

A Lancaster Schoolboy Views The Civil War

**(Diary of Immanuel C. Pehrson, 1862-1863. Collection of the
Fackenthal Library, Franklin and Marshall College)**

Reviewed by ELIZABETH C. KIEFFER

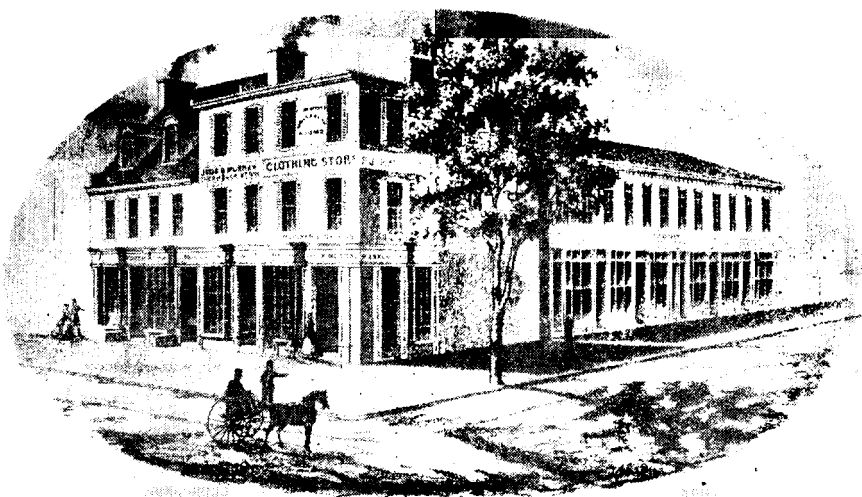
The Civil War was a year old. Weary bands of new recruits marched through the streets of Lancaster, or pitched their tents at the encampment southeast of the city. High-school boys stayed after school to drill. The high-school girls got up a fair for the wounded. Their mothers served on committees of the Patriot Daughters, to collect all manner of supplies for the camp. Through the unusually hot summer of 1862, the chief stress of the local advertisements was on the cooling values of soda water. Wentz Brothers' dry-goods store was pushing a shipment of "Ladies' steel spring skirts" of which one was "of such perfect proportions that they were willing to pay \$1000 to any lady who could wear it."

In and out of all these events moved an energetic, inquisitive and omnipresent little boy named "Manny" Pehrson. At the end of one day, he estimated that he had walked nineteen miles in Lancaster and its environs. Beginning on his fourteenth birthday, May 6, 1862, he kept, for one year, a diary. Let us visit, for that year in a little suburban farm near the Conestoga, while the battles of the Peninsula and Antietam and Chancellorsville devour our county's sons, and the grim forebodings of Gettysburg sound for those who can hear.

Immanuel C. Pehrson is something of a mystery. We know that he was an orphan; that he had a sister Bertha living in Delaware, and a cousin Lewis in the Delaware battery. His grandfather and grandmother kept a grocery store in Lancaster, but he gives no clue to their name. He always referred to Mrs. Frederic J. Kramph, with whom he lived, as "Aunt Sally"; but Mrs. Charles G. Baker, only surviving daughter of Mrs. Kramph's step-daughter Annie, is quite sure that the boy was not related to the family. That he had been reared in the Swedenborgian faith is apparent by other things than his given name. It was probably for this cause, that he found

a temporary home with the hospitable Kramphs who were active members of the small local congregation of the New Jerusalem. Mrs. Baker has the impression that he died very young.

"Aunt Sally" was the widow of Frederic J. Kramph, tailor,¹ a man who deeply influenced the civic, educational and religious life of Lancaster from 1840 until his death in 1858. As a member of the New Jerusalem Church, he applied the principles of his religion to the acts of his everyday life, and the results were beneficial to all around him. His third wife, who survived him, shared his belief that religion was best evidenced in the consistent practice of good works. At the date of the diary, she was living on a small farm just outside the city limits,² beyond the reservoir on East King Street, but her



KRAMPH'S BUILDINGS
Corner of North Queen & Orange Sts.

FREDERIC J. KRAMPH'S TAILORING AND CLOTHING STORE. Northeast corner of North Queen and Orange streets.

distance from the city, even with the wartime scarcity of horses, did not at all interfere with her many charities.

Foremost of her interests was the "Home for Friendless Children" established in 1860, and, at this date, housed on South Queen Street. Mrs. Kramph was secretary of the Board of Trustees, and later succeeded Miss Mary Bowman as its director. Manny's diary is full of the home and its children.

¹ His biography by S. S. Rathvon appears in Alexander Harris' *Biographical History of Lancaster County*, 1872, pp. 346-56.

² A year earlier she had lived on West Chestnut Street which accounts for Manny attending the West Ward School.

With Mrs. Kramph on the farm, lived the two surviving children of Mr. Kramph's first wife, Annie, aged 20, and Emanuel, aged 16. (Emanuel, also deriving his name from the great Swedenborg, used the other transliteration from Immanuel (Manny). These two, after the death of Mr. Kramph's second wife, had been educated at a Swedenborgian boarding school in Rhode Island;³ but on his third marriage they returned to Lancaster, where Annie graduated from the High School in 1856, and was now teaching in a private school, and giving music lessons as well. Emanuel, in the "second" class at the High School, was doing his best to enlist in each regiment that was formed, in spite of the fact that the newspapers carried daily warnings that no minors would be accepted without written consent of their guardians.

The only other permanent member of the family was Catharine, the servant girl; but guests for periods varying from overnight to several months, were so common that the young diarist forgets to mention their arrival. Annie and Emanuel had an uncle, Mr. Hains, of Coatesville, with whose family visits were often exchanged. Other frequent visitors were Swedenborgian ministers, who supplied the pulpit of the local church, which could not afford a permanent pastor.

Between visits from these ministers, the congregation was led by Mr. S. S. Rathvon, whom many of you will remember. Mr. Rathvon came to Lancaster from Marietta as Mr. Kramph's assistant. After the latter's death, Mr. Rathvon bought the stock, and continued the business. Converted to Swedenborgianism by his employer, Mr. Rathvon also succeeded him in the leadership of the little church. In both relationships, he and his wife and eight children, were naturally the most intimate friends of the Kramphs.

