COURT REFUSES DIVORCE GRANT

Sustains Finding of Master in Unique Case in Northumberland County Court

Sunbury, Pa., July 1.—For the first time in a quarter of a century, President Judge Cummings in the Northumberland county courts to-day refused to grant a divorce. The petitioner was Gideon O. Echlin, of Milton, and desertion was alleged. The court says: "We have carefully examined the testimony and are free to say that the same sustains the master," which was against a divorce. According to Echlin's testimony they were married at Steelton on November 7, 1905, and his wife deserted him on August 24, 1915.

Edwin Paul, a prominent Milton lawyer, who acted as master to take testimony and report his findings and recommendations to the court, in his report says: "They amicably divided their furniture, he helped her to furnish a room and called on her, sent her flowers and gave her gifts. He showed solicitation as to her health." All this, the master finds, took place within the two years that desertion was alleged by the plaintiff, while under the Pennsylvania laws, two years continuous desertion is required before a divorce shall be granted upon such a plea. However, according to the findings of Mr. Paul, Echlin never offered his wife a home during these two years, but, instead, his whole conduct seemed to be a well-devised plan on Echlin's part to put off the time of resuming martial relations until the legal period elapsed for securing a divorce on the grounds of desertion. For this reason the master would not recommend a divorce. Mrs. Echlin, it is understood lives in Harrisburg.

HOME COMING WELCOME

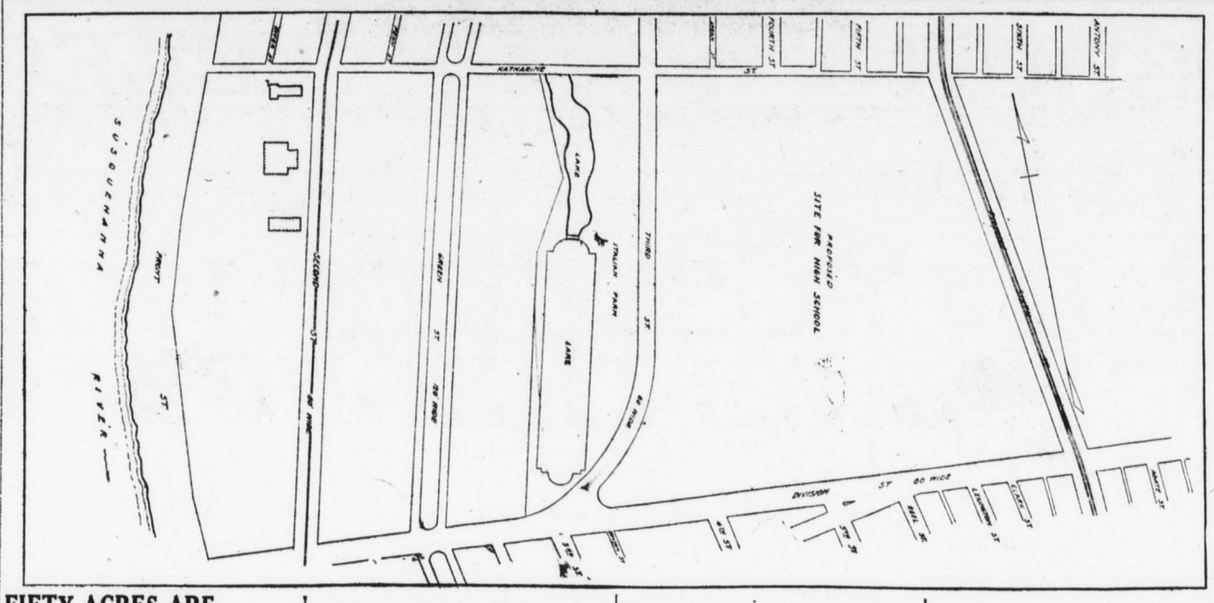
Mount Wolf, Pa., July 1.—Fully 1,000 persons on Sunday afternoon assembled at Quickel's church for the welcoming home service for the returned soldier boys of the church and community, of which there were twenty-six, fully uniformed in attendance. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. S. H. Stein, the Rev. W. S. Herchner, the Rev. J. J. Stauffer, of York, and Sergeant John Becker. The Zion's View band played patriotic music, while the York New Salem male octet sang several selections.

With a banquet, a picnic and a festival, the soldiers of Dover township, will be welcomed home on Saturday, July 12. More than 100 soldier boys are expected to participate in the festivities.

Miss Mary Harman, of Harrisburg, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Harman, Sr., at Shiremanstown, on Sunday.

Miss Daisy Etter, of Boiling Springs, is spending several days with Mr. and Mrs. Mervin S. Etter at Shiremanstown.

