

**THE JOURNAL OF EDMUND THOMAS PATERSON, 1872-1873,
UPPER DURHAM, DRUMMOND COUNTY, QUIBEC**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Preface**
- II. Introduction**
- III. The Family of Edmund Thomas Paterson**
- IV. The Daily Journal of Edmund Thomas Paterson, 1872-1873**
- V. Annex A: Willoughby Village**
- VI. Annex B: *Statement of Affairs between Municipalities Durham & South Durham Acc/ 1872***
- VII. Annex C: The song mentioned in the author's journal entry of July 7th 1872**
- VIII. Addendum: Extract of letter written by Edmund Thomas Paterson on 10 September 1883 to his son, James Marcus Paterson**
- IX Selected Bibliography**

PREFACE

I am indebted to Margaret Grace (HUSK) Converse, of Brantford, Ontario, for granting me permission to transcribe, edit and release for publication the 1872-1873 Journal of Edmund Thomas Paterson that has been in her possession for many years.

This historic document, existing in the form of a small, leather-bound book of lined pages, is believed to be one of a series of journals kept by Edmund Thomas Paterson to record daily events, experiences and accomplishments that, in his opinion, were “worthy of note”. If other volumes of this series still exist, it is likely they are in the possession of some descendant of the author who now would reside in the United States of America.

Throughout this document I have remained faithful to the original, hand-written text by reproducing the author’s unusual spelling and capitalization of words and by adding punctuation marks only in a few places where the lack of such made the message unclear. In doing so, I was mindful that some of the daily entries of the author may have been made with a dull quill pen, possibly, by candle light, after a long day of travel or strenuous work in the stable, field or garden.

In submitting this document for publication, I am mindful that the author presumably kept his journal for personal and private use. I doubt he envisioned a day in the future when his comments and observations, especially those that appear to be uncharitable and biased, would be read by strangers whose experiences, perceptions and values differed greatly from those of the Victorian era. Additionally, I sense that he had no idea of how much his comments and observations might help these same strangers to catch a glimpse of their ancestors and to understand what daily life had been like in the rural Quebec of the 1870s.

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INTRODUCTION

Edmund Thomas Paterson, his wife, Sarah, and their young daughter, *Eliza Jane*, emigrated from Ireland to Lower Canada in 1840. They settled in Durham Township, a rural community in Drummond County, on a fifty-acre farm that was located in Range 6, Lot 2. There they raised a family of eight children, including the four who still lived at home in 1872 when the daily entries recorded in this particular journal begin.

The initial dream of Edmund Thomas Paterson had been to become a medical doctor, but medical training in Liverpool, England, ended for him when Fitzmaurice, his brother and financial backer, died unexpectedly in Grenada. This setback led to the return of Edmund Thomas Paterson to Dublin, Ireland. At some point prior to the year 1840, he entered Trinity College and earned a master's degree in the field of education.

Farming seems to have been more of a necessity than a vocational preference of Edmund Thomas Paterson. For his journey entries reveal no excessive love or knowledge of farming and indicate that he had subsidized his farming income by serving the people of his community, first, as a schoolmaster and, later, as Secretary-Treasurer of both the township and school council of Durham.

In his capacity as public servant, Edmund Thomas Paterson, was actively involved in administrative detail pertaining to the affairs of Durham Township. He participated in the oversight of elections, the evaluation of properties, the collection of taxes, the upkeep of roads and bridges, the solicitation of public tenders, the payment of salaries to school teachers and the provision of support to the impoverished of the community.

Edmund Thomas Paterson may have consulted the entries in his daily journal every time he completed an official report. For the journal contains names of the people whom he had served, the date of occurrence of specific transactions, and the nature of the official work he had done for or with the residents of Durham Township.

It seems reasonable to assume that Edmund Thomas Paterson might have expressed himself much differently, had he known that his private journal in the future might be deemed a valued historical document. Yet that is what it has become – offering insight to readers of this day into daily life as it was perceived and experienced by one person who lived in Durham Township in the 1870s, and knew it well.

Family of Edmund Thomas PATERSON

- 1 Edmund Thomas PATERSON
b: 13 February 1814, Ransford Street, Dublin, Ireland
d: 19 May 1886 in Kirkdale, Quebec, Canada (in his home)
Buried: Holy Trinity Anglican Church Cemetery, Kirkdale, Quðbec, Canada
Father: James Marcus PATERSON, born County Donegal, Ireland, died Montrðal, Quðbec
Mother: Anne "Annie" COCHRANE, born Ireland, died c.1823
Sibling: Fitzmaurice PATERSON, died in Grenada
Wife of Edmund Thomas PATERSON: Sarah PATTERSON
b: 3 November 1817 in Carnakahora, County Donegal, Ireland
d: 25 March 1904 in Melbourne, Quðbec, Canada
m: 1837 in Ireland
Father: James PATTERSON
Mother: Elizabeth UNKNOWN
- 2 Elizabeth Jane "Eliza Jane" PATERSON
b: 18 July 1838 in Ireland
d: in Canada
+John GREEN
b: 1829
d: in Canada
- 2 Mary Anne PATERSON
b: 7 January 1841 in Durham, Quðbec, Canada
d: 1901 in Melbourne, Quðbec, Canada
+Leonard BLAKE
b: 28 January 1837 in Quðbec, Canada
d: 1921 in Canada
Father: Gibson BLAKE
Mother: Mary UNKNOWN
- 2 Emily PATERSON
b: 14 January 1843 in Durham, Quðbec, Canada
d: September 1889 in Quðbec, Canada
+Joseph MILLINGTON
b: in England
d: in Quðbec, Canada
m: 15 June 1865 in (Anglican) Melbourne, Quðbec, Canada
- 2 Mary (Celina) PATERSON
b: 27 January 1845 in Durham, Quðbec, Canada
d: in Quðbec, Canada
+John Joseph BUSHELL
b: 20 May 1844 in England
d: in Canada
m: 31 May 1872 in St. Joseph's, Missiouri, USA
Father: Joseph BUSHELL
- 2 Rachel PATERSON
b: 15 November 1847 in Durham, Quðbec, Canada
d: 9 March 1931 in Springfield, Massachusetts, at home of her son, Edmund McManus
+Samuel Frederic MC MANUS
b: 1831 in Ireland?

d: 1891 in Québec, Canada
m: 1865 in Quebec, Canada
Father: Thomas MC MANUS
Mother: Dorothy HASELIP

*2nd Husband of [1] Rachel PATERSON:
+George DUNTON
b: 18 August 1827 in England
d: 13 October 1901 in Richmond, Quebec, Canada
m: 1892

- 2 James Marcus PATERSON
b: 7 June 1850 in Durham, Quebec, Canada
d: November 1924 in USA
+Marion Wilson WALES
b: 22 April 1851 in Canada
d: in USA
m: 25 March 1874 (Wesleyan Methodist) Melbourne, Quebec, Canada
Father: Horace Pettis WALES
Mother: Mary Ann WILSON / SMITH
- 2 Edmund Fitzmaurice "Eddy" PATERSON
b: 7 June 1850 in Durham, Quebec, Canada
d: in USA
+Adeline "Addie" SMITH
- 2 Sarah (Lucy) PATERSON
b: 7 February 1853 in Durham, Quebec, Canada
d: 1886 in Quebec, Canada
+William Holbrooke "Billy" RANDLETT
b: 3 December 1851 in Quebec, Canada
d: 1928 in Quebec, Canada
m: c1880
Father: Erastus RANDLETT
Mother: Mary Ann LYSTER

THE JOURNAL OF EDMUND THOMAS PATERSON, 1872-1873

UPPER DURHAM, DRUMMOND COUNTY, QUIBEC

January 1st, 1872

I mean to Keep my Diary this year independent of *Miller's Almanack* - by the by, I think I put a K too many in that last word - Well; the year opens with a very mild morning - dark heavy Rainy clouds hang lazily above with a bright streak in the northern horizon Just enough to indicate that we will have it a little sharper by and by. Lucy¹, Eddy,² Billy Tom³ and Silvy Taylor⁴ are on the qui vive⁵ for a party to New London. Lucy doesn't want to ride with Burrill and Eddy will carry Sylvy. Mrs P⁶ thinks it will hurt Cumming's feelings if he should, as Florence C⁷ casts a sly eye upon him, as well as Sylvy T_. But Eddy's obstinate and poor Lu must take her chances with Billy.

I sowed carnations and asters in the cellar. James⁸ is working at his Barn. It brightened up nicely about noon and got cooler. Bill and Lucy off in Sam's sleigh. Mrs Tommy and spouse⁹ away to Aaron Ramseys while Mary Burrill¹⁰ is off on the Ridge,¹¹ so Tommy's poor cattle have to begin the new year with a very long fast & it is to be hoped that it may tend to promote their future well being. Eddy of course carries Sylvy. Celina starts off to Kingsey to Commence her old trade once more and things begin to look desolate.¹² Mrs Holbrook and her daughter Mary are still very poorly the former with an ulcer on her thigh the latter with Erysipelas.¹³ I paid Bill Hall \$2.00 for the use of his Bull last year, and the year before, today - I had to Carry Celina over to Trenholmvile¹⁴ to meet Millington's team in Tommy Burrill's old dung boat of a sleigh with two patches of Buffalo skin hardly big enough for a poultice, and the equipage itself looking like Noah's first attempt at making an ark. But the team was gone and I was obliged to go on with Celina meeting every few rods gay turn outs and pleasure parties who all wondered and snickered at our gorgeous outfit - found Millington¹⁵ bad with the shits - I got a glass of Brandy and got home before Eddy & Billy Tom pretty cold - Lucy stopped in the village¹⁶ with silver tail¹⁷ in order to be ready and proceed thence to the Princess Wales¹⁸ party tomorrow at M^cGill's. Eddy got a tooth pulled and had a piece of Jaw bone taken with it¹⁹ - I think that's all I have to say for New Year's day.

¹ Lucy [Sarah Lucy Paterson], age, 19, was the youngest child of the author.

² Eddy [Edmund Fitzmaurice Paterson], age 21, was a son of the author.

³ Billy Tom {William Reed Burrill}, age 21, was the elder son of the author's neighbour, Thomas Burrill, and the late Lucinda [nee Reed] Burrill.

⁴ Sylvia Taylor was the daughter of T. M. Taylor of Melbourne Village.

⁵ The young people were "on the alert" or "on the lookout" for a party.

⁶ Mrs P was Sarah Paterson, wife of author.

⁷ Florence Cummings

⁸ James Marcus Paterson was the twin brother of Eddy and the son of Mrs P and the author.

⁹ Eliza (nee Adair) and Thomas Burrill

¹⁰ Mary Burrill, age 23, Webber, age 24, and "Billy Tom", age 27, were children of Thomas, age 63, and the late Lucinda [nee Reed] Burrill.

¹¹ Melbourne Ridge

¹² Celina [Mary Celina Paterson], 26 or 27 years old, was a sister of Eddy, Lucy and James and a daughter of Mrs P and the author. Her "old trade" was school teaching.

¹³ The author was able to use medical terms with ease because of his former medical training as an apprentice to a "first class" medical practitioner in Liverpool, England.

¹⁴ On their way to Kingsey, Celina and her father may have crossed over to Trenholmvile on the frozen surface of the St. Francis River.

¹⁵ Joseph Millington was the husband of Emily Paterson, age 28, the third daughter of Mrs P and the author. They resided in Kingsey.

¹⁶ Melbourne Village

¹⁷ This was a playful reference to Sylvia Taylor.

¹⁸ This was a playful reference Marian Wales, an employee in the home of Quintin McGill. Marian Wales was the girlfriend and, later, the wife of James Paterson.

¹⁹ In 1870, there were only thirty-seven qualified dentists registered in the province of Quebec. Teeth were pulled with pliers or tooth drawers and dentists and doctors were not alone in extracting them. Many a farmer built up a local reputation as a tooth puller. Dentists in urban centres made routine scheduled visits to surrounding communities where

Tuesday, January 2nd,

Fine bright winter's morning - Mrs P. is turning out the burned side of her skin showing what she can do when left alone - washing, cooking, milking, house work, boiling pig's swill & feeding piggy, but its no use, for as long as she undertakes to do more than she is able she will be let do it. She made us some nice yorkshire dumplings for dinner today - Eddy helped James in the barn in the forenoon, but went to bed in the afternoon complaining of being sick - Sam²⁰ stopped awhile on his way to Bill Boasts to buy a horse and helped him, - I, in addition to my chores made out annual census and semiannual report to Superintendent of Schools²¹ - beautiful day all day - Mrs P. and I had a little breeze²² when quietly "enter nos" discussing domestic matters when left alone by the youths at M^cGills'. She always has the best side of the argument when she gets my dander raised and right well she Knows it - that's all

Wednesday, January 3^d,

The morning opens mild with dull dark leaden clouds - Lucy entertained us this morning at breakfast with some little souvenirs of the trip to New London on Monday last, particularly with Billy Tom's twinges of conscience about leaving his cattle fasting, as he could not help from time to time informing the company "that his poor old cow's bellies are pretty gaunt by this time" - Boys at the stable in the forenoon - getting colder as the day advances - Mrs P. is determined to shew how she can get along without anybody, she sent Lucy to help Rachel, she is ironing clothes, she baked yesterday in addition to all other things, so that she has completely performed the whole work of the entire female department for two days without any assistance but her own indomitable pluck. James went to the village at night, and bought 3 pairs of hinges and nails for the Barn. I think that's the sum toto of this day's proceedings.

Thursday, January the 4th, 1872

This day opens mild, some snow last night, and threatning more about 9 a.m. We had a nice little family quartette at Breakfast. The two boys, Mrs P. and I. James mentioned that Boisvert the Tavern Keeper had sold out. I expressed my regrets as in that case I would lose my flowins, Mrs P. opened fire by remarking "that them would be the dear bought flowins" I replied that they had cost me little as yet as I never drank in his tavern but four or five times since he commenced. She disputed the assertion, I responded by saying there would be no remark if I did all the drinking business at home. She said I was as mean as a dog just like my old father²³, and so the day commenced. Noon and nothing particular to note. The boys still working at the stable, we had a nice hash with onions for dinner - Lucy came home from Sam's where she has been all day "fixing up" - for Rachel's party this evening - she is now busy "fixing up" at home expecting somebody to stay here all night, she is the deuce for "fixing up" - she says Sam was as tight as a boot all day yesterday - Rachel's Party was anything but a sucess. Mesdemoiselles Wales, Goodfellow, Taylor & Ewing²⁴ arrived so late that Rachel despaired of their coming, and she had arrayed herself in working Costume, and when James went over with the ladies she was rigged in Sam's old coat and boots preparing to milk, the only gentlemen in attendance were our two boys who when endeavouring to divide their attentions among all the young ladies with as much impartiality as possible, only gave umbrage to the fair damsels not at the moment the objects upon whom they were bestowed, so that the whole affair was for want of more trousers like a pudding without salt. To finish up the disappointment, when the boys and girls had planned a sleigh ride in order to accompany Miss Taylor home, they found M^cGill at the watering trough prepared to intercept them, alas for human hopes of happiness. The night finished up with rain - snow and frost.

they might have assistants [qualifications unknown] who extracted teeth.

²⁰ Sam McManus, age 42, was the husband of Rachel Paterson, age 24, the fifth daughter of Mrs P and the author.

²¹ The author did so because he was Secretary-Treasurer to the School Council of Durham.

²² In this diary, to have "a breeze" means to have an argument.

²³ The author's parents were James Marcus Paterson and Anne (nee Cochrane) Paterson. Anne died in Ireland when the author was about nine years old. It is thought that his father, who had remarried, came to Canada around 1847 and settled in Montreal where he later died.

²⁴ Minnie Ewing

Friday January the 5th,

The morning opens mild with a dull grey leaden aspect. Eddy writing a letter to somebody, afterwards helping James at the stable. Rachel came over with the young ones.²⁵ I forgot to mention yesterday that the young ladies and Eddy were terribly ashamed at our horse Jack coming home, as he took a violent fit of something like coughing, only the noise did not proceed from his mouth, which he kept up all the way from Sam's house, and which was so loud in its reports, that it baffled Eddy's noisiest efforts at laughing and talking to drown it. Mrs P. says she has been doing all the work usually performed by the whole lady members of our establishment for the last 3 days and that she had not half work enough - It looks pretty lonesome wanting Celina however. I went down to Durham²⁶ to see about the election all my notices whereof are torn down - Mr Reed and I went out to see Mr Atkinson who was very poorly with another pull down - he consented to stand - no appearance of electioneering - still I believe all things are only keeping quiet for a reason, and more than one plot is preparing for Monday - I bought between four and five dollars worth of trimmings for the boys clothes together with nails, latches staples and rings for stable, when I came home Henry & Zelinda Cross were there, they staid till late at night - that's all Tom Martin here to pay his taxes with Bill Cross - his wife is dying.

Saturday January 6th, 1872

The Morning opens with a heavy snow storm and stiff breeze from the west - Boys making stable doors. Holbrook Randlett here for his Barrel which James borrowed and never took home - Mrs Randlett and Mary he says is some better. Richard Picken was here in the afternoon Paid his, and blinking John Armstrong's, taxes He had a little bottle of Aqua Vita with him. I lent him *Nicholas Nicholby*, *Pickwick Papers*,²⁷ *Life of Queen Elizabeth* and a volume of *Statutes of the Province of Quebec for 1871*. I borrowed his watch till after the election - The boys made one door for the new stable and hung it and put the horses in for the first time and then both went to village after night - 10 O clock P.M. very cold.

Sunday January 7th, 1872

Morning opens desperately cold & bright - Mrs P. & Boys to meeting and I sit trembling thinking of removing two days frozen dung from the stables and windows and shovelling out snow and Cutting out ice for the cattle to drink, as they were not watered, nor stables cleaned yesterday in consequence of Picken's being here. O! how I dread this winter as well as tomorrow's election - Drifting and blowing like fun about 10 a.m. - Mrs P and youngster's home at one - Willie Randlett to dinner, - Darbon Lawrence almost Killed yesterday by a pitch out on his head when crossing Rail Road²⁸ track at Richmond. Dinner today cold beef, fried Potatoes, tea, bread & butter, doughnuts and apple pie - no meeting this afternoon, it is so cold - Nobody from New London at meeting this morning - Sam, Rachel, and the children came over in the evening. Rachel did not go to meeting today it was so cold - James helped me to do the stabling in the afternoon - very cold still at 5 o'clock P.M. - Willie Randlett stopped all night.

Monday January 8th, 1872

Day opened very fine & bright. Freezing hard but no wind, therefore not so unpleasant as yesterday - Boys working at stable. Election of Councillors - Atkinson, Burrill, Reed, Picken, J Armatage, Scrabble Hollow Bill²⁹ Wm Reed elected without contest. Noah Cummings made a desperate onslaught upon the unfortunate

²⁵ This is a reference to the author's grandchildren: James, age 6, Emma, age 4, and Bertha, age 2, children of Sam and Rachel McManus.

²⁶ It is likely that Durham refers to the present-day Ulverton.

²⁷ By 1872, these two works of Charles Dickens had been in print for over thirty years.

²⁸ On 12 January 1874, Francis Jeffrey Dickens, son of the famous author, made the following comment in a letter written in Ottawa to a friend in England: Yes, they have trains here, though they can't decide whether to run them on "railways", as God intended, or "railroads" as the Yankees call their version. This comment is of interest in view of the author's jaundiced view of American influence and his indiscriminate usage of the words "railroad" and "railway" in his diary.

²⁹ This may be a reference to William G. Lyster who lived in "Scrabble Hollow", a place so named by local residents

Secretary³⁰ in the Council room charging him with a cool-determined wicked attempt with malice propense to kill him in days gone by breaking over his back an innumerable amount of sticks, rulers and other deadly weapons leaving him in a most terrible black and blue condition, and furthermore with having displayed in subsequent years unmistakable malice and spite to the aforesaid Cummings, besides being "a mean stuck up Pup" who made himself rich by taking a little off every individual composing the general Public, and many other charges too numerous to mention which were received with a considerable amount of merriment by the surrounding audity. Nevertheless the Secretary was most zealously defended by the whole assembly in general and by Richd Majar, Wm Reed, John Hall, Wm Burrill, William G. Lyster and Jacob Armatage in particular. Subsequently, upon adjourning to Halls to have a little sup of Gin, Mr Cummings came there too - apologized, buried the hatchet, shook hands and took a glass of gin. Bill Burrill and I returned at eve, "na far, na vara vara fu, but just a wee drap in our 'ean", But Shade of Bachus, what a reception, Poor Burrill and I met when entering within the precincts of his Domicile. Like a gushing wind - like a raging whirlwind - like a roaring tornado, Mrs B., Lizzy & Sebe³¹ opened upon him the fierce vials of their wrath, Pouring out their seething & discordant Ire in one continuous strain as one run out her part, another fell on, and when the latter became exhausted, the third took up the broken measure, and then again the whole trio united their vocal powers in one grand chorus, so loud - so simultaneous so overwhelming, that Poor B. sank his venerable Crest resting his chin upon that portion of his breast called "the Sternum" - and mutely, silently, gently and quietly as a little child sought in the arms of oblivious sleep; forgetfulness of wild and pitiless storm that the three ladies were lavishing with such rich prodigality of tongue upon his devoted head, I left in Perfect disgust, feeling assured that an encounter with three witches such as represented in *Macbeth* would have terrors in it, less to be dreaded than a reception from Burrill's three guardian angels - I think I will like my own little angels at home, better than ever I did.

Tuesday January 9th, 1872

Pretty cold commencement - James gone to Mill with a grist³², he could not get it ground before night, so he returned and went back with twenty five Bushels of oats for oatmeal - Eddy made a Dung Pool in the new horse stable - I wrote official notices to newly elected Councillors - Nothing remarkable in this day's proceedings - Lucy & Eddy went to M^cGill's for evening meeting - James would not go - A very severe shock of an earthquake about 8h 5m P.M.³³ - wind S, mild and snowing.

Wednesday January 10th, 1872

The morning opens beautifully mild - Boys working still at Stable - Served the Councillors elected with their notices of appointment- Wm Burrill told me the sequel of Monday's adventure - He awakened on Tuesday with head aching and desperately in need of a "hair from the dog which bit him" the day previous. Luckily he was sent for to work at the Election in Melbourne, but he had to go under the guardianship of a deputy appointed by the "angelic host" at home so that he had to suffer without remedy for a long time the inconvenience of a swimming brain, and loathing stomach. Fortunately his guardian left him alone for a little time to get his horse, when making a rush he got into Gee's bar and took a "stiffener" the "made him the old man again" Mrs James Miller continues very ill and Ms Richmond dangerously so. I took dinner at Mr Atkinson's and gave him \$10.40 to pay the interest on my note in favour of R Gallup up to the 11th of September last - I took tea with Richd Picken's and had a horn or two with him - got home about 9 P. M. found all things right without a single thing to note in the daily routine of the family - except that the calves were introduced to the new stable for the first time - there was a trotting match at Richmond - Met Mr Manning and Jim McGiveny going to it - the day throughout beautifully mild, and that's all.

because **"It was a scrabble to get in and a scrabble to get out."**

³⁰ The author was referring to himself.

³¹ Mrs. William (Rachel Stevens) Burrill and daughters Elizabeth and Eusebia

³² "A grist" could have been a load of grain that was to be ground at the mill.

³³ On 10 January 1872, provincial newspapers carried the following story: "Quebec City: An earthquake occurred last evening at six minutes to eight. The shock lasted thirty seconds, but no serious accidents have happened. The ice bridge was somewhat broken up, but is perfectly safe. The prophecies of a nun have caused considerable excitement and many are actually terrified. The prophecy is to the effect that three days of darkness will shortly arrive, when anyone who ventures out or makes observations, or uses any other than holy candles, will die. This is to be the precursor of the victory of the Church over the world in May next at Rome."

Thursday January 11th, 1872,

Dull morning but very mild and continued so throughout the day - nothing particular to note in the way of Domestic Matters. James working still at the stable - Eddy went to the mill for our grist and then with Sam to the village to get his coat made. Rachel & young ones here all day and I busy making out Tax Bills. Eddy and Sam came home in the evening the latter gloriously tight, Eddy says Boisvert the Tavern Keeper offered Sam a glass of Whiskey provided he would drink no more and go home, and the offer was accepted, but unfortunately in the eagerness to drink the inspiring draught, he threw the glass up too suddenly, so that the greater proportion of the liquor went into his eyes and nose. But this was not the end of his misfortunes for upon his return he would have me go home with him to give me share of about two glasses he had in a little flask. After I had taken my part and he was preparing to do the same with his, he let the bottle fall and broke a little hole in the side of it, and while attempting to pour the liquor out of the neck, it rushed all out through the hole upon the floor greatly to his disappointment and mortification, realizing the old prover that "twixt cup and the lip, There's many a slip". Got a newspaper from Jane Eliza. Rachel Cannon is dead. That's all

Friday January 12th 1872

The morning opens dull dark some wind and threatenng snow, but not cold - Boys at the stable again and I at the tax bills - Nothing throughout the day worthy of note beyond the stoppage of water in the spout - boys cleared out the old horse stable and rigged it for a shop - James went over to Phillip Lyster's in the evening to borrow the School House stove, Tom Lyster at home - Mr. Lyman gone - day closed generally mild - and left James enjoying a quiet evening with Marian at Quintin M^cGill's - that's all

Saturday January 13th 1872

Morning mild, opens with gentle snow - There has been remarkably little snow this winter as yet. Not more than 9 or ten inches on the average but the ground is generally covered with ice, which promises bad for grass next spring - Fodder is going pretty fast and will be short enough. The boys put the School House stove up in the shop, and Eddy commenced making his wheels. Millington and Emily came up in time for dinner and things went smooth as a marriage bell, till Emily made an assault upon him for a deed of the land, which he refused stoutly and wanted to go right home with difficulty we persuaded him to stop all night, but he did so at last. Boys and Lucy went to meeting and Billy Randlett brought Lucy home - Understand that Mr Maben and Mr Lyman are coming back - Night beautiful and mild - sowed more carnations and asters.

Sunday January 14th 1872,

Day cooler but beautiful and bright - Mrs P. Lucy and Emily did not go to meeting but staid with Millington who enjoyed his dinner finely, but shit his breeches- Emily and he went home after dinner and Lucy and boys went to meeting - Sam's little James here all day Rachel came over with the other two in the evening, and broke her sleigh when taking it out of the shed to go home - Mrs Cummings was not at meeting today having sprained her ankle - Eddy went out in the evening to see Tom Lyster who is in after a horse Mrs Richmond is dying and has given away all her children - nothing further worthy of note.

Monday January 15th 1872

The morning opens bright and pretty cold - The boys have both gone over to Thos Burrill's to tinker up the Threshing machine - I am engaged once more at my tax bills, but took a severe turn of diarrhoea in the afternoon. The day closes beautiful and bright with nothing worthy of note

Tuesday January 16th 1872

The day opens bright and not very cold - boys threshing at Thos Burrill's or rather went to thresh but after tinkering all day at the machine they came home again bringing the Horse power³⁴ home with them, Black Bill and Tommy Bill and all, they then went with the arbor³⁵ to the village and got it fixed. and Lucy and Eddy with Leonard Blake³⁶ who arrived about nightfall on his way to Bill Boast's auction tomorrow - went to meeting. Leonard says Millington took the shits so bad in Richmond yesterday that he couldnt get out of his sleigh. Mrs Foster had to doctor him, and Jones sent his boy home with him, the day ended as it began beautiful and mild.

Wednesday January 17th 1872

The Morning again beautiful and mild, James, Eddy and Leonard away to Bill Boast's auction, Mrs P. hears with alarm that we are to have another batch of visitors in Marian Wales and Miss Goodfellow tomorrow evening - I go up to Melbourne to pay Riley Gallup - That's the way the world wags, Just like Paddy's purse³⁷, two cents out for one in - Tinkering threshing machine - building Barns - Parties - visiting - prayer meetings and dress forms the whole record since the 1st of October last, I have not had the pleasure of putting down one dollar received for cord wood - barn - threshing or anything else but a pig I paid for and Mrs P. Fed - O! dear! O dear Boys laugh at old men's croaking about debt, but I am afraid that when the old man's croaking ceases, there will be little left to croak about The day continued beautiful and Eddy being anxious to invest some of his money Securely, asked me to take \$100 from him and pay my note to Gallup, so taking his \$100 I went up with Mrs P - and paid Gallup the money together with \$14.20 the interest due - I thought I would then go and pay up anything I owed in the stores, and try for the future to Keep out of their books, at least that if any more bills be made, it shall not be by me, I therefore paid bal of last years a/c to Woodburn amounting \$4.95 & then I paid Hetherington \$10.00 for the Barrel of Flour and Cruet stand³⁸ I bought from - leaving \$7.50 the price of an inferior tub of butter to stand for what James has been getting. Tomorrow I will go down and pay Miller up to date and for the future keep clean of store bills - But what is the use of prudent intentions? When I came home I found James returned from the auction with a stove, a pick and a horse! All to the tune - interest included - of \$76 or \$78. - this makes up within the last eleven months the neat little sum of \$200 with which he has embarrassed me -

1st His Runaway outfit	\$ 30.00
2. Trip to New Brunswic	\$ 30.00
3. His new & unrequired barn	\$ 40.00
4. Boots Cap Hat Neckties Blacksmith work for threshing machine & ?	\$ 24.00
5. and now his Horse scrape	\$ 76.00
In all not less than	\$200.00

Never talk of the total loss of time since October last there has been nothing done on the farm that can bring any return. The whole time has been spent in the barn or paying back work obtained for it. I wonder how long this is to last. I must drudge - clean out the stables - feed cattle and pay debts while my son dresses fine, drives round and makes them

Thursday January 18th

³⁴ The "horse power" may have been a horse-driven mechanical turnstile device which generated the power needed to operate the saw, separator, thresher and fanning machine to which the author referred in many of his diary entries.

³⁵ "The arbor" may have been the axel or drive shaft of the "horse power" which produced the energy to operate the threshing machine.

³⁶ Leonard Blake was married to Mary Anne Paterson, age 30, the second daughter of Mrs P and the author.

³⁷ In Irish slang, Paddy, a form of Patrick, could serve as a nickname or refer to an Irishman.

³⁸ Cruet stands were placed on dinner table and held small bottles of vinegar, oil, etc.

Another beautiful day till noon when it commenced snowing slightly with rather raw wind. James at Sam's all the forenoon - Eddy at the old trade of tinkering the Horse power in the shop - James went to Mill in the afternoon and brought home 240^{lbs} oatmeal for 25 Bushels of oats! If he had sold the oats in the store he would have got 350^{lbs} of meal - He brought home also some spruce boards bought at the auction leaving his stove as long as Boast remains - Lucy's party came off in the evening Mesdemoiselles Wales and Goodfellow & Bill Reney here - it was eminently a failure from the same reason that many parties are a failure - a want of tact in the entertainer. Many requisites are wanting in the party who gives an entertainment to make it a success. With youth, the leader must be both polite, Kind, lively, mirthful, full of conversational power, quick in discovering when diversion is needed and apt as well as prompt to supply it, ready with an anecdote or incident to attract every attention when conversation flags, eager to find opportunity of making everyone pleased with themselves by delicately or gracefully complimenting upon whatever in their looks, dress, conversation, ideas or actions is worthy of commendation. The leader must bestow his attentions individually as well as generally so that no one may feel the mortification of considering himself overlooked. It is not in good taste when youth enter into those games that involve a large amount of Kissing in public, a kiss is a sweet thing to be sure, but its greatest sweetness is in the fact of it being given when nobody sees it but those interested in the business. In my young days our little rustic parties were quite different from those of the present day. We made no pretensions to extraordinary piety, and we therefore were not guilty of the impious hypocrisy of social Psalm and Hymn singing intermingled with blind man's buff - or a game at romps. We thought it no sin if there were any among us gifted with the power of voice and song, to listen with delight to such, as they poured forth some exquisite melody, moulded into life by the expression of some beautiful humanizing sentiment breathed in the spirit of pure poetry. But it would be wicked to sing a song now, though it is all right to tickle, and cuddle and hug and Kiss and sing hymns without a single bit of devotional feeling in order to conduct the social gatherings of youth in a truly christian manner. I admit that I am getting old, and therefore have a great many old foggy ideas about me; but in my estimation the exhilarating dance, the rapture of music, the melody of song, had infinitely more elevating happy and humanizing influences in them, making youth more Kindly, affectionate, confiding and happy together, than the starched up mask which youth now a days have donned to hide the natural dimples of Joy ready to eddy about their lips when set in motion by artless impulses from the heart, and lead us to behold nothing but the gaunt staring grimness of hypocrisy or fanaticism, in which there is no beauty whatever - William Reed and William H Lyster were here today in order to take their oaths of office - that's all.

Friday January 19th 1872

Another mild day looks like a thaw - we have had now twelve days in succession of mild weather which is rather unusual in this cold climate The only variation in the daily routine is that Mrs P. has gone over to Rachel's to spend the day - Lucy is as busy as cuff, dyeing some old petticoats and raps a bright magenta colour - Eddy is chopping in the woods and James commenced drawing wood - Peter McLeod was here today and James has agreed to draw him 20 cords of wood and 400 rails³⁹. Sam has had a boy all week, and has drawn up a fine pile of wood. Mr Maben telegraphed yesterday that he would be at the station today - Sam came over at night and he and I traded horses - I gave him Doll and thirty Dollars for Peacock - Mrs P got me to read two tracts as she said she was sure if I read them I would see everything so plain that I must at once be immensely illuminated - People imagine I am wonderfully in the dark as touching the gospel plan of salvation, I tell them it's only them beasts and horns and the battle of Armagideon⁴⁰ that bothers me. James thinks if I would only read certain strictures he has upon prophecy, I would be amazingly enlightened even in this respect, but "qui bono" I say, and so the day ends - I forgot to say Eddy dressed up in his best and went off at night seeming to think it highly essential that nobody should know where he went and I dare say it was a most important consideration Especially as Mrs P would not like the idea of his sitting all night with Dora Carlisle

³⁹ Wooden rails, made of split or whole logs and forming the horizontal part of zigzag-shaped fences, were inexpensive to construct in lumber-rich Quebec. However, they had at least one disadvantage over wire fences: oxen and cattle were able to lift the horizontal rails with their horns and make their way into gardens and fields where they were not welcome. According to the author, this happened numerous times during the summer of 1872.

