

The Fulton County News.

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McCONNELLSBURG BANDS.

Brief Sketch of the Organizations, Spiced With a Few Incidents.

To write a complete history of the bands of McConnellsburg would furnish material for a big book. The following article which, of course, is much condensed, is laid in bringing to the minds of the boys many of the funny things that occurred during the forty years.

There are several persons who preceded at intervals whose names are now recalled.

During the days of the Guards and other military organizations were drum corps that won distinction in their way, and about which it would be interesting to hear, but they must be looked for at some other time.

During the summer of 1859, sentiment in favor of a Cornet band was awakened, and John W. Orin, William Orth, and David Nally started out with a subscription paper, and it was not long until they had the necessary funds subscribed, the instruments were purchased, and the band organized as follows: 1st E. B. Bob Divelbiss; 2d E. flat, M. Lump; 1st B flat, R. N. Boerner; 2d B flat, Samuel Shoemaker; 1st alto, John Linn; 2d alto, David Goldsmith; 1st tenor, Wm. Boerner; 2d tenor, James Miller; baritone, Wm. Orth; 3d, David McNulty; bass drum, N. Storrett; snare drum, Harvey Stoner; and cymbals, Benjamin Shimer.

A bandmaster, named Shattuck, of Chambersburg, was employed to drill the boys, and at the fall of the next year, 1860, they were in good shape to take part in the exciting Lincoln-Bell campaign.

During one of the campaigns on the band was making a tour of the county, the members, as well as the political speakers, one night entertained at the comfortable home of our old Democratic friend Bartimous Smith, Belfast township. While the use was commodious, and sufficiently well provided with beds to accommodate a moderate number of visitors, this gang proved many. Bart just threw his hat on and bade his guests to themselves comfortable. The women-folks were generous enough to surrender their beds to the band boys, and the men bunked in a small room themselves down stairs.

John Smith, Judge Whetstone and two others whose names is now recalled, played cards in a kitchen on the head of the drum all night.

A number of them did not go to bed, so that those who did, did not get much sleep. To put bedtime the boys were "playing cards" on each other. Sammy Reiser had just settled himself in a big arm chair tilted against the jamb of the big place, and was just swinging into dreamland, when Mart came by and could not resist the temptation of kicking Sammy's chair out from under him. He did so and Sam came on his back on the hearth.

He was now thoroughly awake and as a man could well say it took about a half a dozen to keep him from doing Mart. He had the satisfaction, however, of getting even before going to bed. Mart got sleepy later and went to bed. Not being able to sleep much, he arose and came into the stairs without taking the trouble of dressing. The boys looked for an opportunity and when Mart was near the door of the room in which the women-folks were, they quickly opened it, gave him a violent shove that landed him in the room with the women, and then held the door shut.

One day the band was playing in front of the Cross Keys hotel where Reiser's store now stands. At that time, the street leading to the hotel had not been filled up, and a culvert between Reiser's and the Racket Store had not

been built. Instead of the culvert, the stream was bridged by a small plank structure like that at Groathead's tannery. There were no guard-rails. Well, while the band was playing, old Jimmy Grimes, an itinerant shoemaker from Ayr township, came down street riding an old blind horse. Jimmy wanted to show that he was master of his steed, and, after much urging, rode his horse onto the bridge, reined him up, and proposed to make him listen to the music. The horse suddenly changed his mind, and in less than a twinkling, backed down over the bridge—horse and rider falling in one promiscuous heap into the mud and water below. While neither was seriously hurt, Jimmy was considerably cooled off when he came out.

The political campaign of 1877 known in this county as the Andrew Daniels campaign, was a very exciting one. The McConnellsburg band was in trim for business and its services were in demand. The second tenor was in the hands of Johnston Nelson, who was styled the axletree of the band.

A series of meetings was advertised for the southern end of the county. The band started out in Brady Seylar's plow wagon, and proceeded to Board-yard school house in Thompson township, where the orators were Capt. Skinner, Joseph F. Barton, and others. After this meeting, the next stop was made at Hancock, Md., which was reached about one o'clock next morning. The town was serenaded and but one man showed up, and that was Frank Heller, from whom before they left, "Boerner" first learned how to play the tuba part of "Adelin Q. S." correctly.

