

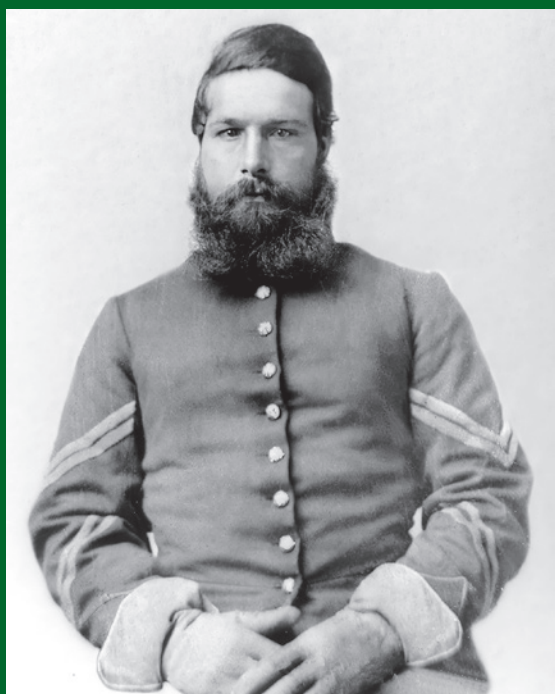


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# TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY

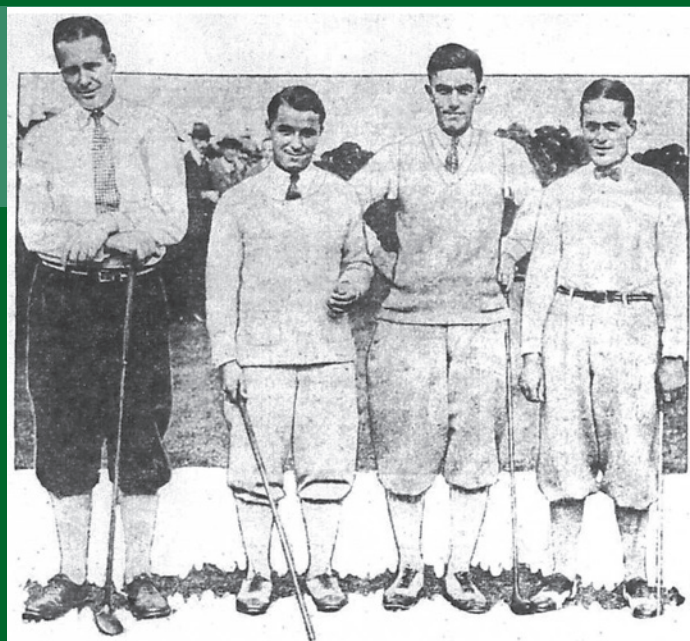


## When Mrs. Kennedy Met Mr. Lincoln



## Locals at the Indy 500

## Lost Golf Courses on the Main Line



## Heroism Averts Passenger Train Wreck

## In Memoriam: Sue Andrews



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## From the Editor

Despite the best intentions it has taken considerably longer than expected to get this issue ready for publication, but good things happen in their own time, especially in an all-volunteer organization.

In this issue we welcome another substantial article from long-time member and valued contributor Jim Brazel, updated and adapted in collaboration with veteran author and former president Roger Thorne from a presentation that Jim made at the Society's February 2018 public meeting. The article provides both well-researched historical details and touching personal stories from Jim's extended family history, reaching back to the trials and losses that faced many during the Civil War.

Society member and contributing editor Joyce DeYoung attended an April 2023 presentation sponsored by Surrey Services on local golf course history by Pete Trenham and Joe Bausch, and thought it would make an interesting feature for the *Quarterly*. She worked with Pete to develop the article that we are pleased to present in this issue. The following quote from Pete's substantial and very informative "Trenham Golf History" website provides a brief but useful introduction: "A PGA Pro for over 50 years and one of Philadelphia's most accomplished golfers; Pete Trenham is also a respected historian of the sport. His writing about the game has earned him considerable acclaim, as have his accomplishments in the game across his lifetime."

Society VP Bart Van Valkenburgh contributed a short article from the realm of automotive and motorsports history that he knows so well, making some local connections and spanning the gamut of youthful enthusiasm and bittersweet loss known to those who follow automobile racing.

Another installment of "posts from facebook" from editor Meg Wiederseim brings the remarkable story of heroic efforts to avoid a railroad catastrophe near Devon in 1924.

Lastly, we remember Sue Andrews, a loyal and dear friend of the Society.

### Image Descriptions

Front Cover: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): William John Kennedy, Company G, 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves, shown in his portrait as a Corporal (two stripes on his uniform sleeve) with a beard; Driver Joe Caccia and Riding Mechanic Bob Patterson in their Duesenberg Alberti Special at the 1930 Indianapolis 500; Four famous golfers who played at the Tredyffrin Country Club, shown in this illustration from the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* dated October 12, 1923: (LEFT TO RIGHT) Max Marston, Gene Sarazen, Johnny Farrell, and Bobby Jones. *Images courtesy of the authors.*

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# When Mrs. Kennedy Met Mr. Lincoln

James P. Brazel

Dedicated to the memory of my cousin Sharon Marcklinger Wagner (1938-2021), a descendent of Martha Gibson and Samuel Kennedy, Sr., their daughter Sarah Jane Kennedy Lafferty, and the guiding light of the Kennedy-Lafferty family

## Introduction: An Intercession by the President of The United States during the Civil War

The following is a verbatim quotation from an article based upon an interview with Mrs. Martha Kennedy, published in the *Phoenixville Messenger* on July 5, 1885:<sup>1</sup>

“During the month of December 1864, I had occasion to call upon the President under the following very unpleasant circumstances. My husband was wounded in the Wilderness in May, 1864 and was sent to a U.S. Hospital in Philadelphia where I was summoned just in time to receive his parting words. I brought the body home. His funeral was scarcely over when I was called to a U.S. Hospital in Washington to look after my eldest son, who, like his father, had been mortally wounded in that campaign, and only survived a short time after my arrival. I left Washington with my sad charge about the time the rebels entered Maryland, and it was generally believed, would have taken the capital had it not been for the timely arrival of the Sixth Corps, in which my second son was serving.

As soon as permission could be obtained he visited the hospital where he was informed I had left with his brother for home. To the surprise of all upon the day of the funeral, my second son stepped in to share our sorrow. After the funeral was over I could not command sufficient patriotism to allow my son to return to his regiment, and several loyal friends advised me that under the circumstances, I had a just claim for the discharge of my son, he being a minor.”

This article describes Mrs. Kennedy’s efforts to meet with President Abraham Lincoln to beseech him to discharge her second-born son, a deserter from the Union Army. Samuel Kennedy, Jr. had been officially classified as having deserted on July 16, 1864, an offense for which the death sentence was common. The remainder of this 1885 newspaper article will be revealed later in this account.

But first, I will tell the story of this family’s origins in Ireland, their emigration and life in America, and their involvement in the American Civil War. Copies of documents from the U.S. Government’s National Archives and Records Administration, and personal family records, are presented both for their content and their own unique value in telling this poignant story.



Portrait of Martha Gibson Kennedy, 1820–1890, taken circa 1870s-80s. Photo courtesy of Dorothy Shipp Snowden from the records of her grandmother Mary Diamond Wesler.

## Marriage, Emigration and Family Formation

Martha Gibson, 20, and Samuel Kennedy, 25, were married at the church of the bride, New Row Presbyterian Church in Coleraine, County Londonderry, Ireland, by the Reverend J. Whiteside on April 1, 1839. They moved to Liverpool, England where their first child, William John Kennedy, was born on December 29, 1839.

The couple emigrated from Liverpool to the United States around 1840, and settled for a time in the early coal mining region around Summit Hill, Carbon County, Pa., near Mauch Chunk on the Lehigh River and the Lehigh Canal. Samuel had been a member of the Dunboe Presbyterian Church in Articlave, Londonderry, about 3–4 miles northwest of Coleraine. This was the Mother Church of what was called the Summit Hill First Presbyterian Church, which may explain why this was their first destination in the United States. There is a family legend that the couple soon encountered the majority population of recent Irish Catholic immigrants at

Samuel And Martha Gibson Kennedy Family 1850  
 SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Upper Merion Township, in the County of Montgomery State of Pennsylvania enumerated by me, on the 6th day of August 1850. Nathan Hallows, Ass't Marshal.

Dwellings in order of visitation.	Family numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Description.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Marr'd within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Possessed by a wife or a child.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	Color.							
71	76	John Keenan	33	M		Farmer		Ireland				
		Catharine	31	F								
		Mary Ann	5	F				Penn				
		Ellen	3	F				"				
		Thomas	7/16	M				"				
		Catharine Hardney	30	F				Ireland				
		Ann	18	F								
		Patrick Keenan	40	M		Wheeler						
		Michael Kelly	23	M		Farmer						
		James Stewart	25	M		Farmer		Scotland				
72	77	Samuel Kennedy	36	M		Furnace Keeper		Ireland				
		Martha	35	F								
		John	10	M				England				
		Sarah Jane	8	F				Penn				
		Samuel	4	M								
		Alexander	1	M								
		William Hutchinson	30	M		Iron Furnace		Ireland				
		Edward Farrey	25	M		Iron Furnace						
		Mark Dempsey	20	M		Iron Furnace						
		George Brian	20	M		Laborer						
		William	26	M		Laborer						
73	78	Barnard McCarty	21	M		Carter						

The handwritten entry for the Samuel Kennedy household from the U. S. Census of 1850, Upper Merion Township.

Summit Hill who were antagonistic to Irish Protestants, especially those on their own economic level.<sup>2</sup>

The U. S. Census of August 5–24, 1850<sup>3</sup> recorded them as residents in Upper Merion Township, Pennsylvania: “Samuel 36 (furnace keeper), Martha 35, John 10, Sarah Jane 8, Samuel, Jr. 4 and Alexander 1.”

Sharon Wagner explained to me that the most common man’s name in Northern Ireland is William (after William of Orange), and that to reduce confusion, those with the given name William were often known more familiarly by their middle names, as in the case of the name listed in the U.S. Census for the oldest of Samuel and Martha Kennedy’s children, William John Kennedy. This truncation of his name would later occur in some of his military records and family communications.

