

DIARY OF HENRY SHELDON

1869

January 1: The new year was ushered in in a dark rainy windy night from the east and continuing all day so our new year was spent by ourselves at home. Christmas was appropriately observed by the various Sunday schools in this place in presents to and other interesting services for the children appropriate for the occasion.

2: A cold day & ground froze almost a rain. Attended the covenant meeting of the Bapt Ch here in the afternoon, had a good time, the ch elected Deacons & other officers of the Ch, it appears Deacons are elected Annually by this church. Messrs. Kingman Kidder & Wells were elected.

Note: Ch and ch abbreviations for church.

3: Raining & freezing a little all day. Meeting & the sacrament of the Lords supper observed by the ch Sunday School officers elected for the year at 8 Sunday Sch. Sing and at evening tho dark prayer meeting. I did not attend, am much troubled for breath especially nights, get but very little sleep. Received Saturday dfts of \$400 from Sudds.

4: A cool Rainy foggy muddy day, have done nothing today nor have I felt at all well. Attended the 1st meeting of the week of Prayer at the Presbyterian house. Wrote to Brother Gray & G. H. Haywood.

5: Still rainy foggy & muddy. Theodore Commenced going to school at the Vineland Academy & Emma & Arthur commenced going to the District school, use all new series of books but McNalleys Geography. Have packed up some Materials & Mr. Thayer has been repairing some articles of furniture which got badly damaged coming down from Philadelphia when I bot at auction a few articles that we could not keep house without. It has stopd raining and looks Mild and pleasant overhead. Quite a number of persons Strangers are here looking, some to see some to buy some to say for a season like us. God has been gracious to Vineland and many good Christian people are here ready to do what they can for the salvation of souls in Vineland.

6: A fine comfortable day, fixed about the house forenoon. Afternoon rode out with Mr. Ellis up Landis Avenue to see a place & down on Park Avenue to dear for me. Mr. Thayer & I went up East Avenue. Mrs. Gifford, Litchfield, & Mrs. Wise called this PM the 1st Women who have called. Attended Prayer Meeting at the Presbyterian house.

7: Slept better last night, a very warm and pleasant day, no frost in the ground, some are ploughing. Have been out on Chestnut Road to Capt. Nyes place 20 19 a cleard & ploughed. Poor house & not very good fixtures but good soil & a pleasant location for \$3000, got home at noon, saw & heard of Many other places all for sale.

8: Friday. Heard an interesting discourse this evening by Rev. E. Kincaid, Missionary at Burmah, description of the Burmans & Carens & other religious prospects & interests a col of. A very pleasant day indeed, in town all the forenoon afternoon self & wife rode out up Landis out Main down Sharp & Valley avenues to Park & home to see places and the country.

9: Saturday. Looking at Village Property, have agreed to give \$2000 for a place on Wood St if it can be had, pay \$800 down the Bal in 1,2,3,4 equal annual payments with interest. Walked out with wife up Grape St down East Avenue & down Wood Plumb etc home & then I went up Boulevard to Oak out Oak to Malaga down M to Park up Park to 3rd St & L Av home just dark, very tired so that I am at home tonight instead of at Prayer Meeting, did not intend to do so & dont feel justified for doing so. It has been the week of Prayer for all religious Moral Educational & Mission purposes & I hope & trust all who have observed it have had a closer walk & sweeter communion with God than I have. I know the fault lays at my door. Recd a letter from Father Aldous today. Well.

10: A fine comfortable day. Attended church with all my family, a good exhortation by Bro. Brittain Pastor, a good S. School about 130 present. Commenced a new series of lessons beginning with Genesis with a form of practical and general questions.

11: Monday. Listened last evening to another discourse by Rev. Dr. Kincaid about Idolatry heathenism Burmah Robbers &c. The morning comes with a cold rain from the north partly frozen. Have no regular business to go at nor have I earned anything since I came to Vineland but have paid out more than \$200 dollars & been here hardly 2 months yet. Must dry up some or run under soon or earn something.

12: Tuesday. Rain all last night & forenoon today cooler but not cold enough to Snow. Strolled about Town this PM looked at places to buy or rather for sale and home not feeling very well. Attended S Sch Teachers Meeting, have a new Series of lessons Commencing with creation.

