

JOHN H. KNAPP
FORT MADISON, IOWA
1855 DIARY

Monday, January 1, 1855

The New year opened pleasantly to me at Reading Pa. "Fen de jories" were sounded all night by the boys of this city. I discard (this year) the chewing of tobacco. Shall be temperate in all things and endeavor to improve myself mentally, physically, and morally. Arrived at N.Y. 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 2

Called on my friend Arch Young. Went to J. Douglass & Co. Hardware Merchant. Drew amount of draft 100\$. Left Astor House 2 ½ oclk for Mr. Havon(?) of Springfield Con. Stopped at Meriden at 7 oclk P.M. to pay Mr Clark & family a visit

Wednesday, January 3

Had a pleasant visit at Mr Clarks. We all took a sleigh ride from Hanover to Meriden. Visited the comb factory & cutlery factory & New Church

Thursday, January 4

Left Meriden at 12 oclk M Dined at Springfield & arrived at Ware(?) 4 ½ oclk P.M. found only Mr & Mrs Field & Willie at home. This is truly a melancholy visit for me.

Friday, January 5

Went to Lowell via Boston arrived there at 1 oclk Found Mr & Mrs Dolton (?) well and sister Kate improving.

Saturday, January 6

Left Lovell at 7 ¼ clk A.M. taking Kate along. Came to Ware via Stony Brook Nashua & Worarter(?) & Weston R Roads & sleigh from Warren. Arrived about 1 ocl'k

Sunday, January 7

Went to Church _____(?) Six young ladies Kate being one of the number joined the Church by profession

Monday, January 8

Called on Miss Sarah Sage & in the evening upon her father Had a pleasant interview.

Tuesday, January 9

Started for the West by Stage to Palmore(?) Dined at Massasoit House Springfield. Arrived at Albany 5 ¼ P.M. Stopped at Stanwix (?) Hall

Wednesday, January 10

Left Albany at 7:30 a.m. Arrived at Niagara Falls 8 ¼ P.M. Put up at the Griffin House Through tickets to Chicago 17\$ Clear pleasant weather.

Thursday, January 11

Took a walk to the Falls I cannot see that their grandeur grows any less by repeated visits. Crossed suspension bridge on foot & took Cars of G.W.R.R. for Detroit. Were detained. Arrived at the Biddle House Detroit at 10 /2 oclk

Friday, January 12

Took cars of M.C.R.R. at 7.45 oclk for Chicago where I arrived at about 9 oclk Stopped at Mattesen(?) House

Saturday, January 13

Started to Madison Wis by G&C URR at 9 oclk. Stage 6 miles from Afton to Janesville M & M RR from there to Madison Weather excessively cold Arrived at M-- 12 oclk P.M. Put up at Capital House

Sunday, January 14

Attended divine service at Congregational Church & heard an excellent and very encouraging & instructive discourse from 11 Cor. "A man in Christ."

Monday, January 15

Visited both branches of the Legislature. Nothing of interest to me transpiring.

Tuesday, January 16

Attending the Legislature of Wisconsin. Writing letters &c &c.

Wednesday, January 17

To fill up my time I to day commenced taking lessons in German Language & music lessons on the Piano of Mr Pickard Heard lectures in the evening before Madison Institute by Mr Daniels

Thursday, January 18

(Packard or Pickarts)

Friday, January 19

Visited the Odd Fellows Lodge of this City of Madison

Sunday, January 21

Cold windy & disagreeable. Attended Prebyterian Church. Rev. Wm. Miller text 73rd Psalm 24 verse Read letter from Thos B Wilson & answered it

Monday, January 22

No music or German lessons today Mailed letter to Sister Elizabeth & one to Mother

Tuesday, January 23

Went to Prof. Daniels Lecture on Geology

Wednesday, January 24
Paid A. Pickarts 5\$

Thursday, January 25
Attended second lecture of the course being delivered on Geology by Prof Daniels No music lessons to day Rec'd letter from C H Merrick (?) & answered it & one from Edgar Field

Friday, January 26
No German lesson today

Saturday, January 27
Attended third Lecture of Prof. Daniels on Geology

Sunday, January 28
Went to Congregational Church. An excellent sermon. Many melancholy thoughts arise on this day to me A year ago to day I read the 14th Chapter of John to my dear Carrie at her request. Where is she now? In heaven I firmly believe

Monday, January 29
Took a music lesson but none in German Attend Masonic Lodge in the evening

Tuesday, January 30
No German lesson

Wednesday, January 31
This is a sad day to me—the first anniversary of the saddest event in my history viz(?) the loss of my much loved and devoted loving wife Carrie Her pure spirit I trust is in heaven while I am but a wanderer in this “vale of tears.”

Thursday, February 1
Took no lessons to day Recd a letter from Mr. Wilson also from Thos Hale & one from Jno. H. Douglass

Friday, February 2
Rec'd a good letter from V—and answered it immediately. Music lesson in the evening

Saturday, February 3
Rec'd a letter from Sister Kate Went to concert of the Choir of Baptist Church in the evening No German lesson to day

Sunday, February 4
Rec'd a letter from Capt Wilson Went to church in the forenoon at the Congregational Ch in the evening went to the Methodist

Wednesday, February 7

Took a walk of nine or ten miles with Mr. J. B. Woodbury of New York Prof. of Music. He hunted & I carried the game – which was but little. Attended the musical convention in the afternoon.

Thursday, February 8

By invitation of Mr. Woodbury I assisted in the concert given by the musical convention & Prof W—

Friday, February 9

Have caught cold & have a sore throat in consequence Dined with Dr. Gibson at Mr. Jones. Had a pleasant interview with the family Miss Jones is a fine looking lively young lady

Saturday, February 10

Called on Dr. Gibson at Mr Jones & accompanied him to see the closing play at the little Theater which is in operation here

Sunday, February 11

Went to the Baptist church in the forenoon. Recd a letter from Mr. Wilson & one from Jno Douglass. Wrote to J. B. Stewart, Sister Kate Field & to Mr C H Merrick(?)

