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AS THE YEARS PASS—THE DIARIES OF
SETH SHALER ARNOLD (1788-1871),
VERMONT

EDITED

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Editor, Proceedings

Rare are the Vermont diaries of long ago which reveal an accurate, intelligent, trained mind, unmoved by bias or prejudice, noting with understanding and sympathy as the years pass the little details of living and the greater events that have their hour beneath the uneven surface of community and sectional life. We are giving you excerpts from a series of diaries that cover 397 single-spaced typewritten pages in copied form. Beginning in 1809, Mr. Arnold faithfully recorded a wide range of incidents, including routine matters of daily living merged with comments touching on the great issues of birth and death. The task of selecting items for publication from such rich material seemed hopeless and was. What we have tried to do, facing the stern challenge of limited space, was to choose material that might be of some value in giving actual facts and points of view with regard to the social, economic, industrial, and religious life of Vermont during years of pronounced changes. Here, for instance, is the first clear picture known to us of the early silkworm-growing

dard—Mr. J. Goodridge worked one day on the fence; and if he charges \$1.50 it will just pay me what he owed me for a long time.

- June 4. Settled with Mr. Cragin for fitting old harnesses \$2—Settled with Mr. Newton for grinding Plaster Paris \$1.25
6. Washed the sheep—Sent to mill—
9. Rev. Mr. Lawton preached for me half the day & eve. We gave him \$11.05 for Seminary Carthage Illinois—
14. Finished shearing sheep, & sent to pasture 73 sheep & 32 lambs. Paid Mr. Pierce and Adams \$1 per day. Mr. Esty, & Mr. Jonas Newell & Maria came here. Adeline Ranney came to work. Sold Darius Fisher 2 bushels of corn & received pay—
20. I gave Rev. Mr. Gerould \$5.00 for Charlestown meeting house—and sold him my old horse for \$45.00—(omitted in its place)
26. Went to Bellows Falls—got the Confessions—and Paid Mr. Moore for printing the 500 copies \$29.10—Attended teacher's meeting.—Left at the Rev. Mr. Gerould's, for sale, 18 copies of the Sketches of Alstead, latest edition—at 25 cts. \$4.50
- Aug. 3. Paid Mr. Whittle for horse rake \$2.50, & Mrs. A. \$1 for belt—
23. Settled with Mr. French and paid him in full for his work \$28.00 Mr. Elisha Fish, Martha, and Mary came here, & staid till after dinner. The apple trees which I set in my land—numbering from North to South on the upper row first are as follows # 1st Roxbury Russet—2^d Orange Sweeting—3^d Roxbury Russet—4th Roxbury Russet 5th Roxbury Russet—6th None Such from Hubbardston—7th Lyscomb—8th Baldwin—9th Baldwin—10th Orange Sweeting—11th Sweet Russet, green, from Mr. Mc.Niel's—12th None Such 13th Aug. Sweeting—14th Pippin—15th Lyscomb—16th Pippin.)—
31. This morn. ½ past 6 Mr. Dan Willard was found dead in his slaughter house, having hung himself—hung so low that he might have stood on his feet & prevented death. I was on the jury of inquest, and it appeared that he was *sane*.
- Sept. 2. George Watkins bargained for 10 weathers at 2 dollars each—and took 4. He bargained for 10 lambs at 8 shillings each, and took 6.—To take the rest next monday.—
18. Sab. School Union held its meeting with considerable interest, of which I was chosen president. After noon the Consociation held its meeting. In consequence of the introduction of resolutions

pertaining to Antislavery the communion Sermon was put by, and immediately after the communion, a contentious debate was held, which appeared to do away all spiritual feeling and comfort, and I should think would be an injury to the good feeling and union of christians in the great work of saving souls.—By these hindrances obliged to stop over night.—

- Oct. 7. Made some calls, and returned home by the way of Bellows Falls about 1 o'clock P.M.—Esq. Chandler said he would pay father's fire insurance tax at MontPelier and I am to see him repaid when he returns. I received father's pension of Mr. Wentworth \$37.33 and paid over \$7.33 & sent \$30.00 to Brot. Joel by mail.
8. Formed Musical Society—I was chosen president. The annual meeting is to be on the wednesday preceeding the full moon in March.—
10. Bought 3 trees of the alpine Mulberry of A. Hills & set them with the multicaulis in the cellar next to the wall on the west side. Paid Mr. Thrasher my tax for the old meeting house \$4.44 on condition that the suit goes forward—
18. Finished thrashing India wheat—
21. Had my teeth cleaned, conversed with Mr. Barbour and returned home about noon. In the afternoon went to make a visit to Mr. Joseph Ranney's with Mary Ann, Sophia, & Olivia; and after an agreeable visit, and returning home met with a dreadful disaster—Our carriage turned over, and nothing but the merciful interposition of God saved our lives—The horses ran and tore the carriage all to pieces, though it did not appear to injure them. The Lord be praised even under the severe loss of a valuable carriage—nearly \$200
24. Got the Select men to examine the road & my broken carriage—
25. Sold the remains of my carriage to Mr. Ewing for \$65.00—(I am to have the privilege of buying it back when repaired at the expense of repairing) which we calculated might be about \$66.00—Went to the falls—
27. Preached at Saxton's River—Invited Mr. Guilford to preach for me a third service (a baptist minister) text II Cor. 4: 17.18.—
30. Mr. Solomon Mack said he would let me have spruce floor boards an inch thick at \$9 per 1000 and $\frac{3}{4}$ of inch at \$6.50 per 1000. clap boards at \$8 lath hemlock at \$4. and shingles hemlock prime $1\frac{1}{3}$ per 1000; & I am to write to him in a fortnight or he will

