

# The Fulton County News.

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## THE "CHINESER" WAS A JAP.

Automobile Man Tells Harrisburg Telegraph of His Experience IN FULTON COUNTY'S CAPITOL.

Last Friday morning the Chief operator at Bedford on the long distance phone, called up the operator, Miss Mabel Trout in this place and instructed her to notify the officers to be on the lookout for a black automobile in which were two Americans and a Chinaman—the latter believed to be the murderer of Elsie Sigel. The officers were notified, and they "looked out." The following exaggerated account of what happened in the next few hours was given in last Saturday evening's Harrisburg Telegraph. The Telegraph says:

"A rumor in McConnellsburg, Fulton county, that Leon Ling, the Chinaman wanted in New York city for the murder of Elsie Sigel, whose body was found in a trunk over a Chinese restaurant, caused three or four automobile parties, passing through the county yesterday afternoon to experience all kinds of inquisition and suffer the delay of several hours until the excited county officials could cool down and get their brains in good operation. William Siegfried, a former resident of this city, but now living in Bethlehem, passed through Harrisburg this morning with a party of friends in an automobile and told of the enforced halt in the county seat of the county, which has no railroads.

Siegfried, his wife, and another young married couple are on an extensive motoring trip. Yesterday afternoon they rolled into McConnellsburg for a light luncheon, intending to continue to either Chambersburg or Harrisburg before evening. Scarcely had the automobile halted in the square of the town, when an excited deputy sheriff climbed aboard.

"Whar's thet Chink?" he demanded fiercely, rolling a huge cud of tobacco in his mouth and flourishing a pistol, which dated back among the antiquities.

The women in the car shrieked and Siegfried looked around for help. He didn't know whether it was a lunatic or a desperado he was up against. The deputy sheriff took the silence as an affront.

Majesty of the Law.

"Consarn ye, ain't ye got no respect for the majesty of the law. I be the deputy sheriff, I be. Whar's thet Chink?"

"What Chink?" Siegfried asked.

"What Chink? Why the one thet's been ridin' around in this autemobile. Didn't we hear thet youns was hidin' the yaller cuss thet shot a girl in New York?"

A great light dawned on Siegfried. "Oh, you mean Leon Ling?"

"That's it. Leon Ling. Come on now tell me whar youns hid him. You better listen for by gosh this is Fulton county, and we don't have no pity for evildoers."

Just then another automobile rumbled into the square from another direction. The deputy sheriff dropped from the first car. "Here, Jim," he called to an assistant, who displayed a big badge on the lapel of his coat (the deputy sheriff had the insignia of office pinned to his galluses), come hold these here people. Maybe he's in the other autemobile." Then the majesty of the law chased across the square and boarded the other car. Siegfried saw the same occurrences happen there.

The crowd of curious town-folk was great. To see a murderer was enough to turn out a greater crowd than would a three ring circus, but to see a Chinese murderer, well the whole town

## SEVERE ELECTRIC STORM.

William Mellott, near Webster Mills, Narrowly Escaped Being Killed by Lightning Last Friday.

A heavy electric storm passed across the Cove south of Webster Mills about noon last Friday, during which time a number of trees were struck by lightning, some stock was killed, and William Mellott narrowly escaped instant death.

Mr. Mellott owns the Roller mill, formerly owned and operated by Adam C. Lauver, and lives in the large mansion near the mill, known to the older people as the Benjamin Fisher property. Mr. Mellott had been up the hollow west of the house chopping wood, and seeing the storm coming, he swung his axe over his shoulder and started home. When near the house it occurred to him that he would get a drink at the spring, and upon second thought, he concluded to take shelter under a tree about ten feet distant from the spring and "cool off" a little before quenching his thirst. There was a big tree right at the spring, and it was by the merest chance that he did not take shelter under its branches. He, however, had scarcely sat down at the root of the first mentioned tree, with the axe between his knees, than a violent crash occurred. The tree at the spring had been struck, three sheep near were killed, the axe was hurled from Mr. Mellott and he was stunned for a few moments, when he recovered. He has not since felt any ill effects of the shock.

