

The Centre Reporter.



VOL. LXXVI.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1903.

NO. 3.

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.

(To be continued.)

The first post I served as guard, armed with a part of a cant hook handle, was in front of the general's tent. I walked the beat constantly back and forth; time dragged so slowly; I got so tired; it was so hot; and late in the night; I wished I could sit down and rest just a minute; there were fly-rope pits about two feet high and I concluded to sit on one and rest a minute, but I had not yet learned to keep still before these majestic characters, to sleep on post was punishable by death, and I wondered what he was "going to do about it." It was a relief to me when I heard him laugh and tell his fellow officers that there was a youngster on guard outside with a hand-spike; that he slept; and how he made him hop, and all laughed at my familiarity and inexperience. The deficiency in the supply of arms in Camp Curtin was now supplied by accepting in purchase from Europe all kinds of war guns, many obsolete and no good; there was now a supply consisting of Sharps, Springfield, Vincennes, old style Harper's Ferry make of "buck and ball" muskets, etc., etc., all muzzle loaders, as well as swords, revolvers, etc.

These were now rapidly issued and the troops sent out to Washington, by freight train loads. We were armed with Vincennes Rifle Muskets, with a large sword bayonet, in an iron scabbard; a clumsy, heavy, obsolete rifled gun, of Austrian make lately imported from Europe, caliber about 60, about ten balls to a pound the gun complete weighing about twelve pounds.

The regiment was now fully organized, with seven companies from Centre county and three from Jefferson, Clarion and Indiana counties, ten in all and designated as the 148th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, under the leadership of that indomitable, indefatigable disciplinarian and leader, Col. (later General) James A. Beaver.

We were now ready to move "on to war;" orders came to pack up; all was commotion immediately; we at once struck our tents and packed up; it was our first pack up, but it was well and quickly done; we slung knapsacks and formed our column, moved out into the road and halted; this was toward evening of a dreadfully hot afternoon and we commenced one of those tedious, long waits which followed so many of our hurried "pack ups" afterwards and which all comrades remember so well. We stood in the deep dust, under a broiling sun, in heavy woolen, winter uniforms, Prince Albert coats all buttoned up, bolted and harnessed tight to the body, and loaded with about sixty-five or seventy pounds of indispensables, such as clothing, rations, water, stationery, books, soap, towels, combs, candles, cooking utensils, dishes, cutlery, hatchet, blankets, woolen and rubber, shoe brush, blacking, scouring brush, sewing and mending outfit, bandages, besides weapons, accoutrements, ammunition, etc. till we were tired out; night came on and we sat down in the six inch dust thankful for this privilege, what an easy seat in the deep, warm dust we leaned our heads back on our knapsacks (and what a comfort this was) and in a very short time most of us slept. No time for supper.

Some time in the early part of the night there was a fearful yell of "Attention!" I had never heard such a ferocious, chilling outcry before; we suddenly awoke to find that it was the shout of our colonel, who had come up and assumed command of the regiment. "Forward, March!" and we went splashing through the deep dust to the railroad below camp, which we reached at eleven P. M. and with tents and trappings were packed into a freight train without seats, as before, and moved south; we arrived at Cockeysville, Md., next morning; here Camp Beaver was laid out for us, in a beautiful grove right beside the N. C. railroad, fifteen miles north of Baltimore.

Here we were put to work in earnest in drill and in military movements.

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SUGGESTED BY MIDWAYSIGHTS.

Suggests State Subsidies for County Fairs That Bar the Coochee-Coochee.

Secretary of Agriculture John Hamilton is the official enemy of the coochee coochee dance. He thinks this Oriental form of entertainment at county fairs is very reprehensible, and speaks his mind about it in his annual report, just submitted to Governor Stone.

"Obscene dances by half-dressed actors, open gambling, loud, coarse speeches by fakirs who have monstrosities on exhibition," says the Secretary, "are some of the sights and sounds that greet refined and modest women and children who come to be instructed and entertained. All of this under the guise of an agricultural exhibition for the improvement of this industry."

These Midway exhibitions, according to Hamilton, are countenanced by fair managers for the money they bring in to help pay premiums. He suggests State aid to county fairs, and outlines a scheme for the districting of the State into six districts, of eleven counties each, with an inspector appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to visit fairs and report to the department upon the character of exhibitions allowed and other matters.

