

The Centre Reporter.

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NO. 5.

CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

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.

[To be Continued.]

It was noticeable in the general conduct of the boys that military discipline was gradually bringing about the desired change in their nature; removed from the mellowing influences of society, and put down to the stern rules of military discipline of the "School of the Soldier" in actual war rapidly transforms the nature of the young American boy so that he looks with indifference on dangers and scenes of suffering that formerly would have blanched his cheek and paralyzed him into helplessness.

Our sports in camp became ruder; wrestling contests and athletic tussling assumed the vigor of the Roman arena, while blowing each other up with powder was great fun, and to get each other into scrapes was amusement of a high character.

Our tents, about seven feet square, of the "A" pattern, housed six men and their bulky outfits, and the members of each "mess," as they were called, formed independent coteries against other messes; whole companies against other companies and regiments against other regiments, in "thievery," camp fights or snow-ball battles. In our mess the "Meyer cousins" predominated and hung together in amusements, foraging, thievery, etc. We would foot it up to Timonium, a short distance above our camp where we would jump freights and race each other on top of the running train till we reached a cut through a sandy hill just above our camp, where we would jump from the top of the box cars down against the sandy, sloping side of the cut, just to see which could make the best leap and "keep the right end up" without rolling down the steep slope to the track; we realized no danger in this exercise and never thought of the chances we took of rolling down under the wheels of the running train.

Another amusement that was exceedingly risky and, for the danger that was in it, fascinating, was to torment each other at night while on guard duty with loaded guns. A few of these episodes in passing follow:

One bright, moonlight night comrade S. M. Spangler and I concluded to have some fun with a corporal's guard posted some distance down the railroad at a point supposed to be menaced by Confederate railroad wrecking bushwhackers. We crept along close up to them unobserved; the man on post was wide awake and pacing his beat most faithfully while the reserve was in a rudely constructed hut of railroad ties playing cards by the light of a sperm candle all on low ground, on the other side of an eight foot hill.

We hammered the track rail with big stones; instantly they all seized their guns and scrambled up the bank and we as quickly scrambled down the other side and beat a hasty retreat into the bushes just below, which we reached none too soon; they suspected that the "wreckers" were in those bushes, and they now with ready guns watched the clump where we lay hid; we knew that if we moved we would be fired on; the time seemed to drag slowly as we heard them discuss the propriety of firing a few volleys into those bushes any way.

After a prolonged watch they returned to the other side of the bank and we hid ourselves to camp glad to get off unpunctured. This was a narrow escape; for had they reached the elevated roadbed a few seconds sooner we would certainly have been shot for rebel railroad wreckers.

One evening the Meyer gang was detailed to occupy what was known as post No. 10, by the railroad, a short distance above camp, under Corporal Strayer, who had the army rheumatism so bad that he could not drill in the hot sun; but he was kind-hearted and pious and a little above the age for lively warfare. When it was time to post the first relief he said: boys I want to share this duty with you tonight; you all lie down and sleep and I will stand guard a few hours and then you may take your turns. All right; we lay down on some hay that we scratched together and soon slept; how long I could not say; but we were aroused by the very loud laugh of the corporal; we jumped up; I asked; if you have not gone crazy tell us what tickles you so immoderately as you stand guard alone in the dark?

For some time he could not tell us for laughing, finally he managed to

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CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Discussion of the New System—Advantages to be Gained by Rural Scholars—Transportation Checks Tardiness and Stimulates Regular Attendance—Good Moral Influence.

Part I.

For some years there has been a great deal of discussion on the subject of graded schools for rural and village communities. While the cities have been perfecting the organization of their graded school systems, the villages and rural districts have been unable to make much advancement along this line. One, or even two, teachers cannot carry on a well-graded school on account of the large number of classes which through graduation makes necessary. It is almost a physical impossibility for one or two teachers to conduct the large number of classes made necessary by dividing the school into eight separate grades.

Under our present educational system, it has become necessary for the farmer to leave the farm and move into the city to secure the advantages for his children of graded schools. The problem for our rural communities is how best to secure the benefits of a graded school system so as to enable the farmer to give his children instruction in the higher branches of learning without being obliged to leave the farm. It is found that many farmers are not able, or do not find it desirable, to change their place of residence, and consequently the larger educational privileges are limited to a very few of the boys and girls upon the farm.