⁴⁰ This is described in Revelation 16:16 as the place on the Day of Judgement where the last decisive battle between the forces of good and evil will be fought.

Saturday January 20th 1872

The morning opens mild for the 13th day - snowing a little at first but commencing to rain about half past nine a. m. - I wonder will Celina be home today, she hasn't been once home since I took her to Kingsey in Tommy's old dung boat. I am inclined to think she is afraid of getting another drive in it or she would have been home before now - John Maine called to know if I had the policy of the Town Hall - The boys commenced about 10 o'clock to draw wood drew 4 loads yesterday and two today. Beautiful afternoon - The greatest trouble we have had today has been with an old black tea pot which Mrs P - to the sore trial of her patience - has been endeavouring to make do the ordinary duties of a tea pot but the confounded thing will not in spite of every effort to the contrary on Mrs P.'s part allow the liquors to flow freely through the spout, so at dinner time, after covering the said spout with a cloth, and blowing vainly into it, with all her might - even until her cheeks swelled out like a pumpkin - Mrs P. was obliged at last to tell Lucy to throw the nasty thing out. I wonder what such tea pots are made for. They are very provoking - It commenced snowing again about one - boys at water works, then they went to the village about their clothes, and stopped for prayer meeting on their way back - Richard Pickens came up to be sworn in - he was dressed out in full fig - he made a lurch at Lucy, but she shunted him as promptly off the track as a switchman would a runaway freight train. Sam went to the village with his man Friday⁴¹ and brought home a barrel of flour he wasn't to say outrageous tight, at least he could stand up without falling when he had a hold of something that would'n't let him - Mr Maben has arrived and promises to be here tomorrow- that's all. Sent Newspaper with Rachel Cannon's death home to Ireland.

Sunday January 21st 1872

14th Mild fine morning but decidedly growing colder about 10 am - Mrs P, Lucy and the boys are off to meeting. I am alone without any apparent alternative in my daily routine of duties viz: the feeding of 27 head of cattle 3 horses and ten sheep beside cleaning out 3 stables - I am wrong upon consideration in saying "no alteration in my daily duties", because on Sunday I have the additional one of having the potatoes boiled for dinner, and the house nice and warm when the family come home from meeting, but this morning Mrs P. has flatteringly bestowed upon me an additional proof of her confidence by entrusting the cooking of a nice piece of beef to my care, she tells me I am to take due care that it is properly done, that when it is so, I am to take it out of the pot, cover it up nicely to keep it warm; pour the broth into a dish, put in fresh water with the potatoes, and have them plumping hot when all come home. I am greatly excited lest my efforts in this direction should be a failure, and the ambitious prospect of being considered a "chef de cuisine" should eventually become abortive. O dear! O dear! to what anxieties does ambition expose one. I wonder that all the great men in the world do not go to distraction. I do wish I had this important charge well off my hands - 2 o'clock P.M. - the beef was done beautifully, the Potatoes boiled gloriously, the house genially warm and my fair fame for cooking untarnished thank my stars! the heavy weight of responsibility is taken from my shoulders so safely - Nelly Bushel invited herself to dinner, and was happy enough to partake of my cookery; an honour I could have hardly dreamt of. Billy Tommy came in the afternoon with little Elly⁴² in the sleigh, took in Eddy. & Rachel coming along, took Lucy the boys and Nelly out for the 3 o'clock meeting, and I was left to the full enjoyment of my usual Sunday avocations to wit - cleaning the stables, feeding the cattle and "me miserum" good enough for me - It was rather raw in the forenoon but became mild again in the afternoon. Had a slight breeze this evening with Mrs P. first relative to the old complaint - my pipe - she declares that as soon as the weather becomes warm, and that she will suffer no personal inconvenience in consequences of sleeping with her back cold, she will withdraw for the benefit of pure air to a separate dormitory. O Dear! so might it be. Alas! dear little soothing instrument - my only solace - my only luxury - my only pleasure - the only thing left to comfort a deaf old man - from whom is shut out the cheerful enjoyment of conversation - that sticks to me when silently performing my Sunday drudgery - and all my family dressed out in gay attire at my expense drive off wrapped up in sleigh robes at my expense too, come home take their dinner which I am

⁴¹ This term, popularized by Daniel Defoe in *The Life, Strange, Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, was at least 153 years old when the author made use of it in this diary.

⁴² This could be Eliza Ella Adair, a ten year old girl who, in 1871, lived in the home of Thomas and Eliza (nee Adair) Burrill.

permitted to cook for them - drive away again - and I am alone once more dear little pipe with thee that never deserts me and shall I renounce thee for the prospect of no longer being permitted to keep Mrs P_'s back warm? Never! dear little innocent, uncomplaining comforter - never so help me conscience. My breeze with James was about his feeling disposed to break his oft-repeated promise of trying to pay at least the Blacksmith's bill by drawing cordwood enough to discharge it. But this is the way, all are ready to make bills, and it is left alone to the poor old devil at home with his pipe to devise the means of discharging them - to be sure it is good enough for the old miserable uncircumcized Philistine elected and ordained beyond doubt a vessel unto dishonour, fitted to dung out the stables of the saints, get their dinners, and pay their debts - Ah! dear me! - well come little pipe let us have another whiff, the true maxim of a Philosopher is "to grin and bear it". "Tacere est tutum"

Monday January 22nd 1872

Well Monday has opened with some snow - little blustry but not very cold - the boys and Billy Tom at the old trade of tinkering up the threshing machine in the shop they took it back again to Mr Burrill's in the afternoon - Eddy brought Mr Maben in the forenoon - he looks well but had an attack of his old nervous headache Lucy applied some of Jacob's liquid to it - I like him. I think he is a good man - There is none of that cant or officious impertinence about him to be found in a great many busybodies who seem to think if they do not put in their paddle into everybody's canoe the bark must be utterly lost; they think nobody had the power of thinking right or thinking profitably unless they furnish the food for thought. Poor nobodies nobody of any common sense was ever benefited by pestering him with questions about his spiritual state. There is about as much propriety in asking a man is he in a solvent as is he in a salvable position. The conscience is most affected by preaching not at your fireside but in the pulpit. The only effectual fireside preaching is the cheerful humble gentle affectionate consistent walk of the genuine disciple of Christ. It is not by drawing long faces - turning up the eyes & becoming horrified at a pleasant anecdote or innocent Joke that is any sign whatever of inward piety. A truly pious man may have as Keen a sense of the ridiculous as anybody else, and if the exuberance of animal spirits gives way now and then to a hearty laugh, it is far from indicating a want of a constant and seizing feeling of devotion in the heart. Looks like a thaw about 4 P.M. Johnny Mahomet here for a pattern for Eddy's vest he says Emily has bought a sewing machine for \$30.00 and that Leonard will be up to mission on next day - Lucy is cooking up nice things & I have spent this day as usual in the way most fitting an old worn out mope like me - among my cattle - 5 P.M Eddy home from Tommy's Threshing machine broke again - he is off to the Blacksmiths and I suppose there will be more tinkering tomorrow - spent a very pleasant evening with Mr Maben - read one of his tracts the sentiments of which I must heartily endorse - that's all

Tuesday January 23^d

16th mild day opens with the same kind of leaden appearance observable in the 15 preceding days - Boys gone to Mr Burrill's to thresh - severe snow squall about noon - Had a long lecture upon the principles of prophecy from Mr Maben in which he seemed to take great pains to instruct me, but owing to my imperfect hearing, and a peculiar defect in his vocal organization I gleaned very little from it having to guess at his expressions in nine cases out of ten. - Johnny Mahomet went away about noon, but I do not know how he can get along through the blinding snow - one o'clock P.M. the squall is over and the sun is now shining brightly - but getting cold and blowing stiffly and drifting so bad that I did not turn out the cattle to water today - it looks as if it will freeze hard tonight - took one of my weak turns pushing the new barn door open - we are very quiet today. Mrs P. is Knitting, Lucy writing a letter and Mr Maben reading Thackry's *lectures on the four Georges*⁴³ as evening approached & the wind subsided and settled down to a fine sharp frosty moonlight night - Mr Maiben, James Eddy Lucy & Rachel went to meeting at M^cGill's - Johnny Mahomet upon arrival a Trenholmvile and not finding Millington there returned to Saul's swapped a ring for two song books, and entertained them with his unrivalled periods of swearing

⁴³ *The Four Georges* was the title of the lecture series given in 1860 by British novelist, William Makepeace Thackeray, during his final lecturing tour of the United States. Thackeray died about nine years before E T Paterson made this entry in his journal.

Wednesday January 24th 1872

The Morning opens calm bright and frosty, the boys off again to Tommy's to thresh they threshed 80 Bushels of oats and a few bushels of wheat for Tommy yesterday threshed till noon today about 48 Bushels oats - Leonard came up about noon and took Mr Maiben away - he seemed all on the fidgets to be off the minute Leonard appeared - went up stairs, got his traps⁴⁴ and appeared to imagine the horse had nothing to do but turn right round and start without giving him time to feed - Leonard says Millington did not go to Richmond yesterday, but went only as far as John Wentworths and then turned back again. The Boys did nothing this afternoon, but went to the village at night, they would not carry Lucy to Mrs Bartletts where she promised to go and spend the evening - we were sitting at tea, Mrs P., Lucy, and I, when Mrs Andrew Stimson drove up to the door with Mary Wilson and her little girl and left them without coming in. Mary is a merry hearted soul and Kept us laughing until our sides were ready to split until after ten when the boys came home. James was sadly put out in consequence of his having planned a drive with his little Princess Wales to Kingsey, upon an invitation given by Leonard to that effect, but Leonard took Mr Maiben away without opening his head about the matter. The night was a beautiful bright frosty night, not very cold - Eddy got his coat from the tailors and intended to go to Montreal on Friday, but he has taken a stie⁴⁵ upon his eye that will spoil his trip.

Thursday January 25th 1872

A raw cold blustry day The boys at home - James did chores at stables and drove his colt about - Eddy part of the day at Sam's Mary Wilson's little girl Emma has taken quite a shine to me, and stopped along with me in the office the whole forenoon, telling me that whenever she bothered me, I was to say so, and she would withdraw, she entered into a detail of common School System, as carried on in Wisconsin - told me that there were lots of little niggers at School, and how they sometimes got to the head of the class, that she did not like to play with them for they frightened her, and when they got mad they shewed their teeth so - and how Mrs Mansfield was so cross and laid the whip on about the hands, the shoulders, the head and every where, and how she would'nt let them whisper, or even drop a slate pencil on the floor without punishing them, and how she liked Miss Corneille because she is so gentle and says that she was a little child once herself and she could'nt Keep still all the time, nor Keep from talking and making a little noise now and then. And then she told me about seeing the wild beasts and about a great procession and about her picnics and her little nigger dolls and toys, and a whole host of nice things, and finally she said she would stay with me all the time if I would buy her a wax doll and a little carriage and everything she wanted and then she said I might shut up my books and take one holiday at least. I could hardly help laughing to see the early development of female Yankee acquisitiveness - Johnny Lyster came to borrow our sleigh and buffaloes, to attend the social at Wm Burrill's. Eddy commenced making an ox yoke and that's the sum of this days proceedings

Friday January 26th 1872

This day commences bright and not nearly so cold as yesterday - Eddy up early and off to Montreal - James off to Thomas Burrill to thresh - Mrs P. commences the day in a very moody frame that indicated strongly a gathering storm ready to burst like a tornado in our midst if Providence be not pleased to avert it - Mary Wilson I think begins to feel not quite so comfortable as she did at first - her little Emma will not stay away from me - she is beside me now looking on as I write and is asking me if I can't write better than this - I have said "I can" and she asks me why I do not write the best I can? and wants me to write one line the "best I can" she calls me papa and is a regular cunning little girley - Johnny Lyster brought home the sleigh with the dash board broken - saying he was very sorry and that of course was as good as if he had mended it - I begin to feel much discouraged, I had hoped Eddy's trip to the united states would have taught him the value of time, I fear he is not fit to be his own master - as for both boys there was ten times more energy about them six or eight years ago than there is now when they imagine themselves men. James set out now about two years ago to revolutionize matters as he said there was no Knowledge of business about me, and he was going to make

⁴⁴ In an explanatory note on page 63 of *The Manitoba Journal, 1885-1889, of William Moxham*, the editor, Charles Deane Kent, indicated that "traps" were the personal belongings which one carried on a trip or expedition.

⁴⁵ This appears to be a reference to a sty or stye on the eye.

money hand over hand, he seemed to think there was no difficulty in laying by \$200 a year but unfortunately he loses sight of one little point in business of great importance - the necessity of saving, as our expenditure this year has exceeded our income by \$200, and that \$200 has been expended by him Seven and a half years at this rate, would sink a farm of \$1500 value. I wonder what he thinks, no later than yesterday he wanted me to go and buy a steer from Andrew Ewing without a thought of how it was to be paid for - In short if he wants anything he has'nt the least hesitation about taking it on credit I am sore perplexed. I have spoken so often about the danger of this course which my greatest exertions are only staving off for a little its approach, that he does'nt mind a thing I say & imagines it to be only the croaking of an old man - Mrs P. wished me to harness up Peacock and take her and Mary Wilson over to Rachel's- I did so but durst not put him in the sleigh he was so skittish so they went over on foot - Mrs P_ & Lucy are quite disgusted with their visitors already - the little girl told Lucy to put some cheese on the table this morning, but Mrs P_ as plainly told her to do no such thing, so I fear they won't get away until Mrs P. insults them Mrs P, Mary Wilson and child spent the afternoon at Sam's - Mrs P. Got a fall when going over on foot - Leonard came up on his way to Doctor Baine's auction tomorrow - I paid him 34 dollars out of 50 Wm Burrill Sen came in the evening and took his oath of office - James has finished Mr Burrill's threshing at last - Leonard James Mary Wilson and Lucy sat up laughing and talking so late that I had hard work to keep Mrs P. still - she wanted to blow them all up⁴⁶ - She kind a likes to blow people up, I think she likes to kinder blow me up anyway - I wonder what she likes to blow people up for?

Saturday January 27

Dark hazy rather raw morning - Leonard and Mrs P. off to Doctor Baine's auction Mrs Levitt and daughter off too - I am inclined to think from what I have observed of that lady for the last two days that she has adopted or is trying to adopt the arts of the great body of American ladies of the present day - that is the acquisition of gain - the Dollars - the almighty dollars - The attainment of which by lavishing their fascinations upon every man that comes within their reach and out of whom a dollar may be wrung; even at a sacrifice that would horrify a virtuous woman - is considered to be only a legitimate transaction. Even the little girl - a child of six years - seems already to understand the game and practices her little cunning tricks to perfection. What a frightful state of moral degradation have the American people already reached and to what an abyss are they sinking - Divorces - Free love associations, Assasinations - Blasphemy - infidelity systemized and fashionable abortion institutions and every specious of loathsome vice, and damning crime rampant in the very glare of noonday - all the result of the frenzied headlong, soul destroying race to get rich - God Keep us in Canada free from the pestiferous infection! - One set of guests hardly gone until another arrives Sam and Rachel on their way to the auction, leave their 3 young ones - Sam and Rachel home from the auction early, bought nothing - Mrs P. home later bought an old Brass candlestick a tin bread basket an old colander - milk strainer - Jelly Mould - the bottom of an old tin spirit-lamp, an old pair of Surgeon's Scissors - and a pair of smoothing Irons - all great bargains - Leonard bought a pine dressing table for \$2.50 a great bargain too of course - James did the chores for me all day - moved the Threshing machine to Sam's barn and went down to the post office for me. Leonard stopped all night that's all

Sunday January 28th 1872

Fine mild morning, Mrs P. Leonard and James off to meeting - Lucy do with Billy Tom - Mr Cummings and Florence home to dinner - Leonard went home - James and Mary Randlett, Billy Randlett and Lucy took a sleigh ride in the evening - Sam Rachel and family here to tea - Tea hardly over until there had to be a new spread for Billy Randlett Lucy and James - verily I believe we have our hospitality pretty fairly taxed on the whole - it has been a beautiful mild day throughout

Monday January 29th 1872

⁴⁶ This term, meaning [Collog] *to scold severely* or *to lose one's temper*, appears to have been in common use in the early eighteenth century. cf. *Atlantic Merchant-Apothecary: Letters of Joseph Cruttenden 1710-1717*, ed by I. K. Steele, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1977.

Another Mild Morning but showing some - later looks as if we are going to have a blow - James away to Thresh for Sam - bright & blustering a little the rest of the day - James finished Sam's oats - 75 Bushels Bill Lyster came over and helped to take the machine over to his barn - Eddy came home - bought 36 Dollars worth of tools in Montreal - The only thing worthy of note in this days proceedings is the fact that we had no visitors - wrote a return to the Superintendent of Schools giving the names of Commissioners and dates of election

Tuesday January 30th 1872

Opens Raw and blustering James gone to thresh for Bill Lyster - Eddy away to the station for his tools - Poor Eddy and James will never grow rich I fear - not that there is any disposition to be idle about them, but because they do not take the Yankee view of the matter and work at nothing but what will pay, as an instance There had been just 83 working days since James finished plowing on the 25th of October last, 37 of which has been spent on drawing lumber hewing timber or working at a barn we were not prepared to bear the expense of at present - 28 Threshing or tinkering up threshing machine - 1 day helping Tom Martin to Shingle 17 days choring round, visiting or doing nothing of any particular advantage. If we expect 3 days of it Threshing for ourselves - 2 days hawing a little wood and 2 days butchery and going to mill - the eighty third day was spent at Boast's auction. Now we have been obliged to expend over \$40. on the barn besides Eddy's work on it, and hinges and Blacksmith's work we do not know how much yet - and that is quite a bill for B. Smith work we also have not as yet learned the amount, on the threshing machine. and there is the auction bill that with interest which will not be less than \$140 expenditure - Now what has the eighty three days work brought in to meet this expenditure - not a dollar! absolutely nothing! Then how is it to be met? - Simply by drawing upon our capital disposing of more stock than we have to spare and then reducing our actual means or in a word making our circumstances \$140 worse than they were on 25th of october within that period we have had 37 days in which we had visitors who numbered altogether 74 - Nothing particular to note Eddy went to the station and brought home his tools and then made an ox yoke - Jas Threshed half a day for Mr Lyster - Meeting again at Holbrook's much to his surprise I think that's all

Wednesday January 31st

Opens mild and fine - we have only had three days during the month that could be called very cold - 14 a little rain and blustry and 17 decidedly mild - The only events worthy of note in our family is Celina's going to teach School again - Mr Maben and Mr Lyman and Mary Wilson's visits, Eddy's trip to Montreal and James' and Mrs P.'s Auction purchases - the only remarkable incidents of general news are the Prince Alex's visit to Canada⁴⁷ - the shock of an earthquake - the assassination of Fisk by stokes at new york⁴⁸ - and the illness and recovery of the Prince of Wales⁴⁹ - Russell's 7 points⁵⁰ and Sir Chas Dilkes republican movements⁵¹ at well as Mrs Woodhull's lectures on Free love,⁵² Mr Mairs & Family the Insurance agent here today Boys drawing

⁴⁷ Nine years after his North American visit, the prince became Alexander III, emperor of Russia.

⁴⁸ Colonel James Fisk was a flamboyant stockbroker and a corporate executive of the Erie Railway who was associated with the issue of fraudulent stock, manipulation of the price of gold and use of corporate funds to produce Broadway shows and to support its most beautiful stars, was shot to death in New York city's Grand Hotel on 6 January 1872 by Edward Stokes, a business associate.

⁴⁹ On or around 27 December 1871, the Prince of Wales became ill at Sandringham with lung congestion and high fever and "the world expected news of his death at any moment". At the height of his illness he was visited by Queen Victoria and Prince Leopold. Within two weeks his condition improved and he began to recover. Through the media the queen thanked her subjects for their prayers and the love which they had shown during the illness of the Prince of Wales. - *The Montreal Gazette*, 4 January 1872

⁵⁰ Charles Taze Russell, founder of the Jehovah's Witness, renounced the creeds of orthodox Christian denominations and organized a Bible Study class in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1872. He and his followers viewed it as their responsibility to announce the Second Coming of Christ which would be marked by the Battle of Armageddon. Using **seven points**, Russell taught that Christ's advent would be personal, visible, audible, bodily, glorious, premillennial and imminent.

⁵¹ Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke, a British statesman and a Radical member of Parliament, had many loyal supporters who, in January, 1872, announced that they would hold a demonstration in his honour, prior to the holding of parliament.

⁵² In 1872, Victoria Woodhull, an advocate of equal rights for women and a single standard of morality for both sexes, became a U. S. presidential candidate and the first woman ever to run for that office. Married at age 15 and divorced at age 26, this former clairvoyant and member of a travelling family medicine and fortune-telling show, became a friend of

wood, drew 4 loads - Lucy at Sam's. James went to the village to get his coat Eddy prepared to bend his ox bows. The boys and I had a theological discussion on the merits of imputed and imparted righteousness⁵³. Rachel brought Lucy home and left little James and Emma to stay all night. I think that winds up the day's proceedings as there is nothing in them further worthy of note.

Thursday February 1st 1872

The morning opens dull and mild. little James is very curious to know "What I write down every thing that goes on for? He wants to Know at this moment whether I am writing about Uncle James' ox yoke? Eddy is preparing to bend a pair of bows - and has succeeded admirably by means of a rather ingenious contrivance of his own - Jeremiah Elliott and son William here. William has greatly improved and seems not only very intelligent but shews signs of good sense, he speaks with discretion - offers his opinions modestly and without any of that random swagger that many boys from Uncle Sam's dominions display. The day became bright and pretty cold as it advanced in the Evening there arose a haze in the south west exhibiting the appearance of rainbows or "sun dogs"⁵⁴ the night turned out bright and frosty in the beginning - The boys got up five loads of wood that's the only thing worthy of note today.

Friday February 2nd

Candlemas day⁵⁵ opens dull cloudy, and mild, but after a while it became bright clear and pleasant so if the old adage proves true we will have a cold late spring Boys drawing wood, drew 5 loads. Little James Came over and said he left home "because Berty was bodderin him" he staid all night - Eddy yoked up the steers and drove them up to the sugar bush and back again in the bob sled - Lucy and the boys went to a party a Erastes Randlett's at which were Minnie Ewing Marian Wales Miss Goodfellow and Billy Raney - We had a stiff breeze about pulling down the garden fence - verily I believe when religion has no effect in producing respect for the first commandment with promise,⁵⁶ it is no religion at all. The doctrine of imputed righteousness is a veritable humbug. The idea that one can live in the enjoyment of favour with God and at the same time display a most reckless and habitual disrespect and insolence to parents, and forgetfulness of the common amenities due to them and which are even held sacred by barbarians is little short of blasphemy. To be a child of God and a child of the devil at the same time proves at once that the whole fabric of plymouth bretheranism⁵⁷ is a fatal delusion. In a social point of view the self righteousness of the Pharisee is certainly better than no righteousness at all.

Saturday February 3^d 1872

the railway magnate, Cornelius Vanderbilt, who helped her to establish a successful brokerage firm in 1868 and to become publisher of a weekly paper in 1870.

⁵³ "Imputed and imparted righteousness" are terms which bear the mark of reformed theological hair-splitting over the question of salvation and divine pardon for human sin: "Is faith in Jesus Christ a 'mere instrument' by which humans are justified and made righteous in the eyes of God or is faith in Jesus Christ 'the ground' on which justification rests?"

⁵⁴ Sun dogs - so called presumably because they "dog" or mock the sun - are bright, sometimes rainbow-coloured blazes appearing on either or both sides of the sun. Visible in Canada about ten times a year, usually when the sun is low in the sky, sun dogs are created by the bending of sunlight as it passes through ice crystals in cirrus clouds or ice fogs at altitudes of 5,000 to 15,000 meters. Earlier peoples are reported to have viewed sun dogs as harbingers of foul weather and/or troubled times.

⁵⁵ On this church feast day, commemorating the purification of the Virgin Mary, candles for sacred uses are blessed.

⁵⁶ "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." - Exodus 20:12, *The Holy Bible*, King James Version

⁵⁷ The sect of evangelical Christians known as Plymouth Brethren was founded in the early 1830s in Plymouth, England, and quickly spread under the leadership of John Nelson Darby, a former clergyman of the Church of Ireland (Anglican). Its members met ("went to meeting") regularly for prayer and fellowship and emphasized Biblical prophecy and the imminent Second Coming of Christ. Disputes over doctrine and church government split the community in 1845 into Exclusive Brethren, led by Darby, and Open Brethren who maintained a congregational form of church government and a less rigorous standard of membership. The Exclusive Brethren experienced further division at a later date. Brethren of all parties recognized no order of clergy as distinct from the laity. They celebrated the Lord's Supper every Sunday and most practised Believer's Baptism. Plymouth Brethrenism in various expressions was established in North America in the 1860s.

Blew hard and very cold before day - it became calm dull and mild as the morning advanced - Sam and his man Friday over before I was up. Phillip R Lyster sent \$4.00 with him on his taxes - Boys drew wood in the forenoon 3 loads - I went to Ulverton in afternoon - Rachel and children here in afternoon - Richd Picken sent a gun with me to get Eddy to stock it. - The roads are very badly blown or drifted up - Paid Miller & Reed municipal and School bills. Received the taxes of Mr Dunkerly, L Walter and Andrew Robb day mild but snowing at night

Sunday February 4th

A Heavy fall of snow last night - Snowing until 3 P.M but not cold - Mrs P. the boys & Lucy to meeting, but no meeting in afternoon not cold - nobody here and nothing of importance took place today

Monday February 5th/72

Fine day. But the roads very heavy there fell at least a foot of snow last night and yesterday - First meeting of new council - Eddy Fixing gun for Richd Picken James doing chores & splitting wood - I went out to see Mr Atkinson, he is getting some better. that's all

Tuesday February 6th/72

Snowing like fun but mild - Eddy still at Gun - James at Chores when to village in the afternoon to get wheel hubs ironed Eddy finished his Gun, and both boys went to meeting at Holbrook's in the evening - it snowed all day & the snow is now a great depth - I was remarking the instances of longevity in this Municipality and find that we have 1 out of ever 29 - nearly - that is over the age of seventy - the list is as follows

Over 70:

Mrs. Martha Johnston	71	Mary Hall	77	Wm Dowd	85
Robert Cross	71	Peter Placey	77	Anna Weare	87
Robert French	72	Hub Cummings	78	W. Harriman	87
Anne French	72	Jane Harriman	78	Joseph Hughes	88
Thos Reed	72	Elizabeth Robb	78	Wm Goodsel	89
George Smith	73	Ruth Stevens	79	John Ewing	91
John Hall	73	80 and over:		in all 25	
Mary Trenhalm	74	David Dunkerley	80	16: 70 and over	
Elizabeth Dunkerley	75	Agnes Jamison	81	8: 80 and over	
Thomas Johnston	76	Joseph Bredon	84	1: 90 and over	

Wednesday February 7 1872

Bright cold morning but day generally fine. Boys drawing wood drew 4 loads - Sam Rachel and family came over after dinner and stopped till night - James hired Kemp - English boy that ran away with Murphy's daughter to chop wood for a few days. there is nothing further worthy of note

Thursday February 8th

It Froze very hard last night and continues pretty cold this morning Boys and their man drawing wood. Had my carnations all frozen up last night. James had a very narrow escape from being Killed by the falling of a tree chopped down by the man he hired, he had barely time to run when it fell on the spot he was standing, as it was it fell within four or five feet of the horses heads. This is the second escape from the same danger once before when he was only five years old I discovered him up to his middle in snow standing Just in the line of a large birch I was falling and which was beginning to sway on the stump when I observed him. I shouted to him to clear, and after waiting a few seconds apparently not comprehending me he at last sputtered through the snow on the line of the falling tree, but happily he got a few feet beyond its reach as it fell - The boys

drew 7 loads today - Kemp went to take care of Bill Lyster's house while he went to the social at Gardiner Stevens, they realized \$36.00 by this affair, the largest amount taken yet - Bill Randlett was over to borrow our traverse sleds in the evening. the day ended cold & bright

Friday February 9th 1872

The day opens bright and cold at a quarter past nine in the morning James' man went to the woods to chop and 15 minutes later the boys followed him with the horses. they drew eight loads, The day became beautiful and warm - Celina and Walter came home at night Celina brought home the boys' vests and pants made to perfection - she says Tom Dalton has come back and taken to housekeeping again with his wife, and that Mr Maiben is out at Truesdale's church at Kingsey falls preaching that's all for this day except that Mr Maiben has christened⁵⁸ Mary Anne's baby, Thomas D'arcy McGee, Harry Harold Dalton Blake⁵⁹ - T.D M.H H D B.

Saturday February 10th 1872

A Bitter Cold night - and raw bright cold morning. Ezra Cross here this morning to get a letter written to the sheriff to have him excused from attending Jury. as the day advanced it became beautiful and warm boys got down 9 loads of wood, James' man Friday got his foot crushed - Mrs P and I, and Walter went to the village, Bought two shirts for Eddy, I sent a lot of duns⁶⁰ to Ulverton - Eddy went to Henry Gallup's in the afternoon met Mr & Mrs Wm Burrill on his way there, almost pulled her out of the Sleigh, and she almost pulled him off his feet shaking hands because Just as their hands locked Mr Burrill put the string on the horse, which started and almost produced the effect stated, Remark It's very awkward shaking hands | when parties in a state of locomotion in different directions meet, and shake hands while both going in different directions, especially in going quicker than a walk, as the bridge notices say. Walter was quite disappointed in his expected first view of Rail road operations, as he says "he only saw the cars walking and he only wanted to see how fast they could go when there were running". very provoking that. There is some probability of the New Post office at Kirkdale being established, as Mr Burrill has received a letter from the post master General asking questions,⁶¹ if he does, that will be the fifth important event in the history of Durham with which my name is as intimately connected, as it will be as soon forgotten when I am no longer in existence - viz the Building of a town Hall - the giving the name of "Ulverton" to a section of the municipality; The building of a covered bridge at Ulverton. The securing forever to the municipality of Durham \$60 Dollars per annum which would have been irrecoverably lost to the municipality from the Seigniorial Tenure fund if I had not the foresight to have taken a special and gratuitous census of the inhabitants of Durham in 1861, and lastly, the giving the name of "Kirkdale" to Upper Durham and establishing a post office therein in 1872. James & Celina went on foot to meeting this evening - Lucy had the impudence to ask Billy Tommy to carry here there, as he called on his way thither, What an impudent little sace box is that Lucy! to impose upon the poor fellow so! There is an article in the general News of the day rather ominous, In the conference at Geneva the Yankees have demanded of Britain damages not only direct, but indirect, in the Alabama affair, making payment, or bullets the final result of the arbitration, and England begins at last to say "Bullets".⁶² Verily you

⁵⁸ Some Exclusive Brethren, following the practise of John Nelson Darby (1800-1882), baptized the infant children of members, but most Plymouth Brethren did not. Instead, they practised *Believers' Baptism* exclusively, maintaining that a personal experience of the saving grace of Christ is the prerequisite of baptism.

⁵⁹ Thomas D'Arcy McGee (1825 -1868) was an Irish-born Canadian writer and politician who played a major role in the Canadian federation movement. He encouraged the development of Canadian culture and wrote nationalistic poetry. In 1868 he was assassinated in Ottawa, presumably for remarks made against the Canadian Fenians, a group of Irish Nationalists.

⁶⁰ These duns, most likely, were demands for payment of outstanding taxes. The word "dun" may have been derived from Joe Dun, a 16th-century London debt collector.

⁶¹ The Post Office, established in Kirkdale in 1872, was located in the home of William Burrill, who was Postmaster from 1872 until 1887. His house in Kirkdale remains standing in 1999.

⁶² The "Alabama" was one of several cruise ships which were built or fitted on "neutral" British territory during the U.S. Civil War (1861 - 1865) and effectively used by the Confederacy to engage the naval power of the Union and to destroy its merchant marine. The "Alabama" itself captured, sank or burned sixty-eight Union ships before it was sunk off the coast of France in 1864. Angered by its weak military position, to say nothing of its financial loss, the U. S. government began as early as 1863 to demand apology and financial compensation from Great Britain. When this did not come, the newspapers were filled with stories regarding the possibility of war and the annexation of Canada. The dispute was resolved on 14 September 1872 when an international tribunal meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, ruled that

have only to put your hand deep enough into the pockets of even the most cowardly nation - which Britain is'nt - to drive into the air the doctrine of the Manchester School "Peace at any Price" Mrs P. has propounded the idea of buying the Longmore farm for Celina, which upon cool reflection, I do not consider to be so bad an idea either, especially if it can be purchased for what is represented, that is to say five or six hundred Dollars. Edmund Randlett they say took a regular fit of Boo-hoo-ing - he was so affected by the preaching of Mrs Eliza M^cGill that he thought he was saved! Judy come down and save us.

