

2016

Dying to live forever Sophia Harris journal 1860 to 1861

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DYING TO LIVE FOREVER SOPHIA HARRIS JOURNAL 1860 TO 1861

An Abstract of a Thesis
Submitted
in Partial Fulfillment
Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

Shirley Ilene Davis
University of Northern Iowa
May 2016

ABSTRACT

Sophia Harris's journal is a window into one woman's experiences in an area that transformed from a frontier outpost to a market-oriented and increasingly urbanized society. It also sheds light on how she made sense of the meaning of these changes in her personal life: specifically how her religious understandings of death shaped her understanding of the world she lived in.

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A Thesis

Submitted

in Partial Fulfillment

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Master of Arts

Shirley Ilene Davis

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May 2016

This Study by: Shirley Ilene Davis

Entitled: DYING TO LIVE FOREVER SOPHIA HARRIS JOURNAL 1860 to 1861

has been approved as meeting the thesis requirement for the

Degree of Masters of Arts

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Dr. Brian Roberts, Thesis Committee Member

Date

Dr. Kavita R. Dhanwada, Interim Dean, Graduate College

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this thesis to my family, especially my husband Tim, without whose support, I could not have completed this program. Also to my children Isaac and Isabel who were the inspiration for my determination to complete what I began. To my sister Shelley who was always there making sure I kept fighting to get well and my mom who listened to my stories about the journals for endless amounts of time.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank my friend and good neighbor Eleana Joram for trusting me with her wonderful journals. I can only hope I did them justice. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my advisor Professor Barbara Cutter for her continuous support, patience, and her guidance helping me with researching and writing of this thesis. I also would like to thank both Professor Brian Roberts, who inspired me to keep asking questions, and Professor Emily Machen for her assistance and support.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Sophia Williams was born September 15, 1804, in Portland, Chautauqua County, New York. She was the seventh of thirteen children born to Richard S. Williams and Sophia Morton. Her father, Richard, born July 6, 1773, came from East Hartford, Connecticut. When young, he settled in Sangerfield Township, Oneida County, New York, where Richard met and married Sophia Morton on November 1, 1794. Sophia Morton was from a prominent family: her brother the Rev. Salmon Morton was one of thirteen founding members of what today is known as Colgate University.

The Williams family resided in Madison County, New York a number of years. In June or July of 1807, when Sophia was almost three, they sold their farm, and they moved with their six children, along with Richard's sister and brother-in-law and their six children, to what is now Fredonia at the western edge of New York state.

The family first settled on the Canadaway Creek located two and half miles below Fredonia Village. Three years later the family moved into Fredonia Village where a road was cleared through and a new mill existed. Richard built a log tavern, which existed on the site where the Pemberton House was later built. He later traded his inn for an inn in Portland, New York. The size of the log structure was twelve feet by sixteen feet, and sheltered fifteen to twenty persons during construction of the mill. Mrs. Williams declared that she could accommodate as many in her house as there were boards in the floor. While living in Portland, Richard kept a tavern, and was subcontractor for carrying the mail, from Buffalo to Erie, New York. Mr. Williams was not a believer in religion,

but Mrs. Williams was a founding member of the Fredonia Baptist church.¹ The pioneers cleared the land and made their home much more comfortable, only to be slowed down when the War of 1812 began. Richard served in the War of 1812 as a private under Captain Cyrus Trowbridge Company in the Regiment of Colonel Zeboam Carter of the 101.²

Sophia William's siblings included Abner, Elijah, Richard, Esther, Eliza, Adaline, Oliver Hazard Perry, Nancy, Mary, and Hannah. Her eldest brother, Abner Williams, died aboard the Flagship Lawrence during the battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813, when a cannonball ripped through the ship and, as Sophia noted, "His lifeless body was

¹ Obed Edson, *History Of Chautauqua County. History Of Chautauqua Anterior To Its Pioneer Settlement*. (Buffalo, NY: Matthews & Warren, 1875) 66 & 114.; Horace Clifton Taylor, *Historical Sketches Of The Town Of Portland, Comprising Also The Pioneer History Of Chautauqua County, With Biographical Sketches Of The Early Settlers*. (Fredonia, NY: W. McKinstry & Son, 1873) 96, 188, 351; Douglas H. Shepard, "The Pemberton Inn." Accessed May 2, 2015. chautauqcounty.com/historic_structures/Pomfret/189WestMainStreet,app.chautauquacounty.com/histstruct/Pomfret; Andrew W. Young, *History Of Chautauqua County, New York From Its Settlement To The Present Time; With Numerous Biographical And Family Sketches* (Buffalo, NY: Matthews & Warren, 1875) 66, 114–117, 122, 472.; Richard Williams and Hezekiah Barker put up a grist mill at 85 West Main Street in 1808 when the main road was constructed through the village, now the modern main street.

² "War of 1812 Pension Application Files Index, 1812–1815", Accessed June 15, 2015. Ancestry.com. *War of 1812 pension Application Files Index, 1812-1815* [database on-line] Provo, UT, USA: 2013, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010, Original data War of 1812 Pension Applications.: National Archives. NARA Microfilm Publication M313, 102 rolls; Records of the Department Of Veterans Affairs Record Group Number 15. Roll number 99, Archive Publication Number M313; Ancestry.com, *New York, War of 1812 Payroll Abstracts for New York State Militia, 1812-1815* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: 2013, Original New York State. Adjutant General's Office. War Of 1812 abstracts of payrolls for New York States militia. 1812 – 1814, Series B0810. New York State Archives, Albany, New York.

thrown into Lake Erie.”³ Abner Williams’s death forever altered Richard, his father; as Sophia noted, “his ambition, his spirit, his life, was crushed.”⁴ Ten years later Richard died unexpectedly on September 20, 1822, at the age of forty-nine.

A period of hardship began for Richard’s widow, Sophia Morton, when individuals who claimed to be her late husband’s friends “took advantage of his widow wife and orphan children of all they had.”⁵ Sophia’s mother remarried two times, first to Daniel Baldwin on December 3, 1823, and then, less than two years later, to Ithamar Crouch on September 11, 1824. Sophia Morton died at the age of seventy-seven and was buried alongside her first husband in the Pioneer Cemetery in Fredonia, New York.

Sophia Williams married William Chapin Harris prior to 1820; the date has not been verified. William Harris was a very prosperous farmer during his lifetime; in 1860 his personal wealth was \$16,000. He owned a farm near Hamburg, New York, and had dairy cattle and an extensive market garden and dairy cattle, and he raised sheep, sold wool, cheese, honey, fruit and grain crops. He employed several individuals to manage the farm.

³ Abner Williams private, killed on board the Lawrence, on Lake Erie, in action, Sept. 10, 1813. James N. Arnold, *A Vital Record of Rhode Island. A Family Register for the People*, Vol. VIII. Providence, RI: Narragansett Historical Publishing Company, 1898, 430. Accessed June 16, 2016. book.google.com Lawrence served as the flagship for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry. During the Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813, the ship was disabled by British fire. “Battle of Lake Erie.” Accessed June 16, 2016. www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/events/4279/battle_of_lake_erie/473343

⁴ Sophia Harris, August 3, 1860.

⁵ Sophia Harris, August 2, 1860.

William and Sophia had three sons Richard Chapin, William Hamilton, Cyrenius Chapin) and four daughters, (Sarah Sylvina, Mary Jane, Anna, and Hannah). Sophia died on August 22, 1880, at seventy-six years of age. Her husband William died five years later on September 10, 1885, at the age of eighty-eight. Both are buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, New York. They lived the majority of their lives in Hamburg, New York.

Sophia Williams kept at least two diaries during her lifetime: one from November 1, 1854, to August 24, 1860, and the other from July 11, 1860, to April 15, 1861. The focus of this thesis is the 1860–1861 diary. When she wrote this diary she was in her mid-fifties. Her diary is a window into one woman’s experiences in an area that transformed from a frontier outpost to a market-oriented and increasingly urbanized society. It also sheds light on how she made sense of the meaning of these changes in her personal life: specifically how her religious understandings of death shaped her understanding of the world in which she lived.

One of Sophia Williams’s earliest memories was her arrival at Canadaway Creek. She wrote, “My Mother told me I was going home but when we got there it was a strange one to me. One solitary wilderness not a tree cut not a cabin to shelter us from the storms.”⁶ The area Sophia was referring to was a large swath of wilderness in western New York, known today as Fredonia.

⁶ Harris, August 02, 1860.

Western Expansion of New York

In the early 19th nineteenth century, European settlement began after The Holland Land Company voided Indian claims to the land, acquired the title to eight western-most counties of western New York, surveyed their holdings, established towns, and began selling lots. At this time all of western New York was part of Ontario County. In 1802, Genesee County was created out of Ontario County. In 1808, Niagara County was created out of Genesee County. In 1820 Erie County did not exist. It was created after Joseph Ellicott and The Holland Land Company began to expand their holdings in western New York.⁷ The United States Federal Census for 1810 shows population numbers for Niagara County as 8,971, Oneida County as 33,792, and Genesee County as 12,588.⁸ In 1821, Erie County was created out of Niagara County, encompassing all of the land between Towanda Creek and Cattaraugus Creek. Buffalo became the county seat. The United States Census for 1820 reveals large shifts in the population. Oneida County lost almost 3,000 people while Niagara County increased by more than 13,000.⁹ The 1810 and 1820 migration of population reflects the opening of new territories of the western frontier of New York.

When the Williams family arrived at Canadaway Creek in June or July 1807, it was complete wilderness. Many early settlers of western New York arrived in groups,

⁷ “Census District of New York February 1811.” Accessed July 13, 2015. Census.govwebsite, <http://www.census.govdecennial.html>

⁸ “Census District of New York February 1811.” Accessed July 13, 2015, govwebsite, <http://www.census.govdecennial.html>

⁹ “US Census Information on Western New York.” Accessed July 13, 2015, was provided by Charlotte Gavin Librarian, U.S. Census Bureau, govwebsite, <http://library@Census.gov>

often driving wagons pulled by pack animals. Wagons were filled with provisions needed to survive until clearing the land and establishing a home.

Early dwellings were log cabins built with stone fireplaces, but many people lived in their wagons until the land and homes were established. As the improvements on the land developed, this became a catalyst for others to settle and establish their own farms. A very important piece of this growth was the establishment of inns. These inns often became a gathering place for settlers to exchange goods, conduct business, and visit with friends and neighbors, to gather information about distant relatives and news from the mail.

The land in western New York was very dense and heavily forested. Clearing the land for farming began by removing the undergrowth. The bushes and small saplings were cut down close to the ground and piled up. Trees were then cut down and cut into a variety of lengths. After the brush and small limbs dried out, they were burned. The entire field was then burned over to ensure a good crop. Building a dwelling required logs cut into various lengths and the help of fellow pioneers. Groups of pioneers would take turns helping each other in the process, using handspikes to shape large, heavy poles six feet in length. The poles would need to be flattened at the larger end in order to be used as materials in the construction of the pioneers' log homes. Often many pioneers lived in their wagons until the process was completed. Sophia described:

We lived in our wagons till they could cut the logs and lay them up for a house and our first house was covered with hemlock boughs and in the fall they were taken off and cook bark was put on in their place but we slept in our wagon well, the summer passed on and a few inhabitants began to talk of having a mill to

grind their corn. There was about a dozen families that had come that spring part of them with father established a log tavern in Fredonia.¹⁰

Richard Williams and Hezekiah Barker built a gristmill, which took nearly three months to construct and was located about two and half miles from the Williams's place. Sophia's mother carried dinner to the men every day on horseback until November 11, when the mill was almost completed except for the mill bolt. The bolt was brought from Albany with great difficulty by Sophia's parents. Her mother rode one horse and Richard rode another with his harness and sleigh. Five weeks later they returned with the bolt. The gristmill operated for five days when a heavy snow carried the entire mill away.¹¹ They hand pounded their wheat and corn until the spring when a new dam and mill were constructed.

Sophia described the problems of early settlers. Farming was filled with financial risk, which could change with weather, wild animals, unexpected illness, or death. Farmers relied on living off the land, fish, and wild game until they could raise their own vegetables or animals to supply their family throughout the year.

A farmer after the first year could provide for his family but the possibility of selling surplus crops for cash was very slim. New York in the early 1800s was covered in forests, mountains, inland lakes, and waterfalls, making transportation from east to west labor intensive and costly. Jesse Hawley, a miller from Geneva, New York, understood this problem firsthand when he tried to make a profit shipping his flour from Geneva to Myderse's mills using the old Mohawk canal. Due to the enormous costs of using this

¹⁰ Harris, August 02, 1860.

¹¹ Harris, August 02, 1860.

trail, he was forced into bankruptcy and sentenced to debtor's prison for twenty months. While in prison he began to advocate for a series of canals to link the Hudson River to Lake Erie by writing a series of essays to the *Genesee Messenger*. This newspaper published fourteen essays under the pseudonym of Hercules in 1807 to 1808. The essays caught the attention of the mayor of New York City, Dewitt Clinton, who understood the advantages for New York and supported the idea. Joseph Ellicott had surveyed the area in 1800 and was hired by The Holland Land Company in 1801 as a land agent. Ellicott understood the canal would greatly increase available land values and profits.¹²

For farmers like Sophia's father, Richard, shipping cost overland for surplus crops was financially prohibitive, and very few goods were sold for cash. Business was done on credit or a barter system between individuals and merchants. Notes were payable in grain, lumber, cattle and other commodities, usually for cash price. Individuals relied on local markets for the first few years. Other farmers simply gave up, sold out, and moved on. This was the case in Fredonia; a few early settlers tried to establish roots in 1802, but within a year, many left for an established settlement known as the Cross Roads.¹³

Sophia's father, Richard, supplemented his income by maintaining an inn at Portland and sub-contracting with the government to deliver mail from Buffalo to Erie once a week. Richard took over the route and was awarded the contract beginning in

¹² For more information on the Holland Land Company, please see William Chazanof, *Joseph Ellicott And The Holland Land Company: The Opening Of Western New York*. (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1970) Accessed July 13, 2015. Research gate.net/publication 249202196; Robert Silby, *The Holland Land Company; William Wyckoff The Developers Frontier: The Making Of The Western New York Landscape* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1988)

¹³ Young, 122.

1814 to deliver mail from Buffalo to Erie once a week for \$650.00 a year beginning January 1, 1814 to January 1, 1818.¹⁴ This allowed the Williams family to remain in Fredonia while others failed and moved on.

William and Sophia Harris lived the majority of their lives in Hamburg, New York. The town of Hamburg lies on the western edge of Erie County and is directly south of Buffalo; it was formed March 20, 1812. After the War of 1812, Judge Zenas Barker purchased the Titus tavern on the lakeshore road and a post office was established. The number of taverns and Inns on the road was almost equal to the number of private homes in town. In 1822 this post office was discontinued and another named Hamburg was established at Abbott's Corners, a major hub for business.

Hamburg expanded as the land was opened up for purchase; Niagara County's population in 1810 population was 8,971, but by 1820 it was 22,990, growing by 14,000 in ten years. In New York, Dewitt Clinton supported the idea of connecting eastern and western New York with a series of canals beginning at Lake Erie.¹⁵ The State Legislature allocated seven million dollars on July 4, 1817 to construct the series of canals. This was an enormous sum of money but when the canal was officially completed on October 25, 1825, the risk paid off: within fifteen years after it opened, the port in Buffalo was

¹⁴ Young, 125.

¹⁵ For more information on the Erie Canal please see James Barton, *Commerce Of The Lakes, And Erie Canal*. (Buffalo, NY: Seavers Power Presses, 1851); George Geddes, *Origin and History of measures that Led To The Construction Of The Erie Canal Written At The Request Of The Historical Society Of The Buffalo Historical Society* (Syracuse, NY: Summers & Company, 1866); Benjamin H. Wright, *Origins Of The Erie Canal Services Of Benjamin Wright* (Rome, NY: Sanford & Carr, 1870) John Brandt Mansfield Ed, *History Of The Great Lakes Illustrated In Two Volumes Volume II* (Chicago, IL: J.H. Beers & Company, 1899)

transporting more freight than Boston, Baltimore, and New Orleans combined. Buffalo became the western end of the 524-mile waterway that began in New York City. The Erie Canal did transport people but the main emphasis was shipping heavy freight from eastern to western New York. By 1845 passenger traffic on the lakes had expanded to 93,000 passengers each year, with daily trips to Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. The Great Lakes gave access to Milwaukee, Detroit, and Chicago.¹⁶ The competition for passengers prompted lower fares and competition grew to include grander accommodations. The lack of harbor space combined with no easy way to unload shipments of goods and grain prompted city leaders in 1847 to expand the harbor. By the end of the century, passenger traffic was reaching its peak. Traveling by steamer, boats, and schooners was a much faster method of transport than horse and carriage. Sophia's daughter Mary Jane noted road conditions, "There are five coaches our gentlemen passengers are very much afraid to ride over such horrid roads on such a stormy night but the ladies more courageous are determined to go on. The ladies in two coaches are going ahead and the gentlemen will follow."¹⁷ Travel by horse and carriage was slow and difficult due to road conditions, which were nothing more than old Indian trails; the horses had to be changed every ten miles, and the coaches often broke down. The Erie Canal established a cost-effective method of transport from east to west and prompted the expanse of western New York.

¹⁶ Henry Perry Smith Ed., *History Of The City Of Buffalo And Erie County With Illustrations And Biographical Sketches Of Some Of Its Prominent Men And Pioneers In Two Volumes. Vol. II.* (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Company Publishers, 1884)

¹⁷ Harris, Mary Jane, November 13, 1847.

Other transportation methods to haul large amounts of goods and people from east to west began to spring up, beginning with the railroad.

After a slow start and delay due to economic downturn in the 1830s, the railroad began to operate in 1843 and by 1848 there were seven railroads connecting Buffalo to Albany. A connection through the Hudson River Railroad connected goods and travelers to and from New York City as well as Niagara Falls, Rochester, and Attica. The expansion of the waterways and establishment of railways would impact Buffalo, expanding the population and ushering in an economic boom. William Harris arranged to sell his crops and shipped them out of Buffalo.

Farmers like Harris took advantage of the new technology in transportation, which allowed them to switch from subsistence agriculture, or providing for one's own family, to commercial farming. Harris took excess crops and product and shipped them to market at a lower price allowing for higher profit margins.

Sophia wrote about the changes she had witnessed in her lifetime. She especially wrote about her father, Richard Williams, "I sometimes have a longing wish come over me that father could have lived to see his children settled and to see the improvements of this country that he came into when it was one vast howling wilderness."¹⁸ Sophia seemed to want to preserve her family's name and let her father be recognized for all the hard work and sacrifice. She recorded information on pioneering in her journals and she

¹⁸ Harris, August 02, 1860.

wrote a description of pioneering on June 18, 1873, for The Old Settlers reunion.¹⁹

Sophia understood the changes with the market had allowed for greater opportunities for her family, but at the same time, she expressed unease about the social and cultural change associated with the economic opportunities afforded her family. A major downside to the growth of Buffalo and other cities was the spread of epidemic diseases that ravaged the city.

Epidemics

Sophia Harris wrote with great anxiety about death and being prepared for the afterlife. This is understandable considering the nineteenth century was a particularly dangerous time to live, especially in large cities where public health and sanitation were virtually nonexistent. Epidemics of lethal illnesses such as cholera, typhoid fever, smallpox, tuberculosis, and diphtheria took their toll, especially on the poor. For the poor, living conditions were often cramped, dark, and windowless environments. They relied on public water supplies, and lived in tenement buildings in close proximity with each other, as well as livestock animals. Sewage and filth meant a death sentence for those without the means to escape the city when epidemics broke out. Americans at the start of the cholera epidemics in 1832, 1849, and 1854 did not understand the causes of epidemics of the era when outbreaks took place, and many struggled to understand how, why, and who to blame. Cholera epidemics were especially dreaded and took their toll in

¹⁹ Jay Priest transcribed, *Fredonia Censor*, June 18, 1873. Accessed July 15, 2015.

such large numbers that the dead became a true public health problem.²⁰ Cholera ravaged the Buffalo, New York, and area in June 1854. It began in the spring in Montreal and other parts of Quebec where it killed over 3,000 people within two weeks.²¹ The disease spread through the Champlain Canal reaching Albany, New York. The first course of action was to quarantine the city by stopping all lake and canal traffic, stage coaches were halted immediately. By July, 150 people from Buffalo were dying every day. Laws were enforced to bury the dead within two hours. Carts were sent door to door to gather the deceased and many were buried in unmarked graves or pits. Those with any means tried to flee Buffalo; others tried to protect themselves by wearing gum camphor²² around their necks.²³

The first known victim in the 1854 epidemic was an Irish laborer. The Governor of New York used the epidemic to establish a common council to take the duties of the Board of Health, yet hinted it was providence that sent cholera as a scourge, to wipe away sin.²⁴ Local newspapers traced the path of cholera and physicians began discussing different treatments to prevent death. The New York Board of Health often would push

²⁰ Charles Rosenberg, *The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1844, and 1866* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1962)

²¹ John W. Percy, "*The Erie Canal: From Lockport to Buffalo*" (Buffalo, NY: 1979 revised 2002) Accessed April 5, 2015. www.Buffaloah.com/h/erieC/Percyhtml

²² John Duffy, *From Humors to Medical Science: A History Of American Medicine second edition*, 76. Chicago, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1995. Accessed April 5, 2015. books.google.com Gum camphor is an aromatic substance derived from distilled bark and wood thought to prevent or cure cholera in the early nineteenth century.

