

1868

Partial Transcript of the 1868 Journal

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Recommended Citation

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January

1 Jan. Wed. New Year's Day. All hail to the New Year (!)

11 Jan. Sat. Still very cold. All at home.

12 Jan. Sab. Not quite so cold. James and I at church—had only one sermon. Eve. Half past six O'clock, James and I attended U.P. church—sermon by Rev. ? ? ? of Xenia— Tenet?— “But now they desire a better community, that is a heavenly.” ? quite large—Mr. Joseph Kyle took James and I into his pew.

14 Jan. Tues. A snow fell on last night, still falling this morning. J.D. Williamson with us for dinner. Eve—A peddler from Dayton with us tonight. Eve. James and I attended the Cedarville debating society at the old Baptist church— ? at—“In ?, ? music in the worship of God.” – speakers J.F. Fragrier?—B. F. ?—Rev. Mr. Morton—Filming? Teacher of the Cedarville Academy & others. James and I stopped at Mother's—After which James C- went with us to Riley's and Polack's drugstore—James and I went to the ? alone, having James to come with Riley and Polack.

15 Jan. Wednesday. Bright sunshine—but rather cold. The Dayton peddler left this morning, I got a pair of shears from him—Maria attending to the kitchen department & James & fast John around home. Eve—Dr. D. R. Caldwell and Jennie here for tea—Jennie made me a nice present of a little pillow and white cases? for the same—one plain and the other ruffled. Hugh Dave called and spent a while with us.

First Anniversary of our Wedding (!) Hail happy day!— the brightest of all the long glad year. As we gaze out over the distance, a golden gleam of light seems to throw its hallowed ray across the shadowy past unto the consecrated spot, the very tomb where sleep our Wedding day, and with a magic torch awakes it from its slumber to form our ground and glorious link in life's eventful chain—the beautiful morning—its golden evening—its hallowed memory. Its every association most tender now, and love comes stealing in the memories' door like messengers of light, and seems as life like and as seal as upon that day itself. The leafless trees—the snow covered earth—as well as the bright sunshine mingled with the winter breeze seems to mock that bright, bright day and send us back on memories' wings, across the buried year, to live over again the happy scenes of those bygone hours.

“I sit alone—alone in thought
And thronging visions come”

I feel myself a girl again

A girl at home—

Yes, here I sit at home waiting for his coming—yes waiting! But, Alas, he has come— yes, come a year ago to night— he's here. One year of married life has gone forever,

gone beyond the grasp of mortals, indelibly mantled in heaven's book, penciled by angels there to wait our coming.

[Wagner: quoted above: epigraph from the essay "Home" by Fanny R.]

February

8 February Saturday. 1868. Bright and clear. [here, the next two lines are either faded or erased] I was quite sick all of last night—sat up from about half past one till daylight, at which time I went back to bed with James and remained till James ? up the front room and removed me there— Mrs. Galbreath here quite early— she and James took breakfast together— Mother, Mrs. Galbreath, Mrs. Little, Mrs. Cristie, Dr. D.K. Caldwell and James here for dinner. Lila? came with mother and remained for dinner, after which he went back to C- to attend the singing class. Afternoon cloudy and stormy.

Between four and five O'clock, just as the dreary afternoon was sinking away 'mid storm and cloud, Our Little daughter Fannie entered our home to fill its lonely rooms with light and song and gladden the coming years with her love and smiles.

But then—

“who may read the future?

For our darling we crave all blessings

sweet--

And pray that he who feeds the crying

ravens--

Will guide our daughter's feet.” Yes, guide them safely through the pearly gates into the beautiful city of God.

In the evening, very stormy. Wind and snow. Mrs. Galbreath with us till near nine, at which time James took her home. Mother and Jennie Caldwell with us tonight. Mother sleeping in the back sitting room while Jennie slept with me and took care of the babie [sic]. James slept upstairs in his old room where he used to sleep in the years of the past—in days gone by.

[Wagner: poem quoted above: "Little Feet." by Elizabeth Akers Allen (1832-1911).]

23 Feb. Sab. Cold and clear. James dressed for church but loitered around until it was too late to go. I sat up the greater part of the day. James read to the "baby" and me the most of the day. Eve. Fast John came back. James brought him in to see the baby and me.

March

11 March Wed. Cloudy. Our baby attempted to Laugh this morning for the first (!) Bro John ? ? Williamson and that sheep man Bradley were looking at James' stock— all here for dinner.