The occupational designation of Samuel, “furnace keeper,” is common in the 1850 census for Upper Merion, but does not occur in the subsection titled “Port Kennedy” where there are numerous “quarry man” and six “lime burner” occupations cited. However the term “furnace keeper” is common for the rest of Upper Merion, so it appears that the Samuel and Martha Kennedy family did not then reside in the Port Kennedy village section of Upper Merion Township, which was named for another more prominent and financially successful Kennedy family listed in the 1850 Census as “Lime Merchants.” There was no known relationship.

252 THE UNITED STATES CENSUS OF 1850, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

GROFF: William 39 (quarryman), Elizabeth 43, Elizabeth A. 10, Hannah 4.

END OF SWEDESBURG

JONES: Griffeth 38 (iron master), John Wentz 30, Eliza Lewis 25, George Lewis 2. R.E. (GJ) \$25,000; (JW) \$17,000.

EVANS: Elisha 37 (farmer), Eliza 25, Mary Emily 8, Jonathan 6, Henry 4, Charles 2, John 2/12, Samuel Walker 23 (farmer), Hiram Lysinger 13, Joanna Paterson 20. R.E. \$325.

WELSH: William 38 (laborer), Anora 35, Margaret 4, Catharine 3, Richard O'Brian 28 (laborer), Michael Mahanee 38 (laborer), William Carlin 38 (laborer).

KEIRN [KIERAN]: John 33 (farmer), Catharine 31, Mary Ann 5, Ellen 3, Thomas 2/12, Catharine Hardney 50, Ann Hardney 13, Patrick Keirn 40 (machinist), Michael Kelsy 23 (farmer), James Stewart 25 (farmer).

KENNEDY: Samuel 36 (furnace keeper), Martha 35, John 10, Sarah Jane 8, Samuel 4, Alexander 1, William Hutchinson 30 (works in furnace), Edward Farrey 28 (works in furnace), Mark Dempsey 20 (works in furnace), George Brian 20 (laborer), Solomon — 26 (laborer).

(ABOVE) The Samuel Kennedy household from the U. S. Census of 1850, Upper Merion Township, as transcribed in *The Bulletin of The Historical Society of Montgomery County Pennsylvania*, Volume XIV, Number 3, Fall 1964, pp. 252–3. Other residents near the Kennedys show “Jones, Griffeth, 38 (iron master)” and “Potts, Robert T., 60 (farmer).”

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VALLEY FORGE, AND VIEW OF GENERAL WASHINGTON'S HEAD-QUARTERS.

"Valley Forge And View of General Washington's Head-Quarters," Gleason's Pictorial-Drawing Room Companion, p. 281, May 6, 1854.

While doing research on another project, I found an image from 1854 of "Valley Forge, And View of General Washington's Headquarters." This drawing depicts the industrial development there and the resulting opportunities for increased unskilled labor employment that had occurred since the Continental Army's encampment of 1777-78. Since the portion of Valley Forge shown on the east side of Valley Creek is in Upper Merion Township, I fancied that the couple walking on the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad track might have been my ancestors, Samuel and Martha Kennedy with their oldest son William. But according to William Buck's *History of Montgomery County in The Schuylkill Valley*, published in 1859, "There is now no forge or furnace in this vicinity," (p. 49). Note that although there was no operating iron furnace in Valley Forge Village in the 1850s, the Montgomery Furnace would begin operations nearby on the west side of Port Kennedy in 1855. There were, however, two furnace operations located at that time in the Matsunk area of Upper Merion, east of Bridgeport and Swedesburg.<sup>4</sup>

Buck goes on to say (p. 39):

*"Matsunk is the name of a village that has chiefly grown up within the last twelve years, and is situated on a small stream of the same name, near the Schuylkill, and about a mile below Swedesburg. It contains nineteen dwelling houses, several of which are splendid residences, surrounded with fine shady lawns and gardens, and enclosed with iron railing. Abraham Supplee has here a manufactory of Kentucky jean, employing some twenty-five hands. The extensive works of the "Swede Iron Company" are also here, and comprise two large*

*furnaces, a railroad leading from the mines to the river, nearly a mile in length, numerous out buildings, and about sixty acres of land, on which there is an abundance of iron ore and limestone of the best quality. The total cost to the company is said to be over two hundred thousand dollars. These works have not been in operation for some time. The firm of Potts & Jones, of Philadelphia, are said to be the principal stockholders."*

Under the title "END OF SWEDESBURG" in the Historical Society of Montgomery County (HSMC) reprint of the 1850 Census listing previously shown, the first entry on page 252 is "Jones: Griffeth 38 (iron master) ... R.E. (GJ) \$25,000 ..." indicating the value of his real estate. Lower on that page is the Samuel Kennedy family entry, with no cited real estate value. And on the next page (253) is the entry for "Potts: Robert T" (farmer) ... R.E. \$76,000."

I believe this to provide a strong enough correlation to locate the village/neighborhood where the Samuel Kennedy family lived in 1850. Buck's report of 1858-59 that the Swede Iron Company was "... not in operation for some time" would also be consistent with the Kennedys' moves during the remainder of the 1850s.

The family moved from Upper Merion to Easton, Pennsylvania. There is a baptismal record<sup>5</sup> dated January 5, 1865 which shows that three of their children, Joseph, Margaret and Martha Kennedy were baptized on March 31, 1857 by the Reverend John D. Gray, D.D. at The First Presbyterian Church in the Borough of Easton, Pennsylvania. This record would later be part of the documentation required to supply proof

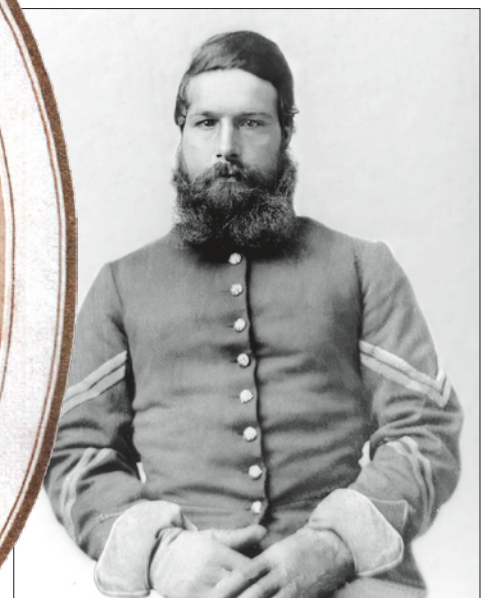
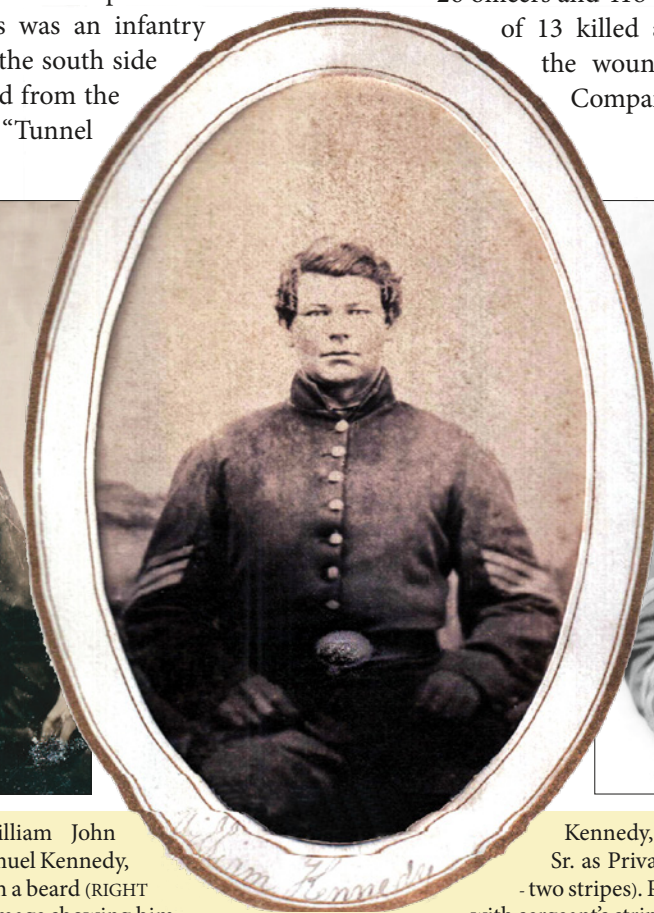
of Martha's marriage status for a U.S. government widow's pension application, and the legitimacy of her children under sixteen years of age for Soldiers' Orphan support payments, and attendance and boarding at a Soldiers' Orphan School. The youngest of their children, Martha Kennedy, born November 27, 1856, was my paternal great grandmother.

Samuel, Sr. and (William) John were listed in the "Phoenixville Septennial for 1857" as "Laborers." Most industrial work in this source appears to be associated with the Phoenix Iron Works.

In the U. S. Census of July, 1860<sup>6</sup> the family was recorded as resident within Phoenixville, Chester County, Pa., with three more children: Joseph (8), Margaret (6) and Martha (4). Samuel Sr. (40) and William J. (21) are listed as "helpers," and Sarah Jane (18) as a "Domestic." Note that ten years earlier in the 1850 census, Samuel Sr.'s age was given as 36.

## The Civil War

**William John Kennedy** enlisted for three years at Phoenixville / Camp Wayne, West Chester, Pa. on June 6, 1861 as a Private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps. He joined Company G, "The Phoenix Artillerists," under the leadership of John R. Dobson, whom they elected to be their Company G Captain. Dobson had been Burgess (mayor) of Phoenixville and a superintendent at the Phoenix Iron Company. Although they had adopted the name "The Phoenix Artillerists," this was an infantry company formed of men from the south side of Phoenixville (as distinguished from the north side of French Creek or "Tunnel Hill" section of town).



Three portrait photos show William John eldest son of Martha Gibson and Samuel Kennedy, Sr. as Private (LEFT - no stripes), Sergeant (MIDDLE - three stripes), and as a Corporal with a beard (RIGHT Sharon M. Wagner collection. The image showing him with sergeant's stripes is from the Rebecca Lane Pennypacker Price Civil War Nurse collection of the Historical Society of

Kennedy, Company G, 1st Pennsylvania Reserves, Sr. as Private (LEFT - no stripes), Sergeant (MIDDLE - two stripes). Photos as Private and Corporal courtesy of The Phoenixville Area, courtesy Jack Ertel, HSPA. It is believed to be from a carte de visite that William gave to Nurse Pennypacker at the Mount Pleasant Army General Hospital, Washington, D.C.



Formation photo of The Artillerists, Company G, 1st Pennsylvania Reserves. (INSET) Magnified portion showing Captain Dobson, and to his left Corporal Kennedy.



