

**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)

**THE BATTLE OF WYOMING (Continued)**

July 4, 1776, now dawned upon the world. The memorable day in history, ushering in the transcendent event in the great movements of mankind. Liberty, blessed liberty to man, stepped forth, robed in purity, and on either side supporting her were the stern, strong knights of the plow and the axe, silent and resolved, clad in buckskin and homespun, across whose broad shoulders were slung the long, black match lock rifles.

Independence was declared! From Maine to southernmost Florida war was aflame. Its horrors were everywhere in the land, but far more intensely in this lone frontier settlement, that was worse than isolated and unprotected. It was menaced by double dangers on every side, and even within the household there were traitors to the sacred cause.

In November following Colonels Butler and Denison, representatives, returned from New Haven bringing the good news that the town had been made the county of Westmoreland. Jonathan Fitch was made High Sheriff.

During the summer Obadiah Gore, Jr., was commissioned lieutenant and recruited twenty men. About the same time Capt. Strong enlisted a squad of men—ten or twelve.

August 23, 1776, Congress, at the urgent solicitation of Col. Butler, resolved to station two companies at Westmoreland for the defense of the inhabitants. Robert Durkee and Samuel Ransom were elected captains of these companies; James Welles and Perrin Ross, first lieutenants; Asahel Buck and Simon Spalding, second lieutenants; Herman Swift and Mathias Hollenback, ensigns. These companies when raised were stationed one on the east and one on the west side of the river.

In the early winter General Howe had captured New York, the battle of White Plains had been fought; Washington was retreating with his little army of 3,000 men, hungry and nearly naked, through the Jersey.

"The Commander-in-Chief", says Marshall, found himself at the head of a small force, less than 3,000, dispirited by their losses and fatigues, retreating almost naked and barefoot in the cold November and December, before a numerous and well appointed and victorious enemy, through a desponding country much more disposed to obtain security and safety by submission rather than to seek it by manly resistance."

On December 8, Gen. Washington crossed the Delaware, and Congress immediately took measures to retire from Philadelphia to Baltimore. At this moment of peril, they, "Resolved, December 12, that the two companies raised in the town of Westmoreland, be ordered to join General Washington, with all possible expedition." And the very same day adjourned to meet at Baltimore on the 20th.

Promptly obeying the order, the two companies hastened their march, and before the close of the month and the year were within the lines under the command of their beloved Washington.

The people fully knew the dangerous sacrifices they were making, but faltered not a moment. This action of the patriots stands out prominently in the history of that long and terrible struggle. It was pledged to those men that as soon as conditions in the south should be relieved they would be allowed to return to protect their families. It is needless to say this promise was not kept. The imperative necessities of the army of Washington made it impossible, horrid as was the impending alternative.

The people proceeded in the work of organizing every possible safe-guard as well as the work for perfecting the machinery for the new county of Montgomery. Great jealousy between the east and the west side of the river had long existed, and the question of locating the county buildings now arose in renewed intensity. After a warm contention Wilkes-Barre was chosen as the county seat—the chief rival had been Kingston—settled by Connecticut authorities through appointed commissioners.

Every hour brought additional evidence that there were secret enemies in their midst—Pennites, some of them, who had come and purchased Connecticut claims.

One, Adonijah Stansbury, had purchased Chapman's mill and he soon developed into an enemy in disguise. Col. Butler and Major Judd were appointed a committee to investigate him. He was prosecuted and finally persecuted until he was compelled to sell his mill and leave the settlement.

During the summer the people worked on the forts in detachments. The one in Wilkes-Barre occupied what is now the courthouse square. A system of scouts were sent regularly up the river to keep watch of the movements of the Indians. Lieut. John Jenkins in charge of a scouting party extended his trip to Wyalusing, where he was taken prisoner by a band of Indians and Tories. Three of his men were taken with him: Mr. York, Lemuel Fitch and old man Fitzgerald.

All except Fitzgerald were taken to Canada. Jenkins was exchanged for an Indian chief and sent to Albany. These were the first prisoners taken from Westmoreland. Other scouting parties were constantly sent up the river. As about all the able young men were in the Continental army they consisted mostly of old men who termed themselves "Reformados". Capt. William Hooker Smith, a physician, commanded the one from Wilkes-Barre.

