



CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

By T. P. Meyer, Sergeant Co. A., 148th Regiment, P. V.

(To be Continued)



Artillery Crossing a Swamp.

Soap was always abundant and freely used. It might be well to state that in the reorganization of the Army Corps, in the early spring of 1864, the 148th P. V. was transferred from the 3rd to the 4th Brigade of the 1st Div. 2nd Corp. on March 25th, and served with that brigade to the end of the war.

One day, while the 148th P. V. constituted a part of the reserve in support of Fort Steadman, and the lines adjacent, we received orders to be ready, with three days rations in knapsacks, to move at sunset. Co. "A" had no rations, and to reach the commissary to get them we must cross an extended slope, rising toward the rear for a quarter of a mile, in easy range of a gang of Confederate sharpshooters.

We never attempted to cross this ridge in daylight, but today we must, or make a three days trip without grub. It was a dangerous trip to make and volunteers were called for Strong, wiry boys, and fast runners were the kind wanted. The boys were a little slow to speak, and Orderly S. M. Spangler asked: Meyer, will you go? Yes, sir! I promptly answered, I had scarcely answered, when comrade Benjamin Beck said: I will be the other one. We needed only two, and the boys gave us a shout of encouragement that greatly nerved us up. We were each given a four bushel forage sack, and to me a requisition for three hundred pounds of assorted rations. We threw off all extra clothing, and walked leisurely till we reached the dangerous slope. Then we ran like hounded elk, and received another howl of encouragement from the Company. The Rebels opened fire on us, and their bullets tore up the ground all around our feet. Their aim was low, and we reached the Commissary all right.

The Quartermaster soon filled our requisition, and the sacks, securely tied, looked like barrels, and weighed one hundred and fifty pounds each. We shouldered our sacks and started.

On reaching the dangerous field, we again ran, but it was only a slow dog-trot under our heavy loads, and the Confederate bullets again came thick and fast, passing to right and left of us, but as before many striking the ground "short."

Our course lay diagonal to their fire, and we escaped untouched. But we were badly winded, perspiration soaked, and lame in both legs for several days afterwards.

War balloons were not used in the Army of the Potomac after spring of 1863. Watch towers had superseded them; these were built like a derrick, and very high; in the top was a cabin, for the shelter of the "signal men" and instruments of the "Signal Service," consisting of signal flags, field glasses, telescopes, etc. These men were constantly on the watch, and detected many a well laid plan of our enemies. From these towers on Oct. 30th, was discovered a concentration of the enemy, in great force in front of Fort Meikle, which indicated a probable night attack at this point. As soon as night set in, so the Confederates could not see us, we packed up, and the entire Second Corps was massed in easy support of this point.

At 9 p. m. the 148th moved into Meikle, and every thing seemed ready. It was most ominously quiet for some time. About eleven o'clock the Confederate forts to our right, in order to draw our attention, and our reserves in that direction, and weaken our line here, opened a terrible shot and shell fire. Our forts opened in return, heavily all along the line, and the cannonade was general and terrific. An hour later the Confederates made a desperate dash on our lines, killed, wounded and captured a number of our men, but were driven back, with considera-

ble loss, largely in prisoners, some of whom with loaded guns, saying they had not fired a shot; that, so far as they were concerned, the war was over. The 148th sustained no loss in the shelling of Fort Meikle. Toward morning we moved out, and deployed to the right of the fort, and pressed forward in deep darkness, among brush and stumps. We could not see the enemy, but we heard them "scamper."

They now and then gave us a scattering volley, which did no harm, at least to the 148th P. V. They made no stand, and we halted and waited the coming of day.

At 9 p. m. Oct. 31st a part of the 2nd Div. of our corps came out and relieved us; we moved back into our lines, and marched about two miles to the left, where we halted for a few hours, and had "crackers and coffee," breakfast, and were mustered for pay; this done, we proceeded a mile farther, went into regular camp, to the left and rear of Fort Sedgwick three miles from Fort Meikle, on reserve intended for free movement, where there was work or fighting to do.

The rumpus of the night seemed to have stirred up everything all day, and part of the night, the cannonade was heavy and continuous. Shells went screaming across the intervening space between the lines, and the deafening reports of the guns and exploding shells shook the ground.