Afternoon— ? Carson called and nursed the baby awhile for me— Old Bettie attending to business in the Kitchen— fast John and Little around on the plantation.

28 March Sat. Cloudy. James over near Jamestown at some Taylors at a sale. Old Bettie's son Charlie landed today— in our kitchen (!) A safe and sure retreat (!) About nine O'clock this morning Old Hugh Nesbit? Died— long has Cedarville sheltered him— but now he has gone to another city— to the city of the dead or to that beautiful city beyond the stars.

May

29 May. Friday—a James out assisting with the corn planting. Bro Silas & Hugh's Bob here shearing sheep— As the ten O'clock eve press? passed up this morning, it killed & wounded quite a number of James' fine sheep, which had gone through the ledge? & were on the track— For the afternoon Dr. Caldwell & James & Sister Matt here, as Riley came on to doctor the sheep— All here for supper in the evening. Dave's? Matt called.

“The curse causeless does not come.” And when I ask myself why were the sheep taken & why do we suffer this loss, I cannot help but feel that it is by way of punishment for Sabbath Sins, for I am afraid we do not remember to keep the day holy as we should—

If we are truly Christians, we are God's children, and he will visit us either in love or wrath, according as we remember and keep his holy day— true it is—

“That a Sabbath day well spent
Brings a week's content
And health for the toil of tomorrow
But a Sabbath day profaned
Whatever is gained
Is a certain forerunner of sorrow”

12 May. Tuesday. James has been around all afternoon— he is thinking of going in with Sam Galbreath for the night of this township for another Patent Hay Fork— I think if they do it will be a good thing! Do all burned cats dread the fire? I am afraid not— Rain in the afternoon. James & Edd Smith at Clifton & at Joe Johnson's— reached home after night as wet as chickens and as “Ahem” as wet hens!

June

24 June. Wed. Quite pleasant. Bro Hugh's Little Willie ? sick. Not expected to live. All the friends were called in this morning. James and I went down, left baby Fannie with Mrs. Cristie. We came back before dinner. Sister Jane came with us— Fast John around at work. Jim

Stormont? here for dinner as he is around peddling flowers— Afternoon. James and baby Fannie and I all dressed and ready to go to the Commencement exercises of the U.P. Seminary in Xenia tonight, but as Willie was worse when we got that far, I concluded to remain at home— but as James had some business to attend to, he went on to Xenia taking ?? with him— I feel a good deal disappointed tonight as I wanted to go so bad as sister Mary is to read an essay before the Alumni Association and Crissie Moodie to recite a poem & a -. For the evening Mrs. Galbreath called. Also Mrs. Mattie Wright— and her niece Eliza Lake?— James did not get back till late— sister Jane with us tonight—

July

14 July Tuesday. Very warm. Nancy washing. Fannie very fretful— James not at home today— He and Sam Galbreath have their sign out for the poor house— either that or else they don't consider they have much business to attend to at home or do not attend to what they have got— As they are not trifling away their time with a patent Hay Fork. Talking about making money! A large pee ct? [Wagner note: I'm guessing this might be akin to a penny or a cent] on each one that they sell. But— I am willing to venture this whole farm that if they should spend every hour of time between this and coming Christmas in the enterprising business of circulating patent Hay Forks, they would not have twenty five dollars clear money, to say nothing about the waste of time or neglect of business, or to say nothing about the whole train of petty ? they entail upon themselves and everyone else with in the hearing of [a] patent Hay Fork. James did not get home till after night having taken supper at Melanchthon Harbison's—

October

1 Oct Thurs. James down at C- on business. Sister Mary took Fannie & me down with her & left us at Mother McMillan's— Fannie & I went to James C-'s and spent the day. James came down with Riley for dinner. This P.M. Riley C-- and John ? went out with James to the Archer farm to look at hay. In the eve, James and Fannie and I at Mother Mc.'s for supper— Mother and Jane started out to ? John's— but as they were away from home, they went onto Father's to spend the day. Clementine has left mother's. She has been boarding there all summer— Rained this P.M.

2 Oct. Friday. James out sowing Timothy seed. Jennett and Matt at Joe C-'s. ? and Little Mary sick. Eve. Matt and Jennette here for supper— they ? to remain all night— Mrs. Mattie Wright called. Fannie is a splendid human tonight.

