

The Centre Reporter.

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NO. 30.

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 VIII



A Cavalry Charge—"Bayonets!"

There was a great city of these cabins; toward the north, a great conflagration was raging among them, and there was no one to dispute the progress of the roaring flames. It was now night and I entered one of the best officer's cabins for the night's lodging. The night was cool and I soon had a cheerful fire blazing and was comfortable, even in the absence of overcoat and blanket. But I was nervous over the possible coming of the guerrillas, or vindictive natives; either would "wipe me out."

I was tired; for hours I was wakeful and restless; but the songs of toads, frog and lizards in the Appomattox swamps, the chirp of night birds, and the piping of insects, in grand chorus put me to sleep, and when I awoke, the sun was up, the sky was clear and the weather most lovely and mild. The fire in the abandoned camps was still raging; cannonade was heard at intervals.

The church steeples of Petersburg, five miles away, were in sight. After a hurried breakfast of crackers and pork, I started for the City on a straight line, through swamps, woods and fields to find some one in authority for orders and guidance. A few miles out of Petersburg I came to a

large Confederate Soldiers Cemetery. At three different points, and widely separated, stood as many caskets, by the sides of open graves. I went to the nearest one; the lid was loose and lay crosswise over the middle. On my approach a great swarm of flies and beetles, varying in size from a house fly to a humming bird, arose out of the casket, with a great buzzing noise, amid a horrible stench, circled round and about the "cadaver," which was the remains of a nicely uniformed Confederate Captain, in an awful state of decomposition.

I went to the next grave; the lid of the casket was lying beside it. The condition of the dead; the bugs and flies, and the gruesome surroundings, were all the same. I went to the third; the lid of the casket was in place. I "pulled" it, and found that this casket, like the two others, also contained the dead body of a Confederate officer. This might have been inferred, however, from the well known fact that, at this extreme stage of the war, only officers received confined burial, and then only in camp.

The fact of the remains of these three Confederate officers left lying unburied, beside their ready, open graves, shows with what precipitate haste the Confederates left their works, camps, and employ, at the sound of their last "long roll," and "call to arms," on that bright, eventful Sunday morning of April 2nd, 1865, when near a thousand cannon opened upon them, all along the forty-five miles of the Union lines with a cannonade seldom equalled in any war.

JUDGE PARKER'S STRENGTH.

Judge Parker's telegram declaring himself for sound money has made such an impression that he may save the Democratic party.

The comments elicited from all quarters show that Judge Parker's action has won the confidence of the people, and that sort of confidence President Roosevelt has not inspired.

His imperialism and his dictatorial ways, together with his revival of the race issue in the South and other Rough-Rider fads, have awakened among the people a distrust of Mr. Roosevelt and the Republican party.

Mr. Roosevelt has the support of his intimate friends and his political protégés, but conservative people eye him with distrust. They acknowledge that he is irreproachable as an individual—that he is a staunch patriot, a good husband, a loyal friend. But they doubt his capacity for self-control, distrust his judgment and question his conception of Presidential duties.

Like the German Emperor, he wishes to meddle in every detail of the public service, to control every department, to rule every official, to be both

the lawmaker and the executive, to be the source of power and to apply it.

Between Mr. Roosevelt's views of the President's duties and the views of the American people on that subject there is a very wide difference. He evidently thinks that the President of the United States is a sort of dictator, while the people rightly regard him merely as their Chief Magistrate, as the executive head of the Administration. This domineering conception of his official duties has excited widespread resentment among Republicans and has led him to make mistakes that would have prevented his nomination if the Republican party had had any other available candidate.

As it was, however, he had virtually a walkover, and the Democrats were entirely out of the running until Judge Parker's telegram to W. F. Sheehan at the St. Louis Convention revealed to them that they had a candidate possessed of strong sense and statesmanship. It showed that the Democrats who had nominated him believing him to be the King Log had really chosen King Stark.

OHIO IS WOODWARD'S EGYPT.

In a recent issue of the Centre Reporter, the editor from personal observation, spoke in a complimentary way in referring to the Pennsylvania Agricultural exhibit at the Louisiana Exposition at St. Louis. Since then it has developed that the writer and thousands of other Pennsylvanians were deceived, and this deception, if the following account may be believed, was perpetrated by one from Centre county.

