

General Notes on the Transcribed and Annotated Diary of J Bertrand Norris for 1861 at Star Furnace, KY

The diary was transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones, J Bertrand Norris' great granddaughter. The handwriting is a compressed cursive that was very difficult to transcribe.

All of the annotations, except those specifically attributed to others, are by Lon Coleman.

The annotations attributed to George Wolfford are from notes regarding this transcription sent to Kaye Koonze Jones by Wolfford in the 1980's. These annotations start with "George Wolfford:" and are in shading.

Annotations by Lon Coleman regarding individuals cited in the diary are almost exclusively from information contained in the 1860 US Census for Star Furnace, Carter County, KY.

I have provided some explanations relating to J Bernard Norris' collier trade (making charcoal or "working in the coaling") so readers can understand these diary entries. Much of my general understand of this process comes from my careful review of a publication called "Charcoal – Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service)" located at this [link](#) (just click on the highlighted word "link" to go to this informative document).

Read the diary in chronological order. Annotated information is not always repeated after it is introduced.

"JBN" is an abbreviation for J Bertrand Norris, the diary author, and is used repeatedly in the annotation column.

The transcribed diary follows the line below. The wording regarding Moss, Brother & Co is the printing on the blank diary that J Bertrand Norris purchased. 1861 is printed on the cover.

1861

Inside Cover : J. Bertrand Norris's Memoranda
Star Furnace, Ky.

Title Page: Diary for 1861, for the use of PRIVATE FAMILIES and PERSONS OF BUSINESS published yearly by
Moss, Brother & Co . Publishers, Booksellers and Stationers, Philadelphia

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
T u e 01 Jan 1861	This is the first day of the year 1861. George was married this evening, at six o'clock to Liza E. Thomson. There was a great many people present. We danced till midnight, and played till daylight, and then came home	<p>"George" is JBN's oldest brother, George W Norris, born in about 1837, and is about 4 years older than JBN. "Liza" is Eliza Thompson, born in about 1844, and is the daughter of Samuel and Catherine Thompson from Star Furnace. George works as a collier making charcoal as does JBN.</p> <p>George Wolfford: Geo W. Norris, who secured marriage license the previous day, married Eliza Thompson at the home of Samuel Thompson in the presence of R. W. Thompson, William Gray, and others. Performing the Ceremony was John C. Brooks, Minister of the M.S. of M. S. (?? Methodist Episcopal, South).</p>
W e d 02 Jan 1861	Came home this morn-- from Mr. Thompsons; and was so sleepy I knew not what to do. We had an infairs to day. There were not very many present. Went to Furnace to get the mail but it did not come. It rained this afternoon .	<p>The "Furnace" is Star Furnace. "Furnace" is used to mean both the physical iron furnace and the general community around the same furnace. Many community features like the school, church, etc. are likely located right beside the actual iron furnace. The community is called "Star Furnace". Most of the time JBN is referring to the general area very near the iron furnace when he uses "furnace".</p> <p>"infairs" is likely an obsolete spelling of infare. From wiktionary.org an infare is a party or other celebration held to mark someone's entrance into a new home, especially the arrival of a bride at her new home; a wedding reception.</p>
T h u 03 Jan 1861	Did not do anything to day. Went to singing school at night, learning to sing very fast.	<p>JBN seems to take advantage of numerous educational opportunities in his community.</p> <p>George Wolfford: "Singing School" - Usually church sponsored, singing was based on a <u>visual</u> system in which each note had a different <u>shape</u> and assigned sound. Called the <u>shape - note</u> system.</p>

