

# The Centre



# Reporter.

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CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1902.

NO. 50.

## CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

### 148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

#### GENERAL REVIEW OF MAJOR AND MI- NOR EVENTS.

#### Experiences of the Rank and File—Anec- dotes and Observations.

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

The last Sunday at home, was the saddest the beautiful little valley had ever seen, or ever will see again, passed rapidly enough; we marched to the Union Sunday School at Rebersburg in a body; to many it was the last day at Sunday School for all time. There was no lesson; it was a meeting given to addresses, exhortations, prayers and tears.

At the conclusion, the superintendent, in behalf of the school, presented each soldier with a testament, and requested the boys to form in single file outside, stating that it was the desire of all present to give a formal good bye as a school to their soldier boys; this was done, and the entire school, men women and children, passed along the line in single file and gave a parting hand-shake, and expressing many a hope that we all knew could never be expected or realized; with many it was the last adieu for ever; all were deeply moved and not one of all present would ever forget that day at Sunday School. The company never forgot, and now and then, on a Sunday in camp at the hour the Sunday Schools at home were in session we took up collections and sent the proceeds home to help maintain and build up the libraries.

A large proportion of the people of the valley spent that Sunday in the village to mingle to the last moment with their own soldier boys, the chosen manhood of the valley, who were so soon to go forth to meet, in mortal combat, the bravest enemy in the greatest and most sanguinary war the world had ever known.

On Monday we arranged our worldly affairs at home; we fully understood what it meant to go to war at this time; we knew it meant death to 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 school-mates from childhood, nearly all relatives, and not a stranger in all that hundred, with bared heads, and upraised right hands, listened to the oath promulgated by the mustering in 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 and woe? The husband, father and support gone, or husband and son from other homes, or two or three sons gone and with them hope, consolation and support.

Baby Saul came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Saul west of town.

Sheriff Brungart was a brief caller Friday evening of last week. The Sheriff will act as deputy to Sheriff-elect Taylor, and it is acknowledged by all that the appointment is satisfactory.

## SAM, FROM SPRING MILLS.

The Gentleman is Interviewed by John and Bill.

John: This is Sam, from Spring Mills.  
Bill: Glad to meet you, Sam; always have a warm side for any person from Spring Mills; it's a good town, inhabited with generous, kind-hearted, business-like people.

John: Some of the old names associated with the business circle of Spring Mills twenty years and more ago have disappeared.

Sam: Yes, but there is young blood flowing swiftly through the business arteries of the town, which fully fills up the gap so far as business energy is concerned. The names of Allison, Long, Shook, Pealer, Crape are retained, and many new men of business ability have developed.

Bill: It is a very fortunate condition of affairs when the younger generation can add new enterprises to a community.

John: You have some good stores in your town.

Sam: Yes, "each is better than the rest," and the men who conduct them are reliable. There is C. P. Long, H. F. Rossman, C. J. Finkle and O. T. Corman each has a well-stocked, well-kept store. Then there is C. A. Krape, who never devotes his business entirely to foot wear; and John Smith & Brother who supply you with furniture while living and a six-foot house to rest in when you are dead.

Bill: The high standard of the medical profession won for your town by the late Dr. Frank P. Van Valzah does not ever shadow that of your Dr. H. S. Braucht, and what is more it is gratifying to a non-resident that you people appreciate his worth.

Sam: You anticipated my thought. Dr. P. W. Litzell is meeting with good success, the adjective might be used in the superlative degree.

John: There are other—

Sam: Enterprises? Yes. The Spring Mills Creamery Company is one of them. Their product is eagerly sought; orders are turned down. The building operations of C. P. Long are no small item. Mr. Long, during the past few years, has erected some very pretty homes, which are either sold or rented. His planing mill and lumber operations also enter into the first column of business enterprise.

Bill: How about the Shooks?

Sam: Oh! it's cows, chickens and hogs with them now, as before. It is surprising what can be done in their line when stock and fowls are given special attention.

John: Sam, have you been shivering on account of want of coal?

Sam: Not much. The dealer, Hon. W. M. Allison, who supplies this community is alive. Outside of the rise in the price of the black-diamond we have never experienced any inconvenience on account of the coal strike. Mr. Allison is never spoken of—(it would be a reflection on the good citizenship of the person who did it)—except in a complimentary way, whether in business, as a citizen, or politician.

