



THE END OF THE WAR STORY.



T. P. MEYER.
Sergeant Company A, 148th Regiment P. V.

May 24, grand review in Washington, D. C., of the Army of Tennessee, comprising the 15th and 17th Corps; and the Army of Georgia, comprising the 14th and 20th Corps.

May 30th, last review of the 2nd Army Corps at Bailey's Cross Roads. A great crowd of people in attendance.

June 3rd, broke camp for the last time in Virginia at 7 a. m. and marched to Washington, D. C., (five miles) where we boarded a freight train, (no seats as usual) late in the evening, for Harrisburg, Pa.

June 4, in the freight train all night; reached Harrisburg at 9 a. m. Distance, one hundred and fifty miles; time, fourteen hours. Marched to Camp Curtin, two miles.

June 7, regiment disbanded; the men paid off and discharged. They started home as free citizens, each his own way.

June 28, by general order No. 130, War Department, the 2nd Corps was discontinued as an organization. Peace again reigned supreme from the lakes to the gulf and from ocean to ocean. The hardened citizen soldiers of the Union and Confederate Armies quietly returned to their homes and gladly resumed the avocations of civil life. The people throughout the land rejoiced over the return of peace and the reunion of the States as they had never rejoiced before over any National event.

T. P. MEYER,
Sergt. Co. A, 148th P. V.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF T. P. MEYER.

T. P. Meyer, the subject of this sketch, was born three miles east of Rebersburg, Centre county, Pa., and was third in a family of seven children, who lost the care of the mother, by death, when he was seven years of age; hired help then took charge of household matters, and these children were hustled around at a rate they had not experienced before. So the situation was at times unpleasant for the children, and likely also for the hired help. He says: Matters dragged slowly along to the great worry of my father, for some time when one day an uncle of ours (Griffin Rote, living near Salona, Pa.) paid us a visit and seemed to take a great interest in matters at the old home, especially in me; he gave me coin and asked me if I would like to go home with him. It did not take me long to decide and I said: yes, I will go. I was wild with delight, for I would then be out of the reach of the cudgel of the hired help. But, let us remark in passing that the cudgel of the hired help was hardly misapplied and possibly was a much needed appliance at the time. None of us ever harbored any ill-will toward any of the hired help, poor girls; all of them have long since passed away, and all had many troubles of their own.

I was seven years old and three miles was the greatest distance I had ever been away from home and had never slept in the house of a stranger. I was all anticipation when uncle told me he would send me to school where the pupils spoke English only. I went, and after passing through a siege of home-sickness, I was happy in the family of Uncle Rote and a numerous bevy of young cousins, older and younger than myself.

From thence forward I was with strangers much of the time. Years passed rapidly; I was regularly at school. At ten years of age I made the fires and swept the school-house every day, for which the teacher gave me fifty cents a month.

At sixteen I was assistant teacher in a large village school, and received for my services board, tuition and practice in teaching. At the close of this school I opened a "pay school," and received sixty-two and a half cents per scholar per month and boarded round; that is, I had free board with my patrons and went to a different place every day; so on, "round and round the circle." At seventeen I taught my first term of public or "free

school," near Millheim; had seventy pupils enrolled, ranging from four to twenty-five years of age, twenty-eight of whom were larger than myself. Here I taught twenty-four days for a month, cut the wood, made the fire and swept the school-house every day, and was paid twenty dollars a month, which was considered good pay for teaching country schools. A few years prior to this schools were given out by contract, for the least money a teacher could be hired for, which was often below the twenty dollar mark. At this time four months was considered a long term for country schools.

I was very successful and was delighted with my chosen profession, which I followed for several years, when the long-brewing "war between the States" broke out. I was nineteen years of age and the war had been in progress for one year. It was now my desire to go to war. One day while on a business trip to Millheim, I met Andrew Musser, who had been a fellow student of mine at the old Academy at Aaronsburg, and a very warm friend. We spoke of the war, the great, all-absorbing subject at the time. He told me he was raising a company for the war and inquired whether I thought any recruits could be secured in Brush Valley in and about Rebersburg. I said: I am going and our valley is full of young men who are talking about going to war. He said he had a Second Lieutenant's commission for me if I would join and help fill up his company. I at once accepted this offer. He gave me some bills to put up; I filled them out for a big war meeting at Rebersburg the following week and put them up, while he went to Bellefonte and secured speakers. The time for the meeting came and there was a big turnout; it was Musser and Meyer's meeting, but this was not generally known; we were both there, but the meeting got away from us; R. Henry Forster, a veteran of the Mexican war, was present; he was asked to enlist and be captain of the company; he consented, and that completely knocked out Musser and Meyer. Musser went back to Penns Valley, where he filed his company which became Co. D of the 148th P. V., while Meyer (I) enlisted as a private in the Brush Valley company, which came to be Co. A 148th P. V., with which I served to the end of the war, when I returned with the Regiment, then a mere handful of bronzed and hardened young men.

