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AS THE YEARS PASS—THE DIARIES OF SETH SHALER ARNOLD (1788–1871), VERMONTER

EDITED
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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

30. Weighed off the last crop of cocoons making in all 338½ pounds, for which I received a certificate from the town clerk.

Oct. 2. Mr. Shumway—agent for the protestant Society—preached and took a subscription—

3. Began reeling silk—

8. Maj. Page and wife called to see our reeling of silk, which has succeeded well the week. Maj. P. will settle father's fire insurance, and get the bounty on silk. He took the certificate.

10. Paid Mr. Stoddard $23.00 towards grave stones.—Mr.

Graves took forenoon 1000 poor bricks for Havey Reed	$2.00
Afternoon 1000 good bricks	4.00
	6.00

15. Reeled one peck of Mr. Washburn's cocoons—rounded measure and 3 ounces of silk.—

17. Olivia began to turn the reel.

19. Was trusted by P. White on Deac. Seaver's account—Bought a cow of Allen Wells, and he is to be allowed what she will fetch—calling her now $10. Laid an attachment on his grain at Mr. Edson's, and put up 30 bushels of rye (moved 8 to my house) 40 bushels of oats (part moved) and 1¾ shelled corn and two bags of ears (all moved) Esq. Albee made out the writ, and Ruben Stoddard served it—

20. Attached 4 bushels of herds grass seed belonging to Mr. Wells instead of 8 bushels of rye
Left with Mr. Edson, which he receited 17 bushels of oats—16 of rye besides the seed—Mr. Cragin measured me 1083 feet of lath for Josiah Davis which I hauled—Carried 1½ bushels of rye to Mr. Far—it being pay for his mulberry leaves & 25 cts over.

24. Finished reeling silk—I paid Mr. Washburn of Putney $6.56 for Mr. Gleason, for 2½ bushels, and ½ a peck of cocoons.—

25. Mr. Hitchcock weighed my reeled silk and made 6 pounds and 14 ounces which he certified to the town clerk.—

26. Went to Unity and Newport—I returned to Unity—Sold the accordion to Mr. Sargent and took pay & settled with him. (Carried home furnace & pan)

27. Returned home through Lempster. R. & F. Buss will let me have lath & boards hemlock and spruce for 4 dols. per 1000 & take grain.—Jeremiah Wheeler will let me have hemlock for the same and spruce for 5 dols. Both to be addressed at Lempster,

N.H. Mr. Fisher of Drewsville will let me have doors 4 pannels at $1.25—& 2 pannels at $1.00—

28. Mr. Gleason and Mrs. Messenger came here and settled. I gave him credit for 3 dollars which Mrs. Cragin is to pay me for him. —Mr. Watkins agreed to make the 4 doors needed for 4 bushels of corn, if I carry the timber over and he hang them.—
Mr. Gleason borrowed a sack bag to carry up his cocoons in. Claudius says Mr. Whittle had 2 bushels of rye lately & he forgot to tell me.—

29. Paid Dr. Robbins for Silk Record 50 cts. Become bound with Col. Holton for Dr. Safford, as Post Master, in $400.00

Here ends Note-book No. 1030 half way through Nov. 1, 1842. The rest of that day, month and year and part of 1843 follow in "No. 1031. Journal 1842. Nov. 1. To July 31. 1843." D.C.W.

Nov. 1. Father agreed that the price of the sheep—carts and ploughs should be struck out from the inventory attached to the contract between him and me—and Mr. Reuben Stoddard, and his son Barton Romanzo were witnesses.—This was on the consideration that the carts and ploughs were not near so good as expected; and that I have used my own almost altogether—as has been the case with other things. Although the cart and plough were called good; yet they were old, and were only good as they were best on the farm; and father is now willing to leave me to do what I think is right about it.

12. Moved vinegar hogshead—Got one peck of lime-mortar of Mr. May belonging to Dr. Safford—

14. Went to Mill with 1 bush. of corn & 1½ of rye. Got a bushel of salt at Mr. Harrises charged to Mr. Stoddard 80 cts. Stopped B. Falls Gazette, & engaged to take World of Music one year for 1½ bushel of rye. Agreed to give Mr. Tingham one bushel of rye for his silk reel. Also to give Mr. Knap half cent per lb. for leaves to pay in rye at 4/ per bush. Agreed with L. Watkins to build and finis my barn at 45 dols. He is to halve the boards for the gable ends—to plane and match the boards for the great doors —to lay all double floors, over the whole barn, & over the barn floor—and to joint the boards for the barn floor—to put one window in the gable and, (I find the sash & glass—) to make stable door and other window places as needed—to finish two

stables for horses and two for cows below the main floor—to make a stair way for passing up and down from the main floor to the shed & stables, and all to be done in a workman like manner. And for his pay, for said work, he is to take what bricks I have to spare, and the remainder in grain at market price.

