

DIARY OF HENRY SHELDON

1864

January 1: The New year has come, cold high wind Rain & a little Snow. We have not had thus far 6 inches snow this winter and yet we have had a number of weeks quite fair Sleighing on Ice – My boys Charles & George are still in the army, Charles near Brandy Station Va, George at Vienna in Fairfax Va.

Saturday 2: A Strong Cold piercing west wind last night and all day today the most tedious weather we have had for years, froze some in my cellar and Kitchen, have not been out only to my Meals. The Children had New Years and a Christmas tree at Janes last evening. Mr. Aldous returned from a Peddling Voige this P.M. Mrs. Calaway has been weather bound at My house all day. Settled with Honeycomb for Mason work his a/c \$33.88 have overpaid him some most of his bill for taking down and building new a cellar wall under My addition to Store. Trade today only about \$10.00 – No particular news from the War. The week that has waited upon the old year out and ushered in the new is past.

Note: Mr. Aldous is thought to be Stephen Aldous, father of Martha Aldous Sheldon, wife of Henry Sheldon, author of the diary. Stephen Aldous was described as a peddler and from the diary the reader learns that Stephen went out of frequent “Peddling Voiges,” voyages or trips.

3: High Cold wind all last night and 4 in Snow this Morning, cold west wind with a heavy snow Storm all day. 2 Sermons and Sunday school, no evening meeting. L.B. VanDuzee commenced the duties of Sexton today – No mails since Friday.

Monday 4: A bright pleasant Morning Mercury at zero at sunrise, warmer through the day, no wind, about 12 or 16 inches snow. Telegraph reports a hard storm west and some damage.

Tuesday 5: A Comfortable day, have dug out of the Snow, posted up my books preparatory to settling with all my customers, have given up buying the lot back of the store of Sharp, he asks to much and is to particular. Bot Me a snow shovel 5/, bot some socks & Boots for George. Sent \$10 to Tousey.

Wednesday 6: A Cold day some Shine some wind some snow blowing about. Heard this Morning that a Train of 5 Cars was off the track beyond Antwerp with the 60th Regiment on it, cars smashed, some soldiers hurt but none killed, the train an extra one and the last night train around here at 2 oclock P.M. The Soldiers in good spirits, the well ones have gone on to Ogdensburgh where they started from when they left 2-1/3 years ago for the War. Charles Aldous looks well, John Mills got his leg hurt Near Chattanooga & is not able to Walk. Have had some trade today, Mailed \$10 to L. Tousey pd \$3.50 to Ells left here by Pooler. Wrote to Charles tonight, have received the Governors Message and Must read it tonight Copperhead Seymours. Only 2 Soldiers were much injured by the smashup.

7: Last Night the Coldest of the season, day severely cold but pleasant. Elder Ames not able to be out Church Meeting today but Myself & Bro. Jason Smith present, will have to call an extra Meeting, the Brethren must come together and make provisions for paying the debts of the Society and begin a clean record. Business dull since January came in. Charles Aldous returned from the Burgh last evening on a furlough of 30 days. John Mills feels better and is improving.

8: A comfortable Morning, wrote to Charles last Night. Nothing particular New. The death of Arch Bishop Hughes is in all the Papers. About 1 foot Snow & P.M. Snowing Mon. Mr. Ames our Pastor not able to be out. Mr. Miller returned from N.Y. tonight. Mr. Brown has got work in Washington at 20/ pr day & Board.

Saturday 9: Recd a letter from Mr. Cushing in the same Battery with Charles for Some Diaries & have mailed them today amounting to \$3.50. A cold blustering Stormy day. Pd Jno Miller \$6.25 for Wood at 16/ pr cord. No news of importance from the army but things are apparently Moving fast towards the abolition of Slavery and if that can be got out of the Way I think the Nation will be upon a foundation that Cant be removed, for Men will learn to respect the rights of others whether Black of White rich or poor.