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
F r i 04 Jan 1861	I went to mill to day, and went down to the New store while the corn was grinding, to get some tobacco; got it. John Helton and Mart. Lunce had a fight while I was at the store. Did not see it.	JBN has went to a local grist mill to have dried corn ground into cornmeal.
S a t 05 Jan 1861	I went to the Furnace this morning and stayed all day, and came up to the school house to hear the new beginners sing, and Ray (?) Thompson was there, and I came over with him he stayed all night, but did not sleep much. George and Liza came over to night	Ray Thompson is mentioned frequently, and JBN's new sister-in-law, Liza is a Thompson, but I cannot find a Ray Thompson in the 1860 US Census at Star Furnace.
S u n 06 Jan 1861	I went to sabbath school this morning, thre (sic) were a great (many) there. We sung after school I took dinner with Jesse Shay, and went in to Mrs. Janes', and then me and Sol went up the road, and then came down again. Went down to Furnace, stayed til night--	There are two Jesse Shay's in Star Furnace in the 1860 US Census. One is Jesse Shay, a day laborer, born in about 1825. The other is Jesse C Shay, a collier, born in about 1826. "Sol" is very likely Solomon James a teamster born about 1841. "Mrs. Janes" is very likely Mrs. Julia A. James, Sol's Mother, born in about 1824.
M o n 07 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning there was nobody present, built the fire, but by this time the scholars had come and books taken up. I got head of my class twice to day.	JBN is 19 but still attending school. He works as a collier (produces charcoal) and in general colliers do not work in the coldest winter months. So, JBN can attend school in the winter.
T u e 08 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning I ought to study very hard and improve my talent. Ray Thompson and I study together. Nothing else of importance.	
W e d 09 Jan 1861	I went to school this morning again. Went to the post office in the evening to get the mail have not much to write to day.	
T h u 10 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning. Nothing of importance, except there is great fear that this Union will be dissolved. God grant it may not	First of many diary entries regarding the imminent Civil War and the political intrigue surrounding the war.

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
F r i 11 Jan 1861	It snowed to day, and turned very cold. There has been a good deal of foul weather this winter. Went to school this morning .	Like everyone, JBN is concerned with the weather. Weather is particularly important to him. When he works as a collier he is typically outside with no shelter or using a crude improvised shelter.
S a t 12 Jan 1861	Was at school to day. Went to a party last night. They danced and played all night,--but I did not take much part in it. There were a good many pretty girls there. I took breakfast with James Artiz. Ray Thompson was not at school to day. Mr . Egin was sicck (sic)	JBN always has an eye out for "pretty girls". James Artis is an iron ore digger born in about 1843 and a couple of years younger than JBN. Mr Egin is very likely the local school teacher. He is mentioned several times in the diary but I have not located any other information about him.
S u n 13 Jan 1861	Went to sabbath school this morning. There were a great many person(s) present. We sung in the afternoon	
M o n 14 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning, good many thre (sic)	
T u e 15 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning. It rained all day to day.	
W e d 16 Jan 1861	Went to school to day, and went down to the Furnace before school had taken up .	
T h u 17 Jan 1861	Went to the new store this morning, to get some new pen holders, and pen points, and this little Diary. S(c)hool had taken up when I came back.	This "new" store might be a nearby store run by James Kilgore. The 1860 US Census lists this Kilgore Store. JBN has purchased a blank diary on 17 Jan 1861 for the 1861 year. It is unclear if JBN has transposed his previous daily entries from other papers to this newly purchased diary, or reconstructed the previous 16 days from memory.

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
F r i 18 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning and commenced building a fire when the fire builder came. The teacher pronounced some words for the scholars to spell before school had taken up. I got head twice to day. Came home fed the horse, and studied grammar and the(n) wrote this.	JBN mentions several times in the diary of being at the head of the class.
S a t 19 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning. And recited a grammar lesson, before dinner. After dinner, we spoke some. I delivered a peice (sic) of poetry. Went to spelling school to night. George and Liza came over this evening. It is now 9 o'clock I will go to bed soon	Again, JBN seems to be very engaged in his personal education.
S u n 20 Jan 1861	Went to sabbath school this morning. There were not many there when I got there, but in a few minutes the house was crowded. There was preach-- in the afternoon, by Rev Mr Tinsley, M. E. Church, S.	
M o n 21 Jan 1861	Went to school t his morning, tolerable late but it had not taken up. I to day sent for a book entitled "The Exhibition Speaker," to New York. I was cold all day to day it did not thaw much but the sun shone all day.	Mail service, like for ordering a book, is very important to JBN and he comments about the mail repeatedly.
T u e 22 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning. It was cold all day to day. Nothing of importance happened. William came back from the Flat Woods (?) to (day) .	William, born about 1839, is JBN's slightly older brother and is a teamster by trade. "Flat Woods" could be Flatwoods, KY, a western suburb of Ashland, KY in northeastern Greenup County, but this would have been over 25 miles away and a long trip. Or it may be a totally different area also called "Flat Woods".
W e d 23 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning Bay. (?) Thompson and I made the fire. It commenced raining about two o'clock to day, and until night; I went to the Post Office to get the mail, I got some papers, and read the news of <u>cecession</u> which is the topic of conversasin (sic)	This is likely Bazel Thompson, born about 1844. Bazel is the older brother of JBN's new sister-in-law, Liza Thompson Norris. JBN likes his newspapers and is especially interested in news concerning the imminent Civil War.