Several new heavy siege-gun batteries opened up for the first time, in this general cannonade, and with their hoarse, deep toned, and dreadful detonations, added greatly to the already indescribable noise of the general cannonade. These heavy batteries were the pride of our army, and when they spoke out we felt as if the real "Gods of War" had taken position on our side. One of our prisoners humorously remarked, that with our heavy batteries and shells, we made noise enough to scare the spirit out of any ordinary army, without hitting any one.

There was a very prominent hill, four miles to the right of our camp, to the right and front of Fort Morton, and in very close range of the Confederate works; a commanding position for a fort, and it was decided that we occupy it; therefore, after dark on the evening of Nov. 1st, the greater part of the 148th joined a detail from our brigade, the 4th, 1st Div. 2nd Corps, to move out, take possession and fortify this hill. We reached Fort Morton about ten o'clock, stacked arms by the fort, and placed a guard.

Intrenching tools were distributed, and we moved quietly to the designated point, where the engineers had already "staked out" the fort, and went to work. We grubbed and shoveled, without a light, in great earnest, without halt or rest, till day began to dawn, Nov. 2nd, when we started for our camp at Fort Sedgwick, four miles away, amid snow, sleet and rain, which continued all day. Marching was hard, and we reached camp hungry, wet, chilled, and greatly fatigued.

Important Pension Ruling. Commissioner of Pensions Ware, with the approval of Secretary Hitchcock, promulgated the most important pension ruling that has been issued in a long time. It directs that beginning April 13 next, if there is no contrary evidence and all other legal requirements have been met, claimants for pension under the general act of June 27, 1890, who are over sixty-two years old, shall be considered as disabled one-half in ability to perform manual labor and shall be entitled to \$6 a month; over sixty-five years, to \$8; over sixty-eight years to \$10, and over seventy to \$12, the usual allowances at higher rates continuing for disabilities other than age.

Worth looking into—a mirror.

After the ball—a clove.

Doesn't Want to Play Goat.

The editor of the Ridgway Advocate gets this view of things religious from a back seat. "The modern method of dividing sheep from the goats at religious meetings may be useful and have a good effect in some respects, there is no doubt that it will make some people avoid the meetings thereafter—and if men are driven away from the meetings there is a little chance of saving them through the meetings. There is one good thing however, about having the professing christians stand up and having the old sinners in their seats—looking like thirty cents he informs the observer that there are men really on the Lord's side who were never suspected of it before."

DEATHS.

WILLIAM STRUBLE. William Struble, brakeman on the Emporium local running between Olean and Emporium, a branch of the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad, met with an accident last Saturday at Olean, New York, which caused his death.

Mr. Struble was formerly from Bellefonte, where he held a position as fireman at the quarries at the Armor farm. He was a son of Jared and Fannie Struble, and was born at Pleasant Gap. He was twenty-eight years of age, and is survived by his wife, who was Miss Bessie Garbrick, of near Jacksonville, one daughter and two sons, also by his mother, two sisters, Mrs. Wm. B. Lyons and Miss Mona, and one brother, Edward, all of Bellefonte.

The funeral took place Tuesday from his late home at Olean.

MRS. ROLAND G. CURTIN. The death of Julia T., wife of Dr. Roland G. Curtin, occurred at their home in Philadelphia Friday evening. She was stricken with paralysis last Sunday morning while on her way home from church. Her maiden name was Taylor and she was a prominent society woman in Philadelphia. She was fifty-nine years of age. The remains arrived in Bellefonte Tuesday morning. The interment was made in the Union cemetery direct from the train.

MRS. JANE BIDDLE. Mrs. Jane Biddle died at her home near Waddle, Thursday of last week, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. Burial took place in Boalsburg Saturday.

Deceased is survived by her brother, Freddie Newman, of Potters Mills, and two sons—Pletcher, of Waddle, and Wesley, of Altoona.

Mrs. Biddle's husband died in 1854. During the early years of their married life the Biddles lived in Boalsburg.

