

Diaries of Benjamin Knight, Sr.

- **1854 Diary:** 3.5" x 5.5" leather binding disintegrated, no front cover, pages still readable: living in Taunton, Mass.

Dec. 31 1854 entry listing family:

- Benj. Sr: Head of house, working at the Machine Shop of the Bay State Screw Co.
- Wife: Amey Ballou
- Obediah: Oldest son, married (Lizzie?), working at same company
- Benj. Jr: Son, working at same company
- Mary: Daughter, away at school in East Greenwich, RI
- Marcy: Daughter, at home
- Noah: Son, drilling dies at same company
- Thomas: ?
- Lucina: Daughter
- Lucretia: Daughter

Papers found inside diary:

- Postal receipt dated Dec. 31, 1855, Taunton Post Office
- Envelope addressed to Mr. Benj. Knight, Taunton Mass with 3-cent stamp
- Note addressed to Miss Knight from Marcia M. Potter
- Ad for a political assembly

- **1856 Diary:** 3.5" x 5.5" leather bound in good condition, labeled "1856"
 - Obediah moved to Mansfield, has son (Frederick A.)
 - Dec 13, 1856 entry: Issued warrant for arrest of Nathaniel Dennett for assault and battery on Benj. Jr.
 - Noah: Moved to New Bedford, married. Wife's name is Melissa
 - Feb 14, 1856: "Lost my spectacles that my mother gave me before I went to California". ??Did Benj. Sr. go to CA before??
 - Brother-in-law, Arnold Ballou, visits.
 - Nov 4, 1856: Voted for John C. Fremont for president.
 - July 24, 1856: Marcy left for Providence, visit?
 - June 29, 1856: Got his hair colored!
 - Jun 10, 1856: Rogers Circus in town.

-Loose papers found:

- Receipt of some kind
- Letter of apology by N. Dennett for assault on Benj. Jr.
- Envelope addressed to Mr. Benj. Knight, Taunton Mass., letter inside from Noah M. Knight (son) dated Aug.24, 1856, from Uxbridge.

- **1857 Diary:** 3.5" x 5.25" leather bound in good condition, labeled "1857"
 - Entry, Jan 7, Nephew Wm. W. Knight visits
 - Jan 24: "Coldest morning ever in the town of Taunton, thermostat at

. 28 below 0"

- March 25: "Thomas agreed to work for Lawyer Bassett"
- April 13: Marcy returned from Providence, RI.
- May 7: "Today is pay day my pay was 41 dollars and 68 cents."
- May 26: "Went up school house to see Mr. Leech the teacher about son Thomas"
- June 10: "Thomas and Lucretia went to New Bedford with the Baptist Sabbath School"
- June 17: Mentions riot in New York, Mayor Wood under arrest.
- June 20: Daughter Mary went to Providence for funeral of Jessie Brown, Jr., died of consumption.
- June 21: Making a model of a ditching machine.
- Aug 5: Lucretia left for Uxbridge, back Sept. 3.
- Aug 13 "Son of Mr. Hall (the publisher of the American Republican, a newspaper published in this town) committed suicide by hanging, his age about 20"
- Aug 17: "Daughter Mary started for RI; elder Richard Knight and my sister Lucina come here to day"
- Aug 21: Death of niece, Mrs. Polly Waterman, wife of Jeremiah Waterman, daughter of Benj. Sr's brother Sanford Knight.
- Aug 22: Stay at brother Harding's in Cranston for funeral of Polly
- Aug 26: Daughter Mary returns from Providence with Phebe, wife of Wm. W. Knight and her little girl Nelly.
- Aug 28: Letter from daughter Marcy in Pascoay, RI.
- Sept 10: Sister Mrs. Ann Whitman visits.
- Oct 21: "My daughter Lucretia is thirteen years old today"
- Oct 24: "The Bay State Screw Co. stopped their factory to day on account of Hard Times".
- October 26: "Loafing has become the order of the day."
- Nov 10: "Mr. John A. Mathewson and daughter Mary was married at 3 o'clock and took the cars at 4 o'clock for Iowa."
- Dec 31: Weather clear and pleasant, I worked all day on my model and thus ends the year 1857. I am now residing at Taunton Mass with my good wife Amey, my son Obediah resides at Mansfield, Mass, my daughter Marcy boards with us, my daughter Mary was married 10th of November and is now in Iowa, my son Noah resides at Uxbridge Mass, my son Benj. Is teaching school at North Kingston RI, daughter Lucina at home going to school, Thomas boarding with Noah and Lucretia is at home going to school.

- **1858 Diary** 3.5" x 4.75" leather bound, in good condition, label "1858"
 - Brother-in-law Arnold Ballou and wife Lydia visit
 - Feb 17: Goes to John Jerolds' lecture on Temperance.
 - May 8: Louisa Knight and Nelly Knight came to visit.
 - Sept 26: Marcy went to ?? to take care of cousin Juliette Hopkins who is sick with the consumption.

- Oct 21: Benj. Sr. went to RI to funeral of niece Juliette, daughter of his sister Lucretia and Burrill Brown.
- Nov 6: Benj. Jr. begins new term in Davisville RI.
- Dec 31: "Alas the year has gone to return no more and here I am plodding on my journey of life another milestone of time just past, I yet reside in the ancient town on Taunton Mass. My holdings consists of my good wife Amey and our youngest daughter Lucretia. Our family are more somewhat scattered. Our oldest son Obediah now resides at Mansfield Mass, daughter Marcy is staying with her brother Noah in Uxbridge Mass, daughter Mary resides in Muscatine, Iowa, son Noah is traveling as an artist taking ambrotypes, his family residing in Uxbridge, our son Benj. Is teaching school in North Kingston RI and boards himself in East Greenwich RI, daughter Lucina is tending bread store for Me. Elias N. Lane in this town and comes home every Saturday night, our son Thomas is at work in the Woolen Factory at Uxbridge Mass, our youngest daughter Lucretia is at home with her father and mother attending high school. The forgoing is a memorandum of me and mine t the present time the rest of the world is of but little or no account to me wishing however all well throughout all creations."
- **1859 Diary** 3.5" x 5" leather bound, in good condition, no label of year on front
 - January 11: Lucina stopped work at bread store and goes to school in East Greenwich RI
 - Benj. Sr. got his hair colored.
 - Feb 26: Benj. Sr. visits his son Noah and wife in Uxbridge
 - Mar 7: Paid rent - \$20. for a quarters rent.
 - March 27: Attended lecture on Liquor Traffic by Rev. Mr. Frisk.
 - March 30: Lucina visits from school
 - March 31: Lucina goes to Cranston RI to visit Aunt Lucina
 - Apr 7: Fast Day, Obediah, wife, child, Benj., Marcy, Thomas, Lucretia, all visit.
 - May 25-27: Daughter Marcy out riding with a Mr. Lane
 - May 30: Learned of murder of Burrill Arnold of Warwick? RI
 - May 31: Benj. Sr. traveled to funeral for B. Arnold, 3000 people attended funeral.
 - July 4: Clam Bake in town with military parade.
 - July 7: "Looked through a telescope to see the moon"
 - Aug 2: Went to Plymouth to see the laying of the cornerstone to the National Monument of the Pilgrims landing
 - Aug 11: "Daughter Lizzie and Freddy come" ??Obediah's wife??
 - Oct 22: Niece Louisa M. Knight visited.
 - Nov 10: Received a letter from Angel Sayles informing that Mother Ballou sick.
 - Nov 11: Traveled with Mrs. Knight (Amey) to Burrillsville.
 - Nov 12: Stay with Charles Knight.
 - Nov 13: See Mother with Brother A. Ballou

- Nov 14: Benj. Sr. comes home
- Nov 17: Amey home
- Nov 26: "Weather unsettled with some rain, I loafed all day"
- Nov 28: Received letter from Angel Sayles about the death of Mother Ballou

-Loose papers in the back of the diary:

- Bill from Dr. Barrows for medical services
- Blue sheet of paper with liquor inventory
- Receipt for rent paid

- **1860 Diary**, 3.25" x 4.75" leather bound, in good condition, labeled "1861" on front

- Jan 8: Laid off from work
- Jan 13: Daughter Marcy sick
- Jan 17: "I continue to read the papers which are full of the Secession Movement"
- Mar 5: "I begin to think of moving"
- Apr 5: Moved to Allenville RI
- Aug 6: Noah enlisted into the Army
- Sept 9: Noah and Benj. Jr. left for the war.
- Sept 13: Arnold Ballou and wife visit, also Benj. Sr's cousin Sophia Harris visits.
- Sept 14: Son Thomas joins Cavalry Regiment
- Sept 22: Son Noah home to visit
- Sept: Son Noah left for camp in Readville Mass
- Oct 1: Lucretia's birthday – 17 years old
- Dec 17: Benj. Jr. visits last time before going south
- Dec 18: Son Thomas left to go south

- Loose papers in the back of the diary:

- Grocery list: flour, meal, fish, pork
- Strip of paper with the words: Mr. Benjamin Knight, ??? of O.M. Knight
- Receipt of payment P. Collins to R.G. Place for coal
- Lined piece of paper with list of lumber needed, small gate catch???
- Receipt of payment by B. Knight to Geo. T. Bullock for milk
- Receipt, unfilled out, signed by Noah M. Knight
- Strip of paper entitled: Recipe for curing hams
- Thin paper document which states that Benj. Knight s a Washingtonian Invincible??