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
T h u 24 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning, before school had taken up. We recited a gram(mar) lesson read in history, and wrote some before dinner. After dinner, we read, wrote some and then ciphered until night. I was head of my class to day. It rained this forenoon.	Ciphering is exercising your fundamental math skills.
F r i 25 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning. There were not many there. Rev. Samuel Young, (preached) last night and also at noon to day. He preached to night. The (ground) is froze(n) at present very hard. Almost impenetrable.	I am unsure who Rev. Samuel Young might be. He seems to be a visiting preacher. There is a Samuel Young, farmer, born in about 1807 living in the general area with a Grayson, KY address. Rev Samuel is mentioned in several diary postings.
S a t 26 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning. It commenced snowing this morning and snowed all day. Egin's Baj.(?) Thompson and me acted a dialogue this evening at the school-house . Went to spelling school to night. There were not many there.	JBN has "acted" a dialogue with his friend Bazel Thompson and his school teacher Mr Egin's.
S u n 27 Jan 1861	Went to sabbath school this morning. Nobody there when I went. It was very cold and we had no fire, which made it worse. Samuel Young commenced a Quarterly meeting at Beuna (sic) Vista Furnace to day. The s(n)ow has all gone off of the south hill side to day. The wind is blowing at present very hard. No more to day .	Buena Vista Furnace is another community very like Star Furnace built up around a charcoal fired iron furnace. In a straight line route Buena Vista Furnace is about 3.5 miles away, but to travel there via the prevailing roads and paths would likely be at least twice that distance. A "Meeting" is a church service. Samuel Young is a local preacher mentioned several times in the diary.
M o n 28 Jan 1861	Went to school this to day (sic). They have not come home from meeting yet . Nothing of importance to day. There was singing school to night for the new beginners	
T u e 29 Jan 1861	"(sic) Went to school this morning. School had not taken up. I was tolerable cold to day. Went to singing school to night It was nine o'clock when I came home. William and Sam. Janes came from Beuna Vista to day."	"William" is likely JBN's older brother. "Sam. Janes" is very likely Samuel James, born about 1839, and from the same family as Solomon, and a son of Julia A James mentioned on 06 Jan 1861.

