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# The Journal of Charles Rawn

January 1, 1865 to January 31, 1865

Edited by Zach Langley

## **Introduction**

During the month of January, 1865, Rawn records the details of his law practice, his family life, and most notably his financial transactions. Rawn's ritual recordings open the door to more than just the facts of own life; they allow us to understand life in Harrisburg during that era.

In this month, Rawn deals with several different cases for his practice. He also writes several letters for people such Sarah Jenkins, who needs to post bail for her husband. Jenkins also shows how the simple recording of a case can lead to understanding of life in Harrisburg. For instance, through her need for Rawn to visit her home, we learn that Jenkins lives on a Canal boat, an interesting bit of information.

Rawn makes several notes on his own family life. He talks about several letters he wrote in an effort to get his son, Jon Calvin, into a prep school prior to entering Princeton College. He also records several instances of sickness in his family. It is interesting to read how Rawn attributes problems with his bowels to his liver, and takes "liver pills" from the local drug store as a remedy.

Finally, Rawn fills most of the pages with financial transactions. He records court and counsel fees, market prices, and rents. These notes are useful in understanding several things, such as what was the life of a lawyer, what types cases were drawn, and what were legal fees.

The prices recorded for his wife's market trips reveal the cost of food, and also what types of common foods the households of Harrisburg were able to obtain. Such comparisons can show war time inflation or seasonal changes in local foodways.

## **The Journal**

**January 1 1865- Sunday** - Clear & cloudy – Some windy – Coldish- softening in middle of the day. Mrs Rawn- self and children in church in the morning. Mr Mitchell preached an excellent and interesting discourse from the words “How old art thou?” spoken to Jacob in Egypt by his son Joseph. I was not at church in even. Mrs. Rawn and John Calvin there. I spent Eve at home went to bed 9 ½ to 10.

**2-2** Cloudy – hard frozen- cold all day but calm and agreeable. Having young son of Mr. C Kunkel Esq. aged some 3 years and more buried this afternoon. I walked around between 10 ¾ and 12. P.M. 3 miles calling at Signs room on Meat alley- saw [illegible] –

I pd Eby Byers for 5 tons coal delivered to me

Oct. 8 and Nov 26<sup>th</sup> in full \$35.50

Rcd of him at same time for Professional Council and Services in the

matter of Sutton, Reminton, He, & Mulligan freight questions \$10.00

that is to say I paid him the diff \$25.50 by CK in [?] Bank

Rcd of Charles Sooker 1 Mos. Rent due this day ([illegible]) \$9.00

“ “ Jeremiah Henson (Col?) 1 mos “ “ “ “ “ \$10.00

“ “ Geo. Olt & Herman Seger per Olt. 1 mos. Rent due 1 week [?] \$12.50

Spent evening at home and to bed 9 ½ to 10.

**3-3** Clear & Cloudy- fine- hard frozen – calm- cold but refreshing & bracing [?] I walked between 10 ½ and 11 ¾ am 3 ½ to 4 miles around by Camp Curtin &c.

Rcd of Jno. Sautter 1 mos. Rent owe 1 [?] \$15.00

“ “ M. Brownold 1 “ Store Rent due 1 [?] \$35.00

Paid 3 Weeks Daily Telegraph (to Berger) to 31<sup>st</sup> [illegible] inclusive 0.37

**Janry 3-3** cont Paid Bergener per F.W. Blening for 19 Forney's Bess to this day inclusive and quit taking it to get Public Ledger again though I can't see but he should have had only 57 [illegible] of 0.65

Paid Sundries Ryans &c. 0.55

Spent evening at home and to bed 9 ½ to 10.

~~4-4~~ Snow in last Evens and in last night 1 to 2 inches – Clear and Cloudy and Cold through day.

Mrs Rawn at Market I pd.

Beefsteak and veal Sausage \$1.13, 1 lb butter 50 \$1.63

½ Peck apples 30, Bread 10, 1 qt. Coal oil 30 .70

\$2.33

Rcd of Mr J. Goldsen of Landisville Lancaster Coy Pa. New

Tenant for Next Year from [?]

for the M.F. Brenner house [illegible]& next alley on Front

months Rent of \$50 in advance (Rent \$300 for year) 1 mo. \$25.00

Recd of of Mo Wolf 1 mos. Rent due 1 [?] \$8.50

“ “ do. do. for Mrs. H. Colsheit bill of 18 ult. for

Mending Hydrant pipe= bul in certain repairs \$1.50

called at [illegible] in afternoon half an hour or so and at Macdowals office afterwards for an

hour or so till about 5 PM. Mrs. R. Fannie & self went to Meeting at Lecture Room of our church

7 to 8 ½- to bed 10.

