

The Fulton County News.

McCONNELLSBURG, PA., FEBRUARY 22, 1900.

NUMBER 23.

LADIES TURN.

REMINISCENCES OF A PLACE ON THE TURNPIKE.

PRETTY GIRLS.

The Sprowl House at the top of Sideling Hill mountain on the State Road above Lyons's. Toward the latter part of the '30's, Stoner sold the property to Alexander Ready, of Wells Valley, a grandson of Alexander Alexander, and a brother of Mrs. Catharine Fisher of McConnellsbury. Mr. Stoner remaining in possession of the property as tenant. Mr. Ready dying in 1838, his estate was settled by John B. Alexander, father of Hon. W. S. Alexander of this place, and the Ladies Turn property was sold by him to Andrew Fisher, late of Hustontown, and father of Mrs. S. B. Woollet of this place. In connection with the tavern stand there were 400 acres of land and Mr. Fisher, who then lived in Wells Valley, purchased the entire property for \$600.

Mr. Fisher moved to the Ladies Turn in 1840 and remained there two years, at the expiration of which time he purchased from Enoch Deshong, grandfather of Mrs. John P. Sipes of this place, the farm now owned by James Minnich, moved onto that farm, and rented the tavern stand to his brother-in-law Levi Deshong who was married to Jane Ready. At the end of two more years (1844), Levi left the tavern and moved to the farm now owned by Elliott Deshong, and Andrew Fisher moved back to the Ladies Turn, where he remained until 1856, when he bought from Wm. Chesnut, an uncle of Clem Chesnut, the farm and hotel property at Hustontown for \$5000 and moved to Hustontown.

By way of parenthesis, we might say that Hustontown, in 1850, consisted of but one dwelling outside the old tavern stand at the lower end of town bought by Mr. Fisher; and that was on the site where the present Methodist parsonage stands. It was owned and occupied by our good friend, Thomas Kirk, who kept a small store in it. At that time the present site of Hustontown was covered with the original woods down as far as Lamberson and Kirk's store.

When Andrew Fisher left Ladies Turn in '56 he rented it to John Swope, a shoemaker, at a nominal rent, for great changes had come over the country since the days of Morris and Stoner, and those when Fisher first went to Ladies Turn. Instead of the turnpike being the principal thoroughfare from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, and keeping tavern along this line one of the most lucrative of avocations, the Pennsylvania railroad, and the Balt. and Ohio, had been pushed through toward the west, and the old pike that was formerly lined with wagons, was now fast being deserted, and the tavern keepers were turning their attention to other means of making money.

Shoemaker John Swope lived there but a few months, when the house burned to the ground, and Swope sought another home. Andrew Fisher then traded the property to Davis Stevens living at Hubbsville, for a tract of timber land adjoining Squire Joe Deavor's near West Dublin; but there being some hitch in the title to the timber land, the deal was not consummated, and Fisher then leased it to Tom Salkeld for five years in consideration of a new house Mr. Salkeld had to erect on the premises. A fairly good sized house was built—this time on the north side of the road just at the bend of the turn. Barley Salkeld, also, lived there awhile.

The place was quite a resort for sleighing parties. A party of young folks would be formed, word would be sent to Salkeld's, a big supper would be prepared, the evening people would arrive, and the evening spent in dancing and having a time generally. In the winter of 1859, a party from Taylor went up there to have a good time, and a lot of young fellows came there filled with bad whiskey and broke up the evening's festivities.

During the Civil War, the Salkelds left, and the property was sold to John Mitchell for about \$200. Mitchell moved to the property, and lived there but a few years, when five acres destroyed the building. This ended the place as a habitation; and there is now, scarcely a trace that would indicate that any one had ever lived there.

There was one Crackey Smith lived in that neighborhood. He was a shoemaker. It was the custom in those days, to take the hides of the cattle killed on the farm for some consumption during the year, to a neighboring tanner who would convert them into leather, keeping half for his pay. In the early autumn a shoemaker was engaged to come to your home with his kit of tools and lasts. (Almost every family had a pretty good outfit of its own; for a man that could not do the shoe mending for himself and family, was not considered of much account in the neighborhood.) Here by the kitchen hearthstone, day by day the shoemaker pegged away until shoes had been made for father, mother, the young men, and maidens, as well as the little folks of the family. The young ladies were not ashamed to wear their strong, well-made, warm, home-made shoes to church or in the parlor (kitchen) when they entertained their friends. How different they were from the thin paper-soled flimsy upper shoes a size and a half too small for the feet, no protection against snow, slush, mud, nor even ordinary cold

that women go crippling around in now, wondering why they must always be swallowing cod liver oil, Piso's consumption cure, and other like medicines.

