



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.



"HALT."

Camped in the open field and fully exposed to the blazing heat of the sun, we scarcely knew what it was to be in dry clothes.

Still the general health of the army continued good; this could only be accounted for by the hypothesis that the soldiers of the army had become so habituated to hardships that nothing common would affect them.

The thermometer stood 100°-105° in the shade, while in the sun it was open up to 140°. The air was full of dust, smoke and stench from the burning camp-fires and decomposing animal and vegetable substances.

Heat waves danced visibly along the horizon and rilled on the hill-tops. Everything was at a perfect standstill.

On Aug. 19th conscripted men came in great numbers and were distributed among the regiments. The prolonged quiet was broken today; once more the noise of battle was heard. A cavalry fight reported in the vicinity of Culpeper, C. H. in which the Confederates were defeated and three hundred captured.

Aug. 21st. A few evenings ago at dress parade it was announced that Jesse Mayberry, a deserter from the 71st Regt., P. V., 2d Div., 2d Corps, would be shot to death near Gen. Warren's headquarters today, between 12 and 4 P. M. I went over and found the division formed in "hollow square" facing inward, one side open where a grave had been dug. Soon a brass band at headquarters struck up the "Dead March;" the hour had come; all eyes were turned in the direction of the music.

The procession moved slowly, to the slow, sad music of the dead march, formed as follows.

Brass band leading; next four soldiers carrying upon their shoulders the coffin of the hapless victim, followed by the condemned soldier, arm in arm with a chaplain, who never ceased talking consolation and cheer to the victim who was pale yet heroically firm, keeping step to his own dead march. Next a platoon of twelve soldiers, armed executioners, followed by a squad of twelve guards.

The procession in this order entered the square and moved slowly through the centre to the open side to the grave; the band obliqued out of the way, the coffin bearers set the coffin beside the grave and the condemned sat down on it, bowed his head while the chaplain offered prayer, earnest and loud; then shook his hand, bade him good bye and said he firm, bade him firm! The condemned arose and the officer in charge read to him the findings of the court martial, his sentence, his "Death Warrant," and the order for the execution.

The condemned then took off his coat, threw it aside. The officer in charge stepped up and blindfolded him with a white handkerchief, seated him on his coffin and stepped aside. The "humbuggery" was finished, all was ready. The condemned, with both hands, pulled wide open the front of his shirt baring his entire breast, holding fast, awaiting the leaden bullets that would end his life. Most agonizing must have been these moments of suspense.

Eight of the executioners, about ten paces off, fired; and Mayberry fell, turning half way round and hung on his coffin, not dead. He writhed in pain, violently moved his hands and feet. Two of the four executioners in reserve were ordered to close in and shoot him again; they held the muzzles of their rifles close to his body and fired; then he lay motionless. He was examined by the attending surgeon, and pronounced dead thirty minutes later. A deep murmur of disgust swept through the host of troops in attendance and the execution was openly condemned.

Mayberry died for his family, a wife and three small children. He lived in Philadelphia; he deserted to provide for them, was arrested, returned and executed. All day of Monday August 24th, there was great excitement, throughout our camps. The men were

Continued at foot of next column.

THE CENTRE COUNTY FAIR.

At Bellefonte, Pa., October 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1903.

The time for the Centre County Fair is approaching. It will be held on the fair grounds at Bellefonte, Pa., October 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, 1903. The association has been doing everything in its power to add to the attractiveness of this occasion. The untiring efforts of Mr. John I. Olewine have done much to improve the grounds in every way.

Every effort is being made to secure varied and excellent exhibits. Committees are being appointed in every township to arouse interest in this. Many additions and varieties have been added to the premium list. The ladies of the county, both old and young, and the children, will find the departments for needle work and other lines of household exhibits most attractive.

Arrangements are being made for a magnificent poultry exhibit, even exceeding the wonderful exhibit made at the first fair held in 1900.

