

ESTABLISHED 1854.

IT RECALLS OLD TIMES

How L. P. Sigler Lost and Recovered a \$500 Bill More Than Thirty Years ago in a Peculiar Way.

A few days ago George Wadsworth, of Center township, while looking over some old papers belonging to his deceased brother, Frank Wadsworth, found the following unique order, which will be read with considerable interest by the older residents of this county, and many a smile will creep over the members of the old guard when they read it, for it will bring back recollections of stirring times of more than thirty years ago.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF DECATUR STATE GUARDS General Order No. 8. To the officers and privates of said command:

It having been communicated to me at headquarters that Corporal Bullock has been attacked by Colonel R. H. McBee, of the enemy's forces, at Terre Haute, and driven from the field with great loss, you will be prompt and ready to march at 1 o'clock p. m., with three days rations, in full uniform, and with One Hundred Rounds of Ammunition. The following will be the order of attack:

Lieutenant Mather will march at the head of his command and take possession of Decatur City and hold the same as a base of supplies.

Corporal Bullock will march at the head of the skirmish line and engage the enemy, being at all times careful to avoid the main force under Colonel R. H. McBee, and knowing the reckless daring of the officer last named (without wishing to disparage his brother officers), I desire to particularly caution him to indulge in no overt deeds of unnecessary bravery, as the loss of so brave and valuable an officer might endanger the success of the whole campaign.

J. W. Harvey and L. P. Sigler are assigned duty in the Quarter Master's department as the position most suitable to their military taste and genius. Colonel James H. Summers will march with his forces upon the enemy encamped on Dickerson's Branch, attack the Citadel in the night, capture the inmates and remain in possession of the field until released by me in person. By order of E. W. HASKETT, Lieut., Brevt. Brig. Gen. Commanding.

Away back in the seventies when five hundred dollar bills were pretty scarce in this country, L. P. Sigler, who was the cashier of the Farmers and Traders bank lost a five hundred dollar bill, but after considerable skimming around recovered it. One day Col. McBee came into the bank on some business and the big bill was lying on the counter. When Mr. Sigler's back was turned McBee picked it up and put it in his pocket and the loss was not discovered for some days as it was thought the bill was lying snugly in the bank vault. The loss was kept quiet and a quiet investigation started to find out what had become of it, for they thought it could be traced whenever the person who had it tried to use it. Several months later Col. McBee, who was one of the veteran poker players of those days reported that he had won \$500 from some young fellows who were traveling across the country, and it was found that the money was a single five hundred dollar bill. Mr. Sigler was satisfied that it was the bill he had lost, so he sent lawyer Bullock and Uncle Sol Penniwell down to Terre Haute to secure possession of it. They called on the Colonel but met with a warm reception for when they demanded the bill Colonel grabbed his trusty old musket, and they say he chased Bullock and Uncle Sol across the Terre Haute bridge on the double quick. The bridge had just been built and was not yet floored, but the Leon fellows crawled across on the stringers. The next morning when Bullock came up town Henry Lunbeck, who afterwards became one of America's great cartoonists, had sketched their flight across the bridge with Col. McBee after them on a large strip of muslin which was nailed across the front of Bullock's office building, and Gen. Haskett had the state guards a hundred strong lined up across the street. This was lots of fun for Haskett and the rest of the gang, but it didn't get the money back for Mr. Sigler. The money was afterwards recovered through the aid of Uncle Andy Scott. It seems that at the time McBee was under indictment for some charge and Scott was on his bond, and as he was a great friend of Sigler's it was easy to persuade him to demand the bill from McBee as security that he would not skip across to Missouri and leave Scott to pay his bond. When Scott secured the bill he turned it over to Judge Harvey and by him returned to Mr. Sigler. Col. McBee did not show up in Leon for some months after that, but finally came in and told Sigler all about it, saying that when he saw the bill lying on the counter in front of him he thought it would be a good joke to put it in his pocket and hear Sigler get excited over the loss. When he did not notice it and nothing was said for some time he concluded he might just as well keep it, and so concocted the story about winning it in a poker game to account for having such a large bill in his possession.

Time has dealt heavily with the parties mentioned in Gen. Haskett's order, himself, Col. McBee, Lieutenant Mather and Col. Summers having all passed to their reward, Corporal Bullock has been living in Oklahoma for several years, and Judge Harvey and L. P. Sigler are still residents of this city.