13: Wed. Day very pleasant. Wrote some letters this am, am not as well as usual. Mr. Fisher called this forenoon, stayed to dinner, pd him \$5 for piloting My family here from Gouvvr, it costing Me \$37.53 to get my family to V., Fair. Attended Prof. Willsons lecture subject Vineland.

14: Thursday. Cool air but very pleasant this am, froze a little, had a poor night. More cough & Much put to for breath, can't imagine why I am feeling so poorly.

15: Friday. Rain last night & all day today, not cold enough to freeze, bot another singing book so Theodore & Emma can have each one. Have today bought a house & 2 lots on Wood St. between 6th & 7th Streets, lots ea 50x150 ft, now occupied by Mr. Chubbuck, Principal of the academy, am to pay \$2000, \$800 cash down the bal \$1200 in 4 equal Annual payts so while I stay I shall not pay rent, the place has cost the former owner over \$3000. I am in hopes to sell my place in Gouvvr in time to meet the payments on this. Am feeling no better, much pain in my

chest & head & weak & nights restless & sleepless. Wrote to Anthony & Co. for Draft of \$800 to make payt on my purchases.

16: Saturday. Strong N Wind all night & cold this Morning but not freezing. Reported no Sleighing at Gouverneur.

17: Had the nose bleed from $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 eve till $\frac{1}{4}$ to 12, had to send to the Doctor to get medicine to stop it. Wife & Emma went to prayer meeting today. Mild and pleasant, all went to church but me, have not been out today, hope I shall feel better again soon.

18: Monday. Weather mild comd Snowing a little at 9 oclock this AM, had a call from Mr. T.M. Thayer a companion of mine here from Gouvvr in search of health, we Make considerable company for each other. The Copperheads & rebels are hauling in their horns at the South Considerable propitiate the favor of Grant, dispair of using him as they have Johnson and are pleading for stay of their deserts. We dont expect now any Traitor will ever be punished.

19: Tuesday. A little cooler but little snow ground partly covered am. Not improving much tho I feel better than I did last week. Went about Town some, recd a letter fro Bro. G.H. Haywood about a little farm adjoining his. Have nothing new to write about.

20: Wed. Cool & pleasant, no storm some wind just on the balance between freezing & thawing. Singing school tonight, This Emma attended. Attended Methodist Meeting this Evening. They have been holding Evening Meetings for 2 Months or more, have now become so largely attended & interesting that they have moved them to the upper part of their house. There are some conversions and many inquiring.

21: Th. Still mild & pleasant, ground froze a little today. About town doing nothing only spending time & money. Theodores school closed yesterday (Wednesday, to have 2 Weeks vacation. Had the nose bleed this PM so I did not go to Meeting as I intended. Recd letters from son Charles, Alex Wood & H Sudd with Draft for \$800 to pay on My house just bought. Charles wants some money to help them in their business. Wife & Theodore gone to prayer meeting, the children sit round the Table, Emma reading stories to them & making cars on the slate children fashion.

22: Friday. Mild & hazy this am, did not rest much last night. Commenced taking Hooflands Bitters yesterday noon to see what its effects will be, feel that I must do something to strengthen me up and drive out all these aches & pains of which I am so full. Attended Meeting this afternoon & evening at the Methodist house, very good, the Lord present by his spirit.

23: Saturday. Day pleasant but a cool strong west wind. Attended Prayer Meeting at 2 PM. at 4PM self Wife & Dea. Thayer went to Mr. Wilbers and took Tea & Made a short good Visit and back to Bapt prayer Meeting at 7 eve.

24: Sunday. An extra fine pleasant day. Bro. Kingman preached, Bro. Brittain being absent at Baltimore, an excellent timely and plain discourse, He lifted us out of an horrible pit & Miry clay & set me on a rock, substance of Text. Had a class of young Ladies in S School, a good prayer meeting evening.

25: M. Still cool & pleasant, good weather for work, am doing nothing yet towards a living, had a good prayer meeting this evening, prospects look encouraging for a good time.

26: T. Quite a cold night & cool wind today. Mr. & Mrs. Fisher called at our house today, attended Bible class this Evening, have earned nothing yet towards a living.

27: W. Cool but pleasant. Not much news.

