

Wendsday evening July the 1

Maggie

The Union scouts brought in three captured Rebs - two of them held their heads down and looked very sad but the third one was lively. They were mounted on farmers horses which they had stolen between here and Westminster. Our cavilry captured them and took their horses from them. They then marched them out to the infantry camp... The soldiers have all left New Windsor except a few straglers. There was a soldier buried in the Presbyterian graveyard this morning. He died from exhaustion. His Cousin staid with him and saw him decently buried before he left he expecteds to come up to the rear of our army to morrow morning. The soldiers name that died was Irvin he was a native of Pennsylvania. There was quite a stir here occasioned by one of the Irishmen who staid back and got intoxicated He became so unruly that the citizens called on the Prepost mMartial to take care of him he led him out of the town an let him go with the promise of following his regiment as fast as possible. We were a little alarmed yesterday evening by a man riding into town an saying that a Rebel brigade would be here in a few moments but we soon ascertained it to be a story, probably set afloat by some rebel sympathizer

I must close M. E [illegible]

Excerpt #2, Part 1 from Margaret Mehring's Diary

Thursday evening July the 2 1863

...There was a hundred an fifty thousand [troops] that had passed through. It was reported here to day that they had a fight at or near Tauneytown yesterday morning and that there was a General killed an his body conveyed through here early this morning on its way to Washington to be buried. Another report an most probably the correct one is that they had a fight at Hanover, Pennsylvania. Our General fell back twice an it was not until he was reinforced the third time that he drove the Rebels it was during the ~~second~~ third attack that the commanding General was killed. It is said that the fight was in the streets of Hanover. Last night it was reported that our troops were planting their cannon at Uniontown expecting an attack in the night but the morning came an there was no attack or sign of live Rebs - about. There was an officer in town this morning who said the battle would not be at Uniontown but near Tauneytown. I suppose that he was not very wellacquainted with the neighborhood and the names of the towns near here an ment Hanover instead of Tauneytown. Monday night our troops had a slight brush with the Rebels at Westminster our boys entering the town as the Rebels were skedaddling. Too of our soldiers an too of the rebels that were killed on Monday in Westminster were buried there yesterday...

Excerpt #3, Part 2 of Thursday evening July 2 1863 from Margaret Mehring's Diary

...This has been a butifull day. Saturday will be the forth of July. I wonder if they will celebrate it in our army. It was that memorable day that our forefathers declared the little coliny (?) of thirteen states free an independent It was hoped on last forth of July by the President, officers, an soldiers of our army this forth would dawn upon them with the blessing of peace but unluckily for them an us the war appears but little nearer a close than then. I have known my lessons very well this week. Ikie Atlie said he saw four soldiers ride up through town yesterday an that one of them had something that looked like a ball in the side of his face Mr Weaver asked him why he didnot have it taken out he replied that he had not time to stop. Ikie is certain that it was a ball for the blood was running down his face in a stream. He must have been wounded by a Rebel. This is a beautiful day. We heard the cannon booming very distinctly last night and it is supposed that there is a battle going on between Littlestown an Gettysburg. The sun is shining so brightly an the air is so close that the poor soldier will suffer terribly for water. I must stop.

Maggie

Excerpt #4, Part 1 from Margaret Mehring's Diary

Monday evening July the 6 1863

We spent forth of July in reading and talking. It was raining all day but in the evening it stoped. Cousin - Annie was suffering from toothake an went up to the docters to get something to relieve her tooth. Sunday morning there was no preaching in town owing I suppose to the excitement in TaneyTown Cousin John came down on Sunday to see how Cousin Annie was getting along an wether she wanted to come home. He says that any quantity of soldiers almost passed through Bruceville We all attended Sabbath school in the afternoon. In the evening there was no prayer meeting owing I suppose to th escetement. On Saturday there were twenty-five or thirty soldier that passed here. They looked very nice an clean and rode splendid horses They did not look as if they had seen much service. This morning as I was making up my bed I hear d a rumbling noise an going to the window to learn the cause I saw that they were comimisary an baggage and ammunition wagons Most of them were from Maine New York Massachusetts an Vermont. . I have no idea as to how many wagons passed as they were passing from after seven oclock until twelve. They were going on to Frederick to take supplies to the troops lying there...