MRS. W. R. HOMAN. Mrs. W. R. Homan died suddenly at Lewistown after submitting to a surgical operation, Sunday afternoon. Interment was made at Farmers Mills this (Thursday) forenoon.

Deceased was the daughter of James Scholl, of near Farmers Mills, and is survived by her parents, husband and two small children.

MRS. HENRY SELTZER. Mrs. Henry Seltzer died at her home at Manhattan, Illinois, Sunday, 13th inst., interment Friday following. The deceased's maiden name was Elizabeth Mersinger; she was a sister of J. W. Mersinger, of Tusseyville, and Philip Mersinger, of Joliet, Illinois.

Tour to the Pacific Coast. On account of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, to be held at Los Angeles, Cal., beginning May 3, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will run a personally-conducted tour to Los Angeles, visiting the Grand Canyon of Arizona en route, at unusually low rates. A special train of the highest grade Pullman equipment will leave New York, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh on Wednesday, April 27, running via Chicago and the Santa Fe Route to the Grand Canyon. Sunday will be spent at this wonderful place, and Los Angeles will be reached on the evening of May 2.

Round-trip tickets, including transportation, one double berth and meals on special train going; and transportation only returning on regular trains via direct routes or via San Francisco, will be sold at rate of \$106 from New York, \$105 from Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington and \$100 from Pittsburgh. Tickets will be good to return at any time before June 30. Tourists returning via St. Louis may stop off for ten days to visit the World's Fair, by depositing ticket and paying \$1.00 fee. A descriptive itinerary will be sent on application to Geo. W. Boyd, General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, Pa.

Tyrone Has a \$25,000 Fire. Fire Monday at Tyrone destroyed the Crawford Building and the frame part of Templeton & Co.'s department store. The buildings were occupied by Ed. Uhlars, tobacco and cigar store; Ambrose Miller, cigar factory; Sprinkle Bros., meat market; C. C. Vancosyoc & Co., tobacco and cigar store; Templeton & Co., department store, and Misses Study & Bouse's millinery store. The total loss is about \$25,000.

Parsonage Liable to Taxation. According to a decision of Judge Ross, of Montgomery county, parsonages, rectories, and similar properties, are taxable. This opinion does not conflict with the exempting clause of the constitution, which provides that places of religious worship shall not be taxed.

In delivering his opinion in the case, Judge Ross said: "An actual place of religious worship is clearly a church, and nothing but a church building, unless a grave-yard be attached thereto, is now exempt; a parsonage or a rectory, or a dwelling house, which has the wall of the church as its party wall is outside of the exempting clause in the constitution."

Burial grounds, used or held for private or corporate profit, are also taxable.

Spring Mills. Grant Hoover, of Bellefonte, transacted business in town last week.

W. S. Musser spent Sunday with his family, who will in a few days follow him to Lykens, their future home.

Rev. McInlay left for Harrisburg on Monday morning, where the M. E. Conference will be in session this week.

Benjamin F. Kenneley, who a few weeks ago left for Baltimore, where he expected to secure employment, returned last week.

Prof. S. Ward Gramley spent Sunday at home. He also entertained at his home two of his former college friends, Leslie Diehl, who is engaged at Newport, as a civil engineer for the P. R. R. Co., and Prof. Jacob Diehl, who is principal of the High School at Pine Grove Mills.

Thomas Jamison and son Edward spent a couple days about Pine Grove Mills looking after some horses.

Rev. J. M. Rieck will preach for the Knights of the Golden Eagle next Sunday evening at seven o'clock, their seventeenth anniversary sermon, in the Lutheran church. Let every true Knight turn out; they will meet at their hall at six o'clock sharp and march to the church in a body.

The Penn and Rod Gun Club started with ten members, and elected the following officers: John Smith, president; William Ream, vice president; C. C. Bartges, treasurer; Prof. W. Gramley, secretary. The object is to protect the trout streams and to stock Penns Creek with a different kind of fish. The scoop net, throw net and dip net will be strictly looked after in stocked trout streams.

LOCALS.

Moving. Headquarters for furniture, C. P. Long.

The borough auditors' statement has been printed.

The card sharp plays poker to keep the pot boiling.

