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From the Lewisburg Chronicle. Bradford County.

Some two or three years since, Miss Sedgewick gave a glowing picture, in one of the Magazines of the day, of her native county in Berkshire. May one who claims not her gifted pen, give a slight sketch of her own county of Bradford? There is not, indeed, the tragic interest connected with the history of Bradford, that belongs to Luzerne, and some of the other counties of Pennsylvania, yet its early reminiscences are not devoid of interest. Probably there is no county in the State, or indeed the Union, but that has some circumstances in its history that would excite interest were they but recorded. Campbell has rendered the Valley of Wyoming almost classic ground, and recently its annals have been transferred to the page of history, by one who has passed the most of his days, from early youth far towards life's waning, within the precincts of the Valley.—Hon. Charles Miner.

There were Tories scattered along the Susquehanna, during the war of the Revolution, but the first permanent settlement made in Bradford was in 1778, by emigrants from Wyoming, and mostly by those who had passed through the horrors of savage invasion, and civil strife, which had swept over that ill-fated Valley, and there had learned endurance. This settlement was made in what is now the township of Athens, then known as "Tioga Point," and the adjacent valley of Sheshequin. Col. John Franklin, who is styled, in "Miner's History," the "Hero of Wyoming," was one of this band of emigrants. He resided upon a farm on the eastern side of the Susquehanna, opposite where the village of Athens now stands, where he died some years since, at an advanced age. The prominent part that he took in the strife between the "Pennemites" and the "Yankees" at Wyoming, led to his imprisonment, for two years, in Philadelphia, under the charge of high treason. Where this settlement was made, what is now Bradford, and the adjoining counties, including Luzerne, belonged to the town of Westmoreland—a township that embraced nearly if not quite as great an extent of territory as the State of Connecticut, of which it was an appendage.

Bradford is one of the northern tier of counties in Pennsylvania, and is bounded on the east by Susquehanna and on the west by Tioga counties. The Susquehanna enters it at the New York line, and takes a southerly and nearly a central course through the county.—The Tioga or Chemung unites with it about four miles and a half below the New York line. Tioga rises in the mountains west of Bradford, and after taking its course through Tioga county, it bends around through the State of New York, receiving on its way the Cowanesque, the Canisteo, and the Conhocton. On its way through Bradford the Susquehanna receives as tributaries, on the east the Wysox and the Wyalusing, and on the west the Sugar and Towanda creeks. The Towanda and the Lycoming have their sources very near each other, in Canton, the south-west township of the county. The Lycoming winds away through its wild and rapid course to the West. Branch—the Towanda makes its way to the North Branch of the Susquehanna, and unites with it two miles below the borough of Towanda. There is much scenery along this stream which is wildly beautiful. There are ledges of rocks along its banks which would strike a person, accustomed only to the prairies of the West, with awe and wonder.

Athens is much the oldest village in the county, although it is not a place of near the population or business of Towanda. The location of the village, and the scenery of the whole valley, is very beautiful. This valley, which looks when in its quiet summer beauty, as if the angel of peace had ever folded its wings over it, was the rendezvous of the army sent under the command of Gen. Sullivan into the heart of the Indian country, during the summer of 1779, to endeavor to ensure safety to our frontier.

Sullivan, with part of the army destined to this expedition, was detached by the way of

the Delaware to Wyoming, whence he ascended the river to Tioga Point. Here he arrived on the 11th of August, and encamped, awaiting a reinforcement which arrived on the 22 under the command of Gen. Clinton. Sullivan now numbered nearly five thousand men—quite a formidable army for the object to which it was destined. A fort was erected in what is now the Southern part of the village of Athens, which was garrisoned for the protection of stores for the army on its return, and was designated also as a rendezvous to send those who were wounded or who sickened by the way.—On the 30th of September, the army returned to Tioga, and on the 3d of October took its departure down the Susquehanna to Wyoming, and thence to Easton. Before the army left Tioga, the Susquehanna became so low as to render the boats useless which had conveyed the artillery thither, and as it was impossible for them to remove it further, it was sunk in the river. This was done secretly, and perhaps the spot where it lies is not now known to any person living. The successful result of Sullivan's expedition is known to all. Its devastating policy seems to us hardly consistent with humanity but it received the sanction of Washington, and was the only way to preserve the frontier from a recurrence of the horrors of Cherry Valley and Wyoming.

