

Collection #
M0024
F991, F992

MARIE ESTER BRANDT
COLLECTION, 1849–1869, CA. 1900

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Manuscript Materials: 1 half-size document case, 2 reels of microfilm
Visual Materials: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1849–1869

PROVENANCE: Gifts of S.G. Ayres, Burlington, Vermont, 1940, 1941

RESTRICTIONS: **Library patrons must use the microfilm.
Do not photocopy the diaries.**

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: Microfilm: F991, F992
CONTENTdm Collection: 2 photographs of Marie and 15 pages from her diary have been scanned

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1940.0307, 1941.1012

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

During the time her diaries were written (1849–1869), Marie Ester Brandt lived in Jefferson County in or near Hanover, Indiana. Although different dates are given for her birth, the inscription on her headstone in the Hanover Cemetery lists her birth as May 14, 1823 and her death as February 28, 1915. Marie never married and lived with her unmarried sister Cecilia and for many years her unmarried brother Henry. The donor identifies Mary as a Quaker Sabbath School teacher. However, there is no mention of Quakers in the diaries and no indication that anyone mentioned was a Quaker. Mary was very active in her church, but she never gives its name or denomination. According to Mary's mother's obituary, Ceila was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Brandt family was originally from Switzerland; the father Felix was born in Switzerland in 1780 and the mother Celia (Cecelia) in 1795. They immigrated to the United States in 1818 and settled in Madison, Indiana. Felix died in 1829 leaving his wife and seven children, Lucia, Cecelia, Felix, Mary, Josephine, Henry, and Adella (Adelle). There was another child, Charles Abram, who died in 1822. According to the 1830 census there were seven children in the household under fourteen.

It appears that Celia ran a boarding house to support her large family. The 1840 census lists Celia as head of household and in addition to her children in the home there are seven males between 15 and 19, six males between 20 and 29, and one male between 40 and 49. Throughout the diaries there are references to "students rooming here" and gentlemen looking at rooms or paying rent. They had another house since one entry stated "we rented one of the rooms at the other house to two students." There was also a family farm nearby because Mary writes about walking to the farm. At one time the women lived on the farm while Henry seems to have stayed in Hanover.

The census of 1850 lists Cecilia, age 50, as head of household, Cecilia, age 31, Mary E., age 24, and two students, Haddh Brandt and Theapolus Brandt, both 19. By the census of 1860 Mary is listed as head of the household with Henry and Cecelia living there.

Lucy Brandt married Henry Chocker (Crocker) in 1837; Josephine Brandt married Ralph Applewhite in 1847; Felix married Elizabeth (Liz) somewhere around 1844 and lived in Hanover. Cecilia (the mother) died in 1855 and Adelle, who was married in 1856, died in 1858. According to census records Lucy lived in Adams County, Illinois with her husband, Henry Crocker, and several children. Josey and her husband, Ralph Appelwhite, lived in Brownstown in Jackson County, Indiana and had several children.

Daily chores occupied much of their time—scrubbing, cleaning, canning, picking berries, making jelly, cooking, planting vegetables, setting out trees, harvesting crops, and caring for animals. They also cared for family and neighbors who were ill, and attended funerals. Sundays were filled with attending chapel, preaching, and Sabbath school. Mary was a Sabbath school teacher and at one time taught at the Sabbath school attended by the local

black community. She discussed different ministers and activities to raise money for the church. Social activities revolved around visiting with family and friends, taking painting classes, going into Madison, and attending lectures at the college.

Mary describes family events and family illnesses and deaths. The diary entry for Tuesday, 20th of February 1855 states “Mother died Sunday morning [18th] at quarter after three she was struck with death Friday night and suffered on till Sunday her tongue and one arm was paralyzed. She was not able to converse. We telegraphed to Josey Saturday to come if possible and delayed the funeral till this morning – but did not come.”

The diary entry for January 30, 1856 states “Adelle was married between 8 and 9 o'clock to Will Thomas and the relations were mostly in and some half dozen strangers, 35 persons in all counting chick and child, Brother Potts performed the ceremony.” Adelle must have lived close by because there are diary entries about walking to Adelle and Will's. Two years later the entry for January 30, 1858 states “Adelle was taken very sick yesterday evening, they sent in for Cecile near midnight. I went out this forenoon, found Adelle very bad, she had had 3 spasms, she had two more in the afternoon. The Dr. was there from noon till 4 o'clock, he does not think her conscious she suffered extremely with her head.” On January 31 Mary writes, “Liz & I walked out to Adelle's, we found her still worse had had spasms all night and morning with but little intermission, we gave her some [neuropathic] medicines, which relieved her after a time of the spasms, she then had labor pains till about 4 o'clock when she was delivered of a still born male child, she then began to sink the Dr. gave no hopes of her recovery” and then on February 1 she states that “Adelle gradually sank till half past 2 o'clock, when as we have reason to hope, she changed the sorrows of earth for the bliss of heaven.”

