

Published Weekly. \$1.00 per Annum in Advance.

Prompt attention will be given to applications for advertising rates.

Job Printing of every description executed with promptness, in a workmanlike manner and at consistent prices.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW AND HOW ENFORCED.**

In reply to an inquiry as to the compulsory school law and what individuals are responsible for its enforcement, the West Chester News says:

The Compulsory Education law was passed in 1895 and amended in 1897. The latter act made a number of important changes in the law, almost, indeed, supplying the place of the original act. As the law stands at present, every parent, guardian, or other person having charge of a child between the ages of 8 and sixteen years is required to see that such child attends a school in which the common English branches are taught at least 70 per cent. of the time the school is open, unless the child is excused from such attendance by the board of directors upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of mental or physical or other urgent reason. If there be no public school within two miles by the nearest traveled road such person is excused, or if able to produce a certificate of a teacher that the child is being instructed in other than a public school in the English branches, he is also excused.

A child between the ages of 13 and 16 years, who is regularly engaged in any useful employment or service is excused.

The person in parental relation neglecting to send a child to school is declared guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction before a Justice of the Peace or an Alderman, shall be fined not exceeding \$2 for the first offense and not exceeding \$5 for every subsequent offense.

When the Assessor has made his enumeration of the children in the district and returned the same to the County Commissioners, these officers certify the list to the Secretary of the School Board and the Board must furnish the teacher of each school with a correct list of all children in his or her district subject to the provisions of the act.

The School Board has authority to appoint an attendance officer to look after truant children, and neglectful parents, but if they do not make such appointment it is the duty of the Secretary of the Board to look after them. The teacher must report immediately to the Secretary of the Board and once a month thereafter the names of all children absent from school five days in the month without satisfactory excuse.

The first duty of the attendance officer or Secretary of the Board is to notify in writing the parent or guardian in the delinquency and thus give an opportunity to comply with the law in the future and avoid the penalty. If the child is then not sent to school or its education properly accounted for a complaint should be made before a Justice of the Peace or Alderman. The Secretary or attendance officer, if convinced of neglecting his duty, is subject to a fine of \$25.

The seventy per centum of the school year which children are required to attend begins at the beginning of the school term unless the School Board fixes a different time at which it is to begin.

There are some other provisions in the law, but those given cover the portions most important for public information.

Incorrigible children can be required to attend a separate school, where one is provided or may by due process of law be sent to the House of Refuge or other institutions for their reform and special training.

**THE DEATH OF GEO. G. RUPLEY.**

**AN EXEMPLARY CITIZEN OF MERCERSBURG.**

**His Experience at the Time of the First Raid in Southern Pennsylvania—Captain of the Home Guards and Burgess of the Town—His Arrest with Other Leading Citizens and Incarcerations in Libby Prison—An Interesting Story. Stuart's Raid—Mr. Rupley Shared a Frugal Meal With General Wade Hampton.**

From Public Opinion.

Mr. George G. Rupley, an exemplary citizen of Mercersburg and a man of more than ordinary intelligence, has passed away at that ripe old age to which, according to the Psalmist, one may attain by reason of strength. He was a quiet man, somewhat reserved in disposition, but a capable and entertaining talker with persons who enjoyed his personal acquaintance. In the community at large his influence for good was felt more from his upright christian life, than from what he said, but he always found voice in any crisis or time of need to array himself on the side of peace, morality and good order. His life experiences present a rather interesting and curious cluster of anomalies. While he instinctively shrank from the publicity of office or honors, yet he was called upon frequently to assume the duties of local government. He was at various times Justice of the Peace, town councilman, burgess and school director. Diligent in the pursuits of peace, he found himself Captain of the Home Guards and in command of the defenses of the town at the outbreak of the civil war. He never committed a public crime and yet he was publicly arrested at his own place of business, kept in the custody of armed men and taken away from his own State into Virginia where without trial he was cast into prison and compelled to undergo a term of imprisonment which involved greater hardship and punishment than is now meted out to the worst criminals of the nation.

Always a staunch and uncompromising Union man, he found himself on one occasion quietly seated in a Confederate camp partaking of an evening meal, and in pleasant conversation with no less a personage than General Wade Hampton.

