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The Journal of Charles Rawn
February 19 to March 14, 1846 (Book 17)

Edited by Elizabeth Sparks

Introduction

During this brief period, we are afforded a glimpse of a man in middle age, established in his practice, and settled into the routine of daily life amongst his family and friends. We see in these pages a careful man with a keen eye for observing details in his financial affairs. He meticulously recorded the money spent by his household for goods ranging from staples, to clothes, to books, to candies. Rawn was a man who was well connected in Harrisburg social circles, counting among his friends during this time the Governor of Pennsylvania and many local businessmen. He made a note of either horseback riding, walking, or exercising in an upstairs room for 16 of the 24 days. This is remarkable, considering that, according to Rawn's records, the weather at this time of the year was not always conducive to outdoor activity.

Rawn's social life was not quite as active as it had been during those days of his youth as described by Margo Groff in her work with his early journal. Most nights he was in bed by 9 or 10 p.m. after an evening at home. Occasionally he entertained a guest during the early evening hours at his residence, but within this 24 day period he attended

only two parties at night, one at the home of E. M. Pollock and one at the home of Governor Shunk. He spent time visiting friends with his wife (who he refers to in this part of journal only as “wife”) and attended church with his wife and sometimes with his son, Charles. Only a passing reference was made to his daughter who had been treated in Philadelphia for an undisclosed illness. Rawn twice lamented the loss of their “girl,” Susan Peck, as he mentioned having to help “wife” with the baking. Other routine activities included reading and answering correspondences (although he never records their specific content), paying bills, and visiting the State Library.

During this time period, two events were described by Rawn that were out of the ordinary scope of his daily life. One involved a discrepancy over payment of a bill to a doctor who had apparently treated Rawn’s daughter at some point. Dr. Heber Chase was going to bring suit against Rawn and secured a lawyer, as did Rawn himself. At Rawn’s suggestion the suit was settled for a sum, and Chase immediately offered to again treat Rawn’s daughter, this time free of charge. Rawn’s desire to settle this matter before it came to a deposition and a full-blown suit was, as he said, “for the sake of his feelings as well as my own wishes,” and was not discussed further.

A second event of note was Rawn’s attendance at the funeral of the two-year-old child of his friend, Herman Alricks. He described the care he took in cleaning and preparing his horses and his carriage to loan to Alricks during this funeral service and at the cemetery. A week later we read that he visited the Alricks family with his wife. Again, there is no detail given about the child, the death, the funeral, or the feelings of his

friends during this time.

At the beginning of each entry Rawn recorded the date of the particular month in which he was writing, and a number corresponding to the day of the week, Sunday is day 1, Monday day 2, and so forth. I have transcribed spelling and punctuation exactly as Rawn recorded it, mistakes and all, and I have underlined wherever he has underlined. I have substituted the symbol “&” when Rawn used another symbol. This is because my computer has no symbol resembling the one he used so casually and so frequently. I have made every effort to decipher his frequently illegible handwriting, but when this was not possible and I didn't want to risk misinterpreting a word and possibly influencing another's reading of the text, I replaced the missing word with [?].

The Journal

19-5 Clear Cloudy - Cold - Therm. 35 or 36 8am- very raw and chilly through the day but thawing after 10 or 11 am till toward Ev. considerably - Commenced Snowing at 6. P.M. and continued at 8 1/2 P.M. when it has fallen 2 or 3 inches. Depd. in Dauphin Dep. Bk. \$60 - Paid for 4 lbs brown sugar 32. (at Hughsons v. Tinst.) and at Pollocks for a Copy Book for son Charles 6. at Wyeth's for this book 37 1/2- paper 1. Amt. 76 cents. Road on horseback from 11 1/2 am to 1 1/2 PM. 10 ms. at Mr. J K McKeevers 1/2 an hour till 8 P.M. - home rest of Ev. & to bed 10 PM.

