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BY

B. F. FACKENTHAL, JR.

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in August, 1897, and Mahlon, the second plow-maker, attained the ripe age of 93.

Joseph died suddenly in 1826, aged 73 while away from home on a visit to relatives in Makefield and Solebury. His body was interred in the graveyard at Plumstead meeting-house. His wife survived him twenty-eight years, dying in 1854 within a few weeks of completing her 100th year.

The Historical Society has adopted the custom of erecting memorials to persons prominent in moulding the history of the county, and of marking spots fraught with historic interest. It would seem fitting that such a tribute be paid to Joseph Smith; and a suitable spot would be the site of the village of Smithtown in the grass and weeds by the roadside. Near the foundation walls of one of the original houses, lies one of the old mill stones; could not this be used in some way as part of a memorial, either as a base for a stone with suitable inscription, or, if it were set up on edge, as the background for a bronze plate recording the service to humanity rendered by Bucks county's blacksmith-farmer, Joseph Smith?

Two Old Horse Companies.

BY REV. D. K. TURNER, HARTSVILLE, PA.

(Doylestown Meeting, January 15, 1901.)

It is well to keep in mind and to transmit to posterity knowledge of all the institutions of every neighborhood, by which the social customs of the people are illustrated, especially if they have attained to considerable age, and have embraced many citizens within their limits. Nothing that has become venerable by antiquity and has entered into the life and habits of the community ought to be regarded as unworthy of attention. Everything of this character communicated to future generations will show them how their predecessors lived, what their necessities and perils, their pleasures and enjoyments were and how they provided to meet them.

With this idea in view I desire to present a brief sketch of two of the old horse companies of Bucks county.

Previous to the formation of these companies there had been

not infrequent instances of the stealing of valuable horses throughout the county and their total loss to their owners, for want of some more certain and reliable dependence for their recovery than the public authorities. The feeling was general that some measures ought to be taken to put a stop to the evil or to reduce it to a minimum. "The Warren Company for the recovery of stolen horses and other property and the detection of the thieves," was organized by 32 men who formed an association for this purpose, and subscribed a constitution and by-laws, most or all of whom resided in the townships of Warwick, Warminster, Warrington, Northampton, Southampton and Buckingham. Their first meeting was held at the house of Mrs. Earl in Warwick, March 22, 1824. The following officers were chosen: President, Thomas Beans; Vice President, William B. VanHorn; Treasurer, John Hart; Secretary, William H. Long. Committee of Accounts, John Davis, William Hart, Robert Darrah.

The other members were William Carr, Gaun Adams, Jonathan Conrad, Joseph Carrell, Jonathan Walton, William Long, Loto Search, Lewis F. Hart, John Polk, Charles G. Vansant, Thomas Hart, Edwin Yerkes, Joshua D. Hart, Joseph Carr, William A. Long, Thomas B. Craven, John Horner, John Thornton, Simon Banes, William Rubinkam, James Johnson, James VanZant, Benjamin Montanye, James Horner, John Spencer.

That a horse or other property, which had been stolen, might be recovered, it was necessary that some plan should be adopted for riding and search and that part of the country be divided into routes, which were assigned to different members of the company respectively. Route No. 1 was to Philadelphia. No. 2, to Mitchell's and up the Delaware through Easton. No. 3, through Norristown to Wilmington. No. 4, by the Trappe, now Collegeville, toward Reading. No. 5, by Middle road, or Second street road, to Kensington and all the ferries to Trenton. No. 6, through New Hope and down the river and across the country toward Flemington. No. 7, through Doylestown by Quakertown and Allentown. No. 8, through Newtown to Trenton and Princeton. The region was divided into two main districts, as above and below, and the members were classified in such a manner, that the class, from whose bounds property was first stolen,

should pursue first and afterwards alternately. The expenses attending the apprehension and prosecution of thieves, it was provided, should be paid by the company. The second regular meeting was held at the public house of Thomas Beans in Warminster, January 1, 1825. This Thomas Beans was a noted man in his day; he owned and kept the tavern at the crossing of the Old York and the Street roads in Warminster many years, and it was much frequented by travelers and by farmers going to Philadelphia to market. He was fond of fine horses and had a race track on his property on which was tested the speed of the most famous roadsters. A level half-mile of the Street road just at hand was used for the same purpose.

