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BENTLEY MELLOTT DEATH

Story of the Sad Affair as Brought Out Before the Jury at the Coroner's Inquest.

MATTER STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION.

A short paragraph in the News last week told of the death of George Melott, 11-year-old son of Samuel Melott, near Foltz. The boy's name, we believe, is George Bentley, and he is better known as Bentley Melott.

There is a good deal of feeling among the neighbors and in the family of the boy's father, as to some one being, indirectly at least, responsible for the boy's death.

An autopsy by the Coroner and Drs. Brubaker and Nevin showed bad ruptures of the bowels and other serious internal injuries from which death came.

The witnesses examined were the boy's 17 year old brother Harvey; W. S. Kolb, U. S. game warden and storekeeper at Ungers; Miss Irene Sipes, at the tollgate; and others.

Their stories synopsised make this narra 1/2 of the facts:

Harvey Melott and his younger brother, Bentley, were with Carson McFadden. It was decided to "chip in" and get some whiskey. Near the distillery they met Ira Diehl and Edward Keyser, two lumbermen from the Big Cove. The matter of whiskey was spoken of and Diehl and Keyser got four quarts from the still house. Of this the Big Cove men gave the trio three quarts. The entire party then went to Mercersburg, where the two Mellotts and McFadden, helped the lumbermen unload their timber and load the wagon with coal. The older men of the party drank some in Mercersburg and the older Melott acknowledged that he gave his 11-year old brother one swallow of whiskey while in town. On the return trip the lumbermen offered to hire Bentley Melott at \$6 a month. They told him a horse would be furnished him and he could ride home every night, if he desired. Bentley agreed to this and in passing his home stopped and got together some clothing. He joined the two lumbermen. About 3:30 p. m. after passing the distillery, in Fulton county, Bentley fell from the lazy-board to the road and the rear wheel of the heavy wagon passed over his abdomen. Diehl and Keyser brought the unconscious boy to the tollgate and left. Mr. Kolb, son of W. F. Kolb, of Chambersburg, took the boy to the Melott home. The boy became conscious during the night and said he was given whiskey by one of the party. He said he fell off the wagon and got hurt.

The verdict was: "That Bentley Melott had come to his death by being run over by a wagon belonging to Ira Diehl, on the pike between Foltz and the first tollgate on the mountain and while evidence was produced showing the parties intoxicated and had given the boy whiskey we do not find evidence to show that the said intoxication of the men (Ira Diehl and Edward Keyser) in any way contributed to the boy's death. Nor was it shown that the boy became intoxicated from the whiskey given him or that the whiskey given was the cause of his fall under wheels of the wagon, thereby causing his death."

Samuel Melott, the boy's father, went to Chambersburg last Saturday to see the District Attorney and the Coroner of Franklin county. To the Coroner, he said he was satisfied with the verdict of the coroner's jury, having confidence in the personnel of the six men who investigated the cause of his son's death. He displayed no bitterness, but said he would like to see the men who gave his boy whiskey, punished. The Coroner said:

"My understanding with Mr.

SALE OF SCHOOL BONDS.

The Board \$396.40 "To the Good" in the Transaction.

The sale of the sixty-five \$100 bonds by the Borough school board last Saturday, brought out a large number of bidders. The bonds were sold singly, with privilege of taking five. The first five were due in one year, and five each succeeding year until 1920. Those due in 1 year, brought a premium of 97 cents; 2 years, \$1.25; 3 years, \$1.80; 4 years, \$2.62; and each succeeding year as follows: \$5.87, \$6.90, \$7.60, \$8.00, \$8.10, \$9.60, \$8.60, \$8.65 \$9.12.

The bonds draw 5 per cent. per annum, interest payable semi-annually.

Letha Bain.

A message by telephone was received at Webster Mills Tuesday morning, conveying the intelligence that Miss Letha Bain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Bain, near Webster Mills, had died at Waynesboro, Monday evening, and that her body would reach Mercersburg Tuesday evening. At the time the message came, Mrs. Bain was out in the mountain gathering huckleberries, and the husband was threshing up at Geo. Comer's. The parents had known nothing of their daughter's illness, and the news to them was a great shock.

Miss Bain was aged about 18 years, and was a most estimable young lady.

