

# The Centre Reporter.



VOL. LXXVI.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1903.

NO. 41.

## 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 V. THE PRISONER'S STORY.

As before stated, quite a number of us were captured in the fights of Auburn and Bristol (Oct. 14th) and closely interrogated by the Confederate officers as to the number of men we had here; what corps; when we began this movement; where our trains were; what Union batteries we had with us; how many guns we had seen during the last two days and in what direction they had moved; where we had spent the night; where, in our opinion, the Union army was bound for; who was in command, etc., always winding up with a short talk on the absolute uselessness of continuing the war on the part of the National Government and that the Southern people would never yield but would sacrifice their last dollar and the last man to secure their independence. A General, whose name I did not learn, rode up and asked me: Are you not all tired of the war? Yes, sir! We are tired of the war, I answered, but it is on now and we must win to end it. He smiled pleasantly and asked how many troops do you think are beyond those hills? I said: Our main army is there and if you go out there you will come back faster than you went. Every new arrival of prisoners were similarly questioned. Their questions were generally evasively answered.

The Confederate officers were genteel, clever, chivalric and all round good fellows. The rank and file were more given to sectional animosity and ready to jangle with us and in a few instances threatened to "fisticuff" us for strongly defending our side of the question. We got very loud during the argument. The Confederate officers drove their men away, saying that they must take what we say, or stay away from us. Then there was peace.

The Confederate army was poorly equipped, miserably dressed and had very little to eat. They had captured some flour at our abandoned commissaries; this was distributed at night, about half a pound to a man, Confederate soldiers and Union prisoners receiving equal shares.

Flour, as such, could not be eaten and we had no fires or utensils to bake it. We were prisoners under restraint and could not go after wood.

Next day, half famished, we managed to get small fires of chips, grass and dry manure. We mixed up our flour with water, shaped the dough into balls and buried them in the hot ashes under the fire; they would not bake; they burned on the outside; the inside was hot dough that would pull out like taffy; we rubbed off the ashes and dirt that readily came off and ate the steaming, ash and dirt begrimed pittance of dough. Still the corners and folds of our empty stomachs pained and called for more; but for two days longer there was no more. How we hungered for some of our often ridiculed Government "Hard Tack."

All night long and every night while we were kept with the Confederate Army their men seemed to be up and at work, baking flour into biscuits for next day. They had not anything else.

Many of their men were barefooted and in rags. I was told that some of them had marched from Fredericksburg, Va., to Gettysburg, Pa., and back to Culpepper, over five hundred miles, barefooted.

The soles of their feet were black and so tough that they marched, over stone, stubble and briars as indifferently and freely as other men did with shoes on their feet. I thought were I so destitute, I would strip the first dead soldier I met, so that my feet and back might be covered for it was very cold. At that same time I was comfortable in the uniform of a dead soldier myself.

Most of the shabby clothes they wore were odds and ends sent to them from their distressed and poverty stricken homes and were all fashions and colors, mostly, however, on the button-down-gray order. Hats and caps of all shapes, sizes, fashions and colors worn in the same companies. They said they had not been paid for eighteen months; others had never seen a "pay-day" and were penniless. With all this destitution they seemed to render service cheerfully. We felt sorry for them and wondered if there was ever manifested any where greater devotion to any cause. This was to the highest degree illustrative of the true American military spirit common throughout the United States and so often manifested by the Southern soldiers in every war in which our country ever had a part; and but for these

Continued at foot of next column.

## NEIGHBORS ON THE OUTS.

Making it Hot for Each Other in the Vicinity of Polecat Hollow.

Considerable excitement exists on Marsh Creek these days in Polecat hollow, near Romola. Neighbors are making it hot for each other. Recently a man was arrested by Warden Rightmour, of Bellefonte, on the charge of shooting a squirrel. It is supposed that the information was made by the man who was the offender, both neighbors and old friends. The hearing was held in Bellefonte and a fine of \$10 imposed, which aggregated \$17 with the costs. The man who shot the squirrel killed it for a friend who is recovering from an operation for appendicitis. He should recover with such high priced diet.

Another well known resident is reported to have been arrested on the charge of selling liquor without a license. This has caused something of a sensation. Another report is to the effect that two fine hogs owned by a farmer were found with their throats cut one morning. Other arrests are threatened. All of which has created stirring times along Marsh creek.

