

**GEMS GLEANED FROM
CYRUS KNOLL'S DIARIES
BETWEEN 1879-1899**



Cyrus Knoll (1855-1899) James P. Knoll (1892-)

By Son, James P. Knoll

(Words in parenthesis inserted by James for better understanding.)

These diaries are now on display in the Fleetwood Area Historical Society Museum

1879

January 1—I am still assistant station agent at \$15 per month. Band serenaded from 12 o'clock on in town. Then went to Lyons and Bowers. I weigh 112 lbs. (Dad had typhoid in the fall of 1878. He was sick eight weeks and went down to 104 lbs.)

January 3—Very cold temperature—6 degrees below zero. Six inches of snow on the ground.

January 7—Last evening Augustus Barlet was run over and killed by a train near Blandon. He drew his pay, got drunk, and fell on track on way home.

January 9—Henry Schaeffer, formerly ticket agent here, died of erysipelas.

January 14—Henry Schaeffer's funeral in fore noon. The mourners ate dinner at Brumbach's Hotel at 23 cents a meal. There were 402. Charles Sharpe and James McDonnell, Molly McGuires, were hanged at Mauch Chunk.

January 16—General Grant sails for India from Marseilles. Heavy snowfall, 13 inches deep. At singing school and at depot in evening. Trains late.

January 21—Gov. Hoyt takes seat for 4 years. Harrisburg crowded. Twenty bands and 5,000 soldiers there. The legislature chose Donald Cameron for U.S. Senator.

January 25—Mr. D. B. Brumer from Reading delivered an interesting lecture in

the school house. The title was 'Wonders of Science" (School house was built in 1877).

January 26—Was in Sunday School in school house in A.M. School was reorganized with P. H. Gehris, Superintendent; J. F. Hunsicker, Assistant; T. J. Kreidler, Secretary; and G. W. Clous, Treasurer. Rev. J. S. Herman led Reformed Service in P.M. in St. Paul's Church. Rev. Kramlich had Lutheran Services in School House in evening.

February 1—Wilson Dumn married to Annie Saylor. Band was there. Had good dinner. I weigh 116 lbs. (The local band was called Ringing Rocks Band. Dad played the piccolo.)

February 4—I quit work at the station today. I could no longer stand being under Agent Bunyon.

February 5—Surprise birthday party at Jacob Noll's Hotel. Amanda Noll's birthday.

February 14—105th monthly drawing of Louisiana State Lottery with 1857 prizes, totaling \$110,400.

February 15—F. B. Barto estate sold by sheriff. Jacob Rothermel bought the home for \$1200.

February 18—Borough Election. I was a clerk. Partial results: Justice of Peace - Win. Bernhart; Burgess - Win. S. Merkel; Council - Geo. Keller, G. B. Yoder; School Directors - Lewis Schaeffer, Geo. Dewes.

February 21—Howard Rothermel was appointed assistant ticket agent.

February 22—I weigh 127 lbs. Got \$3.00 for clerk at election.

March 6—Ordered a ticket in the Louisiana Lottery for \$2.00. Visited Annie Knauss primary school.

March 12—Helped brother James sweep his local secondary school in P.M. Then went to Yoder's Hotel and saw a trapeze performance and tight rope walking.

March 16—Clear and cold. Was in Sunday School in A.M. Joshua Schlegel's children, who go to Kansas tomorrow, were presented with Bibles.

March 25—The local school closed today (School then only lasted 5 months).

March 27—Roads quite muddy. I taught for John Hunsicker at Stone Lane today.

I had that school in 1874.

April 1—Went with a surprise party to Zimmermans who moved to Blandon. Took supper there. I danced for the first time with Amanda Noll.

April 9—Dug half of our garden today. Planted onions and potatoes. We have 2 clucks breeding out eggs.

April 14—This A.M. Emily Peter left for Lititz Academy. W. C. Kline and Peter Gehris go to school in Reading.

April 26—Started white-washing and till evening had done fence, pig stable, and privy. Helped with borough account. In treasury - \$16.29. I weigh 142.

May 5—Today David Moyer and John Leibeisperger started West. They provided 1/6 keg of beer at Herbein's Mill. R. Peter and I helped empty it. Was in Allentown and Bethlehem looking for work.

May 10—Fire in the Blue Mountains. The sky was well illuminated.

May 13—Very dry and dusty. Jacob Lutz began sprinkling the streets. Business men pay him.

May 20—Contracted with school-board to whitewash school fence for \$3.74.

May 23—Battalion here today. Hampden Fire Co. of Reading here with 75 men. Gave a hose fighting exhibition at Koch's dam. Kutztown Band and Snyder's Drum Corps here.

May 25—In S. School in A.M. In Evangelical Church in P.M. on N. Franklin St. Church had been renovated. Revs. Stauffer and Bowman preached.

May 30—Band helped in Blandon parade in A.M. Later paraded here. Sunday School, 2 lodges and Blandon Lodge in line.

June 4—Worked at Schaeffer Merkel helping Tom Kreidler send out hand bills advertising the machinery made by firm.

June 11—At shop again. Hands dissatisfied with pay. Bosses raised wages 10 cents per day.

June 14—Today our choir traveled to Ziegel's Church to help in a concert of 5 choirs. They were Fleetwood, Fogelsville, Lehigh, Ziegels, and Bowers.

June 17—Received \$7.00 for work at shop. Took 10:04 train to Reading, then stage to Bernville. Walked from there to Uncle Dan Christman's farm near

Schaefferstown, where I will help on farm.

