

# Gretna Chronicles NEWSLETTER



Summer Edition 2005

#### BELLS ARE RINGING

Bells have been used for many centuries for many purposes -- for mass communication, for putting sailors to work on shipboard, for calling the maid to clear the table -- and the residents of Mt Gretna have become used to the Playhouse bell calling theater audiences to their seats. In the Campmeeting the Tabernacle bell, for more than a century, has announced the beginning of a worship service or program.



Photo by Merv Lentz
The Tabernacle bell hangs in a small tower
atop the "office" portion of the building.

It may perhaps come as something of a surprise to Chautauquans to learn that a specific schedule for bell ringing was published in their daily newspaper, *Pennsylvania Chautauquan*. The schedule provides an insight into how summer visitors to Chautauqua spent their days (and evenings).

#### BELLS

The bell at the Auditorium will be rung daily, except of Saturday and Sunday, as follows:

#### Forenoon

- 8.00 Recitation
- 8.45 Recitation
- 9.20
- 9.30 {Chapel
- 9.45 Half Hour Talk in C.L.S.C. Building
- 10.15 Recitation
- 11.00 Recitation
- 11.45 Recitation

#### Afternoon

- 12.30 Dinner
- 1.45 Recitation
- 2.30 Recitation
- 3.15
- 3.25 (Afternoon Lecture
- 7.45
- 8.00 {Evening Lecture
- 10.15 Closing of the Gates

From this schedule, it appears that Chautauquans were given a little respite during the late afternoon and early evening hours. And the long nighttime silence must have been welcomed by any light sleepers It seems that the days (except for Saturdays and Sundays) were busy ones; study time, being an individual requirement, was not indicated by any additional bell ringing.





In the Campmeeting, the story is probably the same, but we know less about it. No bell schedule seems to have survived, but a 1902 minute indicates that Rev William Beach was paid two dollars "for his services as bell ringer." Some programs from the Summer Assembly days have survived and give the full schedule of daily classes and services; the assumption that ringing the bell announced each one is probably valid.

The Tabernacle bell, pictured on page 1, was cast in Philadelphia by J Wilbank in 1838 and was valued at \$50 on an 1896 inventory of Campmeeting assets. Members of the Association apparently brought the bell with them when they made the 1892 move from the original Stoverdale Campeeting grounds.

#### A RAILROAD TOWN?

Does anyone think of Mt Gretna as a "railroad town"? The idea is not as far fetched as it may seem today, considering the Robert Coleman legacy.

Mt Gretna was a creation of the C&L Railroad: the park and picnic grove were there to provide a destination for the good people of Lebanon; and the excellent service from Lebanon persuaded the Farmers' Alliance to hold their annual meetings here, just as it must have been a factor in the National Guard's decision to make Mt Gretna the site of their annual summer encampments.

Nearly all the Mt Gretna attractions required good train service, which was indeed supplied by the Cornwall and Lebanon Railroad. And for the convenience of Chautauqua visitors, the daily *Pennsylvania Chautauquan* published the train schedules.

In the summer of 1905 these schedules showed that on a daily basis nine trains arrived in Mt Gretna from Lebanon and seven from Conewago. That made 16 trains coming into Mt Gretna each day. And since what came in had to go out, there was a total of 32 daily "train events" - arrivals and departures between 6:08a.m.and 9:55p.m. In addition, there was also the huffing and puffing of the Narrow Gauge Railroad, as it chugged from the Park to the lake and hotel, passing the rifle range and climbing on to Governor Dick. No wonder some of the summer folks wanted relief on Sundays!



Photo: Mt Gretna Area Historical Society

When the noise of the train bells and whistles is added to the intermittent pealing of the Tabernacle bell and the scheduled sounding of the Chautauqua bell, one has to wonder about the "peace and quiet" found by visitors.

#### SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

The most visible activities of the Society since the publication of the first Newsletter have been the series of programs it has sponsored for the public.

On June 20, Michael Trump spoke to an attentive audience of 95 interested





# 101 Years Ago

The items on this pull-out sheet have been selected from some of the 1904 issues of The Pennsylvania Chautauguan and are reproduced directly from the paper. The paper was published daily during the Chautauqua "season," and monthly during the rest of the year. A stack of these papers was recently found in the Hall of Philosophy and is now in the collections of the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society.

