2009

Life on the South Side of Chambersburg Street, 1910

Rachel A. Santose
Gettysburg College

Sierra Green
Gettysburg College
Class of 2011

Follow this and additional works at: https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ghj

Part of the American Studies Commons, and the Social History Commons

Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.

Santose, Rachel A. and Green, Sierra (2009) "Life on the South Side of Chambersburg Street, 1910," The Gettysburg Historical Journal: Vol. 8, Article 8. Available at: https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ghj/vol8/iss1/8

This open access article is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact cupola@gettysburg.edu.
Life on the South Side of Chambersburg Street, 1910

Abstract
The people of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania heralded in the year of 1911 and reflected on their accomplishments throughout the past year. With "pealing bells, tooting whistles and noisy revolvers...in a more vigorous way than has been witnessed here for many years," this New Year's Eve celebration recognized the past year as it welcomed the new year to come. The entire town took part and its faculties were utilized in the festivities of the night, including "the Court House bell and those of the St. James and College Lutheran churches...engines added their quota of noise and all over town men brought into use guns and revolvers." The year of 1910 was a noteworthy year for the town and larger county. The citizens "witnessed the erection of a large number of handsome homes, a sure sign of prosperity." Business firms developed and the county saw an outstanding apple crop and tourist season. In general, the year of 1910 was proudly characterized and recorded by Gettysburg's constituents as a great place to call home.

Keywords
1910, Gettysburg, Chambersburg Street
Life on the South Side of Chambersburg Street, 1910

RACHEL A. SANTOSE and SIERRA GREEN
Gettysburg College

The people of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania heralded in the year of 1911 and reflected on their accomplishments throughout the past year. With “pealing bells, tooting whistles and noisy revolvers … in a more vigorous way than has been witnessed here for many years,” this New Year’s Eve celebration recognized the past year as it welcomed the new year to come.1 The entire town took part and its faculties were utilized in the festivities of the night, including “the Court House bell and those of the St. James and College Lutheran churches … engines added their quota of noise and all over town men brought into use guns and revolvers.”2 The year of 1910 was a noteworthy year for the town and larger county. The citizens “witnessed the erection of a large number of handsome homes, a sure sign of prosperity.”3 Business firms developed and the county saw an outstanding apple crop and tourist season.4 In general, the year of 1910 was proudly characterized and recorded by Gettysburg’s constituents as a great place to call home.

All aspects of life in Gettysburg saw growth and change throughout 1910. The Town Council concerned itself with solving town controversies as they arose. The coasting and curb market, more commonly known as street vendors, asked the Town Council for assistance in the maintenance of an official marketplace. The Burgess of the Council, James Allen Holtzworth,

1 “Noisy Greeting New Year’s Eve: Ringing Bells, Tooting Whistles and Other Forms of Noise Used to Send out the Old Year and to Welcome the New,” Adams County News, 7 January 1911, p.3.
2 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
vetoed their request, “for the reason that coasting lasts only a few weeks in the year . . . I rather think they should be given police protection.”

Eventually passing over Burgess Holtzworth’s veto, the coasting and curbing market received legitimacy and another town matter was put to rest.

Other problems that arose in the town included a mad dog scare that lasted throughout the year, but, more importantly, the town was invaded by “hobos.” This “invasion” occupied much of the town’s attention and was discussed continuously in the 1910 newspapers. Many terms were used to identify the “hobos” including “tramps,” “knights of the road,” “the traveling fraternity,” and “the road tourists.” The problem escalated in November 1910, as identified in this statement: “Gettysburg people, especially those living on the outskirts of town, are complaining vigorously of a large number of tramps who have been visiting them and begging food and clothing during the past week or two.” The town took many measures to uphold its reputation as a respectable metropolis by policing and informing the homeless population that the town would only offer bread and water as a diet for those passing through. The preceding example illustrates that the citizens of Gettysburg were concerned with the well being of their town and actively took steps to preserve the town’s reputation.

Not only did Gettysburg citizens concern themselves with perceptions about the town’s good name, they were also interested in the inner workings of their local government. The 1910 election was extremely important to the town, as “Over eight hundred votes were polled in Gettysburg at Tuesday’s election, showing the unusual amount of interest which the contest for

---

6 Ibid.
8 Ibid.
the various borough offices had aroused” (see Appendix A).\textsuperscript{9} The election of candidates was especially interesting throughout this particular winter because the victorious contenders captured a slim majority of the town’s votes. So slim was this majority that the outcomes awarded victory to many candidates by solely three or four votes.\textsuperscript{10} Due to an amendment of the state constitution, the 1910 winter election was the first in 100 years where no county officials were elected. The amendment was adopted in 1909 and provided for “the election of state officers in even numbered years and judges and county officers in numbered [odd] years.”\textsuperscript{11} Politics were seen as a proactive way for ensuring the town’s prosperous growth and development.