July 14—Tried to sell fence gates to farmers in Schaefferstown area. Walked a lot but sold few gates. Had ice cream often at Uncle Dan's. While there attended Church at Host.

August 20—After the farm work was done at Uncle Daniel's, I helped his neighbor Zerbe with some work, plowing and harrowing. Had watermelon afterwards.

September 12—Came home on the 10th and today met with Band to parade with firemen in Reading.

October 7—Our well has gone dry. We fetch water from the shop well.

October 8—Helping out at Schaeffer Merkel again. Tom Kreidler went to Nazareth Fair.

October —Today the shop bosses are at the fair. Peter McManus hanged at Sunbury. He is the 20th Molly McGuires to be hanged (The McGuires made a lot of trouble in the mining regions).

October 13—At shop office again. Today the local schools started. The teachers are Solomon Hoch, Grammar; Albert Kline, Intermediate; James H. Knoll, Secondary; Annie Knauss, Primary.

October 14—Helped Tom Kreidler levy school tax. Total was \$1260. Paid 65 cents to have shoes soled.

October 20—Stone Lane School opens. I. W. Rauenzahn, teacher.

October 29—The firm of S. H. Rothermel and Brothers is now changed to Melot Schaeffer & Co. M. B. Melot and Nathan Schaeffer bought the property.

November 11—Mother complains of chills and fever. Dr. Lentz attends. We have Kate Koch as maid.

November 14—Mother's better. There are only 3 wells that are not dry. They must provide water for 1000 people.

December 18—Father went to Jefferson to attend his brother Israel's funeral. Israel had been helpless with rheumatism for 6 years.

December 23—William Madeira accidentally shot himself with his revolver. Bullet entered abdomen.

December 24—William Madeira died of his wound. Sunday School entertainment was held tonight to a crowded house.

December 25—In Sunday School in A.M. The children received their gifts.

December 29—Madeira buried. Great concourse of people. 543 mourners ate at Yoder's Hotel.

1880

January 1—I still work at Schaeffer Merkel & Co. Not in bed during night. Band played all night at Fleetwood, Lyons, Pricetown and Stony Point. Collected \$53.26.

January 4—In Sunday School in P.M. These officers were elected: Supt. - P. H. Gehris; Asst. Supt. - Solomon Hoch; Secy. - I. W. Rauenzahn; Asst. Secy. C. F. Knoll; Treas. - C. F. Reifsnyder.

January 19—At noon Adam Schaeffer returned from Indiana with 2 carloads of horses.

January 31—At shop as usual. My pay was raised from 80 cents to 90 cents a day. All hands were raised 10 cents.

February 6—Was at shop. In Evangelical Church in evening. Annie Merkel and Nathan Hoch are at the bench.

February 14—Band serenaded Adam Schaeffer and his bride, Agnes Rothenberger. We got \$5.00.

March 6—Dramatic Club went to Topton and put on 4 plays.

March 8—Was at shop. Tonight I, Uriah Eisenhart, and Conrad Keller joined the K. of P. Lodge.

March 10—In town tonight and joined the P.O.S. of A. They elected me secretary.

March 14—Sunday. Today Rev. Adams, the new Evangelical preacher, delivered his first sermon.

March 18—James' school ended today (They only have 5 months).

March 27—Was at shop. My boss Lewis Schaeffer brought gold from Reading to pay the hands. I got \$10, the most gold I ever owned. Father got \$50 for his labor.

April 5—Today George Moyer, Oscar Angstadt, Nathan Schaeffer and I dug graves to bury Sallie Dumn, who died of consumption April 2. Funeral in P.M. conducted by Rev. Adams. At taffy party with brother James in evening.

May 28—Went with band to Kutztown, where we played at the 10th anniversary of the Keystone Literary Society.

June 1—Was at shop. This A.M. Henry Wieandt, who worked at Melot & W.N. Ore Mine, was instantly killed by a bucket falling down the shaft on his head. He leaves a wife and 11 children. C. A. Messersmith began taking census in town.

August 21—Band went with St. Paul's Sunday School excursion to Bowers to play for picnic. Big crowd.

September 2—Many from town went to camp meeting at Oley. Brumbach takes passengers in his carriages and Yoder carries them in his omnibus.

September 4—Band played today at Gernant's Church picnic. In evening serenaded David Moyer and his bride, Charity Schlegel.

September 29—Went to Reading Fair with Peter Yoder and H. Gehris to set up machinery exhibit. Saw Schearer go up in his balloon, Ariel. He sat on a ring below the bag.

October 3—In Herman's Church in A.M. Took Lord's Supper. James M. Rothermel, aged 30, buried today. Not all the mourners could get in church. Rev. Apple of Hamburg officiated.

October 11—Melot's pump gave out. Local schools began with Solomon Hoch in Grammar department: A. M. Kline, Intermediate; Miss Kaufman of Reading, Secondary; and Miss Bieber from Kutztown, Primary.

December 1—Snow and slush today. Was at shop and Camp 103. A new station agent arrived in town, Jacob Schaeffer.

December 13—Bernhart began harvesting ice with new shute. Sarah Rothermel, daughter of James Rothermel, buried today.

December 24—Xmas entertainment held in church. It lasted from 7 to 10 P.M.

December 29—Snowed all day. By night snow was 13 inches deep. Good sleighing.

December 30—Very cold. Lenhartsville reported 22 degrees below zero. Reading 18 degrees below.

1881

January 1—Very cold. At 6 o'clock it was 10 degrees below zero. Band played a short time on Main St., but the instruments froze. Father and I are still at shop.

January 2—In Sunday School in A.M. P. H. Gehris is Supt., Solomon Hoch Asst. In Evangelical Sunday School in P.M. Dan Keichner, Supt. and Lewis Wanner, Asst.

