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*Franco A. Laine*

*Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> 1863.*

166-38 p. 100 of a notebook of a man, whose name is not clear

to the Lord for the first two weeks we have had report after report daily about the Federal forces below but not half of them true, they were reported in force on the Baptist Station, but at first they were false, but it is said today they are certainly at three two points, 2,000 at Bull's Gap, a heavy force building up the R.R. working night & day, some think they are on Lynchburg, Monday had washing done, then black & ironed, & Eddy (black) cleaned up the kitchen things, shook the carpet on the front room floor, washed the windows, while I was ironing, just about dinner Will Rankin came in, took dinner, then started off in company with Sam Garrison, Dick & Powell Sam, Dick, Ty & Powell, Wednesday we commenced dipping candles, but the day was so warm we had to stop over for the next day, they made so slow that evening Dr Garrison called down in the cellar to see us, he took his wife up Thursday we finished off our 44 dog candles then about four o'clock, just after we got the sick child came in & took supper with us, that night Mother came up & sat a short time, Monday evening we gave Dr Garrison, his lady & supper had Eliza, Mary & John with them, Tuesday was a Mother's day, Mary helped me to make a dress for Martha Ellen, once for Pa sent her, she was it to-day, yesterday I attended to my usual labors, Mr Bisco preached to-day, while in church Mr Bisco with his scout came this morning, considerably the whole portion that they were gathered, it is said Sherman is badly whipped in & retreats

Monday, Apr. 9th No Federal made their appearance as yet, though expected at any time, & have been for the past two weeks, we cannot hear certainly of any being any nearer than Lynchburg, they are said to be in heavy force, this morning, it was rumored they were in single force, this may be false, their movements seem to be a mystery to every one, this country is entirely evacuated, & why they do not come on & take possession is a little strange, all are ready & waiting, we hear to-day of the bush-whackers, having robbed Bouvier's store, extensively, but can't tell as to the truth, this day so far has been unusually quiet, some moving about scarcely, we had a Sabbath school, pretty well attended, & expected preaching by previous appointment, but, at Sunday Mr Bisco said he wd preach at three this evening, he had a letter from B. Garrison dated Mar 18th he was then very well but tired of his imprisonment, he gave me the latest news from the F., said he had received a letter from him some time during the first of March, at Cincinnati his plan then was to bring goods to Knoxville, move his family thro' the line, but this move wh the Govt has some what confused things, Willy at home two or three days this week, left on Wednesday, may be will be the last time for a long time, during this evening two weeks ago, you boys, what will become of them, they their lives may be shared, until this wicked war is over

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journal book for the purpose.  
 Monday in P.M. His two weeks to day since  
 I made any record in my book, during the  
 the first few days we had many Confederate  
 victories reported, which were entirely  
 ours. when the north came, they were en-  
 tirely on the Federal side, some very great  
 changes have taken place in this country  
 which I trust will be for our benefit.

The day I last made a record was the  
 day which Genl Lee surrendered his army  
 & evacuated Richmond & Petersburg, con-  
 sequently the States of Virginia & Tennessee  
 were given up, this news reached us the  
 last of that week, Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> this news pro-  
 duced utter confusion & dismay upon the  
 rebels, despair seemed depicted upon their  
 countenances, then in a few days we heard  
 the Army had surrendered in N.C. & that state  
 given up, so we then concluded the fighting  
 was done in this part of the country, for  
 as the soldiers have been passing on their  
 way home & coming every day, the boys will  
 soon all be at home, that is my brother,  
 their lives are still spared, I am not in  
 a prisoner so far as we know, in all Frankline  
 would up as it has, my husband who has been  
 from his family & home for 15 months, this case is  
 every day for a week he will see it is so.

I will say that I have no diary until I come home

Dr. Rhea born on Aug 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 3 o'clock, died  
 at the age of five months from all his life affected with that disease, his head being  
 Martha Gilman had teeth at four months,

sat alone at five, crawled between seven  
 and eight, and began to step a little at  
 the age of thirteen months, said a few little  
 words at that age.

John Mitchell, born Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, between 10 & 11 A.M.  
 sat alone at six months  
 had two teeth through at seven months,  
 has been a good baby, began to crawl at  
 nine months and soon to stand by a chair  
 so far they have escaped all diseases  
 to which children are subject, had  
 no sickness of any kind, except  
 when teething, for which our hearts  
 should be filled with thankful-  
 ness & gratitude to the great  
 good gift.

June 15<sup>th</sup> / 63, Again in the providence of God  
 another dear little immortal soul  
 has been entrusted to our care and

charge for training, I trust that we may have grace and wisdom given us from on high, making known to us our every duty towards him and our others, as well assisting in the full discharge of them.

3. Sam babe was born <sup>Tuesday</sup> May 26<sup>th</sup> 1863  
9 o'clock. he will be three weeks old tomorrow, not yet named, when he was nine days old, I put on my clothes, & was up most of the day & have been ever since. Mother was with me one week, then Mary came up & stayed two or three nights & days, he seems to be a large healthy child, Jounie & Martha Ellen are growing, & recuming every where, Jounie seems to be the healthier of the two, he is learning to talk fast

June, 17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, The weather for the past two days has been exceedingly warm - the first summer weather we have had, yesterday we had a visit from Cousin Sam & Mr Boggs, they came up Monday morning, & left this morning, Mr Cain is from home, having very unexpectedly been summoned to appear at the Military Court in Knoxville as a witness in his Snapp's case, he left very reluctantly,

Martha Ellen & Jounie are both down with their Grandma, Jounie was down all night, the baby sleeping in the little room on the bed, away from the flies, which are very numerous, he is mostly good & cries sometimes,

Sabbath night -

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Several months have elapsed since I last opened my book to record any of the transpiring events of the day and equally as many changes have taken place (if not more) as months pass, since then we have had wars & rumors of wars, fighting and blood shed in our own little quiet town.

During the months of June, July and August nothing special took place, we all were then busily engaged in trying to make & put away things for winter use, Mr. Linn was farming some, working his corn, potatoes, garden &c. until harvest set in, then he was cutting, hauling, cleaning & putting it away, after which we worked at fruit, I canned a good deal, knowing

every thing would be scarce and hard to get this winter, we had just gotten through with these things, when to behold, a very sudden & unexpected Banker Raid was made through our town, on Saturday Sept 19<sup>th</sup> a little after sun-up, from that time to this we have had nothing but war troubles, and soldiers in our town all the time, they went to Bristol had a little skirmish with the Confds, burnt Commissary stores & a small Bridge beyond Bristol, fell back here that night, camped on field belonging to John at the head of town, burnt rails & threw down fencing, they arrested several persons in Bristol guarded them in the Court house that night, next morn they started off early to Gollicoffer to take it, having first arrested several

persons here, among others they took B. W. S. John, but was soon released through the influence of friends, on their way to Golicoffa they had a fight, found they could not succeed in hills, so they retreated, went back to Gonesboro' & Greenville, Mr. Casley Mr. John & William Snapp joining them here, many others from the the surrounding towns, soon after here came the Confederates in hot pursuit, all day Monday they were coming and going, all the while both sides were stealing horses, our mare was taken twice by the Federals but returned, one sent after by the confederates, but not taken. On Monday night they camped on the same field at Johns, Tuesday the

1863

22<sup>nd</sup> they hastened on hunting the Federals found them at the river near Pachina, had a skirmish there, kept it up until they drove the confederates back, and they reached the East end of town planted their cannon and there formed a regular line of battle, all the morning Mr. Fair & John were out trying to get back Guther's horses which were stolen the night before here were all the soldiers, the street full but they had not come. Cousin Jane Wince was here, when she heard the Federals were coming she & Maria Johns mounted their horses & left immediately, I was alone feeling very uneasy about Mr. Fair, but soon he came, he seemed to think every preparation was being made

for a fight, though no warning had  
been given to the citizens, so we conclu-  
ded to go to the cellar, with our family  
Mr Baileys & Mrs Casleys, all here waiting  
but after studying a little they all con-  
cluded for us to leave so we fastened  
up left all & took out through the  
meadow for Shilts, on the way  
there we met nothing but Pickets  
& soldiers throwing fences in every  
direction, preparing for fighting  
& the fight did come, before we  
got there the cannonading commenced,  
and continued for some time, when they  
commenced the musketry, this we did  
not hear, we remained there two or  
three hours, then the news reached us  
that a line of battle was being formed

out near there, so we all were up the  
line of march towards Mr Siptons  
on our way there we met with Mr  
David Jonston, Mr Coffman & a young  
Robber from Kingsport, they assisted  
us in carrying our children, we did  
not go in at Mr Siptons, all having  
bring enough to saddle Mr Jonston's  
horse who was kind enough to loan  
it to us as we were all on foot &  
was going on to Brother Georges, it  
then being sun-down, I add still  
more snow to our troubles, while we  
were at Shilts, Mr Swin and others  
went to the top of the hill & there beheld  
another horse, & the is. & all below them  
in flames, Matheis being the first to  
catch, caught from a snail, this was  
the saddest of all events, and snow over

we thought probably, some if not all our friends were consumed amid the flames, as they were in the cellar. Fortunately the fire spread no higher up than the Court house, & Mr James' house, though we all expected the whole town to burn. We travelled on to Brother George over the hills & reached there between eight & nine o'clock, rather wearied, each one had a child to carry, and remained there until Friday when all things was again quiet, except the rain who came in the next morning to hear what had become of our friends, he learned of their whereabouts, and all were well. Father's family having made their escape through the fire & wound their way to Crafford Fair's Mother's family went out the house was

burning, but before she left she tried to save some of her things, jewelry & lace pulled out many things, but a great many were destroyed, she & John came & stayed with us, the other children went to Uncle Bob's, we here some, we all tried to gather up things and set in again, we had not more than got fairly straightened up when another fight was <sup>expected</sup> here, the confederate force being below, and fighting at Blue Spring, near Rhoadson on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of Oct, the confederates fell back to Carter's Station, the Federals pursued, fought here the 14<sup>th</sup> on the hills around the grave-yard, our family, Brother Hugh, Mother & Mary, the blacksmen, with a wagon of plunder started off again for Brother George,

reached there about twelve, Mr Gair  
still in town, he retired to the hills  
west of town during the fight then came  
in, found our kitchen had been opened,  
& some things taken out, Mother & Mother  
Dugh came in the next morning, found  
Mr Gair & John here, & the town full of  
Federals, the evening Mr Gair came  
out, & we all came back next morning, found  
Mr Jos Baines & uncle John here, we have  
had no fighting since, but the confeder-  
ate army all the time consuming &  
destroying everything in the country,

many of the houses were plundered and  
robbed after the fights, how many were  
killed and wounded on either side  
in the two fights, has not been ascertain-  
ed certainly. The object of the last fight  
was I suppose to give the confederates an

opportunity for moving off everything  
from Jolicoffer as they intended to  
evacuate the place, and fall back to  
Abingdon. The Federals pursued within  
six miles of that place, then fell back  
destroying the Rail-road & bridges to  
Watauga river, last Friday week  
the confederates made an excu-  
sion into Hawkins City and cap-  
tured 600, killed 15, wounded 20,  
took 40 wagons & a number of horses  
so reported, the prisoners passed  
through here the following sabbath  
on way to Richmon, some were  
deserters, & some shot to death, —

Mr Biscoe preached to-day  
from Matt. The parable of the sower  
being his subject, very few were  
out the day being unpleasant.

in the afternoon I was down at  
Mother's two or three hours, spent  
part of the time singing.

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> This was my wash day  
nothing special transpiring through  
the day here, Mr. Green rode out to  
Brother Denny's place, sent the <sup>oldest</sup> boys  
to Mr. Geo. Snapps to get some hogs, he  
by the way took his family out when  
the Sedwals were in, leaving his farm  
& slaves without making any dispo-  
sition of them, In the evening heavy  
cannonading was heard off in the  
distance, some suppose, fighting  
at Kingsport, though we have heard  
nothing certainly, the winter is  
just upon us & we are not ready for  
it, & a poor prospect before us for being  
ready, leather hard to get, & a table's scarce.

