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"STRAY THOUGHTS":  
THE CIVIL-WAR DIARY OF ETHIE M. FOUTE EAGLETON

*Edited by* ELVIE EAGLETON SKIPPER AND RUTH GOVE

*With a Foreword by* OTTIS C. SKIPPER

FOREWORD

Few women of East Tennessee in the middle of the nineteenth century were educated well enough to keep a record of their thoughts and experiences. Ethlinda (Ethie) was an exception. She studied for more than three years in Miss C. M. Melville's school<sup>1</sup> in Greeneville, Tennessee, for some time in a school in Maryville, and read considerably. Consequently, she represented the literate element that controlled the rural churches and schools of the region. She moved among the more comfortably situated people of her area and time; her day-to-day activities and interests were many and varied. Ethie's "Stray Thoughts" afford a rare glimpse of life in East and Middle Tennessee during the decade and a half that preceded and included the Civil War.

Ethie M. Foute was born April 9, 1835, at Maryville, Blount County, in the eastern section of Tennessee to Dorcas King and Col. Daniel Davis Foute. Colonel Foute had entered the mountain land which included Montvale Springs in 1831, and the next year built a road across Chilhowee Mountain down Rhea Valley to Chilhowee, thus opening to the public a resort area which was to become known as the "Saratoga of the South."<sup>2</sup> He also built the first hotel at the Springs and operated it from 1832 to 1850. A picture of the resort hotel by an English artist, J. Gray Smith, shows a somewhat pretentious, rustic affair. The hotel was a two-story log structure about ten rooms in length with a two-story veranda extending the whole length. A kitchen and

<sup>1</sup> Miss C. M. Melville, a native of New England, was a teacher and operator of a private school for girls in Greeneville, Tennessee. She was in charge of the female department of Bolivar Academy of Monroe County from June, 1850, until 1854. Goodspeed Publishing Company, *History of Tennessee, from the Earliest Time to the Present*. . . . (East Tennessee edition: Chicago, 1887), 809-10; Miriam Fink, "Some Phases of the Social and Economic History of Jonesboro, Tennessee, Prior to the Civil War" (M. A. thesis, University of Tennessee, 1934), 60. Appreciation is due to the co-editor, Ruth Gove, for gathering the information for many of the footnotes.

<sup>2</sup> Nathalia Wright, "Montvale Springs Under the Proprietorship of Sterling Lanier, 1857-1863," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications*, No. 19 (1947), 48-50. A map of the road can be seen in Inez Burns, *History of Blount County, Tennessee* (Nashville, 1957), 82. It was used until a railroad was built in 1907.

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dining room ell extended to the rear. Here Ethlinda enjoyed the company of many prominent people of the state.

Later, William G. ("Parson") Brownlow became a self-appointed press agent and described Montvale as "the most lovely spot we know of upon this green earth." He would improve his physical frame by resting occasionally at the fashionable Montvale Springs as late as 1863.<sup>3</sup>

Ethie started her journal, in which there are many gaps, on January 28, 1849, while a student in Miss Melville's Academy. Having little warning about the weather and only the essential protections against it and largely only personal records of its changes, Ethie, in common with other diarists of her time, carefully noted its day-to-day changes. Such entries, and some others, are deleted from the document, as indicated by the use of three or four periods.

Her notions reflect the primitive means of communication and transportation available to her and her contemporaries, her strong interests in religion (not merely the Presbyterian church), and the very large role of visiting in the social lives of the people. "Stray Thoughts" affords many other interesting glimpses of the time: of people gathering to hear a newspaper read; of students in uniforms "confined to the daily labor" in an isolated school preparing for the "private" and "public examinations," and of the students' simple supplies. The diarist mentions the weddings, the "infaires," and concerts she attended, but omits details that would have interested the reader. Even before she married, she did some sewing, making, for example, "a collar" for the "Sons of Temperance," and a flag for cadets in a military college.

