



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.]
CHAPTER II.

Now and then during the winter of 1862-3 the Johnnies seemed to find diversion and amusement in shelling our camps, and during several months, they threw hundreds of shells, ranging mostly from six to thirty-two pounders into our camps, but, strange as it may seem, very few of them exploded doing very little damage. They were lying around everywhere about us.

One day our "big Ingin," Samuel Gilbert, six feet three, one of our mess and afraid of nothing, returned from a walk with an eighteen pound bombshell fully loaded and fuse in tact under his arm; he laid it on a stump that stood against our tent and asked, where is "Ed?" "Ed" was a six-pound pole ax, stolen from the pontoon train, with the name "Ed" burned on the handle, and served our "mess" in cutting wood and driving stakes. In a minute he had the ax and hit the bombshell a tremendous clip and it rolled off the stump. I shouted don't! He said, I want to know what is inside of it. Seeing that he "would anyway" we gave him plenty of room; he struck the bomb with all his great strength a dozen times and it went to pieces and we re-assembled to examine the fragments.

The body of the shell was cast iron, nearly an inch thick; it contained a large amount of powder, some rosin, seventy large lead bullets, a quantity of strange brown powder which we supposed was something on the dynamite order, a double brass screw plug with a fuse through it into the powder, the outer end of the fuse coiled under a lead dial disk with Roman figures indicating the number of seconds of time to elapse between the exit from the gun and its explosion.

Just above the city of Fredericksburg there stood a mill where it was reported the Confederates were grinding grain for the use of their army; it was a water power mill, water brought to it by means of a canal fed by a fine, high dam just below Beck's Island. To stop this source of supply for the Confederate Army, it was decided to blow up this dam and set the mill dry; several tons of blasting powder was accordingly hauled into a ravine just back of the river, where our picket reserve had their "council" fire. The powder was loose in boxes, about eighteen inches square, with a plug in the top two inches in diameter. We had no seats around the fire so we rolled these powder boxes close to the fire and used them for seats. For want of other amusement during the long, cold, winter nights we would get out this powder by the handful and examine it, then throw it in the fire to see it sputter. It was a coarse, strong powder and looked like black beans.

Time passed; the powder was examined and "sputtered" away, the boxes used for firewood and the dam was not blown up. It is a wonder that we were not blown up as the ground was black with powder around the fire.

By spring of 1863 we had cleared the camp of "poor old soldiers," the rheumatic and yawning grumblers, who only "camped" with us. They never did any duty, would not, or could not learn to drill or keep step; never joined in any "forays" for extras to eat, such as vegetables and fruit; they never carried or cut wood or started a fire, but monopolized the fires after they were started and jangled for pan and "pot rights" on them, and occupied the chimney corners in our winter quarters in cold weather, so the wood choppers and fire builders took a third rate chance to get warm on coming in out of the cold from duty.

One particular "chimney corner veteran," comrade Bressler, would get up first of all in the morning and sit on a block in the chimney corner, to make sure of his position for the day and shiver till we would start the fire; he would not stir from that block for a whole day in cold weather. So now and then, when our patience ran out and we thought he was warm enough, we would blow him off his block with powder; when one of the mess concluded to move him he would give the rest the hint to "look out," then take a handful of cartridges climb the outside of the chimney, which was six feet high of logs, with a barrel on top and drop the cartridges down the chimney into the fire. A terrible explosion would follow and Bressler, fire, block and all would be blown out of the

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THE SUCCESSFUL FARMER.

Views of a Former Potter Township Young Man Now a Resident of Freeport, Illinois.—Correct Ideas Advanced.

