



# Hosea Doton's Memorandum for 1884

Transcribed by Scott Fletcher



## Preface

In 1884, Hosea Doton and his wife Elvira lived at 34 Pleasant Street in Woodstock, VT in a house that no longer exists. The property extended east to the Ottaquechee River and was large enough for a barn and a sizable garden.

In many entries, Hosea described working in his garden to produce a variety of vegetables and flowers. Neighbors often visited during the summer to get flowers or cuttings from the Doton garden.

Hosea continued to monitor the weather with daily readings of his thermometer and barometer at 7 a.m., 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. He provided monthly weather reports to the Vermont Standard and the U.S. Signal Service in Washington D.C.

Hosea also provided astronomical data for use in Vermont and New Hampshire almanacs, which were published by the Claremont Manufacturing Company as well as the White River Paper Company of White River Junction, VT.

During the year, Elvira Doton continued to suffer from a nervous ailment that Hosea first mentioned in his diary on June 24, 1883. Dr. Logan prescribed rest and a variety of medications for Elvira, but she was unable to do housework or assist Hosea with computations for the almanacs.

Faced with the challenge of doing the Vermont and New Hampshire almanacs by himself, Hosea talked of giving them up with his friend Henry Swan Dana on April 4, but resolved to continue.

On July 19, Hosea and Elvira moved to the Doten Homestead in Pomfret where Elvira received care from Hosea's sisters Joanna and Abigail. For some three months, Hosea went to Woodstock most weekdays to tend to the house and continue his surveying.

Elvira's illness is never fully explained, but progressed from fatigue and anxiety to sharp and diffuse pains. She was prescribed Liebig's Coca and Beef Tonic, which was a patent medicine made from coca leaves.

This is one of twenty-two volumes of diaries by Hosea Doton housed by the Pomfret Historical Society in a small brick building next to the Pomfret Town Hall. The building was erected in 1904 by some of Hosea Doton's former students, dedicated in his memory, and used to store Pomfret's original charter from 1761.

This transcript includes very minor revisions to spelling and punctuation while trying to retain the original character of the diary. Language, spelling, and punctuation common to the mid-1800s have been preserved. A glossary and brief notes on people mentioned in Hosea Doton's diaries appear at the end of this transcript.



*Hosea Doton owned this home on Pleasant Street in Woodstock from 1874 until his death in 1886.*

1884

Tuesday, January 1

The morning is not cold but slightly stormy. We begin a new year rather pleasantly, though Mrs. Doton is not in perfect health. Our calls this morning were quite pleasant. They were Edward Bailey, Franklin Swift Billings, Laura and Mary Billings and one or two younger ones. Laura Billings presented us with Whettin's Calendar, and we could do no less than to present her with "The Personal Recollections of Mary Somerville," and we think she is fully entitled to be classed with Mrs. Somerville as far as scholarly taste and love of science is concerned. I paid Woodruff 10 cts. And so we have begun the New Year. Brought forward 20.37.

Debits – .10

Wednesday, January 2

A densely cloudy morning and about three inches of snow on the steps and soon it began to fall rapidly. I have spent much of the time today in clearing the paths and the roofs of the snow. Have found but little time to work on mental works of any kind and my meteorological work will be some late I think. I paid Miss Spaulding \$1.75 for the weeks work. Herman Dunham called here this afternoon, and I had hardly seen him this vacation before, for he has been busy among his nearer relatives. He expects to go back to Somerville tomorrow. The storm seems to be over and the sky at 9 p.m. was nearly or quite clear.

Debits – 1.75

Thursday, January 3

The morning opened very pleasant but the clouds soon began to indicate squalls or more of stormy weather, but the wind kept round southwest or west. In the afternoon it became colder and the evening was some cold. I tried to fit out the December meteorology, and to fix the tables of the last two years and find some work in looking up the quantities, and I worked till late in the evening in copying them into the memorandum. I paid Paul 30 cts for groceries. Yesterday the New Hampshire Registers twelve came to Mr. Burdettes, and I sold 6 of them to him for 75 cents.

Credits - .75

Debits - .30

Friday, January 4

The weather grew cold in the night and this morning the ther. was 34 degrees above zero. Herman Dunham called, but leaves for College Hill today. His visit at home has been somewhat hurried and we have seen him but little. I have been some tired today, nerves tired, I suppose from labor and study. Have tried to work some at my table but the weather has been so rough that I could find but little except chores that I could do. I sent registers to Mr. Smith of Smithville and one to Mrs. Goldsmith, and to Mrs. Gookin. H.S. Dana one and Isaac Fisher one. Paid 12 cts postage and to Billings for groceries 25.

Debits - .12, .25

Saturday, January 5

Colder this morning and the Ther. registered minus 13 degrees. And was minus 11 at 7 in the morning. The snow drifted very hard, so that in places it could bear a horse. I spent all the forenoon in doing chores about the house and barn. Polk Chamberlin came down from Pomfret in the forenoon. I paid 10 cts for P.O. box rent and we paid \$2.50 to a friend, and received fifty cents of Mrs. Freeman. Mr. Spaulding called for Etta in the afternoon and we will get along alone till tomorrow night.

Credits - .50

Debits - .10, 2.50

Sunday, January 6

Ther. minus 36 degrees at 8 o'clock a.m. and at 7 o'clock it registered minus 35 degrees, but could hardly get morning reading more than minus 33 degrees but this is cold enough. The day was cold but the temperature fell only in the morning for it rose slightly through the day. We were here alone through the night and the greater part of the time today. Carlie Dunham called in the afternoon and Ferris Vaughan about the same time. He seems to be much engaged in knowing something of the philosophical principles especially as applied to machines and machinery, and I hope he will continue the work. We have got along alone with the chores quite well. Etta came home in the early evening. I have tried to get along with the meteorological work for December, but am too much hurried with other work.

Monday, January 7

Another cold morning, Ther. minus 31.5 degrees. Air clear and pleasant, but cold. The greater part of my time is occupied with chores about the house. I paid Woodruff 35 cts for feed for the hens, but the weather is too cold for them to eat or do well. I received a letter from my friend Robert A. Perkins with a blank note signed and ten dollars and that will pay the interest for some more than six months. Miss Fairbanks called and Carlie Dunham called, and also Miss Martha Mellish, with an errand from Mrs. Perkins.

Debits – .35

Tuesday, January 8

And still it is cold. Thermometer registered minus 24 degrees, and this is the fourth cold day, some of them were too cold for comfort. I have about so many chores each day and today I wrote two articles for the Standard, one on the cold weather and one on a line of levels from South Woodstock to the Town Hall.

Wednesday, January 9

A very sudden change of temperature from cold to warm. The thermometer rose from minus 24 to 38 degrees making 62 degrees in 24 hours, and the barometer fell an inch and a half from yesterday morning to today noon. These are certainly fearful changes. It began to rain soon after midnight and rained through the day. I paid Paul 20 cents, and I paid Etta Spaulding for her fourth weeks work \$1.75 that closes tonight. The walking is bad, the sidewalks being a very smooth ice and wet. I went to the Post Office about 4 clock and I seldom knew the walking any worse. Prof Shipman came to Horace Dunhams late in the evening.

Debits - .20, 1.75

Thursday, January 10

The temperature is again cooler but it is not yet cold. I went to work on the December meteorology, but did not finish it till afternoon and it is there to be copied. Henry Greene called in the morning for copy for the paper. I prepared two articles, one on the weather and one on the line of levels from South Woodstock to the town hall. In the evening I copied meteorological matter for the Signal Service Report. Paid Mrs. Dunham one dollar for milk in December. Paid Todd 29 cts for goods.

Debits – 1.00, .29

Friday, January 11

Comfortable winter weather, not cold but some cloudy. I began early on the Meteorological Report and used all the spare time I could find. Measured the ice that they are getting from the factory pond, and some of the best that I have seen from there. I paid Freeman 12 cts for groceries and paid 2 cts postage. The ice from the factory pond is 16 inches thick. The walking about the village is bad, for the travel at the time of the rain left the roads very icy and uneven; very bad for sore feet.

Debits - .12, .02

Saturday, January 12

Colder this morning. Ther. minus 8 degrees and it was falling at that time. I spent the forenoon in the chores about the house and barn. Went to Woodruff's for meal and paid him 14 cts. Mortimer and Joanna came just before noon and were here till about three o'clock. I got six dollars at the bank as the January dividend. Paid Richmond 25 cts for meat. We are alone here this evening and it is extremely pleasant to be so, and if health would permit we would be glad to have it so.

Credits – 6.00

Debits - .14, .25

Sunday, January 13

Another cold Sunday, and so it has happened for a few weeks. This morning the thermometer at 7 o'clock shows minus 16 degrees, but it registers minus 19 degrees. This winter seems much like that of 1872 and '73 when we were at the Fitch place. Today I have been writing all the time that I could write. I am some late with the meteorological report for it should have been mailed before the tenth of the month. We were here alone the greater part of the day, and if Mrs. Doton's health had been better it would have been a pleasant Sunday. There is some work in copying the full report for the month, especially as we have a new arrangement of subjects.

Monday, January 14

A warmer morning. Ther. 33.6 degrees. A marked change from yesterday. I finished and mailed the report to the Signal Service and felt very much relieved when it was off my hands. My young friend Edward Bailey called and we had a nice chat on the western or northwestern lands. I went to Mr. Billings and paid at the store three dollars for two undershirts, a good investment. We received a book from Miss Gardner and a letter from friends at Franklin and in the evening I replied to it to mail in the morning.

Debits – 3.00

Tuesday, January 15

Another cold morning. Ther. minus 9 at about 8 o'clock. Spent the forenoon in chores about the house and barn. Polk came from Pomfret in the forenoon and returned soon after two o'clock. I paid Paul 22 cts for kerosene and wish we could find a better article than we can get here at any of the groceries. The morning was cool but there is a prospect of a cooler one tomorrow for the thermometer is falling steadily this evening.

Debits - .22

Wednesday, January 16

A colder morning. Ther. minus 31 degrees, and that is cold as we had it last winter. I make some money changes today. Received of F. Billings \$50.00 and paid F.N. Billings 2 dollars for flour. Paid Life Insurance \$12.06 plus 10 cts equals 12.16 The 10 cts was for the money order. I also paid Woodruff 41 cts for feed for hens. I called at Mr. Murdock's store to see his new watches from the Rockford Company. It is growing cold rather fast this evening, but I hope it will not be so cold in the morning. We paid Miss Spaulding \$1.75 for this her fifth week. There is some prospect of storm tho the stars shine through the vapor.

Credits – 50.00

Debits – 2.00, 12.16, .41, 1.75

Thursday, January 17

There is an appearance of having a pleasant day. Mrs. Doton had made arrangements to go see her sister yesterday, but the day was too rough. She went this morning about ten o'clock and did not return till evening and had a pleasant time and did not get fully tired out. I spent much of the day in writing out the Standard report of December weather, but am getting some behind time on those reports.

Friday, January 18

Must get up the yearly report of the weather, etc. as I have done for a few years past, and I began today to look up the facts and data for such a report for the year 1883. Last Wednesday I sent \$12.06 to the Mutual Benefit Life Co. of Hartford, Conn. and received the receipt today. Miss Leonard came to her recitation on time and shows her usual skill in Geometry as well as in Algebra. She is a remarkable scholar if we consider her advantages. Paid Mrs. Vose \$3.00 for work on dress. Paid Paul for soap 8 cts.

Debits – 3.00, .08

Saturday, January 19

Light snow this morning, but the air is not cold. I called at the Post Office; spoke to Mr. Pierce on thermometers that we have exchanged. Got meat of Richmond and Taylor, paying 40 cts. Saw Charles McKenzie and he wanted a thermometer to hang in his father's room and I will send him my Aneroid Barometer if it would be pleasant for him, and help the hours to pass away pleasantly in his sickroom. I received a letter from the "Original Railway List" and this gives me an opportunity to correct my address as given in that paper. I paid Paul 8 cts for soap. This afternoon I met Judge Taft on the sidewalk, and he referred at once to the old friends in the senate chamber of 1865 & '66. More than half of them are gone. Received of Mrs. Freeman 50 cts.

Credits - .50

Debits - .20, .03

Sunday, January 20

Air seems filled with frost or fine flakes of snow, and the clouds are cirro-stratus, at least such is the appearance. About an inch and a half of snow fell in the night and it has gained slightly today. At about half past nine o'clock this forenoon I saw a beautiful section of a solar halo. It was nearly a half circle surrounding the zenith and about 22 degrees radius with the zenith in the center, and the brightest part of the rainbow here was towards the Sun, the red being on the outside of the circle. It was visible an hour or more but vanished gradually and was out of view before noon. No other part of the halo could be seen; the only circle visible was the one parallel with the horizon or around the zenith as a center. Mrs. Marcy called here this forenoon and staid while her husband went to the chapel to hear Mr. Tillotson, and we learn that the society have hired him for a year, and I hope it is so. We have been alone a part of the afternoon and evening, but I have found but little time for reading or writing. The halo was probably the contact arch with the circle of 46 degrees, as described in article 438, page 223 of Loomis' Treatise on Meteorology.

Monday, January 21

A cold morning again. Ther minus 27 degrees. Our winter so far has been a cold one though made up of frequent changes. Sent a letter to the Railway List of Chicago, giving contractor names and making a correction of my address as given in the "List" for 1883. I paid 14 cts to Billings for goods, and 4 cts postage. I received of Mr. Burdette 50 cts for registers

Credits - .50

Debits - .14, .04

Tuesday, January 22

The morning is not extremely cold and the night was pleasant. Ther. 3 degrees at 7 o'clock and the wind Southerly, so it seems to be chilly. In the forenoon the wind came southeast, but does not seem to be settled. In the afternoon I called at Smith's shoe store and paid him \$2.75 for boots. Am looking up matter for the yearly report of weather and the phenomena for the year 1883.

Debits – 2.75

Wednesday, January 23

Some warmer this morning and I am not compelled to put out the bulletin board to give thermometer readings below zero. Besides doing the chores I worked on the record books to keep records up to the

times. Mr. Spaulding called to see his daughter but she has just come down with the mumps, and we all concluded that it would be better for her to go home and have her mother take care of her. She went home with her father and we cannot expect her again for a week, at least she ought not to work again in that time. Paid her \$1.75 for weeks work. Mr. Stickney of Bethel called late in the evening to learn something of the situation of the bridge of Taftsville.

Debits – 1.75

Thursday, January 24

Mr. Stickney called again this morning and I soon sketched out a plan of the corners of the towns at Taftsville so as to give him the facts as he wished. We are getting along alone this morning and extremely well. It was all cloudy this morning and it began to snow at 10 a.m. and now, 12 noon, it is falling very thick and fast. The storm continued through the day and the wind has blown much this afternoon. We paid Miss Richmond 20 cts and paid 4 cts postage. Received a letter from the White River Paper Company with a check for 25 dollars.

Credits – 25.00

Debits - .20, .04

Friday, January 25

Had snow to shovel. Five inches and a half came yesterday, and the storm ended early in the night. There was 0.59 of an inch of melted snow. This was one of our largest snow storms, but not the largest. The five days snow on the 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of December was the largest this winter. I paid Dr. Logan 10 dollars. I went to the bank with the check received yesterday and got the 25 dollars. Carlie Dunham came to assist us as our house work was getting much in need of the proper help.

Debits – 10.00

Saturday, January 26

A cold morning. Ther minus 28 degrees at 7 o'clock but it soon began to rise. Paid Richmond 20 cts for meat and Billings for package of hominy. Was called this morning by the burning out of the stove pipe, but believe no particular damage was done. Have spent the greater part of the day in doing chores about the house and barn. Mortimer brought a cord of wood, and it was much needed.

Debits - .20, .60

Sunday, January 27

Another cold morning. Ther. minus 22 degrees. This cold spell is remarkable, though not so cold as it has been before. From appearances this will be a cold January though the mean temperature will be nearly 10 degrees. In the last sixteen years, there have been two Januarys in which the means have been below 10 degrees. 5.82 in Jan. 1875 and 7.67 in 1881. All the rest have been above 10 degrees. We were here alone the greater part of the day, and if Mrs. Doton's health was equal to it we should enjoy it well. This morning I finished cleaning the pipe that has got filled with soot, and I hope the rooms will be more clear of smoke. I am too busy with the necessary chores to do much reading or writing.

Monday, January 28

This forenoon I wrote a letter for the Christian Leader as a compliment to Mr. Crosley who has gone to Brunswick, Maine to take charge of the societies in Brunswick and Bowdoinham, where I hope he will receive due credit for what he does. Today I paid one dollar to Richmond and 50 cents to Dunbar towards his work, and 15 cts for postage stamps. It began to snow about one o'clock this afternoon and it continued till night. We have been here alone the greater part of the day, for Carlie goes home in the forepart of the day and comes back in the evening.

Debits – 1.00, .50, .15



Tuesday, January 29

Four and a half inches of snow this morning and it takes the greater part of the forenoon to clear the paths and the roofs. Jerome Taylor called and I paid him 25 cts for a silver polishing fluid and two spools of silk. I paid Dunbar 75 cts for his work on the wood. Miss Hodges called for Miss Spaulding's clothes that she needed at home. I paid Woodruff 12 cts for feed for the hens.

Debits – .25, .75, .12

Wednesday, January 30

Some warmer this morning, but a south wind at this season is chilly. I went to the Post Office, found a load of good wood and paid five dollars for it to Chauncy Walker of Barnard. Dunbar began to saw the wood. This is a chilly day and somewhat gloomy so that Mrs. D. is some affected by the weather and so are the rest of us.

Debits – 5.00

Thursday, January 31

A thawy and more cheerful day. I paid Woodruff 25 cents for corn meal, and I paid Dunbar 25 cents as part for his work. Saw E. Emery and arranged for his folks to come here tomorrow and for one of them to stay for a few days. There was but little rain but the snow settles very fast and the appearance is that the roads will be soft by tomorrow. This thaw adds some water to what is in the cistern. Snow is about 16 inches deep at the close of the month.

Debits – .25, .25

Friday, February 1

Mr. Payson Pierce brought the old Waterman thermometer and perhaps we shall exchange instruments with him. I spent a part of the forenoon in testing thermometers and found all of them a little out of adjustment. I paid Mrs. Dunham for milk 1 dollar, I paid Simmons 10 cts for bread, and paid Dunbar towards his wood sawing 50 cts, and Payson for milk 6 cts. Sister Electa called and was here till about three o'clock, and a Miss Wilder called and was here till the close of the agricultural meeting at the town hall. Brought forward 45.43.

Debits – 1.00, .10, .50, .06

Saturday, February 2

Rested rather badly through the latter part of the night and this morning I mailed a letter to Polk and Abbie, hoping that she would see us before she begins her next weeks school. I have had two very good letters from Polk and am sure he can write a very sensible and affectionate letter. Della Mayo came this forenoon. I called at the Probate office and had a long talk with my friend H.S. Dana about stopping my computations for the registers and the meteorological work. Paid Paul 23 cts for kerosene. Wendell Phillips died in Boston Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 1884. He was born in Boston Nov. 29, 1811. His was an exciting life, and will without doubt be written.

Debits – .23

Sunday, February 3

The day was very fine for this season for the winter has been rough and the weather very changeable and of course unhealthy. Mr. Spaulding and his daughter Etta called in the morning as she is not to work here longer now. She picks her things together and they left about noon. I have been extremely busy with my work ruling blanks for my meteorological records, and ruled enough for the year; and in the evening I recorded and tested the readings of the thermometer for January and found the mean to be 11.15 degrees above zero, which is 3.72 degrees lower than the mean of the last seventeen years, that is the mean of the January readings in that time. Thirty and a half inches of snow fell in January and 3.12 inches of rain and melted snow. I called this afternoon to see Mrs. Perkins who is failing under a paralytic shock and cannot live many weeks.

Monday, February 4

Found about one inch of snow that fell last night. The whole amount that had fallen the present winter before the first of the present month was 54.44 in. Dunbar came to finish sawing wood and I paid him fifty cents as the balance that I owed him, and I paid 6 cts to Richmond for wings. Polk came down from Pomfret and said that his father is slowly sinking away. He lives far beyond our expectations, but he cannot live many days longer.

Debits - .50, .06

Tuesday, February 5

Hail, snow and rain this morning. A stormy day and some thawing. Elmer and Christiana Emery came in the middle of the day and went home in the afternoon. Christiana took our washing home with her. I got a paper from Polk that gives the death of Wendell Phillips that took place last Saturday at his home in Boston. I got a meteorological paper from R.A. Perkins. It was "Mansill's Signals" published at Rock Island, Ill. Paid five cents for thread.

Debits - .05

Wednesday, February 6

A rainy morning. It began to rain quite early or perhaps it did not totally cease last night. I went to the Post office this morning and I saw Mr. Adams of the History of Windsor County. I saw the Book, it is well gotten up and is probably as correct as such works can be expected to be. I went to the post office between four and five o'clock and found a "Post" from Polk and pens from Ivison etc. of New York, with samples of pens. The walking is the hardest I ever knew, the ice being wet and as near perfectly smooth as could well be. Received a circular on the English Sparrows from Portland, Me.

Thursday, February 7

A warm cloudy morning but no storm to be noted. I spent the greater part of the day at my table on meteorological and other matters. The wind is moving round towards the northwest and the air is some cooler. The passing is not quite so bad as it was yesterday but is not yet much frozen. I paid twelve cts for oranges. I engaged a cord of wood of Mr. Gilbert to be brought soon.

Debits - .12

Friday, February 8

Cooler but not cold; cloudy but not stormy, though a slight storm of snow began about nine o'clock a.m. My writing and chores kept me the greater part of the day. I paid Mr. Hewitt 6 cts for milk and Woodruff 12 cts for shorts for hens and Chapman 8 cts for charcoal. Had a pleasant talk with Henry Chapman about the Barrett family, as we lived by them about ten years I thought we knew them well, and we sensibly feel for them in their sickness and bereavements. This evening I heard that someone of James' family had been seriously injured by a fall on the ice; but which one we could not determine for the accounts differed. Prof. Arnold Henry Gugot died at Princeton, N.J.

Debits - .06, .12, .08

Saturday, February 9

Cloudy again this morning, but it did not begin to rain till about eleven o'clock. Mrs. French called this forenoon and her visit was very pleasant for Mrs. Doton who is at times lonely and low spirited. Polk and Abbie came this forenoon, and they bring the news of Mr. Chamberlin's death. He died this morning between half past four and five. He has been failing for a long time; was unable to do any hard work twenty years ago, but has been slowly failing through that long period. Polk and Abbie had many errands to do, and did not leave for home till night. Their home will seem a lonely one. I paid six cents for oranges. There has been nearly a week of storm, but rather light.

Debits - .06

Sunday, February 10

There are some signs of clearing weather, for the wind has changed to the north and is not cold being scarcely above freezing point. I spent much of the morning in chores about the house and barn. Dr. Logan called this forenoon and is now very much crowded with work in his profession, for the epidemic that is so clearly prevalent keeps the doctors busy from morning to morning again. The passing is now very bad for the rains have made the paths and sidewalks a smooth glass ice and it is truly dangerous walking about. I spent the greater part of the afternoon at my table writing and study on the events, some of which are painful, that are about these days passing along. A few days ago, Mrs. J.C. Barrett (Mary Whitney) fell on the ice breaking both bones in one of her limbs below the knee, and last night Miss Abby G. Weed of Hartland was stricken with apoplexy and died today. She remained unconscious from the first attack yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wm. Hewitt called in the afternoon to give me an invitation to ride to the funeral of Mr. Chamberlin that is to be Tuesday at 1 o'clock p.m.

