PIONEER DAYS OF **NEWTON CENTRE**

EARLY INCIDENTS OF THE "JERSEY SETTLEMENT."

interesting Statistics and Anecdotes as Told by Some of the Old Residents-Obstacles Confronting the First Settlers of One of the Garden Spots of Lackawanna County. Origin of the "McClosky" Apple. Personal Reminiscences.

Written for The Tribune.

Mrs. Elizabeth Collum Rotoson, to whom the writer is indebted for many Items of interest contained herein, has been a resident of Newton Centre since 1839. She was born and reared in Sus-mex county, near Salem, New Jersey; was married to Johnson Roloson in 1837 and with him removed to this place in 1839, walking the greater part of the distance in order to lighten the burden of the horses, as the roads were very heavy. They arrived here the last day of Murch, sixty years age, settled upon a farm purchased from Clayfoss La Teer, which they cleared and where they resided until the death of Mr. Roloson, in 1872, since when Mrs. Roloson Hved alone until about five years ago, when she sold

her farm to Joseph La Coe. Mrs. Roloson comes of a long-lived family, her father died at the age of by L. E. Jennings and the old stone 94, her grandfather at 88, and her grandmother at 87. She celebrated her 84th birthday on Feb. 26, 1899, though her appearance does not indicate it within thirty years; her hair is more black than grey, her step is light, her eyes bright and her mind as clear as it was at twenty. She can read coarse print without the aid of spectacles and s a complete encyclopedia of everything that has occurred within her cognizance during the past seventyfive years. Births, deaths, marriages, storms, and, in fact, most any event of any importance she can furnish you with the exact date, even day of the week and time of day. She was speaking of the remarkable weather of the month of April, 1898, and then said: But it isn't a circumstance to the weather we had seventy-five years ago. Then they had to go and shovel the snow off the sheep, for they were completely snowed under, and the cows lying in the barnyard, you could not see anything of them except their horns," In the wood beside the road leading from the village past her old home, stands a tree which forms an arch over the road. In the latter part struck but one stone during the entire or November, 1835, there fell a heavy snow, which remained upon the ground until April. In March sleighs were being driven over the tops of the fences, and Mrs. Roleson says that her husband that spring sowed clover seed on top of the snow banks, then up to the fence tops. This tree was at this time a slender saping, and being bowed by the snow in November, sixty-five years ago, stands today a very visible proof of the proverb, "Just as the twig is bent, the tree is inclined."

THE BLAIR CABIN.

When the Rolosons came to Newton there stood upon their farm, near the site of the log house now there, an old log cabin, built by one John Blair, of secker's home whom the oldest residents seem to have no definite knowledge. Only a few of the foundation logs now mark A part of the Roloson extate, known as the "Ross property"because since owned by the Ross family-was also the property of Clayfoss La Teer, and upon that stood the old log house, now fallen into ruins. The log house where Mrs. Roloson resided is older than this.

Mr. Roleson was of the political party called Democrats at the war time, though not of the "copper" hue as applied to some of its members. He re fused to become a member of their "circle" and voiced his disapproval of the thisving and general disloyalty. Mrs. Roloson, while speaking of the war time, recalled an incident of July 4th, 1840. The Democrats were bringing a pole for a "raising" from Solo men Hopkins' woods and while coming through Cat swamp a slug fired from a cannon planted by the Tories upon Beemer Hill, whistled over their heads. Naturally they inferred that they were the object of the shot and the party poet, Jonas Fuller, immortalized the occurrence in the following lines, which he recited at the pole raising.

"The Federals upon Jack's" Hill They made a shot but did not kill: Next fall they must take better aim. Or they will surely lose their game."

(*Jack was a nickname bestowed upon Henry Beemer.)

"However," she added, "they did not lose their game for they elected their president, William H. Harrison the next fall." She said also that another speaker. Mart Compton, upon the same ccasion, said he hoped that the Demceracy would stand as firm as the rock of Gibraltar. The Democrats raised their pole and held their services between Jacob Courtright's house and the old red school house, about the present site of the Baptist church. The following were the earliest settlers of this vicinity. Adam Thompson, settled upon and cleared tract known as the Truman Knapp farm. Joseph Coon, the farm now owned by his grandson, John Coon. Elias Smith, the farm now owned by his son, Elias. James Williams, the properties owned by S. Van Sickle, Aaron Fuller and Paul Aten. William Brink owned nearly the entire place called Brinktown. Henry Walters owned and cleared the Robert

Lewis farm. Clayfess Lo Teer, who settled upon the farm known as the Roleson farm, which he partially cleared, also owned and cleared the "Ross property." Charles McCloskey settled upon the farm known as the George Kern farm and brought with him from New Jersey an apple seed from which he propagated the apple known as the "Mc-Closkey" apple.

