



## 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.

(To be continued.)

Our great military horizon, viewed at this time, was almost concealed by the war-clouds rolling dun; yet, since the days of Antietam, when, by request of President Lincoln, Gen. McClellan once more took the army, and struck the enemy, the skies were a little brighter and the prospect somewhat more cheering. Everywhere, in the brief lull of the cannon's roar, the myriad voices of earnest preparation were still heard.

The recruiting drum was still rolling in every hamlet and field, gathering in its train the devoted defenders of the country and sweeping them southward at once to join the fighting forces in the field, which were being put in readiness for an advance at all points.

It seemed advisable at this time to move our regiment to the front; desertions from the regiment were taking place. On Nov. 17th, a dark, cloudy, rainy day, the first desertions took place in the company; two men deserted, and on the day following one more followed their example.

Lieutenant S. S. Wolf, who was at the time in command of the company, fearing there might be others who contemplated "showing the white feather," put a heavy guard around the camp, to hold the men at all hazard. It was night, very dark and rainy and we began to anger over this duty, so we howled, hooted and yelled, worse than savages: "All is well!" All right! twelve o'clock! I was just putting out several most hideous yells when Lieutenant Wolf grabbed me by the arm, and demanded to know why I yelled so. That wasn't me, I said; it was you, he insisted; you were yelling when I grabbed you. You must be mistaken in your man, I claimed, you could not see me yell in this darkness, I am sure; beside, you must not grab me when I am on post, your safety is not assured if you repeat this.

I had about done my best to convince him that it was not "I" but "some one unknown to the real offender." Just at this time horrible outcries arose up from the other side of the camp, and he hurried over there; but the yells were all around camp now, and he could not quell the boys, and we had our fun out, in the rain and deep darkness.

Shortly after midnight Monday morning, December 8th, 1862, the company was routed out and we commenced to pack up, and by daybreak we had everything cleared up and were ready to move. But orders came to remain in barracks to move next day at nine a. m.

The weather was very cold, a four-inch snow on the ground, a fierce winter wind blowing. We moved to the station at daybreak, where we nearly froze waiting for our freight train and the balance of the regiment. We stood and stamped round in the snow from dawn until two p. m., and during all this time the entire village seemed to be cooking coffee for us, bringing it, boiling hot, in coffee pots and buckets, with bread and biscuit, a noble treat at this time.

The lady students of the Female Seminary, now Maryland College, came over, accompanied by the principal of the institution, Rev. Sadler, who made us a very nice little speech and offered prayer in behalf of the soldiers, the Union and peace. Then Mrs. Marston came forward and presented a very nice flag to the company, expressing the hope that the boys would never waver in the defense of the "starry banner;" it was received with cheers.

The ladies remained among the boys in wind and snow, talking to and exhorting them to avoid the pitfalls of army life, and to remember the great uncertainty of life in war.

It was near two o'clock p. m. when our freight train, with the balance of the Regiment on board came. In a short time we were also packed in box cars, which seemed colder even than outside, and on our way to the army of the Potomac, at Fredericksburg, Va., to join in a winter campaign.

#### Church Dedicated in Altoona.

The new St. Paul's Lutheran church, a handsome gothic structure, at West Chestnut Avenue and Thirteenth Street, Altoona, was dedicated Sunday. A sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. A. S. Hartman, of Baltimore, secretary of the Home Mission Board. Rev. E. J. Mitzler is the pastor of the church.

## 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 IV.

In Ohio, the schools of thirty-three townships are now fully centralized, and there is a partial centralization in 150 others, under a general law which permits the people of any township at the annual town election to vote on the proposition to abandon the small district schools and transport the children at public expense to a central school. This township centralization of schools began at Kingsville, Ashtabula County, in 1894. Five teachers are employed in the Kingsville school, and to it are brought all the children of the township (an area of twenty-five square miles), with the exception of two districts. Four wagons are required, at a total cost of \$97 a month, for the nine months of the school year. There is an actual saving to the township under this plan, and, at the same time, a marked gain in attendance and in school efficiency. In Madison township, Lake County, the superintendent reports the cost of tuition per pupil on the basis of total enrollment,—as reduced from \$16 to \$10.48; and—on the basis of daily attendance,—from \$29.66 to \$16.07. The total expense, however, is about the same as under the old plan, and this is explained by the fact that the school attendance has been increased from 217 to 300 pupils since consolidation was effected.