Monday, February 11

Cooler this morning and more signs of clearing weather. Horace Dunham called and brought the tidings of the death of Miss Weed, as noticed on the previous page. She was a young woman of peculiar dignity and force of character, with a good temperament and a heart of pure sympathy. This truly afflicted family has our warmest sympathy. Her father Nathaniel Weed was stricken down with heart disease while at Montpelier as representative of the town of Hartland. Today I paid Samuel Gilbert five dollars for wood, and Paul 8 cts for soap. The ice is very glare and I caught a fall this afternoon.

Debits – 5.00, .08

Tuesday, February 12

This is pleasant winter weather and 1.8 inches of snow covers the ice which makes the ice rather treacherous. The funeral of Mr. Chamberlin is set at one o'clock this afternoon, and that of Miss Abby G. Weed at eleven in the forenoon. This is also my sister Matilda, Mrs. Page's birth day; and also that of President Lincoln. I spent the evening in writing a letter to Mrs. Page who is now in Ludlow with her daughter Sarah (Mrs. Hesselton) but I find I have not spoken of any one of our friends here, and must withhold the letter till I have written another sheet.

Wednesday, February 13

The weather seems cooler though the wind is nearly south, but at times southeasterly, and the snow was melting away during the day. In the afternoon Polk and Abbie came from Pomfret and were here till night on business connected with the Probate Court. I have been some lame from a fall that I received last Monday but am better so that I could go to Woodruffs, where I went for feed paying him 28 cts. Abbie lent me 33 cts for a few days as an accommodation in making change. It was rainy through the middle of the day. This evening I finished a long letter to my sister Mrs. Page, now at Ludlow.

Credits - .33

Debits - .28

Thursday, February 14

Rainy this morning, but how much it had rained in the night is not certain. The walking is now so bad that it is almost impossible to get to the Post Office. I went in the forenoon and again in the afternoon, and it was not safe to be out. I carried Mr. Cushing's paper home, that I had had to examine photographs taken in Egypt along the Nile. I paid Richmond 20 cts and Freeman 3 cts. Mr. Montague called for copy of my bill for surveying Mrs. Minor's road.

Debits - .23

Friday, February 15

The morning was cooler but pleasant so I concluded to go to Quechee to see what Mrs. Perrin knows of her uncle Laban Chamberlin through the early period of his life and I found that she had kept the history well in her memory. I rode on the train, the first in three years. This morning I called on Wm. S. Hewitt and bought a hat and tomorrow must pay him three dollars for it. I took some notice of the track and the

improvements that Mr. Porter has made in it, and it is all that his money would permit, and I find the track to be in good order. Mrs. Elvira Washburn visited here, and Mrs. Fisher came in the afternoon.

Saturday, February 16

I tried to take the time this morning but was unfortunate for the sky became obscured by clouds before I could get the observations. Went to the office this morning and paid Wm. S. Hewitt for hat 3.00, and paid Della Mayo \$1.32 towards her work the last two weeks. I have tried to put thoughts on the notice of Mr. Chamberlin, but can hardly get a positive fact to write out. Joanna came here this afternoon but has not been here for a long time before.

Debits – 3.00, 1.32

Sunday, February 17

This morning is some warmer, the therm. reading 27 or more above zero. Joanna remained here through the night, and today there are strong signs of storm. I intended to write all day today, but found little time or inclination to write, for I am too tired to fix attention so as to write easily or understandingly. Mrs. Marcy came with her husband as he came to church; but she came here to see her friend and cousin. She staid through the forenoon, and till her husband called for her. I tried to write some in the afternoon and evening, but could do but little. It began to rain at one p.m. a little snow falling at first, and at nine o'clock there had fallen 0.18 of an inch. This is not a cold rain for the temperature is some above the freezing point.

Monday, February 18

A pleasant rain through the night and at 7 o'clock there had fallen a little more than half an inch. I spent much of the day on the article on Mr. Chamberlin, but I have much difficulty in finding facts and dates. I find much in general terms, but it does not answer to rely upon such loose fragments. Dunbar came to saw my wood and he worked on it the greater part of the day, and I paid him 50 cts towards his work. This afternoon I received a line from Abbie touching the early life of Mr. C. and his official acts, or rather the business he was called upon to do.

Debits - .50

Tuesday, February 19

The air was bad through the night and such an atmosphere is certainly unhealthy. Mortimer called this forenoon on his way to the auction of John Bailey's personal property. Sister Joanna is here and things are going well. Dunbar finished sawing the wood and I paid him \$1.50 in full. Paid Freeman for Cream tartar and paid Woodruff 10 cts for feed. We received of Mrs. Freeman 50 cts for eggs. Am unable to finish the article on Mr. Chamberlin and it must pass over to next week. Paid to sister J. as change 25.

Credits – .50

Debits – 1.50, .12, .10, .25

Wednesday, February 20

Nearly half an inch of rain fell in the night and this morning, and the storm ended with a slight storm of hail. The snow or hail was about seven tenths of an inch in depth. I sent the meteorology of January to the Standard this morning, but the notice of Mr. Chamberlin I could not finish for a few of the facts of importance could not be obtained. But the article must be put in next week. I received five dollars from the town for work on the road for Mrs. Minor. I paid 22 cts for kerosene. Christiana Emery called and again took our washing; and sister Joanna went home with her, having made a very pleasant visit here.

Credits – 5.00

Debits - .22

Thursday, February 21

The weather is some cooler this morning, the ther. registering only 5 degrees above zero. Mrs. Doton rode to Hartland hill in the forenoon for the morning is very pleasant, and the ride would have been so if

she had not been annoyed by a dog. Spent the day in writing and in correcting and reducing the readings of the thermometer. Mortimer called and I got a board for my step to stand on while writing at my shelf. It is from the Williams floor. I paid Paul 30 cts for oatmeal and 6 cts for milk of Pierce. Also paid Paul for fish 28.

Debits – .30, .06, .28

Friday, February 22

I worked at my table in the forenoon, and get along some with the article on Mr. C. The day is some pleasant with southerly wind and tolerably clear sky, so that I took the time by the meridian, but it is not sufficiently clear. I found the town clock  $2\frac{3}{4}$  minutes slow with a doubt of 10 seconds, but must take it again when it is clear. I paid the barber 20 cts for cutting my hair, and in the street I met young Newcomb who was with Dana in the clothing store ten years ago. Mrs. Fairbanks called on Mrs. Doton and the call was very refreshing. Miss Emma Marcy called in the early evening.

Debits – .20

Saturday, February 23

A dense cloudy morning; the wind changing often from N.E. to S.W. It began to storm at six o'clock, and the storm was a slight rain mixed with snow. Paid Della Mayo 85 cts towards her work and owe her now 8 cts. We intend to pay her 75 cts a week and have paid it excepting the 8 cts. This I also paid.

Debits - .85, .08

Sunday, February 24

This morning I was writing at my bracket shelf and in came our excellent friend R.A. Perkins from Springfield, Mass. He came home on account of the sickness of his mother. She is becoming much paralyzed and cannot continue many months, or perhaps not many weeks. I can hardly say that I have worked very busily today, but all my study is on the article on Mr. Chamberlin, and I do not expect to please anyone but myself by writing it, for but few knew Mr. C. closely and intimately. He presented a rough exterior that people often took for the real man.

Monday, February 25

It is snowing a little this morning and it covers the ice so that the walking is dangerous. Our friend Robert calls on us frequently and it does seem very pleasant to have it so. I am still at work on the Chamberlin article and I hope to get it done before many days, for it must go into this weeks paper. I paid Richmond 58 cts for meat, and Woodruff 14 cts for feed for the hens.

Debits - .58, .14

Tuesday, February 26

In the forenoon I went to Robert's room to examine some of his Pomfret papers and I found some that were very interesting and valuable for what I am now doing. I am writing an article that calls up much of Pomfret history. I paid 90 cts to Marble for Graham flour. Four inches of snow fell in the morning that made 0.31 inches of water when melted. Mrs. Fairbank called and Mrs. Southgate called for a short time. Mrs. Doton has written a letter to her sister Abby, the first that she has written for more than six months.

Debits - .90

Wednesday, February 27

In the morning I finished an article for the Standard and went with it and got a proof of a part of the article and went again just before noon and got proof of the remainder. Called on my friend Dana and had a long talk with him on the elections in 1840. I walked up to Horace Dunhams to find a register of 1860, and found he had an extra copy that he gave me. Paid 12 cts for postage cards & stamps. I found the walking rather hard for the light snow has covered the ice and the walking is not safe.

Debits - .12

Thursday, February 28

Snowing again this morning, and the storm continued through the day with a rapid fall of the Barometer. The storm was from the northeast but the wind was very quiet until about eight o'clock in the evening when it came to the northwest. I was some lame today from my long walks yesterday and I have hardly stepped into the street. Three inches of snow have fallen today making 0.26 of an inch of water. We received a letter from Amelia and it is a long time since we had one before. The letter was a reply to one that Mrs. D. wrote to her sister Abby.

Friday, February 29

This is truly a windy day. The wind began to blow very furiously soon after midnight and it continued so through the day. I went to the post office and to the probate office, and in the afternoon I took to him the result of my computations of present worth that I had computed for him.

Saturday, March 1

A rough, cold day but the thermometer does not fall so low as many times before, for it scarcely falls below zero. I paid \$12.06 insurance and 14 cts postage, paid White 5 cts for pens, and I paid Della Mayo 75 cts for work that overpaid 4 cts, and paid Woodruff 40 cents. Received of Mrs. Freeman for eggs 40.

Credits - .40

Debits - 12.20, .05, .75, .40

Sunday, March 2

A clear but cool morning, Ther. minus 16 degrees but it is rising rapidly, but it must be some warm when the sun is rising so high. Our friend Robert calls in when he has a few minutes of leisure. I am sorry we cannot make him comfortable here and permit him to board out here while here from Springfield, Mass. It is now evening and past nine o'clock, and the thermometer is more than five degrees below zero and falling. I have written some on the report for the weather in February. It was a warm month, the mean temperature being more than seven degrees above the February mean in the last seventeen years, but the mean of cloudiness is fearful to look at. It was more than 86 percent and that tells on the health of the community for there is more sickness in the valley of Quechee River than I ever knew before.

Monday, March 3

Another cool morning. Ther minus 14 degrees. This weather seems rather cold but it comes in contrast with the warm weather of last month. Our friend R.A. Perkins starts for Springfield this forenoon and half of Woodstock might leave and not be so much missed as he is when he leaves. Let Della Mayo have a stamp 2 ct and last Friday she had two postal cards. Robert Perkins left for Springfield this morning and we shall miss him very much, for when he is here he calls on us often, and then the moments move very pleasantly.

Tuesday, March 4

This is the day of March meeting and the weather is so cold that but few get together. There is a strong N.W. wind and the weather is cold. I leveled up my office table and began to fit it up for my writing and drawing purposes. I called on Dr. Logan and got a fresh lot of the tonic pills, I have not been at the town meeting at all, and do not care for such doings. The few will lead in such matters. Susan Leonard came to her recitation in Geometry and is finishing the third book of Loomis. Received a paper from Robert this afternoon. Paid Paul 10 cts for crackers. We paid Della Mayo 25 cts. She is now thinking of going home and that is uppermost in her mind. We hope she will have a chance tomorrow.

Debits - .10, .25

Wednesday, March 5

Another cool morning. Ther. minus 8 degrees but is rising. Mr. Mayo and daughter Mary came for Della this morning and they left about ten o'clock and we were left alone. Sister Joanna came in the forenoon so we were not alone for she seems to fill the blank place that ill health and east wind makes. Polk came

on business at the probate office, and left for home about four o'clock. Mr. Bland brought a load of wood from Mortimer Spear, and will bring another in a few days. Sister J. left for home about three o'clock. Mrs. Fisher called in the evening. Received a letter from our friend Robert with what I lent him (\$5.00) all right.

Debits - .24

Thursday, March 6

Warmer this morning and we are here at our home alone. It does seem more like home again. Mrs. D. is trying to do her own work again, and I hope she can succeed even if it is not done so well, or so thoroughly. Give us our own home by ourselves and we will rejoice. It is now evening and no one has been in the house today. I went to the post office and to Pauls, and paid him 10 cts for a lamp chimney. Mrs. A.C. Perkins, widow of the late Alva C. Perkins, died just before eleven o'clock this evening.

Alva Chipman Perkins, born Oct. 4, 1803. d. March 21, 1869

Patience Paddock born Oct. 16, 1806. D. March 6, 1884.

They were married January 7, 1828 by Rev. Jasper Hazen.

Debits - .10

Friday, March 7

It begins to snow slightly early this morning. Early this morning we heard of the death of Mrs. A.C. Perkins who has for some time lived in the easterly part of the brick house east of the brick church in Woodstock; but for the last month or two lived with Mrs. Mellish at the same house. Her two sons Norman and Robert are the only living members of her family. I hope they can both be here to the funeral next Sunday. Robert came in from Springfield this afternoon, and I hope Norman will be here from Detroit tomorrow. I have arranged my table so as to have my writing more convenient. The weather is not very cold for March.

Saturday, March 8

Snow, snow. Nearly eight inches of dense snow has fallen and it still is snowing very fast. About one foot fell as it continued through the day. There was but little passing during the day for the snow gains some. I went to the post office and to Mr. Fishers and brought my table platform to stand on at the bracket desk between the front windows. Robert called in the evening and his calls are very pleasant. Paid 4 cts for stamps.

Debits - .04

Sunday, March 9

There was about one foot of snow in this storm and it is very dense and difficult to shovel. The funeral of Mrs. Perkins is attended this forenoon. Polk and Abbie came down from Pomfret and were here till late in the afternoon when they started for home in the storm of slight rain with snow. Henry Parkhurst and wife (Ruth Perkins) came from Barnard through the snow. The funeral was attended at the brick church where Mr. and Mrs. Perkins usually attended church. Mrs. Blake (Cornelia E. Paddock) called here a short time just before night, and intends to go to Pomfret tomorrow if the weather permits. Robert called in the evening and we all had a very pleasant chat. He will probably go to Springfield tomorrow, and he feels that he is breaking up the central home, and it is really the end of the Perkins family that lived in Pomfret so long. It is perhaps not best to look over the past too much, but let us look to the present with thoughts forward and higher.

Monday, March 10

Found about half a foot more of snow and another job of shoveling to keep the walks clear. This makes about eighteen inches of snow during this storm. Robert and Cornelia both leave for home this morning, for the roads are too bad to think of going about among the cousins. This breaks up the ties that they have had for Pomfret and Woodstock and they, too, feel the change. Isaac Fisher called in the evening to get the old "Fisher Clock" that I proposed to give them. I hope it will be kept in the Fisher family. The evening is clear and bright, and is some cooler.

Tuesday, March 11

Easterly wind at about seven o'clock, but it soon changed to southerly. It began to snow at eight o'clock and the day was one of apparent storm yet there was nothing to measure. At six o'clock in the afternoon it began to rain and that continues and is going on while I write at nine o'clock. I have worked on the meteorological reports today and intended to finish them this evening. I paid 10 cts for yeast at Slacks. Saw Mr. Greene's stock of paper and some that I should like to use. We are alone at our own house, and how much more pleasant.

Debits - .10

Wednesday, March 12

And it still rains. There is in the rain-gauge 0.28 of an inch of rain though life in it still for it yet rains. I finished the meteorological report and mailed it this afternoon; but the walking is extremely bad and I am glad to keep in my room. It continued to rain till past four o'clock in the afternoon, and in the rain gauge I find six tenths of an inch of rain, two tenths to be set to yesterday. I paid 14 cts for feed to Woodruff. Ferris Vaughan brought one of the Rockford watches for me to test its rate, etc. It is a nickel movement with patent regulation. It is No. 107.113.

Debits - .14

Thursday, March 13

I cleared off my drawing table and began the work of drawing, for I had neglected it too long. I began to finish the plan of the Richmond place that I had nearly finished in the early part of the winter. Ferris called in the evening and I had let his watch run down so there was no test of time.

Friday, March 14

I rested well last night for the air was good and the weather not too cold. I paid Richmond 90 cts for meat and Greene 50 cts for paper, and postage stamps 10 cts, and I paid Woodruff 25 cts for feed for hens. The walking is bad and the snow is full of water in the road. I found the walking extremely bad as I went to the post office. I called on Isaac Fisher to see his clock, the old "Fisher Clock" that his father used to wind and take care of more than seventy years ago. I hope it will be kept in the Fisher family "as long as wood grows and water runs."

Debits - .90, .50, .10, .25

Saturday, March 15

A slight fall of snow, but not enough to be measured. Mrs. Freeman called in the morning and paid us 40 cts, and we paid Miss Mellish 20 cts for helping about the house. I kept in my room the greater part of the day and in the afternoon I worked on the plan of the Richmond lot and all the land between that and the river road. Mortimer sent another load of wood by Mr. Bland and when I get two cords and a half more that he intends to send it will do for the summer. Mrs. Fairbanks called in the evening.

Credits - .40

Debits - .20

Sunday, March 16

A very pleasant morning with slight northwest wind, and only a few cirro-stratus clouds, but the clouds changed in the middle of the day to cumulo stratus and there was but very few of them. The whole day was pleasant and spring-like, and the evening was entirely clear. I was at my table much of the day, though not putting my work forward very much. Carlie Dunham called in the morning and we were much surprised to see her, for she has been unwell for a few weeks and has not been out of the house till the last two days when she began to go out freely. I am trying to write a good letter to her brother Herman at Tufts College, but I find little time in which I can write at all. Today I sent one dollar to Mrs. Dunham for the milk we had through the month of February. We are getting along alone very pleasantly, and hope we can continue to do so.



Debits – 1.00

Monday, March 17

Another cloudy morning with a very little snow, but not enough to admit of being measured. Mrs. Fairbanks called this morning and Mrs. Marsh in the afternoon. Mrs. D. can bear their presence well for they are both of them very kind and pleasant company. I have spent much of the day in doing chores and errands. I paid Paul 15 cts for box of salt and a lamp wick, and Freeman 10 cts for a lamp chimney, and 11 cts for postage stamps at the post office. One of my early scholars, David Burnham of Reading called on me this forenoon and such I am always glad to meet.

Debits – .15, .10, .11

Tuesday, March 18

A pleasant morning and it was followed by a pleasant and beautiful day. I tested the time today and found my watch about 1 min 15 sec. slow which makes the town clock nearly four minutes too slow. Mrs. Farman paid 18 cts for eggs, and I sent one dollar to Abigail for washing. I worked at my drawing table a part of the day.

Credits – .18

Debits – 1.00

Wednesday, March 19

Wrote a letter to Edward Doten of Springfield, Mass. Called at Murdock's and changed the cases of the watches getting a silver case No. 140737. The No. of the watch is 107.113. Mrs. Dunham came here this forenoon to visit her sister. She has not been here for a long time. Those sisters, Mrs. Dunham and Mrs. Doton, have seen each other but seldom tho living near, and in sight. Miss Murdock assisted us in the house this forenoon and Mrs. D. paid her 15 cts. She is remarkably good help in the house. It began to snow at one o'clock this afternoon and is still snowing.

Debits - .15

Thursday, March 20

Six inches of snow this morning, and when melted was 0.78 of an inch of water. The snow is much too heavy to shovel or to be removed from the walks. I spent all the forenoon in chores about the house and barn. The atmosphere has been very light and damp so much so that stoves draw with difficulty and fires will hardly burn. I lent to Abram Dunbar 50 cts, for he was in some distress and tries to keep above absolute starvation. I went to Pauls with some errands, got groceries, and found the walking very bad and wet.

Debits - .50

Friday, March 21

A fine spring day, sap running and the snow is leaving us fast. Carlie tried to begin her work in the shop but was obliged to put it off till another day. I kept at my table, and in the afternoon went to Woodruffs and paid him 28 cts for feed that was very fine. We have arranged with Mrs. Farman to do the washing, etc. Mortimer Spear came with a load of wood and will bring two more. Mrs. Fairbanks called. I wrote a letter to Herman Dunham and one to Mrs. Phoebe Harriman of Elk Horn, Wis.

Debits – .28

Saturday, March 22

Another fine morning with the thermometer a little below freezing point, and the children start their sleds. Mailed letter to Herman Dunham. Miss Mellish assisted us this forenoon about the house and we paid her 15 cts. Mr. Spear brought us another load of wood and Dunbar began to saw it. I paid him 25 cts. Sent a postal card to Dr. Elwyn Foster of 8 Beacon Street Boston, as I wish to get the address of Ethan Allen Doty who is getting up the genealogy of the Doton family in America. A great work as they have been

extending for more than 260 years, and nine or ten generations have moved on the earth. Town clock set forward 3 min. 38 sec.

Debits – .15, .25

Sunday, March 23

The birds sing merrily but I cannot get near enough to be positive what they are. It was too early for blue birds to give their usual song, and it was not a full, free robin song. In the afternoon we heard the full and clear song of the blue birds, so that we were not mistaken. The day is not clear but there are full cirro stratus clouds with falling barometer, and rather high temperature. Mr. Tillotson preaches at the chapel and I think will do so every Sunday for a time, as such an arrangement has been made. Mr. Tillotson was a brother of the late O.H. Tillotson who preached here in Woodstock about forty years ago. His discussion with Elder Hazen was about forty years ago the first of January. I recollect well the time and I think I heard all of it, and I cannot say that I think such purely doctrinal discussions are healthy for the religion of the heart. It is now four o'clock afternoon, and there is much appearance of storm.

Monday, March 24

Foggy, but not rainy. Mrs. Farman came to do our washing. The snow is leaving very fast and the stage to Bridgewater went on wheels in the afternoon. Mailed letters to Albert Darling and to Abbie. I worked on my drawing through the greater part of the day. Work seems to begin this morning. Horace Dunham begins on work for Fred Marsh, and Carlie begins in the shop for Damon. We paid Mrs. Farman 75 cts for work. Mr. Billings' stage went on wheels and is the first this season.

Debits – .75

Tuesday, March 25

A bright and nearly clear morning and after doing the chores about the house and barn I began the table work of drawing, and it goes much better as I get the mind fully on it. Henry Greene called and said that he saw two pure robins, so they are here without a doubt. Dunbar is again here on his wood job and I paid him 50 cts. Carlie Dunham was here again as she used to be at noon. Mrs. Farman paid 9 cts for eggs. This is the time for school meeting but I do not attend. Received the "Naturalists Directory" from S. E. Cassino the publisher. Dr. Logan called in the afternoon.

Credits - .09

Debits - .50

Wednesday, March 26

It began to rain early this morning and the storm has increased, and the afternoon was very rainy. I went to the Post office and sent one dollar and fifty cents to Cassino to pay for the Nat. Directory received yesterday, and I paid 3 cts fee and 2 cts postage. The rain has been falling fast through the greater part of the day, especially the afternoon, and at six o'clock there had fallen 0.89 of an inch since the storm began. Our sidewalk is nearly flooded and we think the street drains must be frozen up.

Debits – 1.50, .05

Thursday, March 27

And still it rains, though it has not rained much during the night, only 0.11 of an inch this morning. Paid Mr. Hewitt for milk 6 cts. We are getting along well about the house work, for Mrs. D. has engaged Mrs. Farman to assist in doing all that is needed to be done. I have worked the greater part of the day at my table, have been the lines of the Pogue hole road and the aqueduct from the wood lot to the reservoir near the laundry.

Debits – .06

Friday, March 28

A little cooler and partially clear weather. Went to the post office, etc. Paid Richmond 23 cents for meat. Gave Dunbar 25 cts to encourage him. I do not yet get a Nautical Almanac and may have to wait a week or two as I did one year ago. Today I have begun to rule the calendar pages of the Almanac and I must drive it as rapidly as possible. This is my forty third annual calendar that I begin upon now. Harriett Emery came this afternoon, and it seems quite natural to have her here.

Debits - .23, .25

Saturday, March 29

Cloudy and some cooler this morning. Today I have prepared the pages for the calendar for 1885. I have done all I could easily without a Nautical Almanac, and that I have got tonight as it came this forenoon so I can put the work ahead as fast as time will permit. We got a letter from Abbie this afternoon and one from Albert Darling, and I shall write to him again very soon. I paid Dunbar 50 cts towards his work.

