

The Centre Reporter.



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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.

The battle of Bristoe was ended, and the Confederates were defeated. In comparison with many others, it was not a hotly contested battle; still the Confederates must have lost quite heavily, judging by the number of wounded taken to the rear. Their wagon and artillery trains began to move toward the Rappahannock, and by the 17th of Oct. their army was in full retreat, slowly, but surely. They destroyed the R. R. as they retreated, burning the ties, and bending the rails.

Our squad of prisoners, about a thousand in number, reached the Rappahannock in the evening and lay there all night Sunday, October 18th, was quite a lively day. The Union Army pressed the Confederate Army hard at all points, crowding them to the river, which was high and impassable. They built a temporary bridge on the pier of the burned R. R. bridge, a hastily built, rickety structure.

Gen. Lee with his staff, rode up. He dismounted and closely watched the building of the bridge, now and then offering suggestions. He was a fine looking man, of dignified and commanding presence. Tall, erect, quite gray, full beard, military cast of features, and looks every inch a soldier.

The bridge finished, we crossed the Rappahannock in the afternoon and were marched to Culpeper, twelve miles, where we arrived at eight p. m. and some time later were given three crackers for supper.

We were quartered in the Presbyterian church on Main street, from which theseats had been removed. Later, this church was destroyed by the flames of war, and was never rebuilt.

Monday, Oct. 19th, dawned clear and beautiful yet cold. The day was delightful, and was spent in the before named church, and the adjoining graveyard. This morning we received three crackers and a little bacon for our days ration. This we ate in two minutes, and were more hungry than before.

During the forenoon of the 20th we were searched, more for concealed weapons, than for valuables. There was very little taken from the men, beside pistols and daggers. No clothing or blankets, notwithstanding the cold of the day.

In the afternoon we were marched out of the church, through the town, and along the wagon road to the Rapidan river, which we crossed by a rickety, trussel military bridge, after night, reached Orange Court House, eighteen miles from Culpeper, about midnight. Here we were put on a freight train for Richmond.

At Bealton I met a sick Union soldier, among the prisoners, whose name I never learned. He said he was dying for a drink of water. I gave him my canteen containing a quart of water. He drank it all; he was burning with fever. I kept him supplied with water which, under the circumstances, was hard to get. There was no chance for a doctor or medicine for him.

I led him on the march to Culpeper. I waited on him in our church prison; he was very sick but kept his feet. His face; hands and feet were greatly swollen. When we left Culpeper, afternoon of the 20th, he came with us. A mile out of town we halted for a little while; there was commotion behind the end of a stone fence. Some one yelled "fight," I was near and rushed in to see what the fracas meant. A soldier was lying on the ground in convulsions. It was my sick companion; in a few minutes more he lay quiet. Life had gone out.

I straightened the body of the poor boy and covered his face with his cap. I felt greatly distressed. I never thought he was dying sick and was not as attentive to him as I could have been; to this day I feel sad when I think of the early, untimely end of this poor boy, in a fence corner, a prisoner of war, among strangers, not even knowing his name. We soon moved on; he was left lay where he died. How I wished I knew his name and the address of his people, that I might inform them of the time and place of his death. How anxiously the parents, brothers and sisters watched and waited for news, that never came. How they sorrowed, we can never know. Many thousands so died and are among the "unknown," yet honored dead. This was the first death in our squad of prisoners. But we soon furnished victims rapidly.

One fact often recurs to me, which always puzzled me. Between Culpeper and the Rapidan river along the public road on which we marched, and

where there had been no fighting, we saw scattered along, the bodies of six or eight dead Union Soldiers; several of whom I hurriedly examined, and found they had bullet holes in them. They had been shot. Now, who shot these Union Soldiers? At the time, the general opinion among us was, that they were prisoners and were murdered by their guards. But this theory could not be supported when we suppose that other prisoners had as honorable guards as were set over us. But still the question remains unanswered. Who killed them, and why should their bodies be lying along the road unburied, ten days after the Union Army had left the section. Were they stragglers, Union Soldiers shot by "bushwhacking" citizens, or was it the work of Moseley's gang of murderers?

We had a slow and tiresome trip on the train from Orange Court House to Richmond, by way of Gordonsville and Louisa Court House. We reached Richmond late in the afternoon and were marched through the City to Libby Prison, where we were lodged. Many of the people gave us frowning glances as we marched by them; and it was easily seen that we had few friends here.