Ethie was "too sober for a school girl," one of her teachers thought, an opinion that the reader of "Stray Thoughts" will share. But having early decided to live for eternity rather than for time, she "lost all taste for the gaiety of life." Her readings in poetry, fiction, history, religion, and newspapers and magazines probably afford as good an index to her opportunities as to her tastes. Her strong religious inclinations are shown less by her choice of readings than by her attendance on church services, and by her lamentations when war-time conditions deprived her of those opportunities. George E. Eagleton recorded in his "Day Book" (under the date, July 11, 1852) that Ethlinda was "small

<sup>3</sup> Wright, "Montvale Springs," 50-56. A sketch of the Montvale Springs Hotel by Smith is in Burns, *Blount County*, facing p. 84.

of stature, an exquisitely finely formed person, weighs about one hundred and twenty pounds, of a fair complexion, full, round face, dark eyes and hair—her hair is girlish style flowing in clustering ringlets about her neck; in disposition she appears rather retired yet inclined to be social."

In 1849 the Foutes moved into Cades Cove, where their home was known as "Paradise Lost." Here Daniel D. Foute bought the Bloomery Forge operated as the Abram Creek Forge until 1847. In 1830 he traded a town lot for two saddles, which gives some idea of relative values. Foute secured a post office for Cades Cove in 1837, in response to the needs of his compatriots. He was postmaster until 1847. During the 1830's and 1840's he began to purchase land other than Montvale and Yellow Sulphur, such as the Allegheny Spring tracts and large holdings in Cades Cove, hoping perhaps to develop the mineral wealth implied by the "Forge Tract," but at any rate he had severe financial reverses and was forced to sell before he realized the dream. Nevertheless, at the time of his death in the 1860's he still owned more than 20,000 acres in Cades Cove.<sup>4</sup>

On October 27, 1853, George E. Eagleton and a brother called at the Daniel D. Foute home in Cades Cove. The next day, having lost a checker game to Ethie, George "popped the question," to which Ethie replied, "It depends on what Pa and Ma say"! But George had to spend some time studying at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Then he was engaged for a year or more preaching and teaching in Mississippi. Having received no money from his churches and less than had been promised for his teaching, he left for Cades Cove, where he and Ethie were married on January 23, 1856.

"Made a War Speech today!" G. E. Eagleton recorded in his "Day Book" April 23, 1861:

What a change somewhere! I have defended the Inaugural of Pres. Lincoln—I thought it meant peace & not until yesterday evening did I believe the report that He had made a Declaration of War against the South & furthermore that whilst he professed peace & feigned the purpose of withdrawing Federal Troops from the Southern forts, he was all the while seeking to strengthen his foothold there.

<sup>4</sup> For a discussion of Cades Cove see A. Randolph Shields, "Cades Cove, in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, XXIV (Summer, 1965), 103-20. On page 104, however, the name of Daniel Davis Foute is erroneously given as David Foute. Also, see Inez Burns, "Settlement and Early History of the Coves of Blount County, Tennessee," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications*, No. 24 (1952), 44-67.

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p. 1. Davis Foute is erroneously  
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*Society's Publications*, No. 24

So long as I could look upon this as a great national question I have [stood] decidedly and unswervingly. [Now] I stand by the South. I am opposed to the thing of *legal secession* & just as much to "*coercion*." In a Republican Government like ours I can but regard both these as *monstrous political heresies*—but we can not occupy *neutral* ground in this war; that is unnatural, impossible, wrong for several weighty reasons, this Revolution without the seeking of the border states is *forced* upon them. The war is inevitable, let it come—we must fight.

George volunteered to serve, first as a private, then as a chaplain, in the Confederate army, leaving Ethie and a nine-month baby, named Davis, behind. The war period was one of great anxiety and hardship for Ethie. Until ill-health forced George to leave the army, she was always painfully uneasy about his welfare. The wretched mail service did little to alleviate her apprehensions. Although George gained an honorable discharge in June, 1862, Ethie enjoyed little peace of mind while the war continued.