Methodist Church Services

Preaching both morning and evening at the usual hour; morning topic "A Christmas Sermon." At 3 p. m. there will be men's meeting under the auspices of the Wesley Brotherhood. Prof. Long will lead the meeting. All men are urged to come. Other services at the usual hour.

DAY DUNNING ACQUITTED.

Mt. Ayr Banker Is Freed by Jury at Osceola of Charge of Fraudulent Banking.

Day Dunning, the former Mt. Ayr banker, the failure of whose private bank at Mt. Ayr some three years ago created a great sensation, was declared not guilty by a jury who tried him at Osceola last week on the charge of fraudulent banking. Three or four other indictments growing out of the bank failure are standing against him, but the failure to convict him in this case will probably result in all of them being dismissed and Dunning will go scot free, although when he was first tried the jury at Mt. Ayr found him guilty and Judge Evans sentenced him to three years in the penitentiary. He gave an appeal bond and appealed the case to the supreme court who granted him a new trial on account of a technicality. The case was then sent to Clarke county on a change of venue, and occupied a week, being given to the jury Saturday night, and after being out until eight o'clock Sunday morning returned a verdict of not guilty.

We doubt if the verdict will meet with approval in Ringgold county, for only last week the trustees of the defunct bank which failed owing the depositors over half a million dollars, made their final dividend to the depositors of 1 per cent, making the total amount which the depositors will receive 20 per cent of their claims. Dunning had for many years been looked to as one of the leading bankers of southern Iowa and his private bank carried large deposits, many retired farmers, widows and orphans having every dollar they possessed on deposit in his bank. According to his own statements after the failure he had been bumping along for the last twenty years, each year getting farther and farther behind until he was finally obliged to close the doors of the bank, although deposits were accepted up to the very time of the failure.

The people of Ringgold county lost in the neighborhood of \$400,000 by the failure, and many of the depositors lost the savings of a life time which they had deposited in the bank to support them in their old age. It is such failures as these and the escape from punishment of the men who squander their money that arouses the people to demand that private banks be subject to state inspection, the same as state and national banks. Representative Sankey of this county introduced a simple bill in the legislature three years ago, providing that all private banks should be subject to the same state inspection as state banks, and it should have become a law, but being introduced by a member of the minority party it was promptly killed. If the people of Iowa had the protection of such a law the Mt. Ayr bank would have gone out of existence years before it did, and many thousands of dollars would have been saved to the people of that county.

A Christmas Prayer.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale, who in the declining years of his long and noble life still clings steadfastly not only to the tenets of his religious faith but also to his wonderful love of country, contributes the following Christmas prayer to the December number of the Woman's Home Companion: Father of Love, Father of Life, Our Father who art here, We thank Thee for everything, For the Glory and Beauty and Wonder of the World.

For the Glory of Springtime, For the Glory of Summer, For the Glory now of winter, Bless the Lord, oh my Soul, and forget not all His Benefits. On this Christmas Day, we bless Thee.

For thy Son Well Beloved, Who saves us from our Sins, And gives us Life more abundantly. He is our Master, and all we are Brethren.

We praise Thee we bless Thee, we thank Thee, For Peace on Earth and Good Will among Men.

And our Christmas Prayer is, that we may all be one,—that we may be made perfect in One.

Hear us and bless us in our Christmas Prayer.

Christmas at the Churches.

At the Christian church on Christmas eve a special entertainment has been provided for the Sunday school scholars consisting of a musical cantata "Joyful Tidings," recitations, etc. A large Christmas tree will be loaded with presents which Santa Claus will distribute.

On account of considerable sickness among the scholars of the Presbyterian Sunday school it was decided to dispense with the usual Christmas exercises this year, but a special celebration for the three youngest classes of the Sunday school has been arranged for Christmas eve. A tree will be decorated and filled with presents for the little ones and a short program given.

The Methodist Sunday school will have a large tree and a special program of Christmas exercises including a cantata "Jack and Jill." There will be presents for all the children and the church will be specially decorated for the occasion.

At the Baptist church Christmas eve there will be a great big tree laden with presents for the little folks and an appropriate program of Christmas entertainment has been prepared.

