

ELIZABETH ANN CALDWELL HIGGINS (1803-1889)  
PRAYER JOURNAL  
01 October 1855 – 19 January 1864

*[This was transcribed by great-great-granddaughter Sarah Jouett (Taylor) Prisley in July 1989 from photocopies of handwritten pages in the Caroliniana Library, Francis Bernard Higgins file. This is as true to the original as possible, in spelling, punctuation, capitalization etc. The style is a free outpouring of thoughts that could be damaged by any grammatical corrections. E.A.C.H. was 52 in October of 1855, the month this diary opened.]*

Oct 1, 1855

Today I have started my youngest daughter for Salem<sup>1</sup> Jesus Master take her into thy protection deliver her from all the temptations that surrounds youth imprint thy holy image upon her heart and make her a follower of that blessed religion thou came into the world to establish give her thy holy spirit to guard her on all occasions give her a meek and loving heart that all who may associate with her may feel that she has been with Jesus take my child into thy Fatherly cair I dedicate my all to thee my blessed redeemer

Oct 6 I have today witnessed the death of a good friend Martha Turner otherwise called Patty she is no more may the works of mercy that she has practiced now receive a great reward and whilst I note her exit from this troublesome world may her ransomed Soul be shouting in Heaven in the presents of thou Saviour that she served and honoured whilst on earth for thou hast sayd all that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out she has served her stay on earth may she now enjoy a blessed Eternity.

Nov 22, 1855

My dear brother Patrick<sup>2</sup> breathed his last on the 22 he has been my constant cair and thought for three years how I have prayed for him that God in wisdom should restore him to his mind but as this was denied me I saw him gradually sink into the peaceful arms of death calm and undisturbed as an infant going to sleep his countenance assuming a childlike look sweet and serene thanks be to God that I was spared to close his eyes and was enabled whilst he lived to administer to his evry want thanks be to my dear companion for affording me the servants to assist me in my arduous duty to him. Rest in peace untill the last trump of God call thee to his Judgment.

John Caldwell Departed this life Dec 26 1855 John Married Mary E. Childs in 1857 in 1860 he joined the Methodist Church<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Susan Moon Higgins, called Sue, had just turned 13; later married J.W. Smith of Abbeville. The writer herself attended Salem Academy after her parents died within a month of each other when she was 11.

<sup>2</sup>Patrick Calhoun Caldwell, now aged 54. He had taken her pillion on horseback to Salem from Newberry after their parents died. Married briefly before his wife died, no children, he turned to his loving sister in illness. For this prominent citizen there is more info in my 'laterals' section of the McIntosh notebook.

<sup>3</sup>Obvious date error! A clear and exact copy from the journal, however.

*[JTP note: distinct deterioration in handwriting in five years before the journal resumes]*

1860

one year of no uncommon incident but constant successions of unbounded Mercy

Jan 13, 1861

Burton<sup>4</sup> started a volunteer to Charleston to assist the State of SC to recover her fourt taken by the Yankies which was successfully taken without the loss of a single life on the part of South Carolina he immediatly joined the first Volunteers for Virginia where her foes invaded her soil after she proclaimed her independence of the U.S. and joined the Southern Confederacy he is now at or near the enemy at Mannassas junction what is to be his fate it is impossible for me to see I hope that God will throw around him his protecting arm and shield him from danger, if it is thy will O my Father he is to fall in the defence of his country will thou prepair his soul for that rest that Jesus has prepared for all that will put there trust in him.

Jun 13, 1861

Day of humiliation and Prayer for the Confederate states O my God hear our cry give ear to the supplications of thy people Lord bless our dear President who has requested the prayers of Gods People fill his heart with thy holy fear & Love enable him to govern this people as in the sight of God knowing that he will have to render an account for all his acts O Lord bless all those young men who have so valiantly volunteered to assist our councellors in carrying on our struggle for liberty thou O our God is all our help Many of those that have gon fourth for the strife are thy own valiant souldiers of the cross O fill there hearts with thy Holy spirit and may they be the means in thy hands of bringing many to the foot of the cross of Jesus may they go fourth in his strength, as thou hast so fair blessed our ames. May our very enemies have cause to bless the cause that made us separate our Union and acknowledge it was the hand of God for shurely he fiteth our battles. O God bless my Sons keep them in thy holy keeping make them see thee O God in all thy ways speak the word and thy servant shall be healed of any disease he has no matter how deep dyed it is O cast off all the lothsomeness of sin from them and make thy spirit to be all powerful O Lord take them to a sacred nearness to thyself Lord bless all my Family where ever they may be O bless those dear young men that has sayd remember me in your prayers Lord I thank thee for the health of my family and our vicinity O stay the plague that has thretened our town and cause one general shout of acknowlegment of thy devine hand to be heard from evry heart O forgive all our sins the national & individual O give us a constant believing dependent trusting heart and may we in evry thing acknowlege thy goodness and Mercy Lord cause us all to live near thy footstool and be led by thee in all things O pardon thy people who cry to thee in there great destress make thy arm bear for thy own children O Lord hear in Heaven thy dwelling place and when thou hearest forgive answer us O Lord in loving kindness fill our hearts with thy love and we will fall down and worship thy great name thy will O Father be done in earth as in Heaven Amen

John Caldwell Higgins<sup>5</sup> Departed this life Oct 4. 1861 in Meredian Mississippi he was a member of the church and I hope from the evidence of his friend and pastor was prepared to

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<sup>4</sup>Burton, eighth of her ten children, aged 22, single.