# To-Night in the Auditorium SONG RECITAL

# Mrs. Russell King Miller

Mrs. Miller wiil be remembered by many citizens as the charming Miss Emily Myers, reared from orphan girlhood and her young womanhood in Lebanon. She is gifted, as very many persons here well know, with a finely cultured voice. The Chautauqua management has made a particularly happy selection in having Mrs. Miller give the recital, and a large audience is anticipated, in view of previous excellent entertainments in which Mrs. Miller prominently figured.

### The Program

The following program will be rendered:

| The following program with the telester.   |
|--|
| Reminiscences of Mountain and Ford Edvard Grieg  (a) Prologue.  (b) Joan.  (c) Ragna.                      |
| (a) Temple Bells Amy Finden (b) Till I Wake. (c) Where Corals Lie  |
| (d) Serenade Widor (e) Myra J. C. Clutsam  |
| Aria. La Cieca Pouchielli  |
| (a) SpringtideEdwin Greene(b) Ich Grolle NichtSchumann(c) IrmaB. O. Klein(d) Spinning SongOld German       |
| (a) Two Sisters of BinnorieArthur Somervell(b) Mr. Dream-makerR. H. Woodman(c) The Kerry DanceJ. L. Molloy |
| (a) Over the Sea   |
| Miriam's Song of Triumph   |

#### Arrival and Departure of Mails Mount Gretna, Pa., Post Office

Office opens 7 a. m., closes 7.30 p. m.

MAILS LEAVE OFFICE.

6.30 a. m., for Philadelphia, New York, and the East and West.

7.30 a. m., Lebanon.

10.20 a. m., Philadelphia and the East.

1.30 p. m., Harrisburg and the West.

4.00 p. m., Lebanon.

6.50 p. m., all points.

MAILS ARRIVE AT OFFICE.

8.00 a. m., all points.

10.45 a. m., Lebanon.

1 00 p. m., all points.

4.30

7.15

Sunday hours, 9 a. m. to 10 a. m.

#### **BUSINESS MEMBERS**

We especially appreciate the support of the following local business firms and ask that you support them as you have need of their products or services.

The Jigger Shop

A Summer Tradition since 1895 - Mt Gretna Le Sorelle

Serving lunch and breakfast - Mt Gretna

La Cigale

"From Provence to You" - Mt Gretna

Remember When

An Unusual Gift Shop - Mt Gretna

**Designer Window Fashions** 

Blinds and Window Treatments - Mt Gretna

Mount Gretna Realty

Serving all your real estate needs

**Roland Nissley Architects** 

Architectural Services in Mt Gretna

Thomas Harlan Esquire

Legal services in Mt Gretna and Lebanon

Chef on the Go

Catering your event from Mt Gretna **Buch Church Organ Company** Custom built church organs - Ephrata





#### 101 Years Ago

#### Miss Hark Receives

On Saturday evening, July 30, Miss Hark tendered an informal reception to Miss Longacre, of New York, who has been visiting her since Tuesday of last week. The evening was passed in a very enjoyable manner; after refreshments were served the time was spent in games.

Among those present were the Misses Schaeffer, the Misses Schock, Miss Ethel Easton, Miss Evaline Heritage, Miss Louise Kerper, Miss Hark, and Messrs. George Mease, John Schaeffer, Raymond Bevan, H. Eckert Wanner, John Schock, Dean Capp, Henry C. Edgar, John S. Cochrun, and J. Pentrata Bill.

#### Lost, Strayed, or Stolen

The large Russian Wolf hound belonging to Dr. Max Hark. The animal disappeared on Wednesday evening. Any information as to its whereabouts will be received gladly.

#### It Pays to Advertise in the Chautauguan

That it pays to advertise in our little paper is evident from the fact that almost every lost article advertised in THE CHAUTAUOUAN is sooner or later restored to the owner. Indeed sometimes all that is necessary is to give the notice to the editor, a proceeding that seems to have magical efficiency. For example, the lost hound of Dr. Max Hark, advertized as lost, strayed. or stolen returned home very promptly, somewhat the worse for wear, it is true, but otherwise undamaged almost immediately after the type announced his being lost. Moral: Advertise in The Chau-TAUQ 'AN.

