

THE BRECKENRIDGE NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1920

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS? YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS.

The following editorial was written by the late Francis Church and published the first time in the New York Sun, Sept. 21, 1897. And since then it has been reproduced in the same paper besides weekly newspapers and magazines all over the country. Thus it bears the distinction of having had more publicity than any other editorial ever known to have been written. Once before "Is There a Santa Claus?" appeared in The Breckenridge News and because of the beautiful sentiment and the happy teachings portrayed by this talented writer, we believe our readers will enjoy it again at this Christmas season.

From THE SUN of September 21, 1897.

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun.

Dear Editor: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in The Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth: is there a Santa Claus?
115 West Ninety-fifth street.
Virginia O'Hanlon.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exists, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

It cost the government \$23,675,000 to take the 1920 census, which was on an average of about a dollar a family. Perhaps there were families where members would have cheerfully given Uncle Sam a dollar rather than tell how many birthdays they have had.

It's a great thing to live so that you are at "peace" and have "goodwill toward" your fellowmen. One cannot fully enjoy Christmas or any other time without such peace.

If you want to get the Christmas spirit, read the Santa Claus letters in this issue.

Remember there will always be some who are less fortunate than you at this festive time of the year. Keep their hearts cheered too in some small way.

A merry Christmas to you all.

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

clock hour Sunday morning in the Baptist church.

Rev. E. C. Nall will deliver his Christmas message at the eleven o'clock hour Sunday morning at the Methodist church, the presiding elder, Rev. L. K. May, of Owensboro, will deliver the

ANOTHER CHANCE!

The sales at Mrs. E. O. Hills' having been satisfactory they will be continued through the Holidays.

All Goods Will Be Further Reduced

As a Sample Look At This!

All Children's, Misses' and Ladies' Hats.

50c to \$2.50

Get a Hat While You Have a Chance! You Will Find Many Nice Things For Xmas Gifts.

J. R. ESKRIDGE, Assignee

Christmas message, and there will also be special Christmas music at this service.

The Baptist and Presbyterian churches will give a special Christmas collection for the starving European children in place of having the usual Christmas treat for members of the Sunday-schools as has been the usual custom.

The Methodist Sunday-school will have a Christmas social on Thursday evening in the Sunday-school room of the church. A Christmas program of music will be given, and there will be a tree. Misses Selma Sippel and Rosa Driskell are in charge of the social, and members of the church are extended an invitation.

LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS

Continued From Page 3

Don't Forget Sisters and Budie.

Cloverport, Ky. Dear Santa Claus: I am a little girl seven years old. I go to Persimmon Flat school. I am in the first grade. I am learning fast. My teacher's name is Miss Elsie May. I like my teacher. I wish you would bring me a pair of over shoes and some candy. Eaja May Hawkins.
P. S. Don't forget my little sisters and Budie.

some oranges, bananas and all kinds of nuts. I will go to bed early and shut my eyes tight. Everette Lewis Maysey.

Sorry School Will Be Out.

Dear Santa: I am a little girl eleven years old. I will tell you what I want you to bring me. I want a new dress and a nice hair ribbon, oranges, candy and nuts. My school will be out next week. I will be sorry if I lose my teacher and playmates. Santa don't forget my little cousins in Illinois. Louise N. Maysey.

Uncle Ben Hardin Remembered

Lodiburg, Ky. Dear Santa Claus: I am a little girl thirteen years of age. I live on a farm near Lodiburg, and go to school at Walnut Grove school house. I am in the sixth grade. I have tried to be a real good little girl since last Xmas, and am sure you will bring me something nice this time. I want you to bring me a story book, a box of handkerchiefs, a new dress, a box of stationery, a doll and all kinds of fruits and nuts. Dear old Santa please remember uncle Ben Hardin and bring him something nice. I will close for this time. Your little girl, Lorena Tindall.

Wants Pet Rabbit

Cloverport, Ky. Dear Santa Claus: I want you to bring me some candy, roman candles, fire crackers and a toy pistol for Xmas. I am ten years old and live in the country, three miles from Cloverport. And I want some pet rabbits for Xmas too. I will close. From John Greenwood.