"Libby" was a very large, four-story plain and quaint old brick building, white-washed clear round, from the ground up to the window sills of the third floor, and would easily shelter three thousand men. It was formerly used as a ship-chandler's establishment, and later as a tobacco factory and warehouse, while the basement, fronting on the canal, was used as a "junk shop." The rear rooms of the basement were still full of tobacco presses and other tobacco factory machines.

The sign of LIBBY & SON, SHIP CHANDLERS, still swung and creaked on the corner of the building, on Carey and 20th Streets.

"Libby" was guarded by a regiment called the "Richmond Grays," a stylish regiment, made up of clerks and young business men of the city, who would stand guard around Libby Prison two hours, then spend four hours in their business places, then back to guard duty two hours, and so on. In this way attending to business and doing the work of a soldier beside. They were fine looking fellows, beautifully uniformed in gray and wore scarlet caps of the McClellan pattern.

We entered Libby Oct. 21, when we received a fair ration of wheat bread and boiled beef, nothing more. We were prisoners just one week, during which we ate three times. It was long between meals and the meals were light. I will be explicit here. On Oct. 15th we had nothing and marched four miles. On the morning of the 16th we had half a pound of real dough each and then marched eighteen miles in heavy rain and deep mud. We were hollow as a blacksmith's bellows and tired easily. But the worst was yet to come.

Next day, the 17th, we had nothing to eat and marched twelve miles, while the day following, Sunday, Oct. 18th, we had nothing to eat and marched twelve miles more. Now we were hungry for a fact, and we "had a pain." We no longer marched with the youthful spring of our boyish legs. We tottered and staggered and fell down frequently; some stayed down and I never heard what became of those. At eight o'clock in the evening of this day we reached the Church Prison in Culpeper and at ten we received three Union Army crackers each; how good these "hard tack" tasted. On the morning of the 19th they gave us three crackers and a little bacon. No more that day, while on the 20th we had nothing and marched eighteen miles, on the 21st we had nothing and were on the freight train eighteen hours.

To sum up: From the 15th to the 21st of Oct. (1863) seven days, each of us had half a pound of flour and six crackers to eat, and during which time we marched sixty-four miles.

The "Johnnies" were too poor to feed us. They had no "grub" for themselves. Their supply trains at this time were nothing more than long lines of empty wagons and bony horses.

We remained in Libby a few days, during which time we were very unruly, and often amused ourselves in dropping lousy shirts and brick-bats on the stylish guards below. We never blamed them for shooting at us through the windows when we hit them with brick-bats. And we grined when we read in northern papers about the "inhuman custom" of the Confederate guards of shooting at the Union prisoners, through the windows of Libby Prison. They knew not the provocation.

Five hundred of us were transferred to "Castle Thunder," a large three-story brick building on Carey street.

Send the local news to the Reporter.

SENATOR WILLIAM P. SNYDER'S PUBLIC RECORD.

He Supported Every Vicious Measure of Legislation Introduced.—Republican Candidate For Auditor General Supported All Kinds of Grabs, Pinch Bills, Corporation Measures and Rippers Find Favor.—A Subservient Tool of the Republican Machine.

A summary of the vicious legislation of the past ten years would be an accurate record of Senator William P. Snyder's legislative career. No inquiry was too rank for him, no infamy too atrocious. He has been the most subservient tool of the machine at all times and under all circumstances. The interests of the people have never challenged his attention, while every measure of spoliation for the benefit of corporations and political cliques has had his active support.

To give the list of infamous bills supported in the legislature by Senator Snyder from the beginning of his service in that body would occupy too much space. Such a summary would fill a volume. But we may take the record of the sessions of 1901 and 1903 and find room for the most conspicuously bad bills he supported. In the session of 1901 the storm center of corruption was the bill known as the Pittsburgh "ripper." The purpose of that bill was to legislate out of office public servants chosen by the people for no other reason than that they refused to yield willing obedience to the mandates of the boss. Senator Snyder was one of its most active supporters. He appeared to take delight in the infamy of his action.

Some Other Vicious Bills.

But there were dozens of other bills teeming with corruption which had his earnest support during that session. Among them were the Philadelphia "ripper," subsequently declared unconstitutional by the supreme court; the measure creating another court in Philadelphia against the protest of the bench, bar and a vast majority of the people, the franchise grabs, which bestowed upon a lot of political adventurers property of the people of the aggregate value of millions of dollars, and the Steinman canal grab bill. For the Philadelphia part of the franchise grab Mr. John Wanamaker offered the cash consideration of \$2,500,000, while the Pittsburgh end, which went to Quay's son and the Bigelows, was equally valuable.

