

**DIARY OF HENRY SHELDON****1862**

January 1: I spent My new years at home only took Tea at My Father's the 1<sup>st</sup> time since he came to the village to live. Martha visited there this afternoon Julia & Theodore went to their Uncle H. Parsons, Calista & Lewis Morris to Edwards, George is at Potsdam, has his new years with the rest of the soldiers. Charles I suppose is yet in Washington where he has plenty company to keep new years but the solemn thought forces itself on our minds how many will find a soldiers Grave before another New Years day. It has been a Rainy Thawing wet day hardest wind witnessed many a day.

2: Cold Colder.

3: Cold & Icy, some business.

4: Elder Babcock gone to Antwerp to preach tomorrow, Exchanged with Elder Maynard.

5: Continues Cold. 2 good services by Mr. Maynard, a good S. School. M.H. Thrall lost a little girl last night about 6 years old. Deacon Thayer is still confined to his House & I dont see as he improves unless he gets help I fear he will go with the Consumption but we can illy spare him.

Note: M.H. Thrall is probably Melville H. Thrall, whose wife was Esther Murdock Thrall. One of their daughters was Harriett Thrall, who married Harvey Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Thrall and Mr. and Mrs. Smith are all buried in Riverside Cemetery.

6: The weather has moderated so that we are having a little snow today. A little trade but quite dull, my business being of that kind that people can do without many things usually purchased in good times. The principal talk over the land is a War with England and the giving up of Mason and Slidell.

11: It has got to be Saturday again. No sleighing yet quite a thaw. No battles yet keep a doing same thing in the way of getting ready. Charles is stationed on the road about 12 miles from Alexandria.

12: Sunday a mild day but few out to Meeting. Monday rainy & Windy getting ready to see the Potsdam Regiment pass through here tomorrow, getting up several bushels provisions for them to take along.

14: Snowy. Learn this morning the regiment are not going to Move at Present.

15: Cold & Snowing the most we have had yet some 3 or 4 inches. Family all well. Deacon Thayer I do not think gets any better. Recd a letter from Charles today.

16: Snowed yesterday & Rained some last night but Colder this morning & high Wind. Met last night to arrange for a Donation for Elder Babcock to come off next Wednesday. Quite Cool today. Heard of Genl Camerons resignation as Secy of War. Many things going on in our country but fraud & corruption seems to have its rule still. When will our people as a nation begin to be honest. It is now a generally conceded opinion that the close of the War will be the downfall or overthrow of Slavery. Am Settling up my accounts pro & con fast as I can, dont know how I shall meet my liabilities if times Continue hard harder etc. but trust in Providence hard work & economy will accomplish much.

17: Today cold & little inclined to snow. Sent George a little box of dinner 4/ cash a pair of yarn mittens a lot of paper and envelopes etc., etc. Trade dull. Wood teams very busy.

25: The past week has been Mostly pleasant. Last Saturday Ensign Willson arrived with the Corps of Ward Johnson of Co D 16 Reg died with the Typhoid Fever over the Potomac buried Sunday Cold & Snowy. Several very warm & pleasant days during the week. Dea. Thayer not much if any better. The rebel Army under Zollicoffer is Defeated & Killed a signal victory. Saturday snowy, a hard storm. Barney at home. Also Brad Stone. No further news of importance.

26: Cold & Snowy 2 feet or over. Congregation Small.

27: Cool but pleasant today. Barney leaves for the Army today. Wrote to Charles by him.

28: Cold bad weather & no business.

29: News of the disaster to the Burnside Expedition loss of a Propeller & reported loss of others & some lives. No further news of importance.

30: Have the news of the Defeat & Death of the Rebel Genl Zollicoffer at Mill Spring Ky.

Feb: The month of Jany is past but little apparently. Have not kept posted from delay. There has been a Battle at Mill Spring Kentucky & Fort Henry on the Tennessee has been Captured and it is now Feb. 11 reported that Burnside has attacked Roanoke Island. Much delay and agitation is going on about raising funds to carry on the War. Genl Stone we learn today has been sent to Fort LaFayette as a Traitor. No doubt he was responsible - 8<sup>th</sup> - for the defeat or disaster at Balls Bluff resulting in the death of Col. Baker and about 900 others, awful to think of.

8: Have not had very cold or stormy weather but good sleighing and it has been well improved for all kinds of business. Rev. B.G. Paddock preached for us last Sunday, Elder Babcock being absent to Adams – had an adjourned church Meeting few out we can hardly get enough out to do business and our business matters are getting behind.

9: Sunday pleasant. Good Sermons and fair congregations. Dea. Thayer is improving but has not got able to get out of his room.

