

Excerpts from Local Primary Sources

Marie Ester Brandt Diary

Monday 11th August [1851]

There was a very hard rain this morning. Mary started home about a half an hour or more before it began to rain. Henry Mr Walker & Eliza Logan all went together. They did not get much wet. Mrs Bennet was here this evening. Adelle and I went to the swing, it is tied up so high that we can not get in from the ground. Cad & Mary Woodard Eliza Smith and Mary Welch were in this evening. I watched to see the stars shoot tonight, saw several it being the 11 of August. Beck Matthews John [Himmons?] and Mary Walker were over tonight Mary had on on the new costume. she looks well in it. Got a letter from Josey. and one from Madison.

Saturday 2nd August

Weather pleasant had the neuralgia, last night, cured myself of a spell of cramp cholic with homeopatha. Cecile has not yet got over her neuralgia Henry went to Madison. Mr Wilson has not been back yet he left yesterday, with [out] saying anything as to where he was going. he was under the influence of liquor. I was over Lis's this evening. Mary & Lis Welch were over here. There is a meeting of Religious Inquiry tonight. "Willbanks" & "Higgins" are in town. There are quite a number of persons about town sick with the fever. We had soft corn again for dinner done up a la Mexican.

Saturday 13th Sept

Warm and dry. Cecile & Bub walked to the farm. We had a pretty Serenade last night. There is a great show in Madison today 150 different animals and a circus [or so?], took a short walk this evening.

Wednesday 1st October [1851]

Weather clear and warmer Harriet Irwin was married this morning and left immediately for Charlestown. Beck Matthews brot us over some of the wedding cake she had been to call on the brides. We called this evening on Mrs. Baird, her old man is sick with the chills. Mr. and Mrs. McKee are in town.

Wednesday 14th January [1852]

Weather clear and more pleasant the river did not close last night two sleighfulls went up to Mr. Crothers this evening Mrs. Kyle and jimmy spent the evening here Mr. Wilson is back from Madison, high as usual, we made four sheets this evening we got a letter from Galena.

Tuesday 27th January

Weather clear, there was a woman from Africa to wash for us, Cecile rode her horse out to Mrs Butler to pay a note. Mr James Crowe and wife were here for tea, we got a letter from Adelle this evening. She has had a sore finger for the last two weeks, she wants to get home Saturday, if possible, she is a good deal troubled about the river being frozen, she informed of the death of Mary Lizza Archer, [a small?] scholar in the school, she was a smart interesting child, her father died last Saturday very sudenly. was up talking about fifteen minutes before he died. Henry went to Madison, the news by telegraph from Cincinnati is a three foot rise in the river.

Sunday 8th February

Weather clear, was at Sabbath school, and at preaching at 11 o'clock we had considerable temperance in the sermon.

Tuesday 10th February

Rain all day, it is turning colder tonight, Henry brot Mr Wilson from the river. hope he will sober down now.

Thursday 12th February

Weather clear, sent a letter to Josey and one to Mr Lemon, was busy all morning in the kitchen, knitting all evening Henry has been with Mr Wilson all day and will sit up with him tonight to keep him from going after liquor, he has such a raging thirst for it that he can not controll it himself, he says if they dont watch him he will go after it. They are trying to keep him from it till he gets intirely sober.

Monday 16th February

Weather clear and very windy Henry has been riding around the country today [engagin?] lumber for the road and to take down the river he expects to start the first of April with a load Kossuth is to be in Madison tomorrow

[Note: Louis Kossuth was a Hungarian revolutionary who was internationally famous as an orator. He attracted enthusiastic crowds during his 1851-1852 tour of the United States, and various towns and streets established in the mid-nineteenth century were named after him, including Kossuth, Indiana (in Washington county).]

Tuesday 17th February

Weather clear, were busy molding candles, and washing

Tuesday 24th February

Weather pleasant, sent a letter to Rachel Butler but forgot to date it, I just now remembered the oversight, Jenny Spear] and Adelle were around returning calls this evening Adelle got her music from Mrs [Farier?]. There was a caricature of several of the students with a programme of a Kossuth Concert to come off in the Lit Hall Thursday night. Tickets 25 cts to be had at the Book Stores, and at the principal Hotels. We fixed up frames for our rasberry bushes this evening.

Wednesday 25th February

Weather cooler, and rather cloudy. Adelle was quite sick all night and today Mrs Woodard was in a while this evening. Henry was at Madison. he brot us a taste of apples. Several of the boys went up to see Kossuth, but he did not come.