²³ Stephen R. Powell, Ed., "*The Cholera Epidemic Of 1832, 1849, and 1854.*" Accessed April 5, 2015. www.buffalonian.com/history/articles/18011850/cholera32.html

²⁴ Robert V. Wells., *Facing the King Of Terrors: Death and Society In An American Community, 1750-1990*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

for major reforms, calling for temperance in eating and drinking and reinforcing cleaning homes and streets during the time of crisis. However, the board would fail to follow through once the epidemic subsided. Many in New York and beyond agreed with the governor that cholera was retribution sent from God to punish a sinful people.²⁵

The effect of new transportation would have an enormous impact on Sophia's family. Transportation allowed individuals to go longer distances, prompting the break up of families looking for new opportunities. Sophia's family was spreading out throughout the country. In 1860, her children were not working on the farm, but rather in Buffalo, New York. Sophia's eldest daughter Sylvina was married with two children, and her husband, Harvey Peek, managed a hotel in Buffalo.²⁶ Sophia's eldest son, Richard, was a tavern keeper in Buffalo. His wife was Hannah Ritter. They had a three-year-old daughter named Jennie.²⁷ Sophia's younger son, Chapin, followed in his elder brother's footsteps lived in the same area working as a tavern owner. Chapin married Ann O'Brian and had two small children, Anna Sophia and R. Williams, within three years.²⁸ Sophia's daughter Mary Jane moved back home to live with her parents with her daughter, Ada, after the deaths of a set of twins and her husband Warner. Warner had contracted consumption and died June 26, 1858, after a lingering illness. He was buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery along with his two children in the family plot. Sophia's son, Hamilton,

²⁵ Wells, 41.

²⁶ "1860 United States Federal Census, Buffalo, Ward 1, Erie, New York Roll: M635-745; page 197." Accessed July 2, 2015. Ancestry.com

²⁷ "1860 United States Federal Census, Buffalo, Ward 1, Erie, New York; Roll: M635-745; page 197." Accessed July 2, 2015. Ancestry.com

²⁸ "1860 United States Federal Census, Buffalo, Ward 1, Erie, New York; Roll: M25-745; page 197." Accessed July 2, 2015 Ancestry.com

had a restless spirit and had been traveling throughout the new territories trying to find a place to settle. He left school for the gold rush, returned home, and then moved to Missouri to try his hand at farming. He married Eva Gaylord, had one son in 1859 (William Hamilton), and had traveled to Arkansas prior to the Civil War looking for a place to settle down. Sophia had not seen him for nearly three years.

In 1860 Sophia's eldest sister, Esther, lived in North Chili, New York. Her sister Nancy had married Samuel Smith. They had two children together and resided in Louisville, Kentucky. Her sister Eliza married Amos Morgan and lived in Buffalo, New York. Her brother Oliver lived in Evans, New York, and had married Parthenia Lake of Boston and had three children. Mary married Mason Brayman, and they lived in a variety of areas throughout Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio before settling in Springfield, Illinois; they had three daughters. Mason was an attorney for Illinois Central Railroad, an advocate of temperance, a leader in his Baptist Church, and he oversaw the American Baptist Publishing Society. Mason joined the Union army in 1861 with a commission, rising to Brigadier General.²⁹ Her sister Ada was married to Sylvanus Starring and together they had seven children. They lived in St. Charles, Illinois, and then moved to Louisville, Kentucky. Ada died in 1853 of cholera along with two children.

²⁹ Thomas Mears Eddy, *The Patriotism Of Illinois, A Record Of The Civil And Military History Of The State In The War For The Union, With A History Of The Campaigns In Which Illinois Soldiers Have Been Conspicuous, Sketches Of Distinguished Officers, The Roll Of The Illustrious Dead, Movements Of The Sanitary And Commissions. Volume 1.* 246–249. Chicago, IL: Clarke & Co, 1865. Accessed January 11, 2015. books.google.com

The advances in transportation allowed the Williams family to seek new lands, employment, and opportunities that were not possible prior to the advancements in transportation. This change split her family apart. It also brought new types of dangers in the form of accidents. Steamship accidents, carriage wrecks, and drowning become more and more commonplace. The impact of her family splitting up, the market revolution, epidemics, and accidents surrounding Sophia prompted her to turn to her Baptist faith. Sophia's faith had been a source of comfort for her since childhood. It gave her hope to reunite with her family and friends in the afterlife.

Sophia often wrote about faith and the temporary state of this life and her worry about if she had done enough in this world to reunite in a world where family is together and pain and sickness no longer exist. She used her Baptist faith to try and make sense of the whirlwind of change that surrounded her. Religion was her touchstone to keep up with the ever-changing times around her. Her reason for living was to spread the word of everlasting life through belief in the second coming of Christ and complete good works to earn a place in the afterlife and reunite with family and friends.

Sophia was very active with her Baptist faith, which began in Fredonia when she was a small child. The Baptist Church at Fredonia was established in October 20, 1808, one of the earliest churches in Chautauqua County. In November 1805, Zattu Cushing and eight other Baptists are supposed to have gotten together to advance the cause of their faith, holding Sunday meetings. The members were Zattu Cushing, William Gould, John Van Tassel, Benjamin Barrett, Eliphalet Burnham, Rachel Cushing, Rhoda Burnham, Silence Barto, and Sophia's mother, Sophia Williams. On March 14, 1807,

they entered into covenant and held monthly meetings. The following winter, Elder Joy Handy, from Brookfield, Madison Co. settled at the mouth of Canadaway Creek, and a few years later he moved to the settlement now known as Fredonia.³⁰ On September 8, 1808, the articles of faith and covenant were adopted. On October 20, 1808, a council of ministers met at Mr. Cushing's home where sixteen individuals were received into fellowship. Rev. Joy Handy³¹ and Elisha Tucker were among the first preachers. Rev. Handy was pastor until 1822, and was succeeded by Rev. Elisha Tucker.³² The congregation worshipped in a brick schoolhouse on Third Street for many years; later, this church and others held services over Parson's wagon shop. In 1853, the congregation built a brick church valued at \$20,000.³³ This church became Fredonia Baptist Church and was dedicated July 7, 1853.

Second Great Awakening

Sophia lived in the midst of the Second Great Awakening; a protestant movement that sparked renewed interest in faith, especially among evangelical religions. This movement allowed individuals, especially women, to speak out about their religious views, organize, and exercise leadership roles. The Baptist and Methodist faiths gained the most membership. The Methodists established circuit and revival meetings, which helped them to gain membership in the western frontier areas. The Baptists gained

³⁰Young, 494.

³¹ Rev. Joy Handy was sent as a missionary by the Connecticut Baptist Missionary Society in 1807 to Pomfret later known as Fredonia.

³² John P. Downs, Fenwick Y. Hedley, Corp of sub editors and Advisory board *History Of Chautauqua County New York And Its People, Volume 1*, 217. Boston, MA: American Historical Society. 1921, 217. Accessed March 13, 2015. books.google.com

³³ Downs et al. 34 & 148. Accessed March 13, 2015. books.google.com

membership as well but helped to spread their doctrine in southern parts of the country. People began to wane regarding the excitement associated with the religious aspects of the Second Great Awakening, but the social impact was very significant. The movement spurred on many social organizations to promote Sunday schools and promote charitable endeavors, later taking on moral issues such as ending slavery. The American Baptist Tract Society purpose was to promote religion through the Bible. Using the printing press, they supplied religious tracts and Bibles to Sunday schools and poorer parishes and organized lectures. The greatest focus was on the individual salvation, and the belief that the world would be improved through preparation for the second coming of Christ.

The anxiety Sophia felt about the uncertainties of life, family, and friends was evidenced throughout her journal. Sophia coped with the loss of friends and family with her faith. She wanted her family back together in a world of serenity without pain, death, or worry. On New Years Eve 1860 she wrote, “O Heavenly father into thy kind care I commend my life all and although I am poor and sinful. Yet O my God be merciful to me for Jesus sake and if thou doest permit me to live May I honor thy cause. And thy kingdom by a well ordered life and Godly conversation. Well the old year is gone and the new one is here farewell 1860.”³⁴ Sophia was reassured through her Baptist faith that with death comes a better realm; she gathered strength in reading the Bible and used her faith in daily life by setting examples for others in the process. Sophia did not just write about her obligations she acted:

³⁴ Harris, December 31, 1860.

I have been to the city today Sylvina [Daughter], Hannah [Daughter-in-law], Willie [Grandson], and I went out to the poor house. There is over four hundred inmates it is distressing to see them...I have brought one boy home with me. He is a German and an orphan I think I shall keep him. Mr. Harris seems pleased with him. I feel under renewed obligations to God for all his goodness to me.³⁵

Sophia taking in an orphan is an example of the good works she continued to perform throughout her life. Sophia attended church each Sunday when able to travel, weather and roads permitting. She also attended lectures at the Rochester theological seminary and would often have students come to her church and discuss a variety of topics. She also started a Sabbath School in Hamburg. The Sabbath School was quite popular at first but would not reach the levels of attendance hoped for by Sophia. Sophia commented on the role of the parents in regards to taking their children to Sabbath school:

This afternoon Jane, Ada and I have been to Sabbath School. There was but few scholars present most all our neighbors have gone to make their cider today some have taken their children with them...What an example to set before children instead of going with them to Sabbath school and setting them an example. They learn to profane Gods holy Sabbath...and boast they what they do on the Sabbath Is clear gain...if they have any extra work it is done on the Sabbath. I feel to say as Jesus did, "Father forgive them they know not what they do."³⁶

Sophia clearly felt her religious beliefs becoming less and less important in the very hectic world around her. Parents completing extra work on Sunday were unaware that they were endangering their own and their children's chance for eternity. Sophia was distressed by this and could only manage a prayer for them. She felt children were not given the proper instruction or example to follow. Children were being led astray from religion by their own parents' ignorance of religious values, which Sophia held so dearly.

³⁵ Harris, January 8, 1855.

³⁶ Harris, October 14, 1860.

During the winter months she and her husband occupied themselves with reading, attending church, and sewing. Sophia noted in her journal, “The past winter I have quilted forty-five comforters and bed quilts and five skirts making fifty in all. With quilting and making two carpets and my family sewing. I have passed quite a busy winter...in fact I never yet found a time to be idle...I never was out of work yet I have taken comfort this past winter with my family, my books...and my work.”³⁷ Sophia’s reading usually was religious in nature; she described Milton’s *Paradise Lost* this way: “What a glowing description he gives of mans fall and the sorrows of sin. Alas what has not sin done. It brought Death into our world and all our woe and were it not for our Savior were it not for Jesus that paid that debts.”³⁸ Sophia’s belief was man’s sin is what brought death and illness into the world and only Jesus could redeem that sin with faith, bringing life everlasting.

Sophia had a large group of relatives, neighbors, and friends that she would take turns in visiting. The Harris household never knew when a group of individuals would show up from the city for an outing. About one such instance, Sophia noted, The company of young people came last night quite unexpected there was about fifty in all they had quite a jolly time stayed till three in the morning and then returned to the city Sophia was also in the habit of bringing home her grandchildren when her children needed the help. In addition to helping her siblings whenever they needed help, she also

³⁷ Harris, April 20, 1855.

³⁸ Harris, July 15, 1860.

would visit her neighbors and friends, checking on those who may have needed comfort or assistance. Sophia appeared to be the link that kept her family together.

Sophia wrote extensively about cholera and consumption taking the lives of family and friends. She records the death of her sister Ada, “Three years ago today, sister Williams died and the scenes of that day will never be erased from my memory. She was a woman of perfect health but the cholera in a few short hours lay her prostrate. In death and two of her dear children were taken.”³⁹ Many people, including city leaders, viewed epidemics in moral terms understanding that death was due to a lack of morality, hinting that cholera was spread through sin and Irish Catholic immigrants.⁴⁰ Asiatic cholera was an extremely lethal form of the disease. As Sophia described in her journal, the disease could kill a person in a matter of hours. The body was ravaged through the loss of bodily fluid, often killing the individual due to dehydration and major organ failure. Unexpected death from illness or accidents was also cause for alarm. Sophia worried that a person would not have time to prepare for death in a proper manner and would therefore be unable to achieve a place in spirit world.

Death and Dying

Dying a good death was an important part of Sophia’s faith system as a Baptist. The concept of a good death from the nineteenth century was defined by a set of rituals performed by family, friends, or clergy who surrounded the dying. Sophia Harris refers to a good death, writing, “Oh then Heavenly Father let my few remaining days be directed

³⁹ Harris, July 22, 1860.

⁴⁰ Wells, 40.

to thy praise to the last closing scene shall be tranquil and serene.”⁴¹ This passage defines her belief in a good death. In many ways how a person died was almost as important as how a person lived. Individuals such as Sophia defined a good death as dying surrounded by family who waited beside you until you drew your last breath. Friends and a clergyperson would also be in the room to provide support and guidance for those who needed it. The first step was to recognize the fact that you are in danger and will die, so an unexpected or accidental death was the worst possible fate, because it would leave no time for preparing for the afterlife through good deeds and prayer. The second stage of death was expressing sorrow for your sins and arranging affairs. The third stage was the actual moment of one’s death being directed by the individual who was dying. The individual often requested no one mourn for his or her death and declared his or her faith to meet in the afterlife. Then family and friends surrounded the individual, sitting in vigil until the person passed away. The last words, or sounds of an individual were also very important.

This manner of death would reaffirm one’s own faith as well as the faith of those remaining. The way to achieve a good death was to resign oneself to fate, repent of failings, reaffirm to family and friends one’s confidence of meeting again in the afterlife, and then pass away quietly with faith to meet again.⁴²

⁴¹ Harris, July 11, 1860.

⁴² For more information on a good death, please see Drew Gilpin-Faust, *This Republic Of Suffering Death and The Civil War* (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008) 1–31; Wells, 35–76.

Sophia was troubled by her sister Ada's unexpected death and dreamt about her; I have had another dream about Ada. I was so happy to see her again we were talking about the spirit world for I seemed to know she had just left and I was so afraid she would leave me again. She did not seem to notice anything around her but walked on as fast as she could and as we passed the American Hotel⁴³ one run out and called to me. I see it was Doctor Tucker⁴⁴ he said why how do you do Mrs. Harris and as we shook hands I looked for Ada, and I see she had gone on and was some ways a head. I said to Doctor Tucker O Ada is leaving me, and I started after as hard as I could walk. But I could not gain on her at all. Then I started to run, but I found I had a large burden to carry it seems to be a basket. And I thought if I was rid of that I might over take her, soon I passed a group of men on the sidewalk and Sylvennus,⁴⁵ Ada's husband, was one of them he was standing out from the rest looking after Ada. I said to him Sylvennus take my basket and then I can run faster. He took my basket and I run as fast as I could but she

⁴³ Benjamin Rathbun first constructed the American Hotel in Buffalo, New York in 1836. It burned down on March 10, 1850. It was rebuilt on the same site and called the second American Hotel. Lincoln on the way to his inauguration in 1861 stopped there and gave a short speech from the balcony. "American Hotel history of Buffalo." Accessed April 21, 2015. [www.buffaloah.com/h/AmerHotel/ History of Buffalo](http://www.buffaloah.com/h/AmerHotel/History%20of%20Buffalo)

⁴⁴ The Doctor Tucker, Sophia is referring to is Elisha, born in Rensselerville, Albany Co., NY December 24, 1794. The eldest of six brothers who would go on to become an influential Baptist preacher. In 1806 Dr. Tucker was baptized by Rev. Levi Streeter. He felt a calling to preach the gospel and was described as a common-sense orator. With evangelical doctrine, he found his audience in the western part of New York: Fredonia, Buffalo and Rochester. William Buell Sprague, *Annals Of The American Pulpit; Or Commemorative Notices Of Distinguished American Clergymen From The Early Settlement Of The Country To The Close Of The Year Eighteen Hundred And Fifty-Five With Historical Introductions., Volume VI*. New York, NY: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1860. Accessed March 15, 2015. books.google.com

⁴⁵ Sylvanus Seaman Starring was Ada's husband.

gained on me all the time. And when I got to the Liberty Pole [town square] I lost sight of her. I looked everyway but could not see her and then I began to cry I cried so hard it wakened Mr. Harris and he waked me. He says what is the matter. I saw Ada has left me.. I was awake and my dream gone. I thought how true it is she is a spirit and has nothing to hinder or burden her. She can pass on while I am mortal and burdened with sin and they weigh me down so I can hardly pass along⁴⁶

Sophia felt that as a mortal, she was held down by sin and unable to attain spirit form until she redeemed herself by living as a true Christian, dedicating herself to completing good works and passing on her beliefs to others. The goal was to unite in heaven with all of her loved ones. She desperately wanted to speak to Ada, but since this was no longer possible, Sophia did the next best thing by talking to those who were present when Ada died. Sophia was very anxious to talk with Mrs. Buck, the person who stayed with Ada on the last day of her life,

To talk over the scenes of sisters sufferings. And hear the story of her death, and dying requests in regards to her girls. O' what suffering what heart rendering agonies she endured they were too big for utterance, but all is past now and her poor emaciated worn out body has found rest in the grave. And her spirit I hope and trust is the mansions of the blessed.⁴⁷

Sophia hoped her sister might reunite with her in the afterlife but she was never certain due to the manner in which Ada died.

Sophia had the opposite feelings regarding her sister Esther's death. She was absolutely certain that she would meet her sister Esther in heaven. Sophia deeply

⁴⁶ Harris, July 22, 1860.

⁴⁷ Harris, January 11, 1861.

regretted the fact that she was not with her sister when she passed away. Esther had written her several times asking her to come to North Chili for a visit. Esther's sister Hannah and Esther's husband, Joseph Fox, filled Sophia in on the details of Esther's death.

Sister [Hannah] Gowdy⁴⁸ was with her she says all day Wednesday. She could not talk much but seemed to be in fervent prayer and repeated the Hymn Jesus can make a dying bed feel soft as downy pillows are. About six in the evening Mr. Fox [Esther's husband] spoke to her saying, Mother you are going to leave me and I shall be so lonely but we shant be separated long we shall soon meet again She [Esther] said I hope so and spoke it loud and distinct it was her last words she did not live three minutes after and died without a struggle or groan they could not believe that she was gone forever.⁴⁹

Esther died a good death; she proclaimed her faith of meeting in the afterlife to her husband then quietly died. Esther's death prompted Sophia to reexamine her life as a Christian and to resolve to try to be a better Christian in order to meet in heaven. She felt relief that Esther's passing was that of a Christian, or good death—unlike Ada's. Writing about Esther's death, Sophia asked the question, "Who would not wish to die like those whom Gods own spirit deigns to bless to sink into that soft repose. Then wake to perfect happiness."⁵⁰ She described death as simply passing away until the second coming of Christ, then awakening to the afterlife, where all would be reunited.

When children would die from illness or accident, Sophia viewed their deaths with a different purpose. The children's deaths were used as a reminder to the adults to be prepared but children's deaths were seen as release from the sinful world to live eternally

⁴⁸ Hannah Gowdy is Sophia's sister.

⁴⁹ Harris, December 14, 1860.

⁵⁰ Harris, December 22, 1860.

in the kingdom of heaven. Children's deaths were viewed as a blessing, because children would not have to endure a sinful world like adults. Sophia wrote at length about the sudden deaths of children in her journal. Describing the death of Thomas Sloan, she wrote,

Mr. Sloan's little son died very suddenly today. Jane has been there most of the day he has been quite unwell for a few days past but they thought nothing serious till this morning when they perceived he was very sick and sent for the doctor but he died before the doctor came. He shut his own eyes and died as one going to sleep without a groan or any apparent pain. He was a sweet child would have been three years old today.⁵¹

Sophia went on to write that parents should not mourn Thomas's short time on earth, for their loss is his eternal gain. Thomas experienced some elements of a good death. The death of Lyman Brice was another example for Sophia to be prepared for death. Lyman Brice was six years old when he accidentally drowned in the creek near his home, and his parents were inconsolable. Sophia noted, "He was taken from them so suddenly and so unexpectedly that they could not be comforted."⁵² In both cases, Sophia noted it was better for the children to escape the sorrows of life, for their unexpected deaths taught those remaining a lesson regarding their immortal souls. Sophia felt those in mourning became acutely aware of the unimportance of earthly things refocusing one on salvation of the spirit, "the house of mourning how it was calculated to draw our minds away from earth and earthly things...it taught us that we too must die."⁵³

⁵¹ Harris, September 22, 1860.

⁵² Harris, November 15, 1860.

⁵³ Harris, November 15, 1860.

Accidental death in the case of children was not as worrisome as unexpected or accidental death of an adult. Death taught those remaining to take stock of their lives, prepare for their own demise, and reaffirm their faith in reuniting in the afterlife. The accidental drowning of James Macklem at Niagara Falls caused Sophia to reflect on life: “This is a dying world and all in it must die too,”⁵⁴ Sophia often contemplated if she had done enough to reap the reward of heaven; she seemed to be generally worried that she would not be reunited with those she had lost, examining her life over and over in her journal:

And let me ask myself the question tonight. Am I one of the redeemed? Am I a child of God? O my soul be not deceived in this important matter. O heavenly father forgive me all my sins for Jesus sake. And guide me by thy unerring council till I arrive where thou art. I feel this world is not my home... but may I so live that when. I have done with earth may I have a home eternal in the heavens.⁵⁵

Sophia lived in a period of great change and anxiety, which is reflected, in her journal. She felt like a stranger on Earth, doubted her faith at times only to strengthen it with the hope of living in heaven. Sophia used death to strengthen her faith. The great loss of life was viewed as an opportunity for eternal life. Sophia wrote about accidents that claimed the lives of large numbers of individuals. Carriage wrecks, steamer ships sinking, and drownings are just a few examples. Sophia noted major loss of life when describing the wreck of the *Lady Elgin*, “Today’s paper tells of an awful calamity that took place this morning at half past two in which between three and four hundred of my fellow mortals were launched in to eternity...How unexpected the summons to meet their

⁵⁴ Harris, September 15, 1860.

