

John H. Knapp
Menomonie
Dunn Co
Wis.
1881

Transcribed by Robin Sweeny

Saturday, January 1, 1881

The year opened brightly. There were 5 houses in town that received calls. At our home 34 persons called. I did not go away from home all day.

Sunday 2

We all went to church. Grandma went for the first time in a long while. Our church is Neatly frescoed. The work of frescoing was completed by Tom Ordearuan(?) just before Christmas. I did not like the sermon – Too melan choly for New Year.

Monday 3

Weather grows colder

Tuesday, January 4, 1881

Chas. Rudolph who has been working for me for 4 years past was married this morning to Katie Junck & started to ~~lowa~~ Ridgeway Iowa with his new wife to visit his wifes parents.

Saturday 8

Ther 30° below zero & did not rise higher than -5° all day.

Sunday 9

Ther 20° below & cold all day. I did not go out to church to day.

Monday, January 10, 1881

Colder Ther 34° below zero this morning. Grew pleasanter in latter part of the day.

Tuesday 11

Clear & warmer

Wednesday 12

5° below 0 this mornng. Pleasant day. Snow fell to depth of one inch last night

Thursday, January 13, 1881

-5° below this mornng & remained cold all day. Wind blew hard before Daylight drifting a light snow which fell in the night. Grew colder in the after-noon and at 8 ½ PM was -22°.

Friday 14

30° below zero & remained below zero all day.

Monday 17

Charley Rudolph com-menced work again.

Thursday 20

Milder weather

Saturday, January 22, 1881

Snowy & Windy but not cold. Dr. Jno Lyman came over from Eau Claire with his own team & driver.

Sunday 23

Ther 15° + this mornng. Fine winter day. Heard Rev. Ketcham preach from text Blessed are they that mourn.

Monday 24

Ther 4° below zero. Light snow falling. Jno Lyman left at 9 AM for Eau Claire. Has a fine team – gray & a black.

Tuesday, January 25, 1881

Mr. Marks started for Chicago to purchase some Groceries etc for the Company.

Wednesday 26

Ther 0° this mornng. Fine winter weather. Drafted Contract with Andrew Anderson Co. & The KS & Co Co. A.A& Co. are to move their small saw mill from pine creek Dunn Co to Granite lake Barron Co & cut lumber & shingles for the KS & Co Co.

Thursday 27

Ther 6° below zero at 7 A.M. Clear bright sunlight & calm weather.

Friday, January 28, 1881

Ther 21° below zero this mornng.

Saturday 29

Ther 9° above. Windy – some snow.

Sunday 30

Fine day. Good sermon by Rev. H. Ketcham Congregation large.

Monday, January 31, 1881

The heaviest snow storm of the Season occurred to day. Strong E. wind.

Tuesday, February 1

Ther zero this mornng. Snow fell more or less during the night.

Wednesday 2

Ther 5° above & snowing.

Thursday, February 3, 1881

Snowed

Saturday 5

Remained at home on account of my face being worse & on account of wind & snow storm. Snow is Drifted as high as the picket fence in places. There must be 18 in. on the land.

Sunday, February 6, 1881

Weather mild. Did not go to Ch to day on account of my face being worse & some cold wind blowing. Ther 24° this mornng. Wind has been E & S.E. for several days.

Monday 7

Ther 28° this mornng. Weather has been growing milder & the wind has been E or S.E. for several days. Snowed again to day.

Thursday 10

Thawy weather

Friday 11

Mild & clear & has been mild & thawing some every day for several days past.

Saturday, February 12, 1881

Colder this mornng & high wind – Ther 12° above zero.

Sunday 13

Ther 5° + this mornng. I could not go to Ch to day on account of the condition of my face. Commenced to use Richardson atomizer to spray my face with a 2% carbolic acid spray 3 times per day.

Monday 14

Ther 22° below zero at the store this mornng. - 18° by our Ther at home. Paid E.R. Bartz \$15.00 Pd to Mrs. ? on sub of Rev. H. Ketcham \$50.00 – fifty dollars.

Tuesday, February 15, 1881

Ther 1° below zero. Pleasant but steady weather i.e. steadily cold.

Wednesday 16

Ther 12° below 0. This was the day for the Annual meeting of the K.S. & Co Company but owing to JH Douglas being on grand jury in St. Louis & detention in accts not all being in the meeting of Stockholders is postponed until 28th.

Saturday 19

E.R. Bartz our gardener has become insane & we feel very uneasy as to what the result may be. It is a sorry thing for him & his wife.

