

The Fulton County News.

McCONNELLSBURG, PA., DECEMBER 21, 1899.

NUMBER 14.

"UNCLE" LEWIS.

Sketch of the Life of Lewis Bergstresser, Jr.

HIS ANCESTRY.

Interesting Incidents in Connection with the Family History.

Notice of the death of Lewis Bergstresser, Jr., or "Uncle Lewis," as more familiarly known, appeared in the New Grenada correspondent in last week's Fulton County

and of so many sterling qualities of mind and heart as those possessed by Mr. Bergstresser, is entitled to an extended notice, and for the following article, we are indebted to Theodore J. Thompson of

Wells, Center county, November 1820. He was the fourth child of

his father, Henry Snyder Bergstresser. His mother was a daughter of Henry Snyder

many years miller at Spring Mills. His grandmother, Henry Snyder's name was Eve, and she was the daughter of a Mr. and Mrs. Er, among the early settlers of

county. The eldest child in the family of his father, was Isabella. She was the daughter of James N. Thompson and the mother of T. J. Thompson of

place and grandmother of Harry Thompson of the Tyrone Times. Some time after the death of Mr. Thompson, she married Benjamin

well and favorably known to the people of this town and vicinity. Lewis Bergstresser, Sr., lived with his family from Spring

to near Manor Hill, Huntingdon county, where he put up several including the Neff mills. At a meeting near Manor Hill Lewis, was converted and joined the

Methodists in his teens. His father, when a young man at his one day, was so impressed with

thought of eternity that he was led to the salvation of his soul, and dedicated himself with the Lord's people and became a useful man in the

God in prayer. Old people still in Huntingdon county, remember prayers uttered by him sixty

ago. Lewis Bergstresser, Sr., lived on a farm in Germany Valley, Shireleysburg, and removed his

place, remaining until 1845. In 1845, he discovered a fine

power and mill site on Sideling creek one mile east of the old

gap along the dividing line, between Huntingdon and Bedford

counties, he bought 275 acres of land in Shireleysburg, and

made his last move with his family to the home at Waterfall, April 15. Fifteen days after this move,

leaving his wife, Kate, and sons and daughters, namely, Isaac, Theodore, Maria, Lewis, Asa, Elizabeth, Wilson and Foster. He was the last survivor of the eight

children of Lewis Bergstresser, proprietor of Waterfall Mills. His wife survived her husband

seventy years, making her home with her son Lewis and dying at Waterfall in her 84th year. In 1845, Waterfall was a wild

of Zion. He visited scores of sick and dying men and women—often with humble, yet powerful prayer—and sang—"Nearer My God to Thee," "A Charge to Keep I Have," "There is a Fountain Filled with Blood," or one of the many other sweet songs he sang, always adapting it to the circumstances of the occasion. He was sent for at all hours of the night to visit at the bedside of the dying—to comfort the christian and pray for those who had neglected getting ready to pass through the Valley and the Shadow of Death.

For the past seventy years his home and that of his father has been a welcome shelter for the ministers of the gospel. Thousands have enjoyed the hospitality of Uncle Lewis and Aunt Rachel Bergstresser.

In a letter to T. J. Thompson, he said, "Come see us soon as you can. These social visits will soon terminate here. Those we visited in days of other years are gone. We see them no more. We call, but there is no response. We can visit their graves, see where they sleep their last sleep, but we hope to meet them where death never comes. At another time he wrote, "Oh, the Holy Sabbath! which is a type of the eternal Sabbath that shall never end. Soon, very soon, the great antitype will usher in. The prospect, oh, how transporting! As I write, my heart grows warm with Holy Fire."

His last Sabbath spent on earth came December 10, 1899. He was cheerful during the day but very weak. Near midnight he thought he could rest and all retired. Between one and two o'clock he arose in bed—the heart that had been working for almost eighty years ceased its work—all was quiet—and the spirit of Lewis Bergstresser had returned to the God who gave it. "He had set his house in order" and left the following written on a slip of paper on a stand in his room—

"And I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any pain, for the former things are passed away."

Three sons—John, Clarke, and William—six grand and three great-grand children survive him.