⁵⁵ Harris, December 8, 1860.

God.⁵⁶ Sophia was very concerned about these deaths, and she felt they were a reminder:

“O may I receive the message it brings me and be ready for my makers call,”⁵⁷ Sophia worried about being unprepared for death. The death of Ralph Shepherd was another reminder that death can appear anytime and you must be prepared.

We met a funeral procession going down this morning. Ralph Shepherd he was scalded to death on a propeller⁵⁸ about two weeks ago and his friends have been up the Lake Erie after his body. He was first engineer and a fine young man but he was taken from time without a moments warning how true that in the midst of life we are in death. One can hardly pass through the city without seeing a funeral procession.⁵⁹

Sophia never really viewed time on earth as her own; rather she did what she could to reunite with her friends and family in the afterlife within the boundaries of her faith. Sophia’s world of 1860 made her feel like a person of a different generation. She watched the ever-changing and expanding countryside, watched as old traditions were

⁵⁶ George William Bruce Ed., *History of Milwaukee, City And County Vol. 1 Illustrated Chicago Milwaukee*, 129. Chicago, IL: The S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1922. Accessed June 16, 2014. books.google.com The wreck of the *Lady Elgin* occurred on September 8, 1860. In the tragedy, 297 lives were lost. The steamer *Lady Elgin* a side-wheeler collided with the *Schooner Augusta*. The captain inquired if help was needed but received a message no help needed only to learn of the sinking of *Lady Elgin* when reaching Chicago Harbor the next morning. The remains of the ship were found in 1989 by Shipwreck hunter Harry Zych.

⁵⁷ Harris, September 8, 1860.

⁵⁸ Propeller was a screw steamer ship; Ralph Shepherd, the 1st engineer, was killed on the propeller ship named *Kenosha* in Lake Michigan when the boiler exploded on June 26, 1860. The *Kenosha* ran between Collingwood and Chicago. The explosion occurred in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, when the ship was backing out of pier. The cause of the explosion was determined to be superheated steam bursting through the furnace top when the throttle valve was opened. The reaction of the escaping steam forced the boiler out of place and against the steam pipe. Nine individuals were killed. This was reported in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Wednesday, June 27, 1860, and June 20, 1860. *Buffalo Daily Republic* Monday July 2, 1860, “Maritime History Of The Great Lakes.” Accessed March 2, 2015. maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca

⁵⁹ Harris, July 11, 1860.

being replaced with new ideas. She noted that people were not honoring religious traditions as they once did; she also expressed concern regarding her family and friends who were no longer together but spread out all over the country. In many ways, Sophia looked to the afterlife as a solution to her longing to have family and friends all back together again. While the world around her was in constant motion, she relied on her Baptist faith to fulfill her hope of reuniting with her friends and family in the afterlife. She also expressed concern regarding an upcoming Civil War. She wrote, “O my country why glory departed man and bloodshed is abroad in the land and who can tell when it will end. But there is consolation to know that God rules all and sometimes mans wrath serve to advanced the glorious kingdom of our dear gentlemen.”⁶⁰ Sophia saw death and the afterlife as a solution to her longing to have family and friends all together again in a world where no pain, sin, or death could intrude. Especially prior to the Civil War, Sophia looked heavenward to reunite those she loved.

⁶⁰ Harris, April 19, 1861.

CHAPTER 2

SOPHIA HARRIS JOURNAL 1860–1861

July 11, 1860

Jane ¹and I have been to the city today went down the Plank road called on Mrs. George Harris [Lucy Harris] ²a while and then went to orchard and put up the horse and walked up town. I made a number of calls. and had some shopping to do.. and have come home very tired.

I have brought home little Willie Harris [grandson] to stay a few days. His mother [Ann] is sick and he is so neglected.³ I thought I would take care of him till his mother is better. We met a funeral procession going down this morning. Ralph Shepherd he was scalded to death on a propeller⁴ about two weeks ago and his friends have been up the Lake Erie after his body. He was the first engineer and a fine young man but he was taken from time without a moments warning how true that in the midst of life we are in death. One can hardly pass through the city without seeing a funeral procession. And we are reminded at all times that this is not our home still we mortals live as they did in the days of Noah before the flood. They eat and drink. They marry and are given in marriage. And know not how soon they will be done with Earth. I called on Mrs. White today. Helen is soon to be married and they are making great preparations. She showed me her wardrobe and it is the nicest I ever seen. She showed me ten splendid dresses that she had never worn and other things in proportion her future looks bright and flattering now but time alone will tell if it remains so, I hope it may. I hope that the two greatest evils of married life will ever keep out of her path of life.. namely intemperance and jealousy. I heard to day that Sister [Esther] Fox was sick and I must go and see her.. I should have gone before this but I have not felt able.

¹ Jane is Mary Jane Harris, Sophia Williams daughter.

² Mrs. George [Lucy] Harris, George Harris is a Canal Boatman.

³ Anna Harris is married to Cyrenus Sophia's son she is suffering from a very difficult pregnancy, Willie is about two years of age at the time.

⁴ Propeller is a screw steamer ship, Ralph Shepherd the 1st engineer was killed on the propeller ship named *Kenosha* in Lake Michigan when the boiler exploded on June 26, 1860. The *Kenosha* ran between Collingwood and Chicago. The explosion occurred in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, when the ship was backing out of her pier. The cause of the explosion was determined to be super-heated steam burst through the furnace top, when the throttle valve was opened. The reaction of the escaping steam forced the boiler out of place, against a steam pipe. Nine individuals were killed. This was reported in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Wednesday, June 27, 1860 and June 30, 1860. *Buffalo Daily Republic* Monday July 2, 1860, "Maritime History Of The Great Lakes." Accessed March 2, 2015. maratimehistoryofthegreatlakes

I called to see Doctor Pratt today and he says I am Dropsically.⁵ he has given me some medicine that he thinks will help me.. and I hope it may but some how I have felt this summer that I should not live long. I often say am I born to die? To lay this body down and must my trembling spirit fly into a world unknown. Yes, it is even so.. Where are the million that have traveled life's path before me? Alas they have returned to dust. And their spirits to God who gave them. And reason saw I shall soon be numbered with them. O then Heavenly Father let my few remaining days be directed to thy praise to the last the closing scene shall be tranquil and serene.

Saturday July 14, 1860

We have had company most of the day. A number from the city have called to see our Bees. They think them a great wonder and they surely are.. our hives are glass so they can see them work. This afternoon Mr. Coles, Mrs. Coles and Child, Mrs. [Rachel] White, Mr. [Levi] Colburn⁶, and Helen White have been here as soon as they were gone Helen Hall and Rosa Skinner came to spend the evening and so the day has passed away.⁷ I can hardly realize that the week has gone and another Saturday night is here but our life is ever on the wing. Helen is soon to be married to Mr. Colburn and she rode out here for me to see him. She thinks amongst all her admirers she has chosen the best and he seems a fine young man. Little Willie is still with me and is happy and contented, but I must read awhile in my Bible and then go to my rest so good night journal.

Sunday night July 15, 1860

Jane, Ada, and I have been over to Sabbath School this afternoon. there was but a few there all the large boys were gone. At this season of the year there are many allurements to tempt children astray.

⁵ Dropsy a swelling caused by accumulation of abnormally large amounts of fluid. Caused by kidney disease or congestive heart failure, commonly treated with foxglove (digitalis), Accessed July 5, 2015. <http://www.thornber.net/medicine/html/medgloss.html>

⁶ Levi Colburn, Helen Whites fiancé, is ships chandler, a merchant that provides all needed items to restock ship, also deals with credit and foreign currency to help the ship make a quick turnaround in port. *1860 The Commercial Advertiser Directory for the City of Buffalo, to which is added a Business Directory, Advertisers of Merchants and manufacturers in the cities of Buffalo and New York*. Buffalo, NY: E.R. Jewett, 1860. Accessed June 6, 2015. books.google.com

⁷ Coles, White, Colburn, Hall, and Skinner are all nearby neighbors, "1860 Federal census Non-Population Schedules Selected: New York-Agriculture-1860-Erie-Hamburg Federal Census Non-Population Schedules." Accessed October 15, 2016. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

I have finished reading Milton *Paradise Lost*.⁸ What a glowing description he gives of mans fall and the sorrows of Sin. Alas what has not sin done.. It brought Death into our world and all our woe and were it not for our Savior were it not for Jesus that paid that great debt. And redeemed us by his most precious blood. We should be forever lost in never ending despair. Jesus refuge of my soul let me to thy bosom fly while the raging billows roll while the tempest still is nigh hide me, O my savior, hide. Till the storm of life is past, safe into the haven guide, O receives my soul at last.

Monday July 16, 1860

I arose this morning at 4 am went to the city with Chapin we had some boxes making there for the Bees and I got them and came home at noon. John Booth and Wife have been here to tea they seemed delighted to get out of the city.⁹ The country is delightful now. All crops are good and promise an abundant harvest. But I am tired and sleepy tonight and will lay by my pen for my bed.

Thursday July 19, 1860

This morning Mr. Harris and Jane were fixin to go to the city[Buffalo].. and Levi Smith [lived near Arkwright, Chautauqua county] came here and wanted Jane to go home with him. They are going in their buggy and she can have a chance to see the country it is nearly thirty miles from here. She and Ada have gone with him and will be gone nearly a week. Mr. [William] Harris came home from the city and brought me two letter one from Sister [Esther] Fox and one from Sister [Mary] Brayman. Sister [Esther] Fox writes she has been sick and under the Doctors care the past four-months but is some better she wants me to come and see her- next week James Whaley and his wife are there and will start for California the fifth of next month.¹⁰ Sister [Mary] Brayman writes that her husband [Mason] has had sunstroke and is very feeble he was in Missouri about 6 weeks ago and the weather was very warm and he was exposed to the sun so much that he finally become Sun struck¹¹ and it has prostrated him very much. She writes me that Ada¹² has a son from the first day of July and she is grandma in earnest now. I suppose there never was or can be such another child his name is John Mason Bailhache. He is the

⁸ *Paradise Lost*, an Epic Poem written by English Poet John Milton (1608-1674) Theme of the poem is mans fall from grace. "Introduction to *Paradise Lost*." Accessed May 14, 2015. www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading-room/pl/intro/text.shtml

⁹ John Booth, lumber dealer out of Buffalo, *1860 Commercial Advertiser Directory For the City Of Buffalo, To which Is added A Business Directory In The Cities Of Buffalo And New York 1860*. 210. Accessed March 15, 2015. books.google.com John Booth's wife is Sarah.

¹⁰ James Whaley, is Sophia's nephew, her sister Esther's son.

¹¹ Mary Brayman, husband is General Mason Brayman they live in Springfield, Illinois.

¹² "Ada", is Sarah Adaline Bailhache, Sophia's grand niece, her sister Mary daughter.

first grandchild and I suppose they had a great time with the presentation of the Silk Quilt.¹³ Chapin [Cyrenius] came up this evening to see how little Willie gets along but he is very happy.

Sabbath evening July 22, 1860

I could not go to Sabbath School today for I had no one to leave little Willie with So I was obliged to stay at home with him. Mr. and Mrs. Porter called here a few minutes on their way to School he says his new school is doing finely, he is very much engaged about Sabbath School says if he cant be a preacher he will be the next thing to it he will talk in Sabbath Schools. I have had another dream about Sister Ada¹⁴. I thought we were walking together down Main St. and I was so happy to see her again we were talking about the Spirit world for I seemed to know she had just left and I was so afraid she would leave me again. She did not seem to notice anything around her but walked on as fast as she could and as we passed the American Hotel¹⁵ one run out and called to me. I see it was Doctor Tucker¹⁶ – he said why how do you do Mrs. Harris and as we shook hands I looked for Ada, and I see she had gone on and was some ways a head.. I said to Doctor Tucker O Ada is leaving me, and I started after as hard as I could walk. But I could not gain on her at all. Then I started to run, but I found I had a large burden to carry it seems to be a basket. And I thought if I was rid of that I might over take her, soon I passed a group of men on the sidewalk and Sylvennus [Ada's husband]¹⁷ was one of them he was standing out from the rest looking after Ada. I said to him Sylvennus take my basket and then I can run faster. He took my basket and I run as fast as I could but she

¹³ A silk quilt is given to the first grandchild was a family tradition, according to Robert Reeves the great-great grandson of Sophia Morton Williams.

¹⁴Ada is Sophia's sister, Adaline G. Williams who died in 1853 along with two children of cholera.

¹⁵ Benjamin Rathbun first constructed the American Hotel in Buffalo New York in 1836. It burned down on March 10 1850. It was rebuilt on the same site called the second American Hotel. Lincoln on the way to his inauguration in 1861 stopped there and gave a short speech from the balcony. "American Hotel History of Buffalo." Accessed April 21, 2015. [www.buffaloah.com/h/AmerHotel/ History of Buffalo](http://www.buffaloah.com/h/AmerHotel/History%20of%20Buffalo)

¹⁶ Doctor Tucker, Sophia is referring to is Elisha, born in Rensselerville, Albany Co., NY December 24, 1794, The eldest of six brothers who would go on to become an influential Baptist preacher. In 1806 Dr. Tucker was baptizes by Rev. Levi Streeter. He felt a calling to preach the gospels and was described as a common sense orator, with evangelical doctrine found his audience in Western part of New York, Fredonia, Buffalo and Rochester. William Buell Sprague, *Annals Of The American Pulpit; Or Commemorative Notices Of Distinguished American Clergymen From The Early Settlement Of The Country To The Close Of The Year Eighteen Hundred And Fifty-Five With Historical Introductions.*, Volume VI. 667-673. New York, NY: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1860. Accessed March 15, 2015. books.google.com

¹⁷ Sylvanus Seaman Starring was Ada's husband.

gained on me all the time. And when I got to the Liberty Pole [town square] I lost sight of her. I looked everyway but could not see her and then I began to cry.. I cried so hard it wakened Mr. Harris and he waked me. He says what is the matter. I saw Ada has left me... I was awake and my dream gone. I thought how true it is she is a spirit and has nothing to hinder or burden her. She can pass on while I am mortal and burdened with sin and they weigh me down so I can hardly pass along. Well it was only a dream but what is a dream? What is we are sunk in that is awake when we are in unconsciousness. That is the great wonder to me. We read of many dreams that had great events connected with them.. there was Abrams dream when he saw the ladder that reached from Earth to Heaven.¹⁸ There was Joseph's dreams of the sheaves making obeisance to his sheaf and the sun moon and stars making obeisance to him.¹⁹ There was Pharaohs dreams of the swine and corn²⁰. There was the butlers and bakers dream.²¹ There was Nebuchadnezzar dream²² and many that all have great meanings in them well it is one of the great mysteries of this life and the world is full of them.. All Gods works are wonderful and past finding out but there is enough revealed.. to point me to the road that leads to eternal life and keep me in that road till I have finished life's journey and have safely' arrived at my Heavenly Fathers house on high. O my God wilt thou be my guide O be merciful to me a sinner and save me at last for Jesus sake O May I reach the happy place where he unveils his lovely face his beauties there may I behold and sing his name to harps of gold.

Saturday Night July 28, 1860

Another busy week has passed away I have been so much engaged all the week that I could not find time to write any in my journal. I have written four letters this week. Two to [son] Hamilton, one to sister [Esther] Fox, one to Fanny Whaley [grand niece], and one to Chapin [son], that makes five. We have been picking over currants this week and it has kept us quite busy. Today Mr. Harris and Jane went to the city with a load. Well it is Saturday night again how fast they come and how fast they go.. So my life is

¹⁸ Scripture Reference Genesis 28:10-22 Jacob's ladder: Jacob son of Isaac grandson of Abraham runs away from his twin brother Esau who wants to kill him. Jacob lays down and dreams of a ladder between Heaven and earth. Christianity confirming God's covenant between Jacob, son of Isaac, Grandson of Abraham.

¹⁹ Scripture Reference Genesis 37-7 Joseph's two dreams, which demonstrate the respect of others towards Joseph, which provokes change and helps to form a new nation.

²⁰ Scripture Reference Genesis 41: Joseph explains to the Pharaoh his dreams are a God revealing what he is about to do; seven years of feast followed by seven years of famine.

²¹ Scripture Reference Genesis 40: Joseph interprets dreams while in prison butler foretells his advancement; the baker's dream foretells his death.

²² Scripture Reference Daniel 2: Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon dream, in which God tells of world events including the rise and fall of several kingdoms.

hastening away.. Do I realize that soon my last week will be gone.. Yes and my last hour then my soul be wide strive to lay up thy treasures in Heaven.. lose thy love of earth.. and lay hold of those joys that never die. O love thy God with all thy heart take him for thy portion thy all in all.

Sunday July 29, 1860

Jane and I have been over to the Sabbath school today²³. Mr. and Mrs. Porter were there and there was three new scholars. It has rained most of the day and it is quite wet. Little Willie is with us yet he is very contented and happy.. Chapin has another Daughter [Sophia] born last Monday.. I have heard that Sister Fox is very feeble has been sick four months and I must try to go and see her this week.

Wednesday night August 1, 1860

It is now ten o'clock and my families are all in bed I have been making Currant wine today. And this afternoon I have had company sister [Eliza] Morgan, Mrs. James [Sarah Jane] Cutter, and her babe [Charles], Eliza Morgan, and Miss Ladien, George and Marion Morgan.²⁴ I expect to go see my sister Esther Fox tomorrow and I have got to do some chores tonight and so I must put my writing by and do some little chores that need to be done before I leave.

Thursday night August 2, 1860

I left home this morning and took the cars this afternoon and got here a six O clock found sister quite feeble. She was considerably over-come to see me and saw she was a poor sick creature. I greatly fear she will not get well. We have been talking tonight of the scenes of our childhood and it all seems like a dream to me and part of it like a sad dream. Particularly my fathers [Richard Williams] life he was a good hearted noble man and he spent his life to benefit others.. And thought he had made provisions for his family but those that professed to be his friends took advantage of his sudden death and robbed his widow wife and orphan children of all they had let them have it and enjoy it all they can while here for they can carry nothing with them beyond the grave.. Thy dear Father needs it not for he has long since passed beyond earths portals.. into the presence of a just and wise God. I sometimes have a longing wish come over me that father could have lived to see his children settled and to see the improvements of this country that he came into when it was one vast howling wilderness.

[Pioneering]

²³ Rochester Theological Seminary, part of Colgate Divinity College, began Rochester NY 1850, "Baptist Schools History." Accessed April 20, 2015. HistoryBaptisthistoryhomepage.com/ny.baptist.schools.html

²⁴ Sister is Eliza Morgan married Amos W. Morgan, builder at 218 Main b. 67 S. Div. their children are George and Marion. *Buffalo Business Directory* 396. Accessed April 20, 2015. books.google.com

My Father [Richard S. Williams] came from East Hartford Connecticut when a young man and settled in Sangerfield, Madison Co., NY there he married my mother [Sophia Morton] and lived a number of years till they had five children and they then sold land and moved to the then far west or to the Wilderness Country they settled in Fredonia, Chautauqua where they commenced their long tedious journey for the Month of June 1789 and arrived at Canadaway Creek.. Now Fredonia on the 10th day of July.. they spent the Fourth of July at Manlius Square.²⁵

There was an Independence Celebration there and father lay by to attend.. There I heard the first cannon in my life. I was a little child only in my fourth year.. And I thought it was dreadful.. And cried very hard to go home.. My Mother told me I was going home but when we got there it was a strange home to me. One solitary wilderness not a tree cut not a cabin to shelter us from the storms.

We lived in our wagons till they could cut logs and lay them up for a house and our first house was covered with Hemlock Boughs and in the fall they were taken off and cook bark put on in their place.. But we slept in our wagon for a long time it being more comfortable than our cabin well the summer passed on and the few inhabitants began to think of having a mill to grind their corn.. There was about a dozen families that had come on that spring part of them with father established a log tavern in Fredonia.²⁶

²⁵ Originally called Liberty Square, which did not catch on and was changed to Manlius Square in early 1800 was generally the first stop for individuals searching for new areas to settle. The town is known today as Manlius Village, in Onondaga County. Dwight Hall Bruce Editor, *Onondaga's Centennial, Gleanings of a Century. Volume 1 & II.* 769-801, 805-806. (Boston, MA: The Boston History Co.,1896).

²⁶ Young, 66, 114 & 117. Richard Williams, pioneer settler and innkeeper built a log cabin inn located at 189 West Main Street Fredonia, New York, a description given of the Inn was given by Sophia Harris written for the Old Settlers reunion in June 1873. While waiting for the news regarding the eldest son Abner, townsfolk gathered at Williams porch awaiting the news their son Elijah rode up with the news that Abner had been killed, her mother and father holding hands, walked through the back door; through the garden into his peach orchard where they sat down on a log and vented their grief. Williams was a sub-contracted to carry the mail from Buffalo to Erie on horseback. His eldest son Abner Williams did this work until the war of 1812 broke out and Abner was killed September 10, 1813. He also used his wife when occasioned called for her services, When he returned from Erie ill, Sophia took the mail set out on horseback herself, crossed swollen streams, swam her horse across the Cattaraugus creek, the eighteen miles, and Buffalo creeks, holding the mail above the water, and delivered on time. She also occasionally rode the mail horse when her husband and sons were busy on the farm. Richard was awarded a contract in 1814 to deliver the mail, from Buffalo to Erie once a week, for \$650.00 a year beginning, January 1, 1814 to January 1, 1818. Richard traded the Inn to Henry Abell in Portland in 1815. It changed hands several times, eventually became known as the Pemberton Inn.

