

THE STORY OF WYOMING

Legislature Passes Act Creating Luzerne County

Colonel Pickering spent forty days looking over this portion of the state, and, as a matter of truth, his visit was not social at all. It was a political examination of the ground. Very important affairs depended on his report. Very little escaped his keen view. He saw enough to learn that Pennsylvania would lose this fair land, if it delayed any longer. He returned to Philadelphia and reported this fact to the Assembly, and it passed the act that created Luzerne County, September 25, 1786. Colonel Pickering was not only selected as one of the men to carry out the act but was appointed a Judge, Clerk of the Courts, and Prothonotary as well. The new county was named Luzerne in honor of Chevalier de la Luzerne, Minister of France to the United States.

First Court Opened January 1787

Colonel Pickering came here in January, 1787. Under his direction the election of county officers passed off quietly. On May 29, the first court was opened in the home of Colonel Butler, at the corner of River and Northampton Streets, and carried on in a quiet, orderly manner.

Later on he succeeded in getting the Assembly to pass a law giving the Wyoming people ownership of their lands.

Franklin Arrested

Every effort was made by Colonel Pickering to get Colonel Franklin to act with him, but Franklin was pledged to the new state plan. Pickering soon saw that, if Franklin were not stopped, there would be further trouble. Chief Justice McKean was notified and he ordered Franklin's arrest. Franklin was secured by a ruse on the River Common, and although he fought until he was exhausted, was finally overpowered, bound on a horse, and was on the way to the Philadelphia prison, before his capture became known to his friends.

Attack on Colonel Pickering's Home

Franklin's friends directed their rage toward Colonel Pickering whom they blamed for the arrest. An attack was made on his lodgings, and he, leaving his wife and children behind him, was forced to escape to the mountains in the night. He went to Philadelphia and remained there until affairs in Wilkes-Barre became quiet.

Pickering was right in his belief that, with their leader absent, the new state party could not make any progress. Interest waned, and the people settled down to conduct their affairs in peace.

Pickering returned to Wilkes-Barre, and, in 1787, began the erection of a house, which still stands where he built it, over one hundred forty years ago, on South Main Street between Northampton and South Streets. It is the oldest house in the Valley.

Colonel Pickering Imprisoned

The New State party did not give up. At eleven o'clock in the night of June 26, 1788, the door of his house was forced open and Colonel Pickering was seized by a party of men disguised as Indians and carried off up the river.

Pickering Released

As soon as this was known, the sheriff of the county sent troops in pursuit, and regular soldiers were ordered here by United States government. Pickering was held prisoner for twenty days, for the purpose of securing the release of Franklin. When it was seen that this would not secure Franklin's release, Pickering was permitted to return to Wilkes-Barre, provided that he would recommend a pardon for Colonel Franklin. The march of the regular troops was halted at Easton. For the rest of the year, peace and quiet ruled in Luzerne County under Pickering's able management.

Franklin, in prison, realized that his great plan was destroyed, and so in September, 1788, he wrote the Supreme Executive Council praying for a pardon.

