

The Fulton County News.

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THE GRIM REAPER.

Short Sketches of the Lives of Persons Who Have Recently Passed Away.

ALBERT E. HENDERSHOT.

Albert E. son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hendershot, of Buck Valley, this county, was struck and killed by a passenger locomotive near his home at West Elizabeth, Allegheny county, Pa., Saturday night, August 22, 1914.

Mr. Hendershot, as constable of Jefferson township, was called to Jefferson crossing to make the crew of a freight train clear the crossing. His son, who was following him, did not know of the accident until a member of the crew told him that the 9:12 passenger train that had just passed had struck some one. The son with a light went back and found his father's body. Funeral was held on the following Tuesday, at Dravosburg, near McKeesport. The Masonic Order had charge of the services.

Mr. Hendershot was born in Buck Valley April 7, 1872. His parents, wife, and three sons survive. His wife's maiden name was Effie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Boor, of Bedford, Pa.

SAMUEL McLAUGHLIN.

From the Everett papers we clip the following notice: "Samuel McLaughlin, a former resident of Everett and at one time a stage driver between McConnellsburg and Everett, died at the St. Joseph's hospital, in Pittsburgh, recently, following an operation for stomach trouble. For a number of years past he had been a resident of Broad Ford, Fayette county, having gone there from Fort Loudon. A widow and seven children survive."

During the building of the South Penn railroad through the northern end of this county Mr. McLaughlin kept store at Waterfall, and at Hustontown. His wife, who survives him, was the widow of Oliver Metzler, of Harrisonville.

Our State's Abandoned Farms.

This office received a bulletin (No. 252) from the Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg, in which is given a list of 106 unoccupied farms in Pennsylvania. Only one such farm is reported from Fulton county. This farm lies in Thompson township, and belongs to the Henry Gordon heirs. Huntingdon county has three such farms. None are reported from Bedford, or Franklin counties.

As we understand it, the origin of the bulletin had its conception in the newspaper articles which gave the impression that one of the reasons for the high cost of food was because of the great acreage of abandoned farm land in eastern states, that formerly contributed to the sum total of supplies. To find how far this reason applied to Pennsylvania, the State, through the Bureau of Statistics, compiled a list of unoccupied farms to meet the demand on the Department for information concerning these farms. The list was compiled under the direction of our former townsman, L. H. Wible, Chief Statistician.

Grows 12,000 Cantaloupes.

F. C. Crider, an experienced grower of cantaloupes, who removed last spring from the St. Thomas section to the Vanderau farm, east of Stoufferstown, on the Gettysburg pike, has this year had his greatest success in the growing of that delicious fruit. Just adjoining the turn-out he has an acre and a half planted that will yield over 12,000 cantaloupes according to actual count, all fine ones and marketable.—Public Opinion.

Mrs. Eshelman, of "The Corner" in Ayr township, is seriously ill.

A Licking Creek Farm.

The W. W. Daniel farm near Salsavia, the sale of which we mentioned last week, contained 720 acres, and sold for \$6,500, a trifle less than \$9 per acre. At one time this was a famous wheat farm, and much of it could still be made profitable for grain. But like a large acreage of Eastern lands, crop after crop has been taken off without returning to the soil its proper share of humus making material, and \$9.00 is all that it will now sell for, notwithstanding dollar price for wheat. We personally know Mr. Daniel to be an expert at renewing worn-out soils. He has been doing it for some time, on other farms, by the clover route, ploughing down several crops of that legume, until the soil contained some "body" for the sustenance of plant life. But it is doubtful if it pays to attempt it on a scale large enough to raise wheat unless one has money on which to depend for a living while the land is being treated in that way for a period of several years; because, if even a part of the clover be removed to pay for the lime, fertilizer, seed, labor and interest, the time of final restoration would be greatly extended.