There will be no Christmas exercises at the Adventist or L. D. S. churches.

New G. A. R. Officers.

Leon Post No. 251 G. A. R., has elected the officers following for the ensuing year: Commander—James Harris. Quartermaster—A. J. Allen. Officer of the Day—John Holden. Chaplain—F. M. Smith. Outer Guard—Robert Good.

WAS POORLY ATTENDED

The Farmers' Institute at Lamoni Last Week had Good Speakers but Few Farmers Attended.

The Decatur County Farmers' Institute which was held at Lamoni last Thursday, Friday and Saturday, was somewhat of a disappointment so far as the attendance was concerned, but the papers and addresses during the three days were all that could be asked for in this line, and those progressive farmers and stock breeders who attended were well repaid for doing so.

The first session was held Thursday afternoon at the M. E. church, being presided over by President Fred Woolley. Mayor Turner, of Lamoni, made an address of welcome which was responded to by President Woolley. The principal address of the afternoon was one on "Dairying and Better Judging" by Prof. J. C. Guthrie, of the State Agricultural College at Ames, and his address was highly appreciated by all who heard him. He was followed by H. H. Flanagan, of Des Moines, on "The Use of Cement in Road Work," and he gave the farmers present many practical ideas in the use of cement for culverts and bridges, and told how the use of cement had been increasing each year in this work with the very best results.

Four years ago the annual output of cement was about 500,000 barrels while this year it is in the neighborhood of 30,000,000 barrels.

Following the addresses there was a butter contest, the samples being judged by Prof. Guthrie, who awarded the first prize to Mrs. Samuel Shakespeare, of Lamoni, the second to Mrs. William Critchton, of Leon, and the third to Mrs. Fred Woolley, of Garden Grove.

The Thursday evening session was devoted to an address by B. F. Peterson, of Lamoni, on "Importance of Thorough Breeding," and his address brought out an interesting discussion on this important subject. Mr. Peterson was followed by A. H. Chandler, of Kellerton, a prominent breeder of Clover Hill Shropshire Sheep, and he gave his experience in breeding thoroughbred sheep and told of what he had learned about sheep on a visit to England. Other speakers were Dr. J. B. Horner and J. R. Smith, of Lamoni, and Ralph Baker and William Critchton, of Leon.

The Friday session was spent in listening to an interesting and instructive address on "Soils" by Prof. H. D. Snyder of Ames, one on "Feeding Cattle" by E. O. Lovett, of Garden Grove, and a discussion of the use of the road drag, which was participated in by a number who were present.

At the business session held Saturday morning William Critchton, of Leon, was elected president, and C. E. Wood, of Weldon, secretary. A vice president was also named from each township as follows: Bloomington—W. L. Edmondson. Burdell—Wm. Asbach. Center—Ralph Baker. Decatur—W. H. Colter. Eden—Leon Durell. Fayette—B. F. Peterson. Franklin—Wm. Maclean. Garden Grove—A. H. Metier. Grand River—Cal Board. Hamilton—A. B. McClarn. High Point—W. D. Smith. Long Creek—W. B. Redman. Morgan—W. N. Phelps. New Buda—B. F. McDaniel. Richard—Dr. H. C. Bone. Woodland—J. S. Beavers.

An executive committee consisting of William Maclean, of Franklin, W. H. Colter, of Decatur, B. F. Peterson, of Fayette, Ralph Baker, of Center, and A. H. Metier, of Garden Grove was named.

Fred Woolley, of Garden Grove was chosen as delegate to the State Institute. Saturday afternoon there was quite an increased attendance, the corn contest proving a good drawing card. The corn was judged by Prof. P. G. Holden, the greatest corn man in the world, and he awarded the prizes:

Yellow Corn—Samuel Shakespeare first, W. E. Shakespeare second, Frank Mallette third.

White Corn—Claude Aten first, B. F. Peterson second, J. Q. Peterson third. Best Single Ear—Thomas Allen first, Samuel Shakespeare second, W. E. Shakespeare third.

Sweepstakes—For the best ten ears of corn of any color or variety shown, was won by Claude Aten.