A big oak, two feet in diameter standing at the end of Lamberston's lane, was struck and rendered to splinters.

Commissioner and Mrs. D. W. Cromer, of Fort Littleton, spent last Saturday at the County Seat.

was there and then some. The deputy sheriff, acting under directions from the sheriff, was busy swearing in a posse and soon he had both cars completely surrounded and the inmates all prisoners. There was vague talk of taking the entire party to the county prison, but the sheriff felt they would be safer in the automobile.

Six Cars Held Up.

By this time Siegfried was becoming exasperated but the arrival of another auto proved of some diversion. Within two hours no less than six cars were being guarded in the square. Headed by the deputy sheriff, a determined search was made for the Chinaman. Under seats and hoods, and even under the cars, the searching party looked. Army muskets, Civil war pistols, swords of the Revolution and pitch forks served as armament for the posse and searching party.

Finally even the deputy sheriff became scared at what he had done. There were six automobile parties each charged with being instrumental in helping Leon Ling to escape, and every one of the six were indignantly demanding instant release. The deputy sheriff perspired and studied the situation. Gosh darn if I know what to do," he muttered.

Just then the seventh automobile arrived. It was instantly captured and then a whoop of joy went up from deputy sheriff and posse. In the car sat a Chinaman. While the hand-cuffs were being procured there were heard cries of "lynch him." Then the automobile owner managed to explain through the noise that the Chinaman was a Jap, who had been in his employment for five years, and was simply going to their country home with them for the summer. Five minutes later seven automobiles were speeding through the outskirts of the town pronouncing maledictions upon the county officials, while a discomfited deputy sheriff saw visions of a big reward melt in the air and vanish into thin smoke.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Educational Work in The Public Schools Increasing in Interest and Efficiency.

### INCREASED PERCENT. OF ATTENDANCE.

The following is our report for the school year ending June 1, 1909.

The school work of the county was steadily on the upward move. The teachers were better qualified and more enthusiastic and industrious than before. We have made a special effort to hold our best material and to get other good material to take the place of the drones. The gradual raising of our standard in requirements is having a desired effect. Some of our very best work was done by the younger teachers, while some of our very poorest work was handed out by those in the work too long.

The attendance in our schools shows an increase of from 5 to 8 per cent. in every township. The whole number of pupils in attendance was considerably increased. Seven hundred eighty-eight pupils attended more than 90 per cent. of the term. Two hundred sixteen pupils had clean attendance card—making 100 per cent.

Twenty pupils passed the Spring Examination very creditably.

Better support was given the schools by the boards of directors in the selection of teachers, furnishing of supplies, books, etc. We hope for more systematic and regular visitation of schools by representatives of the boards. Eight of the township boards had the regular monthly meetings at which the teachers and directors discussed practical educational problems. We expect to see this in every township at the beginning of the schools in 1909.

A more harmonious relationship existed between parents and teachers which made our schools better.

Great good was derived from our local institutes. These were attended better by our teachers than ever before. They are one of our strong factors, and should have the support of everyone.

We visited every school in the County twice, with the exception of four. Some we visited more frequently, making, altogether, 188 visits.

Twelve examinations were held; 98 applicants were examined, 23 of whom were rejected.

Our County institute was one of the best ever held in the County. Every teacher but one, was in attendance. The interest shown by the general public in these meetings was encouraging to both teachers and superintendent.

The County Director's Convention was not so well attended on account of unavoidable conditions but the work done was very good—being practical.

As a whole, we feel that the work done in, and for, the schools was much better than last year. We recognize that this was due to the combined efforts of all—pupils, teachers, parents, friends, directors, as well as those in charge of the sanitary affairs of the County and various townships. Fewer pupils were out of school on account of sickness than in former years.

We wish to express by this means our appreciation of the interest taken by all friends of education in the County. May you continue to assist in the future. To the State Superintendent and his co-workers in the Department at Harrisburg, we are indebted for help and advice.

Yours truly  
B. C. LAMBERSON.