Sunday 10: Stormy cold west wind but few out to Church, the Elder preached on Christian Union in the morning showing that the Bible doctrines were the only grounds of Ch. Union with no departing from its teaching. Wife at home all day, James quite unwell. Elder Ames hardly able to preach. A Road South blocked with snow so that trains are very irregular.

Monday 11: Cold & Wind West & high. Busy in the store, went over to see a house that Miller wants to sell me, dont think I shall buy, Cant Make it pay, sent note & cash to Lawrence to Bal. Acct to 1st Jany. Charley Aldous here, John R. Mills getting better of his hurt at Chattanooga. Mr. Aldous started out Peddling.

Tuesday: Mild strong wind from the west & south. Charles gone to Antwerp, James Arthur & Wife had a hard cold. Jane Holbrook) recovering from the Diptheria, William Smith drawing Me wood pay 16/ for cord this year. Sent \$25 to Lyttle & Hanford at Watertown for goods. Harvey Jenne came back from home today. Have been to Meeting this Evening only about 12 or 15 present but we had a good time and the Lord was with us to renew and strengthen our faith.

Note: Date of January 12 not recorded above.

13: Day pleasant & Comfortable, business fair. No particular news.

14: A comfortable and pleasant day, thawed in the sun. Lydia Drake Sewing at our house. Pd Allendorph \$18 Cash today. Sent George a Box for Express today containing:

1 Pr Boots	6.50	1 Pr Gantlets 20/	9:00
2 Pr Socks	1.20	Paper & envelopes 40	1.60

4 pd Butter	1.00	11 pd Cheese 154	2.54	
1 Book	.90	his bible & other reading	.90	
pd Express Charges			2.75	16.79

Mailed a Pair of Gantlets to Charles pd further 2.50 & postage 27c pd postage on My Baptist for 1 year 20.

A Warm Thawing day, some snow then a little rain. Pd. Wm Smith for 6¼ cords wood \$12.50, trade light. Calistas children Sick, they fear Dora will not recover. Have read today Fred Douglas Speech at the Cooper Institute N.Y. The most plain comprehensive and true exposition of parties and conditions & hopes & prospects from Country thus far made by any man. Lydia Drake at our house sewing yesterday and today. Mrs. Garrison and Miss Campbell at our house visiting today.

Yesterday Sunday was a mild pleasant day, 2 good Sermons by our pastor, attended Church all day with Julia Theodore Emma & Arthur. A good prayer conference Meeting at 6 oclock. Bro. Ames Envited the Brethren of the Church to tarry after the Congregation was dismissed to see if they would enough come out to church Meeting to do the necessary business of the church.

Note: No date on above paragraph entry. Sunday was January 17. If Henry Sheldon wrote with Sunday as yesterday, he would have been writing on Monday, January 18.

Monday 18: Mild and thawing. Van Buren Hauling Me wood today also Daily.

19: North Wind & Storm all last night & all day today and yet hardly cold Enough to freeze. 2 Heavy Claps of Thunder and lightning visible today. Harvey Jenne left School & gone home so I am alone now, a fair trade today. Gray went to Canton today, Pa went to Watertown yesterday, has not returned. So Stormy we did not have a Prayer Meeting tonight. Sent \$10 to Seeley & Brown Canton today. Not Much War News, the Rebels made a raid into Vienna where George is, dont hear of anyone they Killed or captured.

20: Day comfortable. Theodore went up to Grays. Good sleighing. Pd Mr. Ames 8 dollars on Salary & lent him \$18 till I can collect it from salary subn. Sent to Watertown by him for a few articles and \$20 Cash to J.C. Sterling & Co.

Note: subn abbreviation for subscription.

21: A Bitter Cold night last night, engaged 20 cords 20 inch wood of M.D. Morris at 10/ pr cord for Jane Mills. Bot some things of Green today. Wrote to Charles today, also recd a letter from him & from Mr. Cushing in the same Battery with pay for Diaries. Wrote to S. Tousey & sent cash \$10.00.