Nov 17<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.

To-day I dried, starched and ironed  
my clothes all by the fire, it being a  
dark gloomy dismal day outdoors,  
and we wishing to butcher some  
hogs to-morrow, (the Lord willing) I  
wanted them all put away first,  
so I got them all put away, had  
bread baked and churning done,  
I sit all alone, the children sleeping  
& Mr. Green asleep upon the floor.

Brother Hugh retired before dark,  
George is complaining a good deal  
to-night, groans as if he were suffering,  
I hope it may only be cold he has,  
Burr was sick two or three days  
last week, we had large white  
frosts, last week, & some very cold  
weather, Monday, <sup>the 10<sup>th</sup></sup> of last week, we had snow,

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> This morning we rose  
pleasantly early. Mr. Sim & the Buck boys killed  
and dressed four fine hogs, brought them  
to the smoke house, cut them up, but  
did not salt, I ground and put away  
four crocks of sausage. Ben packed up  
a large box of sweet potatoes to night.

John was up and sat a short time.  
Carpenter, Sim & Bull Ball, we with  
having drove in about eight o'clock on  
way from Bristol.

The latest dispatch seems to be that  
the Confederates have retaken Knoxville,  
but it is not confirmed.

Our children have all been well as  
far this winter, Martha & Ellen says a  
beeson occasionally, Gennie says almost  
anything he wishes now, James <sup>is</sup> <sup>his</sup> <sup>old</sup> sits  
in his chair much of the time, now 5<sup>th</sup>

Thursday Nov 19<sup>th</sup> This has been a busy day  
with me, and to night I feel some what  
give out, I now sit all alone, the fair  
having gone to Mother's, the children  
sleeping. This morning the first thing  
after washing & dressing my baby, ~~with~~  
making my beds & cleaning up my house.  
I went to preparing my bread for cooking,  
got it all on and started by eleven.  
Turned out very well, about three I put  
it away, had, a wooden can about  
full, and an iron kettle <sup>to</sup> full.

The pork was salted and packed away  
this morning, after Ben finished it  
he buried the butts and cabbages Ben  
was ploughing, no wheat sowed yet on  
Father's farm, the war has thrown every  
thing out of fix, the horses gone, and fall-  
ing down, Mr F will try to sow some tomorrow.

Friday Nov 21<sup>st</sup> This has been a bright warm day, some indication of rain, so far we have had very little freezing weather.

To-day Mr Green and two of the boys sowed 9 1/2 bushels of wheat, the first sowed did not get done, John is trying to have some ploughing done for wheat but progresses slowly for want of horses, he feels that his prospects are gloomy, trying to frown a little and knowing nothing about <sup>it</sup> and nothing to do it with, but I still hope a better day and brighter day is coming for us all.

Our fall sacramental <sup>meeting</sup> commenced today, should have been last month, but was postponed until the excitement wore down a little, Mr King preached for us from Mar 12<sup>th</sup> & 34, "How art not far from the kingdom of God," a good sermon but few to hear it, his leading points were the close

and intimate connection between the Christian & God, the close connection between faith and heaven, no preaching was appointed for night, but for Saturday at eleven, Mr Mosby Chap from the Cong near Lynchburg was to preach.

At night Cousin William and Cousin Uran Green came up and sat with us while, also Cousin Law came and spent the night.

Sat Nov 21<sup>st</sup> This has been a day of rain almost constant, rained so hard I hardly thought there would be preaching but the bell rang once enough at the proper time, I did not go out, as my shoes were at the shop being mended, have not heard who preached, Burt took & brought home a tin from Mill to-day, this evening I put away 10 <sup>done little all day</sup> lbs of butter for winter use, have,

Sabbath night 7 o'clock Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>

This day I attended church. Two communions Sabbath, but very few communicants. Mother Ellen and I went alone, Mr. Fair not being so disposed, Mr. Ellen behaved very well. A collection was taken up to defray the expenses of the church. Mr. Briscoe had his baby baptized to-day, by Mr. King calling him Henry Rogers. Mr. King preached from the words "Ye shall be born again, ye cannot enter into the Kingdom of God," his subject Regeneration, or the new Birth, not a very large congregation, for the occasion, it seems to me that our church is going down, its members in rather a cold state, need a revival or an out-pouring of God's spirit to waken us up. I have felt somewhat gloomy and desponding all evening, things are so changed to what they used to be.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. This has been a high pleasant day, until evening it was somewhat cloudy and sprinkled rain a little about dark. I had washing done to-day the clothes pretty well dried, prepared dinner, got all over and things cleaned up, when the funeral procession attending the corpse of Mrs. Jonathan Dane came by. Brother Hugh and I went to the burying. Mr. Briscoe made some remarks there, before interment. Mother and I walked through the grave-yard, 'tis in a bad condition, lying open, the fencing mostly down, exposed to stocks of all kinds. Mary came from Uncle Bob's yesterday the first time she has been in since the last fight. I put on four or five dresses, the first time this fall. Martha Ellen wore her summer dress

to both get hair-foots, seem very healthy,  
have had no colds, sleep well, at night,

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of Oct Tuesday, Jamine  
Buchanan and Eva Gulaney were married  
By Rev J. P. Baiscoe, took a stormy time  
for it, all were expecting the Federals  
back at any time as they were at the  
river, Mary John, Jamine, Me & Mrs. M. John  
were all who were there, except their  
own family, Jamine has been there since  
spent one day with me, and he has  
called in since, spent a few days in Kingsport  
last week, The next week after, Wednesday  
Thursday & Friday, we made up Father's sugar  
cane, and some apple butter, Mother was  
with me & assisted, the next day Saturday  
she moved down & commenced house-keeping  
has been there since in her house before  
occupied by Dr. Brown,

writing, Mrs. John on the floor complains of her leg being sore  
from a hurt by the axle, some m. g. t. l.

Tuesday Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1863.

The day I had Mother spending the day with  
me, the first day since she left me, when she  
came in I was starching my clothes for iron-  
ing, I finished that, and sat down until  
time for Phoebe to be about dinner, then  
ironed in her place, until twelve by  
that time I had to attend to my baby,

Brother Hugh was late coming to dinner he  
was sitting with the soldier for pasturage,  
paid him \$11.00, for pasturing, I on 30<sup>th</sup> had  
of cattle a month, the rain came in from  
sowing wheat about two, intended going  
back, but rain prevented, he had put  
in twenty bushels, Mother went  
down about four, & the children  
with her, stayed but a short time  
came back got supper over, the children  
took their night play, then went to their bed  
and was soon asleep, I lit a new house, & now I

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. This day I have spent in  
changing carpets. took up and put down two,  
and <sup>put</sup> away the one I had in the best room.  
The day turned out favorably for my work  
did not finish all I intended to do. the day  
closed in on me too soon, to night I attend-  
ed prayer meeting, the first time in  
a great while. Jinnia Bachman made a  
few very appropriate remarks. from Jer-  
emiah 32. 9. "Jeremiah bought Hananield's field  
from his uncle's son," said his attention had  
been attracted to this verse in reading over  
the chapter, & asked the question why was it  
when he knew they were to be carried away  
captives to Babylon, 1<sup>st</sup> It being God's com-  
mand, 2<sup>nd</sup> It showed his strong faith in  
God. Mr Sain is still trying to sow some  
wheat, the weather still is favorable.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov

Nothing special or interesting has occurred  
to-day, the day has passed off quietly and pleasant-  
ly with me. I have spent it in patching &  
mending up an old carpet. Jinnia Bachman  
called in a few minutes and bade me  
good-bye as he and his men are ordered  
to have to day for "Parole Camps" in Marion,  
Jinnia also left, but expected to be back  
in a few days.

Friday Nov 17<sup>th</sup> This is Mr Sain's thirty-  
eight birth day, it was a nice pleasant  
day, spent it in sewing a little, about three  
I went down to Mother's a spin<sup>an</sup> hour  
or two. Mary Ann Gammon and I went down  
to to ruins a while, Mr Sain was out all  
day attending the sowing of wheat. The news from  
Baggs's Army is rather discouraging to the Confederacy,  
his reported he was badly whipped at Chattanooga &  
has fallen back to Dalton Ga. lost many of his men,  
much depends upon his movements for the success of  
the Confederacy.

Guaranteed Sain is with us to night

Saturday Nov 28<sup>th</sup> Mr. Bain & the black boys started off before sun up to finish a certain portion of wheat sowing to day, but about ten it commenced raining very hard and they had to come home, could do no more at it. I upset a linsey dress for Phoebe, after I finish my preparations for Sunday, just got it finished about when Bob rode down street, got out the clean clothes and things straightened up and Mr. Hughes came got supper ready and were eating Bob & B. Bain came in and sat with us, while we were eating Sister Ruth and Brother George came, I fixed supper for them & as they finished Orafuf came, but he had been to supper, Brother Hugh went to Brother Lommins this evening to see the folks, he complains much of his head, and seems to have all energy for everything.

Sunday Nov 29<sup>th</sup> This has been a dark cold winterish day, no preaching in town the bell rang this morning for Sabbath school none went from here but Jim & Mrs. the Ellice, John came in a little while after Sunday school, very few were there.

Mr. Hughes & Orafuf left early, Sister Ruth & Brother George stayed until after dinner, since they left I have read several chapters in my bible, am now reading the "Lesser prophets, will finish reading them soon for this year if I could only remember as I read, and store it away in my mind & practice it in my life, then would I be profited thereby, sold Isaac riding to and fro to day cannot understand their whine abouts.

Sunday Dec 28<sup>th</sup> I saw record the last day of Nov  
1863, seem the year will have forever taken  
its flight, and buried with those of the  
past, time is forever on a swift wing,  
in its flight brings many changes, some  
to us are pleasant others sad, but so it  
is with the cup of life, made up of the  
sweet and bitter. This morning I called down  
to Mother's Mary came up with me, and  
stayed with the children while Mr Sain  
and I went out to Mrs Minckles about some  
sewing, Mr. Darrow will wear us for me, when  
we were gone Brother Hugh came home, brought  
no one with him, Bob left again this morn-  
ing for Bristol, I saw with him but a few  
moments, to night I sit alone, with a bright  
cheerful fire, the cat (Maggie's) enjoying the heat  
therefrom, Mr Sain is down at Mother's, and  
yet returned, the children well & sleeping.

stockings & put on a pair of socks for Jim.

Thursday Dec 1<sup>st</sup> This date the first day of  
the first winter month, though the past  
few days would suffice very well for  
winter, real cold freezing days.

Nothing new to record for to-day  
in the forenoon I had churning done,  
and in the afternoon I ironed, we  
had Louisa Anderson for dinner,  
About seven to eight Mr Sain  
and I went down to Mother's &  
sat an hour or so, left Jim <sup>& Ben</sup> in  
here with the children.

Wednesday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> To-day Mr Sain &  
the boys butchered 6 hogs, making  
us in all 10, this day twelve months  
ago we butchered and have a small  
portion of that bacon on hand yet,  
Put away my sausage, have but seven  
vessels full tonight. Finished Phoebe's

Friday Dec 3rd Today I put away the  
last of my sausage and lard for this  
year I suppose. Phoebe scorch'd part of  
my lard to-day, while I was in the house  
nursing my baby, the first I have ever  
had done so, in my house keeping.  
After I got through with these I  
sat down and mended two pairs of  
pants, one for Jim and the other  
for Ben, mended an apron of mine,  
Mr. Lawood come in and sit a  
short time, while Mr. Gair read his  
papers, then it was time for supper,  
after this, I prepared & put the bade  
reuben and hait, until 1/2 8 by o'clock,  
on Jim socks, Brother Hugh is at sister  
Ruth's having gone out there yesterday in  
the wagon with Coramie, not yet returned,  
yet Gair is still trying to put in some wheat  
though the ground is still frozen, the wood now

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Ruth's having gone out there yesterday in  
the wagon with Coramie, not yet returned,  
yet Gair is still trying to put in some wheat  
though the ground is still frozen, the wood now

Friday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> XXX.