Map Showing Proposed Park and School Site



FIFTY ACRES ARE OFFERED TO CITY

[Continued From First Page]

gestions at that time. The plan calls for an In-City Park at Division and Third streets, comprising the swamp and wooded bluff known as Italian Park, the property owned by the McKee estate, the executors residing in Pittsburgh, Pa.

This commission believing its duty to be the continued development of the Manning plans, so ably carried forward by the former Park Board, before the change in government of third class cities legislated out of office all existing city commissions, desire to present for your consideration the following suggestions.

Italian Park.—After much correspondence and several visits by those in interest it was tentatively agreed by the McKee interest that they would look favorably upon a proposition to deed to the city, free of all encumbrances and without charge the ground required for the development of Italian Park as proposed. This was subpect to two conditions, however. First, the approximate acreage and the proposed treatment should be submitted to them. Second, the gift would be conditioned upon and the agreed developments being carried forward completed within a reasonable and set time.

This commission thereupon arranged with Mr. Manning to make detailed suggestion of the Park, and Mr. Manning came to Harrisburg, remaining for several days, submitting the sketch herewith submitted. This plan meets with the approval of the McKee interest and ourselves and while not intended to be absolutely accurate from an engineering standpoint, shows approximately the lines and plans, details and correct figures to be determined later.

Green Street—We suggest and recommend the placing of Green street, 120 feet wide on the official City Map, from Schuylkill street to the city limits. This would permit a grass plotted street similar to State street, and provide a fine residence thoroughfare in the western part of the city. The key plan adopted by this commission for that section of the city from the city limits north provides for Green street 120 feet wide and the Estherton Plot, the only one filed since the creation of this commission dedicates Green street 120 feet in width and all other plans as recorded will be required to do the same.

Third Street — This street, if continued parallel with Second would pass through the swamp ground, now to be used for Park purposes.

Third street, therefore, should be diverted to the bluff or high ground, connecting with Third street, Riverside, at Catherine street, making a continuous thoroughfare. This street above Catherine is now built up to a considerable extent.

Sixth Street. — Continue the lines of Sixth street, as laid out by the commission of 1872, with a slight change in the street line to make them connect with Elizabeth street, Riverside, widened to conform to the present width of Sixth street.

New Street. — Placing a street on the McKee Tract, between the ground of the Harrisburg Academy, also a service road or street between the Park and the McKee property on the East or Park side of their property and connecting with the new street as proposed.

These suggestions if carried out will, we believe, prove beneficial to the city at large and all individuals concerned. We earnestly urge early and favorable action upon these suggestions.

To the School Board

He then read the following letter from the Commission to the School Board:

In connection with the development of Italian Park, it has been suggested that this same development would make it very desirable to locate our new High school on a site close by or connected with this park. Acting upon this suggestion, we opened communication with the McKee Estate, with the object in view of ascertaining whether they would sell a part of their property for school purposes. The part on the high ground lying between the proposed new line of Third street and Sixth street, seemed to offer a desirable and available site where acreage could be obtained with location and surroundings, everything to be desired. This plot contains approximately 35 to 38 acres and would permit your board to build the new school on the university plan, giving ample room for athletic activities and any future building plan necessary. The selection of the proper school authority and landscape designers to make a joint plan, not only for present needs but looking to the future needs of the school district for years to come, would we believe, put Harrisburg in the lead in the bigger and better things done for the present and future generation.

Harrisburg in common with all cities has been handicapped by reason of the limited amount of ground purchased for the erection of school buildings. Americans are naturally optimistic but few of us are sufficiently so. We apparently provide for every reasonable growth expected in fifty years only to find ten or twenty years afterward that our vision, large as we thought it was, has not been large enough.

McKee-Graham School Site Cost

The executors of the estate have offered to sell to the school board the 35 to 38 acres suggested at $2,250 per acre exact acreage to be ascertained after the fixing of the new lines of Third and Sixth streets

Chairman Herman then read to the assemblage the following statement, which he said embodied the views of the City Planning Commission:

"The City Planning Commission in presenting for the consideration of City Council in the School Board of Harrisburg the proposal to take over for the improvement of the city for the development of the park system and as a high school site, all that tract of land lying between Third and Sixth streets, and Division and Catherine streets, now owned by the McKee Estate, and described fully in the outlined maps accompanying.

"The portion of this land lying between Third street and the top of the bluff commonly known as Italian Park and comprising about fifteen acres, the McKee-Graham estate offers to give free of all cost to the city for the development of a lake and park and the straightening of Green street, which it is proposed to make 120 feet wide from Division street north, not only through this tract, but to the northern building limits. This donation the McKee estate will make upon the solicitation of the City Planning Commission which sees therein an opportunity for the development and beautification of the city, providing the city within a reasonable perid of years will improve the land as outlined.

