

**Section 1:**  
The Corrected Diary



[Page 1]  
Z y n aa[?]  
20<sup>c</sup> aa[?]

Rhoda Stone Lowry/LAM  
\* 52 pages counting the 1988  
next “fifth Book” cover page→<sup>i</sup>

[Page 2]                      fifth Book  
                                    May 16; 1863

[Page 3] [blank]

[Page 4] Saturday May 16 [1863]

Feel very badly today. Seem to be strangely tempted, cannot tell why, but will still try to trust in the Lord and hope in his word— Got a letter from Mattie.

Sunday 17 [May 1863]

Was at church this morning, heard a good sermon. Was well. Did not go to church at night, Mrs. Miller was here all night.

Monday 18 [May 1863]

Went to hear Mr. Dick preach, had a good sermon— Mrs. Fulerton and I called [?] Penny. Feel some better.

[Page 5] Tuesday 19 [May 1863]

Wrote to Gust and Ben<sup>ii</sup>; they feel some better. May the grace of God be my support under my circumstance of life and save me in death— Spent the afternoon at Nancy Gallencathy[’s].

Wednesday 20 [May 1863]

Was at Sam Bale’s. Had a pleasant time with Mrs. Bowman. Got a letter from Mag<sup>iii</sup>. Feel some better today— Was at Nash Bale[’s] [in] the after noon— had a pleasant time. May the lord help me.

[Page 6] Thursday 21 [May 1863]

Got a letter from James Slusen today. Wrote to Mag. Logan.<sup>iv</sup> Feel somewhat encouraged. Feel like pressing on to [the] mark of the prize of the high calling of God.

Friday 22 [May 1863]

Was at Sis Bale’s with Mrs. Camp and Mrs Falerton. Called at Dr. Snowden’s. Feel very tired; do not feel very well. Have thought a great deal about my dear son today. —Ah may I be so happy as to meet him in heaven.

[Page 7] Saturday 23 [May 1863]

Was at Mr Jackson's. Their sons have got[ten] home from [the] War. Ah what a blessing to have them come home safe. May they thank God for his mercies unto them.

Sunday 24 [May 1863]

At church this morn[in]g, was not well. Did not go out in the evening. Oh that it [was] with me as in past days, when the candle of the Lord shone upon me. Lord, grant me grace to help in time of need.

[Page 8] S Monday 25 [May 1863]

Do not feel well. Have some sweet potatoes; hope they will grow— how? At Mr. Woods' they have got sudden news that their son is dead— All flesh is as grass and the flowers thereof passeth away. Lord help me.

Tuesday 26 [May 1863]

Have been quite sick today; feel some better this evening. Oh Lord, have mercy upon me and give grace to help in my time of need. Strengthen me soul and body.

[Page 9] Wednesday 27 [May 1863]

Was not well enough to write. William Woods was buried near. Fire in town, my weavers table was burnt.

Thursday 28 [May 1863]

Got a letter from Ben Huey; It was a very kind letter. I like to get a letter from Ben; he always says something about dear Gany. May the Lord bless and save him and return him home in safety.

[Page 10] Friday 29 [May 1863]

Got a letter from Gust.<sup>v</sup> He was well when he wrote. Oh, spare his life and save him from all sin, thou who art able to save unto the uttermost.

Saturday 30 [May 1863]

Have not been able to write for several days. Feel same. Better today, but do not feel very well yet. May the Lord be my support in my time of need.

[Page 11] Sunday 31 [May 1863]

Was not well. Could not go to church. Feel weary, but think I can trust in God.

Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> [1863]

Am not well this day, as on this [day] my dear Son! R!A!<sup>vi</sup> left this world of sorrow. Oh what a sorrowful time I have had since that, but the Lord has not forsaken me. Got a letter from Mag.

Thursday 2 [June 1863]

Feel some better today. Still feel ill.

[Page 12] Sunday June 7 [1863]

Have not been able to write for a few days; feel better today. Was at Mr. Brown's church this morning; heard an excellent sermon from Mr. Massirean. This is the time of the Lutheran Sinod— Was at Church at night at the Methodist [church]; heard a very good sermon. Oh may I improve by all these means of grace and may enjoy constant communion with God. Oh may I trust in him at all times.

[Page 13] Monday 8 June [1863]

This a very cold day for the Season— I do not feel very well but am improving some. Oh, may I be ready whenever the summons is sent for me to go. Let me trust in him and not be afraid. Was at church at night.

Tuesday 9 [June 1863]

Do not feel well. Was at church at night. Had a good sermon at [church] and ordained a minister and buried one. It was a very solemn meeting. The meeting Lord [???].

[Page 14] Wednesday 10 June [1863]

Mattie started to Lundsville this morning. I intended to go with her but did not feel well enough. I think I will go to Pitts[burgh?] tonight if I can. Mattie got a letter from Just. yesterday; he was well when he wrote.

Thursday 11 [June 1863]

This has been a very wet day. How great a blessing; there has been no rain of any amount for about a month. "He sends the rain upon the just and the unjust." Oh that men would praise thee.

[Page 15] Friday 12 June [1863]

It is four months today since my son was married. How swiftly time is passing— and it is one year too since my mother<sup>vii</sup> died, being 77 years of age.

Saturday 13 [June 1863]

Was in Pittsburgh saw several hundred rebel prisoners. they [are] awful looking creatures— what an awful time is this. May the Lord have mercy upon people and bring [them] to look to thee.

[Page 16] Sunday 14 [June 1863]

Went to church in the morning. In the evening Brother Williams preached.

Monday 15 [June 1863]

Mrs. Stensen and Mrs. Singer [were] here. We had a pleasant time.

Tuesday 16 [June 1863]

Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs Bowman [were] here for dinner. We went to Mrs. Wills' for Supper— I was at the ordination of Mr Milelnea in the afternoon— Was to hear Col. Clank's lecture at night.

[Page 17] Wednesday 17 June [1863]

The people are very much alarmed on the news of the rebels advancing on this state. Oh lord, thou art able to save to the uttermost. Oh save the nation for Jesus' sake.