Excerpt #5 Part 2 of Monday evening July the 6 1863 from Margaret Mehring's Diary

... There are various reports as to the progress of the battle at Gettysburg of which the following are some. General Lee is retreating towards Virginia and our men following him and have not come in close enough contact to be fighting as yet. Another is that the Rebels are still at Gettysburg and sent a flag of truce in for permission to bury their dead. It is said that Steward is trying to cross the river and five thousand ^{Union troops} left Union town Saturday evening to tear down the bridges along the Potomac and guard the fords. There was another soldier buried in the Presbyterian graveyard beside of the first one and, his name was Thomas Horn. He was a native of New York. It seemed hard to see him buried among strangers and by strange hands no friend to follow him to the grave or weep over his untimely end, denied the comforts of home with no loving ----- or Sister to minister to his wants or close his eyes in death. Luck is the soldiers lot. This is but a bright picture compared to those who are shot on the battle field. Oh when will this cruel war be over. We had many of our brave officers killed and wounded on Friday and Saturday. General Legwiek (sp?) and General Sickles were both killed General Greg wounded. It is reported here today that they have taken the churches in Taneytown for hospitals. The Signal corps have possession of the Lutheran Church and use the cupola for a signal station

I must close

Maggie

Excerpt #6 Wednesday evening July the 7 1863 from Margaret Mehring's
Diary

Wednesday evening July the 7 1863

Last night Mollie an I were lying down on the bed the rest of the girls were down stairs and we ~~herd~~ heard very loud an course voices for the girls we had been asleep but the talking wakened us an going to the window to learn the cause found they were soldiers. Mrs. Blefish gave them their suppers They then returned to their camp a little piece out of tow as they were leaving We heard something like the beeting of a drum They told us it was the band that was with them. They played beautifully. Among other things that they played was Star Spangled Ramsy Home Again and Gentle chance [or choice]. We listened at then until they ceased which was more than an hour. I received a letter from Sister at noon They are all well at home but frightened at the war being carried an so near home. She says they have taken the churches in Middle burg an Taneytow for Hospitals. It has been raining very fast all day but has abated a little this evening. Part of the soldiers remained in town until noon they then started for Frederick. Mrs. Blefish gave those three soldier their breakfast - this morning that she gave their suppers last night I must close my journal

Maggie

MARGARET MEHRING DIARY

DOCUMENT: Excerpt #1 – Wednesday evening July the 1

Margaret Mehring was a thirteen-year-old girl who kept a diary during the summer of 1863. She wrote about her everyday life, her thoughts and feelings about friends, school, the weather and the war. She did not mention where she lived specifically, but her home was near Frederick. She was the age of an 8th grader today. Imagine her life experiences compared to yours. Imagine hearing the artillery of a battle from your home and seeing Union and Confederate soldiers march down your street.

Think about the source: a diary. Most diaries or journals were private and no one else was supposed to read it. It was very possible that this diary was written as a school project. She began writing in June and continued almost daily through mid-September. Also, she corrected some of her spelling and grammar mistakes throughout the book. There was no reason for her to do that if no one else would read it.

QUESTIONS: Read the excerpt from Wednesday evening July the 1. What is happening in Margaret's town? Does she seem upset about what is happening?

What major battle near Maryland occurred in the first week of July in 1863? How did this affect Marylanders?

MARGARET MEHRING DIARY

DOCUMENT: Excerpt #2, Part 1 - Thursday evening July the 2 1863

Margaret Mehring was a thirteen-year-old girl who kept a diary during the summer of 1863. She wrote about her everyday life, her thoughts and feelings about friends, school, the weather and the war. She did not mention where she lived specifically, but her home was near Frederick. She was the age of an 8th grader today. Imagine her life experiences compared to yours. Imagine hearing the artillery of a battle from your home and seeing Union and Confederate soldiers march down your street.

Think about the source: a diary. Most diaries or journals were private and no one else was supposed to read it. It was very possible that this diary was written as a school project. She began writing in June and continued almost daily through mid-September. Also, she corrected some of her spelling and grammar mistakes throughout the book. There was no reason for her to do that if no one else would read it.

QUESTIONS: Read the excerpt from Thursday evening July the 2 1863. What is happening in Margaret's town? Does she seem upset about what is happening?

What major battle near Maryland occurred in the first week of July in 1863? How did this affect Marylanders?

