



CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

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

(To be Continued.)
CHAPTER IV.



"CARRY ME BACK TO OLE VIRGINNY."

Leaving twenty-five thousand wounded and thousands of unburied dead, to the care of the hospital corps, the Christian and Sanitary Commissions, and to the citizens of Pennsylvania, we moved out of our position, and started in pursuit of the Confederate army, toward evening, July 5th, and marched to Two Taverns, Pa., five miles from Gettysburg, and camped to await developments. At seven o'clock on the morning of the 7th, we left camp at Two Taverns, and moved to Tannersville, Md., in continuous rain and deep mud.

July 8th at 5 a. m. we resumed the march, which was kept up, in spasmodic meandering fashion till four p. m., when we camped within four miles of Frederick City, Md., having marched twenty miles. It rained all day and the mud was deep and slushy.

We were rain soaked and covered with mud to the belt. In marching through a village today the people turned out to see the troops, wagon and artillery trains passing. A gentleman and his family, standing on the walk in front of their home, seemed greatly interested in our march. There was talk and laugh and lively jest in the ranks, as we marched in "quick step" with absolute indifference, straight forward, through mud and water. Just as we passed them I heard a young girl ask, papa, don't soldiers care for rain or mud? A smaller girl, however, answered the question: No! they just love to walk in the mud and water. But, do they care when their shoes and clothes are all covered with mud? They would look nice if they were not so dirty.

A lady remarked: "Evidently, they have no remorse for having just fought and killed and wounded twenty thousand men! Oh, isn't war a dreadful thing?"

During the winter of 1862-3 while the army of the Potomac was encamped at Fredericksburg, Va., a Mr. Richardson, a Virginian, frequently came into our camps selling war maps, soldier's medals, and steplike plates to the soldiers, bearing their names, company and regiments, to insure identification if killed in battle, for information of friends at home.

This individual made a tour through our camps, just before the Chancellorsville campaign, and one shortly before we started on the Gettysburg campaign.

He followed the army on the Gettysburg Campaign, and at Frederick (City) Md., he was recognized as the "Resident Virginian," our "merchant of trinkets" at Falmouth, Va. He was suspected and arrested as a spy, by men of French's Division of the 12th Corps, tried, found guilty, and hung July 6th, to the branch of a tree, in a field to the right, and a few rods from the road, just outside of the town.

He was a brave, daring, rebel spy, and had successfully scouted for the Confederate Army for a long time. He was well known to the boys of the 148th P. V., most of whom had bought trinkets from him. His trinket selling was only a screen or cover to hide his real character and business.

The evidence upon which he was convicted, as given to me at the time and place, consisted of papers found in the false bottom of a canteen. But

Capt. Goldsborough, of Frederick, Md. who was a member of the court martial that tried him, wrote me Oct. 8th, 1902, stating that the evidence upon which he was convicted, consisted of papers found in his boots. These papers, it was said, described the strength equipments, movements, and positions of the Army of the Potomac.

At 6 a. m. July 9th, we left our camp and resumed our pursuit of the Confederate Army. We marched through Frederick, Md., the town of the "Barbara Fritchie" fable, which ranks well with the overhauled John Burns episode, an illegitimate, trivial incident, magnified to great proportions. A number of men joined us at Gettysburg in the same way, and remained with the army for other battles, whose names were never mentioned, beside the fake "hero of Gettysburg," Burns.

A few miles beyond Frederick, on account of sickness, I gave out and was carried in an ambulance the balance of the day. We reached Burkittsville, Md., about twenty miles from our morning start, toward evening, and camped.

Later, the Corps was ordered to cross South Mountain, and Albert Lord, of Co. F., Charles A. Wolf and I, of Co. A, all of the 148th, too sick to move, were abandoned in a field near the village, and left to look out for ourselves. The corps crossed the Mountain into the Antietam country.

It was evening and we crept into the stable of Mr. J. Horine, where we found a splendid bed of loose straw. We soon learned that we had fallen among friends. Here we remained for several days during which time two resident physicians, Drs. Garrott and Biser, attended us, while the good, and patriotic Horine family supplied us abundantly with fine eatables.