Thursday 18 [June, 1863]

The Soldiers have started for Harrisburg<sup>viii</sup> to help to defend it from the rebels. Oh Lord, save us from rain and deliver us out of all our trouble, for Jesus' sake.

[Page 18] Friday 19 June [1863]

Don't feel well today. Lord, teach me so to nurture my day, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom.

Saturday 20 [June 1863]

This is a fine growing day. The Showers are falling upon the earth. The Lord says he sends rain on the just and on [the] unjust. Oh may this [be] a lesson of the goodness of God to fallen man. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness and mercy toward the children of men.

[Page 19] Sunday 21 June [1863]

Was at church in the morning. Wrote to my sister Shannon. Was at class at three o'clock. Had a good meeting; may the Lord bless the meeting of the church, to the good of my soul, for Christ's sake.

Monday 22 [June 1863]

Have been very busy today. The Lord is greatly giving me strength [?] what duty compels me to do. Though I do [not] feel well, yet I am able to work.

[Page 20] Tuesday 23 June [1863]

Feel strong; confidence is in God. He has promised to never leave nor forsake me if I trust in him as my savior. Lord increase my faith.

Wednesday [24 June 1863]

Have been very busy all day. Feel that God is very good to me in giving me strength of body to do my work. I am not free from pain, but I am able to work and go about. Have thankful I for these furors[?].

[Page 21] Thursday 25 June [1863]

Feel that God hears and answers my prayers in many things. Oh may I ask in faith that I may receive more abundantly. Oh my god, save my dear son from every evil and danger to which he is exposed.

Friday 26 [June 1863]

Have been very busy today. My God is still supporting me and giving me strength to do what duty he gives me to do. May I ever be thankful to him.

[Page 22] Saturday 27 [June 1863]

Was at Mary Hamon's with Mrs Jackson and some others. Had a pleasant time. Bless the Lord Oh my soul for all his mercies unto me.

Sunday 28 [June 1863]

Was [at] church this morning; felt very lifeless. Was at brother Hamon's class. Was at class this afternoon. Oh that [it] was with us as it was in days that are past and gone, when the candle of the Lord shone about us.

[Page 23] Monday 29 June [1863]

Got a letter from my dear son today; he was well when he wrote. Lord be merciful unto him. Spare his soul; make him thine for Jesus' sake. Thou art able to save him.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> [June 1863]

Wrote to Gus. This day 25 years my dear son R.A. was born; It will be 17 months tomorrow since [his] departure out of [the] world of sorrow. Oh may I meet him in a better land where there is no more sorrow.

[Page 24] July 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday [1863]<sup>ix</sup>

This night 17 months [ago] my dear Son left this [world] no more to return. Oh how merciful the Lord has been to me; since that he [has] not forsaken me. Oh may I ever trust in him.

Thursday 2 [July 1863]

This has been a very warm day. I have thought a great deal about the soldiers. How they have to [suffer] from heat to cold. Oh my savior, shelter them from the stormy blast. May the Lord help them.

[Page 25] July Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> [1863]

I feel a calm reliance in the promises of God; that he will work all things together for my [?] if I am faithful to grace given. Oh increase my faith.

Saturday July 4 [1863]

This day seems sad to me when I think of my scattered family. And how distressing to think of our poor soldiers, the sick and dying and wounded. Oh have mercy upon them and help them.

[Page 26] Sunday 5 July [1863]

Was out this morning; was at class. Mr. Mahafays class was at [a] conference meeting at the Presbyterian church. The meeting was held on account of Mr. Brown and Mr. Kain going to the army under the Christian mission. Lord, go with them. Magie Blin died this evening; she was taken away with a five hours' sickness. The Lord said, "suffer little children, come unto me."

[Page 27] Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July [1863]

How very anxious about [my] dear son, but think I can trust in God to take care of him. Oh my God, give faith in God which will enable me [to] trust in him for help.

Tuesday 7 [July 1863]

It is reported my dear son is killed.<sup>x</sup> Lord forbid it should be true.

July 24[?] [1863]

This day two years [ago], my dear sons were marched into the service of the country; now they [Page 28] are both in eternity. My dear son was killed the second day of this month. Oh that I [?]. Why I have been dealt with thus? Oh Lord help me.

July 27 Tuesday [1863]

This day four weeks I wrote my last letter to my son. He died before it had time to get there. Oh how woeful. My heart is melted down with sorrow. Will thee pity me and [Page 29] give me the desire of my heart? For he only knows my sorrows, and to him I try to look. Oh Lord, help me to believe. Yesterday, Ben Huey came to see me. He gave me some comfort about my dear gustti's death. Oh Lord, have mercy and comfort my heart about my dear sons. Oh look upon me and pity me, thou God of grace.

[Page 30] August 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday [1863]

This night, 18 months [ago] my dear son left this world, never to return to me in this world. Oh dreadful has been my sorrow since that.

Sunday 2 [August 1863]

Am not well today. Did not go to church. This evening, one month [ago] my dear and only son was killed. Oh how dreadful to think they are both gone in so short a time. Lord help me.

[Page 31] Monday 3 Aug [1863]

Went to Kittaning<sup>xi</sup> on business, met Ben Huey there. Went to Mrs. Graham's. Got home the next day, was very tired.

Wednesday [sic] 5 [August 1863]

Got a letter from Miss Sallie Alexander concerning the death of my dear son Gustin— Oh, how dreadful to think they are both gone. Oh my God, give me grace to bear my affliction with patience and meekness. Oh Lord help.

[Page 32] Thursday 6 [August 1863]

Was at Dr. Alter's. Heard that Rush Harris is dead. Feel very sorrowful.

friday 7 [August 1863]

Was at Mr. Jacksons; they are in great trouble. Mrs. Harris got home this evening, she did not go[?] farther than Louisville. She did not get to see her, two days before he died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. May the god of all grace be [with] her in her distress.

[Page 33] Saturday 8 [August 1863]



Got a letter from mrs Ulem— and one from Mag. Logan. Was to see Mary Harris; she is very much distressed. Oh the distress that is in our land.