- **1861 Diary**, 3.25" x 5.25" leather bound, in good condition, labeled "1862" on front
Blank until March 17

- March 17: "commenced work for W.T. Nicholson #110 Dorance St. Providence RI, Board at Mr. Benj. Arnold's, Pine St."
- March 29: Took stage home to visit
- Mar 31: "w\Witnessed the funeral ceremonies of Cal Slocum, Major Ballou and Capt. Tower"

- May 5: "Got the news of the evacuation of Yorktown, VA"
- May 6: "Good news from Yorktown, Rebels first to flight"
- June 22: "Fix a box to sent to the boys in the army at Hilton Head SC"
- July 1: Finished work for WT Nicholson, came home, commenced work on haying and gardening.
- Aug 16: Wheaton Knight and wife and sons visits
- Sept 4: Left for Yonkers NY for work
- Sept 8: Start work at Starr Arms Co @ 20 cents per hour
- Sept 22: "Presidents emancipation proclaimed"
- Nov 15: "Today is payday with the Starr Arms Co. I received for last months pay \$56.60"
- Nov 23: "Went with Lucina and Lucretia over to Phillip Mathewson to see Mary Elsia Mathewson before she left for Iowa" (is this Mary is Daughter?)
- Dec 21: "Noah left the wharf (NY) this forenoon ... for Port Royal SC to meet his brothers Benj. and Thomas"
- Dec 31, last entry: "Weather cloudy with some snow about two inches of snow on the ground. I worked 12 ½ hours on dies. Thus I end my labors of the year 1862, A year of great events to the Republic of America"

• **1863 Diary**, 3.25" x 5.25" leather bound, in good condition, no label on front
Front page inscribed: "Benjamin Knight, Allenville RI"

- Feb 20: Left Yonkers
- Feb 23: Began work for Wm. T. Nicholson again in Providence RI
- Mar 6: "Got my new teeth"
- Mar 9: End work with Mr. Nicholson
- Mar 11: Back to Yonkers and the Starr Arms Co.
- Apr 11/12: Visit with Wm. W. Knight in NY, visit Central Park
- Apr 14: "Received new of the death of Elder Richard Knight
- Apr 21: "Received a letter from daughter Lizzie" (Wife of Obediah??)
- May 23: "Son Benj. Jr. returned from South Carolina"
- July 5 "Got news of the Battle near Gettysburg this morning"
- July 13: "Great riot in New York City. The mob kill, burn and destroy property"
- July 16: "The riot cooling down in New York City. ... I was sworn in as a special police man for the town of Yonkers"
- July 23: "This is my birthday. I am 60 years old.
- July 17: "Received a letter from son Noah with the new of son Thomas being wounded"
- Oct 6: "Son Benj. arrived and began work for Starr Arms Co."
- Nov 7: Benj. Sr. and Jr. went home to RI.
- Nov 10: "Our daughter Lucina was married to Jabez Plant. They left here for Chili"
- Nov 12: Benj. Sr. and Jr. left for New York.
- Nov 26: "Cheering news from the army of the Cumberland a great victory of General Grant over Bragg"
- Nov 27: "News of the great battle and Chattanooga confirmed"

- Dec 25: Benj. Jr. left for home (RI)
Loose papers: Piece of paper, torn in half, a poem?
- **1864 Diary**, 3.25" x 5.25" leather bound, in good condition, no label on front
Front page inscribed: Benjamin Knight, Allenville Rhode Island. "Bought this book at Yonkers, NY"
 - Jan 3: "The Hudson River is mostly frozen over, some floating ice near the channel"
 - Feb 20: Benj. Sr. home to RI
 - Feb 21: Visited Esek and Marcy (married???)
 - Feb 23: Benj. Sr. back to Yonkers
 - Mar 18: Benj. Jr. home to Yonkers
 - Mar 25: "Received letter from son Benj. Informing me that he was not coming back to work at Yonkers.
 - Mar 31: "I received a letter from son Thomas dated in Florida"
 - April 4: "Today the great Sanitary Fair opened in the city of New York
 - April 13: "Received a letter from my good wife informing me of the arrive of our daughter Mary and her little boy (Isaac) from Fairport Iowa.
 - May 7: "Got telegram and left for home. My sons had arrived home on furlough"
 - May 8: "Stayed home most of the day with my daughter Mary from Iowa"
 - May 13: Benj. Sr. left for Yonkers.
 - May 28: Benj. Sr. back to RI
 - May 29: "Nelson Nily was buried today"
 - May 31: "I went after daughter Mary down at Tripptown and brought her home"
 - June 4: Son Thomas and daughter Lucretia returned from a visit to Worcester.
 - June 7: "My tow sons Noah and Thomas took their leave of friend and started for Boston to join their Battalion Cavalry in order to leave for the Army of the Potomac. I left for NY"
 - July 5: Benj. Sr. returns home
 - July 16: "Received letter from son Thomas dated at Natches farm, VA"
 - Aug 8: Letter from Noah in Bermuda Hundred, VA
 - Aug 25: Returned home to RI.
 - Aug 29: Obtained work at the Burnside Rifle works in Providence
 - Aug 30: Returned to NY, gave notice
 - Aug 31: Returned to Providence (stay with whom?)
 - Sept 1: Start work at Burnside
 - Sept 17: "Went to Worcester Mass with daughter Mary and my good wife. Met brother Arnold Ballou @ depot and went to his house and stayed all night"
 - Sept 19: Daughter Mary and Isaac (her so?) left for Fairport Iowa.
 - Oct 22: "Bought a stove for \$5.00"
 - Oct 26: "I moved to Providence" (the family too???)
 - Oct 29: "Great political meeting this evening in Providence favoring the election of Lincoln and Johnson" (Andrew Johnson was VP, became Pres at Lincolns death).

- Oct 30: Benj. Jr. went back to his school (teaching?) Lucretia went back to her school. (college?)
- Nov 8: "I went to Greenville and voted for Abraham Lincoln for president of the US"
- Nov 10: "Obediah commenced boarding with us at???"
- Nov 24: "Today is Thanksgiving day. Sister Lucina and son Benj. and daughter Lucretia was here and we had a good turkey dinner"
- Nov 25: "Received a letter from son Thomas at the front before Richmond"

Loose papers in 1864 diary.

- Poem: What are others faults to me?
 Have I a vulture's bill
 To peck at every flaw I see
 And make it wider still?
 It is enough for me to know
 I've follies of my own.
 While on my heart true care bestows
 And let my friends alone.
- Newspaper clipping: The vote on the Extinction of Slavery, lists the House of Rep votes on slavery.
- Receipt to Mr. Knight from D. Bedell, Dr for medical services, Yonkers, July 15.
- Receipt to B. Knight from I.W. Sawin, Dr. for medical services for Mrs. Isaac Mathewson, April 11 – June 30, 1864 (who is this?)
- Receipt to B. Knight from P. Edmonds for coal bought Oct 14, 1864, Providence
- Receipt to B. Knight from Mrs. Baker for stay at her boardinghouse, May 15, 1864
- Receipt to B. Knight from D. Bedell, Dr. for board, Yonkers, June 15, 1864
- Receipt to B. Knight from Chas. Rogers for the Boston Semi-Weekly Journal, June 21 – Sept 21, 1864?
- Receipt to B. Knight from W. Post for Daily Tribune paper, June 20 – July 16, 1864, Yonkers.
- Receipt to B. Knight from Mrs. Baker, for board, June 16, 1864, New York
- Receipt to B. Knight from W. Post, for Daily Tribune, Aug 15 to Sept 17, 1864, Yonkers.
- Receipt to B. Knight from Mrs. J.A. Roberts, for boarding, Providence Nov 11, 1864
- Receipt to B. Knight from W. Post, for Daily Tribune, July 18 - to Aug 13, 1864, Yonkers.
- Receipt to B. Knight from W. Post, for Daily Tribune, July 18 - to Aug 13, 1864, Yonkers.
- Receipt to B. Knight from W. Post, for Daily Tribune, May 14 – to June 18, 1864, Yonkers
- Receipt to B. Knight from??, for groceries bought Nov 12, 1864
- Scrap of paper with the name written: Caleb Blakelely, West Bethel RI
- Piece of lined paper with a list of names
- List of mileages from New York to various places