January 7—Went with sleighing party to Rothrocksville. There were 8 couples in single sleighs. Had turkey & waffle supper and danced. I had Brumbach's horse and Nathan Schaeffer's sleigh. Cost me \$4.96.

January 14—In band meeting. I was elected president and treasurer.

January 18—Paid 25 cents to poor woman. More snow this winter than at any time since we came to Fleetwood in 1871.

January 21—Rain. Was in Evangelical Church in evening. Annie Hoch, Annie Gehris, and Mary Angstadt found grace at bench.

February 15—Borough election today. I helped as clerk. Part of result: Burgess, Cosmos Schwoyer; Council, Dan Schaeffer and E. M. Mill; School Director, C. A. Messersmith & Levi Lutz.

February 27—In Sunday School in A.M. In Koch's Meeting House in P.M., where they had Lord's Supper and feet washing (Koch's Meeting House is now the Missionary Church).

March 28—Solomon Hoch and Mrs. Bieber are teaching summer school in school building, completed 1877.

May 4—This was Barnum show day in Reading and 204 people went down on first train.

May 18—Helped whitewash cemetery fence. There were 25 whitewashers.

June 19—Amos Melot died last night of consumption.

July 2—Great excitement in Washington. President Garfield was shot twice at Union Station. He is expected to recover.

July 6—Guiteau, Garfield's assassin, attempted suicide.

July 12—Hot and dusty. Shop is sending threshing machines to many places everyday.

August 25—Local camp meeting on Heydt's Hill well attended. There are 60 tents up. Big crowds came with every train. Total collected for missions is \$700.

September 3—Band played for picnic at Clay Valley. Martin Schaeffer's barn burned to ground.

September 19—Pres. Garfield died at 1:35 P.M.

September 20—Martin Keichner's house burned down.

September 25—Played with band in Firemen's Parade in Reading. Fifty musical organizations and 60 Fire Companies in line. Parade 3 miles long.

October 8—I resigned from the Ringing Rocks Band.

October 10—James Boyer killed under a falling bank of ore in Leiss, DeLong & Schwoyer's Mine. Age 43.

October 14—Samuel Fox died of apoplexy while attending funeral of James Boyer in Pricetown.

October 18—School began today. Primary, Sallie Bieber; Secondary, Emma Kalbach; Intermediate, Albert Kline and Grammar, Solomon Hoch.

December 9—Local institute held with 61 teachers present. Cecilia Heydt, Dr. N. C. Schaeffer, Miss Bieber and Miss Bareford of K.S.N.S. had part in program.

December 24—We packed 280 packages for Sunday School children. I got a nice hat band and silk kerchief from Amanda Moll.

December 25—Green Xmas. In church in A.M. In Sunday School in P.M. We presented Supt. Gehris with a new suit. I gave my Bible Class each a Bible Dictionary.

December 29—For New Year's gift I bought A. Noll a \$1.40 silk kerchief and cologne.

1882

January 15—In Sunday School in A.M. In Evangelical church in evening. Annie Merkel and Emma Miller at bench. Good skating on Koch's Dam.

January 23—Very cold. In K. of P. Lodge. People cutting 7 in. ice.

January 27—Helped to raffle off a bull weighing 2200 lbs. Owen Koller and Geo. Shade won bull, both throwing 46 at dice.

February 1—Mother is ailing. Heavy snow 16 in. deep. Snow at Wilkes Barre 32 in. deep.

February 7—The prize fight between Ryan and Sullivan for \$5000 was won by Sullivan In 9 rounds.

February 13—Was vaccinated by Dr. Fretz. He is also treating mother.

February 25—Mother not well; getting weaker every day.

February 28—Mother died tonight at 7:15. We sat up with her day and night. Her last words were: "Won mer so gut obgawort gricht, geb ich nix meh drum" ("When I am waited on so well, I don't care anymore").

April 1—At shop. All hands paid up to April 1. It took over \$5000. I got \$33.76. Went to Reading, to see "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

April 4—Wilson Peter of Lyons died. Hotel owner Brumbach moved to Oley and Geo. D. Schaeffer took his place at Fleetwood House. Brother James is telegraph operator at Long Branch, NJ.

April 6—Annie Hoch, daughter of Ben Hoch, died. She had been burned at Stone Lane School.

May 30—At shop in A.M. No work in P.M. Keim Post of Reading came out with the Cumru Band. Our band paraded with them to the 2 cemeteries, where the graves were decorated with wreaths.

June 30—Guiteau hanged for murder of Pres. Garfield.

July 15—Helped harvest Mrs. Messersmith's wheat. Each got 75 cents and supper at Jacob Noll's Hotel. Morris Melot married Clara Kemp. Band there. Many got drunk.

July 25—Went with father, Geo. Moyer and Jacob Keim with an excursion to Gettysburg. Saw a fine dress parade of the G.A.R. and a sham battle.

August 5—Went with Sunday School excursion to Lititz. Train had 15 cars all full - 245 local and 355 from Blandon.

September 6—Morris Melot's wife presented him with a baby girl and boy.

September 7—Made a trip to Mauch Chunk to ride over the switchback to Glenonoko.

September 28—Big day for Reading Fair. Gen. Beaver, Rep. Candidate for

governor, was there.

October 24—Attended the Bicentennial at Philadelphia commemorating Penn's Landing in 1682. Vast parade - 20,568 people in line. Big fireworks display.

November 9—Dan Koch sold his mill property to Frank Fritch.

