

# The Centre Reporter.

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## CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

### 148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

#### GENERAL REVIEW OF MAJOR AND MINOR EVENTS.

##### Experiences of the Rank and File—Anecdotes and Observations.

By T. P. Meyer, Sergeant Co. A., 148th Regiment, P. V.

T. P. Meyer, Sergeant Company A, 148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, has kindly consented to give the Reporter readers a series of historical events concerning that regiment. Mr. Meyer, now of Lock Haven, at that time was a resident of Miles township, and will treat largely of events that will connect Brush and Penns Valley veterans with his narratives. These notes are being prepared to become a part of a complete history of the 148th Regiment, which is now being written by various members of that regiment.

War had been the main business of the country for a year, and during all that time the one great subject of conversation and discussion was war; its possibilities, its probabilities. The country postoffices and village stores were great resorts, and not an evening passed without the usual crowd of anxious inquirers, gathered there to get the latest news from the seat of war, and not an evening passed without news of skirmish, battle, or prospective movement; not a mail bag was opened anywhere during the year that did not bring letters from the boys at the front. These letters were opened and the war news read to the crowd and carried to every home, to waiting watchers for the latest news from fathers, sons or brothers.

Very few battles of any great size had yet been fought; but hundreds of thousands of men were being enlisted and swept onward to swell the army, and the idea of a short struggle had been abandoned by everybody. The war was assuming proportions that had not been dreamed of, nor seen in ancient or modern times. Soldiers were now mustered for three years, or during the war. Revolutions in naval warfare and in ships of war, were rapidly being promulgated.

The three month's men had long since finished out their time, and had returned home "battle scarred" and honored. They were heroes among rural people, and all of them seemed just to know, and would tell how the great battles of Bull Run, Thoroughfare Gap, Big Bethel, and Falling Waters, had been fought and lost or won, as they explained them. And they would discourse to attentive listeners for hours over hardships endured and dangers passed. They were welcome visitors everywhere, because they knew and told so much about the war, the south, etc. I recall two of these three month's heroes, home on furlough visiting my boyhood home. We could not do enough for them; our solicitude in their behalf knew no bounds; they had endured so much, and were deserving of everything that could be devised that would add to their comfort and pleasure. They remained for the night; in the morning it was discovered that the bed in their room had not been disturbed. How was this? On inquiry, they explained that having lain out doors and slept on the hard ground so long they could not sleep in a bed any more; that in order to get rest and sleep they must lie on the floor or on the ground out doors, and in view of this fact, they had slept on the floor. (Selah!)

About the end of the first month of this ninety-day service a young soldier of our neighboring village died in camp in Virginia. Then two soldiers of his company were given furloughs, to bring his body home for interment. In those days ample time was found to bring home the dead. The soldier was buried with military honors, and the warriors who brought him home were feasted and honored as great and brave men. These minor events, somewhat anomalous in war, served, however, to cultivate military enthusiasm and weaken opposition to the war. A martial spirit cultivated and encouraged swept over the land. Drum corps were organized in every village, and their din and racket was heard in some direction or other all day, and in all directions every night; enlistments were numerous and secured without much effort. More than eight hundred thousand volunteers were already in the Union army, and thousands had already been killed and more than two hundred thousand sick and wounded in hospitals, yet no real progress for the restoration of the Union had yet been made and the final outcome seemed to be in great doubt.

Centre county, Pa., up to this time had furnished more than her full quota of men for the Union army, but, as the spring months had passed by, and

during which the Seven Days' Battles on the Peninsula had been fought, many men had been lost; enlistments had been stopped. But now a call for three hundred thousand more men went forth and there was quick response all over the north. Centre county was not behind; when the unsatisfied God of War cried out for more victims, to take the places of those who had already been killed or died of wounds or disease; when the end was not in sight and even the final issue was in doubt, a spirit of patriotism swept over the country. Meetings were held in all parts of the county, and the young and stalwart sons of the eastern end came forward with such alacrity that in three days a company of near one hundred men was raised in Miles township, with a contingent of twenty-five men from Millheim, Penn township, and afterwards known as Co. A, of the 148th Pennsylvania Volunteers. Other parts of the county were equally active and in a short time seven new companies were raised in the county, which with three companies from outside constituted the full number in the regiment, sometimes known as the Centre County Regiment; officially, as the 148th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

This company, which the writer helped to recruit, and joined himself, was mustered, and sworn into the service of the U. S., in the village street of Rebersburg, by Lieut. Fetterman, of the regular army, and who, by the way, was badly in liquor at the time. This company of one hundred young men and boys, the average age of whom was twenty-two years, now stood in a single line, in front of the village hotel, which was headquarters; a deep silence settled over the vast crowd, as well as over the enlisted boys, who were in a few minutes more to pass from the state of personal liberty to bondage; bound by oath, to the service of their country, "against all enemies, within or without," come weal or woe, life or death.

