



## 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 VI. THE PRISONER'S STORY.



PRISONERS FORDING A STREAM.

Hundreds who had endured every form of hardship, cheerfully, now became discouraged under these distressing and evidently to be continued miserable conditions, sank away and died, while some went into the Rebel Service, as tailors, shoemakers, to work on fortifications, and even into the ranks of the Confederate Army, in the hope of bettering their condition, and saving their lives; probably hoping for an opportunity of ultimately deserting such service, and making their escape to the Union lines.

One thousand prisoners having been sent away the first week in February, we had more room and a little more to eat. Spring was now rapidly approaching, and the menacing factors to this camp, the Army of the Potomac, and the rapidly increasing number of small pox cases among the prisoners, woke up the Confederate authorities, and the shipment of prisoners from Richmond and Belle Island Prison Camp, was commenced in earnest on Feb. 17, when four hundred were taken from the Island and sent to Georgia, Feb. 18th four hundred, Feb. 19th four hundred, Feb. 20th four hundred, Feb. 21st four hundred, the 22nd four hundred, March 4th four hundred, Sunday, March 6th eight hundred, on the 8th six hundred, on the 10th six hundred, on the 12th six hundred; in all, six thousand, four hundred to prison camps farther south but mostly to Georgia; and the Island Prison Camp, the Star Home of misery and wretchedness, for so long, began to look desolate, lonely, and so quiet; the monotony and tomb like quiet in the streets, and empty tents, was unbearable. The paltry few thousand yet remaining now moved into the tents near the gate; we re-organized our squads to full hundreds and the mess to which I belonged, was transferred to "Squad No. 1." Our keepers now allowed us greater privileges and increased our allowance of corn bread, the only grub they had to give us; the guards, engaged in prolonged friendly conversation with the prisoners, and the "Dead Line" was forgotten.

Sunday morning, March 13th dawned cloudless and beautiful. Spring had evidently come; the weather was mild and delightful.

As usual in fine weather, we were lazily sunbathing and standing around, looking at the city beyond the river, and the beautiful landscape near us; the trees and bushes just over the parapet, whose buds were already swelling, and among whose branches birds were sweetly singing. We were suddenly awakened from our listless musings over the pleasing prospect outside, when the drum at Headquarters beat "attention!" The Sergeant of the Guard from the top of the parapet called out, "Squads No. 1-23 and 4 fall in and be ready to move." We formed our squads quickly, moved through the gate that had shut us in so long, and formed our column for the march to Richmond. The Commandant told us that we were to be paroled, and sent home; that all that had been sent away before had been sent south; so we, four hundred miserable, yet lucky "rag-a-muffins" were to go home. Could it be true, or would I wake up and find that I had dreamed, as many times before? I was afraid to "shake myself."

We re-crossed the Tredegar Iron Works bridge, and marched down through Manchester; here a squad of prisoners passed us on their way to the Island; one of them loudly hailed me; it was my former partner, Austin Skinner, of N. J., just returning from the small pox pest camp, cured and stout, yet still red faced; I never saw or heard of him after this. We crossed the Danville R. R. Bridge to Richmond, and were once more taken to the noted Libby Prison, where paroling commenced, and by evening we had all signed the paper headed by the following parole.

"We the undersigned prisoners of war, do give our parole of honor, that we will not take up arms again, nor serve as military, police, or constabulary force in any fort, garrison or field-work, nor as guards of prisoners, de-

Continued at foot of next column.

## Blanche Bates at Broad Street Theatre.

Philadelphia is just now in the throes of a theatrical sensation, the like of which has not been known in the Quaker City since the celebration of the Centennial. Miss Blanche Bates has made a tremendous hit at the Broad Street Theatre in David Belasco's John Luther Long's play of Japanese life, entitled "The Darling of the Gods." The engagement has but two more weeks to run, after which the company will be taken to Chicago for an indefinite run, being the first attraction to be seen in that city after the period of suspended amusements, which has prevailed since the fatal fire.

The story of the play practically concerns the Samurai, or two-sword men, who defied the Emperor of Japan when he issued his famous edict against them in 1871. The ambition of Mr. Belasco and his collaborator has been to show ancient Japan with all its grand history and its high ideals of honor and self sacrifice, among which was the reverence paid by the man of Japan to his sword. The play is in five acts and twelve scenes, necessitating the most elaborate stage production which Mr. Belasco has ever offered to the American public. Special characteristic Japanese music has been written by Mr. William Furst, and a number of special Japanese instruments are used in the interpretation. The play ran for two entire seasons at the Belasco Theatre, New York.