The following brief account of Mr. Rupley's experience at the time of the first Rebel raid into Southern Pennsylvania, was reduced to writing and is the substance of an interview with Mr. Rupley himself who afterwards pronounced it a correct statement of facts.

The morning of October 10th, 1862, was rather cool and cloudy, and late in the afternoon a drizzling rain set in and continued far into the night. Captain Rupley of the Home Guards, and Burgess of the borough, was at work in his tin shop. The merchants were quietly attending to the wants of their few customers who were unusually few owing to the threatening weather. Daniel Shaffer had taken down his trusty rifle to shoot a chicken for a late dinner which he expected to enjoy with his family.

Gen. J. E. B. Stuart with the flower of his famous cavalry crossed the Potomac that morning at McCoy's ferry above Williamsport and proceeded to make a raid around the army of McClellan, such as he had made once before while the army of the Potomac was nearer Richmond in the memorable Peninsular campaign. Both raids were successful, and the latter one was probably the most profitable to the bold cavalymen, at least as far as the gathering of forage and horses was concerned. The number of troops has been variously estimated, one writer putting it as high as 3,500 mounted men and six pieces of artillery. They advanced rapidly through the Blair's Valley road into the "Corner." About half past 12, just when most of the good people of Mercersburg were quietly seated at their dinner tables, a few cavalry soldiers made their appearance in town. This unlooked for occurrence attracted some little attention. Citizens came out to see them and to inquire from what point they had come. The young boys always

anxious to see soldiers, crowded around, running in and out among the horses and gazing with evident admiration at the bold looking blue coats. For a little while everything seemed right and no suspicion was aroused against the soldiers until they commenced to swarm into the town by the hundreds from the direction of the "Corner."

The oncoming ranks did not look so blue as the first ones, but it was now the citizens' time to look blue, as they began to realize that the town was in possession of the southern soldiers.

Gen. Stuart's forces remained in town about two hours and during that time visited most of the business places and made quite extensive requisition upon the citizens of the town generally. The details of their visit must be passed by, as the limits of this article will not permit of much more than a brief account of the fortunes of Burgess Rupley. About half past two the forces began to leave town taking the road to Bridgeport and evidently bound for Chambersburg. They had as prisoners, Daniel Shaffer, Perry A. Rice, C. Louderbaugh, John McDowell, James Grove, William Raby, D. O. Blair and G. G. Rupley, all citizens of Mercersburg, and Joseph Winger, of Claylick. Mr. Rupley was taken prisoner because he was Burgess of the town, others were captured because they were representative citizens, and others still, for no particular reason at all. Daniel Shaffer had just fired his gun at the chicken and stood with smoking gun in hand when several cavalrymen came upon him and placed him under guard.

The prisoners thus taken were compelled to walk until they arrived at the junction of the Loudon and Bridgeport roads about a mile from town. Here they were met by several squads of men with a fresh supply of horses taken from the neighboring farmers. Riding outfits were scarce in those days, and our captives, though allowed to ride were forced to go it boy fashion, without saddle and with a halter as the only means of guiding and curbing the fiery steeds. With squads of soldiers on every side, however, they were comparatively safe from either accidental or intentional runaway. Mr. Joseph Winger was more fortunate than his fellow prisoners as far as the conveniences of travel were concerned. Before leaving his home he bargained with the officers in charge that he was to ride his own horse, and also that he was to go no further than the Potomac river. The first part of this promise was faithfully kept by the officer whose name was Henry Clay Benton. And indeed it was the intention concerning all these prisoners that they should be taken as far as the river where they were to be paroled and exchanged for Southern prisoners then in the custody of the Federal Government. But the faith was not kept and in accordance with an order of General Lee, these captives, including Mr. Winger, were hurried forward to Richmond and confined within the dreary walls of Libby and Castle Thunder.