Sunday 8 [August 1863]

Was not at Church today. Did not feel well. Oh my god, help me to give up all to thee and cast my cane upon the [rock]. Oh I know not what to [do]. Oh increase my faith and save me from self and unbelief.

[Page 34] Monday Aug: 10 [1863]

Have been washing my dear Gustin's clothes that [were] sent home. Oh how dreadful to think this is my last washing from him. Oh how can I bear the thought that both of my dear sons have gone, never to return to me? Lord grant [that I] may meet them in that land where sorrow is unknown. Oh give me faith to believe thy promises, and may I look to Jesus, who is able to save unto [the] uttermost. Lord help me.

[Page 35] Friday Aug 15<sup>th</sup> [1863]

Started to Pittsburgh. Went to McKeesport<sup>xii</sup> on Saturday morning. Went to Elizabeth's in the evening, stayed until Monday morning. Walked on out to W.M. Lowry's, stayed there until Tuesday morning. Charles Lowry took me to Pittsburgh, stayed at Camp's until Wednesday afternoon. Got home Wednesday evening— While I was gone I saw great old friends and acquaintances. [Page 36] But, oh, changed the most of them are, as well as myself— We do all fade as a leaf and our life is as a tale that is told.

Thursday 20 Aug: [1863]

This day, seven weeks [ago], my dear Gustin left this world of sorrow for that land from whence no traveler ever returns. Oh that I that I he was at rest; how would my heart rejoice. Oh God, grant that I may meet them in heaven above, where all is love, and there will be no [?] there.

[Page 37] Friday Aug 21 [1863]

Do not feel well. Feel very sorrowful on account of the loss of my dear sons. Oh, if I knew they were happy, I could wait. Wait with patience till Jesus would come to take us home. Lord, have mercy upon me, and increase my faith, and give me the desire of my heart, and give me grace to thy will. Oh make me know what thy will is. Oh may grace [?] me up when I am finished

[Page 38] Aug 25 tuesday [1863]

Got [home] from camp meeting last evening. Felt some comfort while there, I feel like trusting in god for all things— Got great comfort from conversing with brother Hess. Heard him preach a good sermon— May the [Lord aid] him in labors and give him souls for his hive. How good it is to meet with Christian friends that can feel for you and sympathize with us in our affliction. This day, 8 weeks [ago], I wrote my last letter to my son, but it never got to him.

[Page 39] Wednesday [sic] 26

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were here to day for dinner. I was very glad to see them, but I felt very sorrowful this afternoon for the loss of my dear sons. Oh Lord sustain me under this severe affliction.

Sunday 30 [August 1863]

Did not go to church. Wrote to Ulem and to Ms. Sallie Alexander and John Myers— This day, six weeks [ago], I followed my dear Gustin to his last resting place. Oh the sorrow of heart I have passed.

[Page 40] Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> [1863]

This day, 19 months [ago], my dear Ganny left this world— Ben Huey left here for the Army today. May the Lord be with him and save him from all surrounding danger, both seen and unseen.

2 Wednesday [September 1863]

This day, two months [ago], my dear son Gustin was killed. Oh, my poor lonely heart, how I long after my dear boys, but oh when I think they never will return to me, oh how much of sorrow's cup have I been made to drink.

[Page 41] Friday 4 September [1863]

Went to Kittaning in company with Mary Harris and Mattie.

Saturday 5 [September 1863]

Mattie went home today, Jimmie went with her. Felt very sorrowful to see [her] go, she was my dear Gustin's choice. May the Lord be with her to the end of her life I feel very sorrow-stricken today. Oh that I knew my dear sons were at rest. Oh Lord, increase my faith and hope, and may I trust in thee.

[Page 42] September 9 Wednesday [1863]

Got a letter from John Myers today, and one from Ben Huey— Have felt very much distress these days about my dear sons, but feel some little comfort this evening by reading the promises of God. Oh Lord, increase my faith, and may I wait with patience till Jesus comes to take his people home. Oh may I be ready when the bridegroom comes.

[Page 43] Thursday Sept 10<sup>th</sup> [1863]

Got a letter from Mag Logan today. Feel some little more composed today. Oh Lord, teach me what thy will is, and then give me grace to submit.

Sunday 13 [September 1863]

Was at class and preaching this morning— This day, 8 weeks [ago], my dear son Gustin was committed to his last resting place. Oh how gloomy all things appear— I believe. Help my unbelief. Oh Lord, help me.

[Page 44] Friday 18 [September 1863]

Heuy Woods was buried today.

Saturday 19 [September 1863]

Got a letter from Mattie Mr. Robinson have heard of their other son. Lord, grant that he may be spared to get safe home.

Sunday 20 [September 1863]

This day, ten weeks [ago], my dear son Gustin was buried out of my[?], to remain until the great trumpet shall be blown to call the nations to awake from the dust. Oh Lord, help me to. [Page 45] Got a letter from Judson Bean.

Monday 21 Sept [1863]

Was at Mr. Williams. They are in great distress. Their little daughter died last night.

Tuesday 22 [September 1863]

Have heard of another great battle. I fear we shall [hear] of some of dear young men being killed. May the Lord be with the suffering soldiers.

Wednesday 23 [September 1863]

Feel very sorrowful this evening. Oh Lord, increase my faith and hope.

[Page 46] Thursday 24 Sept [1863]

Got a letter from Jane Bean. She is very anxious about her son. May the Lord spare his life and send him home is my prayer.

Friday 25 [September 1863]

Feel very sorrowful today, but feel my faith somewhat increased. Feel some more of the light of divine truth shining into my mind than [I] have felt for some time. Lord help me.

[Page 47] Saturday 26 Sept [1863]

Capt. Lyon and Ben Huey came to see us today. Oh how sorrowful it made me feel to see them and not to see my dear sons, yet I was very glad to see them. May the Lord spare them.

Sunday 27 [September 1863]

Was at Church in the morning; did not feel comfortable. Was at Baptist Church, heard a good sermon. Felt very much distressed about my dear sons.

[Page 48] Monday 28 Sept [1863]

Finished my hait[?] quilt today. My dear son Gustin took such a great interest in it. Oh how much it distressed [me] to work at it after he died. He does not need it now.

