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THE OLD SECEDER CHURCH

A Paper Read Before the Pennsylvania Scotch-Irish Society by T. Elliott Patterson.

INTERESTING LOCAL HISTORY.

Continued from last week.

THEIR CIVIL WAR RECORD.

Of those old elders, three of them each sent a son into the Union army and a fourth sent three. [James Walker Johnston, 1st Lieut., Co. H, 77th Pa. Vol.; John F. Kendall, Orderly Sergeant, 126th and 205th Pa. Vol.; James Kendall, 126th and 205th Pa. Vol.; David M. Kendall, 121st Pa. Vol.; James P. Nelson, 121st Pa. Vol.; D. H. Patterson, 14th Pa. Minute Men, Co. C.] One of these, John F. Kendall, deserves more than passing notice. As orderly of his company, and knowing the detail for picket duty on a certain dangerous night to which his younger brother was assigned, went to him and said: "James, exceptionally heavy lines are being thrown out by both armies to-night. You are the younger and must remain in camp; I go in your place." The chivalrous offer was declined by James, who, in speaking of it said: "I could never forget John for that affectionate and considerate offer." The younger has since died and John is now an elder in the same old congregation.

Knowing them both and remembering the day their company was welcomed home after completing their full term of service, I take pleasure in referring to the incident. But the men of the congregation were not the only exponents of strong and forceful character. There were daughters of the Revolution among them, the genuine, real, article, and without frills. Elizabeth Bourns, the Revolutionary cannon-maker's daughter; Henrietta Maria Ashman, whose father, Col. George Ashman, of the firm of Ashman, Cromwell & Ridgey, built, owned, and worked the first iron furnace west of the Susquehanna (built in 1780); and Isabel N. Milligan, grand-niece of Dr. Samuel Young, of Hagerstown, whose beautiful intellect, unimpaired through long and useful life, mastered the larger and shorter Westminster Catechisms, all of the Psalms, and the entire New Testament as a memory exercise in the religious training of her youth.

Two others, sisters, during a Confederate raid that threatened the capture and imprisonment of the husband of one of them, were standing in the doorway of their home, when the younger, becoming hysterical, began crying. "Oh, Elizabeth, Elizabeth, the day of judgment has come, the day of judgment has come." Elizabeth, turning to her, with the raiders standing about them, said: "Keep quiet, Rebecca; keep quiet. I hope the day of judgment will see a better looking crowd than this." A worthy granddaughter of a revolutionary colonel. When I tell Justice Stewart, and Alexander and George, of our membership, that those women were first cousins of one of the border raiders—Dr. Ash, Hamil, of Martinsburg, Virginia—they can tell you more about the Confederate doctor than I, and claim as close relationship. Their ministers were men of power and influence. Lind, of Greencastle; Clarkson, of Mercersburg; and Finly McNaughton, of McConnellsburg. The last, a graduate of Union College, Schenectady, in 1822, had a long pastorate of nearly thirty years, and, not unlike some of the Kings of Israel, at its close found his kingdom divided. He was followed by Dr. James Bruce, father of former Lieutenant Governor Bruce, of New York, whose pastorate covered the early period of the Civil War. His successor, Rev. Robert Gray Ferguson, LL.D., a graduate of Jefferson College and a lieutenant

in the Union Army, brother of one of our members, William N. Ferguson, M.D., and cousin of our member Hon. William C. Ferguson, was one of their later and most successful pastors. The last to officiate in the old church is the present pastor of the United Presbyterian branch of that old congregation, Rev. J. L. Grove, whose pastorate covers twenty-five years.

FORM OF WORSHIP.

Their form of worship was simple, but direct. No anthems nor instrumental music, or, as our Judge Campbell's grand-uncle expressed it, "do dom fuddlen." A psalm was read, explained, lined out, and sung; a prayer offered, all standing like soldiers at attention, eyes and ears open. "and no loahn" around the throne," as John Hay put it; a chapter read; another prayer and psalm; and sermons, two of a kind, both long, with but a short intermission; and home by sundown.

