

# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

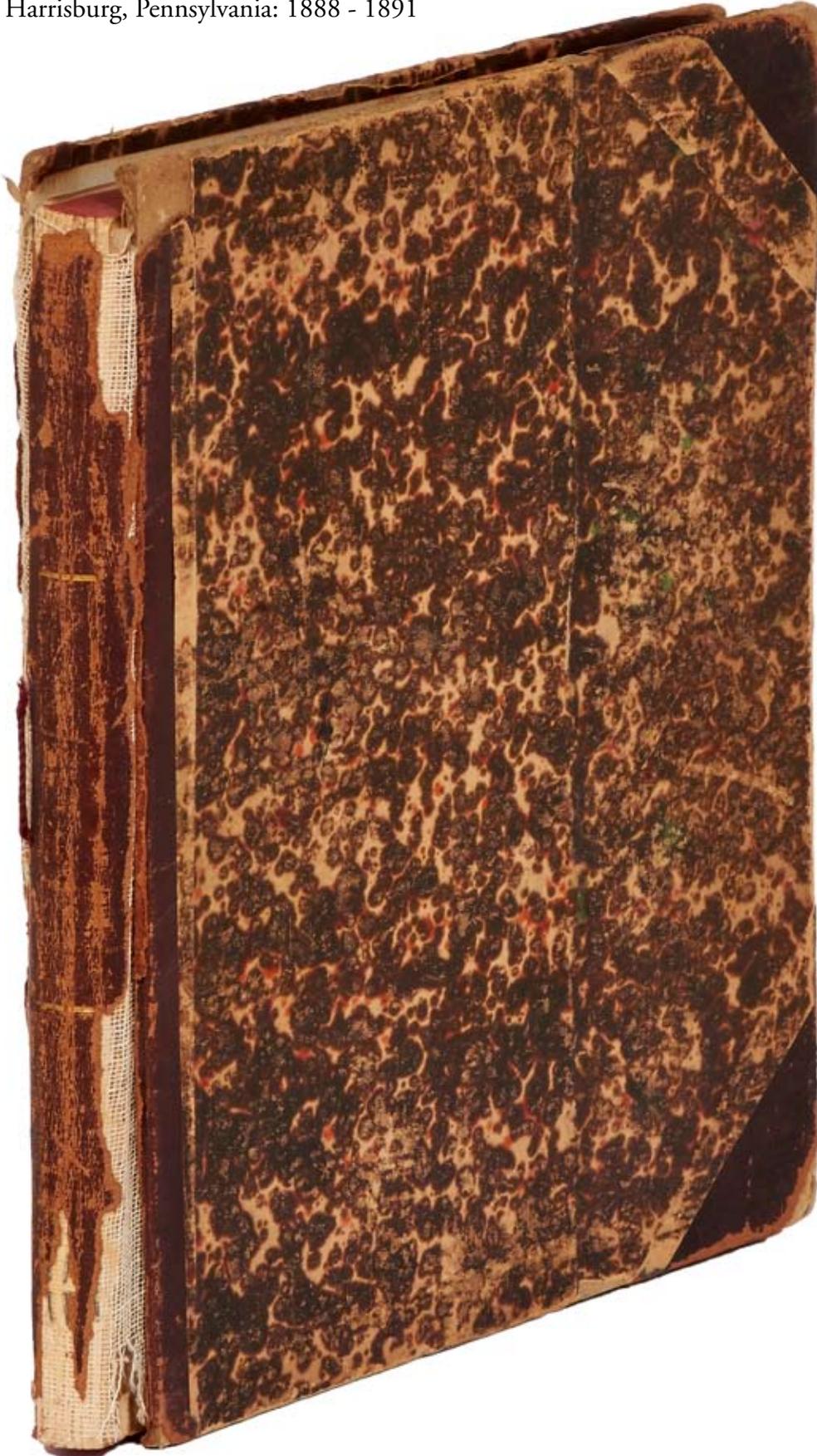
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## **Cora L. Shaffner**

### *High School Exercise Book and Journal*

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: 1888 - 1891



Octavo. Half leather and marbled papercovered boards. Rubbing, worn edges, and chips thus good only. An exercise book and journal of Cora L. Shaffner of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania during her high school years from 1888 until 1891. Included are retained letters, with notations such as “uncorrected” along the top page edge, poems, journal entries, short stories, and essays written for various high school classes. An essay entitled “What Can a Girl Do?” describes a high school girl’s feminist views and discusses the idea of gender equality. It begins, “what can a girl do? is a question that has been asked scornfully and earnestly since her mind and intellectual powers have been acknowledged equal to man’s and she has, in the present day, every advantage, what can she not do?” It continues, “Now you find girls in most every employment and not only doing what a man can do but also doing it as well as he...The medical profession, which for so long a time closed its doors to females, has finally opened them and now girls and women are studying and fitting themselves to relieve suffering humanity.”

## What Can a Girl Do?

W. "What can a girl do?" is a question that has been asked scornfully and earnestly. Since her mind and intellectual powers have been acknowledged equal to man's and she has, in the present day, every advantage, what can she not do?

Years ago it was thought that a girl's place was at home, learning to keep house and attending to household duties and that none but men should have entrance to the professions and things pertaining to higher mental culture.

As time has flown the tide of events has changed. Now you find girls in most every employment and not only doing what a man can do, but also

An entry titled "Summer of '88," reads, "several weeks before the fall term began I visited one of my old school friends, Edna Cook at Waynesboro... Waynesboro is a little town over in Franklin County, quite near the Blue Mountains, and only five miles from Pen Mar which is one of the most beautiful picnic grounds in the state." She continues, "from High Rock the most beautiful view can be obtained of the far famed Cumberland Valley. In this beautiful valley lay many towns and villages, and the most productive farms that Pennsylvania can boast." Shaffner writes out letters to girlfriends, essays on writers such as Longfellow, and copies stories down for penmanship including *Cinderella*. In a retained copy of a letter dated February 1, 1889 she writes to Edna Cook, "I am so sorry to hear of your mamma's death. I was greatly surprised not knowing of her illness. Our lives are all short and each should be ready to die, for we all know if we live right we shall meet our dear ones in heaven." The book continues with descriptions of friends, classrooms, what she saw on her way to school, and excursions throughout the state. The final entry is dated March 22, 1891.

An extensive exercise book detailing the friendships, education, and high school career of a young woman in Pennsylvania. [BTC#399120]

## An Excursion to Pen Mar

During the summer of '88 I spent a few weeks in Franklin Co. While there we made a visit to Pen Mar, one of the most beautiful parks in the state. On one of the brightest August mornings we arose early, packed our lunch, made the station barely in time to catch the early train. The scenery on the way was beautiful. The birds were singing, the sky cloudless, and all nature fresh and smiling with dew, nature's shower-bath.

Along we sped, time flew so quickly, that we were at the park before we were aware of it. The park proper is not what interests the majority of people, although it is laid out nicely with tan walks, a large dancing pavilion, elegant restaurants and shooting galleries.

Mt. Quirank and High Rock are two very high mountains, adjoining

girls just as we are. The medical profession, which for so long a time closed its doors to females, has finally opened them and now girls and women are studying and fitting themselves to relieve suffering humanity.

The girls of our day are compared with those of days gone by and are severely criticized. We hear from our elders such remarks as this: "Now when I was a girl, I could do this or that, bake bread or make a pudding and do numerous other things that you know nothing about."

Do they stop to consider that in many respects their day was not like ours? They had but a few months of school, we have ten; they did not study the branches we do, but gave their time and energies to house-work and the like.

We ought to know these things too,