

**DIARY OF JOHN H. KNAPP
Menomonie, Dunn Co., Wis.**

1866

**Transcribed by Marge Kunkel
UW-Stout Archives Assistant**

January, 1, 1866

The New Year opens pleasantly. To day Capt W- having promised the Sunday School children a sleigh ride I've turned out with about 8 sleighs well filled with happy children. Vallie & I went out to see Mr. Teegartner's family. They are sick poor & needy & we did what we could for them.

Sunday, January 7

Weather clear & cool. The barometer ranged higher for past two days than I have ever seen it It reached 30.72

Wednesday, January 10

Weather quite moderate. Capt Wilson & I started for Madison Wis Lt Cooper Cassidy accompanies us. He is going to join his Regt. We found the sleighing excellent. Arrived in Reads Ldy about 6 P.M. Left Menomonie this morning at 10 ocl'k A.M. Put up at the Bullard House.

Thursday, January 11

We went to North Pepin to look at an engine for sale there. Thence across the Lake to Lake City. I called W. A. Gibbs Miss Lambert Rev. Sterry & Miss Bayned(?). Returned to Reads to dinner & went from there to Buffalo City. A cold snow storm set in during the afternoon

Friday, January 12

Found 6 inches snow on the ground this morning & still snowing. We went to Winona via Fountain City. We went on the ice from Fountain City to Winona. There was no track on the ice to follow so we went slowly for fear of getting in the river. Arrived in Winona about noon

Saturday, January 13

We left Winona at ¼ before 10 a.m. – snow 14 in. deep & still falling. Did not arrive in LaX until 5 P.M. Kept on the ice all the way.

Sunday, January 14

Remained in LaCrosse to day Went to Cong. Church in the forenoon. Heard Rev. Chapin preach. We left LaCrosse at 6.45 on cars for Madison

Monday, January 15

This morning found us only about 35 miles out from LaX we having been detained by an engine with a snowplough attached being thrown off the track & snow on the track Snowed fast all day. We did not arrive at Madison until 11.15 P.M.

Tuesday, January 16

In Madison Wis. Called on Senators Thorp & Fulton and on Gov. Fairchild, Adjutant Gov. Gaylord, Mr. Smith Sec. of State &c &c Met Mr. D. A. Baldwin of New York & had a long conference about the Tomah & Lake St. Croix R.R.

Wednesday, January 17

Still Negotiating about our T & L St R.R. affairs – Our Room No. 4 Vilas House is crowded all the time & we confine ourselves closely to the interests of the R.R. as we wish to complete a contract to day that will answer the completion of the Road

Thursday January 18

Completed Negotiations to day. Took supper at Genl Gaylords and were well entertained. Genl & Mrs Gaylord sing some beautiful pieces after supper.—

Friday, January 19

Finished all our business at Madison Wis. & left there for Milwaukee at noon. Arrived in M about 6 p.m. Put up at Newhall House. Had a poor supper there. Left M- 9 P.M. for La Crosse. Heavy storm of five hours & snow falling to night

Saturday, January 20

The train stuck in the snow drifted on the track during the night & we lay there until 11 a.m. Took a late dinner at Portage. Left P at 6 P.M. & only got to New Lisbon when we were detained by Trains due from the West & that were stuck in the snow drifts. Intensely cold day

Sunday, January 21

Laid at New Lisbon until about Noon. Got off at last & with slight detention arrived at last in La Crosse about 6 P.M. We had 2 Locomotives drawing the train one of them got off the track & we came near being thrown off a high embankment. A Providential escape

Monday, January 22

We i.e. Capt W_ & I left LaCrosse at 11 ½ A.M. & arrived at Winona at 6 P.M. We came over the land route as the roads were better broken on the land than on the ice. Distance 40 miles—

Tuesday, January 23

Left Winona at 20 minutes of 11 oclk A.M.—In 2 hours & 20 M we reached Minieska a distance of 15 miles Stopped there 1 hr & 20 minutes & reached Reads at 5 oclk being 2 hr & 40 minutes – coming 20 miles.

Wednesday, January 24

Left Reads Ldg at 9 ½ AM came via Durand & arrived in Menomonie 7 P.M. Found all well at home thank the Lord who takes care of us.

Saturday, January 27

Warm and thawing.

Sunday, January 28

Thawing fast – Snow has settled a good deal—

Monday, January 29

Warm to day but cooler than yesterday – very pleasant

Friday, February 2

Thermometer at zero nearly all day—

Tuesday, February 13

This evening caucus was held in the school house to appoint delegates to the County Convention Snow fell to the depth of 2 or 3 inches.

Wednesday, February 14

Sent our dry goods memo for spring goods to T.B.W. Jersey Shaw (?) who will go from there to N.Y. to purchase there. The County Convention was held here to day to appoint 5 Delegates to the Judicial Convention to be held here to-morrow. Our Bal. Sheet was completed to day & shows a gain of \$91,424.64. Weather very cold & blustery.

