

1795.

1895.

JAMES B. HOLDERBAUM'S
MAMMOTH - HARDWARE - STORE
 O | WILL BE | O
CENTENNIAL HEADQUARTERS

For the Largest and Best Line of

Binders, Mowers, Hay Rakes, Hay Forks, Kramer Wagons, Studebaker Wagons, Harness, Stoves, Hay Tedders, Hay Loaders, Geiser Engines and Threshers, Carriages, Buggies, and Ranges.

BEST QUALITY! LOWEST PRICES!

Don't fail to see our Store this week.

JAS. B. HOLDERBAUM.

AVOID THOSE BAGGY KNEES.



Avoid Those Baggy Knees!

Have your Trousers made at

MILLER'S

The largest stock of Suitings and Trimmings between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

MAURICE MILLER,

Johnstown's Leading Tailor.

THE PLACE

To get the best of everything in the General Merchandise line, and big values for your money, is at

J. D. Miller & Sons,

ROCKWOOD, PA.

This is the oldest and largest store in Rockwood, as well as one of the leading stores of the county. We will positively not undersold, quality and style of goods considered.

We send Greeting

to our hundreds of customers during this, our county's Centennial year, and shall try to merit their patronage in the future as in the past.

J. D. Miller & Sons.

CHAS. F. COOK & Co.,

Booksellers and Stationers, Berlin, Pa.

THE ONLY BOOK STORE IN BERLIN.

Everything in the Book and Stationery Line. We solicit your patronage.

MILLINERY?
 Largest and Best Selected Stock in the county. Ladies', Misses' and Children's Cloaks and Furnishings of all kinds. Prices Low. Customers treated fairly and equally. **WOMEN AND BOYS SUITS** sold by sample. Prices Low and fit guaranteed.
R. A. SNYDER,
 Rockwood, Pa.

PURDY BROS.,
 BARBERS AND HAIR DRESSERS,
 SOMERSET, PA.
 Hot and Cold Baths.
 Located opposite Hotel Vanneer.

CONFLUENCE HOUSE.
SCOTT STERNER, Proprietor.
 Bar attached. Best of accommodations. Rates \$1.50 per day.

RIVERSIDE HOTEL,
W. A. SWAN, Proprietor.
 Special attention given at this leading Confluence Hotel to the commercial men. Free bus to and from all trains.

Some Ancient Somerset County Newspapers.

Several citizens of Somerset have in their possession some very ancient newspapers. Among them are the Somerset Whig, People's Guard, and Somerset Herald and Whig. Of these The Whig is the oldest and was established and published as early as 1810 or 1812, by John Patton.

The editor of THE VEDETTE, while looking over a copy of the Herald and Whig dated August 10th, 1853, noted particularly the advertisements in its columns, and discovered that among the numerous advertisements therein there was only one inserted by a Somerset man who is living and in business in Somerset at the present time. That man is Isaac Simpson, who is in the livery and harness business on Patriot street. The following is almost an exact fac simile of Mr. Simpson's advertisement in the Herald and Whig: **The Same Old Shop.**

THE undersigned would respectfully invite the attention of his friends and the public generally to his shop, nearly opposite J. B. Bedford's Hotel, where he is now manufacturing and will keep constantly on hand an elegant assortment of articles in his line of business, made in a workmanlike and durable manner, and superior material, at prices lower than ordinary, and terms to suit the times. His stock, consisting of saddles of all kinds, full Spanish, half Spanish and plain, fall back shafts, ladies' saddles with the hoop, quilted and plush, harness of every description, plain and ornamented, horse collars, trunks, valises, etc. will be found superior to any other in the borough. All kinds of repairing done low, and upon the shortest notice. Give him a fair trial, and you will be satisfied.

All kinds of produce taken in exchange for work.
May 25, 1857. **ISAAC SIMPSON.**

We are glad to note that this pioneer advertiser has an "ad" in this issue of the CENTENNIAL VEDETTE; and furthermore, we hope he may live long enough to give us an advertisement for the Centennial issue which we intend to publish in 1895. He ought to contract for his space now, for it is a good idea to speak for a good thing in time. Our type setters, Albert Sanner and Thomas Zuffall, have already applied for a job on the edition of THE VEDETTE to be published one hundred years from this date, and they're not a bit too early, either.

