

The Fulton County News.

McCONNELLSBURG, PA., JANUARY 25, 1900.

NUMBER 19.

A MEADOWGRINDER.

VERY INTERESTING BITS OF LOCAL HISTORY.

HIS RIDE ON THE C. V. R. R.

He and Mike Cook and Bully Himes Ironed the Flag Pole that Killed Jimmy Rankin.

Mr. B. W. Peck.—Having been reading a number of very interesting articles in your excellent paper, of the old-time places and persons in your county, and being an old Fulton county boy myself, I will, with your permission, contribute a few reminiscences that may be interesting to some of your readers' and, perhaps, prompt some one else to give their mite. I realize that much interesting local history is passing away with the older folks, and I think your effort to collect and preserve it is certainly commendable; and you should have the co-operation of every one in any way able to render any assistance.

My name is James Ray, a brother of your fellow citizen, Elliott Ray, of Big Cove Tannery. I was born three miles above Fort Loudon, on the old Ray farm, in January 1823; and, at an early age, moved with my father and the rest of the family to the Meadowgrounds, four miles west of McConnellsburg. (Your place was at that time called McConnells town.) I stayed at home and worked on the farm with my father until I was eighteen years of age, when I started out in the world for myself. My first venture was to Cumberland, Md., where I secured employment with Cribbs and Bedford, hauling lumber for the B. & O. railroad from the Big Savage. I remained there until 1842, when I jumped on a stage one day and rode down over the old National Pike to Hagers town, near which place, I helped a farmer to gather his harvest.

I now decided to visit my home, and boarded a train on the Cumberland Valley railroad for a ride to Greencastle—eleven miles. No, there were no palace cars, and the train was not made up of a string of fine coaches and drawn along at the rate of forty or fifty miles an hour by a great thundering locomotive such as you now see on that road. Our train consisted of a single coach, if coach it might be called, drawn by two bony horses—one hitched in front of the other. The driver was engineer, brakeman, conductor and general manager. The road at that time was known as the Cumberland Valley from Harrisburg to Chambersburg, and as the Franklin railroad from Chambersburg to Hagers town.

When I got to Greencastle I found a big campmeeting in progress and went out to the ground to spend Sunday. About the first man I met there was 'quire Myers of McConnellsburg, who wanted to know whether I was going back home. I told him I was on my way there. From Greencastle I went to Chambersburg, looked around awhile and then went on to McConnellsburg, and engaged to learn the blacksmith trade with Frank Rummell father of James and Elliott Rummell of your town.

1844, as you know, was the year that James K. Polk was elected president. The Democratic party were running Polk for President and George M. Dallas for Vice President; the Whigs had Henry Clay and Theodore Frelinghuysen, and the Liberty Party, James G. Birney and Thomas Morris. It was a three-cornered fight and a hot old time, I assure you. The Democrats in their big political parades would take the red juice of poke berries and paint their hats, faces, clothing, and even paint great red stripes and bars on their gray horses. Their banners were painted with poke berry juice, and the plant, berry and juice were utilized wherever they thought it possible to create enthusiasm for their favorite candidate.

Well, the biggest thing of the season was to be a mammoth political meeting and pole raising at McConnellsburg. The pole itself was an immense affair, and consisted of a number of splices securely fastened together with strong iron bands which were placed on it by Mike Cook, Bully Himes and myself.

A man at Chambersburg was employed for twenty-five dollars to put up the pole, and he came with strong ropes and other appliances. There was a tremendous crowd in town that day, and excitement was high. The pole was to be put on Water street just opposite the old building that John Sheets is tearing down.

MRS. FANNIE McLAUGHLIN.

The upper tavern was then kept by Frank Rummel.

In the spring of '46, I went by stage from McConnellsburg to Pittsburg, where I worked for Ralph Jackson, a horse shoer. In the fall of that year I returned and drove team over the pike from Chambersburg to Pittsburg, for three years.

