

The Fulton County News.

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McCONNELLSBURG, PA., DECEMBER 15, 1910.

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WILLIAM A. GRAY, DEAD.

Was the Fourth County Superintendent of This County and Served from June, 1860 to June, 1863.

GREW TO MANHOOD IN WELLS VALLEY

William Alexander Gray was born August 21, 1822, was married December 31, 1856 to Miss Julia A. Moore, and he died at his residence in Adams, Nebraska, November 22, 1910, being the last surviving grandchild of Alexander Alexander, the first permanent settler of Wells Valley. Mr. Gray was born in Everett, Pa., and at the death of his mother, when only five years of age, he was adopted by his aunt, Mrs. Sarah Bradley, of Wells Valley, this county, where he was brought up. After receiving a good common school education he attended Jefferson College where he finished his education, after which, for several years, he taught a select school in Wells Valley where a number of young men prepared for college.

In May, 1860, he was elected County Superintendent of schools of Fulton County, and filled that position for three years. September 3, 1864, he enlisted in Company K., 202d Regiment Penn. Infantry, and served until the close of the war.

In the fall of 1868, he, with his family, moved to Nebraska and settled on a farm near Adams, where they lived until the fall of 1886, when they moved into Adams.

He was a sincere Christian and lived a consistent life; he was an Elder in the old Wells Valley Presbyterian Church, and was instrumental in organizing the Presbyterian Church in Adams, which he served as long as his strength permitted. He was especially reverent of the Sabbath and a close student of God's word and its promises and consolations were on his lips to the last.

Mrs. Julia A. Gray, wife of William A. Gray, was born in Shireleysburg, Huntingdon County, Pa., January 28, 1829, and died at her residence in Adams, Nebraska, November 11, 1910, preceding her husband by only eleven days. She was a daughter of Dr. James Moore who moved to Wells Valley in 1841, and a sister of Mrs. Rebecca Alexander, late of this place.

Mrs. Gray was converted in childhood and united with the church of which she remained a consistent member during her long life; she, with her husband and children, were charter members of the Adams Presbyterian church organized in 1880.

Mrs. Samuel Grissinger.

Mrs. Annie Grissinger, wife of Samuel Grissinger, died at their home near Cherry Grove, Huntingdon county, Thursday, December 8, 1910, aged 49 years, 10 months, and 11 days. The funeral took place on Saturday, the Rev. Fleegal of the M. E. church officiating.

Mrs. Grissinger was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Gaster, and an estimable woman. Besides her husband, she is survived by two sons and two daughters, namely, James and Ernest, and Clio and Phileas; also, by her mother "Grandma" Gaster, and three brothers—Samuel, near Waterfall; Harry, in Wells Valley, and Jacob, in the West.

Mrs. Grissinger was about her household work as usual, when she was stricken with paralysis, sank to the porch on which she was when the stroke came, and in unconscious immediately, and in a very few minutes the spark of life had disappeared.

The family have the sincere sympathy of a wide circle of friends in this sudden removal of a loving wife and mother.

Between two evils it's better for a woman to marry a man who chews tobacco rather than one who is always chewing the rag.

HULL—McGOVERN,

Miss Nellie Elizabeth McGovern Became Bride of Mr. James R. Hull at High Noon Yesterday.

A very pretty home wedding occurred at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie McGovern in Ayr township, at high noon yesterday, when their daughter Miss Nellie Elizabeth became the bride of James R. Hull, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Hull, of this place.

The beautiful and impressive ceremony was performed by the bride's pastor, Rev. John McClay Diehl, of the Presbyterian church, assisted by Rev. E. Clifford Hays, of the Lutheran church, the groom's pastor.

The bride was gowned in white satin and looked very pretty. Miss Ruth Kendall, was the Maid of Honor, and Miss Maria Dickson Alexander played the wedding march.

More than half a hundred invited guests were present, and after the ceremony elaborate refreshments were served.