In 1789, a treaty was held at Athens, between the whites and several Indian tribes, in relation to massacres which had been committed upon the West Branch after the declaration of peace. Col. Pickering was the commissioner of the whites; and the celebrated chief of Senecas, Red Jacket, was the principal Indian orator. The treaty terminated amicably, but the murders were not brought to justice until a later period. As the settlements increased, the Indians drew away to the West, where their hunting grounds might be undisturbed by the foot of the white man; but they must have turned with sorrowful memories to that lovely valley, and their fathers' graves in the grove of oaks upon the bank of the Tioga.

The valley of Sheshequin was the birthplace of the poetess, Julia H. Scott, whose early decease has been so much lamented. Her grave is beside her "native river," in the place that was the home of her married life—Towanda. Her friends were looking forward with hope to her future literary career, when her first born, and at that time her only child, was suddenly taken from her by death. Ever after, it seemed as if a shadow of the grave was over her, until she was laid to rest in its darkness. There are many legends from her pen to throw a romantic interest around her own loved "river of the hills."

Mrs. M. St. Leon Loud has given legendary interest to the valley of the Wysox, or Wyalusing, as it was called at an early day. The hut of Fernsler, the "Hermit of the Wyalusing," stood, when the first settler came into the country, upon the spot where afterwards rose her paternal home.

The township of Asylum, in the lower part of the county, was so named from the circumstance of its becoming the home of a colony of refugees, who fled from the horrors of the French Revolution. Some of them were nobles of high rank.—Most of them returned to France as soon as they could do so with safety. The present Surveyor General of our Commonwealth, is the son of one of the French emigrants who remained in the township of Asylum.

Towanda, the county town of Bradford, is situated upon the western side of the Susquehanna, and near the centre of the county. It is a flourishing town, and a place of much business.—The village of Troy in the western part of the county is also a place of considerable business.

Bradford is a good agricultural county. The valleys of the Susquehanna, and its tributary streams, are fertile, and the uplands, too, are available for tillage, and amply remunerate their cultivators. Lumber is one of the staples of the county. During a rise of water, especially at the time of the spring floods, the Susquehanna is almost literally covered with rafts seeking a market at the lower towns upon the river, or perhaps in Baltimore or Philadelphia. These come from every navigable stream tributary to the Susquehanna. The lumbering business is one of much risk and danger, and requires and develops much hardihood of character in those who pursue it. Some of the townships west of the river, in the northern part of the county, have large settlements of Irish, who came into the county as laborers on our ill-fated canal. They have purchased small farms, and have begun to gather around them the comforts of a permanent and independent home. They are generally destitute of education, but seem desirous that their children should have an opportunity of acquiring this blessing which has been denied to them.—Much mineral wealth has been developed in the lower part of the county, and it is supposed that nearly all our mountains contain coal and iron. Our mountain scenery is beautiful—often grandly so. These mountain ranges skirt the river on either side, sometimes bending around valleys, and again coming abruptly upon the river, forming those Narrows which are often so alarming to the unaccustomed traveler; overhanging as they generally are by ledges of rocks, and with a high and precipitous descent to the river.

The North Branch Canal, upon which so much half completed work is left to go to destruction, was designed to terminate at Athens, three miles below the New York line. The dam across the Tioga was finished several years ago, and was supposed to be well built, until one night, becom-

ing weary of waiting for the completion of the canal, or from some other cause, it moved off down the river.