Will Hang Up Her Stocking

Dear Santa: I am a little girl six years old I have just got well, been in bed three weeks and I am glad Christmas will soon be here. I would like for you to bring me a little doll, a new dress, a sweater, and pair of gloves and please don't forget my little brother Charlie, bring him something nice. I will go to bed early and hang my stocking where you can find them. Your little girl, Ethel V. Maysey.

Has Blue Eyes.

Dear old Santa Claus: I am a little boy eight years old, dark hair and blue eyes. I will tell you what I want you to bring me. I want a box of B B shot, a watch and a pair of gloves. Hardin.

Won't Get Up Until Eight.

Cloverport, Ky. Dear Santa Claus: I am a boy twelve years old. I want you to bring me some candy, oranges, fire crackers, roman candles and a toy pistol for Xmas. I live six miles from Cloverport. I get my mail at Cloverport. I want some pet rabbits and some cracker jacks for Xmas. I will be a good boy. I will go to sleep early and get up at eight o'clock that morning. From Lewis Hawkins.

Is In The Fourth Grade.

Dear Santa: I am a little girl eight years old. I go to school about four miles from Cloverport. I am in the fourth grade. Please bring me a doll, doll buggy, dishes and a cap and oranges, nuts, bananas, apples and all kinds of candies. Be sure and don't forget my little sister. She wants a doll and candy. Don't forget to visit my little cousin, Elizabeth Dowell. I will go to bed early Xmas night. Your little girl, Agnetta White.

Wants Lots to Eat.

My dear Santa Claus: Please bring me a doll, a ball, a book and a game and lots of good things to eat. Sincerely, Annie Clifton Keil.

Wants Game of "Oh! Min"

My dear Santa Claus: Please bring me a doll, doll buggy, a game of Oh! Min, a book, a ball and plenty of candy; also a piano. Many thanks, Jane Hayward Keil.

Has Been Good Since Last Xmas.

Lodiburg, Ky. Dear Santa Claus: I am a little girl nine years old. I go to school every day. I am in the sixth grade. I have tried to be a good little girl since last Xmas and I think you will bring me what I want for this Xmas. I want a kodak, a doll, and doll bed, game of rook, paint book and paints and anything else you want to bring me. Now Santa be sure and don't forget the rest of the little girls and boys and uncle Ben and aunt Laura Hardin. I will close for this time. Thanking you very much. Your little girl, Mary Ellis.

Has Two Little Brothers.

Stephensport, Ky. Dear Santa Claus: I am a little boy eight years old, have two little brothers. I want you to come to see us. I want you to bring us some oranges and candy and some nuts. Bring me a nice story book. Bring Harry a pair of shoes, and I want you to bring Paul a toy

gun. We will go to bed early and be good boys. Don't forget to come. I am your little boy, Franklin Brumfield.

Remembers Whole Family

Dear Santa: I am a little girl nine years old and I go to school. I am in the second grade and am very good for I want you to come and bring me some real good books to read after school hours. Dear Santa I have lots of cousins, remember them all with nice things. I have one brother, he is three years old. Bring him a real puddle dog. He is just crazy for one. Please remember daddy and mother. Visit my dear grandie Day and bring her lots of all kinds of goodies and dear good Santa please don't forget my dear grandie Sook Frank. She is 86 years old and she likes candy, cheese and crackers. So for goodness sake don't forget her. Yes Santa you must come to see uncle George. He is a cripple and can't get around good so don't forget to come. I am a little Tennessee girl and I love old Santa, Mary Alice Frank, McConnell, Tenn., Route 1 Box 64.

Some Things She Doesn't Want

Hardinsburg, Ky. Dear old Santa Claus: I am a big little girl, three years old. Please don't forget me. I want you to bring me a little wagon that I can bring in wood for my mother in and fill the wagon with all kinds of good things to eat, oranges, bananas, apples, candy of all kinds, and nuts. Please don't forget my little tiny sister, Isabelle Marie, as this is her first Christmas. Also don't forget my grandfather and grandmother Beatty and grandmother Mattingly, at Barbarton, Ohio. Dear Santa you need not bring me any little rocking chair, cradle or dolls, blocks or slate, for you have been so good to me before. Well I must close my letter and study hard I will know my A B C's when you get here. I will go to bed early and shut my eyes tight. Mildred Elizabeth Mattingly.

