



THE
JOURNAL
OF THE
Lycoming County Historical Society

VOLUME XI
NUMBER ONE

SPRING
1975

JOURNAL
of the
LYCOMING COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Published Semiannually in Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Museum Office - 858 West Fourth Street

Telephone (Area Code 717) 326-3326

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COVER PICTURE — Peter Herdic As a Young Man



May 23, 1975

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members:

It is with a deep sense of humility that I accept the honor of being president of our Society. I shall endeavor to prove worthy of your trust.

We began our observance of the U.S. Bicentennial with an excellent program, "The Eve of Lexington." The program committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Loring Priest, is planning other interesting programs beginning in September.

Members of the Board of Governors and our Museum Director, our staff and volunteers, are dedicated to continue the high standards of our organization.

Budget deficits continue to plague us, and we continue the efforts begun last year as means of improving our financial status.

I would remind you to advertise the Society and Museum. Visitors from outside Lycoming County and Pennsylvania are lavish in their praise of our Museum. Too often we fail to appreciate the good things in our own community. Let us urge our friends to join our Society and take advantage of the opportunities of membership.

I look forward to greeting you at future activities.

Sincerely yours,
 Robert D. Smink, President



SUMMER ACTIVITIES OF THE
 LYCOMING COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 26, 27, and 28, 1975 — Bus Tour to Williamsburg, Virginia

SPECIAL EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH:

March 1, 1975	Antique Radios of Francis Maneval
July 1, 1975	Special Township Exhibits — One Each month for 42 Months

COLLECTOR'S CORNER:

April 12, 1975	Victorian Jewelry
June 23, 1975	The Art of Penmanship
September 23, 1975	Ladies' Fans
December 15, 1975	Christmas Special
January 27, 1976	Currency and Coins
March 15, 1976	Glass Bottles
May 12, 1976	Centennial Show 1876

LARGE LOBBY EXHIBITS:

April 1, 1975	Judges of Lycoming County
June 26, 1975	Little League Exhibit
September 2, 1975	Local Handmade Textiles
December 5, 1975	Holiday Exhibit — Washington Crossing the Delaware — Valley Forge

MEETING ROOM:

April 26, 1975	Prints and Drawings by Nancy L. Coleman
July 1, 1975	"A Look at Lycoming County with Photographs" — featuring the D. Vincent Smith collection
September, 1975	"Pennsylvania 74" — A Juried Show of Contemporary Penna. Crafts, Sponsored by the Penna. Council on the Arts
May 5, 1976	American Bicentennial Watercolor Show — Sponsored by the <i>Harrisburg Patriot News</i>

THE NORTH WING:

April 8, 1975	Late Victorian Bedroom Furniture made by the Luppert's Spinning and Weaving (1775-1840)
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The above exhibits will be supplemented with special Bicentennial exhibits. The Bicentennial exhibits are being co-sponsored by the Lycoming County Bicentennial Commission, with the assistance of the Lycoming County Commissioners.

On permanent display are: an excellent Indian Gallery; recreations of colonial rooms; a Lumber Gallery and recreations of a Blacksmith Shop, Gristmill, and Carpenter Shop.

WILLIAMSPORT'S MUSICAL HERITAGE

Williamsport Claimed Talented Musicians Aplenty
During Plush "Golden Age of Music"

In searching Williamsport's musical past, there comes into view a list of talented musicians not previously mentioned in this series of articles.

Although many are forgotten or unknown to the present generation, they contributed significantly to the cultural enjoyment of their time. The time was the late 1890's, extending into the first decade of the present century.

That was a period sometimes referred to as Williamsport's "golden age of music," the plush days of the Lycoming Opera House before the 1920's.

Among the vocalists were Charles Green, Charles Gleim, William Gould, Adam Beiter, Edward Schleh, Charles Wolf, and Newton Chatham, all of whom were prominent in church work. Home talent shows were the order of the day at that time. Popular in those shows were the McCollum brothers — A. W. and Edward.

Leaving home to achieve success on the musical stage in larger cities were Fred McNaughton and Trevatte Maffett.

Among feminine singers of early days were Marion Ruch and Mrs. Hiram Merriam. Carrie Dietrick received an opportunity to go on the stage when a Gilbert and Sullivan company appeared in this city.

Others were Ellen Reading McHaffie (who studied abroad), Kathryn Sheffel, May Fisk, Bertha Allen Flock, Emily Canfield Wood, Helen Peaslee Hoskins, Emma Kiess, and Clarence Sprout.

Blanche Derr Bubb, soprano, Susanne Krape, contralto, and Trevatte Maffett, baritone, formed the Williamsport Concert Co. Other members of the group were Charles Krape, 'cellist, and Mary Stuart Otto, pianist.

Remembered as accomplished pianists are Mrs. Fred Ramstead and Mrs. Encie

Herdic-Rawle. Prominent as an organist and piano teacher was Frank Eber whose daughter, Mrs. Arthur Munzinger, followed in his footsteps, musically speaking. In the early 1930's, she moved to the west with her son, Eber Arthur Munzinger, a 'cellist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

In the year 1910 there came to the post of director of the Repasz Band a man who is regarded by many as the most outstanding contribution Williamsport has ever made to the field of music. His name was John Hazel, a man who, in the peak of his career, was world famous as a performer, composer, and conductor. He was one of the "big four" of cornetists in the world. Musicians before the turn of the century considered Mr. Hazel the rival of Jules Levy, one of the most brilliant and powerful cornet soloists of that time. During the summers of 1891 and 1892 they played rival attractions in Atlantic City.

John Hazel was born September 28, 1865, at Bellefonte but moved to Williamsport as a small boy. His musical career began at the age of 10 when he received his first cornet. It is interesting to note that the hours upon hours of practice, in which he blew against the brick wall of the old Elliott Paint Shop (which stood near the present Growers Market) for tone, helped gain for John Hazel the distinction of being the best in the United States.

At the age of 10 he became a member of the Stopper Band of this city, and played his first solo in public at the Albion Hotel in Atlantic City in 1883 while a member of the hotel orchestra. Later that year he was in a theater orchestra in Philadelphia. Next he joined the band of the Buffalo Bill show and played with them on their tours throughout the country.

His tours of the country took him to many noted theaters, including the best of

New York and Boston. He had a brilliant career as a member of Sousa's Band, playing with that organization in every state of the union and directing the band on several occasions when they played his compositions.

One of his greatest experiences came in the late 1890's when he performed before the King of England. Perhaps one of the things for which he was best known was his recording work for the Edison Phonograph Co., making his debut with them as cornet soloist in 1907.

Although he reached great heights in music, Mr. Hazel often remarked that he never spent as much as 25 cents for his musical education. Some of his compositions, principally marches, are international favorites, such as "103rd Cavalry March," "Blue Jackets March," "Cochran Post March," "Lycoming Motors March," "Buick March," and a "Spanish Bolero."

A prominent figure in the musical life of Williamsport at the turn of the century was Mary Stuart Otto. A skilled pianist, she studied abroad particularly in Berlin. Just before her death in 1955 she presented her valuable collection of music to the James V. Brown Library. It is known as the Mary Stuart Otto Collection.

One of the most colorful personalities in the musical life of Williamsport was Mary B. Lundy. A native of this city, she was one of the most outstanding piano teachers here for a period of nearly a half century.

Following her graduation from Elmira College in 1889, Miss Lundy made her first of three trips to Europe to study with the renowned Viennese teacher, Theodore Leschetizky.

Except for a number of years at Washington State College in Pullman, Wash., Miss Lundy spent all her teaching years in Williamsport.

Recognized as an outstanding vocalist was Frederic C. Erdman. As a child he sang in the Trinity Episcopal Church Choir, and later with the Orpheus Club. In 1920 he went with the Victor Talking Machine Co.

in Cleveland, and sang with the Orpheus Choir of Cleveland. In 1934 and in 1947 he was head of the eastern division of ASCAP, and in 1947 was named head of the concert division.

It was in the 1920's that Williamsport rose to fame in the dance band world with Dave Harman and his orchestra. An alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania, Dave Harman started his orchestra in 1920 with a small group of six men. Within four years his orchestra was ranked as one of the three top bands in the country along with Paul Whiteman and Fred Waring.

In 1924, a song plugger who had come to Williamsport heard the band. He took them to New York City and helped them get a booking in the famed Cinderella Ballroom. They spent two successful years there, and in 1925 and 1926 the orchestra played in many of the leading cities of the east. On one occasion, Frankie Carle substituted in the band. There were a number of times when Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey used to sit in with the band also.

One of Williamsport's most eminent musicians was William C. Heilman, who, until his death in 1946, presented annually a number of opera scores, volumes of classical piano repertoire, and volumes of songs to the James V. Brown Library.

Educated in the public schools of Williamsport, at Mercersburg Academy, and at Harvard College where he received highest honors in music in 1900, he continued his study in Munich and in Paris, and later taught music at Harvard from 1905 to 1930. In addition to teaching, he composed for voice, piano, chamber music, and for orchestra.

(Editor's Note: This is the final installment in a series of twelve describing the history of music in Williamsport, as compiled in 1957 by Mrs. Glen Russell of the Lycoming College music faculty. It was her thesis for the degree Master of Arts conferred upon her by the Pennsylvania State University. The history has been placed in the James V. Brown Library.)

THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS
From Mill Hall to Williamsport
Some Things about the Lumber City

By W. J. King

Williamsport, Pa., July 22, 1883

Dear Mr. Editor:

My letter this week will briefly outline my trip from Mill Hall here, and give a synopsis of what I saw since I came here. We drove from Mill Hall to the Lock Haven depot, where we took Niagara for here at 11:20 a.m. The train was so filled that I had to pack the whole family (four) into one seat, and then stand myself, so I was in no mood for observing anything. I did, however, notice one thing; it was the extreme poverty (?) of the railroad company, in not being able to furnish cars sufficient for the accommodation of their passenger traffic, and thereby compel ladies to either sit among a lot of Italians and Hungarians, and be suffocated with their smoking, or to stand up and enjoy (?) their ride as I did this one. The first station from Lock Haven is Wayne, the location of the once far-famed West Branch Camp Meeting, which was attended by thousands of earnest worshippers (?), but for some reason there is no meeting held there this year. Then comes Pine, another camp meeting station, and then Jersey Shore. This is half way from Lock Haven to Williamsport, and is situated at least one mile from the depot, across the river; this is a fine little town, and is at the junction of the Jersey Shore & Pine Creek Road and the new Vanderbilt Road, that runs to the Clearfield coal fields. From Jersey Shore we come to Susquehanna, then to Linden, this town lies off the line of the P. & E. and on the Jersey Shore road; Newberry is the next station; this is within the city limits, but retains its old name. Two miles more and we arrive at the depot, and in a few minutes the street car takes us to our destination.

Williamsport is a fine inland city with twenty thousand inhabitants, and to attempt a full description of the various business enterprises that are carried on here, in

a letter, would be useless, but some of the most prominent will be noticed. First, the lumbering interests. There is no city in the state where lumbering is so extensively carried on. There are mills of all descriptions, to manufacture lumber of every kind, and can only be properly appreciated by being seen. The large mill of Dodge & Co., which has a capacity of 175,000 feet per day, manufactures, we are told, 32,000,000 feet each season. This accounts, in part, for what becomes of all the logs that are annually cut and drove out of our streams up there. These logs are assorted on the ponds into different qualities, and afterwards there are nine qualities of lumber still assorted from the yards. As far as you can see up or down the river, you can see huge piles of lumber. The booms contain a good many logs yet, sufficient to run most of the mills till fall. There are two kindling wood factories, one is just completed, but the other is shipping from one to three cars per day. This mill gets the waste pieces of edgings, etc., from the other mills, and manufactures this into kindling wood; bunches of about one foot in length, and medium size, like lath, are bunched. There are two large furniture factories, which are turning out an immense amount of furniture of all descriptions. The boiler works, and engine works, are places worthy of notice, and interesting to the visitor. The new rubber factory is nearly completed and is a splendid structure; the carriage and wagon manufactory, file works, the nail factory, and a score or more of other manufactories, all contribute to give the city a high rank as a manufacturing city. Her market house and market square are places of great interest to the visitor. We visited these and counted two hundred and seventy-nine (279) vehicles with produce of different kinds which sold for high prices to feed her 20,000 inhabitants and her scores of visitors, who are here to attend the encampment of the Third Bri-

gade of the National Guard. This is encamped on a beautiful eminence at the rear of the city, and taken as a whole has been a splendid success, but like all large gatherings contains a few who are lacking in good behavior and morals. Some of these are well-posted in military tactics, especially the movements of "Right wheel into line," and "File Right," for they wheeled right into line before the bar of drinking saloons, and filed right up to the rum shops with a grace (?) that showed familiarity with the movement. The encampment, we say, was a good one, and was enjoyed by all. We saw the Governor, and was convinced of his high culture as a gentleman by the easy, graceful manner in which he conversed with friends. He was saluted, upon his arrival, with a salute of seventeen guns. The *Gazette and Bulletin* of the 15th says of him: "The Rissol band wagon took the staff officers to camp, and the Governor and General Hartranft rolled out to the grounds in the worst looking old hack in the city." This proves again that he is a man as well as Governor. Our letter being about finished we will simply say that the route from Lock Haven here is through the beautiful Susquehanna valley, and is interspersed beautifully with patches of timberland and fine farms, which is unsurpassed for richness and fertility. The next letter will take up this imperfect description of this city where this leaves it, and for the present I remain,

Yours, etc.

W. J. King

Williamsport, Pa., Aug. 27, 1883

Dear Mr. Editor:

Pursuant to my last, I will now give your readers the usual weekly letter, taking up the narrative where my last left it, viz.: the description of this city, beginning at the encampment.

While attending this, we had the pleasure of once more looking into the manly face of the man whom we were proud to follow upon the hotly contested fields of battle upon more than one occasion during the rebellion — General John F. Hartranft.