It is thought that the consolidation of rural schools will solve the problem. This plan of school organization contemplates the disorganization of small districts and uniting them into one good, strong, well-graded school. Consolidation can, in some cases, be made by adjoining rural schools, and in others with the schools of a village, where, in many cases, the nucleus of a graded school exists.

The statutes in most states have been framed to meet the needs of a one-room school district, and before the change to a consolidated school could be made existing laws had to be amended. Legislative bodies move slowly, especially in school affairs; but, after years of persistent effort, the leaders of educational thought have at last succeeded in making some impression in school legislation, and our lawmakers are beginning to realize that the education of our youth is a State and not a local matter. Consolidation is today proving a success in a great many of the States of the Union, notably Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

In each case, where consolidation has been effected, provision has been made for the transportation of pupils to and from school by means of wagons prepared for this purpose. The wagons go over a specified route, collecting all the children living on that route, conveying them to school with a promptness which cannot be secured under the old system. In most cases the wagon is scheduled to arrive at the schoolhouse ten minutes before the opening of school. At the hour of dismissal the wagons are in waiting and take the children to their homes without delay.

The location of routes and the residences of families upon them should be given careful attention. Routes should be laid out so as to minimize

travel. After the plan has been in operation for a short time a regular time schedule can be arranged for each route, so that the pupils may know the exact hour of the arrival and departure of the wagon. The wagon should have a seating capacity of at least twenty pupils. It should be well constructed, with due regard to light and ventilation. During the winter season it should be enclosed, and provided with lap-ropes and means of heating.

The contract for each route is let by the school board to the lowest responsible bidder. The driver should be required to give a bond for the faithful performance of his work. The board should exercise great care in the selection of a driver for the wagon. In fact, the driver should be a man of good moral character, and his personal influence in his association with the pupils should be in perfect accord with the teachings and precepts of the school-room.

The transportation of pupils has many advantages, both to the pupils and patrons of the school. It is conceded that this method of transporting the pupils is conducive to the physical and moral development of the child. With transportation to and from the central school there are no wet feet and clothing, no frozen toes and fingers, and the children are much better cared for while the roads are bad and in stormy weather. Experience demonstrates that in the consolidated schools there is a much smaller percentage of colds and sickness among the pupils than in the one-district school, where the pupils are obliged to walk to and from school in all kinds of weather. In several places where the plan has been in operation for many years it has been found that a more rugged generation is produced by reason of the fact that the physical and moral qualities are carefully preserved and developed. This in itself is a serious argument in favor of this plan of school administration.

It should also be observed that the moral atmosphere of the wagon is clean and vigorous at all times, thus doing away with the fighting and vulgar language which, unfortunately, is too often a part of the child life on the way to and from school under the old plan. We have long been wondering how to close the gap between the school and the home. Through this gap many of the demoralizing influences of life enter and poison the lives of the boys and girls while passing to and from school. It is believed that this gap can be closed under the plan of consolidation, because the intellectual and moral atmosphere of the wagon is in perfect line with that of the school and the home. The older pupils learn to protect and assist the younger ones, and the younger ones are taught to respect those more advanced in age and scholarship. Thus the finer qualities of the lady and gentleman are developed early in the child life. More than this, a friendly and sympathetic relation is developed between the home and the school, and the influence of both of these institutions is solidified and made a positive force in the growing life of the child.

Entertainment Jan 31

The young people of the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal church will give an entertainment in Grange Arcadia Saturday evening, January 31. The entertainment will consist of three plays, entitled "The Trouble at Satterlee's," "The Mischievous Nigger" and "The Persecuted Dutchman," and will be performed by male and female characters. The young people have been practicing for some time, and there is no doubt but that the entertainment will be entertaining from start to finish. Admission 10 and 15 cents.

Marriage Licenses.

Frank Burwin, Gordon Height.
Helen Mundak, Gordon Height.
Geo. M. Bloom, State College.
Alice Garbrick, State College.
W. J. Parker, State College.
Luella Hergeter, Linden Hall.
Bland L. B. Lucas, Runville.
Mable Poorman, Runville.
Edward H. Baird, Milesburg.
Stella B. Campbell, Milesburg.

A Rare Bargain.

Our regular \$4.50 Cabinets for a short time for \$3.00. A discount of 33 1/3 per cent. This is not an advertising dodge but a straight tip. If you want pictures now is your opportunity. At Centre Hall every Friday, except 30th.

