



Hosea Doton's Daily Journal for 1868

Transcribed by Scott Fletcher

Preface

Hosea Doton was born in 1809 on his family's homestead on Cloudland Road in Pomfret, VT. His father, John Edward Doton, was a farmer and surveyor who lived on the farm now known as Sleepy Hollow. Hosea attended Pomfret School No. 2, which still stands on Cloudland Road, and continued to study mathematics and science after leaving school. Hosea began teaching in Pomfret schools in 1830.

Hosea married Lois Paddock in 1834 and they had a daughter named Abba on August 1, 1840. Hosea called her Abbie throughout this diary. In early diaries, Hosea referred to Lois as "wife," and noted that she often visited her sisters Mrs. A.C. Perkins and Mrs. Nelson Perkins who also lived in Pomfret. Hosea also recorded frequent visits to his home by the Paddock family. There were also visits from his parents, his brother Spenser, and his five sisters. Lois Paddock Doton died on February 2, 1857.

On May 28, 1858, Hosea married Harriet Ware who was a former student and daughter of his neighbor Henry L. Ware. Harriet was gifted in math and became an assistant to Hosea in the classroom. She was one of few people who could help Hosea calculate the positions of the sun and moon each year for Walton's Vermont Register and Farmer's Almanac. Hosea was devastated when his "dear Harriet" died of fever on November 18, 1858. They were married less than six months.

On July 4, 1868, Hosea married Elvira Julia Wood who he referred to in this diary as Mrs. D. Like Harriet Ware, Elvira shared Hosea's interests and was able to help him perform his calculations for the almanac. Hosea's daughter Abbie also assisted with the almanac.

In 1868, Hosea and Elvira shared a home on College Hill Road in Woodstock with Abbie and her husband Polk Chamberlin. Hosea was busy as the chief engineer of the Woodstock Railroad where he worked closely with the president, General Peter T. Washburn to lay out the road and determine what kind of bridge to build across the Quechee gorge. The year brought Hosea both personal happiness and professional success. At year's end, Hosea noted, "how pleasantly I am situated."

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.

1868

Wednesday, January 1
No entry.

January 2

Am feeling some better this morning and shall probably do some more work in the office. Mr. Thompson is here and is trying the estimates on the three routes at Quechee Village. The route through the river seems, so far, to be the most expensive route of either one that we have examined, but we find it necessary to make some surveys about the gulf below Mr. Dewey's factory. Two railroad contractors came into the office this forenoon and Mr. Thompson proposes to go with them to examine the line of the road. I hope he will go for I do not wish to go. This company is Messrs. Appleton and Lynch. A Mr. Lynch of Portland is also here.

January 3

Started early this morning with Mr. Thompson and went to Quechee to find, if possible, a better crossing place below Dewey's factory. Found a point about 40 rods farther down the river where we can cross with a shorter span. Here we computed the distance across the river and found it to be 238 feet from bank to bank. This can probably be reduced by the position of the masonry. I hope it can be brought down to 200 feet., and we can then use a single span with a wooden bridge. From this place, we ran a line to the old line south of the Barron house, but think we shall continue the line between the Barron house and the river. Came home in the evening found the weather some cold.

January 4

Worked through the day on the report for the annual railroad meeting, writing it out in full in the forenoon and copying it for the press in the afternoon. Abbie and Polk came soon after noon and remained with me till night and then I rode home with them. The afternoon was very stormy and so was the evening, but we arrived at Mr. Chamberlin's very comfortably. This afternoon I took up all the receipts that I had given to Lewis Pratt for money received at sundry times from the commissioners to make the preliminary survey of the Woodstock R.R. and gave one receipt for what I received, which is 81 dollars. There is much more behind on this account. I received of the Treasurer of the W.R.R. Co. 400 dollars and lent it to Norman and George Paul, and took their note for it. Paul paid me 20 cents for postage stamps.

Credits – 400.00
Debits – .20

Monday, January 6

This morning I rode to the office with Martin Gilbert, John Page going with us. On going to the office, I began to inspect the lines on the westerly side of the Shallies Hill and spent a part of the day in laying out on the plan a better line, and succeeded very well. In the afternoon I was called into a director's meeting with plans and profiles. Was happy to find the meeting a very pleasant and harmonious one. Eight of the directors were present and are perfectly agreed with regard to the course to be pursued.

Paid my quarterly postage 40 cents and paid for figs 13 cents. When at Mr. Chamberlin's I took my largest pen and am now using it. Paid Mellish for shaving soap.

January 7

This is a very great day for electioneering for the Railroad meeting tomorrow is to be a very exciting one. I hope it will be conducted with candor and discretion. The printed reports show quite favorably the situation of things about the financial management of the road.

My account with Mr. Walton for the almanac has run a long time, so that they are five years behind at this time or nearly so. I must send my bill to him soon. We have kept at work in the office today and are expecting a few more contractors very soon. Have finished the line of levels, that is, the working of them in the book. A Miss Clifford was at Horace Dunham's.

January 8

This is an exciting time among railroad men for the annual meeting is to be held today. Am quite tired from my work last evening in the office.

Oliver Smith and family came to Horace's today, were there at dinner and at night. Simeon's folks were there at supper. I did not get there at supper time.

The annual meeting of the railroad folks, or perhaps I ought to say, the Stockholders of the Woodstock R.R. Company, hold their annual meeting today. The meeting was very well attended and the old Board of Directors were elected, and at a meeting of the directors the same Clerk, Treasurer, and Engineer were elected. Am glad to see everything moving so harmoniously. – Paid Billings for kerosene. Received of Simeon Dunham for what I paid for him.

January 9

The morning was quite warm and comfortable, but the weather grew much colder before night. Have worked in the office through the day and am very tired from the work yesterday. – Today I have paid a gas bill of 63 cents. Mr. Richmond has paid me for the rent of the room up to January 1st. This sum I must pay to Lewis Pratt, and I must pay him my own rent also. Mr. Thompson has been here since Wednesday night and last night two contractors came to look at the plans and profiles. – Another contractor came with Daniel Cushing and Horace Dunham went with him to show the line and the work. 10½ o'clock am still at work.

Credits – 14.58

Debits - .63

January 10

Mr. Thompson left here this morning for home, but will be here again next week. His large experience is valuable in fixing our line. Two sets of contractors are here now making their examinations for the purpose of proposals, etc. Our work drives very much but we are going along with it rapidly.

This is one of the very cold days of winter and though the thermometer is not very low, the air is extremely keen and cutting. Have worked in the office for the past few days and evenings.

Two of the contractors have waited to get the specifications and will leave this evening for home, to come again and look the work over in a few weeks. Am very tired and am some blue.

January 11

The weather is not so cold, and wood does not sell so readily. Loads of wood are standing in the street at almost any hour through the day. I bought a load of Henry Vaughan, a very large cord of the best dry maple, and paid him six dollars for it. Paid Norman Bradish for sawing it, one dollar and 10 cents, and paid Joe Bean seventy five cents for carrying it up to my wood room. Some snowy towards night. Shall call at the house this evening. My work has been broken up this afternoon, and I have put my Level and Transit in adjustment, and I have oiled the Level with pure watch oil. That is better than tallow and I must try to clean it thoroughly before oiling. – Spent the evening at the house very pleasantly. – The night is cold but the evening is pleasant.

Credits – 6.00, 1.10

Debits - .75

Monday, January 13

Started this morning for the Shallies Hill, and though the thermometer is 21 or 22 degrees below zero, we must work at our surveying. Horace Dunham & Simeon, Darwin Bell, and Seth Wood are assistants. We ought to have one or two more in the company. Oscar Barron paid me 17 dollars for Joanna, it being for apples that were carried to him last fall. Paid George Paul for figs 13 cents. Began our work at Station 434 of the locating survey, and ran an entire new line to the Shallies land and then left for the night. Went to Mr. Strong's but we were so much chilled through that we could not get warm in the evening. I hope our line will bear the test when a profile is drawn, but cannot now tell.

January 14

Began our work where we left it last night. The morning is very cold, and though the thermometer may not be so low, I can feel the cold more than yesterday. Extended the line to Champion's, but am not sure that I shall not alter it. There are places that seem to be too high for our grade. We run over a spur of the hill in Chester Fogg's orchard that I might wish to avoid. Went back to Mr. Strong's for the night, but Simeon and I concluded to ride to Woodstock. After getting to the office, I met Gen. Washburn, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Pratt, and I think Mr. Billings, and had a long railroad talk with them. Examined the old profiles and am sure that I can improve the line over Shallies Hill and shall try it tomorrow if possible. – Am very tired tonight and thoroughly chilled through.

January 15

Took up the line near Shallies house and continued it to Champion's making a new line the entire distance. The day is some warmer than yesterday and we have worked with less difficulty from cold. The line now appears to fit the ground, but it might be necessary to make some slight changes up the Shallies Hill; for that does not yet appear to be high enough to fit the grade.

I rested very badly last night and have been some unwell today, and especially this evening, but we have a very good boarding place and are well cared for. Mr. Thompson and Simeon Dunham went to Woodstock tonight and will come again in the morning to run a line around Morse's lands & curve. This is a long dull evening but I do not complain. If I am at Woodstock I am alone and might be as uncomfortable as I am here.

January 16

In the morning, we began in the woods near Mr. Morse's, and ran a new line all the way to the school house and so on to the old line near the ravine back of the school house. Mr. Thompson is with us and his large experience in railroad construction is of great value to us and I can profit by it. In the middle of the day, the weather seemed quite warm, but it was cooler towards night. Finished the work and started for home before four o'clock. This ends our four days of severe field work, and I am glad to get to Woodstock again. I paid Mrs. Strong for board \$1.25. There was about one inch of light snow this morning, so that we have now about 14 inches on the ground.

January 17

Arose quite early and began a letter to my friend at N. Bridgewater, but did not find myself hardly able to write. Went to breakfast and felt some better after getting a good cup of tea. Worked in the office and plotted the line run yesterday. Mr. Jones, a contractor, called and I had an introduction to him. Edward H. Williams called and we had a very good visit. Mr. Thompson is here now assisting us in fitting the work for the contractors. Kimball Perkins called and hindered me some, but I pity him and do not complain. I paid Charles Chapman for a bottle of Bay rum 53 cents, and also for a bunch of soap 25 cents. – Paid Electa's taxes to F.P. Seaver, 18.11 – using the Barron 17 dollars and of my own money \$1.11. Am some tired this evening.

January 18

Have worked in the office through the day and have found that there are some more things necessary to be done in the field before we can finish the estimates to our own satisfaction. Paid 11 cents for stamps, and 10 cents to Paul for dates. Paid Billings for cotton cloth, buttons, thread, etc. two dollars and thirty seven cents. This makes two dollars and fifty eight cents that I have paid out today and so a part of my wages is paid out every day nearly. Have been very unwell today and could do but little of my work. – Started soon after four o'clock to walk home and was a long time on the road. Found Abbie at home and had a very pleasant visit with her and the rest of the folks. Am sorry that Electa's health is so bad, and she has been very low for a full year.

Monday, January 20

Abbie and Fred brought me down last night and this morning we are to go to make some changes in the line at the Shallies Hill. I rode with Mr. Thompson and we began the amendment in the Morse wood and ran a different line setting it higher up the hill and continuing it so till we came to Shallies land.

Was quite unwell through the day and got very cold though the weather is not very cold. Did not get home till late and still tried to work some in the evening. Was not well yesterday but cannot expect to be very strong when exposed so much to the intense cold. Let Abbie have two dollars and took of her one dollar and twenty five cents in small change.

Credits – 1.25

Debits – 2.00

January 21

Worked through the day in the office trying to fit the work for the contractors, and we are expecting many of those who have been here will return and finish their proposals.

The day is very snowy and we call this one of the severe storms of the winter. Have worked through the day and this evening have not yet completed the profile and estimates. Paid John Thornton fifty cents so that he can get him some tobacco. Scarcely a day passes but I am paying out little sums of money, and it takes considerable, "to keep the wheel moving." I hope the road will be let before the week is out, for I am anxious to have the matter settled soon. Must work quite late this evening, for it is almost all the time I get to work quietly.

Debits - .50

January 22

Kept at work last night till past eleven o'clock, and do not feel any stronger today on that account. I arose very early, though I did not retire till past eleven o'clock last evening. Have finished up the profiles and amounts that I promised to have done before tomorrow morning. The railroad contractors are here waiting the decision of the board of directors. A few of them are here making examination of the papers and profiles and some of them are yet to come. I am not doing much of the work of fitting the Shallies hill division of the road for the commissioners to make their examination and appraisal of damages. I get no letters from some of the friends from whom I should be glad to hear. Paid for kerosene fifteen cents and for stamps & envelopes.

Debits - .15, .03

January 23

Some more of the contractors came here this morning, so we shall probably get nine or ten bids for the work. The meeting of the directors takes place at ten o'clock today, and probably before the day is out the work will be let and soon some preparations will be made for work this winter, though the weight of work comes on the opening of spring. Mr. Chamberlin took dinner with me and then attended the meeting of the directors. The proposals are opened today and Mr. Thompson and myself are to examine and compute the cost on the several bids, and on doing so it appears that Ralph Jones & Co. made the best proposition and the directors decided to let him have the work.

January 24

Mr. Thompson left for his home in Lyndon this morning, and the contractors left here last night. There is much inquiry today about the price for which the railroad work is let, and also about the amounts of the several propositions; but no one now knows except the directors and those concerned in letting the work. I am glad it is so well let as it is. I am now at work on the plans of the land owners on the Shallies hill section, and hope to be ready to have the Commissioners called out soon. There is much to be done on the line of the road and we shall, all the time of construction, be making little alterations and amendments in the line.

January 25

Worked late last evening and tried to write some letters, but letter writing goes very hard. Today I am fixing the plans, etc. of the lands taken on Lucius Morse's land and on Mrs. Carlisle's, and also on Chester Fogg's and Frank Shallies lands. Mr. Dewey called in the forenoon and again in the afternoon for the plans and amounts of the land taken. Clarke called with Mr. Dewey and were with me nearly through the afternoon. Electa has had a bad week, but is a little more comfortable now. She has been quite nervous through the week. Spent the evening at the house, and must go home early in the morning. Joanna left with me one dollar to pay for medicine for Electa, and I got it in the evening.

Credits – 1.00

Monday, January 27

I staid at home last night and awoke this morning with a very severe headache, and strong signs of having taken cold yesterday. Rode to Woodstock with Abbie this morning and she arranged my bedding and now perhaps I shall be more comfortable. The water has run into both my rooms from the roof, and has done some damage to my books and to some of the older railroad papers. I have been quite unwell through the day and have done but very little work, either for the road or for myself. Have paid George Paul twenty five cents for dates & lemons, a part of which I sent home to Electa. I very much wish I could write a good long letter this evening but do not feel able to do it.

January 28

Have been very unwell today from a cold that settled in my head, and have remained in the office during the day, and this evening I am very dull and unfit for any work. I have just now learned that Lieutenant Governor Gardner is at the hotel this evening. His business in town is not known. – This forenoon I did but very little but this afternoon I have plotted a part of the road line near Mr. Champion's to find out the land owners and the amt. of land taken from each using the original location, but must put on the new line as soon as the connection is made at the great pine tree near Mr. Champion's. Saw Addison Darling in Mr. Paul's office, and I took his deposition to be used in Mrs. Williamson's case.

January 29

Rested some better last night, and this morning started for our work on the road to correct our last lines with the former survey near Mr. Champion's. The day was stormy but we finished that part of our work as well as we could on such a day with the snow nearly two feet deep. Saw Mr. Dewey at Mr. Champion's, who is trying to arrange with them about land damages. The storm increased towards night, and, though not very cold, it is very unpleasant being out. I rode with Simeon Dunham as I have for many of our jobs around Quechee. Am feeling my cold very sensibly this evening. It is now almost nine o'clock and I have not yet got warm. – The storm this forenoon was a fine rain and it froze as fast as it fell, covering our instruments with ice as we used them.

January 30

Worked in the office through the day and began the plans of the land owners. When I am at work in the office, there is so much of monotony in the work that I hardly have any thing to write. I have almost had a meeting of the directors, for the General called and then Mr. Dewey, Mr. Pratt and Mr. Clarke and Mr. Chamberlin. Have just learned the death of Amos Dean of the Albany law school. He formerly lived in Bernard, Vt. Where his father Nathaniel Dean lived for a long time. He was President of the Albany law school, and was the author of some works. His mind was one of uncommon power and brilliancy, showing remarkable tracts even in his younger days.

January 31

Arose this morning quite early and finished some letters that I had begun, and after breakfast I mailed them, one to Hattie Freeley in reply to one that I received from her last night. One of them was to little Grace Strong containing a poem that I copied for her. Hosea B. Thompson called on me yesterday and again today to show a map of the town of Bridgewater that he has been getting up. – I have been at work in the office again on the plans of the land taken for the railroad of the different owners of the route. – Mr. Cabot called and paid me two dollars for surveying in December. The girls have received returns for their butter and it is sold very well.

Credits – 2.00

February 1

Am at work now on the plans & descriptions of the land taken for road purposes. Got a blank book to keep a record of the surveys of the different lots of land. – Got of the Railroad Company sixty dollars and gave a receipt for it. Paid some of the small debts that I have been obliged to contract this winter. Paid Mr. Munger eleven dollars and twenty five cents on account in full. Paid Thompson for stove eleven dollars and twenty five cents, and Mellish & Smith \$7.90 for shoes & boots. Paid Murdock for Kimball's watch chain \$5.75. Paid Russell Clarke & Randall \$10.00 and also paid J.N. Haskell two dollars and ten cents. Am glad to get some of these small debts paid up. – Walked home after the stage came in. Had a pleasant walk though some cool. Did not find Abbie at home, but found the rest quite comfortable.

Credits – 60.00

Debits – 11.25, 7.90, 5.75, 10.00, 2.10

Monday, February 3

A cold morning, the thermometer going down rapidly. Rode to Woodstock this morning with Spenser. Was not so cold on the river as we expected, another proof of the theory that it is colder on the high lands when the cold first begins, and afterwards it is coldest on the low lands and on the streams.

Did but little work in the forenoon for the office was too cold, but in the afternoon I worked on the plans and descriptions of the railroad lands. Paid Russell and Clarke & Randall one dollar & seventy five cents for a table knife; and also paid Billings fifteen cents for kerosene. This evening I am all alone; and the office is entirely still and quiet except the little purring of the fire in the stove.

February 4

The morning is not so cold as it seemed last night, the thermometer last evening standing at about 16 or 18 degrees below zero. But the morning is some sharp and chilly. Am at work in the office on the same plans and descriptions that I have been at work upon for a few days. Called on Gen. Washburn in his office and found him very unwell from a cold that he took some time ago. Have paid today Mellish for shot for shot glass 23 cents, and Thompson for the glasses 20 cents. It is now past ten o'clock in the evening and I am still writing and have a good fire in my stove. Have been reading Dr. Bellows article in the Unitarian Monthly Journal, "Orthodoxy and Liberal Christianity compared."

Debits - .23, .20

February 5

The weather still continues pleasant but cold. There is a peculiar monotony about my work so I cannot write any thing new or interesting. This morning I paid Mr. Pinks 30 cents for making some points for my level tripod legs, and now must get some new legs made. I also paid John Thornton one dollar to get him some stockings and some tobacco. I also paid George Paul ten cents for dates. – Mr. Dewey called this afternoon and I must send him a description of Chester Fogg's land. I have just now got it ready for him and must send it in the morning. It is about eleven o'clock and I ought not to write any longer. Have been writing nearly all the afternoon and my hand is quite numb but can still hold my pen.

February 6

Am very dull this morning for I sat up too late last night. The air is very sharp and there was a little snow last night, about an inch and a half. Have begun to work the grades of the Shallies Hill and find that I must make it some steep on the easterly side. Today I have paid out for shot glasses forty cents and that will do for today. It does not show very good economy to have the receipts all in the larger sums and the expenditures all in small ones, but I am obliged to have it so. The day has been cloudy and almost stormy at times. A Mr. Furber and wife came to Mr. Dunham's this evening, and I think they have lived in Canaan, N.H., though I do not recall ever seeing them there.

February 7

This morning I paid Mr. Green for Wm. Page's paper one dollar and seventy cents. I do not know how long I have sent it to him but must look up the receipt and find out.

The weather has grown cold very fast since morning and is now very chilly. A Mr. Furber and wife came to Horace Dunham's last night and are still there. I think they were formerly from this town, but now live in Michigan. – Received a letter from E.R. Walton containing a check for one hundred and ten dollars and twenty five cents which he regards as pay for what he owes me for the Almanac, but he must be mistaken. It must be nearly \$130.00. Must write to him tomorrow and set him right. The weather is very cold this evening and it will be a cold night.

February 8

A very cold morning. – Thermometer 33 degrees below zero this morning at seven o'clock. Wrote a letter to Mr. Walton on the subject of our account. – Paid for postage stamps thirty five cents. It was not so cold out of the village or on the higher lands, but here it was very cold. Miss Wood came down from north Bridgewater in the cold this forenoon. She has now three weeks longer to teach in that district. I do not yet get a letter from Polk but hear from him by way of others. Joanna came down this afternoon and brought a firkin of butter to Horace Dunham's. I did not go home with her but must go up in the morning. Stage is two hours late tonight. I ought to have rode with Joanna and not had her go back alone, but the evening is not so cold as it has been through the day.

Monday, February 10

Some stormy this morning and as I am not well, have not been in haste about starting for the office. Rode with Martin to Woodstock and arrived there at noon. Wrote a letter back to Abbie and sent two dollars to pay her aunt Patience for two pairs of stockings and some other things that Abbie has had of her. Am doing but little this afternoon for I am not well. But I kept the work going and am not getting so tired as I have some times with the work. Before noon today, the thermometer indicated 33 degrees above zero, making a change of 66 degrees in thirty hours. This was a much more rapid change than is usual, or conducive to health. But we trust the people will look out for their health.