The community’s concern for development extended from the state ballot box to the local office of the president of Pennsylvania College, the town’s institution for higher education. In the early summer of 1910, the current president of the College, Samuel G. Hefelbower, stepped down after six years of service. Dr. William A. Granville was chosen as his successor and assumed his role as the seventh College president, being the first non-ordained Lutheran minister to hold this office, in October of 1910.\textsuperscript{12} The inauguration ceremony held in honor of President Granville’s election “eclipsed all other functions of that institution covering its entire history.”\textsuperscript{13} In addition, numerous celebratory functions took place. A concert was held on October 20\textsuperscript{th} in Brua Chapel on the campus of Pennsylvania College “by the College Glee Club, assisted by the Harrisburg Orchestra. The program of music was enjoyed by a large audience of about 500


\textsuperscript{10} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{11} “First Time in Hundred Years: Tuesday’s Election the First in a Century at which no County Officials were Elected. Due to Constitutional Amendments,” \textit{Gettysburg Times}, 9 November 1910, p.1.


\textsuperscript{13} “Great Day for College – Induction WM. A. Granville, Ph.D. into Office: Arrangements were Perfect and the Entire Ceremony Struck a Great Note,” \textit{Gettysburg Compiler}, 26 October 1910, p.1.
people.” A large crowd gathered the following morning to participate in a parade continuing the celebration of the election. The parade featured faculty dressed in their traditional academic attire and “Fully six hundred persons were in the procession and from twelve to fifteen hundred people gathered in the huge tent to witness the interesting event.” At this moment, Dr. Granville decided to address the issue concerning the naming of the academic institution. He made the executive decision to maintain the official title of Pennsylvania College, noting that “a great battle does not justify tampering with name” and that “the battle wrought nothing for this institution, it did not bring to every other institution in the land.” Granville believed in honoring the traditional name while also proclaiming Gettysburg the institution’s home. Citizens of Gettysburg were hopeful that the new leader would further contribute to the development of the ties between the town and college, and believed celebration would strengthen their bond of friendship in their joint venture to continue the town’s dedication to intelligence and prosperity. The town’s avid interest in embracing the new Pennsylvania College president was evident through publication of the schedule of events, gracing the entire front page of the Gettysburg Compiler, in order to welcome the new leader of academia.

While history was being created as Dr. Granville assumed his role as the first lay president of Pennsylvania College, history was also being honored in a very concrete way through the construction and dedication of the Pennsylvania monument on the Gettysburg battlefield. Due to the fact that the monument’s dedication was planned for the twenty-seventh of September, its construction was rushed to ensure the scheduled unveiling. Veterans of the battle were invited to attend the dedication ceremony, and the town even offered free transportation to further convey their respect for the sacrifices of the men in blue, knowing the

14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
importance of keeping the memory of the turning point of the Civil War alive in the nation’s memory. The Gettysburg Compiler noted that “over three thousand applications for transportation have been received for the Commission. It is believed that nearly every survivor will be accompanied by a member of his family . . . It is said that the transportation arrangements will permit several days stay here and the crowds are expected to begin to arrive as early as Saturday, Sept. 24 and will be here until after the dedication on Sept. 27.” \(^{17}\) Citizens of Gettysburg looked forward to this dedication. They understood that the nation would be watching and would value the town’s continuous commitment to the preservation of history. \(^{18}\)

Among these notable events were also a few smaller occurrences of no less significance chronicled in 1910 Gettysburg newspapers. A minor labor law passed by the 1909 Pennsylvania legislature went into effect in January of 1910 and prohibited “the employment of anyone under 14 years in industrial establishments or coal mines in the States, and provide that persons between 14 and 16 may be employed only when they are provided with certificates setting forth their age and the fact that they can read and write English intelligently.” \(^{19}\) The civilians of Gettysburg were concerned with the well-being of their youth and wanted to make sure their labor was not exploited.

Participating as a member of a club or organization was a common aspect of Gettysburg life, and newspapers frequently noted their important meetings. The town formed various fraternal orders, including the Elks and the Odd Fellows, and women also had opportunities to take part in their own societies, including the Daughters of the American Revolution. \(^{20}\) There was an “annual supper given by the Gettysburg Chapter Daughters of the American

\(^{17}\) “Pennsylvania Monument,” Gettysburg Compiler, 17 August 1910, p.1.
\(^{18}\) Ibid.
Revolution.”21 This was held on February 22nd, serving as another reminder of the town’s affectionate affiliation with the past.

