

The Fulton County News.

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LOCAL HISTORY.

Wells Township Schools, Houses, and Teachers of Sixty to One Hundred Years Ago.

FOR THE NEWS BY M. M. HORTON.

Continued from last week.

In those days, boys and girls, in school, did not solve problems in arithmetic. They worked sums. If a boy encountered a sum which he could not work, he was said to be stalled. In such case, he took the troublesome sum and his slate and pencil to the teacher who was expected to drop all other work and proceed to work it. After working it he handed the slate containing his work to the pupil without any explanation—many teachers could not explain their work—and if the latter could see the figures of the "answer" as they appeared, in his book, after the sum, he went to his desk, copied the teacher's work, with the result that the figures of the answer, as they were in the book did not appear or if he proposed to work the sum after school when he was not so busy, was he unto him. His proposition to do the work after school was accepted as conclusive evidence that he had a "key" which he intended to use in working the sum.

He must work the sum when it was brought to him and get the right answer. Failing to do this, the report, that John Smith or Joe Brown had stalled the teacher in arithmetic, went into every home in that district that same evening, with the result that many of the parents and all the pupils lost all confidence in the teacher as such. Only vicious conduct of the worst character, on part of a teacher, could so effectually destroy his usefulness as to get stalled in arithmetic. Once so stalled, or said to be, his work, as teacher, in that district, ended with the term during which he failed to get the answer. One of the most essential qualifications which the old time teacher must possess, was that of being able to make a goose quill pen and to keep it in repair after it was made. The teacher made new pens and repaired old ones after or before school hours. The closing hour of each school day saw the teachers desk covered with goose quills and dilapidated pens. No steel pens were used in school. I saw the first steel pen, I ever saw, in 1853. It was a clumsy affair made to fasten on one end of a smoothly whittled stick which served as a holder. Boys and girls, in those old time schools, studied their reading and spelling lessons aloud, each one trying to make more noise than any other was making. This usually took place, at its worst, while the teacher was working a sum.

Happily, much of the old time way of doing the work, in Wells Valley schools, was a thing of the past when I became a pupil at Gibson's. At that time some progress had been made in the effort to secure uniformity in text books. Cobb's spellers, old and new, and his readers, were in use and no others. There was but one arithmetic, Smith's and pupils recited in classes in spelling, reading and arithmetic at regular periods. The days of working sums were nearly gone. It was not so with grammar. Kirkham's, Hart's and Smith's grammars were in all the schools. No geography was taught.

Every boy and girl learning to write had a "copy" book made of foolscap paper. In those books the teacher "set" the copies to be imitated by the learner. That is, the teacher wrote, in his best style, a line at top of each page. The pupil copied on every line to the bottom. These copies were "set" after or before school hours or during the noon recess which was the only recess allowed dur-

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ANOTHER R. F. D. ROUTE.

Needmore Postoffice the Distributing Point, and the Service to Extend Northward.

Thompson, Bethel, Union, and Wells township already have the benefits of free rural mail service, and soon Belfast township will be in line; for we have been informed that on the first day of June, a route will be in operation from Needmore. The schedule as outlined will be as follows: Leave Needmore at 6:30 o'clock, a. m., thence west to Cross Roads at the old Clark place near John Plessinger's; thence north along mountain road to the D. S. Mellett place, in Licking Creek township; thence east to Fernando Decker's on Pleasant Ridge; thence south via Sideling Hill Christian church, Sipes Mills, and McKibbin, reaching Needmore about 2:30, p. m. The present star route between Sipes Mill and Needmore will be discontinued. This will be a nice job for some one, as it carries with it a salary of \$980 the first year and \$1080 after the first year.

Close Call.

The undertaking establishment of William Stoner narrowly escaped destruction by fire last Friday morning. Mr. Stoner and his son Bruce were in the finishing room trimming a casket for the late C. P. Carmack, when a bale of excelsior standing in one corner of the room became ignited, and in a moment the room was all ablaze. The excelsior together with the other contents of the room was thrown into the streets, and the fire brought under control before it had damaged the building to any greater extent than the scorching of the paint. The contents of the room were practically destroyed, and Bruce's hands were so badly burned that it will be some time before he is able to work.