20-6 Snow com. falling last Ev. abt 6 P.M. amd contd. falling heavily at bed time when it had fallen abt a foot deep on top of the old - Geo. Utz clearing snow out of yd. & off front pavement - from 2 to 4 1/2 PM. did not finish - spent day chiefly at home & wt also to bed 10 P.M.

21-7 Clear - Cold in morning. Cold wind through day though snow melting considerably in places Paid for Liver 61/4 - Papers 3 cts-figs & Taffey wife 18 3/4 & pair shoes wife \$1.25 - amt. \$1.53 - assisted wife

21-7 Contd - till 10 or 11 a.m. about Baking. We having no girl yet since Susan Peck left 24 ult. [?] was at St. Library 15 ms abt 11 1/2 a.m.- called with wife in afternoon at Mrs. Hannah's - Mr. Millers [?] Gov Shunk rode on horseback from 4 to 5 1/4 PM. for 7 miles. Spent Even at home and to bed at 10 1/2 P.M.

22-1 Clear & fine - hard frozen in morn. early thawing through day after 8 or 9 am - wife [?] at Church in morning. I was there in Ev. but came home rest of day - home from Ch. 8 & to bed 9 P.M.

23-2 Clear & very Cold - Therm 33-4 at 8 am. 39 2 PM. sleighing fine - Snow

mellting in middle of day - rode on horseback to Zencks Smithshop 11 1/2 am - got horse fine shoes moved home at 1 1/2 P.M. 8 ms circular - spent afternoon & Ev. chiefly at home. Judge Rahn in from 3 PM to near 8 1/2 P.M. Mary S. Clendenin called while he was in with note recd by her from Dr. Heber Chase & his card for (my wife) announcing his arrival at Coverly's Hotel in this town Expressing a desire to see our litle Daughter back if agreeable. Dignified[?] it was and she was allowed to reply to him and to appoint 9 1/2 AM. Rec note from H. Buehler [?] 21 inst in reply to mine of 13 inst. tomorrow (vante July 30/44) & to bed at 9 PM.

24-3 Clear fine, Cloudy in Ev. Therm abt 40 - Dr. Heber Chase called with M.S. Clendenin (v yesterday) to see our little girl. - I attended suit against me by him at Ch. Snyder for his Bill (which he told me July 30/44 was \$150 but which he sent to [?] on July [?] \$79) at 10 a.m. - He appeared with Jordan Esq. as his Counsel finding which I went out and took Mr. McClure Esq. there more as a witness to what should be said and done than from any idea of there be any necessity for Counsel - He exhibited what he called a Book of "Original Entries" with his a/c or forwarded to Snyder but which at a glance it could be perceived would not answer the purposes of such Evidence generally - He was sworn by the Justice & I at once determined to save him from the mortification then and thereafter if not from some Compunction of Conscience of attempting to Sustain the charge against me as contained in his Book of "Original Entries" and before

he was examined a word. I suggested my disposition to settle the matter for the sake of his feelings as well as my own wishes.

24-3 Contd - he gave a ready response and manifested considerable satisfaction - Mr. Jordan observed that Dr. Chase had said to him coming down the Boardway that he would rather settle it and would take \$50. Although I was fully satisfied that to fancy Beth and he and myself called at Heislays in Even. on that subject. He also told me that the case of our child was known to so many persons that he felt authority of curing her and told me if I would bring her again to Phila. he would attend to her without charge - a copy of his Bill as furnished to Esq. Snyder's Docket will be found in my Recpt Book with Dr. Chase's Recpt. I paid Geo. Shoop \$12.80 in full for 24 lbsw Butter from Dec 6/45 to this day both inclusive at 20 cts. per lb, and 1016 lbs Hay got 26 July last as \$16 a ton (the 16 lbs thrown off.) by Ch 12 on the Dau Dep Bk. these articles are entered in my Bk of the days they were got and or paid them. Drew ck on Dau Dep Bk in favor of self for \$50 and got money - Native Am. St. Convention to nom. Cand. for Canal Com. but in [?]- Dr. Chase a delegate from Philadelphia My wife and self attended large party at E. M. Pollock's from 8 to 10 1/4 P.M. then home. Mrs. Hubley remained with children - to bed 10 3/4.

