

EXCERPTS FROM THE HISTORY OF LUZERNE COUNTY

By H. C. BRADSBY

(Readers will enjoy Mr. Bradsbys quaint, parenthetical remarks more if they keep in mind that he was writing this history of Luzerne County forty-five years ago, and refers to conditions as he knew them, not as they are in 1938.) —EDITOR

(Continued From Last Week)

It seems a little odd to say that a government that was "voluntary and military" was the "most thoroughly democratic probably of any government that has ever existed elsewhere among civilized men."

A purely "voluntary" government, without a shred of military, may elect a king to rule over them, but a military power, to modern ears, sounds so anti-democratic as to be irreconcilable with all ideas of a democracy. But consider the times and the surroundings of the people of whom Mr. Stone was speaking when he spoke that way and is he not right?

Every man was a soldier, without pay, subsistence or arms, except as he provided these for himself; they worked by relays on the forts and block-house, while others stood guard, or with gun swung across his back, plowed and hoed the corn. Whether a man was enrolled in a company or not he was a soldier, all the time and everywhere, active and alert to beat off the open or skulking approach of the enemy; the women and children, even, could mold bullets and load guns. Where all were unpaid soldiers, all were equally free, and in the spirit of justice and pure democracy these soldiers met in council and voted their own laws.

A NEW FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

After Plunkett's invasion until 1782, six years, the whole valley had been repeatedly and most cruelly devastated. The unfortunate settlers, now worn and weary, poor and literally like Rachel weeping for her children, now that the Revolution was closing its long chapter of war, thus woke to the new, sad realization that it was worse than peace with themselves left out of the protocol. Like a shadow of death overspread the cloud that now they must take up the battle anew against the authorities of Pennsylvania, and that they were left to fate by Connecticut.

The Decree of Trenton had been accepted by the latter and now where was the ray of hope for the settlers in the valley? They petitioned the general assembly of Pennsylvania for their rights.

"We have settled a country, which in its original state of little value, but now cultivated by your memorialists, is to them of the greatest importance, being their all. We are yet alive, but the richest blood of our neighbors and friends, children, husbands, and fathers, has been spilt in the general cause of their country, and we have suffered every danger this side of death. We supplied the continental army with many valuable officers and soldiers, and left ourselves weak and unguarded against the attack of the savages, and of others of a more savage nature. Our houses are desolate, many mothers are children, widows and orphans are multiplied, our habitations are destroyed, and many families are reduced to beggary."

In the history of State papers I have met none whose every word was so significant of the deep and earnest sense of men who spoke from hearts moved by higher or nobler impulses. Notwithstanding, as soon as the continental troops were withdrawn from Wyoming, where they had been placed for the protection of the people against the savages, Captains Robinson and Shrawder, with two companies of Pennsylvania troops, marched and took possession of Fort Wyoming, which they named Fort Dickinson. Shortly after, the general assembly of Pennsylvania, in pursuance of the petition of the settlers, appointed Joseph Montgomery, William Montgomery and Moses McClean commissioners, with instruction to repair Wyoming and compromise the dispute between them and the commonwealth.

They arrived in the valley in April, 1783, and immediately a spirited correspondence took place between them and John Jenkins, Nathan Denison, Obadiah Gore and Samuel Shepherd, the committee on the part of the settlers. The issue of this was that the State commissioners reported to the assembly, recommending "that a reasonable compensation in land in the western part of the State should be made to the families of those who had fallen in arms against the common enemy, and to such other settlers as had a proper Connecticut title, and did actually reside on the lands at the time of the decree at Trenton; provided they immediately relinquish all claim to the soil where they now inhabit, and enter into contracts to deliver up full and quiet possession of their present tenures to the rightful owners under Pennsylvania by the first of April next."

TRIED TO CHANGE CITY'S NAME

This report evidently expressed the sentiments of Alexander Patterson, who had in charge the interests of the Pennsylvania settlers. Patterson had been in the employ of the Penn family, and had aided to arrest the Connecticut settlers in 1769. He was now a justice of the peace under Pennsylvania, and was settled in Wilkes-Barre, whose name he endeavored to change to Londonderry. He with his associate justices, and backed by military force, under the command of Maj. James Moore and Captains Shrawder and Christie, commenced a series of contemptible cowardly outrages upon the Yankee settlers.

The soldiers were quartered upon the inhabitants. Col. Zebulon Butler, who had just returned from the army, and who boldly denounced Patterson's conduct, was arrested and sent to the Sunbury jail. But, as the proceedings had been illegal, he was released.

Mr. Miner says, "October 21, the settlement Shawnee was invaded by the military, headed by the justice in person, and eleven respectable citizens arrested and sent under guard to the fort. Among the prisoners was Maj. Prince Alden, sixty-five years old, feeble from age and suffering from disease. Compassion yielded nothing to alleviate his sufferings.

(Continued Next Week)

OUR PUZZLE CORNER

HEY BLA
ARK! BLA
BLA BLA
BLA -

WHAT'S MAKING ALL THE NOISE?? DRAW A LINE FROM 1 TO 39 AND SEE!