Another family, very closely allied to the household, were the Howells, former neighbors of the Kramphs on North Queen Street. Annie's earlier diary testifies that this intimacy dated from her early childhood. Charles M. Howell, the stonecutter, also served actively on the Board of the Home, which made for further intimacy. His daughter, Sally, was Annie Kramph's most intimate friend. In Manny's diary, her name is always coupled with that of Mr. William Lefever, a pre-ministerial student at Franklin and Marshall College, whom she later married. Frank Howell and his brother, Harry, were Manny's favorites. Other close friends were the Brennemans ("Bum" and Lily); the Calders of Graeff's landing; Bill Amweg, who owned two ponies and was generous with rides; and many others.

Such of the farm work as could not be managed by the two boys and Catharine was attended to by friendly neighbors. Mr. Tomlinson, their nearest neighbor, owned the farm nearest the Conestoga, south of the pike. His small daughter, Lizzie, was a great favorite with Manny, and the new baby was also an object of his interest.

Nearer town, and north of the pike, was the Clark farm. (Clark Avenue

³ Here Annie, too, had kept a diary, which is also in the possession of the Fackenthal library. It has little historical interest.

now marks the site). Frank Clark^{3a} was a year behind Manny in school, but his superior in farm work and country sports, so they treated each other as equals. Near the bridge, lived the Steinheisers and the Althouses, across the creek the Stamms. Potts' Hotel was on the near side and Metzger's on the other. All of these people and places figure in the diary.

Humbler but as lively actors in the story are "Shep" the dog, and Annie's canary, "Joe," who had all the wandering instincts of a bird of passage.

This is the scene. Let us now open the diary itself. An ordinary "blank book" (6 by 7 inches) with ruled pages and red-lined margins, it bears the embossed stamp of "John Sheaffer, Bookseller and Stationer, North Queen St., Lancaster, Pa." Inside the front cover, are pasted words clipped from some periodical, "War for the Union. Men of the North." and on the fly-leaf facing it, an American eagle, wings outspread, upon a shield of the nation, bearing arrows and laurel in its claws, and in its beak, a white streamer, on which Manny apparently intended to letter his name (for the P is there). The following page says: "Diary of I. C. Pehrson."

I wish we could read it all. That being impossible, I must try to choose the best.

May 6 1862: Today I was 14 years old. Aunty gave me my diary and pen and pen holder. Annie gave me a picture and Emanuel a knife. Yesterday we heard news that Yorktown was taken last Saturday. Today Williamsburg was occupied by our forces. The loss is not yet known. I am in Mr. Erisman's⁴ first class, we study geography, reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, history, composition, and draw maps. I am head in grammar,⁵ second in arithmetic, fourth in geography, 3rd in history; our numbers have not been read out yet for reading or spelling. Frank Clark⁶ goes to our school now. He is in the second class, 2d division. . .

Wednesday, May 7: Our troops took 300 uninjured and four hundred wounded prisoners at Williamsburg; our loss is not known. This evening I went to town with Frank in the buggy. I waited for the cars to come in. . .

Friday, May 9: This evening Emanuel and I varnished the harness . . . Today was fought the biggest battle on the peninsula.

Sunday, May 11: Today we went to church.⁷ I came home after Sunday School to keep away the chickens.

Monday, May 12: Today Norfolk was taken and the Merrimac blown up.

^{3a} The widow of Frank Clark is still living at 417 College Avenue, and their son, Lamar Clark, is a well-known local teacher.

⁴ Emanuel J. Erisman, principal of the "Male Secondary School of the West Ward," on Mulberry Street just north of Orange. He was the father of G. F. K. Erisman. "First class" was the highest.

⁵ The diary shows it.

⁶ Their neighbor.

⁷ The New Jerusalem Church was a small frame building on East Vine Street where the marble yard later stood. It burned down in 1874.

The paper did not come out till 7 o'clock. I waited for it . . . They fired 34 rounds. Frank and I went to see them fire it.⁸

A Lesson In Cube Root

Tuesday, May 13th: This evening I rode out with the butcher and after tea we planted some sweet potatoes. Mr. Barr⁹ explained cube root to us but I don't understand.

Wednesday, May 14: . . . Mr. Barr came again to explain cube root he kept us in classroom an hour.

Sunday, May 18: Today we went to church and were nearly roasted. My rhubarb is not up yet. . .

Tuesday, May 20: This morning I went down to the mill and got 2 bus. screening, 1 pk oats, 1 pk cornmeal. . . Today we had to write the history of Virginia. . . I pulled 512 runners. . .

Thursday, May 22th: . . . Miss Carson and Miss Lefever were out. Annie and I walked with them to the basin¹⁰ . . .

Saturday, May 24th: This morning Emanuel cleaned out the cistern. There was about a half foot of black mud. I went in town to see if the home children were coming out, when I was at Clark's I met Frank with the wagon. I rode in with him, when I got to the home the children were coming out at a door. There were thirty-six of them counting Mrs. McCumsey¹¹ and the matron's daughter. After they were here awhile they went out fishing . . . We helped Mr. Clark make a snake fence.

Sunday May 25th: . . . Emanuel and I went into grandma's to tea. General Banks was repulsed at Winchester. We repeated the second chapter of Matthew. We got a ripe strawberry.

Monday 26th: There was a riot in Baltimore between the rebels and our troop. Governor Curtin called for more men. General Bank only had 4000 men while the rebels had 15,000. . .

Tuesday, May 27th: Today Emanuel joined the Fencibles¹² his name was 101st on the list, there are 107 in the company. . . Frank is going to get a new ball. Auntie went into meeting and I went in for her about 8 o'clock. . . I stopped for Annie and Emanuel they were tying greens at Fulton hall.¹³

Wednesday May 28: Today we went through gageing. I asked Mr. Rathvon please to write me a petition for one scsion but Mr. Erisman would not sign

⁸ An earlier celebration, held in Penn Square, had shattered a number of window panes, so on this occasion the city fathers requested Captain Young's cadets to do their firing on "a hill west of the city." Afterwards, a bonfire was lit in Penn Square. Local storekeepers contributed fuel for the blaze. "A barrel and contents" which was thrown on the fire without examination proved to be filled with spoiled fish, and ended the celebration. *Examiner*.

⁹ George R. Barr, Principal of Primary and Secondary Schools. The office was abolished at the end of the school year due to wartime economy.

¹⁰ The reservoir.

¹¹ The teacher at the home.

¹² This enlistment, like several others, was never carried through because his stepmother refused consent.

¹³ I can find nothing in the newspapers to explain this.

his name so I gave it up. We water the strawberries now every morning there are about a quart of ripe strawberries.

Thursday May 29th . . . Frank was here. He lost his ball.