The next meeting was at Warfordsburg on the following evening, where the different members of the band, after the meeting, were scattered around for entertainment among the citizens there. Those two stately and cultured bachelor brothers, Col. Amos C. Stigers, and Abner H. Stigers were there, and, on account of their standing in that community, the first choice of whom they would entertain was conceded to them. They selected two beardless boys—Jos. F. Barton and Harvey Nelson, whom they took home with them and entertained, as they only knew how. What the influence of that night spent in that home was, is hard to estimate—suffice it to say that the beardless boys have from that day, followed the example—at least in one respect—of their bachelor hosts.

The next meeting was held the next evening at Franklin Mills. It was largely attended, and the speakers promoted and greatly encouraged by the appropriate and timely remarks of Bill Downes, who, in his comical way, assented to the facts as there laid down.

The next and closing meeting of the series was held at Needmore on Saturday evening and was largely attended. Bill was there and added much to the enjoyment and life of the meeting; and he, as well as many others, had learned the parrot and monkey story pretty well as related by one of the speakers. After that meeting we reached home early next morning—the exact time is not now remembered, and, of course, is not now necessary to state.

The "old band" had pretty well run down when it was reorganized, and a number of new instruments and members put in toward the latter part of the seventies.

In 1880 the membership stood:—1st E, John Comeror; 2d E, Ben. McCleary; 1st B, Lew C. Bailey; solo alto, W. H. Nelson; 1st alto, John Linn; 2d alto, Henry Comeror; 1st tenor, William Comeror; 2d tenor, B. W. Peck; baritone, James Shimer; tuba, Adam Boerner; bass drum, James Dunlap; snare drum, Harvey Stoner; cym-

bals, C. B. Stevens. Later Adam Boerner took Ben McCleary's place on the E flat; J. S. Eltemiller took the tuba, M. M. Bender, the snare drum, and Charlie Stevens, the bass drum and cymbals.

The band now came up, got nice uniforms, and purchased a band wagon, had it overhauled and repainted, and, altogether, made a very creditable appearance. This organization had its day, however. One by one the members drifted away and in the course of ten years, it had ceased to exist as an organization.

During the summer of 1898 a new band was organized. The citizens subscribed money to pay for the instruments with the understanding that the instruments should belong to the borough, and that the individual members should surrender their respective instruments upon withdrawing from the organization; except, of course, when the member had paid for the instrument he used.

The organization was effected as follows: 1st E flat, George A. Comeror; 2d E flat, Prof. B. C. Miller; solo B flats, Edward Brake and I. D. Thompson; 1st B flat, Michael Black; 2d B flat, Charles Steach; 3d B flat, Blair Rodday; 1st alto, Charles Rotz; 2d alto, Herbert Shimer; 3d alto, Philip Ott; 1st tenor, W. S. Cleveland; 2d tenor, Will Hagerman; baritone, Nicholas Koettger; 3 flat bass, John P. Conrad; E flat bass; Christmas Shimer; bass drum, Will Black; snare drum, Bruce Stoner.

The first year of the band was under the tutorage of Prof. B. C. Miller, and then Prof. Joseph Kissel of St. Thomas was engaged, and the boys brought up to a considerable degree of proficiency.

The same circumstances, however, that of members dropping out and new material coming in, occurred as before, thus operating much against the progress of the organization. It is true of musical organization generally that they are about as good as the weakest member in it. It is impossible in small towns to get a sufficient number of members that can, or will, stay together long enough to gain a very great degree of proficiency.

Although but two years have elapsed, only about half of the original members belong now, the places of those going out being held by new material.

SARAH MORTON.

Sarah Morton, or "Aunt Sally," as she was familiarly known, widow of the late Thomas Morton, Esq., of Belfast township, died at the home of her son George Morton, on Thursday July 26, 1900 at the advanced age of 86 years and 22 days.

The deceased possessed a remarkable memory, and delighted to entertain her friends with interesting reminiscences of the early days of the century.

She was born and reared at the foot of Sideling Hill in what is now Licking Creek township this county.

It was no unusual thing for her when a child of ten or fifteen years of age to be sent alone to pack a grist of grain on horseback across the Sideling Hill mountain to Akers' mill—now Akersville.

Mrs. Morton was a member of the Sideling Hill Christian church for a great many years; and although a great sufferer from dropsy, her faith in her Master led her to bear her sufferings with a patient submission, that was pleasing to those about her. Her closing hours were spent in close communion with her Heavenly Father, and her death was doubtless a happy change.

She leaves to survive her son, George W. Morton, and a brother W. S. Strait, of Pleasant Ridge. Her remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at the Sideling Hill Christian church on last Friday afternoon.