- List of expenses for the year 1863

1865 Diary, 3.25 x 5", leather bound, in good condition, "1865" label on front.

Front page: "Benj. Knight, Providence RI. I bought this book at city of Providence RI"

- Jan 16: "I went by railroad up to Putnam Conn. To see my sons farm" (Noah?)
- Feb 6: "Received a letter from son Thomas who is in the Army of the James"
- Feb 11: "Paid tax on Noah's farm"
- Feb 13: "Made arrangements with Simon Tacker in regards to planting and taking care of Noah's farm"
- Feb 26: "Went to brother Harding's to see Walter Knight who was sick from the Army"
- Mar 19: Esek (Mowry) and Marcy and the baby also Wm. W. Knight his son Lieut. Walter M. Knight and Josephine and Mary B. Sayles spent the day" (when did Marcy get marked and have a child?)
- Mar 26: "Hattie and Nelly Knight come and spend the day, also George Whitman called and took tea. Mrs. Knight quite unwell (Amey).
- Apr. 2: "Good news from the Army of the Potomac!"
- Apr. 3: "News of the fall of Richmond. Flags flying and guns firing. Great joy with the people"
- Apr. 7: "Received a letter from son Jabez Plant informing us of the birth of his boy" (Lucina's husband)
- Apr. 10: "Guns firing and bells ringing at ¼ past 12 o'clock this morning for the surrender of Lee's Army to General Grant."
- Apr. 15: "News of the assassination of the President Lincoln."
- Apr. 19: "All business was stopped throughout the country to observe the funeral of our late President Abraham Lincoln. A very solemn time"
- May 14: "News of the capture of Jeff Davis"
- May 15: "A salute was fired for the capture of Jeff Davis the Traitor"
- May 18: "I went with my good wife to my Uncle Daniel Mathewson's funeral at his late residence in Johnston RI"
- June 3: Benj. Sr. left for NY, staying at W.W. Knights' waiting for steamer from Panama.
- June 9: Steamer arrived but no Lucina on board.
- June 19: Getting ready to move to Conn. Putnam
- June 22: Benj. and Amey moved to Putnam, son Esek Mowry helped move
- June 24: "Tonight wife and I sat down to eat alone for the first time for many years.
- June 27: "My son Jabez Plant and his wife Lucina and her baby Bonnie arrived from Chili, South America.
- July 2: Benj. Jr and Lucretia come to visit.
- July 5: Began haying, helped by Benj. Jr.
- July 14: Benj. Sr. fell, laid up, Benj. J. took over haying and mowing.
- Aug 6: "Mr. James Phillips come here to hire Lucretia."

- Aug 14: "Noah returned from the wear"
- Sept 25: "Commenced work at Allenville (stay with Esek and Marcy??)"
- Oct 13: "My daughters Lucina and Lucretia come to Esek Mowry's with the baby.
- Oct 31: "Noah and Benj. Jr. came to Eseks' and stayed all night. Brought news that Bennie Plant was sick."
- Nov 4: Benj. Sr. home to Putnam, Conn.
- Nov 5: Bennie still sick.
- Nov 6: Benj. Sr. back to Allenville.
- Nov 12: "Met my cousin Daniel Knight. I had not seen him in 50 years"
- Nov 28: Son Thomas home from the war.
- Dec 6: Home in Putnam with daughter Marcy and son.
- Dec 7: " This is the National Thanksgiving day. We had a thanksgiving dinner of 3 chickens."
- Dec 9: Returned to Allenville with daughter Marcy and her son ? Lafayette.
- Dec 31: Returned home to Putnam

Loose papers from 1865 diary:

- Receipt, certifies that 5 loads of Hay drawn by JR Douglas weighs 6443, signed D. E. Olney, dated July 24, 1865, Bay Scales Thompson
 - Receipt to B. Knight from Mr. Sherman for groceries bout, Allenville RI Dec 29, 1865
 - Receipt to B. Knight from Mr. Sherman for groceries bought, Allenville, Oct 28 - Nov 13, 1865
 - Receipt to B. Knight from Mr. Sherman for groceries bought, Nov 18 – Dec 9, 1865
 - Diagram of buildings with a list of construction items,
 - List of checkers gmes played with Mr. Taylor, Mar 23, 1865
 - Receipt to B. Knight from William N,? for \$44.00 paid for one cow, Sept 11, 1865.
 - Newspaper clipping concerning the population increase in New York.
- **1866 Diary, 3.25 x 6"**, leather bound in good condition, "1966 label on front
 - Front page: "Benjamin Knight, Putnam Conn, I bought this book at Putnam Village, January 1st 1866, My Post Office Box No 31"
 - Jan 2: Visited Benj. Jr in Mantau, then to Allenville (work)
 - Jan 5: Visit Esek Mowry to see daughter Lucina who is sick.
 - Jan 10: Thomas and Benj. Jr. come to visit at Eseks'
 - Feb 15: "I went to Providence and helped daughter Lucina get her little boy Bennie's picture. I called at the Burnside Works, then took Little Bennie in the the stage and brought him home to his grandmother."
 - Mar 18: "I saw the first Robins of the season near what is called Marcy's brook"
 - Mar 30: "There was an eclipse of the moon visible. I set up until half past eleven o-clock PM to see the eclipse it was splendid."
 - April 1: "Benj. Sr. visits family in Putnam
 - May 22: Benj. Sr. returned to Allenville

- May 27: "I spent most of the day at Esek Mowrys, I took lobster dinner with son Obediah and supper at Esek's"
- June 19: "Lucretia called on me at the boarding house. Brother Angell Syles come to Esek's"
- July 2: "Our daughter Lucretia was married to Mr. Henry Thurber. The Reverend Mr. Tilotson officiated"
- July 4: "I saw the Balloon that was raised at Providence. It took a North Easterly direction"
- July 14: "This day I finished work for the Smithfield May? Co. at Allenville"
- July 15: "I spent the day with daughter Lucretia at the residence of her husbands mother in the house of Phillip L. Mathewson"
- July 16: "I worked all day fixing Daughter Mowrys kitchen"
- July 17: "Worked all day on Marcy's kitchen"
- July 23: "I am 63 years old this day. I am passing along to my rest."
- Aug 6: "Working on bringing in the oats, hat and meadow hay"
- Aug 16: "Angell Sayles son Austin and the girls come to our hose to day, their wagon broke and Austin and Josephine return hme just at night"
- Aug 18: "Noah and Benjamin Jr. went to Rhode Island"
- Aug 19: "Noah returned from Rhode Island and brought son Obediah's Freddie with him."
- Aug 25: "I went to Providence in the state with Mrs. Plant (daughter Lucina or her mother-in-law?) and son Benjamin. I met Rollin Mathewson and went back to Nillingly, Conn in the P.H. & F.R.R cars and from thence home"
- Aug 26: "Got ready to go to Killington Centre to work for Rollin Mathewson."
- Sept 13: "Found Lucretia and her husband at our house"
- Sept 14: "Noah and Henry Thurber went a fishing"
- Sept 15: "Daughter Lucretia and her husband Henry Thurber left our house for California. I expect to see them no more"
- Oct 8: "Weather very warm. Sun rose red and set the same at night."
- Oct 20: "I finished work at the Aspinok Man? Co and returned home"
- Oct 25: "I went to the village with Lucina I bought a large squash weight 63 pounds paid \$1.25, also bought meat & pumpkin after I returned home I went to the woods and cut some firewood"
- Oct 31: "Son Thomas came home from Taunton Mass"
- Nov 2: "Daughter Marcy and her husband and little boy come up from Rhode Island to visit us"
- Nov 3: "I went to Thompson Town Mechanicville? And Putnam Village with daughter Marcy, Esek, Lafayette and Bennie Plant went to the above places. Son Thomas returned to Taunton"
- Nov 6: "Brother Arnold Ballou came and informed us that his daughter Roxie Anna was dead"
- Nov 9: "I worked about the house and helped get ready to go to Roxie Anna Ballou's funeral. She was buried near her mother in Thompson Conn. Brother Arnold Ballou, his wife, daughter Sarah and sons Daniel and Arnold Brown stayed all night at our house."
- Nov 24: "Son Benjamin and Lydia Ann Killey come home in the stage"

- Nov 29: "Today is Thanksgiving day. I went to Putnam Village and got the newspapers. We had a good dinner with Benjamin Jr., Lydia Killey, Noah & wife and daughter Lucina and her little Bennie"
- Dec 2: "Son Noah carried son Benj. and Lydia Killey to Rhode Island"
- Dec 7: "Noah's wife was confined. Child did not live"
- Dec 30: "I stayed round home all day did chores and began to get ready to go to Providence to look for work"
- Dec 31: "Thus end the year 1866 with me. This is the 63rd year of my age, consequently I shall have but a few more books of this kind to fill"