Bill: No politics, Sam. But we all agree that the prefix Honorable to Mr. Allison's name is earned, and need not be spoken in undertones in the light of history made by the Legislature of which he was a member.

John: Of course, no politics. But how about the bridge across Sinking creek?

Sam: The bridge! "It's out of sight."

Bill: Apparently so, and there is no real excuse for such performance by the state authorities. Of course, the state could not construct a bridge in the twinkling of an eye, but such delay as you people have had to endure is without reason. There is too much politics, by the way, in this building of bridges by the state. Then the extravagant prices paid—

Sam: It is astonishing! It appears that the county had contracted with the Penn Bridge Company to build the bridge for \$1400.00; along comes the state officials, make a survey, and for a bridge of the same dimensions pay the Penn Bridge Company over \$6,500!

Bill: "Rake off at both ends and in the middle" is the way it was put to me.

John: And there is no politics in your talk, is there?

Bill: No.

Sam: There is no secret about the figures. Ask the county commissioners about it. And that is not all, we are without a bridge; but the camel's back is broken; our patience is exhausted.

John: What are you going to do about it?

Sam: Some one must build a temporary structure across Sinking creek; that's all there is of it; we must have it, we will have it.

Bill: How far is Penn Hall from Spring Mills, Sam?

Sam: It is always called a mile to where those clever young Fishers—Charles W. and Frank M.—do business.

Bill: They have inherited much of the lamented Major Fisher's business tact and—

Sam: They are the sons of their father, sure. They stand for honesty; they are progressive.

Bill: Add that they are quite congenial companions, and that there is no air of superciliousness about them.

John: About twenty-five years ago there was a turn table constructed at Spring Mills that the people along the surveyed route of the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad wished was in hades.

Sam: Yes, that turn table announced very emphatically that the road would have its terminus at Spring Mills for some time. Things have changed now, and when Station Agent W. S. Musser drops his sign board the train speeds on to Bellefonte.

John: The travelers don't all go

Continued at foot of next column.

## Will Bore for Oil; \$10,000 to be Spent

### In Searching for the Earth's Treasures. W. B. Mingle, Esq., Leasing Extensive Territory for Foreign Capitalists.

Every one familiar with the history of Penns Valley, know that a great many people during the past have in a small way prospected for coal. These people generally continue to search for the hidden riches until their surplus money is exhausted, and then are called "cranks" for having made the effort. Any one who has taken the trouble to discuss the matter with the people at large, will be surprised to find how many people have the same opinion in regard to the deposit of minerals at different places as these same "cranks" but are not disposed to risk the money necessary to prospect. Another feature is, that all the efforts made to find these riches are abandoned for the want of funds long before success could reasonably be expected. Now, as to whether or not there is anything under the ground in this valley that is valuable is a question, but, whilst it is not very probable, it is at least possible, and the only way to find out is to make a thorough trial.

It costs from \$2000.00 to \$5000.00 to sink a shaft to the depth of three thousand feet, the depth prospectors for oil consider necessary to go to fully satisfy themselves. This is more money than the most sanguine would be justifiable in spending, but the people who make a business of finding and developing new oil fields are constantly prospecting and can afford to do it, because when they fall at one place they may make a "strike" at another.

W. B. Mingle, Esq., happened to make the acquaintance of the representative of one of such companies and has been in correspondence with them for some time, with the result that they have promised to furnish at least ten thousand dollars to sink no less than three different shafts in different parts of the valley, upon condition that Mr. Mingle will secure the lease of the land, they as a matter of course, wanting to be protected in case they find any oil or mineral.

The lease is a very liberal and plain one. If oil is found they agree to pay one eighth of the product as royalty, and to either test and operate the wells in two years or abandon the lease. The lease bears the written opinion of one of the best law firms in the county saying that it is perfectly straight and fair, with no legal catches.

Now it is up to the land owners of Penns Valley whether they want these tests made without any expense or trouble on their part or not. If the company find oil on the premises leased the income of the lease will make the owner of the land independent with riches; if not, he is just where he now is, with this exception, that he need no longer wonder whether he has a mint under his farm or not. As Mr. Mingle says, the only party who runs any risk is himself and he is willing to go to the trouble of getting the leases, and if these people then fail to put up the money as they agree to, he alone will be the loser. The company is composed of responsible men and they declare they will comply with their part of the contract, and their is no reason to doubt their word.

