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PECIFICS

BRADDOCK'S BURIED TREASURE.

How "Axie" Yoder, "Red Jake" Lichty, "Sassafras Solly," Davie Seibert and Moll Dell Searched for Buried Coin Long Years Ago.

BY T. F. LIVENGOOD, M. D.

The following intensely interesting article from the able pen of Dr. T. F. Livengood, a former citizen of Salisbury, but now a practicing physician of Elizabeth, N. J., was contributed to an exchange several years ago. . We take the liberty to reproduce it. knowing that it will be read with much interest by hundreds of people who never before saw it in print :

"Ever since the days of Captain Kid" The Yankees think there's money his

Many people now living in the southern part of Somerset county recollect eccentric, venerable-looking old man vulgarly dubbed "Axie" Yoder. The writer well remembers seeing him Salisbury about the time of the 'Harper's Ferry Insurrection," as it was then called. The people were very much excited for fully a week after the news reached Salisbury, and some predicted—and truthfully toothat it was the prelude to a civil war 'Axie" and "The Grammar King," J. J. Stutzman, were discussing John Brown and the slavery question. "Axie" was at that time about seventy years old, very stooped, and had an asthmatic cough that could be heard quite a dis-He was an Amishman and wore the garb characteristic of that denomination. He walked with a staff in each hand. The Amish patriarchs counseiled their people to avoid the trades and the professions; agriculture was to be their vocation.

'Axie" was a blacksmith and a chemist, and, although there is no tradition that the church ever reprimanded him, it was well known that his vocations were far from orthodox. The supeiority of his axes earned for him alias "Axie." Expert axmen declared that one of "Axie's" axes would that even all the training of the public outwear three of those imported from Pittsburg or Baltimore. Great was the surprise of the citizens, when after article and fortunately there was little his death his personal property was being sold at public auction, to see the retorts, crucibles, mortars, blow-pipes and other chemical apparatus that were brought out of the laboratory. In his chemical experiments he discovered a process for hardening or tempering steel, which gave to his cutlery an edge so keen and lasting that it quite rivaled the Damascus steel or the Toledo blade. "Axie" was also an in ventor. The process of making nails t that time by hand was a slow and tedious one. Besides, it made nails expensive, though labor was cheap. A nachine for stamping them out of sheet metal, as is now done, was invented by "Axie." The persons who saw the model say it was a beauty. Instead of going to Washington and securing a caveat, he went around exhibiting it and trying to sell it to the iron manufacturers at Pittsburg. shrewd man saw the possibilities of the invention, copied it, procured a patent

and became rich at "Axie's" expense. During his palmy days his forge was ocated at "Yoderstettle," now Mechanicsburg, and he employed as many as five journeyman blacksmiths and had several apprentices. There was always demand for more axes, drawing knives, chisels and small cutlery than dock cut his way through the forests, he could supply. Had he not been a on his march to Ft. Duquesne, he had he could supply. Had he not been a visionary he might have spent his declining years in luxury, striving as he did at hard labor to earn his daily bread. Over the forge, in the loft, at Mechanicsburg, he had a room fitted up as a laboratory, which was always kept securely locked. No person by the chemist's permission was ever permitted to cross the threshold. As he would often remain in the laboratory for a number of days together, the citizens supposed that "Axie" and Mephistopheles, or even old "Hornie" the soldiers, it is said, returned years af-himself, were in collusion, and no terward and tried to find it. The landdoubt thought he had as many devils. marks had been changed and none of harnessed and at work as Maister Michael Scott. One of "Axie's" patrons who lived in that 'vicinity was a man by the name of Feik. Feik was a practical joker and a man always bristling with curiosity. Often he sauntered into the shop, especially on a rainy day, to smoke and chat with "Axie," who, by the way, in a good humor was quite garrulous. One day Feik appear ed at the forge, and noticing "Axie's' absence, asked where he had gone. One of men replied: "He has been locked in his 'kemmerly'-meaning so thick with laurel that a man had to directions. Two of the boldest of laboratory-for three days. We can hear him, but have not once seen him in that time." Feik said, "I must see what this means," and started for the ladder leading to the loft and "kemmerly." "No, no! you musn't," shouted all the blacksmiths and apprentices in chorus. "He will not let you in, and if you disturb him he will kill someone in this shop before night, such is his Feik was a powerful man and anger." wherewithal courageous. He thought he saw a chance for some fun, and began the ascent to the regions above. He advanced to the door of the labora-