Mr. Watkins said he would engage me the shingles to be paid in grain.

Mr. Stephens called here—& P. Hall in my absence.

Measured out to a young man 1½ bush. of rye belonging to A. Wells, as he said, by Mr. W's order. Agreed with Allen Wells this morning to give up to him all that I attached, and I am to hold the note against him as if nothing had been done about it. He is to satisfy all cost and trouble.—

16. Esq. Chipman took one bushel of rye which makes every thing even between him and me.—Painted sink & bought paint of Mr. Robbins. Sent Mr. Tingham a bushel of rye as pay in full for reel.

25. Maj. Page paid me the Bounty on silk $67.70, & I paid father's ensurance 1 dol.

30. Found Mr. Chapin at my house wishing to take my cocoonry.—

Dec. 6. Directed Dr. Safford to send for me $5.00 to the A. H. Miss. Society as a donation (But due to the Lord) for western missions. Also $5.00 for the African Col. Society to pay up for the present volume and all due before, and the rest a donation—Left $10.00 with Dr. Safford for these objects.—

7. Went to Bellows Falls—Paid Dr. Robbins 50 cents, advance pay for the Silk Record another year—Paid Dr. Kidder 7 dollars for stopping 4 teeth for Caroline, & 3 for Mary Ann.

8. Thanksgiving—Mr. Batchelder preached a good sermon, showing that national greatness does not consist chiefly in power, wealth, commerce, intelligence, & but in a disposition to do good with these means. Ps. 75:6. Prov. 14:34. 1st clause.

9. Enclosed in a letter to Mrs. Messenger $33.85 her part of bounty on silk.

15. At 9 oclock Rev. Mr. Batchelder made a prayer at our house—a number of the neighbours were in, and went with us to the grave, where the remains of my daughter Sophia were buried by the side of her mother, and Mr. S.S. Stoddard put up the grave stones.

20. Sent Mr. Knap 5 bushels of rye, as pay in full for mulberry leaves picked last summer from his trees.

Jan. 1. Father was taken with a relax, & I did not go to meeting in the forenoon—

10. A part of Brattleboro Bridge was taken away.

14. Went to the West Parish, & Caroline with me It began to freeze last night, and the river flowed over the road.—

17. Offered Mr. Chapin my house and garden for $30.00 one year, and the silk establishment to the halves—that is give me half the bounty and half the silk reeled. He to take care of the trees up by the house & I to take care of those on the medow. I am to plant out the trees in the spring.

23. Returned home—It has been warm and thawy the past week.—Inclosed 33 dollars in a letter to send by mail to Mrs. Messenger—leaving 85 cents her due of the bounty-money. Put the letter in the Post office in this parish. Went to the West Parish—Stopped over night at Deac. Ira Goodhues.

Feb. 22. My birthday—another year of my life is passed, with but a little apparent profit—I can remember much suited to humble my soul before God; and can probably call up to mind at present, but a small portion of my short comings.—

March 1st. Mr. Amos Gleason jun called this morning on his return home—and left 3 boxes of twist—containing 24 spools each—in all 6 dozen—valued at ..... $ 3.00
Also 900 skeins of silk at $2.50 per 100 ..... 22.50

25.50

The above Silk and twist I am to turn at stores if I can—or he will take it back. Mr. Gleason said he would if he can get me orders on stores at Walpole—Bellows Falls, or Paper mill village, and write me as soon as he gets home.—

8. Attended wed. meeting—Eunice Fish returned home, and Mr. D. Hitchcock's son & daughters came here to day. Let Moses Fish have to use Bedstead, chord—bed quilt—1 pillow—comfortable—old rapper—table—3 chairs—straw bed tic—small looking glass—old saw—window sash

11. Moses Fish borrowed feather bed

12. Sab. attended Mr. Batchelder's meeting (fair day) and Sab. School concert in the eve. Showed Mr. Rose Chapin the pew he is to occupy He is to have it free of rent by paying all the taxes on my place—

13. Sent 20 bushels of oats to Wentworth & Bingham—Sent 24 spools of twist to Mr. Spaulding $1.00 for Molasses—Subscribed $2.00 to make up Mr. Batchelder's arrearage for the last two years, & paid it over to Carlton Richardson. Paid to Orin Wells 50 cts. in full for all past singing. Attended Ch'h prayer meeting afternoon & Singing meeting in the evening.—

22. Went to Saxtons River Traded at stores & turned 400 skns silk 24 sps twist.—

28. Began rain this morning after the snow had fallen about 6 inches —making probably not far from 4 feet of snow on a level.—

31. I went Saxton's River. Bot 18¾ gallons molasses of Mr. Willey & paid him 300 skns silk.—

April 3. This morning the people were obliged to turn out & break roads for the stage to travel.—

4. Pleasant—Went with Caroline out to Mr. Chapins Met young Mr. Gage whose sleigh came in contact with mine—broke off the back and came very near killing Caroline. It chills my blood to think of her narrow escape while unprepared to die.—I feel very thankful that it was no worse; & I feel admonished of the uncertainty, and of the importance of discharging my duty to my children while there is an opportunity.