On another sad note the entry for Friday April 26, 1861 states “we got two letters from Josey...their babe is dead, died Monday of inflammation of the heart and bowels.” and then expressing her deep religious beliefs she added, “Their three youngest are now safely housed away in the upper Sanctuary to feel pain and affliction no more. If the others are spared may they early give their hearts to the Saviour.” Then on November 23, 1864, writing about Felix's family, she notes “between four & five Bub [Felix's son] came over and said she [Minnie, his sister] was dead.” and on the 24th “Minnie was buried beside Eddie” [Felix's son who died in 1848]. Writing again about Josey's family on October 25, 1865 Mary records that “we had a letter from Ralph, Josey is getting along very well up to the time he wrote. The babe died at 3 o'clock Monday morning after a good deal of suffering.”

She also writes about events in the local area and at the college. On February 6, 1850 she records that there are “so many thieves [sic] about town that people can't keep their wood from going off at night.” On the 24th of April the same year a Pittsburg steamboat caught fire above Vevay and 50 people were lost. She tells about outbreaks of smallpox and cholera in the Madison area. On May 24, 1853 she writes that “President Thomas [president of the College] was sued for whipping a boy yesterday. The trial came off this evening. He was fined \$1.50 and costs.”

Mary was very interested in political events. She notes national events, including the election of Lincoln, and Civil War battles. The family was active in political activities of the time. In 1852 Felix was a delegate to the Whig convention and in October, 1860 he went to Indianapolis to hear Lincoln speak. Her entry for April 15, 1861 notes "Dispatches today are that the President has formally declared the country to be in a state of war and calls for 75,000 troops." From then until the end of the war, while recounting daily activities, she also notes various battles that are taking place. The entry for July 22, 1861 states that "The troops have had a dreadful fight at the Manassas Junction; the Federal troops entirely routed, 2 or 3,000 killed. On both sides at least 5,000 killed. May the Lord comfort the hearts of the wounded and those who are called to mourn the loss of friends, and o may He undertake for our land & nation & bring to naught the councils of the wicked...."

There were entries concerned with the local war situation; on Sept 11, 1862 she reported that "the Rebels were reported marching on to Cincinnati" and on Sept 15 that "Madison is under Martial law and the whole county is under arms.... The river is defended by gunboats from Cincinnati to Louisville...." The entry for June 20, 1863, notes "There was a guerrilla raid in Harrison Co. in this state from Ky. Gov. Morton has called out 20,000 six-months men." and on the 12th of July "guerrillas are reported near Versailles [sic], with Lew Wallace after them." Then on July 13 she writes "The guerrillas were reported coming into Hanover today we hid away our things again. I am thankful they did not come, I hope they may be kept from here, 100 or more Cavalry under command of Capt. Ike Gilbert were down but did not find any rebels." The entry for September 6, 1864 says "Atlanta is taken" and "John Morgan the raider is killed." On April 14, 1865 she writes "Today is quite a Jubilee all over the land rejoicing over the late victories." Then on April 15 she writes "Lincoln was shot—I would have cried all day...the whole land is in mourning."

Throughout the war period there was constant concern about family members going into the army. In order to avoid the draft Ralph (Josey's husband) made up a company of volunteers to join the 67th Indiana Regiment. He even let their 13 year old son go with him to training camp. The 67th Regiment went to the Vicksburg area and on the 21st of September, 1862 the Regiment was captured and the members paroled home. On the 19th of November the regiment was exchanged and ordered back to Vicksburg. Because of health problems Ralph was not able to go with the regiment and was eventually allowed to leave the army. Henry also tried to put together a company of volunteers but was not successful. Henry and Ralph decided on another venture; the entry for the 28th of April, 1863 states that Henry and Ralph "are going in a wholesale business with the Sutter of the 67th Reg. and are going down to Grant's army." On May 4, 1863 "Henry started away immediately after dinner." On May 12 Mary received a letter from Henry in Cairo and then on the 26th of June she heard from a friend's letter that he had Yazoo fever. He came back to Hanover and Mary wrote on the 7th of July that he "was quite low with flux." She and Cecelia nursed him but he continued to deteriorate and died on the 9th of August.

After the war Mary continues with her diaries. On July 8, 1865 Mary writes the "men from around here are now about home, and it seems as if the war is really over." Political events

are still important to her. On October 6, 1868 she notes that the Republicans are to have a mass meeting on Saturday and on October 8 writes “we are on one of the committees and none of us can find out what is to be done.” Then on the 9th she writes “the girls here are to fill the 13 waggons [sic].” They all went to the meeting on Saturday the 10th in Madison, where there were many speakers. Even though women could not vote at this time Mary felt very strongly about politics. On October 12, 1868 she writes “I am conscientious [?] in my political views and will not turn against them for friend or foe.”