There was Judge [Zattu] Cushing²⁷, Mr. Garret, Mr. Brown, Mr. [Hezekiah] Barker, Mr. Cole and some others that had settled around what is now Fredonia. They all agreed to build a gristmill they looked out a site for a mill and commenced to build and for nearly three months mother carried the men's dinner to them on horse back in a corn basket it was two miles and a half from our house and every day but the Sabbath she carried their dinners to them till the 11th of November when it was finished all except the mill bolt and that must be brought from Albany²⁸.. But I must stop till tomorrow for it is late and I am tired.

Friday August, 1860

Well father must go for the bolt and he told Mother she could go with him they had left some things in Madison [County] and they had a good Sleigh there and father was going down with his horses and coming back with his Sleigh. So mother took her babe and rode one horse and father rode the other and carried his harness and after an absence of five weeks they returned with the bolt.. They got their mill running and had ground corn and wheat five days when the snow went off and carried off the mill dam.. Then they had to pound their corn to make the bread till the weather was settled in the spring and they built another dam.

Such was the hardships and privations the first settlers endured. My father first settled down the Canadaway Creek two miles and a half below Fredonia Village and after living there about three years he moved up into the village.. Where they had built the mill and the road was laid out through the village where it now is.. For a little while the Inhabitants cleared their land and made their homes more comfortable. Then the war broke out between England and America [War of 1812] then the hardships and trials the wilderness settlers endured cannot be told.

My fathers family the War took my oldest brother he was killed²⁹ in Perry's battle³⁰ and his lifeless body was thrown in to Lake Erie³¹.. With many others.. Yes old

²⁷ Downs et al. 75-77. Judge Zattu Cushing moved to Fredonia after 1805, used land purchase to establish a to establish nursery of fruit trees, became an Associate judge of newly formed county of Chautauqua, which for three years was united with adjoining counties of Niagara and Erie, meeting in Buffalo. He was a founding member of the first Baptist Church established in Fredonia in 1808.

²⁸ Young, "In 1806 and 1807 Hezekiah Barker and Richard Williams, who built a grist mill." Accessed March 3, 2015. chapter archive.org.

²⁹ Abner Williams, killed on board the Lawrence, on Lake Erie, in action, Sept. 10, 1813; Arnold, 430.

³⁰ Lawrence, served as the flagship for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, During the Battle of Lake Erie in September 10, 1813 the ship was disabled by British fire, Abner was killed when struck by a cannonball. "Battle of Lake Erie." Accessed June 16, 2014.

www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/events/4279/battleoflakerie/473343

Erie has been a grave to many a noble youth.. Till then my father stood the hardships and privation of a new country bravely.. Possessed of noble mind ever ready to help the stranger.. The Poor and the afflicted none sought to him in vain.. But my poor brothers death broke his spirits.. He never recovered the shock.. The great irreparable loss he lived on.. But an altered man.. His ambition, his spirits, his life, was crushed. When I look back and think of the scenes of my early life and the sufferings and trials my dear parents passed through I feel very sad indeed but I must stop writing and go and set with Esther for she has gone and laid down.

Saturday Night August 4, 1860

I went to bed last night after ten and between eleven and twelve.. Sherman Whaley and Wife and four children came.³² They left Louisville Thursday afternoon at two o'clock and got here Friday night at 8 but they would not let me off the cars.. And they had to go on to Rochester and take the way train back which made them in the night here I got up and made up beds and fussed around some time before we all got settled to sleep again.

This morning I got up with a headache and not feeling very well Sherman has four nice children.. They ought to be proud of them their names are Sherman, Curtiss, Fanny, and Smith.. They have come to see their Grandmother [Esther] for the first time and I think it will be the last time too for I am afraid Sister will not live longer than Fall. Soon she will be numbered with the dead.. And the home that knows her now will know her no more forever O how vain are all things here below how soon we leave all. We brought nothing into this world and we can carry nothing out.

Sunday August 5, 1860

I have stayed with sister all day there was a Nazarite meeting³³ about two miles from here. Some of the family went but I have to stay with Sister.. little Fanny is quite unwell to day.. She is fatigued with her long journey.. I expect to go home tomorrow we are expecting Sister [Hannah] Gowdy tomorrow but I must go and set with Esther so good night journal.

Wednesday August 8, 1860

³¹ Downset al., 36. Abner was wounded and eventually killed by a cannonball during the battle.

³² Sherman Whaley, Esther Williams son, Sophia's nephew, lived in Louisville, Ky he was a merchant.

³³ B.T. Roberts Nazarites called for a "return to fraternal, revivalist old standards, including unqualified commitment to antislavery" which caused a split between the traditional Methodist churches that wanted to appease their southern counterparts. *The Methodist Experience in America A History, Vol. 1.*, Russell E. Richey, Kenneth E. Rowe, Jeannie Miller Schmidt, Nashville, TN: Abington Press, 2010. Accessed June 16, 2014. books.google.com

At home again I did expect to come home Monday but Sister urged me to stay one more day and so I came home yesterday.. Coming home last night there came up a severe thunder storm and I got wet. It rained very hard and we could not get under shelter till we got very wet indeed.. But I am glad to get home again the weather is very warm and there is no place like home.

Friday night August 10, 1860

I have been very busy since I got home trying to catch up with my work Wednesday we washed and yesterday we ironed in the fore noon and in the afternoon we had company Mrs. Joshua Smith, Mrs. Avery, Mrs. Foster, and today Mrs. Cromwell Pierce, Mrs. Aaron Pierce, Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Salisbury, Mr. and Mrs. Foster called a little while this afternoon she has been sick and rode out today for her health.³⁴ But I must stop writing for I am very tired

Sunday Night August 12, 1860

Jane, Ada, and I have been over to Sabbath School this afternoon Mr. Porter did not come up today and we missed him very much he is a good singer and his makes the singing better but the children do not turn out as I wish they did but it is no wonder for their parents do not go and set the example for them as they should. They had rather go riding and visiting than go to meeting or Sabbath school. Mr. Harris is quite ill he was taken with a Bilious³⁵ fever and diarrhea. Thursday night and the Doctor has been to see him today thinks he will be better in a few days has left him some medicine. Mr. [John] Scott one of our near neighbors was taken dangerously ill last Thursday with Bilious Asthmatic fever the Doctor has but little hopes of his recovery he is near seventy and his age is against his recovery.³⁶ Should he die Mrs. [Harriet] Scott will feel his loss very much at her advanced age.

Thursday August 16, 1860

Jane, Ada, Willie, and I have been to the city today I found a letter there from Mary Whaley saying Sister Fox was about the same as when I left there. Sister [Hannah]

³⁴ Mrs. Joshua [Harriet] Smith, farmer in Hamburg, Mrs. Betsey & Abel Avery, farmers in North Collin, Mrs. [Helen] Cromwell Pierce, farmer in East Seneca, Mrs. [Helen] Aaron Pierce, farmer in Hamburg, Mrs. [Sarah] John Salisbury, farmers in Hamburg, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen & Miranda Foster, Farmers in Collins. "1860 federal census Erie county, New York." Accessed April 22, 2014. ancestry.com

³⁵ Intestinal or malarial fever. Accessed April 22, 2014. www.thornber.net/medicine/html/medglss.html

³⁶ John & Harriet Scott, no stated profession. "1860 United States Federal Census Hamburg, Erie, NY." Accessed April 22, 2014. ancestry.com

Gowdy and Dora [niece] are there.³⁷ I called at Mr. Scotts think he is some better today and the Doctor has some hope of his recovery but he is a very sick man yet.

Sunday night August 20, 1860

August is most gone time, time how fast you fly and how do we know how to value you as they ought. Every moment brings us nearer the grave, and our moments as they pass away forever they can never return and if we have misspent our time we can never recall it. O heavenly father wilt thou teach me how to live. Guide me by thy good spirit feed me with the bread of life.. and receive me at last for Jesus sake. Yesterday Mr. Harris and I went to the city and [daughter in law] Ann and the children came home with us this afternoon. Little Hannah and I have been over to Sabbath School there was but a few scholars today. When we came home we found Harvey [Peek] and Sylvina here they stayed till after supper.³⁸ Mr. Harris will take Ann and the children home [Buffalo] in the morning. Jane and Ada went up to Evans [town in Erie Co.] last Friday to visit Brothers folks. She expects to come home in two or three days it seems so lonesome without Ada.

Thursday night August 30, 1860

This afternoon Brother Williams [Olivier H.P] and Sister [Hannah] Gowdy, Dora, Richards Wife [Hannah Hinson], little Jennie, and Mrs. Dodd have been here to tea, and have all gone up to Evans. After they were gone Rose Skinner and Helen Hall, called in and sat a while. Jane and Ada have not come home yet.

I have been reading this evening some of St. Paul's Sermons. In the Acts of the Apostles.³⁹ What a Preacher he was, how faithful, how devoted, how full of love to his Divine Redeemer.. And how full of love to sinful man. He was not willing to share his saviors love alone but labored and strove all his life that his fellow mortals might share it with him he knew in whom he had believed and was so sure that his faith was founded on the rock of ages⁴⁰ how many times when reading Paul's life did when he said for me to live in Christ but to die is gain.. He had that hope that was an Anchor to his Soul he knew that his redeemer lived and be feared not what man could do unto him.. For he felt that when this earthly house of his tabernacle was dissolved he has a building of God a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens O my father my savior O still with all my sinfulness do be my friend. And consider me in safety to thy home in the skies Jerusalem my happy home I how I long for thee.

³⁷Hannah is Sophia's youngest sister, she marries Theodore Gowdy, Dora is their youngest daughter Theodora, they live in Louisville, Ky. Brother is Oliver Hazard Perry Williams, he marries several times first to Emma Lake, her parents live Evans.

³⁸ Harvey & Sylvina Peek, Sophia daughter and son-in-law, live in Buffalo where he manages a hotel.

³⁹ Bible Reference New Testament, Acts of Apostles (Acts) begins with the Gospel of Luke, is story of the early church following Jesus crucifixion.

⁴⁰ Bible reference Isaiah 26:3-4 reference to God as the foundation and eternal.

Sunday Night September 2, 1860

Jane and Ada have not got home yet. I took Willie over to Sabbath School with me this afternoon. Mr. Porter and his wife and Sister was there.. He told us he should not meet with us again he was going to Chicago to live he talked well to the children urged them to be good and seek the Lord in their youth and hoped that he might meet them all in Heaven.

Thursday September 6, 1860

Last evening Jane and I went down to Mr. Scotts found him much better Mrs. Sloan is quite comfortable she has a nice babe born last Monday morning. Today we have had company all day Brother and Sister Williams Esq. Stewart and his wife, Sister [Hannah] Gowdy, Dora and Marion Williams. Sister Gowdy is going to spend a few days with me the rest have gone home we have had a very pleasant visit and all seemed to enjoy themselves well it is late Sister Gowdy and I have sat and talked till the clock has struck eleven so I can't write much tonight.

Saturday night September 8, 1860

Another week mark in life's journey has come yes another Saturday night tells me that I am near my grave than ever I was before.. O how little I realize my flight through time and how soon my life's journey will be ended. How often I am reminded that this world is not my home.

Mr. Harris has been to the city today and brought home our papers. And today's paper tells of an awful calamity that took place this morning at half past two in which between three and four hundred of my fellow mortals were launched in to eternity without any warning. The telegraph from Chicago today says the Lady Elgin left there last night was run into by the Schooner Augusta off Muskegon and sunk in twenty minutes in three hundred feet water.⁴¹ There were a number of five companies from Milwaukee on board but they all found a grave in lake Michigan. What a sudden exit from time to eternity. What consternation what agony those twenty minutes must have witnessed in the dead of night when deep sleep was on them. How unexpected the summons to meet their God. O may I Receive the message it brings to me and be ready at my makers call but I must stop writing for last night and tonight Sister Gowdy and I have sat and talked till almost midnight so good night journal.

Sunday night September 9, 1860

⁴¹ Wreck of the *Lady Elgin*, occurred September 8, 1860 297 lives was lost. The steamer *Lady Elgin* a side wheeler collides with schooner *Augusta*, the captain of *Augusta* inquired if helped was needed, but received message, no assistance was needed, only to learn of the sinking of *Lady Elgin* when reached Chicago Harbor the next morning. *History of Milwaukee, City and County Edited By William George Bruce Volume I Illustrated*. Chicago-Milwaukee: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company. 1922,129. Accessed June 16, 2014 books.google.com

Another Sabbath has passed from time Jane, Ada, and I have been to Sabbath School this afternoon.. But few attended only three teachers.. I felt to say O Lord revive thy work in this place.. It seems people have time for everything but to serve the Lord.. Time for everything but to attend to the Salvation of their Souls. O Heavenly Father open their eyes that they may see their situation as it and guide them into the faith that leads to Eternal life. O save them for Jesus sake tomorrow is the Anniversary of Perry's Battle in the same place where the battle was fought.. A number of steamers leave Buffalo tonight loaded with passengers to witness the scene I thought of going for my dear brother was killed in that battle.⁴² I thought I should feel very sad to be there so I have concluded to go to the Falls and spend the day there and visit my friends there and at Chippewa there was a time when I loved to go and spend a few days at Chippewa we used to have very pleasant times then and we would spend whole days around the falls viewing the wonderful works of the great God. Those days are forever past for those that used to accompany me are no more. The grave has claimed them as its prey and the sentence that was pronounced on our first parents has been fulfilled on them namely dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return but good night journal I must go to my rest.

Monday Night September 10, 1860

Jane took the horse and buggy this morning and brought me to the Steamer Clifton bound for the Falls.[Niagara] We left the wharf at nine o'clock touched at Black Creek at old Fort Schlosser⁴³.. And arrived at Chippewa at half past eleven. I walked up to the house found Mr. Deakers and Ellen there. They were much pleased to see me. Ellen has a daughter a year old she is a great pet with her Grandfather. Mr. Miller, Ellen's husband is from home so I did not see him. It is over two years since I was here and I find great changes have taken place in this small town.

Death has been busy over the falls. What a sight it must have been for a Mother to see Mr. Decker's tells me that Mr. [Thomas] Street and Mrs. [Caroline] Macklem and her son nine years old was walking on the Island and the son asked his Mother if he might go and look at the music stand. She gave her consent and he turned from them and in about two minutes they saw him pass them in the rapids and in another moment he was over the

⁴² Referring to her eldest brother Abner Williams killed in the Perry's Battle.

⁴³ Fort Schlosser located near the French Fort Little Niagara or Fort du Portage built 1759 It was destroyed to prevent capture by the British. The British built a new fort slightly upstream in 1796 treaty the Americans took control used as a supply depot. The British burned the fort in December 1813. Maintained as a state militia supply depot until 1857. "North American Forts-Fort Schlosser." Accessed June 16, 2014. www.northamericanforts.com/East/nywest.html#schlosser

falls they have offered a reward of one thousand dollars for his body it was some six weeks ago but they have not found it yet and probably never will.⁴⁴

Tuesday Night September 11, 1860

I am at home again or rather in Buffalo I came up the river this evening and am staying with Sylvina tonight Ellen and I did not go on our contemplated examination today.. For it commenced raining when we were seating our breakfast and it rained all day we never went out of the house all day.. till this evening when I went to the boat. It was quite rough coming into port and I got quite seasick. I do not feel like writing tonight.

Saturday Night September 15, 1860

This is the evening of my birthday 56 years of my life has passed forever away.. And how rapidly it has gone when I look back on my life it seems but a little while since I was a child. I have been thinking over the companions of my youthful years and they are most all gone to try the realities of eternity. I feel like one of another generation.. but soon I shall follow them to the world of spirits. Alas what is life? When are those that gave me birth my Parents dear.. The guardians of my helpless years.. And more mature childhood they have long years ago.. Left this earth and are now in eternity. In that world that never will have an end and when millions of years have passed away till it will be eternity. O My Soul ponders think how short is life. How long is the life to come and be wise. Use this world as not abusing it.. But lay up thy treasures in Heaven where they will be forever safe. And when thy feel remaining days are past then. O Heavenly Father receive me into thy presence. Where there is pleasant forever more and friends will never know the sorrow of parting.

With this evening I commence a new year and shall I live to see it close fifty-six years has passed away since first my eyes beheld the day. Fifty-six years are over and past and this perhaps may be my last. How many that begun the new year with me are laid in their quiet graves to rest. This is a dying world and all in it must die too. Well there is nothing but religion worth living for and that will carry us safely through this work to the Mansions that Jesus has gone to prepare for those that love him.

Yesterday Jane and I went to Joseph Harris⁴⁵ to see Mrs. White⁴⁶ she has been sick four months and is wasted to a skeleton. She looks as though she could not live long.

⁴⁴ James Cummings Macklem, accidentally drown when he fell into the falls when taking a walk around the falls with his mother Caroline Macklem and Grandfather Samuel Street in 1860. No record that his body was ever recovered. Edward Marion Chadwick, *Ontarian Families Genealogies Of United Empire Loyalist and other Pioneer Families of Upper Canada*. Toronto: Rolph, Smith & Co., 1898,178. Accessed April 15, 2015 books.google.com

⁴⁵ Joseph Harris is brother in law to Sophia Harris.

She is young.. But no age is exempt from death and now as I lay by my writing let me resolve to live a better life. Wilt thou O Heavenly Father be my guide and ever keep me in the path that leads to eternal life.. And when Earths scenes fade forever from my sight.. May I enjoy thee in Heaven above for Jesus sake.

Sunday the September 16, 1860

This has been a cold rainy day it reminds us that the summer is past and soon winter will be here with its frost and snow. Jane went to Sabbath school but I stayed home with little Willie. Jane tells me there was a number of new scholars today I am glad to hear it and hope our little Sabbath School may be the means of doing much good in this neighborhood.

Saturday night September 22, 1860

Another week has passed from time.. And I am fast hastening to the grave. I feel that my life journey is almost done. In a little while I shall have this world to try the realities of one that has no end. Every day I am warned of my departure from time. I cannot take up a paper but there is a sudden death or a railroad smash up. Or a steam boat disaster where many are called from time to eternity without a moments warning. All seems to say to me... be ye ready.. Prepare to meet thy God. I have been quite busy through the week Monday we washed and Ironed. Tuesday Jane, Ada, and I went down to Mrs. [Mary] Strong's to make her a visit. Wednesday I was making preserves and pickles. Thursday Mr. Harris and I went to the city [Buffalo]. I heard that [Daughter] Sylvina was sick and I went down to see her.. And besides it was [Son] Richards's birthday he was 38. Friday Mr. Harris, Jane, Ada, and I went up to Alvin Salisberry's⁴⁷ for a visit had a first rate one we called at Joel Smith and Mr. Crandall's and tonight we have been down to Mr. Scotts.

Mr. [Thomas] Sloan's little son died very suddenly today.⁴⁸ Jane has been there most of the day he has been quite unwell for a few days past but they thought nothing serious till this morning when they perceived he was very sick and sent for the Doctor but he died before the Doctor came. He shut his own eyes and died as one going to sleep without a groan or any apparent pain. He was a sweet child would have been three years old today.

Surely they should not mourn for him his journey through time was short. His Savior has took him and that savior has said.. Of such is the kingdom of heaven.. Mr.

⁴⁶ Mrs. Harriett White is Joseph daughter, Sophia's niece. "1860 Federal Census, Buffalo, New York." Accessed May 12, 2015. ancestry.com

⁴⁷ Alvin & Adaline Salisbury, Joel Smith friends in Hamburg On the Lake. "1860 United States Federal Census Hamburg on the lake, Erie County, NY" Accessed April 12, 2015. ancestry.com

⁴⁸ Thomas & Martha L. Sloan, son Thomas. "1860 United States Census, Buffalo Ward 1 Erie County, NY." Accessed May 15, 2015. ancestry.com

Scott is slowly recovering but they all miss little Thomas he was the pet of the whole house and they will miss him very much but their loss is his eternal gain.

Sunday night September 23, 1860

Jane has been to Mr. Scott's all day. They take little Thomas to the city this evening and will be buried tomorrow. Such is life a few days ago he was well and bid fair to live to a good old age but tomorrow the grave will forever shut him from their sight. I was getting ready this afternoon to go to Sabbath School when Harvey and Sylvina came and brought me a letter from Sister Esther saying she had failed very much since I was there and I must come to her as soon as I can. I am not disappointed for I did not think she would live through the fall when I left. One after another of my sisters pass from earth and soon we shall all be in the eternal world and shall will be a happy family in heaven or shall we be separated? O my father may we all be thine. O prepares us all to sing thy praise in the New Jerusalem above for Jesus sake.

It is thirty-eight years ago last Thursday that my father [Richard Williams] died and since then how many of my dearly loved friends have followed to that world whence none return. O heavenly father may my life's brief remnant all be thine and when they sure decree bids me this fleeting breath resign O speed my soul to thee.

Monday September 24, 1860

This day we used to celebrate as our mothers [Sophia Morton] birthday had my mother lived till today she would have been 84 years old.. But for the last six birthdays she has not been with us she is in that land where time is not known where it is one eternal day one vast boundless eternity there soon I hope to meet this my mother there shall we meet again. Meet never to sever where peace will wreath her chain round us forever. Our hearts will then repose secure from worldly foes our songs of praise shall close never, no never.

