

# EXCERPTS FROM THE HISTORY OF LUZERNE COUNTY

By H. C. BRADSBY

(Readers will enjoy Mr. Bradsbys quaint, paranthetical 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)

For half an hour a hot fire had been given and sustained, when the superior numbers of the enemy began to develop its power. The Indians had thrown into the swamp a large force, which now completely outflanked our left. It was impossible it should be otherwise; that wing was thrown into confusion.

Col. Denison gave orders that the company of Whittlesey should wheel back, so as to form an angle with the main line, and thus present his front, instead of a flank, to the enemy. The difficulty of performing evolutions, by the bravest militia in the field, under a lot of fire, is well known. On the attempt, the savages rushed in with horrid yells. Some had taken the order to fall back as one of retreat, and that word, that fatal word, ran along the line. Utter confusion now prevailed on the left. Seeing the disorder, and his own men beginning to give way, Col. Z. Butler threw himself between the fires of the opposing ranks, and rode up and down the lines in the most reckless exposure. "Don't leave me, by children, and the victory is ours." But it was too late.

Still on the fated left men stood their ground. "See," said Westover to George Cooper, "our men are all retreating. Shall we go?" "I'll have one more shot, first," was Cooper's reply. At that moment a ball struck a tree just behind his head, and, an Indian springing towards him with his spear upraised, Cooper drew up his rifle and fired; the Indian sprang up in the air and fell dead. "Come," said Westover, "I'll load first," replied Cooper; and it is probably this cool audacity saved them, as the body of the savages had dashed forward after the flying, thus leaving them in the rear.

On the right, one of his officers said to Capt. Hewitt, "The day is lost; see, the Indians are sixty rods in our rear. Shall we retreat?" "I'll be damned if I do," spake Capt Hewitt. "Drummer, strike up!" and he strove to rally his men; every effort was in vain; thus he fought, and there he fell!

Every captain that led a company into battle was slain, and in every instance fell on or near the line; as was well said, "They died at the head of their men." Men never fought more bravely, every man did his duty, but they were overpowered by superior numbers, a force that was overwhelming.

David Spafford, who had just married Miss Blackman, was fatally shot and fell into the arms of his brother, Phineas. "Brother," said he, "I am mortally hurt; take care of Lavina." Stephen Whiton, a young schoolmaster from Connecticut, was also a bridegroom, married a daughter of Anderson Dana; son-in-law and father fell together.

A portion of the Indian flanking party pushed forward in the rear of the Connecticut line to cut off the retreat to Forty Fort, and then pressed the retreating army toward the river. Monockasy island affording the only hope of crossing the stream, the flight was towards the island across the fields. Cooper and those who remained near the line of battle saw the main body of the Indians hastening after the fugitives.

At Forty Fort the bank of the river was lined with anxious wives and mothers, awaiting the issue. Hearing the firing sharply continued, now, hopes arose; but when the shots came irregular and approached near and nearer, the hope sank in dismay.

Among the most melancholy paragraphs in history are the after battle reports told by fugitives who escaped from the bloody sacrifice. Pity it is now after a lapse of more than a century and a half and all the parties to that sad day are long since resting in the silent city, we can not know that the most and the worst of the frightful tales of the battle of Wyoming were the imaginings of heated minds, strung to breaking in the horrid hour. Some were but too true, but time, with its covering pall of charity, has now given us assurance that in some of the most revolting things that found their way into the accounts of the contemporary history of the times were errors.

The Canadians and Indians won a signal victory, and when the settlers were flanked, instead of holding together and obeying their officers—the only place and mode of safety on such occasions—they fled, throwing away their arms, while the victors pursued and struck down many in a most merciless fashion. Had our people stood together under their commander it is now evident that the British commander would have respected a flag of truce and those lives that were so cruelly and needlessly sacrificed may have been saved.