She continues to be very active in her church, attending Sunday services, quarterly meetings and conventions. She attends meetings involved with changes in her church and the last entry in her diary is concerned with “colored people” attending the church. “Mr. McKree [?] announced that the tier of seats on the west side of the house from the door to the stove was to be reserved for the colored people so all we that set on this side of the house will have to vacate & go forward or eastward. I think it is an unwise move at this time, as the people are afraid the smallpox will spread through them, & they are opposed to having the colored people mixed up with the whites.” Even though Mary had been a strong supporter of President Lincoln and the Union she here reveals her hesitancy to accept a fully integrated community.

Sources:

Information in the diaries

Early wills and administration of Jefferson County, Indiana: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1945. Indiana State Library: [G] ISLM 977.201 J45D 1945

Federal Census Records: 1850, 1860, 1870, Jackson County, Indiana

Federal Census Records: 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860 Jefferson County, Indiana

Federal Census Records: 1850, 1860 Adams County, Illinois

Indiana State Library: Hanover Cemetery, Hanover Twp., Jefferson County, Indiana, 1941 D.A.R. Cemetery Records

Indiana State Library: Jefferson County, Indiana Marriage Records, 1811–1873

Indiana State Library: Jefferson County, Indiana Obituaries (from the *Western Christian Advocate*) comp. & transcribed by Linda Zapp, 2005–06

Website: <http://myindianahome.net/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Marie (Mary) Ester Brandt began keeping a diary on Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1849. She made daily entries and numbered each page consecutively beginning with page 1 in 1849 to the final entry on page 2331 on February 13, 1869.

Her first entry began with the statement “Cronicle [sic] of events, for future refference [sic].” The diaries relate the daily domestic activities of Mary’s extended family as well as observations about local and national events during this tumultuous period in our country’s history—election of President Lincoln, Civil War battles, etc. Her diaries give the reader a detailed picture of ordinary life at that time.

The collection is comprised of 8 small diaries, 2 photographs of Mary, and 2 reels of microfilm. The diaries are stored in one half size document case. The processors numbered the diaries 1–8 and recorded the date ranges on their wrappers. Transcriptions of some of the diary entries are in the Contents section of this collection guide.

The diaries appear to be home made and are comprised of many different types of paper folded together to form small books. Because of their fragile state the diaries have been microfilmed and researchers must use the microfilm.

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CONTENTS

Diaries on Microfilm

2 photographs of Marie ca. 1900

Diary 1: November 1849

Nov. 29:

Thanksgiving. Chapel at 11 o'clock. She is attending college. The past week was enlivened by a Logan Gathering. There was quilting at Mrs. Twaddle's with a candy pulling and almonds for refreshments. As gentlemen were not invited, the ladies amused themselves by jumping over chairs.

Diary 1: December 1849

Dec. 3:

Am reading Prescott's *History of the Conquest of Peru*.

Dec. 20:

Temperance meetings.

Dec. 25:

Christmas. Candy seems to be very profusely distributed nowadays. Temperance meeting. Turkey supper for the Southerners; they stick together like brothers. Party tonight. Coldest day this winter.

CONTAINER

F991, F992

Photographs:
Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 1

Diary 1: January 1850

Box 1, Folder 1

Jan. 8:

Anniversary of the Independent Society. We are scattered now: 1 in China, 2 in Ohio, 6 in Indiana, 3 in Mississippi, and 2 in eternity.

Jan. 11:

Quilting today.

Jan. 12:

Was kept out in the kitchen till 9 o'clock by a little stick of a beau who was in the family room.

Jan. 16:

Roads are nothing but snow and water.

Diary 1: February 1850

Box 1, Folder 1

Feb. 9:

Translated some Telemachus. Henry says if we will all talk French for the next six months, he will give each of us a nice silk dress.

Feb. 12:

Quilted.

Diary 1: April 1850

Box 1, Folder 1

April 23:

Understand the report of gold in Brown Co. is true.

April 24:

A Pittsburgh steamboat caught on fire above Vevay.

April 30:

Henry started for the gold diggings this morning.

Diary 1: May 1850

Box 1, Folder 1

May 3: Henry came back from Brown Co. The prospect of gold is not very flattering.

May 6:

Henry started for Indianapolis to enter some land in Brown County.

May 9:

A constable was shot in Madison today; the offender is under arrest.

May 16:

The constable died today.

Diary 1: June 1850

Box 1, Folder 1

June 19:

Quite a hard rain; the College Bridge floated off.

June 27:

Temperance Celebration.

Diary 1: July 1850

Box 1, Folder 1

July 4:

Sunday School Convention.