## The Centre County Fair.

The Centre County fair which was postponed from last week, owing to the rainy weather, is in full swing. The attendance from Penns Valley today (Thursday) and Friday promises to be quite large. There will be return trains on both these days.

Continued from first column.

brave and noble ancestors, there never would have been independence for these "United States."

The prisoners were all gathered into one great squad, just to the rear of the Confederate supporting line of battle; this gathering was discovered by a Union Battery a mile away, and fifteen or twenty, twelve pound Union shells followed each other in rapid succession, screaming viciously over our heads and passed to our rear. There was great excitement among the "Johnnies" for a little while. The fire of this battery suddenly ceased and comparative quiet once more prevailed.

A Confederate major rode up to me, took off his yellow, hard-worn butternut hat, in which crown and rim had "agreed" and hung in the same slant. I thought he was wonderfully polite; he held out his hat to me and said; here, my boy, take this hat. I took it and wondered what next? Give me your cap. I gave him my beautiful, new McClellan cap, which he put on saying, it fits me nicely. I put on his yellow hat; it "drooped" so that I could scarcely see out from under. He smiled and said I looked very well in it; then asked, are you satisfied? Oh, yes, I said, I guess it is a fair trade, under the circumstances.

Another mounted Confederate officer, by his side, said to me, here, lad, let me have that canteen. I handed over my new canteen; but he paid me a dollar for it. The dollar was Confederate money, worth ten cents in green-back, about five cents in "sound money." For that dollar I bought a wooden canteen from a Confederate soldier. This same canteen is to this day one of my war relics.

All day of Oct. 15th (1863) we were kept with the Confederates at the front, under the fire of our own army, which, however, was high and did little damage to us or the Confederates.

Next day Oct. 16th they marched us from Bristol to Beaton Station, eighteen miles, in heavy rain, through deep mud and water. We forded a number of streams from one to three feet deep.

We were thoroughly soaked and plastered with mud; the night turned cold and we had an awful night in our wet clothes; unsheltered and no fires; we nearly froze.

About midnight I determined to try my luck at escape. The night was very dark. I lay down close to the heat of one of our guards; when he had passed me I rolled, log fashion, quietly over his beat; then I arose and walked slowly away. I was nervous and listened amid some suspense for his "halt" or the report of his gun. If the latter came first, I mused, how and where will his bullet strike me? and to what extent will I be injured? I walked slowly on. None of the guards had seen me and I struck out for a strip of woods half a mile away.

I walked with and passed through squads of Confederate soldiers, passing as one of them in the darkness. They spoke to me. I had planned to hide in the woods and await the passing of the Confederate army but in looking for a hiding place I was discovered, and returned to the guard without punishment or reprimand. It was not considered a crime to attempt escape. But shooting followed a refusal to halt when detected. There were, however, vicious men among them who would shoot an escaping prisoner without "halting" him. I fully understood this.

## ABOUT INDIANS IN BOKHOMA.

Miss Cora Love, who left this place last spring for Oklahoma, and who now has charge of a government school in Bokhoma, Indian Territory, writes from that place:

Thinking that it may be of interest to some of the readers of the Reporter, I offer a few notes from the Choctaw Nation, in Indian Territory, more particularly the south-eastern portion.

The greater part of this country is covered with the finest kind of timber; oak, pine, cypress, hickory, and walnut. The trees grow very large and close together. There are a few small prairies through this part of the country, but the timbered tracts are preferred by the settlers, as they have more desirable land when it is cleared. They clear the land much like our early forefathers did, by cutting the bark away around the trees. They find it almost as easy to plow around the dead tree as around a stump, and it makes less work for them.

Since all the whites in this country have either rented or leased the land, they do not feel like putting the work on it they would otherwise. The largest cleared tracts through here contain from sixty to seventy-five acres. They raise corn, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, cotton, cane and peas, raising two crops of corn and potatoes in one year very easily. Everything grows very rapidly, as the soil is rich and well watered.

We find the mountains here, which we look for in vain in Oklahoma, but they are not nearly so high as we are accustomed to seeing in the east.

