

MRS. G. F. SMITH GAVE INTERESTING TALK ON THE FLAG

The "Friday Exercises" at the high school last week were patriotic in nature. A chorus of eighth grade girls sang Van Dyke's home coming song. Where the Flag is Full of Stars, and then Mrs. G. F. Smith gave an excellent paper on the "History of Our Flag." They program closed with the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by the school.

Following is Mrs. Smith's paper in part: The first flag to float on American soil was of course the Spanish standard, borne by Columbus, when he landed on San Salvador on October 12, 1492. This was of the familiar red and yellow colors, blazoned with the Arms of Isabella. Columbus' personal banner was white with a green cross.

The first English flag was planted in 1497 over Newfoundland by Sebastian Cabot. A wide variety of other national banners waved over the new world in the early days as each great captain claimed territory for his liege lord. The English standard was planted at the ill-fated Roanoke colony at Plymouth, Massachusetts and Philadelphia. The lilies of France waved over Canada and the great lakes, and Mississippi regions; other Spanish flags were unfurled in Florida, Mexico and California.

The Swedish flag floated over Delaware; the Dutch emblem over New York and Long Island; the Russian flag over Alaska.

The history and evolution of the Stars and Stripes, the national flag of the United States, shows a gradual development.

Historians and writers seem to vary to some extent in some of the particulars of the early history of the flag.

The evolution of our flag shows that in the early part of the 14th century the flag of England bore simply the red cross of St. George on a white ground; while the flag of Scotland was a white St. Andrew's cross on a blue ground. In 1603 England and Scotland were united, and three years later the two flags were combined to form the King's colors. It was the red cross of St. George that the "Mayflower" flew at her masthead when she brought her precious load of Pilgrims to Plymouth that cold winter of 1620.

In 1707 Great Britain adopted for herself and her colonies a flag having the main part of it red, and in its upper corner the King's colors or union flag which represented the union of England and Scotland. Since that time this part of the flag has been called the union jack.

And now we come to the flag that begins to show a resemblance to our own families in the time of the Revolution several flags of interesting appearance were made; all things were in an unsettled condition. The defiant Rattlesnake flag in 1775 was one. The rattlesnake being in 13 pieces, with the name of a colony in each piece, and the words, "Don't Tread on Me." The Pine tree flag served the patriots of Sumner Hill. One that was carried at the battle of White Plains bore the words, "Liberty or Death" on a white field over a sword crossed with a staff bearing a liberty cap.

D. E. BRACKETT HAS A SPLENDID NEW STOCK OF SHOES

D. E. Brackett, who recently purchased the shoe business of Guy E. Alexander and added to Mr. Alexander's stock his own large shoe stock from Alma, has this week sold and shipped to Chicago parties 700 pairs of shoes and thus cleaned up his stock so that there is not a single pair of shoes in his store that is not right up to the minute in style and make. Mr. Brackett says he is going to give to the people of Belding a chance to buy the very best shoes at prices which are absolutely low.

F. E. JENKS AGENT FOR THE KALAMAZOO SILO

Floyd E. Jenks is the agent for the Kalamazoo silo in this territory. He was appointed agent in 1911, but previous to that time the agency had been handled in the family since 1899. Mr. Jenks lives in Grattan township, Kent county, just over the Ionia county line. His address is Belding R. F. D. No. 17. Mr. Jenks will be pleased to demonstrate the merits of his silo to everyone interested. On another page of the Banner you will find Mr. Jenks' advertisement of the Kalamazoo silo. Watch the advertisements each week.

State Agent Was Here A. J. Hager, state agent for the Michigan Silo company of Bellevue, was here Saturday demonstrating and explaining the silo at the yards of the Belding Lumber company. Many farmers from the surrounding country were in to meet him. The Belding Lumber company will push the sale of the Michigan Silo in this district this summer.

Notice All persons who left repair work with Mrs. A. B. Hull before Dec. 1, 1914, please call for same within 20 days from date. Mrs. A. B. Hull.