July 7:

Went to love feast. [Dict. Of Americanisms: "a political jubilee, banquet, or occasion of common rejoicing"]

July 26: The foundry burned down last night in Madison.

Diary 1: September 1850

Box 1, Folder 1

Sept. 30:

Turned our carpet; put new straw under it.

Diary 1: January 1851

Box 1, Folder 1

Jan. 3:

The plank road directors are now laying it off, so it is to be hoped they will begin it in the spring.

Jan. 25:

There was a lecture at the Hall on electricity and the working of the telegraph.

Jan. 28:

Busy all day cutting up and balling carpet rags.

Diary 1: March 1851

Box 1, Folder 1

Mar. 3: There was a man in with an organ and monkey.

Diary 1: July 1851

Box 1, Folder 1

July 5:

The senior class went up to have the daguerreotypes taken all on one plate.

July 10:

There is a man in town taking daguerreotypes; his name is Kirkendall.

July 14:

The College was afire at the front steps, the work of an incendiary. A man who had been taken up for selling liquor at the river is supposed to have made threats against this place.

Diary 1: November 1851

Box 1, Folder 1

Nov. 15:

The President has gone east to get contributions for the new college.

Diary 1: December 1851

Box 1, Folder 1

Dec.:

Is working on a drawing.

Dec. 18:

Quilted a comfort.

Diary 1: January 1852

Box 1, Folder 1

Jan. 2:

Henry got back from the Ball at 10 o'clock this morning. The dancing lasted until 8 o'clock.

Diary 1: March 1852

Box 1, Folder 1

Mar. 11:

Yesterday the President ordered the chapel to be locked so that the Anniversary of the Bible Society could not be held in it. His given reason for so doing was that they had no right to appoint a meeting in college hours without his consent. He felt his dignity insulted but did not consider the insult he was casting on the Bible cause.

Mar. 25:

Mr. Jarvis, daguerreotypist of Madison, came down with a skylight room to serve the good people. He has it set up on some road plank in our garden.

Diary 1: May 1852

Box 1, Folder 1

May 1:

Old Dr. Gale is dead.

Diary 1: July 1852

Box 1, Folder 1

July 1:

Henry Clay is dead. The stores were all closed & the bells tolled.

Diary 1: October 1852

Box 1, Folder 1

Oct. 6:

Sarah Tyree was married last night. The man she married was so drunk he needed steadying to stand on the floor. After the ceremony, he sat down and sung "I am not ashamed to own my Lord".

Diary 2: May 1853

Box 1, Folder 1

May 24:

Some of the students have formed a company for military exercise. President Thomas was sued for whipping a boy; he was fined \$1.50 and cost.

Diary 2: June 1853

Box 1, Folder 1

June 4:

The Hanover Guards, a company formed by the students, were out this evening. Part of them had uniforms; they have parade ground in the woods.

June 28:

Mother gave Josey and me stone rings. I have never worn one before; take no pleasure in sporting jewelry.

Diary 2: July 1853

Box 1, Folder 1

July 4:

Mr. Taylor opened the exercises with prayer, after which the Declaration of Independence was read by Squire Applewhite. Then speeches. We sang appropriate hymns.

July 9:

Henry bought us a piano.

Diary 2: November 1853

Box 1, Folder 1

Nov. 5:

Three houses burned in Madison last night.

Diary 2: February 1854

Box 1, Folder 1

Feb. 22:

Old Citizens Supper.

Feb. 24:

Cassius M. Clay is speaking in Madison.

Diary 2: April 1854

Box 1, Folder 1

April 3:

There was a comet tonight.

April 4:

Planted potatoes.

April 7:

Churned. Planted peach seeds.

April 13:

Mr. Persac's farm was bought by a Madison drayman for 2400.

April 15:

We painted some eggs for Christmas.

April 20:

Temperance speech in Hanover by Mr. Hawkins of Baltimore.

Diary 2: May 1854

Box 1, Folder 1

May 26:

Eclipse.

Diary 2: June 1854

Box 1, Folder 1

June 10:

The Know-Nothings are making quite an excitement in Madison.

Diary 2: October 1854

Box 1, Folder 1

Oct. 31:

Hoffman's dog carried off our candle molds with all the candles we had in them.

Diary 2: November 1854

Box 1, Folder 1

Nov. 1:

We found our candle molds in the orchard not much hurt.

Diary 2: February 1855

Box 1, Folder 1

Feb. 20:

Mother died Sunday morning.

Diary 2: March 1855

Box 1, Folder 1

Mar. 19:

We caught five gallons of sugar water from two trees.
We boiled it down and made a pint of molasses.

Diary 2: May 1855

Box 1, Folder 1

May 3:

We had some strange travelers through town this evening. First was a woman drawing a little two-wheeled wagon with a cover over hoops. Right behind her was a man with a larger four-wheeled wagon not as large as a wheelbarrow piled with their bedding, with a child asleep on top. I suppose they were gypsies.