While in this city we were shown a-

round through most of the business streets and business places, and also informed as to her political, moral, educational, and social relations, as a city, by one of her oldest and honored citizens, to whom we hereby express our thanks for those courtesies. Her public buildings are complete in style and architecture and in finish. Her churches are grand. We visited two churches and heard excellent sermons. In the morning we attended Grace Church and listened to E. H. Yocum; in the evening Pine, and heard Rev. J. C. Clark, both eminent divines. There are twenty churches in the city, of different denominations. There are also some of the most splendid school buildings we ever saw. Her public high school building is a splendid structure, and offers a thorough opportunity for the young to obtain a first-class education at no expense but the regular tax. Then her seminary, where the higher branches and sciences are thoroughly taught, ranks among the highest educational institutions in the state. The court house is a substantial, as well as beautiful, one; and the jail is as good as you can find in the large cities. Her hotels are first class in every respect, and the traveler is made as comfortable as he would be at home. Her private houses are among the best. Some of the finest private residences may be seen here, surrounded by the most beautiful yards and flower gardens. There is one block, known as Herdic's Block, that is especially worthy of notice. It occupies one whole square and is four stories high. It is now owned by Hon. R. J. C. Walker. The depot is an excellent one, and the park in connection with it contains some beautiful deer and pea fowls.

This city contains free delivery for her mails, and twice each day your mail is put into your house free of cost to you, which adds much to the convenience of her citizens. On all the most prominent corners are letter boxes erected, where mail can be deposited for sending out. These are emptied by the carriers also twice a day. One of the most interesting features of this mail business is that post carrier Geo. W. Anderson has a Shetland pony, on which he rides to deliver mail to his department. This pony is a beauty and so

very small that your correspondent could walk while riding him. On one occasion while we were there at the office he made right in and sat on him to await for his package. He awakens the admiration of all.

Williamsport is connected by telephone with all her neighboring towns, and her railroad and telegraph facilities are complete.

There is going to be an interesting litigation in the near future between Peter Herdic and William Weightman, of Philadelphia, and Hon. R. J. C. Walker, of

this city. Peter Herdic is bringing suit in ejectment for seventeen properties in the city, and several tracts of land elsewhere, claiming that they were bought by defendants at a ruinous price to him, and other technicalities in sale which we did not learn. Hon. Clinton Lloyd is attorney for Herdic . . .

We could dwell longer upon interesting topics here, but space will not permit . . .

Yours,
W. J. King

LARRY'S CREEK

(Written about 1900 by Millard Fillmore Case, uncle of Mrs. Melvin Goldy)

About forty years ago, my friend,
I came to Larry's Creek.
It was a damp and chilly morn,
The fog was low and thick.

To rest a little while, I stopped
At J. M. Blackwell's store;
And there sat C. B. Riddell,
And half a dozen more.

Their talk was not of politics,
Nor any such a thing,
But how Jim Gilbert cheated
His cousin, A. M. King.

Then for Salladasburg
I started on my way.
Pa Cowdrick came and took the toll
And praised my little bay.

I started up the plank road
On a slow and easy trot.
And at the factory overtook
A man named Thomas Watt.

He was willing for to ride:
His feet were getting sore.
He had come up on the morning train,
And walked from Jersey Shore.

I asked, "What of Gilbert?"
Said he, "He's gone to smash."
And then he told me all about
The noted "Gilbert Crash."

Next we stopped at Mallory's,
A blacksmith good and true.
We sat and had a pleasant chat
While he set my horse's shoe.

When my business at the "Burg" was done,
The day was nearly gone.
I stayed that night at Williamson's —
They called him "Squire John."

The "Burg" it was a-booming then
With tannery and with mill,
And strong men clad in woodman's garb
Came in from every hill.

Tonight I am at the "Burg" again;
To me it looks quite strange.
There is nothing now but rock and stumps
Where once the woodmen ranged.

And as I walked along the street,
It is quite bleak and cold.
Some of my friends are dead and gone,
The rest are growing old.

But still there is one old landmark left
I am very glad to hear:
Old Uncle John B. Robinson,
Though feeble, still is here.

Soon we will be called
To settle up — hand in the total sum.
There will be others here to take our place,
In forty years to come.

THE STORY OF PETER HERDIC

Legal Involvements

On May 9, 1879, there began the trial of the Commonwealth against H. E. Taylor and Peter Herdic on the charge of conspiracy. Judge Mayer presided. District Attorney Hart was assisted by Messrs. Parsons, Metzger, and Guise. The defendants were represented by Messrs. Lloyd, Mann, Beeber and McCormick.

Almost immediately Mr. Lloyd addressed the court in the matter of a continuance as follows: "On March 18, 1879, complaint was made by John F. Nice, John D. Fessler, and William N. Jones charging Horace E. Taylor and Peter Herdic with having conspired together to defraud them. On that complaint a bill of indictment was sent to the grand jury, and a true bill was returned on the 5th of May. The counsel for the defendant examined that bill and made the necessary preparation to go to trial upon it. Today, the defendants' counsel appear to answer that bill and are met by a new bill, found and returned by the grand jury this morning, varying not merely in form but in substance from the first bill. The first bill contained five counts; this has seven, and embodies distinct matters of complaint of attempts to defraud other parties not named in the original indictment. The defendants are not prepared to go trial upon the second bill, as they had no notice that they were to answer other matters than those contained in the first bill. Upon the first indictment the defendants are ready and anxious to answer. Defendants' counsel did not doubt the right of the Commonwealth, under the practice here, to stand on the last indictment; neither did they doubt it was due to the defendants to be given time to prepare their defense to the last bill".

Upon the request of Judge Mayer, Mr. Lloyd then specified the difference between the first and second bills of indictment. The first charged definitely and particularly but one offense, that is, but one means of committing the offense — alterations

and erasures in the books of Taylor. The last indictment contained substantially the same counts as the first, but was amended so as to describe the offense with greater particularity, and contained an additional count: that H. E. Taylor, unlawfully and wickedly devising, did defraud R. W. Adams & Co., John F. Nice, and divers other persons; that the defendants conspired, confederated, and combined, falsely, maliciously, and unlawfully; that there were executed and delivered to Peter Herdic certain certified checks (marked by H. E. Taylor as good) purporting to be drawn upon the banking house of H. E. Taylor, Herdic not having the money there to meet them; that Taylor was at the time insolvent, as Herdic well knew; and that Herdic took the certified checks and obtained large sums of money thereon — \$16,000 from R. W. Adams & Co., John F. Nice, and others.

Mr. Lloyd continued that this was substantially a new accusation, and the defendants were entitled to time to make the preparation necessary to meet the new charge. The defense could prove by Mr. Adams, who was not present, that he was not defrauded and had no complaint to make in this matter, and that he never accused and does not accuse Messrs. Herdic and Taylor of any intent to defraud.

District Attorney Hart replied that the second indictment might differ in phraseology from the first, but was substantially the same. He had discovered yesterday that the grand jury had omitted to state on returning the indictment that the witnesses called before them were sworn, which would have been a fatal defect, and the second bill was therefore sent in. The second bill contained two additional counts, although substantially the same. If the court should deem it sufficient grounds for a continuance, the Commonwealth, while prepared for a trial, would not urge it.

Judge Mayer intimated that he thought the grounds were sufficient for a continu-

ance. Mr. Lloyd stated that if the only objection to the first bill was that it did not show the swearing of witnesses, the defendants would waive that. Mr. Parsons stated that the prosecution preferred the last bill. The court stated that it considered there was substantially a new charge in the new indictment, and that the defendants should have sufficient opportunity to prepare to meet so serious a charge. After some discussion as to the time of continuance, the court decided to continue the case, and bail for the defendants was renewed for their appearance at the October session.

On the afternoon of Thursday, January 8, 1880, the case of the Commonwealth against H. E. Taylor and Peter Herdic continued, Judge Mayer presiding. A jury was called. The prosecutors were J. F. Nice, Wm. N. Jones, and John D. Fessler. District Attorney Hart and Messrs. Parsons and Metzger appeared for the Commonwealth, and the following for defendants: Hon. William B. Mann, of Philadelphia, and Messrs. Beeber, McCormick, and Lloyd, of Williamsport.

H. C. Parsons opened by stating that the defendants were charged with conspiracy, and outlined the case against them: H. E. Taylor was a banker in 1877 — the firm being Taylor & Co., Herdic, his brother-in-law, being the "Co." Mr. Taylor suspended in 1877, with deposits of about \$80,000. Mr. Nice, the heaviest depositor, called on Mr. Taylor and was taken to see Mr. Herdic and Judge Maynard, and was told by Herdic that if he would shut his mouth, he would get his money. Taylor told Mr. Jones that Herdic caused his failure; but the next day he said he owed Herdic, if anything. Judge Bentley was appointed assignee. The assignee, accompanied by creditors, called upon Taylor for his books. The latter said he did not propose to give fire and gunpowder into the hands of his enemies to fight him. He finally gave up the books. The books showed that the name of Mr. Herdic had been written over the erased name of Taylor, a credit of \$17,000 being marked on that page. The index had not been changed, and the name

of Mr. Taylor appeared there. Certified checks had been received from the Metropolitan National Bank of New York for about \$15,000.

If they could show these facts, they expected a verdict of guilty to be rendered without fear, favor, or affection.

TESTIMONY FOR THE PROSECUTION

John F. Nice (duly sworn) stated: Live in Williamsport; know H. E. Taylor, who was a banker here in 1877, the firm name being H. E. Taylor & Co.; think he suspended Dec. 13, 1877; I have his certificate for \$20,000; my father also deposited there; saw Taylor the day after his failure; he told me Herdic wanted to see me; we went to Maynard's; Herdic thought Taylor should have an assignee, proposing Hinckley, Herdic's clerk. Herdic thought he was the most interested man and said, "This can be arranged, and d——n you, if you keep your mouth shut, you can get your money." Mr. Guise, Judge Bentley, and myself went to get the books of Taylor; he did not want to give them; the judge told him we must have them; he cried and begged, and said he "did not want to furnish fire and powder for his enemies." I told Mr. Taylor that if I had a set of books and they were all right, I should not care who might see them; if not all right, I should act just as he did; we got the books.

Nice (cross examined): Began to deposit there when he first opened; for the last three years I had a guarantee from Peter Herdic. Mr. Taylor was to pay me from 8 to 10 percent interest — up to 12 percent; he still owed me for interest; I never calculated how much he owed me, with interest, or exclusive of interest; did not deposit anything in the past three years; I had \$20,000 there for three years; he paid me no interest in those years. I drew out \$4,000 during the last year and a half; that did not pay my back interest; know that a greater part of my claim was made up of illegal interest. Had no business with Taylor before depositing with him; knew him for some time as a member of the firm of Wood, Taylor & Co.; I had some stock in that bank; took my money out and deposited it with Taylor; his suc-

cess induced me to deposit with him. He never meant to pay me.

Nice (on direct examination): Father's estate had \$16,000 in the bank at the failure.

Nice (cross-examined): That was also guaranteed by Mr. Herdic.

William N. Jones (duly sworn): Live in Williamsport; was city treasurer in 1874-5. Was a depositor with Taylor in 1877; had \$3,400 there. Met Mr. Taylor the day after the failure; he said he could give me no security; said Herdic caused his failure by not taking care of the certified checks he had sent to Philadelphia. Saw him next day in the banking house, I being accompanied by Major Wood; said he could not make out a statement as he was confused and had been for some time as he had seen this thing coming. Said Herdic was not at the bottom of it.

Jones (cross-examined): His only explanation was that checks had come back protested; did not say what checks.

The next witness was Frank P. Guise, a member of the bar, who stated he went to the office of Taylor and Co., accompanied by Judge Bentley and Mr. Nice to get the books, and corroborated Mr. Nice as to the conversation there.

Judge Cummin (duly sworn and shown the certified checks): By direction of the Metropolitan National Bank of New York, I received these from the cashier of the City National Bank, of this city, and began an action against Peter Herdic upon these in the United States court and judgment was obtained.

(Certified checks of P. Herdic, marked "good" by H. E. Taylor & Co., were introduced in evidence, amounting to several hundred dollars.)

F. E. Gleim (duly sworn): Am teller in the West Branch Bank; assisted in examining the books of Taylor & Co. On page 114 "H. E. Taylor" has been erased and "P. Herdic" written over it; credits on the page amount to \$17,801.93; charges on the same page, \$1,000.

Gleim (cross-examined): Judging from the books I should say the change was wrong, but I don't suppose it was meant to be wrong.

J. L. Meredith, the next witness, stated he was a member of the bar and auditor to distribute the money in the hands of Judge Bentley, assignee of H. E. Taylor. The checks were shown to him, and he said they were presented before the auditor and not objected to.

The deed of assignment of Taylor and the books of H. E. Taylor & Co. were offered, and the case of the Commonwealth rested.

Defense counsel Mann then said the Commonwealth had not shown whether the change was right or wrong; and having failed to make that matter a material part of their case, they were not entitled to go to the jury. He asked the court to so rule.

Mr. Metzger insisted that the change was made to transfer the credit of Taylor to Herdic; and that Mr. Gleim had testified that according to the books the change was wrong. It was for the jury to say which theory was correct.

The court said the proper tribunal to determine the weight of the evidence was the jury, and that the case narrowed down to two counts of the indictment.

TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE

Mr. Lloyd, opening for the defense, remarked that they did not think it possible for any intelligent twelve men to find the defendants guilty. He stated what the indictment charged, noting that the fifth and sixth charges were specific — conspiracy to defraud by changing the books and by fraudulent certified checks. This action was an attempt to get around the act of 1843, which abolished imprisonment for debt. Mr. Taylor had contracted bad debts in his business to the amount of about \$125,000. The defense would show that the change (in the books) was made to right a wrong; that the account should have been entered in the name of Peter Herdic instead of H. E. Taylor. As for the certified checks: "What evidence was there that they were given to defraud?" They were glad of the chance to show the innocence of the defendants.

