

The Centre Reporter.

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CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1903.

NO. 35.

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 OLD VIRGINNY."

H. A. SURFACE.

As it was, he left a few guns, many small arms, and a great number of stragglers and deserters, all of whom became our prisoners. Here the Gettysburg campaign ended. The retreat and escape of Lee was one of the most skillful feats of the war. He slipped away from the Union Army, reached the Potomac, seventy miles away, without material loss, and, in the few days that he was at the river, he had thoroughly fortified himself; had gathered flatboats, captured pontoons, and built bridges across the Potomac river at Williamsport and Falling Waters, over which he made his escape with his army into Virginia, on the night of July 13th; then destroyed his bridges, and in safety regressed his army.

The Potomac, a large river at all times, on account of much rain, was high and rapid; but many of the Confederates, thinking it was forcible, plunged into the stream, were carried away and drowned.

Some four hundred were said to have been drowned during the crossing, on that dreadfully dark and rainy night. For several weeks thereafter, the bodies of those unfortunates were seen floating down the river, or lodged along its banks. During the campaign and battle of Gettysburg, the losses in the two armies were about equal, and amounted to over fifty thousand in the aggregate.

All day of the 14th the main body of our army was in bivouac along the Potomac, between Williamsport and Falling Waters. With considerable interest we watched the hills and forests, that hid the Confederate army on the Virginia side. But all was peace and quiet all day, during which sunshine and showers alternated.

On the Virginia side there was no sign of life, excepting a few "Johnnie's" pickets, among the bushes along the shore, steadfastly watching our side.

The campaign rush was over. On the 15th we marched in a leisurely, meandering way, twenty miles, and camped near Harper's Ferry. During the forenoon of July 16th we marched by Sandy Hook, in the vicinity of Knoxville, Md., eight miles, and went into regular camp, for rest and a general refitting, both of which were badly needed.

I was still weak from my recent illness, and over exertion immediately after, played me out. I could not eat "army grub," but I felt hollow and hungry. Toward evening we marched through an orchard, and I picked a lot of green, hard apples, and ate them as we marched; they tasted good.

The soldiers were generally greatly fatigued, many totally played out, by the hard and continuous service of that five weeks. Therefore, "stimulation" was ordered by the "management," and whiskey rations were issued.



"THEY LINED UP FOR STIMULATION."

We turned out, and with cups marched over to where the "barrel" was located, and the roll was called. As a name was called, the man would hold out his cup and get his gill of whiskey. Some answered, I don't want it. Then I would sing out, I'll take that, and the Quarter Master poured it into my cup. This I kept up till my own name was called, and again I held out my cup. I then had the whiskey of four men. All "served" we returned to our quarters. I said, boys, I have been sick for ten days, and I am sick now. I can't eat our grub. I have just finished a quart of green apples, and now, I think I need a little "stimulation." I will drink this whiskey, and then I will lie down in my tent, and wait there to see whether it will kill or cure me. The boys laughed, but none said yes or no to me.

I took the whole dose, and crept into my tent and lay down to await results. This was toward evening, the sun a few hours high; I soon fell asleep and had a good nap. I awoke; was alone in the tent; the sun was just as high, but on the other side of camp; that is, it was "next morning" about eight o'clock.

"turned out"; a beautiful morning. The boys asked: Do you feel better? I said, I am well! fully recovered. I never felt better. Give me some crackers and pork, that I may satisfy my hunger, I am all right now. I soon put away a big breakfast of pork, crackers and coffee. I was once more strong, and able and ready for any service. I was not sick again to the end of the war, and never was to the hospital during my whole service. In this war it was a "long time between drinks." I can recall only three "whiskey rations" in all the time of our service. But to the ingenious soldier, there was always a way of getting a canteen full of "commissary" when we wanted it. We would write an order on the Q. M. something like this: "To the Q. M. 148th P. V. Send me per bearer, for my own use, one canteen of whiskey."

Then we would sign — Lt. Co. — On these orders the "Lieut." always went "dry." When we wanted a drink of brandy, we bought a can of "spiced pears" from our sutler. This meant a pint tin can, labeled "pears," filled with light brandy, and a small pear or two, thrown in.

