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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.

Therefore the prisoners at Richmond also suffered most on account of short rations. In this respect the people and prisoners suffered alike here.

No stream of running water flowed through Belle Island Prison encampment like at Andersonville and other prison encampments further south, and we drank the foulest water of all, as will later appear in this narrative. All that makes life miserable here abounded.

There was no roll call. The prisoners were counted into "squad" of one hundred and the squads were numbered 1st, 2nd and so on. The squads were subdivided into "messes" of twenty men each and numbered from one to five, to facilitate the issuing of rations, and the movements of the prisoners.

Now and then we were all driven out of camp and counted, like cattle. It was a big days work to make one of these counts.

There was no tabernacle or place of worship and I never saw a chaplain or minister on the Island. I did not hear one word in prayer during the half year of my stay there; blasphemy and profanity were heard constantly. All day long, and brutal fights which sometimes developed into "free for all" battles, in which several hundred would engage, were of frequent occurrence, wherein many were seriously hurt and on two occasions several were killed.

Murders were now and then committed and went unpunished though the murderers were known. Informers on high crimes were fortunate if they escaped the dark night assassin. It was a good plan to be silent on these matters and keep in the background. Later, however, by organization of a system of police a semblance of government was established and robbery and murder rarely occurred.

The prison camp was so small for the number of men confined therein, that the streets, on a fine day, were so crowded that it was almost impossible to get through. And a motley crowd of long whiskered, long haired men and smooth faced boys they were, indeed.

In filthy rags; unshorn, unkempt, unshaved and unwashed; very many dressed in the gray rags of some Confederate soldier; obtained through a trade, not compulsory, but voluntarily on warm days, for the "boot" there was in it.

Some sold the caps off their heads and the shoes off their feet and made substitutes for caps and shoes by patching rags together of any color and kind and the effect can be easily imagined. Civilization, self respect and personal pride had evidently died out in many.

The nature of the men seemed changed. Cruelty seemed a predominant characteristic and over the merest trifles brutal fights would take place.

This was an indescribably miserable and wretched place. Valley Forge and the Jersey Prison Ship were habitations of comfort and pleasure compared with the conditions of life on Belle Island.

They gave us good wheat bread, beef and soup, till Nov. 9th, and after that it was corn bread only, baked by prisoners on detail in a bake-house outside of camp. These corn loaves were about the size of a brick and weighed a little less. Rations were issued daily at 9 a. m. and 3 p. m. excepting when the Union Riders destroyed the railroads and the incoming supply trains. Then thanks to our cavalry, there was nothing for a day or two.

In order to facilitate the issuing of rations, and the movements of the men, as before stated, the prisoners were divided into "squad" of one hundred men, in charge of a Sergeant. These squads were again subdivided into five "messes," of twenty men each, also in charge of a non-commissioned officer. These officers were appointed by the Post Commander.

When rations were issued, so many pounds were weighed out at the bake house, for a squad, and brought in, in a blanket, carried at the four corners, by the squad commander and his detail. A blanket was then laid down, and this quantity was divided into five equal shares, for the messes, which were numbered from one to five, in the presence of the mess commanders, in all about eight men. This process of division was always watched with great interest by a surrounding pack of half starved, mouthwatering, miserable devils, who stood ready to fight, should there be the least sign of "Shenanigan."

On rainy nights we would, for this purpose, be up all night, and on cold days, when there was no rain, we would lie under our blankets all day, sitting up only long enough to eat, which was not a lengthy job.

We never had any wood hence no fires at any time. To keep from freezing we would lie in "spoon-fashion," closed up very tight; the shoes off and the feet packed together as tightly as

possible, with the blankets tucked under us all around, head and all under the covers. So we breathed and re-breathed the air under the blankets every night and every cold day all that cold winter.

None of us had a garment washed during the whole of that winter. We possibly averaged washing our hands and faces once a week. We considered ourselves fortunate when we had water enough to drink. We had no buckets and few canteens; we got our water at the river, six or eight rods from the camp and were allowed to go after it only during the day. An alley, about twenty feet wide, with a tight board fence, eight feet high, on each side, led from the rear gate to the river. Close to the right of the foot of this alley was the Hospital Sink and to the left a few rods away was the general and only sink for the prison camp of from four thousand to eight thousand men. Both sinks extending a few feet over the bank; and between these "business places" in the eddy we got our drinking water. So we drank the foulest water of any prison camp in the Southern Confederacy.

Only a limited number could go to the sink, or for water at the same time, the same alley led to both; about one hundred could be on the way going and coming at a time. Therefore, water was always very scarce in camp. We were very dry many times, and wanted a drink, when there was no water, and we continued to be dry till we forgot about it.