The experience of two Ohio townships, in particular, has attracted the attention of school officers in other States, chiefly because both townships afford first-class examples of school centralization in a purely rural environment. Gustavus Township, Trumbull County, maintains a four room school, with a principal and three assistants. Nine wagons are employed, which call at every farmhouse in the township where there are children. The drivers are required to have the children on the school grounds at 8:45 a. m., and to leave for home at 3:45 p. m. The cost of transportation averages \$1.25 a day for each wagon, the longest route traversed being four and three-fourths miles in length. In the adjacent township of Greene the same policy of centralization was adopted, and bonds were voted for a \$6,000 eight-room brick school building, heated by steam and provided with every modern convenience—this in the center of twenty-five square miles of farming country, remote from village or railroad. This township, like its neighbor, reports signal gains in attendance under the new plan.

The Ohio township plan has not been adopted to any considerable extent in other States, in its complete form, but in Indiana the idea of collecting country school pupils in larger groups has taken a firm lodgment; many districts have been consolidated, and the State superintendent reports that 2,599 children are now transported regularly to and from school in 181 wagons. Illinois is still without a law permitting the transportation of pupils; but Superintendent Baylis strongly advocates the union of weak districts to make strong ones wherever practicable; in Michigan legislation, as yet, goes no farther than to permit the organization of central high schools in townships in which there are not already existing village or graded schools; but no provision is made for the transportation of pupils to the schools. In the Upper Peninsula, however, some school districts

have taken up the matter of transportation, without any special sanction of State law, and are well satisfied with the results of the experiment. In Iowa, the Buffalo Center plan of centralization has been in operation for the past five years; this is essentially the Ohio system. Nebraska is alive to the importance of consolidation as a first step toward the betterment of her country schools. The same thing is true of Minnesota and the two Dakotas.

One of the school districts of Knox County, Tenn.—the county in which Knoxville is situated,—is now attracting much attention as the seat of an attempt to establish a model rural-industrial school in which instruction will be given in both indoor and outdoor manual training. The people of this district—the tenth—are intelligent citizens, and are dissatisfied with the schools now in operation in their district, of which there are nine for white pupils and two for colored. The census of 1900 showed that there were in the district 803 whites of school age, and 124 colored. The average compensation for teachers has been \$32 a month. The people of the district have now determined to unite the nine white schools in one efficient central school, and for this purpose have raised about \$5,000. The General Education Board will cooperate with the citizens in building up their model industrial school, in which will be taught elementary forms of manual training—knife work, carpentering, scientific cooking, sewing, elementary agriculture, horticulture, bee-culture, and the like. Ten acres of land will be secured as a school site, and this will be added to, if necessary. It is intended that this school shall be a growth, and probably at least four years will be required for its completion. The progress of this model school will be watched with great interest, especially in Tennessee and the South, and will no doubt provide a stimulus to like undertakings in other sections.

These notes on the school-consolidation movement, north and south, show that the scheme has been found practicable, in one form or another, under widely diverse conditions. The system under which school funds are raised and expended differs greatly in the different States; but we have seen that, whatever the system may be, a way has been found to bring about the merging of feeble schools in strong ones, to the satisfaction of patrons, and that this has been accomplished with seemingly equal facility in district, township and county systems. No scheme of consolidation or centralization can be devised that can be applied with equal success to every locality. The local situation must be considered in each separate case. Because the people of Ohio have succeeded in centralizing their schools under the township plan, it by no means follows that the people of Tennessee can do precisely the same thing in precisely the same way, working under their county system. For some communities that have not yet adopted any plan of action, Ohio's methods may seem practicable; for others, particularly in the South, the experience of southern states may have far more useful lessons. No advocate of consolidation, so far as known, believes that identically the same scheme can be employed in all the States.

### Passed to the Beyond.

#### HARRY S. ROSSMAN.

After an illness that had extended over a period of sixteen months Harry S. Rossman passed away at the home of his mother, at Nittany. Deceased was about forty-five years of age and held in high regard for his many estimable qualities by the people of Nittany Valley.

#### GEORGE C. ZETTEL.

George C. Zettel, one of the oldest residents of this county, died at his home near Shiloh church, Friday afternoon, after an illness of a few days, of infirmities incident to old age, his age being eighty-eight years. Surviving him are the following children: George W., of Milesburg; David, of Bennett, Nebraska; Mrs. Emanuel Peters, Oak Hill; Mrs. Emanuel Shuey, Dalton City, Ill.; Mrs. Clyde Thomas, State College; Mrs. William Grove and Samuel, of Shiloh; Mrs. Wm. Musser and Mrs. John Shadel, of Bellefonte.