Shot Son For Groundhog.

A pathetic tragedy was enacted near Bedford last Saturday when Sylvester Emerick, an engineer on the Pennsylvania Railroad, accidentally killed his son, while they were hunting groundhogs.

Father and son were in the woods when the child got separated from his father, and later came up over a hillock. The father, thinking he was one of the animals they were hunting, fired quickly shooting the boy through the heart. Emerick is almost beside himself with grief.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bolinger, of Taylor, spent last Saturday in McConnellsburg.

Mellott was that the matter should not rest with the verdict of the jury. You see, the two men the boy began the journey over the mountain with were not present at the inquest. In his ante mortem statement to his mother, the boy said he had been given whiskey, and I am quite certain the district attorney will take whatever steps he thinks wise. We went as far as we could without the testimony of the men Diehl and Keyser. There was no effort to cover up anything, nor will there be. As coroner of the county I will give whatever assistance there is to the matter.

At the instance of the District Attorney, while in Chambersburg last Saturday, Mr. Melott went before a justice of the peace and swore out a warrant for the arrest of Edward Keyser and Ira Diehl, the men with whom the Melott boy had started over the mountain the day he was killed.

Hon. D. Hunter Patterson, Keyser's employer and whose team he was driving when the accident occurred, went before the Justice and entered bail in the sum of \$200 for a hearing. Mr. Patterson, it is understood, insisted there was no ground for prosecution. He happened to meet District Attorney Long, who told him the warrant had been issued and that he had better get Keyser a bondsman if he wanted to keep him in his employ until such time as the case is disposed of.

Harvey McFadden, of Mercersburg, will also be arrested for the same offence. Bail was set at \$200 each for a hearing before Magistrate Sanders in Chambersburg on Friday of this week.

Every effort is being made to find out and punish whoever gave the Melott boy the whiskey.

The Correct Game Law.

The last session of the Legislature made some changes in the game law. Various incorrect reports of the law have been published in some papers and as a result there are very few people who really know what the law is.

The bill to prohibit the killing of quail for three years failed of passage and the law on these birds is therefore unchanged.

The open season for killing game is as follows:

Plover, number unlimited, July 15 to December 1.

Doves, blackbirds and shore birds, number unlimited, September 1 to January 1.

Wild water-fowl, number unlimited, September 1 to April 10, without intermission.

Snipe, number unlimited, September 1 to May 1.

Pheasants, five in one day, twenty in one week, fifty in one season, October 1 to December 1.

Woodcock, ten in one day, twenty in one week, fifty in one season, October 1 to December 1.

Squirrels, six in one day, October 1 to December 1.

Bears, unlimited, October 1 to March 1.

Wild turkeys, one in a day, four in a season, October 15 to December 1.

Rabbits, unlimited, October 15 to December 1. The penalty for taking a rabbit out of a hole has been removed and it is now lawful to take them in any manner during the season.

Quail or partridge, ten in one day, forty in one week, seventy-five in one season, November 1 to December 1.

Deer, one each season, which must be a male deer with horns, November 15 to December 1. The new law prohibiting the use of automatic guns does not include the pump gun or lever gun.

Notice.

The Fulton County Veteran Association will meet at the Reunion grounds, near J. W. Hoop's, on Saturday August 10, 1907, at 1 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of selling the privilege of the different stands or booths, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the Committee.

The Reunion will be held on Friday September 6th, 1907.

Committee on supplies in each township:

Ayr—John F. Kendall, Scott S. Hann.

Belfast—Wm. Wink, W. B. Mel-lott.

Brush Creek—Wm. Waters, Morgan Barton.

Bethel—Jos. Fisher, Wesley Hill.

Dublin—John Kebaugh, John E. Speck.

Licking Creek—Jas. A. Sipe, S. B. Dishong.

Todd—James Connelly, Henry Wolf.

Thompson—John Fisher, James O'Rourke.

Taylor—Jacob Strait, Josiah Witter.

Union—Isaiah Lehman, John Parlett.

Wells—S. P. Wisbart, A. F. Baker.

McConnellsburg—D. T. Fields, Thomas Haul.

