

The following is an excerpt from the diary of Lizzie Dorsey. We are fortunate to have part of her diary from 1861 to 1863. Life in Milford at Christmas time during the early days of the Civil War was certainly different one hundred and fifty years ago!

Sunday Dec. 22, 1861 - Went to the M.E. church this morning. Mr. England rec'd members into full membership. There was a good many soldiers present. They belong to the 3rd Delaware Regiment. A hard looking set with no manners. Last evening they went up to Mr. Hallett's and attacked him when he fired upon them and they returned the fire. It caused much excitement. Charlie Eccleston is their Lieutenant, but they do not care for him. They board at Mr. Shockley's. Mr. Satterfield would not have them. Went up to Sabbath School. None of my class were present. A part was in Philadelphia, the other in the Neck. I taught a class of small boys. Went over to the Presbyterian church. Mr. Hall escorted me over. In the evening went to the M.E. Church with Henrietta S. Mr. England gave an invitation to all the members of the church to go to the altar to be prayed for. It rained after evening service. Mr. Wallace has shot his dogs.

Monday Dec. 23rd - Cool. Rained all day and part of the evening. Been braiding a pair of slippers. Had company in the evening. Practiced and returned after.

Tuesday 24th - Been making cake all the morning as tomorrow is Christmas Day. The children anticipate fine times. As for myself I do not. It seems as if I am never to have any more real pleasure. I cannot be happy whilst home is so unpleasant. Company in the evening. Mother went out this evening to get things for the childrens' stockings. They went to bed early.

CHRISTMAS DAY, Dec. 25th - Fine day. Everyone seemed merry today. My slumbers were last night disturbed by cries of persons fighting down at the Hotel. We ascertain that it was the soldiers fighting with some of our citizens. They whipped the soldiers. Our steps were taken away. I came down early and caught Mr. Trudler's Christmas Gift. He had been waiting most an hour to catch me. He presented me with a large candy peach. Mr. Tharp came in after breakfast. We treated him. He gave us each a bottle of perfumery. I looked at my other present this morning that he gave me a week ago. It was a gold bee to fasten work with. I presented him with a pair of slippers braided with gold and blue. We made custard cream and apple toddy. It was excellent. We also had wine and cordials in abundance. Uncle Foulk came down and escorted Hennie & I up to dinner. We went. Messrs. Brown, Matthews, Reed, Foulk and Sherwood were there. We had an excellent dinner. In the afternoon and evening we were favored with a visit from all of our young gentlemen acquaintances. I spent an unusual pleasant day. A Merry Christmas to me.

Friday Dec 27th - Cold. spent the day home. Mr. Brewer called for me to go to church to practice. Mag and Liz came with him. After I got done giving a lesson I went up. The Melodean was all out of order. Mr. B. could not get it fixed. He is going up tomorrow to fix it. I went up to class with M.J.H. After class I returned home, found Emma Collins and Miss Koler here. Henrietta Smoot brought up some champagne cider which was very nice. We had a fine time eating cake and wine. They staid until after ten when Eldridge Yardley came after them. We carried the candle out for them to see how to get up in the carriage and whilst they had it in their hands, the horses started off taking the light with them. They drove down the street laughing.