- not depend on me.—Went to Mr. Fishes & bought 100 Mulberry trees and returned home. Paid my taxes at Gilsum up to this date—to Dr. Webster 89 cts. and to Mr. Hayward, highway 24 cts.—
- Nov. 4. I cleaned stoves &c—in the eve. with my family attended Mr. Stratton's lecture on electricity. Agreed to exchange stoves with Mr. Warner.—
5. Went to Walpole and exchanged stoves with Mr. Warner and paid him the difference—
 8. Sold Orin Wells 4 sheep skins for 50 cts. each & one for 34 cts = \$2.34—
 13. Engaged a winnowing mill of Mr. Town for \$9.00 to be delivered at the bridge at Walpole—Returned home. Council to meet at Capt. Whites 27th of Nov. morn. Ch'h meeting last friday in December 2 P.M.

Here ends Note-book No. 1027. The next book follows without break in numbering or in date: "No. 1028. Journal 1839. & 40 Dec. 12, 1840." D.C.W.

- Dec. 7. Maj. Jennison & Charles Livermore called on me—also Mr. Burroughs who took the plan of my house & engaged to make the doors and sashes—same as they can be had at the factories.—
13. Got horses shod—In the eve. attended a sort of inquiry meeting for professors and those who indulge hopes—Nearly all professors pledged themselves to pray for & converse with some individual who had been awakened—and a number of those who had indulged hope, & had not made a profession agreed to pray for and endeavour to persuade some impenitent sinner to become a christian.
 17. Did not snow much in the last night—but cloudy this morning—Snow fell nearly 2 feet on a level—much drifted—Spent nearly all day breaking roads—with two hands, oxen and horses—
 20. Butchered 4 hogs and 1 cow—
Weight of hogs 1213 $\frac{1}{4}$
 24. Settled with Mr. Tudor for 70 bushels of clover chaff-seed & paid him \$12.60. took his receipt.—Agreed with Mr. Kilburn, as acting for Mr. Guild, to make window blinds at \$1.25 per window, 3 cross pieces, good timber & work,—also good cherry window sashes at 14 cts. per light and oil them—the lights to be 10 inches by 14. Also to make the window frames without pullies for one dollar each—with pullies \$1.43—

I am to have my claim allowed in full, and to pay the remainder in produce.—

1840

- Jan. 6. Went to Saxton's River—Carried up 8 bushels of India wheat, which yielded 20 lbs of flour to the bushel and a trifle over—Dr. Severance stopped one of my teeth.—
13. Began to get clay for bricks—
14. Made a settlement with Wentworth & Bingham. Saw Mr. Granger, who said he would saw long timber for \$4 dollars a hundred—shorter for \$3.50 Rafter and joists at board measure at \$6 per 1000.—
16. Mr. B. returned home before noon—Mr. Alvord called on his return home—Killed 5 pigs—very cold in the morn. 25 degrees below zero—
17. Very cold 30 degrees below zero just before sunrise on the east side of hou. . .
26. Preached twice at Westmoreland, on exchange with Mr. Alvord—Very few at meeting, partly on account of the Small pox being introduced to the place by Mr. Horace Starkey.—
- Feb. 4. Went to Brattleboro to meet with the Windham Association—Bought things for preparing door bell. Musical convention formed—chose a committee of 7 to prepare a constitution and report at Townsend 18th inst 2 o'clock P.M.—Committee S.S. Arnold, Rev. C. Walker, Rev. Mr. Coburn, Rev. Mr. Graves—Mr. Holbrook of Brattleboro—Mr. Park of N. Fane, and Dr. Allen of Putney—as Chairman of the Committee they depend on me to prepare a constitution.
- Next meeting of the Asso. at West Brattleboro 1st Tuesday in May at 12 o'clock—I was appointed substitute preacher.—A plan of a sermon to be presented by all on Isai. 5:4.—Mr. Phillips thought he should want me to preach for him 2 sabbaths in May—and Mr. Walker 2 sabbaths in June—
6. Mr. Brooks of Walpole came and took a load of rye straw for Maj. Grant. The Maj. is to pay \$3.00 per ton—
12. Paid Mr. Warner \$2.00 for repairing & cleansing watch. Bought bell 37 cts. & paid—engaged one ton of plaster Paris of Mr. Bufum—for \$15.00 to be paid when I can conveniently.—Attended singing school—and the monthly meeting of singing Choir.—
17. Went into the woods, & marked trees for Mr. Smith and Ahaz to cut.—