The Reporter was honest when it spoke of the creditableness of this exhibit, and it will be honest now and condemn the perpetration of the fraud.

There are other divisions of the Pennsylvania exhibit at the great fair that should be investigated. The products in the latter are undoubtedly Pennsylvania's, but instead of using the funds in the purchase of something presumably better in character from some other state, a large portion of the appropriation was either lost or stolen by the persons who handled the funds.

The method employed by Colonel Woodward is novel—in a sense—if true; the method adopted by the heads of the other departments is that of the Pennsylvania politician. The former was over-zealous in making the corn display; the latter are thieves, pure and simple.

The Philadelphia North American published the following:

Was Ohio mammoth corn palmed off as the ordinary product of Pennsylvania at the St. Louis Exposition?

Prominent agriculturists say it was.

James H. Lambert, of Philadelphia, executive officer of the commission in charge of the Pennsylvania exhibit, says he knows nothing of the alleged deception.

Visitors to the Fair were attracted to Pennsylvania's agricultural exhibit by tales of the wonderful corn.

"The stalks are like saplings, by Hen!" declared envious rustics from other States.

"Look at them ears," declared others. "They're bigger'n juicer'n anything in our State."

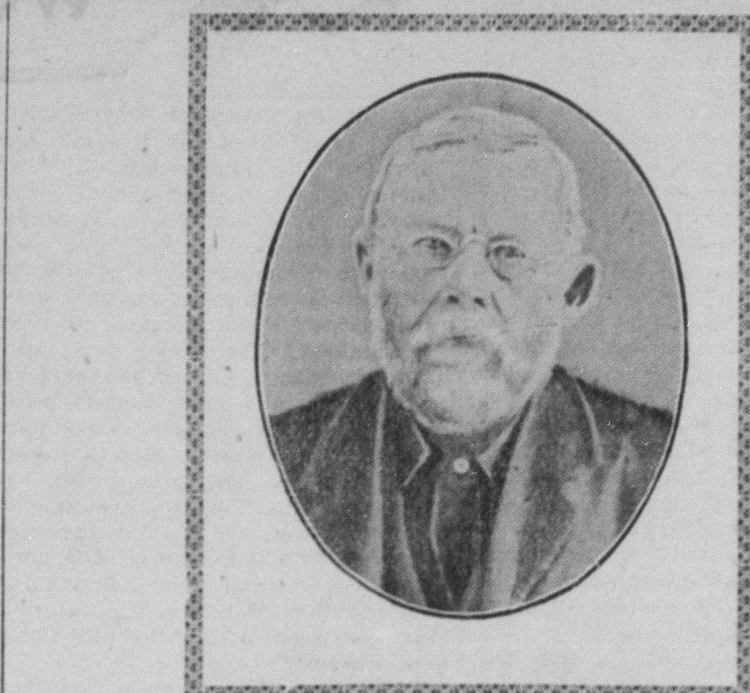
The longer the exhibit remained the greater became the wonder and larger the throng. The meagre display of other products, for which Pennsylvania paid \$15,000, was dwarfed in the corn's majestic presence.

Suddenly, it is alleged, the disgraceful discovery was made; Ohio, claimed the specimen, and after a brief, pitiful and ineffective attempt at evasion

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Jeremiah Condo, murderously assaulted in Centre County jail July 29, while performing his duties as turnkey, by prisoners. Died Sunday morning, one o'clock, July 31st. Interred at Spring Mills, Wednesday morning, August 3.

Jerry Condo, the turnkey, is dead. Death came Sunday morning at one o'clock, about twenty-eight hours after the assault upon him by prisoners. He never regained consciousness, although he had the constant attention of the most skilled physicians.

Jerry Condo, whose death was due to a compound fracture of the skull and other injuries received at the hands of various prisoners, an account of which appears in this issue, was born in Gregg township in 1843, and consequently was sixty-one years of age.

He resided in Gregg township during his entire life, except the time he served as a member of Company G, 148th Regiment, P. V. I.

He was a Republican in politics, but owed his appointment, as turnkey to a

Democratic sheriff. During the greater part of his life he followed the trade of blacksmithing, and it was only when disability confronted him that he lay down the hammer and tongs and quenched the fire on the hearth.