Estates, like the one under discussion, are sometimes brought under a high state of cultivation by taking down division fences and moving them to the border lines, making a large sheep pasture. Limited capital is then expended on a few of the better acres to grow clover for winter feed for them. A few acres are devoted to cash crops to tide the family larder over the years of restoration. Lime, seed and fertilizers are then applied to the untilled land as the owner can afford until Nature has restored a heavy sod. Sheep have a way of finding weeds that they prefer to grass—or to all grass—and in this way are not hard on sods, unless too many are confined to an enclosure. It is claimed by experimenters that sheep thus handled will pay for the money expended for the restoration of the soil to agricultural condition.

Lawn Services Close.

The 1914 series of lawn services closed last Sabbath night. During the months of July and August good audiences met on the Court House lawn, about 250 being the average number that occupied chairs, Court House portico, and vehicles. Last year rain drove the worshippers into the M. E. church, or prevented services altogether, several times. During the season just closed there was but one wet Sabbath evening. At no time was the heat oppressive, as it would have been had the meetings been held inside the wall of buildings. We do not recall that any one of the pastors conducted the services more than twice, so that their labors were lightened during the hot months. On several occasions we were treated to lectures by officers of mission work, temperance work, and organizers for societies for the uplift of the race. Every meeting had something of special interest. We are sure that the spirit of cooperation between the denominations of the town has been greatly strengthened. Rev. J. L. Yearick preached the last sermon on the lawn for the summer. His earnest appeal to his audience to be "live wires" in a spiritual sense, as nearly all are in relation to business, was well received and we know that his plea will bear fruit in our town.

Paul, aged three years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Biggaman, near Welsh Run, Franklin county, was stung on the nose by a bee nearly two weeks ago, and in a few days tetanus developed and he died.

UNGRATEFUL COON.

Dr. Smith Badly Injured by Negro Who Insisted Upon Remaining in Automobile.

Dr. E. L. Smith, who, several years ago, practiced medicine in McConnellsburg, is now located in Schellsburg, Bedford county. Last Saturday morning the Doctor started in his automobile to go to New Paris, a village not far from Schellsburg, to see one of his patients. On the way he overtook a darkey who asked permission to ride. The Doctor generously granted the request. When Dr. Smith reached the home of his patient and alighted from his car, the negro, declined to get out, saying that he would remain in the car, and accompany the Doctor farther. This did not suit the Doctor, and he "assisted" the negro to alight, which enraged the negro who was a big burly fellow, and the negro grabbed a stone and began to vigorously pound the Doctor about the face and head. The Doctor, who is something of an athlete, was so taken at a disadvantage, that he was very seriously injured. The authorities were at once notified by phone, and the Sheriff and his Deputy, started in pursuit at once and succeeded in landing the negro into the County jail, where he is now awaiting trial at the fall term of the Bedford county court.

Immediately after the altercation, Dr. Smith was hurried to Wolfsburg, where he received medical attention from Dr. A. C. Wolf, also well known in McConnellsburg.

Germany as Harry Irwin Saw It.

Mr. Harry Irwin, who represents the Landis Tool Company, of Waynesboro, making Cologne Deutz, Germany, his headquarters, left that country on August 15th, after the present war in Europe began. He arrived at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Irwin, in McConnellsburg, last Saturday evening.

Mr. Irwin discards many of the stories told by returning tourists who claim that the Germans treated them harshly. He said that Americans in Germany "lost their heads" when war broke out, and rushed pell-mell to the stations that were already congested with troops that were being moved to the front, and demanded exit; when as a matter of course, the railroads could not care for the mountains of baggage some Americans carry—a dozen trunks, in many instances. Occasionally, some of them would attempt to go in directions forbidden to private individuals, and when guards intercepted them and turned them back, they, in their excited state of mind, imagined that they had been arrested. Mr. Irwin said that he had no trouble whatever to reach the coast of Holland and to find passage with his baggage to America; but he did not attempt to dictate to the management of the railroads the schedule on which he desired to travel. Instead, he calmly waited the convenience of the overburdened officials to put trains at the service of civilians. Mr. Irwin is at a loss to understand why Americans, of supposed experience in travel, should expose themselves to hardships, and to the loss of baggage, when if proper judgment had been exercised, they could have come away with all their trunks.