25-4 Cloudy blue - rode on horseback from 11 am to 12 3/4 P.M. 10 or 11 ms. circular round by Mr. Peter Becks where I called without alighting about [?] -

pd Lawr. McCord through G.B. Henry for mitten order \$1.58 1/2 while of his 6 [?] in cast of Sallade or Vanderslin not show his Book [?] went I could ultimately have defeated him entirely. Yet in view of his disposition as manifested by his note of yeserday and his conduct today in his apparent anxiety about our daughter and other signs of friendship and also in view of the part that he had rendered some labors as paid [?], found an Instrument, though without the least permanent thought to the child (who he told me in May 44 if I would leave her in Phil. he could cure) and though he had obliged me unnecessarily to incur great expense & inconvieince (v. July 30/44) & though I believe he would be liberally paid at \$35 or \$40, yet I felt disposed at once to tell the Justice to mark it settled and did so - It was accordingly so marked. I then proposed privately to Dr. Chase to pay it off with \$40 cash as to pay part and give him my due Bill at 30 or 60 days for the residue & done this believing myself warranted under all the circumstances in making a bargain with him for cash if it met his wishes in preference to part payment at this time of the \$50 agreed on. He proposed to split the diff. and take \$45 and I accordingly in the Ev. in my parlour paid him \$45. in full (v. my Recpt Book) He was in and out several times through the day - Suggested medicating [?] of the child [?] (v why Bill for Recpt order [?] July 16/43 [?] then 19/43) Spent afernoon & Even. chiefly at home & to bed at 10P.M.

26-5 Clear - very Cold - Therm abt 33 or 4 all day in Entry and abt 18 on & in yard &

yet thawing some in middle of street. Spent day chiefly in parlor except that abt 4P.M. I was at Muench's Bakery & pd. for 5 lbs [?] 21 cts. pd for a quire of letter paper - 12 1/2 cts at Pollocks, for almonds 6 cts - 24 inst for Dauphin [?] - Amt. 50cts. Recd letter from sister Juliann Rawn Thornbury Feb 19 pd Pof 5 cts wrote in reply of rept copy enclosing them \$5.00 by request & [?] to their letter in 8 [?] & 13 inst. Wife went to small gathering at Peacocks at 8 PM. & returned at 10- wrote note to Henry Buehler Esq. present & Rept Copy in reply to his in. 23 inst. Enclosed article statement as requested. To bed son Chas. & self at 9 PM.

27-6 Clear very cold - Therm. 28 to 33 in Entry 14 to 20 outdoor - rode on horseback from 11 3/4 am to 1 PM. 8 ms. - Thawing considerably in middle of street - called in afternoon to the Dr. E. S.[?] & Walker Thompson both sick & consumed Sleighbg first Rate - has been better & worse but constantly sleighbg since big snow some 2 or 3 Sundays since - spent Ev. at home and to bed at 9 PM.

28-7 Snowing finely all day - and in last night - has fallen some 2 or 3 inches today - Cold - Therm 33 or 4 in Entry 20-21 out in yard - Sleighbg Elegant "finely" means in small particles - assisted wife about Baking heating oven - we have yet no girl (v. 24 [?] S. Peck left) - pd. for Liver & Sausage 15 for [?] Bread 5. 4 lbs brown sugar 32. at Hughson's (v 19 inst) for Papers to 4 cts. Amt 56 cts. Re. of Peter Beck (client) 5 bundles straw for which he has credit - [?] for

one my Dep. Book - spent day chiefly at home exercised in front room upstairs
abt 5 PM. half an hour or more Ev. home - bed 10.

