

The Centre Reporter.

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NO. 39

LETTERS FROM SOLDIER BOYS.

"Ned" Keller Writes of Life in "Trenches" at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.—Edward Zettle Writes from Camp Upton, N. Y.

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., Sept. 23, 1917.

Dear Editor Reporter:

I had intended to give you a little line on my life in the trenches during the past week but time will not permit so I am enclosing a clipping which graphically describes a "battle" in which I took part. It was REAL, I assure you. The 1st Battalion (Brown) went into the trenches Thursday morning and the 4th Battalion (White) were stationed back of the hills just in front of the first line of trenches. You will notice that the main attack took place just as the camp I belong to came up on the firing line and of course I was in the midst of it all. We held the firing line until Monday and then we exchanged places with the 4th Battalion. The article was written on Friday morning and as a result they left out the best part of the whole battle. We worked ourselves up to the edge of the woods just bordering on the front of the trenches and about two o'clock we were given the command to fix bayonets and prepare to rush. All this time their snipers were picking our men off and when the command to go forward was given you should have seen the sight. 500 of us rushed forward in three waves, intent on driving the enemy out of the trenches. We were using only blank shells but they were effective at 100 feet and as we advanced the boys in the trenches went plumb crazy and never did stop firing until we were right up on the parapet. This was enough to make any fellow fight and to come back at them we made straight for them with our bayonets. One poor ham fired point blank at me when I was but six feet from him and the contents of the shell struck the iron brace of my legging and glanced off. That made me hot and I was intent on getting him with my bayonet but as I made the thrust some fellow brought the butt of his gun down on my head and he sure left a nice lump to remember the affair by. We all had blood in our eyes by that time and we never did stop at the first line but cleaned it out and then went on to the second line and had the boys on their knees begging us to stop. The boys were going to it so fierce that the officers had to call it off to avoid any more casualties. There are about three dozen of the boys in the hospital row with some pretty bad bruises and several gunshot wounds in their arms.

O, it is real, and I have no fear of going into battle now since going through that. That gives you a little idea of the spirit of the American youth and you can count on them giving a good account of themselves when they get over to France. Life in the trenches is awful and I can readily understand why man becomes mentally unbalanced after staying in for some time. We stood in the reserve trench all day expecting to be called to the firing line any minute and you can imagine the nervous strain we were under until the command to go forward was given. We were on duty from four-day morning until Friday evening (36 hours) and during that time I had a little food Thursday noon and then nothing more until Friday noon at one o'clock, and this was just before we made the charge over "No-man's land". There was no sleeping, either.

The thing that made it almost unbearable was the fact that we had to carry our full packs (45 pounds) on our backs all the time. It might be interesting to you to know that we constructed in three days the largest, most intricate and most complete trench system ever seen in America and on a par with any in France at the present time. This statement was made by the French officers who are here in camp acting as instructors. They say our boys in France now don't get any more taste of the real thing than we do, so at that rate I know what to expect when I go across.

Humors are afraid to the effect that we may be called to go overseas very shortly but you never can tell what will happen next.

With regards to all the home folks, I am very truly,
W. NED KELLER.

[The clipping to which our correspondent refers is taken from the Chattanooga News and is two columns in length, which precedes its reprinting here. Mr. Keller's letter, however, interestingly describes the fury of the "battle", which was fought principally under the cover of darkness. A rough estimate of the ammunition consumed during the night, made by the instructors, is 30,000 rounds of rifle cartridges, in addition to the intermittent buzz of machine guns.—Ed.]

Camp Upton, Sept 24th, 1917.

Editor Reporter:
The Clinton County Ambulance

Unit, formerly No. 41, now 305th Ambulance Company, of the 305th Sanitation Train, of the Seventy-seventh Division of the U. S. Army, arrived at Camp Upton, Long Island, on the night of the 18th. I have been a member of this Company since June 9th and have not regretted my step. We have a fine bunch of boys from Look Haven and vicinity.

We have with us another lad from Centre county whom many will remember, George Condo, formerly of Potters Mills.

Camp Upton is situated in the center of Long Island and sixty-one miles from New York City on the L. I. R. R. It is a newly constructed cantonment, four miles square. There will be forty-five thousand soldiers here by the end of this week. We have four Ambulance Companies, composing the 302d Sanitation Train; the 15th Colored Regiment of N. Y. and all of New York's drafted men.