Somerset County Centennial.

To all our old friends who have gone West and will return to help celebrate our County Centennial we would say don't fail to go to Pisel's for a glass of good, cool ginger beer and the big ginger cake; it will remind you more of your youth than anything in the world, except the old homestead itself. Anybody in the county can tell you where Pisel's place is, opposite the courthouse, in First National Bank building. We keep everything to refresh man, woman or child. We don't deal in cheap truck; our things are first-class and will give you satisfaction. Ice cream, cooling drinks of all kinds kept on ice; cakes, pies, sandwiches and bread, all baked by ourselves. We can give you a lunch of hot coffee, bread and butter and pie for 15 cents and up to a square meal for 25 cents. We have large parlors up stairs where you can bring your wife and sit down and eat while resting. Don't forget the place.
A. E. PISEL.

Our Reputation in Old Bedford.

We are in receipt of a kindly invitation to attend the One Hundredth Anniversary of the organization of the county of Somerset, at Somerset, Pa., on July 3, 4 and 5. There is no place to which we would rather go to spend the 4th, and as the "Frosty Sons of Thunder" up in old Somerset never do things by halves, we know that if we get there we will have a royal time, princely entertainment, the best the land affords to eat and drink from roast turkey to "mountain dew," and floods of eloquent oratory for which our Somerset lawyers and statesmen have always been famous.—Bedford Inquirer.

Many will be the relics of by-gone days to be seen at the Centennial. Some of the crude old implements of our forefathers will be an interesting feature. It is requested that all persons having any of the ancient relics in their possession bring them to Somerset. Old-time agricultural implements, spinning wheels, flax-brakes, etc., can be made a very novel feature of the parade.

REMINISCENCES.

BY PROF. JOSEPH J. STUTZMAN, SOMERSET COUNTY'S FIRST SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

Most of the early settlers of this county came from eastern Pennsylvania. The majority of these were of German origin, and for the most part belonged to two different religious denominations. The more numerous body were the Brethren, familiarly known as Dunkards, whose principal settlement was in Brothersvalley, the beautiful region to which they gave its name. They also became numerous in other parts of the county. The other was composed of Mennonites, chiefly of the Amish branch of that society, who settled in the southern part of the valley and on both sides of the National Road; also in Stonycreek and the border townships of Somerset and Cambria in the north. Nearly all these people were farmers, and each of these bodies had its distinctive style of dress. They had some habits in common, still regarded by them as of religious obligation. One of these was the duty of hospitality, and another, the relief and solace of members under the burden of grief or calamity. Moreover the old-timers among them had the pride of all who knew them, for their strict integrity in matters of business. The Lutherans and Reformed composed the third element of what are still called the Country Dutch. They co-operated in building the first churches in the county, which they used in common. The English-speaking people of the farmer class were to be found below the Allegheny and Savage mountains, and on and convenient to the principal routes of travel across the county, and predominated in the townships of Addison and Lower Turkeyfoot. English was also more or less spoken in the villages, but rarely elsewhere among people of German descent,—a race that in this country always adhered too closely to the traditions of their ancestors.

The homes of the two principal German bodies, as I knew them, were perfect hives of industry. The clearings were still made by girdling the trees and burning the logs and underwood, so that when the trees came crashing down, by the time another crop was wanted there was a fresh job of clearing to do. There was not much wheat raised, but plenty of rye, a bushel of which was for years the ordinary wage of a farm-laborer, except in harvest-time. The climate was thought to be too cold for corn, which was planted only for summer use, but it was all right for buckwheat and potatoes. Rye was extensively used by the distillers. The other staple products of the county, besides cattle and horses, were oats, butter and maple sugar. Oats found a ready market on the National and other turnpike roads. Butter was bought up by the local merchants and other dealers, and hauled to Baltimore in wagons, while maple sugar went to Bedford and Westmoreland in exchange for flour and salt. The women spun and wove the home-grown flax and wool, and in many households no other goods were worn. They also made the butter and soap, and assisted, when needed, in much of the out-door work of the farm.