But of all services, those connected with the observance of the Lord's Supper were the most impressive. Preceded by a fast on the Friday before the communion, it was followed by the Monday after communion as a day of thanksgiving. All ordinary work ceased on that Friday, which was kept as carefully as the Sabbath itself, and attendance on divine service was imperative. On that day the leaden tokens, commemorative of the days when Claverhouse's followers spied out the meeting places of their fathers on the "hethered hills," were distributed to the intended communicants as a pledge of their acceptance and right to the communion table on the coming Sabbath when the elders carefully received them back from every communicant. The elements were served at a long table in front of the pulpit or extending down the aisles, and the members rose from their pews, coming for ward singing a psalm until seated in their places at the table, and after participating, they returned to their pews singing another verse or two of the same psalm, and often to the same tune. On these occasions, the men of the congregation came in "their blacks," and the women in their best new gowns. There was a dignity and reverence attached to this solemn service that in itself forbade indifference or carelessness in approaching the table of the Lord. They looked upon it as His table, not theirs, and have often been severely censured for their vigilance and care in guarding it from the impure and the profane, but none can gainsay or deny the honesty of their purpose in so doing.

MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVICE.

In military and civil life they were active and efficient. From Valley Forge and the Brandywine to the Philippines [William Patterson, (Revolutionary War), Ensign, 8th Pa. Battalion, Co. 7, July 31st, 1778; Ralph B. Patterson, (Spanish-American War), 38th N. G. Vol., died at Manila, March 19th, 1900] that old congregation was represented, and from the same township of Ayr a great grandfather, grandfather and grandson represented that community in the Legislature, and the great-granduncle of one of them, Benjamin Elliott, represented the old county of Bedford, in the State constitutional convention that sat in Philadelphia, July 10th, 1776. But their services were not limited to the narrow field of their own settlement. There is something in the atmosphere and companionship of the mountains that invigorate and inspire for higher things. As Ulysses said of his native Ithaca: "It is a rough, wild nurland, but whose crops are men." And to-day a daughter of Sergeant Kendall, above mentioned, is giving her young life to a service more beautiful than that of cloistered novice or mannish suffragette—a missionary among the

Fine Mansion.

The finest mansion in Southern Pennsylvania has just been completed, at Mercersburg, for H. W. Byron head of the big tannery firm doing business at that place. It is without a doubt the most magnificent and finest equipped home in Franklin county.

Work on the Byron mansion was begun in the spring of 1909 and as old 1910 ends, the house is turned over to the owner complete in every detail. It is located on an elevation at the southeastern edge of Mercersburg, at the fork of the old pike and the state road. The grounds include several acres and have been artistically graded, concrete walks and driveways leading from the mansion to all parts of the property. It is estimated that the mansion and its appointments cost at least \$50,000.

Thanks, Friends.

While we have noticed during the past few years a growing habit of subscribers to settle up their back subscription before the new year comes in, there never has been a season before, when so many of our subscribers have paid up their arrearages, and advanced their subscription another year. There is something gratifying about being able to enter the new year with a clean sheet—especially in small matters like one's newspaper subscription. It makes a brighter New Year's day for the editor, too.

mountaineers of the South, of whom Major Hess, who served throughout the whole war from Ayr Township, told the following incident, illustrative of the latent colonial fires that had not died out among that physically and mentally vigorous people. Many of them of our own stock:—

"When General Thomas' division was crossing a mountain in East Tennessee, they halted for a short rest near an apparently deserted mountaineer cabin on the road. In a few minutes a child's face peeped out, and later the mother ventured out and, coming to the color bearer, asked if they were 'Yankees.' Assured that they were, she asked if that was the American flag. Think she was guying him, he made a flippant reply, and the General, noticing it, stepped forward and said: 'Yes, that is the old stars and stripes; don't you know it?' She replied: 'No, never seed it afore, but sumfin told me it was it.' Then, raising her voice, she called her children, some seven or eight of all sizes and ages, making an odd group in their homespun dresses, poke bonnets, and coonskin caps, to whom she briefly explained that that was 'our flag.' Then, asking her children to join her, they all reverently fell upon their knees, while she thanked God for sparing their lives to see the flag. The King's English was murdered in the presence of men who were scholars and thinkers, but there was not a dry eye among them, from the grizzled general to the raw recruit. And when, on rising from her knees, she told them her husband had been taken out and hanged in the woods the night before because he was a Union man, the pathos of the scene was impressive."