Also on this reverse side is an examiner's stamp dated "July 20, 1892" and a serial number "20439318." These probably indicate that the Muster Roll records were subsequently reviewed years after their creation ... and in some cases revised. We will soon see an example of an extreme revision in the records of Samuel Jr.

Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
<i>Wm. J. Kennedy</i> Serg't, Co. G, 1 Reg't Pennsylvania Res. Inf. Appears on Company Muster Roll for <i>Nov. &amp; Dec., 1863</i> , 1863	<i>Wm. J. Kennedy</i> Corpl., Co. G, 1 Reg't Pennsylvania Res. Inf. Appears on Company Muster Roll for <i>Jan. &amp; Feb., 1864</i> , 1864	<i>Wm. J. Kennedy</i> Corpl., Co. G, 1 Reg't Pa. Reserve Inf. Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated <i>Chila, Pa., June 13, 1864</i>
Joined for duty and enrolled: When <i>Jan. 6, 1862</i> , 1862 Where <i>Camp Wayne, Pa.</i> Period <i>3</i> years. Present or absent <i>present</i> Stoppage, \$ <i>100</i> for Due Gov't \$ <i>100</i> for Remarks:	Joined for duty and enrolled: When <i>Jan. 6, 1864</i> , 1864 Where <i>Camp Wayne, Pa.</i> Period <i>3</i> years. Present or absent <i>present</i> Stoppage, \$ <i>100</i> for Due Gov't \$ <i>100</i> for Remarks: <i>Reduced by Reg't order from Serg't to Corp. Jan. 1/64.</i>	Muster-out as stated: <i>1864</i> Last paid to <i>Feb. 27, 1864</i> Clothing account: Last settled: <i>100</i> ; drawn since \$ <i>100</i> Due soldier \$ <i>100</i> ; due U. S. \$ <i>100</i> Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$ <i>100</i> Due U. S. for arms, equipments, etc., \$ <i>100</i> Bounty paid \$ <i>100</i> ; due \$ <i>100</i> Remarks: <i>Ordered from Chila, Pa. to Dept. of War, 1/63. Promoted by his own request to Corp. Feb. 1/64. Wounded at Laurel Hill, Va.</i>
Book mark: <i>Warren</i>	Book mark: <i>Warren</i>	Book mark: <i>Warren</i>

William J. Kennedy, Company Muster Rolls, Nov. 1863–Jun. 1864. In the Roll for Nov. & Dec. 1863 (LEFT), William is listed as "Sergt." The muster roll for "Jan. & Feb." (MIDDLE) shows that William, now a "Corpl" was "Reduced by Reg't order from Sergt." The subsequent June 13, 1864 Co. Muster-out Roll (RIGHT) would explain that he was "Reduced by his own request to Corpl Feb 1/64."

Just 27 days before the end of William's three-year enlistment, his regiment was fully engaged during the ferocious fighting at Spotsylvania Courthouse, a dozen miles southwest of Fredericksburg, Virginia. This protracted battle added 18,000 names to the Union Army's casualty lists, one of which was William, severely wounded on May 10, 1864 during the fight at Laurel Hill.

William was evacuated to the U.S. Army's Mount Pleasant General Hospital in Washington, D.C., and even as he lay suffering his grievous wounds, the regimental clerk made

Portrait photographs of William in three stages of his Army service show him as: a private with no stripes, a clean-shaven sergeant, and as a bearded corporal.

In a group photo of the "Artillerists, Company G, 1st Pa. Reserves," Captain Dobson is prominent, standing forward at left. Kennedy family legend has it that the non-commissioned officer standing to Dobson's left in this photograph is Corporal William Kennedy with his beard.

William's Army service Company Muster records show that he was appointed Corporal on 1 January 1862 and promoted to Sergeant on 1 March 1863. But the "Company Muster Roll, Jan. & Feb., 1864" shows him again as Corporal and under the "Remarks:" section the comment "Reduced by Reg't order from Sergt." And ominously, there is no "Company Muster Roll, May & June 1864" in the regimental documentation package at the National Archives.

On the "Co. Muster-out Roll" dated June 13, 1864, documenting the close of his three year enlistment on June 6, 1864, the clear but peculiarly abbreviated copyist's handwriting under "Remarks" state that Kennedy was:

*"Promoted from Pvt. To Corp. Dec.1/61 from Corpl to Sergt Mar.1/63. Reduced by his own request to Corp. Feb. 1/64. Wounded at Laurel Hill, Va."*

Succinctly, on the reverse side of this form is handwritten: *"May 10/64 In Mount Pleasant U.S.A. Gen'l Hosp'l, Washington, D.C."*

### Laurel Hill

*[The] Federal assaults were not only easily repulsed, but the forces making them were simply slaughtered.*

Before you lies Laurel Hill, one of the most important but least understood areas of the Spotsylvania Court House battlefield. On three separate days—May 8, 10, and 12—Union troops charged across these fields, from right to left, in an effort to break the Confederate army's hold on the wooded ridge to your left. Each attack ended in bloody failure.

With each repulse, the Union soldiers' enthusiasm for attacking the ridge diminished. "Every man in the ranks saw the folly of the attempt," wrote a soldier in the 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteers, "and judging from the undercurrent of their conversation, it is not probable that they would have made a very determined effort, or gone far."

In all, some 5,000 Union soldiers fell here—all to no purpose. On May 13, the Union army abandoned Laurel Hill and headed east. The Confederates followed.

(LEFT), U.S. Park Service interpretive sign on "Laurel Hill" battlefield, taken by James Brazel, May 11, 2016. (RIGHT) View from Hancock Road across the field toward Laurel Hill, where the 1st Regiment, Pennsylvania Reserves, assaulted entrenched Confederate forces in the woods, and where Cpl. William Kennedy was wounded on May 10, 1864. Photo by James Brazel taken May 11, 2016.

notation in the "Co. Muster-out Roll" on June 13, 1864 that he was eligible for—and "due"—his reenlistment bounty of \$100.00. But not unexpectedly, William's condition grew worse, and he died in the hospital on July 10, 1864. The handwriting on the pre-printed "Record of Death and Interment" form states his cause of death as: "G.S.W. [Gun Shot Wound] thro. both thighs."

### Memorial Proclamation for William John Kennedy

The U.S. Christian Commission prepared a Memorial Proclamation "In Memory of William J. Kennedy"—a copy of which was sent to the Kennedy family—and a resolution was passed to submit it for publication in *The Independent Phoenix* newspaper.

The text is reproduced below:

#### IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM J. KENNEDY

*In the last suffering and the death of our departed comrade, we recognize one of the noblest examples of Christian patriotism and fortitude that we have ever witnessed. Suffering from his severe and fatal wounds, he calmly beheld death's stern approach, which to one like him had no terrors. When asked by his mother if he was willing to die, his noble reply was "Yes, I am perfectly reconciled. I have no desire to live but for your sake." No murmur or word of complaint at any time escaped his lips, nor did he express one regret, that his youthful life was sacrificed in the glorious cause he loved so well. While upon his bed of suffering he was heard to be holding "sweet communion with his Saviour," nor was his prayer that of a death bed repentant, but the happy expressions of a soul that had known by blissful experience the joy and blessedness of sins forgiven. The outpouring of his desires and emotions into the ears of that Saviour whom he expected soon to meet face to face, and through whose grace and merit he felt that he had an "abundant entrance" into his kingdom. On no subject was he more free to converse than on his approaching death to him would be but the beginning of a glorious life.*

*When a Christian comrade remarked to him that Jesus would be his friend and support him through the "dark valley", he immediately in a clear and comprehensive*

No. 2.

### RECORD OF DEATH AND INTERMENT.

Name and number of person interred.	<i>Wm. J. Kennedy</i>
Number and locality of the grave . . .	<i>8816 - Ward 6</i>
Hospital number of the deceased . . .	<i>Corpl. 1 Pa Res</i>
Regiment, rank, and company . . .	<i>Chester Co Pa</i>
Residence before enlistment . . . . .	<i>Single</i>
Conjugal condition, (and if married, the residence of the widow) . . . . .	<i>G. S. W. thro. both thighs</i>
Cause of death . . . . .	<i>Twenty four (24)</i>
Age of the deceased . . . . .	<i>Swerford, England</i>
Nativity . . . . .	<i>Wm. Martha Kennedy Phoenixville</i>
References and remarks . . . . .	<i>Chester Co Pa</i>
Date of death and burial . . . . .	<i>July 10 1864 immediately 1864</i>

[A duplicate of this Record has been forwarded to the Sexton, and another remains at this Hospital.]

To *Brig Genl. S. Thomas*  
*Capt. Genl. U.S.A.*

SIR: It becomes my duty to inform you that the person above described died at this Hospital as herein stated; and that it is desired his remains should be interred with the usual military honors.

Respectfully,

*G. M. Call*  
*Asst. Surgeon U.S. Army.*  
*L. Chase*

MILITARY HOSPITAL, *Mount Pleasant*

"Record of Death and Interment" from the U.S. Army Mount Pleasant General Hospital, Washington, D.C. for "Wm. J. Kennedy, Comp. G. 1 Pa Res," July 10, 1864.

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voice repeated the following stanza:

“Jesus, lover of my soul,  
Let me to thy bosom fly,  
While the billows around me roll,  
While the tempest still is high,  
Hide me! Oh my Savior hide  
Safe into the haven guide.”

Many similar incidents might be mentioned, were it necessary, to show that our worthy comrade died in the death of the righteous and to convince that our loss is his “Eternal gain,” but this we trust will suffice the testimony of a comrade.

PHOENIXVILLE, Pa., July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1864

At a meeting of the late members of Company G, 1st Pennsylvania Reserves, to express their appreciations of the pure and upright character of their late friend and comrade William J. Kennedy, who fell mortally wounded by a musket ball, on the 10th of May, 1864, at Laurel Hill, Va., while nobly sustaining the flag and supporting the honor of his country, doth unanimously resolve:

Resolved, That in the death of William J. Kennedy, the country has lost one of its firmest, most faithful and intelligent supporters. This company has been deprived of a most valuable and esteemable associate, and the community of a citizen, who has most worthily discharged all the duties of a kind and generous neighbor, and affectionate son and brother, and a consistent Christian.

Resolved, That while we mourn his loss, we will endeavor to emulate his unwavering fidelity to his God and to our country's cause. His purity of life and calm resignation to the will of the commander of the armies of Heaven and the armies of men.

Resolved, That to the sorrow stricken mother and family of the deceased, we tender our heartfelt sympathy and sincerely condole with them in their sad and untimely bereavement.