3 Oct. Sat. Matt & Jennette went down home in the carriage this A.M. George Marshal called for James to go with him to a Stephen Son's? sale— Mrs. ? called this A.M. This P.M., Sister Matt

brought the carriage home & returned to C- with Mrs. Galbreath. Eve. Old Bettie and Charlie called— We made a settlement with her as ? leaves this eve—

4 Oct. Sabb. James at preaching—Dutch George and baby Fannie and I home alone—a This P.M., ? Cristie called and nursed Fannie awhile for me— Clementine Wright and Dan's Annie rode up with James from preaching and stopped in here— Clementine is at Eli Wright's tonight.

5 Oct. Monday. Pleasant. No one here to help me—Dan's Annie & Grace called and nursed Fannie for me a while—a Dan's Jane called and told me of a woman that has moved into their own home, which she thought would give satisfaction. She is a grass? widow by the name of Melisa Grooms. This P.M. George Marshal called— four colored men came over to eat corn— they together with negro Jim Smith, dutch George and Dan's Annie here for dinner. James out all day sowing Timothy seed. This P.M. the said Melisa Grooms came over & began work. Henry Townsby and Sam G- called. Mrs. G- brought Jane up this eve— She is with us tonight. All the colored men here for supper and sleeping on the kitchen floor tonight.

6 Oct. Tues. James and Jane down at C-. Sister Rachel Colins? and Sam G called— After James returned, he and Sam G- out on a little trade-- After an early dinner, James rode into town, took the new train, and went up to London to the Stock's sale. Sister Jane has been with me all day helping me. Melisa took her boy over to her sisters near Clifton— the little girl F? is here. Colored men with us tonight. James came down on the seven O'clock train from London.

7 Oct. Wed. Sister Betty called for Jane & took her to C-. James at Springfield— When we passed Joe C-'s this morning, Betsy and Jane were still there— Jane took Fannie down home with her to keep? for us today. While at S- today, I got my bonnet trimmed up— A new shawl and a hat. This eve, Lippin? Slone? Stuart came home with us to Mother McMillan's— she is stopping there. After supper eve came on home— Our colored men still with us.

8 Oct. Thurs. Appearance of rain— James at Xenia— James trying to have a settlement with O.S. Johnson— Eve. Joe C- called. James did not get home till after night. Colored men still with us.

9 Oct. Friday. Fall day. James & I at preaching— Left Fannie with Mrs. Cristie. Had sermon this A.M. by Mr. J.Y. Boyer?— This P.M. by Mr. J.F. Morton— Lippin? Slone? there this morning— went down to mother's for dinner and left on the noon train for Xenia— Quite a frost on last night which layed [sic] the flowers low. Eve., all at home—

10 Oct. Sat. Pleasant. James and I at preaching— left Fannie with Mrs. Cristie— Sermon Rev. J.Y. Boyer?— ? Mary Ann McMillan at church— She had just returned from visiting Riley and

Annie McMaster. The three colored men left this P.M. Mellissa ironing ? -- All of us at home this eve—

11 Oct. Sabbath. Quite pleasant. This is the day of our communion— Sermon this A.M. Rev. J.Y. Boyer— This afternoon we had the Lord's Supper-- Eve Sister Mary came home with us. At seven this eve, Sister Mary and James went back to church— Sermon J.Y. Boyer— Baby Fannie and George and I at home— Melisa and her girl went over to Clifton today, have not returned yet.

12 Oct. Monday. Pleasant. Cristie sowing Timothy seed. George out at the barn? Cattling [sic]— ? called and settled with James this morning— James and I at church— left Fannie with Mrs. Cristie—Quite a number of children baptized this morning. Sermon by Rev J.Y. Boyer. Dr. D.K.? Caldwell's received a daughter into their family this morning— After preaching I called there and remained for dinner— James took dinner at Mother Mc.'s with J.O. Williams' son and family. As we came home, we called around to see Flora Shearan? and partly? engaged her to come and work for us. Sister Jane came home with us— She is helping us me nurse, ? C ?. Eve. James up at Jonathan Smith's.

13 Oct. Tues. Quite pleasant. Jane over with Old Polly and the carriage at Brigham Harbison's for apples for butter-- This is the day of the elections of State officers. Sam Galbreath and James out at H.H. McMillan's at the very enterprising business of putting up one of those good for nothing Edgeworth patent hay forks on trial— What a speculation! How little! How insignificant! For men who have farms to ? and stock to attend too, to be engaged in any such business. Took dinner there and in the P.M. went to Xenia. Old Col. Marth from Eli Wright's house helping me today. Jonathan Smith called this P.M. and took Cristie down to vote. Eve— Sister Jane came back & with us tonight— James did not get home till after eight.