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
W e d 30 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning Thomas Cunningham came from Beuna Vista this morning. Bas (?) Thompson was not at school this afternoon. He "tented" the engine for his father while he went to Ironton. Charley Duncan came in his place. Samuel Young preached to night. His text was the xix psalm and second 4 verses.	Basel Thompson is the son of Samuel Thompson, Father of JBN's brother's wife. Samuel Thompson is listed as an "engineer" on the 1860 US Census at Star Furnace. This engine would have been a steam unit and very likely been used in the Star Furnace facility. An engine would have been necessary to operate the hot blast of air for efficient combustion to make iron at the Star Furnace. The 1860 US Census also lists Basel Thompson as an "engineer". Also note that at this time the term "engineer" would refer to an engine operator, not a degreed professional as today.
T h u 31 Jan 1861	Went to school this morning. Baj. was not at school to day, but Charly was though. Nothing of importance to day .	"Charly" is very likely Charles E Duncan who works as a day hand and was born in about 1845. "Charie Duncan" is listed in JBN's diary on the next day (01 Feb 1861).
F r i 01 Feb 1861	Was at school to day. It rained all day to day. It rained all day to day. Mr. Eging Charlie Duncan and I, acted a dialogue this afternoon Bay was there to hear it.	Mr Egis, the school teacher, is mentioned again.
S a t 02 Feb 1861	There was no school to day. I went to mill but did not get any meal. came up to the Furnace and occupied my time in shooting. I then came home and and (sic) stayed here till night.	"Shooting" might have been marbles, but I am not sure. It is unlikely it was ad hoc firearm practice as that would have been far too expensive to just "occupy my time".
S u n 03 Feb 1861	Went to sabbath school this morning. There were none there when I went, but in a few minutes they were all there. Went down to the Furnace and remained there till three o'clock when we had singing school and then came home. Cyrus Donaldson came to the Furnace to day with his wife.	In the 1860 US Census there is a Cyrus Donaldson, a farm hand born in about 1840, living with JBN's uncle, the John Norris' family, at Star Furnace.
M o n 04 Feb 1861	Went to school this morning. Built the fire before sun-up. Mr. Kilgore sent three scholars to school to day. Mary Ellen and Cyrus' wife stopped in the school Sis came home with them, William and Samuel Janes. Went to see their cattle to day Cyrus and his wife are at our house to night.	"Mr. Kilgore" is James Kilgore born in about 1831 and is a prominent local landowner / farmer and the owner of a local store. The community just north of Star Furnace, later named Kilgore, is named for James Kilgore. "Sis" may be JBN's younger sister, Sarah J Norris born in about 1846.

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
T u e 05 Feb 1861	Went to school to day. John built the fire. Got a grammar lesson in the forenoon and ciphred in the afternoon. I was head twice to day. Bay and I fixed the school-hose (sic) door. There was singing-school last night for the new beginners (sic). Nothing more at present	
W e d 06 Feb 1861	Went to school this morning, tolerable early. May Betis was not there I got through the first part of Smiths Grammar to day. Fine weather, but muddy (sic). It is freesing (sic) to night Will has not come back from Blain yet	As previously noted "Wil" (William) Norris is a teamster. Likely the community of Blaine. George Wolfford: "from Blain" refers to a broad rural community south of Star Furnace. It was a farming community, not iron making.
T h u 07 Feb 1861	Went to school this morning. The ground was froze hard as a rock. It snowed to day, in the forenoon, but it cleared up after dinner. William came back from blain (sic) There was a singing school to night. It is very cold	
F r i 08 Feb 1861	Went to school this morning It was the coldest morning I have felt for sometime past Went down to the Furnace this evening. Saw Bill Gay 's hores (sic) coming down the road with the speed of lightning. I came home and cut some wood . &c;&c;&c; etc.	. There is a William Gay, born in about 1823, living at Star Furnace. He is a "founder". He would have worked at the Star Furnace and cast molten iron (a foundry occupation).
S a t 09 Feb 1861	Went to school to day. We had a spelling match this afternoon, and then we delivered some speeches. Went to Furnace in the evening. There was a spelling school to night but did not go. Bay went to Buffalo Yuma to day. George & Lisa came over	"Bay" is likely Bazel Thompson. JBN mentions him repeatedly.

