

The Fulton County News.

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THE GRIM REAPER.

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

MRS. MARY A. TRITLE.

Mary Alice, widow of the late J. Keely Trittle, died at her home at Fort Loudon, Pa., Friday, February 12, 1915, aged 59 years and 10 months. The funeral took place on the following Monday, and interment was made in Union Cemetery in the Big Cove. Mrs. Trittle was a member of the Lutheran church, and the funeral services were conducted at her home by Rev. Stonifer, of the Reformed church, and at the cemetery by Rev. Peterman, of the Lutheran church.

Mrs. Trittle had been afflicted with cancer of the stomach for a long time, and had been bedfast since last Christmas. Her husband died a year ago last April, and only about a week ago, her son Charles met with an accident on the railroad which cost him his life. The deceased is survived by the following children, namely, Daniel, at home; Clara, wife of Brice Hann, and Effie, wife of Charlie Gress—both of McConnellsburg; Bessie, wife of John Haun, of Fort Loudon, and John, at home.

MRS. J. EDWARD PALMER.

Nannie, wife of J. Edward Palmer, died at their home in Warfordsburg, last Friday night of heart failure, aged about 30 years. The funeral took place Sunday, and interment was made in Hancock.

Mrs. Palmer was a daughter of Mr. John Brosius, of Brosius, W. Va., and was married to Mr. Palmer two years ago last June. While it was known that she did not possess a strong heart, her death was unexpected and came with a crushing blow to her devoted husband, who has the sincere sympathy of his wide circle of friends.

BRATTON.

Howard, infant son of Edward and Cloe May Bratton, died February 9, 1915, aged 15 days. Its remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Clear Ridge.

Recent Weddings.

BOOTH—FICKS.

On Wednesday, January 27, 1915, Miss Della Ficks and Mr. Blaine E. Booth, both of Dublin Mills, were united in marriage in Pittsburgh. Mr. Booth being employed at present by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, in that city, they will reside there for the present, probably returning to this place in the spring. They have the best wishes of their many friends for a long, happy, and prosperous voyage on the sea of life.

DUVAL—TRUAX.

In McConnellsburg on Wednesday, February 17, 1915, Mr. W. H. Duval, of Akersville, and Mrs. Sarah Truax, of Needmore were united in marriage. Mr. Duval will reside in Brusard Valley.

BLAYS—MILLS.

Mr. Elza B. Blays and Miss Lonnie Julia Mills, both of Breeze-wood, were united in marriage at the M. E. parsonage in that place on Wednesday evening, February 10th. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Geo. E. King.

BEQUEATH—BARTON.

Clarence Bequeath and Miss Sarah Barton of Crystal Springs, were united in marriage at the M. E. parsonage by Rev. G. W. Faus on Saturday, January 30.

Mrs. Thomas F. Sloan and son Frank, were called to Altoona last Friday on account of the serious illness of Mary Margaret, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sloan, of that city. The child was operated on at the Altoona hospital, Saturday morning for peritonitis.

A Fulton County Joseph.

For the tired and often over-worked country editor, there is no other tonic that so really reaches the spot, and inspires him to greater efforts as the words of appreciation that come from the readers of his paper. Fulton, being a purely agricultural county, the NEWS makes it a point, first, to furnish its readers with a complete chronicle of the week's happenings, and, last, to be helpful in every way as it is possible for it to be.

In a recent letter from a former Fulton County teacher, but who now receives mail at a street address in one of our bustling cities, he says, "I am very much pleased that you are devoting so much space in the NEWS to farming and farm life. I read every line of it with interest. It touches the home conditions as no farm paper could do. While I hold a good position in this city, I am looking forward to the time when I will own a farm and return to the country. I must tell you of a dream I had a few nights ago—a real dream while fast asleep. I dreamed I had completed a scientific course in Agriculture, and was back in Fulton county teaching school again. The term was nine months instead of seven as now. The course of study in the public schools had undergone much change. Many things we used to spend much time on, were thrown out, and the old course much abbreviated. Every minute spent in school was now devoted to something that would be of real, helpful, value to the boy after he had gone out from school. The study of agriculture had been introduced, and the time we used to spend on fox and hound and age problems, was now devoted to studying the names and habits of the plants that grew in the neighborhood—their names, how they grew, their uses, the nature of the soil in which they grew. The pupils were wild—not with mischief, but with enthusiasm, and I, as their teacher, was helping to fit them up for the work of real life.