The College clubs often provided entertainment for the town. The numerous clubs of musical talent joined on the 16th of March and gave a concert in Brua Chapel on the Pennsylvania College campus. Their passion for music was so rich that they felt the need to share it throughout the state, “they were absent about ten days and gave concerts at Mechanicsburg, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Reading, Ambler, Philadelphia, Columbia and York.”22 The college was establishing a reputation throughout the state of Pennsylvania and bringing honor to the town of Gettysburg through their tours.

Three days later, the newspapers reported an altercation between two College organizations. The peaceful music that reverberated off the walls of Pennsylvania College’s Brua Chapel failed to penetrate the disgruntled hearts of the college’s male population. On the eve of the freshman feast, sophomores kidnapped a good portion of the freshman class and kept them from enjoying the coming festivities. From that day forward, the freshman and sophomore classes despised one another and the freshman sought retaliation and vindication. The first-year men organized and formulated a scheme, and their night of revenge finally came. “Word spread that the second year men were preparing for their banquet and at once the Freshmen gathered in front of the Hotel Gettysburg where it was found the dinner was to be served.”23 What resulted was a fight to the finish, and “Blood flowed freely, noses were battered, one man knocked unconscious and many others were badly bruised . . . on Chambersburg street shortly after nine o’clock Monday night.”24 The sophomores battled through the ranks of freshmen to reach the

---

24 Ibid.
fortified walls of the Hotel Gettysburg on Chambersburg Street. Seventeen of these second-year students were captured by the younger enemy corps, and “were either lying in the middle of the road, held to the dusty street by several excited opponents or fighting in vain to regain their freedom.”25 Again, a battle was witnessed by the town of Gettysburg; however, this skirmish was deemed an interesting and entertaining occurrence for those who observed, and resulted in only minor casualties.

This bloody brawl was witnessed on Chambersburg Street, but such behavior in this part of town was uncommon, and life here typically reflected the standard morals of Gettysburg as a whole. The town was committed to the promotion of an excellent reputation and Chambersburg Street was a symbolic representation of this sentiment to citizens and tourists alike. Businesses along the south side of Chambersburg Street helped to further develop and expand this flourishing atmosphere. Complimenting smaller businesses such as the grocer D. J. Swartz and dry cleaner Rufus H. Bushman that were no less dedicated to serving the people of Gettysburg, were a number of long-established familial businesses that catered to various desires and needs at the Borough’s request.26

Serving as the epicenter of financial activity in the town, the First National Bank of Gettysburg has evolved throughout local history into a profitable organization. It first provided for the community under the name Farmers’ and Mechanics’ Savings Institution of Adams County, until the influence of George Throne. Throne was president of this institution and was responsible for its transition into the First National Bank of Gettysburg in 1857.27 Throne died in 1901, at the age of 91 years, and was succeeded by his son-in-law, David G. Minter. Minter

27 “The First National Bank of Gettysburg,” Subject File Index Card, ACHS.
held the Bank’s presidency until 1911 and it was under his office that the present First National Bank building was constructed. On July 22nd, 1908, the First National Bank of Gettysburg was relocated to its new building on the Gettysburg Square, nestled on the southern side of Chambersburg Street. Made of “granite and terra cotta,” the new Bank building, constructed under the guidance of architect Herman Miller, “will be a handsome one and a credit to Gettysburg.” As illustrated on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the building was “constructed of steel and brick and is of fire proof construction, except for minor defects.”

Although there were a few notable flaws in the fire-proofing of the Bank, there were no signs of flawed policy concerning the Bank’s business transactions. As described in an advertisement published in the Gettysburg Compiler, the First National Bank of Gettysburg on the Center Square was growing rapidly. The total business in the spring of 1899 reached $838,303.27 and in 1909, climbed to $1,268,925.47. This is a reflection of not only the Bank’s surplus wealth, but also of the town’s overall economic growth. Due to these impressively increasing figures, another advertisement appeared towards the close of 1910 that proclaimed, “Here’s a record for you of the hundreds of National Banks in the country . . . The First National Bank of Gettysburg stands 79th in this State on this roll of honor . . . [with] Profits of $146,874.59.” The Bank was interested in providing for the economic well-being of the populace and also allowed them to enrich their lives accordingly by providing a place for them to hold meetings or establish business. Fraternal organizations, as well as businesses, such as a

---

31 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1912, ACHS.
33 “Here’s A Record For You,” Gettysburg Compiler, 6 December 1910, p.3.
tailor shop owned by a town entrepreneur by the name of J. W. Brehm and Culp’s Restaurant, “The place to get a lunch in a hurry,” were permitted to utilize specific spaces on the second story and basement of the First National Bank building. This Bank served as a hub of economic and social activity and it would go on to become the present Adams County National Bank.