Rescued.

A few mornings ago "somebody" sold a basket of eggs at George Hays's store. A short time afterward Miss Nellie, who assists her father in the store, was passing the crate into which the eggs had been placed, and her attention was attracted by a faint little "chip!" "chip!" and glancing down at the egg crate, she noticed a little chick busy pecking his way out from an egg shell and piteously pleading for a breath of fresh air. This appeal was not lost on Nellie, and she promptly gave the little fellow the needed assistance, and the chick was soon warm under the tender care of a mother hen down in George's chicken yard.

Cards of Thanks.

Mrs. T. E. Fleming and children of Clear Ridge desire to express thanks to all who rendered assistance and sympathy during the illness and death of their husband and father T. E. Fleming.

Mrs. C. Martin and family take this means of thanking their neighbors and friends for the kindness and sympathy shown them during the illness and death of the husband and father C. Martin.

Mrs. C. P. Carmack wish to thank the friends and neighbors for the many kindnesses and sympathy shown her in the sickness and death of her husband C. P. Carmack.

Recent Wedding.

STRAIT—SIPE.

On Wednesday May 10th Mr. Dawson Strait of Gracey and Miss Rebecca Sipe of Harrisonville were united in marriage at the home of the bride by Rev. W. M. Chne. The NEWS joins their many friends in wishing this excellent young couple a happy voyage through life.

Subscribe for the NEWS.

The Crops for 1911.

The government crop report for May is generally regarded as conveying a reliable suggestion as to the probable wheat yield from fall seeded grain. The spring seeded wheat zone, which extends along the northern border of the United States, is not yet in condition to be reported upon. The May report, issued Monday afternoon, indicates that the condition of winter wheat on the first of the month was 86.1, as compared with 82.1 on the first of May last year, the condition being a fraction better than the ten year average condition. The acreage in winter wheat is 1,940,000 acres greater than was harvested last year. When the significance of these ratios is worked out it means that the present outlook is for a winter wheat yield about 50,000,000 bushels larger than was harvested last year.

The outlook generally seems to be for an abundant fruit yield, and the farming industries in general are in a condition to justify optimism in other branches of business which are largely dependent upon prosperous farming conditions.

The Gettysburg Battle.

Gettysburg! Famed in song and story is an inspiration in name, memory and national destiny that will thrill souls for all time to come.

Gettysburg is more than a gigantic struggle of huge numbers. More than a shedding of blood for the glory of war. More than a fierce fighting against odds on the First Day. More than one of the most terrifying fights that ever took place at night in timber. More than a stubborn charge and re-charge at the whirlpool of the struggle. More than one of the greatest cavalry fights ever waged. More than a fearful artillery duel that roared from the throats of hundreds of cannons. And more than one of the most spectacular infantry charges that was ever made.

Gettysburg stands for all this and more. Here one of the decisive battles of the world was fought and a great step forward was taken by the human race. Famous songs, grand orations, and stirring paintings have made it glorious. The national and state governments have made it the most beautiful park in the world. George Linn Keefer, the best informed Gettysburg Battle field guide will be in McConnellsburg at the Auditorium on Thursday evening, May 25th, with 200 beautiful views and a thrilling lecture. Admission 25 and 15 cents. Come and learn about the struggle that gave us the greatest nation on earth.

Nose Cut Off.

We learn from the Everett Press that while assisting in putting a new roof on the lime kiln at the West end of town last Monday, Mr. Abram Wareham had the misfortune to have the end of his nose cut off by a piece of the metal roofing which he was handing to persons on the roof of the building. He was standing underneath a piece of roofing which he had handed up, when it slipped and in falling struck Mr. Wareham in the face severing the end of his nose. While the injury is not a serious one, it is very painful and will probably disfigure him for life.

