

COURTLAND OLDS DIARY FOR 1880 — SUMMARY BY H. B. BARRETT

Scott Sowden, Great Grandson of Courtland Olds of Marburg, loaned me eight of C. Olds diaries to read. To date I have summarised his 1867 & 1873 diaries for Scott and the Eva Brook Donly & Harbour Museums. I find the language, farming methods and his religious views most interesting. My Grandfather, W. H. 'Harry' Barrett, began working at age sixteen for Mr. Olds in July of 1880.

Harry B. Barrett. January 28th, 2003.

JANUARY — 1880.

Jan 1st, Thursday. We have spent the day at home to day. Had Mrs. Hall and her little family to take dinner with us. Expected to have had Frank and Mattie Parker also but were destined to disappointment. The weather has been most delightful and the roads all that one could wish. We went down to Mrs. Jackson's to spend the evening, Ma & I, but not finding her home we went over to Unckle [sic] Joe McFell's, and spent the evening pleasantly. The Lord is with me still. [this entry is copied verbatim from the diary, for the flavour of his language. I will summarise.]

Jan 2nd, Willie cutting wood. I worked around house & barn. Ma and Samantha to Simcoe. I have been endeavouring to make the most of my spare moments, as never done before. Felt need of more study and preparation of the mind, with an especial view to better and more successful farming. The past year has been my most successful one, but chance for improvement, I think.

Jan 3rd, Willie went to Hamilton last night. I have had chores and took a grist of chop out, got ground at once and home by noon. Visit from John Gilbert & lady of Woodhouse. They are always pleasant visitors. Took wooden-axle waggon out for repair.

Jan 4th, Sunday. Kept from church by rain.[page of quotes from scripture follows.]

Jan 5th, Willie back. Took little Lizzie Hall to Dover, then to Simcoe to Federal Bank. Dinner at Unckle John's at Leonora's. Voted for Councillors at Wiggin's schoolhouse. To Smith's tonight.

Jan 6th, Canvassing for Guardian & Magazine. Successful at Unckle Joe's, Mrs. Jackson and Aaron Stringer's where I took dinner. Then William Williamson. Arranged with George Ryerse to change some Asace [alsike] clover seed. Mine not very clean enough.

Jan 7th, Arranging for another summer's work. Took bus. of Alsac [sic] to Peter Ryerse's to exchange for some of their raising. My own not clean enough to suit me. I find clean seed important. This holds true in any kind of grain or seed.

Jan 8th, Warm enough to spread manure put in orchard last fall [in piles?] Put brine on the meat of pork variety. Sold 5 cull sheep for \$9.00. Have something over 40 good sheep. Frost about out

Jan 9th, Willie is fencing straw stacks. Went out to Dover for mail. Painfully surprised at death of Mrs. Joseph Wiggins, she made her earnest and humble confession of faith in class just a few

Sunday's ago. Been encouraged by her noble example of humility and love for some years back.

Jan 10th, Took Samantha home despite the bad roads. Walked most of the way out of pity for the horse. Made arrangements in Simcoe about Alsike clover seed left at Austin & Werrits. I attende funeral of friend and classmate, Mrs. Wiggins, of Port Dover, buried in the new cemetery above Dover. Called on Bro. Gray on way home.

Jan 11th, Sunday. Ma and I to Meeting in Dover. Bro Gray preached funeral sermon of departed sister, Mrs. Wiggins. Text "This year thou shalt die." In class thought of departed who mingled with us in our humble worship, and now she worships in heaven.

Jan 12th, Willie in woods. I working at a new harrow. Not happy with my own make of them.

Jan 13th, Willie working in woods. I worked at my harrow, while weather warm, as no stove in the shop. Engaged looking over old witnesses in my scrap book.

Jan 14th, Willie drawing wood for the drag & circular saw. Made mistake laying out my harrow and spoiled 4 beams [sic] Disappointing. Labouring under second severe cold this winter. Mild.

Jan 15th, Willie continues in woods. I am quite ill, nearly finished harrow. Very warm weather.

Jan 16th, John Marr & U. John Matthews with wives and other ladies too numerous to mention visited. Went up to McIntee's to hear from below, but no word. Looked for visit from Miss A. H.

Jan 17th, Willie doing chores and in woods as usual. To Dover for papers. Took letter to McIntee, as it indicates his wife is coming home next Sat. Hoped my young lady friend coming with her, but nothing said. Recd. first copy [sic] of the Country Gentleman to day.

Jan 18th, Sunday. Went to hear Mr. Culler [Cutter]. Disappointed in his interpretations.