I will say no more of my favorite county, except that its name was in honor of an early Attorney General of this Commonwealth, a gentleman of superior talents and acquirements, and one who was favored with the personal friendship of Washington. R. K. W.

Athens, Pa.

From Blake's Family Encyclopedia.

Fixed Stars.

The universe, so far as human observation has extended, consists of infinite or boundless space, in which are numberless fixed stars, of the nature, bulk and properties of the sun; but because they are at such immense distance from the earth, they appear to our eyes only as so many beautiful shining points. They are called fixed stars because they do not change, like the planets, their relative position; and they are distinguished from the planets by their twinkling light.

It is supposed that the fixed stars have primary and secondary planets revolving round them as the planets of our system revolve round the sun. Were the sun as far from us as these stars are, it would doubtless appear as they now do. It is certain that they do not reflect the sun's light as do the planets, for their distance is so great, that they would not, in that case, be visible.

All the fixed stars, with the exception of the polar or north star, notwithstanding they do not change their relative position, appear to have a motion like the sun and moon, rising in the east, increasing in altitude until they approach the meridian, and declining to the western horizon, where they disappear. This apparent motion is caused by the revolution of the earth on its axis from west to east.

The immovable appearance of the polar star is occasioned by the axis of the earth pointing directly to it. Its elevation above the horizon of any place is always equal to the latitude of that place, or its nearest distance to the equator.

The number of fixed stars visible to the naked eye, in either hemisphere, is not more than a thousand. They seem indeed to be innumerable, when, in a clear winter's evening, we turn our eyes towards the heavens. But by looking attentively, we shall find that most of those bright spots, which appeared to be stars, vanish from our view. This illusion is owing to the twinkling light with which the fixed stars are seen; and, to our viewing them confusedly, and not reducing them to any order.

By the aid of a telescope we are enabled to discover myriads of stars, which were before invisible to the unassisted eye; and, as we increase the power of the instrument, more and more stars are brought into view, so that the number may be considered infinite. Dr. Herschel was enabled, in one quarter of an hour, to count one hundred and sixteen thousand, which passed through the space embraced by his powerful glass.

Many stars, which to an observer unaided by instruments appear single, are found, on being examined by a telescope, to consist of two, and sometimes of three or more stars. Dr. Herschel discovered four hundred of this description. Other astronomers have discovered a much greater number.

Upon viewing the heavens on a clear night we discover a pale irregular light, and a number of stars whose mingled rays form the luminous tract called the Milky way. The stars themselves are at too great a distance to be perceived by the naked eye; and among those which are visible with a good telescope there are spaces apparently filled with others in immense numbers. Many whitish spots or tracts, called nebulae, are visible in different parts of the heavens, which are supposed to be milky ways at an inconceivable distance.

The magnitudes of the fixed stars appear to be different from one another, which difference may arise either from a diversity in their real magnitudes, or distances; or from both these causes acting together. The difference in the apparent magnitude of the stars is such as to admit of their being divided into six classes.—The largest are called stars of the first magnitude, and the least which are visible to the naked eye, stars of the sixth magnitude. Stars that cannot be seen without the help of glasses are called telescopic stars.

Some stars are subject to periodical variations in apparent magnitude; at one time being at the second or third, and at another, of the fifth or sixth. Some have alternately been noticed to appear and disappear; being visible for several months, and again invisible. Several stars mentioned by ancient astronomers are not now to be found; and some are now observed, which are not mentioned in the ancient catalogues.

It is conjectured that the fixed stars are at such an immense distance, that light, which moves at the rate of 100,000 miles per second, would be nearly one year and a quarter in passing from the nearest fixed star to the earth; and a cannon ball discharged from a 24 pounder with a velocity of 19 miles a minute, would be 760,000 years passing from the nearest star, Sound, which moves at the rate of 13 miles a

minute, would be about 1,128,000 years in passing through the same space.