We have lots to eat and it is all well cooked, because, I guess, I see that it is, and I am one of the two first cooks. We have received no orders as to when we cross the "Pond", but it will hardly be this winter.

I will thank you to receive a copy of the Reporter once in a while. It helps cheer one up to hear from home.

Yours very respectfully,
J. ERHARD ZETTEL, (formerly of Spring Mills.)

305th Ambulance Co.,
302d Sanitation Train,
77th Division, Barracks J 61,
Camp Upton, Long Island, N. Y.

Former Potter Twp. Man Victim of Railroad Accident.

Charles V. Kooney, a well known Pennsylvania railroad conductor, was killed on Wednesday morning of last week on the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie road, at McKees Rocks. Mr. Kooney was aged forty-two years and was born near Colyer, being a son of the late John Kooney. The family lived at Colyer for only a short time. He was a nephew of Mrs. H. J. Lambert, of Centre Hall, the mother of the deceased being the oldest sister of Mrs. Lambert. About a year ago he made a visit to Centre Hall. His mother, as well as his wife and five children, survive. Three brothers are also left, one of whom is Cleve Kooney, who was in Centre Hall a few weeks ago and will be remembered for having made a splendid talk in the local P. O. S. of A. hall on the occasion of the reception tendered the young men from this place who later left for Camp Meade.

Burial was made in Altoona Saturday.

Condo-Finkle.
J. Russell Condo and Miss Marion Finkle, both of Spring Mills, were united in marriage by Rev. D. S. Kuriz, at the Lutheran parsonage in Centre Hall, on Saturday evening. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Finkle and the groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Condo, and at present is one of Gregg township's best school teachers. Among the younger set he is especially well known because of his masterly performance at the third sack as a member of the Spring Mills baseball team.

The many friends of the young couple wish them abundant joy and prosperity.

Will Sell 2 Carload of Cattle.

A. M. Riegel, of Salona, will hold his second sale of western cattle at Centre Hall, on Friday, October 5th, at one o'clock, at the Centre Hall hotel bar. There will be sold a carload of steers selected especially for the Centre Hall market. They are a first class lot of feeders and will develop into big money for you. The second carload will consist of a fine lot of Holstein heifers. L. F. Mays will be the auctioneer.

Training "State" Students for Airplane Experts.

Training students as inspectors of airplane material is the latest wartime addition to the curriculum of the Pennsylvania State College. Professor George R. Green has started a class of twenty young men in wood technology. They will study the structure, strength and durability of spruce and ash, which are the chief woods used in airplane construction. Government officials have told Professor Green there is a great need of competent inspectors to be stationed at the various airplane plants throughout the country. Later the course will include a study of timbers used in ship-building, and Penn State will cooperate with ship builders in supplying inspectors at their yards.

It is estimated that the Pennsylvania commercial onion production will reach 102,550 bushels as compared with 75,000 bushels last year.

The pink label appears this week.

FUNERAL OF HON. L. RHONE

Number of State Grange Workers Attend Funeral Saturday Morning.—Biographical Sketch.

The funeral of Hon. Leonard Rhone, from his late home in Centre Hall, on Saturday morning, was largely attended. Among the many who paid their last tribute to the memory of a good man were the following State officers and past officers: Hon. W. T. Cressy, Past Master of the State Grange; ex-Master Hill, James McSparran, of Lancaster county, father of John McSparran, the present head of the State Grange; Robert Conklin, Chief of the State Forestry Commission, and Mrs. Nettie Allman, of State College, secretary of State Grange. The floral tributes were beautiful and two pieces of unusual beauty were those given by the Pennsylvania State Grange and Progress Grange, of Centre Hall.

The pall bearers were Messrs. G. M. Boal, George Gingerich, Jacob Sharer, Prof. C. R. Nef, D. L. Bariger, and D. K. Keller. Funeral services were conducted in the Lutheran church, by Rev. D. S. Kuriz. The ceremony at the grave was in charge of Messrs. Cressy and McSparran, who performed the beautiful and impressive rites of the Grange.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

The following biographical sketch is taken from the Commemorative Record of Central Pennsylvania, issue of 1898:

In the subject of this biography, who has been for seventeen years the master of the Pennsylvania State Grange, the farmers of this State have found a progressive, yet cautious, leader. He is prominent also in the National Grange, in which he is chairman of the executive committee, and he has attended every annual meeting since 1880. His work in originating the Grange picnic and exhibition at Centre Hall, which meets annually in September, and lasts one week, has produced great and lasting benefit to the order. Every year sees an increase in attendance and exhibitions, and the opportunity for conference among the farmers is prized more and more.