The funeral took place Monday, Dr. W. P. Shriner, of the Methodist church, of which he was a member, officiating. Interment was made at Shiloh cemetery.

#### MRS. JOHN GENTZEL.

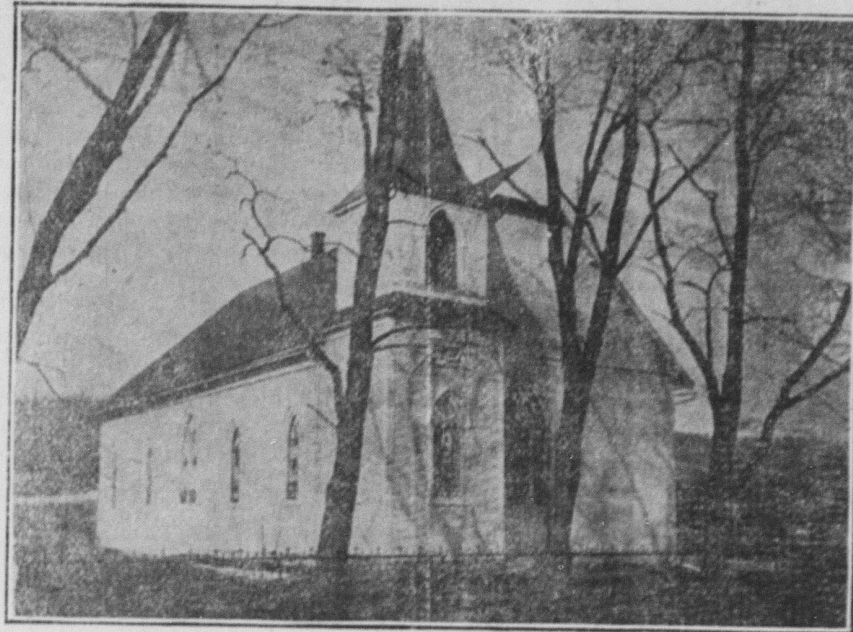
The death of Mrs. John Gentzel occurred Thursday morning of last week.

She was a resident of near Coburn. Interment was made in Georges Valley. Death was due to apoplexy.

#### ELIZABETH CROUSE.

Mrs. Elizabeth Crouse, of Smulton, died Sunday evening after an illness of about two months of heart trouble. She was the wife of John Crouse, who died about twenty-two years ago, and she had been with her son George, at the old homestead ever since the death of her husband. She was a daughter of John Long and was born in Beaver-town, Union county, November 5, 1836, aged sixty-six years, three months and ten days. She was a member of the Reformed church for many years, and will be greatly missed in the community and by all friends and neighbors. Those who mourn the loss of a kind hearted mother are, Mary Brungart, Anna Weber, Emma Brungart, east of Rebersburg; Della Haugh, Ida Walizer and George W., of Smulton; Sallie Frazier, of Illinois. Funeral services were held Wednesday forenoon, at Rebersburg, conducted by Rev. Weizel. Interment in the Union cemetery.

Write Grant Hoover for prices on insurance.



Salem Reformed Church, Penn Hall. Erected 1859; Re-dedicated Feb. 15, 1903.

#### THE SALEM CHURCH.

Brief Description—Dimensions—Cost—Memorial Windows, Etc.

The Salem Reformed church, east of Penn Hall, was rededicated Sunday morning, February 15, 1903. The day was an exceptionally disagreeable one, but the elements did not control the ardor of the members of the congregation who were to assemble to formally rededicate to holy purposes their beautiful place of worship.

The dedicatory sermon, as announced last week, was delivered by Rev. G. W. Kershner, of the Centre Hall Reformed church. The sermon was a forcible one, and an extract will be found elsewhere.

The soliciting of funds was done by Rev. A. A. Black, of Boalsburg. The cost of remodeling the church was \$2,700. Of this sum \$2046 had been provided for previously, and \$654 was received in cash and subscription on day of dedication.

The charge of which the Salem congregation is a part is without a pastor, Rev. F. W. Brown having been the last pastor. The charge is, however, about to take action in the matter of selecting a shepherd.

June 16, 1902, work was begun to remodel Salem Reformed church. The old church, built in 1859, was no more modern. It was a two-story structure, and although up to date fifty years ago, it was necessary to make radical and extensive alterations to meet the tastes and demands of church people today. The structure was lowered, the roof given a steep pitch, and a well proportioned tower erected to receive the old bell that called the fathers and mothers of the present generation to the house of worship, and tolled the number of years they had lived after life had flown.