Forty Acres For School

"From the top of the bluff to Sixth street, and from Division to Catherine street, a tract of about 35 acres, the McKee-Graham eseate offers, also upon the solicitation of the City Planning Commission, to the School Board of Harrisburg at a price far below what undoubtedly could be procured if the ground were broken up and sold in building lots, or even in bulk if sold to speculative real estate dealers. The City Planning Commission has gone most carefully into the advantages offered by these acquirements of land by the city and the School Board and recommends that City Council and the School Board give the matter early and careful consideration, as the advantageous terms which the Commission has been able to procure may not be continued indefinitely by the owners.

"The Italian Park site, lying as it does now in the way of street extension and building development, because of its swampy condition, can be transformed at no very great cost into an attractive link of the city's parkway system, and at the same time opportunity would be made for the extension of Green street 120 feet wide through this area by way of Riverside and the old Heister farm, now known as Estherton, through to Rockville, thus offering another through outlet for rapidly developing traffic in this section. The Estherton owners have provided for this thoroughfare 120 feet wide through their holdings and the only cost to the city for adding this fine residence street to the municipal highway system would be for the remodeling or removal of one or two houses in the Riverside district, an expense very moderate, indeed, considering the advantages to accrue therefrom. The Commission's engineer already has plans made for the development of the Italian Park district, the erection of an ornamental bridge, retaining walls and the necessary road work and grading. This need not be done at once, but can be worked out over a period of time that will not seriously embarrass the city.

"The realignment of sixth street, Green street and other highways that will find their way upon the city map as building developments progress will add greatly to the convenience of those usein the city highways and will add additional facilities to through traffic.

The acquirement of the Italian Park area together with the proposed purchase of the 35 acres adjoining for high school development would, as the years go by, give Harrisburg another open air breathing spot of no mean proportion, especially when it is considered that these tracts adjoin the large holdings of the Harrisburg Academy, which never will be fully occupied by buildings.

High School Plot

"The City Planning Commission has given the matter of high school location very serious study and it believes that no better, and certainly no cheaper site could be acquired than the 35 acres comprising the Italian Park and Hoffman's Woods plots. It may be argued that the district does not at this time need 35 acres of land for high school purposes, but the site proposed is so advantageously situated and offers such splendid opportunities for development as the needs of the city grow that it would seem advisable to take over all the land at the figures quoted should prove attractive, and when it is considered that all of this tract may be purchased for the price of a few lots in the heart of the city sufficient only for a high school development for present needs, and that the McKee-Graham land offers opportunities for enlargment for the next fifty years or more, the wisdom of taking over the entire acreage is at once evidenced. The commission believes that the school board should buy this land, employ an architect to design a series of buildings for high school purposes upon the university plan, but that only such number of buildings as may be necessary to meet immediate need should be erected. Thus it would be possible instead of building for the next quarter century as has been proposed provision could be made for only a ten-year period at the expiration of which time addition buildings could be erected without any way interfering with the conduct of the normal development of the school.

"Also, this outline of building could be so made as to be revised from time to time should the need thereof become apparent. The Commission believes that in this way the high school needs of the city can be adequately met at a cost far less than would be possible in any other way, present needs and future growth considered, and most earnestly urges the School Board to take the necessary action looking toward the acquirement of the land at the earliest possible moment.

"The commission also recommends that City Council enter at once into the agreements proposed by the Commission with the McKee-Graham estate, which it believes to be most generous on the part of the owners and very advantageous to the city and all concerned."

Proposition Received Favorably

Mr. Herman discussed the details of the proposal at some length and personally urged the adoption of the Commission's recommendations. At the request of President Enders, of the School Board, Mr. Fager gave his views of the location. He said he believed it offered great advantages, the setting of full-grown trees, campus room and opportunity for development of all high school activities on the school campus appealing to him. The Technical High School, he said, is greatly overcrowded and the university plan would offer an opportunity for development.

Miss Julia Rue, of New Cumberland, is visiting friends at Altoona.

Miss Amanda Guistwhite spent Sunday afternoon with her sister, Mrs. Lawrence Kingston, at Steelton.

Mrs. Phil Gardner and son Robert, of New Cumberland, are spending several days at their cottage at Williams Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtin Dunlap, of New Cumberland, have returned from a trip to Hagerstown, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Carroll and son Lester, George Carroll, Mr. Croll, of Lancaster and Miss Jennie Croll, of Dillsburg, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Lantz at New Cumberland on Sunday.

Mrs. Matilda Gross, of New Cumberland, is visiting friends in Olevia, York county.

The Rev. J. I. Green, of Walkersville, Md., recently spent several days with his former parishoners at Washington Heights.

Miss Evelyn Otto, of Washington Heights, is visiting friends at Churchtown and Carlisle.

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