But it was extremely seldom that we wanted strong drink; and drink to excess, was extremely rare in the 148th and I am not afraid to assert, that it was one of the most sober regiments in the service. As to thievery, well, admitted—"charge sustained."

We remained in camp near Knoxville, Md. July 17th, during which the torn shoes and ragged uniforms of the men were replaced with new, and the boys were once more well dressed, and ready for business.

Toward evening we saw some animals in the brush, down near the river, and George M. Rupp went to see whether they were anything good to eat. He was a good forger, and soon returned with a good sized sheep; so he, Jesse Long, William Meyer and I dressed it. We were hungry for mutton. It was getting dark when we commenced to fry and eat mutton and crackers. We continued to fry and eat and tell yarns, till one o'clock in the morning, when we had finished the sheep, and were fully satisfied. We rubbed our pans and tin plates clean with newspapers, as usual, and soon retired with the rest.

Early in the morning of July 18th, we left Knoxville, marched back to Harper's Ferry, and once more crossed the Potomac, on pontoon bridges, into Virginia, eight miles, and camped four miles from the "Ferry." Early in the morning of Sunday the 19th, we "packed up," and kept ready to move at a moment's notice. There seemed to be something "brewing." The whole army was kept in fighting trim. We moved out at one p. m. and marched leisurely about six miles southward and bivouacked for the night.

At nine a. m. July 20th, we resumed the march, in the direction of Gordonsville, Va., about fourteen miles, and went into camp near Bloomfield, Pa.

The movements of the Confederates were mysterious. Both armies moved south, toward Gordonsville and Culpeper, with the Blue Mountains between, same as we moved north. Therefore, again we watched the gaps.

We remained in camp near Bloomfield, Va., until noon of the 23d, when we resumed the march and moved along the mountains, by Snickersville and Snicker's Gap, to Ashby's Gap, ten miles, and bivouacked for the night.

July 23d, a battle was reported in progress at Wapping Heights, near Front Royal, in the Shenandoah Valley, on the west side of the Blue Mountains, between a part of the Confederate army, and our cavalry and the 3d Corps. It looked like a general engagement; our Division was ordered to hasten down to Manassas Gap, pass through and reinforce the movement.

We were soon on the move; but difficulties besetting, we did not reach the Gap till evening (twelve miles) and were compelled to work our way through the mountains, eight miles, that night, to join in the battle next morning.

This was the worst tramp the 148th P. V. made in all the service. The road was occupied by the wagon and artillery trains, and the troops were forced to take byways and paths, and without either, through jungles and brush, over rocks and cliffs in the mountains. At times we clambered along cliffs in single file; then creeping along great surfaces of inclining, smooth rocks, down which many a soldier rolled fifty feet and more, were badly hurt. One man was so badly hurt that he was heard to cry, at the foot of the ledge, and the more lucky ones guyed him with, bah! bah. He was left lay with a broken leg, and may have died in those mountains, for we did not get by there on our return.

Send the local news to the Reporter.

THE BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

The Centre Reporter herewith presents the portraits of the public school teachers of Centre Hall, together with a brief biographical sketch of each. Centre Hall has just reason to be proud of its public schools and its school teachers, and it is modestly asserted by the writer that every tax payer of this borough owes thanks to the present school board for the economical manner in which the public schools are conducted. It may be truly said that while the strictest economy is being practiced by the school board, the saving is not done at the expense of the school children.

The corps of teachers now in charge of the borough schools are thoroughly competent, and with the exception of one—a beginner—have established creditable reputations. Incompetency is too frequently charged, and that justly, against school teachers. There is not always a want of book knowledge, but there is a lack of common sense, good judgment or tact, as you please to call it, in the major part of the public school teachers of today. It may be safely said that these elements are not lacking in those who Monday assumed charge of the public schools in this borough; neither are they lacking in general knowledge.

The school board has resolved to enforce the compulsory school law, and it is hoped they will receive the support of the citizens of the town. The has been very good, but there is room for improvement, and it is the purpose of the school board to insist on every child of school age to attend school regularly. If this idea is morally supported by every citizen of the town, the attending officer will have little work left to perform, and the expense of enforcing the compulsory school law in Centre Hall will be reduced to the minimum figure.

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN CENTRE HALL.



