

The Fulton County News.

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HORRIBLE TRAGEDY AT JOHNSTOWN.

Wife and Mother-in-law Murdered in Stillness of Night. Sister-in-law Attacked.

Dr. J. B. Mellott, of Needmore, sends us a letter from his son, Mr. S. L. Mellott, who resides at Johnston, Pa., giving the details of a horrible tragedy that occurred in that city recently. The victims of the murder lived in Mr. Mellott's house last winter, and are well known by Rachel, a daughter of Dr. Mellott, who visited her brother at Johnston.

The members of the murdered family are Mr. and Mrs. George Barringer, the latter 47 years of age; Irene, aged 20, a daughter of Mrs. Barringer, by a former marriage, and who was married to Jacob Houser, the murderer, but who, on account of the cruel treatment she received from him, had returned to her mother's home; and Anna McGonigle, aged 12 years, a sister of Mrs. Houser, who also lived in the Barringer home.

Houser had frequently tried to persuade his wife to return to his home and live with him, but remembering her former experience with him, she steadily declined. The evening before the murder, he met her on the street, and when she again refused to go with him, he told her that he would kill her.

About 2 o'clock the next morning he went to the Barringer home, listened carefully by the side of a window downstairs for the sound of some one about.

The house was in darkness and all the inmates were asleep. The man carefully raised the window, brushed aside some of the snow and without making a sound got in, stepping over a table on the interior. As yet no one made a sound. The desperate man removed his coat, hat and shoes. Then he met the first obstruction. A small dog owned by Mr. Barringer snapped at his heels as he was walking upstairs. His wife, hearing the noise, awoke, as did the little McGonigle girl. Neither knew what was coming. Then a dark form appeared by the side of the bed and a pair of hands clasped Mrs. Houser. She screamed. The hands were relentless. A knife was plunged deep into the woman's throat. In the rear room of the house were sleeping George Barringer and his wife. They heard the disturbance on the first floor of the house. The barking of the dog first aroused them, but thinking that the animal was merely barking at outsiders, they paid little attention to it. Then they heard a man walking up the steps and the little dog trying his best to prevent what was to come following afterward. "George! I believe that's Jake coming after Irene. Go and see." Mrs. Barringer called out these words to her husband. Both leaped out of bed. Mrs. Barringer was first to see what had occurred in the other room. By the dim light burning there she saw her dead daughter lying on the floor. Her other daughter was lying huddled in a heap. Houser was standing looking at his deed. In his hand was the big knife with which he had accomplished such terrible destruction.

Mrs. Barringer shrieked. A woman of stronger nerves would have done like wise. At that the wife murderer turned. He made a lunge at his mother-in-law. The long blade struck her in the back and she staggered against the door jamb for support. The knife again plunged through the woman's back. Houser seemed possessed of a maniacal rage. Quickly burying the knife to the hilt in her back he turned the woman over and stabbed her in the breast, as he had done the daughter. The limp body of the dead woman sank to the floor behind the kitchen stove and Houser turned to confront Barringer, who had secured a revolver and was coming toward him. Barringer aimed at Houser and pulled the trigger, but the weapon

STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Bill Provides for Commissioners at \$10,000 Per Year.

A bill to create a state department of public health has been prepared at the instance of the state leaders. This department is to take the place of the state board of health and will be offered in the present legislature.

The bill provides that the department shall be presided over by a commissioner of public health who shall have almost unlimited powers to adopt and carry out measures for the safeguarding of health. In connection with the department will be a commission of seven members selected from different parts of the state, by the governor and this commission shall aid the department in an advisory capacity.

The commissioner's salary shall be \$10,000 a year and he will have under his directions, townships and cities, whose duties in addition to the supervision of the health of the residents will consist of the enforcement of measures to prevent the pollution of creeks and rivers and for assuring pure water companies and municipalities.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

Roosevelt's Plurality in Pennsylvania 505,519 Votes.