My pen has been silent for  
some days, owing to much company being  
about I did not write any at night, this  
being to me a quiet afternoon, all the  
children sleeping, shall note some  
of my day records for the past week.

On Friday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Mother and Mary  
came up to assist me in making a pair  
of pants for Mr. Gair; I sewed very little  
on them it being eleven o'clock before  
they were cut out, and Mother was  
called home about 9 o'clock to receive a  
visit from Mr & Mrs Brown, Father &  
Ellen came in that morning from  
Sister Ruth's remained until Tuesday after-  
noon, but Mary stayed all night and  
finished them off for me before bed-  
time, Crawford Gair was with us that

night, Saturday I attended to my Sunday  
 preparations, about ten it commenced  
 raining, rained for two or three hours  
 pretty heavy, after dinner Ellen went  
 down to Mother's, there met the boys,  
 who were discharged from Prob Camp,  
 Jimmie, Jemie, Cornelius Sucky and  
 Rob Bachman, Cousin Crawford was with us  
 that night, Sunday we all attended  
 church, Mr Briscoe preached, Monday  
 was my wash day, I had churning done,  
 it was county court day, several persons  
 were in among the number Uncle  
 Charlie, who has not been here for a long  
 time, Sunday I starched what clothes  
 needed it and ironed them before  
 dinner, in the afternoon I finished  
 -ed them, Cousin Saml Graves was in that  
 morning, having up some business for <sup>rough</sup> letters & such.

Saml Rhea (the father of the writer) born  
 May 25<sup>th</sup> 1795, married Ann Maxwell who died  
 shortly after the birth of her first child.  
 Saml A. Rhea born Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1827, he lived  
 a widower five years, then married  
 Martha Synn (my Mother) Jan 3<sup>d</sup> 1832,  
 was born Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 1810, had children  
 Saml A Rhea by his first wife, <sup>born 2<sup>d</sup></sup> Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 1832  
 John Synn born Dec 28<sup>th</sup> 1832.  
 Fanny Anderson " Mar 6. 1834.  
 Mary Martha " Aug 14. 1836.  
 Jos. Brained " Apr 8. 1838.  
 Jas Alexander " Dec 8. 1840  
 Robt Morrison " Oct 14. 1842.  
 Eliza Ellen " Aug 22. 1844.  
 William Synn. " June 6. 1848.  
 Margt Elizabeth " July 24 1849.  
 Charles Stoddard " Dec 23, 1857.

Wednesday Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

Made two little saques for the baby, was down with mother two or three hours in the forenoon, Mary was still from home, but expected back that day, she & Uncle Bob went to Seattle Monday evening.

In the evening I cut out a pair of pants for Jim, Jennie Bachman and her wife was with us that night, came with me from Prayer-meeting.

Thursday Dec 9<sup>th</sup> To-day I have done little or nothing, this morning I made some bread & Ellen's linen boards, then worked some at Jim's harness, and mended a pair of socks for Ben, Mr. Gair and the boys butchered a beef, a while after dark, Brother Sam Mitchell came very unexpectedly, stayed all night, and went to Brother Lomnie's early next morning.

Friday passed off as usual, snow came that evening had fallen back and were fighting 11 or 14 miles from Bogusville, Cousin Crawford came up to night.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> This morning I prepared some mince meat, and made pie for Sunday, had churning done, our dinner was late, just as it was ready Brother Sam Mitchell came ate, and sit a little while after then went to Cousin Crawford's and home Sunday, I did not miss my butter until after dinner and who should give up, but Mag Walker to my great surprise, an old school mate had not seen her for many years, she was on her way to Virginia, Cousin Jo Walker was with her had her three children & two servants, & dinner, they stayed all night left next morning about nine, Sunday her horse was packed, from the stable of the Pedigal, &

very small congregation, had Prayers meeting  
at night, attended in the evening the train  
and I went down to Mother's, all day  
long, there has been wagons, cattle, hogs  
and horses going on for the Army.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> This has been a cold rainy  
and blustering day, Brother Dugle and  
George have gone to Brother Lomnick's took  
some yarn and wheat, will be back  
tomorrow I guess.

Friday Dec 18<sup>th</sup> This week has passed  
off quite rapidly, nothing new or strange or  
interesting has transpired to interest  
the attention of the passer by, we had  
two or three bright pleasant days, yes-  
terday we had rain most of the day,  
in the afternoon Mr. Linn, went out  
to New Hawkes, for a piece of Lincey, brought  
it home, not nice or well done by any

means. I am much disappointed in it,  
she wore for sixpence a yd. 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  yds.  
\$2.05 for the whole, 50cts for eying, paid  
in flour, we have had various war  
rumors this week, the Federals have  
made a raid in Virginia this week  
near Salem, burnt all the commissa-  
ry stores there, and other building  
belonging to the government. The Fed-  
erals still hold Knoxville, fighting  
going on near Rogersville, and rumor  
says near Greeneville, our children  
keep well, with the exception of colds,  
Metha Ellen & Jennie are very mische-  
vious, Sam much in the cold, Jennie  
is beginning to learn his letters and  
questions a little, M. C. seems backward,  
the babe is teething, & sitting up, has  
been for two weeks, commenced when she was  
old, the weather cold & freezing all day.

Sabbath

January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1854. Thus I record the past Sabbath  
in the New Year, the <sup>with</sup> freighted its joys &  
sorrows, trials & troubles, afflictions and bereav-  
ments, lies buried with the past, true it  
has been an eventful year. Giving its  
blight near and dear friends have closed  
their eyes upon all things earthly, their  
mortal put on immortality, have had  
their robes washed in the blood of Christ  
which cleanseth from all filth and  
impurity, and are now inhabitants  
of the celestial city. This year has  
brought upon us ruin and destruction,  
we have seen our old homes, the spots  
of all our childish hopes and pleasures  
burnt to the ground, the place of all on  
earth the sweetest, for there we were  
born, reared and raised, and there lived  
for many years, a large happy & cheerful family.

In the past two weeks nothing new or stirring  
has transpired, fighting still going on, last  
fought at Muddy creek, the Congress is still  
in session passing some very simple  
and laws for the government of our people,  
the last and most law passed, was  
to put in all those who had furnished sub-  
stitutes, a most complete violation of all  
contracts, and perfectly unconstitutional.

The holidays have again come and  
passed, they passed off quietly, very little  
if any amusement with the young folks.

Christmas morning about 9 o'clock  
and I set out for Brother Commins, we took  
a notion to ride out & return in the  
evening, got down about ten, found Brother  
Comins & the girls had gone to the farmstead  
for I went on down there and found he  
was not at home so he & Brother returned

we stayed there until three or four, then started home, on the way we passed many soldiers on the way to Richmond with some 200 or more prisoners, they stayed in town that night, some at the Greenbury Regus, others at the Male Academy, we reached home a little after dark, safely, the baby did very well all day, slept most of the way home, the other two children we left with Mother, Mary went to Uncle Gommie's new goods with Fannie & Eva, spent a week, John & Lu Rhea went to Virginia, were gone several days. Bess & Mag were at Aunt Bob's, Mother & Nellie kept house, New Year's day we spent at Mother's, Bess & Bob both come home to spend New Year, I have been busy making up some winter clothing for the past two weeks, and preparing some for Mr. Ginn in case he should

have to leave home, which I trust he will not have to do, To-day Mr. Biscoe pushed very far out, the weather has been extremely cold for the past three days, somewhat moderated to-day, the thermometer stood within two degrees of zero two mornings, New Year's morning & the next, Yesterday Mr. Ginn went to Bristol & bought several articles, 1 bunch of bale cotton, some soap, soda, & pistol &c, had a cold ride,

Sabbath January 31<sup>st</sup> The last record which I made was Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Sabbath, now the month is passed and we are upon the last day, it flows sadly with me, and has been spent mostly in dread and uneasiness, and the very thing which I so much dreaded, did come upon me, my dear husband was forced to leave me and his little ones, to me it was the saddest trial



Sunday Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>. This has been a very quiet day  
in town as preaching, it was the B. W. M. day  
but he is off at Cold Spring attending the meeting  
of Presbytery, which met there on Friday, James  
Buchanan was to be licensed to preach and thus  
set apart to the great work, Peter Buchanan  
and Baird went up, this morning I  
attended Sabbath school, have a small  
infant class, this has been a raw wet  
unpleasant day, but nothing disturbed the  
quiet, save the passing to & fro of soldiers  
the country is full of them, Long Street has  
evacuated all of it, save Sullivan  
Sty he still holds it, how long I cannot  
tell, he moved his whole force here, exten-  
ding from Watanga to Bristol, and from  
Watanga North out to Moccasin Gap, some  
two or three weeks since he did this, when  
the snow was at its commencement, it seemed to be

the general impression that the country was  
being given up, but he still holds our  
country, we have rumors in regard to the  
banks, here they have evacuated to Gen  
some say they are over to Richmond others  
that they have gone into Kentucky, could  
hear the truth, would that these troubles  
could soon end, but seems to me that to be  
far off from a hardy tired living is such  
expence and anxiety.

Since I last recorded anything, we  
have had some pleasant weather, garden  
some, planted potatoes <sup>in Feb.</sup>, planted peas  
tongue grass, lettuce radishes, pepper in <sup>March</sup> ~~Feb.~~  
and since that time we have had much  
rain, the ground so wet have done no  
more gardening, the roads now are in a  
worse condition than in <sup>June</sup> Feb. We had a  
visit from Mattie, Molly & Kate, from the

last of February, they were upon us Sunday  
night a little after dark, had two wagons, &  
trunks, in company with the Pettis Bros, from  
Fair & Lowm. Powell, Cousin Samson  
Moore's girls were on their way to Cousin Ben's  
had been to Rogersville at school, but the school  
was given over on account of the snow not  
being able to get supplies. There <sup>at</sup> the lower  
country are completely cleared out of every  
thing in the way of supplies, the Confederate  
Army have been there all winter living  
sweetly from the country.

But the snow-grows out of our oldest city,  
did about three weeks since, as laid  
out on his farm.

I have heard from Mr. Fair twice since  
he left, from Baltimore through Wilson  
& Burns, & through Dr. Lewis from Cincinnati  
he was there in fine health, I was glad

and thankful to hear, we have all been kept  
this winter from all harm and sickness  
the children are all lively and well, the  
baby is ten months old, crawls every where  
climbs up by chair, has two more teeth  
through making six in all, he has not been  
so well with these last two, but is now better,  
I think he will soon walk, if the weather would  
moderate, so that I could put on short dresses  
I think he would soon walk.

Sunday Apr. 12<sup>th</sup> Another week has passed  
since I made any record, the week passed  
off quietly without an interruption or  
disturbance of any kind, I attended church  
this forenoon sister Hannah stayed with  
the children. She & Leticia are now at  
Payer meeting, Bro Hugh and I sit all  
alone, I have just got the children to sleep,  
they look well & happy, & I say Mr. Biscoe

from Matt 21.22. "All things whatsoever, ye  
ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive",  
very few were out the day being cold &  
unpleasant. he was on prayer. This  
is a very comforting passage of scripture  
to the believing christian.

For the past two or three days I  
have felt somewhat depressed in spirits  
I cannot hear anything from the Fair  
sometimes I fear he may be sick & dead,  
if I could only hear he was alive and  
well what a relief it would be to me.

All this week the cavalry have been  
moving through on way to North Carolina  
they camped on Father's farm one night  
did very little damage only throwing  
down fencing, and took some hay  
from our barn. This has been another  
rainy week, almost every day. Thursday

Father and I went out to Sister Ruth's, to get  
Cousin Rachel to do some coloring for me, & to  
attend to the weaving. The day was cloudy  
and threatening. Friday Mother spent the  
day with us. The first time she had  
been up for some time. A small com-  
pany of cavalry came in that evening  
hunting up deserters or rather stragglers  
who were committing depredations, and  
the first thing we knew they had their  
horns, twenty head on our meadow,  
kept them there that day, then left.

That morning George & I went out  
planted some corn & beans, tomatoes  
cucumbers, bush beans, & as rained  
on us all the time while out. Yesterday  
Erinard left, has gone to North Carolina  
with daughter, he said to go on a run &  
trust he may have brought back to us, & some  
will be heard something from her soon.

