

# The Centre Reporter.

VOL. LXXVII.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1904.

NO. 38.

## CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

### 148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

By T. P. Meyer, Sergeant Co. A., 148th Regiment, P. V.  
CHAPTER IX.  
[To be Continued.]



Gen. Lee, having signed the articles of surrender, April 9, 1865, returns to his army.

During all that week we were tormented by conflicting rumors, and did not know what to believe. After service the following Sunday our rector called in, and I asked him if he was convinced that General Lee had surrendered. He replied, I fear so; he could do nothing else with his hungry little army, cut off from its supplies.

At that moment my hope received its mortal wound; but I could not relinquish the faith of years at once, and it was not till the long hours of that night wore through, burnt into our souls by the booming of the victorious guns, did I say to my broken heart, hope no more, your country is enslaved, its liberty is dead.

The next Tuesday it was, that Mr. Lincoln and suite made their triumphant entry into our capital. I was seated at the window when I heard a noise in the street, and saw a chariot driven by several men in it, followed by a escort of dirty negroes—the truth, as I am a Christian. Despite the newspaper accounts, that was the welcome the South gave "their President"; one of the ladies happened to be in the yard, and, hearing the shouts, innocently asked who it was in the carriage, and she was startled by the reply: "Marse Abbrhyan himself, done come at last. Bress the Lawd for this day, Jesus Christ himself done come!" I turned away and would not look.

It has always struck me as strange, that Mr. Lincoln, it is said, is so honored and beloved, that he never moved without a guard, while our honored and beloved President, walks night and day alone, like any private citizen, with quiet men; no pride or sensational excitement marks his course, or our own triumphs and misfortunes.

On the following Sunday was announced the assassination of him, who six days before, had passed gaily through our streets with the air of a conqueror.

I could give you many items, and tell you many incidents of my brief "sojourn among the Yankees," but have already dwelt too long on what interests me so much. I must not omit to say, however, that I have seen and spoken to our peerless Lee, the one upon whose fair, great name none dare cast a shadow. When I was in Petersburg, he sent me word he was coming to see me, the daughter of his friend; but a few days later there was a battle, and before I could have the honor of his visit, I left the city. I met him after that at his own house; but there was nothing I could say to him, which could in any measure express my grief, my sympathy and my reverence. I could only listen in mute sorrow to his grave and touching words, and carry them home as something to treasure for all my lifetime.

SOPHIA M. SLAUGHTER.  
The eventful day, Sunday, April 9th, 1865, dawned upon us. A night's rest had greatly refreshed the war-worn Confederates. The line of march was taken up just after the first gleam of light showed itself in the east. Early's old division, composed of two North Carolina brigades, and one from Virginia, took the front under brigadier General Walker; fighting was expected. The Confederate sharpshooters, who always composed the skirmish line, had scarcely passed the court house, which is but a small village, when they came in contact with the Federal pickets. A lively fusillade ensued. The line of battle was quickly formed under the eye of General Gordon. The battle soon became furious. The first line of the Federal troops was soon broken and driven back with loss. I was sitting upon a bank by the roadside, noting events in my diary, when, at 8.30 o'clock, two batteries captured of the Federal Ar-

tillery, eight guns, were driven by me, going to the rear. In a few moments the fire in the front ceased, and I could discover our troops falling back, and taking new positions by brigade to the rear.

At the same time a white flag, borne by a couple of Federal officers at full speed, came out from the Court-house, and went to the rear, and met Gen.

Lee, where our baggage wagons were packed at the commencement of the battle. In a few minutes another white flag, borne by several Confederate officers, was despatched to the Court-house. The road was quickly cleared of every obstruction, and guards placed along to keep every body out of it, that the flag-bearers might pass from one point to the other at full speed. At this point the excitement among the Confederate troops became intense, as it was well understood that the Confederate army was on the point of being surrendered.