Monday, February 12

Wrote to J. H. Douglass Draughted a Boom & ferry charter for ourselves across the Red Cedar River at our Mill. Paid F. Stevens landlord of Capitol House Bal. on our monthly boarding 36\$ in all 49\$ for 1 month

Tuesday, February 13

Changed boarding place in the afternoon to Mr. P. G. Jones

Thursday, February 15

Rec'd letter from Mr. Merrick containing draft for 100\$ He conveys the sad intelligence of the death of his wife – had heard previously & wrote a letter of consolation on the 11th past.(?)

Friday, February 16

Wrote to Dick Hunt & Bermeson (?) in an answer to one received from them in relation to lumber

Saturday, February 17

Rec'd letter from Dr. J. C. Walker in relation to Rail Road matters. Wrote to J. H. Little & to J. C. Walker (J.H.L. & J.C.W.)

Sunday, February 18

Attended Baptist Church

Tuesday, February 20

Our ferry & boom bills passed the Senate to day.

Wednesday, February 21

Rec'd a letter from Mr Wilson also one from Mr. French Bought a new pair boots price 7\$

Thursday, February 22

Attended the Ball or Masonic Festival in the evening at the Capital House Listened to the reading of Washington's Farewell Address by Gen W. R. Smith at the Assembly Hall in the forenoon.

Wednesday, February 28

Took a walk this forenoon in company with Mr. Church to the Lake Side Water Cure establishment now in Course of erection Recd Mem. of goods & supplies from the Mill. Saw a trotting match in the afternoon poor trotting – distance 1 mile

Saturday, March 3

Read "Ruth Hall" Got weighed at Fox's Hardware Store –weight 136 ½ lbs.

Sunday, March 4

Went to Presbyterian Church in the afternoon.

Monday, March 5

Senate did not agree to the amendment of the assembly to our Boom Charter-- then the Assembly would not take to committee of Congressmen on the part of each House was appointed. (?)

Tuesday, March 6

Rec'd letter from Misses Dickhut & Bermeson of Quincy & one from HL Stout, latter containing df'ts for 100\$

Wednesday, March 7

The bills I had introducing for a Charter for a Dam & for a ferry across the Red Cedar River Wisconsin passed the Senate to day Attended lecture of Rev Jno Pierpoint of Boston Subject "The Golden Calf"

Thursday, March 8

We the boarders at Mr. P. G. Jones had a happy time to day – a social time – music &c &c

Friday, March 9

Preparing to leave Madison House Have my affairs with the Legislature in a shape to leave tomorrow

Saturday, March 10

Left Madison, Wis this morning Arrived at Chicago about 9 oclk P.M. Stopped at Lake House

Sunday, March 11

Rec'd letter from E. Vinton & two from V-- Answered the latter Attended Church in the forenoon. Called on Jno Douglass & W. Hicox

Monday, March 12

Left at 9 ½ am for Iowa Took dinner at Mendota Staid all night at Galesburg Very rainy muddy, disagreeable time

Tuesday, March 13

Left Galesburg at 11 oclk a.m. for Burlington. Arrived opposite Burlington about 2 oclk. Remained there in the cold two hours finally hired some men to set me across in a skiff.

Wednesday, March 14

Took stage for Ft Madison Roads very bad. Got home about 2 oclk – found all well. Had dinner & began to make preparations to start East to New York – Henry well & glad to see me. Been about 3 months

Thursday, March 15

Wrote letters to St Louis firms ordering goods to be shipped to K. S. & Co Lake Pepin by first boats

Friday, March 16

Took stage for Burlington Had a very bad time getting to B—Stuck in the mud below Skunk River Took 8 hours to get to B. Arrived there at 9 oclk P.M. Stormy

Saturday, March 17

Left Barret House at ½ past 5 oclk & crossed the river in a yawl. Took cars for the East. Beyond Galesburg encountered so much snow had to turn back & stay at Galesburg all night

Sunday, March 18

Went to Camps 12 miles beyond Galesburg – could not go any farther on account of the snow on the tracks. Cars went back but most of the passengers remained at camps – Very windy

Monday, March 19

Blowing or gale all day Snow drifting in the air and filling the R. R. cuts full. Excessively cold – amusing ourselves all as best we could

Tuesday, March 20

Went to work trying to clear the track. Snow packed in hard. I went to the trench cut & shoveled snow awhile. No cars from any quarter to day. Much disappointed by the delay

Wednesday, March 21

Concluded to try travelling by sleigh – three of us hired a sleigh & started north for the Rock Island Road. Travelled 33 miles & stopped at night at Mr. Webbs. My companions in the sleigh were Mr Hancock & Walter P. Clark

Thursday, March 22

Went to Sheffield 3 miles in a buggy & took cars of R. Island Road at 12 oclk M & arriving at Chicago in the evening Met with L. D. Parmer at Sheffield who is also going to New York

Friday, March 23

Left Chicago at 6 oclk AM in company with L. D. Parmer Fell in with Lull another acquaintance from Dubuque Arrived at Dunkirk about 4 oclk next morning

Saturday, March 24

Put up at Luder House Left in the mail Wain at 10 a.m. arrived at Elmira about 7 oclk PM Called on cousin Levi Cooley's family. Left Elmira by Express train about 11 oclk. Slept as best I could in the cars.

Sunday, March 25

Arrived at Oxford 8 oclk A.M. visited Uncle Wicks family. Called on Aunt Betsy Cousin Madison & Jonah. Met at Uncle Wicks Mr. Sayre, Futhill, Clark, Hine & wife & Mrs. French

Monday, March 26

Got up early and eat my breakfast. Uncle Wicks took me in a buggy to the Oxford Depot where I took cars for New York at 7 oclk A.M. Arrived at NY. 10 oclk Examined clothing Hardware &c. Left for Philadelphia at 6 oclk.

Tuesday, March 27

In Philadelphia buying goods – Have had a very bad headache all day which misfits me for business – Took a cold & shower bath which helped me some. Examined Hardware at Smith Brothers & c in the morning Visited Lodge No 165 (?) this A.M.

Wednesday, March 28

Bot Hardware at Smith Bro & Co. Bills of goods of the following firms Lind Bros & Co. Kilgore Frazier & Co. Williamson Taylor & Co. W H & H Smith Chas Hallen(?) Oil & Co.