June 6<sup>th</sup> 1864.

It has been almost two months since I last wrote anything in my diary, things have changed considerably in that time, it seems <sup>as if</sup> the two Armies have concentrated their principal forces at or near Richmond and had some terrible fighting there, since the 11<sup>th</sup> of last month, Bob is there was in most of the fighting, was under fire it says, both sides claim the victory but with heavy losses, there were many of our own City boys wounded some were home, Bob was struck with three shells but not hurt, Sam Crawford and Nat Bachman were knocked down but not hurt, fighting has been going on at Dalton, then the Sides drove the Confederates some miles, 'tis desperate fighting now, for both sides fight

with desperation and determination, their was has become awful in the extreme when or how it will terminate, God only knows, man can know nothing about it, I hope and pray the end is not far off, God grant it may <sup>come</sup> soon, since I last wrote I have had gardening done, been sewing sweetly, and tending to my horse, during the time I have spent one day at Aunt & Uncle's with mother, the only time I have been out of town.

Last Tuesday week Bro Hugh's sister Hannah started to Bro Saml Mitchell, expecting to be gone two nights, but it rained all the time, so they did not get home until the Friday week after, went for yam plants, & some raimental came off while they were gone

it embraced this day week, we had Rev.  
Walter Bachman, & Mr King, who did most  
of the preaching, had good and attentive  
congregation for the times, no special  
interest but a pleasant meeting.

Gult & Man Hall had their babe  
baptized.

June 6<sup>th</sup> Mother has been complaining  
some, for the past two or three days, this  
morning, I went down to see a little  
while, found her some better, but still  
in bed, came up home, found the  
Shugan here, went out planted some  
radish & parsnip seed, came in and pre-  
pared dinner but just as I finished this  
all up, the very sad news reached us  
through a dispatch, that our dear Gemma  
was killed in battle at Staunton Va.  
on yesterday June 5<sup>th</sup>  
I would it could be false, or if he was

only wounded and permitted to be brought  
home & lie with us, but I fear this  
would be expecting too much. I fear  
the sad news is too true, John has  
started on to see about his remains,  
he left home about four weeks since,  
lively, cheerful & in fine health, & as  
the wound he received at Shiloh  
would sometimes pain him he left  
that morning without telling any  
Good bye, I felt some what distressed  
thinking probably I might never  
see him again if this be so, never  
shall in this world, Bob is in Britain,  
has been in the fighting there, I fear  
he may get fall, but pray he may  
be spared, Brainerd is in Spring-  
don at Baughns head quarters, if  
they could only get home again.

June 5<sup>th</sup> This morning we received the  
very sweet & pleasing "dispatches", telling  
us that our dear Jimmie was yet  
alive, but wounded, and a prisoner  
in the "Federal lines" to us. This was  
joyful tidings, for we had mourned  
him as dead. I trust his days may  
yet be prolonged for good and useful-  
ness to himself & mankind.

Sabbath June 6<sup>th</sup> 1864. This evening Bro  
Hugh & I sit all alone, Jimmy & baby  
Jennie & Martha Ellen gone to the well in the  
Even. The weather yesterday & today is oppress-  
ively warm, the thermometer standing  
within a few degrees of blood-heat, & day  
After & Sister Hannah went down yester-  
day morning to see Uncle Garrison  
Crawford, who has been quite sick for  
some time, but may be improving now.

Bro Hugh went down to camp, last Friday week to get some weaving done, intended coming home that evening & had started when we met Jimmie Buchanan <sup>out</sup> the hill this side of Uncle Tommy's & told us we could not come home that night as the soldiers were after our horses, & swore they would have them that night. On Thursday night before we left, they were here between eleven & twelve o'clock for them, when I saw they were determined to have them, I sent off for John Williams & got them started off without them, we stayed at Uncle Tommy's until Monday & attended the meeting at Berkeley's school house, held by Mr. W. W. & J. J. the latter gave us a good sermon on Sunday from the text "None live unto himself."

after which the "sacrament" was adminis-  
tered, and in the evening Mr Buscoe  
preached at the house for Uncle's benefit,  
he not being able to attend, we had  
quite an exciting time here last week  
for two or three days, the report came  
here that the Federals were coming, even  
at Kingsport, this report caused immediate  
excitement and great skedaddling, very  
small citizens in town left, but John Mc  
Kate, Butcher, Baumgardner & Turner & Billy  
Taylor, the excitement was over in a day  
or two, and they didn't come at all,  
but brought the soldiers back on us again,  
they have been camping on Calhoun's farm, we  
saw as they came back, we had a dispatch  
from Dr. Coul Sergeant of Baughn's Brigade telling  
us Jennie was not dangerously wounded, and  
was able to walk about - she had a letter through  
from him forwarded at house - Dr. Packman is

Sabbath 9<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1864.

I have been permitted to spend a very quiet pleasant Sabbath. This morning I attended Sabbath school, left for my sleep in Father's care. Bro H. sister & my Jennie having gone down to Cousin Hannah's yesterday morning. There was preaching in the Baptist Church, but I did not choose to attend, read Bowdler's notes on Revelations with its other chapters. Since I last recorded anything in my diary I have had my trials & troubles, vexations & disappointments; but with them all my husband & the separated from me, and my children are still spared, for which I feel grateful & thankful to my Heavenly Father, who takes care and dangers seen & unseen, & we have suffered for

suffering, but have enjoyed all of life's  
comforts & blessings, I still hope to live &  
see the <sup>time</sup> see long when we shall be  
reunited a happy family, one which  
God will crown & bless. The time is flying  
rapidly, these are to me dark gloomy  
and uneasy days. Would they were all  
over, but I shall try to wait patiently  
God's time.

On Tuesday June 28<sup>th</sup> I made a visit  
to Kingsport. Took Jimmy. John took  
me down, stayed a week & he came after  
me. While there I received a special dis-  
patch to visit Brownsboro. I came home  
started with my children & Bes Hugh  
went to the river, there the authorities  
refused a pass-port, Mr Bachman re-  
fusing to vouch so we returned with  
sad disappointed hearts. That was on

Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup> 1864. They looked for  
me over there for three weeks, but never  
got there, and on the 24<sup>th</sup> Mr G. went  
back, much disappointed I know.

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of July, Henry Hughes  
died, (one of the company out where Mr  
G. went,) Sister Hannah & Bro Hugh at-  
tended his burying at Bro H's place, he  
had been some time sick, sick all the  
time with fever. it was fortunate, that  
he was permitted to sicken & die at home,  
I wrote to Ellen Friday 5<sup>th</sup> it was left  
in Jonesboro to be sent down, but she  
may never receive it, John, Jimmy and  
Willie are still at home, Edmund was  
at Winchester Va, the last we heard  
from him, Bob near Richmond, Jimmy  
is walking every where. Tho reduced now  
I called on Mr G today for some medicine for Fannie  
somewhat from letting, M.C. & Fannie had been

Sabbath, Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> This day I attended Sunday  
School & preaching, there was a small congre-  
gation present, a hard rain came up  
just at the hour, rained very hard for  
a while, we have had much rain  
for the last wk. Uncle George came  
up & took dinner with us, he has just  
started, & looks very much like more rain.  
Sallie Lynn was up about two wks since  
went from here to Jonesboro' to go to Knoxville  
under flag of tin, she with about 50  
other families went out, brought 30  
back, Sallie spent a day with us, wk<sup>ks</sup>  
before last, I spent three days <sup>in</sup> at  
the country at Uncle Bob's, Mrs. Car-  
heart's Aunt Ellen, came home  
Tuesday evening, Sunday morning  
I went up to see Mrs. Crowder & her  
young daughter, while there Mrs. Thomas

came up to spend the day with us, in  
the evening I wrote a letter to Mr. Fair &  
one to Collier the last which I have written.  
Jenny was over to Jones bro' on a visit  
brought Aggie & Bet over with him last  
Monday, they came in from the coun-  
try this morning, will go home tomorrow.  
On last Monday Aug 15<sup>th</sup> we received four  
cases of tomatoes, the first time we  
put up any so early, this last week  
we hear various rumors about the Feder-  
als coming in to hold this part of the  
country, 'tis now said they will  
be here to hold the first of next  
month, I hope it may be so, but  
fear I may be disappointed.

Last Thursday Sister Hannah, Eben  
& I walked out to Major Coopers, Gatherson  
Pet with the Pomie & Jennie one below below

Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1864, I now commence recording  
events belonging to the fall of the year,  
we are now having cool nights & morn-  
ings, I fear we may be run into the  
winter season & yet no change or  
time of rejoicing for me, but enough,  
that is sad & disheartening to me, my  
children growing up, seem rude & obsti-  
nate, the cause of many unkind remarks  
my husband & their father still from  
but little prospect of his return, I see  
my brother started off in this cruel  
war from the oldest to the very young-  
est, today Willie was taken off just a  
lad in years, thrown out upon the  
world to all its vices & temptations,  
I trust he may be spared & kept  
pure from all the contaminating  
evils of the world, I am sure he will be.

wounded twice in this war, Brained  
is pretty much used up, & John came  
near losing his health, I hope all these  
trials will work out for our good & God's  
glory, tho' to me they seem dark & mys-  
terious. Last wk & this wk before we a  
great excitement for two or three  
days, it was said, the Federals were  
approaching, but both times it all  
turned out false, this wk the company  
moved up all cattle, wagons, & above  
somewhere, while the forces have gone  
below Jonesboro, Saturday of last wk,  
the 27<sup>th</sup> of Aug, Bro Hagle the children  
and the wife of the buggy broke down near Jonesboro.  
I went down to Bro Tompkins, on Monday  
morning Ellen, Bro H, & myself went to Uncle Jos  
then I heard of Uncle John's return, so he &  
I & I rode down to Aunt Elizabeth's & spent the  
night, came up about 6 o'clock in the evening.

to me & I went up to Cousin Rebecca  
Newlands, they were all making apple  
butter a mile from the house, so we  
walked on out there, had a very  
pleasant time, went back to the  
house with the crowd, ate supper  
& sat until bed time, & went down  
we came home the next day,  
Cousin Niram was there sick all  
the time we were there, refusing,  
he left for home the morning we did  
but came back from Ringport as he did  
not like the rumors, since I came  
home we have been working mostly  
with fruit, & made a shirt for Jim  
yesterday, to-day Cousin Dick & his  
son Niram came to town, but I  
can hear no news, will go down  
with Wiley, reveal something,  
to Mother a little while, I hope this

Sabbath, April 11<sup>th</sup> 1864. This has been a real  
fall day, quite cool all day, unless it  
was an hour or two at mid-day.  
Another wk has passed & still no change  
in things & no news, can hear nothing  
from the seat of war at any point,  
no stir or excitement - during the  
past wk. of course, except the  
news from Atlanta, last Tuesday  
the 6<sup>th</sup> which was that the Rebels  
had the place & the Confeds were  
90 miles from there.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of last  
wk we had rain, Friday & Saturday  
we were working with fruit, yes -  
today we put away 1 bu of corn  
in bins, the first I ever tried to  
have not canned any fruit yet will  
as soon as I can get some good jammy

was quite sick all last wk, worse on  
Wednesday & Thursday. Wednesday he  
threw up two very large worms,  
was quite sick all day at his stom-  
ach & continued so all next day  
in the evening on <sup>the</sup> day I got  
John to call that in, he lanced  
his gum for his last stomach  
tooth, & left him some powder  
for his stomach, he has been  
improving since, to day he  
seems quite well but weak,  
he is wormy & turtling. Bonds  
Camp-meeting is now in progress,  
just a basket-meeting, John went  
down to-day on Pet, ails & brain,  
We have a sacramental meeting  
in contemplation for the last of the  
wk, <sup>if we</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>suppose</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>enjoy</sup> <sup>it</sup>  
should things keep quiet I hope

Sunday.

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 1864.