Thursday, February 15

Ther. this morning at 7 ½ oclk stands at 26° below zero.

Wednesday, February 21

Capt & Mrs Wilson had a large company at their house – probably 75 or 80 persons to help them celebrate the 25th anniversary of their wedding. Mother & I attended I was at their wedding 25 years ago to day in Ft. Madison.

Thursday, February 22

Judge McArthur lectured in the Company Hall this evening on the Arts & Sciences & their bearing on the welfare of our Country.

Friday, February 23

To night we had another excellent lecture from Judge McArthur on “Worth or Wealth.”

Saturday, February 24

This has been a very windy day & steadily growing cold

Sunday, February 25

This is a cold morning Ther 18° below zero. The day has been clear & pleasant

Monday, February 26

Tainter and I started for the woods to the logging camps. Left Menomonie about 2 oclk & went to the Washburn farm & stopped for the night.

Tuesday, February 27

We went to the Prairie farm to dinner & in the afternoon went through the woods to Quarterers(?) camp. Bennets camp & Brackley's camp & back again to Bennetts Camp were we staid all night. Dugget is cook there & gave us good fare

Wednesday, February 28

Went to Scotts, Barkers Bonny's Bonnasseau Keats (or Kents?) & Langley's camps Skugler's Camp is at Shetek dam. From there we went to Gibbean(?) & Sawyers camp & back to Langleys to supper & back via river on the ice to Kents Camp where we staid all night.

Thursday, March 1

Went up the Menomonie on the ice to Barkers & to Rice Lake Camp at the dam. Roherty(?) is logging there. Took dinner there & returned on the land as the ice is getting poor Staid at Shanties(?) all night – Barker went the rounds with us

Friday, March 2

Last night there was thunder & lightning accompanied with heavy rains which settled the snow some inches There is now at least 2 ft of snow on the ground. We went to Bennets, Millers, Bracklins & Andersons camp & through to Prairie farm by 8 oclk P.M.

Saturday, March 3

Started for home about 9 oclk A.M. Arrived in Menomonie 6 ½ oclk P.M.

Saturday, March 10

Snow falling this P.M. – Weather mild – Preparing with Cochrane for 10 cords wood at 2.50 payable in store.

Wednesday, March 14

Henry & I went to Waubeek Durand &c – staid at Waubeek all night This is Henry's birthday—

Thursday, March 15

Returned to Menomonie this morning.

Saturday, March 17

Ther at zero this morning

Sunday, March 18

Milder & pleasant. Rev. Haw preached this A.M. from 33rd Psalm

Monday, March 19

This afternoon I went out in the country & got a girl "Anna Kittleson" for house servant.

Tuesday, March 20

Snowed all day. At night the snow had fallen to the depth of 9 inches

Wednesday, March 21

Ther. at zero this morning.

Thursday, March 22

Effie's birth day – All the children at home having a pleasant time

Sunday, March 25

Rev. Golden preached this evening in the Company Hall

Monday, March 26

Cold morning Ther 6° below zero at 7 A.M.

Tuesday, March 27

Called to be a juror to hold inquest on the body of Joseph Butzlrine(?). Capt Wilson Wm McKahan Joshua Steiner L L Larklumm A I Brunnette & myself constituted the Jury. A. J. Messenger Justice of the Peace Testimony taken & adjourned till to-morrow—

Wednesday, March 28

Inquest continued & decided by the Jury that Joseph Butzlrine came to his death in consequence of a blow dealt him by Fritz Knoble on the morning of 25th inst.-- Snowed last night to day to the depth of about 4 inches

Thursday, March 29

My forty first birthday. It has been a beautiful day Took Vallie & Mother out sleighriding on the Eau Claire road about 4 miles – Sleighing excellent. Vallie roasted a nice fat turkey & at 3 ½ PM we dined. The children were all at home & we enjoyed the day very much

Friday, March 30

The snow is melting rapidly to day.

Sunday, April 1

Went to church in the buggy today although most persons went with sleighs- Rev Haw gave us a Temperance lecture In the forenoon it snowed rapidly & until 3 P.M. then turned to rain and rained until midnight. Ther 37° to 40°. A struggle between winter & spring.

Monday, April 2

A soft day – mud melting snows April showers &c The winter broke & spring commenced Went to town meeting this evening or rather town caucus.

Tuesday, April 3

Judicial & Town Election. Republican Town ticket elected entire. Weather very mild & snow melting rapidly—

Wednesday, April 4

Not so mild to day but still thawing. Sent to Iver Thorbuns(?) Co 5\$ Dft for best seed potatoes Early Goodwich(?) to be sent from N.Y. by Merchants Dispatch. Our team arrived to day with some goods from LaX.

Thursday, April 5

Freezing to day – Ther 27°

Sunday, April 8

A beautiful bright spring day. Meeting in the Company Hall this evening Mr. Haw lectured on Temperance.

Monday, April 9

Snow fell nearly all day & to day has been as disagreeable as yesterday was pleasant.

