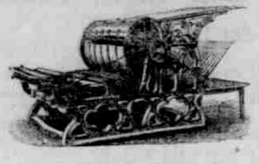
The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY.....July 12, 1876.



EXTRA copies of the HERALD ready for mailing can be had at the office.

EPISCOPAL SERVICE will be held in the Good Templars' Hall, on Tuesday July 25th, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

CASH buys at bottom prices. Try it on Flour at the Grocery and Feed Store of COOK & BEERITS.

COOK & BEERITS, the leading Grocery, Flour and Feed Store in town. Buy your goods there.

CHEAP! Cheaper!! Cheapest!!!—Pride, Rising Sun, and Mountain City Flour. Buy them from COOK & BEERITS.

IF you want comfortable boarding and lodging, at reasonable rates, by the week, day, or meal, go to E. Bevins, just above the depot.

A RECENT invoice of cloths and cassimeres at Patton's, worthy of inspection. Furnish your own tailor. Call for the material and save money.

FLOUR low in town. Flour lower in town. Flour lowest in town. Every sack and barrel warranted good, and satisfaction guaranteed.

COOK & BEERITS.

SALT! SALT!! 150 barrels salt, extra no. 1, full weight, and good barrels, in 8 and 10 barrel lots, less than it can be ordered from any point.

J. W. PATTON.

IF you want to know who's who during the Centennial year, you had better subscribe for the HERALD, only $2 00 a year in advance.

WE regret exceedingly to be compelled to state, that owing to the clumsiness of one of our "comps," the "Jenner Items" sent us by one of our friends in that twp., were mislaid. Please write again.

COMPARISON in prices. Woollen goods now, and twelve months ago, forces conviction that 40 cents per pound is a high price for wool, when Patton sells good Kentucky Jeans at 25 cents per yard.

ROLL BUTTER WANTED.—To enable me to fill an order for 10,000 pounds of roll butter, which I purpose shipping in the months of July and August, I will pay for choice roll butter half cash. Please deliver your butter on Monday and Thursday morning.

J. W. PATTON.

NOTICE.—All persons indebted to us will please call and settle their accounts by the 1st of August. All accounts not settled will be left with an officer for collection after that time.

SNYDER & UHL.

THE members of the Evangelical Association near Harnedsville, Somerset Co., laid a corner stone laid during last Sabbath. Divine service was conducted under the supervision of Rev. J. A. Grimm, Presiding Elder of Somerset, assisted by W. A. Rininger. Large congregations and good order.

D.

MR. J. H. PISEL has taken possession of the Black Property, and is prepared to entertain summer boarders. The Black Property is one of the most pleasantly situated and convenient places about the town. The large grounds are just the place for children. Persons desiring a summer boarding house should apply at an early date.

HERE WE GO.—Who says it does not take money to buy Flour, Grain, and Feed, by car load, for cash on delivery. Whoever said we agreed to sell these goods on credit for a longer term than thirty days. We are giving our debtors due notice of these facts, by statements of their accounts, and beg them to take heed, lest we should be compelled to collect by adding costs.

COOK & BEERITS.

AT the last meeting of the members of the Agricultural Society the 3rd, 4th and 5th of October was fixed as the time for holding the next County Fair.

An earnest appeal will be made to all who feel an interest in Somerset County to prepare for the Centennial exhibition.

Premiums will be paid on Wheat, Rye and Oats in the sheaf, and the premium list will be otherwise revised and enlarged.

E. M. SCHROCK, Sec'ty
JOSIAH MOWRY, Pres.

Grain, Flour, and Feed, for Sale.

I urge all persons knowing themselves indebted to me for grain, flour, and feed, to call and settle their accounts on or before the 1st of July next. I have now on hand at my mill near Bakersville, a large stock of wheat, flour, feed, corn and corn meal. My grain is of a superior quality to any raised in this vicinity, as I purchase none but the best. I sell at the lowest figures for cash. Thirty days time will be given to responsible parties on sales exceeding three or more dollars.

NOAH H. SHAFFER.
Bakersville, Pa., June 21.

Murder Will Out.

A few years ago "August Flower" was discovered to be a certain cure for Dyspepsia and Liver complaint, a few thin Dyspeptics made known to their friends how easily and quickly they had been cured by its use. The great merits of GREEN'S AUGUST FLOWER became heralded through the country by one sufferer to another, until without advertising, its sale has become immense. Druggists in EVERY TOWN in the United States are selling it. No person suffering from Sour Stomach, Sick Headache, Costiveness, palpitation of the Heart, indigestion, low spirits, etc., can take three doses without relief. Go to your Druggist G. W. Benford and get a bottle for 75 cents and try it. Sample bottles ten cents.

Hope for the Despondent.