10: Services as usual yesterday. Extra good day pleasant. Have news of the Taking of Fort Henry in Tennessee.

11: Day pleasant. Team business good, about 2 feet of heavy snow.

12: Day pleasant. Short gone to Watertown today. Young Abbott Married today to Phillips Daughter. Have news today that the Regiment at Potsdam are ordered South, doubt their going, many are Sick with the Measles, Some have died.

13: Some Stormy today. Roanoke Island is taken by Genl. Burnside & Commodore Goldsboro but few Killed Considering the no. engaged & the fighting, some 30 killed of the rebels, less of our Men, their Fleet destroyed.

14: Bad Stormy day. Sent a Straw Bed Tick to George a pair of Socks given his Aunt Harriet. St. Valentine day & Valentines are the order of the day. Mrs. Day closed up renting my house the 10<sup>th</sup> has gone to Washington leaving me minus rent about \$11.00 so goes the profits. Some 4 to 6 inches snow fallen today.

17: A Fight has been going on at Fort Donelson Tenn since Thursday, is a hard place to take, the news is that the Fleet are all disabled but the land forces hold their own and the place will be taken and the rebels cannot escape. Weather pleasant. 2 Sermons as usual yesterday, let Wife go ½ day.

18: The Fort is taken and 10 to 15 Prisoners, our loss stated at 400 killed & 800 to 1000 wounded. Price & Pillow made their escape, Buckner Johnston & (West) & another General taken with a large quantity of Military Stores & provisions.

19: Snow storm all day & last night about a foot of snow. Bowling Green is Evacuated by the rebels, troops gone to Nashville. Landis has disturbed the Rebels in Western Virginia. None now left west of Martinsburgh. Sister Lucia up on a visit.

20: A Frenchman was buried this afternoon.

21: Mr. Ray a Colored Man buried a little girl today. Quite cold and snow storm.

22: The Malone Regiment passed through here on the cars South last evening at 9 oclock. Washingtons Birthday, great preparations are being made to celebrate the day & the President has issued a Proclamation requesting that it be observed in all religious Societies & Washingtons farewell address be read to the people & Congress voted in addition to have the Declaration of Independence & Sec. Stantons first order in the War department. Clarkesville is evacuated and

occupied by our troops, Nashville threatened, Savannah rebels report as captured 400 of Northern prisoners released from Southern prisons exchanged.

23: Sermon and communion. Day pleasant.

24: A very severe storm from the north, snow and drifts hardest day of the season. Wrote to Charles & Rev. B. Griffith to correct my mistake.

25: Pleasant today after the storm. Much damage done in Various places. Our Troops moving on towards Nashville Ten.

26: Pleasant today, thaws in the river. Expect the 92<sup>nd</sup> Regiment through here tomorrow.

27: It has been a cold stormy day today. Have been with hundreds of others watching till Evening to see the 92<sup>nd</sup> Regiment pass through here on their way South and at dark they Came 22 cars & 4 Engines with the regular Train behind to push if necessary. To some it was doubtless simply a sight but to those who had sons husbands or Brothers aboard it was a solemn time. My Boy George has gone perhaps never to return. May the Merciful God in whose hands are the springs of life protect him and if agreeable with his holy & righteous will permit him and Charles to return to their homes & friends in safety. But if the sacrifice of their lives is demanded, may their blood be added to the sacred Seal of liberty and help work out that universal liberty to every American regardless of Nationality or color and May the strife continue until every bond shall be loosened and every shackle fall from the limbs of the hitherto oppressed and affected bond man and our country have washed from its affected Soil the accursed institution of Slavery. Emma & Arthur are quite unwell.

28: Cool but pleasant snow snow snow.

March 1: Pleasant but cool so much snow that our Mails are very irregular. War news eagerly sought for these days. Rev. Geo. A. Ames arrived this morning in answer to a call to supply us tomorrow, Elder Babcock being absent to Adams with a view of settling with us at the expiration of our present pastors years who has decided to leave.

2: Sunday. Brother Ames Preached 3 very excellent Sermons, a fair Congregation. Day pleasant. James Smith son of Uncle Sam Smith of the Village died about 5 oclock P.M. as he has lived without hope of Heaven. Has been a rather hard and fast Man, leaves a Wife & Son to mourn his death.

3: Day pleasant & thawing. Some of the Trustees of the Bapt Soc. Met Bro. Ames at My House to confer with him about becoming our Pastor. His terms are \$500 & parsonage a year. My faith almost yields the undertaking to raise it. He left for Adams on the 3 oclock Train, we paid him \$10. Are to write him next week what we can and will do, hope we can secure his services.