On Tuesday at 2 p. m. December 12, 1899, at old Zion church, the hundreds of people gathered there to hear the sermon by Rev. Sheaffer and take a last look at their old christian leader as he lay in his casket. Amid the ripened sheaf of wheat and the wreath of evergreens and beautiful flowers, the plate on the casket bearing the words "At Rest," were very appropriate for the one so sweetly resting beneath it. As the natural sun shed his last bright rays over the valley of that day, quietly the casket with the remains of Lewis Bergstresser was put in the grave at the Bethel church at New Grenada.

His great-grand father Smelker, when a young man, like Esau of Bible history, was a hunter of venison. During the years between 1770 and 1780 he did much hunting in the wilds of the counties of Northumberland and Mifflin. (In 1800, Centre county was formed from Northumberland, Mifflin, Lycoming, and Huntingdon.)

On one of his hunting excursions, being alone in the forest, he came in contact with a large and maddened deer. The animal dashed upon Mr. Smelker and catching him up on his large antlers, dashed off through the forest with the now thoroughly frightened hunter. The young man was, of course, in a very uncomfortable and perilous position, but he did not lose his presence of mind. It occurred to him that if he could manage to get his hunting knife from his belt, he could use it to good advantage. So, after a hard struggle, he succeeded in getting hold of his knife, when by twist and turn, he cut the leaders in the front legs of his impromptu steed.

This brought the disabled deer to the ground and Mr. Smelker escaped with a few bruises and scratches, and he had the satisfaction of capturing, killing and helping to eat the deer that had given him such an exciting ride.

About fifty years from the date of the events just described, Mr. Smelker's old home was broken up—some of the members of the family having died and others gone out into the world to establish homes for themselves—and he came to make his home with his daughter Eve, married to Henry Snyder, the miller at the large flouring mill, then known as Spring Mills in Centre county, Pennsylvania.

One night in the spring of 1826 the family of Mr. Snyder were awakened by heat and smoke only to find that their dwelling was on fire. With all possible haste an effort was made to save the family from the flames. The horror and distress of the family can better be imagined than described when it is stated that the room over the kitchen in which grandfather

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NOT DOMAN.

J. H. H. Lewis, Gunning for a Murderer, brought down a Counterfeiter

MONEY CHEAP.

Offered to Make a Thousand Dollars for Six.

For several days John H. H. Lewis, of Bethel township, had been out gunning for a murderer. Last Thursday on his way to McConnellsburg, near Webster Mills, he espied walking ahead in the road, a man that seemed to fill the bill, and Mr. Lewis brought him to town and handed him over to the authorities. It turned out that the arrested man was not the murderer wanted, but a rank counterfeiter, and, consequently, no small game after all.

On the 22nd of last September, Abraham Kessler and Ann Doman, of Magnolia, West Virginia, were murdered and robbed of \$1,600 by Newton Doman, a noted character. The authorities offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of Doman. John H. H. Lewis heard of this, and was on the lookout for the murderer.

About the beginning of last week, Mr. Lewis learned that a stranger had been staying at different places in the neighborhood of Franklin Mills, and from the description of the stranger, Mr. Lewis was led to believe the stranger was none other than Doman.

Mr. Lewis started out to find him but upon inquiry from families with whom he had stayed, he found that the stranger was manufacturing and passing counterfeit money. The story goes that the stranger wanted a farmer of Bethel township to go to Hancock and get him some plaster Paris. This was declined on the ground that the farmer was just out of "change." To another he offered to furnish one thousand dollars in spurious nickels for six dollars.

Going on to Hancock, and finding that the stranger had gone to Morgan county, West Virginia, Mr. Lewis went over to Berkeley Springs. At the latter place he learned that the stranger had recrossed the river and was heading in the direction of McConnellsburg.

Last Thursday Mr. Lewis followed the stranger, and when this side of Webster Mills, saw him walking some distance ahead. Just then Mr. Lewis's son who was accompanying Mr. Lewis, suggested that he would get out of the buggy and walk. This he did, and the father drove on soon overtaking the stranger whom he invited to ride. The stranger accepted the kindness of Mr. Lewis, and rode on up the cove. When nearing town, the stranger suggested that he would get out and walk as he wanted to go over along Sideling Hill. Mr. Lewis explained that it would be much better to ride along to town, and then he would have the pike to travel on.

