

# The Fulton County News.

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## FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Editor Barron's First School. Recollections of Mrs. Sterrett, Ino. S. Robinson, Davy Dunlap and Others.

EDITOR NEWS:—There were one or two other teachers of the olden time that I should not neglect to speak of before leaving that subject. One of these was Mrs. Sterrett. She came from Chambersburg to McConnellsburg about the time my father moved there or a little after and opened a school in the stone residence which she owned and I presume lived in till her death. She taught continuously while we lived there and was teaching still when I was back there in 1873; how long she taught after that I do not know.

She was one of nature's noble women. She was intelligent and full of pluck and energy. She loved to do good. When I saw her last she told me she was thankful that she had been the instrument of teaching so many children to read the Word of God. She and my mother and sister were very intimate friends and she was often at our home. Her family consisted of Ella, Ben, Clara and Nead. I wonder if any are living yet. Ben, I understood, became sheriff of Fulton county.

The other teacher I would mention was John S. Robinson. He came there in the fall of 1853, and started a high school which I attended but I think only taught one or two terms. He was a brother of Dr. James Robinson and a nephew of Samuel U. He was the first to introduce modern methods in teaching and classification of pupils. Among the students attending his school, I remember the names of John A. Robinson, William Tritle, William Kendall, Charley Robinson,—well I can't recall any other names just now. The school was held in a brick building in the western part of the town, I forget who owned it then, I have never heard what became of John S. Robinson.

It was while I was going to school to E. G. Day that one of the directors of the Vallance district came to see me about taking the school, I think it was Caspar Miller. He came to the school house and asked to see me. I was somewhat astonished when he told me what he wanted. I told him I was rather young to take charge of a school being only sixteen, but he said they wanted a teacher badly and could not get any and finally persuaded me to try it. He said they had some rough boys over there that delighted in running over a teacher but that the directors would stand by me and see me through. So I was engaged for three months at \$14 a month and my board was fifty cents a week. Just think of that! The school house was one of the old fashioned kind with one long desk along each side of the room and benches with no backs, to sit upon. There was no chair for the teacher—simply a short bench. There was but few in attendance the first day, and I had hard work putting in the time. The only books they had was the old blue back spelling book, the new testament to read in and for arithmetics, any old thing would do. But I went to work to do the best I could. The school was not large and I had the more time to give individual attention to pupils.

I was greatly disappointed with the treatment the scholars gave me. From what I had heard of the school I expected trouble; although there were a number of boys and girls older than I was, I had not the least trouble with them the whole winter not having to punish a single scholar. I never saw a school better behaved, and if I do say it myself, I think it was a success and I earned my money. There were several that commenced with their A B C's and were able to read fairly well in the testament at the end of the term.

I boarded with Jacob Ambrose. He lived about three-fourths of a

mile east of the school house, and had a saw mill on the branch that runs through his farm. He had four daughters and a son. All went to school to me but the eldest, Mary. The others were, Nancy, Ellen, Catharine, and little Jake. I wonder if any are living. The only other families that I can now recall were, the Vallances and the Glasses. The other names have all passed from my recollection. But what wonder! It is fifty years ago, and I have never been back among them since I taught the school. The Glass boys were famous rifle shots. The boys were all grown, but the girls Maggie and Lillie, came to school to me. The last day I spent over on the ridges was the Saturday after the school closed. Old Mr. Glass had a barn raising and, of course, the neighborhood all went to it, and made quite a frolic out of it. It was that evening that the young folks went over to the Dutch Corner to the spelling at Davy Dunlap's school. I remember him well. My first recollection of him was at Ft. Littleton, when I was probably eight years old. He was clerking in Isaac Dubb's store, and used to talk to me and give me candy when I came to the store. How these little acts of kindness and attention will linger in their recollection through a long life!

## Dickeys Mountain.

Rev. Funk preached at Bald Eagle last Sunday at ten o'clock.

Mrs. Cattlett is spending a few weeks with her daughter, Mrs. P. P. Shivas.

Mr. S. L. Simpson spent last Sunday in Hancock.