The management are already assured of most excellent racing. The track which has now become thoroughly established, has been so improved from time to time that it has perfect alignment. This improved condition has become so far famed among the horsemen that they are arranging from all directions to enter the races, and there will be a hot time on the Centre county race track that week. Special match racing is being arranged and competition between horses driven by their owners will also be a feature.

The free attractions before the grand stand will be of the highest order. The management has engaged, at large expense, the services of prominent performers in most novel and startling acts. Among other things each day the spectators will see the thrilling free exhibition known as a "high dive" from the top of a perpendicular ladder at least 75 feet high into a tank containing 5 feet of water, and instead of diving forward, head foremost, the diver will start from his high perch with a back summersault in the air.

It is proposed also to have a band tournament in competition between our Centre county bands. Amusements of every description will be found upon the ground. No one can afford to miss the County fair.

For premium list or speed programs, address,

D. G. STEWART, Sec.,
Bellefonte, Pa.

A Startling Figure.

It will no doubt surprise the average person to know that the real estate in Centre county exempt from taxes is \$1,680,925.

Was Quay in Sugar Valley.

The Sugar Valley Journal says: An unfriendly visitor shook John Feidler's plum trees and carried away two bushels of plums.

ordered to remain closely in camp; we had roll call every two hours. Heavy and continuous cannonade was heard on the lower Rappahannock not far away. We thought a great battle had commenced, in which all would have a chance; but as night came on quiet settled over forest and field. The "Katie Dids," crickets and myriads of night chirping insects joined in an all night chorus that made us homesick.

A few days of quiet was followed Aug. 28th, by another diversion among ourselves. Two more deserters of the Second Division of our Corps were shot near Gen. Warren's Head Quarters, in presence of their Division. All soldiers of the Division not then on duty were required to turn out and witness these executions. The formation of the Division; procession and the general ceremony were the same as previously described; the victims bravely met their doom. They marched with firm step to the music of their own dead march, a chaplain walking arm in arm with each.

They bravely faced the squad that would send the deadly bullets through their bodies and lay them torn and bleeding on the sod. Prayer by the chaplains, and the "good bye" was given with the usual caution, "be firm."

The men removed their coats and were made to kneel side by side before their coffins. They were then blindfolded, but not bound. Men executed by shooting were never "shackled." A platoon of sixteen men was stationed about ten paces off; the word was given and the loud reports of the guns rang out as one and the hapless victims fell, mangled and bleeding on the sod, but not dead; they struggled and two more shots were immediately fired to end their lives.

They were left lay as they fell, their faces to the ground, their bodies distorted and the backs of their shirts showing the bloody exit holes of the deadly bullets, and pools of blood flowing underneath.

THAT NEW ROAD LAW.

The city dailies are greatly exercised because the rural districts are not making a rush for the six million dollars offered by the state for road improvements. If the great cities had such a proposition set before them, they would at least exhaust the fund, and the officials would be enriched, if the roads would not be benefited. In the country districts it is different. They are not schooled to steal by the millions—the sum staggers them.

The real cause for hesitancy on the part of the rural districts to take advantage of the new road law is simply to avoid a tax that would be impossible to pay. There is not a township in Centre county that can afford to accept any part of the state's appropriation for road purposes, under the conditions laid down by the state authorities. These conditions as generally understood necessitate the expenditure of about \$5000 per mile of road. It only requires a bit of figuring to convince one that Centre county would need to lay a tax that would at once become unbearable if even a small fraction of townships would decide to improve a very limited number of miles of public road.

If the state really means to aid road building, let it offer its assistance in such a way that rural districts may be able to accept the aid without mortgaging its limited wealth.

How can this be done? The solution is easy. Pay over to the local districts its share of an appropriation without specifications requiring the expenditure of five or more thousand dollars per mile. In other words, leave it to the authorities in the several districts how and at what expense their roads shall be built.