On my return from the war I resumed my profession. But it was a quiet life compared to life in war, and I was greatly discontented. Therefore, I hid myself to the plains in the "wild and woolly west," and joined a band of cow boys, or "Rough Riders." We engaged to drive Spanish cattle from Texas and Mexico to the prairies of the north-west, graze them there, then bring them by rail to Chicago, the greatest of all meat and cattle markets of the world.

In this business we had all sorts of adventures with poisonous insects and reptiles, wolves and Indians to our heart's content. We never got into a house and at times we did not see a house for weeks, nor a tree for days. We hauled our provisions and water, and dry manure (Buffalo chips) with us, for fuel for baking and cooking, in a wagon drawn by six oxen. We rode, camped and slept in the grass; many a time at night-fall when the "off men" would look for a smooth, grassy plot whereon to sleep, we would with our quirts or great "Spanish cattle whips," with a stock one foot long and a very heavy plaited lash twelve feet long, whip two or three prairie rattle-snakes out of the grass where we proposed to nestle.

During storms, rains and high winds every man was required to be in the saddle day and night continuously, often twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

Indians, wolves and reptiles were not our only deadly foes, but every cow and steer in our herd of two thousand and head were our enemies. They were long-horned, savage brutes and, having always been attended by mounted men, they would not tolerate a footman in their presence. As soon as they got sight of a man on foot the most vicious of them would bellow, rush at him with heads down and tails in the air, and a "quick mount" was then in order; once in the saddle, the bulls were satisfied.

This kind of life in some respects was worse than war, and two years of it was enough to "make me strike for my Pennsylvania home."

I returned east and resumed the profession of teaching; was elected principal of the 3rd ward schools in the city of Lock Haven, and held said position for thirteen consecutive years, during which time I also practiced dentistry, in which profession I held two diplomas.

In 1888 I left the teacher's profession and took a Post Graduate course of two years at the University of Maryland, a famous medical college in the city of Baltimore, where I again graduated in dentistry, including all the medical branches except obstetrics, in April 1890, since which time I followed dentistry only, in the city of Lock Haven to the present time (1905.)

LOW-RATE TOUR TO DENVER.

Via Pennsylvania Railroad, Account International Convention Epworth League.

On account of the Epworth League International Convention, to be held in Denver, Col., July 5 to 9, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged a tour to Denver under its Personally-conducted System. A special train of high-grade Pullman equipment will leave New York, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Altoona and Pittsburgh on Monday, July 3, arriving at Denver at 12.30 noon on Wednesday, July 5. Tickets covering round-trip transportation, Pullman accommodations (one berth) going, and all meals in dining car when traveling on special train, will be sold at the following very low rates: New York, \$63.50; Philadelphia, \$61.75; Baltimore, \$60.00; Washington, \$60.00; Harrisburg, \$59.75; Williamsport, \$59.75; Altoona, \$58.75; and at proportionate rates from other stations.

These tickets will be good for passage to either Denver, Colorado Springs, or Pueblo, and will be good for return passage on regular trains to leave either of the above-mentioned points not later than July 14. Deposit of tickets with Joint Agent at either Denver, Colorado Springs, or Pueblo not later than July 14 and payment of fee of fifty cents secures an extension of return limit to leave either of the above points not later than August 8.

These liberal return limits will enable tourists to take advantage of the many delightful side trips to resorts in the Colorado Mountains, the Yellowstone Park, the Grand Canyon of Arizona, and the Lewis and Clark Exposition at Portland, for which special reduced-rate tickets will be on sale at Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo.

For further information concerning specific rates, stop-over privileges, and returning routes consult ticket agents. A descriptive itinerary will be mailed upon application to George W. Boyd, General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, Pa.

CONFERENCE REPORT CONCLUDED.

Conference Adjourned Wednesday-Next Session to be Held at Rebersburg.

Wednesday morning session was opened with devotional exercises led by George Dale. The business session followed, after prayer by Dr. Hasskari.

Report on the state of religion revealed encouraging results. Trials and difficulties have brought corresponding joys and triumphs. The precious seed sown has been matured and yielded an increased harvest.