5-5 Clear – fine – hard frozen – cold but [illegible] walked 3 ½ to 4 miles between 10 ½ and 11 ¾ am

[illegible] in Dau.Dep.Bank - - - \$105.00

Rcd of John J Golden (v Yesterday) by letter of this date

From his home another Mos. Rent 25.00

Paid for ½ lb Macaronies 30, bunting Paper 35 - - 0.65

Rcd letter from Mr Char. A. York 120 Charles ST was at meeting at Lec. Room in Ch. 7 two 8 ½ – Two bed 9 ½ to 10

6-6 Cloudy-hard frozen-Rain and sleet all day after about 10am I walked 3 miles or more bet. 10 and 11a- gums on- on walking hard unbearable. Rained only now and then. Spent most of day at home. Susan Peck called to bother me about 3 ½ aft pm. Evening being rough. Spent evening at home-health unusually adverse-too bed 10.

7-7 Snow-very stormy all day-very cold snow may have fallen some 3 to 4 inches but blew about all day. Sleighs out but weather then too tough for people to venture-Mrs Rawn at market I pd

2 ½ lb butter \$1.00- veal sausage 40, ½ peck apples 30 =1.70

2 qts butter milk 10, 3 qts cornmeal 25- Bread 15 .50

Molasses 15 & handed by her to Jno. Calvin for gunning in 5mit. 50 .65

I paid for ½ lb sugar 60, ½ lb macaronis 30 .90

\$3.70

Susan Peck in several times-last time with Geo. Bailey who is giving bail for her to administer on her due? husband [illegible]-are to come back on monday I wrote too Rev. John Maclean DD Print. Col. NJ.about my son Jno Calvin entering the freshman class & c. was at D. Henninings office and the Register and[illegible] offices today and returned home feeling good deal unusual- Evs home to bed 10.

8-1 clear-fine-cold hard frozen-bracing-calm Mrs R self and children at church morning and Evn. Mr Mitchell preached in morning a stranger youngish man whose name I did not get in Evns.home 8 ½ to bed 9 ½

9-2 clear-fine-very cold softening in Middle of day paid A. K. Fannepeck for stamps for lease, (U.S Revenue 3 leases) \$1.50

Susan Peck Geo. Bailey here in morning. At Resisters office with them for her bond on her husband [illegible] Aungst's Estate- [illegible]= gave him explanation of liability

Pd M.B. Montgomery Col. My school takes for 1864 in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wards of this city

[Illegible list] Rcd. Of Mo. Hamilton 1 mos. Rent \$8.00

Paid for 5 Bank leases	-	-	.25
“ 1 lb almond crackers	-	-	.25
Handed daughter Fanny few days ago			<u>.25</u>
			<u>.75</u>

**Jany 9-2** contd. Met Revere Hetzel by Jones House- asked me if I could put him in a way to get his Hotel bill from CAPT Clemens for boarding the board of [illegible] clerks orderly & 1863. said he had written to him often and either could get no reply or money I don't remember which- think no reply I told him I could not tell him how to get his bill. I had nothing to do with it. That Clemens and the government [illegible]

I had discussions of this manner and both that he wanted to [illegible] me on the subject of personal liability. He said he had all Books or Registered [illegible paragraph]

Wrote to F.M. Brooke Esqr Media del. Co. in reply to letter Rcd from him the 5 inst and kept copy. spent Evns 10PM.

**10-3** Rain & snow in last night & this morning- cloudy-wet-foggy-slippery very disagreeable all day-Rev F.A. Barnitz & me J.H. Seifer the later of Kenin Ohio here an afternoon to call family alter- we had a long talk

I pd Mrs Rawn 5 lbs Coffee groceries when at Kelloges \$2.00



2 lbs soap <u>30</u> Baking soda 5-	.35
I paid ½ lb macaronis	<u>.30</u>
Spent day and evening chiefly at home and to bed 9 1/2	<u>\$2.65</u>

**11-4** Clear-Fine-Cold-hard frozen in morning-softening in places in middle of day considerably more especially on the pavement-but very chilly all day.

