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The Journal of Charles Rawn

April 1 to 15, 1852 (Book 23)

Edited by Robert Clay

Introduction

From the entries in this section of the journal, Charles Rawn and his wife appear to be socially outgoing. They regularly attend church as a family and are present at many social gatherings. In these two weeks there are more than seventy individuals mentioned that include friends, business associates, acquaintances and various service people.

While Rawn provides little insight in his journal into his beliefs and personality, his dedication to friends and the types of clients he represented may give us some understanding of the man. During the days of the Fugitive Slave Law, Rawn was actively involved on behalf of poor blacks and was known as an “eloquent pleader” for human rights.¹ Andrew Dunn, a client of Rawn, provoked Harrisburg’s first successful labor strike. Theophilus Fenn, editor of the *Telegraph*, hired Dunn, an inexperienced young Scot from Cincinnati, to work at the newspaper and paid him the union wage. The union journeyman working at the *Telegraph* complained that Dunn had presented no card from the printer’s union in Cincinnati. The journeyman gave Dunn two weeks to produce a union card. When Dunn produced no card, Fenn refused to fire him and was unwilling to submit to the union. This caused the printers to strike.² What is revealed in Rawn’s journal is the apparent physical abuse that Dunn suffered during this period from the

¹ *Biographical Encyclopedia of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania* (Chambersburg, Pa. J.M. Runk & Company, Publishers, 1896), p. 427.

² Gerald G. Eggert, *Harrisburg Industrializes: The Coming of Factories to an American Community*. (University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1993), p. 272.

union printers at the *Telegraph*. Rawn's sympathies may have been on the side of business and not on the side of labor in this case. Or perhaps Rawn, by taking this case, was showing he sympathized with the battered Dunn. In any case, the transcription of this brief two week period has brought us new documented information about labor unrest in Harrisburg and added a glimmer of light to the personality of Charles Rawn.

The Journal

Harrisburg Penn April 1, 1852 Thursday

1 ~ 5 Clean and fine, Pleasant. Thos R Trimble here all day from 9 AM. He dined and supped with us + left for home in the call att to 7 PM. I called with him Mr Crepley who paid him \$400, present also J (?) Earness on a/c of purchase of real estate – a \$5 note Middletown Bank Letter C. no 3626 Date Nov 14/48 which John gave pronounced a counterfeit by Mr Kreide at Dau Dep Bk R, returned to K as such who left 5 with my son Chas in silver instead thereof which Chas (?) to Trimble at Beuhley Robt, Chas saying that K appeared angry when he left the silver job (?) the note from him saying it was not counterfeit and that the silver was not at any rate to the amirnt (?) Maid Thos R Trimble by CK to his order on Dau Dep Bank \$ 178 .. 91 ½ Bal. In full of all the cents + Monies in my hands Rc d onestate of his intechate Wmes (/) Trimble du'4 (?) (V two receipt one in My Receipt Book + one in My Book of Accounts of said Rents + Rec'd (?) Thos R Trimble Fee \$5.00 for writing deed from him to his son Thos A. Trimble for tract donation Land No 2017 in Hatesford Township Erie County Pa sold (?) former as a of (?) names to latter for \$400 at (?) acre, also Rec'd of (?) Thos R Trimble Fee \$ 25.00 being the same money for which he has My recpt to His Suppl afr (?) filid Mikle /51 not

paid me then but him Mem. Given for Same (vante Mikle /51) so 4 (?) tha fr Recpts – del to Trimble – Depd in Dau Dep BR \$ 194.00 and also further the sum of \$90.00 Rec'd of (?) F Gellentniy tenant – one Mos Rent \$5.00 to the first day + Mo in advance