22: A very chilly s.w. Wind but not cold enough to Freeze. Pa gone to Watertown & Martinburgh. Bot a bill of Goods of Seeley & Browns peddler also of Bradley & Mould Book Yankee (Notions), &c.

23: Weather Mild. Church Meeting at 10 oclock took into consideration the debts of the Society, looked over all our old Matters & got a subscription started to pay our Entire debts amounting to about \$240, have it nearly all Pledged. Not Much News from the war or other parts of the world. Butler is at Fortress Monroe to work at the Rebels, Grant in Tennessee & Banks in Texas & a good fleet & armies on the coast & from all accounts the rebellion must be about on its last legs from want of Means to carry on the War or provisions to live on. I did not note the death of Mr. John Robertson last Tuesday morning, also the death of a young Man brot up by Mr. Eli Mix returning from the army took cold on an open car from Washington to N.Y. and the results or effects of it or the Medicine given him by the Doctor is his death.

24: Sunday a heavy thaw in progress. 2 Sermons Sunday School & Prayer Meeting. Visited Widow Amy Smith, her little Daughter Calista is very sick Tyfus fever doubtful about her recovery. Jane & John Mills & Chas Aldous here and at church this afternoon. Recd a letter from Charles today, is well.

25: Wind S. West still thawing. No War news. Calista still alive and fains hopes of her recovery. Jane John & Charley at My house visiting. Duane splitting Wood at Store.

26: Mr. Aldous started a peddling voyage.

27: Day mild and pleasant, snow all off Sidewalk & dry & warm. Maria Dodge Married today to Mr. Lansing of Watertown, Made quite a parade. Also George Pike Married to Miss Hellena Newell a Sister in the church. Calista Smith a little better. Lewis Morris returned from Harrisville & Edwards today, is not going to move to Harrisville, can't get a House to Move into. Sleighing getting poor.

28: Still Warm & pleasant. Have not needed a fire in the store, have been busy in waiting upon customers for little things. Deacon Thayer got down to my store today.

29: Cold N.E. Wind. Went down to Mrs. Amy Smith's this Morning to carry some articles and see how they do, found Calista as they Thought struck with death and can not stand it long, she is prepared and expects to die.

Saturday 30: Wind North West & Cold, but moderating. Calista Smith Died about 5 oclock this Morning. She was undoubtedly a Christian Experienced religion last March & United with the Church & has lived a consistent devoted life till her Death, an example to us all especially her Sunday School associates. Elder Ames was called over the River to preach the funeral Sermon of a Son of Mr. Gardner who was crushed to death at the Rossie Lead Mines. Covenant Meeting a good day but few out. The Gouvr Agricultural Society held their Annual Meeting today to

choose officers I learn they had a hot windy time tho Copperheads were bound to rule or ruin like their prototypes South with the Nation. Weather has moderated and is now at dusk Snowing. Recd a letter from Charles today, he is well & writes me a good Christian letter.

Note: Gouver abbreviation for Gouverneur.

31: Day cold & East wind. Sermon in the morning, no Sunday School. The funeral of Calista Smith in the Church this afternoon. I did not attend, took Care of James & let my wife go.

February 1: Thawing raining & hard S West wind. A New Draft Ordered of 500 thousand men. Pd A. P. Killmer \$131.20 Due on contract for Land leaving \$40 due one year from date. Charles Aldous went to Antwerp yesterday, returned today.

2: Weather Mild & pleasant. The mechanics are at work on the Block of stores above me. Col. Bement from Ten Lectures tonight on the War its causes and effects &c.

Note: Ten abbreviation for Tennessee.

3: Still Mild and pleasant, not cold enough to freeze or warm enough to thaw much. Col. Bement Lectures in the Baptist House tonight relating his experience in the War.

4,5 & 6: Nothing new worthy of Note, all things Move in a Speculative kind of a way. Church Meeting Saturday 6th filled up the Subscription for Church arrears to a binding sum so we are in hopes the Bapt Soc. Will see themselves free from debt in a few years.

7: Mr. Day is quite low, many fear he is past recovery. 2 Good Sermons today tho I only heard one. Republican Town Caucus Saturday.