W. W. SMITH.

Fresh fish—Star Store.
Laundry soap at 5 cents per pound, 40 per cent. below price—Garman's.

To Do Away with Trap Shooting.

A bill introduced in the house at Harrisburg prohibits the shooting of pigeons released from traps. The bill is aimed at the practice of shooting clubs in using live birds as targets, and provides a penalty upon conviction of twenty-five dollars or imprisonment for thirty days, or both in the discretion of the court.

From Mifflinburg Times.

Operator W. E. Butkholder, of Spring Mills, came down here Saturday morning and gave Operator Clyde Boyer an opportunity to spend Sunday with his wife, at Linden Hall.

Frank Erhard was up to Centre county last week. He was up to Linden Hall in December and from that time he had heart trouble. He spent four or five days at Linden Hall and seemed greatly improved when he returned Saturday morning.

A Story of Edith Wyatt.

Edith Wyatt, who wrote a volume of short stories, called "Every One His Own Way," has very decidedly her own way of writing. Some like it, and some don't, but no other short-story writer comes anywhere near sounding the same note, and those who like her kind of stories have to be satisfied with her stories, or none at all. For anyone who does not know Miss Wyatt's work, and would like a taste of her quality, "Snow White and Rose Red," which appears in the February McClure's, will do very well.

CRUSHED TO DEATH.

A Horrible Accident at the Lime Kilns Near Bellefonte.

A most horrible and sickening accident occurred at the American Lime and Stone Company's works near Bellefonte Friday morning. The details of the accident are not known, as there were no eye witnesses, but the crushed and mangled body of McClellan Lyon is evidence that in some way the clothing of the workman was caught by a rapidly revolving mill in the shape of cog wheels and his arms and legs passed between them. After passing between these mighty jaws, the mangled body was thrown against a fly wheel. When the accident was observed, the machinery was stopped and the unfortunate man given aid, but life lasted only a few moments.

Mr. Lyon was a man aged about twenty-three years, and was married a few months ago. He is a son of Albert Lyon, of Spring township. Funeral took place Tuesday.

LOCALS.

Read the Star Store advertisement.
Teachers' local institute at Eagleville Friday and Saturday.

Have you paid your taxes? Remember five per cent. is added after February 1st.

Rev. J. F. Shultz will begin a protracted meeting in the United Evangelical church Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoover Dalby, of Reedsville, visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Keller, recently.

The new College catalogue is just out and shows an enrollment of 802 students. Besides these there are 1800 taking correspondence courses.

Miss Bertha Garver is being highly complimented for the manner in which she recently entertained Progress Grange by reciting a beautiful poem.
Residents of parts of Northumberland and Columbia counties are preparing to present a petition to form a new county with Shamokin as the county seat.

A. C. Alexander, of Centre Hill, was a caller Monday, and states that the members of his family that had been ill during the past few weeks, have fully recovered.

Tax Collector A. P. Hosterman was a caller Monday. He is making his last appeal for taxes prior to February 1st, at which time five per cent. is added to the face of the duplicate.

W. H. Smith, of the firm of Smith Brothers Spring Mills, was in town on business Friday. The furniture firm is doing an extensive business, and is reaching out for trade in all quarters.

Henry Rossman, of Tusseyville, was in Centre Hall Tuesday, and spent a portion of his time in the Reporter office. Mr. Rossman is always in the best of humor, and the kind of man one enjoys to meet.

The total eclipse of the sun on September 29 next will be visible from the Antarctic continent. Those who want to observe should start now. Those who prefer to observe this phenomenon to attending the Grange picnic, will be obliged to start immediately.

Mr. Corl, Hiram Thompson, State College; Austin Dale, Oak Hall; David M. Campbell, Mrs. Elmer Campbell, Linden Hall; Geo. Dale, Mr. and Mrs. John Dale, Willard Dale, Lemont; Frank Musser, Dr. T. C. Van Tries, Bellefonte; Mrs. Wallace White, Jerry Donovan, Axe Mann.

J. W. Mitterling, of Tusseyville, will become a resident of Centre Hall next spring, and will occupy the Odenkirk property, owned by the Benners. Mr. Mitterling will continue dealing in cattle, which business received the greater part of his attention for the past ten or more years. He will make a good citizen.