The bride and groom are excellent young people and have the very best wishes of their numerous friends for a long life of happiness and prosperity.

Dogs Fooled Him.

Daniel Mellott, who lives near Sipes Mill, was awakened a few nights ago by the excited barking of his dogs. Having visions of smoke-house robbers or granary thieves, he jumped out of bed, and without going to the trouble of putting on his Sunday clothes, he rushed down stairs, out through the front door, and on in the direction indicated by the barking canines. After a careful examination of the premises and finding everything all right, he came to the conclusion that the dogs had awakened from an ugly dream and were barking at random; so he went back to the house.

Now, during Mr. Mellott's absence from the house, a polecat happened to be passing, and seeing the door open, and getting a sniff of the warmth inside, walked right in. The stair door being open, the cat's curiosity led it up stairs. While the cat was up stairs, Mr. Mellott returned, and while stopping by the fire to warm before going back to bed, he was surprised to see the cat come down stairs. The cat was not expecting to see Mr. Mellott, and to hide its embarrassment, took shelter under a three-cornered cupboard. Then there was a fight on, Mr. Mellott chasing the cat from one point to another, and the cat doing its best to make it unpleasant for Mr. Mellott. Finally, Mr. Mellott, got hold of his gun, took careful aim, and the cat was out of business.

It is said the house does not need fumigating, and its inmates will be immune against the infection of any disease from toothache to small pox for a long time to come.

Cove Farms Sold.

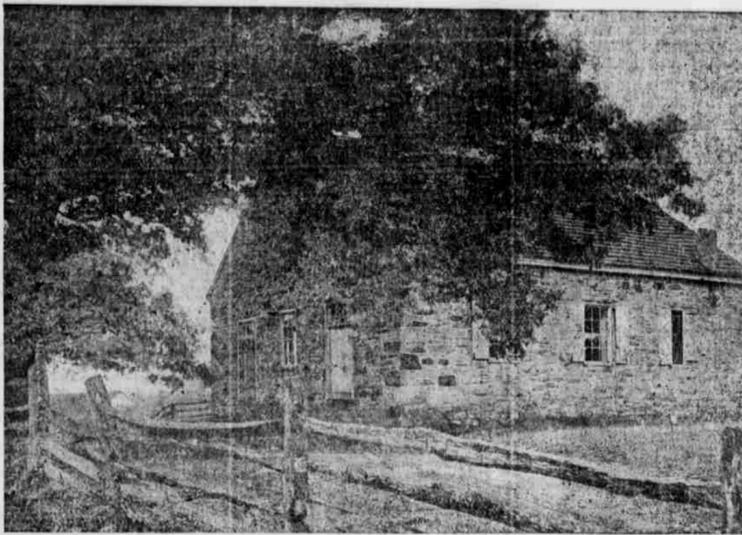
On Friday of last week, the "Mack" Kendall farm in Ayr township, was sold at public sale to Wm. Secrist, of Thompson township for \$12,700. Mr. Secrist, is a substantial young man, and a son-in-law of J. Calvin Comer.

This week, G. Newton Hoke sold his farm a half mile south of McConnellsburg, containing 145 acres of farm land, and 50 acres of mountain land, to Conrad Glazier of Ayr township, for \$15,000. Mr. Glazier is, comparatively, a young man. He started out on a rented farm, and managed to get enough ahead to buy a few years ago, a ten-thousand dollar farm on the Cove road, four miles south of McConnellsburg, where he now resides. This addition of the Hoke farm is merely an opportunity for the investment of surplus funds.

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THE OLD SECEDER CHURCH OF AYR TOWNSHIP.

A Paper Read Before the Pennsylvania Scotch-Irish Society, February 24, 1910, by T. Elliott Patterson.



THE OLD SECEDER CHURCH OF AYR TOWNSHIP.

Carlyle was proud of the work of his stone-mason father, and liked to look on the houses he had built, for he knew "they were honest masonry;" and with like satisfaction may we look on the work of our fathers.