If you have been coughing all winter and begin to despair of recovery, or if you have taken a recent cold, go at once to the Drug store of Geo. W. Benford & Co., and get a bottle of DR. MONNIS' SYRUP OF TAR, WILD CHERRY AND HORE HOUND. Take it and be well. No other medicine acts so promptly and effectually in Coughs, Colds, and all diseases of the throat, lungs and chest, leading to Consumption. Hundreds who once thought they had that dread disease have been restored to health by the use of this almost magic remedy. It is also the best known specific for Croup, and never fails in Whooping Cough. Trial size 10 cents, large size 50 cents per bottle.

ADDISON PA.
July 5, 1876.

DEAR HERALD.—Our end of the Centennial came off pleasantly and successfully: Gen Ross and Daniel Augustine Esqs., made the necessary arrangements. The M. E. Sunday School formed at the Church, marched in procession to Dehavens Grove.

The declaration was read by Dr. W. F. Mitchell in a clear and distinct voice and tasteful manner. Short speeches were made by Rev. N. Lucrock and another "with a very weak pair of Lungs in his head." *Sarey!*

The most interesting feature was the singing by the class of young ladies and gentlemen, who are improving rapidly. The selections gave general satisfaction. At the announcement of dinner the grove was magically transformed into an immense dining hall. Under every spreading oak were happy groups regaling on the choicest viands.

The crowd was a large and mixed one, during our stay in the grove, we did not hear an angry, profane or vulgar word. Can any other place in the county say so much?

R.

HOW WE CELEBRATED!

BIG DAY! BIG CROWD! BIG TIME!

PIC NIC, SPEECHES, FIRE WORKS, TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION ETC., ETC

The much talked of, much thought of, Centennial Fourth has come and gone and left but little trace behind. Never before has Somerset been so gaily decorated. The starry emblem of a nations pride fluttered from every window. Arches were thrown across the streets opposite the residence of H. G. Cunningham, Patton's store, opposite M. A. Sanner's between Robert's and Grove's and opposite George Saylor's. Large poles surmounted by beautiful flags had been erected in the West Ward at the corner of Rosina and Main streets, in the Diamond and in the East Ward opposite the residence of Austin Keel.

THE CROWD.

At an early hour people from the surrounding districts commenced to arrive and about eight o'clock the streets were thronged. The up train at 8:10 arrived bringing a large crowd and the Meyersdale silver cornet band. The crowd formed in line and led by the band proceeded to the diamond. By nine o'clock the streets in the vicinity of the Diamond were a swaying, struggling mass of humanity.

THE PROCESSION.

formed promptly at nine o'lock under command of Chief Marshal Col. J. R. Edie, and his assistants Maj. E. M. Schrock, Maj. John C. Gaither and A. J. Schell Esq., Marched to the Grove in the following order:

Meyersdale Silver Cornet Band.
Disciples Sunday School,
Lutheran Sunday School,
W. H. Ruppel Esq., with a choir of 50 singers,
Somerset Silver Cornet band,
Sunday School Scholars,
Citizens,
Ladies with their Carriages,
Drum Corps,
Somerset Fire Company 50 strong, G. W. Kimmel Captain,
Burgess W. H. Weltley, Ed. Scull, W. B. Frease, and Chas. J. Harrison in carriage,
Citizens on foot,
Citizens on Horseback,
Citizens in Carriages.
The Rabble.

A gentleman posted at the gate leading to the grove attempted to count the number of persons in the procession as they went by, but was obliged to give it up as a hopeless task. He however estimates the number at three thousand.

AT PINE GROVE.

The procession on reaching the grove at a quarter past nine o'clock, found that it had been well cleared of everything in the shape of underbrush and that a speakers stand had been erected and was beautifully decorated with evergreens and festooned with flags. The proceedings were inaugurated by the election of Samuel Gaither Esq., President. Mr. Gaither being unable to preside Ed. Scull Esq., was elected president and the editors of the different papers in the county appointed Secretaries. The choir led by W. H. Ruppel Esq., sang "The Star Spangled Banner," in fine style. Rev. J. B. Taylor then offered up the following prayer:

O Lord our Heavenly Father, it becomes us on this the Centennial Anniversary of the nations birth, to inaugurate the services and festivities of the day by addressing the Throne of Grace and invoking the Divine blessing upon us as an assembly, as a community and as a nation. We feel to praise Thee for all Thy goodness to us in all the years of the century just passed. We thank Thee that Thou hast so directed the affairs of this nation that most of these years have been years of peace and prosperity. At times the dark cloud of war has hung in the nation's sky and her soil has been drenched with the blood of her sons, but even these seasons of strife and bloodshed, under Thy over ruling providence have proved (in a measure at least) blessings in disguise. And as we stand today looking back over the past and remember what we were a hundred years ago and what we are to-day, our bosoms heave with emotion and our hearts swell with patriotic pride. Then we were but three millions of people now we are nearly forty millions. Then we occupied but a narrow tract of land lying on either side of the Alleghenies now our territory stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, and from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. But while we have reason to feel proud of our prosperity and of our greatness as a nation, we have equal reason for gratitude to Thee the author of our greatness and the source of our prosperity. And not only do our minds revert to the past, but we would also peer in to the future inquiring what it has in store for us, praying that the same Divine power which has guarded and guided and controlled the destiny of the nation during the century past, may guard and guide and controll her destiny throughout the future, making the years which are to come more glorious than those which have gone before. And when another hundred years shall have rolled into eternity, may our children's children, celebrate the second centennial of the nations birth with greater rejoicing, looking back upon grander achievements and greater prosperity than that which greets our retrospective gaze to-day. And as a nation may we ever recognize Thee as the sovereign ruler of the universe, and so frame our institutions and laws that they may meet Thy Divine approbation, and may Thy blessing ever rest upon us in all departments of our government, purifying our politics and elevating our morals, until we shall indeed be a nation whose God is the Lord." All these blessings we plead in the name of Christ, and to Thee will we give all the praise both now and forever. Amen.