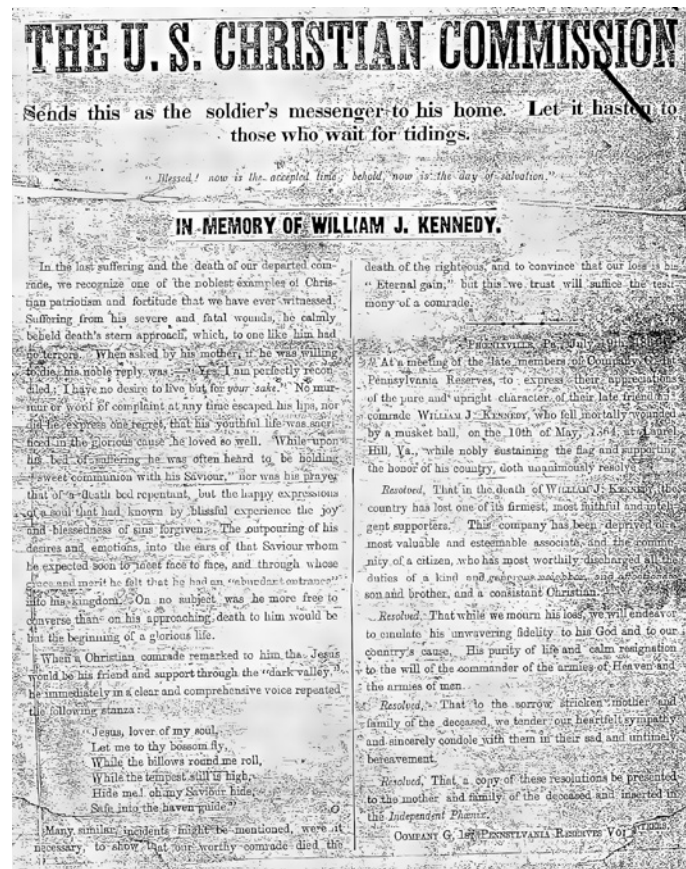
Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to the mother and family of the deceased and inserted in the Independent Phoenix.

COMPANY G, 1ST PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES VOLUNTEERS

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Samuel Kennedy Jr. enlisted for three years as a “Musician” in the 67<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers on September 7, 1861 at Phoenixville, giving his age as 18. He actually was 15.

His father, Samuel Kennedy, Sr. enlisted later, on January 24, 1862, at Philadelphia for three years as a Private/Musician, also in the 67<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, Company I. The senior Kennedy was 47 years old. A Private's pay in 1861 was \$13 per month. A Musician's pay was typically \$1 less, \$12 per month.



Memorial proclamation “In Memory of William J. Kennedy” from the U.S. Christian Commission. Courtesy of Dorothy Shipp Snowden, from her Grandmother Mary Diamond Wesler's collection.

Father and son posed for a photograph portrait. Samuel Jr. is seen holding a U.S. Army standard Enfield rifle, and Samuel, Sr.'s uniform jacket fits a bit snugly.



Samuel Kennedy, Sr. and his second son Samuel Jr. posed soon after enlistment in their Union Army Private/Musician's uniforms. They had both enlisted in Company G, the 67th Pennsylvania Volunteers Regiment. Photo courtesy Sharon Marcklinger Wagner collection.

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Samuel Sr.'s delayed decision to join the Union Army may have been influenced by the policy of his employer, Phoenix Iron, of granting free rent to employees living in company housing who enlisted in Pennsylvania Volunteer units. The family lived at 22 Cottage Row on Hall Street, in a house owned by Phoenix Iron. His name, as head of the family, would have been on the rental list; and the previous enlistments of his two sons may not have resulted in the granting of free rent. An additional consideration would have been that the two sons were no longer at home, earning higher civilian wages at the Iron Works than a private soldier's pay, and contributing to the household income. These economic considerations make it easier to understand why a 47-year-old man might enlist in the Army, and specifically in the same company as his 15-year-old son.

We have from Bates<sup>10</sup> this concise history of the 67<sup>th</sup> Regiment's wartime experiences through mid-1864. It is the “big picture” version of the details of the two Samuel Kennedy soldiers' experiences:

“The 67<sup>th</sup> was one of the semi-Philadelphia regiments, the greater part of its recruits coming from nine of the northern and western counties [Philadelphia Companies, B, E and I]. Authority for its formation was issued upon July 24, 1861, by the Secretary of War. Col. Staunton, three of his field officers and twelve company officers were Philadelphians. The regiment was soon located in camp near Camac's Woods, where it remained until April 3d, 1862 when it was ordered to guard duty at Annapolis, Md., and at Camp Parole, near that point.

In February, 1863, the “67<sup>th</sup>” was moved to Harper's Ferry, and later was stationed, under Gen. Robert H. Milroy, at Berryville, Va., to patrol the lower Shenandoah Valley and its gaps. Upon June 15<sup>th</sup>,

1863, the regiment was cut off from the main column by a large Confederate force, near Winchester, and was captured, with the exception of about seventy-five men. The officers were detained in prison for a year, but the enlisted men were exchanged in October.

While in camp at Brandy Station a large proportion of the men reenlisted. Three hundred and fifty rank and file, with their officers, were sent home on furlough. Upon return to duty the veterans were stationed at Port Royal and White House, Va.

In June the recruits, who had been with the 135<sup>th</sup> regiment (Pennsylvania), rejoined the “67<sup>th</sup>” in front of Petersburg, taking part in an affair at Ream's Station. The third Confederate advance into Maryland caused the transfer of the Third Division of the Sixth Corps by transports to Baltimore, and by rail, to checkmate [Jubal] Early.”

During Lee's northern invasion phase of the Gettysburg Campaign, both Samuel, Sr. and Jr. were captured by the Confederate forces at Winchester, in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia on June 15, 1863. They were held as prisoners of war at the infamous Libby prison in Richmond, Virginia, and paroled (exchanged for Confederate prisoners of war) at City Point, Va. on July 14, 1863.

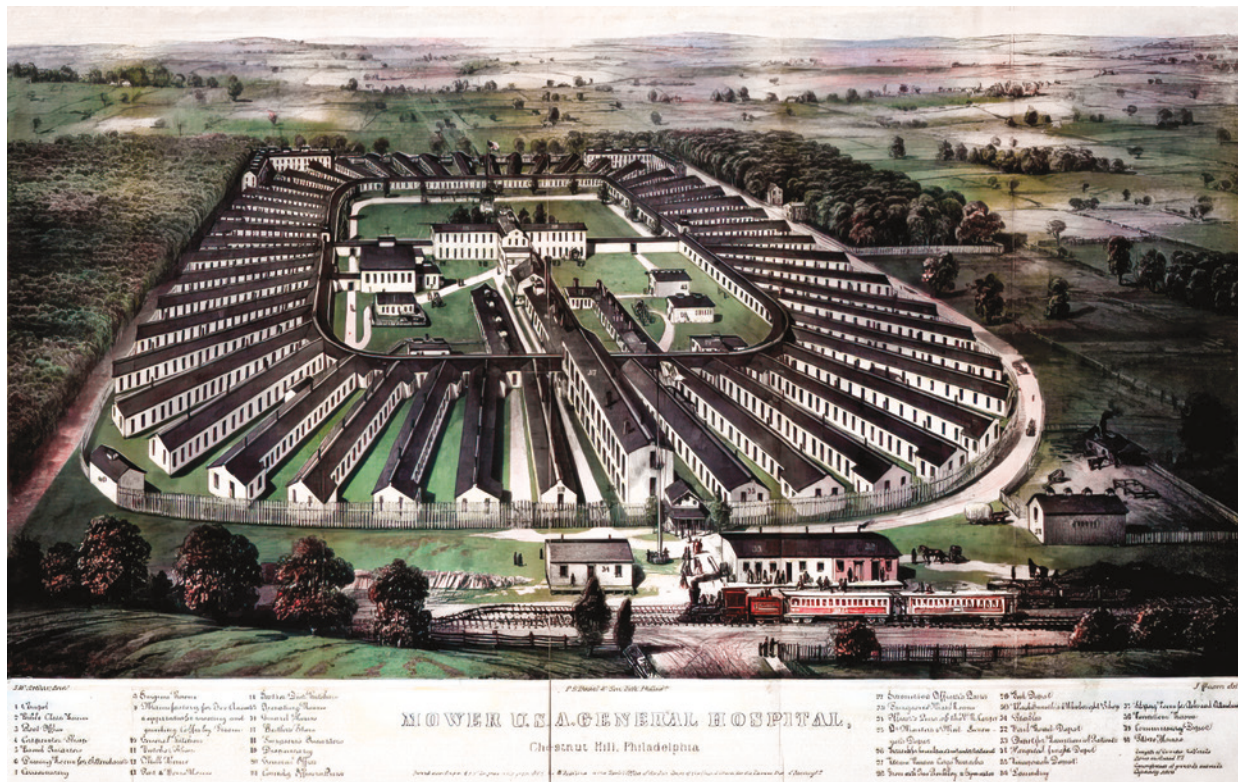
Ten months later, Samuel, Sr. was shot through the hand on May 6, 1864 during the bitter Battle of the Wilderness. It is ironic that Samuel was wounded just four days before, and 15 miles from the site, where his eldest son William would be mortally wounded at Spotsylvania, Virginia. Samuel was brought by railroad to Mower General Army Hospital, a 3600-bed facility located in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia [near the present day SEPTA Chestnut Hill East Line Wyndmoor railroad station]. In 1864 that line was

MEMORANDUM FROM PRISONER OF WAR RECORDS. (This blank to be used only in the arrangement of said records.)