Mrs Rawn at Market paid 4 lbs veal <u>65</u> , ¾ lbs beef <u>65</u> , 1lb butter <u>50</u>	\$1.80
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Hominy <u>15</u> -apples <u>30</u> , 3 qts cornmeal <u>25</u> - Bread <u>10</u>	.80
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I paid for a <u>peck of apples</u> , pound apples, had been frozen	<u>.30</u>
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\$2.90

Wrote letter in afternoon for a Mrs. Sara Jenkins & Isaac Jenkins her husband he not at my office to one Thos Price Esqur Solicitor Market St, "abergavenny (abergavenny) Minnrinstshire England. (My better file letter left by her)

I made no charge- she handed me to pay time & c. - - -	\$0.75
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Wrote to Geo W Sweigard 20 army core Savannah GA.in reply to a letter [illegible] from him a few days ago spent Evns at home to bed 10.

**12-5** Clear.fine in morning & hard frozen. softening in middle of day I walked 3 1/2 to 4 miles circular bet.10 & 11 1/2 am. Calling at boat at Canal street above and on Matz Street to see Mrs Jenkins as she had desired me yesterday I [illegible] in her on the deck of the boat and had only a few minutes talk with her telling her she must call at my office on any further business

I pd at Kunkels Drug Store for a large Bottle Bitter Fine Miu of Non \$1.00

Rcd of Geo. Obris 1 mos. Rent due 1 inst \$9.00

Spent Evening chiefly at home and to bed 9 1/2 to 10

**13-6** Cloudy-soft. Icy and [illegible]. I walked through day 3 miles also spent rest of day chiefly at home Rcd Mr Mitchell our Pastor in 1/2 hour or more about 3 1/2 pm. We talked considerably of schools-colleges &c.

Rcd of M. F. Bronner 1 Mos. Rent due 1inst- - \$20.00

Spent Evening at home and to bed 9 1/2 to 10

**14-7** Clear cloudy-windy-cold- softness-moderate in morning till 11 am or after- things got colder-freezing in afternoon and evening-Mrs Rawn at Market

2 lbs butter 1.00, veal, Beef Sausage \$1.00, 2 qts buckwheat flour 20 \$2.29

Some Radish, cherries, Buttermilk 20, Mead 10, Coal oil 30 (1 quart) Chlorine brine 10  
.70

4 lbs Brown sugar \$1 (on 12 inst) 1.00

\$3.99

Wrote letter to Saml H. Taylor L.L.S and over man in subject – sending my son John Calvin to school there Preparatory to his entering Princeton College. Rcd. Letter from F.M. Brooke Media del. Co. Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. ([Illegible]) Spent day chiefly at home evening also and to bed 9 ½ to 10.

**15-1** Cloudy- cold – hard frozen in morning – softening slightly in middle of day but raw, wet and disagreeable all day. Wife and children at [Wm?] church in morning I was not there [Ms?] in evening. Mrs. Rawn and children there in Evens. To bed 9 ½ to 10.

**16-2** Clear & very cold – hard frozen – very windy. I was in adent of Court Several times through day.

Rcd Credit on my Bank Bill in Dau Dep Bank as of Nov 7 for My stock in said Bank for Six Month, \$30.00

Charls Homer New Con Bd [Eurallt] at office 2 PM for information. To bed 9 ½

**Jany 17-3** Cloudy – Cold- Hd frozen – Warming slightly now and then through the day – I was in and out of Court through day

Pd 1 Peck large frozen apples (2 11 inst) .30

“ 2 lbs White Sugar 60 ([?]) ½ lb Macaronies 14 inst 30 .90

\$1.20

Rcd Mrs. Sarah Jenkins her [illegible] of Canal Boat Genl Grant – along with her for writing letter for her to one Mrs Stinger no 511 Dunkurns Street above 5<sup>th</sup> Phil. I made no charge -

Rcd? \$1.00

Spent evening at home and to bed 9 ½ to 10.

**18-4** Cloudy – very cold – hard frozen all day – was in and out of Court several times. Mrs Rawn

at Market I pd 1 lb butter 50 - Beef & veal 1.10 \$1.60

Calf Milk[?] 30 2 qts Cornmeal 15 Bread 10 .55

Patent thread 15 Black sewing silk 5 Black cotton 10 .30

I pd 1 lb almond crackers 25 2 boxes matches 5 .30

\$2.75

I pd Isaac Hershey County L on 10 deeds for lands bought me at his sale

for taxes in August last \$82.90

Rcd of him an order of Coy Com. for fee for [illegible] services rendered for

City Auditors for 61 or 62, I think 62 FER\$50.00

Also Money refunded on one of the properties I had bought to hid Cole

property to redeem it. \$15.45

I paid also for 10 stamps on said 10 deeds \$5.00

I pd him bal. on difference that is due him  $82.92 + 5.00 = \$87.92$

Due me \$65.45 – diff \$22.47 which I pd hom by CK on DDBK \$22.47

I signed 7 surplus bonds (Measurements on my deeds)

I walked through day 3 miles in so chiefly in morning about 10 am

Spent Evs at home. George Landis in and got papers in Zimmerman case. To bed 10.

