



VOL. 31.

MIDDLEBURGH, SNYDER CO., PA., JUNE 21, 1894.

NO. 25.

ITEMS of LOCAL INTEREST

The Post is indebted to the Herald for favors conferred.

The gold reserve is about \$63,000,000, and the deficit is increasing every day.

There were 712 pupils in the Soldiers' Orphans' schools in this State on May 31.

J. J. Steining and wife of Hartleton were visiting his brothers, Martin and Charles, on Sunday.

Lewisburg bicyclists are preparing to organize a club. A good example for Middleburgh wheelmen to follow.

The Globe Mills Sunday School will hold a festival Saturday, June 30th at Globe Mills for the benefit of the S. S.

Chas. P. Ulrich Esq., and wife of Selinsgrove rode on their wheels to the county seat last Thursday and took tea at Graybill's hotel.

Now is the time to keep an eye and a shingle on the boy who is plugging up an old piece of gas-pipe with powder for the Fourth.

Three days before the state convention Senator Mylin, the republican nominee for Auditor General was out in the field planting corn.

Albert Smith, the editor of the Elizabethville Echo, and wife, were in town on Sunday and remained over for the wedding of his sister.

Dr. G. E. Hassinger, Charles Marks and the editor rode to Mifflintown on their wheels last Thursday a distance of 34 miles in 3 1/2 hours.

Prof. J. O. Herman, of Edwarsville who has just completed a very successful term as principal of schools at that place, was in town over Sunday.

Misses Ella Schoch of New Berlin, and Katherine Aurand of Milesburg, Centre county have been enjoying the hospitality of Miss Lillian Stetler.

Misses Wittenmyer are attending Bucknell commencement this week. Miss Mabel on Tuesday received a certificate for having completed a post-graduate course.

Don't fail to read the article on "School Appropriations" on page 5. Note how much more your district gets this year. The county gets nearly \$4,000 more this year than last.

The house and lot on West Main street, belonging to T. H. Harter, will be sold at private sale. For particulars call on or address, J. M. STEININGER, Middleburgh, Pa.

Aaron Crossgrove rode through Beavertown on his bicycle Sunday evening and was bitten by a dog. Aaron wishes to inform the owner of the dog to keep the animal from the street, else he will shoot the dog.

Port Treverton will celebrate the 4th of July in a good, old, patriotic way. The citizens will suspend business to a large extent and will devote their time to celebrating the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of American Independence.

A large powder mill is being erected at Geiger's Point. A railroad siding is being extended 1,000 feet in order to accommodate them in the way of shipping. Speesville is the name of a new post-office established there.—Millersburg Sentinel.

The Millersburg Sentinel last week entered upon the eleventh year of its publication. It comes to us regularly and is always filled with the latest news of Dauphin county and vicinity. The new year is begun with the largest circulation in its history.

The Commissioners held their letting on Saturday for the reconstruction of the Burns' bridge over Penns Creek. The lowest bid was \$400, by the Wilmington Bridge Company. The Commissioners finally decided to reject all bids and put up the bridge themselves.

Some of the correspondence was crowded out this week.

Mrs. H. H. Leitzell of Millheim, is visiting her parents in this place.

Mrs. T. B. McWilliams went to McVeytown on Tuesday to spend some time.

Willet Hosterman sold his bakery to Mr. Eshelman who has taken possession.

Prof. Paul Billhart was at Williamsport on Wednesday evening attending the Masonic Lodge Meeting.

Misses Lillie Spaid and Mabel Grimm are visiting friends at Selinsgrove this week.

Mrs. Banks Dreese and Mrs. Jos. Dreese of Adamsburg spent Sunday in Swineford with relatives.

Miss Lulu Huntly, who has many acquaintances in this county, was last Thursday married at her home in Driftwood, to T. H. Williams of Mt. Carmel. Her sister was married to a Chicago gentleman on the same occasion.

The Union county Democrats nominated the following ticket: Congress, Cyrus Hoffa; Assembly, Francis E. Brown; Sheriff, Robert Weirick; delegates to State Convention, Samuel W. Johnson and H. E. Spyker. Judge Hoffa will not accept.

On Saturday morning, a wreck occurred below Sunbury which resulted in fourteen cars being piled up on a heap. Coal covered the north bound track to the depth of three or four feet. All trains were delayed and baggage and passengers were transferred.