Aaron Thomas devotes much of his spare time in caring for several dozen pets, in fact, he has a regular menagerie. His latest additions were a raccoon and a screech-owl, the latter being captured by S. K. Knepley. Besides these Mr. Thomas has a number of well-bred rabbits, guinea-pigs, opossum and hounds.

J. N. Getta, of Look Haven, is one of eleven who will receive his equal portion of \$1000.00, that being the third prize in a guessing contest held by the Chicago Inter Ocean on the combined votes cast in the states of Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan. The eleven among whom this prize will be divided guessed 2,880,737, that number being two short of the correct sum.

R. C. Palmer, who some time ago bought the Gettig homestead, one mile east of Linden Hall, and recently moved there, is well prepared to weave carpet and knit stockings. He has two sizes of knitting machines, and does his work at very reasonable prices. Only the best chain is used in jarpets. Parties needing work of this kind will do well to correspond or call upon Mr. Palmer.

POMONA GRANGE.

First Quarterly Meeting—Financial Reports the Principal Business.

The Centre County Pomona Grange held its first quarterly meeting in Grange Arcadia Friday. The attendance was quite large. The major part of the sessions was occupied in hearing financial reports of the various branches of the organization—fire insurance company, the encampment—as well as the report of the finances of the County Grange proper. The statements show the organization and the various branches in a very healthy financial condition.

The fifth degree, which is that which entitles Patrons to become active members of the Pomona Grange, was conferred upon fifteen or eighteen members.

The next meeting of Pomona will be held at Oak Hall, some time in May. Following are members from a distance who attended: Benj. Roush, Madisonburg; M. L. Rishel, Farmers Mills; G. L. Goodhart, Centre Hill; Mrs. H. S. Alexander, Potters Mills; Mr. and Mrs. Levi Stump, and Jacob Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Wagner, Tusseyville; Mrs. John Frazier, Mr. and Mrs. John Rishel, Mrs. Rebecca Cummings, Linden Hall.

DEATHS.

MRS. CATHARINE SWARTZ.

Mrs. Catharine Swartz, relict of Jacob Swartz, died at the home of her son, Druggist George Swartz, of Freeport, Illinois, at the advanced age of eighty-seven.

Deceased was born in Cumberland county, this state. Jacob Swartz was an uncle of E. M. Swartz, Tusseyville.

MRS. SUSAN SMITH.

Mrs. Susan Smith died at the home of her son Harvey Smith, at Penn Hall, Saturday, aged sixty-five years, two months and one day. She had been ill for about one week.

Deceased was a daughter of Adam Krape, and the relict of George Smith. She lived at Penn Hall for forty years.

Interment took place at Salem church, Monday of this week. She was a member of the Lutheran church.

WILLIAM SOLT.

William Solt, one of Centre county's oldest citizens, died at the home of his grandson, Joseph Albright, at Axe Mann, Thursday afternoon of last week.

Deceased was born near Lauertown Centre county, and was in his 87th year. He was well and favorably known to a large circle of friends and acquaintances all over Centre county. During the Civil war he served his country as a soldier with honor and credit. He was a member of the Evangelical church.

MRS. W. T. MEYER.

Mrs. Meyer, wife of W. T. Meyer, of Philadelphia, died Sunday at her home in that city at the age of forty-six years. Interment took place Wednesday from her mother's residence in Aaronsburg, Rev. Scheeder, of the Lutheran church officiating.

Mrs. Meyer was ill but a few days, and her death was a shock to the family which consists of husband and one daughter, Miss Maude. A daughter, Miss Eva, died while the family lived in Bellefonte. The deceased's maiden name was Miss Lizzie Musser, and she was a daughter of Mrs. John Musser, of Aaronsburg. The family had lived in Philadelphia about four years.

JOHN AMBROSE HAINS.

John Ambrose Hains was born in Freeburg, Snyder county, September 20, 1873, and died near Woodward, January 16, 1903. He was married to Amanda Hosterman, and unto them were born the following children: Amelia, wife of David Hennich, who died July, 1889; Frank E., of Scotland, South Dakota; Wm. B., of Altoona, Iowa; Kate, wife of C. Musser, of Center Mills; Annie, wife of A. Eisenhuth, and Tamme, both of State College; Susan, wife of Ursinus Stamm, of Parvin; John H., of Aaronsburg; Amanda, Cora, Ralph, and Archibald still at home.

The following brothers and sisters survive him: Wm., of Selinsgrove; Peter, of Freeburg; Mrs. F. D. Hosterman and Susan Hains, of Penn Hall.

