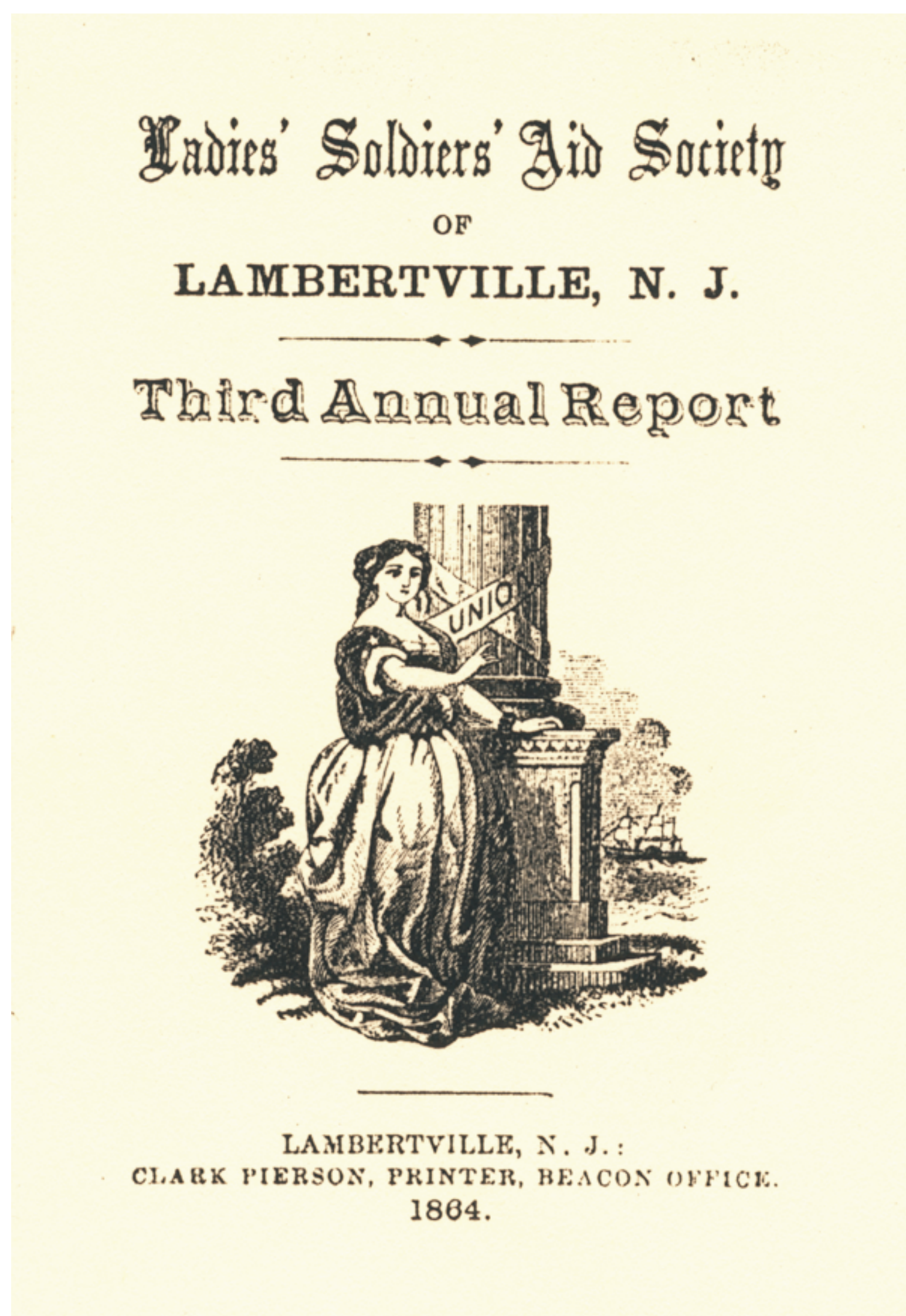




The Great Sanitary Fair, Philadelphia, New Jersey Department, 1864. (John W. Kuhl Collection)



Ladies Soldiers Aid Society of Lambertville, NJ, Third Annual Report, 1864. (John W. Kuhl Collection)



Soldiers' Retreat, Clinton Street, Trenton, NJ, 1865. Women organized receptions to send soldiers off to the front, as well as celebrations welcoming battle-weary soldiers back home. (John W. Kuhl Collection)

## THE HOME FRONT

Although removed from the battlefield, New Jerseyans on the home front supported the war effort in a variety of ways. Recruitment rallies with patriotic speeches and displays of the American flag characterized home front activities throughout the war. Receptions for new recruits, as well as returning veterans, were also organized. Martial music, flags and banners were designed to arouse patriotism and show support for the troops and the Union cause. At the beginning of the war, New Jersey raised more regiments than its federal quota. Indeed, Governor Olden petitioned the Federal government to accept the Fourth and Ninth New Jersey Volunteer Infantry units.

Correspondence with family and friends was a particularly personal way to support those on the battlefield. With no other means of communication, letters provided vital links with home and surviving examples offer unique insights into home and army life during the war.

Women were particularly active in providing aid to soldiers in the field. Community support organizations were established in towns large and small throughout the state. Packages to the front included everything from food, writing and sewing supplies to religious books, Bibles and hospital and medical supplies. These aid associations became critical to the success of the war effort and collected donations, held fundraising events and coordinated contributions from civic organizations and churches. They also organized New Jersey sections of the "Sanitary Fairs" for soldier relief in New York and Philadelphia in 1864, each of which raised \$1,000,000 for the Union cause.

Camp near Bellplains Va.  
February 21<sup>st</sup> / 63  
Dear wife I again sit down to inform you that I am well at present and I hope by the blessing of God those lines may find you and the children enjoying good health let us ever remember that it is to God that we are indebted for life and health and food and every blessing both spiritual and temporal it is a fine day here today and I hope it is with you for it seems to be more cheerful in fair weather I got the letter that you wrote me on the 1<sup>st</sup> of this inst and the one that you wrote on the 8<sup>th</sup> also and I got another one yesterday the 20<sup>th</sup> written the 15<sup>th</sup> I was glad to hear that you still enjoyed reasonable good health I answered the letter that you wrote on the 1<sup>st</sup>

Letter from Cornelius Pierce, Company K, 29<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Volunteers, Bellplain, VA, to Sarah Pierce, New Bedford, NJ, 1863. Correspondence helped maintain links between the battlefield and home front. (John W. Kuhl Collection)