



### 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.



The Capture of a Confederate Artillery Train, and the burning of a Captured Wagon Train April 7, 1865.

They were greatly pleased with the treatment they received and said they had not expected so great kindness from us. One of their Chaplains expressed the hope that the kindly feelings manifested here would always continue between the boys in blue and the boys that wore the gray, and that the old sectional feeling might die out. Frequently we heard them say: Glad the thing is over. We have long been tired of the vain struggle. At sunrise on Wednesday morning, April 12th, 1865, the Confederate army was paraded for the last time, and formally surrendered, right by the Appomattox Court House, a village of half a dozen unpretentious houses, the county seat of Appomattox county, Va., with a population, probably below fifty persons.

Here, eight thousand Confederates marched sullenly to the front of a column of Union troops, standing at "ordered" arms, to receive them. Not a cheer was given by the conquerors; not a word was spoken on either side; discipline prevailed as the Confederates stacked arms, hung their accoutrements and cartridge boxes on the upturned bayonets; guidons and flags, that floated over them in many battles, bullet torn, ragged and bleached, were leaned against the stacks; then they broke ranks for ever, and struck straight for their homes, in all directions. Probably double the number who honorably surrendered, had "sneaked" away since Sunday the 9th. The Union army made no effort to prevent any of them from "sneaking" away, if they preferred that way of going. These were surrendered by name, in "absentia," or as "missing," on the rolls.

The surrendered Confederates told us that many of their officers had broken their swords, and tore flags into shreds, so they might not be surrendered to the victorious Yankees.

There was no parade made of this surrender; nothing done to humiliate or aggravate our erstwhile inveterate opponents. A remarkably small part of the Union Army saw the "surrender." At the time of the actual and formal surrender, at sunrise, on the morning of April 12th (1864) the main portion of the Union Army was already miles away, on the homeward march.

Tens ended the greatest and most sanguinary war that the world had ever known. The pages of history can show no grander heroism, no more unflinching courage and devotion than was displayed by the mighty armies during the four years of terrible war, that swept a deluge of blood over scores of hard fought battle fields, and surely, not less can be said of the brave men who wore the gray, than of them that wore the blue.

More than three hundred battles had been fought. Counting all conflicts, great and small, they number over three thousand. More than three hundred thousand men had been killed, or died of wounds, or other casualties and disease.

Gen. Francis Green, in commenting on the loss of life in the Civil War, says: "How paltry seem the five thousand killed and wounded in the War of 1812, or the war of Mexico, or the war with Spain, compared with the fourteen thousand at Shiloh; fifteen thousand at the Chickahominy; thirteen thousand at Antietam; the same number at Fredericksburg, Va.; sixteen thousand at Chancellorsville, Va.; twenty-three thousand at Gettysburg, Pa.; sixteen thousand at Chickamauga, Tenn.; thirty-seven thousand in the "Wilderness" of Va.; and twenty-six thousand at Spotsylvania, Va., to which we might add the fifty thousand around Petersburg, Va.

The grand aggregate of destruction fairly staggers the imagination, accustomed as we have been for more than a generation, to the figures—Ninety-three thousand killed by bullets; one hundred and eighty-six thousand killed by exposure and disease; twenty-five thousand dead from other causes, a grand total of three hundred and four thousand, or about one in nine of every man who wore the uniform."

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### DILLEN AND GREEN GUILTY OF MURDER In the First Degree—Verdict Rendered Sunday 9:30 O'Clock A. M.—The Decision Popular—The Testimony.

(Reported by W. H. Walker, Esq.)

William Dillen and Ira Green are guilty of murder in the first degree. That was the decision arrived at by the jury sworn to return a just and true verdict in the case before them. The court was informed Sunday morning that the jury had agreed, and as previously arranged court was convened, the verdict received and the jury discharged. It was not generally known that the jury had agreed, as the information was conveyed to the judge otherwise than by ringing the court house bell. The news soon spread, and when the jury was polled in the hearing of the prisoners the court room was fairly well filled. Neither Dillen nor Green showed any visible agitation when the solemn words of "guilty in the first degree" fell from the spokesman of the jury, Mr. Sands. Attorney Furst immediately made the formal motion for a new trial, and it is generally believed that he will do his utmost to secure the same. The foul deed of the convicted murderers is fresh in the minds of the Reporter readers, it is therefore unnecessary to rehearse the story.

