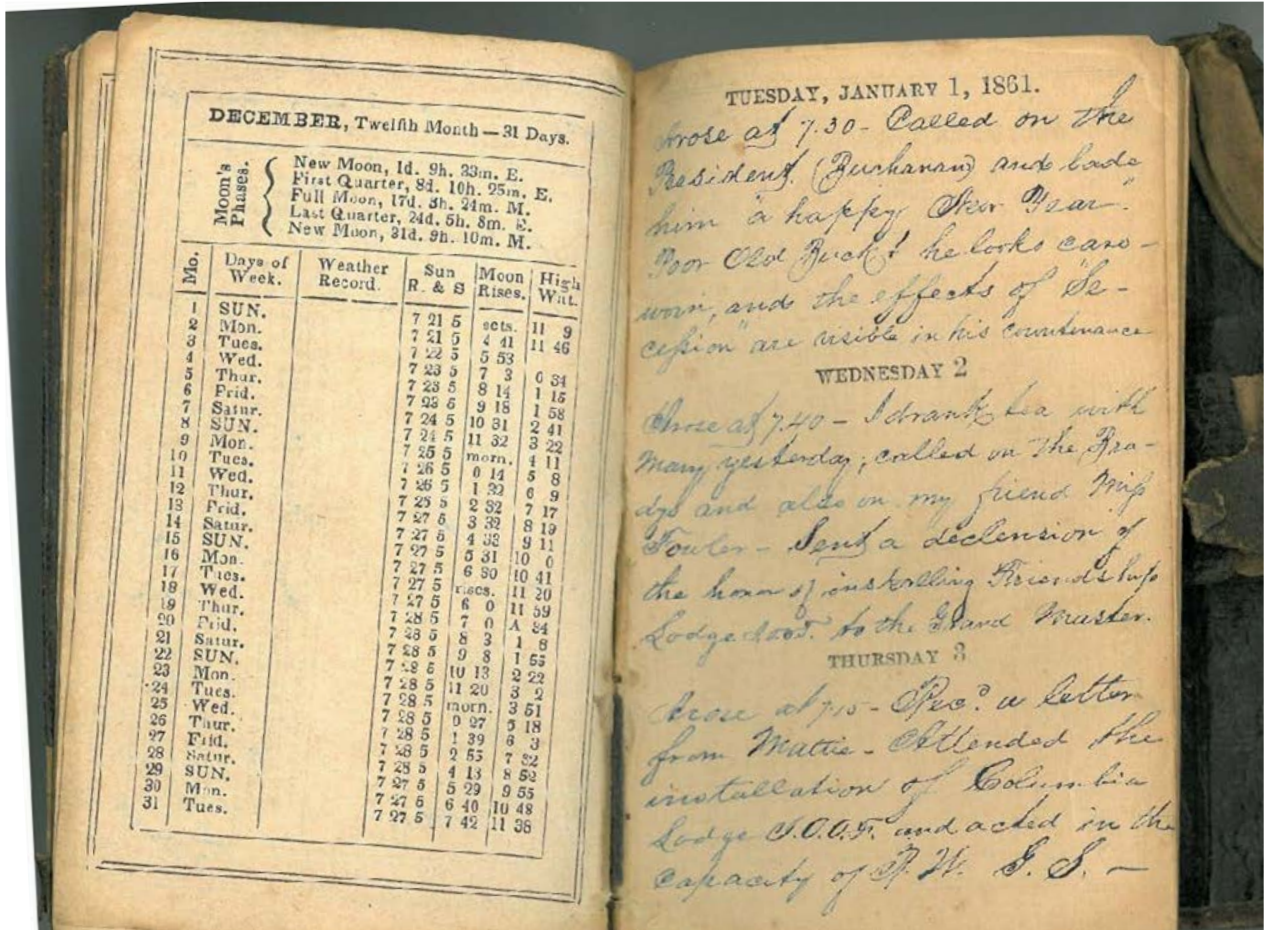


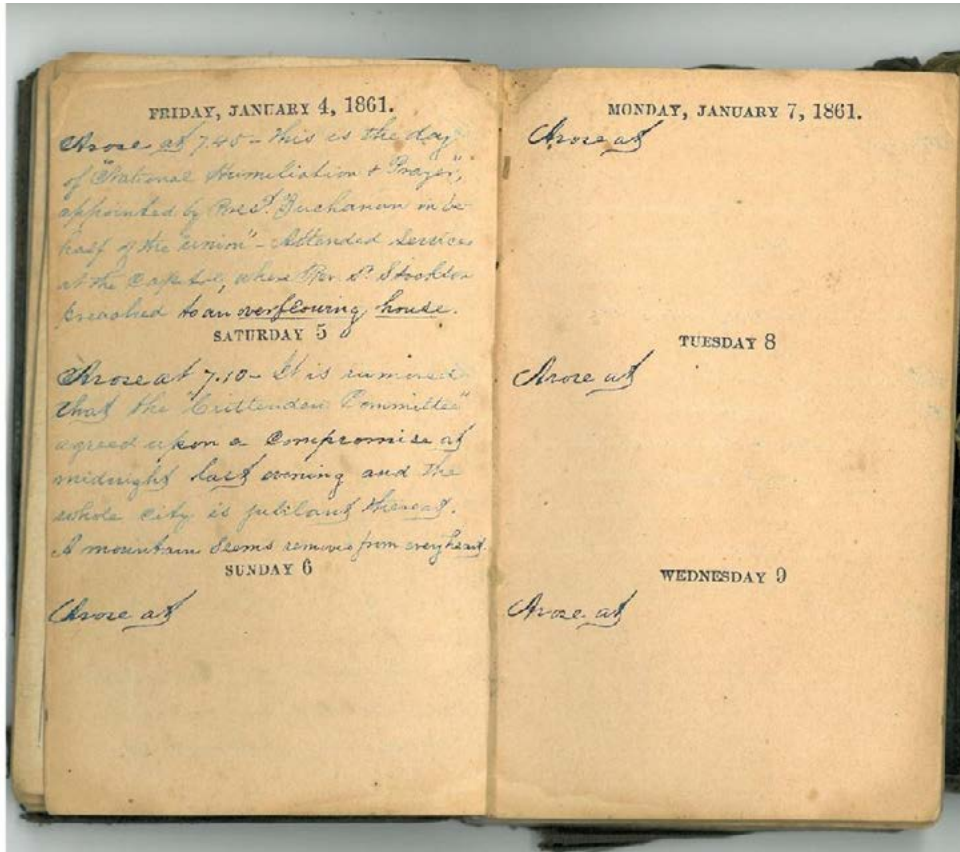
James Thomas Petty

Diary Entries



Entries of James Thomas Petty of Virginia from January–April, 1861

American Civil War Museum



FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1861.

Arose at 7.40 - This is the day of National Humiliation & Prayer, appointed by Pres. Buchanan on behalf of the Union. - Attended Services at the Capitol, where Mr. S. Stockton preached to an overflowing house.