Thursday Oct 1 [1863]

This day, 20 months [ago], my dear son Ganny left this world of sorrow for an unknown land to us. Oh Lord, grant that I may meet him on the morning of the resurrection, clothed in the robes of the sun.

[Page 49] Friday 2 October [1863]

This day, 3 months [ago], my dear son Gustin died and I was left a widow, indeed, without son or husband.<sup>xiii</sup> Mag Logan and Kate Myers<sup>xiv</sup> and a Miss Kennedy came to see us. Oh, how sad I feel when I see Kate, my son Ganny loved her and she loved him.

Saturday 3 [October 1863]

Mr. and Mrs. McHafey was here and spent the evening. Had a very pleasant time. May the [Lord] bless them.

[Page 50] Sunday 4 October [1863]

Was at church and at class. Had a good meeting. The Lord blessed us together. Was at church to hear Mr. Brown. Heard a good Sermon on the one thing needful.

Monday 5 [October 1863]

Feel quite calm today to what I have done— Mrs. Shire was here this afternoon; had a good talk with her. She is a good woman. May the Lord be [with] her and increase her faith.

[Page 51] Tuesday 6 Oct [1863]

Mag Logan went this morning. I hope she will get safe home. Oh Lord, make her trust in thee. Raise up friends for protection from the slanderers tongue. Help her Lord to do what is right in thy sight.

Saturday 10 [October 1863]

Feel very much distressed today. I am thinking about my dear sons. Oh that they were at rest, how would my heart [?].

[Page 52] Sunday Oct 11 [1863]

Did not go to Church. Do not feel well. My mind is much distressed about my dear sons. Of that I could feel resigned to [the] will of my heavenly father. Oh, that [I] see the hand of the Lord in the death of my dear sons, but seems all a dark mystery to me. Perhaps in eternity I will be able to understand why it is, Lord. Help me to give up all to thee. Wrote to Mattie, think very long, [long] to see her.

[Page 53] Tuesday 14 Oct [1863]

Have been at Mr. Read's today— Wrote to James Slusen this evening— This is the election day, many have put in their last votes. My dear sons voted for the last time three years ago— May the North prevail.

Saturday 18 [October 1863]

Huey Williams was buried today. May the Lord save [?] this affliction. Sis went to Saltsburg to see Mattie. Lord help us all.

[Page 54] Sunday 19 Oct [1863]

Was at church this morning at brother Hammons class. Had a good meeting. was at the united Presbyterian church in the afternoon. Heard a good sermon. Was at Lutheran church at night, heard a good sermon— Oh may [I] improve by all this blessing[?] land.

Grant me grace in every time of need. Oh give me thy salvation and may [I] trust in thee, Lord, at all times.

[Page 55] Monday 20 oct [1863]

Was at Jackson's. Mrs. Jackson and I went to Mr. Love's[?] to see Mrs. Keaton. She is a very sweet lady. Had a very pleasant time.

Tuesday 21 [October 1863]

Feel this world is not my resting place, I seek [the] city yet to come. Lord, help me to travel on until I reach my heavenly home, where sin and sorrow never comes— I wrote to James Slusen.

[Page 56] Sunday 25 Oct [1863]

This is the time of our quarterly meeting. Brother Hess was here; we had a good meeting. He preached with great power, and the Lord was with his word, and blessed our souls in listing.

Monday 26 [October 1863]

Brother Hess, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Slusen were here for supper. Had a very pleasant time. How good it is meet with old friends.

[Page 57] Friday 30<sup>th</sup> [October 1863]

Have [written] to Mattie. This is a very wet day. Have been very busy cleaning house this week. The Lord is very kind to me in giving me bodily health and strength.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> [October 1863]

Have been at Kittaning. Got the pension money that was coming from my dear son. Oh how sorrowful for me to think of, but I pray God to give me stronger faith, that all things may work for my good.

[Page 58] November 1<sup>st</sup> [1863, Sunday]

Was at church this morning and at class. Had a good class meeting. This day, 21 months [ago], my dear son R. A. left this world. Oh days and nights of sorrow I have passed since that, but the Lord has still upheld me.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> [November 1863]

This night, four months [ago], my dear Gustin left this world, no more to return to me. Oh, how sad the hours have been to me since then but the Lord has not left me.

[Page 59] Thursday 5 November [1863]

Wrote to Ben Huey and to Aoli Bean. At Sis Bale's she is gone to Pittsburgh. I am very tired; just got done cleaning house yesterday. He is greatly supporting me.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> [November 1863]

Was at Mrs. Jackson's today. Feel the loss of my dear sons very much too. But perhaps they are taken away from the evil to come. Oh, increase me in the praise of God— Heard that E. Geary<sup>xv</sup> is killed.

[Page 60] Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov [1863]

This has been a stormy day. Did not [go] to church. Wrote to Polly Gilman and Jane Bean and Colis Renny— Feel today that the Lord is very merciful to me. Oh, may I be thankful for all his mercies

Thursday 12 [November 1863]

Got to Curllsville<sup>xvi</sup>; stayed all night at Dr Reick, and Mr. R. took me to Callensburg Friday morning. Found Mag and her children well and very glad to see me. Feel very sorrowful here, as where I parted with my dear Ganny.

[Page 61] Sunday 15 November [1863]

This is a very wet [day]. Did not go to church. Have thought a great deal about my dear sons. Oh, pleasant it was to have them all at home when I lived here.

Monday 16 [November 1863]

Mrs. McKey was here today. Oh, how changed her situation and mine since she last visited me, but the Lord has not forsaken us. May he raise up friends for her and her children. Oh Lord, increase my faith.

[Page 62] Tuesday 17 [November 1863]

Was visiting at Mr. Geary's and Mr. Mobly's. Had a pleasant visit. I thank thee, oh my savior, for goodness and mercy unto me, for thou hast not forsaken me.

Wednesday 18 [November 1863]

Wrote to Sis Bale. Have thought of the Lord's mercies toward me. Although he has severely afflicted me, he has not left me to hardness of heart, but still visits me with his loving kindness and tender mercies. Oh lord save [me].

