

# 1864

Friday Jan 1st

There was only a slight fall of snow last night, but the wind blew fiercely from the northwest all night to the imminent danger of chimney pot, window shutters, and worse than all the tents of the soldiers, which must have suffered as well as the soldiers themselves for it was a terribly cold night and the wind was keen as a razor. The thermometer was 8 degrees below zero, in the middle of the day and 9 was told it was at 18 below zero early in the morning. Several persons had their ears and noses frozen. Things freeze even in rooms where there is fire, and the water might be said to freeze as it came out of the pump. Old citizens say there hasn't been such cold weather since the year '35.

Tuesday Jan 5th

Three federal soldiers were frozen to death at Camp Nelson Saturday night

Wednesday Jan 6th

Some secesh prisoners were employed today cleaning the snow off the pavement at headquarters.

Thursday Jan 7th

We saw yesterdays Cincinnati Commercial today. Gov Bramlette has issued a proclamation ordering military commands throughout the state in any instance when a loyal citizen is taken off by Southern guerillas, to immediately arrest at least five rebel sympathizers in the vicinity of the outrage.

Tuesday Jan 12th

Gen Grant was in town yesterday. He took breakfast at our neighbor's Mrs. Payne and my sisters and Miriam Gratz were asked up to see him.

Thursday Jan 21st

Some 200 or 300 prisoners of Longstreets command arrived here last night from Knoxville. They are wretchedly clad, dirty, miserable and half starved. The secesh ladies with Mrs. Curd and Mrs. McCaw at their head have been busily engaged, supplying them with food and clothing.

Monday Jan 25th

Rumors of a Rebel invasion of Ky prevail in Louisville. The Paris Citizen of Friday says that report were on the streets of that place that 2400 rebel troops had entered Eastern Ky. And 400 of them had advanced to Salyersville between 65 and 70 miles from Paris.

Wednesday Jan 27th

The legislature has passed the Military bill (this act entitled the Governor to raise a force for the defense of the state). It is probable that most if not all the Ky regiments will reenlist, and it is thought doubtful whether any new ones will be required.

Thursday Feb 4th

Four or five guerrillas were brought in yesterday from Mt. Sterling. They were sent in by Col John Brown of the 45th Mounted Infantry stationed at Mt. Sterling, and had been captured by some of the 45th while in the act of putting a rope round the neck of a Union man for the purpose of hanging him.

Wednesday March 9th

The rebels are going to make a desperate effort to get into this state. It is generally suspected that a great many rebels have come into the state, who pretending to be tied to the rebellion and anxious to take the amnesty oath do so just to aid the rebels and get a chance to recruit for the rebel army in a quiet way.

Monday March 14th

Longstreet is reported preparing to come into Kentucky. The secesh are jubilant what with Wolfords speech and the promise of the rebel army invading the state. I suppose they think there will be a counter revolution taking the state out of the Union. Times look stormy, but the old ship of state weathered the first storm in 1861 and I expect she will weather this one also. We don't know yet what side Gov Bramlette will take but if he is wise he will support the Government and not attempt to resist the enrolling of negroes. Mr. Lincoln did not make that enrollment law. It was Congress and as Congress decided that all persons 20 to 45 without regard to color should be enrolled we cannot resist the carrying that law into effect, with out being as much in a state of rebellion as any of the Confederates, and having a Civil War in our midst. Such a course would be fraught with evil to us in every way. We would have our slaves set free, as was the case with the Confederate States, and would have no hope of compensation. Our Kentucky troops would be sent out of the State; the whole State overrun with armies and devastated by war. Do the Copperheads think that the Union men will bring about such a state of things just for the sake of the negro? Never. If Gov Bramlette attempts to resist Congress

he will find that the Union men have not forgotten how they put down Mageffin in '61 and they will put him down in the same way.

Friday March 18th

The second meeting of the Sociable Club (a club formed for the purpose of dancing and amusement by several of the young ladies of Lexington) was held. None but ladies can be members but each member has the privilege of inviting and bringing with her any gentlemen whom she may chose, always providing that it is not one whose society is disagreeable to any of the other member. The refreshments are limited to three kinds to be left to the choice of the member at whose house the club happens to meet. Ladies are not allowed to come in evening or party dress, but must ear promenade or 'at home' villetes. No music to be engaged, but dancing is allowed if there is a piano. The Club met at our house tonight.

Saturday March 19th

A Washington dispatch of the 17th says, "there is a rumor of a conspiracy embracing several counties and cities of Ky having for its object the annexation of Ky to the Southern Confederacy. That its leaders had headquarters in Monticello, and were corresponding with Longstreet in Tennessee and that Ky member of Congress in Richmond had social correspondence with parties in London, Monticello, Mt. Vernon, Danville, etc. And it is feared that a central Committee had been established in every county, that will attempt to compel the inhabitants to join the rebel Confederacy as soon as Longstreet or Breckinridge enter the State. This infamous conspiracy was discovered by the seizure at the Post Office of letters addressed by Ky members of the rebel Congress to some leaders of the plot".

Saturday April 2

The gazette is down on the Cin. Commercial, Louisville Journal and Frankfort Commonwealth for denying that Gov. Bramlette had a proclamation in type against negro enrollments and asks if they will attempt to impeach Dr. R. J. Breckenridge at the meeting in Boyle county and gives the following copy of the Gov's dispatch to the Provost Marshal of Boyle Co. "If the President does not upon my demand, stop the Negro enrollment, I will. I am waiting his answer". Lieut Gov Jacobs and Wolford said the be here today attended by a rabble rout of secesh to whom they made Copperhead speeches, the subjects of which were mostly abuse of the Govt. and Mr. Lincoln and praise for McClellan.

Monday April 4th

Mrs. Duncan's house was discovered to be on fire this A.M. between 9 & 10. Pa and Mr. Gratz ran up at the first alarm & a crowd soon collected. The fire engine soon arrived and filled at the cistern by Mrs. Morgan's but the hose was too short and by the time that other hose arrived the roof was burned off. The fire was soon put out when the engine began. The furniture was all saved. Mrs. D. thought the roof caught from the chimney but the general opinion among the neighbors is that it was set fire to. There have been several fires lately.