

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

## UNIONTOWN'S CENTENNIAL—UNIONTOWN'S OLD HOME COMING.

Uniontown as a borough was one hundred years old April 4, 1896, and early in that year the press of the town began agitating a movement for the celebration of the occasion.

An organization was effected by the election of Honorable Nathaniel Ewing, president; D. M. Hertzog, secretary; Bruce F. Sterling, assistant secretary; M. H. Bowman, treasurer. The chairmen of the different committees constituted the executive committee, and was composed of the following gentlemen: T. B. Searight, speaker; Thomas R. Wakefield, music; D. M. Hertzog, finance; G. S. Harah, decorations; S. L. Mestrezat, invitations; O. J. Sturgis, curios; S. E. Ewing, processions; S. M. Baily, chief marshal; W. H. Playford, transportation; W. C. McCormick, advertising; Harry Beeson, road races; O. J. Sturgis, program; Lewis Williams, fireworks. Amos M. Jolliffe was placed in charge of the curios.

The date of the celebration was set for July 3rd and 4th, and the following speakers were secured for the occasion: Rev. A. A. Lambing LL.D, "Points on the Early History of the Headwaters of the Ohio;" Hon. Edward Campbell, "Our Local History;" Rev. J. R. Wightman, "Religious Influence;" Rev. T. N. Boyle, D. D., "The Army and the Navy;" R. H. Lindsey, "The Day and the Occasion;" Mrs. H. S. Clark, "Centennial Ode." The Grand Stand was erected on Fayette street at the mouth of South Beeson avenue from which the speaking took place.

The entertainments comprised salutes by Battery B of Pittsburgh; Bicycle Races; Fireworks; Parades; Band Concerts; Sham Battle by Military Companies; Balloon Ascension, and the Curio Department.

The Public Fountain, the gift of the W. C. T. U. and the Ys, was dedicated by addresses by Mrs. E. D. C. Mair, Miss Puella Dornblazer and H. L. Robinson. The fountain was presented by Mrs. H. F. Detwiler on behalf of the W. C. T. U. and the Ys, and was accepted by J. V. Thompson, president of the town council, as representative of the borough.

Jacob Baker, who was born near Uniontown March 13, 1792, and who had passed the one hundred and fourth milestone of his long journey through life, was the honored guest of the town during this celebration. Main street was beautifully arched, and gorgeously and profusely decorated, and brilliantly illuminated with electric lights. It was estimated that sixty thousand people were in attendance, and the best of order and good feeling prevailed. The amount of the subscriptions, which met all the requirements, was only \$2,171.90.

#### UNIONTOWN'S OLD HOME COMING.

The movement for an Old Home Coming was inaugurated at a banquet given at the Hotel Titlow on Thursday night, April 25, 1912, which was attended by about fifty men prominent in the business interests of the town.

Honorable Edmund H. Reppert was introduced as chairman of the meeting. A number of gentlemen announced that they were in happy accord with the movement and promised their hearty support in its furtherance. The feeling of greatest harmony and enthusiasm pervaded the meeting.

Chairman Reppert announced that he would call a meeting for permanent organization in the near future, which was done. Daniel W. McDonald was chosen as chairman of the committee on permanent organization. A public meeting was held at the court house May 23rd, at which James R. Cray was chosen president of the organization, Frank M. Semans, Jr., treasurer and Charles W. Baer, secretary. The report of the committee on permanent organization, of which Daniel W. McDonald was chairman, was read and approved. The president of the organization, together with the chairmen of the different committees, constituted the executive committee.

The chairmen of the different committees were as follows: James Hadden, invitation; Mart A. Kiefer, program; Nathaniel Ewing, speakers; Frank M. Semans, Jr., finance; George F. Titlow, entertainment; J. Searight Marshall, decorations; Alonzo Hagan, reception; Peter A. Johns, amusements; F. P. Truesdale, transportation; Samuel Stern, music; William Baum, fireworks; T. Springer Todd, parade; Lee Smith, privileges; Miss Frances Howell, a clean town; S. W. Metzler, press and printing; D. M. Hertzog, churches; Dr. P. F. Smith, first aide; Charles P. Chick,

information bureau; Charles H. Seaton, vice-president; A. G. Leonard, advertising.

The time set for holding the Old Home Coming was the week beginning Monday, August 26, and to continue five days. The entertainments and amusements arranged for the week were as follows: Battery B of Pittsburgh; The Moss Greater Shows; several flights of a Curtiss Biplane; Punch and Judy show; base ball games; wire performances; fireworks; representation of "Uncle Sam;" six different bands; automobile parade; firemen's parade; industrial parade; general parade; fantastic parade.