In September, 1862, George accepted a call to the Presbyterian church in New Market, about twenty-five miles from Knoxville, where the people were notably divided in their political allegiance, George was naturally anathema to the Unionists of the area, who periodically pillaged churches and homes of Southern sympathizers. In August, 1864, George was lured from his home and brutally beaten. Only the boldest friends dared to call on the Eagletons. Unable to carry on his work in New Market, he left Ethie and their three children for evangelistic work in Sullivan and Hawkins counties, in East Tennessee, and in Washington County, Virginia. Ethie had repeatedly to face Yankee harassment and see her babies do without the milk and other food they needed. Still she found time to read, and to record the events of the war and the deeds of marauding Yankees in her journal.

After an absence of eight months, George returned. In July, 1865, the Eagletons departed for western North Carolina, where they enjoyed three peaceful years. Then came the removal of the Eagletons to Arkansas and thence to Texas. George's "Day Book" gives a good report on these treks. This "Day Book" and the original "Stray Thoughts" diary are in the possession of the editor, Elvie Eagleton (Mrs. Ottis C.) Skipper, Jackson, Tennessee, a granddaughter of the diarist. There are plans for the publication in book form of the "Day Book" together with "Stray Thoughts" when the concluding installment of that document has appeared.

## "STRAY THOUGHTS" OF ETHIE M. EAGLETON

## PART I

DECEMBER, 1861

25th Took dinner at Dr. Eagletons<sup>5</sup> the first Christmas ever I ate with them, but it was a sad dinner for dear George was not there—he having left Camp Trousdale & gone to Bowling Green, Ky.—Col. McDaniel's Regiment 44th<sup>6</sup> . . . .

JANUARY, 1862

2nd Went to Murfreesboro shopping, got me an English Merino [sheep]; gave \$7.00 for it. When we came in this morning found John E. [Eagleton]<sup>7</sup> had returned from Camp Trousdale sick.

6th Dear little Davis is ten months old today.

7th Clear but cold. Kept Mollie's children while she went in to see John—They made so much fuss that she could not keep them in there. Heard today that dear George had been elected Chaplain of his Regiment. . . .

13th A dreadful hail and snow storm—we were all sitting round the fire at 6 o'clock at night [I] a crying and talking about one poor volunteer & especially *my poor George*—when who should make his appearance but George himself—if the Queen of England had stepped in I could not have been more surprised, for I had just rec'd a letter yesterday which led me to believe that he could not come until after the *Battle*. Oh! how my heart leaped with *joy* to see him once more safe at home & know that he would have a good and comfortable house & warm bed to sleep in this bitter cold night. Bless his dear soul[;] how I wish I could keep him here all the time. He did not go out from the depot to Pa's [Eagleton] to get a horse but *walk*[ed] three miles in the snow & hail to see Dave and I[sic] first. Noble hearted fellow! May God *spare your life & health* in the *hour of battles*.

14th George and I dined at Pa's in Murfreesboro, returned to Mr. Campbells tonight.<sup>8</sup>

16th Took George into the Depot on his way to Lincoln Cy [County].

21st Mr. E. came and brought our "plunder" from Lincoln Ct. We are once more clear of debt. . . .

<sup>5</sup>The Reverend William Eagleton, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, was the father of George Eagleton. Dr. Eagleton was the most famous pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Murfreesboro. During his pastorship (1829-1866), he encouraged camp meetings and was partly responsible for the success of the McKnight campground in the eastern part of the county. He helped to organize churches on the Sulphur Spring and Manchester pikes, as well as a mission on the Woodbury Road. Unfortunately, the Civil War and perhaps population changes wrecked his dreams to make these churches permanent. Carlton C. Sims (ed.), *A History of Rutherford County* (Murfreesboro, 1947), 63, 180, 182, 190-95.

<sup>6</sup>Col. Coleman A. McDaniel's regiment, the 44th Tennessee Infantry, was organized December 16, 1861, at Camp Trousdale. It was consolidated with the 55th (McKoin's) Tennessee Infantry on April 18, 1862, to form the 44th Consolidated Tennessee Infantry. George E. Eagleton was chaplain of K Company, 44th Infantry. Civil War Centennial Commission, *Tennesseans in the Civil War*, 2 vols. (Nashville, 1964-1965), II, 140. Camp Trousdale was located in Sumner County.