Thursday 26th February

Weather clear and cool, Adelle is still not well. Two of the Miss Irwins Mary Logan and Ester Gregg called this evening. Henry went to Madison. There was no exercise in College it being the day appointed for prayr for Colleges, there was preaching at the Chapel. Kossuth arrived at Madison about 6 o'clock made a speech from the Hotel window was to leave for Indianapolis in the morning.

Tuesday 2nd March

Weather cloudy and cold Henry went to Madison and nearly all the students and Faculty went up to see Kossuth. He spoke at Wesley Chapel in English and German. Henry took dinner with him at the Hotel. Cecile walked to the farm. Rachel Harvey was here this evening. Mrs Becker's baby died last night was burried this morning.

Newspaper Articles

“New Costume,” *Washington Democrat* (Salem, Ind.), 28 June 1851, p. 2.

New Costume – Viva La Bloomer

Two highly respectable young ladies of our town, we understand, appeared on our streets in the new costume, a few evenings since, looking as beautiful and captivating as could well be imagined. Through the dimness of vision, and duskiess of the evening—bad luck to our misfortune – we did not get a sight. The ladies should adopt the new fashion and come out in the new dress – they have been long enough ensconced in the prison houses of death and slow murder, and we trust that the time is not far distant when they will be physically free, if they never get their Rights – God bless’em.

“Bloomers Arouse!,” *Madison (Indiana) Courier*, 15 Oct. 1851, 1.

Bloomers Arouse!

A woman in Providence has been arrested for wearing *pants*!

“The Dublin Woman’s Rights Convention,” *State Indiana Sentinel* (Indianapolis, Ind.), 13 Nov. 1851, p. 1.

The Dublin Woman’s Rights Convention

This Convention is assembled at Dublin, Wayne County, Ind., on the 14th ult. Hannah Hiatt of Winchester was selected as President; Amanda Way, of Winchester, Vice President, and Henry Hiatt, of Milton, and Lycia M. Davis, of Economy, Secretaries. An Address by the President was read. She also delivered some “very appropriate remarks,” after which she was followed by Henry C. Wright, the notorious abolitionist. Letter were read from Mary F. Thomas, of Allen county, and Elizabeth Wilson, of Cadiz, Ohio. A series of resolutions were reported—the one in favor of extending the right of suffrage to women was opposed by—Nixon, of Ohio, Dr. Beech and Dr. Curtis and advanced by Lucinda Davis, Hannah Hiatt, Geo. Taylor, H. C. Wright, M. R. Hail, and Clarkson Puckett. The whole series, including the following, was finally adopted:

Resolved, That men and women are equally dependent for happiness, each upon the other, that all precepts, images, laws or institutions that tend to the unequal subjection either or the other, are outrages upon human nature, and are destructive of the harmony of society, and ought to be changed or abolished.

Resolved, That all customs, laws and institutions that deprive women of an equal right with men, to intellectual, social and moral improvement, to the attainment of wealth and personal comfort and independence, or to an equal share in creating and administrating the social, civil, and religious institutions under to which they are to live, and which they are to be held

responsible, are unjust, cruel, oppressive, and ruinous to the peace, order and progress of individuals and of the whole human family; and all men and women who respect themselves and their fellow-beings, will plead and labor for their change or their over-throw.

On motion of Eliza Taylor, of Newcastle, the following preamble and resolution was adopted:

Whereas, We believe the present style of female dress is highly inconvenient, unnatural and destructive of health, and a mark of the degradation of women therefore,

Resolve, That the women of the Convention pledges themselves, before our families, to throw off the bondage imposed upon us by Parisians Milliners, and adopt a style of dress more in accordance with reason.

A general committee was appointed, when the Convention adjourned to such time and plan as such committee shall designate.

“A Hint,” *Madison (Indiana) Courier*, 8 June 1869, p. 5.

A Hint: The ladies of Kokomo, Ind., have succeeded in “praying down” a number of drinking saloons.

“A Hint,” *Madison (Indiana) Courier*, 8 June 1869, p. 5.

Lecture: Miss Louisa La Vicker lectures at Odd Fellows’ Hall tonight on the “Character and Education of Man and Woman.”

“Hanover Faculty Meeting Minutes 1852-1884,” 18 June 1869, p. 193.

“It was also voted, that the President be requested to ask informally, of the Board of Trustees, for the faculty, discretionary privilege of allowing young ladies of the village of Hanover to attend recitations in such branches as are not suitably provided for in the village school.

After which Faculty adjourned.

J.B. Garritt, Sec.