

DIARY FOR JOHN H. KNAPP
Menomonie, Dunn Co., Wis.

1875

Transcribed by Marge Kunkel, Archives Assistant

Friday, January 1, 1875

This opening New Year's is pleasant and mild compared with yesterday. Ther 18° above zero. Mr. Sherwin Ida & John Sherwin Mrs. Leet and little Robbie took dinner & spent the afternoon with us.

Saturday, January 2

Colder – yet clear – a little snow fell last night – not enough for sleighing

Sunday, January 3

Cold day – I went to S School & Ch – Taught Bible class Total attendance 58 in S.S. – Mr. Sherwin preached. Applied Dr. Dalton Salve to my nose again – which produced pain $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour.

January 4

Cold again & bright & clear Ther 18° below Wrote to Johnny & J. H. Colton & Co.

January 5

A beautiful morning Ther 20° below 0. Commenced in the eve'g to use the $2\frac{1}{4}$ cord of maple wood (brought in by Oberly) in the furnace.

Wednesday, January 6

Ther 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° below 0. clear – Had to spend the day at home in doors as usual. Rec'd drft from E. A. Gibb \$1,000.

January 7

Colder 10° below zero. Wrote to 3d Nat. Bk. Sending Drft on Preston Kean & Co for \$1,000 for Cr. my a/c. Wrote N Matson & Co & sent Drft for \$40.74. Sent D'ft to Keith Bros. \$264.55

Friday, January 8

Commenced blowing in the morning & growing colder it was 10° above this morning & by 10 oclk PM the ther had fallend to 30° below zero. Vallie & Effie were going to start to Milwaukee but Vallie having a headache & the weather so cold they remained at home.

January 9

32° below this morning but moderated considerably before night.

Sunday, January 10

Clear & cold with wind from West SW I could not go to church & feel the privation of being kept from S School & church very much "But God doeth all things well" –

Monday, January 11

Cold 30° below. Vallie & Effie started to Milwaukee at noon Paid Mip Williamson her bill serving 16 days @ 1.25 per day & 50 c for training(?) \$ 2050

Wrote T R Stearns agt Reactionary Lifter?

Tuesday, January 12

Ther at zero. Moderated during the day & snowed last night & to day to depth of about 6 inches. Commenced fitting the ice house 8 loads in to day. Paid by order on store (Oberly for 7 cords wood @ 3\$ per cord – Put salve on my nose again

Wednesday, January 13

Recd Drft from EA Gibbs on Preston Kean & Co Chicago for \$1,000. Rec'd letter from Vallie announcing safe arrival in Milwaukee Paid Rev'd Harris note to K. S. & Co. \$20 & sent it to him by mail as a present Ther -2° this morning & -12° this evng below 0.

Thursday, January 14

Cold day. Ice house was filled yesterday – 4 men worked nearly two days to fill it. Have put in over 200 cakes of ice – say from 20 to 25 tons. Worked at my a/c's to day. The river is frozen over from head of sucker chute to nearly opposite our house.

January 15

The weather grew cold rapidly in the afternoon & eveg & reached -32° at 1 ½ oclck A.M. but moderated to -14° at 7 a.m. A little snow fell. Wrote to Vallie & to E. A. Gibbs.

January 16

Housed up as usual Can't go out on account of the fear of taking cold in my sore nose besides it looks so badly & do not feel like encountering anyone – even acquaintances. Heard from Vallie – she is improving.

January 17

Pleasant day. Ther 14° this morning. Wrote to Vallie & to Rev. Jas A Clark

Monday, January 18

Clear & pleasant for a sparkling winter day. Ther -14° this morning. Wrote to Rev'd A. H. Clapp Secr A. H. M S & enclosed \$100 Dr'ft on 3d Nat. Bk. Wrote Rev. Jas Panile(?) Chicago Secy A Missionary Assn. & sent Dr'ft for \$50. Wrote T. R. Stearns for Reactionary Lifter.

Tuesday, January 19

Ther -32° this morning bright & very cold but still calm no wind. Wrote to Am News Co. Prof Field & Feason(?) & Danl Gilmore & sent the latter 100\$ Wm Witt commenced work again this morning.

January 20

Not so cold to day

January 21

Wrote several letters. Pleasant weather.

Friday, January 22

Warm & pleasant I have been out to the stable which is as far as I have ventured from the house for some time Have had to keep in on account of the cold affecting my face. It is hard to have to remain in doors all the time

Saturday, January 23

Ther 22° above zero this morning. Had Will take the large pleasure sleigh & take Grandma Hettie Eddie Herbie & Rolla out riding. Will drove the ponies to the farm this a.m. before the old cutter.

Sunday, January 24

Pleasant warm & sunshine to day & not cold – children have gone to S School – I wish it was so I could go also Put oil on face to loosen the scab – Took most of it off in the eve'g.

January 25

Wrote to T. R. Stearns R J Flint(?) P.M. Santa Barbara & to Vallie. Colder Ther -18° this morning. Sent the two large kegs (?) (that came from Ft M where they have pigs) to K. S. & Co.'s pen – Weight 995.

Tuesday, January 26

Not so cold. The white cow came in this morning Wrote to E. A. Gibbs L. V. Parsons Cashr(?) Had a call from Mip Hunt Tainter James Stout & T. B. Wilson

January 27

Ther 20° above & at 11 a.m. 32° Paid Oberly for 6 ½ cords wood by order on K. S. & Co for ? 19.50 Wrote to Vallie. Had a call from Mr. Sherwin.