28: Very pleasant. Wife & James & myself took a walk to Malaga R to Chestnut Av to Boulevard & home. All day at home. Wife & Theodore to Prayer Meeting this eve. Called at Dr. Tellers to pay him for Medicine to stop my nose bleeding, he also gave me Medicine to take so I suppose I shall get well soon.

29: Friday. Extra Warm & pleasant. Wrote to Lucia. Executed the writings today for the House & 2 lots on Wood Street, pd \$800 down & gave Bond & Mortgage Dated 28 Jany 69 for \$1200 to be pd in 4 equal Annual payments with interest annually. People say I have a bargain of 5 to 1000 dollars, it has cost about \$3200. Am going to Meeting this PM. Slept on lounge last night, so much pain all over. Could not lay abed so got up, dont see the Cause. Singing School this Eve, Theo & Emma Went, had a very interesting & spiritual Meeting this PM.

30: Warmer & pleasanter than ever, Mercury 66 degrees at noon, north side shade. Recd a letter from Julia S, is well. Prayer meeting in all the churches this Evening & the interest increasing.

31: Sunday. Cold Strong West wind but dont freeze. All attended church good sermon & an interesting S School. Enquiry Meeting at 3 oclock, Prayer Meeting in the Evening very interesting.

February 1: Monday. Cool morning about 40 degrees, day pleasant & sunny, nothing new with Me, did not go to bed last night, could not sleep from pain in My nerves or bones, dont know any cause.

2: Tues. Quite a cool day wind E preparing to storm. The good work moves on, sinners are coming to Christ.

3: Wed. A hard rain with strong wind from the East all night & continues cloudy & misty or rainy all day but milder 40 to 46 degrees. Attended prayer & conference Meeting this PM & Evening some new ones rejoicing in hope others seeking.

4: Th. Thunder Showers last evening & hard showers Rain all night & continues this Morning Warm. Mercury 40 degrees Wind S West. Attended Bapt. Soc. Meeting this PM heard report of Trustees and they have expended about \$10000 dollars so far house up & roof on owe about \$2500 & want about \$6000 more to complete the house. Wife & children attended Meeting last evening, some new ones asked for Prayers & a good time.

5: Strong NW Wind ground froze a little partly covered with snow & cold Mercury down to 28 degrees 9 am. Went to Millville today, saw Mr. Acres about a place in Vineland to rent, home at 3:15.

6: Saturday, bright & Sunny day. Merc. 44 degrees 1 PM. Been out to Walnut & Orchard road & Chestnut to Malaga & home, looked at Mr. Hallecks 20 acres, Wild at 1300 & Dr. Fishs at 1400, and home at noon. Shall or expect to go to Covenant Meeting this afternoon a full and large Attendance & solemn spiritual & good meeting 2 United by experience formerly members of other Bapt. Churches 2 by Letter & 2 by experience for Baptism a good & full attendance at Evening with better than all the presence of the Holy Spirit.

7: Sunday. Communion some talk by the Pastor Bro Brittain, a crowded hall & good day. Sunday School & eve. Meeting did not attend them. A Man died across the Way last night, consumption.

8: Monday. Cool Night & froze, clear & pleasant & warm today. Take possession of My house on Wood Street today & Swept it out. Enquiry Meeting PM Prayer Meeting Eve dull.

9: Tuesday. Very Warm Moderate rain all day, took a hard Cold Sweeping out My house yesterday and lamed My stomach badly so that I have been about used up today. Done Nothing have not been out to Meeting, had 2 Black Men digging out deepening & enlarging My cellar. Got Some More Medicine of Doct. Teller.

10: Wed. Rain all night & Moderately all day today Weather Mild. Had 2 Black men & a boy digging My cellar larger & ½ day, another Black Joiner making Buttry, have to pay him 20/ pr day & the diggers \$2 each. Attended prayer Meeting at 3 PM a very good & encouraging meeting, do not go out this Evening dark & Rainy. Recd a letter from Leroy Atwood. Am improving some again hope it may continue.

11: Thur. A pleasant Day all day nearly not cold have 2 Black Men & a Boy at Work for me Diging my cellar larger, had a Black carpenter all day work in house. Attended prayer Meeting at 3 ock, 6 converts retold their Experiences to the church 7 are ready for Baptism Sunday next.