Mrs. Mary V. Cromer spent last week very pleasantly among friends in Mercersburg and Chambersburg.

## RECORD OF DEATHS.

Persons Well Known to Many of Our Readers, Who Have Answered Final Summons.

### ALL SEASONS ARE THINE, O DEATH.

#### JONATHAN J. CLEVINGER.

Jonathan J. Clevenger, better known as "Uncle Jimmie," died at the home of his brothers, Jacob and Adam, in the East End extension, McConnellsburg, Thursday evening, June 24, 1909, aged 77 years, 2 months, and 27 days. Funeral conducted by Rev. Fassold, of the Lutheran church, took place on the Saturday following, and the body was laid to rest in Union cemetery.

The deceased, many years ago, was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Albaugh, daughter of the late Paul W. Deshong, and they removed to near Johnstown, where they raised their family, the mother dying several years ago. During the past two years, Mr. Clevenger has had his home with his brothers in this place, and it was only about four weeks ago that he was attacked by gangrene and from that time on, his recovery was regarded as doubtful.

Uncle Jimmie was a member of the Evangelical Albright church for many years, and served as a deacon in the church. He was a man that dealt justly with his fellow man. On the 29th of February, 1864, he enlisted in the army for three years or during the war, and became a member of Co. I, 57th Regiment, P. V., and served until the close of the war when he was honorably discharged. The following children survive: Eliza A., wife of Wm. Patrick, Twin Rocks, Pa.; Frederic D., Johnstown, Pa.; Jacob D., Homer City, Pa.; Henry E. and Armina, wife of Wm. McDonald, Bellzana, Pa.; John A., Cherry Tree, Pa.; Noah A., Indiana, Pa.; Emma, wife of John Hohn, Hooversville, Pa. His brothers, Jacob, John, and Adam and his sisters, Sarah and Louise—all are living.

#### DAVID R. MELLOTT.

David R. Mellott, an aged and highly esteemed citizen of Licking Creek township, died at his home near Andover, Wednesday June 23, 1909, aged 76 years, 7 months and 10 days. Funeral on Friday. Interment in the cemetery at the Sideling Hill Christian church, after which Elder Ahimaz Mellott preached the funeral sermon in the church.

Mr. Mellott was a member of the Primitive Baptist church, and an honest, upright citizen. Several years ago he was sent by his political party to carry the election returns to Lewistown, Pa., and on returning, was injured by alighting from a train near Mount Union, from which he never recovered. He was a veteran of the Civil War. He was twice married—the first time to Miss Jemima Clevenger, and to this union were born eight children: Abram and Lawson, of Pittsburg; J. Nelson, of Indianapolis; George in Alaska and Harrison, whose present place of residence is not known to his home folks; Lydia, wife of S. K. Pittman, of Shippenburg; Elizabeth, wife of Geo. Calderwood, Tyrone, Pa., and Nancy, wife of John Wright, near McConnellsburg. Mr. Mellott's second marriage was to Miss Elizabeth Mellott, and four children were born, namely, Elmer, Veda, Orion and Rosa—all of which are at home.

#### CHARLES W. MOSSER.

Charles W. Mosser, better known to our older people as Wesley Mosser, and uncle of our townsman, Dr. J. W. Mosser, died at his home at Hendricks, West Virginia, on the 15th of June, of Bright's Disease. The deceased was born on the farm where Peter Morten now lives, near McConnellsburg, but lived at Mann's Choice, Bedford county, where he was engaged in the

## KANSAS LETTER.

Mrs. Joel T. Palmer. Formerly from Wells Valley Writes of Her Home in the "Salt City" of the West.

### APPRECIATES THE FULTON CO. NEWS.

TO THE FULTON COUNTY NEWS:—A near relative in Fulton county had the happy inspiration to place us on the subscription list of your valuable paper as a Christmas present. To say we have appreciated the gift very highly is putting it lightly indeed as it has been our most welcome weekly visitor. It is as good as a letter from home. Husband and I drop everything else when the postman brings the home paper, to hurriedly scan its pages for any news—or even mention of our many Pennsylvania friends. We read so many interesting letters in the paper from former Fulton county residents, but never any from here, so will add my humble tribute if you care to print it.