February 11

Again the weather is quite cold and it now looks as though we should fail of getting a thaw this time. This afternoon I paid a gas bill of one dollar and this I shall charge to the company for I do not use it myself.

The Selectmen of Woodstock advertised to meet at our middle room but we could not have them here and they accordingly went to the town hall. Mr. Perkins called to talk of highway taxes, etc. I think very much of him as a man and a neighbor. He has one of the finest families of children in town and perhaps as good as can be found anywhere. Charles Vaughan called to see me about the land of Mr. Fuller. If he gets the land he will have the old Paine farm all together again as it ought to be.

February 12

Another cold morning. Surely this must be called a cold winter. The cold weather began early and has continued with but little interruption till now, and in very many places here the wells and aqueducts have failed. Mr. Hewitt called to see me about Charles Vaughan buying the Fuller land. Paid for stamped envelopes eighty seven cents and Mellish and Smith for boot jack and fixing the heels of my boots forty cents. – Was glad to meet my old and true friend Mr. Hewitt once more for I have hardly seen him for a very long time. H.B. Thompson called to let me know about his map of Bridgewater, and I am sure he will have a good one if he gets it well engraved. Mr. Leach called and has gone up to our house for the night, and I was inclined to go there too but could not well leave.

February 13

The weather is mor mild and I hope it will so continue. The close of the correspondence between the President and Gen. Grant comes this morning. The correspondence is quite interesting and the friends of both the parties will claim the victory for their friend. But I think much good will come out of it for it will show the people that Gen. Grant is true to the Republican party and is a brave and honorable man, and it will also prove that the President did aim to thwart the action of the reconstruction acts. But enough of this; - Levi Hazen called to let me see his new transit and it is certainly a beautiful instrument. – I sold him a book, Ninevah and its remains, and I bought a reading glass of him, and he paid me one dollar in addition. Am too unwell to do much work.

Credits – 1.00

February 14

Am some better this morning though I had a severe headache through the night. Began to write out some land descriptions and almost forgot the passing of time. Paid George Paul 20 cents for dates. Sold a Robinson's Elementary Algebra to Mr. Pratt for one dollar and twenty cents, and he gave me credit for it. Mailed a letter to North Bridgewater this morning, and it was taken very soon after, and has arrived at its destination probably before this time. – Visited Paul's block this afternoon and like the appearance of it very well. Received a letter from Mr. Walton with a check for \$14.75 as balance due for the almanac after paying for the Watchman up to Jan. 17, 1868. Paid for envelopes eighteen cents.

Credits – 14.75, 1.20

Debits - .20, .18

February 15

The weather is some warmer but is still chilly. Am at work on the plans for the lands taken and preparing the descriptions. The day is a little snowy but the snow does not accumulate very much. Mr. Dewey came to Woodstock and I saw him at Mr. Washburn's office. Sent a letter and receipts to Mr. Walton. Paid George Fisher ten cents for fixing rulers. Bought a chair of Mr. Fisher for my table. – cost two dollars and a half; - Was very tired and started early for home. The walking was very bad and the walk rather tiresome. – Went to the bank and got money on the checks that I have received from Mr. Walton. – Have never seen the inside of that part before but I think the finish is very nice. The work was done by Austin Abbott of Pomfret. Paid for stamps.

Debits - .10, 2.50, .06

February 17

Did not go to Woodstock last night, but remained at home and tried to rest and to assist the folks about the chores. This morning I took the time and set my watch, and also set Spenser's watch so our clock and watches are right now. Started to walk to Woodstock but rode with Spenser a part of the distance and with Mr. Head to the village. Mr. Richmond had moved his table into Mr. Paul's room and had also moved a part of his things. So I have my room to myself now. Got my pail repaired and paid Mr. Thompson thirty cents for doing it. Paid Haskell fifty cents for two Nos. of the Ladies Repository. Worked at my writing table the greater part of the afternoon. There is some appearance of a thaw. Wind southerly.

Debits - .30, .50

February 18

Rested rather badly last night and awoke with a severe headache, and it did not leave me during the day. In the morning I received a letter from North Bridgewater and I immediately mailed a reply, but I do not know whether it has been taken from the office. In the forenoon, I removed a part of the railroad papers into the middle room and placed my stove as I want it placed in that room. Have been some favored about calls today and if I had been able to work I should have made some progress with the work. Got a piece of court plaster, paid six cents. It is now about nine o'clock as I write and I must soon retire for I am tired and that headache has not left me yet. Could write but little in the evening.

February 19

Rested very badly and arose quite unwell, but I worked some through the day. – Horace & the rest of the folks except Carlie went away on a visit yesterday and have not yet come home. I wish I could rest better at night, but cannot expect to when at work so busily at my table. Martin Gilbert called to get me to sign a note with him at the bank but he could not get the money for the sum was too small to discount. Have felt so unwell today that I concluded to go home tonight and stay till morning and try to get a little more rest than I can get here. Rode home with Spenser and carried my flute home for I do not find any time for music while here at the office. Carried a chair to Electa and I hope it will be more comfortable for her than any she now has. Found her more comfortable than I had seen her for some time, and I do hope she may not only remain so but improves, for she has been unwell for a long time.

February 20

In the morning I took the horse and sled and with Spenser took some apples and some hides and went to Woodstock. He sold the hides to Orlando Richmond for 8 cents per pound. I went to work at the office but have not been much driven with work. The weather is much warmer and it looks some as though it might rain. The water is running into the office some & is spoiling some of my papers but I have guarded them as well as I could. – Yesterday was a great day at Portland for they had a great Railroad meeting. Gen Washburn and Mr. Converse have gone from Woodstock and Gen Page from Rutland besides other railroad men from New York and New Hampshire. Am feeling some better today and have written more than I have on some days. Wrote a long letter in the evening to a friend.

February 21

The morning was not very cold, and it seemed as though we might have a thaw, but before noon it began to grow cold and the air through the rest of the day was peculiarly chilly and uncomfortable. In the evening I walked home and was very cold. Mr. Thompson fixed my stove and I turned it round so that the middle room is much more pleasant now.

Our railroad contractor does not yet come and some of the opponents of the road are exulting some and thinking they may not come, but there is not the least danger of their staying away.

The weather is very hard this evening but I arrived home before it was very cold. Paid Russell.

Debits – 4.00

February 22

About noon I started for North Bridgewater and had a pleasant ride though the day is some cold. Our thermometer was 9 degrees below zero this morning, but am sure it was much lower than that at Woodstock. I went with my own sleigh and harness and the girls' horse, and I would much rather go so than to hire a stable team. Went to Mr. Leach's and staid about an hour and started for home. Called at the school house and carried the teacher to our house to visit the girls, for she had not been there for some time. The sleighing is rather hard for the road is hard and dirty. The thermometer is quite low this evening and it seems to be growing colder.

Monday, February 24

Rode to Woodstock this morning with Martin Gilbert, and the morning has been quite cold. Thermometer 26 below zero and it was about 23 degrees below yesterday morning. Got a fish of Chapman and paid 20 cents for it. I could not get such as I wanted but it will answer for once. Got Mr. Thompson to fix my stove pipe and he charged me 65 cents for what he did. Joanna paid me eight dollars and thirty five cents and I am afraid it will soon be gone if it gets into my hands. I spent the day at the office and am now at work in the middle room and I like it very well. The stove works well and things are now fixed quite comfortable and convenient.

Credits – 8.35

Debits - .20

February 25

Wrote a long letter last evening and have mailed it today. Sent one to Abbie. This morning I paid Mr. Thompson for fixing my stove pipe, etc., 85 cents. 20 cents of it was for two glass plates that I got to put soap on. Our railroad men came this morning by a team from the Junction. George French happened to be there and he brought them up in good order. Have worked in the office through the day and am some tired as I write this. I find the middle room not so still as my little room. It is nearer the music of Mr. Murdock's rooms than I should like. Have been writing all day and must continue to write this evening.

Debits - .85

February 26

Made some extra plans for the use of the office and have put in such measures & numbers as we have and as are needed in the field when we lay out the side slopes and fence stakes. Am tired today and wish I could rest, and think of getting home this afternoon. Spenser and Joanna came down this afternoon and I concluded to ride home with them. Martin went to South Pomfret in the evening and we had a very quiet and cozy time. Abigail went to Spenser's for they expect to go to Plymouth tomorrow. Paid Billings for two lamp chimneys fifteen cents each. Got very tired riding home and was some unwell. The weather is still cold and the wells and springs are nearly destitute of water. Am obliged to use brook water for cooking purposes.

Debits - .30

February 27

Mr. Otis Adams called on me to settle his account for Kimball Perkins' work the past year. He was to pay him 100 dollars for one year from the first of April 1867. Perkins left him at the end of eight months, and Mr. Adams claims twenty dollars from the full amount of his wages as deficiency for time and damages. Mr. Adams had paid him \$28.30 as a part of his wages. He gave me a note for \$26.70 for two notes that he had given Perkins, but the account for his work remains unsettled. – Mr. Ware called at the office in the afternoon and I had a pleasant talk with him. He is growing old and looks feeble yet I think his health is good. There is some appearance of a thaw and surely one is needed, for the streams are very low. Wallace Ware's address is Georgetown, Colorado.

February 28

Rested badly last night and this morning am quite dull. Wrote four letters and ought to write as many more. Wrote one to L.B. Partridge of Danville, one to Norman Perkins, one to Edward Williams and also sent him a book paying postage twelve cents. John Thornton called on me and I paid him one dollar. I shall soon get him paid for his work last summer. – Wrote a letter to W. and L.E. Gurley, instrument makers of Troy, N.Y., to get their prices for chains and tapes. I had anticipated a pleasant afternoon and evening, but I do believe that every such hour is to be frustrated. It seems to me that I am not known or understood by any being on earth. I am discouraged in trying to find a happy spot in this world. But there is hope in the Father of us all. Let us look to Him for an unfailing friend.

Debits - .12, 1.00

February 29

A very cold rough morning with some snow, but it became partly clear before noon, but was still windy and cold. I kept about the R.R. work, am making tables of excavation and embankment on different slopes and different widths of base. This is one of the painful days when we feel fully desolate, discouraged, and sad. I do not know why it need be so, but so it is. I spent the day in the office but shall go to my boarding place in the evening. Charles Vaughan called a few moments, and Albro Perkins called in Mr. Paul's office, and I had a talk with him on my highway taxes. The selectmen allowed me nine dollars and thirty cents for work done and that cancels the tax on Hutchinson's bill. Spent the evening at the house and somewhat pleasantly. The weather this evening is clear and cold and the thermometer must be somewhat low in the morning.

Monday, March 2

Did not come to the office last night but staid at home. This morning it began to snow about daylight and was a very snowy day. Martin carried me to Woodstock about noon. Joanna gave me a dollar to get medicine for Electa and I put another dollar with it and paid the two dollars to Charles Chapman. Paid Joanna twelve cents in making change. This is the greatest snow storm that we have had this winter. At three o'clock afternoon there had fallen nine and $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Bought a package of envelopes paid twenty cents for them. Paid the drawer fifteen cents and think that must do for today. It continued to snow a very little till night. The mail did not get in till about eight o'clock. The Rutland and the Springfield stages did not reach here at all.

Credits – 1.00

Debits – 2.00, .12, .20, .15

March 3

Town meeting. – and a very sharp and spirited meeting they have in Woodstock. Dr. Powers introduced a resolution against the railroad, but it was voted down nearly a hundred to one. Have not yet heard from Pomfret, but expect they had a quiet time. All these days are snowy and gloomy. It continues to snow today but does not accumulate much on the ground. About one inch is all that it has gained today. Misses Elvira Wood and Carlie Dunham called and made me a short visit that was quite pleasant. I have paid to Billings fifteen cents for kerosene, and also paid Paul for figs fifteen cents. I find them very healthy eating. Am feeling quite well today though am some lame from fetching water so much on Monday morning.

Debits - .15, .15

March 4

Went to my work in the office quite early and spent nearly all the day in copying tables and grades. I do not like to have the results of computations left on mere scraps of paper so I copy them into books where they can be preserved. How the cold weather holds on! The thermometer was $16\frac{1}{2}$ degrees below zero this morning, and it remains chilly all day. Have paid out no money today and hope many days may pass before I am obliged to do so. – It stopped snowing this morning about ten o'clock and there are some signs of it clearing off. In the evening I heard a lecture from Mr. Hazen, the state Geologist. The lecture was very interesting and I think the lecturer believes in the Nebular Hypothesis, for his notion of the changes going on in the earth's crust seem to intimate that such is his belief. His recent tour in Europe and among the volcanoes in Italy fit him for making himself very interesting.

March 5

Arose very tired this morning, - rested badly through the night. The morning is almost perfectly clear, there being no clouds to be seen. We are now keeping the record of winds, clouds, and temperatures for the Smithsonian Institution, and it takes some time and attention to keep it correctly. Have taken time to write some letters that I have been neglecting; and still I am neglecting some of my friends that I ought to have written to long ago. What a beautiful day is passing along, not a cloud to be seen through the day, and that is very rare for this winter. Have kept the office today very steadily and closely, but am not very well and ought not to keep myself so much confined. Have seen none of my Pomfret folks today. There is a company of young folks at Hardee's tonight and they are having an oyster supper.

March 6

Rested very badly last night for I took too full a supper. Oysters do not make a healthy meal for me and I must give them up and live on more simple food. Mr. Baker and Mr. Faneuf came in to pay a note that had fallen due. They exchanged a receipt for the note that I had not given up, and paid another note fifty eight dollars and eighty three cents and took it up. – They also paid me for the stove that I sold them nineteen dollars, and they also paid me one years interest on the four remaining notes, thirteen dollars and thirty two cents. I paid Mr. Wheeler for his compass that I bought of him in the fall, seventeen dollars.

Credits – 58.83, 19.00, 13.32

Debits – 17.00

March 7

The weather is some warmer and we are hoping for the return of Spring. There is the greatest gathering of people at Woodstock that we have had for a long time. Kimball Perkins has not yet called for his watch, but I am expecting him daily. Am quite unwell with a hard cold that I took early in the week. Can speak only with difficulty. Am trying to arrange a board of engineers for our Spring work, for we must be ready as soon as the weather will permit. Paid Paul twelve cents for dates, etc. Came to the house to spend the evening. The evening is quite clear and the moon is now in the full glow of brightness, and the people seem to improve it by stirring about the streets quite late.

Debits - .12

Monday, March 9

A pleasant morning and I walked to Woodstock and the weather is quite warm. Have done but little this forenoon. Kimball came for his watch and he seems to be well pleased with it. It is an American watch marked Wm. Ellery and it is probable that these watches are much the strongest and best for a man such as Kimball Perkins. Sent a letter to W. & L.E. Gurley to get a chain and tape. Sent a check for 20 dollars on a Boston bank. I have concluded to get the chain and tape myself and own all the instruments and charge for their use. This seems like a January thaw, and it may rain before tomorrow. Spent the evening alone in my room, and am nearly sick with a cold.

Debits – 20.00

March 10

A rainy and dull day, and it is difficult to keep the thoughts in good working order. Took the day to write some letters and to try to get up with my correspondence, for that is suffering very much. Have paid four cents today to Paul, and this is not the way to live economically, to pay out a little every day, but it is almost impossible to get along without some expenses. – ROBINS are seen this morning. A slight rain through the day, but the streams settle and there will not be a freshet unless we have more rain than there is a prospect of having just now. In the evening the wind came round to the northwest and the rain ceased.

Debits - .04

March 11

BLUE BIRDS seen this morning. Have written nearly all day and have become quite giddy from the steady writing. Wrote a letter to Mr. Ware and one to the Claremont Manufacturing Company on the subject of making the Calculations for this Register. Shall probably continue to make them as I did for Mr. Walton. Paid Mr. Haskell fifteen cents of the twenty-five that I am to pay for the Ladies Repository. – Received a letter from the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution on the subject of making for them a set of meteorological observations. – Also received a letter from E.S. Clarke in reply to one sent to him a few days ago. I find that we must have more assistance than I have now engaged, and we must just (hire) the help that we need, for we must have those who are competent to do the work.

Debits - .15

March 12

Have not rested well for many nights and do not expect that I can till the cold that I have now is better. Must try to have my feet kept dryer and warmer, or I cannot expect to have a clear head. I do not yet hear from the check that I sent to Troy for a chain. I paid Haskell ten cents for the balance for the Ladies Repository that I got yesterday. Got a package of envelopes and paid eighty seven cents for them. Paid the drawer three cents. The day is raw and chilly, and there is every appearance of a thaw for the clouds indicate rain. Miss Wood went to Dr. Russ's to spend a few days but will return before Saturday, I think. Have not yet heard from the Claremont Company that I wrote to early in the week.

Debits - .10, .87, .03

March 13

Rainy last night and this morning but it closed quite early. A very severe shower about two o'clock this morning, but from that time the rain was very slight. Am keeping the record for the Smithsonian Institution and find it very pleasant. Gen. Washburn called and I had not seen him for some days for he has been detained in court. Kimball Perkins called and I find that the new watch that I got for him proves to be a very good one. A railroad man came from New Hampshire, one who is in favor of a route from Franklin to Portland. We have no particular choice about the different routes east or west of here provided a good route is secured. Have written so much for the past few days that my brain is quite giddy.

March 14

A very pleasant morning and as the weather is so warm the snow must melt away very fast. The water in the pond near my room is quite high and runs over the road some. Paid a bill for sawing to C.H. Seaver of four dollars and 95 cents, and took his receipt. I brought some money from home for this purpose, it having been received for the two beef hides sold a few weeks ago. In the afternoon I was called into Mr. Washburn's office to talk about having Mr. Thompson about two days in a week during the construction of this railroad, and also about the assistants in the engineering department. Have agreed with the company as to my own wages. – am to have the office, wood, lights, and stationary found. Also team and assistants, and am to have for my own services twelve hundred dollars per year. LINNETS seen this morning.

Debits – 4.95

Monday, March 16

Yesterday morning I called at the hotel and found that my chain had come, and I paid sixty five cents express bill. The chain and tape are most beautiful things and I doubt not are good. Received in change from the Gurley's fifty cents. Paid the drawer ten cents. Rode to the office with Spenser. Paid for lemons and oranges thirty cents and sent them by Spenser. Paid Mellish & French six cents for an orange to carry to the house. Horace and his wife went away today and we young folks were left at home. Was very tired in the evening and went to the office quite gloomy. Horace Dunham called into the office in the evening to talk about the prices paid by the R.R. Company for engineering.

Credits - .50

Debits - .65, .10, .30, .06

March 17

Went to breakfast a little earlier than usual this morning. Fitted out an order for myself and got fifty dollars of the R.R. Company. And I then went to Lyndon Marsh's and paid the interest on a three hundred dollar debt now in possession of Mrs. Dana eighteen dollars. Sent to Charles Scribner and Company 45 cents for some of Felter's Arithmetics for I wish to be more acquainted with that set of works. Charles Marsh called on me in the evening and talked over the subject of our Academy of Natural Sciences, as I have been writing out a constitution and by-laws. Mr. Marsh is a very clear minded man and his judgment on such subjects is very valuable.

Credits – 50.00

Debits – 18.00, .45

March 18

A little cooler this morning and the wind is northwesterly so that we can breathe a little easier. This forenoon I inclosed two hundred dollars in a letter but afterward concluded to get a check at the bank to send to Mr. Ware of the same amount. I have worked on the almanac for 1869 computing the Moon's phases. Paid fifty cents at the bank for a check. Have now only four dollars and fifty cents by me and ought to send that to pay for papers that I am taking. Saw a copy of the "American Athenaeum" and am very favorably impressed with the contents. Went to my room in the evening and being very tired had a short sleep in my chair with my feet near the stove. Cannot write much in the evening.

Debits – 200.00, .50

March 19

The sky is almost entirely clear of clouds and the weather is much cooler. If it becomes warm enough sugar makers will begin their work. Have not much of railroad work to attend to and I use my time on the almanac for 1869. I hope to have some assistance about that as soon as we can begin it in concert. Took six cents from the drawer and paid for two lemons. So far the day has been very bright and cool, and it will probably freeze some before tomorrow. Mt. Peg viewed from my window seems quite bare but the ground is still frozen very deep. Miss Wood and Carlie Dunham went to the old neighborhood to make a visit and will not come home till tomorrow. Sparrows appeared this morning but I did not see them.

Debits - .06

March 20

Heard the song Sparrows this morning. The ground froze very hard last night. I went into Mr. Cushing's photograph rooms and sat for a picture but am not at all suited with the position. General Washburn called this morning to give directions about the work on the railroad line, and we must begin it next week. In the afternoon I carried my almanac tables to the house to have the work begun for 1869. Miss Wood will assist me on it and do a great part of the work. Wrote a letter to Mr. Thompson to have him assist us next week a part of the time. I took from the drawer and paid out three cents. Small amounts but it counts when many of them are used. Horace & Simeon Dunham went to Hartford to find a boarding place.

Debits - .03

March 21

Early this morning it began to snow and the work of storming went on most vigorously through the day. The wind blew from the northeast and the snow was badly drifted though there did not fall more than about four inches. I had a very severe headache through the day and a part of the evening. Remained at the house during the evening and the storm continues to howl about the house. Mr. Chamberlin called and we had a long talk and a good visit. He feels very anxious about Polk's welfare and wishes him to stop in Woodstock for a while after he finishes his course at Albany. I paid Mr. Billings fifty cents for linen to send to Abbie to fix some of my clothes.

