

July 1870

The summer wood with music rings,
The singers is a troubled breast;
I am no more the bird that sings,
But that which broods with folded wings
Upon its quiet nest. _____ Carl Spencer

1 Friday: a very smoky day, warm and dry: we fenced on hill in A.M. were fencing all day. Mrs. A. Poland was here visiting in P.M., _____.

2 Very warm, father & I went to Freedom, father went to see Dr. Billings, the Dr. told him he had a tumor in his stomach, gave him no encouragement that he would ever be any better, we found the Dr. haying down below Ranlets and had a little talk with him. I had a severe headache and was sick all the afternoon, just went to Carrs after the horse that ran away, but was more comfortable at night; heard Charley Clough was dead, buried last friday. father commenced taking morphine tonight, the Dr. advised it.

3 Sunday: some cloudy, but warm and smoky, a sort of feeble day somehow, wish we might get a good shower of rain, _ In P.M., Geo. Clark was here; Jackson & Louisa, Samuel & Maria, Geo. Lewis; Jessee Rowell called to get a team to go to the fourth, did not get one here; So another sabbath came to a close, not a perfect sabbath by some means.

4 Monday: the glorious fourth; at home fencing all day; hoed a little after tea; Samuel & Maria went to a celebration at No. Searsmont, - Geo. Lewis carried Victoria Jackson, - and so many enjoyed themselves in crowds. Deacon and Mrs Carr were over at night.

5 Warm and sultry: We were hoeing; Louisa was over at night; Dr.. Skinner was over the road in P.M.; a happy day, why I could not tell, perhaps good angels were sent with me.

6 Very warm: I was unwell today, have a severe cold - hoed a little in A.M., but towards night I felt so bad I went to bed, - had pretty sick night, - John Tobie called a moment for vinegar and went right away again. father is quite well today, in P.M. he went to Carrs.

7 Somewhat cloudy, a strong southerly wind, I kept house all day, - Exavier was up about noon, he is unwell. father went to Carrs in morning, getting home at noon, - he was worse in P.M. the fog came down and night closed in dark and rainy; we hope there will be a good rain.

8 A very good rain today; many hearts are glad because of it, - Horace went over road to get some one to help him take a cow away; Samuel Rollins come to help him, "A friend in need is a friend indeed," they got back about noon. (M ?ull) Now P.M. Horace has gone after the horse and it rains some. I was making a poetry book, a cloudy fog night.

9 Saturday: I went to Centre in A.M., Ralph went with me, - he weighed 36 lbs. quite a little man; fixed the wagon to haul hay on in P.M., Mrs. Rollins & Sarah Howard called, Jackson went to Centre, - So ends the work week.

10 Sunday: at home all day, got raspberries in A.M., Jackson & Louisa were over in P.M. Charley & Eliza called as they went home, they had been to Morrill.

11 A nice hay day; we begun haying, Mr. Willard emery helping us, - hay made very fast, we worked in shop field and in the west field, Alonzo mowed some.

12 Come on to rain at about eleven o'clock, a nice rain nearly all the P.M. we got in one load hay but it was pretty wet before we got to the barn.

13 A good hay day, we got in some hay today.

14 A pleasant forenoon, some terrible showers in P.M. very severe thunder, some hail, and rain in torrents. Martha Foster was buried in P.M. I could not go to the funeral. Lewis was over at night, I dismissed Emery he not being what I expected; Mary was sick, I got Mrs Carr, Exavier was here, he went for Dr. Whitney, I got Cordelia so ended the day, with company here all night.

15 Pleasant: Cordelia went home in A.M. and I got Maria they got through abt. 1 o'clock, (stillborn) Mary was very sick, I carried the Dr. home and got Mrs Rollins in P.M. (one of earths disappointments which Gods grace can cure)

16 Saturday: we worked very hard, got in five loads hay.

17 Sunday: had a good many callers today: Albert & Vira, Lewis & wife, Mr. Terry & wife, Louisa, Alfred, Dr. Whitney, - in eve. Charley Howard & I went to S. Berrys, to get a pup? got one at Moody Nortons, I was so sleepy before I got home.