8: Have had quite a pleasant week but little business doing in my line especially, have been circulating Subscription some for a New Minister but times are such and the prospect of high taxes and low prices of produce that it goes hard. John Blandin is here to supply us tomorrow, Mr. C. Brown brot me a package of Books from Ogdensburgh. Sold my English Pat Law Gold Watch for \$30 worth of perfumery and a Hunter law for 10 dollars worth of Books so I have left only a Gold (Udack) law.

9: John Blandin preached us 2 short sermons today, can see he improves. Sunday school at noon. Day pleasant and thawing fast. Mr. Thayer very uneasy today, has concluded to send for Dr. Swan.

10: Commenced raining last night and have had a smart rain & high Wind all day. Have had a rheumattic pain like the tooth ache all day in my right arm. Snow dissolving away fast. Have rented my house back of store \$30 ea (part).

11: News last night of a naval Battle near Newport News the Rebel Merrimac steamer Sunk the Sloop Cumberland & Compelled the Congress to Surrender and played round like a whale with Small Fish till the next day the Errickson Battery called the Monitor confronted her and after several hours hard fighting compelled to hall off having found in the Monitor more than her match.

12: Pleasant Morning Snow Storm middle of the day, at night cold, thawed so that the roads and low fields are filled with water. Went to Antwerp in Company with Dea. A. Smith on a council for the Ordination of Mr. Praynan, went on the Cars, ret'd in Cutter with Elder B.

13: Day pleasant till towards night more snow. Took charge of the burial of Mrs. Samuel Smiths little Girl whose Father is in the army at Washington. Friday pleasant till towards night.

15: Saturday Stormy all day no business.

16: Sunday all blocked up with snow had 10 Present at Church in the forenoon and no meeting in the place in the afternoon, decidedly the hardest Storm this winter.

17: Pleasant, the day spent in Shoveling & braking roads.

22: We have had a rather hard weather the past week. No particular military move the past week. All eyes are turned to Island No. 10 in the Missi River. Our forces do not make much progress in taking it. Jason Smith married tonight to Widow Thayer.

Note: Missi abbreviation for Mississippi.

24: Recd a letter today from M. Cushman at Washington. Says George is well and at present waites for Col Sanford, likes soldiering well and is a good boy. If he was a Christian I should

feel satisfied, that he may become one is ever my earnest prayer. Deacon Thayer remains down yet, dont see as he recovers much if any, have my fears that he will not recover. Have engaged Orris Rhodes to Clerk & Chore with me, pay him at the rate of \$30 per year & Board here to stay while we are both suited. Get no letters yet from Charles or George this month.

25: Quite a pleasant day, some preparing to tap the Sugar bushes.

26: News of a Battle at Winchester Va, Federal forces conquers rebels under Jackson defeated with a heavy loss and driven beyond Strasburgh, not the positive no killed Battle Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Wife & I & the Children went up to see Calista today, the first time I have been there since they have kept house nearly a year.

27: Pleasant but Cool. George Norton Married about these days to Miss Taitt.

28: Cold North wind today.

29: Some rain, some snow today. Church Meeting today, not enough present to do business, adjourned to Monday afternoon. Do not get any letters from the Boys.

30: Quite a pleasant day rain & Snow. Beaufort N.C. is taken, the Rebel Steamer Nashville has run the blockade from Beaufort & gone.

April 1: Stormy this morning snow but turned to rain afternoon cleared up. Rev. G.A. Ames & O.H. Blandin came out from the Bend.

5: We have had mostly pleasant weather tho the past week has been cold, snow is yet 2 feet & over deep tho the main roads are quite bare in the track. The War continues. Fremont has taken a Command in Western Va. A Hard 2 days battle has taken place the 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> of Apl at Pittsburgh Landing Tenn. The first day the Rebels drove our men & took a large no. of Prisoners holding possession of the field over night, in the Morning the Battle was renewed and fought hard till 3 P.M. where the rebels were driven from the field and retreated to Corinth Miss. Reported 3000 of our Men and 7 to 10 m Rebels Killed. Terrible to think that Slavery has done all this. The Bill for the Abolition of Slavery has Passed both Houses of Congress and will immediately become a law. Another advance has been made in Civilization, a Black Man can carry the Mail and give testimony in Court. Bless the Lord and Pray for still further triumphs.

13: Today 13<sup>th</sup> Rev. O.W. Babcock closes his labors as Pastor of the Baptist Ch, having been here 6 &  $\frac{3}{4}$  years he goes to Adams that the word of life may be dispensed to the people.

15: Have today recd a letter from my son Charley the first I have recd since Feb. They left their Camp near Alexandria & have been at Manassas & on the Rappahanock till the 10<sup>th</sup> they left for Fortress Monroe. Was not very well.