A slight accident occurred just before the party reached Chambersburg, which in itself was nothing unusual in army life, yet in its results upon the fortunes of our captives it amounted to considerable and lessened to a great extent Mr. Rupley's chances of escape. One of the cavalymen in some way received an injury to his foot and the pain was so great that he was unable to ride his horse. He was brought to the wagon in which Mr. Rupley and Mr. McDowell were then riding—they having obtained that convenience towards the latter part of the journey—and in order to make room for the wounded man, Mr. McDowell was very unceremoniously ordered out, and a caisson, or ammunition wagon, was assigned for him to ride upon. This mode of travel would no doubt have been disastrous in its effects, considering the age and delicate state of Mr. McDowell's health. Mr. Rupley saw this at once and promptly offered to take the place. No objections were made on the part of those in command, and Mr. Rupley accordingly took his position where the powder and balls were the thickest, and bravely maintained

it, until they reached camp on the other side of Chambersburg. After the accident alluded to, Mr. Daniel Shaffer, who had been heroically making his way up hill and down upon a bare backed horse, was ordered to take charge of the wounded man's horse. After that, he always thought, the people of Chambersburg must have regarded him as one of them as he had the regulation army saddle and bridle and his two big horse-pistols, one at each side in front.

Mr. Rupley had no opportunity of stopping in Chambersburg, but was taken through to camp where he was obliged to remain. After they had settled down he began to size up his chances for escape, but as pickets were immediately thrown out on every side, he finally concluded that the odds were decidedly against him. He sat down by the fire, feeling tired, cold and hungry. While he was musing upon the fortunes of war, no less a distinguished person than Gen. Wade Hampton came up to him, and after a little conversation in which the names and circumstances of each were made known to the other, the General pulled out from his haversack a piece of meat (flitch perhaps) and with the aid of an old pocket knife, shared it with the prisoner. This was not a very choice meal, but "under the circumstances," said Mr. Rupley, "it tasted pretty good."

After the General had cut the pork and handed one piece to his messmate, he walked over to a tree and cut off a branch which he sharpened at one end and stuck it through the meat. This done, he sat down by the fire and held the meat over the flames until it was fried, or whatever the result of such a process may be called, perhaps it was partly burned. Mr. Rupley quickly followed the example of his companion and ere long this citizen of the North, and the soldier of the South were seated side by side preparing their frugal meal, before a camp fire that failed to make cheery the surrounding grove amid the gathering shades of a bleak October evening.

After the victor and the vanquished had finished their simple meal, and had conversed a while over the camp fire, the prisoner was asked whether he had any place to sleep, and he replied that he had not. Gen. Hampton then directed him to a house not far away and told him to find lodging there. Seeing the pickets around, Mr. Rupley ventured to inquire whether he could get there, and being well assured that he could, the two then separated, Mr. Rupley going to the house indicated where he found tolerably comfortable quarters for the night. On the following morning—Saturday—Messrs. Louderbaugh and McDowell were released and allowed to return home. All the other prisoners were taken along with the riders, who after burning several buildings in Chambersburg, took their departure eastward across the South Mountain. Mr. Rice was last seen seated upon a caisson in front of the Mansion house, Chambersburg, and it is likely that the most of his journey to Richmond was made upon that wagon. Dr. Blair and Mr. Raby had about the same accommodations for travel until they made their escape in Montgomery county, Md., just before crossing the Potomac.

On the following Monday the party reached Richmond and the prisoners were locked up in Libby. Messrs. Rupley and Winger remained until the first of December following when they were released on parole, reaching Washington on their way home, December 4. Mr. Rice died in prison some time in January 1863, and Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Grove were not exchanged until the following March. Mr. Rupley at the time of his capture had in his pocket several papers relating to the organization of the Home Guard and some little memoranda of the affairs of that body. These papers he destroyed before he was many miles on his way to Richmond, thinking that if found on his person, they might lessen his chance of adjusting the little difficulty between himself and the Confederate government.

Mr. Rupley made one other trip to the South during the war. His going on that occasion was voluntary, however, and was for

the purpose of bringing home for burial the body of his brother, Simon W. Rupley, a Serg't of Co. K. 126th Reg't Pa. Vols., who was killed in action at Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863.

Among the few remaining men who were active in the affairs of the community in war time, Mr. Rupley will be gratefully remembered as one who performed his good part. Among the citizens generally, of Mercersburg his familiar form and kindly face will be sadly missed.