Debits - .50

Sunday, March 30

A sudden change in the weather. Last night the thermometer was 37 degrees above zero, and at 7 this morning it was 5 degrees above and there was a strong wind from the northwest, and the air seemed very cold. I spent much of the forenoon in doing chores about the house and barn. The sky became nearly clear before noon and I prepared to test the time and these observations go to show that my watch had lost nearly one second a day for seventeen days. At least I made it sixteen seconds slow of meridian at the time of the Sun's southing. In very clear weather we can be sure of the time within two or three seconds, which is near enough for all practical purposes. The day has been rough the snow has been falling some and the wind has been very strong making it unpleasant for the thermometer has been only about 14 degrees above zero today. Ferris Vaughan called here in the afternoon and Mrs. Farman in the evening. I carried the papers to Mrs. Freeman and she paid us 40 cts for eggs that she has had, and I paid Mr. Hewitt 6 cts for milk.

Credits - .40

Debits - .06

Monday, March 31

A cool morning but warmer than yesterday. I went upstreet and sent postal to Abbie. Paid William Hewitt for two sheets 2 dollars, and I paid Walter White 1.50 for Almanac 1.40 and Register .10. Mr. McKenzie left with me a letter from Edward Williams who is now in Santa Barbara, California that gives a full meteorological table of that section. Remarkably interesting. I write a letter to Albert Darling, a reply to one received yesterday. Miss Lizzie Bridge called here in the afternoon but only for a few minutes. We paid Mrs. Dunham one dollar for the milk in March.

Debits - 2.00, 1.50, 1.00

Tuesday, April 1

Paid P.O. box rent for the quarter .10. Mailed letter to Albert Darling. I have looked through the phases of the Moon for 1885. Mrs. Farman has been doing the washing and we paid her 75 cts. The day has been much warmer and more pleasant. Brought forward 5.65.

Debits - .10, .75

Wednesday, April 2

A dense mass of dark stratus clouds that bespeak rain, snow and hail. Mrs. Sessions called this morning and paid me one dollar for surveying on her house lot last season. Mrs. Winslow called. I paid 6 cts for milk. This morning I received fifty dollars of Mr. Billings and I paid out fifteen dollars ninety one cts at the Savings Bank for Mortimer Spear. Paid H.S. Dana interest on note \$18.00. Paid Woodruff 36 cts for feed.

It began to snow about three p.m. and continued till night. The barometer is falling rapidly and we may expect wind or storm.

Credits – 1.00, 50.00

Debits - .06, 15.91, 18.00, .36

Thursday, April 3

Called on Woodbury & Co. and they paid me five dollars on the Claremont account. I found that they had Six inches of very wet snow this morning that melted to 0.6 of an inch of water. It takes a dense snow to have the snow and water to be as 10 to 1, but a dense snow will do it. The snow storm ended about 6 o'clock and the rain began very soon after, and the rain has continued through the greater part of the day. I have kept very busy at my drawing work, and had got along well in it. We have been almost alone through the day, for the walking has been so bad that no one could get here. The rain has been rather light but the weather has been so warm that the snow is all slush.

Friday, April 4

The morning was rough, cloudy but not extremely cold. There has been a strong wind from the N.W. and some flakes in the air. We began to have calls this morning and it continued through the day but nothing of importance has been done. Mr. French called to get my list, but I could not give it without more time. I have hardly been out today but needed the exercise. Mortimer Spear called today to speak of his Bank Note. Paid Mr. Hewitt 6 cts for milk.

Debits – .06

Saturday, April 5

The same cloudy weather continues with N.W. wind and low barometer. I went up street this morning and paid Richmond 37 cts for meat and groceries. The walking is improving on the sidewalks. Carlie Dunham came here at noon and this is her birth day and she is thirty three years old and she has worked in the tailor's shop the greater part of the time for twelve years. I paid Paul 12 cts for kerosene. Mrs. Freeman called in the early evening. We do not hear from Abbie or from any of our folks at Pomfret. It seems a long time since we have seen any of them.

Debits – .37, .12

Sunday, April 6

A pleasant morning though the roads are bad. The Song sparrows are singing very sweetly. The wind is still in the N.W. and the barometer keeps low though rising slowly. I cannot think that this very low pressure of the atmosphere is conducive to health. We are almost entirely alone today, though Horace Dunham and Carlie called a few minutes on their way to church. We have not attended church for many months. The last time we have been to church was on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 1881, when Mr. Tillotson preached at the chapel from Luke X: 42. "But one thing is needful." I hope we shall be able to hear him more while he is here at Woodstock. I have never met him though I heard him preach on the last day of the year 1843, while his brother O.H. Tillotson was living and preaching here. The discussion between Rev. O.H. Tillotson and Elder Jasper Hazen was held at the brick church in the evening of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of the same week, that is in 1844.

Monday, April 7

The weather is very much as it has been for some time. Not cold but damp and cloudy. There has been but two cloudless days since the year began. The 7<sup>th</sup> of January and the 26<sup>th</sup> were clear days, at least were so when I read the instruments. I have arranged to divide my time and work so that I can do certain work. I take the almanac in the forenoon and the drawing in the afternoon. I went to the P.O. just before five o'clock and found the walking very bad. I called on Mrs. Vose and she perhaps will call on Mrs. D. tomorrow.

Tuesday, April 8

A pleasant morning and the birds feel the inspiration and fill the air with their music. In the forenoon I got a new drawing board from Mr. Fisher, made from a floor board from Mr. Williams' house. The whole raises my work so that it is much easier drawing. In the afternoon I tried the work and find the new drawing board a real treasure. Mailed a letter to Franklin and paid 4 cts for stamps. I heard Miss Leonard's lessons in the afternoon. Mrs. Vose came in to speak of making a dress for Mrs. Doton, and she left a list of the articles necessary.

Debits - .04

Wednesday, April 9

Very little snow and some rain in the latter part of the night, but there was no storm after 7 o'clock. I kept at my table in the forenoon, and in the afternoon I got a pail of feed for the hens, paying 12 cts. Late in the afternoon Abbie drove in and it did seem quite pleasant to see her again for she had not been here since the 9<sup>th</sup> of March when she was at the funeral of her Aunt Mrs. Perkins. This time she came with a multitude of errands. We visited till eleven o'clock and then we only adjourned till morning.

Debits - .12

Thursday, April 10

Arose quite early and found some slight appearance of storm. Flakes of snow were seen floating in the wind, but it soon broke away so that the day was some pleasant. Abbie spent the forenoon in doing errands. She got a dress like a sample that I got yesterday at Mr. Billings'. She left with me \$1.50 cash to get some spectacles for her boarding folks. She left for home soon after noon. In the afternoon I paid Billings \$4.45 for flannel for Mrs. Doton, so she and Abbie are well pleased now with their beautiful pieces of gray. I finished and mailed my March report and weather.

Credits - 1.50

Debits - 4.50

Friday, April 11

Fast Day. The air is some warmer and it seems as though there might be showers. I paid 6 cts for milk to Mr. Hewitt. I have kept at my almanac this forenoon on the column of Aspects. And I also followed this a great part of the afternoon, and it would not take many such days to finish the almanac. Mortimer Spear came from Pomfret and he calls the traveling very bad. We have got along very comfortably, and the weather seems to be growing warmer. We paid Mrs. Farman one dollar towards her work. It pays for this week and 25 cts on the next week. Charles Reade the novelist died this afternoon in London.

Debits - .06, 1.00

Saturday, April 12

I went upstreet this morning and mailed papers to Dr. Foster, to R.A. Perkins, to N.C. Perkins and to Mrs. Gookin. Paid 5 cts for stamps. I began early on the almanac and continued through the day. I have finished the column of aspects, and the moon's place is done. I should soon get the almanac out were it not for so much other work that is pressing to be done. I went upstreet this early evening and paid Slack 9 cts for lemons.

Debits - .05, .09

Sunday, April 13

Mrs. Doton was quite unwell through the night, was taken yesterday with a sore throat and it troubled her much through the night but she has seemed to be comfortable this afternoon. I have worked at my table through the forenoon on the almanac, the commencement of the seasons. In the afternoon I went to Mr. Washburn's to get the address of Ethan Allen Doty of New York. His latest that I get is 70 Duane Street, and it is so recent that it is probably so now. I found the walking too bad for my sore feet, and I think it best for me to keep in the house. The Washburns spoke of the old days when they went to school and I

was teaching in the brick school house that stood where Mr. Russell's cooper shop now stands. While there I got all the dates that I went to get and can now write to Dr. Foster and to E.A. Doty and throw some light on the subject of the Dotons. I am getting very sleepy this evening and must soon rest a little.

Monday, April 14

Mrs. Doton has rested badly for the last two nights from a severe cold and sore throat. I called Dr. Logan this morning and I hope she will avoid a very hard time. I worked on the almanac in the forenoon and in the afternoon I worked on Mr. Billings drawing and I hope to keep this same arrangement.

Tuesday, April 15

The morning was partly clear, but the clouds are increasing fast, and before noon the sky was obscured, and it began to rain at three in the afternoon. I kept busy on the almanac at all the spare time in the forenoon and finished the Sun's declination. I sent \$12.06 to pay the 2<sup>nd</sup> yearly or rather bimonthly assessment on the Life Insurance Certificate, and paid 10 cts fee at the P.O.

Debits – 12.06, .10

Wednesday, April 16

A rainy night and the closing of a rain storm. 0.76 of an inch fell. I went to the bank and got \$17.50 as the Semi annual interest on R.R. Bond. Paid \$15.12 interest at the Savings bank, and paid 9 cts for lemons. I met Mr. Tillotson on his way to the cars. Hope I shall meet him more often as I have not had a time to talk with him. Sent a letter to C.S. Cook of Hanover on the auroras of the past year, as he had a call for them from Harvard College. I paid 5 cts postage. Paid 9 cts for lemons. There was a thunder shower from the S.W. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the first of this season.

Credits – 17.50

Debits – 15.12, .05, .09

Thursday, April 17

Slightly rainy in the night and this morning. Richard Welch called on me to settle a line on River Street. I went over in the forenoon, but had not reliable field notes, and I got the description from the records and went again in the afternoon and found it an easy matter to satisfy myself as to its correctness. Received half a dollar for my trouble. In the afternoon I worked at my table on the Equation of time. Paid Mr. Marble 88 cts for flour

Credits - .50

Debits - .88

Friday, April 18

A rainy night and it continued to rain slightly through the forenoon. I went to River Street to meet the fence viewers on the line between Richard Welch and Sabin Daigle. Called at Murdock's to test time. In the afternoon I worked on the almanac, on the equation of time and the Sun's southing. Paid Woodruff 30 cts for feed for the hens. In the evening I prepared the article on the Eclipses in 1885. Found 0.56 of an inch of rain in the rain gauge.

Debits - .30

Saturday, April 19

After the morning chores I finished the Equation for 1885, and the sun's southing. In the afternoon I worked on the drawing, etc. I paid 12 cts for cream tartar to Freeman and 33 cts to Paul for Molasses. And I paid Marble 63 cts for feed for the hens. We have expected some of our Pomfret friends down today, but they have not yet appeared. The rainy and damp weather still continues and it must be unhealthy. Mrs. Dunham called to see her sister this afternoon.

Debits - .12, .33, .63

Sunday, April 20

Cloudy weather still continues, and so these colds and similar disorders will continue. We think Mrs. Doton's cold has passed its worst stage, though she coughs very badly through the nights. We hope she will be able to rest a little better so as to be able to gain strength. I have done very little except chores about the house and barn. We have had but little company today. Carlie and Mrs. Fairbanks were the only ones that called in the forenoon. But this evening we had Mrs. Russell and Emma Marcy and Emma Dunham come in for a few minutes. Emma Dunham came to talk of school subjects and to learn just what were the legal subjects to be taught. She has a taste for study and an anxiety to know things, and should be permitted to use her time in that way.

Monday, April 21

I mailed a letter to Abbie to go out by Pomfret mail this morning for we have not heard from her or from them directly since she was here. This morning I took up the copying work of the almanac and copied the two columns, Sun south and Suns declination, and I finished them in the evening. The day is some cooler with north or northwest wind and dense stratus clouds that make a gloomy day for those who are confined to the house. I went to Paul's for groceries. The air is clear and cold this evening.

Tuesday, April 22

Clear and cool this morning with the thermometer at the freezing point or a little below. Water froze in the barrel. Mrs. D. rested better last night but has coughed much today, and does not seem so well rested tonight. Polk came down from Pomfret and had not been here before since they came to the funeral of Mrs. Perkins. I noticed the time at noon today and found our time one minute and five seconds slow. I took the result to Mr. Murdock and Mr. Moore. My time keeper is set five seconds too slow of the five hour meridian, and Mr. Murdock's clock eleven seconds fast.

Wednesday, April 23

Cooler and a very clear morning, but the clouds soon began to gather and the wind was rising between nine and ten o'clock. The N.W. wind at this season of the year should have a particular name. But the day was pleasant and was nearly clear. Mrs. Emery came here in the morning and her husband in the afternoon. Mrs. Dunham called here in the forenoon on her way to Mr. Spauldings at Mr. Billings' barn lot. Brother Spencer called here for a few moments in the afternoon. Mrs. Doton did not rest very well last night and coughs some today.

Thursday, April 24

Very pleasant but some cool. I spent nearly all the forenoon in ruling some sheets to use in computing the moons rising and setting. I paid Collins 10 cts for veal. Sister Joanna came in the afternoon and Mortimer rode down the first time since he cut his foot. Mrs. Vose called to see to the fitting of a dress and Mrs. Williams called to see how Mrs. Doton was getting along, whether gaining or otherwise. Miss Leonard came to her recitation.

Debits - .10

Friday, April 25

A slight rain in the night. I went to the bank in the morning and renewed Mortimer Spear's note. The new note is dated April 18<sup>th</sup> and will be payable July 21<sup>st</sup>. I paid \$1.16. One third of that is mine to pay. He will pay me 78 cents. I called on Mr. Porter to have him see the railroad time at the Junction. I paid Mrs. Farman 75 cts for her work this week. A. Dunbar and son have been at work for me clearing up the door yard, and expects to come again tomorrow. Mrs. Southgate and Mrs. Fairbanks met here today.

Debits - 1.16, .75

Saturday, April 26

Received from the safe 20 dollars. Paid for Life of Chapin \$1.50. In the forenoon I worked on the Almanac, and I found it to be a very sleepy day. I went to the Post office and got a line from Mrs. Marshall Conant and three or four advertisements that came in our mail. I paid a village tax to Mr. Wm. R. Hewitt of \$1.80 and paid Simmons 10 cts for a loaf of bread. Paid Collins for meat 12 cts.

Credits – 20.00  
Debits – 1.50, .10, .12

Sunday, April 27

A beautiful morning with easterly wind but nearly clear. In the morning I made an attempt to get the time and took three observations, but the glasses were not perfectly clear and I only got the time within a fraction of a minute. But I tried it again in the afternoon. I prepared the glasses and the instruments with much care and took four observations and the mean result was within a fraction of a second. So I am satisfied that my meridian is very nearly right. The day has been very nearly clear and warm and Mrs. Doton and Mrs. Southgate took their seats in the garden to sun themselves, and it must have been very healthy. I paid three cents for a pint of milk.

Debits - .03

Monday, April 28

Cooler and partially cloudy. I received of Charles H. Vaughan \$1.25 for a dozen Registers sent to him last fall, and I paid Dunbar for five hours work self and boy \$1.00. Received a letter from cousin Foster of 8 Beacon Street Boston, Mass. Polk called having been out to buy a yoke of oxen. He found a pair in North Bridgewater I think, He says that Abbie began her school this morning and I hope she will have a pleasant time, as pleasant as her winter term was.

Credits – 1.25  
Debits – 1.00

Tuesday, April 29

Cooler with slight showers. I spent the greater part of the day at my table on the moon southing and preparing for computing the rising and setting. Miss Leonard came to her recitation in Geometry and has now reached the sixth book of Loomis' treatise. I replied today to Mrs. Conant's card of last Saturday. I paid Richmond 20 cts for veal. Paid 8 cts for postage stamps.

Debits – .20, .08

Wednesday, April 30

A cool but pleasant morning. Mrs. Vose called with a wrapper that she had been making for Mrs. Doton. A sensible garment and a perfect fit. Paid Mrs. V. \$2.25 as the amount of her bill.

Debits – 2.25

Thursday, May 1

Mr. Greene arranges for laying out the foundation of his house on the "Pine tree lot" on River Street. I went in the afternoon and we set up the lines to use as the guide for laying out and building the cellar walls. We received a letter from Abbie by the afternoon mail and she seems to be moving along pleasantly and is well suited with her school.

Friday, May 2

Slight showers in the morning. Mr. Greene called this morning with my Level used at his lot yesterday and he paid me 2 dollars. I worked on the almanac in the forenoon and in the afternoon I began again on the drawing, and I continued it till night. We paid Mrs. Farman 75 cts for the present weeks work. The day is fair except in the morning, and the scholars use the day as the May-day. I spent the evening on the meteorological report for the paper. I here put down 9 cts that I paid out in April that I failed to note.

Credits – 2.00  
Debits - .75, .09



Saturday, May 3

Very pleasant, but cool. I paid Mr. Collins for steak pieces 17 cts, and in the afternoon I paid 90 cts to Mrs. Dunham for milk in the month of April. Mortimer Spear rode down in the afternoon and he paid me 75 cts towards what I paid at the bank for him April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Credits - .75

Debits - .17, .90

Sunday, May 4

The morning was nearly clear, but a dry spring wind began to blow soon after nine o'clock. I have hardly allowed myself to rest though it should be regarded and used as such a day. I studied much of the night on the computation of the moon rising and setting, and today I waded through the month of January; and though I have done but little of that part of the work in the last sixteen years, it seems very natural, and the steps come along to my mind as I go along with the work. In the early evening I had a call from Mr. French and Mr. Tillotson and we had a very pleasant chat.

Monday, May 5

It began to rain just before seven o'clock, and it has rained some through the day. Horace Dunham called to see about putting in a window from one middle chamber, and I would like to be rich enough to have it done. Mrs. Southgate called and had a very pleasant chat and Mrs. D. can enjoy such much better than she could a few weeks ago. Received 2 cts of Mrs. Farman.

Credits - .02

Tuesday, May 6

We can rest tolerably well though troubled by this "cold" that is so prevalent. It is an epidemic, at least it seems to be so. Mrs. Marcy called here in the forenoon, and had not been here for months before. I have been at work on the moon rising and setting this week and I never did the work more easily. I went to the depot when the train came in to see Mr. Porter and get the time from the Junction. His watch was 14 seconds slower than mine. Neal Dow came on the train and will lecture here this evening. Paid 3 cts for sulphur to Freeman. I think I saw chimney swallows today.

Debits - .03

Wednesday, May 7

Rather cool with easterly wind and we still have an abundance of clouds. I began this morning to put the almanac work along and it is moving almost imperceptibly from under my thought. The moon rising and setting, which I have called the most laborious of all is full half down, and I began it only a few days ago. At about four o'clock this afternoon it began to rain, and in the early evening it began to hail, and this lasted till late in the evening.

Thursday, May 8

The storm still continues. The hail that fell last evening still lies in rows as it fell from the buildings, and it so remained till night, or was not all melted today. It makes the day look cheerless and cold. I worked on the almanac this forenoon and worked quite easily. I paid Collins 16 cts for meat, and paid 5 cts for hulled corn. Paid 8 cts for stamps, and I went to Woodruffs & paid 10 cts for feed. This has been a very dull cloudy day and rather cold.

Debits - .16, .05, .08, .10

Friday, May 9

The day is some warmer though the barometer is falling very sensibly. I put myself to my work as early as possible this morning and have had good success through the day. I paid 25 cts to assist Mrs. Pecor.

Debits - .25

Saturday, May 10

In the forenoon I hurried with the meteorological report and I mailed it to Washington. In the afternoon Harriett and Mattie Emery called. Harriett is teaching in the Bruce district, in the same school where my daughter Abbie was last year. I have been driving my Almanac for 1885, and today I wrote to Mr. Farman that he could probably have it quite early. We paid Mrs. Farman 75 cts for her assistance this week.

Debits - .75

Sunday, May 11

Spring is advancing slowly, but the low barometer and these slight and frequent showers, bespeak a cool spell of weather, and it will assist the grass crop and check its running up too thin and slender. I have spent much of the day at my table.

Monday, May 12

Cooler this morning, but at this season of the year such cool days cannot continue very long. I finished the Moon rising & setting for 1885 this forenoon and now I think the Almanac almost done. I paid J.W. Hazen 15 cts for mending pump, and Chapman 17 cts for a box of pills for Abbie. We received a letter from Albert Darling and one from Abbie. Mrs. Emery (Christiana) came here in the afternoon.

Debits - .15, .17

Tuesday, May 13

Cool again, with only slightly rising barometer. In the forenoon I went to the cemetery to take some measurements of the new part around Mr. Billings monument, and found that I could work quite easily. In the afternoon I made a sketch of Mr. Billings lot and Mr. McKenzies lot and drives around them and left it at F.N. Billings store. Mattie Emery came here from home in the forenoon and was here till the arrival of the afternoon mail. Paid 3 cts for milk.

Debits - .03

Wednesday, May 14

It began to rain about 8 last evening and has continued to rain, and the rain gauge reads 0.61 of an inch, and 0.03 of an inch fell before the storm closed. I spent much of the day on the almanac, and it is now done except the Sun rising and setting, and the length of days; and this is a small part of the work and a short time will finish it. I paid Dunbar 25 cts in advance on his work.

Debits - .25

Thursday, May 15

Mr. Collins called this morning and I paid him 20 cts for meat, and Mr. Culver came along with his hulled corn and I paid him 5 cts for a quart. Dunbar came to work on my wood and he prepared what was in the shed so that we can use it and I paid him 25 cts more towards his work. We also paid Mrs. Farman 75 cts for the present weeks work. Orioles appeared this afternoon.

Debits - .20, .05, .25, .75

Friday, May 16

Mr. Hathaway called this morning to have me give him the contents in barrels of his new cistern, and he gave me the full dimensions. 93 inches diameter and 82 inches high. These being the inside measures. I gave it as 76.55 barrels of 31½ gallons. And this I sent to him by mail. Abe Dunbar worked this afternoon and scraped the hen yard and cleared the barn and I aid him 25 cts. Paid Paul 10 cts for soap.

Debits - .25, .10

Saturday, May 17

A shower with hail at ten o'clock this morning. Paid Slack boy 10 cts for greens. Horace called while on the way to the Junction. Polk and Abbie came down from Pomfret and were here at dinner and we had a remarkably pleasant visit. They left for home about four o'clock. Have concluded to try the astral oil and paid 15 cts for two quarts, and am now writing by the light of it. Mrs. Doton has been feeling some unwell from weakness of the stomach, and keeps about the house only with some difficulty.

Credits - .10, .15

Sunday, May 18

A beautiful but coolish morning. Mrs. Doton does not get much better from the attack of yesterday. I called Dr. Logan and he gave some directions to meet the particular difficulty, and will call again tomorrow. I spent much of the day at my table. Carlie Dunham did not call today till late in the afternoon. George Mellish died at half past one o'clock this morning.

Monday, May 19

A warm and pleasant morning but the air was not perfectly clear and the cloudiness increased. I paid Oliver 20 cts for hair-cutting and Paul 15 cts for Oat meal, and Simmons 10 cts for bread. This is the warmest day of the season so far, the Thermometer standing at 80 degrees, which is warm for May.

Debits - .20, .15, .10

Tuesday, May 20

It began to rain at 6 o'clock this morning. Paid Collins 12 cts for meat. Today I have spent a part of the time in the garden, and it shows the want of care last fall. The weather has been warm, but not so warm as yesterday. I am trying to finish the Almanac this week and still hope to do it.