Many seemed anxious to be led forward, to conquer or die on the field. Desperation seemed to take hold on the men, or else men were overcome by desperation. I quickly resolved that I would not be included in the surrender, and formed a plan with a chosen spirit, to escape from the field, and take care of myself. One o'clock p. m., (Sunday, Apr. 9th) was the hour at which I was to strike for liberty, or safety. Unwilling to act covertly in the matter, at twelve o'clock, noon, I went to my brigade commander, told him the plan I had formed, and asked him if he thought such a step on my part would compromise my honor in the brigade. He replied, considering the relation you sustain to your Regiment, I think you would better maintain its honor by abiding its fate. His answer subdued me, and I at once abandoned my plan of escape.

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## AGED CENTRE COUNTIANS IN ILLINOIS.

The Freeport (Illinois) Bulletin issues a special sheet giving a large list of persons in Stephenson county who have either attained the age of seventy-five years or have lived in that county fifty or more years. Among those mentioned who are from Centre county, are the following:

Mrs. Sarah Webster, born May 19, 1825.

Samuel Lamb, born September 17, 1814, arrived in Stephenson county 1845.

Mrs. George Frantz, of Dakota, was born July 18, 1824, in Centre county, Pa., and came to Illinois in December, 1854, with her husband who passed away Nov. 3, 1889. She is the mother of three children: Mrs. J. Meyer, of Elkhorn, Wis., and Henry and George Frantz of Dakota. She is fairly vigorous for one of her age.

Mrs. Daniel Meyer, nee Matilda R. Smull, of Dakota, was born in Centre county, Pa., Oct. 15, 1823; married Daniel Meyer, who is about two years younger than she, on July 2, 1851, and came west to Illinois in 1853. She is the mother of nine children, three of whom are living. They are: John and Mrs. Lincoln Goodman, Rock Run township, and Mrs. Ed. Lauck, Spencer, Iowa.

Mrs. Margaret Grossman Weaver, of Lena, was born at Potters Mills, Centre county, Pa., June 18, 1825; came west in 1849 and was married shortly after to Abram Weaver who passed away some ten or twelve years ago. Mrs. Weaver has six children living, as follows: Charles, Samuel D., Dr. Wm. H., Sidney H., Ida Belle and Albert T. For one of her age Mrs. Weaver is quite vigorous.

Among the brightest and happiest old people in this county are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. McKibben, of Freeport. Mr. McKibben was born Jan. 10, 1824 and Mrs. McKibben April 14, 1825, the former being now in her eighty-first year and the latter in her eightieth. They were both born near Cedar Springs, Pa., at that time a part of Centre county, but set off since then to Clinton county.

John W. Zettl, of Oneota township, was born at Spring Mills, Centre county, Pa., Feb. 3, 1818, and came to Illinois in 1853. He was married twice and both wives are dead. He is the father of eighteen children, four by the first marriage and fourteen by the second. Twelve of his children are still living. He is a carpenter by trade, but followed farming for many years. For one of his age he is unusually vigorous.

Mrs. John Smull, of Waddams, was born in Centre county, Pa., and is in her seventy-seventh year. She was married to Mr. Smull in 1850, and came west about forty years ago, locating on a farm in Waddams. Mr. Smull died Feb. 4, 1902. Mrs. Smull is the mother of four children, two of whom Myron and Newton, both of Waddams, are still living. The infirmities of old age have borne heavily on this old lady, and she has become quite feeble.

Peter Wolf, of Dakota, who is in his seventy-fifth year, was born in Centre county, Pa., married Elizabeth Rose-ray in 1848, and came to Illinois in 1855. He has several trades, but since he came to this state has followed farming in Rock Run township until he retired a few years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Wolf are the parents of twelve children, ten of whom are still living. Mr. Wolf is in fairly good health, though his eyesight has almost entirely failed him.

Mrs. Catharine Fisher, of Rock Grove, who is the widow of the late Samuel H. Fisher, was born at Aaronsburg, Centre county, Pa., Sept. 19, 1829; came to Illinois in 1831, and was married Jan. 22, 1861.

She is the mother of four children, three of whom died some years ago. Edwin, who is still living, resides on the farm about three miles west of the village of Rock Grove, his mother making her home with him. She is quite active for one of her years.