tory, and suddenly "Axie" heard "tapping,
As of someone gently rapping,
Rapping at his chamber door
Only this and nothing mo

a voice came from within, "wer der done and "Axie" employed "Sassafra unfel lkupped?" There was no answer, Solly Ramsperger, but the rapping continued. Feik was a man whose soubriquet was "Socka defermined to solve the mysteries of mock," and several other firm believers the "kemmerly," and was only waiting to assist in the work. Everything befor the door to be unlocked. The ing in readiness, the oracle "took obblacksmiths incontinently fled, leaving Feik as they thought to his doom. Just then Feik heard the key slowly and stealthily turning in the lock and saw the door gently and cautiously opening. With muster he rushed against the door, forcing it wide open and knocking 'Axie" pell mell amongst his glass apparatus, making quite as much havoc as a bull in a china shop. "Axie's" wrath knew no bounds. "A bull of was a lamb in comparison. He would probably have slain Feik on the spot had he not been the larger and more powerful man and ready do battle then and there. rushed out of the "kemmerly" and down into the forge where he raged like a wild beast. He threw all the hammers and other movable things out the windows, knocking sash, glass and all into smithereens. thing that would yield to his strength and filled the air with his imprecations. When Feik had finished his inspection of the ruins he had made above, he came down and saw."Axie" in a corner of the forge utterly exhausted. It required several days before "Axie" recuperated sufficiently to resume his labors. The charm of his "kemmerly" was broken and so was much expensiv chemical apparatus.

may be pardoned when it is known that he was the chief of "The Argonauts." Quite a number of the Somerset county pioneers came from the palat-

This rather prolix sketch of "Axie"

inate along the Rhine. With them they not only brought "Die Niebellungen Fables" which furnished material for Wagoner's best operas, but innumerable ghost stories, witch stories, and a budget of superstition which was so firmly engrafted on posterity schools has not entirely eradicated it. At that time physicians were a scarce sickness. The medicines for adults were whiskey, a mixture of and garlic, and general blood-letting When a child too young to describe its symptoms cried with earache, it was dosed with a mixture of onions, garlic hogslard and molasses. If these failed to cure in a few days, the grannies held a caucus and pronounced the child bewitched. A hex doctor was at one sent for and the incantations began Mothers kept scissors and horse shoes in the cradles to keep off the witches The divining rod was in common use However, an instrument that wa much spoken of and greatly coveted. an "erd speigle," was not seen up to the time of a certain dame, yeclept "Moll Dell." This instrument was supposed to give the person who pos sessed it the power to see through the various strata of the earth and to ais cover hidden treasure and gold, as well as the baser metals. "Moll Dell,"—a shrewd, designing "Ann O'Delia debar," person-claimed she had such an instrument, and most people be lieved her. Among them was "Axie' Whether true or false, Yoder. know not, but it was the creed of the early settlers and some of their descendants, that when General Bradwith him large chests of gold and sil ver coin. Most of the time the men and horses had all they could do to

carry provisions and the munitions of

war and he found he would have to

abandon the treasure. Places along

with the expectation that they

the route were selected and it was bur-

would exhume it when they returned.