November 27—Laid off at shop. I have a tumor on my left hip; Dr. Fretz calls it a "schlur." Nothing but black blood comes out. Very painful. We poultice it every day.

December 12—Dan Yoder filled his new ice house with 6 in. ice. Kelchner Bros. and Bernhart were also at it.

December 16—C. A. Messersmith married Sallie Bieber.

December 18—Father went to Blandon to attend the funeral of Alfred Machmer, who shot himself on account of a girl. He picked his own pastor and pall bearers. He also picked 4 girls to sing "Safe in The Arms of Jesus" at the house, and at the church they were to sing, "I Want To Be an Angel." His wishes were carried out and church was crowded.

December 25—Green Xmas but ice on dam. Received a nice photo from A. Noll.

December 30—My sore is improved. Have many visitors. Dan Schaeffer died at 5:00 A.M.

1884

January 1—Was in store. I now work as clerk in Schaeffer Messersmith's store at \$180 per year. Father is still at shop. Brother James is operator at Reading Depot. I weigh 134.

January 5—Very cold. Geo. D. Schaeffer filled his ice house with 9 in. ice.

January 6—In Sunday School where I was elected secretary.

January 25—Fine sleighing. Nathan Schaeffer took a group of ladies out to Rothrocksville.

February 3—Cold. In Kramlich's church in A.M. Presided at the organ. In Sunday School in P.M. (Dad seldom missed church or Sunday School if he was well).

February 9—In school house in evening. Heard Henry Houck lecture on "School and Home."

February 19—Borough election. Father was judge. Partial results: Justice of Peace - Win. Bernhart; Burgess - John Herbein; Council - George B.

Schaeffer, Henry Schlegel, Adam Schaeffer; School Directors - C. F. Reifsnyder, C. A. Messeremith; High Constable - Jacob Lutz.

March 1—Cold. Thermometer at zero. Got two teeth filled by Peter Gehris for \$1.00.

March 19—At store. Dan Schaeffer sick. Hallie Reifsnyder, aged 18, died.

March 22—Very muddy. Henry Houck delivered a lecture on “Heroes and their Deeds” in the new chapel.

April 29—Was in Reading to Forepaugh’s show. About 25,000 people saw the two shows.

May 5—Was at store. Not in lodge. Peter Heffner was at Coleman’s saloon playing pool when his wife came in with a pick and knocked a hole in the table (a pre-Carrie Nation stunt).

June 4—Shop working 11 hours. Monroe Kelchner lost his hand in a fodder cutter (That hand was buried in Fleetwood Cemetery).

June 17—In store. We pay for butter 16 cents, eggs 16 cents and bacon 10 cents.

July 12—Washington Kemmerer and horse were killed on the railroad near Walnuttown.

August 1—At store. Paid father \$10 board for August. The Seventh Day Adventists put up a tent for meetings in George D. Schaeffer’s orchard.

August 8—Was in tent meeting. Services are well attended. Rev. Conrad is well liked.

September 6—Went with excursion to Mt. Gretna, when near the park our train collided with a ballast train. Both engines badly damaged, but nobody was hurt.

October 12—At 8:30 A.M. Sunday School was held for first time in Chapel. Rev. Herman addressed school. At 10 A.M. Rev. Groh from Boyertown preached. Rev. Hancher of K.S.N.S. in evening. Collections totaled \$69.00.

October 26—At Herman’s Communion in A.M. The Menonnites baptized Mrs. Bower in dam. In P.M. the Evangelicals baptized Ed Moll and Griffith Scholl. Then the Adventists immersed Mrs. Cosmos Schwoyer. People wore overcoats.

November 17—This morning I began as clerk for Wanner, Schaeffer & Co. at their grain lumber and coal plant.

November 26—Second heater put up in Chapel. At mill we pay 80 cents for wheat, 58 cents for rye, 30 cents for oats and 45 cents for corn.

December 5—In Literary Society in evening. Subject for debate, "Fire Is More Destructive Than Water." Affirmative won.

December 19—Clear and cold. Thermometer at 2 degrees above.

December 26—Second Xmas. In chapel in evening, where Xmas entertainment was given the second time.

1885

January 1—I am still clerk at Wanner & Schaeffer. I weigh 136 lbs.

January 4—Had skating exercise before going to Kramlich's church. Substituted for R. Peter at the organ. In Sunday School in P.M. where P. H. Gehris was elected supt. and myself, secy.

February 11—Very cold and 6 degrees below zero. John Kline, a young swell, was caught at Biehi's hotel for stealing \$2.00 from Mr. Herring.

February 17—Borough election: C. Burgess - J. P. Koch; Council - Henry Reider, George D. Schaeffer; High Constable - Jacob Keim; School Directors - Gottlieb Demand, Sam Dumn.

February 19—Father was married recently to Amelia Kline, but I just learned about it this A.M. Chapel bell, 2043 lbs., was put in position and rung for first time.

February 22—Sunday School bell used for first time to call people to services.

March 3—Daniel Rothermel died, aged 39. Bell was used to toll his age.

April 15—Dan Schaeffer's child, which was burned by oil lamp yesterday, died today.

May 12—Fire was discovered at Win. Leibensperger's barn, It burned down with most of livestock and contents.

June 10—O'Brien's Circus here, the first railroad show that ever stopped here. Town full of people. The 17-year locusts are here by the thousands. The chickens gobble them up.

June 26—County Supt. Keck held teachers' exam here. There were 17 applicants.

July 2—Moses Folk's boy Ollie (6) died today of lockjaw. Stepped on nail June 10.

July 17—Went swimming with Brother James tonight and when we got home, there was a surprise party for me with 30 present. Only then did I realize it was my 30th birthday.