Committees are requested to notify S. C. Berkhart, Fort Littleton, Pa., the amount each has solicited not later than August 31, 1907.

Wm. MILLER, President.

Were Out Camping.

Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Sappington, Mr. and Mrs. J. Campbell Patterson, Walter Sappington and Miss Elizabeth Patterson, Daniel F. Trout and Miss Mayo Johnston, returned on Wednesday of last week, from the Cagon river, in West Virginia, where they had spent a week most delightfully camping. They speak in the kindest terms of the many nice people they met, and the hospitality shown them by the West Virginians in the vicinity of their camp.

BENJAMIN FISHER DEAD.

Waylaid on Public Highway in Thompson Township Early Monday Morning of Last Week.

DIED FOLLOWING SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

There was considerable excitement here Monday morning when it was reported that Benjamin Fisher, of Thompson township, had been waylaid along the public highway, had been shot, and that he had died on Sunday evening. At the same time Dr. W. F. Sappington, of Webster Mills, telephoned District Attorney Frank P. Lynch to come down and be present at a post mortem examination of the unfortunate young man.

The facts as we were able to gather them Monday evening were about as follows:

Benjamin Fisher, aged about 23 years, son of Banner Fisher, has for several years had his home in the family of Richard Hollenshead, of Thompson township. The evening of Sunday, July 21st, Benjamin spent with a lady friend in the Little Cove, across the line in Franklin county. He arrived at his home at Hollenshead's at 2:20 o'clock, Monday morning, and went to bed. At breakfast, Monday morning, Mrs. Hollenshead, who had noticed from her room that Ben had been restless during the after part of the night, remarked: "You did not sleep much last night, did you, Ben?"

"No, I didn't. Some one tried to get me as I was coming home last night."

Then he told her that on his return from the Little Cove, he had crossed Licking Creek, and was passing through a piece of woods, when, in the moonlight, he noticed a man standing on the side of the road. "The man fired two shots at me," said Ben, "but I heard but one."

"You heard but one, and you say he shot twice at you; how could that be?" said Mrs. Hollenshead.

"Well, I think I can prove it to you," and Ben got his hat, which showed that a shot fired from a revolver, had entered about an inch or more below the top of the hat and passed across the scalp and out at the other side of the hat about a quarter of an inch from the top, the hat showed that the assassin had fired the shot just as Ben was passing. Another hole out of the top of the crown of the hat showed that a second shot had been fired a little later, as that hole was in the back part of the hat. The first shot, perhaps dazed him so that he did not hear the second shot.

During the week which followed, Ben complained of a pain in his head, and of frequent nausea.

While the shot produced but a scarcely perceptible scalp wound, the young man felt a delicacy about the matter being made public, and did not feel that anything serious would come from it.

About four o'clock last Sunday evening, Ben remarked to Mrs. Hollenshead that he felt hungry, and started out from the house saying something about getting an apple.

Mrs. Hollenshead proceeded soon after to get supper, and when the family were ready to eat, Ben was not there. As he did not come in by the time the meal was ended, Mr. Hollenshead went out to look for the young man. First he went to the barn, and not seeing anything of Ben about, he went to Dave Gregory's near, and not finding him there, returned home. Just then, it occurred to him that Ben said something about getting an apple when he left the house, and Mr. Hollenshead went to the orchard and there found Ben lying with his head down the hill on his face. About four feet from Ben's feet, his hat was lying—the hat contained five eggs, two of which were broken. Mr. Hollenshead turned the body over and tried to rouse him, but soon found that the young man was dead.

Married.

HAMIL—MYERS.

On Wednesday, July 24, 1907, at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Lemuel Divons, Knobsville, Pa., Mr. John A. Hamil and Miss Clara Myers, both of Todd township, were married by Justice Lewis H. Wible.

MUMMA—HETTINGER.

In Hagerstown, July 11, Mr. Calvin Mumma, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Mumma, of Roxbury, Pa., and Miss Grace Hettinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Hettinger, of Waynesboro, were united in marriage.

The groom has been employed in the Frick shop for nearly two years. After a short visit in Hagerstown and Hancock, they returned to Waynesboro at which place they will reside. They have the well wishes of their many friends.

HOCKENSMITH—PRICE.

