

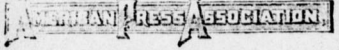
Republican News Item

B. M. VANDYKE, Editor

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THIS PAPER REPRESENTS FOR FOREIGN ADVERTISING BY THE



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POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

I hereby announce myself as candidate for the nomination for the office of Sheriff of Sullivan County, subject to the Republican rules.

W. H. BIDDLE, Feb. 24, 1911. Elkland Township.

I hereby announce myself as candidate for the nomination for the office of Sheriff of Sullivan County, subject to the Rules of the Republican Party.

FRED W. SCHANBACHER, March, 1, 1911. Forksville, Pa.

I hereby announce myself as candidate for the nomination for the office of Commissioner of Sullivan County subject to the rules of the Republican Party.

FRANK STRICKLAND, March, 17, 1911. Hillsgrove, Pa.

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the nomination for the office of Commissioner of Sullivan County, subject to the rules of the Republican Party.

A. A. LUDY, Mar. 24, 1911. Hillsgrove Pa.

High School Commencement.

One of the prettiest, most interesting and instructive commencements ever held in Sullivan County took place in the school auditorium Tuesday evening when a class of six graduated from the Laporte High School.

After opening music by Killgore's Orchestra, an address of welcome was made by Oliver Rose, followed by the address of the class president, Grand Carpenter, who also gave a fine oration on "Reciprocity."

A few months later when, one night she escaped from the jail, little effort was made to find her. So her fate is unknown, though there is a well founded belief that the manner of her death, the place of it and the place in which she was buried are known to some.

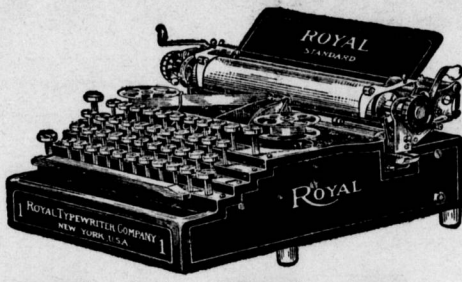
After music by the orchestra Ex-Supt. F. W. Meylert delivered an address to the graduates and under graduates. He named several characteristics necessary to success in school work, one of which was that regularity in attendance is absolutely essential to the proper school training.

Upon presenting the diplomas to the class Supt. Killgore gave a short but very interesting talk to parents and students. He said that education is not preparation for a life without work but the process of qualifying for a life of service to one's country and Creator.

Two weeks from next Tuesday will be Memorial Day, May 30. It is time to begin preparing for a fitting celebration.

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STORY OF THE MURDER OF JOHN VEITENGRUBER

(Continued from last week.)

A Dramatic Denouncement. On the afternoon of the fourth day of the trial the little son of Mrs. Veitengruber was placed on the witness stand to identify a suit of clothing presumed to have belonged to his father. It was an old suit of homespun. The boy declared that the clothing was his father's and he added that it was the only suit that his father owned.

Then was enacted a scene so dramatic that jury and spectators were nonplused. Before the boy had finished speaking Mrs. Veitengruber sprang to her feet and pointing her finger at Kamm a few feet away, shrieked in the German language: "He didit!"

With that she became a raving maniac. Instantly upon her accusation, and with an action impelled almost unconsciously, Kamm shook his finger at the woman and whispered: "Hist, Anna Hist!"

This sudden and startling episode caused the court to adjourn forthwith. Mrs. Veitengruber never again appeared in court. Her mind was irreparably gone.

A few months later when, one night she escaped from the jail, little effort was made to find her. So her fate is unknown, though there is a well founded belief that the manner of her death, the place of it and the place in which she was buried are known to some.

On the night of the day on which Mrs. Veitengruber tore the veil of secrecy from the crime Kamm, in his cell in the jail, to his counsel made a confession that he had killed the old man, but declared that he had done it in self defense.

Kamm said he was at work in the woods when Veitengruber approached him with a knife and attempted to strike him; he defended himself and hit the old man in the top of the head, killing him. He carried the body to the foot of the big hemlock near the shore of Elk Lake, and it lay buried there three weeks before the storm during which the windfall occurred and the tree was overturned.