8: Weather Mild, Sleighing good, business fair. We got up a surprise for Elder Ames & Made up a purse of \$115 & presented him at his house & had a good little visit. The Singers have Sold the Old Melodeon for \$45 towards paying for a cottage Organ bot today of Clemmens & Reddington for \$125. Mr. Alfred Day died today at about 11 oclock. He was a free will Baptist, his wife a member of the Baptist Church here, they were married about 2 years ago, he was in the Grocery business and a good exemplary Christian.

9: Cold North West Wind. Town Meeting today. No opposition to the Union Tickets, the Copperheads thought it a too hopeless a task to get up a Ticket or make even a show of opposition.

10: An extremely cold night last night and continued so all day today. J.R. Mills & Henry Aldous left again today for their Regiment at Ogdensburgh. Mr. Aldous started a Peddling voige. We have followed the Remains of Bro. Day to his last resting place. Funeral preached by Elder

Ames from Job a comforting discourse for the Christian even amidst the trials and afflictions of the mortal life.

13: The 60 Regiment passed through here today on their way to Northern Alabama.

14: Sunday pleasant & mild A.M. Stormy & Windy P.M.

15: Very cold today. Mr. Ames left for to help Elder Muzzy in a Protracted Meeting.

Note: Destination of Mr. Ames left blank.

16: A cold day yesterday. Mr. Henry Aldous came up from Canton today aft Father Aldous, Cutter returned today. Went up to C. Conants to show Miller my Colt & Pony. Milder today.

17: The Coldest night we have had 22 degrees below zero. Recd a letter from Jas Aldous wife stating the death of my aunt but dont say what one, I suppose it Must be Aunt Polly Wife or Widow of Henry R. Sheldon.

18: Still cold but prospects of a little Warmer weather. The Southern & Western army reported in Motion. No important news.

19: Day Clear & Cold but getting milder. Mailed watch returned to Norton & Co. last night. Not well. Mr. Brainards singing School closed with a concert in the Church tonight.

20: Young Haskins absconded with Jane Dods, Daughter of Andrew Dods last night, a fine good Girl but has done a bad thing for herself.

Note: Date of above entry is not clear whether February 20 or continuation from 19. It has 20 prior to the entry written in pencil with some apparent attempt to erase. All other entries are in ink.

20: Milder Cloudy & Moderating. Church Meeting today but not Enough Present to do business. My face eyes & head have felt bad today, dont know what is the matter. Brother Thos. Millers Shop at Rossie burned this Morning with many tools and Lumber & Work completed for the building he was putting up at Rossie for the mining company.

21: Elder Rice of Adams preached here for Elder Ames today, Mr. Ames at Henderson preaching.

22: Weather warmer and thawing. Nothing new from headquarters. President (making or waking) seems to demand more attention than putting down the rebellion. Recd a letter from Charles yesterday, thinks of reenlisting, have not heard from George in a long time.

23: Still warm and pleasant. Wrote to Charles today.

24: The school closes today, school has done well the past term. Our renters the past term have been Miss Burnett & her 2 Brothers, Jas Rutherford, Sister & Miss Thompson & (Broush), 2 Miss Bellingers & Miss Calaway. Rent amounts to \$29 at My House & to Mr. Hills family over store \$12. Mr. Aldous returned last night.

25: Weather warm and pleasant, snow fast leaving us, sleighing spoiled. Mr. Parker left My store building today & gave me up the Key. Wife has been Cleaning & White Washing with Mrs. Shaver over the store preparing to move into it in 1st March.

26: Weather Cool, Wife & Mrs. Shaver cleaning over Store preparatory to moving. Mr. Brown returned from Washington this morning, got sick of the place.

27: Cool today, a Man Laying floor over store and putting door in adjoining Store where we are to have our Kitchen. Covenant Meeting this P.M., a goodly number present. Elder Ames not returned. Mrs. Roger with us.

28: Day Stormy and thawing. Rev. Mr. Rice preached Communion in afternoon & preaching in the Evening.