17: Recd a letter from George near Newport News, glad to hear he is well, says Col. Sanford is going to resign and he is going back into the Company, several of the Boys to marry for Soldiers have returned from the Regiment.

19: Saturday have had a pleasant week, Snow has gone off very fast tho no rain, the River higher than ever known before. 5 Bridges gone off across the River in this Town and others damaged. Burts Grist Mill damaged in its foundation and other Mills in rather critical condition. Rev. O.W. Babcock has packed his goods, intended to go to Adams yesterday but no cars, will have to stay over till Monday.

20: A mild pleasant day. The Elder preached for us today. Bro. Brown who was chosen Superintendent of our Sunday School to take the place of Elder Babcock declined.

May 11: Bro. Ames Preached his first sermon as our pastor being engaged by the year at a Salary of \$500 & Parsonage. Bro. Ames left Tuesday for Madison Co. to see his Parents who talk of coming here to live with him.

13: Have no news late from my Boys. Norfolk is evacuated and our forces have possession of Norfolk the Navy Yard and all that section. President Lincoln leading the forces against the rebels who very prudently retired destroying all they Could & Blowing up their Merrimack so long the terror of our Navy.

15: There has been a Battle at Williamsburgh and West Point Va in both of which some of our companies were engaged and some killed. Have been getting manure onto my lot from the parsonage by J. Stiles. Very warm & pleasant.

16: Getting out manure, Shingling my stoop & planting my garden, very dry & warm.

23: The past week has been mostly pleasant but rather Cool. Heard from George today, Sick in the Hospital at Washington, came up with others from York Town.

24: Had the back part of My House Shingled the 21<sup>st</sup> May. Had my corn and Potatoes.

31: Had a letter from Charles the past week, was near Richmond. Recd a letter from Mother Johnson at Battle Creek, glad to hear from her. Quite a Battle near Richmond, the place taken by our forces & the RR communication to Fredericksburgh cut off. Banks has been driven out of the Shannandoa Valley into Maryland. Corinth is reported Evacuated. No rain the past week. Weather Rather Cold. Had a new yard fence built and the front roof of My House built. Sold a village lot to S.B. & C.A. VanDuzee \$160 in work & Materials for House building. Had my land ploughed & Oats sewed today.

June 1: Spring of 1862 is past, Summer is on us, things backward, business fair for the times tho I am scarcely making a living. Have not heard from George since the 19<sup>th</sup> how sick or

dangerously so he is I am not informed, hope to hear from him every day. Day pleasant, 2 Sermons by our Pastor a full House tho Small attendance at Sabbath School.

2: Receive particulars of Banks actions also particulars of the evacuation of Corinth. Also News of a Severe fight at or near Richmond in which the 92<sup>nd</sup> Regiment with other raw recruits were foremost but report says did not stand fire. The Division Caseys lost their Batteries and Baggage but other divisions came up and gained the day and Sunday another hard Battle was fought and our Men gained a complete victory.

3: Banks is repossessing the S Valley again & Shields Fremont & Banks are after Jackson Ewell, etc. Hope they will capture the return rebel force. Wrote to Rev. A. Gladnier Washington to get him to see George & let me know how he gets along sent him a dollar. Weather warm and dry. The absorbing topic is the War and Many an innocent person are called to suffer and lay down their lives for this wicked and national cursed institution Slavery.

5: The Elder went to Richville to Preach the Funeral Sermon of Dea. Jona Smith who has been gathered to the garner of the lord like a shock of corn fully ripe.

Note: Jona abbreviation for Jonathan

6: Commenced Shingling over the Parsonage today & Making other repairs about the premises, finished shingling today.

7: Saturday another nuisance in town today in the shape of a Circus.

8: Sabbath Sermons by our pastor. I attended only ½ a day, had the ague had to stay at home to keep warm.

9: Still dry and warm. The Elder started for Martinsburgh today to attend the (Blackmar) Association. Hear nothing yet from George, dont know whether he is dead or alive, suppose Charles was in the Battle near Richmond but as yet hear nothing from him.

10: Have written 2 letters to Washington today, 1 to C.W.Clark at Mt. Pleasant Hospital and 1 to Hon. P. King asking information.

11: Weather still warm and dry. Dea. A. Smith building chimney at Parsonage. Eclips of the Moon last night, did not get up to see it total.

12: Dry and Windy. Dea. Smith finished his chimney, Mr. Thayer started for (Bunk) on a visit. Expect this wind will blow up a rain. Cleaned My Cistern tonight preparatory for a rain which we have not had for over 3 weeks. Fremont has had another Battle with Jackson & Beat him Killing Ashby of the rebel Cavalry, dont get much correct information from the 92<sup>nd</sup> Reg to know who or how many men killed at the Battle of the Pines.