HARDWARE DEALERS GET PRICES FROM JOBBERS

Fred F. Ireland who is vice-president of the Michigan Retail Hardware association states that the value of cooperation is shown very forcibly in the results obtained by members of the association in getting low prices from wholesalers.

At the recent hardware men's convention in Saginaw R. A. Peterson of Chicago emphasized this fact in a talk on "Getting the Price." Mr. Peterson showed how the members of the Michigan Retail Hardware association were getting low prices from wholesalers and were consequently able to sell to the consumer at a lower figure than they could otherwise do.

The T. Frank Ireland store is able to sell hardware and does sell it at a remarkably low price. All this is due to a great extent to the fact that the cooperation of the retailers enables them to put up a good strong front to the jobbers.

MANY BUSINESS MEN FAVOR ORGANIZATION TO BOOST BELDING

The suggestion that an Association of Commerce or Board of Trade be formed in Belding composed of those citizens who want to get busy and boost the town has met with much favorable comment.

There are many reasons for the formation of such an organization. All of those reasons come under the one general head that Belding should make the most of her opportunities and these opportunities are many. There are no reasons against the idea. The general opinion seems to be that every person who is interested in the welfare of Belding should be a member of the organization. It certainly would be splendid to have an enthusiastic body of farmers, merchants, manufacturers and citizens in general, each and every one pushing hard and steadily for the best interests of this city.

A meeting looking forward to an definite organization will be held soon.

NO FULL MOON DURING FEBRUARY THIS YEAR

There will be no full moon this month. It will be the first time since 1847, according to Prof. Harold Jacoby of Columbia university.

The lunar month consists of 29 1/2 days. In January three were two full moons, one of them coming just a few hours before the close of the month. As February contains only 28 days, the next full moon will arrive on March 1.

ANNUAL ROLL CALL OF K OF P'S WAS HELD TUESDAY EVENING

The event was considered most pleasant ever held.

Belding's male citizens forgot stern business and daily cares for a few hours Tuesday evening and met in liberal numbers at the Knights of Pythias hall to take part in making the Annual Roll Call a success, and it was a success in every particular. From the time when Toastmaster Jerry Spaulding called the house to order until the last of the boys had left the hall in the small hours of the morning, everything went fine and merriment had control.

As was intimated in the invitations, which announced the coming of the roll call, Jerry Spaulding vented his farmer institute style upon his listeners with rare ability. Following the roll call of the members the program of the evening was started off with a bound by Earl French. He assumed the responsibility of telling incidents relating to and consequences resulting from "Staying out Nights for Lodge and Other Purposes." No one that heard his talk doubts, but what he spoke from experience.

When A. E. Weter gave his reminiscences of "Thirty Years Ago," the younger men present, as usual, when the events are narrated, were very much interested. They had good old times in those days in the opinion of Mr. Weter.

When John Higgins gave "The Auction Sale" he carried the fellows almost off their feet with merriment. It was thoroughly good. A typical farm auction was the theme of the entertainment and John could "do her up brown."

Elmer E. Fales was there and gave a "Heart to Heart Talk" in his usual fatherly style. More such talks are needed in all communities.

Music was rendered at intervals during the program by Rummier's orchestra and also by other local talent. William Skopce favored with selections on his concertina and Dallas McCarty whistled and played on the bells. One of the special musical features was the singing of Earl B. Slawson of Greenville.

Reports of the big annual session would be incomplete without mentioning the supper. The fine points of the feast were in charge of the Messrs. Cusser and Unger. From chicken pie to salad it was a rare feast. Beyond question the whole event was the best roll call ever held by the local Knights of Pythias.

A Court Room in City Hall The council seems to be greatly agitated over the question of fitting up a justice court room in the city hall. Furniture for the room has been moved in an out, so far it's a case of on again, off again.

