09 Notes on Thomas Thompson's Biography of Chris Sanderson

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[This first section contains a complete reference note for the book.]


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p17 In a letter written at WCSNS to his parents and dated September 6, 1898, Sanderson wrote "I never got to sleep until 12 last night from the mosquitoes and bedbugs." [JJ: If the mosquitoes were bad in room 238 of Old Main Hall, then think what they must have been like in Riggtown next to the swamp.]

p22 In a letter from his mother to Chris Sanderson (September 26, 1898), the first tuition bill (at WCSNS) was $67.50.

p25 Chris Sanderson to "Mother & Brother" (WCSNS, October 9, 1898). "Last night they had a debate at society entitled 'Which has the most brains--man or woman?' Of course men stood up for men and women for women."

"One man got and said that in geometry we find that the whole is greater than any of its parts. Hence as Eve was made from Adam--man must be the greatest. Another one says that a woman has more intellect to buy than a man when a boy jumped up. He was Paul MacElree. He said, 'My old man must have brains or he couldn't get the money with which my mother buys things with.'"

"Well, I must close as it is time for chapel. The boy that loves you, C. Sanderson."

p34 Chris Sanderson to "Mother & Brother" (WCSNS, January 8, 1899). It was possible to telephone from Mike's [JJ: somewhere in Mont Clare or Phoenixville] to WCSNS for 15 cents.

p67 Chris Sanderson to "Mother & Brother" (WCSNS, April 8, 1900). In a letter that described a bicycle trip from West Chester to Malvern and back, Sanderson mentioned that he took a spill in Malvern onto a road "made of limestone and when I got up, I was white dust from head to foot."

p84 Chris Sanderson to "Mother & Brother" (WCSNS, September 27,
In a letter that mentioned the upcoming election, Sanderson asked for a photo of the Republican presidential candidate, McKinley, so he could put it in his window with an electric light behind it.

"Most of us stayed in a crowd, as soon as we hit High and Market Street, the uptown slobs began to yell Normal Grits at us."

In the first division, there were the Chief Marshall, Col. H. H. Hooten of the 12th Pennsylvania Volunteers, the WC band, the WC Pioneers, the WC Republican Club, the Liberty Band of West Chester, the Colored Republicans Club of WC, Senator Snyder, McKinley, the Roosevelt Club, the Malvern Fife and Drum Corps, the Malvern Republican Club, the Lincoln University Band and the Lincoln Republican Club.

The second division included those groups whose trains arrived late: Phoenixville Military Band, Phoenixville Republican Club, Colored Pioneer Club of Phoenixville, the Downingtown Republican Club, ...

... the Parkesburg Republican Club, the Good Will Fife and Drum Corps, the Coatesville Republican Club, the Spring City Republican Club, and the Schuylkill Rough Riders.

Five students were expelled from the State Normal School. Two Cubans were expelled for smoking, while two senior boys and one girl were expelled for "driving with Normal girls."

The WCSNS altered its program by requiring students to complete four years instead of three to graduate.

Mrs. R. M. Sanderson had her first ride in an automobile on this day, courtesy of the local doctor, who took her into town after he visited one of her neighbors. She wrote "I did enjoy the drive so much--he has a lovely traveler."

The local Temperance Society offered $5 prizes to the best essays on Temperance by a junior and a senior at WCSNS.

Mrs. Sanderson estimated that teaspoons like those used at WCSNS cost 33 cents a piece (three for a dollar).
Mrs. R. M. Sanderson to Chris Sanderson (Port Providence, PA, May 18, 1901). Mrs. Sanderson was offered the chance to get a home telephone, but it required at least three people in her neighborhood to subscribe. Two neighbors, Mr. Anson and Charlie Connard, agreed to do so, but Mrs. Sanderson hesitated because the price was so high--ten dollars per year.

Thomas Wallace to Chris Sanderson (Chadds Ford, June 6, 1905). Mr. Wallace was head of the Chadds Ford School. He hired Sanderson as a school teacher for $45/month plus the services of a janitor.

Mrs. R. M. Sanderson to Chris Sanderson (Port Providence, PA, September 10, 1905). Mrs. Sanderson described the unruly behavior of railroad passengers on the train she took from West Chester to Phoenixville. "Either West Chester's influence is most terrible or else the men of Phoenixville are more depraved than most men. I don't know, but sure it is that a tougher crowd it has never been my lot to get into than was on the train last night. Drunken men, fighting, the most fearful language I ever listened to . . . went through the train until we found seats [in] another car."

Chris Sanderson to "My dear Mother," (Chadds Ford, PA, March 27, 1906). Sanderson urged his mother to move in with him in the old Washington's Headquarters house of the Battle of Brandywine in Chadds Fords. He wrote that the monthly rent was $6-7 and that he was used to paying $18/month for board. He calculated that, if they kept chickens and grew vegetables, he could reduce the cost of his board to $10/month.

Mrs. R. M. Sanderson to Chris Sanderson (Phoenixville, PA, April 3, 1906). Mrs. Sanderson wrote that she had begun to rent the house of "Soph" at 303 Bridge Street in Phoenixville, for $6/month.

In 1920, Sanderson accepted a position as principal and teacher at the Glen Mills School for $111.25/month.

Sanderson was appointed as principal of the Glen Mills School in Delaware County with a monthly salary of $120.
Sanderson made his first radio broadcast on station WF1 at the radio station operated by Strawbridge and Clothier in Philadelphia. "Radios in those days were few."

In July 1924, Sanderson led a Boy Scout trip that covered 626 miles, mostly by hitchhiking.

Mrs. Sanderson lived in West Chester where, to augment her son's meager income, she strung tags for the Denney Tag Company on West Barnard Street. In a letter, Mrs. R. M. Sanderson to Chris Sanderson (West Chester, PA, February 8 1926), she wrote "[Roy from Chicago] begged me not to do no more tags, but nevertheless, I got two thousand today."

Sanderson calculated his total income for the year 1935 as $1068.46. This was the wage of someone living in poverty.

During World War II, many people and organizations created "service flags" with stars representing people who were serving in the military. Each flag had its own dedication ceremony.

"Death on Christmas Morning"

Rip's Encore

The Rewarding Years

The Final Farewell

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