I have not recorded anything in my diary  
on this week past, some changes have taken  
place since then, our meeting came off  
as expected, embraced this day two who  
ago and the following Sabbath, had  
several ministers, two Mr Caldwell  
from Jefferson, one is Chaplain in  
the Army, Mr Eggleston & Mr Mc Crumbell  
from the same City, & Mr Brewster, from  
Richmond, son of old Dr. Brewster, there  
were eleven additions to the church  
& three or four baptisms, Mr St. John's  
children, Pres. & Lucia's children, Magdalen  
Abel Gammon, two of Mr Peathen's sons  
Shel & Jim (our Blk boys) joined. I talked  
to them on the subject, they both  
seemed very penitent and determined  
to try to do better, which I hope they may do.

All last wk we had very exciting times.  
On Monday we heard a heavy force  
of Federals were coming upon the  
Saltworks, some of the confeds were  
ordered up there, on Tuesday we  
heard they were coming up the  
country. <sup>we heard</sup> Thursday ~~evening~~ the rebel  
pickets were driven in three miles  
below Jonesboro, on Wednesday evening  
Thursday the Federals came up to Carter  
Station, fell back & were fortifying  
six miles this side of Jonesboro. Friday  
they came up & skirmished most  
of the day, Saturday the fight began  
early in the day & continued until  
about twelve when they began  
evacuating, Daughen having been  
ordered to Abington to defend the  
Salt Works, we heard 10,000 Federals

were coming in through Pound Lake,  
we had exciting times here yesterday  
evening the refugees getting away,  
many men went out, John the  
Buttler, Mr. Gate, and all the men left  
in our part of the town, the day  
so far has been unusually quiet, the  
Federalists have been looked for all day  
but they don't come, John had Sunday  
School this morning, not many out  
and the children were out, some  
so thankful the forces passed by here  
without a fight, I feel very uneasy  
yesterday evening for fear this  
would be the road for the retreat  
but all seemed to keep on the  
Rail-road, for which I feel thank-  
ful, I never wish to witness another  
fight, hope "peace may soon dawn down  
upon us."

Sunday Oct 4<sup>th</sup> Again we have been per-  
mitted in the providence of God to pass  
through another quiet Sabbath and  
enjoy public worship, Mr Oliver  
Caldwell, Chaplain from Wherrie's  
command preached for us, Mr B  
in the Dock, a small congregation  
out, The day has been very cold  
so was yesterday, sleeted some  
last night, Last Monday was  
very quiet not a soldier to be seen,  
that night a small squad of  
Federal's came in, next morning  
we had a few in & through  
town until about twelve o'clock  
& that was the last of them, about  
saw down the Bonfide's pickets  
camped above town, & having  
been snowing down ever since.

until yesterday & today and are now  
at Davoli's Ford and Carter's Station.  
I guess the next thing will be a  
fight. On Thursday last week  
we heard of the death of Bob  
Ahea (uncle Bob's son) having died  
in the hospital at Forsyth Co on  
the 13th of September 1864. he was  
severely wounded in one of the  
battles in Atlanta some weeks since.

Sam Syron is in the hospital  
a Bristol a discharged man, have  
to keep him confined all the time  
as it is unsafe for him to go loose.

As news whatever from Mr. Fairmont  
seems a long long wearisome time.  
since he left I trust he may be soon  
permitted to return to his family.  
The children kept well, Jennie had a  
bad cold now Jennie is stout & hearty  
remaining ever where, but trying to get

Sunday Oct 10<sup>th</sup> This has been another  
quiet sabbath, no moving, soldiers  
whatever, we had Sabbath School this  
morning, but no preaching, as our  
minister is out, hunting "Buck  
whackers" with the "Home Guard" but  
they have so far had no luck, John  
and Willie are both out on the same  
business, Jennie is with Maugie,  
Command, they pursued the Kids  
on below Bensville, yesterday we  
heard they had fallen back to Bra-  
tore, and a heavy force of Yeds were  
coming in from the Cape & in ad and  
week that such Sucky's family Col  
Nelson's & 100 other families from  
Washington & some had gone through  
the times, I was much troubled for  
several days about it, thinking that it was

Sabbath Oct 21<sup>st</sup> The past week has  
been very quiet, no news whatever  
from Mr. Davis or the Federal cause,  
no news of any kind but confident  
narratives, not able to tell the truth of  
any of it; Mr. Davis preached to-day  
to a small congregation, from 1 Cor.  
6, 19<sup>th</sup> 20, a very good sermon. The day  
has been quite pleasant; yesterday  
we had quite a snow storm, in the  
afternoon it cleared off, but was  
cold all day, but to-day the sun  
shines brightly & warm. Phoebe  
was sick Monday, Tuesday & Wed.  
Sister Hannah & I did the cooking  
Eddy washed on Tuesday & Wed  
I covered the clothes in the  
appliance that time. Mrs. White has  
been quilting & sew. Lida & her

the only one left here for the winter, but it seems that things are now changing a little & Uncle Suckey's family are still in Jonesboro fighting is going south. In some places, Brainerd came from Linguis today, and heard Brainerd doing the same supposed it is in or about Rheaburn.

There have been several large white frosts this week, the first & largest one was on last Monday morning, killed vegetation completely, cold mornings & nights, but warm pleasant days.

Sam Lynn passed down with his father, last Monday, he is not so much deranged as expected, only on the war & things connected with it, he is thought to be improving. Hope this week may reveal some thing favourable & bring nice letters.

Dinkle sowed 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  bu of wheat for Bro  
Hugh, yesterday the boys harrowed  
it in, he is to sow again to mor-  
row, Beuph went off with the  
Medicals when they were here  
about two weeks since, Bro Hugh  
has gone to Bro Commins to-day,  
last Saturday & Sunday Father &  
Sister Hannah were at Cousin Harry's

Sabbath Oct 30<sup>th</sup> this has been rather  
quiet Sabbath, no preaching, we had  
Sabbath school, very few out, we have  
rumors today of fighting below, on  
Friday, Oct, 28<sup>th</sup> many were killed, some  
of our acquaintances, Col Bowen, Billy  
Cox, Ed Garrison, Jimmy say Bro this  
reported wounded slightly, poor fellow  
this is the third time, but I pray my  
Father in Heaven to spare his dear life

of the life of all my dear brother, who is  
engaged in this bloody tragedy, there  
was very hard fighting, I suppose  
some where about Mechanicsville,  
Billy Taylor came from Jones here  
says he saw Gen. Cunningham who  
is just from Knoxville, says he saw  
Mr. Cain & he was very well, but sent  
word to Jimmy that he wanted to  
come home. Gen. Craig here says he  
can come, provided he risks his chance  
for keeping out of the Army. Jimmy  
is trying to do something to get him  
home. This is what I hear, may be  
there is not much in it, but I trust  
there may be some means provided by  
which  
he can return to his family or his family  
go to him, this <sup>with</sup> I have been saving  
knitting. Yesterday I went down with

Cousin Bradford, got down before sun  
up, came up with him in the evening  
were late as we had eating to do at  
Uncle Sam's, got home after dark  
while, I felt thankful when we  
were landed in safety, as there are  
uncertain & dangerous times for  
night travelling. <sup>This</sup> next wk we will  
make up the bones, the Lord willing,  
may be this will be a wk of great  
excitement, much business was made  
in town last week, the children  
keep well we still have footed  
Jimmy runs very fast where ever  
he pleases, is beginning to talk,  
but troublesome at night about  
sucking, Johnny Bachman married  
two couples last wk, Miss Starfield's  
Miss Lane & Miss Starfield.  
P. M. News, today he has had at 10 cents.

at Bath Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 1864. There has been some little  
excitement for the past week, especially for the  
past three days. refugees have been going out  
from these lower counties, since Thursday.  
& Vaughan has been falling back daily  
since that time, until he landed at  
Carter's Station, where they may probably  
have a fight. Tuesday is the election, and  
it is said the Federalists want to hold up  
to see how it will turn. So-day we had Sunday  
School preaching, while at Sunday School two  
refugee preachers stepped in, one from  
the sander from Invidious New Market, who  
preached for us from the 96 Psalms 11 verse.  
"Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee, the  
remainder of wrath shall be restrained," a  
very good sermon and an able man, he dwelt  
much upon the "sovereignty of God", most

comforting & consoling doctrine to the Christian.

We spent Thursday, Friday & Saturday  
& until Saturday night at Twelve boiling  
molasses, finished all up but three kettles  
to finish off in the morning, it was a labor-  
ious job, I am glad it is done. Now  
I hope to hear or see something favorable  
of this work, but I may again be disappoint-  
ed as usual.

Sabbath Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1864. For the past  
wk, I have been crippled up with a sore  
toe, made sore from pulling out a "tag" which  
caused it to swell up & become in-  
flamed, it has been quite painful but now  
better. Last Monday we finished of the main  
business in the evening, & went down  
to Mother's, while there James came  
home, used up by his old wound, it  
had been swollen for three or four weeks.

seems so painful that he had to ask  
a leave of absence, on Wednesday he had  
it granted & has improved since, yester-  
day he started back to Army, but so soon  
for his own good, the Army has moved  
down below Seemville somewhere,  
fighting is reported down in that di-  
rection yesterday & the day before.

We have had the refugees from Hen-  
kins, pretty much last week, Cousin Maria  
stayed every night & so with us, Cousin Eliza  
Ruth & Mary one night, Amelia Parnell &  
Henry Parnell spent an evening, last Sunday  
for dinner we had several, that week  
passed off quite rapidly, I did little or nothing  
except half of one day, spent one day with  
Johnny at home, baked some cakes & washed  
windows & the mantle piece, & other odd  
the rest was Saturday.

So say the Whites is preaching in our  
Church. I did not go. Father Sister Hannah  
& Martha Ellen have gone, so I am a lonesome  
and very quiet. Eve has Jennies's family  
in the kitchen. They have no shoes yet  
are wearing moccasins, which their  
Aunt Mary made for them. Jennies's  
leather soles and are very nice & suitable  
for winter, but is not right well to do  
now yesterday, is fevered some, maybe he  
is getting more teeth. I hear rumors  
of another move up the country by  
the Federal, don't know how true  
it may be, time only can reveal  
the truth these times. I have heard nothing  
from you & since they moved up last  
week, am anxious to hear, they held their  
town in Greenville last Sunday, the Whites  
thought it was in a contest.

Sabbath. Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

This has been quite an unpleasant  
morning, been an incessant rain since  
dark last night up to the present time  
about twelve, so much rain prevented  
us from having Sunday school and  
preaching. This has been a very wet  
cloudy week, so much rain. We have  
also been kindly spared another week  
by our Heavenly Father, no mark of his dis-  
pleasure has passed over any of us for two  
or three days. I felt a little uneasy about our  
little summie for fear he was going to have  
diphtheria, but it has all passed off and he  
seems well as usual but very fretful, cross  
about me. I feel that I have much very  
much, to be thankful, during my husband's  
absence, I am permitted to hear from him  
frequently, that he feels well & true! - he may

should rejoice in such rain & cloudy weather

should rejoice, and counting it much more than ready to  
have five more

be spared, from <sup>danger</sup> sin, death, & such more  
loss of our little family as in days gone by  
and we may again be reunited a happy  
family circle around our own hearthstone  
wherever in the providence of God it may be,  
I feel that I am undeserving of the many  
blessings which I receive, I need more grace to  
withstand the little trials & vexations of  
every day life, to make me more patient &  
submissive,

Wednesday of last week, was observed  
as the President's Day for Thanksgiving and  
prayer, very few out, Mr. Biscoe preached and  
Brown read the President's proclamation.

Willie is now at home on furlough for  
four days, came yesterday evening, left the  
Army at "Pawnee Springs" on Monday last  
telling where they are now or what doing, if  
you would like something to give us peace. I

Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> 1863

I have not written any in my diary since March 23<sup>d</sup>, the last event which I recorded was the death of Cousin R. and now I have to record the death of one more & dear, a dear and beloved Father has left us & is now an inhabitant amid the heavenly host, he breathed his life out sweetly without a pang or groan on the morning of the 2<sup>th</sup> of May 1863, <sup>Thursday</sup> at 15<sup>min.</sup> to 2 o'clock, his age being 68 yrs, 3<sup>days</sup> having been born May 3<sup>d</sup> 1795.