The Erie land grab was one of the most unique swindles ever perpetrated by a corrupt legislative clique. Presque Isle is a large body of land which forms one side of the beautiful harbor of Lake Erie at the city of Erie. A group of land-grabbers have been striving for years to get possession of that lovely spot. In the session of 1901 they swooped down on the legislature laden with bribery. The measure was pressed with impudent vigor and persistence. It was defeated in the House of Representatives, reconsidered and passed by fraud. The next day the fraud was exposed and the measure put back upon the calendar, where it remained for some weeks and was finally defeated. But it passed the senate and among its most earnest supporters was Senator William P. Snyder.

The Multiplication of Offices.

One of the petty swindles of that machine governed and boss ridden legislature was the measure increasing the clerk hire allowances of the supreme court judges. Under a previous law for which Snyder had voted each supreme court judge was allowed a clerk at a salary of \$1000 a year. At that it was a most desirable position and you couldn't have driven any occupant out with a battery of Gatling guns. But the machine wanted to increase the reward for party services to those gentlemen and a bill increasing their salaries to \$2500 a year was introduced. Some of the judges protested against the extravagance, but the machine legislature disregarded the protest and railroaded the bill through. One of the active leaders in the transaction was Senator William P. Snyder.

Senator Snyder has always been, not so much for the old flag and an appropriation, as for new offices and an appropriation. During the session of 1901 there were several bills of that kind considered. Among them were bills creating new courts and additional judges. We have referred to the new court in Philadelphia and his vote on that measure. A bill was also introduced for a new court in Allegheny county and Snyder supported it with all the earnestness and zeal that a hungry man puts into consuming a palatable meal. The people of Pittsburgh protested vehemently, but that made

Judge Cyrus Gordon, of Clearfield, who has the Republican nomination for re-election, is being openly antagonized by the Democrats, who have named Allison O. Smith, brother-in-law of ex-Judge Krebs, and, if reports be true, the incumbent has to contend with opposition, more or less concealed, of factional foes. Much feeling was shown in the convention which nominated Judge Gordon, and should it be carried to the polls his re-election would be greatly imperiled. On the last vote for Governor the Republicans polled 6418, the Democrats 5591 and the Prohibitionists, 709.

Miss Florence Whitmer Kline announces that she is opening her winter term in vocal and instrumental music. She has quite a number of scholars.

reference to Snyder. Finally a vast delegation of business men representing the board of trade and other civic organizations went to Harrisburg and frightened the machine leaders until they abandoned the enterprise. But the last to give up was Snyder.

Montgomery County Court Bill.

The talk of the town during that session was the bill creating an orphan's court in Montgomery county. That county was represented in the senate of that session by Senator John A. Wentz, who protested most emphatically against the profligacy involved in the measure. He said the people were opposed to it almost unanimously and declared that if action was postponed on the measure for a few days he would prove his statement. Snyder, who was in the chair, and his machine associates on the floor refused to postpone and the bill was expedited. Nevertheless during the following recess from Friday to Monday night Senator Wentz started a protest signed by thousands of citizens of the county, but that made no impression on Snyder's mind. He voted for the bill and it was passed.

There was another curious method for robbing the people of valuable property developed during that session of odious memory. It will be remembered that a group of political crooks and machine dependents had discovered a scheme by which it was possible to acquire without giving valuable consideration millions of tons of coal under the rivers of the Commonwealth. The process was the same as that by which unclaimed lands are taken by patent. This gigantic system of spoliation had been begun in Fayette and other western counties and warrants for the property had been issued. Representative Corey, of Luzerne county, thereupon introduced a bill to revoke the warrants and make further issues of the kind impossible. He showed by carefully prepared statistics fully authenticated and beyond dispute, that the loss to the state if his bill was not passed would amount to the enormous sum of \$50,000,000. But that fact didn't restrain Snyder from voting against it. In fact it appeared to have only whetted his desire in the matter to a keen edge and he promptly and loudly voted no.

Voted For Every Bad Bill.