The original New York Company without exception is in Philadelphia intact, as follows: Robert T. Haines, George Arliss, Charles Walcott, Albert Bruning, Harrison Armstrong, J. Harry Benrize, Mrs. Charles Walcott, Eleanor Moretti, Ada Lewis, Madge West, Mrs. F. M. Bates, Harriett Halstead, Elizabeth Everitt, and one hundred and forty others.

## A Long Way Round.

A package mailed by Mrs. Rachael Deviney, at Reedsville, to Mrs. Henry Swabb, at Centre Hall, made a very round about trip to reach its destination, and was in the mails for about three weeks.

The package in question was mis-sent westward, and finally reached Smith Centre, Kansas. The postmaster at that place was turning the package in every conceivable manner to discover the address, when Alexander Shannon, Esq., formerly a resident of Centre Hall, came to that office for his mail. The postmaster handed Mr. Shannon the package and asked whether he could decipher the writing. The task was undertaken, and the mystery unraveled. The package was then plainly re-addressed and sent to the east, and in due time it was received by Mrs. Swabb.

This incident aroused Mr. Shannon's curiosity, and he accordingly wrote the particulars to Postmaster Boal, at this place, and at the same time asked to be notified whether his readings had been correct.

Mr. Shannon added that the winter in Kansas was much unlike that in Pennsylvania; it had not been cold enough in Kansas to freeze ice thick enough to store, and the weather conditions otherwise had been very agreeable.

"Even the man who prays," says the Manayunk Philosopher, "should keep one eye on the devil."

## Continued from first column.

pots or stores, nor discharge any duty usually performed by soldiers, until exchanged under the provisions of the Cartel entered into, July 22nd, 1862." This parole, when signed, is sacredly kept, on the "honor of a soldier"; violations of it are punishable by death, if recaptured and identified.

No Soldier or Government would ask the violation of a "Soldier's Parole."

The parole of our four hundred was, at the time, accredited to the individual efforts, and the personal responsibility of Col. Mulford, of the regular army, independent of the "commissioners of exchange."

When, in Oct. last, we were first brought to Libby Prison, the prisoners were searched; on many quite large amounts of money were found, very large in the aggregate, and taken by the Confederate Officers for "safe keeping," till paroled, when it was to be returned. Many did not live to be paroled; and no prisoner paroled this day, ever heard the word money mentioned, and not a dollar was returned. But I will here yet add, that I never saw a Confederate take money from our men freely.

The "Johnnies" now issued two days rations of corn bread and some boiled beans to us. Some of us went back into a rear room, where stood many tobacco presses, with large iron screws, to which still hung in abundance, the grease of "ante bellum days"; though black and dusty, we scraped it off and ate it on our corn bread.

## THE CANNING INDUSTRY.

Central Pennsylvania is being overrun by agents representing various manufacturing industries, whose chief product is machinery necessary to equip canning factories. These agents have been working Centre county, not omitting Centre Hall. The project was well on here when private information, entirely reverse to that given by these representatives, was obtained, which led to the complete abandoning of the building of the co-operative canning factory.

In addition to the private information spoken of above, Bulletin No. 91, of the Department of Agriculture, by Prof. George C. Butz, was obtained, which treats in an instructive manner of the canning industry. Since the subject is of more or less interest to many of the Reporter readers, extended extracts of the bulletin are here reprinted:

In recent years, agents of canning machinery manufacturers have visited rural communities to induce farmers to organize themselves into companies to grow vegetables and erect a canning factory to pack the crops. All encouraging information was freely given and the so-called "secrets" of canning were promised in the event of organization. The agent was interested only to the extent of making a sale of the factory outfit for which, often, an exorbitant price was charged. It stands to the credit of the farmers, that but few such factories were established, probably the sad experiences of the co-operative creameries restrained them from venturing upon anything that had the word "co-operative" attached to it.

A canning house needs one responsible head with good business ability. A processor is also needed, who should be experienced in the practical work of canning. Such a man commands from \$50 to \$150 per month, according to ability and reputation. His work requires care and skill, but there are really no secrets about it, and the use of preservatives in the cans is forbidden by law. Canners have learned that it is better for them to throw open the entire work to the view of the public, and thus gain the confidence of their work. No person can steal a processor's skill by looking at him work, nor can any one equal the capper's speed by watching him.

