

## COUNTY SEAT COURT NEWS

### Pike Sales for Portage Township.

Small Farm Interest Sold at Sheriff's Sale—New Ditch Petition for Blanchard Township.

Common Pleas Court. (Judge Duncan.)

Daniel Bricker vs Harry B. Bricker et al. Partition. Finding for parties. Order of partition. James A. Ewing, R. W. McCamey and John Blakeman appointed commissioners. Samuel Mogle, guardian, vs. Edward Zarbaugh et al. Finding for parties. Order of partition. E. C. Showman, L. J. Crawford and Edward George appointed commissioners.

Petition in Error.

H. B. Bricker, plaintiff in error, vs. the State of Ohio and the village of McComb, defendants in error. Petition in error in the court of common pleas to reverse a judgment of the mayor of McComb, wherein the plaintiff in error was found guilty of a violation of the Rose county local option law and fined in the sum of \$100. E. L. E. Mumma, attorney for plaintiff in error. Charles A. Blackford and W. E. Cooper, attorneys for the defendants in error.

Granted Petition.

The commissioners have granted the petition for the A. J. Bair ditch, located in Liberty township. The engineer's report will be heard and considered Tuesday, Aug. 24.

Sheriff's Sale.

On an order issued out of the court of common pleas in the case of Francis E. Dillinger vs. Martha E. Huffman et al, Sheriff Johns Saturday afternoon sold a one-ninth interest in 120 acres of land in section 16, Portage township for the sum of \$735.

Marriage Licenses.

Cloyd L. Rockwell, 27, Maddington, O., railroad, and Pearl A. Roberts, 20, Findlay.

Homer F. McDowell, 21, Toledo, telegraph operator, and Verna Arras, 22, Jenera.

Charles L. Shiveley, 28, Liberty township, oil worker, and Maude D. Hull, 28, McComb.

Otto P. Beck, 21, Fostoria, carriage trimmer, and Louise Mary Lapp, 23, Findlay.

Worley W. Swisher, 20 farmer, and Nellie E. Essex, 19. Both of Jackson township.

Eber S. Hughes, 30, porcelain worker, and Caroline Helberg, 25, glove maker. Both of Findlay.

Conveyances.

Oliver P. Shaw, executor, to Dallas H. Moorhead, 25 acres of land in section 13, Blanchard township, \$1,800

Pike Sales.

The construction work for the following pikes were sold Saturday:

Pike between sections 3 and 4, Portage township, 64 rods, to Arda Edgington for \$7 00 per rod.

Pike on township line, Allen township, 75 rods, to Arda Edgington for \$7 95 per rod.

Probate Court

Sylvia Mallott has made application to have the will of Israel Strouse, late of McComb, deceased, admitted to probate and record. The application will be for hearing August 23 at 10:00 o'clock a. m. Next of kin to the deceased: Albert Strouse, Lewis Strouse, Cora Hickman, Idella Cavin, Sarah Hazelswartz and Sylvia Mallott.

Ditch Petition.

Jasper Dukes and Charles Coleman have filed a petition for the location and construction of a ditch commencing ten rods west of the Benton Ridge road, between sections 33, Blanchard township, and section 4, Union township, and having an outlet in Buck Run ditch. Persons benefited: Jasper Dukes, guardian; Charles Coleman, Levi Clymer, Gideon Clymer, Mr. Dreisbach, Jessie Shaw—McClelland and Hancock county. It will be known as the Dukes ditch.

### SURPRISED BY FRIENDS.

A few intimate friends of Mr. and Mrs. J. Allen Hickerson, quietly entered their residence Monday evening and surprised Mr. Hickerson, the occasion being in honor of his thirty-sixth birthday. The evening was pleasantly spent in social chat and ice cream and cake were served. After wishing Mr. Hickerson many happy returns the guests departed for their homes.