Wednesday, April 11

Went out riding with Vallie & Johnny. Weather pleasant

Thursday, April 12

River rising some. The snow is yet deep in the woods & we expect high water

Sunday, April 15

Capt Wilson, Tainter & I went up to Menomonie Falls & started down with a raft. Stuck 2 miles below the falls Went back & got another raft which our pilot stuck at the head of the pond. Made a dog raft & came home on it.

Monday, April 16

Went up the Pond in my little boat. Shot 4 ducks.

Tuesday, April 17

Went up the Pond this afternoon to hunt a little. Capt Tainter & his brother Bernham went with me. I did not get any game We got very wet returning. The heaviest thunder storm I have seen in a long time we had this afternoon.

Wednesday April 18

Rained heavily all last night & a little to day John H. Douglass arrived from Ft Madison yesterday evening. Water very high in the river The Mill & bridge appear to be in danger.

Thursday, April 19

Rainy

Friday, April 20

Bargained the House & Lots I purchased last year of E. G. Benjamin to Capt Wilson Heller for 1900\$. Rec'd two lots valued at 150.00 Rec'd cash \$100.00 Bal is to be in Note 1 year 1650.00 total of 1900.00

Monday, April 23

Getting greedy to go down the river. One saw (the far side Mulay? Mulag? Saw) was started in our Mill to day.

Tuesday, April 24

We have changed our Programme a little about going down the River to Ft. Madison. Johnny is to remain at home. Willie & I are to remain at home for ten days or two weeks after the rest of our family have started to help take care of Johnny &c.

Wednesday, April 25

Vallie, Mother, Henry & Effie in company with John H. Douglass & Mr H L Stout started down the river to Ft Madison. The day has been mild & pleasant It has been very lonely for me Willie Johnny & I are all of our family there is left at home

Friday, April 27

Did not feel well in the forenoon & not fit for business. This afternoon went out to Gilbert Creek & caught 18 trout.

Saturday, April 28

Burham Tainter & I went up the Pond this P.M. to fish &c. I caught one Pike & Killed two Ducks.

Sunday, April 29

A beautiful day – but rather lonely for me

Monday, April 30

Rec'd Bbl 6 Doz Pints Kipinger water & ½ Bbl seed Potatoes all from N. York. They were shipped by the Merchants Dispatch Time through N.Y. to M- 16 days. I went to Downsville this forenoon with Capt W-- Rained considerably to day – wind cold—Ex on Kiper(?) jar 5.19 + 90 = 6.09.

Tuesday, May 1

Violent snow storm snow fell to the depth of 3 inches

Wednesday, May 2

Today warm snow nearly all gone.

Thursday, May 3

Johnny had an attack of croup last night & I was up nearly all night with him

Friday, May 4

Beautiful day. Took Willie & Johnny out riding in the carriage. Rec'd letter from J. H. Douglass stating that my wife & children arrived safely in Ft M—Sunday morning last. Burkitt(?) commenced work for me building fence.

Saturday, May 5

K. S. & Co engaged B. B. Down's services in any work they may have to do pertaining to their Lumbering establishments for the term of 3 years for the salary of \$3000 per year & house rent – K.S. & Co. are to take his son in the store to learn business habits &c Provided the boy has proper disposition &c&c.

Monday, May 14

Frost last night though not enough to harm vegetation. The wild plum trees wild strawberries & huckleberries in our yard are in bloom Box of fruit trees &c from I Gould of Beaver Dam arrived this P.M.

Tuesday, May 15

Getting ready to start for Ft M- on a visit-

Wednesday, May 16

Sent Drft on Milwaukee to Ilswold(?) for \$49.63 to pay for his bill S---(?) of May 3rd. Rec'd a letter from Vallie mailed on 12th inst – 4 days from Ft Madison.

Thursday, May 17

Willie & I left Menomonie this morning at 6 oclck for Ft Madison. We went to Dunnsville by Hack & took "Pete Wilson" there at 9 ½ A.M. & arrived in Reads Ldg at 2 ¼ P.M. Left Reads at 8 ½ P.M. on Stmr Reserve. Wm. Church & Fritz Church go with us as far as Clinton Iowa.

Friday, May 18

Our boat was loading all night heavy & this morning finds us only at Winona.

Saturday, May 19

The "Reserve" stopped at several places & took on board frt. We were at Dubuque at 6 oclck A.M. At Davenport about 7 P.M.

Sunday, May 20

When I awoke this morning we were near Muscatine.

Tuesday, May 22

Our family with other friends of theirs were invited to dine at I. M Becks-

Wednesday, May 23

Vallie, Mother & I & Henry Effie Willie Dr. Rineharts family William & Deborah Almeda Callie & Archy – all went out to Jona's & had a pleasant visit & an excellent dinner.

Thursday, May 24

We all visited at Almeda's Quite a company present.