J. A. Corman, east of Centre Hall, was a caller the other day.

Main street will need considerable repainting during the coming summer.

Bear in mind that the Reporter subscription list will be corrected April 1st.

Nearly all the dwelling houses in Centre Hall will be occupied after April 1st.

F. G. Hosterman has retired from the lumber business in West Virginia and returned with his family to live in Coburn.

The main office of the Howard Creamery corporation after April 1st, will be found in Temple Court, second floor.

Dr. W. H. Fry, of Pine Grove Mills, was in town Monday evening on professional business. The doctor recently attended a series of lectures in Philadelphia.

P. F. Keller has about completed arrangements to move to Pittsburg, and within a few days will leave for that place. Some of the family are at present visiting relatives in Clearfield county.

Montgomery & Co., of Bellefonte, advertise clothing made by the best known firms in America. You will always find the latest style cuts and latest patterns of goods at Montgomery's.

Wm. H. Cumings, of Colyer, purchased the hay baler, threshing machine, engine, etc., from the Cumings Brothers, and will operate the same. He is ready for work in his line, and can do it entirely satisfactorily.

Clean up. Brush up. In some businesses nothing succeeds like a failure.

ROOSEVELT THE LAWMAKER. There has been an impression that we are to elect a President next November. It is a mistake. Unless Mr. Roosevelt be totally at sea regarding the nature of his office we are to elect a Czar.

No other sort of potentate—not even the Mikado or the German Emperor, each of whom is hampered by a constitution and a parliament—would venture to assume such sweeping legislative powers as have been assumed by the Rough Rider in the White House in enacting by his sole will that service-pension law which Congress itself has never dared to pass.

That the President has exercised the lawmaking power is self-evident. Congress has passed a number of pension laws. When it has meant service and age to give a claim to a pension, as in the case of veterans of the war of 1812 and of the Mexican war, it has said so distinctly. When it provided in the Dependent Pension act of 1890 that veterans of the civil war should be pensionable for disability from any cause, not a single member imagined that the mere chronological fact of reaching the age of sixty-two could ever be held to constitute such a disability. The Grand Army itself, with its microscopic eye for pension possibilities, has always taken it for granted that its service-pension millennium would have to come through Congress if at all.

If Andrew Johnson had committed a breach of the Constitution one-tenth as flagrant as that just perpetrated by his successor in the accidental occupancy of the White House in his mad hunt for delegates, his impeachment would never have failed by one vote in the Senate.

Of what use will it be for Congressmen and Senators to notify the President that his decreeing of a Service Pension will be overlooked if he will be good hereafter and respect the constitutional limitations of his office? This man cannot be kept still, and he cannot be kept within any boundaries except those of a material sort. He feels that the country sustained him in his lawless spoliation of Colombia, and that encouraged him to order a service pension when Congress would not enact a law to that end. Congress did applaud his Panama conduct because that merely invaded the rights of a foreign country, and a "greaser" country at that; now he has invaded the functions of Congress, and the Senators and Representatives are in a state of excitement. They have sanctioned his promotion of his personal friends in the army; they have allowed him to make ostensible recess appointments when the Senate was in session; they have applauded his dismemberment of a sister Republic, and they need not be surprised now that their own prerogatives are invaded. The only way to protect the country from his extraordinary ideas of his powers and privileges is to put a law-abiding and Constitution-respecting American citizen into the White House.

A Republican sub-committee of the House Committee on Territories has agreed upon a bill to create two new States—the one out of New Mexico and Arizona and the other one out of Oklahoma and Indian Territories. The bill makes an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to compensate Oklahoma for the land grant to Indian Territory for school purposes, and gives Oklahoma not less than five Republicans in Congress. Upon this measure the Republicans in both houses appear to be agreed. The Democrats, on the other hand, favor the creation of three States—New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma including Indian Territory. This appears to be the better measure; but as the differences between the Democrats and Republicans on the subject would cause a long debate, the question is likely to be postponed for the sake of a short session.

Senator Foraker's controversy with his colleague, a member of the Hanna syndicate, has now reached the point where the police have to be called in to prevent a fight which has already reached a stage from being extended to knives and guns. The police in Cleveland did not procure harmony, but they prevented fighting while the Forakerites and the Dick men held separate conventions in the same hall.