### DIED AT SOLDIERS' HOME.

Samuel McGinley an inmate of the Soldiers' Home at Sandusky passed away at that place the first of the week. The deceased was a former resident of this place and at one time was janitor at the school house. William McGinley and T. C. Brown of this place, and Miss Maggie Brown of North Baltimore, were at Sandusky Monday in attendance at the funeral.

### LIVES A CENTURY

Anthony Brown, of Findlay, is Hancock's Oldest Resident.

Anthony Brown, the oldest resident of Hancock county, celebrated the 100th anniversary of his birth at Findlay Monday. For one of his age he retains a fair share of his mental faculties. He is up and around in his room each day and is able to wait on himself.

When Anthony Brown was born, Napoleon I. was emperor of France, George III was king of England and James Madison was President of the United States. Mr. Brown has lived under 24 of the 27 Presidents. Within his life the United States has had five wars. The state of Ohio was three years old at the time of his birth, and Samuel Huntington was governor of the state.

Mr. Brown was born at Fayetteville, Ontario, and when he was nine years old was taken to Albany, N. Y., where he resided until 1864, when he removed to Findlay, where he has since resided. He was twice married, his first wife dying many years ago, and the second in 1888. Four children were born to them, but one of them living, a daughter, Mrs. C. E. Niles, with whom Mr. Brown has lived for many years.

He descended from Puritan stock, his forebearers being English and Holland Dutch. His father, Oliver Brown, was a descendant of Dr. Chad Brown, a contemporary of Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island. His mother was Sarah Wiltsie. Mr. Brown received his education at Albion, N. Y.

### TOWNSHIP CANDIDATES.

Pleasant township candidates for the primary election Republican, Turner Mackay, Marvel Keel, William Brownell, trustees; Ellis Crawford, treasurer; L. C. Dye, clerk, Samuel E. Statler, Milton Steinger, school board, Earl Smith, north precinct assessor, R. B. Stout, south precinct assessor; Scott Randall, cement trustee; J. W. Inley, justice of the peace; Frank Swank, land appraiser Democratic. B. B. Pickens, John Barger, trustees; H. W. Stoker, treasurer, A. C. Wagoner, clerk, Scott Wisely, Albert Strouse, board of education, Clem LaRue, assessor north precinct; Bonda Barger, assessor south precinct; B. L. Gault, constable, Charles E. Brown, constable

### SMASHED HIS WATCH.

E. E. Porter, agent for the Baltimore & Ohio railroad at Hoytville, was sitting in his office Saturday when a fast train went thundering by. A large stone was picked up by the wheels of the fast moving train and hurled through the window, striking Mr. Porter on the body and smashing a gold watch he had in his pocket.

### RAIDERS TO HAVE REUNION.

The annual reunion of the Mitchell raiders will take place in Findlay, at Riverside park Wednesday of next week. The meeting promises to be more interesting than usual. W. W. Brown, of East Toledo, one of the raiders, having been in charge of the engine "General" at one time, will be present.

## Municipal Tickets for the Primary Election

### REPUBLICAN TICKET

Mayor, Lafayette Hull.  
Clerk, Campbell Smith  
Treasurer, R. A. Roether  
Marshall, W. H. Martin  
Council,

John Moore,  
O. L. Todd,  
Perry Rudisill,  
D. P. Bryan,  
George T. Smith,  
B. I. Brown.

Board of Education,  
M. A. Darbyshire,  
E. C. Clapper,  
E. W. Hopper.

Board of Public Service,  
C. S. Hoskinson,  
S. C. C. Powell,  
T. W. Collingwood.

Cemetery Trustees,  
J. A. Groves,  
A. A. Rudisill.

Land Appraiser, M. A. Loy  
Assessor, L. D. Smith.

### DEMOCRATIC TICKET

Mayor, L. E. Bierer  
Clerk, E. O. Haines  
Treasurer, C. A. Bogart  
Marshall, James Warren  
Council,

John R. Shoop,  
Benton L. Gault,  
G. O. Baker,  
Philip Miller,  
Jacob Barger,  
B. I. Brown.

Board of Education,  
H. W. Miller,  
Frank P. Diller,  
H. R. Kinsey.