Friday, May 30th: This morning we found Frank's ball. The county superintendant was at school to hear us read and parse. This evening I took a tub down to the blacksmith's on the wheelbarrow. Two swallows were in the sittingroom. we caught one alive and killed the other. At first we thought they were bats but when we found they were swallows we let them go.

Saturday, May 31st . . . We picked one qt of strawberries. I was going to take them to market but Auntie concluded to eat them . . .

Monday June 2nd. . . . We sold a qt. of strawberries for 20ct at Gruel's.¹⁴

Tuesday June 3rd: Today Van Amberg's menagerie¹⁵ came to town there were hardly any boys in school. Mr. Erisman sent me after Steck, Hubley, Buchmiller and Shrum. This afternoon most all the boys hid in the alley. Mr. Erisman asked me where Sam McCleery¹⁶ was and so I had to tell him that he hid in the alley. Mr. Erisman sent me after three boys. Just as I was going out the door, I met Emanuel. Mr. Erisman let me go, and Emanuel and I went to the menagerie. They had two lions, two Elephants, a lama, a zebra, and a great many other animals. . .

Friday, June 6th: Sam McCleery has been cross at me for a few days. Mr. Erisman announced that we would have no school Monday being Whitsunday¹⁷ . . .

Saturday, June 7th: . . . Harry Howell came out with me. I lent him my magnet for his bow gun. I strung the bow too tight and broke it. Frank [Clark] came down for me on horseback, for me to help him look for their pig. . .

Sunday, June 8th: Today it looked like rain, so we did not go to church, but had worship at home. . .

(The record of the next few days is almost entirely filled with strawberry picking. They got as many as thirty-one quarts a day).

Friday, June 13: . . . Sam has made up with me. Sam and I were appointed a committee to give two pictures to Mrs. Erisman . . . We had a pretty hard thunderstorm today. . .

Sunday, June 15 . . . Frank and I took a walk around by the city mills and saw John's boat. . .

Wednesday, June 18: Annie went to a picnic out Litz itz¹⁸ (sic) in a buggy with Mr. McConomy.

Thursday June 19: . . . I took a walk to meet Annie. When I was going back, I met Eliza and walked down the hill with her. As I was walking up the hill, I saw a mule and a wagon going up the hill without a man

¹⁴ The confectioner, at 79 North Queen Street. (Old system of numbering.)

¹⁵ Advertised as "Having no circus attached."

¹⁶ Later M.D.

¹⁷ *The Examiner* for June 9 carried an interesting article on Whitmonday customs.

¹⁸ It is interesting that when he corrects his error, Manny uses the later spelling. Newspapers of the day were still writing *Litz*.

so I got in and rode along. At last I stopped him, and I rode to the prison and walked home.

Friday June 20th: Mr. Erisman spoke of Mr. Preston's¹⁹ complaining about the boys sitting on his step. Today we had no mental.²⁰

Sunday, June 22nd: This afternoon Emanuel and I went to a tent to hear preaching.²¹ They showed a panorama, but it was not painted very well. They asked the children questions.

Tuesday, June 24th: Today Mr. Barr was at school and gave us 16 subjects to write compositions on. I think I will take death.

Wednesday June 25: Last night I was taken sick and did not go to school . . . I read the Australian Crusoes and thought it first rate.

Thursday June 26: Mr. Erisman said that we would be examined Monday a week²² . . . We got our first cherries. Frank Clark came down and we fired off his cannon made out of a key.

Friday, June 27th: . . . Mr. Erisman gave us 44 words to spell without studying. I missed 9 and Sam 5 which was the best. Joe [the canary] was lost.

Saturday, June 28: This morning Georgy[Tomlinson?] and I went to Steinheisers, Alhouses and Clarks to see wether Joe was there. This afternoon I was going to see the Lutheran church steeple but it was too hot. . .

Sunday June 29: . . . Emanuel went home after Sunday School to watch the cherry trees.

Monday June 30: Aunty gave me two flower beds alongside the gate.

Tuesday July 1st: To ladies came to our school to hear us sing. Mr. Tomlinson is taking in his hay. I helped him stamp it down for him. . . I exercise ten minutes each day.²³

Wednesday, July 2nd; I begun writing my composition on death but it did not suit me . . . I stopped at Frank's and we made a cannon out of a spiccate. We found a swallow's nest in the barn with seven eggs in it. I broke two eggs and took two eggs and the nest . . . The president called 300,000 more troops. Annie was dressed up like a gentleman, Emanuel like a lady, and Miss Benedict like a bride. We had a theatre on a small scale.

Thursday, July 3rd: Today McClellan was forced to retreat 17 miles and spike their seige guns but he took 2000 priseners and a general . . . Dave Stamm came for me to take a boat ride with him, we went near to Rocky Springs.

Friday, July 4th: Today Emanuel and I went in town early, we went to the Court House and heard Prof. Porter²⁴ read the declaration of Independence

¹⁹ Joseph Preston, printer, North Mulberry near Orange Street.

²⁰ i. e. mental arithmetic.

²¹ The "Union Tabernacle," Edwin W. Nevin, preacher. His subject that evening was "The Greatest Sinner," illustrated by "a large oil painting."

²² Examinations were oral and public. An audience was invited.

²³ The papers were urging all boys and young men to get into good physical condition for service.

²⁴ Dr. C. C. Porter, Professor of Natural Philosophy at Franklin and Marshall College.

and Mr. Reynolds²⁵ read Jackson's Nullification speech. The choir sung 4 songs. We sat at Rathvons' step about an hour. I had four packs of fire crackers . . . Mr. McCarter²⁶ made a speech in Centre Square about the Union.

Monday, July 7th . . . We were examined in reading, grammar, spelling and



EMANUEL J. ERISMAN
Manny's Teacher.

arithmetic. I missed 4 in spelling and 2 in geography. We did not get out until seven. Aunty was sick and did not go to the examination.

Thursday July 8th: Today Mr. Erisman told us that he and Miss White²⁷ were going to leave and proposed giving Miss White a present, and getting

²⁵ James L. Reynolds, Esq., brother of General John Fulton Reynolds, later Quartermaster-General of Pennsylvania. Mr. Reynolds was, at this time under heavy criticism because, having been Buchanan's lawyer and chief political aide, he had with the beginning of the war gone over to the Republican party. Several newspapers criticised his selection for the public exercises of this day.

²⁶ Col. James M. McCarter, 93rd Regiment. He was at home recuperating from a wound received on March 31. See notes on Nov. 22 and Apr. 24.