The First National Bank of Gettysburg was a beacon of ambition for success in business and just down the street, a fellow by the name of William H. Tipton continuously fueled his own drive for artistic and financial fulfillment. From boyhood, Tipton was apprenticed to the Tyson brothers, who had a photo shop on York Street. The highlight of his successful apprenticeship culminated with his 1863 photograph of President Abraham Lincoln, taken on the weekend of the President’s dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery. In 1902, 39 years later, this treasured glass plated photograph was accidentally shattered on Chambersburg Street while moving the studio’s location. “Its loss grieved Mr. Tipton deeply, as very few pictures of the martyred president were taken upon the occasion of his visit to Gettysburg.” Despite this unfortunate occurrence, Tipton excelled in the visual documentation of the past and contributed to Gettysburg’s ongoing task of preserving history. Tipton was aware of his talents in the field of photography and was characterized as “a shrewd businessman and took advantage of the growing commercialization of the battlefield.” One of Tipton’s main business endeavors was the capturing on film of tourists posing at Devil’s Den (see Appendix B). For over 40 years, he was employed by Pennsylvania College as their yearbook photographer. “When the first

Spectrum was published in 1892 it carried group pictures by Tipton, and his work can be identified in succeeding editions until his death in 1929. Tipton not only had a professional connection to the Spectrum, but also familial ties. His daughter Beulah became the first female student to matriculate at Pennsylvania College in 1888.

He not only made his living by photographing the Pennsylvania College students but he also utilized the Spectrum to promote his business through advertisements. According to one of them, “Boss” Tipton declared himself as “The Leader in Photo Fashions,” having “The Latest and Swellest Styles” and offering “Artistic Framing, Any Size Made to Order” at his “Modern Studio,” occupying “20 and 22 Chambersburg Street.” Newspapers featured numerous advertisements for Tipton’s business in 1910, one of which appealed to the public of Gettysburg that his store on the southern side of Chambersburg Street would cater to consumers’ preferences. Tipton was aware that “Some people prefer one style of photo, some another. We aim to please . . . for your approval all the popular style of photos in vogue in the largest cities to-day.” William H. Tipton’s passion for photography brought to the town of Gettysburg not only a business on the southern side of Chambersburg Street, but also another outlet to preserve a nation and its inhabitants for posterity’s sake, and this passion contributed to the further development of the town (see Appendix C).

Tipton was dedicated to capturing individuals as they experienced life, but none of his photographs show the twinkle of a toothy smile. Their teeth, however, were not neglected a few storefronts away at Dr. James M. Hill’s dentist office on 42 Chambersburg Street. Growing up witnessing his father’s choice of profession, James “followed in his father’s footsteps, graduating

38 Moyer, p.31.
40 “Tipton: The Leader in Photo Fashions,” 1910 Spectrum, p. VII, ACHS.
41 “Some People Prefer. . .,” Gettysburg Times, 4 April 1910, p.2.
from the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, and shared office space in the family home with his father.\footnote{“Dr. James McC[lean] Hill, 70, Dies Suddenly at His Home, Monday Evening,” Gettysburg Compiler, 22 April 1922, found in “Hill, James Dr. (Son of Dr. J. L. Hill)” Vertical File, ACHS.} Continuing the family business after his father’s 1903 death, Dr. Hill practiced his dentistry from the comfort of home and took pride in comforting his patients. In an advertisement featured in the “Professional Cards” section of Gettysburg’s \textit{Star and Sentinel}, Dr. Hill, while characterizing himself as the “Successor to J. L. Hill & Son Dentists,” also advertised his generous offering of the most up to date dental procedures at convenient prices. He offered “$15.00 sets of Teeth at $8.00 cash. Every one guaranteed. Positively no more of that kind at the price when these are gone.”\footnote{“Jas. M. Hill, D. D. S.,” \textit{Star and Sentinel}, 23 November 1910, p.1.} Upon reviewing Dr. Hill’s dental diary, one can infer that he was either not very busy or simply not diligent in his recording of patients. It is possible that the practice of dentistry was a longer process than today and this determined the number of patients he could see in the course of a day.\footnote{\textit{Dentist’s Diary}, (New York: Lehn and Fink, 1917), as used by Dr. James M. Hill.} More than just a book to keep records, this diary also referenced the treatment of various dental ailments, such as “Time for Anesthetics” and “Approximate Periods of Dentition. First Teeth.”\footnote{Ibid.} Finally, the diary included commentaries describing the honorable profession of dentistry. One such commentary reflected that “Dentistry is a profession; it is a business. When your rent comes due, or you want a new set of antiseptic furniture, so as to better impress your clientele, you have to draw the check yourself. Live your life, do your work, be true to your patients, and you will have the self-respect that makes you a factor for good in the Dental Society.”\footnote{A quote by Elbert Hubbard in \textit{Dentist’s Diary}, (New York: Lehn and Fink, 1917), as used by Dr. James M. Hill.}

The same levels of commitment that were present in these two long-established businesses permeated through the businesses located on the south side of Chambersburg Street. Landau’s Drug Store was one of these locally owned businesses that prided itself in providing
solutions to the town’s problems. Landau’s specialized in supplying citizens of Chambersburg Street with modern remedies for their varying ailments (see Appendix D). An advertisement in the Gettysburg Times proclaimed that the establishment, “Opposite the Eagle Hotel,” would be offering a “Special Sale” of “All Leading Brands of 25c[ents] Cough Syrup at 18c[ents].”

