While we were in camp at the soldiers home in the fall of 62 says M.C. M.D. of Merc?? Pa "the boys indulged in various kinds of amusements ~~such~~ ~~Running jumping tossing horseshoes~~ &c

I think it was the Kepler Boys ~~that~~ who introduced the trained Elephant, by ~~taking~~ two men of about the same size ~~in~~ both in a stooped position were placed one ahead of the other ~~with the~~ ~~rear one holding on to the one in front~~ ~~bent up~~ ~~throw~~ an army blanket was then thrown over them so that it ~~Which would~~ come ~~at~~ about to their knees and an improvised trunk, by wrapping a piece of a blanket around a small clasical piece of wood was placed in the hands of the ~~you~~ you have your ~~trained~~ Elephant, ours was taught to get down on both knees, stand on one front one hind leg & various other tricks, while the Elephant was

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going through his excercises one evening the President strolled into camp ~~and~~ He was ~~very~~ much amused at the wonderful ~~tricks~~ feats the Elephant could perform~~ing~~ ~~in~~ a few evenings after he called again and brought a friend with him ~~I think a Senator~~ and asked the captain if he would not have the Elephant brought out again as he would like to have his friend see him perform ~~which~~ of course was done, to the ~~great~~ amusement of ~~and which was very~~ both ~~much enjoyed~~ by the President & his friend!"

This incident occurred to me the other day I had almost forgotten about it it is not very well written but you can correct it

Yours Truly

C M Derickson

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