Saturday, May 26

Willie Effie Henry Grandma & I were over to brother Williams on a visit. It rained so hard that Vallie Jonas Mary & Almeda & Callie Douglass could not get over there. Effie & I were quite wet. We returned in the evening to Ft. Madison

Sunday, May 27

I went to church Rev. Kinnard preached morning & evening. It is another rainy day & quite cold. Fire is necessary for comfort.

Monday, May 28

A cold raw day – John Douglass returned from Hannibal. I went to Denmark with Jonas to see Mr. Edson in regard to sending Henry to the Academy in that place Libbie Knapp is going to school there & she & Henry went out with us.

Tuesday, May 29

Getting my affairs in shape so that I can conveniently leave for Chicago to morrow. Had a very hard sick headache this afternoon.

Wednesday, May 30

Left Ft Madison for Chicago by Stmr Keithsburgh to Burlington. Arrived in Burlington 1 P.M. Left Burlington at 6 ½ P.M.

Thursday, May 31

Arrived in Chicago 5 A.M. Very busy all day buying goods. Weather cold so that I have had to wear an overcoat

Friday, June 1

Vallie Mother & Willie & Effie are to leave Ft M- this morning on Stmr Davenport Very busy all day in Chicago. Left for DuBuque at 10 P.M. on the Galena Division of C & NW R.R. In last two days I have done about 4 days work

Saturday, June 2

Arrived in DuBuque 8.20 A.M. Mr. Stout & I rode around the city some Attended to some business matters. The Stmr Davenport arrived 9 oclk P.M. & I joined my family on board

Monday, June 4

We arrived in Reads Ldg 10 oclk A.M. Left for Dunnville on the Pete Wilson at 7 ½ P.M. The mosquitoes were very bad & we sat up fighting mosquitoes nearly all night. Arrived in Dunnville 5 ¼ A.M. Tuesday 5th

Tuesday, June 5

Arrived Dunn 5 ¼ A.M. Left for Menomonie via our iron carriage at 7 ½ A.M. Arrived in Menomonie at home 10 ½ A.M. & very glad to get home & find our little Johnny well.

Saturday, June 9

Went trout fishing this A.M. on Gilberts Creek caught only 6-

Monday, June 11

Rain in the afternoon

Tuesday, June 12

Showers. Warm & sultry John put out the Dahlia roots to day-

Wednesday, June 13

Took Vallie, Mother & Johnny riding on the Prairie this A.M. We found plenty of ripe strawberries & had a pleasant ride.

Thursday, June 14

Paid Rev. Golden 5\$ for turning? Peony?

Friday, June 15

Caught 12 trout in Gilbert Creek. Weather very showery & like April weather.

Sunday, June 17

Cool clear & pleasant Taught a class in S School Heard Rev Haw preach in the evening on the greatness & responsibilities &c &c of Methodism

Monday, June 18

The school board of which I am clerk have this day engaged Miss Hattie Bailey to teach the Primary School in Menomonie for 1 month & agreed to pay her 30\$ for teaching 1 month. The school to commence on Monday 25th inst Last night there was a hard frost that injured corn potatoes, &c &c.

Wednesday, June 20

The Hutchinson family sung here. The concert was not very fully attended. The singing was very good.

Thursday, June 21

Rev. Welles & Rev. Spaulding called on us to day Rev W stopped with us Took Vallie & Mother with the children out riding.

Friday, June 22

Vallie was taken very sick in the night

Saturday, June 23

Valie is still sick to day. Called Dr. Lamgrell(?)

Sunday, June 24

Edmund Seely came to our house to day. He left Ft M- on Thursday & his home in Grange Co. N.Y. in March. Weather very warm Ther 92° in the shade.

Monday, June 25

A very warm & sultry day. Though not as warm as yesterday. Ther 87°.

Tuesday, June 26

Heavy rain last night Cool to day & very pleasant Took Edmund Seely out riding this P.M.

Wednesday, June 27

Cool to day. Have had fire in our furnance Took Edmund Seely out on the prairie to see the country.

Thursday, June 28

Cousin Edmund & I rode out about 6 miles on the Hudson road this A.M. Ordered Tin (Ten?) Plate &c from Hibbard & Spencer Chicago.

Friday, June 29

Rev. I. C. Sherwin wife & son John returned to our house from River Falls this evening.

Sunday, July 1

Rev I. C. Sherwin preached to us in the AM & P.M. & gave entire satisfaction. The forenoon was communion season with us & the sermon was very appropriate; Text:

Monday, July 2

Warm but pleasant Mrs Carter was buried to day

Tuesday, July 3

Showery—

Wednesday, July 4

Quite warm & pleasant Rev. Golden delivered an oration in the afternoon The Ladies of the Methodist Church held a Festival in the Co. Hall for the benefit of the Methodist Ch. Receipts nett 200\$.

Thursday, July 5

Very warm Ther 92°

Friday, July 6

Another very warm day Ther 90° Rained in the evening – which made it cooler.

Tuesday, July 10

Barbara Richards came to work for us to day at noon.