29: Day cold & freezing. Mr. Price sawing My Wood today with Machine, have only 18½ cords long wood. John Newcomb working for Me Lathing. Mr. Fosters Man finished putting in Back Door.

March 1: Day cold but not stormy. Pd Price \$7 for Sawing My Wood. Corporation Annual Meeting today. Have got clear of the Clerk Ship, refused to run another year, no opposition to the Ticket. C.A. VanDuzee has 2 Men fixing my wall paper Shelves today, he found part of the lumber.

2: Day pleasant, getting ready to move, 2 Irishman have the job splitting & piling my wood for \$4.50.

3: Commenced moving this morning, Lewis Morris helping with his Horse & Sled. Day pleasant & warm, ground most bare. Sold my mortgage from Spencer for bal due for my house to William Killmer yesterday for \$12.76, the Mortgage for \$1300 to run 5 years, Shall pay it on my store lot or most of it as I owe about that amount.

4: Finished up Moving My trash today and lodge in My new abode tonight. Mrs. Roger who has been helping us move went home today. Pd the Irishman \$4.65. Pretty anxious times about Sherman in Alabama & Killpatric who has made a raid in Va from Culpepper to White House passing near Richmond destroying much R. Road and other property.

5: Day Stormy Rain & Snow. Are straightening things for living. Mr. Ames returned last evening, his labors have been attended with an increased interest and he hopes profit to some souls.

6: Sunday. Stormy but a fair congregation, 2 good Sermons & a Sunday School & prayer Meeting. Recd a letter today from Charles, well, will not reenlist so if he lives till his time is out next fall he can go home.

Monday 6: Snow last night and Stormy all day.

7: Good sleighing today snow about 6 inches deep. Recd a letter from Charles, is well & is not going to reenlist. Pd Parsons \$800 on Contract for Store today paying ahead of my agreement, owe still about \$540 to be paid in 4 years from 13th April next.

8: Have Insured My little House back of Store for \$200, & my furniture moving apparel & Provisions here for \$200. Move Cost of \$6. A.E. Norton Agt.

9: Sent to Canton for Book by Elder Ames, Sent Cash \$8.00. Plenty snow yet.

10: Went to Watertown today. Clear & Cold in the A.M. but rainy all afternoon. Pd up Little & Hanford & J.C. Sterling etc. Bot Some paper & other articles Kerosine Oil at 60c Sugar at 14 Brown & 17 for Yellow Coffee. Also a settee & Sewing Chair for Martha. Elder Ames left for Toledo & Kalamazoo this Morning, his wife for 3 Mile Bay.

11: Cold & Stormy in Morning.

12: Rough unpleasant weather.

13: Sunday, pleasant but bad getting about. Mr. Derathy from Canton preached 3 Sermons, a good preacher & I should judge a good Man.

14: Day rough & cold north wind.

15: Still cold & rough. No particular News, another Draft of 200000 Men ordered, hope they will call out enough to put down the rebels before another Winter.

17: Day cold some flurries of snow. Mrs. Ama Smith continues quite ill. Sent her a sack of Flour some sugar & rice (Doud or do red) apples &c today. Trade fair but not what it should be to pay all my expenses in these times of high prices.

23: No particular News. Weather cold. Went to Canton today & back.

24: Cold still. Cleaning out my other room for a Drugist Shop to pay \$80 a year & \$5 extra for repairs.

25: Went to Watertown & Back today. Pd out about \$150 dollars, bought a bill of Wall paper. Day cold.

26: Day pleasant. Death has come up into our Windows again and Timothy is taken from us, our Dear Kind and lovely Brother is gone. He died at his residence in Toledo Ohio at ½ past 5 oclock this morning after 3 days severe Suffering with the Billious Cholic. Thus has gone another of our family. 1st our Sister Calista Some 33 years ago, then our Dear Mother 8 years ago, and now our Brother Timothy, and not long before another for we are all to die. Oh shall we die in the Lord, must any of us go without a hope in Christ.