The choir then sang a "Patriotic Glee," and the President introduced A. J. Colborn Esq., who read the

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,

in a manner which made all in that vast assemblege acknowledge that never had they heard the grand truths of that immortal document uttered with such telling effect.

"THE ORIGIN OF YANKEE DOODLE"

was then sung in admirable style by the choir, and was greeted with loud applause. Rev. A. M. Whetstone then delivered a short address to the Sunday School Scholars in his usual happy style. As the *Sunday School Scholars* around the stand were nearly all of forty years of age and upwards his remarks were of rather a humerous character and elicited peal after peal of laughter. "Red White and Blue," a male quartette was next on the programme.

Elder E. F. Bittle then took the stand and read the following beautiful poem written by Mr. John Hammer of Shade township.

LAND OF LIBERTY.

All hail Columbia's sons, all hail,
Let gladsome shouts of joy prevail;
The spirit of seventy-six—a fire
Burns in each breast and can't expire.
And you, fair daughters of the land,
Burst forth in strains sublime and grand!
O shout to-day! be glad to-day!
This is the Land of Liberty.

The birthday of our nation's come,
In splendor far exceeding Rome;
And Athen's beauties what are they,
Compared to this our festal day?
Pine of the North, break forth in song,
Palm of the South the strain prolong;
O shout along flash, ye thunder roll,
And shake the earth from pole to pole;
Ye earthquakes heave both land and sea,
This is the Land of Liberty.

This Freedom's land we call our own,
Wrenched from the tyrant of a throne;
Ye Titans brave, guard and defy,
"Trust God and keep your powder dry,"
For this is freemen's land alone,
We know one Lord—no other own,
To none we bow a suppliant knee,
In this proud Land of Liberty.

Ye lightnings give the Atlantic's wave,
Tell Europe's lords and nobles brave,
"Each mind's a kingdom of its own,
Possessed of scepter, crown and throne;"
All born free on Freedom's sod,
None "born to rule by the grace of God;"
All lords and nobles here are we
In this great Land of Liberty.

Then freemen, shout once more nor fear,
The wondering nations pause to hear,
In every clime in all the zones,
Fell monarchs tremble in their thrones,
Ye nations, who in bondage are,
Unused to freedom, used to war,
Asunder burst your bonds, and be
Like us, as winds of morning—*free.*

Ed. B. Scull was then introduced and read the following collection of historical facts.

Ladies and gentlemen:

The committee appointed to make arrangements for the proper observance of the one hundredth birthday of that mythical person, "Uncle Sam," have requested me to "prepare and read a history of Somerset County." What was meant by the invitation I am unable to guess, for certainly the members of that committee are gentlemen of too much good sense to imagine that a history of the "Eagle's Nest" of Pennsylvania could be written in the small amount of spare time a student has in six weeks. If the committee were not aware of the Herculean proportions of the task, I am, and having, to use a vulgarism of the day, "been there," know whereof I speak. It is with extreme regret, therefore, that I am compelled to announce to you that there has been no history of Somerset County written for this Centennial celebration.

Regretting then my inability to fully comply with the request of the committee, I have taken the liberty to substitute in place of the history a number of historical facts. They are not as numerous as I desire they should be, or doubtless as you expect them to be, but many of them I feel assured will be of interest to this my partial and in no wise too critical audience. "Such as I have, give I unto thee."

This county was formerly embraced in Bedford county, from which it was taken by an act of Assembly of 17th April, 1795. The act provided "that all that part of Bedford county lying and being to the westward of a line to be drawn along the top of the Allegheny mountains from where the Maryland line crosseth the same to where the line of Huntingdon county crosseth the same mountain, shall be and the same is hereby declared to be erected into a county henceforth to be called Somerset."

The area of the county is one thousand and fifty square miles. It is situate between the Allegheny and Laurel Hill mountains, and its surface is of an undulating character, consisting of high hills, fertile valleys, and grassy glades, and lies at an altitude of about 2,000 feet. The lands in the glades and valleys and on many of the mountain sides is very rich and productive, and will compare favorably with any farming land in the State.—Bound on the north by Cambria, on the east by Bedford, on the south by Maryland, and on the west by Fayette and Westmoreland. The lowest grade over the Alleghenies as well as one of the highest points of that chain are within its limits.