Thursday, July 12

The warmest day we have had this year up to date Ther. 96° in the shade In the evening at 10 oclck ther. 78°. We have the Aurora Borealis to night which indicates cool weather soon.

Friday, July 13

Ther 84° at 7 A.M.

“ 95 “ 12 M

Saturday, July 14

Very dry & hot to day. Ther about 95° to 96° in the shade. Rev. J. A. Wells & wife & child came to our house this evening having traveled 42 miles since 8 oclck this morning in this intensely hot day.

Sunday, July 15

Rev Jno A. Wells preached this forenoon in the School House Text It was a good sermon. Ther 98° in the shade when we went to church.

Monday, July 16

Rev. Wells & wife started home - This forenoon was pleasant but from 10 oclck it grew hotter & 98° in the shade was easily reached. It was 76° at 10 P.M. This has been the hottest day of the year thus far

Tuesday, July 17

Cooler this morning & rainy more or less during the A.M. I left home for DuBuque & Chicago. Did not find the “Pete Wilson” at Dunnville so went on in the Hack to Durand & took the Monitor at 3 P.M. for Reads & Stmr Milwaukee at 7 ½ P.M.

Wednesday, July 18

On board Stmr. Milwaukee. Cool & pleasant Arrived in DuBuque 9 P.M. James Stout met me at the Levee. Went to Mr. Stout’s home. They were much disappointed because Vallie did not come with me.

Thursday, July 19

Bought Powder Caps Wash &c of Laftim(?) Smith & Boies & a "Hawk Eye Seperator" for our milk. Went out in the afternoon Wood cock shooting with Mr. Stout, Mr S. Root & Mr Griswold. We went up about 5 miles to the bottoms near the mouth of Maqueketa. We got 13 wood cocks.

Friday, July 20

Left DuBuque at 4 P.M. for Chicago

Saturday, July 21

Arrived in Chicago early this morning & took the day to examine the Market on some ?? & to look around generally. Jas H Bomen Esq called at Sherman House in the evening & took me out riding on Wabash Avenue-

Sunday, July 22

Went to hear Rev Dr. Humphrey at 1st Pres Ch both morning & evening.

Monday, July 23

Busy buying goods

Tuesday, July 24

Buying goods in Chicago

Wednesday, July 25

Hot & sultry – Hard at work all day buying various items of mdse &c

Thursday, July 26

I have been actively engaged all day trying to get the purchasing of goods made so that I might get off for home soon but I find it will take me one or two days more

Friday, July 27

Completed the bulk of the purchases this forenoon of goods &c on the ? & in the afternoon tried to buy a lot of shingles for our yard in DuBuque but did not succeed

Saturday, July 28

Very busy to day. This forenoon bought 300 M A sawed shingles for our DuBuque lumber yard at 5.25 per M- Sent Henry some clothes by Express. I left Chicago for Milwaukee at 11.30 P.M.

Sunday, July 29

Remained in Milwaukee to day went to Cong. Church twice In the evening Dr Allison preached a very excellent sermon from the text "Why Stand ye hear idle all the day long"

Monday, July 30

Attending to several matters of business this forenoon & left Milwaukee at 1.40 P.M.
Arrived in Milwaukee about 12 midnight – Went on board the Annie Johnston-

Tuesday, July 31

Arrived in Reads Ldg 6 P.M.

Wednesday, August 1

Left Reads for Menomonie at 8 A.M. on the Monitor Beckie Adams & Mrs Dr Walker & her son Buffan? came up at same time. Arrived in Durand about 3 ½ PM Left there for Menomonie about 4 P.M. Took supper at Waubeek & got to my own home about 8 ¾ P.M.

Thursday, August 2

All well at home & glad to be at home again- Went out on the Prairie a little while this afternoon & shot & bagged eleven grouse

Saturday, August 4

Went out to the Lake by Millers this afternoon & remained there about 1 ½ hours & killed & bagged 9 ducks – mostly mallards Mother & Willie & cousin Edmund Seely accompanied me on the ride I did the shooting.

Sunday, August 5

Went to Church this forenoon. This P.M. about 3 oclk a fire broke out in the stable attached to the Menomonie house & burned it to the ground & also Mike Fox's saloon &c The Menomonie House was damaged some 3 Horses burned to death.

Monday, August 6

Rainy & cool – an overcoat only makes one feel comfortable- Had shoes put on the horses again after trying them about 3 months barefooted.

Tuesday, August 7

Raining still

Thursday, August 9

Beckie Adams Cousin Edmund Seely & Vallie & I rode out in the country in the afternoon & I took my dog & gun along & shot 5 Prairie chickens & 5 ducks.

Sunday, August 12

Rev. Geo Spaulding preached morning & evening & both were excellent sermons. The day was showery.

Monday, August 13

Edmund Seely started for Rock Island, Ill & to go from there on to Iowa Rev Spaulding wife & daughter left for home. Vallie Beckie & Mother & Willie & I rode out on the prairie where I hunted about 2 hours & bagged 17 chickens.

