

May 1866

Hark! How the feathered warblers sing,

'Tis natures cheerful voice,

Soft music hails the lovely spring,

And woods and fields rejoice -Psalmody.

Again has the season of spring arrived which of all the seasons is the most welcomed by every one of earths inhabitants; Now the little flowers spring up in every nook and dell; sometimes where we may expect some noisome thing, is a bright flower; and this makes me think how we ought to seek for the flowers of life and when we find them strive to cherish them so they may grow and thrive beneath our smile and protection.

Begins on Tuesday.

1 Quite pleasant: went to a hauling, - a building for Henry Poland; it took almost all day, we went to the mill and hauled away a few boards, then came home; a brightly pretty may day.

2 Cloudy, looked like a storm; we stuck up boards at the mill; Paid the saw bill; 27.11 a nice lot of boards about ten thousand feet. a hard days work.

3 Hauled boards, finished hauling: went to get suckers in eve. we got a good lot and had an agreeable time. carried eggs to Aarons 41 doz. at 20 cts. 8.20 got home abt. 2 o'clock.

4 Friday: dreadfully windy; we felt weary enough, did not do much we were so tired.

5 Cloudy & quite cool; went to E. Murrays with a cow (mull) in P.M. went to the mill and finished the boards, got Georges clothes, Miss Hall made his coat and Maria made his pants. had a nice ride; got a pig to Alfreds which we are to keep awhile for Isaac. so ends the week.

6 Sunday: windy; Jackson & Louisa were over. Marcena Poland come to see George. Was doing chores etc. all day; we went to Murrays with Marys heifer. Business is quite lively of late. got Jimires (sp?) horse as father is going to Belfast tomorrow.

7 Very Pleasant: Father went to Belfast. A teacher was here in A.M. Sarah V. Sidelinker, I examined (x was omitted) her critically and gave a certificate, she is to teach in the Sproul dist. D. W. Bennett was up. Father got home about 10, got 70cts for potatoes.

8 Pleasant: Aunt Carter & Mercy Toothaker were here visiting, we harrowed in A.M.

9 Rainy: a smart rain; George Lewis was here also S. B. Rollins; cleared off in P.M.

10 Pleasant: I went to mill at Freedom, went to Sibleys and got two bu. horsemane oats paid 80cts. S.O. Whitten got wheat is to pay 2.00 per bu. he got 3 ½ bu. the egg peddler was along.

11 Friday: very pleasant: we sowed oats in A.M. planted potatoes in P.M. Mrs. Averell was here visiting all day. Ma Clark & Hattie come, we were very glad to see them; a nice day for farming operations.

12 Pleasant; planted potatoes in morning. I went to conference in P.M. had a good meeting. Mrs. C. went home in P.M. Hattie is to stay a little while; I saw Exavier, who had just got home, he looks splendidly; Emma & Elzira Mellus was up just as dusk. and so the week ends again.

13 Sunday: quite pleasant, some cloudy; I was sick all day with a dreadful cold, sore throat etc. a terrible cold as I ever had in all my life, I suppose I got it by taking off my flannels too early. Exavier was in at night. we were glad to see him.

14 Very windy & cool; I am some better today; Isaac come in A.M. he says Susan is quite sick, he has gone over the road now; now I have got up with time. in P.M. Isaac came back, Jackson & Louisa came over with him; he came down to get them to take their baby for a while they are going to take it as Susan is quite sick.

15 Tuesday: Pleasant in A.M. cloudy & windy in P.M. Louisa went to Unity after the baby; we plowed some, fenced some, furrowed and got a piece ready to plant, I was quite smart but my cold is terribly severe, I am peppered off nicely with it surely. a cold is a really disagreeable thing to have.

16 Wednesday: a cold rainy day; my cold is very irksome today; Louisa has not returned and Mother is so worried shse has sent George down to Alfreds to see if she has got back. How cold and rainy it is I am real sick of such cold weather; when will summer come I wonder;

Warm weather I sigh for thee, truly do sigh.

We are having fine times indoors for Hattie is here and we are jolly enough; wife says she mistrusts I like to be sick so as to stay in the house, she is real severe on me really; But I hope to get out when the weather becomes warm and pleasant. Louisa got back in P.M. She

brought the baby, it is a real pretty little boy; they call him Samuel Johnson, I talked to him a little and he smiled so cunning;

17 Pleasant; went fencing in morning, did not get back till almost noon; went to Aarons in P.M. carried 17 ½ doz. eggs; come to 3.50; when I got home a teacher was here, Almeda Leonard, she thought of teaching in the Ripley dist. I went through a short examination and sent her down to Oramel as I thought she hardly come up to my standard of excellence for a teacher. a very pretty evening, a nice sunset.