April 1~5 Contd Rec d of Jacob F Haehrolen \$204.66 in full of Debt + int (?) in my favor No 213 Aug 7 '51 in Dauphin Company (?) Loff Rothy Miller on same my money for Entng of so July (?) + Atty Fee \$4..12 ½ (Vante Nove 10) pd Dr E. W. Roberts b Check to his order on Dau Dep BR \$9.25 Bill in full to this day for Med + Attendance in my family from Aug 29/50 inclusive (Vide Bile + Recpt Among loose Reciepts) pd Joseph Wallace Leaser \$7.17 in full of my Pew Rent in Presbyn Ch of this place for 2/3 of a Pew for + Most to this date this is an increase of \$1.00 per year Made without Authority of congregation by(?) aperiment on the Several Pew to Supply the deficit resulting from omitting the Sunday Morning penny collections. This is the same principle of apepment (?) –frahased(?) some years afoin(?) congregational meetings when the subject of building a New Church was geing discussed pretty Harmly(?) + which the Rev Wm De Witt(?) took occasion in the same Meeting to endeavor to render adious(?) by compersing(?) with the Made + Manner to some extent of keeping up the English Ch. Establishment and which has now been unauthorizedly adopted with his consent if not at his instance without so much as taking the sense of the congregation on the subject – (?) consistency there arta(?) jewel + aenly(?) time serving + false timidity + a vain courting of popular support harpen(?) Audiences ye(?) are admirable qualities in any body but especialy in preaching – I refused to pay this extra charge 6 mos ago to Mr Burnett because made without due authority + only pay it now under a full explanation of all

these matters to and with Mr Wallace who I find has a full + proper appreciation of the whole subject and the subjects Connected with it + said old discussions. I walked through day as I got time some 3 miles spent evg chiefly at home except at Wallaces as a fine said about Fam Home at 7 ¼ and to bed at 9 PM

2~6 Clear Cloudy – Blusterly at 11AM home little rain I walked u/n mile between 10 + 11AM and Herman Alruks(?) self walked 1 ½ miles between 5 + 6 PM Recd 1mo 1 Letters each dated Columbia Apt from Saml Shoch Esq one per mail the other by the hands of E Curzon per C.O. Zimmerman 40 cts School tax on Shell Rawn but lately sold by us to Hackiden(?) (Vaide Nov 10) which Z says my overlooked last year – have now paid all the taxes on so lot due while Shell (?) owned it viz Bourugh 60 cts State 30, County 25 + School 40 = \$1.55 half of which Mr C.M. Shell must pay me, Re'd of Gen'l L.P. Brawley \$10.60 owe me G W Bordin (V paper attached 8 May 51 being bal of Mr B's studying fee incluing 60 cts interest + wrote to James Bredin Esqr.

The following is the above mentioned owed note (IOU) that is attached in the journal:

(Front)

today Harrisburg May 8, 1851

ninety days after date I promise to Pay to Charls Rawn on order ten Dollars for value received without defalcation

\$10..00

signed (James Bredin)

(Back)

In Harrisburg April 2, 1852 of Genl L.P. Brawley ten dolls and sixty cents in full of the principal and interest of the within, Vichue of anosder(?) in my favor from Mr Bredin to Gen'l Brawly to pay the Amt per certain Dau bak note for ten of Feby 24, 1851 at thirty days in favor of Him Mr Bredin to me in (?) charge here of which lay accordingly been done this day paid Daubak note paid order of Mr Bredin in my favour delivered (?) to Gen'l Brawley

10.60

(signed) Charle Raune

Bulter inforoming him of paid payment releasing(?) him his note + My Recpt on back of same all according to (?) here to attached)

Spent evening chiefly at home and to bed at 9PM

3~7 Clear + fine Cold + fresh all day. Paid Yesterday for 2 books viz Reading + Spelling Books 25 for son J. Calvin at Bergners Book Store – part 2(?) rining fluid 18 ¾ today for 1 lb butter 25 ~ Beef 20 Sundries 6 ¼ + to Robert Parkhills Orlter 6 ¼ Amt \$1.01 ¼ - walked 3 miles between 10 + 11 am Son Chas + Self rode with Judge Ruhns

horse Gilbusy(?) from about 2 ¼ to near 4 PM. Nealvin(?) along part of time – Enclosed letter of David Kelly enclosed to me S T K Boas Esqr to Saml Shock Esqr Columbia.