MARGARET MEHRING DIARY

DOCUMENT: Excerpt #3, Part 2 - Thursday evening July the 2 1863

Margaret Mehring was a thirteen-year-old girl who kept a diary during the summer of 1863. She wrote about her everyday life, her thoughts and feelings about friends, school, the weather and the war. She did not mention where she lived specifically, but her home was near Frederick. She was the age of an 8th grader today. Imagine her life experiences compared to yours. Imagine hearing the artillery of a battle from your home and seeing Union and Confederate soldiers march down your street.

Think about the source: a diary. Most diaries or journals were private and no one else was supposed to read it. It was very possible that this diary was written as a school project. She began writing in June and continued almost daily through mid-September. Also, she corrected some of her spelling and grammar mistakes throughout the book. There was no reason for her to do that if no one else would read it.

QUESTIONS: Read the excerpt from Thursday evening July the 2. What is happening in Margaret's town? Does she seem upset about what is happening? How does Margaret (or Maggie) feel about the war? Does she support the Union or the Confederacy? How can you tell? What are her major concerns on July 2?

What major battle near Maryland occurred in the first week of July in 1863? How did this affect Marylanders?

MARGARET MEHRING DIARY

DOCUMENT: Excerpt #4, Part 1 - Monday evening July the 6 1863

Margaret Mehring was a thirteen-year-old girl who kept a diary during the summer of 1863. She wrote about her everyday life, her thoughts and feelings about friends, school, the weather and the war. She did not mention where she lived specifically, but her home was near Frederick. She was the age of an 8th grader today. Imagine her life experiences compared to yours. Imagine hearing the artillery of a battle from your home and seeing Union and Confederate soldiers march down your street.

Think about the source: a diary. Most diaries or journals were private and no one else was supposed to read it. It was very possible that this diary was written as a school project. She began writing in June and continued almost daily through mid-September. Also, she corrected some of her spelling and grammar mistakes throughout the book. There was no reason for her to do that if no one else would read it.

QUESTIONS: Read the excerpt from Monday evening July the 6 1863. What is happening in Margaret's town? Does she seem upset about what is happening? What does "troops lying in Frederick" mean?

What major battle near Maryland occurred in the first week of July in 1863? How did this affect Marylanders?

MARGARET MEHRING DIARY

DOCUMENT: Excerpt #5, Part 2 - Monday evening July the 6 1863

Margaret Mehring (Maggie) was a thirteen-year-old girl who kept a diary during the summer of 1863. She wrote about her everyday life, her thoughts and feelings about friends, school, the weather and the war. She did not mention where she lived specifically, but her home was near Frederick. She was the age of an 8th grader today. Imagine her life experiences compared to yours. Imagine hearing the artillery of a battle from your home and seeing Union and Confederate soldiers march down your street.

Think about the source: a diary. Most diaries or journals were private and no one else was supposed to read it. It was very possible that this diary was written as a school project. She began writing in June and continued almost daily through mid-September. Also, she corrected some of her spelling and grammar mistakes throughout the book. There was no reason for her to do that if no one else would read it.

QUESTIONS: Read the excerpt from Monday evening July the 6 1863. What was happening in Margaret's town? What specific incident upset Margaret? What concerned her the most regarding the fallen soldier? How was she getting her information?

What major battle near Maryland occurred in the first week of July in 1863? How did this affect Marylanders?

MARGARET MEHRING DIARY

DOCUMENT: Excerpt #6 Wednesday evening July the 7 1863

Margaret Mehring was a thirteen-year-old girl who kept a diary during the summer of 1863. She wrote about her everyday life, her thoughts and feelings about friends, school, the weather and the war. She did not mention where she lived specifically, but her home was near Frederick. She was the age of an 8th grader today. Imagine her life experiences compared to yours. Imagine hearing the artillery of a battle from your home and seeing Union and Confederate soldiers march down your street.

Think about the source: a diary. Most diaries or journals were private and no one else was supposed to read it. It was very possible that this diary was written as a school project. She began writing in June and continued almost daily through mid-September. Also, she corrected some of her spelling and grammar mistakes throughout the book. There was no reason for her to do that if no one else would read it.

QUESTIONS: Read the excerpt from Wednesday evening July the 7 1863. What was happening in Margaret's town? Did she seem upset about what is happening? Why did soldiers leave their camp? Why were hospitals created out of churches?

What major battle near Maryland occurred in the first week of July in 1863? How did this affect Marylanders?