(To Be Continued)

### SHERIFF'S SALES

Friday, September 16, 1938, at 10 o'clock a. m., Court Room No. 1, Court House, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Levari Facias from Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, property formerly of Edgar T. Shepard, Defendant, now of F. Jones, Terre Tenant, located on the northeasterly side of East Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, being 20 feet in front on said East Market Street and extending northeasterly 100 feet in depth to Merchant Lane. Being lot 4 on plot vania Avenue (formerly Canal Street), between land, now or formerly, owned known as "Old Grave Yard Plot." Improved with a 3-story brick building with flat metal roof; containing store-room on ground floor facing East Market Street, with one living apartment on first floor and one living apartment on second floor. Premises resigned as No. 48 East Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

WILLIAM R. THOMAS, Sheriff. Joseph P. Flanagan, Attorney.

As directed by Fl. Fa. No. 140, October Term, 1938, I will expose to public sale, Friday, September 16th, 1938, at 10 o'clock, A. M., in Court Room No. 1, Court House, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, the real estate of Herman F. Phillips, situate at No. 1 Lynwood Avenue, partly in Hanover Township and partly in the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, being a triangular piece of land 79 feet along said Lynwood Avenue and 98 feet and 57.96 feet on the other two sides thereof and being part of the same premises as are more particularly described in deed of Andrew M. Mesaros et ux. recorded in Deed Book 586, Page 596, and deed of W. B. Schaeffer et ux. and recorded in Deed Book No. 611 at page No. 547, in the office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Luzerne County, improved with a single two story frame dwelling house.

WILLIAM R. THOMAS, Sheriff. J. S. Russin, Attorney.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1938, AT 10 A. M.

By virtue of a writ of Fl. Fa. No. 142, October Term, 1938, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, to me directed, there will be exposed to public sale by vendue to the highest and best bidders, for cash, in Court Room No. 1, Court House, in the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, on Friday, the 16th day of September, 1938, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the said day, all the right, title and interest of the defendant in and to the following

### SHERIFF'S SALE

described lot, piece or parcel of land, viz:

All that plot or certain piece of land in Township of Exeter, County of Luzerne and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a stake and stones corner on the Westerly bank of the Susquehanna River and the Northerly bank of a drainage ditch; thence South sixty-two (62) degrees West, seven hundred fifty-seven (757) feet passing through a large Elm on the Westerly side of the State Highway Route No. 309, to a stake and stones corner at the intersection of a stone wall with a wire fence; thence South seventy-six (76) degrees fifty-one (51) minutes West twelve hundred twelve and twenty hundredths (1212.20) feet to a stone wall corner; thence South thirteen (13) degrees twenty-nine (29) minutes West four hundred six and five tenths (406.5) feet to a stone wall corner in line of lands now or formerly owned by Elisha A. Coray; thence along the same North sixty-four (64) degrees fifty-four (54) minutes West fifteen hundred fifty-four (1554) feet to a stake and stones corner; thence North twenty-one (21) degrees East one hundred sixty-three (163) feet to a wild cherry tree corner in line of lands now or formerly owned by Irwin Miller and Charles G. Lewis; thence North twenty-one (21) degrees fifty-nine (59) minutes East, eleven hundred seventy-five (1175) feet to a stake and stones corner in a stone wall; thence along the stone wall North eighty-two (82) degrees fifty-five (55) minutes West five hundred sixty-six (566) feet to a stone wall corner; thence along the stone wall North sixteen (16) degrees eight (8) minutes East four hundred seventy-six (476) feet to a corner; thence along a stone row North four (4) degrees nine (9) minutes West two hundred eight and fifty-nine hundredths (208.59) feet to a corner; thence along a stone row North eight (8) degrees eleven (11) minutes East three hundred forty-two and twenty hundredths (342.20) feet to a stake and stones corner; thence through the woods and along the remains of an old rail fence South seventy-nine (79) degrees East, seven hundred sixty (760) feet to a corner in the center of the Township Road leading from State Highway Route No. 309 to the village of Orange; thence along the center of said Township Road the following courses and distances, South eighty-seven (87) degrees East, seven hundred twenty-six (726) feet; thence South seventy-seven (77) degrees East two hundred sixty-eight and fifty hundredths (268.50) feet; thence South sixty-eight

### SHERIFF'S SALE

(68) degrees ten (10) minutes East, two hundred eighteen and ninety hundredths (218.90) feet; thence along lands of Lottie D. Peck South ten (10) degrees West, one hundred seventy (170) feet more or less to a corner in a stone wall; thence South sixty-nine (69) degrees ten (10) minutes East, four hundred twenty-three and twenty-eight hundredths (423.28) feet to a stake corner; thence South nine (9) degrees four (4) minutes East, five hundred six and seventy-three hundredths (506.73) feet to an iron pin corner; thence North seventy-five (75) degrees five (5) minutes East, six hundred ninety-four and ninety-six hundredths (694.96) feet to a stake corner on the Westerly bank of the Susquehanna River; thence on and along the Westerly side of the Susquehanna River Southerly one thousand four (1004) feet more or less to the place of beginning.

