

August 1870

The angel with the amaranthine wreath,  
Pausing, descended, and with voice divine,  
Whispered a word that had a sound like death.

Then fell upon the house a sudden gloom,  
A shadow on those features fair and thin;  
And softly from that hushed and darkened room,  
Two angels issued, where but one went in.

:-----Longfellow

1 Monday: this morning father said he did not know as he should live through the day; his mind was what many would call wandering, but to me it seemed like coming home at last; Mr. Bryant & Mr. Edgecomb called to see him, Jesse Rowell also; then Almond Messer was announced father said I might wait and let him get a little rested before Almond come right in, I see he was failing and Almond come right in; father reached out his hand and said how do you do Bro. Messer, and they talked some, in reply to how his mind was father said he felt peaceful across his breast and referred to his grandmother who died a beggar at the feet of Jesus. Soon Almond went out and father fell into a drowsy state occasionally speaking words as if his mind was wandering, at length the words ceased and he folded his hands across his breast and gradually from 10 o'clock A.M. sunk into an unconscious state, sinking gradually away and at a quarter past three P.M. he ceased to breathe. Alonzo Poland, Mrs Carr, Mrs Rollins, Mrs Maria Rollins were with him to the last, I did not leave him, keeping a little distance, I saw life gradually cease; There was nothing hard, just falling asleep as peacefully as a child. Mother, Lewis & Louisa were in an adjoining room, and we together heard the sound, - father is dead.

Alonzo Poland, Samuel Rollins, Geo. Lewis laid him out in the parlor, how grandly beautiful he looked in death reminding me of some old Roman or Grecian hero, reposing in his last long sleep; an expression of nobleness rested upon his countenance that I never saw before in life; and now I think that somewhere away back in our ancestry there was noble blood and feel that it will be seen somewhere upon earth again in our connection; \_\_\_ night came soon and Exavier and Geo. Lewis set up tonight.

2 A thunder shower in morning; Amos went to So. Montville and to Searsmont, Geo. Lewis went to Liberty, Alfred to Unity sent to Belfast by N.P. Bennett, Alonzo & Mr. Holbrook dug the grave. some of the neighbors called in the course of the day. some of the neighbors were here in P.M. making preparations for the funeral.

3 Wednesday: the day of fathers funeral; many relatives come up in morning; nearly the whole connection being present; Services at 10 o'clock; Sermon by Bro. Knowlton text, "Occupy till I come". a good discourse; Sung hymns, "How blest the righteous when he dies," and "There is a house not made with hands," and "Asleep in Jesus" for Voluntary. good singing. then we went to the grave with fathers remains and left him there, buried where he requested by the side of his mother. Then we returned to dinner and soon after dinner they all went away and we were left alone again, Louisa staid all night, and Mrs Rollins was here; but it was very lonely, to realize that father was gone forever seemed very sad, no more sweet counsel from him, no more going back to youthful days and telling me many incidents when he was young. we raked a piece of hay at night, getting it done very late at night. how still the house seems after all that has passed recently.

4 Rainy: I sent a letter to Lucy today. felt very lonely all the forenoon, could not work, went and give the cattle some salt and went to see the Deacon who is unwell; Louisa went home and Mrs Rollins went to Samuels so we are alone again. May God be and abide with us henceforth and forever. Amen.

5 Friday: I was some unwell in morning, did not do much all day:- got in one load hay after tea, when a shower come on and we had to desist. Jackson come from Centre and brought the papers.

6 A good hay day, Samuel Rollins & Geo. Lewis helped us we cleared quite a large piece of ground; are getting along very well; all went home at night and we were left alone; it seems every night that fathers coming home, but alas we shall never see him on earth again, he has gone to a better world than this. Dear old father is now with those long gone before to spirit-land.

7 Sunday: looked a little stormy in morning, but cleared up in middle of the day; I got over a bushel cucumbers this morning; pickled the most of them. Jackson come over in A.M. I raked hay in P.M. some excursionists went on the mountain in P.M. Louisa was over in P.M., I got a letter from Lucy.