Has a Sore Arm.

On Tuesday of last week, Earl, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Truax east Water street, was turning a grindstone when a nail in the crank punctured the flesh of his forearm and went through it. Peroxide and turpentine were injected, but the next day the arm was swollen to an alarming extent and Dr. Sappington was called to see the boy. The Doctor took Earl to the Chambersburg hospital for treatment for infection.

SEMI-CENTENNIAL.

Thomas F. Sloan Completes Fifty Years of Continuous Service With The W. U. Telegraph Company.

Half a century of continuous service with one company, in one locality, is a record of which any man might well be proud. Such is the record of our townsman, Thomas F. Sloan, Esq.

On September 1, 1864, Mr. Sloan was placed in charge of the Western Union telegraph office in McConnellsburg; hence on September 1, 1914, he had served that company for an unbroken period of fifty years. In that time he has seen the line grow from a one-wire service to its present dimensions of forty-eight silent mediums for the instantaneous conveyance of intelligence to millions of human beings in every part of the Globe. His position embraced not only the office of operator but included that of manager and lineman. During the last forty years he has been ably assisted by his wife, who, when duty called him out along the line to make repairs, received and sent the messages entrusted to the office.

In 1903, Mr. Sloan was placed in charge of the testing station at the Mountain House on Rays Hill, thus adding to his responsibilities.

He has five sons, all of whom he trained, and they are now engaged in telegraph work.

The first telegraph line between the East and the West was built through this place. The first experimental wire was made up of several strands, and was not satisfactory. Mr. Sloan recently found a few feet of that wire, and as it was among the first used for public service, both Mr. Sloan and his Company prize it highly. Years after the telegraph had become an established necessity, he attended a reception in New York given in honor of the aged inventor, Mr. Morse, where he had the honor of shaking hands with the "wizard," and received his photograph and his autograph.

During the Civil War Mr. Sloan was captured three times by the Confederates making raids into this county—twice as a private citizen who was endeavoring to save personal property, and the third time when his office was raided, his instruments carried away, and the single line of communication cut at both ends of town. Fortunately, Mr. Sloan had a set of instruments hidden away, and as soon as it was safe to do so, they were brought out, the line repaired, and next morning after the raid, he was able to place General Averill, the pursuing officer, in direct communication with Washington.

Would space permit, columns could be written relating Mr. Sloan's experience while he fought his way through blizzards and floods to find and repair broken wires, and when he was making his weekly trip to the Mountain House before daylight each Monday morning. Naturally modest, he seldom refers to them except as matters of expected occurrence. When reporters for the great dailies were trying every route to reach the scene of the Johnstown flood, Mr. Sloan bravely crossed the torrential, bridgeless flood at Harrisonville, with his tools strapped on his back, repaired his line that had gone down at that memorable time, and notified the news agencies, and his was the first wire to tell to a waiting nation the details of that awful catastrophe. The blizzards of 1888, and of 1914, were experiences in which he realized the possibilities of losing his life in a storm, especially during the latter, for there was a time that day when he could not assure himself of his return alive to the family fireside.

During the '70's Mr. Sloan's brother-in-law, the late Hon. W. Scott Alexander, had his law of-

SCHOOL DAYS.

Little Talks on Health and Hygiene by Samuel G. Dixon, M. D., LL. D., Commissioner Health.

Hundreds of thousands of children will go trooping back to school within the next few days. Immediately following their return, measles, diphtheria, scarlet fever and certain other communicable diseases, which reach their lowest ebb during the vacation period, will increase by leaps and bounds.

The result will be disease and death for the children and more or less dis-organization in the schools.