May 13:

Love feast. The air is scented with locust blossoms.

May 20:

Prayer meeting.

May 22:

Mr. McGee is teaching singing to the ladies.

Diary 2: July 1855

Box 1, Folder 1

July 9:

Commenced piecing a quilt.

Diary 2: August 1855

Box 1, Folder 1

Aug. 15:

A Brahmin, Rajah of Hindustan, lectured at the Chapel tonight. He is amusing and instructive. We had specimens of Hindoc [Hindu] music.

Aug. 23:

We put straw under our dining room carpet.

Aug. 27:

Finished piecing our quilt.

Diary 3: February 1856

Box 1, Folder 2

Feb. 6, 1856

Diary 3: March 1856

Box 1, Folder 2

Mar. 11:

Henry started for Cincinnati for goods.

Diary 3: April 1856

Box 1, Folder 2

April 20:

Love feast.

Diary 3: August 1856

Box 1, Folder 2

Aug. 5:

Society of Religious Inquiry.

Aug. 14:

Mr. Irwin is not expected to live; Henry has gone to sit up there.

Diary 3: September 1856

Box 1, Folder 2

Sept. 3:

Henry went to Madison to a torchlight procession.

Diary 3: October 1856

Box 1, Folder 2

Oct. 3:

There was a large Buchanan gathering in.

Diary 3: November 1856

Box 1, Folder 2

Nov. 1:

The woods are on fire between here and the river.

Nov. 2:

The fire is several miles off.

Nov. 4:

The presidential election came off today; there were several fights.

Diary 3: January 1857

Box 1, Folder 2

Jan. 16:

Henry commenced lessons in phonography.

[According to Webster's International Dictionary, 2nd ed., "the art of writing according to sound."]

Diary 3: February 1857

Box 1, Folder 2

Feb. 10:

We washed and the clothes would freeze almost as quick as we got them on the line.

Feb. 13:

The students hid the clapper of the bell so that it couldn't be rung.

Feb. 23:

They had speaking at the Chapel the evening to the honor of George Washington

Feb. 28:

Went to the Township Library for the first time.

Diary 3: April 1857

Box 1, Folder 2

Apr. 8:

We all went to Exhibition. We had nine long-winded speakers. One of the Trustees read a resolution passed by the Board sustaining (?) the action of the President the night before. Also a by-law maintaining the authority of the College over the Societies. The decorations were plain. They had a brass band from Louisville.

Diary 3: May 1857

Box 1, Folder 2

May 5:

Making soap and candles.

May 24:

Love feast.

Diary 3: August 1857

Box 1, Folder 2

Aug. 18:

Pulling weeds in the garden most of the day.

Diary 3: September 1857

Box 1, Folder 2

Sept. 10:

We went to see the thrashing machine work. It can turn out over 300 bushels a day.

Diary 3: October 1857

Box 1, Folder 2

Oct. 24:

A Baptist preacher by the name of Ward preached.

Diary 3: December 1857

Box 1, Folder 2

Dec. 25:

The Board of Trustees have elected Dr. Wines of Pa. to the presidency of the College.

Diary 3: March 1858

Box 1, Folder 2

March 16:

Mr. Gillet preached at Chapel. They have a revival going on there in the two Presbyterian churches.

March 20:

Quarterly meeting.

March 23:

Dr. Snowden lectured; he is quite amusing.

Diary 3: April 1858

Box 1, Folder 2

April 21:

Female prayer meeting.

Diary 3: May 1858

Box 1, Folder 2

May 23:

Love feast.

May 25:

The Clifty bridge was washed away.

Diary 3: July 1858

Box 1, Folder 2

July 14:

A large cooper shop burned last night at Madison.

Diary 3: August 1858

Box 1, Folder 2

Aug. 4:

Went to the grounds back of the College to attend the exercises. We had a speech from the Honorable Lucin Bingham of Vernon, then an address with the presentation of Society Diplomas by Alex Latimore and S.C. Logan. Then an offhand address by Dr. Edwards preparatory to taking up Collection to relieve the College debt, after which the assembly repaired to the tables and partook of a plentiful repast. After dinner there were several offhand speeches and an address to the Alumni by Rev. Samuel E. Barr of Livonia.

Diary 3: November 1858

Box 1, Folder 2

Nov. 6:

Mentions Mr. Gentry the Radical Preacher.

Diary 3: January 1859

Box 1, Folder 2

Jan. 15:

Molding candles.

Diary 4: March 1859

Box 1, Folder 2

Mar. 20:

An[m] reading the life of William Carvasso.

Mar. 21:

Public meeting at Chapel.