The marriage of James Hockensmith and Miss Stella Price, both of Johnstown, Pa., was solemnized at the home of the bride by the Rev. H. S. Steed, pastor of the Second Christian church in Moxham.

After the wedding the newly-married couple started east on an early train. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Keener of Park avenue, and during their absence will visit New York, Philadelphia, Atlantic City and other points of interest. The groom is a son of C. B. Hockensmith, formerly of this county, and has the best wishes of his many Fulton county friends. They were married last Thursday.

E. H. Kirk, of Hiram, brought to town Monday, his wife, Mrs. M. P. Mitchell his mother-in-law, and Lucy Eichel, a Colorado teacher who has been attending the Chicago University this summer, and who has been visiting in Mr. Kirk's family during the past week. The three ladies left on the stage at noon for the Jamestown Exposition, and they expect to visit Washington and other eastern cities before they return.

Dr. Sappington, of Webster Mills was notified, and also Magistrate W. W. Hewitt, and upon their arrival, an inquest was held composed of the following jury: Daniel F. Trout, foreman; Samuel Peck, J. C. Comer, Wilbur Comer, Port Carbaugh, Willard Litton, David Gregory, Reed Simpson, Ed. Simpson, Mac Johnson, Grant Bard, and George A. Winters.

Without making an autopsy, the jury returned a verdict that the young man came to his death from worry caused by being shot at by some unknown person with intent to kill.

As has been stated, District Attorney Lynch went down with Dr. Sappington to Hollenshead's Monday, when a careful post mortem examination was made, which showed that the path of the bullet across the young man's skull left a brown streak across the cranium, the cranium, itself, was not fractured, and outside of the fact that there was scattered blood under the skin, there was no evidence that the brain had been injured by the shot. A further examination showed that the heart was in bad condition, and that the liver was much congested; hence, there was no reason to believe that death did not result from natural causes, aside from the shooting.

Mr. Fisher was aged 22 years, 10 months, and 11 days, and was not known to have an enemy. Whether he had a rival suitor, or whether the shooting was the result of mistaken identity, may never be known. He was an industrious young man of most exemplary character, and his death causes much sorrow among his numerous friends.

The funeral took place Tuesday morning at nine o'clock, and his remains were interred in the cemetery at Pleasant Christian church.

NORTH DAKOTA.

D. W. Fraker Tells What He Saw Spending a Day at Devil's Lake.

Taking advantage of the Farmers' Grain and Shipping Company's Excursion to Devil's Lake, leaving Olmstead, N. D., 8:30 a. m., arriving at 10:30 a. m., at Great Northern Depot, Devil's Lake, and taking a car on the Chataqua railroad, we arrived on the grounds, Sunday, July 14th. Being an ideal day following refreshing showers during the night before, one is in a physical as well as psychical condition to inject a little rest and recreation in through the pores where the perspiration oozed out during the strenuous period of seed time in our locality here.

Nature has been busy ever since the great "Ice Sheet"—proverbial as well as geographically demonstrated on the topography of N. D.—slid and melted away to the northern sections of the "Globe" and left the natural depression which makes the Lake region known in all our geographies, clothing the terraces of the Lake shore with natural fauna and flora, until now it stands on the fringes of the lake as a beautiful forest, resplendent in trees, grasses, and flowers, in truth and sentiment as in the songs of Hiawatha and Minehaha. Even these woods hold a few remaining numbers of our dusky aborigines on the southern shore. Due south of the now famous summer resort above mentioned, stands the buildings and site of Fort Totten, Indian reservation, which tourists visit at this season of the year, by crossing over from the Chataqua grounds by steamers that ply on the Lake between the two points on schedule time. The regular as well as the popular price is one Eagle Dollar round trip, seven miles being the distance between the two points. The grounds are laid out in regular roadways and sylvan by paths with substantial buildings for the accommodation of visitors, while aside beautiful cottages have been built on regular lots on the grounds; also hundreds of tents are erected each season to serve as temporary quarters for families camping for the season, which, this year, began June 29th and closed July 10th.