<sup>7</sup>John was George Eagleton's brother. He had married Mollie Bethel on December 17, 1856.

<sup>8</sup>Samuel Campbell married George Eagleton's sister, Elvira, known as "Vira," on August 7, 1844. The Campbell home at the edge of Murfreesboro was the Eagleton's haven during the war. It was known as "Hesperides." Samuel was one of the wealthier farmers at this time. According to the 1860 census, he owned eighteen slaves. His real estate was valued at \$24,000, and his personal estate was valued at \$27,700. Original returns, United States Eighth Census, 1860 for Rutherford County (Microfilm, University of Tennessee Library), 77.

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## I. EAGLETON

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an English Merino [sheep];  
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she went in to see John—  
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22nd Sister Angie & Lizzie spent the day here.<sup>9</sup>  
23rd Thursday went in to Murfreesboro with Mr. E. as he expected to start  
for Camp—did not get off on account of the Cars [Nashville and Chattanooga  
Railroad] not running—Came back out here at night.

24th Went into town again—still Mr. E. did not get off. He gave me a  
breast pin with his likeness in one side & his, Davis & Gennie's hair in the  
other.<sup>10</sup> A valuable pin to me.

25th Dear George left for Bowling Green, Ky. When will I ever see him  
again perhaps *never*.

28th 2 letters from Bro. Boaz [Foute]—one from Sister Jane [Foute]. . . .  
I wrote Sister Jane [Foute].

31st Rec'd a letter from dear George—he with his luggage got to Camp  
safe on Monday after leaving Saturday.

## FEBRUARY 1ST 1862

. . . I began Mr. E. a crochet cap.

2nd Went into Murfreesboro to preaching. . . . I received a letter from  
Sue Coffin. . . .

Monday [10th] wrote to George & Bro. Boaz at Carthage. We just heard  
that the Lincolnites have taken Fort Henry & Florence [Fort Donelson]. Now  
our beloved Nashville is in danger.

Tuesday heard that the Rebels [actually Union forces] have taken Roanoke  
Island & 3,000 of our men prisoners.

17th Sent to town to see if I could hear anything from George as I heard  
that our army had left Bowling Green & were retreating to Murfreesboro—that  
Gen. Sidney Johnston [Albert Sidney Johnston] had advised Nashville to  
surrender. . . .

19th What a wet day, it pours as if the windows of Heaven were all open,  
about 1 o'clock in the hardest rain dear George came dripping wet—A great  
many troops here Gen's [Thomas C.] Hindman, [William J.] Hardee, [George B.]  
Crittenden and many other Comands that I don't know are here. This place is a  
perfect field of tents.

20th Mr. E. is not well after his wetting. . . .

23rd Mr. E. gone to preach to his regemt. He is not at all well.

24th Mr. E. is threatened with intermittent Fevers[;] he has taken a dose of  
Calomel, the first that he has taken since we were married. . . .<sup>11</sup>

27th Mr. E. still in bed—but he has to leave here or the Yankees will take  
him prisoner—so he & John [brother] puts out in a buggy by way of the dirt road  
to get to Shelbyville before the Army—poor George I never hated to part with you  
so much, not able to sit up & yet have to go—would that I could go with you  
& nurse you through your sickness. If I just had it in my power how willingly  
could I kill old Lincoln.

## MARCH 1ST, 1862

A changeable day . . . . But oh what a dark day to me—If I could just  
hear from dear George—where or how he is tonight—but scamp Lincoln has

<sup>9</sup> Angie was Margaret Angeline Eagleton, George Eagleton's sister. She married Dr.  
E. D. Wheeler, August 7, 1844. Lizzie was Eliza McEwen Eagleton, George Eagleton's  
sister, also. On May 20, 1851, she married Dr. W. L. Knight.

<sup>10</sup> Gennie, first born of Ethlinda Foute and George Eagleton, died January 12, 1861.  
For Davis see entry for March 6, 1862.