8 Some foggy in morning; George Lewis helped today and went home at night, he cannot help us any more; we cut the run back of the old house; pretty hot day.

9 Very warm, and showery, we got a small shower in eve. a very warm night, so hot I could scarcely sleep. Louisa come over and staid with mother all night Joseph Whitten was here to buy lambs, did not sell any. speculators are pretty sharp generally.

10 Wednesday: looks cloudy this morning; we mowed in A.M., and a part of the P.M., got in a load hay at night; quite a good hay day after all.

11 Rainy in morning; we begun to rake but had to stop as a shower come up; then we picked a few blackberries and come up; - then went and got a mess peas, potatoes and the cucumbers; Joseph Whitten called to buy lambs but I did not sell them, as he will not take them away for a good while; I visited the school at Ranlet cor. in P.M., a very good school I think. Vesta & Ella Howard were here in P.M., we raked hay at night, some fog comes from the ocean tonight.

12 A heavy fog shower this morning: Chs. Curtis is married, and Wednesday night they went to serenade him, we heard them fire guns and blow horns, but his wife was sick and the serenade did not come off. we raked some and got in two loads when a shower - come up, we just got in with the last load as the shower struck; strange to say there was scarcely any thunder & lightning. A good copious shower. Got the papers, fathers death is in the Age, very brief notice but comprehends a good deal, put in by Bro. Knowlton. Father & Dr. Mc. Crillis death are together in the paper.

13 Saturday: a fine day; I visited the Vose school in A.M.,- one of the pleasantest visits I ever enjoyed in any school; think it has been an excellent school. the school room was elaborately trimmed with leaves flowers etc.; - a beautiful scene one I shall long remember. got in hay in P.M., was intending to go to caucus but the cattle got out and I had to get them, so did not go. It is quite dry and cattle and sheep are very uneasy, - requiring constant watchfulness on the part of the farmer.

14 Sunday: a hazy forenoon, clearing off quite sunny in afternoon; we were searching for cattle some, got the cucumbers, and I got a quart blackberries; - a sort of busy day seeming too little like sacred day of rest. In P.M. Alfred was here, also Jackson & Louisa and Julia Carr; Samuel & Maria was in a few minutes, we sung a little. and so the sabbath passed away.

15 We were tending to the cattle most all day; - Geo. Choate got his white steers; I went to Centre after supper to trade. a cool day, dry and windy.

16 Having arranged the cattle somewhat, we hayed smartly today, getting it all mowed; and I am very glad. got in load at night; a hot dry day as usual.

17 Warm & dry: finished haying today; Jackson went to Belfast. Mr. John Bryant & wife were here, had a good visit. Geo. Palmer & Geo. Lewis were over at night.

18 Thursday: Very hot and dry, a high wind. I mowed the wheat and barley in A.M. , Joshua Thompson and daughter were here in morning; Ella wishes to teach in Beals dist. gave her to understand she might. Gave a certificate to Joshua for Emma's pay, for teaching here this summer; O how dry it is, hope for some rain soon; What a long hay season this has been, and we have had such a sick time, first Mary was sick and when she got a little better, father sickened and died; - May I never see another so full of anxiety and sorrow. In P.M. I hunted after the calves some, called to Mr. Curtis' a few moments; Charles is to live there with the old folks, and Samuel & Abby are to take rooms at Mr. Ells' for the present; they think Abby is hardly fit to live with old people on account of her temperament. I went through to see the Cobbossee cattle and up to Jacksons, getting home at nightfall.

19 A dry smoky day; we gathered the wheat and barley besides fencing in the "lower regions" in A.M., Sam'l & I. Mrs. Francis Silvester was here visiting in P.M.; A story is afloat that Marcena Poland is gone away to get rid of being called a "Pa". am sorry for him if it is really so and am sorry for his father & mother.