Sunday February 11th

The day opens cold like the last few days, but gets warmer as it advances - appearance of clouds about noon, but yet comparatively bright and warm. Mrs P. the Boys, the Girls and Rachel off to meeting Eddy has one of his new shirts on, Eddy shews a wonderful disposition to be admired for nice clothes, indeed James does too. What silly people they must be who admire any body for wearing new clothes, that are the property of the store Keeper until paid for? Would'nt it be better to have something in one's self worthy of esteem, rather than make one's self a block to exhibit store Keepers goods on? But wearing nice clothes bought on credit, and no thought of providing further payment will leave people by and by like George Lanigan with nothing but old patched up rags to wear. I don't believe in dandy farmers, or dandy mechanics, when you meet them you are sure to meet empty heads and empty purses, people generally who die beggars begin the world in this fashion - James' man Friday and I at home Keeping house. Billy Tommy stopped to Dinner - Celina off and Walter - Rachel and three children came over with Celina, and were soon followed by Sam and his man Friday, who with James' Man Friday made two man Fridays which Mrs P. considered too man Fridays for one Sunday. So she said she would'nt get a bit of supper until one of them went away, nor she did'nt. I wrote a note with Celina to Col. Cox about the Longmore farm and sent it with Celina - They say Edmund Randlett was greatly delighted with the meeting today, of course he was - the saints were all running at him & shaking hands with him and making believe how much they loved him and all that kind of thing; but let him wait a while - Bah! Why should an unenlightened heathen like me mention such things? I cannot understand them, they say because they "are spiritually discerned"⁶³

Monday February 12

Morning opens warm with gentle rain. Holbrook Randlett here early to get James' man Friday to chop for him he did'nt go, because his foot is so sore &c Mrs P. had another serious time this morning with the nasty old Black Teapot - it would'nt let a drop out anywhere but where the lid goes on verily the manufacturer of that old black tea pot ought to make one more and then quit the trade for ever. Eddy has gone to work for Sam James Breaking roads in forenoon to draw cord wood - his man Friday sitting in the house reading greatly to the gratification of Mrs P. of course. She begins almost to think that maybe the devil would put it into his head to run away with another young lady, in the same way he did with Bill Murphy's daughter - Day gets very warm and thawing James took the Boast colt and went up to Henry Gallup's in the evening - He drew four loads of wood to the top of the hill today - Mrs P. took it into her head to become almost suffocated with tobacco smoke at bedtime with a strong current of wind at the same time blowing through a broken pane in the window! I wonder what's the reason smoke issuing from my pipe produces so very much inconvenience and takes away her breath so. She is not a bit troubled when Sam or half a dozen other smokers are raising clouds of the aromatic vapor around her. It is only when a little puff from my far off den steals its way into her bedroom that she becomes fairly choked. I wish I Knew the reason why smoke of my making chokes her, and shortens her days - as herself says - while nobody else's does her a bit of harm

Tuesday February 13

Another beautiful spring like day ushers in the completion of my 59th year of travel in the melancholy vale of life. The journey had not been one of severe affliction or extraordinary trouble, but if the choice were given me to live the same scenes over again, and pass exactly through every circumstances of my past career in

Great Britain was legally responsible for the loss caused by the "Alabama" and awarded to the U.S.A. a settlement of \$15,500,000.00 in gold. This peaceful solution represented a triumph for diplomacy and the force of international law.

⁶³ "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.: - 1 Corinthians 2:14, *The Holy Bible*, King James Version.

identically the same footprints, I firmly believe I would choose a painful and violent death in preference. Eddy off to work with Sam again today - Mrs P. gone to Rachel's. James swamping out cord wood in the forenoon - drew a load to the village in the afternoon besides giving me a lecture for complaining of his want of prudence in expending more than our income - he says I consider him to be my servant - Which I deny - I flattered myself that he was my son - but if I were to judge by his conduct in general I am only hope for little consolation from the relations subsisting between us he threatens to go away and leave me. I do not see what for. I have offered him all I own in the world to remain, but it appears not to be enough - I do not know what more I can do, unless I relieve him of the nuisance of my presence by hanging or drowning myself. O dear! this is the consolation to be had after a life's struggle to make a home for one's children when the weary race is run almost to its last stage. Well let no one expect comfort in this respect - More meetings tonight, and the youthful members of our family gone there. I wonder they do not themselves become disgusted at this hollow mockery of religion - Religion did I say? but not matter...

Wednesday February 14

dull mild warm day - James drawing cordwood to the village - Eddy worked a while at a wheel, and then took his gun, he says to see if Will Lyster was cutting our cedar in the swamp- and found he was not - James returned in the afternoon fetching Ellen Bushel on the sled - then went to the woods and brought our part of a load for tomorrow Billy Tommy here in evening to make settlement with James about expenses of Threshing &c that's all except there was a little snow falling at night

Thursday February 15th

Another beautiful mild day James drew two loads of wood to the village. Eddy made another wheel in the forenoon - yoked up the steers in the afternoon, and drew out one load of dung - little James came over and stopped all night amusing us much with plans for supplanting James in the affections of Miss Wales and sitting up housekeeping in the widows home, telling us that he means to have four children two boys and two girls and other things too numerous to mention - Joe Kemp honoured us with taking tea in the evening - that's all

Friday February 16th 1872

Eddy took the horses to Sam's bee drawing James Dickson's Barn frame - it is a dull raw blustery day - James chopping wood in the shed in the forenoon. took me down to Durham in the afternoon, and then went somewhere else, I collected some taxes. Called at Mr Burrill's and took his letter home from the post Master General to answer There has been a woman who came up off the Rail Road saying she was from Point St Charles on her way to Quebec stopping for the last day or two at Holbrook Randlett's she wears a man's coat and has a shall round her head - she is a suspicious character gives no account of herself and I strongly suspect her to be Widow McGrath the infanticide who has hitherto eluded the Police at Levis. Sam had a good bee today drawing Dicken's barn frame, he got all the timber drawn with 8 teams except the rafters

Saturday, February 17

Another fine day Cold early, but pleasant as the day advanced Boys in the woods in the forenoon drawing out Cordwood, James went with a load to the village in the afternoon, Eddy yoked the steers and drew out two loads of dung he is getting them pretty handy. Michael Lynch here to pay his tax, and took two more volumes of *history of Scotland* to R McMurry - Dick Picken here for his gun - lent him "one of ours" that's all today. Eddy partly arranged with Jackman to go back to the states in March with him

Sunday Febry 18th

Sharp frost last night fine bright warm day Eddy and Lucy went to Kingsey Mrs P. James and Nelly Bushel off to meeting I suffer horribly these last two or three days with lowness of spirits - I feel as one who has no one on earth left who cares a rush for me - growing older feebler every day nothing in prospect to cheer but everything that has power to sadden looms up continually before me. Truly this life is a weary worthless ordeal and presents nothing to make me wish it prolonged We have been free from visitors today. Nelly

Bushel manifested no desire to return home. She said she thought it quite likely her father's horse would be lame for a fortnight longer so that he could'nt come for her, but Mrs P. advised her to take her things with her to meeting for fear he could, and in that case avoid the terrible disappointment Mr Bushel would experience in case he found his daughter unprepared to accompany him home. He did'nt come however, so poor Nelly was forced to go to M^cGill's once more. Billy Tommy borrowed Sam's sleigh & took Miss Taylor home from afternoon meeting Lucy & Eddy came home Lucy says Mr Crombie drove her from meeting at Baptist Church and promised to come and see her. George Perrat she says wrote a very saucy letter to Leonard Blake and another to Mr Maiben. Emily has a cow just calved.

Monday February 19th 1872

A very sharp frost last night - cold in the morning but like the last few days became bright and warm as the day advanced - James drew a load of wood to the village and a couple out of the woods, Eddy made another wheel. Mrs P. making soap - little James here & nothing further to note, except that suspicions are entertained that Nelly bushel has been poisoning the mind of Miss Goodfellow and others with a peep behind the scenes into the domestic affairs of the Patersons. Little James here and does'nt want to go home.

Tuesday, Febr 20th, 1872

Day commences like the last few days opening bright and warm after a cold night - James drew two loads wood to the village Eddy drew two loads of dung out with the steers and made a wheel - Had another breeze in the afternoon about the old difficulty, a division of the spoils before the death of the present holders James it appears took upon himself to send Eddy away - a year before he was twenty - on with a promise that if he relinquished his claim upon the farm he would give him a thousand dollars and this he was going to do right off, by undertaking a new style of doing business He prevailed on me to purchase a Threshing machine, which with a Sawing machine already on hand cost me \$138 in cash that is to say,

Sawing gear	\$ 37.50
Freight & expenses to sell Horse Power	7.00
Repairs on	2.00
Threshing Machine	72.00
Freight on Do	<u>12.00</u>
	\$130.50
He bought a horse	
which cost him in all	<u>100.00</u>
	\$230.50

He killed the horse, and the Threshing Machine is worn out but up to this day I have never obtained a solitary dollar out of the proceeds to pay a debt or for anything else. So the first year his business calculations were a failure and nothing has been made to discharge Eddy's thousand dollars. Now the second year is past He has made expenses that might have been just as well avoided equal to \$200. and has'nt as yet brought in a dollar to pay a single debt, and now today he wants me to help him to pay Eddy out of what I amy make hereafter to which I object - I say here is the whole farm and stock to you - pay Celina & Lucy \$200 each, allow your mother and me if we require it from you the interest on the principle invested in the farm stock and implements while we live, and then pay Eddy what you have agreed when you like and how you like - But he says he wont do it. Mrs P. and he thinks and says that Celina is entitled to nothing - at all events they say nothing at all compared to what Lucy should receive among them my heart is almost broken and I wish I were dead, as much as I see others would wish it. If I were a Bankrupt the most heartless creditors would permit me to go free after I had given up all I owned to them, But James is not so easily to be satisfied. He says I have a little offer and I can make quite a nice little sum on it and I ought to contribute it at once to the payment of Eddy's thousand dollars and then he thinks he will have a hard bargain on keeping me while the mercy of God leaves life in me. - I am perplexed the life out of me - Mrs P. is so scared at the bugbears of his leaving her which he threatens on all occasions to frighten her into compliance with his wishes, that she backs him up in his most unreasonable clamours

Wednesday Febr 21

Rather raw, cold day throughout - drifting snow - James drew two loads of wood to the village and then went off visiting at night Eddy planed 9 floor boards and there is nothing more worthy of note beyond that I commenced today to give the sheep oats, and that the boys & Lucy have an invitation to Miss Taylor's tomorrow evening

Thursday February 22nd

Raw cold day - James about finished up with his cord wood - drew one load to the village, then took the steers to fetch more out of the woods & broke the ox ring without doing any good He, Lucy & Eddy then went to Melbourne to Miss Taylor's party. Came home about one o'clock a m - had a letter from Col Cox about Hargreave's land for which he asks \$800. little James was here waiting the arrival of Lucy and the boys & I had to sit up with him, that' all except that Eddy planed some floorboards for kitchen

Friday February 23rd/72

Another bright raw day Eddy planing floor boards James drawing out of the woods in forenoon and drew a load to the village in afternoon and one to the stone house⁶⁴ at night the boys fixed up a sled in order to draw stones for the pier of the Grand Trunk Railway ⁶⁵bridge

Saturday February 24th

A beautiful warm day The boys drew 4 loads of stone to the Grand Trunk bridge for which they are to receive \$3.20 but have to pay Holbrook 50 cents for the stone, they did it in the forenoon. Mrs P. gone to Rachel's. Eddy off with the horse and sleigh in the afternoon.

Sunday Febry 25th 1872

Raining all day. Florence Cummings to Dinner - Billy Randlett to tea and sitting up - departed 2 a.m - Eddy to tea & sitting up somewhere else. Sam came over as soon as the family had gone to meeting and was shortly after followed by the children little James drawing little Berty over on the hand sled, and Emma running in advance with little light shoes on and hands bare came in almost perished Hens commenced laying

Monday February 26th 1872

Froze hard last night but bright and raw in the forenoon bright windy and pretty cold the rest of the day the boys commenced laying floor in the Kitchen - nothing further of note

Tuesday February 27th

Dark cold & windy in the morning Raw & blustry all the rest of the day Boys laying the floor in the Kitchen Mr Maiben Mary Ann and Thomas D'arcy McGee Harry Harold Dalton Blake came up in the afternoon

Wednesday Febry 28

Bright Raw & Blustry all day - Mr Maiben went to dine at M^cGills John Mahomet came up with Millington's cart for Eddy to mend Rachel & young ones here Boys drew two loads of straw from Sam's that's all

Thursday February 29

⁶⁴ A stone building, located not far from the railway tracks at Pierce's Crossing, north of Melbourne and still standing in 1997, was said to have served as a school house and place of worship in 1872.

⁶⁵ The Grand Trunk Railway, largely owned by British investors, was authorized in 1852 to build a line between Montreal and Toronto. A year later a line linking Montreal with Portland, Maine, was added, making Grand Trunk a major force in pre-Confederation transportation. Stiff competition from the CPR and chronic financial problems resulted in Grand Trunk being nationalized in 1919. In 1923 it became a main component in the Canadian National Railway system.

Bright raw & blustry Eddy mending Millington's cart - Mary Anne went over to Sam's, then she T.D.M.H.H.D.Blake and Mr Maiben went away Eddy has previously draw out 6 loads James drawing out dung. Mrs P and Eddy went to the village to sell some eggs and buy a broom a box of matches an 9 carriage bolts - James drew out 7 loads of dung and so the month ends, we have had 15 mild & pleasant days in this month - we have had one day - the 8th very cold and the remained has been on the whole not very cold, though raw and searching, we had one day of rain - the 25th and the last day has been the fourth bright and rather blustry James sent Emily her \$20 today by Mary Ann The heaviest snow storms we have had this year were on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Nothing remarkable has occurred in the annals of our family this month. the only thing in the political world is the significant demand upon England by the U.S. for indirect damages in the Alabama case and the imminent escape from a 2nd revolution in France by the defeat of Their Government on the tariff The remarkable long address of the attorney General in the Tichborne suit lasting days Sir John Colbert the attorney general for the Defence on the Tichborne case finished today his address to the Jury which has lasted for twenty six days the most extraordinary speech for length and interest on record - The claimant who everyone believes to be a Butchers son named Arthur Orton has withdrawn his suit and is lodged in Newgate on a charge of perjury⁶⁶

March Friday 1st 1872

March opens with a dark raw windy morning and continued so till evening when it got warmer and commenced snowing - James drew out 8 loads of dung with the steers which together with 7 yesterday and 6 drawn out by Eddy makes 21 altogether Eddy went over to Burrills and got 25 feet of Bass wood boards that is to say 3 boards 10 feet long and 10 inches wide, and nearly finished the body of Millington's cart - Mrs P. washing the greater part of the day

Saturday March 2nd

The morning opens bright mild & pleasant - cooler as the day advanced Eddy went to the mill for our grist and then commenced getting out stuff for a tool chest - James drawing out dung with the steers and drew out six loads - total to date 27 loads. I went to Ulverton in the afternoon. I went to Durham & got a letter for Celina I think from John Bushel I went out to see Mr Atkinson who is still confined to bed

Sunday 3^d

A mild pleasant day Cummings wife and daughter here to dinner Bill Randlett sat up with Lucy at night & that's all

Monday March 4th

A mild pleasant day all day but at night it came on a fierce snow storm with high wind James drew out 6 loads of Dung with the steers - Eddy working at tool chest - Meeting of Council Emily came up for me to go down at Celina's wish to see Col Cox about the purchase of woodland.

Tuesday March 5th

Freezing snowing and blowing like sixty - Emily storm bound - roads impracticable - James doing chores. Eddy at his tool chest and myself writing away like a good father at the work cut out for me by the Council on Monday - Emily is very anxious to be off even in the storm - James & Eddy went to meeting to M^cGill's The

⁶⁶ Roger Charles Tichborne, the eldest son of a wealthy British family, was lost at sea in 1854 after departing by boat from Rio de Janeiro. In 1855 his insurance was paid and his estate was settled, though his body was never found and his mother went on believing that her son was alive. In 1871 a lengthy legal battle over Tickborne's inheritance began when a butcher living in Australia claimed to be the missing Roger Charles Tickborne and sought to secure the inheritance. The Tickborne family asserted that the claimant was an imposter named Arthur Orton, the son of a London butcher, who jumped ship in South America in 1849. The court ruled in favour of the Tickborne family and at a second trial Arthur Orton was convicted of purgery and sentenced to prison. The newspapers gave much attention to this "media event" and Arthur Orton won a large following in Great Britain.

Thermometer fell to 22° below zero which makes it nearly the coldest but certainly the most unpleasant day this winter

Wednesday March 6th

Weather very little better blowing snowing and freezing still - Emily and I still lying to, under storm sails James choring - Eddy toolchest making and I still writing away at Special and Public Notices. Oaths of Office &c The day through not so cold as yesterday still continues drifting

Thursday March 7th

Somewhat more settled but cold - James choring - Eddy Tool chesting - I writing till noon, and then took Emily home in the afternoon. The roads in a most horrible state, drifted up between the fences. Teams have to turn into the fields in many places and make new roads - The Trains are snowed up - Montreal mail of yesterday not arrived The storm is I went down to Col Cox's about the purchase of Woodlands Was treated by himself Mrs Cox and the young ladies with marked politeness agreed to that I might have the place at \$700 and a fortnight given for my accepting the offer 33 loads dung out to date

Friday March 8th

Calmer though inclined to be blustry, yet still pretty cold, James choring. Eddy Tool chesting and at the village to buy a lock. I posting public and serving special notices I paid Miss Morrill \$94.00 Billy Tommy's party came off the invited guests were our young folks - Billy Rainy & Norman Wales but the latter brought Miss Goodfellow and Minnie Ewing with them Mary Burrill went off to the Ridge to avoid them - and Mrs Burrill treated them decidedly with coolness, so they came away early each and all with a flea in the ear

Saturday March 9th

A mild Pleasant thawy day Eddy working at Millington's cart and tool chesting James drew out 5 loads dung in forenoon, being 38 to date and then went off with Miss Wales to Kingsey. The little grey two year old heifer slipt into the water hole in the forenoon and lay in it the greater part of the afternoon. Mr Burrill brought me the *Guardian* and a letter to Rachel from Eliza. Eddy went to the village and took Lucy, in the evening stopt to prayer meeting

Sunday March 10

Warm and mild after the heaviest fall of snow during the night we have had at one time this year. Willie Burrill borrowed Bill Lyster's sleigh and carried Lucy to and from meeting. Eddy brought Rachel over in her own sleigh and carried Mrs P and her to meeting. Sam Rachel and the young ones came over in the evening It was late in the night before James came home

Monday March 11th

Desperately cold, snowing away still. It looks as if we commenced the winter at the wrong end, and are now coming out at the other. 5 minutes past 8 am and the boys and Lucy are still in bed nothing like farming! What other business on earth can enable a fellow to dress well drive round enjoy himself and take his ease like it? All it requires of a man is to be able to handle a whip and reins well, and be able to take every bit of work a horse has got in him, out of him in the shortest imaginable space of time. There is no necessity for a fellow to hurt himself working, that is only fit for horses - Man was made for nobler ends than brutish toil. He has nothing to do but eat drink dress and be merry so long as he has a farm at his back, which generally speaking the foregoing mode of farming will not insure eternally. had another stiff breeze with the boys because I insisted Celina should have \$200 and because I talked of borrowing it for her - Eddy got on his high horse and said wants nothing from me and will start right away. O! dear if the little pittance I possess is to cause all this misery and if the scramble for it begins before I die, how much better would it be to be a perfect beggar - Alowry (?) Brown and John Jackson came with their horse power and saw and spent the afternoon from one o'clock till night setting it up

Tuesday March 12th

Another raw blustry Cold miserable day, so cold the Cattle would'nt drink Men Sawing, the saw works splendidly cut up the half of the wood did'nt begin till 9 and quit before sundown Phin Cross here to get a certificate of taxes having been paid on the late Dent Bill Cross lot in 7th Range Bill Gee here and took an oath of office - Lucy and boys to meeting at night.

Wednesday March 13

A Beautiful bright day - Sam helping the boys at sawing. Bill Stevens & Billy Cardin taking away Threshing machine - Bill Stevens took oath of office The men finished sawing Wood and Went to Bill Lyster's charged only for two days work

Thursday March 14th 1872

A very fine day James part of the day helping Bill Lyster to saw drew out 4 loads of Dung with the horses in the afternoon 42 loads out to date I was engaged writing copies of Proces verbaux⁶⁷ for road officers and diary Eddy went to the village and took over five Dollars more worth of clothes on my account without the trouble of asking my leave The Grey 2 year old lay 1/2 a day in the water hole for the 2nd time

Friday March 15th 1872

Snowing blowing and cold - James gone to help Sam to saw. Eddy went to Kingsey. I was choring and finishing up fag ends of council business arranging proces verbaux By Laws & returns, wrote a Letter of H Hubbard the Inspector in order to get a Teacher for model School The weather is decidedly most uncomfortable we have had throughout the winter. I lent James \$2.00 to pay Sawyers

Saturday March 16

Another very cold blustry day. The roads are in an abominable position the month of March seems to have reserved the whole winter's snow to itself. The roads in many places filled to the level of the fences, our garden is so at the west and south ends there is a bank in front of the house fully 4 feet high James drawing out dung drew 3 loads today that is to say 45 loads to date - I went out to serve notices and sell the work in the wine brook Bridge Served G Placey John Armstrong, Sam Cross, John Harriman Robert Harriman and Edward Noble and administered to them the oath of office. I did'nt sell the Bridge as there was only Sam M^cManus to bid for it. I posted new notices to sell on the 25th. A telegram from England announces a warrant having arrived from australia to arrest arthur ortin the claimant in the Tichborne case on a charge of murder. I bought at Millers making of pants for Eddy. Snuffers and snuff dish and 6 buttons, left \$2 for Miss Alexander with Johnny Hall - received \$2.00 from John Harriman \$11.96 on a/c from Hall and Brickly

Sunday March 17th 1872

Another Raw Cold blustry day. it seems clearing up for a change Mrs P. James and Lucy off to meeting Lucy rode with Billy Tom Billy Randlett here and Rachel also to dinner - Lucy went to Ewings Bill Cardin here in the evening Eddy came home from Kingsey after we all went to bed

Monday March 18th 1872

Another wretched raw cold day - Eddy and Bill Cardin working in the shop in the afternoon at waggon - James drawing dung drew 8 loads total at night 53. I was making out tax notices earned \$130 at 4 o'clock

⁶⁷ The author was writing the minutes of a recent meeting of the municipal council of Durham.

Tuesday March 19th

Another Raw blustry day with snow falling Eddy gone to make invitations to his farewell party James drawing dung Lucy cooking - I writing notices. Eddy brought home two pairs of laced booties for himself that cost \$7.00 dollars it takes him nearly an hour to put them on James drew out about 4 loads of dung in the forenoon in all to dat 57. Lucy & boys went to meeting Mr Maiben there. There came on a tremendous snow storm while they were there, Billy Tom Came home with them and stopped all night

Wednesday March 20th

Snowing and blowing like mad - very cold boys not doing anything in the morning Eddy went to the village to see what time the trains would start for S'Johnsbury⁶⁸ The roads were so blocked up that Eddy tipt out several times. He found the trains not running in consequence of the snow blockade. He has therefore postponed returning to the States till Monday next with he and young Leigh start together. I think the wind was south some time in the night, and if so Jocky Pierce's premonition of a good corn year will be fulfilled. Eddy had given invitations for a farewell party this evening but in consequence of the storm only Billy Randlett Billy Burrill Bill Cardin and Mary Randlett arrived. They staid until almost one o'clock a. m of Thursday an seemed to enjoy themselves Sam Rachel and the young ones were here also. Rachel very bad with Tooth ache.

Thursday March 21st 1872

Bright Cold and drifting in the morning and so it continued throughout the whole day, Eddy and James were working at the waggon the chief part of the day and nothing particular occurred to mark a change in the dull routine of our miserable cheerless lives. There is one thing I feel with regret Eddy is made to believe I have it in my power to purchase M^cGill's farm for him - that I could pay \$200 a year just as easily as not, when it is very easy to perceive that it takes every cent I can make and that is not enough to meet current expenses. I am also made the "Bete noir" with Celina as I am not permitted to borrow the money I promised she should have, as all are very ready to acknowledge that it is not in our power to pay it. So that everyone of them treat me as the great barrier to their prospects in life. I hope it is the truth, for in that case the obstacle ere long will be taken out of the way, and the road to prosperity will be opened up to them. Oh dear! I have lived on through hardships privation and misery in hope of being able to give our children a little start in life. In some respects the prospect appeared in a degree realized, but alas! not to that degree the expectations of our children have been raised, and although I never dreamt of dividing the little I had to leave until the time would come when such divisions are always made, they seem to demand it at once, as if I possessed no longer a claim upon it for support

Friday March 22nd

Opens bright Cold and raw as usual. Truly there has been more real wintry weather in March than in all the rest of the winter put together - the snow is drifted up in the roads and in the fields round the fences within the last fortnight never attained before - it is six inches higher than the garden fence in front of the house. A similar drift is to be found all round the house about distant enough at the west end to admit the passage of Sleighs &c James drawing out dung

Saturday March 23^d

Day opens dull & milder but snowing Lucy and Eddy off to M^cGill's Quilting - James off in the evening Leonard & Celina came up at night - I am oppressed beyond expression with lowness of spirits everything and everybody we wears a look of gloom - I find nothing to cheer me - abroad I have'nt a friend and at home none that cares for me. My deafness even forbids me to enter into the enjoyment of whatever little cheerful

⁶⁸ St. Johnsbury, Vermont, U. S. A.

conversation going on in the family circle, but not deaf enough yet to forbid my hearing the short answers given to any questions I may ask, and the continued scoldings and upbraidings I receive on all occasions I have lost all control over every member of the firm. every one does what they like but me, and as a consequence our affairs guided by the hands of recklessness and inexperience grow every day more embarrassing. I wish I was dead. When there is no one left that cares for me beyond what interest induces, I feel I am only a useless miserable bother here

Sunday March 24th

Opens dull and milder, but with more snow - weather not quite settled. The usual routine running to meeting, dress and company. if I could see the least appearance of Kindness, gentleness childlike or wifelike affection springing out of this everlasting meeting going, I should entertain perhaps some more respect for it but where the only fruit is selfishness avariciousness, parental contempt and some of the very coarsest features in the character of those living in forgetfulness of any religious obligation I should - if I believed all religion to be identical with that adopted by my family - say "I will none of it" Leonard & Celina gone

Monday March 25

Morning opens beautiful and mild warm all day Eddy away once more to the States I served special notices on Nelson & Richard Lyster Ben Dowd Henry Veasy Wm Rick and Noah Cummings - sold the work on Scott Bridge to Bill Gee for \$96.00. Gave Notices to John Weir for Service on Gowden McCaffy Denis Mooney - Wm Ginney (?) - Phin Cross C McGinny - Paid Miss Alexander \$30. more - Recd a letter from H Hubb about Miss Ellen Bailey, wrote to him to engage her.⁶⁹ I Bought 5^{lbs} Tea at Millers

Tuesday March 26th

Dark dull - unsettled inclined to snow but mild on the whole Mary Anne Came up. Jams Coopering⁷⁰ Buckets Mr Joe Atkinson's sale took place his cattle were very poor 3 of his sheep died directly after the sale

Wednesday March 27th 1872

Beautiful day I went to Melbourne bought 50^{lbs} flour 1/2^{lb} Cream Tarter loaf Bread, 2^{lbs} crushed sugar - Mr Maiben came - James took Eddy's waggon to the Blacksmith's

Thursday March 28th/72

Beautiful day. James Coopering Buckets Mrs P and Mary Ann Washing buckets. Mr Maben took Peacock in the sleigh and ran up to Melbourne and back on an inconceivable short time - James Broke a road into the woods in the afternoon and drew up his buckets or part of them

Friday March 29th 1872

Rather fine day - I went to Ulverton and had my School accounts audited. Mr Maiben took Mary Anne over to Trenholmvile. James finished drawing up his buckets One of Sam's cows died after calving. James skinned it for him

Saturday March 30th

A beautiful Morning at first afterward bright and chilly all day. One of the Armstrong sheep had twin lambs in the night - they look rather dumpish but Mrs P. has invited them to take tea beside the stove and good results are anticipated Mr Maiben took Jack and rode up to the village to get his watch from the Watchmaker's. He afterwards went to M^cGill's and staid for dinner. Sam M^cManus staid 3/4ths of the day

⁶⁹ In response to the author's letter of 15 March 1872, Mr. H. Hubbard, Inspector of Schools, wrote to recommend Miss Ellen Bailey as teacher for the model school.

⁷⁰ James was making wooden buckets for use in the collection of maple sap in the sugar bush.

coopering Buckets with James then he went to the village with Cardin to sell the cow's hide that died yesterday One Sow pigged and had 9 young ones. Mr Maiben went with James to meeting, and stopped all night at M^cGill's

Sunday March 31st 1872

A dull mild morning, threatens more snow. One of the lambs died last night Snow storm lasted all day and continued during the night Mr Miaben returned with James after meeting Billy Tommy Stopped to dinner Mr Maiben intended to go home tomorrow, but the appearance of the storm induces him to delay his return until Tuesday

Monday April 1st

The month Opens with a snow storm that has continued with greater or less violence all day yesterday, and last night. I think it has been the heaviest fall this winter, it has fallen 12 inches in depth. The snow now is a most tremendous depth. There is an embankment all round the house not less than six feet high, the roads are in a terrible condition I had heavy work to drive down to Ulverton to a meeting of School Commissioners, which was adjourned to the 1st Monday in May Mr Maiben intended to have went home today but the storm has induced him to delay his departure till Wednesday. Mr Atkinson is in a very low condition they say and sinking fast I bought Lucy a pair of Booties 2nd lamb died last night

Tuesday April 2nd 1872

Bright blowing and wintry looking, Spring seems as far off as ever - fodder disappearing at a woeful rate. Dear Mr Maiben left this afternoon and went with James to meeting to return no more. I felt as if one of the family circle was leaving. I sincerely esteem him, he is a good man if such a thing exists. James brought home a letter from Eddy, he is well but has found no work yet. James got his new boots mended with Tom Aylmer already. Old Cat Kittened in our bed. Mrs P. and I consigned her offspring to a cold and snowy grave. James threatened with a felon⁷¹ on his finger

Wednesday April 3^d 1872

A mild dull morning, it then became bright, then squally with slight snow - James drew out ten loads of dung making in all 67 -drawn to the back field. Old Brown came up and engaged 4 Pigs - two for himself, one for Simon Stevens & 1 for Jabery Armitage, one of them was killed in the fright - more snow at night. I sat up till one o'clock watching the 2 year old white heifer but she didn't calve, so Mrs P then got up but she wouldn't calve for her either

Thursday April 4th 1872

The Morning opens bright mild and pleasant. I sold Molly for \$35.00 to Thompson the Bridgeman, But have to keep her till she calves. James drawing out Dung today 11 loads to the Hill above the covered drains, he has drawn out 78 loads to date - The snow thawed smartly with the heat of the sun today and sap commenced flowing well on the south side of hills, there is nothing particular to note John Mooney came up to pay His taxes on Bogie farm Miss Scott called to receive her salary Mr Gee and Bill Burrill here about the bridge James took over some potatoes and swapped them with Phillip Lyster who warmly invited Mrs P and myself over to visit. James has taken a felon on his finger

Friday April 5th 1872

⁷¹ A felon is a painful abscess or infection at the end of a finger or toe, near the nail which may be the result of a bruise "heavy enough to reach down to the bone and to inflame it". - *The Montreal Gazette*, 2 Jan 1872.

Slight frost last night. The morning opens bright warm and beautiful Sam & James tapped the sugar bush, but sap does not run very well yet. The day is warm and thaw going on rapidly James opened the felon on his finger at night and feels more comfortable⁷²

Saturday April 6th 1872

The day comes in beautiful and warm there was very little frost last night thaw going on roads growing very bad John Weir came up and paid McGiveny and Lowden's taxes, says Mr Atkinson is dying James and Sam went to Ned Pierce's bee to draw rails. I went to see Mr Atkinson - he is very low, his sands fast running out he seemed pleased to see me squeezed my hand warmly but his utterance has become so feeble that I could not distinguish a word he said. I then went to John Bothwell's and stopped all night Mrs Bothwell recovering from illness and [?]. John himself has no power of his leg yet & I fear never will

Sunday April 7th 1872

Thawing away, rained during the night. Mrs P did'nt go to meeting today Sam's Ewe had a fine lamb I stopped at John Bothwell's till after dinner and then staid at Mr Atkinson's and sat up with him all night his Sister and his brother William were there as also were two of his nieces and the husband of one of them.

Monday April 8th

Poor Atkinson is sinking fast. I think he will hardly live till Tuesday. The snow is going off rapidly, the roads are dreadfully dangerous. On my way home Mrs Teape took me up as I was on foot and I managed to shake her old sleigh to pieces - Christopher Lyster hailed me when passing - he is labouring under bilious fever⁷³. I went to the village to get him some medicine but did not succeed - picked Miss Wales up on the road and gave her a ride The cow I sold Thompson calved in the night. Two more of them are sick James and Bill Cardin chopping on the Sugar Bush and preparing for business. Sap not running much and although tapped on Friday not much in the buckets yet

Tuesday April 9th 1872

Mild and Thawing away still, some spots of barn ground appearing yesterday the sheep and young cattle were eager to go and have a nibble. Sam took away the little two year old heifer that I swapped with him for hay - yesterday James in the Sugar bush. very little sap, rain showers and dreadful deep snow in the woods - Marian Wales came home with James & Lucy from meeting - Poor Atkinson gone at last - he died without a struggle and in perfect control of his intellect until the last moment - White Cow and Nelly calved had a Ewe lambed two lambs

Wednesday April 10th 1872

Thawing still, snow going rapidly in the fields, the roads in an awful state, James in the sugar bush boiling down what little sap there is, there was only a very little, Poor sugar year so far - John Wadleigh came up to invite my attendance at Mr A's funeral, he also requested an obituary notice which I wrote and took up to Jones for printing - Paid Jones \$1.50 cents subscription for the *Guardian* for the present year.⁷⁴ I paid him after taking tea with him and gave it to him in the Printing office - he remarked when seeing a few Bank bills in my Portfeuille that I was rich, there was a man standing by with a blue book in his hand who from what he

⁷² In *Great-Grandma's Health Suggestions from the late 1800s* the following "Recipe For Felons" is printed: "Fill a tumbler with equal parts of fine salt and ice; mix well. Sink the finger in the center, allow it to remain until it is nearly frozen and numb; then withdrawit, and when sensation is restored, renew the operation four or five times, when it will be found the disease is destroyed. This must be done before pus is formed."