CONTAINING one hundred forty-four and twenty-six one hundredths (144.26) acres more or less and being Parcel No. 1 on the map attached to and made a part hereof.

Being improved with a single two story frame dwelling, a frame barn, and a concrete block fruit storage cellar.

Seized and taken into execution at the suit of Ladies' Pennsylvania Slovak Roman and Greek Catholic Union vs. Henry German, Jr., and will be sold by

WILLIAM R. THOMAS, Sheriff. Peter P. Jurchak, Attorney.

Friday, September 9th, 1938, ten o'clock, A. M., Court Room No. 1, Court House, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., execution from Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, real estate of Frank Ataviana, fifty feet wide on public road in Village of Mocanaqua, Conyngham Township, leading to Wapwallopen and two hundred sixty feet deep along public road to Lee, improved with a two story, double dwelling house and outbuildings.

WILLIAM R. THOMAS, Sheriff. G. J. Clark, Attorney.

As directed by Fl. Fa. No. 103, October Term, 1938, I will expose to public sale, Friday, September 9th, 1938, at 10 o'clock, A. M., in Court Room No. 1, at the Court House, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, the real estate of John Czachur and Agnes Czachur, his wife, situate at No. 15 Jones Street (formerly Atherton Lane), Plains Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, being 50 feet in width along said Jones Street and 75 feet in depth and as more particularly described in deed of Joseph Moritz et ux., dated November

### SHERIFF'S SALES

24, 1931, and recorded in Deed Book No. 714, page No. 29, as recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Luzerne County, improved with a single two story frame dwelling.

WILLIAM R. THOMAS, Sheriff. J. S. Russin, Attorney.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1938, AT 10 A. M.

By virtue of a writ of Levari Facias-sur Mortgage No. 88, October Term, 1933, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, to me directed, there will be exposed to public sale by vendue to the highest and best bidders for cash, in Court Room No. 1, Court House, in the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, on Friday, the 9th day of September, 1938, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the said day, all the right, title and interest of the defendants in and to the following described lot, piece or parcel of land, viz:

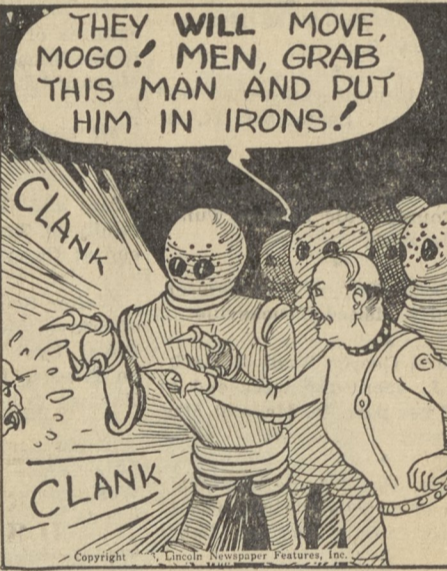
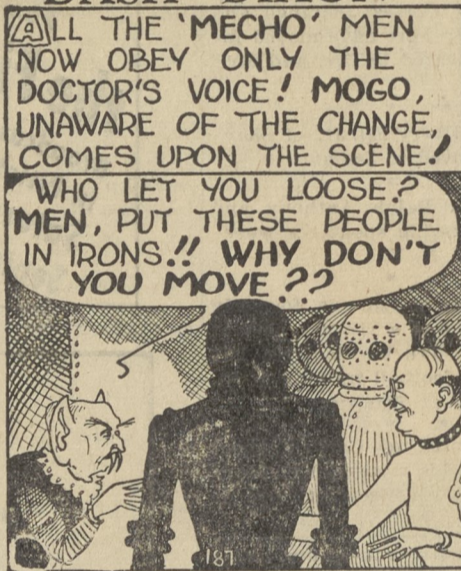
All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land, situate in the City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point on the northwesterly side of South Pennsylvania Avenue (formerly Canal Street), between land, now or formerly, owned by Rev. P. C. Nagle, and the land herein described; thence northwesterly along the line of said land of Rev. P. C. Nagle and land of the St. Nicholas German Catholic Congregation, upon which is erected a Parochial School building, one hundred twenty-five and five-tenths (125.5) feet to a corner in line of land now or formerly owned by J. Kemmerer; thence northwesterly along the line of said land of J. Kemmerer and land now or formerly owned by B. Kemmerer, forty-one and two-tenths (41.2) feet to a corner in line of land, now or formerly, belonging to the estate of R. Mitchell, deceased; thence southeasterly along the line of said Mitchell's land, one hundred twenty-two and five-tenths (122.5) feet to South Pennsylvania Avenue aforesaid; and thence southwesterly along the line of said street, forty one and two-tenths (41.2) feet, to the place of beginning.