Early in the last century, a congregation of Associate Reformed Presbyterians, Covenanters, and descendants of the Church of England, settlers in the Great Cove, then part of Bedford, now Fulton, County, after worshipping for some years in McConnellsburg, in 1828 built a stone church south of McConnellsburg in Ayr Township. The name of the township indicates the stock of people that comprised the settlement. As early as 1777 it is mentioned as part of the fourth election district of Bedford County.

Packers' Path, the old bridge trail leading over the mountains, passed through it, and on it tradition locates an Indian trading post about two miles south of McConnellsburg. Following the pack horse and his narrow footway came the Conestoga, and the stage coach period, when the turnpike (built 1814-15) leading from Philadelphia and Baltimore to the west, from that point, became the great highway across the State. A half mile east of McConnellsburg, the Philadelphia and Baltimore turnpikes joined, and at the point of their intersection was fought the first full cavalry engagement (June 29th, 1863), between the Federal and confederate forces, and a mile south of it were lighted the last camp fires (July 31st, 1864), of the confederacy north of the Mason and Dixon line. Two Confederate graves mark the former, a letter of the late Confederate General Bradley T. Johnson confirms the latter. Of the customs and manners of the Conestoga and stage coach days, we are not dependent upon Buchanan Reed's "Wagoner of the Alleghenies," nor upon the forsaken and dilapidated wagoners' inns that mark the entire route from the Chesapeake and the Delaware to the Monongahela and the Ohio to tell us, but from eye witnesses, and from father to son we learned of the overcrowded stables compelling the teamsters to feed their horses in the streets of the smaller towns at the great wagon troughs, part of every well-equipped Conestoga, that, like the box over the "lazy board" for the convenience of the driver, had enough of the stuff within easy reach "to drive dull care away" and break the monotony of the long wearisome trip. The stage coaches, too, were crowded, and the four-in-hand was no unusual sight down to the opening of the Civil War. But the days of the wagon train,

stage coach, and long droves of cattle on their way to the eastern markets, like their belled teams, coach drivers' horns, and the cattle call of the drovers, have passed to their only successor, that great Scotch-Irish transportation company, known to this Society as the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which has supplanted the wagon and stage coach, and has taken over into its cold storage embrace and protection the entire cattle business, "hoof, horns, hide and hair."

Of the early settlers attracted to this locality were a number of Scotch-Irish families from the Cumberland Valley, who established homes that in many instances are to this day in possession of their descendants. Their names (McConnell, Kendall, Taggart, Logan, Patterson, Hunter, McClelland, Sloan, Johnston, Nelson, Alexander, and later, McNaughton, McCullough, and Peoples) suggest the line from which they sprung. In that township is buried the first white woman of the settlement—Margaret Kendall—whose descendants are among the most substantial citizens of that valley to-day. And with but three or four exceptions, all of the above families were worshippers in that old stone church that for many years was the centre of the most pronounced type of Scotch-Irish and English Puritan training within the State.

Archibald Johnston—Lord Wariston—the distinguished lawyer and eloquent speaker whom Cromwell elevated to the bench and Charles II condemned to the gallows, on which he was executed July 22d, 1663, has to-day a descendant by the same name—Archibald Johnston—over eighty years of age, a member of the same old Seceder congregation, in which fifteen or eighteen of the descendants of John Cromwell (whose father came to Virginia in 1620) were also members, and to gether they sang in Rouse's version the same old Psalms that had inspired their fathers before them to deeds of sacrifice and honorable service. The 80th of January, with memorial services to St. Charles I, had no place in their ecclesiastical almanac.

THE FIRST ELDERS.