13: Had a Smart little shower last night quite refreshing. Thankful for small favors. Wrote to George today by Mr. Betts of the 16 Reg, hope to hear from him when he gets there. Very dull these times. Expect of the Elder to return from Jeff Co. today. No news yet from George or Charles.

14: Heard from George today by Mr. Poole in the same Hospital, hope from which I gather he is very low and bad off – wrote to him today and send \$2 to purchase anything he may need. Weather cool and pleasant. Rev. Mr. Ames returned today.

15: Cool but Pleasant. H.C. Leavitt preached this afternoon.

16: We had a hard frost last night killing everything to the ground. Wrote to Mr. Pool in Hospital at Washington to see to George and give me some further information about him.

17: Henry Aldous lost his little Girl today, died about ½ past eleven A.M. with the Diphtheria.

18: Funeral today Sermon at the House by our pastor Rev. Geo. A. Ames. A right Smart Shower this afternoon and considerable rain during the night so that the fears of a Drought are dispelled and Men begin to have faith in the promises of seedtime and harvest.

19: Are getting some things in readiness to send to George in the Hospital at Washington and have Sent Orville Morris to take Care of him, is to start today.

21: Morris did not start yesterday, is on hand and started, he took a Trunk of Clothing & provisions and I gave him \$30 in Cash, am to pay his expenses down there & If he has to take care of George pay his board if he has to pay for it without any further compensation. No particular Military Moves.

21: Day pleasant but cool, have a hard cold. Went with Rev. Mr. Ames over to North Gouverneur to attend the Funeral of a Son of Mr. Edward Hartley who died with the Consumption, heard a good discourse.

22: Sunday a good day and good preaching to a full house. The Sunday School decided to renew their Subscription to the Child at Home of which they have taken 50 copies. Franklin Leavitt was at church today with his new Wife. Had a letter last night from Preston King about George, says he is improving and will probably recover. Mr. Poole came home last night, has been in the Hospital with George and taken care of him when he could as he could not bear to see him neglected by the Nurses, thinks he will be able to come home in a week or 2. Mr. Sprague also wrote he would see to George and get him Such things as George would need with the Money I sent him and generously offered to stay till George was able to come home with him.

23: Day pleasant & warm but times dull and hard. Rev. Mr. Wardner from Adams Center took dinner with us on his way home from Richville. May go there to preach. Elder Ames went to Watertown on the 3 o'clock train, expects to return tomorrow with his Father & Mother who are going to live with him.

24: A little rainy this morning. The examination of the Seminary was yesterday & is to be today and this evening an address to the Oratorical Society by Mr. Brown from Oswego. The above is over and no very great affair.

25: The Address by Rev. Mr. Miller before the Ladies Literary Society was good, Theme success, and well handled and forcibly illustrated. The Exhibition in the Grove was fair and day fine. Miss Graham & Walling recd their Diplomas having closed their Studies. Otis Graves & Wife were here, left for home at night.

28: Nothing particularly new. Weather warm & dry. Recd a letter from Charles near Richmond. Well.

29: A very warm day. Mr. Wood died yesterday morning old age. Sermon A.M. Sabbath School at noon Communion P.M. Funeral of Mr. Wood at 3. Prayer meeting at 5.

30: A fine rain this morning doing all sorts of Good. There has been Hard fighting before Richmond since Thursday and continues, our forces are evacuating their positions on the right and moving down towards James River.

July 1: Day usually warm, get nothing definite from the army.

2: Mr. Ames and wife came last night Monday Evening. Attended the Ladies Benevolent Society at Dea. Allen Smiths Wednesday, a large attendance Near 50 present.

3: Fighting reported continuing.

4: George arrived from the Hospital at Washington last evening train in Car of Morris who I sent to Washington to take care of him, he is just able to be round and looks hard, hope he may recover. Thankful that his life has been spared and he has returned, his experience as a Soldier has been quite severe in the Hospital at least was in no engagement, left the army near York Town and was taken from there to Washington. Recd a letter from Chas Aldous last night, is stationed near Strausburgh Va, well. Brother Timothy & Wife arrived this morning on a visit. Have no doings today, think a Meeting of humiliation fasting & Prayer the most appropriate way of celebrating the day of our National Calamity, our army are having a severe time of it before Richmond, reports are today that our loss in Killed and wounded in the last 6 days fighting amounts to 12000 men and the army is 15 Miles from Richmond.

5: The 4<sup>th</sup> was a quiet and solemn day in view of the Many who fell before Richmond.

6: Sunday has been a very dry hot day, good preaching Sabbath School and 5 o'clock prayer meeting.