Improved with one three story brick building, apartments and store room, and one small two story frame house with store front.

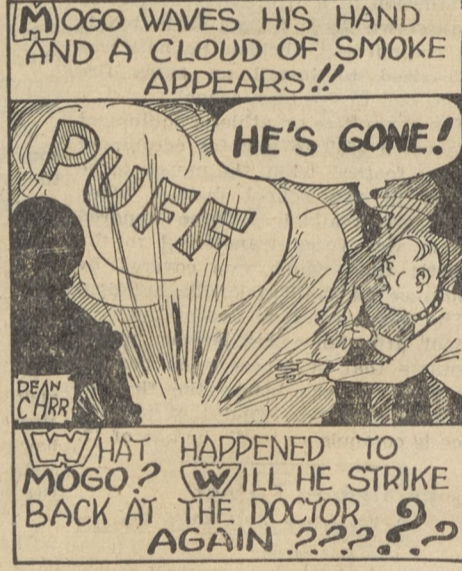
Seized and taken into execution at the suit of Union Savings Bank & Trust Company of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., vs. John Shiner and Anthony Shiner, and will be sold by

WILLIAM R. THOMAS, Sheriff. Neil Chrisman, Atty.

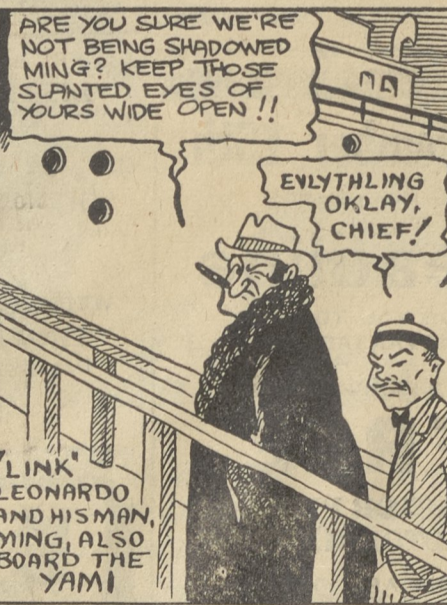
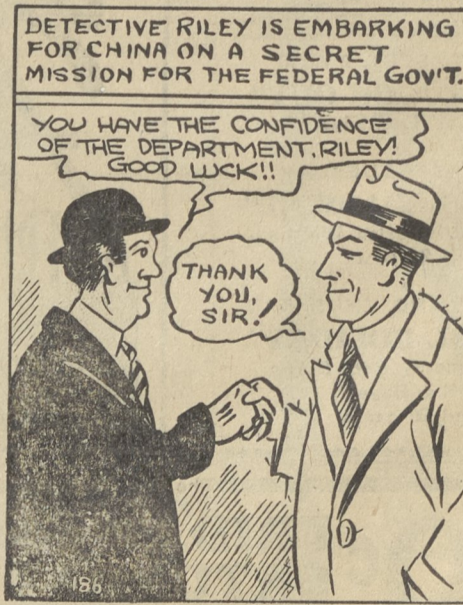
### DASH DIXON



### By Dean Carr



### DETECTIVE RILEY



### By Richard Lee



### FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW!!!



### By Bob Dart