There were a number of other bills upon which Senator Snyder voted negatively and it has been said, not without good reason, that he voted for every bad bill and against every good measure during his ten years service in the senate. Among those which he voted against were the so-called Guffey ballot reform bill. In his speeches during the previous campaign for election of senators and representatives in the legislature Senator Quay had pledged himself to the support of any fair ballot bill which Democratic National Committeeman Guffey would recommend. Soon after the legislative session began a number of leading Democrats got together and framed a bill which Colonel Guffey recommended. It was introduced in both houses of the legislature and Senator Quay was invited to fulfill his pledge. He went to Harrisburg and with other leaders of his party went into conference with an equal number of leading Democrats, including Colonel Guffey. After going over the measure carefully Quay admitted its fairness and the justice of the demand to make his pledge good, but said he couldn't control his men. Among those he couldn't control was Snyder, for he was among the most vociferous against the bill. But Quay had no trouble in controlling him subsequently for the franchise grabs and other vicious legislation.

Another bill which Senator Snyder refused to vote for during that session was one requiring state officials to itemize statements of expenses in annual reports. There is no greater source of fraud in the public service than the expense accounts of state officials. That is where the money comes from to pay salaries on padded pay rolls and make up deficits on any old account. Expenses, so much, is a comprehensive and confusing expression. But if itemized statements were required there would be no opportunity to pad pay rolls or supply deficiency through other irregularities. For this reason the bill in question

The Superior Court has decided that the sentence in the case of the four grafters in the Philadelphia school board, who were convicted of extorting money from school teachers for supporting them for positions, must stand. These men were all pets of the machine and were in politics for what there was in it. It was clearly shown that they compelled teachers to pay them for their support, which was not only bribery on their part, but was demoralizing to the teachers. The same practice is carried on to a greater or less extent in many sections of the state, and other practices equally pernicious in their effects upon the school are as common as showers in April.

The solution of the Wentz problem would be more profitable than the Ann question.

was introduced—and promptly defeated, among its most active antagonists being Senator William P. Snyder.

Mr. Creasy's amendment to the road bill of that session, providing for the taxation of corporations to pay the expenses of road building, maintenance and improvement, was also opposed by Senator Snyder with equal energy and earnestness. He preferred to put that burden on the farmers.

The legislature of 1903 was less prolific in vicious legislation, but it was not free by any means. As a matter of fact most of the crooked bills were killed or rather dropped on the last day of the session, for the reason, it was generally surmised, that Governor Pennypacker would veto them if they were passed. Among these were an act to repeal the act to authorize the governor to incorporate the Susquehanna canal, which was approved in 1835. It is believed that there were all kinds of money in that measure for the "gang." Another was an act to amend the act authorizing county commissioners to rebuild county bridges destroyed by flood or fire. This was likewise a juicy job and was said to be good for a million at least. An act providing for the incorporation of companies for the filtration and purification of water and supply the same to the public. This was known as "the water snake" and was a special pet of the machine.

Another bill upon which the machine put much hope for loot was an act to authorize betting on horse races at county fairs. The lobby behind this measure was particularly bold and insistent. The scheme was to invade the several county agricultural fairs with a group of gamblers and rob the farmers mercilessly. Then there was the supplement to the corporation act to authorize the construction of dams in rivers and streams of the Commonwealth for the purpose of storing water and power and generating electricity therewith. This was a measure for the millionaire boss and promised vast returns. Any amount of money was given for votes for it, for the reason that it was expected to yield millions. Another rich man's job was the bill to authorize the purchase of property and franchises of corporations at judicial sale. The idea of that was to organize litigation against corporations which the gang aspired to control and force sales at sacrifices. It was a most dangerous scheme.

But these vicious measures were not stricken from the calendar at the instance of Senator Snyder. On the contrary, he supported every one of them at every stage and was ready to give them his vote on final passage. But the night before the final adjournment it was determined for some unexplained reason to drop them, and it was common talk in the lobbies that Pennypacker had made the kick that worked the result. Every vicious bill which did pass during the session was supported by Senator Snyder. These included the press muzzle, abandonment of portions of railroads, increasing salaries of clerks in agricultural department, the \$6,500,000 road law, the judicial salary bill, amendment to the act for the incorporation and government of elevated and underground railroads, authorizing railroads to acquire, hold and convey stock of other railroads in violation of the constitutional provision against the merger of parallel and competing railroads. The bills for additional clerks and deputies in the factory inspector's office was supported most actively by Senator Snyder, as well as that increasing the salary of the chaplains of the legislature to \$5 a day and mileage, which will make it possible to tax the treasury for mileage from the most remote part of the state every day of the session.