He said he had been to the tree the evening when the McCarty brothers came for their cows, and from a hiding place nearby he heard them talking about the fresh digging and their suspicions. It was then that he determined to get rid of the corpse. That night he took a bed-tick and digging up the body, wrapped it in the tick and weighted it with stones; then he walked into the lake until the water was up to his armpits and let it sink to the bottom. He told his Lawyers exactly where he had entered the lake, and designated by the location of a certain stump where the body could be found.

The winter was so intensely cold that Elk Lake was frozen to the bottom. An effort was made to verify the story told by Kamm, but it was a failure because of the thickness of the ice. Court adjourned for

several weeks, pending the return of weather condition that would permit a search of the lake to be made.

The ice had melted early in March, and the body of Veitengruber was found, wrapped in the tick and weighted down with stones, precisely as described by Kamm in his statement to his counsel.

A coronor's inquest, under the direction of district attorney, was held, and the fact was determined that the gash in the head could not have been made with an ax while Veitengruber was on his feet, as stated by Kamm in his story of self-defense.

According to the evidence of several surgeons who were sworn in the case, the man must have been lying down on his side when the blow was administered. This fact corroborated the theory that Kamm had killed the old man as he lay asleep in his home, and that Kamm and Mrs. Veitengruber had a hand in the sewing of the corpse in the bed-tick and its concealment in the waters of Elk lake, half a mile away.

On the afternoon of March 5, after three days of trial, during which the chain of circumstantial guilt was woven about Kamm and his history of self defense shattered the fate of the prisoner was decided by a jury composed of John D. Robbins, Joseph Younkin, Jacob Hoffa, David McNamin, Jeremiah Hunsinger, Benjamin Vaughn, Venneville Wentzell, Fraacis S. Baumgardner, Daniel Vaughn, Joseph Daddow, Gottlieb Bartsch and Peter C. Little.

It was 5 o'clock on the evening of March 5 that the Jury retired, and at 8:30 the little bell on the court house was rung as a signal to the judge and the court officers to come and receive verdict. The prisoner was led into the court room and heard the jury pronounce him guilty of murder in the first degree. A motion for a new trial was made. It was argued before Judge Wilmot on May 27, 1856. The petition was refused, and the following sentence imposed, the big woodsman standing like a shaking aspen to receive it:

"The court sentences you, John Michael Kamm, that you be taken hence to the place whence you were taken, within the jail of the county of Sullivan, and thence to the place of execution within the yard of said jail when the warrant of the executive shall direct it, and that you be there hanged by the neck until you are dead; and may God have mercy on your soul."

Kamm was hanged in the month of July following. The demand to see the execution was so great that, instead of arranging the scaffold inside the jail, it was built just outside the court house wall, in full view of the crowd of men women and children gathered from forty miles around to witness the execution.

Sheriff Wilbur tried hard to avoid hanging the condemned murderer. He was a tender-hearted man, and during the time Kamm was in jail the two became fast friends. Kamm made a confidant of Wilbur, and after the sentence of death he had even asked the sheriff to direct his mind for the end.

Wilbur, for all his repugnance, could find nobody who would man-

age the execution, so that a unique plan was finally carried out. The scaffold was arranged so that the prisoner would be jerked up from the ground instead of shot down through a trap. A weight twice as heavy as Kamm, was hung in a loop, attached to a rope the cutting of which would release it and let it jerk the noose rope, pulling the man upward for five feet.

This release rope was managed from inside the court house, out of sight of the people and the condemned prisoner. The only man inside the room was Sheriff Wilbur, who was to await the signal from his assistant. A clip of the ax on the release rope would effect the execution without anybody seeing who performed the grewsome task. The mechanics of the plan proved perfect, and at no time did Sheriff Wilbur see Kamm after he had left his cell on the death march.

It was expected that Kamm would confess the part he and Mrs. Veitengruber took in the planning of the crime. But he went to his death without making any statement except that he had no hard feelings against anybody, that he felt his soul was accepted of its Maker and that all his sins had been forgiven.