Also found on the shelves of drug stores throughout the town was the herbal remedy “Root Juice” that captured the town’s attention for its curative qualities. Newspapers explained that “Root Juice makes so many remar[k]able cures by removing a few causes and giving nature a chance. It tones and heals the stomach bowels, liver and kidneys; it creates a healthy appetite, and . . . is made to nourish every weak part of the body.”

Although the conclusion of each newspaper article directed Gettysburg constituents to the People’s Drug Store in order to obtain this juice, it is safe to assume that H. C. Landau would have the desire to provide this cure-all because of its widespread popularity and his concern for the town’s well-being.

Right next door, on the corner of the south side of Chambersburg Street and South Washington Street, was situated another business that provided citizens with an indulgent product. Samuel Faber, an 84 year old manufacturer of cigars, served as the patron of the family’s cigar store, and paved the way for his sons, George and Edgar, to sustain the family craft. This family custom is evident not only in Samuel Faber’s sons and their interests, but also spans another generation. It was noted in the 1915 College Spectrum that Fred Faber, son of Edgar Faber, utilized a good portion of his time in class “selling cigars to his dad’s patrons.”

Although still actively involved in manufacturing, Samuel was in the process of turning over his business to the younger generations of his family in 1910. The cigar business all over

---

48 “Good Results and Good Work Continues Root Juice Has Proved Its Great Merit to Many,” Gettysburg Times, 3 January 1910, p.4.
49 1915 Spectrum, p.74.
Pennsylvania at this time was a developing and expanding practice that became competitive with other cigar manufacturers. Pennsylvania cigars proved to be “in front and next to Key West cigars,” considered “the best in the world.”[^1] In the content of this article it was also noted that more manufacturers would be needed and valued due to the increased popularity of this indulgence. The 1910 newspapers observed that “Never before in the history of the cigar business in this locality has there been a more urgent demand for hands than at the present time.” To meet this demand, the Fabers diligently continued in their tradition of wrapping “their cigars in Havana leaves and binders (the tobacco that filled the Havana tube), from wholesalers in York and Hanover.”[^2] This cigar store was devoted to consumer product excellence and also offered the men of the town a place to meet and socialize.

While the businesses on the south side of Chambersburg Street supplied their various services to fulfill the town’s material needs, Christ Lutheran Church devoted itself to the spiritual upkeep of the community. Founded in 1836, Christ Lutheran Church was organized as an English Evangelical Lutheran congregation. Early in the Church’s history, its management had a difficult time finding a reliable pastor. As a solution to this struggle, the congregation decided that the professors of the College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg should carry on the work of preaching.[^3] “In the early years, the church was known simply as the College Church because of its close ties with that institution.”[^4] Although Henry Anstadt was serving as pastor in 1910 to Christ Lutheran Church, the College still frequently addressed the church-goers.[^5] In December, the president of Pennsylvania College, Dr. Granville, gave an

[^2]: “Glimpses,” 1 August 1981, “Faber” Vertical File, ACHS.
[^3]: “A Bit of History about Your Own Adams County,” *Gettysburg Times*, 20 August 1952, “Christ Lutheran Church” Vertical File, ACHS.
[^5]: Heather King, telephone interview by authors, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, December 7, 2008.
impromptu address at the church’s annual Christmas Choral Concert. He spoke generally of college education and asked the congregation “Did you ever hear the boy say it didn’t do him any good? Did you ever hear the parents say it didn’t do the boy any good?” Immediately following these rhetorical questions, a tiny two year old girl by the name of Maryland Couse, fired up with the anticipation of the mystery surrounding Christmas night, “piped out ‘No’ and the little one’s reply brought down the house.”56 Christ Lutheran Church, located on the south side of Chambersburg Street, continues today as a center of faith in the Borough of Gettysburg (see Appendix E). The influence of the church continues as strong today as it did in 1910. Although the congregation has undoubtedly expanded, its members continue to use the original building. Since 1836, Christ Lutheran Church has dedicated itself to the expansion of the Lutheran religion and continues to serve as an example in the “lives of our neighbors, so that they too might be refreshed and renewed.”57

Businesses were established throughout the streets of Gettysburg and undoubtedly contributed to the character of the place, but the vivacity of the town is really attributed to the families who occupied and inhabited Gettysburg. The residents on the south side of Chambersburg Street reflected the general sentiment of the community: working together and promoting the ideals of neighborly love and concerned connectivity. Twenty-six families cohabited in this area of Gettysburg, most living common lives and going about their business respectfully as conscientious neighbors. Interestingly, there is very little information about the lives of these citizens documented in the 1910 newspaper chronicles, no doubt because the citizens achieved their goals regarding neighborly respect. This situation in no way reflects their

quality of life or the importance of their existence, but rather suggests that the citizens faithfully upheld the moral standards of their hometown.