"The total of the premiums to be awarded by the department at any one fair," suggests Hamilton, "should not exceed \$400, and in no case to exceed the sum offered and paid by that society for premiums upon articles of similarly useful character. In no case shall any premiums be offered by the department unless the management of the society shall agree in advance to exclude all objectionable shows and gambling games from their grounds."

The Secretary, who is best known as an oleo expert, is not, however, averse to multiplying political jobs. He recommends the creation of three new divisions under the direction of the State Department of Agriculture, and appropriations aggregating \$1,065,500. The divisions which should be created, in the opinion of Hamilton, are:

Division of animal husbandry.
Division of horticulture and pomology.
Division of public highway improvement.

These appropriations are asked for:

For construction and maintenance of country roads, \$1,000,000.
For premiums at county fairs, \$25,000 annually.

For an agricultural museum and an agricultural exhibit at the St. Louis exposition, \$25,000.

Increase for farmers' institute work, \$10,000.
Library for Agricultural Department, \$3000.

Expenses of annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, Horticultural Society, State Poultry and State Live Stock Breeders' Association, \$2,500 annually.

LOCALS.

Tuesday morning many hydrants were frozen.

Mrs. M. F. Rossman, of Tusseyville, was the guest of Mrs. A. E. Kerlin last week.

George O. Benner, of the Star Store, gives a list of prices that should be studied.

Harry Fye, of near Farmers Mills, will become a resident of Centre Hall in the spring.

If you care to know what kind of weather we are having at Centre Hall, study the table under the weather report.

M. L. Rishell, Esq., of Farmers Mills, publishes letters of administration on the estate of Jeremiah Stover, deceased, of Gregg township.

The owners of private ice ponds harvested a fine crop of ice Friday and Saturday of last week, and beginning of this week. The quality is very good.

Charles Homan, son of Henry Homan, of Old Fort, was home for a week. Mr. Homan has been in Williamsport since last March and is engaged in a dry goods store.

Capt. George M. Boal and Richard Brooks each purchased new Portland cutters from D. A. Boeger. These cutters had been ordered a long time ago, but the manufacturers were only able to fill the order within the last few days.

Charles From, of near Houserville, is the loser of three head of cattle which lost their lives by being smothered under a section of a straw stack that slid off the main stack. This is not an unusual occurrence, and in many instances could be avoided.

John B. Goheen, of Pennsylvania Furnace, was a caller Monday, having come to town to attend a meeting of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Mr. Goheen was elected one of the directors, and will add strength to the company in that quarter.

EX-GOVERNOR DANIEL H. HASTINGS DEAD.

Died After an Illness of Four Days—Was Prominent in Politics, Law and National Guard—Governor of Pennsylvania from 1895-1899—Interment Tuesday Afternoon.

Former Governor Daniel H. Hastings died at ten o'clock Friday morning after an illness of only four days at his home in Bellefonte. What seemed on Monday previous to be but a slight indisposition, later developed into pleuro-pneumonia.

This change for the worse was sudden. Thursday evening Mr. Hastings appeared to be improving, and the family renewed hope. Toward midnight there was a fall in his temperature, and later the action of the heart grew weak. Oxygen was resorted to, but all efforts to improve his condition failed, and the physicians gave little hope. He continued to grow weaker until at 10 o'clock he breathed his last. The ex-Governor was conscious to the end, and one hour before his death was sitting up in bed.

Daniel Hartman Hastings was born of Scotch-Irish parentage, in Lamar township, Clinton county, Pa., on February 26, 1849. During the Civil War he attempted to enlist, and had presented himself at the recruiting office in Carlisle, when his father, who already had three sons in the Union army, compelled him to return to the parental roof-tree. At the age of 14 he began to teach school in Wayne township, Clinton county, and followed this pursuit for four years. In 1867 he was elected Principal of the Bellefonte High School, and while in this position he acted as assistant editor of the Bellefonte Republican and studied law, being admitted to the bar of Centre county in April 1875.

Hastings entered the National Guard of Pennsylvania in July 1877, when he was made paymaster of the Fifth Regiment, with the rank of Captain. In March following he was chosen Lieutenant Colonel. Within a year he had become Assistant Adjutant General of the Second Brigade and Colonel of his regiment, and in 1887 he was appointed Adjutant General of Pennsylvania by Governor Beaver.

General Hastings performed signal service in connection with the relief of the sufferers from the Johnstown flood, in June, 1889. He hurried to the scene upon first news of the disaster, and by general consent assumed charge of the work of citizens and the operations authorized by the state. His success in this undertaking stamped him as a man of unusual executive force, and contributed importantly to his fame and popularity.

