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BELDING BANNER.

EIGHTEENTH YEAR. NO. 29.

BELDING, MICH., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1906.

Bring Back Any Gift

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WHOLE NO. 915.

GREENOP WILL WAS SUSTAINED

Judge Webster Gives His Opinion in The Case.

Thinks Testator was of Sound Mind and Knew His Relationship Points he Decided

Probate Judge, Montgomery Webster, delivered his opinion on the contest of the will of the late John Greenop of Orleans last week. The principal points embodied in his opinion are as follows:

"Is it unnecessary to comment on the vicious effects of setting aside wills for any but the soundest reasons, nor to assert the firm action necessary when convinced of the presence of mental incompetency or undue influence at the time of execution."

"As to the question of mental incompetency, of insane delusion, I find that John Greenop, both at the time of making the will and at the time of executing the codicil was of sufficient mind to clearly discern the nature and extent of property, the objects of his bounty and the scope and provisions of this particular will. Further than this, I am satisfied he knew what the relationship between himself and Mary Ann Stillson; that this knowledge remained to him to the moment of his death; that he suffered under no insane delusion as to such relationship, and whatever may have been his reason for acknowledging her at times as his daughter and denying her at others, such action is not inconsistent with a rational course of conduct. Whether he thereby, and in discrediting her, committed a great wrong, it is outside the province of this court to say, provided the Court is fully convinced he acted with full knowledge of what he was doing."

"The Court finds the evidence insufficient to hold the will as anything but the expression by John Greenop of his own desires as to how his property should descend and be distributed upon his death. He dictated the provisions of the will; his mind governed its construction as fully as it had governed the amassing of his fortune. Of this I have not the slightest doubt."

"Referring to the case of Waters vs. Reed, 129 Michigan, the court does not regard the case in point. We need go no further into the relationship of Minnie Greenop and John Greenop than to say that she was his wife at the time of the execution of the will and at the time of his death; that the children mentioned as such in the will are his children and are heirs at law of John Greenop. This decision does not necessitate a determination of the relationship between Mary Ann Stillson and deceased. After carefully scrutinizing the testimony and arguments from the standpoint of her being his daughter, yet I do not find myself warranted in deciding that she was cut off from further provision in this will because of the mental incompetency of John Greenop, or the undue influence exerted by Minnie Greenop and her son."

On the question of undue influence, the court reviews the evidence and finds the same insufficient for opinion affirming the position of contestant. The facts and circumstances surrounding John Greenop—his character and mental condition as shown by the evidence—are not such as will form a basis for the necessary inference of undue influence. In the testimony produced regarding the making of this instrument there are not to be found, to use the phraseology of Chief Justice Shaw, the traces of those artful, false and re-

peated surmises and insinuations on the part of Minnie Greenop and John Greenop jr., nor that sensitive and excitable mind on the part of testator necessary to foster and create an insane delusion, and at the same time and by the same means obtain such an influence over him as to induce him to make a will which he would not have made but for the existence of the insane delusion and concurring with it.

John Greenop's desires and none other governed the making of the will.

The cases cited by proponents sustain their position.

The attorneys for proponents are Nichols & Sheldon and R. A. & W. E. Hawley; for contestants, Richard Price of Jackson and Scully & Davis of Ionia. The case will be appealed.

THE SAN JOSE SCALE

The Pest of all Trees—Thorough Spraying Only way to Fight It.

The San Jose scale has undoubtedly come to stay in Michigan orchards and among Michigan foliage and timber, working with its thoroughly destructive effects until the life of the tree or shrub is entirely gone.

The only possible way to successfully combat the evil says expert authority who have given particular and careful attention to the scourge since its appearance in this state is to spray thoroughly and continuously to do so every year.

A public demonstration was given last Thursday afternoon by Prof. T. R. Farrand of Kalamazoo, deputy inspector of nurseries and orchards under Prof. L. R. Taft of Lansing, in Orleans in the orchard of A. J. Hall, and a meeting of about forty farmers in the vicinity was held in the town hall.