The county is almost a solid bituminous mountain, at least two-thirds of its entire area containing coal, three-fifths iron ore, one-fourth fire-clay, one-half limestone and fully one-third contains all four in juxtaposition. One-half of the area is clothed with forests, numbering among their growth almost every variety of timber known to a mountainous country. Among the richest coal basins are the Elklick, the Buffalo and North Fork.

The citizens of the county are chiefly of German descent, and Pennsylvania dutch is the prevailing language. The agricultural products are wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, potatoes and sugar. The manufacturing interests are far from being numerous, and are lumber, whiskey, leather, woolen goods, &c. The development of the county was unusually slow until the completion of the Connellsville railroad in the fall of 1870, since when a large number of mines have been opened and numerous mills erected, until our coal and timber trade bids fair to become one of the most important in the State. There are remains of three ancient fortifications in the southwestern part of the county that have attracted a great deal of attention and caused much speculation as to their origin. They are known as Skinner's, McClintock's and Jenning's forts. The memory of man runneth not to the time of their construction.

The first road opened in the county was made by General George Washington in 1754. This road crossed the southwestern corner of the county near the town of Petersburg. Braddock's army passed along the same road in 1755.

In 1758 Colonel Boquet, on his road to Fort Duquesne, penetrated the wilderness in the northern part of the county and constructed a fort where Stoystown now stands, and it is thought that what is known as Miller's Breastworks, at the top of the Allegheny mountains, were thrown up at the same time. The colonial records speak of the garrison at Stoystown being called into Bedford at the time of Pontiac's invasion in 1763.

About 1769 a number of settlers made their appearance in the glades at the present site of Somerset. Previous to that time, however, a number of hunters had had their camps here. Mr. Husbands, in his annals of Somerset county, tells us that the names of these hunters were Sparks, Cole, Penrod, White, Wright and Cox. The settlement increased rapidly until 1776, when news of the Boston tea-party, the battle of Lexington and that stirring event which we are met here today to celebrate, the passage of the Declaration of Independence reached the settlement, when a rifle company was formed under the command of Captain Richard Brown and marched East to the scene of hostilities. Just after the massacre at Hannastown, Westmoreland county, in 1782, the settlement was almost entirely deserted. After the treaty of peace with Great Britain, a majority of the old settlers returned, bringing with them many new ones.

The Berlin or Brothersvalley settlement was cotemporaneous with that of Somerset. The first settlers were Palatinates, but their names have not been preserved. A large number of Mennonite families moved into the settlement in 1780. A tract of land, around the borders of the Stonycreek, was patented in the name of Jacob Keffer for the use of the Lutheran and Calvanistic congregations. The tract was christened Pious Springs, and in 1773 the present town of Berlin was laid out on it. The first deed on record in the county is from Keffer and Glessner to Abraham Miller, Esq., for lot No. 36 in the town of Berlin. The deed bears date of April 3d, 1792, and was entered on the 20th of June, 1795. The consideration paid by Miller was 45 shillings and an annual ground rent of one Spanish milled dollar, to be paid on the 1st Monday of June in each year for the use of the Lutheran and Calvanistic congregations and for the use of a school or schools for said societies. When the town was laid out the congregations took the lots alternately.

The early history of Meyersdale begins with 1785, when Andrew Berndreger took up the tract of land upon which the greater part of the town is situated. He immediately commenced clearing the land, and in 1789 built a small grist mill upon the banks of the Flaugherty, which was probably the first mill built within the present limits of the county. The Elklick or Salisbury settlement dates back to 1760, and was commenced by two men named Tissue and Markley. These men owned all of what is now known as Elklick and part of Summit townships. Markley settled on the farm now owned by John M. Keim. The town of Salisbury was laid out by Joseph Markley on the 15th day of April, 1796. Douglas Baker was the surveyor.

The earliest surveys made in the county bear date of June, 1767, and were made in Southampton Tp.

As has been said, the county was organized by act of Legislature of the 17th of April, 1795. On the 21st of December of the same year, the first court was held in a room in the old Webster tavern in Somerset or Brunnerstown as it was then called; Judge Alexander Addison presided. Associated with him were James Wells, Abraham Cable and Ebenezer Griffith, Justices of the Peace. Josiah Espy, Esq., acted as Prothonotary. The members of the Grand Jury were John Wells, foreman; Jacob Hartzell, George Burker, Jacob Haines, John Miller, William Short, David Work, John Lowry, Jos. Douglas, David Penrod, John Husband, Earnest Deitz, Lawrence Oats, Jacob Baker, Geo. Kimmel, Jasper Kitzmiller, Adam Keller, John Coleman, Peter Copp, Michael Brunner, Jacob Zimmerman, John Welty and James Walker; John Nicola, an attending grand juror, was dismissed.