Adjoining the play ground, and in connection with the school, we had a farm of 40 acres which we used as our experiment station. On this farm, which was divided up into small fields, we studied methods of getting sod, or getting more hay, how to get a permanent pasture, how to get larger yields, the effect of the different kinds of fertilizer used, and figure the net profit or loss of each process.

The school term being longer the regular school branches were not neglected. On nice days I would take the pupils out and give them a lesson on pruning; and, in planting season, show them how to plant by having them help. Each Saturday afternoon the grown up folks in the neighborhood would come and take a lesson on farming. I can still see the farmers coming in on Saturday and how they became interested as I showed them over the farm and explained each method used. I dreamed that the Saturday afternoon class was kept up all summer and was the most interesting of the lot. I dreamed there was a house and a barn on the place in which I lived; and that I got \$125 a month for my work.

We kept some thorough-bred stock and kept an account of everything used, everything sold and everything given away; for we gave away seed to the entire district.

In my mind I can still see how beautiful the entire place was with fields all of uniform size and the rows straight as a die.

W. W. McDaniels and his son J. E. McDaniels, of Everett took a little spin in their auto to this place last Friday. At Breeze-wood they picked up mailcarrier J. C. Salkeld, and brought the mail to Saluvia. On the return trip, they took the western mail back with them.

Compulsory Attendance.

Under the Act of May 18th, 1911, every child between the ages of 8 and 16 years must attend the public school, regularly, and every parent, guardian or person having charge or control of any child between said ages, who shall fail to comply with the provisions of said Act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The Ayr township school board prosecuted four cases last week, the parents were arrested, and the cases were heard before a Justice last Saturday. The Justice held that the proof of guilt had to be made beyond a doubt by the proper evidence, and the Commonwealth asked for a continuance of two of the cases, the defendants consented, and the cases were continued until next Saturday. The two tried were clearly proven, and in the first the parent claimed his boy had to work, and could not attend school, making no other defense. He was promptly fined \$2.00 and the costs. In the second case, the parents appeared with their family physician and proved that their children were in a weak and diseased condition, and that the children attended school all the time they were physically able, and that having nearly a mile and one-half to go to school, were kept home on account of their not being physically able in their opinion at the times charged that they had been suffering with throat trouble, and according to the physicians evidence, were not strong enough to make the trip to school. The defendant in this case was discharged.

The law is strict, and parents having children out of school are in danger, for excuses can not be taken unless they stand the actual test, and the School Directors, are not doing their duty unless they see that every child in the district is regularly in attendance. If a child does not have proper clothes, and the parents are unable to get them, it is their privilege to call on the proper authorities to provide the clothes.

The most serious phase in the situation is this: The law says that every child in the district between the ages of 8 and 16 must be in school. The law says that the responsibility of their attendance rests upon the school directors. When a man assumes the duty the school director he swears that he will discharge the duties pertaining to his office according to law. At the end of the school year, the president of the board again swears that the schools have been conducted according to law. If the president knows that there are children in this district that have not attended school regularly, then he cannot swear to the report, and if the report is not sworn to, the district loses its appropriation. The school director's job is an important one, but it is not an easy one.

The Limit of Legal Tender.

