

An 1863 Diary of an Ohio Circuit Rider: Preaching the Gospel and Delivering Speeches during the Civil War

(St. Paris - Carlisle, Ohio: 1862-63)

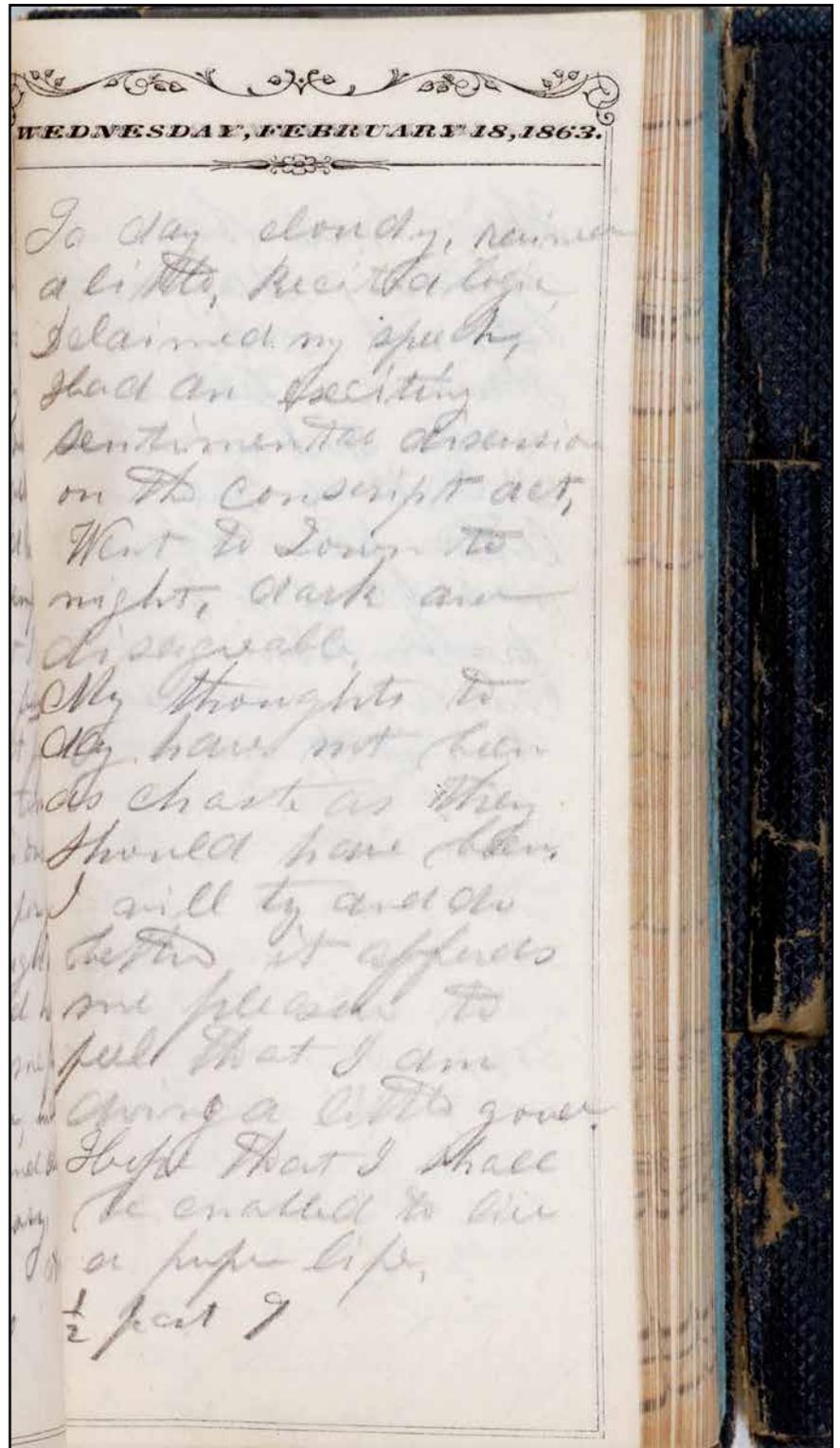
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Commercially published Pocket Diary (by Denton & Wood), for the year 1863. Contains over 365 daily full-page manuscript entries written in ink and pencil. Bound in original black leather over flexible card covers with fore edge flap, with an expanding pocket on the back cover. Modest wear and a few small tears to the edges of the leather binding, very good.