Pennsylvania's form of government is becoming too English. The commonwealth prescribes how much shall be paid to public school teachers; it prescribes how roads shall be built; it attempts to regulate the press; and a thousand other local affairs. While the state is maintaining its state rights, it is constantly encroaching on the rights of lesser political divisions. In the case at hand, the state pretends to give aid, and at the same time its demands are such that to accept it would mean the surrendering of its wealth to the state or some other agency.

Value of horses in Centre County	\$ 216,562
Cows	318,025
Occupation	467,375
Real estate	10,916,917
Total assessed valuation	\$11,818,890
County tax rate	.005
County tax collected	\$5,456
Estimated number of miles road	1,250

The estimated cost of building a mile of road, such as is in the minds

of the chief of highways of the state, is \$5,000. Of this sum the state agrees to pay two-thirds, the county is to pay one-sixth and the township in which the road is built, one-sixth. To improve the twelve hundred and fifty miles of highways in Centre county would mean the expenditure of \$6,250,000. One-sixth of this, or \$1,041,666, would be the share of the county, and a like sum for the several townships.

It must be admitted that it would be impracticable nor is it intended to improve all the highways within the state. It is, however, reasonable to assume that one-half the highways are of sufficient importance to warrant immediate improving under the state's direction, which would entail an expenditure by the county of \$520,000, against a like amount expended by the several townships.

Potter township is an average township in the county as to wealth, and in order to get a fair idea of road building according to recent legislation, calculations will be based on the facts as found in that township.

The valuation of Potter township, personal and real, is \$693,529. The estimated number of miles of road is seventy. To improve one-half of the roads would mean the expenditure of \$175,000; one sixth of this—the township's share of costs—would be \$29,166. To extend these improvements over a period of ten years—3½ miles of road each year—would necessitate the raising annually by taxation (in round numbers) \$3,000, or an additional levy of .00432.

This is only half the story. To improve one-half the highways in the county, the cost would be \$3,125,000. To extend this improving over a period of ten years, \$312,500 would have to be expended annually. To raise the county's one-sixth, a tax levy of .00432 would be required. This levy added to that of the township levy of .00432 means a total of .00864, almost one cent on the dollar of valuation.

And this is not the end of the road tax! To this tax must be added sufficient additional tax to keep in repair as before all roads in the local districts.

It will be argued that there is no danger whatever that the sum needed by the county for roads will ever reach the figures mentioned above, because not every township will be able to improve its roads. That argument is conclusive that the law is unjust.

The truth is the new road law is framed to suit the wealthy townships bordering on the larger cities, while the strictly rural townships will be asked to feed on the aroma of rotten legislatures.

THE ENCAMPMENT AND EXHIBITION.

The Thirtieth Encampment and Exhibition of the Patrons of Husbandry on Grange Park is in full sway. The park presents the appearance of a tented field by day and at night its many lights illumines the sky. They are all here—the tenters, the exhibitors, the speech-makers, the fakirs, the farmers and their families.

THE SUNDAY SERVICE.

Dr. Schuyler Pleases His Audience With a Well Prepared Sermon.

The religious services held in the auditorium Sunday afternoon, as usual, were well attended. There was the best of order on the grounds during the entire day, and the closest attention was given Dr. W. H. Schuyler during the discourse on Genesis 3:17-18. The sermon was a timely and appropriate one. The chief thoughts presented in the talk were that sin was the cause of man's necessity to strive for temporal wants; that the church was the chief-divine-instrumentality for the uplifting of mankind; that all organizations—social, charitable, political, etc.—each had a distinctive work to perform to assist the church. The sermon was characteristic of the man, and was entered into with such earnestness that his audience eagerly devoured every sentence that came from his lips.

A Pretty Exhibit.

Gable & Co., of Altoona, have a fine display of a variety of goods that are just in season. Their booth presents an elegant and unique appearance, and is a credit to their great store in Altoona. Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Aurandt, W. King McFarlane and Miss Sarah Davidson, all regular employees of the Gables, and Miss Virna Geises, of this place, have the store in charge.

