

LETTERS FROM OUR BOYS IN GERMANY

"Although They Were Once Our Enemy, One Cannot Help But Feel Kindly Toward Them," Writes One Soldier.

From Pvt. Russel J. Goodhart.
The following interesting letter is from Private Russel Goodhart, eighteen-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Goodhart, of Millheim, and was written to his uncle, F. V. Goodhart, in Centre Hall.

Plaidt, Germany
Jan. 5, 1919.
Dear Uncle and all:—
Just came from church and will try and write before dinner.

It is rather chilly and cloudy this morning. This is a very rainy season of the year. It has been cold enough for snow but once and then we only had a half inch, but it was enough to make a white Christmas. I imagine you had little time to have a real Christmas on account of so many deaths. Well, we had the time, but not the means. Had beef, mashed potatoes, dressing for dinner.

We spent Thanksgiving in Burnerage, Luxemburg. We are now about 10 miles from Coblenz. We hiked all the way from Tannois, in the vicinity of Bar Le Duc, France.

It was a long hike but we saw many things worth notice on our way. We are now billeted in the Germans' homes; two to six in a house occupying a vacant room. There are four of us together in a room with two beds.

I have a grand place to live as far as that goes, but will not be satisfied till we land in the states. We can't talk much to the people except with signs. We expect to get paid probably tomorrow but our money does us little good over here for the Y. M. C. A. doesn't get anything to sell and we are not allowed to buy any eats (which we most long for) on account of the scarcity of food in Germany. I received a Christmas box from mother, today, and so did one of my room mates and it sure did cheer us. I received good home made fudge and we good rich bought chocolate. You see we get the same kind of chow over and over and one longs for something different.

When the armistice was signed we figured on being home Christmas, being one of the principal fighting divisions, but those are the ones they wished to represent the A. E. F. in Germany as the army of occupation.

The people here are exceedingly kind and friendly to the American and British soldiers but hate the French. Although they were once our enemy, one can not help but feel kindly toward them.

Am sorry I could not return to finish high school this term but one must be glad that the jaws of death did not snatch us from the battle field and that we are not pushing daisies today; also that one must not lay out in the weather receiving and sending missels of death through the cold winter air.

We first went on the front on Hill 204, between Belleau-Woods and Chateau-Thierry. Next we started the Chateau-Thierry drive. We were in support for the St. Mihiel drive and were in support when the Verdun drive started but as the 79th Division failed to hold the lines we spent twenty-eight days severe fighting on that front fighting the Argonne forces. On the Chateau-Thierry and Verdun fronts we fought the Prussian guards but although we were at a disadvantage by being on the offensive, we made our mark every time. We have undergone gas, machine gun fire, artillery fire, and severe weather exposures and food shortages, but, thank God, we're one of the spared ones and are glad of it. Have no time this afternoon to explain much as I must have yet before retreat and have more letters to write, so will close for this time, wishing you all health and happiness and hoping to meet before long.

Affectionately, your nephew,
RUSSEL J. GOODHART,
Co. D, 4th U. S. Inf.
Amer. Ex. Forces,
Via N. Y.

From George F. Smith.
(To his aunt, Mrs. Calvin Vonada, of near Centre Hill.)

Eseh, Luxemburg,
Jan. 1, 1919.
Dear aunt,
I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know I am well. We are in the city of Eseh, one of the largest cities of Luxemburg. The people here are "Dutch" and I can't understand them any better than the French.

This is my second New Year in Europe; I hope it will not be another, for I certainly like the U. S. A. It is the best place I have ever been in.

I suppose you miss John William, and you can be thankful for where he is, but that he did not have to go through this struggle and then get killed at the last, like some I saw here. You knew where he was when he was with you, but you don't know where he would have been if he had been a soldier. He might have

(Continued on next column)

From Sgt. J. Merrill Hagan.

462nd Aero Squadron,
American Expt. Forces,
Air Service,
Germany, Trier,
Dec. 29, 1918.

My dear father and all:
Can you picture me over here living in a fine furnished room and some one to keep it clean and neat? Well, that's exactly how I have it at the present time. There are three of us staying here with a German family right in the city of Trier and believe me, they sure do treat us fine. Of course, it is to their interest to do so, for they have nothing to lose and all to gain; but, then, it is wonderful to see how well they treat the Americans in general, for just to think—only two months ago we were sure fighting them hard. They are sure good losers but they are still our enemy, and consequently we are on our guard.