A year-long personal diary documenting the life of an itinerate preacher and public lecturer traveling among several villages and hamlets of rough prairie land west of Springfield, Ohio: an area of about 50 miles lying between Saint Paris to the north and Carlisle to the south. He begins his account at Carlisle on Christmas day, 1862 (written on the front endleaves): “Took Christmas dinner here, had a turkey. Good dinner – in afternoon went to Carlisle – Delivered Temperance lecture, church full ... Spoke 1¼ hour ... I go with the weight of souls upon my mind. I believe that we can do some good ...”

The daily entries are notable for revealing the many places and names of people he met and boarded with while on the road, preaching on Sundays and several other days of the week, and also giving public lectures on various topics. He clearly knew a great many people in the area, and was often entertained with turkey and oyster dinners. The daily entries reveal how he practices his oratory and stays abreast of the important issues of the day. For example, in an entry written on February 18, 1863, he comments on the Conscript Act (enacted on March 3, 1863): "... recited logic, declaimed my speech, had an exciting sentimental discussion on the conscript act ..." On June 16 he expresses concern about the war: "... Bad news from the west, Rebels are gaining. War meeting to night ..." and on August 14 he describes a prisoner exchange involving "2 Rebell prisoners ..." that took place on a train he was traveling in.



A compelling diary account, illuminating a year in the life of a popular itinerant preacher and lecturer in Ohio.

[BTC#410663]

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1863.

Very pretty day.
Attended Sabbath
School, taught a
Bible class, very
pleasant. Preacher
from Meth, 16, 26,
So a good and
attentive audience,
It went here
on account of being
somewhat embarrassed,
Mr. Pett, here to have
called to see me
in afternoon, long
and profitable conversation
Attended prayer meeting
at Lusk Union Church
on Sunday night,
Largest Netto, by
Isahup, Uctin, a
Wagmhell song.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1863.

Rose early this
morning, Mr. Nile
accompanied me
to the cars when
I started home,
2 Rebel prisoners
exchanged in the car,
Spent the time the officer
and a hall and a pan
fell asleep at long
Lusk dinner at
Walden bygo, Mr. W.
is sick, visited
Grussell's, Got
home at 1/2 past 5
found them well,
Letter from Hartmann
Shaffer, Rejmehl, and
Lippin, Spent part of
evening at Mark's
Fell asleep with the
sweep of a fever upon
my mind.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3, 1863.

Not very well
to day. Down at
Clark's while at
Efforts. Mr Imhoff
goes to Mack.
No more than one
sermon on Sunday.
Did not study very
much. Spent
part of afternoon
at Patterson's.
Mr Gay makes
me a present of
an Album 3.00
More discouragements.
What Mrs. Green
said, thro' the words
was one. Spent the
evening at Patterson's
Pleasant time. Mr
Elsper did not come
till 8 o'clock.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 4, 1863.

Another part. The
evening yellow
while at Patterson's then
went to Weybels.
As usual good dinner
and pleasant conversation.
Feel a little better today.
Spent the hour and
Jeffersonian again.
Another part with
Kelt. I am afraid that
these things will hurt
the cause of Christ.
We are in a very trial.
Took supper at Patterson's.
Pleasant time. Met Mrs
Green there but nothing
said. On way home met
Mr Grussell at Gould's.
Got my Album at
Cromley's. Little talk
Good piece while
at Forest. Saw a photograph
At home early.