I was to see him almost every day for the past two or three months his health has been on the decline since last Sept, but more especially and rapidly since the last of February, on the 27 of this month he was at the

funeral of Uncle Billy Anderson looked  
very badly on that day in the church  
and has gradually been getting worse  
since, he did not seem to suffer  
much during the months he was  
confined to the house, or if he did  
did not complain, he seemed to  
require very little attention, only  
what mother gave him, he was  
much troubled with his bowels  
towards the last, seemed calm &  
patient all the time, sleeping most  
of the time, at the last, this morning  
was a week I went down very early before  
breakfast was over at home found  
Jennie bathing his face & temples  
in cold water, he seemed unusually  
cheerful & talkative, he talked ~~and~~  
had me to wait on him more

1. That morning that he had ever  
2. done since he was sick at any one  
3. time he had never rub his face & head &  
4. temples comb his hair a long time,  
5. & then to read to him after Aunt  
6. Ellen had read in his bible, the  
7. last chapter of Mark as he requested,  
8. he then repeated the passage in  
9. my "Father's house are many man-  
10. sions, if it were not so I would have  
11. told you, I go to prepare a place for you,"  
12. he then told me to get his treasury  
13. a book called "Spiritual Treasury" which  
14. he read much, I read for the 5, 6 & 7  
15. days as he told me, he then said  
16. he could not see his way clearly &  
17. talked some to us in that station,  
18. none of us said any thing to him  
19. at that time, but after while we

relaxed him upon the cot for the purpose  
of changing his bed & making it up, while  
there I said Papa I should like to know  
why you say you cannot see your way  
clearly, for I always had perfect con-  
fidence in your fidelity, he just remarked  
you cannot see the heart, he seemed  
to wish a brighter & clearer evidence  
of his acceptance with God, but we  
all feel that his life & example is suf-  
ficient evidence, he talked to us a long  
time, said he wanted us to be whole-souled  
Christians, not those half-way halting  
Christians, that the Christian's life was easy,  
his last will & testament to his children  
is, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God & all  
these things shall be added unto you,"  
he had us change his clothes, and  
told me he had not had his feet

to get ready & bring fornic, when I got there he could not speak, but was looking all around, breathing short & quick, we were all around the bed he would look all around at each one then look up, he continued so for awhile, then seemed quieted & to be sleeping, we left the bed all but Bob, who was watching every breath closely as it passed, Mother & I were sitting by the bed side, the others round the fire with Aunt Ellen & Cousin William Gammon, in a few minutes Bob motioned to Mother we both rose up, just then he closed his mouth, having before crossed his hands & shut his eyes, then he drew his last breath, and entered upon his heavenly rest, Thursday & Thursday night we watched his cold & lifeless remains

washed for a long time, so I washed them  
& put on clean socks. I believe he felt  
that he would soon enter upon his  
heavenly journey & wished to have every  
thing clean & in order. I stayed down  
until eleven o'clock, then came up  
home, feeling that it was no good  
symptom to see him appear so much  
better. I did not go back again that  
day, but about <sup>in the night</sup> one o'clock I heard  
some one at the door, so I went  
down & told him. I then felt Papa  
was worse, since enough it was Bob  
for me, I hasten to get ready. We  
thought he would remain with the  
children unless there seemed to be some  
rapid change, but just as I left we  
met Jerry at the door, telling us to hurry  
as Papa was bidding all farewell  
on, so I took M, E, & told M, E, & Willie

while all necessary preparations were being made to deposit them in the cold & silent grave. Mr Wolford made quite a neat & handsome coffin of cherry, covered it with blk cloth as the velvet could not be had, it was made according to Pap's directions to Mr to some months before he died,

Mr King conducted the funeral exercises on Friday, the day was very wet & unpleasant, raining all the time, consequently there were not so many persons out as otherwise would have been, the exercises were opened by the hymn, beginning "How blest the righteous when he dies", &c, then the XC Psalm was read, after which Nathan Bachman made a most appropriate prayer Mr King then read his text from Rev 14<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> "And I heard a voice from

heaven, saying unto me, write, Blessed  
are the dead which die in the Lord  
from hence forth; that they may rest  
from their labours; and their works  
do follow them,"  
He dwelt mostly upon his life &  
character, and spoke of the church  
as his principal sphere of labor, &  
though he had now gone to  
rest, his works would still  
follow him, after the sermon  
Mr. Briscoe prayed, then the  
hymn, beginning "Hear what the  
voice from Heaven proclaims, For  
all the pious dead," &c. We then  
repaired to the Grave Yard and  
there paid the last tribute of re-  
spect to departed worth; - the con-  
gregation was then dismissed by Mr. <sup>Hoffmeister,</sup> N. N.

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> I have not recorded anything for  
some time or since wk. wk before last - was  
a severe cold. wk. Brother Linnick came  
up on Monday of that week, it rained  
in the fore-noon, when he started  
back, the snow commenced falling  
& snowed until after dark, there  
was a hard freeze for two days. Phoebe  
was sick all that wk until Saturday,  
having a good deal for me to do, last  
uesday night of that wk we had  
quite a discussion upon our house  
matter, about hiring out Jim &c. Bro  
Linnick wound up by saying that he  
would hire J. & S. if he would exact  
it off him. Hope if this be so he may  
realize the best part. Last Sunday  
Brother Linnick, very few out, at our  
a wk. I think I have been well in the

evening, the work was warm & nice, very pleasant weather for the time of the year, this is the 4th day of sowing & 'tis very pleasant. Mr. Brisco preached to-day, a good many out. Three persons were received into the church, Josie Cox, Mrs. Susong's daughter (widow of Jim Susong) who died this summer.

The past week I have sewed mostly, made a cotton dress, skirt, & apron another one. I received six lbs of sugar from Mr. Shinn last Wednesday through fowner, also some knitting cotton from Cousin Sam Shinn at Muddy Creek. we have rumors to-day of the rebels falling back, & the generals being at Rogersville. but can't tell anything about it, hope we may soon have peace.

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 1864. This is another holy Sabbath day, very  
windy and stormy; blowing and snowing  
so much, so unpleasant that we had no Sabbath  
school, tho' we had many good preachings, but too  
very bad, & may better rest will not rise.

The week has gone by, we still live and  
all in good health, no sickness or disease  
has been sent upon us by our heavenly  
Father, he is, & has been, ever merciful's  
kind. I have much & very much to be thank-  
ful for, but oh! my poor cold, stammering  
heart, <sup>force</sup> to wander & do evil, would  
that I could ever dwell in a proper frame of  
mind, but the world and the perishing things  
found are rather distracting things, but grace  
I credit its power that overcometh all these  
trial and vexations of life.

Last Monday was a pleasant day, <sup>Spent</sup>  
it rained, Wednesday & Thursday were nice

something says, today the weather changed  
suddenly, was cold and unpleasant in the  
forenoon, soon Drily took dinner with us  
that day, is home from the camp will go  
back soon, looks fair & well in the after-  
noon, I went down to Mother's, soon rain  
came on, then some sleet, and freezing, soon  
the trees & shrubbery were enveloped in a coat  
of ice, I stayed <sup>all</sup> night, Mary came up & took  
down the children, & called in the morning  
to see Cousin W's girls, came home about  
noon, the first night I have spent at  
Mother's since she was burnt out, she &  
Mary are alone, John & Mary started Wednes-  
day to visit Press, will return Monday or Tuesday  
Willie left the same day for folks in Jim's  
written to build a schoolhouse, to see if he can  
offer anything towards getting in the same  
it is some speculation whether he will come, I. V. Brown



Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 1864. This past wk. has been  
one of excitement, disturbance & uneasy-  
ness, bodily & mentally. Past Sunday &  
Monday were unusually quiet days,  
cold, no news to be heard. Tuesday  
the weather became warmer & more  
pleasant, about the middle of the day  
some of Duke's men & many refugees  
hurried thro' town, saying the Yankees  
fought them at Kingsport captured  
their wagon train & 93 prisoners were  
marching in hot haste with a heavy  
force, every thing was in a state of excite-  
ment, when in a single moment St. John's  
chimney caught fire, I just thought  
probably we were to be burnt up, but  
soon the flames from the chimney  
was drowned out & we then easier, but  
still the reports came in from the

Adverts of their advances, but I didn't think  
there was much in the flying reports, when  
dark the news came that they were catch-  
ed at Roberts, but still I was unbelieving,  
Bob Dick led was then in town with a  
scout, he & I went at Mother's  
about nine o'clock, & expected to be in  
there, & stayed with her till early that  
night as John & Mary had not yet come  
from Virginia, & they were all alone,  
Mary & I had just lain down, when  
Mother heard riding over the street, she  
looked out & said, "Hurray they are Federal  
seeing was believing, they come on &  
on & still they came, the town was  
crowded & were passing until two  
o'clock, when all was quiet until next  
morning, & soon as they halted that  
night in town & struck up their

fire, they were heard in brother Sel-  
ler, carried off all her milk & milk  
vessels, salt, some pork & butter, the  
smoke house, while they were pouring  
& about some one knocked at the  
door, but then asked who is there, the  
reply was "a friend" I knew the voice  
it was Mr. Snapp, I jumped out of bed  
drew on my dress & went out to see  
him. I thought, may be, Mr. Fair was  
with him, but no, not so, he had not  
left Knoxville, then I was disappointed,  
Mr. S. had called at home for me  
but when he learned he was at brother's,  
he came down. About three we  
went to bed, slept quietly until  
morning, the first news which  
greeted my ears, was, that they had  
left on the 15th. I felt very provoked, &

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was taken two of Bas Hughs horses, but he got  
back the same, soon the snow com-  
menced, <sup>so Wednesday</sup> they were passing all day.  
That night all was quiet, until the  
middle of the next day, Thursday, some  
rascals came along taking every man  
s horse they could find, they took Mr. Blin-  
nah Spurgers horse from him here at  
our house, told him if he did not dis-  
mount they wd kill him, & as they  
came on with the men & dragoons  
them from the wagon loaded with arms,  
then the force came on with about  
two hundred prisoners, my poor brother  
Bairned was tending along with  
them, took his horse, saddle & gun  
watch & haversack, but some kind  
major had all given up but his  
horse, he left his watch with us.

soon follow he was cut down & wounded  
in feeling, almost given out he had  
been marched to Singdoon & back his  
feet were blistered, they had many  
acquaintances as prisoners, some  
asking with tears in their eyes for  
something to eat, but none of us  
had any provisions on hand, I went  
at home, I was at brother's, & got what  
cakes I had for Bairnerd, there the next  
morning, brother & I sent out a lot to  
him by Capt. Daynes who was a prisoner  
being an officer he was granted per-  
mission to stay at home that night,  
that night seven with sixteen  
horses fed & slept in our barn & took  
supper, the very rascal was here that  
stole Pet, he said he wd get her back  
for me. The Col. Ouel he promised me

she should be sent back. But before I  
took them to camp, he found Pet. & <sup>the</sup> ~~old~~ <sup>old</sup> ~~one~~  
if he wd give her up he wd <sup>not</sup> try for  
the others, he sd he wd not get her, she  
wd go on to Knoxville & there he wd have  
her over to my husband, but he never  
will see her, Oh what destruction  
& depredations they have com-  
mitted, too numerous to tell, I was  
deceived in them, never thought  
they wd treat us so, have no con-  
fidence in them whatever, if the Lord  
will only spare our lives & the lives  
of our friends, this is all I can dare  
ask for, for vain is the help of man.  
I feel that there is no safety or pro-  
tection any where, only in the  
strong & mighty arm of God, this

Monday, it is reported all the refugees who left  
were captured & were carried to the Dan.