Note: A small collection of newspaper clippings was found in Henry Sheldon's diary. One item of interest at this time is from the *Daily Toledo (Ohio) Blade* newspaper, dated Saturday Evening, March 26, 1864. The article is as follows:

SUDDEN DEATH. – We were pained to hear of the sudden death, this morning, of Mr. TIMOTHY SHELDON, of the firm of SHELDON & BURGERT. His disease was Biliious Colic. Mr. S. had resided in this city for several years and his uniform courtesy, strict business integrity, and high social qualities had won the respect and esteem of every one with whom he came in contact. It may truly be said, a large circle of friends will sympathize with his family and friends.

27: Sunday. Cold & Rainy & Muddy. Mrs. Ames in Labor. Mr. Ames could not leave so we had no preaching today. A Bible Class & prayer meeting in the evening. Mrs. Ames had a Son.

28: Day pleasant but cold. Recd at 11 AM today a Telegram from Mr. Gleason for Sister Marian that they should start at 5 oclock this Monday morning for Gouverneur with Timothys corps requesting me to meet them at Toledo, but there being no train I could not. Gray & I will start at 6 oclock this evening for Rome to meet them there.

Tuesday Evening: Went to Rome, Met Marian her Father & Mother & Sister & Mr. Houghton her brother in Law with Timothys Corps & found Marian Sick with the Measles. Left Rome at 4 in the morning & arrived at home at 10 oclock A.M. Met all our Brothers & Sisters here but Lucia & those who lived away, had Services at my Fathers at 3 oclock and the burial in the Cemetery on our lot.

30: Cold snowy day, ground covered with Snow. Mr. Willcox & Wife & Mr. Houghton left on the noon Train for home. Sister Eliza Clark & Leroy Atwood arrived the 10 am train.

30: Snowy Cold & Muddy. Marian doing well, feels better, hope she will soon be over the Measles. Sold my Mare to Lewis Morris today for \$85. dollars. I call her worth \$125. but meant

to give him a chance to make something out of her. Received my bill of Wall paper &c from N.Y. today, Surprised they would not fill it, prices had advanced so much.

31: A cold snowy day. No particular War News. Marian Improving. Another Month is past & while we live it will be remembered as we think of Timothy.

April 1: A Comfortable & pleasant day. Cleaning up my store in west room, Draper here waiting to occupy it. Marian still improving – Duane Gray & Chauncey down today. Sent Lawrence \$62 today Bank check.

2: Taking account of last bill of papers. Day cold & some Stormy. Pd note at Anthonys Bank \$150 – pd Express charges on Timothys corps from

Toledo to Buffalo	\$12.00
Pd Sexton Diging Grave	2.00
Pd for Team for Hearse Bearers & family	6.50

Elder Ames tells us he has made up his Mind to go to Kalamazoo to live So we shall be left without a pastor again.

3: Sunday, day pleasant. A full House, 2 excellent Sermons. James M. Smith from Buffalo here. Marian improving. VanDuzee commenced putting up counters & Shelves in Store.

4: Weather Still pleasant but cool.

5: Went to Timothys Grave with Marrian & Mrs. Houghton she was not able to be at the burial. Day pleasant, Sugar weather. Nothing new from the War, armies moving up red River are successful. The Rebels have gone to Kentucky, hope they will carry the whole State down to South Carolina there, the President could do something besides compromise with rebel Kentucky Traitors to let them keep their Slaves.

6: Wednesday, day pleasant & Comfortable. The Children all down to Pas yesterday. Marian left on the 6 A.M. Train this morning for 3 Mile Bay, has got nearly well of the Measles. Chancy came down & got Eliza & Leroy & took them Home. Horace & Harriet went up, these times dull.

9: Have had Cold bad weather. Gray Julia Eliza &c Came up from Lucias.

10: Snow Storm all day today. Rev. Mr. Harmon preached this forenoon is looking for a place to settle as Pastor. Burl Smith preached in the afternoon, his first Effort here, done well for a Student fair prospect.