The Reporter would be highly gratified if this enterprise could be carried through, as outside of the great benefit of opening a paying oil or gas well or mine, it will be a great benefit to have outside capitalists spend the money it costs to prospect. Assuming that nothing of value is found anywhere in Penns Valley after a thorough search has been made, the expenditure of \$10,000.00 in the valley for such a purpose will prove beneficial to every one who has labor or products to sell.

### GOVERNOR AT STATE COLLEGE.

College Cadets Inspected by Pennsylvania's  
Chief Magistrate.

Tuesday was Governor's Day at Pennsylvania State College, the occasion being the inspection of the College cadets.

In the Governor's party were the following gentlemen: Deputy Secretary Lewis E. Beltler, Hon. Henry M. Walton, of Philadelphia, next Speaker of the House of Representatives; Jos. M. Ives, Harry Wittig and Byron Wrigley, of Philadelphia; Thomas Hugo, Butler; Congressman-elect S. R. Dresser, of Bradford; Senator-elect A. E. Patton, of Curwensville; Col. W. Fred Reynolds, of the Governor's staff; Col. W. F. Richardson, superintendent of the State Arsenal at Harrisburg; Jesse K. Cope, of the Dairy and Food Commission, Harrisburg; S. B. Sheller, Duncannon; Senator E. W. Herbst, Oley; Robert L. Meyers, Camp Hill; Richard Davis, Evenson; J. F. Moyer, Catawqua; Thomas R. Houck, New Bloomfield; John C. Taylor and J. C. Steinman, Huntingdon; J. Lee Plummer, Hollidaysburg; A. L. Michley; Representatives J. Will Kepler and Henry Wetzel.

Among the Bellefonters who accompanied the party to State College were Gen. James A. Beaver, Joseph L. Montgomery, John M. Dale, Senator W. C. Heinle and George R. Meek.

### Will Report Boards.

Superintendent of schools Gramley, is making an extra effort to enforce the compulsory school law, and has openly stated that he will report all school boards that do not fulfill the requirements of the law. The superintendent should be supported in this movement. There are many school boards that are lax in their regulations on this subject. The penalty for the non-enforcement of this law is severe, being the forfeiture of the State appropriation. Enforce the law.

### Will Operate Today.

Mrs. E. W. Crawford, who with her little son is in Baltimore, wrote her husband in this place, that the surgeon had decided to perform an operation on the throat of the boy today (Thursday). The physicians say there are very good prospects of performing a successful operation.

Continued from second column.

Sam: Oh, no; especially traveling salesmen. They do like to sit up to the well-spread table of Landlord George C. King.

Bill: A good hotel, managed by a decent landlord is a great benefit to a town. It continually invites the public to stop within its limits; and you know the story goes that the "traveler is weary and hungry," and seeks a lodging place where everything is correct.

Sam: And such a place is the Spring Mills Hotel.

### STATE GRANGE.

Hill Re-Elected—The Legislative Commit-  
tee Report.

Master W. F. Hill was re-elected at a meeting of the State Grange in Clearfield last week.

The legislative committee reported to the main body through Chairman W. T. Cressy, of Columbia county.

It favors the adoption of the Australian ballot system in Pennsylvania, with some modifications prepared by Cressy, which provide for the printing of the ballots by the several counties, but allowing any qualified elector to secure a ballot for his own use, which he can prepare and take to the polling house, place in the official envelope provided and deposit in the box.

No elector can have any assistance in the booth or in any way be influenced about the polls. There would be no clerks and all names would be grouped. The same law would extend to all primary elections. Personal registration in cities is favored.

The ship subsidy bill and trusts were opposed vigorously.

Aside from the ballot law changes the question of taxation received the most attention from the committee. The present system of taxation was more or less criticised on the ground of irregularities that make the farmer pay more taxes than any other class. To relieve the burden of local road taxes and additional mill of State tax on corporations was advocated. This would raise about \$2,000,000 annually. The disbursement to be after the manner of the public school appropriation, pro rata with the number of miles of road in each township.