In contrast, the Garlachs, living in the wooden and brick constructed building at 56 Chambersburg Street, represented one family that did not escape the pages of the 1910 Gettysburg newspapers. The head of household, William J. Garlach, earned his living as a funeral director and the owner of a funeral home. Throughout his career, William felt compassion for the dead while also concerning himself with the living and “was held in high esteem by a wide circle of friends in Gettysburg and the county, whose admiration he won with his kindly bearing, his gentlemanly character and congenial traits.” The women of the family concerned themselves with serving the public. Sarah Garlach, William’s wife, was the proprietor of her own bakery and their daughter Elsie was a public school teacher. In the midst of teaching Gettysburg’s youth, Elsie also continued to pursue her own higher education. “Miss Elsie Garlach was given the degree of AM [Master of Arts] by Gettysburg College at the recent commencement.” Unfortunately for Miss Garlach, this ceremony did not fully honor her efforts in academia, “Her name being in some unaccountable way omitted from the list of those receiving this degree.” Elsie’s elder brother Henry also claimed his space in the town’s newspapers. Contrasting Elsie’s success and matriculation, Henry, a substitute mail carrier for the city and an undertaker for his father, committed deeds deemed less than morally sound. Almost every family, at some point in time, must endure an irresponsible family member who tends to partake in poor life decisions. Henry was one such individual, for he, in the case of

61 “Personally Conducted Along the Time of Individual Happenings; Comings and Goings, Social Events and Other Items of Interests,” Gettysburg Compiler, 20 July 1910, p.1.
62 Ibid.
“Com. [Commonwealth] vs. Henry Garlach,” was “charged with fornication and bastardy [sic] on information of Blanch Dick.”64 Despite this setback, the Garlach family maintained a close relationship with the town and they did their best to uphold the standards of Gettysburg.

The brick building owned by the Hill family on the south side of Chambersburg Street housed not only their dental practice, but also their dwelling place. Sarah Hill served as the head of household because her husband John Hill passed away in 1903.65 Sarah was described in her obituary as “a devoted wife and mother,” as well as “a blessing to her loved ones.”66 One can infer that Sarah served as disciplinarian in the Hill household and continued to scold her children after they moved away. In a letter to her daughter Lillie, Sarah was “so anxious to know what is wrong again, why in the world don’t you try to take care of your self do not stamp around in your bare feet.”67 Sarah’s discipline shaped her children into well behaved adults.

As previously mentioned, James McClean Hill became a successful dentist and John Lawrence Hill, James’s elder brother, also soared to respectable heights in the community. He “studied law with Robert McCreary and was admitted to the Adams County Bar in 1876,” eventually playing “an active role in Republican politics.”68 His talent in law led to his commission as Justice of the Peace in 1881. Justice Hill “became known to thousands of persons, and established an enviable reputation for fairness in handling cases brought before him.”69

---

65 1910 United States Federal Census, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Ward 2; “Hill Family” Vertical File, ACHS.
66 “Miss Sarah Margaretta Hill,” Gettysburg Compiler, 9 April 1913, “Hill Family” Vertical File, ACHS.
67 Sarah Hill, letter to daughter Lillie, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, October 13, 1895, “Hill Family” Vertical File, ACHS.
68 Found in “Hill, John Lawrence, son of Dr. J. L. Hill” Vertical File, ACHS.
69 “J. L. Hill, 77, Veteran, Member of the County Bar, Dies at Local Hospital,” Gettysburg Compiler, 23 March 1929, “Hill, John Lawrence, son of Dr. J. L. Hill” Vertical File, ACHS.
The third and final Hill son, Harry H. Hill, better known to people of Gettysburg in 1910 as “Hal,” was employed at the “old Fahnestock store on Baltimore and Middle streets for many years.”

Outside of work, Hal often indulged in his hobby of sketching and drawing. His book of sketches has found a new home at the Adams County Historical Society where people today can still enjoy his artwork. Being only a year apart, Hal was very close to his younger sister, Mary Louise, to whom the family often referred to as “Lulu.” Though Hal and Lulu were both single, they attended various social functions together and were invited to charity balls and galas. The Hill family of Chambersburg Street was one of the most prosperous of the town, and felt such a deep connection to history that they dedicated an entire room filled with their belongings to the Adams County Historical Society, which can be viewed upon appointment.