The largest amount that a person making payment may offer in silver or copper coins, with the certainty that the other party to the transaction can not refuse, is commonly known as the "limit of legal tender." A definite limit is specified for coins of each denomination except gold coins and silver dollars, both of which may be used in making legal tender up to any amount. Of the smaller coins now current, 1-cent and 5-cent pieces are good only up to 25 cents. Dimes, quarters dollars and half dollars are good in making payments up to \$10. Although it is done as a matter of business custom, there is no law compelling any one to make change, and, as a matter of law, a street car conductor, for example, can refuse to take the 5-cent fare out of a dime just as he can refuse to take it out of a \$10 bill.

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"AULD ACQUAINTANCE."

Bits of News and Gossip Extracted from the Letters from Our Distant Subscribers.

Another former Fulton county boy who thinks that the NEWS is "just like getting a letter from home" is Charles S. Mellott, of Milledgeville, Ill. He is a son of Dayton Mellott formerly of this county, now of Chambersburg. He describes Milledgeville as being a thriving town about the size of McConnellsburg and well supplied with stores, a bank, elevator and two railroads, three churches, and good schools. It is a great farming community, but like other localities, they had their share of foot and mouth disease among stock. He says "I work for J. H. Gayman and Son, who are also Pennsylvanians, and they treat me fine, so that I feel quite at home. Mr. Gayman's son Milton, had his hand crushed in a cornsheller about two months ago, and it had to be amputated along with part of his arm about six inches below the elbow. He had to have 152 head of cattle and hogs killed on account of foot and mouth disease. They were valued at \$3,000. So you see that farmers are subject to accidents and great losses—careful as they may be." Mr. Mellott goes on to enumerate a long list of avoidable accidents, such as foolhardy acts, pouring coal oil in the stove in the morning to start the fire, consulting fortunetellers who fleece their victims, driving on to railroad tracks, getting full of booze, &c.

Strawberries Good as Lime.

The interest shown by the farmers at the Wednesday evening session of the institute last week when they sprung the lime question on Mr. Fassett induced us to make private inquiry into some of the answers he gave. Mr. Fassett was asked if he ever found it necessary to offset the acidity caused by that large quantity of decaying vegetable matter, by the use of lime, and he replied that he did not. Astonishment was pictured on more than one countenance. In a little talk with him at his hotel that evening, Mr. Fassett explained that his soil was a deep sandy loam, and that it had been his experience that the greater the growth of strawberry vine the greater his difficulty in controlling the growth of clover as a weed among the strawberries. He believes that a good growth of strawberries keeps his soil sweet. Again, he confessed that probably since his soil along the Susquehanna river belonged to the older glacial formation, and which is known to be so intermingled that it is difficult to determine which original soil predominates, sufficient disintegrated limestone may be mixed with the soil to prevent acidity such as we experience here in Fulton county, and according to the light we have on the use of lime, this seems to be the only logical solution of an apparent contradiction of Fulton county experience.

We have heard of other small localities where the application of lime was useless—indeed harmful—and we are sure that investigation would reveal similar conditions to that of Mr. Fassett's farm. Some agency in the soil of these small areas absorbs, so to speak, the harmful acids that are known to accumulate in Fulton county soils to such extent that a little lime must occasionally be applied to restore a natural balance.

Taken to Hospital.

Saturday afternoon, February 6th, Howard Nonemaker, of Cherry Grove, Huntingdon county, was taken to the Blair Memorial hospital, Huntingdon, suffering with appendicitis. A successful operation was performed Saturday night, and it is thought he will be able to be brought home soon. Mr. Nonemaker is the husband of Annie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Horton, formerly of Taylor township.

Fulton County Soils.

This, our third article on Fulton county soils, will consist of several stories about them. The stories were not given for publication, but the prominent men who related them are workers, and students of agriculture, and they will not object to our passing the stories along.