[Page 63] Thursday Nov 19<sup>th</sup>

This is the day of the consecration of the soldier burying at Gettysburg. There will be many sorrowful hearts there today. Got a letter from B. Huey— Was at Mrs. McKeys for dinner may the widow's God support her situation.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> [November 1863]

This is a dark gloomy-looking day. Oh it makes... Pity our poor soldiers that have to stand the storm. May the god of heaven be their shelter.

[Page 64] Was at Mrs. Gonely's to spend the evening; had a very pleasant time. How pleasant it is to have good neighbors. May the [Lord] bless them in time and in eternity.

Sunday 22<sup>th</sup>.. Nov [1863]

Did not go any place. To church, there is no preaching in town today. Wrote to Ben

Huey. Feel the loss of my dear sons when I write, but, by the grace of God, I will try to [perform] my duty in the fear of the Lord. Oh lord help me. Save [me] at last.

[Page 65] Thursday 26 November [1863]

This thanksgiving day Mr. McIntire preached a powerful sermon. It was a feast to my soul. Was at dinner at Squire Wilson's.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> [November 1863]

Mrs. Gales and Mrs. McMullen was here to see me. I was very glad to [see] them. They [were] my dear Gustin's friends. May the Lord bless them. I feel that I [am] in the world of death and sorrow, but yet I have many mercies.

[Page 66] Saturday 28 Nov [1863]

Got a letter from James Slusen and and Adorirum Bean. They were very kind letters. I [wonder] how they will live to get home.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> [November 1863]

Was at church, heard a good sermon. Was at class. I felt very solemn.

monday # 30 [November 1863]

Was at mrs McIntire's this is a very cold day.

Tuesday December 1<sup>st</sup> [1863]

Feel very much excited today. It is 22 months today since my dear R. A. died. Oh what [a] day of sorrow I have passed.

[Page 67] Wednesday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> [1863]

It is five months today since my dear son was killed. Oh how awful to think of. It makes me sick at heart Lord help me and save me from all my fears. Lord increase my faith

Thurs day 3<sup>rd</sup> [December 1863]

Was at Mrs. Raven's for dinner [and] at Mr. Riley's for tea. Do not feel well. Think a great deal about my dear sons. Oh that I realize the hand of the Lord in all my afflictions and trust in him at all times.

[Page 68] Saturday Dec 5<sup>th</sup> [1863]

Was at Mrs. Stereat's for dinner; had a pleasant time. Am not well. Feel my lonely situation. May the Lord guide [me] by his course and afterward receive me to glory.

Sunday [December 6<sup>th</sup> 1863]

Was quite sick. Was able to read. Felt very dull.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> [December 1863]

Feel some better. Hope I will keep well until I get home. I feel I am in a world of sorrow, but I trust in the Lord.

[Page 69] Monday 21 Dec [1863]

Was at Mr. Broadhead's for dinner with Mrs. McKey and Mag Logan. Had a very pleasant time. Have been sick. It is the first time I have been out for some time.

Tuesday 22 [December 1863]

Was at Squire Wilson's for dinner and Mrs. Gonelys for supper. Do not very well but find I am improving some. Feel the loss of my dear sons very much. Oh that [the Lord] would enlighten my mind.

[Page 70] Thursday 24 Dec [1863]

Mr. Gales fetched to Mr Lyons'. Oh how distressed I feel when I see where my dear Gustin used to be. Can it be that I am to see him no more in this world.

Friday 25 [December 1863]

Tis' Christmas day, but, oh, when I think of the many sorrowful hearts that mourn the [loss] of friends that have fallen in the last year, how my heart sinks within me. Oh my God, pity the [?]

[Page 71] Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec [1863]

This is Ell. Lyons' birthday he is 20 years old today. This place seems very lonely [compared] to what it once was— but loneliness is in my own heart. No one but God knows the sorrow of heart I endure, and of [the] duty and trial, so at last I may come [to] conquer, through him [who] hath loved us and gave himself for us— Oh for [?]

[Page 72] Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec [1863]

This is the last Sabbath in the year. How many have been made to mourn the Loss of dear friends in the last year, and who next will mourn we know not. Lord teach us so to nurture our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom— two years ago my two dear sons were living; now they are in eternity. Oh, the sorrow I have passed through. But if I meet them in heaven, all will be well— Oh that I had an evidence that they are [?]

[Page 73] Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>. Dec [1863]

Was at Mr. McLene's for dinner was at Mr. Gale's for supper. Mr. McLene is very sick. S. got a letter home. Heard Mr. Anderson and Ben have joined the church, which news I am very glad to hear. I have long prayed that Mr. Anderson might be brought into the favor [of] God. I have another evidence that God is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. May the Lord keep him faithful.

[Page 74] Wednesday [sic] 30<sup>th</sup> Dec [1863]

Do not feel very well. Feel a strong confidence in God. He will take of me through time and in the end save me. Lord help me to believe thy promises. I wrote to Mr. Anderson.

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec [1863]

This is the last in this year. Oh, what sorrow I have passed through since that, but the Lord has not forsaken me. If I am spared the coming year, may I spend it in the service of God. Lord help to live right.



[Page 75] 1864 Friday January 1<sup>st</sup>

Sligo<sup>xvii</sup>. This is a cold stormy day— How much it represents the commotion of our country, but it is good to feel that the Lord reigns— My sorrow prepare me for what is before me— two years ago my sons were both living— 23 months [ago] tonight, my dear son R.A. died. Oh, how sorrowful have been my days since then, yet the Lord has not forsaken me. I feel today like starting afresh to serve him. Oh Lord, increase my faith [Page 76] in the promises of God. The word of God seems very precious to me. Today my heart is drawn out in prayer— I have read a very good sermon, preached by the Rev. Mr. Brownson on Thanksgiving day, Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Jan 2 1863 [1864, Saturday]

This day, six months [ago], my dear son Gustin left this world, no more to look upon those that he loved with his mortal eyes. Oh my God, thou knowest [how] much I have thought of him today. Oh Lord, help me.

[Page 77] Sunday Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> [1864]

Left Sligo. came to Callensburg. Was at church; heard a good sermon from Mr. Kincade. This year, thou shalt did was the tex[?].