Rev. R. F. Vetter of E. Pa. preached at Hassinger's church on Sunday morning and in the Middleburgh Lutheran church in the evening. The Reverend carefully avoided any display of high sounding terms and preached a good practical sermon from St. Matthew 8:25-26.

S. S. Schoch had the body of his late wife exhumed from Hassinger's cemetery and removed to his lot in the Middleburgh cemetery Monday evening. The casket was in a fair state of preservation. A cross and wreath of natural flowers on the lid of the casket which had been buried with her seemed to be perfectly natural except that they were withered.

"MISTAKEN SOULS WHO DREAM OF BLESS."—The following marriage licenses have been granted since our last publication:

- (Newton Wetzel, New Berlin, Emma M. Snyder, Penn Twp., John W. Boyer, Penn Twp., Emma J. Dunkelberger, Freeburg, H. H. Hassinger, Sunbury, Mertie Smith, Middleburgh.

Ira T. Clement, the owner of the ferry-boats at Sunbury, believes in high tariff while the Northumberland bridge can not be used. Hucksters must pay \$1.50 now for services which before cost \$1.00. It is strange too, that the round trip passenger fare to Northumberland is five cents, one half the former rate. But then there is the electric railway.

Hon. J. G. Weiser, of Snyder Co., one of the commission appointed to mark the location of old Indian forts in the State has been in this vicinity and located Ft. McCord at Wm. Bossarts, Ft. Loudon near the village of that name, Ft. McDowell at Bridgeport and Ft. Steel at White church, near Lehmasters. The whole commission will visit these points later on.—Franklin Repository.

On last Thursday the mail train West ran into the work train, West of McClure. The work train had the right of the track and the employees of mail train should have received orders to that effect, but, as they had none, the collision followed. Fortunately, the engineers discovered the trains approaching them. They reversed their engines. It was just in time to save a great many lives, but too late to avoid the crash of the engines into each other. The cow-catcher and the whole front part of both engines were crushed and broken.



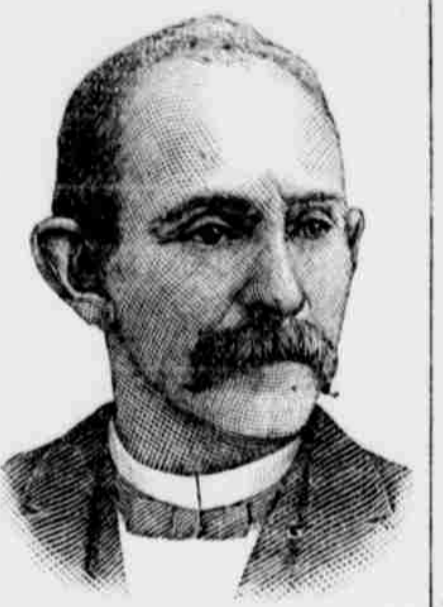
JAMES B. CARPENTER, THE PARRICIDE.

Carpenter Pays the Penalty.

He Dies in the Mifflintown Jail Yard Protesting His Innocence.

On last Thursday morning at 10-51, Sheriff Lapp of Juniata county kicked the bar and dropped the platform of the scaffold on which Jas. B. Carpenter stood with a rope around his neck. It was the day of retribution for the murderer of a blind father, instigated in his diabolical purpose only by the greed and avarice of his heart. The hanging was done successfully. Only a few twitches in the suspended body were noticed. The spinal column was not broken and death was caused by strangling. The body was taken from the gallows 20 minutes later. A few minutes before the execution, Sheriff Lapp accompanied by the murderer, his religious advisers and the Sheriff's deputies filed into the jail yard. The murderer was cleanly shaved with his mustache waxed and nicely curled. He was dressed in a new Prince Albert suit and wore a neat blue necktie and slippers. The murderer was a handsome looking fellow and as he stepped upon the platform, he made a polite bow and delivered his speech with as much audacity as any youth could who was delivering his commencement oration, with the expectation of receiving his diploma. He was entirely unaffected and manifested an enormous amount of nerve. The affair seemed to be a common place occurrence for him and not until the deputies began buckling on the straps did the murderer show any signs of nervousness. The Sheriff kept his back turned to the victim while he was being prepared for the final plunge. This official turned only long enough to kick the bar which suspended the murderer in mid-air. We give below a verbatim copy of the murderer's speech to which Jas. B. Carpenter signed his name before he was executed.