Jan 19th, Willie finished chopping. Took out a grist. Took harrow to Bl'smith shop to complete.

Jan 20th, Snow stopped us. Reading Country Gentleman. Many very helpful articles to farmer.

Jan 21st, Willie to wood cutting bee for minister, Mr. Culler. I am working on second harrow.

Jan 22nd, Very stormy, we work around barn and in shop on last of harrows. Very warm, muddy.

Jan 23rd, Walked to Dover for first time in year or so for papers etc. Dinner at Mrs. Jackson's. We talked about my friend below, A. H. Some friends below have used me in a very treacherous way. Hope it is over-ruled for good by Higher hand. Registered letter from old tenant John. Noah

Jan 24th, Willie and I cutting wood in woodhouse. He got some corn stalks in from garden. Went to see Mrs. McIntee, who came home from below. Inclined to think she has improved some. She said A, H. is coming in a couple of weeks. Expected to see her to day.

Jan 25th, Sunday. Out to Meeting in Dover and amply repaid for going over the bad roads. Excellent sermon from dear Bro. James Gray. Delightful time in class later. It was Anneversary sermon to be followed tomorrow night by lecture and concert in the Town Hall. Lecturer is to be Woodsworth from Jarvis. Subj. Matrimony. Proceeds toward \$300.00 church debt.

Jan 26th, Willie has been drawing wood together to day for the drag saw and circular when not otherwise engaged. Went to Simcoe on horseback to settle up with Austin & Werrit for balance of clover seed, which they gave me \$7.00/bus. Mr. Austin said it required a sand seive to clean alsike properly.

Jan 27th, Willie drawing wood. Went to Jarvis with stuff for last tennant, John Noah.

Jan 28th, Willie continues at wood. I went to see when drag saw man is coming. Worked on last harrow. A remarkable January, just like spring. Could not go to Woodhouse tea meeting, bad rds

Jan 29th, Willie finished drawing drag saw wood. We killed a beef this afternoon, with U. John Matthews help. We killed the cow that I traded for with G. Hall.

Jan 30th, Willie & I cut up beef, took a quarter to Mr. McIntee. A little surprised at little cow's weight of 486 lbs. Went to Dover with fore quarter for Ross. Sold hide for 6 1/2 cts. / lb. Highest ever for cow hide. Marm, I was caught in rain. Had pleasant hour with Bro. Gray.

Jan 31st, Willie got up some wood we had cut. Finished sawing it at the Woodhouse. Obligated to burn green wood now. Turned cold of which I am glad, been muddy so long. I am trying ti improve all my leisure moments as best I can, with an eye to greater proficiency in my businss.

FEBRUARY — 1880.

Feb 1st, Willie and I both sick with colds. Extreme weather and winds. Much gratified and blessed while reading articles in the Magazine & Guardian.

Feb 2nd, Willie home sick with a cold. Brother Albert replaced him. Old Bluch kicked me in the arm, a bad bruise. Ma went to dinner for McIntee's 17th wedding anniversary. I went later.

Feb 3rd, 10 inches of snow, I was out only for chores. Interested in the report British Farmer's delegates to this country. They consider farming in Ontario is in a transition state. Soon be unprofitable to raise wheat because of the great north-west; have to turn attention to stock raising.

Feb 4th, Geting sawing machine set up, and engaging hands etc. Short letter from friend A. H. thankful to hear but sorry for one feature I dare not mention. Lord help me await thy blessing.

Feb 5th, Snowing to hard to saw wood. Finished harrow repairs, now have three good sets. Reading of new invention for separating cream from milk called The Centrifugal Creamer. It seems destined to make a great change in butter making throughout.

Feb 6th, My boy cutting wood. I went to Windham Mill, Rose Bros. For flour and middlings. Went for Samantha on way home. Had dinner at Nora's and found Addam sick. My friend Archie Olds burned out lately, and loss considerable. Excellent sleighing.

Feb 7th, Albert still here. Went out to Dover for chop. Alarmed that I may not have enough to do until I get the cattle off my hands. Beef prices low. Weather cold and pleasant.

Feb 8th, Sunday. Ma and I to Meeting. Young Bro. Cook from the Jarvis Circuit preached. Class meeting after was most happy. The Good Lord being in our midst. Greatly blessed as I endeavoured in my weak way, to assist in leading the class. Very good attendance.

Feb 9th, Willie and I getting up straw for feed. Mr. & Mrs. John Murphy, of Simcoe, visited.

Feb 10th, Willie and I got up a load of wood, and he cut it up. Ma and I went to Dover, dinner at Mrs. Hall's, they intend moving away from Dover. Called on Mr. Gray and had chat with Rev. Mr. Brethour of Simcoe. Like his appearance. Stayed to meeting, heard his brother preach.