Mrs. Charlotte C. Richart, who is in her eighty-first year, was born March 13, 1824, at Spring Mills, Centre county, Pa.; came to Stephenson county in June 1841 with her father, Henry Ault and family. Shortly after her arrival in Illinois she was united in marriage with Jackson Richart, who died Oct. 8, 1900. Mrs. Richart is the mother of four children, as follows: Henry and Miss Alma Richart and Mrs. Wm. B. Angle, of Cedarville, and Cyrus of Kirwin, Kansas. Notwithstanding her advanced years she is very active.

James Beck, of Dakota, was born at Jacksonville, Centre county, Pa., Feb. 17, 1822, and came west about forty years ago. He has been married twice, and his second wife is still living. He is the father of five children, two by the first marriage, one of whom is dead, and three by the second. They are: Samuel, of Lena; O. L. Randolph, Minn.; Arthur O. and Curtin, of Emmetsburg, Iowa. In an early day he was a merchant, but followed farming after coming west. He is not active as he suffers considerably from rheumatism.

Phillip Musser, of Lena, who is now in his eighty-second year, was born near Millheim, Centre county, Pa., Feb. 19, 1823. He was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Biker, who died July 31, 1898. In May, 1853, in company with John Schmeltzer and family, he came west and located at Cedarville, moving to Lena shortly after, where he has since resided. Mr. Musser is a carpenter by trade, and during the past fifty years he has erected many of the fine houses and barns in the county. Notwithstanding his advanced years, he continues to work somewhat at his trade, feeling that it is easier "wear out" than to "rust out." He has three children living—Mrs. Thos. Shoemith and Miss Susie, of Lena, and Mrs. Joe Cain, Freeport.

Samuel Oswald, of Harlem, was born in Centre county, Pa., Aug. 8, 1828, and came to Illinois some forty years ago. About fifty years ago he married Sarah Fisher, and to them twelve children were born, nine of whom are still living. Mr. Oswald is a plasterer by trade and is active. Mrs. Oswald has been dead several years.

Mrs. Miller, whose maiden name was Jane Evans, was born in Centre county, Pa., eighty-six years ago, came to Illinois in 1854 with her husband, Henry Miller, who died about twenty-five years ago. Mrs. Miller is the mother of three children, as follows: Mrs. Isaac Bobb, of Orangeville; John, Waterloo, Iowa, and Mrs. Lot Evans, Cedarville. She makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Evans, at whose hands she is being well cared for in her feeble condition.

Lot Evans, of Orangeville, who is in his eighty-third year, came to Stephenson county many years ago from Centre county, Pa. Mrs. Evans, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Decker, died April 20, 1900. Mr. Evans is the father of three children, one of whom, Mrs. W. L. Royer, passed away two years ago. Those living are: Thomas, of Orangeville, and Lot, of Buckley.

He was a plasterer by trade and followed farming for many years, but retired a few years ago. He was a soldier in the civil war. He is in feeble health.

Mrs. John Frybarger, of Oneota township, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Ault, was born Oct. 17, 1815, in Centre county, Pa., and came west sixty-three years ago. She was united in marriage with Mr. Frybarger Oct. 29, 1835, and is the mother of eleven children, nine of whom are living. They are: Wm. Frybarger, Pipestone, Minn.; Mrs. C. C. Graham, City; Mrs. P. A. Emerick, Mrs. Arb. Baker, Mrs. Ira Shadle and Mrs. Ellen Mahanay, Orangeville; Mrs. Jackson Swartz, Juda, Wis., and Mrs. Jacob Lousch, Spokane, Washington.

Mrs. Frybarger is reasonably vigorous for one of her age.

O. D. Weaver, of Dakota, was born Oct. 16, 1825, in Centre county, Pa., came west in 1854, and married Harriet Ilgen in 1846. He was a carpenter by trade, though he changed his occupation to that of a farmer some years later. While working at his trade, he built the first house in Cedarville in 1847. He crossed the plains in 1852 and engaged in mining in California, but returned after an absence of a few years. He has filled a number of township offices and has been a useful citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Weaver are the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters, Gust, deputy county clerk, being one of them.

