

DECORATION DAY, MAY 30th, 1872

At 4 P.M. the procession was formed in the Center Square, which moved to the Cemetery--headed by the Gettysburg Cornet Band, followed by the Orphans from the National Orphans' Home, each carrying a bouquet with banners representing the States having dead buried in the Cemetery, the Zouaves closing up the procession.

After the services, the Orphans took charge of the flowers and strewed them on the graves, the Band meanwhile playing "Strew Flowers."

Star-Sentinel
June 7, 1872

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THE ORPHANS' SLEIGHRIDE

Unless we young folks at the Homestead are quite busy we find ourselves sometimes quite weary with the sameness of our duties and we incline to mischief. Once in a while, however, something happens to stir us up, as was the case on Friday, the 10th. After dinner we were told to put on our "blue uniforms" and assemble in the schoolroom, but for what we did not guess. Some thought there might be visitors coming out to hear us declaim our Friday afternoon pieces; others fancied we were to have a tramp over the snow or to go skating. All doubt was removed when about 1 o'clock three capacious sleighs, drawn by eight as fine horses as Gettysburg, or even Adams County, could bring out, stopped at our front door, and we were invited to get into them, which we did in short order. About forty of the larger boys packed the big sleigh drawn by four horses. The girls, with the smallest boys and our beloved teachers, filled the other sleighs. All being ready for the start we sped down Cemetery Hill and through the town, with gingling bells and the merriest glee. Having driven two or three times through the principal streets, we were taken toward home, and we thought our sleighride about to end; but our sinking spirits were cheered anew by a sudden turn of our horses in the opposite direction toward the open country and the mountains. Our speed now seemed to rival the wind and our joy was complete. We tried to raise a song among us, but all were too merry to sing. We could easily raise our

loudest cheers--at least the boys did in the large sleigh. Nothing happened to mar the delight of anyone of us. Our dear, gentle manly drivers said it was a beautiful, most beautiful, winter afternoon, and we felt sure they could have said with us that this particular sleigh ride was beautiful beyond all others.

But our ride into the country could not be extended beyond two or three miles; and so, after passing the Peach Orchard and Round Top, we saw our sleighs turn back toward town and home. On reaching the Homestead, the boys, one and all, gave their best cheers for Messrs. Zeigler and Heltzworth, for their very great kindness in befriending us with such an unsolicited, but most welcome and delightful sleighride.

Several Oldest Orphans, National Homestead at Gettysburg
Jan. 15, 1873

Star-Sentinel
Jan. 22, 1873

DECORATION DAY, MAY 30, 1873

At 2 P.M. a procession was formed in the Center Square, headed by the Brass Band, the Orphans from the National Homestead, a large wagon draped with the national flag and containing the floral offerings, the members of Post No. 9, G.A.R., bringing up the rear.

After the principal address by Mr. S. S. Palmer, of the Theological Seminary, the flowers were given to the Orphans from the Homestead, who carefully deposited them on the grave where lie the remains of the heroes who gave their lives to the country in the great struggle of July, 1863.

Star-Sentinel
June 4, 1873