Farmers find the growing of peas, tomatoes and corn for canning houses more profitable than ordinary crops. Tomatoes vary in yield from eight to sixteen tons per acre, and at the time the bulletin was prepared the price was six dollars per ton, but it has been much higher since. A fair yield of sweet corn is about four tons per acre worth six dollars per ton, and it is a little more profitable than a grain crop. Peas, of the varieties grown for can-

ning, will yield from seventy-five to one hundred bushels per acre. The farmers of Delaware, where the peas are largely canned, realize about twenty dollars per acre net after accounting for labor, seed and fertilizer.

As to location, it is important that it be close to a large supply. There are many canneries in the large cities, where at times a glut in the market for fresh vegetables enables them to get supplies cheaply. But the best location is near where the products can be had from the field, and a section where the soil and climate are favorable to the products canned. A location on a railroad and near a station is desirable, for without these the factory can only draw products from a limited district and is handicapped by expensive hauling. An abundant supply of pure water is essential for washing the products and furnishing the abundant supply of steam needed. A location where an abundance of labor can be had is also essential.

As to the capital needed, the remark is made that while there have been great financial successes in the business, there have also been many failures. With capital sufficient to carry the larger part of the stock until there is a real demand for it, a fair profit will be realized and dividends declared. A small factory for canning tomatoes, with a capacity of 2,000 cans a day, may put up 80,000 cans in forty days running. It will have a building and outfit of tools costing about \$700. The cans will cost \$1,600; tomatoes, \$1,000, and skilled and unskilled labor for forty days, \$650, with sundry items of expense making the total \$4,950. If such a concern is capitalized at \$2,000, with the expectation of making quick sales to pay for materials consumed, it may be forced to sell the entire pack at almost cost to meet its obligations. But with a capital of \$4,000 the expenses may be paid and the canner can wait until the market offers a paying price. Some of the largest houses in this business are capitalized at over \$1,000,000 and operate a number of factories, running day and night. These are the growth of experience in running small canneries.

The bulletin gives cuts to show proper arrangement of a factory, and lists of machinery and apparatus needed for factories of small or large capacity. A full chapter is given on processing, showing that the various products need different treatment, for while tomatoes need twenty-four degrees heat for but ten minutes, corn requires a heat of two hundred and fifty degrees for fifty-five minutes, and meats likewise, while plums and cherries are subjected to two hundred and forty degrees for but two minutes. The heat is required for the killing of all bacteria that may cause fermentation in the cans.

## COURT NEWS.

In the case of the Commonwealth vs. Fianna Wilson and Harry Neese, charged with maintaining a public nuisance, the grand jury ignored the bill and placed the costs on the county. Wm. Reed, of Coleville, was the prosecutor.

John Harshberger, who was convicted of desertion, was called up and after some statements made by the court to the effect that in case the defendant would support his wife and children he would suspend sentence. The court, however, stated that the defendant should give a bond in the sum of two hundred dollars conditioned that he pay to his wife or the overseers of Snow Shoe township the sum of \$12.00 each month, and that if he didn't do that he would impose the sentence provided under the Act of 1903. This Act is somewhat broader than any other on the subject of desertion and Section II is as follows:

"If any husband or father shall hereafter separate himself from his wife or his children or from his wife and his children without reasonable cause, and shall wilfully neglect to maintain his wife or children, such wife or children being destitute, or being wholly dependent or in part on their earnings for adequate support, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

The sentence provided for in this Act is a fine of not more than \$100.00 and imprisonment not exceeding one year.

A. M. Butler was appointed a sanitary agent for Howard borough.

The following subpoenas in divorce were awarded by the court: Martha Lovell vs. Thomas Lovell Blanche S. Donelly vs. John Donelly. Mary L. Hatch vs. James A. Hatch.

The most important case tried was that of Commonwealth vs. W. O. Robinson, of Philipsburg, who was indicted under the Act of 1-95 for a violation of the Pure Food Laws of the state. The information was made by James Faust, agent, and the indictment was returned by the Grand Jury contained five counts.

A. H. Woodward, Esq., attorney for the state in these cases, represented the Commonwealth and was assisted by Col. Reeder. The defendant was represented by William W. Smithers, Esq., a prominent Philadelphia attorney and was assisted by John Blanchard, Esq.