Under the care of these people Wolf and I improved rapidly while Lord was getting worse. On Sunday morning, July 12th, we led him to a hospital which had been established in the Lutheran church, in the village, from which the seats had been removed, and beds of loose straw made on the floor. The place was full of sick soldiers. These good people refused all offers of remuneration. At ten a. m. Wolf and I said good bye to them and amid heavy rain we set out to find the army and the 148th P. V., in particular.

We crossed South Mountain, at Crampton Gap, and the South Mountain and Antietam battle fields where many marks of battle still remained, but no unburied dead. We reached the Antietam Creek, which was high and muddy. It was raining hard; but we thought a bath would do us no harm so we stripped, put our clothes under a rubber blanket and jumped into the muddy, rushing torrent. The water was ice cold, and we did not "swim" long. Continued our march in steady rain and mud; we were hardly convalescent and when we reached Rohersville, Md., four miles out we were tired out, and crept into a stable at nightfall; wet, mud all over, cold and hungry, for we had no grub all day. We slept fairly well in our wet clothes. There was no straw but we were thankful for the roof over us and the dry planks we lay on when we heard the storm and rain outside. It was a hard roost and long before day-break, July 13th, we left it and started out on the Sharpsburg road.

We had nothing to eat so we begged dry bread from a lady near Sharpsburg and later found some pork and rain-soaked crackers on the ground where some troops had camped some time before. There was more than the hogs and dogs could eat and we also had plenty. Hunger easily overcame our scruples. We pushed on; night had set in very dark and rainy when we marched through Hagersstown. We reached the vicinity of Williamsport on the Potomac late in the night, having marched eighteen miles. Here we found the Regiment; the boys greeted us as though we had returned from the dead. They were working hard, in heavy rain, by the light of lanterns, in heavy timber, digging trenches and building parapets. With enthusiasm they told us that the war would soon be over; that Lee's army was penned up in the bend of the river, which was too high to cross. His army would be attacked and captured in the morning. A few hours later a native came into our lines, and reported that the last of Lee's army had just crossed the Potomac into Virginia.

Then there was commotion. We set out in pursuit and soon reached the deserted lines of the enemy. We found that he had held a magnificent, defensive position and had built some of the finest field-works we had ever seen. We realized that it was fortunate for us and the nation that we did not fight him in this impregnable stronghold. Had we fought him here the fruits of Gettysburg would have been lost.

FARM WORK FOR MICROBES.

A Pocket Army for Every Farmer to Levy on the Elements for Fertilizer—For the Progressive Farmer.

PART II.—BY HAROLD BOLCE.

The scientists at Washington, under the direction of Drs. Albert F. Woods and George T. Moore, undertook to give the bacteria a food in which there was very little nitrate. The microscopic creatures grew and seemed hungry for more nitrogen. Instead of increasing the supply, the scientists diminished it, giving enough to sustain life and permit the development of the bacteria, but avoiding a diet for them that might weaken their capacity for beneficial work later on.

The results have been wonderful. Instead of retarding the growth of the organisms, it made them robust and intensified their nitrogen-gathering power. It had, seemingly, an effect upon them analogous to that produced upon an athlete by careful diet and training.

It is the next step that imparts to this great discovery its practical economic application. After the bacteria had been reared to full maturity on the course of nutrient salts, the secret of which the Government withholds now for the protection of the people at large, the millions of microorganisms were soaked up in absorbent cotton and thoroughly dried. After several months they were immersed in water and found to be not only alive but possessed of extraordinary activity. Fed on another series of nutrient salts, they multiplied amazingly.

Tests were then made with seeds. Legumes reared in poor soils from seeds inoculated with these bacteria yielded prolifically. The same seed not inoculated, and planted in like soil, struggled feebly and yielded a crop insignificant in comparison with that reinforced by the nitrogen breathing organisms.

Little difficulty is expected to be encountered by the Department of Agriculture in convincing the farmers of the United States that an abundant increase awaits the introduction of laboratory bacteria into the soil. Through the Government's discovery the farmer will know that he is inoculating his seed and his fields with benign organisms, for the sterilizing process in the Government's laboratory work, as has been explained, make impossible the invasion of noxious parasites.