Board of Public Service,  
George M. Stoker,  
J. F. Hissong,  
W. E. Cooper.

Cemetery Trustees,  
J. M. Martin,  
J. C. Bright.

Land Appraiser, H. R. Kinsey.  
Assessor, H. H. Ewing.  
Petitions only filed for five councilmen.

## PROMISE FORTY NEW FEATURES

### Bold Announcement by Fair Managers.

Ohio Will Maintain Reputation as a Leader in Expositions—Never Before Such Interest.

Think of it! Forty new features promised at an Exposition where "features" have always predominated. Yet this is the bold announcement of the managers of the Ohio State Fair, to be held in Columbus, August 30, 31, September 1, 2, 3, next, and present indications are that they will fully make good in every detail.

Entries in the competitive departments of the Exposition closed Saturday last, with the largest entry list in its history, and not a class in its seventeen distinct departments but what will be well represented. Ohio's reputation as the leading Exposition of the Union will not be jeopardized this season if the number and quality of exhibits entered is the basing index. Magnificent educational exhibit, however, are not all of the coming Exposition, as superb amusement and entertainment will be programed both day and night, including Pain's Manhattan Beach Fireworks; Kopp's Military Band; Miss Wilmine Hamman, vocalist, Spellman's twenty stupendous shows; ten sterling free feature acts, three daily spirited harness races, while as its leading feature in this line announcement is made that those kings of the turf, Dan Patch and Minor Heir, will on Tuesday, August 31, meet in a battle royal for the world's speed supremacy.

Other novel innovations of the Exposition will be displays of the bandwork of inmates of the various state institutions, affording opportunity for all to become familiar with what Ohio is doing in caring for and educating her wards; installation of a complete domestic science department in the women's building; practical demonstrations of scientific road building; daily lectures by experts on topics of vital importance to agriculturists, and many others equally as interesting as the ones here mentioned.

Never before has such state-wide interest been shown in the Exposition, and with the superb entertainment programed, and the introduction of many novel educational features, it is a foregone conclusion that the coming Exposition will outrank any of its predecessors from every viewpoint.

### WILL BUILD COTTAGE.

Mrs. F. W. Monroe and Rev. J. W. Gibson, of McComb, have purchased five lots near the electric station to build upon in the near future. —Lakeside Items (Toledo Blade.)

### REUNION PROGRAM

Following is the program which will be rendered at the Butler Mitchell family reunion, August 26.

Music.  
Song.  
Prayer..... Rev. Baumgardner  
Welcome Address..... G. D. Mitchell  
Response..... Rev. J. A. Fellers  
Music.  
Dinner.

Music.  
Song.  
Address..... John M. Butler  
Instrumental Music.....  
..... Miss Alta Donaldson  
Selection..... Miss Ethel Teatsworth  
Song.....  
Recitation..... Miss Pearl Boyer  
Music.

History of the Butler-Mitchell families..... G. D. Mitchell  
Instrumental Music.....  
..... Miss Lottie Butler  
Selection..... Cloyce La Rue  
Music.  
Business.  
Closing Song  
A cordial invitation is extended to all the neighbors and friends.

### TWICE THANKFUL.

The weather was ideal Wednesday for the annual McComb picnic which was held at Robinson park. The trip was made without any mishaps to mar the pleasure of the day and the amusements afforded at the park were well patronized. While the crowd was not as large as anticipated the committee is thankful for the support of those who attended and is truly thankful that the sum of \$45.00 which was netted, will not have to be divided three ways.

### OLDEST ODD FELLOW.

John Powers, of Pleasant township, celebrated his ninetieth birthday August 11. He is believed to be the oldest Odd Fellow in the state, having been a member of the order for sixty-one years.

### ENTERTAINED AT RECITAL.

Miss Fern Culp delightfully entertained her class of pupils at a recital at her home east of town Thursday evening. Following an interesting program light refreshments were served and a social time was enjoyed by those present. Owing to lack of space it was not possible to publish the program in detail.