Michigan Supreme Court Decision Affects Hundreds of Ionia County Title Holders Court Holds That a Deed From Husband to Husband and Wife Does Not Create a Joint Tenancy on The Property Deeded

The supreme court of Michigan has very recently handed down a decision that will affect hundreds of titles to land in this state, and Ionia is no exception in this respect in the list of Michigan counties.

To save the possibility of either being deprived of a home in case of the death of the other, and in some cases to fix the title so that attachments for debts or for other reasons could not be made, many a Michigan husband has given a deed conveying the farm or home to himself and his wife jointly. It was the theory in the giving of such a deed that it created an estate of husband and wife in entirety or joint tenancy. Such deeds were given as that in case of the death of either the husband or the wife the property deeded would descend in its entirety to the survivor, or in order that while both were living it could not be attached for any purpose.

The decision of the supreme court referred to in the case of Wright vs. Knapp declares that a deed of say "John Doe to John Doe and wife" does not create a joint tenancy, but simply gives outright an undivided one half interest to Mrs. Doe while he retains the other; and so either half is subject to all legal processes.

Six of the eight judges concurred in the decision. Two who dissented contended that as a man could not deed to himself, John Doe deeded to John Doe and wife by that act deeded outright all the property to Mrs. Doe. But the majority opinion establishes the law.

While John Doe cannot himself create a joint tenancy in his property

with his wife by deeding the same directly to John Doe and wife, he can do so indirectly. If John Doe should deed the property to a third person, say Richard Roe and Richard Roe should deed the same property back to John Doe and wife jointly, but that kind of a deed so made through a third party, joint tenancy is created, and then if either Mr. or Mrs. Doe should die, the property will descend directly to the survivor.

For about 20 years deeds of a husband to husband and wife have been put on record in Ionia county, many of them. In cases where one of the parties to such a deed has died it has been assumed that the survivor had the undoubted right to all the property so deeded. According to the supreme court's decision that is not true, and trouble could be made if the heirs of the one who died were disposed to make it. And if no such contest is made, there is still a cloud on the title to the real estate so deeded that has been conveyed by the survivor to any other person.

It is indirectly as being opposed to common sense. But if they want a joint tenancy they will have to get it in the way the supreme court says they can.

Elizabeth C. Cowan, widow of William S. Cowan and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin B. Allen, was born December 31, 1840 in Berlin township, Ionia county, and moved with her parents when a small child to Ronald township, where she grew to young womanhood and assisted her parents in their pioneer work. At the age of 18 she began teaching in the district schools, at first in her own vicinity and later in Grattan township, Kent county, where she met William S. Cowan, whom she married May 4, 1865. They lived in Grattan township for 17 years, and were valued members of the Congregational church at Bostwick Lake. In the spring of 1882 they moved to the farm in Easton, Ionia county and by continued industry made it a beautiful home. She resided there till her death, which came very peacefully February 17, 1915. The funeral service was held at the home Friday at 2 p. m., and the large number of friends present and the profusion of beautiful flowers, spoke the love and respect in which she was held by all who knew her. Her pastor, Rev. F. W. Nickel, spoke words of comfort from Rev. 14 chapter and a part of the 13th verse. He mentioned the kindly interest the deceased took in everyone, and said she was always busy with her heart and her fingers for others. The body was carried by her sons and grandsons and laid to rest in Easton cemetery by the side of her husband, who passed away Sept. 3, 1904 at the age of 65 years. In Feb. 1896 Mr. and Mrs. Cowan presented their letters to the Dilline church, where they will be greatly missed. The deceased is the mother of three children, Elmer A., Irma L. wife of John McKendry and Edgar J., and leaves two brothers, M. J. Allen of Ionia, and H. L. Allen of Palo. These, with the grandchildren and a host of friends are left to mourn the loss of a most kind and noble woman.

The Idlehour Theatre was purchased last week by the proprietors of the Empress Theatre. The doors were closed Saturday evening at the conclusion of the evening's program. Workmen began the removal of the furniture and fixtures on Monday morning. The equipment will be moved to another city as soon as a suitable location can be found.