Mar. 28:

Will and a Madison stonecutter were here for dinner; they had been to the graveyard setting up stones.

Diary 4: April 10

Box 1, Folder 2

April 10:

Mr. Creswell is the new superintendent of Sabbath school.

April 12:

Another man was shot in Madison yesterday.

Diary 4: July 1859

Box 1, Folder 2

July 1:

Lecture on phrenology.

July 30:

Meeting of the Society of Religious Inquiry.

Diary 4: August 1859

Box 1, Folder 2

Aug. 3:

Commencement exercises.

Aug. 7:

Missionary meeting.

Diary 4: September 1859

Box 1, Folder 2

Sept. 20:

County fair.

Diary 4: January 1860

Box 1, Folder 2

Jan. 9:

Henry is a candidate to the Democratic Convention at Indianapolis.

Jan. 17:

Dr. Crowe died.

Diary 4: February 1860

Box 1, Folder 2

Feb. 7:

Persimmon hunt.

Diary 4: March 1860

Box 1, Folder 2

March 4:

Quarterly Missionary Collection taken.

Diary 4: April 1860

Box 1, Folder 2

April 9:

Mentions Dr. Irwin.

April 13:

Railroad excursion in Madison in honor of the opening of the Railroad to Rushville.

Diary 4: June 1860

Box 1, Folder 2

June 24:

Am reading Autobiography of Peter Cartwright.

Diary 4: July 1860

Box 1, Folder 2

July 13:

Eclipse of the sun.

Diary 4: November 1860

Box 1, Folder 2

Nov. 13:

The students were at mischief again. They carried Dr. Woods' desk down the hill.

Diary 4: December 1860

Box 1, Folder 2

Dec. 5:
Secession excitement.

Dec. 14:
Two tinkers were mending tin for us this afternoon.

Dec. 21:
Commenced using a coal oil lamp.

Diary 4: February 1861

Box 1, Folder 2

Feb. 11:
Lincoln is to be at Indianapolis this evening on his way to Washington City. The cars will take people out at half fare tomorrow. It is reported that the South Carolinians have attacked Fort Sumter.

Diary 4: April 1861

Box 1, Folder 2

April 14:
The Southern Army has taken Fort Sumter.

April 21:
Henry Ward Beecher preached in Madison yesterday.

April 25:
The war news is that Fort Pickens is taken with dreadful loss of life and that the Secession Army is moving on to Washington. It is also reported that Louisville is to be taken by a mob tonight. May the Lord defend the right and have mercy on the wrong.

Diary 4: May 1861

Box 1, Folder 2

May 29:
Mr. Rankin's store and Mr. Smith's blacksmith shop were broken open last night.

Diary 4: June 1861

Box 1, Folder 2

June 6:
Strawberry party.

June 19:
Mr. Fletcher, Superintendent of Public Instruction, was the Anniversary Speaker for the Societies. An Extra says the Union forces gained a victory over a body of secessionists in Mo. 300 killed and 600 taken prisoner.

Diary 4: July 1861

Box 1, Folder 2

July 6:
A company of troops went through here this afternoon en route to Camp Noble at the North Madison Fair Ground. Two regiments are to rendezvous there until called to active service.

July 19:
Mr. Wharton, an old Madison settler, committed suicide today.

Diary 5: Aug. 24

Box 1, Folder 3

Five Cavalry companies left for Washington.

Diary 5: September 1861

Box 1, Folder 3

Sept. 3:
May the Lord sustain our government.

Sept. 25:
The Secessionists are reported to be coming on to Madison. They have taken several towns in Kentucky.

Sept. 26:
Fast Day appointed by the government.

Diary 5: October 1861

Box 1, Folder 3

Oct. 17:
Gen. Mansfield spoke here today.

Diary 5: December 1861

Box 1, Folder 3

Dec. 17:

It is the report today that England is going to make war on the United States.

Dec. 25:

Fox hunt today.

Diary 5: January 1862

Box 1, Folder 3

Jan. 5:

Dr. Mercer committed suicide.

Diary 5: February 1862

Box 1, Folder 3

Feb. 9:

Quarterly meeting at Shiloh.

Diary 5: March 1862

Box 1, Folder 3

March 18:

Col. Hendrix was buried with military honors in Madison today; he was killed at the battle of Pea Ridge.

Diary 5: July 1862

Box 1, Folder 3

July 27:

Quarterly meeting at Pisgah.

Diary 5: September 1862

Box 1, Folder 3

Sept. 15:

Madison is under martial law. The river is defended by gunboats from Cincinnati to Louisville.

Diary 5: March 1863

Box 1, Folder 3

March 10:

Some gunboats passed today.

Diary 5: November 1863

Box 1, Folder 3

Nov. 28:

Our army is reported victorious at Lookout Mountain.