Feb 11th, Got up 2 loads of hay fro little barn in the woods. Went to bee for drawing timber for Tommy Jackson's barn. Heard from Wm. McIntee that my friend A. H. is coming soon.

Feb 12th, Sawed with drag and circular saw, despite track for horses being very bad. Inclined to think it pays to cut wood this way, it is so quickly done. Miss Wheeler, a young lady relative visiting from Michigan. Believe she is my 2nd or 42nd cousin.

Feb 13th, Miss Wheeler is quite an intelligent young lady. Took up to Unckle John's this morning and then went to Dover. Back for dinner and afternoon visit. Willie took part of George Ryerse's sawing machine to Colin Ryerse's through the bad roads.

Feb 14th, Heavy snow so not doing much. Willie drawing chip manure on orchard from wood yard. Had a visit from C. W. Smith. To see Mrs. McIntee who has been very ill, may yet be fatal.

Feb 15th, Terrible roads prevented attending Woodhouse Quarterly Meeting. Went to hear Mr. Culler[?] instead. To me there is little profit, or enjoyment, in these services. Dinner at Unckle John's where there was a sort of reunion to see Miss Wheeler, of Michigan.

Feb 16th, Miss Wheeler here last night and started on her way home. She went with me to Unckle Holmes. I attended the quarterly business session at Woodhouse. Dover able to pay salary share.

Feb 17th, Stayed in Dover last night to go by train to Woodstock to attend meeting of stock-holders of the road. Ma drove the horse home for me last night. Left at 6.30 on train for a delightful ride. Left meeting early for a free ride to Leistowell and back by train. Greatly pleased.

Feb 18th, Walked home from the Port through the mud and rain last night. Told the railroad is expected to be extended as far as Colpoys Bay, in Bruce County by next August.

Feb 19th, Willie geting out chip manure. I made the wood for a neck yoke and took it to black smith shop for ironing. Mr. & Mrs. Culler here to dinner and visit. Interesting children, Wilbur and Ruthie. An old gentleman from Simcoe, Mr. Walls, staying overnight with us.

Feb 20th, Willie and I got up four small loads of straw. Frost has lifted clover even on new meadows. Wheat also injured. A remarkably mild winter.

Feb 21st, Willie geting up wood. I did little but read. Mr. Cutter got me my papers. Glad to get the Repository, which I paid for to July. Attracted to it's high tone. Much better than either Harper's or Scibner's magazines.

Feb 22nd, Sunday. We went to church and heard Rev. John Kay, Waterford, preach the annual missionary sermon. Proffitable [sic] class meeting afterwards.

Feb 23rd, To Simcoe, Ma and I, to trade at Wilson's for dried apples I took them last fall. They allowed \$1.40 a bus. Highest in some years. Dinner at Murphy's.

Feb 24th, Tried to make visit from Mr. & Mrs Aaron Stringer pleasant and agreeable. They said Allie and my friend A. H. were coming up soon. Tommy Jackson and his mother visited.

Feb 25th, Willie and I working in the woods, rain in afternoon. Old friend E. W. Smith visited.

Feb 26th, Willie and I working in woods, very warm and pleasant. Mrs. Porter & Miss Giller visited Ma today. My birthday, I am reminded that I am geting old. What is worse I am still in a fair way to be an old bachelor. I always had a dislike for "so called" single blessedness. Alas still unable to realise any other.

Feb 27th, Working in woods. Too mild and muddy to get up any hay or straw. Rev. Mr. Culler delivered mail. My taste for reading is increasing. Delight to sit down with my paper when the day is over.

Feb 28th, Willie and I continue in the woods. Ma and I went to Dover in afternoon. Exchanged magazines with Rev. James Gray. He takes Harper's Monthly and I take National Repository.

Feb 29th, Sunday. Roads terrible, so could not attend our own church. I went to hear Mr. Culler. It is a pity that such strange ideas should be advanced with regards to prophecies that I hear from him in his church. I believe Mr. Culler to be a good meaning man and don't doubt that my friends and neighbours think honestly that these things be true, but still such a pity that the more weighty matters of salvation and holiness should be lost sight of in mere speculation.

MARCH - 1880.

Mar 1st, Got up four loads of straw & hay despite muddy roads. Wheat and meadows considerably damaged. Never saw clover hoisted out worse, both old and new meadows.

Mar 2nd, Working in the woods, weather so warm we can do little else. Do not always feel as happy as in the last few days, such an all pervading sense of trust. O! That thw world might taste and see, the riches of his grace.