12: Friday. A Mild & pleasant a Delightful day. By the blessing of God my family are all usually Well. 2 Blacks worked ½ day ea & all day (Joiner) pay 1 \$2.50 pr day the others \$2.00, let Mr. Chadwick a job putting in an outside cellar Door for \$10.00. Shall stop soon as possible or I shall have nothing to live on. Gave the Trustees of the Bapt. Soc. Here \$20.00 to go on with

their work on their Meeting house. Recd letters from Mr. & Mrs. Child today. The church are divided about an act to sell the pews to pay Expenses of running the house, fear they are doing themselves an injury & will do themselves an injury. The Trustees have resigned. May God direct & control the ch. In this their time of wicked Strife.

13: Saturday. Have needed no fire to keep warm, has been both warm & pleasant. Have been fixing & moving things about my house, had a man putting in outside cellar Door also a Black Mechanic Making Sink &c &c &c. No meeting in Bapt House today till evening, wife & Theodore attended, I at home. Not the usual flow & fullness of the Spirit so meeting more dull than usual. I have felt much better & worked about my house today.

14: Sunday. Increasingly hot & pleasant all day. All attended church AM Meeting opened by calling on all to contribute to pay for getting the new church finished Enough to hold Meetings in it as the Hall is Much too small for the congregation they got Volunteer Subtions amounting to \$455, need \$600, to buy material. At Noon 7 were Baptised in Maurice River in presence of Several hundred persons a good season. Wife and Theodore attended prayer Meeting, said to be a spiritual time, 16 forward for prayers. May the hearts of Saint & sinner be still More powerfully moved.

Note: Subtions abbreviation for Subscriptions.

15: Hard rain all last night and till 10 am today cleared up hot Cold. Carpenter & another Man at work part of the day today.

16: Tuesday. Cold Strong NW Wind all day. Martha cleaning up to the House. Black Carpenter repairing about the house. Bot a Small Wood parlor stove \$800. Some pine lumber at 4½ cts pr foot. Meetings continue with reported interest and success. Recd a letter from our Julia today at Passaic, Wants to know when she shall come home.

17: Wed. Cool but pleasant & comfortable today. Have been to work all day bossing all jobs. Black Man Wheeling dirt about the house. “ Woman Cleaning 2 Masons & 1 Tender smoothing & cementing the cellar by the Job \$13. & I furnishing Bbls cement. Put up a board wood shed have about run out of funds & shall have to stop repairs or Eating. Wrote to Wm Aldous that I would take \$3000 for store & house back or \$500 for House back of store.

Note: “ is beneath the word “Black” on the line above.

18: Rained a good deal last night cool & high strong west wind all day today. The Men finished cementing My Cellar this A.M. Pd Mr. Linikin \$23. for doing the job. Wife & a Woman cleand house forenoon. Attended Prayer meeting this PM at 3 oclock.

19: Friday. An unusual windy day, have been at home most of the day for the Wind, some snow & rain in the morning but cleared up & dried off. Mr. Thayer Varnishing My furniture today.

20: Sat. Cold & some wind. Mr. Thayer finished this AM. Theodore & I making wood shed, Mr. Whitney patching plastering this PM. Recd a letter from Mr. Cutting about renting My house at Gouver, wrote him I would rent for \$200 pr year & Taxes.

21: Cool & Cloudy Wind South East. All attended church this forenoon, the pastor talks as tho the work would cease but cant bear the thought.

22: Mild & comfortable cloudy. Mr. Whitney finished patching, got some paint ready to paint the Buttry. Wrote Mr. Cutting this A.M. Mail. Had Mr. Hall paint the Parlor & Bedroom today. Attended the Funeral of Mr. Taylors child this PM, attended prayer Meeting this Evening 8 arose for prayers and a full house, we can still hope & pray.

23: Tuesday. Wrote Sister Julia about picking up our stuff if Mr. Cutting wants the House at \$200. & Taxes. Rain all last night & today Mercury 60 degrees at noon Very windy all day at Night cold NW Wind. A Man painting & White washing today. To unpleasant to be out at home this evening.

24: Wed. Cold and windy. Mr. Hall painting Buttry. Mr. Price papering Chamber & stairway getting ready to Move.