There are now 482 Granges with a membership of 19,945,587 adults and 189 minors were initiated, 94 members re-instated. For the year 2,535 members were initiated, 652 re-instated, 539 charter members of new and re-organized Granges, making a gain for the year of 1667 members; 18 new Granges were organized. The receipts for fees and dues exceed those of any previous year for 8 years past.

### Keith's Bijou.

The attraction this week at Keith's Bijou Theatre, Philadelphia, will be "The Lost Paradise," a drama in three acts, adapted from the German of Ludwig Fulda, by H. C. DeMille. It is a play whose intense scenes have provoked hitherto the most enthusiastic demonstrations of approval; certainly no play of the last decade has possessed more powerful situations. There are lines and incidents that have elicited cheers in every previous interpretation of the piece in Philadelphia. Orchestra, 30c.; balcony, 50c.; second balcony, 10c.; lower box seats, 75c.; upper box seats, 50c.

Miss Grace Boob, daughter of W. W. Boob, of Cincinnati, Ohio, has been ill with typhoid fever for two weeks or more. The attack at first was in a mild form, but later her parents became very much alarmed.

### W. E. GRAY, ESQ., DEAD.

Typhoid Fever Claims a Prominent Belle-  
fonte Attorney.

The epidemic of typhoid fever in Bellefonte claimed for its first victim William E. Gray, Esq., whose death occurred Friday evening.

William Ernshaw Gray was born in Patton township, Centre county, on June 14th, 1860, his age being forty-two years. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel T. Gray.

He graduated at Pennsylvania State College in 1883, and then registered with the law firm of Hastings & Reeder. Later he took a full course at the Albany Law school, and in August of 1886 was admitted to the bar.

The deceased's marriage to Miss Ellen Green, daughter of G. Dorsey Green, took place in 1889.

Mrs. Gray and a son survive. Lawyer Gray was active in Republican politics of Centre county, and represented his party at numerous state conventions and caucuses.

As an attorney Mr. Gray was rated as one of the best at the bar, and always made it a point to give his clients, no matter what the importance of his case, his best efforts.

The funeral took place Monday afternoon; interment in the Union cemetery, Bellefonte.

### Sugar Valley Notes.

The following paragraphs are taken from the Sugar Valley Journal:

Farmer J. Z. Thomas had hard luck Saturday. When he left his stock out of the stable to the watering place to drink, a fractious colt pranced about and jumped on one of the cows, breaking her back. To end the animal's suffering it was found necessary to kill her.

Franklin Jones met with an accident on a saw mill in Brush Valley recently in which two fingers were severed from his left hand.

A. H. Schrack felled a mammoth white oak tree the other day. The stump measured fifty-two inches across; the butt log only eight feet long cut four hundred feet of good lumber; the trunk was solid the length of forty feet.

Thomas White, who resides at Rauchtown, arrived home from Glen Union last Thursday with his left foot half cut off. The accident happened while he was working in the woods.

### LOOKING FOR LOWER PRICES.

Many in Pittsburgh believe that a reduction in steel prices is inevitable. Already the supply has overtaken the demand in several lines, in some cases clearly outrun it. Additional new mills are starting up, and all will bid for business.

The high price fixed by the steel Trust, coupled with the urgent spot demand which has existed, has been the cause of bringing in foreign made iron and steel in increasingly large amounts.

Consumers are not now covering the future as has been the case for eighteen months past, when everyone was anxious to buy steel of any kind whenever it could be got. They are instead waiting to see how the iron and steel situation will shape by January 10.

There have been price changes within the last sixty days in the iron and steel markets, some of them very considerable. Barbed wire was cut \$6 a ton by the trust, wire nails \$3 a ton and pipe about 15 per cent. Certain other finished steel products have shaded off. Raw materials have held firm or even advanced.

A few remarks were offered in these columns recently touching the alteration at the White House, and bearing more particularly upon the fact that the President's office was now on the first floor, and senatorial seekers for patronage were no longer compelled to climb a stairway, nor rejected applicants to be kicked down. The Senators have a new complaint. Not satisfied with the architectural bringing down to the ground floor of the executive, they now object to a coal hole right in front of the office entrance. This provision in the plans is evidently precautionary and proper. No valid criticism can be offered by senators, for the hole is not covered over. If some appliance had been arranged whereby the President could pull a string and quickly remove the coal cover as he saw Quay and "Bill" Andrews approaching, there could be excuse for growling. During the days when barons held sway, and dwelt in castles protected by moles across which the portcullis would fall when guests came, they pulled up this bridge when an enemy appeared. The President's little coal hole is an admirable device, but it is open and above pavement. It has a commendable work to perform. Let a few fall in and the country will rise up and call it blessed.