GLEANINGS.

Items of Interest from our Neighboring Counties.

By the spreading of the rails on the South Penn railroad two freight cars jumped the track at the tannery at Mercersburg Tuesday morning.

Cards are out announcing the marriage in the Methodist church at Hancock, at 8 o'clock in the evening of August 8th, Miss Cora, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Morgret, and Rev. Arthur Hart McKinley, of Hancock.

Calvin J. Matthews, formerly of Mercersburg, who enlisted in the United States marine corps at Williamsport, Md., a year ago, was wounded at Tien Tsin, according to the reports cabled to this country from the Chinese city.

While returning from Berkeley Springs to Hancock one day last week with a load of eggs, E. P. Cahill's team became frightened and ran about four miles, scattering about 3500 eggs along the route. The wagon was badly damaged and one of the horses was killed.

John Mann of P. Black Oak, Ridge, completed his 51st harvest this year as a cradler. He and John Flowers cradled four crops this harvest and cut some of the largest eye over grown in this county on top of Sideling Hill. One day they cut 92 dozen of eye between 8 and 4 o'clock.—Hancock Star.

The wife of a man named Moon over in Franklin county, presented him with a fine boy. This was a new moon. The father celebrated the event by drinking and was soon a half later a full moon. When he awoke he'd twenty-five cents. This was the last quarter. His mother-in-law beat him over the head with a club, this giving him a total eclipse.

A locomotive ran over a woman at the Johnstown station the other day and cut one of her legs off above the knee. The sufferer was hurried away to a nearby hospital; and while the severed leg was left lying on the platform a few minutes, some scoundrel stole from it one hundred dollars in bank notes which the woman had placed in the stocking for safe keeping.

A stranger passing through Patin Valley on Friday, near Willow Hill, would have imagined a company was being formed to go to China. In all directions men were running with pistols or any fire arm they could get their hands on. They were not going to China, however, but were in search of a mad dog which had come over the mountain from Orbisona. They got him and shot him near Willow Hill.—Franklin Repository.

The teachers of the various schools at Mercersburg and their salaries are as follows: Principal, Prof. J. L. Finnefrack, \$300; Assistant Principal, Sadie M. Parker, \$23 Grammar, Mary E. Patterson, \$30; Assistant Grammar, Rebecca Agnew, \$28; Intermediate, Lizzie Grove, \$26, with May Culley as substitute; 3rd Primary, Eva M. Gillan, \$26; 2nd Primary, Maud Long, \$22; 1st Primary, Ada M. Selsor, \$20; colored school, W. A. Culler, \$26.

Lightning struck Henry White, colored, at his home in Hagers-town last Wednesday afternoon, killing him instantly. The bolt struck a weeping willow tree whose branches hang over the house, entered the roof and killed White, who was at a garret window, probably with the intention of shutting it. No one was in the house at the time. Some men saw smoke rolling out of the house, and breaking open the shutters, climbed in and put out the fire, which had been started by the lightning. White was found lying beside the widow, his shirt bosom, one trouser leg and one shoe torn and burned off. A silver watch in his pocket was partially melted.

INTERESTING RELIC.

Mrs. M. V. Cromer very kindly presented the News office with a rifle-ball which she brought from the Gettysburg battle field, in a note accompanying it she says:

"Singular as it may seem, the freight wreck mentioned last week in the sketch of my trip, was that wherein Mr. William Fisher of Union township lost his life.

"The wreck delayed us four hours—instead of our getting in to Chambersburg early in the afternoon, we did not reach that place until ten at night.

"We passed the morgue at Harpers Ferry where Mr. Fisher lay, a corpse, but little did we think him a Fulton county man. We were informed there that ten men had been killed—three trainmen, and seven tramps.

"In the apex of the ball is set a miniature lense through which by looking, you may distinctly see five distinct battlefield views."

GEORGE NAIL.

On Monday of last week, Geo. Nail was killed by a fall of coal while working in a mine at Kearney.

Mr. Nail was a former resident of Wells Valley, being a son of David R. Nail of that valley.

Nine years ago he was married to Miss Anna Husler of Wells Valley, and they have lived during the past four years at Kearney.

He was a member of the Knights of Labor, and by that order was interred at the Valley M. E. church in Wells Valley, Elder S. P. Wishart conducting the religious services.

Mr. Nail was an honest, industrious citizen. He is survived by his wife, there being no children. He was aged 46 years, 11 months, and 6 days.