Mar 3rd, Worked in woods but this afternoon on account of rain had to desist. To blacksmith shop, and making enquiries about rooters [sic] for own use. Borrowing is poor policy and about decided to get some cast iron heads and have a stave rooter [t's are not crossed, l's do not work though] instead of a log as I first intended.

Mar 4th, Worked in woods this morning. I then commenced trimming apple trees. Mr. Barker, owner of the Red Warrior I used last year called. John Hackman of Houghton Centre a respectable young man of Mr. Culler's church offered to work for me from April for seven months at thirteen dollars per month.

Mar 5th, Willie splitting wood at the house. I went to Dover for papers and groceries. Dinner at Unckle G. Matthews, made bargain with him for a roller at \$25.00. Hired John Hackman.

Mar 6th, Putting up wood in woods, have a good supply. Our Dover choir resigned, Frank Parker is their leader. An unfortunate circumstance and I am sorry to hear it.

Mar 7th, Started for church on horseback, but told at Unckle Joe's that Rev. Gray had gone to Simcoe, so no service. I had delightful conversation on religious matters at the Captain's. Had dinner at home and favoured with company of my cousin Nora and her husband with Unckle John's. Addam starts for Sanfrancisco, Cal. Thursday next.

Mar 8th, Willie and I hauled five loads of straw from big field and one of hay.

Mar 9th, Hauled five loads of straw and one of hay again today. Ma and I up to Unckle John's to spend evening with Nora's husband, Addam Rose. We will miss him.

Mar 10th, Willie splitting wood at the woodhouse. I tried with no success to collect money for the use of the bull. Apparently there is no money amongst the neighbours now. Expected my lady friend, A. H. from Pelham, but sorry to say I was doomed to disappointment. Went to McIntees.

Mar 11th, Worked in woods this morning and then at tree trimming. My Unckle Walker Olds visited and his daughter Florence married young Harris of Simcoe this evening at John Marr's. William Watts and his little family visited this evening.

Mar 12th, Continue work at wood cuting. Rev. & Mrs. Gray here to dinner. Rev. Gray and I made visits on Unckle Johns, Mr. McIntees and William Wilkinson's. A good deal interupted [sic] at all our calls by strangers. Mrs. McIntee told me my lady friend from below was waiting for Nora to come down, and would come back with her.

Mar 13th, Went to Dover after papers. Ben Butler expects to get me a half bus. Of Lucerne @ \$9. A bus. Willie and I cuting wood this afternoon. Had letter from Laverne Horton, especially glad to

hear of Asile's [sic] and Allie's long promised visit. He requested me to take charge of them when they do come. But then it is just like Laverne's talk.

Mar 14th, Sunday, On account of snow did not go out to meeting. Tried to put in the time proffitably though I have in some respects failed. Some times I cannot read with proffit [sic] and then at times I am almost entirely destitute of directional feeling. I am inclined to think that it is owing to constitutional defects. But the Good Lord helps me.

Mar 15th, Ma wanted me to take her to Simcoe today, so, of course I had to go. Felt a little lothe [sic] to leave my work at home of triming [sic] trees etc. as the day has been very pleasant. Willie splting wood at the woodhouse. Roads better than they have been for some months.

Mar 16th, Snow at last, able to get up wood on sleighs. Writing letters, one to Laverne Hooker. Reading article by Chamberlain in Country Gentleman, on winter feeding of cows that meets my experience exactly. Green cut clover hay and wheat bran or shorts, the latter scalded and thinned with cool water, is not only the best milk producing feed, but makes most valuable manure.

Mar 17th, Willie drawing wood from the back woods. I trimed trees part time. We went to Mrs. Jackson's this evening, taking Unckle John and Aunt Seydiee [sic] In formed my young friend from below was likely to come in a week or so.

Mar 18th, Willie stoped geting up wood this afternoon by bad sleighing. He went to spliting in the woodhouse. Got into a rather disagreeable dispute between a Mr. Parker and Mrs. Jackson about a foal. The man went off in apparent good spirits after all. He is a stranger and of course don't know who he is dealing with.

Mar 19th, To mill with a grist, roads bad again. Ma went out yesterday and will stay until Monday. Lonesome without her, scarcely know what to do. Feel need of a companion.

Mar 20th, Willie drawing wood and manure. I doing some little repairs in preparation for spring work. Said that the way the wind blows today and two days following rules the three spring months. It is north-west and colder. Up to McIntees a little while today.

Mar 21st, Went to Meeting at Dover. Not called upon as leader, of which I felt thankful, on account of my own state of mind. Brought Ma home with me. Read in National Repository of transmission from parents to children of moral as well as physical diseas [sic].