He was active in Republican politics from the time of his admission to the bar. A warm supporter of General Beaver when the latter was nominated for Governor in the unsuccessful contest of 1882. Hastings four years later placed Beaver again in nomination and had the pleasure of seeing him elected. He attained prominence as an orator in 1888, when, as delegate at large from Pennsylvania to the Republican National Convention, he presented John Sherman as a candidate for the Presidency.

In 1890 General Hastings was an aspirant for the gubernatorial nomination, being defeated by Delamater after a stirring contest. In September of the same year he sought the position of Director General of the Columbian World's Fair, but the office went to Colonel George R. Davis on a close vote. Pattison's election over Delamater convinced many Republicans that had Hastings been the standard bearer the party would not have been worsted. Accordingly there was but little opposition to him in the Republican State Convention of 1894, and he was elected Governor over William M. Singerly, the Democratic nominee.

In the first year of his administration he entered into a combination with Senator Magee, of Pittsburg, and David Martin, of Philadelphia, to wrest the Republican leadership from Senator Quay. The Governor was unsuccessful, as Senator Quay was elected State Chairman at the State Convention and dictated the candidates nominated by that body.

In 1896 Governor Hastings and Senator Quay became friends, and the former attended the National Convention in St. Louis and nominated the Senator for President of the United States. After McKinley's election Governor Hastings was a candidate for Secretary of War, and both Senators Quay and Penrose went to Canton, O., to press his claims. The President refused to appoint him.

In the summer of 1897 the Governor forced Secretary of the Commonwealth Reeder and Deputy Attorney General Elkin to resign for signing a bond during the session of the Legislature indemnifying the legislative employes against loss of salary by reason of the Governor refusing to sign an appropriation bill for that purpose. He appointed David Martin Secretary of the Commonwealth over two years before, and Wilbur F. Reeder, his law partner, to succeed Elkin.

During the last four years he had taken little active interest in politics. When Judge Pennypacker visited the fair grounds at Centre Hall, General Hastings presided at the meeting. The meeting was meagerly attended, and he privately admitted that he believed that Pattison would carry Centre county, and that it would return two Democratic members to the Legislature. His surmise was correct in both cases.

His indifference in political affairs after his retirement from office was due, it is said, to a conviction that Senator Quay was really opposed to his elevation to a Cabinet position under President McKinley. He looked forward, however, to re-entering the field of politics under new leadership, or becoming the leader himself upon the retirement of Senator Quay.

Governor Hastings married the eldest daughter of James H. Rankin, of Bellefonte. They had two daughters, Miss Helen R. and Miss Sara Hastings.

Bellefonte did honor to its beloved dead citizen Tuesday. All business places were closed, and the town had the appearance of a place that was observing a Sabbath day to the letter of the law.

At noon a public meeting under the auspices of the Centre County Bar was held in the Courthouse. Every seat was occupied. The judge's chair was filled with a great silk flag, in the center of which was a draped picture of General Hastings. The west walls of the court-room were beautifully draped in black. Judge and ex-Governor James A. Beaver presided and addresses eulogistic of the deceased were delivered by David Fortney, Judge Beaver, Judge Cyrus Gordon, of Clearfield, and Colonel John I. Rogers, of Philadelphia.

The funeral was managed in detail by Col. W. F. Reeder. Dr. Wilford P. Shriner, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Governor Hastings had been a member for years, delivered a brief address, following a simple eloquent prayer by Rev. W. A. Houck. The other speakers were Rev. Dr. William Lowrie, Rev. Dr. H. C. Holloway and Rev. Dr. George Edward Reed, president of Dickinson College.

As the funeral cortege proceeded on its way the Courthouse bell tolled at half-minute intervals, while at the same time in Harrisburg a salute of seventeen guns was fired.

There was a bitter wind blowing across the hills, but it did not deter a vast crowd from gathering around the grave. Company B, of Bellefonte, without music, acted as escort to the remains. The exercises at the grave were conducted by the Masons of Bellefonte. The impressive ritual was read by Colonel Wilbur F. Reeder.