July 23—Gen'l Grant died today in New York State. He was 63 yrs. old.

August 10—Got a letter from Brother James. He was in New York on the 8th and saw Grant's funeral in Riverside Park. James paid \$2.00 for seat on shed to watch cortege of 30,000. The catafalque was drawn by 24 black horses each attended by a colored groom.

August 22—Attended Sunday School excursion to Calypso Park at Bethlehem.

September 6—In Sunday School in A.M. Mrs. Joshua Schlegel and her 4 children each received a Bible. They leave on the 8th for Topeka, Kansas.

September 21—School began Friday. Win. Zechman, Grammar; Welder, Intermediate; Fretz, Secondary; Ida Sell, Primary.

September 29—Very hot. Mrs. Issac Hoch died. Dan F. Keichner married Emily Peter. They left for Washington, D.C.

October 31—Lewis Wanner and wife are now at Colorado Springs. He went west for his health.

November 26—Yesterday Vice. Pres. Hendricks died. Also King Alfonso of Spain.

December 31—Not cold. Much shooting at 12 o'clock. Church bells were rung. Band was out as usual.

1886

January 2—I am still employed by Wanner Schaeffer. Today a photo was taken of the plant and will be sent to Mr. Wanner in Colorado.

January 3—In Sunday School in A.M. New officers were elected: Supt. P. H. Gehris; Asst. R. G. Welder; Librarian, Geo. Knoll; Secy. C. F. Knoll; Treas. C. F. Reifsnyder.

January 13—Intense cold. Report is 5 degrees below zero. We have 11 inches of snow, Kentucky has 27 in. Good Sleighing.

February 14—Sun. Rev. H. J. Glick preached his farewell sermon in Evangelical Church.

February 16—Borough election day. Partial results: Burgess - J. R. Koch; Council - Joel Hoch, J. M. Schaeffer; High Constable - Jacob Keim; Judge of Election - C. F. Knoll; School Director - Win. S. Merkel, A. W. Haag; Tax Collector - Jacob Becker.

March 16—The owners of this grain and coal plant have decided to add a flour mill.

March 27—Was at Lena Koller's fried oyster party last night. Had fun. Win. Bernhart died.

April 5—The firm of Wanner Schaeffer dissolved today. Stock account total \$6400. Name of new firm -Schaeffer Wanner & Co.

May 29—Had nice parade. Ringing Rocks Band, then soldiers, speakers, followed by Camp 103 in a body. Wreaths put on graves as usual.

June 7—At Capt. Jack's Medicine Show in evening. He does tricks and peddles tea and Indian oil.

June 19—Sat. Today I and Dan and Ben Brown were laid off until the flour mill is functioning.

June 26—This evening Annie Merkel, daughter of Win. Merkel was married to Eli M. Rapp of Lyons. Wedding was a grand affair.

July 12—With an extra \$50 borrowed from brother James, I started for the West and picked up my cousin Millie Miller in Womelsdorf. We traveled together to Perry, Iowa, her home where we arrived July 15.

July 19—Still at Sam Miller's place. The people of Perry are very sociable. They raise a lot of corn to feed the hogs.

July 21—Left Perry for Topeka, Kansas, which I reached July 22. Had supper at Joshua Schlegel's and slept at Garden House.

July 22—Left Topeka for Denver, where I changed trains and went to Graymont, Colorado. With a Col. Sellers and wife and guide and 4 horses climbed to top of Gray's Peak, 14,380 ft. high. Wonderful scenery from top.

July 25—Arrived Colorado Springs. Visited Garden of the Gods, Cheyenne Canyon, and Seven Falls and saw Pike's Peak. Then on to Salt Lake City, where I arrived July 27.

July 28—Slept at Palace Hotel. Took train to Salt Lake and bathed in the water, which is 61/2 times saltier than the ocean. Later visited the Tabernacle and saw Mormon Temple, Brigham Young's House and the Museum, where I sat in Joseph Smith's chair.

July 29—Started for San Francisco by way of Ogden with 12 cars full of passengers and two engines. Saw Chinese working along the road bed. Countryside quite barren. Reached Frisco, July 31, where I stopped at the Chicago Hotel on Pacific St. Spent whole day in Golden Gate Park, where I heard a fine band concert.

August 3—Big day in Frisco because of parade of G.A.R. men-9000 men and many bands. Visited the Mint and saw bars of gold worth \$12000. Also saw the fine homes of the railroad kings.

August 5—Left Frisco by steamer and went down west coast to Huenema. This is a grain shipping center. Saw 8 and 10 horse teams pulling 3 wagons hooked together. Grain is in bags and is shipped like that. I found a team going to Springville and soon arrived at my Uncle Frank Christman's farm. They were overjoyed to see me and I stayed a long time. Here in S. Calif. the weather is warm and sunny day after day. Farmers often leave 5 to 6 thousand bags of wheat lie in the fields.

September 28—Started home today. Went by horse stage to Santa Barbara; then by steamer to Frisco.

October 1—Left Frisco on way eastward.

October 9—Arrived in Fleetwood 7:46 P.M. Everybody glad to see me back.

October 10—Sun. In Kramlich's church in A.M. He had communion. 151 partook of the bread and wine. In Sunday School in P.M. and Singing School in evening.

October 25—Big forest fires in the Blue Mts. County commissioners have 100 men fighting fires. Five thousand acres of woodland destroyed.

October 29—Worked for Schaeffer Wanner & Co. George B. Schaeffer is in Philadelphia. At 1:18 o'clock Walter Schaeffer lit the fire in the boiler to start off the roller mill.