Zebulen Comstock settled upon and cleared the farm now owned by D. W. La Rue. Andrew Compton cleared the place now owned by Orin Richards and L. B. Ayers. Peter Richahrds cleared the John Dershihmehr farm.

Henry Becmer, grandfather of superintendent of Hillside Home, George W. Beemer, cleared the farm now owned chimney and fire-place of his log cabin still stand.

MRS. JANE LITTS THOMPSON.

One of Newton Centre's earliest resilents now living is Mrs. Jane Thompon, daughter of Henry Litts and widow of Andrew Thompson, "Gran" as she is more commonly called and by which title she is best known, was 82 years of age on June 16th. Her mother was Katherine Hoyt, a kinswoman of ex-Governor Henry M. Hoyt. Her father removed from Montague, Sussex county. N. J., in Feb., 1821. He had made a journey to Newton Centre during the previous summer, purchased a tract of land and built a log cabin for his family, then returned for them and his stock. He hired William Havens to bring his wife and children with horse team and wagon, while he followed. arriving two days later with his stock which consisted about his entire worldly possessions. He had a yoke of oxen, two cows and five sheep, "and just ten cents in solid cash," added Gran. It was fine sleighing when they came lourney, that one being upon the top of the mountain.

They stopped at one Cobb's for diner, father of the late Asa Cobb, of Mt. Cobb. and who resided near the home of the late Asa Cobb, Gran says she remembers hearing them talk of having so much bear meat, and also that they had some for dinner.

The only contents of the new home vas a roaring fire in the fire place, which had been kindly kindled by their nearest neighbor. Zephaniah Havens, brother of William Havens. Their cabin contained but one room, and was located at the end of the road beside the large spring still there, and near the present site of C. H. Bie-

AN INDIAN TRAIL.

An Indian trail led from their home to Ransom, then Gardner's Ferry. The nly road to Falls, where was located the nearest mill, was by a deer path and by marked trees around by the farm now owned by F. L. Thompson, on the road from Schultzville to Falls. several miles farther than the present route. The grain was carried on the back or by slowly plodding oxen. The nearest store was across the Susquehanna from Gardner's Ferry, and was reached by deer path or Indian trail to the ferry and by ferry boat across the river. The store was kept by a man named Brown.

In the field, which is now the Newton cemetery, "Gran's" father had own rye, and as he owned no gun, 'Gran' was sent with a large club to hammer on the rail fence to frighten the deer away from the grain. She said: "How I did hate to chase away the pretty speckled little things." When her father first settled here, Zebulon Comstock, who owned the farm now owned by D. W. La Rue, was one of their nearest neighbors. and often came with his wife to spend the evening, just run in, as it was a trifle of only five miles. "Gran" said she was always so frightened at their stories that she was afraid to look into corner for fear she would see a bear. 'Gran's" early education was received in an old log school house, with a large stone chimney and fireplace,

Sunday-School Lesson for July 23.

The Hand Writing on the Wall. DAN. V:17-31.

BY J. E. GILBERT, D. D., LL. D., Secretary of American Society of Religious Education.

on and the events of the present leslon during that period one occurrence only is mentioned by Daniel Forelycanthropy, in which he fancied himself an animal and fed like an ox. On his recovery he acknowledged the Almighty. (Dan. iv: 36-37.) Passing by in silence the death of Nebuchadnez-zar and the reigns of his successors. the book of Daniel records a most startling event in the best days of Belshazzar, great grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, about which we are now to study. Belshazzar made a great feast to a thousand of his lords and caused the vessels taken from the temple at Jerusalem to be used in serving wine for the occasion. In the midst of the revelry a hand appeared making an inscription upon the wall, which, after the failure of the wise men, Daniel was called in to interpret.