14 Oct. Wed. Quite gloomy. Sister Jane helping me make pumpkin butter— Old Marth here helping in the kitchen dept. James over at the ? farm— called at father's— took supper at bro John's.

15 Oct. Thurs. Still very gloomy. Our pet Squirrel died on last night. Henry Townsby took his cattle away this A.M. Old Marth here today. Sister Jane helping me with my apple butter. This A.M. James called at Dave Barber's. This P.M. he called at Mother's. After his ?, he & sister Jane and Fannie and I went down to C-. I called to see Jennie Caldwell. We took supper at mother's— Bro John came in with James for supper while there Mrs. Mc called. We did not get home till late.

16 Oct. Friday. James and Tom Crawford up at Springfield. Old Marth here today. Melissa Grooms came for her wardrobe this morning and left for another home. This P.M. I called at Sue

C- & Cristie's. This P.M., Hugh's Mattie here awhile— let Fannie fall from off a chair and bumped her head. Bro Silas here this eve for supper— James did not get home till late— He took dinner and supper at [blank space] nine miles above Springfield.

17 Oct. Sat. Quite pleasant. Old Marth here helping. This A.M. James around starting the men sawing logs and handing? for the new barn. He has concluded to keep dutch George for another month. This P.M. Jane over at the Barbers. Put away my fruit cans of butter. Old Bettie down at Cristie's making pumpkin butter— Eve James calling at bro Dan's.

18 Oct. Sabb. Cool. James and I at preaching. Old Marth went with us— left Fannie with Mrs. Cristie. On last Thursday, Harvey's little daughter Nellie was buried. On yesterday, Mary Ann Stewart, Old Marth here doing up the work this eve—

19 Oct. Monday. I am here alone today. No one here for dinner but dutch George— James and bro John up at Phiper's? and McHenry's?. Mr. ? called this P.M. James & bro John did not get home till after night— here for supper— Baby Fannie and I down with Mrs. Cristie awhile to night— Dr. Stuart out there?.

20 Oct. Tuesday. Pleasant. Sister Betsy and Jane at Xenia in our Spring wagon— Effie? and Jennie here today. James up at Selma and Charleston for an Irish girl to come & do the work for us this fall. Joe Caldwell, dutch George, Dan's Jennie & Effie? here for dinner. This P.M. James at C-, men handing in Logs. Edd Wildman, Old Dennis Shim, and ?? called. I called at Cristie's late this P.M. Eve Sister Jane brought the wagon home— & is staying with us tonight.

21 Oct. Wed. Jane here helping me this morning. Bro Dan, Robt. Galbreath & ? here helping butcher a beef. This A.M. John Kyle called for a sheep. Dave Barber here making out a bill for the barn. He & Joe Caldwell, George & Sister Jane & James here for dinner. This P.M. John Forbes called— Also Sister Betsy and Rachel. This eve James over at ?— returned in time for supper— Late in the eve. Silas & Jennie Little called.

22 Oct. Thurs. Pleasant. Sister Jane took some things down to the folks at home. David Barber & Santie Wilson came on & began their carpenter work— They were both home for dinner together with Ike Landaker? and Sister Jane & Lizzie Lake— Lizzie has been here helping me to day. Colored Edd Smith here at work this A.M.

23 Oct. Friday. Pleasant— James around over the plantation all A.M. He and Dave Barber, Santie Wilson, Sister Jane, dutch George here for dinner— Old Colored Smith and Old Marth here for dinner also. This P.M. James down at C- at mill— Had corn head today for the first this season.

24 Oct. Sat. Pleasant. Old Marth here helping a few hours today— She had Ada Wright with her, both here for dinner— Dave Barber, Santie Wilson, Sister Jane, and dutch George here also. Collin over with James at the Archer farm with Sheep— from there, he went on to Jamestown for his premium money— did not get home till after night— ? Wright called today.