From the facts in the case, it appeared that the agent, James Faust, called at the store of Mr. Robinson in Philipsburg and bought a piece of chocolate; that it was immediately sent to Dr. William Fraer, of State College, who made an examination of it under the microscope; that the chocolate contained about 90 per cent. pure cocoa bean and ten per cent. wheat flour. The label on the package stated that it was guaranteed one hundred per cent. pure cocoa bean. The defendant was called and admitted selling a piece of the chocolate to Mr. Faust; that he had bought it from the William H. Baker Manufacturing Co. and was supposed to be 100 per cent. pure goods. The representative of the company was then called and testified that they made chocolate, but that the brand sent into Pennsylvania was absolutely pure, but that they made some that was only 90 per cent. pure which was sent to other states; that they made both kinds.

After the evidence closed argument to the jury was made by A. H. Woodward, Esq., on part of the Commonwealth and by W. W. Smithers, Esq., on behalf of the defendant. The jury returned a verdict of guilty in less than ten minutes. Later a motion was made for a new trial, reasons to be filed within twenty days. It is probable that this case will be taken to the Superior court.

The other cases on the criminal list of the same character were continued. The balance of the civil cases which were for trial were disposed of as follows: George W. Pecan vs. S. W. Wright; appeal; plea non assumpt. The case of S. H. Williams vs. Frank Warfield was settled.

Additional Court News on 5th Page.

## PURE BUTTER MEN UP IN ARMS.

Associations Will Take Active Measures to Compel Judiciary to Enforce the Law.

The reported refusal of Judge Miller, of Mercer county, to sentence a man who was convicted of selling oleomargarine as butter has aroused the Pure Butter Association and kindred organizations who are conducting a crusade in behalf of pure foods and an effort will be made to compel Judge Miller, as well as other members of the judiciary of the State, to enforce the laws as they exist for the protection of the Dairy interests and the public health of the State.

A delegation from the Pure Butter Association, the State Grange and kindred organizations Thursday of last week called upon Secretary of Agriculture Critchfield and Dairy and Food Commissioner Warren to inquire what action, if any, had been taken to counteract the alleged injurious effect of the position said to have been taken by Judge Miller.

Commissioner Warren informed the delegations that the matter had already been investigated by the counsel for the Dairy and Food Department, Hon. S. J. M. McCarrell, and his report with other data connected with the opinion of Judge Miller had been submitted to Attorney General Carson, who now has the matter under consideration.

At the request of the delegation, Commissioner Warren went with them to the Executive Department where a conference with Governor Pennypacker and Attorney General Carson was held. Speeches were made by Messrs. Thomas Sharpless, of Philadelphia; W. F. Hill, master of the State Grange; Hon. L. Rhone, of Centre Hall; F. P. Willits, of Delaware county; and Commissioner Warren.

The Governor heard the arguments and asserted that while he sympathized with them it is not the duty of the Chief Executive to interfere with the judiciary.

The State Board of Agriculture adopted a resolution authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture and Dairy and Food Commissioner to appeal to the proper legal tribunal to compel Judge Miller to show cause why he refused to pass sentence on the man convicted in his court.

## From Illinois.

EDITOR CENTRE REPORTER: My brother Samuel and I went on a visit to our uncle, Peter T. Jordan, who lives in Joliet, arriving at his home on a Friday.

He came to Illinois, from Centre county, thirty-five years ago, and located on a farm near Wilton Centre, where he farmed for a number of years. He then sold his farm and moved to Joliet where he owns two houses, for which he receives a rental of \$16 and \$20 a month. He also owns the residence he occupies, two miles beyond the city limits.

While in Joliet we attended the farmers' institute. Sunday forenoon we attended services in the Methodist church, Rev. Ogden pastor, and in the evening the St. John's First English Lutheran church, Rev. Hulman pastor. Rev. Heilman came here last fall from Altoona, Pa.

Monday our uncle took us to Manhattan where we visited Andrew Metzler and George Miller, formerly of Centre county; also our cousin, Horace Jordan, five miles west of Manhattan; from there we went to the home of Isaiah Speicher, at Ellwood, returning from there to uncles.

One afternoon we went through the state prison. There are about thirteen hundred prisoners, two hundred being women. We were shown through the steel rolling mill by Fred Goodspeed, a son-in-law of our uncle. About three hundred men are employed in the mill, and the expenses for one month amount to \$500,000.

Joliet has a population of 36,000; six railroads come to the city, three of which pass through Chicago.