AN ABANDONED FORTRESS.

To-day that Old Seceder Church of Ayr Township stands like an abandoned fortress on one of the rough, rocky hillsides in that little valley, for they chose not where the south winds blew softly. But it still stands, and while it does, memories of earnest and faithful home teachings and the godly steppings of those who went in and out from its venerable walls will be to the descendants of that people, as to many of you with like experiences, among the most sacred and tender of life.

RECORD OF DEATHS.

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

ALL SEASONS ARE THINE, O DEATH.

HOHMAN.

After a short illness, George Hohman died at his home in Ayr township last Friday, of ulcerative endocarditis, aged 68 years, 8 months, and 26 days. The funeral which was conducted by Rev. C. W. Bryner, of McConnellsburg, took place Sunday afternoon, and interment was made in Union cemetery.

The deceased was born in Germany; and, with his parents and six brothers and sisters, came to this country in 1850—his oldest brother, Peter, remaining in Germany.

He was married to Miss Kate Snyder, daughter of the late Philip Snyder, of Tod township. She died about ten or twelve years ago. Three children survive, namely, Harry; Mary, wife of Charles Reed; and Bessie. He is also survived by two brothers and one sister, Leonard, of this place, John, living in Kansas, and Mrs. Elizabeth Spade, living in Dillsburg, Pa.

Mr. Hohman was a veteran of the Civil War, and a most excellent citizen. He was one of those quiet, honest, industrious men that go towards the making of our country's highest type of citizenship.

TRITTE.

Lydia Tritte, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Walter Tritte, died at the home of her parents in Waynesboro on Wednesday morning after less than forty-eight hours illness from croup. She was eight years old.

Walter Tritte is a native of Ayr township, and is a son of the late George Tritte, deceased.

Their many friends here sympathize with the parents in this hour of sore bereavement.

Silage for Fattening Steers.

A moderate amount of silage fed to fattening animals improves the appetite health. Some experiments have been made to determine, as far as possible, the feeding value of silage to fattening animals.

At the Pennsylvania Experiment Station when corn silage was compared with corn stover for fattening steers it was found that "the steers fed corn silage made more economical gains than those fed corn stover," and "showed a better coat and more thrifty appearance." These steers were fed broken ear corn and cottonseed meal in connection with the corn silage and corn stover. A liberal silage ration was found to be more economical than a limited one when fed in this manner. The steers getting the largest amount would eat only about 15 pounds of silage per day. The Indiana Experiment Station states that "corn silage may profitably be used as a portion of the ration in finishing steers." "A ration composed of shelled corn, cottonseed meal and corn silage without hay proved to be most efficient ration tested for fattening two year old steers, as shown by the rate of gain, cost of gain and finish of the cattle. At the Ohio Station, it was found that silage could be used to good advantage in fattening cattle when stover and hay were high in price. No difference in the finish of silage fed and dry fed cattle was apparent.

Recent experiments at other stations seem to give similar results. Silage is each year used more exclusively by practical feeders with almost unanimously good results.—From the Correspondence Courses of the Pennsylvania State College.

Subscribe for the "News," only \$1.00 a year.

NEW ENTERPRISE.

Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Established in McConnellsburg. Is Now Under Full Headway.

During the latter part of September, Mr. K. M. Cole, representing the firm of O'Presprich & Co., of New York City, Creamery Experts, appeared in this community, and it took him just ten days to convince a half hundred of our leading farmers and business men that it would be to their advantage financially to have a creamery of their own. Mr. Cole said that his people would put the creamery on the ground, fully equipped, and turning out first quality butter, before a cent need be paid. If, when they saw the creamery and its work they were satisfied that it was all right, he should then be paid forty-seven hundred dollars, and the creamery turned over to its new owners.