7: Monday, dry and hot. Timothy goes to Duane & Horace today. Elder Ames & Father & Mother went up to the Parsonage to stay Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup>, took his horse up this Monday evening.

8: Tuesday, are getting still further detail of the 7 days fighting before Richmond our loss in killed wounded & missing estimates at 15 to 20 thousand and the Rebels double ours. Mr. Henry Aldous made us a visit from Canton today.

9: Wednesday Commenced raining this morning early day dull rainy till noon very refreshing tho not  $\frac{1}{2}$  enough.

10: Thursday, Pleasant & Cool, no business, the Sons of Temperance had a Grand Meeting of their Grand officers and at Evening a good lecture by their Boss of this state organization. Orris sick last night & went home today. President Lincoln has gone to make McClellan a visit up James River, Burnside on his way there.

11: Orris stoped work for me the 9<sup>th</sup> ult. Times such must get along alone with the help of George & Theodore. All hands of us children visited at Chancy Conants today i.e. that is were present Cordelia Chancy Myself & Martha Harriet & Horace Timothy & Marian Gray & Dora Lucia Maria & Julia. Home at night safe. Weather cool & dry no rain yet.

12: Saturday a dry windy day all of us visiting at our Fathers today Duane present in addition to those at Chancys yesterday. Trade dull. Recd a letter from my son Charles dated the 4<sup>th</sup> all safe and well, was in 3 days fighting but escaped unharmed, also Chas Conant, it relieves our anxiety for the time being. Charles sent me \$20 on what I lend for him when he left here some 5 years ago. The defeat before Richmond was a terrible one but not as bad as it might have been. Our government must change its policy and not be so tender of Rebels & their property and their darling institution the cause of all our trouble.

13: A very warm day. Attended Church, was re-chosen Superintendent of our Sunday School tho greatly against my wishes, think they are right to have selected some other one. A very strong hard wind all day.

14: Monday, A Fine Shower last night and a little rainy this morning. Timothy and Marian left for home on the this morning train having spent 10 days with us visiting.

Note: The phrase "the this" is as written.

15: No particular War News. Mrs. I.P. Fisher died last evening an excellent woman highly esteemed and beloved by all who knew her, an exemplary christian and a loss irreparable to Mr. Fisher and family. Went to Watertown today. A fine rain in the afternoon and evening.

16: Day cool & pleasant, a fine growing time a cool day. Ladies Sewing Circle met at Mrs. Barrels this afternoon a good number present.

17: Thursday, no particular news army waiting before Richmond for reenforcements, Guerrillas doing an extensive business inst and all about and the Union Army appear to be paralyzed whether from the incompetency of its officers or traitors in office I dont know.

18 & 19: Not much doing and news rather dull. War Meetings are being held all over the Country to stir up the despondency of the People under their Severe disappointment in McClellans Campaign against Richmond and the severe loss in the 6 days fight & retreat which resulted as pr official reports in the loss of killed 1565 Wounded 7791 5958 Total loss 15224 all from Mismanagement or incompetency of the General Commander or whoever chose that way of Marching to Richmond.

20: Somewhat lousy & Rainy tho Warm. 2 good Sermons from our Pastor, Prayer Meeting at 5 P.M. a lecture by Elder Ames at ½ past 7 P.M. on the Crisis of our country stating clearly and from History the 2 types of civilizations planted on this continent at its settlement and that they were antagonistic and had culminated in this War and the Critical Moment had come where this nation must strike for the universal liberty of its People or be brot into bondage of slavery and oppression.

August 12: I have been very negligent about keeping up my record. Mr. Barnes hearing of the arrival of his wounded son at Philadelphia, himself & Wife went to see him. Old Mrs. Sharp died Tuesday evening 12<sup>th</sup>, was taken sick Sunday night, 3 children have been buryed this week. A Hard battle was fought Saturday between the Rebel forces under Jackson & Ewell & Banks Division, our forces held the ground, Jackson has retreated to Gordonsville. The country is alive for enlistments and it is thought the 600000 Men Called for can be raised without a Draft.

13: The Methodist held a Sunday school convention here today, the Children and those who attended had a good time.

14: Many are going from here to swell the nos. at Camp Wheeler at Ogdensburgh and many Enlisting into other companies & Regiments. Mrs. Miller wife of Horace Miller a Mason by trade died this afternoon, Heart disease. Henry Aldous Enlisted and started with others for Camp at Ogdensburgh, has Enlisted in Capt. Johnsons Co.

