

## HORSE FURIOUSLY DRIVEN THROUGH BLOOMSBURG'S STREETS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following articles appeared in the Bloomsburg newspaper, the *Columbian*, on August 16, 1889. It provides a descriptive vignette of a time when horses were commonly seen on the streets. Today our streets are often crowded with motorized traffic traveling at a rapid rate and with police resorting to speed monitoring devices to enforce traffic ordinances. Over a hundred years ago when horses were an everyday sight on the streets, there were incidents from time to time when individuals recklessly raced their horses through a town. This account provides a glimpse of how they dealt with that problem in Bloomsburg more than a hundred years ago.



Two men, one giving the name of John Shuster, and the other, Jerry Devine, of Danville, were riding furiously through the streets of Bloomsburg on Tuesday afternoon, driving a horse dripping with perspiration, and on whose sides and back were great welts raised by blows from the whip. After they had driven in this manner for some time, John W. Gibbs who is in the livery business, and dislikes to see a horse abused, concluded to put a stop it, and so sent for Chief of Police B. B. Freas, who soon appeared, and the fellows were stopped in front of the St. Elmo [Hotel]. Chief Freas ordered them to get out of the wagon, but Shuster who was driving refused, whereupon Silas Mosteller who was near by, removed him from his seat in a manner more hurried than dignified. Chief Freas, vigorously assisted by Mosteller, took him before Esquire Jacoby where he was fined \$10 and costs, on a charge of cruel treatment to the horse. The other man was not arrested as he was only in company with Shuster and did all in his power to prevent the abuse of the animal. Shuster refused to pay the fine, but when the Justice wrote out a commitment, and there was no other alternative but to pay or go to jail, he paid. The horse was put away at the Central Hotel by Chief Freas' order, and on his release Shuster went back and demanded it, but it was refused him. A telephone message was sent to Danville and it was ascertained the rig had been hired from a liveryman named Moyer, who drove up in the evening and took the rig home.

Bloomsburg is not a healthy place for such conduct.

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