20 A quiet day, a little rainy in P.M., we finished getting a piece of grain and were choring; did not do very much today. It has seemed very quiet this P.M., Horace & I went to dig for a spring at the Cobbossee; Mr. Hahn went along telling us that Geo. Sproul is very sick, - Geo. is very unlucky, he got cut with a scythe the last of June and now they are fearful he may not live. J. J. Carr went to Freedom today on political business he is getting to be a big politician, going to all the conventions etc., he seems to me like one in search of office, - as well might one expect happiness by chasing their shadow as to find it in political life, striving for fame; - noisy exciting and corrupting; may my life run in a smoother channel. Now it is Saturday night, - the sweetest eve. of the week.

21 Sunday: A quiet day, no one here till almost night when Jackson & Louisa & Julia, and Samuel & Maria come; they staid in evening and we sung some; they went away and we were alone again; It seems very lonesome nowadays; we miss Father very much especially at night, a good kind Father to us children.

22 Very warm and dry: I was not feeling very well today; made out some bills in A.M., and in P.M. went to collect some on the book account, got 5.87 or thereabouts, went to Mrs. Fosters, thence to East Knox, then to Weeds where I left a calf skin, then home, got home abt. dark; have not been out for a long time so far before, it does one good to go once in a while I think.

23 Tuesday: we pulled peas in A.M.; in P.M. had a tramp after the cattle and mowed barley, I went to Asa Goins to tell him water was scarce in his part of the Cobbossee pasture; Mother & Ralph went to Mr. Carrs.

24 Warm & dry as ever; finished mowing barley in A.M., and hauled the ashes away from the old wood house. In P.M. helped fight fire on Jacksons new purchase; he is gone to Dover with the remains of John Twitchell who died in Rockland, - so we had to help fight the fire, worked hard. Mrs. Harrington & Jane Bennett were here in P.M., I did not get home until after sunset, tired & hungry.

25 A little rain in A.M., in morning Horace & I went over to pasture to get a heifer, but could not get her, so we went up to the fire, - it was running in an old fence so we tore the fence and stopped it, presently George and Samuel come and we come home; got in the peas a nice little sprinkling while we were getting them in. This is mothers birthday, she is 75; and now I see her getting corn in the field for dinner, how smart she is. we got in most all the barley in P.M., Isaac was down, he is looking thin and poor, J. H. Terry was up at night.

26 A fierce wind from N.W. and dryer than ever fires are running all around, went to Curtis' got cattle in A.M. fenced in P.M. went to Aarons after supper, Louisa, Julia & Maria were here in P.M., I got a letter from Nahum.

27 Saturday: finished getting grain, - got in wood, - got the apples which had blown off at the orchard, - mother visited at Amos' in P.M., John Tobie come in A.M., he is real rational, seems like as he used to; Horace got the papers then went home; a pleasant saturday night.

28 Sunday: a dry dreary day; fires smoking all around, -the air full of smoke, - I was watching, and waiting, resting, just a little all day; Vesta, Etta, & Fred went to Carrs. John went away in P.M. I was up to Jacksons fire in P.M. it is burning yet. done the chores and then the last sabbath in August closed.

29 Looked some like rain and did sprinkle a little, - I visited Eliza Goins school in P.M., Elizas health is very poor; her school hjas been quite profitable, - some slight defects were noticed, but a god school on the whole. the night set in foggy, I hoped We might have rain.

30 Cleared off in morning; wind coming in to the west and blowing smartly, - Mother & Mary went to Mr. Polands visiting, in P.M., a terrible fire was raging in Knox, - the smoke rose in majestic columns, looking fearful in the extreme. I got the books packed ready to go to Belfast tomorrow.

31 The last day of August: I went to Belfast, carried the school books, had a pleasant trip, the road is extremely dusty, I have not been down since 10 months ago. got home in good season, not much tired, a pleasant day. And so ends August a sad wearisome month.