**19-5** Clear – very cold- hard frozen – I pd Julia or July Macavry by check to her order in D Dep  
bank for services in

My family as an hired woman between 9 May & 11<sup>th</sup> Aug.

1864 – 13 weeks at \$1.25 per week - - - - \$10.25

v 22 Aug last. This payment was delayed at her instanes and by her neglect to call for the money- she said she did not want it.

Lieut now Capt Perry of U.S. Army who brought our dog Jack form Mexico in 1873 called and paid us a long visit this morning. This first time we have seen him since. Also called in Evens, Mr. Bennington of the Luchill Grays in the 2 Mos.. Service in Was. He spent whole evening form 7 ½ to 9 ½ PM. To bed 10.

**20-6** Clear- fine- cold- very Cold- River closed at this place within last 24 hours. First closing this winter. I walked around 2 ½ to 3 miles circular this day chiefly in morning. Daughter Fran Rcd? Excellent letter form Son Charles. N. York with Army expressions against her going from home to school. To bed 10.

**21-7** Cloudy – very cold. Small snow Evs before last snow commenced falling this afternoon. And has fallen 5 PM an inch or more. At 7 tp 8 PM 2 to 3 inches and hailing slowly. Mrs Rawn at arket I pd.

Beefsteak 20 Paunhoas<sup>1</sup> 15 Sausage ½ lbs 30, 2 lbs butter \$1.00 \$1.25

½ peck Turnips 10 do apples 25, Bread 10 .45

4 lbs brown sugar ([illegible]) \$1.00 1.00

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I believe this to be a spelling the 19<sup>th</sup> century term for the food scrapple; more commonly seen spelled as “pawnyaas”.

I pd ½ lb Macaronies \_\_\_\_\_ .30

\$3.40

Rcd of one Saml Miller (front this City) for drawing papers for him in respect of the draft in  
Physical disability his own & Dr. Malsim affidavits FEE\$5.00

Rcd of Mrs. Jane Mahon for proof of Council Services to tale in relation to her daughter Anna  
Mary Williams against her husband Russel J Williams of del. Coy for crime a [illegible] for  
alimony FEE \$10.00

Wrote to F.M. Brooke Esq Media Del. Coy. Enabling him Pet. & Libel on behalf of said Mrs.  
Williams & kept copy of letter

“ to Jacob Hicks Esq. Manady Hill P.O. returning Inventory which he filed by Mistake in Reg.  
Of. to be Corrected

I walked bet. 11 a.m. and 12 ½ P.M. 3 to 4 Miles Rest of day and Evs cheiflt at home to bed 10

**22-1** Cloudy all day – not to cold – moderate considerably – am rather more than commonly  
indisposed- Impaid liver – Headache in last night – activity of Bowel but without proper biliary  
indulations- Took 2 of McClean’s liver pills last night- was not at church Morning or evening.  
Fanny not there got cold, sore throat. Mrs. Rawn & Jno Calvin there morning & Evens. Spent  
day thus at home and to bed 9 ½.

**Jany 23 – 2** Rain & hail in last night. Snow & slush all day. a [illegible] for sleighing- spent day chiefly in Court. Ammended trial in the afternoon of case Jno Frue vs Margaret Priest- Aug 7 in no 203 Etten assisting in making notes of Evidence- case not concluded at adjt at 5 PM

Rcd of Margaret Priest in said suit [illegible]

FEE #10.00

Fine offense hand to one by her fine by her [illegible]

brother in law Saml Wareham- Spent Evs from 7 ½ to 8 ½ P.M. Elter office- home to bed 10.

**24-3** Cloudy- very cold all day & hard frozen – abundance of Ice on Streets and Pavements  
Finished trial of Priest case at 11 to 11 ¾ am. I made one of t he best law arguments under the most comfortable circumstances and with due effort upon his honor Judge Pearson, that I have made in my opinion in several years- in said Priest case- verdict for Deft.

Wrote to Wm Lodge Halifax on subject of Hemnings May [illegible] in the Halifax equity case. Spent day at Court and at home [illegible] also to bed 9 ½ to 10.