Debits - .12

Wednesday, May 21

A fine morning, and the fields and forests are presenting their full shade of living green. Our venerable friend Hugh P. Howe died at half past ten this morning. Wrote a letter to Herman Dunham and a note to Charles Fitch, and a separate letter to Mr. Fitch and I think Herman will call on him. In the afternoon I went with Henry Greene to their building lot to test some lines and levels that were made a few months ago.

Thursday, May 22

I went into the garden early in the morning to fix the pansy beds and today have finished them. Dunbar worked here in the afternoon wheeling manure from the hen yard. I paid him 50 cts to finish what he had earned before today. I also paid 5 cts for hulled corn. I am now copying the pages of the Almanac and I could send it to Mr. Farman this week but may not till next. I have gone through this No. of the Calendar as easy as I ever did though it is my fifty third.

Debits - .50, .05

Friday, May 23

I work a short time in garden in the morning but the weather is some warm for such work. I called on Mr. Kent and he will plow the garden in the morning tomorrow. Dunbar came and wheeled out the manure from the hen yard and 10 bushels of ashes from Miss Richmond's cellar, two bushels of which I paid for last year. Joanna came down and I had not heard from them for a long time. Paid Dunbar 25 cts in part for his work today.

Debits .25

Saturday, May 24

Mr. Kent plowed the garden and I paid him 50 cts. Abbie came down from Pomfret and Elvira took a short ride with her. She paid us 17 cts for what we paid Chapman for her. Mrs. Freeman paid us 35 cts for eggs. Abbie left for home about half past eleven o'clock. In the afternoon Dunbar and his boy came and planted the easterly side of the garden and I paid him one dollar towards his work. I paid Miss Richmond 1.32 cents for ashes in full. Paid Mrs. Farman 75 cts for her weeks work. Last year my garden was plowed the 28<sup>th</sup> of May.

Credits - .17, .35

Debits - .50, 1.00, 1.32, .75

Sunday, May 25

A pleasant morning with a pure air that seems refreshing. We must make this a day of rest and we remained in the house through the greater part of the forenoon. Mr. Leach and Electa called soon after the close of the forenoon service and Mrs. Dunham and Carlie called a few minutes after. The afternoon is very warm and clear except for a few cumulo stratus clouds from the N.W. The Crab Apple trees are now in full bloom and seem like a full sheet of blossoms, and the world seems rich in growing verdure. There is an able article in the Banner as a criticism on Dr. Austin Phelps "on endless punishment" that was somewhat critical and argumentative. Usually I dislike to read those peculiarly doctrinal articles, but this was so critical and the motive so good that I could bear to read it.

Monday, May 26

Wrote to Mr. Farman that I would send the Astro. Calculations for the Register by Mr. Porter tomorrow. I do not like to send it in any other way for if lost it could be easily replaced. I paid Mr. Kent 10 cts for potatoes to plant, and paid Woodruff 25 cts for corn for the hens, and I paid Wm. S. Hewitt one dollar for a vest. I have worked in the garden much of the day, and it begins to be in better order. Saw Miss Harriett Wood at Murdocks shop. Had not seen her or any of the family for a long time. While teaching in Pomfret I was with that family for many weeks.

Debits - .10, .25, 1.00

Tuesday, May 27

The summer weather has come and vegetation is moving forward rapidly. I went to the depot in the morning and sent the Calendar for 1885 to Mr. Farman by Mr. Bailey of the engine who is the assistant conductor. I also sent a letter to Albert Darling of Aurora, Illinois. I spent some time in the garden but the weather is too warm to work in the afternoon. It began to rain about five in the afternoon, but rather slightly. My ink works badly this very warm weather. It forms too much of a gloss on the paper. This is Stephens ink reduced with Maynard & Noyes.

Wednesday, May 28

The air is much cooler this morning with North or Northwest wind, and it had rained during the night, but it ended about 6 a.m. and the rain gauge contained 0.28 of an inch of rain. I went through the reductions of the thermometer readings for May to this date. I mailed a return for blanks and circulars received this morning, and I received a photograph of Mrs. Sarah Doton Goldsmith, and I sent one in return, but must send a better one soon. I paid 5 cts for beans to plant and 2 cts postage.

Debits - .07

Thursday, May 29

A cold morning for the last of May. Saw snowflakes in the air in the afternoon and if it should be clear and still we should probably get a severe frost. We hear of frosts at many places as English Mills and Bernard. Dunbar and his boy worked in the garden and finished planting the potatoes and I paid him \$1.00 plus 25 cts. Paid Paul 30 cts for tea and paid five cts for hulled corn. In the early evening I spent some time in trying to secure the lilies from the frost.

Debits - 1.55, .30, .05

Friday, May 30

Frost, though cloudy. Ther registered 28 degrees or four degrees below the freezing point. I covered up a part of the lilies in the garden last night, but those that were not protected are badly frozen. There was a hard freeze on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1879 that cut down the fresh branches on the hickory trees that stood in the yard. Paid Mrs. Farman 25 cts for strawberries and other things, and I paid Miss Richmond 33 cts for potatoes.

Debits - .25, .33

Saturday, May 31

A severe frost. Ther. 25 degrees or 7 degrees below freezing point. This is the coldest that I have known here so late in the season. In one day more it will be June and the coldest day that I have known in June was 31.4 degrees on the 7<sup>th</sup> in 1881, and it was very nearly the same on the 7<sup>th</sup> in 1878. The leaves on the hickory trees are wilting down this morning, and we have some fears about the fruit trees. Paid Collins for meat 15 cts. Paid Mrs. Farman 65 cts as the balance for her weeks work. Paid safe 10 cts. Ice was found on vessels of water from 1/16 to 1/10 of an inch in thickness.

Debits - .15, .65, .10

Sunday, June 1

The month of June opens very finely after the past cold days, for I think we can say we have had four frosty nights in succession and that is rare at this season of the year. Saturday morning was the coldest that I have known in the past 17 years so early in the season. In the forenoon I took observations for the time with very good success and in the afternoon I took two more observations as a test for those taken in the morning. Mrs. Thomas Smith was buried this afternoon. Mr. Tillotson attended the funeral soon after noon, and then left to fill an engagement at East Barnard. I hope I did not arouse any of the spirit of the old Pharisees by any of my movements today. I am yet to learn that a civil and useful art is wrong or wicked, or such as to disturb any one who entertains a good high and noble spirit, with sufficient reverence for the Creators works, and I do not like to see a pharisaical spirit breathed out, to say inwardly "I am holier than thou." Brought forward 3.35.

Monday, June 2

Received a letter and a photograph of Mr. Goldsmith from his wife Sarah Doton Goldsmith. The letter very full and pleasant. Her husband is a fine looking man and he sends his likeness to Mrs. Doton and asks hers in return. He must have one as soon as Mrs. D. is able to have it taken. I received fifty from Mr. Billings and I sent 12.06 dollars to Mutual Life Benefit Co. of Hartford paying 10 cts fee. I worked in the garden in the morning as long as the heat would allow, for our cold has changed to heat.

Credits – 50.00

Debits – 12.06, .10

Tuesday, June 3

This morning I called on Mr. Murdock and Ferris Vaughan set my watch and started the regulator for it had lost about one second a day since it was last set. I paid him 40 cts. for a cane; and I called at French's and got a horse and carriage, and we rode to Pomfret where we had not been since last Thanksgiving day. I paid 50 cts for the use of the horse and carriage.

Debits – .40, .50

Wednesday, June 4

A warm day. I spent the early part of the day in the garden and though it is not all arranged, I think there has been some gain in letting it remain through the cold weather. In the middle of the day I was at my drawing table and am drawing a plan of Mr. Billings barns. It appears as if our warm weather would come now for it is a remarkably growing time. Mattie Emery called this afternoon for flower plants, etc.

Thursday, June 5

I arose early and went into the garden and finished the northerly diamond bed setting out thirteen geraniums in it; and I finished the S.W. bed of that half of the flower garden. I paid Collins 16 cts for meat and I paid Mr. Culver 5 cts for hulled corn. Sister Joanna called this morning and the folks had a pleasant time. In the afternoon I walked to Mr. Billings barns to test some of the measurements made there two years ago nearly, and had good success in doing it. In the evening I went to Paul's and paid him 50 cts for groceries.

Debits – .16, .05, .50

Friday, June 6

Went early into the garden and was there till the weather was too warm to allow me to work there. I worked at my table on the plan for Mr. Billings barns and have a nearly correct plan marked out. The day has been extremely warm, the thermometer registering 89 degrees and the weather was dry and smoky.

Saturday, June 7

I rose early and began in the garden and fitted the south diamond bed for geraniums, and we put them out thirteen each bed, but the weather was getting to be too warm for out door work. Dunbar came to put the wood into the shed and I paid him 50 cts for the work. I paid Woodruff 25 cts for feed and paid Hewitt one dollar for a vest. Abbie came down about the middle of the day and returned towards night. I went to Mr. Billings barns and found the easterly barn to be 8 rods long instead of nine. We paid Mrs. Farman one dollar for this week and a part of next. Paid Mrs. Dunham one dollar for milk last month. Paid Paul 12 cts for seeds.

Debits - .50, .25, 1.00, 1.00, 1.00, .12

Sunday, June 8

A cloudy morning with surface wind easterly, but clouds from the west. I paid Mr. Hewitt 5 cts for milk. The morning opens for a very warm day. Horace Dunham & Carlie called on their way to church, and I had not seen him for many days. I took my seat at my table and have been there the greater part of the day. I prepared the meteorological article for the Standard, and finished it before night. It was very warm in the house late in the afternoon, so warm that it was almost impossible to write or read.

Monday, June 9

The weather was very warm this morning, but the cumulus or cirro cumulus clouds began to form and the air began to stir more freely. Showers began to form in the west and it began to thunder at ten in the forenoon. We received a letter from Herman Dunham and I am glad that he gets along so pleasantly at college. I paid Hewitt & Co. \$8.50 for coat. The thunder continued till about three o'clock in the afternoon. It began to rain a few minutes before two o'clock p.m. and the rain partly ceased about four or five o'clock, but it began again before night and continued.

Debits – 8.50

Tuesday, June 10

A rainy morning, and after getting the chores done I began to write on the meteorological report for May and finished it soon after noon. Paid the Misses McCollum \$1.80. Paid Collins for meat 25. Mr. and Mrs. Emery called here in the afternoon. The hickory trees that were so badly frozen are showing signs of life and soon they will be fully renewed and no signs of frost will be left. This afternoon I mailed the weather report to the Signal Service Office and two shower cards.

Debits – 1.80, .25

Wednesday, June 11

The weather is now some cooler, and the day has been cloudy throughout. We took hold of the garden afresh and sowed beets, parsnips, etc. so that that part of the garden is done. I made the last of the

flower beds this afternoon. We paid Dana 75 cts for gloves and Billings 60 cts for hose. I paid the colored minister 25 cts. Called at Mr. Washburns with flower plants in the afternoon.

Debits - .75, .60, .25

Thursday, June 12

The air was heavy and muggy through the night, and it began to rain at nine o'clock and continued through the forenoon. I spent some time in testing the plans that I had drawn in rough of Mr. Billings lands and buildings. In the afternoon I called on Mr. Smith to engage shoes, etc. I met Mr. & Mrs. Billings in the street, and we are glad to see them and their children riding freely through the streets and to hear their children prattle about their own house.

Friday, June 13

I spent a great part of the day in drawing and testing the plans that I had attempted to draw in the winter. The morning was cold and there was frost in many places near. Our garden is late but it has not been injured by frost. The present appearance seems to indicate a cold summer. I never knew grass to be doing better that it is this year. Where it is cut it seems to be very green and thrifty and in a very healthy condition. I paid Billings \$1.20 for two under-shirts.

Debits - 1.20

Saturday, June 14

The barometer is now very high and the air seems very healthy. I have never worked easier than I have during the past few days. Paid Murdock 2 dollars for a spoon to carry to friend at Franklin, N.H. and my work has been a critical kind of drawing and I could hardly find time to look up such little matters to please children. Paid six cents postage. In the afternoon Herman Dunham came home from College Hill which is another Woodstock boy at home. He took us all by surprise.

Debits 2.00, .06

Sunday, June 15

A cool but beautiful morning. I have seen no frost but think there must have been one. When the thermometer falls below 40 degrees there may be a frost, but if it falls below 37 degrees we are very sure to hear of one in one of some localities near. Wind or clouds may prevent a frost, even when the thermometer is as low as the freezing point.

Monday, June 16

We begin to think of putting ourselves in readiness to go to Franklin and Mr. Porter will assist us in going. I met him this morning and he seems glad to see us trying to take a rest. I paid Mrs. Farman 50 cts as the balance for her last weeks work, and I paid Woodruff 28 cts for feed. Paid bank for Spencer on Edwards note \$6.20. This was probably some mistake in some way about sending the money to pay the interest, but I run the risk of paying the interest for three months.

Debits - .50, .28, 6.20

Tuesday, June 17

We put ourselves in readiness to go to Franklin and started at the usual hour, 11h 10min. Before we got ready we had numerous calls which were very pleasant. Received a letter from Edward Doton's wife with money order for 13 dollars, which they by mistake failed to send yesterday. I paid 10 cts for postage stamps, and 25 cts to French at depot; and at Franklin paid 25 cts expressage or cartage. We had a very warm ride to Franklin from the Junction and we think the temperature must have been 90 degrees or more.

Credits - 13.00

Debits - .10, .25, .25

Wednesday, June 18

We rested well through the night, and I think we shall be much benefitted by the change of air. The river air is pleasant and refreshing though it seems warmer here than it does at Woodstock. It is now about half past two o'clock in the afternoon and the Junction train has just come in. I mailed a letter to Mrs. E.O. Doton at Springfield and one to Carlie Dunham at Woodstock. Towards night we took a ride to the Webster place, and it is one of the most deeply marked places in New England. The form of the avenues and lanes, the large and venerable trees, the old house in which Webster lived, and the soil on which his feet have pressed, his footprints that we see in imagination, all these seem to render the place truly sublime.

Thursday, June 19

We rested well through the night and this morning I wrote a long letter to Abbie at Pomfret, and I hope she is well and will finish her school for this term tomorrow. I also wrote one to Dr. Logan of Woodstock, and I hope to hear from him. A thunder shower arose soon after noon and I will report it from this place. I took the necessary facts for reporting it and will do it tomorrow. This afternoon Elvira went with her sister Mrs. Gookin to see a sister Mrs. Davis, who was a daughter of Mr. Gookin by a former wife. She was Martha Gookin afterwards Martha Huntoon, but she afterward married a Davis and they live in Andover.

Friday, June 20

This morning I mailed a letter to Mrs. Farman of Woodstock, and the shower report made yesterday. Today we get reports that the shower that we reported was very severe in the neighborhood of Boston and along the coast northeasterly. I have not yet heard just how it was at Woodstock, but think there was something of a shower there. Today I have been copying reports of weather, etc. into the record books. We are remaining very quietly at our friends in Franklin and I must say we enjoy it though the weather is so very warm. I think this has been the most oppressive day of the late warm days.

Saturday, June 21

A warm, cloudy and foggy night but it had nearly burned away by 7 o'clock. I suppose Abbie has now closed her summer term of school. I received a letter from Dr. Logan and one from Herman Dunham and in the afternoon I received one from my friend Albert Darling whose wife died about three weeks ago. I hope he will not close his house nor break up his home. I will write to him soon. This afternoon I paid Mr. Poor for a skeleton paper holder 15 cts. The day has been very warm but at the north end of Mrs. Gookin's barn on the bank of the river the air was cool. I have spent much of the day in writing and in copying reports of the weather.

Debits - .15

Sunday, June 22

The early part of the night was very warm, but the air here so near the river becomes cooler before morning and the latter part of the night and this morning the air was quite comfortable. We permitted ourselves to lie in bed till about eight o'clock this morning and must think we became very well rested. It is now nearly noon and though the day is warm, there is a cool breeze from the N.W. that makes the day quite comfortable. Last evening we had a letter from Albert Darling as I stated yesterday and I must answer it immediately. In the afternoon we took a walk to the river and was favored with a very gentle breeze down the river. I came in and wrote a long letter to my friend Albert Darling. But I found myself some lame so that I began to think we were two cripples. I had a very kind invitation to ride over to Tilton what was long ago known as Sanbornton Bridge, but I was too lame to go, tho I did wish to see the place. Mrs. Charles H. Rood and an infant son died.

Monday, June 23

I mailed a letter to Albert Darling at Aurora, Illinois, and ought to have written two or three more and mailed them. Paid 10 cts for postage stamps. In the afternoon I went into the cemetery lot to see any improvement that may have been made in it in the last four years. The ground lot had been much enlarged and some of the newer monuments were very good and perhaps as works of art were equal to some of the older and more expressive ones. Later in the afternoon I wrote a long letter to Dr. Logan and



will try to send it tomorrow. There has been a fresh breeze from the S.W. and there has been some signs of rain.

Debits – .10

Tuesday, June 24

This forenoon I finished a long letter to Dr. Logan and mailed it. The Junction mail passes here at 11hr. 34min in the forenoon, and letters to Pomfret, Woodstock or any of those places near the Central R.R. reach their destination before night. In the afternoon I received a full letter from Abbie that was mailed in the forenoon. I began a reply and will send it tomorrow. I am quite sure that she is well from the tone and spirit of her letter. At about 7 o'clock this evening lightning was seen and thunder heard low in the S.W., but no rain or hardly signs of rain here.

Wednesday, June 25

The night was warm and muggy and a hard night for rest though I rested very well and am getting along very well today. I finished and mailed a full letter to Abbie this morning, and since then have been in the chamber writing and resting and am improving much from my lameness that I speak of so much. In the afternoon there was a cool breeze that felt like fall of the year, and I said this is the first touch of an autumn air this season. But it soon began to threaten rain and it began, very easily at first, yet it was rain before five o'clock. I did not get any letters this afternoon.

Thursday, June 26

The rain has ceased and there are good indications of a fair and pleasant day. Amelia and Elvira are intending to go to Concord today. They were called for about nine o'clock and the air is cool, and I think they must have a pleasant time. They returned to Franklin at half past six o'clock, and had had a very pleasant time. Paid car fare, etc. \$4.10. I took a walk up the east side of the river as far as the falls, and found a rich and beautiful place for an improved water power. But the deep fine sand in the road makes the walking very hard.

Debits – 4.10

Friday, June 27

A clear, cool and beautiful morning, and I have written to our folks that we should come home Monday next. We cannot deny that we think much of home, and think we shall be glad to get there. But home will have its inconveniences as well as conveniences. We have been from home so long that things must be some out of order there. In the afternoon the folks rode to see Ella Huntoon and her mother's family, and I went to the cemetery to make some more definite examination of some of the monuments and headstones. The wind has been S.E. this afternoon.

Saturday, June 28

This is one of the clear and cool mornings, and we are becoming lazy about starting. It seems that we ought to be at home, for there is work that calls for us. I spent much of the forenoon in our chamber writing, reading and resting; though I hardly slept any. I must take a walk on the hill west of the village, where I can view the hills that I used to watch so closely thirty six years ago when laying the track on the Bristol railroad. I took the walk and spent the greater part of the afternoon looking over the places and the hills that I looked over so much thirty six years ago this month and the next, for it was June and July when I was on the track of the Bristol R.R. Paid at the Falls 70 cts.

Debits - .70

Sunday, June 29

A very pleasant June morning, and would be clear were it not for a slightly smoky atmosphere, caused perhaps by forest fires. We are thinking much of home this morning for we begin to gather things together so as to get our trunk in readiness. The day is warm but there is some slight wind from the W. or N.W. In the middle of the day it was from the S. or S.E. We remained about the house through the warmest part of the day. In the afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Davis of Andover called. Mrs. D. was Martha Gookin, daughter

of D.C. Gookin by his first wife. Her first husband was Mr. Huntoon and lived in Andover. Her present family connections seem to be very pleasant. We have now been here nearly two weeks but we ought to be at home, and we can probably go through tomorrow. We have had a pleasant time during the two weeks that we have been here, but the time seems long that we have been from home. It seems as though it has been as many weeks as it has been days

Monday, June 30

We concluded to start for Woodstock and put ourselves in readiness and started on the train at 11:24 in the forenoon, and after a delay of 20 minutes at the Junction rode to Woodstock and was glad to get home. Paid hackman 25 cts. Paid for stamps 10 cts and 10 cts for oil.

Debits – .25, .20

Tuesday, July 1

Here we are at home again, and I have paid Collins for meat 28 cts. So we found something to eat and we feel ourselves at home. I walked to the corner to find Dunbar and to get him to work. So I shall get my garden hoed after a few days. Found my meteorological notes kept very well. I mowed the grass on the west side of the house early this morning. Paid Woodruff 20 cts towards a hand rake and must pay 5 more. Cash on hand 20.15.

Debits – .28, .20

Wednesday, July 2

Got some tired from my work yesterday, and this morning I mowed but little, but took care of what I had mowed before. In the afternoon I took three observations for time with fair success, but found my watch four minutes slow nearly, and was not fully satisfied that I was right. We paid Mrs. Farman two dollars for the three weeks work.

Debits – 2.00

Thursday, July 3

Dunbar came this morning, and hoed the potatoes, and mowed the grass on the east side of the house, and I paid him one dollar for his work and lent him 50 cts.

Debits – 1.00, .50

Friday, July 4

The boys were quite rational this morning and only rang the bells fifteen or twenty minutes after midnight, and but few horns or pistols or crackers were heard till nearly daylight. I went early into the garden and found weeds enough to hoe up and the ground is very dry. Paid 10 cts post office box.

Debits - .10

Saturday, July 5

A rain this morning. 3 tenths of an inch and the wind is changed. Paid Woodruff 5 cents to balance. Paid J.W. Hazen on account 7.02. Paid School tax 2.25. Paid Paul 24 plus .08 equals .32. Thomas Smith for shoes 3.50

Debits – .05, 7.02, 2.25, .32, 3.50

Sunday, July 6

There was a nice little shower early this morning, and if we have enough such it will cure this very severe drought. The crops are suffering very much for want of rain, and many farmers say they shall not get more than half an ordinary crop of hay. The gardens suffer very much. We were greeted very happily this forenoon by a call from James C. Barrett of Rutland. How much we miss Judge Barrett and his family. A very large amount of brain and brain power left Woodstock when that family moved to Rutland. But we

cannot blame him for leaving Woodstock. Mr. and Mrs. Marcy called late in the afternoon and Mrs. D. rode out with them.

Monday, July 7

A cloudy morning with signs of rain. I worked in the garden till past 9 o'clock, and Dunbar came to finish the hoeing, etc. and I paid him 50 cts. I finished a description of the Williams lot to send to Norman Williams of Chicago and mailed a letter to him this afternoon. Paid Billings 25 cts for Eppes cocoa and Freeman 12 cts for cream tartar.

Debits – .50, .25, .12

Tuesday, July 8

Worked in the garden. Paid Collins for meat 35 cts. Got a money order for two dollars and sent it to H.H. Stoddard for the Poultry World and the "American Poultry Yard," paying 8 cts for it. Paid Paul 20 cts for soap. Received a letter from Franklin, N.H. and have spent much of the day at my drawing table.

Debits - .35, 2.00, .08, .20

Wednesday, July 9

Began my garden work soon after four o'clock, and the air was cool and comfortable. I worked on the potatoes and think I can keep them clear of bugs without Parris Green. I cannot like to use the poison. Spent much of the day at my drawing table.

Thursday, July 10

Went early into the garden and it begins to look more like a garden except the very severe drought. Paid Collins 20 cts for meat. Spent much of the day at the table on the plans.