Thursday, March 29

This is my natal day I am 30 years old to day. Took cars at 7.30 a.m. for Reading Pa. Hired horse & buggy & rode out 5 miles to see my dear friend Vallie A---

Friday, March 30

Visited Mr. H Van Reed's family at Reading in company with V-- Returning stopped at Mr Jno Van Reed's Had a very pleasant visit at Mr. Adams.

Saturday, March 31

Returned to Phili & collected bills goods & left P—for N.Y. at 5 oclck p.m. Arrived at N.Y. at 7 ½ Stopped at Merchants Hotel

Sunday, April 1

Attended Church in New York at the Presbyterian Church East of the Park where I heard Rev Dr Spring preach – In the evening heard Dr Chapin at the Universalists Church on Broadway—

Monday, April 2

Bought Bill of clothing of A Young & Van Kleesh(?). Bot a buggy for myself & ordered it shipped via New Orleans Went to the Broadway Theater in the evening & saw Edwin Forrest as "Macbeth."

Tuesday, April 3

Left N.Y. at 8 oclck stopped at Meriden CT to see Rev J. A. Clark & family. Arrived in Boston about 12 oclck same night Put up at the Revue House

Wednesday, April 4

Bought Bill of Boots & Shoes of Alex Strong & Co. Examined Dry goods also Groceries but did not purchase any. Went to Howard Atkins house in the evening where Romeo & Juliet was performed.

Thursday, April 5

Went to Lowell in the morning cars—returned to Boston about 1 oclck – Took cars for West Brookfield and then by stage to Ware. Edgar Huld(?) had got home from his school at Charlottesville N.Y.

Friday, April 6

Left Ware in stage for Paterson this morning & then took cars for Albany ___(?) &c from Thomas(?) to _____(?) Hill N.Y. where I arrived same evening

Saturday, April 7

Took a view of Mr. Olson Richards G---- Mills. I got some new & valuable ideas in relation to _____ & _____ _____(?) lighting Mills &c &c Left in the afternoon 3 oclck & took cars for Schenectady & West

Sunday, April 8

Rode all night & arrived at Niagara Falls about noon – Went to Presbyterian Church
Took a walk on the Island to view the falls. Wrote some letters & retired to rest early

Monday, April 9

Made a quick trip in a buggy to the Depot of the Canada R.R. – Crossed the Suspension
Bridge. Started from the Canada side at 8 oclk arrived at Detroit 5 am & took cars for
Chicago

Tuesday, April 10

Arrived in Chicago 5 oclk this morning & left for St Louis on C & M R R at 9.15
a.m. arrived in St Louis about Midnight—Steamboat from Alton

Wednesday, April 11

Could get no bed to sleep in last night so lay down in the Parlor at Monroe House & slept
as best I could Busy all day buying goods &c

Thursday, April 12

Worked hard all day in order to get the remaining articles on my _____ purchased
& shipped Left St Louis at 5 P.M., in Stmr Sparhawk (?)

Friday, April 13

On board Strm G. W. Sparhawk(?) paddling up the Mississippi.

Saturday, April 14

Took Hack from Keokuk to Ft Madison Arrived at home about 5 oclk P.M. & found all
well.

Sunday, April 15

Attended at Methodist Church. Sung at 3 oclk pm at Pres. Church

Monday, April 16

As I had been elected Director in the board of Ft M__ Westpoint K __(?) Bloomfield RR
Co, I attended to the duties of director to day for first time

Tuesday, April 17

Attending to affairs about home

Wednesday, April 18

At home.

Thursday, April 19

Writing letters, arranging papers accounts &c.

Friday, April 20

Rail Road Board met to day could not come to any conclusion. I took the papers & the contractor Mr Smith (?) to my house & we settled many points by ourselves

Saturday, April 21

Concluded contract to day with Wusan (?) Smith & Wilson of Ohio to bridge the R.R. West at 24000\$ pr mile – a new era will dawn on Ft M—

Sunday, April 22

Attended “Old School” Church in the forenoon & Episcopal in the afternoon. Took dinner at Jona’s. Henry & I went out with Jonas

Monday, April 23

Left Ft Madison on the Stmr “Ben Campbell” at 12 ocl’k m for Rock Island. Arrived at R Island early in the morning & left on the Alhambra about 7 oclk a m for Galena

Tuesday, April 24

Arrived at Galena before day light – took breakfast at the DeSoto House which is just opened After concluding my business in Galena left for Dubuque in stage at 10 oclk.

Wednesday, April 25

In Dubuque & getting ready to start up to the Mills at Menomonie

Thursday, April 26

Stopping at the Julsen House in Dubuque – expect to leave this evening for the Pinery & Wilson’s came up & I made a contract with him to run our lumber.

Friday, April 27

Sat up all night waiting for a boat & was disappointed. The City Bells came along in the morning – Mr. Stout and I took passage – about 600 to 700 people on board

Saturday, April 28

Considerable cholera on board – buried some of the passengers. I went on shore at Lansing to see Rev Mr Lyman & family & Mrs. Rhinehart & got left – Had a pleasant visit & walk on the hills with Mrs R— Got on board War Eagle

Sunday, April 29

War Eagle made good time – arrived at Reads Landing Lake Pepin about 9 oclk two hours after the “City Bells” We crossed the lake & got some dinner & then started with one horse on our journey. Staid all night at Stevens where we left the horse

Monday, April 30

Started on foot for our Mills where we arrived about 6 oclk P.M. tired & worn out with fatigue from one long walk Found all well & glad to see us

Tuesday, May 1

At the mill looking around & seeing the people. Attended a May party of the children of Menomonie – given at Eytchimans(?) – Danced till we all got tired

Wednesday, May 2

At the Mill. Mr Stout & I took a little hunt Shot a duck a Squirrel & one snake about 6 ft long

Thursday, May 3

Arranging accounts &c &c

Friday, May 4

Still to work at Books on accounts preparatory to our yearly settlement. Attended dinner at Galloway's

Saturday, May 5

Opening some goods & making out & journalizing a/c, &c

Sunday, May 6

Went to church – Mr. Pitman preached to about a dozen persons-- After dinner rode to the farm with Tainter & Mr Stout

Monday, May 7

Getting our Books & a/c's in a shape for settlement & talking over our business affairs generally. Help perform surgical operation on one of our men who got his face badly mangled in the Mill jaw broke in two places

Tuesday, May 8

Mr. French & I made out Balance sheets which show a satisfactory state of the business & what we have done the past 20 months—in which time we have netted over \$150,000 including rise in Read Estate &c

Wednesday, May 9

Mr. Stout Tainter & two or three of our men & myself started for Lake Pepin in a Canoe where we arrived about ½ past 8 oclk P.M.