Mch 1-1 Clear Cloudy Cloudy - Therm 33-4 in Entry. 18 to 22 in yard. very chilly.
Wife & Son Chas at Church in morning. I rem. home all day & Ev. Sleighing
first Rate - to bed 9 PM.

2-2 Clear & Cloudy. not quite too cold & Raw - Therm. 31 in yard 2 PM. - Rode
on horseback from 11 3/4 am to 1 PM 6 ms. - Recd. C. Busdale \$2.10 of
Peter Beck per his son from which he has credit on [?] in my Dep. Book. Snow
blowing considerably this afternoon. Spent afternoon & Ev. home to bed 9PM.

3-3 Clear & fine - mild - Thawing considerably Therm abt 30 in yard. Pd. at
[?] for 1 Qt. Lamp oil 22 (v 4 alt) for Es. Lem 3 Amt 25. Recd. of Thos.
Lingle guardn. of Mary & Ann Bruheker in 81 [?] (Partition Case) \$2.06
Bal. of his [?] of Costs & appd. some on act. my costs in sd. Case Fee \$2.06 -
Spent day chiefly at home & attended Large Party in Ev. at Gov. Shunk from
8 to near 11 PM with wife - home 10 3/4 to bed 11 PM.

4-4 Clear & very fine - mild. thawing very fast - Paid for 2 lbs. Butter 40.
Liver & Beefsteak 15. for Cough Mix 31 1/4. Lamp Wicks 12 1/2. at Kelker
& C's Amt - 98 3/4 Recd of [?] in Ex. for 22 [?] & 46 Pollock - Jones atty

Legal Fee \$3.75. pd. Jos. Shearer Bill for Tayloring \$3.25 & for a new overcoat he had one handmade up \$6.00 Amt - 9.25 & Recd. a credit in at. of said Bill cost of material of new pants made by him for the [?] - not suitably \$5.00 (v.g. Dec.) and pd. him the Bal. \$4.25 in cash. Rode on horse back from 11 am to 12 1/4 PM 6 ms. In Court House at 4 [?] Dem. Con. short time abt 4 PM. with Judge Rahn who called to see us abt 3 PM. - he & I came to house & went to Con. together - spent Ev. at home. Henry [?] wife & one Miss Eslinger his [?] in a certain suit - in a [?] 7 1/2 P.M. - to bed 10 P.M.

5-5 Clear & very fine & very mild - Snow melting very fast sleighbing almost done for in town Mr. R Kimble Esq. called this morn. Rode on horseback from 10 3/4 to 11 3/4 am. 5 ms. - was in and out of Convention [?] times through the day & walked on Boardway mile or more abt 4 1/2 P.M. Miss Sarah Bailey [?] School Teacher in for 1/2 an hour about 7 1/4 P.M. I was at Muenche's Bakery for Cracken after walking home with Miss Bailey to her Boarding. They had only abt 1 1/2 lb cracken - I am again to get 3 1/2 lbs which will make it 5 lbs we get for 21 cts. Spent Even. at home except as above & to bed 9 1/2 P.M.

6-6 Rain more or less through day - sometimes clear - very mild. Therm. abt 50. Recd. of Geo. Utz for [?] \$2.00. on ap. Rent & of Mrs. Rachl Shaffner for same \$3.00 in full of one mos. rent to 1 unit. pd. Solomon Sprigman 75 cts in full for Binding Book "Oregon" & [?] belonging to Book - (v. Recpt. Book)

Recd. from [?] mill flour & Bran of 4 1/2 Blls. wheat deld. there 3rd in for me by Mr. Hoffman & pd. [?] Uhler per [?] Kelle (Carter) for grinding & delg to me 40 cts. [?] pd. at Hughson for 4 lbs Coffee 3 (v. 14 alt.) Paid Bill Curtis ([?] man) for cleaning horse 3 cts. Yesterday pd. for 1 Bottle [?] Panacea \$1.50 at Lutz's (v. 24 [?]) and for 1/4 lb licorice 9 1/2 - for 1/4 lb. Tea 18 3/4 at Robinson's amt. \$2.57 1/4 - Spent Even. at home & to bed at 9 1/2 P.M.