⁷³ A fever resulting from some ailment of the bile or the liver.

⁷⁴ The Richmond Guardian, established in 1857. was an eight-paged, weekly newspaper which served the population of the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Mr. William Evans Jones, became its owner and editor since 1860. Employed with him in the printing office were two males over the age of 16 and 1 male under the age of 16. The aggregate amount of their annual wages was \$600.00.

said appeared to be a road Inspector - Jones told me he was building steam Mill in Richmond - When I got home I was very tired and sick

Thursday April 11th 1872

Morning opens with snow, and wind from the east, but afterwards became fine. James resumed drawing dung, 5 loads 72 in all, nothing occurred worthy of particularizing. I went to the late Mr Atkinson's funeral in the morning, but found only a few there, in fact the death of the rich man who simply lives with merely a regard for no other interests than his own, to accumulate money to hoard, to grind, is seldom attended with those demonstrations of sympathy from others that will be worked when even a kind, generous and honest man however poor - departs this life - Poor John Bothwell notwithstanding his lameness managed to be there as also was Mr Burrill senior and Junior. No Female of all the neighbours ventured near the house - Not one of John Royston's, John Lesters families came there. The only parties present that night - beside his sister Mrs A and daughter, Miss Woodward - Mr Atkinson's niece and old Alice Were Sam Mills Jeremiah Elliott, Henry Cross, Archy Bothwell, Michal Mooney, John Wadleigh and myself besides the Burrills & John Bothwell already mentioned, and Richard Major

There was liberal refreshments prepared for all present. Tea was twice prepared and through the night an ample supply of crackers and cheese Brandy and Tobacco was on hand, Mr Atkinson dressed in his best suit lay as if asleep in a metallic casket lined with silk that cost fifty dollars, he looked very natural though pale

Friday April 12th 1872

The day opens warm and bright after a sharp frost, a good sap day - the small brooks are all broken up and the St Francis shows signs of giving way the little white heifer calved in the night and Mrs P had a hard time of it - up almost the whole night. Mr Atkinson's funeral started about 9 o'clock in the morning to the Congregational Church in Melbourne where he was buried the roads were in a frightful condition and only twenty teams including the Hearse attended the Funeral was remarkable for the absence of almost all the old respectable inhabitants. Indeed there was much difficulty in obtaining bearers, Six in number they were at last found, six in number James Miller, Jeremiah Elliott Junior and myself for the right hand of the coffin, and Richard Major, Jacob Armitage and Wm Burrill for the left. We moved off from the house by the old road and crossed the dilapidated Elwin Bridge Mr Saunders the Methodist Minister with Jacob Armitage in advance I rode with Wm Burrill in his sleigh while William Burrill Junior carried my wife who met us at Andrew Stimpson's in mine. Seldom has a public man who has spent so much of his life in the zealous performances of his duties as a public office as did the late Mr Atkinson - go to his last home with so few demonstrations of the public sympathy and respect. After all it is easily to be seen that the private virtues of a man win a hundredfold the esteem of others, more than his most useful actions when devoted to the general public weal, and perhaps it is best so, and tells better for the feelings of the human heart than if it were otherwise. Kindness gentleness, generosity, fellow sympathy warm the affections and leave behind them an abiding sense of their worth, While the most energetic exertions in the way of social improvement though at the time of their exertion winning a passive approbation; leave but a transient impression behind them and are like the Spirits who call them into action soon forgotten Mr Saunders preached the funeral Sermon from the words "Let me die the death of the righteous, and my last days be like his"⁷⁵ it was very good, yet elicited little feeling after committing the corpse to its last resting place we retired to Gee's tavern where a good dinner was served with plenty of liquor and few would imagine that the parties returning Home, as still wearing their funeral badges felt in their breasts the slightest symptom of that sorrow those symbols of woe adumbrated Thompson the bridgeman took away his cow and calf and paid James 50^{cts} for keeping her over time James drew out eleven loads of dung and with five yesterday will leave the total amount to date 93 loads. James agreed with Sam Hazlip to split the wood which he agreed to do for \$2.50 in commenced raining at night

Saturday April 13th 1872

⁷⁵ "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" - The Book of Numbers 23:10b

The Morning opens fine & bright Sam Hazlip commenced to split the wood James went to Sugar bush - I started to go to Ulverton on foot, called at Mr Hall's and had tea. William Hall carried me to Ulverton and back bought Lucy and Mrs P. each a pair of boots for \$3.20 I find Jones had my article on Atkinson's death printed in this day's *Guardian* Old Jim Brady of Kingsey is dead, got home by 12, the roads in a frightful condition

Sunday April 14th 1872

Cold raw wind after a frosty night ice on the river Commencing to shove - Mrs P did'nt go to meeting Jas and Lucy went on foot and then went to Ewings for dinner. Billy Tom came home with them and stopped for tea, Rachel Sam & young ones over but did not stay. It froze pretty hard during the night, and I think that's all worth notice today

Monday April 15th

Morning opens dark cold and hard. James going to the bush to boil down. Sam Hazlip at the splitting again, I went over to Sam's to help to weigh out a ton of Hay, our hay is done not more than 200 weight in the barn Sam Hazlip had Bill Carding⁷⁶ helping here in the afternoon to split and both lads went up to the Sugar bush at night and staid until four oclock in the morning, sugarred off between 70 & 80^{lbs} - sap ran pretty well all day and the buckets were about half full at night- there came on a slight frost in the evening - The brown cow I think will die - she is lifting

Tuesday April 16th 72

Light snow but mild and pleasant. Sam Hazlip still splitting wood. James weighed the remainder of the cut of Hay in Sam's barn which waid something over 1400^{lbs} and drew all home both what I weighed yesterday & it - nothing particular to note except being a good sap day and that we have a good deal of trouble with the 4 year old cow which has to be lifted - something is the matter with her I went to village in the evening - got six Gladiola's from Boivert

Wednesday April 17th

Frost last night - fine warm day threatening rain James gathering Sap - buckets full - Miss Morrill here I paid her \$20.00 James Commenced boiling down in the afternoon. The Brown four year old has had to be lifted for several days⁷⁷ - sent for Messrs William & Thomas Burrill who took the calf from her by cutting through the vaginal end of the matrix. I had to sit up all night watching her, she may get over it but she seems to grow lower in flesh and weaker all the time

Thursday April 18th 1872

Frost last night, but a very warm day. Mrs P turned all the cattle except the cows out to their shifts⁷⁸ after breakfast both yesterday and today. James went to mill with about 5 Bushels wheat. The brown cow grows weaker all the time and I think she will die yet the calf seems dieing too - wont take anything Bidy calved a dead calf we had to take it from her Brown Cow sinking and the calf lying with still life in it.

Friday April 19th

Beautiful mild day. James in Sugar bush - the roads still continue frightfully bad - I went on foot and served notices on councillors of a meeting on Monday next to elect a councillor in the room of Mr Atkinson Miss Hannah Hall gave me her old red Gladiola roots James sugarred off about 80 weight of sugar. Brown cows calf lying with barely life in it but it will take nothing - its mother still living

⁷⁶ Alternate spelling: "*Cardin*"

⁷⁷ Pregnancy complications and poor nutrition may have weakened the cows to the point where they could no longer stand by themselves and, thus, had to be elevated by harness or "lifted".

⁷⁸ Now that they were outside the barn, the cattle had to manage to find their own food.

Saturday April 20th/72

A very fine day James went to the Mill - Johnny Mahomet came up - Brown Cow getting hard to lift

Sunday 21st/72

Very fine day - Warm as the month of June - James Lucy and Mrs P went to meeting on foot

Monday April 22nd

Came on a warm rain in the Morning then it turned Cold and sleety - becoming very cold in the afternoon and freezing hard at night Election of Councillor. John Royston elected, and W. Burrill mayor. Assisted raising the roof of James Miller's barn James went to Melbourne with Johnny Mahomet and stopped at M^cGills till near day. Brown Cow not quite dead but mirabile dictu!⁷⁹ her calf has all at once come to life and is running about in the barn as merry as aging. Gardiner Stevens plowing on Bickford place 1st plowing I have seen this spring

Tuesday April 23^d

Dull cold and threatening Snow all day - the Brown cow died James & Johnny Mahomet in the Sugar bush in the forenoon Johnny Mahomet went home in the afternoon James again in the bush in the afternoon - a slight fall of snow during the night - Elena's Phillip came over with the District vote in the Teacher's board question he took tea with us

Wednesday 24th

Cold and raw with wind from west and norwest. James skinned the cow and calf. I took the hides up to the village they weighed 45^{lbs} and came to \$3.15 took also 16 1/4^{lbs} butter and 4 doz eggs to Hetherington's which came to \$3.45 brought ninety-five^{lbs} of Bran - Blanch calved about midnight and I pulled out the last tooth in my upper Jaw, that's all James in the Sugar bush sent proceedings of Council to Jones letter of condolence to Mrs Atkinson and a letter from James to Eddy

Thursday April 25th

Day opens dark, cool and looking like rain, then it rained freely the most of the day, the Hay we got from Sam M^cManus will be finished in the morning and we can not get the other 50^{cwt} from him as he will be short himself, the little heifer we gave him has calved - James in the sugar bush gathering sap - young Billy Burrill is to be married next Wednesday - got a letter from Jane Eliza - roads are still very bad and patches of snow are to be found everywhere

Friday April 26th

A beautiful warm day Hay done - James running around looking for some, bought a ton from young Billy Burrill for \$10. and got it home - Bill Cardin in Sugar bush working for James, sap ran well today - Nelson Bartlett has made 600^{lbs} sugar to date - we have'nt made much yet

Saturday April 27

Bright and pretty cold. James I think with Bill Cardin's assistance finished sugarring off about 80^{lbs} of tough sugar indeed all our little bit of sugar has been spoiled this year by leaving the sap in the buckets until it soured - James went to the village in the evening for his tugs⁸⁰ and sent home two bags of Bran with Sam

⁷⁹ Wonderful to tell!

⁸⁰ This may refer to the straps James would have used to connect the harness of the horse or ox to the vehicle to be drawn.

Hazlip and Cardin while he stopped at M^cGill's. I went to Durham and paid Billy Burrill \$8.00 on the price of the Hay which I got from Billy Brown for the Pigs today. I paid Fred Hall \$2.50 for plank purchased by Majar for the Scott Bridge - Bill Reed left a Bushel and a half of nice seed wheat for me at Millers my purchase was

1/2 ^{lb} Rosin	4 ^{cts}
Do Bees wax	15
1 ^{lb} Tobacco	30
1 Hat	25
5 ^{lb} G Seeds	25
Carrot do	5
Chains & my shoes	<u>2.64</u>
	\$ 3.64

Mrs P Called me up at midnight to follow James over to Sam's for fear Sam Hazlip would bite his finger off - the latter is seems had brought home a bottle of high wine: got drunk - broke the window - licked Bill Cardin abused Rachel - frightened the children - challenged Sam and was kicking up all sorts of didos⁸¹. But the muss⁸² was over when I got there, as the subject of the disturbance had withdrawn without biting anybody

Sunday April 28

Raw Cold Bright day Mrs P at home. Lucy & James to meeting on foot nothing particular until after midnight when Mrs Teap's House was burned down and Mrs Trotter Elliott burned alive in it.

Monday 29th 1872

A Beautiful warm day James Brought in the sugar buckets. I took two pigs over the river to Millington James took Lucy up to M^cGill's in the evening in order that she may go up with Marian Wales, Minnie Ewing and Harriett Wales to get their likeness taken tomorrow⁸³ I commenced gardening

Tuesday April 30th

A Fine Warm day. James Fencing. I gardening. Got a letter from Eddy and Received the government grand - Lucy came home with James from Prayer meeting with Likeness &c. Nothing more and so the month ends - James took the young cattle over to the old place today to shift for themselves

Wednesday May 1st

Day Commences fine with slight appearance of rain the ground has dried up greatly this last week. The appearance of grass is good that is to say it does not look winter killed - but a little warm rain is wanted, there are patches of snow in the garden & on the mountain Mrs P. and Lucy went to the village , bought a dress for Celina. James fencing I was gardening: planted out 1st batch of Wallflowers, Apple and Peach trees - it Rained pretty hard after night - Black Billy Burrill married to Liddy Stimson⁸⁴ Anniversary of Rachel's marriage to Sam M^cManus

Thursday May 2nd 1872

Fair morning - came on a smart thunder shower about noon cool in the afternoon, but no appearance of frost - I went to Durham got a shoe on Peacock and had waggon tires set cost me a Dollar. Brought home a bag of

⁸¹ Mischievous tricks or pranks

⁸² Squabble, row, commotion

⁸³ A photograph. In the 1871 census of the village of Melbourne a Henry Brock was listed as being a photographer.

⁸⁴ The marriage of William Stevens Burrill and Lydia Ann Stimson was the first to be solemnized in Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Kirkdale, Quebec. This brick structure and the original building which it replaced remain standing in 1999.

Seed Wheat Wm Reed gave me half a bushel early rose from B Reed 1 1/2 Bushels grass seed at \$3 1/4 per bushel 26 yards of Brilliant for Lucy at 22^{cts} per yard and a velveteen Jacket at #3.70 James Dinged the garden for Potatoes Poor Alexis LaBonte is dying from frightful burns caused by the explosion of his Potash Kettle yesterday

Friday May 3^d 1872

Cool Morning, but a fine Warm afternoon, got Peacock (Emily's) and our mair's colt altered by McLaughlin - a regular butcher - I fear much for them James gone to E Randlett's barn to work - I went to Elvin's Mill with 8 bags of Wheat, but didn't get it with me - sowed in the Big box following seeds

No 1 Ten week Sts
" 2 Petunia Hybrida
" 3 Verbenas
" 4 Brown Wall flowers

O! Joyful! Celina home again Now I have got my man Friday at last.

Saturday, May 4th

A fine day. James again working at Erastus' barn in the forenoon drew home five hundred pounds of hay from the same place in the afternoon. I was working at my a/cs for Monday next frost at night

Sunday May 5

Beautiful day - all to meeting. Black Billy his wife and two sisters called. Billy Tom to dinner Yellow heifer calved that's all

Monday May 6th

A Fine day but rather cool. Commissioner's meeting rate laid - James went for Grist & he plowed the Garden - then took Lucy to Ewings and came home 3 o'clock A.M Lucy is going tomorrow with Minnie to see the examination of Teachers at Richmond Shorthorn calved last night

Tuesday, May 7th

A very warm day I was planting early rose Potatoes in the garden - James commenced Plowing In wheat in the Potato ground beside the notch road Went to meeting at M^cGill's and brought Lucy home - I sowed some Petunias and Verbenas in tins in the house Webber Burrill⁸⁵ called and stopped chatting with Celina till bedtime

Wednesday May 8th

Another fine day - James still plowing wheat ground I finished planting the early Roses in the forenoon I went to the village at night and got a letter for Lucy from Tobias Lyster from St Johnsbury

Thursday May 9

⁸⁵ Webber Burrill, age 25, was the brother of "Billy Tom" and Mary and the second son of the author's neighbour, Thomas Burrill and the late Lucinda (nee Reed) Burrill.

A Beautiful warm day James Commenced drawing dung to Wheat ground. Sam went to the Village to put boxes in to the wheels at Boisvert's⁸⁶ I sent some double sun flower seed with him to Domptar Boisvert - I was digging in flower garden - It was a holiday with the Blacksmith, so he would'nt let Sam do the wheels

Friday May 10th

Another fine day Sam went to the Village to fix the Wheels. James still drawing dung. I was gardening. Heavy Lightening and Thunder in the night with rain Mrs Witty paid her taxes by her son

Saturday May 11th

Another fine day but rather cooler - James drawing dung - got a Letter from Mr Evans but no seeds sent him \$5.00 from Ulverton Nothing new in the papers.

Sunday May 12

Fine Cool day Mrs P. James & the girls to meeting - Mr M^cGill has been laid up several days with Rheumatism Erastus Randlett here to dinner and tea nothing new - looks like frost in the evening

Monday May 13 1872

Dry and rather Cool for the Season - grass is anything but forward sowed wheat on the hill beside the road to notch being a bagfull made me a present of by Bill Reed. James had to get a pail full from Bill Lyster to finish, I sowed cabbages and cauliflowers in garden after wheeling a lot of dung into it. Bill Hall's little boy was almost Killed by a Colt Kicking him in the face. He will be disfigured for life - James brought home Waggon from Boisvert's

Tuesday May 14th

Dry and Cool still James Drawing Dung. Nothing to note of any consequence - I was gardening . I commenced Whitewashing trees and Lucy commenced Whitewashing garden fence

Wednesday May 15

Dry and cool I went to Ulverton got Phin Cross and John Alexander's taxes from John Weir brought home two pounds of tea - James still drawing dung. Lucy Whitewashing house. Published two copies of notice sent me by County Sec with reform to By Law No 43 pour imposer et prelever une certaine somme pour le paiement de la publication du Reglement no 42 et les fins generales de ce conseil, est maintenant depose au bureau du soussigne ou tous les intereses pourront en prendre communication.

Thursday May 16

Fair dry day James still drawing dung Mrs P and I to the village Lucy and Celina Whitewashing house

Friday May 17

Fair warm day. james finished drawing out 90 loads of dung to the Potato ground which with 30 to the Wheat ground and 97 to the oat ground makes 217 loads of dung altogether to date

Saturday May 18th-72

⁸⁶ A blacksmith forge, owned by Albert Boisvert, was listed in the 1871 census of the village of Melbourne.

Fine warm day. I went to Unverton and got a letter fm Wm Evans stating that the Dahlias were at the Station. I went there and got them. Sam went to Hetherington's auction and bought a Buggie at \$62.00 also two tables - Celina got a letter from Bushel to go to St Joseph's in Missouri and be married James plowing

Sunday, May 19th/72

Another fine day Billy Randlett here in the evening nothing remarkable looks a little like rain - Berry Calved in the woods a heifer calf That's all
Monday May 20th

Fair gentle rain all day James plowing the potatoes and went to Henry Gallup's in the evening in order to borrow money for Celina I finished up my garden

Tuesday May 21st/72

Fine day James still plowing - I wrote notices to road officers and then went out and served them on Nelson Lyster - Ned Noble⁸⁷ - Richd Lyster & Henry Veassy got three subscribers to the *Guardian* viz Christ Lyster - Nelson do & James Jamieson - that's all Celina went to Kingsey to make up her dresses

Wednesday 22nd May

Fair warm day James plowing his Potatoes - I went out to serve road officers notices, served Wm Stevens on himself - Richd Majars on Mary Blake - Henry Cross on himself - George Placey do and John Curry do - called on Mrs Atkinson & John Royston got two subscribers for the *Guardian* viz Wm G Lyster & Henry Cross Heavy rain in the night

Thursday May 23^d

Raining heavily in the morning - became lighter as the day advanced and distant thunder & more rain and continued raining all day - Celina and Lucy went to village to buy hats and fixings for Celina's Journey to Nebraska on Monday - Celina lost \$2.35 given her by me in order to post \$1.50 to Jones in Richmond - learned later in the day that Billy Cardin picked it up - Billy Burrill called in the evening and stopped all night - he goes with Celina on Monday. James lay about all day - says he is worked out that's all I think

Friday May 24th 1872

Fair growing day - Queen's birthday⁸⁸ - great doings at the Church today - dedicating it.⁸⁹ Bishop there - grand feed at the old parsonage - 25^{cts} for dinner - 15 for tea and 15 more for the lecture - there is to be a Jolly time - all the world and his wife will be there. James harrowing and preparing to plant in potatoes at last. Sam Mrs P and I dropped and we finished the pieces about 3 PM - Billy Dowd was here and chased an old French tinker - James Went to Gallup's and borrowed \$200.00 No hay horses turned out to grass

Saturday May 25th 1872

Heavy Showers in the night - fine growing day I went to Sam's to drop Potatoes, but ground so wet we didn't plant James preparing to sow first oats, the ground is very wet But he sowed the piece under the hill where the Potatoes are planted and then went to the village. Bought a pair of boots which Mrs Jacob Armitage carried home in mistake with her

Sunday May 26th/72

⁸⁷ Ned Noble and the Edward Noble, mentioned in the diary entry of 16 March 1872, may have been the same person.

⁸⁸ Queen Victoria was born on 24 May 1819.

⁸⁹ Holy Trinity Anglican Church, built in Kirkdale, Quebec, by William Hood in 1871, replaced the wooden structure which was erected in 1835 and consecrated by Bishop Mountain of Montreal in 1840. The rector of Holy Trinity Church in 1872 was the Reverend Ernest Willoughby King.

A very fine day Wm Burrill Willie Randlet and Mary Anne here Celina preparing to be off tomorrow - heard that Simon Stevens is clear gone out of his head he says he met the Messiah in Montreal and give him ten cents for which he was exceedingly thankful

Monday May 27th 1872

A very fine morning Mary Celina and Willie Burrill started for Nebraska, Celina Booking her luggage as W C Burrill in order to save freight - Willie not having the required amount - James brought home Sam's furniture which he bought at Sam Hetherington's auction the other day - Cabbages Cauliflowers and early potatoes beginning to come up James & I helping Sam to Plant Potatoes John Wadleigh & wife here

Tuesday, May 28th 1872

It Rained all forenoon I served notices on John Armstrong and Bob Harriman. James helping Sam to plant potatoes; Sam took Mary Anne down to Will Wentworth's Crossing - I stopped at Mrs Atkinson's and met John Wadleigh there and had a consultation about the will Tom Martin brought 4 yearlings to pasture

Wednesday May 29th

A dark dull Cold day with stiff breeze from the west- Bill Cardin drawing out dung. James plowing till four o'clock and then went to the village and brought home Mr Maiben - he looks well but suffers from nervous headache

Thursday May 30th

A dark dull mild but nice growing day James still plowing I went to Melbourne village in the evening

Friday May 31st

Dry and Cool in the forenoon Heavy Rain in the afternoon James sowed the remainder of the Old pasture in oats Leonard Blake came up to see Sam about the Widow's place. Celina was married today to Joseph John Bushel at St Joseph's in the state of Missouri

Saturday, June 1st/72

Showry - James finished Harrowing oats - spreading dung in field next Carlisles Went with Mr Maiben to Richmond and then stopped to M^cGill's to Prayer meeting

Sunday June 2nd 1872

A Beautiful day - Mr and Mrs Cummings here The latter went away in high dudgeon from misunderstanding an expression of Mr Maiben's I went over to Sam's after setting the potatoes on for dinner - Sam had lots of Rye but I didn't take much of it. His colt's leg is very bad. Bill Gee opened it in two other places and lots of matter ran out.

Monday June 3^d, 1872

A Beautiful day - James sowing oats next to Carlisles - has had Johnny Mahomet helping him Council meeting lots of work - drafting specifications of new Bridge at Elwin's. I took dinner at Roystons got home about 12 pm - Mr Maiben went off to M^cGill's taking a French leave⁹⁰

⁹⁰ This may have referred to an 18th century custom, prevalent in France, of leaving receptions without taking leave of

Tuesday June 4th/72

Beautifully day James Harrowing in oats next Carlisles - Sylvy Taylor and Miss Marion Wales to tea - James took them to meeting - it rained pretty hard I was writing proceedings of Monday's Council.

Wednesday June 5th/72

Fine - James plowing - Mr Maiben returned Walter Stevens down with a note from Cummings demanding an explanation Mr Maiben off - James took him to Richmond he takes the Cars at 2 a.m for Portland⁹¹ on his way to New Brunswick James brought home the bag of Salt Sandy Elliott was to leave at Matheson's shed - I was drawing off new valuation Roll Tom Martin brought his colt to pasture

Thursday June 6th

Very fine - James still plowing - Mrs P and Rachel to village - I was drafting forms of new valuation Roll. James finished plowing. that's all

Friday June 7th

Very warm day - James finished sowing oats and went in th evening to Dick Boast's to take up his note. Staid out till 3 A.M. I was finishing writing Public notice specification for Elwin Bridge then went to Melbourne and brought home Barrel of corn meal - it was 25^{lbs} - little Peddler here bought a tract for Lucy at 25^{cts} - she bought a pair of glass earrings. I sold 2 calf skins to Woodward for 80^{cts}

Saturday June 8th 1872

Raining slightly all day - James & Mahomet shearing sheep. I published following note at Methodist Chapel and Miller's along with other notices in the afternoon:

Durham May 15th 1872

Public Notice: The Collection Roll of the School municipality is now completed and may be examined at the office of the undersigned. All parties whose names appear thereon at liable for any assessment are hereby to pay the same to me at my office within twenty days without further notice.

E. T. P

Sc Tr to the S. Council of Durham

Sunday June 9th 1872

A very warm fine day nobody here but Sam Rachel & the children, they did not stop for tea because Mrs P gave Rachel a hint that it was'nt tea time

Monday June 10th 1872

Raining slightly all the day - John Harriman here making an appointment about taking valuation on Wednesday - George Placey, George Johnston and Wm Burrill here about the opposition getting up to the

one's host or hostess. It is interesting to note that there is an equivalent French-Canadian expression - "filer a l'anglais" - which may be translated as "taking an English leave"!

⁹¹ The line linking Montreal with Portland, Maine, was added in 1853, making the Grand Trunk Railway a major force in pre-Confederation transportation.

Elwin Bridge - Sam M^cManus and Web Burrill here in the evening Web stopped all night Jonny commenced fencing there was a good deal of lightning and rain in the night

Tuesday June 11th

Dark - cool cloudy with brisk wind - James fencing - it then rained - several severe showers - Thomas Horn (Alias Darky) was taken by Johnny Mahomet to Wm Lyster's Bull - Billy Randlett came home with James and Lucy from meeting
Wednesday, June 12th

Opens nice and fine in the morning - I am going to meet the assessors at Ulverton to Commence making new valuation - did so - took dinner at Richd Major's. Tea at Mrs Atkinson's and slept at John Wadleigh's James was fencing. There came on about 5 O'clock in the afternoon one of the worst thunder showers of rain and hail I ever experienced. Mahomet took our first cow to W Lyster's Bull

Thursday June 13, 1872

Dull and cloudy but fair until 5 PM when it began raining again and continued so through the night. I was still with the assessors - Breakfasted at Wadleigh's dined at George Placey's and took tea at Picken's and slept at Sam Cross' - James still fencing - Mahomet took Nelly to Bull - he is not with us

Friday 14th/72

Fair day James and Lucy went to Sherbrooke - I still with assessors Breakfasted at Sam Cross' dined at Jeremiah Elliott's and took tea with Henry Armitage. Blanch to Bull - Ned Noble at our house - lost the petition against the Bridge at Elwins.

Saturday June 15

Beautiful day - Started early in Search of Petition - went to Henry Armitages then to Jerry Elliott's then to Bill Reed's Then to Lecompt's Mill to meet parties interested in his road - dined at John Royston's - he carried me to the road to receive tenders for bridge - then brought me back to meet those interested in reopening Royston Road - took tea with him. When he carried me back to the Porter School house to serve notices on Scrabble Bill for meeting on Thursday next - himself Ben Reed and Picken as well as scrabble with me

Sunday 16th

Beautiful day. Mrs P went with Rachel to meeting - Sam and whole family here to dinner - his cold is getting worse. Henry Cross and a young man named Drummond called on the way home from Coaticook - another cow to W Lyster's bull

Monday June 17th 1872

A Splendid fine warm day - I am about to serve notices for meeting on Thursday next on Wm Burrill and Jacob Armitage - have done so - Lucy and James home from Sherbrooke with letter from Celina and George Paterson Celina was married to John Bushel at St Joseph Missouri on May 31

Tuesday June 18th 1872

Another beautiful day out again with the assessors - they dined with us - James Harrowing our potatoes - nothing further worth relating

Wednesday June 19th 1872

Another fine day - out with the assessors - I dined with Phillip R. Lyster at Scrabble hollow - finished the assessment that's all except that John Wadleigh came up for me to meet with the other executors of the late

James Atkinson & Frenchman who wants to pay certain advances on his purchase of Mr A's farm in the 7th Range

Thursday June 20th 1872

Very hot day - I went to L'Avenir - Frenchman paid \$1400. on his purchase - meeting of Council in the afternoon great excitement about the Elwin bridge proceedings postponed I borrowed \$2.00 from George Reed - Posted certain notices sent me by County - Secretary ordered to verbalize Cross Road Mrs P. went to Kingsey

Friday June 21st 1872

Another very hot day - made out a complete copy of the new valuation Roll Wm Murphy and Ned Noble here about Roads

Saturday June 22nd 1872

Very hot in forenoon showers in the afternoon - Wrote notice of Deposit of valuation Roll and then went to Durham and met the assessors at Wm Burrill's attested the valuation roll then went to Ulverton and Published it - Traded Joe Atkinson's note with George Reed for a Knitting machine Note for \$40. Dated Dec 22nd 1858 which with interest and \$6.00 left - Money in all amounted to \$78.00 James working at Roads Webber Burrill home from Sherbrook Letter to Lucy from Celina wrote to Eddy and sent by Mahomet

[[The next page is missing.]]

Tuesday June 23rd

Very hot dry fine growing time nobody here but Billy Randlett

Monday June 24th 1872

Another fine day - James at Road work. Made out Proces verbaux of Royston and LeCompt Roads and a Copy of voter's list

Tuesday June 25th

Another fine day James at Road work made out another copy of voter's list and commenced Jury list - James took a cow to the Bull Bees swarmed 1st swarm

Wednesday June 26th

Fine another hot day but threatning rain - storm at night James still at roads I was working at Jury lists

Thursday June 27

Very hot James went to scuffle potatoes I went to Mrs Atkinson's about taking inventory of property George Placey & W Elwin valutors Chapdelain notary J Wadleigh secretary

Friday June 28th 1872

Very hot day - James hoeing potatoes I wrote originals of 5 Public notices and finished my Jury list

Monday July 1st

Very hot day in the forenoon heavy thunder showers in the afternoon - James and Bill Lyster went to L'Avenir and South Durham to hire hands for haying James hired a Frenchman for \$25.00 per month and an old man at

Charly Cam's for \$16.00 per month to come on Monday Next. I was writing an registering public notices &c all day. Robert Cross & Henry here about the Mooney Road

Tuesday July 2nd 1872

Heavy thunder Showers during the night. I wrote notices of revision of Proces verbal of Cross Road in 2nd Range Jim Mooney here complaining of Henry Cross working on his road - visited the Cross Road published notices of Revision of the Proces verbal thereof - served all the Councillors with notices of special meeting on Friday the 12th made a good day's work of it. James and Johnny Mahomet hoeing.

Wednesday July 3rd 1872

Hot day with showers James hoeing for Sam Mrs P went to village with Mahomet in afternoon got home in time to escape showers, I made out proces verbal of Cross Road and nearly all of a copy of the Valuation Roll for the Registrar as required by the confirmation of Titles act John Main here, Insured Town Hall for \$500. and Model School House for \$300. got another letter from Eddy addressed to James.

Thursday July 4th 1872

Very hot day I finished copy of valuation Roll for County Registrar then hoed cabbage plot James commenced [?] up for haying

Friday July 5th 1872

Very pleasant day - old ????? here - want his annual two dollars "does'nt he wish he had it?". Robert McMurry here, brought home *history of Scotland* and got Napier's⁹² *Peninsular war*⁹³. *I made out Report for Model School and Semiannual Report*

Saturday July 6th 1872

Very hot day James and Johnny Mahomet at Potatoes in forenoon. James went to Kingsey in afternoon I wrote out the proceedings of the last session of School Commissioners

Sunday July 7th 1872

Very hot day - Mrs P. and Lucy to meeting, brought home Florence Cummings to dinner. During the night between sleeping and waking there passed through my mind some notes of exquisite melody and their impression dwelt so forcibly upon me that after revising them again and again I was enabled to throw them into order and arrange them into a measure which although no sound was uttered I felt their effect would be most pleasing to the ear. The measure was one of which I know none similar, in order therefore to retain the air and impress them enduringly in my mind I composed some verses to the arrangement but when I wakened thoroughly, though the words remained, and a few wandering strains of the tune, still anything like a connected tune had passed away. The first stanzas ran thus:

"Yes, yes there was another that I may not e'er forget
And I loved her too both fondly and true
But I loved her as a brother, and as such I love her yet
With a love that is shared in by few
This true I praised her dimples, and her slender little waist

⁹² Sir William Francis Patrick Napier [1785-1860] was an English soldier and military historian who served through the Peninsular campaign and retired from the army in 1819. His *History of the War in the Peninsula* was published in 1840.

⁹³ The Peninsular War, 1808-1814, was fought by France [led by Napoleon I] in the Iberian Peninsula against the British [let by Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington] with Spanish and Portuguese volunteer forces. Napoleon's abdication in 1814 ended the war.

*And her flashing eyes of azure's deepest blue
But the dew upon her pretty lips I never wished to taste
O! I loved her not as Mary I loved you."*

Such ideal, poetical and musical seems incompatible with the sedateness of mind of an old fellow of nearly sixty, and truly in my broad waking moments never enter it but it is strange in my sleeping moments, or rather when I can hardly be considered either asleep or awake, my mental powers seem to be influenced by a more vigorous vein of fancy than I ever remember to have existed in my youth. There will rush in connected and narrative form through my mind a series of the most startling incident, brilliant dialogue, humorous, anecdotal racy matter, so free from anything in bad taste, and clothed in language so chaste so pure so elegantly fluent in diction, that I would give anything to be able to remember and record them when I awaken, but all in vain. I regard this singular faculty of imaginative composition when the understanding is void of all control in the matter and the imagination seems to be cut loose from every restraint running away in wild gambols on its own account, as most extraordinary, and I often wonder does anybody else be so affected? I have written another verse in my waking moments in order to complete the idea, it will be found upon the last page but wanting greatly the spirit of the dreamy stanza

Monday July 8th 1872

Tremendous hot day, James' Frenchman came, commenced haying, I went to Durham on foot and back, election of School Commissioners. Burrill and Morrill re-elected. I was almost overpowered with heat coming home - James working at the horse rake his Frenchman alone in Ann's Pasture, he then went to the village. I think the whole a very bad arrangement for taking work out of a man hired at \$25.00 per month. There was a thunder storm about six in the evening but we got very little of it, it passed off to the north east Rachel had a little girl.