The dimensions of the remodeled frame structure are forty by sixty feet, which is divided into two apartments. The auditorium is thirty-seven by thirty-seven feet, and the Sunday school room twenty by thirty-seven feet. Both divisions are ceiled with white metal, beautifully designed. A section of wainscoting, oil finish, forms the base of the walls, and a delicate straw colored paper covers the balance of the walls. The furniture in color is in unison with the colors mentioned. The exterior is white, which color designated the former structure for half a century as "the white church," and this feature has been preserved.

The seating capacity of the auditorium is six hundred, and is made possible by comfortable and handsome pews. The beautiful stained glass windows were furnished by Conroy, Prugh & Co., Pittsburg. These windows are all of a memorial nature, and were placed there in memory of and by the following persons and families:

Mr. and Mrs. John Meyer by J. S. Meyer.  
James and Rebecca Evans by their son and Dr. D. M. Wolf, D. D.  
Jacob Bitner by his children.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fisher by their children.  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Meyer by Mr. and Mrs. Elias C. Zerby.  
Adam and Margaret Grenoble by Elias Weaver and John Grenoble.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Meyer by their children.  
The pastors of the congregation by Rev. F. W. Brown.  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Krumrine by Mr. and Mrs. Bolender, Henry Krumrine and S. Krumrine.

Clara M. Ulrich by her daughter, Lola M. Ulrich.  
A. Calvin Fisher by his mother, Mrs. J. B. Fisher.

A window in honor of Dr. Wolf by the Sunday school and many others.  
A window by J. Wells Evans and family.  
A window in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Ulrich.

A window in honor of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Hosterman by their family.  
Two recess and one transom window by Conroy, Prugh & Co.

A marble slab placed in the tower by H. G. Strohmeier, Centre Hall.

The carpet for the auditorium by the Fisher family.  
The wood for the pulpit and altar by Prof. Hosterman, and made by the contractor.

The pulpit chairs in memory of Mrs. Charlotte Keller by her daughter, Mrs. Frank M. Fisher.  
The choir chairs by the choir.  
The Sunday school book case by Dr. D. M. Wolf.

A chandelier will be presented for the auditorium by Mrs. Sarah L. Fisher.  
The recess was donated by Robb Smith, the contractor.

The building committee was composed of Messrs. W. P. Hosterman, J. W. Evans, J. K. Bitner, F. M. Fisher, J. S. Meyer.

The contractor for the woodwork was Robert Smith, Spring Mills.  
The present church officers are: Elders, J. Wells Evans, Frank Hosterman, Trustees, W. P. Hosterman, J. K. Bitner, Deacons, W. A. Neese, John Hosterman, Elias Weaver, J. D. Neese.

#### HISTORICAL FACTS.

Concerning the Salem Reformed Church—Pastors and Members.

The Salem Reformed church was organized in 1859 with a membership of forty-seven. The first church, that is the church that was remodeled, was built in 1859, under the pastorate of Rev. L. C. Edmunds.

The first union church in the township was the one that formerly stood on the D. J. Musser farm. It was erected by the Presbyterians. In 1810 it became a union church, and was remodeled by the addition of a pulpit and seats, which necessary adjuncts it had lacked until then. The expenses were shared equally between the two denominations.

The earliest of the Reformed preachers was the Rev. George Geisweil, who began his labors in 1794 to 1804. From 1808 to 1810 Rev. Jacob Weiffenbach assumed the charge. From 1812 to 1826 Rev. Henry Rossman was on the charge. How many congregations these preachers supplied I am not able to say. From 1828 to 1833 the Rev. B. S. Sehenck had charge of all the Reformed churches in Penns Valley. His successor was the Rev. P. S. Fisher, who labored from 1833 to 1852, M. A. Smith from 1852 to 1856.

In 1859 a dissolution took place that resulted in the erection of a new church by each denomination. The first Reformed preacher installed in the new church was the Rev. L. C. Edmunds, who was on the charge from 1857 to 1863. He was succeeded by S. Keuhn from 1863 to 1867. Then came C. H. Reiter from 1867 to 1875; J. G. Shoemaker from 1875 to 1879; C. W. E. Stegel from 1879 to 1882; Z. A. Yearick from 1882 to 1889; G. E. Addams from 1889 to 1893; F. W. Brown from 1894 to 1902 when the rebuilding of the church commenced.