Wednesday September 26, 1860

Yesterday and today I have spent at the County Fair⁴⁹ and it is to continue two days longer. Last night it rained very hard and the roads are quite muddy today. I have a

⁴⁹Agricultural Society formed in 1819 with a goal of promoting education and competition among farmers with a fair. Dr. Cyrenius Chapin, president of agriculture society organized the first fair along Buffalo waterfront in 1820-1821 with little success due road conditions and an economic downturn. No fairs were held between 1822-1840 In 1841 the agriculture society reestablished and held a fair on Lafayette Square on the grounds of the Erie County courthouse the fair was held in Buffalo until 1849. After a donation of land by Hamburg citizen Luther Titus the fair was moved to Hamburg in 1868. Sophia often participated each year. Premiums were given for winning entries prizes ranged from certificate of merit to cash prizes. Martin Biniasz, *On Behalf Of The*

number of articles on exhibition and should stay at home tomorrow for I am quite tired out. But I must not write tonight for I have got so much to do to get ready to start early in the morning.

Friday night September 28, 1860

The fair is over and I am at home again. I got a premium on my beehive, honey, silk quilt, table spread, and my sofa pillows. Esq. Stewart of Hamburg delivered the address and it was excellent. The best I ever heard at any fair. The fair is over but I have got to start again. It seems to me sometimes that I am hurried through this world. I have got to start Monday for North Chili⁵⁰ to see sister Fox⁵¹. She wrote for me to come for she was not as well as she had been. I am afraid she will soon leave us to try the realities of the spirit world.

Sunday Night September 30, 1860

Jane and Ada have gone over to the Sabbath School, Mr. Flint the Superintendant, called here a little while and Jane and Ada rode over with him. I have seated myself to write and read but Sylvina and Harvey have just come and I must stop. It is evening now Harvey and Sylvina have gone home they brought me a letter from Hamilton. He writes me that he can't come home this winter. We all feel disappointed but as disappointment is the lot of us poor mortals we must submit to it. Well journal I must lay you by for I have got some little chores to do tonight as I must start in the morning to go and see sister Esther.

I expect to go home tomorrow and I have been thinking is this the last time I shall ever see sister [Esther Fox] in this world perhaps it is for she is liable to drop away at any time and yet she may out live me. I may pass into the eternal world before her. But it is no matter who is called first or how soon we go if we have an interest in our dear savior and are the children of God than for us to die is gain.

O how wonderful is the plan of salvation what a perfect robe of righteousness Jesus has wrought and how freely he has bestowed it on us poor sinful mortals who were doomed by justice to eternal death. O what infinite love who can fathom it and who can tell what it cost the Lamb of God when Jesus said it is finished the whole plan of salvation was completed. His earthly work was done and he was ready to return to his father in heaven there to reign king of saints and has Jesus died for me. Am I his child? Am I an heir of glory? Shall I be an inhabitant of those mansions that Jesus has gone to prepare. O my savior grant that I may be thine O teach me how to live and guide me by thy good wisdom through all the changing scenes of life and when this life is past may I worship thee in Heaven at last.

Erie County Agricultural Society, Erie County Fair, Hamburg, New York. 10 & 79. Mt Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000. Accessed June 16, 2015. books.google.com

⁵⁰ North Chili located in Monroe county modern day suburb of Rochester, New York

⁵¹ Sophia Williams, Sister Esther Fox.

Saturday Night October 13, 1860

Another week is gone they fly so fast they seem like days I came home last Monday found my family all well was glad to get home and to my own bed in this work there is no place like home. Tuesday I had to bake and prepare for company. Wednesday I had Company all day. I had Mrs. Joel Smith and Lettie Smith, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Dodd, Mrs. Sylvina Peek, Mrs. Richard Harris Mother [in-law] Hinson, Harvey Peek [son-in-law] and O H P [Oliver Hazard Perry brother] Williams.⁵²

The remainder of the week I have been picking and sorting my grapes for the winter this is the season of the year when there are many things to be seen to and taken care of. Soon cold winter will be here and we must prepare for it. This afternoon Mr. Harris, Jane, and Ada have gone to the city to stay all night there is a great celebration there today and this evening there is to be a great torchlight procession the Wide Awakes⁵³ or the supporters of Lincoln and Hamilton for the Presidency and Vice Presidency are to meet in Buffalo. They come from all parts of the state and are calculating on a monster meeting. Our country is in a great commotion at present the voting part of the community are in a constant state of excitement.. But a few weeks more will tell the story.

Sunday Night October 14, 1860

Mr. Harris and Jane came home today they never saw anything like the procession last night it took them an hour to pass with eight abreast and all had their lamps burning. It was a grand rally this afternoon Jane, Ada, and I have been over to Sabbath School. There was but few scholars present most all of our neighbors have gone to make their cider today some have taken their children with them.. What an example to set before children instead of going with them to Sabbath school and setting them an example. They learn to profane Gods holy Sabbath.. And boast they what they do on the Sabbath is clear gain.. If they have any extra work it is done on the Sabbath. I feel to say as Jesus did, "Father forgive them they know not what they do."

Tuesday October 16, 1860

⁵² Mr. Joel & Loretta Lettie, farmers lived in Hamburg on the Lake, Mrs. [Mary] John Booth, Lumber dealer live in Buffalo, Mrs. [Martha] Dodd, lives in Buffalo, she is a dress maker.

⁵³ Wide Awakes the new Republican party organized young men's marching clubs their primary duty was to escort Republican speakers, maintain order at political rallies, to join in mass to work for Republican party, attend the polls to see that every legal voter was able to vote, conduct themselves to convince other Republicans to join their cause. They held military style marches and parades wearing military style uniforms. Jon Grinspan, "Young Men For War: The Wide Awakes and Lincoln's 1860 political campaign." *Journal Of American History*, 96. (Sept. 2009), 357-78., Accessed June 18, 2014 www.Journalofamericanhistory.org

Yesterday Mr. Harris and I went over to Aurora to see Mrs. Dusenberry but she has gone east and we did not see her today. I carried Jane and Ada to the city to spend a few days.

Sunday Night October 21, 1860

Jane, Ada, and I have been over to Sabbath School this afternoon very few was present some of the teachers had gone to Whites Corners to tend a funeral Mr. Daniel Binder died very suddenly yesterday he was preparing to go to the city when he was taken with Paralysis⁵⁴ and died in a short time. He was quite a noted man at the Corners. He had kept Public house there a number of years.. And another of our townsmen has left us and gone home. Old Esq. Parker went about two weeks ago up the Lake to visit some friends and day before yesterday they received a telegraph dispatch saying his corpse would arrive here on the ten O clock evening train. It must have been sad news for his aged wife and their children.. little did he think when he left home that he should be brought back a corpse. But such is life today here tomorrow forever gone.

And our turn will soon come how many generations have passed away that have felt as we feel and their lives were as active as ours.. They have all passed away while nature has ever wore the same aspect of beauty as first created. The heavens will be as bright over our graves as they are now around our falls.. Yet a little while and time with us will be no more.. The throbbing heart will be still, and we shall be at rest.. Our funeral will be over and then we shall be left in silence and darkness in the grave and for a very short time we shall be spoken of but the things of life will creep in and we will soon be forgotten.. Days will continue to move on.. And laughter and song will be heard in the room in which we died and the eye that wept for us. And the heart that mourned for us will forget their tears and sorrows.. And our friends will cease to remember us or to speak our names

What do we know of those our ancestors that were inhabitants of our earth a hundred years ago.. And what will be known of us a hundred years to come.. Alas how short our journey from the cradle to the grave. Then O my soul why so craving for the things of time and sense.. Why not loose from earth thy grasp of fond desire.

Why not look to my home in the skies that blissful home where Jesus dwells and sorrow and death cannot enter. Where we can say the bitterness of death is passed the coast is clear my mortal race is run.. Henceforth my redeemer is mine and I am his. I feel to say tonight my days are passing swiftly by and I a pilgrim stranger would not detain them if I could. Those hours of toil and danger for now we stand on Jordan's strand. Our friends are passing over and just before the shining shore, we may almost discover.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Paralysis also known as Apoplexy is paralysis due to stroke. "Glossary of Medical Terms Used in 18th & 19th Centuries." Accessed June 18, 2014. www.thornber.net/medicine/html/medgloss.html

⁵⁵ George Root In 1856, "*My Days Are Gliding Swiftly By*." Root was one of the most prominent American composers and musicians of the 19th century, never felt that his tune "Shining Star" was a particularly good one. Nevertheless, time has proven it to

Tuesday October 23, 1860

I have had company today Alvin Salisberry and wife [Adaline] and daughter [Luella]⁵⁶ and Chauncey Vail and his wife [Phebe].⁵⁷ Jane went to the city yesterday morning and got home today noon so I have been alone. Brother brought little Tommy with him to spend the day and he come back and took tea with us we had a pleasant visit.

Thursday October 25, 1860

Jane, Ada, and I have been up to Joshua Smiths this afternoon. Mrs. Joel Smith and Lettie was there and we had an oyster supper and a good visit. I have wrote a letter and finished reading my Bible through this evening and now I will go to my rest. Yes temporal rest for the body but there is rest for the weary on the other side of Jordan where the Tree of life is blooming. Other is rest for the weary sin sick soul into that rest O my heavenly father may my weary soul enter. When the scenes of this life is over.. Now into thy kind care and keeping I will resign myself feeling that thou art my friend and protector and a friend that will never leave nor forsake those that put their trust in thee.

Tuesday October 30, 1860

Today I have been with Mr. Harris to the city he has gone to North Chili to see Sister Fox. I have got so uneasy about her that I was anxious to have him go and see how she was getting along. I hope he will find her better but I fear he will not. I think her disease is slow but sure I came home alone this evening.. And it does seem lonesome to have him gone.

Thursday November 1, 1860

Another month of my short life is gone and I am fast approaching the end of life's journey. Soon my months and years will all be passed and I shall be in eternity O that I could realize, as I ought my situation and strive to be prepared for my eternal home.

Jane and Ada went to the city this afternoon to meet Mr. Harris as we expected him home this evening. He has just come and tells me that sister is no better, well the

be one of the great gospel hymns. The author of the text, David Nelson, a surgeon during the War of 1812 and later became a preacher and an educator. "Shall we gather.. American Hymns." Accessed October 6, 2015. www.dramonline.org/albums/shall-we-gather-american-hymns-spirituals/notes

⁵⁶ Alvin & Adaline Salisberry and Daughter Luella, Lived in Aurora. Alvin worked as a day laborer. Accessed October 6, 2015. "1860 Federal Census Erie County, NY." ancestry.com

⁵⁷ Chauncey Vaile, Inn Keeper, lived in Hamburg, Erie County, NY with wife, Phebe Harris, two sons Spencer, Henry & one daughter Elizabeth. Accessed October 6, 2015. "1860 Federal Census ErieCounty, NY." ancestry.com

Lords will be done. If she is prepared she can say all is well. I must stop writing for I am very tired I have been papering my kitchen today besides having company this afternoon Mrs. Hall and Helen Hall have been here to spend the afternoon.

I hear today that Deacon Fay was dead.⁵⁸ He died very suddenly but I have not heard the particulars. I have know him ever since I was a child.. When I united with the church he was the first Deacon of the same church ever since.. In the town of Portland and Village of Salem.. How much he will be missed by his family and the church. But I doubt not their loss is his eternal gain.

Thursday November 8, 1860

One week of this month is already gone and I have been so busy that I have not opened my journal to write a word. Monday I was sorting grapes all day. Tuesday I went over to Whites Corners to get my carpet wove and when I got home I found Sister [Hannah] Gowdy and Dora here. Wednesday I had to do my washing and paper the little hall and today Mr. Harris and I have been to the city to carry them down. I heard today that Deacon Bailey⁵⁹ died yesterday with consumption⁶⁰ he was deacon in the Washington St. Baptist Church, he is to be buried next Sunday from the church and so one after another is called from the church militant to join the church triumphant above.

Most all the ministers that have been pastors over our church have been called home. There was Rev. Jarvus Handy, Rev. Elisha Tucker, Dr. Tucker, Elder Pranger, Dr. Chonles, besides a number that used to Preach when we were destitute of a pastor they were all watchmen on the wells of Zion but their time of service expired and they have gone to their reward. O what a strange thing is life truly we are fearfully and wonderfully made..But I don't feel as though I could write tonight. I feel gloomy and depressed in spirit. I have had a severe headache today and besides I have just got a letter from Hamilton saying he and the babe [Jennie Harris] are sick. How I do wish they were home.

Sunday night November 11, 1860

There has been preaching in the schoolhouse today and Jane, Ada, and I went. A Man from the city preached but I did not learn his name. His text was for we have not followed cunningly devised fables first Peter he proved the truthfulness of the

⁵⁸ Young, 507-511. Deacon Elijah Fay, died August 23, 1860 in Portland, Chautauqua, New York was one of the founders of the Baptist church, that Sophia's mother helped to start, he also known for introducing grapes to Chautauqua county. At the time of his death his wine cellar held 1,500 gallons.

⁵⁹ Fredonia Baptist Church began in 1807 when the Connecticut Baptist Missionary Society sent a missionary, Rev. Joy Handy to preach the gospel. Zattu Cushing's barn was used for a religious assembly; it was large enough to hold all participants.

⁶⁰ Consumption, a wasting away of the body, applied to pulmonary tuberculosis, caused by a bacteria. Accessed June 16, 2014. "Glossary of Old Medical Terms." www.thornber.net/medicine/html/medgloss.html

Bible and showed how much better it was than the doctrine of Mahomet or Joe Smith the Bible had stood the test of ages and would grow brighter and brighter till the end of time and exhorted all his heavens to take the Bible for the guide of their lives.. It was what we needed to live by and it was good to die by.

Thursday November 15, 1860

I have been to the house of mourning today.. A little son of Wm Brice fell into Rush Creek last night and was drowned. He was an only son and his parents felt they could not give him up. He was taken from them so suddenly and so unexpectedly that they could not be comforted he was six years old. He had not been out of the house but a few minutes when they missed him and they called but he did not answer. His father and mother both run to the creek and there he lay on top of the water his face down. The water was about four feet deep his father sprung into the water and took him out but the vital spark had fled forever he was buried this afternoon from the school house.

A minister from Whites Corners, Elder Schoonover preached his funeral sermon from Ecclesiastes 7 first and second verse⁶¹ .. It is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting for that is the end of all men and the living will lay it to his heart. He described the house of feasting and told the influences that it produced.. And also the house of mourning how it was calculated to draw our minds away from earth and Earthly things.. It taught us that we too must die.. He talked well to the mourners and the congregation. But the funeral is over and little Lyman is laid in the cold grave to sleep till the judgment day but he could never die in a better time he has escaped the sorrows of life and Jesus has said but for little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Sunday night November 18, 1860

The storm today has kept us from the Sabbath school it commenced to storm in the night and it has rained and blowed all day. Jane and Ada have been to the city the past week. They came home last night how I do miss my Sunday meetings. When I lived in the city I could go if it did storm but here I cannot. Still I love the country and I have my Bible if I don't have my church and that is a great treasure to me. I am now reading the Apocrypha. I have read through the Old and New testaments this year. Thought I would read the Apocrypha⁶² to finish up the year. I have been very busy the past week in preparing my work and fining⁶³ for winter. I have made my sausages, tried my cans⁶⁴,

⁶¹ Bible reference Ecclesiastes 7: 1-2 day of death is better than birth, it is better to go to the house of mourning than a house of feasting- death is the destiny of everyone.

⁶² Apocrypha primarily means hidden, or secret, Books in the Old and New Testaments held books or text that was inferior to the genuine stories of Christ and the apostle, never considered divine and not included in the Bible.

⁶³ Fining is a process where a substance is added to the wine to clarify and stabilizes the wine by binding suspended particles and precipitating out as larger

made my headcheese⁶⁵, and my soap⁶⁶. Colored my flannel and colored some rags for my carpet⁶⁷. I am making two carpets and it is a great deal of work to get them ready but in another week I hope to have them done.

Sunday night November 25, 1860

Another week has passed away and a stormy one it has been all the fore part of the week it rained and Thursday night it snowed. Friday morning the snow was about two inches deep but through the day most of it melted away but Friday night it blowed very hard and snowed and it snowed all day Saturday and this morning the snow is about a foot and a half deep.. I don't think we had any more severe winter days last winter than yesterday and today have been. Most of the time it has snowed so fast we could not see to the barn and what is strange we have not seen a team pass yesterday nor today. I don't think I ever knew so severe a snowstorm has come in good earnest.

I have spent most of this day reading. I have read through the book of Judith in the Apocrypha⁶⁸, and read through a number of tracts.⁶⁹

particles. Janis Robinson, *Oxford Companion To Wine*, 51. Oxford: University Press, 2006. Accessed May 15, 2015. books.google.com

⁶⁴ Preserving foodstuff through canning, "tried my cans" is testing the can to make sure it is properly sealed to prevent the food from spoiling, canning made it possible to have foods normally out of season as well as a consistent product. Randall M. Miller, *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Daily Life In America* (Volvo and Voo: 2004)168.

⁶⁵ Headcheese was made by boiling in salt water the ears, skin, and feet of pig until the meat falls from bones; chop it like sausage meat. Season the liquor with pepper, salt, cloves, nutmeg, and cinnamon, or with salt and pepper, and sweet herbs, mix the meat with it, and while hot tie it in a strong bag and keep a heavy stone upon it until quite cold. Alice Cooke Brown, *Early American Herb Recipes*, 84. (Rutledge, VT: Courier Corporation, 2012)

⁶⁶ Making soap, take a gallon of lye, strong enough to bear up an egg, to every pound of grease. Put lye into your barrel, and strain the grease hot through a sieve. Stir three to four times a day for several days, or until it thickens. By this process you have soap clearer. When preparing to make soap, add a little old soap to the lye and grease. This will facilitate the labor of making. Elizabeth M. Hall, *Practical American Cookery and Domestic Economy*, 340. (San Francisco, CA: C.M. Saxton, Barker & Co., H.H. Bancroft & Co., 1860)

⁶⁷ Dyes were made from bark, berries, and the leaves and flowers of herbs, onionskins produce a yellow color, horseradishes leaves were boiled in water for half an hour to create another yellow dye. Brown 13.

⁶⁸ Book of Judith from Old Testament Plot summary: a beautiful widow who is unhappy with her fellow Jewish countrymen for their lack of faith in God to deliver them from their conquerors. She and her servant go to the enemy general, Holofernes and after gaining his trust, she cuts off his head and brings it back to her fellow Jews. The Assyrians leaderless falls into disarray and Israel is saved.

I have read the Anxious Servant⁷⁰. The Teacher Tamo, the Nestorian Prisoner⁷¹, quench not the Spirit⁷², A friendly word with the gamester⁷³, and reformation of drunkards.⁷⁴ Do you want a friend⁷⁵, and the two ends and the two ways⁷⁶ besides I have been reading the

⁶⁹ Tracts Sophia is referring to were published by The American Tract Society an evangelical conservative publishing firm who spread Christianity. "First Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Agency of the American Tract Society; presented at Philadelphia, May 1, 1854." Accessed June 18, 2014. books.google.com

⁷⁰ Rev. Richard Knill, *The Anxious Servant*, no. 343. *American Tract Society, General Series*, Vol. 9. Boston, MA: Perkins & Marvin, 1833. There are many domestic servants unaware of their own souls peril make them aware of salvation and they can pass the message on to those in need. Accessed April 15, 2014.

<http://www.archive.org/stream/tractsofamerican09amer#page/n437/mode/2up>

⁷¹ David Tappan Stoddard, Tamo, Nestorian prisoner, *American Tract Society: General Series*, Vol. 13 no. 560 Tamo was mistakenly charged with a murder and imprisoned. He was beaten, became deathly ill, and asked for God's forgiveness and pleads for mercy. He eventually becomes a true believer and thankful for God's mercy. Accessed April 15, 2015.

http://www.archive.org/stream/nestorianbiograp00perk/nestorianbiograp00perk_djvu.txt

⁷² William Torrey, *Quench Not The Spirit*, *American Tract Society*, Vol. 5, no.174. Seek religion early in life, do not let life distract you from your eternal home. Accessed April 15, 2015.

<http://www.archive.org/stream/tractsofamerican05amer#page/n386/mode/1up>

⁷³ *A Friendly Word With Gamesters*, *American Tract Society*, Vol. 11 # 428 General Society. The habit of gambling is a sinful profession and leads to downfall, Find Jesus and repent your sins and use your talents for an industrious calling. While there is time do not gamble with your soul. Accessed April 15, 2015.

<http://www.archive.org/stream/tractsofamerican11amer#page/n112/mode/1up>

⁷⁴ *Reformation Of Drunkards*, *American Tract Society*, Vol. 11, # 422 General Society. It is God's will that all who are able to treat those with the infirmity of drink with kindness and tell them with Jesus they can reform. The reformers in turn will benefit society and families. Accessed April 15, 2015.

<http://www.archive.org/stream/tractsofamerican11amer#page/n112/mode/1up>

⁷⁵ *Do You Want A Friend?*, *American Tract Society, General Series*. Vol. 7, #225 A true friend in Jesus can give you eternal comfort and peace. Accessed April 15, 2015. <http://www.archive.org/stream/tractsofamerican07amer#page/n44/mode/1up>

⁷⁶ *The Two Ends And The Two Ways.*, *American Tract Society, General Series* Vol. 5, #160. A cautionary tale to take the path to Heaven, repent your sins, and achieve eternal life through the belief in Jesus Christ. Accessed: April 15, 2015. <http://www.archive.org/stream/tractsofamerican05amer#page/n238/mode/1up>

story of Wycliffe's⁷⁷ chair and pulpit, the story says that in the town of Sutterworth, England on the Banks of the river Swift stand the old Church of St. Mary in which Wycliffe, used to Preach and the same old carved oak pulpit and the same old chair are still there.. The pulpit where he preached his great reformation sermons and the chair he used to sit in. how Ancient they must look Wycliffe died in 1384 almost five hundred years ago his name still lives.. But his body has long since returned to its mother dust how true it is that a mans good name is his best monument.

