

The first 3 pages
are from 1865 and are the
last pages of this volume.
~~and~~ The diary ^{actually} starts
on page 4 around May
24, 1863 after the birth
of her 4th child

Fannie A. Fain

Nov. 26th 1863

Sabbath Apr 2nd. For the past two weeks we have had report after report daily about the Federal Forces below but not half of them true. They were retracted in Jonesboro; Carter's Station, etc, but at first they were false, but 'tis said today they are certainly at those two points; 25,000 at Bull's Cap, a heavy force building up the R.R. working night & day. Some think they are on to Lynchburg. Monday I had washing done. Tues. Aleck & I 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 Gammon, Nick & Powell Fain, McKarty & 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. Hammer [?] called down in the cellar to see us. He took his wife up Thursday, we finished off our 77 doz candles. Thurs about four o'clock, just after we got thro' Nick Fain came in & took supper with us, that night Mother came up & sat a short time. Monday evening we gave Dr. Hammer & his lady a supper, had Delia, Mary & John with them. Friday, I was at Mother's, Mary helped me to make a dress for Martha Ellen, one her Pa sent her. She wore it today. Yesterday I attended to my usual Sat. chores. Mr. Brisco preached today, while in church Col. Toole [?] with his scout came thro' hollowing, considerably, the male portion that they were Yankees & started off 'tis said Sherman is badly whipped in N. Carolina (lost 75 pieces of artillery, & 20,000 of his men, it may not be true).

(Mr. Jim Rogers was buried last Tuesday evening, having been taken violently, with a conjestive chill on the Friday before. He leaves a helpless family, a wife & five little children.)

Sunday, Apr. 9th. No Federals made their appearance as yet, though expected at any time & have been for the past two weeks. We cannot

Page 2 (Continued)

hear certainly of any being any nearer than Jonesboro. There they are said to be in heavy force. This morning 'twas rumored they were in Abingdon in force, tho' may be false. Their movements seem to be a mystery to everyone. This country is entirely evacuated, and why they do not come on and take possession is a little strange. All are ready and waiting: We hear to-day of the bush-whackers having robbed Cousin Eliza Fain, extensively, but can't tell as to the truth. This day so far has been unusually quiet, none moving about scarcely. We had Sabbath School pretty well attended, & expected preaching by previous appointment, but, at Sunday School Mr. Briscoe said he w'd preach at three this afternoon. We had a letter from Brainerd dated Mar 18th. He was then very well but tired of his imprisonment. He gave me the latest news from Mr. F., said he had received a letter from him some time during the first of March, at Cincinatti (sic). His plan then was to bring goods to Knoxville, move his family through the lines, but this move up the country has somewhat confused things. Willy was at home two or three days this week, left on Wednesday, may be 'twill be the last time for a long while. Jimmy left this evening two weeks ago & has not been back. Poor boys, what will become of them, I pray their lives may be spared, until this wicked war is over.

Mr. Jess Rogers was buried last Tuesday evening, having been taken violently with a conjestion chill on the Friday before. He leaves a helpless family, a wife & five little children.

Page 3

Sunday the 23rd. 'Tis two weeks today since I made any record in my book. During the first five days we had many Confederate victories reported,

Page 3 (Continued)

which were usually false. When the truth came, they were entirely 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 when Gen'l. Lee surrendered his Army & evacuated Richmond & Petersburg, consequently the States of Virginia & Tennessee were given up. This news reached us the last of that week, Friday, 14th. This news produced utter confusion & despair upon the rebels, despair seemed depicted upon their countenances. Then in a few days we hear the Army had succeeded in N.C. & that State given up, so we then concluded the fighting was done in this part of the country. Some of the soldiers have been passing on their way home & coming every day. The boys will soon all be at home, that is, my brothers, if their lives are still spared. Brainerd is still a prisoner so far as we know. I am thankful to my Heavenly Father that this war has wound up as it has. My husband who has been from his family & home for 15 months can return & all my friends. I have looked for Mr. Fain every day for a week. He will surely come soon.

Page 4

Sam'l Rhea Fain born Aug. 4th Thursday, 8 o'clock, and he died at the age of five months from _____, his head being all his life affected with that disease.

Martha Ellen born Oct. 19th Friday about 8 o'clock A.M., 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. 8th Friday between 10 & 11 A.M., sat alone at six months, had two teeth through at seven months, has been a good baby.

Fannie A. Fain

Nov. 26th 1863

Page 4 (Continued)

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 thankfulness & gratitude to the great Giver of every good gift.

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

Page 5

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

Our babe was born Tuesday, May 26th, 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. I 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 and days. He seems to be a large healthy child. Jonnie and Martha Ellen are growing, and running everywhere. Jonnie seems to be the healthier of the two, he is learning to talk fast.

Page 6

June 17th 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 Ann and Mr. Rogan. They came up Monday morning, & left this morning. Mr. Fain is from home, having very unexpectedly been summoned to appear the Military Court in Knoxville as a witness in Mr. Snappe's case. He left very reluctantly.

Page 6 (Continued)

Martha Ellen & Jonnie are both down with their Grandma. Jonnie 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.

Page 7

Sabbath night.

Nov. 15th 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 passed. Since then we have had wars & rumors of wars, fighting and bloodshed 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. Fain was farming some, working his corn, potatoes, garden, etc. 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

Page 8

everything would be scarce and hard to get this winter. We had just gotten through with these things when lo & behold, a very sudden & unexpected Yankee Raid was made through our town on Saturday, Sept 19th, 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 Zollicoffer to take it, having first arrested several

Page 9

persons here. Among others they took Bro. John, but was soon released through the influence of Friends. On their way to Zollicoffer they had a fight, found they could not succeed in hills, so they retreated, went back to Jonesboro & Greeneville, Mr. Easley, Mr. John & William Snapp joining them here, many others from the surrounding towns. Soon after, here came the Confederates in hot pursuit. All day Monday they were coming and going. All the while both Armies were stealing horses. Our mare was taken twice by the Federals but returned, once sent after the Confederates, but not taken. On Monday night they camped on the same field of John's. Tuesday the

Page 10

22nd, 1863, they hastened on hunting the Yankees, found them at the river near Bachman. Had a skirmish there, kept it up until they drove the Confederates back, and they reached the East end of town, planted cannon and there formed a regular line of battle. All the morning Mr. Fain & John were out trying to get back Father's horses which were stolen the night before. Here were all the soldiers, the street full, but they had not come. Cousin Jane Vance was here. When she heard the Federals were coming, she & Nancie Jones mounted their horses & left. Immediately, I was alone feeling very uneasy about Mr. Fain, but soon he came. He seemed to think every preparation was being made

Page 11

for a fight, though no warning had been given to the citizens. So we concluded to go to the cellar, with our family, Mr. Bailey's & Mrs. Easley's all here waiting; but after studying a little, they all concluded for us to leave. So we fastened up, left all & took out through the meadow for Shrite's.

Page 11 (Continued)

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 canonading commenced, and continued for some time. When they commenced the musketry, this we did not hear. We remained these two or three hours, then the news reached us that a line of battle was being formed.

Page 12

out near there, so we all took up the line of march toward Jane Tipton's. On our way there we met with Mr. David Jonston, Mr. Hoffman & a young Roller from Kingsport. They assisted us in carrying our children. We did not go in at Mr. Tipton's, all halting long enough to saddle Mr. Jonston's horse, who was kind enough to loan it to us as we were all going on to Brother George's, it then being sun-down. To add still more sorrow to our troubles, while we were at Shrite's, Mr. Fain and others went to the top of the hill & there beheld another house & Father's & all below them in flames, Mather's being the first to catch, caught from a shell. This was the saddest of all events, and moreover

Page 13

we thought probably some if not all our friends were consumed amid the flames, as they were in the cellars. Fortunately, the fire spread no higher up than the Courthouse & Mr. James' house, though we all expected the whole town to burn. We travelled on to Brother George's 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 were again quiet, except Mr. Fain, 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 Crawford Fain's. Mother's

Page 13 (Continued)

family went out the house was

Page 14

burning, but before she left she tried to save some of her things. Jeny & Nace pulled out many things, but a great many were destroyed. She & John came & stayed with us, the other children went to Uncle Bob's, were 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 anticipated here, the Confederate force being below, and fighting at Blue Spring, near Rheatown on Sunday the 11th of Oct. The Confederates fell back to Carter's Station, the Federals pursued, fought here the 14th on the hills and around the graveyard. Our family, Brother Hugh, Mother & Mary, the black ones, with a wagon of plunder started off again for Brother George's,

Page 15

reached there about twelve, Mr. Fain still in town. He retired to the hills east of town during the fight then came in, found our kitchen had been opened & some things taken out. Mother & Brother Hugh came in the next morning, found Mr. Fain & John here, and the town full of Federals. In the evening Mr. Fain came out, & we all came back next morning, found Mr. Jno Gaines & Uncle John. We have had no fighting since, but the Confederate 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 ascertained certainly. The object of the last fight was I suppose to give the Confederates an

Page 16

Page 16

opportunity for moving off everything from Zollicoffer 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 Watauger river. Last Friday week the Confederates made an excursion into Hawkins Cty and captured 800, killed 15, wounded 20, took 60 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. Briscoe preached to-day from Matt., the parable of the sower being his subject. Very few were out, the day being unpleasant.