NO SITTING ON THE GRASS

Bobby is telling mother where he was today! Rearrange the letters and you'll know too!

DRAGMAN OKTO EM OT ETH SOMIEV!

CAN YOU FIND 10 THINGS THAT BEGIN WITH 'I'?

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Robert MONTGOMERY, WHOSE HOBBY IS PHOTOGRAPHY, TAKES CANDID CAMERA SHOTS ON THE SETS.

Virginia BRUCE, NOW PLAYING IN MGM'S "THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS", IS THE GREAT GRAND-DAUGHTER OF JOHN S. APPLEBY, WHO ESTABLISHED SCHOOLS IN UTAH, CALIFORNIA, NEVADA and ARIZONA BEFORE THEY WERE IN THE UNION!

Richard THORPE SERVED IN FRANCE DURING THE WORLD WAR.

Leo says "WARREN WILLIAM HAS A COLLECTION OF NEARLY 300 PIPES THAT HE HAS NEVER SMOKED! HE USES AN OLD BRIER, NOT IN THE COLLECTION!"

Director RICHARD THORPE HAS DIRECTED ALMOST EVERY TYPE OF SCENE IN THE SHOW BUSINESS. HE MADE 75 FEATURE PICTURES FOR ONE COMPANY BEFORE JOINING MGM. HE DIRECTED NORMAN KRASNA'S "THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS."

LITTLE BUDDY

EVER SINCE MY UNCLE WAS SICK HE HASTA LIVE ON ONEY ONE MEAL A DAY!!

WHEN MY DAD WAS SICK, HE HADDA LIVE ON SOUP AN' TEA FOR A MONTH!!

HUH! THAT'S NOTHIN', FELLERS!! MY UNCLE SI LIVED ON NOTHIN' BUT WATER FOR NINE YEARS!!

POOR MAN!

WAS HE THAT SICK?

HE WAS NOT!! MY UNCLE WAS CAPTAIN ONNA' NOCEAN LINER!

Copyright Stuart

DASH DIXON

THE XLO SHIPS ARE CLOSING IN FAST ON THE SPACE SHIP! ONE SHIP TAKES PERFECT AIM WITH THEIR DEADLY RAY WHEN SUDDENLY -

THEIR RAYS ARE ONLY DESTRUCTIVE UNDER WATER! THEY ARE HARMLESS IN SPACE! WE JUST MADE IT IN TIME!

WHEE W! ONE OF THEIR RAYS JUST EXPLODED IN OUR PATH!

CRASH

THE SPACE SHIP SHOOTS OUT OF THE WATER INTO SPACE AND SAFETY.

BOY! WHAT A CLOSE CALL THAT WAS!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THE KING?

I HAVE A PARACHUTE HERE! WE'LL DROP HIM OVER THE SIDE AND LET HIM KEEP XLO! WE DON'T WANT IT!

I HOPE WE GET TO JUPITER WITHOUT HURRY AND ANY MORE TROUBLE!

I'VE SET THE COURSE STRAIGHT FOR JUPITER! WE MUST RESCUE YOUR DAUGHTER! THE INVISIBLE PLANETS ARE OUR ONLY DANGER!

INVISIBLE PLANETS!! WATCH OUT! HIDDEN DANGERS AHEAD!!!

Copyright Dean Carr

DETECTIVE RILEY

DET. RILEY IS ON THE VERGE OF DROWNING IN THE FLOODED 'SEALED CHAMBER' OF THE NEFARIOUS GANG OF CUT-THROATS, WHO CAPTURED THE MASTER SLEUTH =

OUR HERO IS NOW UNDERWATER COMPLETELY!!

IF THAT BLASTED CEILING WASN'T HERE!! SURE LOOKS LIKE MY FINISH NOW, UNLESS -

HIS LUNGS FOUND HARDER THAN HIS PULSATING HEART!! THEY'LL SURELY SPLUT WIDE OPEN FROM THE PRESSURE OF THE WATER AND HIS FAILING WIND!!

BLUB... BLUB...

DON'T MISS WHAT FOLLOWS!

IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR DETECTIVE RILEY? WILL THE BLOOD-THIRSTY KILLERS SPARE HIS LIFE??

Copyright Richard Lee

FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW!!!

BREAD IS ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT FORMS OF FOOD. THE REMAINS OF BREAD MADE BY THE PRE-HISTORIC SWISS LAKE DWELLERS WHO LIVED MORE THAN 75,000 YEARS AGO, HAVE BEEN FOUND!!!

AMONG THE EARLY ANGLO-SAXONS, OLD SHOES WERE CONSIDERED AN APPROPRIATE WEDDING GIFT BECAUSE THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BRING GOOD FORTUNE!

THERE IS A SUPERSTITION IN SCOTLAND THAT IF YOU ARE CROSS WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG, YOU WILL BE AN OLD MAID!!

IT WAS THE CUSTOM AMONG BOTH THE ANCIENT ROMANS AND GREEKS TO RECLINE ON COUCHES WHILE EATING!!!

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