Sunday, January 31

Some wind & colder in the eve'g & wind increasing. Rev J L Dudley of Eau Claire preached in the morning & eveg. Text a m Text pm
Good sermons about 25 minutes long each I went out for first time in several weeks

February 1

Rev. Mr Dudley called on me this morning Had a pleasant visit with him

February 2

Stormy day – fine snow & high wind

February 3

Wind blew all night & all day nearly a gale. Snow fell very fine nearly all day. Drifted badly. No trains on the R.R. & no mails to day. Grew colder at night. Made awning for greenhouse.

February 4

Ther 22° below zero. Sun came out clear wind ceased this morning. 12° below at 10 PM

February 5

Clear & cold today. Rec'd many letters. Three from Vallie. The trains on the R.R. which have been blockaded with snow arrived today & so we have news again.

February 6

Bright sunshine. Ther 20° below at 7 ½ a.m., at zero at 12 noon.

February 7

Cold – I remained at home John H. Douglass arrived last eveg late & remained at Capt T over night & came over this morning & quite took us by surprise.

Monday, February 8

Still keeps very cold Ther 32° below zero this morning & reported 39° down at the store & 52° at Prairie Farm I think there is some mistake. I went over to meeting of Cemetery Assn with Capt W.

Tuesday, February 9

Our Ther says 38° below zero at 7 a.m. I dined at Capt T together with H L Stout & saw James. J. H. Douglass & my son Henry. Weather moderated some this eveg. Took scab off nose & made a new application of Dr. Daltons remedy

February 10

Weather more moderate to day with snow. Put a barrel of gasoline in our gasometer Sent Drft \$1,000 to 3rd Nat Bk Chicago. Recd same Drft from E. A. Gibbs on 8th

Thursday, February 11

Cold again. Ice thick & strong closes the river as far up as the Blk smith shop. I never know it this steadily very cold before

Friday, February 12

Very cold. At 7.10 A.M. our Ther marked 32° below zero & half an hour later 42° below. The mercury was no doubt frozen.

Saturday, February 13

Cold weather still. Capt Wilson Mr Stout & Jas Stout & Capt Tainter came up & spent the eve'g.

Sunday, February 14

Mr. Wainwright came to town yesterday & preached for Mr Sherwin to day. He came over at noon to our house & will remain with us during his stay. Took scab off my nose to day & it looks worse. I feel very badly about it.

Monday, February 15

Ther -20° My face itches & troubles me a good deal & I feel down hearted. Oh that I could get some relief. Mr. Wainwright left for St Paul this afternoon Rec'd a letter from Vallie dated 13th Eddie was taken sick.

Tuesday, February 16

Ther 21° at 7 ½ a m Henry Brunelle's lost an infant – funeral to day I am informed. Wrote to Vallie Johnny & Effie. Eddie is better today.

Wednesday, February 17

Cold.

Thursday, February 18

Herbie is very sick this morning. High fever & delirious. Weather has moderated some. Snowed lightly during the forenoon & until 2 P.M. John H. Douglass & Mr. Stout left for home. I telegraphed to Vallie in the eveg that Herbie was sick.

February 19

Weather more moderate. 14° above this morning Snowing a little. Herbie still very sick. We expected Vallie home this afternoon but the Mil & St. P. cars were not on time so the connection was not made at Camp Douglap & we are much disappointed. Herbie some better in the eveg

February 20

Herbie much better this morning. Fine day. Vallie returned home via St. Paul & got here about 1.20 P.M. & we were much rejoiced.

Sunday, February 21

Mild & pleasant – bright & beautiful day.

Monday, February 22

Clear bright day. Mr. Clarks child buried to day. There is much sickness among children now. Snowed last night the heaviest fall of snow of the season. Mild day. I went down to the store for first time in 13 days. Sent to N.Y. for seeds

Tuesday, February 23

Bright morning followed by clouds - & in the afternoon commenced about 4 ½ P.M. to snow rapidly & now at 10 P.M. still snowing very fast. Mrs. Guplets(?) baby was buried to day. Sent Drft \$1000 to F. C. Homer cash St. Paul to pay in't.

Wednesday, February 24

Alfred & Mary are both sick this morning. Weather not very cold. Ordered Flower seeds yesterday from Briggs & Bro 184 Washington St. Chicago – sent ck for \$7.53

Thursday, February 25

Alfred our stable man is some better. Mary Murphy likewise. Plumber from St Paul came to fix pipe & put in bibb in bath rooms. Left it leaking. All in bath room Svr'l? pipes are frozen.

Friday, February 26

Clear & pleasant – Ther 10° below this mor'g. Sent CK to Dr Hanson to pay his bill \$485.25 Will is sick with sore throat – Dr calls it diphtheria.

Saturday, February 27

Will is better & Mary Murphy was down stairs Alfred was over to the house. Our gashouse or gasometer at the Mill exploded about 6 P.M.

February 28

Herbie was sick again last night. Vallie took care of him & I looked after Will but not much was necessary for him as he is convalescent. Ther 0 at 7 ¼ a.m. Cold wind from the east.

February 29

Cold all day Ther. 0 in the mor'g & did not rise higher than 5° or 6° above all day. The wind blew violently from the East & kept East side of house cool. Will better Herbie not so well. None from our house for S. S. or Ch to day except Henry.