Tuesday November 27, 1860

The storm has abated and now it is calm and white but O what a destruction of life and property there has been on the Lakes. The papers are full of the names of Propellers and vessels that are lost and all on board of them lost all found a watery grave. One whole fleets coming in from Chicago loaded with wheat were lost on Lake Michigan. It has been an awful storm. Today Mr. Harris has been down on the beach he says there are ⁷⁸a great many dead, fish and lizards on the beach that have been washed up by the storm. Mr. Salisberry found a swan and a loon that had perished in the storm. The swan is splendid bird as white as snow with black feet and bill it measured four feet from its bill to its tail and six feet from tip to tip of its wings. There has been a number of fish that have been found alive on the [beach] weighed twelve pounds.

Wednesday November 28, 1860

I have been down to the lake today and spent three hours walking on the beach. The lake is as calm as though no storm had ever ruffled its mighty waters. I counted about thirty sail vessels besides some propellers, so they are not all destroyed but the destruction has been great. All along on the beach there are pieces of timbers that have come out of lost boats and broken barrels and casks some look as though they had been filled with flour, some with sugar, some with apples. For the apples are strewn all along the beach, large nice apples, but they are good for nothing now they have been froze and thawed now some dashed to pieces. There are cranberries and different kinds of nuts,

⁷⁷ John Wycliffe preacher who was an early rebel against the Roman Catholic Church, which became a precursor for the Protestant Reformation. Wycliffe translated the Bible into the English language in 1382, known as Wycliffe's Bible

⁷⁸ The storm of Saturday and Sunday was a most terrible one on the Lakes, and we hear of disasters in all quarters. *The Revolving Light*, of Henderson, loaded with wheat, and the *Minnehaha*, of Detroit, bound for Ogdensburg, loaded with corn, went ashore at Cape Vincent, with others, names unknown. Seven vessels are reported between Kingston and Sackets Harbor. The *Cascade*, loaded with wheat, was driven in the port last named, in a disabled condition. The *Jenny P. Mack*, loaded with coal, is ashore ten miles above Port Colborne. The *Forest* is frozen in the Bay of Quinte. A telegraph from Buffalo gives account of from 15 to 20 vessels ashore and more or less disabled and damaged. *Watertown Times*, NY November 29, 1860.

broken pails, candles and tallow. Mr. Skinner picked up last night a barrel of mackerel and some lug groceries.

I have heard tonight that a number of dead bodies have washed ashore above us. One was found this morning and six yesterday they are supposed to have been lost from the propeller *Dakota*⁷⁹ that came ashore some 8 or 9 miles above here. The propeller was bound up the lake and had on board two hundred and eighty two tons of merchandise destined for Chicago and Milwaukee. There were twenty-four persons on board of her and not one is left to tell the tale of their sufferings. Poor sailors.

Thursday November 29, 1860

Mr. Harris and I have been to the city today. It is Thanksgiving Day and I thought to get to town in time to hear the sermon but the roads were so bad we did not. I took dinner with Sylvina and they had an excellent dinner.. Oyster soup, roast turkey, roast goose, and baked beef. After dinner Sylvina and I went uptown and called of Mrs. Dodd and sister [Eliza] Morgan. I have heard from Sister Fox today she is worse and sister [Hannah] Gowdy has gone to stay a while with her. It seems sad that she must leave us but the family tie is broken and death will never desist till the last one is taken. After we left sister Morgan we called on Mrs. Slaight a few moments and then went to Richard's found mother [Martha, mother in law] Hinson there stayed till after tea and then came home.

Saturday night December 1, 1860

One more month has passed away. My months how fast they pass away I hardly realize they are here before they are gone. I feel so disappointed tonight I can hardly write. I have been making calculations all the week to go to the city this evening and hear Mr. Gough⁸⁰, the great temperance lecturer this evening, but it is so cold and stormy I could not go.

Sunday December 2, 1860

⁷⁹ Propeller *Dakota* left Buffalo prior to the storm and was lost at Evans Center with all her crew. Portions of the wreck were scattered along the shore for eighteen miles, *Sandusky Register*, Wednesday, November 28, 1860. Accessed June 18, 2014. Images.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca/60695/

⁸⁰ John B. Gough, temperance advocate lectured in the United States becoming extremely popular abroad and the states. Cooper Thompson, F.S.A. *Men of the Time: A Dictionary of Contemporaries containing Biographical Notices of Eminent Characters of Both Sexes. Eighth Edition revised and brought down to present time by Thompson Cooper, F.S.A.*, 428. New York, NY: George Routledge and sons, 1872. Accessed June 18, 2015 books.google.com

This morning Palmer Skinner went down to the beach and he found a man was washed ashore in the storm. Mr. Harris, Mr. Hall, Mr. Salisbury, and Mr. Skinner⁸¹ went down to see him. He lay in the edge of the water no clothes on but his pants and boots. They took him out of the water and laid him back on the beach and sent for the coroner. The coroner has just been and took the man away he was very much disfigured. He could not be recognized by his friends. The coroner thinks he must have lain in the water some time but probably we shall never know who he was or how he came by his death. Mr. [Havel S.] Hunt⁸² called here this afternoon on his way to Sabbath school. We did not go to Sabbath school today Mr. Harris has been down to the beach the most of the forenoon and he got so chilled with the cold he did not feel like going out again.

Saturday night December 8, 1860

I have been alone most of the week Jane went to the city Monday morning and has come home this evening. Ada has been to school and I have not had much company. Mr. and Mrs. Vail were here Monday on a visit and this afternoon. Mrs. Skinner has been here. Jane brought me a letter this evening from sister [Hannah] Gowdy. She is with sister Fox and she writes me that she is failing fast thinks she will not live but a few weeks. It is sad to think she must die and leave us never more to return.

She is going only a little before we shall soon follow her to the spirit world. We shall soon be inhabitants of eternity. But why dread to die why dread to leave this world of care and anxiety, of sorrow and pain. If we are the children of God, death will be to us the gate to endless joy. We shall see our heavenly father as he is and be forever with him. We shall see our Savior as he is. And with all the redeemed of earth forever sing the song of redeeming grace and undying love. And let me ask myself the question tonight. Am I one of the redeemed? Am I a child of God? O my soul be not deceived in this all important matter. O heavenly father forgive me all my sins for Jesus sake. And guide me by thy unerring council till I arrive where thou art. I feel this world is not my home.. But may I so live that when I have done with earth I may have a home eternal in the heavens.

Tuesday Night December 12, 1860

Mr. Harris and I have been to the city today. I got a letter from brother Fox saying I must come to them for sister is failing fast he writes me that Doctor Craig has given her up. She has got another Doctor I am sorry to hear it for I am afraid it will hurry her out of the world. But I must go to her as soon as I can for I want to be with her in her last days.. And do all I can to sooth her passage to the grave.

Friday Night December 14, 1860

⁸¹ "1860 New York Census, Erie County, NY." Palmer Skinner, Hall, and Salisbury are neighbors of the Harris family. Accessed October 6, 2015. ancestry.com

⁸² "1860 New York Census, Erie County, NY." Havel S. Hunt is a farmer and neighbor. Accessed October 6, 2015. ancestry.com

Mr. Harris brought me to the city this morning to take the cars when I got to the city I found a letter saying that sister Esther is dead. She died quite unexpectedly Wednesday Night the 12th at half past six.

Sister Morgan and I took the afternoon train and arrived here [North Chili] at six this evening we found brother [Joseph] Fox almost broken hearted. He says he don't know what he shall do his brother Henry is here from Rochester they all seem to feel her loss deeply.. But she is gone. I have been into the Parlor where her poor worn out body lies. I said O is this Esther is this my dear sister that I have known for her eyes were closed in death all my tears and sorrows could not wake her. She looks peaceful and happy a serene smile is on her countenance and her expression says I am happy. I regret so much that I was not with her in her last days.

Sister [Hannah] Gowdy was with her she says all day Wednesday she could not talk much but seemed to be in fervent prayer and repeated the Hymn Jesus can make a dying bed feel soft as downy pillows are.⁸³

About six in the evening Mr. Fox saw to her. Mother you are going to leave me and I shall be so lonely but we shant be separated long we shall soon meet again. She said I hope so and spoke it loud and distinct it was her last words she did not live three minutes after and died without a struggle or groan they could not believe that she was forever gone. They thought she had fainted but death had done his work and so another earthly tie is severed. She was my oldest sister and I am next. And I have thought tonight which of us will go next is it I? Am I the next to follow in the train if so O my God may I be ready may I be prepared.

Saturday Night December 15, 1860

The day is passed and a solemn day it has been to me. Dear sister has been consigned to her last rest. I have seen her for the last time. Till we meet in the spirit world. She has left us all. She is done with earth and all that earth contains. I trust and hope she is forever safe and happy in the mansions of the blessed but I must go back and review the scenes of today. The funeral was appointed to commence at 10 this morning accordingly at ten the Minister the Reverend Mr. Parsons of the Methodist persuasion with a goodly number of neighbors assembled here and after prayers. We all went to the Methodist Church and had a sermon preached from the word.

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. It was a text that sister selected some time before her death. He preached a first rate sermon he commenced at the first of the Chapter. Remember now thy creation in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not. Nor the years draw nigh. When thou shalt say I have no pleasure in the.. He compared the evil days to old age when the words

⁸³ Rev. Isaac Watts D.D. and Rev. G. Burder, *The Psalms And Hymns Of The Rev. Isaac Watt, D.D. A New Edition, With Improved Indexes And Corrected And Revised By The Rev. G. Burder Book 2. Hymns Christ's Presence Makes Death Easy*. New York: NY., D. Fanshaw, 1839. Accessed October 7, 2015 books.google.com

had lost its power to charm.. While the sun or the sight or the moon or the stars be not darkened. This he compared to the loss of vision. The eyesight failing. Nor the clouds return after the rain. The clouds he compared to the trials and perplexities of life. And the rain to weeping. In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble this he compared to the arms and limbs trembling and shaking and the storing men shall bow themselves. This he said was stooping bending forward,, and the grinders cease because they are few (he said the grinders were the Teeth) and those that look out of the windows be darkened (these he said were the Eyes) and the doors shall be shut in the streets. When the sound of the grinding is low (the doors he said was the lips compress together because the teeth were gone) also they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way this meant they were faint hearted age had come upon them and they could not endure the trials of life as they could when they were in the strength of manhood. They went cautiously about for fear of falling and the almond tree shall flourish. This was the hair turning gray and white, and the grasshopper shall be a burden. And desire shall fail. Because man goeth to his long home and the mourners go about the streets he saw trifles. Little things troubled the aged small things that once they would not notice now seems large to them.. Their desires fail them they cease to be ambitious the pleasures of life do not charm them they want to be retired and quiet they feel that they shall soon leave this world that they shall soon go to their long home. Or ever the silver cord be loosed or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. The preacher said the silver cord was the cord that connected the brain to the heart. The golden bowl the pitcher and the wheel, was the dissolution of nature. The heart ceased to perform its part the pulse to beat. The blood to flow through the system. The eyes to see the ears to hear.. The limbs to move. And lastly the breath to breathe a perfect dissolving of nature. And then when all this was accomplished and the spirit had taken its flight forever. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. I think I never heard a truer description of our journey from our births to our deaths than he gave. The text was Ecclesiastes, twelfth chapter and Seventh verse.⁸⁴

Well the Funeral was over and quite a number came to the house and took tea. All those that came from Rochester and Roger and some others Mr. Fox went and took sister [Eliza] Morgan to the cars at six o'clock and there he found brother Oliver on his way here. But he came to late to see his sister. For the grave has forever hid her from our sight. I was glad he came for the house seems lonely. I feel as though death has indeed been here even the dog and cat look around the house in vain for their mistress but I must stop writing for the clock has struck twelve.

Sunday evening December 16, 1860

⁸⁴Bible reference Ecclesiastes 12:7 refers to the process of aging and the eventuality of mans body returning to earth, but the soul or spirit shall return to God who gave it.

Mr. and Mrs. Angel called here awhile today. Mrs. Angel⁸⁵ has visited sister a number of times during her sickness and she has told me of the talks she has had with her and she feels that sister was a child of God an heir to glory. Mr. Fox, brother [Oliver] Williams, sister [Hannah] Gowdy, Dora and I all went to hear Reverend Parsons this afternoon. We went early and visited poor sisters grave. It is a beautiful spot for a cemetery it stands in front of the church and the whole ground are set out to evergreens which gives it an inviting appearance.

The text this afternoon was in Ezekiel 4 chapter and part of the sixth verse. Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord of hosts, as we left the church I cast a look at the grave of my poor sister (Esther). She lies there alone she has gone to her last rest all the scenes of life will disturb her no more this is her first Sabbath in the spirit world. What wonders she now beholds. Now she beholds the scenes of eternity what has been dim to her.

Here all in the house are in bed and the clock will soon strike twelve and I must go to my rest for I am weary there is much I would like to write but I must defer till another time. And here I would again raise my Ebenezer⁸⁶ and say thus far O Lord thou hast helped me O still be my friend and guide me in the path that leads to heaven and thee and receive me at last for Jesus sake.

Tuesday December 25, 1860

Yesterday Mr. Harris and I went to the city. I met brother and sister [Mason & Mary] Brayman, Sherman [Whaley]⁸⁷, and sister [Nancy] Smith⁸⁸ at sister [Eliza] Morgan's stayed with them a little while and then went to Sylvina's. She came up to Richards with me and after tea. Sherman Whaley came home with us. And Mr. Harris carried him to the city this afternoon. We were invited to Sister [Eliza] Morgan's to dinner today but I did not feel like going I do not feel to mingle in society at present

I feel that death has been very near me he has taken another dear sister from our number and I feel the loss is irreparable. The largest portion of my fathers family are in the spirit world. And I know not how soon I shall be called. I feel that the ties that bind me to earth are fast being dissolved. O my soul prepare to meet thy God be ready for the great last change and when I am called to leave this earthy body. May I feel to say all is well.

Thursday December 27, 1860

⁸⁵ Mrs. A. Augusta Angel, lived in North Chili and had attended the Genesee College/ Genesee Wesleyan Seminary in 1858 *U.S. Schools Catalogs, 1765-1935*. 45., Accessed March 12, 2015. ancestry.com

⁸⁶ Bible Reference Ebenezer stone which means "the stone of help" that Samuel set up, and doing so said thus far the Lord helped us. 1 Samuel 7:12

⁸⁷ Sherman Whaley is Sophia's nephew, sister Esther Fox son

⁸⁸ Amos & Eliza Morgan lived in Buffalo, New York. "1860 Federal Census Erie, Buffalo." Accessed April 10, 2015. ancestry.com

Yesterday Mr. Harris and I went over to Whites Corners. Mr. Harris went to mill and I went to get a carpet wove we had not been home not five minutes when brother Oliver, brother and sister [Mason & Mary] Brayman⁸⁹ and Nellie came after supper brother Oliver⁹⁰ went home. And this afternoon Mr. Harris has carried brother and sister Brayman to the city. We had had a short but good, visit and I have thought perhaps this is our last we may not meet again in this world. We have not been all together before since Mother died.⁹¹

I have which of us will next be called over which of yes shall we next assemble to mourn it may be me but it matters not if I am prepared and may it be my greatest aim in life to prepare for death. So I can say come o come thou guardian spirit waft my soul to worlds on high trusting in my saviors merit I am ready now to die.

Saturday December 29, 1860

This is the last Saturday night of this year two more days and this year is gone. And all that I have done is forever done none of my actions or deeds can never be recalled. All is sealed up to the judgment of the great day. And may I say will the poet. How careful then I ought to live with what religious fear who such a strict account must give for my behavior here.

Two week ago today my dear sister was laid in her grave. I shall never meet her again in this world. She has passed beyond earths portals and is an inhabitant of eternity. Her pilgrimage through time is finished. Her work is all done and her poor worn out body is now resting in the dark and silent grave sickness and pain can disturb her no more. O it is sad to think our friends must be snatched from us by death and that we can see them no more. We need their society and their love I have been reading tonight one of the hymns that was sung at Sisters funeral and it seems as though it was composed for her for it portrays her exit from time so truly it was at the close of day when she left this world and she died so peacefully. Without a struggle or a groan she sunk into the arms of death like one going into a peaceful sleep. And a smile of peace was on her face as she lay in the embrace of death the hymn is called the Christians parting flow sweet the hour of closing day.⁹² When all is peaceful and serene and when the sun with cloudless ray. Sheds mellow luster o'er the scene. Such is the Christians parting hour so peacefully he sinks to rest when earth endowed from heaven with power sustaining and cheers his languid

⁸⁹ Mason & Mary Brayman, lived in Springfield, Sagaman, Illinois in 1860, Mason is an lawyer, later enters the Civil War become Brigadere General, Nellie is their daughter. "1860 Federal U.S. Census, Illinois, Sangamon, Springfield." Accessed April 10, 2015. ancestry.com

⁹⁰ Oliver Hazard Perry Williams and spouse Emma farm in Evans, NY. "1860 Federal US Census Evans, Erie County, NY." Accessed April 10, 2015. ancestry.com

⁹¹ Sophia Williams died April 13, 1854.

⁹² William H. Bathurst, *How Sweet the Hour Of Closing Day. Hymns For The Use Of Methodist Episcopal Church With Tunes For Congregational Worship.*, (New York, NY: Carlton & Porter, 1857) 99.

breast. Mark but that radiance of his eye that smile upon his wasted cheek they tell us of his glory nigh in language that no tongue can speak. A beam heaven is sent to cheer. The pilgrim on his gloomy road and angels are attending near to bear him to their bright abode. Who would not wish to die like those whom Gods own spirit deigns to bless to sink into that soft repose. Then wake to perfect happiness.

Sunday night December 30, 1860

Jane, Ada, and I have been over to Sabbath school today there was but few children there. No one up from the city today.

Monday night December 31, 1860

The last night of the year has come and as usual I am setting alone. All are in bed but I must see the exit of 1860. I have worked some and read some and now will write some to finish out the year it is most midnight and I am thinking the year has close and I am yet alive but can I say the same a year from now shall I then be in time or eternity how many that begun the year in health and prosperity are now moldering in their graves or buried in the deep waters.

O Heavenly father into thy kind care I commend my life my all and although I am poor and sinful. Yet O my God be merciful to me for Jesus sake and if thou doest permit me to live May I honor thy cause. And thy kingdom by a well ordered life and Godly conversation well the old year is gone and the new one is here farewell 1860. And a hearty welcome and a happy new year 1861.

Another year another leaf is turned with in life's volume brief but soon my days and years will be gone to a vast eternity. Yes the year 1860 is no more. She has set sail for eternity and on board are all the scenes of the year every word and deed of the millions of earth. She has taken with her what a load, how mixed and varied. Wars and bloodshed, famine and murder, evil and good, truth and error. Why should I try to enumerate for it is far beyond my conception to enumerate the cargo or the passengers but one dear to me is of the number. My dear sister she waited till the passengers were mostly on board and then she took passage only three weeks tomorrow since she set sail but to tell us of their passage through the river of death or the life beyond farewell oh ship. Farewell passengers and cargo till I meet you again at the great the judgment day.

Tuesday January 1, 1861

The first day of the New Year is passed away and the evening is calm and mild.. All nature is still and quiet. I have spent the day at home with my Family for I love to be alone so that I can recall the scenes of my past life and ask them what tidings they have born to Heaven. Now many things I have done that was wrong. And I feel to say tonight I God forgive me. Yes forgive me for Jesus sake and be merciful to me a poor sinner Jesus my life my love to thee.. to thee I call I cannot live if thou remove for thou art all in all.

Wednesday night January 2, 1861

It is three weeks tonight since my dear Sister exchanged worlds yes she has been three weeks in eternity. O what a change. as death darkened her mortal vision and as she

closed her eyes forever on time. And passed the valley and shadow of death and opened her immortal eyes to behold the wonders of eternity. Wonders that mortals cannot conceive to be ushered into the presence of God and the Lamb. All the angels, all the spirits of just men made perfect. The innumerable company of angels and the wonders of heaven. What a change sure we need our savior to go with us through such a great change. For he is chiefest among ten thousand and the one as together lovely. And if we have him for a guide we need fear no evil, we need ask for no more. I hope and trust he was with my dear sister and that she is now in the mansions that Jesus has gone to prepare for those that love him. And that she is now singing the song of redeeming grace and dying love. With all the redeemed in heaven. Farewell dear sister thou art gone to the grave but we will no deplore thee since God was thy ransom, thy guardian, thy guide. He gave thee, he took thee, and he will restore thee and death has no sting, since the savior hath died.

Saturday night January 5, 1861

This is the first Saturday night in the New Year last night was our monthly covenant meeting. How I did want to meet with the church and hear them tell of their joys and sorrows of their love for Jesus and his cause. I miss the meetings of the church very much and sometimes I feel that I cannot be denied the privilege of going to our social meetings. I feel that I have but a little while to live in this world.. And while I do live I want to meet often with the children of God and with them join to praise and pray as we journey to the grave.

It is three weeks today since sister Esther was buried yes three weeks ago today I saw her for the last time. It was a solemn day to me I saw her carried out of her house never more to return. I followed her to the church and from the church to her grave. I saw her lowered to her grave and the earth shoveled on to her coffin and then I turned and left her alone in her solitude and silence.