November 4—Republican James Beaver elected Governor. Geo. B. Schaeffer elected sheriff of Berks Co.

November 8—Very cold. Water pipes frozen in some homes. No regular work yet. I sometimes wish I had stayed in California.

November 30—We killed one of our hogs and made sausage.

December 25—Green Xmas. Entertainment was a big success. Chapel crowded.

1887

January 2—In Sunday School in A.M. Was reelected secy. I work for Schaeffer Wanner and Co. at \$27 per month.

January 25—In Camp in evening. Later the members went to Lewis Schaffer's home and serenaded Frank Kutz, who had just married Alice Schaeffer.

February 15—Boro election day. Partial results: Justice of Peace - James Dumn, A. N. Fretz; Burgess - Isaac Merkel; Council - J. A. Koch, James Hill; School Directors - L. R. Lentz, C. F. Reifsnyder.

March 18—In Camp in evening. Hereafter Lodge will meet in hall above Melot's store (This store was at Main & Richmond). Same is true of K. of P. and Mechanics.

May 1—In Sunday School in A.M. In church in evening. Prof. Boyer of K.S.N.S. preached.

May 30—Mill ran till 5 P.M. At 5:30 P.M. parade began at Sons' Hall; proceeded to Chapel where 38 ladies representing the 38 states fell in line. All marched to St. Paul's Cemetery where speeches were made and graves decorated. Then moved to Fleetwood Cemetery for similar ceremonies. Our Camp had 40 in line. K. of P. and Mechanics 75. Also G.A.R. men.

July 1—Lewis Wanner died last year of consumption Aug. 9, when I was out West. Today they set up a \$500 monument. His body was exhumed and grave moved to the left. I saw the remains, and they were quite well preserved.

July 3—Special excursion to Gettysburg for the reunion of the Blue and the Gray.

July 13—This P.M. Frank Templin and Moses Rothermel fought a prearranged battle, which went 14 minutes before Squire Dumn stopped it. Both men well battered.

July 19—In Camp in evening. Later went to Snyder's Orchard, where Dr. Taggart held a medicine show.

September 15—Philadelphia is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Constitution. Today the Industrial and Civic parade was held - 20,000 in line. Clara Kline was down.

September 17—Made arrangements with Amanda Noll to get married in two weeks.

September 29—At usual work at mill. In evening A. Noll and I were married at Rev. Herman's residence in Kutztown. Henry Boyer was best man and Ada Bernhart, best lady.

November 11—At usual work. Today 4 anarchists were hanged in Chicago. Two were given life sentences and one committed suicide with dynamite, which he held in his mouth and lit the fuse.

December 8—Tonight a dozen Camp members went to Virginville to start a new camp there. Mayor Kinney of Reading was present.

December 18—Heavy snowfall yesterday and today. Snow is 20 in. deep.

December 24—Bought a rocker for Amanda, suspenders for dad, hose for stepmother and a silk kerchief for Clara. Rec'd gifts too.

1888

January 3—The ice men are harvesting ice 7 in. thick. At usual work.

January 16—Because of miner's strike, coal has advanced in price; pea from \$3.00 to \$3.40; chestnut and stove \$5.00 to \$5.20.

February 21—Boro election. Partial results: Burgess - I. R. Merkel; Council - J. B. Bertolet, D. F. Kelchner; School Directors - Dan Brown, Henry Schlegel.

March 4—This morning a little boy came to our house. Mother and baby well during the day. At home at Jacob Noll's place.

March 7—Baby had a hard night. He ate little and got weaker and weaker; died at 11:40 P.M. What gloom in the house!

March 14—The blizzard we had on the 12th has blocked the roads and railroads. No trains through here in 3 days. Cuts clogged and 4 and 5 ft. drifts in the highways.

March 21—Bought a stove from Levi Madeira for \$20. Our nurse Emma Paff went home to Blandon.

March 29—We moved into dad's house (now 144 W. Main). Paid \$9.60 for household goods at Melot's store.

April 4—Jacob Noll, Amanda's dad, moved out of the American house and Hunter Coleman moved in. Mr. Noll had been there 12 years.

April 26—I rec'd 2 pigs from Dan Merkel for \$10.00.

May 15—In Camp in evening. We are going to start a Camp Drum Corps.

May 29—At usual work. Martin Kelchner died and Samuel Noll, Amanda's brother.

June 10—Amanda and I and other relatives spent the day at John Schroeder's at Five Points.

July 5—Our pet cat this A.M. killed and maimed 10 chicks and had to be destroyed. His name was "Barney."

August 11—Sunday School made an excursion to Bowers Park. This time Amanda was along.

August 26—Big day for local camp meeting. 100 tents up. About 4000 to 6000 people there.

November 2—Last night the P.O.S. of A. Drum Corps was at Pleasantville with the Republican Club. Near Bernville a traction engine boiler exploded, killing 5 people.

November 7—Elections returns show Harrison and Morton victors. Paid \$7.00, October rent.

November 14—Win. Showers was hanged at Lebanon for the murder of his two grandsons. Geo. B. Schaeffer and Lewis Schaeffer were at the hanging.

November 23—We butchered a hog and made sausage. Nathaniel Keller and Ben Hoch were the butchers.

1889

January 1—I am still clerk at Schaeffer Wanner & Co. I live in father's house on West Main St. My salary is \$30 per month.

January 4—At usual work. The employees and their salaries are as follows: Head Miller, Joel Schaeffer \$40; Night Miller, M. Leinbach \$35; Engineers, Alvin Kelchner \$30, Ben Brown \$27; Stone Miller, A. W. Luckenbill \$28; Yardman, Win.