18. Went to Townsend with Ambrose—Formed a musical Society—
I was chosen president—
 19. Returned home, about 1 o'clock P.M.
 21. Mr. Town took the pay in full for the winnowing mill I bought
of him.—In the evening Capt. Titcomb had the singers at his
house through the instrumentality of young Jo. Goodridge, and
used means to prejudice the singers against Mr. Alvord's instruc-
tions.
 22. This day 52 years old—In reflecting upon the day and year past,
I feel humbled that they have been spent no better.—
 23. Attended divine service under Mr. Batchelder's preaching—well
satisfied—attended a temperance lecture in the evening by Mr.
Laws a universalist at the old meeting house. The principles of
it good—entire abstinence from all that intoxicates.—
 25. Attended singing school in the eve. Mr. Alvord did not come
through mistake—
 26. Mr. Alvord came—staid with us over night. I drew 3 loads of
ice—Carried waggon wheels to Mr. Whittles—
- March 2. Went to Paper mill village—Bought one ream of paper at
\$3.50—Settled with Esq. Hatch two years interest on my fund
note \$3.60 paid—Ascertained at the sash factory, at Drewsville
the price of sashes & doors—The price of doors with 4 pannels, &
without mouldings 8 shillings, & with 9 shillings. The work-
man said the timber was worth 50 cts. a door. The out side door
2 inches thick; & 5 or 6 pannels \$2.25.—Window sashes 1¼
inch thick 10 inches by 14.—5 cts per light. The timber worth
a cent per light.—
3. Attended town meeting. The article for giving me damage for
the loss of my carriage on account of the badness of of the road,
came up, and after a variety of remarks was voted to be passed
over and dismissed by 36 votes to 24.—
 6. I went to Charlestown, to see Mr. Harlow about making some
brick.—He will come and begin the 1st of August, and sooner if
he can.
 10. Nathaniel Munroe agreed to work for me one year beginning the
5th day of this month. I am to give him the time that he is obliged
to train and muster. If I can conveniently get the money without
borrowing, I am to pay him one half at the end of six months.
But if I borrow and pay him half at that time, he is to pay the
interest till the year closes.—

13. This morning Mr. Samuel Carpenter aged 54 committed suicide by cutting his own throat with a razor. Called to see the family after noon. In the evening singers met at my house.
14. Mr. Wilcox paid his note, and returned home.
16. Drew 200 bricks from Mr. McNiels—
23. Returned home. Raphael the frenchman commenced work for 7 months at \$10.00 per month.
24. Began to snow—snowed all day & became very cold at night—
- April 17. Drew 5 loads of brick from Noah Hatches 600 hundred
 $448 + 456 + 574 + 675 = 2753$ Paid 5 dollars—50 cts still due.
25. Transplanted—walnut 5 trees—Mulberry trees and plumb trees, all are purple plumb from Mrs. Fairbank's garden except the two rows in the north garden next to the goosberrys, and those are white from Joseph Kingsbury's garden
- May 14. Planted mulberry trees.—Made no account of use of oxen to day by Ambrose because it is exchange work—
22. Bought a hat of Mr. Harris at \$3.50—to be paid for in oats at 42 cts if I please—
26. Worked on High ways—Paid Mr. Gould my state tax \$5.54
- June 12. Sheared sheep 75—195 lbs & 13 ozs. of wool.
23. Musical association of Windham Co. met here—For the deficiency of notice a very thin meeting of the Society but a full congregation.—Chose Rev. Mr. Barbour Secretary pro. tem. Next meeting to be in this place in connexion with the aniversaries. Mr. Welman—myself & Mr. Batchelder gave note to Mr. Prescott of \$75.00 for the Seraphine, which is to be for an instrument of common finish with 3 keys less than this. The same finish of $3\frac{1}{2}$ octaves is offered for \$60.00 and fine finish for 75.
24. Gave my note to Mr. Prescott for 15 dol's, and paid him 5 dols in cash for the seraphine exhibited here. On seeing Mr. Warner, he said he had bought it and paid for it, & was not willing to give it up and take another instead unless he should like it as well. Finally would not engage to take another—but would take the notes for it and enough to make \$100.00—He is to take this back with a reasonable compensation for the use, if some other arrangement cannot be made.
- Monroe sprained his ankle in the eve.—
- July 4. Fair—attended Sabbath celebration More than 500 scholars. All was pleasant.—