The active pall bearers were John P. Harris, D. F. Fortney, Esq., Colonel J. L. Spangler, Hon. W. C. Heinle, F. W. Crider, Dr. George F. Harris, Ellis B. Orvis, Esq., John C. Miller, John Meese, Hon. J. H. Wetzel, Isaac Mitchell, James A. McClain, L. T. Munson, Esq., Thomas A. Shoemaker, Esq., W. B. Mingle, Esq. and Colonel Wilbur F. Reeder.

The death of ex-Governor Hastings will cause sincere regret. He was a man of attractive qualities, of fine capacity and good ambitions, who had done the State varied and useful service; and was still young enough to have served it usefully again. His misfortune was to have become one of the many victims of that malign influence which we recognize in Pennsylvania as Quayism. Quay used him and abused him; beguiled him for his own purposes to Hastings' detriment; and when he was no longer serviceable, turned on him and thrust him out of public life, as he had done with so many others, over whose wrecked careers he has pursued his triumphant way. It is not ungracious to recall the warning example at this time, for the measure of independence which he showed in the office of Governor and which turned the ruling power of the State against him will be remembered to his honor. In the town of Bellefonte, which has given three Governors to Pennsylvania, a sense of personal loss will be added to the general regret for his too early death, a loss that will be shared by many friends throughout the State to whom his many qualities had endeared him.

FROM ILLINOIS.

C. F. McKinney Speaks Well of the State of His Adoption.

EDITOR REPORTER:—Southern Illinois, known as Egypt on account of its once seeming barrenness as compared with the rich alluvial soils of the broad prairies of the central and northern portions of the state, is not only proving to be a veritable Egypt in point of fertility, but in many respects having many points of excellence to recommend it to the home-seeker, not found in the richer counties of the north.

The timber, once considered a great hindrance to settlement, now finds a ready market at prices that in most cases pays for the land and improvements, and leaves a nice balance to the bank account of the owner. The rich deposits of bituminous coal underlying it is also a source of great wealth and affords employment to thousands of men in mining and marketing the same.

The land when cleared grows diversified crops. Wheat, rye, oats, barley, beans and stock-peas grow and mature a better quality than in the northern part of the state, which depends largely on corn. Blue-grass grows equal to that in the famous blue-grass regions in Kentucky, and clover and timothy produce excellent crops of hay, making two crops a year, and clover frequently produces two crops of paying seed in one year. Corn does well on most soils and while not so abundant in yield as in the great corn-belt of central Illinois, is grown in sufficient quantities for home consumption.

Much attention is given to fruit and vegetable farming on the lands adjacent to the many railroads running north and south through the state, which, owing to the fine facilities for marketing these commodities which they afford, make it a very profitable industry. Beginning with strawberries, followed in turn by raspberries, blackberries, apples and pears. "Egypt" has an abundance of fruit that finds ready sale in northern markets from May until December. Vegetables of the garden variety are also abundantly grown, particularly the early varieties, and sold at paying prices to the producer. Melons receive no little attention and are quite a paying crop to those who understand their culture.

Being over two hundred miles south of Chicago and such an exceptionally fine grass country makes it an ideal stock and dairy country and much increasing attention is paid to these industries.

Manufacturing interests are fast pushing into prominence and importance in this rapidly growing portion of this great state. With all these and many more advantages, which space does not permit me to enumerate, there are many who, failing to grasp the opportunities that surround them, move to lands of less fertility, fewer advantages and farther from market.

Land values depend largely on location and improvement, and range in the southern part of the state from ten to fifteen dollars per acre for unimproved land, to twenty to sixty dollars per acre for improved land. Ten dollar raw-land in southern Illinois is cheaper to the buyer than "Free land" in most of the western states and territories.

C. B. MCKINNEY,
Jan. 4, 1903. Irving, Illinois.

LOCALS.

Ladie's Fleece lined hose, with light colored feet—Garman's.

E. C. Harter and James Coldren, of Spring Mills, Wednesday drove to Mr. Coldren's below Pleasant Gap, and on their way stopped at the Reporter office to drop some of the "long green."

Judge Cyrus Gordon Friday at Clearfield handed down decisions in liquor license applications for 1903. He granted eight new licenses and also several old ones which were fought by the temperance people. Not a single old application was refused.

Fred L. Christine, son of Rev. F. F. Christine, arrived in Centre Hall Wednesday afternoon. He is one of Carnegie's steel inspectors in one of the Duquesne rolling mills, a position that is paying him very well. Mr. Christine heartily grasped the hands of his many young friends, all of whom were somewhat surprised at the great development of his physique.