Diary 6: June 1864

Box 1, Folder 3

June 10:

The Rebels are reported 25 miles from Madison.

June 15:

Our Cavalry came home today.

Diary 6: July 1864

Box 1, Folder 3

July 25:

The Rebels are reported at Vevay.

Diary 6: August 1864

Box 1, Folder 3

Aug. 30:

We went to Prof. Thompson's to look through the telescope.

Diary 6: September 1864

Box 1, Folder 3

Sept. 6:

Picked cotton

Sept. 19:

There is considerable excitement around town today.

Diary 6: October 1864

Box 1, Folder 3

Oct. 8:

There was a picnic for the soldiers at the North Madison Fair Ground today. The soldiers are being furloughed home to vote.

Oct. 31:

We look for a speedy permanent peace if Lincoln is re-elected, but disaster and defeat if the Copperheads are to rule.

Diary 6: April 1865

Box 1, Folder 3

April 10:

Lee and his army surrendered.

April 14:

Jubilee. I went to the Point to see the illumination and fire works.

April 15:

Lincoln was shot. The stores were all closed in Madison and draped in mourning. Seward, Secretary of State, was also attacked by an assassin. It was a plot of the Rebels to get the heads of government out of the way.

Diary 7: July 1866

Box 1, Folder 4

July 4:

Most of the people from here went to Kent, to the celebration. The speakers were Dr. Scott, Mr. Adkinson and Mr. Monrow. Brother Park read the Declaration of Independence. Fireworks at Madison.

Diary 7: November 1866

Box 1, Folder 4

Nov. 18:

Quarterly meeting at Pisgah.

Diary 8: April 1867

Box 1, Folder 4

April 11:

Mentions Dr. Green, a homeopathic physician.

Diary 8: July 1867

Box 1, Folder 4

July 2:

Mr. McKnight the president elect of Hanover College came to town this evening. He has very much the same appearance he had when here as a student.

Diary 8: September 1867

Box 1, Folder 4

Sept. 4:

College commenced today with about 40 students.

Sept. 9:

Corn will fall quite short on account of the drought.

Diary 8: October 1867

Box 1, Folder 4

Oct. 1:

There were more fires at Madison again last night. There was a man around buying old iron who said they had caught one man who was supposed to be engaged in these fires.

Oct. 23:

There is talk again of the rail road coming through here.

Diary 8: November 1867

Box 1, Folder 4

Nov. 16

There is a concert at our church tonight. The performers are from Lexington. I believe it is a pay concert. It is the first thing of the kind ever held in our church. We are not favorable to having the church used for everything.

Nov. 22:

Mr. Grigg the school teacher gave up the school today; he is going to Washington city to take a Clerkship; the girls threw in money and made him a present of a set of gold sleeve buttons. They all cried when he bade them goodbye, except Lizzie; she says she did not cry. I think after being so unruly in school, begging his pardon would not have been amiss. They have angered him so at times that he has cried under the provocation. I never saw or heard of such behavior as was carried on there by the larger set of girls.

Nov. 24:

Brother Atkinson proceeded to organize Sabbath School Missionary Society as announced before.

Diary 8: December 1867

Box 1, Folder 4

Dec. 1:

We were at Sunday School. They have the benches arranged differently in the church; they have two isles, and a middle. There will be two seats less than there were before. They requested the teachers to remain after School. They want to have a festival to defray the expenses of repairing Church, getting stone etc., about \$100. We are opposed to that way of raising money and told them we would not take part in it. They appointed a meeting to talk it over tomorrow night.

Dec. 3:

They decided last night to have a party Christmas Eve in the schoolhouse if they could get it.

Dec. 26:

I carried out 250 gallons of water from the cellar; it came in from the rain last evening. I did not get it near all out.

Diary 8: January 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

Jan. 12:

We were at Sunday School. Brother Ray acted as Superintendent but was late coming. Things are getting at loose ends again by the absence of the Superintendent and the late coming of some of the teachers.

Jan. 25:

The Catholics have offered to purchase Hanover College. It is getting to such a low ebb I suppose they think it will soon be put up for sale.

Diary 8: February 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

Feb. 4:

The Sunday School Convention was at Madison today. A number of persons went up from here.

Feb. 8:

There was an affray in the Lit Hall last night between Blackwell and Jersey[?] Long. They came to hard blows, one with a cane and the other with a pistol. It was tried before Squire Miller; each was fined \$5 and part of the cost.

Feb. 25:

The latest news from Congress is that both Houses of Congress have passed a resolution to impeach the President. There has been great excitement in Washington City for several days.

Diary 8: March 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

March 8

We were at speaking meeting at 9 o'clock, preaching half past ten, Sunday School at two, with a little missionary talk to the children afterward by Brother Atkinson. At preaching at night the house was crowded.