We have long summers, although I have not found it extremely warm. I do not think we mind the heat here as we do farther east. The winters, I am told, are very moderate, more of a rainy season than a winter, there being no danger of frosts before November. Do not have the high winds that occur in parts of Texas and Oklahoma, and no cyclones.

The country is all laid out in sections but they are not yet fenced in so that the roads do not follow the section lines, but run in almost any direction and are as numerous as we find them in some parts of Centre county. I sometimes wonder that the settlers are not in danger of being unable to find their homes when they go far from them, but every man appears to have a road straight from his house to the nearest town, which suits him very well if he does not happen to live on the wrong side of the river or creek, for there are scarcely any bridges and he may not be able to cross during a part of the winter, the water being too high to ford.

Travel is done mostly by wagon and horse back. The people here go to church, town, and everywhere on the two-horse wagon. They put chairs in behind the seats, when there are more going than the seats will hold. There are but few buggies in the country districts and they often have trouble in getting through with the top up. The Indians travel a great deal through the woods on horse back, following regular trails.

The towns in this country grow very rapidly, becoming a good sized town in a single year. Most of the houses are small and built of plank. Lumber has been very expensive as it had to be brought from the states. The timber in this country was not allowed to be cut or sold until after the Indians had fled on their land.

The towns are the only places where the white settlers have been able to purchase land, (and that just recently.) Along the Choctaw and Arkansas R. R., which runs from Durant to Texarkana, there is a town site laid out every ten miles, and many of them are already flourishing towns.

The Indians, to whom this country belongs, are a strange class of people. They still have many of the wild habits, which are characteristic of their early forefathers. They dress much like the whites, but have no pride in dress, or, if they have, do not display it. The little girls wear their dresses the same length as their mothers, which is about four inches from the ground, and they all wear red handkerchiefs tied over their heads, instead

## The Education of Boys.

In the Delineator for November Mrs. Theodore W. Birney has a suggestive paper on the Education of Boys as future Fathers and Citizens. The gist of her argument is that boys seldom receive the sympathy to which they are entitled—not a maudlin, sentimental sympathy that is calculated to spoil the child, but an intelligent comprehension of his needs and an interest in his doings and belongings. Her conclusion is that if parents will only take a genuine interest in all things that interest their boys, they can hold their confidence, and so long as they possess that they can be reasonably sure that their sons will not go far wrong.

of a hat or bonnet, often keeping it on all day.

They speak the Choctaw language; a strange language, like nothing I have ever heard. I can come no nearer describing than understanding it. I have been able to learn a few words, but am finding it much more difficult than our old "Penn. Dutch." A few of them live much like the whites, but the majority of them live in little log huts, often without either door, window, roof or floor; cook, eat and sleep, shelter dogs and chickens, all in the same apartments. They do not know how to provide food as the whites do, and if they did have it provided, they would not know how to cook it.

They live largely on Tom-fuller, (a food prepared from corn) corn bread, and meats. Many of them still break up the corn into meal as the early tribes did, by using the block; they then shake it through baskets to sift it. For meat they use cattle and hogs. The hogs are never put in pens and fattened as ours are in the states, but are let run in the woods all summer until fall, when they are supposed to have been fattened on the hickory nuts and acorns. The woods are running full of wild looking hogs now, and they do not look as though they ever intended getting fat.

Most of the Indians do not care to farm much and what little farming is done the women do. They know how to do that better than work in the house.

Our school work here among the Indians is all quite different from that in the states. The free schools are free only for the Choctaw children. They are maintained by the U. S. Government for the Indians. Books, teacher, and all, furnished free. The whites are compelled to pay tuition on sending to the neighborhood schools. In most small towns they have a separate school for the whites, also in many country districts where there are a good many whites, and in all larger towns they have a public school system of their own. There are several Academies, three Orphan schools, and quite a number of boarding schools in the Choctaw Nation, just for Choctaw children.

We find the Indian children very eager to learn, and they learn very readily in all branches where they do not have to use the English. Our work here is largely that of teaching them the English language. Those Indians who can speak the English say it is much easier for children to learn than the Choctaw. I find my children take up writing and drawing very readily. In fact, anything that they can copy. They are all pretty writers, have more trouble in learning to read and spell. They can repeat the words very easily but, to the majority of them, the words in our language have no meaning after they have repeated them. They are often real good readers but do not have the least idea what they read about. It means just as much to them as so much Choctaw would to the children in your public schools.