25 Oct. Sabb. Pleasant. Old Marth called in and helped me with the morning work. She rode down to church with us. Jane went home this morning. Kept Fannie for us today. Rev. W.S. Button? and wife at A.M. church today— they came to attend the wedding of ? Button and Mary Jane Kyle, who were married last Thursday, I believe— After preaching we drove down to Mother's for Fannie— Remained for supper— At half past seven, James went back to church— went to the N.P. Church— had sermon by Dr. Cloakey. They had communion at their church today. Sister Jennette came down with James tonight to take charge of the work for this week—

26. Oct. Monday. Quite pleasant. Tom Crawford around all A.M. with James— David Barber, Santie Wilson, dutch George in with James for dinner— This P.M., Jon Smith called. Tom C— around again with James this P.M. Jennette and I quite busy all day— been washing windows and fineing [sic] up the front rooms. This eve Mrs. Jimmelson? called. This eve just as the lamps were lighted Mr. Morton came on pastoral visitation. Spent the evening in the parlor with James and Fannie and me— our meeting very pleasant. This is a most beautiful night— it is almost as clear as day.

27. Oct. Tues. All up quite early. Mr. Sam Dallas called. He and James up at ? Barffenargers? Sale near London—Mrs. Galbreath called and took Fannie and me with her out to father's. As we passed through C- eve, stopped at Mother Mc's to see ? May Ann. We had a nice time out at home today. Mother had her Star Nine Patch quilt in the frames— I helped them with it a little— As we came home we stopped at Mother Mc's a few minutes— We reached home in good time. Sister Jennette had been quite busy all day. Dave Barber, Santie Wilson, Hugh's Jim and dutch George here for dinner— James and Mr. Dallas returned after night— both here for supper. Came up a shower this eve.

28. Oct. Wed. Quite gloomy. James around over the plantation all A.M. Hugh's Jim, dutch George, and Santie Wilson here for dinner. Old Marth here washing— James at Xenia this P.M. took pieces of furniture to Jefferson's Shop to be appraised. Jennette and I cleaned the back sitting room this P.M. This is the day of Joe Gibson's Sale— James did not get home till late. Robert ? and Kate Williamson married this eve— they are having quite a large wedding.

29 Oct. Thurs. Pleasant. Sister Jennette here taking charge of things— I left for an early hour in the express with Fanny Grant and Harvy for Springfield— went my way of C- and took sister Matt with me— when I started, James went as far with me as Joe C-'s. Took Fannie along and left her there with Aunt Betsy— Matt and I had a pleasant day. I got another front tooth filled at

Dr. Philips office. This eve we took tea at Lippin Slone Stuarts— started home about four but it was sundown and the moon shining brightly before we got back— I took sister Matt part of the way down to the Hugh's— She ?? some of the boys to take her on home— Mrs. G- brought Fannie up here this P.M. & kept her awhile and then left her in Aunt Jennette's care— Old Marth here helping. Dave Barber Robt. & Santie Wilson, Hugh's Jim, dutch George and bro Silas and James here for dinner— This P.M. James and bro Silas out at ?— reached home in time for supper— Sam G- here for supper also.

30 Oct. Friday. Quite pleasant. We expected father's and Mr. and Mr. H? here for dinner, but they did not come— Jennette and I quite busy. Joe Caldwell, Hugh's Jim Robt. and Santie Wilson, dutch George and James here for dinner. James around home all day. Eli Wright's received a second daughter into their family today.

31 Oc. Sat. James around all A.M. ?? met this morning. The carpenters did not come on to work. I called at Cristie's this A.M. James and dutch George in for dinner— This P.M. he and Sam G- up the county on a sheep trade— Jennette, Fannie and I went down to C- with Harvy in the carriage. This is the day of the Quarterly nomination at the church— I met Sister Mary & cousin Bill in town— Mary came home with me this eve instead of Jennette— James back in time for supper. I was down at Cristie's a while to night— left Fannie with sister Mary and papa. This is Mrs. Cristie's Birthday, so she says, she is thirty one years old. Sister Betsy & Dan's Jane there awhile.

November

1 Nov. Sabb. Quite cool. I called at Cristie's this morning— Sister Betsy still there. Sister Mary and James and I at church— left George at home— took Fannie down to Joe C-'s. Had two sermons by Mr. Morton as usual— Mr. M- will be away this week attending a Union Convention at Pittsburg. Sister Jennette came home with us this eve— As we came home stopped for Fannie—She had a hood for her & had it on. This eve I called to see Mrs. Cristie— Dan's Jane there also.