8. Mr. M. went to work. Daniel Webster came to B. Falls & made a speech.—
20. Munroe went to Alstead and got the machine for making brick, and carried 4 bushels of rye to pay for it. Mr. Harlow began work.
22. Bought half barrel of molasses.
23. Broke mortar mill.—
31. Mr. T. Cone paid me \$10.50 as full pay for Sophia's teaching school this summer.
- Aug. 18. Exchanged 5 half eagles at B. Falls bank for bills—am to have the same again if they have them in bank—
19. 3 cows of Mr. Stoddards began to go in my mowing lot—and 1 day before went in the jethro lot.—
24. Sold two heifers for 16 dollars a piece to Mr. Aldrich. He took one today and paid over 15 dollars—is to take the other next week, and then to pay the remaining 17 dollars.
31. Henry Hitchcock began work for one month at 12 dollars—if it should be good weather. If there should be considerable foul weather a deduction is to be made—
- Sept. 2. Rev. Mr. Cooke left for home this morn. Attended the funeral of Mrs. Luther Richards aged 48—who killed herself night before last by suffocating with charcoal. This is the 3^d funeral of a suicide I have attended in this parish within about one year
8. Bought the Odeon of Mr. Rust 5/ Paid
11. Carried our Seraphine to the meeting house, and had a singing school in the eve.
15. Meeting of the anniversaries commenced at 10 oclock A.M. by Sermon from Mr. Fuller. County Bible Society held its meeting—After noon Domestic & Foreign Miss. So. held their meetings, addressed by Mr. Clark & Mr. Delano. In the eve. Education Society held its meeting. Mr. Kinney & wife & Mr. Clarke stopped over night.
19. Went to Walpole, & bid off carriage at auction and gave my note to Mr. Stewart for \$100.00 90 days.—Rev. Mr. Batchelder called & took Subscription paper for Seraphine.—
24. Mr. Stoddard's cows stopped going in my pasture.
28. Mr. Harlow finished burning bricks just at night.
- Oct. 13. I engaged Bro. Joel to deliver his mulberry trees to the boat at Hartford for \$11.00 if there be 10,000, or to pay him in the same proportion for a less number; and to turn it in paying

for the grave stones here. The large set to be that sum. & I am to have the old stones for one dollar.

15. Mr. Rust agreed to teach Singing school in this county one year.
17. Finished getting corn into the barn.—
26. Last night snow fell 6 inches—Mr. Stratton had 100 choice bricks. Mr. Kittridge came to work on the oven. Went to Walpole with Claudius and Caroline. to see wild beasts.
- Nov. 9. Stormed all day. Mr. Burges had my horse and waggon to go to Grafton.—
12. Mr. Burges came back intoxicated a little after noon, & quit.—
19. Agreed with Mr. Mansfield to prepare the pillars, or columns of my house 4 in number, with caps all ready to put up for 20 dollars, or 5 dollars each—
Also the door casings with mouldings both sides for 50 cts. a door—
Also the doors cased one side, and the window-casings with mouldings for 2 shillings each—
Also the jut, and 26 feet across the heads of the pillars for 8 cts. a foot making about 156 feet—
20. Got a parlour stove and put it up. Paid Fenelon for making cider, —the use of the mill this year, 62 cts.
28. Mulberry trees came to hand from my brother.—
29. Attended meeting—expected to preach for Mr. Batchelder, but did not, on account of his not going to Fayetteville.
30. Mr. Rust stayed with us last night. Went to Rockingham with Doct. Safford as committee of the Consociation.
- Dec. 7. Fair today—District School began—Mr. Bingham has engaged 12 tierce of lime for less than \$2.25 per tierce—
10. Attended the funeral of W^d Norton aged 96 last October.—Sent a letter to Brot. Joel with a ten dollar bill enclosed on Con. River Bank Charlestown—as pay for mulberry-trees—
12. Mr. Mansfield came and looked out some boards—I sent them over by Monroe. I let out the job of framing and erecting my house, wood shed and barn to Mr. Burroughs. House \$30.— wood shed 15. & barn 25. = \$70.00 He is to have the work done as early as possible in the spring—

Here ends Note-book No. 1028. The annals go forward at once in "No. 1029. Journal 1840—Dec. 13 1841—Oct. 18." D.C.W.

14. Butchered 5 hogs—weight 1312 lbs.

- Jan. 1. Settled with Mr. Grout for 20 lbs. of butter—paid him \$3.00.
5. Called on Mr. Sage, who has been sick above a week—now better. The people hauled Mr. Batchelder wood, about 20 loads. I sent him a load. In the eve. visited Oril Gould with Mr. A. Walls. It was a friendly interview; but she said that she could not walk with the Ch'h, and wished to be out.
9. A very great freshet—the water set up across the road higher than ever known.—At the highest last night—8th.—
25. Mrs. Arnold very ill this morning—& Doct. Safford came here.—
27. Mrs. A. more comfortable, but very feeble. Mr. Cady and son came at night. Mrs. A. confined to her room.—
28. Mrs. A. comfortable in the forenoon.
At noon, I started for the West P., to attend the concert. There was a very full meeting—Quite acceptable performance. I gave the address in the form of a sermon. Returned immediately, and got home before dark. Mrs. A. was taken more ill soon after I went away, & Doct. Safford was called.—Rev. Mr. Foster and myself were chosen a committee to make arrangements for the next concert.—
29. Mrs. A. rested tolerably well last night, & feels something refreshed this morning.—Melinda Stoddard watched here last night.—
Sister Perkins came from Andover.
30. Mrs. A. rested a little fore part of the night—But after 10 o'clock she required fanning for breath till morning. This morning about 10 o'clock she had a very distressed turn. Mr. Rust called. Miss N. Stoddard came to assist us. Mr. Barbour & wife called—He paid me \$24.00 interest on his brothers note. I wrote to Sophia to come home & enclosed \$10.00.
31. Requested public prayer for Mrs. A. She was more comfortable through the day—I did not attend public worship.—
- Feb. 1. Melinda Stoddard came here to day. Esther watched here last night. Mr. Batchelder called and made a prayer.—Mrs. A. distressed by times through the day. Mrs. H. and Melinda watched—Thought Mrs. A. was dying—called me, and the girls.
2. Mrs. A. appeared to be more comfortable most of the day—A little before 9 o'clock in the eve. Mrs. Reuben Stoddard came to

