

Story of the Battle of Antietam

As Told in Letter Written Fifty Years Ago

By J. E. Richmond

J. E. Richmond of this city was formerly a resident of the City of Carbondale in the early 60's. When the "Wurtz Guards" marched off to the war from that place with colors flying and by the sound of rifle and drum Mr. Richmond was one of the number. The day after the battle of Antietam he stood on the battlefield and a week later he wrote the following letter to the editor of the Carbondale Advance, now the weekly edition of the Leader, and described what he saw. The following is the letter written fifty years ago, taken from the Carbondale Leader with permission of J. E. Richmond.

Hagerstown, Md., Sept. 20, 1862.
Saturday evening in Camp.
E. A. Benedict, Esq., Ed. Advance.

Dear Sir:—Agreeably to my promise, to keep you advised of the whereabouts and doings of the "Wurtz Guards" and matters connected with our present campaign, I sit down in my tent this eve to arrange the hurried notes I have taken of affairs up to this date. I write with the sound of cannon in the distance, and by going outside the tent I can see the flashes of guns towards the Potomac.

We think a brisk engagement is going on at no great distance, and it is not improbable that within the next twenty-four hours our regiment may be called on to participate in it. Gen. Kenley's brigade of Maryland troops marched through town this morning on their way to the Potomac, and I think it probable they have come up with the rebels and engaged them. This brigade came in early this morning from Baltimore via Harrisburg. But what is now going on in front is mere matter of conjecture, and I will proceed to give an account of the stern realities of war, which I have already met with.

You have probably learned about our arrival at Harrisburg and being sent to this place, so that it will be unnecessary for me to refer to the circumstances attending our trip hither. I will, therefore, confine myself chiefly to a brief narrative of scenes which none of our company but myself have yet witnessed, and describe what I saw on the battlefield of Antietam.

Wednesday last was the day of the great battle. On Thursday morning when we reached this place everything was quiet, though we heard from the people about town that a great battle had been fought the day before within eleven miles of this place (Hagerstown) and the Mayor has issued a proclamation requiring all places of business to be closed and all able-bodied men to go down to the battlefield to assist in taking care of the wounded.

During the forenoon news came that Jackson's army had surrendered, which occasioned great excitement, but it has not been confirmed. Yesterday morning, not feeling well enough for camp duty, Capt. Nicol, with the kindness and consideration which he has ever shown to me and to the men under his command, granted me "leave of absence" for the day, and I determined to improve the opportunity by making a visit to the battlefield. I had been sick at Harrisburg, but determined to keep up with the company as long as possible, and that I have been able to do so is owing, in a great measure, to the generous assistance of my mess mate, W. W. Lathrop, and Hon. J. M. Poore, our popular ex-Mayor. Mr. Poore, with the energy that characterized him in everything placed himself under forty-five, and taking my place in the ranks, with knapsack slung and musket shouldered, acted well the part of a soldier. The rebel army, before evacuating Hagerstown took all the provisions available, even to the last loaf of bread at the Washington Hotel, where Mayor Poore and myself took breakfast the following morning. The proprietor told us they cleaned us out of most everything. In settlement of our bill of \$2.00 I offered them "Tray City" money worth par which he refused and I gave him a \$5.00 bill of Northwestern money worth twenty cents on the dollar, he paying the change in silver. Early yesterday morning I took a seat in an ambulance and started for the field. The ambulance also contained five citizens, who went down for curiosity, rather than a desire to render assistance. We were told, however, that the pickets would not let us pass the lines. When we came to the guard stationed a short distance from the field, we were stopped, and the question asked of all, except my self and a surgeon who had just joined us, "Did you come to render assistance or from curiosity?" All were obliged to confess to the latter motive, and sure enough, they were not allowed to proceed further. I was surprised at being allowed to pass on unquestioned when others were stopped, and did not, at first, quite understand what it meant. Presently I found myself addressed as "surgeon," and soon perceived that my blue army clothing, which clearly resembled the uniform of our surgeon, had led our men to take me for one of the profession, and this mistake procured for me liberty to go pretty much where I pleased.

The first sight that greeted my eyes after entering our lines, was the camp ground occupied by our troops, composed of Sumner's division and a portion of Banks' corps. I should judge, in line of battle, laying upon their whiskey, are said to be the cause, and certainly their frightful appearance corroborated the statement. Dead horses, too, were scattered in numbers about the field blackened and putrifying. All kinds of wounds were visible on both men and horses; heads, arms and legs shot off, bodies and limbs torn by shells or shattered by bullets.