The landlords that then kept tavern were George Shaffer at the lower end of town [where Aaron Clevenger now lives,] Mark Dickson at the Cross Keys [where Reisers' store now is]—Billy Winnell then kept the stage office— [the present Fulton House] and Frank Rummel, the upper tavern [the sight of the present Cooper House.]

The stage drivers on the road at that time were John Bender, Jack Hare, Bill Murray, one John Rout, Murray Walker, Jeff Mason, Dave Keltner and others whose names I do not now recall.

In October '49 one Bill Teeter, Geo. Cunningham, and myself went out to Crestline, Ohio; but not liking the place, we came back to Pittsburg.

In February 1840, I came to Greensburg where I established a shop of my own, working for contractors who were then building the Pennsylvania railroad, and where I still live.

In 1861, when the Civil War broke out, I enlisted in October of that year in the 18th U. S., Infantry, Company D, served three years and was honorably discharged.

AMARANTH.

Miss Bertha Rhea, of Buck Valley, spent last week with Mrs. Lizzie Mills. Walter Stein was at his home in Emmaville, last Saturday and Sunday.

Dr. W. L. McKibbin is visiting friends in Washington and Philadelphia this week.

Geo. Deneen and wife and Ludwig Fisher and wife were the guests of the family of Anthony Lynch last Sabbath.

O. R. Corle, of New Paris, Pa., and Jacob Kerns, of Piney Plains, spent Saturday night with Robt. Carson.

Miss Bertha Rhea was the guest of Mrs. Jessie McKee on Sabbath.

Elias Mills and Miss Sarah Karns, of Pine Ridge, were visiting H. A. McMill on Saturday.

Levi Crawford and wife were callers at Irvin Boers, on Saturday last.

James M. McKibbin, M. D., was in Hancock Monday.

John Crawford's family attended the funeral of Mrs. Crawford's father, Wm. Decker, last Tuesday.

Union township's school directors will have a meeting at Fairview, Saturday, Jan. 20, at 2 P. M.

Peter Mellott accompanied by Jacob Kerns, of Pine Grove, was in Snake Spring Valley part of last week visiting among the brethren.

John S. Crawford spent Sunday afternoon with Henry Ward of Robinsonville.

MULE WITH A JAG ON.

An Incident of Farmer Cressy's Big Meeting at the Court House Last Fall.

Saturday's Philadelphia Record says that when John H. Fow was out stumping the State with Farmer Cressy he entered the town of McConnellsburg, in Fulton county, after a long drive over the mountains. He chanced to mention that on route he had stopped at Waidlich's Cave, where he had found much spiritual comfort. Fired to emulation, two of the young men of the town drove over to Waidlich's place, which is a distillery, and on their return brought with them a jug of whisky wrapped in hay in the bottom of the wagon. At the hotel they tied their team in the shed, little thinking of what would follow. An inquisitive mule scented the hay, and in nosing about upset the jug, and the corn-cob stopper came out. The hay quickly became saturated with the liquor, which seemed to add to the mule's enjoyment. He ate his fill and immediately developed a beautiful jag, during the course of which he kicked the wagon into kindling wood. Representative George W. Skinner communicated these facts to Mr. Fow the other day, and Mr. Fow wrote back: "I am sorry my reference to Waidlich's Cave should have had such a demoralizing influence upon the citizens of Fulton county. I have read that the injection of the blood of a goat into the human veins would make one young again. But there is something more serious, and that is the cure of the habit that drives the citizens of Fulton county to Waidlich's Cave. I would advise that the blood of that mule be used as an injection, and I have no doubt that the teetotalism of the inhabitants of Fulton will become as well known as is the absence of railroads within her borders."

From "Atkinson's Casket Gems of Literature, Wit and Sentiment, published about seventy years ago, we get the following:

"A farmer made out a bill to a person who had employed him and whose christian name was Jacob. It would puzzle some people more learned than the farmer to put five letters together, none of which are in the word 'Jacob,' and make sound as well as 'Gekup,' which is the way the farmer spelt it."