Schaeffer \$40; Yard Men, Dan Brown \$27, Win. Schlegel \$25; Clerk, C. F. Knoll \$30; Salesman, C. Bollinger \$45.

January 5—Sold 2 doz. eggs at 24 cents. We have 50 chickens. Isaac Merkel's mother died.

January 6—In Sunday School today. Had election. P. H. Gehris, Supt; Secy. Herbert Bieber, Treas. Dan Schaeffer, Organist, Mary Dumn, Librarian, C. A. Messersmith, Jr.

January 7—Rev. J. S. Herman died, aged 70 yrs. He was the Reformed pastor here for years.

January 9—A cyclone passed over Reading and wrecked a silk mill. 21 dead, all young.

January 27—In Sunday School today. A constitution was adopted, which I helped to write.

February 19—Election Day. Partial results follows: Burgess - Geo. D. Schaeffer; Council - Jacob Schlegel, Chas. Folk; School Director - E. M. Mill, Lewis Schaeffer.

March 24—Jacob Kern and I were elected as music directors under Supt. Gehris.

March 28—A fat girl baby arrived at our house with Emma Paff as nurse. Mother and child seem well.

March 29—Our baby girl became ill and died at 1:10 P.M. This is the second baby we lost.

April 13—At usual work. This evening John Noll arrived with 2 carloads of horses for James and Adam Schaeffer. This firm bought two for almost \$400.

May 12—In Sunday School in A.M. Rev. Brensinger, a young preacher, was present and addressed the school. In the evening he preached and made a good impression.

May 18—Chas. Messersmith died today, aged 43 years.

May 25—Funeral of C. Messersmith in Chapel. Five lodges represented & 150 men in line. Town crowded with people.

May 31—Heavy rain in the state. A huge dam burst above Johnstown and destroyed most of the town, killing 2500 people. Hundreds homeless.

June 27—Graduation at K.S.N.S. today. Kate Wanner, daughter of Lewis Wanner, deceased, was one of the graduates.

June 30—In church today, where Rev. Brensinger, with only two votes against him, was elected our regular pastor.

July 17—The Evangelicals are digging out cellar for their new church on lot bought from father on Washington St.

August 7—Union Missionary Society was formed today with Rev. Brensinger, pres; P. H. Gehris, V. Pres; C. F. Knoll, Secy; Win. Zechman, Corres. Secy; and Nick Wahl, Treas.

August 17—Went with St. Paul's S. School excursion to Lititz. Adult tickets 1.75; half-fare .88.

August 25—Big day for local Camp Meeting in woods above Heydts. Three special trains. 107 tents up - 5000 to 6000 people.

September 4—At usual work in A.M. In P.M. went to Reading with Amanda to see Dr. Bartholomew's Equine Paradox, 24 trained horses. There were 2072 persons in the Academy.

September 10—This was Rev. Brensinger's 25th birthday. We surprised him. Gave him a complete outfit from head to foot. We had collected \$70.

October 6—Cornerstone of Evangelical Church was laid. Evangelicals held their services in chapel P.M. and evening. Rev. Gross and Rev. Deisher preached. Collections totaled \$630.

December 23—Willie Fegley, a carpenter working on a scaffold in the belfry of the new Evang. church, was hit by a falling object and knocked from scaffold. He fell 40 feet to the first floor and lived only one hour after the fall.

December 24—Chapel Board Treasurer. Dan Melot, presented me with \$15 for playing the organ in the chapel.

December 25—Amanda and I ate Xmas dinner at father's house. In Chapel in P.M. where children got gifts. Fine and crowded entertainment in evening.

1890

January 13—No snow on the ground. At usual work. This evening R. Peter died of bronchitis. He had been church organist for years.

February 1—Sat. Today the first services were held in the new Evangelical

Church.

February 18—Election Day, Partial results: Burgess - John Maurer; Council - Amos Rothermel, James Hill; School Directors - C. F. Hill, Al Maurer; Auditor - C. F. Knoll.

March 18—Moses Folk died of typhoid pneumonia, aged 33 yrs.

March 22—Local schools closed. In evening Prof. Hancher lectured on “You and your Grand Father.”

May 6—Today the Berks County School Directors elected Win. Zechman, Supt.

May 9—Today a boy baby arrived at our house. Emma Paff is the nurse. He was later baptized George Andrew.

May 30—At usual work in A.M. In P.M. paraded with the P.O.5. of A. Drum Corps. The speakers on the cemeteries were R.G. Welder and E.D. Dengler.

July 4—Went to Topton with Camp 103 and the Drum Corps. Had a nice parade.

July 12—Went with A. W. Lucken bill and M. Leinbach to Harrisburg to see the “Last Days of Pompeii.”

July 23—In missionary society. Paid 35 cents for my birthday offering. I was 35 yrs. old, July 17.

August 9—Took family to S. School picnic in Dumn’s Grove, south of the railroad station.

September 19—Awful wreck above Shoemakersville; an express was derailed by a freight, and 22 persons were killed.

December 25—We ate Xmas dinner at father’s house. Little George received a high chair.

1891

January 1—Cold; 6 in. of snow on the ground. Good sleighing. At usual work. I get \$35 a month.

January 8—Fair and cold. Ice houses here are nearly all filled. Revival meetings in Evang. church, Rev. Snyder preacher.

February 11—Little George is all spotted with measles.

February 17—At usual work. Oscar Koller married Sallie Schaeffer, youngest daughter of Geo. D. Schaeffer, the deputy sheriff.