Thomas Eilert, of Dakota, was born at Boolsburg, Centre county, Pa., March 2, 1834, and having come to this county in 1842, he can be classed with the old settlers of the county. Mrs. Eilert is in her sixty-seventh year and came to Illinois in 1854. They are the parents of three children, viz: Mrs. Henry Schultzer and Mrs. Oscar Zeigler, Dakota, and Frank Eilert, City.

Mr. Eilert followed farming in Rock Run township until a few years ago when he removed to Dakota and engaged in the store business. In 1852 he went to California and remained until 1856. Mrs. Eilert's mother died two years ago, aged ninety-seven.

Musena P. Mitchell, of Lancaster township, who is in his ninety-third year, was born at Aaronsburg, Centre county, Pa., May 6, 1812; came to Chicago in 1839 and to Stephenson county in 1841. In 1832 he was married to Maria Ruth, who was born in 1815. Mrs. Mitchell has been dead a number of years. Mr. Mitchell is the father of four children. In his earlier days he was a tailor by trade, but after coming to Illinois he followed farming until he retired some years ago.

When he reached Freeport in 1841 there were only five or six houses in the town. He stopped with one Abram Johnson, who occupied a little frame building just south of Woodman's, and slept on the floor. He chews and smokes, has an appetite like that of a woodchopper, sleeps well, retiring at 9 and rising at 5, and is sufficiently active to cause one to think that he might live twenty-five years longer.

Transfer of Real Estate.  
John G. Love et. ux. to John Caldwell, Feb. 1, 1890; lot in Bellefonte. \$400.

Mary Ann Smith, widow, to Emily A. Littlefield, Sept. 19, 1904; house and lot in Boggs Twp.—\$200.

Wm. McEwen et. ux. to Elizabeth Pearson, Sept. 15, 1904; two acres and house in Unionville borough.—\$800.

Frederick Brighton et. ux. to Annie Elizabeth Haggard, Sept. 3, 1904; lot in Rush Twp.—\$60.

## MR. MARTIN'S MIS-STATEMENT.

Either through ignorance or a base attempt to belittle, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture A. L. Martin stood before his audience in the auditorium, Grange Park, on Republican day, and stated that owing to the large practice enjoyed by Mr. Orvis, in case of his election to the bench, he would be obliged to secure the services of a neighboring judge for a considerable time and that the taxpayers would be obliged to pay this judge for his services.

There is only enough truth in the statement to make it a good campaign lie. The part that is true is that Mr. Orvis has a large law practice. Think of the idea of selecting a man for judge who had no practice at the bar!

The falsehood is that the neighboring judge, necessarily called to preside in cases in which Mr. Orvis was interested as an attorney, would be paid by the taxpayers of Centre county!

The truth is, under the law approved April 14, 1903, no judge shall receive any compensation for services rendered, other than the salary fixed by law. Now then, Mr. Taxpayer, if Mr. Orvis, when elected to the judgeship, calls a judge from a neighboring district it will not be at your expense, but it will expedite the work of the court and lessen the court expenses.

October 8th is the last day for paying taxes that will qualify you to vote.

Just bear in mind when you talk of the slim support given Col. Chambers for Senatorial honors, that he had a dead weight—Judge Love—tied to his neck. That's enough to put any politician out of business.

The dreadful statement is made that Hon. James Kerr, of Clearfield county, is at the head of a Democratic "conspiracy" to snatch from the Republicans five Congressional districts in Pennsylvania—namely, the Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Seventeenth and Twentieth. Why may not the Democrats make an effort to recover districts that belong to them without being accused of an awful "conspiracy?"

The argument for high tariff by the Republican orators on Grange Park, last week, was ill-timed. The speakers should have acquainted themselves with the feelings of the organization as a whole before spouting about high tariffs. You know the average farmer, when he considers his own welfare, has no use for the tariff, and he is beginning to think it about time to vote his convictions.