Monday, March 1

Cold cloudy & windy Ther 4° above zero. Will is down to breakfast. Herbie rested well & is better.

Tuesday, March 2

Vallie sick with sore throat. Herbie & Will are about. My face is nearly healed. Tom Manz (?) & Simon Marugg(?) each lost a child of scarlet fever & they were buried to day.

Wednesday*, March 3

Ther 25° below zero. Day bright clear & pleasant. Wrote to Pond & Drucker(?) ordering camp's stoves. Sent drft \$176.21 to T.A. Chpman & Co – Gave Hattie 20\$ Eddie \$15 Henry 50\$.

Thursday, March 4

Ther 18° below. Clear bright & pleasant. Henry, Hattie & Eddie left to day for Chicago. Eddie is going with Hattie to Ft M & Henry is going to New York with J.H.D. & Mr. Monks(?) to buy goods.

March 5

Milder & better weather. Thawing in the sun Vallie Grandma Rolla & Herbie went out sleigh riding.

March 6

Warmer, snow thaws fast in the middle of the day. Ther. 12° above at 9 ½ P.M.

Sunday, March 7

Clear bright morning. Ther. 0 at Service I went to Church with Vallie & Mother about 80 in the Cong. Communion season Rev Wentz preached.

Monday, March 8

Mild weather thawing during the day. Snowed considerably during the night of last night & this forenoon.

Tuesday, March 9

Warm enough to thaw more or lep all day. Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton lectured in Condert Hall to night on "Our Boys" winding up with a lecture on woman's right It was very good altogether Full house.

March 10

Rode over to Mr. Sherwin's. Have a boil or carbuncle coming on the lower part of my back.

March 15

Great snow storm of the season accompanied by high winds Rail Road blockaded Mr. Sherwin called this forenoon & though I have suffered severely for several days I felt pretty well this forenoon

March 16

Carbuncle was worse Could not sit at all & only stand with much pain Pain all the time

March 17

Pain Pain

Friday March 19

20° below zero this morning.

March 24

Planted in box in the house. Tomato seed cabbage, cauliflower & lettuce –

Thursday, March 25

Wrote to E. A. Gibbs & to Chas K. Ober Rode out in cutter with Vallie – High winds to day

Friday, March 26

Wrote 8 letters this morning. Thawing very fast.

Saturday, March 27

Snow is melting fast – cabbage & lettuce begin to come up

March 28

Went to church for the first time in three weeks. Mr. Sherwin read account of Moody & Sankey's success in preaching in London. We went over in the spring wagon this being the first time we have used wheels for some months.

March 29

My birth day I am fifty years old to day & do not like the idea of being so old. It is generally supposed that after a man passes 50 years that he then is in his down hill grade. If my nose gets well I may yet be useful & I pray it may.

March 30

Thawed very steadily. The first rain of this spring fell last night & some more this day accompanied with thunder & lightning. Jacob Miller last night gave me the first lesson in perspective drawing.

March 31

Windy, cloudy, & not thawing much. Will came home from Rice Lake about 11 ½ A.M. – says the snow was off the road one third the way from Washburn farm here.

Saturday, April 3

Henry returned from N.Y. & Chicago to day. Muddy roads. All well. Planted coleus Calampelis(?) verbena & thurnbergia in box in the house.

Sunday, April 4

Put Dr Daltons Preparation on my nose again & experienced much pain.

April 6

Went out to Election to day. Hired August Walter to garden for me or do any work I may have for him to do Time 3 months. I am to pay him 22\$ 1st month \$24\$ 2d month & 24\$ for 3d month & board but not to wash for him.

April 7

Wm Witt has worked 68 days for me since he came last time on 17th Januy. Gave him a note to Mr Barwise for settlement of same at same wages as last year.

April 8

Agreed to pay Wm Witt 26\$ per calendar month & board him from Apr 8 to Oct 15th. Am not to work for him. I was informed that the Whisky Act has beat the Temperance with 339 votes – too bad - Halverson commenced work

April 9

Planted seeds in the hot beds. Halverson finished the cold frame

April 10

Cool & cloudy with rain showers & plenty of mud. Effie came home to day from Milwaukee.

Monday, April 12

Wrote to Dr. Dalton Mrs. Smith – J. B. Stewart Wm H. Fish Agt Cyclopeda & J. H. Douglap.

April 15

Weather quite cold. Last night the new Thermometer registered 10°.

April 16

Cold again last night as night before.

April 18

Warm & pleasant. The first real bright warm spring day we have had this year.

April 19

Raw & windy. I went out to barn & around the yard some & took cold in my face & suffered accordingly. Wrote several letters – one to Harper Bous(?) & Thimes Westchester Pa about foreign grape vines.

April 20

More pleasant but still cool. Wrote E Steiger 22 & 24 Franklin St N.Y. German Book seller. Also to orange goddess(?) for German Assn Ag ____ ____? & to J.H.D.

April 22

Pleasant to day

April 23

Fine day but some wind.

April 24

August set out 200 Early Cabbage plants & 100 lettuce plants received from New York.

April 26

Effie started to Milwaukee to day or rather to night 11 PM. Spinach seed planted.