11: Monday. Weather Cold Snow 3 inches deep. Sent \$75. to Lawrence by Mr. Aldous to pay note. Mr. Willson Died yeterday Morning a fine Man and the Methodists have lost one of their best Men. Recd a letter from son Charles, is well.

12: Snow all gone but Cold Weather still. Mr. Willsons funeral today. Gray Julia Maria Dewey Eliza & Leroy went up to Chanceys today. Mr. Days effects including his Store mse Sold today, they brot good prices, his Store Sold for \$2000 Fosgate, it Cost Day about \$1600. Trade fair have got my west Store most finished for the Druggists.

Note: mse abbreviation for merchandise.

13: Day cold. Sent Salmon Kings deed to me to Theodore P. Sheldon for Record, Should have had it recorded 26 years ago. War Matters are quiet except in La. & Arkansas. The Rebels have possession of Western Kentucky, dont care how much they overrun & destroy the state, hope the people will get enough so they will become loyal.

14: Day cold but no rain today.

15: Day cold. Elder Webb here today, some ask of Securing his Services here as pastor.

16: Day bad & Stormy. Mr. Aldous Started for Edwards. Sales good today.

17: Snow 2 inches deep & Snowing & Melting all day. 2 Excellent Sermons by Elder Ames, hate More & More to have him leave. Wrote Saturday to Elder Wardner to have him come and preach for us next Sabbath with a view of locating should providence Seam to direct.

18: Morning broken but ground covered with Snow. Bought Sam Smiths old barn of Widow James Smith, am to pay Egert \$45.00. Sold Thos Miller My Buggy Buffalo & Slip No. in Baptist Meeting house for \$130, 25 dollars less than worth. Sister Eliza & Leroy Started for home on this Mornings train, have visited with us 2 Weeks tomorrow. She as well as Myself is growing old and we shall soon leave our places vacant for others and it will be said of us they are dead & gone.

25: Day pleasant, 1st pleasant sun day for a long time. Elder Ames preached his last sermon on his 2nd year which closes his regular labors with us as Pastor. Have written to Elder Wardner. Recd a letter from Son Charles yesterday, is well and full of hope & trust in God.

26: Recd a letter from Leroy Atwood, he & Sister Eliza arrived home safe. Mr. Downing Came to work for Me in store today to try whether he can stand it to do anything, am to try him a Month & pay what I think I can afford.

30: Saturday. The Month has gone, has been a cold wet month. Disaster has attended our army on the heel of the Fort Pillow Massacre came the news of Banks defeat at Pleasant Hill in La. And the Capture of Plymouth N.C. Forces are massing in Va Under Grant for some move we know not what.

May 1: Sunday. Sermon by Bro. Ames and Communion P.M. Day Stormy.

2: Julia & Anna Started for Evans this Morning, - day stormy & cold.

3: Cold & Rainy. Mailed \$79 to J.B. Breed & Co. to pay for wall paper \$12 to Tutten for Utica Herald to 1st May. I am looking to buy me a lot to build upon or a House to buy, am Sick of living over store.

4: Went to Ogdensburgh today to buy some stuff & See Averill about lot, did not see him, came very near being left. Emma taken sick last night vomiting and a high fever, dont know but it May Measles. Clean up pleasant.

5: Pleasant today. Bought Me a House & lot of Wm Holmes for \$1000,

Pay lot over the river	400	
Cash down	100	
Bal. 500 in 5 Equal Annual int	500	1000.00

Have possession in 1 month. Emma getting worse, had a hard night last night. Mrs. Roger came down afoot this P.M. to stay with us a few days. Report Armies all in Motion.

6: Pleasant day. Emma no better. Dr. Swan thinks her disease Inflammation of the Lungs. Trade fair for Me, My Man not able to stay, thinks he must go home. Sent \$50 to Lytle & Hanford for Elder Ames.