Page 17

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

November 16th. This was my wash day, nothing special transpiring through the day here. Mr. Fain rode out to Brother Henry's place, sent the black boy to Mr. Jno Snapps to get some hogs. (He by the way took his family out when the Federals were in, leaving his farm & slaves without making any disposition of them.) In the evening heavy canonading 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, & eatables scarce.

Page 18

Nov. 17th . Tuesday. Today 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 tomorrow (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. Fain asleep upon the floor. Brother Hugh retired before dark. George is complaining a good deal to-night, groans

Page 18 (continued)

as if he was 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 the 10th of last week, we had snow.

Page 19

Wednesday 18th. This morning we rose tolerably early. Mr. Fain & the black boys killed and cleaned four five hogs, brought them to the smoke house, cut them up, but did not salt. I ground and put away four crocks of sausage. Burr packed up a large box of sweet potatoes to-night. John was up and sit a short time. Crawford Fain & Fult Hall are with us, 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 so far this winter. Martha Ellen says a lesson occasionally. Jonnie says almost anything he wishes now. James Rhea, now 5½ mo. old, sits in his chair much of the time.

Page 20

Thursday Nov. 19th. This has been a busy day with me, and to-night I feel somewhat give out. I now sit all alone, Mr. Fain having gone to Mother's, the children sleeping. This morning the first thing after washing & dressing my baby, making my beds & cleaning up my house, I went to preparing my lard 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 2/3 full. The pork was salted and packed away this morning. After Burr finished it, he buried the beets and cabbage. Ben was ploughing, no wheat sowed yet on Father's farm. The War has thrown everything out of fix, the horses gone, and fencing down. Mr. F. will try to sow some tomorrow.

Page 21

Friday, Nov. 20. This has been a bright warm day, some indications of rain. So far we have had little freezing weather.

To-day Mr. Fain and two of the boys sowed $9\frac{1}{2}$ 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 farm a little and knowing nothing about it and nothing to do it with, but I still hope a better and brighter day is coming for us all.

Our fall sacramental meeting commenced to-day, should have been last month, but was postponed until the excitement was down a little. Mr. King preached for us from Mar. 12th, vs. 34, "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God." A good sermon, but few to hear it. His leading points were the close

Page 22

and intimate connexion between the Christian & God, the close connexion between earth and heaven. No preaching was appointed for night, but for Saturday at eleven, Mr. Moseby Chap from the _____ near Lynchburg was to preach.

At night Cousin William and Cousin Hiram Fain came up and sit with us awhile, also Cousin Crawford came and spent the night.

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

Page 23

Page 23

Sabbath night 7 o'clock, Nov. 22nd. This day I attended church. 'Twas Communion Sabbath, but very few communicants. Martha Ellen and I went alone, Mr. Fain not being so disposed. M. 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 Rogan. Mr. King preached from the words, "Except ye 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 outpouring 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.

Page 24

Sunday 23d Nov. This has been a bright, 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 Vance 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 stock of all kinds. Mary came from Uncle Bob's yesterday, the first time she has been in since the last fight. I put on Jonnie's flannel dress. Martha Ellen wears her summer dresses

Page 25

yet. Both get bare-footed, seem very healthy, have had no colds, sleep well at night.

Page 25 (Continued)

On the 26th of Oct., Tuesday, Jonnie Bachman and Eva Dulaney were married by Rev. J. T. Briscoe. Took a stormy time for it, all were expecting the Federals back at any time as they were at the river. Mary, John, Jimmy, Mr. & Mrs. St. John were all who were there, except their own family. Jonnie 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 came, 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. Ensor.

Page 26

Tuesday, Nov. 24th, 1863. 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 ironing. I finished that and sat down until time for Phebe to be about dinner, then I 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 settling with the soldiers for pasturage, paid him \$71.00 for pasturing 200 - 300 hd. of cattle a month. Mr. Fain came in from sowing wheat about two, intended going back, but rain prevented. He has put in twenty bushels. Mother went down about four, I & 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 knit an hour, & now am writing. Mr. Fain on the floor complains of his leg being sore from a hurt by the cradle one night.

Page 27

Page 27

Wednesday, 25th Nov. This day I have spent in changing carpets, took up and put down two, and put away the one I had in the front 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 attended prayer meeting, the first time in a great while. Jonnie Bachman made a few very appropriate remarks from Jeremiah 32:9; "Jeremiah buyeth Hanameel'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. 1st, it being God's command, 2nd, it showed his strong faith in God. Mr. Fain is still trying to sow some wheat, the weather still is favorable.

Page 28

Thursday 26th Nov. Nothing special or interesting has occurred today, the day has passed off quietly and pleasantly with me. I have spent it in patching & mending up an old carpet. Jonnie 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. Jimmy also left, but expected to be back in a few days.

Friday Nov. 27th. This is Mr. Fain's thirty-eight birthday. It was a nice pleasant day. I spent it in sewing a little. About three I went down to Mother's, spent an hour or two. Mary Nan Gammon and I went down to the ruins awhile. Mr. Fain was out all day attending the sowing of wheat. The news from Bragg's Army is rather discouraging to the Confederacy. 'Tis 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. Crawford Fain is with us to-night.

Page 29

Saturday, Nov. 28th. Mr. Fain and 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 Phebe, 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 and Brain came in and eat with us. While we were eating, Sister Ruth and Brother George came. I fixed supper for them and as they finished, Crawf came, but he had been to supper. Brother Hugh went to Brother Tommies' this evening to see the folks, he complains much of his head, and seems to have lost all energy for everything.

Page 30

Sunday, Nov. 29th. 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 & Martha Ellen. John came in a little while after Sunday School. Very few were there.

Mr. Hughes and Crawf 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 through soon for this year. If I could only remember as I read and store it away in my mind and practice it in my life, then could I be profited thereby. Soldiers are riding to and fro to-day, cannot understand their where abouts.

Page 31

Monday, Nov. 30th. I now record the last day of Nov. 1863. Soon the year will have forever taken its flight, and buried with those of the

Page 31 (continued)

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. Fain and I went out to Mrs. Hinckles about some weaving. Mr. Hawk will weave for me. While we were gone Brother Hugh came home, brought no one with him. Bob left again this morning for Bristol. I was with him but a few moments. Tonight I sit alone, with a bright cheerful fire, the cat (Maggie's) enjoying the heat therefrom. Mr. Fain is down at Mother's, not yet returned, the children well & sleeping.

Page 32

Tuesday Dec. 1st. Thus I 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 Tommie Anderson for dinner. About seven tonight, Mr. Fain and I went down to Mother's & sat an hour or so, left Jim & Ben in here with the children.

Wednesd Dec. 2nd. To-day Mr. Fain & 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. I put away my sausage, have but seven vessels full. Tonight I finished Phebe's.

Page 33

Thursday Dec. 3rd. Today I put away the last of my sausage and lard for this year, I suppose. Phoebe scorched part of my lard today, while I was in the house nursing my baby, the first I have ever had done so, in my house keeping.

Page 33 (continued)

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. Cawood come in and sit a short time, while Mr. Fain read his papers. Then it was time for supper. After this I prepared to put the babe asleep, and knit until 7 or 8 by our time, on Jim's socks. Brother Hugh is at sister Ruth's having gone out there yesterday in the wagon with Tommie not yet returned. Mr. Fain is still trying to put in some wheat though the ground is still frozen, thawed more to-day than any day this week before. This has been a pleasant day. I sit with my window up this afternoon.

Page 34

Monday, Dec. 14th, 1863. My pen has lain 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 scenes for the past week.

On Friday Dec 4th, Mother and Mary came up to assist me in making a pr of pants for Mr. Fain. I sewed very little on them, it being eleven o'clock before they were cut out, and Mother was called home about 3 o'clock to receive a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Brown. Father and Ellen came in that morning from Sister Ruth's, remained until Tuesday afternoon, but Mary stayed all night and finished them off for me before bed-time. Crawford Fain was with us that

Page 35

night. Saturday I attended to my Sunday preparations. About ten it commenced raining, rained for two or three hours pretty heavy. After dinner Ellen & I went down to Mother's, there met the boys who were disbanded from Parole Camps, Jimmie, Jonnie, Cornelius, Lucky and Bob Bachman. Cousin Crawf

Page 35 (continued)

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. Tuesday, I starched what clothes needed it and ironed them before dinner. In the afternoon Phebe finished them. Cousin Sam'l Evans was in that morning, fixing up some business for Father & Brother Hugh.

Page 36

Sam'l Rhea (the Father of the writer), born May 23rd, 1795, married Ann Maxwell who died shortly after the birth of her first child, Sam'l A Rhea, born Jan. 23rd, 1827. He lived a widower five years, then married Martha Lynn (my mother) Jan. 3d, 1832, was born Dec. 22nd, 1810, had children

Sam'l A. Rhea, by his first wife	born Jan. 23d, 1827
John Lynn	born Oct 28, 1832
Fanny Anderson Rhea	" Mar 6, 1834
Mary Martha	" Aug 14, 1836
Jos. Brainerd	" Apr. 8, 1838
Jos. Alexander	" Dec. 5, 1840
Robt. Morrison	" Oct. 14, 1842
Eliza Ellen	" Aug 22, 1844
William Lynn	" June 6, 1847
Margt Elizabeth	" July 24, 1849
Charles Stoddard	" Dec. 22, 1851

Page 37

Wednesday Dec 8th. I made two little sacques 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 Scotte Monday evening. In the evening I cut out a pr of pants for Jim. Jonnie Bachman and Eva his wife

Page 37 (continued)

with us that night, came with me from prayer meeting.