Mr. Rhone was born at the Rhone homestead near Centre Hall, July 21, 1838, and was mainly educated at the old Fairfield school in that vicinity. In 1857-58 he attended Kishacoquillas Seminary one year, but it is to his own observation and private reading that his wide range of information is due. In the winter of 1858-59 he taught the Tusseyville school. Reared as a farmer boy and later engaging in agriculture as an occupation, he has always been in complete sympathy with the tillers of the soil, and his attention was early attracted to the union among them for mutual instruction and information, and definite work for desired ends. From the organization of the Patrons of Husbandry he has always been an active member. His first official position was connected with the State society, but he was elected master of Pomona Grange of Centre county in 1875, re-elected five times, and in 1877 was chosen master of Centre Hall Grange. In April, 1874, he was appointed first deputy of the county by the then master of the State Grange, and this position he held until 1878, when he was elected overseer of the State Grange. In the latter year he was elected trustee of the State Grange, nominated by the Greenbackers to the Legislature, but the latter honor was declined, as was a similar nomination in 1882. In that year he served as a delegate to the National Convention of Agriculture under appointment by Gov. Hoyt, and later he was named by Gov. Hastings as a member of the State Board of Agriculture. In 1888 Democrats nominated him for the Legislature, and the special issues of that time overcoming his disinclination for political life, he accepted, was elected, and in 1887 became his own successor.

In 1864 Mr. Rhone was married to Miss Mary Margaret Sankey, daughter of the late James Sankey, Esq., of Potters Mills, and their union has been blessed with two daughters: Miss May V., a graduate of the seminary at Lutherville, Md., is now chief clerk in the Dairy and Food Division of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg. Miss Florence S. was graduated from the Lewis Academy at Wicomico, Kan., in 1893, with first honors, and at present assists her father as his private secretary. The family is prominent socially, and Mr. Rhone is identified with the Masonic lodge at Centre Hall. He belongs to the Lutheran church at Tusseyville.

Mr. Rhone comes of our best pioneer stock, as is shown by the fact that his beautiful farm near Centre Hall has now been owned and occupied by the Rhone family for more than a century. The first of the name to leave the ancestral home in Hamburg, Germany,

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(Continued on inside page.)

DR. BEIRLY WRITES

Patriotic Letter to Grand Nephew—A Centre Hall Boy—Now in Training at Camp Meade

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 22, 1917.

George Alfred Crawford,
Camp Meade,
Maryland, U. S. A.

My dear Grand Nephew:

It affords me great pleasure to learn through the Centre Reporter that you have joined the great army of the United States of America, thereby to bestow the best that is in you of manhood, valor and patriotism in defense of liberty, justice and world democracy, the highest measures and causes in defense of which any human being can devote his or her noblest efforts, physical, mental and spiritual.

A soldier's life is diametrically opposite to that of the peaceful pursuits of honor and tranquility. Hence it follows that he must learn to adopt new modes of thought and action, all of which will be freely supplied by the officers in charge.

The supreme business of a true soldier is to obey, and do it promptly and efficiently. To serve his country in time of war is the highest and noblest opportunity along the lines of human endeavor. To do that effectively is the supreme test of a soldier's sincerity and manhood.

Our nation's free institutions and foremost liberty were dearly bought through the shedding of rivers of human blood by our noble sires of the Revolution and Civil Wars. We stand foremost among the nations of the earth by reason of the superior wisdom of the creators of the National Constitution and Declaration of Independence, so ably and nobly wrought by men like Franklin, Jefferson, Paine, Washington, Hancock, Marshall, Madison, and others who possessed the wisdom to establish a form of government in which the state and the church are separate, non-interfering institutions, thereby creating a condition in which all may exercise their highest mental activities and noblest aspirations toward the upbuilding of happy homes and national greatness, in both of which our beloved Republic has achieved beyond the dreams of all men and nations from time immemorial.

To have so built, to have so nobly achieved, is ample cause for rejoicing, for ours is the foremost civilization of any people, the zenith of reason and advancement, and the work that surmounts all former endeavor to establish for men a form of government that provides the highest good to the greatest number.