The Hill household was a bustling place and the Mickley residence was no less exciting. John A. Mickley, the head of the family, was a worker and commercial salesman at a dry goods store in town. John and his wife Clara were very popular and were invited to surprise birthday parties, including one thrown for J. Calvin Lady’s 37th birthday. Although this family often took part in celebrations of life such as these, a terrible event struck this brick-faced household in August of 1910. Myrtle Mickley, wife of the 28 year old Guy Mickley, died tragically on August 24, 1910. Myrtle, aged 29 years, died as a result of childbirth complications in the evening at the Mickley home on Chambersburg Street. Although her death was very unexpected and undoubtedly a sorrowful event, especially for her two young boys, John and William, the

70 “Harry H. Hill,” Gettysburg Compiler, 1 August 1925, “Hill, Harry, Son of Dr. J. L. Hill” Vertical File, ACHS.
71 “Hill, Harry, Son of Dr. J. L. Hill” Vertical File, ACHS; Harry H. Hill, Personal Compilation of Sketches, Hill Room, ACHS.
familial atmosphere provided a solid foundation of support and her two boys continued to have a strong and loving family to lean upon while growing up.

The Weisers of the wooden dwelling at 146 Chambersburg Street were another family that contributed to the activity on the south side of the street. Samuel Weiser was the patriarch of this family and was involved in different aspects of town life. Samuel’s career often kept him apart from his family, for he was employed as a “passenger conductor on the Reading [rail lines].” Despite his time away, Samuel was a devoted father and husband, and made sure he spent time with his family and contributed to the betterment of the town in various ways. Samuel belonged to the Gettysburg Elks, which was a fraternal organization that provided for the town and also staged activities for the male population. When the Elks scheduled a baseball game against a rival Elks organization from Harrisburg, Samuel Weiser participated along with other members of the town and he took his position “Lower in the field [outfield position].” In addition to his active Elks club membership, Mr. Wiser was also a lifelong supporter of the Republican Party, eventually serving on the county GOP executive committee, as well as a member of the Adams County Historical Society. Just like her husband, Nettie Weiser became involved with the Corporal Skelly Post Relief Corps and even rose to a leadership position along with her friend and neighbor Mrs. Mary Tipton. While his parents served the town, 8 year old Donald Weiser concerned himself with his third grade education. Attending the Meade School, Donald was a pupil of Miss Rosa Scott and attended class with Maybelle Weaver, another young girl living on the south side of Chambersburg Street. Donald’s schooling supplemented the

77 “Former Conductor,” p.6.
education he received from his parents, which emphasized the importance of family and the use of God-given talents for the betterment of society.

Families on the south side of Chambersburg Street were not only dedicated to enhancing the quality of Gettysburg life. The Shealers, inhabiting the stone house at 118 Chambersburg Street, are an example of a local family interested in serving the town as well as enforcing its laws and policies. George, the authority figure of the Shealer family, ran his own livery stable to provide for his family. The livery profession in 1910 was responsible for the wagon transportation associated with battlefield tours. Townspeople could also use livery services if they were in need of larger means of transportation. For example, the Shealer livery stables offered their services to the annual McLhenny-King family reunion, transporting them from Gettysburg to Hunterstown, Pennsylvania. George’s eldest son John also supported his family through his butchering business located conveniently on the south side of Chambersburg Street. Unfortunately, in late April of 1910, a nighttime fire consumed Tawney’s, a fellow neighbor’s, plot of land where John rented property to house his butcher shop. As noted in the Gettysburg Compiler, “The spread of flames was so rapid, however, that nothing could be done to save the building or its contents.” John’s butchering business was completely destroyed and his losses amounted to “$500 with $250 insurance.” Even though John was set back monetarily by the loss of his trade, he kept busy with his appointment as a town constable. The duties of this law enforcement position gave John the opportunity to work with Justice J. L. Hill, and enabled his assistance and testimony in many cases including the “Commonwealth against John Woodward charged . . . with assault and battery,” and his involvement in the arrest of John Cromer, charged

82 Ibid.
with thievery after he stole goods belonging to George Stover of Cumberland township. The Shealer family’s commitment to town service and security enabled the citizens of Gettysburg to sleep soundly knowing that their streets were active during the day and safe throughout the night.