7. The listers appraised our the company's stock in the following manner

1 Pair of oxen	$48.00
1 cow—large red	16.75
1 Do. small red	14.50
1 Do. grey	14.25
1 Do. Mr. Stoddard's—old	11.00
2 Three year old steers	20.50
1 Three year old heifer	12.25
3 Two year old heifers	20.00
4 Swine	16.00
70 Sheep	54.00
1 cow—mine	17.00

They appraised my own property as follows—Viz

1 Horse	$45.00
1 Cow	17.00
Lumber	16.00
Watch	15.00
Carriage	75.00

8. Used fresh pork which had kept well through the winter without thawing to this time.—

13. I engaged with other members of the church to see and endeavor to awaken all the individual members of the church to select each an impenitent sinner; and by prayer and faithfulness try to lead such to Christ.

16. Went to meeting with a sleigh on the old snow—River flowed over the road between this and the plain to prevent travel.—

18. Got out my waggon. Capt. Whittle said he would prepre(?) my horse cart for 6 dols. if I find boards If he does not paint nor plane deduct 75 cts. Miss Powers came here just at night.—

28. Engaged Mr. Hapgood to plough up mulberries next tuesday—

May 2. Went to B. Falls to get Mulberry-trees of Mr. Campbels—

3. Hauled 2 loads of mulberry roots

4. Mr. Stoddard began ploughing. Mr. Chapin agreed to keep the mulberries in the south garden well hoed for $1.50 and the fences good around the premises taken of me for 50 cents.

6. Hauled Mulberry trees from B. Falls, & agreed to give Mr. Campbel 1 dol.—

31. Went to Walpole—Left 28 sk. silk at Mr. Timms

June 5. Mr. Cragin gave 3 dols. to settle for my services. Exchanged 21 spools twist for 5 yds cloth for Claudius pants. Went on Alstead hill—Visited Mrs. H. and Mr. Crossets—

6. Sold Mr. Hopkins my pew for three dollars.

9. Worked half the day on the high way.—

10. Mr. Chapin worked on the high way for me Much rain—River high.—

12. Mr. Chapin & Fenelon A. worked for me on the high way.

14. Carried cloth to Mr. Meads for frock coat and paid him 25 skn's of silk for cutting Attended the dedication of the Unitarian meeting house

July 1. Paid Mr. Gates for Mulberry leaves 3 dollars.

10. Monday fore noon—Went up the Green mountain to the point said by some to be the highest of the range (called hay stack) This sumit is not far from the N. West corner of Wilmington. The sides are covered with timber (spruce and birch) and near the top is mountain ash—pigeon chery—on the top—bare rock, from which is a very extensive view—East and west—north and south. I was accompanied by Rev. Mr. Patten and a gentleman by the name of Lathrop. The smoky appearance in the distance pre-

vented the effectual use of our telescope. We rode about 2 miles from Wilmington village, and proceeded on foot about 2 more principally through a forest, up a small stream to a pond clear as crystal, which is about 2 miles in circumference—From near that, we made a steep ascent, 200 feet (as I should judge) to the top.

20. Went on to Chaplin 7 or 8 miles & stopped with Mr. Sherman Ross who married Harriet Devotion—Called on Rev. Mr. Dickinson —Also several silk growers

Here ends Note-book No. 1031. The daily record continues at once in "No. 1032. Journal Aug. 1. 1843 To June 12, 1844." D.C.W.

Aug. 3. & 4. Prepared for reeling silk.—

7. Lucy Chapin began reeling silk—

12. [Mr. Moore] gave me some Canton Mulberry seed—said his worms had done poorly—

26. Fair weather—Went to Dumerston—Let Mr. Grout of Putney have 265 skeins of silk at two dollars per 100 to be paid in goods.—

Sept. 2. Let Mr. Chapin have 1½ bushels of rye to sow—& he had of Mr. Stoddard the same. Paid Mr. Averil $5:00 for Foreign Missions.

