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## Civil War Resources

**Title:** Letter from Conway W. Hillman to James H. Morgan

**Date:** September 9, 1930

**Location:** Morgan Papers - Box 3, Folder Hil-Hitchk

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PAN AMERICAN PETROLEUM & TRANSPORT COMPANY

SOUTHERN CRUDE OIL PURCHASING COMPANY

SUBSIDIARY

Ft Worth

Sept 9/30

PLEASE REPLY TO

Dear Morgan

Yours 18 ult recd and was very welcome. I do hope that John Kirkpatrick goes right. I suppose he will go Phi Delta Theta, and really it is the thing to do, when you consider his father (who is a brick) and his older brother wen OAO. The older brother was my pet amongst the grand children (12 of them)

About the rebel occupation of Carlisle. My mother and I used to go to Sodus N.Y. when the Haywards lived some other summer and had left Carlisle nearly in June. Father was a member of the "Home Guard", who were men rejected from the army, but evidently competent to bear arms for home defense. He remained in Carlisle. (There were two incursions of the rebels first in late June, when they occupied the town without opposition, encamped on the campus, used East College for a hospital and under orders from their superior officers put "old West" under guard. Many of the officers were old <sup>Dickinson</sup> college men and jealously guarded old West, using it for their headquarters. ~~They~~ The men "barbaced" their requisitined cattle on the campus. One barbecue frame was made

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at a point in the front campus about where  
the N.E. corner of Posler Hall is now. Another  
was directly North of the center of old West about  
1/2 way to Leather St. The old "capital" was  
right ~~next~~ next to Leather St. The old "capital"  
was the "privy" of the College, and a malodorous  
joint it was. It was also named "North College".

(It was rumored that a dead rebel was buried  
near this latter frame, but a search by Dave  
Thompson & ~~me~~ failed to locate, probably because  
we were not allowed to dig deep enough.)

The rebels in this raid penetrated to within  
sight of the Capitol at Harrisburg, but were deterred  
by the 4 batteries on the Cumberland Valley side of  
the river, which crowned the hill immediately to  
the left, going North, of the RR cut used by the  
Northern Central road. (They left the town after  
sequestering 300 wagon loads of dry goods,  
boots & shoes and groceries. The wagons were collected  
from the Farmers of the Valley. No further harm was  
done.)

As an incident of this occupation father was  
walking along ~~Main~~ Main St, and <sup>in the block</sup> between ~~Redford~~  
that the RR depot now is, met a young man  
(a rebel) with no shoes and bleeding feet. The young  
man stopped him & said "say, Mr, can't you give  
a fellow a pair of shoes". Father said "It may be  
giving aid & comfort to the enemy, but, say, I  
cannot stand the looks of those feet come up to  
my house on the next st and I will give you a pair"  
"Cannot leave this street". Well father thought a  
moment and then said "Wait a minute" and  
stepped into Lamberton's, drew off his boots & socks,  
handed them to the man and walked home in  
borrowed carpet slippers. Later in the early '70s

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PLEASE REPLY TO:-

a man stopped him at same point and said "Beg pardon, sir, but in 1863 did you not haave a pair of boots to a man right here", "Yes". "Well I am the man and made up my mind if I was ever in the neighborhood again I was going to find that man the boots were the greatest comfort I had had since leaving home. Father took him home to dinner and it developed that he was one of the Rhett's of So Carolina and his mother had been to the same school at Huntsville Ala that my mother had been.

(The shelling of the town came rather unexpectedly. The Union troops were pushing up the valley, and some artillery and a regiment or so of infantry under Genl "Baldy" Smith had entered the town and were deployed on the square, being fed and "capped" by the citizens when their pickets were driven in by Stuart's cavalry, who were escorting a regiment and some artillery to the main body who were at Gettysburg. Coffee & grub were dropped, guns gotten into position on the square and set up to sweep the side streets. A demand for surrender was ~~not~~ declined ~~very~~ and 1/2 hour given to non-combatants to leave the

4

town, old Pally McGuinness, afterwards Mrs Woods, who was making coffee for the soldiers, slapped Genl Smith in the back and said "Doubt do it, Genl, doubt do it as long as one brick remains on another." The rebels set fire to all the town East of the Letort spring, the "Garrison", Gas Works & the houses along the streets were manned by shop shotes, and Smith was ready to repel a charge. About 300 shells were fired into the town. My recollection is that there a 3 or 4 marked places "July 1<sup>st</sup> 1863" where shells hit.

One hit South college just below the telescope tearing thru the roof beam after beam and finally denting on <sup>the</sup> 478 a perfect impress of the fuse holder. Fortunately it was a fuse shell and did not explode, being smothered by the impact with the 478. Father salvaged this shell and presented it to the college together with invaluable letters from Benj Rush to Dickinson, when he was in Carlisle in 1900. They were ungraciously received by the Board of Trustees and it hurt father very much. (Another shell hit the 3 window of the old Dr Johnsons recitation room in East College exploded, tore out several cubic yards of stone work, wrecked the wood work, recitation benches desks & tables being in one confused mass. Three shells entered the old Thorne house corner Bedford & Main (opposite the jail) one exploding in Mrs Thornes bed room just after she had left the room and taken refuge in the cellar. The house was afterward occupied by Congress men

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PLEASE REPLY TO:-

Beltzhoover. I do not know who has it now or if in existence. The boys used to pick up pieces of shell for years after the battle. Harry up orders several shells hit the columns of the court house, which cupola was a target.