15: Had some Rain last night and yesterday, ground the driest it has been this season. Mr. Osborne & Wife Teachers in the seminary Commenced boarding with us this term at \$5 pr Week. Have rented 4 rooms 6, 4, 3 & 5 \$18. Mr. Barnes & Wife returned last evening with the corpse

of their sun having died from his wound recd in the Battle before Richmond, was taken prisoner at Savage Station and after some weeks released. J.F. Willcox home on a short visit, has enlisted.

16: The Term Commenced yesterday, opened with about 30 students.

17: Sunday the Funeral of Ervin Barnes was attended today, was wounded before Richmond, taken prisoner at Savage Station, Released & Brot to Philadelphia then Died, his Father & Mother went to see him and was present at his death. Cool day.

19: A Warm day, Mr. Ormiston having his Store moved downside of Cuttings.

20: Self & Wife went to Ogdensburgh today and Down to the Camp of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Wife returned on the 3 oclock train, I stayed all night, retd the 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 oclock P.M.

September: Some time has elapsed since I have had time to record any events of this Eventful period of our Country. War is the Topic, nearly all the 600000 men are moving on to the field, the army have been withdrawn from the James River leaving all the rebel forces at liberty to fall upon Pope and hurl their army on to Washington, they have succeeded in driving Pope back to the Potomac turning his right flank and striking a Severe and effective blow on our army and now according to accounts are on their way to Maryland or Washington. Several days of severe fighting and a reported loss of killed and wounded of 15000 or over and Many stores & provisions. Left home Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday for association at Nicholville, went in a Buggy with Elder Ames, started at 4 oclock P.M., went to Bro. Eastmans 3 miles beyond Canton, staid all night, found him sick and mostly Confined to his bed, left at 5 am, took breakfast at Potsdam. A very hard frost that morning, corn & vines generally killed. Drove into Nichol in time for Meeting. Put up at Dea. Clarks, saw Elders Webb, Baker & other old acquaintances – Had a fair Session and left for home Thursday at 2 P.M., staid at Esq. Havens in Canton and arrived at home safe at 2 P.M. on Friday, good weather & a pleasant journey.

6: Deacon Thayer returned last week but not in health as we fondly anticipated & hoped. Attended church ½ a day and communion last Sunday. Recd a letter from son Charles at Alexandria dated the 1<sup>st</sup>, was not in the fighting as their artillery horses had not arrived there from Fortress Monroe. It is raining today and I have to attend a funeral at Mrs. James Morses this afternoon, their youngest child.

12: The rebels have moved over in force into Maryland, occupy Frederick & down to (Notary) Ferry and up to Williamsport. The hard fighting in Virginia by Popes army resulted in a defeat from want of Cooperation of McClellan who thought his dignity touched by coming under Pope and the result is Pope has been relieved from his Command in Virginia and given a department among the Indians in Minnesota and McClellan has command of the Defenses of Washington and is Moving the Army over into Maryland.

16: We have News of a hard fight on Sunday on what is called South Mountain. The rebels retreated from Frederick before McClellan fortified themselves in the 3 gaps crossing the Mountain, have been driven from their strong holds and back from the Mountain towards the Potomac & Hagerstown. Franklins Division was in the Battle but we have not learned the disasters in the 16<sup>th</sup> which were in that fight, suppose it the hardest the regiment have been in since the War commenced.

20: Saturday have heard of another desperate Battle between the 2 entire armies in Maryland variously estimated at from 90 to 150 thousand men ea near Sharpsburgh on the (Antecram) River. Franklins & Richardsons Divisions were both in the Battle and Chas Conant & My Charles may have shared the fate of thousands of their companions and we may see them no more. The rebels were Beaten, our Army barely holding the field. Thursday the rebels asked permission to bury their dead and while doing it in communion with our people took advantage of the delay to make good their retreat across the Potomac, and Friday Morning when McClellan expected to renew the contest behold the enemy were across the Potomac. This evenings Mail brings a letter from Capt. Parker and the intelligence that Charles Conant is no more, he was shot through his head and died instantly while bearing the Colors of the regiment so the war & Rebellion is coming nearer & nearer the hearthstones & hearts of Northern people and no Man knows how great the sacrifice may yet be necessary before this nation will learn to do right and put away from our land the sin of slavery. Our Town fair passed of the 15 & 16<sup>th</sup> very successfully. Mr. Nott deld the address. Hear nothing yet from Charles, suppose he was in the Battle of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Note: Antecram may refer to the Antietam River near Sharpsburgh. Charles Conant was the son of Henry Sheldon's sister Cordelia Sheldon Conant. Mr. Nott delivered the address.

27: We have had a pleasant week and have been busyed with the Presidents Proclamation of Emancipation Considered to be a move which is to effect this nation and the world more than anything ever issued from the head of any Government but what will be the result none can tell, some predict a good, some no result, others great injury to the land. We hope it may be the harbinger of Universal and Eternal liberty & peace.