DECLINED (Verse 17.)-It was a rare promise that was made to Daniel as he stood in the presence of King about his neck, the position of third ruler in the kingdom,-all these were to be given, if the writing should be correctly interpreted. The fee might well excite even a good man. It indicated the character of him who offered t, and conformed to the custom of monarchs, who, be it said to their praise, were accustomed to reward any who served them. (Gen. xli: 40.) But now the noble dignity of the Hebrew appeared, as he declined all these gifts, yet promised to interpret the writing. Prue, afterward he accepted, (verse 29) but he was unwilling to enter into a contract in advance, to make mer-chandise of his abilities which God had imparted. He desired to have all know that he was there as the mouth-piece of the Most High, and not as a hireling. By such course was lifted into a position far above all the courtiers who had gathered in the splendid pal-

HONORED (Verses 18 and 19) .-Daniel preceded his interpretation by an extended reference to the honor Nebuchadnezzar, upon whom he styles the father of Beishazzar, although three generations in ortened. It was customary in those days to apply that title to all male ancesfors. (Gen. iv: 20.) Founded by his father, Nabopolassar, the Bauylon empire attained its highest glory under Nebuck cinezzar. His wars against Tyre Egypt and Juish and his alliance with Je Med as king had given him a fame in all the eastern world, so that all people and nations feared before him. (Jer. xxvii: 7.) His power was absolute and universal. Daniel calls attention to this and declares that Jehovah had given this honor to Nebuchadnezzar. His success was not the result of genius or luck, but of a Divine ordering. What purpose existed in the mind of the Almighty as he thus lifted up the man who became the conqueror of the people of God is not stated. The fact is, however, im-

HUMBLED (Vs. 20 and 21.)-Daniel next shows that the man who had been | brought to him from the great wardthus greatly honored, failed to understand his obligations to God. He became proud, assuming that by his own this honor may be judged from the fact a strange land.

known as the Morgan school house,

situated upon what is now known as

the Washburn place, on the main road

to Scranton. Her first teacher was

Anthony Briggs; the second was

The only families constituting the

Jersey Settlement when her father

ettled here were Charles McCloskey,

Mrs. Cosner, widowed mother of the

late David Cosner, who lived where

her son died, just at the foot of the

mountain; Elias Smith, who lived

where his son, Elias, now lives; Sam-

uel Rozelle, who then lived on the

farm now owned by Henry Smith;

Henry Beemer, Adam Thompson, Jo-

seph Coon and James Williams. These

people having all come from New Je :-

sey, the settlement, by general con-

sent, became the Jersey settlement,

atterward Brushy Ridge, and finally

Newton Center, the name of the post-

office being changed to Baid Mount to

avoid mail difficulties arising from of-

fices of the same name in Pennsylvania

A CELEPRATED SPRING.

Just below "Gran's" present home

vas a large spring, now drained,

known as the Bear spring, so called

ecause in the pioneer days Zebulon

and John Comstock came from Wy-

oming there to trap bears. She says

she remembers hearing Zebulon tell

her father about bringing an old horse

up for bait and that they had to chop

down trees to make a place for the

trap. Six days later, when they re-

eared, out there was a trail of blood

Sixty-five years ago the 22 of Febru-

o Andrew Thompson, who died forty-

grandfather from Scotland. In

Gran's possession is an old Scotch

Bible, brought by her husband's ra-

ther from his home land, it having be-

onged to his father. On the cover is

Anne Thompson, born June 27, in ye

Adam Thompson was born Feb. 17,

Since the death of her husband

printed and written: "Andrew Thomp-

on. His Book. Anno Domini, 1761.

It contains the following record:

Nancy Ackerly.

and New Jersey.

clapsed between the events of last les- iv:30.) Then his madness came on, mentioned in our introduction. Seized on. Of all that transpired in Baby-on during that period one occurrence of beasts, resulting partly from his inflated conceit and partly from the warned by a dream, Nebuchadnezzar loss of the Spirit's influence which was afflicted by a disease known as comes to all men, (Titus ii:11) he was no longer qualified to perform the duties of the kingly office. Having become a terror to those about him, a menac to the welfare of the government, he was deposed and driven from the habitations of men to take his place among the beasts of the field. There he remained until recovered to his sanity. Then he knew and confessed, what long before he ought to have known, that God rules among men, that He establishes kingdoms and sets over them whom He will.