Tuesday July 9th 1872

Cooler in the morning with a pleasant breeze from the west but it grew pretty hot about noon James and his man mowing in Ann's Pasture we had a second small swarm of bees today the first swarm was on the 25th ultimo, but I think they must have swarmed before that and gone away. I find that the County Rates to the present moment amount to 4 1/2 cents on the \$100. I wrote a letter to Eddy and then went to the village sent off the annual and Semiannual report to the Supt of Education posted a letter to Celina from Lucy - also sent return of Election to Supt of Ed. posted letter to Eddy brought horse straps for horse Rake, one scythe, 1 Rake, 1 Pitchfork, 1 bottle of oil for mowing machine also a letter from Celina to Rachel another do from Maggie Leaman and some whisky - that's all. Rachel had a daughter

Wednesday July 10th

Very hot day but came on a shower in the afternoon. James was howing with DeRocher in the forenoon and got worked out - he mowed with the machine in the afternoon I was hoeing potatoes today hoed 15 Rows. Lucy went to the village and got a shoe on Peacock. Johnny Mahomet came over in afternoon and mowed a while, that's all

Thursday July 11th

A cool cloudy forenoon cleared up bright in afternoon DeRocher mowing round the front of Ann's Knoll - Johnny Mahomet came about ten o'clock and mowed till dinner time - James fixing up Hay Rack I hoed ten Rows potatoes in forenoon another ten in the afternoon. The boys went to shaking out hay after dinner and drew in four loads from Ann's Pasture. Joe DeRocher & Mahomet took little red heifer to bull

Friday July 12

Very hot dry in the forenoon and afternoon when it came on a tremendous shower about 5 P.M. The boys put in 3 loads of hay off our own - Special meeting of Council. Revised valuation Roll voters' list, Jury list & 3 Proces Verbaux Got letter from Mr Maben to James by Cardin & Mahomet who were up to Circus

Saturday July 13

Splendid fine day but cool. I hoed 11 Rows of Potatoes James Mowing with the machine behind & below the Barn - DeRocher mowing in the drain - cocked up all cut in the forenoon with machine - James sold "Jack" to John Main for \$40.00 Smily the insurance agent here.

Sunday July 14th/72

Beautiful day all day nothing particular to relate except that Billy Howdon⁹⁴ cam in the evening and stopped till clock struck two in the morning.

Monday July 15th

Splendid Hay day all day, got in seven loads of hay off our own - James mowed with machine a while on the hill - then lent it to Bill Lyster and went to the village - of course the horse wanted a shoe! I was working away at voter's lists Jury lists & valuation Roll all day

Tuesday July 16th 1872

Oppressively hot day Men mowing - I was engaged writing public notices Nothing New Biddy to Bull

Wednesday 17

Excessively hot came on heavy showers about five o'clock got in seven more loads of hay in prime order Bible Peddler here stopped all night I and Mrs P to village got a letter from Eddy & another from Eliza I went in the afternoon to swear to my voter's list, but Mr Burrill was out at Biskett place and after waiting whole evening I did not get his signature till dark so I have to go to Mr Solomon Lyster's tomorrow to get it attested and then sent off.

Thursday July 18

Dark foggy morning. Peddler gave us a great siege to buy another bible but it was no go - I went to Durham to attest voter's list before Sol Lyster and post notices Sent a receipt for Govt Grant to the Superintendent education - wrote to Mary Ann enclosing note to Brinn the Kingsey Sec Tres for Celina! Many Very heavy showers about ten - boys quit mowing went a fencing James at hay rack I published four public notices after attesting to voters' list Saw Richard Majar and told him to get Scott Bridge fixed, rode home with Skillen as far as Nelson Bartlett's turn. Dreadful heavy rain towards evening. Sent off valuation Roll voter's list & Jury List

Friday July 19th

Close dark foggy in the forenoon brightened up with a brisk breeze about noon, but weather looking unsettled. I wrote returns of different publication of Wednesday - DeRocher & Mahomet finishing up mowing down in back field - James working at hay rack. I hoed some Potatoes

Saturday July 20

A Brisk Cool fine drying day Finished mowing at home - Got in six loads of hay, 29 in all - 2 being down - James went to the village in the evening to get part of machine from Mairs. I hoed potatoes and preparing Rate Roll

Sunday July 21st

⁹⁴ Alternate spelling: "Gowdon" or "Howdon"

Fair Forenoon but came on heavy rain in afternoon Mrs P. didn't go to meeting today

Monday July 22

A dull drizzling rain - Frenchman didn't arrive till 8 A.M. Blew up fine though in the afternoon - commenced mowing at the old place

Tuesday 23^d

Was a fine day throughout although it was showering the most of the day off west and north but we escaped them all got in 8 loads of Hay 6 from the old place and two from home, Making 37 in all, if the week continues fine there wont be much to do on Saturday. Mrs P. Raked up the hay in back field and then mowed 6 loads away - I raked in the old place in the afternoon

Wednesday July 24 1872

Opens with a brisk wind cloudy with occasional gleams of sunshine - rather threatening I feel very poorly - sick at stomach - pained and weak all over together with dizziness and headache - wont be good for much today. Came on heavy showers in the afternoon but managed to get in 3 loads of hay from the old place in good order which makes 40 altogether. James went to the village in the evening, his Frenchman stopping at Bill Lyster's greatly to Mrs P's dissatisfaction

Thursday July 25th 1872

Opens cool and unsettled and promises a poor hay day. It is raining off in the north west. Mahomet told Frenchman that Mrs P was grumbling so he commenced a m at breakfast time James told him to shut up and if he had anything to say, to say it to him, which awfully enraged Johnny Crapeau; he demanded his wages. James refused giving them to him until he finished the week, so he gathered up his traps and went off threatening to sue James, but upon cooler reflection he came back and went to work again. Maryann came up and stopped but for an hour, and then went off. She just received a letter from Celina who is well - she says Brown will have the School money on Saturday. 5 loads hay in 45 altogether 7 head of Mr Burrill's cattle in our wheat

Friday July 26th 1872

Morning opens dark cold and cloudy. A poor prospect for a hay day got in two loads however and a bit of one, it came on wet in the afternoon. I went according to appointment to Dick Lysters in order to verbalize the Down Road, but nobody there had a long chat with old mother Middleton - she tells me that Mrs Bates - Elinor Leighton - died a few days ago not 20 years of age bearing child

Saturday July 27th 1872

Dark cloudy and threatening rain, no prospect of hay today, the boys are about to finish cutting old place to dry - planted some slips of Dahlias for an experiment - Joe DeRocher paid up and gone got a message through Emily from Col Cox

Sunday 28 July

Fine forenoon, but came on rain in afternoon. Mrs P, Lucy & James went to meeting in forenoon but staid at home in the afternoon Sam Rachel & family here after tea, Billy Randlett also

Monday July 29th 1872

Wet drizzling day all through. James mowing for Phil Lyster, Joe DeRocher came back James made a mistake of \$4.00 in paying him - Mrs P and I went to village - I sent a note to John Wadleigh about George Blake's note for \$100.00 by Joe DeRocher sent a note to Col Cox about the returning officership - wrote to

Prefontaine about his candidature also to R. J. Miller relative to voter's list mailed a letter from Lucy to Eddy and another from James to Jane E. P.. Brought home a wheel from Mairs for mowing machine planted slips of Dahlias on Saturday and today got a few roots of Pansies & bleeding heart. Got 1 pair Boots at \$3.25 for Mahomet

Tuesday July 30th 1872

Fine Hay day. James with Buck Stimson all day Johnny Mahomet working at hay on the old place - I helped him to rake & cock up in the evening. Mrs Atkinson here about the Royston Road. Sam Randlett here also.

Wednesday July 31st

A splendid Hay day James at home got in six loads of hay being fifty-three altogether. Cows out in Tommy Burrill's oats.

<i>Cost of LeCompte Proces verbal</i>	<i>\$12.75,</i>
<i>Royston Road</i>	<i>14.96</i>

Thursday August 1st 1872

A Splendid fine day James & Mahomet finishing drawing in hay from old place got in 4 loads 57 altogether. Buck Stimson's little girl came to enquire "if Jimmy would come tomorrow to mow for them" The Cows all got in the wheat Lucy went to Kingsey

Friday August 2nd 1872

Finish day threating showers James with Buck Stimson - Mahomet in slash in forenoon cows out again - Johnny went fencing - I measured LeCompte Road & Royston Road - Posted notices of deposit of 3 acts de reparations Brought home 56^{lbs} meal 2^{lbs} Tea and pair of Boots for James

Saturday August 3^d

Showry day - James and Mahomet fencing James went to village in afternoon Paid Jas Mairs Young Cattle broke out in old place

Sunday August 4th

Beautiful day. Mrs P and James to meeting Cows out again in Mr Burrill's oats Young Crombie came home with Lucy and stopped all night. Sam Rachel & family here

Monday August 5th

Beautiful morning but looks like showers - James and Mahomet fencing off places for horses. James went to meeting in the evening and sent a letter to Eddy from himself and another from me to N H Lewis station agent Alburgh Springs Vermont Central Railway in answer to his of the 10th of June by Sylvie Taylor to mail - The right direction should have been East Alburgh Vt. albert Crombie went home this morning Put Peacock and Billy Boast⁹⁵ in the new pasture today

Tuesday August 6th

A very warm day but looks like showers - James fencing at old place in forenoon. Johnny Mahomet took 12^{lbs} wool to mill to get carded owe for the Carding 48^{cts} James and he took their scythes in afternoon to mow

95 This was likely the name given to the horse which James purchased at Billy Boast's auction on 17 January 1872.

*grass in the swale*⁹⁶ Billy Burrill's young cattle in our wheat again - Mrs P. took over some early potatoes to Rachel - Managed to put up the Geese and some of the fowl off the wheat

Wednesday August 7th 1872

Fine day James & Mahomet mowing in horse pasture in the forenoon & part of the afternoon. James went to Buck Stimson's for his mowing machine then to village to buy a new guard for it in order to go to the Mowing Bee at Sam's tomorrow. Charles Hall & a Yankee named Frost was here to buy young cattle did'nt sell

Thursday August 8th 1872

Fine day. Sam's Bee, he got all his home place cut and two loads in. Emily came up on a visit - Andrew Brown here to buy young cattle but did'nt sell. James and Mahomet with Sam.

Friday August 9th 1872

Another fine day but very hot. James and Mahomet with Sam Holbrook's 14 head of cattle in our wheat Sam got in his hay all that was cut at the Bee 22 loads in all Mrs P & Emily at Sam's

Saturday August 10th

Fair in forenoon Mary Anne and Leonard up on their way to T. M. Taylor's - Emily went home - tremendous heavy Shower in the afternoon James and Mahomet fencing. James to village in Evening and then carried John Cross home

Sunday August 11th

Another fine hot day our folks to Stone house. Buck Stimson and Holbrook working in Rail Road - Eliza and Young ones down from Sherbrooke - James took Eliza to Kingsey and Young ones went to Sam's

Monday August 12th

Morning opens fine - Wm Lyster here to borro cradle⁹⁷ but Tommy Burrill has it since Thursday. Mahomet splitting wood - James & Eliza came home at noon - all our Cattle out in Sam's meadow - I went to Durham and bought 116^{lbs} fence wire took Billy Boast & Eliza's waggon - nothing new Sam drawing logs for Tom Martin Carlisle's cattle in our oats

Tuesday August 13th

Opens with Rain, but cleared off with close sultry heat - Eliza & young ones went home again. I gave the Young ones Punch - Buffon's natural history⁹⁸ and a Pocket Compass - Mrs P Gave Eliza some old clothes for Mini. She says she will make them up for Minty but Mrs P thinks she will fix them up and sell them to her boy. James and Mahomet over at the old place fencing. Mahomet went to village gave order to Hetherington and he took up \$1.80 - letter from Mr Maiben he is succeeding [[hither or better]] Eddy came home

⁹⁶ A depression of land in wet, marshy ground

⁹⁷ This may refer to a cradle scythe, a scythe with a frame fastened to it so that the grain can be laid evenly as it is cut.

⁹⁸ This may refer to an English edition of a work of George-Louis Leclerc Buffon (1707-1788), a French naturalist and author, who between 1749 and 1804 wrote *Histoire Naturelle*, which was published in 44 volumes.

Wednesday August 14th

Dull warm day. James and Mahomet fencing at old place in forenoon James went with Eddy to the village in afternoon to get latter's trunk brought over Sarah Eliza Lyster's in mistake and left his own

Thursday August 15th

James and Mahomet fencing a while in forenoon and then in the afternoon went with Eddy in waggon a sparking. Mahomet to Sam's in afternoon Showers

Friday August 16th

Finish day and warm. James not particularly engaged. I went to village for a Bag of salt and Eddy's Trunk - did'nt get in Showers

Saturday August 17

Fine with some showers James and Eddy of to village &c in Evening Webber Burrill over in the evening

Sunday August 18th

Fine day - Bill Randlett and Webber Burrill here in afternoon Showers

Monday August 19

Fine day Mahomet and James Cutting wheat after James had brought home some boards from Sam's to make a waggon body to go off on a junkety party⁹⁹. James and Eddy off to village again in evening with Sam's Waggon. Mahomet with Sam in afternoon

Tuesday August 20th

Another fine day. Eddy away to village with Sam's Waggon. James finished cutting wheat, Mahomet with Sam - Eddy made Waggon body in afternoon Marion Wales here all night Tom Clampit here to buy cattle

Wednesday August 21st

A Splendid Harvest day our family with the Missis Wales Ewing and Taylor away harvesting blackberries down at Bouscar Village in Kingsey came home at night nearly day light in morning John Main here with policies on Town Hall and Academy

Thursday August 22nd

Morning opens dull dark and threatening after a tremendous rain, with Thunder and lightning got tremendously hot in afternoon 2 year old red Heifer to W Lyster's Bull - James & Eddy making Axe handles in forenoon - James & Mahomet cutting Bushes a while in afternoon. Then Lucy Eddy & James went to Sarah Martin's party in afternoon I went to Durham to get a letter from J C Armstrong but got none bought another pound of tea and making of two shirts for Eddy at \$1.60 Heavy Thunder Shower after night. Accident on Grand Trunk freight train smashed near Sherbrook 1 man killed [unclear]

Friday August 23^d

⁹⁹ This may have been a reference to a pleasure party.

Morning opens bright clear but that Kind of a watery appearance that says don't depend on me - yet after all it turned out a fine breezy warm drying day - James & Mahomet fencing in forenoon at old place then turning wheat - I wrote a letter to J Simpson about seigniorial money, but got no chance of sending it. That's all I think. James & Lucy to Randlett's party

Saturday August 24th

A Fine drying day - got in the wheat 4 loads - little Polish Peddler stopped for dinner - Zelinda Cross and a Miss Wilson from sherbrooke made an afternoon call - young abercrombie came a sparking as we were at tea - sent off my letter to Mr John Simpson by Bill Carding - looks like Rain

Sunday August 25th 1872

A Tremendous hot day - Lucy dismissed Albert Crombie. Cummings wife & daughter here to dinner. Sarah Martin and brother called. Sam & family here to tea. Joseph Armitage died yesterday. Nothing further of note - Eddy returns from Kingsey last night.

Monday August 26th

Opens Bright and pleasant promise of another hot day. James gone over to finish the fencing at the old place Wm Lyster here to get Johnny to help him in with grain. James finished fence at old place. Eddy went to Richmond or Melbourne very hot day Mr Prefontain and Mr Tessier called to request me to act for the latter in the Coming election, agreed to do so - Eddy returned from Horace Wales where he went to receive shirts Emily made for him - I went to Durham to publish Revisions of Proces Verbal of Dowd Road in 6th Range - went out to see Royston - he had pledged himself to H. S. Griffins but he agreed to rat¹⁰⁰. Went next to Hall and Burrill and they agreed to meet in committee tomorrow evening very hot all day

Tuesday August 27th 1872

A wet morning - Eddy going away to the States again - I went to see Sol Lyster but found him also pledged to Griffins - but after a while agreed to Rat - Met Hadly Eddy's employer on my way home in after lumber - he followed Eddy who had already started for the Station - overtook him and brought him back a while to see the lumber he had been writing about - James then carried Hadly down to Wickham and Eddy Started by the evening train - I went up to Richmond and afterwards had a meeting at Halls met L Walker coming for Ertin's hat

Wednesday August 28th

Very fine day - Hall Burrill and Lyster here bright and early for their Whiskey and they started on their canvas I made out voter's list - Lorn Martin Stole Hall's Whiskey and he and Bill Hall got sousing drunk upon it and lamed one of the horses - women there in a fury I made out voter's list for Leeman Walker - Wm Burrill back again in afternoon for a little sup more. Wrote out form for Aleck Clark to get his son's brandy money - James Thrashing for Thos Burrill

Thursday August 29th

Splendid day - James thrashing for Burrill - High life below stars at Bill Burrills. James had the folly to go down to Black Billy and tell him about the Whiskey his father had taken away and a regular row was got up and the whole tribe of she devils in his family pitched into him like a thousand of Brick - Election came off today - Royston appeared in the late morning but sneaked away again - State of the Poll at night - Tessier 30, Griffins 8, Dorion 5

¹⁰⁰ In agreeing "to rat", Mr. Royston agreed to abandon his political commitment to H. S. Griffins and to give his support to Mr. Tessier instead.

Friday August 30th

Wet Morning and wet throughout the day - I went to the village for 3 Butter tubs - Learned that Webb has been returned for Richmond and Wolf by over 300 majority latest accounts up to last night left Tessier 36 of a majority. Sam and Tom Martin here after plan of Elwin bridge - former came home drunk from L'Avenir last night his oats having been bushed up in splendid order for going in waiting for his return, it is now all in a wet mess - Henry Cross here in the afternoon to attest to his bill for work done for Larry Mooney - he agreed to but 3 yearling at \$24.

Saturday August 31st

Raining still without any intermission and continued to rain all night - Mr T Burrill brought a letter from Celina, made up a dose of Pepper & Whiskey for a Peddler's horse to cure him of the colic and when I would take nothing for it he gave me an ink Power - Johnny Mahomet's eye is bunged up with a boil

Saturday September 1st

Rainy in the morning as fresh as son but it took up about noon but now about 7 PM it looks again like rain Nothing to record the same old go to meeting form over again with James Mrs P. Lucy and Rachel Dorion I hear is Elected

Monday September 2nd

Cook & Showery day Meeting of the Council - James & Johnny cutting oats Wm Burrill came home with me to have a nip Hetherington came here about Butter - Got a letter and blanks from I Simpson Picken was'nt to meeting Emiline is dying.

Tuesday Sept 3rd

Another Showery cold day - I was writing Proceedings of yesterdays meeting. James & Mahomet raising stones in pasture nothing to record James & Lucy to meeting at Grove Wales Tom Martin brought home Horse Power

Wednesday, Sept 4th

A Blustry cold day Something like mist in the night - Boys cutting oats. I am writing away at work left me to do by council on Monday Boys turned oats in afternoon Mrs P & Rachel to village

Thursday Sept 5

A Splendid day boys got in 5 loads of oats today I was writing copies of Proces verbaux for inspector

Friday, Sept 6th

Another splendid day Boys drawing in oats I was writing all day finished Inspectors copies of Proces Verbaux - 4 loads of oats in to day - James dressed and off once more on the [unclear]

Mrs P; missed a ham stole out of back

Saturday Sept 7th 1872

One load of oats in total 10 Warm showers in the morning then close sultry afternoon I made out Rate Roll & laid general & county Rates James cutting the horse barn door in two in morning then Leonard came up and he went with him to T. M. Taylor's. Mrs P & Rachel went to Kingsey James scrubbed Kitchen floor then fiddled in shop

Sunday Sept 8th

Fine in forenoon but Came on tremendous showers about noon Lucy & James to meeting Johnny Cook today Tom Martin took away his horse out of our pasture Little Grove came here a wooing - James went away somewhere and staid till bedtime Mrs P & Rachel home

Monday Sept 9th

Fine day with one slight shower - I was writing public notices till two oclock James & Jack cutting oats. After tea I went to Ulverton & published 3 notices viz. 1st Normalization of Ned Murphy Proces verbal. 2d Completion of Collection Roll. and 3d. The By-law To provide for the expenses of current year - James and Lucy returned from meeting after I got home, there was a Mr Walpole at the store house and Lord Cecil is coming to preach in the village on Sunday

Tuesday Sept 10th 1872

Fine morning after a slight Frost but turned out a beautiful day James & Mahomet got in three loads of oats. Andrew Brown here to dinner Mary Cummings called Brown Bought eight head of cattle at \$109 - viz a yoke 3 years old at \$50.00

" "	2 years old	30.00
1	2 yr old heifer	15.00
3	yearling at \$8.	24.00

Made a mistake and overpaid \$10.00 Mrs P Rachel & Lucy to meeting Sam's Walter came up & James took Mahomet to T. M. Taylor's. Commenced the chronicles of Willoughby Centre.¹⁰¹

Wednesday Sept 11th 1872

Dull but fine - James and Walter cutting oats James Lucy Rachel & Walter away at night to hear Lord Cecil Preach, there was also a Mr Kimply who preached too at Willoughby centre

Thursday Sept 12th

a fine day. Fred Carlisle borrowed Peacock and lent James oxen to draw in oats Walter and he drew in five loads 18 altogether to date - Wm Burrill called Sam Hetherington here about Butter Offered 19^{cts} or 20 for [print?] 18 for the rest All off to hear Lord Cecil again at Willoughby Centre

Friday Sept 13

¹⁰¹ Between 10 September and 2 October 1872, the author made eleven references to his writing away at these chronicles without ever explaining their purpose or identity. Could it be that "The Chronicles of Willoughby Centre" was the title of a story which the author was hoping to have published? Two pieces of evidence indicate that this may have been so: first, in the back of his diary, he included an outline of a ten-chapter story focused on Willoughby Village; second, on 2 October 1872 he wrote: "sent off three chapters of Willoughby Centre".

The morning opens with dark heavy clouds - brisk wind and threatening rain which came on heavy about noon. In the forenoon James and Walter were pulling stumps with Carlises oxen over at the old place - James went to the village in afternoon to sell his Butter and Walter went to Raking up Scatters in the Stubble ground - little James came over for Mrs P to come over to get some soup - Mr Hubbard the Inspector here. I was laying rates for Proces verbal and finishing up Rate Roll - completed By Law laying rates. Made a cover for Collection Roll - James did'nt sell the butter, it is down again. Mrs P R Lucy went to hear Lord Cecil preach at night his meetings are poorly attended

Saturday Sept 14th 1872

Raining and miserable morning. James & Walter pulling stumps at old place I wrote to post master General about the post office When I got home found a man of the name of Churchill from Woodbury in Connecticut at my place waiting to get information as to the owners of lots 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6 in the 11th Range and 5 in the 4th he stopped all night - I had been up to Jeremiah Elliott's to see John Bothwell who says he will come to see me if I go for him. Leeman Walker dying from the effects of a wetting received when making his returns of the states??? Lord Cecil at pray[er] meeting

Sunday September 15th 1872

Beautiful day - Rev & Mrs Churchill went with our folks to meeting - after his return had rather interesting chat with him till bedtime on subjects social religious and Political he appears shrewd - well read but rather shallow on the subject he ought professionally to know most about - Lord Cecil preached in the Town Hall at Richmond after night

Monday September 16th 1872

Mr Churchill goes to D.ville I lent him Peacock and borrowed Bill Lester's waggon morning hazy but began to rain about noon and continued so all the Day. Richard Elliott called took dinner and tea and bid farewell as he leaves next friday James & Walter finished mowing oats. I wrote a little in the afternoon on the Chronicles of Willoughby Centre

Tuesday Sept 17th

Tuesday Wet day all day Mr Churchill returned finds the lands he enquired after all safely in the possession of the occupants he paid me \$5.00 in greenbacks¹⁰² and rode with James to Richmond on a load of Butter our butter weighed 778^{lbs} the 15 tubs and at 19^{cts} came to \$147.82 Sam had 4 tubs weighing 239^{lbs} gross 203^{lbs} nett Leeman Walker is dead Death hastened by his wife administering Tinc. Belladonna¹⁰³ in mistake - the drug not having been intended for him but sent by Dr Hamilton for the wife of Dr. White wrapped up with a bottle for the patient [unclear]

¹⁰² In 1862, the U.S. government "temporarily" went off the gold standard by issuing non-interest-bearing, green-coloured paper currency [greenbacks] to support its conduct of the Civil War. In 1866, the government began to retire the greenback, as promised, but its effort was strongly opposed and the Greenback Movement, advocating maintenance or expansion of paper currency, was organized. After the Panic of 1873, the Greenback Movement gained popularity, organized itself into a political party and won fourteen seats in Congress in 1878. Shortly thereafter the party lost its political momentum. It held its final convention in 1888. - cf. *Encyclopaedia Britannica, Micropaedia, Vol IV, p. 714.*

¹⁰³ Tincture of belladonna may have been used to dilate the pupil of the eyes, stimulate the heart, relieve spasms, etc. Atropa belladonna, the exceptionally poisonous plant from which the drug is produced, owes its botanical name to Atropos, one of the three Fates in Greek mythology who cut the thread of human life at the appointed time. Belladonna is probably in honour of the Italian ladies who made eye drops of the fresh juice to dilate the pupils and make them appear more alluring.

Wednesday Sept 18th

Showery all day James Commenced plowing behind barn - I engaged at Chronicles of Willoughby Centre. James and Lucy went to Mrs Elliotts to spend the evening upon the visit of Rich' Elliott, Richd Picken's Emily, a son of Wm Scott's and Leeman Walker all buried today Rachel went to Sherbrook

Thursday Sept 19th

Another broken day - James Plowing a spell - I at Willoughby James went up to T. M. Taylor's in afternoon. Rachel's children here

Friday Sept 20th 1872

Another Broken day and Showery. James Plowed a little. Then Started to get his Colt shod at Melbourne in order to go thence to Leonard Blake's auction did'nt go home Met John Green Laura & Rachel returning came home as John is going to the auction tomorrow also. Lucy to W Lyster's husking¹⁰⁴

Saturday Sept 21

James John and Sam to Auction a fine day. I went to collect taxes - Willard Cummings the only one that paid - James bought \$90.00 worth at Leonard B's auction John bought a cow at \$17.00 and the sleigh. Sam a calf Lucy & James to Burrill's husking

Sunday Sept 22nd

Splendid fine morning John Green & Stella went to meeting and then home in the afternoon

Monday Sept 23^d

Splendid fine day. James away with two teams for his oats to Leonard's did'nt get home till nearly 11 PM Mrs Roe & Florence Cummings here - the latter mighty tickled with a bouquet given her A Tin peddler here all night with sap boilers. I continued writing Willoughby Centre - Rained all night

Tuesday Sept 24th

Raining in the morning - look like more rain dull smoky and warm fine the most of the day - James emptied his oats dug a few potatoes and then went to Kingsey for a load for Leonard - took the fanning machine¹⁰⁵ to Millington. Peddler gave Mrs P. a tin pail 2 dishes & teak pot for keeping him - I'm at Willoughby Great lightening in nor east at night

Wednesday Sept 25th 1872

Fine Warm smoky kind of morning much like indian Summer James is still away for Leonard I lost three fourths of the day doing the civil thing to Webber Burrill - Miss Morrill & Trotter Elliott who came here to pay his taxes with a son of old Finley's, he brought a bottle of brandy with him which we finished before he left. James did not get home till late, brought another letter from Celina Joe has been down sick of Typhoid¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁴ Corn husking parties were a popular form of entertainment in rural Quebec. - cf. *Quebec - A History 1867-1929*

¹⁰⁵ *The fanning machine served to separate the grain from the chaff.*

¹⁰⁶ Typhoid is an acute infectious disease caused by a bacillus and acquired through drinking infected water, unpasteurized milk, etc. It is characterized by fever, intestinal disorders, etc.

& tertian¹⁰⁷ fever. She has had a relapse of the fever and ague she has become dreadfully homesick and wants to return. Leonard and Mary Ann have arrived in Melbourne

Thursday September 26th

There has been heavy rain in the night the morning opens dull and gloomy. This is cattle shew day in Durham tomorrow the exhibition takes place in Melbourne I am at Willoughby Centre James is plowing

Friday September 27th

Fair day Cattle shew in Melbourne - occupations the same as yesterday

Saturday Sept 28th 1872

Fine day - James plowing I went to receive taxes at Ramsey School House Stopped all night at Picken's Got letter from Mr Churchill

Sunday Sept 29

Sunday Fair day. I came home - Mrs P went up to Mary Anne's. Sam and whole family with Bill Randlett here to tea

Monday Sept 30th

Fine day - I went to Durham Mrs P came home at night with new bonnet. I bought 5^{lbs} Tea took Mrs Miller a bouquet - she is better James plowing - Mahomet digging potatoes - I wrote to Churchill - paid Miss Bayley \$40.00

Tuesday October 1st 1872

A fine day. James Plowing at the foot of the Potato ground I at Willoughby Centre - Mrs McMurry here to pay taxes. Nothing strange rained heavily during night Mahomet picking stones

Wednesday October 2

Blustery cold raw morning - James took Brown's Cattle up - then went with Lucy to Florence Cummings' - Lucy stopped at Mary Anne's all night - I went up to village - sent off 3 chapters of Willoughby Centre got a connection rode home with Bob McMurry Montreal a burning Bill Stevens and A Ewing here to pay taxes Mahomet drawing stones Tommy Burrill borrowed Threshing Machine

Thursday October 3^d

A Fine Morning - slight frost last night. There has been several light frosts up to the present but nothing to hurt James was plowing Mahomet digging Potatoes Ricks & Tree were here to pay Taxes - James went up to Gee's and thence to McAties to get his money from Andrew Brown

Friday October 4th 1872

Another fine morning James plowing Potatoes out There was slight frost last night drew in Waggon load of Potatoes nothing particular except that I wrote Celina also to Mr Evans

Saturday October 5th

¹⁰⁷ *Occuring every third day, counting both days of occurence.*

Fine Beautiful day James Digging Potatoes in forenoon went to meeting in afternoon I went to Ulverton sent \$44 to County Secretary paid Miss Blake \$28. Mrs Costello hung herself Johnny Lawless Killed his wife it is said last night Brought Mrs P a pair of shoes Jas Miller gave us a pair rubbers Leonard brought Lucy home

Sunday October 6th

Splendid fine day nothing unusual to record James & Bill Randlett went to Kingsey

Monday October 7th

Dull Morning much lightning and heavy rain last night. Commissions meet Burrill brought home Threshing machine - James away all afternoon at Tobias Lysters raising his house Heavy rain about 6 PM rained like the mischief I got a regular drenching hunting up the cows in the wood at the old place after night - Mahomet do picking up & drawing home a load John Green Stell and Minty down at Mary anne's

Thursday October 8th 1872

A dark Cloudy blustering day James gone up to Leonard's with Eliza's weaving harness James Jamison here to pay his taxes - Mahomet digging potatoes alone - James Jamison paid his Subscription to the *Guardian* Nelson Lyster paid his taxes

Wednesday October 9th 1872

Tine day - James & Mahomet digging potatoes - frost last night. I commenced preparing my garden for Bulbs - Mary Anne came down for Soap - W H Lysh called to say Bill Gee would pay his taxes Mrs P & I went up to Leonard's

Thursday October 10th/72

A Fine day Mrs P and I home again from Leonard's Mrs P bought o/a Barrel Herring for \$2.50 - James & Mahomet digging potatoes till noon when it came on wet - I received a parcel of Bulbs from Town 6 Hyacinths, 12 Tulips, 12 crocuses, 12 snow drops, 2 cyclamens, 6 Scilla, 4 oxali

Friday October 11th 1872

Dark dull day - first snow - several snow squalls but not cold - got a letter from Robert Miller Finished digging potatoes - Housed Dahlias and carnations - Sam brought home Mrs P's Herrings Bill Burrill & Bill Gee here

Saturday October 12th/72

Fine Morning a hardish white frost last night James and Mahomet drawing stones off stubble land in forenoon. I planted a dozen of tulips in forenoon then went to Durham. Paid Mr Burrill for Mr Gee \$37.00 Sent \$5.00 to Evans ordered 1 doz Ranunculus¹⁰⁸, 6 Gladiolus, 1 Japan lily & 2 Jonquils got a News paper from R. T. Miller James Bought Leonard's mare for \$100.00

Sunday October 13th

Dull forenoon - Wet afternoon - Mrs P did'nt go to meeting Webb Burrill here to tea nothing new or worth noting

¹⁰⁸ *Ranunculus belongs to the buttercup or crowfoot family of plants.*

Monday October 14th 1872

Dull morning and ground white with snow James gone after his mare. I writing a letter to R. T. Miller James sent 2 letters 1 to Sarah and another to Charlotte Paterson, a news paper to Eddy and Rachel a letter to Celina brought home his mare at night I writing a letter to Bob Miller. Mahomet doing chores

Tuesday October 15

Dull - Rain during night James Plowing - Mahomet stripping pump logs - Terry Greenwood here to look at the threshing machine I finished letter to Bob Miller

Wednesday October 16th

Dull Hazy morning afterwards quite wet. James Plowed a while in forenoon went up with a tub of Butter in afternoon to Mrs Janus - took Lucy to Ned Pierce's pairing bee - Met the apple tree man coming to warn him his trees were ready. he agreed with him to warn out the rest for \$3.00 tomorrow - it the Butter weighed 52^{lbs} a 20^{cts} 7 girls & 2 boys at paring bee¹⁰⁹ got up in the interest of Bill Howdown's suit with Minnie Ewing. Minnie playin a "double entendre" James had a letter from Eddy - he has got into a soap making speculation - Got 6 gladioli 12 Ranuncula & 2 Jonquil Bulbs sent off letters to Robert Miller

Thursday October 17th 1872

Splendid fine morning after a while frost - James getting ready to notify apple buyer, afterwards away on horseback - Stopped at old George Elliott's for dinner and got home late at night. I was digging garden and transplanting perennials Mahomet drawing stones, afterwards fixed Garden fence - milked Cows and went over to Sam's to get in a load of potatoes for him Kis Lyster here to pay taxes paid \$1.46 over to apply on fruit trees which James is to fetch from Richmond he will then owe 94^{cts}

Friday October 18th 1872

Raining hard this morning very dark and looks like snow. Planted 12 Ranuncula and 2 Jonquils in long Box 6 Gladioli in Raisin Box 6 oxalis in Box with round glass in the end of it and 2 Cyclamens in saucepan with no bottom and put all in Cellar James went for apple trees I went to Ulverton for my paper - got letter from Mr Evans

Saturday October 19th 1872

A fine day after a white frost I planted 8 apple tree 6 Gooseberries Mahamut drawing out Dung James went to Nelson Lyster's auction - Minty Green came here in afternoon - James Came back from Auction without selling his colt Billy Boast - brought Webber Burrill with him who appears to be getting no better James says Sam was at the auction drunk as a fiddler's bitch after a night's orgie with Tom Martin Benj. Stevens and one of the Richards, and out of which Martin and Stevens came each with a black eye - James told Mairs not to pay any attention to Sam's bidding - Henry Armitage offered \$80.00 for the colt if he would take his note without endorsement I sent James to ask Mr Burrill's advice. Sam came over starry drunk in order to find James and give him a black eye to keep him from going to meeting tomorrow he said. Unfortunately for the success of his laudable design James was "non est comitatus" Dreadful distemper Raging among horses from Toronto to Montreal Street Cars & Cabs all idle in Montreal - horses there all sick - disease commences with hacking cough - then a running mucous from the nose - swelled throat &c¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ This bee might have been organized for the purpose of paring apples which were to be dried and stored for winter.