²⁷ Delia White, second assistant in Mr. Erisman's school.

up a picnic, he said he would pay for the Stages²⁸ if we would bring provisions. . .

Wednesday, July 9th: Mr. Erisman is going to invite Mrs. Musser's school²⁹ to come to our picnic. Mr. Erisman asked me to speak at the Hall³⁰ Sam and Hen are going to speak too. . .

Friday, July 11: Today we were examined in History, Mental and Analysis. I did not miss any . . . when I came home I found Mary Hains³¹ there.



MR. ERISMAN'S DESK

As he faced it, was Manny inspired by the motto thereon?

Saturday July 12: This morning I dug a half bushel of potatoes for the Home. Mary and I put up a swing in the cedar tree. . .

Sunday, July 13: . . . Mr. Rathvon announced that we would have a recess³² until September.

Monday, July 14: . . . We gave [Mr. Erisman] an Alburn that cost \$6. I took four lemons and a pound of sugar to school to make lemonade.

Tuesday, July 15th: Today I went to the picnic. We started at eight o'clock;

²⁸ i. e. One or more stagecoaches to transport the picnic party.

²⁹ Sarah Musser, Principal East Ward Boys' Secondary School.

³⁰ Annual Common School Celebration, Fulton Hall, July 18.

³¹ Annie's cousin from Coatesville.

³² From church. However, when visiting ministers came to town services were announced in the newspapers.

one of the traces broke and so we had to wait until it was mended. We went to Landis' woods³³ and as we went past the house I got my bat. There were several ladies and gentlemen along. Mr. Erisman put up a swing and played cricket³⁴ with the boys. Some of the boys stole a farmer's whiskey bottle and drunk all the whiskey. Hity and I gave him his bottle again. In the afternoon we were caught in a shower. The ladies went into the house, and the boys into a stable. It cleared off in about an hour, and an omnibus came to take us home. . .

Friday July 18th: Today was the last day of school . . . Our whole class was promoted. My name was read out for good conduct and perfect recitations . . . In the evening we had seats reserved for our class. . .³⁵

Sunday, July 20th: Emanuel and Mary went to the Union tabernacle.³⁶ We said our Bible lessons on the porch. . .

Thursday, July 24th: . . . I saw a drove of sheep and a fancy drover. . .

Friday, August 1st: . . . In the afternoon we went in swimming while we were in some women came to gather up sticks and we did not fancy getting out. At last Frank got out and went to throw my shirt to me and threw it in the water. I got out and put on my pants and waited till my shirt dried. We saw a snake about a yard long. . .

Tuesday, August 5th: . . . This evening I went in town and got one of Shober's³⁷ horses. We went to Mrs. Calder's³⁸ just as they were going to town, so we took a ride of about a mile and got back in good time. From Calder's we went to Mr. Ellmaker's³⁹ and from Mr. Ellmaker's to Mrs. Burrows and then home.

Wednesday August 6th: . . . Some Bridgeport woman came for some apples.

Thursday, Aug. 7th: The R. Land's circus⁴⁰ was here. Aunty, Annie, Sallie De Charmes and Frank put on bathing clothes and went in swimming.

Friday, August 8th: When we were getting in we saw the circus horses passing, they had a pony no bigger than Shep . . . We went down to the creek and heard the soldiers going so we went across and followed them to

³³ Obviously not, the camp meeting woods, but woods on the north side of the Philadelphia Pike (now Lincoln Highway) less than three miles from Lancaster.

³⁴ This is the only evidence I have ever found that this game was once played in Lancaster.

³⁵ See note on July 9, above. This celebration served as "Promotion Day" for the entire school system. At this particular celebration Manny must have been pleased to hear that Emanuel divided with David McN. Stauffer the highest scholastic honors in the High School.

³⁶ See note on June 22.

³⁷ Shober's hotel, N. W. corner North Queen and Orange streets.

³⁸ Graeff's landing.

³⁹ Nathaniel Ellmaker was Mrs. Kramph's attorney in the difficult case of Mr. Kramph's will. Ellmakers lived on the Columbia Pike, between the Hagers and Nevins (Caernarvon Place).

⁴⁰ This must have been a small circus. It did not advertise in the papers.

camp⁴¹ . . . Mr. Benade⁴² came.

Saturday August 9th: . . . We gathered apples to the amount of six ba. to make cider of. I took them to town in Mr. Tomlinson's wagon to Gorrics.⁴³

Sunday August 10th: . . . [Frank and I went] to the camp ground. The tents were something like this [here a small sketch appeared]. Six men slept in one tent.

Tuesday August 12th: . . . We saw about seven companies go past to camp. Sam Potts⁴⁴ enlisted in Captain Neff's company . . . Shep killed a black cat.

Friday, August 15th: This morning the thirteen companies passed our house. They received their bounty and left town at nine o'clock. Their number is the 129th. . .⁴⁵

Saturday August 16: . . . Mr. Burt⁴⁶ is raising another regiment to serve 1½ years. . .

Monday, August 18: This morning I went down to the mill to order some things. The creek is so low that I caught some fish in my hand. One cady stung me and my finger swelled up quite badly. George Rathvon came out and we went to the creek. We killed a snake about two feet long and caught two crabs and one catfish . . . Annie commenced teaching in Mr. Barr's school.⁴⁷

Thursday August 21st: . . . Four of the boys from the "Home" came and weeded the garden walks . . . Emanuel enlisted in Capt. Dougherty⁴⁸ company, he is some corporal.

Friday August 22nd: . . . About four o'clock the thrashing machine came. They got it put up, and thrashed a little after supper. I went to Frank's . . . It commenced raining and I staid all night.⁴⁹

Saturday August 23d: This morning I went home to ask Aunty if I could go to Millport with Frank. She said yes . . . We went down the Old Factory Road. When we came to Millport we asked Mr. Curtis whether he had any saw dust he said he had but we could not find any. We did not like to ask Mr. Curtis to show us because he was at his dinner. In about a quarter of an hour they were done dinner and a man showed us the saw-dust. Little

⁴¹ "Camp Lancaster" under the command of Captain Emlen Franklin had just been established on the Groff property between the Conestoga and Mill Creek.

⁴² Wm. Benade, Swedenborgian minister of Philadelphia. He had been a Moravian.

⁴³ Gorrecht's Store, S. W. corner of Chestnut and Duke streets.

⁴⁴ Son of David Potts, who kept a hotel near the Conestoga.

⁴⁵ This was the entire population of "Camp Lancaster." Their orders to move to Washington came unexpectedly at 6 A. M. *The Examiner* headed the story, *Event of the Day*.