March 19:

This morning I planted a few hills of potatoes. We were at social meeting and at preaching. There was a large congregation.

Diary 8: April 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

April 7:

The spring election came off today.

April 8:

Cecile sent a letter to Brown Co. with the money for the taxes on the land there.

April 11:

There is a prospect of a new president for the college.

April 28:

Cecile sent a letter yesterday and one today to the Book concern ordering some papers for our school. She was at the old French folks twice today. I planted some butter beans, cucumbers and garden hyssop. We are running down lye to make soap.

Diary 8: May 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

May 26:

I have not felt very well yesterday and today. I suppose I have been working too much for my strength.

May 30:

The Democrats had a convention at Lexington ; a good many conventioners from Madison went through here with flags and music.

Diary 8: June 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

June 4:

I worked in the garden part of the morning; set out 25 cabbage plants this evening. Cecile helped Elizabeth part of the forenoon; she was at Mrs. Thompson this afternoon, and to see the old French man; he is some better. Mrs. Thompson gave her some Verbena plants, oxalis and featherfew [?]. We were at prayer meeting tonight.

June 29:

Josey left for Madison this afternoon. She hired a horse and Mrs. Miller furnished a conveyance and drove and Cecile went along. They got back late this evening.

Diary 8: July 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

July 14:

We had a letter from Josey. She gave us an account of another attempt to rob the express train Thursday night. It happened right near their house.... The robbers were eight men from Seymour. There is quite a gang of robbers there. It has been but a short time they succeeded in robbing the Express of 93,000.

July 23:

We had a letter from Josey. Those men who were taken robbing the Express Car were taken out of the cars near Seymour and hung by a gang of men. One of them gave the names of 20 men who belonged to the gang

July 24:

Cecile went out to Prof. Thompson's to see if he intended to take girls in his department in College. He thinks they will likely admit ladies into the College class.

Diary 8: August 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

Aug. 9:

We were at Sunday School and at preaching at three and at prayer meeting at night. Cecile went over to Colored School. Some of the Kent and Shiloh folks were at preaching.

Aug. 30:

We were at School and at class. Mr. Brown was not there again. If he has any honor about him he had better show it by being on hand or give up the Superintendency of the School.

Aug. 31:

The Democrats had public speaking at the town hall this afternoon and the Republicans tonight. Capt. W. G. Monrow and Major Litson spoke tonight. I was over tonight—the ladies were pretty well represented.

Diary 8: September 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

Sept. 2:

Dr. Archibald inauguration as president of the College took place at the Chapel this forenoon. Prof.

Nammullion[?] spoke afterward. The College opened today with 30 students.

Sept. 14:

Brother Morrison[?] of Roberts Chapel, Madison is to be our preacher. We had so fully expected Brother Adkinson that it is a great disappointment and yet hope and trust it may all work out right.

Sept. 27:

Cecile went to the Chapel in the forenoon. We were at Sunday School and class in the afternoon and at prayer meeting at night. She has taken my class in the Colored School.

Diary 8: October 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

Oct. 6:

The Democrats had a grand mass meeting at Madison.... The Republicans are to have a mass meeting Saturday.

Oct. 13:

The election passed off here without any particular disturbances. Both sides were busy at work all day and every voter that could be brought was there. They say the Republicans gained considerable over the Democrats.

Oct. 14:

The news is that the State has gone Democratic. The county went Republican. Russo [?] Gale is elected auditor. Ohio and Pennsylvania went Republican.

Diary 8: November 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

Nov. 4:

Cecile went out to Mrs. Harbison and was there most of the day. She called on some colored families out that way to see if they were supplied with the scriptures. She is one of the local agents; she sold one Bible. I finished digging our potatoes. They are a very poor yield. The news is that the election of Grant is considered certain. They think this state has given him 10000 majority. I was at prayer meeting this evening.

Nov. 26:

We attended Thanksgiving services at the Chapel this forenoon Dr. Archibald preached a very good sermon.

Diary 8: December 1868

Box 1, Folder 4

Dec. 5:

Two steamboats were burned near Warsaw, Ky. [?] last night. It is reported that 70 lives were lost.

Dec.28:

Mrs. Evans and I went out to see Elizabeth Ashley. She is sick at Mr. Arnetts. They don't feel like they can keep her through her sickness and talk of sending her to the County Asylum tomorrow; they think she will be very much opposed to it.

Diary 8: January 1869

Box 1, Folder 4

Jan. 2:

Rain or misting all the fore part of the day. We caught fresh water & washed. There was a shower of rain on the clothes so they did not get dry.

Diary 8: February 1869

Box 1, Folder 4

Feb. 7:

We were at [Sunday] School, at preaching and at prayer meeting at night. We had a pretty full school. Brother Harrison had his wife with him; he gave us a good sermon.

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