¹¹⁰ The following article appeared in the 18 October 1872 edition of the *Quebec Gazette*:

The Horse Disease: The Ailment among horses which recently appeared in several cities and towns in Ontario has spread extensively in Montreal. The horses of the City Passenger Railway have been affected to such an extent as to necessitate a suspension of the running.

Sunday October 20th/72

Fair day after hard frost last night Minty Green didn't go to meeting with our folks Mahomet away all day Eliza Came with our folks home from meeting. Staid till evening, then she James Lucy Rachel Little James Baby and Minty started for Leonard's Lucy says they had a fine time Roast beef mutton rice pudding first - then she says they had a general preaching time of it. James preached Eliza preached Mary Anne preached and Leonard preached so that by the time the four sermons were over it left them Just time enough to get home at 8 am

Monday October 21st 1872

A Beautiful bright warm day after a white frost. James plowing - Mahomet finished digging out pump logs - I was gardening and then fixing old waggon wheel I went to village in the evening and mailed a letter from James to George Paterson in New Brunswic - Met Leonard at the post office going to M^cGill's - he says Eliza's not gone home yet - Bought a hundred weight of flour and paid four Dollars 25^{cts} for it. Bought 2 lamps at Hetherington's for 90^{cts} 1/2 doz Carriage bolts - I carried Lucy to M^cGill's turn and she walked home

Tuesday October 22nd 1872

Another beautiful day - this I think is indian Summer - I grafted 9 fameuse [fameule?] grafts in the roots of 9 stocks sown last winter - James plowing the Potatoe ground - Rachel over at dinner time - Mahomut digging ditches in plowed ground - Lucy finished spinning grey yarn - had 80 Skeins - Commenced the white and expects to finish in 3 days

Wednesday October 23rd/72

Dull warm Rainy morning James finished plowing the potatoe ground in forenoon Phillip R. Lyster here to pay his taxes. Mrs P discovers rats in the Cellar again James Commenced plowing at the Old place then went over to Boast's for plow point - thence to Leonard Blake's. Weston Reed up to pay his taxes stopped for tea - Henry Cross married today to George Major's daughter and then went to Montreal

Thursday October 24th 1872

A very raw cold misty morning continuing up to 12 oclock - James plowing at old place. Johnny away to help Leonard in with his turnips Minnie Ewing came here about two pm - It turned out a most beautiful afternoon like indian Summer - I went over to old place to see how James is getting along - measured the furrow and found it to be 24 rods long - there will be about 5 acres in the piece he is plowing James went home with Minnie Ewing Wm G Lester came over to get a pipe talk about buying a Piano

Friday, October 25th 1872

Morning opens again fine after a white frost. A beautiful day throughout. James plowing at the old place. He had Philip's two boys drawing stumps. I was making out the tax bills. Lucy made an attempt to Kingsey but couldn't get over the river.

Saturday, October 26th 1872

Morning opens dull, cloudy and mild. James going with his colt to Montgomery's sale but didn't sell. He took Webber with him, by whom he sent the horses home. I went to Durham on foot and posted a lot of duns, brought home some Camphor, Ginger and Turpentine in case of horse distemper reaching us. Came on rain about 4 o'clock and rained all night. James stopped at Leonard's all night. Johnny came home.

Sunday October 27

Dry day but rather chilly. Mary Anne came home with Mrs P - Lucy and James from meeting then went back again Lucy went up to Leonard's & stopped there - Bill Randlett came home with James & stopped for supper - Sam passed by going to Nelson Bartlett's and left little James who stopped all night - that's all

Monday October 28th 1872

Morning opens bright after a hard frost - Andrew Ewing's son brought home our waggon & took away his own - Albert Lyster here to get James to change work and thresh for him - Mahomut gone up to help Leonard with his turnips - James over plowing at old place - bent his plow nose & made a bad job straightening it. Phillip Lyster here to pay his taxes and sat till 9 o'clock. Henry Armitage here to make complaint on Wm Stevens about Road work and more particularly I think about buying Billy Boast. Lucy came home with James from Prayer meeting Alick Clark paid his taxes here today

Tuesday October 29th/72

Another fine beautiful day after a white frost - James plowing still at old place Mrs P went over to Sam's upon the invitation of little James to get soup - I wrote to Bill Stevens & Nelson Lyster about their Roads also to the President of the R. D & R. Road about the tax sent it to R J Miller to be addressed as I do not know the names of the president & Secretary. I went to village in evening - dispatched letters - got a letter from T. M Taylor he is willing to sell piano for \$75.

Wednesday October 30th/72

A fine warm day after another hard white frost James plowing at old place - Mahomut come home I sowed apple seeds frozen last night I went to Ewing's to see the piano - James & Mahomut brought it home at night

Thursday October 31st

Another fine day - James plowing at old place I went to Durham to collect taxes. Mrs P went with me and stopped at Mrs Elliott's for tea - Ned Pierce & little George Blake called on their way to Sam M^cManus's to get him to frame a Mill. Webber Burrill stopped here all night Minty Green here all night

Friday November 1st

Raining all day James plowing at old place in forenoon - then went to the village with a letter to Eddy and to &ce about selling old spot It came on sleety towards night - The Billy Boast horse appears to be taking the horse disease - Lucy in high displeasure at me playing so much on her piano She seems to think although I bought it and will have to pay for it, that I have'n't a bit of right to touch it. I am sorry to see that even she is as selfish and mean as some other members of the family

Saturday Nov 2nd 1872

Sleeting and raining up to 11 o'clock and looks as if it would do so all the rest of the day - James not home yet - James home and took away 3 tubs of butter to sell to T M Taylor it weighted 49^{lbs}, he took Minty away to send him to Sherbrooke but brought him back again got a letter from Eddy, he had a fall from a 2 story house Emily sent him a letter from Celina addressed to him on the 6th ult^{III} - 2 days before I wrote to her. Horses have all taken the Horse disease Peacock pretty bad

Sunday Nov 3rd 1872

Dark dull raw day but rained very little after daylight - Erastus home with James and Lucy after meeting also Mary Anne Minty Green went away in the evening with James & Mary Anne

^{III} "*Ultimo*" - in or of the preceding month.

Monday Nov 4th 1872

Fair bright day after a white frost. James Killed little black 2 year old heifer. Campbell from Windsor here I paid him \$25.00 rent. James went to meeting and brought home 30 mould candles & some button blue lost by Johnny Bothwell when his horses & himself J Montgomery tumbled down [?] Bank

Tuesday Nov 5th 1872

Hard white frost last night Beautiful day - James fixing the pump logs with Mahomet - I went down to Mr Burrill's and paid him \$36.00 for Bill Gee left a letter with him containing \$22.00 for Miss Morrill - gave it to him where he was plowing on the hill behind the Barn with little Alfy - Got a letter from Celina mailed on the 31st ult she has had the third attack of ague¹¹² - Sam & Rachel went up to Leonard's and left the young ones with us did'nt come home till late Sam came in the first time since his spree and took away the two girls the pump logs wont give any water now

Wednesday Nov 6th

Morning opens dull and threatening rain there was a little through the course of the day - not much - The Ladie's prayer meeting was held today at Rachel's. Mrs M^cGill Mrs Ewing Mrs Blake (Mary Anne) and our Lucy there. James and Mahomet got the water pipes running again and filled in the ditch - I wrote a letter to Valentine Cook President of the R. D & A Cos Railway to enquire if the Company were prepared to pay the Railway tax this year Sent it Mary anne to be registered at Melbourne P. O that's all

Thursday Nov 7th 1872

Opens a genial mild morning after some rain in the night - The Cattle have been stabled every night over a fortnight but up to this time have had no fodder - James and Mahomet Killing pigs - Killed two. I sent off a power of attorney to Bank of Montreal & a letter to J Simpson and??? at Ottawa to get the Signoral money - James went to the village at night - got some lead pipe from Harvey - a man cut his throat at Scott's hotel¹¹³ in Richmond¹¹⁴ got a letter from Jane Eliza - one of her father's horses dead

Friday November 8th 1872

A Raw cold blustry morning threatening snow with slight flickers of it - Mrs P. gone up to Leonard's in order to go down with him to Kingsey in the afternoon to Emily's. James and Mahomet finished laying the water pipes by bringing the water into the Kitchen with some lead pipe and an old gun barrel - I sent a letter to Celina with Mrs P. the day continued dry to the end

Saturday Nov 9th 1872

A fine day but cloudy and rather cold - James & Mahomet drawing stones & underpinning horse stable - little Johnny Lyster came to pay his father's taxes - Mrs Lyster sat in the waggon out of doors and had a conversation with James about the piano - I wrote a letter to Eddy & sent it with W G Lyster & got a letter from J P Alden Freight Master of Lyndonville of the Passurman Railway stating that the cars with each carry ten tons gross, that the hire of one will be \$28.00 and that it may be attained for loading just at the Grand Trunk Co [unclear]

Sunday November 10th 1872

¹¹² Ague is a fever, usually malarial, marked by regularly recurring chills.

¹¹³ In the 1871 census of the town of Richmond, James Scott, age 52, was listed as a hotel keeper

¹¹⁴ The following article appeared in the 7 November 1872 edition of the *Quebec Gazette*:

Suicide: A private telegram from Richmond says a Culler named Robert Kent, attached to the Supervisor's Office, committed suicide on Wednesday morning, by cutting his throat.

A Cold dull blustry but fine day - Lucy rode with Rachel to meeting - James went afoot horses are getting better fast Billy Randlett came home with James from evening meeting and stopped all night - nothing occurred of any moment - Mahomet was prevented from going to Church owing to Lucy not being home in time to help to milch the cows, so he had to milk them alone, that's all

Monday November 11th 72

A Beautiful day after a hard frost - James gone out to Shipton to see about some pine lumber he is thinking of shipping to St Johnsbury. I think its a bad job, and hope he will have nothing to do with it. I went to see Eddie's farm. That also I think is a bad job, it is chiefly a stony rocky piece of land, rough full of Breaks and the cleared land pretty well run out. The wood is very thin on the uncleared part with a large portion of the Land on which it grows solid ledge. There are perhaps twenty five or thirty acres in all of good land, the rest will be a tough affair to make a living of. Poor James' speculations hitherto are abominable poor ones I think but it is useless to speak to him about them he is so bent on the strength of his own wisdom. But I suppose "if wilful must have his way; wilful must" and bitter experiences alone will teach him caution. Mrs P. was brought home by Mary Anne I went to Richmond. Bought Mrs P a pair of boots which she doesn't thank me for - R McMurry and Bill Cross here to pay their taxes. Thomas Burrill here to borrow a pick - that's all I think

Tuesday November 12th 1872

A dull mild morning with every appearance of Rain Webber Burrill over to commence threshing - I am afraid it is too soon for the sick horses, as they are far from well yet 10 A M - Raining like fun wheat tuning out very bad later threshed till noon - five of us besides horse & machine - broke Roller & strap, had to stop twice - result not quite 2 bushel of wheat, when done however at night had 9 Bushels - heavy rain at intervals all day - David Mitchel here to pay his father's taxes Henry Gallup round setting traps for foxes on the mountain and stopped all night. Webber B stopped also

Wednesday November 13th 1872

Mrs P Making Soap A fine day after a frost, it rained very heavy in the night before it took up with frost. Threshing again today threshed out the remainder of about fourteen Bushels of wheat and thirty five Bushels of oats poor Webber Burrill appears very poorly I think he will be the worse of this day's threshing - James went to the village, and then sat up with Marian come home at midnight Webber Burrill took the separator down to Wm Lyster's albert came over with his waggon for the horse power, but it was too narrow, so they had to defer removing it till tomorrow when Webber says they will fix his fathers waggon to draw it. Got a letter from Emily. She wants Mahomet again wrote again to Eddy & sent with James

Thursday November 14th/72

A dull morning - commenced snowing a little, and so continued all day. Boys got horse power away a little before noon. Mrs P. still soap making Lucy Marian & Minny Ewing away to Richmond to see Mrs Bartlett - Mahomet Chorrying all day. I went over to the old place to see the colts Millington's colt very lame Mahomet after night made great efforts to Kill a skunk that has taken up his residence in the wood shed. Mrs P out of tea had only enough for herself at night - that's all except that Lucy staid away all night

Friday November 15th 1872

A fine bright frosty morning after about two inches of snow. Mrs P. boiled tea leaves for breakfast Mahomet & I under the necessity of restoring to milk Johnny was sent to the village for a pound of tea. took 2 doz eggs with him & brought home a broom Darning needles &c - put the colts Millingtons & Bay 2 year old in for the first time - also the young cattle - all cattle fed for first time as the snow seems to intend staying - James and Webber moved threshing machine to Henry Gallups threshed 25 bushels of wheat & 75 of oats for Wm Lyster Sen wrote again to Eddy & got back home.

Saturday Nov 16th/72

A dull day looks like more snow came on pretty cold nothing particular in the occurrences of this day to speak of. Bill Lyster brought me my *Guardian* and lent me his *Gazette* - Mrs Connely of the Gore died this morning - James and Webber threshing for Henry Gallup - they had some pretty hot words - Webber complaining that his horses were worked unfairly and James complaining that he had to do all the hard work as Webber was'nt able they threshed 35 Bushels of wheat & 65 Bushels oats.

[[Note: A section of the diary is missing. The next available entry begins in mid-sentence on Christmas day, 1872.]]

Christmas day
Wednesday 25th 1872

... flatly refused and, the other took a half sucked one from her mouth to offer it, but upon second thoughts returned it to the same receptacle under the impression that she wanted it more than I. I think this little experience will terminate any attempts to secure the attachment of children. I find their affections are not one bit purer than those of adults. I believe I would also be inclined to lock my own up in myself too if I could feel any enjoyment in it, but life is of little value to me if there is nobody in it to love but my own miserable self. Well I have concluded my fifty-ninth Christmas day in this vale of tears and God alone Knows whether I will ever see another. But if I except one passed in the year 1827 when nearly fifteen years of age I can not look back upon another spent without any degree of unalloyed pleasure but that one. Millington & Emily went away early. Billy Randlett came in the evening to enquire about helping James to get wood tomorrow and they all went away before nine P.m "Sic transit gloria mundi"

Thursday December 26th/72

Morning opens calm and pleasant but pretty cold Thermometer 22^o below zero. Billy Randlett & Bill Cardin here to help James with wood, they chopped in the woods all day - James did the chores - he suffers severely with a boil on the back of his neck - he wrote a letter to Billy Burrill and Lucy one to Celina he then went to the village and thence to station and afterward to Leonard's and got home about half past ten the Thermometer rose to 9^o below zero in the evening with snow

Friday Dec 27th 1872

Thermometer 9^o below cold morning after a light snow - James in the woods with Bill Cardin and Bill Randlett who stopped here all night getting out firewood. it Kept getting colder all day with a searching raw wind at night James & Billy Randlett went over to see Webber Burrill who is no better. Mr T Burrill brought two letters to James, one from Jane Eliza and the other from Eddy

Saturday Dec 28th 1872

Raw cold morning Thermometer 18^o below after sunrise James Billy Randlett and Bill Cardin in the woods adjourned meeting of Council Jacob Armitage and Scrabble Hollow Bill went out by lot. Bill Burrill and I dined at Miller's - I gave Jacob Armitage leave to take to the amount on \$1.00 in my a/c at the store for the benefit of the Widow Hudson who is located in Cutter's old store I afterwards came home by Webber Burrill who is no better Doctor Vicat was there and I took tea with him

Sunday December 29th

A Bright calm day Thermometer 18^o below in the morning but Kept rising till at noon it stood at 2^o above afterward it stood at 16^o above. Our folks all to meeting a large meeting Mr & Mrs Cummings there for the first for a long time Mrs P came home as cross as a meat axe. James off to meeting again in the afternoon. Billy Randlett came in the evening and stopped all night to help James in the woods tomorrow, James wrote a letter to Eddy that's all

Monday Dec 30th 1872

A Bright Cold morning Thermometer 14⁰ below. Leonard Blake came down as we were at breakfast to help James in the woods along with Billy Randlett today to get in logs for firewood - I wrote 8 Public notices 6 about election and two relative to LeCompte Road Took Lucy over to Mrs Allen's & made arrangements for her receiving music lessons - then I went to the village - met James Leonard & Billy Randlett on my way home going to prayer meeting Sent two papers to R. T Miller - that's all I think

Tuesday December 31st 1872

Opens with more snow Thermometer at zero. Leonard down early to help James & Billy Randlett in the woods he is in fine spirits and congratulates himself much on the idea that next summer is going to be very dry & that Wentworth's Crop on the Sand bar wont be worth \$10.00 Douglas Connally came to borrow some tools, borrowed James Leonard & Billy Randlett finished the pile of wood. Billy Randlett 5 days, Bill Cardin 2 1/2 and Leonard 2. Billy Randlett stopped all night. The weather appears to be getting milder a white frost during the night. I went to Ulverton and posted six notices about the election and 2 about visit to LeCompte Road to amend the proces verbal of that Road. Got a letter from Eliza in which she seems to think I am a terribly injured man Poor Eliza I am sorry to think she shews so much anxiety about the trifle of this world's goods my death is likely to cause a scrabble for. Verily human nature is awfully selfish. But another Year is ended and God alone Knows whether I shall ever see the termination of another, but certainly the experience of the one just flown into eternity does not present very many flowery pictures in the future

Wednesday January 1st 1873

New Year's day opens rather milder after a white frost and slight snow fall James going up to the village to fetch Sylvia Taylor down to spend the day. She came and stopped all night. Lucy James & she took a sleigh ride down to Bill Gee's - James choring all day, brought over Mr Burrill's horse to commence threshing tomorrow, expects Leonard & Billy Burrill, but doesn't know whether they will come or not Thermometer rose today to 17⁰ with some prospect of a thaw

Thursday 2nd January 1873

A fine mild morning Thermometer 14⁰ above. James preparing for threshing but nobody come at 1/2 past nine but Bill Cardin so James, he and myself commenced threshing and threshed 8 or so Bushels when James went to get Bill Lyster to help in the afternoon Miss Taylor was trying all day to play on the Piano - Thermometer rose at noon to 22⁰ above the highest it has been for this last fortnight - owing to Breakage we only got 14 or 15 Bushels of oats threshed - So James had to go up to the village to get a bolt made - took Miss Taylor with him & brought her back again Thermometer at 22⁰ above

Friday January 3^d 1873

Opens with dark heavy clouds Thermometer at 37⁰ and thawing gently it rose at noon to 40⁰ James got rigged for threshing about ten AM but nobody came but Bill Lyster - Cardin & Leonard staid away - Things Kept breaking so that we did'nt get more than 4 or 5 bushels threshed at 1 oclock, So James gave up the idea of threshing any more for the present. Lucy went to take her first lesson from Mrs Allen and Miss Taylor went with her on her way home - Wm Lyster's little Edna toddled after him and stopped till after dinner and then went home with him. Little James was over and they had quite a time together James harnessed up and went away in the evening to get Bill Burrill to come to thresh tomorrow but found him from home so he went to finish the evening at M^cGill's. Thermometer falling at bedtime with slight frost and afterwards some snow - I am afraid Lucy will make a poor turnout at music her first lesson seems more than her little head can manage Tobias Lyster over today to trade a yoke of Steers for Billy Boast - James I hope will quit his trading

Saturday January 4th/73

Morning opens rather mild Thermometer still falling a norwest wind sprang up about 10 am with another snow storm. Bill Cardin Came over to help to thresh - Bill Lyster could'nt come as he went to Kingsey with

his wife - another breakdown in the horse power and another stop in the threshing made out a repartition of the Cross road total length 456 Ira Cross 246 Rods

Phin Do 210 Do

Leonard & David & Chester Wentworth came at noon - all turned to James to thresh. They stopped until after tea when all went to meeting but James Came home alone - freezing, thawing and snowing by turns at night

Sunday

Sunday opens mild Thermometer at 20⁰ but Kept rising all day with a heavy snow storm about noon - at night it commenced thawing and raining - Mrs P, James and Lucy to meeting, Sam and whole family over to tea and stopped till bedtime

Monday January 6th

Opens with a severe snow storm. This was the day for Commissioners' to meet but it stormed so, I didn't go - Sam and Bill Cardin over to help James to thresh and about 1/2 past nine Leonard came in the midst of the storm - It is a most remarkable severe winter as far as snow storms are concerned thus far. The Thaws we have had this last few days are so slight and last for so very short a time that the snow has'nt sensibly diminished. Thermometer stands this morning at 20⁰ The threshing proceeds slowly today machine broke down several times so that the result of the day's threshing with five men and two horses is 13 Bushels, 63 altogether in four days. If we come to take the men's board & wages together with horse Keep the threshing alone will cost nearly 40^{cts} a Bushel That is all the fall's threshing has done for us, it has run the old machine down so that it wont do our own threshing and has'nt brought in even a dollar to repair it, besides Killing poor Webber Burrill James ordered me tonight to have \$30.00 for him on friday to make up the thirty dollars he took of Eddy's money to pay Smiley to let him off with his lumber speculation he also wanted me to borrow another hundred dollars to enable him to Keep his promise to M^cGill, and wound up by telling me he didn't care "a shit" (a favourite expression of his) about me. Verily when the Saviour comes "to make up his Jewels",¹¹⁵ he will find in him a precious Gem. Thermometer at 10 P.M stood 20⁰ with appearance of falling

Tuesday January 7th 1873

Morning opens bright and cold. Thermometer 10⁰ below zero and continued so all day. James went to Mill took 6 Bags of wheat - Lucy went to receive her music lesson - nothing further of note except that Bill Randlett came in the evening and stopped till bedtime.

Wednesday Janry 8th 1873

Morning opens bright and calm. Thermometer three degrees above Zero at night it got up to 28⁰ A row with James - remonstrated with him on the necessity of more caution in his way of doing business, and more carefulness and diligence in order to his becoming successful. He declared what I meant for advice was intended simply to aggravate him, of course he got mad spoke saucily, eliciting rejoinder from me in the end he got in a rage and wanted to go away, but finally relented before the tears of Lucy and his mother He then harnessed up the horses - he previously had harnessed one to go off with himself - and went to fetch Henry Gallup's sawing machine, with which he returned together with Henry himself and drew it up the hill - Henry stopped all night Lucy and Bill Randlett off to Leonard's - James borrowed \$90.00 from Henry Gallup \$25 from Leonard and got \$35. from me and paid M^cGill \$200. He then took Miss Wales to Leonard's Gallup and I sat up till 10 PM talking about grafting

¹¹⁵ *The source of this quotation may have been **When He Cometh**, a popular hymn of William O. Cushing [1823-1903], which alludes to Malachi 3: 17a, "...they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels." - The Holy Bible, King James Version.*

Thursday Janry 9th/73

Morning opens with another snow storm - Thermometer at 20⁰ There is about two feet of snow now in the level but is light the thaws so far have not been sufficiently great to pack it - James and Henry Gallup in the woods fixing Sawing machine - Tobias Lyster came over and said Billy Holbrook told him James wanted him to thresh. He went away again when he found it was to saw as he said Billy was already with them in the woods and there were enough - I went to hold a meeting at Royston's relative to amending the Proces Verbal of the LeComte Road but Royston was away and nobody came - the roads were very bad & the day raw and blustry I published a By Law of the County Council laying another Rate upon the County Durham's Proportion being \$8.34 I bought two new shovels and a bottle of Jacob's Liquid instead of a bottle of [Edictim ?] oil for Mrs P. - a mistake - got a copy of the *Chicago Tribune* from R T Miller Louis Napoleon¹¹⁶ died today from the influence of chloroform administered while undergoing operation for Lobotomy age 64

Friday Janry 10th 1873

Morning opens bright and continued so all day with thermometer at Zero. James Billy Randlett & Henry Gallup sawing in the woods. Bill Lyster working with them in the afternoon got his arm cut with the saw. At night Leonard & Mary Anne came down & brought a letter from Eddy who says His employer owes him between 175 & 200 Dollars, but fears he will have to sue him in order to get it. He talks of going to chop cordwood in Spring till March and perhaps commence soap making with John Bushel in Sherbrooke in spring

Saturday Janry 11th/73

Thermometer opens this morning with an amount of Cold indicated by 6⁰ below Zero. H Gallup, Billy Randlett James & I think Will Lyster are going sawing. Leonard Blake came in the afternoon and helped to finish the sawing the day was very raw and uncomfortable. Sent a return of Publication of Notices to ??? and a newspaper to R. T. Miller. Went through the regular daily course of frowns - sauce &c without an actual quarrel - I am sick of life and I have reason to believe there are those who would be glad to be rid of me

Sunday January 12th/73

Morning opens bright and cold. Thermometer 6⁰ below zero - The usual routine of the Brethren to meeting &c nothing more worth recording

Monday Janry 13th/73

Dull Raw morning with cold south East wind Thermometer rising until noon it stood at 20⁰ with more snow and blow - at night there was a slight thaw with rain, then a frost more snow and a blow - roads in a horrid condition - Sam & Cardin went to the village and both got tight. Rachel and young ones staid here all day and all night, for when Sam and his man came back Cardin was so helplessly drunk that he fell out of the sleigh and sought rest for the night in our barn yard. Sam got him up however and both toddled homeward, but for want of making allowance for leeway they both tumbled in the snow. Sam toppermost and greatly aggravated by Bills tendency to gravitate. Rising, however after administering a few kicks to the prostrate subject of his wrath, he managed to get him neck and heels into the sleigh, and then home, where Bill on his hands and knees, and Sam propelling him by placing his head under Bill's seat of gravity pushed him up the ladder to bed. This was election day for Councillors - I was presiding officer - It was a stiffly contested affair Bridgemen against no Bridgemen - former candidates were Jacob Armitage and Sam Cross, latter were George Placey and John Mooney - election lasted all day and adjourned till tomorrow. Got a letter from Celina with 3 packages of Cypress Seeds¹¹⁷ - Fred Hall paid six dollars on taxes James breaking roads I stopped at John Roystons all night Bolton & his wife there Dick Picken Cards song & whisky Plenty of singing

¹¹⁶ *Charles-Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte, 1808-1873, Emperor Napoleon III of France, was deposed after the defeat of his country in the Franco-Prussian War [1871].*

¹¹⁷ *This may have been a reference to the seeds of a tropical American climbing plant with showy, trumpet-shaped flowers of scarlet or white, related to the morning glory.*

Tuesday Janry 14th

Warm and more snow Thermometer 20⁰ - Election lasted all day - Armitage and Cross elected - I went to the village before coming home - Billy Roney and Maryan Wales here when I came home Jim Gunter and Michal Lynch paid their taxes - that's all.

Wednesday Janry 15

Thermometer in Morning 8⁰ below zero - Mrs P & James to village - got another paper from Bob Miller. Mrs P. got a new dress for Lucy I wrote a letter for James to H. W. McMillan Kemptville Ontario Billy Burrill here at night to get James to go to a Bee tomorrow he wont go - thawed blew and froze again with snow during the night

Thursday Janry 16th

Thermometer at 37⁰ but continued rising with rain all day Sowed some Cypress seeds. Sam and Cardin here to thresh finished threshing all to about 2 Bushels - about 40 bushels oats today. Our total crop of oats taking into a/c the first threshed on the 13th of November is 135 Bushels 14 bushels of wheat and about 200 Bushels of Potatoes we sold about \$200 worth of Butter \$222 dollars worth of stock besides one cow to David Dustin at \$22.00 one to McLoad at \$19.00 and one to sam worth perhaps \$22.00 pigs at \$12.00 not taking one pork into consideration we have sold altogether off the farm for Cash \$453.00

Sam & Dustin, Cows	46.00
Oats at 40 ^{cts} a Bushel	56.00
Wheat at \$1.00	16.00
Potatoes at 50 ^{cts}	100.00
30 tons of Hay at \$10.00	300.00
6 Tons of Straw at \$5	30.00
6 Calves	50.00
Butter for our own use	50.00
400 ^{lbs} Pork	28.00
200 ^{lbs} Beef	<u>10.00</u>
Total proceeds from farm	\$1133.00

besides milk, eggs vegetables fruits & wool &c &c worth probably \$50.00 more. Tom Martin Came over to see Sam and tell us Johnny Mahomet has stolen \$500 from G. K. Foster, but was overtaken at Kingston with \$395 in his possession. He also tells us that Eddy is driving a team delivering soap at St Johnsbury. James went to the village a heavy thaw all night Thermometer at bedtime 48⁰

Friday January 17th 1873

Thaw continues but the Thermometer is falling steadily it stands at 30⁰ at 9 am and continued falling a little snow. James Sam & Cardin fixing machine & threshing Grass seed James went to the village at night, got \$112 in Green Backs from Eddy also a letter. Eddy is soap making talks of coming home News confirmed about Mahomut stealing the money

Saturday January 18th

Cold, dark raw morning Thermometer 6⁰ above James gone to thresh for Sam. Afterwards he and Leonard went to Kingsey and Leonard got almost drowned getting on to the ice when crossing the river. The roads are in a frightful condition. I went to serve notices on committees and published the intention of council to revise the procus verbal of LeComte & Cross Roads Bought 5^{lbs} Tea, 1 Tobacco, Box of matches, 16^{nds} dress binding for Lucy and 1 pair snaps met Miss Blake at Pickens Johnny Mahomut & Dick Allen committed to Jail

Sunday January 19th

Coldish. Thermometer stood at 14⁰ above - No going to meeting today roads are so bad - Rachel started on foot, but went no farther than our house - stopped and took dinner - James got home about 10 PM Billy Randlett came in the evening took tea, and sat fooling till one or two o'clock in the morning

Monday January 20th

Bright Cold morning Thermometer at 8⁰ above James gone to thresh at Sam's. Nothing worthy of note save that the water is beginning to give out. Little James over to borrow some tea - Sarah Martin started again for St Johnsbury Mrs P making soap

Tuesday January 21

A Beautiful bright mild day. Thermometer at 20⁰ James Threshing with Sam he had 115 bushels of oats and 12 Bushels of wheat I took Lucy to Mrs Allen's whence she went to Emily's Miss Scott & her sister here for her pay. Phillip R Lyster here also nothing more I think. Mrs P making soap for Rachel.