Rev. Funk and daughter, Miss Cora, of Needmore, spent Sunday with Mrs. Hess.

George Bishop was in our vicinity last week. Mr. Bishop has ordered a fine lot of fruit trees for our farmers.

Rev. Garland will preach at Board Yard next Sunday at ten o'clock.

Our merchant, miller, sawyer and farmer, Dennis Everts, is very happy. A little daughter arrived at his home last Tuesday.

## Covalt.

Mrs. John C. Brewer is convalescing.

Miss Reba Brewer continues very ill.

Mrs. Palmer Bernhart is very poorly with tonsillitis.

"Aunt Lib" Bailey, who was so seriously hurt last October is able to walk again and do light work. She visited Mrs. Fannie Bernhart one day last week.

Mrs. D. A. Stoops and five children, of McKeesport, Pa., are visiting her mother, Mrs. Dolly Graves, and her sister Mrs. W. C. Peck and a host of friends and schoolmates, who welcomed her back to old "Thompson."

Miss Anna O'Rourke is visiting her brother, James O'Rourke.

The singing at Wm. Sigel's Saturday evening was well attended. All report a good time.

Mr. John Covalt has gone to Johnstown, Pa., to spend the summer with his son, B. F. Covalt, and daughter Mrs. Carson Batt. His daughter, Mrs. George Humbert of Big Cove Tannery accompanied him.

H. W. Hatfield made a flying trip to Franklin county, Saturday.

## As His Mother Used to Do.

He criticised her pudding and he criticised her cake; he wished she'd make the biscuit his mother used to make; she didn't wash dishes and she didn't make stew, and she didn't mend the stockings as his mother used to do. Oh, well, she wasn't perfect, but she tried to do her best; until at length she thought it time for her to have a rest. So when one day this man had growled and whined the whole day through, she turned him up and fanned his pants—as his mother used to do.

Preaching at Siloam next Sunday morning at 10:30, and at Asbury at 8 p. m.

## EXTENSION OF THE WABASH.

May Run Through Upper End of This County.

Last Thursday's Philadelphia Record says that according to the latest information, George Gould contemplates an extension of the Wabash eastward from Pittsburg via Greensburg, Latrobe, Somerset, Bedford and Hustontown to a connection with the Western Maryland and the Reading near Shippensburg.

The route outlined for the Wabash extension eastward from Pittsburg is known to be 35 miles shorter than the Pennsylvania Railroad, and the grade selected is reported to be only 52 feet to the mile, or 1 per cent. The completion of this line guarantees to the Wabash 3,000,000 tons of freight per annum from the United States Steel Corporation alone, and protects that Trust from any further increase in rates on the part of the Pennsylvania Railroad. It is understood that J. Pierpont Morgan, acting upon the advice of Andrew Carnegie, is using his best efforts to have this great trunk line completed for the better protection of the United States Steel Corporation.

So pronounced have the friends of Mr. Morgan been in their advocacy of the greater Wabash that it has been reported, with some semblance of authority, that Mr. Morgan stands ready, if necessary, to establish direct friendly relations between the Gould interests and the Reading system, whereby the Wabash, under certain conditions, can have a Philadelphia terminus, the advantages of which are obvious. The persistent report that an understanding has been reached between Mr. Morgan and Mr. Gould is very largely responsible for the recent and continued activity of Reading shares.

The route selected for the proposed line from Pittsburg eastward to a point in the Cumberland Valley is the same as that traversed by the lines of the old American Rapid Telegraph Company, built in 1880, and since taken over by the Western Union. The advantages of this route over that of the Pennsylvania Railroad were pointed out to Mr. Gould by the telegraph men who came directly in contact with him in the management of the Western Union, and for months past, surveyors and engineers have been going over the ground preparing data preliminary to the actual working surveys and plans.

It is an established fact that this route from Pittsburg to the East was first mapped out for the Pennsylvania Railroad, but for some reason, it was abandoned for the Juniata route.

## Laidig.

Dr. E. J. Miller of Everett visited Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Lyon last Saturday.

The recent rains and warm weather have caused the corn to grow rapidly and started the late grass to grow.