While talking with Associate Judge W. B. Stigers about the strawberry-lime story printed elsewhere in this paper, he said that he sowed a cover crop of rye on a piece of deep sandy loam like Mr. Fassett's with the intention of ploughing it down when about kneehigh. Circumstances prevented his ploughing down the rye until it was horsehigh and then some. With the aid of a heavy logchain, used in the well known manner, he buried the straw deeply and then cut it up fine by disking crosswise of the furrows, and secured a firm seed bed with good contact of top soil with the subsoil. The field was planted to corn and the best corn was gathered where the rye was ploughed under. As in Mr. Fassett's case, with similar soil, he has found no bad results from the fomentation of such a big dose of green manure. This indicated to Mr. Stiger's mind, and to that of ourselves, that this sandy loam is fortified against acidity by the presence of large quantities of disintegrated limestone which was deposited there probably during the glacial period. County Chairman of Farmers' Institutes Frank Ranck, relates that he was recently prevented from ploughing down a cover crop of rye until it was well out in head, and he too, had a fine crop—indeed, he called it a very fine crop—of sorrel. Having no particular use for so much sorrel there was nothing left for him to do but to resort to lime to restore the soil to a friendly condition toward more profitable crops. Mr. Ranck's soil differed from Mr. Stiger's, the former being a good quality of that found in the great belt that runs from Hunter, Licking Creek, Belfast, Bethel, and Thompson, townships to the Maryland line. Here were shown two opposite effects from the same cause, and it affords food for thought, and proves conclusively that there can be no infallible rule laid down for soil treatment, but every man must master basic principles, and then apply them with judgment to individual types of soil.

Jury Commissioner J. C. Hixson confessed to us this week that he is but a recent convert to the use of lime. He tried it on one field of red shale with the result that he obtained a splendid crop of wheat, and maybe at this moment he is leaning his arms on top of the fence and admiring the finest stand of clover and timothy he ever had. Mr. Hixson told us that, barring climatic accidents, he expected to see his stock revel in fine hay next winter. Mr. Hixson is converted "to stay converted" on the lime question as it relates to his soil. Perhaps some of our readers who have red shale soil will recall that three months ago we published an account of experiments with about a dozen types of soil to determine which one responded most readily to lime, and red shale stood at the head of the list as giving up its stored plant food promptly when "tickled" with lime. The resultant increase of growth insures stiff sods, stiff sods insure increased humus, humus makes a better crop—that is, when we do not follow up the lime effects by robbery.

John J. Martz was in town Tuesday on business and took a minute to call at the NEWS office. He has just burnt another kiln of lime, which he will open just as soon as the weather will permit and the roads are in a condition for hauling.

Telling Us How.

There is nothing more irritating to the people of a small town than the air of superiority that people from larger towns have towards them and their village. It is hard to say what prompts the city man to feel greater than the villager, but he almost invariably does, and what makes it worse, shows it in his actions.

It is the weakness of city people, this belief of theirs that country people are back numbers. The man from a city concern pays the country business man a visit and shows plainly that he considers the little merchant a very small potato; but if he were wise enough to realize the truth of their respective businesses, he would know that the back-number merchant, as he looks upon him, is laying by each year more than the city chap is drawing as a hired man from a company that could find a thousand like him in a day's time.

The narrow brained lecturer drops into the small town, and at the beginning of his talk, mentions that he has changed his subject, "for fear the one announced would be over the heads of his audience," and then proceeds to ramble along for a couple of hours with stale stories and disconnected ideas, boring his auditors half to death. The Chautauque entertainer, until he has had a good deal of experience; the traveling salesman, up to the time he becomes of some value to his house; the transient visitor, on a chance business or pleasure trip; the young city employee, before he learns the lessons of the relation of capital to business wherever it is employed—all of them make the same mistake of misjudging the capacity, the intelligence and the character of country people.

If there is such a thing as superiority between city and country folks, the latter have the best opportunity of securing it. But as people, there is no difference between those who live in the cities and those who live in the country. They all read the same newspapers, the same magazines and the same books; they hear the same lecturers, and see the same theatrical performances; they attend the same high school and graduate from the same colleges and universities; they take the same trips, visit the same vacation resorts, and make as many excursions abroad, they ride in Pullmans as often, and pay their bills as regularly, and when everything is counted, it is hard to point out any difference between them, except that the country people have the advantage of freedom from the life in throngs, and from the scramble for a livelihood with great numbers contesting for a share.