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> [January 1864]

Have been sick all this week. Feel a little better today; was at Mr. More's for tea.

Sunday 10 [January 1864]

Did not go out today; was not well.

Monday 11 [January 1864]

Left Callensburg this morning; got safe to Freeport<sup>xviii</sup> this evening. Was very tired.

[Page 78] Saturday 16 Jan

Was at Church; heard a good sermon from [?] [?].

Sunday 17 [January 1864]

This is the time of our quarterly [meeting]. Brother Thomas is with us; we are having a good meeting. Oh, that [he] would pour out his spirit upon our Church and on his people and [?] his work in every heart, and this be converted unto the Lord.

Monday [18 January 1864]

Do not feel well have thought a great deal about my dear sons.

[Page 79] Tuesday Jan 19<sup>th</sup> [1864]

This is a very stormy night. Oh, how distressing for the soldiers of [the] army. Lord have mercy upon them, and shield them from the stormy blast.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> [January 1864]

Mrs. Woods was buried today— was at PT[?] for dinner too. Was at Lutheran church at night. Wesley Bowm is at home. [He] is going away on Monday. May the Lord go with him and have mercy upon him and save him from his sins.

[Page 80] Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> [January 1864]

Was not well today. Did not go to church this morning. Was at class this afternoon, had a good meeting this day. Once here my dear son came home from the army and stayed a few days, for the last time he was ever to be here while living. Oh how sorrowful— My dear boys must forever go mourning. Is there any comfort in their deaths? Oh lord, strengthen me from on high to give them up to thee, for though art able to save. Oh, help me.

[Page 81] Monday February 1<sup>st</sup> 1864

Wrote to James Sluser. Got a letter from B. Huey. Wrote to Ben Huey. This night, two years [ago], my dear son R.A. left this world. Oh my God, has he been in happiness or pain, thou only know; I know not. Oh Lord, help me to trust in thee and not be afraid. May I trust in thee for all things, for time and for eternity. May I see light in thy light and may I be guided by thy counsel. Oh Lord, increase my faith in God. May I be resigned.

[Page82] Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> [February 1864]

Wrote to Adoriram Bean – This day, two years [ago], I wrote my last letter to my dear son R.A., but, alas, he [was] dead [by] then. Oh, how distressing. This day, seven months [ago], my dear son, Gustin, left this world, to return no more to cheer me on my way through this world of [sorrow?] and distress. [Oh], if he is at rest; it [is] all I ask thee. God grant that [I may] meet my dear Sons in heaven alone, whereof is love and peace

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> [February 1864]

Was at female prayer meeting; had a good meeting.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> [February 1864]

Was at church until class; had good class. Feel very Valem[?]. This day, two years [ago], I my dear Ganny's face for the last time. This world; oh God, grant that I See his face in glory. Thou only knowest my sorrow of heart. Oh, give faith and patience [so I] may do thy will. Oh my Sorrow.

[Page 84] Tuesday 9 [February 1864]

Feel very low in spirit. Have thought so much about my dear sons. My dear Gustin was here this time last year, but will never be here again. Oh, my heart is melted down with sorrow.

Friday 12 [February 1864]

This day, one year [ago], my dear son Gustin was married, but now he sleeps the sleep of death. Oh, how dark the providence of God. Oh, for faith to believe that all things shall work for my good.

[Page 85] Saturday 13 February [1864]

got a letter from Ben Huey; was glad to hear from him — This day, one year [ago], my dear Gustin brought his wife home, but how soon were all their happiness in this world brought to an end and she left to mourn. Oh lord teach us. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom — Oh that god would give me grace to understand his will, as far as for my good.

[Page 86] Sunday 14th feb [1864]

Wrote to Ben Huey to day and to Mag Logan — Was at class this afternoon. I feel so encouraged this evening. The Lord has been with me this day to help me and comfort my soul. Oh for more grace to help me in my time of need. I want to trust in the Lord at all times and not be afraid Oh for an overcoming faith - Death has taken away another one; Mr. h[?] has died today.

[Page 87] Tuesday 16th feb [1861]

Got a letter from James Slusen — This day, one year [ago], I saw my dear Gustin for the last time in this world. I wonder if he thought it would be the last time he ever see home. Oh sad I feel. Lord give me submission to thy will, and give me grace to trust all to thee for time and for eternity. Thou dost all things need.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> [February 1864]

Was at female prayer meeting, felt that [it] was good to draw nigh to God. Sweet is the hour of prayer.

[Page 88] Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> [February 1864]

Was at class at three o'clock; had a good meeting. Wrote to James Slusen— Feel very much troubled in mind think so much about my dear sons. Lord, help me to give them up to thou and give me faith.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> [February 1864]

Got a letter from Ben Huey. It gave [me] great comfort; it was very kind letter. Oh, that I find what contains to be true, and may I have a stronger faith in [God].

[Page 89] Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> feb [1864]

Was at class; had a good meeting. The Lord was present with us; we had a melting time. Thomas Bowman is to leave in the morning for the war. May the Lord go with him.

Wednesday March 2 [1864]

It is 8 months today since my dear son, Gustin, left this world of sorrow, never to come to me any more in this world. Oh, may we meet in heaven is my prayer.

[Page 90] Sunday March 6 [1864]

Was at class this afternoon. Felt very dull; was so very tired. Was at Pittsburgh yesterday. Do not feel well. Saw so many soldiers it made my heart ache —Oh lord, have mercy upon the people.

Wednesday 9th [March 1864]

Was at [a] prayer meeting, felt very solemn all day. The world has lost its charms for me, my dear sons [are] in all my thoughts. Oh Lord, help me to give them up to thee— Got a letter from Capt. Neelay.

[Page 93] Friday 11th [March 1864]

This has been a very stormy day. I thought a great deal about our soldiers. [Our] Lord is their shelter from the stormy blast— I very sorrowful. This world is a dark and gloomy place to me. I feel almost alone in this world of sorrow. O give me grace to submit to thy will, o my savior and redeemer, but not thy face be hid from me now. Flown my soul away. How long, o Lord, shall [there] be so much distress?