<sup>11</sup> Dr. John C. Gunn in his 1834 edition of *Gunn's Domestic Medicine or Poor Man's  
Friend* states that calomel's quality is for cathartic purposes.

deprived me of that pleasure—Oh! he will surely get his portion in that Lake that burnith with fire & brimstone for causing our once happy land to become so distracted and wretched.

2nd This is the Sabbath[.] I should have gone to Church if I had any company, but here I am three miles from ch. & no one to go with me. This morning we took a walk up the river [Stone River] got some very pretty shells . . . .

4th Here I have been [at "Hesperides"] since the 21st of Dec. better than two months & just made my first visit. Mollie and I went up to Mr. Brook's [Kit Brooks'—a neighbor]. Turned very cold late in the evening.

5th Been sewing hard on some shirts for Mr. Campbell—One volunteer came in. We all thought he was a Yankee was very much *frightened* but soon found that he belonged to that noted band, the "Texas Rangers."

6th Got up this morning & found the ground white & it still snows—finished Mr. C's shirts—Heard of a great victory that Gen. [Sterling] Price has gained at Wilson[s] Creek Aug. 10, 1861, in Mous [Missouri]—& one that Braggs [*sic*] has gained at Cumberland Gap[;] he killed [Geo. Henry] *Thomas* the federal Gen. that was fighting against him.<sup>12</sup> Price has taken twelve thousand prisoners. I am afraid that the Generals in Md. [Middle] Tenn. are not doing their duty—*Johnson [Johnston]* & *Crittenden* are *drunkards*. This day my little Davis Foute is one year old he is a fine stout boy—has ten teeth & can walk alone.

9th Went to Church—Heard from Georgie dear—he was at Fayetteville, *improving*—expected to go to Decater [Decatur]. Capt. [John Hunt] Morgan arrived in Murfreesboro with 38 Yankee prisoners. . . .

13th Raining—I sent Capt. Morgan a crochette[d] cap, he returned his *warmest thanks*, & wished his haversaque did not have a hole in it he would give it to me in return. Went fishing with Davie, I caught two.

15th A wet morning. I gave a volunteer a pair of gloves for which he gave me a bone to knit gloves with.

17th . . . The Yankees one hundred in number came up to Murfreesboro for the first time today. I wish Morgan had been there. . . .

21st . . . The first Yankee soldiers came today to this house. I was not sorry that I could not see them.

22nd The Yankees stationed their pickets at Mr. Campbells yard & indeed all round his farm. Two officers came to search his house—for arms & ammunition. Mr. C[ampbell] was very mild toward them[;] there was not, nor ever had been any here, so they took his word for it & did not search. They are all over the place.

23rd Sabbath—but where are all those *peaceful* Sabbaths we once enjoyed. It is an awful time. Heaven restore us to the quiet & peace we once enjoyed & which have been so long strangers in the land. Yankees here all day—five hundred passed here today in one drove. They stole chickens & eggs—took hens that were setting & their eggs.

26th This has been the quietest [quietest], most spring like day that we have had. Not much interrupted by the Soldiers. Yet a person cannot go to a neigh-

<sup>12</sup> General Price (1809-1867) was governor of Missouri (1852-1856). As commander of Missouri's state troops, he temporarily united his forces with the smaller Confederate army of Gen. Ben McCulloch to win the Battle of Wilson's Creek. George Henry Thomas was not killed at this time, but died of a stroke, March 28, 1870, while in San Francisco. Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone (eds.), *Dictionary of American Biography*, 21 vols. (New York, 1928-1936), XV, 216. Actually, there was no engagement between Bragg and Thomas at Cumberland Gap.



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bors house, nay! even over His own farm without a *pass*, & that from an invader  
& this is *freedom* is it—this is a *free country*? I saw a paper with old [Military  
Gov.] Andy Johnson's Speech in it—O how I did want to burn it & him with  
it. I have been reading "Revolutionary Romances"[;] a great many instances  
remind me of the present war. All of the Yankees that I have seen yet seem to  
dread Capt. Morgan (a Confederate).

Oh! he is a brave, daring fellow. I finished my pink Tidy.