There, in a long line, stretching way down the street, stood the hundred, peculiarly brought together, all old time friends, acquaintances and schoolmates from childhood, nearly all relatives, and not a stranger in all that hundred, with bare heads, and upraised right hands, listened to the oath promulgated by the mustering officer, and which ended with the words, "for three years, or during the war."

He then passed along the front, and received from every man a nod of assent; then stepping to the front and center of the line, he shouted; "You are now soldiers of the United States Government, and you will, every one of you, report at Lewistown on Thursday morning, or you will be regarded as deserters, and I will come and get you with a guard, so help me God!" This ended the ceremony, and the brave Lieutenant retreated in moderately good order to the bar of the village hotel, where he further stimulated his loud mouthed patriotism and war spirit.

This performance gave us a slight foretaste of the bullying arrogance we would be required to endure, from officers in authority, and often in liquor, for "three years, or during the war."

#### LOCALS.

S. S. Stump, Morris Breen, Samuel Koch, Will Keller, of near town, in a few hours hunt Saturday killed ten rabbits and two quail.

It is reported that George Washington Reese, of Bellefonte, has secured the Deputy Revenue Collectorship, a position held by Dr. Harter until his death.

Ex-Senator W. C. Heinle is mentioned as likely to receive the Democratic caucus endorsement for United States Senator when the Legislature meets.

Mrs. W. W. Rishel, of Montgomery, is visiting her mother, Mrs. David Ruhf; when she returns to her home her mother will accompany her, where she will remain for the winter.

There was no earthquake shock felt in this valley. Penns Valley is above the shaken-up surroundings. Where the moral and political atmosphere is clean there is no need of being shaken-up.

W. W. Boob, formerly of this place, is secretary and manager of the Queen City Wheel Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, a company recently formed of which G. H. Williamson is president and A. T. Carnahan is treasurer. The company is erecting a new building, part of which will be occupied by Mr. Boob in conducting his business as heretofore notwithstanding his connection with the company named. Mr. Boob is a business man of signal ability as was demonstrated when a resident of this place.

Walter M. Kerlin, also a former young man of this place, but lately of Philadelphia, has been given a position in the office of the Queen City Wheel Company, and accordingly last Thursday left Philadelphia for Cincinnati to begin his work.

#### KEEPING COWS.

John and Bill Discuss the Matter—Dairy-ing Pays.

Bill: Where have you been, John? Haven't seen you for a week.

John: Been fixing up around the barn. There is always a press of work just before real winter sets in.

Bill: Winter is just about on, isn't it? Friday was a real winter day, several inches of snow, and pretty cold. What are you going to farm in the winter time, John?

John: I expect to harvest a crop at the end of each month.

Bill: What! You're not getting a civil service appointment, or a job at Harrisburg, are you?

John: No! Hang politics. I'm going to stick to the farm. There is more certainty of reaping a monthly crop on the farm, than scratching an office job.

Bill: Good sense. But, say, how about a monthly crop; have you been reading western literature; planted in your mind and expect to reap in your dreams?

John: Not at all. I'm just going to do what I did last winter, only better—look well after my cows.

Bill: There ought to be profit in turning old, dry corn stalks, second crop clover, straw, corn, oats and barley, oil meal, cotton seed meal, salt and water into butter at twenty-five cents per pound.

John: You have the inspiration, that's what I'm going to do. I have seven butter machines that are working day and night for me, and when the snow fell last week they just kicked up their heels at, I suppose, the probable rise in the price of butter.

Bill: Maybe they were tickled at the barn being chock-full of provender.

John: Well, they won't need to lament for food. I saved every particle of feed on the farm.

Bill: The old, dry corn stalks, too?

John: Well, I guess. Corn fodder is one of the most valuable products on the farm. You have the crop for the taking care of it; there is no extra expense for growing it. There are a lot of farmers who ought to be thumped in the ribs by the cows they own for not taking care of the corn fodder that is going to waste. Next winter their cows will be standing in front of their barn with empty stomachs, shivering and cold, and will eat any old corn stalk on the place—if they only could get it.

Bill: That's telling the truth, but it's telling what your neighbor is not doing. Now, what are you going to do? Get rich in a week.