[Page 94] Saturday 12 [March 1864]

Got a letter from B. Huey today; he is very kind, too. May the Lord be with him.

Sunday 13th [March 1864]

Was at home all day. It was wet, I did not go out— Mr. and Mrs. Smith were here for dinner— Wrote to Capt MaClay [and] Jane Bean — Have been reading in the life of Mrs. Fletcher;<sup>xix</sup> I get great encouragement from reading her writings— Lord help me to look to thee.

[Page 95] Wednesday 16 [March 1864]

Was at [a] prayer meeting; had a good meeting. Wrote to Elizabeth Penny.

Sunday 20 [March 1864]

Was at prayer meeting in the morning. Was at class at three o'clock. Had [a] meeting, was at Mrs. Brown's Church at night; heard [a] good sermon.

Monday 21 [March 1864]

Got a letter from James Slusen and one from Thomas Bowman. this in [?].

[Page 96] Wednesday 23 March [1864]

Wrote to A. Bean. Was at [a] prayer meeting. I feel my own weakness, both of body and of mind. Oh lord, be my strength and my light, never leave me nor forsake me. Give me a stronger faith.

Sunday 27 [March 1864]

Was at [a] prayer meeting and journal class. Had a good meeting. Was at class at three o'clock, at prayer meeting at night had a good meeting. Lord make me thankful for all his mercies.

[Page 97] Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup> [1864]

Wrote to Thomas Bowman. This is a dreary-looking day; it is a picture of our nation. Lord have mercy upon the people and make them look to thee. Oh may the wickedness of the wicked come to end.

April 1st [1863] Friday

This day, two years and two months [ago], my dear Ganny left this world to go to that land from whence no troubles ever returned.

[Page 98] Saturday April 2 [1864]

This day, nine months [ago], my dear son Gustin left this world no [more] to come to my relief in time of trouble. Oh lord, grant me thy grace to sustain me under my distress.

Sunday 4 [April 1864]

Was at church this morning; heard a good sermon. Mr. Howe[?]. This is his first day here. May the Lord bless his labors here among us is the prayer of my heart. Was at church at night heard another good sermon.

[Page 99] Wednesday 6th April [1864]

Was at [a] prayer meeting.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> [April 1864]

Was at [a] prayer meeting at night; our preacher was there for the first time. May the Lord bless his labor with us and we all labor together for the Lord.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> [April 1864]

Got a letter from Ben Huey and wrote to him. Oh Lord, bless him and save him if it is thy holy will. Lord, help me to do thy will.

[Page 100] Sunday April 10th [April 1864]

Was at church, heard [a] good sermon [on] faith. Was at class; had a good meeting. Was at church at night; heard another good sermon on temptation – Lord, grant that I may, in spiritual things, by all these blessed privileges and the grace of god, support [me] under all my trials and save me.

monday 11 [April 1864]

This was my father's birthday, but he has gone the way of the all [?]. Got a very kind letter from Lieutenant Crawford. May the bless him and save him.

[Page 101] Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> [1864]

Came home to day. I [was] here last year this time, but how changed is my Situation. My dear Son was living then, now he is gone and left us to mourn his loss. Oh God, give me grace to bear my affliction in humility.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> [May 1864]

At Mrs. Stewarts. Yet feel some better today have not been well for some time. Oh Lord, prepare me for my last sickness and save me from all sin.

[Page 102] Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of May [1864]

This is my birthday; I am 58 years old. My life is as a tale that is told. All time in this world will soon be over with me. Oh Lord, help me to employ [my] remaining days to thy glory. Was at Saltsburg<sup>xx</sup>, was at Miss McBaine's for tea; she is a very pleasant lady.

[Do] not well. Feel some better this afternoon. [?] [?] the Lord my dear son [?] time [?]  
the [?] that [??].

[Page 103] Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May [1864]

Was at Mr. Robinson's for tea; they are a pleasant family.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> [May 1864]

Am still at Mr. Stewart's. Feel some better. This is a very warm day.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> [May 1864]

Did not got to Church; did [not] feel well enough. Find it good to meditate [on] thy word,  
oh lord, my god and my [?]. Oh give me grace submit to thy holy will [??].

[Page 104] June 17<sup>th</sup> [1864] Friday

Have not wrote much for more than a month. have not been well. Have been very busy.  
Have had a great deal of company – Some of my old friends have been here –Mrs. Makey  
was here last month. The Baptist association [met] here last week. There were number of  
my old friends here, but how is everything changed since I last [met] them. [Page 105]  
Wrote to Jane Bean. Wrote to Polly Gilman. Feel some better today; have not been able  
to write for some time.

[Page 106] [Blank]

# Historical Notes

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<sup>i</sup> This entry, (which starts with Rhoda Stone) written in an obviously different printed letters, was made by Logan R. Moorhead (LRM), great great grandson of Rhoda Stone Lowry.

<sup>ii</sup> RSL's son, William Gustin Lowry, and his friend, Ben Huey. Lowry was born January 27, 1836 (Moorhead, para. 4). Lowry, along with his brother Robert Alexander Lowry, enlisted in the C Company of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Regiment P.V. (Pennsylvania Volunteers) on July 4, 1861, for a three-year term of service. He became a second lieutenant (Moorhead, para. 3). According to Moorhead, "the regiment was engaged in all the major battles of the Army of the Potomac, including Seven Days, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg" (para. 4). Huey apparently also enlisted in the army at the same time, but was sent home, apparently because of some sort of physical deficiency. In a letter dated January 3, 1862, and written at Camp "Betty Black" in Minor's Hill, Virginia, William writes, "Ben is one of the best of fellows And I was very / sorry to have him leave / but he was not able to / be of any service here / and is better at home/" (4).

<sup>iii</sup> Margaret Judson Lowry, RSL's daughter.

<sup>iv</sup> This Mag, Mag Logan, is a different person entirely from RSL's daughter, Margaret Judson Lowry. She must have been a close friend of the author, however, as she is among the most frequently mentioned figures in the diary.