"GENTLEMEN.—This is the last chance I will have to speak upon this earth. Within a brief moment, I will have passed away from you and the trials and tribulations of this life. At this most solemn moment to me, I wish to first say that I bear no ill feeling to any one living. Those who have sinned against me, I freely forgive as I believe my Heavenly Father has forgiven me for the sins of my existence. And as I stand here in the presence of death and eternity, I say to you and all the world that neither I nor my beloved mother are guilty of the murder of my father. I know the chain of circumstances was perhaps without a parallel in the whole history of crime. And when my lifeless body hangs between earth and the great sky above us, know you all and all the world that I die innocently, the fated victim of circumstantial evidence perhaps too powerful to raise a suspicion of my guiltlessness. "To the Jury who convicted me, to the Honorable Court which presided at my trial, to the District Attorney who ably and without malice conducted my prosecution, I wish to say that I die without reflection upon you. To my kind religious advisers and to my friend Sheriff Lapp who has treated me so kindly through the trying days of my imprisonment, I offer the thanks of my heart so soon to beat no more forever. Lastly, to my beloved mother, now so far from me, who is



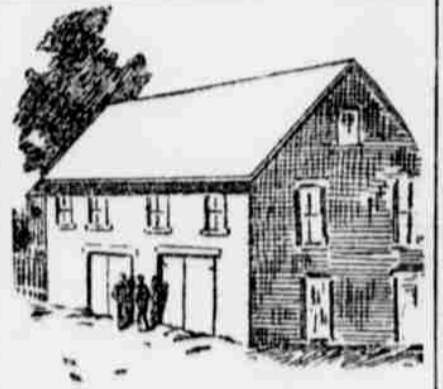
JAMES J. CARPENTER, THE VICTIM.

watching I know through the anguish of these hours, I wish to say that her son will meet death as a son ever ready to die for her, if need be, and that I go in peace and that my last hope is that we will soon meet upon the shores of the blessed land no more to part and may the comfort of God support her to the end. Unto God the Father through the grace of Christ I commit my immortal soul and this poor body to decent burial. To you all and to all the world. Farewell!"

Signed as a true copy, J. B. CARPENTER.

Carpenter's speech was given the undivided attention of the audience of not more than 125 people. It is safe to say that not five of the auditors believed the statement of the speaker, even though he was on the verge of death. Many of the hearers were inclined to consider Carpenter an intelligent fellow because he had such a good speech. The speech was written by one of his attorneys and committed by himself. Carpenter was a peculiar fellow having a nature and disposition of rare qualities. He was harsh and hard-hearted. His mother is no better. His wife no longer cared for him and his last hours upon earth were spent without sympathy. The body after the execution was placed in front of the jail in order to allow all the curious people to see him after death as only a small number were allowed to witness the execution. The remains were taken to Church Hill for burial.

We are indebted to Sheriff Lapp for a card of admission and to A. M. Carpenter of Beavertown, for favors shown.



WHERE THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED.

HISTORY OF THE CRIME.

On Monday morning, December 11, 1893, the startling news was circulated through Port Royal that James J. Carpenter, a blind huckster, aged 60 years, was missing. His son, James B. Carpenter, first gave the alarm. He and his mother, Hetty Carpenter, and his father, lived together and composed the entire family. Quarrels had been frequent and bitter and all parties had been in court in consequence of the same on the preceding September. James B., the son, said he had last seen his father in his place of business on Sunday evening, December 10, where he said he would lock up and then visit a neighbor, that not coming home that night the son visited the neighbors and found he had never been there; that the office was locked up as usual in the morning. The missing man's place of business was searched and found to contain evidences that he had been murdered. A bloody trail was followed from the shop to the Tuscarora Creek, where evidences were found that a body had been thrown into the creek. The creek was drag-



MRS. CARPENTER, THE ACCESSORY.

ged and the body of Carpenter found. Before finding the body, however, Mrs. Carpenter told several people she believed her husband had been knocked down, his throat cut, robbed of his gold watch and money, some \$65, and his body thrown into the creek. When the body was found it presented just such a condition. Suspicion was at once directed against the son and mother.

The old man's watch and some \$12 in silver money were subsequently found on the son. The Coroner's jury found the mother and son guilty of the murder, and both were arrested. Separate trials were demanded. The son was tried first at the February term of court and convicted of murder in the first degree. He was sentenced to death on March 9, Mrs. Carpenter was tried at the April term, when she pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact to the murder, and was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary, the limit of the law for such offenses, and is now undergoing the sentence.



