Lancaster as a Home Front

The Impact of the World Wars
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Questions to Consider

• How did Lancaster County contribute to the war effort?
• How did Lancaster County experience the world wars?
• How did different religious groups experience this period?
• How might the Lancaster experience differ from that of other parts of the country?
World War I posters
World War I posters

What do these posters tell us about the war effort? What were the needs of the army at this time?

What were other goals of the people making these posters? What did they hope to accomplish?

Look at the organizations sponsoring these posters. Do any of them surprise you? Why or why not?
The Noncombatant Experience
Application for farm furlough (1918)

While many men left their jobs behind to fight overseas, some were needed to stay behind and operate various jobs, including farming.

Many members of historic peace churches, who were religiously and morally opposed to fighting, used farm furloughs as a way out of the war effort, while others resisted to a greater degree, facing imprisonment.

a noteworthy side-note
Pacifists in Chains by Duane Stoltzfus is a great resource to learn more about this topic
The Noncombatant Experience
Application for farm furlough (1918)

I, ___________________________, hereby make application for the furlough to return to duty on ___________________________, 1918, to enable him to engage in agriculture.

How do you think most Americans felt about these pacifists refusing to fight?

Why would they have been imprisoned? How should the government have handled this?

Why would some comply with the process and apply for furloughs?

2. Rank ___________________________ Organization ___________________________ Present Station ___________________________

3. Location of farm on which soldier is desired for work ___________________________
Camp Dix Medical Card (1919)

U.S.A... Base Hospital

Camp Dix, N. J. Apr. 21, 1919

Place

You are informed that:

Regel Thomas

Christian Name Surname

Pvt. 1st Co. A. 39th N.C.H. was 1257801

Organization

1. Admitted to W.H. 4/11

2. Transferred to...

3. Discharged from...

Cross out statement not desired

Name of Institution

Base Hospital

CAMP DIX, N. J.

Date

4/25/19

Place

with...

State briefly nature of wound, injury or disease

Excellent, very good, good, fair, poor.

Remarks:

Signature of Adjutant or Registrar
Thomas Kegel (1895-1958), James Kegel (1891-1927), Victor Kegel (1898-1923) were three brothers who served together in the 109th Machine Gun Battalion during World War I. Their parents were Charles and Mary Rogers Kegel, and they had eleven children. Their family home was on 59 Locust Street in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They were all drafted in 1917, and were trained in Camp Hancock in Augusta, Georgia. After their extensive training, they were sent to fight in the trenches in France. On separate occasions, each brother was wounded during the war, but they all survived and came home to Lancaster after the war in 1919.
How do you think his family felt when they heard he was at Camp Dix?

Consider the timeline of World War I. How do you think Kegel felt being transferred to Camp Dix at this time?
Welcome Home Parade (1919)
Welcome Home Parade (1919)

This photo was taken in Lancaster City during a “Welcome Home” parade in 1919.

What does this tell you about how Americans perceived the end of the war?

How did most Americans feel about the soldiers returning home?
Aug 21, 1943

Dear George,

Guess what? The boys dormitory at MTSU is to be used to house 150 females who have no lodging place in
home. They have been brought in to be
work in the farms dept. at home -
though and are to be lodged in the
boys dorm at your college. How do they
abject to like that? I wonder? The papers
states that they are to have certain cupola
and gym facilities also. They said that
there is plenty of room elsewhere in the
buildings to lodge the few males who
stay there. The boys dorm is

Joe and Ralph have gone to the marine to
see Abbott & Costello in “Not the Ace”. That
gives me a free evening to write letter.
I've already done one to a boy in Texas and
one to a boy in N. Africa somewhere. After you
have four more to do, wonder if I'll hold
out that long?

Did you know Nat Broad? He was in the
Ice Fixed for some years. Well he is in the
third of the Fighting (or was, the fighting is
now over in Italy). What a turn our boys
are having over there. Those who like to
talk (what a chance for you), will have some
something to talk of when they get home.

Wonder if I'll know any of them well enough
to have them tell me all about the places
and people they saw. I hope that we will

Another clergy that we saw was from Texas. What they think will
not say cards from anywhere.

The postal service is running the way of seeing the
U.S. A. Its Olbermann has two letters in hand on the base, one for the leading one in the one in
the Africa and one just went in last
week, and I don't get them back.

We had one awful chill
in warmer this evening,
getting ready for rain to
in coming home from camp.
We got a big bunch of the
then. Well I must still
get them nearly all done this
Write when you can for
Sincerely -

Joe J. Conard

Colcord, Ca.
“Did you know Pat Bard? He was on the Ice truck for some years. Well he is in the thick of the fighting (or was, the fighting is now over) in Sicily. What a time our boys are having over there. Those who like to talk (what a chance for you), will sure have something to talk of when they get home.”
Letter from Home

What does this letter tell us about the Home Front experience?

How were the people of Lancaster impacted by the demands of war?
“Rosie the Riveters” like Eleanor Flora helped in the war effort in Armstrong’s Floor Plant during World War II. Taken in 1943, when 19 years old, the photo was used as an employment advertisement for the company. Eleanor enlisted in the Navy as a W.A.V.E. – Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service.
Eleanor Flora at Work (1943)

How does Eleanor Flora’s story reflect the wartime experience for women?

How does this challenge preexisting gender roles?

How does this time set the stage for change to come?
Playground War Bonds Stand (1944)

Buy War Bonds and Stamps
Playground War Bonds Stand

This was taken on July 25, 1944 at Edward Hand playground in Lancaster City, and shows young children selling War Bonds and Stamps through a stand similar to a lemonade stand.

What does this tell you about how the war was perceived? How much did the war and war effort become a part of daily life? Could you imagine seeing something like this today? Why or why not?
Lt. Gen. Daniel B. Strickler

Lt. Gen. Daniel B. Strickler enlisted in the National Guard out of high school, fighting in the 1916 Mexican-birder conflict, and served in World War I. He became a captain at age 21. After attending Cornell University, he established a law practice in Lancaster. He won election to state legislature in the early 1930s and served as Lancaster’s police commissioner in 1932.
When the United States entered World War II, Gen. Strickler, then a colonel in the Army Reserve, went on active duty and accepted a reduction in rank. He fought with the 28th division through France and Belgium. He later fought in the Korean War and continued serving in Rome and Tokyo through the 1950s. He retired from the Army in 1957 as a three-star general.
Lt. Gen. Daniel B. Strickler

How does Lt. Gen. Strickler’s story fit into the greater story of the 20th century?

How does he exemplify ideals of patriotism and service at this time?