NAME	RANK	ORGANIZATION			INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM		
		No. of Reg't	State	Arm of Service	Co.	Records of	Remarks
Kennedy Samuel Sr.	Private	67	Pa	Inf	I	OR	EX 6
Captured at Winchester Va June 15, 1863		confined at Richmond, Va.,		June 23, 1863		1003	
Admitted to Hospital at		where he died		1863, of			
Paroled at City Point Va July 14, 1863		reported at Camp Parole, Md., July 10, 1863		452 sent from CP that to kept out 6/3		6 to July 16/63	

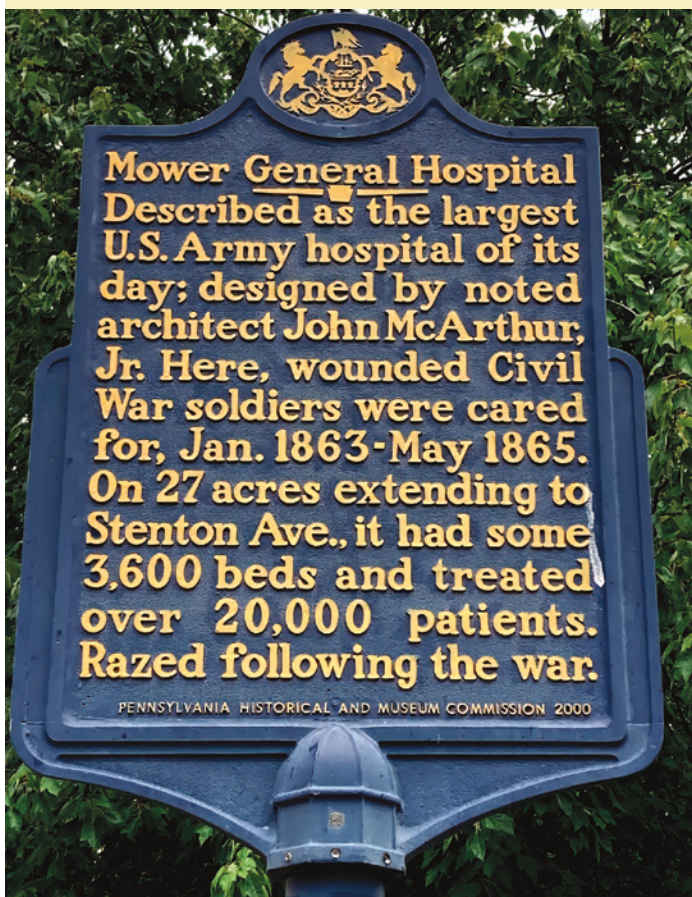
Copied by WRS ✓

The “Memorandum from Prisoner of War Records” for Samuel Kennedy, Sr. A similar form exists for Samuel, Jr.



(ABOVE) Contemporary drawing of the U.S. Army's Mower General Hospital in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. Artist: James Fuller Queen. Published by P.S. Duval & Son Lithography in 1865. Courtesy of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

(BELOW) The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker commemorating "Mower General Hospital" stands at the Wyndmoor SEPTA station, and describes the extent (27 acres) and the relatively short duration (January 1863 – May 1865) of this facility.



referred to as the Philadelphia, Germantown & Norristown Railroad, whose terminal at Ninth and Green Streets in Center City was about ten city blocks north and east from the terminal of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad at Broad & Callowhill Streets. Mower General Hospital could be reached by Samuel's family from Phoenixville in 1864 by travelling on a combination of the PG&N and P&R railroads.<sup>11</sup>

Three weeks after receiving his wound, Samuel Kennedy, Sr. died at Mower General Hospital of tetanus on May 27, 1864. His wife Martha had visited him the day before and was informed that he was scheduled to be released on leave the next day.

The "Record of Death and Interment for Samuel Kennedy, No. 53, Private Co. I, 67<sup>th</sup> Penn" is dated May 27, 1864. Under "Memoranda," is noted "Having no Descriptive List at time of death, his accounts are unknown..." but a short "List of effects" is written in, and that list would propagate unenhanced through later government forms.

The Honorable Discharge certificate for Samuel Kennedy, Sr., Private (on account of his death on May 27, 1864), was signed August 8, 1864, at Halltown, Va. by Samuel Barry, Captain. This document precisely dates paymaster and clothing accounts, if not pay balances due.

Samuel Kennedy, Jr. reenlisted on January 1, 1864 as a "Veteran Volunteer" for another three years, and now as a Private in Co. G, 67<sup>th</sup> Pa Volunteers at Brandy Station, Va., received his \$100 reenlistment bonus. He gave his age as 18 and occupation (pre-war) as "Butcher." The Company Muster Roll for March & April 1864 shows him "Absent on furlough as veteran volunteer."

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No. 1. RECORD OF DEATH AND INTERMENT.	
Name and number of person interred.	Samuel Kennedy No. 53
Number and locality of the grave.	Body taken by friends
Hospital number of the deceased.	7847
Regiment, rank, and company.	Private Co. I 67 <sup>th</sup> Penn Phoenixville Pennsylvania
Residence before enlistment.	Married--- Phoenixville Chester Co Penn
Conjugal condition, (and if married, the residence of the widow).	
Cause of death.	Tetanus
Age of the deceased.	58
Nativity.	Ireland
References and remarks.	
Date of death and burial.	May 27 <sup>th</sup> 1864.
Duplicates sent to the Adjutant General of the United States Army, and to the Sexton of the Cemetery.	
Memoranda: Samuel Kennedy Private Co. I 67 <sup>th</sup> Penn was died at the Mower General Hospital May 27 1864: having no Descriptive List at time of death his account are unknown--- List of effects-- 1 Kamapack, 1 Great Coat, 1 Blanket, 1 Pr Pants, 1 Shirt, 1 Pr Socks, 1 Pr Stockings--	

(ABOVE) "Record of Death and Interment, Samuel Kennedy No. 53, Private Co. I, 67<sup>th</sup> Penn." Samuel Kennedy, Sr. died of tetanus on May 27, 1864 at Mower General Hospital. His wife Martha had visited him the day before and was informed that he was scheduled to be released on leave the next day. The "Age of the deceased" is given as 58; he was actually 49.

(RIGHT) Honorable Discharge (on account of death on May 27, 1864) certificate for Samuel Kennedy, Sr., Private, August 8, 1864. Note the details of last paymaster accounting to include February 29, 1864 and "CLOTHING amounting to Twelve 95/00 dollars [\$12.95] since the 24th day of January, 1864 when his clothing account was last settled."

"Company Muster Roll" forms for Samuel Kennedy, Jr. Pvt.

(BELOW LEFT) January-February 1864, one with the remark "Discharged Dec. 31, 1863 by reason of reenlistment as a veteran volunteer." He reenlisted for another three years and received the \$100 reenlistment bonus and leave during the winter months before the Spring Campaign of 1864.

(BELOW RIGHT) May & June 1864. Under "Present or Absent": "Not stated." But under Remarks he is "Indebted to U.S. for transportation and other stoppages \$30." He had gone home on leave granted after reenlisting on January 1, 1864.

N	67	Pa.	N	67	Pa.	N	67	Pa.	N	67	Pa.
Samuel Kennedy, Jr.			Samuel Kennedy, Jr.			Samuel Kennedy, Jr.			Samuel Kennedy, Jr.		
Co. I, 67 Reg't Pennsylvania Inf.			Co. I, 67 Reg't Pennsylvania Inf.			Co. I, 67 Reg't Pennsylvania Inf.			Co. I, 67 Reg't Pennsylvania Inf.		
Appears on			Appears on			Appears on			Appears on		
Company Muster Roll			Company Muster Roll			Company Muster Roll			Company Muster Roll		
for Jan & Feb., 1864.			for Jan & Feb., 1864.			for Mar & Apr., 1864.			for May & June, 1864.		
Present or absent			Present or absent	Present		Present or absent	Absent		Present or absent	Not stated	
Stoppage, \$ 100 for			Stoppage, \$ 100 for			Stoppage, \$ 100 for			Stoppage, \$ 100 for		
Due Gov't, \$ 100 for			Due Gov't, \$ 100 for			Due Gov't, \$ 100 for			Due Gov't, \$ 100 for		
Remarks: Discharged Dec 31 1863 by reason of reenlistment as a veteran volunteer.			Remarks:			Remarks: Absent on furlough as a veteran volunteer.			Remarks: Indebted to U.S. for transportation and other stoppages \$ 30.		

I certify, on honor, that Samuel Kennedy Sr. Private of Captain B. D. Caswell Company (L) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regt of Penn<sup>a</sup> Infantry VOLUNTEERS, of the State of Pennsylvania, born in Levy County, State of Ireland, aged 44 years; 6 feet — inches high; Dark complexion, Blue eyes, Dark hair, and by occupation a Laborer, having joined the company on its original organization at —, and enrolled in it at the muster into the service of the United States at —, on the — day of —, 186—, (or was mustered in service as a recruit, by — Enlistment, at Philada Pa., on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1864, or was drafted and mustered into the service of the United States from the Enrollment District of the State of —, at —, on the — day of —, 186—.) to serve in the Regiment, for the term of Three Years; and having served HONESTLY and FAITHFULLY with his Company in the 6<sup>th</sup> Co Pa Inf to the present date, is now entitled to a DISCHARGE by reason of Died in House of Gen. Knapp Philadelphia Pa. May 27<sup>th</sup> 1864.

The said Samuel Kennedy Sr. was last paid by Paymaster Maj. Keatons to include the 29<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1864, and has pay due him from that time to the present date; he is entitled to pay and subsistence for TRAVELING to place of enrollment, and whatever other allowances are authorized to volunteer soldiers, drafted men, or militia, so discharged. He has received from the United States CLOTHING amounting to Twelve 95 dollars, since the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1864, when his clothing account was last settled. He has received from the United States — — dollars advanced HOURLY.

There is to be stopped from him, on account of the State of —, or other authorities, for CLOTHING, &c., received on entering service, — — dollars; and for other stoppages, viz: — — dollars.

He has been furnished with TRANSPORTATION in kind from the place of his discharge to —; and he has been SUBSISTED for TRAVELING to his place of enrollment, up to the —, 186—.

He is indebted to —, SUTLER, — — dollars.

He is indebted to —, LAUNDRESS, — — dollars.

Given in Duplicate, at Halltown Pa., this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1864.

Samuel Barry  
Captain  
Commanding Regt

was serving. As soon as permission could be obtained he visited the hospital where he was informed I had left with his brother for home." So since William died at Mt. Pleasant Hospital in Washington on July 10, 1864, his younger brother would have been considered on duty up to that time.

Since the Presidential Order was not issued until December 19, 1864, this Company Muster Roll would have had to have been prepared at a later date than that indicated as the period of June-July 1864. [There is an even later stamp dated "Sep.-3, 1892" with the serial number "20886972" on the "over" side of this document, as well as the annotation "No MO Roll original Co. I."]

"Samuel Kennedy, Jr., Pvt. Company Muster Roll", July & August 1864. Note instance of first documentation as "Deserted July 16, 1864". Also reference to "By direction of The President Samuel Kennedy, Jr. Pvt. now at his home Phoenixville, Pa. will be discharged the service of the U.S. ..." This directive would have had to have been entered after Martha Kennedy's December 1864 visit to President Lincoln.