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
S u n 10 Feb 1861	Went to sabbath school this morning. There were many present. Went down to Mr. Duncan's and eat dinner; then went to Furnace. We had a sing at three o'clock Went down to Furnace again, and then came home, fed the horse and then studied grammar, awhile. &c etc	Several "Mr. Duncan's" in the area.
M o n 11 Feb 1861	Went to school this morning. It rained to day several times through the day. Went down to the Furnace at noon, to get some some (sic) tobaco (sic). Commenced ciphering in Decimals Fractions to day. Pool (?) Donaldson came over to our house this evening. It is tolerable warm at present. "s'pect it'll rain fore mornin' "	
T u e 12 Feb 1861	Went to school this morning school had not taken up when I got there, although it was late when I started. Had a game of baste at dinner. Thomas Mitchel and wife are at our house. Mr. Thompson came over to our house this morning. James Thompson hauled a load of coal (to) the school House to day	
W e d 13 Feb 1861	Went to school to day. Went down to the Post Office to get the mail in the evening and had a game of ball. There was singing school to night.	The "game of ball" is very likely baseball or a baseball like game.
T h u 14 Feb 1861	Went to school this morning There is no school this afternoon on account of a wedding, which is to take place to day. Went to the Furnace to shoot and stayed there till night. It rained a hard shower just before dark. An (sic) McIntyre and James Marchs (sic) were married this evening.	George Wolfford: "An McIntyre and James <u>Marchs</u> " - Should be <u>Marks</u> . Brothers Nathaniel and James Marks wedding (records) bracketed George W Norris' in the Carter County records. Nathaniel Marks became a Rebel and was summarily hanged as a guerilla - late in the war - apparently wrongfully. "An Mcintire" is Sarah Ann McIntire born in about 1841.

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
F r i 15 Feb 1861	Went to School this morning George kept school to day. Mr. Egin's went to to (sic) Beuna Vistas (sic) with the wedding party. Mother went to Mr. Thompsons' to day. It rained to day, and snowed in alittle (sic) in the evening Brought my slate home a(nd) ciphered a little, in decimal Fractions	
S a t 16 Feb 1861	Went to the Furnace this morning and brought Mr Young hores (sic) over, and then went back to the election, of Militia officers, and then came up to the Furnace. Mr. Young preached to night It snowed about four inches deep to day.	
S u n 17 Feb 1861	Went to sabbath school this morning. Samuel Young preached at eleven o'clock and Mr. Tinsly preached at three. Samuel Young preached to night, and then came home with us. Mother went down to Belle(?) Halls'. It is very cold at present.	
M o n 18 Feb 1861	Went to school this morning, school had taken up when I got there. It was cold all day to day. Pap and Young went over to James Mcyntires' to day. They have not come back yet. There is singing school to night, for the new beginners.	
T u e 19 Feb 1861	Went to school this morning. It snowed till about eight o'clock and then quit. It commenced raining, about noon and rained till William went to East Fork to meeting. I was head of my class twice to day. It is raining now.	"East Fork" is likely an area near the East Fork of the Little Sandy River. This area could be around Cannonsburg, KY (northeast of Star Furnace) or more toward the "head" of East Fork by traveling much more south and a bit east of Star Furnace.
W e d 20 Feb 1861	Went to school to day. Went down to the Post Office in the evening to get the mail but it did not come There was singing school to night. Not many there The snow "went off" today. The wind is blowing at present, anyhow	

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
Th u 21 Feb 1861	Went to school to day. Pap started to Kounse's to day but did not go. The weather was fine ecept (sic) it was tolerable cold. I came home in the evening, and cut some wood, and eat my supper and then ciphered a little, and studied grammar	This is likely a "Mr Kouns" (see 22 Feb 1861 entry).
F r i 22 Feb 1861	Went to school this morning. Had a game of ball at noon. There was spelling school to night; great many there. Pap went to see Mr Kouns to-day. William has not come back from meeting yet	
S a t 23 Feb 1861	There was no school to-day I chopod (sic) some fire-wood this morning, and made some dust-hoe handles, and then went to the Furnace, and stayed till night. The Quarterly meeting commenced to day. There was meeting to night . Rev Kibbs preached. It rained to-day .	George Wolfford: "Rev Kibbs"... should be Rev Kibbe (now Kibbey) ... one of a pair of brothers, Frank and Will, who were beginning to preach the 'Campbellite or Christians Only religion in Carter (County). It was a new religion for the county. Will was my great-great grandfather... somehow I'd bet this was Frank, the more active of the two.
S u n 24 Feb 1861	Went to meeting this morning at nine oclock. There was preaching at eleven and also at three. Remained in the meeting till night when there was preaching. It was tolerable cold today. The moon is shining brightly at present.	
M o n 25 Feb 1861	Went to school to day; Egins did not get there untill (sic) after nine clock (sic); but the reason is best known to himself. There was singing school to night. As I was going over I met Sam Janes, but I did not know where he was. He went back with us, to sing. No more at present	
T u e 26 Feb 1861	Went to school to day. It had taken up when I arrived. I came home after school and chopped some wood and then went back to meeting Mr. Young preached. His subject was: Time is short . It was cloudy to day	

