock, Ark.

Three Killed In Army Plane Crash (Continued from page one) port, and walking along the road to his father's farm which adjoins the Hoover place was George Strobert, Jr., 18, of 801 Howard avenue. He said he was about 500 feet from the scene of the crash and was looking at the plane as it hit the ground, burying one wing into the ground. "One place is along the regular air route and I hadn't bothered to look skywards," he said, "until I heard a change in the sound of the motor. I looked up and it appeared to be coming straight down; the crescendo of the hum of the motor increasing. It became louder and louder as though the pilot was giving it everything he had. For a minute I thought he was trying to straighten it out. But he didn't level off. It came straight down, the lights all on. "When it crashed, one wing hit first so I thought perhaps he came in at a steep angle and not straight down. 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 field, which had been a hay field this summer, was lit up like day. "Then the plane blew apart. It was as though thousands of torches were hurled through the air and they landed in flames all over the area. At least 500 or 600 feet away one could see flaming pieces of wood or metal or cloth. The sod around burned fire and as the pieces of plane burnt themselves out, the fire in the wet sod died out.

THIS YEAR... It's More Important Than Ever Before to Shop Early for CHRISTMAS Suits and Topcoats THE SUITS: Men of Centre county know the kind of clothes we sell... you know you can expect the finest in tailoring when you pick a suit here. \$22.50 TO \$29.00 THE COATS: When you choose one of our topcoats the styles will win your approval hands down. \$19.75 TO \$22.50 Other Gift Suggestions Dress Gloves \$1.29 to \$1.95 Men's Scarfs Silk or all-wool \$1.59 to \$2.95 ADAM HATS \$3.45 to \$5.00 Other Brands \$1.95 to \$5.00 Pajamas Will Please Him Flannel - \$1.95 to \$2.29 Broadcloth - \$2.95 Give Him a Sweater Pull-overs, coat style, or Sleeveless \$2.45 to \$5.95 Handkerchiefs 15c to 39c Box of 3-79c to \$1.00 Dress Shoes \$2.98 to \$5.95 All leather Beautiful Neckties 65c to \$1.50 Dress Hose 19c to 79c DRESS SHIRTS \$1.75 to \$2.75 Sport shirts for men in short and long sleeves, plain colors and plaids. \$1.95 to \$4.95 Men's Trousers \$1.95 to \$8.95 We Have Just What He'd Pick for Himself NATIONAL STORE Temple Court Bellefonte, Pa.

IF HEAD COLDS HANG ON DO THIS! To relieve discomfort, one of the best things you can do is put a good spoonful of home-tested Vicks VapoRub in a bowl of boiling water. Then feel the wonderful relief come as you breathe in the steaming indicated vapors that penetrate to the cold-congested upper breathing passages! See how this soothes irritation, quiets coughing, and helps clear the head-bringing great comfort. FOR ADDED RELIEF... rub throat, chest and back with VapoRub at bedtime. Vicks VapoRub works for hours - 2 wags at once - to bring relief from distress. TRY IT. VICKS VAPORUB