Some one has been in the snake killing business. A pile of eight snakes, some of them copperheads, some blacksnakes and some rattlesnakes having been seen along the State Road at the foot of Sideling Hill last Friday.

Since writing the above we learn that Stephen Wilson and Jesse Miller killed quite a lot of snakes while gathering raspberries last week.

Some of our people attended Independence Day Celebration at Hustontown, but were disappointed in not hearing some of the speakers that had been advertised to speak.

Last Thursday evening quite a storm passed over parts of this town hip, uprooting trees and blowing down trees and fences.

One of James Hampton's little boys became quite sick at Hustontown last Friday. His sickness was thought to have been caused by eating pie in the pie race.

## Laudanum by Mistake.

One day last week Mrs. Susie Egulf of this place felt a little out of sorts physically, and went to the cupboard where she kept some medicines, and took a spoonful of what she supposed was an effective liniment that she had often used before. After swallowing the medicine, she was horrified at discovering that she had poured the dose out of the laudanum bottle. Fortunately the laudanum had been in stock several years, and with its age the mischievous qualities of the drug had mellowed down so that there was just about enough life left in it to make Mrs. Egulf feel comfortable, and no ill effects followed, what might have been attended with serious consequences.

## New Grenada.

John A. McClain and Wm. S. Hunter made a trip to Orbisonia last Saturday evening.

Hayes Bergstresser of Pittsburg, is spending ten days vacation with parents and friends at Waterfall.

Nettie Heeter of Knobsville, visited her mother a day and night here last week.

Jacob Shafer and family of near Saltito, visited his brother and family on Sunday at New Grenada.

Chas. Thomas and his new wife of Saltito, drove up on Sunday to his old home in our village.

Tillie Winegardner is spending a week with friends in Taylor.

E. W. McClain has closed out his store at Enid.

Most of our young sports spent the Fourth pleasantly at Hustontown, and their good and manly conduct speaks well for our quiet peaceable village. That's right, boys; always be good and you will be happy.

At this writing, the life of G. W. Edwards of Enid, hangs in the balance, the result of a paralytic stroke last Saturday.

The Wells Valley cornet band held a picnic in Elias' woods on the Fourth, to raise funds for repairing instruments.

New Grenada has two young men, George Alloway and Bertie Heeter who are excellent miners. During the last two weeks—or nine and a half days, they loaded out 133 tons of top coal at Woodvale shaft at 65 cents a ton making their wages amount to \$86.40.

The telephone business, of late, is almost to a standstill on account of the electric storms, and the carelessness of some of the operators, in not turning off their phones. If they have ears I should think they would burn, by the amount of cuss words used by other operators.

Libbie Grissinger left on Friday for Huntingdon where she is having her eyes treated by Dr. Sears.

The publisher of the Valley Journal, an up-to-date 5-column quarto, published at Millvale, a suburb of Pittsburg, has secured the services of Clarence B. Sipes, a former foreman in the office of the Fulton County News. Now the paper is just "getting there."

We clip the following from a copy of a recent issue: "Last week we had the satisfaction of adding more than a hundred subscribers to our list. We believe that this paper is better prepared to meet the demands of the public than ever, having enlisted for the mechanical department a young man from the hilly old county of Fulton, this state, that proudly boasts of ten feet of railroad across one corner. He comes from one of the staid old families down that way and has left the parental roof and crossed the hills to seek his fortune."

A recent letter received by her mother states, that Miss Maggie Unger has been removed from the hospital to the Association rooms, and the wound healed, but she is not able to bear her weight on her foot, and fears she will have to have the leg broken again and the bone re-set.

## A MOTHER FRIGHTENED.

Her Baby-boy Climbs to the Comb of the Roof.

From the Harrisonburg, Va., News of July 1. Little Sieber Mellott, the twenty-months-old baby-boy of Mr. and Mrs. William Mellott, of Sky, [formerly of Fulton county, Pa.] put up an unexpected acrobatic performance on his father's house top the other day which equals the feats of the most daring circus performers and shows that the child has a nerve that would soon put him easily in the front ranks of mid-air performers had not his thrilling performance so startled his parents that he is not apt again to have an opportunity for cultivating his exceptional talents so long as his parents can possibly keep him safely under their own roof.