Debits - .50

Monday, March 23

Called on Charles Vaughan to take the acknowledgment of a deed. The roads are badly drifted up and have to be broken out before there can be much passing. Did not get to Woodstock till about nine o'clock. The morning is rough and some cool. Mr. Clarke made an arrangement with Horace & Simeon Dunham to have them on the road this summer. Mr. A.L. Chamberlin called and agreed to have Mr. Paul and myself go to Mr. Gay's tomorrow for there are some fears of his becoming a town charge.

March 24

Got a team of Mr. French to go to Mr. Gay's and there were Dr. Boynton, Mr. Chamberlin, N. Paul and myself, a goodly company to take care of our old man. After making a very thorough examination of his former residence we returned and soon after I went with Mr. Chamberlin to see Mr. Albert Will and wife on the same subject. It appeared very clear that Mr. Gay's marriage with his present wife was not a legal marriage for she had not obtained a bill of divorce from her former husband. The whole matter of his and her settlement is very intricate as a legal question. Mr. Gay has probably no settlement in Pomfret, but the wife had one in Reading. How this will terminate no one can tell. Paid one dollar for team.

Debits – 1.00

March 25

Spent the forenoon in the office in preparing books for the field notes. When we get the line fully located we can fix our grades and not before; so our grade books are very imperfect. In the afternoon I had a long consultation in Gen. Washburn's office with Mr. Thomas Moore and Mr. J.S. Brown of Plymouth in relation to a railroad route through that town to the Rutland railroad in Mount Holly, and the interview resulted in our going (Mr. Pratt and myself) to the place and in making a thorough exploration of the route; and we are to go tomorrow if possible.

March 26

Started early in the morning for Bridgewater and met Mr. Moore and Mr. Brown at the Post Office near Mr. Boyle's near Sherburne Hollow. We inspected the route by Mr. Woodward's reservoir and then down Black River to Unionville where we took dinner, and very soon after we collected our focus for exploring the route and started down the river. We went with wagons then with sleighs then on foot, and explored the whole ridge south of Saltash Mountain and north of the Mt. Holly on Ludlow Mountain, and in the neighborhood of Patch Pond and Ninevah. The day was pleasant but rough and windy. We came back to Unionville about eight o'clock in the evening very tired.

March 27

This morning we took a walk up the road and on the hill east of the river to look over the notch in the mountain northeast of the village, and soon became satisfied that the north notch was wholly impracticable. Soon after getting to the house we started for home. But very soon after breakfast I called on Elisha Sanderson and had a very pleasant call. He seems to have a pleasant place though not one that commands very much money. We started for home about nine o'clock and arrived at Woodstock at about twelve, coming in three hours as the passing is so muddy. Am fully tired out and cannot get the nerves rested. Was much interrupted in the office though I so much needed rest. Paid 15 cents for kerosene but borrowed it of the drawer.

Debits - .15

March 28

Was extremely tired from my walk on the mountains in Plymouth. The wind makes sad havoc with my head and face. – General Washburn called in the morning to learn the facts about the mountain and the feasibility of a route by Ninevah and Patch Pond. I gave him such a description as I could give from a hasty survey without instruments, and he will write to Gov. Page to give him an understanding of the description given. Mr. Powers called in the afternoon and made quite a visit, for he is so free in conversation and thinks so readily that one cannot be dull or feel dull where he is. Though I am so very tired I went to the house to spend the evening.

March 30

We begin again our field work on the railroad. Went to Mr. Strong's and the Shallies Hill. We first set up a tangent on the westerly side of the Champion swamp and ran the two degree curve from it towards the north to station 507. Here we left the line and began at the southerly end of the tangent and ran southerly on the four degree curve that runs over the hill nearly to Shallies house. We continued the line by the barn but left it to take up in the morning. Here we found some difficulty in getting by the barn as the true line goes through it and we are obliged to offset on the curve. Came to Mr. Strong's for the night. Though very tired we spent the evening quietly.

March 31

In the morning we went to the Shallies Hill again and re-ran the line from the tangent at the end of the four degree curve. We made the offset again to get by the barn and then ran to the point of rocks south of the small pines. We cut a line through those pines and have now a good line through them. Simeon Dunham went to Woodstock to attend the school meeting. Horace went to Quechee village with Mr. Strong to attend a puppet show. Darwin Bell and I remained at Mr. Strong's and amused ourselves as well as we could. We are not yet much accustomed to the rough winds and they are very troublesome.

April 1

Began this morning on the point of rocks and set up a curve through the pine woods. To fit this curve to the tangent I found a difficult task, but I think it will now make a correct and continuous line. We ran the long curve around Morse's and continued it to Mrs. Carlisle's land. Have had very good success in fitting curves and tangents to the ground. Came to Mr. Strong's very tired as I do almost every night. Our work is some laborious and we must get accustomed to it in order to stand it very well. Signs of a storm but we have had a long time of pleasant weather and a good time for sugar makers. – Paid for the Ladies' Repository twenty five cents, and for the post office box and postage forty cents.

Debits - .25, .40

April 2

Commenced our work where we left it last night on Mrs. Carlisle's land at the point of the Compound Curve. We had hardly begun work when it began to rain though not very hard. Worked in the rain till noon when we left it and Simeon Dunham and I came to Woodstock. Found the work going very well about the village with plenty of "loafing." How many we find in almost every village that live in perfect idleness, who might be of use to themselves and the world, but who are wasting a life that ought to be put to use.

April 3

Rode to Hartford again and ran the line from Mr. Dewey's flat to the river, taking with me Simeon Dunham and Seth Wood. Horace Dunham and Darwin Bell began a line of levels and ran from Dewey's flat to the Summit at the Shallies Hill, and we met at Mr. Strong's nearly the same time. The day has been some cool but we could work without being uncomfortable. The Railroad Company bought a wagon for our use and we take the first use of it this morning. – Paid five cents for nails to be used in hubs.

Debits - .05

April 4

In the morning we went over the Shallies Hill and began at Sta. 507 and ran a curve ($2^{\circ} 44'$) to Station 513 near the large pine tree at Mr. Champion's. I then ran a 6 curve around the Champion Hill and then connected the curve with a tangent that runs from that curve towards the Junction. We then came to Mr. Strong's and to where the levelers were at work and assisted them in finishing their work. Started for home about half past five o'clock and were two hours on the road. The evening was very cold and I was almost benumbed with cold. Went to the office and got some rested then went to the house for the evening.

Monday, April 6

Yesterday I paid Pratt for envelopes 20 cents, and today Monroe Chedel called and wished me to pay John Thornton some more for his work, and I paid him one dollar which makes nearly fifteen dollars that I have paid him in all. – Horace Dunham and I have worked in the office on the levels and plans. The day has been very rough and cold with high winds from the northwest. Simeon Dunham and Darwin Bell went to the line at Hartford to set off references for every point on curve or tangent, and I have no doubt it will be well done.

Debits – 1.00, .20

April 7

The weather is very cold and it began to snow about five o'clock. Am still at work in the office and we shall soon have the levels ready for the profile. Simeon Dunham came home from work in the afternoon and the storm is still raging. Measured the depth of the snow when I came from supper and found it 11.1 inches. In the afternoon I made a profile of the middle division of the road and determined the grades and we will work them tomorrow. Of my own life I find much that is very painful, but I must not complain and the fault may be all my own. Came to the office quite sad and discouraged. Spent the evening in writing and a call on Dr. Hazen in Mr. Paul's office. Mr. Powers called in the afternoon and was very social.

April 8

It stopped snowing about midnight or a little after. Measured the snow this morning and found that 16¼ inches had fallen. A severe snow storm for any season of the year, but for April it is very great. Received a letter, a most excellent letter, from my friend Henry H. Vail of Cincinnati, and he has forwarded a New Trigonometry for me to examine. The book has not yet come but I shall expect it very soon. There have been squalls of snow today so that I think that surely three-fourths of an inch have fallen making 17 inches in all during the storm. Also received a letter from Mr. Thompson and he will be here tomorrow. I am glad to know he will be here for I need his experience very much.

April 9

Got another report on the department of Agriculture from Judge Poland. I do not know but I have two of them now. Again we are all at work in the office on the grades. I am at work on the plans and descriptions of land taken for the railroad. Mr. Thompson came by the stage and in the evening Gen. Washburn came to my room and we had a full consultation on matters pertaining to the road. He is on his way to Boston and will leave here in the morning at about nine o'clock. Am very tired this evening as our interview was on subjects of thought and difficult location. Mr. Thompson's experience in R.R. matters is very great.

April 10

Fast Day. – The funeral of Mrs. Henry E. Vaughan was attended today. Mr. Perkins has now lost his two daughters and one son, and has but two sons remaining and they are both away from home. How much the family will be broken up now and we almost fear that the place will pass into other hands. The day has been snowy though it has gained but little on the ground. Mr. Thompson left here this morning for Boston. I spent a part of the afternoon at the house, working on the almanac for 1869, and I think the work will go easily by the time the computer gets fully at work. About three inches of snow.

April 11

The weather is some warmer this morning. Joanna called with Mr. Leach so I have heard from Electa. The passing is very good and there had been a great collection of people in the village. Saturday in the afternoon will draw a company if the season is not too busy. Mr. Sims the R.R. contractor came this afternoon and he came to the office with Gen. Washburn. We like his appearance very well and his first impressions are good. Paid Chapman for medicine for Electa fifty cents and took it to my room to carry it to her in the morning. Do not go home this evening but remained at the house. The evening is very rough with high winds.

Monday, April 13

Came down from home last night and then called on Mr. Sims and on Gen. Washburn. I went with Mr. Sims to Shallies Hill and as far on the line as the great curve near Champion's. Mr. Murdock is now locating his Shanties for the railroad workmen. Called at Mr. Strong's to get their consent to place the shanties on their land, and obtained it. The wind is very strong in the northwest and is cold. The snow does not settle very fast and I fear it will trouble us in our surveys tomorrow. The roads are some drifted up and it is quite difficult to drive through them with a carriage. The great snow seems to hold on some, but the sun is so high that it will soon be gone.

April 14

In the morning after some delay, we started for our work. Went to Quechee and put our team up at Barron's and we started on the west side of the gulf to run the line back to Quechee. Had very good success in fitting our line to the surface and in joining it with the long tangent on Bragg's land. Perhaps we shall need to change it a very little on Barron's meadow easterly of the barn. The line by the house seems to be right. In the evening we went to Mr. Strong's for the night and were very tired of course. The ground is covered with snow and the light and the wind make sad havoc with our faces.

April 15

This morning we started for the Champion cut to begin to set slope-stakes and to cross-section that division of the road. Began at the termination of the tangent near the Champion pine tree, and set the stake over that cut and continued back to station 500. This has been another light and windy day and our heads and faces suffer for it. The flesh on my face is almost leather, and is extremely sore. Mr. Murdock's hands are putting up a shanty on Fogg's land near Champion's line, and will finish it today I think. We left the line very tired and fear that there is a small error in one of the stations, but we must investigate it in the morning.

April 16

Began in the morning where we left the work last night. The morning is cloudy & chilly and there will soon be rain, I think. We set the side stakes as far as Fogg's north line and had very good success. The wind is high and is cold and raw. We ate dinner in the new shanty, and soon after it began to rain. We tried to work in the rain but would soon be driven in. We left the work and went to Mr. Strong's and are quite wet. I intended to go to Woodstock to get a little rest, but was prevented by the mud and rain. Mr. Murdock's hands went to Woodstock.

April 17

The morning is more clear and pleasant, and we began our work near the Fogg shanty. The day is quite pleasant but the wind is high and cold. We carried our cross-sectioning to the summit of the Shallies Hill, but I was nearly tired out before two o'clock, yet I continued the work till night. Concluded to leave this part of the work till next week and to run the levels over the lines run last Tuesday. Mr. Murdock's hands are at work on the Shallies Hill shanty on the south side of the hill, and finished it at night and went to Woodstock. Staid at Mr. Strong's as usual.

April 18

Simeon Dunham and I went to the east side of the gulf and got Mr. Dewey's transit to measure the width across the river. After a critical measurement I made the distance from the edge of the bank on the east side to the large pine tree on the west side 239.1 feet. This agrees very well with a measurement made with my transit about two weeks ago. Horace Dunham and Darwin Bell ran the line of levels over the line run last Tuesday. The day has been cold and is now (3 o'clock P.M.) quite cold even for March. Left for home quite early and concluded to try to dress up our sore faces and try to be a little more comfortable.

Monday, April 20

Came from Pomfret last evening. Found Electa some more comfortable. Martin Gilbert left our house this morning. He was unable to do the work that we wanted done. Called on Gen. Washburn this morning, and he soon after called at the office with Mr. Sims. The hands went to the work early in the morning but I could not get away till past ten o'clock. Rode with Mr. Clarke. Borrowed of F.W. Clarke twenty dollars for a few days. Found the men waiting at the top of the hill and we began our work but we had not worked long before it began to rain.

Credits – 20.00

April 21

Martin Gilbert left our house yesterday and called on me this morning for a settlement, and we found due to him fifteen dollars and fifty two cents. Paid him fifteen dollars. Went this morning to the Champion cut and General Washburn, President of the Woodstock Railroad, removed the first earth in the building of the road. We then set grades over a part of the great Champion's curve, but not till after the General, Mr. Sims, and myself had examined the hill and I had determined upon the curve. The workmen began on the cut with very good courage but in the afternoon began to complain of their boarding place.

Debits – 15.00

April 22

Am at work this morning on the Shallies Hill. Mr. Sims called and wished to have a culvert laid out near Mr. Champion's. In the afternoon we went to the brook below Mr. Champion's and laid out a long culvert and a very bad one to locate. But we succeeded to my own satisfaction. Came to Mr. Strong's for the night. This has been a very pleasant day and seems more spring like. The wind has not been so rough today as they have been almost every day this spring.

April 23

Went to work in the morning on the south side of Shallies hill near the house and we walked to the barn. The weather was warm in the morning but it soon began to grow cold and soon after noon we had a furious squall of snow and it fell about an inch deep on the highlands where it did not melt away. In the afternoon we made some road surveys on Mr. Fogg's and on Mr. Champion's lands. The winds were very cold and we found it very difficult to work correctly. In the evening or towards night, Simeon & Horace Dunham came to Woodstock and had a very cold ride for the wind was northwest and very cold.

April 24

Rode to Mr. Strong's and then to the hill and Mr. Dewey came to consult about the town roads. Spent the greater part of the forenoon on these examinations. In the afternoon we worked on the great curve and ran it in so that it is quite satisfactory to me. We have now no curve as sharp as 7 degrees. The day is pleasant but the spring winds are chilly. After finishing the curve we all started for home but did not get to Woodstock till after dark, for the roads are extremely bad. I have seldom known the roads to be worse than they are this spring.

April 25

A pleasant but chilly morning. Awoke with a severe headache and it is destined to trouble me through the day. We all worked in the office in copying work that has been accumulating in our books for some time. I worked on the plans and tried to fit them so that Mr. Wolcott could copy from them such as the Commissioners can use. The day was pleasant but I heard people in the streets talking of its being chilly. In the evening I staid at the house. Some expected a team down for me but it did not come. Paid Geo. Paul fifteen cents for lemons.

Monday, April 27

In making change Joanna paid me one dollar. Started in the morning for Quechee and called on Mr. Wolcott to assist me about the plans and descriptions, but he fully failed to assist me at all; so I resolved to go home to the office and do the work myself. Simeon and myself went home and I went to work in the office. Mr. Thompson came at night and I am compelled to give my attention to him. We planned to go out in the morning. He can spend some time with us now if he is needed. But we only need to ask him a few questions about some of the more difficult parts of the work.

April 28

Mr. Thompson staid with Mr. Fairbanks last night after spending the evening at the office. Again we go to our work of making examination of the line we located last fall. Tried to make some alterations. Ran a line from station 538, or rather from 537 & 50 and after spending about half a day we abandoned the work and concluded to leave it as I had run it in the location. We examined the line across those deep ravines on Mr. Tracy's land but could not improve the line. He gave me his opinions about placing culverts in the ravines and it seems to me a somewhat difficult task to place them there for the sides are so steep.

April 29

Mr. Thompson staid with me at Mr. Strong's last night and we occupied the same room. This morning we went on with our work of making further examinations of the line. Went from near Mr. Tracy's to the Junction We proposed some alterations in the line near the Junction and shall run in the line as soon as possible. Mr. Thompson thinks he is not needed here but I do admire his assistance at times on some of the difficult points. It is on such points that his judgment is valuable.

April 30

In the morning we went to Champion's to set a few stakes and at about two o'clock the selectmen of Hartford came to the Shallies Hill where we met them to lay out the highway in place of the one taken by the R.R. Company. After making examination of the land the selectmen concluded to accept the route and I made a survey of it. In the afternoon they went to Mr. Champion's to look for a route to place the town road instead of crossing under the track. There was a severe shower in the afternoon and I became very wet and, of course, took cold. Went to Mr. Strong's for the night.

May 1

This forenoon we worked on the plans and descriptions of the road routes through the different farms. My work is getting very much in the rear and I hope Mr. Phillips will be here soon. In the afternoon I went to Mr. Dewey's plain to make examinations for a road crossing. Concluded to bridge over the road and that will answer for farm crossings. Examined the land on Mr. Morse's in order to find a place for a farm crossing. Gen. Washburn and Mr. Dewey agreed with Mr. Morse about the crossing. The crossing is to be on the knoll in the orchard north of Morse's lands, and is to be graded on lower side so as not to be steeper than it is now directly down the hill. Both parties agree to this.

May 2

Last night I rode up with Gen. Washburn and the rest came soon after, and I hastened to work on the land descriptions. This morning I arose soon after three o'clock and began the work on the descriptions. We hurried ourselves till the work was done at about 2 o'clock afternoon. Simeon went to the land owners with the descriptions and came home in the evening. Self was extremely tired at night and left the office quite early. Mr. Phillips came to Woodstock, and is to be with us for a time at least, but I do not know how long. We have needed some one for a long time. Paid Billings fifteen cents for kerosene and Chapman 40 cents for Old Windsor soap., and 2 cents for corks. Paid Palmer and Smith five cents.

Debits - .15, .40, .05, .05

Monday, May 4

Mr. Phillips our engineer begins work this morning. He makes a very favorable impression at first and I think he will prove to be a valuable man for our road. We began at Mr. Barron's and ran our line back towards Woodstock putting in a long tangent and a 30° curve and a long 1° curve back of Harvey Thomas's. Rode home, five of us in one wagon with one horse. It was very late before we came to Woodstock. Am tired from our last week's work, and can write but little.

May 5

This morning I paid Mr. Greene for the Standard sent to Electa, for I did not think it best for them to stop their paper. It was one dollar and fifty cents. We started for the work quite early and ran a large curve back of Harvey Thomas's and Mr. Church's. The curve was a very difficult one to fit to the ground but we succeeded with it to our satisfaction. There is a strong appearance of rain and I think it will come before tomorrow. We rode home, five in one wagon and made it some late getting home. We must do some testing of levels before we can make our grade correctly and reliably.

May 6

It began to rain this morning about one o'clock and rained quite hard during some part of the night. In the Forenoon it did not rain very much but in the afternoon it began to rain very hard again. Paid Haskell for the North American one dollar and thirty five cents, and I paid Paul for half a bottle of Carter's ink and am now writing with it. We are all at work in the office for it is too rainy to go to our work. Gen. Washburn called in the afternoon and again in the evening to see how the work is progressing. Charles Marsh called in the evening.

May 7

We are all at work again on the line. This forenoon we set out a culvert near the first ravine at Harvey Thomas's, and have found it a very bad place to put one. We laid it out straight running through a high point, but I am not suited with it for it destroys Mr. Newton's aqueduct as the line runs directly over his springs. In the afternoon, Mr. Phillips and Simeon Dunham took up a line of levels at the river crossing and ran toward Mr. Thomas's while the rest of us went to the Champion crossing to lay out some work at the crossing near the old road.

May 8

Thought I should work at the office today but Mr. Thompson and I wished to have him examine some work near Mr. Thomas's so I went with him down the line to the Junction. Have worked with a very severe headache, - one that crushes one down very effectually. The snow must have been one inch deep here but it melted partly and settled down so that there was not so much of it, but on the hills it remained through the day. It seemed cold as winter when riding from the Junction. A very cold time for the 8th of May, but it will soon be warmer. Paid Mr. Phillips twenty cents for pencils.

May 9

Started early in the morning for Quechee and found the men at work setting slope-stakes on the Champion cut. Took Horace Dunham and went to work on a line of levels from the Porter sugar house towards the Junction as that line is to be tested before any work can be done at the lower end of the work. Mr. Phillips proves to be a very competent engineer and we shall soon need more help as the work will soon progress rapidly I think. In the afternoon we went to the first great culvert at Harvey Thomas's and laid out an angular culvert in that place, and was obliged to form a niche in one of the walls to secure a spring.

Monday, May 11

Strong signs of rain. The hands started for their work. They are setting slope—stakes on Mr. Church's land by the sand hills, and will work there through the day. I worked in the office on the land plans for the Commissioners. Gen. Cushman of Rochester and Mr. Rogers of Stockbridge two of the Commissioners came in the afternoon and called on me in the evening with Gen. Washburn and they had a general Railroad talk. They left at about nine o'clock. Simeon and Horace Dunham came home in the evening, as they were at work so near home. I am getting tired of this care of the work on the road, but shall make the best of it.

May 12

The Commissioners and the workmen started early this morning for their work. The engineers go to the cut on Porter's land, and the Commissioners went to Mr. Dewey's, I think to begin the work of appraisal of land damages. I remain in the office to make some plans of the road that is to be located, for it is much more easy to plan the line in the office. It is nearly six o'clock and I am tired and unwell. Would go home tonight if I could have a good opportunity. The General and his company have not yet returned from Quechee. – In the evening Gen. Washburn called for some plans, etc. that I had been to work upon.