I am writing to you in Mother's style - day being 8 1/2 years old. I am writing to you in Mother's style - day being 8 1/2 years old. I am writing to you in Mother's style - day being 8 1/2 years old.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 1864. This is a cold raw wet-  
morning. rained all night; tis very muddy  
every where, we have various rumors, the  
last two or three days, hear the yankees  
were on the Reddy Cane road in great  
force yesterday evening, going on to win-  
force above, tis said they did not touch  
the salt works, but hurried on to Wytheville  
& there had a fight, but can hear nothing  
more. The Confederates have been passing  
down for the last three days, but none  
can tell us any thing about John, & Mary  
or Willie, I trust they may be spared until  
this cruel war is over, all be permitted  
to return & unite as a happy family once  
more. Martha Ellen has been at her Grand-  
mother's all this week, she has learned to knit  
& knits tolerably well, she was four yrs old  
last October. They keep well, my niece is begin.

Sunday Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864.

This is another Christmas day, but it has no appearance of such time, as formerly, to-day is very quiet Sabbath day, no persons about scarcely, the male citizens all being out of town having taken flight at rumors which came in yesterday, that the Yanks were on the retreat & were at Cowans, on the Boston road, but was all a mistake, we were perfectly quiet yesterday & last night, & hope we may have no more scenes of excitement until we hear of peace being proclaimed all over the American Continent. This day twelve months ago by the day of the month Mr. Kim & I made our last visit together at Bro Sommers, & from present times seem so it may be our last together, that day

at Mr. Keble's we heard of the repeal of the  
"Disfranchisement Law," just then, Mr. H. said  
he w'd leave the country, it will  
soon be twelve months since he  
left those nearest & dearest on earth,  
how many more wks & months must  
elapse ere he is permitted to join  
them, is not for us to say, w'd that  
we w'd be reunited soon, is my  
most ardent wish & prayer, it seems  
sometimes as if he'd not bear the  
separation any longer, but try to feel  
his for the best, I have suffered for what  
ing, my children have been & are well  
healthy, & I & Edment, & in the far  
no, I can bear was kept well, we yet  
have much to be thankful for, Mr. H.  
John, Edment, Willie & Maria returned, all  
in good health, but I wish we w'd be reunited  
at home, I w'd like to see you all, & to be  
with you.

Tuesday, Jan 3<sup>d</sup> 1865.

How I date the entrance upon a  
Domestic New Year. Two days of it are already  
past, our lives, health & our little humble  
home has another year been exposed to  
& mine, amid scenes of excitement & dan-  
ger & confusion, tho, 'tis true, I have passed  
through all & enjoyed all the comforts my  
home afforded without my husband, but still  
I try to feel grateful for past & good. Sunday  
was New Year's day, a cold snowy day, accompa-  
ing, had Bro George, Sister Ruth & their son  
John with us that day, having come in  
the Friday evening before, just when we  
were in the midst of bad, Tallow &  
sausage, butchered five hogs on Friday  
in partnership with the firm Rogers, & afterwards  
in the evening Mr Bonner called in to  
see us while, came to Mother's for the night.

before. Last day Phoebe washed & bedded up  
I spent the day at Mother's with Mr. &  
Jimmy, I did some of the house work, in the  
evening Jimmy came home, having left  
his Regent up on the road at Plover, we'll  
be there this next day on way to Horse  
Creek, we looked for him all day, having  
heard of his safe arrival in Bristol the  
first we know of him since the Red  
had heard he was captured, but this was  
a mistake, he saw no tracks, on Tuesday  
he with the scattering of the pack on, it  
was a better cold day, many of the men  
were with frost bitten feet, Jim said  
it was the hardest campaign he had  
ever passed thro' since the war began,  
the past week was our most severe winter  
weather, on Friday night the snow  
fell to four inches and settled, then had

also to keep up ever down for a little while to see if we could find him

now looking every day for a letter, looks to receive it every  
the times days ahead of it. To me, but at least it is to some of the others.

free, but today is much as ever raining  
& melting away the snow, very dark & glo-  
omy, a gloomy dismal looking day, some think  
the Federal may be in again, so soon as the con-  
gress adjourns probably half the country, there  
is supposed of some probability that Richmond  
may soon have to be evacuated on account  
of provisions becoming short. All the papers  
say the last raid was a secret & successful  
one, Gen. Sherman was with us last night  
having come down to attend court, getting  
in the afternoon, Cousin Jo called in this  
morning, also Mrs. James, & it a few minutes this  
morning I did remember called in visit  
while, he always was one of my favorites  
being my own age. We have had but two  
meals a day for the past three or four days  
to now after one meal I must go about time  
as Phoebe is washing, I have nothing for me to

Sunday Jan, 5<sup>th</sup> 1864. This has been quite  
a pleasant quiet Sabbath, last night was  
a cold freezing night, yesterday Sister H.  
went down with the Coarford. Mary stays  
all night with me, some of the young folks  
were at the Institute until eight o'clock  
then Mary & Mrs O. Baldwin came up he  
is a little while, & went to Cousin W. Cam-  
mon's. Mr Biscoe preached to-day from  
"Job, 9, 29." it is appointed unto man once to  
die, but after this the judgement, "very few  
out, the snow than usual, this afternoon  
Mr O. Baldwin preaches, the bell has hardly  
rung. On Monday night some of the young  
folks went to the Institute, to have some  
music, Willie came up for me & went up a  
short time, Tuesday evening I went down  
to Mother John. Mary & Will. Rogan just

I have a few things to be done in the house of all the women  
I have a few things to be done in the house of all the women  
I have a few things to be done in the house of all the women

came in from eating Turkey at Mrs. Brown's  
they then commenced making arrangements  
for a Candy Show at Mrs. Bates, got the money  
from Mrs. Brown, the Tuesday night they had  
another meeting at the Sew table, Thursday  
Mary came up & helped me make a suit for  
John in the evening John Anderson  
came in with his horses to haul us  
some wood, Lillie Ruth came with him,  
we cut back, Friday evening, Thursday  
John took Mrs back to Virginia her  
brother has not yet returned, Friday  
evening I went down to Mother's a little  
while to get news from the prisoners  
& so had returned & stayed all  
night, Crawford came & stayed all night  
here 15 of the prisoners were cleaned up  
the rest were started to Camp Chase  
I am among the number, how I follow if  
we really can have his words, will not be in.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 1863. This a bright beautiful  
Sabbath, I sit all alone communing with  
my own thoughts, feel somewhat de-  
spondent and as tho' there is some bad news  
to reach my ear, but it is best not to im-  
agine evil nor to climb mountains be-  
fore we reach them. I rejoice that this  
is one day appointed unto man for rest  
to draw his mind and heart from  
earth to Heaven. I need that rest today  
for the past week has been given to the  
world exclusively, even to the neglect of  
my little ones, loaned by God to be train-  
ed for him, Oh! help me Heavenly Father  
to be more faithful in the discharge of  
that duty and at this time a double respon-  
sibility upon me. Last Sunday night  
there had almost been, Sunday night about  
noon I look'd to God, there are some just and

I had a fine time of it all day long. I had a fine time of it all day long. I had a fine time of it all day long.

... dying to bury, it suffered a good deal the night  
... day before it died, Bethel. Sister Harriett  
... have gone to preaching. I could not attend  
... as all wanted to go to the burying.  
... Monday I had my washing done. I did not  
... get the morning done until Tuesday.  
... Monday morning Bro. Leonard and Mrs  
... came up left Tuesday evening, Tuesday  
... night, I wrote to Mr. Hiram sent it off  
... by Mrs. Caldwell who was going within 15  
... miles of Knoxville, her husband was rap-  
... tured on the last raid, his father having  
... see all sessions & in Federal lines. Bro. Jones  
... came home on Wednesday evening he is en-  
... gaged with his old accuser. I fear that would  
... it to be his ruin, unless he gets out of there  
... I was attended to, I had a letter from  
... on Thursday, he is in a tolerable health as yet  
... I trust his wife had a very hard time of it  
... I had a fine time of it all day long.

Sabbath Evn 27<sup>th</sup> 1865. Two weeks have  
elapsed since I made any record in  
my diary, the weather for that length  
of time has been freezing cold with  
the exception of three or four of wk  
before last. On Thursday of that week we  
gave Mr. Rimes a donation pretty rather  
a small affair, very few present. I went  
up & left my donation, then called to see  
Mrs Davis, Mrs Powell, Mrs James & Mrs Edgely.  
Sister Hannah was putting away the last  
of their hogs & did not go. On Friday evening  
of that week Bradford Kim brought up a  
hove for us. I went down, took Mr. B. and  
Jennie, while there it rained for two days.  
There turned very cold, severely, and  
we stayed until Wednesday, had I not  
come then, I should have had to have  
stayed longer for the weather was

colder after I got home than it was then.  
I visited all the relatives in that neigh-  
borhood, when I came home I found Sam  
Hiram here, and has been here since  
until this evening he seems to try to  
get home, as forces are going down there,  
Jim is still at home, has been confined  
to his bed for the past week, suffering  
with his wound, Bob came home on  
Wednesday evening from Richmond, the  
first time he has been at home for ten  
months, he looks very well, we have had  
many rumors the past week about an  
armistice, some reported there as to be  
one for 15 days but this seems out to be  
false, I wish it could be so, then I should  
we might have peace soon, the Whittaker  
-lain of the 50th Co. 2nd Maine, purchased for us  
a pretty good season, the 2nd Blantock's  
company have returned safely from now  
I should love to see her a few hours at  
I have a long talk I hope to hear from her soon,  
I have received a letter from her since the war

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Those who have elapsed since I  
made my record in my diary. During that  
time nothing special has transpired, and  
the news for peace have proven a failure  
every to hear nothing can be done to  
bring this unhappy war to a close,  
but I feel that God who controls all  
things, will in his own good time  
bring order out of confusion, by getting  
to the troubled political waters, Peace, be  
still, I hope that these joyful tidings will  
be heard at this time, on this western  
continent, Last Sabbath Mr. B. & I  
had a very good conversation, better than  
usual, prayer meeting in the afternoon.

On Monday morning, Dr. George brought  
me a horse for me to go to his house & work  
out with him in the evening, took Mrs.  
& family, left tomorrow to be married. His

Grandmother stayed that night with her  
Aunt Ann in the morning after that  
been for me since. Got so uneasy that I  
got John to bring me home. I found him  
very well, he had some Phlegm with  
concerning it was the first night. He  
didn't leave him, it being an unpleasant  
day. But Mr. C. who has not yet been but  
in, feel like getting her home with me, they  
anxious to see her, they both rode behind  
going out, for me behind was he was  
three years old last November, Mr. C. rode  
behind her Uncle George, she was four years  
old last October, they both rode very well  
for little chaps, it snowed on us all the  
way home, but was not cold, we have  
had cold weather all week, snowed some  
for three days, Sunday & yesterday were  
about the coldest days, I am etc to write.

Wednesday, sent it to Ella Sucky by John  
H. Blum, to start off. Mrs. P. shall start  
to go thro' the lines yesterday, leaving com-  
ent about six months since, & left her  
only child with her mother, who lives  
at "Sweet water" some where below Knoxville  
ville, she is going to try to be exchanged for  
Mrs. Stover who has lost her husband &  
wants to come back to Carter City to her home.