A TERRIBLE tragedy occurred at Kesler's Curve, W. Va., on Thursday night, September 21. Absalom Kesler, an aged and well-to-do farmer and Albert Gross, his hired man, were horribly beaten, and Kesler's house was burned. Kesler's niece, Ann Doman and her child who in the house at the time, were burned to death. The object in committing the deed, is supposed to have been robbery, Mr. Kesler having recently drawn from the bank all of his money, amounting to \$4,000. This money is missing, suspicion rests upon a man named Doman, husband of the woman burned to death in the house. He was at the place on the evening of the tragedy and has not been seen or heard of since. Kesler has since died from the effects of the wounds received. The man Gross had his jaw fractured and is unable to talk. He is steadily improving. Only the charred remains of the woman and her child were found in the house.—Hancock Star.

FROM advance sheets of the report of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools Commission it is learned that on May 31st last there were 1,102 children in the schools, a decrease of 25. The number of admissions during the year were 162 and 180 were discharged. The amount expended by the Commission since it assumed charge in 1889 was \$1,681,749, or an average of \$186,174. The expenditure last year was \$165,456. The Commission states that it is the intention to consolidate all of the schools at the Scotland school but this could not be carried out this year. The results in the schools have been exceedingly satisfactory and particularly so at the Scotland Industrial School. The Legislature is commended for having passed a law admitting to the schools the children of soldiers of the Spanish-American war, a number of whom have applied for admission.

A PARENT wrote to an editor for information as to how to stop his boy from smoking cigarettes and received the following reply: "We suggest bribery, persuasion, instruction or shutting off his allowance. Then if he remains obstinate use rawhide on his raw hide. Welt him until he is ready to hold up his hands and promise never to smoke another cigarette. If that does not work drown him. A drowned boy is much better than a boy who smokes cigarettes."

At Klausthal, Germany, lightning struck the wooden part of a house and fused two miles four millimeters thick. Siemens and Halske, of Berlin, afterward experimented to ascertain the force required. Assuming one second as the time standard it required a current of two hundred amperes and twenty thousand volts representing seven thousand horsepower.

All voters over twenty-two years of age must pay a county tax within two years, and one month before election day, to give them the right to vote. The election comes on the 7th of November this year. The last day to pay taxes is October 7th.

THE man who has not a million dollars has much enjoyment in the contemplation of what he would do if he had it. The fellow who has it is subjected to much misery in his efforts to hold on to it.

WITH so many trusts being formed, it would seem quite apropos to organize a trust in humanity that would do away with the necessity for locking our doors.

Kentuckians say that William Goebel, the Democratic candidate for Governor, is the ablest politician the State has produced.

**FALL AND WINTER**

**REISNERS'**

We are now prepared to show our Friends the Largest and Best Selected Stock of

**GENERAL MERCHANDISE**

**FULTON COUNTY**

(a claim that is being extensively made.) Satisfy yourself about that matter. We will show you the

**LARGEST LINE OF Ladies' Wraps**

that Fulton county has ever had in it, and at prices low as is consistent with perfect goods. The range Plush capes \$2.50 to \$13.00. Cloth capes as low as \$1.25. See them. Jackets, \$4.00 up. We have the prettiest line of

**Ladies' Skirts**

to show you from 20 cents to \$2.00.

**Dress Goods in Stacks**

A good Wool Suiting for 19 cents, well worth 25 cents.

See our stock of

**Ladies' and Men's Neckwear**

—Lots of new, nice things.

A matter of interest to all is good warm UNDERWEAR for cold weather. We have it.

We have a case of 32 dozen of MEN'S SHIRTS, DRAWERS, at 40 cents apiece, that lots of people will be slow to ask 50 cents for. They are perfect in make, fit, and in every way acceptable. Of course we have cheaper, and several lines of Underwear at 50c., 75c., \$1.00, and up; Ladies' from 20c. to \$1.00. Children's and up.



**A Word about SHOE**

We have two lines of Ladies' and Children's Shoes that will stand against anything anywhere, price considered, fit, and wear, and appearance. A general line, including Men's, Boys', Ladies' and Misses', that will stand against any line, we don't care who produces them, or their price.

We are selling a very fair Children's Shoe, 8-12 at A first-rate Oil Grain Shoe for women at 98c. Men's at as low as \$1.50. A very good one.

**Ready-made Clothing**

A larger stock than you will find anywhere else in town. We know the prices are all right, every time