SATURDAY 5

Arose at 7.10 - It is rumored that the Crittenden Committee agreed upon a compromise at midnight last evening and the whole city is jubilant thereat. A mountain seems removed from my heart.

SUNDAY 6

Arose at

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1861.

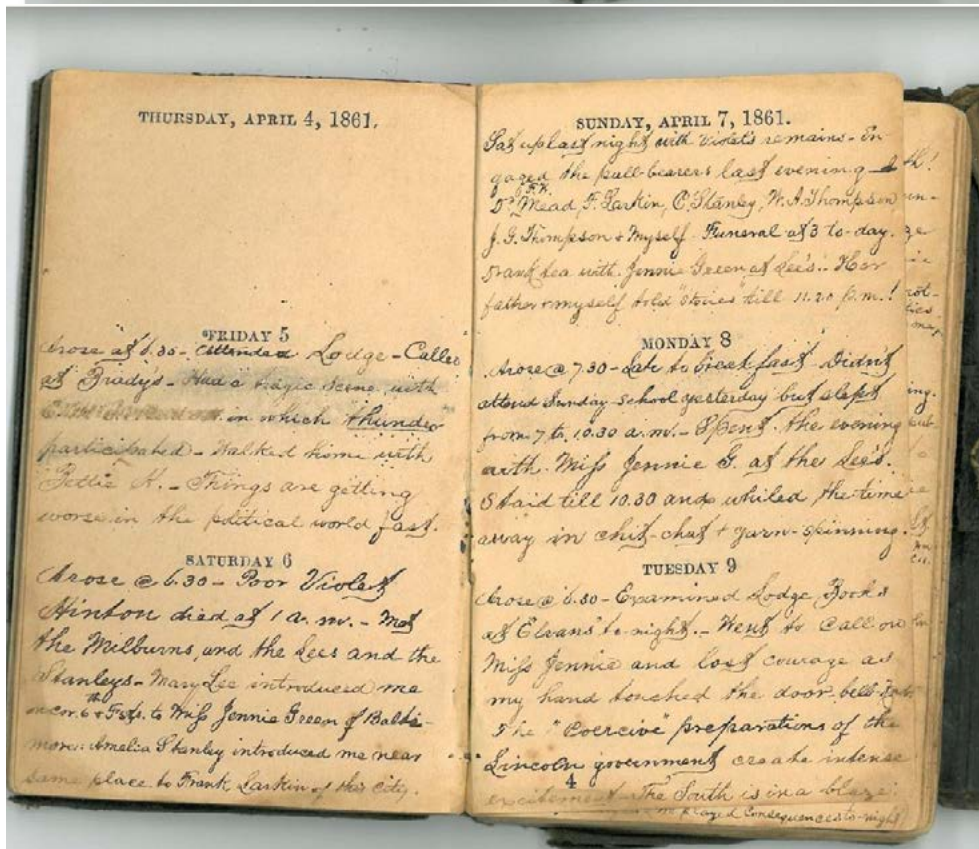
Arose at

TUESDAY 8

Arose at

WEDNESDAY 9

Arose at



THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1861.