Today I have read six chapters in my  
Bible attended Sabbath school, came home  
& have read the child's paper, & visited  
on these some who is still sick, not  
able to do anything, this is a raw blustering  
day, thawing some in the sunshine  
but freezing in the shade, the miles  
is preaching, but I do not attend. Lister  
has gone, Dennis is now pretty well cured,  
he is a very good boy, has eight teeth, eight to nine right  
in the eye, has a little laceration, & is a little  
new growth, but he is getting so good, because  
I do think the other day, March 16, 47, & found it

Sabbath, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 1868; This is a bright, sun-  
lifel, quiet day; this morning I arose by day-  
light, made my fire, cleaned up my room  
made my bed, dressed my children, and  
got breakfast over in good time for Sunday  
School, prepared the children & started  
off to school leaving Jimmie with  
his Grand-Father, Sister Hannah & both  
having gone out <sup>yesterday evening</sup> in the wagon with  
Geo Anderson who came in to haul  
some wood, corn & hay for him, they  
stayed all night with me.  
To day I attended church, heard Mr.  
Alexander, Chap in the evening preach, he  
has preached here once before, I was then  
much pleased with his sermon, he is  
a refugee from New Market, he preaches  
most excellent prayers to-day. I had im-  
posed myself to listen to a good sermon.  
But I must conclude, I was much satisfied.

ted, when it came, it was nothing but  
heaping abuses, railed out against the  
North & Southern people; he took for his  
text, "Lord, what will thou have me do",  
Acts, 9, 46. but did not touch his text, but  
on the other hand, grossly wandered  
from it, "I wish I could write out the whole  
synopsis, word for word, in the first, I wish  
started out by saying that the war now  
going on, was not only affecting the country  
in a political point, but the church of  
God was being greatly affected, he said it  
had this revolution had been brewing  
for the thirty years past, that Henry W  
Beecher said at the beginning of the  
war that he wanted the next generation  
to be <sup>now we say the influence of his theology,</sup> hater of the South, this was he  
said was brought on by the fanatics &  
Abolitionists of the North, then he spoke

of Slavery, how it had been written & what  
was in the West, that there they called  
for an Anti Slavery Bible, that if our Bible  
recognises Slavery then we will reject  
it, they wanted an Anti Slavery, Anti  
war and an Anti Slavery people, that fan-  
aticism & infidelity were the ruling prin-  
ciples of the West, and all other kinds of  
"isms" thrown in, business, liberalism, temperance  
-ism, woman's rights, &c. &c. then to speak  
of the way the Sacramental in which the  
Sacramental meetings were conducted, of  
one in New York, where the table  
of the Lord was placed in the United  
States flag was hoisted, this they said  
was represented in a piece of paper cut  
ed from the church register, and placed  
in the vestry, then at the close of the  
services the Star Spangled Banner was

was sung, as was also in some Baptist Asso-  
ciations and Methodist Conferences, then he  
went to say that the South would not be  
satisfied with the blood and lives of  
the men, but that the women chil-  
dren had to suffer in this war on  
the part of the South, that their lives  
would be required, then he spoke of Great  
Britain as he is called, how he treated them  
in New Orleans, called those nice and vir-  
tuous ladies "Base women", & told his col-  
leagues to just let themselves loose upon  
them, then he said as this Lord returned  
to the Northern cities, in place of being  
captured and condemned as he thought he  
ought to have been for his base vile con-  
duct upon those women, he & his men  
received applause & cheer throughout the  
North & his power was extended, then he

said that Genl Sherman told a good  
honest lady in Memphis last year in  
his blasphemous manner, that God being  
they had not room enough in his house,  
now all this was on the part of the north,  
& the south he seemed to think comparatively  
speaking our faultless, & just such a state  
of affairs our church wd have when Gen  
Brown & the military authorities took pos-  
session of it, that the Liberal authorities  
had gone so far as to enquire of the condi-  
tion of churches in some places where they  
held sway, & where they found a disloyal  
preacher he was abandoned & some one  
of their own selection being placed of the  
congregation, then he alluded to a certain dis-  
senting preacher in his imprecations in his  
last sermon, trying to fix on the con-  
dition of our church whether we had the

regular supplies of good salary &c, this I knew  
about, the letter was from the lawyer etc.  
to Mr. Baines. I heard the letter read, now  
this was to me a strange crime, receiving  
from a man of theology, a paper at the  
Southern Seminary, it was now that our  
best preachers & teachers <sup>in</sup> the South, hail  
from the North, but now it seems that  
nothing so bad or so unchristian can be  
said of them, by their brethren in Christ,  
ministry, Oh! this vile wicked war, what  
a division it has made, what wicked &  
unkindness it has brought about, enough  
of this kind of preaching for me.

It will be two weeks to night since I  
commenced wearing flannel, last night  
I took him in bed with me he was un-  
well, he finally got his hand in my breast  
& the first thing I knew he was asleep.



Study well. I had a Bible Class, today, which I'd  
have it every Sabbath, find it very interesting &  
the best way for studying the Bible, it was  
the first class I ever had in Sabbath School, but  
since I have been married & do not attend  
regularly, I give it up to others, but they still  
seem to have much partiality for me &  
still wish me for a teacher.

Mr. Davis preached today from Matt. 5: 43, "Love  
your father the kingdom of God, & his righteousness, & all  
these things shall be added unto you", which he  
read today, God but think of my dear, departed  
Father, now I believe a saint in glory, these  
were the words he used in concluding his  
"will," saying this was his last will & testament  
to his children, may we ever remember it, it's

the all important business thro' life, the  
congregation was small, tho' a pleasant day,  
with a few, what wonders, John & Ellen came  
home today, Ellen had been on Virginia street  
came as far as the depot, & towards the train & then  
home, & was down after her children.

... bought of Uncle Bob. Now this ...  
... your ...  
... had owned her about a year, she said ...  
... belonging to the ... married the ...  
... Sept. 1st one year after ... of ...  
... this ... was born Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> 1852 ...

we have had some very nice pleasant weather  
for the past week, except yesterday it rained all  
day, Sister H. came in from Sister R's ...  
with Bro G. Bro H still out there, we have been  
in the soap business, for two days past, have  
only tolerable luck. I heard from Mr. ...  
yesterday of the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month, Mrs  
Bowen came to ... he was there very  
well & trying to make arrangements for ...  
business, I hope he may succeed & be prepared  
in all his needs to ... But I was ...  
pined to hear he did not receive my letter for  
I have written ... on ...  
last every ... he came to ...  
often, can't tell where they are, I hope may hear  
from him soon within a few days.

the Sabbath, March 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a bright, pleasant, <sup>Sabbath</sup> day,  
but no preaching, as the children attended Sabbath  
School. I had a nice Bible class, very interesting  
lessons in the book of Daniel. During last week  
we had much rain, the river is very high,  
higher than it has been for years, from flooding  
or ferrying. We had washing done Wednesday, that  
day Mrs. Rogan, Mrs. Isaac Cox & Miss Alice Cole  
spent with us. Thursday Mrs. John & Miss John  
was with us, ~~Friday~~ <sup>Saturday</sup>, Friday Mrs. Mrs. Brown &  
Mother spent the day. That day we heard of the  
death of Mr. John Sibley very unexpectedly not  
knowing of his sickness, he ~~was~~ died Thursday  
evening between ~~two~~ <sup>seven</sup> & ~~three~~ o'clock. His remains  
were taken to the church, Mrs. Bisco made a  
short discourse from 2 Cor. 5<sup>th</sup>. As we know  
you are richly housed of this tabernacle we ~~kindly~~  
made very appropriate remarks. His remains were  
then delivered over to the bearers for interment.

by his request, very few of the Lodge were present. Cousin  
Robt Dickle, seemed to be chief manager, he himself  
staid was the oldest member of the Lodge, his house  
was long by aged widow, she may not be very long  
after him, he was at church this day two weeks ago,  
but all is over with him now, the great problem  
is solved, he is the third elder from our church in  
the last two years, by Father & Mr Jacob Thomas  
Cousin Geo & Cousin Mary & Cousin John  
down with us from the business which we were  
at dinner. Will <sup>Rankin</sup> came in & staid until four  
o'clock then started on to Kingsport, he is a  
young man, Phoebe is still in her house  
dont come out to do anything, Sister Hester  
does nearly all the cooking & work this week,  
she has been laid up with tooth aches,  
Jennie got home with Crawford did very  
very well & had been a very good boy, so all  
news from the ship this week, have been  
letter every day but none, seems to be

March 13<sup>th</sup> in Bisco preached to day a pleasant  
day as the children attended Sabbath school  
after we came home Sam Sammons & Dick  
Eisen came up & went with us to church they  
have been prisoners in the D. before twenty  
two months, there has been a general exchange  
going on & many have returned, we have  
been expecting Benjamin Brown, who was  
captured on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Dec 1864, he has  
come not, this week I have been mending  
up some clothing, Tuesday I spent down  
at Mother's, Ellen & I were expecting my horse,  
Friday was Fast day & we went here in the  
Methodist Church, Mr Miles & Mr Brown  
officiated, in the evening Sister H & B H  
went down as far as Cousin Hammonds on  
their way down to Brownboro, expect to be  
gone a week, I had a letter from Mr Eisen  
Saturday, he was then after goods at Aquidnasset,  
all the 30<sup>th</sup> of Feb, next day after writing, he came out  
to us through, during the course of a few weeks.

The Sabbath 14th. This last week Henry & Ellen have been  
helping me sew some, we have made off several  
articles of clothing, Wednesday & Thursday we had  
some very hard rains, I had my washing done  
on Wednesday, it cleared up so enough today  
them in the evening, <sup>morning</sup> Thursday I ironed in  
the evening I sewed some, & on Friday, in  
the evening Mother & I went over to Dr. Kats's  
see his second little girl, Mary, who had been  
she had become affected, not expected to live,  
she seemed better but now has Pneumonia  
she may get her, Mary went over to see her  
Mother came up to stay all night with me,  
one of them have been with me every night  
since Sister H left, they did not get home  
yesterday as was expected owing to high water  
I suppose, to-day at eleven Mrs. Baird expounded  
his subject was "Faith," this evening Mrs. Wm.  
Caldwell preached his subject was "Prayer," he  
made a very good discourse, tho he is a very big  
rebel, Sabbath 14th. This has been a most  
most exciting day in our little quiet village  
since so, than any we have ever get had,  
last night about dark the news came in,  
the Federals being at Bull Run, & another  
force being at Leesburg, they formed a junction  
& came on to Carter's Station, this is the latest  
account, what next I know not, late this evening  
Carter's Brigade passed thro, about 10 o'clock  
I suppose they seem to intend on to Shinn's  
to hold at Carter's Station, it is  
Rail Road to Bull Run, then they will move out and

I hope this part of the country, this story thinks  
will be done in ten days. I hear nothing  
this week from Mr. Fair, have been disappoint-  
ed, he had not returned from Cincinnati  
about ten days since, can't hear where he is,  
but hope he is still living & well, this has been  
rather an exciting week all round about the  
Federal coming in.

Bro. H. & Sister H. returned from Bro. Lamb's on  
Tuesday, <sup>to 803 St. Thomas</sup> ~~Thursday~~ <sup>Wednesday</sup> of last week, all were well, Monday &  
Tuesday I had my washing & ironing done up,  
we had several days of very high wind, Thursday  
morning I trimmed out the rash-berry bushes & cleared  
off the garden some, & sowed a little, Friday Brother  
& I walked out to see Mrs. Fox, who has been  
sick a long time, but now a little better, that  
evening Sister R. & Bro. George came in <sup>with</sup> ~~with~~  
Crescencia & visited this evening, breakfast  
stayed last night & went back this morn.  
before breakfast we had Sabbath School  
the morning the ladies preached at eleven  
but I did not go, Dr. Hammer came down & the  
white people were assisted by the ladies about  
11 o'clock, the approach of the Yankees hurried  
them up, I went over to the music yet the  
Dr. presence in, the ceremony was performed  
then the congratulations, then we walked out  
& had a very nice dinner, of a turkey  
hen, custard, blue-anger etc, this  
morning about 8 o'clock Sister Thomas & St. Boy  
were assisted by the ladies, & military  
musical the St. said, refer to the first.

1864

June 6<sup>th</sup> This day I have to record the sad, <sup>of the death</sup> very  
sad fact of our dear brother Johnny, we received  
a dispatch, bearing the sad intelligence  
that he was killed in the fight at  
Staunton, Va on yesterday, Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>  
and William & James <sup>killed</sup> in the fight on  
Saturday at the same place. How hard  
to give up those we love in such a  
manner, just shot dead in an in-  
stant, when in the prime of life, and  
not knowing their thoughts and feelings  
in regard to an everlasting future, I  
sincerely hope he had made all necessary  
preparation to meet death, for surely  
he thought it was war at hand,  
when in so much danger. I pray that  
this sad and afflictive dispensation may  
be sanctified to each one of us who  
left it seems that we should

afflicted within the past year, Papa was  
taken from us, then his property was  
burnt to the ground, and now our  
is gone. "God moves in a mysterious way  
to him who afflicts, and we must sub-  
missively. "As the rod which smites"  
not my will, but thine O Lord be done.

*[Faint, illegible handwriting, possibly a signature or scribble]*