The trial of Dillen and Green for the murder of Jerry Condo was begun Thursday morning. The fact that the Supreme court refused to interfere with the ruling of the lower court was heralded over the entire county within an hour after the dispatch to that effect was received in Bellefonte. This information made it certain that the case would be heard Thursday, and accordingly large numbers of people from all sections flocked to the court house early on that day. The court room proper was filled to the walls by men and women, the boys element being ejected. At 10 o'clock the court instructed the sheriff, H. S. Taylor, to bring into court Ira Green and Wm. Dillen, who are charged with murder in the first degree.

A few minutes later the prisoners were brought into court by Sheriff Taylor, Deputy Sheriff Jackson and Guardsman George Eberhart. They were taken into the grand jury room where a consultation was held between them and their attorneys, H. C. Quigley, A. O. Furst and Clement Dale, Esqs. At ten twenty o'clock Mr. and Mrs. Green, parents of Ira Green, together with a daughter and small son, came into court and took seats in the bar. They were much affected and sobbed continually. At 10:45 the prisoners with their attorneys took seats at the counsel table. At a few minutes past nine the attorneys for defendants took their places at the counsel table, and the prisoners were brought into court by the officers. Wm. Dillen was pale and seemed to take the trial as a serious matter, while Green was the opposite, paying no attention whatever to the proceedings. Ellis L. Orvis, Esq., one of the counsel for commonwealth, opened the case before the jury. He spoke of the solemnity of a murder trial and the trial of the prisoners at the bar, discussing the facts in a clear and logical manner. He also stated that no one interested in the trial of the case, whether judge, jury or attorneys was responsible for what would follow as it was the laws of the commonwealth that were being fulfilled, and that the parties trying in the case were simply put in their present places to enforce the laws of the commonwealth.

Mr. Orvis described fully the interior of the jail stating where Dillen and Green were confined, that the commonwealth would prove by disinterested witnesses that Green and Dillen made threats against Jerry Condo that they would kill him, etc. J. H. Weitzel, Bellefonte, surveyor, the first witness called on behalf of Commonwealth, made draft of interior of county jail, explained it fully to the jury. At this time Ira Green's wife entered the court room and proceeded to her husband's side, weeping as though her heart would break. The crowd gave way for her, and she began kissing him and calling him endearing names. The incident seemed to have some little effect on the audience, but not with the jury. Green himself was affected and for the first time since his imprisonment he broke down and wept.

#### COMMONWEALTH WITNESSES.

Conclusive Evidence that there was Intent to Kill. The substance of the evidence produced by the commonwealth is summed up briefly thus: Deputy Sheriff Jackson: Before the jail delivery I last saw Jerry Condo between four and five o'clock. He had charge of the prisoners. The first intimation I had that anything had happened was about nine o'clock. When I saw Condo he said, "I want to go to bed." The bath room door has never been locked until just recently. The iron with which the beating was done were found on the outside of the prison wall the next morning by Edward McCullough and were handed by him to the sheriff. The one iron was broken from the bed in the steel cell and the other from a folding bed down stairs. The stocking surrounding one of the irons was an ordinary cheap stocking. Edward B. McCullough—I am twenty-seven years old; my home at Clearfield county; have been in jail over a year; was in jail the night of July 29th last; George Kline was my cell mate; was working out at the stable all day; did not come in until about eight o'clock; Jerry Condo went in the jail first; I went first up the stairs; didn't see a soul; Jerry was close behind me; saw two men come out of the bath room—they were Dillen and Green. I was standing at the top of the stairs; the big one (Dillen) hit him first and Green hit him next; he hit him with a chunk of iron; Dillen had the leg of the bed; Green jumped above him and struck him on the head with the other piece. After they hit him they set him down on the floor where the iron plate is on the floor; heard one of them say "won't hurt you"—that was Green said that, the "little short fellow"; I was so frightened that I went into my cell; never saw anything like it in my life; after they struck him he was sitting on the floor with his hands stretched out; Dillen or Green said to me, "keep quiet"; that is all they said to me, don't know how long I was in my cell; when I came out of my cell saw Jerry sitting on the floor and nothing