May 13

In the forenoon I rode to Harvey Thomas's to settle the land lines in that place, and then we went to our work over the Shallies Hill. Found Mr. Phillips and the other hands setting slope stakes in Strong's pasture. Called on the Gen. in Porter's pasture where the Commissioners were making examinations for appraisal of damages. Mr. Phillips and Simeon Dunham began a line of levels in Tracy's pasture at a bench that I left there a few days ago. We took up the line to make alterations at Station 669 and ran a new line towards the Junction.

May 14

Rested very well at Mr. Strong's last night and today we resume the line, beginning back and running a new curve a few minutes sharper. I watched the leveling a part of the forenoon and then went to the line near White River Village and the Junction. Ran as far as Mr. Pierce's and left the line for the night. I went again to Mr. Strong's and was glad to get there once more. It was so late that I did not call on Mr. Phillips this evening, but ought to do it to see how his work compares with the original.

May 15

Again we went to the line determined to finish it to the Junction today. I set back on a new tangent and ran a different curve and have fitted the ground much better; but there is still a chance to improve it. There is too much excavation for the embankment; and if I try to adjust the matter, the line will run through Mr. Pierce's house. Ran the line through to the Junction and made it to 734 stations in length. The last line does not cross the Central road but keeps near it from Col. Nutt's house running as near as the road beds will allow. Came home in the evening, and a hard shower setting in we got very wet.

May 16

Did not get away very early but went to the cut near Harvey Thomas's. Here I made a change in the line near Mr. Church's barn, making a sharper curve and saving some deep rock cutting. Spent nearly all day in fixing this line. Gen. Washburn and Mr. Clarke came down to settle with Mr. Newton about his aqueduct. – Strong signs of a shower but it does not come for the wind prevents. Saturday brings but little that is "interesting," for it is the closing day of the week. Wrote to Mr. Thompson this morning to come to the Junction Monday and I would meet him on the line of the road.

Monday, May 18

Mortimer brought me down from Pomfret last night and I have rested very well. It began to rain this morning about six o'clock and continues. Did not go to meet Mr. Thompson as I had intended to for it is too rainy. Simeon and Horace are at work in their gardens today though the rain at times is quite severe. I am at work in the office on the culverts, and am trying to preserve the papers in the best form. Two boys have been tried for stealing today and one of them sent to Rutland jail. – The afternoon has been quite rainy. Yesterday I got fifty cents of Joanna.

Credits - .50

May 19

Went to the Junction this forenoon to meet Mr. Thompson, and though it rained we took a walk over the line where we had thought of making further changes. Looked at all the points where we thought we could make improvement and shall try it in a few days. Simeon & Horace have been setting fence stakes on Mr. Porter's land and I have assisted them this afternoon. It has been a wet day, not that it has been raining very fast but the air has been full of mist nearly through the day. Got very wet and then came home, am some uncomfortable with cold, wet feet. Paid Mr. Tracy ten cents for three ears of white corn.

Debits - .10

May 20

Today the Republicans meet in Convention at Chicago to nominate Gen. Grant for President. It has rained some through the night and is wet and stormy this morning. Mr. Clarke paid me Five Hundred and twenty eight dollars and fifty cents on my Railroad account, and I got a check for three hundred dollars for Mr. Ware and paid 75 cents for it. I also paid Mr. Clarke twenty dollars that I borrowed of him some days ago; - also paid Mrs. Dunham for board forty dollars. I also paid Haskell for paper, etc. one dollar and twenty five cents. Mr. Chamberlin and Polk came in the forenoon.

Credits – 528.50

Debits – 300.00, .75, 20.00, 40.00, 1.25

May 21

Another very stormy day and we have remained at the office to do a small amount of work in copying plans and descriptions. I made some plans of culverts and got ready for work whenever it becomes fair weather. It has rained nearly all day, and I know the passing must be extremely bad. Got a letter from Mr. Thompson on the subject of the line near Mr. Pierce's at the Junction. Paid Russell, Clarke & Randall thirty four dollars and thirty two cents on account. This pays what I owe them except for the Perkins watch. Also paid George French for horse and wagon one dollar & fifty cents.

Debits – 34.32, 1.50

May 22

The rain still continues and when we can find an opportunity to go to our work on the road I do not know; but this rain is most valuable for all agricultural purposes. I remained in the office through the day but was unable to do very much. Simeon and Horace worked in the office in the forenoon and in the afternoon they went away to get some hay. Levi Hazen called in the afternoon and we had a very good chat on the more intricate parts of surveying. There was some rain this afternoon so that we could not go to our work. Bought a clock of Mr. Russell & Randall put it up for me. Paid Paul ten cents for dates.

Debits - .10

May 23

In the morning we started for the Junction. Called on Mr. Wolcott and then at Mr. Wood's to find Mr. Phillips. I went with him and Simeon Dunham to search the work and to inspect it. Examined all the work on the line below the Shallies Hill and found it going very well. The great culvert below Champion's is a strong work and I hope it may all be done as thoroughly as this is done now. Had a talk with Mr. Phillips about changing the line on the Porter land. I hope he will think best to do it, and that it will suit Mr. Thompson. Paid George Paul sixty five cents for fish. Also paid Mrs. Strong for board ten dollars, and I think this overpays for April and May, as I have been there only a few days in May.

Debits - .65, 10.00

Monday, May 25

We are to start for the Junction as soon as the weather will permit, but it now has the appearance of rain. The strong appearance of rain prevented our going to the Junction but we set out a culvert in the first deep ravine on Porter's land. Some rainy this afternoon, but we kept about our work. Simeon and Horace Dunham went to Mr. Tracy's for the night and I went to Mr. Strong's. Called on Mr. Phillips after supper but was too tired to make many tests or examinations about our work.

May 26

Court commenced its session at Woodstock and we are hoping and expecting a short term. I staid at Mr. Strong's last night, and this morning we move toward the Junction to run a new line from the tangent before the great cut. Mr. Phillips ran the transit and I kept with the level to keep the heights so as to determine the cuts and fills at the different places along the line. Kept the line along about as we want it till we can come near the road at Mr. Pierce's house. – A fire broke out at the Junction House but was soon extinguished. – I came to Mr. Strong's for the night.

May 27

In the morning we started for the work near the Lower House on Mr. Porter's land, but I soon met George French who calls me to Woodstock to attend court as a witness. I rode with him to Woodstock to work on a plan of Mr. Cabot's land. But Gen. Washburn wished a plan of the tracks at the Junction and our proposed crossing. This I drew in about two hours and he carried it to Judge Porter's. The session of the court makes some work for us, for to attend to our road matters and to our court business is something like work. Paid Paul ten cents for dates.

Debits - .10

May 28

This morning I rode to the work at Harvey Thomas's and tried the levels from some springs to Mr. Newton's house and found them all too low. I rode with Mr. Chamberlin, but at noon Gen. Washburn came for me and we went back to Woodstock. It is the Cabot case that calls us to court and the case may come on this afternoon. I remained in the office through the afternoon, finished the plan for the Cabot case. The afternoon has been very warm and there are strong signs of rain. Gen. Washburn called in the evening and looked over the plan in the Cabot case.

May 29

The Cabot case will be on today and I cannot leave for the road. Today I paid Mr. Chapman for a hair wash & bottle sixty cents, and I paid thirty cents for a boot jack, and forty cents for envelopes. This is enough for one day, and I must learn to be more economical. In the afternoon I was called upon to go to the court house as a witness, was called to the stand and was kept but a very short time. There was a thunder shower this afternoon and afterwards the rain continued. Called at Mr. Paul's office in the evening and Gen. Washburn came soon after.

Debits - .60, .30, .40

May 30

Paid Peter Porter for keeping oxen five dollars and fourteen cents. This morning I directed Simeon Dunham to go to the work and to bring the hands up tonight from their work. I was still detained at court. In the afternoon I paid Frank Seaver 16 dollars 91 cents as my taxes in full but he paid me 16 cents too much in making change this I must correct when I see him. Judge Porter called on me and reported his success with Gov. Smith about the crossing at White River Junction, and soon after Judge Porter and Gen. Washburn called to talk of the same subject. I was again called to court, but the case will be finished tonight I think. Joanna came down in the afternoon and we went home with her. Paid Chapman yesterday 60 cents for hair wash and ten cents for sponge, and also 53 cents for Bay rum for Mr. Phillips.

Debits – 5.14, 16.91, .16, .10 .53

Monday, June 1

Spent the day yesterday at home very pleasantly. Joanna came down for us Saturday and we rode up and staid till last night when Fred Doton brought us back. – Started this morning for the work and went to Mr. Church's land and set a part of the hands to running a line on Mr. Church's land while Mr. Phillips and myself with Simeon Dunham went to the Champion cut to measure the work for the May estimate. We spent the day in making examinations and measurements of the work. – Rode to Woodstock in the evening and found it quite late before I finished supper. Could not work in the evening.

June 2

Again went to our work on the estimates. Mr. Phillips goes to the Junction this morning to measure some work there but we shall not put it into the May estimate. I met him on the Champion hill cut and then we came to the great culvert and up the line. – Simeon and Horace went to the Junction to get the land lines along the line of the road. In the afternoon I tried to assist Mr. Phillips on the estimates but was not able to work. Came home a little before night. Polk called in the evening and spent a few hours very pleasantly. Paid Mr. Tracy 25 cents for seed corn.

Debits - .25

June 3

I remain in the office this forenoon but shall go down the line this afternoon if possible. – Worked in the office through the forenoon. Paid Haskell 1 dollar & 50 cents for a pen stock and got a very pretty one. I also paid Russell 20 cents for a watch key for Polk. In the afternoon I got a horse and buggy and got Polk to go with me to see the work on the line of the road. Went to Harvey Thomas's and met Mr. Phillips and we changed the grade of the work near Station 300. Horace Dunham assisted Mr. Phillips and ran a line of levels in the afternoon. Got a good letter from Abbie this evening.

Debits – 1.50, .20

June 4

In the morning I rode to the work below Taftsville, and after starting the line there I rode to Champion's, and met Mr. Chamberlin and Mr. Clarke at Mr. Strong's, who went to let the roadmaking to Henry and Charles Smith. They let it for \$1.25 per rod. I went to the great culverts to see about the surveys of them, but not meeting Mr. Phillips and his men I returned to where Horace & Simeon were at work and I assisted them in running the line backside of Babcock's & Tracy's houses and then we came home to Woodstock. It was nearly nine o'clock when I returned from supper.

June 5

Concluded to work in the office as the work is much behind. Mr. Chamberlin went to White River Village last night after nine o'clock to try to keep peace on the road. Have worked in the office through the day, - at the drawing table in the forenoon and at the writing table in the afternoon.

June 6

Found myself very tired this morning. Simeon and Horace Dunham went to the work below Taftsville. I received of the Railroad Company one hundred and two dollars for my account for May. Paid Munger nineteen dollars for coat and three dollars for a hat. I also paid Haskell fifty cents for a folder. The day has been a very broken day with me for it is Saturday. – About 6 o'clock in the evening there was a very terrific whirlwind accompanying a thunder storm of marked severity. The path of the whirlwind was narrow but very destructive. Several buildings were thrown down, others damaged. Stones were in some cases removed from their beds, and trees were uprooted or broken down.

Credits 102.00

Debits – 19.00, 3.00, .50

Monday, June 8

Went home yesterday morning and came back last evening. The day was almost rainy through the day. In the forenoon today it cleared off and is very pleasant. We have all worked in the office today. Abbie came in the morning and she and Miss Wood worked on the almanac for 1869. We were very much hurried in the morning and, indeed, through the day. Addison Darling called and I took up the note that he holds against me and gave him a new note for one hundred and twenty one dollars. Paid Munger 10 cts for revenue stamp.

Debits - .10

June 9

In the morning I went to the road near the Junction to make examination in relation to passes, etc. I took Simeon Dunham with me and we made very thorough examination of six different lands. Saw Mr. Phillips on Braley's lands where he was laying out work for the contractors. He seems to be very busy and he does his work well. Horace Dunham remains in the office today to copy work. Paid Haskell 40 cents for pens, and paid 60 cents for stamps. – Received of Mr. Phillips one dollar and five cents.

Credits – 1.05

Debits - .40, .60

June 10

I worked in the office preparing plans and descriptions to use tomorrow on the line of the road in the assessment of damages as the Commissioners will be out tomorrow. I find it impossible to get all the work just as I would like to have it, but can have it so as to answer the purpose. Have become very tired and what makes it worse certain parts of the work do not suit me at all and I find that Mr. Phillips meets with some trying times. – In the afternoon Mr. Pratt and I rode up to see the Rutland engineers, and we found them nearly opposite Whitney's machine shop. Met Mr. Randall and Mr. Wyman and Mr. Brown. The last is the son of the late Gen. Brown of Rutland.

June 11

Mr. Clarke and I got a horse and buggy to go to White River Village to meet the Railroad Commissioners and Gen. Washburn to go with them to attend the appraisal of the land damage. – We met them at Mr. Pease's and soon started for Mr. Pearson's, and we examined these cuts and fills again and again and then determined a place for his road crossing and cattle pass and also for his culverts. All the line from Mr. Pearson's to Mr. Pierce's home farm has been looked over. Took dinner at Mr. Pease's and also took tea before we came home. Arrived home a little before dark and went to the office to work.

June 12

The Rutland surveyors came last night as far as Woodward's factory, and this morning I called on them and saw them run by the factory and that cluster of buildings. A short time before noon I called on them again and was with them as they ran the line back of Mr. Woodward's house and along the foot of Mount Tom to Mr. Marsh's meadow where they left the line. The afternoon was quite rainy and I hardly went out at all. The Rutland engineers went home this afternoon. Am glad their line is finished. Paid for kerosene thirteen cents.

Debits - .13

June 13

Paid George Fisher ten dollars. Have been in the office the greater part of the day. Mr. Bell left the work and called and got his account of work and his pay up to this time. He has for a long time appeared to be dissatisfied with the work and with the pay that he was to receive, though his bargain with the company was fully made as I thought. Did not go to the office after tea but spent the evening very pleasantly at the house. – There is a concert of blind performers at the Town Hall this evening and I can hear them distinctly where I am. But I do not care about going for the weather is warm, and it would be rather uncomfortable.

Debits – 10.00

Monday, June 15

Yesterday we went to Pomfret and the day was very pleasant even for this very pleasant season of the year. Came down last evening. Fred came with us. Brought a tub of butter to Horace Dunham's. This morning I paid Chapman for sponge twenty five cents, and I also paid Pratt for envelopes and a blank book for Phillips one dollar and seventy cents. I also paid Paul for a half pound of tea sixty two and a half cents. The day is very warm, the thermometer standing above 82 degrees in the coolest places. Paid Munger for a linen coat two dollars and fifty cents. I have been in the office through the day, and in the evening took a walk on the mountain with Polk and Abbie. Very warm. Ther. max 84 degrees.

Debits .25, 1.70, .62½, 2.50

June 16

Rested badly last night and do not feel able to work today. The selectmen of Hartford are to meet today to examine the roads between Taftsville and Quechee as our Railroad line blots out nearly one hundred rods of the present town road. The General could not go down and I took a horse and carriage and met the selectmen below Taftsville. I pointed out to them the town road and railroad route and they made a thorough examination of the present and the old roads. About noon it began to rain very hard and I came home to Woodstock. Was very wet, and tired, and lame.

June 17

The air is very good this morning and I began work before four o'clock, and worked on the almanac for 1869. Abbie was here all last week at work on it with Miss Wood. It is now nearly done and I shall send it soon. The weather is very warm, the thermometer standing at about 84 degrees at the highest. Paid three cents for pencils and fifteen cents for figs. How hot the day is! The thermometer has been 84 or 82 in my room all through the middle of the day.

June 18

The warm weather is truly oppressive but it is the best possible for vegetables. The hay crop must be very good indeed. This morning I rode to Quechee with Cone and looked along the line from the Shallies Hill to the great culvert. I then came to Mr. Strong's and took dinner and from there I came to Quechee and took the stage for home. Abbie and Miss Wood have nearly finished the almanac for 1869. We'll get it done by tomorrow. I hope it will be in time. The day has been very warm indeed. The thermometer at 87 degrees is warm for June. Last year it was 86 at the warmest in this month.

June 19

In the morning I went, with a horse from French's, to the work on the line and went as far as Mr. Strong's. Had a long interview with Mr. Phillips on railroad matters. In the afternoon I assisted Horace and Simeon Dunham on the line on Wood's land. Paid Wood for horse keeping twenty five cents. After working in the heat till night, we came home very tired and lame. Miss W. and Abbie have finished the almanac for 1869 today, and I am glad it is done and correctly done. I have finished the eclipses and the work is now completed. Took a pleasant walk in the evening. Paid Seth Wood four dollars for balance for board.

June 20

Another very warm morning and I am too lame to work with any comfort at all. Paid 43 cents for a fine apple and half pound sugar. Paid fifty dollars for seven barrels or in part pay for barrels. In the afternoon Mrs. Chamberlin called and made a good visit, and Polk and Abbie went home with her. Am quite lame and have taken a severe cold, and my throat troubles me very much. I have heard nothing from home for some time and I think I must get there quite early tomorrow. Let Abbie have five dollars. I am sorry to have the almanac finished on one account for Abbie will not be here so much after that is done. Mr. Chamberlin has been at work on the Railroad fence all the week.

Monday, June 22

Yesterday I started for home soon after breakfast and walked the greater part of the way, and in the evening I walked down, but felt very lame before getting there. Today I have felt too unwell to go out at all on the road. Have a very severe cold and my throat and lungs are quite troublesome. Paid Billings one dollar for 4 handkerchiefs, and think the trade a good one. Have tried to work in the office through the day but have brought but little to pass. The day is not very warm and I have been feeling quite cold, and put on my winter clothing. Polk called upon me in the evening and staid till quite late, and it made the evening pass much more pleasantly.

June 23

Rested a little better last night and am feeling a little stronger than I did yesterday. I have promised to go out this afternoon and meet the selectmen of Hartford to see about turning the road back over the hill by Osman Wood's. Paid Post office ten cents. In the afternoon I went with Simeon Dunham to look over the road route from Quechee to Taftsville, and there we met most of the men of Quechee who feel interested in the road. Each had his route or nearly so, but no definite conclusion was arrived at. I am tired, very tired, this evening and must soon retire to rest. I am alone and feel alone but I do not mean to repine.

June 24

Rested very well last night; and today I must go to Quechee and the Junction to meet Mr. Thompson. The morning is very pleasant – with scarcely a breath of air stirring. – Started in the forenoon for the Junction and arrived there about noon, where I soon met Mr. Thompson. Took dinner and soon started on the line. Expenses at the Junction, paid one dollar. Came and examined some of the work on the culverts and arrived at Woodstock at a little before six o'clock. Horace and Simeon took the levels on a road route near Osman Woods. There are three places where the Selectmen of Hartford have thought of putting the road, but I hardly think any new roads will be built.

Debits – 1.00

June 25

Again in the morning I went with Mr. Thompson to view the gulf below Quechee. Mr. Van Ness Perkins and Andrus Dyke went with us to examine the face of the rocks on the face of the gulf west of the river. After roaming over the sides of the steep rocks for about an hour it was thought best to have the loose rubbish cleared off and see where the work could be begun most advantageously. We rode to the easterly side of the stream and examined the place for a road and for a stopping place for a train at Dewey's Factory.

June 26

Mr. Thompson left for home this morning and Norman Perkins started for Chicago. How soon he intends to get there I cannot tell. I remained in the office through the day for I was not able to go out in the heat to work. But there is work enough to be done in the office to keep me busy for a while. Am at work on the plans and descriptions of the land lines and the lands to be taken on the road. Paid Lewis Pratt fourteen dollars for a dictionary for the high school in the village, and I hope the scholars may get the full benefit of its use. – Paid Mr. Cushing 25 cents for a picture of Mr. Middleton for I call his likeness, taken by Mr. Cushing, a wonderful specimen of photography.

June 27

This morning we started for the road again and spent the day in fitting curves below Taftsville. The day was very warm and we kept busy till about five o'clock. We then left for home and went up on the north side of the river and I went home instead of coming to the office. Had a pleasant walk up the hill to our old homestead. Our line today has come in very well for we had planned it before and it came just as I had planned it.

Monday, June 29

Yesterday I spent the day at home and did not go to Woodstock till evening when Mortimer Spear carried us to the village. I had not spent a Saturday night at home for a long time, but it was pleasant to find myself at home in the morning and no vexing cares disturbing me. We took some pleasant walks about the beautiful and smiling fields. Today I rode to Quechee to find Mr. Phillips and to see the work that is going on. Horace and Simeon are running a line of levels over the work that was run last week. I came back to them about three o'clock and we then ran the line around to Dr. Gray's road, and then left it for the night. Road up to Woodstock with Mr. Sims.

June 30

Am nearly sick with a cold, but I manage to keep round and work the greater part of the time. I expected to go to the Junction today but have been disappointed about meeting Governor Smith. Went to Taftsville to run a line around Mr. Babcock's and Mr. Tracy's and to connect with the old line just below Taftsville. – Simeon and Horace took their little boys with them and they had a very fine time. I waited at Taftsville for the stage but it was 3½ hours too late. So I rode up with the boys when they finished their work.