Loose papers:

- List of items written on heavy brown paper
- List of items on small piece of white paper
- Small white envelope, empty
- List of grocery items and measurements
- Receipt of payment by B. Knight for grocery items, April 1866
- Receipt of payment by B. Knight to Noah M. Knight, April 8, 1866
- Receipt of payment by B. Knight to Mr. Allison Putnam April 9, 1866
- Receipt of payment by B. Knight to Benj. Knight Jr., Putnam, April 27, 1866
- Receipt of payment by B. Knight to Benj. Knight Jr., \$15.00 Putnam, 1866

1867 Diary, 3.25 x 6" leather bound, in good condition, "1867" label on front

- Jan 7: "Son Noah contracted with a Mr. Lincoln for the sale of his farm."
- Jan 17: "Weather a great snow. Storm all day. Very cold and the snow drifting the roads full. Stopped the cars in all the railroads this side of New York. Great disasters at sea. All business stopped in the cities and elsewhere."
- Jan 22: "People continue breaking track on the different roads. I helped was and did chores and played gammon with Mary E. Mathewson"
- Jan 26: "I received a letter from son John A. Mathewson informing us of the birth of another baby boy which they named Benjamin" (daughter Mary's husband and newborn baby in Iowa)
- Feb 4: "Quite lame with rheumatism"
- Feb 12: "Got a letter from daughter Lucretia from California. Daughter Plant (Lucina) returned from Providence with a new sewing machine"
- Feb 15: "I went to the village and to Mr. Holland's and bought some cabbage, potatoes and turnips. Paid my Tax \$2.25."
- Feb 19: "I took the stage and went to Esek Mowrys and son Obediah's. Son Benj. stayed all night"
- Feb 21: Benj. Jr. taken ill
- Feb 25: "I went down to the village, got a letter from son John Mathewson. Daughter Plant (Lucina) got a letter from her husband. Got a letter from Noah saying Benj. was no better"
- Feb 26: "I stayed round home laid by with Rheumatism. Noah returned from Obediah's, Benj. a little better"
- Mar 29: "Son Noah moved off the farm in to a house that belonged to L.N. Roys?"
- Apr 4: "My good wife and daughter Plant with little Bennie went down to the village"

- Apr 16: " I went in the stage to Providence thence to Allenville" (looking for work)
- May 14: "My son in law Jabez Plant returned home this morning from Chili"
- May 28: "I went the village got a bag of feed meal. Son Jabez went to Providence in the cars. I finished planting garden. Set Tomatoes"
- June 26: "Son Thomas left home for California"
- July 13: "Daughter Lucina and her husband left here for Providence R.I. Benj. Jr. and Miss Killey came home."
- July 14: Benj. Jr. and Miss Killey left for Johnston R.I.
- Aug 12: Benj. Jr. home
- Aug 24: Jabez Plant takes the railroad to New York
- Aug 16: "I went to Jewitt City and contracted with Mr. Phineas Boyle to cover rolls. Went to Norwich thence to Providence by cars stayed all night at Mr. Arnolds"
- Aug 29: "I went out to Allenville in the stage to work on the casting"
- Sept 4: "I went to the great New England Fair"
- Sept 22: "I stayed at Esek Mowry's all day. Went to the grave of my first wife"
- Sept 30: "Noah carried me to Putnam. I took the cars to Jewitt City and went to work on to cover rolls for the station mills. Commenced boarding at Mrs. Williams"
- Oct 27: "My good wife was getting little Bennie Plants things ready to go to Providence to live with his Papa and Mama"
- Nov 1: "I joined the good Temperance Lodge No 31 Jewitt City Conn"
- Nov 19: "Evening went to the Lyceum and discussed the divorce laws"
- Dec 7: Getting ready to move the family to Jewitt City Conn
- Dec 11: "We moved our goods to the cars at Putnam. Put them aboard the cars and went to son Noah's and stayed all night"
- Dec 12: "Weather cold, blowing storm all day. My good wife and I stayed at son Noah's all day and night. Norwich and Worcester Rail Road blocked up at night"
- Dec 13: "My good wife and I went to Jewitt City, found our goods in the car and commenced moving them to the house"
- Dec 25: "Son Benjamin came home from Boston this morning. We had a good Christmas day although but one child with us. Our Christmas dinner was baked spareribs."
- Dec 31: "Thus ends the year of 1867. I am now residing at the village of Jewitt City in the town of Griswald, New London County, state of Connecticut. I am now engaged at the cotton mills of J & W Slater. Covering top rolls. We live in a tenement on the south east corner of Lincoln Square. My good wife and myself and enjoying very good health at present. Our children are scattered over the country in the following order: Our son Obediah M. Knight resides at No 73 Carpenter St., Providence RI. Daughter Marcy resides in Smithfield RI. Daughter Mary resides in Muscatine Iowa. Son Noah resides at the village of Putnam Conn. Son Benjamin Jr. is attending medical lectures in Boston Mass. Daughter Lucina resides in Abbots Lane in the city of Providence RI. Son

Thomas and daughter Lucretia reside at Santa Cruz California. The year 1867 has been to me checkered year."

Loose papers:

- receipt from Knight to JT Seagrave for 2 loads of hay, Oct 24, 1867
- receipt from Knight to George M. Dodge for 3 loads of hay, Nov 5 & 6, 1867
- scrap of paper with address on it" John L. Monroe, grocer, Pine Street just above Chestnut St.
- Newspaper clipping listing 3 death notices for:
 - Mrs. Bathsheba Sullivan
 - Mrs. Catherine Gardner
 - Mr. Charles E. Barton
- Receipt from B. Knight to W.A. Ross for one dollar, Mar 9, 1867
- Receipt to Norwich And Worcester Railroad for transportation of goods, Dec. 12, 1867
- Receipt to Smith & Carpenter, iron foundry, Mar 2, 1868
- Receipt to N. P. Hicks, Mar 4, 1868
- Receipt to Adams Express Company, March 4, 1868

- **1868 Diary**, 3 x 4.75" Blank
 - **1868 Diary**, 3.25 x 6" leather bound, in good condition, "1868 " label on front inside front cover: "Bought this book at Jewitt City, New London County, Connecticut.
 - Jan 26: "Evening I popped corn and played games with Miss. Unica Kegwin"
 - Feb 29: "I went to Providence with my good wife, went to see daughter Plant and little Bennie, then went out to daughter Marcy's in the stage"
 - Mar 1: "My wife and I stayed at Esek's & Marcy's had a good time, Esek was most sick with a cold, Lafayette was lively and playful"
 - Mar 3: "I stayed at Esek Mowry's all day with my good wife, Amey, son Benjamin, Jr. and Lydia Killey called"
 - Mar 8: "I stayed round home with son Benjamin, boiled dinner, my good wife is at Rhode Island and I keep house alone"
 - Mar 15: "I stayed round home and did housework, my good wife was at Providence with our daughter Plant"
 - Mar 27: "Evening went to the anniversary of the good Templars Lodge, had a good time"
 - Mar 28: "I got home from the Lodge at 2 o'clock this morning"
 - Apr 1: Finished work for J & W Slater.
 - Apr 5: "Our daughter Plant had a boy this morning quarter to 8 o'clock"
 - Apr 12: "My good wife is still in Providence taking care of daughter Plant"
 - Apr 21: "I begin to pack up for moving somewhere"
 - Apr 30: "I went to Esek Mowry's and made arrangements to move Esek west to Providence""

- May 3: "stayed all night with my wife at daughter Plants. I went and called on son Obediah with Bennie Plant.
- May 6: "loaded up a team to move my goods from Providence to Esek Mowrys"
- May 8: stowed their goods at Esek Mowrys and rented a tenement by Rufus Harris.
- May 15: "I had an interview with the man that advertised for a roller. He was from Chicopee Falls?, Mass"
- May 22: "Forenoon I got ready to leave town for Chicopee Falls"
- May 25: "I commenced work for the Chicopee Falls Co. and worked all day covering rolls at two dollars and fifty cents per day"
- May 30: "A procession went to the cemetery and strew flowers on the graves of soldiers that died in the service of the country"
- July 23: "I am sixty five years old this day. My three score has passed and half of the remaining then that is allotted to men"
- July 31: "Received a letter from my good wife notifying me of a family gathering."
- Aug 3: "Daughter Marcy, Lafay and myself went to Providence. Bought Lafay a new suit of clothes, returned to Smithfield and prepared to go to the family gathering"
- Aug 4: "Storm commenced which prevented our going to Burisville? to the family gathering, my good wife and I returned to Providence.
- Aug 5: returned to Chicopee Falls to work.
- Aug 13: "I received a letter from son Benjamin informing me of the death of our dear grand child Jose H. Plant"
- Aug 23: "I went to a camp meeting of the second Advents"
- Sept 3: "Received a letter from son Jabez Plant informing me that he and his family were going to California. OH! What sad news.
- Sept 7: "Son Jabez and Lucina and Bennie Plant come to see me on their way to California.
- Sept 9: "Son Jabez, Lucina and little Bennie Plant sailed from New York for California.
- Oct 3: "Got a letter from my good wife, also a letter from Jabe and Lucina that was wrote at sea".
- Oct 12: "Received a letter from son Thomas in California"
- Oct 29: "Evening went to Market Hall to hear Dr. Loring? Speak in favor of the election of Gen. Grant and Colfax.
- Nov 6: "Evening went to Holyoke as carpet bagger to the Boys in Blue Hall, a good time and good supper"
- Nov 14: "Settled, got my pay and left the yard to my great joy"
- Nov 15: "Twenty three years ago this day I signed the Pledge of total abstinence and have ever kept it"
- Nov 16: "I stayed at the knitting machine manufactory most all day and bout a knitting machine paid fifty eight dollars.
- Nov 17: began to learn how to knit.