By Act of Congress, the Presidential electors of each State met on the second Monday of this month, at noon, and cast their votes for President and Vice-president. 476 electors were chosen at the recent election, each State being entitled to as many as it has Congressmen and United States Senators. Out of the 476 electors, Roosevelt and Fairbanks received 336 votes and Parker and Davis 140. Pennsylvania's 34 electors cast their solid vote for Roosevelt and Fairbanks, and why should they not, as they received over half a million plurality. The first elector on the republican ticket, received 840,949, and the first on the democratic 335,430, a plurality of 505,519. While Robert Pitarro, the first named on the republican ticket received 840,949, Maj. Levi G. McCauley, the second on the ticket, only received 840,294—665 votes less. It is thought that many republicans placed the X in the second square of the electoral ticket, thinking they were voting the entire ticket, while in fact they were only voting for the one elector. The last elector on the ticket received 840,181 votes, while scarcely any two received the same number. Senator Alexander, representing our Congressional district, received 849,214 votes.

Miss Cora Peck is spending a week in the home of W. L. Nace and wife at Carlisle.

would not explode and Houser made a lunge at Barringer, who closed the door on him and he left the house with the threat that he would return and kill the remainder of the family. Houser was captured at 10:30 in an abandoned mine, nearly frozen. He may not recover from the effects of the exposure. He had run two miles through zero weather hatless, coatless and shoeless.

One part of the affair that is deemed peculiar is that the murderer made no attempt to kill his son. The boy Charles, who is about 2 years of age, was in bed with his mother and is unharmed. He was found lying on the bed in a huddled heap where he had been thrown by his father and presented a most pitiable spectacle with his tiny hands covered with his mother's blood. Accordingly to the stories told by the survivors of the ill-fated family, the treatment that Houser gave his wife for the first year that they lived together after their marriage was awful. It is stated that he never worked and they frequently had very little to eat

FIRE IN WELLS.

Mother and Six Children Narrowly Escape Death.

Last Thursday night Mrs. Peter Garlick, living in the David Nail house in the upper end of Wells Valley, was awakened to find herself almost suffocated by heat and dense smoke in her sleeping apartment. A moment more revealed the fact that all the lower part of the house was afire, and her escape through the outside door was cut off. Not only was her life in peril, but sleeping in the same building were her six children, all under the age of thirteen years. Quickly arousing them, and assembling them in an upstairs room adjacent to a porch, they all climbed out on the roof that winter night with little more on than their night clothes, and the mother succeeded in getting herself and the children to the ground without any serious injury to herself or them. But help was needed, and the only thing was to send one of the little boys. The brave little fellow barefoot and half naked ran through the frozen snow to Allison Greendland's a distance of three-quarters of a mile. His feet were badly frozen and cut in the rough snow and ice.

By early morning the community knew of the disaster, and J. C. Kirk, V. D. Schenck and W. H. Spangler each started out with a sled to solicit aid for the now destitute family. In twelve hours there was a supply of nearly everything necessary to go on with their housekeeping, and A. F. Baker kindly placed one of his tenant houses at their disposal and Saturday morning found mother and children again housed comfortably.

At the time of the fire Mr. Garlick was at Kearney. He had been crippled in the fall, and had just returned to his work.

New Grenada.

Squire McDonough, who has been in Hancock, Md., for a few weeks, returned home last Sunday, looking much better.

County Superintendent Barton visited the schools in Wells last Tuesday and Wednesday, and made himself very useful at the Local Institute at No. 4, Tuesday night.

Ed. A. Alloway moved from the Valley to Robertsdale on Thursday. J. A. Repper moved into the house vacated by Ed.

Mrs. Scott Bolinger was summoned to the home of her mother, Mrs. Briggs, in Shade Valley, on account of the serious illness of her mother.

Samuel Alloway, who has a good job with P. R. R. Co., at Altoona, was home last Friday night and Saturday.

Guy Weaver, of Saltillo, is making frequent visits to our town, and by all appearances is interested in the music business, at the famous Black Bear hotel.

We notice that Dr. R. B. Campbell of our town was re-elected one of the directors of the First National Bank of Mount Union at their meeting last week.

Harry Black and Frank McNeal of Missouri visited friends here a few days the past week.

Grace Hamilton of Saltillo is visiting Harvey Shavers' a few days.

Sleighting is excellent and the young folks are making good use of it.

Daniel G. Rinehart and family of Taylor visited William Rinehart's on Sunday.

Some person shot the trained fox hound, "Time," of William G. Bergstresser recently. This was quite a loss to William.