**25-4** Clear & cloudy & very cold all day- hd frozen- good sleighing- Pavements and Streets ice bound- spent day chiefly in Court was engaged with B.F. Elte for Peff in trying [illegible] of Equitment- Church of God at Harrisburg vs Miley et al, Commenced case in the morning bet. 9



& 10 and closed it with Peffs evidence at 3 to 4 P.M. when court ordered a new suit. We shall take it to Dep Court. Mrs. Rawn at Market I pd

[illegible] 50, 1 lb butter 50, Beef Veal Sausage \$1.50 \$2.50

2 qts Cornmeal 15, Bread 10, ½ peck apples 25 .50

I pd 1 lbs White Sugar 60, 2 qts Kerosene 30 Paper [illegible] note & [illegible] 20 1.10

\$4.10

26-5 Clear & cloudy very cold & as Yesterday- was in and out of Court thro day- Col. Henry Omit called at office and showed me letter from Geo F Emerson who is with 9<sup>th</sup> Pa Cavalry with Shermans Army- I wrote to Geo at length Mrs. R also wrote short letter. Rcd of Capt ~~The Hill~~ Samuel Rice (- 17 inst) counselling FEE \$5.00

Rcd. Of Henry Fyatts. Bal. Rent [illegible] next (v 31 ucl) \$7.00

Spent evening at home to bed 10.

27-6 Clear & Cloudy Very Cold – as yesterday- was in Court an hour or more in forenoon not in afternoon- weather so extremely cold and dry that I walked little except in the house- from there to Court-House-Post office- Depot, &c.

Paid (Yest) per Mrs. Rawn 5 lbs Coffee at Kellogs \$2.00

“	“	4 “ Sugar	1.00
“		Self a syrup for harts horn – Rhubarb – [illegible]	<u>1.05</u>
		Spent evening at home & to bed 10.	<u>4.05</u>

**28-7** Cloudy Extrely cold all day- signs more snow but serves too cold to Snow mrs rawn at

Market & pd 2 lb butter	\$1.00
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3 ¾ lbs beefsteak <u>58</u> , 7 lbs veal <u>80</u> . Kenig <u>15</u>	-	-	-	1.53
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½ peck apples <u>25</u> – Bread <u>10</u> – pint molasses <u>15</u>	-	-	-	<u>.50</u>
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\$3.03

Rcd of Capt <u>Saml Rice</u>	<u>Retaining FEE</u>	<u>\$5.00</u>
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Commenced suit Jenkins [illegible] To bed 10.

**29-1** Clear & Cloudy Thawing very considerably all day – making much water & sluch Mrs

Rawn self and children at church morning and evening except Fanny in evening. Reform Mi Altu

of Princeton preached in evening. home 8 ¾ and to bed 9 ½

**30-2** Clear- fine-Mildish like Yesterday- Thawing considerably in middle of day Wrote to W.H. Patterson Bo. M. present and kept copy on subject of my son Jno Calvin clerk hire in said office

Rcd of Jno Wolf per his wife 1 Mos. Rent due 1 Feb prox. \$8.50

Rcd of Wm Lodge (v. 24 inst/ “ 12 Nov.) in the Halifax Equity case further FEE \$50.00

I signed on the bank and order he drew

To my order for said money including the \$108 rc? By hands of Heming 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. last was to operate as a receipt to him for both said draws. (H L. Applewood Or [?]) Judge Landis’ son was here with Mr. Lodge- walked around a good deal through day- To m Ely Byers. To bed 10.

**31-3** Clear – Cold & hard frozen in morning. Thawing considerably through day after 9 to 10 am till evening.

Rcd of Mrs Margaret Priest in full in her suit to date (v 23 inst) further FEE\$15.00

Deposited in Dauphin Deposit Bank . . . . . \$65.00

Paid per son Jno Calvin for coloming his soldier pants . . . \$1.25

was in and out of Court through day. Spent Eve at home & to bed 9 1/4

**Names mentioned** *Total=36*

Bailey, Geo.

Bennington, Mr.

Blening, F. W.

Bronnold, M.

Brooke, F. M., Esq.

Colsheit, Mrs. H.

Fannepeck, A. K.

Goldsen, Mr. J.

Hennings, D.

Henson, Jeremiah

Homer, Charls.

Hershey, Isaac

Hetzel, Revere

Jenkins, Isaac

Jenkins, Sara

Kunkel, Mr. C., Esq.

Landis, George

Lodge, Wm.

Macavry, Julia (July?)

Maclean, Rev. John

Mahon, Mrs. Jane

Miller, Saml.

Montgomery, M. B.

Omit, Henry

Obris, Geo.

Olt, Geo.

Omit, Henry

Perry, Capt.

Price, Thos., Esq.

Rice, Saml.

Sege, Herman

Sautter, Jno.

Sooker, Charles

Wolf, Jno.

Wolf, Mo

York, Char. A.