- Nov 24: "I took the cars for Providence where I arrived in the evening and received the sad news of the death of my youngest son Thomas W.D. Knight"
- Nov 25: "I arrived home and found my good wife in tears for the loss of her darling son Thomas"
- Nov 27: "We began to prepare for the funeral of our dear son. Son Noah and wife came to our house to attend the funeral tomorrow"
- Nov 29: "We had the funeral of our son at the Baptist meeting house in Granitville, where our friends assembled"
- Dec 31: "The year of 1868 has past and gone. The contents of the forgoing pages will show how it has passed with me and mine. I have lost one beloved son and three grandchildren (two boys and a girl) between the first of August and the first of December. Their names were as follows: son Thomas W.D. Knight, grandchild Joseph H. Plant, grandchild Grace Amey Thurber, grandchild Bennie K. Mathewson.

-Loose papers

- Receipt of payment to Connecticut River Railroad Co. May 22 & 26, 1868
- Receipt for boarding in Chicopee Falls, Oct 21, 1868
- Receipt for boarding ion Chicopee Falls, Nov 23, 1868
- Receipt of payment to Duty Evans, Dec 19, 1868
- Receipt of boarding in Chicopee Falls, Aug 19, 1868
- Receipt for Chicopee Falls Post Office, Sept 30, 1868
- Newspaper clipping "Fashionable Boarding Houses"
- Receipt of payment for coal
- Pamphlet for the Union and Central Pacific Railroad

- **1869 Diary**, 3 x 4.5" blank
- **1869 Diary**, 3.25 x 5", leather bound, in good condition, "1896" label on front
 - Jan 2: "Benj. and Lydia and Mary E. Mathewson come here to day"
 - Jan 5: "son Benj. left for Boston"
 - Jan 17: "I put some castors on daughter Mowry's bedstand and gathered some pine needles.
 - Jan 25: worked in Centredale
 - Feb 3: Son Noah call to day and Marcy's birthday"
 - Feb 7: "Esek and Laffy took dinner with us"
 - Feb 16: "Our grandson Freddie came to see us"
 - Feb 26: "Georgiana and Aileen Ballou, daughter of A.K. Ballou came to see us"
 - Feb 27: "Lydia Killey came here"
 - Mar 6: "Benj. returned from Boston where he has attended lectures all winter"
 - Mar 9: "I heard the first blue bird this morning"
 - Mar 21: "My good wife and myself went up to E. Mowry's in the evening"
 - Mar 31: "I went to the Fields Paint Farm where I went in 1814, fifty five years ago"
 - Apr 4: Son Noah and wife, Esek Mowry and wife and boy, and son Benj. took dinner with us. Son Benj. is getting ready to go to California"

- Apr 8: "Son Benj. was married to Lydia Killey and started for California"
- Apr 9: "looked for work in Providence RI at Rhode Island Locomotive works"
- May 20: "I wrote the history of the Sprague's most of the day"
- May 24: "grandson L.E. Mowry's 5 year's old today"
- May 29: "I went to Providence and back at night. The Grand Army of the Republic had a parade and strew flowers on the graves of fallen heroes"
- June 7: "getting ready to go to a family gathering a Job Ballou's"
- June 8: "went with my wife, daughter Marcy and Laffy in the stage up to brother Job Ballou's".
- June 9: "we had a family gathering at the old homestead of my wife, all the sisters and four brothers present"
- June 11: "we stayed with brother Sayles last night, visited son Noah ... and went to see my wife's sister Mary and stayed all night"
- June 16: "My good wife and her four sisters had their picture taken by my son Noah"
- June 17: "we returned from Burrilville in the stage. I went to the Daniel Mathewson farm to my mother's grave"
- July 20: "O left home for New London ... got a job of works and board with Mr. Morrier"
- July 21: "I worked 10 hours planning for Albertson and Douglas Machine Co. on elevator work"
- Aug 1: "I went over from New London to Groveton to see Fort Griswold where Col. Ledyard fell and others. I went to the cemetery where many of them are buried"
- Aug 7: "I saw the great eclipse of the sun"
- Aug 30: "My wife and myself went to Mark Rock, where son and wife were camping"
- Sept 7: "Mr. McCran and wife come from Pantucket to see me about covering top rolls"
- Sept 13: "I went to Pantucket and commenced to work covering rolls for Hugh McCran.
- Sept 16: ended work with Mr. McCran.
- Oct 7: "I helped about house work and assisted all I could about cutting out a tumor from daughter Marcy's side.
- Oct 27: "I went over to the state convention, stayed at Obediah's"
- Oct 28: "I called on Mr. and Mrs. Cogshall and then went out to my bother Harding's.
- Dec 7: "I went to Providence and sent Mary S.M. box to Iowa. Called at the file works, got a boarding place"
- Dec 31: "Weather clear and pleasant. I did some chores about house. Thus ends the year 1869 with me. My good wife and myself are keeping house in the old red house (so called) in the town of Johnston, RI. Son Benj. in Santa Cruz California, daughter Lucina in Sacramento California, son Thomas at rest in his grave in Lone Mountain Cemetery near the city of San Francisco, California, daughter Lucretia near Santa Cruz California. Thus we have passed another milestone of time."

1870 Diary, 3.25 x 5" Front cover: "Bought this book at Luther Carpenter's store, Centredale RI Jan. 1st 1870.

- Jan 6: "looked over the manuscript of the Sprague Family"
- Jan 9: "I began to prepare to go to Providence to work"
- Jan 10: "I went to Providence and back. I called at Obediah's, Freddie was sick with Bronchitis.
- Jan 27: "I commenced work for Nicholson File Co. boarding with Mrs. Roberts.
- Feb 7: "I settled with Nicholson File Co"
- Feb – Mar: Writing history of the Sprague family.
- May 9: "attended a post mortem examination of the body of William Angell"
- May 11: "I attended the coroner inquest all day. But little evidence as yet the show how Mr. Angell came to his death>"
- May 14: "I attended the coroners inquest all day. Mrs.? Angell on the stand. Nothing?? in regard to the murder.
- May 28: inquest ended.
- June 8: "I spent most of the day at son Noah's. I called on Mary N. Phillips with sister Rachel."
- June 9: "I attended the family gather at Brother Job Ballou's on the homestead farm of my wife. We all had a good time. The band in attendance."
- June 10: I stayed at Noah's most all day, call my wife at Mary N. Phillips, and called in my wife's sister Sarah Sayles who was sick."
- July 23rd: 63rd birthday.
- Aug 1: "Wheaton Knight and wife Ann come back to our house"
- Aug 9: "We are packing up to go to Mark Rock to visit son Noah at his camp"
- Aug 11: "Rain last night and most all day to day, hard work to cook in camp. My wife got wet cooking. Son Obediah visited the cam today. Daughter Marcy went home with him and stayed all night"
- Aug 13: "Amey Knight sick with cholramortus?"
- Aug 15: "I visited Rocky Point and also the Anthony Holden and Barton Farms on Warwick Neck, where a labored by the month 50 years ago in 1820"
- Aug 18: "My good wife's sickness relapses. She is very sick again.
- Aug 21: "I lectured on the subject of Temperance in a grove near Harmony Village."
- Aug 28: visits from Obediah and Freddie, Stephen Salisbury and wife, and Ell, Mary, and Annie, Philip Mathewson and wife, and Mary E. Mathewson.
- Sept 13: "Went to Centredale to get a job of roller covering. Did not succeed
- Sept 23: "I helped my wife wash for Marcy while Esek and Marcy and Laffy went up to Benedict Steers"
- Nov 21: "Son Noah went up to Gloucester and got us a fat hog that weighted 308 pounds."
- Dec 25: "went up to Esek Mowry's with wife and partook of a good Christmas dinner
- Last entry: "I have again passed another milestone of time. 1870 has gone by and so has many people to return no more forever. How many poor French and Prussian soldiers has passed away wit the year 1870. Poor fellows fighting not

for liberty but for monarchs who assume to be their masters. It makes but little difference to Americans which conquer. My good wife and myself yet live in a tenement belonging to? Dean. Our children are located as follows Son Obediah and family live in Providence RI, Daughter Marcy lives with her husband Esek Mowry and their son in Smithfield RI, Daughter March and he husband John A. Mathewson reside in the city of Muscatine Iowa with their three children, son Noah and wife reside in. Son Benj. and reside in Santa Cruz California. Daughter Lucina and her husband Jabez Plant their boy Bennie Plant reside in Santa Cruz California Son Thomas is resting in his grave at the Lone Mountain cemetery in San Francisco California. Daughter Lucretia and her husband Henry Thurber and two children reside in Santa Cruz California."