When Mr. Lewis reached McConnellsburg with his new found friend, he turned him over to accept the hospitality of Fulton county at Fort Sheets. Here an inventory of his worldly effects were made, and in his satchel were found several moulds for the casting of nickels, several dozen partly finished coins, and three or four pounds of Babbitt metal and lead.

Mr. Lewis then telegraphed U. S. Marshal Leonard of Pittsburg who at once sent Secret Service agent Flinn, who arrived Saturday night. Mr. Lewis also telegraphed the authorities of Morgan county that he believed he had Doman in custody. On Saturday night Sheriff Harmon and County Detective Kelly arrived, but as soon as they saw the stranger they said he was not Doman.

The stranger gives his name as Hubert Hoffman, and that he came to this country from Germany in 1863—served two years in the Union army, and returned to Germany in 1866. About four years ago he came back to this country.

THOMPSON.

John Tayman is having his house repaired.

Miss Emma Pittman, of Martinsburg, W. Va., spent last week with her sister, Mrs. Gregory.

Mrs. B. E. Gordon and Daniel Covatt spent Thursday with Margaret Truax.

John Gordon killed a 22 pound turkey last week.

Mrs. W. H. Wink has been very ill.

Miss Maggie Pittman cut her hand. Blood poison followed, and it is now feared that amputation will be necessary.

Dr. and Mrs. Dennis, of Poolsville, have returned after a four weeks' visit at J. C. Ewitt's.

Mrs. Caroline Kieffer visited T. H. Truax's the other day.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Gregory spent Sunday at Mrs. Brant's, Mr. Alderton and friend, of Great Capon, visited friends in this section recently.

Mrs. George Winters spent some time recently visiting her mother's family at Warfordsburg.

CULLER'S MILL.

Every body that we hear talking fears they will not hear sleigh bells this winter.

Austin Lake, of Harrisonville, visited Jas. M. Lake's last week.

Geo. Myers's visitors last week were Mrs. Susan Morgret, Misses Annie, Jennie and Lucy Myers and Vertie Weller. Mr. Weller was accompanied home by Mr. Myers and family.

James Lake was in the Cove last week on business.

George Fisher butchered six fine pigs last Friday. Neighbors who assisted were James Shives, Conrad Wink, wife and daughter Jessie, and Mrs. James Lake and daughter Alte.

Isaac Culler butchered the same day.

The men are still working at the bridge near Abner Weaver's.

Mrs. Minnie Wink and Miss Alte Lake spent a day in Hancock, last week.

Elijah Souders, son of Andrew Souders, was hurt while attempting to mount his pony last Saturday. He thought the pony was nearer the block than it was; and when he went to jump, he fell and hurt himself badly. Dr. Fisher had to be called. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Our school at Westview is getting along finely this winter. A. C. Peck knows how to teach.

CLEAR RIDGE.

Everybody getting ready for Christmas.

We are glad to inform our readers that Mrs. James Kerlin and John Woodcock are going about after quite a season of illness; also, that Dallas Heaton, who has had some crushed bones taken out of his leg, is improving.

Brady Fleming is on the sick list.

Miss Corinna Swope, of Harrisonville, is visiting her sister, Mrs. S. L. Bedford, at this place.

Master Brady and sister Lillian Fleming were in town Saturday.

Irwin Cromwell is busy hauling lumber for an "L" to his house.

"THE BOTTOM FELL OUT."

A Wound on the Face of Nature that is Broader than a Gate and Deeper than a Well.

A NEW GATEWAY TO THE CELESTIAL EMPIRE.

Within the limit of the present century about to close, Joseph Thomas, now Postmaster General of McConnellsburg, was Major Domo of affairs in Mr. Parker's home at Big Cove Tannery. Among his duties, besides being constable of Ayr township—in imagination if not by the all powerful voice of the American people clustered in that enterprising township—was to make the litchon fires. It may seem strange to people outside of Fulton that Postmasters General made litchon fires, but Kings of England have turned spits and some have been badly roasted. One morning, at early dawn, Joseph attempted to increase the calorific by pouring kerosene on the dying coals of the cook stove. Shortly after, Joe emerged from the blazing kitchen, with wood singed to the skull, and announced to the interested crowd, as he held the smoking can aloft, "The bottom's out."