April 3~7 cont'd said letter is addressed to “Mr Shock” inside is directed to Boas + by him enveloped as above to me + by me the whole enveloped to Shock, P Ganeh VanRiper per his son Christopher Columbus (presented My Son Chas)(12 ½ in full for Mending Charles’ boots a few days hense, Son Chas + self called at Steins Hotel to see Judge Rahn at 7 to 7 ½ PM found him again Sick in bed with complaint in Kidneys gravel or something of the kind. I Left word at Dr Rileys for him to call on him at Jidges reqiest. Home 7 ½ to 8 PM Wife at Mrs Pollocks till 9 – to bed 9PM

4~1 Clear fine early in Morning – commenced snowing at 11 ½ AM mde a small covering on roofs some rain in evening some hail between 7 + 9 PM wife + children at Ch in Morning – wife + self there in eveng – home 9 to bed 9 ¼ PM

5~2 Snow – hail – rain snowed in last night Some 3 to 4 inchs deep snow + rain + hail More (?) all day + M(?) slush 4 or 5 inches deep. (M.Shell + Self wrote letter to Mo(?) Bitterman Gratztown + Rept Copy I Rec’d letter from Saml Shock Esq Columbia Apl (?) enclosing one from H(?) Buikler to hime paper(?). Settled business(?) of Bevan + Dunham claim against A M Clark with his father in law Mo Maplaucklin + rec’d of him on a/c ofrd claim by check on Dau Dep BK \$200.00 wrote to Ney so(?) clients of Sd settlement + rept Copy (V 28 Feb last + Bues(?)) A M Clark himself in my office first this morning about sid cliam, but I refused to negotiage with him for any postponement

of any part of claim without Maplaucking exprep consent. Called to see Judg Rahn at his sick room from 7 to 8 PM then Home and to bed at 9 PM

6~3 Cloudy Some snow + Some Rain snow + slush 6 or 7 inches deep this morning + through day – some country(?) sleighs running in the slush, Dep'd in Dau Dep Bk \$200.00 per Mothaplachins check rec'd Yesterday settled afr with M Moore (Col'd Man) + late hiliker(?) + Allowed fro him in full for Beef, Lard + butchering \$3..25 (V Recpt Book) that is credited him with same on a/c a Fee \$3..25 on a/c owe me (vide day Book) I walked on bourdway(?) + about town at 4 ½ PM about 2 ½ to 3 ms. Spent eve at home to bed at 8 ½.

7~4 Clear + fine overhead fresh + Cool but Snow Melting very fast and hense very slushy. Muddy to, I was at the Capitol at Hall of H of Rep from 10 12 AM to 1 PM listened to proceedings on the Sigriarsaw(?) rec'd letter from Srr + Walker Mil April 6 wrote in reply Mepslopy(?) also wrote on behalf of McCormick Nelf(?) to Greenawalt server(?) Hummelstown Wife fd'd(?) 2 lbs Butter 47 in Market this morning called to see Judge R. at 3 ½ to 4 PM and 7 ½ to 8 PM he still sick in bed. Attended Wedding of Wm Shunk son of late Gov. Shunk, Gertrude Wyett at her fathers from 8 to 10 PM. Cerermony performed by Mr DeWitt and some thirty to forty people present. Home 10PM to bed 10 ¾ PM.

8~5 Snow + Rain all day, raw + chilly, wrote letter to Sinnickson, Storms + Martin Phila + Kept copy (V17 Feb last) also to James Graham Phila + Kept Copy pd Buffington per

Johnson who halled it for ½ Wm Sykem(?) Val Coal \$1.50 deld this day. Present in My office at time Chas Joseph + Amos Spring (V1 +15 Dec last for 8 Tons I think laid in) I spend day chiefly in office (See Judge R ½ hour 7 ½ to 8 to bed 9- met Mr Lowry of H of Rep or(?) (?) rec tomorrow