2 Nov. Monday. Quite pleasant— James over at Old ? Adams for a girl. Brought Martha Jane ?Wright home with him— he went back to C- this A.M. Dave Barbers, Robt. & Santie Wilson, Hugh's Jim, Joe C- and George in for dinner— This P.M. I called at Cristie's— they received a son into their family to day— they call him Robert Milton. James returned from C- this P.M. and drove up the pike?— Martha Jane helped out with the washing this A.M. This afternoon she and Jennette cleaning the dining room— This eve I called at Cristie's, took Fannie with me— I called at Joe C's. Mrs. Galbreath came back with me— About eight O'clock, James carried Fannie down for me and left us there for the night— About eleven O'clock, Mrs. Galbreath retired leaving old Col. & ? and me up for the night— Fannie slept all night in the crib.

3 Nov. Tues. Fannie and I returned from Cristie's this morning. This is the day of the Presidential election. Gen. U.S. Grant & Horatio Seymour the candidates— Dr. D.K. Caldwell called & took James with him to London. Dave Barber, Robert and Santie Wilson, Hugh's Jim & George in for dinner. This P.M., the carpenters all down at the election. Silas? came up for the election and took dinner here— This eve I made a short cake at Cristie's. Came back and retired early, leaving Fannie asleep in her wagon— James dressed her for bed near ten— James returned at twelve but I was so sound asleep I knew nothing of what was going on till near morning.

4 Nov. Wed. Dave Barbers, Robert & Santie Wilson, Hugh's Jim, Joe C- and George here for dinner— Jennette & Martha Jane here attending to business. James at C- this A.M. Did not get back till eve— this P.M. Sister Matt rode up on horseback. Eve. I called at Cristie's, met Mrs. Jonathan Smith & Dan's Jane there & staid [sic] and fixed supper for Mrs. Cristie— Left Fannie there asleep in the cradle— James came back from town, bringing Clementine with him— Sam G. here— he and James up at Selma and around, did not get back till midnight— I went back to Cristie's— got to part of the time.

5 Nov. Thurs. Quite pleasant. Fannie and I returned from Cristie's about eight O'clock— Clementine here sitting around. James and Sam G- had gone to Xenia before I got back— This A.M. Clementine went on to Eli Wright's— All the carpenters & men of yesterday here for dinner— This P.M. I called at Cristie's met Mrs. G- there— She had I got Mrs. C-'s supper & Mrs. G came on up home with me— took supper here in Martha Jane's care and Jennette and I walked down to Cristie's with Mrs. G— Cristie gone to day for his mother, he returned with her after nine— when he took Mrs. G down home— James returned from Xenia about ten tonight.

6 Nov. Friday— Mattie Wright called. James across the sail? load looking after stock— came back and went to C-. George and Cristie gone for rock for the foundations of the barn. Clementine Wright here for dinner— Dave Barber, Robert & Santie Wilson, Hugh's Jim, and Joe C- here for dinner also. Clementine done some repairing on a dress for me and about three she went back to Eli Wright's— Jennette and Martha Jane cleaning the hall and putting down the Straw-matting— About four, James returned from C-, was around the rest of the evening— There is to be an illumination in C- to night— James thought some little of going back, but concluded to remain at home with wife & daughter.

7 Nov. Sat. Quite pleasant— Sam G- called this A.M. Dave Barber— Robt. Wilson, Hugh's Jim & Joe C-, George here for dinner— James here for dinner today for the first time for several days— This P.M. everything moving on quietly. This eve, Papa and Fannie and I took sister Jennette down home— George keeping house— Martha Jane down at Cristie's. Left Fannie at Mother Mc's while Matt? and I called at the drug store. Came back and called at Mrs. ? Mclores?. I ? a little from Bro David tonight— he is at Howard Lake, Minnesota at Mack

Matther Murdock's old home— It is on the banks of that lake that Mack was buried. He died at the house of John King's on the 2nd of Dec. 1863 after a few days sickness— he was nearly alone, having no friends save the family with whom he lived.

8 Nov. Sabb. Had a nice shower this morning. James & I went to church in the carriage. Left Fannie at Cristie's. This A.M. had sermon by Mr. Morton. This P.M. by Rev. W.S. Bratton?. Martha Jane rode over to M? Adams to her sisters— returned in time to do up the evening work. Had a long pleasant Sabbath evening— James and I finished in the book of Ezekiel.