Mar 22nd, Willie drawing calf manure & spliting wood. I making repairs & triming trees. Robert Marr told me he harrowed barley in spring if ground crusted from rains, and then dry. Successful

Mar 23rd, Rain. Spliting wood & I working in shop. Got a couple loads of hay from little barn. Learned from Mr. McIntee, that where he came from farmers harrowed wheat crusted in the fall.

Mar 24th, Willie spliting wood. So cold I cannot trim trees. Reading story in Harper's "The Young Mrs. Jardine." What a pity that fictitious literature is not all as high toned and beneficial, inculcating

as it does, high and noble principles such as should control every life.

Mar 25th, Willie drawing manure into the orchard. I trimmed trees. Went to Dover, visiting Rev. Gray and arrangements with the harness maker for some repairs for the coming season's work.

Mar 26th, Willie manuring the orchard sod in preparation for potatoes and corn. We spread it as we go as advocated in Country Gentleman. Trimming trees. Invited to a donation to Mr. Culler's, but did not go from various reasons.

Mar 27th, Went down the creek after one of my booms. Then to Bulbeck's mill about shingle timber I drew there last summer. Did not work up as I intended.

Mar 28th, Sunday. So stormy could not safely go to church. Have been much grieved of late that I could not keep these holy days in a more becoming manner. I feel Sabbath visiting is wrong. My mother always wants to stop to dinner when we go to church together. The Lord is near to me.

Mar 29th, Weather still very severe on meadows & fall wheat. Prospects of a short hay and clover seed crop.

Mar 30th, Willie splitting wood. I only trimmed two trees as they are getting so large, and I have not trimmed them as often as I should. Wheat reported badly injured in much of U. S. and in Canada.

Mar 31st, Willie split wood in morning and taking water off the ploughed ground this afternoon. Our new hand John Hackman came. \$13.00 a month is lowest I ever paid for summer hand, but it may not be the cheapest.

APRIL — 1880.

Apr 1st, John and Willie getting up hay and straw. I have been trimming trees. Sold Mr. McIntee 2 sheep for \$6.00. Ground is fast drying out, soon be fit to work.

Apr 2nd, Willie & John working on wood pile, gathering brush etc. I went to Dover for roller I bargained for some time ago of Wiggins & Matthews. Rained all the way home. Ma and I attended funeral of Wm. Price of lake shore. Rained but didn't get very wet.

Apr 3rd, Raining. Boys cleaning up seed oats. Took harrow teeth to be sharpened. Mrs. Hall & children have left Dover for her father's in New York state. We will miss her much.

Apr 4th, Failed again to get to meeting due to rain and mud. Went to hear Mr. Cullie[?] and for a wonder was much pleased with his discourse. Subject the attonement [sic] of Christ by which all may be saved to the utmost. The promise of pardon, but also of grace to help in time of kneed [sic] through the allowing merrit [sic] of our redeemer's blood. Glory to God etc.

Apr 5th, Boys and I taking down and laying over fence on north side of ten acres. Moving it 3 or 4 rods north over partly cleared strip, for a long time a breeding place for grass-hoppers. By ploughing

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it I hope to stop their depredations. Rains have ceased, cooler and windy.

Apr 6th, Building fence. I went to Dover for things we had at Mrs. Halls, amongst the rest my old clock that Mrs. Nickerson gave me so many years ago. George and his family have left Dover.

Apr 7th, Fencing and cleaning up new ground. I went over our wheat this morning.

Apr 8th, Boys drawing home hay & straw. I painted the harrows. Sold 3 beef cattle to Mr. Small, Hamilton butcher, for \$90.00, I asked one hundred. Open winter has been against a good market.

Apr 9th, Boys ditching. I went for papers. Started Willie ploughing in field in front of the little house. John and I picking up on the new ground. Letter and photo from Miss Wheeler, Michigan. Ma and I visited the Cullee's tonight

Apr 10th, Mr. Small, cattle buyer, paid balance of \$95.00 [not 90 ?] and took the cattle. G. Hall has gone to the other side, taking all his goods and chattels, leaving debts of \$500.00. He was owing me \$50.00, but I have articles of his I shall keep amounting to nearly half.

Apr 11th, To church for first in 3 weeks. What a privilege to attend the services. Ere long the ante-type will be ushered upon us. That is if we are only faithful.

Apr 12th, Ma and I went to Simcoe, attended to a note. Ma visited Archie Olds. Sat for photographs at Perry's. Boys getting straw and hay. Cold and windy, fitting ground for seeding.