Thursday Dec 9th. Today I have done little or nothing. This morning I made over Martha Ellen's linen bonnets, then worked some at Jim's breeches, and mended a pr of socks for Ben. Mr. Fain and the boys butchered a beef a while after dark. Brother Sam Mitchell came very unexpectedly, stayed all night, and went to Brother Tommies early next morning.

Page 38

Friday passed off as usual. News came that our Army had fallen back and were fighting 12 or 14 miles from Rogersville. Cousin Crawford came up to-night.

Saturday 11th. This morning I prepared some mince meat, and made pies for Sunday, had churning done. Our dinner was late. Just as it was ready, Brother Sam Mitchell came, ate and sat a little while after. Then went to Cousin Crawford's and home Sunday. I did not dress my butter until after dinner and who should drive up, but Mag Walker to my great surprise, an old schoolmate. 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 & driver. They stayed all night, left next morning about nine. Sunday Mr. Briscoe preached, from the parable of the Prodigal, a

Page 39

very small congregation, had Prayer Meeting at night. I attended. In the evening Mr. Fain and I went down to Mother's. All day long there have been wagons, cattle, hogs and horses going on for the Army.

Monday 14th. This has been a cold, rainy and blustery day. Brother Hugh and George have gone to Brother Tommies', took some yams and wheat, will be

Page 39 (continued)

back tomorrow, I guess.

Friday, Dec. 18th. 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. Yesterday we had rain most of the day. In the afternoon Mr. Fain went out to Mrs. Hawks, for a piece of Linsey, brought it home, not nice or well done by any

Page 40

means. I am much disappointed in it. She wove for sixpence a yd., 16-3/4 yds., \$2.00 for the whole, 50 cts. for edging, 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 commissary stores there, and other buildings belonging to the government. The Federals still hold Knoxville, fighting going on near Rogersville, and rumor says near Greeneville. Our children keep well, with the exception of colds. Martha Ellen & Jonnie are very mischievous, run much in the cold. Jonnie is beginning to learn his letters and questions a little. M. E. seems backward. The babe is teething, & sitting alone, has been for two weeks, commenced when 6½ mos. old. The weather cold & freezing all day.

Page 41

Sabbath, January 3d, 1864. Thus I record the first sabbath in the new year; the old freighted with its joys & sorrows, trials & troubles, afflictions and bereavements, lies buried with the past time. It has been an eventful year. During its flight, 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

Page 41 (continued)

inhabitants of the celestial city. This year has also 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 earth the sweetest; for there we were born, nursed and raised, and there lived for many years, a large happy & cheerful family.

Page 42

For the past two weeks nothing new or cheering has transpired. Fight still going on, last fought at Mossy Creek. The Congress is still in session passing some very unpopular laws for the government of our people. The last and meanest law passed was to put in all those who had furnished substitutes, a most complete violation of all contracts, and perfectly unconstitutional.

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

Christmas morning about 7½ o'clock, Mr. Fain and I set out for Brother Tommie's. We took a notion to ride out & return in the evening, got down to about ten, found Brother Tommy & the girls had gone to Mr. James Neil's. Mr. F went on down there and found he was not at home, so he & Brother T returned.

Page 43

We stayed there until three or ½ three, 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 Mr. Greenbuney Rogers, 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 Tommie Crawford's with Jonnie & Eva, spent a week. John & Jo Rhea went to Virginia, were gone several days. Priss & Mag were at

Page 43 (continued)

Uncle Bob's. Mother & Willie kept house.

New Year's day we spent at Mother's. Brain & Bob both came home to spend New Year. I have been busy making up some winter clothing for the past two weeks, and preparing some for Mr. Fain in case he should

Page 44

have to leave home, which I trust he will not have to do. To-day Mr. Briscoe preached. Very few 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. Fain went to Bristol & bought several articles, 1 bunch of bale cotton, some snuff, soda, a pistol, etc., had a cold ride.

Sabbath January 31st. The last record which I made was Jan. 1st, Sabbath. Now the month is passed and we see upon the last day, it closes 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 hardest trial

Page 45

ever yet befell me. This is one of the sad features in this wicked, unholy war. He left Thursday about dark Jan. 28th, 1864, in company with several others. It was to him a great trial, and the danger of the trip was another great circumstance, and now I know not where he is and can neither hear from him nor write to him. I have tried to make a perfect and entire consecration of him, my little ones & myself, all we have and are, to the Lord, to him who gave us all. I trust he may be spared, his life & health and soon be brought back to us in great mercy. Mother stayed with me the night he left, Mary the next and Puss last night. The time to me will be long, sad & lonely, but I pray we may be preserved and all we have.

Page 46

To-day I attended preaching in the Methodist Church. Mr. Miles preached from Matt. 6:34. "Take no thought for the morrow, for sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." A very good discourse on dreaded anticipations. Not very many out.

We have had a most beautiful spell of weather for the last two weeks, some sugar has been made. I have spent the time pretty much in sewing and knitting. Made a short visit to Uncle Bob's week before last, went out Monday evening, came back Tuesday evening. Should have stayed longer, but Mr. Fain expected to go to Bro. Sam Mitchell's the next day, but did not go until Thursday. Came back Saturday night, Bro Sam with him. Uncle Lucky and the widow Logan were married Tuesday night, Jan. 26th, 1864. Uncle Bob was over all who were invited from here.

Page 47

Sunday Apr. 10th. This has been a very quiet day in town. No preaching. It was Mr. Briscoe's day, but he is off at Cold Spring attending the meeting of Presbytery, which met there on Friday. Jonnie Bachman was to be licensed to preach and thus set apart to the great work. Nate Bachman and Brainerd 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 county is full of them. Longstreet has evacuated all of E. Tenn., save Sullivan Cty. He still holds it, how long I cannot tell. He moved his whole force here, extending from Watauga to Bristol, and from Watauga north out to Moccasin Gap. Some two or three weeks since he did this. When the moving commenced, it seemed to be

Page 48

Page 48

the general impression that the country was being given up, but he still holds our county. We have various in regard to the Yankees, here they have evacuated E. Tenn. Some say they are on to Richmond, others that they have gone into Kentucky. Can't hear the truth. Would that these troubles could soon end, but seems to mortal to be far off. I am heartily tired living in such suspense and anxiety.

Since I last recorded anything, we have had some pleasant weather, gardened some. Planted potatoes & onions in Feb., planted peas, tongue-grass, lettuce, raddishes, pepper in March, 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 Jan. & Feb. We had a visit from Mattie, Mollie & Kate Moore the

Page 49

last of February. They drove upon us Sunday night a little after dark. Had two wagons, 5 trunks, in company with Bettie Fain, Sam Fain & Tom Powell. Cousin Marg Ann 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 Prof not being able to get supplies. I hear all the lower counties are completely cleaned out of every thing in the way of supplies. The Confederate Army have been there all winter living mostly from the country.

Old Mr. Snod-grass one of our oldest citizens died about three weeks since, was buried out on his farm.

I have heard from Mr. Fain twice since he left, from Baltimore through Wilson & Bruns, and through Dr. Sevier from Cincinnati. He was then _____ in fine health. I was glad

Page 50

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 everywhere, climbs up by chairs, has two more teeth through, making six in all. He has not been so well with these last two, but he 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. 17th. 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 & Father are now at Prayer Meeting. Bro. Hugh and I sit all alone. I have just got the children to sleep. They keep well & happy. To-day
Mr. Briscoe

Page 51

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 can not hear anything from Mr. Fain. Sometimes I fear he may be sick or 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

Page 52

Father and I went out to Sister Ruth's to get Cousin Rachel to do some coloring for me, and to attend to the weaving. The day was cloudy and threatening. Friday Mother spent the day with us, the first time she has been up for some time. A small company of cavalry came in that morning, hunting up deserters or rather stragglers who were committing depredations, and the first thing we knew they had their horses, twenty head, on our meadow; kept them there that day, then left. That morning George & I went out, planted some corn & beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, bunch beans, etc. Rained on us all the time while out. Yesterday Brainerd left, has gone to North Carolina with Vaughn. He hated to go very much. I trust he may be spared & brought back to us. I hope this week to hear something from Mr. Fain.

Page 53

June 6, 1864. It has been almost two months since I last wrote anything in my diary. Things have changed considerably in that time. It seems as if the two Armies have concentrated their principal forces at or near Richmond and had some terrible fighting there since the 11th of last month. Bob is there, was in most of the fighting, was under fire 11 days. Both sides claim the victory, but with heavy losses. There were many of our own Cty. boys wounded, some came 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. There the Feds drove the Confederates some miles. 'Tis desperate fighting now, for both sides fight

Page 54

with desperation and determination. This war has become awful in the extreme. When or how it will terminate, God only knows. Man can know nothing about it.

Page 54 (continued)

I hope and pray the end is not far off. God grant it may soon come.