April 27
Onion seed sown

April 28
Commenced making border for cold grapery back of Wagon shed. Top onions planted

April 29
August Walter gardner planted Florcing(?) carrots & Beets in open ground. Taking up & tying up grape vines on the Arbor. Carpenter finished fence around pump Snowed some & grew colder.

April 30
Ther. fell to 16° last night & was 19° after sunrise. Wrote to W. K. Sidley Effie – Dr. Vinton & Fletcher Knapp & E Steiger 22 Franklin St. N.Y. for German book.

May 1
Bought 6 gallons maple syrup of Mr Hall of Bauer(?) Co at 1.25 per gallon Made deed to Calliowitte(?) to N. E. ¼ Sec 31.69-37 Page(?) Co Dunn – 15\$ per acre. Sent Power of Atty to B. Stewart to sell lands in Arlan, Warren(?) Madison & Dallas Co Iowa – Cold & blustery – slight snow last night

May 2
Went out this eveg to hear our Pastor Rev J C Sherwin preach

May 3
Vallie & I went to Ch meeting – The right man for a new pastor to take place of Bro Sherwin whose resignation takes effect June 1st was discussed & no conclusion arrived at. I proposed name of Rev. Wm Gill of River Falls

May 4
Went to the office to day. Met Mr. Cornell R. R. Engineer. Buds beginning to swell on the trees. Rained about bed time

May 5
Frost last night. Ther 26° Moved Paige Transcendant Crab Apples trees – Had another man to help dig the border for cold grapery – Day mild & some wind

May 6
Finished border for cold grapery.

May 7
Rainy. Tom McKinney & Chas Fitz Morris worked on Garden fence repairing & setting posts. We transplanted a large yellow Siberian crab tree

May 8

Wrote to Peter Henderson 35 Cortland St. NYork ordering Foreign Grape Vines & some bedding plants & green house plants Rainy day – Grandma & Henry thought of leaving for St. Louis but the rain prevented.

May 9

Went to Ch this mor'g Mr Sherwin preached

May 11

Chas Fridley worked with Hans Lund this afternoon on the cold grapery

May 12

Showery

May 13

Rainy day

May 14

Cloudy & somewhat drizzly but better day than yesterday. Halverson commenced helping Hans Lund on cold grapery.

May 15

Bright warm sunshine to day. Have 8 men to work on the premises – 3 carpenters 1 painter 2 diggers setting posts & 1 repairing fence & one gardener & one man for the team & general work. Set out Raspberries; Ther 29° last night

May 16

Frost again last night Ther 28° Bright day

May 17

Frost last night Ther 29° Warm & dry. Peter worked half day painting sash & bal on house.

May 18

Went riding below town & Vallie & I gathered cowslips. Had 3 carpenters Hans Lund, Chas. Fridley & Martin Halverson to work on the grapery today. Took McKenney & Chas Fitz Morris to work at repairing fence. Peter & Wm Miner painting house & with the Gardners August Walter & Wm Witt have 9 men on the yard. Warm & dusty

May 19

Warm dry dusty day. Peltor(?) worked this afternoon pruning the grapes. Mr Orderman(?) worked ½ day putting in glass & Nimes(?) priming ____ (?) & glazing sash

May 20

Warm this forenoon & rainy this afternoon 3 painters to work most part of the day on the sash Hans Lund & Martin Halverson to work getting out materials for finishing building. Repaired our gate house cleaning down stairs _____? Potted Del grapes

May 21

Fletcher Knapp & I rode out to Elk Lake I shot 3 ducks & 3 plover

May 23

Warm & clear Ther 84°

May 24

Hot day Ther 87° Set out some vines in cold grapery Went with Mr Sherwin to lay out lot in cemetery for him. Parker & I laid it out

May 25

Set out vines in cold grapery

May 26

Fletcher & I went up to my cabin on Otter Creek Drove Jim & Prince. Very dusty & a good deal of wind & heat. Left 8 am arrived about 1 P.M. I caught 13 trout in the afternoon. Gnats very bad. Cabin had been broken open

May 27

Fished a little this morning Flies & gnats very bad. Windy ___? ___? Left for home at 12 noon Stopped $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour at Otter Creek bridge & fished & only caught 2 small ones. Arrived at home about 5 P.M.

May 28

Fletcher concluded to start for home on noon train but we persuaded him to remain until eve'g train He left at 11 P.M. Much cooler today.

Saturday, May 29

Henry & Eddie came home to day. They came by boat to St Paul & RR from there here. Settled with Halverson(?) owed him 56\$ which I paid him. About 35\$ was for work on cold grapery

May 30

Mr. Sherwin preached Fine day.

May 31

Rained last night Went to cemetery association meeting in the eve'g

June 1

Rained – cool & cloudy in the afternoon. Went to Cemetery Assn meeting in the basement of Menomonie Home where we adopted Constitution & By Laws.

June 2

Cloudy & light showers Sewed grass seed around(?) house. Mowed part of the lawn. Painters painting under the shed. Had manure hauled into orchard. Men worked on fence. Harry(?) on blinds & repair of bedstead.

June 3

Cool Plowed orchard lot. Mowed lawn among the flower beds.

June 4

Cool. Planted potatoes & corn in orchard lot. Set out water & musk melons.

June 5

Pleasant.