Debits - .20

Friday, July 11

My morning work is in the garden and I improved the time this morning. Spent the greater part of the day at my table though the weather seems too warm for easy work. Paid Mrs. Dunham one dollar for the milk in June; and paid Woodruff 21 cts for feed for the hens. Mrs. Sessions (Barron) called in the afternoon, being very anxious about the lines of her lot in South Pomfret.

Debits – 1.00, .21

Saturday, July 12

I went to the post office to return some papers mailed to Miss Latimer but put in one box, and I mailed a letter to Levi Hazen of W. Hartford. Paid Collins 16 cts for meat and paid 5 cts for pens. In the evening I paid 10 cts for crackers. How many are deeply interested in the party politics of the day. The candidates are now before the people, and the tug of war begins. Showery in the afternoon though but very little rain. It began to thunder at 0:30 p.m. or half an hour past noon and continued frequently through the afternoon till past 3 o'clock. The rain began lightly when the thunder began and continued at intervals till nearly 6 o'clock.

Debits - .16, .05, .10

Sunday, July 13

The night has been cool but the morning readings of the thermometer are high, and the cumulus clouds begin to be seen and strong signs of showers appear. It began to thunder in the southwest and N.W. at half past 9 o'clock, and the rain began here at 10:40 a.m. and the showers followed each other till about six o'clock in the afternoon. The showers gathered in west and southwest and moved a little north of east; some going north of us and some south and some of them past over us. The amount of rain since yesterday noon is 0.57 of an inch. The most intense thunder and lightning was at the time of the forenoon church service. I worked at my table much of the time on the meteorological record and report. Horace

Dunham called in the forenoon and talked on the civil war generals and on colleges, etc. Dr. Logan called in the afternoon.

Monday, July 14

Mailed meteorological report for June to the War department. Paid 5 cts postage stamps & mailed letter and paper to Robt. Perkins. Received dividend of bank 6 dollars. Saw E.B. Adams who once was one of my best scholars, but is now Hon. E.B. Adams of St. Louis, Mo. A Judge of one of the courts. And so it is, as the thought is developed men move along in the world and fill such places as talent and fortune gain for them. Mortimer Spear called and we talked of going there on a visit. Paid Freeman 15 cts for Parrs Green.

Credits – 6.00

Debits - .05, .15

Tuesday, July 15

Met Mr. Dana who has the charge of the Goddard Seminary at Barre. He appears to be a strong young man mentally and I hope he will meet with good success as a teacher. I went to Horace Dunham's in the afternoon and again saw Mr. Dana and Herman. I have written the weather article for June to be sent to the Standard. This morning I paid Collins 20 cts for meat. Sister Joanna came in the afternoon and was here till night.

Debits - .20

Wednesday, July 16

Mailed letter to Abbie and one with money order to Life Insurance Company Hartford, Conn. I paid to post office \$12.16, 10 cts of it for fee, and paid Paul 28 cts for sugar. In the afternoon Benjamin Southgate assisted me in taking some test measurements around Mr. Billings buildings, and made some correct measurements to detect errors if possible. I found only one omission where I had spent some time to find some change that would make my work balance itself. We paid Mrs. Farman \$1.00, but I have turned back to make this entry.

Debits – 12.16, .28

Thursday, July 17

A cool morning. Spent an hour or more in the garden and then at my table. In the forenoon I went to the barber and paid 25 cts to have my hair cut; and I paid Mrs. Farman one dollar for work, 75 cts for last weeks work and the balance applies to next payment or this weeks work.

Debits - .25

Friday, July 18

The morning was cool, and we begin to think of frost. I went into the garden and finished clearing the potatoes of that pest the potato bug. I have always set my face against the use of parrs green, but I engaged Benj. Southgate to use some on my garden potatoes. Paid Mrs. Farman 50 cts the balance for this weeks work. This afternoon I paid Billings for drawers \$1.00 and 80 cts for cup for sister Electa, as tomorrow is her birth day.

Debits - .50, 1.80

Saturday, July 19

Met Isaac Doton this morning and I invited him to go to the old homestead with us today and I got a team of Mr. French and we all rode to Pomfret where we met together, all the living members of our fathers family. Of the 9 members, 6 are now living, and the average of their ages is 70 years and 5 months. There was a thunder shower in the afternoon, the rain beginning at about three and a half o'clock and ending at six o'clock p.m. Mr. Leach carried Isaac Doton to Woodstock. This morning I paid 14 cts for herrings for Abbie.

Debits - .14

Sunday, July 20

Though very tired last night we rested well through the night, and are getting along quietly. About noon Abbie and Mrs. Vaughan came to see us and the rest of the folks here, and we all had a pleasant time. They returned home a little before three o'clock in the afternoon. Abbie paid me 15 cents for the 14 that I paid Simmons for the herrings. We are here at the old home of my father and mother. This place has been in the Doton family since May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1786, when my grandfather first moved into Pomfret. He with his family (grandmother and my father) came to Hartland on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1786 and stopped with Mr. John Darling who lived near the Nelson Putney place, and the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> they came to Pomfret arriving at Mr. John Paddock's at about 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and there began the home of the John Doton family in Pomfret. His brother Isaac had been here a year or two before.

Monday, July 21

A cool, cloudy morning, and after breakfast I got Mr. Leach's horse and wagon and rode to Woodstock and found things all safe at our home. I met F.N. Billings in the street, and he spoke about his new fence to be erected around his newly finished house and lot. Mr. F. Billings & Mrs. Billings came while we were there and he will call on me after his return from the Railroad meeting at New York.

Tuesday, July 22

I went again to Woodstock and to the house and garden. Went to the bank and renewed Mr. Spear's note for six months. I paid 76 cents and Mr. Spear \$1.51. the note will be again payable on the 21-24 of January 1885. I called on Dr. Logan and he called on Mrs. D. at Pomfret, and directs her to keep still and quiet, to keep her chamber and not be disturbed. The place is a quiet one and I think the arrangement will work well. Paid Paul for crackers 15 cts.

Debits - .76, .15

Wednesday, July 23

This is the day that Mr. Hazen set for us to go to South Pomfret and settle the line between Mrs. Sessions and Lucinda Wood, now Mrs. Perham. We met there about ten o'clock and went to our work, and after making full examination of the matter in controversy we made a decision, but do not know as it will be accepted by either party.

Thursday, July 24

Rode to Woodstock with Mr. Leach and remained through the day. I had a pleasant call from Mrs. F. Billings with some rich grapes for Mrs. Doton. In the afternoon Miss Billings called also with kind regards for Mrs. D. And later she rode to Pomfret with a Shakespearian calendar for Mrs. D. These expressions of real kindness are truly valuable. In a few weeks Mr. Billings and many of the members of his family will take a pleasant journey to the west, to the National Park and the Pacific coast, a valuable trip for scholarly and observing young people. I paid F.N. Billings 45 cts for an oval dish.

Debits - .45

Friday, July 25

I had Mr. Leach's horse again and went to Woodstock, but I staid only till noon yet I made some measurements about Mr. Billings barns and cottage. Went back to Pomfret and assisted some about the haying. It was a remarkably good hay-day. I paid Mrs. Farman 50 cts for her work this week, and I paid 5 cts postage.

Debits - .50, .05

Saturday, July 26

I rode to Woodstock with Mr. Spear, and I spent the day in the garden and at my table. I paid Woodruff 22 cts for oats for the hens. Mrs. Sessions called to see what success we had in settling the South Pomfret lines, and seemed quite satisfied with our success. Mrs. Russell called to hear from Mrs. Doton, and

found me in the garden picking flowers to carry to Pomfret. This is the day of great flag raising at Woodstock.

Debits – .22

Sunday, July 27

The morning was cool as nearly all the mornings have been this month. I think July has been a cold, dry month, but present appearances now indicate more soon. Dr. Logan came this afternoon as he must be at West Bridgewater tomorrow. This afternoon we had a call from Allen and Laura Barrett, two excellent young people. Laura had been at Woodstock nearly a week and had twice called on us at the house but we were absent.

Monday, July 28

Went with Mr. Leach's horse and carried two tubs of butter to the express office and a postal card to the firm to which it was directed. I worked on the plans in the forenoon and in the afternoon I ran some levels for Mr. Billings on the meadow. Received of Mrs. Farman 12 cts for potatoes and I have just found one omission on the 16<sup>th</sup> which was 1.00.

Credits - .12

Debits – 1.00

Tuesday, July 29

Strong signs of rain but I rode to Woodstock and met Mrs. Sessions and had a long talk about her lines at South Pomfret. Sister Joanna sent by me to get a bag of flour for which she paid \$1.88. I paid Jones 12 cts for astral oil and Gillingham 25 cts for balloon fly trap. It began to rain slightly at 9 a.m. and there were showers in the afternoon so that I left for Pomfret at 2 p.m. and it rained in the evening, but I was too tired to note it down, but it continued till late in the evening.

Debits – .12, .25

Wednesday, July 30

Some rain in the night and the ground seems to be well watered this morning. I went to Woodstock and met Dr. Parmley to run a line of levels from his lower barn to the Thompson Mill dam and found the dam to be 6.7 feet lower than the water tank at the barn. Paid 10 cts for stamps. In the afternoon I worked at my table and in the garden, and I am sure that such hoeing does not answer for potatoes. Where potato bugs get on the potatoes to hoe the slugs into the ground does not destroy them, but they mature and the beetles come out fully matured in two or three weeks. The rain measured 0.20 inches this morning.

Debits - .10

Thursday, July 31

I rode to the village again this morning and went to work at my table. I worked on the surroundings of the bridge park, and the position of the gas pipes towards the barns. In the afternoon I spent some time in the garden and must have more work done there. About two o'clock or a little later it began to rain and it came in showers till night, and I rode home in fair weather between the showers. In closing my cash account for July, I found I had omitted to put down 29 cts paid out for postage, meat or feed for hens.

Debits – .29

Friday, August 1

A very clear morning. The rain has washed the air so that it is very clear and pure. I rode to Woodstock and went to Mr. Billings barn lot to take the bearing of the front line and found it S. 5 degrees W. as near as I could get it. Went to my room and corrected the plan and it is now very nearly correct. This is Abbie's birth day, and she is now forty four years old. We selected a bread and milk set. Paid Billing \$1.25. Carlie and Herman Dunham called at the old homestead to see us. Brought forward 9.56.

Debits – 1.25

Saturday, August 2

A cool morning and nearly clear with only light touches of cirro stratus or cirrus clouds. I rode to Woodstock with Mortimer in the morning and Mr. Leach brought me home. Miss E. Latimer called in the forenoon and again towards night. Mr. Frederick Billings called in the forenoon and the train came for him & family at noon, and they go west. I sent for Graham flour at Mr. Marbles and paid one dollar. Received of Mr. Billings \$25.00.

Credits – 25.00

Debits – 1.00

Sunday, August 3

A bright, clear Sunday morning, with but the slightest threads of cirro stratus clouds. Paid brother Spencer \$6.80 it being the balance of the 13 dollars that E.O. Dotons' wife sent to me June 17<sup>th</sup> to pay interest on his note at the bank. Six dollars and twenty cents I paid at the bank June 16<sup>th</sup> of the present year. The day has been very warm, the thermometer above 80 in the house in my room. Brother Spencer came here and was here to dinner. I spent nearly all the day at my table on the reductions of the meteorological readings. Ferris Vaughan rode up here with his sister Minnie after the greatest heat of the day was over. He had been at work on their store clock. In making the entry of the \$6.80 cts paid to brother Spencer in my cash acct. I made the date Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> by mistake in placing it above items on that date, so the item stands the 2<sup>nd</sup> when it should stand the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a warm S.W. or S. wind through the day and evening and it is a good sign of rain.

Debits – 6.80

Monday, August 4

A warm cloudy morning and there is hardly a breath of air stirring. Rode to Woodstock as usual and found a letter from Amelia (Mrs. E.G. Thompson) written at Montreal, Canada letting us know that they will be here today. They came by the afternoon train, and I met them and took them to our house. Carlie came in a short time and will take them to their house. They will remain about here till Saturday unless called home. I paid French for horse hire \$1.00, and paid Woodruff 25 cts for hen feed. Thunder shower in the afternoon.

Debits – 1.00, .25

Tuesday, August 5

I am some lame this morning, but I engaged Benj. Southgate to assist me in the afternoon in running a series of levels from the Collamer house to the Elm Street bridge. We did it between two and three o'clock. We found the present bridge to be 1.4 feet lower than the former bridge, but the new planking of the present bridge adds nearly or fully 0.2 of a foot to the present bridge so that the real difference in height was 1.6 of a foot. I paid 16 cts to Taylor for lamb, and paid 25 cts to Paul for milk pitcher. I rode home late as Carlie and Amelia were at the garden.

Debits - .16, .25

Wednesday, August 6

Met Herman and Elbridge at the P.O. in the morning. I went to my room and spent much of the day in writing. The garden is extremely dry and the potatoes are drying up. I have never known the garden to be so dry since we have lived there. Dunbar called on me as usual when he wants a few cents. I started for Pomfret about four o'clock. The wind has been S.W. through the day, and this evening it is nearly N.W. It is a clear and beautiful evening with a full moon in the east shining brightly. The shower this morning was at three o'clock as it was raining hard at that time. I lent Abe Dunbar one dollar for I could not make such change as he wanted.

Debits – 1.00

Thursday, August 7

Cirro stratus clouds with S.W. wind. A cool and comfortable night for rest. I rode to Woodstock again and after doing a few chores I began on the drawing and kept on it till nearly four o'clock. Paid postage 4 cts and I received for butter sold to Mrs. Farman 25 cts. Mrs. E.G. Thompson (Amelia Gookin) called on me in the forenoon.

Credits – .25

Debits - .04

Friday, August 8

The weather was some cooler and the wind was N.W. in the forenoon, but it was W. at 2 p.m. I began my drawing at about ten o'clock and continued in it till about four o'clock. I detected an error in the measurement of the gas pipe that goes to the barn from the Mason house. The distance in the second course contained the first one of four rods. When corrected the survey was very correct. Dunbar paid me the dollar that I lent him last Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. E.G. Thompson and Herman Dunham called on Mrs. D. at Pomfret in the forenoon.

Credits – 1.00

Saturday, August 9

A good night for rest and a beautiful morning. I did not go to Woodstock till about ten in the morning. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson start for home at 10:20, or about this time, and it is too late for me to see them. I went to the Billings barns and Mr. Spaulding assisted me in chaining the gas pipe from the Mason house and I found that my correction of the error was right. Paid 3 cts for meat for the cat. Paid taxes \$8.55 to Southgate. Pd. White for Almanac 1.20, and paid Chapman for coca beef tonic 1.00, Woodruff 2 cts; and I received of Mrs. Farman 75 cts for butter. Emma Marcy called at our old place in Pomfret to see Mrs. Doton.

Credits - .75

Debits - .03, 8.55, 1.20, 1.00, .24

Sunday, August 10

A rainy morning and all are glad to see it. It began to rain about six o'clock very easily. But the rain has been very slight and only in light showers. Spencer called in the forenoon and often during the day. I have spent some time in correcting the proof sheets of the almanac of 1885. Polk and Abbie came in the afternoon and brought some beautiful assortments of potatoes and apples and small fruit from their garden. They made a pleasant call, and I hope they will come again before she begins her school. Miss Mary Simmons called here and the afternoon was taken to chat for a time on what is standard time.

Monday, August 11

Signs of rain this morning, but the rain did not come in any very great amount. I went to Woodstock and spent much of the time on the meteorological report and I mailed it in the afternoon and I mailed a letter to Mrs. E.O. Doton.

Tuesday, August 12

A very pleasant morning and I had a pleasant ride to Woodstock. Spent nearly all day on the proof sheets of the almanac, and mailed the corrected proof to the White River Paper Company. I paid 8 cts postage. I met my friend Dr. Edward Williams, and he seems just as he did thirty years ago.

Debits - .08

Wednesday, August 13

Cirro stratus clouds this morning, and the easterly or N.E. wind continued through the day. There are no signs of hard rains but drops of rain fell on my hands while coming home from five to six o'clock, though the clouds were but slight. I received a package of papers from Abbie, the Post, the "Poultry World" and a few copies of the "Poultry Yard." All of them very interesting papers. I worked at my drawing table on the



plans for Mr. Billings, am now on the plan to be one inch to forty rods. The whole lot will be on one sheet. Lent to Abraham Dunbar 50 cts.

Debits - .50

Thursday, August 14

A densely cloudy morning with a north or northeasterly wind. Clouds heavy stratus. I worked on the small plan and the work is so fine and delicate that it requires the utmost care to keep it perfectly right. It has borne the tests well and I shall try to have it so throughout. Paid Richmond 50 cts for lamb to take to Pomfret. Paid five cents for stamps.

Debits - .50, .05

Friday, August 15

Very slight cirro stratus clouds, or nearly pure cirrus moving from the northwest. I rode to W. with Mr. Leach. After he did some errands of his own, he left the horse for me to ride home and he walked home in the heat of the day. That was too great a kindness, for I could have walked home in time. I am driving the plan drawing and am still on the very first part of the work, in making the whole place on a small scale. Have had very good success with it so far.

Saturday, August 16

Rode to Woodstock again and found the weather extremely warm. Wrote and mailed a letter to Abbie in reply to one received of her last night. Abner Dunbar paid me the 50 cts that I lent him on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The day was very warm. Ther. Registered 92 degrees which is warm for this season and it is dry and hot. Our garden is the driest that I ever knew it to be. Mrs. Dunham went up with me. The excessive heat has almost overpowered Mrs. D. and we called Dr. Logan who came a little before night. The heat was very oppressive. Ther. in the room was 83, and no air stirring. Abbie went in the evening and took our hens. Recd. of Fred Doton 2 cts.

Credits - .50, .02

Sunday, August 17

The air was some better this morning and no clouds though some smoky. The wind was from the E. or S.E. and the clouds in the forenoon were from the West; and so at 2 p.m. the clouds were cumulus 4 at 2 o'clock. This was one of our warmest days, the therm. in the chamber being 86 degrees which was three degrees higher than yesterday. Mrs. Dunham was with us till night when I got Mortimers horse and went home with her. Mrs. D. seems more comfortable this evening, and seemed much so when I got home at half past eight o'clock. The air was cool and the evening very pleasant, but it was very dark, caused I suppose by the smoky atmosphere. Polk and Abbie came in the afternoon to ride out and to make a call.

Monday, August 18

Another warm morning with prospect of having a warm day, and it came and it was a very hard day for Mrs. Doton whose nerves were sensibly affected, once at about eleven o'clock in the forenoon and again at five in the afternoon. I did not go to Woodstock, we saw early that Mrs. Doton's nerves were in a very sensitive condition, and I remained at home to assist in taking care of her. The thermometer in her chamber was 89 degrees all through the warm part of the day.

Tuesday, August 19

The air was better though not much cooler and I did not think it best to go to Woodstock, for the day is one of the heated days. At about one o'clock in the afternoon a thunder cloud gathered in the N.W. and passed along to the N.E. and soon after a similar but more dense cloud formed in the S.W. and passed along to the S.E. There was some thunder but no rain here till evening when there was a very light shower. Mrs. D. had a comfortable day, though the heat in her chamber has been intense, the ther. being 86 degrees or more.

Wednesday, August 20

Rode to Woodstock in the morning and mailed letter to Franklin, N.H. Found Smithsonian report and letter from the Institution and other mail matter in abundance. Mr. Davis, who had my transit, brought it home, and has had good success in using it in the west part of Bridgewater on those mountain lands. I think he is somewhat skilled in surveying. I came home soon after noon, and our room very warm; thermometer about 86 degrees. Mrs. Doton had as comfortable a day as could be expected when the weather is so hot. She sits up about half an hour in the evening.

Thursday, August 21

Another warm morning, and it affects Mrs. D. somewhat sensibly. I did not go to Woodstock this morning. Soon after eleven o'clock a shower gathered in the north and passed off to the N.E. when it began to thunder at 11:40 in the forenoon and it was heard at times till about two o'clock p.m. There was but very little rain till late in the evening or till nearly midnight. This intensely heated time must end sometime, but it holds on yet.

Friday, August 22

There was a slight thunder shower this morning between one and two o'clock, but it has not cooled the air. The thermometer stands at 70 degrees this morning. Mr. McKenzie and Mrs. McKenzie called in the morning to have me go to Woodstock and give some levels about the library building, and I went in the afternoon, and gave such levels as they wished for the present. I paid Jones 22 cts for kerosene. Started for Pomfret at just five o'clock and a shower was forming in the west at the time and it rained slightly as I got home.

Debits - .22

Saturday, August 23

The air is some cooler and is from the S.E. I do not go to Woodstock this morning, but remained in the chamber the greater part of the day. I tried to bring my writing and copying up to the time, but there is much of it to be done. There was a hard shower about nine o'clock in the evening that seemed refreshing and the S. or S.E. wind came square to the W. or N.W. Mrs. Doton appears some better this evening, and I hope a change of air will be favorable for her.

Sunday, August 24

The shower last night brought about a great change in the air and in the direction of the wind. These easterly winds that have prevailed for nearly two weeks have changed, and we now feel a cool west or northwest wind that is clear and invigorating. The early morning was clear or nearly so, and the cumulo stratus clouds began to move from the west, and some of them were seen through the day. Mrs. Burnham (Miss Braman) came in the afternoon to make our folks a visit, as she lived with them while teaching two terms of school. Our friend Robert Perkins took us by surprise this afternoon and he appears to be well and doing well. His niece Minnie Vaughan came with him, and had a cool & pleasant ride. Abbie came in the early evening as she begins her school tomorrow and is to room here. Mrs. Doton has stood the day and its stir and excitement very well, is some tired this evening of course, but perhaps will rest well tonight.

Monday, August 25

This morning I rode to Woodstock with Mr. Leach and I paid 5 cts for meat for our lonely cat. He has enjoyed the day very well. I went to my table and worked on the drawing till nearly four o'clock and at six o'clock I started for home. Mr. Spear overtook me near the Nat Thompson place, and I had walked very easily, nearly as easily as I did years ago. The clouds have been gathering through the day and there is some prospect of rain. Abbie has begun her school today with eleven scholars.

Debits - .05

Tuesday, August 26

A fine rain this morning and it began, probably, in the early part of the night, and some of the time it has rained very hard, but it broke away before noon, and there were only a few showers in the afternoon. I did not go to Woodstock today but remained in my room and have written but little.

Wednesday, August 27

A clear and beautiful morning but not very warm. I rode to Woodstock and continued the drawing. This work is almost too fine for my eyes, but generally it comes all right. Polk Chamberlin came down from Pomfret to hear a republican speaker, and there was some stir and enthusiasm about it. I paid 15 cts for sweet potatoes. Mrs. D. is trying a thorough rubbing with salt and water.

Thursday, August 28

Another clear and cool morning, the thermometer being little above 40 degrees. This is cold enough for a slight frost but with the thermometer at 37 degrees we are almost sure to have one. I have collected all the errors that I find about the survey of the meadow lot and think that the surveys were well taken. I am now ready to lay out the Anderson lot on the small plan, and run the work to the mountain lot. The middle of the day was warm, therm. 84 degrees at two o'clock. I paid eight cents for meat and ten cts for crackers. Mrs. D. tries the salt and water again.

Friday, August 29

It began to rain at six o'clock this morning, and has continued with but little abatement through the day. The day has seemed much as the rainy days did when we boys could get together and play "I spy" sixty years ago or more. It has been one of the sleepy days when it was difficult to read or write. I do not go to Woodstock today but stay in my room and do some of the copying or recording that has been neglected. Polk called for Abbie soon after four o'clock and they left for home at five in the rain. Very rainy evening.

Saturday, August 30

Rode to Woodstock in the morning but not in the rain as it began to break in the forenoon. I went readily to work on the small plan of Mr. Billings farm. There was a town meeting to see if the town would enlarge the Town Hall so as to put in a larger stage, and they voted to enlarge it. There was a Democratic flag-raising at Bridgewater and Polk Chamberlin took some part in it. I paid five cents for meat for the cat. The day has been warm, the thermometer rising to 85 degrees or more. We may call this a hot month, though there was one severe frost.