July 1

Again the time comes round for us to make our monthly estimate. We went to our work at Taftsville, and from there I went to the lower end of the line. Met Pratt and Clarke at the Junction and they made arrangements with Mr. Pierce about the crossing and a borrowing pit. Remained on that part of the work until about four o'clock when I started for home but was nearly four hours in getting to Woodstock. In the evening we took a pleasant walk to see the house on College Hill, one that Polk Chamberlin has hired of Mr. Munger. Mr. Phillips gave me the time of the four hands in the engineering department. The expenses of that department are very small compared with what it is on other roads.

July 2

The night has been warm and muggy, and not a comfortable night for sleep, but most truly beautiful and good for vegetation. This morning the weather is very warm. I paid a quarterly postage 42 cents, and I also got some stamps and paid 75 cents for them. Am now trying some of the Fairchild gold pens and they seem to be fully equal to the Morton pens. Today I received a very pleasant note from the scholars of the Woodstock High School. The note was very well prepared and in good taste and correct scholarship, and it is with the highest pleasure that I receive these tokens of respect. – Today I have received of the R.R. Company one hundred and one dollars, and I paid out of it my assessment of sixty dollars. Took a pleasant walk in the evening.

Credits – 101.00

Debits – 60.00, .42, .75

July 3

The night has been very warm and from present appearances it is to be a warm day. It is too warm to study or think at all and I have not tried to work. It has continued to grow warm until now about four o'clock. The thermometer in my office has been as high as 90 degrees and it has seemed too warm to work. – It is half past four and a very little cooler, but hardly comfortable yet, but the corn and other crops must smile at such weather. What a time for all field crops! I have paid Paul ten cents for dates, and I have paid Cushing three dollars and twenty five cents for a stereoscope and some views and pictures.

Debits - .10, 3.25

July 4

This has been one of the warmest days. Paid Lewis Pratt thirty one dollars and thirty five cents in full for rent on the middle room of the office as far as I was holden to pay and it included \$14.58 that Mr. Richmond paid me as rent for the other half. Business in the village is generally suspended and it would seem like Sunday were it not for the general sound of joy among the young folks and children. Called Mr. Kidder at about 8 o'clock this evening for professional services, and soon after we went to Pomfret for the night and we staid one night. The evening was very pleasant. Paid Munger for vest three dollars and fifty cents. Paid for a professional service.

Debits – 31.35, 3.50, 10.00

Monday, July 6

Yesterday was a pleasant day though very warm. Last evening we rode down from Pomfret and arrived home about nine o'clock. Today I went in the forenoon to Quechee to see Mr. Phillips to get an estimate of the amount to be paid out this month and find it to be much more than we had anticipated. Lent fifteen dollars to Spenser for a short time. Paid Simeon Dunham one dollar for the use of his horse twice to Pomfret. Paid Phillips for table book. In the afternoon I attended a meeting of the Woodstock R.R. when the subject was discussed of crossing the Central R.R. and I was instructed to proceed as soon as possible to lay out the road.

Debits – 15.00, 1.00, 3.00

July 7

In the morning I went to Quechee and took Mr. Phillips and his hands and went to the Junction to make the connection with the Central R.R. – Spent the day in putting in the line. A shower in the afternoon that made our work very unpleasant but still we finished the line so that we can grade the road to the Vt. Central Road bed. – We did not get ready to start for home till nearly dark and it was past ten o'clock before we reached home and then we were wet and cold. I took a fresh cold and am feeling some unwell.

July 8

In the morning Simeon and I went to the Junction to measure and lines and to prepare to make plans and descriptions of the work so as to be ready for the contractors to begin the work. It is a long time now since Mr. Sims began to feel anxious about that end of our eastern division. We finished our measurements and returned home about night. It is no easy days work to go to the Junction on these very hot days. Am now very much hurried about the descriptions on the easterly division and must let the president of the road have them as fast as I can get them out.

July 9

Another very warm day, but not quite equal to last week. I am to work in the office today to finish plans and descriptions of the lands that we measured yesterday. The day was warm and it was almost impossible to keep myself to work. But we made the plans and nearly finished the descriptions before night. Gen. Washburn and Lewis Pratt went to the eastern division to try and get a settlement with Mr. Pierce and with Mr. Tilden and Mr. Barnes and with Col. Nutt. They came home in the evening but I did not see them.

July 10

Finished copying some of the descriptions of land taken by the Railroad Company and soon after Simeon Dunham and self started for Mr. Braley's in Hartford. Met Gen. Washburn at Strong's and then we went to see Braley's land to select places for farm crossings, etc. Today was very warm, almost like last week. It is very dusty traveling and the heat makes it still more unpleasant. Paid Paul one dollar and twenty five cents for tea. Also paid Billings one dollar, sixty cents for rope and 40 cents for a shot glass.

Debits – 1.25, 1.60, .40

July 11

Paid Billings forty cents for another shot glass for my office table. This morning Simeon and I started for the road-crossing at White River Village to meet the selectmen of Hartford to arrange for making the bridge over the crossing. But the selectmen did not come, and we made a survey of the road as we would have it. Soon after we started for home and rode in the severe heat. Came to the crossing above Quechee village and there we ran another line for a road without the selectmen, but I am not sure they will adopt either the one or the other. Came home quite tired from the labor and the heat.

Debits - .40

Monday, July 13

Yesterday we remained in our room through the day and spent the greater part of it in writing and reading. The day was very warm, the thermometer reaching 92 degrees. It has reached the same height a few times before in this month. Today I tried to write in the office but the thermometer was above 90 degrees and that was too warm for work; so I went to our room and I wrote there nearly all day. I paid Russell, Clarke & Randall eleven dollars for an office clock and I removed the one I have to our room. Postage four cents. Paid Mellish for shot for glass and lemons forty five cents. This is the warmest day known here for years the thermometer reaching 95 degrees. This was by Greene's standard thermometer. Others were much higher. Very severe thunder shower with vivid lightning.

July 14

Arose this morning about five o'clock and went to the office and found it to be very warm and stifled. Tried to ventilate it and make the air better. Tried to work in the office in the forenoon, but in the afternoon I took my writing to the house where it is some cooler. Mr. Dunham's folks had a call, a Mr. Kent from Reading. He is talking of buying Horace's house and lot. The heat today has been very oppressive, though not quite as warm as yesterday. Gen. Washburn and Lewis Pratt have gone away on Railroad business, and are having a warm time. Was very tired in the evening and retired early to rest.

July 15

Did not go to the office till nearly half past five o'clock and found the streets quite clear even at that hour. Am now copying the estimates and putting the final parts so that we can not escape a correct result in the end. Worked in the office till nearly noon when the heat was very oppressive running up to 90 or more in the room.

July 16

The morning seemed quite warm but the air has changed some. General Washburn called into the office in the morning and related his success with the selectmen and some of the citizens of Hartford with regard to the road at White River Village. Simeon and Horace Dunham go to the Junction and to White River Village to take some levels about the road crossing and to set fence stakes. I remained in the office through the day. Polk and Abbie came from Pomfret with some of their household goods, and have carried them to their house on College Hill. We rode to Pomfret in the evening and had a very pleasant time. Paid Pratt for a Draper inkstand one dollar & 35 cents.

Debits – 1.35

July 17

The night has been quite cool and we could rest easily, but during the hottest weather who could rest? The air is clear and there is a good breeze from the north or northeast. A good time to visit high mountains for the air is clear and good distant views could be taken. Paid Mr. Pinks for haying forks twenty cents. Have worked in the office during the day on plans of Railroad lands this side of Dewey's crossing. And I must finish the plans and descriptions as fast as possible. Went to the house on College Hill and finding Abbie there alone I remained till Polk came from Pomfret. They started for home about eight o'clock. Lent four dollars to Polk.

Debits – .20, 4.00

July 18

Another warm morning, but we started for our work between Quechee and Taftsville. The day was one of the warm ones with which this month seems to be so well supplied. Perhaps at no time has there been 18 days on which the thermometer has ranged so high in Vermont as on these last past. It is warm weather when the maximum thermometer stands on an average for 18 days at 88 degrees. I think it has done so on the last 18 days.

Monday, July 20

Yesterday I went to church for the first time in a long time. Heard Mr. Powers preach for the first time. It is very nearly ten years since I attended church at that house, and it must not be expected that the power of association could be silent at such a time. The span of ten years seemed blotted out and the period of ten years ago seemed to be present. It was not painful but deep and rich and touching, for the very pleasant circumstances in which I am now placed seemed to give a very deep and pleasant hue to every emotion. – Today I have worked in the office. Have paid for a table four dollars, for a life of Humboldt one dollar. Also paid Randall fifty cents for some watch hands.

Debits – 4.00, 1.00, .50

July 21

Another warm, dry, and dusty morning. Early began my work on the plans & descriptions of the lands taken for the railroad. The multitude soon began to gather in the village for there is a circus in town this afternoon and evening. I worked in the office through the day and did not care to attend the circus. A cloudy day but warm. Last night it rained in New York but we do not meet it here yet. Abbie came here in the evening and is to remain here through the night. Am too tired to rest tonight, especially as the weather is so very warm. A circus keeps one stirred up so that one cannot rest.

July 22

Went to the office early in the morning and remained in it through the day excepting meal times. Horace & Simeon worked in the office in the forenoon, but in the afternoon they went to the work on the line of the road to set slope stakes. But they found the work a little too difficult and left it for other work. The thermometer has been as high as 82½ degrees today so for 22 days the maximum has been at 80 or above on every day but the 7th.

July 23

Went to the office early in the morning and went to work on the places and descriptions of land taken by the Railroad Company. In the forenoon I went to Quechee and White River to see the masonry near the French shanty. Carried Mrs. D. and Carlie to the field by Uriah Church's to get some berries. I went to Seth Wood's and took Mr. Phillips and went to see some of the work near Mr. Tracy's. Made a full examination of the culvert at the French shanty, and then ordered a cattle pass to be laid out on Mr. Tracy's land below the road. Came back to Woodstock where we arrived about three o'clock.

July 24

Rain! Rain! – This is the first rainy morning for a long time. Went early to the office and began to work on the same old plans and descriptions. There has not been much rain through the day. Simeon and Horace were intending to go to White River to take some measures to help us in estimating the differences between the cost of the different plans of crossing the Railroad. That road-crossing is a troublesome thing but it will all come right in the end. Paid Haskell 1 dollar and fifty cents for the North American and fifty cents for the Repository for June and July.

Debits – 1.50, .50

July 25

Simeon and Horace went to the crossing at White River Village to take some measurements with respect to the bridge over the road. Self worked in the office through the day on the plans and descriptions. Have now the greater part of the plans ready, but have none yet this side of Taftsville. About five o'clock, Fred Doton came down for us and we rode to Pomfret glad to get out of the village into a purer atmosphere. How pleasant after being confined to business all the week or longer to get out into a purer air. Sent one dollar and five cents. Paid five cents for ink. Gas bill ninety five cents.

Debits – 1.05, .05, .95

Monday, July 27

Yesterday we staid at home through the day after visiting the Ware place and looking about the fields and seeing what God in nature has done and is doing. Last evening we rode to the village again, Fred coming with us. Brought a part of a tub of butter to Horace's folks. Today we went to Quechee to set slope stakes on Church's land. Self went to White River to see about some cattle passes, culverts, etc. The day was quite warm and the thermometer again above 80 degrees. What a July this has been so far.

July 28

We are now having cool nights and the mornings are quite chilly. Went to work in the office and continued there nearly through the day. Simeon and Horace have been there too. In the evening we took a walk to College Hill to see Polk and Abbie. They will be very pleasantly situated when the house is fully fitted up. Polk came back with us as far as Simeon Dunham's. I paid Haskell twenty five cents for pens. General Washburn is at Rutland attending a Railroad meeting. My work drives very much and I do not know how I am to get along with it.

Debits - .25

July 29

Another cool morning with the thermometer being only 53 degrees above zero, or 21 degrees above freezing point; and the highest marked today has been 84 degrees above zero. It has not been so warm as it was two weeks ago but it has been the hardest day for me to work that I have seen this season. General Washburn came from Rutland today and is very enthusiastic about the Portland meeting. Sent for me on Railroad matters and on the subject of the White River road. – Was too tired to write or read in the evening.

July 30

A slight thunder shower at about five o'clock this morning and there is now (7 o'clock) a stronger wind and signs of a wet day. Went to Shallies Hill in the forenoon to lay out some work on the town road laid by the Selectmen of Hartford. In the afternoon we came to Taftsville and there we took minutes of land lines, and we continued this till we came to Henry Johnson's land. In the evening I was too tired and too nervous to read or write, so I retired early to rest. Paid five dollars to Everton Claymore for work.

Debits – 5.00

July 31

A very foggy morning. – Went early to the office and to my work. Worked all day in drawing plans for the line between Woodstock and Taftsville. Simeon and Horace went to the work on the line below Taftsville and did not get back till evening. Their work is laying out work by setting slope stakes. After getting the nerves some tired, I took a walk to College Hill where I found Polk some unwell, so much so that he did not go to the office at all. A hard shower about six o'clock in the evening with some hail. Spent the evening in copying the meteorological report.

August 1

Worked in the office through the day for it rained so that I could not go to Quechee as I had intended. Had a long consultation with Gen. Washburn and Mr. Sims about the town road below Taftsville, but the rain prevented an examination of the place. In the morning, Abbie called at our room and we went home with her and had a pleasant walk, and found Polk alone as he had just come from the office.

Monday, August 3

The delegates to attend the great Railroad Convention at Portland left Woodstock this morning and probably will have a merry time. I worked in the office till about four o'clock when I took Simeon's team and we went to Pomfret. Yesterday we went to church to hear Mr. Powers preach. Called on Abbie in the afternoon and went to church again in the afternoon. After the services at the church we called again on Abbie and staid till night. Am very much pressed with work on the plans and estimates, but I have a hope that we can have more help in a few days. Paid twenty five cents for a little note book.

Debits - .25

August 4

Arose this morning and went to writing quite early and it is for my health to breath the morning air. – My work is now all in the office though I ought to be on the road all the time. I have today been at work on the plans and descriptions of Mr. Mower's land & Mr. Woodward's land and the lots on the river near Taftsville. That part of the work is some troublesome to get correctly but I am sure I can get it in time. Called on Polk and Abbie and found P. some unwell. I am afraid he is not likely to be able to study much this summer.

August 5

In the morning I went to Quechee to see Mr. Phillips and to see the rocks at the gulf. Found Mr. Perkins at work on the side work trying to fit a place for the bridge abutment at the west side of the gulf. Found Mr. Phillips at work on the estimates and learned very nearly what the monthly estimate would amount to. Called on Polk and Abbie soon after one o'clock and found Mrs. Bridge and Lizzie there. Polk is a little more comfortable than he was yesterday but looks very feeble.

August 6

Rainy this morning, so that the hands did not go to their field work on the road. Called at the Treasurer's office and got the pay for my last months work which with the expenses was one hundred and four dollars and ninety five cents. From this I have paid Pratt for Burns \$2.00. – Chapman for medicine 50 cents. I received from Mrs. D. to pay for a web of carpeting forty dollars & five cents and I paid Mr. Billings for the carpet \$37.80. I also bought kerosene 12 cents and thread 8 cents. I paid Haskell forty cents for pens, and I also paid sixty cents for stamps. Called on Mr. Bradley to get him to assist us in moving our things up to College Hill. He can come tomorrow night.

Credits – 104.95, 40.05

Debits – 37.80, 2.00, .50, .20, .40, .60

August 7

I worked in the office through the day but Simeon and Horace went to Brooks' work to lay out some additional work as they are nearly through on the regular work near sta. 254. Mr. Bradley came about six o'clock afternoon to assist us in taking some goods up to our house on College Hill, and he took one load from Horace Dunham's and one from Mr. Fisher's. Paid Mr. Bradley one dollar for doing it. Concluded to stay in our new place over night. This made our work quite hard in the evening. Went to the office about nine o'clock to get a few things for our room. Paid Hatch for screws and tacks twenty cents.

Debits – 1.00, .20

August 8

Gen. Washburn has not yet returned from Portland but will probably be here tonight. Paid Mr. Fisher twenty five dollars on account as I have taken some things of him lately. Paid Isaac Fisher ten cents for some rulers that he made of crab wood. General Washburn came at night. Have worked at my drawing table through the day and my brain feels the effects of it. We are now settled in our new boarding place with Polk and Abbie. Our situation here is very pleasant and all our writing table furniture seems home like. I go to my meals now up through the village, and have a place to call home. Expected our folks down for us in the afternoon.

Monday, August 10

Yesterday we did not go to church as we hoped for we were lame and tired nor did we go home for the team did not come for us on account of the rain. Edward went home and Fred brought him down towards night. Today I have tried to press the work of the plans and descriptions. The General came home Saturday and is today busy in Paul's office taking testimony in a patent suit between Mr. Woodbury and Mr. Wilcox. Edward Doton called at our house and I paid him thirty five dollars to be applied on a note that he holds against me. Paid Billings for table spread and also fifteen cents for some thread, etc.

Debits – 35.00, 2.50, .15

August 11

Worked on the descriptions and at night they were finished in full, I think. Robert came down here yesterday morning and we are having a most beautiful time. It seems like old times to have him here. Gen. Washburn was in the office through the day and he examined all the plans and descriptions. Am not well but must work to get them done if they are not already correct. They have taken much of my time for many days. Polk and Robert are having a very nice time.

August 12

Went to Quechee and to Mr. Champion's. Charles Smith and Henry Smith have begun their job of roadmaking on Shallies Hill division near Mr. Champion's. Took Mr. Phillips with me. Strong N.W. wind and the weather is a little cooler. Had a good time to arrange work with him and did it most surely as far as we could. Came back to Woodstock very tired. It tires me very much to ride in the heat.

August 13

In the forenoon I worked in the office and also addressed a note to Ralph Jones & Company informing them that the work on the second division of the road, that is, the Shallies Hill division, was not going with sufficient force & vigor. Mr. Sims is trying to get the work along but it goes too slow. At the present rate, it would take three years to get through the Shallies Hill cut.

August 14

Staid in the office in the forenoon but in the afternoon I went to the house and finished copying some of the work but am quite unwell and hardly able to stir out. Carlos and Etta Adams called and I have not seen them for a long time before. Our house was in an unsettled state when they called for we were putting down carpets, and in doing other strange works about the house. Paid sixty three cents for broom, etc. – Thompson for dust pan, Fisher for line to hang pictures with.

Debits – .63, .30, .18

August 15

In the morning I rode to Quechee and to the lower division of the road to make full examination of the work and to test the masonry in the culverts. There was a shower in the middle of the day and I screened myself through a shower more than twenty four years ago. How rapidly the years have flown since that time, and how many are the scenes through which we have passed. Robert came down from Pomfret today and he has brought his stereoscope and about 150 very fine pictures. As usual he seems to enjoy himself very much while here. There was a hard shower in the evening between 10 and 11 o'clock in the evening. Paid George Fisher 16 cents. Borrowed of Mrs. D. 16 cents to pay for cord. Paid Mr. Wolcott one dollar for fixing Mortimer Spear's watch.

Debits - .16, .16, 1.00

Monday, August 17

Yesterday Robert Perkins left here for home and Polk went with him to Pomfret Center. In the afternoon took a walk to the summit of Mount Tom and had a very pleasant time. The day was some col and bore much the appearance of autumn. Today I went to Mr. Champion's to see how the work was going on the town road where Charles and Henry Smith are at work. At Quechee we found the hands all at leisure hanging on the fences. Came home about six o'clock "all tired out." Paid Mr. Cushing 2 dollars for photographs. Got of Mrs. D. one dollar and fifty cents.

Credits 1.50

Debits - 2.00

August 18

Did not go to the road work today for I was detained in the forenoon to make some measurements about the bank block and Greene's Block; and in the afternoon was kept for a time as a witness. At about four o'clock Robert and I started for Quechee. We went to the gulf before Dewey's factory and made a thorough examination of all the work and found the rock very fine and strong. Paid for medicine at Chapman's sixty cents and for quicksilver 49 cents. I do not know why but quicksilver is about four times as high as it was eight or ten years ago when I first got the apparatus for taking time.

Debits - .60, .49

August 19

This morning I went with the hands to their work below Taftsville, and after laying out one or two culverts, I went to the Champion road to see how Charles and Henry Smith are getting along with this road. The day was very hot and it was far too much for me, and I was nearly exhausted when I arrived home. It was my intention to go to Pomfret tonight but every thing seemed to work against it. Charles Vaughan's little boy died this forenoon, though well yesterday morning. He was a fine little boy and it will be a severe loss to the family.

August 20

Paid Charles Newton nine dollars for work in haying. Also paid Russell, Clarke, & Randall seven dollars for fork and pen. I had never been able before to find a fork that suited me but now I have found it. Charles Newton has been at work for us haying and now spends his earnings for a pistol. - I staid at the office in the forenoon but in the afternoon I staid at the house till after tea, when I went to the office. Saw Gen. Washburn and made known to him my plans for the crossing and Junction with the other Railroads.

Debits - 9.00, 7.00

August 21

Paid Mr. Bradley for hauling wood twenty five cents. Staid in the office till nearly noon then got a plane of Mr. Fisher to fix my table, and I also fixed Mrs. D.'s fork so as to make it correspond with those we already have. Bought a load of wood of Mr. Fairbanks and he sent Mr. Bradley with it before noon. I hope our road work is going better on the second or middle division.

Debits - .25

August 22

Paid Mr. Fairbanks three dollars and fifty cents for wood hauled yesterday. In the forenoon I went to Taftsville with the selectmen to look at road routes. In the afternoon I staid in the office and worked on the lines and grades of the western division of the road. At about six o'clock I went to Pomfret and we found it very pleasant among the hills and fields. Paid for buttons 60 cents. Paid Mr. Laite 58 cents for rubber cloth to repair my congress boots.