The hour of discussion having arrived, the subject "The preacher's need of the Holy Spirit," was considered under three divisions—"In the preparation of the sermon," Rev. W. M. Rearick; "In the delivery of the sermon," Rev. J. I. Stonecypher; "How secure the Holy Spirit's aid," Rev. C. L. McConnell. The general discussion was participated in by Dr. Boal, Dr. Schuyler, Dr. Hasskari, Rev. McConnell, Rev. J. M. Rearick and Rev. Sheeder. The discussions on these subjects were clear, and magnified the office and work of the Spirit, making the preacher helpless without His guidance.

Wednesday afternoon a short time was occupied in the transaction of business, receiving reports of officers and committees. After this an exegesis was given by Dr. Hasskari on Galatians 3:19.

The children's hour was introduced by music by the children and prayer by Rev. Sheeder. The children were interestingly entertained and instructed by Rev. Bixler and Rev. W. M. Rearick.

The sermon Wednesday evening was delivered by Rev. Sheeder, from 1 John 3:14. Dr. Hasskari and Rev. W. M. Rearick conducted the altar service.

Rev. Schoch, president of conference, thanked the people of Centre Hall for their kind hospitality. Remarks were made by Rev. McConnell and Rev. J. M. Rearick, and conference adjourned to meet in Rebersburg in the fall.

Not a Batter Spoon.

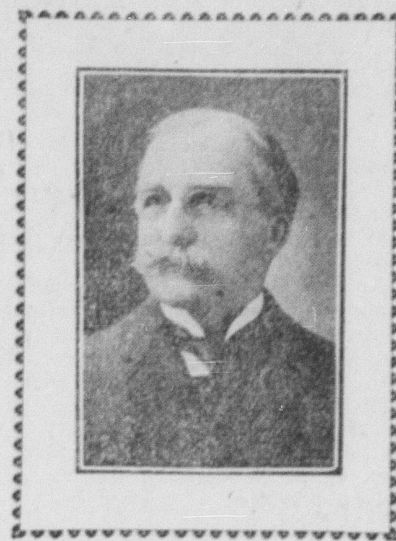
General John P. Taylor, of Rebersburg, is in possession of a highly prized relic in the shape of a spoon which no doubt was a part of the purchase price paid by William Penn for the territory now comprising the great state of Pennsylvania. The spoon was found in 1870, while the General was having excavating done near his dwelling, the foundation for which was laid not less than one hundred years ago. The relic was discovered at a depth of about four feet, is solid silver, and has "William Penn" handsomely engraved upon it. The fact that General Taylor's find was unearthed within one mile of the camp of the celebrated chief Logan, it may reasonably be presumed that the spoon was at one time the property of the noted chief, and a part of the consideration paid the red men for the territory the wealth in mineral of which is beyond calculation.

DRILLING FOR OIL.

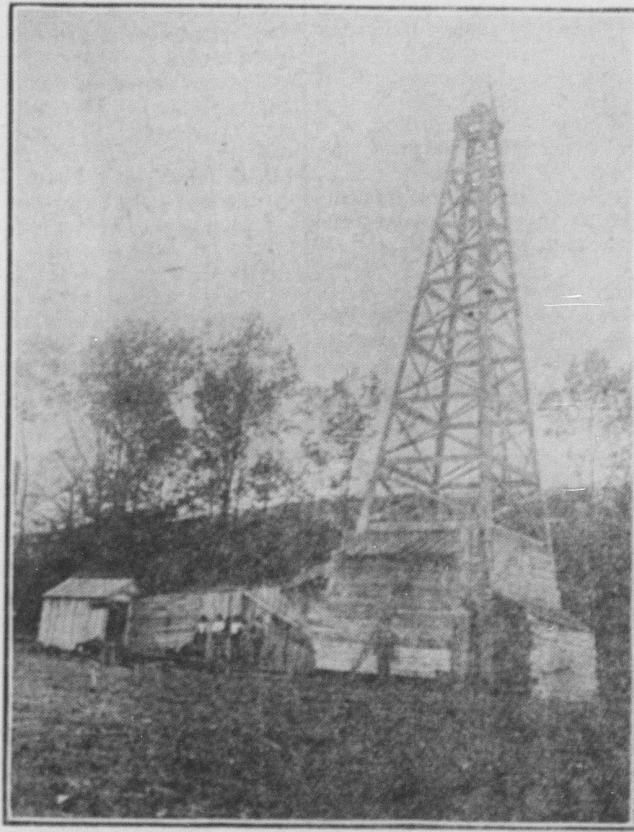
Drilling is in progress. The drill was set to work at twelve o'clock midnight, the dividing point of unlucky Friday and Saturday. Except for the intermission of twenty-four hours (Sunday) the drill has since been incessantly penetrating the earth.