Thursday, May 10

Sold our Knapp & Tainter interest in Reads Ldg. to C. R. Read & F S Richards for 1500\$ payable in 6 mos. & one town lot 50 ft b 50 ft Settled our a/c with F S Richards & left about 6 oclk for Excelsior

Friday, May 11

On board Stmr Excelsior stopping at the various towns & landings on the way to Dubuque Bot 25 sacks of potatoes of Raffanff(?) at Cassville 1\$ pr. Bushel

Saturday, May 12

When I waked up found the boat lying at Dubuque Hired a horse & buggy & started at ½ past 2 for Bowens Basin to see Mr & Mrs Rice & family got there 7 ½ clk

Sunday, May 13

Went to Church with Mrs R—a beautiful day – all glad to see me here & many things to talk about & many melancholy ones much to remind me of my darling wife Carrie whose untimely death I must ever mourn

Monday, May 14

Drove into Dubuque by 2 ¼ oclk pm Took tea at Mr Stout's Roads very dry & dusty I was completely covered with dust when I got back

Tuesday, May 15

Left Dubuque for Galena in stage – Very bad traveling on a/c of the dust. Left 422.27\$ at N Cerwith(?) for F S Richards Stopped at the DeSoto House

Wednesday, May 16

Paid 250\$ to Gen W Campbell – Galena for lot bot of Capt O Smith for which he is to send me a deed. Took passage at 8 oclk for R Island on the “Royal ___(?) at R I about 7 oclk on the “I(or J?) M McKee” for home

Thursday, May 17

Very rainy & stormy. Arrived at Ft. Madison about noon. Found all well at home

Friday, May 18

Sold or bargained 150 M ft. lumber & 100 M. lath to L. D Holmes St Charles Mo. Lumber at 18 3/5(?) lath at 3\$

Saturday, May 19

Busy writing & squaring up my private books—

Sunday, May 20

Went to hear the Old School Pres. Minister Mr. McComb preach and came away ____ (?) with such ____ (?) tedious sermons – having little of instruction in them

Monday, May 21

Started for Oquawka, to meet my raft, on board strm Excelsior. Almeda accompanied me as far as Burlington on her way to Galesburg

Tuesday, May 22

Raft passed Oquawka 4 ½ oclk this morning I took hack to the Rail Road & went to Burlington – Sold 3 strings(?) lumber to Jno & W D Gilbert & 15 of laths & 3100 pickets

Wednesday, May 23

Took boat for Ft Madison—raft arrived same evening. My new buggy came up on a boat from St Louis

Thursday, May 24

Sold Hesser & Hale 1 string short of a M ft lumber and lot of lath. Went to Montson(?) & left 1 string & 1 box bundles pickets for Mr. Brigham

Friday, May 25

Put the new buggy together & tried it. Jonas & I rode around town in it & it proves to be very easy riding & No. 1. buggy. Bot 19 Bbls Pork of Wm Eppes at 15.50 per bbl—clear (n?) pork

Saturday, May 26

When I awoke this morning I found ___(?) Douglass had returned last night from California. He looks well & hearty & is no doubt improved by this trip. Left for St Louis about noon Rainy weather

Sunday, May 27

On board Strm Keokuk Wrote to V-- & to H Eno Eng(?)

Monday, May 28

Arrived in St Louis about 4 oclck a.m. Put up at the Monroe House. Attended to some business preparatory to leaving for St. Charles in the morning. Went to the St Louis Theater to see Mrs India Dean Hayne as “Juliet” in Romeo & Juliet & Mrs. Chillington in Morning Call

Tuesday, May 29

Took the Omnibus for St. Charles. Arrived there at 12 ½ got dinner – hired horse & buggy & rode 7 miles to Judges Landing where I found the raft & made an estimate of the amt. Counted the lath &c & came back to St Charles – settled with Mr Holmes for the lumber

Wednesday, May 30

Left for St Louis at 7 ½ oclck in 4 horse omnibus – Busy all this afternoon looking after many small articles. Deposited 1500\$ at BH(?) of the State of Missouri

Thursday, May 31

Purchasing some items for the Mill. Rainy & cold

Friday, June 1

Still cold & rainy. Attended to some of my own matters & some for the Mill Went to see Mrs. India Dean Hayne play the part of Gabriella de Belle Isla in the play of the Dukes Wagen (?)

Saturday, June 2

Busy all day & got off at 4 oclk on Steamer Jeannie Dean (?) for home

Sunday, June 3

On board Jeannie Dean reading, sleeping & passing the time as best I may Arrived at Keokuk about 8 oclk & took stage for Montrose, immediately where I got on the Ben Campbell

Monday, June 4

Arrived at Ft Madison 9 oclk this morning & found all well Board of Directors of Ft M—W. P. K_____ (?) & Bloomfield R. R. met &c. I was one of the board Spent remainder of the day in that way

Tuesday, June 5

At home attending to various matters. Took Mother and Henry riding in my new buggy. Wrote several letters & it is now 11 oclk & time I was in bed

Sunday, June 10

Started at 2 oclk this morning on Strmr I. McKee for R. Island to attend a meeting of the W & R RR tomorrow. Dr Walker Judge Lebuston, Henry Cattenale & T.S. Espey & family went along.