7-7 Clear & Cloudy - hard frozen in morning till 9 am. mild thawings considerably through day. Sleighing abt used up. pd for Beef 9 cts - for [?] 7 cts pd. on letter to D. Rawn 5 cts. on paper 4. Handed wife to pay for mending [?] for [?] 25 cts. - for 1/2 a dozen Blank deeds at [?] 50 cts. Amt. \$1.00 - rode on horseack from 11 1/2 am to 12 1/2 P.M. - Son Chas. & self walked on Boardway by Capitol 1/2 an hour abt 4 P.M. - spent rest of day & Ev. at home and to bed at 9 1/2 P.M. Recd. this afternoon of Mr. J. Kaul \$1.00 advanced to [?] also Fee \$7.00 on a/c of his note of Dec 10/45 \$15. Assisted wife abt Baking - no girl.

8-1 Clear & very fine & very mild - wife & son Chas at church in morning & self in Ev. - I took exercise in front room upstairs & on Boardway by Capitol about 1PM. 2or 3 ms. - home 8 1/2 & to bed 9 PM.

9-2 Clear & very fine & mild - [?] I was in an hour or more in morning. Attended Funeral at 2 P.M. to "Cemetery" with my horse & carriage of 2 year old

child of Herman Alricks Esq. - took with me Miss Kean (Kane) Mrs. Dole & my wife & found it a very solid load for the Roads. - I had called at Mr. H's last Ev. as I went to church and offered the service of my carriage to him for the funeral which he notified me this morning through his brother Hamilton he would accept. pd. Bill Butler (col. man) 10 cts for going with me to River & cleaning off carriage - taking it to Carriage House, bringing Horse back, cleaning it - Barny Hubley, Ann [?], Ned [?] in Ev. Spent Ev. at home [?] McKeever in from 7 1/2 to 9 1/2 P.M.- to bed 10 P.M.

10-3 Clear & fine & mild - Walked on Boardway morning & afternoon some 3 or 4 miles - [?] Carson Esq. along in afternoon - pd. for 5 lbs cracken 25 cts at Muench's (v 5 inst) pd for 1 lb nails 6 for Geo. Utz to [?] Box for Son Chas - for [?] Amt - 33. in Court short time in morning - Spent Ev. at home. J.K. McKeever in from 8 to near 9 P.M. waiting for rough sketch or draft of deed he [?] for me - to bed 9 1/2 P.M.

11-4 Clear & very fine & mild - has been frozen still in morn till 9 am or thereabouts through this mild weather - Paid [?] for veal 10 cts. Recd letter from Mr. Fesler [?] enclosing transcripts of suit by himself [?] & appeal by Fesler with \$1.00 [?] Entry [?] Entered appeal & pd. [?] 50 cts surplus was Fee 50/100. More in reply to Fesler enclosing notice to choose [?] 28 inst. pd. 1st night for "Hoffman [?]" Gift for Daughter [?] at the lessons. - for Butter at [?] 1 lb. 18 3/4 cts. for

1 1/2 yds Ribbon 8 cts for dress for child. Amt 33. Rode on horseback from 10 1/2 to 11 3/4 am. 7 ms. & walked on Boardway in afternoon alot 2 ms. - was in Ct. House short time today on & off to see Whig Con. to nom. Cand. for Can. Conv. - Ev. home & to bed 10.

12-5 Cloudy - Some little rain morn. rode on horseback from 10 1/4 to 11 1/4 am. pd. for Celery 6 - for Table Wine 12 1/2 to Sanders for Mending wifes shoes 12 1/2 - and at Lutz's for 1 Bottle [?] Panacea \$1.50. Walked on Boardway in afternoon 1 1/2 or 2 ms. was in Court House short time in Ev. hearing Dr. Elder formerly of this place lecture on Temperance. McKeever & [?] called after lecture at 9 & remained till 10 1/4 PM. to bed 10 1/2.