The successful farmer, like the successful merchant or manufacturer, estimates and manages so that, if possible, his outlay in money, time and labor (cost of production) will be less than what he may reasonably expect by way of returns. Our calculations sometimes are based on wrong presumptions. But we should be careful in calculating. Sometimes the stress of circumstances—such as storms, the seasons, etc., are against us. These too, should be taken into account. We should be familiar with plant life, and its requirements, in the line of plant stimulants. When the presence of these elements becomes deficient for our purposes, we may in some cases restore them by the application of the principles of science. To enable us to do this intelligently we must know the chemistry of our soil. We should know that certain plants do their best in certain latitudes, that others can be acclimated and grown with profit. Different plants extract different substances from our soils and we should know how to supply what is deficient. We should make ourselves familiar with our insect pests and fungus diseases that help eat up our profits. We should have a method and means of treatment. The stock or dairy farmer should be familiar with the principles of breeding that tend to producing the type of animal best suited to his purpose or business. He should know how to promote growth and repair waste; what foods to feed and know the proportions of each that make up the balanced ration. Few farmers, comparatively, of our day have had the advantage of a rigid training along scientific lines. The average man may, however, by close application, close observation, and an ever vigilant mind, become familiar with many of the valuable facts and phenomena of nature. We should be ready to weigh new ideas and test new methods, and, when in our judgment they seem practical, we should give them our support. The world is moving, and the farmer who clings to his old rut is a back number.

The successful farmer has commodious buildings or sheds for his stock in bad weather. Experience has taught him that the saving in feed soon pays for the buildings.

He has ample room under roof for his machinery. Each article, from the garden hoe to the steam thrasher, has a place in the dry when not in use. Experience and common sense has taught him that it costs far less to build sheds than to buy machinery. Machinery kept in the dry is easily kept in repair, while that left scattered over the farm is always out of whack and soon plays out. Many a farmer had lessened his chances in the future by being obliged, by the force of circumstances, to start with a rusty plough, or to run a piece of machinery rusty, weather warped and all out of tune. The careful farmer will spend a little time, use a little oil or grease on polished surfaces and will place his

machinery in the dry. The farm premises should be kept in order; no matter how much taste the original plan may display, the effect of this is ruined by a litter of odds and ends all over the premises. Yard fences and the various buildings should be kept in good repair and nicely painted or whitewashed. It costs but little when done in time and gives a refined appearance, quite in contrast to that of a weather beaten and shabby set of buildings. The field fences should conform to some pattern, should be kept perpendicular to the base, should run parallel with each other, and should when possible conform to the points of the compass. The weeds along fence rows, and on thoroughfares should be kept to a limit of two or three inches in height. Nothing spoils the effects of a field of corn as does the border of tall unsightly weeds. A weedy farm or garden gives a character of indifference and slovenliness to its owner or holder, while quite the reverse will be the effect of a neatly kept premises. It is the duty of highway commissioners and pathmasters to see that the weeds are kept down along the highways. But this is a dead letter in most instances. A generous supply of fruit, and shade trees and shrubs should be planted around the buildings on the farm. They afford shelter, furnish us with delicacies and add beauty and charm to the rural home. Every farm should have a spacious flower garden. The planting should be done with the view of continuation of bloom from one kind to another throughout the entire summer. Nothing seems to rest and soothe the toiler as does a walk through the flower garden.

Every rural home should be amply supplied with good literature. The city dailies always contain something besides the news that may be helpful to the farmer. Magazines, reviews, farm journals and a generous supply of reference books should find their way into every rural home. These stimulate inquiry by the children as well as the parents. They help us reason out the effect of first cause. We may, if we wish, have a reading and study circle in every farm home, and by doing so, our children learn to love their home and need no such controlling influences as a curfew law. The boys and girls on the farm should be given industrial training while young. The industries by will grow into a self-respecting and self-supporting man, while the boy brought up in ease and idleness frequently develops into a street-corner loafer, loose and irregular in his habits, with no aim or purpose in life save his sensual longings of the present. The girls, too, should be trained with a view of having them develop into home makers. Many a well meaning young man has been driven to crime because his wife knew nothing of home management or of the principles of domestic economy.

J. M. STEFFLER.

It's Absolutely New.

At Keith's New Million Dollar Theatre, Chestnut street, Philadelphia, beginning Monday, April 6, will be presented a bicycle act that may be said to be as indescribable as it is inimitable. Absolutely new, it is at the same time the most sensational demonstration of unadulterated, death-defying nerve ever given by man, Cyclo and Circlus, the human squirrels, defying danger, defying death, will circle on bicycles at breakneck speed, the inner surface of a great wheel as it revolves on its axis at terrific speed. It is a novelty that is novel; a sensation worthy of the name; an act that stands alone, without a peer or even an imitator; a demonstration of centrifugal force, generated by velocity, overcoming the natural force of gravitation.