20. I spoke on the H. Missionary cause & Mr. Bullard—Mr. Bullard and Wm Clark spoke on Foreign miss. P.M. Mr. Patton preached and the sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered. I returned to Putney—Bought 36 yards of cotton at 8 cts per yard of judge Knight and paid in silk. Took good(*s*) of Mr. Grout—the balance due me. and staid at Rev. Mr. Foster's—

26. Sent report of silk to Mr. I. R. Barbour

27. Paid Mr. Hall 27 cts. my assesment to Fire insurance company of Windham County.

Oct. 2. Sent a letter to Deac. Goodhue by Mr. Chapin with $2.25 to settle father's insurance tax at Montpelier.—Wrote to Olivia concerning her goods, and enclosed a 20 dollar bill on Citizens Bank Worcester No. 1142 date Jan. 20. 1840. Settled Post office bills, and Julia Maria's

3. Received my portion of bounty on silk $7.00.

5. Attended school meeting—was chosen Committee—District voted to have a school 3 months in the winter, and 3 in the summer—That ¾^ths of the public money go to the winter school for a male teacher—that the teachers board among the scholars as far

as the families wish to board—and that the committee provide a place, in case of deficiency—Mr. Far is to provide the wood for $6.25—The deficiency for teacher and wood is to be made up on the Schollar—and for repairing the house, and to pay Mr. Cone $1.58 arrearage on the grand list.

12. Paid my subscription for ringing the bell last year to Mr. Nicols 75 cts. & promised the same for another year. Put up stove in parlor.

18. Rev. Mr. Furgurson—Tract agent—came here and preached for Mr. Bachelder on the subject of his agency. I subscribed 50 cts.—Mr. Gleason and Mrs. Messenger came here—

19. Mr. Ewing came here—we settled. He took some of his old things & said I might have the remainder. Mrs. Messenger & brother returned home.—

27. —A young man from Claremont N.H. by the name of Lucius C. Chase made application to teach our school, and offered for 10 dolls. per month

Nov. 24. Finished the road down the brook-hollow—

25. Saw Mr. Bragg at my own house and took the first step with him in gospel discipline on two points, or charges viz. 1. Intoxication —and 2. Speaking profanely against the church. (1) Observed at Miles Stearnses. & 2—at the blacksmith's shop—He saying (Dam the Chh. twice)

I put in two lights of glass—one in the Ketchen and another in the back chamber—Two young men from Acworth agreed to chop, split and pile 40 cords of four foot wood on the brook hollow—trees across the brook—leaning over the brook and along the bank for about one rod—to make good measure, for 50 cts hard wood and 2 shillings for soft wood (hemlock, bass, &c) and pile each separately, up where the brook will not be likely to carry it away; and they board themselves, and find their own tools.

30. Mr. Bragg called on me—but I did not procede to the second step with him.

Dec. 5. Called on Mr. N. Pierce & Capt. Richardson. Mr. P. said he thought he had seen Mr. Bragg when he had drinked too much three times at least. Capt. R. seemed to concur in his opinion with Mr. P. M. Whitney said he did hear Mr. B. dam the Ch'h. Called at Mr. Stearns. Mrs. S. did not remember seeing Mr. Bragg intoxicated.

9. Paid Waldo and King cash $10.13 and
for their board $5.12 ..... 5.12

$15.25 for

chopping and piling 17½ cords of hard wood and 19½ of soft wood—and left 2 dollars with Mr. Chapin to settle with them for what they shall pile more to day.—

Visited Mr. Bragg, and took Capt. Richardson with me—as the second step of discipline. Mr. B. acknowledged that he was some excited or disguised once at Mr. Stearns; and wished to have some time to think of it. He could not recollect, or feel conscious that he had drinked too much at any other time—or that he had spoken profanely against the church as stated by Morgan Whitney.—

1844

Jan. 15. Went to Putney—Carried Mulberry leaves & a few cocoons to Mr. Robinson's paper mill.

25. Went to mill—Went to Walpole with Mary Ann to select cook stove—one was 30 dols. with furniture—Baker & grates large Boiler and tea kettle with coper bottom grate and 3 pans for oven—1 spider—cast iron pot and dish kettle with tin covers—dipper—

Parlour small stove for 19 dols. large boiler and tea kettle pot and dish kettle same as the other & spider. sheet iron slide for oven

29. Attended the funeral aunt R. Ranney—Settled with Mr. Warner —Paid Deac. Seaver 6 dollars for 20 copies of the Wellspring—

Feb. 17. I requested Mr. Farr to get some dry wood for the school house. He said he would not. We had a very unpleasant talk, for which I am very sorry.