Assisting Doctors Moore and Woods in this important work are a number of young men equipped with most progressive ideas. Mr. Karl F. Kellerman, Mr. T. S. Robinson, Mr. Dwight B. Ball and others have helped to develop successfully the incubation of the unnumbered billions of these infinitesimal gatherers of nitrogen. It is not necessary that the farmer should understand chemistry or any technical details of plant physiology to take advantage of the Government's new scientific discovery. He gets his packages of bacteria and salts, and a printed formula as to their use. The packages are numbered and the preparatory steps clearly indicated. When he has prepared the seed he plants it just as he would if it were not inoculated. Or he may introduce the bacteria into the soil independent of the seeds. Either method will render former crops in poor soil paltry in comparison with the prodigious yield made possible through the co-operation of the bacteria. For many years farmers have known that an occasional leguminous crop restored fertility to the soil. The Department of Agriculture now assures them that, without the presence of these bacteria or their introduction by the farmer, leguminous plants will assist in the exhaustion of the soil just as do non-nitrogen assimilating cereals.

Professor W. O. Atwater and other



H. A. SURFACE.

State Economic Zoologist Surface, after two years' careful study of the Hessian fly in Pennsylvania, has reached the conclusion that there is no true remedy for this most destructive wheat pest after it is once in the wheat or barley, but that care in modifying methods of farming will be effective in preventing its ravages, and it can be kept

specialists have deplored the decrease of nitrogenous elements in the diet of Americans. Protein, which contains nitrogen, they have pointed out, forms blood muscle, bone, tendon and other tissues of the body, but they have found by analyses a deficient amount of protein in American foodstuffs. This, they have clearly explained, is due to the fact although unlimited supplies of nitrogen hover over the world, many of the plants reared by the farmer lack the power to absorb it. As physicians, therefore, preparing a regimen rich in protein for the health and strength of the American people, these billions of bacteria will perform unique labors.

It has been explained above that the Government scientists in rearing these bacteria keep them hungry by feeding them on salts containing less and less nitrogen, and that the organisms are then dried and shipped in a state of suspended animation. When revived, therefore, by the farmer they are wonderfully voracious, and their capacity for absorbing nitrogen, which in turn they bestow upon the plant, is very great, as is attested by the quick and luxurious growth of the crop. It is providential that the food supply of these nitrogen feeders is inexhaustible.

It is estimated by scientists that the atmosphere contains four million billion tons of nitrogen, and what is taken from the air is restored by another genus of bacteria, freeing nitrogen from decaying vegetation which had employed it in attaining growth. The value of the Government's laboratory triumph will be more fully realized when it is recalled that up to the present time the constant elimination from the soil of its nitrogen and the seeming impossibility of obtaining it in any large amounts from the world from time to time with grave and carefully calculated prophecies of a nitrogen famine.

They believed that no agency could be found and generally diffused that could succeed in overcoming the inertia of nitrogen and obtaining it from the air. Therefore, with 38,000 tons of nitrogen suspended over every acre of land, it was predicted that the spectacle would ultimately be witnessed of the starvation of crops unable to absorb the vitalizing element. The fact that an immense amount of energy is required in physics to make nitrogen unite with anything, lent substance to this satiric prediction.

When wood burns, the heat radiated shows how powerful was the agency of the sun in supplying the energy and assembling the elements that made the growth of the tree possible. But mighty as the sun is, it is incapable of freeing nitrogen. The microscopic creatures which the Government is propagating in Washington are, therefore, able to accomplish what the sun is unable to perform. In the matter of the sun, however, it is providential that it cannot cope with nitrogen. If it could, scientists explain, a deluge of nitric acid would annihilate all life, and all the piled-up monuments of man's genius, and the earth would be a vast sepulchre.