Following the corn contest Prof. Holden gave a splendid address, full of good advice and information, and among other things said that when a ten ounce ear to each hill would yield thirty-eight bushels of corn to the acre there were either a good many missing hills in Iowa corn fields or else a lot of stalks standing around and doing nothing and that in order to get money out of their corn crops the Iowa farmers must make their corn fields produce more corn. The last few years had brought an increase but there was still much to be accomplished along this line. He described at considerable length the methods employed in testing seed corn, and gave his experience along this line and said he knew of farmers who had doubled their yield of corn by faithfully testing all of their seed corn.

The teachers meeting and scholars contest which were announced to be held in connection with the Farmers' Institute did not bring a very large attendance and there was no attempt to carry out the program in this respect. Miss Maud Johnson, of Bloomington township, was the only contestant for the High School scholarship, and she chose a year's schooling in the Lamoni High School. Miss Bertha Fultz, of Davis City, was the only contestant for the scholarship at Graceland College, and she was awarded the prize of a year's scholarship.

It is to be regretted that more interest is not taken in the Decatur County Farmers' Institute. Each year sees the

same old faithful faces in attendance, and while they derive considerable satisfaction and pleasure out of the meetings, the fact that the ordinary farmer seems to take no interest in these meetings still remains, and they are the ones who would receive the greatest benefit by attending.

Father Bennett Building Churches in California.

In a recent issue of the Los Angeles, Calif. Evening Telegram appears a portrait of "Father" G. P. Bennett, and also an illustration of the new church which he was instrumental in building. This age 1 pastor was one of the early pastors of the Leon M. E. church, and although well along in years, and superannuated, he still continues doing good work. The Telegram has the following to say in regard to "Father" Bennett and his work:

"Father G. P. Bennett, a superannated Methodist minister, living at Laurelwood, on the Mount Scott line, is one preacher, who cannot be relegated to the class depicted in the touching song, 'Just Behind the Times' because of grey whiskers and advanced age. His hair is turning white, but he takes less notice of it, probably, than many of his friends.

Rev. Bennett came to Laurelwood two years ago and began preaching for the people of Lents in Davis Hall. Something less than a year ago his little flock of but a dozen or so began to talk about having a building of their own. Whether or not "Father" Bennett first suggested it, he took hold of the work with a determination and evidence of resource that would put the efforts of many a brother on active list to rest. A site was secured in Evelyn, the new tract adjoining Lents on the west, and today it contains a new church costing about \$2000, with a flourishing congregation and a new pastor is put in charge.

But the change of ministry was not attended by any wringing of hearts and shedding of tears for the "old man." "Father" Bennett has taken charge of two other struggling congregations, farther removed from the advantages of schoolhouse and gates. He says: "It sounds pretty strong to talk about building a church out there, but we are going to see what we can do about it." Mr. Bennett is an old Iowa minister, having preached at Leon and other places."

The Vital Spirit in the Christmas Gift.

Some good people condemn all Christmas giving, because so many makey of it a senseless fad.

It is true that much—perhaps most giving of Christmas gifts is far from keeping with the real spirit of the sacred day or in accord with reason.

Gifts made for the sake of ostentatious display of means, or for the discharge of some obligations, or because something is expected in return, are worse than vulgar at a time when entirely different motives should hold sway and entirely different feelings find expression.

But in this there is no good ground for general condemnation of all Christmas giving.

Giving has its source in the best part of our nature.

It is the sweetest expression of our best feeling.

It can no more be restrained than can the waters of a spring; and human life would be as desolate without the one as would be the earth without the other.

Where we love we give and the giving is the sweetest part of loving.

Gladness and gratitude ever seek some more tangible form of expression than mere words, and find it in gifts.

Christmas itself is but an observance of the greatest and divinest gift ever made to the world.

So there is plenty of justification for Christmas giving that is done in the right spirit.

But the spirit of giving is more important than the gift itself.

Some mere trifle of a trinket may express remembrance and affection that give joy and cheer to a heart through a whole lifetime, while a costly bauble may express only temporary interest and give only momentary gratification.

Baptist Church Services.

We are thankful for a large attendance and good interest last Lord's day. A suitable program for Christmas is being prepared. Sunday school at 9:45 a. m., preaching at 3 p. m., also at 7:30 p. m. B. V. P. U. at 6:30 p. m. All are invited.