June 6

Mr. Sherwin preached his farewell sermon to a large audience The other churches were closed & their pastors & people came to hear Mr. Sherwin Cool & cloudy

June 7

Last night Ther fell to 31° but a heavy fog prevented injury to plants. Sold House & 3 lots heretofore occupied by Rev J. C. Sherwin to Frank J. McLean Esq for \$3500. 1100\$ down /bal in one & 2 yrs with int @ 10%

June 8

Helped Mr. Sherwin about setting grave stones in cemetery in the forenoon. Had part of the drain pipes 4 in diam put in to cistern. The old conducting(?) pipes were of wood & had rotted. Wrote JB Stewart L. V. Parious(?) Cash & C. S. Forman(?)

June 9

Finished laying 4 in Vitrified(?) drain pipe from the house into the cooli—(?) where heretofore there have been wooden pipes only Also made the overflow pipe of same size & material. Preparing to make the dry well deeper & put in 4 in drain pipe from lower bath room East side of the house.

June 10

Took Mr. Sherwin to depot. He is going to visit his children & will be gone until August.

June 11

Fair this forenoon & cloudy & cool this afternoon. Wrote to Fletcher, De Coster & Clark Ward Batcheler(?), C.H. Hennecke & Co Tom McKinney & Chas Fitz Morris finished digging the dry well East of the house. It is 13 ft 2 in deep & the drain pipe enters it at 8 ft deep. Cool & cloudy

June 12

Weather remains cool & cloudy. Had dry well stoned up to day about 5 ft & we are now digging up old pine drain & expect to lay 4 in sewer pipe instead & lay it 3 ft deeper or an average of 6 ½ ft deep

June 13

Cool day & cloudy all the forenoon.

Monday, June 14

Had 3 men Tom McKinney Charles Fitz Morris & Chas Conrad at work to day on the drain from bath room East side of the house. Got the pipe in at 7 P.M. It is 24 ft long & runs at a right angle to the house Took Willie Rolla & Mrs. Tucke & Mrs. Tuitte(?) out to cemetery

June 15

Tom & Charles filling up & covering the large place made for ? Hans Lund is putting vines in grapery

June 16

Finished covering drain & Tom & Charley went to work laying block or wood pavement under wagon shed. A very heavy storm & gale came up about 6 ½ P.M.

June 17

The storm yesterday blew down trees &c Two apple trees in our orchard were blown down.

June 18

Laying wood pavement under the shed

June 19

Finished wood pavement Vallie & I took the children Eddie Herbie & Rolla & T B Wilson took his family & we all went for a pic nic excursion to Elk Creek.

June 20

Went to Methodist Church this forenoon Dr. Gates preached. Weather grew warmer.

June 21

Warmer. This afternoon had Tom & Charley commence grading a place on the point to put summer home. Sultry this afternoon.

June 22

Peter Bradreth(?) commenced painting blinds. Finished grading summer house ground this forenoon & this afternoon the men worked at hauling out manure from back of stable

June 25

Rained in the afternoon about 4 o'clock. Warm & sultry today. Effie arrived home at 3 ½ o'clock A.M. Vases arrived. Went over & helped Henry at staking out roads in cemetery grounds this forenoon.

June 26

Warm day again. Finished hauling out the manure from rear of stables. Peter still painting on the house & blinds. Hans Lund Tom McKinney & Chas FitzMorris still at work for me. Wrote to Farmer J.H.D. – H. Van Reed &c &c

June 27

Rained this forenoon.

June 28

Had well cleaned out at barn. Wrote to Rev H Callahan

June 29

Rolla sick with fever Eddie & Herbie both have bad colds

June 30

Rolla is better today & Eddie not so well. I went over for Dr. Gates to come & see Eddie. Our new lawn tent came today & we put it up It is large enough about 13 ft diameter—cost \$35 in Chicago.

July 1

Sowed Rutabagas in lower part of the garden

July 2

Cloudy & damp Cool in the morning Had fire in furnace

July 3

Cloudy with fog in the forenoon early. Just before noon we had one of the heaviest rains of the summer Cleared off & sun came out but the afternoon was warm & sultry.

Sunday, July 4

Cool. Staid at home

Monday, July 5

Vallie & I rode out to the farm. Remained at home the rest of the day – let our children & help go out to celebrate.

July 8

Rode out with Vallie & Herbie this afternoon to Gilbert Creek & Jake Millers place caught 5 trout

July 11

A lovely day.

July 12

Searched papers for note of Briggs Rode out in the eve'g. Henry started on night train for Chicago to meet Johnny who is coming home from Franklin NY.

July 13

Warm & dry Wrote L. V. Parsons H Lorung(?) E. A. Gibbs & J B Stewart on businsep matters

July 14

Warm & sultry Henry returned this afternoon bringing Johnny with him. J-- has been away to school in Franklin N.Y. since early in Sept last – all of us went to hear “Blind Tom” play the piano in the eve'g

July 15

Very warm. Ther ranged about 95° according to the Govt office in St Paul & probably was as hot here. Will & Tom went to Moore farms for load of straw—“Jim” nearly gave out with heat

July 16

Oppressed with the heat – Not feeling well – Vallie complaining of the heat & not feeling well. William brought load of hay from the farm.

July 17

Cooler to day.

Sunday, July 18

Very pleasant – Remained at home on account of sore nose Vallie went to S.S. & reported only about 40 persons present.

July 19

Very pleasant.

July 20

Sent William with the teams to work on the roads.