13-6 Rain - very mild - Rec letter from S. M. Barclay Bedford March 11 & pd 5 cts - about [?] Bedford Mineral Water Recd. 3 letters with information that [?] Water was \$3 & changes to [?] \$1.25 which I am directed to pay to Mr. [?] of the land office which I have done this day \$4.25

13-6 Cont'd. note to S. M. Barclay in reply & kept copy informing him of said [?] & sending [?] therefor - Spent Ev. at home & to bed at 9 PM.

14-7 Heavy Rain in Last Night - Clear & fine & windy today. [?] very high & River rising rapidly. pd. for 2 lbs Butter 37 1/2 (this yesterday) pd. for Liver 6 1/4 - Amt 43

3/4. Was at State Lib. from 12 noon to 1 PM. -Wrote to Mr. B. Bratton Carlisle & kept copy walked around 2 or 3 ms. in afternoon joined wife, Fanny Alricks & walked with her for River to Canal & back to Herman Alrick's - Recd wagon load of oakwood yesterday of Chas Roads (client) for which he has credit on acct. \$2.25 in Dep. Book - Spent Ev. at home & to bed at 10 P.M.

Names Mentioned

Alricks, Hamilton – Brother of Herman Alricks

Alricks, Herman and Fanny – Herman was fellow investor with Rawn in the Harrisburg Savings Institutions; Rawn attended their child's funeral

Bailey, Miss Sarah – Teacher

Barclay, S.M.

Beck, Peter – Client

Bratton, Mr. B.

Bruheker, Mary and Ann – Thos. Lingle was their guardian

Buehler, Henry – Business associate of Rawn

Busdale, C.

Butler, Bill – Paid by Rawn for cleaning carriage

Chase, Dr. Heber – Doctor who threatened Rawn with a legal suit regarding payment of the bill for daughter's treatment in Philadelphia

Clendenin, Mary Scott – Rawn's sister-in-law, acted as messenger for Chase

Curtis, Bill – Paid by Rawn for cleaning horse

Dole, Mrs. – Attended funeral of Alrick's child with Rawn

Elder, Dr. – Lectured on temperance

Eslinger, Miss

Fesler, Mr. – Client

Hannahs, Mrs.

Henry, G.B. – Delivered money to McCord for Rawn

Hoffman, Mr. – Sold wheat to Rawn

Hublely, Barny

Hublely, Mrs. – Stayed with Rawn's children while he and his wife attended a party

Jordan, Mr. – Counsel for Chase in suit against Rawn

Kaull, Mr. J.

Kean, Miss (Kane) – Attended funeral of Alrick's child with Rawn

Kimble, Mr. R.

Lingle, Thos. – Client

McClure, Mr. William – President of Harrisburgs Savings Institution, counsel for Rawn

in regard to Chase's suit

McCord, Lawr. – Rawn paid him for a mitten order

McKeever, J.K

Millers, Mr.

Peck, Susan – one time “girl” no longer employed by Rawn

Pollock, E.M. – Hosted a party attended by Rawn and his wife

Rahn, Judge

Rawn, D. – Rawn’s brother

Rawn, Elizabeth (Beth) – Rawn’s daughter

Rawn, Juliann – Rawn’s sister

Roads, Chas. – Client

Sanders – Mended shoes for Rawn’s wife

Shaffner, Mrs. Rachl

Shearer, Jos. – Tailor of Rawn

Shoop, George – Sold butter and hay to Rawn

Shunk, Governor – Relative, friend, and frequent riding partner for Rawn

Snyder, Ch.

Springman, Solomon - Bookbinder

Thompson, Walker

Utz, George – Handyman employed by Rawn to do work around the house

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