REPROVED (Vs. 22, 23 and 24),-This reference to the career of Nebuchadnezzar was made the basis of a personal message to the king. Fully aware of all that had befallen his illustrious predecessor Belshazzar had not heeded the wholesoma lesson to be derived therefrom. On the contrary his heart had been lifted up against the Belshazzar, (verse 16) trembling with Almighty, and he had praised "the fear. Cosfly raiment, a chain of gold gods of silver, and gold, and brass, iron, wood and stone," and had not glorified the God in whose hands were all his ways. (Jer. x:23.) This reproof, so simple and direct, was administered by Danial with consummate courage. It was an eventful moment when a Hebrew could speak thus to a Chaldean king. Going on from that Daniel arraigned Belshazzar for what had been the most impious of all his doings. He had brought the sacred vessels taken from the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, and from these he and his lords, wives and concubines had drunk wine. And it was for this crowning act of shame that the hand had been

sent from the Lord, and it was for this

reason that the inscription was made.

SENTENCED (Vs. 25, 26, 27 and 28) .-As the brave preacher delivered his faithful message doubtless every heart was filled with terror, and the conscience-smitten king turned his eyes to the ceiling while Daniel announced his doom. Three words only were written, it is supposed in Samaritan or ancient Hebrew characters, known to no one but to the prophet. Those words stood for Numbered, Weighed, Divided. By the aid of God's spirit Daniel was able to see whole sentences which he read out to the assembly. The days of the Babylonian monarchy were numbered, and its overthrow determined. Rels. hazzar, the king tested in the scales of infinite justice, had been found wanting, lacking the elements of a ruler, unable to serve the high purpose of heaven in his elevation to the throne. His possessions were to be taken from him and given to the Medes and Persians who would possess them. (Isa. xiii:17.) Notice here Daniel did not exhort Belshazzar to repent and so avert impending calamity. He saw what God had decreed and knew that no change of purpose was possible.

REWARDED (Verse 29).-Belshazzar had one redeeming quality-he kept his word. Although Daniel had declined the proffered gifts of the king. they were promptly bestowed. A suit of scarlet, the royal color, was robe, and in this he was clad as a mark of esteem and honor. How great was ing His people to be carried away into

what was a part of her father's farm.

having the greater part of the time

some of her children or grandchildren

Her son, Adam, now resides with his

Her eldest son, Alva, who died about

fifteen years ago, was for many years

sexton of the Newton cemetery, the

first grave therein being opened for

the burial of a younger sister of

'Gran's," who was interred there in

1821, her father chopping out trees and

clearing a small plot of ground for

that purpose. Her son. Henry, resides

in Olyphant, Pa. "Gran" has two sons,

twelve grandchildren and twelve

DEATH TO ANIMALS.

Man Immune to Poisonous Vapors in

Death Gulch, Yellowstone Park.

Out in Wyoming, in the heart of the

Rocky mountains, is a little ravine, cut

through volcanic rock, in which animals

It is called Death Gulch, and it kills

its victims quickly by poisoning gases

that issue from its many fissures and

hang about its bed to a depth of two

or three feet. It is hidden away in a re-

difficult of access for human beings,

While its noxious vapors are deadly for

many animals, they do not overcome

men, because the vapors gather and

hang close to the ground. Bears seem

to be the favorite game for the de-

The gulch is a short V-shaped ravine

in the extinct hot spring region of the great lava basin of the park. Where

hot water formerly gushed from the

vents in the earths, poisoning gases now issue, and unless dissipated by a

strong wind, these gases, being heav-

ier than the air, hover densely above

the ground. A tiny stream of clear and

cold water, tainted with sulphuric acid,

flows down a narrow, steep channel in

the bed of the ravine. A few springs

so small as hardly to be worthy of the

name, contribute minutely to the

The gulch runs down the mountain

from a basin about 250 feet higher than

Cache creek, Just below that point is

stream their oozings of acid water.

butterflies and insects.

note part of the northeast corner of

Jean Macomber,

great grandchildren now living.

From the New York Press.

meet an unexpected death.

stroying agent.

residing with her.

mother.