Altogether, the appearance of the field was, indeed, revolting, close beside a dead rebel I observed a rifle and bayonet, and asked an officer who stood near me, if it was probable that this weapon had been carried by the rebel before us. He replied that he should judge that it had, and picking it up and examining it, we soon found a Springfield rifle on the breech of which was the mark of "3d Regiment, Alabama," which satisfied us that it had surely come from rebel hands. We found that it contained a load with a minie bullet about two-thirds of the way in the barrel. It was supposed that the rebel who used the rifle, after pouring the powder and dropping the bullet into the barrel was shot before drawing the ramrod to force the ball home. He lay with his breast bone shattered by a minie bullet, and had apparently been instantly killed. He was dressed in a coarse woolen flannel shirt, very dirty, and destitute of buttons; pantaloons of Kentucky jean, badly soiled, and much the worse for wear; one shoe quite good, the other in a very imperfect state of preservation. This comprised his entire wardrobe.

In the front part of his cartridge-box was a slice of raw pork, some four inches square and half an inch thick. His equipments were so dirty that I had no desire to bring them away as trophies, but took from another rebel nearby a cartridge-box which appeared to be in better condition and after buckling it around me filled it with cartridges from the box of a third close at hand.

Another gruesome sight never to be forgotten on the Cornfield were the trenches of half-buried rebels and union soldiers, owing to a hasty retreat. Also at stone wall where a desperate charge had been made and the dead of each army lay side by side and over each other awaiting burial.

Thus equipped I made my way from the field and returned to Hagerstown in the ambulance which I had left waiting for me. I was joined at the ambulance by several who were carrying home relics similar to my own. On reaching our pickets, however, these persons were deprived by the guard of all they had brought from the field; but the blue clothes and army buttons of the "Surgeon" proved a sufficient protection to me and I passed on with my relics unmolested and reached Hagerstown about eight o'clock p. m. nearly exhausted.

On my arrival I found that our regiment had left during my absence, but by a lucky chance I met Lieut. Hosie who informed me that the regiment had moved forward to within arms, very much fatigued. The line of infantry, within sight, extended about a mile, with artillery in front, and I was told that our whole line extended about three miles.

Here I saw Gen. Sumner and staff and Generals Gorman, French and Williams. The latter was in command of the portion of Banks' corps then on the field. I learned from them that Gen. McClellan had very lately been on the field, and the men were hoarse from cheering him. All had the utmost confidence in him. One remark made to me was, "If McClellan is not sharp enough for Stonewall Jackson, they did not make men who are," and this seemed to be the feeling generally.

I learned from some officers here the route to those portions of the field which I most desired to visit, and was shown the spot where Gen. Mansfield received his death wound. It was about fifty feet from a piece of woods, held by the rebels at the commencement of the battle. I was also shown the spot where Gen. Crawford fell founded at the head of his brigade. I was told, on coming from the field, that the body of Gen. Mansfield then lay in a white house which I could see in the distance, being embalmed.

In conversing with various officers I learned many particulars of the battle. The major of the 59th New York regiment told me that he went into battle with 372 men and 24 officers, and came out with 146 men and 12 officers. A captain in the same regiment told me that on going into battle his company numbered 42 men, and when the firing ceased he found but 19 of them on their feet.

While conversing with these officers, a lieutenant informed me that he saw Stonewall Jackson on the battlefield before Sharpsburg, on Wednesday, and that Longstreet had been taken prisoner. I fear, however, that this latter piece of intelligence will prove of the same character as the news we received Thursday morning of the surrender of Jackson's army. The officer also told me that Lieut. Col. Stetson, of his regiment, was killed and his body found robbed of sword, pistols, watch and money, and stripped of all his clothes excepting a shirt. A major informed me that the 107th New York and 13th New Jersey, coming on the field fresh, "skedaddled."

Leaving these troops, I went further forward, and soon came upon the cornfield where the battle had raged most fiercely. Here the 28th, 19th, and 11th Pennsylvania, 3d Maryland, 102d New York, under Gen. Hooker, opened the fight early on Wednesday morning. Twice they were repulsed, but after receiving re-inforcements, made a third attack which was successful. Standing on this field I could count the still unburied rebels by scores, and their blackened and swollen bodies presented a most sickening sight. I was told that they turned black within an hour after death; excitement, gunpowder and four or five miles of Williamsport. Immediately hastened to join it, and passed the night

in camp. A little after two o'clock in the morning, we were aroused by orders to strike tents and to prepare to march at once. Soon after we had made ready however, the order was countermanded, and we put our tents and again lay down until morning without further disturbance.

This afternoon about three o'clock we returned to Hagerstown and tonight were ordered to cook two days' rations and to be prepared to march we knew not where.