Debits – 3.50, .60, .58

Monday, August 24

Yesterday we spent the day at the old homestead and it was truly pleasant. The orchard, the meadow, the deep tangled wild-wood, and every loved spot it was pleasant to visit. We started away almost reluctantly. But we came down in the early part of the evening. Today I went with the hands to measure a road line near the old Gallup farm and spent the day in it. Polk went with us and worked nearly through the day. Came from work to the office. Saw another Mr. Jones, a son of the contractor Ralph Jones. The contractors and those associated with them make a very favorable impression as they are stopping here.

August 25

Went to Quechee where Brock is at work and there we examined his work and laid some culverts and then came home to dinner. Got a tape of Hatch and paid 85 cents for it. In the afternoon I worked in the office preparing plans of the road-crossing at White River and also of the road crossing on Gilson's land. These plans I arranged as to have them ready for use as soon as they may be needed. There is much labor in arranging these crossings and cattle passes, for every farmer wishes to have as many as he can get.

Debits - .85

August 26

In the morning I went with Simeon Dunham to Quechee and to White River. We first met the commissioners for appraisal of Railroad damages at Quechee where they were adjusting Mr. Gilson's road damages and the place for his road. I think they will agree to a bridge over the road so as not to go into the fields at all for town road. A little before noon we went to Seth Wood's where I took dinner and then we took Mr. Phillips and went to White River Village and then spent the afternoon hearing the talk about the change in the highway. But I think the commissioners will make the change. Let Mrs. D. have one dollar and ten cents.

Debits – 1.10

August 27

Robert came here last night and this morning he started with Polk for Pomfret. Simeon and Horace went to Quechee. Soon after they left, I was called to White River to meet the commissioners who were at Braley's looking over his farm to place the farm crossings. Started as soon as I could get ready and carried Mrs. D. to Seth Wood's. Was detained at Mr. Braley's till nearly night; and after getting through with him we went to Mr. Pierce's and looked over his lot near his house. Came to Seth Wood's and took supper and then started for home. The evening was pleasant but cool. It was past nine o'clock when we arrived in Woodstock.

August 28

Weather cool this morning. Went with Horace Dunham to our work below Taftsville. Measured up some work and gave directions about the town roads and then came home. The middle of the day was quite warm. Paid Haskell for a blank cash book one dollar, and I also paid Richmond for meat sixty eight cents. Mr. Chamberlin called and we looked at some house lots on Marsh's meadow. We think there are some very fine lots near his Parker house on the easterly side of the street. Abbie went to Pomfret with Joanna, and Polk is now at home doing a little surveying for Robert Perkins.

August 29

Again the last day of the week comes and the work for the week draws to a close. We staid alone at our house while Polk and Abbie are at Pomfret. The morning is much warmer than yesterday. I hope our engineer Mr. Clarke has come, but perhaps he intends to be here so as to begin with September. I worked in the house nearly all day but kept the Railroad work going. Computed the earth excavation at the culverts near Brock's work, and then finished copying the estimates of May, June & July. Am expecting to go to Pomfret tonight and we are waiting for the team.

Monday, August 31

Yesterday we found ourselves at home though we did not rest very well. The day was a very pleasant one and we passed the day pleasantly for we felt ourselves at home. Edward Doton called with his wife as he had just arrived home from his tour to Springfield, Mass. This morning I first met Mr. Clarke, our engineer from the west. His first appearance is very favorable and we have been out today on the line and I am sure he knows how to do the work well. – We went down the line and laid out some culverts for Brock to excavate, and also took a sort of general view of the work.

September 1

"The first Tuesday in September," and all the freemen should be out to give their votes for the men of their choice for State and county officers. We went to our work for a short time in the forenoon and then came back to vote for state officers. The day was quite pleasant, but how rapidly the season passes away. The forests begin already to wear the crimson hue and in a few weeks the brown and the yellow and the purple will deck every hillside. – Mr. Cabot paid me four dollars in full for my work as surveyor and witness in his suit with Mr. Christie.

Credits 4.00

September 2

The great Caravan – the great Caravan. We went to the work in the forenoon in the office, that is, Polk and Robert & I, while Mr. Clarke and Horace went to Quechee. The great caravan rode through the village and went to the depot grounds about nine o'clock this morning. I remained a part of the day at the house and a part at the office. Paid Abbie twenty-five cents this morning, and I paid Hatch for a tape eighty five cents. This has been a rowdy and dirty day and it was a great curiosity to see the crowds that gather in to see "the Caravan."

Debits - .25, .85

September 3

Signs of rain in the morning but it soon burned away so as to make a tolerably fair day. In the morning I paid Freeman 1 dollar for flour and paid Paul one dollar and twenty five cents for tea. – We started at an early hour for the work on the line. Laid out a culvert at Dr Gray's and then went to Mr. Newton's and spent the day in the measurement of lines for his aqueduct. Came home about seven o'clock.

September 4

Rainy this morning. (Maynard & Noyes ink) – I have become dissatisfied with the ink that we have been using for a long time, that is, a mixture of Arnold's and Carter's. I began the second line of this note with Maynard & Noyes ink that I procured this morning and will continue to use it for a time at least. – Rainy this morning and it appears certain for a rainy day. Paid Pratt for bottle of Maynard & Noyes ink forty cents. Also paid Chapman for a corkscrew twenty cents. Went to the office in the forenoon. Had a conversation with Dr. McCallum on philosophical subjects. Went to the office again afternoon to assist Mr. Clarke about the curves.

Debits - .40, .20

September 5

The wind came round to the northwest sometime in the night and perhaps the rain is over. At seven o'clock this morning the wind was easterly but it did not remain there long. At two o'clock the surface wind was in the west. Have worked all day near Taft's shop laying out a bank wall near the front of the shop. Came up about six o'clock very tired and have not yet got rested. An accident took place at the summit while the workmen were blasting hardpan. Two or three men were injured, one, it is feared, fatally. I am alone now for Mrs. D. has gone to Horace Dunham's to see her aunt. There is no sound to be heard but the distant waterfall, the gentle hum of insects, and the gentle and steady ticking of the clock as it counts the fleeting sands of time.

Monday, September 7

Yesterday morning I went to the office and took the time for Mr. Russell and he set his clock. Went back to the house and remained in my room till past noon, and then Joanna came and we went to church. Heard Mr. Powers. Joanna took supper with us and also Edward Doton and his wife. We started to go a short distance and concluded to go home with him. Staid through the night and this morning I walked down to the village in the rain, and in the afternoon we went down the line and did not return till night. Mrs. D. took supper at Horace Dunham's. In the evening we attended the lecture at the Court House. Prof. Gunning is a very fine speaker and his lecture was interesting. Paid four dollars for four tickets for the lecture.

Debits – 4.00

September 8

A very clear and beautiful morning and we soon started to lay out some work near Taftsville. In the forenoon we ran a curve from station 182 back to 175. This line runs better than any one that we have run before. In the afternoon I rode to Quechee to see Mr. Phillips, and I went with him to Mr. Morse's to examine the work in that section. Got Mr. Phillips' estimate of the work in the middle and eastern division of the road. Came back to Mr. Tracy's and found that Mr. Clarke and Mr. Dunham had just finished a line of levels over the line run in the forenoon. Did not get home till dark. Received a letter from Mr. Brigham about Kimball Perkins' work.

September 9

Awoke with a very severe headache and was hardly able to get to the office, but I went down about eight o'clock but could work but very little. Mr. Clarke and Horace are fixing up the estimate of the western division of the road, and they finished it about noon. In the afternoon I went to the office and fitted up the report for the president of the road, and found the amount due the contractors for work in August some greater than that for July. In the evening we attended the lecture of Prof. Gunning at the Town Hall. He is a very interesting speaker and will put life into almost any subject.

September 10

Signs of rain. Went to the office and finished the estimates for the sub-contractors and left them with Mr. Sims. – Mr. Clarke and Horace have gone to the work on the line, and I remained to finish some work on the estimates. Am thinking about going to Pomfret this afternoon. – About three o'clock I got a team, or rather a horse and buggy and we rode to the old homestead and got a supper and a good visit and some apples and some corn, a very rare kind of sweet corn for boiling. It soon began to rain and we hurried back to our boarding place. Did not go to the office in the evening but staid in our room. Paid for flour and meal \$1.70. Paid for key twenty cents. – Received of the Railroad Company \$102.10 for August.

Credits – 102.10

Debits – 1.70, .20

September 11

There was a severe shower about five o'clock this morning and now (8 a.m.) the rain still continues. It stopped raining soon after 8 o'clock and the engineers went to work on the road. Paid for a picture three dollars and fifty cents, and for a file thirty cents. Paid for pens ten cents and Russell 35 cents making forty five cents. The book that I subscribed for long ago has come and I must find the agent and pay for it. The evening is very warm and about eight o'clock it began to rain. We attended Prof. Gunning's lecture, and as usual the lecture was extremely interesting. Went home in a drenching rain. Paid 15 cent to Mr. Fisher, and fifty five dollars to Jasper Hazen for mowing machine.

Debits – 3.50, .30, .45, .15, 55.00

September 12

Met the book agent this morning and paid him seven dollars seventy five cents for the Analysis of the Bible. Paid for pencil fifteen cents, and in the afternoon I paid Eaton for Joanna three dollars. Have been quite unwell for the last few days. Yesterday the heat was quite too much for me, and I was almost exhausted while listening to the lecture. Spent the afternoon copying the estimates on to sheets and arranging the work for the Book of records. In the afternoon Polk and Abbie rode to Pomfret with Mrs. Chamberlin and we were left alone. Rainy in the evening.

Debits – 7.75, .15, 3.00

Monday, September 14

In the morning I started for Quechee and the Champion road. Explored it and then went to White River to see Mr. Phillips who was laying out the large culvert on Mr. Pearson's land. We took a view of the work in that region and then I came back to Woodstock. In the evening we attended the lecture of Prof. Gunning. The topic was the period of Glaciers. It was one of the most profound and one of the best lectures that I ever heard. There was much in the lecture that was new to me; that is, much of the fact that Prof. G. had seen and heard. His touches of astronomy were very rich but not wholly new. The whole lecture was most excellent. Paid Mr. Pease twenty five cents for feeding horse. Sent three dollars for Christian Register.

Debits - .25, 3.00

September 15

This morning I was called into General Washburn's office on railroad business. Decided to have the line on Barron's run again. The morning was clear and warm, but a strong wind blew from the Southeast. We went to Mr. Dewey's in the afternoon to see the gulf and so we visited the East side first and then crossed the pond in a boat and visited the west side. I advanced thirty dollars for Mr. Osgood and let Mr. Phillips carry it to him. We went and came on the north side of the river. Mr. Gunning was at the gulf but we were on the opposite side at the time. Paid Abbie twenty cents. Paid for sweet potatoes five cents.

Debits – 30.00, .20, .05

September 16

Rainy in the morning but it soon became more bright and pleasant. The wind became northwesterly and the air much cooler. I did but little through the day, for a dull yet severe headache so it was too painful to work. Was at work on the estimates for it seemed necessary to have a full knowledge of the state of the work. In the evening we attended the lecture at the town hall. Prof. Gunning seemed to do his best, and indeed he is one of the best orators that I have heard for a long time. Rainy in the forenoon and evening.

September 17

In the forenoon Simeon and I went to Quechee and on the plains beyond to find Mr. Phillips but he was not to be found on the work but we found him on our way home at Mr. Wood's. Arrived home about two o'clock and after dinner I went to work on the estimates. After a long and arduous struggle with the computations I came to the conclusions that I am to present to the board this evening. At about eight o'clock I went to the meeting and presented my figures and it greatly depressed some of the members of the board. Staid at the meeting till nearly eleven o'clock, when Mr. Chamberlin went home with me. Mr. Phillips came to Woodstock to attend the meeting but was not called. Received thirty dollars of Mr. Osgood.

Credits – 30.00

September 18

Mr. Phillips remained through the day and assisted me in making a more full estimate of the final cost of the grading of the road. Worked through the day on those estimates and carried in a report in the evening. This was very well received and made the prospect more cheerful and flattering. Mr. Phillips does not leave tonight, but will attend the meeting of the directors this evening if needed. Abigail came down from Pomfret and will stop a day or two. She has hardly been away from home this summer. I attended the road meeting for a few minutes, then went home and spent the evening very happily at home.

September 19

Paid Haskell for four nos. of the Silliman's Journal three dollars and sixty cents. Paid 8 cents for tacks, also paid French for team to Pomfret twice, one dollar. Moved my bed from the office to the house which we try to call home, but it is not all that we might wish to call home. I did but little hard Railroad work today, but towards night Mortimer came for us and we rode to Pomfret intending to stay over Sunday at the old homestead. The village is alive with inhabitants from the neighboring farms and towns. The air is cool and it is quite pleasant. Cornelius Paddock called upon us a few minutes in the afternoon, and Miss McKenzie also called.

Debits – 3.60, .08, 1.00

Sunday, September 20

We came to Pomfret last night and are spending the day very pleasantly. It began to rain in the morning and hardly ceased through the day. Mrs. Bridge called in the afternoon and staid to supper.

September 21

Today I walked to the office and very soon after I started for the gulf to run a line into the pit where we have been excavating the rock for the base of an abutment. The day has been almost perfectly clear and there has been a cool northwest wind. Came to the office about three o'clock, and then I went to the house and took supper, after which I started for Pomfret. Had a very pleasant walk. Stopped at Taftsville to see the huge bank wall near the shop. The work needs watching.

September 22

Came to our old home last night and found Mrs. D. some better. Hope we can go to Woodstock soon. We remained at home till afternoon when we rode to Woodstock, Mortimer taking the horse back to Pomfret. Paid Edward Doton ten dollars on the note that he holds against me. Robert came down from Pomfret, but I did not expect he was able to come. But he is not well and I am afraid he never will be fully so. It is strange how much of the time I am hindered at the office and in the streets. This is the first day of the "fair," and it is but feebly attended. Saw Kimball Perkins at the office and he let me have a silver watch chain to sell for him.

Debits – 10.00

September 23

Rainy in the morning and it seems but dreary for a "fair" day. Met Mr. Marsh and Dr. Hazen in the Park and they were listening to the music from the four bands who are playing for a premium. They are the Bethel, Bridgewater, Ludlow, and the West Windsor. A few days ago I paid Mr. Miller for an almanac ten cents, and I also paid Mr. Russell for a cap to a pencil twenty five cents. This makes our cash account balance perfectly and I hope we are able to keep it so. The managers of the fair have concluded to extend it two more days on account of the rain today. The weather is cool as well as wet, and is very unfavorable for the ladies that wish to attend.

Debits - .10, .25

September 24

Another day of the fair and to every appearance now a rainy day is to be met. I went to the office in the morning and met Gen. Washburn, who talked much of the work on the road. He is very anxious about the Bridge seat at the gulf, and we must try to reduce the expenses of the work at that point. In the afternoon I went to the office and to work on copying the estimates into the books for preservation. Paid three dollars and fifty cents to Mr. Fairbanks for a half cord of wood. Also sent one dollar and fifty cents to the Mass Teacher to pay for the present volume. One of Mr. Dennison's sons came to see Polk and to remain with him overnight. Abbie is some unwell.

Debits – 3.50, 1.50

September 25

A rainy morning and it bespeaks a rainy day. Went to the office early in the morning and Simeon assisted me in moving my books from the middle room of the office to my own room. This change suits me very well so far and I do not know why the arrangement is not a good one. The rain prevents all work about the "fair," and the managers have put off the rest of the programme till some future time. H.B. Thompson called to see me this afternoon. Mr. Brigham of Bethel called and we went to Mr. Bailey's and paid for a chain for Kimball, twenty dollars. Had a talk with Mr. Marsh about a house lot. Spent the evening at home and the time passed pleasantly. Robert left for home. His father was here and took supper, also Mr. Chamberlin was here.

Debits – 20.00

September 26

A cool cloudy morning. – The leaves are putting on their fall dress very rapidly. Almost every tree shows signs of change and some are very much turned. One near our window shows light red, yellow, orange, and green the yellow predominating. Today I am to go out on the line of the Railroad. Rode with Mr. Chamberlin to Quechee, and then I went to the gulf with Gen. Washburn and Mr. Sims: afterwards I went to see Mr. Phillips and found him quite unwell. He seems to be threatened with bilious fever. I intended to go to the Champion road, but found I was too late, so I came back to Woodstock with Mr. Chamberlin. Paid Mr. Fairbanks for a pound of tea 1 dollar and 20 cents. Brought a letter from Mr. Dewey to Mr. Munger. It was a release on a cattle pass. Sat down pleasantly at home in the evening.

Debits – 1.20

Monday, September 28

Yesterday was slightly stormy through the day and I remained at home and did not even go to church or to the post office. Wrote a long letter to Robert though he has not left for home yet and may not for some days. Today I went to Quechee and to the Champion road. I found that road very well made and I think the selectmen of Hartford ought to accept of it, and we shall notify them soon, to examine it. I went to the gulf and made such measures as were necessary to fix the pier for the bridge. Mr. Phillips went with me to the Champion road. Rode from Quechee in the stage and arrived at Woodstock a little before five. After supper I went to the office to adjust some of the papers. – Paid Thompson for lamp 60 cents.

Debits - .60

September 29

A high wind in the night and cooler this morning. Tried to compute the time but found some difficulty in doing it. Took a horse and buggy and started for the Junction. Called at Quechee and took Phillips and we went to the Junction and made an examination of the road on Tilden's land near Col. Nutt's. Took dinner at Barron's and paid him all our expenses, one dollar and fifty cents. A cold showery day.

Debits – 1.50

September 30

Mr. Cushing called on me in the morning and we went with the selectmen to look at the road on the Gallup farm and the selectmen concluded to let the road be till the cross-section stakes are set. In the afternoon I went with the selectmen to run a line for the extension of Lincoln street. We also made a survey of an alteration of the road near Mr. Fisher's house. After we had finished this Polk and I went to the Marsh meadow and made a measurement of a house lot or two. Made the lot 19 rods long and it can be made 16 or 17 rods wide.

October 1

Was quite unwell through the day but still kept at work in the office. In the afternoon Mr. Thompson and Mr. Fletcher the Passumpsic road bridge builder came with his plans for a bridge, and in the evening the whole matter was examined by Gen. Washburn and some of the directors of the road. When I went to supper I went by Horace Dunham's and carried some flowers to our house on College Hill.

October 2

The weather is cool and cloudy, and I remained in the office in the forenoon and moved my large office table into the back office. In the afternoon I went with Mr. Pratt to measure some work near Taftsville. The great bankwall at Taft's is nearly done and is a good piece of work for the kind. Some of the first of it was done with too light materials. Came home about six o'clock but did not try to work in the evening. Paid Billings 19 cents for two tumblers for the office.

Debits - .19

October 3

The morning was very clear and I took the time and found my watch about 42 seconds too fast. Did not set my watch. The men went to Henderson's work and laid out more for him. I remained in the office through the day and fitted out the pay roll for September. Mrs. D. called on Dr. McCallum to prescribe for her eyes. The optic nerve is probably affected and she will be obliged to favor them or they will trouble her very much hereafter.

Monday, October 5

Yesterday we got Simeon Dunham's horse and went to Pomfret; - Called at home and then went to Mr. Perkins' where we had a very good chat. Came home in the evening. Today the morning was cloudy but it soon came off very clear and pleasant. Self went to Quechee and to the gulf. Called on Mr. Phillips and we laid out the bridge seat on the eastern side. Got of the Railroad Co. one hundred and two dollars and forty four cents and then paid the third assessment on twelve shares, sixty dollars. I then paid Greene two dollars and sixty seven cents. I also paid Munger four dollars and fifteen cents. Paid Paul for tea \$1.74, and gas bill \$1.50 and Billings 12 cents.

Credits – 102.44

Debits – 60.00, 2.67, 4.15, 3.36

October 6

Mrs. D. went to Dr. Russ's on a visit with Mrs. Dunham, going with Billings. They returned at about half past seven in the evening. Self went to the Junction with Mr. Clarke to see Col. Nutt and to arrange about a town road by his house. Went to the Junction depot and took dinner. We came over the Railroad to White River Village when Mr. Clarke went back to Mr. Pierce's for the team and I came to the road crossing above Mr. Tracy's. We then came via Shallies Hill home. Paid at depot 20 cents for a lunch. In the evening I got the O.P. Chandler telescope to look at Jupiter and his satellites. Mrs. D. came home by Billings stage about eight o'clock in the evening.

Debits – .20

October 7

The morning was pleasant but cloudy with fog in the valleys among the hills. Went quite early to the office and had Simeon and Horace go to the Junction to set fence stakes. Paid Abbie one dollar and paid Billings for kerosene twelve cents and Paul 12 cents for several potatoes. I remained in the office through the day and in the evening I worked in the office till past eight o'clock. The evening is all over cloudy but not very dense, with cirro stratus clouds. The wind since morning has been in the southwest. The autumn leaves are most strikingly beautiful, and it seems as though they could not be more so this fall, but a day or two will tell. The colors are much brighter this year than usual.

Debits – 1.00, .12, .12

October 8

Went to the office and got the estimates ready for copying but I could not begin it till after going to the gulf. General Washburn left this morning for Boston. In the afternoon, I went to Quechee with Mr. Clarke and we examined the bridge seat and also the Culvert Masonry that has just now been done on Mr. Barron's land. We called on Mr. Phillips but did not find him at home. Robert Perkins came down this morning and I paid him for some stereoscopic views that I bought of him some time ago, \$2.50. – I also paid Haskell 65 cents for a bottle of ink. Mrs. Bridge called on us, also Dr. and Mrs. Hazen called. Joanna came down expecting to go to North Bridgewater but concluded to wait till morning. This is perhaps the day when the autumn leaves wore their brightest colors.