I went back to her home but it was lonely enough all was sad there everything told plainly that death had been there. There was no sister to greet me with her smile of welcome. No she was forever gone. O death what a destroyer of earthy happiness. Thou art ever severing the ties of the loved ones of earth. To all the tears and entreaties of mortals thou turnest a deaf ear. Thy victims are legion and thou wilt never stop till thou hast taken and I am included in the number. And how soon thou wilt call for me I know not but am I prepared? Am I ready and what better time to examine myself than now the beginning of the New Year. I feel I love my dear savior and it would be death to be banished from his presence. Yet how careless I live. How little I do to advance the cause of religion. And how often I feel to say with Paul. If I am a Christian I am the least of all for when I would do good, evil is present with me and how to perform that which is good I know not alas what a poor sinful mortal I am. Jesus lover of my soul let me to thy bosom fly while the billow over me roll while the tempest still is nigh hide me O my savior bide till the storms of life is past safe into thy haven guide
O receive my soul at last.

Monday night January 7, 1861

Yesterday morning I went to the city to meeting it was the first Sabbath in the year and it was our communion season. Our pastor preached in the morning from the words.. Thus sayeth the Lord Jehovah set thy house in order for thou shalt die and not live first he spoke of the temporal house he said we should settle up our business especially heads of families so that in case of sudden death the families would not be distressed for it was enough loss to loose them. Besides it was all they could do to die without having the cares and business of life to settle. But the most important of all was to have our spiritual house in Order. To do so we must take the lamp of divine truth and examine our house well. With our lamp trimmed and burning we must walk all around our house and see what repairs were necessary there then we must go in and search from, cellar to garret and pass through the chambers and see if all was in order.

After meeting I went down to sister Dusenberrys and took dinner and in the afternoon. Brother [Amos] Morgan and sister [Eliza] Morgan, sister [Nancy] Smith, and I went to communion. It was a precious season us three sisters sat together to commemorate the dying love of Jesus. And it may be the last time till we meet in our Fathers house on high. Sister [Nancy] Smith came home with me last night and she was taken sick in the night and has been very sick all day. She has not sat up any this morning Mr. and Mrs. Darrow, Mrs. Dusenberry came to spend the day to visit with sister Smith. They were greatly disappointed to find her so sick sister has been very low in spirits all day and says she don't know but has come here to die, but I hope not. I must stop writing for midnight tells me that it is time to go to my rest.

Wednesday January 9, 1861

Sister Smith is better today we have had company from the city all day sister Morgan, Mrs. Heywood, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Smith, Richard and Hannah, Sylvina and Anna came home with me Sunday night and Harvey came after her tonight. We have spent a very pleasant day. How thankful I ought to feel for the Society of Friends. I have not had such a visit from my sisters since before mothers death and probably I shall never have again. For I feel that we are fast hastening to the grave and in a little while we hall all be in the spirit world.

Friday January 11, 1861

Sister Smith is better today this morning I took sister Smith and Mary Staring and went out calling. First at Mr. Fosters found Mrs. Ira Bird and Miss Mary Bird there we spent an hour very pleasantly in reviewing the scenes of past years. From there we went up to Able Brayman's they live in the house where Mary Starring was born and where sister Ada died. Mary was much excited and wept aloud. The place did not wear an inviting appearance and she could not realize that it was the home of her dear mother. We next called on Mrs. Joel Smith found Delia Evans there we spent a short time there quite pleasing and then went up to Bella Camps. Oh Mrs. Camp was overjoyed to see us Daniel Brayman and wife were there spending the day we took dinner there and then went up to

Mrs. Beaches and made a short visit sister [Nancy] Smith has always been anxious to see Mrs. Buck for she watched with sister [Adeline] Starring the last night of her life and sister told her many things in regard to the children. It has made me feel and to talk over the scenes of sisters sufferings. And of her dying requests in regard to her girls. O what suffering what heart-rending agonies she endured they were to big for utterance, but it is all past now and her poor emaciated worn out body has found rest in the grave. And her spirit I hope and trust is in the mansions of the blessed but to return to my story we took tea with Mrs. Beach and stayed till dark and came home in a severe snowstorm. But we got home safe and have been very comfortable evening by a good fire.

Sunday Night January 13, 1861

This has been a quiet and Sunday we have had no company Jane, Ada, and Mary have been over to Sabbath school. Sister is going away tomorrow and this may be the last Sabbath we may spend together on earth. If it is so God grant we may spend an eternity of love together in the new Jerusalem above.

Wednesday January 16, 1861

Monday Jane went and took sister [Nancy] Smith up to North Evans and came back last night and today Jane and Mr. Harris have been to the city and Ada and I have been alone I have been very busy washing and baking and trying to get things in order again.

Friday January 18, 1861

Yesterday I went to the city to have a dressmaker make me a dress I stayed all night to Sylvinas in the evening sister [Hannah] Gowdy came to see me and stayed with me all night. This forenoon Mr. Fox came and he came home with me this afternoon he feels very lonely and looks pale and sad he says death has made his once happy home lonely and uninviting he has no one to share his home with him but his cat and dog. And so it is death is the great destroyer of domestic happiness. He severs the tenderest cords asunder and heeds not the anguish and sorrow that ensues.

Well it is a happy thought that death is an inhabitant of time and beyond the boundaries of time he cannot pass. No he cannot enter that peaceful happy world where Jesus reigns and the blood washed through that surrounds the throne. Fear his dart no more for they are forever safe. And am I one of Gods dear Children? Am I a follower of the Lamb? Am I to be an inhabitant of the New Jerusalem? Why then should I be so loath to leave this world? Why so dread to die? Alas the flesh is weak O my father give me an understanding heart teach me to love Thee. And guide me through time into the glorious mansions of the high for Jesus sake.

Sunday Night January 20, 1861

Yesterday brother Oliver and Wife Minnie and the babe, sister [Nancy] Smith, Mary Starring, and Mr. and Mrs. Sales came here they stayed all night this afternoon brothers folks have gone home and Mr. Harris has taken Sister [Nancy] Smith, Mary[Brayman], and [Brother-in-Law Joseph] Mr. Fox to the city and so we are alone again.

Sister [Nancy] Smith thinks of starting for home the last of this week. I have had a very pleasant with her and it may be the last. Life is short and very uncertain and sister Smith's health is poor she thinks she is troubled with heart disease. She has failed very much since I saw her last. And we are all failing oh time leaves his mark on us as we pass alone how short our lives appear. Every day tells one the less. And soon our days will be ended and we shall be away.

Five weeks yesterday since I followed dear sister to her grave saw her deposited in the bosom of mother earth there to rest till her mortal is changed to immortal. When at the sound of the last trumpeter soul and body will again unite and be forever with her Lord.

Friday Night January 25, 1861

I went to the city yesterday to see sister Smith. And make a few calls with her. But was greatly disappointed I did not see her at all. She had gone up to Dea Cootse's and the walking was so bad I could not get about and so I came home today. I never seen it so bad getting about in the city as it is now. Yesterday morning it rained hard and last night it froze and everything is one glare of ice. The sidewalks and the streets are all the same. One cannot set their foot on any thing but ice the streets are full of skaters. Men boys and girls are flying through the streets on their skates and it seems to be the only safe way to go. It is dangerous for a person to set their foot out of doors. I have heard of a number of men that have fallen and hurt them badly and besides the ice, the wind blows so hard that a person cannot stand still for the wind will take them away in spite of all that they can do. There was a drove of cattle let off the cars this morning and they could not stand but fell in the street and there they now lie some with broken legs others with their horns knock off. The owners are sprinkling salt around them to thaw the ice so they can stand. They are almost perished and probably a number of them will die tonight it is hard to see the dumb beast suffer so. Poor creatures I pity them.

Well I am at home again and I have been thinking of the scenes of the past six week that I have passed through were portrayed what a panorama it would make. First my leave of home six weeks ago. Yesterday my ride in the cars to North Chile with sister Morgan. My arrival at brother Jones or the house of death my meeting with brother Fox and my mourning over the lifeless form of my dear sister. The preparations for the Funeral. The funeral, the last look, the grave. The return to the house the arrival of brother in the evening after the funeral Saturday night. The going to meeting on the Sabbath and the visit to sisters new made grave.

On Monday brother left and sister Gowdy and I tried to set the house in order. Tuesday brother Fox and I went to Rochester and there we found brother [Mason] and sister [Mary] Brayman. Our meeting sister [Mary] Brayman so much overcame that they will not come to the house till Wednesday so we left them to Mr. Foxes in Rochester and came home to brother Jones without them. As we were taking tea after dark the door opened and Sherman Whaley, sister Smith and Mary Starring walked into the room they had come to late.

Wednesday Mr. Fox from Rochester came and brought brother and sister [Mary] Brayman and little Nellie. Thursday sister Gowdy, brother Brayman, and Dora Gowdy left for Alden. Friday sister Gordy Dora and Theodore came back and brother [Mason] Brayman went on to Buffalo. Saturday sister [Mary] Brayman Nellie and I came to Buffalo. There I left them and came home. And plan to get home once more.

Sunday I stayed at home and let my folks go to Sabbath school. Monday brother and sister Brayman went up to north Evans to brothers and stayed all night. Tuesday night they stayed to Old Mr. [Daniel] Brayman's and Wednesday night Sherman Whaley came here and stayed until Monday night. Thursday Mr. Harris carried brother and sister Brayman to the city and Friday Morning they started for their home. They made a short visit, but I was glad for it short as it was Friday Oliver went to the city and Sherman went home with him he expects to start for home Saturday or Monday. Sunday we went over to the Sabbath school Monday and Tuesday I tended to my washing and ironing and other family work then I went to the city after sister Smith but she could not come till Sunday after meeting. Then I came and done up my baking and straitened my house so I could visit with sister all the while she is with me.

Sunday morning the 6 of January 1861

I went to the city to meeting It was our communion season and the Revered Mr. Moore gave us all a good deal of profitable instruction. In the morning his text was thus saith the Lord Jehovah set thy house in order. For thou shalt die and not live. In the afternoon was out communion and our Pastor talked well to us. Sister [Eliza] Morgan, sister Smith and myself sat together. After meeting sister Smith, Mary Starring, Sylvina and Anna Peek came home with me. Monday sister Smith was very sick not able to set up all day. Monday morning Mr. Darrow and Wife, and Mrs. Dusenberry came to spend the day.. Tuesday sister Smith was some better. Wednesday sister Morgan, Mrs. Heywood, Mrs. Adams, Mrs., Smith, Richard and Hannah and Harvey came to spend the day after tea they all went home. Thursday sister Smith, Mary starring, and I went out to make some calls. First we called to Mr. Fosters.. Then to sister Starrings old home then to Joel Smith then to Bela Camps and lastly to Mr. Beachs and that finished up the day. Friday and Saturday we were quite free from company and we had a quiet visit together. Sunday Jane, Ada, and Mary went to Sabbath school. Monday Jane took sister Smith and Mary up to brothers. Tuesday she came home and sister Smith stayed till Saturday when brother Oliver and wife with little Minnie and the babe came and brought her here Mr. and Mrs. Sales came with them to visit us. They stayed all night. Mr. Fox came here Friday and so they were all here to visit together. Sunday night Mr. Harris took sister Smith and Mary, and Mr. Fox to the city and we were left alone again and this brought it to the 20th.

Thursday January 24, 1861

I went to the city to make some calls with sister Smith but the streets were so bad that I was afraid to walk on them they were all frozen over and one glare of Ice. so I stayed all night to Sylvinas and came home on Friday. Sunday the Revered P.G. Cook from the city preached in our schoolhouse. Mr. Harris, Jane, and Ada went. I stayed at

home and got tea ready after meeting was out Mr. Cook came to read and I rode to the city with him. I got to the city in time for evening meeting and Sylvina and I went up to the Baptist Church. The Revered Mr. Moore did not preach but introduced to the audience Mr. Vinton from Burma he was young only 20 years old. His father and mother were missionaries to Burma about 23 years ago. This son was born in Burma and was sent over to America to be educated. His father died two years ago and he is now going to fill his fathers place. He seems to be a youth of great promise. When he arose to address the audience he said in his country every British Officer that came there was commanded to show his credentials and he was a going to show his. He said we could find the words in St Marks Gospel 16th Chapter and 15th verse. Ago ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. His commission was from the Lord of hosts. He said he did not expect to preach a regular sermon but give a description of the manners and customs of the Burmans and Karens⁹³. He gave a very interesting account of their religion especially the religion of the Karens.. He told what great things God had done for them and of his determination to live and die amongst them. I think all was highly edified that heard him.. After Meeting I with a number of others was introduced to him I went home with Sylvina and stayed all night.

Monday January 28, 1861

I went up town to do some business and in the afternoon I went back to Sylvinas. She had invited company on sister Smiths account there came Mrs. Heywood, Mrs. Dusenberry, Mrs. Dodd, Mrs. Slight, sister Smiths, brother and sister Morgan, Richards wife, and Chapins wife we had a very pleasant visit. I went home with sister Morgan and slept with sister Smith, we found Mrs. Cutters babe quite sick and Mr. Cutter had gone for the Doctor he has been ailing some weeks they think he is teething.. But he looks to me like a very sick child and I am afraid they will lose him. Sister Smith is a going to start for home tomorrow.

Tuesday January 29, 1861

I am at home again but I must review the scenes of the day Sister Smith and I arose quite early this morning. I went in to see little Frankie Cutter but he is no better and I fear the hand of death is upon him. Sister Smith leaves here on the 11 o'clock train. I stayed with her till 10 and then I bid her farewell and left her. I for home and she for the cars Dea Cooth came and took her to the cars but she has gone perhaps. I have seen her for the last time on earth. For life is uncertain but if we do not meet again on Earth. I hope we shall meet in Heaven and spend a happy eternity together.. And through out the countless ages of eternity. Ascribe all honor to the Lamb that was slain to redeem us from

⁹³Karen's are an indigenous group in Burma, which was the focus of evangelical missionaries in early and mid-nineteenth century resulting some successful conversions to Christianity. Mrs. Macleod Wylie, *The Gospel in Burmah; the story of its Introduction and Marvellous Progress among the Burmese and Karens*.36-52, 295-332. (New York, NY: Sheldon & Company,1860)

the power of death and the grave. I feel there is much I want to write tonight but I am very tired and it is most midnight so I must shut my book and go to bed. And now o father into thy kind keeping I resign my life, my spirit, and my all.. O keep me.. And guide me to the end.

Friday night February 1, 1861

Yesterday Mr. Harris has come home this afternoon and tells me that Charles Cutter is dead. He died yesterday I am not surprised for I thought him dangerously sick when I left him. Mr. Cutter and Sarah will be inconsolable for he was their idol. And it is Sarah's first sorrow. She has never known trouble before but as it respects the little one. It is well with him he has escaped the trials of life and from his cradle has been transplanted into the mansions of eternal day. He is forever safe sickness and pain cannot reach him now. And with the language of the Poet we may say.. Short pain, Short grief, dear babe was thine now joys eternal and divine.⁹⁴

Sunday night February 3, 1861

Jane, Ada, and I have been to the city today to attend little Frank Cutter's⁹⁵ funeral. It was a very solemn funeral. They felt that they could not give him up. Mr. [James] Cutter and Sarah lingered long around his coffin. He was beautiful in death. And was laid out most splendidly. No pains or expensed was spared he held in his hand a bunch of flowers. Flowers encircled his head the Revered Mr. Moore preached or rather gave a short exhortation. First they sang the Hymn Death of an Infant as vernal flowers that scent the morn But wither in the rising day. Thus lovely was the infants sawn thus swiftly led his life away.

Then our Pastor read part of the twelve chapter of second Samuel. Commencing at the 13 verse and reading to the 24 verse he made some very appropriate remarks. From the manner in which David acted and commended him for his wise course and the words of wisdom in the 23 verse. But now he is dead where fore should I fast. Can I bring him back again.. I shall go to him.. But he shall not return to me.. He thought David's course was won thy of imitation by every bereft mourners after he had addressed the mourners they sung. So fades the lovely, blooming flowers, frail, smiling solace of an hour then we went to Forest Lawn and deposited the little one in the vault.. And left it in the prison house of the dead.

We came back to Richards in the carriage and after we got warm, we started for home. It was late when we left town and we did not get home till after dark. We brought little Willis Harris home with us but it is most 11 o'clock and so journal goodnight.

⁹⁴ This phrase was used often for a child's tombstone in mid to late 19th century

⁹⁵ Frank Cutter's full name is George F. Cutter born June 1860 died January 31, 1861, "United States Federal 1860 Census Erie County, NY." Accessed April 15, 2015. ancestry.com

Saturday night February 9, 1861

Another week is gone. And they pass so rapidly away they seem like days instead of weeks. I did not think when I closed this book. That a week would pass away and I not open it to write a word for there is so much to write of the times and scenes as they pass that I should have to write half of my time to keep up..

The great event in our neighbor hood this week has been the death of old Mrs. Bristol.⁹⁶ She died last Sunday night. She has lived with her husband 54 years and has raised a family of two sons and nine daughters and hers is the first death in the family. She was buried last Wednesday from the Freewill Baptist Church at Whites Corners.⁹⁷ and eight of the daughters followed her to the grave. One daughter is in Tennessee and did not come. I think it very remarkable. Death has been very lenient but he has commenced his desolation now. He will not stop till the last one is taken. Mr. Bristol must miss her very much. There are but few couples that live together 54 years. I did not tend the funeral it was stormy and cold. And she was taken seven miles from here to be buried.

The storm commenced on Wednesday and Thursday was a terrible day it blowed a gale and was the coldest day we have had this winter. The thermometer was twelve degrees below zero here and in some places fourteen. Yesterday the Storm began to abate and today it has been quite mild.

Sunday February 10, 1861

It is the Holy Sabbath day but I have not spent it in the house of God as I formerly did when I lived in the city for then I could go if it did storm but I ought not to complain for I have Gods word to read. And a prayer hearing. God.. That is ever present.. And no place is exempt from his all searching ye.

Mr. Harris, Jane, and Ada have gone over to the school house to hear the Rev. P. G. Cook preach and I am alone. I have been reading in the Book of Genesis today and I have been greatly interested in reading the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob what wonders were performed in the days of old patriarchs and prophets. What a wonderful book is the Bible how different from all other books. The more a person reads the more they want to and greater mysteries is always opening to one minds. Holy Bible book divine precious treasure thou art mine.

Thursday February 14, 1861

⁹⁶ Mrs. Rachel Bristol, spouse of Nathan P. were married in 1807, buried at Prospect Lawn Cemetery in Fredonia, New York. Accessed April 14, 2015. ancestry.com

⁹⁷ The Freewill Baptist church was organized in 1826 by Rev. R.M. Cary, the first meetings were held in private homes and school houses. The first pastor was Rev. H.M. Plumb who stayed for ten years. Smith, 520-525.

Mr. Harris and I have been to the city today on business to pay up on his life insurance and to get some money from the bank, But we got our business done in good season and got home before dark. The roads are almost passable.

It rained Monday night and all day Tuesday and the streams are all broken up and the whole country is flooded yesterday the water was so deep on the turnpike that teams could not go on it and today the water is over the road in a number of places and the turnpike is badly washed away. But the flood is nothing here to what it is in other places the papers are full of the loss by the rise of water in the eastern cities especially Albany where people have been taken out of the second story windows of their houses. Many have lost all they had.. The water rose four feet in twenty minutes and it was so sudden that people could not save their things. The North river is a mighty stream and when it breaks up it takes all before it that is in its way. Probably we shall hear of some deaths. I got a letter from Sherman Whaley today he writes me he spent two days with his sister Mrs. Forbes in Wisconsin. He has not seen her before in eighteen years and she did not know him till he told her he was her brother Sherman and then I suppose they had a sad time meeting so soon after their mothers death. They are orphans now both their parents have passed into the world of spirits but they are on the road, they are the old folks, now and it will not be long before they will be gone from earth. Such is life it all seems mysterious and full of wonder to me. But time is full of wonders that eternity alone will disclose. And eternity will be too short to learn all the wisdom and power and goodness of the great and wide God.

I received a letter from, Hamilton this morning he says he is going into Arkansas to see the country and if he likes it he should stay there but if he don't like it he shall come home. I was in hopes he would come home and stay with us the remainder of our lives for we need him and besides I hate to have him so far from friends and home. It is most three years since I last saw him and I want to see him very much but perhaps I never shall see him again for life is uncertain and short at the longest. But if we meet no more on earth I hope we shall both be prepared to meet in heaven and never part anymore.

Sunday Night February 17, 1861

This has been a still quiet Sunday it snowed last night and I have not seen a team pass today. Jane went to the city yesterday to see Mr. Lincoln the President elect. He was to come in town on the four o'clock train and the citizens were preparing to give him a grand reception and I suppose they did fore we could hear the cannons roar and the music play. He was to stop at the Mansion house and stay over till Monday morning. I do not envy him his position he is going into office in perilous times such times as no President before him ever see but I hope he will put his trust in God and ever look to him for guidance and wisdom.

I have been reading today the life of Moses.. And how God called

him to lead the Children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. And the wonders that were performed by him. They are justly styled the Plagues of Egypt . What a wonderful history. Moses rod turning to a serpent, the water turned to blood the frogs, the lice, the flies. The mountain of beasts, the boils and blains, the hail, the locusts. The darkness a thick darkness that lasted three days. Then all the firstborn were slain, the institution of the Passover. The children of Israel driven out the children of Israel passed through the red sea and the Egyptians all drowned in the passage but after being driven out as hastily and not having time to prepare any food for their journey they did not forget to take the coffin that contained Joseph's bones. That they carried with them through all their forty years journey. And what a great company.

The Bible says there were six hundred thousand men besides children and a mixed multitude went up also with them. Flocks and herds even very much cattle. what a wonderful history. I some times feel as though I never want to see any other book but the Bible. It is the best of books and one that will make us wise unto salvation if we follow its commands.

Wednesday Night February 20, 1861

So far this week I have been quite busy. Jane came home from the city Monday she says she see Mr. Lincoln and there was the grandest turn out at his reception Saturday night that was ever in Buffalo.⁹⁸ I hope the people will not be disappointed in him and that we will make as good a President as they desire.