This is equal to spelling 'coffee' without any of the proper letters: viz. k-a-u-g-h-p-h-y.

CURIOUS ORTHOGRAPHY.

BETHEHEM.

The fog and rain of the past ten days have gone by and the sun has made its welcome appearance.

James L. Cowan and little daughter of Bellwood, Blair county, are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Cowan.

Mrs. Kate Connelly and Nick Finiff and family spent one day last week at H. W. Ewing's.

Mrs. Henry Wolf and daughter Lucy spent Sunday afternoon at A. J. Sipes's. Mrs. Sipes is still on the sick list.

Nick Finiff and family spent Sunday very pleasantly at the home of George Gress. Mrs. D. G. Elvey and two children spent Sunday afternoon at the same place.

John Cowan's family spent Sunday with their daughter Mrs. James Truax, Mrs. Truax being very poorly from a fall on the ice a week ago.

Mrs. Connelly and daughter Bertha spent Sunday at James Truax's.

Mrs. D. G. Elvey spent Sunday forenoon at John Shaffer's.

D. G. Elvey and two sons took a little exercise on horse back Sunday afternoon over to Thomas Johnston's.

Omert Peightel has been very much interested in the revival services in town.

Rev. Roberts has begun revival services at Bethlehem.

Miles Mellott has moved his saw mill on to the lands of Samuel Oyler, where there will be a lot of sawing done.

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AT M'NAUGHTON'S.

A local teachers' institute was held at M'Naughton's school house last Friday evening.

Dr. Kendall was president and Mary Patterson, secretary. A well prepared program was carried out by the pupils of the school under the direction of the teacher, Miss Nannie Mellott. Little Johnnie McLucas let us see just how well a small boy can give a recitation, and Helen Kendall, also, gave one very creditably.

"How to Teach Civil Government in Connection with History," was ably discussed by C. C. Rotz, H. E. Gress and others. Mr. Gress showed how the study of the Constitution of the U. S., usually a rather uninteresting topic in history classes, may be made a very live subject and pupils be led to ask questions and seek information for themselves.

Mr. Wible advised reading of good literature on the subject of Civil Government. He recommended the reading of Berkey's Manual on the subject.

Dialogue—"The Art Critic"—by Ruth Kendall and Mary Ott, was well rendered to an appreciative audience. Ella McLucas gave us the trials of housecleaning.

"Elements of Success" was the next topic taken up by Prof. Gress. He gave an outline as follows:—1. Industry. 2. System. 3. Punctuality. 4. Energy. 5. Determination. 6. Self-reliance. 7. Courage. 8. Economy. 9. Will Power. 10. Independence and a Noble Ambition. Mr. Rotz urged the instilling of ideas and habits of industry. W. C. Patterson added the element of Principle, to the list already given.

"A Little Boy's Troubles"—Willie Stoner—was well received.

A dialogue—"Johnny and the Teacher."

How to teach physiology was discussed by Mr. Wible, Mr. Gress and Miss Mellott.

Address—"Be in Earnest,"—David Martin.—"Learn to say no with decision and yes with caution."

Dialogue—"The Squire's Rooster," by Ben. McLucas and Harry Ott, in regular darkey dialect. Exercises interspersed with good singing.

NEEDMORE.

Mud! Jacob F. Farland is critically ill.

W. H. Lake's family are having quite a siege of measles.

Rev. Baugher will begin a protracted meeting at Pleasant Grove on Wednesday evening, 24th.

D. A. Garland visited friends near Rays Hill last Saturday and Sunday.

The farmers of this community will meet at this place next Saturday a week for the purpose of making arrangements to start a creamery.

The Funk boys are busy sawing for Alex. Mellott.

Geo. D. Morgret has gone to Clearfield to see his brother Hayes, formerly of this place, who, it is reported, had his hand sawed off the other day.

Silas Holly and wife were visiting friends here over Sunday.

PERSONAL.