Married.—At Robertsdale, Huntingdon county, on Thursday evening, January 12, by Rev. Reese of Dudley, Pa., Mr. Charles E. Knepper, son of David Knepper of Taylor township, this county, and Miss Florence Shaver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neville Shaver of Robertsdale.

You can have the NEWS one whole year for a dollar.

FINE SLEIGHING.

Many Have Been the Jolly Crews to Enjoy the Winter Sport.

Last Wednesday afternoon, Miss Olive Grissinger, teacher of the Primary school in this place, engaged two sleds and took the pupils in her department out for a sled ride. They were accompanied by Adam Grissinger, Jacob Comerer and Rev. A. G. Wolf, and went out to Juggtown and visited the school at that place, formerly taught by Miss Grissinger, but now taught by Miss Maye Mellott. During their stay at the Juggtown school, addresses were made by Mr. Grissinger, Miss Olive and Mr. Wolf, and a very enjoyable time was had—both as to the visit and the sleighride.

On Wednesday evening, Prof. Emory Thomas, provided the necessary transportation by which the scholars in the High School enjoyed a sleighride to the home of C. R. Spangler and wife, near Knobsville. The roads were in fine condition for the ride, and then the time spent in the hospitable Spangler home was crowded with enjoyment that will not soon be forgotten by the visitors.

At six o'clock Friday evening two big sleds were drawn up in front of the Public School Building where were assembled the pupils and teacher of the Intermediate Department. It only took about fifty-nine seconds for those two sleds to be filled with a jolly crowd, and soon the party were off for a sleighride to the home of the teacher, Miss Estelle Logue's parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Logue five miles south of McConnellsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Logue just turned their home over to the youngsters, and they all returned home unanimous in the expression, that they had never had such a nice time in their lives.

On last Saturday evening a sleighing party of twenty-eight, composed principally of the Dickson, Alexander and Sloan families of this place, drove up to Fort Littleton and spent a few hours very pleasantly at Hotel Hamil. The sleighing was fine, and with the mercury down almost to zero, it required considerable hustling and many wraps to keep the parties warm, but the excellent turkey supper prepared for the occasion fully compensated them for venturing out such a cold evening. Hotel Hamil is a favorite resort for sleighing parties from this place, as the hostess knows something of the capacity and desires of our people.

A lively crowd left Hustontown Sunday evening in a sled to attend preaching at Clear Ridge. Of course the good condition of the roads had nothing to do with their making up their minds to go to church; they would have gone if the sleighing had been twice as good. When about half the distance had been covered the driver thought he saw a chance to break the monotony, and decided to give his company a little scare, not intending that there should be an "upset;" but alas! for human calculations; the sled went over, the occupants went into the snow, and the driver was so nearly buried in the snow drift that he had to be dug out with a scoop shovel.

BURNT CABINS.

Miss Mame Kegerreis, of Fannettsburg, spent Thursday and Friday at the home of George Doran.

A. J. Fore, John E. Speck and Harry McGowan—all of this place, made a business trip to the County Seat last Tuesday.

Miss Blanche Skipper is visiting relatives at Springrun, Pa.

Rev. Phillips, who is holding a protracted meeting in the M. E. church of this place, has had fourteen conversions.

Oren Cisney, near this place, has recently been employed at Parkville, near Philadelphia in the steel mill.

Jacob Miller is some better at this writing.

RANGE BLOWN UP.

Frozen Pipes Responsible for Wreck in Horace Nace's Kitchen.

On Monday morning the water back in a steel cooking range in the home of Mr. Horace U. Nace of this place, exploded with great violence, breaking the range into fragments and hurling the pieces of metal in every direction, which badly shattered the ceiling and destroyed the furniture in the room in which the range had been placed. The concussion was so powerful that every window light was blown out as though they had been tissue paper, and, in fact the interior of the room was a complete wreck.

The range was an almost new one, of the b t pattern, and the waterback was connected with the tank in the bath room. During the extreme cold of Sunday night the water in the connecting pipes froze. To prevent just such an accident Mr. Nace had seen to it that there was a good fire in the range Sunday evening.