He referred to the can. History repeats itself. The events of yesterday—years ago—are paralleled to-day. On the Isaac Hill place, a short distance from town, located on the Mercersburg turnpike—known as Jack Snyder's, is what is generally known as a "sink hole."

Into its yawning depths have been dumped innumerable loads of stone, until at last its capacity seemed to be reached, and by the addition of a few more loads it assumed the proportions of a stone heap.

Rabbits made it their favorite lair, and by their ferocious roar frightened away the town boys with their dogs and guns. This was the state of affairs up until Monday morning last, when James Youse, accompanied by his son William, came sailing down the pike behind their nimble footed pair of mules. "What is wrong there?" exclaimed the father, as he pointed in the direction of what was a stone heap, put now a miniature lake. William descended, approached cautiously, and made soundings with a fence rail. The fence rail disappeared and William withdrew, affirming most positively that he would never haul stone from there.

Robert Cutchall estimates the depth, to the last load of stone, at a hundred feet, and others are not so conservative. One old citizen declares that during a dry spell he applied his ear to the orifice and heard the chickens crowing in China. What are the possibilities of this apparent opening to the Chinese Empire, when the water recedes? To take the most pessimistic view of it, we can see, in our mental vision, the glittering stalactites and stalagmites of a Luray Cavern or a Mammoth Cave, that will be revealed to us by an adventurous spirit bent on discovery—one that will do and dare—the McConnellsburg boy. In any event it will be a blessing. Even if a bottomless pit we have stone enough along the mountain to fill it, or we can use it for a carp pond for the feeding of the nations.

NEW GRENADA.

How about that eclipse Saturday night? Some of our people say the man in the moon became tired of the lady gazers, and went under cover.

John Mills and Clyde Plummer spent last Sunday at Cassville. There must be some attraction there.

Rev. Bickle preached Sunday night at Bethel to a large and attentive audience.

The union Sunday School which has been reorganized at this

place recently, is progressing nicely with a membership of fifty. There are others who ought to be workers therein. Come one and all and lend a helping hand to the cause. Parents bring your children.

Mrs. Jennie Berkstresser and Mrs. Minnie McClain spent a few days at McConnellsburg.

Miss Julia Edwards leaves this week for Vaincaiso, Ind., where she will take a course of music. The unexpired term of her school will be taught by Miss Nellie Palmer, of Belfast township.

Last Friday night, was the scene of a fine social festivity at the famous old time "Black Bear Hotel" (F. G. Mills, proprietor,) by the assembling of a goodly number of the young people of the town. The features of the evening were games of various kinds, accompanied by music, added to which was a treat by the old veteran and his lady representing "Mine Host." The genial couple were much pleased with the compliments paid them by the lively, intelligent guests who came to honor them with their presence, and receive a welcome at their hands, and a cordial invitation was extended to "come again." These gatherings should be more frequent; as, surely, nothing but benefit socially can accrue therefrom. Where next?

WEST VIEW.

The mornings are very frosty and the hunters are all very sorry they have to stop killing game.

For some reason the preacher did not get to Topoloway last Sunday and a great many folks were disappointed.

James Lake was visiting friends on the Ridge, Sunday.

There will be a Christmas entertainment at West View Friday December 22.

Geo. W. Fisher made a flying trip to McConnellsburg last Saturday.

Miss Blanche Shaw was visiting at Geo. W. Fisher's one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Pittman spent last Monday in Pigeon Cove.

J. A. Brakeall of this place has moved to Cumberland. Mr. Brakeall has employment on the B. & O. R. R. as fireman and he moved his family to one end of the line.

WELLS TANNERY.

Messrs. Dewit & Sheffield, of Fort Littleton, have been doing a nice business in our community, drilling wells, having completed a half dozen and have the promise of that many more. No excuse for strong drink where water is so plenty.

Culp Bros., of Calitzen, are in the Valley looking after prop timber.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Spangler spent last Sunday with friends in Shirley. Miss Olive Spangler is visiting her sister, Mrs. Hoke, in McConnellsburg.

Miss Alice Wishart and W. H. Baumgardner and son Paul, drove to Chambersburg, rested one day, and then brought E. Maud Baumgardner home from Wilson College. She will remain home for two weeks.

The revival services at Pine Grove M. E. church have closed. Seven persons united with the church.