Rye whisky was cheap and freely used by all classes. Whether the visitor was a neighbor or stranger, a saint or a sinner, the bottle was a pledge of welcome. In the harvest-field, at the public sale,—two dollars in one cent, two dollars in one and the next bidder a dram," so rendered by a popular auctioneer of that period,—wherever men came together for business or pleasure, the bottle was there. It is claimed that the whisky was not so injurious in its effects as the modern tipples, but to my mind any liquor is good enough, and the best is a very good thing indeed—to let alone. Another article was then manufactured that was worse than the whisky. In the fall after the best of the fruit had been gathered, the rest, sound and rotten all together, was dumped into the still to make what was called apple-jack, or rot-gut. Belike it did its deadly work in the slums of the cities. When I became a resident of Salisbury, seventy years ago, most of the heads of families were drinking men, their regular place of meeting being at the red tavern, long kept by Henry Fuller. In the regions round about there were plenty of the same sort, to say nothing of the roughs who used to come in from Maryland, and generally managed to get up a row. Drunks were common at every public gathering, but the "Big Muster" was what they called a "high old time." By the laws of the State all able-bodied men under 45 years of age were enrolled for military duty, which consisted of one day in each year in company drill, and another in the battalion parade, the absentees, unless they were members of a volunteer company, being liable to a fine. Those who had arms brought them, and were placed at the head of their companies, but the array of broomsticks and corn-stalks was largely in the majority. They answered the roll-call, then marched up and down, burnt powder and looked very brave. At last they were formed into a great long line of nearly the length of the field, and as the officers came marching along, passed their arms to the Brigade Inspector,

Major Hanna, who caught them on the fly and returned them in the same way. The roll was then called a second time to see that none had got away, and the great farce was concluded. Those who had borne the burden and heat of the day then mingled with the spectators, and were fain to regale themselves with the ginger-cakes and home-brewed beer, the only refreshments permitted on the ground, I think, and the great crowd came surging into the village, where those who preferred it could get something stronger. Soon, as if by preconcerted arrangement, a great ring was formed, in the center of which two stalwart figures were seen, both stripped to the buff. It was a common thing to see men vying with each other in feats of strength or agility, sometimes winding up with a knock-down, but at other times, as in this case, a challenge had been passed between two parties, and here they were to fight for the championship. The delighted crowd took sides at once, and while the parties dealt sledge-hammer blows that might have felled an ox, shouted lustily for their favorites. Miller was the larger man and should have crushed his antagonist but had too much liquor aboard. Ringler beat him till he would fight him again, and he did too. Some others then recollected that they too had their grievances to settle, which they at once proceeded to do, but who they were or what it was about nobody knows. These parades were abolished some time in the forties, years after imprisonment for debt.

At the beginning of the century the settlements had already become strong, having been steadily reinforced by accessions from the east, especially after the close of the revolution, but still more by a sturdy growth of sons and daughters, native and to the manor born. We have seen that they differed not only in race and creed, but in language also, which was of itself a great obstacle to the cordial union and elevation of the whole. The Brethren and Amish had strong settlements in the east, where they had their German and mixed schools, with newspapers and even a dictionary adapted to the use of those who understood no other language but their own peculiar dialect. It was a new German on American soil, from which we were saved by business necessity more than anything else, as the farming class had not yet developed a body of business men. The humorous selections copied in the Meyersdale Commercial are fair specimens of the dialect as it is still spoken, and an evidence that the progress of the public school system has caused the neglect of German teaching. In this county the Amish continued to uphold the gospel of ignorance, concluding that since "a little learning is a dangerous thing," that little had better be limited to reading, writing and arithmetic in their own tongue. In teaching reading the German Psalter was used, a book that children could not understand, and for that reason was not likely to do them any harm. The rest of the community were more practical in their views. Those whose education was in German generally preferred that their children, especially the girls, should learn to read German first, but the general tendency was to neglect it altogether. The testament was at first the only reading book, but the English Reader afterwards took its place. Owing to the circumstances of the people the school terms were necessarily short. There was no labor-saving machinery, and but little money, so that the farmer's work was never done, and from early spring till the advent of winter the boys were constantly employed, while the girls were equally busy indoors. It was a common saying that nobody was considered fit to teach unless it was an Irishman or a Hessian. Both these were terms of reproach among the ignorant, the one applied to the English speaking people from abroad, and the other to German emigrants, who have never been numerous here; but the fact that this saying was applied to teachers as a class, shows that they had not succeeded in winning public respect.