Wednesday Janry 22nd

Dark, Cloudy most of morning. Thermometer 20⁰ afterwards it came on a light snow and continued so most of the day James choring most of the day. drew down 3 loads of Blocks and split two of them in the evening he harnessed Peacock and went to a Party at Nelson Bartlett's, Lucy was asked too, but she is in Kingsey Mrs P still making soap for Rachel. Nelson Bartlett's party was a very late??? one. Sam gloriously drunk after helping Bill Elwin to steal the stones out of the Mill Emily got her new girl Anne Moone today Yoked up steers for first time

Thursday January 23^d/73

The morning opens bright and clear with Thermometer 8⁰ below zero James gone to Bill Lyster to help him to saw wood. Mrs P went over to Rachel's to tell her to come for her soap. Bill Cardin came over and took it away at two goes in the sleigh. Bill Lyster's sawing machine broke about 10 oclock and George Hall borrowed our sleigh to go up to the village to get it mended. Sam lying up all day thawing out after his spree

Friday January 24th/73

Another snow storm from the east. Thermometer 2⁰ above zero. James helping Bill Lyster to saw - I wrote a letter to Celina. I wrote one to Eddy yesterday afternoon. I am going to fetch Lucy home from Trenholmvile - and did so Bill Lyster finished sawing today and the sawyers went to Toby Lysters. The fall of snow today has been very heavy and continues still at night

Saturday January 25th

The snow storm continues still slightly. There has fallen all of 12 inches of snow since yesterday Thermometer 8⁰ above Zero. James Breaking out roads and breaking in steers. John Wadleigh came up about certain Mill stones and a circular saw Bill Elwin stole out of the Mill - had to go up with him to Richmond to Veasey's, the latter agreeing that Elwin would come down on Monday to settle the matter. We had tea at Armstrong's James Mair?? was with us. Wadleigh drove me home and stopped a couple of hours - mailed a letter to Celina and James one to Eddy sent by Bill Lyster

Sunday Janry 26th

A Beautiful mild day Thermometer at 2 P.M stood at 21⁰. Nothing particular to relate. The usual going to meeting. James and Lucy did not return from the afternoon's meeting but went with Marian up to spend the evening at Leonard's

Monday Janry 27th

Another appearance of a snow storm from the South East Thermometer stands at 13⁰ above. Meeting of Council. Burrill elected mayor - got Trimmings for Lucy's dress changed - Burrill and I down at Wadleigh's about Bill Elwin. Signed a Petition for Leniency to Sam Hall's son. James digging up water pipes & breaking in steers - a great depth of snow - Published the homologation¹¹⁸ of Cross & LeCompte amended Proces Verbaux. Lucy was helping Rachel

Thursday January 28th/73

A mild day with more snow - Thermometer at noon 20⁰ above zero- Mrs P. & Rachel gone to village. more snow James Choring round. The young ones here all day. Lucy came over with Rachel at noon and worked away all afternoon at her dress - went back with Rachel at night. Sam went to the bridge again today

Wednesday Janry 29

A Bright cold morning Thermometer 20⁰ below zero Bill Lyster over to get James to help him to load hay Tobias here to get James to trade Billy Boast Richard Lyster over here to buy Billy Boast stops for dinner, offered \$80.00 for him. James asked \$90. Tobias offered a yoke of steers & \$10.00 James said he'd take the steers and \$30. no trade Bill Lyster brought a letter from Eddy. He is in Sherbrooke

Thursday January 30th

A Cold raw morning opened with Thermometer 18⁰ below zero but kept gradually rising until it stood 10⁰ above at night James fixing up the stables. I sent off Semi Annual report & census for 1872. I wrote letters to McMurry about returning municipal [unclear] to Placey about breaking out Royston Road and an answer to Eddy, and sent the whole to the post office by Mary Anne who came down at noon with little Tommy Dalton and stopped till after tea

Friday January 31st

Morning opens with Thermometer 2⁰ above zero with slight fall of snow - Lucy moidering her brains with learning the relative length of musical notes in desperate anticipation of having to go over to receive a lesson from Mrs Allan but feeling the task to be overwhelmingly too abstruse for her she safely concluded it would be no use in her going until she had it better so she determined no to go today and apply herself more seriously to the matter which she will do next Tuesday bout an hour before the time she must meet her instructor - James took home Wm Burrill's Ram at night - went to Ulverton got my paper & 3 gallons of coal oil besides a pair of Buckskin gloves at \$1.25 for himself

Saturday February 1st

Bright-Cold morning Thermometer 8⁰ below zero James drew wood from the hill - Mrs Lucy and Mrs P preparing for a great prayer meeting in our house to come off at night but didn't come off, or rather it didn't come on for the only persons that came was Billy & Mary Randlett and Rachel, so they thought it wasn't worth while only six or seven people to bother themselves with praying and Lucy made amends for the disappointment by playing the Company a few tunes on the piano in her best style. John Royston came here and gave me %25 to advance to Sam and Tom Martin on the Bridge rather than lend it to them on their own note, as he thought the corporation a surer debtor than the contractors and so the month commences

¹¹⁸

This may have been a notification of agreement or approval concerning matters relating to the Cross and LeCompte roads.

Sunday February 2nd

Candlemas day opens very bright clear and cold Thermometer stands 8⁰ below zero - Folks all going to Meeting. Rachel's Mayor is really taken on with the brethren I think and likes to go to meeting. For this morning she seemed afraid of being too late and as she thought Rachel rather tedious in her preparations started off for meeting in company with the sleigh & Buffaloes and got as far as our barn steadily and slowly proceeding to meeting when James took her back again to fetch her mistress The day throughout was very cold & Blustry. James only went to meeting in afternoon. Billy Randlett came and after taking tea sat up with Lucy until 2 o'clock A.m long after the fire had all but expired a very poor preparation for starting out in the cold on his way home. Sam Rachel and family were here to tea and stopped till 10 o'clock I gave Sam the \$25. left by Royston yesterday

Monday February 3^d/73

Morning opens raw and cold with Thermometer at 8⁰ below. Gets warmer about noon with some indication of a thaw which disappears toward evening and looks more like snow - James besides doing his chores helped Bill Lyster to draw straw went to meeting in evening and got a letter from Mr Maben who has been very ill. Mary Burrill also brought James a letter from Billy Tom. He states that there is a sect of christians out west who see the New Jerusalem in the heavens with the naked eye but who require a powerful lens in order to see its gates! Lucy studying away at her piano all day but doesn't make much headway

Tuesday February 4th/73

A dark Cloudy morning mild - Thermometer stands at 23⁰ above - James gone again to help Bill Lyster finished Lucy Drumming away with very little patience Came on Thawing in the afternoon - rained into the night and then Froze again mr Wm Burrill here to borrow the threshing machine but didn't get it that's all I think

Wednesday February 5th 1873

A Beautiful day mild warm and fine Thermometer 6⁰ above Webber Burrill made out to get out for the first time and came over & stopped a couple of hours Mrs P and I were up at the village H. Woodburn gave me some cock's comb seed - nothing more except that I bought at Woodburns 77^{lbs} oatmeal a few pounds of cheese & 1/2 Gal aqua vitae

Thursday February 6th 1873

A Beautiful mild morning Thermometer at 24⁰ and kept rising until it reached 40⁰ when there was a mild thaw. Mr Thomas Burrill over and with James' help removed threshing machine Mrs P over at Sam's helping Rachel to make a dress while the latter wove a piece of shirting for her mother - James wrote a letter to Mr Maiben, went with it to the village and then waited on the Princess Wales I commenced making up my Books

Friday February 7th 73

Another beautiful mild day Thermometer at 20⁰ with some appearance of clouding up but it continued fine throughout the entire day. James was drawing wood. Lucy went over to Kingsey for her normal music lesson to Mrs Allan and brought home "*La Jeune Pianiste*" for which I paid a dollar Richard Elliott's address

Greenwood Post office
Clarke County
Wiss
Hayden's Camp

Saturday February 8

Another beautiful mild morning. Thermometer stands this morning at 25⁰. It got colder however with some more snow - Bill Woodburn sent me 19 fresh herrings by Mr Burrill - James went away in the afternoon to

help Leonard to break in Taylors' horses Came home at night and brought me two letters one was addressed to Eddy at Melbourne and was from one of his friends in St Johnsbury relative to the former's tool chest which he states he dispatched to Sherbrooke immediately after the receipt of a previous letter from??? him so to do, but which it appears Eddy had not obtained. The other letter was my bill for 1872 from Woodburn which I feel surprised to find amounts to \$51. James brought home one of Taylor's horses and left Peacock at Leonards in order to have him so far on the road to start for Sherbrooke in the morning to see what Eddy is about and fetch him home

Sunday February 9th

There was a little more sun last night and it was some colder in the morning Thermometer nearly 2⁰ above. James started for Sherbrooke and took Mrs P to meeting. Lucy staid at home The day becomes mild as it advances but cloudy, on the whole it is a beautiful day Rachel stopped for dinner and then went home. Sam rather grouty¹¹⁹ to be left with the children and then get no dinner, and when she did go home she manifested no hurry in preparing it, words arose - a dish of water was spilt on the floor and Rachel flounced back followed two hours after by Sam and whole family who stopped for tea

Monday February 10

A beautiful bright cold morning Thermometer 16⁰ below zero I was chorryng all day Bill Lyster borrow a little bit of chain with a link on it for a drag to his sled, he took it off our double whipple tree¹²⁰ James and Eddy came home at night about ten p.m Eddy looks well he has agreed to finish off Eliza's house

Tuesday February 11th

Coldish morning Thermometer 6⁰ below zero with another snow storm. Eddy went on to see Rachel & brought little James with him. Eddy drove Lucy over to Mrs Allen's at night he took a horse and went to Leonard's in order to get a tub to exhibit his wishing machines intending tomorrow to go round and endeavor to sell a lot of them. It snowed all day and the snow has almost recovered its normal depth, that is to say the depth it had attained before the recent thaws had reduced it. James besides doing his chores was splitting wood in the shed all day

Wednesday February 12th/73

The morning opens dark, cloudy and milder with a dark bank of clouds in the north indicating a thaw. Thermometer rising opening with 3⁰ above and continuing pretty much the same all day. Leonard came down with a span of horses¹²¹ and brought down some ashes to make soap, and take home a load of sawed wood His horses sulked & would'nt draw it, so James had to put his horses in & drew it to Hallbrooke Randlets Eddy fixed the washing machine¹²² in a tub he got at Leonard's last night and he is going to take it round tomorrow to solicit purchases Both boys went to M^cGill's at night Billy Rand here till twelve o'clock sparking and to ask the young ones to a party tomorrow evening

Thursday February 13th

Bright Cold morning after a white Frost. Thermometer 14⁰ below. My Birthday - 60 years old today. Eddy had taken Peacock and away canvassing for purchases for his washing machine. Lucy busy cooking, as she expects a visit from Fanny Elliott tomorrow. James took steers up to the woods in order to break a road into

¹¹⁹ Cross or sulky.

¹²⁰ A whippetree is the pivoted crossbar at the front of wagons and carriages to which the traces of the harness are attached.

¹²¹ A pair of horses.

¹²² The washing machine which Eddy was selling may have been similar to the "Daisy Washer" which was being produced around this time by J. H. Conner & Son(s) Ltd., of Ottawa. This machine consisted of two washboards which moved inside a wooden tub. The washboards were activated by pulling a lever back and forth.

some cordwood and then took the horses up to fetch a load. Mrs P gone to visit at Sam's. I bound Lucy's music. Rats in the cellar again. Lucy saw two at the cheese Lucy & Eddy - social to spend the evening at Bill Randle's Eddy got 4 offers of purchase for his washing machine James went to M^cGill's to enquire about a surveyor coming to survey Eddy's lot

Friday February 14th

Bright cold morning Thermometer opens 14⁰ below but rose at noon to 16⁰ above James splitting wood. Eddy took Lucy to Kingsey and then went and fetched Fanny Elliott to our house where I think she intends staying till Monday when she returns to her School in Scott's Town. Nothing very particular occurred today James drew a load of wood I think split a little. I wrote out the annual return of the Municipal Finances to be sent to Government and so St Valentines day passed off - I forgot to say Mrs P tried Eddy's washing machine and it worked to a charm

Saturday February 15th/73

Morning opens bright and cold Thermometer however is at Zero with every appearance of the day becoming warmer. Eddy splitting wood in shed, James choring. I sent reports to School Department for School money also five 5.00 dollars to John Main for insurance. Just as we were finishing dinner Wm Burrill and Eusebia came the former with forms from post office department to fill up. He has got the appointment of post master and our new post office is to be called Kirkdale. Thus I have had the honor of having got a post office for Upper Durham and of giving names to two Divisions of the Township to wit Ulverton and Kirkdale which will probable remain long after the namer is forgotten. Mr Burrill tells me Steven Tree's daughter Mrs Massey has been brought home dead this morning Just as Mr Burrill was leaving Leonard and Mary Anne arrived bringing no less personages with them than poor Celina and John Bushel, a wonderful surprise. Mrs P and Celina went over to surprise Rachel. Eddy went to Melbourne with Leonard & Mary anne James Lucy & Fanny Elliott went to meeting and Eddy came home with them

Sunday February 16th/73

Morning opens mild with light clouds Thermometer 6⁰ above zero. We had quite a day of it. The boys rigged up the old dung sled, put two horses in it and took Lucy Rachel Fanny Elliott John Bushel and Mrs P to meeting Celina stopped at home with me John & Celina took Peacock and went off to old Mr Bushel's in the afternoon. Rachel Sam and family here in afternoon to tea Webber Burrill walked over & Eddy carried him home. We had another calf dead this morning. Boys Lucy & Fanny Elliott spent the evening together in the parlor that's all

Monday February 17th/73

Another beautiful morning Thermometer 16⁰ above. Boys borrowed Will Lyster's sleigh took Fanny Elliott in it and leaving her at the Rail Road bridge went to have Eddy's land surveyed. Sam and Rachel went to the village to parley for time with Hetherington for notes of the former deposited in the bank & now become due. Mrs M^cGill dangerously ill and not expected to live. Eddy had some little difference with Mr M^cGill as to the course of the S.E line which was satisfactorily settled as Eddy understood it but with a loss to Mr M of a certain piece of woodland he wished to keep

Tuesday February 18th 73

Another beautiful morning opens with Thermometer 13⁰ above mailed a note to Rev^d Mr King Eddy & James gone to take out a deed & Then Eddy starts again for Sherbrooke. Celina, John & Mrs P Gone to see Mrs M^cGill. I took Lucy to Kingsey & thus went down to Ulverton. Met Mrs Chloe in Miller's asked me to drive her home. Kept me waiting till it was passed the hour to get back in time for Lucy when she did get ready had to take her to Mooney's to get a lamp chimney going down Ben Reed's hill sleigh shafts¹²³ fell down, had to stop another hour at Blacksmith's to get it mended. Then had to drive Mrs Chloe back to Trenhomville as she

¹²³

The sleigh shafts were the poles between which the horse was harnessed to the sleigh.

said there was a nail in her boot when I got home I found Phillip Lyster and his wife at our house they stopped till ten o'clock John Bushel had been up at Leonard's and got back at bed time - Webber Burrill was here today to get James to go and thresh tomorrow. I brought my Ranuncula and oxali up to the light today and I fear some of them are spoilt
Wednesday February 19/73

Dark Cloudy morning Thermometer at 30⁰ above looking like snow storm - James gone to thresh for Thos Burrill and after he went it commenced snowing & subsequently thawing Celina Making dress for Mrs P until Rachel came along and took her and John away to her place I was making out tax bills & attending barn. James came home early as a link of the lag chain was broken and he had to go to the village to get it mended John Bushel went with him. John Lester's son William died very suddenly today. he was taken 4 in afternoon yesterday with a most intense headache and at the same hour today his mortal pain had forever ceased Phillip R Lyster here about his bill for repairs on School House

Thursday February 20

Morning opens rather raw after slight snow in the night Thermometer standing at 18⁰ above James and John Bushel gone to Mr Burrill's to thrash. Maryanne came down in the afternoon to take Celina up to their place - Mrs P and Celina were making a shirt for James and a dress for Mrs P. Lucy at the Piano - Maryann and Celina off James and John Bushel followed the former staying away all night - I was making out tax bills all day - nothing more worth recording except Mrs M^cGill getting better

Friday February 21st 1873

Dark Cloudy Raw morning Thermometer 2⁰ below - James Came home from Leonard's about 7 after that there came on a heavy snow storm which continued all day and most of the night succeeded by a high wind drifting the snow in all directions - Lucy went over alone for her music lesson & found a note at Mrs Allans from Fanny Elliott inviting James & herself to Fanny's birthday anniversary at Bill Reed's on Tuesday 25th instant. Billy Randlett came here a sparking and sat up as usual - Tom Lester's daughter is in a desperate state with a lump on her head she has to be tied to keep her quiet James drew three loads of wood from the hill

Saturday February 22nd

Morning opens with high wind - drifting like mad Thermometer 8⁰ above but rising as day advances James splitting wood in shed and doing chores. There is now a most tremendous bank of snow all round the house in front it is within a foot of the crotch of the little maple. It is an inch or two higher than 2nd bar of office window - Hens are laying away cold and storming as it is nothing new only Sam is thawing out after a splend drunk on Friday

Sunday February 23

Bright cold and blowing away as fresh as ever Thermometer 2⁰ below Mrs P and Lucy staid from meeting as well as Rachel - James went on foot and came home at night on a pair of snow shoes borrowed from Edward Pierce - The roads are blocked up he says with drifts higher than he ever saw in his life, the drifting continued all day and at night to bedtime nothing further to relate only that Lucy has a sore throat, and says she doesn't Know how to gargle it with salt

Monday February 24th

Morning opens raw & blustry - still drifting with Thermometer 6⁰ below James and Bill Lyster hitched their horses together and bunked out the road - afterwards James went to drawing wood down from the hill. He harnessed up Peacock at night and went off to Mc^cGill's through all the drifts - Mrs M^cGill is getting weaker a very bad time for the tea meeting to be held in English Church¹²⁴ tonight

¹²⁴ "The English Church" would be Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Kirkdale.

Tuesday February 25th

Blowing and snowing as usual Thermometer opened at 6⁰ above but rapidly rose to 20⁰ - James drawing wood from hill drew down several loads Rachel with her whole family and old Doll harnessed in the sleigh, armed with a shovel, came over and manfully attacked the snow drift at the barn and successfully reached home after a lively contest with the aforesaid snow drift Poor Mrs M^cGill is sinking fast, and the probability is she will not live long Terrible fire in Montreal St James Hotel burned three persons lost their lives

Wednesday February 26th

Morning opens mild and beautifully calm. Thermometer 6⁰ above. James drawing wood - I went to Ulverton and paid my store Bill to Miller & Reed - I paid it by their own taxes \$27.98

	and cash	<u>23.30</u>
		51.28
I paid also Bal Municipal a/c		\$3.81
and Commission do		<u>8.37</u>
	Total	\$12.18

By receipting & delivering
Hub Cummings' tax bill 17.49
which left a balance of \$ 5.31

which was placed to my Credit - I took tea at Millers Mrs M appears to me to be sinking fast. Had a pressing invitation from Mary Jane Reed - When I got home found Mrs P & James at M^cGill's Mrs M^cGill dead got a long letter from R. T. Miller written on the 28th December last another from Rev^d Mr King

Thursday & Friday 27 & 28th/73

Morning Beautiful and mild. Thermometer 10⁰ above James splitting wood. Lucy to Kingsey. Mrs P Threatened with another attack of her old complaint. I was engaged writing to Robt Miller - I omitted recording yesterday's proceedings There was a follow ____ Thermometer 6⁰ above in morning James splitting wood - I wrote a note to Eddy enclosing one from Chency about the washing machines - James splitting wood - he went to the village in the evening and brought me a registered letter from Prefontaine

Saturday March 1st

Opens dark cloudy calm and beautifully mild Thermometer 25⁰ above zero - Mrs M^cGill's funeral very large 52 Sleighs Mr Maiben preached Church full - Mrs P and I went to Leonard's

Sunday March 2nd

Beautiful mild day Thermometer at 20⁰ in morning rose in the afternoon higher light thaw at night - snow - family all to meeting morning - Mrs P went with the rest an night to hear Mr Baines Preach Congregational Church church full Sam and young ones remained till all returned Celina and John back - that's all wrote to R T Miller

Monday March third

Another fine morning Thermometer at 14⁰ above - Council Meeting Had my Fees increased - Signed Burrill's bond - paid Sol Lysh & John Hall election money - James splitting all day - John & Celina had each a shake. James & John went to meeting at night to M^cGill's - that's all Mailed a letter to Robert Miller

Tuesday March 4th

Cold morning after a little snow Thermometer 6⁰ above day bright James splitting wood - John went to village - then over the river with Lucy - then with James to M^cGills I wrote out proceedings of yesterday Mrs P very poorly with old complaint

Wednesday March 5th

Bright cold morning Thermometer 1⁰ below Paid R D Major \$35. James and John getting down cordwood from the bush Celina took one of her exacerbations and was very ill. I was engaged writing down original notices - wrote off all the original Special and public notices - the day continued bright throughout but became very cold at night

Thursday March 6th 1873

Thermometer rising again since yesterday morning opens 14⁰ above but day was rather blustry and raw. James drew two loads wood to the village. John Bushel split the remainder of fire wood I was writing out copies of original Special & Public notices Lucy was practising all day her music lessons Celina finished Mrs P's dress Little Boy peddler here tonight needles pins comb garters &c to the amount of 61^{cts} Mr Noble¹²⁵ here and paid his taxes

Friday March 7th 73

Morning opens dark and Cloudy with appearance of the thaw which set in and carried Mercury up about 3 PM to 56⁰ - James chopped about 3/4 cord of wood and took it to the village - I finished all my writing - John took the horses up to James at noon to fetch down his wood - James then went with it to the village John took Lucy to Trenholmvile Celina threatened with another attach of ague which she succeeded in "busting"

Saturday March 8th/73

Morning opens mild and balmy with thermometer at 41⁰ it had been thawing all night and continues so I am going out to serve notices but fear the roads are so slushy that it will be no easy joy to get along with a horse I went however and served W Brown¹²⁶ G Stevens J Mooney C Carr Steven Tree G Reed G Miller Jeremiah Elliott Stopped at Miller's store - published 5 Bylaws collected taxes and came home forgetting my carpet bag with Try books which I left in Miller's shed - James drew a load of boards from Millingtons

Sunday March 9th

Rather blustry it froze last night with some snow. Thermometer at 1⁰ above Folks all went to meeting. The Taylors arrived - Preaches this afternoon I am going after my carpet bag which I found exactly where I left it in a crockery crate in the shed. I met George Reed at Doctor Breadon's, he went back with me and we then went on I left him at Armstrongs. John Bushel went with James to Meeting & thence to Leonard's where he stopped all night. Billy Randlett was here to tea and stopped till 12 or 1 oclock

Monday March 10th

Dark Calm morning after hard frost Thermometer 15⁰ above James cutting Saw logs & drew load to the mill for his house Webber Burrill came over to Raly a while. John Bushel came home with James and Lucy from

¹²⁵ *This may have been a reference to Edward Noble, mentioned in the entry of 16 March 1872, or to Ned Noble, mentioned in the entries of 21 May, 14 and 21 June 1872 and 6 March 1873, or to Alexander Noble, a 26 year old, Quebec-born farmer, not mentioned in the diary, but listed in the 1871 census of Durham with Elizabeth, his 22 year old wife, and their children Caroline, age 5, and Anna Eva, age 3, all of whom were identified as Quebec-born and Wesleyan Methodist.*

¹²⁶ *William Brown, a 55 year old farmer, born in England, was listed in the 1871 census of Durham with his Quebec-born wife, Margaret, age 42, and their child, Elizabeth, age 4. William Brown was a Wesleyan Methodist. The religion of his wife and daughter was listed as "Scottish". Residing in the same home were Elizabeth Richards, Quebec-born, age 13, Elizabeth Robb, a 77 year old widow, born in Scotland and listed as Presbyterian, and two boys, Joshua Robb, age 10, and A. Washington Robb, age 7, both who were Quebec-born, of Scottish origin, and listed as Wesleyan Methodist.*

meeting. He received a letter from Willie Burrill, but T M Taylor has no view of a place for him. Celina went over with Rachel but didn't come back. John went over there after he came home - Dave Dustin here to pay Mrs Trodden's¹²⁷ taxes. paid also Mrs Wittie s 38^{cts}. That's all.

Tuesday March 11th

Dark cloudy morning rather raw - Thermometer stands at 20⁰ above. Mrs P & I going to Kingsey which we did but encountered a severe snow storm & wind going down. Mrs P called in to see Mrs Cummings who is very ill - Met Ben Reed near Evans and had hard work to get by him as he was suffering from a lame Knee got home late at night, it was a beautiful moon light night but roads very heavy from the recent snow storm which was from the South east James went twice to Veasey's saw mill & brought home a load of boards

Wednesday March 12th

Bright March day Thermometer 22⁰ above James gone again to saw mill - John & Celina went up to Leonard's with Sam's old Doll & sleigh James drew two loads logs to Mill but got only a few boards left behind last time John Bushel got back at night and left Celina behind he only came back with doll. He and Celina are going out to his father's tomorrow. Mary Burrill off to be married.

Thursday March 13th

Another fine morning Thermometer above freezing point at noon and thawing gently. I took John Bushel as far as the village. Mrs P Making soap - James & Lucy went down to Fanny Elliott's party and brought Fanny home with them. Nothing else worth mentioning - Mr Sol Lyster very ill not expected to live

Friday March 14th

Another Mild morning Thermometer 26⁰ above Lucy going to carry Fanny to the bridge. Snowing a little Lucy went to Kingsey Erastus Randlett came here in the morning and sat Ralying till nine o'clock at night James drew a log to Elwin's mill - bought a pine log from L Bush is to give him 30 rails for it - brought home a load of boards Celina & John not home yet. Eddy expected home today but didn't come

Saturday March 15

A Beautiful fine morning Thermometer at 28⁰ & rising at that - Gave Sam M^cManus a receipt for Bill Elwin's taxes \$5.14 wrote out notices for Ned Murphy's taxes \$6.55

Costs &c	\$.90	
John Armstrong	3.60	
Costs	1.05	
Phin Cross taxes	18.06 1/2	
Costs	1.05	
G Stevens taxes	10.55	
Costs	<u>.82 1/2</u>	
	\$3.82 1/2	\$38.76 1/2
	<u>3.82 1/2</u>	
	42.69	

also Mr Harriman's taxes 3.24

¹²⁷ *Marry Trodden, a 58 year old, Irish-born widow, was listed in the 1871 census of Durham with her unmarried, Quebec-born children, Kate Elen, age 21, Barbara, age 17, James, age 18, and Michal, age 16. They were identified as Church of England. Residing in the same home was Elizabeth Campbell, a Quebec-born girl, age 2.*

Costs	<u>.97 1/2</u>
	46.90 1/2
Joe Curry Taxes	\$4.02
costs	90

James drew another log to mill but got no boards I went to meeting and got home late

Sunday March 16th

Opens cloudy unsettled morning after rain. Thermometer 6^o degrees above freezing point but fell very rapidly to four degrees below when there came on a snow storm with fierce squalls. All went to meeting Rachel & Berty stopped for dinner and tea and went home at night. poor old Doll was up with Sam on his spree last night and eat nothing all the afternoon but made amends for it today by going to meeting with Rachel and never eat a bit the whole blessed day. its all comes to her whether she goes on the spree or to meeting both give her little comfort Black yew had a lamb.

Monday March 17th

St Patric's day - blowing still after considerable snow Thermometer 16^o above. James gone to get his logs sawed I am going to serve notices Thermometer 16^o above zero. Mooney Road so drifted up at Denis Mooney's I had to turn back and order Inspector to brake it out bought 8^{lbs} Tea (4 of them on trial) ribbons for Lucy 1^{lb} cotton yarn and 1^{lb} Tobacco. Eddy come home James got all his lumber sawed I paid Mr Reed \$100 for Miss Morrill - Scrabble paid 73^{cts} Richmond \$6.38 B Reed \$34.55 gave notices to [?] for service Lucy gone to stop at Leonard's till Mary Anne comes home from Sarah Jane Blake's wedding - I saw Miss Eliza Reed's Beau He is a Mr Houghen of the firm of Thomson Moodie & Houghen Toy Cutlery dry good & fancy ware house St Paul Street

Tuesday March 18th

Bright Calm Thermometer 18^o above kept Rising and thawed slightly in the afternoon - fell again and snowed after night James brought a maple log to Mill and then brought home the remainder of lumber he left there - He and Eddy Put Millington's colt in with Peacock and went for it in the evening but didn't get home - James went up a sparking and Eddy came home with horses - Billy Randlett here a sparking till one or two oclock

Wednesday March 19th

More snow in the night Thermometer 28^o above Leonard & Mary Anne down Brought a letter to Eddy I sowed Balsams & Flox in Raisin Box numbering the rows from 1 to 14 also cock's comb in a tin - sowed in following order

Flox	Balsam
No 1 Purple White Star	8 Rose
2 Deep Pink	9 Pink
3 Pink white spray	10 Scarlet
4 Do White Star	11 Purple var
5 Do light white spray	12 White
6 White	13 Purple Var
7 Maroon	14 Blush Buff

March 21 Sowed in ax Box

No 1 Petunias Purple varigated
 " 2 & 3 Crimson Purple
 " 4 White Purple throat
 " 5 Magenta white throat
 " 6 Candytuft

Thursday March 20th

Mild bright pleasant Morning Thermometer at 28⁰ above but Kept rising until it commenced Thawing slightly Mrs P and I went to Durham I to serve notices and she to visit Mrs T Reed's and Mrs Miller's I took back the rubbers I bought for Lucy the other day and bought 3 inside shirts for Eddy. James was in the woods getting hoop timbers¹²⁸ with the Steers & Billy Lyster he then drew two loads of straw from Sam's with the steers Eddy planing boards I paid Miss Morrill \$10 more & left \$40 with R Picken for Miss Blake It came on heavy snow storm & Blow in the night

Friday March 21st

Wind nor west all day Snowing and blowing some Thermometer stands 28⁰ above James and Eddy coopering I sowed some garden seeds in a box. I sec the particulars on the page for 19th instant, Lucy to Kingsey. I gave her my purse to pay Mrs Allan out of it \$6.00 Eddy and James coopered all the buckets today - Nothing new

Saturday March 22nd

Thermometer 21⁰ above and snowing at that. James & Eddy hewing the forms for Kitchen oven again snowing all day Sam and Rachel gone to the village. I sent an order to Evans for following seeds

[[The next page is missing.]]

Monday March 24

Morning opens bright and very cold blowing away with Thermometer 6⁰ below boys at Kitchen again Celina making Lucy's dress. Nothing particular to note beyond the extreme unpleasantness of the day - Boys to meeting at night - Eddy took Minnie Ewing home

Tuesday March 25th

day opens milder. Thermometer in morning 2⁰ above. Kept rising till it reached 20⁰ Boys at stairs in Kitchen a young man here to hire a sugar bush - young Boutlier from Richmond here - Lucy at Sam's White cow Nellie and Daisy all calved

Wednesday March 26th

Morning opens dark, calm and mild. Thermometer standing at 22⁰ above with appearance of more snow. Commenced raining about ten, then froze again, and then commenced raining steady continuing till noon when it turned round froze and finally turned to snow storm rained the drift behind the house to over seven feet - made a drift in front in the garden up to the walls of the house nearly three feet where there now was a drift before I took Celina and young Bartlett up to the village - when I came home John Bushel had got back - Bill Cardin came over and stopped loafing till bedtime - Boys were working away at Kitchen all day Bill Lyster was over and got the boys to help him to get out hoop stuff

Thursday March 27th 1873

Morning opens bright and blustry - Thermometer 12⁰ above Boys working at kitchen Bill Lyster over to get Eddy to make him an axe handle. James and Eddy went to the village - Eddy came home fetching Celina with

¹²⁸ *"Hoop timbers" were six foot saplings which, after being collected in the woods, were split into strips and used for hoops in the "coopering" of barrels and buckets. Many of the buckets made by James and Eddy could have been used in the sugar bush in early spring to collect sap from the maple trees*

him who didn't want to come till she heard John was at home then nothing would keep her - James was driving Taylor's horse about - talks of purchasing two of them to take down to the states more speculation! James stopped at M^cGill's sparking and got home about 2 a.m. I wonder how he will manage to do without going there two or three nights in the week when he gets his house Roads in an abominable condition after last snow storm

Friday March 28th 1873

Morning opens raw enough with Thermometer at 12^o above but it kept rising until 2 PM when it stood nearly at 40^o with signs of thaw James & John Bushel gone to village to fetch 2 B^{ls} of Corn and 3 of lime, Mrs Ed Murphy here to pay her taxes - let \$2.10 to be paid by Tom Martin James & John went to village - brought home 2 B^{ls} of corn meal 4 of lime 1 Bundle shingles. I also received my flower seeds from town I thought the snow at this time last year was very deep but it is deeper by a foot this year

Saturday March 29th 1873

Dark cloudy Calm morning Thermometer 36^o above Thawing and raining slightly occasionally Celina had a bad cramp in her stomach - James and John scalding buckets. Eddy working away on the pantry - In the afternoon Eddy and Lucy went down to Sydenham and James drew a load of buckets to M^cGill's - Nothing further worth relating.

Sunday March 30th 1873

Dark Cloudy morning Thermometer 39^o above. Thaw still continuing until about 4 PM when the mercury commenced falling rapidly followed by rising wind from the south west but apparently tending more northward with another fall of snow - James & John away to meeting on foot in the morning and didn't come home to dinner. Eddy Lucy and Emily arrived Just as we finished tea. James came home without John who remained at M^cGill's having taken another attack of ague Poor Celina has been very bad with also the whole day and not able to take a bit of nourishment

Monday March 31st

Morning opens dark cloudy and calm with Thermometer 26^o above - John Armstrong's boy here to pay taxes just as we were finishing breakfast It commenced thawing after a while James took another load of Buckets to M^cGill's. John Bushel got back Had a note from Mrs Rowe she says work may be had up there wages \$1.10 per dieum - board @12.00 per month, a house with 4 rooms at \$3 per month Eddy lathing pantry. Emily trying her hand at piano nothing new

Tuesday April 1st

Dark calm warm and cloudy Thermometer been up to forty thawing all day - fine sap day - Commenced tapping at M^cGill's, got 200 tapped - James got home late at night - This was John & Celina's day for a shiver but they managed to stave it off - Lucy took Emily to the bridge Eddy finished lathing pantry - I got out frozen boards for my summer house at I think Eddy will hardly do it. Broke his lock saw and gave him fifty cents for it - got 2 letters 1 from Evans in Montreal one of them had gone round by Durham. Froze a little at night then snowed - thawed - rained again Steam Ship Atlantic went down off Newfoundland with 750 souls¹²⁹

¹²⁹ The S. S. Atlantic was a coal-burning ship of the White Star Line which departed from Liverpool for New York on 20 March 1873 with 811 passengers, 4 officers and 141 crew members. On 31 March 1873, a shortage of fuel prompted the captain to divert his ship to Halifax. Early in the morning of 1 April 1873, the S. S. Atlantic blundered onto Meagher's Rock, listed sharply and trapped many people below deck. Despite the heroic rescue efforts made by the crew and the inhabitants of Prospect, Nova Scotia, 534 adults and one child died. [*The Canadian Encyclopedia*,

Wednesday April 2nd

Dark Rainy and sleeting Thermometer 33⁰ above Mr Burrill Post Master Called and delivered me a letter from Supt. of Education with \$61.76 model School Sent a paper from Bob Miller and 3 packages of seeds from Evans John finished my summer house boards White heifer calved during night Snowed - sleeted & thawed all day - James did'nt come home at night. Billy Randlett here till near day sparking - I wish he would be done with it Eddy working at kitchen.