March 1. Brothers. Bragg and Richardson came to my house, and Brot. Bragg Satisfied myself and Brot. Richardson by making the following acknowledgment and declaration—

"Brot. Bragg acknowledges that he has made too free use of intoxicating drinks; insomuch that it probably appeared manifest to others, though not to himself; and he will endeavor for time to come, by the help of divine grace, to abstain."

This acknowledgment was read before the church to day at the close of the sacramental lecture, and an explanation of the proceedings given, and Brot. B. was present and gave his assent.

5. Attended March meeting—On the question to petition the court against giving license to sell liquors—In favor of petition about 90 to 35 against.

15. Engaged one ounce of silk worm's eggs of Mr. Adams—at $2.00

28. A little stormy all day—Mary Ann made nearly 30 Doz. candles—

April 3. Went to Walpole—Engaged 4 ounces worms eggs of Mr. Adams instead of one—at $2.00 per oz.

May 2. Procured a certificate to cross Walpole bridge one year from the 1st of April past. at $4.00—

4. Visited Mrs. Davis with Mr. Esty—and called on Mr. Batchelder to consult as to the Sab. S. Library. Showery for two days.

8. Introduced Edward A. to Mr. Bellows the Preceptor of Walpole academy. Mr. B. will hear him recite for 4 dollars a term, and he may take the vacation when he pleases.—Joel started for Chester.—I went through the street with a subscription for Sab. S. library.—

13. Last night—cold & frosty some—Finished getting out manure—Bo't of Mr. Morse cloth for Claudius 5½ yds at 1/ = 92 cts & sold tags 6¾ lbs = $1.12½—21 cts my due—

22. Got bones ground and paid for that & the grinding of the plaster Paris $1.62½ Paid over to Mr. Esty all I had collected for Sab. S. Library $7.25 besides what I sent him at first.

30. Mr. Gleason and wife called here. He brought down the silk.

June 11. Mr. Gleason came here—I settled with him for making silk and endorsed it on note. Rev. Mr. Butterfield & wife dined with us.

12. Found that Mr. Adam's worms eggs had hatched and died—Put out my own eggs

19. Worms eggs began to hatch

20. Went to Acworth—Stopped with Rev. Mr. Fuller He had a meeting of children, & formed a cold water army 92 present—

21. Went through Claremont, & Charlestown and got home about ½ past 9—Bought of Mrs. Dexter ⅞ths of an ounce of silk worm's eggs—of the *Rouge Weemer* kind, and did not pay for them, leaving it till Mr. Dexter shall come home—

22. Lucy doing house work at $1.00 per week, and Catharine taking care of silk worms at $1.50 per week if they do well—if not well $1.00—if middling $1.25

July 2. In the eve. witnessed a performance of mesmerism on Mrs. H.

which developed Phrenology in such a manner as to convince any one.—

5. Bought 17 gallons of Molasses of Mr. Warner & a whip and paid him for the same—Gave 38 cts. per gallon and let him have 200 skns of silk at 2 dols 100 Expect it brought home by Mr. Crawford Went to Mr. Crossets to dinner—and then to Troy—

18. Was measured for pantaloons.—

23. I was taken lame in my left knee Applied to Dr. Safford for an application to my knee. Agreed with Mr. Miller to work in helping about the silk worms. Sent for Mary Phippin just at night who begins work for two weeks. Rev. Mr. Paige came here.—

25. Paid Mr. Dexter of Claremont $2.62 for 7/8ths of an ounce of silk worms eggs.—

26. Left one skein of knitting silk with Mrs. May for Mrs. Wales to knit stockings.—

27. Had a talk on the use of profane language before the family—and requested Moses to take notice of any misdemeanors in the boys.

Aug. 8. Cured cocoons

13. Found the first crop of silk worms were about 25000 making 86 pounds and 10 ounces of cocoons.—yielding 300 cocoons to the pound—

14. I settled with Catherine Gleason & paid her $10.50 for work feeding silk worms 7 weeks.

Sept. 3. Mr. Goodale & wife—Mr. Hitchcock and wife—Hannah and Caroline started for Middleborough—Agreed to let Mr. Hitchcock have my sheep for $1.25 a piece—He said I might be the judge of a few of the old ones which he is to have lower—Weighed the last of the cocoons—making 7 lbs & 13 ozs of last crop of Rogue Weemer (*sic*)—worms which I had of Mr. Dexter 7/8 of an ounce at $2.62½ called about 30000—They did about midling well and there were 2600—Put them into a box to be cured—I got the leg of veal at Mr. Miller's weight 10½ lbs to be accounted for to somebody—

11. A pedler by the name of Richards stopped here last night with pictures for sale—

18. The education society was addressed by Rev. Mr. Walker—Home mission by Mr. Worcester. and Foreign society by Rev. Wm Clarke—

23. Sent an errand by Dr. Safford to Brattleboro concerning silk. Dr.

Safford made out a certificate of silk 96½ lbs for me and said he would give it to Deac. McNiel

27. Mr. Gleason took all my cocoons 7¼ bushels and is to give me 4 dols per pound after it is reeled, & to pay me the cash as soon as it is reeled.