- Watch in company with Mary Ann. Mrs. A. was more easy, and died without a struggle at 12 o'clock at night.
3. Sophia arrived from South Hadley about 6 o'clock this morn.—Mrs. Ruben Stoddard, and Melinda came to assist us—I paid the man for bringing Sophia from Brattleboro \$3.50—
 4. Mrs. Arnold's funeral was attended at the house 2 o'clock P.M. Rev. Mr. Batchelder made the prayer—Read the 11 chapter of John—Sung 230th select hymn—"Unveil &c. Rev. Mr. Jackson attended, and a large assembly.—
13. Sent papers with the notice of Mrs. Arnold's death to the Post office to Mary S. Matthews Colon—St. Joseph's Co. Michigan. and to others—11 in number.
- March 9. Carried pine sashes for 18 windows to Mr. Walter Taylor at Bellows Falls He agreed to stain them and set the glass for 4½ cents per light, and find putty and oil. Carried also Cherry sashes for 9 windows, & 2 for the sides of the door. These he agreed to set for 3½ cts. per light, & find all. He is likewise to transport the sashes after the glass is set to my house, & warrant they should not be broken; and to take brick for pay at \$4.50 per 1000—Got razor sharpened—
11. Musical convention held at at Bellows Falls—Mr. Benj. Smith made us a visit—Singing school in the evening—
 29. Began to snow—rode horse back—very uncomfortable—Saw Mr. Cooke at Acworth—got home just before night.—
 30. Went on the plain—had Kettle mended.
 31. Mr. Ewing brought over secretary, table, carpet, six chairs, parlour stove, wheelbarrow &c.—Also about 500 feet of boards—If Mr. Ewing pays Mr. Peck the note I gave—the note and interest is to be endorsed on his note to me. Settled with Mr. Howland—
- May 1. Received two letters from South Hadly informing of Sophia's dangerous sickness.
4. Got mulberry trees at Mr. Russel's and Mr. Davises—
 5. Mr. Burroughs began framing—Mr. Pratt and Bragg worked on the cellar wall. Received a letter from Mary Ann.—
- June 15. Let John May have 400 select bricks delivered to James Tower at 65 cts per 100 \$2.60—Joseph Goodridge began work—offered to give Lyman Stearns 5/3 per day.
22. Received a letter from Mary Ann stating that Sophia is a little more comfortable. Mr. Cole agreed to make 27 Window springs

- at 8 cts each—Paid Mr. Reuben Stoddard 83 cts. for work one day—
24. Received a letter from Dr. Hastings informing that Sophia would not probably live many days.—Much rain in the afternoon.
 25. Started with Olivia for South Hadley. Went to Bloody Brook 48 miles. Very little rain through the day.
 26. Rained fast in the morn. arrived at South Hadley a quarter before 9 o'clock A.M. & found Sophia living but very low. I was introduced to Esq. Hubbel and wife of N.Y. & Mr. Wheeler of Conway.
 27. Rev. Mr. Kellogg of Portland Maine preached for Mr. Condit in the forenoon (aged 80) I preached afternoon. Sophia continued about the same.—
 28. Sophia's birth day.—She failed & about 9 o'clock in the eve. it was thought she was dying. She had periodically turns of hard breathing through the night. Her breathing became more regular about 5 o'clock, and easy and without a groan $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6, and till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 in the morn. when she ceased to breath without a single struggle, or sound.—
- She was then committed to the charge of Mrs. Hawks & other ladies of the village who laid her out and put her in the coffin afterwards in a very decent manner.—The funeral Services were performed by the Rev. Mr. Condit at the Seminary Hall in a very appropriate manner when the 571 village hymn was sung. *In vain my fancy strives to paint, &c.* The corps was interred at sunset, and the hymn "Thou art gone to the grave" sung in the burying ground.—All the members of the Seminary appeared to be deep mourners.
30. I settled the Doctor's bills \$68.50 and other expences amounting to about \$100.00 and started for home about 10 o'clock A.M. amidst the sympathies of the whole school. Left \$2 with Mr. Condit for grave digger.—
- July 1. Arrived at home about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 o'clock P.M. Found my mother quite sick; but some better than she had been.—The whole amount of extra expences resulting from sickness for 10 weeks past besides time and horse use is about \$142.56—
5. Returned home—agreed on an exchange with Mr. Edwards sabbath after next. In the eve. Mother appeared to be dying.—
 11. Sab. morn. *Died*, Esther Arnold, my mother, a few minutes past 7 o'clock. She had been in much distress, but died easily.—She

would have been 77 years old the 28th day of this month—Attended meeting at Westminster—Put up a note for prayers on account of Sophia's death Mr. Batchelder preached and affecting sermon to the youth on Heb. 11:4. last clause.—after noon Job 21:4.