He was chosen president of the Warren Company annually for eighteen years, from 1824 to 1842. The other presidents in succession have been: Robert Darrah, General John Davis, (father of Gen. W. W. H. Davis), John C. Beans, Joseph Barnsley, (who was formerly a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and Collector of Internal Revenue of the United States for the Fifth District of Pennsylvania), and John M. Darrah, who is president at the present time.

The following have been elected vice-presidents, serving in succession for different periods: William B. VanHorn, Robert Darrah, General John Davis, William Hart, John C. Beans, Joseph Carr, John Polk, Joseph Barnsley, Jonathan Davis, Ezra P. Carrell, Sen., J. Johnson Beans, (formerly sheriff of the county), and H. Warren Hallowell, who is now vice-president.

The following have been treasurers, elected yearly, serving different periods: 1824, John Hart; 1840, William H. Hart; 1851, Harman Yerkes; 1869, Samuel Davis; 1870, William J. Kirk; 1884, T. B. Beans, now in office.

The following have been secretaries: 1824, William H. Long; 1832, James Horner, two or three years; 1851, William Glasgow; 1884, R. T. Engart, the present incumbent.

Hand bills containing the names of the members of the company have been printed at various periods and put up extensively in public places, that warning might be given the evil disposed of the danger of arrest.

In 1850 Hugh Long, of Warrington, lost an old horse one night from the pasture, but as it was not certainly known, whether it

strayed or was stolen, the company paid him \$30 for it and made no pursuit.

On March 27, 1858, John Hobensack had a horse stolen but as the matter was not brought to the attention of the company till April 12, more than two weeks later, Rev. Jacob Belville made a motion, which was adopted, that on account of the lapse of time no pursuit of the animal be made, and it does not appear that any compensation was offered.

In 1859 Chalkley Wood, of Warminster, had some harness stolen. The company was sent out in pursuit of it, and the thief arrested.

In 1888 Joshua Bennett lost a set of harness by the visit of a thief to his premises and \$15 was paid him for it by the company.

November 27, 1900, the house of Alfred Yerkes, of Warminster, was broken into by a burglar and property carried away valued by him at \$60. The company offered a reward of \$50 in the public journals and handbills were printed and circulated for the arrest of the criminal.

During all the history of this company there have been but five instances in which it has been necessary to take action. No doubt the fact that the company had thrown protection around the property of its members had a considerable influence in preventing crimes of this character.

If a horse were stolen it was provided that a member having no horse should be exonerated from riding for the stolen one.

The fee for admission into the company was fixed sometimes at a sum equivalent to each member's proportion of the funds on hand, and at other times it was fixed at \$5.

To enforce regularity and punctuality in attendance at the yearly meetings absence was fined fifty cents and tardiness after roll call 12½ cents.

In 1865 three of the original members being advanced in life, John Polk, General John Davis and William Long, were excused from attendance except at their option.

In 1898 a committee was appointed to visit the Consolidated Vigilance Society of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, which met at Trenton, and report the next year in regard to the propriety of the Warren Company uniting with that society. The com-

mittee performed their duty and upon their favorable report the union or confederation was effected.

The amount of money in the treasury of the company has never been very large, usually less than \$400 and most of it, accruing from fees and fines, has been expended for the annual supper.

Of the thirty original members not one is still lingering this side the unseen shore. The number of members on the roll at present is thirty-one, and for more than three-quarters of a century it has included some of the most worthy, reputable and intelligent citizens in that part of the country, in which it had the theatre of its activities.

The yearly meeting in the early winter has been an occasion not only for the transaction of the business of the company, but for social intercourse. It has always been anticipated with pleasure, new ideas on public affairs have been mutually imparted, agriculture, politics and government have been discussed, and the views of the members on a great variety of subjects have been broadened and corrected. It has been an honorable and useful organization. Long may its flag wave in the breeze of prosperity.