From Everett Press.

Hon. Dallas Bernhardt, of Dublin Mills, Fulton county, accompanied by S. O. Fraker, of Orbisona, drove to Bedford on Monday. They remained over night in Everett and started back home Tuesday morning when the sun was just beginning to concentrate his rays on mother earth. In an interview on the political situation Mr. Bernhardt said that he had no doubts of McKinley's election. That the country would not endorse the free and unlimited coinage of silver. He said he was not for Bryan but would support the Republican candidates; in fact, declared that he had left the Democratic party because it had gone back on all the principles and traditions of that party, so that there is nothing left of the Democracy of Jefferson and Jackson. Mr. Bernhardt will move to Three Springs, Huntingdon county, in the near future.

LALDIG.

Mrs. J. F. Johnson and Mrs. Rachel Brant attended Baptist preaching at Tomoloway the last of the week.

Some of our young people attended the J. O. U. A. M. picnic at Clear Ridge on Saturday, and others attended the Social at Ella Mann's on Saturday evening.

Clarence Hoover spent Sunday at home.

John W. Mumma has employment at Kearney.

Mrs. Whitehill of Yellow Creek and Mrs. Dr. E. J. Miller of Everett, visited Mrs. J. G. Lyon Friday, July 20.

Bert Hann and family of Salvia, attended Sunday school and preaching at Fairview on Sunday. Our supervisor S. H. Hocken-smith, has been a busy man this harvest. He began harvesting the 25th of June and has missed no time since, except Sundays and rainy weather until July 25. He cradled twelve days. He and David A. Laidig cut twelve acres of oats in one and a quarter days.

G. RUNYAN SIDES.

Another of Fulton county's oldest and most highly respected citizens has been called away. This time it was Mr. G. Runyan Sipes, of Licking creek township, who after being confined to his bed for several weeks, died at his home Sunday evening, July 29th 1900, at the ripe age of 78 years, 4 months, and 11 days.

He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sipes (Mrs. Sipes being formerly Miss Sallie Runyan) and was born on the David Deshong farm, about a mile and a half from his late residence, and lived there until 1834, when his parents moved to the farm now owned by John S. Sipes.

During the early years of his manhood he taught school several terms, and was successful as an instructor. The salary then was seven dollars a month and "board around."

On "Washington's Birthday" 1853, he was united in marriage with Miss Susan Sipes by Rev. Robert Ross, who afterward became the first county superintendent of schools of this county.

The young couple then went to the farm where he spent the remainder of his life. The land was entirely in woods; but by pluck and economy the forest was transformed into a productive farm and a home famous for the genial hospitality of its members was produced.

During the past thirty years he has been an exemplary member of the M. E. church.

In addition to his wife, eight children survive, namely, Miss Olive J., at home; Edward H. Mexico, (city); Miss Nannie, Pittsburg; Hattie, (Mrs. T. J. Palmer), near Harrisonville; Anna M., (Mrs. August Soffel, M. D.), Pittsburg; Calvin O., Galva, Ill.; Carrie F., (Mrs. F. C. Mumma), Pittsburg, and Cecil A., at home. Interment at Siloam, Tuesday.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

This is not the kind you have when you want to give your friends an opportunity to contribute something toward the church. This one occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Garland in Whips Cove, and was held in honor of their daughter Gertie who had reached her fourteenth year. About thirty invited guests were present, and the supply of ice cream and cake was abundant. Miss Gertie received a number of nice presents, the guests had a delightful time, and went home with the only regret that Gertie could not have two birthdays in one year.

MRS. FRANK.

Mrs. Frank, wife of Rev. A. L. Frank, died of typhoid fever at the M. E. parsonage, Hustontown, Wednesday morning August 1, 1900 aged 29 years. Besides her husband she is survived by two sons, Orville and Nelson, aged respectively 9 and 11 years. Her remains were taken to Newport, Perry county, Wednesday afternoon for interment. She had been sick since the fourth of July.

WILLIAM MORTON.

Mr. William Morton died at his home at Portland, Jay county, Indiana, on the 14th of June at the advanced age of 64 years, 3 months and 7 days. Mr. Morton was born and spent his youth in this county. He was a brother of Mr. George Morton of Belfast township, and an uncle of Judge Morton of this place.

Did you ever try washing your windows with coal oil? Take one-fourth cup of oil, filled with boiling water and proceed to wash, then polish with a dry cloth; can dry the glass in half the time as when pure water is used.