There will be a re-union of the Hazel-Sheffer families at Penns Cave September 23. It will be a basket picnic and the families and all their friends are invited.

Merchant J. W. Stover and Stover Snook, of Millheim, drove to Centre Hall Sunday so that Millheim might be properly represented at the Encampment. Mr. Snook is a student at Pierce's Business College, which will open its fall term in a short time.

LETTER FROM ILLINOIS.

Crop Conditions of Northern Illinois—Price of Grain, Hay, Etc.

The county fair just closed one of its most successful exhibitions. The attendance on some days was estimated at fifteen to twenty thousand.

Wet weather and cool nights have been the rule during the recent past. Threshing is being very much retarded by the frequent showers and damp condition of the grain in shock. Grain still in shock is growing badly. New oats are not as a rule, yielding well and they test low. Wheat, rye and barley yield well and are of fair quality where threshed early in the season or from properly put up stacks. Corn promises a large yield, but the major portion of our corn area will need warm weather and no frost throughout September to mature it. The April planting is about ripe and ready to cut up. Corn is king in this western country and much concern is manifested for the safety of the corn crop, by stockmen.

Second crop hay is being cut and stored between the frequent rainy seasons. Second crop clover attained an immense growth, yielding two tons or more of hay per acre.

The clover seed crop will be light as the weather has been too wet the blossoms did not fertilize.

Second crop timothy, on pieces mowed a week after the Fourth of July, is more than two feet high and headed out nicely in many places. Timothy hay is bringing \$7.50 and \$8.00 per ton, clover about \$6.00.

Potatoes promise a large yield. There is no complaint, thus far, of rot they retail at from 35 to 40 cents per bushel. Apples are a light crop. They retail at from \$1.00 to \$1.20 per bushel. Plums were abundant but rotted badly on the trees. They sell at about \$1.50 per bushel.

To those who have written asking as to the outlook for employment on the farm or at other pursuits it may be satisfactory to answer these various inquirers in this article by stating that there has been a great scarcity of help on the farms this season. Wages ranged from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day and board, and from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per month and board. Good, willing, energetic, capable and reliable young men from Centre county are always in good demand on the farms in this section. The best time to make application, however, is early in the spring when positions are sought on the farm.

J. M. STIFFLER.

LOCALS.

Miss Mary Evans, of Williamsport, is the guest of Mrs. B. D. Briabin.

The store at Julian so long owned by Daniel Irvin and his sons has been sold to Howard Turner.

Misses Margaret and Virginia Buck, of York, are visiting their cousin, Mrs. F. P. Geary, in this place.

The Carnegie pipe organ, costing \$1,500, for the Bellefonte Reformed church arrived there last week.

Emanuel Yearick, of Millinburg, is making his annual visit to his niece, Mrs. W. B. Mingle, in this place.

George Stover and wife, of Altoona, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Alexander. Mr. Stover is a carriage and wagon builder by trade.

The sale of the personal property of Mrs. Jane Van Valzah will take place Friday, 10 a. m., Spring Mills. The sale will be conducted by Laird H. Barber, Esq., executor, of Mauch Chunk.

Capt. W. H. Fry, of Pine Grove Mills, has gone to Pittsburg to attend the meeting of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical society now in session in that city. He is secretary for Centre county society.

County Superintendent C. L. Gramley visited the Centre Hall schools Thursday of last week. He is much interested in county directors' associations, which under a recent act will have a lawful status.

Mrs. George Shetter, of York, is the guest of her aunt Mrs. W. H. Meyer, in this place. Mrs. Shetter is the mother of Ethel Shetter, who with grandma Seafoss recently were guests among friends in this vicinity.

Tax rate is not permanent. Where the water supply of boroughs and cities is owned by corporations the rental remains at the highest notch for all time. Municipal ownership is too frequently unappreciated.

Alfred Diehl, of Watson town, who years ago lived at Penn Hall and traveled through Penns Valley with a tread power and machine for threshing grain, is here attending the picnic, and is stopping with barber Geary.