The people here showed us a fine time over Christmas and must say that I enjoyed myself more than last year. Of course that was due to more than one reason; the biggest reason is that the war is over and we are all patiently waiting for the day when we will sail for that much longed-for place which we call Home and "God's Country."

Oh! the year and a half which I have already spent in the service of my country has helped me see the world in a different light and when I come back you will not see me as I left, but a different young man in stature and in mind.

This is a very beautiful country where we are now stationed; this city (Trier) is on the Mosel river. I have sent several albums home of this city, and the surrounding country; the one of the Mosel river, as you will note, is from the city Trier, here, and shows all the small towns to the city Coblenz where we will be going in a few days. They tell me the city Coblenz is very beautiful so you may know I am very anxious to get there.

Well, I suppose it is getting rather cold back there in old Pennsylvania, is it not? It is not cold at all here and I am very glad of it.

How were the hogs this year? I suppose as usual, big and fat. Gee, I wish I were back there to help eat some of those good sausages, ha! ha! Who helped you to butcher this year, and what day did you butcher? Well, I hope that I will be with you next year when we butcher. Have you had any snow yet? Most likely a white Christmas.

I noticed in the paper of brother Russell's enlistment in the Navy. Has he gone, or was the armistice signed before he left? I sincerely hope that he didn't need leave you.

Who drives the auto now if brother Russell left? You should have left me teach you to drive it before I left; now you could handle it, ha! ha! Oh well, daddy, I guess it won't be so awful long any more until I will drive it again and then we will have one grand old time when we are all together again. I had a card from brother Charles yesterday and he was feeling fine.

Here's a photo I had taken a few days ago; this is the kind of suits all the motorcycle riders wear, so you see we are always warm and dry.

Here's hoping you had a merry Christmas, and wishing you all a happy and most prosperous new year. May we all meet early in the new year and may God bless and protect you all. Please write soon and real often—all of you.

Lovingly your son,
(Sgt.) J. MERRILL HAGAN.

To Get 6 Months' Pay After Their Discharge.

The Illinois House of Representatives, last Wednesday, approved a plan to pay the soldier and sailors six months' pay after being discharged. The Senate approved this the night previous.

Transfers of Real Estate.
M. F. Rossman et ux to George V. Zerby, tract of land in Potter Twp.; \$100.

(Continued from previous column.)

been captured and been a German prisoner—starved to death, abused and suffered more than he did, for we know the time will come when we all will have to go. I hardly could believe it when I read the letter mother wrote me.

I was in one of the worst bells at that time and wondered when I would get killed myself. I was at Chateau-Thierry—I believe one of the wildest places on the battle fields of France. You have another boy coming home soon, if he ever gets there, and I hope I will. Will close for this time; answer soon.

I remain your loving nephew,
GEORGE F. SMITH,
Co. K, 60th Infantry, A. E. F.
P. S. I have been transferred to Co. K, 60th Infantry, instead of Co. K, 9th Infantry.

FARM BUREAU NOTES.

GOOD SEED CORN WANTED.

In order to improve our corn in the county the farm bureau is conducting several corn variety tests in order to find the high yielding varieties which are best suited in the different sections of the county. If any farmer has what he considers a good heavy yielding variety well suited to this county the Farm Bureau will appreciate it very much if he can spare about twenty-five ears to be used in these tests. In our variety tests last year we found some outstanding varieties and they will be used again this year. If you have an excellent variety of corn let us know about it.

WOOL.
We understand that there are some wool buyers in the county trying to contract for this next year clip. We would suggest that those having wool act just a little careful until we know how the wool market is going to be for the coming year. During a recent conference with one of the best wool men in the State he said, "We do not know what the wool market is going to be during the coming year and the farmers in our section are not going to contract their wool until they do know". Every wool grower should wait until the plans that different organizations are working on have time to develop and the market adjusts itself.

R. H. OLMSTEAD,
County Agent.

Big W. S. S.—\$100 Each.
The big War Savings Stamps will soon be on the market.

These stamps, in denominations of \$100, are to be issued shortly by the Treasury Department and will be sold on the same relative terms as the \$5 War Savings Certificates, of which the people have already bought more than a billion dollars worth.

The new stamps, which are now on the Government presses at Washington, will cost \$86 20 cents if bought during February, the price increasing twenty cents each month until the end of the year. They are redeemable for \$100 on January 1, 1924. The stamp will be about the size of the \$100 bond of the Fourth Liberty Loan.