I find them very easy to control. They are timid and always obedient, when they understand what is required of them. Often find the most trouble in making them understand what is wanted. Many of my children come to school on ponies, leaving the ponies to graze until they are ready to go home. They never bring their dinner pails to the school house, but hang them on trees several rods from the school house and at noon go out there to eat their dinner. They are in the habit of hanging them out that way during the entire winter.

Many of their games are much like the games white children play, but their ball game is quite different. They have their bats so made that with two of them they can pick up the ball, and they play through the entire game without once touching the ball with their hands.

A good education makes the greatest difference conceivable in an Indian. We notice the greatest difference between those who have gone to school a great deal and those who have not, they try to live more like the white people, when they have learned how.

## Editorial Game Laws.

The Editorial Game Laws are stated in an Eastern publication to be as follows: "Book agents may be killed from October 1st to June 1st; scandal mongers from April 1st to February 1st; umbrella borrowers from August 1st to November 1st, and from February 1st to May 1st. Every man who accepts a newspaper for two years and on being presented with the bill, says, 'I never ordered it' may be killed on the spot without reserve or relief."—Medical Review.

Mrs. Mary J. Goodhart will make public sale of her farm stock and implements, Thursday, November 12. See sale register and posters.

It is better to give than to receive the things you have no use for.

Lieutenant Kissing Hobson will be an attraction at the Huntingdon county teachers institute. The ladies especially ought to be glad to have him come into their midst.

It is claimed that President Roosevelt used the personal pronoun thirty-six times in twenty-eight consecutive sentences while making a speech the other day. That was certainly strenuous-I-ty.

The two New York Senators are paired—or will be in a few days. Senator Platt is to follow the example of Senator Depew and marry again. He is three score and ten, which is two years older than "our Chauncey" was when he remarried. And yet foreigners pretend that the strain of American life wears men out prematurely.

It will be well for the Democrats of Centre county to awaken to the fact that although there is little excitement in politics, the Republican party will not lose an opportunity to elect its candidates for county offices. Centre county is naturally Democratic, but the stay-at-homes have turned half the offices over to the opposition.

Democrats: Don't be fooled by the apparent apathy in Republican local politics! There are two county offices—Jury Commissioner and County Surveyor—to be filled, and while these are at the bottom of the list as to importance, it will be misjudging the Republican party of Centre county if it does not put forth its best efforts to fill them with two of its own members.

While subjecting wheat to a duty in his program, ex-Minister Chamberlain proposes to admit free the Indian corn of the United States. If, as he argues, the duties on wheat would not increase the cost of bread to British consumers, wherein lies the necessity of exempting Indian corn from his imperial plan of protection? Duties ought to work the same way in both cases.

War is possible between Russia and Japan. The whole matter has reached a pass at which hostilities are largely a question of temperament. If Admiral Alexieff, at Port Arthur, M. Lessay, at Peking, and Count von Posen, at Tokyo, intend to have war, they can precipitate a conflict, no matter what may be the determination of the Czar, or even of his Government at St. Petersburg. There are times when nations drift so near each other that it lies altogether with the man at the wheel to decide whether there shall be a collision.

If Governor Pennypacker shall be guided by the desire of the people of Pennsylvania he will do what he can to keep the Supreme Court out of politics and make it as nearly a representative body as possible. It would only be a matter of the commonest fairness to select a Democrat to succeed Chief Justice McCollum. Locality is an inferior consideration as compared with character and attainment. There is no dearth of Democratic lawyers in the State whose eminent fitness is beyond dispute. And the Supreme Court needs leveling and leavening. As it is able, but lopsided.

Representative Hill, of Connecticut, has information from some source that the President will recommend a Commission to consider the currency question, and that Congress will create such a Commission. What is the matter with the committees of the two Houses? This Commission idea may be employed as a means of evading action if it shall be felt in Congress that public sentiment requires a bluff at doing something. But Congress is not fond of Commissions. It believes its committees know as much as any Commission can possibly know, and as a means of legislation it certainly will not create a Commission; as a means of concealing the cowardice of the "stand pat" policy it may create one and then boast that it is proceeding in the direction of currency reform as rapidly as prudence will permit.