Such causes are worth all the sacrifices of many millions of valiant soldiers now engaged in maintaining them against the aggression of greed, lust of conquest, and inhuman atrocities now in force by the minions of autocracy, which if not conquered will inevitably dispel the earth of her blood-bought democratic freedom and drag all nations back into the serfdom of ignorance, superstition and bigotry.

Most respectfully yours,
ALFRED BEIRLY.

Mencho—Not Guilty of Murder.

Thomas Mencho, of Philadelphia, who was on trial at Bellefonte last week, charged with the killing of Walter Young, also of Philadelphia, was acquitted of the charge, the jury on Friday night bringing in a verdict of not guilty.

The case occupied the attention of the court for three days. Quite a number of witnesses were heard by both Commonwealth and the defense. The evidence was all in by Friday noon, and the afternoon was occupied by the four lawyers, two for Commonwealth and two for the defendant, in making their pleas. Judge Quigley began his charge to the jury at 7 o'clock. At 8 o'clock the jury went into retirement, and after deliberating three hours brought in a verdict of not guilty, as indicated above.

The trouble which resulted in the murder trial began at Philadelphia last May, and was a family row. As a result Walter Young was stabbed by Mencho and died at the hospital on June 12th.

New Town in Lewistown Barrows.

John T. Wilson, of Belleville; John C. Seigart, of McVeytown, and D. B. McWilliams, of Burnham, have been appointed viewers to lay out a public highway from the E. E. Spangler farm, east of Lewistown Junction, along the railroad side of the Juniata river to Hawstone, a village springing up in the heart of the mountains, incident to the Hws Refractories company, who expect to spend \$234,000 at that point within two years.

The apple crop will be considerably below that of last year, growers reporting the late crop below the general average for the past ten years.

INJURIES CAUSED HIS DEATH.

John Page, of Rebersburg, Injured at Railroad Station a Week Ago, Dies in Bellefonte Hospital.—Other Deaths.

John A. Page died in the Bellefonte hospital on Friday of last week, the result of injuries sustained in a fall, mention of which was made in these columns last week, under the following circumstances: A week before his death he hurt his side and back in a fall by accidentally stepping off the board from the platform to the car at the railroad station at Coburn, causing him to be thrown against the iron support of the car door. He was helping to put bagged potatoes in the car. He at once got very sick and when taken to his home near Rebersburg, took his bed. Showing no improvement after several days, he was taken to the Bellefonte hospital where he died about ten hours afterward.

He was a son of Reuben (deceased) and Mary Page, of Linden Hall. He was married to Elizabeth Royer, who survives with the following children: Allen C., of Valley View; Lawrence, of Hector, Kans.; Chas. A. and Mrs. A. B. Wolf, of Rebersburg; Mrs. E. J. Herman, Jersey Shore; Mrs. W. H. Conser, Pine; Mrs. Ed. Snyder, Jersey Shore; Neta and Alms, at home. Two brothers—George, of Eagleville, and Joshua, of Linden Hall, and two sisters—Mrs. William Stover, of Boalsburg, and Mrs. W. T. Noll, of Linden Hall, also survive, as do twenty-two grand children.

Born in Harris township, December 4th, 1853, Mr. Page was in his sixty-fourth year. He was a member of the United Evangelical church and a faithful member, a good citizen and neighbor. His pastor, Rev. Womelsdorf, had charge of the funeral services which were held on Tuesday morning; burial in the Union cemetery, Rebersburg.

Miss Luella Ross, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Ross, of Boalsburg, died in the Bellefonte hospital on Friday evening at eight o'clock. Miss Ross had been ill for several days preceding her death and on Friday was removed to the hospital to undergo an operation for strangulation of the bowels. The ordeal proved a severe one, and lacking the necessary recuperative power, she passed away at the time stated. Surviving her are her parents and two sisters: Mrs. Elias Meyer, of Farmville, Virginia, and Mrs. Robert Harter, of State College.

Miss Ross was born at Linden Hall thirty-six years and two months ago. She was a young woman of noble qualities and enjoyed the respect and esteem of a wide circle of friends. Her untimely death is regretted and the parents have the sympathy of the entire community.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon by Rev. S. C. Stover, of the Reformed church, of which the deceased was a consistent member. Burial was made at Boalsburg.