The borough schools will close Wednesday of next week and open Monday, January 6th.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Fine sleighing this week.  
Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Meyer go south today (Thursday.)

Prof. Crawford's singing school will open after New Year.

D. H. Stoner has been appointed postmaster at Mill Hall.

Leslie Shilling is engaged in the Port Allegheny glass works.

The members of the Methodist church are making preparations to give a play.

Mrs. S. W. Smith will spend Christmas week with Mrs. J. W. Wolf, at Ardmore.

Sam, from Spring Mills, joins Bill and John in a talk about the town he represents.

Street Commissioner Lou Sunday is papa of another girl that weighed seven pounds since Sunday.

Mrs. Flora O. Bairfoot and little Miss Gertrude Weaver will go to Philadelphia Monday to remain several weeks.

Dr. J. E. Tibbens, of Lock Haven, has purchased an automobile with gasoline motor power. The weight of the vehicle is less than 500 pounds.

Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, wife of President Grant, died at her residence in Washington at 11.17 Sunday night. Death was due to heart failure.

James Sandoe came home Sunday for a short stay. He is now a railroad engineer and wears his laurels well. His headquarters are at Pittsburg.

The ladies of the Salvation Army are preparing to present a basket of eatables to such of the poor in Bellefonte who are not able to purchase a Christmas dinner.

C. J. Finkle, general merchant at Spring Mills, gives the readers of the Reporter a new advertisement this week. His stock is first-class in every particular, and the prices are as low as can be found anywhere.

Miss Sarah Fitzgerald, of Bellefonte, was unanimously elected last week by the school directors of Spring township, to teach the primary grade at Axe Mann, which place was made vacant by the marriage of Miss Rebekah Jodon.

Miss Eliza M. Moore, who for the past few months has been in Aaronsburg assisting in the care of Mrs. Hartner, mother of Mrs. Rebecca Murray, of this place, will return to Centre Hall today (Thursday) in order that she may spend Christmas with friends and relatives.

A pretty little calendar reached this office, bearing the advertisement of H. C. Hamby, 158 North Eighth Street, Philadelphia, dealer in diamonds, watches and jewelry. A note accompanying the calendar says any of the Reporter readers can secure one by sending a request on a postal card.

Frank M. Fisher, of Penn Hall, is very proud of an English pointer dog he owns, and while in town last week he and Banker Mingle went to the woods and came back with a fine string of pheasants, for the capture of which they were indebted to the fine instinct and training of the dog. The animal comes from the Longdale kennels, Virginia, and is white and tan in color.

Clyde P. Wieland, of Linden Hall, was a caller Monday, to have the name of his brother, D. T. Wieland, placed on the subscription list of the Reporter—a Christmas gift. The latter is an engineer on the Atchison and Topeka railroad, and has a run from Pueblo to Denver. The former represents the younger blood on the farm in the neighborhood of Linden Hall.

Albert Hessick, of near Green Springs, Ohio, arrived in Centre Hall Monday for a stay of two weeks or more. Mr. Hessick is a son of Jacob Hessick, formerly of near Colyer, but now of Green Springs, Ohio, and has reached the advanced age of eighty-eight years. John Hessick, another son, also lives at Green Springs, and is a trackman on the railroad. Mr. Hessick was here fifteen years ago on his wedding tour, but this trip was made alone. He is engaged in farming in one of the best farming communities that can be found anywhere in the state.

All this kicking against Apostle Smoot, of Utah, entering the United States Senate because he supports several wives appears wonderfully inconsistent to the residents of Washington, D. C., who know most of the national lawmakers and their habits. Many Washingtonians think if Smoot brings all of his own wives to the seat of government and stops at that he will be better able to perform the duties of his office than many of his colleagues. They maintain it is utterly impossible for one woman to successfully watch a Senator or Congressman where the streets and avenues numbered and lettered are so mixed up.