foolhardy British general is too well

known to recapitulate here. Some of the soldiers, it is said, returned years af-

them ever succeeded. A number of

other person came from different sec-

tions of the country in quest of the

treasure, with no better results. The

most promising locality was always thought to be near the old Braddock

Road, along Pine Run, in Elk Lick, and Garrett county, Md., about three

miles southeast of Salisbury. Those who can recall the Pine Run locality

twenty years ago will remember it as

nowhere better) had to wade in the side struck him on the shoulder and almiddle of the stream. "Axie" had made some money at his trade and was bequeathed a large nug-get by his father. He had for years made the search for the treasure his day dream. Now he was in position and all work ceased. She tried her glass he determined to lose no time in car. he determined to lose no time in car-rying out his plans, "Moll Dell" had filled the country with "what she had seen" in her "erd speigel," and was thought more valuable to "Axie" than was ever Malinche to Cortez and his Only this and nothing more." band of brave Spaniards. He at once At first he paid no attention to it; engaged her and she became the oracle but it increased in volume until it of the Argonauts from that time. Con- trunk and the guineas were sure. Each sounded like a regular reveille. Then siderable digging would have to be one of the party was called one by one,

servations" and said the treasure was located on the banks of Pine Run, by about three miles southeast of Salisbury; that it was in an iron box about after twenty-five feet under ground. She ther gave specific directions how it should be approached and said it was guarded feet of by a dozen "erd geiste" or gnomes. The Argonauts found it a hard matter to the Arg get provisions and whiskey enough in their there to last them the required time. With much difficulty they however, at length managed it and work was begun. The Oracle stated that when a certain amount of ground had been excavated she must be notified and more bearings must be taken." She was paid her fee and departed. After nearly a fortnight had been spent blasting through the hard rocks, it was thought they had reached the prescribed depths "Moll" was sent for. She came and What must took observations. have been the surprise to the Argonauts when she announced that they had gone two feet deeper than she had told them. In consequence the charm was broken and the "erd geiste" had car ried the treasure a quarter of a mile further up the run. Nothing daunted packed his camp equipage and the spot directed. The work sly prosecuted here for e oracle making observe pe to time without day she appear ed unheral ced that she ous which had a vision would make then be said the iron box they we ontained no more than while on the opposite bank a hair trunk that contained \$200,000 in gold guineas. She also in her "earth glass" that the silver th were digging for was much deeper tha she first supposed and that it would take nine months and nine days to reach it, while the hair trunk could be reached in about two months. The camp was at once moved across the creek and the work begun without a moment's delay. A great pit was excavated at this point that would contain several ordinary two-story houses, much of it being through hard rock which required blasting. Vestiges of these pits are still to be seen at the present time. The Oracle had to be consulted often during the progress of the work. During the autumn, when "Axie's" capita had been pretty well exhausted and his patience sorely tried, his "Fidus Achates," the Oracle, appeared and in her most solemn manner began to take observations with the "earth mirror. She said they were within a few feet of the trunk and all work must cease until the following Friday night at twelve." That was Tuesday. Then she directed that guards be procured and the rifles should be of the "Bixie Mier's latest pattern; they were to be oaded with silver bullets, said bullets to be cooled in the blood of a black cat. The "erd geiste" and dragons, who would fight desperately, were, she said, invulnerable to ordinary lead, "Red lake" Lichty afterward declared, in his vernacular, that half an hour before "Moll Dell" appeared the bottom of the pit was covered with green snakes toads, "ugly and venomous," and red lizzards. Instead of ground and rock they were shoveling these reptiles, all of which "Sassafras Solly" was ready to affirm with an oath if necessary. One of the most desperate characters in that country then was an old soldier of the war of the Revolution-Davie Seibert by name.-He was one of the soldiers sent on picket the night Wash ington said "put none but Americans The fate of the brave, impetuous and on guard," and feared not man, beast on guard," and feared not man, beast nor devil. "Axie" engaged him and "Sockamock" for picket duty. The the Merchants Coal Co., struck for a checkders given to shoot only if the gnomes and dragons attacked the workmen in One of the Argonauts afterthe pit. wards told the author that at the first stroke of the pick there was a noise in the tree tops as if a thousand frighten a howling wilderness; its approaches ed turkeys had been left loose and were were through a dense forest, at places flying against each other and in all pick his way foot by foot. The banks these dragons, with wings larger than of the run are almost perpendicular at those places and forty feet high, form- that he knocked his hat off, and while ing a regular canyon. Fishermen who he dodged to escape being struck, a limb ventured there (the trout fishing was that was knocked down on the other most dislocated his arm. He began to feel that "if we escape Scilla we are sure to be wrecked on Charybdis. At this moment the Oracle was seen waving her hands above her head, and

dig at a certain point. Then she took

the pick and raised it carefully herself.