J. Sydney Taylor (duly sworn): Was formerly in the employ of H. E. Taylor, but

was not related to Mr. Taylor; the entries in the books are in my handwriting; I received deposits and made entries. (Slip shown witness.) This was a cash item slip, representing overdue paper. On January 5, 1877, Mr. Herdic deposited \$4,374.50, which sum was made up of these amounts: \$1,724.50, \$1,950, \$700. The last item was a draft of \$2,700; of this, we credited him with \$700 and put \$2,000 on the cash slip, which sum was due from us to Herdic. On July 19, 1877, a due bill was made to Mr. Herdic for \$3,000; Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Herdic for \$3,000; Mr. Herdic said he would give a check for it, but went out and did not come back. On July 21st we charged Mr. Herdic \$3,000 and put the due bill in the drawer.

The witness then proceeded to give a detailed explanation of each item in the changed account, showing in what manner the money had been received. It was Mr. Taylor's custom when he wanted money from Mr. Herdic to use what he wanted from Mr. Herdic's deposits; and instead of crediting Mr. Herdic, putting a slip in the drawer, and entering the amount on a cash slip. This amount would then be entered in the ledger under Mr. Taylor's name. No other credit was given Mr. Herdic for these amounts. The evidence showed how every item in this account had been received from Mr. Herdic, excepting \$1,000, which the witness said had been on another slip which he did not have present.

(The defense was proceeding on this line when court adjourned till nine o'clock Friday morning.)

(No account of what happened in the trial on Friday, January 9, 1880, has been found in the newspapers of the time. However, we can infer some of the testimony given from the account of the proceedings on Saturday, January 10, 1880.)

THE VERDICT IN THE CASE OF HERDIC AND TAYLOR

The charge of the court to the jury in the case against Taylor and Herdic was delivered promptly upon the opening of court on Saturday, January 10, 1880. The

judge said the defendants were charged with conspiracy and then defined what that meant. To make a case of conspiracy, it is necessary that two or more shall have entered into an unlawful agreement; one person cannot commit the act of conspiracy. After rehearsing the manner in which this special account was made, his honor said if the items making this account were Herdic's money, he was entitled to credit, unless there had been a special arrangement; if a mistake had been made, the clerk had a right to alter the account. If there had been a criminal understanding between Herdic and Taylor, the alteration, if made, would be criminal. It need not be that the parties actually met together to make the change. If it was made by an arrangement to enable Herdic to share in the assigned estate, it would be unlawful. He next spoke of the certified checks and said whether Herdic had funds there, when drawing these checks, would depend upon whether Herdic was entitled to the money which was placed to the credit of Taylor. So whether or not Herdic and Taylor combined together unlawfully to issue these checks will depend upon whether the change of the account was proper. If they (the jury) were satisfied from the evidence of Sydney Taylor that the money was properly Herdic's, then there was nothing criminal in making the alteration. In regard to the checks, therefore, if the change of the account was right, the checks would not be fraudulent. The court then impressed upon the jury that they were to be influenced by nothing but the evidence. The evidence of good character must turn the scales in favor of the defendant, if a reasonable doubt existed. If they should be satisfied of the guilt of the defendants, beyond a reasonable doubt, they should convict; if they had a reasonable doubt, they must acquit. The defendants must have combined together to do an unlawful act, or neither can be convicted.

The jury then retired.

THE VERDICT

Between 10 and 11 o'clock the jury came in with a verdict of guilty in manner and form as indicted.

MOTION MADE FOR A NEW TRIAL

Clinton Lloyd, Esq., of counsel for the defendants, made a motion for a new trial for the following reasons:

- I. Because the verdict was contrary to law.
- II. Because the verdict is against the evidence in the cause.

(a) There was no evidence to show that the defendant Herdic ever directed, assented to, or had any knowledge of the alteration made on the books of Horace E. Taylor.

(b) The uncontradicted evidence of J. Sidney Taylor, together with all the memoranda made at the time, shows conclusively that the moneys under the changed entry were the moneys of Herdic; and that at the time he deposited them credit was given to him for them on the said memoranda and slips; and when entered in gross in the book were entered erroneously under the heading of Horace E. Taylor, special, and in a few days thereafter were properly changed to Peter Herdic in conformity with the facts and truths of the case.

(c) Because the counsel for the prosecution in his closing address argued to the jury that one of the checks had been written and marked good in blank, there being no evidence in the case to warrant such an argument; and also argued to the jury that the defendants should be convicted because they had robbed widows and orphans and churches, and had taken away the home from a woman whom he had met on the street, and so inflamed the minds of the jury with the recital of said matters and others which were not in evidence as to lead them from the proper consideration of the evidence and to render a verdict against it; and, further, the counsel from the Commonwealth commented upon the neglect and refusal of the defendants to testify in their own behalf and argued that it created a presumption against them contrary to the express provisions of the act of assembly.

The court ordered the motion to be filed and granted a rule to show cause why the motion should not be granted, returnable Friday, the 27th of February, the defend-

ants to renew their recognizance to appear at the next term of court.

Defendants then renewed their bail in the sum of \$3,000 each, Mr. Henry Brown going on Mr. Herdic's bond, and Mr. O. E. Taylor on Mr. Horace E. Taylor's bond.

THE APPLICATION FOR A NEW TRIAL

In the case of the Commonwealth vs. P. Herdic and Horace E. Taylor, wherein the defendants were convicted of conspiracy to defraud at the January term, arguments on a motion for a new trial were heard on April 22, 1880, before the Hon. C. A. Mayer. The case had been virtually tried on the 5th and 6th counts of the indictment, and a verdict of guilty rendered January 10th, 1880. The reasons filed for a new trial were given on that date.

Judge Mayer took the bench soon after ten o'clock. The courtroom contained a large number of interested spectators, and there was a large attendance of members of the bar.

Mr. H. C. McCormick, of counsel for the defendants, opened the arguments by stating that the only counts taken into consideration by the jury were the fifth and sixth of the seven counts of the indictment. He then went over all the evidence offered in the trial concerning the crime charged in the fifth count — the secretion of moneys, property, and effects of Horace E. Taylor by erasures, false entries, etc. As to this count, he concluded with the remark that if all the evidence of the Commonwealth were admitted for the sake of argument, it could not sustain the charge. As to the sixth count charging that "Horace E. Taylor did combine, conspire, and agree together," the Commonwealth failed to state with whom Taylor conspired, and that there was not a thing in the case from beginning to end that showed a conspiracy between Herdic and Taylor to defraud the depositors.

Mr. McCormick went on to say that the unprecedented verdict was found by reason of public clamor, for the reason that it was thought necessary to find a victim for the

depositors. The attorneys for the Commonwealth were bound to try the case with the impartiality of a judge, and they should not have brought into it the rancor and malignity that had disgraced the case from the inception. Mr. McCormick proceeded to cite authorities to show that unwarranted and illegal arguments on the part of the Commonwealth would be sufficient cause for a new trial. Messrs. Herdic and Taylor were entitled to be tried without prejudice, and on the evidence, and counsel had no right to bring into the case any personal feeling or to indulge in vituperation and aspersion of the defendants for the sake of effect.

Again, one of Commonwealth's counsel, in the heat of argument, had said that they did not call the best evidence as to the entries, meaning that the defendants were not called. The defendants had been told by their counsel that it was unnecessary to call them. (Affidavits of Herdic and Taylor as to this fact were at this point rendered the court.)

Mr. J. J. Metzger, of counsel for the Commonwealth, stated that during the trial there had been no allegations of any irregularities, and that the defendants had made no such statements as they now produced; that in Pennsylvania there had never been a case of a new trial being granted when objections had not been properly made at the time of the trial. He denied having said anything about the defendants not being called to testify, making the testimony insufficient.

Mr. Metzger insisted there was evidence showing the attempt to secret what had been done; that the teller of the bank had testified that the effect of the entry was to transfer assets from the bank to Herdic, making a liability out of a resource. On the 4th of December they made the entries in the name of Taylor, and at the time of the failure they changed them to Herdic. If Herdic did not know this, why was it done? Why did Herdic leave this large amount there with no credit either upon the books of the bank or his own hand-book? Sidney Taylor's testimony was improbable and inconsistent. Horace Taylor's statements were confused. At the time of

Mr. Nice's visit to Judge Maynard with Herdic and Taylor, why was he told if he kept his mouth shut, he would get his money? How was he to get it, and from whom? The sixth count charged Peter Herdic with conspiring with Taylor. If Herdic's name did not appear in the first part of the count, it was merely a mechanical error.

Mr. H. C. Parsons, of counsel for the Commonwealth, repeated that it was unprecedented in the annals of criminal jurisprudence for counsel to produce affidavits of the defendants asserting their innocence, in their argument for a new trial. He reiterated that the trial had been fair and impartial, and that no motion for arrest of judgment had been made, although three months had elapsed; that not until that morning had counsel for the Commonwealth been aware that trifling defects were to be picked out here and there as reasons for a new trial. He said that after Colonel Mann had eulogized Peter Herdic in a way that astonished everyone, counsel for the Commonwealth had the right to reply. The remarks of counsel were not calculated to inflame the minds of the jury; and even if so, it was now too late to press that point as a reason for a new trial. The jury was an honest and hard-headed one; they had listened to the case carefully; and their haste in rendering a verdict merely showed how overwhelming the testimony was.

After going over again all the testimony at the trial, Mr. Parsons concluded that the counsel for the Commonwealth believed at the trial, and still believed, that the verdict was justified by the law and the evidence. He added that counsel for the Commonwealth represented deeply wronged men who had lost every dollar, and it was no light matter for grey haired men to see all their possessions swept away and the defendants living in splendor.

Court adjourned at 12:30, the argument of Colonel William H. Mann was to be heard in the afternoon.

Again there is an omission in the papers of the time as to what occurred further in this trial. However, on June 11,

1880, "Judge Mayer read his decision in the Herdic-Taylor case, on the motion for a new trial. He thoroughly analyzed and dissected the evidence and reviewed the argument of counsel, and granted a new trial."

(from the June 11, 1880, *Daily Gazette and Bulletin*)

(Copied from the Courthouse Records)

Commonwealth	
35 vs	
Horace E. Taylor and Peter Herdic	
Dist. Atty	7.00
Court Bill	
Jury Fee	4.00
Shff Bastian	1.25
Clk. Follmer	15.65

Indictment (Conspiracy vs)

May 9, 1879 True bill, L. L. Stearns, Foreman May 9, 1879 on application of the Defts counsel and cause Shown, case Continued. Surety in \$8000. Each for their appearance at October sessions, 1879.

May 9, 1879, Peter Herdic, one of Defts, & J. W. Maynard surety Each held in \$8000 For Peter Herdic's appearance at October sessions 1879 as per recognizance filed.

May 9, 1879 Horace E. Taylor, E. C. Taylor, D. H. Foresman, J. V. Brown, F. R. Weed and G. W. Lentz.

Each held in \$8000 for the appearance of Horace E. Taylor at Oct. sessions 1879 as per recognizance filed.

And now Oct. 9, 1879, the above case continued on application of the District Attorney, and a peremptory order is made for the trial of this cause at January sessions 1880 the defendants to renew their recognizance in the sum of \$3,000. By the Court, C. A. Mayer, P. J. Oct. 9, 1879, Deft Peter Herdic and W—— Brouse, surety, each held in \$3,000 for P. Herdic's appearance as per recognizance filed. H. E. Taylor, Deft, and E. C. Taylor, surety, each held in \$3,000 for H. E. Taylor's appearance as per recognizance filed. January 8, 1880, Defendants plead not guilty same day. Dist. Atty. answers similiter. Jan. 8, 1880, a Jury of this County being called,

came John Lambert, Isaac Kepner, Israel W. Buck, Thomas R. Pentz, David Sechrist, Thomas Sechler, Wesley Williamson, Henry Edwards, Louis Sallada, John Vanderbilt, J. Pierce Butler, and A. H. Hill, twelve good and lawful men of Lycoming County, duly summoned, returned, impaneled, sworn and affirmed to try the issue joined in this case, do say Jan. 10, 1880, they find the defendant guilty on the 5th and 6th counts as indicted.

January 10, 1880, motion of defendants Counsel in Arrest of Judgment and a new trial for reasons filed Court permit the motion to be filed and grant a rule to show cause why the motion should not be granted returnable Friday, the 27th day of Febry, and direct the defts to renew their recognizance to appear at the next term of Court. Deft Peter Herdic, one of defts, and Henry Brown surety each held in \$3,000 for P. Herdic appearances. H. E. Taylor, one of defts, and E. C. Taylor each held in \$3,000 for H. E. Taylor appearances as per recognizance filed.

April 10, 1880. Argued C. A. V.

And now June 11, 1880, The verdict of the Jury is set aside, and a new trial granted. By the Court, C. A. Mayer, P. J., as per opinion filed.

And now May 5, 1881, on motion of J. J. Reardon, District Attorney, a nol pros (*) is ordered and directed to be entered in the above stated case. By the Court, Hugh H. Cummin, P. J.

(*) Nol pros — abbreviation for *nolle prosequi*, a declaration that the plaintiff in a civil case will drop prosecution of all or part of a suit or indictment.

COMMONWEALTH

VS.

PETER HERDIC

(from the August 26, 1879, *Gazette and Bulletin*)

The following witnesses have been subpoenaed, or are about to be subpoenaed, by Peter Herdic, Esq., to appear at Bellefonte on Thursday of this week, in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Peter Herdic: Oliver Watson, Abram Updegraff,

Samuel Jones, F. R. Weed, J. V. Brown, Hon. B. B. Bentley, Bodo Otto, D. H. Merriman, A. J. Dietrick, Eber Culver, F. N. Page, John J. Boyer, John F. Meginness, Lewis Martin, Charles E. Gibson, D. H. Blee, J. Lewis Hough, Huston Hepburn, H. B. Metick, J. H. Gulich, Dr. Detwiler, Major Haviland, Geo. W. Youngman, J. E. Goodrich, Theo. Hill, Wm. McClintock, Geo. Aurand, Geo. W. Strayer, Col. P. Huey, Hiram Mudge, Geo. Luppert, Robt. P. Allen, H. C. Parsons, John J. Metzger, J. B. McMicken, and J. A. Beeber.