Harry up orders your head quarters of both armies to get across 4th Mountain quick to Gettysburg halved the battle which at one time bid fair to be the site for the deciding battle of the war. Both sets of men started for the big fight. The Union reaching Mt Holly gap first passed thru followed by the rebs. "No fighting in the way" being the strict order on each side exchanges of tobacco and coffee were freely made between "Johnny Reb" & "Yank". as the detachments would after be within hailing distance.)

Carlisle would undoubtedly be remembered as was Chamberlain the next year had not Buldy Smith and his command hit it in their war denings. The valley was full of wandering detachments at that time. Meantime upon orders my mother & I were much worried, a wire from Harrisburg from Gov Curtin (a friend of father's) read

over

14  
The heavy cannonade from direction of Carlisle, seems  
report town in flames"

An incident of scouts, Theodor Tyler  
Wing, class 1866 (Pittsburg) sneaking away from  
Carlisle barracks in the old family horse  
(Hornet) and made the North Mountain skirted  
its base thru mountain roads and carried  
to the fast assembling Minutemen the full  
information of the confederate forces in and  
around Carlisle. He served the rest of the war in  
the scout service. Died not many years ago  
a physician in Susquehanna depot Pa under  
his own name Theodor Tyler, having been <sup>only</sup> an  
adopted son of Dr Wing of Carlisle, and discarding  
the name.

Cellars were in demand during the shelling. ✓  
One shell went thru the fence at Betters' lumber  
yard, just north of Judge E. Siddle's house which  
shell I recovered, father untended and is now in the  
possession of my brother W. G. Hillman in East Orange N. J.

The Home Guard were called out to police the  
field of Gettysburg and father never got over the  
sight of the dead along the route of Pickett's charge.

Now about the students rebellion of 1870.  
I cannot recall which class it was took ex-  
ception to Fickell's assignment of tasks it was 1871  
or 1872. Whichever it was declined to attend his  
classes and the other class joined them. (1870 stood  
aloof being too near graduation). The class of 1873  
(my class) held a meeting in the old pagoda in  
the campus (a favorite meeting place) and after 3  
hours wrangling decided by a class vote not to  
join (we had no grievance). Many thought we should  
but the majority decided no. Prominent amongst  
those who wanted to join the rebellion were G. E. Wilbur (Pot)

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and Jim Dale. The conservatives were Bender Hillman & Biddle. The matter was even promised since in those days students meant a great deal, after 1870 took their recess before Commencement the old college was lonely, only 23 members of 1873 in attendance. I believe that Fickett backed down, a most unusual proceeding in his part as he was one of the most bull headed men I ever knew, just the kind of a man for a lawyer, altho I read with great appreciation his book on the "Great Usurpation" - a criticism on the Supreme Court of the U.S. A deserved one too, but for a time the graduates of the Dickinson Law School were looked at as Balchevics by the Supreme Court. This I know for being at that time engaged in RR rate litigation often reaching the Sup Ct and our lawyers were always afraid to let themselves loose. I wanted them in one case to get in touch with Fickett, but they were afraid. I was considering a radical along those lines myself and am somewhat inclined that way yet -

Say, Morgan, I have forgotten myself in

this long letter. Too much personal. You call  
it and use what you see fit, never mind  
cutting it. Ask for more if not clear. Your  
questions may recall some points I have  
forgotten

I am not used to the "Easts with dignity"  
racket yet. I fuss & fume inwardly  
despite my calm exterior. I have been in  
the harness actually so long. But you know  
how that feels.

My best to you and to all friends

Yours as ever  
J. A. Hillman

Addendum to the Civil war  
memo sent you, called to mind by  
my mention of old "South".

During the civil war there was instituted  
an organization called "Home Guards",  
armed men who while exempt on account  
physical defects from active service in  
the army were yet able to bear arms  
in an emergency and their ~~company~~  
drilling ground was on the Old South  
campus, in the rear of the building. They  
were used in the final fight at Carlisle  
July 1<sup>st</sup> 1863, being placed in buildings  
along the street in anticipation of  
a charge of <sup>real</sup> cavalry on "Baldy" Smith's  
division, which constituted Carlisle's  
defense. I recall that my father  
was stationed in a house on Main St  
near the Florence hotel and have often  
heard him state how he and his companions  
carefully examined their line of retreat  
thru the houses to the alley in the rear.  
Not a very loyal way to show their  
patriotism, but as the penalty for  
civilians in arms was death it was  
an excusable precaution.

W. M. S.

Ft. Worth  
Sept 9/30

Dear Morgan,

Yours 18 ult. rec'd and was very welcome. I do hope that John Kirkpatrick goes right. I suppose he will go Phi Delta Theta, and really it is the thing to do, when you consider his father (who is a brick) and his older brother were ΦΔΘs. The older brother was my pet amongst the grandchildren (12 of them).

About the rebel occupation of Carlisle. My mother and I used to go to [Soders?] N.Y. where the Gaylords lived every other summer and had left Carlisle early in June. Father was a member of the "Home Guard", who were men rejected from the army, but considered competent to bear arms for home defense. He remained in Carlisle. There were two incursions of the rebels. First in late June, when they occupied the town without opposition, encamped on the Campus, used East College for a hospital and under orders from their superior officers put "Old West" under guard. Many of the officers were old Dickinson men and jealously guarded Old West, using it for their headquarters. The men "barbacued" their requisitioned cattle on the campus. One barbacue frame was made

at a point in the front campus about where the N.E. corner of Bosler Hall is now. Another was directly North of the center of Old West about ½ way to Louther St. The old "capital" was right next to Louther St. The old "capital" was the "privy" of the College and a malodorous joint it was. It was also named "North College". It was rumored that a dead rebel was buried near this latter frame, but a search by Dan Thompson & me failed to locate, probably because we were not allowed to dig deep enough.

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CWH