The constables in attendance were Jacob Countryman, of Brothersvalley, John Mitchel, of Turkeyfoot, John Reed, of Quemahoning, Peter Friedline, of Milford, and Gonlip Raymond, of Stonycreek.

The first case tried was that of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania vs. Adam Keffer. The indictment charged Keffer with having become so intoxicated while serving as a grand juror as to incapacitate him for business; that so potent was the liquor that he slept behind the stove and could not be aroused to vote on any question or attend to any other business.—Adam denied the soft impeachment, and the case was put at issue. The following are the names of the jurors who tried the case: George Britz, James McDermot, Frederick Showman, David Kimmel, Joseph Corpening, Adam Schneider, Jacob Schneider, John Heminger, John Armstrong, Jacob Shull, Christian Ankeny, and Benjamine Brown. The verdict was guilty and Keffer was fined five dollars ($5) by the court.

From the evidence of this first court it would appear that there was as much intemperance in the halcyon days of old as there is at the present. Besides the case of Keffer, there were ten other indictment, six of which were against persons charged with keeping tippling houses. At the same court, David Yohes, of Milford and David Black, of Stonycreek were appointed Wood Rangers, and Jacob Schneider, Abraham Neff, Jacob Huff, Michael Lowry, Abraham Clements, William Jones, John Lowry, Peter Barnet, Conrad Beymer, William Baker, Walter Vogle, Alexander Ogle, George Brubaker, Jacob Kurtz, and John Murphy were recommended as Tavern Keepers. The first jail erected in the county was in 1793, John Campbell and Josiah Espy, being the contractors; the price paid for the building was $170 75½. The first assessment made by the County Commissioners was at the rate of one-half cent on the dollar. They appointed as assessors, David Wright, Isaac Husband and Alex. Hunter, of Quemahoning, John Hendricks, Sharp Dwire and John Griffith, of Elklick, John Nicola, James McMillen and Lewis Mitchell, of Turkeyfoot, James Black, George Kimmel, John Rhoads of Stonycreek, Adam Kepper, David Jones and Samuel Wright, of Milford, John Grover, Jacob Matthews and Jacob Keffer, of Brothersvalley, and as collectors, of Turkeyfoot, John Mitchell; Brothersvalley, John Grover; Milford, Gillian Geary; Elklick, Jacob Smith; Stonycreek, John Musser; Quemahoning, John Good.

The first election at which officers were paid out of the county Treasury, of which we have any record was in 1799.

The first Court House was built by Robert Spencer in 1798, the contract price being five thousand six hundred dollars. Peter Kimmel built the old public offices that used to stand in the Court House yard in 1801, for which he received $634.

The Borough of Somerset was incorporated in 1804, the original act of assembly provided for a market and the holding of two fairs annually.

In the year 1807 a Frenchman named Noel Huguel was tried and convicted and executed for the murder of Daniel Pollock, this is generally known as the first murder ever committed in the county. This, however, I think is a mistake as there is an account of the murder of Captain Tissue's wife, in Elklick Township, a number of years previous and on Christmas day 1793. Jacob Glessner was murdered by Rev. Sponneberg near Berlin. Huguel, however, was the first person ever executed by the decree of a Somerset county court, Abraham Miller was Sheriff at the time of the execution.

In 1810 the Somerset Academy was chartered by act of Legislature and the State donated it two thousand dollars.

In the year 1818 a lottery was gotton up, and some tickets sold, the proceeds of which were to go toward the building of a church, the act allowing a lottery, was repealed before the drawing took place.

The borough of Stoystown was incorporated in 1819, the number of inhabitants according to the census of 1820 was 204. Berlin was incorporated as a borough in 1821, the number of its inhabitants according to the census of 1820, was 382.

The Somerset and Bedford, Somerset and Mt. Pleasant, and Stoystown and Greensburg turnpikes were chartered and commenced in 1821. The Somerset and Bedford was 33 miles in length, for the construction of which the State appropriated $12500 and $40,000 was raised by individual subscription. The Somerset and Mt. Pleasant was 28¼ miles in length, for the building of which $53,050 were raised by individual subscriptions, and $12,500, appropriated by the State. The Stoystown and Greensburg was 37 miles in length, the State appropriated $11,260 and $71,000 were raised by individual subscriptions. The Bedford and Stoystown was 20¼ miles in length, $40,400 of the money for its construction, was raised by individual subscriptions and $10,400 appropriated by the State.

In 1833 the borough of Somerset was visited by a destructive fire, the amount of loss at this late day, we are unable to discover. The list of losses as published in the Somerset *Whig* of that date embraces 37 names. From the account given we judge it was considered a very disastrous conflagration.

The contract for the present Court House was given out on the 2d day of April 1851, to Samuel Benson. The price to be paid was to be $13,900. The building was finished and taken off the contractors hands on the 16th, of August 1853.

The first ground broke on that part of the Connellsville R. R. within our county was at the Sand Patch tunnel in 1852.

The contract for the new jail was given to John Mong on the 21st of April 1856.