After the hanging of Kamm, attention was turned to Mrs. Veitengruber who was then still in jail, though in a state of mind bordering on acute mania. Public opinion consented to the theory that the woman knew nothing of the killing itself and that her guilt consisted only in helping to conceal the crime. Her mental condition prevented trial at that time.

Before the next term of court came around Mrs. Veitengruber had made her escape and nobody ever tried to capture the poor creature. For months afterward fisherman and others who frequented the deep woods of Sullivan county reported seeing the tracks of a woman in out-of-the-way places, and several times it was said a woman had been seen running away through the woods. If the unknown was Mrs. Veitengruber, her hiding place was never found, and there is no record against her in the court house at Laporte.

Kamm's body was buried in a lonely spot in the woods near Laporte on the road to Lake Mokoma, and his grave, which is marked by a large rock, is viewed with awe by the visitors to the town. There encircled by a mass of weeds and undergrowth were deposited the remains which have no doubt long since vanished into dust, of the only man ever sentenced in the county of Sullivan to "swing by the neck until dead."

The end.

Playing Varsity Ball.

Harry E. Campbell, son of A. E. Campbell of Shunk, this county, a freshman at Bucknell University, has been given a permanent position playing left field on the varsity base ball team. He has played every game scheduled and is the making of a major league player. He was captain of the Bucknell Academy ball team last year. He played with the Towanda high school team four years ago.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the estate of T. J. Ingham, late of the Borough of Laporte, Sullivan County, Pa., deceased, have been granted to F. H. Ingham, resident of said Borough, to whom all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment and those having claims or demands will make known the same without delay.

F. H. INGHAM, Executor.

Trial List, May Term, 1911.

Return Day, May 15, 1911.

1.—G. W. Bigger vs. John Manuel. No. 49 May Term, 1906. Framed Issue. Plea,—“Non-Assumpsit” etc. Scouton. Mullen. 2.—Ira B. Younkin, Administrator of John Younkin, Deceased, vs. George J. Litzelman, No. 34 September Term, 1909. Scire Facias sur Judgment. Plea,—Payment. Cronin. Scouton. 3.—Thomas D. Rouse vs. The Lehigh Valley Railroad Company. 46 December Term, 1909. Trespass. Plea,—“Not Guilty.” Scouton. Thomson.

4.—Patrick Connor vs. Margaret Connor, Administratrix of John Connor, Deceased. No. 38 May Term, 1910. Assumpsit. Plea,—“Non-Assumpsit.” Thayer. Walsh. 5.—Sillick J. Steinback vs. E. G. Trexler and H. C. Trexler, trading as the Trexler and Turrell Lumber Company. No. 67 September Term, 1910. Trespass. Plea,—“Not Guilty.” Scouton. Mullen.

6.—John H. Crimmins vs. W. F. Randall. No. 94 September Term, 1910. Assumpsit. Plea,—“Non-Assumpsit.” payment, set-off, and the Statute of Limitations, with leave to give special matter in evidence. Mullen. J. C. Ingham. 7.—Caroline Brink vs. Curtis Stroup. No. 1 December Term, 1910. Defendant's Appeal. Plea,—“Not Guilty.” Scouton. Mullen.

Prothonotary's Office, Laporte, Penna., April 3, 1911.

ALBERT F. HEESS, Prot'y.

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Jury List For May Court.

The following names were drawn from the proper Jury-wheel to serve as Jurors for May term 1911, commencing May 15.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Occupation, Residence. Lists names like Adams George, Bussler L. R., O'Brien Daniel, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Occupation, Residence. Lists names like Allen William, Basley Harry, Burk Ed. C., etc.

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Table with 3 columns: Name, Occupation, Residence. Lists names like Foust Fred, Gilmore William P., Hope P. C., etc.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Occupation, Residence. Lists names like Miller Alvin, Miller Charles, Molyneux Robert, etc.

M. BRINK'S

PRICES For This Week.

Table listing prices for various commodities like Corn Meal, Cracked Corn, Oats, etc. per 100 lb.

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