April 9 ~ 6 Clear + fine part of day some cloudy rough walked through day 3 or 4 mls pd at Singen for (?) satcking Yam 44 for help – pd Betsey Jackson 37 ½ washing + ironing 81 ½ Recd letter from Bevan + Dunham Balimore Apt 9. Wife I help at large party (last Eve) at Bullocks next door neighbors from 8 to 10 ½ PM. Some 80 to 90 persons there – this Eve after tea to see Judge R at his room + met Mr Lowry of H of Rep of Schyk there. Spent ½ hour (?) + wife helfInlation(?) to party his eve to M Melvs not go either (?) been 2 eve in succession to bed 9 PM

10 ~ 7 Clear a + fine fresh Coolish pd 1 lb butter 18 ¾ Beef 22 Sundries 13 ½ ~ Amt 53 ¾, Attended with MyClients – Chas, Jos, + Amos Spring at Hamilton Albrieks office at 11/12 AM to 12 ½ PM where we met Geo Sain admd of their father Joe Springs Estate – I called with Chas Springs on Jos Sinn his brother in law about certain Matters of esate n dispute – we met at same office (?) about 3 ½ PM – Rec'd of Michl Shirk counselling Fee \$2.50 I was at Dr Flemings office from 2 to 3 PM with Chas + Mary getting teeth taken out(?) where said Mr Shirk called, told me his hisenip(?) instrcel(?) where he d me said fee. I rode on Judge Rahns horse half an hour but found him to ride very bad + unpleasant + therefore shorted my ride. Rec letter from James Bredin Evening at home and to bed at 9 PM

11 ~1 Cloudy some little Rain – wife + children at church in Morning + wife in Evens – I spent day + Evening at home at to bed at 9 P.M.

12 ~ 2 Clear + Cloudy very damp in Morning very muddy paid 5 lbs Crackers 25 12 burning fluid 18 ¾ Hetter Slawfer(?) 24 – to Mary for her Mother 6 ¼ Amt 74 Write letter to Bevan + Dunham Baltimore (?) 3cts +Kept copy ~ walked through day about + in Eve with Herman Alrick Esq 3 or 4 miles. Spent Even at home and to bed at 9PM

13 ~3 Clear + fine pleasant – attended at Esq Klines at 9AM as counsel for Andrew Dunn (printer at Fenn + Sedgrericks) prosecuted on complaint by him against several other printer for an assault + battery + upon him in said printing office, also about same time before same for Joseph Jones on proceedings against him by Director of Poor for Maintenance of his wife – Amt'd to 10AM to Massone pd Jonah Oglely (V rept Book) \$1.41 in full for Milk + Cream from VV Feb 7 last to 10 inst inclusive – Mollriler Col Man at office + consulted me there and in street about suit brought from + C. M. Shell against Malson + wife for Slander Chas Jos + Amos Springs at office on busine about their fathers estate- Mr Porter (Carpenter) here at 1 PM to look at aor about some alterations + improvements about my front house that I contemplate. He is furnish me an estimate of the probable expense. I spent evening at home and to bed at 9PM

14 ~ 4 Clear til 10 or 11 AM Rain more (?) rest of day. Rouch journeyman carpenter of Amos Wenrich fixing trellace in arbour for Grape Vine for me from 8 AM to 12 Noon +

from 1 to 2 ¼ PM when broke off by Rain, I suppose it will keep(?) for ½ day and is credited to (?) Emos a/c for feed due me (V day Book) rec'd ½ Bey B- Rinheat flow from Saul Walters 75 credited in his a/c (V Day Book)

April 14 ~4 con'd pd 1 lb Butter 25 Beef 28 rolls 5 nails 25 3 Mos Pd on 2 Newspaper 20 tot July next viz on The Presbyterian + Germantown Telegraph. (?) 6/14 to Betsey Jackson 37 ½ washing + Ironing Amt \$1.46 ¾ Recd letter from Chas F Meyer Baltimore Apl 12 (v 24 Feb) also (?) Milliton + Co Phil Aplly + on same + sheet + on same (?) from C.R. Hawes + Co phil apl 13 with Fee \$5.00 a/c enclosed wrote in repl + kept Copy (V (?)) spent day to 2 ¼ PM assisting Mr Roch see above) + eve chedfly at home and to bed at 9 PM.