18 We mowed some & hoed in P.M. I got a pup ? at Ingrahams in Knox.

19 Very pleasant: Alonzo mowed we got in a good lot of hay today. a nice hay day. worked very hard

20 Pleasant, but strong indications of a storm, the fog being thick as mud outside, we cleaned up well and so were prepared for it if it come.

21 A good rain last night; I went to Aarons in A.M., wed turnips in P.M. Mrs Holbrook & Mrs Poland were here in P.M. a quite pleasant afternoon.

22 Very warm; we hayed briskly, Horace & I alone;

23 Extremely warm; we got in a good lot of hay, it was so warm in P.M. we almost melted. Wm. Poland & wife was over in evening. a long night, father grows worse.

24 Sunday: very warm again, Dexter & Aunt Eunice come over in P.M., Jackson & Louisa, Lewis were over, besides some other callers in the course of the day. in eve. a thunder storm come up, the lightning was a tremendous glare, it was a gloomy time till about midnight, a nice shower, am thankful.

25 Monday: Horace did not appear this morning and his brother Mayo come as a substitute; A. Poland mowed some in morning, Geo. Lewis helped today, we did a good days work I thought. a nice hay day.

26 A good hay day, A.Poland mowed a large piece for me; we did a good days work got in 4 loads, looked like rain in P.M. but hope for a good day tomorrow.

27 A nice day. we got in a heap of hay today, worked hard. father is very low now, - we have to help him up and down.

28 Looked like rain; so we got in all the hay that would do to go in and then it rained; Louisa went to the Centre for us. Horace come up and just before noon he & Mayo went home. they are both homesick, - I am sorry Horace will not stay for he is a good boy, I like him; - now we have just been to dinner father is in much pain I have to stay with him most all the time, do not dare to leave him alone a moment, have to lift him about a good deal, - - it requires much care. Jackson set up last night, he is so stout he can lift father with ease, I sort of hovered over father in mind if not in body all night. Lewis come over set up at night he was shocked to see how father had changed. he & I set up this Thursday night, father was very sick, he had to be lifted, or helped from the bed to the chair and back again every once in a few minutes, suffered much and in a good deal of pain and restless.

29 Friday: this morning I told father I thought he was passing through the valley and shadow of death; he replied that he thought he was not quite there yet, but in the course of our conversation he clasped my hand and prayed for himself, that he might have patience and wisdom, - also for his family; - I quoted various passages of scripture to him, "Fear not

for I am with thee, be not dismayed I am thy God;" "For we know if this earthly house of our tabernacle were dissolved we have a building of God a house not made with hands eternal and in the heavens." "In my Fathers house are many mansions" etc.; he seemed comforted and strengthened. Some of the neighbors called in P.M., he seemed glad to see them, Lewis went home and Alfred come to set up, Jackson called in eve. and set up with Alfred they both tended to him as well as possible; I did not sleep very much.

30 Alfred & Jackson went home early in morning, and Lewis come over; Dea. Carr called in morning, poor old man, - all he could do was to cry, he said but little to father being so affected he was unable to converse. In P.M. Mr. Averell called, his taking leave of father was one of the most affecting scenes I ever witnessed he expressed great feeling and then it seemed that he too must soon go made it doubly so. Geo. Lewis & I set up tonight it was one of the hardest nights I ever experienced; being almost worn out with watching, I was obliged to keep awake, and father required a good deal of lifting and helping from his bed to the chair and back again, then when his pain was very severe he would kneel at a chair, - and O my soul the suffering he bore was intense, - yet his expression all the summer through when the pain was wearing him down was, "O dear", "O dear," never shall I forget it. the night at last passed away, father said it was a long night, and in due time came the last day of the month.

31 Sunday: a warm day; this morning father said he felt reconciled toward God and man, and did not know as anything more was needed; very good evidence of the hearts being in the right place. Lewis come early in morning Alfred & Sarah come, then in P.M. some of the neighbors were in to see him; In getting him up in the P.M., he fainted almost clear away, and Lewis said it was no use he must lie in bed all the time, so after this he was not up tho, we raised him in the bed sometimes. He would beg to get up but we dare not take him up. Alfred & Lewis set up tonight, I did not go to bed till midnight, then my sleep was somewhat disturbed. So another month came to an end this night.