Here, at this "watering place," was illustrated what a powerful influence a cultivated, and long indulged habit, will have over a person, when once fully contracted. When on account of wind, or other causes, the James River would be low, the water would recede from the normal bank, and leave exposed a sloping beach, three or four rods wide, of slush mud, knee deep. And in order to get water we must wade through this mud to get to the edge of it.

There were plenty of men and boys here who were slaves to the tobacco habit, but had no money to get it, and to beg it was out of the question here. So, when the river was low, and it took mud-wading to get water, fifteen to twenty bearded men and smooth faced boys, educated and in high standing in better days at home, would stand along the bank in a row, and continuously sing out, "I will fill your canteen for a chew of tobacco!" And when given the chew, they would utterly ignore the mud, wade through it with a will that was astonishing, then press the canteen under water till it was full, and return it to the owner, with a "thank you!" take their places again in the line, and sing, with the rest, as before, I will fill your canteen for a chew of tobacco!

On the matter of rations, there is not much to be said. They gave us what they had to eat themselves; that was corn bread only, and equalled in quantity the rations of their soldiers, who were guards over us. We bought many a Confederate soldiers ration, from our guards, and they fasted for the little money we paid them. One day I traded a days ration from one of the guards, for a fine comb; he said he had great need of the comb and had no money to buy it. That he would give me all his grub for two days for it. I said, no Johnnie, give me your today's grub, and take the comb, which he did. A fine comb at that time was worth about four dollars in Confederate money.

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OUR FARMER YOUTH and the PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

By Prof. Willet M. Hays, University of Minnesota.

The primary graded schools and the high schools of our cities and our State universities have been articulated and unified into a national system. In the newer States, which were settled after high schools and State universities became popular, this system occupies nearly the whole educational field. In the studies offered, in the location of the schools, and in the methods of providing revenues this system suits the American people. The recent rapid development of city high schools, and especially the recent large financing of State universities by many States, and the falling off in number of new private and religious academies and small colleges, indicate that the State is more and more to be in charge of our educational institutions. No doubt parochial schools, small denominational colleges, and special schools will continue to have their large influence, because some of their functions the public institutions cannot perform. The largely endowed separate universities, as Chicago and Leland Stanford, will also carry an important part of the work of education.

THE AGE OF SPECIALIZATION.

A century ago, the whole framework of the education from primary to college classes looked to a finished education. The need then seemed to be an educated class. Now, our educated class has grown large, and has followed the law of the division of labor; it is divided into sub-classes of specialists, each demanding and securing special education. A new system is a necessity. The introduction of machinery and cheapened transportation have carried the division of labor to all classes of people. Special as well as general education is now demanded by the people, because they have discovered the advantages peculiar to each.

The old system of schools said, "Educate the man first and the specialist afterward." This practically means that special education be confined to higher education. It too nearly means aristocracy of special education, and too nearly ignores the 99 per cent. who cannot take a college course before pursuing a course in a specialty. The old-time apprentice system, instead of keeping pace with the greater needs for special training among the industrial classes, has retrograded. And the result is that our system of education needs readjustment at the bottom and middle, so as to better serve those who drop out during the primary and high school courses, or upon graduation from the high school, and enter at once upon work which usually proves to be a specialty more or less definite in its nature.

MOVEMENT CITYWARD AIDED BY SCHOOLS.

In the old system, where the text, the teachers, and the ideals were all centered in some city profession, and the road to fame was laid out through the complete course of a collegiate education, the boy or girl who was to be a farmer had no special place. The assumption was that what was good preparation for entrance into the freshman class in college was equally good for the boy who was to be a farmer, or the girl who was to manage a farm home. The result has been that next

FORTY-FOUR COLTS SOLD.

Sale Friday Was Well Attended - Bidding Spirited.

The colt sale held at the Centre Hall hotel Friday of last week was well attended and the bidding spirited. Every animal, forty-four in number, was sold. The stock was shipped here by D. H. Snyder, Jr., and the sale was superintended by W. H. Runkle, of York, who a few years ago was proprietor of the Centre Hall hotel.

Appended will be found a list of the names of purchasers, and the prices paid for the colts:

- Frank Clemon, Bellefonte—\$16, \$21, \$25, \$30, \$40, \$25, \$20, \$26, \$20.
- Samuel Decker, Zion—\$23, \$24, \$20, \$26.
- R. E. Hettlinger, Penn Hall—\$17.50.
- Centre Hall—J. Roland Keller, \$13. J. H. Williams, \$23. Ivy Bartges, \$21.50, \$30, \$18. J. A. Corman, \$19. J. J. Arney, \$41. Elmer Ishler, \$25, \$19. Frank Shutt, \$27. Dr. J. F. Alexander, \$25. Wm. Hettlinger, Penn Hall—\$16.50.
- A. N. Heckman, Tusseyville—\$45.50, \$52.
- J. W. Harter, Robersburg—\$30, \$40, \$35, \$41.
- Isaac Stover, Zion—\$26, \$39.50.
- Joe Goodhart, Centre Hall—\$41.50.
- J. K. Bittner, Penn Hall—\$31, \$35.50.
- David Glasgow, Tusseyville—\$31.50.
- Chas. Bartges, Penn Hall—\$31.
- J. B. Strohm, Centre Hill—\$35.
- W. C. Burrell, Penn Hall—\$35.
- W. H. Noll, Pleasant Gap—\$29.
- J. E. Rishel, Linden Hall—\$37.
- Dr. Coons, \$26.