Reduced Rates to New Orleans.

On account of the meeting of the National Manufacturers' Association at New Orleans, April 15 to 17, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets to New Orleans and return, April 11, 12 and 13, good going on date of sale, and good returning to reach original starting point not later than April 19, from all points on its lines, at reduced rates. By depositing ticket with Joint Agent at New Orleans between April 12 and 19, and payment of fee of fifty cents, an extension of return limit may be obtained to reach starting point not later than April 30.

Encampment Begins September 13.

The Grange Encampment, Grange Park, Centre Hall, will open Saturday, September 12. An informal meeting of the executive committee was held in Centre Hall Saturday, at which time the date was fixed.

LOCALS.

The good weather record for March was badly abused during the closing days of the month.

W. O. Rearick and sons Rufus and Miles, of Millroy, attended the sale of Mrs. M. A. Rearick, of near Spring Mills. Mrs. Rearick is the former's mother.

Ray Burns, who for some time has been making his home with his brother-in-law, R. W. Colyer, at Colyer, has secured a clerkship in the Burnham steel works.

Hon. W. A. Murray, of Roalsburg, was in town Friday and Saturday surveying the lots purchased by Arthur E. Kerlin from Druggist J. D. Murray and Miss Emily Alexander.

Messrs. Ole Stover and Frank Lehey are busy painting the new dwelling house of Dr. Lee. They just completed the dwellings of Messrs. Wm. Colyer and Samuel Durst.

Mrs. Mary Rearick and daughter, Miss Savilla, Tuesday moved to town. She is occupying her own home, being that in which W. O. Rearick lived while a resident in this place.

The entertainment given by the Penn Hall band Saturday night was pretty well attended. From what can be learned from those who were in attendance, both the audience and band members were satisfied with the evening's work.

Mrs. Weaver, wife of Dr. M. L. Weaver, 2103 Wadland Avenue, Philadelphia, accompanied by her little daughter Alice, arrived at the home of her cousin, Mrs. Flora O. Bairfoot Friday afternoon—for a ten days' stay. Mrs. Weaver is the mother of Gertrude Flora Weaver, who for some time has been making her home with Mrs. Bairfoot.

FOUR ROUTES FROM SPRING MILLS.

Rural Free Delivery to be Inaugurated May First—The Routes—Carriers, Etc.

Four free rural mail delivery routes have been laid out from Spring Mills, that will serve a large number of patrons. The routes as laid out are given below, also the number of miles covered by same, and number of houses served.

The carriers appointed are as follows:

Route No. 1—W. O. Gramley, Spring Mills.

Route No. 2—J. A. Wagner, Georges Valley.

Route No. 3—Wm. McClellan, Beech Mills.

Route No. 4—John Snavelly, Spring Mills.

Postmaster C. A. Krape expects to have the new post office building erected and equipped by May first, the time for the beginning of the service, which will afford him ample and convenient accommodations.

The routes as laid out are as follows: Route No. 1—Length, twenty-two and thirteen-sixteenths miles; area, eighteen square miles; population, seven hundred and twenty-five, no. of houses, one hundred and forty-five. Beginning at post office to Farmers Mills, to Ilgen corner, to James Grove corner, to John Ream corner, to Ilgen corner, to Green Grove, to Yearick corner, to Green Grove, to Penn Hall, to Spring Mills.

Route No. 2—Length, twenty-one and three-sixteenths miles; area, fifteen square miles; population, seven hundred; no. of houses, one hundred forty-five. Beginning at post office to Penn Hall, to Beaver Dam, to Beech corner, to Beaver Dam, to Heckman Bros., to Beaver Dam, to Gentzel corner, to D. Shook corner, to Gentzel corner, to Stover corner, to Sawmill corner, to Ertle corner, to Stover corner, to Kean corner, to Smithtown, to Meyer corner, to Pike, to Reformed church, to Bitner corner, to Penn Hall, to Spring Mills.

Route No. 3—Length, twenty and eleven-sixteenths miles; area, seventeen square miles; population, eight hundred and twenty; no. of houses, one hundred and sixty-four. Beginning at post office, to Harter corner, to Long corner, to Sprucetown, to Potters Mills, to Armagast corner, to Meyer corner, to Boyer corner, to Colyer corner, to Fleisher corner, to Armagast corner, to Allen corner, to Lewis-town pike, to Hennigh corner, to Deckard cross roads, to Beech, to Harter, to Spring Mills.