Monday, June 11

Board met, considerable business transacted (?) Visited Davenport. Settled with Buford & Co for castings Left 7 oclk for home on I McKee

Tuesday, June 12

Got off the boat at Oquawka. Bought 250 Bbls Mess Pork @ 15.50 & 2 bbls butter @ 12 ½ pr lbs Went to Burlington in the afternoon Had an invitation to go on an excursion to Chicago

Wednesday, June 13

About 300 to 350 people started on the cars this morning for Chicago on a pleasure excursion on invitation from the City of Chicago. Arrived there 6 ½ oclk. Welcomed by the Mayor Council &c

Thursday, June 14

Pleasure ride on Strm Niagara. Display of Military & fire companies and a grand banquet & Ball in the evening made up the excitement & pleasure of the day

Friday, June 15

Left Chicago in the morning 10 oclk —had a fine dinner at Mendota & got safely to Burlington same evening all very much fatigued

Saturday, June 16

Settled with Gilberts for the lumber sold to them there about 3 weeks ago & about 9 ocl^k took I. McKee for home & glad to get back home once more

Sunday, June 17

Attended Episcopal Church. Wrote to V-- corn 63 sack shipped per Strm Conenago @ 1\$ per sack frt. to Reads Landing

Monday, June 18

Busy writing letters nearly all day

Tuesday, June 19

Writing & arranging papers. Wrote to Wilson, to Stout, to Gen Thos & Co & to Spencer & c

Sunday, June 24

Did not go to church to day. Mr McComb is so tedious in his discourse that I deem it better to remain at home Wrote to H Eno Eng & V—Adams

Monday, June 25

Getting ready to start to St Louis to-morrow

Tuesday, June 26

Started for St Louis in company with Mr. Hessor (?) about noon on board Strm "I McKee" Took stage from Montrose to Keokuk & Strm Sam Getz same night for St Louis

Wednesday, June 27

On board "Sam Getz" going down the river. Put in the time in reading

Thursday, June 28

Arrived in St Louis early this morning.

Friday, June 29

Paid M Hamilton 1728\$ being the amt due for goods purchased of him this spring. Had Carrie's likeness photographed & painted expense 25\$

Saturday, June 30

Hesser & I in company with W. L. F Gage went out to Carr (?) Place to see Prof Elliot go up in a Balloon – he couldn't make gas enough consequently it was a failure

Monday, July 2

Was attacked this morning with purging & vomiting & very sick all day. Stephen (?) waited on me

Tuesday, July 3

Much better to day Left for home at 4 oclck P.M in Stmr. Keokuk & glad to get away from St Louis

Wednesday, July 4

Saw some demonstrations of a dispo (??) to observe the glorious 4th at the towns along the river

Thursday, July 5

Arrived at Ft Madison about 2 oclck A.M. & found the dancing in honor of the 4th still going on at the Eagle Hotel. They had fine time here. Went to a dance this evening

Friday, July 6

At home. What a pleasure to have a day of quiet rest at home

Saturday, July 7

Took Cousin Martha riding in the country towards Denmark Spent the evening at Mrs. Corriell's. Mrs. Douglass, Cousin Martha Seely Miss Lib Campbell & Miss Caroline Claypoole were there

Sunday, July 8

Attended old school Pres. Church to-day & heard Mr. McComb once more – he did a little better this time

Monday, July 9

Got ready for a start to Dubuque & the Pinery

Tuesday, July 10

Cousin Martha & self got in the stage coach to go to Burlington but found it so crowded concluded to wait & take the packet – sat up all night waiting for it.

Wednesday, July 11

At 4 12 oclck got on board the I. McKee & arrived at Burlington in time for the cars. Left cousin M—at Mendota. Arrived at Freeport at 6 oclck left at 2 am

Thursday, July 12

Arrived at Dunleith (?) at 4 ½ am having been detained at Freeport. Went to bed at the Argyle House & slept 3 hours – got breakfast & went over to Dubuque Left Dubuque about 5 oclck & went on board “Golden Eva”

Friday, July 13

The “Golden Eva” left Dunleith at 2 ½ oclck A.M. having been detained by waiting for the cars which had been thrown off the track.

Saturday, July 14

Arrived at Reads Ldg 2 oclk P.M. Left there with McCain in a sail boat for Johnstown & came very near being wrecked in Lake Pepin. It was a Providential escape

Sunday, July 15

Left Johnstown on horse back for the Mill. Stopped at Flecher's (?) for dinner – Staid at McCauleys over night

Monday, July 16

Started at 4 ½ oclk for the mill – arrived there at 8 oclk a.m. Found all well & business going on as usual

Tuesday, July 17

The village of Menomonie has improved during my absence considerably

Wednesday, July 18

At the Mill – not well

Sunday, July 22

Mrs E G Wilson's child George is quite sick to day with dysentary—

Monday, July 23

Today Mrs. Wilsons child is worse & not much hope of its ever being better

Tuesday, July 24

Eliza Wilson & I sat up with the little sick boy Geo H. Wilson last night. He cannot get well. Eliza is a good nurse & a very excellent young lady

Wednesday, July 25

Mrs Wilsons child died yesterday afternoon at 3 ½ oclk & was buried to day. Rev Mr. Pitman made a very appropriate discourse on the occasion

Thursday, July 26

Getting ready to start down the river Waiting for Mrs. E. G. Wilson who now wishes to return to Ft Madison---

Friday, July 27

We left the Mill on a Raft taking along a canoe to go down the Chippewa in. Mrs. Wilson & son Rolla & servant girl & Miss Downs along took dinner at our Ware house & then one man & myself paddled to the Lake by ___(?) Iowa(?)

Saturday, July 28

Got on board the "Golden Eva" last night & arrived at Dubuque before supper. Mrs. Wilson went on to Galena

Sunday, July 29

Staid over to day in Dubuque. Went to Church twice. Heard Rev Mr. Wm. M D Ryan of Baltimore preach in the evening a very interesting sermon at the Methodist Church.

Monday, July 30

Took cars at Dunleith for Chicago. Arrived in Chicago at 4 ½ oclk. Went to Metropolitan Hall in the evening & heard a lecture on Japan

Tuesday, July 31

To day bought a bill of Stationery of I. C. Grigger Co & hardware of Edw Hunt & Harness of Mr Cape. Left Chicago at 9 ½ p.m. for home

Wednesday, August 1

Arrived at Ft Madison about dinner & found all well & some letters awaiting my arrival. Rec'd draft from Stout to amt of 1700\$ on N.Y. & St Louis.