Monday morning Mrs. Nace was not very well and she and Donald their four-year-old son, remained in bed while Horace went down and started a fire in the range. After having done so and finished some other little chores, his mother-in-law, Mrs. S. M. Robinson, who lives just next door told him to come in and take breakfast with them and not disturb Mrs. Nace and Donald.

While seated at breakfast in the Robinson home, their ears were greeted by a deafening sound in the Nace home, as though the whole building had been blown to pieces. Hastening to the scene of the wreck, they found everything in the condition before stated.

The explosion came from steam generated in the water back and unable to escape on account of the ice in the connecting pipes.

There is much of good fortune in the disaster. Had Mrs. Nace risen as usual that morning, at the time of the explosion the family would have been seated at breakfast just a few feet from the range, and there is not one chance in a thousand that any of them would be alive today.

NEBRASKA LETTER.

The Springs and Wells in That State Never Affected by Drought.

Benedict, N. br., Jan. 9, 1905. EDITOR NEWS:—I always feel that I am getting my money's worth when I find my dollar for the FULTON COUNTY NEWS. It is almost the only means I have of keeping posted on what is going on in my native county.

I see you have had a long and severe drought in Pennsylvania. When I read about springs and wells failing there, that have never failed before, I consider that we are especially fortunate here with regard to our water supply. We have no springs but such as are near the level of the streams, these, however, seem to maintain an undiminished flow, even in the driest seasons. The wells are apparently never affected in the least by either dry or wet weather. The water always remains at the same level, which, here on my farm, is about 65 feet below the surface.

The temperature of the water is about 48 degrees at any season of the year. Our whole country is underlaid with a stratum of sand and gravel, through which the water flows from far up the Rocky Mountain slope.

We are having a dry winter, and only moderately cold. There has been very little snow yet. Temperature this morning was 2 below, which is the coldest we have had except one morning in December, when it was 7 below.

We have the Hessian fly in our wheat for the first time, hence, we are not expecting much wheat next harvest. All fields seem to be infested except a few of the latest sown.

D. W. BAKER.

DEATH RECORD.

Those Who Have Been Called Away During the Past Week.

Z. ALLISON SHAW.

Mr. Z. A. Shaw died at his home in Taylor township last Friday, aged 35 years, 10 months, and 12 days, and his remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Hustontown on Sunday, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. A. S. Wolf of the U. B. church.

Until the breaking down of his health a year or more ago, Mr. Shaw was one of Taylor's most energetic and enterprising farmers. He, several years ago, bought the old Johnnie Laidig farm, and set to work to bring it up to the ideas of the modern agriculturist. A modern dwelling was put up, and also one of the most commodious barns in the township, besides the making of such other improvements as would add to the beauty and fertility of the farm. Mr. Shaw was a most excellent citizen and neighbor, and the high esteem in which he was held was evidenced on Sunday when the largest concourse of people assembled to pay their last tribute of respect to his remains that has, perhaps, ever been seen in the neighborhood.

Mr. Shaw is survived by his widow and three children. He was a son of Mr. Lewis Shaw, and a brother of William, of Saltillo, and of Bert, Floyd, Nevin, and John. Two sisters, Ida and Georgia, survive him.

WILLIAM CHESNUT.

Mr. William Chesnut died at his home near Hustontown Tuesday, January 19, 1905, aged about 75 years. Mr. Chesnut had been in a state of declining health, incident to advanced age, for several months.

Funeral services were conducted at his late residence on Thursday by his pastor, Rev. B. A. Salter, and interment was made in the cemetery at Hustontown.

Mr. Chesnut was a fine old gentleman, and enjoyed the esteem of all who knew him. He was for many years a consistent member of the M. E. church.

He is survived by his widow and by three children, John, Joseph, and Annie, wife of John W. Laidig.

ELIZABETH FIELDS.

Miss Elizabeth Fields died at her home at Clear Ridge, last Sunday morning after a lingering illness, aged about 60 years.—Funeral yesterday and interment in the cemetery at Clear Ridge.

Miss Fields is survived by her aged mother, four brothers, and two sisters. Miss Fields had been a sufferer for a long time, but bore it all with a cheerful patience. She was followed to her last resting place by a large number of sorrowing friends.

MARGARET M. LUCAS.