7: Stormy some today. Bought a House & Lot of Wm Holmes today for 1025.00, pay as follows

a vacant lot over the river	400
Cash down 100. Goods My Store 25	125
The Bal. \$500 in 5 equal anl payt	500

Mr. Downing went home today, not calling himself able to do my business. Emma very sick getting worse.

8: A Stormy day. Mr. Ames changed with Rev. Mr. Mattison of Watertown today, We call him a very good preacher. Emma no better, we trust her in the hands of our God hoping she May be spared to us. Heavy Fighting South of the Rapidan River in Va. Grant has moved & Lee must fish or cut bait. Thursday & Friday fighting all day, Many Killed & wounded on both Sides.

9: Day partly pleasant balance rainy. Emma We think a little better. Closed the arrangements with Holmes. Deeded him the lot over the river and he gave me a deed of his house and lot. Lee on his retreat towards Richmond. Butler doing land office business South of Richmond. Set out 13 Trees up on my lot today.

10: Shall look with a great deal of anxiety till I hear from Charles.

21:

Note: No entry is given after the date of May 21.

June 6: Nothing new has occurred with us for the last few Weeks, rain most every day. Continued fighting with Grants & Shermans Armies they are advancing & fighting towards the rebel Capitol and thousands of Men are being Killed. The Peoples Convention met at Cleveland Ohio the 3rd and Nominated John C. Fremont for President & Cocrane v.p. The Baltimore Conv meet the 7th to Nominate Lincoln. Old Mr. & Mrs. Ames left home Monday Morning the 6th, Mr. Ames having closed his labors as our Pastor left for Kalamazoo Mich June 7th at 5 am Train. The church is left destitute of Preaching.

7: Recd a letter this morning from George at Falls Church Va & a letter from Charles Wife saying he was well the 26th & unharmed. Also recd a letter from Brother Charles all well.

25: Very Dry & hot No rain yet. Recd a letter from Sons Chas & George, thankful that our ever kind Providence has preserved them from harm and they are still permitted to labor for their Country. Also recd a letter from Mother Johnson & a Photograph of Ephraim also a letter from Sister Sabrina Wheeler at Otsego & one from J.R. Mills in Georgia. Charles Aldous is also well. Have News from Elder Wardner that he shall go to Pa. Instead of coming to Gouverneur so we must look somewhere else for a Minister. Covenant Meeting today only 6 present.

July 23: The past wk has been one of Extreme heat & drought having had no rain for 6 or 8 wks, crops especially late ones will be mostly a failure. Have painted grained & papered My new house and this week have been moving My stuff up, shall stay there tonight for the first time, am well suited only rather to far off for all seasons and weathers.

24: Sunday Rev. Mr. Daugherty from Canton preached for us, are in hopes to hire him.

25: A little rain today com. About 2 PM, thankful to see the Clouds giving down a little. Had a talk with Bro. Daugherty, dont know as we can hire him, think it doubtful if we can raise \$600 salary his price. Today we have news of the death of Genl McPherson Killed by a Sharp Shooter at Atlanta Ga where they are having desperate fighting but bless God our army prevails.

Note: com. abbreviation for commenced. Ga abbreviation for Georgia.

30: Have had some rain quite a refreshing time as we have been dry for 8 or 10 wks. Have used myself up diging for Water. Masons plastering my chambers. Grant has been defeated in another assault having blown up a fort of the Rebels he Made an assault and was drawn back with a loss of 3000 or More. Sherman progressing. Rebels in Pa on another raid. My boys are safe thus far.

31: John Leavitt read for us today, have no Minister yet.

August 1: Rainy today, smart shower last night.

2: Clear but looks like rain.

3: Rainy again getting quite moist.

4: Day of

Note: Above is complete entry for August 4.

5: Mr. Benj Drake lost a little son last night. Funeral today at the House, Sermon by Elder Babcock from Adams.

6: day Hot & pleasant. No particular news.

7: Mr. Aldous & J.A. Leavett read Sermons today, did not go out to 5 oclock Meeting.

8: Day hot. The Rebels backing out of Md & Pa., Sherman reported having them in a tight place at Atlanta Ga.