The Government's success in propagating these beneficial bacteria comes at an opportune time in the world's history. Guano deposits are nearly depleted, and the nitrate beds of Chile and Peru, which in 1860 were estimated to contain enough of the fertilizing element to supply the world for fifteen centuries, are now giving out, and at the present rate of exportation will be almost exhausted at the end of another generation.

out of the grain if taken in time.

The most important of these preventives is late planting, as the result of Professor Surface's studies show that the percentage of infested fields in relation to the date of planting gradually increased from all that were planted in August being infested and about half of those in the middle of September containing fly to not one per cent. of the fields planted after October 1 having the pest in any of the samples submitted.

From all the wheat-growing counties in Pennsylvania samples of growing wheat have been sent to Professor Surface every week during the last two years. He has examined them with care and noted the presence or absence of the Hessian fly, the stage of the pest, its distribution and dates of appearance and disappearance.

The study of the yields, according to dates of planting, showed that, in general, higher average yields were obtained from fields planted late, than from those planted early. The final conclusion is that no wheat should be

Continued at foot of next column.

POMONA GRANGE MEETS.

Pleasant and Profitable Meeting at Washington Grange, near State College.

At the May meeting of the county grange the county was divided into four districts, to more thoroughly organize the work for the Grange Encampment and Fair. The reports of the committees indicated that so far as their work proceeded considerable progress had been made and renewed interest was manifested.

James A. Keller, chairman, reported for the first district, comprised of the following granges—Centre Hall, Pottery Mills, Spring Mills, Millheim, Fiedler, Rebersburg and Madisonburg.

James C. Gilliland, chairman, reported for the second district, comprised of the following granges—Oak Hall, Pine Hall, Half Moon, Rock Springs and Meek's church.

John Dale, chairman, reported for the third district, comprised of the following granges—Pleasant Gap, Zion, Hubbersburg, Jacksonville and Roopsburg.

Col. James F. Weaver, chairman, reported for the fourth district, comprised of the following granges—Milesburg, Howard, Romola and Unionville.

James A. Keller, secretary of the County Grange Fire Insurance Company, reported that insurance in force in the company was \$4,289,120.00; gain in insurance for the last quarter, \$228,626.00.

Mrs. Annie Dale, of Oak Hall, gave a very interesting reading.

There was a very earnest and interesting discussion on the question as to what assistance the business enterprises of the county grange can give in building up the order.

The noon repast was held under the trees which resolved itself into a social banquet and proved to be a most enjoyable event of the meeting.

By resolution, the fourth quarterly meeting, in November, will be held at Centre Hall when the degree of Pomona will be conferred in all its grandeur, at 1 p. m., after which the biennial election of officers will take place, in the fifth degree. Only members who are in good standing in the county grange have the privilege of witnessing this feature. All other business will be done in the fourth degree.

After the disposition of much other interesting business the meeting adjourned, all feeling that this was a most delightful event of the county grange.

Democratic State Convention.

In pursuance of the action of the Democratic State Committee the Democratic State Convention will convene in the Hall of the Board of Trade Rooms in Harrisburg, Wednesday, Sept. 2, 1903, at 12 o'clock noon, to place in nomination

One candidate for Auditor General, One candidate for State Treasurer, Two candidates for Superior Court Judge,

and to transact such other business as may properly be brought before it.

J. K. P. HALL,
Chairman State Demo. Com.
P. GRAY MEER, Sec.

planted in this State before the last week of September at the earliest, and that planting should be nearly two weeks later in the southern part of the State than in the northern part.

Professor Surface recommends sowing a trap strip across the field during the early part of August to catch the eggs of the fly if it should appear in great numbers. After the eggs are laid and the safety of the later wheat is thus insured the trap strip should be plowed well under, and it may then be planted again for the regular crop.

Professor Surface has prepared a bulletin giving the result for his study of the Hessian fly in this State for the information of the practical agriculturists in Pennsylvania. The bulletin is now in the hands of the State Printer, and will be ready in about thirty days for free distribution from the office of the State Economic Zoologist. Professor Surface says his studies of the fly are needed, and are justified by the fact that it causes a greater actual loss to the farmers of Pennsylvania than does any other one kind of insect.