Apr 13th, John harrowing and Willie ploughing for seeding. I took a letter to the post in Dover and engaged in sundry jobs. I went up to McIntees, as my young friend was there, though I had no chance of talking to her as I desired. Looks exceedingly well, in fact an interesting young lady

Apr 14th, Drilled part of field in front of tenant house. Some of G. hall's effects seized, I am thinking of putting in a claim.

Apr 15th, Willie ploughing, John rolling & harrowing. I have been cleaning furrows, north half all sown in grass seed. Went to McIntee's to see Arile [sic] but she at Mrs. Jacksons.

Apr 16th, Worked the teams until ten o'clock when rain commenced. Willie went to Dover, John greasing harness. Went to Mrs. Jackson's to see my lady friend, not as private as I would wish.

Apr 17th, Boys getting up hay, have abundance for spring feeding. Trimming trees. Writing a short article for the Globe on remedy for horses eyes where sore. Lord still with me, making glad my heart.

Apr 18th, Rode horseback to Capt. McFell's and with them to meeting in rain. Excellent discourse from Rev. Mr. Brethour, from Simcoe, on educational interests. Glad to see my young lady friend A. H. [Asile ? Holcomb] pleased to have her presence with us in class.

Apr 19th, On account of late heavy rains had to stop seeding, letting of [sic] water from oat ground and building fences. Sent Willie with the bull for the show in Simcoe tomorrow. Warm & windy

Apr 20th, Had first experience as exhibitor at the county show. Failed to get any prize [sic] Promise of visit tomorrow from my lady friend. My bull was not filled up as well as the others.

Apr 21st, Boys drawing up straw and then working the field by Write's. I brought Mrs. McIntee and Asile Holcomb down this morning. Disappointed that Asile went back tonight.

Apr 22nd, Willie sowed hillside of field by Write's. Note from B. W. Sawtell on payments made on Railway stock. Am set at rest regards last \$40.00 which I wanted George Hall to pay. He has.

Apr 23rd, Fortunate to finish sowing and ditching field by Write's by four, but all got a good weating [sic] Writing account of G. Hall's, considerable amount seized for creditors. I am one.

Apr 24th, Boys greased harness and because of weat [sic] went to meeting with Mr. Cullee. I went to Dover to put in my claim with others of George's creditors. Called at Mrs. Jackson's & had a nice little visit with my young lady friend. She acted some better this time.

Apr 25th, Ma and I stayed home from meeting as both sick with colds. Gratifying to know that our missions, even in lower Canada, blessed with conversions of souls as never before. They have been under such complete control of priestcraft that missions were of little use apparently. But the captives shall be set at liberty. Glory to God in the highest.

Apr 26th, rains delay us. Willie drawing manure on the garden, John at odd jobs. I went to Dover for the waggon there for repairs. This has been one of those days of trial which are the portion of our lot. I have met with disappointments and trials. I dare not think these days are not necessary.

Apr 27th, Getting out manure and ploughing. John and I got about thirty nice thrifty maple trees to set out, from George Buck's old place. Went to see Allie Horton to bring her up, but she was starting for below. Called at Mrs. Jackson's, saw Asile and had extended conversation about an important matter, which will be decisive in it's result, probably.

Apr 28th, Willie nearly finished ploughing. John at work with harrows. I completed a row of maples on the front of the place, and started a row on the north end. Have adopted a new plan for setting out trees. I have cleaned the roots of leaves & sticks etc. and filled in carefully with an hand [?], mulching with water occasionally.

Apr 29th, Caught by rain again in sowing. Remarkable spring for rains. Our young lady friend from below made us a final visit yesterday before going a way today. Our visit was very pleasant

Apr 30th, Ground very weat, [sic] obliged to stop. Visit from Unckle Joe. Cold and windy. Thinking of making a smoothing harrow for use in the corn field. Keeps it clean until six inches high.

MAY — 1880.

May 1st, Willie working in the garden, John digging out large stump on hillside in front of the house. Ma and I went to Dover. This afternoon first attempt at blasting a large rock in garden.

May 2nd, Went alone to church. Members tickets issued, quarterly meeting next Sunday. Reading of the formation of the British [sic] and Foreign Bible Society. A Welsh minister asked a little girl of his congregation, if she could repeat the text of his last discourse. She said no, and began to cry. She had been going several miles to read the Welsh bible, but had been unable to go then because of rain. This led to the formation of the Society.

May 3rd, Started seeding again. Willie harrowing and drilling oats in field in front of little house. This makes three attempts at it. I sowed grass seed on wheat by the drive barn and John harrowed it in. Started on field by McBride's. Gentleman from Walpole, Hare, staying with us.