<sup>5</sup>JCH, the writer's third child, aged 36 at death; served in SC's Palmetto Regiment in Mexican War, wounded at Chapultepec; named on regimental

meet his Lord in the place he had prepared for him in Heaven for Poor Child he had but a sad life from the time he arived at manhood but I hope it only served to make him live nearer the cross and now he is at rest in the bosom of his dear Saviour he left home only one year before he dyed having come on a visit after many years of absence I have often thought it was the Lords doing to put it in his heart to come once more to visit his aged parents and cheer our old eyes again I thank thee O God for that privelege

Jul 6, 1862

Sad and Malencholy record Cap Pope's Company Rhett Guards Comp B 1<sup>st</sup> Regment South Caroline Volunteers at the battle of Gaines Mill near Richmond on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 1862 Fell my dear Son S Burton Higgins [aged 23] in the gallant charge of the Enemies breastworks.<sup>6</sup>

My Heavenly Father O give me that perfect resignation which will be well pleasing in thy sight O may my sorrowing heart for the loss of my dear Burt be strengthened and my faith in the delings of my beloved Master made strong I know O my Father it is thy hand that has afflicted me for good and wise ends although the provedence is dark and mysterious yet thou in wisdom hast permitted the ball to strike down my boy I would desire to be enabled to say from my heart thy will O my Father be done he dyed in a good and holey cause defending his home from the hands of our enemies who would deprive us of evry thing we hold sacred O may his fall only be the means in thy hands of bringing our hearts nearer to thee and make the remainder of my family to searve thee more faithful and lead a more godly life may the deep grief I feel searve to clense me from all self dependence O my father I cannot now pray for my dear departed child but I can only hope thou had prepared his heart for the great change and that thou in wisdom took him home to thy blessed bosum I feel O Lord that thou art all powerful and could in a moment of time change the heart of my child and that he is now rejoicing with my other dear ones who have long since arived in Heaven for the child of so many prayers I feel will be blessed I have dedicated all my dear children in prayr to the tender mercy of my loving and crucified Saviour who all my life long has led and directed all my goings O in mercy forgive me if I have comitted sin in grieving for my lost one the company in which Burt lost his life was led in the battle by John McLemore as Pope was indesposed dear Friend thou art gon thy brave spirit could not stand back when thy country called after Pope resigned he was Cap and in the fights about Fredericks Burg received a wound in the head which put an end to his gallant life he dyed in the Hospital at Richmond Burt and John was not long separated as they bothe were too brave to be left there young lives have been given to there countrys deliverance from the cruel tyrents who invade our homes Peice be to them as they were united in life so may they reign in Heaven I hope there deaths may win for our countrys liberty

Jan 1, 1863

Another year has roled around bringing many chances O this cruel war when will we have a peace Thou O my Father knows as thou hast hither two fought our battles O continue to be thou our help and shield let evry heart be lifted up to thee who hast brought us thus fair O carry on our

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monument, State House grounds, Columbia SC.

<sup>6</sup> Other sources add Burton was in Gregg's Brigade. Gaines Mill was part of the Seven Days battle, June 25 - July 1, in which Richmond was saved from capture and Union forces retreated. Union casualties, 16,000; Confederate casualties, 20,000

victories untill we have that peace thou hast promised thy people let the good time come when nations shall learn war no more but the fear of the Lord may spread over the earth and all shall acknowledge the Lord

Marriage of Fannie C Higgins [*writer's 7<sup>th</sup> child*] to James McIntosh<sup>7</sup> Nov 24 1862 Oh the changes in life in a few short months my last record was the death of dear Burt and next the marriage of a Daughter yet such is the changes of our eventful life I hope that this union may prove a happy one as it has evry prospect of the blessing of the Lord upon the couple united Lord look down on them & bless them may Fannie be a dutiful loving wife may she now feel how sollom a thing it is to assume the reponcible place of a wife may she govern herself in all things so that she may feel that she will be ready to give an account to God O Lord subdue her heart and bring it under the benign influence of thy good spirit Give thy holey Spirit to her Husband and may they go hand in hand through life and be found as good servants who wait for there Lords comming. They left home for Darlington Society Hill on the 27 to visit the Doc mother and family where they remained several days before leaving for Richmond in Virginia they then went to the battle field and saw Burts grave in company with Cap McIntosh<sup>8</sup> who left them for his command in the arney previous to the great battles of Fredericks Burg and they persued there journey to Charlotts Ville where the Doc has charge of a hospital where there home will be for some time I again O Lord ask thy blessing upon my dear children follow them in mercy all the days of there lives