Tuesday, August 14

Mailed coupons of 7.30 & am'tg. To 146\$ to Corn Ex Bk N.Y. for Cr. K.S. & Co a/c

Wednesday, August 15

At home to day. Got load of feed &c from Mill. Spent part of the day in the store.

Friday, August 17

Capt Wilson & I went to Moore Farm. In the afternoon on the way home I shot 20 chickens & one hawk Capt Shot 3 chickens The day was pleasant & we found the grain mostly stacked.

Saturday, August 18

In the afternoon took Vallie Mother & Beckie Adams out riding. Called to see Mr. Sherburne who is sick but getting better On my way home I shot 5 prairie chickens.

Sunday, August 19

Sermon by Rev Haw in the Hall & after service Capt Wilson Heller & Miss Hannah Budd were united in wedlock.

Monday, August 20

To day is Willie's birth day—Took all our family out on a picknic excursion to Elk Creek Miss Eliza Wilson Wils Heller & wife & Mrs. Dr Walker & her son Buffan(?) &c &c accompanied us. I caught some nice trout after dinner.

Tuesday, August 21

Took Mrs. Dr. Walker Eliza Wilson & Vallie to Cedar Falls & thence out on the Prairie where I shot 8 chickens then came home. A cold raw day. Will be frost to night-

Wednesday, August 22

Last night was cold & this morning we had to have a fire in our furnace. Capt W- & I went to Downsville & down on the Island where the RR ties we contracted to Hill(?) & Co of Wausau are being rafted.

Thursday, August 23

Took Mr. Pierce of Chicago out in the afternoon to shoot Prairie chickens He got 4 I got 8. Rainy & cold & a poor time for shooting.

Friday, August 26

Rev A Kidder from West Eau Claire preached to us this A.M.

Sunday, September 2

Mr. Rucker preached as Ag't Am Bible Society collection for A. B. Socy 62.75

Monday, September 3

Took Vallie Mother & Beckie out riding. Took my gun along & shot 8 grouse.

Monday, September 10

Getting ready for an excursion up Hay river. Weather unfavorable.

Tuesday, September 11

As soon as the weather is settled our excursion party intends going by teams as far as Washburn farm on Hay river We will take two teams to carry the ladies &c & two teams to carry our boats in which we intend returning down the river

Wednesday, September 12

A party of about twelve persons of us left Menomonie 9 1/2 a.m. for an excursion up on Hay river. There are in the party Eliza Wilson Beckie Adams Merry Wilson Bind(?) Wilson Josephine Brunelle Reakie(?) Heller Wilse Heller & his wife & Burnham Tainter & myself. We have a man to assist with the boats &c Arrived at W- farm at 3 1/2 P.M.

Thursday, September 13

We went to Prairie farm by team Took dinner & returned to Washburn farm where we encamped on the bank of the river.

Friday, September 14

Left Washburn farm & took our camp equipage in our boats & descended the North fork of Hay river to a point a little below where the South fork comes into Hay River. There we camped.

Saturday, September 15

Broke camp this forenoon about 10 oclk & went down to Otter Creek where we camped about 5 oclk. Hard frost last night. Ice 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick was frozen in the wash basin

Sunday, September 16

Spent the day quietly in camp at mouth of Otter Creek. Read one of H Ward Beechers sermons Hard frost again last night.

Monday, September 17

We went down Hay river to within half a mile of the mouth & pitched tent at the foot of the hill on the North side of the river. I killed some ducks &c to day.

Tuesday, September 18

Our excursion party came home. We arrived in Menomonie about 5 P.M.

Friday, September 21

Sent our Memoranda for a large stock of fall & winter goods to John Douglass for him to buy there for our firm for our firm of K.S. & Co.

Sunday, September 23

Rev. Golden preached a good sermon this evening & Rev. Amer(?) preached an excellent Sermon at the Hall this evening from John 22 Chap 2nd verse. Very rainy all night last night & again this afternoon & evening.

Tuesday, September 25

Vallie Beckie & I started to St Paul in our carriage at 8 ½ A.M. Took dinner at Hindmain on the Eau Galla Arrived in Hudson 6 P.M. Weather fine. Travelled 50 miles to day

Wednesday, September 26

Left Hudson for St. Paul & arrived there about 11 ½ A.M. Weather very fine We put up at the International Hotel. Spent the afternoon in Shopping &c.

Thursday, September 27

We left for Ft. Snelling Minnehaha Falls Minneapolis St Anthony & c about 10 AM Mrs. Gen Worden accompanied us. We had a pleasant ride. Saw all the points of interest & returned to St Paul in the evening.

Friday, September 28

Left St. Paul at 9 ½ am Went to Stillwater 15 miles to dinner. I visited the various Saw Mills about Stillwater & left there at 5 P.M. & passed through Hudson & came 4 miles this side of that place & stopped for the night.