15 ~5 Rain till afternoon – clear + cloudy in Eve + agreeable Rec'd letter from Paul Graff Nottdy April 14, wrote in Reply + kept copy, wrote letter to Abrm Shellehamer East Hanover. His copy(?) that his ca(?) on list / (?) May next. Note to Wm Buch present that unlip \$100 Judt pd off at once I shall be obliged to issued execution – pd A M Clark for Carpet Bag got 25 ces 1 high Marked pd of Next day (V B + N) Jacob Eicheiberger at office through AM+ PM Black tea from James Graham Phila to be aid in Bill of Feb last (2nd) yet owe. Rec'd of Andrew Dunn (printer) Fee \$2.00 on a/c V 13 inst. Walked 3 ½ to 4 miles between 4 ½ + 6PM spent Eve Chiefly at home + to bed 9PM

Names Mentioned

Alrick, Herman(us) Esq. - a senior attorney in Dauphin county

Alricks, Hamilton - Harrisburg attorney who tried cases in U.S. Supreme Court

Bergners Book Store

Bevan + Dunham - law firm in Baltimore

Bitterman, Mo. - of Gratztown

Boas, S.T.K. Esq

Bordin, G.W.

Brawley, Gen'l L.P.

Bredin, James Esq.

Buch, Wm.

Buehley, Robert

Buffington, ?

Bullocks - next door neighbors to the Rawns

Burnett, ?

Clark, A.M.

Crepley, Mr.

Curzon, E.

DeWitt, Rev. Wm. - Pastor of Presbyterian Church

Dunn, Andrew - from Cincinnati, a non-union Scot printer at Fenn + Sedgrericks who
caused a strike at the *Telegraph* by failing to carry a union card.

Earness, J.

Eicheiberger, Jacob

Fenn & Sedgrericks - a printing firm owned by Theophilus Fenn

Fleming, Dr.- a dentist

Gellentniy, F. – a tenant of Rawn

Germantown Telegraph - a newspaper

Graff, Paul

Grahm, James - of Philadelphia

Greenwalt - a server from Hummelstown

Hackiden, ?

Haehrolen, Jacob H.

Jackson, Betsey - a laundress

Johnson, ?

Jones, Joseph

Joseph, Charles

Kelly, David

Kline, Esq.

Kreide, Mr - of Dauphin Deposit Bank

Lowry, Mr. - of the House of Representatives from Schuylkill County

Mapluckin, Mo.

Meyer, Charles F. - of Baltimore

Miller, Rothy

Mollriler - a colored man

Moore, M. - a colored man

Nelf, McCormick

Oglesby, Jonah - a prominent agriculturalist and manufacturer of sickles

Parkhills, Robert

Pollock, Mrs.

Porter, Mr. - a carpenter worked on Rawn house

Rahn, Judge

Roberts, Dr. E.W. - Edmund Wilson Roberts M.D. Yale graduate

Rouch, Mr. - a journeyman carpenter, worked on Rawn house

Sain, Geo.

Shell, Mr. C.M.

Shellehamer, Abrm. - of East Hanover

Shirk, Michl. - engaged in mercantile pursuits in Dauphin County

Shoch, Saml. Esq. - a prominent Harrisburg attorney (Colonel S. Shoch)

Shunk, Wm. - son of Gov. Shunk

Sinn, Jos. - Brother-in-law of Chas Spring

Sinnickson, Storms, & Martin - a law firm from Philadelphia

Spring, Amos

Spring, Charles

Spring, Jos.

Steins Hotel

Sykem, Wm.

The Presbyterian - a newspaper

Trimble, Thos. R.

VanRiper, Christopher Columbus - Son of P.G. Van Riper

VanRiper, P. Ganah

Walace, Joseph - leaser of pew rents Presbyterian Church

Walters, Saul

Wenrich, Amos

Wyett, Gertrude - married Wm. Shunk

Zimmerman, C.O. - Conrad O. Zimmerman, brick manufacturer