A subscription paper was circulated, and fifty six hundred dollars in shares of one hundred dollars each were subscribed. On the 8th of October a meeting was held and C. R. Spangler, M. M. Kendall and Harvey Unger were appointed a committee to supervise the construction of the building, the contract for the erection of which had been let to Wm. Benjamin, of New York.

By the 5th of this month the building was completed, the machinery was moving and butter was being produced. Everything being entirely satisfactory to the subscribers, a meeting was held, an organization effected, and the money paid in.

The following persons were elected directors, namely, M. M. Kendall, W. S. Brant, Levi Keefer, Andrew Rotz, and Harvey Unger.

At a subsequent meeting of the directors, the following organization was effected: President, M. M. Kendall; Secretary, W. C. Patterson; Treasurer, W. L. Nace.

The building is on the south side of the "Commons" a short distance west of the Presbyterian graveyard, and just west of Wilkinson's blacksmith shop. It is 24x55 feet, which includes a 175 ton ice house. The creamery has a capacity of eight hundred cows, and is starting out with four hundred.

The plant is in charge of Scott Runyan, of Franklin, O., a first-class butter maker, and the business outlook is encouraging, to the stockholders.

There are already two creameries in operation in this valley—the Grissinger creamery in town, and the Patterson creamery at Webster Mills, both of which have been in successful operation for several years.

The names of the stockholders are: D. A. Nelson, M. M. Kendall, J. H. Kendall, C. F. Nesbit, A. K. Nesbit, Daniel Knauff, Scott Tritte, C. M. Unger, Geo. Paylor, Wm. Paylor, Jacob Motter, Aaron Martin, Wm. E. Brewer, Levi Keefer, Henry Carbaugh, D. H. Wible, Wm. Bivens, Alex Patterson, Harvey Unger, Geo. Buterbaugh, Andrew Rotz, C. R. Spangler, J. S. Alexander, Philip Rotz, Wm. Buterbaugh, S. A. Nesbit, W. L. Nace, Geo. B. Mellett, D. A. Washabaugh, John W. Ott, Beamer Gress, Clarence Cooper, Wm. Woodal, A. B. Wilkinson, J. W. Hoop, W. S. Brant, Bert Brant, John Raker, W. C. Patterson, Wm. Patterson, Ahimaz Clevenger, Charles Johnston, Fred Gordon, H. B. Trout, D. B. McQuade, John Carbaugh, O. H. Wible, O. C. Wible, C. M. Ray.

Miss Irvie Hull a very efficient stenographer in the employ of C. S. Hammond & Co., publishing house New York City spent the time from Wednesday morning until Thursday noon of last week in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Hull of this place, and attending the wedding of her brother James.

IN MEMORIAM.

Tribute to the Memory of W. Frank Hart by C. Wilson Peck.

In the passing away of our friend and relative W. Frank Hart of Needmore, Pa., whom we have known and loved for half a century, it is fitting that some special tribute should be paid to his memory; some record should be inscribed to attest the noble traits of his character; some truths concerning his hope in Christ laid bare, that we who sorrow may find comfort in the assurance that his spirit is with God. An earnest seeker after Jehovah, his pleadings were—

"Lead kindly Light,
Amid the encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!"

And as year gave place to year, he seemed to unbind the ties of earthly things, and lay hold most earnestly, upon things heavenly and divine.

Faithful to the teachings of Godly parents, his whole life was characterized by cleanness.

His attitude toward others was an evidence of his belief in the scriptural declaration that "no man liveth unto himself and no man dieth unto himself;" that the relationship which every man sustains toward every other man, is a sacred trust, and that the moral welfare of the community rested not lightly upon his own shoulders.

He was just in his dealings; and the Church, in the affairs of which he was prominent, has lost a faithful helper—one whose place it will not be easy to fill.