Since I last wrote I have had gardening done, been sewing mostly, and tending to my house. During the time I have spent one day at Aunt Ellen's with Mother, the only time I have been out of town.

Last Tuesday week Bro Hugh & Sister Hannah started to Bro Sam'l Mitchell's 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. Our sacramental came off while they were gone.

Page 55

It embraced this day week. We had Cous Nate Bachman & Mr. King. Nate did most of the preaching, had good and attentive congregation for the times, no special interest but a pleasant meeting.

Fult and Nan Hall had their babe baptized.

June 6th. 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 Mr. Jno Spurgen here. Went out, planted some raddish & parsnip seed. Came in and prepared dinner, but just as I finished this all up, the very sad news reached us through a dispatch, that our dear Jimmy was killed in battle at Staunton, Va., on yesterday, June 5th. Would it could be false, or if he was

Page 56

only wounded and permitted to be brought home & die 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 except the wound he received at Shiloh would sometimes

Page 56 (continued)

pain him. He left that morning without telling me Goodbye. I felt somewhat distressed thinking probably I might never see him again. If this be so, I never shall in this world. Bob is in Richmond, has been in the fighting there. I fear he may yet fall, but pray he may be spared. Brainerd is in Abingdon at Vaughn's headquarters. If they could only get home again.

Page 57

June 8th. 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 get to be prolonged for good and usefulness to himself & mankind.

Sabbath, June 26th, 1864. This evening Bro Hugh & I sit all alone, Jimmy sleeping, Jonnie & Martha Ellen gone to the well with Ean. The weather yesterday & today is oppressively warm, the thermometer standing within a few degrees of blood heat today. Father & Sister Hannah went down yesterday morning to see Uncle Tommy Crawford who has been quite sick for some time, but may be improving now.

Page 58

Bro Hugh & I went down to Crawford's last Friday week to get some weaving done. Intended coming home that evening & had started when we met Jonnie Bachman on 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 who came up & got them started off without them. We stayed at

Page 58 (continued)

Uncle Tommy's until Monday & attended the meeting at Yokeley's school house, held by Mr. Briscoe & Jonnie. The latter gave us a good sermon on Sunday from the text, "No one liveth unto himself."

Page 59

After which the "sacrament" was administered, and in the evening Mr. Briscoe 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, were at Kingsport. This report causes immediate commotion and great skedaddling. Every male citizen in town left, but John McCate, Rutledge Baumgardner & Winn & 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 Father's farm ever since they came back. We had a dispatch from Dr. _____ Sergnt of Vaughn's Brigade, telling us Jimmie was not dangerously wounded and was able to walk about. We had a letter through from him & forwarded. Cousin Bet Bachman is visiting up here now, been up two weeks.

Page 60

Sabbath 7th Aug., 1864. I have been permitted to spend a very quiet pleasant Sabbath. This morning I attended Sabbath School, left Jimmy asleep in Father's care, Bro H, Sister H & my Jonnie having gone down to Cousin Hannah's yesterday morning. There was preaching in the Baptist Church, but I did not choose to attend, read Boin's notes on Revelations with two or three chapters. Since I last recorded anything in my diary, I have had my trials & troubles, vexations and disappointments, but with them all my husband, tho' separated from me and my children, is still spared, for which I feel grateful & thankful to my Heavenly Father who takes care of said dangers seen & unseen, & we have suffered for

Page 61

nothing, but have enjoyed all of life's comforts & blessings. I still hope to live to see the time ere long when we shall be reunited a happy family, one which God will own & 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 28th, I made a visit to Kingsport, took Jimmy. John took us down, stayed a wk & he came after me. While there I received a special dispatch to visit Brownsboro! I came home, started with my children & Bro Hugh, went to the river. There the authorities refused a pass port, Mr. Bachman refusing to vouch so we returned with sad, disappointed hearts. That was on

Page 62

Wednesday, July 6th, 1864. They looked for me over there for three wks, but never got there and on the 26th Mr. F went back, much disappointed I know.

On Wednesday 13th of July, Henry Hughes died (one of the company out where Mr. F went). Sister Hannah & Bro Hugh attended his burying at Bro H's place. He had been home three wks., sick all the time with fever. It was fortunate that he was permitted to sicken & die at home. I wrote to Ellen Friday 8th. It was left in Jonesboro to be sent down, but she may never receive it. John, Jimmy and William still at home. Brainerd was at Winchester, Va., the last we heard from him, Bob near Richmond. Jimmy is walking every where, tho reduced now somewhat from teething. M.E. & Jonnie keep well. I called on Nat today for some medicine for Jimmie.

Page 63

Sabbath, Aug. 21st. This day I attended Sunday School & preaching. There was a small congregation present. A hard rain came up just at the hour,

Page 63 (continued)

rained very hard for a while. We have had much rain for the last wk. Uncle Tommy 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 truce. She with about 50 other families went out, brought 30 back. Sallie spent a day with us, week before last. I spent three days in the country at Uncle Bob's, Mr. Earhart's & Aunt Ellen's. Came home Thursday evening. Friday morning I went up to see Mrs. Cawood & her young daughter. While there Bro Thomas

Page 64

came up to spend the day with us. In the evening I wrote a letter to Mr. Fain & one to Ellen, the last which I have written. Jimmy was over to Jonesboro' on a visit, brought Aggie & Bob over with him last Monday. They came in from the country this morning, will go home tomorrow. Our last Monday Aug. 15th, I canned four cans of tomatoes, the first time I ever put up any so early. This last wk I hear various rumors about the Federals 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, Ellen & I walked out to Major Evises', Father and Pet with Jonnie & Jimmie one before & behind.

Page 65

Sept. 4th, 1864. I now commence recording events belonging to the fall of the year. We are now having cool nights & mornings. I fear we may be soon 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 & obstinate, the cause of many unkind remarks. My husband & their father still from us,

Page 65 (continued)

but little prospect of his return. I see my brothers started off in this cruel war from the oldest to the very youngest. To-day 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. Jimmy has been

Page 66

wounded twice in this war. Brainerd is pretty much used up, & John came near losing his health. I hope all these trials will work out for our good & Lord's glory, tho to me they seem dark & mysterious. Last wk & this wk before, we had 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 Confederates moved up all cattle, wagons, etc., above somewhere, while the force has gone below Jonesboro. Saturday of last wk, the 27th of Aug., Bro Hugh, the children & I went down to Bro Tommy's. One of the wheels of the buggy broke down near Mrs. Leslies. On Monday morning Ellen, Bro H. & myself went to Uncle Jo's. There I heard of Uncle John's return, so Uncle _____ & I rode down to Aunt Eliz and spent the night, came up about noon. In the evening

Page 67

Jonnie & I went up to Cousin Rebecca Newland's. 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 bedtime, & went down. We came home the next day. Cousin Hiram was there sick all the time we were there, refugeeing, he left for home the morning we did, but came back from Kingsport 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

Page 67 (continued)

& his son Hiram came to town, but I can hear no news. Will go down to Mother's a little while, I hope this wk will reveal something.

Page 68

Sabbath, Sept. 11th, 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 consequence, except the news from Atlanta last Tuesday the 6th, which was that the Federals had the place & the Confds were 90 miles from there.

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

Page 69

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 stomach & continued so all next day. In the evening on Thursday, I got John to call Nat in. He lanced his gum for his last stomach tooth, & left him some powders for his stomach. He has been improving since. To-day he seems quite well, but weak. He is wormy & teething. Bond's Camp meeting is now in progress, just a basket-meeting. John went down today on Pet, also Brain. We have a sacramental meeting in contemplation for the last of the wk. Should things keep quiet, I hope, I may be on hand to enjoy it.

Page 70

Page 70

Sunday, Oct. 2nd, 1864. I have not recorded anything in my diary for three weeks past. Some changes have taken place since then. Our meeting came off as expected, embraced this day two wks ago and the following Sabbath. Had several ministers, two Mr. Caldwells from Jefferson, one is Chaplain in the Army; Mr. Eagleton & Mr. McCambell from the same Cty.; & Mr. Converse from Richmond, son of old D. E. Converse. There were eleven additions to the church & three or four baptisms. Mr. St. John's children, Poss's & Anne's children. Mag Ivins, Abe Gammon, two of McFeather's sons, Aleck & Jim (our Blk boys) joined. I talked to them on the subject. They both seemed very penitent & determined to try to do better, which I hope Jim may do.

Page 71

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 Confdts were ordered up there. On Tuesday we heard they were coming up the country. Thursday we heard the rebel picketts were driven in three miles below Jonesboro on Wednesday evening. Thursday the Federals came up to Carter's 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, Vaughn having been ordered to Abingdon to defend the Salt Works. We heard 10,000 Federals

Page 72

were coming in through Pound Gap. We had exciting times here yesterday evening, the refugees getting away. Many men went out. John, Mr. Rutlege, Mr. Cate are all the men left in our part of the town. The day so far has been unusually quiet. The Federals have been looked for all day, but they don't

Page 72 (continued)

come. John had Sunday School this morning. Not many out. I and the children were out. I am so thankful the forces passed by here without a fight. I felt very uneasy yesterday evening for fear this would be the road for the retreat, but all seemed to keep on the Railroad, for which I feel thankful. I never wish to witness another fight & hope peace may soon dawn upon us.