Yesterday I had company Mrs. Sloan and Mrs. Bull and today I have had a house full all day Joshua Smith and Wife and daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Joel Smith and Lettie. Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Smith and Cora and Bill Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Beach and Maria Beach. Two gentlemen from the city Mr. Robinson, but the day is passed and all have gone home and my family are all in bed and I have been reading awhile of the travels of the children of Israel and thought I would finish my days work in writing but I am tired and it is late so I shall not write much. But I feel to say tonight God is good and kind to me how many blessings I am receiving at his hands. Blessings of health, blessings of home, and friends. And o what poor returns I make. Heavenly father still be merciful to me and forgive me all my sins for Jesus sake. And may I say with sincerity of heart. Jesus my all to heaven is gone he whom I fix my hopes upon his track I see and I'll pursue the narrow way till him I view yes let me pursue the narrow way. Till I arrive where Jesus is till I arrive at my fathers house on high. The eternal rest.

Friday February 22, 1861

This is Washington's birthday and our legislature has decided that it

⁹⁸ President Lincoln stopped at the second American Hotel in February 1861 on his way to his inauguration where he delivered a speech from the balcony. Accessed June 18, 2014. www.buffaloah.com/h/AmerHotel/

shall be kept as a national holiday. No man in our country ever stood so high in the nations praise as Washington it is a name that will be handed down to the latest generation of our continent and by what endearing names he is called. The father of his country, the benefactor of mankind, A man of wisdom, A man of peace, a man of war, A friend to all mankind, how much better is such a name than all the costly monuments that could adorn his grave. Washington lives in the hearts of his countrymen and he needs no monument to tell his great worth.

Mr. and Mrs. Dodd and little Matty have been here today and made us a good visit. Jane played Washington's grave for them. And a number of other pieces. The day has been fine and we have had a good visit. And so another day is passed in to eternity. And I have one day the less to live.

Sunday night February 24, 1861

Mr. Harris and I, Jane, and Ada have been to meeting over to the school house this afternoon. The Reverend Mr. Green from the city preached the words of his text was for I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believeth. He preached an excellent discourse. Recommended the Bible for the guide of our lives. After meeting we had a Sabbath school and that finished up the day. I have been reading today. The laws of Moses. How right they were how different from all other laws and if the people would take the Bible for their law book how it would be better for them. But I cannot write much to night. I have been reading a piece of poetry to night and I think it so good I will copy it here it is headed Supplication⁹⁹. The shades of evening gather. The stars look down on me. As by me closet window. I lift my voice to thee. O Lord my great redeemer. On thee I cast my care. Thine eyes are ever on me. Direct me now in prayer. I thank thee heavenly father. For the blessings of this day. And that I have the privilege. Of kneeling here to Pray from all the world secluded. From toil and tumult free. I here retire at twilight. And spend an hour with Thee' I ask thee for the pardon. Of all my sins this day. That through my saviors sufferings. They may be washed away. Righteous and pure and holy. Oh may I ever be yet gentle meek and lowly. As he who dies for me. And now oh righteous father. I pray thee be thou near. In every hour of trial. In trouble or in fear. Direct my erring footsteps. In all thy ways aright. Till freed from earths temptations. I dwell with thee in light.

Thursday night February 28, 1861

I have loved to see the last day of another month close o how rapidly my weeks and months pass away. Soon they will be all gone and I shall be done with earth and all that earth contains and I shall be an inhabitant of eternity. O may I so live that I may be

⁹⁹ Supplication written for *Moore's Rural New Yorker* by Nelli, North Cayuga, N.Y Saturday, February 23, 1861, appeared under heading of Sabbath Musings. Accessed June 18, 2015.
http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/newspapers/moores_rural_new_yorker/vol.XII,no.8.pdf

of that happy number that will dwell in the presence of God and the lamb and through the ages of eternity sing the song of redeeming grace and dying love.

Monday afternoon I called on Mrs. Foster found her quite feeble. She has had a poor spell and has not yet recovered from it. Mr. Bird and Mrs. Bird were well and in poor spirits. Yesterday Jane and I went down to George Pierce's to a small party Mrs. Aaron Pierce, Mrs. Arnold Pierce, Mea Gould, Mrs. Osborn, Mrs. Skinner, and Mrs. John Salisbury were there. We spent a very pleasant afternoon. Yesterday forenoon Mrs. Walter Smith spent with us and this afternoon Jane and I have visited Mrs. Hall.

Friday March 1, 1861

Today Mr. Harris and I have been to the city. I called to see Hiram Dusenberry¹⁰⁰ he is very low and is not expected to live. He does not know anything but a minute at a time poor sick man. Mr. Powell died last night very suddenly he was a member of our church and died happy. He has left a lonely feeble wife to mourn his loss but she will soon follow. How short our life, how soon we are gone at best life is but a winters day. A journey to the tomb. When I heard of his death it recalled what our pastor said to us the first Sabbath of this year it was at the communion and Mr. Powell was there. He said in all probability some of the church would be called home before the year closed and it would be well for all to ask the question Lord is it I.. But exhorted us all to be ready.

Sunday night March 3, 1861

I have been disappointed today Reverend Mr. Green from the City was to preach here this afternoon at two o'clock and after meeting the Sabbath school. It was raining this morning and when we got up and it has rained all day and we have not stirred out of the house. Most of the time it has been so dark and foggy that we could not see our nearest neighbor. I have been reading today the life of Christ or the true prince of the tribe of Judah. A book in sermon form I am very much interested in it.

Friday Night March 8, 1861

Mr. and Mrs. Vail were here to tea day before yesterday. And made us promise to come there today to dinner. They had killed a large turkey and wanted us to come and help eat him. Accordingly we have fulfilled our promise. In addition to the turkey we had a superb oyster soup got up in Mrs. Stiles good style. Mrs. Riddle, Mrs. Spencer Vail, Mr. Ingersoll, Mr. Harris, Jane, and I were the guests.

We have had a sudden death in our neighborhood this week. Old Mrs. Heyser died Tuesday evening very unexpectedly and is to be buried tomorrow. She was a feeble old lady and I think it was old age. She was taken faint while the old man her husband was attending his evening devotion and died in a few minutes but she had longed to be gone for some time. She said he wanted to go home to her fathers house on high and now

¹⁰⁰ Hiram A. Dusenbury, lived in Buffalo, occupation a Captain on the Great Lakes, Buffalo, New York, City Directory, 1863. Accessed May 11, 2015. ancestry.com

her sufferings her toils her trials are all over and she has gone home. Blessed are the dead that are in the Lord.

Saturday night March 9, 1861

Another week has gone from time and I am still here. O how fast my life is passing away. I feel that eternal world is near and I shall soon be its inhabitant I shall soon be done with time how many everyday is passing the river of death. Today old Mrs. Heyser was buried. Mr. Harris attended the funeral. The minister preached in German.

I had been thinking tonight of the changes death has made in our family and it makes me sad it is most three months since sister Esther died. I have thought and shall I never see her again is she gone forever? Yes it is so. One after another of my friends departs to the Spirit world and how lonesome it seems without them. And how much I miss their society and love. I dreamed of sister Ada last night. I thought she has come home again and had her family around her as they used to be and I was so happy to know she had come back again but when I awoke it was all a dream.

Wednesday night March 13, 1861

It is three months tonight since sister Esther died. Yes three months ago she lost her mortal eyes on earth passed the river of death and beheld the wonders of eternity. O what wonders open to her immortal view and scenes are continually change to her view mortal friends cannot know I want to write two or three pages tonight but it is past eleven and I am quite tired but tonight.

Monday Mr. Harris and I went to the city and yesterday we went up to North Evans and came home tonight on our way up we passed by the burying ground where father and mother Harris is buried.¹⁰¹ It is a dreary looking place and I am sorry they lie there. Still it makes no difference to them where they lie. I look at their graves thought back at the time when they were active and busy here and making calendar time for the future just as we are now. But they are gone, their place of rest is small and they need nothing earthly. O that I might learn a lesson of wisdom from their graves and strive to lay up my treasures and heaven where they will be forever safe. If we have treasures here we can enjoy them but a little while.

We must leave them here for others and we must pass away and if we have no treasures beyond the grave we are a miserable case indeed. O my heavenly father teach me wisdom. Guide me in the truths of truth and right consciousness and prepare me for thy home in heaven.

On our way we stopped at Judge Waldens¹⁰² a while and then at Esq. Stewarts and then at John Ingersols, Mrs. Ingersol was overjoyed to see me.¹⁰³ She is a poor

¹⁰¹ John & Harriet Ingersol live in Erie County, New York. John is a farmer and Harriet is listed as a housewife. "1860 U.S. Federal Census Erie County, NY" Accessed October 6, 2015. ancestry.com

¹⁰² Judge Ebenezer Walden

afflicted woman from a number of years she has been confined to her house she cant get out of her chair. In the morning it takes three to get her up and set her in her rocking chair and there she sets till they put her into her bed at night. She has the rheumatism the worst I ever seen anyone have. Her hands are so out of shape she cant do anything not even to take a pin out of her clothes. She says she used to write but for the past year she cant hold a pen. She says if she could knit or sew she should be so glad for then the time would not seem so long but still she does feel to murmur¹⁰⁴. She says she can read and that is a great comfort. I felt when I was there that I never could murmur or complain as long as I live. How thankful I ought to be for the use of my limbs and for all the blessings I receive.

Sunday night March 17, 1861

Mr. Harris and I, Jane and Ada have been over to the schoolhouse today to meeting and Sabbath school. Mr. Green from the city preached from these words. Be it known and they O king that we will not serve thy Gods nor worship the golden image thou hast sat up. His discourse was principally to Christians. He said the followers of Jesus should not worship the images of this world but should strive to live a better and holier life. That they should say by their actions that they seek a city whose builder and maker is God. I hope to profit by what I have heard today and may I strive to live the Christian life and may I use this work as not abusing it.

I have just receive a letter from brother Fox requesting me to come and see him. He says he is alone. And his home is very lonely since my dear sister left us a few months ago and his home was so pleasant and he was so happy. But the destroyer has been there and all is lonely and sad. Earths sorrows are many. And all have their share. The brightest eyes must dim with tears. And the lightest hearts must feel their anguish. Almost daily are we called to witness some proof of the mutability of earthly hopes. And thine from the frailty of the earthly are we taught to place our best affection on heavenly things, which pass not away. In such scenes of sorrows when Earth looks dark and dream what could we do if we had no Bible as my daily companion and friend. In prosperity in adversity in sickness in health. At home and abroad may it be my companion to my dying day.

Remember thy Bible in afflictions dark hours where the loved ones are passing away. Its sweet words shall fall like dew on the flowers when faint neath a long summers day. Then turn to thy Bible, twill cry thy sad tears and the shadows pass swiftly away as the stars grow brighter till the morning appears. Then fade in the calm light of day. Yes precious Bible it will lead me beyond the river of death to the eternal city where the reunion of loved ones is unmingled with grief or sorrow for in the holy Jerusalem There shall be no more death neither sorrow nor crying neither shall there be any more pain for the former things passed away.

¹⁰³ John & Harriet Ingersol live in Erie County, New York. John is a farmer and Harriet is listed as a housewife. Accessed October 7, 2015. 1860 U.S. Federal Census ancestry.com

¹⁰⁴ Murmur means to complain or express discontent

Saturday night March 23, 1861

I have been very busy this week with my work, have had but little company and have not been away from the house. Jane has been to the city most of the week and I have been alone. Mrs. Sophers has spent the day here and I was glad to see her. During the week Mrs. [Eliza] Salisbury, Mrs. [Aaron Sarah] Skinner, Mr. Scott, Mr. [Alvin] Salisbury, and mother have been here. But the week is gone and another Saturday night is here. Another week nearer home. Another week the less to live O how I ought to improve my team my time. How fast it is flying. And soon with me thine will be no more time. I can look ahead in my life's journey and in my path is my grave I cannot pass by it then O my soul made preparations for it. Live to thy God that thou mayest die so too.. to live and die is all we have to do.

Sunday night March 24, 1861

We have been disappointed in not having a minister come today to preach but have had a good Sabbath school. And quite a number of men and women were there.

Thursday March 28, 1861

March is almost gone. Soon beautiful spring will be here with its birds and flowers. This month so far has been cold and uninviting. And the roads are so muddy that people are hardly get about. This is the last day of school and Mr. Harris and Jane have gone to witness its close.

Mr. Randolph from Genesee Co. has been here today to see our bees he is an great bee man and uses the same kind of hives we do. The Langstroth hive¹⁰⁵. He has told me many things today about the bee that is truly wonderful. It hardly seems possible that they can know so much.

I finished reading the sermons called The True Prince Of The Tribe of Judah.. They are a series of sermons illustrating the life of messiah written by Rufus W. Clark¹⁰⁶ they are truly excellent.

Saturday night March 30, 1861

¹⁰⁵ Langstroth Hive was named after Lorenzo L. Langstroth a reverend who had an avid interest in beekeeping wrote a book about the subject contributing a variety of discoveries regarding the productive insect. Lorenzo L. Langstroth, *A Practical Treatise on the Hive and Honeybee with an introduction, by Rev. Robert Baird, D.D.* (New York, NY: C.M. Saxton & Co., 1857)

¹⁰⁶ The Sermons are written for Protestants given the description in the introduction. *The True Prince of the Tribe of Judah; or, Life scenes of the Messiah* by Rufus W. Clark, Boston, MA: Albert Colby and Company, 1859. Accessed June 18, 2014. openlibrary.org

Yesterday Sister Gowdy and Theodora came here and we have had a good visit. When Mr. Harris came home he brought me two letters one from Carrie Starring and one from brother Joseph [Esther husband] Fox. Carrie writes that sister Smiths health is poor. I am afraid she will not live long. She has failed much the past few years but told me that she felt she has an interest in her savior and when she left this world all would be well with her. Mr. Fox has written for me to come and see him and I expect to start on Monday. I dread to go. For I cannot see dear sister there and it will be a lonely visit but duty says I must go.

Sunday night March 31, 1861

The last day of the month is passed. Mr. Harris and I, Jane, and Ada have been to meeting and Sabbath school today Rev C. G. Cooks preached or rather explained the third chapter of Matthew¹⁰⁷. It was both instructive and interesting. The Sabbath school was well attended and rather more interest manifested. I am not in a writing mood tonight and therefore I will stop and read a while.

Saturday night April 6, 1861

The week is passed and I am at home again. I feel tonight that I ought to love and serve my maker with more heartfelt devotion than ever before. He has cared for and protected me through the past week and made my Journey prosperous and safe. I left home last Monday morning. Mr. Harris took me to the city. I took the afternoon train of cars for North Chili arrived there at six found Mr. Westerfield there with his sleigh and horse to take me to Mr. Foxes. It commenced to snow before I left Buffalo, and when I got to North Chili the snow was nearly a foot deep. Well I rode from the depot to Mr. Foxes in a sleigh. As I passed the burying ground I cast my eyes over to sisters grave. I could see the mound but it was covered with pure white snow. And the sad reality that she was forever gone almost made me cry aloud it seemed to me that I could not go to her house but I did go. And when I opened the door Mr. Fox sat asleep in his rocking chair. I waked him up. But O what a lonely house. It seems the stillness of death my heart swelled. My bosom heaved and I felt wretched but a flood of [tears] relieved me.

I got supper and we sat and ate together and after supper I read over some letters that I brought with which seemed to relieve the lonesomeness a little. I found Mr. Fox better than I expected to. He lives there all alone he is attached to his house and furniture that he will not leave it. Poor old man I pity him but in a little while he will be gone and his home will be left without an occupant. Tuesday I went to Manchester and took the stage for Webster. I arrived in Webster at sun down and hired a man to take me to Mr. Randall's stayed there all night looked over his hives and bees. And came and brought me back to Rochester I stopped with Mrs. Henry for awhile then took the cars and came back to North Chili while in Rochester Mr. Randolph found Mr. R. C. Otis and came over to Mr. Foxes and introduced him to me. He was quite agreeable in his manners and a

¹⁰⁷Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament of the Bible. Begins with Jesus childhood refers to John the Baptist and ends with the Baptism of Jesus.

perfect gentleman. He is largely invested in the culture of the honeybee and owns some 8 or 10 states rights of the Rev. L. L. Langstroth's inventor beehive besides all the territories. And his heart is in the work it is a great work and needs only to be known to be appreciated well I must go back to my story.

I got back to Mr. Foxes Wednesday night Thursday I spent in packing sisters things to send to her daughter and Friday I took the cars and came to Alden stayed with Sister Gowdy all night and today arrived home. I have been successful in all my undertakings through the week. And have seen much beautiful country. The scenery around Rochester is truly beautiful it is one diversified scene of garden nursery's and orchards interspersed with splendid mansions and rural homes for the less affluent.

I have found my family all well. O what obligations I am under to my Heavenly father for his kind protecting care of me during the past week. Tomorrow is the Holy Sabbath there is to be two sermons preached in the schoolhouse besides the Sabbath School. I brought Aunt Williams from Warrenville home with me tonight. I found her in the city. When I arrived there waiting for me and Mr. R. C. Otis came up this evening to spend the Sabbath with us. I could write a number of pages on the interesting scenes. I have seen the past week but midnight tells me it is time to go to my rest.

Sunday night April 17, 1861

This afternoon Mr. Green preached in the schoolhouse Mr. Harris, Jane, Ada, and Aunt Williams went after the meeting they attended the Sabbath School and then came home to tea and then went back again to hear a traveler preach. Mr. Otis returned to the city after tea. Mr. and Mrs. Green was here to dinner today. It has hardly seemed like the Sabbath I have had so much company. But one more Sabbath is passed. I am nearer eternity than I ever was before. I feel I am only a traveler here heavenward bound. Bound to my fathers house on high. A home where sorrowful days. Blighted hopes. And separation of friends can never come. O My father prepare me for at thy right hand where there are joys forever more.

Saturday night April 13, 1861

Another week is number with the past and I have been so busy I have hardly had time to stop and think. Last Monday Mr. Otis came here and wanted me to go with him to see Mr. Hubbard at Water Valley we went and he returned to the city in the evening. Tuesday evening he came back and wanted me to accompany him to Griffith Mills and North Evans we went to Griffins Mills Wednesday and to North Evans Thursday and yesterday I went to the city. And now it is Saturday night again. How swiftly my weeks glide away come and gone. And I scarcely notice their approach each succeeding one seeming more brief than the one, which preceded it. In the hurry and bustle the joys and sorrow of life we almost forget that each one as it passes shortens our existence here but it is so. And in a little while my weeks will be all gone. My dying day will soon come. When I shall lay off this mortal body and pass from time and all things that belong to time and behold the wonders of eternity.

It is seven years today since my dear angel mother left us to try the realities of eternity. Seven years this morning she gave me her parting kiss. Well I have traveled on

seven years since then and what progress have I made. Have I tried to walk that straight and narrow path. Have I tried to live the Christian life O God thou knowest. Forgive me all my sins for Jesus sake.

Sunday Night April 14, 1861

Another holy Sabbath has passed but I have not spent it at the house of God as I love to do. I have had company all day this morning Mr. C. P. Lee and Mr. Merrill came from the city to spend the day here. Our minister and his wife came at noon and stayed to dinner and at two o'clock they went over to the schoolhouse to preach. Mr. Harris, Jane, and Ada went with them. Morton Williams is here he is spending a few days with us. The day is passed and I have read but little but all in the house are in bed and I will lay by my pen and read a while.

Thursday April 18, 1861

I have been busy all the week taking care of my bees and cleaning out the hives but I have got through I find the bees in first rate order and heavy colonies. They have wintered well. This morning when I arose I thought I never saw so fine a sight. It had snowed through the night and every bush and shrub was covered with snow. Mr. Harris went out and measured the snow. On some of the rose bushes and found it was three inches deep. The bushes looked like images of snows and when the sun shone on them it was grand. I cannot, so white, so serene, so faultless. It seemed to say God made me as I stood viewing the scene three pairs of robins came and lit under my window and picked up some seeds. It was the only place where the ground was bare. They were beautiful and seemed to be happy if the ground was covered with snow and I thought I might learn a lesson from them how apt we are to murmur and complain of the weather not suit us but there is no murmuring from them they warble their makers praise in the sunshine and the storm O may I learn wisdom from the kinds of the air and may I ever be willing to have God reign.

Friday April 19, 1861

Mr. Cook, and Mrs. Pardee have been here this afternoon to consult about the meetings. Mr. Green has got discouraged because so few come to hear him preach but Mr. Cook thinks it best to still continue the meetings and he has appointed preaching a week from Sunday. I begin to feel anxious about Hamilton how I wish he was at home now that the horrors of a civil war are upon us. O my country why glory departed man and bloodshed is abroad in the land and who can tell when it will end. But there is consolation to know that God rules over all and sometimes mans wrath serve to advance the glorious kingdom of our dear gentleman. When will the time come that the nations will learn war no more. When will they be willing to live and let live, but it is only fulfilling the Holy Scriptures which says nations shall rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famine and pestilence in rivers places. But I have got to the end of my book and so I must say good night journal.

End of Journal

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APPENDIX

FIGURES



Figure 1 Sophia Morton 1776-1854



Figure 2 Sophia [Williams] Harris 1804-1880



Figure 3 William Chapin Harris 1797 – 1885



Figure 4 Richard Williams Harris 1822-1890. photo courtesy of Chris Watson



Figure 5 Sarah Sylvina Harris Peek 1824 - 1890. Photo courtesy of Chris Watson



Figure 6 Mary Jane [Harris] Hubbard 1828 - 1907. Photo courtesy of Chris Watson.