The responsibility for the spread of much of the contagion rests with the parents. Unfortunately in many homes a cold or sore throat is not considered a sufficient excuse for keeping a child at home, yet these are the preliminary symptoms of a number of the diseases of childhood. When Johnny or Jane has a cold or a sore throat they should remain at home and have it cared for. If, as often proves to be the case, it is the first stage of scarlet fever or diphtheria this may be of vital importance.

Even if it is a more simple malady, a day's care may prevent a week's illness. The child with a cold or sore throat, who comes in contact with a source of infection, is in an ideal condition to contract disease. So, primarily for their own protection and welfare and, secondarily, for the protection of the other children, they should be kept at home.

Many mis-guided parents apparently feel that they are doing their children a great wrong in permitting them to stay out of school on account of what they consider minor ailments.

Regularity of attendance may have a certain importance but it is not worthy of consideration when balanced against health. The parents' boast that "our children never miss a day of school," means that in many instances they have been forced to go when they would have been better off at home. No one questions the value of that portion of our education acquired through schooling but the good health of the child is the basis upon which rests the future of the man and woman, and it not should be jeopardized for a few hours or days of school work.

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office in the same rooms as Mr. Sloan occupied for a telegraph office, and in exchange for teaching Mr. Alexander how to manipulate the key, Mr. Alexander unfolded to Mr. Sloan the mysteries of Blackstone, and in 1879, Mr. Sloan was admitted to practice at the Fulton County bar. The study of law by Mr. Sloan and the study of telegraphy by Mr. Alexander were pursued merely as pastime and the pleasure derived from the acquisition of the knowledge gained. Not being in very vigorous health, Mr. Sloan took advantage of the opening of the test station on Rays Hill to place his son Walter in charge of the local office in McConnellsburg and he went up to the test station, with the result that the mountain air and the advantages of out-door life, has done wonders for him physically.

Mr. Sloan has received many letters from the officials of his company, thanking him for the splendid service he has rendered and congratulating him in strong terms for having made a record of fifty years of continuous service with the Company. The News joins the people of McConnellsburg in congratulating one of its citizens who has served so long, and in so many ways as counselor, officer in the Church, Justice of the Peace, and in the faithful discharge of every duty of private citizen.

How War Affects Us.

War in Europe affects this country in several ways. Some of our manufacturers export much of their product, and since war has spread over almost all of the eastern continent, the countries engaged are not buying much except foodstuffs. Some of the factories in this country cannot get their supplies of raw material from European mines, plantations, and other sources. German dyes are depended upon to such extent in America that the lack of them is seriously hindering the American manufacturer of cloth, prints, and other fabrics.

A war of such magnitude makes commerce on the high seas extremely hazardous since each combating nation has armed cruisers constantly on the lookout for merchant vessels of the enemy's country, and this prevents their coming to our shores for our surplus products of the farm.

Trans-oceanic freighting is not very profitable business, and it has not attracted American investors to any great extent. Too many more lucrative opportunities for investment offer in America. Hence, this country was not in position to furnish neutral vessels to carry grain, &c. to Europe when foreign vessels were driven from the seas, and for lack of this market for our surplus grain, prices are no higher than in time of peace.

From this general view of the situation it can be readily understood why many miners, laborers, and skilled mechanics have been laid off at many places. But we look for a general reconstruction of some of our American policies; opportunities for so doing will be presented by circumstances arising from the present world-wide crisis. We will develop more of our own resources hereafter, and not be so prodigal with those already developed.

Lightning's Work.

Amos Saville was home for several days last week. Last spring he bought a nice farm near Carlisle, Cumberland county, and about a month ago sold it and bought another near Middletown, below Harrisburg. Mr. Saville's Cumberland county farm lay within three farms of J. J. Conrad's whose dwelling was struck by lightning and burned two weeks ago. Amos says that Mr. Conrad had as fine brick house as was in the county, and that it was well furnished. The loss was between \$2,500 and \$3,500 with \$1,200 insurance. Two barns, one on each side of Saville's former holdings, and near Conrad's place, were struck by lightning and burned at the time the latter's house was destroyed. Mr. Saville reports that between forty and fifty buildings were struck by lightning in the Cumberland Valley this summer.