18 Pleasant: Lewis & Jackson come over in morning and we alter'd the pig and lambs; planted potatoes in P.M. Maria was up in P.M. had a nice day planting; my cold gets some better I imagine.

19 Saturday: plowed all day, George picked rocks. Wm. E. Poland & Will Vose drove their young cattle to pasture 6 yearlings; H. Poland was along, bought some fish, had fun eating them; a fine afternoon and evening; towards evening we saw a man coming up the road, and as he drew nearer we discovered it to be David Hollis; we were quite pleased to see the old man; sung some in eve. and so ends the weary week; it has been a hard week for me as I have been almost sick and have tried to keep about.

“How pleasant is saturday night

When I've tried all the week to be good

Not spoken a word that was bad

And obliged every one that I could.”

20 Sunday: Very warm and pleasant; Hattie, Mary & I went to on the mountain, we had a fine walk and came home quite tired; Uncle David came along, he said he too dinner at Mr. Youngs, but if we would say anything about it he would eat some more here, so we promised and he partook with us; Jackson come over brough(no t) a letter from Lucy and some other mail; so I read some and we sung some and soon it was sunset, with its bleating calves and lowing cows hungry pigs etc. etc. after doing the chores we went immediately to bed and slept soundly until morning. A Sabbath well spent brings a wek of content.

21 Monday: This is my birthday, I am 28 today. I do not remember so long ago as that; but I suppose they were all well pleased with the baby as every body is when they have one; Well the same old lesson that others have learned, I too am beginning to feel, namely, to struggle on in this vain world year after year and then die at last; Verily if it were not for the hope of heaven and immortal glory what should we do, earth with all its wealth is vanity;

All on earth is shadow,

All beyond is substance.

When will the shadow pass and the substance appear to my enraptured view. soon perhaps;

Prepare me dear Savior for Heaven my home.

22 Tuesday: Rainy in morning; quite a rain last night. we furrowed etc. to plant potatoes, planted some in P.M. we used the horse hoe like it very well. Father Clark come at night to get Hattie; we discovered that our mare had a colt a pretty little fellow, I guess he come yesterday so he is a birthday present.

23 Cool: Hattie & Father went home in morning we were sorry to have Hattie go, we like her very much. she is a beautiful girl. we planted potatoes etc. it is quite cool weather now. Mr. Young sold his colt 3 yrs. old \$200

24 Thursday: Louisa was over in morning; we finished up a piece of potatoes abt. An acre; the horse hoe has been quite a help; we harrowed a little and plowed after supper Benj. Harris was along with fish; a man came along with grass seed, he was going to Levi Bartletts; a pleasant evening.

25 Cloudy & quite smoky; a shower in P.M. quite severe all around us, but little here; very heavy thunder, the first thunder shower of the season; plowed and harrowed a piece to sow; Mary C. Cushman came to get a certificate, which I gave her, she intends to teach in the New Ireland dist. a fine day I have enjoyed myself much today.

26 The last day of the week; sowed grain, a piece of wheat and barley and a piece to barley, got it nearly finished; we worked smartly, like tigers I thought. a fine pleasant day somewhat cloudy. after work at night Geo. went to Mr. Youngs with the horse hoe; we did not get in from farm chores till almost 9.

27 Sunday: a dark dreary morning; went to put the cows in pasture and then took a ramble in the field and forest; gathered a bouquet to sit on the mantel. Commenced to rain abt. noon, it come on very calmly just like a storm; went to Murrays with Bridget the second time. the front side of the mountain looks nicely with cherry trees in bloom. storm as any of the season.

28 Monday: rained all last night; and this morning was one of the most severe showers I ever witnessed, the brook ran in torrents; the rain ceased in A.M. and the remainder of the

day was comfortable. Uncle Robert Choate & wife come in P.M. Sarah Howard came up with them and spent the afternoon. William Poland was here took dinner; night closed in quite dark and lowering.

29 Cool & windy: I went to mill at Freedom, then to Husseys, got a plow point; visited the school in the Beals dist. Carrie Foster teacher; she seemed to be doing well a little school of only 9 scholars. got home at 2 o'clock, Uncle & Aunt went home towards night. plowed some just at night.

30 Rainy in morning; Dan'l Bartlett was here in morning also Phineas French to see about pigs; he wants one. Job Foster is buried today, also Jeremiah Plummer of So. Freedom; two more gone to their final home. I have been fixing fence this A.M. Alonzo Bennett and his intended Sidia Young have just gone by, they looked nicely; Sidia with ribbands flying in the breeze.

31 Pleasant: went to plowing and soon a mistress came to get a certificate. Amanda Gray gave a certificate, then Nellie Carter came for a certificate. in P.M. Rhoda come and towards night Mr. Vose & wife came; brot. a colt to pasture. So ends May 1866.