Mrs. Foster Early has been seriously ill for several days, but we learn that she is improving slowly.

Squire Baumgardner filled up his first blank for marriage license last week. Guess who the lucky parties are.

The Christmas service in the Hall will be held Christmas evening.

Touches the Button.

Our enterprising mechanic, P. Fred Black, not content with training his boys to be fine workmen, has added to his shop force a gasoline engine. This machine is "semper paratus." All you have to do to put it into full play is to touch an electric button—it does the rest.

PERSONAL.

Calvin Melloot of near Gem was in town last week.

John H. Strait, of Pleasant Ridge, was a Tuesday morning caller.

G. G. Babbitt, of Hagerstown, spent last Friday in McConnellsburg.

R. J. Fields of Clear Ridge was a welcome caller Saturday morning.

Oliver Plessinger of near Needmore spent Wednesday at McConnellsburg.

Miss Orpah Snyder of near Gem spent part of last week with friends in town.

Robert Everts, one of Thompson township's prosperous farmers, was in town Monday.

Miss Ollie Spangler, of Wells Tannery, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Will Hoke near town.

E. N. Akers and T. B. Wink, of Belfast township, were in town Thursday and Friday.

Jere Sprowl and Z. P. Horton, of Wells Valley, spent Wednesday at the county seat.

Jesse Huber of Lancaster spent from Wednesday until Monday with the family of Postmaster Woollett.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Barton of Brush Creek Valley came over last week for the Thursday night lecture.

Alex Sloan, who had been visiting the family of his uncle Charlie at Buffalo, N. Y., returned home Saturday.

J. P. Garland and Harry Hess, of Needmore, did not forget the News office while in town last Thursday. Come again.

Miss Lenore Wishart, of Harrisonville, remained in town with her friend Miss Nellie Daniels until Sunday evening.

J. A. McDonough and N. G. Cunningham, of New Grenada, came down Thursday evening to see the "House that Jack built."

Miss Elsie R. Sipes and Mrs. Homer Sipes, of Licking Creek township, were pleasant callers at the News office Wednesday.

Dennis Sipes and daughter Myrtle of Wells Valley spent Wednesday and Thursday with the family of Ex-sheriff Sipes west of town.

Miss Nora Lodge, of Brush Creek valley, spent several days the past week visiting her sister Mrs. S. W. Kirk of this place.

Miss Estelle Logue, of Franklin Mills, after attending institute, remained as the guest of Miss Mamie Hoke until Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Curtis McClain and Mrs. Albert Berkstresser spent part of the past week visiting in the home of the Misses Dickson of this place.

Dr. and Mrs. Bernhardt of Dublin Mills spent last week in McConnellsburg attending institute and being entertained by their numerous friends here.

B. Frank Wible, of Knobsville, accompanied by his bright little son Bruce, paid the News office a visit while in town recently. What took Bruce's eye most was the parrot.

Jimmy Lee and Miss Maggie McKibbin, two of Union township's former teachers, showed they had not lost their interest in educational work by driving up last Thursday for institute and the lecture.

John Hess, of Dublin Mills, and his brother David, of Seola, Huntingdon county, spent a day in town last week. John was one of Taylor township's best teachers several years, and is now serving his district very efficiently as school director. There are many reasons why ex-teachers should be made school directors—the principal one is, that they are fully acquainted with the details of school work.

Couldn't Help Her.

Alice Rhodes, six and a half year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Rhodes, of Ayr township, was hurt at Rockhill school while at play about two years ago. In running she fell and a large girl fell on her, injuring Alice's back. From this accident, spinal paralysis followed, the child lost the use of her limbs, and about a year ago, she became blind.

About a month ago, the father, accompanied by Dr. Smith of this place, took the child to the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia for treatment. Last week Mr. Rhodes was notified to come down and get his daughter, which he did, arriving home with her last Friday. He was informed at the University that nothing could be done for her now; but that she may become all right as she grows older.

DIVENS—KELSO.

At the Lutheran parsonage in this place on Wednesday, December 20, 1899, by Rev. D. P. Drawbaugh, Mr. Samuel Divens and Miss Carrie E. Kelso were united in marriage. The happy young couple have the best wishes of the "News" for a long, happy and prosperous life.

Will Cooper, of the Cove, is said to be very sick.

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