Winter Eggs.

The hen that lays during the winter months is one of two kinds. She either molted in the fall time to regain her full vigor before cold weather, or she is a pullet that matured just as cold weather set in and did not molt. In addition to these natural conditions she finds a place to roost where she is free from draughts and she has no lice. She finds good, hard, sharp grit—no smooth slate. She is comfortable as in summer time. A three-pound Leghorn hen will lay her weight in eggs during each winter month if her owner will let her. If she does not do so, it is not always her fault. But think of the summer food, and the help she must have, to lay three pounds of eggs.

Mrs. George W. Parsons and daughter, Mrs. Clarence Seese—both of Mount Union, Pa., spent the past two weeks very pleasantly with friends in Hudson, O., and are now with Mrs. Parsons' children in Pittsburg and vicinity.

ABOUT PEOPLE YOU KNOW.

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

Mr. Claud Cook, of Lanark, Ill., spent a few days this week with Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Seylar.

George A. Ott and his son, of Scalp level, are visiting the former's mother, Mrs. Margaret Gress.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Wible, of Harrisburg, came home last Friday and are spending this week visiting parents and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Stiver, of Bedford, are spending this week in the homes of C. W., and B. W. Peck in McConnellsburg. Mrs. Stiver is a sister of the Peck brothers.

Miss Ethel E. Sipes, of Hustontown spent several days in town last week, staying with Mrs. William Kennedy and visiting friends.

Hon. and Mrs. J. P. Sipes and granddaughter Anna Mary, and Rev. J. V. Royer and wife made a trip to Gettysburg in Mr. Sipe's car Tuesday.

Stanley Humbert, of Big Cove Tannery, was in town Monday getting supplies preparatory to taking charge of the Connor's school. We predict a successful first term for Stanley.

Dr. M. E. Trout left for Philadelphia Sunday, after having spent two weeks with his mother, Mrs. M. B. Trout. He was accompanied by his brother-in-law, Mr. E. R. McClain who will take a swim at Atlantic City before returning.

Mrs. Harry Mosser, of Chambersburg, is visiting her brother-in-law, Dr. J. W. Mosser. Her son Sawyer, who is with her, is nursing a broken arm, having broken it while celebrating Old Home Week. This is the third time Sawyer has broken the same arm.

N. B. Hixson and his brother Blaine, R. H. Swartzwelder and son Harry, and M. J. Hixson and W. H. Duvall—all of Brush Creek Valley were in town a few hours Tuesday, attending to business connected with the settlement of the estate of the late John N. Hixson.

Thad, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christmas Shimer, came home Friday evening after having spent a year on his uncle John Doyle's farm, near Princeton, Ill. Thad will remain at home for an indefinite period, but says he liked to live out there. However, there seems to be a fascination for the dear old mountains of Pennsylvania that is hard to shake off when natives go to the boundless prairies, and the great change has to be made by degrees. After Thad gets his pores filled once more with Tuscarora ozone he may go back to Illinois.

Miss Elsie Greathead, a former teacher in the primary department of our local schools, and later a member of the faculty of the Ohio University, resigned her position in the latter institution and took a post-graduate course at Columbia University, taking in June, the degree of B. S. in the Department of Education, and a diploma in Elementary Supervision. Miss Greathead will leave next Monday for Springfield, Mo., where she has accepted the position of Critic Teacher in the Training Department of the Normal College in that city, at a salary of twelve hundred dollars a year as a starter.

Rev. Spriggs, pastor of the A. M. E. Mission, at Cito, did much of the mason work on the new front of the First National bank. We are told that there are sermons in stones, and we have no doubt that Mr. Spriggs outlines many a sermon while working at his trade and handling "rocks of ages" that reveal the wondrous works of the Creator.