The two commonly accepted Republican candidates for President Judge in Huntingdon county, Thos. W. Mynton and H. H. Waite, Esqs., having withdrawn from the contest, Judge Woods of Lewistown has registered in that county and will have no opposition, which guarantees him the district nomination.

Clean up. Brush up. In some businesses nothing succeeds like a failure.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Horses, cows and hogs are bringing good prices at both public and private sales.

The Reporter subscription list will be corrected by the first of April. You know the rest.

Jerome Auman will begin farming, having rented the farm of Mrs. Sarah Geiss, near Linden Hall.

Ex-Landlord S. Brown and Brown McNitt, of Milroy, were among those from a distance who attended Conley's sale.

Merchant C. P. Long, Spring Mills, advertises some special bargains. Look the adv. over, and prove his words by calling at his store.

The Christian Endeavor connected with the Reformed church, will hold a social Friday evening. A literary program has been prepared.

The dairyman will find it to his interest to consult B. F. Homan, of Oak Hall Station, agent for the National Separator. Write to him for a catalogue. tf.

Among the Mifflin county people who attended the sale of J. W. Conley, last Thursday, were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson, of Milroy; Misses Bertha and Sydney Kyle, of Reedsville.

Mrs. L. Rhone, who for some months has been with her brother, Mr. Sankoy, in Wichita, Kansas, is on her way east. She will spend some time in Iowa and Illinois before returning to her home.

John S. Royer and sister, Miss Susan Royer, son and daughter of John B. Royer, of Bellefonte, on their way home from attending the funeral of John H. Goodhart, stopped at the Reporter office for a short time.

Robert Goodhart, an engineer on the Pennsylvania railroad, located at Altoona, Monday returned to that place after having been at his old home, near Spring Mills, for a week on account of the death of his brother, John H. Goodhart.

The Reedsville correspondent writes to the Lewistown Free Press, thus: Mrs. Burchfield and mother, Mrs. McClellan, of Tusseyville, who have remained with W. F. Detweiler since the death of his wife, have returned to the former place to remain.

Farmer Hood, of Snyder county, who insisted that he could sell rabbits out of season and who has spent a snug sum in attorney fees and expenses trying to demonstrate that he was right, has given up the job and paid a fine and costs aggregating \$150.

The bogus check swindler, who failed to pass on Smith Brothers, Spring Mills, a check drawn on H. A. Barr, of Reedsville, was successful in Mifflin. Mr. Snyder, the undertaker, was the victim, and it cost him nine dollars to form the man's short acquaintance.

Newton Yarnell, tenant on the farm of D. J. Meyer, will be ready for the regular farm work as soon as the weather opens up. He's no loafer, and while others were resting he hauled over two hundred loads of manure from the barn and spread it over the sod to be turned for corn.

The Lewistown and Reedsville trolley line is to be extended across the Juniata river to Lewistown Junction, on the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad. The distance will be one and one-fourth miles, and will be a great convenience to travelers, who heretofore were obliged to travel that distance by omnibus.

Miss Mabel Zeigler, of Millheim, was in town Thursday of last week. She is one of the Commercial telephone operators in that place, and according to an unwritten law of the operators in that town she is privileged to quit the business, and ——— But the Reporter does not know, or at least won't say, that she has any such intention.

George McCormick, son of W. W. McCormick, of Potters Mills, whose illness was mentioned in these columns recently, is not improving. He had a severe attack of pneumonia, and had partially recovered, but when the death of his grandmother—Mrs. McCloskey—occurred, the excitement and exertion that followed caused a relapse.

Albert Bradford, who for several years has had charge of Fisher Brothers' flouring mills, at Farmers Mills, has leased the flouring mills from Messrs. Bottorf & Ard, at Pine Grove Mills, and will move to that place about the first of April. Mr. Bradford is a young miller of ample experience, and will no doubt give the best of satisfaction. He recently purchased a fine team of horses, which will be used in delivering feed and flour. Reuben Tressler, the present miller at the Bottorf-Ard mill, contemplates going south.