

Erastus P. Williams' Diary – 1830
Transcribed by Steven Kung

January 1830

1st Friday: Last night went to Barnard to watch meetings, heard two sermons; and several hymns sung, and started for home at half past twelve. Very cold with a northerly wind.

2nd : Lathed the kitchen; new and hard work to me.

3rd Sunday: Went to the Bosworth school house to meeting. Mr. Dustin preached; strong south wind.

4th: Got a load of sand and mixed mortar.

6th : Plastered the room and lamed my shoulder. Mr. Fox sent for his cow.

8th : Went to spelling school this evening; G. Wilson attended; clear and cold northwest wind

9th : Went to Broad brook and got a roll of cloth, slept at Lyman's, and bought an axe.

10th :The snow fell about four inches, the first this winter.

11th: Drawd wood for Parker, harnessed the colt.

12th: Father settled with D. Bowen.

14th :Chopt for uncle David.

15th :Mother is fifty years old today and grandpa D seventy seven; Mr. Cheney died today; Drawed wood for Parker.

16th: Chopt for uncle D; very warm, poor sleighing.

17th : Sunday Mrs. Cheney was buried today. Mr. Marsh of reading preached.

23rd : Father and James went to Hanover.

24th Sunday, cold and clear; went to Mr. Waldo's this evening.

25th : Father returned with grandpa and left James; snowed all day, went to spelling school at Mr. Wheat's school house.

26th: Roswell drawed wood for father; Mr. Marden and his wife came here this evening; I went to Capt. Rix's after Isabel; very cold northwest wind.

29th : Uncle Thomas came here.

30th : The coldest day this winter.

31st : Grows moderate, have had very cold weather for near a fortnight past.

February 1830

1st: Snowed all day, there fell about four inches.

2nd: Clear and pleasant, drew wood for Parker.

3rd: Chopped for Uncle D.

4th: Aunt Kent's folks came here this afternoon, uncle David and Mr. Paige in the evening.

5th: Went to the Bosworth's this evening, very cold.

6th : Went to Mr. Lathrop's and got an iron made to put onto the sleigh.

7th Sunday: Clear and cold.

8th : Father went to Hanover, I went to Mr. Clapp's this evening, clear and cold.

9th : Father and James came from Hanover.

10th : At spelling school at Mr Bosworth's school house this evening; warm and cloudy.

11th : Went to Middlesex, very cold with west wind.

12th : Went to Mr. Skinner's in Moretown.

13th : Went to Mr. Wheeler's in Calais, and from there to Plainfield.

14th Sunday: Went to meeting.

15th : Went to Middlesex; a party at Uncle's tonight.

16th : Went to Mr. Goss's this evening.

17th : Returned to Royalton today.

18th : Went to the Paige's; Adeline is twenty four today; warm and pleasant.

19th : Mrs. Bosworth was buried today.

20th : Carried Mr. Adams's wagon wheels home.

21st Sunday: Very high winds, last night clear and warm today, the sleighing bad and in many places gone; went to the Bowen's this evening.

22nd : Stormy; went to spelling school this evening, had a good spell and got home at 11.

24th : Drawed wood, went to Mrs. Parkers.

25th : Mr. Clapp's folks came here this evening.

26th : Went to spelling school at Mr. Wheat's school house after school, we went to Mr. Wheat's.

27th : Chop for Dustin Bowen.

March 1830

1st: Went to town meeting. Saw Calvin Davis and agreed to work for him six months for 63 dollars.

2nd : Went to work for Dustin Bowen.

5th : Eunice Willis was buried today.

7th Sunday: Went to meeting, Mr. Washington preached from Joshua 24:15, toward night it began to rain.

8th : Rained all night.

9th : Chopped for D. Bowen, went to spelling school this evening, clear and pleasant.

11th : Snowed fast all day; uncle Benjamin is 48 today.

14th Sunday: Rained all night; warm and cloudy this morning with occasional shower.

15th : Worked for D. Bowen. Finished drawing wood.

16th : Went to Mr. Flinn's this evening.