9 Nov. Monday. Quite pleasant. Sam G. and bro Silas here, took refreshments, after which they left with James ? for the London Sale. There were sixteen in number— Sister Matt came up on horseback to help me with the work— Dave Barber, Robert and Santie Wilson, Joe C-, Hugh's Jim, George, Riley C- and James here for dinner— This P.M. we were busy baking. Matt went down home this eve— Hugh's Jim took the carriage down for Jane and some of them to come out in the morning. James down at C- tonight.

10 Nov. Tues. Rain on last night, damp and cloudy today. Sister Jane and Matt came up to help preparatory to our barn raising. Matt went back to C- to tell Riley Caldwell go up on the train to London at noon to see about James' cattle. James not satisfied with the location of the foundation for the barn— Carpenters busy the changes. Dave Barber, Robert & Santie Wilson, Hugh's Jim, Joe C-, George ? and James in for dinner. Eve. Riley C- came back on the seven O'clock train— James went down to see him this eve— he is well pleased with the sale of his cattle.

11 Nov. Wed. The great day of the raising of the barn across the pike. Quite cold— real winter like— Sister Jane & Matt— Sister Mary and cousin Bell, Sister Betsy and Joe Caldwell here for dinner— Had two tables sat in the back sitting room and dining room— forty four men here for dinner— taking everything into consideration, the day passed off pleasantly— Bro Silas returned from London to day— here for supper this eve— Jane and Matt went back home this eve.

12 Nov. Thurs. James & Sam G. went down to Xenia on the train— ? Landaker drove the wagon down— Martha Jane washing— I have taken care of Fannie and got the dinner. Dave Barber, Hugh's Jim, Robert and Santie Wilson, Joe C- and George— It has been? warmer than yesterday. James reached home after nine— Had Fannie asleep in her wagon by the fire when he came.

13 Nov. Friday. Quite pleasant. James down at C- for nails this morning. Sister Jane called and dressed Fannie up and took her in her wagon up to bro Dan's to spend the day with Mother Mc & Aunt Mary A? who are visiting there— The carpenters all here for dinner— Dave Barber, the two Wilsons, Hugh's Jim, and Joe C- & George— James went up on the noon train to London. This P.M. The house all in order— supper prepared about four O'clock. Bro Dan brought Mother

Mc and Aunt Mary from down— Sister Jane brought Fannie home— Bro Dan & all here for supper— Dan's Jane was invited but could not come— Had quite a pleasant evening— All was sorry James was not here— About sundown Bro Dan took them on to C-. Martha Jane and I finished the ironing tonight— James came down on the Seven O'clock train— reached home about nine.

14 Nov Sat. Quite pleasant. Carpenters came on to work. After consultation concluded to give up putting on boards on the barn but to use Shingles— After this conclusion, carpenters adjourned for the day. Cristie left with the team for Xenia for Shingles— James & Same G- went to Xenia in the up press?— Fannie & I went as far as father's with them— This P.M. father walked into Cedarville— James & Sam G- did not get back till after dark. After taking supper, came on home reaching here at eight O'clock. George keeping house as Martha Jane went over home this eve—

15 Nov. Sabb. Quite pleasant— Did not get up till late— Old Rock, one of the work horses, was found dead in the stable this morning— Cristie tied him last night after returning from Xenia— happened to let him have two or three feet more halter? than necessary— he got his leg through it and choked to death. James and I at preaching, left Fannie with Mrs. Cristie. Sermon this A.M. by Mr. Morton, this P.M. by Rev. McFarland Agt.? of the American Tract & Book Society. A collection taking up for his cause. This eve Martha Jane returned.

16 Nov. Monday. H. Kyle, Jonathan Smith, Rover Galbreath and Son Samuel here waiting to see James— As he went down to C- for nails— returned in a short time. Martha Jane washing. Carpenters began cooping? this A.M. I took care of Fannie, and got the dinner for Dave Barber, Robert & Santie Wilson, Hugh's Jim, Joe C-, George, Ike Landarkey? and James. This P.M. Jonathan Smith around for Sheep. James and I intended to have gone to C- this P.M. but Sister Jane coming prevented us. James and Ike out till after dark with the sheep— Sister Jane with us tonight. Tom C- and Sam G- here this eve— I finished up a little bootees for Fannie— Cristie at Xenia for Shingles. Bro Dan's butchering a beef today— allowed us an interest in it.

December

31 Dec Thurs. The old year gone. Good night, old year. Good night. 1868.