Yours truly,  
J. H. JORDAN.  
January 26, 1904.

## From Millheim Journal.

About two o'clock Tuesday night Elias C. Zerby, of Penn township, was awakened from his sleep by the smell of smoke, and upon investigation discovered that his house was on fire. It is supposed that the chimney had burned during the night and dropped fire to the lower story and ignited the floor close to the cook stove. The fire was extinguished just in time to save the stove from falling through the floor into the cellar. The damage is small.

No Meeting of Potter school Board.

D. K. Keller, secretary of the Potter township school board, announces that there will be no meeting of the school board Saturday, 6th inst.

It saves a lot of time occasionally to let the other fellow have the last word.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Rev. Dr. J. A. Earnest, of Millfilingburg, it is learned from the Times, is ill.

Mrs. Frazier and Mrs. Cummings, west of Centre Hall, were brief callers at this office Saturday.

The Love heirs, for whom Prof. W. A. Krise is agent, elsewhere in this issue advertise a house and lot for sale.

The chief feature in the February Woman's Home Companion is "A Visit to the Home of Thomas A. Edison." It is of extraordinary interest.

The axe works at Mill Hall began operations under the management of the Manns, who bought the plant from the American Axe and Tool Company.

Frank Swabb and wife, of Pine Grove Mills, are mourning the loss of their baby boy, aged a year and a half, whose death occurred Thursday night of last week.

The February Review of Reviews is another notable triumph in monthly journalism. Almost every topic treated in this number is directly related to the news of the month.

Amos Oberdorf, of near Hubersburg, after next spring, will make his home with his son, Milton, at Jersey Shore. Mr. Oberdorf was a resident of this town twenty-five years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. George C. King, of Spring Mills, took advantage of the good sleighing Sunday, and drove to Centre Hall. While here they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Krape.

It has been settled by the courts of the State and the U. S. Supreme Court that telegraph and telephone poles may be taxed by boroughs. The decision will add revenue to many boroughs.

J. W. Brooks, of Linden Hall, was a caller Monday. Mr. Brooks, in the spring, expects to go to Philadelphia, where during the summer of 1903 he was engaged with the Philadelphia traction company.

The February McClure's contains a stirring article by Ray Stannard Baker on the labor situation in San Francisco. Mr. Baker has just been there, and he finds the worst monopoly in town to be "A Corner in Labor."

In the February number of the National Magazine, Socialism and the Labor Union, by Senator Marcus A. Hanna, is a contribution of great significance to the nation. It is American, wholesome, comprehensive, readable.

George Calvin King, landlord of the Spring Mills hotel, will make sale of the hotel furniture, etc., March 26. See sale register. The Spring Mills house will be conducted by Mr. Drumm, of Hickory Corner, Northumberland county.

Andrew Harter, of Coburn, ex-postmaster of that place, and one of the staunch Democrats of Penn township, was a pleasant caller at the Reporter office Saturday. Mr. Harter is a man of good, sound judgment, and one whom his neighbors can safely trust.

D. C. Lingle, of Beech, and son, J. J. Lingle, who for the past three years has been located at Jersey Shore, were callers Monday. The junior Mr. Lingle is a fireman on the Beech Creek railroad. He expects to locate at Clearfield, where he will be similarly engaged.

Constable W. H. Runkle, Thursday of last week, moved from Huffer street to the Lobough house, recently purchased and remodeled by W. B. Mingle. On the same day Jerry Stump moved from Dr. Hosterman's property to that of D. C. Keller's, near Dr. Alexander's residence.

H. G. Strohmeier, the marble cutter of this place, is spending some time in various parts of the valley, looking up work for the summer season. Mr. Strohmeier is a first-class mechanic, and those who wish to purchase anything in his line, will do well to at least examine his prices, material and class of work.

The Petersburg correspondent to the Huntingdon News has this to say of a former minister of Centre Hall: Rev. A. D. Potts, Ph. D., will preach a special sermon to the Maccabees, Petersburg Tent, 436 A Ave sermon is expected. Rev. Potts was called away last Friday, very unexpectedly, to preach the funeral sermon of a former parishioner in Ohio.

A largely attended wedding was celebrated Thursday of last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Philip T. Schreckengast, at Tyersville, when their daughter Margaret was married to Wesley Hosterman, of Woodward, by Rev. Wetzel, of Rebersburg. After a bounteous wedding dinner the couple left for Johnstown, where the groom is employed.