At this writing, Wednesday noon, the drilling has reached a depth of 80 feet, passing through various strata of rock.

Mr. Brown, who has spent his entire life in search for treasures hidden at various depths in mother earth, is very sanguine that the drill he is now driving will bring profitable returns to the company for whom he is operating. It is generally presumed that the stately derrick is located at random some six months ago, but such is not the case, and when, for reasons not under the control of the corporation, it was



W. B. MINGLE, ESQ.
(Promoter of the Penns Valley Oil and Manufacturing Company.)



Drilling for Oil at Centre Hall by the Penns Valley Oil and Manufacturing Company

thought that another location would be selected, the promoter of the scheme and his backers were non-plussed at being balked in their effort to sink the shaft in a locality that proved most promising upon careful scientific investigation. These obstacles were overcome. Every foot of drilling has proven the scientist's prediction; every stratum gone through thus far is an augury of success—the development of coal, gas or oil.

It will be of interest to the average reader of the Centre Reporter to know something of the corporation that is back of the prospecting at Centre Hall, the corporation name even being practically unknown to the majority.

The Penns Valley Oil and Manufacturing Company, the official title of the corporation, was incorporated under the laws of Delaware, in the spring of 1903. The capital stock is \$100,000, and headquarters at Hazlehurst. The officers of the corporation are:

- President: C. A. VanGordon, Hazlehurst.
- Secretary: B. F. Sarskey, Buffalo, N. Y.
- Treasurer: Dr. S. S. Mackenzie, Bolivar, N. Y.
- Promoter: W. B. Mingle, Esq., Centre Hall.
- Contractor: W. H. Brown, Mt. Jewett.

Mr. Mingle, who has been the originator and promoter of the scheme, is to be congratulated upon his success of having brought the project to a point where human powers are no longer of consequence to success or failure. It required financing, diplomacy and sticktiveness to bring the matter to this point, the ultimate success depends on what nature has stored within several thousand feet of the earth's surface. There is a limit to the ingenuity of mankind in developing the earth's treasures—that limit has been reached in this case—it remains now only to be seen whether or not there are treasures within the drill's reach.

The corporation, through its promoter, has leased fully ten thousand acres of land in Penns Valley. In this neighborhood the leases cover nearly the whole of the mountain and valley tracts. Mr. Brown, the contractor, is bound to sink a shaft at least three thousand feet, providing nothing is discovered at a less depth. This depth will be a fair test. The price agreed upon is \$1.50 a foot.

Among the stockholders in the company is one of the largest operators in the oil region which insures the cooperation of a man of the widest experience in oil field development. While some of the directors of the company are local men of means, the majority of them are from other localities and are well acquainted with and interested in oil and gas fields in other sections. The company is not wanting in funds to make a thorough search.

Contractor Brown has employed four skilled drillers in the persons of E. C. Corry, of Moundsville, W. Va.; Carl Anderson, of Casson, Pa.; Harry E. Long, of Marienville, Pa.; Frank Bloomster, of Casson, Pa. Like the descendants of Pennsylvania Dutch, who settled the Keystone State shortly after the colony was organized, these drillers are a bit superstitious, and believe Friday to be an unlucky day; that if a piece of work is begun on that day it will not prosper and possibly the one who begins it will not live to finish it. It was to give the men their way that Mr. Brown consented that the engine should not be put in motion until the evil that Friday might bring had passed away. Perhaps the reader is smiling, but how many of you do unacknowledged services to the mysterious and unknown, whose training and education have not succeeded in entirely destroying the effect of potencies and charms learned and believed in youth.

FROM A GEOLOGICAL STANDPOINT

The Test Well is Being Sunk at a Most Favorable Point.

[BY PROF. C. R. NEFF.]
It is almost universally agreed by scientists that mineral oil is the result of the decomposition of either animal or vegetable matter. The oil itself is a hydrocarbon, and carbon, the principal element, is the main constituent of all plant life, as well as almost the entire substance of animal fats and oils. Natural gas is also a hydrocarbon and chemically is closely related to mineral oil. The two are generally found associated and are undoubtedly of the same origin.