PHILO R. DUCK, Grammar. JOHN A. YOUNG, High School. REBECCA JANE MOYER, Intermediate. MARY A. FOREMAN, Primary.

John A. Young was born July 7, 1876. The early years of his life were spent on his father's farm, near New Columbia, Pa. The educational facilities being poor in the community, he entered the public school at Vicksburg, which course of study he completed in three years, receiving his first diploma. While in this school, under the potent influence of his teacher, Mr. N. E. Spangler, the horizon of his life was gradually broadened until at the end of the school years there he had determined to enter Bucknell Academy, to pursue at least a year's course of study. Having once entered this institution and coming in contact with the outside world the desire for greater things seized him, which desire was appeased, but not satisfied, when he graduated from the Academy in the spring of 1897. Above the Academy stood the College, and so the College became the objective point for further work.

During this time he was dependent upon his personal efforts to meet his expenses. It therefore, at this period, became necessary to strengthen the financial side of the question. This he did by teaching in the public school at home for two years. In this work he was very successful and was strongly urged to remain at his old post, but the college was still before him as a point yet to be gained, and this task had become the dominating factor in his life.

Therefore, he entered Bucknell College in the fall of 1899, taking up the Latin philosophical course of study, which was completed in June of this year.

During his college life he took an active part in athletics, especially identifying himself with the Field and Track team. He was a good student and was well liked by the faculty and by the student body. He took a number of honor studies in addition to the regular work. These special studies were confined to a course especially adapted to those intending to teach. So another objective point was reached when he was graduated with honors in June.

Since entering upon his school life, and throughout it, binding all into one harmonious whole, the thought that he might become a successful educator has guided every effort. To become a factor in the world's educational movement, to become a useful citizen, and thus be remembered among his fellow men, in short, that he may live such a life among the young that his influence may work for their betterment, both morally and intellectually, is the prevailing motive of his activity.

About a quarter of a century ago, Philo R. Duck, the subject of this sketch, was born at the foot of Egg Hill, in Potter township, near Spring Mills, Pa.

Here she lived with her parents on a large farm until a few years ago when they began retired life. Like many girls she was not fond of her books; and in the bright, sunny morning of her girlhood on the farm, with the primeval forest waving around, the berry bushes standing in tufts nodding to her, the sunlight slipping upon the meadows and the sparkling brooks for her to gaze upon, outdoor life seemed far more attractive than the seclusion of the study room

and the apparent monotony of life in the midst of books.

However she was blessed with most excellent parents, of great moral worth—believing in the maxim, that knowledge is the only thing one cannot be robbed of. So she, like the older brothers and sisters, was compelled to attend the country school regularly; she was told not to fall out of line but prepare for teaching, thus following the older five of the family. As a matter of course she said she could do it.

But instead of attending school that winter she clerked in a large store in Williamsport, but finding that that was nothing like home, and a poor salary caused her to return home and attend school at Centre Hill under Prof. W. P. Hosterman. The following winter and summer attending the Spring Mills Academy under Dr. Wolf, and at the age of 17 she began teaching school at Cross Lane, Potter township. After closing this term she spent twelve weeks at the Central State Normal School, and passed the Junior year's branches. Being thus successful she decided to return the following fall and complete the course, graduating with honors in 1898. She continued the profession of teaching—two years in Romola, two years in Millheim, also two summer terms there, and has now entered upon her second term in this town.

Rebecca Jane Moyer, the subject of this sketch, is a daughter of J. K. Moyer, of Centre Mills, Pa., and is the sixth teacher of the family.

After leaving the Grammar school at Rebersburg, then taught by Prof. W. P. Hosterman, she pursued her studies at Allentown College for Women. Later on she graduated at Bloomsburg State Normal School, and was credited with six branches in the post-graduate course.

By the recommendation of her alma mater she secured her first school near Millville, Columbia county, which she taught for two successive terms. At the close of the second term she was approached by the directors who wished to secure her services for the third term, but about that time she was elected to the Intermediate Grade of the Centre Hall schools.

Miss Moyer has not only a good record in the school room, but is a close student. She is an inveterate reader, and in this way has materially widened her knowledge since closing her books as a pupil.