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
W e d 27 Feb 1861	Did not go to school to day, but chopped some raitlntimber. Went to meeting to night. Mr. Young had a temeperance (sic) and tobacco pledges, and got some signer(s) There were a great many at meeting.	"Mr. Young" is a local preacher that shows up in Star Furnace on occasion. Rails are used in fence construction.
T h u 28 Feb 1861	Chopped rail-timber this forenoon and in the afternoon I split rails. Split twenty five There is a man at our house to night by the name of Bill Mcarty, who was acquainted with Pap and mother twenty years ago. There was singing to (night?), but I did not go. Pap went to the Furnace to day and stayed till night	
F r i 01 Mar 1861	Made rails this forenoon In the afternoon I started to a party to James Greens' and stopped at the school house until school was out, and then Ray a(nd) Egin went out with me. Came home about eleven o'clock at night	James Green is another collier born in about 1833.
S a t 02 Mar 1861	Made rails to day, until about four o'clock when I went to the Furnace and had a game of ball. There was about twenty engaged in it. Came home a little after dark.	
S u n 03 Mar 1861	Went to sabbath school this morning. Went down to the Furnace before it had taken up. Came home and got my dinner and went back to the Furnace and stayed till night. I got wet coming home, as it rained. Ciphered some to night; until I came to a sum I could not work and then quit.	

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
M o n 04 Mar 1861	Commenced leveling today. We cleaned off two hearths and then came home. G(e)orge went to driving the two horse team today. William went to the Furnace to get a job of road making. This is the day on which Lincoln is to take his seat as President of U. S. A. Lincoln is a Republican	JBN's brother George has taken over the teamster job from his brother William. William has a new job making roads at the Furnace facility.
T u e 05 Mar 1861	Went to work this morning but it was so cold we did nothing but roll some logs of (sic) off a hearth and then came up home. Went to Uncle Jack's after dinner to grubbing. There were about twenty there He got a great deal of work done. Had an excellent supper	In local vernacular, grubbing is using a heavy hoe or other implement to cut small bushes, plants, and even small trees to clear and area for animal grazing or in preparation to farm. This grubbing effort seems to be a communal one with 20 participating. "Uncle Jack" is likely John Norris, born about 1815. John Norris is JBN's Father, Joseph Norris', brother.
W e d 06 Mar 1861	Went to work this morning. Pap went down a(nd) worked, awhile, and went to the Furnace and stayed all day. James Kilgore sent me a sum to work, to (day). I worked it out, and proved it. The wind blowed all day. Egins' school out to day	A prominent person in the community, James Kilgore, has challenged JBN to work a math problem (the sum).
T h u 07 Mar 1861	Went to work this morning. Pap worked till noon and then went to the Furnace with Simon to get some flour. William was at a frolic last night and never (returned) till this evening I ciphered some to night, in percentage.	Simon may be Simon Burnett a wood hauler born in about 1830. In the 1860 US Census the Burnett family is listed beside JBN's family, so he is likely their close neighbor.
F r i 08 Mar 1861	Went to work this morning William went to work with us. We finished one hearth and very near another. Pap went to mill to day, and did not come back till night. I read Lincoln's Inaugeral (sic) address to the people of the United States of A.	Abraham Lincoln gave his 1st inaugural address on 4th Mar 1881, just four days before. JBN's older brother William is helping to make charcoal. The "hearth" is a very level area that wood is stacked on to make charcoal. These hearths are constructed near the forests where the wood is chopped.