25: Thursday. Moved today from Mr. Crowels House on Landis Av between 3rd & 4th Streets to the House I have bot on Wood St between 6th & 7th Sts, have Expended about \$200. in repairs & painting & cellar, Pd Men \$260 to Move us this forenoon., day sunny & pleasant but cold wind N.W.

26: Friday. Comd snowing in the night snowed & Rained nearly all day cold N West Wind about 4 inches snow on the ground for the most we have had this winter. Spent the day in straitening things about the house.

27: Saturday. Still cold & snow on the ground but thaws in the sun. Still fixing up things about the house. Mr. Thayer quite poorly with a cold and inclined to be home sick.

28: Sunday: Thaws a little in the sun but froze quite hard last night (loox) winters & all attended church today but mother. Text almost thou persuadest me to be a chr. No S. School 6 Baptized in Maurice River today. Our new home seams odd but when we get fixed up shall be comfortable if I can earn a living.

March 1: Monday. Coldest winter weather we have had. Mercury 10 degrees above zero at 6 this Morning. Emma & Arthur comd going to School this AM. Bot a bbl Flour 7.50, 5B Potatoes 4.75, ½ Ton Coal 4.75. Am not feeling very well today, to hard a job moving.

2: Tues. Pleasant but cool, Thaws in the sun. Have spent the day in fixing up Wood Shed blacking Stove pipe putting up Stove in Parlor &c &c. Have had no news from Gouv in over a week. Suppose Mr. Cutting will not rent my house.

3: Wed. Day pleasant snow mostly melted off. Recd letters from Gray Lucia & H. Sudds, are all blocked in with snow nothing doing. Dea. Thayer not as well as usual.

4: Thursday. Rainy drizzly all day just between freezing & thawing. Today Winds up Andy Johnsons career of infamy & disgrace to the nation as acting President. Hope the people will never require God to afflict the Nation with such a curse again. All have confidence in Grant whose inauguration as President of the United States takes place today that he is honest and with such as he will select for his cabinet the country will be safe and the people prosperous and happy laws Equal and Just to all.

5: Friday. A cold night last night and cold NW Wind all day snow still on the ground North side of buildings &c that fell 1 week ago. They represent having a crowd in Washington to Grants inauguration & Andys funeral. Visited R. Peck an Electric Physian consulted, Consulted him & had an examination & conclude to try a few experiments in Electricity & Bathing, took a bath this PM, pd \$2.00 for it.

6: Saturday. Snow fell about 3 inches deep last night & this morning & now looks dreary. Living without business Eats the core right out of a fellow, shall have to change something or be changed Myself to the poor house.

7: Sun. A cool day but not stormy. All attended Ch. Communion this AM 13 recd the right hand of fellowship so that shows some are being added to the ch. we trust such as shall be saved. They have a great work on their hands in the erection of their house of worship but are getting along finally.

(no date): Monday. A cold windy day strong in the NW. Walked out 2½ miles on Main road to see a cow to buy, found the cow but not the man home, very tired.

9: Tuesday. A very pleasant day but cool West wind. Looking to find a good cow to buy. Town Election today, some interest, the Womens rights Manifest in the Women conducting an election of their own in the Hall where the election is being held done for effect to give its influence and make a big sound over the country for Womens rights.

10: Wed. Rain with strong SE Wind all night & all day nothing doing, had to lay still only went down & saw Mr. Thayer, am taking Electric treatment from Dr. Peck, have taken 1 Electric Bath & 3 Elec treatments up to today. Am Experimenting, dont see as yet any benefit from the \$5. pd so far.

11: Thursday. Clear & pleasant this morning. May the son of righteousness shine as brightly in the hearts of his people as the natural son upon our land diffusing joy gladness & eternal life to all around. The children are on tiptoe expecting Julia home today. She arrived on the 5:15 PM Train all safe. Day pleasant & this Evening all are visiting with Julia.

12: Friday. Snow fell about 3 inches last night and this morning, Thawed off some during the day. Had a good prayer Meeting last Evening, Mr. Brittain away.