The other company of which I desire to speak is the Hartsville Protective Association which was formed at the public house of Samuel Y. Addis in Hartsville, January 29, 1852. Its object was the same as that of the Warren Company, viz., the protection of its members from the depredations of thieves, and the territory in which its field of action lay, was composed of the same townships.

Its presidents in succession were Courtland Carr, Amos Snyder, Charles Ramsey, Theodore Flack. Its vice presidents: James D. Brunner, James McKinstry, Thomas B. Spencer, Hugh J. Carrell, Samuel M. Banes, T. Willett Boileau, Theodore Flack, Henry McCluskey.

Its secretaries: John Blair, George Ramsey, T. Elwood Flack, Dr. William E. Doughty.

Its treasurers: Hugh Long, Charles Ramsey, G. Wynkoop Rubinkam.

As its constitution, by-laws and general regulations were similar to those of the Warren company, it is unnecessary that I

should enlarge upon them. The whole number of members that subscribed their names to the roll, was 95, and the largest number at any one period was about 40. They annually had a supper together, transacted the business of the organization, elected their officers and committees, marked out the routes, which were to be followed by different pursuers, in case horses were stolen from any of the members, and took all the precautions their ingenuity could suggest to prevent the loss of live stock or other property. The history of the company during the forty-two years of its existence was honorable and worthy of commendation. It never had a large amount of money in its treasury, ordinarily less than \$120, most of its income being used in defraying the expenses of the annual meeting, including the supper.

In 1871 a horse was stolen from Hugh J. Carrell, of Warwick, and the company offered a reward of \$50 for its recovery and \$100 for the arrest of the thief. Both these objects were secured. \$12.26 were paid for telegraphing, advertising and horse hire, making the entire expense of the transaction, \$162.26. This was the only instance, so far as appears from the records, in which a loss was sustained requiring the action of the association.

In 1894 the subject of disbanding was agitated as the telegraph, telephone and electric railroad made the apprehension of thieves more possible and it was therefore decided December 1, of that year to wind up its affairs and pass into the realm of history.

The members of the Hartsville Protective Association consisted of the following 95 persons: General William M. White, William Maris, John C. Beans, Dr. William M. Mann, Captain Thomas Dixey, Frederick A. Kennedy, Robert Ramsey, Jr., James Wallace, Henry K. Ramsey, William H. Hart, Isaac J. Beans, William VanZant, Jacob L. Walton, William Glasgow, John Engart, Thomas Bird, Charles Bird, Chalkey Wood, John Ritchie, Stephen Yerkes, Ezra Yerkes, Ezra Carrell, Clarissa Montanye, Amos Torbert, William L. Craven, Jonathan Davis, Jonathan Stackhouse, Samuel Davis, Charles H. Leedom, Robert Beans, C. Long, M. Long, John Hobensack, Thomas Fetter, Thomas Torbert, Joseph Barnsley, Rev. J. Belville, George C. Brock, Robert Laughlin, Rev. A. M. Woods, John M. Darrah, Abraham Danenhower, William F.

Fenton, Daniel Pidcock, R. H. Darrah, Stephen Yerkes, Horace G. Phillips, R. Thompson Engart, J. Johnson Beans, William J. Kirk, Alfred C. Yerkes, William Moon, Hiram Carr, Stephen B. Cornell, Francis Matlack, Garrett Krusen, John Glasgow, Charles Bond, Stacey B. Beans, Watson M. Worthington, George Jamison, Samuel Hough, Denman Wilbur, Charles Trimmer, Watson Wood, Isaac Parry, William Long, Harman Montanye, Charles Parry, Samuel E. Robinson, Edward Randall, George Slack, Isaac Bennett, Thomas Long, Joseph Bond, Thornton Stackhouse, H. Warner Hallowell, William Lewis, John Bennett, Howard Meredith, Albert R. Fesmire, Charles T. Dager, Hugh B. Mearns, Henry McClusky, William H. Malone, G. W. Rubinkam, James T. Keith, Silas M. Yerkes, Henry Jamison, Isaac Gartenlaub, James J. Thompson, John C. Beans, Ezra C. Carrell, Oliver Parry.



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