For shoe pegs, a nice piece of seasoned maple was provided, sawed off at proper length, split down into shoe-pegs. No one would have thought of such extravagance as buying shoe pegs at the store when with a piece of maple, a hand saw, a mallet and the shoe-knife enough pegs could be made in one evening to last a year.

Well, but about "Crackey." Millard Smith was his right name, but he was a good fellow; and the children especially were glad when Crackey came to make shoes. He not only made shoes for Andrew Fisher's family at Ladies Turn, but he often made his home there, doing turns about the house and helping with the work about the stable for his board. One morning in the early summer of 1854, he went to the barn, brought a colt out of the stable by the halter, jumped onto its back, jabbed the points of his sharp-toed boots into its sides, gave a yell, and started up the pike for the watering trough. The colt not appreciating Crackey's familiarity, threw its head down towards his hind feet in the air, and stopt Crackey on his head in the road.

Poor Crackey, was pretty badly hurt, and it was sometime before he had sufficiently recovered from the shock to be able to get to the house. He ate no breakfast; but feeling better later in the forenoon he went down below the pike where Mr. Fisher was planting potatoes, took up a hoe and began to cover. He had not gone very far when he began to stagger, and dropping the hoe exclaimed, "Fisher, upon my secret soul I can't see to cover these potatoes," and went up to a fence corner and lay down. Mr. Fisher aided him to get to the house, and put him to bed, and sent down to Harrisonville for Dr. Benedict. But he was beyond any human aid; and that night at 12 o'clock, as the Fisher family were called around his bedside, Crackey's life went out, and his remains now rest in the Presbyterian yard at Greenhill.

There are many other incidents connected with the old place, but our article has already reached undue proportion and we must conclude it.

GEORGE H. PITTMAN.

After an illness of several weeks, Mr. George H. Pittman, another of this county's aged and most respected citizens, passed to his final reward last Saturday, February 17, 1900, aged 75 years, 4 months, and 23 days.

The deceased was a son of Samuel Pittman and his wife Mary Smith Pittman, the former born in 1797 and the latter in 1804. His grandfather Pittman was in this section before the Revolutionary War.

George H. Pittman was born on the farm now owned by Tobie Glazier, known as the William Lasher farm, in Ayr township. His father, soon thereafter, moved to the Jared Pittman farm near McConnellsbury, now occupied by D. A. Washabough. About the middle of the century, his father purchased the farm near Knobsville on which Amos Clouser lives. At that time, Andrew Comerer, grandfather of our townsman Thomas J. Comerer, owned the farm in the Cove now occupied by John Nesbit. As Samuel Pittman was about to move to his Knobsville farm, in fact, had one load hauled up, he and Andrew Comerer traded farms, Mr. Comerer going to the Knobsville farm, and Mr. Pittman to the Cove farm, where Mr. Pittman spent the remainder of his days.

George lived at home with his father until 1853, when on the first day of December of that year, at Hagerstown, Md., by Rev. McDonald, a Presbyterian minister, he was married to Miss Hester McGovern, a sister of the late George McGovern who died ten years ago at his home in Todd township.

The home farm being large, George purchased from his father acres on which were some old buildings. Here he and his wife went to house-keeping and lived until the spring of 1869, when he sold his farm to C. S. Wilkinson for \$3000 and moved to town into the Mollie Seylar property, where he spent the remainder of his days.

He is survived by his wife, his son S. Kisler, a prominent merchant at Harrisonville, Pa., and his daughter, Mrs. John Nelson, of Todd township, and four grandchildren—two of his son, and two of his daughter.

Mr. Pittman was an excellent citizen. At an early age he joined the McConnellsbury Presbyterian church, and remained a member until his death. During his younger days, he was very fond of vocal music, being a member of the choir of his church for many years, co-temporary with John B. Hoke, Dr. Duffield, Cal Fletcher, and others who were members of that choir for many years. He used to conduct "singing school" around at the school-houses—never charging anything for his services, but simply giving his time for the pleasure he found in helping others, and for the pleasure he got from the music itself.

By the way, we might as well add that in the days when singing schools were held over the country in the way just mentioned, and the much abused buckwheat notes in vogue, that there were twenty young people who could read music and sing well, where one may be found now. Music in many of the rural districts is at this time an almost lost art.