I learned this morning that several thousand rebels approached to within three miles of Hagerstown, and after skirmishing with some of Anderson's cavalry, retreated with a loss of four or five prisoners, who were brought into town this morning.

In company with John S. Law, Esq., this morning, we met a cousin of O. C. Moore, who told us that at half-past eight last evening a body of rebel cavalry came up to Jones cross-roads, some miles from Hagerstown on the Sharpsburg pike. I had passed that spot on my return a little more than an hour previous, and I therefore must have run a close chance of being captured.

Mr. Moore is a member of the Anderson cavalry and was stationed at the cross-roads, with a portion of his regiment. He said he and his comrades were driven in by the rebel cavalry, after some little skirmishing with them.

Tattoo is now beating and all lights must be put out. I therefore close, hoping to see you soon and exhibit to you my relics of the fight, if I can succeed in getting them home.

Respectfully, etc.,
J. E. RICHMOND.

LOOKOUT.

Lookout, Dec. 21.
Rev. Mr. Bowen and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Rutledge, Mrs. S. J. Rutledge, Mrs. Lewis Hill, Mrs. A. Daney and Mrs. Grant Hawley attended the Ladies' Aid at Mrs. John Schnakenberg's at Stalker on Thursday last. They report a pleasant time.

Miss Alice Turnberger and Miss Eva Silsby spent Saturday night and Sunday with the Misses Gill at South Branch.

L. L. Teeple's store is dressed in holiday attire.

J. R. Mauley made a business trip to Callicoon on Tuesday.

A very pleasant day was enjoyed by the ladies of the aid which met at the home of Mrs. Lewis G. Hill on Wednesday last. The next meeting will be Jan. 1st at the parsonage.

STERLING.

Sterling, Dec. 24.
There is just enough snow to cover the ground and give it a white appearance for Christmas.

The following are home for the holidays: Floyd J. Cross and Earl V. Cross of Philadelphia; S. J. Cross of Waverly; Laura A. Gilpin, Dalton. Mrs. Nelson Frantz, of Stroudsburg, is a guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Cross.

Mrs. W. E. Webster is entertaining her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgerton of New York state.

At one shot, recently, P. W. Gillner killed six English sparrows.

Officers were elected at the grange last Wednesday night.

A monument was recently delivered in the Sterling cemetery for Ebenezer Moon.

All the Sterling schools will be closed this week. The children will undoubtedly enjoy themselves upon the ice.

The roads are in good condition. Many are taking advantage of the roads and are drawing coal.

G. A. R. Post officers were installed last Saturday. An oyster dinner was served. Avery W. Colney, of Scranton, was installation officer. Chaplain S. P. Simpson was president of the meeting and made a number of very good remarks. Rev. F. L. Hartford, of Callapoose, also gave a few remarks, which were followed by A. W. Colney, S. N. Cross, J. W. Bidwell, M. A. Gilpin and C. E. Lucks. A number of veterans were present and "America" was sung as the closing hymn. On account of the funeral of Joseph Williams in Monroe county, Adam B., and Morris Williams, were unable to attend the Post meeting.

Mason Garris is a guest of Frank Garris.

SOUTH STERLING.

South Sterling, Dec. 24.
The A. D. K. will have their annual parade on New Year's Day in the afternoon, after which there will be an oyster supper for the benefit of the parsonage fund at Sterling water plant.

Reuben Lancaster is still on the sick list, but we are glad to learn that he is improving.

W. R. Gilpin is improving; also Mrs. E. Beecher.

Mrs. A. J. Simons has returned from Philadelphia after a two weeks' visit.

George I. Barnes is home from Perklemon Seminary to spend the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Madden have gone to Scranton to spend the holidays with their son, H. T. Madden, proprietor of Hotel Nash.

TYLER HILL.

Tyler Hill, Dec. 24.
Several from this place attended the annual Masonic banquet of Delaware Lodge at Callicoon, N. Y., last Friday evening.

Mrs. Margaret Yerkes, of Milanville Heights, spent last week with friends at this place.

Wm. Hartman and James Smith are engaged at cutting logs for Wm. Smith.

William Smith recently purchased a 35-horse power steam saw mill from Paul Hartman of Fosterdale, N. Y.

Sidney A. Brush made a business trip to Port Jervis on Saturday of last week.

Mrs. John Anderson and two sons, Jack and Robert, and Miss Elizabeth Johnston, both of Brooklyn, N. Y., are visiting their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. K. P. Johnston.

Orville A. Welsh, general manager of the Scranton Tribune-Publican, at Honesdale, spent Sunday

with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Welsh.

Mrs. George A. Tyler is spending some time with relatives in New York city.