Thursday April 3^d/73

Day pretty much like yesterday dark - thawy - sleety - Thermometer ranging about the same - froze a little in the night Eddy & John did'nt come back. Lucy at Rachel's staid all night - James Came home about 4 PM M^cGill & he tapped over 700 trees - Sap does'nt run very well he says Eddy was working at the Kitchen in forenoon

Friday April 4th/73

Dull Mild Thawing gently still - Thermometer at 2 oclock stood 35 -James took horses and seed oats to M^cGill's Wrote to Evans - sent \$4.00 & order for following seeds - 22 packets

<u>name</u>	<u>Height/ Var / Color</u>
1 pkt Verbenas	
1 " Heliotrope ¹³⁰	
1 " Hedysarum	
1 " Leptosyphon Hybridis	
1 " Lenum Grandiflower	
1 " Lobelia Cardinalis	
1 " Lobelia Speciosa	
1 " Lophospormum Scandens	
1 " Lupins all kinds	
1 " Sweet Mignonette ¹³¹	
1 " Maurandia Barclayana	
1 " Melilotos Carula ¹³²	
1 " Nasturtium tall	
1 " Nasturtium Dwarf	
1 " Nierumbergia Bracilis	
1 " Ononus rolun defolia	
1 " Orbus vernis	
1 " Phacelscoremiacongesta	
1 " Polyanthus mixed ¹³³	
1 " [unclear]	

Mailed following letters at Kirkdale
Mr Evans with \$4.00 registered

Micropaedia, Vol I, p. 497]

The S. S. Atlantic was the most important of the 118 or more vessels which met with destruction along the coast of Nova Scotia in 1873, because its sinking represented the most disastrous of shipwrecks ever to occur along the coast of that province. [*Ship Wrecks of Nova Scotia, Vol I*, pp 158-167]

¹³⁰ *Heliotrope, a plant of the borage family, has fragrant clusters of small reddish-purple or white flowers which turn to face the sun.*

¹³¹ *Mignonette has wedge-shaped leaves and spikes of small, fragrant, greenish-white flowers.*

¹³² *Melilotos is a sweet-smelling, cloverlike plant.*

¹³³ *Polyanthus is a kind of primrose with many flowers.*

Miss Scott care Wm Scott \$7.50 Do,
Miss Morrill \$10.00 Do,
Louis Girard receipt for \$61.76

Bought 8 Rolls wall paper at 25 Pair boots \$4.25 (George said he'd throw off the quarter) 1 1/2 yard ticking and 3 yds Denim for Eddy - a box of matches & 1/2^{lb} fig tobacco - Met Hennings and some others in the store had a treat from one of his comrades went in to see John Hall - refused an invitation to tea - when I came home found John Had got back - Got a notice of my appointment as auditor from County Sec and John Weir's bill for blacksmithing done for the bridge

Saturday April 5th

Dark Cloudy Thermometer just below freezing but rose with slight thaw James in Sugar bush - John & Eddy went to sugarring off - sugarred off nicely 100^{lbs} - Billy Lyster brought me my *Guardian* roads were pretty good up to now - patches of bare ground begin to shew but still snow is a great depth - Jannet Harvey died in the night

Sunday April 6

Dark Cloudy raining Thermometer 41^o - All to meeting - Leonard & Maryann to dinner raining all day - Eddy went back to meeting with Leonard and Maryann - Snow going very slowly - not many patches bare yet - the main road was very bad today - back roads not quite so bad. Eddy stopped at Buck Stimson's all night, nothing new worth relating. Mr Dunkerly died at midnight - he went to bed quite well - was taken with cramps in his stomach about 11 and in next hour he was no more aged 82

Monday April 7th

Dark foggy morning Thermometer 33^o above. Weather still proceeding steadily. Thawing slowly - Eddy came home about 6:30 & says the river is beginning to break up Meeting School Commissioners laid rates paid R M^cMurry, R Harriman - got three shoes on Peacock, bought 1/2 quire writing paper & 6 Pencils \$1.50 cents worth Postage stamps. Wm Burrill bought a cow yesterday. John Bushel had an offer of a situation \$45 per month in Upper Canada. Close foggy day - all day snow goes slowly roads tolerably fair for this time of year. James in sugar bush with horses. Eddy went to meeting tonight. Brought home horses about midnight and left James.

Tuesday April 8th 1873

Same kind of close foggy weather raining slightly all the time. Thermometer 38^o above got fair in the afternoon and froze at night Jannet Mooney buried. Eddy one of the bearers. He and Lucy went to the funeral then to Leonard's where he sat up all night with Minnie Ewing and didn't Come home. James staid away also at M^cGill's. I was framing the roof of my summer house and doing chores. Thomas Burrill came here and stopped so long that I was sadly hurried to get done in time. John Bushel started for Capelton to see what is doing there

Wednesday April 9th/73

Thermometer 38^o above slight frost last night. Another rainy day till late in afternoon - great depth of snow still. Eddy & Lucy got home at dinner time and commenced lathing again James got home about three pm. I was framing sills of my summer house and doing chores - Mr Dunkerley buried - Edwin Lyster was here to get me to buy a copy of *Livingston's explorations and Stanly's discovery*¹³⁴ &c Did'nt take it. James &

¹³⁴ In March 1871, Henry Morton Stanley, a thirty year old journalist employed by the *New York Herald*, left Zanzibar for Tanganyika in search of Henry David Livingstone. Stanley found the Scottish missionary and traveller at Ujiji on 10 November 1871. The two explored the north end of Lake Tanganyika and established that it had no connection with the Nile basin.

M^cGill sugarred off 150^{lbs} sugar today sap running very well - Eddy worked a little while after he came home lathing the ceiling of the kitchen and getting out stuff for doors

Thursday April 10th

Thermometer 37⁰ above after a slight frost in the night, Raining away again this morning. Snow still going but very little bare ground yet - the drifted piles round the house are still a considerable height, there is only one little patch bare in the garden, about 1/2 an acre on the sandy corn hill and another little patch on the hill beyond it is all that can be seen bare yet. Sam's field's are still covered James in the sugar bush - Sap not running much - Lucy took Celina up to Leonard's where she stopped nothing further to relate. Eddy was getting out stuff for doors I framed the posts of my summer house and did the chores

Friday April 11th/73

Morning opens bright and fine, there was a very light frost in the night but at sunrise Thermometer stood at 34⁰ above - James gone again to Sugar bush chopping wood Billy Raney taken ill with spitting blood No great sum of sap I finished my frame Eddy working at Kitchen

Saturday April 12th

Another mild thawy day Thermometer rose from 34⁰ to 36 Eddy working at Kitchen then went to Kirkdale & Ulverton, brought me a letter and seeds from Evans a receipt from Miss Scott for \$7.50 Postage Stamps from Wm Burrill, a paper from Bob Miller. James sugarred off 175^{lbs} sugar. John Bushel got back from Danville last night. Seems determined to go to Upper Canada Mitchel brought home *the battle of Waterloo*

Sunday April 13

A raw morning dark & cloudy after slight fall of snow. Thermometer opened at freezing point but rose to 36⁰ - all off to meeting thawing again James staid at M^cGill's for Dinner Eddy come home and went back again - John Bushel going to upper Canada tomorrow - Billy Randlett came home with the boys and stopped till midnight

Monday April 14th 1873

Morning opens dark and cloudy after a slight frost. Thermometer just one degree below freezing it then commenced snowing with an inclination to sleet. I sowed garden seeds in Canteen box sowing 12 Kinds asters in large compartment and 6 kinds of double portulaca's in the six next largest - I then numbered the remaining boxes beginning round at corner opposite asters and going round to 12 on the outside when I commenced back again numbering the inside row round to 22 & sowed the following seeds in the order as numbered

- No 1 Zinnia annual 2 feet colors varied
- " 2 Coreopsis " " " " yellow & Brown¹³⁵
- " 3 Alonsofoa " " " " orange Scarlet
- " 4 Lobelia Cardinalis 18 inch Scarlet
- " 5 Verbenas 9 inch - various

The next year Stanley returned alone and published *How I found Livingstone*. The book which E. T. Paterson chose not to purchase would have been based on this adventure.

- " 6 Lark Spur 1 foot double varius¹³⁶
 - " 7 Dianthus 1 foot varius¹³⁷
 - " 8 Melilotos 1 foot pale blue
 - " 9 Phacelia 1 foot clear blue
 - " 10 Crimson Flox 1 foot
 - " 11 Ageratum Mexicannia 1 foot sky blue
 - " 12 Eschollzia Californica 6 in white
 - " 13 Do Lenuforia 6 in yellow
 - " 14 Do Californica 6 in Yellow
 - " 15 Lobelia Speciosa 6 in dark blue
 - " 16 Septos Phlox 6 inch varius
 - " 16 1/2 Clintonia Pulchills 12 in yellow purple
 - " 17 Asters my own seed - Pink 1 foot
 - " 18 Do Do Do Do Blue "
 - " 19 Cock's Comb, Perennials
 - " 20 forget me not double blue 6 in
 - " 21 French Honeysuckle 2 ft, various
 - " 22 Delphinium Hendersons 2 feet, Blue
- Balsams see May 7

Boys finished lathing Kitchen Little Red Cow Calved - in the afternoon boys took Peacock and went away they said to Leonard's with some of John Bushel's clothes and didn't come home all night

Tuesday April 15th

Raw cold wind from the east looks like more snow. Thermometer at 31⁰ just barely freezing but not unpleasant - fields have nearly all the bare spots white again James lathing passage Eddy working up stairs I sowed the 4 Estrythrina Beans in 4 match Boxes Eddy shot James dog

Wednesday April 16th

I brought thermometer into the office last night and in the morning it read 54⁰ but speedily fell to 31⁰ when put out - at 1/2 past 2 P.M it read over 60 but some sun was shining on it. James gone to sugar bush there was white frost last night and as the day is beautiful and bright there may be some sap - Eddy working at doors - I raised my summer house James brought home 175^{lbs} Sugar at night

Thursday April 17

Thermometer at 44⁰ in morning but kept rising until afternoon when it became very warm I went to the village in the sleigh but such roads half the way it was all mud met no team but my own bought a Barrel of flour and 28^{lbs} beside which I brought home I bespoke 8 Bushels Golden ball wheat at Woodburn's - I bought ten pounds nails for James 1^{lb} Salt peter left 15^{lbs} butter for Mrs P at Hetherington's got 5 apples and a bottle whisky - James bought 10 bunches lath's from John Ewing's lathing passage Eddy made his first door

Friday April 18th

Thermometer at 33 Snowing away like fun James gone to Sugar bush. I have to meet Elwin Bridge Committee in afternoon wrote notices to School managers I went on horseback the roads are in a worse condition than ever I saw them before in fact they are utterly unsafe for even riding on horse back - the mail carrier has stopped as he cannot get along with either wheels or runners, he will try it on horseback today. I went on horseback and had a hard time of it - Committee mem absent all but Mr Reed & myself Mrs Campbell here to pay her taxes - Denis Richard buried today - Skillen lost a fine horse yesterday - I brought

¹³⁶ Larkspur is also known as delphinium.

¹³⁷ Dianthus is similar to Sweet William.

home 4 pairs butts 4 latches 10^{lbs} nails 6 pckgs Envelopes Will Cummings - Elliott Watkins paid taxes James Eddy & Lucy to a party at Bill Burrill's

Saturday April 19th/73

Thermometer 48⁰ dark dull day snow goes very slowly away Eddy working at Doors and James lathing in forenoon. James Eddy & Lucy went to sugarring off in afternoon James & Eddy came home at night bringing 5 Gal. Syrup with them. He has 50^{lbs} sugar in bush making 225^{lbs} to his share in all Lucy staid all night I got out some Dahlia roots under grass out of doors to sprout

Sunday April 20

Thermometer at 47⁰. Morning dark after another fall of snow. James & Eddy gone on foot to meeting Mrs P at home Day continues throughout raw cold and sleety quite a difference between the present time and this time last there. There is still a depth of snow two feet deep on the flower beds 3 feet or more round the plot before the plum trees and quite a depth before the house and round the fences. Eddy went to Leonard's in the evening - Celina very sick - had the Doctor

Monday April 21

Frost and light snow in the night - Thermometer at 26⁰ in the morning. James commenced showing his authority today by barricading me out of half the kitchen and persisted in spite of every remonstrance to take off a foot in length of the kitchen more than I wished and Eddy backed him up to the letter God help me if I were left dependent to my sons - when after going through the whole of my life's earnings, they refuse me even a few inches of room in my own house, even if it were not necessary, so long as, I imagine it requisite for the little comfort left me in this world - But why should'nt it be so? They are numbered among God's elect, while I - but no matter, I am greatly mistaken if such heartless ingratitude will not meet its reward. And I for one will see to it

Tuesday April 22nd

Morning opens bright raw and cold though the Thermometer stood only at 27⁰ above still there was a cold searching wind from the west all day. All our cows 9 in number have now calved except old red cow Biddy. James took the horse and went to the sugar bush staid away all night. Eddy still making doors our hay is running pretty low. I think we have'nt two ton in the barn altogether Considerable snow is still on the ground, all the way up to the notch except a little patch at the spring is still covered a foot deep or more as well as the flower beds in the garden. Billy Ewen here to consult statutes as to preliminary requirement for becoming a civil engineer. I lent him compol. *Statutes Canada* by James in the morning. Tobias Lyster's Eddy with him

Wednesday April 23

Thermometer 4⁰ degrees below the freezing point - hard frost in the night - dark, cloudy cold morning. got bright about 9 o'clock with same raw westerly wind as yesterday then clouded up again with some indications of snow, but getting a little milder. It was a fine sap day - James came home at night with the 4 Bushels wheat I bought at Woodburns - says they have sap and syrup enough for 200^{lbs} sugar - old tinker here mended some dishes - tried to mend the Britannia metal¹³⁸ tea pot but did'nt make out old cat died in the night that's all worth mentioning only that James could'nt get his Barley flour I paid for the other day with paper money changed at Hetheringtons

Thursday April 24th

Morning opens with Thermometer at the freezing point but gradually rose to 46⁰ getting warm bright & pleasant but at 2 PM clouded up and got cold again The snow continues tough in several places - James gone

¹³⁸

Britannia metal, an alloy of tin, copper and antimony, was used in making tableware.

with the horses & waggon to sugar bush - the road in the notch is very deep with snow yet - Eddy was lathing me out of my office in the forenoon - went shooting in afternoon - little James fell on an axe and cut his lip - Mrs P gone over to see him. I was to have met the Bridge Committee at Miller's but I didn't go - Eddy shot a partridge

Friday April 25th

Morning opens dark and cloudy after slight frost. Thermometer barely at freezing, with light snow scuds from the west snow still fully 15 inches on the west centre flower bed the two ends of the other centre one getting bare. Many of my flower seeds are up - The flox I sowed on 19 ult are more than an inch high - only 2 Balsams The Petunias sowed on 21st March are also up - The following seeds sowed on 14th instant are also up Asters well up - Larkspur - Dianthus - Melilotos - Crimson Flox - Escholtry - Leptosepton - Forget me not - Eddy went to sugarring off as soon as he eat his breakfast returned at dinner time - sawed out doorway to cellar and split one length off a maple plank for a harrow - Rachel and little ones over in the evening. Douglas Connolly and Webber Burrill here to borrow a saddle & buy a horse James staid away all night that's all

Saturday April 26th/73

Dark cloudy morning Thermometer at freezing point but rose to 43^o in afternoon James away still I believe fencing at M^cGill's - Eddy hanging door to cellarway and casing passage window Young cattle turned out this morning and staying away pretty well - Webber brought horse saddle, but no newspaper Celina home

Sunday April 27

Morning opens after some rain in the night dark and cloudy - all folks off to meeting on foot Mary Ann here to dinner Thermometer 45 at noon

Monday April 28

Beautiful morning and day throughout - Thermometer just at freezing Point in the morning Eddy away to the states again with Eddy Lyster Billy Ewing Tom Martin & Pat Foley here - Put out Carnations gladioli Ranunculus & had to dig away the snow off the flower beds to get plants there I walked to Durham and to John Royston's got home tired. Hard frost James brought home a barrel of flour Celina stopped at M^cGill's Young Cattle and two colts turned out to shift

Tuesday April 29

Beautiful day after another night's frost James at M^cGill's fencing Minny Ewing came after her dog that followed Eddy home but didn't find him

Wednesday April 30th

Beautiful warm day - put out my flower boxes encouraged to hope cold weather all passed Crocus snow drops & Scilla's in bloom - auction at Davidson's - Bought a dumb stove and pipes - Paid Woodburn's bill - bought a hat - 39^{lbs} oatmeal 2^{lbs} Tobacco Bottle whiskey Ball bering Biddy calved - Pat Foley here for money due him by Sam for cow

Thursday May the 1st

The morning opens bright after another hard frost a raw chilly wind from the north west makes it uncomfortable - my flower seeds put out in boxes yesterday appear to be nearly all killed by frost - Mrs P & Rachel gone to village - little James with them - 3 young ones stopped here - Tom Martin here for his Bridge money & to dinner - James sowing his wheat. The grass looks greener today than ever I saw it at this date in Canada though there is considerable snow to be seen all round - a large drift still remains about the plum trees and along the foot and upper end of the garden - a little warm rain would do much good

Friday May 2nd

Another raw bright morning after a hard frost quite chilly Went with Sam to John Royston's got bal of \$250 paid Martin & Sam - got a letter from Jane Eliza and a paper from Robert Miller - Bill Cardin here making a harrow that's all worth relating

Saturday May 3^d

Another Raw coldish day Thermometer last 3 days has been in the morning only a couple of degrees above freezing Point. the roads have all dried up well - some snow or warm rain would bring grass at once but it does'nt come. Celina came home with James from meeting

Sunday May 4th

Another bright morning after hard frost. My new gladiolas Killed nothing new today - the usual go to meeting rounds and Billy Randlett here to sit up as usual

Monday May 5th

Another bright morning after some rain I was gardening wind got cold and raw from the north east - James hawing dung - He & Celina to meeting brought home few pounds flour and a hat - Mrs P's ewe had 2 lambs - that's all

Tuesday May 6th

Another bright morning after a hard frost - rain cold wind from the north east. No growth - two large patches of snow in the garden another in the pasture outside garden fence no use I see in sowing seeds up to this time of the month James drawing out dung putting teeth in harrow My gladiolas all killed I was digging a new bed in the garden, but it almost kills me the least exertion George Reed was married today

June 20 sowed next French Honeysuckle

- 26 Catananchi
- 27 Delphinium
- 28 Onions
- 29 Heliotrope
- 30 Orobus veom
- 31 Polyanthus
- 32 Begonia
- 33 Neorimbiogia
- 34 Auricla¹³⁹
- 35 Pansy

Wednesday May 7th

Another fine morning after hard frost. ground is getting very dry - Sowed asters and Portulaca's in Box out doors and numbered as before also in a little Box out of doors Forget me not also seeds from 1 to 16 1/2 in seed bed numbered as before also Balsam in seed Bed No 17 Scarlet No 18 Rose 19 Purple var No 20 White 21 Rose & White " 22 Pink, 23 Pink var Next day Thursday 8th I sowed in Boxes Canary Bird flower & Cypress vira & in Seed bed Perennials numbered as follows

No 24 Catananche	Height 2 feet	Color Blue
No 25 French Honeysuckle	"	" var
No 26 Delphinium	"	" Blue
No 27 Ononis Rolundefolio	" 1 1/2 "	" Rose
No 28 Heliotrope	" 1 1/2 "	" var

¹³⁹

Auricula is a kind of primrose.

No 29 Orobun vermis	" 1 "	" Blue
No 30 Polyanthus	" 3/4 "	" var
No 31 Begonia	" 8 inches	" White
No 32 Merembergia Gracilis	" 6 in	" Blue
No 33 Auricula ¹⁴⁰	8 in	" var
No 34 Pansy	6 in	" var
No 35 Forget me not		

Thursday May 8 1873

Another fine morning after a white frost - day became warm after a while with some appearance of a change to softer weather. Bill Lyster Brought a cow to Bull - James dunging and harrowing garden after putting teeth in harrow and fetching load of hay from Bill Lyster's Mrs P to the village I sowed garden seeds mentioned on proceeding page - Bill Randlett came to say there was a letter for James in Kirkdale office - Lucy went for it. Old Mrs Jackman dead Holbrook lost 4 head of cattle on the track - James off to M^cGill's that's all - letter from Eddy to James with \$11.00

Friday May 9th

A fine morning after no frost for a wonder. The appearances of a change increase and it is beginning about 9 to cloud up pretty well James plowing with Sam - I planted out Dahlias James got load of hay Sam went with him - nothing more worth note Slocum Ramsy here

Saturday May 10

Morning opens dark & cool - looks like rain but continues mild all day without rain - James Planted early Potatoes in garden got home 1 B¹ flour 1 B¹ indian meal & Dumb stove by Sam - Sandy Elliott came up and stopped all night James got letter from Charlotte & Sam Patterson by Mr T Burrill

Sunday May 11th

Opens this first mild spring morning we had yet - Sandy Elliott was with our folks to meeting Rachel & young ones to dinner - gentle rain all day Sandy staid all night

Monday May 12th

A fine day cool in the morning - I carried Sandy home - went to Jeremiah Elliott about Ewing brook Bridge - then went to Bill Cross' mill for lumber for the summer house - James fencing at M^cGill's

Tuesday May 13

A showery day all day James fencing still at M^cGill's - five of our Ewes have lambed up to this time - 6 lambs altogether. I was planing summer house boards

Wednesday May 14th/73

Cold raw morning & snowing some. James getting out dung. I was working at summer house

Thursday May 15th

¹⁴⁰ This may be a kind of primrose.

A fine day - James drawing dung I working at summer house I got a letter newspaper from B Miller A gentle rain in the night

Friday May 16th

A fine day - James Sam Lucy & Erastus' James planting Potatoes Silvy Taylor here. James took her home. Paid Lecomte \$38.86 and gave him an order on J Weir for \$31.14. I working at summer house

Saturday 17 May

A fine mild morning James finished planting potatoes Then took Celina to village Wrote to Bob Miller - sent \$4.00 to Evans

Sunday May 18th

A fine cool day - all to meeting. Webber Burrill here to tea

Monday May 19

Fine Cool day - Webber Burrill helping James to harrow in oats below the wheat. John Royson here. I working at my summer house

Tuesday May 20th

Fine Cool day Webber Burrill and Jimmy Bartlett helping James to harrow oats ground in at old place I working summer house

Wednesday May 21

Webber Burrill & James Bartlett helping James to sow oat at old place James took young cattle to M^cGills - Lent Sam M^cManus a tub of butter. I made out notices

Thursday May 22nd

Beautiful mild growing day - gentle showers in forenoon Webber and Jimmy Bartlett helping James to plant corn I served notices on Road officers - had a letter from Eddy to James Sir George Cartier died today¹⁴¹

Friday May 23^d

A fine warm rather cloudy day - James is breaking up a bit of the old pasture behind the house and planted corn in it. The weather is very warm and grass begins to grow at last. James got \$16 for young Tom Martin from Eddy I got a telegram from South Durham

Saturday May 24th

Queen's birthday very fine great doings at English Church¹⁴² Drummondville brass band there. I went to South Durham for plants and flowers sent to that station from Montreal planted some cabbage plants - James taking stones off another bit of the pasture

¹⁴¹ *Sir George Etienne Cartier, 1841-1873, was a Canadian lawyer who was elected as a conservative to the Canadian Legislative Assembly in 1847. During the period 1858 and 1862, representing Lower Canada, he jointly served as Canadian Prime Minister with Sir John A. Macdonald. Despite opposition, Cartier carried Lower Canada into federation in 1867 and was knighted the next year. Cartier promoted many useful measures including the abolition of seigneurial tenure in Lower Canada and the codification of civil law. He was involved in the building of the Grand Trunk Railway through eastern Canada and strongly promoted the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Opposed by the Roman Catholic Church, he was defeated in the election of 1872 and died the following year.*

¹⁴² *Trinity Anglican Church, Kirkdale*

Sunday May 25

Another fine warm day after gentle rain in the night all folks to meeting, Celina Came home again - no letter from Bushel yet. Sam and family all here to tea

Monday May 26

Morning opens beautifully fine got very hot in the afternoon I finished roof of summer house James broke up another bit of pasture behind the house & sowed oats in it. John Porter here I served notices on him I finished roof of summer house & wheeled dung into the garden for 100 flat Dutch Cabbages - wonderful display of blossoms on fruit trees. Hyacinths drying up - Tulips Hearts Blood - Fleur de lis blowing out. I find the order of flowering in my Garden so far

to the beginning May to 10 snow drops

5 to Do 15 Crocuses and Scillas

10 to 20 Hyacinths

26 to Tulips, Hearts-Blood

Got 2 Telegrams from W. H Chapdelain from Sorel

Tuesday May 27

Raining nicely all night without thunder - I planted 100 Flat Dutch Cabbage - then went down to Durham and with Jeremiah Elliott Sectioned off Royston Road - Stopped with Jeremiah all night & bout an umbrella at 90^{cts} silk neckerchief at \$1.50 James Plowing at old place

Wednesday May 28

Rained heavy in the night and showered all forenoon I served notices on Jim Gunter & Tom Martin, got home very tired - James plowing at old place in forenoon and shearing sheep in afternoon. Splendid growing time

Thursday May 29

More showers James finished sowing plowing at old place

Friday May 30

Cool dry day with frost at night Mare foaled James harrowing old place

Saturday May 31

Fine warm day I sent a letter by Millington's girl to E Brown to say I'd meet him in Drummondville on Wednesday, I went to Richmond - James finished sowing oats

Sunday June 1st

Fine day all to meeting - Lizzy Bushel & Brother here Honourable Joseph Howe died¹⁴³

Monday June 2nd

¹⁴³ *The Hon. Joseph Howe, 1804-1873, was a statesman and newspaper publisher who became chief commissioner of railways for Nova Scotia in 1854, premier of Nova Scotia [1860-1863], and fishery commissioner for Great Britain [1863-1866]. Unsuccessful in his opposition to federation, he became a Member of Parliament and a member of Sir John A. Macdonald's Cabinet. One month before he died, Joseph Howe was appointed lieutenant governor of Nova Scotia.*

Showery day Meeting of Council, got Peacock shod. Wm Burrill rode with me to & from council James fencing at M^cGill's

Tuesday June 3^d

Rain in the night day fine but rather Cool James fencing at M^cGill's

Wednesday June 4th

Went to D'ville to audit Secretary's a/cts showry all day Brown did not come so did nothing Boisvert's mill at Wickham blew up killing the owner and fatally injuring son

Thursday June 5th

Commenced auditing Sec Treasurer's a/cts and while so doing Brown arrived, did'nt finish

Friday June 6th

Fine day after thunder showers in the night finished auditing county Secretary's a/cts but did not get done in time to come by stage.

Saturday 7th

Made out report and came home in stage by 6 P.M. Got a letter and Paper from R. T. Miller dry cool day nothing strange

Sunday June 8

Fine day all to meeting nothing new - Made a scarecrow & put it in corn

Monday June 9th

Another fine warm day - hired an English boy when passing, but he would'nt stay after he got his dinner James fencing at old place I was writing Special & Public notices Painted roof summer house James went to Jerry Elliotts

Tuesday June 10th

Another fine warm day - James mixing mortar - I served notices on Phin Cross - George Tree and Thos Mitchel - Published collection rolls and visits to Porter Hill and Sol Lyster's - learned that Mary Jane Reed has a daughter and got an increase to her pension bought 5^{lbs} Tea¹⁴⁴, a brown coat 1^{lb} Tobacco, Box Matches boot black.

Wednesday June 11

Rain in the night morning opens dark and misty day fine James lathing I working at summer house

Thursday June 12

Cold night fine morning finished summer house commenced weeding garden James lathing then went down to J Elliott's

¹⁴⁴

The journal entries indicate that total of thirty-four pounds of tea were purchased by the Paterson family between 25 March 1872 and 10 June 1873.

Friday June 13

Cold night - fair day - James lathing and opening out door into cellar - I finished weeding garden

Saturday June 14

Cold night fair day - Thos Mitchel here took me to stake out deviation at Ned Murphy's -brought me back and stopped for dinner James went to village & brought home Barrel lime - lathes & butter tubs new boy come.

Sunday June 15

Fine day - Billy Randlett here James brought young cattle home

Monday

Cool nights - dry day Mr Elliott commenced plastering

Tuesday June 17

Frost last night rain much wanted - I went to the village for a tile plastering still

Wednesday

Cool night plastering still - I visited Porter Rock and Lyster bridge - Plastering still going on

Thursday - cool night - dry day - appearance of rain - James built a chimney - plastering kitchen

Friday June 20

Rain in the night - fine warm day **

** E. T. Paterson's daily entries end at this point. The following entries - an outline of a narrative entitled "Willoughby Village" [Annex A], a "Statement of Affairs" [Annex B] and the words of the song [Annex C] mentioned in the diary entry for July 7th 1872 - appear at the back of his journal.

ANNEX A

Willoughby Village

Ch 1

Scene March at present am

34 years ago - log homes - log school House - Teacher - Store - store keeper - Tavern - New Doctor

Ch 2nd

Unusual Bustle - parties present - salts - Jamie Machlachlan the Peddler - Tully Keogh purchasing Jack Knife and Pocket Book - inside of store Jake Barnard - inside of Jim Britton's Tavern - the fortune teller - Jake Barnard appointment with store keeper

Ch 3

Jim Britton's daughter Nelly - Mary Ashton - other village youth - anxiety for a peep into the future - the fortune teller in his sanctum - various enquiries after destiny - Mary Ashton's fortune Jake Barnard's do - Tully Keogh's do - Jake Barnard's interview with store keeper and its results - The Peddler again - the broken sleigh & its consequences

Ch 4

The storm - Tully's desire to open correspondence with Nelly Britton - awe and apprehension - fear and delay - 12 o'clock and eminent prospect of Snow storm - an expedient for a speedy trip homeward - the Doctor's first patient - homeward bound at last - the Journey and *[[?]]* - Tully's escape

Ch 5

Tully's concealment log pile burning - Tully's felicity at the success of his adventures - anxious to see the end of unexpected means of gratifying his wishes - the peddler's overcoat - *[[?]]* with the doctor - concealing the overcoat, another trick in prospective - to bed at last

Ch 6

Morning again the bloody nose - Tully in love amorous meditations - loves fears - breaking the ice - happy expedient, The School Master - the love letter

Ch 7

Jake Barnard's musings - *[[?]]* overtaken - ride with the Peddler - a Break down - unexpected guest - Barnard's dwelling - family council - fatal conclusions - the murder - the concealment

Ch 8

Unwelcome visitor - attempted seizure - the bill discharged - surprise and submission - epitome of a few month's transactions

Ch 9

Tully's mission blissful cogitations - Nelly Britton's rencontre with a Bear and its consequences

Ch 10

The Christmas Party - Jake Barnard's Keepsake - mysterious conduct and confusion

ANNEX B

Statement of Affairs
between Municipalities Durham & South Durham Acc/ 1872

Accts

Bal in favor of Municip ^{lty} Dec 21 st 1870	\$62.70
1/2 of Seigniorial Grant for year ending July 1 st 1871	<u>56.90</u>
that is 6 mos interest up to date of separation January 1st	\$119.60

Total assessed value of Municipality Janry 1 st , 1871	\$125.440
Do of 8 th Range	<u>\$ 15.150</u>
Do of Bal of Durham	\$110.290

South Durham's proposition of assets (viz the \$119.60)	14.44
--	-------

Total Grant to Durham for the future	\$126.32
South Durham's Share thirty	<u>15.25 1/2</u>
Bal: payable to Durham	\$111.25 1/2

Total Amt payable to S Durham for 1872	
Bal assets 1871	\$ 14.44
Share G ^l for 1872	<u>15.25 1/2</u>
Total	\$ 29.69 1/2

From Grant for 1872 viz	\$126.32
Deduct South Durham's pmt	<u>29.69 1/2</u>
Bal	96.62 1/2

1872

May 15 Pub⁰ By Law No 43

Co Council

June 20 Do By Law 44.45.46

Tulips Canada Farm No 8

Perennials Do 7

ANNEX C

[[The words of the song mentioned in the diary entry of July 7th 1872:]]

Then speak not of that maiden
With her fascinating charms.
For magic in them lies not for me.
With one single treasure laden,
And fond clasped within those arms.

I am blessed for that treasurer is thee.
And though I still remember love,
The pleasant moments spent
And how stealthily and happily they flew.

And how joyfully I followed
Where'er that maiden went
Still I loved her not, as Mary I loved you.

Addendum

**Extract of a letter
written by Edmund Thomas Paterson on 10 September 1883
to his son, James Marcus Paterson:**

I was brought up to be a physician and surgeon; was bound apprentice to a first-class practitioner in Liverpool. I spent three years at the profession, then left to join my brother who held a government appointment on the island of Grenada. He died and with him my dream of wealth.

In an agreement I was making with a Dr. Morton in Londonderry, Ireland, I visited that city, then went to make the acquaintance of some of my father's relatives. There I met your mother and married her. You know the rest...

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