Alex. Mayne, of Fort Littleton, and son Samuel, of Altoona, spent last Saturday in McConnellsburg. Samuel closed out his hotel property in Martinsburg, Pa., recently, and is now living in Altoona. He and his wife are spending a few days with Samuel's parents at the old home in Fort Littleton. His father says he wants to keep Samuel around until he gets his garden made, a cord of wood cut, his pump fixed, and the spring work, generally, done.

RECORD OF DEATHS.

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

ALL SEASONS ARE THINE, O DEATH.

REV. B. F. STEVENS.

The Rev. Benjamin Stevens, one of the best-known ministers in the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist church, and for twenty years a resident of Harrisburg died Monday morning at 5 o'clock at the home of his son, Dr. John C. Stevens, 240 South Thirteenth street. Death was due to old age. The Rev. Mr. Stevens was 80 years of age. Mr. Stevens had been suffering from a general breakdown since November.

The Rev. Benjamin F. Stevens was the fifth son of Vincent and Martha (Deaver) Stevens, and was born in Fulton County March 23, 1831. In his own language he "was reared on a farm and taught to do all kinds of work and plenty of it." During the winter months he attended public school. When a young man he taught the home school one year and then went to a select school for six months later teaching for five months, after which he attended the Seminary at Cassville, Huntingdon county. He remained there (except a few months when he taught) until he entered the ministry in the spring of 1845.

He began preaching in Frostburg, Maryland, and later came to Pennsylvania, preaching in Greencastle, Shamokin, White Haven, Ashland, Jersey Shore, Northumberland, Williamsport, Clearfield, Danville, Millburg, Stewartstown, Duncannon, Mechanicsburg and Harrisburg.

In 1889 he became pastor of the Thirteenth street church Harrisburg, and retired in 1891, since which he resided with his son, Dr. John C. Stevens.

Rev. Stevens was an uncle of Thomas and Dr. F. K. Stevens of this place.

MOLLIE HENDERSHOT.

Miss Mary Ann Hendershot, died at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr and Mrs James R. Mellott, near Mercersburg, on Tuesday evening of last week, aged about 66 years. The cause of her death was acute indigestion, and she had been sick but a very short time. Miss Hendershot is a native of this county, and is survived by four brothers, Denton, Isaac, Carl, and Mrs. Mellott. The funeral took place last Friday, and her remains were brought to Union cemetery in the Big Cove for interment.

CALVIN P. CARMACK.

At the age of 63 years, 10 months, and 2 days, Mr. Calvin P. Carmack died at his home in McConnellsburg, Pa., Thursday evening, May 11, 1911. The cause of his death was pneumonia, and he had been sick only about a week. The funeral took place at 10 o'clock, Saturday morning and interment was made in the cemetery at Mercersburg, Pa.

Mr. Carmack was a son of Simpson and Mary (Henry) Carmack, and was born at the old Carmack homestead on Clear Ridge. He is survived by four brothers, William, of Huntingdon county; Samuel and Jesse of Clear Ridge, John W., residing in the state of Washington; and James V., in Chambersburg.

He was married four times: 1. To Miss Elizabeth Bender, of Chambersburg. To this union, five children were born, three of whom are living: Harry, of Sixmile Run, Pa.; William, Chambersburg; Alice, wife of Seth Houpt, Mercersburg.

2. Malinda Peffley, of Salem Church, Franklin county. Five children were born to this union, three of whom are living, namely, Frank, Philadelphia, Minnie, wife

Death of Mother and Daughter.

Death exacted a double toll and within twenty minutes in a Chambersburg home on Wednesday about noon, when a mother and her daughter were summoned without either knowing that death had invaded their home.

Both were members of a family long prominent.

At 12:08 o'clock, Mrs. Annie Maurer entered into rest and eighteen minutes later the daughter, Miss Emily, peacefully passed away. Mrs. Maurer had been ill but one week with pneumonia, but Miss Emily had been ill with a complication of diseases for three years. Both were unconscious for several hours before death.