Page 73

Sunday, Oct. 9th. Again we have been permitted in the providence of God to pass through another quiet Sabbath and enjoy public worship. Mr. Oliver Caldwell, Chaplain from Wheeler's command, preached for us. Mr. B. in the Fork. 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 Federals came in. Next morning we had a few in & through town until about twelve o'clock & that was the last of them. About sundown the Confederate picketts camped above town, & have been moving down ever since

Page 74

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 Rhea (Uncle Bob's son) having died in the hospital at Forsyth, Ga. on the 17th of September, 1864. He was severely wounded in one of the battles in Atlanta some wks since.

Sam Lynn is in the hospital at Bristol, a deranged man. Have to keep him confined all the time as it is unsafe for him to go loose.

No news whatever from Mr. Fain. It seems a long, long wearisome time since he left. I trust he may be spared & soon permitted to return to his

Page 74 (continued)

family. The children keep well. Jonnie has a bad cold now. Jimmie is stout & hearty, running everywhere. I am trying to wean him.

Page 75

Sunday, Oct. 16th. This has been another quiet Sabbath, no moving of soldiers whatever. We had Sabbath School this morning, but no preaching as our minister is out hunting "Bushwhackers" with the Home Guards, but have so far had no luck. John and Willie are both out on the same business, Jimmie is with Vaughn's command. They pursued the Feds on below Greenville. Yesterday we heard they had fallen back to Rheatown, and a heavy force of Feds were coming in from the Gap & head East. Nelson's & 900 other families from Washington & Greene had gone through the lines. I was much troubled for several days about it, thinking that I was

Page 76

the only one left here for the winter, but it seems that things are now changing a little & Uncle Lucky's family are still somewhere. Brainerd came from Kingsport to-day, and heard canonading there. 'Tis supposed it is in or about Rheatown.

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 I expected, only on the war & things connected with it. He is thought to be improving. I hope this week may develop something favorable, & bring me a letter.

Page 77

Page 77

Sabbath, Oct. 23rd. The past week has been very quiet, no news whatever from Mr. Fain or the Federal cause. No news of any kind but Confederate narratives, not able to tell the truth of any of it. Mr. Briscoe preached to-day to a small congregation, from I Cor. 6:19 & 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 bright & warm. Phebe was sick Monday, Tuesday & Wed. Sister Hannah & I did the cooking. Eddy washed on Tuesday & Wed. I ironed. The clothes were well done up. Since that time Mrs. White has been helping me sew. Friday Mr.

Page 78

Hinkle served 10½ bu of wheat for Bro Hugh. Yesterday the boys harrowed it in. He is to serve again tomorrow. Burr went off with the Federals when they were here about two weeks since. Bro. Hugh has gone to Bro Tommie's to-day. Last Saturday & Sunday, Father & Sister Hannah were at Cousin Hannah's.

Sabbath, Oct. 30th. This has been another quiet Sabbath. No preaching. We had Sabbath School. Very few out. We have rumors today of fighting below. On Friday, Oct. 28th, many were killed, some of our acquaintances. Bob Rowen, Billy Cox, Ed Gammon. Jimmy my brother reported wounded slightly, poor fellow. This is the third time, but I pray my Father in Heaven to spare his dear life,

Page 79

& the life of all my dear brothers while engaged in this bloody tragedy. There was very hard fighting, I suppose somewhere about Morristown. The Federals, captured four pieces of canon.

Billy Taylor came from Jonesboro, says he saw Sam Cunningham who is just from Knoxville says he saw Mr. Fain & he was very well, but sent word to

Page 79 (continued)

Jimmy that he wanted to come home. Gen. Vaughn says he can come, provided he risks his chances 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 wk I have been sewing & knitting. Yesterday I went down with

Page 80

Cousin Crawford, got down before sun up, came up with him in the evening, were late as we had eating to do at Uncle Tommie's, got home after dark awhile. I felt thankful when we were landed in safely, as these are uncertain & dangerous times for night travelling. This wk. we will make up the cane, the Lord willing, may this be a wk. of great excitement, much molasses was made in town last week. The children keep well, are still bare-footed. Jimmy runs very fast wherever he pleases, is beginning to talk, but troublesome at night about sucking. Jonny Bachman married two couples last wk., Jess Stanfield & Miss Ivin, Ben Keys & Miss Stanfield. Today he preached at Acuff's.

Page 81

Sabbath, Nov. 6th, 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 & Vaughn 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 'tis said the Federals want to hold upper E. Tenn. for that time. To-day we had Sunday School & preaching, while at Sunday School two refugee preachers stepped in. Mr. Eagleton takes Alexander from Dandridge & New Market. Mr. _____ preached for us from

Page 81 (continued)

the 76 Psalm & 10 verse: "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee; the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain," a very good sermon and an able man. He dwelt much upon the "Sovereignty of God", a most

Page 82

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 laborious job. I am glad it is so near done. I hope to hear or see something from Mr. F this week, but I may again be disappointed as usual.

Sabbath, Nov. 13th, 1864. For the past wk, I have been crippled up with a sore toe, made sore from pulling out a tagnail which caused it to swell up & become inflamed. It has been quite painful, but now better. Last Monday we finished of the molasses business. In the evening I went down to Mother's. While there Jimmie came home, used up by his old wound, it had been swelled for three or four days, &

Page 83

became so painful that he had to ask leave of absence. On Wednesday he had it lanced & has improved since. Yesterday he started back to Army, but too soon for his own good. The Army has moved down below Greeneville somewhere. Fighting is expected down in that direction yesterday & the day before.

We have had the refugees from Hawkins pretty much last wk. Cousin Hiram stayed every night & ate with us, Cousin Eliza Ruth & Mary one night. Mollie Powell & Fanny Fain spent an evening. Last Sunday for dinner we had several. Last wk passed off quite rapidly. I did little or nothing. Ironed half of one day, spent one day with Jimmy at home, baked some cakes & washed windows & the mantlepice another, and the next was Saturday.

Page 84

To-day Mr. Miles is preaching in our church. I did not go. Father, Sister Hannah & Martha Ellen have gone, so I am all alone and very quiet. Em has Jonnie & Jimmie in the kitchen. They have no shoes yet, are wearing moccasins which their Aunt Mary made for them. Jimmie's has leather soles and are very nice & suitable for him. He is not right well to-day nor yesterday; is fevered some. Maybe he is getting more teeth. I hear rumors of another move up the country by the Federals, don't know how true it may be. Time only can reveal the truth these times. I have heard nothing from Mr. F since they moved up last wk, am anxious to hear. They held their election in Greeneville last Tuesday the 5th. 'Tis thought Lincoln is elected.

Page 85

Sabbath, Nov. 20th.

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 muddy week, much rain. We have all been kindly spared another week by our Heavenly Father. No mark of his displeasure has passed over any of us. For two or three days I felt a little uneasy about our little Jimmie 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 for which to be thankful. During my husband's absence, I am permitted to hear from him frequently, that he keeps well. I trust he may

Page 86

be spared from danger, disease & death, and each member 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

Page 86 (continued)

undeserving of the many blessings which I receive. I need more grace to withstand the little trials & vexations of everyday life to make me more patient & submissive.

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

Willie is now at home on furlough for four days. Came yesterday evening, left the Army at Panther Springs on Monday last. No telling where they are now or what doing. If they wd. only do something to give us peace, I should rejoice. Our country is much ruined already. 'Tis time for peace.

Page 87

Wednesday, May 13th, 1863. I have not written any in my diary since March 23rd. The last event which I recorded was the death of Cousin R. and now I have to record the death of one near & 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 7th of May, 1863, Thursday at 15 min. to 2 o'clock, his age being 68 yrs, 3 days, having been born May 3, 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

Page 88

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, he did not complain.

Page 88 (continued)

He seemed to require very little attention, only what Mother gave him. He was much troubled with his bowels toward 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

Page 89

that morning than he had ever done since he was sick at any one time. He had me rub his forehead & temples, comb his hair a long time, & then to read to him after Aunt Ellen had read in his bible, the last chapter of Mark as he requested. He then repeated the passage, "In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." He then told me to get his treasury, a book called "Spiritual Treasury," which he read much. I read for the 5, 6, & 7 days as he told me. He then said he could not see his way clearly & talked some to us in that strain. None of us said anything to him at that time, but after while we

Page 90

placed 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 confidence in your piety. 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 sufficient evidence. He talked to me a long time, said he wanted us to be whole souled Christians, that the Christian life was easy. His last will & testament to his children is, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God & all these

Page 90 (continued)

things shall be added unto you." He had us change his clothes and told me he had not had his feet

Page 91

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 everything 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 one o'clock in the night, I heard some one at the dogs. Woke Mr. Fain & told him I then felt Papa was worse. Sure enough it was Bob for me. I hasten to get ready. Mr. F thought he would remain with the children unless there seemed to become rapid change; but just as I left, we met Jerry at the door, telling us to hurry on, as Papa was bidding all farewell. So I took M.E. & told Mr. F & Lillie

Page 92

to get ready & bring Jonnie. 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 a while, 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 around 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

Page 93

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 Papa's directions to Mr. W. 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." Then the XC Psalm was read, after which Nathan Bachman had a most appropriate prayer. Mr. King then read his text from Rev. 14th, 13, "And I heard a voice from

Page 94

heaven saying unto me, write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, 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." We then repaired to the graveyard and there paid the last tribute of respect to departed's worth. The congregation was there dismissed by Mr. Hoffmeister.