The sale totalled \$1233, and the average price paid was \$28.50. In the lot were four yearling colts, the remainder were sucklings.

For a Bad Cold.

If you have a bad cold you need a good reliable medicine like Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to loosen and relieve it, and to allay the irritation and inflammation of the throat and lungs. For sale by C. W. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Potters Mills.

C. CLAYTON GETTIG KILLED.

Struck by a Line Shaft and Was Almost Instantly Killed.

Charles Clayton Gettig was almost instantly killed by being struck on the breast by a line shaft while at work in the Pennsylvania car shops at Potters Mills. Mr. Gettig and ten other men were working under the shaft when it fell Friday morning of last week, but no one else was injured. The shaft is said to have been in perfect condition, and no cause can be assigned for the accident.

Services were held Sunday morning in the church of the United Brethren in Christ, at Potters Mills, of which church the deceased was a member and trustee. Services were conducted by Rev. Orner, the pastor. The body was brought to Tusseyville Monday for interment. The services there were conducted by Rev. J. F. Shultz, pastor of the United Evangelical church, to which body the Gettigs, while residents of the South Side, were connected. The services at Tusseyville were largely attended. It is said to have been the largest funeral held there for some time, and possibly the only one ever conducted under artificial light, which was occasioned by the lateness of the train over the L. and T. railroad.

FARM HOME VERSUS LANDED ESTATE.

To perpetuate our unrivaled system of medium-sized farms, as compared with very small farms inhabited by mere peasants, or with very large farms owned by the wealthy and worked by hired servants, our government could well afford to continue making vast expenditures. Heretofore, its expenditures for this purpose have been in the form of free lands under the homestead laws. Henceforth they must be in the form of special education for the common farmer. Forfeited financial changes might turn capital to purchasing "estates," and other economic changes might tend to greatly increase the percentage of Uncle Sam's acres owned by "landlords." Reducing the proportion of that class who manage and "work lands which they own lowers the average standards of country wages and country living. The principal reason why the common farmer now holds the land is because, by uniting their capital, their labor, and their brains with the making of a permanent family home, they can pay so much for the land that the capitalist cannot afford to own it for leasing, or to "run" it at arm's-length without pauper labor. Remuneration in the form of independent homes for families is not secured by the absent landlord and by only a few of the inhabitants on the large estate conducted by the owner. Whenever other industries lag, capital seeks investment in landed estates, and once estates with expensive central buildings are developed, it is, indeed, very difficult to break them up into smaller holdings. European estates help to hold as peasants a large class of people who do not lack in ability, as shown by the rapidly with which they rise when placed on free soil in America.

Since the farmer and farm homemaker on the medium-sized farm must meet sharp competition, special education for the mass of farmers becomes a matter of grave economic and civic as well as of educational importance, a broad State and national problem. Our modest farm homes stand as our strongest political bulwark. Homes on farms worked by the owners are the best places to breed vigorous people alike for country and city. Our educational scheme is not doing all it might to build up our country life, and the times are ripe for a natural and somewhat radical change. We need to evolve a branch of our educational system which shall be especially helpful in building up our farm homes, our farming and our rural affairs, and country life generally. The movement is well started, and some of the leading forces already operating need only to be correlated to develop a unified scheme.

DEATHS.

JOHN CAMP.

John Camp, one of the oldest and best known citizens of Milroy, died very suddenly Wednesday of last week, of heart trouble. He was nearly seventy-seven years of age, and had been in the cabinet making business in Milroy for about forty-seven years.

John Camp was born in France and when he was two years old his parents came to America. Some years later they located in the Kishacoquillas Valley, and John Camp learned his trade in Milroy. He was married January 3, 1841, to Martha M. Mayben, who survives him, and also their four children—William R. Camp, of Tyrone, formerly of this place; Mrs. J. L. Russler, of Milroy; Mrs. H. A. Barr, of Reedsville, and John A. Camp, of Milroy.

Deceased was a veteran of the civil war, having been a member of Company C, 102d Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Mrs. Macade Triplett, of Bellefonte, died last week, and was buried Monday.

The body of an unknown man, apparently about seventy years old, was found in the river at Lock Haven.

Mrs. Mary J., wife of H. A. Mark, died in Philipsburg, aged thirty years. Her husband and five children survive.