Prof. Farrand said that the scale was sure death to trees unless active measures were taken at once to kill it and that must be done by a liberal application of lime and sulphur applied thoroughly.

In the meeting at the hall he answered many questions and gave very valuable suggestions. He said there were very few if any orchards in the state which were not affected and the scale also attacks ornamental, small fruit and forest trees.

The best mixture yet discovered to fight it is lime and sulphur, fifteen pounds of unslaked lime with ten pounds of sulphur made into a paste and boiled all together in fifty gallons of water for forty minutes and apply while fresh and warm. The expense of such a mixture was estimated at one cent per gallon.

He advised the farmers and fruit growers to wake up to the matter of a hard battle with this enemy.

Sarah Benedict Dead.

Sarah Benedict died Thursday Dec. 20, at her home at Cook's corners, aged 71 years. She was one of the pioneers of the township, coming to Cook's corners in a very early day and after the death of her first husband, Mr. Gage she married Calvin Benedict who also died a number of years ago. She was a sister of Marcus Boss and lived near his home. The funeral was held Sunday. An old friend of the family, M. L. Howe of Orleans officiated at the service.

She lived alone at her late homestead. Always a familiar figure in our midst, many a one left behind can tell of her kindness and skillful nursing through sickness.

She was apparently in her usual health until the day before she died, when slight complaints ended in unconsciousness and she quietly passed away about five o'clock Thursday night.

A kindly friend from us is gone. But of death she had no fear. For hers was a life of usefulness, No unworthy actions here.

Gridley Club Arrangements.

The arrangements for the annual banquet of the Gridley Republican club of Ionia are under way. The committee on speakers, of which Maj. A. P. Loomis is chairman, has secured Kito Sui Iriy, the Japanese student at Ann Arbor, and is also after Senator LaFollette. The attendance promises to be large. To meet the emergency the secretary, Frederick Kidd, announced that he had secured a new store seating two thousand in which to hold the affair. The date is the first Friday in February.

Belding Lodge F. & A. M. Annual.

The annual election of officers of Belding Lodge No. 255, F. & M. was held Monday evening and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year, who with the appointive officers will be installed on St. John's night:

Worshipful master—Wm. Anderson

Senior warden—Daniel Skellenger

Junior warden—Arthur Brown

Senior deacon—Will Gordon

Junior deacon—Whitman Richmond

Secretary—Edward Drisee

Treasurer—B. C. Curtis

Tyler—Fred Clancy.

Otisco Taxes.

I will receive taxes at Cook's Corners Tuesday, Dec. 18, at Belding Saturday of each week and at Smyrna balance of week. Guy Purdy, Twp. clerk.

2 wk

NEW YEARS, 1907.

BY FREDERICK ANDREWS BUSH.

Swiftly the moments are flying along,
Like the breath of a gale, the note of a song.
Minutes and seconds, how swiftly they glide,
Like chips that are borne to the sea with the tide.
The old year is dying, that dearest old friend
Is rushing along to its oncoming end;
And we sigh and we weep as the slow tolling bell
Is telling to all of its funeral knell.

There were joys and hopes in the days that have passed;
There were moments so blest, if they only could last;
There were sorrows and grief, there was suffering and pain;
'Tis the lot of us all in the life we maintain.
But with all of the sorrows and joys, as well,
Our heart seems to ache with the funeral knell,
And a tear and a sigh springs up from the heart
When we think that so soon with the old we must part.

But hark! In the midst of the darkness and gloom,
Behold there's another has entered the room.
Robed in the splendor and beauty of morn
Another fair stranger unto us is born.
It brings us a promise of wars that will cease;
It brings us a promise of plenty and peace;
It bids us be happy and banish each fear;
And our hearts gladly welcome another New Year.