28th A clear bright day. What *God* had to do with this day is done *well*,  
as is everything that he puts his hand to—but what *man*, that sinful, sicked one  
has to do with it is dreadful wicked. Mollie & I went up to Mrs. Brooks, she  
had been in great distress as the Yankees arrested Mr. Brooks, could not prove  
any thing on him & let him go again. . . .

30th A bright Sabbath—are not at liberty to go to church—Ah! me if this  
ain't bondage, I don't know. They tell me that the "pickets" here want to throw  
a *bomb shell* through the house at Mollie & I [*sic*], what for I cannot tell unless  
it is because John & George are in the army. We have scarce spoken to one since  
they have been here. Ah! I am so lonely today—No one to keep me company[.]  
Yes, here is my noble boy—this is the third immortal soul that God has gave  
[*sic*] to my care & keeping—the other two have been transplanted, they smiled  
upon my face for a brief time then went to Heaven to smile down upon me in  
my pilgrimage. All save *one* are gone. God knows how many hours have been  
spent how many tears have been shed as I look upon faces now "hid" with  
Christ. O my proud & happy boy—may God help me to bring you up in the  
"fear and admonition of the Lord." May you be a good *boy* & happy & useful  
man.

APRIL — 1862

3rd Clear bright day—Sister 'Vira' & I went up to Mrs. Brooks—there is  
not much pleasure in visiting now.

4th Quite a pleasant shower this morning. Mr. Jim Brooks gave Dave a  
five cts. for sitting still five minits [*sic*] we had a good laugh at him about it.  
Dave is not quite 13 months old.

5th It rained. Got up this morning and found the "pickets" all gone—oh!  
how we rejoiced—yet we don't know what 'minit' more may be sent here again.  
Sister Vira, Willie, Davie—Georgie, Johnie, Lissie Brooks & I went fishing.  
I caught one.

6th Another lovely Sabbath, O how much I want to go to church, but it is  
my day to stay at home with the children, Mollie went.

7th Sister 'Vira' & I went to town—trading—passed through the pickets,  
we were very much frightened for fear we could not.

11th Got news today that they were fighting at Corinth [Mississippi]<sup>13</sup> &  
that the Federals were victorious—Ah! how sad!

12th Intelligence today is that our men are gaining the day—have killed  
Generals [Don Carlos] Buell—[Lew] Wallace—[William] Nelson & many other  
federal officers. . . .<sup>14</sup>

21st A very sudden death in this family—Ellen a negro woman washed  
all day, was in sister "Vira's" room at 7 - Ocl P.M. & at 8 O clock—one hour  
after she was a corpse—truly "in the midst of life we are in death." Rains—  
Rains.

<sup>13</sup> Probably meant Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7. The fall of Corinth did not occur  
until May 26.

<sup>14</sup> Generals Buell, Wallace, and Nelson were not killed at the Battle of Shiloh  
(Pittsburg Landing). Instead, Confederate General A. S. Johnston was killed.

22nd Mollie rec'd a note from John—he & George were well—There has been battles fought at Pittsburg & Shilo [Shiloh, the same as Pittsburg Landing] & at Purdy since our army have been at Corinth.

25th Wrote to dear George, don't know that he will ever get the letter but hope he may—Mollie and I were up at Mrs. Brooks.

26th A lovely day. There was quite a sudden death at Mr. Brooks—a negro man died a good deal like Ellen—died before he could be layed on the bed.

27th Oh! what a lovely day—how I wish we could get to church—do wonder if my dear husband is preaching to his Regmt or if they are fighting—would to God this war was ended, if it don't end before long there will be a good may [many] *baked* Yankees in the South. Just come from a negro funeral—a parson by the name of Willis preached & one by the name of Miles had service at the grave—O Yankee what would you say to that.

28th This has been a long day. Sister "Vira" come this evening. The Yankees got Caesar [servant] & the horses that went with those men yesterday.

29th Mr. Campbell gone into Murfreesboro to release his Boy C [Caesar] & horses[;] he is as gloomy over it as ever I saw any one. 11 o'clock A.M. Willie & I arrived at Dr. Knight's found the children better—I was frightened all the road for I expected to see a Yankee jump out from behind every bush that I passed. Willie goes home.<sup>15</sup> I remain—Mr. C. [Campbell] took the oath—did not get his property.<sup>16</sup>

#### MAY 1ST, 1862

1st Nothing new—one year ago I was in Knoxville. . . .