While Mr. Mellott was away at his work and his wife was busy indoors attending to household cares, little Sieber amused himself by playing about in the yard and watching his grandfather, Jacob Hinegardner, who was engaged in repairing the shingle roof on top of the two-story house. After some time, quitting his work and descending to the ground by means of a ladder which ran up to the spouting in the corner formed by the L, and which he allowed to remain standing against the house, Mr. Hinegardner left the place.

He had not been gone long when Mrs. Mellott inquired of the other children about the child, and was informed he was busy at play. A few minutes later she went out herself to look after him and to her surprise discovered he was not to be seen about the yard. Her amazement and alarm can be better imagined than described when, on glancing toward the ladder and from there to the house top, she beheld her baby standing erect on the comb of the roof looking down toward and laughing at her.

Although frightened until almost speechless and really fearing to move lest her child should stir, and losing his balance fall to the ground, nevertheless the mother dashed to the ladder and started to ascend in an effort to rescue the babe.

The little fellow was first made aware of his mother's approach when she had gained the top rounds and was preparing to climb up onto the roof. When he first saw her his hearty greeting thrilled her with horror, for, giving a little scream of delight he clapped his hands and springing from his position started toward her.

"Would he fall and if so could she catch him?" These were the thoughts which flashed through her brain as she steadied herself for the effort she would make to save him. To them he made happy answer as, with merry laugh and lively patter of bare little feet over the shingles, he rapidly ran down over the roof into his mother's outstretched arms.

In order to reach the roof, the child had been forced to climb from the ladder out onto a scantling and from there to the house top, for the ladder rested on a scantling which had been nailed across the corner in order to prevent the ladder's damaging the water spouts. The child made the ascent unnoticed by his older brothers, who were playing in another part of the yard.

When called upon to do so, the refusal to assist an officer of the law to make an arrest is a crime, by the law of Pennsylvania, but it is seldom that the law in this respect is enforced, but people who attend the September criminal court of Franklin county will see such a case tried. Thomas Byrum and Norman Swartz, of Waynesboro, when deputized by an officer to assist in the arrest of a law-breaker, refused and are now under \$100 bail to answer to the charge of "refusing to assist an officer while endeavoring to arrest Charles Schildtnecht.

## Truax-Mellott.

At the residence of the officiating minister Elder C. L. Funk of Belfast township, on Wednesday July 2, 1902, Mr. Thomas A. Truax of Needmore, and Miss Nellie A. Mellott of Sipes Mill were united in marriage.

## Saluvia.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis C. Mann and little daughter Miss Miriam, of Everett, were visiting Mr. Mann's parents Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Mann, last week.

Mrs. Harriet Deshong, and daughter Miss Lina A. Deshong of Pleasant Ridge, spent last Wednesday, with Mrs. L. E. Harris.

Miss Nellie Daniels, of Harrisonville, has been in ill health the past week.

George Schooley, W. E. Bair, and Harvey Strait employees of the Western Union Telegraph company, who had been spending a short vacation at their respective homes, returned to their work in the Lebanon Valley Monday.

Isaiah Kline, met with a serious accident last Monday, while engaged in shooting fire crackers at W. R. Spoor's store. A large one exploded in his hand, seriously injuring the hand and destroying the sight of his left eye. He is to be congratulated that it was no worse.

Mrs. John H. Kline, is suffering from a fractured wrist, the result of a fall last Wednesday morning.

The Handkerchief Social held at Asbury last Wednesday evening was fairly well attended, and a neat sum realized.

A large delegation from this vicinity were among the big crowd that attended the ice cream social at Hustontown last Friday.

The festival held by the Oak Glen Band, Saturday evening was a big success and the members of that organization, have proven by their conduct both at home and abroad, that they are deserving of the patronage bestowed upon them.

William Wink, Prof. B. N. Palmer, and E. N. Akers assisted our band in entertaining the large crowd last Saturday evening.