Then the clear handwritten text in the Company Muster Roll report (on both sides) for July & August states:

Deserted July 16, 1864. Indebted to U.S. for 1 Enfield Rifle & Equipments, \$21.25. Dischg'd the Service Par. 21, S.O. 455, A.G.O. Dec. 19, 1864.

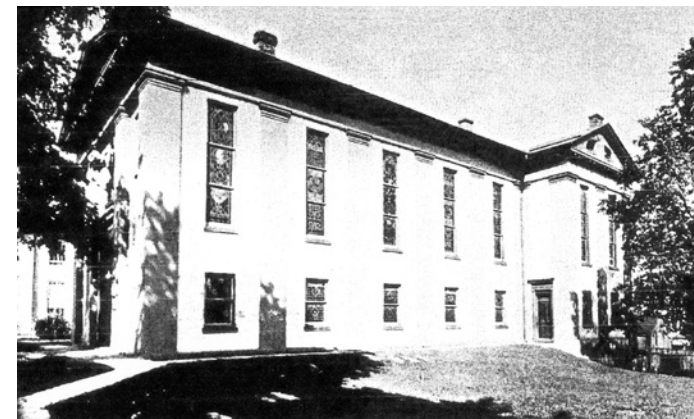
By direction of the President, Samuel Kennedy, Jr. Pvt. now at his home Phoenixville, Pa. will be discharged the service of the U.S upon the receipt of this order at the place where he may be serving S.O. No. 455 Par. 21 War Dept. A.G.O. Dec. 19, 1864\*

\*As appears on roll.

[NOTE: In the above quoted text, S.O. = Special Order, and A.G.O. = Adjutant General's Office.]

Special Orders, No. 455, War Department Adjutant General's Office, Washington, December 19th, 1864. (Extract), printed text. The official printed version of discharge order for Private Samuel Kennedy, Jr. by order of the Secretary of War as directed by President Abraham Lincoln. It is noteworthy that the term Honorable does not appear in this discharge.

The National Archives also contains a copy (below) of the original handwritten version of this Special Order signed by E.D. Townsend, Assistant Adjutant General. It shows the name "Martha Kennedy, Mother of Samuel Kennedy, Jr." at lower right, perhaps indicating she was the addressee. This document would have been delivered to "Martha Kennedy, Mother of Samuel Kennedy, Jr." as addressee, at her home in Phoenixville where Samuel, Jr. was then living.



The Phoenixville Methodist Church, 1926. View of the east side wall where Samuel Kennedy, Sr. and his son William John Kennedy were buried.

## Burials

Private Samuel Kennedy, Sr. and his son Corporal William John Kennedy were buried in the graveyard of the Phoenixville Methodist Church, next to the east wall of the building. Government markers were placed on the wall of the church over their graves. In the 1960s the congregation moved to a new sanctuary on South Main Street (Route 29), on the south side of Nutt Road. The old church and property were sold to Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, which was located across Church Street, for use as an activity center. It has since transitioned into a Senior Center in Phoenixville. The graveyard has been paved over for parking, and the grave markers were removed.

On May 20, 1871 a Civil War Soldiers' Monument was dedicated in the new Morris Cemetery in Phoenixville. The three-year fund-raising campaign to erect this monument had been led by John R. Dobson, the Company commander of *The Artillerists*. The names of Phoenixville area soldiers who gave their lives in the war, and their regiments, are inscribed in the base panels of this monument. The names of Samuel Kennedy, Sr. and William John Kennedy can be found there.

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A continuation of Martha Kennedy's account of her meeting with Mr. Lincoln, based upon an interview with Mrs. Martha Kennedy originally published in the *Phoenixville Messenger* on July 5, 1885, advances the story:

"... I had a just claim for the discharge of my son, he being a minor."

"I made preparations to visit the President for that purpose when John M. Broomall, our Congressman, kindly offered to attend to the matter for me. I reported to Mr. Broomall in Washington after Congress had convened, with an application for my boy's discharge well indorsed setting forth the reasons which impelled me to such a course. Mr. Broomall kindly took the papers, assuring me that he would do all in his power to accomplish the object of my mission. But Mr. Broomall soon learned that with all his prestige as a

Congressman, his eloquence and Christian sympathy, he was powerless to make an impression on the stern old patriot, Secretary Stanton, who while his heart bled for the poor afflicted mother, no words of sympathy or persuasion could swerve him from his duty to his country. Here the brave man stood in all his grandeur unmoved by sympathy and untempted by flattery or gold, an effectual barrier to the depletion of the Union Army. He knew full well that success depended as much upon the boys as older heads. I soon learned that similar appeals had become daily occurrences. The President, with his sympathetic mature [sic], was unable to listen to the sad pleadings of a mother without relieving the sufferer, therefore Secretary Stanton was compelled to nerve himself for the trying duty and well did he perform it.

On my arrival in Washington I was taken charge of and kindly treated by the Lady's Commission during my stay. When Mr. Broomall informed me of his failure the ladies of the Commission advised me to return home as from their experience it would be useless for me to attempt what a Congressman had failed to accomplish at the War Department. I replied I had not seen the President, and I could not return without presenting my case for his decision. One of the ladies volunteered to accompany me. Previous to leaving home my friends supplied me with a full war record of my husband and eldest son, directed to the President and requesting favourable consideration thereon. This was well indorsed by the influential men of our place. While waiting at the Commission for an opportunity to see the President, a lady from one of the Eastern States arrived upon a like errand. Soon after her arrival, in answer to a telegram, she was informed that her boy had been sent to a U.S. Hospital in Washington, sick. She reached the hospital just in time to assist at the burial of her only boy; her husband and two sons gone, she said she was now alone in the world. I took courage from this circumstance. My case, as bad as I thought it was, was not so hard and afflicting as was this poor woman's.

When the day arrived for visitors, accompanied by a lady of the Commission, I entered the waiting room to find it crowded with persons ready to lay before the president their tales of woe. As I entered a lady dressed in mourning, with her two little boys, sat near the entrance to the President's room. The usher bade her enter, and I occupied the place vacated by her. She had come to plead for her two little orphans whose father had been killed in the rebel army and all his property confiscated, leaving the widow and her two little boys penniless. After the sympathetic pleadings of a mother for her two little orphan boys, I heard the President in loud tones say: "Madam I can do nothing for you, you

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should have made your appeal to Congress.” And as the usher opened the door waiting her exit, she exclaimed “Mr. President, I have no friends in Congress.”

Upon hearing that my courage failed me and my heart sank within me. I fell into a reverie from which I was aroused by the usher to see the room deserted by all save myself. He asked my business there. I replied, to see the President. He ushered me into the presence of that great man, who looked like one overwhelmed with sorrow and care and worn down with trouble and fatigue. He accosted me with “Be seated, madam: what is the purpose of your visit? Without replying further I handed him my papers which he read carefully and closely scanned the names of the endorsers, after which handing me the papers he said: “Madam, take those papers to an alderman or an officer authorized to administer an oath, be qualified to them, and return them to me.” The friendly manner in which he spoke reassured me, and I began to tell him of my sorrows, when he stopped me suddenly with, “There, there, Madam say no more, do as I told you, and if the officer asks questions, tell him the President directed you to be qualified to those papers and say no more.”

When I returned upon a subsequent day, the waiting room was again crowded. I waited until the last had been served before I entered. The president recognized me and reached for the papers, which I gladly gave him. Looking over them he said: “What careless officers we have in Washington”; and called for mucilage with which he fastened the affidavit to the other papers, and then upon the reverse side he wrote the following endorsement: “Discharge the within named soldier, A. Lincoln.” Handing me the paper, he said: “Take these to the War Department and have your boy discharged,” but suddenly, as though just recollecting, he said with a sigh, “You need not go to the War Department tonight; nobody works in Washington after night but me.” Thanking him for his attention, I bade adieu, forever, to one whose sympathy and kindness had won my highest sentiments of regard. On the morrow, as directed by the President, I went to the War Department and had my son honorably discharged, he being at that time a minor. I left Washington Convinced that I was not the only person who had suffered from the dreadful scourge of war. The kind treatment and expression of sympathy I received sank deep into my heart, completely obliterating the least feeling of animosity and turning my sadness and sorrow into pity and love, and caused me to exclaim, “God bless our President, A. Lincoln.”

MARTHA KENNEDY

Comments below as reprinted in the Phoenixville Daily Republican on July 2, 1949.

“Mrs. Martha Kennedy lived at 22 Cottage Row, now Hall Street, and lies buried in Morris Cemetery. Her husband was Robert [sic] Kennedy. Her relatives still living in Phoenixville are Thomas Diamond of Buchanan Street, Mrs. Cecilia Hartman of Nutt road and Albert Lafferty of West Bridge Street.”

This 1885 newspaper article contains figures of speech that would not have originated from Martha Kennedy herself; e.g. “I bid adieu, forever, to one whose sympathy and kindness had won my highest sentiments of regard.” and the tactful reference to Secretary of War Stanton’s resolute but patriotic policy toward desertions. Nevertheless, it chronicles her achievement, in so many respects of having her son “honorably discharged, he being at that time a minor.”

Below is an overall memory of these events, transcribed from a copy of handwritten letters to her children written in the 1920s–30s by Margaret Kratz, daughter of Samuel Kennedy and Martha Jane Gibson Kennedy. Spelling and grammatical errors are deliberately retained. Note that there are some differences in the sequence of events from that documented in the rest of this article:

“To My Children

Just a little family history as I remember it. I remember how my Father, taking my Sister a baby in his arms and all of us going with him and Mother to see the first volunteers of Pennselvanny reserves, leaving for the front of which my brother William John Kennedy was second lieutenant and how as the war continued, my father got restless until finely he and our younger brother joined in a different regiment from John but they were together father & brother Sam; then I remember how their 3 years were ended on the battle field of the Wilderness, John was wounded acting first Lieutenent. How my mother went to Washington Mount Plesent hospital to nurse him and how my Father also wounded in Same battle was sent to chesnut Hill hospital and how after my Brothers death, our Mother took us children to Philadelphia to visit Father, at different times. He was wounded in hand and was walking around and was to come home on furlow and as the 3 years was up would be mustered out in a little while. I remember how he looked and how I was frightened at Soldiers at every gate & door with there guns and bayonets ready for use but our father never came home he was taking with lock jaw, the very day that I had seen him. My Mother went right back to hospital and was with Father until he passed out and brought his body home for beriel. We children never appreciated our Mothers Sorrow first her first bourn then her husband.