13: Saturday. Bought a little shed 10½ x 12 of Mr. Gifford & Moved it onto my lot for a cow stable. Pd \$20. for it & it cost me \$1.20 hired help to move it. Bought me a cow pd \$52.00 worth \$80. as I find the price of Cows generally about here. I am of the opinion before trying her that she is an extra good one. Am quite tired but have stood working today extra well.

14: Sun. A very pleasant bright comfortable day all attended church. Rev. Mr. Leonard preached in the absence of Bro. Britain. All walked out a little ways in the afternoon, attended prayer meeting Evening a very good day.

15: Monday. Commenced a cold rain about 8 AM rain & Snow & hail all day bought 200 bales Hay at 1.10 pr cwt also 10 Bushels Potatoes at 80c pr bushel. Recd 2 Drafts from Anthony & Co of \$100. each, fear that will soon be gone before I earn any more. Recd from Mr. Bissell of Toledo \$339.82 My Share in the bal. Of Brother Timothys Estate having recd 604. in October \$943.82 in all truly we ought to reverence his memory in his lifetime he was to Me in My days of afflictions & Suffering the Kindest and most sympathizing of Brothers and in him & Marian we suffer an irreparable loss.

16: Tuesday. A cold night & morning froze quite hard but a pleasant day. Have spent the forenoon raking up leaves in the Park for Bedding for my Cow. The Morning train ran over & killed a Mr. Thompson from North Vineland. He was on the track near Wheat road, no cause known why he did not leave the track. Recd a letter from Mr. Waldo yesterday wanting to rent my house in Gouverneur. Wrote him he could have it at \$200 for year after 1st of May, giving us time to go up & pick up the stuff we have left there & could lay out \$40. of the rent in paint & painting on the House.

17: Wed. A cold chilly day. Went out to Mr. Whitneys to see a 5 10 & 20 acre lot.

18: Thursday. A clear but cold day, Strong N Wind. Went to Philadelphia this AM. Bought 15 Yds Carpet at 52½ c per yd also 40 Yds for Parlor & P. Bedroom. Stayed all Night in Phila at the Continental Hotel on Arch St.

19: Friday. Spent the day running about in Phila & looking at & pricing Pianos. Cool but pleasant. Returned on the 5 o'clock train here, nothing new, all well.

Note: A partial sentence dated March 19, 1869, is written after the April 20, 1862 diary entry, as follows: "It has been very mild and".

20: Sat. Milder than usual, am tinkering about the house doing nothing.

21: Sun. Cool but pleasant, all go to church. Methodist Man preached Sunday School good attendance. Am feeling better than usual.

22: Monday. Day cold & strong cold NE Wind all day. Mr. Thayer & Fisher took dinner with us today, have done nothing yet.

23: Tues. Snow & Rain from the NE all night with wind almost a gale, Strong cold wind all day from North West.

(no date): Wed. Cool enough to wear an overcoat but pleasant. Recd a letter from Mary Cadwell, good, nothing particular new or interesting.

25: Thursday. A cool pleasant morning. Wrote to Lucinday Crawford.

26: Friday. Rain all day & wind Southwest. Went down to Mr. Days to see Mr. Thayer, he is feeling quite well again.

27: Saturday. Clearing up but cold. Finished up my hen House. Looked at a lot of Mr. Halls on Park avenue to rent to work this summer, pounded my forefinger so it is lame and painful.

28: Sunday. A beautiful Mild & pleasant day. The whole family go to church. Rev. Mr. Leonard a resident of Newfield & Member of this Ch. preached in the absence of Bro. Brittain collecting funds to furnish the Meeting House here or to pay on what they now owe towards it. An excellent discourse about drawing water from the wells of salvation, a full house and a large attendance (150 odd) at Sunday School, a thin attendance at Prayer Meeting in the Evening and Not much of the life & interest of the Spirit. Spiritual interest has died out very suddenly but true religion must be an every day business & the Soul must daily yes constantly be supplied from that never failing fountain.

29: Monday. Commenced raining hard with heavy wind from the S East continuing all day. A heavy fall of rain today. Recd a letter from Mr. Waldo today about renting My House in Gouver, dont want to pay \$200 pr year.

30: Tuesday. A comfortable day forenoon some rain some Sun PM all lousy & Rainy & wind S West. Have about made up our minds to go back to Gouver. Self & Wife Thursday this week or Monday next week to straiten out maters left at home & rent or sell our place.