Thursday, August 2

Attending to affairs about home

Friday, August 3

Started for Burlington in the afternoon with Mr Eaton in stage coach. Hottest day of the year thermometer 98 to 100 degrees – arrived at Burlington about 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 4

Took Stmr Ben Campbell for Keithsbury(?) to collect amt. of Smith Note \$1285.88. After a short stop at K the Badger State came along & I got on board & went to Muscatine to see Myra & Mr Cass & family

Sunday, August 5

Left Muscatine on Ben Campbell about 10 oclk last night & arrived at Burlington at breakfast. Went to church. About noon got on the "Navigator" & came home

Monday, August 6

Election at Ft Madison. Strong excitement between the Know Nothing & Old Democrat parties

Tuesday, August 7

Left home for St Louis for "I McKee" & stage from Montrose to Keokuk & staid Sparhawk to Quincy. Staid at Quincy House all night

Wednesday, August 8

Took Stmr "Die Veinor" for St Louis. Read Harpers & Masonic Review for July & August

Thursday, August 9

Found myself at the Levee this morning. Commenced buying goods Very busy all day.

Friday, August 10

Hard at work all day buying goods Bought 340 sacks salt & shipped to Ft M. pr. "Fanny Harris" (?) Freight 40 ? 80 c/per sack

Saturday, August 11

Still buying & shipping goods—shipped about 75 tons of freight on "Fanny Harris" (?) Most of it to Reads Landing Minnesota for 60 c per 100 lbs.

Sunday, August 12

Went to Church once was with John Douglass most of the day

Monday, August 13

Finished buying goods & tried to get off for home but could not do it—too much work to get through

Tuesday, August 14

Bot Bill clothing &c to day & collected bills, etc. Left for home at 4 ½ ocl'k P.M. on Strmr Keokuk

Wednesday, August 15

Arrived at Keokuk about 11 ocl'k & staged it to Montrose – found the packet gone—got on the Fanny Harris about 1 ocl'k a.m. Boat lighter of freight or taking it out of lightenes (?)

Thursday, August 16

Arrived at Fort Madison about noon

Friday, August 17

Capt Wilson & wife came down to day from the Pinery with expectations of going East with me

Saturday, August 18

Getting ready to start to New York. Mr. Hale & Capt Wilson & Mrs. Wilson took dinner with us to day. Mr & Mrs Wilson went to Keokuk to day

Sunday, August 19

At home visited the grave of my dear Carrie. It is a melancholy pleasure to visit occasionally the spot where the bodies of beloved ones are laid. Here rests my father too Mr. Stepen(?) walked down with me

Monday, August 20

Opened the Banking House of Knapp & Eaton Opened books & commenced to do a regular Banking & Exchange business. Very busy all day

Tuesday, August 21

Was ready to start for Burlington & East at noon but stage was full so waited for the evening packet "I McKee" Packet came safe at 11 ocl'k & we started on our trip.

Wednesday, August 22

Left Burlington 7 ½ ocl'k & arrived in Chicago at 6 ocl'k P.M. Stopped at the Briggs House a No. 1 House. Thos Hale Mr. Wilson & wife & self form a pleasant company

Thursday, August 23

This morning at 7.45 left Chicago for Detroit by M.C.R.R. Distance 283 miles – arrived at 6 ocl'k Met Nahers(?) & sent a letter home by him. Thos Hale & self got our supper at Simpsons restaurant

Friday, August 24

Left Detroit at 5.45 by Great Western Railway & arrived at Niagara Falls 4 oc'lk P.M. We put up at the "International" Took a walk around to the principal points of view H & I took a bath & retired

Saturday, August 25

Started from Niagara Falls on the N.Y. Central RR at 5.50 A.M. – took dinner at Utica & arrived at Albany 4 ocl'k P.M. Mr. W & wife & J.H. stopped there & I went on to West Brookfield Mass where I am at 10.37 P.M.

Sunday, August 26

Staid all night at the Mik-bray (?) House & this morning hired a buggy & came to Ware where I found Mr Field's family as well as usual -- Went to Church in the afternoon with Kate

Monday, August 27

Called on Mr. Sage & Mr. Hyde at the Bank in Ware Left Ware for Boston taking my sister-in-law Kate along At West Brookfield met again with my traveling companions Mr & Mrs Wilson & Tom Hale. Arrived in Boston 8 ocl'k

Tuesday, August 28

Shopping with the ladies & showing my friends around the city

Wednesday, August 29

Busy buying goods all day. Attended the Museum in the evening

Thursday, August 30

Still very much engaged in laying in a stock of goods of all kinds for our store at Menomonie We went this evening to see the "Alleghanians" at the Millodoor (?) They are excellent singers

Friday, August 31

We went over to Bunker Hill monument to day Nearly finished goods buying to day

Saturday, September 1

Collected bills &c Saw Kate off for Lowell at 3 ocl'k & started for New York by Ex train at 3.2 oclk. Arrived about 11 oclk. The Astor House was full so had to go to the Howard

Sunday, September 2

Capt Wilson & myself went to Trinity church in the forenoon & after dinner he & Tom & myself took a walk down by the wharves

Monday, September 3

Took up Lodgings at the Astor House Bought a bill of Hardware of Nestion Jewett & Busby (?) Went to them & saw Mademoiselle Rachel as Camille in Horatine (?) she is the best I ever saw

Tuesday, September 4

We went to see the "Crystal Palace" & looked through Stewarts Mammoth Dry-Goods establishment.

Wednesday, September 5

Went over to Greenwood Cemetery. We had a nice ride through the beautiful grounds there & returned early to New York. Tried to get ready to leave for Phila. This evening but did not succeed in getting off

Thursday, September 6

Left N. York at 8 ocl'k for Phila. Arrived at 2 ocl'k & I left for Reading at 3 ½ ocl'k, leaving Mr & Mrs W & T.H. in Philadelphia In the evening went out to see V---

Friday, September 7

I went into Reading with Mr Wm Adams Jr – took dinner at Mr H Van Reeds Saw a procession of several hundred colored Odd fellows. In the evening returned to Mr Adams

Saturday, September 8

A party of six of us took a ride upon a neighbor mountain to the Water cure establishment of Dr Lycening – A beautiful view opens before us as we ascend & after a pleasant stay there of 1 ½ hours we returned at 8 P.M.