else; I went into my cell because I was frightened; I heard them say at one time, "kill the ———", I heard them say that when they were in their steel cells, both said it, Jerry was sitting on the floor and blood all around him in puddles. McCullough cross examined: I have not talked about this case; nobody told me to say anything; I knew what to say on the stand without being told; it was quite light in the jail; I was on the upper step when the defendant struck Condo, I had just gone up to the top of the stairs; I saw them strike Condo; Dillen struck him first; Green said he wouldn't hurt Condo; after they set him down they went out of the jail; after they left, I went down stairs and raised the alarm; I did once hear them say they would kill Condo. They complained all the time because they didn't get enough to eat and that is the reason they made those statements. I was in the hall; they said these things to themselves not to me or Mr. Condo. George H. Kline; Live at Oak Hill know Ira Green and William Dillen. Was in jail, put in for ten days and served twenty, was in cell number 6. Cell is near the head of the stairway, and on the same side as the steel cells are. Green and Dillen got out of their cell sometime that evening. Did not see them get out. It was about 8:30 or 8:45 p. m., when Condo was struck. I was in the corridor during the day, was in my cell when it took place. Heard either Green or Dillen say to us we were not to "holer" or we would "get the same medicine." I was sleeping in my cell, did not see the striking. It happened in less than a minute. Green, Dillen, Henderson, Constance and Livingston left. Henderson and Constance got out of cell number 7. I saw Mr. Condo lying on the floor near the iron plate. I went and set him up. Saw blood there, about a pint or a pint and a half. He had blood all over his head, body and hands. Mr. McKee helped me to take him out, went to the telephone and told the exchange to send me a doctor at once, and went back to the jail. There is still blood there. There is a distinct hand mark on the floor. I do not know which one of the prisoners said to Mr. Condo some days before, that they would "give the old bald-headed all that was coming" to him. Prisoners in the corridor were McKee, myself and Livingston and McCullough that night. Condo locked up the prisoners at night, and brought them their food assisted by some of the prisoners. George Henderson: I am an inmate in County jail; was in cell No. 7, with Constance; knew Dillen and Green; occupied cell No. 8. Five prisoners escaped July 29, 1904. I was one of the five, Livingston unlocked my door, we both got out. I saw Green and Dillen in corridor about 8 o'clock, one half hour before Condo came in, saw them go down stairs, don't know who was the first man out of jail. I was the last man out of jail. Dr. Feidt was next called and gave testimony as to the character of the wounds on Mr. Condo. He found seven or eight distinct wounds. The skin of the scalp was lacerated at seven or eight different places, said the doctor. The testimony of Dr. Seibert and Dr. Hayes corroborated that of Dr. Feidt. Sheriff Taylor, George W. Barnhart and F. S. Nagney were also sworn and gave evidence of minor importance. With this testimony the prosecution rested its case.

#### TESTIMONY OF DEFENSE.

Dillen and Green Testify They Did Not Intend to Kill. William Dillen, defendant: I am nineteen years of age, was born in Adsonville, Clearfield county; my parents are both dead, father having died when I was small; went to live with my brother at Hastings when I was seven years old, and stayed until I was fifteen; worked in brick yards, coal mines and railroading; have never been in a Court House before; knew Jerry Condo; he furnished us with victuals, had charge of the prisoners, and locked us up between 8 and 9 p. m.; Green and I were in the same cell; we got knives and made saws out of them; we sawed off the top hinge of the cell door the first day we were in; we got out of the cell and went to the bath room before Condo came; we saw he and McCullough come in; I went out of bath room and hit him with my right fist and had iron in the left; we knew he carried keys; I only hit him once; didn't hit him with iron; Green then hit him on the head with iron in the stocking and told him, "Don't holler and we won't hurt you;" we never intended to kill Condo, and didn't leave jail because we killed him; never made any threats against him; we sang a song that had "we would kill him" in it, but we never said we

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### TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

#### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Ex-Governor Pattison's estate, according to a report filed, was valued at \$9000. Hon. Leonard Rhone had a Commercial telephone placed in his residence. William Dillet moved from Reedsville to his own new home near Burnham.

Rev. A. Z. Myers, of Philipsburg, has accepted a call from the First Baptist church at Hazleton. A reunion of the Yearick family will be held at the old homestead, near Madisonburg, September 15th.