31: W. Did not start for home today. We hear of freshets high water & bad roads, rained Some& cold.

April 1: Day cold & Windy, fixing up about the House.

(no date): Friday. Cool & pleasant. Went over to see Dr. Ingrams lot, talk of renting fixing front yard. Rained some towards night.

3: Sat. Very cold strong N West wind but pleasant. Rode over to Bradyton with Mr. Linikin, saw the city, had a cold ride & got home at 5 PM.

4: Sun. Cold & windy squally snowy & rainy & pleasant. Mr. Brittain talked before communion & gave right hand of fellowship to 9 added to the ch.

5: Self Wife & James leave this morning for Gouverneur N.Y. to pick up sell or bring down our stuff left there. Reached home Tuesday Morning, put up at Mother Sheldons, was sick a week so I did nothing of my business. Was up there till the 25th of Apl when we left for home, stopping overnight at Cous. Charles Kirths at Rome & Levi Aldous at Passaic, arriving home Wednesday at 5 PM, found the children well and the spring quite advanced. Ought to have been here all the time fixing up. Dea. T.M. Thayer reached home from his stay in Vineland the 19, a week before we left, is quite well, has improved more than I have. Rented My House & part of garden to Mr. Waldo for \$100 pr year & the bal. of garden to F. Fullington to plant on shares. My store is rented to Mr. Mosher for \$200., chambers to Wm Aldous at \$40. & house back of Store to Couch at \$72.00. Sold some of our household stuff, gave some away, left some & brot 3300 lb with us to V.

May: Have rented Dr. Ingrams lot of 6 acres on West Av for \$30. pr year, have had a Man at Work on it. Julia left the 5th May for Passaic in company with Mrs. Litchfield who has been stopping here through the winter for her health.

15: Up to the present time we have had comfortable weather with rain & shine & wind & cold & heat. Have Worked & hired work on my place rented preparing the ground and cleaning out the weeds from the strawberries Blkberries Grapes Peaches &c. Have up to now 15 planted ½ acre corn a few potatoes & 500 Hills Lima Beans & set out 2100 Sweet potatoe plants has cost me so far about \$85. Hope to get it back in something to live on if no more.

20: My unprofitable life has been Spared a year since My beloved Father was taken from us. I have taken up my residence here as well as a journey west in the Mean time but I cant say really as my health has very materially improved. Should another year find Me alive and No better, we may return.

26: Have finished planting except a little Sowed corn for cow feed, am feeling so unwell today that I have not worked.

June 12: Do Not Keep posted up with every days work and Mercies tho I hope I am not unmindful of Gods continued favor and unbounded Mercies. My duties and endeavors are Much the same from day to day which only leaves me with anything else than the loveing Kindness of our Heavenly Father nor the recording. Since last date have worked hard some days beyond My Strength. Have had some very hot & some very cold weather for the season. Have heard from Gouverneur that Mother Sheldon was very Sick and then again that She was better but I fear those terrible distressed spells will prove to Much for her to endure. Have heard from Calista in Nebraska, Brother Charles (via Cordelia) in Wisconsin, Bro. Alva & Mother Johnson in Michigan, and so on, so as far as heard from no deaths have occurred in the range of our relatives since Uncle Asas. We are now in the midst of our Strawberry harvest, a large crop market overstocked & price low 4 to 10c pr qt net to grower.

July 1: Month after Month speed their rapid course onward and we are all unconsciously being hurried to death and eternity whether we would or no. Like the worm that crawls we are today & tomorrow where are we?? Thanks be to God who giveth the blessings of life and the hope of life eternal.

2: This is My 55th Birthday. Tis God alone who has bid the soul remain in this frail feeble tenement there to await the call of him who gave it that it may be found Watching and ready should be my chief concern as it is My prayer. The year 1869 is numbered with the things of the past with all the acts of man and nature. The Salvation of Souls has seemed to be wanting in the interest it demands of men & apparently not as many revivals have spread over the land as usual, but thanks be to God Many have been turned to Christ. The Enemy has been busy and all forms of false & spurious religions & beliefs & delusions are spreading over the land, among the most soul destroying is modern Spiritualism deluding its thousands.

Note: The above is the final entry for the year 1869.