Sunday, September 9

Remained at Mr Adams Wrote several letters – one to Almeda & one to Mr. Eng

Monday, September 10

Wm Adams & his niece Mary Van Reed & Miss Vallie Adams & myself rode over to Swatona Furnace distant about 40 Miles – arrived at Mrs. Davenports about 8 ½ oclk P.M. having on our route crossed the celebrated Blue Mountains

Tuesday, September 11

Had a pleasant visit at Mrs. Davenports. Miss Rebecca & Amanda Davenport are both very excellent young ladies Mr Adams & self went fishing but with out any success.

Wednesday, September 12

Took a short ride & on invitation from Mr Jones Engineer on Dauphin & S R R a party of 8 of us took the cars for Cold Springs where we took a bath rolled ten pins. Had a fine dinner & returned to Swatona

Thursday, September 13

Mr Adams & Miss Rebecca Davenport in our buggy Miss Amanda D & Miss Mary Van Reed in another & Miss Vallie Adams & myself in another buggy took a ride to Pine Groves Lake Logan & c After we came back spent the evening very pleasantly singing & c

Friday, September 14

Having had a very pleasant visit at Swatona furnace our little company returned as we came to Cacoosing Valley near Reading taking dinner at Millers town on our way back Miss Rebecca D—accompanying us on our return

Saturday, September 15

We drove into Reading & made a short visit at Mr Henry Van Reed's returning returning to the residence of Mr Wm Adams Sen. in the evening

Sunday, September 16

Attended the Sabbath School of the Cacoosing Valley – Miss A—in absence of Mr Bill acting as superintendent in a highly creditable manner Miss D & William Adams, Miss Vallie Adams & self attended Church in Reading in the evening

Monday, September 17

I left my young friends at Mr Van Reeds in Reading where we staid last night & I took cars for Williamsport at 8 oclk Found Mr Hale & Wm Wilson awaiting me at the Depot in Williamsport. Mr. Wilson & I took a long walk to examine the Mills at Wmsport

Tuesday, September 18

At W—became acquainted with Miss Lizza Morrison & Miss Belle Epley two interesting young ladies. We left at 6 oclk P.M. for Elmira where we arrived 9 1/4 & put up at Haight Hotel

Wednesday, September 19

Saw Cousins Levi & Jesse Cooley Mary Harris &c Hired horse & carriage & took Mr & Mrs Wilson & Tom Hale & Jesse riding around the City & to Wats fair(?) grounds & c. Left at 4 ½ oclck for Buffalo & left Buffalo for Detroit on Buckeye State at 10 ½ oclck same evening

Thursday, September 20

On Lake Erie in Strm, Buck Eye state, Mrs. Wilson sea sick. Arrived at Detroit 4 oclck Left at 9 ½ P.M. for Chicago per M.C.R.R

Friday, September 21

Only got to Kalamazoo on account of breaking of the engines. While the locomotive was repairing Tom Hale & I went to get some breakfast & got left took next train at 3 ½ pm

Saturday, September 22

Got into Chicago last night put up at Briggs Home Bought some Harness, groceries &c to day Tom went home to day Mrs & Mr Wilson & myself laid over

Sunday, September 23

Mr Wilson & I went to church & heard a very good sermon I wrote to Vallie in the afternoon & to Brother Wm D. Knapp We left Chicago at 9 ½ p.m. for Burlington by R.R. Slept all night

Monday, September 24

Arrived at Burlington 8 oclck & took stage for Ft M-- Got home to dinner & found folks all well Henry has grown some & looks well

Tuesday, September 25

Busy writing &c all day. I find plenty of letters to answer Went up to Burlington this evening on the packet

Wednesday, September 26

Attended the Pomological(?) Convention at Burlington to day where I saw the finest collection of fruit that I ever saw much ahead of any fruit in the Eastern states Attended a lecture by Prof Barry in the evening

Thursday, September 27

Recd 2873.84 of Jnos W D Gilbert on lumber & left on "J(or I?) McKee" for home at 8 oclck

Friday, September 28

Engaged in the Banking House nearly all day. Paid Wm Wilson the 1400\$ which I got of him for K & E in N.Y.

Saturday, September 29

Fixing up cash a/c &c busy from morning till night. Attended Empire Lodge No. 31 I.O.O.H. in the evening

Sunday, September 30

Wrote several letters & bought this diary up to date, having neglected it for some time

Monday, October 1

Writing and assisting at the Banking House

Tuesday, October 2

Writing all day – answering letters &c

Wednesday, October 3

Attending the county fair at West Point – took the premium on Grapes

Thursday, October 4

Staid at the Banking House all day while John Douglass went to the county fair

Saturday, October 6

Getting ready for a start to the Pinery

Sunday, October 7

Attended Presbyterian Church Mr. McComb preached & I cannot see that he improves any or is at all likely to suit the community as a preacher

Monday, October 8

Left home for Burlington in Elsrode's carriage about 11 ocl'k I Atlee & J.R. Tillotson fellow passengers. At Burlington collected 600\$ from Gilbert & bought a pair of mules for 300\$ of Misses Echenock & Denise. Left for Dubuque 7 ½ ocl'k by RR

Tuesday, October 9

Arrived at Dunleith about 8 ocl'k A.M. Mr & Mrs Wilson got in the same train at Galena & took passage at Dunleith for Reads Ldg. On board the "Galena," I went over to D

Wednesday, October 10

Concluded to turn back & purchase lot of Flour grain & c and not go to the Mill this fall. Took cars for Galena in the evening Transacted some business with N CorSmith (?) and went to bed at the DeSoto House

Thursday, October 11

Left of Chicago in the morning train. Arrived about 7 ocl'k P.M. Heard Rev Henry Ward Beecher lecture in the evening at Metropolitan Hall. Stopped at the Briggs House

Friday, October 12

Went to the State Fair Grounds & saw much that was interesting Went out in the Omnibus & came back on my boat Heard Beecher again in evening

Saturday, October 13

Saturday 9 ocl'k left in the cars for home – Staid all night in Burlington Weather delightful

Sunday, October 14

On this beautiful morning left for home on the Jenny Lind – arrived – about 11 oclk. Wrote to Vallie