May 10—In Brensinger's Church in AM. In evening the old choir visited us. We did a lot of singing. Paid for ice cream 45 cents.

June 25—Commencement at K.S.N.S. There were 75 graduates.

July 16—Chapel was repainted. Brother James and I each paid \$2.00 toward the expense.

August 24—Heavy rain during the night. Our cellar is half full of water.

September 4—Brother James is on a 5-week trip to the West. Just now he is with his Uncle Frank Christman at Los Gatos, Calif.

September 20—In Sunday School in A.M. In the evening the Missionary Society celebrated their second anniversary. Rev. Gehr of Phila. and Dr. A. C. Rothermel spoke.

October 29—Clara Kline, my step sister, married Nicholas Kutz. Kramlich and Brensinger were the pastors. We took dinner at their house. There were 80 guests.

November 8—Cyrus Stoudt died of apoplexy while attending his uncle's funeral.

November 15—Sun. Cyrus Stoudt buried today. There were 69 Camp members present. Many people could not get in the church.

November 29—This morning, a little before 7 o'clock, Dan Brown went down to the engine room to check the belt. In some way his clothes got caught in the belt, and he was whirled around the shaft at 143 revolutions per minute. The engine was shut off, and when they found him he was terribly mangled, and died at 10:45 A.M.

December 3—Today Dan Brown was buried. The whole mill force was there and a great concourse of people. Rev. Brensinger and Rev. Snyder preached, and Rev. Brownmiller offered prayer.

December 9—Today the 1:00 o'clock train ran into a two-horse team at Blandon and killed the two horses and mangled the driver so badly that he died soon afterwards. He was Ammon Link.

December 18—I bought 2 doz. handkerchiefs for my German Sunday School class.

December 24—Today Allen Kelchner married Lillie Spatz. I gave him a lamp as a wedding gift.

December 25—In church in A.M. Rev. Brensinger received a gold watch from the Sunday School, Church and Missionary Society.

December 31—Due to the mild weather, many people have the grippe.

1892

January 15—At usual work at the mill. We have 8 in. of snow.

February 16—Boro election. Some results: Justice of Peace - James F. Dumn, A. W. Fretz; Burgess - Isaac Mertz; Council - John Maurer, Adam Haag, Joel Schaeffer; School Director - Geo. B. Schaeffer, Win. D. Merkel.

February 27—In chapel in the evening at Sunday School Fasnacht Festival. Had coffee and fasnachts.

April 17—Easter Sun. each of children in Sunday School got 2 eggs, one real and one chocolate.

May 9—Bought 1 dozen photos of George and his dog "Sport."

May 15—George's dog 'Sport' took sick and died.

May 20—A boy baby came to our house (later baptized James Peter).

May 21—Attended the first high school commencement ever held in Fleetwood. There were three graduates - Mamie Kline, Horace Kline and Lizzie Heydt.

June 18—Strawberry and ice cream festival in the chapel. Big success. Receipts \$53.00.

July 23—Put up a porch swing for George and Sallie Rothermel, who is here on a visit from Lebanon.

July 26—Hottest day. Fleetwood 99 degrees, Reading 100 degrees.

August 11—Pawnee Bill Wild West show in Reading. John Noll and Simon Hinkle went down.

October 6—Eugene Merkel, 6 year old son of Oscar Merkel, strangled himself by accident at window sash. Found dead by his father.

October 27—Contractor J. G. Yarnell began digging trenches for the Fleetwood

Water Co.

November 9—Cleveland elected President.

December 25—In church in A.M. In Sunday School in P.M. My class gave me a nice useful chamber set. I gave them each a cup and saucer.

**Diaries missing from 1893 - 1894 - 1895 - 1896.
Charles F. Knoll was born December 31, 1894.**

1897

July 2—I weigh 115 lbs. and am still holding my own, but I do a lot of coughing and spitting.

July 17—My 42nd birthday. A coal car loaded with pea coal broke through the trestle in Wanner & Schaeffer's siding and John Noll had to jump for his life. He hurt his leg badly.

July 31—Joint excursion of 2 Sunday Schools to Carsonia Park. There were 13 cars.

August 26—Took whole family to Reading to see the P.O.S. of A. parade. There were 9500 men in line.

October 9—Henry Boyer picked 2 more bushels of our Grouser apples, making 12 bushels in all.

December 25—We had a nice tree and a chicken for dinner. Boys rec'd story and picture books from parents and each got a book from Sunday School. Amanda got a beautiful Astrakhan from my father, toward which I paid \$5.00.

1898

July 1—I still work at the mill but my cough is getting worse. I weigh only 109 lbs.

July 3—Very hot—100 degrees in shade.

July 11—Today 2 sheds belonging to Ben Hubert and Dan Koch burned to the ground.

July 28—Samuel Hoch died today of cancer.

July 30—I weigh only 105 lbs. I have night sweats and do much coughing and spitting, all symptoms of the last stages of consumption.

August 6—The whole family went with the Sunday School excursion to Laury's Park above Allentown. I went along for the children's sake.

October 31—Stopped my usual work tonight and reported sick to the lodges.

November 13—Hettie Wanner sent me a meal with all the fixings. I have very many visitors.

December 24—Brother James came with a whole lard can full of fruit and toys for the boys. They were well pleased. They also got gifts from 2 Sunday Schools.

1899

January 1—There is much snow and sleighing is good. I suffer from consumption and dropsy.

January 8—This is Rev. Brensinger's quarterly pay day in church. He was here at the house and prayed with us. I gave \$1.00 (This was my dad's last entry in his diary. He died 8 days later, January 17).

James P. Knoll