Dr. Herschel has calculated that the distance of the remotest nebulae, exceeds that of the nearest fixed star at least three hundred thousand times. Upon this fact, he thus remarks: that from facts well known, it might be proved, the rays of light, which enter the eye from the star Sirius, cannot have been less than six years and four months and a half in their passage to the observer. Hence, he says, it follows that when we see an object at a calculated distance, at which one of these very remote nebulae may still be perceived, the rays of light which convey its image to the eye, must have been almost two millions of years on their way; and that consequently so many years ago this object must already have had an existence in the sidereal heavens, in order to send out those rays by which we now perceive it.

But when we have reached the utmost distance to which the power of our instrument can penetrate who will say, that we are approaching any limits of the creation? Who will say that if the disembodied spirit should travel forward through eternity, numberless systems would not be continually spreading before it?

We cannot contemplate the fixed stars without exclaiming, How inconceivably great and wise and good is the being who made, governs and sustains them! We behold not one world only, but a system of worlds, regulated and kept in motion by the sun; not one sun and one system only, but millions of suns and systems, multiplied without end, perpetually submissive to the laws which govern them. Such a view of the material creation may well induce us to adopt, as our own, the language of the royal Psalmist of Israel, and say—When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

The Mormons.

We have conversed with a gentleman, who has recently returned from the far West, who was an eye-witness to the distress and sufferings of these misguided and miserable people. The description he gives of the hardships and privations they endured, since their lawless expulsion from their homes in Missouri and Illinois, is almost enough to make the blood freeze in the hearts of a Christian people. Famine and disease have made frightful ravages in their numbers. Striven along the path they have travelled, to the intermediate plains, lying between the Mississippi and the Great Salt Lake, the graves of a thousand men, women and children, are to be seen by the traveller who passes that route, marking with unerring certainty the road they have taken, and the sufferings they must have endured. Their numbers have suffered repeated decimation, since they commenced their journey towards the shores of the Pacific. Food failing, roots, grass, and even unclean reptiles have been used for food, and hence this frightful loss of life. Cannot something be done to alleviate their sufferings, and snatch a few from the insatiate jaws of famine and death? Many of these deluded people formerly resided in Philadelphia, and bore the character of reputable and industrious citizens.—Some were members of various Christian Churches in this city, but from weakness of intellect or from a high state of nervous excitement, they were led to embrace the absurdities of this new doctrine, and seek a home midway between the Atlantic and Pacific, where they could follow its rites in peace. This should not exclude them from the pale of civilization and humanity. Tons of provisions and thousands of dollars have been sent to foreign countries to alleviate the miseries of suffering humanity. Cannot some little be done for our own people, upon our own soil? Our informant has spent largely of his own means, to assist these starving people; but a single person can affect but little.—*Phila. Bulletin.*

The Horse.

I will state a few things that I have learned, and they may be of benefit to your readers. A horse that is driven on hard roads is liable to get stiff in the joints. In 1833 I had an animal which after driving 3 or 4 days, got quite lame. An old Baltimore teamster told me to wash the mare's legs in a tolerably salt brine, which was done, accordingly, three times a day for the balance of the journey.—The stiffness disappeared in a few days, and I drove the mare 1,400 miles afterwards, and there was no more trouble on that account. What pleased me most was, the mare had a very poor foot to hold a shoe, when I started. It was very brittle and hard. It would break out when a nail was put in. But it grew together at every shoeing. A blacksmith in New-England remarked to me that her foot had a singular appearance; where he pared it was soft and tough. I account for it in this way: salt will attract moisture from the atmosphere, which keeps the foot moist all the time; and salt has nearly the same effect that grease has on a foot or a piece of timber. The drippings from salt on a floor, if continued long, cannot be got off; the wood becomes moist and tough, and so with a horse's foot. After washing the legs, turn up the horse's foot, clean the bottom, pour the hollow full of brine and hold for a few minutes to soak the bottom. The practice of rasping the foot all over to toughen it, is abominable.—*Farmer and Gardener.*

New York & Erie Rail Road.