⁴⁶ Col. Nathaniel Burt. 142d Pennsylvania V.I. His home, "Waterloo," in Salisbury Township was a show place. See also August 28.

⁴⁷ I cannot find anything about this school. It would seem that having been dropped by the schoolboard, Mr. Barr opened his own school.

⁴⁸ Of Col. Burt's regiment. See note on August 16.

⁴⁹ The first rain he has mentioned since August 3. No wonder the creek was low.

Johnny Curtis helped hold the bags and lent us his wagon. Frank asked Mr. Curtis how much it was. He said he would charge nothing, but we ought to give his little boy three cents for helping us. . .

Tuesday August 26th . . . [We] got Potts' boat and went down to Ranks. Harry [Baer] and I went in swimming. . .

Wednesday August 27th . . . After dinner I went to the High School gymnasium⁵⁰ . . . Aunty took us to Gruel's for some ice cream.

Thursday August 28th: The regiment is not going because the Governor would not appoint Mr. Sheetz some office⁵¹ . . . Emanuel wants to enlist in some old regiment.

Friday August 29: . . . We went down to the creek shooting. We shot a big bull frog and a cat bird . . . George [Rathvon] found a horseshoe and sold it for three cents. This evening Jenny and I went to the Union Fair⁵² for the soldiers.

Saturday August 30: Aunty . . . brought home a water melon and put it on the table and Lizzy knocked it off . . . Annie and Emanuel went to the Fair and wanted me to go. . .

Monday Sept. 1: This morning I went to school, and saw Mr. Hobbs⁵³ the new teacher. Mr. Roberts⁵⁴ came about nine o'clock and took us up to the High School.⁵⁵ We sat there all morning without doing anything. In the afternoon we said analysis. I like the school first rate. The boys rode me on a rail.⁵⁶

Tuesday, September 2nd: This morning we said two Arithmetic lessons . . . Sam McCleery, Tommy, Dave Nagle and myself were put in the third class and three of the other boys. This evening we picked lint for some time.⁵⁷

Thursday, September 4: . . . This afternoon I was exercising and one of the rings⁵⁸ hit me in the face and made it swell up. . .

Friday September 5th: . . . Eliza came down to invite Aunty and

⁵⁰ In spite of the drive for economy, the war-time emphasis on physical training led the Boys' High School to invest in simple gymnasium apparatus that year.

⁵¹ Manny here seems to know more than the newspapers, which express complete puzzlement as to why Colonel Burt suddenly disbanded his regiment. There was probably some political deal involved. Colonel Burt was an opponent of Thaddeus Stevens.

⁵² This fair held by "a number of ladies of the community" (not the "Patriot Daughters") in an unoccupied house on Lime Street, was a great success, netting nearly \$2000.

⁵³ L. M. Hobbs, successor to Mr. Erisman.

⁵⁴ The Hon. A. E. Roberts, chairman of the visiting committee of the School Board.

⁵⁵ The Boys' High School was on the second floor of the old Lancasterian School at Prince and Chestnut streets.

⁵⁶ *The Examiner* in its article on the opening of school said: "The children are going back . . . carrying slates, books, pens, pencils and probably apples."

⁵⁷ For surgical dressings.

⁵⁸ The Pennsylvania School Journal for that year carried a series of articles on exercises on the rings, with illustrations

Annie, [and me] to go to Millersville with her⁵⁹ . . . Aunt gave Emanuel her consent to enlist. This morning we had our first Algebra and Composition. We are going to get McClintick and Cook's Latin book and Wells Philosophy⁶⁰ . . . Frank [Clark] came down for us about one o'clock. Frank and I got tired of hearing them speak and went out in the grounds till they were done. . .

Saturday, September 6: . . . We built a fire and cooked on bricks : . . After supper, Annie, Jennie and I went to the Stamms we played wood tager and swung. Mary Cross came and we played on the journey board.⁶¹

Sunday Sept. 7: This morning church commenced again . . . We heard that the Rebels had taken possession of Frederick City, Maryland. They had a meeting in the Court House.⁶²

Monday, September 8th . . . I joined Harrie Widmier's company⁶³ and drilled till about 8 o'clock.

One of "Jack" McCaskey's Boys

Wednesday Sept. 10th: . . . Mr. McCaskey⁶⁴ heard the 3rd and 4th class together because we are at the same place. Mr. Reigart⁶⁵ hears us our Latin. Emanuel went to Coatesville to say goodbye to his aunt.

Thursday, September 11th: . . . Emanuel enlisted in the 93 regiment⁶⁶. . . Friday, September 12: . . . Emanuel and Sam Rathvon⁶⁷ came to school to say goodbye to Mr. Reigart and Mr. McCaskey . . . I drilled at Bridgeport with some boys.

Sunday, September 14: . . . Annie, Emanuel and myself went to church . . . Emanuel said goodbye to the Fritz's. After dinner he painted his name on his blanket. . .

⁵⁹ For the annual commencement. It was considered a gala day for all the students.

⁶⁰ Copies of both of these textbooks are to be found in the Textbook collection of the Fackenthal Library. "Philosophy" was, of course, what is now called "General Science."

⁶¹ A game similar to parcheesi.

⁶² The Rebel invasion of Maryland, not unnaturally inspired a near panic in Lancaster. The hastily summoned mass meeting at the Court House appointed a "Committee of Safety" with Dr. John L. Atlee as chairman. Civilian Defense Regulations were adopted, and every able-bodied man and boy was urged to join one of the Home Defense companies. The mayor issued a proclamation headed "To arms! To arms! To arms!"

⁶³ Dozens of informal companies of young boys and old men were formed that morning.

⁶⁴ J. P. McCaskey began teaching in the Boys' High School in 1855 and continued until 1906. To many of "Jack's Boys" he was the high school.

⁶⁵ Samuel W. Reigart, Principal of the Boy's High School, 1860-1865.

⁶⁶ Emanuel served three years as a private in Company C of the 93rd Infantry.

⁶⁷ Sam Rathvon was a corporal in Co. E, 2d Regiment Militia, an emergency company organized at Harrisburg, September 13, 1862. It marched to Chambersburg, Pa.; Hagerstown and Williamsport, Maryland, where it was under fire for an hour or so, then marched home and was mustered out September 25. An illustrated diary of this brief adventure was kept by David McNeely Stauffer, a private in the company. It is now in the Fackenthal library.

Tuesday, September 16: This morning Emanuel said goodbye all around. I went out of school to see him off. But they could not get transportation. . .