Loose papers.

- **1871 Diary** 3.25 x 5"
 - Front page: "Bought this book of Mr. Carpenter at Centredale, RI".
 - Jan 1: "Son Obediah, his wife and son Freddie, daughter Marcy, her husband and son Laffie, spent the day with us. We had a good turkey dinner and spent the day pleasantly.
 - Continues to work on clocks at home.
 - Feb 9: "I went to a Temperance meeting in the evening and helped organize the Granitville Temperance Union Society"
 - Mar 12: "I went to a Temperance meeting in the evening with my good wife. Elder Cook lectured".
 - Mar 17: "get a letter from (?good/grand) daughter Fannie"
 - Mar 29-31: began to move
 - Apr 2: Amey sick with? pleurisy, daughter Marcy come to help.
 - Apr 8: "Obediah, his wife and Freddie, also son Noah came to see their Mother, their mother some better, Obediah set up with his mother all night"
 - Apr 9: "Noah set up with his mother until one o'clock, then I set up until 6 o'clock.
 - April 19: "I helped take care of wife most all day. Mrs. Lucy Steere came and help us in taking care of wife"
 - May 7: "We called the Dr. again to see my wife. I lectured at the meeting house in Mansten"
 - May 21 "Evening went to a Temperance meeting at Allenville, heard Capt. Dickinson lecture"
 - July 23: 68th birthday
 - July 25: "I rode to Providence with Noah and back. We saw the 71st Regiment of New York on a visit to Providence.
 - July 26: "I witnessed a Masonic funeral at Centredale.
 - Aug 31: "Esek, his wife, Laffie and my wife went over to the Lime Rock. I stayed round home with the threshing machine and did housework"
 - Sept 13: "daughter Marcy's die broke and very bad"
 - Sept 26: "daughter Marcy had her side lanced by Dr. Bud Lang"
 - Oct 3: "Russell Mathewson and Rachel Wight come to see Marcy"

- Oct 8: "Dr Okie and Dr. Bud Lang came to see daughter Mowry, gave us but little encouragement"
 - Oct 15: "Marcy no better. She commenced taking? canderango today"
 - Nov 25 "My poor Marcy no better"
 - Dec 2: "March no better. The Dr. told her he could not cure her":
 - Dec 3: "Marcy failing fast. We changed her clothes and Mr. Kem on Collins and Noah"
 - Dec 4: "Daughter Marcy died this evening and 10 minutes past 10 o'clock.
 - Dec 8: "We all attend the funeral of our daughter Marcy at the church in Graniteville. Elder Charles P. Walker preached the sermon. The house was full to overflowing.
 - Dec 10: "Noah and wife and baby remain with us to day. My good wife is no better of her cough, quite sick."
 - Dec 25: "Had a turkey dinner with wife, Esek and Laffie"
 - Dec 26: registered to vote in Greenville.
- **1872 Diary, 3.25 x 5"**
 - Front page: "Bought this of Luther Carpenter Centredale RI"
 - Jan 1: "We had a good turkey dinner with Esek Mowry and his boy Lafayette Mowry. I helped my wife cook the turkey and did housework"
 - Jan 4: "I put in Mechanic savings bank \$150.00"
 - Jan 8: "sorted out the clothes that were used by daughter Marcy"
 - Jan 13: "put up a signboard advertising Lucina's house and lot for sale"
 - Jan 23: "I went to Providence and back in the stage. I went to see about printing the history of the Sprague family"
 - Jan 28: "There was a great gathering of the Temple of Honor at the Baptist Church in Crompton. Woodworth Ellis and Dickinson were the speakers"
 - Feb 8: "Peter Ballou died in an outhouse alone, where he was found by his friends"
 - Feb 15: "My wife had impression taken for a set of teeth"
 - Feb 21: "went to Providence with my wife and got her new set of teeth. Evening I went to the Divisions of S of T (Sons of Temperance) No.2 Providence was appointed a delegate to the state convention at the State House in Providence"
 - Feb: "I attended the convention of the State House. There was a large attendance from all parts of the states.
 - Feb 28/29: money sent home from Benj. Jr., Benj. Sr. gave some to Mrs. James Killey"
 - Mar 31: "I sold roller covering machine to Arthur Salisbury and hired George Dorance to move us to East Douglas.
 - Apr 1: "we left Esek Mowry's for good and went to Providence to our son Obediah's.
 - Apr 3: "Evening I visited the Providence Division of S of T No. 2 and bid them farewell. Went to little Josie Plant's grave"
 - Apr 4: "My wife and I went out to Cranston to see my brother Harding"
 - Apr 6: "left Obediah's to Noah's in East Douglas"

- Apr 22: "I started at 3 o'clock in the morning with horse and wagon and carried son Noah to his work in Webster"
- Apr 29: "household goods arrive from RI to East Douglas.
- Apr 30: "I begin in earnest to pack goods to carry to California"
- May 10: "We spent the day and night at Charles Wight's, called on sister Mary Briggs"
- May 14: "We left Philip Mathewson's before noon, and arrived a son Obediah's in Providence, and went to the savings bank and got the money to go to California."
- May 30: "we left son Noah's house about 2 o'clock PM in the rain for Worcester, where we arrived at Arnold Ballou's"
- June 4: "took train for Iowa, arrived in Buffalo at 10 p.m.
- June 4: "left Buffalo last evening at quarter past 10. Traveled all night and today on the cars, passing through Cleveland and Toledo Ohio to Chicago, Ill. Took supper and then left Chicago at 10 o'clock evening and traveled in the cars all night to Rock Island and Davenport.
- June 5: "We left Davenport this morning via Wilton for Muscatine where we arrived between 9 and 10 o'clock am was carried up to our son John's and daughter Mary's house on 9th street"
- June 8: "I started about town to see the place. I happened to fall in with the local editor of the Muscatine Journal unbeknown to myself and furnished him with an item for his daily paper in regard to my arrival in the city"
- June 17: "I took a stroll downtown, called at the court house and saw Willie Kennedy"
- June 24: "Corn is now grown very tall. Wife most well, she stopped taking medicine"
- June 27: Weather pleasant but rather warm. I continue to do nothing but think I shall learn to do nothing after a little practice"
- June 28: "Oh! What is life worth to do nothing"
- June 29: "Wife and I took a ride down round the Bluffs south of the city"
- July 2: "Wife and I took a long ride out 6 miles and see the prettiest country that I ever saw in my life"
- July 4 "I attended a celebration of the German and Irish in a grove near Muscatine.
- July 5: "I took a ride up to Fairport and saw the potteries. Saw them make crocks and jars"
- July 23: "I am 69 years old today. Mr. & Mrs. Underwood and daughter spent the day here with John and Mary. We all had a good time."
- July 29: "Our little grandson Tommy K. Mathewson sick"
- Aug 14: visited the fields to see the thrashing.
- Aug 16: "Evening went to hear Matilda Fletcher speak in favor of President Grant's re-election. It was a splendid speech>"
- Aug 20: "In the evening t 7:45 we started for California. John and Mary went with us to Wilton and there we parted."