Will Hold "Necktie" Social.
The ladies of the Busy Bee Circle expect to hold a "necktie" social on the evening of February 14 (St. Valentine Day) in the Grange hall, when a short literary program will be given. Cake walks and other amusements will follow. A light lunch, also ice cream, cake and coffee will be served. The proceeds will be given to the Armenian Relief Fund. Everybody is cordially invited to come and enjoy an evening of fun.—Committee.

Barger-Brean.
On January twenty-eighth, at Boalsburg, Milton H. Barger and Miss Emma C. Brean, both of State College, were quietly married by Rev. S. C. Stover. These parties are well known and we predict for them a happy future.

Era of High Prices is Passing.
War prices are beginning to tumble from their high perches. The first price reductions following the cessation of hostilities in Europe have made their appearance in United States markets. New York dealers have announced a reduction of from six to nine cents a yard in the price of muslins for spring delivery, the drop being the greatest in the history of muslin market since Civil War days.

More than 22,000 manufactured articles were displayed at Chicago last week at the exhibition of the Manufacturers' and Importers' Association of America, the list of products ranging from hairpins to seal coats.

Albert Levy, of New York, president of the association, said that in his opinion the era of high prices would soon pass and in many cases the drop would be seventy-five per cent.

Why There Must Be Another Bond Issue.
Statement by Speaker Champ Clark of Missouri:

"It goes without saying that there must and will be another big bond issue. Having put our hands to the plow we must not look back. We cannot afford to. Because while the world war is really over, it is not technically ended until President Wilson issues a proclamation to that effect. We still have a huge army overseas and while it should be brought home as soon as ships can bring our soldiers back, until they get back, they must be fed and clothed and otherwise cared for. It would be an everlasting shame not to do that. So people should subscribe for the impending loan and purchase War Savings Stamps as readily and liberally as they subscribed for the past loans. It's for support of our soldiers and nothing is too good for them."

W. C. T. U. will meet Saturday evening at the C. D. Bartholomew home.

COUNTY FOOD ADMINISTRATOR BIDS FAREWELL.

W. Fred Reynolds Thanks All for Help Given During the Strenuous Days of the War.

A little more than a year ago, at the request of the State Food Administrator, Mr. Heinz, I accepted the position of Federal Food Administrator for Centre County. Realizing the great importance of this particular phase of war work, an office was opened devoted to this business entirely. At the outset, Mr. H. C. Valentine patriotically volunteered his services to aid in handling the ever-increasing duties and with Miss Nina Lamb as a helper, everything was handled satisfactorily. After a time Mr. Valentine was incapacitated and forced to resign. I then reorganized the office force with Miss Aikens in charge and Mrs. Jack Decker assisting. Until the close of the office last month, all the work was most efficiently performed.

It was soon found that in a community so varied in industries and nationalities and largely rural, the work could not be satisfactorily handled through the mail; consequently meetings of the people in certain convenient places were held as schools of instruction. In many instances it was necessary to visit an individual and interpret the rules and regulations applying to his case. The Foreign element especially required personal attention. Therefore the headquarters of the Administrator were largely in a motor car. And, too, having one of the largest counties, mileage was correspondingly large. By conducting the work in this way, results were accomplished without having to inflict penalties on those who were inclined to make light of the whole matter but who were soon convinced of their error by a personal visit and explanation of conditions; and they usually became my best lieutenants. No evasions were found which could be regarded as a deliberate, in nearly every case, ignorance caused most of the trouble.

The response to the sugar and flour regulations was splendid and proved the hearty cooperation of all. The principal volunteer lieutenants were: Mr. S. W. Gramley, Millheim; Mr. C. P. Kapp, State College; Mr. L. G. Runk, Philipsburg; and Mr. J. B. Wiles, Philipsburg. These men were kept informed of all rules and regulations as they appeared and were always ready to disseminate them to those in the neighborhood.

The Farm Bureau, Mr. Olmstead, agent, was very helpful in matters pertaining to farmers. Increased production in all its phases being the important subject.

In matters especially concerning the retail merchant, Mr. J. Will Conley, president of the Retail Merchants Association, was of great assistance.

The women's part was directed by Mrs. J. Thomas Mitchell, assisted by Miss Nancy Hunter, and was most ably done and accomplished good results.

The bakers, under the supervision and direction of Mr. H. C. Clevenstine, were ever anxious to do their share in conserving the use of wheat flour.

The millers did their best under the circumstances. In Centre county there are many small water power mills which suffered not a little because of the rules controlling grain supply, etc. But there were few complaints from them.

Every week a committee compiled and had published the "Fair Price List" which undoubtedly had a good effect on the markets.