He was a candidate on the Republican ticket with Rev. John Barney for Associate Judge against Thomas Gracey and Joshua Hixson in 1888; and although the county was strongly Democratic, he was defeated by only forty votes.

His sisters, Mrs. Susannah Cypher of Illinois, and Sarah, wife of George Snyder of this county, are the only surviving members of his father's family.

His remains were interred in the Union Cemetery on Monday.

There was a light fall of snow on Saturday last which was a good thing for the grain. We had been getting our share of snow in the form of rain up to the present.

Some of the sick in the Cove are improving.

Mrs. Fanny Diehl and Ephraim Hart are still critically ill.

Mrs. Starr and Mrs. Denton Hoopengardner and Robert Gerehart are also indisposed.

Emory Diehl and his sister Olive were called home by the serious illness of their mother.

Lewis Layton has returned from Everett.

Harvey Sharpe spent Saturday and Sunday at his home in Thompson township.

Ben Martin made a business trip to Hancock last week.

Rev. May preached at Jerusalem church on Sunday last.

On Monday, Feb. 20, there will be a public sale of the personal effects of Lewis and Eliza Hoopengardner deceased.

The measles are still at large it appears, although several persons have caught them.

WHIPS COVE.

MRS. GEORGE ASHTON.

At her home in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Sunday morning, January 16, 1900, after a protracted and suffering illness, Ann Catharine, wife of Prof. George Ashton, former principal of the public schools at Ames, Iowa, passed peacefully to rest.

Mrs. Ashton was a daughter of Michael Barndollar, a brother of our townsman Postmaster Woollet's mother. Mr. Barndollar, several years ago, owned the farm near Fort Littleton, now owned by Mercer Hastings; and, also, the property now owned and occupied by D. K. Carr in Fort Littleton, and kept store in the same room that Mr. Bare's store now is in.

Michael was a great Methodist; and it was largely due to his efforts that the present commodious church at Fort Littleton was built. His uncle Jacob Barndollar, of Everett, had built a fine church and presented it to the congregation of that bustling town; and Michael's idea was, that Fort Littleton should have one built after the plan of his uncle Jacob. Accordingly the Littleton people made a firm, strong pull, and the result was, at that time one of the best churches in the county.

Mr. Barndollar sold out at Littleton and moved out to Lanark, Illinois, in 1808. It was there that Ann Catharine, the deceased, married George Ashton. She and her husband went to Ames, Iowa, in 1852; thence to Boone, in 1878; located at Iowa Park, Texas, in 1806, and have lived at Lincoln, Neb., since 1890. George Ashton is a brother of David Ashton, near Maddenville.

Mrs. Ashton was a rare woman—pure in thought, gentle and noble in nature, made all who knew her, friends, and kept them friends.

She was born September 1, 1851.

Acknowledgment.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Anderson, of Dublin Mills, take this method of expressing their deep appreciation of kindness shown by their neighbors and other friends in the hour of their deep affliction in the loss of their son John Sherman; and also, of the many tender notes of condolence from his schoolmates and friends.

JACOB F. GARLAND.

Jacob F. Garland died at his home near Needmore, last Friday, aged about 60 years. He was a son of Jacob Garland and his wife, Rebecca, who was a sister of Aunt Fannie Covalt and Squire John Fisher long since deceased. Squire Fisher was the father of the present Joseph Fisher of Pigeon Cove.

The deceased was born on the old home farm about two miles below Needmore, and spent his entire life there. He was married twice. The first time, to Miss Lydia Covalt a sister of Squire Dan, and the second time to Mrs. Jane Madden of Huntingdon county. There are no children by the second marriage.

By the first, there survive him, David R., of Covalt; Daniel C., of Needmore; Amanda, wife of Allen B. Smith, Pleasant Grove, and Lura C., wife of William Carnell, Dott. In addition to his second wife he leaves, also, two brothers, Benjamin, near Needmore, and Peter, at Purcell, Bedford county.

For many years he was a deacon in the Sideling Hill Baptist church, an excellent citizen and good neighbor. He held the office of constable many years, and served his township as overseer of the poor.

He was buried at Sideling Hill Baptist church, last Saturday, Elder Thomas Palmer conducting the services.

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WILL HERSEY LOST HIS HORSE FROM COLE.

B. F. Price has gone to Kearney to work.

Some of the young people from the State Road attended the measuring social at Anna Spear's on Friday evening.