From the lips of a grandson, himself an elder and now living at the age of eighty-six years, the following description was given of his grandfather, one of the first elders of that congregation. "Tall, well-built, and in his old days wore his hair long and parted in the middle." He was a soldier in the Revolution, a member of the last Legislature that sat in Philadelphia in 1794, a Federalist in politics, and his reverent and devotional manner

in addressing the Deity—"Great, Great and Holy"—is spoken of among his descendants to the present time. He was born June 12th, 1749, and died May 18th, 1846, at the advanced age of nearly ninety-seven years. Two of his grandsons succeeded him as elders in the same church, and two of his great-grandsons are now elders in the United Presbyterian branch of the same congregation; for, true to the traditions of their fathers, the day came when the old stone church was not large enough for their differences, which like those of their Scotch-Irish brethren in the mountains of Virginia, were possibly more imaginary than real, for even the counsel for the latter, old Col. Baldwin of Staunton, said he did not understand their difference unless "one set sang through their noses and the other did not." That they were tenacious goes without saying, and down to the early sixties it was no unusual sight on the Sabbath day to see three branches of Presbyterians pass and repass each other on the same common highway, but leading to different portions of the common vineyard committed to their sacred keeping. And this in the face of the biblical descriptions given to their own land-holdings, as in the case of the old elder above mentioned, a portion of whose farm is described in the records in Bedford County as "Nebuchadnezzar's Delect," and the grantor's name was Abednego Stevens.

Of the other elders, the venerable forms of Sloan, Nelson, John son, and Kendall are still within the memory of the older worshippers of that congregation.

MEMBERSHIP.

Their membership was a little community of itself, and though black and white alike sat at the same sacramental table, there was no "occasional hearing," and in matters of faith and discipline the Pope himself ruled with no firmer hand than did the Scotch-Irish preacher and schoolmaster of those times in both secular and religious affairs alike. And so deeply impressed was the late Judge Trunkay with the sturdy teachings and customs of that community, while on a visit among them, that he said they reminded him more of what he had read of old New England Puritanism than anything he had ever witnessed.

(Continued next week.)

Howard Bolton, on whom an inquest was held at the London hospital, died from the effects of swallowing a tooth brush while endeavoring to dislodge a piece of meat that had stuck in his throat.

LIKES ILLINOIS.

Excerpts From a Private Letter From Mrs. Rhoda Lake Edwards Formerly of This County.

While not written for publication, the following from a letter from Mrs. Rhoda Lake Edwards, a sister of Joseph W. Lake, a former merchant at Pleasant Ridge, will be read with interest by her many friends and relatives in this county.

"We like Illinois very much. The country is fine. We are living 8 1/2 miles north of the town of Kansas, Ill., and just one mile due north of the home of my brother J. W. Lake. To day, Sunday, brother Joe and family, mother Lake, and ourselves, spent the day very pleasantly in the home of Ernest Peck and family. Mother Lake has been with us a week. She likes Illinois very much, and she has had better health since she came out here than she has had for many years.

We have a great deal of feeding to do—getting three carloads of cattle, and lots of hogs, ready for market.

Crops have been very good here this season. Corn "shucking" is about completed. There were over a hundred acres to "shuck" on this farm.

I cannot tell you just how much we do enjoy the weekly visits of the Fulton County News in our new home.

Heard Geo. Shoemaker Preach.

Mrs. L. F. Tritle (Ada McDonald) of Spirit Lake, Iowa, in sending another year's subscription to the Fulton County News says: "My two daughters and I have just made a visit to Waterloo to my daughter, Mrs. L. J. Van Niman, and had the pleasure, while there, of hearing Rev. Geo. Shoemaker preach in the First Methodist church. We all enjoyed his good sermon very much.

We also had a very pleasant visit with Rev. Shoemaker, wife and daughter at their new home at Cedar Falls. We spent the day very pleasantly recalling old times and friends we all knew at good old McConnellsburg.

"This has been a prosperous year with us. Everybody had good crops, and we all had good health for which we are thankful. We all enjoy reading the News and hope it will continue to come to us every week for a long time to come."

Not Mrs. John A. Hauman.