Page 95

June 6th, 1864. This day I have to record the sad, very sad fact of the death of our dear brother Jimmy. We received a dispatch bearing the sad intelligence that he was killed in the fight at Staunton, Va. on yesterday, Sunday, June 5th. Genl William E. Jones killed in the fight on Saturday at the

Page 95 (continued)

same place. How hard to give up those we love in such a manner, just shot dead in an instant, when in the prime of life, and not knowing their thoughts and feelings in regard to an everlasting futurity. I sincerely hope he had made all necessary preparation to meet death, for surely he thought it was now at hand when in so much danger. I pray that this sad and afflictive dispensation may be sanctified to each one of us who are left. It seems that we have been surely

Page 96

afflicted within the past year. Papa was taken from us, then his property was burnt to the ground, and now our brother is gone. "God moves in a mysterious way. 'Tis he who afflicts and we must submissively kiss the rod which smites" and say, "Not my will but thine, O Lord, be done."

Page 97

Dec. 4th. I have not recorded anything for some two or three weeks. Wk. before last was a severe cold wk. Brother Tommie came up Monday of that week. It rained in the fore-noon when he started back. The snow commenced falling & snowed until after dark, then there was a hard freeze for two days. Phebe was sick all that wk until Saturday, leaving a good deal for me to do. Last Wednesday night of that wk we had quite a discussion on home matters, about hiring out Jim, etc. Bro H wound up by saying that Mr. F owed him 3,000 \$ if he would exact it off of him. I hope if this be so, he may realize the last cent. Last Sunday Mr. Briscoe preached. Very few out, it was a wet, rainy day. Prayer meeting in the

Page 98

evening. The wk was warm & nice, very pleasant weather for the time of the year. This is the 4th day of winter, but 'tis very pleasant. Mr. Briscoe preached to-day,

Page 98 (continued)

a good many out. Three persons were received into the church. Jessie Cox, Mrs. Susong & daughter (widow of Jim Susong) who died this summer.

The past wk I have sewed mostly. Made a cotton dress, skirt & upset another one. I received six lbs. of sugar from Mr. Fain last Wednesday through Jonnie, also some knitting cotton from Cousin Sam Fain at Mossy Creek. We have rumors to-day of the rebs falling back & the yanks being at Rogersville, but can't tell anything about it. Hope we may soon have peace.

Page 99

Dec. 11th, 1864. This is another holy Sabbath day, very severe and blustery, blowing and snowing some. So unpleasant that we had no Sabbath School. The bell has rung for preaching, but 'tis very bad, & may be the last bell will not ring.

The wk 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 & kind. I have much & very much to be thankful for, but oh! my poor cold thankless heart, prone to wander & do evil, would that I could ever dwell in a proper frame of mind, but the world and the perishing things thereof are rather distracting thereto, but grace I need, 'tis grace that overcometh all these trials and vexations of life.

Last Monday was a pleasant day. Tuesday it rained. Wednesday & Thursday were nice

Page 100

sunshiny days. Friday the weather changed suddenly, was cold and unpleasant in the forenoon. Tom Baily took dinner with us that day, is home from the Army, will go back soon. Looks fat & well. In the afternoon, I went down to Mother's.

Page 100 (continued)

Soon rain came on, then came sleet, and freezing soon. The trees & shrubbery were enveloped in a coat of ice. I stayed all night. Mary came up & took down the children & called in the morning to see Cousin W's girls, came home about eleven. The first night I have spent at Mother's since she was burned out. She & Mary are alone. John & Mag started up Thursday to visit Puss, will return Monday or Tuesday. Willie left the same day for Zollicoffer. Jim has written to Cecil Breckenridge to see if he can effect anything towards getting Mr. F home & some protection were he to come, but I fear

Page 101

nothing permanent can be done. Wd. it be that he could be returned to his family and his own little home, there to remain in quietness. For this I have prayed daily. Jennie Fain (of Wash and Jefferson) wrote to her Aunt that "he was the most homesick man she ever saw." This overcame me so after reading it that I had just to take a good cry, to think he was denied from those he loved & by whom he was loved, his home & its comforts, by this wicked, sinful & most unholy war. When, oh! when, I ask, will it end, with its vast & innumerable consequences, & peace that sweet boon be restored to us? May it soon come is my daily prayer & wish. Mr. Robinson, formerly teacher in Maryville College, preached a most excellent sermon for us last Monday night on "Faith." His text, "Without Faith it is impossible to please God." Luke 11 & 6. It was really an intellectual feast, very comforting & encouraging. If I'd only remember & practice.

Page 102

Sunday 18th, 1864. This past wk. has been one of excitement, disturbance & uneasyness, bodily & mentally. Last Sunday & Monday were unusually quiet days, cold. No news to be heard. Tuesday the weather became warmer & more pleasant.

Page 102 (continued)

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 & 73 prisoners & were pursuing in hot haste with a heavy force. Everything was then stir & excitement. When in its height Mr. St. John's chimney caught fire. I just thought probably we were to be burnt up, but soon the flame from the chimney was drowned out & we then easier, but still the reports came in from the

Page 103

Federals of their advance, but I didn't think there was much in the flying reports. About dark the news came that they were camped at Roller's, but still I was unbelieving. Bob Tickle was then in town with a scout. He & Denny were at Mother's about nine o'clock, expected to be back there. I stayed with Mother & Mary that night as John & Mag had not yet come from Virginia, & they were all alone. Mary & I had just lain down when Mother heard riding on the street. She looked out & said, "Fanny, they are Federals." Seeing was believing. They came on & on & still they came, the town was crowded, & were passing until two o'clock, when all was quiet until next morning. As soon as they halted that night in town & struck up their

Page 104

fires, they were heard in Mother's cellar, carried off all her milk & milk vessels, salt, some pork out of the smokehouse. While they were round & about, some one knocked at the door. Mother asked who is there, the reply was "a friend." I knew the voice was Mr. Snapp. I jumped out of bed, drew on my dress & went out to see him. I thought may be Mr. Fain 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 I was at Mother's, he came down. About three we

Page 104 (continued)

went to bed, slept quietly until morning. The first news which greeted my ears was that they had taken Pet. I felt vexed & provoked. They

Page 105

also took two of Bro Hugh's horses, but he got back the mule. Soon the move commenced. Wednesday 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 & horse they c'd find. They took Mr. Elkanah Spurgen's horse from him here at our house, told him if he did not dismount, they would kill him. Soon they came on with the mule & wagon, took them from the wagon loaded with wood, then the force came on with about two hundred prisoners, my poor brother Brainerd was trudging along with them. Took his horse, saddlebags, watch & hamsack, but some kind Major had all given up but his horse. He left his watch with Mary,

Page 106

poor fellow. He was cut down & wounded in feelings, almost given out. He had been marched to Abingdon & 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 sent up home, I was at Mother's, & got what cakes I had for Brainerd. Then the next morning Mother & I sent out a lot to him by Capt. Haynes who was a prisoner. Being an officer, he was granted permission 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 w'd get her back for me. Col. O'neal promised me

Page 107

she should be sent back. Bro H. followed them to camps, he found Pet & told the

Col. if he w'd give her up, he w'd not try for the others. He s'd he w'd not get her, she w'd go on to Knoxville & there he w'd hand her over to my husband, but he will never see her. Oh, what destruction & depredations they have committed, too numerous to tell. I was deceived in them, never thought they w'd treat us so, have no confidence 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 protection anywhere, only in the strong & mighty arm of God. This morning 'tis reported all the refugees who left were captured & were coming on to-day.

Page 108

Wednesday 21st, 1864. This is a cold raw wet morning. Rained all night. 'Tis very muddy everywhere. We have various rumors the last two or three days, hear the Yankees were on the Reedy Creek road in great force yesterday evening, going on to reinforce 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, Jimmy or Willie. I trust they may be spared until this cruel war is over, all will be permitted to return & unite as a happy family once more. Martha Ellen has been at her Grandmother's all this week. She has learned to knit & knits tolerably well. She was four yrs old last October. They keep well. Jimmy is beginning to talk.

Thursday 22nd. This is Mother's birth-day, being 65 yrs old. I & Mrs. Gate spent the day with Mother.

Page 109

Sunday, December 25, 1864. This is another Christmas day, but it has no appearance of such times as formerly. To-day is very quiet Sabbath day.

Page 109 (continued)

No persons about scarcely, the male citizens all being out of town having taken fright at rumors which came in yesterday, that the Yanks were on the retreat & were at Cowan's on the Bristol road, but it was all a mistake. We were perfectly quiet yesterday & last night. I 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. Fain & I made one last visit together at Bro Tommie's, & from present times seems as if it may be our last together. That day

Page 110

at Mr. Neill's we heard of the repeal of the "substitute leave." Just then Mr. F said he w'd leave the country. It will soon be twelve months since he left those nearest & dearest on earth. How many more w'ks & months must elapse ere he is permitted to join them, is not for us to say. W'd that we c'd be reunited soon is my most ardent wish & prayer. It seems sometimes as if I c'd not bear the separation any longer, but I try to feel 'tis for the best. I have suffered for nothing. My children have been blessed with health, food & raiment, & Mr. F so far as I can hear has kept well. We yet have much to be thankful for. On Friday John, Ellen, Willie & Maggie returned all in good health, but Jimmie - we know nothing of him, trust he is well & out of danger.