The newspapers of the county were always most generous with their space and cheerfully accepted any article on food conservation which was given them.

The persons named above were those on whom I had to call quite frequently for help, but they were not all of those who did much to bring about the saving of food which was such an important factor in the crisis then upon us. All over the county, I found the people ready and willing to lend their aid in any way possible and during the year or more of this strenuous work, I never made a request which was refused and I want to now publicly thank them all for the help they gave me personally and to congratulate the state and the country on having such patriotic and loyal people as are found in Centre county.

Respectfully,
W. FRED REYNOLDS,
Federal Food Admr. of Centre Co.

School Report, Fourth Month.
Grammar school: number in attendance during month—girls 11, boys 16, total 27. Per cent. attendance during month: girls 95 1-4, boys 93 3-4, average 97. The following have not missed any days during month: Ethel Frank, Agnes Geary, Charlotte Keller, Florence Krape, Madeline Smith, Vienna Zettle, Florence Zettle, Theodore Brean, Albert Emery, Howard Emery, Paul Fetterolf, Franklin Ruble, Franklin Runkle, Paul Smith, Daniel Smith, Hugh Smith, and George Reiber. Those who have not missed any days since the beginning of the term: Ethel Frank, Florence Zettle, Howard Emery and Albert Emery. The latter pupil has not missed any days in seven years.

THE FUNERAL OF JOHN BARLEYCORN.

Rev. G. W. McInay, Former Local Pastor, Realizes Long-Coveted Privilege in Participating in Obsequies of the Famous "John."

There was only one bouquet, and that sent out of joy at his death; there was no eulogy of the departed, only a scathing denunciation of his past work, and not a single mourner at the funeral one night last week in the First Methodist church at Nescopeck of John Barleycorn, the late but not lamented King of Alcohol.

The church was filled almost to capacity, except the front rows, the vacancy of which only emphasized the more that there were no mourners, for the front seats had been reserved for the mourners.

Special music, not funeral dirges, but tidings of joy and eternal peace, was rendered by the choir.

The only floral tribute was a beautiful bouquet bearing the signature of the Night Turn Employees of the Munition Plant, which was sent to the church early in the evening as a floral offering of gladness for the fact that old John had left rather hastily for parts unknown, but hinted at.

The pastor, Rev. G. W. McInay, formerly of the Penns Valley M. E. charge, declared it was a supreme privilege and one that he had long coveted to participate in the obsequies of the famous John.

He declared that two great events had occurred recently, the one the signing of the armistice and the other the ratification by the 36th state of the prohibition amendment. The first brought peace to warring nations of the world and the second peace to millions of afflicted individuals and families. He declared that the 13th amendment, adopted December 18, 1865, had freed millions of slaves, and that the 16th amendment ratified last week, had freed millions more than did the 13th.

"A very distinguished personality has passed away in the person of John Barleycorn," the minister declared.

"He was distinguished chiefly for his devilishness. We had long feared that he might never die for he had indications of longevity. He ate well, chiefly off the body politic, for John was a parasite. He drank well, but seldom of the sparkling brook. He seemed to sleep well, but he never slept the sleep of the just, for justice wasn't one of John's strong points. He walked about much, mostly to show himself and to defy men to touch him. He loved to boast that he was protected by law, even after the Supreme Court said he was a menace to public welfare and especially the army and navy. He liked to float the stars and stripes over his dwelling, but we would not like to say that he was the best friend of the nation, because of his manne of life and methods of business.

John Barleycorn liked to make silly folks believe that the nation could not live after his death, but the nation is willing to try it out just the same. John never cared to make his business public. He would not expose his customers to the public gaze, so he hid his business behind swinging doors and in the midnight hours. So John was different from the grocer and the butcher. In business he never gave a man a good thing for his money—a thing good for

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Potter Twp. Fills School Vacancies.
The Potter township school directors this week filled the three vacancies existing in as many public schools in the township. Miss Marion Royer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eimer Royer, is teaching the Potters Mills primary grade; George York, of near Pleasant Gap, has charge of the grammar grade, while Mrs. Rebecca Glossner, of Blanchard, has been elected to teach the Colyer school.

Patriots—and Nicknames.
United States Commissioner of Education, Dr. P. P. Claxton, wants Boy Scouts—and all boys—to subscribe to a "Code of Honorable Names." He means that foreign-born residents shall not be stigmatized by derogatory terms, of which he gives a selective list: Dago, Dutchy, Froggy, Ginny, Greaser, Heiny, Horwat, Hunky, Kike, Mick, Paddy, Sheeney, Spaggetti and Wop.

