

Below are passages from the diary of James Henry Hammond, the first man to live at Redcliffe. Notice the subjects he writes about in his own personal journal.

[Columbia] 14 Feb. [1841] Sunday

This has been the most fitful day as regards the weather I ever knew. We found an inch [of] snow on the ground this morning when we awoke, and it has been an alternation of bright sunshine and the most fierce snow storms all day long...

[Columbia] 15 Feb. [1841]

I started my boys to school to-day. The three eldest to Mr. W.A. Irving and Willie to Miss Jane Bryce. Harry went with delight, Spann seemed willing, but Kit and Willie were opposed. Poor fellows, my heart ached for all of them...My poor dear boys, may a better fate await you. I shall be careful not to make you too ambitious or too anxious, but to enjoy the present moment as far as reason and prudence will allow. You have good tempers and pure hearts, and I trust a father's precepts and a mother's example will preserve both to you. May God be with you through your education and your life and grant you a safe deliverance through both.

[Redcliffe] 6th June [1857]

A capricious turn of affairs as regards myself has occurred which may be worth a brief record or sign. In Feb. Preston Brooks, the representative of this Congressional District, into which I came two years ago on purchasing this place [Redcliffe], died. Some dozen candidates were very soon announced—among them myself—to fill the vacancy...Soon letters came pouring in upon me from all quarters, and all the prominent candidates offered to withdraw if I would run...