(from the September 5, 1879, *Gazette and Bulletin*)

THE HERDIC TRIAL WHAT A BELLEFONTE PAPER HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT

A Review of What Was the Most Interesting Presentation Ever Heard in That Court — The Attorneys and What They Said.

The *Centre Democrat* of this week says that never was there a case, either civil or criminal, tried in the courts of Centre County that attracted more attention or challenged more universal interest than the one which closed at five o'clock on last Friday evening before Judge Orvis. It was known to fame as "The Commonwealth vs. Peter Herdic," but it was equally well understood that the mighty power of the state had been invoked by private individuals, and that the people, as represented by the public prosecutor, had arraigned one of the most noted men in the country to answer to a penal charge. The defendant was fortunate in being well known to our people. The public spirit, the indefatigable energy, the wonderful business achievements of Peter Herdic are known to every schoolboy in the Susquehanna Valley. They have read how his pluck, his perseverance, and his matchless enterprise and untiring industry had raised him from a poor boy to one of the most wealthy, influential businessmen in the state. And they knew likewise that he, with hundreds of others, had been stricken down by the lightning of financial disaster. Hence

it was not strange that there should have been in this community a strong feeling of genuine sympathy for an unfortunate man whose only apparent crime was that he was unable to render unto Caesar that which the Court in his prosecution claimed was his due. The dispatches sent to certain eastern papers representing that a different sentiment existed here during the progress of the trial must certainly have emanated from interested sources, with a view to influencing the final verdict, and must have been sent by parties who carefully avoided feeling the public pulse.

The courthouse was densely crowded from the time the case was called until the last echo of the judge's charge had died away. One of the causes that operated to keep the large crowd in constant attendance was the eminence of the counsel who were retained in the case. The members of our own bar who appeared on either side were District Attorney Fortney, General James A. Beaver, and A. O. Furst for the prosecution; and Senator O. T. Alexander, Edmund Blanchard, and J. L. Spangler for Mr. Herdic. There also appeared upon the scene a no less well known gentleman than the Hon. William B. Mann, who has been proudly called the "greatest criminal lawyer of the Philadelphia bar." He came from important duties in connection with the bribery cases at Harrisburg to appear in our courts for the first time as the friend and the leading advocate of Mr. Herdic.

The history of this case is so well known to our readers that we do not deem it necessary to enter into any details. William F. Reynolds & Co. charged the defendant with obtaining \$8,000 by false representations, and it was to defend himself from this charge that brought Peter Herdic into the court of quarter sessions of Centre County. The case was admirably conducted throughout. The attorneys on both sides exhausted their legal ingenuity in its preparation, and it will be long before we will see another case managed with such consummate skill. District Attorney Fortney opened the case for the prosecution in one of those powerful and telling speeches for which he is becoming famous. Both this opening speech and his deportment during the trial are spoken of in the highest

terms by Mr. Herdic's counsel. They are unanimous in saying that he acted, from the first to the last, with great fairness, and endeavored to do his duty as the prosecutor of the pleas of the Commonwealth, and not as the representative of the individual part of the prosecution. At the close of the evidence on the part of the state, J. L. Spangler opened on behalf of the defendant in a brilliant speech that has enhanced his previous enviable reputation as an eloquent speaker and most effective advocate. At the close of his remarks he was loudly applauded. Mr. Herdic then deluged the witness stand with gentlemen from Williamsport who gave important testimony in his behalf, and at last the irrepressible Peter kissed the Book, and closed the case so far as the evidence was concerned.

A. O. Furst, Esq., then went to the jury for the prosecution, and made a close legal argument without any attempt at rhetorical fireworks. Edmund Blanchard opened for the defense, and people are not yet done talking about his remarkable speech. It is no compliment to say that it was a really fine effort, full of telling points, and delivered with great feeling and earnestness.

Now came the crowning event of the trial. Immediately after court convened on Friday afternoon, Col. Mann, the hero of countless legal battles and forensic conflicts, made his obeisance to the court and faced the jury. The great crowd scarcely breathed, so anxious were they that no word the great criminal lawyer spoke should fail to reach their ears. No one who knows this celebrated barrister need be told that he made a wonderful speech. He addressed himself directly to the understanding and common sense of the men on whose decision depended the fate of his client, and drove home to them in the simplest language the facts upon which he based his argument. Every few moments he would suddenly drop his quiet, argumentative manner and break into a strain of eloquence that fairly electrified his vast audience. Several dramatic incidents occurred during his speech. One of the most striking was when he referred to a remark made by Major Reynolds upon the witness stand that "he had closed Peter Herdic's career."

Mr. Mann paused and then read with indescribable effect the following lines of the poet Campbell upon the crushing of Poland by the brutal power of Russia:

"Oh, bloodiest picture in the book of Time,
Sarmatia fell, unwept, without a crime;
Found not a generous friend, a pitying foe,
Strength in her arms, nor mercy in her woe!
Dropp'd from her nerveless grasp the shatter'd spear,
Closed her bright eye, and curb'd her high career;"

And then turning to Mr. Herdic, he made the application of the quotation to his case in a highly dramatic manner. Colonel Mann closed his speech in a beautiful appeal to the court, and took his seat amidst suppressed excitement. It was a great effort, just such an effort as Colonel Mann always makes when thoroughly aroused.

General Beaver closed for the prosecution in an able, earnest, and at times eloquent plea for the conviction of the defendant. When General Beaver had concluded, Judge Orvis immediately commenced an admirable charge to the jury. Clearly and tersely he laid down the law and reviewed the facts with that perspicuity that distinguishes all this able judge's charges. It is not necessary to say anything to our readers in relation to Judge Orvis' ability or legal learning — they know both well; but Colonel Mann remarked several times that he was one of the best judges he ever tried a case before. This is a high compliment, coming from a man who has practiced his profession before some of the ablest judges who ever sat upon the bench.

At the conclusion of the judge's charge, the jury retired. On Saturday morning they came into court and rendered a verdict of "Not Guilty." Thus Peter Herdic was vindicated, and the end of a memorable trial reached.

(Editor's Note: With all due respect to Colonel Mann, and especially because we are celebrating the Bicenten-

nial, it seems most appropriate to add the two lines following the above quotation from Thomas Campbell's Poem, "The Pleasures of Hope":

"HOPE, for a season, bade the world farewell,
And freedom sbreik'd — as KOSCIUSKO* fell!"

*"Thaddeus Kosciusko, 1746 - 1817. Polish patriot and commander of the American troops in Revolutionary War." (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*.)

(from the February 6, 1880, *Daily Gazette and Bulletin*)

Bankruptcy Cases

"The case of P. Herdic, bankrupt, was argued at Pittsburgh, Tuesday; Messrs. Parsons and McCormick for creditors and C. Lloyd for bankrupt. The case was exhaustively presented, and the court took the papers."

(from the February 16, 1880, *Daily Gazette and Bulletin*)

HERDIC DISCHARGED

Opinion of the Court at Pittsburgh Saturday

He Is Virtually Cleared from his Debts — The Objections To his Discharge Are Dismissed by Judge McKennan

Saturday at Pittsburgh Judge Acheson delivered an opinion in the matter of the application for a discharge from the bankruptcy of Peter Herdic. His honor argues as follows: Certain creditors of the bankrupt having filed specifications of opposition to his discharge, they were referred to Register Smith to take testimony, which he did and reported favorable to bankrupt. The registers' report was argued a few days since by counsel before Circuit Judge (McKenna) and myself; since that time I have given the case careful consideration, and the conclusion I have reached meets the approval of my associate in the case. The specifications of the opposition are 13 in number, but the 5th, 6th, 7th, 12th and 13th

were not pressed at the argument. I therefore say that the evidence does not sustain them. The first and second charge in substance that the bankrupt "has willfully sworn falsely" in the affidavit attached to his petition, in this that he has no real estate in his possession, when in truth he was the owner of lands in Potter County, Pa., there held in trust for him, which he did not return, but fraudulently omitted it from his schedule. This land was purchased at the value of \$45,240, and it is charged that these lands were to be held in trust until a certain time and then sold, and the proceeds to be divided between Herdic, Tome, and Olmstead, parties to the contract. Mr. Herdic says, in reference to these lands, that his interest was sold at treasurer's sale for taxes, and I believe he has not sworn falsely.

Other Specifications

The third and fourth specifications relate to the alleged concealment by the bankrupt of certain personal property to the extent of \$35,000. Mr. Herdic swears positively that no part of this money was used for the purposes charged. It is always a fair presumption that the bankrupt has acted with integrity, and I altogether fail to find concealment or fraudulent appropriation of money in this case.

The eighth specification charges that the bankrupt has willfully sworn falsely in the affidavit attached to his petition, in that he has omitted from his schedule certain amounts aggregating nearly \$36,000. This specification fails, for the evidence is plenary that the bankrupt did not receive at that time said sums or any part thereof.

The ninth specification charges that the bankrupt had knowledge that Charles E. Gibson had proved a false debt against him for \$39,000. It would be essential that the bankrupt had knowledge of this fact in order to sustain the specification, and of such knowledge there is no evidence.

The tenth specification charges that the bankrupt has not kept proper books of account since the 21 of March, 1867, in that on the 28th of August, 1878, three days before going into bankruptcy, he caused

fifteen pages of entries to be made in his day book of business transactions amounting to at least one million of dollars. The fair inference from the testimony is that a proper cost account was kept, and there is no contradiction to this evidence.

THE VITAL QUESTION

The vital question in this case now seems to be that on August 26th, 1878, three days before the filing of the petition in bankruptcy by the direction of Mr. Herdic, 15 pages of entries were made in his books all of the same date aggregating considerably over one million of dollars. Did these entries concern Mr. Herdic's business as a merchant? This, it seems, is the question. If they relate to transactions distinct from his business as a merchant, it is immaterial how the entries were made. I fail to discover in the testimony of the witnesses to what branch of the bankrupt's business the entries in question relate, but the evidence does show that the making of these entries was a transaction entirely free from fraud. I therefore conclude that neither the 10th nor 11th specification has been sustained. I am of the opinion that all specifications should be over ruled, and the bankrupt granted his discharge upon the presentation of the register's certificate of his conformity to the law, and it is so ordered.

McKenna, Circuit Judge.

I sat at the argument of this case with the district judge in order that the delay in the final determination of it, which might result in an appeal to the circuit court, might be avoided.

The foregoing opinion, therefore, is to be understood as expressing the views of both of us, and as practically decisive of the controversy.

(from the April 3, 1880, *Daily Gazette and Bulletin*)

PETER HERDIC'S EFFECTS

Interesting Legal Battle for the Possession of Five Thousand Dollars

The following appeared yesterday in the

Altoona Tribune: Stopping at the Logan House Wednesday evening may have been found the invincible Peter Herdic, of Williamsport, in company with B. S. Bentley, Jr. and J. O. Parker, Esq., two prominent lawyers of the same place. The visit of these gentlemen to the city was for the purpose of appearing before Edmund Shaw, Esq., auditor appointed by the court of common pleas to distribute some \$5,000 in the hands of the late Sheriff, James M. Stiffler. At the office of Mr. Shaw, on Wednesday evening, the parties met, together with Hon. S. S. Blair, Hon. B. L. Hewit, D. S. Neff, and A. J. Riley, Esq., attorneys representing claimants upon this fund. The contest seems to be over a judgment for \$10,000 in the name of Peter Herdic, which, it is claimed by other creditors, is without consideration, although the first on the list of liens against the fund.

The taking of testimony, we believe, was closed on Wednesday evening, and the hearing adjourned till yesterday at 10 a.m., at which Mr. Bentley made his argument in behalf of the assignees in bankruptcy of Mr. Herdic, and was followed by Mr. Parker in behalf of the Lumberman's National Bank, of Williamsport, to whom the judgment had been assigned by Mr. Herdic before his going into bankruptcy. On the closing of Mr. Parker's argument, the further hearing was adjourned to the 13th inst., at which time the final arguments are expected to be made by the attorneys interested.

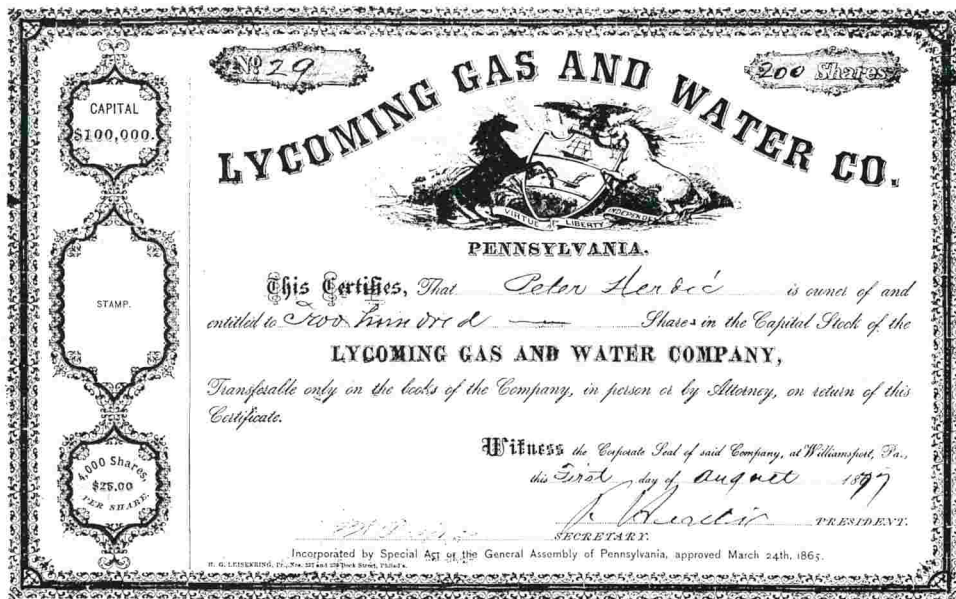
We understand that a vigorous contest has been going on before the auditor from time to time since his appointment, kept up by different conflicting claimants to the money, there having been about fourteen adjourned meetings. Some interesting questions of the law arise in the case, we understand, growing out of the operations of Mr. Herdic in connection with some of the banking and manufacturing institutions about Williamsport.