Debits – 2.50, .65

October 9

Arose early this morning to get the folks away to North Bridgewater early, Mrs. D. and Abbie going with Joanna. I have been in the office today and am trying to count the estimates for the last month. Polk and I have kept house alone today and have got along very well, but this evening the house seems a little desolate. I have paid out today twenty five cents to Mr. Thompson for a stove shovel, and twenty five cents to Billings for a paper of matches. I know I am here alone and listening to every sound for the clock seems to tick so very loud. Today I paid Polk fifteen dollars for board or to apply towards our board. – How beautiful are the forests; But yesterday was perhaps the day of brightest colors.

Debits - .25, .25, 15.00

October 10

A cool morning even for October, but I went to the office and soon started for the Junction with Mr. Clarke. We came for the purpose of making some arrangements with Mr. Pierce, and succeeded very well. The leaves are falling rapidly this morning and the day of brightest colors is past for this season. The forests look bare and forsaken in places where the soil is dry and barren. Paid ten cents for a lunch at the depot at the Junction. The middle of the day was quite beautiful and the wind was in the west but was not very strong.

Debits - .10

Monday, October 12

Yesterday I was quite unwell through the day, but we went to church in the afternoon and heard Mr. Foster. Lizzie Bridge called after lunch and her mother came for her. This morning I went to the office quite early and got Mr. Bradley to haul a load of wood. Robbie Perkins called in the morning and is to start for Chicago soon, perhaps tomorrow. Paid Mr. Cushing for three views for Robbie 75 cents. Also paid Thompson for a lamp 20 cents. Towards night I met a map man who was here correcting a new map of Windsor County, or rather a map of each town. I called at his room in the evening at the hotel, and looked over his map of Pomfret and found it quite correct. Paid Bradley 15 cents for putting wood into the wood house. — Yesterday I paid 63 cents for beef.

Debits - .75, .20, .15, .63

October 13

Worked in the office through the forenoon and nearly all the afternoon. Carlie Dunham came to write her lessons at about four o'clock. Her cousin Emma Dunham came with her. I paid Billings thirteen cents for a bottle of kerosene. Got an old ink bottle for that purpose. Finished the estimate and made the returns to Mr. Sims and Mr. Munger. The estimate of work done last month is very heavy there having been more than forty four thousand yards of earth removed. Horace Dunham has bought a house lot of Wm. Paine on the hill back of the school house.

Debits - .13

October 14

Mailed a letter to the selectmen of Hartford to have them examine the road near Mr. Champion's and the one near Mr. Church's. I rode to Taftsville with Mr. Chamberlin and worked around the buildings and walls to see what would be the best position for the track of the main line. In the afternoon I went with Mr. Clarke to Quechee and to Porter's pasture to see Mr. Phillips, but failed to find him. Examined some work on Mr. Gilson's land by the side of the road. Polk went to Capt. Parker's to run a piece of land that he has sold. The day has been quite pleasant and is a good one for work. Found a very beautiful piece of serpentine near the Town House in Hartford.

October 15

Went early to the office but the men had gone to their work on the road. I worked on the estimates finishing them for record. This is a very busy day for those who are fond of trotting matches, as the fair was postponed till today. I take no interest in such plays or such amusements. Kimball Perkins called to settle about his work with Mr. Brigham, but he was nearly paid off. Although the day is cloudy with some appearance of rain, it has not rained except a few minutes this morning. The forests are beginning to look naked and cold. How soon that season of greatest beauty passes by. This year the brightest day was the eighth of this which is very near the ninth as I had before fixed as the average time of brightest colors. Paid three dollars and twenty five cents for Handkerchief.

Debits – 3.25

October 16

Mr. Thompson staid here through the night and called at the office this morning to make arrangements about a map of Woodstock. Paid Mr. Munger for a handkerchief three dollars and 25 cents yesterday, but did not put it in my notebook. Spent the greater part of the day at the office. In the evening I took the acknowledgment of four deeds for Wm. Paine and Lyman Mower. Polk assisted in the writing part of some of the deeds, but I hardly know who made them. Have been some unwell for the past few days and am not much better this evening, though it is nearly ten o'clock as I write. Paid Haskell for Repositories seventy five cents.

Debits - .75

October 17

First Snow of the season; and now, six o'clock a.m. the large flakes are falling thick and fast, and it looks like winter. Went to the Champion road to meet the selectmen of Hartford. Mr. Clarke went with me. The day has been very cold and is growing colder. A rough, squally day. Came home at night very cold. Agreed with Lester Miller to take the Springfield Republican till next April for one dollar and ten cents. Paid Billings for kerosene thirteen cents. Ira Abbott came here and took supper. He is a very worthy and amiable young man and takes a high stand in college. He is now in his third year. He is to teach the school at South Pomfret the coming winter and, I think they may expect a good school.

Debits - 1.10, .13

Monday, October 19

Yesterday morning was cold and clear but cloudy before night. I went to the office in the morning and took an observation on the sun for getting the time. Paid Mr. Richmond thirty cents for a bit of steak. Staid in the office at home the greater part of the day and was quite unwell, so that I could read or write but little. This morning I went to the office and it soon began to storm; hail at first and then a slight rain, and this continued so through the day, though the rain amounted to but very little. Paid Lester Miller 30 cents for 8 copies of the Springfield Republican. I also paid Billings 10 cents for two dozen clothes pins for Abbie.

Debits - .30, .30, .10

October 20

The morning was quite pleasant and the men left for the road early in the morning. Mrs. D. went to Mrs. Latimer's with Mrs. Dunham on a visit and returned about six o'clock in the evening. Self worked in the office through the day to get the estimates copied. I have kept myself from paying out anything but I wrote some letters calling in some little debts that have long been due. Am some dull and stupid this evening with a good headache, so that I wish to keep my pen running quite rapidly.

October 21

Early in the morning Little Lewis Pratt called for me to go with Mr. Clarke to the work at Taftsville and we started soon after seven o'clock. Spent about an hour at the bridge near Mr. Rider's and getting Mr. Emmons to oversee the work we went to Quechee and called on Mr. Phillips and staid there till after dinner. We then took a walk through Mrs. Strong's woods and over the line on Mr. Morse's land to the gulf. We then started for home but went to the work on Mr. Barron's. It began to rain and to snow about noon and continued to storm through the afternoon. We arrived home about five o'clock, - cold and some wet.

October 22

Awoke this morning and found the snow falling fast and about two inches deep. Did not hurry to get to the office for I was quite sure we could not go out to the work on the road. The storm is quite uncomfortable though the air is not very cold. Worked in the office till about noon. Got four pictures of Mr. Cushing and paid him one dollar for them. In the afternoon I staid at the office till nearly five o'clock and wrote the greater part of the time, but was quite unwell. Staid at my room in the evening and wrote the greater part of the time. Wrote a letter to Josiah B Crocker, and also one to Oliver Ellsworth of Boston.

Debits – 1.00

October 23

The morning was cool and clear but soon became cloudy and rough. I remained in the office till about noon, but could hardly put myself to hard study. Found that Clarke had laid out the masonry on the bridge by Henry Babcock's much heavier than I wanted but it cannot be helped now for the work is nearly done on that one abutment. I shall not have the other bridge laid out so heavy. In the afternoon I went to Mr. Woodward's to set the vane on his new barn. The air was very cold and damp and I took a severe cold. Have kept my wallet locked today so that I have paid out no money. Am some dull this evening from having been exposed so much to the cold.

October 24

Cold this morning. Thermometer +11. This is the coldest this season, the minimum standing at +10½. The weather is clear and cold. In the forenoon I staid in the office and Mr. Clarke called to talk over the financial affairs of the Railroad Company. In the afternoon I got a horse and buggy of Mr. French and rode to Taftsville to see the work in that section. The masons were at work on the westerly abutment of the bridge near Mr. Tracy's and their work is very strong and heavy, more heavy than I wished to have it. Mr. Emmons is getting out timber for a foundation to the walls at the bridge at Taftsville. Came home about four o'clock and was some cold, as the wind was in the west and rather fresh and strong. Paid Haskell \$1.50 for the Oct. No. of the North American. Paid Abbie fifty cents to pay to Mrs. Darby.

Debits – 1.50, .50

Monday, October 26

Yesterday we staid in our room and were both some jaded out and could hardly rest any where. We had intended to go to Pomfret but were too unwell. Tried to read and got hold of Henry B. Adams' article in the North American on the great truths of Geology as treated in Lyell's latest edition of the Principles of Geology. Today I am not much better and could hardly get to the office. Did not go down to the lower end of the road as I had intended, but remained at home, a part of the time at the office, and the remainder at the house. Horace and Simeon went to the Junction to assist Mr. Phillips and to set fence stakes on Mr. Roberts' land.

October 27

Rested rather badly last night and am not well this morning. Gen. Washburn wishes me to go over the line with Mr. Greene, and show him all the work and I concluded to go. Took a horse and carriage from French's stable and we walked some and rode some over the whole line. Rode to Mr. Henderson's work and then walked nearly all the way to Dewey's crossing, we then rode to the Morse crossing and from that point we walked to the Junction following the line of the road. We then started immediately for home where we arrived at about half past six. – Bought a pair of rubbers from Mr. Loite for one dollar and fifteen cents but did not pay for them when I took them.

October 28

Did not start very early this morning for my walk yesterday was a very hard one, and I feel it very sensibly. I went to the office in the morning but came up before noon and did some work and some writing at my room. The walk that I took yesterday was a very severe one for me and today I am too lazy to work at all. Hon. Andrew Tracy died this forenoon about eleven o'clock. His health has been very bad for a long time, and he has been kept alive by good care and careful attention to every thing pertaining to health. Paid ten cents for pen holders, and three cents for postage.

Debits .10, .03

October 29

A cool clear morning. – About ten o'clock Mr. Cushing and Mr. Murdock called to have me run the line of the new street on the hill back of the school house. Mr. Phillips called to bring some letters and plans that he has of the bridge question and I am glad he has found the company that we have long been trying to find. In the afternoon I staid in the office till night. Tried to write some in the evening but was too tired and sleepy. Mr. Green comes out this week with good Railroad article, and gives a good description of the work. An extremely beautiful evening, - the moon nearly full and air not extremely cold.

October 30

Went to the office but am not able to go on to the line so I remained in the office for a time and then went to the house. Paid seventeen cents for some sweet potatoes, and had a good feast of them at noon. – In the afternoon I went with Mr. Clarke to Taftsville to see the masonry at that place. The bridge at Mr. Babcock's will be somewhat expensive but very strong. The masonry is too heavy, especially for so small a stream. How very clear and beautiful the day has been, and I hope these days will last for some time. The autumn has, so far, been rather cold and rough, but we shall have an Indian summer yet. Paid Billings thirteen cents for kerosene. – Paid Bradley twenty five cents. Paid for vest buckles six cents.

Debits - .17, .13, .25, .06

October 31

The morning was almost perfectly clear but before eight o'clock the sky was fully overcast with clouds. Did not rest very well last night, for my ride to Taftsville was a hard one for I am quite unwell with a cold. Went to the office soon after breakfast and went back again before noon. Mailed another letter to Mr. J.H. Pratt on the school question. Received of the R.R. Company to be accounted for on the next pay roll, twelve dollars; - and I paid Mr. Fairbanks ten dollars and fifty cents. Paid Fletcher and Slack for sweet potatoes 0.25. Polk and Abbie have gone to Pomfret and will not be back till tomorrow night. They have not been there for a long time.

Credits – 12.00

Debits – 10.50, .25

Monday, November 2

Yesterday we were here alone through the day and it stormed all day long that did not accord with a good headache. The day passed very pleasantly. Paid Mr. Hewitt twenty five cents for steak. This morning I found about an inch of snow on the ground and it still was falling. Went to the office and concluded to go to Quechee this afternoon. Polk and Abbie came home about nine o'clock. The storm continues to increase but I went to meet the selectmen of Hartford on the new road near Osman Woods. Made a survey of the road that we have altered, and then came back to the office. Paid Paul forty cents for molasses. Spent the evening at my room and at my table.

Debits - .25, .40

November 3

This is the day for choosing electors of President and Vice President; and though the passing is very bad, there will be a heavy vote polled in all the northern states. I remained at home and did not lose my vote for I fully believe Gen. Grant is elected President and Colfax vice president. Some of our New York voters are uneasy for it is some doubtful how New York will go on the presidential question. The news that came late in the evening tends to confirm the election of Grant and Colfax. Paid for telegraphing fifty cents. Got of the railroad company eighty nine dollars and forty five cents as the balance for my services last month. Paid fourth assessment \$60.00 Paid Paul for tea \$1.50

Credits – 89.45

Debits - .50, 60.00, 1.50

November 4

The news comes very much in favor of Grant & Colfax. Paid Pratt for dictionary five dollars 60 cents. Paid Knapp fifteen cents for envelopes, and paid post office ninety nine cents for stamps. I also paid Fairbanks twenty cents for fixing wallet. Paid Munger fifty cent for braid, and I paid Billings for silk six cents. Paid for postage stamps as above. Paid Munger nine dollars for under garments and fifty cents for braid. How much the account of this month shows our necessary expenses. We do without things of almost every kind till after our payday comes; then comes a mass of little payments. The men have been on the road today though the weather has been very unfavorable for work. Gen. Washburn has been in to make an estimate of the work to be done on the road as there is to be a town meeting tomorrow.

Debits – 5.60, .15, .99, .20, .06, 9.00, .50

November 5

Had a talk with Clarke about leaving the road, and I am hoping he can find a good place where he can make more than he can here. Worked on my estimate of the cost of the road. Worked in the office this forenoon. Mr. Chamberlin came down and was at dinner today. In the afternoon I attended the town meeting for a short time, and then went to the office to work. The result of the meeting was a vote to bond the town for thirty thousand dollars, and I am glad to have them take that view of the subject. Some rainy through the middle of the day. Paid Wentworth for hair cutting twenty cents. Am writing at home this evening.

Debits - .20

November 6

The engineering corps are in some commotion this morning on account of proposals to diminish the number of hands. It is not yet decided when the retrenchment must begin, and it cannot begin any where or till the estimate is made out. I staid in the office through the day. Miss Ellen Hatch, daughter of Philo Hatch, is buried today. His family seems destined to go early one son having gone before, and there are but two children left, I think. The weather has been cold and chilly through the day. – The engineers have gone to their work estimating the work done last month. There will be another very full estimate, at least as much as we shall wish to pay for.

November 7

The morning is cool but clear and beautiful as May. The men went on to the road but came back quite early so that I could have the horse and wagon. I worked in the office through the day and in the evening we rode to our homestead in Pomfret. The evening was pleasant but some cool. We reached there about eight o'clock in the evening. Have tried my new undergarments and have them much superior to any other kind that I have ever known. Today have paid out full ten cents for pens and have tried them quite thoroughly. I am now writing with Carters 303 that Mr. Turner wished me to try. They are a little broader than Gillott's 303 pen.

Debits - .10

Monday, November 9

Yesterday we remained at home through the day, and did not come down at night for it rained and snowed just enough to keep us there. We spent a part of the day in our own room looking over the books and papers there. This morning we came down though the storm still continues. The weather is not very cold but damp and foggy and rather bad for colds and coughs. We did not get here till nearly noon, but I went directly to the office to work. Am preparing copies of all the culvert and other masonry so that nothing can be lost when we come to a final settlement. Paid Billings for Kerosene twenty five cents. Have kept my writing along for the day.

Debits - .25

November 10

A very rainy night and rainy this morning. Went to the office and found that Clarke had not finished his estimate, but found that the October work would exceed that for September by many thousand yards of earth excavation. This will call for energy in collecting the funds as the payment will be almost twenty five thousand dollars. This is quite a sum for the community around us to make out. The rain continued through the day and this evening seems a little cooler. When it stops raining and the wind gets northwesterly we may expect cold weather. Worked in the office nearly all day but much of the time it was too dark to see with ease.

November 11

Rainy in the morning but I concluded to go to the Junction and carry some large lead pipe to Mr. Pierce. Simeon Dunham and I started about ten o'clock. We found the passing very bad, made so by the late rains and the constant travel. Found Mr. Phillips at the Junction and we examined the bank wall at Col. Nutt's and also the road at White River Village. We then rode and walked to Seth Wood's and Simeon and myself came to Woodstock and arrived there about eight o'clock in the evening.

November 12

Some cooler this morning. Polk is going to make a survey for Mr. Daniels. Self wrote to Bethel about doing some leveling but worked through the day on the estimate for October, and finished them up and made them ready for the president of the company and for the contractors. Left the papers with Mr. Clarke who will place them where they belong. Am making preparations to go to Bethel tomorrow but hope I may not be called for. Watched for a telegram to that effect but it did not come. Called at the office in the evening for that purpose but found no letter or dispatch. Paid school tax to George D. Raymond ten dollars and fourteen cents.

Debits – 10.14

November 13

Found a letter from Bethel letting me know that the leveling is postponed for the present on account of the lateness of the season. Was very glad to be released from going there this fall as the season is too far advanced to do such work. Staid in the office through the day. Abbie called on me there and so did Joanna and Mrs. D. We concluded to go home with Joanna, and it was quite late before we were ready to go. Self walked to Pomfret in the evening. Have expected to see shooting stars but have not seen them yet. – Paid the box five cents. Paid for stamps four cents. Paid for beef last Thursday forty cents. Paid box at sundry times.

Debits - .05, .04, .40, .08

November 14

Shooting Stars! A Meteor Shower!! Awoke this morning very early and soon saw the light of the meteors, so we arose to see them. They were almost constant; and it was a most beautiful display, and only surpassed by the great shower of 1833. – The cause of these showers is still a mystery. Walked to Woodstock in the morning and soon met Dr. Hazen who spoke of the meteoric shower. Staid about home and at the office through the day, and early in the evening I walked to Pomfret where Mrs. D. has been since yesterday. It seems this evening as though I could sit down and rest me quietly.

Monday, November 16

Yesterday we remained at the old homestead through the day. Weather some cool, the thermometer standing at +22 degrees in the morning. For some days past, or through the stormy weather the thermometer stood very near or at the freezing point, and there was snow on the ground in some places and it neither increased or diminished. This morning I walked down from Pomfret and Mrs. D. rode with Joanna. I went to the office, but Mr. Cushing soon called for me to make a survey of the new street on Mr. Marsh's hill above the east end of River Street. He calls the new street Maple Street. Attended a railroad meeting in the afternoon, - a spirited meeting. Every member of the Board of directors seemed determined to push the road to completion as rapidly as possible.

November 17

Intended to go to Taftsville today but Mr. Clarke was detained and we did not go. Was in the office the greater part of the day, and in the afternoon was quite unwell, but I kept to myself as much as possible. Staid in the office and had a long call from Mr. Dewey who made many suggestions on subjects pertaining to the Railroad, the bridge, etc. Mr. Greene wishes me to prepare an article on the Meteoric Shower of the 14th and I took hold of it in the evening but could not write anything worth reading and I left it for morning. Polk was at work all the evening on the computations for Mr. Daniels' survey. Borrowed of Abbie one dollar and a quarter for a few days.

Credits – 1.25

November 18

Could not write last evening and I arose this morning quite early to finish an article on the meteoric shower of last Saturday. Finished the article and carried it to Mr. Greene. Worked in my own room but after noon was called to the office to see Mr. Phillips on business connected with the line. – Mr. Fletcher the bridge man came in the stage at night and I had a long interview with him in the evening. He seems very sure that his plan, the lock Cottier bridge, is a good one and perhaps it is as good as can be found for a wooden bridge.

November 19

This same damp cloudy weather continues and Simeon Dunham and I rode down the line as far as the new road at Churches. We made careful examination of the work at Knowlton's and at Taft's, and also at the new road on Mr. Church's land. Came back very tired and in the evening was too tired and too unwell to read or write at all, and I early retired to rest, though not till after spending some time at Gen. Washburn's office in chat about the road at the Junction. Spenser and wife visited here in the afternoon and evening. Rosannah Paddock came here this forenoon, and will stay through the day.

November 20

The morning was quite rough but it was very necessary for us, Francis W. Clarke and myself, to go to the Junction. We got a horse and buggy of French and set out while the snow in the fields was nearly half a foot deep. We arrived at the Junction about noon and made such examination of the work as seemed necessary, and made some arrangements with Mr. Tilden about borrowing on his land near Col. Nutt's. We came home in the early evening coming on the north side of the river as much as possible, for the heavy teams had cut the road badly on the south side. Was quite cold and chilly when I got home.

November 21

Was quite unwell this morning and did not get to the office very early. Took a severe cold yesterday and am too giddy to try to work. After staying at the office for a time, I went back to the house and staid there till towards night. Went to the office again about mail time but did not wait for it as the stage was quite late. Paid Mr. Tate one dollar and fifteen cents for the rubbers that I bought of him a week ago. Have spent but little time at the office today for I have not been able to work. Received of the box thirty one cents.

Credits - .31

Debits – 1.15

Monday, November 23

Yesterday we remained at our own hired house and went to church in the afternoon to hear Mr. Powers. He preached extempore and I think it an improvement for I never heard him do better. Today I went to the office as early as possible but did not stay there very long for I am not able to write very much of the time. Mr. Bradley brought a cord of wood and in the afternoon Mr. Chamberlin came and brought some things to Abbie. The day has been very pleasant and clear, though the morning was cloudy. Charles Smith called at the office and got the pay, or part of his pay, for building the Champion road. Paid Billings for kerosene twelve cents.