May 4th, Willie drilling, I sowed clover seed on wheat by McBride's and John harrowing it in. My experience proves that late ploughing of sod for fall wheat on our land will not do, but early ploughing sod with the weeds killed by harrowing occasionally makes best of all preparations.

May 5th, Willie getting ten acres ready to drill. Have been using a grass seed sower in the form of a wheelbarrow. Sows 12 feet wide and faster than by hand, wind or no wind.

May 6th, John harrowing field in front of the house I sowed with rye for summer pasture. Feel rye should be sowed for summer pasture in August, not October or November. Making garden.

May 7th, Finished seeding. Now have rolling and ditch cleaning.

May 8th, Cleaning ditches and rolling. Prepare for potatoes. Learned that the Honourable George Brown is lying at the point of death from a wound lately received.

May 9th, We attended quarterly meeting. Excellent discourse by Bro. Gray where we had dinner.

May 10th, Willie drawing manure for garden. He and John putting in oats with the rye for pasture, as latter proved partially a failure due to the severe winter. Attended quarterly business mtg of church this afternoon. Good attendance. Woodhouse \$140.00 Behind and Dover \$26.00.

May 11th, Willie ploughing corn ground on field next to Solomon Austin. John rolling. I attend court in the Hall matter, but found court was over. Judge granted in our favour. Two preference cases to be paid in full. This leaves little for the others.

May 12th, Willie ploughing, John working on potato patch, I gathering brush for burning. George Brown died Sunday. Most painful feature of his death — it came from the assassin's hand.

May 13th, Began potato planting, boys ploughing and rolling. Wheat growing beautifully.

May 14th, We all continue what we were doing busily. Took couple of baggs [sic] potatoes over to Mr. Cullee as slight token of good will, in place of attending their donation 2 months ago.

May 15th, At our work as usual. I got 1720 pounds of plaster @ \$4.75 / ton to sow on the big flats. A sale of Hall's furniture did well, but was seized by the deputy-sheriff for rent to Mr. McKnight, which it is thought will just about take it all from the other creditors.

May 16th, Went out alone to church and then to class, where attendance was small.

May 17th, Willie ploughing corn ground, John harrowing and rolling same, I planting potatoes. I also was putting frames around the maple trees along the road. Found one girdled which reminds me that we are still where thieves may break through and steal. It will not always be so. There is a place where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

May 18th, Boys working at corn ground and I am sowing plaster. Favoured with a delightful rain.

May 19th, Boys continue. I finished the Big Flat and sowed plaster on south part of the barley field by Write's as an experiment as it is strongly recommended by some excellent farmers.

May 20th, Finished our seeding with the corn planting by tonight. I am exceedingly thankful for it, for tonight we are having a delightful shower which will bring it right up. Nice seeding.

May 21st, Washed the sheep and attended to the lambs. Making a fence for a watering place. I went out to Dover to see about the mail and some little errands.

May 22nd, Boys working on sundry jobs. I got 9 beams [sic] for smoothing harrows from Louis Bint. I want them for dressing out the corn in a couple of weeks. Will save much hand labour.

May 23rd, Ma and I went to church. Rev. gray will miss the next few Sundays, being away at Conference. I assisted at class. Heard Woodhouse can meet it's apportionment & pay minister.

May 24th, Willie went to Dover to Queen's celebration. John & I stayed home. I had to take some off every beam of smoothing harrows as too heavy. Ma took Samantha home.

May 25th, Boys getting manure from barn yard to big corner field. I worked on harrows. Visited by Pelham friend, Dexter Holcomb. Temp. 85 degrees F.

May 26th, Hauling manure. Have only one team as two mares laid up with colts. Katie foaled last night, and doing well. I have nearly finished the wood work of harrows. 94 degrees in shade.

May 27th, Boys getting out manure at 20 loads a day. Expect I will keep them some time yet. Went to Dover for iron for harrows which I took to the blacksmith shop. Did not get all I wanted.

May 28th, Distance hauled makes manure spreading slow, but it is needed most in the big corner field. I have been doing sundry jobs. Enjoying the favour of God, which is better than life.

May 29th, Boys do same tedious job. I worked in garden. To Dover with Mr. Cutter's company, very pleasant. [often spelled Cuttee]. Met with old friend, and former pastor, Bro. Savage.

May 30th, Ma and I to Meeting to hear our beloved Rev. W. Savage. Dinner at Frank Parker's & took Rev. Savage to Woodhouse. Stayed for evening service in Dover, hearing Bro. S. again.