Saturday, September 29

Started for home at 7 ½ A.M. Arrived in Brookville at 11 ½ Had an excellent dinner & left at 1 oclck PM & arrived at home at 5 P.M. & found all well. We had a pleasant trip altogether & very fine weather.

Wednesday, October 3

A.B. Alden G Lecturer(?) Of the F.A.F.A.M.(?) came to day & I attended his lectures & c.

Saturday, October 6

Quite warm. A. B Alden still lecturing the Lodge here.

Sunday, October 7

Linen coats are worn to day & it is quite warm

Monday, October 8

Some rain last night & cooler to day.

Wednesday, October 17

Took Mother & Uncle Wick, Aunt Martha, Cousin Harriet Mary & Carrie to Durand. They left Durand on the Monitor at 2 P.M. & I returned homeward as far as Dunnville having 4 passengers returning. Very dry & dusty as well as warm.

Thursday, October 18

Fine morning but windy & very dusty. Started for home & before I got home rain fell laying the dust & wetting me considerably. We have had over 3 weeks of very fine warm Indian Summer.

Friday, October 19

Pleasant day. I took Vallie & Beckie out riding in the afternoon. This A.M. busy in the office writing & c

Saturday, October 20

Busy to day getting ready to go on a deer hunt next week with Rev J. C. Sherwin & J. B. Tainter. This has been a rainy day. Attended a meeting of Cong. Church members at Mr. Brunnells this eve Rev. J. C. Sherwin presiding. A letter was generated to Mr. Moore

Sunday, October 21

Storming. Rev J. C. Sherwin preached morning & evening The subject in the morning was Duty to Strangers.

Monday, October 22

Rained heavily last night & rained some during the day.

Tuesday, October 23

Snowed some last night & a little also this forenoon being the first of the season Rev. J. C. Sherwin & I took a tramp hunting deer out on Wilson Creek but did not see any

Wednesday, October 24

Rev. J. C. Sherwin Burnham Tainter & I went up north of Menomonie about 16 or 18 miles deer hunting. We camped about dark on a branch of Otter Creek about 5 or 6 miles in a northerly or NW Course from Mouth of Hay River

Thursday, October 25

Snowed to day. Weather disagreeable. We hunted a little but saw nothing.

Friday, October 26

We started out this morning for deer. Tainter killed one large buck & Mr. Sherwin shot a fine doe. I saw 3 deer but they were a long way off. We find our horses troublesome as we have no stable to shelter them from the shooter.

Saturday, October 27

We concluded to return home as the weather was so bad. We came south & forded Hay River & struck the pinery road about 2 miles above Lamb's Creek. Got home 7 P.M. Weather dark & storming.

Sunday, October 28

Rev. Haw preached in the forenoon & in the afternoon Rev. Ames Baptist Minister preached. Rainy cold & raw weather.

Monday, October 29

Cool day & unpleasant weather. Inclined to rain

Tuesday, October 30

Weather a little better. We are preparing to go East with our family to spend the winter. The sun shone a little to day for the first time in almost ten days. Cleared of to night & freezing

Wednesday, October 31

The day has not been very pleasant. Spent a pleasant evening at home with my family. This is the eleventh anniversary of Vallie's & my marriage. Ice made on the shingle mill pond ½ in. thick

Thursday, November 1

The weather has turned pleasant again.

Friday, November 2

Pleasant day. Getting ready for a visit to Ft M. & Reading Pa &c &c Went up the ridge or d_____? Between Wilson Creek and Gilbert Creek a little while this P.M. Saw one deer but did not get a shot.

Tuesday, November 6

Election day in Wis. & several other states. Wisconsin gives this day a large union majority. Copperheads will be nowhere.

Wednesday, November 7

Dunn County gave a large Union Republican majority The whole ticket elected.

Saturday, November 10

Notwithstanding it rained some this morning I started with my family for Ft. Madison & the East to spend the winter. Got on board the Stmr. Johnny Schmoker(?) at Durand. The boat or barges grounded on the bars & consequently we did not get out of Chippewa

Sunday, November 11

Sat up all night on the Schmoker in the Chippewa about 2 miles from Reads Ldg. Arrived in Reads 7 1/2 a.m.

Monday, November 12

Waiting at Reads Ldg. for a Northern Line boat None come to day. We expect the Canada will come up to day

Tuesday, November 13

No Northern line boat to day either up or down

Wednesday, November 14

Snowing this A.M. About 1 ½ P.M. the "Canada" came up & we got on board. At Red Wing the Canada met the "Charlie Cheever" about 7 P.M. & exchanged cargoes passengers &c.

Thursday, November 15

Passed Reads Ldg going down this morning. Took on board frt at Wabashaw Winona &c so that the Canada did not leave Winona till evening. Snowing this afternoon & evening.

Friday, November 16

Cold & clear but no sunshine yet Arrived at P du Chien this morning. Stopped at various places for freight & passengers. Passed DuBuque in the night.