12. Fair day—Commenced haying—Mr. Ewing moved into my house. Mother's funeral was attended 2 O'clock P.M.—

13. Brot. Smith and wife returned home. Settled with D.A. Hills for mother's coffin—plate, trimings and all. \$9.

16. Father was taken sick last night. Posponed going to Acworth till saturday

17. Father considerably better—Went to Acworth just at night.—

Aug. 4. Mr. Thrasher came here, and demanded the pay on a note given to Joseph Goodridge—(expressly on interest after 3 months,) that he might draw interest sooner—which appears to me very mean and oppressive. It is what I would not do to any man and there are not many that would do it.

29. Sab. Expected to have been at Unity & to have administered the Sacrament of the Lord's supper. But in consequence of ill health am kept at home, where I have had opportunity for a serious review of my life. I find much reason for the deepest humiliation and repentance before God. I earnestly pray the Lord, for Jesus' sake, to forgive all my past offences, and help me to resist temptation—to overcome every evil propensity and habit—and to forsake every thing that is sinful in his sight. I pray that he would not take away that wisdom, and other graces so necessary for usefulness, for which I early prayed, nor leave his blessed cause to suffer by any thing I have done, or shall do—nor, if it be consistent with his righteous government, leave me to folly, disgrace and ruin.

Knowing that the greatest and only safety for the cause of Christ, and even for myself, is in the Lord; and that this safety is most effectually secured by trusting the whole, in the way of obedience, to his merciful disposal and controul; I do now renewedly and prayerfully consecrate myself to him and his service; and desire and supplicate that his Spirit would strengthen my purpose of heart to do his whole will—that the blood of Jesus may ever be applied for the pardon & purifying of my soul, and that the merciful providence of God may keep and guide me through life, in safety and usefulness.

31. Started a journey for Connecticut with Mary Ann, Olivia and Caroline. Attended the dedication of the new meeting House at Putney, and took dinner at Mr. Grouts. Went on to Bernards-ton, and stopped at Thayer's tavern—Some rainy to day.
- Sept. 1. Went to Deerfield to breakfast—Went to Amherst—to the College—went to South Hadley—to the grave of dear Sophia. After stopping about 2 hours went to Springfield. Stopped at Chapin's tavern.—
2. Morn. Saw the cars start off at 6. oclock Went to Mr. Avery's to breakfast—Mr. Avery and daughter went with us to the Armory. Went through Sommers, Elington, Vernon to An-dover—(pleasant riding) Stopped with Brot. Perkins.
9. Saw at Norwich—Steam boat Charter Oak, Cars pass—Training, (as also at Colchester) Mr. Charles Rockwell's garden the falls—the grave of the chief *Uncus*, at the foundation of whose monu-ment Pres. Jackson was present. Brot. Joel met us at Norwich, and we were accompanied by the politeness of Rev. Mr. Sykes.— (We stopped at the Franklin house at N.) We passed through the Mohegan tribe of Indians on our way to New London where we arrived a little before night. We went across the Thames in a horse boat to Groton & went to the top of the monument near fort Griswold about the setting of the sun. Returned and went to Mr. Chapel's, to tea and to spend the night —leaving my horses at the city Hotel.
10. Regiment trained before Mr. Chapel's door. Went into a Whale ship of about 3 or 400 tons, drawing over 17 feet water—Dined at Mr. Chapel's and went through Chesterfield and Salem to Col-chester.
11. Sat. Rested at Brot. Joel's.
12. Sab. Preached 1st and 3^d service.
13. Morn. Appearance of rain—stopped on that account—No rain—
14. Fair. Went through Marlboro, Glastenbery, & East Hartford to Hartford. Went to the Market, Assylum for Deaf & dumb,—to Washington College—the Retreat—& into the Episcopal stone Ch'h. by the politeness of Mrs. Tudor. Went to Windsor and stopped over night.
15. Went to Suffield to breakfast—at the tavern kept by Mr. Lewis, where I came away and left a pretty good coloured silk handker-chief—Went to Deerfield—

16. Returned to Westminster about 5 o'clock P.M. Having fair weather,—a very pleasant and prosperous journey throughout. We have great cause of thankfulness to the Lord for his goodness and mercy towards us—found the family well at home—
- Oct. 3. Preached at Procter'sville—United with Mr. Prouty (Methodist minister in the Services of the day, he preaching once & I once, & held a conference in the eve.—

Here ends Note-book 1029 of the tragic year in which Mr. Arnold lost his wife, his daughter and his mother, as well as his aged divinity teacher, Mr. Sage. The record continues in "No. 1030. Journal 1841. Oct. 18. To. Nov. 1, 1842." D.C.W.