SHERIFF LAPP.

Hassinger-Smith Nuptials.

On Monday at 2 P. M. the ceremony which sealed the nuptial bonds between H. H. Hassinger and Miss Mertie Smith took place at the residence of the bride. The knot was tied by Rev. I. P. Neff. The wedding was almost entirely private, only the intimate friends and relatives of the contracting parties being present. After the ceremony a repast was served. At 4:18 the bridal couple boarded the train for Sunbury which will be their future home. The Post sends congratulations. May their future be crowned with much happiness.

The subscribers of the Post residing outside of the county were last week sent a statement of the time when their subscription expired. Those residing outside the Co. who have paid in advance did not receive such a notice. Publishers must pay postage on all papers sent outside of the county and hence payment should be made in advance. Kindly remit the amount due us. Will you attend to this?

Quite a destructive thunder storm passed over the county last Friday night. Flashes of lightning were sharp and a great deal of damage was done. At Freeburg lightning struck Boyer's Hall, ignited the building and consumed it entirely with all the contents. The local organizations of the P. O. S. of A. and I. O. O. F. lost all their furniture and regalia. The Hall was insured to cover most of the loss. At Herndon, the large barn belonging to N. E. Kehris was entirely consumed. The loss is estimated at \$3000 and only \$900 insurance. Reports of other damage done in various parts have reached us.

Democratic County Convention

The Democratic County Convention was called to order on Monday at 1 P. M. and organized by electing M. L. Snyder, Esq., of Selinsgrove chairman and H. C. Haas, of Mt. Pleasant Mills, Secretary. The call of the County chairman was read after which the following nominations were made: Congress, Dr. Smith of Freeburg; Assembly, U. P. Fessler, of Centre township; Prothonotary, Chas. W. Dreese, of Penn; Register and Recorder, Isaac Wetzel of Spring township; Jury Commissioner, C. S. Dunn; District Attorney, W. E. Housewerth, Esq., of Selinsgrove, John V. Leshar, and Chas. W. Dreese were elected delegates to the State Convention. As was predicted by the Post two weeks ago, candidates were scarce. Every one of the candidates except those for Jury Commissioner stood up in open convention and declined the nomination. None of the declinations were accepted and the probabilities are that these candidates will publicly decline to accept. During the nomination some irregularities transpired, but no particular opposition developed until an attempt was made to elect a chairman of the County Committee. The friends of Jos. G. Leshar, the present chairman, contended that the rules of the State Committee provided that the present management should hold over until next April. The Anti-Lesharites did not see it that way. A motion was made to abide by the call. The motion was ruled out by the chairman. An appeal was made from the decision.

J. G. Leshar addressed the convention while chairman Snyder tried to quiet the speaker. In this the chairman of the convention was outdone. A motion was made and seconded by the Anti-Lesharites that the report of delegates be received to name the members of the Standing Committee. Motion declared carried by chairman Snyder. The Lesharites made a motion to adjourn. The motion was ruled out of order. Half of the delegates were on their feet, the other half did not know what to do and the audience was in a turmoil. A dispute followed. Finally Chairman Snyder restored the equilibrium of the convention. He then asked all to rise who were in favor of electing District Committeemen. Afterward those opposed were asked to rise. The majority was in favor of the motion. The Chairman of the Convention called for the delegates to report the names of the Committeemen. Some districts reported and some did not. When Chairman Snyder had called for the reports of the districts as far as Middleburgh, Chairman Leshar told the convention that inasmuch as their chairman refused to entertain the motion to adjourn, he (Leshar) would put it. The motion was put to a vote and declared carried by Leshar who stated that the convention was now adjourned. Chairman Snyder ruled the proceeding out of order and declared that the convention was not adjourned. The chairman of the convention kept on calling for the other district reports and finally received nominations for Chairman of the County Committee, T. J. Smith of Middleburgh, was nominated and elected Chairman. John Maloney, N. C. Gutelius, and Chas. Dreese were appointed a committee on resolutions. The convention then adjourned.

This brought a most turbulent convention to a stormy termination. The Lesharites hold that the action of the convention will not be approved by the State Convention and the Anti-Lesharites hold that the proceedings of the convention can not be annulled. It is likely that both the old and the new chairman will claim jurisdiction and it is for them to fight it out. The Republicans are rejoicing because more votes were made for them on Monday than they could secure for themselves in a whole month.