17th : Stormy, finished work for D. Bowen.

18th : Went to Mr. Fuller's and engaged for half a month; very high winds, cooler.

19th : Went to Bethel and traded five dollars at May's store.

20th : Worked for Mr. Fuller.

21 Sunday: Very warm, sharp lighting this evening.

22nd : Gathered sap for Mr. Fuller.

23rd : Snowed fast; the snow fell about 8 inches.

25th : Remarkable circles round the sun.

26th : There fell about ten inches of snow today, the greatest fall of snow that we have had this winter.

27th : Cold and blistering, the wind makes the snow fly merrily, made ax helves for Fuller.

28th Sunday: Clear and cold with high winds.

31st : Rained fast, worked for Mr. Fuller.

April 1830

3rd : Finished working for Fuller.

4th Sunday: Clear and warm.

8th : Went to Bethel.

9th : Fast day, very warm with flying clouds.

10th : Russel Bowen moved today.

11th Sunday: Went to Broadbrook to meeting, Mr. Dustin preached.

12th : Went to uncle Nathan Davis's to work, there fell about two inches of snow last night, cold and raining, I split wood.

16th : Roswell Paige moved to Marshfield.

18th Sunday: The ground froze hard last night.

19th : Adeline started for M. today.

21st : Ploughed for P. Davis.

24th : Cold and rainy, I ploughed greensward.

25th Sunday: Cloudy and cold.

May 1830

1st: Clear and warm, Mr. Crane's barn was raised this afternoon, I went to the raising.

2nd Sunday: It began to rain in the night and rained all the morning.

3rd : Calvin went to Hanover.

8th : I went to Royalton this afternoon.

9th Sunday: Went to meeting, there was hard frost last night; very cold and dry for several days past.

10th : Calvin began to plant corn today.

13th : Cloudy and cool with some rain.

15th : Calvin sold his horse for \$300.

16th Sunday: Emily and I went to Barnard to meeting, Mr. Justin preached from 1st John 3,8 and Proverbs 8,17.

17th : It began to rain about 10 this morning and rained until dark.

20th : Finished planting, very strong south wind and some rain.

21st : Sheared sheep; Dustin Bowen came here this afternoon, very cold for the season.

23rd Sunday: Very hard frost last night, Mr. Hibbard was buried today.

26th : Calvin went to Woodstock.

28th : Calvin went to Bethel, I worked on the barn.

29th : Showery all the afternoon, moved the barn.

30th Sunday: I went home and read a letter from Adeline, Mr. Adams found his mare with one leg broken. Father and mother went to Hanover last week.

31st : I split wood, clear and cool for the season.

June 1830

1st: Cool and raining, training day. Daniel L. Lyman was chosen Captain. Stephen Hix [Hicks] Lieut. Joseph Davis Ensign.

2nd : I worked for P. Davis, warm wind.

3rd : Worked on the road.

5th : Lowered the barn and played ball, very warm with flying clouds.

6th Sunday: Rainy, Isabel came here last night.

7th : Rainy, it began to rain yesterday morning before light and rained 21 hours without intermission. Patten raised his house today.

11th : Calvin began to hoe corn today.

13th Sunday: Very warm; I went home and to my great surprise I found uncle Benjamin and aunt Phebe there; uncle had been gone 21 years from Royalton, and had not seen mother for almost 25 years.

14th : Father and uncle came here this afternoon, I hoed potatoes.

16th : Uncle Benjamin started for Michigan, Isabel started for Marshfield. James Woodbury's barn was raised today, it was a very heavy frame and took all day to raise it, very warm and pleasant with a smart shower this afternoon.

17th : Finished weeding corn, Calvin went to Royalton this afternoon.

18th : Roswell came here today.

20th Sunday: Rainy.

23rd : Uncle Nathan and Sally started for Saratoga Springs.

24th : Great Festival at Randolph.

26th: I am 21 years old today, I hoed potatoes and swaped knives with Calvin.

27th Sunday: Trained hard all the forenoon. I wrote two letters today, one to Adeline.