- Nov. 4. Went to the Funeral of one of the Canadians.—Put up the mulberry trees—Inclosed \$10.00 in letter to Brot. Isaac—
8. Snow storm—Returned home through Lempster—Next Friday is fast at Lempster.—
9. Went with Mr. Gage to look at timber He is to have one tree at 60 cts per 100 ft. and the other two at 75 cts per 100 ft. calling it $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick.
12. Stormy—made 2 family visits, & attended an antislavery meeting in the evening—lecture by Mr. Miller at the centre school house—Stopped at W. Putnam's over night.
14. Preached twice at the Baptist meeting house and administered the Sacrament of the Lord's supper—Mr. Sperry and Mr. Sherwin were at at meeting.—Rev. Mr. Brialy gave an excellent temperance address in the evening.
17. Pleasant morn. Attended the dedication of the Methodist meeting house. Elder Perkins preached from "By whom shall Jacob arise." &c Made one family visit.
25. Butchered 3 hogs weight 933 lbs—Paid Mr. Pitcher 50 cts for butchering—Snowed just at night.—Advertised calf & 2 sheep which had been here 4 weeks—
26. Mr. Barker took a beef cow at \$16.00
and 50 sheep at 1.00 each = \$50.00

Total \$66.00

To be paid soon—soon as his son gets back from Boston. Stormy. Received bounty on cocoons of Dr. Safford \$19.60 and paid over to Mr. Peck \$20.00 endorsed on my note to Mr. Ewing—Signed an application and note of \$18.00 to Windham Co. Fire insurance company, on \$400.00, on my house & woodshed—be-

- ing $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent—54 cts. to be paid, being 3 percent on the note—
- Dec. 9. Carried Mrs. Ewing, her meal & got her some more coal, for the whole of which she paid.—
18. Started for Unity with waggon borrowed of Mr. Sargeant—I found the snow deeper as I drew near Unity, and the weather severely cold—In almost a perishing condition I stopped over night with old Mr. John McClure of Acworth.
20. I made one family visit—called on a sick woman—Mr. St. Claire gave a lecture in the eve. After lecture the three denominations Con. Bapt. & Meth. consulted about a protracted meeting—and adjourned to Wednesday eve.—

1842

- Jan. 7. Started for Cavendish. Paid Esq. Allbe my tax for repairing the school house \$5.18—Went to Chester and stopped over night.
17. Visited 2 families and attended temperance conference in the eve.—
18. Visited 3 families and went to Claremont In the evening attended a temperance meeting there—very interesting—Reformed men spoke.
- Feb. 2. Brot. & Sister S. returned home. I attended Ch'h meeting at W. & temperance lecture in the evening by Doct. Larnard
3. Attended temperance lecture of Dr. L. I led in prayer—
22. Returned home and attended temperance meeting in the eve. This day 54 years old—O, how rapid the wheels of time—and how little have I done for my Saviour.
- March 2. Rains some—Bought 1 bushel of herds' grass seed \$3.37— & 12 lbs of clover \$1.80 = \$5.17—Paid—to Fenelon.
31. Sent Kimbal Cobb 9 bushels of corn and \$2.25 in money for the damage of my sheep on his rye last summer. Paid Kimbal Cobb yesterday \$2.75 for the labor of himself and team last winter $\frac{3}{4}$ of a day.—Merancy Hunt & Mrs. Amanda Arnold came visiting P.M. Bought a piece of beef of Mr. Pitcher—His weight 9 lbs. my weight 8 lbs. 13 ozs at 6 cts.
- April 6. Settled post office bill to this date.—Mr. Willard Wilson came—but did not accept my proposals for the silk making.—
7. Left silk worm's eggs at Dr. Saffords in his ice house.—
12. Visited Mr. Chases—Mrs. C. being sick—Stopped last night here.—Went on to Newport, and found brothers Wait and Mason at Mr. Woods. By request heard the matter talked over, that la-

boured between Brothers Woods & Mason. The difficulty seemed to result from a want of consideration, & from misunderstanding. Satisfactory concessions were made and the parties became reconciled, with an agreement, on both sides, that they would endeavour to do away the very evil consequences that had grown out of the case. Called at Mr. Amos Gleason's silk factory. Also on Mr. Joseph G. Hoyt.—

13. Went to Claremont, and called on Mr. Dexter the silk grower, who, with his agreeable wife, treated me with great kindness and christian courtesy.
 20. Listers came and took an account of property.—Two horses \$150 —Carriage \$75—14 acres of land.
 21. Sent nine (9) dollars to Mr. Gerould by Mr. Green. Paid ten dollars on Mr. Rockwood's note—Paid for crossing the bridge last year \$5. and \$2. for crossing the year to come.—Carried half ton of Plaster Paris to the mill—Saw Mr. William Bellows about Mr. Ewing's case,—Mr. Gage had 177 feet of ash timber at 60 cts per hundred—and 382 feet at 75 cents per hundred.—to be on interest from the 6th of December—\$3.93 about
 23. Mr. Stoddard got Plaster Paris—I paid half of grinding to Mrs. S. Planted mulberry trees—Alpines.—
 30. Went to Cavendish—made 2 family visits and preached sacramental lecture in the Methodist meeting house—Bought 14½ yards cotton \$1.60 paid—
- May 1. Preached twice at the Baptist meeting house and administered the sacrament of the Lord's supper. Sent an appointment for Mr. Wellman to Plymouth for next sabbath.
2. Returned home.—Left the money for foreign and Domestic missions with Gen. Washburn to be sent to the treasurers \$6.00 to Foreign missions, & \$4.25 to Home missions—all that was subscribed in Cavendish.—
19. Paid Mr. Brown for varnish 31 cents.—Went to Bellows Falls to engage Mr. Pratt to lay wall—Brought Sarah Hills to visit & sent her back—Bought 12 fish (ail-wives) of Maj. Page
- June 3. Mr. David Foster, by agreement between Allen Wells and myself judged on the difference between my horses and a lame mare of Mr. Wells. He decided \$200. But Mr. Wells would not stand to his bargain.
14. Sold my horse to Allen Wells who sent me \$25—of the 75 which he is to give.—