July 21

Very warm & dry. Wm Witt worked with the team on the road hauling clay to be put on the hill by the lime house. William went home this evening to be gone 3 or 4 days.

July 31

Took Johnny Eddie & Effie to Sangers(?) Menagerie

August 1

Prof Merrill of Ripon preached in the Cong Church this morn'g Subject religious & Secular education should be carried along together. In the eve'g his text was "Take heed how ye hear" Very dry & dusty

August 2

Prof Merrill left on noon train for Ripon

August 3

It is just one month since we had any rain & so dry & dusty a time is hardly ever known in this section of country. This evening rain fell from about 6 to 7 PM very gently & at 10 PM commenced again

August 4

We have been blessed with rain during the night

August 7

First ripe tomatoes. Rode out to Dr Berry's (?) this forenoon to have him prescribe for Johnny's eyes. Vallie Johnny Herbie & Rolla went with me A beautiful day & pleasant ride. The wheat & oat harvest is in full blast. Did not see Dr. B. He came to our house in the afternoon.

Sunday, August 8

Bright warm & pleasant day

August 9

Rainy day – Sent gun #5287 to Wm Read & Son Boston by Am Ex Co – chgs paid \$2 Wrote Wm Read & Sons 3d Natl Bk E. A. Gibbs "Advance" & renewed my subscription. Sent Drft for \$3.

August 10

Rained some this morning

August 11

Went out for a "chicken hunt" Mr. A L Dyer went with me. Will drove the team. Ed Gedne(?) went for company for Will Went to Moore farm to dinner. We bagged 24 "chickens" Day cool & pleasant.

August 13

Vallie & I took a ride out in the country & took dinner with us I bagged 14 chickens & if my dog "Frank" had acted well should have had several more. Had a pleasant day & like my new W & C Scott & Sons Breech loader very much.

August 15

Cool except in the middle of the day Rev A McMarten preached morg & eveg in our Ch – He is our new minister & I should have been glad to hear him but on account of my face could not go to Ch.

Monday, August 16

Cool. Went out in the afternoon to shoot “chickens” killed only 3. Rained some – turned cold & we were glad to get home. Took Effie Johnny & Eddie with me. Wm Witt drove the team.

August 17

Changeable & cool with showers. Mr. Cavanagh finished cutting the stone base for the large vase & we sett it & put the vase on it. Paid him \$8.00 for cutting same.

August 19

Will Archie & I started for my cabin on Otter Creek about 9 ¾ AM. I shot 20 chickens on the way up. Went by Bullock’s Stopped & saw him & he promised to pay me very soon for the hay he cut last year

August 20

We returned home via Moore Farm – leaving the cabin at 10 ¾ A.M. – Shot 10 chickens in the way down. Arrived home 6 ½ PM. Had a light shower of rain. Dog Frank became very lame.

August 22

1st Frost. Went out today to hear Rev McMarten preach both morning & eveg. Subject Belief in Christ in the morning & “He spoke as never man spoke” in the eveg. Both good sermons. Frost in the country was heavy. Ther 28°

Monday, August 23

Henry & Effie went out with a camping party of ten up to my cabin on Otter Creek. Will & Archie started for Rice Lake

Tuesday, August 24

Rained some – warmer Wrote to C. B. Dibble J B Stewart JHD – N. W. Gas & Water Pipe Co. Miss Callahan Peter Keller H. L. Stout

Thursday, August 26

Took Almeda Vallie Johnnie Eddie Herbie & Rolla up to Lambs Creek Falls this PM – leaving home at 1 ½ PM & returned about 7 ¼ PM. I took my dog & gun & shot ten grouse.

August 28

Rained steadily nearly all day. John HJ. Douglap & his family came to day

August 29

Clear pleasant – delightful – Put some of Dr. Dalton's prescription on my nose this afternoon about 5 ½ P.M. It hurt considerably.

August 30

Rainy.

September 4

Rained every day this week except Sunday.

September 5

Clear & bright sunshiny day – the first since last Sunday.

Monday, September 6, 1875

Clear bright & beautiful day – John & Archie Douglass started to day at 1.56 P.M. for St Louis

September 7

Rained this forenoon & was very sultry this afternoon Capt Tainter sent to me two live deer a buck & doe. They were one year old this spring The bucks horns are 1 ½ to 2 in long.

September 9

Johnny left home for Franklin N.Y. to go to school. We are all sorry to part with him even for a few months. Rained again to day.

September 10

Started out shooting at 10 A.M. Wm Wilt (?) drove for me. Had clear & cool day. I shot badly but bagged 18 grouse notwithstanding.

September 11

Frost last night Cool & cloudy to day

September 13

Clear & bright in the morn Almeda Vallie & little Allie & Johnny Douglap started for home via St Paul on 227 P.M. train. Rained in the afternoon

September 14

Cloudy & warm Hauled lumber & finish plank walk. Tried Dittrious Powder again & find it gives greater penetration & not so good a pattern(?) as black powder

September 15

Vallie & I rode out in the country. I shot 4 chickens. Rain threatened & we drove home rapidly Warm in the afternoon

September 16

Cool windy & cloudy & this evening threatens a severe frost. Preparing to go to my cabin to spend a few days—

September 17

Left home at about 10 ½ A.M. taking August Walter with me to build fence & take care of the team. Lunched at Lambs Creek. Shot 4 chickens near Hoags place.