A Fight for Sabbath Observance.

The Philipsburg Law and Order League, made its first arrest Monday a week. The person arrested was Frank Motter, who keeps a store on Pine street, and who was convicted of keeping his place of business open and selling tobacco and cigars on the Sabbath. He was fined \$4.00 and costs, the latter amounting to \$4.12, a total of \$8.12.

The President's Fittable Dilemma.

The dilemma of President Roosevelt, for one who prides himself upon his courage, is pitiable. It is known that the Bristow report shows that most of the postoffice grafting arose in the bureau of the first assistant, who was Perry S. Heath, secretary of the Republican National committee. The President wants to eject Heath, but Mr. Hanna, the chairman, who gave way himself on the matter of a presidential nomination, refuses to listen again to the earnest solicitation of Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Heath is to stay until the committee meets, and by that time Congress will order an investigation into the department. This illustrates the difference between that honesty which all men applaud and about which the President preached, and that intellectual honesty about which Shakespeare made Polonius talk when he abjured Laertes, "To thyself be true." It is that kind of honesty that refuses to appoint Addicks men and dismiss anti-Addicks women.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Uriah Stover, a citizen of Houserville, aged seventy years, died Tuesday of last week.

John W. Conley, east of Centre Hall, will make sale of his farm stock, implements, etc., March 17.

Frank Carson while hunting last week, slightly injured his dog in shooting at a pheasant.

John R. Strong last week built the foundation for the ware house to be erected by A. E. Kerlin.

Congressman Dresser, now representing this district, is building a \$150,000 home in Bradford, to be ready for occupancy next June.

Fire of incendiary origin destroyed the barn of Peter Spangler, near Lewistown. Four horses and all the crops in the building perished. Loss, \$5000.

Mill Hall thought it was free from diphtheria, and the schools were consequently re-opened. Later a new case developed, and a number of homes were quarantined.

While listening to the contradiction of his testimony in a petty trespass suit, at West Milton, Andrew Shirk, sixty-one years old, the plaintiff in the case, fell from his chair dead.

J. Finn Stover, of Potters Mills, had the misfortune to have a revolver discharge its contents accidentally, Friday of last week, while in the act of loading the weapon. The ball struck his foot and inflicted a painful wound.

Dr. Ned Williams, of Chapman, Snyder county, had his leg almost torn off at the knee by being struck with a charge of shot from the gun of his companion and brother, Lewis Williams. The gun was discharged by a twig.

James A. Sweetwood, of near Centre Hill, for the past few weeks has been busily engaged in putting patent strips on doors and windows for the good people in Nittany Valley, who want to keep warm next winter with as little fuel as possible.

William C. Sweetwood, of High Spire, for the past month has been in St. Louis, where he is doing carpenter work on the exposition buildings. Mr. Sweetwood is a native of Potter township, being a son of James A. Sweetwood, of near Centre Hill.

The borough of Lewisburg lost a suit against the Dreisbauch Hardware Company, and was made liable for heavy costs. The borough contended that the hardware company was constructing a building that was extending into the public street.

Warner Gonder, of Wall, came to Centre Hall Thursday to attend the funeral of his step-father, William Colyer. Mr. Gonder by driving from Bellefonte joined the other relatives after the funeral procession had reached the church at Tusseyville.

Rev. J. A. Dunlap, Ph. D., pastor of the Lutheran church, Loganton, tendered his resignation, much to the surprise of his congregation. He has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Lutheran church at Lilly, Cambria county, and will move to the new field of labor November 10.

Hiram A. Long, of Nittany, was a caller Thursday of last week. Mr. Long is a butcher, and came to Penns Valley to attend the sale of Ivy Bartges and purchase hogs, which he did. He was accompanied by his father, Daniel Long, who lives on the Joseph Long farm, near Nittany.

The barn on the farm belonging to Spangler Bros., near Granville Run, Mifflin county, caught fire from some unknown cause last week, and was burned to the ground, together with all the crops and four head of horses. The farm is occupied by William Crozier.

James Speicher, who for a number of years has lived at Patton, is now a resident of Crescon, to which place he moved in order to be more conveniently located to perform his work on the railroad. Mrs. Speicher was in town last week, having been called here on account of the death of her father, Wm. Colyer.

Positive arrangements have been made between the State Dairy Union and Mayor John T. Cupper, of Lock Haven, to the effect that the union will hold their next meeting, which will occur on December 2 and 3, in that city. Those in attendance will number about two hundred persons, all representative men of the state.

D. H. Shlegal, of Spring Mills, has completed the plastering of the VanValzah house on the Heckman farm. Mr. Shlegal thinks that by having Frank Arney as assistant, he can put on a wall more square yards of plastering than any other man in the county, and for a wager of fifty dollars, he says, he is willing to enter a contest.