18. Mr. Gleason said he would manage my silk business and give me the bounty, on half of the whole.—Mr. Benson did not come, nor Mr. Bruce. Went to the West Parish.—Took Mr. Nuttings horse.
27. Returned home to breakfast.—Bought a cow of Mr. May at \$20.00
- July 2. Preached a lecture at West P. Took out worms eggs
7. Took worms eggs out of cellar—
11. Returned home—very pleasant—One year to day since mother died. How changed the scene! Father is well—(How grateful should we be.)
12. Mrs. Messenger and Sister began today in the silk business—They came yesterday in the afternoon—Worms eggs began to hatch.—
13. Bought of Mr. Blake 150 sheets of paper \$3.00 Recv'd letters from Mr. Ewing & Whitaker—Took the remainder of worms eggs out.
14. Engaged M. Whitney to cradle my rye & Mr. Bundy to rake it—
15. Engaged Esq. Chipman to thrash my rye.
18. Returned home—Got whip on Fenelon's account at Bingham's 5/
19. Engaged Mr. Gages Mulberry leaves for 1 ct. per pound—
28. Mr. Gleason & Lund came—Rev. W^m Goodell & daughter came—Brot. Smith and wife here—Mr. Goodridge, or some one took one or more loads of bricks in my absence
29. Brot. Smith and wife started for home this morning.—
 Mr. J. Goodridge took 2 loads of brick this fore noon & 800
 before one load 212

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Went to the west Parish—Visited at Esq. J. Ranney's—Carried 1 bush. of corn to mill.

30. Visited 3 or 4 families—
31. Preached once—and Rev. Mr. Nash agent for A. Education Society, preached in the afternoon in behalf of his cause—and obtained near \$15.00.
- Aug. 1. Married Mr. Guernsey and Fanny Hitchcock about 8 oclock in the morning. & returned home. They went on a journey. Mr. G. gave me \$5.00 as much as I ever had for one fee, of one person. Left 2 dollars with Dr. Safford to pay for the Oberlin Evangelist.—

3. Received dividend on bank stock \$4.00—To day a week since father was taken with a relex.—
4. Begun to pick leaves at Mr. Far's—Mr. Benson called about Mr. Knaps leaves—
15. Returned home and brought 14 hurdles—Put the paper on the hurdles—Let Mr. Dale have 400 bricks select at 60 cts. \$2.40 for which he said he would pay soon.—
16. First crop of worms began to wind pretty extensively.—
18. Mrs. Messenger & Claudius came home
I attended the funeral of Rev. Mr. Jackson's child 3 years old—
The youngest I baptized her.—
22. Returned home—Had about half the cocoons of the first crop weighed There were 44 lbs.
23. Put up the grave stones for Mother and my wife
30. Had weighed 38½ lbs of cocoons 1st crop.—Agreed to pay Mr. Phippin for leaves & picking 70 lbs.
- Sept. 1. Mr. Stoddard exchanged oats for grass seed. Got a reel for silk.
6. Took the portion of silk of Mr. Ewings cocoons 94 skeins
7. Had weighed 76 lbs of cocoons—
10. Hauled away boards till near 11 o'clock A.M. with Ambrose—& his oxen—Agreed to let G. & J. Robertson of Putney have two loads of straw at \$3.50 per ton, & take it out of Grout's store—goods at cash price.
17. Fair—Mr. Moore of Putney came after cocoons.
19. Rains this morning—Had 6 lbs & 7 ozs of cocoons weighed. Mr. Levi Bellows called on me, and offered me mulberry leaves gratuitously.—Mr. Fenton called.
21. I assisted the Rev. Mr. Bliss in administering the Lord's supper. The musical Society is to meet for concert at Saxton's river. Mr. King in consultation with others is to give notice of the time. & we are to meet on the preceeding to discuss points—I am requested to prepare some things for discussion.—Returned home and attended the monthly meeting of our Choir.—Mr. Moore gave me a few silk worm's eggs, which calls the broad Peanut.—Mr. Frederick Nutting had 5 bundles of straw 110 lbs. worth about 18 or 20 cts.
26. Divided all the cocoons with Mrs. Messenger except the last crop and those of Mr. Moore's brought to day.
28. Went to North H. and met with the Silk grower's convention.