Our home was Phoenixville Chester Co Penna and then when his father was in hospital our younger brother Sam went and reenlisted for 3 more years, he went to visit his Brother at hospital and when told that he was dead, he started for home and walked from Washington to Phoenixville Chester Co Pena where he arrived in rags and blistered feet, French leefe they called it. Of course he was court marshed, but was pardoned for when he arrived home our Fathers body was in our home and he was there for the funeral. there was lots of soldiers in Phoe at that time as the first volenteers were mustered out and both Father and brother were buried in the little Methodist church yard in Phoenixville Penn and then my Mother went to Washington again on another erriend to visit the President Abrham Lincoln whare she spent 3 days & 3 nights before getting a chance to speak with the President. She (Mother) told us how people from every where were there some just to shake hands with the president and meney with petitions for pardons and the restorations of confiscripted properties. How 12 oclock Saturday night the president turned to our Mother and asked what he could do for her, he took her letters and sat down and she had seen him turn so many away that that she was trembling and thought it was a good sign when he pulled his chair up, and it was, for he signed her papers and gave her an affidavit; but told her she would have to have it signed by others and as no one kept such late hours as the president she would ha(ve to) wate for Monday morning so that my brother Sam received an Honorary discharge there were two younger boys at home at that time and baby sister and myself.”<sup>12</sup>

## After the Civil War

The U.S. Census of Phoenixville, dated July 26, 1870 reports Samuel Kennedy Jr. as 22 years old, residing with his mother Martha (52, ‘keeping house’), brother Joseph (17) and youngest sister Martha (13, this author’s great grandmother). He and Joseph were employed as “rolling mill hands.” Martha was listed as “at home” but would later be a student at the Soldiers’ Orphans School (grades 1–8, and trade school for older children) in nearby Yellow Springs until she turned sixteen on November 27, 1872.<sup>13</sup>

We have the record of Samuel Jr.’s purchase for \$20.00 of a burial lot (No. 409, lot 88, Section H) in the Morris Cemetery, Phoenixville, on August 27, 1875 for the burial of his younger brother Alexander (August 20, 1850 – Aug 28, 1875). His mother, Martha Gibson Kennedy, died on March 26, 1890 at age 70 of “dropsy,” and was buried in that cemetery in 1890—as was Samuel’s sister Sarah Jane Kennedy Lafferty (1842-1921). A replacement gravestone for Martha and Sarah was placed there in 2002 by Sharon Marcklinger Wagner and another member of the family.



Portrait photograph of Samuel Kennedy, Jr. taken after the Civil War.

Sarah Jane Kennedy married William J. Lafferty at the Presbyterian Church in Phoenixville on August 15, 1860, with the Reverend Joseph Porter officiating. William was a “blast furnace keeper” before the Civil War, when he enlisted in Company D of the First Pennsylvania Reserves. He was wounded in both arms and his right side during the Battle of Glendale, also known as the Charles City Crossroads, on June 30, 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign in Virginia. William was sent to an Army hospital in Philadelphia and discharged in September 1862. He died of pneumonia on April 27, 1872, complicated by the residual effect of his wounds.<sup>14</sup> Sarah had four children with William, all of whom were admitted to the Yellow Springs Soldiers’ Orphan School on September 3, 1875; William (14), Samuel (6), Martha (9), and James (4).<sup>15</sup>

In the 1880 U.S. Census, Sarah is listed as “36, Widowed, Servant” (one of four) residing in the home of “Reeves, David, 28, Iron Manufacturer.” David Reeves was the president of the Phoenix Iron Works from 1878–1923.



K | 67 | Penna  
Samuel Kennedy, Jr.  
Co. I, 67<sup>th</sup> Reg't Pa. Vol's

**NOTATION.**

Book mark: Ppa-993-1864.

**War Department,**  
**Adjutant General's Office,**  
 Washington, Sept. 20, 1877.

Dishonorably discharged  
September 21, 1877, to date  
July 16, 1864, by reason of de-  
sertion. Dishonorable  
Discharge furnished by  
A. G. O. September 21, 1877.

K | 67 | Pa.  
Samuel Kennedy, Jr.  
Plt., Co. I, 67<sup>th</sup> Reg't Pa. Infantry.

Appears on

**Descriptive List of Deserters**

dated Charleston Va Aug 31, 1864  
 Age 18 years; height, 5-4 feet 5 inches.  
 Complexion ash.; eyes blue; hair brn  
 Where born Pa. Allentown  
 Occupation laborer  
 When enlisted Mich 2, 1864  
 Where enlisted Brandy sta Va  
 When mustered in Mar 3, 1864  
 Where mustered in Brandy sta Va  
 For what period mustered in 3 years.  
 When deserted Aug 7, 1864  
 Where deserted Hall Town Va  
 When apprehended \_\_\_\_\_, 186  
 Where apprehended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Excerpt from National Archives file for Samuel Kennedy, Jr. with reference to his presumed desertion and dishonorable discharge.

The last entry in Samuel, Jr.'s National Archives file dated September 20, 1877 states:

"Dishonorably discharged September 21, 1877, to date July 16, 1864, by reason of desertion. Dishonorable discharge furnished by A.G.O. September 21, 1877."<sup>16</sup>

This is the first record of his discharge being officially designated as "Dishonorable." That retroactive action would have barred him from membership in the Grand Army of The Republic, which was open only to veterans who had been honorably discharged. We have no information on Samuel Kennedy, Jr.'s life after this notation.

### A Grim Fate Awaits Another Soldier from The 67<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania

We have this record by a soldier in a New Jersey regiment of the fate of another soldier from the 67<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania who in 1865 was found guilty of desertion:

"John Kelly, from the 67<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, was sentenced to be shot to death with musketry on Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. The rest were punished in various ways; some of them were sent to the Rip Raps, and others were to work on the fortifications around Fortress Monroe. As this was the first military execution in the division, it was hoped that he would be pardoned. His friends interposed in his behalf, but all to no purpose, and the order for his execution was given. The morning of Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>, dawned clear and bright, and all were impressed with the solemn scene. The division was formed in line at nine o'clock about one mile from camp, to witness the sad event. He had been visited daily by the priest, and was prepared to die. At 10 o'clock he was led from the guard-house by the sergeant in charge of the prisoners from the 14<sup>th</sup>

New Jersey, and the procession moved as follows: First the band playing the dead march, followed by the prisoner sitting on his coffin with the priest and four pall-bearers, and an escort of twenty men marching with reverse arms to the scene of the execution. The division in line presented arms. After passing the troops, band and firing party filed to the right, the prisoner and pall-bearers to the left. His sentence was then read to him, and the priest administered the sacrament; but he seemed totally indifferent, and as unmoved as a spectator. He was then placed on his coffin with his arms and eyes bandaged, and exclaimed, 'Fire low, boys, hit me in the heart and kill me all at once.' The command was given to fire, and eight balls entered his body; each one of them would have proved mortal. Four men were reserved in case he was not killed, but they were not needed, as he was instantly killed, a warning to all deserters. He was placed in his coffin and buried where he fell."<sup>17</sup>

Phil WAR OF 1861. 39045  
 Brief in the case of Martha Kennedy  
Widow of Samuel Kennedy  
Br. Co. I, 67<sup>th</sup> Pa. Vols.  
Chester County, and State of Pennsylvania  
 Act of July 14, 1862.  
 Post Office address of Applicant, Thornville - Chester Co. Pa.  
 Claim for Widow's Pension.  
 Declaration and Identification in due form.  
 PROOF EXHIBITED.

1<sup>st</sup> Properly authenticated Baptismal record, establishing marriage - foreign marriage

2<sup>d</sup> Declaration of Claimant, showing widowhood, loyalty, and that soldier left 4 minor children

3<sup>d</sup> Adjt. Gen. Reports enrollment & muster, as a private, Jan. 24 1862, - On the muster roll for May & June 1864, he is reported "Killed - Wounded" U.S. Hosp. Phila. May 27 1864  
 On quarterly return 2<sup>d</sup> quarter 1864, reported "Killed May 27 - 64 wounds - Wounded in action May 6 - 64"

Power of atty. duly executed

Admitted Jan 14, 1865, to a Pension of \$ 8.00 per month, commencing May 27, 1864

War of 1861 Certificate of Admission to Award of Soldier's Widow's Pension, #39045, to Martha Kennedy. "Admitted January 14, 1865, to a Pension of \$8.00 per month, commencing May 27, 1864", retroactive to the day her husband Samuel Kennedy, Sr. died.

### Widow's Pension and Child Support

After the death of her husband, Martha Gibson Kennedy applied under the "Act of July 14, 1862," to the Federal government for widow's benefits, which were eight dollars a month. The National Archives records show that, in the absence in the United States of any written record of their marriage back in Ireland, she had to retain a lawyer and provide notarized affidavits (including her own) testifying that she had been legally married to Samuel Kennedy. The first such application document is dated July 28, 1864. Martha Kennedy's signature appears on it, along with those of Joseph Taggart and Thomas Taggart as sworn witnesses and attestors to the facts of her application. The name of First Lieutenant Joseph Taggart is on the list of the personnel of Company G, First Pennsylvania Volunteers (William Kennedy's unit) in

Phil WAR OF THE REBELLION. 6 Acts of July 25, 1866, and July 27, 1868.  
 INCREASE OF WIDOW'S PENSION.  
 ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE, No. 39045, issued Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1865  
Martha Kennedy Widow of  
Samuel Kennedy Rank, Private  
Chester County, and State of Pennsylvania  
 Residence: Chester County, and State of Pennsylvania  
 Post Office: Thornville, Chester Co. Pa.  
 Attorney: D. S. Cary Thornville Pa.  
 Fee: \$ 1.00  
 No contract and no material evidence filed since July 8, 1870,  
 Rate of pension: \$ Eight per month, commencing May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1864, the date  
 at which the original pension commenced, and two dollars per month for each of the following children:  

By former marriage: Joseph.	Born, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	Commencing _____, 18 <u>64</u>
	State, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	
	Born, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	" _____, 18 <u>64</u>
	State, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	
By present marriage: Margaret.	Born, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	" _____, 18 <u>64</u>
	Born, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	
	Born, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	" _____, 18 <u>64</u>
	Born, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	
By present marriage: Martha.	Born, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	" _____, 18 <u>64</u>
	Born, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	
	Born, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	" _____, 18 <u>64</u>
	Born, _____, 18 <u>58</u>	

 Payments on all former certificates covering any portion of the same time to be deducted.  
 Approved, Apr 13<sup>th</sup>, 1871. D. S. Cary Examiner.  
 Approved, March 20, 1871. PHS Reviewer.  
 Chief of Division.