The pastor has received Bibles and testaments of the American Baptist Publishing Society for sale and free distribution among the poor and needy. Bibles and testaments given to any who are too poor to buy. For sale—Bibles 20 cents and Testaments 5 cents each.

Must Pay Postmaster Promptly.

A new order has gone into effect and beginning with the last ten days before the close of the last quarter, or December 31, the postmaster will be required to commence the collection of box rents for the ensuing quarter. It is imperative that all box rents be collected by the first of each quarter, namely, on or before the first day of January, April, July and October. The instructions are that all box rents not collected by that time will necessitate the placing of the mail in the general delivery.

Yeomen Elect Officers.

The Leon Homestead of American Yeomen have elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Foreman—Eli Hutchinson. Master of Ceremonies—Clyde Yost. Correspondent—Geo. A. Coe. Master of Accounts—J. M. Gardner. Chaplain—Mrs. D. G. Gammon. The new officers will be installed on Thursday evening, Jan. 3rd.

SOME WORLD BEATERS

Fremont County Claims they Beat the World when it Comes to Raising Big and Good Corn.

Sidney challenges the world to beat the happy combination show in the accompanying picture—a stalk of corn between 16 and 17 feet tall, and a man 6 feet 8 inches. The corn was grown on the farm of Charles Polk, four miles northwest of town, and cut off above the ground measures over 16 feet. It is 9 feet 8 inches to the butt of the ear, which is large and perfectly formed.



The shorter man in the picture is Will Proctor, a clerk in the Ellicott store. He is a man not far from medium height, but looks like a pygmy in comparison with the golden giant who towers beside him. The latter will be readily recognized as Dr. Tom W. Gidley—when you see him once you know him the next time, no trouble to remember him. Dr. Gidley is a native of southwestern Iowa. He was born near Malvern, Mills county, where his mother (now Mrs. A. H. Dolph) still lives. He is 24 years of age, 6 feet 8 inches in height, and weighs 275 pounds. He is perfectly proportioned, with no superfluous adipose.

He is a veterinarian and was educated at the Iowa agricultural college at Ames. He located in Sidney about two years ago and has built up a lucrative practice, extending over the greater part of the county. He is well informed, lively in conversation, always in a good humor and very popular.

A Malvern paper is authority for the statement that he is just as good as he is big. He is good looking and single. He has a fine driving team and a buggy made to order, which is understood is big enough for two.

In this connection we might state Fremont county has records that beat the world on several different counts. Prof. A. D. Shamel, of the United States department of agriculture, Washington, D. C., told us when he was here that our county had a record of the best yield of corn per acre for five consecutive years of any county in the United States. The highest price ever paid for a single ear of corn was \$11, and the ear was from the field of H. J. Ross, in Walnut township, where Ora Hopkins, a Fremont county lad, performed the marvelous feat of husking 217 bushels of corn in ten hours, making a new world record which bids fair to stand unchallenged for many long years to come.—Sidney Herald.

License to Wed.

Samuel E. Ackerley, Grand River 21
Christena Davis, Grand River 22
John Willis, Lineville 26
Ida E. Vaughn, Lineville 20
H. E. Wilson, Lineville 23
Lela M. Sutterlin, Lineville 20
Gilliam C. Gardner, Garden Grove 31
Verda Maclean, Leon 25
J. F. Wine, South English 37
Anna Rhodes, South English 30
J. C. Good, South English 24
Blanche Sassaman, South English 24

A Good Word for the Band.

EDITOR REPORTER: Allow me to say publicly through your columns that after attending the band concert Tuesday evening, I was delighted to know that Leon had such an excellent band. They furnished an evening's entertainment that was most wholesome, and that gave evidence of much hard work done in practice. Leon has a right to be proud of such an organization, and will doubtless give it liberal support. J. L. BOYD.

MORTUARY.

Mrs. George W. Maclean.