The deceased is survived by a widow and four children, namely, Mrs. I. A. Sweetwood, Centre Hall; Mrs. R. U. Bitner, Spring Mills; J. I. Condo, Jr., Orangeville, Ill.; Miss Ida Condo, Spring Mills.

He also leaves four brothers and two sisters, namely, Ex-Sheriff John P. Condo, of Sunbury; James, of Penn Hall; Jonas, of Hublersburg; Lott, of Belleville; Mrs. Harriet Koch, of State College; Mary, wife of James Roush, of Aaronsburg.

Interment was made Wednesday morning in the Spring Mills cemetery, Rev. G. W. McInay, of the Methodist church, officiating.

STORY OF THE DELIVERY.

The Escape from the Cell and Assault upon the Turnkey.

The prisoners who escaped by brutally assaulting and killing Turnkey Jerry Condo are—

WILLIAM DILLEN
IRA GREEN
DOMINIC CONSTANCE
GEORGE HENDERSON
GEORGE LIVINGSTON

Dillen and Green were confined in a steel cell. They managed to secure a table knife, which was turned into a saw. With this crude instrument the prisoners sawed off the connecting pin of the hinge on the steel cell door, bent the door outward and escaped from their hated quarters to the main corridor.

At an opportune time the prisoners descended the iron stairway, entered the bath room and there awaited their victim. As was his custom, Turnkey Condo entered the prison proper at about 8:30 p. m. Edward McCulley, a prisoner who had the freedom of the jail, was with the turnkey when he entered through the heavy iron gate. The prisoner preceded Mr. Condo, and immediately went up stairs, leaving the turnkey alone. This was the moment for action, and not a second of time was wasted to put their hellish plans into execution.

The bath room door was thrown open and from the dark hiding place, made historic by serving a similar purpose in time past, the villains pounced upon their prey. Armed with a crude, improvised black-jack made by placing an iron in the toe of a stocking, Green proceeded to beat the turnkey into insensibility.

Satisfied that the turnkey was insensible, Green tore the keys from the chain that held them fast to Mr. Condo's clothing, and pitched them to the second floor to George Livingston, who no doubt was at that point by prearrangement. Livingston hurried to the cell of his confederates—Constance and Henderson—and released them, and together the three men quickly ran down the stair way, and with the two bludgeoners made their escape from the prison.

While this part of the program was being enacted, Edward McCulley stood in fear a silent witness, and it is from him that the exact movements of the prisoners is obtained. After the severe beating given by Green, Mr. Condo made some involuntary movement which led Dillen to believe that there was yet danger of a combat, and immediately began raining blows on the prostrate body of the victim.

SHERIFF DEPUTIZES THIRTY-SIX

Members of Company B on Saturday Morning.

On the arrival in Bellefonte of Captain H. S. Taylor and Company B, Saturday morning, the sheriff deputized thirty-six members of the company and a search was instituted that covered a great scope of country, but the effort was barren of good results.

PRISONERS GAIN FREEDOM.

After Committing a Murderous Assault They Deliberately Walk from Jail.

Every condition was favorable to the escape of the prisoners, who no doubt began planning a week or more previous to the final scene. It appears that the Italian had a grudge at the turnkey, the sheriff, and almost every one who came in contact with him prior to his imprisonment, and it was intimated that he and the other prisoners would "get even" with those in authority.

During a greater part of Friday the prisoners were engaged in singing and making sport, but all the while the crude saw was gradually cutting way to liberty.

On reaching the stone steps in front of the jail the five men hastily surveyed the surroundings, turned and passed by the left side of the jail, continuing on East High Street.

The last seen of the self-liberated prisoners was at the end of High Street. Since then no information of a positive nature had been gained that gave the least clue to their whereabouts until Tuesday when they were captured.

PRISONER BECOMES SAMARITAN.

McCulley Administers to the Assaulted Turnkey.

Prisoner McCulley, who refused to leave the prison at the suggestion of the murderers, at once began to minister to the injured turnkey and did all in his power to resuscitate the man whose power in the bastille, a few minutes previous, was supreme.

After hastily giving notice to the outside world what had happened within, the prisoner resumed his care of the injured man until professional services arrived.

Dr. W. W. Feidt and Dr. J. L. Selbert were summoned, who at once pronounced the wounds serious and expressed little hope for the recovery of the man. The injury consisted of a compound fracture of the skull and numerous minor bruises.