John: Give my cows better attention than ever. Take the milk to the creamery, bring back the skimmed milk, feed it to pigs, calves and chickens—four crops to market—butter, pigs, calves and eggs.

Bill: A fairy tale.

John: It's all in the operation, Bill. That is a "fairy tale" to the farmers who did not take care of their crops; it is a fairy tale to those who nearly freeze their cattle to death, because their business behind the stove is so important that they never have time to close up the rents and windows about the barn; it is a "fairy tale" to the farmer who stintingly feeds in the morning, turns his cattle into the barn yard until night so he need not clean the stable; it is a "fairy tale" to the farmer who makes his wife feed the cows because she gets the money to buy the groceries; it is a "fairy tale" to the farmer who does not know what a balanced ration is, and—

Bill: That is evidence enough. I perceive you have given the matter some study. You mean by manufacturing your raw material into the finished product you propose to handsomely increase the receipts of your summer's work. Compounding a balanced ration is a new idea, I venture, to many farmers.

John: Some people are unconsciously balancing their rations, but many never give the feeding of a good, honest cow a thought—more than just to feed.

Bill: Which of your coarse feeds will you feed first, and what kind of grain will you feed with it?

John: Corn fodder first, because it loses its feeding value as time goes on. Bran, oil meal, cotton seed meal, oats, and some corn should be fed with corn fodder. Corn and corn fodder make a poor and expensive combination. You may look for good results if you feed liberally bran, oil meal, cotton seed meal, or oats with corn fodder, in connection with a little corn. Feed your corn when you feed clover hay.

Bill: Your ideas are correct. If you want a good, practical lesson in feeding milk cows take a trip to Pennsylvania State College; go to the cow barn at milking and feeding time. You will be astonished at the record of some of the well groomed cows. The average farmer reserves the grooming mostly for his horses, doesn't he?

John: Yes, and then concludes that it does not pay to groom horses much—grooming is becoming a lost art among the average farmers.

Bill: But the cow?

John: A cow is a machine, of delicate structure, and will respond to sensible usage. She needs good attention, kind treatment and plenty of feed. In the summer time, if given a chance, she, like the Israelites, will gather her own straw and stubble out of which to make bricks, but when tied in a barn the raw material must be furnished. Of course, nearly all cows at certain periods will give some milk, but it is the profit—milk and butter beyond the cost of her support—that is sought.

John: There's going to be some doings along Sinking creek about the beginning of the year.

Bill: Taking out ice?

John: No. Shipping "wet" stones from the bottom of the creek to sharpen up the legislators at Harrisburg.

Bill: Not a dry joke.

#### THOMAS B. REED DEAD.

Expired at Capital, Where He Formerly Reigned in Congress and Society.

Thomas Brackett Reed died at the Arlington hotel, Washington, Sunday night a few minutes after twelve o'clock. The statesman had been ill since the Monday previous from Bright's disease.

Mrs. Reed and daughter Kitty were at the bedside of the husband and father at the time of his death.

Owing to the wishes of Mrs. Reed and her daughter, no display whatever was made in Washington where he once was master and reigned in congress and society. The remains of the dead statesman were carried from his room by the undertaker's assistants and hotel employees to the hearse, and placed on a private car.

Tuesday the funeral services were conducted at the old First Parish Unitarian church, Portland, Maine, of which Mr. Reed and his family were members.

Mr. Reed was born in Portland, Maine, October 18, 1839. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1860, and later was admitted to the bar. In 1868 he was elected as a Republican to the Legislature; the next year he was re-elected and in 1870 was sent to the State Senate. He became attorney general of Maine in the same year.

He retired from that office in 1873, and for four years was city solicitor of Portland. In September, 1876, he was elected to the Forty-sixth Congress. He was re-elected at each biennial interval until 1899 when he retired. In the Fifty-first and Fifty-second Congress he was elected speaker of the House. A Democratic interregnum followed, but in 1895 and 1897 he was again the speaker. In 1899 he retired from Congress and allied himself with a law firm in New York. In 1892 and 1896 he was a candidate for the presidency.

#### Grim Farm Sold for \$4,750.

A. A. Frank purchased at sheriff's sale the Reuben Grim farm, in Miles township, containing one hundred and thirty-one acres, for \$4,750.

#### \$2,700 Damages.

The suit for damages by R. J. Schad & Bro. against the borough of Milesburg resulted in a verdict of \$2,700 in favor of the plaintiff. The borough of Milesburg erected a reservoir on a tract of land owned by the Schads without a contract, and suit was brought to recover damages.