T. B. Welsh was a business caller at the county seat on Saturday last.

Robert Mitchell is spending his Christmas vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amos J. Mitchell.

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 18, a hotly contested game of basketball was played between the Tyler Hill Stars and the Damascus five, resulting in a defeat for the Damascus boys by the score of 30 to 20.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Newfoundland, Dec. 24.
Skating is fine.

Mrs. H. Bartleson celebrated the anniversary of her 77th birthday Tuesday, Dec. 17, at a quilting party at the home of Mrs. Carrie Voeste. Mrs. Bartleson is quite active and quitted as much as some of the younger folks.

Frank Simons has gone to Philadelphia to dispose of a carload of Christmas trees.

J. M. Barnes, of South Sterling, is improving slightly.

A party of Scranton hunters had an accident last Sunday when their car ran into the embankment along the State road. One of the party was badly injured.

SEELYVILLE.

Seelyville, Dec. 24.
George Polley, of Endicott, arrived home Saturday to spend the holidays with his parents here.

Maria Hartwick left on Sunday to visit friends and relatives in Stroudsburg and Clarks Summit.

Margaret Purdy, teacher of Cooley Woods school, is home for vacation.

Everett Rainey, of Pittsburg, is visiting friends here.

The Moules family reunion will be held at the home of Walter Moules at this place on New Year's day.

The Christmas cantata "An Interrupted Program" will be held at the chapel Monday evening, December 30. Everybody welcome. Come and hear the little folks.

Miss Nettie Ferguson, who was operated upon for appendicitis, is getting along nicely under the care of a trained nurse from Scranton.

Mrs. H. C. Moller is visiting friends in Carbondale.

Thomas Watson has resigned his position with Birdsall Brothers Co. and will leave on New Year's day for Boston where he has accepted a position.

Ed. Isbell left on Monday for his home in Mt. Upton where he will spend the holidays with his parents. From there he will go to Schenectady and return by way of New York.

Bertha Polley is spending her vacation with her parents at this place.

Mary Holland, who has been employed in Easton, is home for the holidays.

Wesley Hauser has moved his family to Whites Valley.

MANY CHRISTMAS EXCHANGES RECEIVED.

The Wayne Countean, F. P. Woodward's much desired monthly magazine, greeted its subscribers on the 20th, it being a Merry Christmas edition. The magazine was brim full of seasonable articles and also had a good share of holiday advertising. The Wayne Countean is getting better with each succeeding issue. Success to Brother Woodward and The Wayne Countean.

The Susquehanna Transcript-Ledger issued a fine Christmas edition. It was replete with stories appropriate to the season and had a good share of advertising, representing Susquehanna's leading stores and places of business.

The Mansfield Advertiser came to our office in an enlarged Holiday number on Wednesday last. Every page carried a Christmas air. Its columns were well filled with advertisements, thus making the paper true to its name.—The Advertiser.

The Scranton Truth's Christmas edition, containing 44 pages, was published on Tuesday afternoon. It was a credit to any metropolitan journal and is a credit to the publishers.

We are in receipt of the East Stroudsburg Press Christmas number. The Press is one of the best exchanges that comes to our desk and as a Christmas edition is par excellence. Success to The Press, its publishers and craft.

The Archbald Citizen issued a creditable Christmas edition of its paper on December 21.

The Lestershire-Endicott Record published a Christmas issue that did credit to a metropolitan journal on the 14th. It told of the industrial conditions of these growing towns in a most fascinating manner. It bubbled over with news and its ads were well displayed.

SEND FISH AND MEAT THROUGH THE MAILS.

Butter, Lard, Dressed Fowls and Fruit Will Also be Accepted.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 24.—According to the regulations governing the parcel post system, promulgated by Postmaster-General Hitchcock, perishable articles may be sent through the mails only under specific restrictions as to their containers and the distance they are to be sent.

Butter, lard, fish, fresh meats, dressed fowls, vegetables, fruits, berries and similar articles likely to decay quickly may be sent for short distances, when securely packed. Eggs will be accepted for local delivery when packed properly in a container; and for any distance when each egg is separately packed in a perfectly secure manner.

No restriction is placed on the mailing of salted, fried, smoked or cured meats, but fresh meat will be transported only within the first one.

Fragile articles, including millinery, toys, musical instruments and articles of glass must be securely packed and marked "fragile."

Articles that may not be sent by parcel post include intoxicating liquors of all kinds; poisons; poisonous animals, insects or reptiles; explosives of every kind; inflammable articles, including matches; infernal machines, pistols or revolvers; disease germs; any obscene, defamatory or scurrilous matter now prohibited by law; live or dead animals, or birds or live poultry, raw hides or pelts; or anything having a bad odor.