From the best source of information, it is learned that six persons are living who belonged to the Salem Reformed church when the organization was formed in 1859. They are

Mrs. J. B. Fisher.  
Mrs. John Meyer.  
Mrs. James G. Evans.  
Mr. John Rossman.  
Mrs. Henry Frankengerger.  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dreibeis.

The building committee of the church built in 1859 was J. B. Fisher, Christopher Meyer, Jacob Meyer, John Rossman, Peter Zeigler.  
The first church officers were: Elders, Jacob Meyer and Michael Zeigler. The cost of the first church was \$1945.40.

The contractor was Henry Bartley, of Bellefonte.

#### DEDICATORY SERMON.

Brief Sketch of a Sermon by Rev. G. W. Kershner.

Text: Psalm 84 1-2. No other book in the canon of the Old Testament

Continued on Fifth Page.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

"We beat!"  
Miss Angeline Tobias was taken ill on Tuesday.

Geo. E. French is the new postmaster at Moshannon.

Lot Struble, of Zion, has been granted a pension of \$12 per month.

A \$30,000 edifice is completed for Grace Reformed church, of Hazleton.

Mrs. William Heckman is ill at the home of her daughter, Mrs. D. K. Keller, east of Centre Hall.

W. J. Mitterling Tuesday shipped another car load of cattle, composed of cows, bulls, steers and young cattle.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Geary Monday morning drove to Millheim for a day's visit among relatives and friends.

Miss Esther L. Smith, one of Centre Hill's handsome young ladies, was the guest of her friend Miss Ella Moyer over Sunday.

The bill appropriating to State College its share of State support was introduced by Representative Kepler instead of Representative Wetzel.

Miss M. Eloise Schuyler has accepted a position in the Tuscarora Academy at Academia, and will leave for Juniata county on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Isler, east of Centre Hall, are fondling their first son. They are very proud of the male addition to their little family.

John Geisweil will resign his position in the Loganton Creamery April 1st, and move on a farm in Brush Valley. John Tyson will take his place in the creamery.

A little daughter recently gladdened the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Goodhart, of near Centre Hill, although it was of no nearer kin than a grandchild, Mrs. Anna Evans being the mother.

The Mechanics Roller Mills at Wolfe's Store, in Brush Valley, owned by D. B. Weaver, and operated by Clayton Greninger, have been remodeled by Griscorn & McFeeby, of Philadelphia, to their Oscillator spring and winter wheat system.

Fruit and ornamental trees were overburdened with ice Monday morning, and in many instances the fruit bearing twigs were snapped off. While the glossy artificial coat was beautiful to the eye, many trees suffered under the weight the tender limbs bore.

John R. Strong, of Potters Mills, who is always in the best of humor, was in town Monday, and gave the Reporter a brief call. He is anxiously awaiting the approach of spring in order that his offers may be filled by applying himself to his trade, which is stone masonry.

The coal and wood-shed on the Womelsdorf school ground, east of Loganton was recently fired. The school building made a narrow escape from being destroyed. The miserably wretched who did the deed no doubt wanted to reduce the number of schools in the township.

Arthur Holloway, of Salisbury, Md., a son of Rev. H. C. Holloway, D. D., of Bellefonte Lutheran church, was electrocuted at Schenectady, N. Y., recently. He was in the testing department of the General Electric Company, and in some way came in contact with a powerful electric current.

Thomas Wertz, a Lewisburg citizen recently bought a double bitted axe and immediately tested its qualities on a pile of wood. The axe caught on a clothesline, and then rebounded on Wertz's head, cutting out a large piece of flesh and rendering him unconscious. His recovery is in doubt.

Aaron Thomas and daughter, Miss Ruth, Saturday went to Aronsburg, where they were the guests of the former's brother Zachaeus and sister Miss Polly Thomas until Monday morning. Mr. Thomas seldom goes away from home, but when he does he enjoys the visit just like other people.

Monday morning trees, vines and shrubbery presented a beautiful appearance on account of the glistening coat of ice on every projection. Walks and lanes, fields and mountains were also covered with a half inch coat of ice and sleet. The precipitation reduced to water was eight-tenths of an inch.

V. J. Bauer, upon whom has fallen the management of the affairs of the Brockerhoff estate in this locality, has narrowly escaped an attack of spinal meningitis, says the Watchman. On Monday he and George Cunningham drove to Spring Mills to look after a farm. Before starting Vince had complained of not feeling well. Arrived at that place he became much worse and they started to return as early as possible. At Centre Hall he suffered almost a collapse and it was under the greatest difficulty that Mr. Cunningham was able to get him home.