The speakers selected for the occasion were: R. F. Hopwood, Esq., address of welcome; James G. Johnston, Esq., reminiscences; Honorable Samuel W. Pennypacker, history.

Liberal prizes were offered for a "Queen of the Jubilee;" poems on "Old Home Week;" best decorated automobile; firemen's parade; firemen's races and contests; floats; organizations; tallest man; tallest woman; decorations; best kept lawn, etc.

It was estimated that the attendance on Thursday was at least seventy-five thousand people; and the order that prevailed throughout the week of the celebration called forth the highest commendations, and not a single serious accident occurred to mar the pleasure of the occasion, and the spirit of good fellowship and enjoyment that pervaded the multitude was unprecedented.

The report of the finance committee showed that the receipts from the subscriptions amounted to \$9,697.96, and that the expenses, including premiums, amounted to \$9,586.54.

#### UNIONTOWN'S OLD HOME COMING.

The following verses suggested by Old Home Coming Week are quoted, not as a literary production, but for their suggestions as to the early history of the town.

#### OLD HOME COMING WEEK.

In Berkeley county once there lived  
 Two Quaker brothers dear,  
 By name of Beeson, Jake and Hen,  
 But this is nothing queer.

Said Brother Hen, "Let's climb those hills  
Toward the setting sun,  
And there we'll take up virgin land,  
And there we'll make our home."

"I'm with thee, Brother Hen," said Jake,  
"We'll pack our goods and go.  
The road is mighty rough, no doubt,  
And traveling will be slow."

In seventeen and sixty-eight  
They bade their friends adieu,  
To make their homes beyond the hills,  
Where all the lands were new.

From Allegheny's rugged peak  
They saw a wond'rous sight,  
The valley lay before their feet,  
A land of pure delight.

Beside old Redstone's winding stream  
They both selected lands,  
And went to work as settlers should,  
With heart and brains and hands.

Hen built a mill to grind the grain  
Raised by his neighbors, and  
Jake builded vats and other things,  
Prepared their hides to tan.

"Let's found a town," said Brother Hen,  
"And benefit our race."  
"I'm with thee here again," said Jake,  
As smiles lit up his face.

So stakes and pegs were quickly driven,  
And streets and lots were made;  
In seventeen and seventy-six  
The corner stone was laid.

“We’ll put the prices low,” said Hen,  
“In this new town we found,  
So people can afford to buy,  
A lot will be five pounds.”

“For river Cheat we’ll name a street,  
And one for Indian Peter,  
And Elbow street we’ll give to one  
Because it is no straighter.”

As time went on this village thrived  
And grew into a town,  
Until today it well may claim  
To merit some renown.

The founders long have passed away  
And many more besides,  
Yet some of their descendents still  
On the shores of time abide.

And now at this Home Coming Week,  
Both Hen and Jake revive,  
And stroll the streets of Uniontown,  
And great is their surprise.

They wonder at the changes that  
Have come to this old town;  
They now the strangest sights behold,  
And hear the queerest sounds.

The trolley cars go gliding by,  
The steam cars rolling past,  
The streets lit up with electric lights  
And houses heat by gas.

“It does beat all, it puzzles me,”  
Says Brother Hen to Jake,  
“To see the changes that have been made,  
And still there’re more to make.”

"We used to drive our slow ox team,  
Or ride a jaded horse,  
But now the auto whirls along  
And honks until it's hoarse."

"The aeroplane now skims the air,  
Regardless of all danger,  
And one was got for Old Home Week  
To entertain the stranger."

"I feel quite proud," says Brother Hen,  
"To take in this review,  
That we have founded here a town  
Far better than we knew."

"We'll meet while here some dear old friends,  
As General Douglass was;  
Colonel McClean, another one,  
On these two we must call."

"We'll talk to them of men and things  
We all so well remember,  
We'll not get through in Old Home Week,  
But talk into September."

"Who would have thought within our time  
That just beneath our feet  
Such mines of greatest wealth were stored,  
Awaiting man to greet?"

"They tell me now that Uniontown  
Is put upon the map,  
Among the many business towns  
Of enterprise and wealth.

And when I see this thriving town,  
I doff my broad-brimmed hat;  
My heart grows full, my eyes o'er flow,  
And wonder where I am AT."