Page 111

Tuesday Jan 3d, 1865. Thus I date the entrance upon another New Year. Two days of it are already past. Our lives, health & our little humble home has another year been spared to me & mine amid scenes of excitement & danger & confusion. 'Tis true I have past through all & enjoyed all the comforts my home afforded without my husband, but still I try to feel grateful for past favors.

Page 111 (continued)

Sunday was New Year's day, a cold snowy day. No preaching. 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 lard, tallow & sausage. Butchered five hogs on Friday in partnership with Jim Rogers, and a beef cow. In the evening Mr. Converse called in to see me awhile, came to Mother's the Monday

Page 112

before. Tuesday Phoebe washed & Wednesday I spent the day at Mother's with Mr. C, Jimmy Anderson & the home family. In the evening Jimmy came home, having left his Regm't up on the road at Davis, w'd be thro' the next day on way to Horse Creek. We looked for him all day, having heard of his safe arrival in Bristol, the first we knew of him since the Raid. Had heard he was captured, but this was a mistake, he saw no Yanks. On Wednesday he with the scattering 60th passed on. It was a bitter 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 wk was our most severe winter weather. On Friday night the snow fell to four inches in depth, then hard

Page 113

freeze, but to-day is much warmer - raining & melting away the snow, very dark & foggy, a gloomy, dismal-looking day. Some think the Federals may be in again as soon as the weather admits & probably hold the country. 'Tis also rumored of some probability that Richmond may soon have to be evacuated on account of provisions are running short. All the Confederates say the last raid was a most successful one. Dr. Hammer was with us last night, having come down to attend Court. Yesterday in the afternoon, Cousin Jo called in to see me, also Mrs. James, & sat a few minutes. This morning Add Gammon called in & sit a while.

Page 113 (continued)

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. 'Tis now after one. Soon I must go about dinner as Phebe is washing. I have nothing from Mr. F, am looking every day for a letter, hope to receive it soon. The time drags heavily to me, but still it gets away rapidly, too.

Page 114

Sunday, Jan. 8th, 1864. This has been quite a pleasant quiet Sabbath. Last night was a cold freezing night. Yesterday Sister H. went down with Crawford, Mary stayed all night with me. Some of the young folks were at the Institute until eight o'clock. Then Mary & Mr. O. Caldwell came up. He sat a little while & went to Cousin W. Gammon's. Mr. Briscoe preached to-day from Heb. 9:27, "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgement." Very few out, tho' more than usual. This afternoon Mr. O. Caldwell preaches. The bell has already rung. On Monday night some of the young folks went to the Institute to hear some music. Willie came up for me. I went up a short time. Tuesday evening I went down to Mother's. John, Mary & Neill Rogan just

Page 115

came in from eating turkey at Mr. Brown's. They then commenced making arrangements for a candy stew at Mr. Cates, got the molasses from Mrs. Brown. Wednesday night they had another meeting at the Institute. Thursday Mary came up & helped me make a suit for Jonnie. In the evening John Anderson came in with his horses to haul us some wood. Ellie Ruth came with him, went back Friday evening. Thursday John took Puss back to Virginia to her School. He has not yet returned. Friday evening I went down to Mother's a little while to get news from the prisoners as some had returned & stayed all night. Crawf came & stayed all night

Page 115 (continued)

here. 15 of the prisoners were released. All the rest were started to Camp Chase, Brainerd among the number, poor fellow. If only he can have his health, will not be as bad. I trust his life may be spared & the lives of all the dear ones who are from their homes on account of this wicked war.

Page 116

Sunday 15th, 1865. This a bright, beautiful Sabbath. I sit all alone communing with my own thoughts, feel somewhat depressed and as tho' there is some bad news to reach my ears, but it is best not to imagine evil nor to climb mountains before we reach them. I rejoice that this is one day appointed unto man for just to draw his mind and heart from earth to Heaven. I need that rest to-day for the past week has been given to the world exclusively, even to the neglect of my little ones, loaned by God to be trained for him. Oh! help me, Heavenly Father, to be more faithful in the discharge of that duty and at this time a double responsibility upon me. Last Sunday night Phebe had child born. Friday night about nine o'clock it died. They are now just about

Page 117

fixing to bury. It suffered a good deal the night & day before it died. Father, Sister Hannah & _____ have gone to preaching. I could not attend as all the black wanted to go to the burying. Monday I had my washing done, did not get the ironing done until Wednesday. Monday morning Bro Tommy and Han came up, left Tuesday evening. Tuesday night I wrote to Mr. Fain. Sent it off by a Mrs. Caldwell who was going within 15 miles of Knoxville. Her husband was captured on the last raid, his Father & family are all Union & in Federal lines. Bro Jim came home on Wednesday evening. He is suffering with his old wound. I fear that wound is to be his ruin unless he gets out of the Army & has it attended to.

Page 117 (continued)

I had a letter from Mr. F. on Thursday. He is only in tolerable health, he writes. I trust his life & health may be spared for years to come & we be soon reunited. On Wednesday Bro H butchered eight hogs. We had quite a time getting all put away. No one to do it but Sister H & myself.

Page 118

Sabbath, Jan. 29th, 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. Briscoe a donation party, rather a small affair. Very few present. I went up & left my donation, then called to see Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Canes & Miss Ped Hayes. Sister Hannah was putting away the lard of three hogs & did not go. On Friday evening of that week Crawford Fain brought up a horse for me. I went down, took M.E. and Jimmie. While there it rained for two days, then turned very cold, severely so, and we stayed until Wednesday. Had I not come then, I should have had to have stayed longer for the weather was

Page 119

colder after I got home than it was there. I visited all the relations in that neighborhood. When I came home I found Cousin Hiram here, and has been here since until this evening. He leaves to try to get home, as forces are going down there. Jim is still at home, has been confined to his bed for the last 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 was to be one, for 10 days, but this turns out to be false. I wish it could be so, then I should think we might have peace soon. Mr. Whittlesey, Chaplain of the 60th Va. Battalion,

Page 119 (continued)

preached for us to-day. A pretty good sermon. I hear Ella Lucky & her company have returned safely from Knoxville. I should love to see her a few hours at least & have a long talk. I hope to hear from her soon, & also receive a letter from Mr. Fain thro' her.

Page 120

Sat., Feb. 12th. Two wks have elapsed since I made my record in my diary. During that time nothing special has transpired. All the news for peace have proven a failure. Sorry 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 saying to the troubled political waters, Peace, be still. Oh! that these joyful tidings c'd be heard at this time, on this western continent. Last Sabbath Mr. Briscoe preached, had a very good congregation, better than usual. Prayer meeting in the afternoon.

On Monday morning, Bro George brought in a horse for me to go to his house. I went out with him in the evening, took M.E. & Jonnie, left Jimmie to be weaned. His

Page 121

grandmother stayed that night with his Aunt Hannah. In the morning after I had been from him, I felt so uneasy that I got John to bring me home. I found him very well, & he had done tolerably well considering it was the first night I had stayed from him. It being an unpleasant day, I left M.E. She has not yet been bidden. I feel like getting her home as I am getting anxious to see her. They both rode behind going out. Jonnie behind me. He was three years old last November. M.E. rode behind her Uncle George. She was four yrs old last October. They both rode very well for little chaps. It snowed on us all the way home, but

Page 121 (continued)

was not cold. We have had cold weather all week, snowed some for three days, Friday & yesterday were tolerably pleasant days. I wrote to Mr. Fain

Page 122

Wednesday, sent it to Ella Lucky by John McClure to start off. Mrs. Parshall started to go thro' the lines yesterday, having come out about six months since, & left her only child with her mother who lives at "Sweet water" somewhere below Knoxville. She is going to try to be exchanged for Mrs. Stover who has lost her husband & wants to come back to Carter Cty to her home. Today I have read six chapters in my Bible, attended Sabbath School, came home & have read the child's paper, and waited on Phebe some who is still sick, not able to do anything. This is a raw, blustry day, thawing some in the sunshine, but freezing in the shade. Mr. Miles is preaching, but I did not attend. Father has gone. Jimmie is now pretty well weaned. He is a very good boy, has slept two nights all night in the cradle. Poor little fellow. I disliked to wean him very much, but he was getting so troublesome. I was weighed the other day & weigh 156, M.E. 47 & Jonnie 34.

Page 123

Sabbath, Feb. 19th, 1865. This is a bright, beautiful, quiet day. This morning I arose by daylight, made my fire, cleaned up my room, made my bed, dressed my children and got breakfast over in time for Sunday School, prepared the children & started off to School leaving Jimmie with his Grand-Father, Sister Hannah & Bro. H. having gone out yesterday evening in the wagon with Jno Anderson who came in to haul some wood, corn & hay for him. Mag stayed all night with me.

To-day I attended church, heard Mr. Alexander, Chap. in the Army, preach.

Page 123 (continued)

He has preached here once before. I was then much pleased with his sermon. He is a refugee from New Market. He prayed a most excellent prayer to-day, & I had prepared myself to listen to a good sermon, but I must confess I was much disappointed.