CONTEXT,-Probably forty years | might be had achieved greatness. (Dan. | that these garments were made out of fabrics wrought by skilled workmen, dyed in liquid of immense cost. Herodotus informs us that certain persons gave their entire time to produce the material, and certain others were exclusively employed in the manufacture of the article worn. Over this royal apparel as an ornament was cast a chain of gold, thrown about his neck, falling down over his person, the ir signia of wealth. Then came the heralds, who, obedient to the king's command, proclaimed Daniel the third ruler in the kingdom. One only stood between him and Belshazzar. Thus, notwithstanding the sentence of God, the voluptuous ruler rewarded the man who had revealed the secret, unwelcome as were the tidings.

FULFILLED (Verses 30 and 31) .-This act of justice to the prophet did not reverse the sentence upon the wall, every word of which, as predicted, was fulfilled. The Scripture story is very brief. Belshazzar was slain that very night, and Darlus, the Median, took the city (B. C. 538). The splendid emerected by Nabopolassar (B. 625) had fallen, and the Medo-Persian empire was found-ed. This is all the inspired record declares. From other sources we learn that, while the city was given to revelry on that fateful night, Cyprus led his army along the empty bed of the river from which the water had been drained. The soldiers on guard The more distant portions of the city were taken and set on fire long before the news reached the palace, perhaps while Daniel was expounding the writing. At last the invading forces reached the citadel, in the storm of which Belshazzar, in one last effort to inspire his troops, fell, being slain by soldiers who did not know him. The city's fate fulfilled ancient proprecies made by Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Babylon afterward became a type of worldly splendor and unbridle insolence. (Rev. vxii: 5.)

REFLECTIONS. - Two important truths deserve special and careful consideration in connection with this lesson: 1. The sovereignty of Jehovah is universal. The heathen world supposed that each nation had a presiding divinity. There is good evidence that this thought had taken possession of many in Israel. Such doctrines were prejudicial to the race. It was impossible to teach brotherhood and consequent duties until a different concep-tion of the deity should prevail. But here a Hebrew prophet is permitted to teach Belshazzar on this very topic and to show him that the empire of Baby' was under the control of the Almighty. 2. The ancient world was under the dominion of might. The strongest ruled and oppressed the weak. Men trusted in their power, and kings felt secure because they were supported by vast armies. The world needed to know that righteousness is an element of national, not less than individual, prosperity. Our lesson furnishes this teaching. The empire that had flourished for nearly a hundred years, subjugating other kingdoms, in-creasing in wealth and luxury, was utterly destroyed, and its ruler was slain because of its sins. (Prov. xiv: 34.) If no other end were gained through the captivity of Judah the inculcation of these two lessons in the thought of mankind would be sufficient to justify the Supreme Being in allow-

"Gran" has lived in her own home on tion, a few drops of blood at the end of his nostrils being the only unusual indication. It was evident that death had come only a short time before, as the body was intact and was in no way offensive. The body of a cinnamon bear nearby was badly decomposed, while the other skeletons had been stripped of flesh. It was evident that the deaths of none of these animals had been caused by gunshots or other form of violence. They had been suffocated. The hollows in the gulch have been tested for carbonic acid gas, but its presence has never been established. The strong smell of sulphur and a

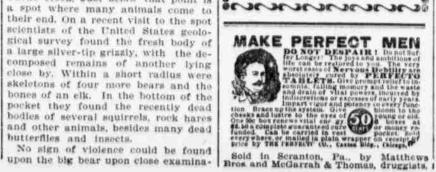
choking sensation of the lungs indicated the existence of noxious gases. The ravine is open to the wind at either end, which serves to dissipate the vapors rapidly. It is only on calm days therefore, that the gas can do its deadly work. It is believed that the animals go down to the fatal stream to drink. One dead bear will attract many others through curiosity. The spring freshets wash out the bones of the destroyed beasts every year, otherwise the ravine would have long ago beome a charnel guich.

Death Gulch is particularly weird and dismal. It is entirely free of life Even the rock is in an advanced state of decay. Close by and all around the place is vegetation. But the gulch is

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turned, horse and trap had disapfollowing which for about ten rods they found the trap and their game, a large bear. She was at this time about five years old. ary, 1899, Gran was united in marriage nine years ago last October. His father came from New Jersey and his

Jennet Thompson wase born May ve 22nd, 1785 Adam Thompson wase born July ye 18, 1786. Andrew Thompson wase borne July ve 24, 1788. And the record of the above Adam Thompson's family as follows: John Thompson was born April 21,

Mima Jane Thompson was born June 21 1811. Helen Thompson was born July 27.