Mr. Seth M. Lynn researched the records in the courthouse and found that Peter Herdic (who died without leaving a Will)

did leave an estate which was administered in our Orphan's Court. His widow, Encie, renounced her right to administer the estate and nominated one James P. Herdic (a nephew) to be the Administrator. James filed an Inventory consisting of one item, namely "Contingency of recovery in a law suit brought by Peter Herdic vs John G.

Reading of Philadelphia." James Herdic subsequently filed a final account indicating that while a recovery had been made in favor of Peter Herdic in his lawsuit vs Reading, Herdic's creditors had attached the monies so that there were actually no assets in Herdic's estate.

What Happened To His Properties



The crash in Peter Herdic's business life came during the dark days of the financial panic that engulfed the country from 1873 to 1878, when many big firms and captains of industry went to the wall. Herdic, like hundreds of others who were unable to meet their obligations and weather the storm, finally was caught in the financial maelstrom. When one day in 1878 it was announced that he had gone into voluntary bankruptcy, there was consternation throughout all Williamsport, and the news caused a sensation over the country. Herdic's remarkable business career had been curbed. He still had some of the old fighting spirit left in him. But, notwithstanding his

great strength and fertility of resource, Peter Herdic for the time being could be said to be "not in the running." Peter was said to have been a heavy borrower. He had to be to continue business as long as he did after the panic started in 1873. He attracted and drew into his plans capitalists from the big cities.

Herdic failed for something like \$1,800,000. Among his heaviest creditors was William Weightman, a well-known Philadelphia chemist and a very wealthy man, whom Herdic owed at the time of his failure several hundred thousand dollars. In fact Mr. Weightman testified on the witness

stand in the bankruptcy proceedings that he had loaned Peter at different times a total of four hundred thousand dollars, and that he didn't expect to get more than half of it back. Jacob Tome, a rich banker of Port Deposit, Md., was said to have been a heavy creditor, too, and there were others whom Herdic owed much smaller sums.

Quite a number of Herdic's properties were sold at United States Marshal's sale, and others at sheriff's sale. Mr. Weightman, to realize on his loans, bought in some of the most valuable of these properties, including what now is known as the Weightman Block. His son-in-law, R. J. C. Walker, bought the Herdic House and Herdic Park, which he renamed Old Oaks Park. Jacob Tome bought some, and so did the Lumberman's National Bank. Herdic's father-in-law, Judge John W. Maynard, and others, also figured in the buying.

On April 16, 1880, Messrs. Fredericks and Bentley, assignees of Peter Herdic, offered for sale in the courthouse a large amount of so-called assets, consisting of notes, checks, bonds, stocks, judgments, bills of sale, certificates, book accounts, etc. Aside from the book accounts, the "assets" offered for sale amounted to about \$250,000. The book accounts amounted to something over \$1,000,000 or more. Ex-Sheriff Piatt was the auctioneer. Notwithstanding his best efforts to secure something for the creditors, only some \$1,500 was realized from the \$1,250,000 of the bankrupt assets. Among the larger amounts was:

550 shares of Passenger Railway stock
44 shares of gas stock
\$15,000 in bonds of the Lycoming Gas and Water Co.
150 shares in the fork company
580 shares in the Williamsport and Canada Lumber Co.
100 shares in the Robert Morris Land and Coal Co.

Among the larger book account credits claimed by the assignee, and so sold, were the following:

Lycoming Gas and Water Co \$46,298

Rubright and Dorman (brick manufacturers & grocers)	78,498
G. W. Sands & Co. (lumber manufacturers)	37,140
Wm. Stoddard, manager	88,438
Susquehanna Boom Co.	49,437
Williamsport Manufacturing Co.	32,574
Williamsport Passenger Railway	26,064
Crescent Nail Works	23,751
Ensworth Estate	41,172
Hotchkiss and Barber (Planing mill)	86,915
D. K. Hantz	12,000

and numerous others of varying amounts. In some instances, the bidding was quite lively on a "five cent ante" basis and the auctioneer's gavel and tongue flew fast as the amounts offered for twenty and fifty thousand dollar accounts were run up to twenty or thirty cents by five-cent bids. The attendance was not so large as it was lively; but there was considerable interest manifested in the sale. Mr. Herdic was an interested spectator and one of the liveliest bidders. This was an odd spectacle and one that caused considerable comment. It may be queer for a recently discharged bankrupt to be so active in purchasing his own assets, but it should be remembered that this is a great country. Mr. C. W. Scott, the book agent, bought some \$58,000 of assets for 25 cents, and he will perhaps retire to private life. It is said that others made good bargains in their purchases. This will probably about wind up the sale of Mr. Herdic's effects.

The following properties were sold at sheriff's sale this afternoon (April 23, 1880) in front of the courthouse by Sheriff Bastian: The property of Peter Herdic, on the south side of the river near the dam, consisting of twenty acres of ground, with improvements consisting of one large two-story brick house, frame bank barn, tobacco sheds, etc. This was purchased by John G. Reading for \$50.

At 10 o'clock on the morning of September 15, 1883, the sale of the real estate

of Peter Herdic, under the direction of James S. Rutan, United States marshal for the western district of Pennsylvania, took place at the courthouse. The sale was conducted by Deputy L. H. Martin, who received the bids and "knocked down" the properties.

The coal lands in Pine Township (over 3,000 acres) averaged \$25 a tract.

About 2,500 acres in Brown Township brought an average of \$5 a tract.

The Park Hotel property was knocked down for \$1200.

A lot of ground in the fourth ward brought \$35.

990 acres in Potter County were sold for \$70.

A number of tracts containing several thousand acres in the aggregate, and situated in Armstrong, Brown, Cummings, and Cogan House Townships, averaged \$5 each.

The Herdic Block brought \$50, and the car stables and office \$55.

A lot adjoining John E. Jones (259 West 4th Street) was sold for \$50.

The S.F. Green house (40 Fifth Ave.) brought \$25.

Twelve or thirteen other properties scattered throughout the city ranged from \$50 to \$10.

The tract known as Herdic Park, and containing 18 acres, was knocked down for \$600.

Samuel L. Youngman became the purchaser of the coal yard and two dwellings in the First Ward for \$55.

All the other tracts and properties were sold to Clinton Lloyd.

Mr. Herdic was present in person and took a lively interest in the sale. All the prices were generally better than those obtained at the first sale, and Mr. Herdic quietly remarked that if the properties were put up a few times more, they would bring their full value.

After Peter Herdic went bankrupt in 1878, the Minnequa House was taken over by the Minnequa Improvement Co.

Rumors And Hearsay Following His Bankruptcy

The January 14, 1879, edition of the *Gazette and Bulletin* reported that Peter Herdic had departed for Florida about two weeks previously. Even though it was known in Williamsport that he went south to recuperate his health, the story of his departure so agitated the newspapers around the country that fantastic rumors were printed:

Sensational Rumor Number One

"Inasmuch as all manner of curious sensational rumors have gone abroad, and inquiries from many leading newspapers are received here almost daily concerning them, the *Gazette and Bulletin* deems it proper to give them for the edification, or amusement, of its readers, vouching for the accuracy of none of them. In the first place a story got afloat that he repaired to the depot in a closed carriage late at night,

disguised so that his most intimate friends would not have been able to recognize him, and immediately on the arrival of the 12:35 a.m. train he bounced aboard like a youth of twenty, and was soon snugly ensconced in a sleeping car berth with the curtains closely drawn, and in a few minutes the train rolled away whilst the good people of Williamsport reposed in their "little beds" totally unconscious of what was transpiring. In a day or two the quidnuncs began to look wise, and as they shook their heads, they remarked:

"Well, Peter has gone; I expected it. Governor Robinson of New York was about to issue a requisition on Governor Hartranft for his arrest, because he owed an Elmira firm \$100,000, more or less; or, because a banker of Bellefonte had him arrested some time ago; and there is that

Lancaster County matter, you know. All these things induced Peter to change his base, and he changed it.'

Such were the first rumors that got afloat and caused all manner of speculation, and the quidnuncs clinched them by sagely declaring:

"Told you so; you'll not see Peter soon again. Florida, faugh!"

Rumor Number Two

"The first rumor having become worn threadbare, it was not long until another was started, because one sensation is always sure to be followed by another more ridiculous. This one was to the effect that he had actually gone to the flowery land of alligators, oranges, and election frauds; but not liking the climate, had boarded a steamer for the Bermudas, and was then far on his way to those delightful isles of the sea where perennial spring ever reigns and lovely flowers ever bloom. This was regarded by some as a true story, and a few of the wisest quidnuncs shut one eye and slyly hinted that there was no doubt this time but what the rollicking Peter was far on his way to Nassau. Others however, entertained a doubt, and hinted that Cuba was his objective point, that he long entertained a desire to set his foot on the 'ever faithful isle,' and a winter in Havana would be his delight. He could occasionally attend a bullfight, ride through the country, visit the great sugar plantations, pluck oranges fresh from the trees, and have a good time generally. That would be his delight, and they knew it.

Rumor Number Three

"The last rumor having died, and matters becoming a little dull, the storymongers thought it was about time to concoct another one. And it was concocted at once. This time the wise ones were positive that all the other rumors were wrong, and that they knew just exactly where he had gone. Europe was the land he pined to see, and as it was very fashionable for those who could afford it to visit that quarter of the globe, he had sailed from Philadelphia on one of the Pennsyl-

vania line steamers, and is now well over the sea. He would go ashore at Queens-town, and after taking a quiet squint at old Ireland, would board a train and hasten on to London. Then, after enjoying a few days' rest in that modern Babylon, he would join General Grant, sail up the Mediterranean, pass through the Suez Canal — only stopping long enough to buy one of the pyramids from the Khedive — when they would hasten on to India. Once in that country he would engage in hunting the frisky tiger with the ex-President, and there is no doubt but they will have a royal time. After doing India thoroughly, they will proceed to China, where Peter will purchase a tea plantation, adopt a celestial costume, and engage in raising that useful article, whilst Grant will return home and be re-elected President. This rumor, which is the very latest, is regarded as correct by the rumor manufacturers, and the *Gazette and Bulletin* gives it for what it is worth.

Side Incidents

"This chapter would be incomplete without giving a few of the side incidents concerning the rumored flight of Peter. The *Elmira Advertiser* printed a dispatch yesterday from Williamsport which said that he had failed for *ten millions of dollars!* The evening *Gazette*, not to be outdone in enterprise, also had a dispatch from Williamsport which said that he had only failed for *one million dollars*; that the rumor that he had fled to escape a requisition from Governor Robinson was incorrect, and then the 'special' (?) winds up as follows:

'His friends, however, claim there is no truth in the story, and say his present whereabouts is well known, and that he has gone to Florida for his health, having suffered severely of late from a complicated affliction of the throat. It was known, some time previous to his departure, that he intended leaving the city, and his friends pronounce the associated press dispatch, to the effect that he is fleeing from justice, utterly false. Outside of his own circle of friends, his absence is severely commented upon, and

further developments are anxiously awaited. His friends claim there is no 'crookedness' about his absence, and when wanted he will be ready to put in an appearance. No mention of the matter has been made by the press of the city, and the above are all the particulars as far as I can learn.'

"One active young journalist of this city thinking that the New York *Herald* would like a column or two relating to the wonderful rumors afloat regarding Peter, telegraphed that enterprising journal last night to know how much he should send. In a few minutes the following answer was returned:

New York, Jan. 13

To, Williamsport:

Who is Peter Herdic? And why did he run away?

J. G. Bennett

"This was a 'stunner,' because if the *Herald* did not know who he was, there was little reliance to be placed in the rumors that are agitating so many newspapers throughout the country, and the enterprising young journalist was dumb-founded. In the meantime Peter is said to be quietly enjoying himself in the delectable land of Florida, and for the purpose of causing another sensation is accused of having something to do with that earthquake Sunday night, which is said to have caused great consternation among the alligators, poor whites, and intelligent darkeys."

The January 17, 1879, edition of the *Gazette and Bulletin* stated why Mr. Herdic went to the south:

"Dr. F. Hinkle, of Columbia, published the following card in the Philadelphia *Press* yesterday: I noticed in your paper an article indicating that my patient, Peter Herdic, Esq., of Williamsport, Pa., had suddenly gone away to the south, or that he was taken to an asylum. You will do me a great act of justice by informing your readers that Mr. Herdic has been under my treatment since October, 1878, and as soon as he was sufficiently convalescent

of his severe attack of catarrh, that threatened to end in catarrhal pneumonia of both lungs, I ordered him to go south and spend the winter in a dry, temperate climate, and thus effect a perfect restoration of his desired health. The post office here and telegraph office, as well as the railroad to Williamsport, could testify of his whereabouts; and I hope this will satisfy your interested readers."

THE CENTRE COUNTY SENSATION

(February 8, 1879, *Gazette and Bulletin*)

In the editorial department of the *Bellefonte Watchman* of the present week, the following appears: "One of our exchanges which evidently wants to surprise the public with its originality announces, very positively, that Peter Herdic is not in Florida, or in Europe, but is hidden in the mountains of Centre County. Now we do not suppose that the readers of the *Watchman* care very much whether the enterprising Williamsporter is hidden in Florida, Europe, or this county, or for that matter, whether he is hidden at all, but just at this time it would be an exceedingly queer move for Peter to loaf about within the jurisdiction of the court of this county. It was only last week that our grand jury found a true bill against him for obtaining money under false pretenses, and the reputation our court has for setting down very heavily upon persons found guilty of such offenses is not calculated to make them believe that within its jurisdiction is the safest place to reside.

"The grounds for the indictment, as we have been told, are as follows: Some time ago Mr. Herdic borrowed from the banking house of F. W. Reynolds & Co., of this place, \$12,000 for which he gave as collateral security first mortgage bonds upon three houses in Williamsport, at the time furnishing a certificate from an official of Lycoming County that there were no liens or mortgages upon the properties. After Mr. Herdic's failure, when Messrs. Reynolds & Co. commenced proceedings for the collection of their claim, they discovered that Mr. Herdic had, before build-

ing upon the lots, mortgaged them for almost their full value, and that that mortgage had never been satisfied. In the affidavits of defense — why judgment for the amount should not be awarded Messrs. Reynolds & Co., Mr. Herdic acknowledged that he knew there were two mortgages upon the property at the time of executing the last one, notwithstanding the fact that he represented matters in a different light to the parties from whom he obtained the loan. These are the charges upon which the grand jury found the indictment. What Mr. Herdic's defense will be, we know not."