Monday, October 15

Assisted John in the Banking House & wrote to H Eno Esq Kate E Field &c

Wednesday, October 17th

Tuesday went to Burlington in stage. Dr Volnez(?) Spalding Jos McAlleney & Mrs. Mary J Deming were my fellow passengers. Road very dusty & weather mild. Took tea with J. W. Gilbert & saw his wife for the first time

Thursday, October 18th

Took passage on Strm Gen Campbell for R. Island & Davenport. Arrived there 5 ½ ocl'k – on the way up paid A Rife at Resthesburg(?) 300\$ on grain &c in shipping for us Left Davenport 7 ½ oclk on same boat

Friday, October 19

At Burlington this morning on board “Ben Campbell” Mr Eaton got on board on his return from a visit to Ohio – Arrived at Ft M—about 10 oclk Took Mr. Potwin & Dr Spalding riding also in the afternoon

Saturday, October 20

Rainy day – Dr. Spalding took tea with us & about 9 oclk went to Dr. Claypooles to a party as per invitation Came home about 12 P.M.

Sunday, October 21

Went to Episcopal Church

Monday, October 22

Left Ft Madison for Chicago & the East – Stage to Burlington &c in same evening 7 ½ oclk to Chicago – At Burlington rec'd check on Coalbaugh & Brooks from J. W. & W.D. Gilbert amt 1000\$ ____ (?) in them for 1100\$ Bal due me

Tuesday, October 23

Busy in Chicago purchasing some necessary articles for myself. Called on W. J. Hicox & Hawk (?) Douglass

Wednesday, October 24

Took cars of Mich Southern RR at 7:45 a.m. for Toledo &c did not make connections in Toledo & had to wait until next train at 2 ½ o'clock a.m. next morning. Stopped at the American

Thursday, October 25

Left Toledo about 3 o'clock a.m. & left Cleveland for Pittsburgh at 7:40 a.m. & Pittsburgh for Harrisburg @ 2:30 P.M. arrived at Harrisburg same night 1 o'clock Put up at the U.S. Hotel

Friday, October 26

Was awakened 4 ½ o'clock a.m. to take cars of Dauphin(?) Susquehanna RR having had about 3 hours sleep Arrived at Reading 8 ½ o'clock Called at Mr. H. Van Reed's and was agreeably surprised to find Vallie there

Saturday, October 27

At Mr Wm Adams. Called Miss Cooper in Reading & spent the evening with Mr C & Miss Gibson at Wm Adams

Sunday, October 28

Called on Mr Jacob & John Van Reed

Monday, October 29

Went into Reading for Beccie Davenport

Tuesday, October 30

Preparing for a start for home to-morrow In the evening took Vallie Adams to Reading – Spent the evening at Mr Henry Van Reed's—

Wednesday, October 31

At 8:12 o'clock this morning I was married to Miss Valeria Adams daughter of Hon Wm Adams of Lower Heidelberg Township Bucks Co Rev E. J. Richards performed the ceremony. Went to New York same day. Beckie & Will accompanied us

Thursday, November 1

In New York – myself & wife & William Adams Vallie's brother & Miss Rebecca Davenport visited the Crystal Palace &c &c

Friday, November 2

Drew 250\$ from Am. Ex Bk. Did some shopping &c Had likeness taken Left New York at 6 o'clock PM for Albany by boat

Saturday, November 3

Left Albany at 7 ½ o'clock a.m. for Niagara Falls arrived there at about 10 ½ o'clock P.M.

Sunday, November 4

We four went around to see the Falls on every side. Visited Brewing(?) Spring & Lindy & Luree(?) where the battle was fought by Genl Scott

Monday, November 5

William Adams left for Reading by C.N.E.R.R. via Elvira Williamsport &c & Miss Davenport & Vallie & I continued on West via the Great Western Railway through Canada Arrived at Detroit at 4 oclck

Tuesday, November 6

Left Detroit for Chicago at 9 ¼ A.M. – Arrived at Chicago about 9 ¼ P.M. Put up at the Briggs House

Wednesday, November 7

Took our leave of Chicago at 9 ocl'k a.m. for Burlington & arrived at Burlington 7 ¼ P.M.

Thursday, November 8

Took stage for Ft Madison. Weather being fine Arrived at home about 2 oclck & found our friends ready to welcome us home & little Henry very glad to see me

Friday, November 9

Took dinner at Dr. Rineharts with all our family Was occupied all the afternoon and evening at the meeting of the Rail Road Board

Saturday, November 10

Took Vallie & Beckie riding Have concluded to let my face go unshaved with the exception of the upper lip for the winter

Sunday, November 11

We all went to church this forenoon to Presbyterian Church Rev. Mr Cass preached. Spent the remainder of the day in reading, singing Church music &c &c

Friday, November 16

George Douglass & I went on to the Island hunting I killed four large Mallard ducks the first fire & brought home six altogether & one quail & an owl. George was not fortunate & got nothing

Sunday, November 18

Wrote to Mrs. Rice

Monday, November 19

Wrote to Stout, to Brusons(?) & Prettyman & A Rife. Sent Draft for amt of a/c's-- In the afternoon Vallie Beckie & myself went riding on horseback.

Thursday, November 29

John A Dougless (who came here on a visit from Chicago a day or two since) & I went hunting this P.M. up to Green Bay – We killed 6 prairie hens & got 4 of them We went to Sewing(?) society in the evening

Saturday, December 1

To day very warmer – Weather like May Thermometer stood at 70 degrees in the shade at 2 oclk P.M. It has been very warm for several days Vallie & I took a ride in the buggy this afternoon

Saturday, December 22

Weather turned very cold last night & thermometer 10 degrees below zero this morning. Has been mild & pleasant up to this time—

Sunday, December 23

Very cold

Monday, December 24

Thermometer 20 degrees below zero—

Tuesday, December 25

Took dinner at the McFarland House, Public dinner – many of the oldest citizens present

Sunday, December 30

W. B. Gregory & Co. Albany N.Y.

Sam Maker(?)

H. Q. Hawley & Co

Planning Mill

Albany

Very cold thermometer 23 below 0 –

Monday, December 31

Continues very cold