THE ITALIAN CONFESSED.

Dominic Constance Arrested at Bedford by R. B. Detective.

Dominic Constance was arrested at Bedford Monday by Railroad detective C. D. Begler for riding on a freight train. Later he confessed to being one of the five prisoners who escaped from the Bellefonte jail Friday night, and also stated that he had a hand in the killing of Turnkey Condo.

After making the escape the men separated and Constance says he spent the time in the Broad Top Coal region in Bedford county, but thinking that he was too near the scene of his trouble for safety was trying to reach a safer place.

Italian to Land Thursday.

It has been planned to land the Italian in the county jail today (Thursday.) Sheriff Taylor will escort the prisoner from the Bedford county jail.

CAPTURED IN SWAMP.

Dillen, Green and Henderson Again in County Prison.

The slayers of Turnkey Condo were returned to the county jail Tuesday evening at 9:30 o'clock. The capture was made in a swamp near Mill Hall in the afternoon, after an exciting hunt by scores of men armed to the teeth.

The men who surrounded the escaped prisoners and captured them were Horace Stiver, Elmer Fanigan, Atwood Harvey, Charley Snyder, and an unknown man, of Clinton county.

The three returned prisoners are Dillen, Green and Henderson, the former two being the ones who are directly responsible for the death of Mr. Condo.

While the honor for the actual capture belongs to Mill Hall gentlemen, their success was made possible by the unrelenting search of four young men, members of Company B, Bellefonte, whose names are E. R. Taylor, James Morrison, Thomas Caldwell and R. C. Daley. According to Mr. Taylor's story to the writer, this party started out Sunday morning, went to Cato, from there to Howard, where they got a clue, as the four men (Livingston included) were seen there Sunday night. From there they went to Bald Eagle, where the murderers were seen going toward Howard. The searching party arrived in Howard at 6 o'clock Monday evening, remained all night and Tuesday morning took a trail that led to Mill Hall. At this point the murderers eluded the searching party by hiding in an ice house, but were afterwards discovered tracking toward the mountains. Morrison and Hagen (a deputy sworn in on the spot) secured horses and made a chase through the mountains, while the others were stationed at various points. The result was that the three escaped prisoners were driven to the swamp and captured.

Livingston was lost to the party sometime Monday.

DESCRIPTION OF ESCAPED PRISONERS.

Commissioners Offer Reward of \$800 for the Capture of the Murderers.

The commissioners of Centre county promptly offered a reward of \$600 for the capture of the escaped prisoners. This reward, after it had been discovered that the outlaws would undoubtedly be confronted with the charge of murder, if captured, was increased to \$800. The latter supposition proved correct, as is elsewhere told in this story, the brutal assault resulted in the death of Mr. Condo.

The description furnished by the commissioners in connection with the offer of reward is as follows, and may prove of value to some one of the Reporter readers:

William Dillen, of Sandy Ridge, charged with rape. Age twenty-one years, six feet tall, three weeks growth of beard, dark brown hair, coarse featured, pimples on face, wears soft black hat, weighs one hundred and sixty pounds.

Ira Green, of Tyrone, charged with stealing a watch from a lady at Unionville. Age twenty-one, five feet eight inches tall, black hair, three weeks growth of beard, weight one hundred and fifty pounds, round face, wears soft black hat.

Dominic Constance, Italian, charged with burning David Rothrock's barn and attempted to set fire to house, five feet six inches, weighs one hundred and forty pounds, dark hair, speaks fairly good English.

George Henderson, residence given as Colorado. Caught in the act of robbing Turner's store at Julian, he was shot at the time by merchant Turner, inflicting an ugly wound in the right eye. Five feet four inches, chunky, weighs one hundred and fifty pounds, face shaven, black mustache, long hair.

Wore tan belt with one and a half inch silver ornament. Age twenty-six years.

George Livingston, age eighteen; height, five feet, two inches, dark brown hair, weighs one hundred and twenty-five pounds, smooth face, dimple at eyes when he laughs, pug nose, dark complexion. Charged with larceny of a horse and buggy from a party living on Spring Creek. Gives his home as New York city.

The Burial of Mr. Condo.

The funeral services over the remains of Jerry Condo were held at Spring Mills Wednesday morning.