The Calithumpian band had plenty of exercise last week and week before, serenading John Cleveenger and Nathan Stevens.

Abram King and daughter, Mrs. B. F. Price visited John Henry's at Clear Ridge last Thursday.

Mrs. Andrew Hoover and son Grant were visitors to McConnellsbury last Friday.

Sunday February 11, Rev. Sarvis preached at Fairview from the theme—"Growth in Grace." After preaching, twenty persons were received on probation.

MRS. DIXON VERY SICK.

Mr. John B. Runyan of this place on Tuesday morning received from his brother-in-law Robert Dixon of Pittsburg a telegram stating that Mrs. Dixon was so ill from typhoid fever that she had lost consciousness, and requesting that Mrs. Dixon's mother, Mrs. A. Runyan of Needmore come at once. Mrs. Runyan went to Pittsburg yesterday afternoon.

DATE OF SALE CHANGED.

Owing to circumstances over which he had no control, James S. Akers, has changed the date of his sale of valuable timber land and personal property at Akersville to Tuesday, March 20th. Don't forget the change.

REV. BAUGHNER HOME.

Well Pleased With His Trip To Fulton County.

BELDOR, Va., Feb. 17, 1900.

DEAR EDITOR:—Through the columns of the "News" I wish to express my thanks to the good people of Fulton county, Pa. On the 20th of January I left my home for Pleasant Grove, where at 7 o'clock of the same day, I found a large congregation awaiting my arrival, and for ten days and nights I tried to preach to them. Twenty-one conversions and ten baptized were some of the fruits of our labors. While with the dear people at the above named place, and at the suggestion of Bro. David Garland, the good people soon had one dollar collected to send me "The Fulton County News" for one year. I did not know any thing of it until one brother came to know my full name and postoffice address. I have examined the "Fulton County News," and must say that it is one of the best papers that I ever saw published for one dollar. It is a regular family newspaper, up-to-date, and is a welcome visitor to my home. May God bless the Editor in his efforts to give Fulton county such a good paper; and may it find its way into many a home outside of Fulton County.

The people of Fulton county are kind and honest, and I think very industrious. Some as good men and women as live on God's green earth are in Fulton county.

From Pleasant Grove I visited Whips Cove for six or seven days; and also, spent four days at Hill Chapel. I found good, kind people every where. The writer appreciated all the presents and money given him by the good people, which was about \$29.00 in all. Mrs. Jane Mellott sent my wife a very nice present for which my wife also sends her thanks. I left Pennsylvania February 14, and reached my home next day. I found all well but was real sad to learn that Mrs. Eliza Baughner, my grandmother was dead and buried only three days before my arrival. For fear of the waste basket I will close this letter; and if this does not find its way to the waste basket, the people of Fulton county may hear from Beldor every month, if Mr. Editor, will accept of such items.

MRS. ELIZA HOOPENGARDNER.

At the home of her brother-in-law Edgar A. Diehl in Whips Cove, Mrs. Eliza Hoopengardner quietly passed away on Saturday evening February 10, 1900, aged 34 years, 11 months and 7 days. She was the widow of the late Lewis Hoopengardner, who died some two years ago. She was a kind and affectionate wife and mother, and a good neighbor beloved by all who knew her. Throughout her long and trying illness, she manifested a true Christian spirit. She leaves two children to mourn her loss. Interment at Jerusalem church. Funeral services conducted by Rev. M. L. Sipes, assisted by Rev. Baughner. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved.

WELLS TANNERY.

Mr. Downs, of Philadelphia, is visiting his uncle, J. C. Kirk. He is the possessor of many Cuban relics, having procured them while there in Uncle Sam's service during the late war.

Hon. S. P. Wishart visited Everett one day last week, and was greeted by a number of his warm friends there.

George A. Harris, teacher of No. 1 graded school, is still off duty. The patrons and pupils wish him a speedy recovery. We think by the time he is able to resume work, his pupils will be through with mumps; some of whom have had a serious time.

The Wells Valley Lumber Co., sawed on their mill last week 7700 feet of lumber. W. H. Baumgardner has the contract for logging. Since the snow-fall, he and his earnest crew of men work early and late. They, in order not to violate the fourth commandment, quit work at midnight, Saturday night.

Joseph H. Gracy was a lucky boy to secure the general managing for Fritz Bros. They are engaged in the lumber business at Beaver, Huntingdon county.

PINE HILL.

Miss Eliz Kline who has been sick a long time is no better. Messrs. Mellott and Morton are gathering up their dogs to chase foxes.