Wednesday, September 17: This morning Emanuel went to Harrisburg at 10:40. This evening I stayed in town to drill. We have 38 members the boys came as far as the prison with me. . .

Friday September 19th . . . This evening a Norristown cavalry company came past. I got on one of the horses and rode to the prison . . . About eight a cavalry company came past from Coatesville. Annie's uncle was in it . . .

Sunday, September 21: . . . After dinner we took a walk down the old road. Difenbachs have splendid grapes.

Monday September 22: . . . Emanuel sent his clothes and bounty. . .

Tuesday September 23: . . . Frank has no school today because Mr. [Benjamin] Ruth's grandmother is dead who is ninety-six years old.

Wednesday September 24: . . . The Seigel guards⁶⁸ came home.

Thursday, Oct. 2d . . . We got a letter from Emanuel. He wrote it from Alexandria. . .

Saturday October 4 . . . I took some peaches, tomatoes and beans [to market] and got a dollar and a half. When I had sold out, I went for Bum [Brennenman] to go out gunning . . . We went down along the creek and I shot a bullfrog and Bum a big mullet. We got the game bag full of walnuts . . . After supper I went into the High School Girls Fair⁶⁹. . .

Monday, October 13: . . . There is pretty much excitement in town on account of the election going to be tomorrow. . .

Tuesday, October 14: I rode in with the Chester County horse . . . I saw two fights from the Atheneum⁷⁰ window.

Wednesday October 15: Stephens [Stevens] was elected with 4500 majority. I am going to make bandboxes for the fair.⁷¹

Friday October 17: . . . Mr. McCaskey gave us our speech, it is Rienzi's address to the Romans. . .

Monday October 20 . . . Annie heard that Mrs. Heiss had caught a bird in June. Frank and I went to see if it was Annie's but could not get in . . . We commenced taking lectures but do not write abstracts.⁷²

⁶⁸ The affectionate nickname for the boys of Company E (see note on Sept. 13). They were also referred to as "Our skedaddlers." Although their service was of the briefest, the *Examiner* said, "At least they were willing."

⁶⁹ This was run entirely by the girls without adult help. It netted \$300 for the wounded.

⁷⁰ The Athenaeum, which Mr. Kramph had been active in founding two years earlier was a subscription library. Its rooms were on the third floor of the City Hall, an ideal place for watching election troubles.

⁷¹ First mention of the fair. This was, surprisingly, not a war project but a scheme to raise money for the Children's Home.

⁷² It was customary, at this time, in both high school and college, for students to take voluminous notes while their professors lectured, advanced students then wrote these up in abstract form, to be corrected by their professors, thus assuring that the student really understood what was said. More earnest students had their abstracts bound up in book form to be preserved for future reference.

Tuesday October 21: . . . Annie and I stopped to look at the bird and it was Joe. . .

Wednesday October 22: This morning I left the cage at Mrs. Clark's as I went to school . . . This evening Frank and I went over for Joe. We got a letter from Emanuel. He found two animals on his legs. . .

Wednesday October 29: . . . I met Ike Burrows and another boy. They had been out stealing corn for Hallowe'en. . .



THE PRISON IN 1862

As Manny Viewed It On His Way To and From School.

Monday November 3d: We have begun to put down all the grammatical errors we hear and read them out and correct them in class. . .

Tuesday November 4th: This morning Mr. McCaskey talked to us so long in history half-hour that he could not hear us our lessons. I went up to the Atheneum to see if the books had come.

Wednesday November 5th: This morning we had our first practice problems in philosophy. Mr. McCaskey said he would show us some experiments next time if the weather was favorable.

Thursday, November 6th: Today the new books came to the Atheneum and

I took one to Aunty. It is called the Les Miserables.⁷³ We play shinty⁷⁴ up at school every day.

Friday November 7th: . . . Annie was going to New Holland but did not go on account of the snow.

Saturday November 8th: Frank [Howell] and I shoveled the paths. We got on behind a sleigh and rode up to Frank Clark's. After dinner we made two snow men.

Sunday November 9th: . . . There were only ten people in church. . .

Saturday November 15th: . . . Abe Brenneman and Charley White came out. We had a good game of shinnie and lost the ball. Then we went down in the woods to get some shinnies. I got three pretty good ones. . .

Wednesday November 19th . . . Mr. McCaskey wanted to try an experiment but it was raining and he could not get up electricity. . .

Thursday November 20: . . . Mr. McCaskey asked us if any of us would be willing to exercise at the Hall,⁷⁵ about twenty boys held up their hands.

Saturday November 22d: . . . I went into town to see Mrs. McCarter⁷⁶ to ask her if she had heard of Emanuel, she said he was at New Baltimore and was getting better. . .

Monday November 24th: This morning I went to the Institute⁷⁷ and played shinny in the school yard but old Lutz⁷⁸ turned us out and we had a fight with Joe S—

Wednesday November 26: . . . We exercised at the Hall and did pretty well except for the rounds. . .

Thursday November 27: . . . I got some shavings down at the bridge and some brand to stuff pincushions with for the fair. I stuffed one. . .

Tuesday December 2: . . . I took Aunty in town to mark the things for the fair. I helped to mark till about nine o'clock⁷⁹. . .

Wednesday December 3rd: . . . Annie and I carried some things in for the fair. We had a bandbox and a basket full . . . Mrs. Levis sent some things to Aunty from Philadelphia.

Thursday December 4th: This evening I went to the Fair. They had a great many things . . . I helped Mrs. Howell and Miss Sue Carson to make the oyster soup.

⁷³ Les Miserables was first published this year. The Athenaeum was up-to-date.

⁷⁴ I do not suppose "shinty" or "shinnie" needs explaining. It was still played in my own youth. Similar to hockey, it was played with a shinny-stick, and a shinny of carefully whittled wood. Crowded streets, and many accidents from ill-directed shinnies caused it to be forbidden.

⁷⁵ i. e. Fulton Hall. An exhibition with Indian clubs for Teacher's Institute.

⁷⁶ Wife of Emanuel's colonel, James M. McCarter, see note on July 4th. No mention has been made of Emanuel being ill. Perhaps "he" refers to Col. McCarter himself.

⁷⁷ School was closed all week because of Teachers' Institute.

⁷⁸ The school janitor.

⁷⁹ As soon as the Institute was over the Hall was turned over to the ladies for preparation for the fair.

Friday December 5th: It started snowing . . . Went to the Fair⁸⁰ . . .