PETER HERDIC'S CAREER

The Poor Boy Who Came Out of the Pine Woods —

Is the "Lumber King" Still Rich?

(from the July 19, 1879, *Gazette and Bulletin*)

The outside paper that gives most attention to Mr. Peter Herdic, of this city, is the New York *Sun*. Its issue of yesterday contained an Elmira dispatch concerning Mr. Herdic which will be found below. The article contained some truth and very considerable fiction, as Williamsporters will be able to observe. It is printed simply for what it is worth, and is as follows, dated Elmira, July 16th:

"The indictment found against Peter Herdic, the former "lumber king" of Pennsylvania, for obtaining money on false pretense in this city, and upon which a requisition for him has just been made upon the governor of Pennsylvania and granted, was found last fall. It will be remembered that Herdic suddenly left Pennsylvania some months ago, and his whereabouts were unknown for some time. He was finally traced to Nassau. It was believed at the time that he had fled to escape the consequences of the Elmira proceedings, and several other similar prosecutions. The indictment in this case was obtained upon the oath of John Arnot, of the Chemung Canal bank. Herdic returned home some time ago, and it was understood agreed to compromise the Elmira and other irre-

gularities. Failing to keep his word, the requisition was asked for and granted yesterday.

"The gas stock on which Herdic raised the money in Elmira was stock of the Williamsport Gas Company, which he organized. The capital of the company was \$150,000, he owning a large majority of the stock. He sold the company 1,000 acres of wild land for \$300,000 worth of additional stock. There was a prior lien on this land, and it was sold at Marshal's sale, and Herdic bought it in for a song. On the additional stock Herdic borrowed \$300,000, representing that it was the actual capital of the company, and was paying dividends regularly. Of the \$300,000 was the \$25,000 he borrowed at the Chemung Canal Bank in this city. The balance he obtained of banks in Lancaster and Centre Counties, Pa.

"Suits similar to the one commenced in Elmira are pending there, Herdic having been indicted in both places, and being under bonds to appear. At the time of hypothecating this worthless stock, Herdic caused the original \$150,000 of stock to be made preferred. This he assigned to John G. Reading, of Philadelphia.

"The Elmira proceedings against Herdic have recalled many other of his peculiar transactions. After his failure, his liabilities were found to be \$2,000,000. His principal creditor was the junior partner of the firm of Powers & Weightman, the great quinine monopolists of Philadelphia. Mr. Weightman, owing to the trade the firm had in that drug, had an income of \$20,000 a month. He was a great friend of Herdic's, and had the most unbounded confidence in him. He discounted his paper, and purchased bonds and mortgages offered by Herdic to the amount of \$1,200,000. One of Herdic's methods of dealing with Weightman was this: Herdic would purchase large tracts of land wherever he could buy them cheaply. Laying them out in building lots, he erected dwellings on them. No building of this kind put up by him cost him more than \$3,500. He would sell each house to some person of no responsibility for from \$15,000 to \$20,000. For payment he would

take bonds and mortgages for the amount. These he would take to Philadelphia and sell to his friend Weightman. The latter had over \$250,000 worth of these "securities" when Herdic failed.

Herdic built a church in Williamsport. The quarryman who furnished the stone took Herdic's notes. The workmen accepted orders on stores for their pay. The stores were given notes by Herdic in return for the orders. None of them were ever paid.

Herdic paid a farmer \$12,000 for a farm in Bradford County. He went to Philadelphia and mortgaged it for \$18,000. He then returned to the farmer and asked him what he intended to do with the \$12,000. The farmer said he wanted to put it out on interest. Herdic borrowed every cent of it, and in a few days his failure was announced.

Herdic started the Williamsport passenger railway company. It had a capital of \$45,000. He was the main shareholder. He pledged his stock for a loan. The stock remained in his name on the books. Before Herdic failed he leased the road to A. B. Middaugh, a friend of his. The parties who held Herdic's stock for the loan sold it, realizing only a small sum. The purchasers of the stock, supposing they were the rightful owners of the road, attempted to take possession of it. They failed to get it, Middaugh claiming legal possession under the terms of his lease. The matter is in the courts.

The city of Williamsport was bankrupted by the failure of Herdic, and hundreds of people were ruined. A large portion of Herdic's property was sold on judgments obtained on long over due notes by Judge Maynard, Herdic's father-in-law. It is the general opinion that Herdic's failure was really a huge swindle, and that he is yet a millionaire.

GATH AND LLOYD

(from the August 13, 1883, *Gazette and Bulletin*)

Mr. Clinton Lloyd, Esq., was in New York one day last week and met George Alfred Towstend, who writes so many pious

things over the signature of "Gath." After a few commonplace remarks, he (Gath) proceeded to interview Mr. Lloyd concerning Peter Herdic's proposed lawsuit. The interview was printed in the Philadelphia *Sunday Times* as follows:

I met in New York last Thursday Mr. Clinton Lloyd, a prominent lawyer of Williamsport, Pa., who was, when I knew him well fifteen years ago, the deputy clerk of the House of Representatives under Edward McPherson . . . Said I to Mr. Lloyd: "I noticed this morning in the *Times* of Philadelphia that you have brought suit on behalf of Peter Herdic against certain property holders of Williamsport."

"Is that so?" said Mr. Lloyd. "Well, it must be true. I did not suppose that it had yet got into print, because the legal proceedings were only instituted yesterday."

"What is the extent of your legal rights in the case, Mr. Lloyd?"

"I think," said he, "We have a reasonable ground of procedure. Peter Herdic was the most indefatigable citizen Williamsport ever had. Several years ago he failed, and his huge property was picked up for a mere song by certain persons who had made most of their money through his boldness and enterprise. Now we design to show that Mr. Herdic was a swindled man."

"Who were the persons?" I asked.

"Among the most prominent," said Mr. Lloyd, "was Weightman, the chemical manufacturer of Philadelphia. He was the creditor of Herdic for from six hundred thousand to eight hundred thousand dollars. After the panic of 1873, Herdic became exasperated at his minor creditors, who kept pursuing him for money when he had done so much for them and their community. So he just threw up his estate. It was bid in for the merest song. Enormous coal mines, worth fortunes, were bought for twenty-five dollars or sums of that description. Now we propose to show that the sale was without equity or without legal formality in some things."

"But," said I, "give me the names of the people who profited by Herdic."

"The principal persons," said Mr. Lloyd, "who got rich out of Herdic were Weightman, aforesaid, and John G. Reading and his partner, Fisher. My private opinion is that there was an understanding between Weightman and Herdic that the former should buy the latter's properties and after the heavy mortgages on them were discharged they should revert to Herdic. But, like all men who get a hold on another's achievements, the creditor would not let go. Pete Herdic made all those fellows rich. They were a very respectable moral crowd, and Peter Herdic never assumed to have any especial virtue. Yet those moral weights let him make them rich, winked at all his performances, and then plundered him. So I think they were the worst of the two."

"Give me an idea," said I "of some of their exploits."

"Well, the boom, the lumber boom, at Williamsport, made them their money. It was a high-handed proceeding. Pete Herdic lobbied it through the Harrisburg Legislature, paying left and right, and those moral fellows knew all about his work and shared the huge proceeds. The boom," repeated Mr. Lloyd, "Was what made those fortunes."

"Were they considerable fortunes?" I asked.

"Yes. Fisher, the partner of Reading, died with an estate of seven hundred thousand dollars, nearly all made out of Pete Herdic's boom."

"Who was this Mr. Reading?"

"Oh! he lived in Philadelphia and was said to be very rich. Weightman is one of the richest men in Pennsylvania. But his money was made mostly out of quinine."

"Tell me, Mr. Lloyd, how the lumber boom made so much money."

"Why, my friend," said Lloyd, "there was two hundred million feet of lumber coming down the West Branch of the Susquehanna in a single year, following the war. Pete Herdic and these conferees had a bill passed allowing them for the privilege of stopping that lumber to charge one dollar per thousand feet. Four or five logs

will make one thousand feet of lumber. Of course Pete had to spend money left and right in the legislature to pass the bill. Some of these gentlemen knew all about his methods and they shared in the proceeds."

"What kind of man is Herdic, Mr. Lloyd?"

"Why, Pete Herdic is one of the native American products. He found Williamsport a place of two thousand inhabitants and built it up into a large city. He gave it all the institutions of modern times. He is not a man, however, with a very bold apprehension of what conscience is. Pete says in his conversation that his greatest sense of satisfaction is that he took care of the boys. By the boys he means the members of the legislature. He belongs to that considerable class in American society which does not regard legislation as at all proper unless it is well paid for. But I do not think that he ought to be censured in that respect, and these eminent Christians escape."

"Is Williamsport, Mr. Lloyd, coming up in population again?"

"Yes. It suffered after the relapse of 1873. The new Vanderbilt railroad has been somewhat to its benefit, but Herdic made the place. He had one piece of coal land that I know of worth \$2,000,000, which Mr. Weightman picked up for a song."

"Tell me," said I, "how the great boom for lumber ceased to pay."

"In fact," said Mr. Lloyd, "it paid so well that a little 'mobilier' was made inside of it to steal the dividends. You know that when the logs come down the river from the mountains, marked with the names or ciphers of the separate owners, that it is necessary at some point to separate them. The boom company was making dividends too great for the rapacious purposes of its projectors, so they charged fifty cents a thousand feet to divide up the logs when it could not cost at the most over twenty cents per thousand, and the difference went to a ring composed of Herdic, Fisher, and Reading."

More Stories About Peter Herdic

Mr. Harry A. Miller, a lumberman of Williamsport, who died about 1945, told of being a Western Union messenger when he was a boy. The office was then located at the rear of the building on the southwest corner of Pine and Willow Streets. It was the custom of the boys, among other deviltry, to fill their mouth with water and, when the door opened, spurt it in the faces of the other messenger boys.

Mr. Miller said that he was engaged in this sport one day and, with a mouthful of water, was waiting for the door to open. When it did, he let the object have it! It proved to be Mr. Herdic who was dressed with an exceedingly wide, starched white shirt front. Of course the shirt was ruined, and Mr. Miller said that he expected to be fired promptly. However, Mr. Herdic sent for him as he was waiting his turn in the barber shop next door and gave him a mild lecture on doing things rationally; and advised him that, as he went through life, he should be cautious and reserved in all things.

Peter Herdic, like some other people, wanted what he wanted when he wanted it. When he wanted anything, he wanted it the worst way. And that's the way in which he got to the centennial of American Independence — in the worst way!

Peter had gone down to Philadelphia for the opening of the Centennial Exposition in June, 1878. There were horsecars in operation in the Quaker City in those days, and they were about the only, and also the slowest, mode of transportation out to the Centennial grounds in Fairmount Park.

Herdic and his old friend, Col. William B. Mann, were standing on the curb downtown patiently waiting on a horsecar to take them out to the Centennial. There were plenty of cars, but every one that went by was crowded, and Peter was becoming nervous over the delay. Car after car went by in almost endless procession, but they were all filled to overflowing. Every minute Peter was getting more nervous and im-

patient, and every minute seemed an hour. Finally his powers of resource came to his rescue. Herdic was saying to the colonel: "We can't stand here forever, Bill, waiting for a chance to ride out to the grounds in a streetcar. Why the exhibition will be over and closed for today by the time we can catch a car that isn't loaded to the roof."

Just then a coal cart came in sight; and Peter, leaving the colonel standing on the curb in amazement, chased after the grimy vehicle at top speed. He soon returned, seated alongside the driver of the coal cart, and was all smiles. He had bargained with the man to take the colonel and him out to the Centennial grounds for fifty cents apiece.

Notwithstanding his protests, Col. Mann was hauled aboard; and, perched atop the coal cart, they thus reached the Centennial.

Peter wasn't much for style. He wanted service, and he wanted it when he wanted it. It is presumed that he told the driver of the coal cart to "step on it," for on the way they passed several horsecars bound for the same destination.

This is the story of how Peter Herdic in his early days in Williamsport nearly became a member of a well-known secret order, as related by an old lodgeman. This story serves to illustrate with what persistence the crafty Peter Herdic pursued his objectives — and to what lengths he would go — when once he started out to accomplish his desires, usually eliminating all obstacles enroute, although in this instance he evidently had failed to figure on one stumbling block, the little "black ball."

As the story goes, it seems that Peter on at least two occasions had made an attempt to join this particular order, but he always was blackballed. That was nothing to Peter's discredit, however. Peter's case was no exception. He had a number of friends in the lodge which, at the time, was the only one of this order in town. He also had at

least one enemy — hence the black ball, which always turned up when Peter applied for admittance.

One day Peter said to one of his friends in the lodge to whom he had been talking about his prospects of ever getting into the order: "Who's running this thing, anyway? Let's start a new lodge!"

The friendly member told Peter that, the consent of the head of the order in Pennsylvania — the grand lodge head — would first have to be secured; and that while he could grant the permission, he usually, as a matter of courtesy, let the existing lodge in the town decide whether another lodge was desired.

"Where's the head of the order in this state? Where'll I find him?" asked Peter, suddenly becoming interested.

On being told where the head of the grand lodge lived, Peter asked for his name.

Given this information, Peter excitedly exclaimed: "———! ———! I know him. He's my man. I'll see ——— and have it all fixed. I'll see if they can keep me from joining a lodge when I want to. We'll start a new lodge."

So Peter saw "his man," got his consent to institute a new lodge of the order in Williamsport, and all went well until the day of the organization. Then something happened.

"You know," said the old lodgeman who was telling the story, "the members of a new lodge have to be voted on, just the same as the new members of an old lodge; and when it came time to vote, the little black ball was there waiting on Peter, and the result was that he failed to get into the lodge that he himself had started. His enemies hadn't been asleep. The new lodge was instituted without its originator."