The Lock Haven Express announces that the marriage of J. H. Meyer, of Hiawatha, Kansas, and Mrs. Rachael Bell Shearer, widow of J. T. Shearer, of Lock Haven, will take place February 21, next. Mrs. Shearer, who was Miss Rachael Bell, and Mr. Meyer more than forty years ago sought each other's company when both lived at Spring Bank, Brush Valley, but had lost sight of each other until about a year ago when the latter was east. At that time their friendship was renewed, and last fall the prospective groom was again east. Mr. Meyer is well known in Penns and Brush Valleys.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

The holiday season is over, but the shrewd business man continues to advertise.

Col. and Mrs. J. L. Spangler have taken up their residence for the winter in Philadelphia.

Ex-Sheriff and Mrs. B. F. Shaffer, of Nittany, last Tuesday celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.

The engagement has been announced of the Rev. Richard Crittenden, the Bellefonte missionary, and Mrs. Emily Van Billard, of Bethlehem.

Rev. A. S. Baumgardner, of Logan-ton, and Mrs. Huldah Wertz, of Lewisburg, were married at the home of William Wertz, a resident of Lewisburg.

Mrs. Sarah J. Kerlin, of this place, Saturday attended the funeral of Luther Kerlin, in Bellefonte, and remained in that place over Sunday with friends.

During the year 1902, A. G. Archey, the register, issued three hundred and eighty-three marriage licenses. During the previous year, 1901, there were three hundred and fifty-three.

The employees of the Pennsylvania railroad company, who as members of the National Guard, did service in the coal regions, will be paid full time. This order will cost the Pennsylvania railroad company about \$10,000.

Charles Baltzell, in Altoona, purchased the old postoffice building from the local lodge of Odd Fellows for \$25,500. The building will be used as a banking house for the newly organized Bank of Altoona, capitalized at \$80,000.

Mrs. Grace Alexander Reed, who during the past year has been in Keswick, California, is now a resident of Los Angeles, California. The change was occasioned on account of a strike in the copper mines, which temporarily closed all operations.

Clyde Thomas sold his property to Henry Bloom of near Pine Hall. Mr. Bloom expects to become a resident of State College in the spring. Mrs. Susan Erb has also disposed of her dwelling to Mrs. Dale, of Linden Hall. The price paid was \$3,700.

Arthur B. Lee, of Colyer, advertises sale for February 20. Mr. Lee has secured employment with A. B. Farquhar, of York, an extensive manufacturer of implements and machinery of every description. He expects to move to York about the first of March.

Luther Kerlin, son of Mrs. Charles Eckenroth, of Bellefonte, by a former marriage, died in New York Thursday of last week. His body reached Bellefonte Friday, and the funeral took place Saturday afternoon from the residence of Charles Eckenroth. The deceased was a relative of the Kerlins in this place.

The ministers of Bellefonte have called a public meeting in the Court House, Monday evening next, with a view of purifying Bellefonte politics. The "good order and morals in a community might be improved by ministers giving their high calling their whole time and attention, but not by "mixing in politics."

Six and one-half inches of snow fell between midnight Saturday and Sunday 3 p. m. Sunday afternoon the wind shifted and came from the south-east; mercury rose perceptibly and for a short time a drizzling rain fell. Later a stiff, cold west wind piled the snow in many heaps. Monday morning the thermometer registered zero.

Pierpont Morgan is undoubtedly the most fascinating figure before the world today. "Mr. Morgan, His Advisers and His Organization" are discussed at length in the January Cosmopolitan by John Brisson Walker, who spent ten days between Mr. Morgan's and Mr. John Mitchell's offices, in September, in the attempt to settle the coal strike.

Eno Bottorf, of Reedsville, while working at the Standard Steel works at Burnham, last Friday night came very near losing an eye. He was drilling out a set screw when the drill broke and struck him in the eye. Dr. Smith dressed it for him and has little hopes of saving the eye. Mr. Bottorf was formerly a resident of Colyer. He was taken to the Wills Eye Hospital on Saturday for treatment.

Several parties have been dickering for the whole or part of the large Hurton farm, east of Centre Hall. At one time there was only a difference of a few hundred dollars between buyer and purchaser of the entire tract, but the difference gains instead of diminishing. Later Messrs. D. K. Keller, M. M. Decker, Jacob Shearer, John Snyder and Perry Breon opened negotiations, each bidding for a parcel of the farm, but up to the present time no forfeit money has been paid.