September 18

Rained nearly all day so that I did not go out hunting. Put in 3 lights of glass 8 x 10 in the windows where they were broken by burglars. August worked at chopping poles for fence.

September 19

August & I spent the day quietly at the cabin except a short walk in the woods. Jim Blair called in the afternoon He has taken a homestead on SW ¼ Sect. T30-12

September 20

Started out hunting at 7 ½ A.M. – too late – Went to N fork of Otter Creek to see where Mr Talmage is making hay on my land Saw some fresh bear tracks & some signs of deer. Shot 2 prairie chickens in the afternoon & run a line on Sec 18. Hailed about noon

September 21

Went out with Jim Blair to try & hunt some deer & bear out of the big swamp. Saw none – saw fresh bear sign & deer sign

September 22

Hauled posts for fence & poles – Looked over the meadow with Mr Fitch. He agrees to work a week at 1.50 per day working off the willows on the meadow fronting my cabin & to build fence for me at 20 cts per Rod I to find the spikes – set some posts

September 23

August & I built 25 rods of fence - setting about half the posts to day & putting on 3 poles – finished at noon bars & all. We went hunting this afternoon around the big swamp. Saw 2 deer but too far off to shoot ____?

September 24

Packed up & left for home about 9 AM Shot 3 Prairie chickens & 1 pheasant on the way - Arrived home about 3 PM Mrs A. B. Campbell of Jacksonville Fla. Came to see us to day.

September 25

Wrote C B Dibble Esq that I would put 2500\$ in Fla pine lands.

Tuesday, September 28

Vallie & I started for Chetek in our Hunting Wagon. Ed Gerton went along Left home after dinner & went to 22 mile ford Found comfortable quarters It is now kept by Mr. & Mrs Daniels

September 29

Drove to Chetek this forenoon in about 4 hours time. Went up Rice Creek in the afternoon duck shooting & shot several 5 of which I got - saw a bear.

September 30

Rained this forenoon & blew cold. Sent Ed Gerton with the team to Rice Lake to get Rev J. C. Sherwin. I went out duck shooting with W. R. Smith Esq & Mr Wood. Got about 20 coots & 4 ducks altogether. Rained.

October 1

Ed returned this forenoon with Mr. Sherwin & after dinner we started for home. Came down to 22 mile Ford & stopped for the night. Forded the river twice on the way - Time 3 ½ hours.

October 4

Effie & I left home on 1.56 P.M. train for Chicago & St. Louis.

October 5

Arrived in Chicago this morning. Put up at Grand Pacific Hotel Left Effie in charge of Mr Marks & I left on 10 oclk train for Aurora to see Dr. Pond cancer doctor He thinks he can cure me. I returned at 4 P.M. Effie & I visited the Exposition & shopped.

October 6

Left Chicago last night & arrived in St Louis on the C & A RR at 10 A.M. nearly 2 hours late - Rained heavily last night Went up to the Lumber yard in the afternoon

October 7

Went out to the Fair today with Almeda Archie Effie & Mary. There were from 60,000 to 75000 people on the grounds - too crowded to see much

October 8

I went out to the Fair again. Had better opportunity to see things In the eve'g returned to city - took Turkish bath hair cut & c Had a call from Esher(?) I Eno & his son Major Eno

October 9

Went up to Lumber yard. We have about 15 million feet in yard now. Just 40 years ago our family landed on the west side of the Mississippi – having made the trip all the way from New York State to Ft Madison Iowa by land.

October 10

Went to hear Dr Holland Episcopal minister preach in the morning. He speaks very rapidly & the church echoes so much I could hear but little Left St Louis for home via C & A. RR 7.40 P.M.

Monday, October 11

Arrived in Chicago 7.40 A.M. Left for home at 9.45 to M. Saw Geo C. Morgan & Mr. Woolley(?) about water works.

October 12

Arrived home at 3 P.M. & found all well. Vallie met me at the Depot.

October 17

Went to church twice to day & heard two good sermons by Rev McMarten. I attended S School also.

October 18

Day fine. Took Mrs. Hunter(?) Mrs. Board & Grandma out riding in our carriage. We went out beyond Dr Berg's place on the prairie.

October 19

Cousins Mary E. Board & Abigail Hunter left for Ft Madison & St Louis via St Paul this afternoon Day fine & clear

October 20

Indian Summer weather & warm. Gov. Marshall was over & desired to sell us St Anthony Park property at 100\$ per acre

October 21

Vallie & I left home for Aurora Ill Warm & beautiful weather.

October 22

Arrived in Chicago 7.15 A.M. – Spent the day in shopping. Took board & lodging in the Grand Pacific Hotel.

Saturday, October 23

Spent the day in shopping & looking up matters connected with the water-works for our Mills. Left for Aurora Ill at 4.20 P.M. Arrived there about 5.45 P.M. & put up at the Fitch House

Sunday, October 24

Went to church with Dr. Pond. Heard Rev. Dr. H. W. Thomas preach his opening sermon in the M.E. Ch & again in the evening.

Monday, October 25

Took up quarters in Dr. F. L. Pond's house. He gave us his Parlor all the other rooms being filled – He put his cancer plaster on my face after dinner & it burned & pained me a good deal

October 26

Dr Pond renewed the plaster. I suffered much.