Books and printed matter may not be forwarded at parcel post rates, but only at the pound rates of third class matter.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

EGGS MAILED 1500 MILES.
Not One Broken in Parcels Post Experiment.

A Washington special says: Demonstrating the possibilities of the parcel post, a carton of eggs shipped a distance of 1500 miles, was received State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, SS.:

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. L. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.
(Seal) A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials free F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
Sold by all Druggists, 75c.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

uninjured by Postmaster General Hitchcock. Shipments of eggs by mail are prohibited until January, when the parcels post becomes operative.

The eggs wrapped in cotton and paper, and placed one in each of the divisions found in the ordinary egg carton, were merely marked "merchandise" and received the usual treatment accorded ordinary mail matter.

INDIGESTION

Causes Dizziness, Nervousness, Sick Headache, Sleeplessness.

Mi-O-Na Stomach Tablets Benish all Misery, Gas and Sourness.

You know that most of the ailments named above come from an out of order stomach; of course you do.

If your food doesn't digest, but lays heavily on your stomach, it has started to ferment.

When it ferments it sets loose in the stomach poisonous gases which irritate the great nerve that leads directly to the brain from the stomach.

That irritation causes heartburn, dizziness, night sweats, nervousness.

Mi-O-Na will end all stomach misery, or money back. A large box costs only 50 cents and is sold by G. W. Pell, the druggist, and druggists everywhere.

ELECTION NOTICE

Meeting of the stockholders of the Honesdale National Bank will be held in the banking house of the said bank in the borough of Honesdale TUESDAY, JANUARY 14th, 1913, between the hours of 2 and p. m., for the purpose of electing directors and transacting any other business that may be brought before the stockholders.

L. A. HOWELL, Secretary.
Honesdale, Pa., Dec. 16, 1912.
100w4.

REGISTER'S NOTICE.—Notice is hereby given that the accountants herein named have settled their respective accounts in the office of the Register of Wills of Wayne County, Pa., and that the same will be presented at the Orphans' Court of said county for confirmation, at the Court House in Honesdale, on the third Monday of January next—viz:

First and final account of Charles A. McCarty, executor of the estate of Rose Sheeren, Honesdale.

First and final account of Mary Tierney, executrix of the estate of Bernard Tierney, Texas.

First and final account of J. G. Bronson, administrator of the estate of Cortland Brooks, South Canaan.

First and final account of Myrtle Swingle, administratrix of the estate of J. Lee Swingle, South Canaan.

First and final account of Frank Hauenstein, executor of the estate of Nancy Hauenstein, Mt. Pleasant.

Second and final account of Alonzo T. Searle, executor of the estate of Maria A. Humfeld, Preston.

E. C. Mufford, administrator of the estate of Fannie E. Brown, Damascus.

Third and final account of H. T. Wright and John Page Spencer, executors of estate of John Peger, Mt. Pleasant township.

W. B. LESCHER, Recorder.

COURT PROCLAMATION.—Whereas, the Judge of the several Courts of the County of Wayne has issued his precept for holding a Court of Quarter Sessions, Oyer and Terminer, and General Jail Delivery in and for said County, at the Court House, to begin on

MONDAY, JAN. 29, 1913,
and to continue two weeks;

And directing that a Grand Jury for the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Oyer and Terminer be summoned to meet on Monday, Jan. 21, 1913, at 2 p. m.

Notice is therefore hereby given to the Coroner and Justices of the Peace, and Constables of the County of Wayne, that they be then and there in their proper persons, at said Court House, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of said 20th day of Jan., 1913, with their records, inquisitions, examinations and other memoranda, to do those things which to their offices appertain to be done, and those who are bound by recognition or otherwise to prosecute the prisoners who are or shall be in the Jail of Wayne County, be then and there to prosecute against them as shall be just.

Given under my hand, at Honesdale, this 23rd day of an, 1913, and in the 19th year of the Independence of the United States

FRANK C. KIMBLE, Sheriff.
Sheriff's Office,
Honesdale, Dec. 24, 1912. 102w4



Its Always Fair Weather

for the telephone housewife. Snow and sleet, wind and cold may come, but for her they have no terrors. What need to go out when the "have to" doesn't exist?

How about you, Mrs. Housewife? Are you getting every ounce of good out of your Bell Telephone? — is it doing the out-door tasks or are you still braving the sleet and snow? In one month you can double the value of your telephone if on ten successive days you will allow it to serve you in one more of the many ways it can.

Use your Bell Telephone.

The Bell Telephone Co. of Penna.
W. A. DELMORE, Agent,
HONESDALE, PA.