

## Girl of the Civil War Diary Entry

Diary excerpt by Martha Josephine Buck Harwood

Information about the Diary

### A GIRL OF THE CIVIL WAR by Martha Josephine Buck Harwood

This diary was written by Martha Josephine Buck, who lived on a farm in Algonquin Township near Crystal Lake. The Buck family moved from Elmira, Chemung County, New York to Crystal Lake in 1944. Martha provides us with a genealogical record of the Buck family, as well as a description of her life in Crystal Lake between 1844 and 1863.

The Buck family were members of the First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake. In November 1863, Martha marries the church minister, Rev. James Harwood. Beginning with January 8, 1863, Martha begins to keep a detailed diary which provides us with an engrossing and lovely story of life in Crystal Lake over a century ago.

Her diary entry of February 5th 1863 provides some insight into the circumstances of the burial of Orlando Wells Nash, a Civil War soldier, who was killed at the Battle of Stones River at Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Entry dated February 5th, 1863

Thursday, February 5th 1863. It has been snowing nearly all day, -- and I think if we make a great deal of haste about [sic] it, we can manage to get a sleighride yet this winter. It can't be possible for it to last a great while. This has been a pretty busy week so far. I feel in my bones that it has. Tuesday the funeral of Orlando Nash took place. The corpse arrived the day before. It had been buried about 3 weeks when Mr. Brink got there. He gave \$90 for a metallic coffin and had the body taken up and brought home. It looked quite natural even after so long a time so those say who saw it. The coffin was not opened at the Church. There was a great crowd there. Mr. Harwood delivered an excellent discourse on the occasion.