Saturday December 6th: . . . The snow was not very deep but it had drifted a good deal . . . Frank and I were going down the hill on his sled and we met Pete Johnson and went along with him. When we were coming home we thought we would try a new way but the horse got in a drift up to his stomach and fell down . . . we had to unhitch him, then we tied the reins to the back and tried to make him pull it down again, but the reins broke and we put backing straps on and got home safely.

Monday December 8th: . . . Aunty went to town to finish about the Fair . . . They think they took in about \$600. . .

Wednesday December 10th: . . . Mr. McCaskey tried some experiments. He shocked us and made Sam McCleery light the gas by touching it. . .

Saturday December 13: This morning I raked up the willow leaves and made a pile for the bonfire. . .

Wednesday December 17: . . . Mr. McCaskey tried some more experiments. He shocked us two or three times. He lit some ether and alcohol by the machine. . .

Friday December 19: Sam McCleery and I are cross because I said look at I in fun and he went and read it out. . .

Wednesday December 24: . . . I bought a Christmas tree for Lizzie [Tomlinson]. Mr. McCaskey explained about the works of a watch to us and I showed him my watch . . . I got Frank to come with me and we went to the woods for moss and broke in a pond . . . I fixed the tree when I came in.

Thursday December 25: . . . I got up early to see what Lizzie would say about her tree. They were both very much pleased. Mrs. Tomlinson gave us some apples and loaf cake and me ten cents. Aunty gave me a ball and a pair of ear-warners. Catharine a cravat and somebody gave me a pencil sharpener. Annie gave me a handkerchief and a trip to Coatesville. We went to town to grandma's to dinner. I went up to Mr. Rathvon's to see their tree. Annie went to love feast. A man drove one of Shober's horses nearly to death. . .

Tuesday December 30th: Today I got ready to go to Coatesville. We started on the three o'clock train. Annie was vaccinated just before we started. We got to Coatesville a little before five. Mary did not know I was coming. . .

Wednesday December 31 . . . There is a little snow on the ground but not enough to track a rabbit. Mary has quite a pretty Christmas tree. Mr. Haines has a splendid pair of horses. A little before dinner time I went about to see the town. It ends at the Brandywine creek and on the other side is Midway. The Brandywine, on an average, is not as deep as our creek but it is ten feet right at the bridge.

Thursday January 1st, 1863: . . . The cavalry are going to drill and they

⁸⁰ This was the big day at the fair. The orphans were present, and sang as part of the attraction. A monster bouquet was displayed in the center of the Hall. The next day it was carried to Washington by Professor John B. Kevinski and presented in person to President Lincoln. Visitors to the Fair were permitted, after making a contribution to the home, to sign their names on the list of donors. See ff. January 3.

are going to have a concert. I helped Dr. Scott harness his horses and helped Mr. Hains put in hay and got some water for Aunt Carry and carried over a mince pie to the ministers which is the extent of my work.

Friday January 2d: This morning we were going home, but they coaxed us to stay. I went down town to buy some wosterd for Annie to make Dr. Scott a pair of ear-warmers for a philopena present.⁸¹ They had no pretty wosterd that I could see so Annie had to get it herself. Miss Franklin is here and she and I caught Annie [at Philopena]. This evening Mr. Haines took us to the rolling mill. They roll big lumps of iron into thin sheets and cut it by saws that work with water.

A Letter from President Lincoln

Saturday January 3rd: . . . We started for home a little after ten . . . got home at half past eleven . . . Aunty got a letter from Emanuel and from President Lincoln.⁸² We cannot send a box to Emanuel because Grandpa cannot get a pass unless Emanuel is sick. . .

Thursday, January 8th: Aunty went to town this morning and after school I went to Ghast's store for her, where she was getting shoes for the home boys. . .

Saturday January 10: We went down to the creek to go skating but there was no ice . . . When I came home I brightened my skates and set a trap for rabbits. I caught a pigeon down at Stamms and brought it home. In the afternoon it commenced to rain and we played machine poetry.

Friday January 16th: . . . I forgot my dinner and the yeast kettle. I went

⁸¹ The custom of the philopena has almost died out. It was still popular in my childhood. It was a wager entered into by two or more persons. Before "eating the philopena" the terms were agreed upon. These varied but the usual ones were that the person who first accepted anything offered him by the other party, or answered "yes" to his question, or responded to his greeting was the loser and must pay a forfeit—usually an inexpensive gift, or the lady might promise a kiss. The philopena, a bit of cake or candy, was then divided and eaten by the parties with their arms interlocked. From that moment any kind of ruse was fair to entrap the other. Frank R. Stockton wrote one of his "Fanciful Tales" on this theme.

⁸² The letter, published in the *Examiner* next day, read as follows:

Executive Mansion
Washington
December 30, 1862

My dear Madam:

Permit me gratefully to acknowledge the receipt through Mr. Kevinski, of the beautiful and tasteful Boquet which you, acting for the Board of Managers of the "Home for the Friendless Childhen," have had the kindness to send me.

Be pleased to convey to your Board the assurance of my sincere gratitude for the present and my cordial appreciation of the kind wishes by which it was accompanied.

I have, my dear Madam, the honor to remain

Very truly

Your obedient servant

A. Lincoln.

to Mrs. Howell's for dinner and borrowed a kettle . . . We sent Emanuel a box by Adam's express. . .

Saturday, January 17th: . . . Mr. Tomlinson butchered and gave Frank and I the bladder but we cut it when we were cleaning it. . .

Wednesday January 21st: . . . Mr. McCaskey tried some experiments with trying to make different color fires. . .

Saturday January 24th: This morning I took a load of shindles to the cellar. I got my dinner early and cut across the fields to G. Tomlinson's to the sale. The roads were four or five inches deep with mud. They sold a butter-kettle for a cent. Dan Mulhatten bought a nice bit for three cents. I did not see them sell the horses. . .

Monday January 26: . . . Mr. Reigart said we should buy our abstract books as we are going to write lectures⁸³ . . .

Thursday January 27th: . . . I traded off my third and fourth readers for 13 sheets of note paper, 12 sheets of foolscap, a pack of envelopes and an abstract book. . .

Thursday, January 29th: . . . I shovelled the snow and did not start for school till about nine. The snow was drifted to my knees. It nearly took me a half-hour to walk in. Annie rode in the stage. . .

Monday February 2nd: . . . Annie invited me to go to Mr. Barr's magic lantern . . . Gen. Rousseau^{83a} is in town and is going away tonight; the Fencibles band is going to serenade him. The magic lantern was very good.