The President of the Company has recently published a statement of its affairs, from which we gather the following interesting items: The loan of \$500,000 advertised for, has all been taken at par.

The Board state that all the legislation that is necessary has been obtained, both from New York and Pennsylvania, to enable the Company to avail themselves of all the benefits of their charter.

About one and a half millions of dollars have been expended on that part of the Road between Port Jervis and Binghamton, a distance of about 127 miles. The Company will commence laying the superstructure in a few weeks, and are confident that they will be able to open the road to Binghamton during the present year.

The Board have contracted for the grading of the Road from Binghamton to Elmira, a distance of 60 miles: that portion of the road between Binghamton and Owego to be finished within sixty days after the road shall have been completed to Binghamton; and from Owego to Elmira within six months thereafter.

A short road to extend from the head of Seneca Lake, to connect with the New York and Erie Rail Road at Elmira, a distance of some 17 or 18 miles, has been chartered. The route is now being located.

The net earnings of that portion of the road now in use, during the present year, will probably exceed \$150,000; the gross earnings will undoubtedly exceed \$300,000.

The cost of completing the road to Lake Erie is estimated at \$2,000,000 to 3,000,000. When completed the road will cost the Stockholders less per mile than any other road in the country. The Board entertain no doubts as to their ability to raise the funds necessary to complete the road at an early date.

More Indian Enmities—Attack upon the Mormons at the City of the Salt Lake—Men, Women, and Children Killed.

From the St. Louis Republican, May 29.

The steamer Mustang arrived yesterday morning from the Missouri River. We are indebted to the officers for a St. Joseph Gazette of Tuesday last, which contains some exciting information from the Mormon colony at the City of the Salt Lake. It is stated that Mr. Shnyder passed through that town on the previous day, on his way from Fort Kearney, with information that an express had just reached there from the Mormon Colony, bringing intelligence that the Indians had murdered a number of the men, women, and children at the City of the Salt Lake. No cause was assigned for this outbreak.

The express had been sent in for the purpose of getting assistance from the Government, as it was feared that the Indians would gather in still larger numbers, and murder all the emigrants at that place. It would seem, from the intelligence from Oregon and the City of the Salt Lake, that the Indians have determined upon a regular war upon the colonies, though widely separated from each other; and there is too much reason to apprehend that many of them will be cut off before aid can reach them. A military force of several thousand men will be absolutely necessary to protect our citizens in that quarter, and great as the cost may be, it is the duty of the Government to give them this protection.

We learn from the officers of the Mustang, that 600 wagons, containing Mormon emigrants, were to leave Camp Israel, sixty-five miles above the Council Bluffs, to-day, for the City of the Great Salt Lake. But after the events which are stated in the preceding part of this article, we think it doubtful whether they will move forward without some promise of protection from the Government.

It is stated, that 2,000 Pawnee Indians had come into Bellevue, for the purpose of obtaining provisions, of which they were in great want.

A report is also brought to us, that the first United States train which left Fort Leavenworth this Spring, was attacked by Indians at Walnut Creek, and in the attack twenty persons were killed. The names of—Sisson and two Leroy's are mentioned among the number. We are not informed how this report was brought to the settlements, but we are inclined to believe that it is much exaggerated, if not altogether incorrect.—The Mexicans, who came in from Santa Fe, the latter part of last week, left there on the 23d April, made no mention of this affair, although of sufficient interest to have attracted their attention.

A Danish writer speaks of a but so miserable that it did not know which way to fall, and so kept on standing. This is like a man that had such a complication of diseases, that he did not know which to die of, and so lived on.

A lady in this vicinity, on consoling a neighbor on the loss of her son, was answered in tears, "If Billy's grandmother is in heaven, I know she won't see Billy abused."