In 1910, the Holtzworth family of 124 Chambersburg Street was known as one of the oldest families of Gettysburg. Included in this household, led by Mr. Charles Holtzworth, was a youthful resident by the name of Virginia Ramer. Niece of Mr. and Mrs. Holtzworth, four year old Virginia was an integral member of the family. The reason for Virginia’s stay at her aunt and uncle’s residence was primarily due to the untimely death of her mother in 1905. Her mother, Annie Ramer, “fell while at work in the kitchen and attending complications led up to death.” Virginia’s six year old brother Paul was also displaced at his mother’s death, and in 1910, lived next door at the Eckenrode residence. Their father entrusted the rearing of his children to the Holtzworths and the Eckenrodes because he did not have the facilities to take care of his children at that time.

Similar to George Shealer, Charles Holtzworth was also a liveryman who owned and operated his own stable. Not only did he excel at his profession, but he also became heavily involved in The Gettysburg Branch of the Pennsylvania Sportsmen. The organizational meetings were held across the street at the Eagle Hotel, and Charles was elected president of this organization. Examples of matters discussed at Sportsmen meetings included, “The question of rebuilding Bream’s Dam on Marsh Creek,” and the “preservation of good fishing grounds.” Mr. Holtzworth also participated in other activities connected to the Eagle Hotel. Serving as a

87 “Death Claims Andrew Ramer,” Gettysburg Compiler, 29 July 1939, p.3.
88 “Gettysburg’s Sportsmen Meet,” Gettysburg Compiler, 30 March 1910, p.5.
proprietor of the Ziegler and Holtzworth Livery, Charles and his brother J. H. Holtzworth provided “Carriages furnished for Weddings, Receptions &c,” as well as tourist transportation to the Gettysburg Battlefields (see Appendix F).89 Strategically located in the rear of the Eagle Hotel as well as across the street from a local train station, the Holtzworth brothers capitalized on the tourism associated with Gettysburg (See Appendix G). Holtzworth’s company offered “the largest transportation establishment in Southern Pennsylvania, equipped with the most comfortable carriages.”90 The Holtzworth family succeeded in all their business endeavors, while also providing a loving and encouraging household that extended its care to a child in need.

An accurate portrayal of life lived on the south side of Chambersburg Street would not be complete without an adequate narrative to bring together all aspects of Gettysburg in 1910. Businesses, residences, and community sentiment all shared the same ideals and worked together to promote town expansion and prosperity. More than just a small street in a tiny town nestled in south-central Pennsylvania, Chambersburg Street of the town of Gettysburg offers a small glimpse into the common American’s life in 1910. Problems arose, solutions were offered, money was made, and daily life continued without interruption. A typical day might have witnessed Gettysburg constituents, including Mrs. Sarah Garlach, running errands and contributing to the hustle and bustle of this growing urban center.

Mrs. Garlach might have strolled to the Town Square and into the First National Bank of Gettysburg to take care of some financial business concerning her bakery, while also picking up her husband’s suit at Brehm’s Tailor Shop. On her way back from the bank, Mrs. Garlach easily

could have been stopped by Mrs. Nettie Weiser in front of Tipton’s Photo Studio, where Nettie might have cautiously asked Sarah about the result of her son Henry’s court case. Slightly flustered, Mrs. Garlach could have responded politely that her Henry was, by the grace of the Lord Himself, released from the confines of prison on a technicality, and would have continued on her way.91

Mrs. Garlach’s house was conveniently located on the way to the local Chambersburg Street grocery store, so it would be safe to assume that she dropped off her husband’s suit and set out to accomplish the next task on her to-do list. While passing Faber’s Cigar Store, Sarah easily could have spontaneously decided to stop in and purchase a little tobacco indulgence for her husband. Delighted with her purchase, Sarah might have crossed South Washington Street and proceeded to the grocery store owned by D. J. Swartz, where she could have purchased the goods she utilized to craft and create her confections, which she would later sell at her bakery.92

This day in the life of Mrs. Sarah Garlach, although fictional, accurately describes town life in 1910 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Neighbors interacted, photographs were taken, Root Juice was purchased, and cigars were smoked along the south side of Chambersburg Street. The year of 1910 was monumental in the town’s history with the creation of the Pennsylvania Monument, further establishing Gettysburg’s connection with the past. Just as this monument was erected in 1910 to honor Pennsylvania’s Civil War combatants, this paper serves as a memorial to the dedication felt by both the businesses and the families that defined the south side of Chambersburg Street as a welcoming place that helped develop Gettysburg into the prosperous town it is today.

Example of the ballot that the constituents of Gettysburg used to elect their political leaders in the winter of 1910. Used with the permission of the Adams County Historical Society.
Photograph by William H. Tipton of tourists posing at Devil’s Den. Used with the permission of the Adams County Historical Society.
Mr. William Tipton working alongside his employees in his photo studio at 20 and 22 Chambersburg Street. Used with the permission of the Adams County Historical Society.
Men gathered outside of Landau’s Drug Store on Farmer’s Day, October 26, 1912. Used with the permission of the Adams County Historical Society.