We came to Kansas in 1877, and have lived in Hutchinson seventeen years. We have a pretty and a very live town of 17,000 people, and it is growing rapidly. It is often called the Salt City, as there is so much salt produced here. The Joy Morton is the largest plant—in fact it is said to be the largest in the world, and there are several good sized plants. There are three ice factories. Artificial ice is delivered at our doors at 20 cents a hundred.

Among the newer industries is a Soda Ash plant, and an automobile factory was erected last year. A straw-board mill is being built. There are many different lines of business represented. We have four railroads and an electric street railway system. My husband, son Clifford, and myself, visited in our native state in the summer of 1900. We enjoyed meeting old friends more than we can tell, and regretted that we were not able to accept all the invitations showered upon us; but time would not stand still for us.

Mr. Palmer and I expect to start in a few days on a trip to the Pacific Coast. Our son Ross V. Palmer lives in Tacoma, Washington. We shall take in the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition. With best wishes for the success of the Fulton County News and kindest remembrance of all friends, I am

Very truly,

MRS. JOEL T. PALMER,  
Nee Ella Rachel Wallace of Wells Valley.

Mr. William T. Leshar, of Philadelphia, spent several days during the past week with relatives in the Cove, and in town. Mr. Leshar is a son of the late Abram Leshar. William left the Cove in 1859, went West, but during the last twenty-two years has been residing in Philadelphia.

While in Bedford county, he was prominently identified with the P. O. S. of A. serving as District President, and as State Master of Forms. At the time of his death he was general manager of the Dry Forks railroad, and was regarded as a very efficient man. He is survived by his widow and seven children. His body was interred at Mann's Choice.

#### TENLEY.

Brinton Sylvester Tenley, a little more than a year old—son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tenley, died at their home at Sixmile Run, Bedford county, on the 19th of June, of cholera infantum. The funeral took place on the 20th. The deceased was a half brother of Minnie Carothers and her brothers, Frank and Merrill, who make their home with their uncles, John and Hezekiah Summers.

## HAPPY BRIDES.

Last Installment of June Weddings for Nineteen Hundred Nine.

### ALEXANDER—LAKE.

Miss Phoebe E. Lake, of Hagerstown, and Albert C. Alexander of Altoona, were married at the home of the groom's cousin, Mr. D. F. Conners, at 357 Salem Avenue, Hagerstown, on Wednesday afternoon, June 16, 1909. The ceremony was performed by Rev. E. G. Hartman, of the United Brethren Church, in the presence of a few relatives of the contracting parties. The groom is a brother of Ex-Sheriff Alexander, of this place, and the bride is a daughter of Ephraim and Mary Harr Lake, both natives of this county.

The happy couple are excellent young people, and have the hearty congratulations of their many Fulton county relatives and friends.

Immediately after the ceremony they went to Altoona where the groom had a newly furnished house in readiness for his bride, and they are now at home in that city to their friends. The groom is an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in Altoona.

### BERKSTRESSER—FRAZEE.

On June 20th, 1909, at Crestline, Ohio, Mr. John Berkstreser, formerly of Waterfall, this county, was married to Miss Eleanor Frazee, of Crestline, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Berkstreser spent several days last week with Mr. Berkstreser's sister, Mrs. El Largent, in this place. They will make their home in Galion, Ohio, where Mr. Berkstreser is employed in a large boiler maker shop.

### MELLOTT—SOUDERS.

At the residence of the officiating minister, Rev. A. G. B. Powers at Needmore, on Wednesday, June 23, 1909, Wilton A. Mellott, and Miss Deborah F. Souders, both of Ary township, were united in marriage. The contracting parties are excellent young people and have the best wishes of their many friends.