Oct. 10. Went to Acworth and carried Mrs. Grout home and returned--Paid Mary Ann 95 cts for the work of Mrs. Phelps 4 days & Mary Clarke 12½ cts out of it.—Took $3.00 of Mrs. G. to purchase silk goods.—

Nov. 23. Took up the note held by Mr. May against brot. Smith —Paid $106.00 Sent by Brot. S. and one of my own Making $107.00 Paid Mrs. Wales for knitting silk stockings and running the heels 67 cents. Paid Mr. Field of Walpole 50 cts for cutting a coat for Claudius.—

1845

Jan. 1. Enter upon a new year in health, and pray that it may be a year of prosperity—especially in a Spiritual sense—Thus far the Lord hath helped me; and I will here record my vows, which I have long reflected upon, and for awhile endeavored to act upon. As I have received all my possessions by the merciful providence of God, and have forfeited the whole, even life and happiness, into his hand—as it is by his forbearance and unmerited grace that I am not deprived of every good thing, I feel it my duty, as a steward in trust, to consecrate all to him—To honour him in the discharge of the various duties which providence and the word of truth seem to inculcate—

Taking my place at the foot of the cross, with prayer, and as the Lord gives me ability,

1. I will endeavor to discharge my debts to my fellow creatures.
2. With industry, prudence, temperance and economy, I will endeavor to provide for the temporal & spiritual wants of my family as a charge committed to my trust.
3. After keeping my estate good—in suitable repair, and making such improvements as to prevent loss, or to increase the profit, I will use all the income over a living in the service of *the Lord*, for the temporal and spiritual benefit of mankind. —This is my purpose, if the Lord will allow me to hold his treasure;—and, it is my prayer, that he would assist in the management of it, and give wisdom in the distribution of the avails—

It is with much thought, and with prayerful deliberation for years, that I have come to this decision and course of action. Neither has it been without occasional struggles between that selfish, worldly spirit which reigns in the natural man, and that spirit of benevolence which appears so lovely in the blessed Redeemer.
But, the Lord be praised, that I am able to come to this resolution. I am happy in it; and hope I shall never be reluctant in performing my vows. I am persuaded that the Lord will take care of those who trust and serve him with an honest heart. But if he should leave me and mine to the deserts of past unfaithfulness, I should have no ground of complaint. All would be just; and I think I should rejoice in the present determination and course of procedure—Seth S. Arnold

Feb. 17. E. Gee came and took 3 bushl's corn—Mr. May paid me for beef $1.90—and Mr. McNiel paid me the residue of bounty —Attended Society-meeting

22. Heard of Rev. Timothy Fields death—He died at the assylum (*sic*) for the insane at Brattleboro one week after he was carried there. He died early in the morning and was brought to his family in Westminster about 8 oclock in the eve. before they heard of his death. He was 69 years old—He was minister over the west Parish church 27 years—received above 300 to the ch'h & baptised over 400 infants.—

27. Mr. Scribner returned my waggon and paid me 40 cents—
I went down to Mr. Heman Goodridge's to attend to the case between him & Deac. McNiel—and after a long conversation between us & hearing both sides & making out charges near night, the parties agreed to drop the matter where it was dcided (*sic*) by a committee on the premises last fall. Mr. Goodridge—Mrs. Goodridge—Austin, and Mr. McNiel said they would overlook, forgive and walk in fellowship. They agreed not to talk about the matter and endeavour to banish it from their minds & live in good neighborhood. By request of Mr. Goodridge I called to see Dr. Safford & told him it was all settled, & desired that nothing should be said to spread the matter or keep it alive in community —and returned home about 8 in the eve.—I perceived there was a ball at the tavern. Very muddy in the road.—

Apr. 10. Dr. Morse presented me the book for Rail road subscription

12. I returned the book for rail road stock to Dr. Morse.—I hired the Bridge for the year and paid 4 dolls.

24. Mr. Jo. Willard died in consequence of drinking spirituous liquors too freely.

May 7. Went to Walpole—Made some Pastoral visits—Rev. Mr. Jones came back with my waggon, & Rev. Mr. Kidder with him. Mr. Wilson Tract distributor came here.

11. I preached twice—Mr. John G. Wilson addressed the people at 5 oclock on Tract distribution—and distributors were appointed for some of the school districts.