Senator Snyder, who is responsible in part, and a very large part at that, is the Republican candidate for auditor general, the officer of the state who passes upon all those accounts and ratifies the robbery of the public by legal processes. No wise man puts a convicted thief in charge of his finances, and it would be equally foolish to put a man who has proved himself an unfaithful servant in the legislature into an office which gives him infinitely greater opportunity to loot

Death of a Lutheran Missionary.
Rev. Elias Unangst, D. D., a retired Lutheran missionary, known to many in Centre county, was found dead, sitting in an easy chair at the home of his son-in-law, W. I. Woodcock, Esq., at Hollidaysburg. He was born in Easton, Aug. 9, 1824, and was graduated from the Pennsylvania college, Gettysburg. About 1855 he was united in marriage with Miss Phoebe A. Milliken, of Lewistown. Rev. Dr. Unangst spent thirty-six years as a missionary at Guntur, India. The death of his wife occurred at that place in 1890 and the year following he returned to this country and has since made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Woodcock, who is the sole survivor.

See the new advertising department.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Fine October weather.
Last week was good weather for the postponed Bellefonte fair.

Messrs. Charles Arney and Harry Harper each killed a wild turkey last week.

An old people's service will be held in the Evangelical church, Lemont, Sunday morning.

Miss Onmacht, of Bellefonte, last week sold a piano to Edward Robinson, in this place.

Mrs. Jared Kremer, of Rebersburg, Thursday was the guest of Mrs. D. J. Meyer, in this place.

Frank A. Foreman, of this place, Saturday lost one of his work horses for which he had paid \$125.

The report that a case of small-pox exists in the family of Ellis Horner, of Bellefonte, is without foundation. Mr. Horner wishes it so stated.

William Robert Clark, fifty-two years old, a merchant of Lewistown, and secretary of the Lewistown lodge of Odd Fellows for ten years, is dead.

Mrs. Anna Clements will move from Centre Hall to Watsontown within the next few weeks. On a recent visit to that town she rented a dwelling house.

Aaron Thomas and assistants put a new roof on the Evangelical church, Lemont. The work was performed in two days, which again proves Mr. Thomas' speed.

With good weather the balance of the week, Al. Osman will finish the brick work on the dwelling house of A. E. Kerlin. The work done is a credit to him.

A new and modern railroad station is to be built at Lewistown Junction. The present station house, which has done service for forty years, is inadequate as well as antiquated.

Mifflinburg Times: Rufus Lee went to Loyalsock, Lycoming county, Thursday evening where he will be employed in the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's tower, at night.

The mountains were never prettier than now. The most skilled artist can reproduce but a small fraction of the beauty everywhere present, and the most vivid pen pictures merely hint at the real beauty.

John Taylor, of Muncy valley, Lycoming county, died of cancer of the stomach. That he lived as long as he did was due entirely to his wonderful vitality, no food having passed his lips for forty-nine days.

Irvin Gray, of Stormstown, purchased Joe Wilkes, from S. O. Watts, of Lock Haven, at public sale on the Bellefonte fair grounds for \$205. The horse took third money in a race on the track on which he was sold.

The county fairs in Central Pennsylvania are over for this year. Generally speaking the trotting was better than heretofore. The county fair, as understood by the older people, can scarcely be applied to fairs of today, where horse-racing is the only attraction.

The woods were full of hunters on Thursday but the only ones we heard from were Morris Rine, Jacob Kniesely and Joe Rightour. Rine had seven gray squirrels, Kniesely had sixteen squirrels, and Rightour a turkey.—Daily News. [How about the squirrel limit?]

Trespass notices are much in evidence to the gunner. The reason assigned for the posting of these notices is that hunters are destructive and careless. There is more or less truth in the claim, and since the hunting ground thus posted is done so by the owner, the nimrod has no just complaint. If the owner has any right on his premises whatever, he has the right to say whether or not his real estate shall be habitually traveled over by reckless hunters. In this case the skilled and careful sportsman suffers with his injudicious brothers.

The Lewistown Daily Democrat and Sentinel is meeting with favor by Mifflin county residents, and is being patronized largely by business men as an advertising medium. The Democrat office is the best equipped printing house in Lewistown, a Mergenthaler linotype having only recently been installed, besides much other machinery and material. The writer on a visit to that office last week, was able to recognize little material or machinery that was familiar to him fourteen years ago, when an employe on the Democrat. The then young and hopeful Walter, who boy-like occasionally had a finger in the pie, is now associate editor and capable of operating a linotype, one of the most complicated and delicately constructed machines to be found in the printer's catalogue. The Senior Fosnot, however, is the same aggressive and progressive newspaper man.