- Aug 21: "We arrived at Omaha, Nebraska at 10:30 am. Made all our arrangements and left Omaha at 6 o'clock PM for California. We slept tolerable well for the first night"
- Aug 22: "We took our breakfast in the cars at Grand Island, 7:30 am, dinner at Elm Creek, 12:05 p.m., supper at North Platte, 7 p.m."
- Aug 14: "Breakfast on the cars at Carbon Station, Wyoming Territory. Dinner at Separation, 12:15 p.m., supper at Point of Rocks."
- Aug 25: "Took a late breakfast at Evanston, Utah Territory, 9:45 a.m. This day we passed through the celebrated Echo and Webster Canyons. We passed the 1000-mile tree at 2:25 p.m. On leaving this place a fire burned one car and we failed to make connection at Ogden.
- Aug 29: "Took breakfast at Trukee, 6 am, dinner at Colefax, 12:45 p.m., arrived at Sacramento 6:45 p.m., at took our supper with son Jabez Plant and family."
- Aug 31: "I went to see the state capitol with son Jabez and Bennie"
- Sept 4: "Oh, How hot. Jabez, Cina, Bennie all doing what can be done to make it comfortable and pleasant"
- Sept 9: "musketoos pretty thick. I use kerosene to keep them off"
- Sept 12: "Don't know what musketoos were made for. I can see no use them. The State Fair is all the talk at present. The State Society are making preparations for a great time"
- Sept 18: "I went over the fair grounds, found them driving on for the opening, and arranging the stock of all kinds"
- Sept 21: "went to the fair and saw the stock and racing"
- Sept 23: "I attended the fair and races all day. Son Benj. wife Lydia arrived at Sacramento today, and visited son and daughter Plant, and attended the state fair"
- Oct 4: "we began to think of going down to San Francisco and Brooklyn to see Louisa"
- Oct 5: "took passage in the steamer S.M. Whipple in company with Benj. wife for San Francisco, where we arrived at 9 o'clock in the evening. We stayed all night on board the boat."
- Oct 6: "I saw Lydia off in the car down to Watsonville, and then went over to Brooklyn with Mr. Watson and found Louisa and all the family waiting for us"
- Oct 8: "visited son Thomas' grave at Laurel Hill Cemetery near Long Mountain"
- Oct 12: "I went over to look over San Francisco. It had changed very much since I was here before 1852. Earthquake."
- Oct 15: "We got our baggage on board the steamer Santa Cruz for Santa Cruz. Mr. Irons accompanied us on board the boat but left in about 1-½ hours. We sailed at 8 evening in a dense fog.
- Oct 17: "We went over to daughter Lucretia's and son Henrys"
- Oct 25: "My good wife and I road up to Felton with the Dr. and his wife and baby. We saw the big trees and cabin."
- Nov: begins doing work around Benj. Jr's. house.

- Nov 14: "we went up the coast road to ride and over the mountains toward Felton and took the new road (as it's called) back to town. The scenery was splendid"
- Nov 15: "27 years this day I signed the pledge at Crompton Mills and have kept it to his day, as I hope I ever may"
- Dec 20: "The Dr's wife had a little girl born"

Loose papers:

- Business card "James Tucker, Jr., China and Earthenware, Providence, RI"

1873 Diary, 3 x 6"

- Continues to do work around the house and barn for Benj. Jr.
- Jan 1: "our daughter Lucretia gave birth to a boy this morning at 7 o'clock.
- Jan 10: wrote to granddaughter Fannie Mathewson
- Feb 4: attended court to see the trial of Blakely for robbing the county treasury
- Feb 21: made formal arrangements to work for Benj. Jr. to take care of horses and barn.
 - Mar 25: took a drive to Soquel
 - Mar 27: "attended examination of an Indian for killing" on the reservation
 - May 31: traveled to San Francisco
 - June 1: "I stayed all night at American Exchange Hotel, saw Mr. Dennis on board the boat for?? Then visited son Thomas' grave then went over to East Oakland to Mr. J. Walters.
 - June 2: took boat to Sacramento to visit the Plants
 - July 8: Amey took the stage for San Jose to catch train to Sacramento
 - July 23: "Today being my birthday I went to visit my youngest daughter Lucretia and her family"
 - Aug 16: "went to Bill Mours beach with H. Thurber, Mr. Watson and family, Mr. Brown and family and had a good time.
 - Nov 13: "The Chinaman? commenced in the kitchen to work."
 - Nov 14: "Clear and pleasant all day. A very heavy surf on the beach."
 - Dec 3: "It commenced snowing this morning. The first snow I ever saw in Santa Cruz.
 - Dec 24: "Our son and daughter Thurber and their children come to spend Christmas with Dr. Knight and family. They had a Christmas tree

- **1874 Diary 3 x 6:**

- Front page: "Benj. Knight, Santa Cruz, California"
- Benj. Sr. continues to work for his son, and his wife Amey is helping to care for Benj. Jr's children.
- Mar 13: "Mrs. Hall and daughter and Dr. Knight's wife left in the steamer for San Francisco"
- May 3: "The Dr's. wife packing up for the East.
- May 4: "The Dr. and his family left here for San Francisco over the mountains"

- May 6: "The Dr. returned from from San Francisco and his wife and children start for Boston"
- May 16: attended a meeting for the Division of Sons of Temperance.
- May 22: "Evening went to the Temperance rally at skating rink"
- July 1: "Wife much better (from dysentery) so that I carried her up to daughter Thurbers. I made a proposition to go to Wyoming.
- July 2: packing for Wyoming
- July 6: "I started in the stage for Watsonville on my way to Wyoming. Took the cars at Watsonville for San Francisco where I arrives just at night and went over to East Oakland and stayed all night"
- July 7: visited Thomas' grave. "got greenbacks for gold"
- July 8: "I left San Francisco on the boat for Vallejo and then took the cars for Sacramento where I arrived at noon at the residence of our son Jabez Plant"
- July 10: left for Wyoming by train
- July 16: "I arrived at Sherman at 5 o'clock p.m. and met my son Obediah at the cars.
- July 17: I went down to Cheyenne and met Lydia and the children"
- July 18: "I stayed round the hotel with Lydia and the darling Edith and Ida all at Sherman"
- July 19: "Today I bid adieu to Lydia and the children and down on to Fish Creek with son Obediah"
- July 20: "I commenced to work all I could about the sheep ranch. Poor Obediah looks poor and ?"
- July: Began to work with Obediah to set up cabin and commenced haying through the summer.
- Aug 31: "I went up to Mr. Abbots and found Spotty (the cat) in a Quakers grove"
- Oct 7: Obediah arrived with 100 sheep.
- Oct 19: "I did my usual cabin work and went to Mr. Combs for milk. Made jack rabbit soup for dinner and worked some on the cow barn. Two Young men came to cabin and stayed all night"
- Dec 31: "Weather mild and pleasant. I did my usual cabin work. I fixed a new latch on the large end of the shute and hung a small door on the small end of the shute in the sheep corral. Obediah herded sheep. Thus ends the year with me on a branch of the Fish Creek in Wyoming Territory. I am dong labor with Obediah M. Knight who is trying to get into sheep raising. He has 100 sheep to begin with. I have never in all my life spent five months so miserably as I have in this place. Had I known how I should fare here I should never have come here"

Loose papers

- **1875 Diary**, 4 x 6 in fair/poor condition, binding is falling apart
 - first of year continues to keep house for Obediah in Wyoming.
 - Feb 9: weighed himself at 182 pounds
 - Feb/March: helped with cutting logs for a cabin in French Creek
 - Mar 8: "I went out to see our dead dog Nig where he fell dead. I felt as though I had lost my best friend."
 - May 29: "I did my usual cabin work. Obediah and Johnny (Wilcox) herded sheep and doctored sheep and lambs. Castrated ram lambs and cut off the tails of ewe lambs.""
 - June 15: "I left the cabin and ranch with Obediah and went up to Sherman where we met Noah. Noah and Obediah returned to the ranch and I stayed all night at Sherman:
 - June 16: "I went to Cheyenne and procured a ticket for emigrant train to San Francisco"
 - June 18: "traveled all night round the north end of Salt Lake. Forward car wheel broke"
 - June 22: "We arrived at Sacramento where I came very near being killed by the cars. I found my wife well at son Plants.
 - July 12: "My good wife and I took the steam boat down the Sacramento river to San Francisco and slept on board the boat. Had a good state room and a good bed"
 - July 13: "We got breakfast at the N. York bakery saloon, and then went to visit the grave of our son Thomas. Afternoon at 4 o'clock took the steam boat for Santa Cruz.
 - July 16: "My wife some better so that she went out to Lucretia's in Soquel Stage"
 - July 19: "I commenced taking care of the free reading room at 20 dollars per month. Mr. David Shankland the man that saved my life on board the cars at Sacramento called on my and stayed all night"
 - Sept 4: "Returns of the election show that the state has been carried by the Democratic party.
 - Sept 18: "packed some books to send to Dr. Knight in Wyoming Territory"
 - Oct 4: "Dr. Knight's wife and darling children started for Wyoming Territory this morning. This is a sad day for my good wife and I"
 - Oct 14: "An earthquake this afternoon about 6 o'clock. Did no damage, shook us up a very little, nothing alarming."
 - Nov 8: "evening attended the first anniversary of the free reading room and library"
 - Nov 12: "I went about town up the coast road to lime kilns and the beach collecting on Dr.'s bills"
 - Dec 14: "I went collecting over in Spanish town."