4th Took a walk over to the graveyard. Two Yankees passed here today inquiring for a rebel Camp they heard was out here. We have just heard that the famous Capt. [John Hunt] Morgan is in Rutherford Cy. O that it were true.

11th How many beautiful Sabbaths we have had recently. I've been reading "Sunny Side"<sup>17</sup>—Oh! the trials that are attached to a minister's life, yet there are a few *bright spots* mixed with them.

16th Sick all day—O what can be the matter with me.

17th Dr. Yeargan came to see Harriet who is very low. I got him to examine my pulse & see if I am sick—he pronounced me an invalid [and] gave me *Blue Mass*.<sup>18</sup> As to the "Blue" I had faithfully tried that before he prescribed it—the "Mass" tho may help me.

18th Not up this morning—O so sick—Dr. Y. came back—said all I need now was wine & Spirits & he left a mixture of Tinc of Iron & quinine for me to take three times a day, & use wine freely. . . .

30th A very warm day—I feel greatly relieved from my sickness. I heard today that my own dear George was well & had sent me a letter but it fell into the hands of a person whose house was searched by the Yankees & it had to be

<sup>15</sup> Willie Eagleton was the son of Mollie and John Eagleton.

<sup>16</sup> Prior to July 2, 1862, when Congress enacted the "iron-clad oath," the oath referred to a pledge of loyalty to the Constitution and government of the United States without any mental reservations. Often the oath contained other stipulations as required by various provost marshals. In the Confiscation Act of August 6, 1861, property used for insurrectionary purposes could be confiscated. Jonathan T. Dorris, *Pardon and Amnesty Under Lincoln and Johnson* (Chapel Hill, 1953), 10-13; Harold Hyman, *Era of the Oath; Northern Loyalty Oaths During the Civil War and Reconstruction* (Philadelphia, 1954), *passim*; *United States Statutes at Large*, XII, 319.

<sup>17</sup> *The Sunny Side; or the Country Minister's Wife* was written by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps and published by the American Sunday School Union in 1851.

<sup>18</sup> According to *Webster's Dictionary*, 2nd edition, "Blue Mass" is a preparation of pitular consistency, containing finely divided mercury. It is also called a "blue pill."

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*A Compendium*

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burnt. O how I should like to have gotten it. How sweet the priviledge [sic] of  
 writing to the absent. . . .

I received a present from Pa & Ma [Eagleton] of a dark calico for me & one  
 for Dave & 18 yards of bleached domestic. Been looking all day for sister Lizzie  
 & her children—did not come. I must stop writing as the shadows are gathering  
 fast. How typical of life! *Shadows* everywhere,—under the brightest sky—But  
 no matter, if sunshine only prevails the heart.

31st Sister Lizzie the Dr. & children came—the Dr. vaxinated [sic] me &  
 Davis. Willie Eagleton very low—doubt whether he will live until morning.

JUNE 1ST, 1862

Sabbath—Mollie took Willie to Murfressboro where she can be near Dr.  
 Basket—Sister Lizzie goes home. Davie Campbell & I go with her.

2nd Had a fine ride on horseback—Heard of Dr. Eagleton's marriage.<sup>19</sup>  
 4th Came home and found all improved.

7th A letter from Mollie says *Price* was at Fayetteville—Had a battle at  
 Readiville [Readyville].<sup>20</sup> Called to see Mrs. Jim Brooks, found her a fine look-  
 ing pleasant lady—I think I could like her but for one thing—she is a Yankee[.]  
 Ah! that would make me dislike my best friend.

(To be continued in *Publications* No. 41)

<sup>19</sup> James M. Eagleton, M.D., married Mary Ann Potts, April 24, 1862, in Philadelphia.

<sup>20</sup> On June 7, 1862, there was a skirmish at Readyville, Tennessee. Frederick H. Dyer,  
*A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (Des Moines, 1908), 694.