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
S a t 09 Mar 1861	We did not work in the coaling, as it rained last night, and made it too wet. I split some rails, and went to the Furnace. There was a muster at the Furnace. Sam Snead is captain It snowed some to day.	"Coaling" is the process of making charcoal. Samuel Snead is a day laborer and was born in about 1823.
S u n 10 Mar 1861	Did not go to sunday school this morning. There was a baptising on Cain Creek to day, but I did not go, but there was several went from our house Went to the Furnace after dinner, and stopped at the school house, where the Bible class had met. I came home at dark	Cain Creek is about 3 miles northwest of Star Furnace.
M o n 11 Mar 1861	Went to work this morning Cleaned off a hearth and very near finished it. Simon commenced hauling wood Went to singing shool (sic) to night Hall & Ames stopped as they came back. Bill Murry is at our house to night	William Murry is an iron ore digger and about 23 years old.
T u e 12 Mar 1861	Went to work this morning. We very near finished a hearth today. Jake. Belis and Jim Artis finished chopping wood and had it taken up. We brought some straw up with us. I ciphered some to night in interest. I believe it will rain to morrow, it may not.	George Wolfford: "Jim Artis" there are two of these, I believe. This one is likely the 17 year old son of Samuel Artis, 45, not the 26 year old son of Mary Artis, 44 (Again these folks are kin to me).
W e d 13 Mar 1861	Went to work this morning. Came home this evening at three o'clock on account of its raining. Pap went to Kilgore's today to attend law Came back at night and brought the mail with him William went to the Furnace to night previous to going after his cattle to morrow.	

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
Th u 14 Mar 1861	Did not work any to day Went to the Furnace after diner (sic), and stayed till night William went after his cattle to day. Pap went to the Furnace to day before daylight and came back at noon. Egins commenced teaching another school in (sic) Tuesday 12 of March 1861	
F r i 15 Mar 1861	Went to work this morning. We were all day cleaning off a hearth, there was so many logs on it, started home about an hour by sun and got home at sundown, and eat my supper, and then went (to) singing school, went down to store before singing	
S a t 16 Mar 1861	Went to work this morning. We very near cleaned off a hearth, and it commenced raining about ten o'clock. We came home and eat dinner, and then I went to the Furnace and played ball all the afternoon. I came home a little after dark	
S u n 17 Mar 1861	Went to Sabbath school this morning, and then went down to Mr. Duncan's, and painted a house after which I came to the school house, had a Bible Class, and then we sung awhile after which M (sic) Tinsly preached. Came home	

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
M o n 18 Mar 1861	Did not work in the coaling to day, as it was too cold. After dinner cut some rail- cuts. All of the cattle came off blame (sic) yesterday. William hauled one, also Sam. Jones from this franch (?). James Thompson's off-wheel steer kicked him over the road.	<p>This is likely "Blaine" as on 06 Feb 1861.</p> <p>"James Thompson" may be J W Thompson a surveyor born in about 1817.</p> <p>George Wolford: "off wheel steer" --> ? same as <u>Adam's off-Ox</u> ?</p> <p>I think George Wolford is speculating that this JBN's colloquialism is related to "Adam's off Ox". From thefreedictionary.com, the "off ox" is the one farthest away from the ox driver.</p>
T u e 19 Mar 1861	Went to work in the coaling to day; we very near finished a hearth. Went to the meeting-house to night, where the they (sic) organised (sic) a debating society, they adopted a constitution, and by- laws, elected president--pro tem, and then adjourned. Came home again.	
W e d 20 Mar 1861	Went to work this morning. Worked till noon when it commenced raining, and then it <u>snowed</u> . Went to the furnace and got the mail, and helped the boys fix a road from the meeting house. William went to tunnel	The only "tunnel" in the area in 1861 was the railroad tunnel at Princess, completed in about 1857, called the Eastham Tunnel. This is about 4.5 miles away. I am unsure if they were yet using the term "Princess" for that community in 1861. My best guess is that calling that area Princes came just a few years later.
T h u 21 Mar 1861	It snowed last night, and consequently we did not work in the coaling to day. Fixed logs for my desk, and in the evening, wensumped (?) a rail cut. Pap went to the Furnace and stayed all day William did not work. I ciphered a little to night.	