- 1878 Diary, 3.5 x 6"

- Jan 4: "My limbs begin to fail me. I do but little work of any kind.
- Jan 8: makes mention of an Anna (Dr. Knight's wife?)
- Jan 16: storm waves wash out wharf and railroad tracks
- Feb 20: Storm, "The new culvert on Mission St. could not take all the water and it runs down the street like a flood into the stores and cellars"
- Apr 3: "We had a family flare up on account of politics"
- Apr 14: "poured down hard most all night and snowed considerably up in the mountains.
- May 4: "Today is the birthday of our youngest son Thomas who died at San Francisco"
- May 12: "Oh! How lame I am but do my usual work about house and barn"
- June 3: Amey B Knight traveled to Sacramento to visit Lucina Plant
- July 4: "The National birthday and a joyful day to the American people. A good celebration by the people of Santa Cruz. No flags in the procession but the American flag. Oration by Mr. Perkins of San Francisco."
- July 23: "Today is my birthday. I am 75 years old. I spent the day with Lucretia's family very pleasantly"
- July 30: "Wife and daughter and her son arrived on the train at 3 o'clock p.m. daughter and son took a room at the corner of Plaza (?) and River Street"
- Aug 4: Union soldiers arrive in Santa Cruz.
- Aug 8: "Mr. Newman carried me out to see the Union guards practice target shooting with the gatlin gun"
- Aug 21: "commenced bathing my limbs with kerosene oil or coal oil"
- Aug 26: "Henry Ward Beecher lectured at the Opera House"
- Sept 11: "Lucina Plant moved to room at the house of Mr. Royce"
- Oct 16: Jabez Plant arrived from Sacramento.
- Nov 7: "get the news of son Obediah's death"
- Nov 10: "Lucina left for her home in the cars this morning. Dr. Knight's baby was christened Mary Alice Knight"
- Nov 20: "Received a letter from Obediah's widow"
- Dec 4: earthquake

Loose papers:

- 1879 Diary, 3x5

- Inside third page inscription: "This book Christmas present from Dr. B. Knight.
- Jan 1: "We had a good time and a good dinner of a turkey. I did my usual work. My good wife and myself are making our home with Dr. Knight and family. The Dr's. family consists of himself, wife and 4 children. The children's names are Edith, Ida, Benj. Killey, and Mary Alice.
- Jan 11: "Strawberries in market at one bit a quart from the vegetable wagon"
- Jan 12: "received a letter from son John A. Mathewson informing us of the sickness of our daughter Mary"

- Feb 6: "I rode out to the new lot that the Dr. bought on Soquel Road. On our return, we learned that our son Henry Thurber was drowned upon the coast about seven miles. His death has brought sadness to us all. He was drowned about half past one afternoon and his remains found quarter past 11 this evening.
- Sadness Oh sadness"
- Feb 9: funeral of Henry Thurber
- Feb 11: "Daughter Thurber is looking up her late husbands milk customers. Dr. Knight is assisting her. I hope she will not expose herself too much"
- Mar 1: "Chinese bill vetoed by the President"
- Mar 15: "Dr. Knight has gone up to Napa Insane Hospital with Mrs. Farnsworth"
- Mar 24: "Started in for getting some bills printed that Chinese and others must go"
- Mar 26: "We moved over to the new house that the Dr. had built for us on the Soquel Road at the crossing of Branciforte Avenue"
- Apr 10: "I went out to the ranch of Mrs. Thurber and helped her all I could about the house. Lucretia's lawyer and the Prizers (?) met and took an inventory of the property.
- Apr. 18: "Dr. Knight with two children, his other and myself and my wife's nephew Daniel Ballou went by carriage up the coast where Henry Thurber was drowned. A horrible looking place"
- Apr 19: "visit Opera House to hear a lecture by Gov. Wood."
- Apr 21: "Visited Mr. Hodson Photograph gallery"
- Apr 25: Benj. Sr. visited Lucretia Thurber, her daughter Annie visiting Amey in town.
- Apr 29: "Dr. Knight come, came to the ranch and brought a Chinaman with him to do housework and cook. They moved the beds down from up stairs and fitted up the rooms for the mild driver and Chinaman to lodge in"
- May 3: "I went to Watsonville to a torch light meeting of citizens in favor of the old constitution against the new constitution."
- May 8: new constitution adopted, earthquake
- July 3: "I have got the following named boys of 1812 on my list to celebrate tomorrow:

C. Clark	VT	aged	86
J. Stewart	VT	aged	82
H. Killings	PA	aged	80 (sick, did not come)
T. Davis	Wales	aged	79 (sick, did not come)
R. Sawin	Mass	aged	77
Amos Bailey	MD	aged	77
B. Knight Sr.	RI	aged	76
AM Moore	PA	aged	76
MO Boyle	Ireland	aged	74
AA Heacox	Mich	aged	73
PH Devall	Mass	aged	70
NG Cogswell		aged	71

- July 4: "All the Boys of 1812 appeared at the office of Dr. Knight, where a carriage took them to the grounds at 10 o'clock, after they had paraded most of the principle streets in procession, arriving at the stand at 11:15 o'clock. A military company from San Francisco and a Santa Cruz company with the usual societies and citizens. A good oration by Logan. Had a good dinner with the Methodist at a stand. Afternoon went to the beach with my wife and little Silas Thurber"
 - July 19: "Dr. Knight was nominated for the lower house of the legislation by the Democratic convention. I hope he will be defeated at the election for the reason I do not believe in the Democratic Party"
 - July 20: "I see by the Providence RI Country Journal that my brother's son Christopher Wilborn Knight died the 6th of the present month in Johnston, his native town, aged 68 years 4 months and 9 days. Christopher was the oldest son of my oldest brother Sanford Knight"
 - July 21: "Our son in law Jabez Plant come very near being killed by the explosion at Sacramento yesterday."
 - Oct 16: Dr. Knight's 43rd birthday.
 - Dec 31: Silas Thurber died. (son of Lucretia Knight Thurber)
- **1881 Diary, 3 x 5"**
 - Jan 3: "I am beginning to make arrangements with Mr. Coffin the printer to print the history of the Sprague families"
 - Jan 31: "received my copyright from Washington through the agency Mann and Co., NY"
 - Feb 12: "A Spanish dance in a house near us. They got in a row and fired three shots"
 - Feb 22: received news of Benj. Sr's sisters death, Lucina
 - Apr 8: 12th wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Knight
 - June 25: "I am so lame that I can not write. It makes me stiff and sore"
 - July 2: "Mr. Whidten (?) call and reported that telegram had been received that the President of the United states had been shot by an assassin" (President Garfield)
 - Aug 30: left for San Francisco
 - Aug 31: "My wife, Louisa Watson, and myself took the cable street cars and went to Golden Gate Park and returned by Laurel Hill Cemetery and visited son Thomas' grave. Then took the cable street car over Nob Hill to Kearny St., then we took cars to city front and crossed the ferry to Oakland and stayed all night at Mr. Watson's"
 - Sept 18: "The pioneers of California of 1849 had a gathering at Lisabellas (?) grove. They had a good dinner and an oration and a good time"
 - Sept 26: "I went to the funeral of the President of the United States" (Garfield)
 - Dec 31: "This year loses with me at Santa Cruz, also my good wife Amey with me. My son Dr., Benj. Knight and family and daughter Lucretia and family now reside in Santa Cruz. My daughter Lucina and family reside in Sacramento, our son N.M. Knight reside, he and his family at Fresidering (?) Albany County"

Wyoming Territory. Daughter Mary resides at Muscatine Iowa, she and her family."

Loose papers:

- Receipt, dated March 6, 1863, Providence, from Benj. Knight to W.D. Budlong
- Receipt, dated March 11, 1881, Santa Cruz, from B. Knight Sr. to H. Coffin
- Newspaper clipping on the "Sprague Estate"
- Receipt, dated 12/3/1881 from B. Knight Sr. to Wells, Fargo & Co's Express
- Receipt, dated July 28, 1881 from Benj. Knight to Sentinel Printing
- Receipt, dated Nov 30, 1881 from B. Knight Sr., to H. Coffin
- Newspaper clipping, one side "Fate of the Apostles" flip side, "The Prize"
- Slip of paper, "J.R. Hodson, Sacramento, Cal"
- Slip of paper with dates and numbers inscribed
- Receipt, dated June 7, 1881, from Benj. Knight to Burns Bros
- Receipt, dated Dec 27, 1881, from B. Knight to Burns Bros
- Receipt, dated June 1, 1881
- Business card, Fisher and Co., hatters, San Francisco.