Sunday 20

Milder 13° above zero. I went to Church this forenoon. Rev. A. Kidder preached. This is my mother's 89th birth day. Clear bright day.

Monday, February 21, 1881

Clear good winter weather all right overhead but many anxieties & cares now. Mrs. Bartz will take her husband on 11 P.M. train to night to Watertown.

Tuesday 22

Ole Larson came to

Wednesday 23

Ther 8° below

Thursday, February 24, 1881

Somewhat milder this morning – Fine day.

Friday 25

Ther 4° below zero this mornng. – Saw young german by the name of Zell about gardening for me. Think he is a fair young german but with too

Saturday 26

Cloudy & milder Ther 22° above at 7 A.M.

Sunday, February 27, 1881

Windy so that I did not go to church to day. Mr. Ketcham had an excellent lecture on Saranola this eveg. so Vallie says & others also speak highly of it.

Monday 28

Ther at zero this mornng.

Thursday 3

Stormy

Friday 4

High winds – snowy blustery – R.R. all blockaded. Wis. Central train came down on the ? road & staid all night so as to give passengers a chance to get meals & stay all night at Hotel. August Walter commenced work at noon.

Saturday, March 5, 1881

Mild, pleasant & thawy weather. Ther 22° this mornng. My engage-ment with August Walter is to give him 32\$ per month & furnish him with 2 rooms – pinewood pasturage for cow & corn board shelter for his cow.

Sunday 6

Ther 8° above. Bright sunlight day. We had an excellent sermon from Rev. Ketcham this morning on Self Control after which Communion. Text Rev. He that over cometh I will give to eat of the tree of life.

Monday 7

Ther 6° above at 7 ¼ AM Thawing during the middle of the day. The K.S. & Co. Co. met at their office pursuant to adjournment. All members present except Capt. Wilson. He is in Madison snow bound.

Saturday 12

All the week has been spent in business of the Compy at their office. The better part of the week all the Directors were present.

Wednesday 16

Snow storm. Weather mild & has been for several days.

Thursday, March 17, 1881

August Walter's family moved into the Greenhouse first two rooms adjoining the greenhouse to day.

Saturday 19

Settled with Mrs. Bartz. Paid her bal. on all afrs 65\$

Sunday, March 20, 1881

We went to church in our carriage to day – the sleighing is so poor now in town.

Monday 21

We learn by the paper that the very worst storm of this long & stormy winter occurred last night & this mornng. Exten-ding from Tennessee where it was rain to Milwaukee & north. In northern Ill & Wis it was snow – It did not reach Menomonie.

Tuesday 22

Mild pleasant weather. Thaws in day time & freezes nights. Ther 21° this mornng. All the heavy storms of this winter R.R. block-ades & c & c have gone around us & we have escaped wonderfully.

Wednesday, March 23, 1881

Opens brightly – Ther 31°

Thursday 24

~~August Walter moved into the two first rooms adjoining the Greenhouse. Weather warm and thawy.~~

Monday 28

Very busy all the time at office & store. New Goods arrived & I have to attend to Mr. Marks business as well as my own while he is absent with JHD buying goods.

Thursday 31

March went out roar-ing like a lion.

Friday, April 1, 1881

The month of April commenced cold & blustery. Ther 10° above zero this mornng.

Saturday 2

Somewhat better day than yesterday. Sent Quit Claim deed to my lots in Niota Ill to my brother Wm. Sent deed to Henry Schwank for land in De Kalb Co. 80 acres.

Tuesday 3

Commenced putting the Calamined iron shingle made by the Iron Clad Mfg Co. N York on our house. Geo Clark head carpenter Harry A. Moe assistant.

Wednesday, May 4, 1881

Finished making terraces in the garden. Mark Cummings & Mike Weston worked about a week on the terrace. Weather continues very dry.

Thursday 5

River here has been low all Spring while every where west & South of us great floods are reported. It may be called the Year of Cold weather deep snows & floods except in Menomonie.

Friday 6

Mrs. Mart Wilson died this eveg.

Sunday 15

Went to church this forenoon – Have much pain & tooth ache in left lower jaw. Fine but cool weather.

Monday, May 16, 1881

Suffering from headache pain in my jaw & c. The men came again this mornng to put roof on the house which they left un-finished on account of rain.

Sunday, May 22, 1881

Weather still continues very dry & dusty.