We have no contempt or criticism for those who prefer to live in a city, but we do object to their attitude of scorn for the doings of those who live in the country or in small towns. There is no basis for their feeling of superiority and, to a person with a proper understanding of the relations of things, it is nonsensical and uncalled for.

Surprise Party.

While Miss Mary Benson was no doubt expecting "company" on the evening of her twenty-first birthday which occurred on Saturday, February 6th, she evidently was not prepared for the "quantity" of company that rushed in to disturb her peaceful dreams of flitting Cupids.

The names of the merry-makers who wished Mary many more happy birthdays are: James Benson and wife, Thomas Benson, wife, and little son Clifford, Mrs. Laura Black, Benjamin, Clarence and Howard Slates; Robert and Beatrice McClain; Dallas and Lula Kerlin; Fred, Harry, Otto, Mary, George, Norman, and Arthur Benson; Hazel and Gertrude Black; Martha and Ruth Taylor; Annie and Harvey Yingling; Laura Jolinger, Dalbert Rupert, Clarence Lane, Curtis Newman and John Blair.

DISEASE GERMS.

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

There are many things in the world which our five senses unaided would never apprise us of. There are sounds too delicate for the ear to hear, odors which we cannot smell, flavors which we fail to recognize, movements and vibrations to which our nerve centers do not respond and innumerable objects in nature which we cannot see.

Even the bravest man shrinks from danger which is unseen. The deadliest enemies of mankind are absolutely invisible to the naked eye. Tuberculosis, cholera, typhoid fever, the plague, yellow fever and many other of the diseases which claim a greater number of lives than have ever been sacrificed in war are caused by those invisible enemies which scientists call bacteria or micro-organisms. Commonly these are referred to as disease germs.

Bacteria are minute organisms the largest of which are only some ten or twelve thousandths of an inch in length. Not all bacteria are harmful; but those which are responsible for disease when introduced into the human or animal economy multiply with startling rapidity and give off poisons which cause sickness and death. Millions of these organisms could be contained in a single drop of water.

There are three very common ways in which disease germs are carried from person to person and introduced into the system—fingers, food, and insects. Foods which are eaten raw, and milk, and water, are those most likely to transmit infection. Thorough cooking destroys the bacteria; and unless the food is infected by being handled afterward, it is safe.

Our fingers are continually coming in contact with articles touched by others, and they may be so contaminated with human excretions from those diseased. The intestinal discharges of those suffering from typhoid fever contain the germs, and here uncleanness is responsible for the transmission. Many epidemics of typhoid fever have been traced to a single case on a dairy farm where the housewife acted as nurse and milk-maid.

Insects alone are responsible for the transmission of the germs of certain diseases. Yellow fever and malaria for example are each carried by a single variety of mosquito from the sick to the well.

Suffrage Bill Now in Senate.

The resolution providing for a suffrage amendment to the State Constitution has been referred to the Judiciary Committee in the Senate and will probably be reported out at the next meeting of that committee. Owing to the ten-day vacation which the Legislature has declared in honor of Washington's Birthday, it is likely that the final vote on the bill will not be taken until early in March. But meanwhile, the suffragists are not worrying—despite the eleventh hour fight that was made against their bill in the House. The lobbyists for the interests that oppose the measure have already canvassed the Senate and found little cause for encouragement there. The Republican party, which is in power, has let it be distinctly understood that the party pledge on suffrage shall be kept and the whole question put up to a referendum vote of the people at the polls this fall. The House vote on the suffrage resolution last week was 130 ayes and 71 noes.

Miss Maude B. Ott after having spent several weeks with friends at Warriors Mark, Altoona, and Harrisburg, returned to her home in this place last Saturday night.