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
F r i 22 Mar 1861	Did not work in the coaling to day. I split a few rails before noon, and the after-noon pap and I fixed up some palens. Simon came up and got the iron made to split some rails. Wil. hauled a load of oat (oar?) this morning from Sam. Shirff (?). He goes after corn to morrow.	George Wolfford: " <u>palens</u> " - palings, for a fence The "iron" was likely a wedge shaped tool to help split the logs into long thin rails. William, the teamster, likely has a load of oak, a load of oats, or possible even a load of coal. But since he cites corn in the very next line "oat" might be the best bet. Sam Shiff is likely Samuel Shuff a wood hauler born in 1841. In the 1860 US Census Sam is living with the next family listed beside JBN's family. So Sam is very likely JBN's close neighbor.
S a t 23 Mar 1861	We fixed the garden fence to day. Finished at three o'clock. Went to Furnace. Mr. Lanpton rece'd some papers, announcing the fact that "Fort Sumter" is to be evacuated to day. Mr. Young preached to night--William hauled corn from Mcbriers'. Singing last night.	This is Robert W Lampton born in about 1820 and the owner of the Star Furnace and 9000 acres of adjacent land. He is a very important person in the community. More news about the beginning of the Civil War.
S u n 24 Mar 1861	Went to sabbath school this morning. Mr. Young preached the funerel (sic) of Uncle Jack's deceased son Joseph, who (died?) sometime since. Sam Shuff (?) came home with us and took dinner. Went back again. Young preached to night on " <u>Everlasting Punishment</u> "	The deceased is likely, Joseph S Norris. This is JBN's 1st cousin. The deceased was born in about 1857 so he is only about 4 years old.
M o n 25 Mar 1861	Went to work in the coaling this morning. Sam. Shuff went to work. We finished two hearth and commenced another one. Went to meeting to night Mr. Young preached. He called up mourners and got one. Patrick Dilan's wife died	"Work in the coaling" is making charcoal to be used in the Star Furnace. "Patrick Dilan" is likely Patrick Dilllen an iron ore digger born about 1830. His wife was Bridget Dillan, born about 1825. Both Patrick and Bridget are Irish immigrants.

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
T u e 26 Mar 1861	Worked in the coaling to day. Finished one hearth a(nd) cleaned off another. Went to meeting to night. Mr. Young did not get any mourners. William hauled a load of corn. It is raining now.	Again JBN "worked in the coaling". He is making charcoal from the local timber to be used to make iron at in the Star Furnace. The winter break from making charcoal seems to be over. Charcoal is typically not made in the coldest months.
W e d 27 Mar 1861	Went to the coaling to work. We are working on the last hearth in the hollow, and it is so rocky we can with diculty (sic) dig. Pap went to the Furnace this evening and got the mail. There is meeting to night but I did (not) go. They have not come back yet.	The hearth has to be perfectly level to make good charcoal. So if rock is in the way it must be removed and the hole filled, or the rock cut flat with the earth. If there were a lot of rocks it would make hearth construction difficult.
T h u 28 Mar 1861	Worked in the coaling to day. We did not finish a hearth today. Pap went to the Furnace. Went to meeting to night. The meeting broke up. William went to Tunnl (sic) I am twenty years old to day. One more year.	JBN's birthday, 28 March, 1841.
F r i 29 Mar 1861	Worked in coaling to day. We finished a hearth at which we had been working three days. Brought our tools down in the bottem (sic). William went to Tunnel. He went over to the debate tonight -	
S a t 30 Mar 1861	Did not work in the coaling to day as it was too wet. Sam and I made rails till noon when he went to Cannonsburg, and I made fence. Went to the store this evening. We sung awhile in the office and then came home	Being a collier (making charcoal, or "working in the coaling") is about to become the daily routine for JBN. Sam is likely Sam Shuff mentioned several times before. Cannonsburg is northeast of Star Furnace and about 7 miles away.

Date	Transcribed by Kaye Koontz Jones	Annotations by Lon Coleman (except were specifically noted)
S u n 31 Mar 1861	Went to Sunday School this morning. Came home and got dinner. Jes. and Jane Shay, came over. Went back to the Furnace and intended to sing but did not. Caught it, Johnsen's squirrel, came home again.	. The two local Jesse Shay's were mentioned on 06 Jan 1861.