Likes His Teacher.

Dear Santa Claus: I am a little boy eight years old and I go to school every day and like my teacher fine. Now Santa please bring me some oranges and candies, fire crackers, apples and please don't forget to bring me a painting box if you have them. I will hang my stocking up and go to bed early. So good by from your little boy, Alfred H. Frank, Garfield, Ky.

3 Year Old Doesn't Want Much

Sturgis, Ky. Dear Santa Claus: As I am a little girl of three years. I do not want much. I want a kittle-car, chair, doll, and other toys and fruit and candy. My name is Frances L. Hall, 715 Monroe St., Sturgis, Ky.

Wants Story Book

Dear Santa Claus: I am a little girl of ten years. I do not want much. I want some story books and hair ribbons, some handkerchiefs. This is all I want. My name is Ruth Hall, Sturgis, Ky.

Wagon To Haul Wood.

McQuady, Ky. Dear Santa: I am a little boy five years old. I want a wagon to haul in wood for daddy and a gun, roman candles, a set of tools and fruit and candy. Send my little sister, Hazel, a doll and a set of dishes and don't forget my baby sister, Mildred, she is three months old and won't want much. I am a good little boy and will go to bed early and sleep

sound. G. W. Shrewsberry.

Bring Her a Locket

Hardinsburg, Ky. Dear old Santa: I will write and tell you what I want for Xmas. I would like to have a locket, pretty doll, candy, oranges and all nice things to eat and please don't forget my little brother Paul. He wants some nice things too. I am a little girl four years old and please don't forget my mama and papa. So be sure and come. I will go to bed early. So good bye. Stella Brickey.

Wants Climbing Monkey.

Hardinsburg, Ky. Dear old Santa: I am a little boy seven years old. I thought I would write and tell you what I want for Xmas. I want a train, climbing monkey, roman candles and all nice things to eat. I go to school every day my teacher is Mrs. Mamie Fate. I like her so well, she is so good to us. So don't forget to come. I live on Route 3. Your little boy, Carl Brickey.

Would Like Set of Nice Dishes

Dearest Santa: I am a little girl nine years old, go to school every day and I like my teacher fine. She is Miss Rose Roland, don't forget her.

Bring her lots of nice things. I will now tell you what I want I would like a set of nice dishes, stove and vessels, new dress and hoes doll buggy and all kinds candy, and nuts. Don't forget my big brother at Stusgis and my sister at West Point and my little brother. I remain as ever your little curly headed girl. Anna C. Hall, Hardinsburg, Ky.

Wants a Big Doll.

McDaniels, Ky. Dear Santa Claus: I am one of your little girls, three years old. Have big black eyes and light hair. Want a big doll and bed, rocking chair and lots of goodies to eat. Think of father, mother, brother, John Henry and little sisters, Mollie, Belle and Bonnie Willis. Will hang my stocking up early and go to bed and close my eyes tight. Merry Xmas to all. Your little girl, Ruby Guy Hart.

Spelling Book For This One.

Hardinsburg, Ky. Dear old Santa: I will write and tell you what I want you to bring me for Xmas. Some apples, oranges, bananas, coconuts, candy, nuts and some raisins, also a spelling book and anything you think

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CASH

When you have it in Our Bank you will feel secure - because you will know it will come in handy some day

"Cash is King!"
We all know the POWER of money. Then strive to HAVE money. The way to have money is to BANK it. Come in NOW with that money you have in your pocket and open a bank account. If you have money HIDDEN in your house or in a hole in the ground, remember that BURGLARS and THIEVES have a way of finding it out and they are dangerous men. We invite YOUR Banking Business.

FARMERS BANK & TRUST CO
HARDINSBURG, KY.

Whitman's Christmas Messenger

Santa Claus always carries candy—for 78 years he has carried Whitman's—this year more than ever. Make up your list of Christmas candy now and trust us to deliver the best candies in most attractive packages. This year put on your list for finest candies a few people who will appreciate them but who seldom are able to get them.

Carter's Confectionery