The Idlehour was practically the first motion picture house in the city. During all of its existence here it has occupied the same location in the Holmes block.

Several parties are negotiating for the room vacated by the theatre, but no definite action has been taken by any of them.

Mr. and Mrs. Dixon the proprietors of the Idle Hour have given the show house their best efforts. They worked hard and faithfully to make the business succeed but the fact remained that there were too many motion picture shows here and the sale of the Idle Hour clears up the situation. Belding now has two splendid motion picture show houses and both do a good business.

ATTORNEY I. J. HUBBELL INSTRUCTED TO ACT

At the council meeting last Friday evening City Attorney I. J. Hubbell was instructed to begin some action to have the poles of the Bell Telephone company removed from Main street preparatory to paving.

A red signal light has been placed just above the large street light at the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets. It will be used for signaling the nightwatch or marshal in case either of them is wanted at night. The council tested its efficiency Friday night and in less than ten minutes after it was turned on Nightwatchman Platt reported at the council rooms to see what was wanted.

The city and waterworks bills were allowed and the council adjourned.

GEORGE BROWN CASE WAS THROWN OUT

The case of the People vs. George Brown, in which Brown was charged with highway robbery and which has occupied four days' time in Justice E. B. Lapham's court was thrown out of justice court last Friday, after the examination of the defendant and two of his witnesses, for lack of evidence to carry it into circuit court.

FOOT BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER COLLAPSED

A section of the foot bridge over the river east of the depot collapsed Tuesday evening when a party of workmen from Belding-Hall company were returning from their work. Several of the men got their feet wet, but no one was injured.

The foot bridge is supported by planks which extend out to one side of the piling of the railroad bridge a distance of about six feet. Two of these planks broke close up to the piling and allowed the whole section of the foot bridge to drop to the water below.

The bridge is much used by workmen at the factories on the north side. It is possibly the most used by the workmen of any bridge that crosses the river.

POMONA GRANGE WAS HELD HERE THURSDAY

The Ionia county Pomona Grange was held here last Thursday, February 18. The day was filled with the good spirit for all of the members and their guests. A big dinner was served at noon.

Work in the fifth degree was one of the interesting parts of the session. Jennie Buell of Ann Arbor, state secretary of the Michigan Grange was present and gave interesting talks. The meeting was thoroughly enjoyable.

PETER FABUNG WILL HAVE AUCTION SALE

Having decided to quite farming Peter Fabung will hold a public auction sale at his farm three miles west and one mile south of Belding on Thursday, March 4. He will offer for sale a good lot of live stock and tools a complete list of which may be found in his adv. on another page of this week's Banner. E. E. Snye will cry the sale.

EASTMAN WILL TALK TO MEN'S CLUB TUESDAY

W. H. Eastman of the law firm of Eastman & Eastman of Grand Rapids will address the Men's Club of the Congregational church on the subject Militarism at the club's monthly meeting next Tuesday evening.

Mr. Eastman's address will dwell the war situation in Europe. The address has been given before several men's club in other cities and has received much favorable comment.

Dinner will be served by a committee of the club. All men are invited.