Page 124

When it came, it was nothing but heaping abuses, railed out against the North & Northern people. He took for his text, "Lord, what will thou have me to do," Acts 9 & 6, 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 place, he 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 effected. He said 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 haters of the South & now we see the influence of his theology. This war, he said, was brought on by the fanatics & abolitionists of the North. Then he spoke

Page 125

of Slavery, how it had been written & preached upon in the North, that there they called for an Anti-Slavery Bible, that if our Bible recognizes Slavery, then we will reject it. They wanted an Anti-Slavery Government and an Anti-Slavery people, that fanaticism & infidelity were the ruling principles of the North, and all kinds of other kinds of "isms" thrown in, Universalism, Unitarianism, Woman Rightism, etc. Then he spoke of the way the Sacramental meetings were conducted, of one in Troy, New York, where the table of the Lord was spread & on the United States flag was hoisted, that they said represented a piece of space snatched from the ethereal

regions, and bestudded with stars. Then at the close of the services the Star Spangled Banner was

Page 126

sung, as was also in some Baptist Associations and Methodist Conferences. Then he went on to say that the North w'd not be satisfied with the blood and lives of the men, but that the women & children had to suffer in this war on the part of the South, that their lives w'd be required. Then he spoke of Beast Butler, as he is called, how he treated them in New Orleans, called those nice and virtuous ladies "Base women" & told his soldiers to just let themselves loose upon them. Then he said as this Evil returned to the Northern cities, in place of him being censured and condemned as he ought to have been for his base, vile conduct upon these women, he & his men received applause & cheers throughout the North & his power was extended. Then he

Page 127

said that Gen'l Sherman told a good & pious lady in Memphis last year in his blasphemous manner that God Almighty 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, was faultless, & just such a state of affairs our church w'd have when Gov Brownlow & the military authorities took possession of it, that the Federal authorities had gone so far as to enquire of the condition of churches in some places where they held sway, & when they found a disloyal preacher, he was abandoned & someone of their own selection being placed for the congregation. Then he alluded to a certain little Yankee manner, trying to pry into the condition of our church, whether we had

Page 128

regular supplies & good salary, etc. This I knew about, the letter was from

Page 128 (continued)

Mr. Sawyer at K. to Mr. Briscoe. I heard the letter read. Now this was to me a strange sermon, & coming from a man of Theology acquired at the Northern Seminaries. It once was that our best preachers & teachers in the South hailed from the North, but now it seems that nothing too bad or too unchristian can be said of them by their brethren in Christ's ministry. Oh! this vile, wicked war, what a division it has made, what wickedness & unkindness it has brought about. Enough of this kind of preaching for me.

It will be two wks tonight since I commenced weaning Jimmy. Last night I took him in bed with me, he cried manfully. He finally got his hand in my bosom & the first thing I knew he was sucking away.

Page 129

He is the hardest little case to wean I ever saw. One day last week, Thursday, I helped Mother dip 30 dozen candles. Mary was out with Peggie, & I went down to help. Tuesday I spent at Mrs. Brown's with Mother. Wednesday I ironed. Friday I did up little jobs. Bro George, M. E. home. She was out there nearly two weeks.

Sabbath night, Feb. 26th. To-night all is quiet. I have just put M.E. & Jimmie in their beds. Jonnie went home with his Cousin Crawford this morning. I now feel that I did wrong probably in letting him go. He may get fretful or sick. I had M.E. & E on answering many Bible questions before she went to bed. She knows a good many. This morning I attended Sabbath School with all the children. I never had Jimmie there before. He behaved

Page 130

tolerably well. I had a Bible Class to-day. Wish I c'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 & c'd not attend

Page 130 (continued)

regularly, I gave it up to others, but they still seem to have much partiality for me & still wish me for a teacher.

Mr. Briscoe preached to-day from Matt. 6. 33. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God & his righteousness, & all these things shall be added unto you." When he read to-day, I c'd 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, 'tis the all important business thro' life. The congregation was small, tho' a pleasant day except somewhat windy. John & Ellen came home to-day. Ellen had been in Virginia at school, came as far as Bristol yesterday & the rain stopped them, came down after preaching.

Page 131

Phebe bought of Uncle Bob Nov. 1860. Had her hired for several months before. After we had owned her about a year, she and Jim belonging to Mr. Spurgeon married the next Feb. one year after, Feb./62, her child was born Oct. 16th, 1862, not yet named.

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 Wednesday 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. Fain yesterday of the 13th of this month thro' Cousin Gum to Bro Sam. He was then very well & trying to make arrangements for going into business. I hope he may succeed & be prospered in all his undertakings. But I was sorry & surprised to hear he did not receive my letters, for I have written frequently on an average two at least every month, since he came to K. & sometimes oftener, can't tell where they are. I hope I may hear from him soon, within a few days.

Page 132

Sabbath, Mar. 5th. This is a bright, pleasant Sabbath day, but no preaching. 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, past fording or ferrying. We had washing done Wednesday. That day Mrs. Rogan, Mrs. Isaac Cox & Miss _____ Cate spent with us. Thursday Uncle John & Bro John were with us. Friday Mr. & Mrs. Brown & Mother spent the day. That day we heard of the death of Mr. Abram Tipton. Very unexpectedly, not knowing of his sickness, he died Thursday evening between ten and eleven o'clock. His remains were taken to the church. Mr. Briscoe made a short discourse from 2 Cor. 5th v. "For we know if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved..." & made very appropriate remarks. His remains were then delivered over to the Masons for interment

Page 133

by his request. Very few of the Lodge were present. Cousin Robt. Fickle seemed to be Chief Manager. He, I understand, was the oldest member of the Lodge. He leaves a lonely & 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 older member from our church in the last two years, my Father & Mr. Jacob Thomas. Cousin Jno Rhea & Cousin Mary & Crawford came down with us from the burying. While we were at dinner, Will Rankin came in & stayed until four o'clock, then started on to Kingsport. He is a nice young man. Phebe is still in her house, don't come out to do anything. Sister H & I have done mostly all the cooking & work this week. Aleck has been laid up with tooth ache. Jonnie got home with Crawford Friday evening very well & had been a very good boy. No letters or news from Mr. Fain this week. I have looked for a letter every day, but none comes. Hope it may very soon.

Page 134

March 12th. Mr. Briscoe preached to-day, a pleasant day. I & the children attended Sabbath School. After we came home, Sam Gammon & Nick Fain came up & went with us to church. They have been prisoners in the North for twenty-two months. There has been a general exchange going on & many have returned. We have been expecting Brainerd home, who was captured on the 13th of Dec. 1864, but he comes not. This week I have been mending up some clothing. Thursday I spent down at Mother's. Ellen & I were upsetting my hoops. Friday was Fast day & observed here. In the Methodist Church, Mr. Miles & Mr. Brown officiated. In the evening Sister H & Bro H went down as far as Cousin Hannah's on their way down to Brownsboro, expected to be gone a week. I had a letter from Mr. Fain Saturday. He was then after goods at Cincinnati, left the 20th of Feb., next day after writing. He wants me to go through. I may go in the course of a few weeks.

Page 135

Sabbath, Mar. 19th. This last week Mary & 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 off long enough to dry them in the evening. Thursday morning I ironed, in the evening I sewed & I went over to Dr. Nat's to see his second little girl, Marg, who had fever. Her head became effected, not expected to live. She seemed better, but now has pneumonia. She may yet die. Mary went over to set up & Mother came up to stay all night with me. One of them has been with me every night since Sister H left. They did not get home yesterday as was expected owing to high water, I suppose. Today at eleven Mr. Broscoe preached. His subject was "Faith." This evening Mr. Oliver Caldwell preached. His subject was Prayer, & he made a very good discourse, tho' he is a very big rebel. Sabbath, Mar. 26th. This has been a

Page 135 (continued)

most exciting day in our little quiet village, more so than any we have ever yet had. Last night about dark the news came in, of the Federals being at Fall Branch & 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 1000 men I suppose. They seem to be ordered on to Abingdon. 'Tis tho't they will hold at Carter's Station until the Railroad is built up, then they will run up supplies

Page 136

& hold this part of the country. This they think will be done in ten days. I hear nothing this week from Mr. Fain, have been disappointed 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 Federals coming in.

Bro H & sister H returned from Bro Saml's on Wednesday of last week to Coz H's & home Thursday. All were well. Monday & Tuesday I had my washing & ironing done up. We had several days of very high wind. Thursday morning I thinned out the raspberry bushes & cleaned off the garden some, & sewed a little. Friday Mother & I walked out to see Mrs. J. W. Cox, who has been sick a long time, but now a little better. That evening Sister R. & Bro George came in with Father & remained until this morning. Crawford stayed last night & went back this morn before breakfast. We had Sabbath School this morning. Mr. Miles preached at eleven, but I did not go. Dr. Hammer came down & he and Kate Gaynes were married by Mr. Miles about 1½ o'clock. The approach of the Yanks hurried them up. I went over to the marriage thro' the Dr.'s persuasion. The ceremony was performed, then the congratulations, then we walked out & partook of a very nice dinner of cakes,

Page 136 (continued)

turkey, ham, custard, blanc-mange, etc. This morning about 3 o'clock Lede Thomas & Lt. Boyd were married by Mr. Miles, a military necessity the Lt. said. Refer to the first.