Stop tolling the bell, let it ring loud and clear.
Proclaiming to all the glad happy New Year.
With its joy or its sorrow, whatever our lot,
This dear little stranger must not be forgot.
It is mine: it is yours: every day, every hour;
Go fill it with glory, with might and with power;
Go fill it with deeds that will make Nineteen Seven
The pathway to glory, the pathway to heaven.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AT THE CHURCHES

Season of Good Cheer Observed

Christmas Trees, Santa Claus and Delighted Children Combine to Merrymaking.

Instead of a Christmas tree the Congregational Sunday school had a supper in the church dining room Saturday evening and a hundred or more sat down to a fine service which the scholars enjoyed very much. Old Santa and wife made their appearance and distributed boxes of candy and sweetmeats. The basement was finely decorated. On Sunday evening a concert was given with special music, recitations and songs and a short address was given by Rev. A. Secord.

At the north side mission the Sunday school had Christmas exercises Saturday evening and the chapel was packed full. A fine tree was loaded with presents and a special feature was old Santa Claus and wife. Hoyt Soules took the part of Santa and E. E. Cook his wife, which made lots of fun and pleased the children very much.

At the Church of Christ a very large audience gathered on Monday evening and greatly enjoyed a beautiful Christmas tree with accompanying exercises by the school in recitations and song. A Christmas tree present in shape of a box of clothing and sundries for the homeless boys of Beulah home at Boyne City was brought in to send to them. The church did a handsome thing in remembering Rev. J. C. Meese and wife with an elegant plush covered couch which was highly appreciated by their good pastor and his wife.

Word comes from the Ashley church that Christmas eve was celebrated there with a tree and interesting exercises, the tree was loaded with presents and everything passed off fine, making the hearts of children and all glad. Superintendent Wheeler Pond received a fine present and W. D. Hall was made the recipient of a cutter which he found Saturday at his door when he arrived home after the exercises and wishes the Banner to express his most hearty thanks for the gift to the donors.

At the Baptist church Monday evening a program of music, song and recitations was rendered by the Sunday school scholars with a Christmas tree at the close of the exercises. Everyone enjoyed the occasion especially the little folks.

The Methodists held their Christmas service during the Sunday school hour instead of in the evening as heretofore. When the gifts and presents were distributed and fine music given by the orchestra a liberal collection was taken for the poor in keeping with the Christmas spirit.

A fine service by the Sunday school and society of Holy Trinity mission was given in Woodman hall Monday evening with Christmas carols and recitations by the children, which was very interesting. Dr. J. H. Armstrong enacted the part of old Santa to the delight of the children and many gifts were distributed.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Its pretty nearly all up with 1906. You will soon have to cut another notch on the mile post and begin to write it

1907

In making your resolutions for the New Year, place great stress on buying your Footwear here.

It will Pay you well to do so

Such a resolution will insure you against wearing poor shoes and shoe disappointments of every kind.

We're ready to do our share to make the New Year a prosperous and happy one for you.

The City Shoe Store

Here's One of the

20 Styles we carry in

Florsheim Shoes

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See Our Window For Other New Styles

Kid, Patent Kid, Patent Colt, Velour Calf, Gun Metal, and Box Calf uppers with light or heavy welded soles. A splendid shoe for street or dress. All our Florsheim shoes have leather and workmanship in the very best obtainable.



R. R. Edwards

Belding,

Michigan

Many Thanks

TO MY FRIENDS AND PATRONS FOR THE LARGEST BUSINESS I HAVE EVER ENJOYED.

I SHALL CONTINUE TO PUT FORTH EVERY EFFORT TO PLEASE YOU, AND WISH ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

A. B. Hull

Belding, Michigan



LLOYD'S DRY GOODS AND CARPET STORE

Thank You Very Much

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK our many customers for their very liberal patronage during 1906. We have just passed through the greatest year's business in the history of this store. During the coming year of 1907, we intend to do everything in our power to better the store service in every particular possible.

To this end your criticisms and suggestions will be gratefully received. We hope to continually be found worthy of your custom. Again thanking you and wishing you a happy New Year, we are

Very Truly Yours

E. C. LLOYD

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THE SHOEMAN

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N.Y.