Finishing the second year in the Centre Hall High School, Miss Mary Foreman was elected to teach the primary grade of the borough schools, in which school, less than a dozen years ago, she herself was a pupil. From the time she reached school age, Miss Foreman was a regular attendant at the public schools, and early acquired the habit of systematic studying. This habit resulted in her being in advance in school work of most pupils of her age, and although on account of ill health she was unable to pursue her studies for a year, a teacher's certificate was granted her almost as early in life as the school law would permit. Miss Foreman is a daughter of F. A. Foreman, of Centre Hall, is of a kind disposition, pure in character and has all the necessary qualifications to become a successful primary teacher.

COURT NEWS.

Doings of August Court as Reported by
W. Harrison Walker, Esq.

The case of Geo. Dale, A. A. Dale, Clement Dale, who survive Henry Dale, deceased, executors of the last will and testament of Christian Dale, Sr., deceased, vs. Clement Dale, and Blanche Hoy, executors, was continued because it was improperly on the list. This was a scire facias to revive a certain judgment.

The first case tried Monday afternoon was that of Ralph Geyer and J. A. Gardner, trading and doing business under the firm name of Geyer and Gardner, vs. Michael Davidson and M. I. Forcey, trading and doing business under the firm name of Davidson and Forcey. This was an appeal taken from the judgment rendered by a justice of the peace, and was for the breach of a coal contract. Some time during the last winter the plaintiffs ordered some coal from the defendants who have control of a mine in this county. They agreed to ship the coal as ordered, but after some inquiry they learned that a man by the name of J. W. Gardner, who they thought was one of the partners of Geyer and Gardner, was insolvent, and without further inquiry cancelled the order and refused to ship the coal. It later turned out that the Gardner who was insolvent was not a party interested, and that they had actually rescinded the contract without legal grounds. The court, after a brief charge, turned the case over to the jury and in a few minutes a verdict was rendered in favor of the plaintiffs and against the defendants in the sum of \$127.75.

The case of J. C. Rossman vs. Jacob F. Musser, which was an appeal, was settled by the parties.

There are only two civil cases on the list for trial at this session.—Wm. Hall vs. The Singer Sewing Machine Mfg. Co., and Maggie Woodring vs. H. M. Dunning.

The Grand Jury ignored the bill of indictment in the case of Commonwealth vs. Ernest Viard, who was indicted by Policeman Boslick, of Philipburg, for resisting an officer and for assault and battery, and placed the costs upon the county. A cross suit was instituted by Mr. Viard against the policeman for assault and battery; the Grand Jury ignored this bill and the court sentenced Mr. Viard to pay the costs of prosecution or go to jail. The first criminal case tried was that of Commonwealth vs. Earl Midian, Ray Crispen, Frank McCartney and Thos. McCloskey, who were charged with the larceny of money from the store of T. B. Buddinger at Clarence. Mr. Buddinger was the prosecutor. A nol pros was entered Tuesday morning as against Crispen and McCloskey. Neither of the defendants were fifteen years of age.

The Commonwealth alleged that some time during the month of July and part of August cash was missed from the money drawer in the Clarence store, and no trace of it could be found until after the clerks had put a \$20.00 bill in the drawer, locked it and left the room for a short time. In less than ten minutes the \$20.00 bill was missing and when they called to one of the above defendants he told them that he had found the money on the floor. They then made a further search and found that another similar bill that had been lost was presented at a store in Snow Shoe to have it changed for one of the boys. They were immediately given a hearing and bound over to court. No testimony was given on part of the defendants and after the jury was out for half an hour returned a verdict of guilty and asked the mercy of the court in imposing sentence on the youths.

Keturah Colpetzer who was charged with an assault and battery by Margaret Tressler was found guilty by the jury and sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and a fine of ten dollars. George Garman who was charged with the crime of larceny by W. H. Crissman entered his plea of guilty. The court suspended sentence for the time being.

Commonwealth vs. Joseph Niccon, indicted for assault and battery; prosecutrix Mary C. Brook. This case is from Snow Shoe township at Clarence and some altercation took place between these parties on the 18th of August and as alleged by the prosecutrix the defendant kicked her in the stomach and hit her with stones, while on the other hand the defendant alleges he was assaulted. Verdict of not guilty and the defendant to pay two-thirds of the costs and the prosecutrix one-third.