28: Sunday, a fine pleasant day, yesterday was Covenant Meeting & Miss Julia Rhodes was Baptised on the Sabbath a pleasant scene. May the waters be often moved in like manner.

29: C.F. Keyes died about 4 oclock this P.M. having been but about a week sick, was engaged in the Boot & Shoe business, a Member of the Presbyterian Church.

30: A Cool day. George worked on the road, has left school not having Energy and force enough about him to get his lessons received. Recd a letter from My Charles tonight at Bolivar heights in Va near Harpers Ferry, came through the fights in Maryland all safe tho in the hardest fight of the 17<sup>th</sup> at Antietam – the month with its records has gone to be among the things that are passed. Am I coming nearer to Christ as I approach the close of life, if not to what profit am I living

unless I am. Can I really be of any benefit in and to the world. War has carried many of our country Men to the Eternal during the past Month and yet we see not its end.

Oct. 1: Attended Mr. Keyes burial today, so cool that we keep a fire today.

2: Very cool. Arthur quite unwell. Dr. Parmelee returned Tuesday. Rodney Conant left for Washington this afternoon to Join his regiment.

3: Quite a warm day threatens to rain. George has been to work at Van Burens yesterday & today, left school to heedless to get his lessons rather grow up an ignoramus. Elder Ames went to Carthage & Watertown today to take Mrs. Davis home, will return tomorrow.

November 3: Have not written the occurring events for the past month, they have been various and varying, some battles some little victories but on the whole apparent defeat. Sunday afternoon the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Elder Ames gave us a political discourse. Our State Election Came off yesterday, Seymour Democratic Secession Candidate ran against Wadsworth the Rep Union Candidate and the signs now are that he is elected, rum, immorality and Secession has elected him and another cause probably designed by McClellan and tho leaders of the President in their action to defeat the resistance of the rebellion & let the South triumph (letting) her ( ) the chains of Slavery tighter & still man oppressive on the Black if not on the poor white who gets his living by honest toil. Leroy Atwood made us a visit stayed about 3 weeks & left for home by way of Boston last Wednesday.

Note: A small piece of paper was placed into the diary, handwritten date of Nov. 4, 1862 at the top. The paper itself was printed with this information: Union State Ticket. State. For Governor, James S. Wadsworth. For Lieutenant Governor, Lyman Tremain. For Canal Commissioner, Oliver Ladue. For Inspector of State Prisons, Andreas Willmann. For Clerk of the Court of Appeals, Charles Hughes. For Representative in Congress, Calvin T. Hulburd. For Superintendent of the Poor, Levi E. Waterbury. For coroners, John R. Furness, Samuel C. Wait to fill vacancy. For Justice of Sessions, Silas Baldwin.

6: Weather cold & freezing.

7: Has Commenced Snowing.

8: We hear that the Army of the Potomac is moving – Cold & Snowing.

9: Was taken with the Rheumatism in My foot last Evening have not been able to go to Church today the 1<sup>st</sup> day at home in a long time, lost 2 good Sermons, at prayer meeting in the evening Fisher rented the room East of Mine the 3<sup>rd</sup> November at \$30.00 pr year, has the Cellar & pays extra for it.

10: Pleasant today thawing & snow melting in the Sun. Learn today of the removal of McClellan but do not believe the President has staminy enough to remove anybody but Anti Slavery men, Men who go for the Support of the government the Destruction of the rebellion and is willing that Slavery the cause of the rebellion should be abolished and our Country become a free one.

15: The past week has been snowy some warm some cold some is now freezing up. No great movement in the army, some skirmishing.

16: Today a black man preached in our house in the morning, Methodist House in the afternoon, Presbyterian in the evening raising funds for building a School House on the manual labor system of instruction for the Blacks at Malden. C. West – recd about \$20.00 in all, a Good Speaker and a talented man.

27: Over a month has passed on the swift Wings of time since I wrote anything in this Memorandum Since which Many a Soldier has gone to his long home a still farther sacrifice to the Slave holders rebellion, the most severe is that of Fredericksburgh Va. Charles was there but came through safe. Thank God.

31: The weather this month has been very mild and pleasant for the season and the year has closed but the war continues. Tomorrow will inaugurate a period in our National History if carried to its ultimatum More important than the declaration of independence yes Legally Slavery is abolished in 10 states of this Union and when once these shackles fall our government is bound to see they are never again visited upon them and now we can look forward with trust and confidence that the rebellion will be crushed out. The Slaves are the backbone of the rebellion and when they cease to work for their Masters, rebellion falls to the ground. God speed the day, the Happy day.