Among those from lower Penns Valley who were on the Encampment grounds Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Simon King and daughter, and Thomas F. Meyer and family, of Millheim. Mr. King is landlord of the Mouser house, and Mr. Meyer is one of Millheim's merchants.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

The Freeport Bulletin says: A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John S. Harpster.

Conductor Reamer and wife are spending their vacation in the New England states.

New walks were built in front of the Deininger properties, near the station, owned by Mrs. Rebecca Sparr.

Dr. and Mrs. George Rishel, of Philadelphia, last week visited at the doctor's old home, near Bellefonte.

Frank P. Floray, of near Tusseyville, was a caller Friday. He is farming his father's farm, which is in a fine state of cultivation.

Mrs. Philip Durst, near Centre Hall, Saturday returned from Jeannette, Westmoreland county, when she visited her daughter, Mrs. George Condo.

J. T. Potter and daughter, Mary Delinda, who had been spending several weeks with friends near Centre Hall, last week returned to their home at Clairton.

Clyde Condo, of Darragh, son of M. M. Condo, is here for the first time since he left Centre Hall. He is engaged in the slaughter house of a large meat supply house.

Milton Snyder is home from Jeannette where he is following the carpentering trade. He is making preparations to move his family to that point as soon as practicable.

Lewistown is talking water-works, and will vote on a proposition to construct a plant at a cost of \$200,000. It is evident that water is no small item of expense in all localities.

Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Gress, on their arrival in Centre Hall Thursday afternoon, at once took possession of the Reformed parsonage which had previously been partly furnished.

Miss Phoebe Potter, west of Centre Hall, took suddenly ill while attending the funeral of Judge Riley, at Boalsburg. Her condition was such that she could not be removed for several days.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bartholomew, who has been spending the past week at the home of W. H. Bartholomew, in this place, Tuesday left for Philadelphia, where she will take charge of the home of W. T. Meyer.

George Rickhart and Edward Hummel, of Beavertown, were taken to the county jail in Middleburg charged with shooting squirrels out of season. They were arrested on request of citizens of Beavertown.

Mrs. A. B. Leavy and daughter Kathryn, of Clearfield, are spending the week with Mrs. Mollie A. Ross, in this place. Mrs. Leavy, nee Mertie Merrell, visited at the home of Francis Alexander when a young lady.

Wm. Close assumed charge of the Oak Hall Station postoffice, succeeding Miss Annie Kline who retired. Miss Kline followed her father as postmistress upon his death. Mr. Close is a veteran, and it is in recognition of this that he was appointed to the position he now fills. In politics Mr. Close is a Democrat.

J. Spigelmyer last week bought one hundred and fifty acres of timberland from Jared Kreamer located north of Emanuel Harter's in Miles township. Mr. Spigelmyer will put the Daniel Engle saw mill, says the Millheim Journal, lately purchased by him, on the tract and soon begin to convert the timber into merchantable lumber.

Trim up the shade trees. Most of the trees in Centre Hall will permit of severe trimming, because the majority of them are entirely too low. This condition prevents the sun-light from reaching many quarters and purifying the surroundings. The shade trees in Centre Hall are beautiful, but a judicious trimming of them will add much to their appearance.

Miss Florence Cornelius is expected to visit in the homes of W. H. Bartholomew and H. W. Kreamer next week. Her home is in Madison, Wisconsin. For three months she has been abroad, and is on her way home. She is spending some time in New York City and also expects to visit Washington, D. C. before coming here. Years ago her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Keister, lived at Spring Mills. Miss Cornelius is a cousin of the Bartholomews and Mrs. Kreamer.

Up to date the Reporter has not sent out a single dun for subscription. Three years and more, have elapsed since the rate of subscription was reduced to one dollar per year, in advance. It is remarkable how well payments have been made in advance; but if this notice reaches the eye of any patron who has no fow on his label, it will be well to have one placed there. Patrons who have paid subscription after June 25, will receive credit on their labels within the next few issues.