The Lewistown and Reedsville Electric Railway Company has opened its extension from Lewistown to Lewistown Junction. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zerbe and children, of Lock Haven, are guests of John Spicher, in this place, he being the father of Mrs. Zerbe.

Miss Margaret C. Evans, secretary of the Young Woman's Christian Association, of Williamsport, is the guest of Miss Gertrude Spangler, in this place. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stine and the latter's father, John Coulter, of Tyrone, were in town Thursday and Friday, and were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Dinges.

Howard Zeigler, west of Centre Hill, is a good potato grower. Last spring he planted seven tubers of a particular variety which yielded three bushels of choice potatoes. Mrs. J. W. McCormick, of Columbia, South Carolina, after a visit of several weeks to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Meyer, in this place, returned to her home Friday.

Prof. A. Merrill Allison, formerly of Spring Mills, but who for two years has been in Iowa teaching school, has accepted a position in the High School in Park City, Utah. He will teach physics and mathematics. Milton Sweeney, of Kansas City, Kansas, is east on a visit to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Sweeney, near this place. Mr. Sweeney went west some twenty years ago, and this is his first return to the east.

The house on the Spicher farm, above Old Fort, was reroofed last week. Some of the shingles, which were split and hand shaved and twenty-eight inches in length, were in very good condition, although they had been in service for seventy years. J. R. Lawryers, south of town, one of the many subscribers to the Reporter who never permits his label to show arranges, was a caller Saturday. Mr. Lawryers spent sixty days at the St. Louis fair, and contends that the Pennsylvania building and some of the exhibits are not what they should be.

Messrs. W. H. Noll, of Pleasant Gap, and J. Thomas Harrison, of Philadelphia, were in town Thursday last week, and made a brief call at this office. Mr. Harrison, during the latter part of the seventies, attended the select school in this place, together with a number of other young men from Pleasant Gap, which at that time was his home. Mr. Harrison is engaged with Messrs. Hillery & McAleer, 5th and Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, and with his wife and family are on their annual vacation.

The Watchman has been informed that several well-to-do gentlemen of Bellefonte have secured options on the land east of Pleasant Gap, now the property of the Noll brothers, on which the big limestone ledge is located and have interested a number of Pittsburgh capitalists with a view of purchasing the entire ledge of rock and opening up one of the largest lime and limestone plants in the State. A number of the Pittsburgh people were in Bellefonte several days ago and were taken out to look over the ground. They appeared very favorable to the project. The stone in the Nittany ledge is of the best quality and, manufactured, would make a superior quality of lime.

Montgomery & Company, the leading merchant tailors in Bellefonte, advertise a full new line of clothing of the best makes, and call attention to their specialty—school suits for children. Ready made clothing, like all other goods, varies according to the standard of the manufacturer, but Montgomery & Co. keep "on hand and offer to their trade the best brands at no higher prices than is asked for the inferior grades of goods by others. There is not only a difference in the quality of material, but there is a decided difference in the style and make-up—all in favor of the best grades. Call at Montgomery & Co.'s store when in Bellefonte and prove these assertions.

James M. Gephart, Esq., of Seattle, has received the endorsement of the democracy of King county, Washington, for the nomination of superior judge. Mr. Gephart was a former Millheim boy and went to the far west a number of years ago. He is a brother of A. J. Gephart, of this place, and a young lawyer with a bright future.

Register Before September 7th. The most important matter for Democratic voters to attend to now is to see that each and every man who will vote for Parker and Davis is properly registered. The registration closes on Wednesday, September 7, and the voter whose name is not upon the list always has trouble casting his ballot. This is a matter that should be attended to at once. Save time and trouble on election day by seeing that your name is upon the registry now.

THE PROSECUTION. Opens Friday Morning—Case Presented by Mr. Orvis. At about 7:30 many interested people began filling the steps leading to the court room, but the doors were not opened until 8:40; the jury came in at 8:30 in charge of Thomas McCafferty assisted by James Mullen and Vincent Beckwith. When the doors were opened it took about one and a half minutes to fill every seat available in the court room. No one was admitted by way of the rear entrance except the officers of the court, county officials, members of the bar, witnesses and prisoners.

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