<sup>v</sup> The last letter from William Gustin Lowry to his mother in the Moorhead Collection is dated, "Hd. Qrs. 62 Reg.P.V.Camp Near Falmouth Va May 7<sup>th</sup> /63." This is almost certainly the letter RSL mentions. The text of the letter, as it appears transcribed on the IUP Special Collections website, is as follows, "My Dear Mother/ Here we are after ten days / of marching & fighting, back in our old / camps. I don't know why we / are back here. I don't think we / were defeated. But we will all / know more about it in a few / days. The loss in our Regt. has / been very slight. We were very fortunate / we were under fire almost constantly / for three days & nights & our loss in killed / & wounded only 13. no one whom / you know is hurt. The 63<sup>rd</sup> Regt / lost very heavily. Capt Geo McCulloch severely wound / capt. Jim Ryan safe, I have had / no letters since we started from camp the / mails have been stopped. I think / they will be on today. I saw Wm John / Galbraith yesterday. I saw Ed Geary / on the battle ground. I will write / soon again / I haven't time to write / [Page 2]more at present. I expect to get a / lot of letters today, & then I will / answer them, Give my love to all/Yours affectionately/Gus"

<sup>vi</sup> R.A. is RSL's son, Robert Alexander Lowry. RSL's other son, William, was still alive at this time. RSL calls her sons by several names, including R.A. for Robert. Robert Alexander Lowry was born June 30, 1838 (Moorhead, para. 3). He served as a corporal and a bugler in the U.S. Army 62<sup>nd</sup> Regiment P.V. (Pennsylvania Volunteers), having enlisted with his brother on July 4, 1861. He died February 1, 1862, at the age of 23, from wounds suffered when he accidentally shot himself with his brother's revolver at Camp Betty Black in Minor's Hill, Virginia (Moorhead, para. 3).

<sup>vii</sup> RSL's mother, Margaret Gustin Stone died June 12, 1862 (Moorhead, footnote 2).

<sup>viii</sup> The railroad bridge at Harrisburg formed part of a strategically-important shipping route for the North. Lee's invasion force initially entered Pennsylvania in June 1863 with plans to first destroy the bridge, then to turn his "attention to Philadelphia, Baltimore, or Washington as may seem best for our interest" (as qtd. in *The Battle of Gettysburg*, para 4). On July 1, 1863, an expeditionary brigade spotted Buford's Union cavalry division on a ridge one mile west of Gettysburg. The Confederate forces attacked the Union cavalry, meeting the division on McPherson Ridge and effectively starting the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863). (*The Battle of Gettysburg*, para 4-5).

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<sup>ix</sup> The Battle of Gettysburg began July 1, 1863 and ended July 3.

<sup>x</sup> According to L.R. Moorhead, William Gustin Lowry “was engaged in all his regiment’s battles up through Gettysburg, where he was killed in action on July 2, 1863, in the woods between the west corner of the Wheatfield (now called the ‘Loop’) and the Rose Farm. He fell, instantly killed, very shortly after his brigade (Sweitzer’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, Barne’s 1<sup>st</sup> Division, \*Syke’s 5<sup>th</sup> Corps) entered the battle in support of General Sickles’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, which was collapsing under the crushing attack of Confederate Generals Hood and McLaw on the Union army’s extreme left flank. He was probably killed by men of Kershaw’s Brigade of McLaw’s Division. He had been promoted to Major September 10, 1862, just prior to Antietam, and had married February 12, 1863. A fine tribute is paid him in the address of Captain W.J. Patterson at the Dedication of Monument— 62<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Infantry at Gettysburg September 11, 1889: ‘In his death the service lost as brave a soldier and as faithful an officer as any that fell that day in defense of this country’” (para. 4). He is buried in Gettysburg National Cemetery (Moorhead, para. 6).

<sup>xi</sup> Kittanning is located on the Allegheny River in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania.

<sup>xii</sup> McKeesport is located in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, southeast of Pittsburgh.

<sup>xiii</sup> RSL’s husband, Robert Lowry, died in 1840 in Freeport, Pennsylvania; though Moorhead, his great grand son, has been unable to locate his grave (para 6). Her sons, William and Robert, were killed during the war (see notes vi and x). Her daughter, Margaret, survived, becoming the great grandmother of L.R. Moorhead (Moorhead, para. 1). The letters of Robert and William Lowry indicate that RSL had at least one more daughter who was alive in 1862, as Moorhead notes (para. 1). I have not, as yet been able to find her name.

<sup>xiv</sup> William Gustin Lowry married Mattie (last name unknown) of Saltsburg on February 12, 1863.

<sup>xv</sup> On May 7, 1863, William Gustin Lowry wrote RSL a letter from the 62 Reg. P.V. headquarters near Falmouth, Virginia. Lowry’s regiment had just finished fighting in the battle of Chancellorsville, (May 1-5, 1863), a hard-fought Confederate victory which left over 17,000 Union troops and nearly 13,000 Confederates dead. In his letter (reproduced in full above, note v), Lowry writes, “I saw Wm John / Galbraith yesterday. I saw Ed Geary / on the battle ground.

<sup>xvi</sup> The Lowry family was living in Currlsville, located in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, at the outbreak of the War (Moorhead, para. 2). RSL had moved to Freeport, Pa (see note xvii) by the time she wrote this diary, however. Callensburg is also located in Clarion County.

<sup>xvii</sup> Sligo, where this and the next two entries were evidently composed, is located in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, near Callensburg.

<sup>xviii</sup> Freeport, a town covering 1.2 square miles today and home to RSL at the time of her diary’s composition, is located on the Allegheny River in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania.

<sup>xix</sup> The full title of this book, written by Henry Moore and published in 1817, is The Life of Mrs. Mary Fletcher: Consort and Relict Of the Rev. John Fletcher, Vicar of Madeley, Salop. Compiled from her Journal and other Authentic Documents. The John Fletcher mentioned in the title was the hand-chosen successor of early Methodist movement leader John Wesley. The complete text is available through the Northwest Nazarene University Wesley Center Online website, <[http://wesley.nnu.edu/john\\_fletcher](http://wesley.nnu.edu/john_fletcher)>.

<sup>xx</sup> Saltsburg is a small town in Indiana County, Pennsylvania.