FRIDAY 5
Arose at 4.30. - Attended Lodge - Called at Bradley's. Had a tragic scene with ~~William~~ in which ~~thunder~~ participated. - Walked home with Fannie H. - Things are getting worse in the political world fast.

SATURDAY 6

Arose @ 6.30 - Poor Violet Hinton died at 1 a.m. - Met the Milburns, and the Lees and the Stanleys. Mary Lee introduced me to Mr. C. & F. to Miss Jennie Green of Baltimore. Amelia Stanley introduced me near same place to Frank Carlin of this city.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 1861.

Spent night with Violet's remains - in gaze the full bears last evening. - 5. Mead, F. Barton, C. Stanley, Mr. Thompson, J. S. Thompson & myself. Funeral at 3 to day. - Frank Lee with Jennie Green at head. - Her father & myself held services till 11.20 p.m.

MONDAY 8

Arose @ 7.30 - Got to breakfast. Didn't attend Sunday school yesterday but slept from 7 to 10.30 a.m. - Spent the evening with Miss Jennie S. at the seat. - Staid till 10.30 and whiled the time away in chess-chess & yarn-spinning.

TUESDAY 9

Arose @ 6.30 - Examined Lodge Book & Cleaned to night. - Went to call on Miss Jennie and lost courage as my hand knocked the door bell. - The "Coercive" preparations of the Lincoln government create intense excitement. - The South is in a blaze.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1861.
 Arose @ 6.30 - & reading telegrams, &c, from Charleston - U.S. Militia Volunteers called out to the number of seven companies and mustered into the service of U.S. to guard pub. buildings. (Called on Mrs. Malbone's this afternoon - & spent evening with Jennie & her mother & father, & called.)

THURSDAY 11
 Arose @ 6.30 - City is rife with warlike rumors from Confederate States. (Spent last evening with Jennie Green at the Lees - had a pleasant time) Called on Mrs. Foster, Mary & the Bradys this evening - & saw photographic news!

FRIDAY 12
 Arose @ 6.00 - Late to school, fast - Called at Lees & escorted Miss Jennie & the girls to the Mallards where we spent the evening - & starting telegrams from Charleston! War begun! Sumter attacked & defended! 2 guns silenced & beach & water in Sumter's walls! How anxious we are!

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1861.
 Arose at 6 - Thrilling news from the South! Major Anderson surrendered Sumter unconditionally at 1 P.M.! The city is ablaze with excitement! - Called on Jennie & her mother till 11 P.M. Engaged myself not to do anything of the sort, & to do as much as I could.

SUNDAY 14
 Arose at 7 - To S.S. & church in morning. News from Sumter is doubted by the South Republicans - I believe it. Have resolved not to discuss politics - & to do as much as I can for the South. Excited her to 12. Sumner & 2 others. Resolved to do as much as I can for the South.

MONDAY 15
 Arose at 6 - News from Sumter in evening. Sumner has issued a proclamation calling out 75,000 men! He has a joint letter to father & mother defining my position on the crisis. - He called on me at 10.00 - & spent the evening at Lees - & spent the night at Lees - & spent the night at Lees.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1861.
 Arose at 6 - All my friends nearly condemn me for not believing in war! I shall cry peace for the Virginia Militia, she goes all the way. Jennie & Mollie called at home & got weighed - Jennie got a letter telling her to come home immediately - spent the evening with her father & mother & her goodby with a kiss.

WEDNESDAY 17
 Arose at 6 - Oh! that God might save us yet from civil war! My country! O my country! O how I wish I could see the blood of the Union in peace! I will do my best - Have had the "Green" fever terribly to day - spent the evening with Mollie's father & all the family & dear by tempo with them.

THURSDAY 18
 Arose at 6.10 - My best friends are unable to discuss politics with me without getting angry - So I keep quiet still but determine called on Mary & the Bradys - met Mollie Lee & her mother in the street & went home with them - Had to the Long Bridge to see the U.S. Artillery there - had a talk with the soldiers & the officers.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1861.
 Got up all half night with corpse of old Mr. Taylor - The Mass. troops were assaulted in Balto. today & there was a bloody time - This is the first blood shed, and today is the anniversary of the first battle of the war. Sumner! Have resolved to respond to Scott's call & to go to Virginia to volunteer. (Called on Jennie & her mother & father & spent the evening with them.)

SATURDAY 20
 Arose @ 6.30 - Have been fasting & getting ready to go - Walter Frankland and I will go to Va. to-morrow. Bade Mrs. Harrow & the family good-bye to-night. Spent the night with Walter - Has presented to Mrs. Tamar at Mrs. Holmeads. Was presented also to Walter's mother.

SUNDAY 21
 Arose @ 4.50 - Walter & I & three others chartered Rowan's Hotel Crossroads & rode to O. & A. R. R. depot in Alex. We gave three cheers when we got across the Long Bridge for old Mr. Lee acquainted with Abigail Baker's husband & stopped at Reisterstown all day & night. Saw Smith & reading there also.