### WANTS TO BE MAYOR.

W. F. Brickman, a former attorney of this place and now located at Findlay is a Democratic candidate for mayor of that city.

### THREE BALLOTS.

There will be three separate ballots used at the November election, 1909. One of these will be for municipal officers, one for members of the board of education and another for land appraisers. The last two ballots will be without party designation and of mixed formation.

## DRAFT HORSES IN BIG DEMAND

### Live Stock Men Urge Better Horses.

Proves Profitable Branch of Farming; Well Matched Teams Command Fancy Prices.

It was not many years ago that the automobile was going to put the poor horse out of commission. With the lamentation in mind, it is interesting to hear the clamor set up by manufacturers for more and better draft animals. Instead of an over-production developing, as was generally feared as far back as 1893, there is an actual scarcity of first-class animals. Statistics show that while the population of the United States has been increasing 33 per cent in the last fifteen years, the number of horses has only gone ahead 23 per cent. More interesting are the statistics showing a gain of about 52 per cent in the value of horses. Live stock experts from one end of the country to the other are preaching the doctrine of more and better bred horses. They say that by proper methods America could rank as high as France and Belgium in the excellence of its draft horses. It is to the interest of the farmer more than any other class that more attention be paid to horse breeding. In the Chicago market, it is usual for draft horses of good size, action and plenty of bone to sell from \$300 to \$500 and a well-matched team of this kind frequently brings from \$750 to \$1000. There is no more profitable branch of farming than the raising of first-class draft horses. One of the developments of the industry, unfortunate though it may be, is the heavy mortality among draft animals, due to city pavements and the stress of work. A few years in front of the modern city truck is sufficient to start a piece of perfect horse flesh on the way to the fertilizer factory.

### PIONEER PICNIC.

The Hancock county pioneer picnic will be held Saturday, August 21, at Riverside park, Findlay, Ohio. A splendid program has been arranged and everybody is cordially invited to attend. Exercises will commence at 9:00 a. m. Let everybody come with well filled baskets. E. T. Dunn has promised the picknickers a great entertainment and every one will enjoy a good time.

### WILL SETTLE QUESTION.

Five hundred citizens of Putnam county have signed a petition for a vote on a new court house. The matter has been talked of for some time. The petition calls for a building to cost not more than \$250,000.

### INTERRED HERE.

Thomas J. Dowham, aged seventy-two years, residing northwest of Hoytville passed away at his late home Saturday noon August 14. Death was caused from the infirmities of old age. He is survived by a wife. Funeral services were held at the Hoytville M. E. church Tuesday morning. Interment at McComb cemetery.

### UP-TO-DATE.

The Paulding fair will have as a drawing card, an airship. Two exhibitions will be given daily during the fair.

### CHURCH RECITAL.

A music recital will be given at the M. E. church Saturday evening, August 21, by B. F. Wolford and pupils. The program will open at 8:00 o'clock.

## WILL ERECT BLOCK

H. R. Kinsey Lets Contract—Lower Floor Leased to J. D. Thomas.

While other towns are complaining about business and view their vacant rooms with alarm McComb is moving right along. H. R. Kinsey has let a contract for a new two story cement block building to be erected on the vacant lot west of Hickerson's office. The new structure will be 25x100 and will be erected for the exclusive use of Mr. J. D. Thomas, who will occupy the entire first floor with his funeral outfit and with the conveniences afforded by the new building McComb will have as fine a undertakers establishment as will be found in this part of the state. The work on the building will begin at once and is to be ready for occupancy by November 1. The second floor has also been engaged. This is the second new block to be erected here this summer and still there are no vacant rooms on Main street.

### COUNCIL MEETING.

Council met in regular session Monday evening, with all the members present except Loy. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. During the street committee's discussion, Councilman Hammond reported the watering trough at the corner of Walnut and Main streets in very bad condition. The committee ordered a new trough made and installed. The sidewalk, sewer, fire and light committees had no reports to make. The finance committee reported favorably on bills to the amount of \$43.45, as follows: Amos Barger, cleaning and sprinkling Main street, \$30.80; Wallace Mackey, services as street commissioner, \$15.65.