Pritz was tried for the murder of Henry Weimer in February 1860. He was convicted, and hung by Sheriff Perry Walker on the 21st of June 1860.

From 1860 to 1865, the following organizations entered into the military service of the U. S.

Company A. 10th Penna. Reserves, Captain Robert Cummins commanding.

Company B. 54th Regiment Penna. Volunteers, Captain John Hite commanding.

Company C. 54th Regiment Penna. Volunteers, Captain E. D. Yutzy commanding.

Company G. 54th Regiment Penna. Volunteers, Captain B. F. Long commanding.

Company E. 133d Regiment Penna. Volunteers, Captain Geo. F. Baer commanding.

Company F. 142d Regiment Penna. Volunteers, Captain Edmonds Commanding.

Company C. 142d Regiment Penna. Volunteers, Captain John H Boyts Commanding.

Independent Company, Captain W. M. Schrock commanding.

Company H. 85th Regiment Penn. Volunteers, Captain Jas. B. Tredwell commanding.

Company D. 142d Regiment Penna. Volunteers, Captain Adam Grim commanding.

Company D. 133d Regiment Penna. Volunteers Captain E. M. Schrock commanding.

Company G. 2d Maryland Home Guards, Capta in Peter Petrie commanding.

Beside these regular organizations there were three thousand other persons from this county in the military service of the United States at the time.

On the 10th of April 1874, the last spike was driven on the Connellsville R. R. at a point about ¾ of a mile below Casselman. William Wilson a Somerset county man was the engineer of the first train that ever passed over the road. The Somerset & Mineral Point R. R. was finished in the fall of the same year.

The Buffalo Valley R. R. was finished in 1872.

On the 9th of May 1872, the borough of Somerset was visited by a destructive fire, the value of property destroyed was $200,000.

December 2nd the borough of Confluence was incorporated.

February 19th 1872, the borough of Ursina was incorporated.

The borough of Jenner Town was incorporated on the 4th day of December 1874.

The town of Meyersdale was visited by a destructive fire in the same year, the estimated loss being $40,000.

The most important event of the year 1875, was a destructive fire in the town of Meyersdale.

The present year 1876 has been one in which little of historical interest has transpired. The most important event has been the burning of Somerset on the 4th day of May.

A mixed quartette, "The Flag that waved a Hundred Years," was next sang.

The president then introduced the

ORATOR OF THE DAY,

Our talented fellow townsman Hon. W. H. Koontz. We would like to convey a clear idea of the General's speech, but find it utterly impossible, while our readers may get some faint idea of it from its printed form, yet they miss that eloquence of voice, that gracefulness of manner and the impressiveness of the gestures that go so far in the make up of an oration.

Gen Koontz spoke as follows:

Fellow-citizens:—It is no ordinary, common place event, that has brought us together on this occasion. It is not a mere matter of temporary consequence, concerning only a single community, to be considered for a brief hour, and then to pass away and be placed among the forgotten rubbish of the past. On the contrary, it is as enduring as time itself. It is indissolubly linked with the welfare, happiness and prosperity not only of the people of this land, but of all lands; not only with the age in which we live, but with all the ages which are to come. In its far-reaching importance and influence, it overleaps all time to come, and holds in its generous embrace all mankind. We celebrate, this morning, the birthday of human freedom. With reverent thought and by solemn invocation to the deity, with grateful heart and by every outward demonstration of joy, with the ringing of bells and booming of cannon, with gay procession, flaunting banners, and the soul stirring strains of music, with the benignant smile of the aged and the encouraging word of the middle-aged, with the manly voice of youth and the soft sweet tones of gentle maidens, with the glee of boys and girls, with the "lisp of children and their earliest words;" in every possible way that human happiness can exhibit itself here under the blue vault of heaven in the groves which were God's first temples, under all the grand and inspiring of nature, we welcome in, this morning, the one hundredth birthday of our own beloved government, the great and mighty Republic of the United States of America.

An allwise providence has vouchsafed to us the inestimable privilege of witnessing the close of the first and the beginning of the second century of the Republic, and we would be untrue to ourselves, untrue to our country, untrue to posterity, if we did not, on this occasion, in the most grateful and joyous manner, not only commemorate the virtues, the wisdom, the bravery, and glory of the men of the Revolution, who laid the foundations of this temple of human freedom, but also do all honor to the brave deeds and glorious achievments of the men who prevented its overthrow by foreign, as well as domestic foes.