# A WEEK'S PROGRAM

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

- 9.45 A. M.—"Nature in the Book of 10.30 A. M.—Divine services, with ser-Job," half hour talk, by Schmucker.
- 3.00 P. M.—Recognition Day exercises. 3.30 P. M.—Sunday school. 4.00 P. M.-Lecture, by Dr. Schmucker: "Down Through the Past."
- 5.30 P. M.-C. L. S. C. Alumni banquet.
- 7.30 P. M .- The American Vitagraph Company.

#### THURSDAY, JULY 28

- 9.45 A. M.-"Christ and Nature," half hour talk, by Dr. S. C. Schmucker. 3.30 P. M.-Lecture, by Prof. F. S. Ed-
- 3.30 P. M.—"What a Chicken Can Teach Us," lecture by Schmucker.
- 7.30 P. M.—Concert, Mrs. Russell King 7.30 P. M.—Illustrated lecture by Prof. Miller.
- 9.00 P. M.-Initiation of C. L. S. C. Class of 1904.

#### FRIDAY, JULY 29

- 9.45 A. M.-"A Hebrew Pastoral," half hour talk, by Dr. S. C. Schmucker.
- 3.30 P. M.—Lecture, by Dr. Schmucker: "The Humming Bird's History."
- 7.30 P. M .- Music, by the Chautauqua Chorus. Lecture by Dr. Eugene May. Sub-Bishop ject: "Come Up Smiling." Kephard says: "His descriptive powers are marvelous. Hear him; he is most worthy.'

#### SATURDAY, JULY 30

- 9.45 A. M.-Half hour address, by Dr. Eugene May, Washington, D. C.
- 3.30 P. M.-Lecture, by Dr. Eugene May: "The Land of Shillalah and Shamrock-Ireland, From Cork to Causeway."
- 7.30 P. M.—Illustrated lecture, by Prof. J. J. Redway, on "Volcanoes." "Prof. Redway is a noted author, thor of the Natural Geographies."

#### SUNDAY, JULY 31

- "Glimpses of Paul in Rome."
  P. M Sun 3
- 7.30 P. M.-Divine service, with sermon by Rev. J. Max Hark, D.D., Principal of Young Ladies' Seminary, Bethlehem, Pa.

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 1

- 9.45 A. M.-Half hour talk, by Prof. J. J. Redway, on Geographical Topics.
- monds, Central High School of Philadelphia.
  - Subject, "The Expansion of Russia."
- J. J. Redway, on "The Rocky Mountains." "Of great interest to teachers and students of geog-

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

- 9.45 A. M.-Half hour address on the Teaching of Geography, by Prof. J. J. Redway.
- 3.30 P. M.—Lecture, by Prof. F. S. Edmonds.
  - Subject: "The Canal Problem."
- 7.30 P. M.-Music, by the Chautauqua Chorus.
  - Lecture on the Moral Quality of Wealth, by Hon. W. U. Hensel, former Attorney General of Pennsylvania.

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

- 9.45 A. M.-Half hour address. By Prof. J. Max Hark, D. D.: 'Education -What for?"
- 3.30 P. M.-Domestic Science, by Miss I. C. Belden. Class of children making milk biscuit.
- traveller and lecturer. He is au- 7.30 P. M .- The Saxophone Quartette and Soloists.

The Chautauqua Inn is open for the season of 1904.

A. B. SCOTT.

- Call at THE CHAUTAUQUAN Office and secure souvenir postal cards of Mount Gretna.
- Have a photograph taken of your cottage or of yourself and friends, to take with you as a souvenir of your stay at Mount Gret na. Call at CHAUTAUQUAN Office.





listeners in Freeman Hall at Cornwall Manor. His topic was **The History of Cornwall**, and on the following day he led a smaller but deeply interested group on a short walking tour, using the Rail Trail to view sites of several of the Cornwall iron furnaces.

Two days later, Chris Resh introduced a group of playground children to some **Victorian Games**, to the delight and surprise of the children.