#### Straightened Club Feet.

Dr. Lorenz, at a demonstration of his methods given in Washington Friday of last week, straightened the club feet of a boy, aged ten years, within one hour, by manipulating the tendons with his powerful and supple hands. The lad's feet were then placed in plaster paris casts, and within two months he will be able to use his limbs with straightened feet.

#### The Hair—Its Dressing and Care.

A beautiful head of hair is so important an element of woman's beauty that suggestions as to its arrangements and care interest most women. In The Delineator, for January there is an excellent article on this subject. The woman with thin hair is often at a loss to know how to arrange it becomingly, and how many women with abundant, beautiful hair fail to achieve the best effects from a lack of knowledge or training.

#### Had to Pay for Docking Trees.

Andrew M. Garber was awarded \$1,030 at Lancaster in his suit against the Columbia Telephone company to recover damages for mutilating shade trees on his property. The company's linemen, it was shown had topped 130 locust trees in order to build the telephone line. Garber alleged that the value of the trees was thereby destroyed. This is the first suit tried in Pennsylvania under the law passed a few years ago holding telegraph companies responsible for damages to trees in stringing wires.

#### Keith's Bijou.

The work of the Keith company in the plays of the past month gives ample assurance that the interpretation of "A Texas Steer" will be thoroughly adequate. Its roles will afford fine opportunities for the versatile players of the company. Those who have witnessed the rehearsals declare that the production is likely to prove the hit of the stock season at this house. All who have observed the experiences of Maverick Brander, the millionaire Texas cattle raiser, sent to Congress against his will, and his daughter Bossy, will doubtless be anxious to witness them again. Brander's life in Washington, besieged by the Texas type of constituent, including some negroes; the daughter's plunge into society, and the other incidents of the farce comedy will doubtless be as effective as ever.

#### CAMPAIGN CIRCULARS.

Lycoming County Judge Says Acts Governing the Same are Unconstitutional.

Judge Hart at Williamsport gave an important decision in a case growing out of a recent campaign in that county, when Valentine W. Quigel, candidate for the Democratic nomination for county treasurer, was defeated, largely it was claimed, through a circular containing alleged libelous assertions. As a result Carl Tewell, Philip Fahrenback, George Fry and Walter Brown were arrested charged with criminal libel and posting and distributing libelous articles. The grand jury ignored the bills against Fahrenback, Fry and Brown, but found a true bill against Tewell.

When Tewell was arraigned in court recently, his counsel, Charles J. Reilly, moved to quash the indictment. Judge Hart, after hearing Mr. Reilly as to the constitutional act under which the indictment was drawn, granted the motion. Mr. Reilly contended that the act of general assembly of June 26, 1895, which provides that "The sending forth of circular matter regarding a candidate for public office, the same not having thereon the name or names of certain persons as responsible therefor, shall be deemed to be a misdemeanor, and this without regard to the question of the truth or falsity of the matter referred to," is in conflict with the constitution of Pennsylvania, which provides, among other things, that, in addition to the press, "every citizen may freely speak, write and print on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty," and "no conviction shall be had in any prosecution for the publication of papers relating to the official conduct of officers or men in public capacity, or to any other matter proper for public investigation or information where the fact of such publication was not maliciously or negligently made."

#### Epidemic Closes Post Office.

The post office at Carlo, Elk county, has been closed by order of the State Board of Health on account of smallpox. Some have pronounced the disease Cuban measles. Others declare it to be unmistakably smallpox.

#### Smith Will Not Retire.

Judge P. P. Smith has decided not to accept the provisions of the act passed by the legislature, permitting a judge who becomes mentally incapacitated, to retire on half salary. The commission appointed by Gov. Stone, although not able to apprehend the judge, reported him incapacitated. The judge has engaged an attorney to fight for him against being forced to retire should such a fight be made necessary.

#### LOCALS.

Messrs. F. E. Arney and Olie Stover took a contract to cut about twenty-five cords of fire wood at Benners, east of Old Fort.

Miss Bessie Taylor, daughter of J. J. Taylor, has returned to L. R. Lingle's, at Earlstown, for the winter, after having spent a few weeks with friends at Nittany and other points.

Mrs. Finkle, wife of Merchant Finkle, of Spring Mills, had been seriously ill for several days, but is improving. Miss Elsie, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Finkle, who has been ill for some time, of pneumonia, is not improving.

Miss S. Elizabeth Gettig, formerly of Linden Hall, but now of Braddock, Pa., has secured a position with one of the leading physicians as special nurse for his patients. Her duties will cover office work when not engaged in taking care of patients.