## LOCALS.

It might be wise to be vaccinated. Watch the sale register in the Reporter.

The Millin county fair will be attended by a number from Penns Valley.

"Northern lights" were plainly visible Monday evening. The spectacle was decidedly grand.

Among the patents granted recently is a harvesting machine by John W. Taylor, of Reedsville, and W. J. Hunter, of Huntingdon.

Jacob Sprow, of near Centre Hall, was a caller Monday, and had the label on his paper advanced. He reports Aaron Lutz improving, and all others in their usual good health.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Judge John G. Love last week held court in Clearfield county.

Mrs. J. C. Barr, of Tyrone, was the guest of her niece, Mrs. F. A. Foreman.

Last week's heavy rains did considerable damage in the eastern portion of the state.

Albert Bradford, of Farmers Mills, advertises sale of personal property to be held Tuesday, 27th inst.

Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Emerick, of Fleming, attended the funeral of Mr. Emerick's mother, held Sunday.

Miss Romie Van Pelt Saturday will go to Chambersburg to resume her studies in music in Wilson College.

Misses Bess and Breeze Benner and John Benner last week went to Philadelphia, where they have secured positions.

Alfred Durst is having a bath room fitted up in his home on Hoffer street. Mr. Durst has one of the prettiest homes in the town.

D. W. Bradford is the owner of a fine Shorthorn bull that weighs 1725. He is three years old, and is finely marked and solid red.

Mrs. Henry P. Sankey, of Potters Mills, elsewhere in this issue advertises public sale of farm stock and implements for November 10th.

John Q. Miles, ex-County treasurer, on his way from the Milton fair last week, stopped with his daughter, Mrs. George O. Benner, in this place, over night.

The Philipsburg Ledger assures the school teachers in Centre county that they can secure boarding at the hotels at from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day and at private homes at \$1.00 per day.

Superior Court Judge George B. Orady, of Huntingdon, is being indorsed by attorneys in Huntingdon and Blair counties for the vacancy on the state supreme court bench.

Mrs. Alfarata Goss has been ill at Houtzdale for the past two weeks. She left Centre Hall to visit her son Harry, and on the way took a severe cold which developed into pleurisy.

Rev. C. L. McConnell, of Millinburg, has been appointed historian orator at the next meeting of the Lutheran Synod, at which time that body will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary.

George Kline, of Oak Hall, will succeed Albert Bradford as head miller in the flouring mills of the J. B. Fisher's Sons, at Farmers Mills. In the spring, Samuel Frederick, who recently purchased the mill, will assume control of the plant.

Miss Elsie Alexander, daughter of A. C. Alexander, of Centre Hill, Friday brought to this office a part of a raspberry stalk that bore a bunch of ripe berries. The berries were inspected by many persons who called at the Reporter office.

Miss Sara Boude Barber, the elocutionist of Lewisburg, who will be remembered as having given an entertainment in the Presbyterian church in this place some time ago, has accepted a position in a school for ladies in Washington, D. C.

Those who care to learn how Morgan, Schwab and the bulk of millionaires make their money, have only to read the transactions of these financiers as relates to the U. S. Ship Building Company. It beats any soap confidence man on the road.

Rev. Kikuro Yoshida, the young Japanese who graduated from the Lancaster seminary and spoke in the Reformed church in this place a short time ago, was given farewell Monday evening of last week by the Franklin and Marshall students. Rev. Yoshida will sail for Japan in a few days.

Tax Collector J. Frank Smith reported to the school board that up to October 1, he had collected school tax to the amount of \$648.67. His report and payment to the school board treasurer was made in compliance to a new law that requires monthly reports, and the tax to be paid over monthly.

A detective of the post office department was in Centre Hall looking for a witness who could identify Lewis, Palmer, Ryan and Shireman, the robbers captured in the Seven Mountains. These characters were seen by Messrs. John Puff and Sturges Shultz an hour before the attempted robbery took place in Centre Hall, but neither of the young men could identify them.

A prominent woman of Dushore, Sullivan county, was arrested by a United States marshal for having written scurrilous anonymous letters to business men. These missives advised the husbands to keep a close watch on their wives. The arrest was made after a reward of \$100 was offered for the apprehending of the offender. The person who writes anonymous letters never does so with good intentions.