Debits - .05

Sunday, August 31

The fine rain last night has washed the air, but there is little of it stirring this morning. Mr. & Mrs. Leach went to Woodstock this forenoon to hear Mr. Hicks, who preaches at the Cong. Church. He is now settled in Weathersfield, Conn. and is now on a visit among his old friends in Vermont. Brother Spencer came here today and took supper with Mr. & Mrs. Leach. I have been sleepy, tired and dull today and some lame, and can hardly rest easily in any place or position. Dr. Logan called about four o'clock this afternoon.

Monday, September 1

Last Saturday I left my bill for 50 dollars at Mr. Billing's, and today received the money. I paid 15 cts for meat and paid to Dunbar one dollar for digging potatoes. And paid sister Joanna ten dollars. Dunbar and his boy worked in the garden digging potatoes, etc. and I found a better yield than I had been expecting, and of much better quality.

Credits - 50.00

Debits - .15, 1.00, 10.00

Tuesday, September 2

This is our state election in Vermont, and Mr. Leach carried me to Woodstock and he went to Pomfret. I did more voting than I have done for some time. I paid Life Insurance assessment and 10 cts fee. Paid postage 15 cts, and Jones for kerosene 11 cts. Received of A. Harlow's estate \$2.00

Credits – 2.00

Debits – 12.06, .10, .15, .11

Wednesday, September 3

I rode to Woodstock with Mortimer Spear and he brought up our lounge for Mrs. D. to use in our chamber. I worked till nearly five o'clock on the small plan. Paid 23 cts for apples, etc. for Mrs. Fairbanks and Miss Richmond and Mrs. Farman. Sister Joanna sent one pound of butter to Mrs. Farman and she paid 25 cts for it and I returned the money to Joanna. I left for home soon after five o'clock and met Mortimer near Mrs. Moore's. Received five cts of Mortimer for change.

Credits - .05

Debits - .23

Thursday, September 4

A warm and muggy morning and almost every one complains of headache or giddiness. But I went to Woodstock and finished some of the facts about the small plan. Finished that part of the line between the two mountains. It is the most correct line that I have made of that old survey made in 1845. I paid 15 cts for sweet potatoes, and I paid seven dollars to J.R. Murdock towards the Rockford watch which he, in part, presented to me. I was some unwell through the day from the excessive heat, ther. 91 degrees.

Debits - .15, 7.00

Friday, September 5

I have staid at Pomfret in my old chamber where I used to study and write. Mrs. Doton is here too in our room and we are today an invalid pair. I have written but very little for I felt too lazy. I copied and corrected some of the meteorological notes for August. The day has been very warm though there was more air stirring than yesterday, but it afforded but little nourishment. Mrs. D. went to the south chamber and rested there a part of the day. Polk called for Abbie after school and she will be away till Sunday night or Monday morning.

Saturday, September 6

Mr. Leach and Edward Barber went on the excursion train to Newport and Lake Memphremagog, and are expected home about eleven or twelve o'clock. The day has been warm and must be warm riding in the cars this evening. It is now nearly eight o'clock and the moon will begin to give light before very late. I paid 25 cts to Taylor for meat and sixteen cts for ink and postage. I rode to Woodstock with Mortimer Spear.

Debits - .25, .16

Sunday, September 7

The excursion train did not get back till past one o'clock this morning, and of course our folks did not get back here till past to o'clock. Dr. Logan called and I paid him fifteen dollars on our account, and was glad to be ready to pay him something, and a doctors bill is one that I will never complain of paying. I have been in my room thru the greater part of the day and have attended to my meteorological writing and copying. I am glad to be able to keep those observations along, for the town of Woodstock ought to have such things kept as historical records and will be more valuable as the years move along. Thunder was heard at 20 minutes past five o'clock afternoon, and from six to seven, lightning could be seen low along the southern horizon; and later thunder was heard and there were a few showers till as late as ten o'clock. We have now been here since we came with Isaac Doton on sister Electa's birth day July 19<sup>th</sup>, though I have been to Woodstock almost every day since.

Debits – 15.00

Monday, September 8

The night was sultry and nearly sleepless, and the heat continues this morning, and it continued through the day and there were slight showers in the afternoon. I kept in my chamber much of the day and in part fitted the meteorological report for August. That report will explain some drought and some changes of the weather. The farming people are now cutting up their corn.

Tuesday, September 9

The night, though warm, was some better for rest and sleep, and I hope a pure air will be the result. I remained at home in my room much of the day and tried to work but the weather was much too warm for comfort. I prepared my report for the Standard, but have no chance to get it to the office.

Wednesday, September 10

This morning I rode to Woodstock with Mr. Leach and remained there through the day, and he came after me at night. But this is making too much trouble for the amount of work that I do. I called on J.W. Hazen to learn something of cost, etc. of lead pipe for an aqueduct. Half inch lead pipe will weigh about ten pounds to a rod, or about 75 cts nearly a rod. Paid 5 cts for meat.

Debits - .05

Thursday, September 11

Abbie came down from Pomfret with her horse and I took it to go to Woodstock. Mortimer Spear went with me and after doing all the errands we went to do, we came home about three o'clock in the afternoon. I left the weather report for the Standard. I went to the new Library building and gave some levels for setting the curb stones in front and got through soon after noon.

Friday, September 12

There was a very sudden change in the weather soon after midnight and the wind blew hard from the north. This continued through the rest of the night. Abbie came again with her team, or horse and buggy, and I put them up for I did not conclude to go to Woodstock when the air is so fresh and cold. Herman Dunham came to see us as he is leaving for College Hill next Monday. I wrote out the report to send to Washington. Abbie started for home about five o'clock. The evening is cool. Farmers are very busy in harvesting their corn before the fodder is killed by the frost.

Saturday, September 13

A cool night and a frosty morning, but a prospect of a bright fall day. The cold increased through the day. I rode to Woodstock and mailed the August report to Signal Office in Washington. I paid Vt. Mutual Insurance tax 2.73. I paid French \$1.00 for horse hire. It was for horse & buggy when friends were here. I worked on plans and began to transfer the small plan to better paper. Got meat of Collins, 16 cts, and at night I carried it to Pomfret. Went to Pomfret between five & six o'clock and was glad to use an overcoat. Two days ago the thermometer reached 91.3 or 91.4 degrees and it must be nearly to the freezing point now. Mrs. Farman paid me 75 cts to go to Joanna for the three pounds of butter.

Debits – 2.73, 1.00

Sunday, September 14

A severe frost. Ice nearly a quarter of an inch thick on exposed pails of water. Sky perfectly clear with but slight breeze from the N.W. This wind increased and before noon it was very cold and uncomfortable being out of doors. Before ten o'clock the cirrus clouds began to form and soon after the stratus form of cirrus began to prevail; so the cirro stratus are the prevailing clouds. I kept in our room the greater part of the day and tried to copy the meteorological records so as to preserve them for future reference. These weather notes were begun in 1868 and have been continued to the present time, and they must sometime be placed in the "Norman Williams Public Library." Here they can be safely preserved and kept for use. Dr. Logan called today and will be here again Thursday, probably. An aurora was seen last

evening though partly obscured by clouds. It was a general lighting up of the low northern sky. And now, nearly nine o'clock, there is a heavy cloud low in the north and a light rises out above it.

Monday, September 15

No frost this morning tho some cool. I rode to Woodstock and began to transfer my plans to the thicker and better paper. Paid 7 cts for postage stamps. I worked through the day on the plans. Abbie's horse became lame as she came to school via Woodstock. My work is the same or nearly so from day to day. Brought slips of petunias from our garden at Woodstock.

Debits - .07

Tuesday, September 16

Rode to Woodstock and went to the bank for Spencer and renewed Edwards note using Spencer's money to do it with. Fred paid me 4 cts for stamps and I paid 4 cts for cat's feed. Worked on the plans and that seems now to be my business for I have given it my full attention. In renewing Edwards note, Spencer handed me a 20 dollar gold piece, and I let him have a 5 dollar bill. I paid the bank \$12.20 and returned to Spencer \$2.80. I write this out fully for he may not understand it.

Credits - .04

Debits - .04

Wednesday, September 17

I went again to Woodstock and I went again to that same work that I have been at for the past two years. The greater part of the surveying is done and I am sure that nearly every part of it was correctly done. I have found but very few mistakes and those were very slight. I have been too unwell today to drive the work very rapidly and can write but little tonight. I lent to Mortimer Spear five dollars and I paid two cts postage. A fine aurora, a lighting up in the north, a pure and clear light.

Debits - 5.00, .02

Thursday, September 18

Cooler and densely smoky. Mr. Leach went to Woodstock and I rode with him, and I worked through the day. I find many chores that call for me and I have much going about the village. I started for home at five o'clock, rode a short distance with Dr. Chandler and met Abbie who had started to meet me. Rode with her and had a fine visit, for I hardly know when I have had a longer visit with her.

Friday, September 19

My work is all at Woodstock. Mr. McKenzie called for me to go to the cemetery lot and make some measurements for himself and Mr. Billings. Spent the afternoon on those lines and lots, and I must make two deeds to make the conveyance as they changed hands. I paid Richmond 15 cts for meat.

Debits - .15

Saturday, September 20

We have now some hopes of rain. I tested the measurements made yesterday and computed the land conveyed by Mr. Billings to Mr. McKenzie and also that conveyed by Mr. McKenzie to Mr. Billings, and if they understand each other correctly I can make their deeds. Mrs. Farman came to put the house in some order and seems to hope that we shall be there soon to keep the house as heretofore, and I hope we can do it. Paid Slack 15 cts for potatoes. A very slight rain in the afternoon soon after one o'clock, and there has been slight showers since.

Debits - .15

Sunday, September 21

A cool night and a cool but pleasant morning, but the air is very dry so that there is scarcely a drop of dew on the grass. The weather is so clear that I can seem to see the foliage on the trees on the hills in South

Woodstock and Reading. We remain here at the old house, and all is very pleasant. This is a good time for rest. Mrs. D. is in the east kitchen bedroom and can rest there quietly, and I am passing from that room to the chamber as occasion requires. Mr. Leach has gone to church as he is accustomed to do, and the house is very still. I took a walk in the afternoon and went across the fields by the Hooper barn and to the Ware place where I could look over the neighborhood and see the changes that must have been going on. This threw one back to the people of fifty and sixty years ago. How few of these are left to tell the tale of their lives; and their places, how changed! I spent some of the afternoon in my room writing and resting. Lizzie Bridge and Mary Barber called.

Monday, September 22

Polk and Abbie came from home in the morning and he carried me to Woodstock and remained there through the day. I staid in my room the greater part of the day and tried to transfer a plan. I had two business calls, one from Mr. Perkins of Bridgewater about a piece of land that I surveyed for Saml. Wood in the neighborhood where his father Elisha Perkins formerly lived. A Mr. Davis has been running out certain lots there and makes a different line. Mrs. Mary Hutchinson (Mary Barron) called on business from her mother about her south Pomfret lot. We came home soon after four o'clock and Polk and Abbie went to Pomfret Center.

Tuesday, September 23

This is the first day of the Windsor County Fair and I am sure it looks a little like being rainy. It rained some in the night and this morning there is dense mist and fog. Mrs. Doton seems to be improving and has been for the last week or ten days. She goes down to the east kitchen before breakfast and remains there till night when she goes to our chamber without assistance. She could not do this two weeks ago. I went again on the west hill where I worked about sixty years ago, and I could call up the thoughts, anecdotes and emotions of those times clearly and vividly.

Wednesday, September 24

Mr. Leach went to the Fair. I went with him and took the horse to the barn, and I spent the day at the house. Copied the September weather notes and all such notes as they came in the way. Mailed letter to Herman Dunham and one to Levi Hazen of West Hartford on the subject of the land lines between Mrs. Sessions and Mrs. Perkins. The Fair was very satisfactory to those interested in such things. I did not attend it, and very seldom do. Lent to A. Dunbar 50 cts. Paid postage 10 cts.

Debits - .50, .10

Thursday, September 25

A warm and slightly rainy morning but the people are alive for the Fair. I rode to Woodstock with Mr. & Mrs. Leach and took the horse to the barn. Though the morning was a little wet the day has been very fine indeed and the Fair has been the best perhaps the best that we have had for a long time. The whole has passed off very much to the satisfaction of all concerned. The Balloon ascension was an attractive part of the doings and it passed very well and I believe safely. There was the greatest collection of good oxen that I ever saw, and other perhaps were equally good.

Friday, September 26

Abbie has not been in school for the past three days, the days of the County Fair at Woodstock, but she begins again this morning. I waited for her horse and she came at just nine o'clock. I took her horse and rode to Woodstock and worked there till past three o'clock. There is to be a lyceum at Pomfret Center and sister Joanna went with Abbie as she went home.

Saturday, September 27

A fine morning but with some signs of rain. I got Mortimer's horse and rode to Woodstock and to mill. Got meat of Collins 20 cts but have not paid him for this or the last; 16 plus 20 cents is what I now owe him.

Sunday, September 28

A warm and almost sultry morning. How pleasant for this time of the year. It must have rained some in the night, for the water stands now on low and level surfaces. The amount that fell in the rain gauge was 0.17

of an inch, and this is another of the light rains that we have had this season. I remained at the old homestead at Pomfret through the day and the greater part of the day at my table. I fitted the meteorology for September and of that work I have nearly completed the seventeen years of observations, and I hope it has added something to the facts of the science.

Monday, September 29

I rode out with Mrs. Doton as far as Mr. Barbers, after which I rode to Woodstock as usual and spent the day at my work. Mrs. Harper (Katie Taylor) spoke for flowers from the garden for her brothers wedding which is to take place tomorrow. Paid 10 cts for meat; and I omitted to put down 8 cts and 15 cts for potatoes.

Debits – .10, .08, .15

Tuesday, September 30

The last day of September, and a mild and beautiful day. Mrs. Doton rode nearly to the Paine place where Mr. Emery lives. The autumn foliage is very rich and beautiful. The colors will come to their highest richness about four or five days earlier than usual. I rode to Woodstock as early as I could but did not get to my work till about eleven o'clock.

Wednesday, October 1

A very fine morning, and very warm. I rode to Woodstock with Mr. Leach and very soon began to work on the plans, and I drove the work till past four o'clock and before five I started for home and was soon overtaken by "Fritzie" Billings and Fred Chapman and they insisted upon my getting into the carriage; and he carried me to my home. That was a kindness that I shall remember. The fact itself was not so much, but the manner was impressive. We took observation for the time this morning and made the computation after going to Woodstock. I had good success in taking the observations and in working the results. Brought forward 7.92.

Thursday, October 2

Rode to Woodstock and worked on the plans but was not very well. I went to Mr. Murdock's after testing my watch by the meridian and he set his clock and I also went to Moore's and he set his clock with some care. His clock is a remarkably good one and has in times past run a year or more without needing a correction.

Friday, October 3

It began to rain at 6:45 in the morning and it rained lightly through the day, but there was but a small quantity of rain fell. I did not go to Woodstock, but kept the chamber the greater part of the day and worked on the meteorological records. Though rain fell nearly through the day the amount was only about half an inch. Paid 18 cts for meat and I paid for crackers 13 cts.

Saturday, October 4

We are calling this the brightest and most beautiful of the colors of the autumn foliage. Two days ago there were certain places where a small patch of trees wore the brightest colors possible but the greater masses are brighter today. Mrs. D. rode out this morning and she enjoys the scenery every inch of it. There was thunder at ten o'clock this forenoon and again from six to seven o'clock in the evening there was a thunder shower low in the south with very vivid lightning. In my cash account I put down the ten cts that I paid for P.O. box rent.

Debits – .10

Sunday, October 5

This is a very pleasant day but some cool, but the season of year is some for having cool days and frosty nights. I tried to rest me some through the day, but found so much writing to do that I kept very busy. Brother Spencer came here about the middle of the day and was here to dinner. I see him but little this season.



Monday, October 6

Thunder this morning at half past seven o'clock and there was a hard shower soon after. It began to rain at 6:45 the rain continuing till about ten in the forenoon. I ought to have gone to Woodstock but the day seemed to be too wet, so I staid in my chamber and tried to bring my writing up to the present time. I wrote a letter to Mrs. Gookin of Franklin, N.H. and one to Herman Dunham of Tufts College at College Hill. Mr. Leach intended to go to his old place in Bridgewater, but the rain prevented.

Tuesday, October 7

A cooler morning and there was some rain in the night. The wind came to the N.W. and the weather was some cooler. Mr. Leach started early for Bridgewater to pick his share of a crop of apples. Mortimer got Mr. White to assist him in picking apples at the Ware place and I hope they soon will be ready to dig the ditch from the spring N.E. of the house, so that water can be brought to the house. I have spent the greater part of the forenoon in my chamber.

Wednesday, October 8

I took Mr. Leach's horse and rode to Woodstock and came home about noon. Mr. McKenzie called for me to go back to Woodstock to make some deeds of the land exchanged by Mr. Williams and Mr. Wm. R. Hewitt, but the weather did not permit. I remained in my room the greater part of the day. This forenoon I received a letter from Robert containing some business with the Bank; but I could not attend to it today. Paid Richmond 18 cts.

Debits - .18

Thursday, October 9

This is Mrs. Dunham's birth day and she has usually called to see her sister on such days, but she has not yet called. Mr. McKenzie sent for me and I went down and met my friend Dr. E.H. Williams. I made a test of the land to be exchanged and found my measurements and computations all correct and I went to the bank to make out the deeds. I was too tired to write, but I made out the deeds very readily, and then went to our house and fixed some plans of the Edward Dana lands for Mr. Billings. Mr. Marcy took me home with Mr. McKenzie's span of black colts. A very fine team. Paid five cents for crackers.

Debits - .05

Friday, October 10

Went to Woodstock in the afternoon in making a survey with Fred Chapman on the Fair Ground lands. Went back to the house at four o'clock, and I began to plan about the deeds of the cemetery exchange by Mr. Billings and Mr. McKenzie. I hope we can soon be at our own house so as to avoid riding down to Pomfret and back each day. I carried up a large amount of mail from the Post Office for the families that are in the connection. And I carried the necessary notes to make the deeds of the cemetery lots, but could find no time to work on them.

Saturday, October 11

I went early to our house and to my work on the deeds and plans. Mailed letter to Herman Dunham and paid 10 cts for postage stamps. Paid Collins 50 cts in full for meat. Paid 25 cts to Williams for horse shoeing. A few days ago Abbie paid me 2 cts as postage paid.

Credits - .02

Debits - .10, .50, .25

Sunday, October 12

The night was warm and the air damp and muggy, and of course we could not rest so well, but we are feeling very well, and I have been at my table the greater part of the forenoon, filling up my memorandum and bringing it down to date. Mrs. Doton walked out about the door-yard as much as her strength would allow, and perhaps is feeling better for the exercise. Mr. & Mrs. Leach went to church in the afternoon and have just now returned and say that the rain was falling almost constantly at Woodstock. Carlie Dunham walked up from their new place on South Street this afternoon and is now here with the folks in the lower

room, and Mrs. D. is almost elated to see her. They visited till nearly five o'clock and then I got a team and went with her to Mr. Spaulding's and she chose to walk the rest of the way. I think the folks had a very fine visit. About six o'clock in the evening as I was coming home flashes of lightning were seen among the heavy clouds low in the N.W. and this continued as the clouds moved towards the east and at times quite vivid till nearly nine o'clock. There was a smart shower about ten o'clock, but it lasted only ten or fifteen minutes.

Monday, October 13

Stratus or cumulo stratus clouds in the forenoon, but early in the morning the clouds were cirro cumulus and all from the west. Went to Woodstock and soon met Mr. Billings and he pointed out a vast amount of work that he wishes to have done. He has bought the Howe farm and all the land that formerly constituted the Marsh farm. He has directed us to have corner posts, stone posts, set at the principal corners and let the stone be cut and lettered at the S.E. corner of the Rogers tract.

Tuesday, October 14

Election in Ohio and West Virginia, and from the appearance they ought to go Republican by large majorities. I went to Woodstock and had Joe Bean do some whitewashing and he does such work very well. I paid him one dollar and seventy five cents, and I paid five cents for meat.

Debits – 1.75, .05

Wednesday, October 15

Another very cold morning and I went to Woodstock and found it too cold to get the men out to set the monuments to the corners of Mr. Billings' lands. I went to the bank with a coupon and got \$17.50 and I sent the amount of Life Insurance \$10.05 to the company at Hartford, Conn. paying 15 cts fee at the P.O. And sent 6 dollars as annual due Nov. 2d.

Credits – 17.50

Debits – 10.05, .15, 6.00

Thursday, October 16

Light snow on the ground but not quite so cold, yet there are strong signs of winter. I rode to Woodstock with Mr. Leach and very soon I went to work and picked out posts to set around the cemetery lot. We had a call this morning from Fred Chapman & Miss Laura Billings rode up with him. In the afternoon we went to the cemetery lot to set posts but the hands were taken away about four o'clock.

Friday, October 17

Mr. Billings hands came again to set posts and we set one at the S.W. corner of the old part of the Cemetery lot, and one on the west side of the N.E. corner of Mr. Billings' lot of land from the Miller place. In the afternoon we went to the Pogue Hole piece to set posts but they did not come. We went to the N.W. corner of the Howe farm and made some examination of the corner at the spring by the elm tree and the corner fourteen rods westerly of it, and placed a stake there. Came home as the stone that Mr. Archibald was to cut and letter did not come, and I rode late to Pomfret. Paid Paul 5 cts for crackers.

Debits - .05

Saturday, October 18

Rode again to Woodstock with Mr. Spear's horse and carried potatoes to Mr. Chapman's. Today Mrs. Bradley came to work on the carpet and the middle room of the house, and she put the room in good order. Paid her one dollar and paid Collins 25 cts for meat. Mr. Spear took his sheep to Woodstock as he sold them to Mr. Burk. A sharp shower of hail in the afternoon and some snow in the evening perhaps one fourth of an inch. The folks at the old place are at work now on a ditch and well for an aqueduct to bring the water from an old or long-noted spring of water to the house; a matter that has been long talked of in the family. My father often spoke of it but did not feel able to do it.

Debits – 1.00, .25

Sunday, October 19

A cold and tolerably clear morning. I have tried to rest some today but got too tired yesterday to rest very easily. Soon after noon, Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Washburn rode up here to see Mrs. Doton and the rest of the folks and made a very pleasant call, but I could hardly entertain them easily for I felt too tired. Late in the afternoon Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Marcy came up from Taftsville, and they too made a pleasant call. In the evening lightning was seen in the N.W. from 8 to 9 o'clock. This I got from Dr. Williams, and I find that it was seen by others.

Monday, October 20

Rode to Woodstock with Fred Doton and went immediately to the west end of the lot to set stakes at the corners near the spring west of Pogue Hole. The day has been warm, very warm for this season. I think the post that Mr. Archibald was cutting was set in its place this morning. I have paid Richmond for meat and Paul for crackers at different times that I have not noted down and for postage stamps.

Debits - .12

Tuesday, October 21

Called at Hazens shop and have decided to have about 32 rods of their half inch pipe to put down and I think they can put it down tomorrow. We keep up our work on the mountain.

Wednesday, October 22

I expected the hands would have time to lay down the pipe at our old place today but they failed to do it for they had not enough of pipe to put down. They went up with what they had. We went to the N.W. corner of the Cox lot; which is the N.W. corner of the old Marsh place. We ranged on the north line through the woods and got very wet, but I found some dry clothes to put on when I got to the house. There are sundry articles not set down at this time.