One hundred years ago the people of thirteen colonies of the Empire of Great Britain, scattered along the Atlantic coast from Passamaquoddy Bay to Charleston Harbor, poor in everything except in their strong arms and stout hearts, had engaged in a conflict with the Government of Great Britain, for liberation from her power and with a determination to establish an independent government. They had sent their representatives to meet in Congress at Philadelphia, and they were engaged there in deliberating upon the mighty issue in which they were about to stake their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors. It was a remarkable body of men then and there assembled. They had brought with them every qualification requisite to the task in which they were engaged. There were statesmen of broad and enlarged views, ready to cope with the most accomplished diplomats of the most polished courts of Europe; orators whose splendid fiery eloquence has never been surpassed in any age or any country, even in the best days of Athenian, Roman or English eloquence; there were soldiers who, in their splendid efforts in behalf of human freedom, were to equal the brilliant exploits of a Marlborough, a Conde, a Turenne! After a stormy and protracted session they at length reached a conclusion, and signed the immortal Declaration of Independence, which has just been read in our hearing to-day, which was officially given to the people in a few days thereafter, and the old bell on the State House, in which they were assembled, began to peal out its welcome notes to the multitude, and "liberty was proclaimed throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

Of the protracted struggle which ensued, it is wholly unnecessary, even if time would permit me, to speak to-day. The contest ended at Yorktown, by the overthrow of the British forces and the recognition of the independence of the United States of America. The work of organizing a government followed, and after a futile attempt to carry out the confederation, the union of states was finally established by the adoption of the Federal Constitution of 1787, and from that time to the present day, the government of the United States has been an important, yea one of the foremost powers among the nations of the earth.

And now to-day, my fellow-citizens, as we are about to commemorate the grand event which has given freedom to forty millions of people, and which is destined ultimately to give freedom to the whole human family, our minds are carried back to that wonderful drama in human history, which began on the plains of Lexington and ended at Yorktown; to the actors concerned in it, their character, their aims and purposes, the work which they did; and then we are led to look with wonder and admiration at the results which have followed from their efforts in the cause of human freedom.

In the first place they were men of no ordinary stamp They were the descendants of men who had fled from the mother country because of the oppression they met with there, and who, in order to have the right to enjoy that full measure of liberty, civil and religious, which was refused them at home, deserted the land of their nativity, left behind them all the scenes of their childhood that were endearing to them, embarked with their families upon the stormy deep, and eventually landed upon the inhospitable shores of the then new world. They came with a high and mighty purpose, which was destined to overcome all obstacles and dangers of whatsoever kind, whether upon the billowy deep, whether upon the bleak and inhospitable shores of a new world, or from the assaults of the wild man of the forest—

"There were men wit hary hair
Amidst that pilgrim band.
Why had they come to wither there,
Away from their childhood's land?

"There was woman's fearless eye,
Lit by her deep love's truth;
There was manhood's brow, serenely high,
And the fiery heart of youth.

"What sought they thus afar,
Bright jewels of the mine?
The wealth of seas? The spoils of war?
They sought a faith's pure shrine!

"Ay, call it holy ground,
The soil where first they trod.
They have left unstained what there they found—
Freedom to worship God!"

In spite of all the adverse circumstances which surrounded them—a barren soil, a climate which at first was very destructive of human life, the dangers of the wild man and the wild beast, the absence of aid and comfort from the mother country—they grew and prospered, until finally they became the subjects of oppressive legislation on the part of the British Parliament, which undertook to tax them for the purpose of raising the revenues of the crown. Then it was that the spirit of resistance began. The people began to speak out, and distinct utterances of patriotic feeling were heard in Boston, at Mecklenburg, North Carolina; Hannahstown, Pennsylvania; and in the House of Burgesses in Virginia. The original settlers of this country had brought with them that sturdy spirit of English liberty, which, for the past six hundred years, has been resisting the encroachments of the Kingly prerogative. That spirit which, on the plains of Runnymede, wrested Magna Charta from King John; that spirit which brought Charles I. to the block, and made the Commonwealth of England under Oliver Cromwell; that spirit which placed William of Orange on the English throne; that spirit which secured the Petition of Right, the writ of Habeas Corpus, the Bill of Rights, and all those safeguards of the English law, which are thrown around the character, the person, and the property of every subject in the British Empire; that spirit which only needed a broader stage to develop in which to accomplish mightier deeds than it had ever done in the past. And here an opportunity was given. The short-sighted policy of the ministers of King George impelled them on in their course of oppression, in spite of the remonstrance of some of the most brilliant and gifted men in the English Parliament, until at length the Puritans of New England, the Cavaliers of Old Virginia, the Quakers and Germans of Pennsylvania, and the Dutch of New York all united in that wonderful declaration of their independence, in which they declared, that "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created free, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and that "these colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states."

What a noble declaration of principles is this! What a grand purpose and high aim must have animated the breasts of men who could have conceived such noble sentiments, and have resolved in maintaining them to stake their all! There is nothing like it on the page of recorded history. Alexander the Great carried his phalanxes over the world, conquering province after province and kingdom after kingdom, and after the whole world was subjugated, wept because there was no other world to conquer. Julius Cæsar crossed the Rubicon and marched with his invincible legions upon Rome, so that he might be crowned with the imperial diadem and clad in the royal purple. Napoleon Bonaparte upset the reigning houses of nearly all Europe, and tossed their crowns to his relatives as so many baubles, himself assuming the imperial crown of France. But all these were simply to gratify personal ambition, and the lives and the fortunes of the people were considered as nothing compared with the attainment of the selfish ends of these great heroes of the world. It was not mere personal ambition that controlled the men of the Revolution: it was a desire to establish a government upon great principles, which would redound to the welfare and happiness of the people. The statement of their grievances and their declaration of independence was the most earnest, solemn protest against the wrongs of humanity that had ever been uttered, and it summoned mankind from the depths of degradation, oppression, slavery, despair, to the high and exalted plane of free thought and independent action.