And Peter, it is said, never did get a chance to "ride the goat" in a lodge of that order.

In an earlier panic, employers issued to their employees what in those days were known as "shinplasters," which were accep-

ted by grocers, dry goods merchants, and other tradesmen in lieu of regular money. These "shinplasters" were a sort of due bill, and everybody's storekeeper took them in payment for purchases, also taking the chance that some time they would be redeemed by those who had issued them. Peter Herdic was among the employers of Williamsport who issued these "shinplasters," and his promises to pay are said to have been the only ones in the whole state of Pennsylvania that did not deteriorate. He afterwards cashed in his outstanding "shinplasters" dollar for dollar, redeeming every one he had issued.

During the year 1863 the federal government levied a special income tax for the Civil War. Herdic's tax on this account, after allowable deductions had been made on a \$20,000 income, was \$1,000 and the second largest in Williamsport. L. A. Ensworth, who paid the heaviest income tax in the borough in 1863, and stood first on the list of taxables, was required to give the government the sum of \$1,914.65 on an income quoted at \$38,293.

With the passing of Peter Herdic there was halted the consummation of what probably was the most gigantic scheme for the expansion and improvement of Williamsport that ever emanated from the always active brain of this man of big ideas. How the financial wizard would have built up and extended the city had not the Grim Reaper intervened is here unfolded.

Even at that early day in the history of the town Peter Herdic thought of city planning, which now is so popular. And, although development plans for expansion — and profit — in these progressive times are common and are put over, nothing quite so extensive and elaborate was ever designed for Williamsport before, or since, the reign of Herdic (1926)

Peter Herdic's scheme was nothing short of building up and improving on an extensive scale the entire northwestern section of the town, which at that period was outlying and undeveloped territory.

The Maynard farm of eighty acres was located in, and covered most of, this district. It was the aim of Herdic to transform this vast tract of farmland into a domain all his own — to virtually establish a separate community which later might become a part of the city.

He had already secured a charter and franchise for the erection of a waterworks system, a steam heating plant, gas and electric light works, all of which were to be operated from one center for the benefit of his city.

According to Herdic's plans, this projected commonwealth would have been run and controlled entirely independently of the city proper so far as water, light, heat, and similar conveniences, comforts and improvements were concerned.

The redoubtable Peter had intended to erect on the extensive plot a large number of dwellings that would rent for \$10 a month and upward. These houses would have covered the entire tract, with the exception of the spaces reserved for streets and manufacturing sites, and would have been replete with all the conveniences of the period, from the least expensive to the highest renting domiciles. The dwellings

also would have been for sale on easy terms to suit purchasers.

By such a wholesale building program Herdic would have been enabled, it was figured, to erect and furnish better homes, with all improvements, at much less cost to renters or purchasers than could possibly have been done by individuals working on a smaller scale. The estimated aggregate cost of this gigantic undertaking was upwards of \$1,000,000 — even in that period of comparatively low prices of materials and the charges for labor. Figured at today's rates, the total expenditure likely would have been a hundred percent greater (1926).

As Peter Herdic always recognized the fact that dwellings could not be rented or sold unless there was some attraction in the way of industries to bring people to the city, he had provided for all that. He had several large business schemes under way which would have been completed had he lived to have perfected his arrangements for their installation here. It was Herdic's idea to locate some big manufacturing concerns on this Maynard farmland, while others would have been installed in other sections of the town proper in locations where they would have been most convenient for shipping the manufactured products.

EDITORIALS

(From the September 5, 1870, *Gazette and Bulletin*)

"A few years ago there came to this (then little town) city a poor, but industrious, enterprising gentleman — a man of great foresight in business matters — a man of iron nerve and indomitable will, for he progressed successfully in whatever he undertook. He commenced the lumber business on a small scale — worked hard and faithfully — for the lumbering here at that time was yet in its infancy — that man continued to work faithfully and patiently, and by his hard earnings he succeeded in accumulating enough money to make a purchase of property. He succeeded by industry in "doing well" from day to day

and from year to year, until he was able to make large purchases of land and make large quantities of lumber. He continued to prosper and make purchases, for his sole object was to build up Williamsport, and with good intent, and an enterprising spirit, he went to work, sold lots, built houses, and gave poor men homes! He was the element — the spirit cause — of the rapid growth, and the great incentive that gave Williamsport all its prosperity — all its greatness — and all its glory. He has enhanced the value of every man's property — caused a spirit of improvement among all classes of citizens, and offered his bene-

volent hand to every one who needed help! Can anyone deny that the name of that gentleman is not Peter Herdic, Esq. He is the very man!

"And now a few discontents are clamoring loudly about high taxes. They have the worth of all their taxes in their property. They have been paid in the increased value of their property. Why complain? What city can improve without a just spirit of liberality? The debt of Williamsport is but a *flea bite*, in comparison to other cities, great or small. Why palsy the hand that raised us up? We are sorry to see this spirit of enmity and jealousy against our Mayor Herdic.

"The wanton neglect of the old graveyard opposite the old Methodist Church, is a hideous blot upon Williamsport. It blurs the fair escutcheon of her fame — it most witheringly disgraces and casts into the shade the bright record of her patriotism, her humanity, her justice, and her Christianity. This ground was given to Williamsport for a public graveyard — a burial place — to be used as such, *and for no other purpose*. Look at the condition of it now. Is this sacred spot of the honored dead to remain open and be used as a common receptacle for filth, a general cesspool, and for other purposes equally as disgraceful and shameful? We will now see who will first make the honorable effort to have it closed and repaired at once. More anon.

AN OLD RESIDENT"

(Peter Herdic was Williamsport's Mayor from October 12, 1869, to May 9, 1871.)

MR. HERDIC VINDICATED

(from the July 22, 1879, *Gazette and Bulletin*)

TO THE EDITOR: In Saturday's issue of the *Gazette and Bulletin* you copied an article from the New York *Sun*, headed "Peter Herdic's Course." (This article, dated July 19, 1879, appears under "RUMORS AND HEARSAY.") In it, the writer displays either entire ignorance of the facts, or a desire to mislead the public, by cir-

culating through the press statements having not the slightest foundation in truth. The object of the article, and of others of similar nature, which have appeared in various papers, and the persons who are thus attempting to manufacture public opinion, are well known to Mr. Herdic, and will at the proper time receive such attention as they deserve.

The correspondent says: "Herdic suddenly left Pennsylvania some months ago, and his whereabouts were for some time unknown. He was finally traced to Nassau." Mr. Herdic was suffering from an acute attack of catarrh of the throat and lungs, which confined him to his house for six weeks. During this time he was under the treatment of Dr. Hinkle, of Columbia, who visited him at regular intervals, and who advised him to go south and remain, where the temperature did not go below 60 degrees, until the winter here would admit of his safe return. Mr Herdic's condition was such that he was not able to undertake the journey until the 28th of December, when he went to Baltimore, remaining there two days. He then went to Norfolk, remaining there about two weeks — thence to Charleston, remaining there four or five weeks; thence to Colorado via New Orleans and the Mississippi River, reaching home on the 1st day of May. There was no mystery or attempt at concealment in regard to his movements, being in almost daily communication with his friends here, both through the mail and by telegraph, and the report that he was traced to Nassau was put in circulation for a malicious purpose.

The correspondent says: "It was understood that he had agreed to compromise the Elmira and other irregularities." I believe it is unusual to pronounce verdict before trial. No irregularities have yet been proved and none admitted by Mr. Herdic, and he has no compromise to make.

In regard to the Williamsport gas stock pledged by Mr. Herdic on the \$25,000 loan obtained at Elmira, the *Sun's* correspondent shows his entire ignorance of the facts by failing to make a single truthful statement in regard to the stock. Mr. Herdic's total liabilities are about \$1,000,-

000, and not \$2,000,000, as stated. This intelligent correspondent attempts to enlighten the public in regard to Mr. Herdic's speculations in real estate. He says he bought land at a low rate and built houses costing not more than \$3,500. These houses he would sell to irresponsible parties, taking in payment a mortgage for from \$15,000 to \$20,000, which mortgage he would sell in Philadelphia, and of course realize a large profit. The facts are, Mr. Herdic built a number of houses for sale, which he proposed selling on easy terms to any desiring homes. His object was to enhance the value of his real estate by having a desirable class of buildings erected. These houses cost from \$8,000 to \$12,000 each. They were sold on time, the purchaser giving a first mortgage for the cost of the house, and a second mortgage for the price of the lot on which the house was erected. The first mortgage Mr. Herdic sold to make good the money he had expended in building the house; the second mortgage he held — an enterprise commanding the respect of any intelligent businessman.

"Mr. Herdic built a church." True. "He paid the workmen in store orders." True in part. "He paid the merchants by giving his notes." True. "None of these were ever paid." False. Mr. Herdic, in the various branches of his extensive business, was giving employment to not less than 1,500 persons. It was the practice with many of our business establishments here to pay their labor in part with store orders. Mr. Herdic adopted the system to such an extent as he found convenient.

The *Sun's* correspondent must certainly have been taking something exhilarating. His imagination runs riot. He says Herdic paid a farmer \$12,000 for a farm in Bradford County, went to Philadelphia and mortgaged it for \$18,000, and came home and borrowed the \$12,000 he first paid for the farm, and in a few days failed, thus making \$30,000 by the little game. Herdic did *not* buy any real estate in Bradford County for at least three years prior to his failure. He did *not* raise any money in Philadelphia, or elsewhere, on mortgage of Bradford County property.

"Herdic started the Williamsport Pas-

senger railway." True. "He was the main shareholder." True. "He pledged his stock for a loan." Partly true. "The stock remained in his name on the books of the company." True, and according to sound business, "He leased the road to A. B. Middaugh." Not true. The passenger railway company leased their road to Middaugh by resolution of the board of directors. "The parties holding the stock in pledge, sold it, realizing only a small sum." Not true. The parties holding the stock in pledge offered it at public sale, they becoming the purchasers.

"The city of Williamsport was bankrupted by the failure of Herdic, and hundreds of people are ruined." That is a bad statement for a sober man to make. The people who were ruined by Mr. Herdic's failure are the workingmen who are thrown out of employment, being no longer able to find work.

As certain parties in this city have suggested that if Mr. Herdic would pay them a certain amount of money, this persecution would be stopped, and he allowed to go about his business unmolested, it is easy to see from whence this stream of abuse arises, and the spirit that prompts it.

PETER HERDIC

December 14, 1824 — March 2, 1888
(from the March 3, 1888, *Gazette and Bulletin*)

The announcement of the death of Peter Herdic was a great surprise to the people of Williamsport, as only a few days ago he was apparently in excellent health, and in the full flush and vigor of manhood. It is hard to write about this remarkable man, for he was indeed remarkable in many respects. His history, as briefly sketched elsewhere, reads like a romance. Born in humble circumstances, and subjected to the rude buffetings of the world, he gradually rose from an untutored boy to the elevation of a millionaire, and carved his name on the history of a city. Endowed with an indomitable will and spirit that was ever restless in life, he never quailed in the face of adversity. His boldness and dash carried him over difficulties that would have swamped the majority of men, and enabled

him to succeed where others would have failed. What he did for Williamsport is apparent to all. He found it a straggling borough; he lived to see it a magnificent inland city of thirty thousand inhabitants. His business operations when he was at the height of his career, were so vast as to cause many men to stand amazed. He made a fortune and then saw it swept away without being daunted in spirit. Had he been permitted to live five years longer, he would probably have been a millionaire again. His ambition was unlimited, and his mind was ever progressive and full of resource. No disaster dampened his ardor. He was always ready to go to work and restore

what had been destroyed. Eminently social in disposition, he could be approached by the humble as well as the great. He was quick to act, and when he gave it was without reserve. This is not the time and place to analyze his character, or to speak of his motives. His public donations were often munificent, and his private charities were many and unknown. That he started Williamsport on the high road to prosperity and wealth, few will deny; and that his virtues were greater than his faults, we think all will admit. There are thousands in Williamsport who will sorrowfully and sincerely mourn the death of Peter Herdic.

OBITUARY

The death of Peter Herdic occurred at ten o'clock in the morning of March 2, 1888, in the Glenham Hotel in New York City, where his wife had been spending the winter and where she had joined her husband some three weeks previous.

Herdic had gone to New York on a business trip. Shortly after his arrival there he was taken seriously ill, and in spite of all that medical skill could do he gradually grew worse until the end. The best and most expert physicians in the metropolis were called into consultation in the case, but the great businessman — the man who once had dominated over the destinies of a city — was beyond earthly aid.

Peter Herdic's death was the result of a fall at Huntingdon, Pa., several weeks before his passing. He had gone to Huntingdon to look after his waterworks system there, and had slipped on the ice, falling down an embankment and injuring his head and hip severely. The accident occurred February 2, 1888.

He came home after the accident, and, according to his brother-in-law, James W. Maynard, did not call a doctor, continuing to attend to his business affairs, although suffering.

"Peter wouldn't have a doctor," Mr. Maynard said. "One day he came to me pretty

sick. He was suffering from nausea, but said that he had to go to New York on business just the same. After he had recovered somewhat from the attack of nausea, he took the train that same day for New York, and never got back alive."

The remains of Peter Herdic arrived home the day following his death, and there was much sorrow in the town. The people realized that Williamsport had lost its foremost citizen, and that there was no other man at the moment to take his place in the community. Everywhere there was gloom, and the whole town went into mourning, for the man who in his lifetime had done so much for the city and its inhabitants.

Peter Herdic was survived by his wife, who died some years later, and by three children — Flora, Peter, and Henry Maynard Herdic. Peter (1926) with his family is living near Canton, Pa., and Henry is a resident of Williamsport.

"Peter might have lived," said Mr. Maynard in discussing the death of his brother-in-law. "Yes, Peter Herdic might have survived his accident had he had a doctor at once after his injury at Huntingdon, but he refused to see a physician. When he took sick in the Glenham Hotel in New York, a Dr. Sequin was called in, but then it

was too late and nothing could be done to save his life. Peter knew his skull was fractured, or badly injured, but still he wouldn't see a doctor about it. Dr. Sequin at once discovered the cause of Peter's serious illness."