Debits - .10

Thursday, October 23

I rode down from Pomfret with Mr. Covey who works for Mr. Hazen. He came to put down the lead pipe from the spring to the house, and the water was brought to the house as father had wished more than sixty years ago, as I used to hear him talk upon it in my younger days. I got a horse and carriage and brought Mrs. Doton from Pomfret where we had been for the last three months or more. In the afternoon we ran a line around a piece of Mr. Thompson's land that Mr. Billings will probably buy. In doing this we had some additional help, and the work went very easily. Postage, etc. .08

Debits - .08

Friday, October 24

Went again to the west end of the Pogue Hole lot and set a post at the N.W. corner of the Howe lot at the site of the former birch (White birch) and also set one by the spring at the S.W. corner of the old Marsh lot. We were compelled to put two blasts in a rock to get a place to set the posts. We then went to the N.W. corner of the old Marsh lot and set a post at the corner of the small piece now owned by Ward Cox that was once owned by Esq. Marsh. Late in the afternoon we set a post on the hill at the N.E. corner of the Marsh lot joining the late Daniel Dana farm. This corner is on the easterly line of the Rogers tract. Paid Richmond 8 cts for meat. Paid Mr. Hewitt for milk 12 cts.

Debits - .08, .12

Saturday, October 25

A rough and cool morning and it began to snow about ten o'clock, and the middle of the day was rough and cold. We went to the N.E. corner of the Howe lot and set a post to keep the place of the old and long ago noted beech tree, and we also set one at the corner shown me long ago by Charles Marsh. The beech tree was at the corner of Payson A. Pierce's lot, in the east line of the Howe lot. Years ago this lost corner was under a large hemlock log which is now much decayed but it remains where found still a

witness to the corner. How pleasant it is here, and not be obliged to go to Pomfret after doing a toilsome days work.

Sunday, October 26

We are still at our own home and have but little help in the house except from the kindness of Mrs. Fairbanks. I have spent the greater part of the day in the house and principally in doing such chores as I could do. The morning was very cool and the last night was cold, but the weather has become more mild this afternoon. Received a line from Ora Paul on the subject of a reservation in the conveyance of a part of the Fair Ground lot to Mr. Billings. Laura Billings called in the afternoon and brought some choice flowers to Mrs. Doton.

Monday, October 27

I have been much driven with work for the past week or two. Spent an hour or more in finishing a deed for the Windsor County Agricultural Society. Went with Mr. Chapman to the Howe lot and on the west end of the Dana land. I paid Mr. French 75 cts for horse, etc. to bring Mrs. Doton down from Pomfret. Paid 10 cts for meat and 3 for milk. Dr. Hazen called for the deed and in the afternoon Mr. Paul called with some suggestions of amendment. I found it necessary to re-write the whole matter, and I spent all the evening in writing it out.

Tuesday, October 28

Finished the deed this morning and Dr. Hazen called early for it and I am sure it must have "red tape" enough in it. The morning is rainy and we shall not go out on Mr. Billings' work. Paid 3 cts for milk. Have been quite lame today and have not walked easily, but shall get rested by the time it stops raining. Paid Paul 5 cts for crackers. In the evening I tried to correct my cash accounts that had been neglected for the past few days. These very small items are often neglected at the times they should be made.

Debits - .03, .05

Wednesday, October 29

We did not go out in the forenoon, and were finally kept in through the day. But I found enough to do. I prepared the house for banking and worked on the west side. Abbie came down to mill and to do many errands. She took dinner with us and was much pleased with our cozy way of getting along. Paid 9 cts for milk and have it now left at the door. I also paid Richmond 18 cts for meat. In the evening I received some papers from Mr. Billings to examine and I spent all the time possible till very late. Paid Marble for Graham flour .50.

Debits - .09, .18, .50

Thursday, October 30

It began to rain in the night and I failed to measure it, for my rain gauge was taken on account of freezing. I begin to re-read the papers left yesterday and they were called for before ten o'clock. I called at the bank to meet Mr. Chandler but he was some unwell yesterday and had not got out this morning. The day is rainy with easterly and changeable winds. I paid ten cents for kerosene at Pauls. Paid the rare coin box 10 cts.

Debits - .10, .10

Friday, October 31

Slightly rainy in the night, but not enough to measure much this morning. I kept in the house but could read or write but little. Received 2 cts for postage stamp.

Credits - .02

Saturday, November 1

This morning we went to the cemetery lot and began to fix for setting the posts on the westerly and northerly sides. Met Mr. Lockwood and Mr. McKenzie and we measured out a lot for Mrs. Williams for her

father's family. She was the daughter of John A. Pratt who was one of our prominent men of Woodstock. Paid Collins 20 cts for meat. In the afternoon we took the transit and intended to set up the main avenue north and south. Paid Hewitt 5 cts and had a quart of milk.

Debits - .20, .05

Sunday, November 2

Notwithstanding my walk and wet in the rain yesterday, I rested well last night and am very well today. We are yet here alone and are getting along quietly and well. It is now past noon and but few have called. The doctor called a short time ago, and Cora Cobb called to see Mrs. D. this morning but she will not go away from this neighborhood till after thanksgiving. How slight has been the rain here the past week, when one hundred miles south of here there were drenching rains. How much engaged are all the politicians now, and these drenching rains do not prevent their turning out to meet their party candidates. But two days more and the seal will be set, and the persistent will be elected.

Monday, November 3

These are November days cool but fair at times. I met Mr. Chapman and proposed to run the west line of Mr. Billings' Dana lot, and he spoke to his brother Charles to assist him in chaining. We started soon after noon and I ran the line from the stone post at the N.W. corner, assuming the bearing to be S. 31 degrees West and I went through and was 5 links to the left. A rough line to measure, but they did it very well. It was too late to set off the ordinals and we left for the night. Miss Marcy came in the evening and we of course were very glad, for Mrs. Fairbanks was too slender to do what she has done for us. Received of Frederick Billings \$50.00.

Credits – 50.00

Tuesday, November 4

This is the day of Presidential Election. I do not go for I cannot vote for the republican candidates and shall not vote at all. Were I a voter in New York, I might be tempted to cast a democratic vote, but I am not and will not vote. Paid Savings Bank interest \$15.15 cts, and paid Richmond & Taylor 16 cts and paid Paul 15 cts for crackers & 20 cts for kerosene.

Debits – 15.15, .16, .35

Wednesday, November 5

Rainy through the night and the rain measures 1.40 and what has fallen before make about 1.75 inches. A fine rain and such as we have long needed. Chapman called for me and we went to the Howe lot to place stakes at the corners to be ready to put in stone posts. What a wind we have today! It seemed like the wind that we felt on Mansfield mountain. The returns from yesterdays election appear to give Cleveland the election, and I believe we shall have an honest administration. Paid \$1.00 for milk tickets and 35 cts for lard.

Debits – 1.00, .35

Thursday, November 6

A cold morning. Ther. 21 at 7 o'clock. Paid Collins 35 cts for meat. It thaws in the road some but still it is cool for the strong W. wind makes it some unpleasant out of doors. Paid Dr. Logan on account 10 dollars. The day has been cold and rough, and the wind has been westerly. The clouds have come from the N.W. but the wind has been from the S.W. or W. I took the time to finish gathering the garden some, and put the beets into the cellar and the cabbages and a rose bush that has been cared for during the last three or four years. Paid Smith for blocking 12 cts.

Debits - .35, 10.00, .12

Friday, November 7

The morning was cool but the weather grew warm, especially in the afternoon. I rested not quite so well for I was out on the hills when the wind blew so furiously two days ago, and took cold in my head I think. Today I paid Billings 60 cts for groceries and 10 cts for buttons. I worked on the banking of the cistern and think that and the house generally are protected from the cold.

Debits - .60, .10

Saturday, November 8

Pleasant in the morning but it is growing cooler. We do not go out to our work on the hills, but when the weather will permit we must do the work fully and fix the landmarks so that they cannot be defaced or lost. I paid Woodruff 20 cts for soap. Have kept about home the greater part of the day. Called on Mr. Chandler to have him assist in correcting an abstract that he is preparing. Mr. Billings Clerk called in the early part of the evening and he took the abstract that I have had in my possession a few days. Mr. Kendall an agent for the publishing house at 16 Broomfield Street Boston called to have us take the "Christian Leader."

Debits - .20

Sunday, November 9

A fine Sabbath morning with thermometer 15 degrees. I am trying Stafford's universal ink. It has a strong deep body and doubtless will hold its color for a long time. Stephens ink prepared in London is a good ink. This is very old and other inks have been mixed with it. Carter's and Maynard and Noyes is an old and standard ink, but I have none of it in its purity now. I watched the noon mark at the time of the Sun's southing and found my watch nearly one minute too fast. Clara French called soon after noon, and Mrs. Washburn nearly the same time or a few minutes before. Mr. Leach and sister Electa called; and late in the afternoon Carlie Dunham called & about the same time Miss Billings (Laura) called to bid us good bye till Christmas time when she will be here again. Dr. Logan was here in the forenoon. The wind that was in the N.W. this morning came directly to the south and continued so till night.

Monday, November 10

A pleasant morning and I was called to go to the work at Mr. Billings. We set the post at the corner on Mrs. Dana's line and also at the Col. David Dana S.W. corner. In the afternoon we set posts at the S.E. and S.W. corners of the Howe farm. Paid 6 cts for milk to Mr. Pierce, and paid Richmond 18 cts for meat and Paul 13 cts for crackers. Received assessment notice on the life insurance certificates and I am not sure they are right. There was no assessment of Mrs. D.'s certificate.

Debits - .25

Tuesday, November 11

Mr. Billings and family left their house in Woodstock at 6 o'clock a.m. for their winter sojourn in New York, and the "Hill" looks desolate, without the prattle of their children or their cheering lights. At six o'clock the air was clear but there was a dense fog on the hills at 7 o'clock when I read the instruments. I paid Collins for meat 25 cts, and I still owe him 16 cts. I have worked on the meteorological report and must try to finish it before the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Debits - .25

Wednesday, November 12

A pleasant morning. Mr. Chapman called to see about the surveying this morning but we postponed it till afternoon. Went to the N.W. corner of the Marsh lot and ran the line of the north side of the lot which was the division of the south range in the Rogers tract. We ran this very critically and we found an old marked tree where the mark itself was all decayed but the part that grew on it was perfectly plain to be seen and examined. Paid Paul 21 cts for sugar.

Debits - .21

Thursday, November 13

Wind in three directions this morning. The higher clouds from the west or northwest; the lower clouds from the southwest and the wind near the surface from northeast. Paid Collins 25 cts for meat. In the afternoon I went with Fred and Charles Chapman to run the remaining part of the north line of the Dana lot or the Marsh lot and we found the weather too dark to allow us to run it very easily. We found the distance to be four or five rods longer than was put down on the old plans, but we left it for the night and perhaps will finish it tomorrow. Paid Mrs. Dunham for milk for July and August \$1.50. Rain from about 8 to 10 o'clock p.m. 0.06 inches.

Debits - .25, 1.50

Friday, November 14

Spent the forenoon about the house, doing some writing for the meteorological record, and I finished the report for October and mailed it for the Signal Service. In the afternoon I went with Chapman and finished the running the north line of the Dana lot. Found three or more of the old marked trees on the line and also one of the corners, that is the one that is about fifty rods from the N.W. corner. I paid ten cts for salt for the table.

Debits - .10

Saturday, November 15

A beautiful but cool morning. The political noise ended this morning about one o'clock. This morning I paid 10 cts for washing soap, and 8 cts for carpet tacks and I paid one dollar for Graham flour. I had made arrangements for making a survey for Charles Perry, but he was disappointed in having the one present to whom he sold a piece of land. I arranged the barn for keeping the hens again and will have them again soon. Mr. Lewis called to have me make out a sketch of the Post Office near here as he proposes to have a post office at "The Flat."

Debits - .10, .08, 1.00

Sunday, November 16

A cool clear morning. The sun rising clearly, and I had hoped to get it so clear that I could get a few observations for computing the time. As our clocks and watches are now set on the five hour or our standard time, we must reduce our time of observation to local time. I took two observations this morning, and found my clock, or rather watch, to be about one minute slow, as I had set it back two minutes to have it agree with our town time. But I find our clock to be one minute slow. This afternoon I drew a sketch of the town of Woodstock for the post office department or for the petitioners for a new post office at the "Flat," and I got very tired while doing it. How little I have read today! It seems as though I am sorely driven with work that I can do, and I get but very little time for improvement. I am more pressed with work than I have been for a long time before. Emma Dunham and Carlie called here in the evening and made a pleasant hour for all of us.

Monday, November 17

A very fine morning, appearing more like May than November. Paid Paul 50 cts for tea and kerosene. In the afternoon I went to the old Gallup farm to make a survey for Charles Perry. He and Henry Seaver assisted in making the survey. I paid Miss Marcy five dollars for the two weeks work. She came here Monday morning two weeks ago. In the evening I paid Paul 20 cts for crackers. I spent the evening in computing the contents of the piece surveyed in the afternoon, and found that we had made a very perfect survey.

Debits - .50, 5.00, .20

Tuesday, November 18

A cool morning. Wind N.W. and it blew in the night quite strong at times. Mr. Lewis called this morning for the plans of the Post Office & to send it to the P.O. department, and he paid me one dollar. I re-computed the survey made in the afternoon yesterday, and tested it by a different computation and found the work

very correctly done. In the afternoon Abbie came down from Pomfret with errands and she could not go home till about four o'clock, and I fear that she could not get home before dark. I must write her tomorrow or soon. Carlie Dunham is here this evening.

Credits – 1.00

Wednesday, November 19

A cold and cloudy morning with a prospect of snow. Wind N. or N.E. which gives a chill to the air. An easterly wind at this season seems very chilly. Carlie Dunham remained here through the night, and I hope rested well for her rooms at home are not yet made comfortable for cold weather. Abbie went from here late in the afternoon yesterday and today we send a letter to her for we are some concerned about her going home in the cold. I paid five cts for postage stamps. It began to snow about nine o'clock this morning and at first very lightly, but the storm increased till night. Paid 10 cts for soda.

Debits - .05, .10

Thursday, November 20

A fine snow to shovel this morning. It continued to snow through the night and there were eight and a half inches, and it is equal to 0.85 of an inch of water. Stage on runners to Bridgewater this morning and it seems quite natural to hear sleigh bells. The day remained pleasant though cooler in the afternoon and evening. Paid Freeman 10 cts for soda.

Debits – .10, .10

Friday, November 21

Thermometer ten above zero, and was the coldest night we have had this season, but the morning opens pleasantly. Abbie came down from Pomfret and I paid her \$2.50. Paid for meat at the market 15 cts. The day has been pleasant throughout and there has been much stirring about the streets.

Debits – 2.50, .15

Saturday, November 22

Mailed letters to the Yale Lock Company at Stamford, Ct. and one to Herman Dunham at College Hill, Mass. Tufts College. Paid Henry Greene 8 cts for fine paper, and I paid Collins 76 cts for meat and account, and paid Mr. Hewitt one dollar for milk tickets. Paid for corn meal 50 cts. L.B. Marble, Coryden Melendy came with Mr. Chamberlins horse, and remained at the dentists through the day. The evening was somewhat clear but the air was thick and dense with slight easterly wind. Stars visible but not clear and bright. They wear a heavy and leady appearance. Postage .05

Debits - .08, .76, 1.00, .50, .05

Sunday, November 23

Barometer high but falling. Air thick and clouds are half way down the mountain. It began to rain about 8 o'clock and the fog settled down nearly to the surface of the ground here in the village. Dr. Logan called and gave me a prescription for catarrh, and I will try it for catarrh is troublesome at this season of the year. The rain continued slightly through the day and the weather grew warmer. It rained in the night with high wind.

Monday, November 24

The rain continued through the greater part of the night and 1.25 inches fell in the storm. The snow that was nearly six inches deep last night was gone this morning and the ground had taken in all the water. It has filled the cistern and the wells will soon begin to feel the effects of the storm. I paid 10 cts for soap at Freeman's and paid 55 cts for cloth and fixtures for curtains at Billings. The weather has been growing cold since morning though the wind is inclining to change from N.W. to S.W. Received a letter from Franklin N.H. and Mrs. Gookin will come Wednesday. Paid Paul for sugar 27 cts. Sister Joanna was here today for a short time, but returned late in the afternoon.



Debits - .10, .55, .27

Tuesday, November 25

A chilly morning with S.W. wind. Sent a postal card to Franklin and will meet Mrs. Gookin at the depot tomorrow afternoon. This afternoon Susan Leonard called to bid us good-bye as she with the Leonard family are going to Boston in a few days. Her father was Thomas Leonard who worked on the Woodstock Railroad at the time of its being built. He was a purely natural workman at stone or earthwork, and his children follow in his native ability. I paid Chapman 20 cts for prescription for Catarrh.

Debits - .20

Wednesday, November 26

Finished Mr. Perry's surveys, but he has not yet taken them. I also made a full description for his deed. Paid 10 cts for tapioca & 67 cts for meat. I spent a great part of the day at my table. Mr. Leach was here in the afternoon but left a little before three o'clock. This is the day that Mrs. Doton's sister was to come from Franklin and I went to the depot to meet her.

Debits - .77

Thursday, November 27

This is the President's Thanksgiving and our state falls in with his appointment. Mrs. Doton's sister Abby (Mrs. Gookin) was with us through the forenoon, and after dinner she went to Mrs. Dunhams to see her sister Caroline (Mrs. Horace Dunham). The three sisters must get together and have an all day visit, and perhaps more than one such. I staid about home through the day, only going twice to the Post office. Mrs. Farman called in the evening and we paid her 50 cts for washing after she went from Miss Richmond's. Horace Dunham called in the evening. This month I have omitted by mistake 30 cts.

Debits - .50, .30

Friday, November 28

A warm morning and the frozen ground soon became muddy, and at night the walking was very hard. The two sisters have visited very merrily for the last twenty four hours and I should think that such pleasant merriment would clear the blues if there are any who are afflicted with them. Such life and pleasant touches of wit are very pleasant indeed. I am looking up the drawing work so as to go on with it as fast as possible. I paid Billings 37 cts for goods and Woodruff 10 cts for groceries. Took of the coins 10 cts.

Credits - .10

Debits - .37, .10

Saturday, November 29

This is my seventy fifth birth day as I was born November 29, 1809. The years seem the longest before our twenty first year for we are looking forward with anxiety to be doing some work of our own, and to be leading in business; but when those days come, the cares then engross the time and we hardly notice its movement. The morning is warm and barometer fell rapidly this forenoon. I have been raking up the remainder of leaves in the yard but the wind seems amused when I stir them.

Sunday, November 30

A pleasant morning for November. The season is very peculiar. The snow that fell so freely about ten days ago went off rapidly and the ground that was so much frozen was generally free from frost yesterday so that I drove stakes in the garden where they had been removed in the summer. The factory pond was frozen over about two weeks ago, but now the river is free of ice. The afternoon is cloudy, dark and dull and we may call it gloomy. Mrs. Doton and her sister Abby are at home here, and are making the time pass very pleasantly. Miss Marcy is away to her sisters at South Woodstock this afternoon, and we three of us are here alone. If the other sister (Mrs. Dunham) could be here with the two here the trio would be complete. But they will probably meet soon. I have written but very little today, but have been reading Webster's 7<sup>th</sup> of March speech in the senate of the United States.

Monday, December 1

A very pleasant morning. Ther. 22 degrees. And the air very clear with N.W. wind. Paid Paul 30 cts for kerosene and soap. Received of Charles Perry for surveying 3.00. Received of Mr. Billings 25 dollars. Paid for cloth \$3.40. It was a web of cotton cloth 40 yards at 8½ cts per yard. Paid Miss Marcy for two weeks work 5.00. I spent some time on the meteorological report. The weather is remarkably pleasant for December. Balance brought forward 7.51.

Credits – 3.00, 25.00

Debits - .30, 3.40, 5.00

Tuesday, December 2

I wrote down three items in yesterdays memorandum that I paid today. Court sits today but our sessions of the County Court are but small things. Mortimer brought some wood today, some short and some coarse. Mrs. Dunham came this morning and the three sisters are together, Mrs. Gookin, Mrs. Dunham and Mrs. Doton. Paid 7<sup>th</sup> assessment \$10.08 and P.O. 15 cts. Paid Collins for meat 77 cts. Paid Richmond for meat 33. Mrs. Gookin went home with her sister Mrs. Dunham.

Debits – 10.20, .77, .33

Wednesday, December 3

A cool clear morning. Ther. 12 degrees. I arranged to take the time this morning and found my watch very nearly right but the town clock is three minutes too slow for standard time which is nearly ten minutes slower than our local time. In the afternoon I went with Mr. Chapman to test the west line of the Howe farm, and found it just as I had supposed it to be, curving out to the west. The four lines of this farm are curved out so that the length and width as measured through the center are about two rods longer than either end or side. In the evening I went in the dark to Horace Dunhams to “rob his hen roost,” or rather to get a rose combed chicken that he gave to Mrs. Doton.

Thursday, December 4

This morning is some warmer. Ther. 21 degrees, and in the middle of the day it rose to about 4 degrees which is warm for December. I paid Billings 45 cts for cotton flannel and knitting cotton. Received the receipt for the money sent to the Mut. Benefit Life Co. of Hartford, Ct. It was sent last Tuesday. Today I mailed an order for the Registers, and I hope they will be forwarded before Christmas. Mrs. Gookin came from Mr. Dunhams this morning. Last night I got of Mr. White the October Harpers Monthly that contained the likeness of Darwin. A valuable likeness!

Debits - .45

Friday, December 5

This is a more beautiful morning than we ought to expect in December. The air is very pure and clear excepting a slight smoke and Indian Summer seems to be with us. I worked about the house in the forenoon, and in the afternoon I went with Mr. George E. French to measure a mow of hay that he had bought in Hartland on the old Lull place lately owned by Herman Henry of Pomfret.

Saturday, December 6

Was called for early this morning to go to the Howe farm to run the south line that I have long known to be wrong. I met Mr. Aiken with three hands to assist us and we set up a base line from end to end and then worked the connection fitting the line to the place. The afternoon was rainy, the rain beginning a little before two o'clock. I made the computation of Mr. French's hay that we measured yesterday. Paid Freeman 25 cts for soap, screws, etc.

Debits – .25

Sunday, December 7

A rain storm began yesterday afternoon at about 1:45 Standard time, and it continue till three or four o'clock this morning when an inch and a half of water had fallen. The barometer had fallen more than half

an inch since last nights reading and we may expect strong winds before night or much more rain. The rain did not come so feely as might have been expected from the fall of the barometer but the wind began to blow a strong or moderately high wind. Miss Marcy went to church in the forenoon and we were here alone or nearly so. I was some lame from my long walk yesterday in making the survey of the south line of the Howe farm for Mr. Billings.

Monday, December 8

A strong wind through the night and it continues this morning. I finished the meteorological report for November, and fitted the copies for the department. Paid Billings for flour \$1.63 & 50 cts for under drawers. But changed them after and 25 cts remains unpaid. Called on Mr. Moore and Mr. Murdock to test their clocks and found them eight seconds apart. I received too many advertising circulars to make it very profitable if I give any attention to them. Mrs. Gookin came up from Taftsville and is here this evening so two of the sisters are together. I called on Dr. Logan and find that he is getting about quite comfortably.

Debits – 2.13

Tuesday, December 9

Called at Billings and got another garment of under drawers, paid 1 dollar making \$1.50 for the two garments. Paid Paul 29 cts for groceries, and paid Collins 51 cts for meat and account. Wrote a letter to Henry G. Jessup of Hanover in reply to one received a few days ago on the subject of diminution in the rainfall at this place. He is the Secretary of the Forestry Committee of the State of New Hampshire. The destruction of the forests doubtless diminishes the rainfall and tends to reduce the water in the springs and streams.