OBITUARY

Elizabeth C. Cowan, widow of William S. Cowan and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin B. Allen, was born December 31, 1840 in Berlin township, Ionia county, and moved with her parents when a small child to Ronald township, where she grew to young womanhood and assisted her parents in their pioneer work. At the age of 18 she began teaching in the district schools, at first in her own vicinity and later in Grattan township, Kent county, where she met William S. Cowan, whom she married May 4, 1865. They lived in Grattan township for 17 years, and were valued members of the Congregational church at Bostwick Lake. In the spring of 1882 they moved to the farm in Easton, Ionia county and by continued industry made it a beautiful home. She resided there till her death, which came very peacefully February 17, 1915. The funeral service was held at the home Friday at 2 p. m., and the large number of friends present and the profusion of beautiful flowers, spoke the love and respect in which she was held by all who knew her. Her pastor, Rev. F. W. Nickel, spoke words of comfort from Rev. 14 chapter and a part of the 13th verse. He mentioned the kindly interest the deceased took in everyone, and said she was always busy with her heart and her fingers for others. The body was carried by her sons and grandsons and laid to rest in Easton cemetery by the side of her husband, who passed away Sept. 3, 1904 at the age of 65 years. In Feb. 1896 Mr. and Mrs. Cowan presented their letters to the Dilline church, where they will be greatly missed. The deceased is the mother of three children, Elmer A., Irma L. wife of John McKendry and Edgar J., and leaves two brothers, M. J. Allen of Ionia, and H. L. Allen of Palo. These, with the grandchildren and a host of friends are left to mourn the loss of a most kind and noble woman.

REMAINS OF JAMES A. SMITH BROUGHT HERE FOR BURIAL

The community was surprised last Thursday to hear of the sudden death of James A. Smith, fifty-eight, in St. Petersburg, Florida. He had been seriously ill for only a few hours.

James A. Smith was the only son of Ansel and Matilda Smith. He was born in Orleans, Michigan, March 14, 1857, and, with the exception of seven years that were spent in Canada when a little boy, has lived in Ionia county and Cadillac all of his life. In 1878 he was married to Miss Alice Cusser, with whom he lived thirty-five years, she going from this life in 1913.

In 1883 he moved to Cadillac where he lived for nearly thirty years, moving back to Belding in 1912. He was converted in 1889 and joined the Methodist church, and had lived an earnest, active Christian life.

About three years ago he developed a form of heart trouble which was the cause of his death in St. Petersburg, Florida last Thursday morning.

He leaves an aged mother, two sisters—Mrs. Iola Chapple and Mrs. Edith Osterhout—and three children. The children are Mrs. Walter A. Savery of Cadillac, Mrs. A. J. Warden and Floyd C. Smith of Detroit. Mrs. Savery who has been living in St. Petersburg during the winter came home with the body arriving here Sunday evening.

Funeral services were held at the home of Mr. Smith's mother on Pearl street Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. R. S. McGregor officiating. Interment was made in River Ridge cemetery.

WASHINGTON CLUB BANQUET WAS BIG SOCIAL EVENT OF THE SEASON

The dramatic interpretation of In the Vanguard given by Thornton Anthony Mills at the Congregational church last Wednesday evening was fully up to the high standard set by Mr. Mills in his morning hour lectures at the chautauqua of last summer.

In the Vanguard is a peace drama. Its primary purpose is to set forth the horrors of war and the purpose is fully accomplished. The play cannot escape the charge ofavoring strongly of the drawing room atmosphere but it is thought-compelling and anything that compels thought is always welcome.

This city and every city needs such lectures as that given by Mr. Mills. It would certainly be a wonderfully fine thing for this community if not a high grade lecture or musical entertainment. The standard of the community would be greatly raised thereby.

THORNTON A. MILLS GAVE FINE LECTURE

The men's club of the Congregational church is to be congratulated on bringing Mr. Mills to Belding.

ORLEANS FARMERS' CLUB PLAN BIG MEETING

A big Dairy Meeting will be held at Orleans Thursday, February 25 under the supervision of the Orleans Farmers' Club. The meeting will be addressed by two government speakers, Messrs. Jones and Wendt. Mr. Wendt will talk on the subject, "What Benefit is a Local Creamery to Its Patrons?" The topic to be discussed by Mr. Jones is, "What Benefit Dairying is a Community." The meeting will be an instructive and interesting one. Every farmer within reach of Orleans should attend the meeting.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENED FRIDAY: GOOD ATTENDANCE

ALMOST ONE THOUSAND BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC

An informal opening of the library rooms at the city hall was held last Friday evening from seven to nine. Upward of one hundred people attended the opening regardless of the fact that there were several counter meetings in the city on the same evening. A general social time was had and all of the visitors were served with punch and wafers.