29th: Loretta Woodard was married today.

July 1830

1st : Loretta started for New York.

2nd : I finished hoeing.

4th Sunday: Went to Royalton to meeting, Mr. Washburn preached from Hebrews 13:3 "Remember them that are in bonds as bound, with them and them which suffer adversity

as being yourselves also in the body.” Daniel Morgan and others were taken into the church, Uncle Eleazor Davis is 46 years old today.

6th : Began to cut bushes on the other side of the branch.

9th : Began to mow, Uncle Nathan came home today, James went to Marshfield.

10th : Got in two loads of hay and went to Bethel and played ball this afternoon.

11 Sunday: Went to meeting at Bethel.

12th : Cut bushes.

14th : Mr. Foster came from Hanover and brought the news of Aunt Alpheda’s death, she died this morning of the lung fever.

15th : Went to Hanover; very warm.

16th : Aunt Alpheda was buried today, father is 52 years old.

17th : Went up on to Velvet Rocks this forenoon and started for home at 5 P.M.

18th : Got home last night about 12, went to Uncle N’s this evening.

22nd : Began to reap rye.

24th : We have got in 21 loads of hay this week, clear and very warm for the most of the time.

25th Sunday: Rainy.

26th : Rained hard all day; I fixed the stable.

27th Tuesday: This morning the west branch was four feet higher than ever it was known before the water carried off every bridge, mills and factory on the branch, two dwelling houses one store one blacksmith shop and one potash shop. on the west side of the mountain the freshet was much more severe than here in Royalton, one man in Montpelier, one and in New Haven, one woman and two children were drowned, I went to Bethel.

31st : I worked for C. Woodbury this afternoon reaping.

August 1830

1st Sunday: I went home, Mr. Clapp killed his ox today.

2nd: Finished mowing the upper side of the road.

4th: Worked for Woodard reaping wheat.

7th: Finished reaping W's wheat.

10th: Finished reaping oats.

14th: Finished reaping wheat.

15th Sunday: I went home, it rained.

17th: Frederick and Emily went to Hanover; I mowed on the point.

18th: Henriett is 19 years old today. Mother and Isabel went to Mr. Woodard's. I finished mowing.

19th: Calvin is 31 years old today. Began to plough.

21st: Finished drawing in grain.

22nd: Henriett came here today.

24th: Very sharp lightning last night with heavy thunder and rain. I thrashed rye this afternoon.

26th: Calvin finished ploughing west of the branch: cooler with signs of frost.

28th: Chopped wood, up the brook .

29th: Went to Royalton to meeting, Mrs. Dudley and three others were taken into the churches. Warm with thin clouds, it has rained every Sunday since May until today.

September 1830

1st: Chopped and burnt brush west of the branch, Roswell Paige and wife came here, I went to fathers with them .

4th: Began to log this afternoon, I went to father's this evening.

5th Sunday: I went to Barnard to meetin , Mr. Ward preached.

7th: Went to town meeting. F. Joiner, E. P. Nevins, R. Case, Wm. Waldo, C. Wheeler, myself and four others took the freeman's oath.

8th : Finished thrashing rye, rainy.

9th : Went to town meeting this afternoon.

11th : Harrowed on the new piece west of the branch, Mrs. Woodard was buried today.

12th Sunday: Cool and cloudy with a strong south wind, I went home with Henriett this evening.

13th : Picked corn below the barn.

15th : Finished cutting corn, James came from Middlesex and I went home with him

16th : Began to dig potatoes.

18th : Very hard frost this morning the first of consequence this fall.

19th : Took up bees this evening, I got strung on left wrist.

20th : My wrist swelled so that I was unable to work and I went home this afternoon.

22nd : Collected part of the summer school tax, the girls went to Mrs. Waldo's to a quilting.

23rd : Went to Uncle Nathan's and dug potatoes.

24-25th : Worked at the mill East Bethel.

October 1830

2nd: Finished digging potatoes.

3rd: Sally went to fathers.