One of the ways in which the Republican administration is helping (?) the farmer is by giving away hundreds of thousands of acres of land in the far west to foreigners in order that they may raise grain and cattle to ship to the east. Grain and cattle can be raised cheaper on soil that is furnished by the government than it can on soil that must be bought with hard cash. Again, this method of giving away land not only decreases the price of the products of the soil in the east, but the farms as well.

Frank Carson, the Potters Mills merchant, was the most popular Democrat on the South Side on Republican day during the Encampment and Exhibition, Grange Park. Mr. Carson was given all sorts of attention by the Republican politicians of high and low estate, and it was all because Mr. Carson holds in his hands a bit of information, the revelation of which would further prove Judge Love to be a political judge and a meddler in post-office affairs on the South side of Centre county.

Perhaps when the Stalwarts promised to re-establish the Potters Mills postoffice they did not reckon what a breeze the Hastings wing of the Republican party in Centre county could create when flopped at its greatest speed. They, perhaps, forgot that the old bird can not soar unless both wings work in harmony. It is altogether likely that the Hastings wing will hold on to its present position, and leave the Stalwarts place the blame on the postoffice department at Washington for being too stubborn to re-establish the office.

As a bit of information for President Judge Love's benefit, the Reporter announces that there are postoffices at Pine Grove Mills, Lemont, Boalsburg, Luden Hall, Tusseyville, Centre Hall, Spring Mills, Penn Hall Sober, Millheim, Aaronsburg, Coburn, Feldler, Woodward, and a number of others in Brush Valley, and that by meddling with some of these and having them closed, he might obtain a bit of credit when the office is re-established. Of course, this would discommodate the patrons of the offices, but that would make no difference whatever if the Judge's chances of election were advanced.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Send the local news to the Reporter. October 8th is the last day for paying taxes that will qualify you to vote.

Hugh Calahan, who for the past few years has been at Naginny, Millin county, is now living near Milesburg.

The schools at Newton Hamilton were closed Monday on account of a scourge of scarlet fever having entered the town.

Mrs. Michael Stover, of Feldler, was the guest of her sister-in-law, Mrs. M. L. Emerick, in this place, for several days last week.

James C. Goodhart, of near Centre Hill, while cutting corn had the misfortune to cut his leg, above the ankle, with a corn cutter.

Among the inland dairies that are up to date and brim full of local and general news, is the Lewistown Daily Democrat and Sentinel.

George B. Metzger, of Williamsport, was nominated for Congress in the Fifth District. The candidate is a son of the late Judge J. J. Metzger.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Rossmar, of York, attended the picnic last week, having come up to visit Mrs. Rossmar's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bible.

Miss Gertrude Homan, of Oak Hall, is preparing herself to become a nurse, having gone to Philadelphia to enter for the second year in the Medico Chiropractic hospital.

Mrs. J. F. Stover and Mrs. William Fleisher were callers Wednesday morning of last week. Thursday the two families left for Cuddy and Pitcairn, respectively.

Dr. T. P. Meyer, of Lock Haven, the author of the war story in the Reporter, recently returned from a trip through the west, including the World's Fair, at St. Louis.

N. B. Meisel, of Lochiel, Union county, was among the visitors at the encampment. Mr. Meisel, years ago, was frequently in this section representing various business concerns.

Mr. and Mrs. I. O. Hoffer, of Philadelphia, are rejoicing over the arrival of a daughter. The Walnut Street merchant tailor will naturally feel a bit "upsh" until he becomes accustomed to speak of his son and daughter.

Samuel F. Snyder, of Greensburg, was home during the Encampment. He has been advanced to superintendent of a division of workmen in that bustling place, and is taking good care to give satisfactory returns for his wages.

Postmaster W. E. Peterson, at Munson, who lost over two hundred dollars recently by burglary, was robbed a second time, the thieves this time securing \$31.46 in postage stamps, \$15 in cash, and some pocket knives and tobacco.

J. E. Harshbarger, bookkeeper for the firm of Sullivan & Brother, Philadelphia, is visiting among friends and relatives in Penna. Valley. Mr. Harshbarger is a son of H. K. Harshbarger, of Potters Mills, and is a young man who is making his mark in this world.