Debits - .12

November 24

There was a very high wind through the latter part of the night and it seemed to be directly in the west. The morning was not very cold, and about ten o'clock we, Mr. Pratt and myself, started for White River Village. Called at Taftsville and at the new road, which we found some out of repair, though not so bad as the roads in many places between Woodstock and the Station. We then went to see Mr. Phillips and found that he had in part made arrangements for the bridge abutments at the road-crossing. We went to the gulf to see how the easterly side was progressing, and then to the crossing near Mrs. Carlisle's. We then came to the new road and directed about fixing it. Borrowed of Abbie one dollar and returned twenty eight cents.

Credits – 1.00

Debits - .28

November 25

Rested very badly last night but went early to the office to start some one to see to the fitness of the road for the stage and other teams to pass today; but Mr. Sims had made a similar arrangement. Staid in the office till after eleven o'clock and then went to the house. Carlie Dunham came at noon to recite her lessons. In the afternoon I went with Mr. Clarke to Taftsville to engage workmen to fix some open culverts on Church's land. – At night, Mr. Hawkins called for Polk and Abbie and they went to Mr. Chamberlin's to Thanksgiving while we are here and shall stay till tomorrow. In the evening we were alone and we called it very pleasant to be by ourselves for a little while. Have listened all the evening in expectation that Mortimer would be coming to carry us to Pomfret.

November 26

The day opened very pleasantly and we took breakfast at home. The morning was misty and there were strong signs of rain. About ten o'clock it began to rain quite hard. Fred came for us in the rain and we went home to thanksgiving. Mr. Leach and Louisa were there, and Carylou Leach. Spenser's folks came and so we had a full company of twelve at the table. The day was very snowy and uncomfortable, though not cold. In the evening we all went to Spenser's and had a very pleasant visit. The evening was partly clear and the moon added much to its beauty. Went to our room a little before ten o'clock where I wrote a letter to my best friend, and it was very happily received. It is pleasant to be in our own room surrounded by good books.

November 27

Cooler this morning with a high northwest wind. Did not hurry about starting from there but Mortimer carried us to Woodstock a little before noon. In the afternoon I went to the office also called on Gen. Washburn who had just received a line from Mr. Daniel Tilden about his gravel bank near Col. Nutt's. Have a severe headache this afternoon and cannot write easily so I went early to my room; a very pleasant place of resort. The weather was warm in the middle of the day and the sleighing soon began to be rather hard. Business seemed lively and there were many people in the village. Polk and Abbie did not come down till this morning but we are here again now and shall expect to stay a few days before starting out again. Paid Bradley 25 cents.

Debits - .25

November 28

Am again compelled to start out. Must go to the Junction today to make some trade with Mr. Tilden about his land that the contractors are crowding upon so closely. A Mr. Skidmore sent by S.S. & A.J. Post came this morning and is exhibiting his plans of the McCollum bridge. He has some very beautiful plans of bridges of wood and iron, and perhaps he will build our bridge for us. In the afternoon he rode to the site where we wish to have a bridge erected. Mr. Clarke and I went to the Junction and got a proposition from Mr. Tilden and we shall probably accept it. The passing is very bad and we had a cold and damp time but returned safely. Paid at the Junction ten cents; and in the evening I paid Abbie 21 cents.

Debits - .10, .21

Sunday, November 29

Went to the Post Office about nine o'clock and found myself quite unwell. Did not attend church but kept my room through the day. Horace called here at noon, and Caroline, Mrs. Ayers, came. The day has been cool and there have been signs of storm.

November 30

Today I arose early after a very good rest and soon Simeon and I started for Quechee where we met Mr. Phillips and we then arranged about the tower road from the bridge site to the Dewey farm. We came home about two o'clock and were some cold. In the afternoon I went to Gen. Washburn's office where I met Mr. Dewey and Mr. Skidmore besides some of the directors, and had the bridge question under consideration. I hope they will feel able to contract for an iron bridge.

December 1

A cool morning. Went early to the office and mailed a letter to the Claremont Manufac. Company sending a bill for the almanac. Paid Mr. Knapp for Silliman's Journal for November ninety cents, and paid Lewis Pratt for Spencerian pens ten cents; - also paid Fairbanks for a cord of wood seven dollars; but this was not till I had received one hundred dollars of the Woodstock Railroad and paid sixty dollars assessment. Simeon went to Quechee to assist Mr. Phillips about his measurements for making his monthly estimate. Clarke and Horace Dunham went to Quechee to measure up the work on Barron's and on Henderson's work. Mr. Skidmore left this morning. Mr. & Mrs. Kent called in the evening.

Credits - 100.00

Debits - 60.00, 7.00, .90, .10

December 2

Another cool morning. - Went to the office and prepared a letter for the Boston Journal and a letter for Mr. Wright a bridge man of Greenfield, Mass. Paid postage three cents, also paid for parlor matches fifty cents. Have been writing nearly all day. Sent a letter to Edward Williams asking for some help in getting proposals for building an iron bridge over the gulf. Wrote two notices for the two papers here, and they will be out tomorrow. Mr. Clarke and Horace have been in the office through the day and are at work on the estimates. Charles Marsh called on me at the office. Sent off the meteorological report this morning.

Debits - .03, .25, .50

December 3

The coldest morning this season. - Ther. +4 degrees. I went to the office early in order to see Gen. Washburn, but failed to see him. Remained at the office till noon. Polk has been quite unwell for a day or two. Mr. Chamberlin called about noon and brought some meat and other things to Polk and Abbie. I paid out twenty five cents for a stove shovel. Have been in the office nearly all day and Simeon has been with me much of the time. Saw Gen. Washburn a few minutes about four o'clock, and saw Mr. Dewey also. Went early to the house and after tea I went to the postoffice and got my papers, but did not go to the R.R. office, but went back to my reading and writing. The weather seems much like an approaching storm. Paid for shoe strings 14 cts. & paid box 10 cents.

Debits - .25, .24

December 4

Awoke with a headache and am not able to write much today. Went to the office in the morning, - found two letters from Mr. A.H. Wright of Greenfield, Mass. Tried to find the General but he is very busy at court. Got a pound of best green tea for a trial and paid two dollars for it. – Charles Marsh called to see Polk and made a pleasant call. Paid Abbie two dollars and a quarter for borrowed. Could not write much for this headache. In the afternoon Mrs. D. and Abbie went shopping. Paid Jones one dollar and a quarter. In the afternoon I went to the office but not to do much work. After supper went to Washburn & Marsh's office to get a book for Polk, and to Horace Dunham's for Mrs. D. The evening is dark and cloudy.

Debits – 2.00, 2.25, 1.25

December 5

Appearances of storm this morning but we went to Henderson & Wainwright's work and began to measure it up fully. It began to snow about noon and continued to snow till evening. Measured one cut very thoroughly and must continue to do so through his work. Came home at night in a slight storm of snow. Found it very pleasant at home and tried to make it more so if possible. How well I succeeded the rest can tell. Did not read or write much in the evening for I had been out in the cold all day and was very stupid when I got warm. Polk is feeling very well about being admitted to the bar this term of court. Paid Kendall for a view of Niagara twenty five cents.

Debits - .25

Sunday, December 6

This was a gloomy, cloudy day, and I did not go to church but staid at my room and wrote what I could. Read a few pages in Judge Barrett's address on Judge Collamer and found that it was full of interest. Was quite unwell in the afternoon. Mrs. D. was called to go to Mr. Holmes about eleven in the evening.

December 7

Today the atmosphere is thick and gloomy and it began to snow about noon and continued to increase till night. Mr. Dewey called to get some paper on the railroad statistics, and I did not get them ready for him till nearly four o'clock. He called and took them a little before five o'clock. Sent a letter to Robert and enclosed five dollars to pay for the pictures that he has sent.

Debits – 5.00

December 8

Snow about ten inches deep this morning and very heavy. John Cain came from Rutland and is here this morning, also Judge Fowler and a Mr. Mason from Bristol New Hampshire. A Railroad meeting of directors this afternoon. Self did not attend. Had a call from Mr. Clemens Herschel an engineer from Boston. He brought a photograph of one of his bridges erected in Boston and it is a beautiful picture. I think he left this afternoon for the Junction. The weather is not extremely cold but the wind is high and the snow flies almost to suffocation. Staid in our room in the evening and read a little more of Judge Barrett's Address. Mr. Chamberlin called in the afternoon. Paid for soap .60 and ink bottle .05 at Chapman's. Borrowed of the drawer 15 cents.

Debits - .65, .15

December 9

Another very rough day and a very high wind from the west and northwest blew through the day and it is very rough. It is quite early in the season for weather that is so rough and so cold. Have determined to get a stove for our parlor and make it that is the parlor our common room. It will be much more easily warmed and approached than a chamber. Have heard nothing from our house for some days, or since we were there at thanksgiving.

December 10

The weather was not quite so cold as Tuesday or Wednesday but still very chilly. Worked on the estimates and finished the copies for the contractors and for the President of the corporation. Bought a stove of Mr. Thompson and he set it up in the afternoon. In the forenoon I wrote letters to two or three bridge builders. I am almost flooded with bridge letters now and can hardly keep them answered. The work for last month was very much less than for October. That was the largest estimate by far that we have ever had. In the evening I assisted in moving our table into the parlor and also fitted the stove pipe so as to make it perfect and safe.

December 11

We are now safe in our parlor by that beautiful new stove. I do not find any better stove than the Clarion parlor stove. Sent off three letters to as many bridge builders. Went to the office and worked on the October estimate and have now got it copied into the book of estimates. At noon I assisted in changing the furniture in the chambers. We have a pleasant arrangement now and we can truly realize it. Polk took the oath as an attorney at law in Vermont.

December 12

Borrowed of the drawer thirty cents, also another time borrowed 50 cents. Paid postage three cents. Paid Mr. Knapp 43 cents for Dec. No. of the Repository and the Nov. No. of the "Our Young Folks." Also paid Billings 37 cents for kerosene. Went to the office and found another bridge letter giving proposals for an iron bridge over the gulf. It is a little remarkable that so many different builders should set their prices so near alike. I worked at the office but a short time and went home. Went late to the office in the afternoon. Have had a severe headache through the day. The weather is quite cold and very windy in the evening. Paid Abbie five cents some days ago.

Debits - .30, .50, .03, .43, .37, .05

Sunday, December 13

The day has been very fine, clear and pleasant. In the morning I went to the Post Office and found a Mass. Teacher, forwarded from Pomfret. Staid in my room through the day and read and wrote and rested much. –

December 14

Today I arose early and went to Taftsville to see how the work is going about the borrowing pit at the end of the bridge. Found that they had cut over the lines set out for them about eight feet. Horace and Simeon went to the funeral of Mr. French near English Mills in the afternoon. I remained in the office. Spenser let me have three dollars to send for the "Independent" and "Young Folks" for him. Paid Lewis Pratt \$1.75 for large diary like this. Also paid Mrs. Ayers fifty seven cents.

Credits – 3.00

Debits – 1.75, .57

December 15

In the morning we left for Quechee and Henderson's work. The completed the length of their cut about noon and now will probably leave the work till spring. Sent for Mr. Phillips and he came and we went over the line to Mr. Babcock's. Horace and Simeon took levels of the wings of the bridge abutment. We then came to Woodstock and met Mr. Herschel and Mr. Hartwell two bridge builders. In the afternoon the directors held a meeting to talk of the bridge proposals, but adjourned to meet again at Gen. Washburn's office next Saturday afternoon. Mr. Phillips remained at the hotel. Sent another letter to Claremont. Paid postage nine cents.

Debits – .09

December 16

Found Mr. Phillips at the office this morning and had a good talk with him about the great bridge. Found his judgment very good on all such subjects. He rode to Quechee in the stage, while Simeon went quite early to help him about some leveling. Mr. Farquhar called at the office in the forenoon, and also Mr. Henderson & Mr. Wainwright. Dr. Russ and wife came here in the afternoon and staid till evening. Had a very good visit with them. Mrs. Dunham and Carlie came about three o'clock. This morning the thermometer stood at -8 degrees which is the coldest so far. Paid at the hotel fifty cents.

Debits – .50

December 17

Went to the office to search for a bridge proposal from E.H. Williams bridge builder, but it does not yet come. Mr. Baker called and paid sixty two dollars and fifteen cents which is for the note of fifty dollars due last October and the interest on all the notes to Oct. 1, 1868. I then paid Richmond for a load of wood 7 dollars, and I also paid Mr. Billings for a pound of tea \$1.40. – In making change with Mr. Richmond in paying for the wood I paid him one dollar not included in the above. Hattie Freley called on Abbie and is to stay through the night. Got Simeon's horse and rode to Pomfret and came back in the evening.

Credits – 62.15

Debits – 7.00, 1.40, 1.00

December 18

The weather is cold and rough today. Got a bridge plan and proposal from The Keystone Bridge Company of Pittsburg, Penn. They give proposals for two kinds of iron bridges and both are very good. Paid Mr. Head fourteen dollars and forty cents for butter, but he was owing me for a quarter of beef that was not paid. Mr. Moulton a bridge man called here in the evening. He will make us a bid tomorrow to put up a Howe truss bridge. I gave him a sketch showing the cross-section of the chasm where the bridge is to be placed. He left early in the evening but will call in the morning at the office.

Debits – 14.40

December 19

Met Mr. Moulton and Mr. Herschel at the office and we worked about the office till noon or a little later. In the afternoon I attended a meeting of the directors, and it was continued in the evening. Votes were taken on the bridge question, and also on the subject of estimating stone work. I left for home soon after nine o'clock very tired and with exhausted nerves. Got a pair of boots and a pair of over shoes and paid \$8.50 for both. I have needed both these for a long time but should not now have got them but for the kind urging of Mrs. D. – Paid Chapman for hair dressing forty five cents, and I think now my cash account will balance correctly.

Debits – 8.50, .45

Sunday, December 20

Rested very badly last night and awoke with a very painful headache and have been very dull through the day. Staid at home and could read or write but little.

December 21

Today I went to the office and had some talk about the iron bridge and also about the lattice bridges. Mr. Dewey called to see me about going to Concord. I have been in no mood for writing today, for this headache is not very pleasant. I received of the Claremont Mfg. Company a draft on Lewis Pratt for Twenty five dollars and he accepted the draft. – Paid Abbie Ten dollars of the money and think she will put it to good use. In the evening we went to hear Mr. Barlow read. – paid fifty cents.

Credits – 25.00

Debits – 10.00, .50

December 22

Mailed a receipt to the Claremont Co. for the draft received last Saturday, which was cashed yesterday. Paid Billings for dress and trimmings ten dollars and ninety six cents. Went to the office in the morning but came back to work on the report so as to be ready for Gen. Washburn to make his report to the stockholders. Mrs. D. and Abbie went to the street to do a little shopping, and while they were gone, Mrs. Woodruff and Mrs. Cobb called. They were much disappointed to find the folks away from home. But they called on Mrs. Holmes and made a short stay. I went to the street in the evening and was pleased to see the zeal about Christmas.

Debits – 10.96

December 23

A very snowy morning. – Went to the office and mailed a letter to J. Poland of Montpelier and one to the Independent inclosing registered certificate for five dollars and fifty cents. Paid Post office ten cents for the registry fee. Also paid Billings for two lamp chimneys 20 cents and paid Richmond for fish 45 cents. Have worked at the house early all day. A very snowy forenoon, but it stopped snowing about two o'clock after noon. Have written but little more than one page today, and shall hardly get my report ready to be printed as soon as it will be needed.

Debits – 5.50, .10, .20, .45

December 24

A pleasant day but some cold. Mrs. D. and Abbie were very busy at home in the forenoon and in the afternoon Mrs. D. went to the street and to the post office. Paid Mrs. Pratt seven dollars, also paid Murdock for a child's toy thirty cents. Also paid Thompson fifteen dollars and ninety five cents for stove and pipe. Worked all day at the house and wrote very easily for the air was clear and cold. Charles Marsh came to the house to recite his lesson. Did not go to the office in the evening. Received a letter from Robert Perkins, one written in his usual style. – Christmas eve is celebrated at the church but we did not go. Paid Lewis Pratt fifty cents for diary.

Debits – 7.00, .30, 15.95, .50

December 25

Christmas Day. – Went to the Post office in the morning and to the office but came to the house to work. Cannot work today as easily as I could yesterday. In the forenoon, Mrs. D. and Abbie went to Horace Dunham's and about one o'clock I went there and took supper. Polk and Abbie have gone this evening to Pomfret and we are left alone. This morning was very cold but it is becoming warmer during the day. This evening I received a letter from J. & J.M. Poland with their bill for the Watchman, and I have written a reply and inclosed \$2.00. Received a box of Gillot's 352 pens, one of which I am now using.

December 26

Sent two dollars to the Watchman & State Journal. Went to the post office and to the R.R. office, but soon returned and kept writing on the R.R. report. Mr. Dewey and Gen. Washburn called to see about the lattice bridge, etc. Mr. D. had a letter from Mr. Wood the bridge builder on the Northern R.R. in which he gives a partial estimate of the cost of a Lattice bridge. We are alone here now for Polk and Abbie have gone to Pomfret. – The day has been clear and cold; - not a cloud to be seen through the day, but the thermometer has been low all day and cannot be very high this evening. We paid Mrs. Darby twenty one cents for Abbie.

Debits – 2.00, .21

Sunday, December 27

We staid at our house alone for Polk and Abbie have not yet returned from Pomfret. A very cold morning and my spirit thermometer indicated 27 degrees below zero at eight o'clock.

December 28

Today I have been very busy at my table and have copied all of my report that I have prepared, but I must write out a few pages more. Received of Abbie the 21 cents that we paid to Mrs. Darby for her last Saturday. We took of Abbie five dollars to do errands for her, and paid out for her four dollars and thirty five cents. Mrs. Bridge called in the evening.

Credits – 5.00

Debits – .21, 4.35

December 29

Went to the office in the morning to see Gen. Washburn on the business of the report. Looked up one or two small errors in the work of carrying forward the estimates of the different quantities and materials. Came home at noon and went back soon after. Even went twice to the office in the afternoon but did not go in the evening. Worked very busily on my railroad work, and got it nearly done, but I am tired and have taken cold and am not very well. Wrote in the evening as late as I could, for I wished to finish the whole work. Paid 4 cents for ink and 5 for bread. Paid Russell for china mug 13 cents and 35 cents for kerosene. Paid Abbie the balance of the five dollars that is .65.

Debits - .09, .13, .35, .65

December 30

Mr. Dewey called in the morning to show some bridge plans that he got at Concord. He remained here for some time and we examined the plans very carefully. He has two plans and one of them is entirely new as far as wood is concerned. The plan is the same as the arches over the Rhine, and one is now building in this country of steel. – I went to the General's office and Mr. Dewey and I remained there till nearly noon. Paid 25 cents for traches. Saw Mr. Howard at Charles Chapman's and had a pleasant Railroad talk with him. Came home and spent the evening at my room at work on the railroad report. Paid postage.

Debits - .25, .07

December 31

We have been brought to the closing day of 1868, and we shall write that date but few times if any more. I would gladly write a few letters but have not sufficient strength and ability to do it for I have already written too much for the past few days. I can but compare my own situation with what it was one year ago or more. I am writing on my table but not alone, and the house is quiet and still except the lower room; but that does not disturb us. Self have taken a hard cold and it gains a little every day but I can soon break it up I think.

Today I found some registers at Mr. Pratt's and I took a dozen and must send off a few of them to my friends. Some of my friends have been neglected on that point for some time past. It is now the last evening of the year and is a fit time to write to friends, and it is the proper time to draw our thoughts close about us and see whether we are any higher in the scale of pure worth than at the beginning of the year. We may be very much happier but are we really any better? I can but realize how pleasantly I am situated while others may not be so happily situated. It is now eight o'clock in the evening and I ought not to write any more, but close this page and this yearly journal.

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 Hosea Doton's father and brother Spenser. Hosea often called on him on Sundays to check on his health. They shared an interest in surveying.

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.

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 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 Bridgewater, VT.

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

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.

Spenser Doten was Hosea Doton's brother. He was born in Pomfret in 1811 and died there in 1891. Spenser spelled his name Doten as did Hosea Doton's sisters.

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 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, which was presented 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.

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. Her son Robert A. Perkins founded the Woodstock Post in 1872.

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 and Hosea corresponded 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.

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 Spears was a farmer in Pomfret who was unmarried, enjoyed reading, and became a friend of the Doton family. When Joanna Doton died in 1908, she passed the family homestead on Cloudland Road to Mortimer in her will.

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 Spenser Doton's wife Charlotte. He sometimes worked for Spenser and Hosea Doton.

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

Glossary

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.

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

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.

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

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,

Grapery – An area or building where grapes are grown.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Notes

John Paddock came to Pomfret on April 21, 1773 from Mansfield, CT. He served at the fort at Bethel in 1781 and moved to Taftsville in 1794. (Vail)

John (1750-1812) and Isaac Doten came to Pomfret from Plympton, MA in the spring of 1786 and "made a home with" John Paddock on number 74 second division.

Isaac Doten bought the upper half of lot 44 from Ezra Drew on September 8, 1785 and the southern half from John Paddock on February 12, 1787.

John Doten built his frame house in 1811. Isaac built his home on the southern half of lot 44.

John Doten had one son, John Edward Doten (1780-1863), who married Elizabeth Vose (1783-1865) on September 6, 1804. Hosea Doton was born on November 29, 1809 as the third of nine children.

Henry Leach's sister Adaline Leach died March 22, 1865 and his wife Roxelona died March 26, 1865 at age 56.

Louisa Doten married Henry W. Leach on September 5, 1865. She was 46 and he was 53.

Louisa Doten Leach died on February 28, 1871.

Electa Doten married Henry W. Leach on January 23, 1873. She was 60 and he was 59.

Frank Mackenzie began studying with Hosea Doton in 1856.

The home of Frederick H. Ware on Barber Road burned to the ground in June 1857. (Vermont Standard)

Harriet Ware began school with Hosea on January 8, 1845.