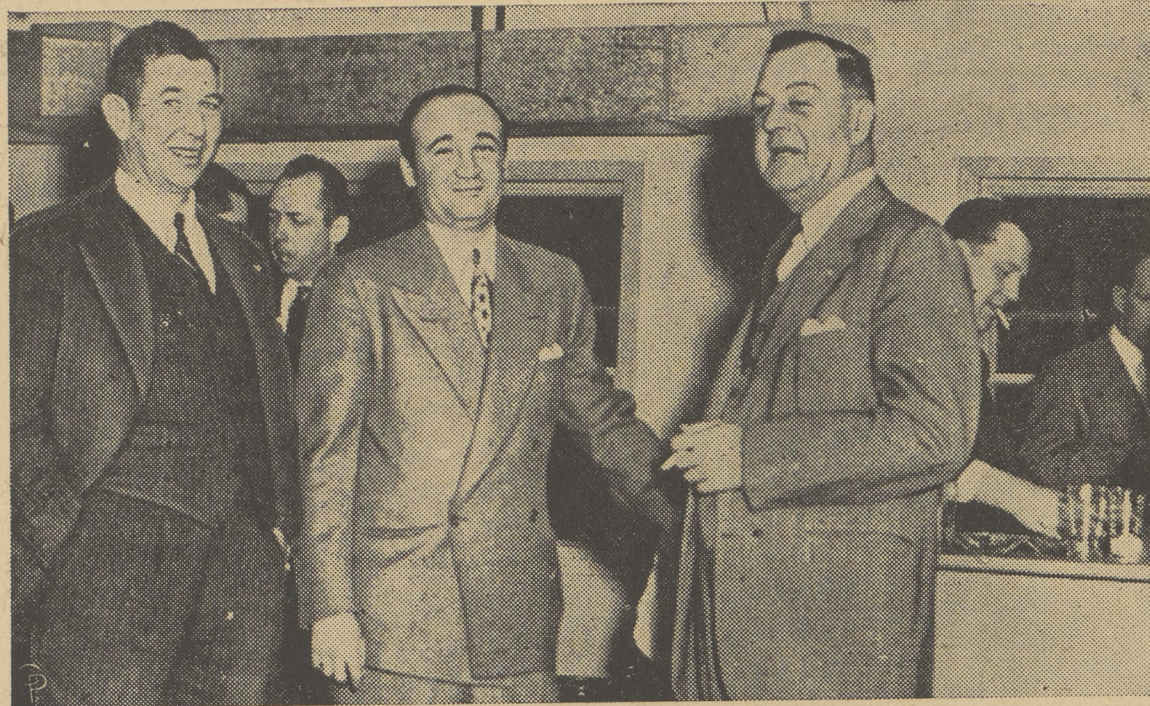
Franklin Released on Bail

As he was the very soul of honor, his request was considered, the Council taking it as surrender of his New State plan, and he was released on bail.

Franklin Released on Bail

In November, 1788, Franklin was brought to trial charged with high treason; that is, for trying to "erect a new and independent state," in an already legally organized territory. The trial was held in Wilkes-Barre before Chief Justice McKean and Justice Rush, and this was the first Supreme Court Session held in Wilkes-Barre. Important witnesses were absent, so Franklin was released on bail. His case never

CELEBRANTS AT GARSSON CHRISTMAS PARTY



ENJOYING THEMSELVES AT A CHRISTMAS PARTY held at the Batavia Metal Products plant of the Garssons, Batavia, Ill., are David Barkley (left), son of Sen. Alben Barkley of Kentucky; E. M. Glazier, (center), one of the Garsson company directors and Col. Herbert Heiss, who passed on contract awards with other Chemical Warfare Service officers in Washington. Heiss resigned his post recently and took an executive job with Garsson's Batavia Metal Products Corp. (Photo Copyright 1946 by International News Photos)

called again. For many years after this at each election he was chosen a member of the Assembly. In later years he removed to Athens, near the New York state border, where he resided to the time of his death.

No further trouble of a serious nature occurred here after 1788. The law securing the land to Wyoming people, however, was repealed and a new one was not passed until 1799.

Perhaps, boys and girls, we may best close the story of the Wyoming Valley quoting from Miner's History

Pennsylvania in State of Progress
"Christmas 1788 found Luzerne County abounding in the necessities of life, the laws of Pennsylvania in perfect operation, receiving everywhere cheerful obedience, Franklin at liberty, Colonel Pickering industriously performing every duty, high or low, allotted to him in life, a most extraordinary man—indeed perhaps he was the only man who could have introduced the laws and averted civil war in Wyoming."

Colonel Pickering resided in Wilkes-Barre until 1792. During a part of this time, he acted as the agent for the United States and

brought about a treaty of peace with the Six Nations of Indians. He left Wilkes-Barre to accept the office of Postmaster General of the United States under President Washington's Administration and was later Secretary of War and Secretary of State under President John Adams. Still later he was United States Senator from Massachusetts.

NAMING OF WILKES-BARRE

Cause of French and Indian War
A number of years before Wilkes-Barre was settled, France, which possessed Canada; and England, which governed the thirteen colonies in America, fell into a dispute over territory and made war on each other. Both countries wanted the fertile valleys of the Ohio and the Mississippi. This war was called the French and Indian War.

The Meeting of John Durkee and Isaac Barre

England sent Colonel James Wolfe with his regiment to help capture a French Fort and town called Louisburg, situated on a large island on the east coast of Canada. The American colonies such as Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island also sent regiments to help Colonel Wolfe. In the regiment from England was a young officer named Isaac Barre, who was Colonel Wolfe's principal assistant. In one of the Connecticut regiments was an officer named John Durkee, who was captain of one of the companies. The two men, John Durkee and Isaac Barre, met during the war and became friends. When the war was over, they parted and never saw each other again. Colonel Barre continued in the English army, and Captain Durkee went to his home in Connecticut.

Erection of Fort Durkee and Wilkes-Barre Named

When the Connecticut people came to Wyoming to settle, the

second party, which arrived here in February 1769, was led by Captain Durkee. Shortly after he arrived he built a fort which he called Fort Durkee, and he named the town that he founded Wilkes-Barre in honor of his friend Isaac Barre and an English statesman, John Wilkes. You will know why he selected this name when you learn who Isaac Barre and John Wilkes were, and what they did to cause Captain Durkee to name a town in their honor.

JOHN WILKES

Wilkes Elected to Parliament John Wilkes Arrested

John Wilkes was born in England in 1727. His father was rich, and John received a good education. He was not a very good looking man, but he was a pleasant, gentlemanly fellow who could write unkind and unpleasant letters and cause those about whom he wrote to get angry. He became interested in politics and was elected to Parliament. He attacked the King's ministers in a paper that he had published and the King ordered these ministers to have him arrested. They did so, but on a form of paper called a warrant that Wilkes said was against the law. Many others had been arrested before on the same form of paper, but Wilkes was the first man who claimed that this was a method of taking from the people their liberties. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London, and when the

New Barber

Sargi Toni of Parsons, former barber at Camp Dix, N. J. is the new barber at Gregory's Barber Shop. He and Don Grose expect to keep customers fresh and cheerful while Charlie takes a needed rest.

people took up his cause, the Court ruled that the King and his ministers had no right to arrest or imprison any one with that form of warrant. He was released and from that time no Englishman could be arrested except by the law of the land.