On account of being wrongly informed in regard to the death of Mrs. Hauman, near Saluvia, the News last week was led into writing up the obituary of the wrong person, and it is one of instances in which a person lives to read her own obituary. Instead of its having been Mrs. John A. Hauman, it was Margaret, wife of David Hauman, near Saluvia, aged about 84 years. She died Saturday night, December 3, 1910, and was buried at Siding Hill Christian church, the following Monday. Mrs. Hauman was highly esteemed by her neighbors, and was a consistent member of the Christian church. Besides her husband, she is survived by two daughters, Florence wife of Adam Wible, living at Broadtop, and Mrs. Geo. W. Strait, at Akersville.

A Christmas Present.

What shall I select for a Christmas present? This is the perplexing question just now. Hundreds of dollars are spent every year for stuff that costs good money, and that is of no earthly use to the one that gets it. Let us give you a tip. Send your friend the FULTON COUNTY NEWS. This is a present that will not be thrown aside unappreciated and forgotten, but that will stay fresh and good, and will be appreciated for a whole year and will cost you only one dollar. Try it. Your friend will think of you and be thanking you every week for a whole year.

ABOUT PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Snapshots at Their Comings and Goings Here for a Vacation, or Away for a Restful Outing.

NAMES OF VISITORS AND VISITED

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Heefner, of Taylor township, spent a few hours in town last Friday.

James Raker, near Fort Littleton, was a pleasant visitor in the home of John Mumma last Sunday.

Miss Lillian Fleming of Clear Ridge spent last Saturday in town doing some Christmas shopping.

Ex County Commissioner, W. C. Davis, of Licking Creek township, was in town last Friday attending to business.

Ex Prothonotary James P. Waltz, of Thompson township, was among the out-of-town visitors in town last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Mellott, of Hustontown took a sleigh ride to McConnellsburg Tuesday and did some holiday shopping.

L. L. Cunningham, N. G. Cunningham and Roswell Stains—all of New Grenada, were in town Tuesday attending to business.

Mr. S. W. Cunningham and family, and Mrs. James Mumma and Mrs. Chas. Sipes, were visitors in the home of John Snyder last Sunday.

Benjamin W. Fisher, who has spent the past several months at Lewisburg, Pa., is visiting his mother Mrs. Sarah Fisher on East Water street.

E. V. Mellott, Howard Swope, and Misses Margaret Daniels, Gertrude and Daisy Mellott—all of Sipes Mills, formed a sled load of people that made a trip to McConnellsburg last Saturday.

Rev. D. W. Kelso, of Knobsville, called at the News office a few minutes while in town Tuesday. From his bright cheery manner one would suppose he was pretty well satisfied with the world, and the world pretty well satisfied with him.

Mr. Morgan Deshong, and his son William and daughter Florence (Mrs. Michael Mellott) took advantage of the good sledding and came to town Tuesday. Morgan says that the scarcity of water is putting a good many farmers in hard straits over that way.

Leslie Hart, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Hart in Whips Cove, went to the University Hospital, 34th and Spruce Sts., Philadelphia for treatment on Tuesday of last week. Leslie has been sick for several months, and it is to be hoped that his trip to the hospital will be greatly beneficial to him.

Misses Mary Pittman, Kathryn Cook, Netha Nesbit, Minnie Reisner, and Gertrude Hoke, and Messrs. W. H. Greathhead and B. Frank, Henry, formed a sledding party that went to Fort Littleton last Thursday evening, and had supper at the Wilt Hotel. Roy Cromwell took them up in one of his hacks on runners, and they had a very pleasant outing.

They Did Her Good.

Mrs. Sophia (Gress) Smith, of Edinburg, Indiana, wishes through the columns of the Fulton County News, to thank her many old-time relatives and friends in Fulton county, for the loving thoughtfulness that prompted them to send her such a large skower of beautiful post cards on her seventy-third birthday. There were seventy-eight cards. Mrs. Smith wishes to say to her friends that she is in fairly good health, and that the names on the cards revived in her mind many happy thoughts of by-gone days.

Mrs. Smith is a sister of Mrs. Leonard Hohman of town and of Mr. George Gress, over the Ridge.