12. I went out into the Morse district with tract volumes, & committed them to Amanda Wright for distribution in that district. E. Smith said he would take the charge of the adjoining district.

July 12. Preached at Dumerston, in behalf of the Ethiopians.—

Sept. 10. On the camp-ground in Wilmington Mr. John Hawkins spoke from 10 oclock A.M. till 12 to a large assembly, & produced much interest. They took for him there a collection of between 8 & 9 dollars in addition to 6 dols. the day before.—I saw Mr. Whitaker who said he would endeavour to pay me this coming winter from the avails of bark.—

11. Bought 1½ bushels of winter wheat of Dr. Morse & paid $2.00 —Engaged 9000 of chesnut (*sic*) shingles of Mr. Lane at $1.50 per 1000.

Oct. 12. Mr. Reuben Hatch preached for me and presented the claims of a seminary commencing in Michagan (*sic*), Olivet, Eaton County—Township of Walton.—Our people contributed and subscribed $10.65

Dec. 17. Inclosed *Seven* dollars in a letter to Rev. W. McLain Washington, City it being 25 cts more than contributed. for the Colonization Society—Hauled two loads of wood.—

1846

Jan. 1st Went to the town meeting to vote for temperance commissioners.—Paid Mr. Esty one dollar—my subscription for ringing the bell &c.

11. I preached twice—presented the number of deaths the past year in this parish (10 from 4 months old to 90 years) and attended Sab. S. concert in the eve.—

Feb. 22. Having a severe head ache I did not attend public worship.

Mr. Esty preached. I am 58 years old this day—and it seems as if I had hardly done any thing to the purpose; and much cause to be humble & prayerful all the remainder of of my life.—

March 16. Put my bees up in the garret.—

21. Mr. Averill brought father's pension from the Falls $37.00—I put up a leach, & got out waggon—

April 4. The listers came and took an account of my property as followes (*sic*)—

2 horses	$100.00
5 cows	90.00
30 sheep	35.00
3 two year olds	25.00
2 yearlings	10.00
3 swine	12.00
1 Carriage	67.00
1 hive bees	5.00
1 watch	8.00
	$352.00

6. Mrs. A. made soap with good success.

15. Brought Mr. Clarke to my house to take liknesses

16. Mr. Clarke took father's liknesses—They are accurate—Father being 98 years old, last september. I hauled poles for fence—Paid Perez Clarke in full for sawing boards.—

17. Mr. Clarke took liknesses of myself & wife.—

21. Fenelon—A. took a likeness of father for himself and one for Ambrose and paid for them both $4.00—

May 2. Two colored person—the mother & her daughter stopped here last night.

5. I sowed Plaster paris on the wheat.

24. Attended public worship—Mr. Stevens preached—Had singing conference at 5 oclock—Universalists had a meeting in old house.—

June 4. Received a letter from Dr. Hitchcock, informing me that my daughter Olivia gave birth to a son, on the 1st inst, and that the mother and babe were doing well—which I consider a matter of thanksgiving to God.—

8. Used new cultivator.—

July 6. Father appears some better, after having had a relax nearly six weeks, with the exception of a few days—expecially (*sic*) has

he called for my assistance nights. His infirmities make it more difficult than ever to leave home—especially over night.

Aug. 17. Father had a very bad night with relax Got some medicine for father of Dr. S. Bo't a new pair of boots of Maynard, & paid $3. for them.

Oct. 26. Sister Esther came here—She—my wife & I looked up some of mother's things to send to Phebe.—viz the following

1 string of gold beads—4 pairs of spectacles—1 great coat of mothers—1 great coat of father's—1 Plaid table cloth—1 silk dress, mother's—1 Black Cambrick shawl—1 silk shawl—1 silk mantle—1 white muslin handkerchief—4 caps—2 pairs of shoes—1 thread case—2 coverings of mourning bonnetts.—1 Pair of old silk gloves.—

I took 3 of Smiths sugar coated pills on going to bed.—

Nov. 3. Claudius went to the west Parish to carry Mary Ann—her beauro—crockery—apples &c—Also Caroline and her trunk to start from there, with Mr. Hitchcock, for Middleborough—Mary Ann carried her portion of crockery brought to me by her mother—the whole of which we divided to day into 3 parts—one for each of my daughters.—

5. I went to Acworth—called on Mr. Lawrence, and he paid me for preaching one sab. took dinner with him. In the evening informed Col. Brooks of my intention to move to Acworth 1st of jan.

Dec. 21. Took my mare of Mr. Gilbert—went to Acworth with a load of goods—and Sister Graham down home with me about 9 oclock eve.