(To Be Continued)

**IT'S TRUE!** By Wiley Padgett

**CAREFUL! IT'S LOADED!** **BILLY GILBERT** TELLS STAN AND OLIVER HOW WELL HE CAN SHOOT in the HAL ROACH M-G-M PRODUCTION "BLOCKHEADS".

**Oliver HARDY** WENT TO A SAN FRANCISCO RACE TRACK INTENDING TO SELL HIS FOUR-HORSE RACING STABLE ... BUT BOUGHT ANOTHER HORSE!

**STAN LAUREL** MADE HIS STAGE DEBUT AT THE AGE OF SEVEN! HE STARTED ON HIS OWN AT FIFTEEN!

**Patricia ELLIS** WAS BORN IN NEW YORK CITY ON MAY 20th. She CAN SING, DANCE and IS AN ACCOMPLISHED PIANIST.

**JAMES FINLAYSON**, VETERAN OF SILENT PICTURES, STARRED IN MACK SENNETT COMEDIES FOR 3 YEARS.

**MINNA GOMBELL** WARNS OLIVER TO "WALK THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW!"

**OUR PUZZLE CORNER**

**GOOFGYGRAPH**

HERE IS ALPHABETIC'S DARING DOG-CATCHER... FIND 10 "D" OBJECTS IN THIS SCENE...

COFFEE 5¢ RESTAURANT

Can you see TEN GOOFGY THINGS IN THIS PICTURE?

Brady

M O I O T

FILL IN THE MISSING LETTERS TO FORM THE WORDS...

JIMMY FELL ASLEEP ON THE BEACH BUT HE SAID HE DIDN'T DREAM THIS... DRAW A LINE FROM 1 TO 34

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**LITTLE BUDDY**

By Bruce Stuart

"KAY, MAMMA, I'LL FEED EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THE CHICKS!! HERE CHICK! CHICK! CHICK!"

"AND HERE'S SOME NICE CORN FOR YOU TOO!!"

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**DASH DIXON**

By Dean Carr

A GIANT, MECHANICAL MAN IS LEADING THE WAY TO THE MAD-MAN MOGO, THE CHIEF!

MOGO SWORE TO KILL ME ON SIGHT! I'M AFRAID WE WILL ALL DIE VIOLENT DEATHS!!

OH, AT LAST, WE MEET AGAIN MY DEAR DOCTOR! HE-HE-HE!!

WHAT'S THIS? A WOMAN! MECO! DO AWAY WITH HER! I HATE WOMEN!!

HELP!! STOP!!

WHAT CAN DASH DO AGAINST AN IRON MAN???

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**DETECTIVE RILEY**

By Richard Lee

YOU OFFICERS ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR YOUR SPLENDID WORK IN CAPTURING THE GAS-HOUSE MOBSTERS AND RESCUING MISS JEWEL AND MYSELF FROM CERTAIN DEATH!

OUR WORK IS STILL UNFINISHED UNTIL WE LAY HANDS ON THE "HOOKED HAND" HIMSELF!! OKAY, CAP. LET'S GET AFTER HIM, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!

MEANWHILE, THE GANG LEADER IS MAKING A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE THE LAW'S CLUTCHES-

I'D BETTER PUT ENOUGH REAL ESTATE BETWEEN ME AND THE COPS OR I'M DONE FOR!!

BUT DETECTIVE RILEY IS RIGHT ON HIS TRAIL!

WE'RE ON HIS HEELS!! HE CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!!

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**FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW!!!**

By H. T. Elmo

WHEN A SOUTH AMERICAN INDIAN PASSES AWAY, ALL HIS RELATIVES AND FRIENDS PAINT THEIR BODIES BLACK AS A SIGN OF MOURNING AND RESPECT!!

KING JAMES I. OF ENGLAND WOULD NEVER TRY ON NEW CLOSES BECAUSE OF THE SUPERSTITION THAT TO DO SO WOULD BRING ILL LUCK OR DISAPPOINTMENT!!

THE PROENICIANS WERE THE VERY FIRST PEOPLE TO MAKE SOAP MORE THAN 4,000 YRS. AGO!!

WHEN A GIRL WEARS RED GLOVES IN SICILY, IT SIGNIFIES THAT SHE IS SEEKING A HUSBAND!!

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