Route No. 4—Length, twenty-one and thirteen-sixteenths miles; area, thirteen square miles; population, six hundred and seventy-five; no. of houses, one hundred and thirty-five. Beginning at post office to Treasler corner, to Wood corner, to Centre Hill, to Runkle corner, to Red Mill, to Runkle corner, to Tusseyville, to McClellan corner, to Colyer to Tusseyville, to Ulrich corner, to Kerr corner, to Wm. Kerr corner, to Centre Hill, to Sprucetown, to Treasler corner, to Spring Mills.

The mails leave the office at 8:45 a. m., and return by 3:05 for the 3:17 train going east and west.

WARREN, SURFACE, ETC.

Governor Appoints Dairy and Food Commissioner and Other Officials—Bair to be Chief of Bureau of Industrial Statistics.

Governor Pennypacker filled three important offices by appointment this week when he sent to the Senate the names of Dr. B. H. Warren, of Chester county, to be Dairy and Food Commissioner, succeeding Jesse K. Cope, of Chester county, resigned; Prof. H. A. Surface, of State College, to be Economic Zoologist, succeeding Benjamin F. McCartney, of Jefferson county, resigned, and Robert S. Conklin, of Columbia county, to be Deputy Forestry Commissioner, a new office created for the purpose of affording more assistance to Forestry Commissioner Rothrock.

Dr. Warren was the Economic Zoologist under Governor Hastings and resigned in April, 1898.

Prof. Surface is the author of several works on economic zoology. He is at present professor of zoology at State College.

Secretary of Internal Affairs-elect Isaac B. Brown announces that he has recommended Robert C. Bair, of York county, to Governor Pennypacker for appointment as chief of the Bureau of Industrial Statistics to succeed Captain James M. Clark, of Lawrence county. Secretary Brown will not take his place until May.

COFFERS FOR CHURCH FUND.

The Unique Collection Placed in Charge of General Secretary Weber, of York.

The meeting of the fourteen benevolent boards and agencies of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, at their meeting, held in the rooms of the Board of Church Extension, in York, evoked a plan to raise a \$1,000,000 fund as a twentieth century offering. The plan is to solicit every one of the 250,000 members of the churches in the General Synod to contribute one cent per day for one year. These, with greater contributions, will swell the fund to over \$1,000,000, which will be used as a twentieth century offering for all the charitable purposes of the church.

An executive committee was appointed, and the Rev. H. H. Weber, general secretary of the Lutheran Board of Church Extension, was named as its chairman and treasurer.

From South Dakota.

Please find inclosed my subscription for another year. We have had a long, hard winter here, and every body is welcoming spring. It will be several weeks before farm operations begin. Farmers are not raising as much wheat as in former years. The soil here has been wheated to death, hence it is necessary to raise corn, oats and barley, and keep more stock.

I have been working in a retail lumber yard the past year, and like the work very much. This is a healthy climate, and the best roads I ever saw. Wishing the Reporter success.

G. BRUCE GOODHART.
White, South Dakota, Mar. 29.

One More.

You will find check enclosed for subscription to the Reporter for the year 1904. The paper is so newsworthy that I can't get along without it.

Pittsburg is booming now; lots of work.
S. F. SNYDER,
East Liberty, Pittsburg, Pa.

LOCALS.

Landlord King, of Spring Mills, Tuesday made a trip to Bellefonte.

Mrs. Cox, of Bellefonte, is a guest at the home of her sister, Mrs. Maggie Harper, in this place.

George Rowe Wednesday moved from Potters Mills to the farm of ex-Sheriff Ishler, at Linden Hall.

The members of the United Evangelical church, Spring Mills, will hold a festival May 30, Decoration Day.

Rev. C. W. Rishell, Tuesday arrived in Centre Hall on his way home from Methodist conference. Rev. Rishell has been reappointed to Jerseytown, Danville district.

Irvin Zeigler, a member of the Sophomore class in Myerstown College, was home to attend the sale held by his father, Henry Zeigler, near Linden Hall.

The Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company held a meeting in Bellefonte Monday. Treasurer B. H. Arney and Secretary D. F. Luse, both of Centre Hall, were in attendance.

Station Agent W. Frank Bradford, who recently purchased the Odenkirk farm including the Old Fort hotel stand, will make various improvements on the farm and to the farm buildings. It is Mr. Bradford's intention to erect a manure and straw shed, and improve the premises generally. Henry Homan, the present tenant, will remain on the farm. Isaac Shawver, the landlord at Old Fort hotel, will also remain.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

A competitive examination will be held in Clearfield, Pa., for Annapolis Cadetship, on Monday, April 6th.

W. J. Mitterling Monday morning began to "round up" a car load of milch cows for the eastern markets.

The Pennsylvania railroad bridge over Shamokin creek, near Sunbury, was totally destroyed by fire Friday. Part of a freight train, which was on the bridge was also consumed.

Mrs. Laura S. Bayard, of New York, is visiting at the home of her brother, James B. Strohm, of Centre Hill, and her sister, Mrs. Myra Kerr, in this place.

The Daily News intimates that should the teachers' institute be held at Phillipsburg, the pedagogues would be turned into icicles. Not so; the teachers of Centre county are too hot stuff.

Among the big flittings that passed through Centre Hall was that of Jacob Sharer. Judging from the number of wagons, Mr. Sharer had plenty neighbors who were willing to devote a day to moving.

Harry Burkholder, of Centre Hill, who is teaching school near Coburn, was a caller Friday evening. After he has finished teaching the winter term he will take up school work with Prof. Hosterman at Spring Mills.

William Sellers accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. E. A. Meyer, and granddaughter, Bertha, of Linden Hall, Saturday were guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Meyer in this place. Mr. Sellers is well advanced in years, but is hale and hearty considering age.

Col. E. R. Chambers is not a candidate for delegate to the Republican State Convention. He was anxious to support Hon. E. B. Hardenbergh for state treasurer, but since the latter has withdrawn as a candidate, Col. Chambers has no desire to be a delegate.

The Watchman says: M. L. Emerick, Centre Hall's busy blacksmith, found time to cross the mountain and take a peep at Bellefonte. His stay here was short for he is always a busy man, but if luck keeps with him he ought to be able to retire before old age strikes him.

C. Howard Meyer, of Williamsport, came to town Saturday and returned Tuesday, and while here was looking after the repairs, etc., needed on the Meyer property on Hoffer street. Mr. Meyer is employed in the dye-works connected with the silk mills operated by John N. Sterns.

From the State College Times it is learned that Joe Ruble, who has been with the Veeder Manufacturing Company of Hartford, Conn., returned home. He will spend a week in town and then leave to take a position with the American Steel and Wire Company at Cleveland, Ohio.

The contract has been awarded the Keystone Telephone Co., of Philadelphia to install a complete telephone system at the Standard Steel works, connecting all the departments with an exchange to be placed in the central office. This will facilitate communications between the different departments.

Jacob Shearer, of Centre Hill, who this week moved from the farm of Merchant W. H. Meyer to that of his own, east of Centre Hall, will devote a portion of his time to the sale of machinery manufactured by the D. M. Osborne company. You will notice his advertisement in the Reporter within a few weeks.

American life from Florida to Oregon, and the outer world from Germany to China were drawn upon in the making of the April number of the National Magazine of Boston. The five strong stories run the gamut of the emotions, from grim tragedy in 'The Shadow of Lachesis' to happy comedy in 'The Disinherited Fathers.'

The Phillipsburg and Bellefonte newspapers are discussing the selection of a place for holding the teachers' institute next December. Phillipsburg has long been anxious to have the gathering of educators at that place, and is putting forth great inducements, while Bellefonte maintains that the institute has always been held at the county seat, and there should be no change. Be charitable, brother, give Phillipsburg a fair show.

Last week E. Boehner, a tailor in Lewistown received an unsigned letter from Philadelphia, inclosing a check for \$31.75, stating that the writer had purchased a "Prince Albert" suit from him twenty years ago which he had not paid for and inclosed the amount. This party evidently had the same idea that Rev. J. M. Rearick advanced in his Sunday morning sermon, when he said that unless "one paid his debts to the very skin of his teeth, heaven would be shut against him."