1847

Jan. 7. I went with Mrs. Arnold to Acworth, and thus removed to change our place of permanent residence—and committed the in-door charge of father and Abigail to sister Smith. It rained considerably before we arrived at Acworth—In the eve it thundered and lightened sharp & hard, and the weather turned quite cold by morning—very little snow & strong wind.

8. I helped Mrs. A. put up things fore noon, and returned to Westminster just at night.

11. Began to snow last night.—Settled with Dr. Safford—& E.A. Holton

13. Made an agreement with Col. Brooks to board myself and wife

for $2.25 per week till the first of April—counting the time that we are there only—and company at the same rate. He will take such things as he needs, that I have to spare, at a fair price. I returned to Westminster in the afternoon. Sister Smith went to Chester today and back.

17. Attended public worship at Acworth. Rev. Mr. Wright preached very well from "God is a spirit &c." Considerable cold & slippery—

18. It began to snow about noon.—In the eve. attended the Acworth association for the promotion of common-school education—and joined it.

19. Started for Westminster with Mrs. A. about 10 oclock in the morn. and brought the Rev. Mr. Wright as far as Walpole to take the stage for Chester Mass.—Paid over to judge Allbe $14.86 for I. Warner & took receipt.—

24. Attempted to preach for Mr. Wright, he being absent. But it was with the greatest difficulty that I could go through with the services of the day—on account of cough and irritation of throat and lungs.

Feb. 12. Mr. Wiley and I closed the bargain concerning the farm and signed writings. He bought the turn-up bedstead & cord—wheel— & old waggon with all pertaining to it. He also cleaned out one bin for his wheat—talked of buying my bees—french bedstead—and Cook stove left for consideration.

22. This is my birth day—The Lord has carried me through the changes of another year in great mercy, and has laid me under new obligations of gratitude and faithfulness to him. 59 years of this short life are gone, and their doings, or neglects are recorded unalterably for the great day of reckoning.

25. This morning about 1 oclock Fenelon Arnold came to Acworth to inform us that Dr. Henry D. Hitchcock was dead. I got ready and started for Walpole about 3 oclock morn. and found there David Hitchcock & his son Homer—Mr. Stevens & Mary Ann—and Mr. Wm Tobey who came up from Middleboro with the information. Mr. Tobey, myself & Mr. Hitchcock took the stage for Boston—Stopped a few minutes at Ashby, and arrived at Boston just at eve. Put up at the Washington coffee house (Mr. Goodnow) A very quiet, orderly, good house—and cheap—fully temperate.

26. Took the Fall river train of cars ¼ before 8, and arrived at Middleboro' a little before 10 oclock A.M. where we found friends to convey us directly to the house of Dr. Hitchcock—and here was a scene of affliction and weeping which I shall not attempt to describe. My two younger daughters, the elder of them suddenly made a widow, & left with a feeble, helpless infant by an unlooked for providence and the carelessness & wreckless (*sic*) course of one man. The mangled body of the Doctor was now in the house, and his two younger sisters had alread(y) come to the place. The bereaved father and father in law—all together were truly a company of mourners—Their profuse tears and the tears of neighbours and friends made it emphatically a place of weeping.

After we had composed ourselves a little, I learned that Dr. Henry Dwight Hitchcock took the car at Middleboro about 8 oclock, on the morning of the 23d inst, for Boston, to accompany an afflicted patient, by the name of Hannah Reed, to the Hospital. At the depot at Randolph, while stopping, and the Doctor was standing on the forward platform of the passenger-car next to the baggage car, a careless engineer, with his engine and plough came up in the rear, at the rate of 15 miles per hour and dashed the passenger car, (lifting it up behind) against the baggage car—breaking it to pieces—and crushed the Doctor, and a Mr. Kenderson between the two cars. The Doctor was not in distress and could converse some—He died about 3 oclock P.M. about 6 hours after the hurt [*written above* hurt *is the word* injury]. There were said to be about 70 passengers, and none others mortally wounded, though all the seats in the car were broken except 2. The Dr. was conveyd to the public house and the next day to Middleboro. Surgical aid was provided from Boston as soon as possible; and great sympathy & interest were manifest; but all without effect.—

March 1st. The young men of Middleboro came to the house, and conveyed the corpse to the depot—and attended myself—Mr. Hitchcock—Wealthy & Hannah. Here again was a trying scene with Olivia & Caroline. It was parting with those Dear remains to be borne away to the high lands of Vermont to be buried there.

Apr. 23. Began to rain last night—and continues this morning—Connecticut River is rising very fast, and is now (*at noon*), over the road at the foot of the sand hill. I went out with Mr. Wiley through the pines to show him the poles for mending fence, and