They returned home in June 1863 and there First Daughter Martha Gregg<sup>9</sup> was born 20 of Oct 1863 dear sweet little chureb thou came to brighten the few short days of your aged Grand Parents the last act of her dear Grand Father was to play and amuse the little innocent child O what a comfort she was to him how little we all thought in five short hours that he would breathe his last so sudden and unexpected the call came to us but not so to him for he was ready and had his lamp trimmed waiting for the Lord [*He was 69*]

My Dear Husband departed this life on the 30 of December 1863, and was buried on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1864 Rosemont Cemetery Newbury Dear departed one thou hast gon and left me alone to mourn for thee. O my desolate heart. How lonely I feel, no one can tell. For 43 years we have walked together united in heart & Hand , in evry thing struggling together to raise our family, feeling together the losses of our dear children who have gon to the place prepared of God for all the loved ones. Together this cruel war has made sad our hearthstone by taking two of our dear Sons, yet in all this I was blessed to have him to shair my sorrow and brighten the promises of God to me often speaking of his own latter end as drawing near, and striving to make ready for the Lord at what ever watch he should come. Thanks be to his blessed name the summons was not unexpected by him; so blessed be the name of our Father he was willing and waiting for his Lord.

He joined the Baptist Church in 1831 From that time he was a constant attendant upon the house of God and a consistent christian in all his walk and life setting a bright and shining

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<sup>7</sup>Fannie and James were married when he was 24, she 25. By age 23 James was assistant Confederate surgeon stationed in Charlottesville, 1862-1865. Fannie died in 1890, aged 53. He lived until 1919, having married in 1893 Sarah Burt Rook Boozer, widow, a niece of Fannie Higgins. "Aunt Burt" was heartily detested by step-children, nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

<sup>8</sup>Probably Doctor James' brother Edward who was in Gregg's Regiment as Burt Higgins had been.

<sup>9</sup>Martha Athalinda Gregg McIntosh would become mother of George Buell.

example to all his children and servants striving to lead them in the good way by a constant watchfulness upon his own life and cheerful flow of spirits making all that knew him happy and contented with there situation One of the best of Husbands O my poor desolate heart how I feel thy loss. Yet I mourn not as those who have no hope for I feel ashured he is at rest in the presents of that blessed Saviour whome he so ardently loved and searved on earth, whilst I am left as a lonely mate to watch and wate my own appointed time when Jesus shall say come up to meet thy dear Saviour, Husband, & Children who have gon before you to the mansions of God in the heavens. Mr. Brantly preached the funeral Surmon at the Baptist Church from Matthew 25 part of the 13 verse you know not the hower when the Son of man cometh.

In the morning my dear Husband arose well as he had been for some time in the best of spirits and apparently had the promis of many days he played with the dear little babe which I held in my lap and sayd that it makes us both happy and brought our young life to mind we then set up to breakfast and he eat very hearty joking Fannie for tardiness in coming and toled her to eat hearty for we ought to be thankful to God we had a plenty he then commenced reading but Alas how short a time it was untill the stroke of Apoplexie struck him by his *[Note:phrases garbled because of inserts]* sneazing and silenced that tongue which was ever ready to speak words of love and kindness to his family in evry thing. I asked him if he was not taking a very bad cold and he replied yes very - the last word he spoke. O what a look of love did he give me when I took him in my arms and called for help to keep him from falling but Alas he could not speak although at that time he was sensible. I think he knew Dr. Mayer when he came but never spoke again I had often heard him express himself as not fearing the grave but the pangs of death was what he dreaded My Heavenly Father removed him without his being concious of the stroke and took him to that rest for which he longed and prayed for and I am left as one bereaved of my dear love O how many pleasant days months and years have we traveled this wilderness together in love and happiness and now I am alone to spend sleepless nights and think over all our happy lives no one now to speak kindly and loving to me or fill that void in my poor desolate heart thou hast left I thank my Heavenly Father he has given me good children who strive to fill my aching heart and cheer my latter days O Lord help them and enable them to walk in the steps of that good man there dear Father and may they all do there duty as if he was in there midst remembering how he wished them to do O my blessed Redeemer give me grace to bear the loss thou in wisdom hast called me to bear O may my heart be purified from all the sins of my life and when thou hast fulfilled thy pleasure on earth in me make me ready to meet thee in glory where I shall meet my darling Husband Parents & Children in the mansions of eternal bliss there to adore that blessed Jesus who bought our ransom with his own precious blood

Jan 19, 1864

I am about entering upon the business of the estate Having made applick for administration to be granted by letters with the intention of carrying out the Will of my dear Husband.

O my Heavenly Father, grant me that knowlege which will carry me through this work. I feel my incompetancy, I know: O my God without thy blessing I will utterly fail to accomplish any thing. I would therefore come humbly, to thee in evry time of need, praying that I may be able to discharge my duty to my family, in perfect satisfaction to all. O Blessed Saviour, will thou grant me thy holy spirit may I have that meekness of temper which will be well pleasing in thy sight and enable me to go through all my tryals with christian fortitude

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