Stories about these old-time teachers used to be repeated long after they had passed over to the majority. Sometimes the bottle would be conveniently hid in a hollow stump outside of the building, to which it was necessary to make frequent visits, even if it were only to see if it were still there. If the dominie happened to fall asleep from the effect of his potations the big boys would sometimes play a trick on him, though the school would generally withdraw out of politeness and have a good time. But if he found himself overloaded the more usual and sensible course was to dismiss the school. This happened so often that "No school till Monday" became a standing joke. The discipline of the schools was simple and easily enforced. All the pedagogue had to do was to march along rod in hand, (as long as the pupils would submit to the treatment,) yell out "Mind your books," and if there were symptoms of disorder, bring it down in such a way as to take the measure of several backs at once! The slab benches greatly facilitated this part of the business; besides, it saved time, and as the force of the blow was divided nobody was hurt. They

soon learned to forecast the weather from the countenance of the teacher, and when it boded squalls every one was on his good behavior. There were but few schools until within the last 40 years in which Grammar and Geography were taught. Reading was purely mechanical, and whoever could pronounce the most words in the least time was esteemed the best reader. Arithmetic was the hobby of the country schools, and the routine of the school was often interrupted while teacher and pupil were pegging away together the answer to some knotty problem. The practice among the larger boys was to copy their work into a book, and very likely the next season the process would be reversed by copying from the book to the slate. There was no Mental Arithmetic, nor could either teacher or pupil tell how the answer was got, but then who ever thought of such a thing anyhow? Spelling was another hobby, but as few understood the pronunciation taught by the book it must have been very difficult to learn. Spelling bees were common and have survived, but the custom of "barring out the master" has happily passed away. The pedagogue might be coming along some morning near the 25th of December and find the house closed against him. Perhaps he expected it and took it quietly, otherwise he might go for an ax and bang the door, but the best way to settle the matter was to enter into a treaty, based on apples and cider, chestnuts or gingerbread, as the case seemed to require. If he broke in there would be a general scampering, but the big boys were known to hold the fort as much as a week at a time. Let us leave them there, and rejoice that the good sense of the people has at last abolished this nuisance.

"GETTING THERE WITH BOTH FEET."

Great Interest Taken in the Centennial by Outsiders.

Not only are the residents of Somerset county taking great interest in the coming Centennial, but outsiders are putting their shoulders to the wheel also. Of the latter class who have sent very encouraging letters to the committee on invitations, expressing a determination to be here if possible, we note the following: Judge Edward Stake, of Hagerstown; Hon. Wm. McKegg, Hon. B. F. Richmond, Hon. Lloyd Lowndes and D. W. Sloan, Esq., of Cumberland; Hon. A. V. Barker, of Ebensburg; Hon. Cyrus Gordon, of Clearfield; Hon. Lucien W. Doty, of Greensburg.

Mayor Boyd, of Johnstown, is also enthusiastic. He has sent the following letter to the committee:

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSA, June 17.
The Committee on Invitations on the Somerset County Centennial, Somerset, Pa.
GENTLEMEN—Your kind favor of the 15th inst., inviting the citizens of Johnstown to participate in your grand celebration, has been received. In behalf of the citizens of Johnstown I wish to thank you for the honor conferred. Somerset being my native county, I will use every effort in extending the invitation to our citizens and endeavor to have as many as possible join us in the celebration in such manner as shall place it on record as the greatest event in the history of the county. It will give me great pleasure to meet you all at stated time.
Respectfully,
JAMES K. BOYD, Mayor.