Wilkes Dismissed from Parliament

The King was very angry and would not give up; so he declared Wilkes an outlaw and had Parliament dismiss him. The way this was accomplished was a violation of the rights of English citizens. Wilkes fled to France but soon returned to England. The people again elected him to Parliament. Again he was dismissed. This happened four times in a number of years. Wilkes was imprisoned for twenty-two months and during all this time the people came to his assistance and showed the King and his ministers that they were in favor of him because he was fighting for their rights. This continued for eleven years, and in the end the King had to give up and permit the people to choose the man they wanted to serve them in Parliament, for this was their lawful right.

Wilkes Chosen to Represent the People in Parliament Wilkes was the most talked of

man in England, and the story of his fight with the King, and the King's ministers, was well known in America. The people in America had the same idea of liberty that Wilkes had, and they were delighted to see him victorious. Bonfires were lighted, banquets were held, and money was sent to him.

Death of Wilkes in 1797

You will see that Colonel Durkee had good reason to name the new town in honor of Wilkes. At various times after Wilkes-Barre had been named in his honor, he was Sheriff, Lord Mayor, and Chamberlain in London. Wilkes died in 1797 and was buried in London.

ISAAC BARRE

Colonel Barre and Wolfe Meet Colonel Barre Comes to America

Isaac Barre's forefathers came from France and settled in Ireland. Isaac was born in Dublin in 1726. His people were not rich, but Isaac was educated as a favor in Trinity College. After he left Trinity College, he was appointed ensign in an English regiment and became very well acquainted with a Lieutenant Colonel whose name was James Wolfe. This was the famous General Wolfe of the French Indian war. Later on Colonel Wolfe made

Barre his Brigadier major. When Wolfe was sent to America to fight the French, he took Barre with him. When Wolfe was appointed Major General of the English army in America, he made Barre his Adjutant General with the rank of Colonel. At the famous battle of Quebec, both General Montcalm, the French commander and General Wolfe, the English commander, were mortally wounded. General Wolfe died in the arms of Colonel Barre.

Colonel Barre Fights for American Liberty

After the war ended, Colonel Barre was elected to Parliament and was always on the American side in all the troubles that Parliament had with America. He fought for American liberty in the English Parliament as hard as he fought for England in America during the French and Indian war. Colonel Barre died in 1802.

During his long life he was Adjutant General in the British Army, Governor of Sterling Castle; Vice-Treasurer of Ireland; Treasurer of the Navy; Paymaster of the Army; and Clerk of the Pells. He was also a member of the House of Commons for forty years.

THE END



WASTED!

He laughs no more. He is no more. His life . . . his happiness . . . needlessly wasted in the tragic toll of traffic accidents.

He is only one of 723 killed . . . 20,312 injured . . . a total of 21,035 humans sacrificed by reckless . . . thoughtless . . . careless . . . driving and walking in the first five months of 1946 in Pennsylvania. Life snuffed out! Happiness blasted! Why? These drivers and pedestrians *thought it couldn't happen to them.*

It did happen to them! It can happen to YOU, the driver . . . YOU, the pedestrian. And only YOU can stop it by

correcting the faults which are the basic causes of traffic tragedies:

When you walk—Be alert for traffic lights, warning signs, passing cars. Don't jaywalk. Look before walking into the roadway. Never walk from behind a parked car.

When you drive—Keep eyes on the road, hands on the wheel, mind on the job. Don't pass on hills or around curves. Don't hog the road. Don't take that drink. Don't speed—It's a gamble of life against time which you are bound to lose.

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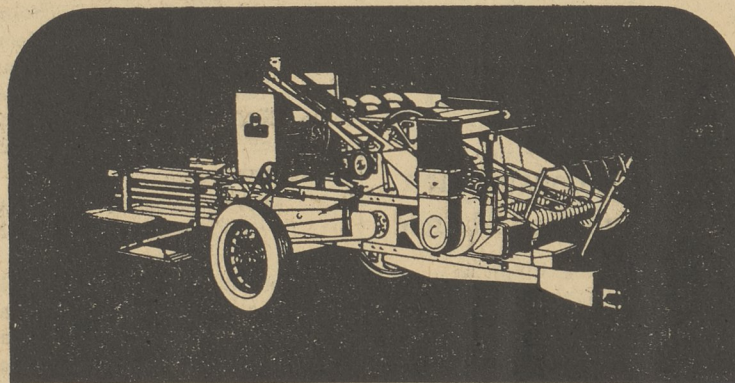
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