On June 24, in a talk co-sponsored with the Chautauqua Summer Program, Jack Bitner presented the history of the **Mt Gretna Narrow Gauge Railroad** to a crowd of 95 people.

On the hot and humid evening of July 16, more than 50 interested people met in the Campmeeting Tabernacle for a program on **Early Days in the**Campmeeting, co-sponsored with the Heritage Festival and presented by Tom Meredith.

Among the other less visible but nonetheless important activities of the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society is the continuing cataloging of items by Deborah Hurst. The **Oral History Project**, is moving along. Small tape recorders have been acquired and guidelines have been developed for the interviewers.

Anyone wishing to participate in this program, either as in interviewer or interviewee (anyone with long term memories of the Mt Gretna area) should contact Jack Anderson (964-1975) or Tom Mayer (964-1987).

Membership Chairman Betty Miller is actively seeking new members. Anyone interested in joining the Society should contact her.

#### KAUFMAN'S STORE

One of the fondest recollections of a great many people is the presence of Mr Kaufman's store "over in the Heights." How many of those with such recollections know that Abraham Lincoln Kaufman for one summer operated the store on the Campmeeting grounds? That was in 1923, and it is possible that Campmeeting restrictions on Sunday sales were the incentive for Mr Kaufman to open his own store, on his own property.

# Cornwall and Lebanon Railroad

DIRECT ROUTE FOR ALL POINTS ON THE

Time Table, In effect July 7, 1894.

### Pennsylvania Railroad

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| 7 23          | ١     |      | 2 (0  | 10 48        | 9 20      |              | 6 15          | Bellaire     | ••••  | 7 81           | 38 [       | 2 25  | 2 20  | 4 03  |           | 8 Ct         |       |
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All trains on C. & L. R. R. daily except Sunday. Tickets for all Western points. Baggage checked through. Trip mileage tickets sold at all stations to persons holding Penn'a R. R. mileage books. For farther information see the time tables at all offices of this and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.





Anniversary The cottage at 507 2nd Street in the Campmeeting, owned by the same family for 100 years, will celebrate its anniversary later this summer.

#### The School of Domestic Science

The school of domestic science, under the direction of Miss I. C. Belden, has been a decided success. During the last weeks of the term a new class was organized. has been composed of six young ladies, several of whom come by train. This class has been reciting daily.

In all there have been nearly forty pupils taking work in this department. The ladies taking the teachers' course finished their work by preparing, in Rorer Hall, as a part of their examination, a meal or luncheon.

#### ADS from the PAST

These ads are reprinted just as they appeared in *The* Pennsylvania Chautauguan on August 4, 1904..

## JOHN H. CILLEY,

Lebanon, Pa.

#### Contractor and Builder.

#### Auditoriums a Specialty

IF 'Architect and Builder of Penna. Chautauqua Auditorium

Also, Mt. Lake Park, Allentown Acoustic Properties Perfect

## FOR SALE!

#### 9-Room Chautauqua Cottage No. 45

¹ rice as it stands (some personal effects excepted \$1,240.0. Located on 1½ lot about 57 fect front and 60 feet deep on Lafayette Avenue, near the medicinal spring.

La ge rustic porch on front and two sides with numerous rockers and hammock

near the medicinal spring. La ge rustie porch on front aud two sides with numerous rockers and hammoek

Lower floor—Sitting room with double swinging doors on three sides: bedroom, with double bed and extra door opening on porch; dining room, with new refrigorator and necessary dishes, etc.; kitchen, with running water, contains numerous shelves, and large blue flame (3 light) Kerosene; also combination wood and coal stove. A dumbwaiter lowers entables into a small stone cellar.

Upper floor—Geiled front bedroom, with dou ble iron bed and five closets, four of which have locks for storing bedding, etc.; two side bedrooms, each with double bed and closet, and ventilated by hinged gable windows; servant's bedroom, with two cots; also bathroom, with toilet and washbasin, and every room having separate entrance to the hall. All doors and windows are screened.

Cottage is completely furnished for use by a large family and can be seen by appointment during August After that address

E. G. SOLTMANN,