Tuesday, October 27

Dr. Pond removed the plaster. It had been on 48 hours. My face much swollen—

October 28

Face burned & felt nearly as had since the plaster was taken off as while it was on. A heavy bearing pressure with a sensation of burning. He puts healing salve on to soften the dead flesh which is 1 x 1 1/2

October 29

Very weak & prostrated. Had to take morphine every night in order to sleep – Oblivious to the outside world

Monday, November 2

Began to get a little relief & feel some better & stronger. It has been a week of prostration with me & of suffering – particularly in the early part of the week. It was a good thing Vallie came with me to take care of me.

Wednesday, November 4

Wrote home – am improving. Election news begins to come in that Wis has gone Republican.

Monday, November 8

Wrote to W. C. Woolley(?) giving him K.S. & Co acceptance 30 c/s from 5" inst – to pay for water pipe Wrote Jas Flowers & Bros. Detroit ordering Hy Wash & Valuer(?) for our water works at our mills.

Wednesday, November 10

Fine beautiful day very mild-

November 11

Fine day. Called on Mrs. Seth Jaltenles(?) this a.m. in company with Dr. F. L. Pond. We got ready to leave for home Met Effie on the 545 pm train for Chicago & arrived there 7.40. leaving on the C & NW at 945 for home

November 12

Fine day arrived home safely & found all well this afternoon about 3 o'clk.

November 13

Colder Ther one degree below zero last night

Tuesday, November 16

Mary Murphy who has been in our family for two or three years was married to day to Bernard Bagan – in the Catholic Ch.

November 17

Very cold this morn'g & all day Ther 5° above zero. I wrote ten letters & did considerable other work.

November 19

Fine day Ther 17° early this morning.

November 20

Wm Witt left my employ this afternoon about 3 ½ pm Turned colder in the eve'g.

Sunday, November 21

10° below zero last night.

November 23

Pleasant.

November 24

Pleasant but cold. Ther about 10° below 0 last night. I went to the office to day for first time in several days. Wrote to Johnny & sent him 1\$.

November 25

Thanksgiving. Rather mild. Rev McMaster & family & John & Will Lyman took dinner with us. All of our children at home except Johnny.

November 26

Fine bright day. Gilasky & another man commenced cutting some stone for walk from the gate to the house

November 27

Snowed some today perhaps 1 inch.

Sunday, November 28

Turned colder – blustery

Monday, November 29

Ther 20°- Alfred Heller commenced work for me at 32\$ per month & board himself. To have upper part of wash house rent free & fire wood His time expires May 1/76 Stone cutters worked ½ day

November 30

Effie & Henry started for Ripon

December 1

Mild & fine day

December 2

Warm & thawing. I went over to Capt Tainters & shot at his request 5 large deer Bucks. They were fat & every way in fine condition considering the lateneq of the season.

December 3

Mild & thawing. Henry & Effie returned to day from Ripon The classes were not in the studies which she was prepared for

Saturday, December 4

Ther 40° above zero this morning. Foggy all day

Sunday, December 5

Ther 42° this morning. Foggy. Snow all melted away.

Monday, December 6

Ther 42° above zero Foggy all day. This is 3d day of continuous fog. The first ship't of Hydrants & valves from Flower & Bros came today. The 6 in pipe is all lined except the connection 28 ft to pumps(?) Gillaskie & Rittelsletz(?) commenced laying stone walk.

December 7

Mild this mor'g Ther 39° 20 men commenced digging trench for water pipe this mor'g for me. Grew colder in the evening

Wednesday, December 8

Colder. Ther 20°

December 10

I was out for two hours this morning & took a bad cold. Went over to Capt Tainters & took a Turkish Bath

December 11

Felt sick & miserable all day – result of bad cold

December 14

My face has been sore & worse for several days

December 15

Thawed some in the sunny spots. Mr. Petrie completed putting in the Wyckoff Put(?) Wooden water pipes. 2 in. pipe runs into the grapery & into the house cellar or at least half way under the cellar Wood & one inch iron pipe is screwed into the end of same.

December 16

Much colder to day

December 17

Very cold Ther 15° below zero this morning.

December 20

Milder & pleasant day Wrote to Johnny. Sent him 3\$ and a pocket book.

December 21

Ther 34° above zero this mor'g. Fine day. The first day I have been out of the yard for about two weeks.

December 22

Very mild day Ther 39° this mor'g 74° at noon & 54° at 9 oclk P.M. Went down to the office for the first time in two weeks.

December 23

Mild & pleasant I went to the office today. Hans Lund worked at the storm door on our porch.

December 24

Snow commenced falling this morning about 7 oclk. Then rain & then snow again – mild all day.

December 25

Pleasant day. First sleighing of the season John & Will Lyman Ward(?) with Mip Williamson were with us to dinner. John L has been sick. Mild & thawy.

December 26

Ther 6 above zero

December 27

Ther at zero this mor'g Pleasant weather some what cloudy.

December 28

About the same degree of cold as yesterday morning.

December 29

Milder--Pleasant sleighing pretty fair

December 30

Ther 37° this mor'g. Warmer, thawing all day. Mist & fog all day. Prayer meeting at our house this eve'g Present Mr & Mrs Brunelle Mr & Mrs Snively Mr Patterson Dr Mornell(?) Grandma Vallie, Effie Eddie Herbie & I.

December 31

Ther 37° this mor'g thawed all night. Snow almost gone Thawed all night. The old year leaves us mildly & we hope for a Happy New Year