Mrs. Maurer was the widow of the late B. Latrobe Maurer and before her marriage was a Miss Stegely, of Virginia. She came here with her husband before the war. Since then she had made her home here. Her husband was a well known agent and local historian. Miss Emily was the only living daughter and was born on the day Chambersburg was burned in 1864. She was aged 46 years and Mrs. Maurer was in her 78th year. Both were active members of the First Lutheran church and leave no immediate relatives. Distant relatives reside in Los Angeles.—Register.

DOTT.

Our farmers are all hustling to get their corn planted.

Quite a number of our people attended May meeting at Needmore and Sideling Hill.

Those that are on the sick list in this community are John Truax, George Wilson and Joseph Fisher with something like a stroke; Cal Downes with rheumatism, Mrs. Albert Deneen with hemorrhages of the lungs; Mrs. M. B. Hill and Mrs. J. R. Sharpe neuralgia, Harold Smith with lung trouble.

Mrs. Blanche Spencer Lashley, of Davis, W. Va., is visiting her mother and friends here.

Mrs. Fannie Hess Morgret, who has been spending several weeks with her mother, Mrs. Adam Hess has returned to her home at Komaty, Okla.

Ira Hess had the misfortune to have his foot mashed one day last week.

George Deshong entertained the loafers at Carnell's store last Friday evening with his violin. Hope you will come again, George.

Frank Fisher has arrived home on account of the critical illness of his father.

Born to Grant Bernhart and wife a daughter. It died the next day.

The Sunday school at Bedfords Chapel is progressing nicely under the management of Supt. Thomas K. Downes.

Several of our prosperous farmers are spraying their fruit trees this spring. We wish them success. Ira Hess purchased a fine large barrel sprayer and is accomodating several families.

Forest Fires are raging in Lackawanna, Lycoming, Tioga, Centre, Clinton, Cameron, Union, Elk, Clearfield and Pike counties. Over 50,000 acres of State lands have been burned over. It is said that rain will be necessary to check the flames.

of Elib Wenger, Shippensburg; and Jacob, living in Chambersburg.

3. Rebecca Reed, Franklin county. Two children. Divorced.

4. Hettie Briggs, of Franklin county, who survives, together with four children; Russell, Floe, Max, and the baby.

During the past five years Mr. Carmack had been in the employ of John Sheets & Son, as hack driver, and drove between this place and Mercersburg. He was a genial hearted, accomodating, careful driver, and will be missed by those who have been patrons of the line.

SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Alice Rhodes, Blind Daughter of John Rhodes, of Ayr Township, Fell Down Stairway Last Sunday Morning.

A distressing accident occurred in the home of John Rhodes, who lives on part of the old Fryman homestead in Ayr township. In his home Mr Rhodes has a daughter by his first wife, about eighteen years of age, who has been totally blind for a long time. In addition to her affliction of blindness, she has no use of her lower limbs, the result of an accident to her spinal column when a child. Last Saturday night she slept up stairs, and Sunday morning, in some way, got too near the stairway, and fell. It was thought at first that her neck was broken, but she is still living, and it is thought that she may recover from the fall.

NEW GRENADA.

Mrs. Nettie Fry, of Guilford Springs, Franklin county, visited in her old home town here among relatives and friends.

George Shafer visited friends in Mount Union.

A. A. Cunningham, of Mt. Union, spent last Wednesday night in the home of his parents, N. G. Cunningham and wife.

George Banks and Charles Thomas are treating John Thomas's house to a new coat of paint.

Abram Harshey, of Cross Roads, Taylor township, has bought the Harry Gaster property in New Grenada, and will take possession of it next fall.

Jacob Shafer and Gideon Duval, two of Clay township's up-to-date farmers, were visitors here last Saturday.

Odeta Barnett, of Oak Grove, is staying in the home of Clyde Plummer and family.

Richard Alloway is at Wilkesbarre this week representing Waterfall Lodge, at the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows. Our veteran Odd Fellow, Past Grand William Alloway got to thinking Sunday morning about the good times that would be going to waste at Wilkesbarre this week, and the more he thought of it the more eager he was to be there. So, jumping into his "Sunday clothes" he started for Sixmile Run, a distance of ten miles on foot, and took the tram at that place, and is now at Wilkesbarre along with the rest of them. Not so bad for a man up in the sixties.