The teacher of Shane's school went to Warfordsburg. I hope he won't be snowbound.

PERSONAL.

Merchant W. R. Speer, of Saluvia, spent Monday in town.

Mr. and Mrs. George Allison of Mercersburg spent a few days the past week with friends on this side of the mountain.

John S. Harris of Saluvia, who had been in Philadelphia for treatment returned home Monday. The probability is, that he did not receive much benefit from the hospital.

Mr. William Selsor, accompanied by his daughter Miss Ada, one of Franklin county's best primary teachers, spent last Saturday evening and Sunday at the home of his sisters and brother in this place.

Hayes W. Bergstresser, of Shelby, Ohio, is spending a few weeks among his native hills, visiting his parents and friends along Old Sideling Hill in this county.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stake of this place spent several days the past week visiting Mr. Stake's sister Mrs. Geo. Bishop, and Daniel Covalt, Esq., of Thompson township.

John F. Hess of Dott, was an early caller at THE NEWS office, Tuesday morning. John wanted to be home in time to vote.

J. L. Wright and J. E. Locke of Dublin Mills spent last Saturday in McConnellsbury.

Miss Lizzie Hull of this place, is visiting her sister Mrs. Anthony Neiroth, at Mercersburg.

Benjamin Garland called to see us yesterday. He said his wife was quite poorly with grippe and neuralgia.

President J. H. Covalt of the Fulton Telephone Company accompanied by his wife spent Wednesday in town.

Silas E. Peck, accompanied by his little daughters Cora and Mary went to Bedford Wednesday, to spend a few days with relatives.

J. P. McKee and L. M. M'Elowney spent Tuesday in McConnellsbury.

Prof. H. B. Hege, the efficient principal of the Foltz public schools, was on this side of the mountain, last Saturday.

H. E. Wink and S. L. Deshong were agreeable callers at the News office yesterday.

George A. Winters, of Thompson township took time, while in town yesterday, to exchange greetings with the News office force.

William H. Lake, of Needmore, was in town Wednesday. He expects to move with his family to Clearfield about the first of April.

Miss Cora Shoemaker is now sojourning in London, England.

John Nesbit returned last Friday from a week's visit among friends in Path Valley and New Grenada.

Brother Hiram Clevenger, of Taylor, spent last Friday in town.

S. M. Clevenger, of Belfast township, dropped in a few minutes while in town Monday to pay his respects to the News office. From here he went to Hustontown. Sam is well posted and is a regular encyclopedia of information.

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ALLEN C. MCGRATH.

Through the courtesy of the Franklin Repository, we give the above cut of Allen C. McGrath, a prominent citizen of Chambersburg who died in that place on the 10th inst.

Mr. McGrath was a soldier in the early part of the civil war; but was discharged on account of disability, after taking part in a number of hard fought battles in Virginia. The rebels having crossed the Potomac in 1863, and a big battle seeming imminent, he, together with some friends, went down to see it. The party were captured by the rebels and carried to Virginia where they were kept until the close of the war. You will find the story of their prison experience on the fourth page of this week's paper taken from Public Opinion of Chambersburg.

SCHOOL REPORTS.

Vallance School—L. L. Truax.

Attended every day:—Eessie Baker, Della Hoekensmith, Nora Ambrose, Clara Ambrose, Zena Braut, Tina White, Ira Hoekensmith, Saml L. White, Charley Croft and Ernest Croft; 19 days, Mae McClure, Zella McClure, Ella Bishop, Nellie Croft, Bertha Newman, L. McClure, Allison Keller, Edward Gress, Scott Bishop, Charley Vores and Clem Braut.

Akersville Primary—G. I. Covalt.

Fifth month. Enrolled during the month, 33; per cent, of attendance, 79; attended every day, Esta Akers, Ethel Jackson, Ida Ott, John Ott, Stanley Akers, Ed Hixson, Blaine Hixson and Ira Duval.

Morton's Point—E. E. Kell.

Every day pupils—Bertha Truax, Jessie Wink, Mabel Truax, Ida Bard, Joanna Morton, Blanche Morton, Nellie Morton, Blanche Wink, Ella Mellott, Mabel Dixon, Nancy Truax, Hester Truax, Mary Mellott, Maggie Mellott, Grace Cook, Louis Morton, Thomas Morton, George Morton, Roy Morton, Ross Morton, Web Bard, Ira Forner, Roy Cook and Bland Deshong.