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# The Journal of Charles Rawn

February 20, 1830 to March 5, 1830 (Book 1)

Edited by Michael Barton

## **Introduction**

Here begins Charles Rawn's thirty-five years of record-keeping, although it looks at first as if he is simply intended to record a mishmash of notes or wasn't sure how to keep a journal. It starts with "Charles Cotesworth [sic] Rawn's Memorandum" dated February 20, 1830, which page is then crossed out. Next comes a laundry list, literally, of items for his washerwoman, dated almost five months later, July 13, 1830, and that is crossed out. Another laundry list follows, and then we see, upside-down, "1830 Lessons, Dutch." Finally, he re-commences and maintains a daily journal, dated again February 20, 1830, and that is the point where it makes sense to begin our transcription.

The main items he mentions in the first two weeks of his journal are an Anti-Masonic state convention held in Harrisburg; a round of cotillions, dances, and parties he attends; preparation for those activities with dancing lessons; and the courtship of Miss Mary Clendenin. His attendance at court comes up too, but the journal's opening is more about social than judicial matters. Weather conditions and church attendance are always notable matters.

## **The Journal**

Saturday

Harrisburg February 20<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1830

20. Clear and much like Spring today. Wrote to [illegible]
21. Cloudy in the morning began to rain at noon. I was not at church today till evening. Mr. Samuel Findlay arrived at Shunks this morning about church but myself.
22. Soft, warm and spring like morning. Flying clouds. Snow principally disappeared, beautiful sunshine at noon. Correct court comm. Its session today. Huston preaching. Parade of 3 companies
23. Beautiful clear morning light frost, pleasant all day. I took a ride in afternoon on Gen Pepen [?] horse in company with Mr. Bucher, 2 miles up the river. Mr. Graham a clergymen at our house.
24. Cloudy and colder than yesterday. Wet in the afternoon. I was in at Peacocks from 8 to 9 this evening and then to the office. Important case of Seduction in the circuit court today.
25. Dark, cloudy and foggy. Rain in afternoon. ANTIMASONIC STATE CONVENTION met today in the Court House in this place. JOS RITNER Pres “ Organizer at 10 A. M. Jd. [?] Huston moved upstairs.

26. Clear and beautiful morning. Had a very large and highly splendid PARTY at SHUNKs last night. It is supposed that were present 125 or 150 persons. Wm. H. Johsen died sudenbly on the inst.

27. Clear. Convention adjourned at 9 last night. SENR dir. Practicing cotillion hourly last night at the Masonic Hall. I was there. Recd a literary basket sent by post today.

28. Clear and pleasant. Ice moved off in the river today in a body. I was at church in the evening.

Shunks Office. Harrisburg. March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1830.

Day of mo. Day of week.

1<sup>st</sup> 2 Mon. Cloudy and colder than yesterday in the morning, began to snow in the evening. Dancing School in the afternoon and evening. In the afternoon was not there but at court. In the evening I was there and this was the last nigh of the school. Up to this time we have had four [illegible] cotillion parties which Mr. Sylsby says is the complement to which we are entitled.

2. 3. Snow about 10 inches deep this morning and continued to snow all day by times. Is snowing now at ½ past 6 p.m. when this note is made. There is to be a party tonight at Dr. Dean to which I am not yet satisfied whether I will go or not. I have just come from spending 1 hour very pleasantly with the two mifs Clendenins and Mifs Ebzth Peacock.

3. 4. Clear. Snow melted very fast today. I was a court throughout the day. Sleights were running today though it was not good sleighing. Tonight Mrs. Porter and Genl. Porter from Lancaster arrvd Shunks. Mifs. Mary Clendenin and Mifs Brigs Mifs Fahnstock [?] and Mifs. Hannah were there for a short time.

4. 5. Clear. Snow melted very fast today. I do not know that the sleighing is pafsable today at best it does not appea to be in town. I was in court all day. I should have mentioned in yesterdays memorandum that I was at a Party at Dr. Deans on Tuesday evening at which was Genl Porter and his lady from Lancaster.

5. 6. Clear. Snow melting very fast. I was at court a while this morning. This afternoon engaged in courting [?] to Mifs. AGH. Party tonight