W. R. Berkstresser, of Taylor, visited in New Grenada, last Sunday.

William Williams, or "Billy" as he was usually called, was found dead last Sunday morning between his home at Robertsdale and Woodvale. The coroner was notified and an inquest held, but we have not learned the result.

PLEASANT RIDGE.

The Revival at the Pleasant Ridge Brethren church began Tuesday evening by Rev. S. I. Brumbaugh from Saxton.

May meeting at the Baptist church last Sunday was well attended.

John G. Mellott and wife spent Sunday at Rev. W. R. Truax's. Charles Mellott wife and daughter Myrtle spent Sunday at J. W. Truax's.

Sunday school at the Brethren church is progressing nicely under the care of W. K. Truax.

Addison Collins and son Harry of Hancock, spent Saturday and Sunday at Mrs. Martha Skiles.

The Grand Lodge I. O. O. F. of Pennsylvania is in session at Wilkesbarre this week. In his report the grand master says there has been an increase in the membership of the order within the past year of 1,800.

A Rhode Island man was run over by an auto. He arose from the mud climbed into the car and gave the driver a beating. That will teach the driver not to run over another man in the mud.

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

Frank Mellott of Needmore was in town on Saturday.

H. C. McGowan, a citizen of Burnt Cabins was in town on Friday.

E. L. Fegley of near Dott, was an early Monday morning visitor to town.

Jacob Strait of Hustontown was among the Saturday visitors to town.

H. S. Daniels of Licking Creek township was a town visitor on Saturday.

Charles and James Mellott of Saluvia were registered at the City Hotel on Monday.

H. E. and D. K. Chesnut of Hustontown were business visitors to town on Saturday.

H. Bruce Barton of Crystal Springs was registered at the Washington House on Monday.

Miss Maud Rinedollar of this place is visiting the family of her brother W. Scott Rinedollar, in Everett.

Banner and Thomas Bishop, lumber dealers of Warfordsburg, were guests at the Fulton House on Monday last.

Miss Hazel McQuade of this place, is visiting her uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCurdy in Mercersburg.

A. S. Brant, one of Taylor township's sturdy farmers, called at the NEWS office a few minutes while in town last Saturday.

Rev. John Mellott wife and daughter Maggie and son Webster and Rev. S. I. Brumbaugh of Saxton were in town Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Snyder of Chambersburg were guests of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Rummel, of this place, part of this week.

Geo. Foreman of Wells Valley, was in our town on Monday. This was Mr. Foreman's first visit to town in the past three years.

Charles A. Mumma of near Harrisonville was a pleasant caller at our office on Monday. While here he ordered the NEWS sent to his address.

Mrs. M. W. Nace and little daughter Mary Logan are visiting Mr. Nace's father's family in Chambersburg where their little daughter is being treated for an affection of the throat.

Our old friend Robert Everts, of Thompson township, was in town last Friday, and took time to come into the NEWS office for a little chat with the editor and advance his subscription another year.

Ed. D. Shimer, editor of the Republican, left on Monday for Wilkes-Barre, to attend the 88th session of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of Pennsylvania, as representative of McConnellsburg Lodge No. 744.

Mr. and Mrs. William Corbin (Nell Johnston) and baby Eliza of near Lewistown were calling on friends in town on Monday. Mrs. Corbin and baby have spent the past two weeks with Mrs. Corbin's mother, Mrs. J. W. Johnston near Cito.

Mr. Lewis Yonker, Bethel township, and Jacob A. Powell, of Thompson township, were pleasant visitors to our office on Monday. Mr. Powell presented us with a couple "Grimes Golden" apples which were in a perfect state of preservation.

Mr. John H. Wilt of Waynesboro, spent a few days visiting his son-in-law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Nesbit in this place, and greeting his many old time friends and neighbors in McConnellsburg. Mr. Wilt moved to Waynesboro from this place about twenty years ago.