Howard Skipper, of Harrisonville, made the News office a brief call on Wednesday.

Dr. A. K. Davis, Hustontown, was in town on Tuesday.

Ex-Commissioner George Metzler was in town yesterday.

William Kelo, of Knobsville, was in to see us a few minutes while in town yesterday.

John W. Caldwell, of this place accompanied his sister to Harrisburg, Tuesday.

Levi Keefer, of Webster Mills was in town yesterday afternoon.

A. U. Nace, who accompanied his son Horace to New York, last week, returned yesterday.

Mrs. H. M. Ash returned to her home in this place last Friday, after a visit of two or three weeks among friends up the State.

Earnest Linn, of Altoona, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Linn, of this place.

Mrs. Hattie Kendall was an interested visitor, in the mysteries of the "art preservative," at the News office Monday morning.

Auctioneer W. M. Hann, of Licking Creek township, spent two or three days visiting his daughter, Mrs. Frank Booher, at Three Springs, last week.

Ex-Treasurer John D. Smith, of Emmaville, spent Sunday night with the family of Mrs. Harris, near Saluvia. Mr. Smith accompanied by Auditor John S. Harris spent Monday in town.

Miss Gertie Sipes returned from Shippensburg Normal Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Elliott Barber were in town, Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Price, of French Landing, Michigan, who recently visited friends in this section, are home again. Mr. Price says they have had some very cold weather this winter.

Miss Lois A. Caldwell left on Tuesday for Titusville, Pa., for a few weeks' visit among relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McEldowney were pleasant callers while in town, Tuesday.

D. D. Mellott and son L. B., were in town, Tuesday.

E. Mowry Gelvin took time to come in and chat awhile on Tuesday.

M. B. Shaffner is on a business trip to Frederick City, Md., this week.

Ed Mathias, of Mont Vista, Colorado, is visiting his mother, Mrs. David Mathias, of Burnt Cabins, after an absence of twelve years. Mr. Mathias holds an important county office at home.

Hon. D. Hunter Patterson, Webster Mills' was at Burnt Cabins Tuesday.

James Lamberson, of Hustontown, was a visitor to McConnellsburg on Tuesday.

County Chairman Alvin L. Sipes, John W. Evans, Elmer Evans, Max Sheets, George B. Daniels, Esq., and John P. Sipes, Esq., are in Harrisburg to-day attending the Bryan demonstration.

Theophilus Sipes, of Harrisonville, spent several days last week in Everett visiting his sister, Mrs. E. N. Palmer.

Mr. A. C. Mathias was obliged to relinquish teaching and other pursuits for a livelihood, quit his residence at Burnt Cabins, and seek the far west for a change of altitude on account of his health, a few years ago. A mutual friend, who dropped into the News office a day or two ago, informs us that the change for the better has been marvelous—that he is hale and hearty and able to work right along at the carpenter trade for which he gets \$3.50 a day. He has just purchased 15 acres of land adjoining the city of Mont Vista, Colorado, where he lives, for \$1500.00, and sold recently his property at the Cabins to E. M. Gelyin, so it looks as though he meant to make the West his permanent place of residence. Ab is a good fellow and we are pleased to learn of his prosperity.

THOMPSON.

Rev. Joseph Barney is critically ill at Mrs. Cattlett's. Dr. Swartzwelder is attending him. The protracted meeting closed Saturday night owing to the illness of Rev. Barney.

Elder Funk will preach at Bald Eagle school house next Sunday 28th, at 10 o'clock.

John Hess visited relatives at Needmore last week.

Miss Emma Pittman, who has been in Martinsburg, W. Va., in a knitting factory has been promoted to head inspector. She is one of those who will get promoted for fidelity and earnestness.

Silas E. Peck spent some time with relatives near here recently.

Sale Register.

John D. Fisher, having sold his 177 township, will sell at his two and a half miles south of McConnellsburg, on Monday, 19th, all his stock and implements. Sale begins at 10 o'clock.