Professor Surface is not in sympathy with the demand for the repeal of the law forbidding the destruction of robins upon the ground that the birds are playing havoc with fruit, especially cherries.

Professor Surface is a champion of the robin and he is earnest in his protest against exposing them to indiscriminate shooting. He says that wild strawberries, shad berries, dew berries and mulberries, which were once plentiful, have now almost disappeared, owing to the encroachment of cultivation. Now the red breasts must either starve or eat cultivated fruit.

A fellow can't very well help feeling seedy when watermelons and grapes are ripe.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

George M. Walk was appointed postmaster at Hannah.

The Doll brothers have purchased the Harrison bakery in Bellefonte.

The Millheim Journal complains about the miserable condition of the bridges in Millheim.

D. H. Shlagle, the plasterer, of Spring Mills, did some repairing in the school rooms in this place, last week.

The Baileyville creamery was recently purchased from the Francis Rhoads estate by W. E. Hoffman, of Tyrone.

The depot at Centre Hall was repaired last week by men regularly in the employment of the Pennsylvania railroad.

Mrs. Louis Kahl sold her farm land west of Booneville—twenty acres—to Ammon Schrack for the consideration of \$1000.

Miss Kathryn Kerr Saturday of this week will go to Elgin, Illinois, to accept a position in the public schools at that place.

Catharine Derstine, sister of M. M. Derstine, deceased, of this place, died in Bellefonte Thursday of last week at the age of seventy years.

Wm. H. Gushard, of Millin, who was killed at the Burnham steel works by an explosion of slag, was a cousin of W. A. Sandoe, in this place.

C. J. Houser, one of the managers of the Eureka Mine Car Company at Lajose, Clearfield county, is visiting in Centre county. He is a native of Houserville.

Elmer E. Houtz, who for the past year has been engaged in the butchering business in Millheim, sold his meat market and next spring will begin farming again.

A four-horse team belonging to Jerome Moyer, of near Rebersburg, ran away on returning to the barn for a load of manure. Before the horses were gotten under control, one of the animals was killed.

Examinations for admission to the Pennsylvania State College will be held at the College Tuesday and Wednesday, September 15th and 16th, beginning at 8:30 a. m. each day.

Mrs. Enoch Perrine, wife of Professor Perrine, of Bucknell University, Lewisburg, was fatally burned Thursday morning. She was raking the fire when a spark ignited her dress.

The progress of photography as a fine art is admirably illustrated in the Woman's Home Companion for September, which has a double page of exquisite examples of the photographers' art.

The State College Times says: Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Huyett and two daughters, and Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Luse and son, all of Centre Hall, were in town Thursday to see the college grounds and buildings.

Adam Heckman, of Lamar, came to Centre Hall Monday and took with him to his home Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Heckman and children, of Johnstown, who will spend the remainder of their vacation in Clinton county.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Herring, of Pittsburg, and Miss Mame Herring, of Altoona, last week were guests of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Arney, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Lee and Mrs. Minnie Richard. Mr. Herring is a druggist and is doing a good business in Pittsburg.

Mrs. Smith, wife of W. H. Smith, of Spring Mills, attended a family reunion of the Wagners at Pennsylvania Furnace, last week. On this occasion Mrs. Smith's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Wagner, celebrated their golden wedding. Seventy-two descendants were present.

Fire totally destroyed John Washburn's mountain residence, says the Loganot Journal, together with all the contents, leaving the family destitute of anything, save a few potatoes and garden vegetables. The family is in need of provisions, clothing and household goods to relieve their distress.

George Tate, son of Potter Tate, who at one time lived on the Wilson farm near the station, has been in the vicinity of Yeagertown for the past eleven years. At present he is reaping a harvest, his occupation being a builder and contractor. He has a number of men working under him every day, and it is said on good authority that he is coining money.

Henry Snyder, an upright and well-known farmer, of Ferguson Valley, Millin county, while digging a hole in which to bury a large stone, weighing, probably, a ton or more, was caught by the rock and had one of his legs horribly crushed from the knee to the foot. The injury and shock caused his death a few hours after the accident. He was aged seventy-four years.