Saturday, November 17

Pleasant day. We were about 35 miles below DuBuque when I got up this morning. Arrived a Le Claire too late in the afternoon to cross the Rapids so our boat has laid up for the night.

Sunday, November 18

The Canada started over the Rapids early. Her 3 Barges started at same time. Two barges came over safely. One stuck on the upper chain so we wait at Davenport until to-morrow. Went to Pres. Church in Davenport this evening.

Monday, November 19

The Canada's Barge still aground. The Pembina came down & we got on board of her

Tuesday, November 20

Arrived in Ft Madison 5 oclk A.M. Windy & cold. Found our friends all well.

Friday, November 23

We went out to Jona's today & had a pleasant visit Weather fine. Jona's Willie & I rode out to Denmark this afternoon & brought Henry & Libbie home from school.

Saturday, November 24

Came to Ft. M. to day from Jona's. Beautiful weather. We had a pleasant visit.

Tuesday, November 27

Vallie & I went to Burlington to day in Jona's Buggy & with his team which he kindly loaned me.

Wednesday, November 28

Purchased some necessary articles of clothing &c & c returned to Ft M. arriving at 2 P.M. having driven from B. to Ft. M in 2 ¾ hours.

Friday, November 30

I went over to brother William's to day & made a visit. Weather cool & pleasant.

Saturday, December 1

I remained at Williams last night & to day Vallie & the children & Almeda Jonas & Mary came over & we had a pleasant visit. Weather still very mild & pleasant. The ice commenced running a little today in the Mississippi.

Sunday, December 2

Heard Rev. Kinnard preach a good sermon to day from the 55th Psalm 22 verse "Cast thy burdens on the Lord."

Monday, December 3

Weather fine. We went up to Mr. Becks to visit for a few days. Court is in session & Ft M. seems quite lively & business like.

Tuesday, December 4

Clear & fine day.

Saturday, December 8

We have spent the past 6 days visiting at Mr. Becks during which time we have had rainy & damp weather.

Sunday, December 9

Weather turned cold.

Monday, December 10

Ice commenced running heavily in the river

Thursday, December 13

We took dinner at Mr Hales Willie & I went up to the Iowa Penitentiary in the afternoon & took a general look through. Willie was much gratified

Friday, December 14

Last night the Mississippi gorged with ice & the ice stopped & this morning there is an ice ridge across the river here at Ft Madison The weather is not very cold but air is damp & chilly Have been busy writing all day.

Saturday, December 15

Paid sundry bills as per cash Mem.(?) Wrote to Capt W & T.B.W. We packed our trunks & are now ready to start to Reading Pa on Monday to visit our friends there. Snow commenced falling this afternoon accompanied by high wind

Sunday, December 16

Snow about 8 to 10 inches deep this morning. Went out to hear Mr. Kinnard preach in the evening.

Monday, December 17

We intended starting East this morning but owing to the snow storm of Saturday we have detained starting for fear the Rail Roads may be blocked with snow.

Tuesday, December 18

We could not start East this morning because Johnny was sick last night.

Wednesday, December 19

This morning Jonas came to town with his sleigh & we started. i.e. Vallie Effie Willie Johnny & I in Jona's sleigh to Burlington. Crossed the Mississippi on the ice. The ice was quite poor. Took sleeping car at East Burlington about 7 P.M. & left for Chicago at 8 P.M.

Thursday, December 20

This morning we arrived in Chicago at 6 A.M. Put up at Sherman H. Bought various articles for Vallie & the children

Friday, December 21

We left Chicago at 7 AM on Pittsburgh Ft Wayne & Chicago R.R. Took dinner at Ft Wayne & got into a sleeping car at Crestline at 6.30 A.M.

Saturday, December 22

Arrived at Altoona to breakfast. Harrisburgh at noon & arrived in Reading at 4.20 P.M. Making the train from Chicago to Reading 33 hours & 20 minutes. We stopped at Henry Van Reeds.

Sunday, December 23

Went to hear Mr. Richards preach in Pres Church in the evening.

Monday, December 24

Spent the day in getting ready for Christmas – buying presents for the children &c.

Tuesday, December 25

We took cars for Robesonía & had a pleasant visit there at Mr. Fergusons. Henry Van Reed & John & Jacob Van Reed & their families were all there & it was a pleasant time & social too. Children all happy.

Wednesday, December 26

We remained at Mr. Fergusons.

Thursday, December 27

Visiting still at Robesonía. Very high wind to day accompanied by some snow

Friday, December 28

We took cars this morning at 10 A.M. for Reading A gale has been blowing since yesterday.

Sunday, December 30

Went to Pres Church this A.M. & heard a very good sermon from Rev Richards pastor

Monday, December 31

Snow fell most of this day here in Reading but did not reach a depth sufficient for sleighing. In the evening I took Effie & Willie to see an Allegorical representation of the Rebellion. The different States were represented by young ladies or girls from 12 to 18 years of age dressed in white.