The writer has before him a letter from Mr. Hart bearing date November 16, 1910—three weeks before his death; and, although at that time he was in his usual health, his writing bears evidence of his readiness to "depart and be with the Lord." There is expressed a spirit of submission, and a willingness to go hence.

"How frail we are at best," he writes, "and how soon we may be cut down, and the places which know us now, will soon know us no more forever." And then, to give assurance of his unaltered devotion to the highest of all ideals—Christ—he continues; "I am sure of one thing, and that is, I would like to know the truth for myself; for the truth is all that can do us any good. Oh, may He give us to know Him better and serve Him with more devotion."

The doctrines of his choice were strictly orthodox. He loved the Bible, and was guided by its teachings, much of which he knew by heart. He was the last surviving member of a large family, his mother dying only a few months ago.

Though earth has received his body, Angels have borne his spirit back to God who gave it.

The grave is welcome to all it gets. Its hewn walls cannot hold his soul captive. He has gone to Him who said, "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there ye may be, also."

Mr. Hart descended from one of two branches of the Hart family, both of which were prominent in England three hundred and fifty years ago. The earlier ones were Friends; but since 1685, almost all of the Harts in America have been identified with the Baptist denomination.

Philadelphia,
December 18, 1910.

Wall Blown Down.

The south wall of the Walker barn which was destroyed by fire near St. Thomas a few weeks ago, was blown down to its foundation last Thursday night. Inspectors who had examined the wall said it was in good condition and was perfectly safe to build again provided the foundations were protected and re-enforced with new concrete walls. This means an additional loss to Mr. Walker of more than \$100.

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 Elsie Greathead of Athens, O., is home for the holidays.

John Spangler, a State College student is home for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Mellott were in town doing some Christmas shopping last Thursday.

M. D. Mathias, of Hustontown, called at the NEWS office a few minutes while in town Monday.

Miss Esther Sloan left last Friday for an extended visit to friends in the western part of the State.

Joseph C. Barnett and James Barnett of Waterfall, spent a few hours in McConnellsburg last Saturday.

Miss Mazie Mellott, of Philadelphia, is spending the holidays in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. B. Mellott.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Hohman, of this place, went over to Chambersburg Wednesday of last week and returned home Thursday.

Walter A. Peck and family, of Needmore, spent last Wednesday night in the home of their uncle Jonathan P. Peck near Knobsville.

Mrs. Elizabeth McEldowney and daughter Edith of Belfast township, spent last Thursday in town doing some holiday shopping.

Ruth Roettger an employee in Wilson College Chambersburg is spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Roettger.

John H. Reisner, a Yale College student came home Monday to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Reisner.

Russell H. Runyan of the U. S. Census Department Washington, is spending his holiday vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Runyan.

Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley Sipes, of Hustontown, were registered at the City Hotel last Saturday. Mr. Sipes wants to buy a nice two-year old mare colt.

Mr. Claude B. Cook and daughter Kathryn, and brother Charles, of Lanark, Ill., are spending a few days in the home of their mother, Mrs. S. M. Cook, of this place.

Mrs. Melvin E. Bobb and little daughter, Scottanna, of Beavertown, were visitors last Saturday and Sunday at the home of Mrs. Bobb's brother, Mr. L. C. Mann.—Everett Republican.

Mrs. W. H. Nesbit left last Thursday for a visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Wilt, in Waynesboro. On Tuesday of this week Mr. and Mrs. Wilt celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Rev. and Mrs. L. W. McGarvey and their little son Albert, of Hustontown, were in town Tuesday. Rev. McGarvey is just getting on his feet again after a siege of typhoid fever, which reduced his avoirdupois quite perceptibly.

Miss Bessie Helman who underwent an operation in the hospital at Chambersburg nine weeks ago for appendicitis, returned to her home in this place last Saturday. While she has improved much, she has not entirely recovered.

J. Land Patterson and his sister Miss Bess went over to Newville last Wednesday and stayed until Thursday morning in the home of their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. R. Sharpe Patterson, when they boarded the Cumberland Valley train for a trip West during which they expect to visit relatives in Chicago, Omaha, Lincoln, and Denver.