Mr. Hains was a man of strong conviction and loving sympathy, a farmer and a faithful member of the Lutheran church.

LEMON SCRUDERS.

The death of Lemon Scruders occurred at his home at Baileyville, Monday of this week, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years. The deceased participated in the war of the Rebellion for three years. His death was caused by a general breaking down, due to old age.

He is survived by five sons, John, David, James, William and Jay, and one daughter, Eliza. Mrs. Scruders died about seven years ago. He lived for forty years on the old homestead, from which place the funeral took place Wednesday morning.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Fine sleighing beginning of this week.

Epworth League entertainment in Grange Arcadia Saturday night.

Ex-Associate Judge Samuel Watts died at McAlisterville, Juniata county, aged about ninety years.

Progress Grange at a special meeting Thursday afternoon admitted fourteen new members to the order.

Samuel S. Kreamer, the junior member of the firm of Kreamer & Son, merchants, is a traverse juror this week.

C. M. Fry, son of Capt. W. H. Fry, of Pine Grove Mills, is engineer on the Pennsylvania railroad from Pittsburg to Conemaugh.

Orange S. Brown, the proprietor and publisher of the Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin, has been appointed post-master of that city.

The Reporter is indebted to the Life Insurance Agent W. H. Bartholomew for a handsome calendar for 1903, put out by the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company.

John Reish Sunday morning started to Lebanon on horseback with a team of sorrels purchased by Drover Gockley from Wm. Colyer. The team at one time was owned by Adam Hoover.

A charter has been granted for the Phoebe Deaconess Home of the Reformed Church in the United States to be located in Allentown, and its object is to care for the sick and those in distress.

The Old Fort Hotel, is a favorite place for sledding parties these evenings. Landlord Shawer makes a special effort to entertain these parties who are on pleasure bent, and he always succeeds in doing so.

W. Harrison Walker, Esq., was nominated by the Democratic caucus for Burgess of Bellefonte. Mr. Walker is one of the young attorneys who is rapidly gaining prominence, and finds some time to devote to politics.

Miss Alda Sankey, who for the past two weeks or more has been ill at the home of her sister, Mrs. Porter Odenkirk, has almost recovered. She accompanied her sister's family to Burnham on Tuesday.

Potter township will be represented at court by Bruce W. Ripka, Centre Hill, grand juror; William A. Curran and Daniel Daup, Potters Mills; N. B. Shaffer, Centre Hill; D. G. Fortney and Benjamin Wingart, Colyer; J. B. Lucas, Centre Hill, traverse jurors.

Porter Odenkirk Tuesday moved to Burnham, where he has been working in the steel plant for several months.

Among the Bellefonte citizens who were in Centre Hall, beginning of this week were Col. and Mrs. J. L. Spangler, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gross Kingle, and Mrs. Frank McCoy.

Enos Peachey, a well known farmer citizen of near Kishacoquillas, died very suddenly. He was engaged in butchering and complaining of a severe headache he went out of the building. Returning soon after he was suddenly stricken with paralysis and his death occurred the same afternoon. He was in his forty-sixth year.

Judging from the College publications received at this office, many of the institutions are teaching athletics to the exclusion of all else. While it is right and proper for a student to give a portion of his time to sport and a college publication limited space to athletics, the college journal that devotes to sport the major part of its columns, is not the best advertisement for an institution of learning.

Wm. L. Royer, of McConnell, Ill., is east visiting among friends and relations. Mr. Royer is a son of Samuel Royer, deceased, of Potter township, and went west about twenty-eight years ago, and engaged in farming until recently. He is accompanied by his daughter, wife of Jacob Leid, who is making her first trip through Pennsylvania, and, by the way, is very favorably impressed with the beauty of the natural scenery and genuine hospitality of the Pennsylvanian.

Coasting on Nittany Mountain is one of the sports indulged in to a considerable extent by the youths of Centre Hall. For a stretch of more than a mile the coaster dashes along at a rate that would distance an express train. Brakers cause the swift running coasters to shoot into the air like an arrow, and this fight and the landing on the polished speedway produces a sensation that is indescribable. Only those with nerve enjoy a ride on this natural incline with its depressions and protuberances—the timid are constantly fearful of being dashed into eternity. Hazardous as is the sport, those accustomed to it are as much at ease as though they were sliding down a cellar door that had previously been examined with a microscope for silvers.