A young man named William Stroul, seventeen years of age, whose home is at Mingoville, had the misfortune Monday afternoon to have his right hand partly cut off while at work in the stove mill at Hecla Park. He was treated by Dr. Fisher, of Zion.

Mrs. Charles Evans, of White, South Dakota, is expected to arrive in this place this week. She and her little daughter Susan will spend the winter with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Goodhart, of near Centre Hill. Mr. Evans, who is a carpenter and builder, is at present employed in St. Louis, Mo.

Butchering day among the farmers is made a day of sport as well as work. This was especially true when the hog killing was done for D. W. Bradford, south of town, even the hogs joining in to make the day lively. The difficulty experienced by Messrs. James Stahl, Samuel Durst, L. C. Lingle and Christ Durst, who assisted in the slaughtering, was to down the hogs. Discouraged by the poor marksmanship displayed, Mr. Lingle suggested lassoing but this feat was also abandoned. In order to get a true story of how the porkers were actually killed, it will be necessary to ask the participants.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

The ice crop is forming. Teachers' Institute will open Monday, 29th inst.

A case of smallpox has been reported in Phillipsburg.

Thomas Decker, of Spring Mills, is ill of typhoid fever.

J. C. Dale advertises a caution notice in another column.

A few wagon loads of soft coal is all the fuel that is for sale at the Centre Hall coal sheds.

Many schools throughout the state will have a long holiday vacation on account of being short of fuel.

The borough schools will close Wednesday evening, 24th, for the holiday vacation, and open Monday, January 9th.

Jacob Shearer, of near Centre Hill, and Mrs. M. A. Reaick, of near Spring Mills, announce sale for March 18 and 28 respectively.

Newton Yarnell, of Linden Hall, elsewhere advertises for a lost heifer that strayed from his premises about the first of November.

Thursday night six inches of snow fell. It was a surprise to many who awoke that morning, after a continuous sleep of nine hours.

The marriage of James Dubbs and Miss Cora Johnston took place at the Reformed parsonage Sunday evening, Rev. G. W. Kershner officiating.

Mrs. Mary Shoop after spending some weeks with Mrs. Mary Odenkirk and other friends in Centre Hall, will return to her home in Scranton Tuesday.

Rev. Dr. Shriver, of the Bellefonte Methodist church, will preach in the Methodist church at Sprucetown Sunday morning, and at Centre Hall in the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Joshua T. Potter have a second attack of Pittsburg fever, and if it is not checked before spring they will give up farming and move to the Smoky City.

Cloyd Brooks came to the wise conclusion, after railroading for a week, that farming was not the most desirable and drudgery work. He had the experience as a fireman at Altoona.

Observe the weather report in another column. By cutting out these reports each week and pasting them together you will be able to have a complete record of the weather conditions.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Gross Mingle, who since their marriage in June occupied rooms at the Brokerhoff house, Monday went to housekeeping in a suit of rooms in the Center block, which has recently been rebuilt.

John Hosterman, a student at Franklin and Marshall, will accompany a mandolin club on a southern trip during the holiday vacation. He will come home for a few days prior to starting on the trip.

S. D. Coldren, of Lewistown, sold his real estate preparatory to leaving for Ohio. Mr. Coldren is a brother of James Coldren formerly of this place, and was register and recorder of Mifflin county some years ago.

Merchant W. H. Kreamer, of this place, was one of the young men who accompanied Company A, 148th Regiment from Rebersburg to Harrisburg, mentioned by Mr. Meyer in his article "Centre County in the Civil War."

It was suggested by some wag that the "shaking-up" felt in the western and northern parts of the county was the result of Republican county officers-elect following the directions on patent medicines of "shaking before taking."

Teachers and parents who are looking for some entertainment to interest the children at holiday-time will welcome the December Woman's Home Companion with Haryot Holt Dey's Christmas cantata, "The Four Santa Clauses."

Witmer E. Leo returned from Pittsburg Monday where he had steady employment in cutting and fitting brass fittings. The material constantly handled by the young man affected his stomach to such an extent that he was obliged to permanently give up the work.

The Daily News suggests that instead of erecting a shaft, or statue in memory of Ex-Governor Andrew G. Curtin, the money appropriated for that purpose be applied to the building of a hospital. That would be a sensible move, and one that should be encouraged. What do the soldiers say?

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Meyer will go south Thursday of next week to remain several weeks. The longest stop will be made at Columbia, South Carolina, where their daughter, Mrs. J. W. McCormick lives. J. H. Meyer, at Bowling Green, Caroline county, Virginia, formerly of this place, will also be visited by Mr. and Mrs. Meyer.