Fifty fifteen hundred people assembled to pay their respects to the memory of him who was so foully dealt with. The services were held in the Presbyterian church, and were conducted by Mr. Condo's pastor, Rev. G. W. McInay, of the Methodist church, assisted by Rev. Dr. D. M. Wolf, Rev. Lauffer and Rev. W. C. Bierly.

The services at the grave were conducted by the Spring Mills Castle of the Knights of the Golden Eagle, the burial ritual of that organization being used.

A squad of Company B. acted as a military escort to the remains and at the grave fired three volleys.

Quite a large delegation of the members of the G. A. R. attended the funeral.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Landlord of the Brockerhoff House, H. S. Ray, is the owner of an Oldsmobile.

The insurance adjusters awarded the Bellefonte Academy \$3,800.35 for the damages.

The street leading to the mountain was repaired by hauling gravel and earth on it.

Jacob Sprow and George Earhart, west of Centre Hall, were callers on business last week.

William Groh Hoffer has become editor of the Van Wert, Ohio, Daily Times, a new publication.

The steam threshing machine is "getting busy." Most of the crops are quite small, and the quality of grain in many instances poor.

An independent telephone system is to be established at Lewisburg. The surrounding towns will also be connected with the main center at Lewisburg.

Messrs. Lyman Smith, Samuel Shoop, and Austin Krape last week roofed the dwelling house of Merchant Frank in Millheim. The material used was slate.

Misses Rosie and Lottie Armbruster were callers Friday. The former having spent a week at her home at Farmers Mills was on her way to Bellefonte at which place she has been staying for several years.

The Centre county executive committee met in Tyrone and fixed Saturday, August 20 as the date for the picnic of ex-Centre county residents of Blair county. The picnic will be held at Glasgow's Grove, Bellwood.

The Bellefonte Daily News erroneously announced the death of J. Wells Evans, of Spring Mills. Mr. Evans will have the unique experience of reading his death notice, and that while he is in the best of health.

The pike company did a great amount of work on the pike between the top of Nittany Mountain and Centre Hall. This road is always kept in the best possible condition and requires a great deal of attention.

The Reporter during the past week has added a goodly number of new subscribers. Among those of most recent date were J. P. Durst, Jacksonville, Florida; Wm. Bradford, Pine Grove Mills, and George Earhart, Centre Hall.

You can get the best fourteen per cent. available phosphoric acid phosphate from D. W. Bradford to be found in the market. There is no natural rock phosphate to be had anywhere that will analyze a higher per cent. of available phosphoric acid than can be bought from Mr. Bradford.

From the Millinburg Times: Miss Eleanor Shaffer, who has been visiting relatives in Centre county for several weeks past, has returned to her home in the West End.—George Klingman came down from Centre county on Saturday, to spend a few days among former home friends and attend to some business matters.

The Review of Reviews is sustaining its reputation as "the indispensable magazine in the Presidential year." Its July number was a Republican one. The issue for August is Democratic—full of political articles of current and permanent value, the whole subject of the Democratic National Convention at St. Louis.

Samuel A. Porter, a rural mail carrier on route number one from Lewisburg, last week was struck by the west bound passenger train at Brook Park and seriously injured. The wagon was completely demolished, but the horse escaped unharmed. Mr. Porter is aged seventy years, and served during the war of the rebellion.

The Christian Houser farm sold by Henry Houser to William E. Tate, mention of which was made in last week's issue of the Reporter, passed for \$4,400—an advance of \$400 paid to Christian Houser. Mr. Tate will take possession of his purchase this fall. Henry Houser moved to the Club House at Hecla, Monday, and will be at the services of the members of the club at \$50.00 per month. Christian Houser will make his home at Houser-ville when vacating the Houser place.

The Millinburg camping party, after spending Tuesday and Wednesday of last week on top of Nittany Mountain, Thursday morning drove to Rebersburg where they took dinner. From there they proceeded to Stover's in the eastern part of Brush Valley, struck camp for the night, and next day drove to their home. The party which consisted of Messrs. Elliot J. Gutelius, James H. Snodgrass, Grant W. Yoder, Charles A. Bogar, John E. Bibbigans, and John A. Beard, were highly pleased with the tour and especially with Centre Hall and surrounding country.