Waynesboro Methodists will build a \$20,000 church, half of which has been subscribed.

PERSONAL.

Warfordsburg's genial merchant, W. P. Gordon Esq., was in town Tuesday.

Mr. John Hess and daughter Mrs. W. H. Pittman of Hesses Mill were in town Tuesday.

Mr. Harvey Stoner, of Lancaster, is visiting his father, Mr. William Stoner, of this place.

John Sipes, of Harrisburg, is visiting his father T. Irwin Sipes, of Licking Creek township.

Wm. H. Peck, Esq., and David Harr were business visitors at the county seat Monday afternoon.

Mrs. N. J. Sinnott, of Philadelphia, spent the past two weeks with Miss Fannie Hess near Needmore.

Mrs. Daniel Mock is visiting her daughter, Mrs. George Everhart, at "Oakdale Farm" this week.

Frank Ranck and Charlie Rankin, two Bethel township citizens, spent last Friday at McConnellsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Fisher and Miss Lydia Peck, of Gem, spent last Saturday at the picnic at Clear Ridge.

Miss May Ash, of this place, left yesterday morning for a four week's visit to friends at Hughesville, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse McClain and their little daughter Lillian of near New Grenada spent Tuesday in town.

Miss Margaret Pence of Marshalltown, Iowa, is visiting the family of Mrs. J. S. Pittman of this place.

Miss Fannie Hess, of Needmore, spent Saturday evening and Sunday with the family of Daniel Mock in Tod.

John Gress, who has been at Clearfield for some time, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Gress of this place.

Mrs. Abbie Speer and daughter Miss Anna, of Salvia, spent a few days the past week with friends at McConnellsburg.

Harry Denisar and his sister Miss Bessie, of Welsh Run, spent Saturday and Sunday with friends on this side of the mountain.

Mr. and Mrs. George Everhart, of Ayr, spent Sunday with Mrs. Everhart's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Mock, of Tod.

Es-Commissioner W. L. Cunningham and Abram Anderson, both of Wells Valley spent Monday night at McConnellsburg.

Miss Ella Knauff, of Jugtown, and sister Mrs. P. McIntyre, of New York, spent Thursday of last week at the home of Miss Minnie Mock in Tod.

Miss Minnie Sipes, of Philadelphia, is spending her annual summer vacation with her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. Nelson Sipes, of this place.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Spangler of Wells Tannery spent Saturday and Sunday with the family of Mr. and Mrs. Will Hoke near town.

Mrs. George McQuade and daughter Ella who had been visiting friends in Altoona, returned Saturday. They expect to locate in Altoona in the near future.

Mrs. John Mock and son Russel and daughter Orpha, and Miss Minnie Mock spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of their uncle, J. W. Miller at Burnt Cabins.

Mrs. Lottie Over and son Edgar Fulton who have been spending several weeks at the Washington House at this place, left for Bedford at noon last Friday.

Mr. L. P. Gordon, one of West Newton's prominent business men, accompanied by his son Master Charles, is visiting his parents, Hon. and Mrs. Peter Gordon at Fort Littleton.

Miss Jennie Kuhn and her nephew, Master Edmund Kerper, were in town Tuesday. They returned from Cincinnati a few days ago and will spend the summer months at Big Cove Tannery.

Mrs. William Mack, of Kearney, Mrs. George Sheffield of Fort Littleton, and Miss Annie Nail late of Kearney, now of Fort Littleton—all sisters—spent Monday afternoon at McConnellsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Palmer, formerly of this county but now residents of the "Sunflower State" are now visiting Mr. Palmer's brother A. C. Palmer and other friends in Belfast township and other parts of the county.

Mrs. Alvah Pittman and her sister, Mrs. McIntyre, of New York City, spent from Tuesday of last week until Friday in Franklin county. They were accompanied home by their nephew, V. H. Knauff of Mercersburg.

Mr. George C. Fore, Philadelphia Manager of Pletcher's Baby Castoria Co., was a pleasant caller at the News office Monday. Mr. Fore is a son of the late David Fore of Tod township, and has been visiting the family of Char. McGehee of Burnt Cabins.

Mr. Ernest Linn, who had been spending his vacation with his parents Mr. and Mrs. John Linn, of this place, left last Friday for Glenn Campbell, Indiana county, where he has employment in a tailoring establishment. He was accompanied as far as Altoona by his sister Miss Jessie, who will visit her sister Ada.