His effort is to bring the body politic in the rising generation to feel that those on whom these nicknames are thoughtlessly or maliciously disposed are often American patriots of the best stamp. He does not wish to have them ridiculed; nor is he willing to have an epithet brand them as a class apart. The thoughtful element will appreciate Doctor Claxton's feeling. Sometimes these names are given and received in a spirit equally playful and no real harm is done. A nickname may involve a compliment and actually be an index of popularity. But too often these appellations are flung in a spirit of jeering scorn, and the use of such terms for a derisive purpose deserves to be discouraged as Doctor Claxton proposes.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS
The red and black 1919 auto license tag must now be seen on your car or a "cop" might get you.

Samuel Gingerich, with his power saw, is doing considerable wood sawing in this vicinity.

Peter Dreyer retired from the barbering business in Lewistown, on Monday, after conducting his shop for a period of fifty years.

Carl A. Atman, on Monday, left for Altoona to resume his position with the Pennsylvania Railroad company, which he quit last fall to help Uncle Sam on his big program.

A bill establishing a state fisherman's license of one dollar was introduced in the house, at Harrisburg, last week by Mr. Powell, of Luzerne. The bill aroused much discussion in the session of 1917.

While on his way with his family to Lock Haven, on Sunday, Hugh Runkle, of Tusseyville, experienced trouble with his car and was forced to return home. He had reached a point near Hubersburg.

There will be one more Liberty Bond campaign. On this Treasury Department officials are certain. Differences with the Federal Reserve Board, treasury heads said, were more apparent than real.

Mrs. J. G. King recently returned from a five weeks' visit to relatives in Pittsburgh, Curwensville and Bellefonte. At Pittsburgh she visited her brother, H. D. W. English, and her nephew, William M. Furey.

The United States pension department has granted a pension of \$25 a month to Mrs. Annie Kreamer, widow of the late Jesse Kreamer, of Millheim. Mrs. Kreamer will also receive a neat sum of accrued pension.

Demobilization of the army passed the million mark during the past week, General March has announced, with 61,237 officers and 952,411 men actually discharged. Of the officers mustered out, 2,444 were on duty in Washington.

The Reporter, this week, prints the first letters that have come from "our boys" since they have been on German soil. Both Russel Goodhart and Merrill Hagan have letters of unusual interest, and you should not miss reading them.

The following Maroon members attended the sessions of the Scottish Rite bodies of the Valley of Williamsport, at Williamsport, the latter part of last week: Messrs. Cloyd Brooks, C. M. Smith, C. W. Booser, D. A. Booser, and E. M. Huyett.

Sunday—ground hog day—was a day of continued sunshine and consequently his hogship had little difficulty in observing his shadow. Even though we were to have six weeks bad weather, we would consider it to have been a short winter, in view of the past.

Mileage scrip books good for 3000 miles, costing \$90 with \$2.70 additional for war tax, will be placed on sale February 10, the Railroad Administration announced a few days ago. They will be good on all Government controlled railroads and terms will be the same as those of \$30 and \$15 books now on sale.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bitner were the guests at the home of his father, Dr. H. F. Bitner, several days last week, says the Lewisburg Journal. They were on their way from Richmond, Va., where Mr. Bitner was employed during the war with the DuPont concern, to Cincinnati, O. Mr. Bitner has widely traveled over the globe, his experiences taking him to Alaska, Japan, India, and many of the European countries.

The borough schools finished half of the eight months term, on Friday. The attendance of the pupils has been excellent since the schools have been permitted to operate without the interference of the dread influenza. The average attendance for the past months has been from 91 to 99 per cent. This is commendable, and if parents will see that their children lose no more time than absolutely necessary for the remainder of the term, the close of the school year will prove it to have been a good one, and up to the average, despite the fact that early predictions would have made it otherwise.

To be wounded twice by a Boche bullet, gassed an equal number of times, officially listed as "dead", and then to return home to find out that his wife had accepted it all to be true and had gone and married again, was the strenuous experience of a Lewistown soldier—Hoover Henry. The young soldier, who enlisted in August, 1917, slipped into his home town a few days ago without sending any advance notice of his coming. Instead of springing the surprise, it was he who was surprised. The only comment he has to make is that: Sherman underestimated war; he did not make it strong enough. A few weeks after the War Department had chronicled the death of her soldier husband Mrs. Henry married a civilian and moved away from Lewistown.

Handwritten note: "The Reporter" and other illegible scribbles.