Various amusements are enjoyed on week days: as Athletic Park Shooting gallery, bathing buildings, with an excellent approach to the lake. Merry go rounds and other minor sports of an innocent nature abound on the grounds; a grand band stand in the center of the grounds, an auditorium holding 5000 spectators, commodious hotel quarters, refreshment rooms; also, temporary headquarters for military troops during the State Militia's annual encampment, of 2 battalions of regulars, comprising 4 companies from Fort Lincoln, 3 miles west of Bismarck, overlooking the State's capital and Missouri river, where the famous explorers, Lewis and Clark, wintered with the Mandan Indians, during the winter of 1804-1805. Four companies E, F, G, H, commanded by Maj. Steadman, were encamped with 500 Militia south of the Park in commodious quarters. Governor Burke, being present on Sunday, reviewed the troops on parade and drill Sunday evening at 7 p. m. While the writer and friend Hansen Byers, were conversing with a number of regulars, were requested to take Major Steadman's and Governor Burke's horses up to the parade ground; so we arose to prominence very rapidly as we rode up the line to the camp ground amid the cheers of perhaps 40,000 spectators stretched along the road for three quarters of a mile, finally delivering our horses into the hands of the attendants of the Governor and Army officials. Music for troops was composed of a Band of 57 members, who played our national airs in front of the Columns of Infantry at

ABOUT PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Snapshots at Their Comings and Goings Here for a Vacation, or Away for a Restful Outing.

NAMES OF VISITORS AND VISITED

Miss Mollie Seylar, of Pittsburg, is here for a summer vacation with her sister, Mrs. S. M. Cook.

S. C. Yeakle and little daughter, of Mercersburg, were in McConnellsburg, Monday.

Mr. A. P. Akers, of Leechburg, Pa. is visiting his mother Mrs. Martha Akers at Sipes Mill.

Miss Katharine Jacobs, of Harrisburg, was a guest at the Fulton House over Sunday.

Miss Daisy Wink, of this place, is spending a couple weeks with her parents in Thompson township.

Miss Sadie Michaels, of Everett has been spending the past week with her sister Mrs. Geo. Hays of this place.

Prof. Harry E. Gress and family, of Jamonville, Pa., are guests of the Rexroth family at the Fulton House.

Rev. R. H. Hoover, of Perrysville, Md., left Tuesday after having spent a week of his summer vacation in McConnellsburg.

Mrs. Dr. W. L. McKibbin, who has been spending several weeks at Buck Valley, returned to her home at this place Friday.

Dr. and Mrs. Clarence N. Trout, of Red Lion, Pa., are spending a week, with the former's mother and sisters in this place.

Rev. G. W. McClary, of Spring Mills, Pa. and his sister-in-law, Miss Cora Doran, of Burnt Cabotus, spent a day in town last week.

Mrs. George W. Hays and sister, Miss Sadie Michael, were called to Waynesboro, Tuesday by the death of their sister, Mrs. P. M. Snider.

After a very enjoyable visit among his old time friends and neighbors in McConnellsburg, Mr. D. L. McNulty is again at his home in Laurel, Md.

Misses Marian and Jessie Sloan, who had been away visiting friends in Buffalo, Detroit and other cities, returned to their home in this place last Friday.

Misses Bess Simpson and Louie Johnson, of Thompson, were guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Johnson of this place last Sunday and Monday.

Mrs. James Foutz and three children, after boarding five weeks with Mrs. Barbara Houpt, returned to their home in Altoona last Wednesday. Their many friends here were sorry to see them leave.

7 p. m. With the firing of a cannon the Stars and Stripes were lowered from a tall flag staff, and the command passed in review back to their quarters; thus ending the day's maneuvers.

In the evening, speaking in the auditorium completed the Chataqua's program for the day. Incident with the departure of the crowd, three train loads of tired but orderly humanity rode out over the old Ice Age lake bed to Devil's Lake, and until midnight, they kept pouring in around the platform of the great Northern Depot. Not one intoxicated or noisome person was conspicuous in the surging stream of humanity, for which credit must, in the largest measure, be accredited to the persistent and systematic efforts of the Chataqua committee and order of W. C. T. U., who are doing so effective and high ordered work. One thing, too, noticeable, not a policeman or officer was seen on the grounds during the entire day, which is typical that enlightenment and civilization exists, as well as moves west.

D. W. FRAKER, Egeland, N. D.