The library was really opened up to the public Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Mary Barnes, the librarian, will be in the rooms each week day except holidays and Sundays between the hours of 3:30 and 5:00 and between 7:00 and 9:00 p. m. and any person desiring to use books in the library rooms or take them to their homes, may do so by signing the necessary application blanks.

The library now contains about seven and fifty books and about two hundred more are promised. It is expected that within a few weeks at least a thousand books may be found on the shelves. In selecting the list of books with which to start the library the board did not include any standard books of poems. They felt that these poems could be found in almost every home and that in many places even two or three copies of the same book could be found, and that they would be donated to the library. The library will receive the regular quota of one hundred books from the circulating library, and these will be kept at the rooms for distribution.

During the hours the library is open all persons whose conduct and conversation is consistent with quiet and order, whether they are residents of Belding or not, will have free use of the library rooms.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY IS WEDNESDAY MARCH 3

Next Wednesday, March 3 is primary election day. On that day will be decided the question of nomination for the office of county school commissioner. The race for this office on the republican ticket has been spirited. Harvey H. Lowrey, the present commissioner, Prin. J. Calvin Linebaugh of the Orleans schools and Prin. McGuinness of the Ionia schools are the contestants.

The office of county school commissioner is a very important one. It behooves every eligible primary voter to go to the polls next Wednesday and register his choice.

In this city the regular voting places at the time of the primary opportunity will also be given voters to register for the coming spring elections.

VAUDEVILLE CLOSED DAY'S EVENTS WELL

ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS SPENT ROYAL DAY AT HOTEL BELDING

New Officers Were Elected for Coming Year; Splendid Toasts Were Given

In the language of the Greenville guests Belding citizens and Hotel Belding "done themselves proud" as entertainers on the forty-ninth anniversary of the Washington Club which was held here Monday. "We have been kept busy every minute from the time we arrived in the city this morning," was the common exclamation of the visitors as they left the Empress Theatre at six o'clock when the last of the day's entertainment features had closed.

The day's events were opened in the parlors of Hotel Belding at ten o'clock when the Greenville members, and invited guests, were informally received by their fellow members of Belding. A general get-acquainted air pervaded the parlors until 11:30 when President H. J. Connell took the hatchet gavel of the organization and rapped for order. The following program was then given:

Piano Duet—Miss Fred F. Ireland and Miss Marguerite Lamb Prayer Rev. A. J. Blair Music—W. B. Reed, Mrs. Earl Wilson, Miss Marguerite Lamb, and Clayton Knapp, Mrs. Fred Ireland at the piano Address of Welcome—Dr. J. F. Smith

Response—E. W. Ranney. Solo—Mrs. Lena Leonard Fuller. Minutes of last meeting. Report of Goat Keeper—Fred F. Ireland President's Address—H. J. Connell

Installation of Officers—E. W. Ranney, president; Dr. J. H. Armstrong, vice-president; Jud Smith, secretary; treasurer; P. D. Edsall, goat keeper; E. E. Lapham, installing officer.

It would bring an injustice upon the rest of the people appearing on the program to say that any particular part of the program was better than another. They were all equally good. Mention might be made, however, of the singing of Mrs. Fuller. Her clear soprano voice was at its best and everyone was enthusiastic over her interpretation. She responded to a most hearty applause with a beautiful encore.

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Coming Events

Feb. 26, Friday, W. C. T. U. meets with Mrs. Jesse K. Coates.

Feb. 26, Friday, evening, monthly social of M. E. Men's Class at F. H. Hudson's.

March 2, Tuesday, meeting of Congregational Men's club.

March 4, Thursday, afternoon, Ladies' Literary Exchange Club meeting at the home of Mrs. Earle French.

March 13, Saturday, evening, Night School banquet.