Under the head of new business, a resolution to proceed with the improvement of the alley between Main and South streets and extending from Liberty to High streets was passed and adopted. This alley, when completed, will be a model of perfect alley construction and will be a credit to the property owners along the line of the improvement.

On a motion by Shoop, council adjourned to meet a week from next Monday evening.

### MISSIONARY MEETING.

The missionary society of the Presbyterian church will meet next Wednesday, August 25, at the home of Mrs. Samuel Brickman. Answers to roll call will be "Mercy." All members are cordially invited to attend and to meet at Smith's store where a means of conveyance will be provided.

### NOTICE.

Our new samples for men's fall and winter suitings have arrived. Everything in the line of men's tailoring. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed. D. C. Bricker, Merchant Tailor.

### LOCAL OPTION ELECTION.

The question of "wet or dry" in West Leipsic, is now before the people of that corporation, and will be decided August 28. The petition for an election was granted by the town council at a meeting last Friday —Leipsic Tribune.

## CORONER TODD FORGES CHAIN

### Ritter Now in Hands of Grand Jury.

Prisoner Maintains Innocence—Statements Contradictory—Displays No Emotion—Held Without Bail.

In less than one week from the time the dead bodies of his wife and fourteen months old baby boy were recovered from an abandoned well in the rear of their residence at this place, James H. Ritter, the husband and father, was arrested on an affidavit furnished by Prosecutor Blackford, of Findlay, and will face a searching investigation by the grand jury on the charge of murder. The action was based on information furnished by Coroner Todd, of this place, which was obtained at his inquest held Thursday, August 12, and at other examinations held since that date. Just after his arrest last Tuesday morning he was subjected to a rigid sweating in the coroner's office and more contradictory statements were obtained. The prisoner, while stoutly maintaining his innocence, took his arrest in a cool manner, although some nervousness was displayed on his arrival at the police station in Findlay.

On Tuesday afternoon the bodies of the unfortunate mother and child were exhumed and removed by ambulance to the undertaking parlors of J. D. Thomas where the stomach and liver were removed. These were immediately sent to Columbus for chemical analysis to determine if any drugs had been administered. The well in which the bodies had been found was pumped dry, but no incriminating evidence was secured from this source.

Through the untiring efforts of Coroner Todd, a chain of very damaging evidence has already been secured.

Ritter adheres to his previous story that death of his wife is the result of a feud, and that a woman of prominence figures in the case. That his wife had enemies who would murder her is his many times repeated statement. Certain letters written by the accused man principally furnish the information upon which the arrest was made. While nothing is given out as to their contents, it is known that they explode the suicide theory and furnish a basis for a murder theory. At the coroner's inquest held a week ago Thursday, Ritter while under oath made several statements which he has since contradicted and signed.

The unfortunate woman was his third wife. It is said that the first wife died after a very brief illness and under peculiar circumstances. His second wife was divorced. From the evidence in the hands of Coroner Todd there now appears to be a very good reason for Ritter wishing to get rid of his wife. During the inquest and since, Ritter displayed no emotion whatever while being questioned upon subjects that under the circumstances would cause any man with affection for his family to break down and weep.

At the preliminary examination before Justice Sours, of Findlay, Wednesday, Ritter was bound over to the grand jury without bond, and was taken to the county jail where he will remain until September 13, at which time the grand jury convenes.

Previous to the charge of the crime by Prosecutor Blackford Tuesday the real evidence was not divulged for publication and any reports that may have been circulated were based wholly upon rumors and not facts. To have published facts before that time would have placed the prosecution to a disadvantage.

### ALL PRESENT.

The Butz family reunion was held Sunday at the home of Mrs. Sophia Butz of this place. There were nineteen present among which were all the children and the grandchildren. This is the first instance where all were present.