An autopsy held on Herdic's body in New York by four noted surgeons disclosed that death had resulted from the accident at Huntingdon. There was complete paralysis of the right side, while the opposite side of the head was thickly clotted with blood on the interior of the skull.

While Peter was yet alive in New York, the doctors talked of trephining his skull to relieve the pressure on the brain, but his condition was too serious to attempt this operation. He couldn't have lived through the ordeal.

The New York doctors couldn't understand how Herdic had lived for several weeks following such a serious injury, and in a rational state of mind. They evidently didn't know Peter Herdic as the people of Williamsport knew him. They had no idea that he had a most wonderful brain.

The body of Peter Herdic was buried from Trinity Episcopal Church, of which he was a member. It was fitting that the last sad rites should be performed in the church he had built and presented to the parish. Services conducted by the rector, the Rev. George C. Foley, were held in the church at three o'clock in the afternoon of March 5. Interment was made in Wildwood Cemetery (in the Maynard family plot), and the obsequies were attended by a great crowd of mourners.

At the request of Mayor William N. Jones, on the day of the funeral the business houses of the town were closed between the hours of two and five in the afternoon. As Peter Herdic was an ex-mayor of Williamsport, Mayor Jones took this action out of respect to the memory of the dead former chief executive. Peter Herdic's funeral lay was one of the saddest in the history of Williamsport.

(from the March 5, 1888, *Daily Gazette and Bulletin*)

MR. HERDIC'S FUNERAL IT WILL TAKE PLACE FROM TRINITY CHURCH

A Timely Request by Mayor Jones for the
Close of Business — Tributes of Respect
to Deceased —

The Cause of Death

The remains of Mr. Herdic arrived in the city Saturday evening, having come from New York by the Reading Railroad. They were accompanied by his wife, her sister, Mrs. Brooks, and Harry Herdic, youngest child of deceased. A hearse and carriages were waiting, and the body was at once taken to the family residence on West Fourth Street. Many friends were present to receive the mourners and console with them in their deep affliction. There have been many expressions of sorrow received from friends both at home and abroad over the sad event, and the general opinion of the community is that a great loss has been sustained. In recognition of this fact Mayor Jones makes the following appropriate request:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

March 3, 1888.

The funeral of the late Peter Herdic, a former Mayor of Williamsport, will take place on Monday, March 5, at 3 o'clock p.m., and it being the judgment and desire of a large number of our prominent citizens, that the business places should close for a time on the day of the funeral, I hereby request of, and recommend to, the business men of Williamsport, that they close their respective places of business Monday afternoon between the hours of 2 and 5 o'clock. Such a mark of respect is justly due one who has not only held the highest office of the municipality, but who, for a long period of years, was a prominent factor in the development of the city.

WILLIAM N. JONES, Mayor

WILL CLOSE THEIR STORE

The following announcement is made by one extensive firm already:

Our store will be closed today between the hours of 2 and 5 o'clock p.m. out of

THE FUNERAL

According to arrangements the funeral of Mr. Herdic will take place at 3 o'clock this afternoon from Trinity Church, of which he was a member. It is appropriate that the solemn services should be held in the church which he erected and presented to the congregation. After the services are over the cortege will move to Wildwood, where the remains will be laid in the family burying ground. There will undoubtedly be a large attendance, as there are hundreds not only anxious to pay their last respects to the dead, but to look upon his face once more before the grave closes over it.

THE CAUSE OF DEATH

After giving the account of the death of Mr. Herdic at New York last week, the *World* of Saturday morning says: An autopsy, made by Dr. Colin McKenzie and Drs. Stevenson and Draper revealed that the immediate cause of death was a clot of blood on the brain, the right side of which was completely suffused. This was caused by the rupture of a blood vessel when Mr. Herdic slipped on the ice, about seven weeks since, while he was superintending the construction of water works at Huntingdon, Pa., and fell over an embankment, receiving a severe contusion of the head. No serious results were apparent at the time, although he was laid up for a few days, but about four weeks afterwards paralysis of the entire right side was developed, and he was removed to New York for medical treatment on February 13. He has been under the care of Dr. McKenzie. Sunday last he became unconscious, and remained so until Friday morning.

REMARKS BY THE PRESS

Harrisburg Independent: The death of Peter Herdic, the famous lumber operator, and speculator in wide ranges of business, will be heard with regret by his thousands of friends and acquaintances in Pennsylvania. He was a remarkable man; of magnificent force of character and while lacking mental culture, had a brain vigor and a personal activity which enabled him to overcome disaster and convert unfavorable

respect to the memory of the late ex-mayor Peter Herdic, the virtual creator of our prosperous city, whose funeral will take place at that time.

F. H. KELLER & CO.

ACTION OF TRINITY CHURCH

At a meeting of the vestry of Trinity Church held March 4th, 1888, to take action upon the death of Peter Herdic, the following minute and resolutions were presented and adopted:

WHEREAS, The Vestry of Trinity Church have learned with deep regret of the death of Peter Herdic, for many years an active and efficient member of said vestry; and desire that some official recognition should be had of his connection with said Parish and record thereof made. Therefore be it resolved:

That Trinity Church Parish is under a lasting debt of gratitude to Peter Herdic and to his memory, in that as one of the original promoters of said Parish he was at all times ready with word and work, and with open-handed liberality to do all within his power to place said Parish on a firm and lasting foundation from its inception; and during many years contributed largely to its financial support.

That it is due to his exceeding generosity that the Parish is to-day possessed of the beautiful and complete house of worship by him entirely erected, finished and furnished, wherein the poor have a church home, and can have the gospel preached to them without money and without price.

That we tender to the family and friends of the deceased our earnest and heartfelt sympathy in this their hour of sudden bereavement and affliction, praying that the God of all comfort will so minister unto them that their sorrow may be turned to gladness and their mourning into rejoicing, through that peace which cometh to all who love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

That the vestry attend the burial services in a body.

That this action of the vestry be spread at large upon the records.

GEORGE C. FOLEY, Rector
JAUDON SMITH, Secretary

circumstances into means of success which would have crushed ordinary men. He did some splendid acts of benevolence and made his mark in public affairs in Pennsylvania that will keep his name remembered for a long time.

Renovo *Daily News*: Peter Herdic, the remarkable Williamsport lumberman, died at New York yesterday. His death was a sudden and unexpected one, and was a surprise to everyone. Few men more remarkable than Peter Herdic ever existed. He made Williamsport what it is more than any other ten men who ever lived there.

(from the March 3, 1888, *Daily Gazette and Bulletin*)

By his second wife, Mr. Herdic had two sons, who survive him. One of them, Peter Herdic, Jr., sailed for San Francisco via Cape Horn last Fall, and has not more than completed his voyage by this time. The other, Harry, is at school at Reading.

Just what is left in Williamsport to remind its citizens of this great man? For one thing, there is Herdic Street (not much more than an alley) which runs between Park and Louisa Streets, one block west of Campbell Street. Then there is the Peter Herdic Housing Project on Erie Ave-

nue which provides living quarters for thirty-six families under the able supervision of Mr. P. D. Mitchell. And then there are several doggerel verses which school children are apt to utter when they hear the chimes of Trinity Episcopal Church. And that is all. When one considers all that this man did for Williamsport and its inhabitants, it is truly a shameful situation. Naturally he made enemies in his odd ways of doing business and in his political machinations, but he also made many friends. However, as was the case with Caesar:

"The evil that men do live after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones."

Act III, Sene II, *Julius Caesar*

(*Editor's Note: There was a strong temptation to add "conclusion" to this second part of "The Story of Peter Herdic." However, your editor feels this is not the end of the story, that further details regarding Peter Herdic will turn up as time goes by. The attempt has been made to present as completely and accurately as possible the events in the life of Mr. Herdic. Each and every correction and addition our readers can offer will be greatly appreciated and they will be published in future issues of the Journal.*)

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- Notes On Peter Herdic -

If anyone in Peter Herdic's family was out of work or needed financial assistance, they immediately went to Peter for help — and they were never turned down.

Since all records of the United States District Court (Eastern District of Pennsylvania) prior to 1900 were transferred sometime ago to the National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C., we have been unable to secure any information relative to the bankruptcy proceedings of Peter Herdic.

The white house, two doors west of the Museum, at 878 West 4th Street, was built by Peter Herdic for his expert accountant and bookkeeper, Hermon Hinckley. (Information provided by Mrs. Carl Herdic.)

Peter Herdic was a man who did things and who could not have been kept down; and, looking back over his career in the light of history, it is well to minimize the few faults which he possessed and magnify those splendid qualities of mind and heart which were given so unselfishly to the material good of the fair city of Williamsport. The day should come when a monument will be erected to his memory — a shaft that shall commemorate his many virtues and remain as a reminder for all time of how much the city owes of its prosperity to the genius and devotion of Peter Herdic. (Lloyd's "History of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania", Volume I.)

It is related of Herdic that once when a man came to him with his troubles, saying that he could not sleep because of the debts he owed, and that many a night he walked the floor, the wise Peter remarked: "Don't worry! You go to bed and forget it. Let the other fellow walk the floor."

OUR MUSEUM GIFT SHOP FEATURES

Roesen Note Paper

Rock Jewelry by Maggi

Bicentennial Note Paper

Stationery by Current, Inc.

Crafts by Penna. Guild of Craftsmen

“Reflections of a Country Boy”

by Dr. L. M. Hoffman

1974 Reprint of “History of Lycoming County”

by J. F. Meginness (20 copies left)

1975 Reprint of Stewart’s “History of Lycoming County”
and Pomeroy’s “Atlas of Lycoming County, Pa.”

Antique Printing Blocks

“Logging Railroad Era of Lumbering in Pennsylvania”

by Thomas T. Taber, Volumes 1 to 13

“Gold Star Men and Women of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania”
(World War 1914 - 1918)

Books on Indians, Fossils, Pa. History,
Pa. Canals, etc.

LYCOMING COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

LYCOMING COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

OPERATING STATEMENT

April 1, 1974 to March 31, 1975

Checking Account - April 1, 1974 \$ 4,485.76

RECEIPTS

Membership Dues - Individuals	\$ 4,879.00	
Industrial	100.00	
Admissions to Museum	789.19	
Lycoming County Commissioners	6,000.00	
Williamsport Area School District	4,000.00	
City of Williamsport	1,000.00	
Wmsport. Area School District - Title III Funds	1,500.00	
Rentals - Meeting Room	410.00	
E.S.E.A. - Title I - Arts Centre	1,325.00	
Museum Gift Shop - Income in excess of Expense	2,459.07	
Dinners & Bus Trips - Income in excess of Expense	429.05	
Interest and Dividends	866.91	
Bldg. Fund - Pledge payment	500.00	
Other - Contributions, Pay Telephone and Misc.	626.11	
Grit Publishing Company	6,500.00	
	<u>31,384.33</u>	
FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$35,870.09

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$17,325.00	
Social Security Taxes	1,339.34	
Blue Cross - Blue Shield	410.54	
Insurance	1,458.20	
Printing Journals	768.50	
Office Supplies, Postage and Telephone	1,429.59	
Power, Light and Water	3,980.72	
Heating - Fuel Oil and Repairs	2,152.71	
Bldg. - Cleaning, Supplies and Repairs	824.00	
Other - Dues, Exhibit Exp., Traveling and Misc.	679.81	
	<u>30,368.41</u>	
Excess of Funds over Expenses		\$ 5,501.68

Non-Operating Additions and Other Credits

A/C's Payable - increase	\$ 185.74	
Historic Sites Books sold	225.14	
Stewart History Books sold	3,493.45	
Deferred Income	200.00	
	<u>\$ 4,104.33</u>	
		\$ 9,606.01

Non-Operating Deductions and Other Debits

Gift Shop Inventory - increase	\$ 363.66	
Equipment purchased	145.43	
Title III - Carriage House	135.00	
Deposit - Sept. Bus Trip Reservation	50.00	
Grit Publishing Co. - Advanced January 1974	5,000.00	
	<u>\$ 5,694.09</u>	
CHECKING ACCOUNT - BALANCE March 31, 1975		\$ 3,911.92

LYCOMING COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

BALANCE SHEET

March 31, 1975

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Checking A/C - Fidelity Nat'l Bank of Penna.	\$ 3,911.92	
Savings A/C - Wmsport. Nat'l Bank - Artifacts sold	896.98	
Gift Shop Inventory	1,022.38	
Deposit - Bus Trip Reservation	50.00	
Petty Cash - Change Accounts	80.00	
		\$ 5,961.28

TRUST FUNDS INVESTED

Federal Home Loan Bank 8.05% Bond	\$10,125.00	
First Federal Savings & Loan - Jr. Historians	2,186.43	
First Federal S. & Loan	2,304.21	
110 - shares of Affiliated Fund	990.00	
2 - shares Consolidated Cigar	60.00	
12 - shares Sun Oil Common Stock	828.75	
		\$ 16,494.39

FIXED and OTHER ASSETS

Land	\$ 15,000.00	
Building - Architect	18,034.98	
General Contract	233,952.55	
Heating and Ventilating	50,324.00	
Electrical	19,739.38	
Furniture, Fixtures and Other Bldg. Equipment	6,504.81	
Display Equipment, Cases, Material, etc.	20,068.91	
Victorian Period Parlor	4,762.04	
Artifacts	69,271.63	
		\$437,658.30
TOTAL ASSETS		\$460,113.97

LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCE

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,190.51	
Historic Sites Books and Deferred Income	425.14	
Title III - Carriage House	275.99	
Stewart History Books sold	3,493.45	
		\$ 5,385.09

FUND BALANCE

454,728.88

TOTAL LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCE

\$460,113.97

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The Museum Gift Shop profit of \$2,459.07 includes about \$1,200.00 profit made on the sale of the Meginness' reprints. The remaining copies of this edition, received from the printer in April, should provide an additional profit of \$400.00.

A similar profit is expected during the current fiscal year from the sale of the Stewart History reprints.