She worked but a few moments when

she thrust her hand into the cleft of a

rock and beckoned to "Axie" to come

ed with delight; he felt the hair on the

with si lightnin Argonaut The tr about on hardly b Bill Dell. broken the The Argo

week's deb treasurer his forge a wards he ent localitie discouragin

Salisbur

Work will l extension in formed by th

beginnin will tap the M ract of coal, southwest of Salisbur, ake four miles of road to reach this r than the big vein is in any othe

Mar Coal Co. has purchased the d will do business on a large that about 500 miners will s company and that a be erected in the vicompany's pitt here and coal soon as the railr which. will be in a few m

salisbury is to be con-present bright outlook. It is the town will grow more in the than in any other year of its hist A rumor is afloat that when it

A rumor is afloat that when the rextension is completed, a depot built at the terminus and that a pa train will be put on the branch that will make connections with all trains on the

Railroad Up Piney Run.

A party was here last week making ar-rangements for right of way for a railroad up Piney run. Several land owners along the route told these menethat they would grant the right of way through their land for nothing, providing a standard guage road would be built, it having first been reported that the road was to be a narrow guage. The land owners were told that the road would be standard guage and would connect with the Salisbury branch at Boyn-

be anything more than a narrow guage, re mains to be seen

The object of the road is to tap a large tract of timber located about eight miles east of Salisbüry, said timber being known as the Sally Wright tract. The Standard Oil Company is said to be back of this en-

terprise.
Now then, if this road will be built, and it undoubtedly will, it will furnish an outlet for the inexhaustable deposits of flag stone which can then found all along Piney run, which can ther be operated at a great profit. It will also furnish an outlet for P. S. Hay's coal, which is now being developed and promises to be a good vein.

a good vein.

Oh, gentle reader, Salisbury is bound to boom. We have the natural resources to build up a fine town here, and you can rely that the Thirk Star will do its whole duty to help the good work along.

Elk Lick Miners Strike.

weighman. The demand was refused and ed hour, thirsty for gold or gore. Strict orders were given that not a word should be spoken, even not a whisper, while the work was in progress. All communications were to be made by signs If any one spoke all would be lost. The pickets were posted and orders given to shoot only if the gnomes the miners continued to strike. This week, seen, as some of the miners favor the move ment, while others oppose it.

Haselbarth's Store Robbed.

On Monday evening while C. R. Haselbarth and family were at supper, a sneak thief entered the hardware store, through thief entered the hardware store, through a back door, and carried away the money till and its contents. The thief secured about \$15 in each and a lot of valuable papers. "It following morning the drawer was found in Beachy's field, several hundred yards back of the store building.

Whoever did this neat little trick evidently did it in a hurry and more than little."

ly did it in a hurry and more than likely had a partner on guard. This is not the first theft of this kind that has been c first theft of this kind that has been com-mitted about here during the past few months, and it is getting to be pretty well known who is doing this business. One of these fine days a certain fellow will be apt to get his worthless careas pumped full of buckshot, and the sooner the better.

Serious Accident.

Bruce Vought, one of the drivers employ ed by E. Statler and the Merchants Conl Co. ed by E. Statler and the Merchants Coal Co., was kicked on the head by a horse, on Tuesday morning. The young man's scull is fractured and he is in a dangerous condition. Dr. A. E. Speicher was promptly called to dress the wound and the patient is getting along as well as can be expected. The doctor says the injury is not likely to prove fatal, unless brain fever sets in; but the wound is nevertheless a dangerous one.





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