DATES SHOWN BY PAPERS.  
 Increase application filed, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1870 Former marriage of soldier, \_\_\_\_\_, 1858  
 Death of the soldier, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1864 Marriage of soldier to claimant, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1869  
 Honor by applicant of witnesses, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1869  
 Penalty two years prior to death of soldier, alleged to be obtained unlawfully - portion awarded in Ireland

Certificate of Increase in payment to Martha Kennedy, Widow of Samuel Kennedy, March 20, 1871. Two dollars a month each, retroactive to July 25, 1866 for three orphaned children under the age of sixteen.

Bates' *History of The Pennsylvania Volunteers*.<sup>18</sup> But although the application lists the names and birthdates of her four children, then under the age of sixteen, no Soldiers' Orphan support would be received for them from this 1864 application.

The completed award form titled "War of 1861" for a widow's pension of eight dollars a month may be seen in the adjacent illustration. It shows that final approval was "admitted" on Jan. 14, 1865, retroactive to Samuel's death on May 27, 1864. The final "certificate granted" approval was signed on January 23, 1865.

Martha would go through a greatly expanded repeat of this process again between February 1870 and March 28, 1871 to finally receive Soldiers' Orphans support, two dollars a month, for each of her three children under sixteen, effective and retroactive to July 25, 1866.

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1864, personally appeared before me, a Clerk of a Court Record in and for the County and State aforesaid, Martha Kennedy a resident of Phoenixville in the County of Chester and State of Pennsylvania aged 37 years, who, being duly sworn, makes the following declaration, in order to obtain the pension provided by the act of Congress, approved July 14, 1862. That she is the widow of Samuel Kennedy who was a private in Company D commanded by Samuel in the 67<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Penn<sup>a</sup> Co in the war of 1861; that her maiden name was Martha Gibson and that she was married to said Samuel Kennedy on or about the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, at the city of Coleraine in the county of Entrim and State of Ireland by Rev. Mr. Whitelock and that she knows of no record evidence of said marriage and cannot procure the evidence of the Rev. Mr. Whitelock of said marriage, and she further declares that said Samuel Kennedy her husband, did go into the service of the United States as aforesaid, at Chestnut St Hosp. Pa in the State of Pennsylvania on or about the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 1864, and she has four children under the age of sixteen living with her, Alexander who was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1860, Joseph who was born on the fifth day of September 1852, Margaret who was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1854, and Martha who was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1856.

She also declares, that she has remained a widow ever since the death of said Samuel Kennedy and that she has not in any manner been engaged in, or aided or abetted, the rebellion in the United States: and she hereby appoints Col. Francis Judan Mc, Capt of Penn<sup>a</sup> as her lawful attorney, and authorizes him to present and prosecute this claim, and to receive and receipt for any orders or certificates that may be issued in satisfaction thereof. P. D. Addams Phoenixville, Chester Co, Penn<sup>a</sup>

Martha Kennedy Joseph Taggart and Thomas Taggart residents of Chester County and State of Pennsylvania, to me well known as credible persons, who being duly sworn, declare that they were present and saw said Martha Kennedy sign her name to the foregoing declaration, and that they have every reason to believe, from the appearance of said applicant, and their acquaintance with her, that she is the identical person she represents herself to be, and know that said deceased recognized said applicant as his lawful wife, and that she was so recognized by the community in which they resided; and that they have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

Witness Th. Trego  
Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 1864  
and I hereby certify that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.  
J. A. Trego  
Th. Trego  
Th. Trego

Application and Affidavits for Widow's Pension, Martha Kennedy, July 28, 1864. This remarkable handwritten execution of the preprinted U.S. government form on one legal size page contains all the information required under the "act of Congress, approved July 14, 1862" for Martha Kennedy to apply for a widow's pension. Note the sworn declarations that she was married to Samuel Kennedy in Coleraine, in the Kingdom of Ireland, but can provide no written record of this marriage; that she has not remarried, "aided or abetted the rebellion in the United States;" that she has four children under the age of sixteen and their birthdates; designation of her attorney for administration of her claim; and her signature two-thirds of the way down the page. The information on the page is then attested to with the signatures of Joseph and Thomas Taggart. Joseph Taggart was a First Lieutenant in Company G, of the First Pa. Reserves, the unit in which her son William Kennedy served. The signatures were witnessed, and the document was then signed at the bottom by F.A Trego, Prothonotary, District Court, City of Philadelphia.

## Epilogue: The Family Remembers

My father, Joseph Francis Brazel, had a set of used American history books, *The History of the Our Country*<sup>19</sup> that he pored over again and again. He must have related his family legend version of his ancestors' Civil War experiences to me when I was a child, looking at the fascinating illustrations in those books.

In researching for this article, I went to the Civil War volume of that set one last time and found this summary of Abraham Lincoln's character, the closing sentences of which are so apropos of the Martha Kennedy family story.

"Had Lincoln received a military education, he would doubtless have been the foremost general of his time. He may have hindered military successes now and then by his interference, but oftener he aided by his instinctive grasp of the situation. He was gifted the subtle power of reading men. A patriot in every fibre of his being, all patriots found in him an unflinching friend. He could never close his ears to the pleading wife or mother, for husband or son who had fallen short in his duty. The life of many an erring soldier was saved, when stern justice called for his punishment, until it became a proverb among officers that the only way to enforce rigid discipline was to do it before the friends of the condemned could reach the President with their prayers for mercy."



A group photo from 1929 shows a span of four generations of Kennedy-Diamond-Brazel-Hogan women. It was taken in the backyard of James Leo Brazel and Margaret Diamond Brazel, the author's grandparents' home at Bridgeport, Montgomery County, Pa. Seated at front right: Martha "Mame" Kennedy Diamond, 1856-1931. She was "the baby" that her older sister Margaret remembered in this quote from 1861 "... how my Father, taking my Sister a baby in his arms and all of us going with him and Mother to see the first volentears of Pennselvanny reserves, leaving for the front ..." Seated at front left: her oldest child, daughter Margaret "Maggie" Diamond Brazel, 1874-1938. Standing at left: Cecilia Diamond Hartman (mentioned as a surviving descendant of Martha Gibson Kennedy in the 1949 Daily Republican reprint of Martha's 1885 newspaper interview). Standing at right: Martha "Mattie" Diamond Cleary, daughter of Martha Kennedy Diamond. And standing in front: Margaret "Peggy" Hogan Rexrode, 1926-2021, granddaughter of Margaret Diamond Brazel. Photograph courtesy of Rev. Joseph F. Hogan, 1928-2015, grandson of Margaret Diamond Brazel.



Group photo of Kennedy Family descendants at a reunion on July 29, 2011 in Phoenixville, Pa.. From left: sister and brother, Monica Brazel Kurtz and (author) James Brazel, (descendants of Martha Kennedy Diamond); Jim Barrett; three sisters — Betty Marcklinger Spies, Sharon Marcklinger Wagner and Bonnie Marcklinger Fose; Susan Barrett Fleming and James Cornelius, (descendants of Sarah Jane Kennedy Lafferty).

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## Endnotes

- 1 Interview with Mrs. Martha Kennedy, originally published in the *Phoenixville Messenger* on July 5, 1885; reprinted in the *Phoenixville Daily Republican* as “Local Woman Visited Lincoln During War” in the *1849–1949 Centennial Souvenir Edition*, July 2, 1949.
- 2 Personal communication from Sharon Marcklinger Wagner to James Brazel.
- 3 U. S. Census for 1850, “Free Inhabitants in Upper Merion Township in the County of Montgomery of Pennsylvania enumerated by me on the 5th day of August 1850, Nathan Hallowell, Jr. Ass’t Marshal.” Dwelling-house numbered in the order of visitation, 72.
- 4 *History of Montgomery County within The Schuylkill Valley*, William J. Buck, 1859, E.L. Acker, Norristown, pp. 39 & 49.
- 5 Affidavit dated January 5, 1865 from First Presbyterian Church of Easton and record for baptisms of three Kennedy Children, Joseph, Margaret and Martha.
- 6 *U.S. Census for 1860, “Free Inhabitants in Phoenixville, in the County of Chester, State of, Penna.,...11 July 1860...., page No. 86(?)”* Dwelling house numbered in order of visitation, 608.
- 7 “Answering the Call: Phoenixville Responds,” *Newsletter of The Historical Society of The Phoenixville Area*, Ertell, J.B., June 2011.
- 8 “When Johnny Came Marching Home: Phoenixville’s Civil War Legacy,” *Newsletter of the Historical Society of The Phoenixville Area*, Ertell, J.B., Vol. 38, No. 3, June 2015.
- 9 *History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861–1865*, Samuel P. Bates, Vol. III, B. Singerly, state printer, Harrisburg, Pa., 1869–71.
- 10 *Ibid.* Vol. III, p. 665.
- 11 “When Philadelphia Became A Center of Medicine,” *hiddencityphila.org*, Edward W. Duffy, October 12, 2020.
- 12 Courtesy: Sharon Marcklinger Wagner, 206 Drury Lane, Slidell, LA 70460, February 26, 2004. Each volunteer soldier has one Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR) for each regiment in which he served. The Compilers file copies of letters were obtained from Institutes Manuscript Archive in the file under William J. Kennedy. Department of the Army, U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center, Carlisle, Pa.
- 13 *U.S. Census for 1870, “Schedule 1. - Inhabitants in Phoenixville District 155 in the County of Chester, State of Penna., enumerated for the 26th day of July, 1870.* Fred A. Tencate, Ass’t Marshal. Dwelling house numbered in order of visitation, 673. Also, *Pennsylvania Soldiers’ Orphan Schools*, James Laughery Paul, 1876, Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger, Philadelphia.
- 14 Sharon Marcklinger Wagner (*ibid.*)
- 15 James Laughery Paul (*ibid.*)
- 16 Notation, Descriptive List of Deserters, Samuel Kennedy, Jr. Pvt., Co. I, 67 Reg’t Pa Infantry, Book Mark Ppr. 9931864.
- 17 *Campaign of The Fourteenth Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, Second Edition*, Sgt. J. Newton Terrill, 1884, Daily Home News Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Courtesy of Thomas Farner.
- 18 Samuel P. Bates (*ibid.*)
- 19 *The History of Our Country*, pp. 881-2, Edward S. Ellis, 1900, The Jones Brothers Publishing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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