Debits – 1.00, .29, .51

Wednesday, December 10

Clear this morning but the cirro cumulus clouds soon began to form in the west. I wrote and mailed another letter to H.G. Jessup of Hanover on the subject of rain falls in the last twenty years. Paid Hewitt \$1.00 for milk tickets and paid 40 cts for lard at the market. This morning I met one of our old Pomfret scholars, Elmer Hewitt, a son of Lucian Hewitt. How our friends of Pomfret are passing away!

Debits – 1.00, .40

Thursday, December 11

A very light snow this morning with S.W. wind tending S. Went to the P.O. and I paid Sayward 5 cts for grinding knife and paid Woodruff \$1.20 for feed for hens. Mrs. Gookin went to Horace Dunhams Wednesday morning, called here today for a short time, but is now visiting with her sister Caroline. But I think she intends to go home on Saturday.

Debits - .05, 1.20

Friday, December 12

The ground is still open and bare. Mrs. Gookin is still with us but will go home to Franklin tomorrow. The high school closes today and they have an entertainment at the school house this evening, and there is to be another entertainment at South Woodstock this evening. I paid Hazen 13 cts for spoon.

Debits - .13

Saturday, December 13

I expected Abbie down today or someone from Pomfret Center, but I have seen no one by whom I could learn how they are. Mrs. Gookin left for home this forenoon. There was about seven tenths of an inch of snow, but it did not storm long. I paid Paul 20 cts for kerosene. The walking is very bad owing to the very light snow that fell this morning. Paid Paul 10 cts for crackers and here my cash account is balanced.

Debits – .20, .10

Sunday, December 14

Last evening we found that Moore had set the town clock forward about five minutes and it must now be fast enough. I spent the forenoon at my table in the middle room. I tried to test our time by the meridian and it appears that the town clock is nearly one minute too fast, and that as this season of the year is well for the clock gains slowly. Its rate is slower in the winter than the summer. We can hardly account for this unless it is the dampness in the clock room. In the summer it is very hot and dry, and it may shorten the pendulum rod enough to affect the rate of the clock. We have spent the day nearly alone but in the evening Mrs. Farman and Miss Cora Cobb called. I wrote a long letter to Rev. L.H. Tabor now of Bryants Pond, Oxford Co., Maine. His was one of the early names that I used to see associated as the Universalist ministers of Vermont. He is one of the children of 1809 and is five days younger than I am, as he was seventy five years old Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> I think.

Monday, December 15

Found five inches of snow that had fallen in the night and it appeared to be mixed with a slight rain, I did some shoveling to clear the paths and the roofs. This was a very wet snow as the melted snow made six tenths and 3 hundredths of water. I paid 5 cts postage and I paid five dollars for Miss Marcy's two weeks work. The barometer fell very rapidly through the night and this forenoon denoting a strong wind. Mrs. Russell called in the evening.

Debits - .05, 5.00

Tuesday, December 16

Cooler with westerly wind. The walking is very bad as the roads were cut up by the passing teams yesterday. I walked to the P.O. and to Dr. Logan's and found him in his room where he had been for the last five days. He went out too soon with his fractured limb. I received a specimen copy of the Observatory, an astronomical paper published in London. Found a letter from Mrs. Emma Doton of Springfield, Mass. and one from Mrs. E.G. Thompson of Franklin, N.H. Mrs. Gookin got home well last Saturday, but has been some unwell since. The Vermont Registers came this evening and I carried ten to each of the Bookstores.

Wednesday, December 17

I went this morning with sixty Registers and let Burdette have twenty making thirty in all, and I let White have twenty nine making thirty nine. I paid 25 cts express bill, which leaves my cash on hand \$2.50. This is Mrs. Gookin's birth day and I wrote a long letter to her. She is sixty years old, and is now in good health and circumstances. Her visit here of two weeks was very pleasant and I hope her health was not injured by it, though their last letters say that she is not very well. Her daughter Mrs. Thompson will be twenty eight years old tomorrow, and I must write to her tomorrow.

Debits - .25

Thursday, December 18

A cold morning, the first time this season that the thermometer has fallen below zero. This morning it was 1 degree below. I wrote a letter to Amelia, Mrs. Thompson, of Franklin, N.H. Paid 5 cts postage. I received 10 dollars from Mr. Billings to apply on the next months account. Paid Paul 40 cts for groceries, and paid Collins 30 cts for meat. I have been out in the air much of the time today and the S.W. wind is very chilly.

Credits - 10.00

Debits - .05, .40, .30

Friday, December 19

Cold! Thermometer at 7 minus 9 degrees. At 9, minus 12 degrees and so we could see that the cold is increasing, and so say the reports from the west and northwest and as far south as St. Louis. I paid Billings 15 cts for thread. Paid Post office 15 cts for stamps. Mailed Register to Judge Barrett of Rutland and one to J.C. Barrett of the same place. Paid Fisher 4 cts for cord. At 4 o'clock p.m., ther. minus 14 degrees, at 5 o'clock, minus 16.6 degrees; At 6 o'clock it was nearly 18 degrees below; but it may not fall

so rapidly through the night. This forenoon young Melendy came down from Pomfret and I took care of his horse, etc. and he left about three o'clock in the afternoon, and I suppose went by Abbie's school and carried her home.

Debits - .15, .15, .04

Saturday, December 20

Colder! Colder!! Ther. minus 26 degrees. There is much now to make this weather seem or feel cold, for there is no snow about the buildings to keep the warm air within or to keep the cold wind out, and now we all call this very searching cold weather, and it is cold when the thermometer is below zero through the day. This morning I received a letter from Rev. L.H. Tabor of Bryant's Pond, Maine. A very excellent letter. The weather is colder this evening. At 7 o'clock the thermometer stood at minus 16 degrees, and is falling. I left one Register with C.P. Marsh and one with Henry Phillips for Mrs. Phillips. I paid Paul 15 cts for crackers.

Debits - .15

Sunday, December 21

Another cold morning. Ther. Reg. minus 20 degrees but it is rising for at 7 it was only minus 4 degrees. Snow is falling fast, and must have begun as early as four o'clock this morning for we have at seven some more than one inch. It continued to snow till night when nearly six inches had fallen. I cleared off a part of the walk and left the rest for morning, and I put out the rain gauge. I have used this day as a day of rest, and have hardly read enough to get my thoughts fixed at all. I think it was nearly ready to begin to rain in the evening, and it must have begun by midnight.

Monday, December 22

Very wet and rainy this morning. I found the water in the rain gauge to be four tenths and two hundredths of an inch (0.42) and this added to the melted snow of yesterday making 0.92 of an inch yesterday and this morning. I spent the forenoon in shoveling and scraping snow, and in the afternoon I remained about the house and barn.

Tuesday, December 23

A cool but comfortable day, but about right to be at work out of doors. I twice went to the post office and at night received a letter from Mrs. E.O. Doton of Springfield, Mass. and wrote a long letter in reply in the evening to be mailed tomorrow. Received a letter from the office of the "Official Railway List" Chicago, Illinois to be answered at once. A friend called in the evening and we had a quiet time to write the promised letter.

Wednesday, December 24

I twice called on Mr. Porter and he assisted me about answering the Chicago Letter of Railway Affairs. I wrote the answer and mailed it in the afternoon. We have watched the mail this afternoon as Herman Dunham comes in the train. He came this afternoon but the storm was so severe that he passed without our notice. The storm was very severe till night. There was a gathering at the brick church and one at the Methodist Church and a Christmas tree at each.

Thursday, December 25

Christmas. A fine morning with some light snow to shovel. I spent the greater part of the forenoon in clearing the paths and the roofs. The day is rather cold but not like last week Friday and Saturday. We have had some calls today. Herman Dunham came in the forenoon, and we were glad to find him in so good health. Miss French called with a "Merry Christmas" and one of her fine paintings, and Mrs. Fairbanks called with her usual cheer. The evening is cool and the weather is cold in prospect. Perhaps that cold wave that was noticed in the papers of yesterday.

Friday, December 26

Thermometer at zero this morning but there are slight stratus clouds, and the temperature may be changing. The cold seemed to be increasing in the afternoon. It grew cold very fast in the evening. At 8

p.m. it was minus 20 degrees, and at 9 it was minus 25 degrees. And appears to be falling fast. I received from Mr. Murdock 15 cts and Porter 2 cts and paid Paul 20 cts for kerosene.

Credits - .17

Debits - .20

Saturday, December 27

Cold! Ther. registered minus 32, at 7 a.m. minus 27 degrees so we see it can be cold here in Vt. Herman called this morning and I went to the P.O. I paid Billings 10 cts for thread and I left one N.H. Register. Paid express bill 15 cts also paid Mr. Hewitt 1 dollar for milk tickets and paid McMaster \$1.75 for his paper, and paid Paul 21 cts for sugar and 10 cts to Freeman for soda. This closes a cold and busy week. The weather for the month, or for the last three or four months has been very unsteady, often changing forty or more degrees in twenty four hours. The barometer for the last week has been very high.

Debits - .10, .15, 1.00, 1.75, .31

Sunday, December 28

Warmer. The thermometer reaching 21 degrees at 7 o'clock this morning, but this is eleven degrees below freezing point. We rested much more quietly last night, for the cold did not disturb us. We now have a southerly wind which at this season is a little chilly, and feels much more cold than it really is. We were alone for a time in the forenoon, and then again in the afternoon. Miss Marcy's friend came soon after noon and they soon started for Quechee. Miss Laura Billings and her sister Mary called with a ray of sunshine such as is the most cheering to Mrs. Doton of any thing with which she can be met. They also brought to her a very beautiful bouquet of rare flower from the green house. They are always perfectly free from that vanity that wealth so often brings to those who may not be so well supplied with that pure element of common sense. Carlie Dunham called in the early evening and so did Cora Cobb who is now at Mr. French's. Carlie had not been here for a long time. Miss Marcy will not probably be back till late this evening.

Monday, December 29

Still warmer and the sleighing grows to be some soft, and the walking for me is extremely hard, more so on account of sore feet. We have been pleased with the calls of very excellent friends. Mrs. F.N. Billings called in the forenoon and it was a rich call for Mrs. Doton as she was acquainted with similar cases of ill health. Herman and Carlie called in the early evening and Mortimer Spear came with Joanna and Abbie, and they were about here till nearly nine o'clock. I paid Miss Marcy five dollars for her work the past two weeks.

Debits - 5.00

Tuesday, December 30

The warm weather continued, and our sleighing will not last long. We have had a very quiet forenoon and have been here alone. Mr. Collins called and we got meat to the value of half a dollar. I was not at the house when he called, and of course I owe him 50 plus 25 equals 75 cts that I must pay him when he calls here again. Today I sent my account for work on the library grounds. I paid three cents postage. We are alone here this evening and it is a pleasant, clear and beautiful evening.

Debits - .03

Wednesday, December 31

A beautiful and mild morning especially for December, the thermometer reading 37 degrees and rising nearly to 50 degrees on these two days. The Williams Library supt. Paid me fifty dollars for services since the work began. I put myself to work on the drawing again, and I continued it till late in the afternoon. Miss Marcy's mother came to see her in the forenoon, and left for home early in the afternoon. In the afternoon I called on H.S. Dana and we had a pleasant chat on very high specimens of literature. I called on Mr. White and ordered an illustrated copy of Heber's "Missionary Hymn," a hymn that we regard as one of the greatest and best in the English language. The thought is truly great yet refined and beautiful. I think we

must regard Bishop Heber as possessing a broad and capacious mind and that could take a beautiful and comprehensive view of the whole range of creation and see things as God himself sees them, or at least as far as is possible for man to see them. It is now past nine o'clock in the evening of the closing day of the year, and I here close this years daily Journal. The balance carried forward to Jan. 1 1885 is 52.88.

Credits – 50.00

## People

Frank Noble Billings was a dealer in groceries and dry goods. He operated the Jones & Billings store in Woodstock from 1854 until it was destroyed by fire in 1860. He opened a new store in the Woodstock's Phoenix Block and operated it until 1894. His son Franklin S. Billings was governor of Vermont from 1925-1927.

Frederick H. Billings was a lawyer and financier who first became successful in California at the time of the gold rush. Billings was a millionaire by age thirty through legal fees, business investments, and real estate. In 1869, Billings bought the former home of Charles Marsh in Woodstock and implemented new methods of farming and conservation. He was a major investor in the Northern Pacific Railway and served on the board when the railroad completed its line from Minnesota to Seattle, WA in 1883. Billings was involved in civic and charitable activities until suffering a stroke in 1889. He died the following year.

Norman Bridge lived on Cloudland Road near the Doton homestead. He was a gifted in mind but not body, and studied science, music and literature while often confined to bed. Hosea frequently called on Norman to check on his health, tutor him and write for him. With Hosea's help, Norman entered Norwich University in 1843 and attended until health issues forced his withdrawal in 1845. Norman composed several poems that Hosea helped him publish in a magazine called Godey's Ladies Book. He died in 1860 at age thirty-eight.

James Knox Polk Chamberlin was a student of Hosea Doton and married his daughter, Abbie, in 1867. He was an attorney with an office in the Phoenix Block in Woodstock.

Captain Seth Conant was a neighbor of Hosea Doton on Cloudland Road in Pomfret.

Rev. O.K. Crosby was the preacher for the Woodstock Universalist Society in 1880. He was the father of Ward Crosby who was a student of Hosea Doton prior to being hired as a surveyor by the Eastern Railroad in 1880.

Henry Swan Dana was born in Woodstock in 1828. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1849 and became a teacher. He published an account of Woodstock's first meeting house in the *Vermont Standard* and was encouraged to write a history of the town by his schoolmate Frederick Billings. Dana's *History of Woodstock, Vermont* was published in 1888 with funding from Mr. Billings.

Abigail Everts Doten was a sister of Hosea Doton. She was born in 1817 and died on October 5, 1900.

Electa Doten was a sister of Hosea Doton. She was born in Pomfret in 1813. She married Henry Leach on January 23, 1873. She died on September 21, 1898 and was buried in North Bridgewater, VT.

Joanna Doten was a sister of Hosea Doton. She was born in Pomfret, in 1823 and died in 1908.

Louisa Doten was a sister of Hosea Doton. She was born in Pomfret, on October 19, 1819. She married Henry Leach on September 5, 1865. She died February 28, 1871 and was buried in North Bridgewater, VT.

Sorell, Franklin, and Orlando Doten were sons of Isaac and Rosilla Doten of Barnard, and cousins of Hosea Doton.

Spencer Doten was Hosea Doton's brother. He was born in Pomfret in 1811 and died there in 1891. Spencer spelled his name Doten as did Hosea Doton's sisters. Hosea sometimes spells his name Spencer and this diary preserves both spellings.



Abbie Doton was the daughter of Hosea Doton and his first wife, Lois Paddock Doton. She married James Knox Polk Chamberlin. Abbie was a teacher who became the first librarian at the Abbott Memorial Library in Pomfret.

Julia Elvira Doton was the third wife of Hosea Doton. She was born in Hartland, VT in 1840 and died in Woodstock in 1910. Her sister, Caroline Dunham, was married to Horace F. Dunham. Caroline was ill during her last three years and died in 1903 at her sister's home.

Horace F. Dunham was the brother of Simeon C. Dunham and the husband of Elvira Doton's sister Caroline. He was a surveyor who worked with Hosea Doton on the Woodstock Railroad.

Simeon C. Dunham was the brother of Horace F. Dunham. He was a businessman and community leader in Woodstock.

Amelia Gookin was the daughter of Elvira Doton's sister Abby Dennison Wood and her husband David Carter Gookin. Amelia lived with Hosea Doton and his wife Elvira during the 1872 school year and graduated from Woodstock High School in 1874.

William Henry Harrison, known as "Old Tip" became President of the United States on March 4, 1841. He died thirty-one days after his inauguration.

Zerviah Harvey was the wife of Nathan Harvey and sister of Hosea Doton's first wife Lois.

Frank Hatch was president of the Windsor County Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Felicia Hemans was an English poet. Hosea Doton bought books of her poems for his daughter Abba, and Hosea framed a portrait of Mrs. Hemans done by Caroline Wyatt in 1846. He kept the portrait the rest of his life, and his widow Elvira presented it to the Abbott Library in Pomfret in 1909.

Delia Hewitt was the daughter of William R. Hewitt. She was a longtime teacher in Woodstock.

Elisha Hewitt was born in Pomfret, VT in 1805. He passed his early life on a farm and went to Plymouth, MA to read theology in 1827. He was ordained in the Universalist Church in Plymouth, and preached in Hanson, MA until 1870 when he was elected to the Massachusetts Legislature. In 1872, he accepted a call to Woodstock where he preached for seven years before retiring in Massachusetts. He preached frequently in Vermont before his death in 1897.

Etta Latimer (1851-1914) was a frequent visitor of Hosea and Elvira Doton. She opened a Literary School for Young Women in Woodstock.

Henry W. Leach married Hosea Doton's sister Louisa in 1865 after his first wife died. Louisa died in February 1871 and Henry married Electa Doten, sister of Louisa and Hosea, on September 5, 1873. Henry, Louisa, and Electa are buried in North Bridgewater Cemetery.

F.D. Maurice was an English theologian, professor, and proponent of Christian socialism. He wrote nearly forty books with a focus on the poor and working classes.

John Paddock was the father of Hosea Doton's first wife Lois Paddock.

John Paddock Jr. was the brother of Hosea Doton's first wife Lois Paddock. He was a peddler who sold goods from a wagon. Hosea made coffins for two of his children who died in 1842.

Lucy Vaughan Paddock was the mother of Hosea Doton's first wife Lois Paddock. Hosea refers to her as Mother Paddock.

Henry L. Page was the husband of Hosea Doton's sister, Sarah.

Kimball Perkins was the son of Nelson Perkins and Lucy Paddock Perkins. He was the nephew of Hosea Doton who served as his guardian after Kimball was declared non compos mentis.

Patience Paddock Perkins was the wife of Alva. C. Perkins and sister of Hosea Doton's first wife Lois. Lucy Paddock Perkins was the wife of Nelson Perkins and sister of Hosea Doton's first wife Lois Paddock Doton.

Nelson Perkins was the husband of Lucy Paddock, sister of Hosea Doton's first wife Lois. He was the brother of Alva. C. Perkins.

Norman C. Perkins, son of A.C. Perkins, was a student of Hosea Doton who attended Yale and became editor of the Yale Review, which is America's oldest literary magazine. Norman moved to Chicago and corresponded with Hosea for years.

Robert A. Perkins, son of A.C. Perkins, founded the Otta-Quechee Post in 1871 and served as editor and publisher. The name was changed to the Woodstock Post in 1872 and it was published until 1875. He later worked for the Rutland Herald. He was a frequent visitor to Hosea and Elvira Doton and wrote an obituary for Hosea in January, 1886.

Lewis Pratt Jr. owned a bookstore in Woodstock where Hosea Doton had an office for surveying and engineering. He founded the Vermont Temperance Standard in 1853 and managed it until 1854. The name was changed to the Vermont Standard in 1857.

O.L. Richmond was a dealer in beef, pork, lard, mutton, poultry, tripe, sausages, candles and all kinds of provisions usually kept in a country market. Old Stand, Central Street, Woodstock.

Mortimer Spear, born in 1845, was a farmer in Pomfret who was unmarried, enjoyed reading, and became a friend of the Doton family. Hosea sold him a farm near the Doton family homestead on Cloudland Road in 1878. While there, he helped Hosea's sister Joanna care for the Doton farm, provided transportation for family members, and delivered wood to Hosea in Woodstock. Mortimer sold his farm after Hosea died and continued to help Joanna maintain the Doton farm. When Joanna Doton died in 1908, she passed the farm, now known as Sleepy Hollow, to Mortimer.

Rev. Russell Streeter was a Universalist minister who came to Woodstock from Massachusetts in November 1834. An obituary called him one of the founders of Universalism. On December 9, 1834, he conducted a wedding for Hosea Doton and Lois Paddock. Rev. Streeter retired in Woodstock and remained a friend of Hosea Doton until he died in 1880.

Samuel Thomson was a proponent of herbal medical practices in the early 1800s.

Joseph Vose was the brother of Hosea Doton's mother, Elizabeth Doton.

Otis Winn was the father of Spencer Doton's wife Charlotte. He sometimes worked for Spencer and Hosea Doton.

H.L. Williams M.D. operated Williams Dental Rooms in the Stone Block on Elm Street in Woodstock.

Caroline Wyatt visited Hosea and Lois Doton regularly. In 1846, she painted a portrait of poet Felicia Hemans that Hosea framed and kept for the rest of his life. His widow Elvira presented it to the Abbott Library in Pomfret in 1909.

## Glossary

Ague – Shivering that sometimes accompanies a fever or Malaria.

Aneroid barometer – A barometer in which air pressure is measured using a small vacuum chamber.

Azimuth – One of two coordinates, in addition to altitude, used by an observer to chart the position of a celestial object in relation to a fixed position, usually true north. Hosea Doton calculated the azimuth of the North Star, which varies from 002° to 358° during the year.

Bay rum – a mixture of bay leaves and rum used as a cologne or after shave.

Bemired – Covered with mud.

Book slates – Two pieces of slate that can be written on and erased, hinged with a cloth binding.

Boot gore – A lining inserted into boots to make them more comfortable.

Cambric – A light cotton fabric.

Catarrh – A term for swelling of the mucus membranes, especially in the nose and throat. Associated with the common cold, sinusitis and other ailments.

Chaise – A carriage for one or two people, sometimes with a folding top.

Cock – A stack of hay or grain.

Court plaster – An adhesive plaster used to cover small blemishes and scrapes. Sometimes made of silk and coated with glycerine.

Cutter – a light sleigh with a single seat and usually pulled by a single horse.

Declamation – An artistic form of speaking or recitation.

Dock root – Yellow dock is an herb used to improve digestion.

Dower – A widow's share for life from her husband's estate.

Equation of time - The equation of time describes the discrepancy between apparent solar time and mean solar time. The equation of time values for each day of the year were often reported in almanacs.

Firkin – Container of something such as butter that holds about nine imperial gallons,

Froward – Willful or disobedient.

Galvanic soles – Insoles for shoes with a copper plate in the right sole and a zinc plate in the left. They are thought to increase blood circulation in the lower body.

Grapery – An area or building where grapes are grown.

Helve – The handle of an ax or hammer.

Ladies Repository – A monthly publication of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the nineteenth century devoted to literature, art, and religion.

Mensuration – The use of geometry to measure areas or volumes.

Nol Pros – When a prosecuting attorney drops charges against a defendant.

Parhelion - An atmospheric optical phenomenon that consists of a bright spot to one or both sides of the Sun.

Parley's Magazine – A publication for children and youth issued from 1833 to 1844.

Pent road – A road that may be closed by a gate or bar.

Quire – A measurement for sheets of handmade paper. Formerly twenty-four sheets.

Rowen – A second growth of hay or grass in a season.

Ruche – Pleat of fabric for decoration of a garment or home furnishing.

Salerates – Bicarbonate of soda used to help bread and cakes rise.

Sector – A tool used for measurements and calculations. Sometimes called a *proportional compass*.

Sere – Withered, as in sere leaves.

Shoat – A young pig, especially one that is newly weaned.

Sled rave – Runner for a logging sled.

Southing of the moon – When the moon appears to the south of an observer.

Spider pan – A frying pan with legs.

Swill – Liquid food for animals.

Taking the time – In the 1800s, towns would set clocks at noon when the sun reached its highest point in the sky.

Thill – Either of the pair of shafts from the front of a carriage or sleigh between which a draft animal is harnessed.

Thralldom – State of bondage or slavery.

Transit – A telescope with a level used by surveyors to lay out roads and building foundations.

Troche – A small tablet containing medication designed to dissolve slowly in the mouth.

Vendue – A public sale or auction.

White lead – A mineral that was mixed with water for use as paint.

Winnow – To remove chaff from a grain or other crop.

Zodiacal - A faint, diffuse glow visible in the night sky, extending from the Sun's direction and along the ecliptic.