William Hall vs. The Singer Sewing Machine manufacturing company. This case is from Snow Shoe township and is an appeal from decision of justice of the peace. Verdict in favor of plaintiff for thirty-nine dollars and fifty-eight cents.

Maggie Woodring, now Witmer, vs. H. M. Dunning, an appeal from judgment of a justice of the peace. This case is from Half Moon township to recover on a note. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff for sixty-two dollars and fifty-eight cents.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST
FROM LOCAL PARTS.

It beats all how it did rain.

John F. Harrison, of Bellefonte, will teach school in Jersey Shore.

D. C. Keller will serve a turkey dinner on Grange Park Sunday, 13.

Reports from all parts of the state indicate that potatoes are rotting.

There is something of a difference between going straight home and going home straight.

Rev. J. F. Shultz will fill the appointments at State College, Pleasant Hill and Bellefonte Sunday next.

J. L. Frank succeeded Joseph Tibbins as mail carrier on the route between Loganton and Rebersburg.

The heavy rains of last week thoroughly soaked the oats shocks and did the crop more or less harm.

Mrs. Solly, wife of Rev. David A. Solly, of Richmond, Va., and children, Friday of last week returned to their home.

The Odd Fellow's reunion at Hunters park was in the height of its glory, when rain set in. The attendance was quite large.

Charles A. Walter will begin the manufacturing of boys' sleds in Millburg. Five hands will be employed in the beginning.

Mrs. J. M. Moyer and Miss Emma Swartz, of Tusseyville, Thursday of last week went to Pitscairn, where they will visit among friends.

Governor Pennypacker has appointed James D. Stoughton register and recorder of Clinton county, to succeed the late William A. Caldwell.

The pike company was awarded \$2,511.43 for its road bed between Millburg and Lewisburg. It is probable that the pike company will appeal.

Misses Rosie, Catharine and Lottie Armbruster and Rena Rishel, of Farmers Mills, were pleasant callers at the Reporter office Monday afternoon.

The railroad station Saturday had the appearance of a terminal in a large city, and all was caused by the home coming of the Atlantic City excursionists.

The County W. C. T. U. Convention, is to be held in Petrikin Hall in Bellefonte on September 10 and 11, Miss Belle Kearney of Mississippi is to be the principal speaker.

The late rains and the high temperature of last week were of material aid to the growth of late corn. Barring early frosts, the corn crop may be better than anticipated.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Meyer, of Centre Hall, and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McCormick, of Columbia, South Carolina, Sunday drove to Redsville to visit Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Meyer.

Lost—A new black shoestring belt, on Wednesday, between the Reporter office and the Presbyterian manse. The finder will please leave it at the Reporter office.

Millin county Democrats placed in nomination the following ticket: Associate Judge, Henry Kane; Jury Commissioner, R. Taylor Alexander; Director of Poor, E. H. Hartman.

Rev. W. H. Decker has resigned as pastor of the Presbyterian church, Lewistown, having accepted a call from McKeesport, for which place he will leave about the middle of this month.

Merchant C. P. Long, of Spring Mills, Monday shipped a car load of potatoes. The price paid was twenty-eight cents. A car load of tubers was also shipped from Centre Hall by S. W. Smith Wednesday of last week.

Miss Sara McClenahan, of this place, took considerable pride in exhibiting a night-blooming cereus, Wednesday and Thursday nights of last week. The plant has five buds. A year ago it bloomed profusely.

A dog knocked a lantern over in the barn of Frank Mirely, near Cassville, Huntingdon county, and the barn, with all its contents, except the stock and some machinery, went up in smoke. The bark of the dog was scorched.

A notable episode of the Union campaigns of 1862 in the West is again brought to mind by a stirring article in the September McClure's—the story of "Andrew's Railroad Raid," told by Frank C. Dougherty, one of the participants and one of the few survivors.

K. H. Keller, of Keller's Business College, Lewisburg, was in Centre Hall and adjoining territory for several days last week, in the interest of the institution. The advertisement of the Keller Business College, in another column of this issue of the Reporter will be of interest to all who have any idea of taking a business course. Mr. Keller is supported by thoroughly competent instructors, and does not depend on advanced students to teach the same branches they are being instructed in.