Saturday, February 7th: The creek is very high. It is up to the fence on both sides. . .

Monday February 23d: Today we wanted a holiday to celebrate yesterday but we could not get it. . .

Tuesday, February 24: Sleighs are going all the time. . .

Friday, February 29: . . . We got a letter from Emanuel. He asked for a camp songster. Annie bought him one.

Wednesday, March 4th: . . . Mr. McCaskey tried experiments with chlorine gas and succeeded very well. . .

Thursday, March 5th: I commenced making a bone ring. We are going to take the fermented bread for a couple of weeks. . .

Saturday, March 7th: I finished my ring and gave it to Annie. . .

Monday, March 9th: . . . Aunty was going in the country with Mrs. Franklin to get a new matron for the home. . .

Wednesday, March 11th: . . . Mr. McCaskey was trying some experiments with phosphorus and he spilt some on a globe and burnt it.

Thursday March 12th: . . . Sallie taught me how to make fly cages. I am making one for Aunty . . . Ike Burrows is home on a furlough of twenty days on account of his health.

Friday, Marh 13th: . . . The tax collector was here and could not write. . .

Saturday, March 14th: . . . Joe eats out of our mouths. . .

Tuesday, March 17th: Grandpa went down to Philadelphia to get some crackers

⁸³ See note on October 20.

^{83a} General, 3rd Brigade, 2d Division, 79th Regiment.

for his store. I went up to Grandma's to keep her company. I made twelve things for the fly cage. Grandma has a coal oil burner that burns without a chimney.

Wednesday, March 18th . . . I tried all over town to get some gilt paper for the fly cage but could not get any. Annie staid in town all afternoon to paint on Aunty's picture . . . Catharine found some gilt paper in the garret.

Thursday March 19: . . . I got up pretty early and finished the fly cage just in time . . . Mrs. Howell thought I would give it up before it was done. . .

Saturday March 21: It was rather cold today, but Frank and I hauled nineteen loads of manure . . .

Sunday March 22 . . . Emanuel sent a receipt home for some kind of hash and we had some for dinner. It tasted right nice. . .

Monday March 23: . . . I saw Mr. Barr about taking book-keeping.⁸⁴ I am going to take lessons from two to three.

Tuesday March 24: Today I commenced taking book-keeping. Mr. Barr furnished me with books. Mr. Kremer put my name on the roll-book. I just wrote one page. . .

Wednesday March 25: . . . Mr. Barr set me to making figures.

Thursday March 26: . . . The papers are full of Copperheads. The soldiers are writing home about them a great deal. There was a great Copperhead meeting this evening.⁸⁵

Tuesday, March 31st: . . . There was a great deal of moving done today. . .

Friday, April 3: Today being Good Friday we have no school. . .

Saturday April 4th: . . . I went to town to sell bread for grandpa. He gave me a half cent for every loaf I sold. I sold 44 and made 22 cents. . .

Tuesday April 7th: . . . We commenced Greek today. I know my alphabet. Mr. Reigart teaches us. . .

Friday April 10: . . . We gathered up the cornstalks to burn them. After supper we made two bonfires and roasted some potatoes. . .

Sunday April 12: Annie, Lizzie, Ike and I went to the woods for flowers, but we did not find many. . .

Thursday April 16th: . . . We got a letter from Emanuel yesterday. He sent a piece of a rebel paper.

Friday April 17th: . . . Frank Howell came out behind me. We are going to raise a collection of stamps. . .

Wednesday April 22: . . . I went to town at six o'clock to get a horse [for a visitor who wanted to go riding]. I went to eight stables and at last down

⁸⁴ A resolution of the School Board, November, 1862, provided that instruction in bookkeeping should be given in the secondary schools. Since Manny had just missed this opportunity, it was apparently arranged that he be allowed to have special instruction.

⁸⁵ The papers carried almost daily editorials on this subject, and news stories of Copperhead sabotage. About the "great meeting," however, I think Manny mistook political mud-slinging for facts. The *Examiner* had published a letter describing a local Democratic rally in these terms.

to Mr. Potts and they let Miss Jane have one of their pacers. . . .
Friday April 24th: . . . Col. McCarter is going on to his regiment and he offered to take something to Emanuel.⁸⁶ Emanuel sent his picture home. He has changed a great deal. . . .
Saturday April 25th: . . . Aunty and I went to market to get some flowers . . . Catharine left the door open and Joe got out . . . I planted some corn and mowed the new grass . . . After dinner I cleaned the gun. Aunty bought a knife of Frank for me . . . I am raising a collection of union pictures. George Rathvon gave me thirteen. . . .
Thursday April 30th: . . . Today is fast day so we had no school. . .
Friday May 1: . . . After supper I went to see the Glass Blowers.⁸⁷ They have a glass steam engine. The cars run off the track and caught a fire on the commons . . . A surprise [party] came out to see Annie. The person that made the best conundrum got a handsome present. The conundrum that got the prize was: "Why is the glass steam engine monitor like the Southern Confederacy?" Answer: "Because it is produced by a great set of blowers."

Saturday May 2: . . . Aunty and I went to market. But it was an early market and we were too late. I was invited to a May party by Kate Metzger . . . We went out near Livergoods. But the woods were not very nice and we did not find a single wild flower. Some of the boys bought some milk. We managed to get a rope and play Copenhagen.⁸⁸ We came home about seven o'clock. The papers were all sold and I couldn't get any.

So he has come the round of the year, and because he has reached the last page of his little book he ends the story four days before the full year is out. What became of our friends after that? Well, the news had not yet reached them that Emanuel was wounded at Chancellorsville on April 27, but must have continued with the army for he was wounded again at Spottsylvania, May 8. However he was well enough to serve at Gettysburg and continued with his regiment until his discharge in 1865. He went west after the war and his descendants live there today.

Annie was married to Mr. C. F. Rengier. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are among us today, for which fact our city has much cause to be grateful. Mrs. Kramph, a few years later, moved to a house on South Ann Street, near her beloved Children's Home, which was built there in 1869. Here she lived to the end of her useful life.

But Manny, bright, eager, busy, friendly Manny? What became of him? Whatever it was, his life was not wasted. He has left a beautiful small memorial, in this record of a happy year.

⁸⁶ See note on July 4th. Colonel McCarter, wounded March 31, 1862, and on furlough since November 29, was remustered April, 1863.

⁸⁷ No mention of these in the newspapers.

⁸⁸ I have it on the able authority of Mr. G. F. K. Erisman that Copenhagen was a kissing game, somewhat like drop the handkerchief.