Elizabeth Ellen Maclean was born in Rush county, Ind., March 21, 1836, and departed this life Dec. 14, 1906, age 70 years, 8 months and 21 days. Between these dates lies the life history covering a little more than the allotted three score years and ten—a period that looked back upon seems all too short. Sister Maclean's maiden name was Mann. On Aug. 25, 1853, when in her 18th year, at her childhood home she was united in marriage to Geo. W. Maclean, who after over 53 years of wedded life survives to mourn her departure. Five children, three sons and two daughters were given to bless their home; two of these were born in Indiana and three in Iowa. They all survive their mother and are present today. They are William A. of Weldon, Homer E. of Des Moines, J. Newton and Mrs. Edna A. Thompson, of Leon, and Mrs. Bertha L. Britton, of Davis City. Besides these there are twenty-nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In September 1858, the family, consisting of husband and wife and two children came to Franklin township, Decatur county, Iowa, where they resided continuously until five years ago, when they moved to the present home at Leon. In that early day, nearly fifty years ago when they came to the bleak prairies of Iowa to make a home, conditions were vastly different from what they are today. Then the pioneer suffered hardships of which this generation can know nothing. There were no railroads near, no telephones, no rural routes, Ottumwa and Keokuk being the nearest points. While the husband and father would go on those long trips to secure supplies for the family she was the care taker of the home. At first but a cabin home, but what with honest toil and the blessing of God they accumulated enough of this world's goods to give her all the comforts of life in her last years. She was converted at twelve years of age and united with the M. E. church. Through all these years she held fast to her faith in God. For years after coming to Iowa she held her membership at Van Wert, when the church known as the Fair View church was organized near her home, she transferred her membership there and was an active, earnest worker in building up the kingdom of God in that community. When the time came to erect a house of worship she and her husband were the most liberal contributors, and here she had her membership at the time of her death. God honored her faith by permitting her to see all of her children brought into the kingdom.

Her last illness was brief. On Saturday morning, Dec. 8, at about 7 o'clock, while sitting at the breakfast table she received a paralytic stroke; her husband summoned a physician at once, the children were called, neighbors and friends came in and all that skill and loving ministry could do was done, but to no purpose. She lingered till Friday, Dec. 14, about half past 3 o'clock in the afternoon. With her loved ones about her she fell asleep gently passing apparently without pain.

As the ripened sheaf she has been gathered to the Master's garner. Life's work done; life's sorrows past. How fitting that from the arms of loved ones here, she should go to the sheltering of the everlasting arms. Our hearts are saddened, but for her we believe the heavenly joys to be her portion.

The funeral services were held from the home on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, conducted by Rev. J. L. Boyd, pastor of the Leon M. E. church, interment being in the Leon cemetery.

G. E. Graham.

George Erastus Graham died at his home in Hamilton township, Decatur county, Iowa, December 8, 1906, at the age of 60 years, 6 months and 3 days, having been born in Jay Davis county, Illinois, July 5, 1846. He was the son of Theodore and Lethia (Tucker) Graham, being the fourth child in the family of ten. He lived on a farm in the county of his birth until his enlistment in the Northern army, Company B, 15th Illinois Infantry, in the war between the states. He served in the engagements of the Atlanta campaign, was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea, and took part in the grand review at Washington. He was honorably discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, and mustered out at Chicago, Illinois. With his father's family he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1865, and soon after they located on the farm on which, since that time he has made his home.

On November 29, 1868, he married Miss Margaret Ellen Norton and to them were born nine children; Jennie Alice, Charles Ezra, Nathan Grant, Eddy Ellsworth, Robert Arthur, George Franklin, Ephraim, Edith Estella and Jnez Urea. These all survive and together with their mother were present at the bedside of the dying husband and father. Of Mr. Graham's three brothers and six sisters, Ephraim, Lucinda and Dora preceded him to the great beyond.

Mr. Graham was a member of Grand Army Post, No. 306, of Davis City, Iowa, and of Masonic Lodge, No. 189, of Pleasanton, Iowa. The ceremonial rituals of these orders were observed at the burial. The funeral was from the Christian Union church, Pleasanton, December 10, 1906. The sermon was by Elder Duncan Campbell, Elder Henry Reed offering prayer. The interment was at the Hamilton cemetery, north of Pleasanton, Iowa. Mr. Graham was a man of the strictest business integrity, thoroughly pure in his life, and his character was beyond reproach, and as a consequence he enjoyed the fullest respect and confidence of his large circle of friends and acquaintances. The bereaved family have the deepest sympathy of the community.

CORN WANTED—I want to buy 5,000 bushels of corn, and will pay the highest market price. C. M. ARKS.