As we look back upon those actors in the mighty drama of the American revolution, how grandly their figures loom up before us. Men of giant physical mould, of large comprehensive minds, hearts filled with the love of all humanity. But they need no feeble words of eulogy from me. They live in the mighty institutions which have grown up from their undertakings. They live in the hearts and undying affections of the people.

"Their spirits wrap our dusky mountains,
Their memories sparkle o'er our fountains,
The meanest rill, the mightiest river,
Roll mingling with their fame forever."

The work of the fathers of the Revolution has not been free from danger in the first century of the Republic. Foreign and domestic foes have alike assailed the Union of which they laid the foundation. Even in the past score of years, the very existence of the nation was imperiled by one of the mightiest rebellions ever organized on earth. But after a struggle which is without a parallel in history, the sacred cause of the Union was maintained; and now, although only ten years have elapsed since the close of the war, the glorious banner of our Union floats over a country, not only untorn by civil dissension, but united, strong, powerful, and in which every human being is free. The defenders of the Union deserve the undying gratitude of the people of this land, and of all the ages of the future, because the high honor was reserved to them of preserving and handing down to posterity the priceless gem of free government which the fathers of the revolution had instituted on this continent. It is a happy result, my fellow-citizens, that although the sections of the country were lately arrayed against each other in deadly conflict, that now since the shock of arms is over, they are again living together peaceably under the folds of the old flag.

A government that has stood for a hundred years, and has withstood the shock of arms of foreign foes; has put down one of the most gigantic rebellions on its own soil ever known; that has preserved order, peace, and tranquility at home and with the nations of the earth, may well be regarded as established on a firm and stable foundation, and can confidently and securely meet all the dangers of the future.

When we contrast the condition of our country to-day with its condition at the close of the Revolutionary war, we can not but feel that the wise men of that day scarcely realized the splendid results which were to spring from their work. They builded better than they knew. Then the colonies were but thirteen in number, scattered along the fringe of the continent of North America, sparsely settled, containing but a population of three millions, exhausted by a protracted war, not only without union, but somewhat jealous of each other and reluctant to form any confederation upon which would lessen their dignity as separate and independent states. To-day they overlap the vast expanse of a continent. Thirty-eight stars, representing so many states, now glitter on our national banner, and the population has now increased to over forty millions. Now the states are crystallized into a nation, strong, vigorous, powerful, with its banners forever in the advance, leading the van of civilization and progress. The development, the growth and prosperity of this country in the past one hundred years, constitute one of the most interesting eras in human history. If we were to read the story of such a marvelous growth and development of a country away back in the course of time, we would be incredulous of the truth of it, and would rather be inclined to think that it was only the vain imagining of the historian. But to-day, with Freedom's banner streaming on the pine hills of Maine and on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico; from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, and up to distant Alaska, we have before us the unmistakable evidence of the reality of the story.

There is no better evidence of our progress as a people—indeed, there is no stronger evidence of the progress the whole civilized world has made in the arts of peace, than the wonderful exhibition which is now going on around the very cradle of human liberty. As a fitting manner to celebrate the centennial birthday of the Nation, we have invited the nations of the world to come and join us once more as one in one of those grand expositions, in which the skill, the handicraft, the arts, and the accomplishments of all nations may be exhibited in generous rivalry of each other. They have responded nobly to the call. England has come to look on with generous admiration at the greatness and prosperity of her own progeny. France has come to behold how mighty and powerful her once feeble ally has become. Germany has come here, too, to see how many of her own children have been transplanted from the banks of the Rhine, and to find that here, too, is *ein teutsches faterland.* And along with these have come the representatives of the other nations of Europe, of South America, and the representatives of the dusky populations of the Orient, of Egypt, China, Japan, whose career may be traced back into the very twilight of human history. They have come with their costly fabrics, their splendid works of art, their statuary, painting, pottery, their machinery, but over and above all they have come here with hearts full of good-will toward this the youngest but most powerful of all the nations, to join with her people in celebrating the advent of the second century of her existence. It is a sight which, perhaps, has never been equaled on this planet since it was first swung into space by the fiat of the Almighty, since the morning stars first sang together for joy. It is an omen of good for the future. It bids fair to do away with future violence, war, and bloodshed, and promises to bring all mankind into a common brotherhood, under the bright and shining banner of Peace.

And now, my fellow-citizens, there is one thing that ought to awaken a lively interest in the breast of every American citizen. We can not but be deeply impress