Thursday 26

Golden wedding of Mr. & Mrs. L. Bullard of Eau Claire & formerly of Menomonie. Effie went & reported a large attendance.

Sunday 29

Dr. Jno. Lyman & Miss Maud Keflea (his inten-ded) of Eau Claire spent the day with us. Rainy weather.

Monday 30

Rainy forenoon – Décora-tion day. Col Spooner made the address to the veterans.

Tuesday, May 31, 1881

Vallie & Effie went to St. Paul.

Wednesday, June 1

Went to Pr farm & took Rolla with me.

Thursday 2

Cold north wind & showery weather. We left Pr. Farm after dinner & drove to Washburn Farm. Rolla & I went up to the little creek which runs through the farm & caught 18 or 20 trout.

Friday, June 3, 1881

We started at 8.10 A.M. for home & came the same way we went up by Otter Creek & crossed Hay River at Comb's place.

Saturday 4

Face swollen & inflamed from cold taken on my trip to Pr. Farm.

Sunday 5

Communion service at our ch & in the eveg. Rev. H. Ketcham preached on the Deluge – Effie Eddie & I went in the eveg.

Wednesday 31

John Eddie & I started on a trip to Rice Lake. We took two dogs Kent & Doc. Albert Cook went along to take care of the team. Got to Washburn farm after dark & had some difficulty finding place to ford the river.

Thursday, September 1, 1881

John & I went out on East part of the Washburn farm looking for Pr. Chickens. Saw one flock. Ed meantime fished for trout catching 6. Went to Pr farm in the afternoon.

Friday 2

Rained during the night & this morning so we did not start to Shetek until after dinner. Went to Chetek by the upper Sand creek road & forded the Red Cedar river 2 miles above Sand Creek town.

Saturday 3

Rained again this forenoon. John started home this morning by stage. We had killed near 20 chickens since we left home. Eddie & I went to R. Lake this afternoon.

Sunday, September 4, 1881

Warm day. Clear part of the day. Some rain. Hot at night wind strong from the south.

Monday 5

Turned cold very early this morning. Wind blew cold from the N.E. accompanied by a pelting storm. A fire was necessary & had to stay in doors over half the day.

Tuesday 6

Rained furiously & we could not start home. So remained quietly in the Hotel in Rice Lake.

Wednesday, September 7, 1881

Rained some again but not as hard as yesterday. We drove to Shetek.

Thursday 8

Rained this forenoon again & during the night. We started homeward about 2 P.M. & reached 22 mile ford about 7 P.M.

Friday 9

Hunted a little this forenoon & shot 12 grouse between the ford & Colfax arrived home about 2 P.M. Found my brother William had arrived during my absence.

Saturday, September 10, 1881

Stormy & roads very muddy.

Tuesday, September 13, 1881

Cleared up & I took Wm up to the Moore farm. Roads bad.

Saturday 24

Sun came out clear & bright & every body rejoices that there is a change in the weather. We have had 3 weeks of rainy dis-agreeable weather.

Sunday, September 25, 1881

Beautiful bright day. As Mr. Ketcham is taking his vacation we went to the Methodist Ch. We have had no frost yet this fall & flowers grass & everything is flourish-ing.

Wednesday 5

Last night and this mornng. shows us the first frost or the first frost that has killed vines or flowering plants.

Monday, October 10, 1881

Pete Wilson & I went to Dunnville on a duck hunt. We reached the bottoms above Reed's place 4 ½ miles above Dunnville. Had very little success.

Tuesday 11

Rained very hard all day & we gave up hunting & went to Read's Landing on Stmr Phil Schekel(?) which took a tow of 6 strings of lumber down. Reached Reads at 5 P.M. Started back 6 ½ P.M.

Wednesday 12

The water which had been very high but had fallen some in both Chipp & Red Cedar is again rising rapidly. This morning finds us at Dunnville. Drove up to Reads place in the afternoon & saw few ducks.

Thursday, October 13, 1881

Cold & rainy this forenoon. Pete went to Waubeek to get the team which we took to Dunnville & loaned to Cassidy who left it at W-. Frost last night. We went up this afternoon in boat about 3 miles – no success.

Friday 14

Rainy again. We have had the greatest rain fall weather past 6 weeks that has ever been known in this section. We returned this afternoon to Menom onie through mud & drizzle.

Saturday 15

At home & at work in the office. Rained this forenoon.

Sunday, October 16, 1881

Very hard frost last night. Being the third frost of the season. Cool & cloudy day.