Among the large number of students from this vicinity attending the Needmore normal, are Misses Katharine Metzler, Mary Daniels, Dora Deshong, and Messrs Frank Daniels, Loy Hollenshead and David R. Strait. It is probable there will be others.

There was a large congregation at Asbury Sunday morning to enjoy the Children's Day exercises, which were rendered in a very pleasing manner. Rev. Dr. W. A. West of McConnellsburg, was present and delivered an address urging the children and youth, of the importance of coming to-day.

Miss Ruth West of Chambersburg attended the services at Green Hill Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Booty and children of Bedford, were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sipe, and Mrs. Booty's mother, Mrs. Ruth Swope, last week.

## Lecture.

The Rev. Samuel Fox of Littlestown, will deliver a lecture in the Methodist church in this place Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, under the auspices of the Epworth League.

Subject, What I saw in Europe. Admission free. Doors open at 7:30. All are invited.

J. S. Whitmer who has been in the grain elevator business at Mercersburg for twenty-five years, and is well and favorably known to many Fulton county farmers, has retired from business, having sold his interest in the elevator of J. S. Whitmer & Co., to Fred Witherspoon, and Thomas W. Walker, who with John A. Witherspoon comprise the new firm.

Dr. J. L. Bradley and D. F. Metcalf of Mercersburg spent Friday at McConnellsburg.

## EX-DIRECTOR TALKS.

He Makes Some Remarks On Clem's Ninth Annual Report.

## EDITOR NEWS:

It is putting it mildly to say that I was astonished when I read the latter part of Mr. Chesnut's ninth annual report in the News last week.

I do not question the fact that Mr. Chesnut did good work in the schools, but it looks to me now like he was trying to tear down what he built.

There are those in the County who may not be acquainted with Mr. Barton, and who may be influenced against him by Mr. Chesnut's insinuations, to look with suspicion upon the ability of Mr. Barton, thus to a certain extent handicapping him in the outset of his work; for without confidence, there cannot be harmonious work.

More than this. Mr. Chesnut tries to make it appear that Mr. Barton is incompetent, and questions the morals and veracity of him, and of the directors who supported him.

I know not what means may have been used; but, if anything unfair was done, I feel safe in saying it was done without the knowledge of Mr. Barton, whom I have known for many years, and have always found him to be a gentleman in all that the term implies; and that his character will compare favorably with that of his opponents who came forward after his election in the convention on the 6th of May and gave him their hand and promised that he would have their co-operation and support in his work in the schools. I will leave it to the readers of Mr. Chesnut's "report" whether that promise is being kept while he is trying to "down" the man before he has had a chance to begin the duties of his office.

Mr. Chesnut, as well as some of the other candidates, told me that if Mr. Barton had staid in the County to do his teaching, it would have been useless for any one to oppose his election.

Now, if being a member of the faculty in one of the leading professional training schools for teachers in the state, and especially in the school in which Fulton county is a part of the district; if coming in contact and enjoying the personal friendship and confidence of the leading educational men in the State; if attending county institutes in different parts of the State as a popular and able instructor—I say if these things disqualify a man then Mr. Barton is a misfit; but if not, then his chances of success are at least equal to a man who never taught a day in a graded school in his life, and who scarcely ever looked beyond the mountain tops of his own county.

His reference to the directors who did not happen to feel that he was the "whole thing," is an insult and a slander that will not be soon forgotten.

The writer of this supported Mr. Barton through a clear sense of duty, and will not now sit quietly by and hear such charges made without protesting.

## AN EX-DIRECTOR.

July 4, 1902.

## Sale Register.

Saturday, July 12.—Mrs. Fannie G. Rider will sell at her residence at Thomastown 1 1/2 mile west of McConnellsburg, all her household and kitchen furniture. Sale begins at 1 o'clock.

To enlist in the United States army applicants for first enlistment must be between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five years, of good character and temperate habits, able-bodied, free from disease and must be able to speak, read and write the English language.

Oliver E. Lightner was among those from Mercersburg who came over to witness the ball game on Saturday.