Oil does not, like coal, require for its formation the accumulation of great masses of vegetable matter in one continuous body, but may be evolved chemically from rocks containing scattered remains of animal or vegetable matter. Originally it was supposed to be a product of coal (from which fact it received the name "coal oil") but it has since been found in localities widely separated from the coal measures. Indeed, in the Pennsylvania and West Virginia oil regions, though petroleum and natural gas are found geographically in the same regions, yet geologically they do not belong to the same formation.

There are found in many parts of the earth black shales, which when heated yield mineral oil. The supposition is that mineral oil formerly existed in this form, or in minute detached portions, but due to the action of heat or other chemical agents in nature's laboratory, became detached from the rock and accumulated in massive deposits.

The black Utica shales, for instance, though containing no coal, (at least

(Continued on page 8.)

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

The Susquehanna University commencement will begin Sunday, June 4th.

The Grange library will be open to the public every Saturday evening from 7 to 8 o'clock.

The second annual reunion of the Yearick families will be held Tuesday August 15, at Hecla Park.

Mrs. James Gregg, of Milesburg, was the guest of Mrs. Andrew Gregg, in this place, beginning of this week.

David S. Glasgow, of Tusseyville, advertising letters testamentary on the estate of his father, David Glasgow, late of Haines township.

Miss Annie Dorman, of Snydertown, for the past week or more, has been the guest of her sisters, Mrs. J. Paul Rearick and Mrs. Roy Rearick, in this place.

Misses Bessie Breen and Joyce Bible, of Potters Mills, attended the sessions of the District Epworth League Convention, at Altoona, in the capacity of delegates.

Dr. and Mrs. G. G. Pond, of State College, expect to go abroad shortly after the close of the College session. Dr. Pond will attend a large gathering of noted chemists to be held in London.

Howard Durst, of near Lewisburg, was in town last week to see to the shipping of the last consignment of his farm implements, to his home. He states that he likes his new home very much.

Rev. J. O. Denniston, pastor of the First Presbyterian church at State College, has resigned. He had been pastor of that church for ten years. His resignation will take effect next August.

John H. Brungart, near Green Burr, died of typhoid fever, after being confined to his bed only a few days. Deceased was aged forty-one years, and leaves a wife and seven children. He was a son of Thomas Brungart, on whose farm he resided.

The jury in the case against Mrs. Edna Swartz, formerly of Philipsburg, charged with the murder of Orvis Farley, after being out twenty minutes, brought in a verdict of not guilty. The case was heard at Ridgeway, where the murder for which the woman was tried was committed.

Mrs. I. Y. Moyer, of Cleveland, Ohio, is east on a visit to her mother, Mrs. Mary Rearick, in this place. She will remain for a week or two. Mr. Moyer is one of the managers of the Evangelical publishing house in Cleveland, with which institution he has been connected for a number of years.

Nan Randolph Patterson, thrice tried for the murder of Caesar Young, a noted race track follower, and who was released from the Tombs prison, New York, a few weeks ago, on her own recognizance, after the third miscarriage, will be seen in Altoona June 2, in a big musical show at the Eleventh street opera house.

James N. Leitzell, formerly of Spring Mills, was in town Saturday to shake hands with old comrades and friends, he having just returned from Portland Mills, where he makes his home with his son, Dr. P. W. Leitzell. Mr. Leitzell will make a trip to Illinois, in a week or more, where he will spend several months with his brothers.

An old-fashioned barn raising was indulged in Saturday on the farm owned by W. F. Smith, east of Millheim, and occupied by John Zerby, according to the Journal. A large addition was added to the barn which required a number of men to assist in handling the heavy timbers. During the raising a log rolled on Ezra Keen's foot, necessitating the use of crutches ever since.

Among the callers Monday was J. B. Royer, of Bellefonte, who with Mrs. Royer returned from Lewistown where they visited the families of F. A. and Hiram Lee. Mr. Royer reports the Burnham works in full blast and everything generally prospering in and about Lewistown. Mrs. Royer had her first experience in crossing the Seven Mountains, the rough roads over which fatigued her to such an extent that a stop at the Centre Hall hotel was necessary.

The breezes of outdoor America stir through the handsome pages of the Country Calendar's June number. From Stewart Edward White's glowing account of how to reach and enjoy the snowy Sierras, his favorite camping ground, to John Burroughs' prose poem of his peaceful woods and fields and flowers, there is throughout the freshness of the true outdoor spirit. It is also breathed by the beautiful greens of the "Mountain Torrent" on the cover, and the simplicity of the many large half-page illustrations.