Among other prominent men who are greatly interested and will be here if possible, are: Judge Longenecker, of Bedford; Hon. J. D. Hicks, of Altoona; Hon. Chauncey F. Black, of York; Hon. George F. Bear, of Reading; Cyrus Elder, Esq., of Johnstown. Some of these distinguished gentlemen will favor us with speeches.

"Shoo! Fly, Don't Bother Me."

The knowing ones do not always know it all, and right here we wish to say a few words for the benefit of a few human insects that have in a round-about way been trying to throw cold water on the CENTENNIAL VEDETTE. Every community has a few professional busybodies, and of course Somerset is no exception to the rule. However, we are glad to say that Somerset has a smaller number of these pests than most towns have. But there are a few here, a very few, that always judge everybody else according to themselves, and as soon as they learned that a man from another town was at the helm of this paper they had all sorts of dire predictions to make. Some of these insects lost no time in telling the business men of the town that the stranger would likely collect a lot of money in advance, that his special edition would not make its appearance, etc., etc. Our readers are invited to scan our advertising columns closely and judge for themselves as to what the efforts of the busybodies amounted to. The stranger has robbed no man, neither has he defrauded any man. He went quietly about his business, treated everybody fairly and honorably, did not ask for a cent of money in advance, thinks he will be well satisfied with the outcome of his venture, will pay all his bills promptly, just as he always has done, thanks the busybodies for the great amount of valuable free advertising they have given THE VEDETTE and expects to leave here with the best of feeling for Somerset and its unusually large number of good people. Why a few pessimists should have raised objections to a man from another part of the county taking charge of the Southern edition is more than we can understand. Somerset has all along been trying to make it thoroughly understood that this is a county centennial and that the people of all parts of the county are alike interested. If that is the case, which of course it is, what grounds did the busybodies have for opposing a man from the borough of Salisbury who came here to help to boom the Centennial and do all in his power to make it a success? The editor of this paper is a resident and taxpayer of one of the oldest, wealthiest and most prominent communities of this county, and he does not propose to take a back seat in the County's affairs for any "sour grape" opposition that may present itself.

PORCH BROS.,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

Pianos and Organs,

204 Franklin St., Johnstown.

Send for Catalogue and prices.

W. B. DIBERT

in the Leads all competitors

BOOT AND SHOE

Line. For the Best in Quality and Price, go to

DIBERT, Johnstown, Penn'a.

OWNERS OF

Buggies, Wagons

or vehicles of any kind, do you need repairing of any sort? You can get the Best Work at C. H. SUFFALL'S Shop, on Patriot St.

POMPEII HOTEL,

Bedford Street, Johnstown, Penn'a.

E. L. COOK, Proprietor.

Newly refitted and furnished. Everything first-class, and service of the best. To my Somerset county friends I extend a special invitation to give me a call when in the city.

G. W. & H. B. KEMP,

—SO: PROPRIETORS OF THE —

HARNEDSVILLE : NURSERY,

Harnedsville, Pa.

Are still in the MARKET with the choicest NURSERY STOCK of all kinds. Why buy of traveling "sharks" when you can get better goods at lower prices at home? Buy of home men and get something suited to our climate. You will then know what you are getting for your money and with whom you are dealing.

I. G. JONES & SON

—DEALERS IN—

PLAINING ALL KINDS OF LUMBER, BLINDS, LUMBER MILL, SASH, MOULDINGS, YARD, DOORS, and General BUILDING MATERIALS.

Office AND MILL SOUTH OF TOWN SOMERSET, PA. MILL WORK A SPECIALTY.

F. B. GRANGER,

Contractor and Builder.

Dealer in all Kinds of Lumber and Building Materials.

SOMERSET, PA. SOMERSET LIVERY, PATRIOT ST., SOMERSET, PA.

ISAAC SIMPSON, Proprietor. Horses, Buggies, Carriages and Wagons for Hire. First-class Harness repair shop in connection.