Mrs. Margaret McLucas, widow of John McLucas, who died about the close of the Civil War, had a stroke of apoplexy last Sunday evening and died during the night at her home in the Corner, aged 70 years.

Mrs. McLucas is survived by one son, Solomon McLucas. Funeral yesterday and interment was made at the graveyard at the Reformed church in the Corner.

WEST DUBLIN.

D. D. Deshong, Jr., principal of Kearney Graded school, Bedford county, passed through here, Friday evening on his way to his home in Licking Creek township.

Clarence Hoover, of Licking Creek township, spent Sunday, Jan. 7th, at the home of his mother, Mrs. Andrew Hoover.

Z. A. Shaw, whose illness has been noted in the News, died at his home, Friday morning. Funeral services were held at Hustontown M. E. church. His family have the sympathy of the community in their bereavement.

Charles Deavry, who is visiting his parents, took his first ride upon the "goat" at Harrisonville, Saturday night, Jan. 7.

Frank Price returned to his work at Kearney, Monday, having been off several weeks on account of scarlet fever in his family.

ABOUT PEOPLE YOU KNOW.

Snapshots at Their Movements, as They Come and Go.

NAMES OF VISITORS AND VISITED

Home for a Vacation, Away for an Outing, a Trip for Business or Pleasure, You'll Find It Right Here.

Harry Peck, of Ambridge, Pa., is visiting among his relatives in Belfast township.

W. R. Spear of Saluvia, is attending court at Bedford county this week as a witness.

Mrs. Minnie Denisar, of Hustontown, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Youse this week.

Mrs. Mary B. Deshong and son Elias, of Andover, spent a few hours in town last Saturday.

Dr. and Mrs. F. K. Stevens and little daughter Ethel, spent Saturday and Sunday at Clear Ridge.

Miss J. met Zacharias of Chambersburg, is spending this week the guest of Miss Katherine Cook of this place.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bender were visiting friends in the vicinity of Burnt Cabins the first of this week.

Squire Bert Henn and Merchant W. R. Spear, of Saluvia, were business visitors in town last Saturday.

Mark Lodge and sister Miss Grace were guests of Hon. and Mrs. S. W. Kirk from Saturday until Monday.

Mr. W. B. Miller, one of our valued Dublin Mills subscribers was in town last Saturday and called at the office. His paper has a "6" on it, now.

The many friends of Mrs. John H. Wilt, formerly a resident of this place, but now of Waynesboro will learn with regret that she is in bad health this winter.

Samuel Mayne and wife, of Martinsburg, Pa., and Mrs. Mary Mayne and daughter, Annie, of Fort Littleton, were guests of Albert Stoner and wife last Sunday.

Our neighbor Albert Stoner, who has been a sufferer for a long time from occasional attacks of chronic appendicitis, has been confined to his home for several days.

W. H. Peck, of Gem, and N. H. Peck, of Ambridge, Pa., spent the time from last Friday afternoon until Saturday afternoon in the home of their brother Jonathan, near Knobsville.

John W. Selsor and sister, Miss Anne, have just returned from a very pleasant visit. Most of the time was spent by Miss Anne in Mercersburg, but John "did" most of the towns in the Cumberland Valley.

Mr. W. Scott Rinedollar, who had been spending a couple of weeks at the home of his parents in the Cove, returned to Everett last Saturday accompanied by Mr. C. B. Stevens of this place. Mr. Stevens returned Sunday.

Rev. H. G. Clare, of Millers-town, Pa., preached for the Greenhill and McConnellsburg Presbyterian churches last Sunday and was entertained in the home of Mrs. M. B. Trout. Mr. Clare was formerly pastor at St. Thomas, and has many friends in McConnellsburg.

James A. McDonough, Esq., who had been spending two weeks in the home of his brother-in-law George W. Smith at Hancock, has returned to his home in New Grenada. Mr. Smith brought him to this place Saturday evening and returned to Hancock Sunday.

By reference to the sale register it will be noticed that John H. Truax of the Meadowgrounds will have a sale. Mr. Truax has purchased a property in Charles-town, Franklin county, and expects to move into it between this and spring. We are sorry to lose two as good people as Mr. and Mrs. Truax from the county, but hope they may find their new home pleasant.