

Treasures from the Sherman Room

An Introduction to Brimfield History from the Library's Historical Collections

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Issue No. 15

Cynthia Blashfield Diary - January

Cynthia Blashfield was a 15-year-old Brimfield teenager who, in 1865, kept a diary which has survived. Below is an extract for the month of January. [It is taken from a typed transcription. All spelling and grammar errors kept as originally written.] The soon to be released book on Brimfield History, *100 Things To Know About Brimfield*, will include the month of May from her diary.

January 1

Another year has come and I wish all a happy New Year, I must try now and live for God and not live for myself as I have done most of my life.

January 2

It has been quite cold today. Father has been to South Brookfield. I have received a letter from Sarah Alexander.

January 3

Mr. Hyde has got home from the south. He has been out. They lefy 2 months on the Christian commission.

January 4

It has been very stormy today. Albert Lawrence has been quite sick. Has got a sore in his knee. I did not attend school this winter ses. – stay at home most of the time except when visiting.

January 5

This afternoon I called at Mrs. Woods and this aft. I kept house for Mrs. Tarbell. Ella (Etta) Woods is teaching school in Holland. She was home last Sat.

January 6

Some of the H.S. scholars took a sleigh ride today to Southbridge. Mr. John Tyler called here this P.M.

January 7

This has been a very stormy day. The snow is going off very fast. There is to be an exhibition in town mid-week.

January 8

I did not go to church today but have read several chapters in the bible. I have commenced to read the new testament though I got nearly through Romans.

January 9

Father has been to Brookfield today. Bought me a present of a white (undecipherable). Mrs. Tarbell called here this evening and brought me a letter from Annie.

January 10

It has been a very rainy day. I am knitting a net for Mary. Have not yet got it quite finished. I knit one for Emma Dale a few weeks ago. I have received a letter from Anna Woods tonight. She has good success with "school."

January 11

There is an exhibition to – town to-night. I wanted very much to go but as it was not convenient I stayed at home. Mrs. L. Ferry and Mrs. E. Tarbell called here this afternoon.

January 12

This has been a very pleasant day and I have been out making calls. Called at Mr. Woods, Mr. Smiths and Mr. Marsh. Saw a very pretty sleigh ride go past.

January 13

Today I have been keeping house for Mrs. Woods o go to Brookfield. Father, Mother, and Aunt Eliza spent last evening at Mr. Wm. Griggs.

January 14

It has been very stormy today. Father went down street this evening.

January 15

It has been quite cold and windy today. I wrote a letter to Annie Tarbell and read several chapters in the bible.

January 16

Charlie Allen is quite sick with croup. Do not think he can live a great while. Uncle Akfred and Mary (May) have gone over there.

January 17

Uncle Alfred and Mary came home this morning. Charlie is about the same. It is his birthday tomorrow 2 yrs. Old. Mrs. J. Hamilton is sick with sore throat.

January 18

January 19

I am staying with Emma (Etta) Dale tonight came down with father this AM. We went to the prayer meeting this evening at Mr. Goodale. I enjoyed it very much.

January 20

I came home from Mr. Keeps tonight had a very pleasant time while there. Em expects to attend school last half of this term. I want to go very much but do not expect I can. A sleigh ride from N.B. today of 60 couples.

January 21

Julia and I called at Mr. Woods and Oristus this afternoon. Charlie Allen is better.

January 22

Father and I went to church today. Mrs. Alexander and Augustus are at Brimfield on a visit. Since I came home from church I have wrote a letter to Mr. Palmer.

January 23

The bells tolled today for one of Henry Leyman's children which died of dyptheria. Another has left this world for a higher and better.

January 24

Mrs. Alexander and Augustus visited here today. I had a very good visit. Mrs. C. Patrick called to see Mary (May).

January 25

Today I have written to Sarah Alexander and Mrs. Patrick called here this eve also Mrs. James Brown.

January 26

Father and Mother have been to Warren today. I spent this eve at Mr. Woods and while there Ella came home to stay until next week. Mrs. Lombard called.

January 27

Augustus, Mary and I were visited to Mr. Woods this eve. Went and had quite a pleasant time. Uncle Metcalf called here this afternoon.

January 28

It is real nice sleighing now here. I wish I could have a sleigh ride. Julia and I called to see Jennie today.

January 29

This has been a splendid day. The sun has shone very brightly and everything speaks of gods love to us. How kind he is to hive (sic) us so many pleasant thing for our enjoyment.

January 30

Monday – I am not very well today. Mrs. Tarbell called here this afternoon. We received a letter from Uncle Solomon tonight.

January 31

Tuesday – This is the last day of Jan. It has been a very pleasant month and I have enjoyed myself as well as could be expected. The days have passed swiftly and I hope profitably. Mrs. Woods and Caroline Crouch called here this afternoon. Father has been downtown and Aunt Eliza has been out making calls. The society tonight is at Mr. Blair's. The H.S. has a vacation of 2 days this week and Monday of next week.