5th: Finished working for C. Davis and went home, warned the militia this afternoon.

7-8th: Worked for J. Smith.

9th : Settled with C. Davis, he paid me ten dollars and Thomas gave his note for \$43.57 payable the 1st of Sept next.

10th Sunday: Mrs. Howard was buried this afternoon.

11th : Began to work for D. Williams for half a month.

13th : Finished logging: H. Davis and I sunk the hemp this morning.

15th : Heavy thunder and some rain, I went to Bethel and carried cloth from a coat: the river bridge in Bethel was raised this afternoon.

16th : Today the 50th anniversary of the burning of Royalton was celebrated by a large concourse of people. Mr. Washburn preached from Gen 32:10. Mr. Sprague delivered an oration.

17th : Mr. P. Paige was buried today.

19th : Began to lay wall near the new turnpike. I went to Bethel this evening and got my coat.

24th Sunday: I went to meeting. Mr. Wilcox preached from galatians 3:13th.

25th : Father went to Middlesex.

26th : Uncle D. finished ploughing. I husked corn in the barn.

27th : Finished a half months work for Uncle D. and engaged mother.

28th : Swapped horses with C. M. Adams and took his note for 10 dollars. Grandpa came home from Plainfield.

31st Sunday: I went to meeting. Mr. Fay was buried today.

November 1830

1st: Uncle D. took his hemp out.

2nd: Augusta is 13 years old today.

3rd: Mr. Tailor was ordained at Barnard.

5th: I broke the cart tongue drawing fencing timber.

7th Sunday: Went to meeting.

8th: Began to make log fence.

10th: Sullivan Waldo's house was raised this afternoon, Aunt Mary, William and Silas came from Plainfield today. Father gave me his note from 30 dollars from my colt.

13th: Wm. And Silas started for home.

14th: It began to rain last night about dark and rained all night and all day today.

19th: Finished work for Uncle D, went to P.S. Storrs to work.

22nd: The snow fell about 4 inches this morning, the first of consequence this fall, I thrashed wheat for S.

25th: Piled wood for Storrs today, rainy all day.

26th: Snowed fast last night and part of the forenoon today about 6 inches fell this time, the ground is not, and has not been froze this fall to prevent ploughing.

27th: I went to the Harbor in Barnard to a turkey shoot, 12 were shot.

28th Sunday: Mr. Pierce was buried.

29th: R. Waldo chopt for Storrs.

30th: Snowed fast all day, I piled wood until 11 and then went thrashing and finished Storrs rye, the snow fell about 8 inches.

December 1830

1st: I went to Uncle Nathan's and paid Patten .75 and Sally 2.87 cents.

2nd Thursday: Thanksgiving, I went to meeting, Mr. Washburn preached, I went to Mrs. Parker's this evening.

3rd: I went to Mr. Day's to a turkey shoot, only 5 or 6 were killed.

5th Sunday: Went to Barnard to meeting, continues warm the ground is not froze yet.

6th: Freeman's meeting, I went to a turkey shoot at the village, colder with signs of snow.

7th: Very cold and high winds, the ground is froze hard.

8th-9th: Chopped for Storrs.

11th: Went to the village and bought some cotton cloth of Lyman and had it charged to J. Storrs, This evening the Aurora Borelias shone very bright and made a very uncommon but grand appearance. Very cold and windy for some days past.

12th Sunday: Clear and windy, went to Esq. Cleveland's this evening.

14th: Cold and rainy.

16th: Worked for F. Dean chopping .

22nd: Very cold with a northerly wind, worked for Esq. Cleveland drawing wood.

23rd: Colder, I went home this afternoon.

24th: Went to Bethel Church to the Illumination this evening.

25th: Christmas, rained fast most of the day, the snow is mostly gone.

26th: Went to Mr. Bosworth's School house to meeting, Mr. Scott preached.

27th: Rainy, I worked for S. Cleveland killing hogs.

30th: Heman Gibbs and I drew wood for Esq. C.

31st: Rained fast all day, the river rises fast.