Child Dies of Diphtheria.

Ralph Dawson, the three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dawson, of Axemann, died at the home of Mrs. Dawson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Cori, near Nigh Bank, on Friday evening, after a short illness with diphtheria. The Dawson family was visiting at the Cori home when the child took sick. The death was the second one in the space of a week's time in that family, an infant child having died a few days previous. The Cori home has been quarantined, and it is thought that the disease will be held in check.

FOLKS WE ALL KNOW



"Who comes to town at break of day, With silver loaded high with hay?" Why, the Farmer, of course. When he Gets Through figuring up the Proceeds of this year's Crop, he will buy a Swell New Car. If the Farmers ever go on a Strike, the rest of us will have to live on Snowballs.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

Many from Centre Hall and vicinity attended the Milton fair on last Thursday.

Everything's going up but the rain, and we've noticed that very little of that has come down within the past four weeks.

If you have old or young chickens to sell, call me up. I need them. Prices are high now.—C. D. Bartholomew.

Judge Quigley may preside over the next term of court in Clinton county, to begin on October 15th, owing to the illness of Judge Hall.

William F. Colyer last week finished raising a crop of 1000 bushels of potatoes. He disposed of one carload at the price of \$1.00 per bushel.

Mrs. John M. Coldron left on Tuesday morning for Holton, Kansas, where she will spend about six weeks at the home of her mother.

Harry E. Fye recently purchased from Booser & Smith agency a new five-passenger Dodge auto, and consequently will travel from the farm to town in the approved modern style.

Mrs. H. C. Handwerk, of Slatington, Lehigh county, was an arrival at the Reformed parsonage on Wednesday where she will remain for a short time. Mrs. Handwerk is a sister of Mrs. Jones.

J. R. Bible, of Phoenixville, in making a remittance to the Reporter, says: We are having dry weather in Chester county at present; not much seeding done yet, and considerable plowing to do. Silos about all filled and corn cutting begun.

The Smith Printing Co., of Williamsport, has purchased the opera house site in that city and will erect a three-story building, to cost approximately \$100,000.00. J. Henry Smith, the president of the firm, moved to Williamsport from Reedsville, about thirteen years ago.

Through the means of advertising, Lucien Lebrum, of Lewistown, has secured the promise of wife, which makes him a firm believer in the efficacy of printer's ink. The would-be husband published his picture and qualifications in the Daily Sentinel, and kept at it until he obtained results. He knew the secret of advertising.

October marks the opening of the gunning season. Beginning on the 15th of the month bear may be killed and on the 29th the small-game hunter has his choice of pheasants, quail or squirrel. The cottontail has a stay of execution for ten days, but on the first day of November he will be sought after by a force second only in number to that chasing the "Hun".

Simon Schilling, "trouble man" for the Commercial Telephone Company, while making some repairs near State College last Wednesday evening came in contact with a live electric wire which struck him across the eyes. He was taken to the Nittany Inn, where he is under the care of a trained nurse. It is thought Mr. Schilling may lose the sight of his eyes.

Leroy Puff, who for the past year was employed as a clerk in the local railroad office, passed the necessary examination at Harrisburg last week to qualify as a clerk in the railroad branch of the army service. He left last Thursday for Harrisburg and from there for Columbus, Ohio, with a possibility of being sent on to Rockford, Ill., for the required training.

Col. J. L. Spangler, of Bellefonte, was appointed a member of a newly created commission which will be known as the conciliation board, whose duties it will be to try to effect a better understanding between employers and employees where labor troubles prevail. President Wilson created the new commission which, consisting of only six members, represents the entire United States. Col. Spangler left for Washington last Wednesday.

Seventy-four owners of automobiles, from various parts of the state, were notified recently to appear before the 'Squire in the borough of Howard and pay their fine and costs, amounting to \$12.50 each, for alleged violation of the speed ordinance. The motorists did not submit like lambs but stuck together to fight it out, retaining attorney S. D. Gettig, of Bellefonte, as their legal champion. Mr. Gettig went over the territory that had been used as a "speedway" and discovered the borough had not come up to the law by reason of having used four-inch letters on its caution signs, whereas five-inch letters are required. Fortified with this point in their favor, the mob, with their lawyer, proceeded to the office of the 'Squire, who upon listening to their claim decided that Howard was "in wrong" and accordingly declared all cases nolle prosequi.