### County Sunday School Convention.

The twenty ninth Annual Convention of the Fulton County Sunday School Association will be held in the Presbyterian church, McConnellsburg, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 13th and 14th. In addition to the large number of earnest and capable home workers, there will be present W. G. Landes, Secretary of the State S. S. Association; Miss Alice Wishart, of Allahabad, India; Miss Maude E. Baumgardner, of Pittsburg; Rev. Charles Pittman, of Tabriz, Persia, and others. Each Sunday School in the county is entitled to two delegates in addition to the pastor and the superintendent, who are requested to go to the Presbyterian church and register, whether they expect to be entertained by the Committee or by personal friends. All delegates are expected to come prepared to take some part in the periods devoted to conferences. It is important that delegates who expect to be entertained by the Committee, shall send their names to Miss Mary Sloan, McConnellsburg, Pa., in advance of their coming to the Convention, so that the necessary provision may be made.

### Charlie Pittman Home.

Rev. Charles Pittman, who went from this place as a missionary to Persia in 1900 under the auspices of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, reached McConnellsburg on his return Tuesday evening. He is home on a leave of absence of a year, and brings with him his wife, who, although an American lady, he married in Persia—she at that time being a missionary in that country. Rev. Pittman is a brother of Miss Mary Pittman of this place, and son of the late Jacob Pittman of Ary township.

## 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

W. H. Peck and son Raymond, of Gem, spent a few hours in town last Saturday.

Assessor A. V. B. Souders, of Ary township, was in town on official business Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bricker, of Chambersburg, spent several days during the past week at the Fulton House.

Mrs. J. Ed. Grissinger, of this place, spent several days last week visiting in the home of her sister, Mrs. Samuel M. Glass, Chambersburg.

Miss Alice Hays attended the commencement exercises at Shippenburg last week and is now on an extended visit to friends in Chambersburg and Waynesboro.

Mrs. C. W. Bryner and little son Leon spent several days very pleasantly visiting at the home of Mrs. Bryner's mother, Mrs. Mary Kirkpatrick at Shirleysburg, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mellott and three children, and Mrs. E. K. Darr and son Roy—all of Everett, spent a few days in the home of Mrs. Joseph Mellott at Saluvia.

Miss Sadie Michaels has been re-elected teacher of the first grade in the Everett public schools. Miss Michaels has filed that position with great satisfaction to her patrons for several years.

J. Nelson Mellott, of Indianapolis, Ind., was in town Monday and took dinner in the home of his uncle, Judge Peter Morton. Mr. Mellott was called to this county on account of the death of his father, D. R. Mellott.

I. D. Thompson, of Philadelphia, spent the time from last Friday evening until Monday in McConnellsburg. He brought his little son Frank up to spend a few weeks with his grandmother, Mrs. M. A. Thompson.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sipes, wife, and son Raymond, of Reynoldsville, Jefferson county, spent a few days very pleasantly visiting in the home of the former's parents. Rev. and Mrs. M. L. Sipes at Tatesville and his sister, Mrs. C. P. Ott, at Everett.

Mr. Charles H. Hess and his mother-in-law, Mrs. J. H. H. Lewis, of Bethel township, made a trip to McConnellsburg, Monday. Charlie has an oak tree standing at the watering trough on his place that measures 19 feet and 7 inches in girth, one foot above the ground.

### Benson Hanks.

Mr. Benson Hanks died at his home in Emmaville, this county, Friday, June 25, 1909, aged 74 years, 6 months, and 1 day. He is survived by one sister, Mrs. Jemima Messersmith, of Charlesville, Bedford county, and by his widow and the following children: Mrs. J. F. Carns, Fayette county; Annie, Bedford county; Rachel, Buck Valley, this county, and Gustie, Maggie, Harry, and Jason at home. The children living were all present at the funeral except Mrs. Carns.

Mr. Hanks had been in declining health since last fall, but was able to go about until three days before his death.

Mr. Hanks was a good citizen and will be much missed by his neighbors and family. He was a veteran of the Civil War, being a member of Company B, 87th regiment, P. V., and was enrolled on the 3d day of June, 1864, and honorably discharged June 23, 1865.

With the exception of the time he was in the army, he practically spent his entire life within a mile of the place on which he was born.