May 31st, Plenty of rain. Manure only part of day, then building fence around garden, thereby extending the bull pasture. Heard that Rev. Gray is leaving and Rev. Clarke down for Port Dover

JUNE — 1880.

June 1st, Manure waggons going again, though roads are very bad. Went for iron for harrows but failed again this evening. Had Mr. Cutter's company, always interesting. Ma sick with a chill.

June 2nd, Boys drawing manure to front field. Received 100 sweet potato plants from Bruce & Co., Hamilton. Had to pay 75 cents and 25 for express. I was gardening & cleaning the chip yard

June 3rd, Boys drawing manure. Mr. Culler helped me plant sweet potatoes on benches with manure underneath. Sheared 10 sheep this afternoon. John went for Doctor for Ma - her chills.

June 4th, I finished skinning [sic] my first batch of 19 sheep. Feel pretty sore too. David Chalmers is down for the new minister for Port Dover.

June 5th, Continue manure until stoped by rain. Sprouting potatoes. To Dover for papers and send post office money order to Mr. Parker for Thomas Jackson. Card from Rev. Gray re prospects.

June 6th, Went alone to Meeting, heard Mr. Bryers. Class was a season of much profit.

June 7th, Boys geting out manure. Took extra potatoes to Jarvis and got 50 cents a bag but no money had to take it in trade. Sheared six sheep this afternoon.

June 8th, Got up and sheared last of sheep but for five. Boys at manure. Crops look prosperous.

June 9th, Finished shearing, marked them and forced tp let them out on the road for pasture for the first time in my life. Same problem with cattle, adopt soiling plan & feed cut grass.

June 10th, Willie manure hauling. John gone up west for week to meeting of Mr. Culler's. Feeding cattle cut grass, so much work I dread to think of it. Tried my new harrow on the potatoes but not pleased as it pulled out more than I expected.

June 11th, Rain put Willie at odd jobs. I went to Dover for papers. Wool dropped from 30 to 28 cents and thought it will go lower. Farmers prices falling, other things do not.

June 12th, Warm thunder showers for the last few days. Willie has had plenty of time to feed cattle and fix fences. I have felt very uncomfortable for some time. Repairing waggon box.

June 13th, Bro. Wilkinson of Simcoe preached at church. I took Florence and her husband home from our place this evening and heard Bro. Wilkinson again. He directed his narrative to Joseph.

June 14th, Willie sick with chills. I sold 185 lbs. of wool in Simcoe @ 28 cents. Brought home ballance of flour, 630 lbs, from old Windham Mills.

June 15th, Albert, Willie's brother, working in his place. He and John working on the road with two teams [statute labour] puting in 4 days I believe. I harrowed corn with new Thomas harrow. If not for new thistles I verily believe the cultivator would not be needed for some time.

June 16th, Boys working on the road again. I worked in garden and then made woodwork for a thistle cutter. They are more than even a common cultivator can touch.

June 17th, John and Albert finished up 11 days road work plus two for John. I am always glad when this is off my mind. I am engaged in repair of waggon rack and building a thistle cutter composed of a V shaped knife to run under the ground. Many thistles in new ground.

June 18th, John cultivated potatoes and then I started him with the new thistle cutter. It works admirably. Not one escapes excepting in the row. Willie spreading manure. I in garden.

June 19th, John cultivating. Willie took manure from back of the barn. Both cuting hay on the big flat this afternoon. Riper than I expected. Weather fine for hay making. Enjoying peace of God.

June 20th, To meeting in Dover, Rev. Mr. Burns of Lyndock. Text "I am alpha and Omega."

June 21st, John finished cultivating corn, Willie raked hay and I took Ma to Simcoe to visit my sister in Dresden. I mowed this afternoon and boys cocked hay. We got in one load.

June 22nd, Boys got in two loads and then raking & cocking. I continued cuting.

June 23rd, I mowed all day. Boys got in three more loads of excellent hay. Have been sorely tempted of late. The evil one has well nigh caught me by his wiles. How happy for me that Jesus is my friend and sympathiser. He says I will not suffer you to be tempted above what you are able to bear. Glory to his name.

June 24th, I finished cuting big flat, all raked and cocked and three more loads away - 9 in all. 95 in the shade today, grand for making hay. Wind makes it bearable. Lord has verified his promise.

June 25th, Got in one load before rain, which is badly kneeded. [sic] Caught with a half load on.

June 26th, John ploughing front field for wheat. Sent Willie to Mrs. Jackson's raising of a drive barn. I went to Dover to see dear Bro. & sister Gray who leave us in a few days. **Was requested by Mr. Barret(t) to take his son through harvest, and agreed [sic] to it.**

June 27th, Out to church alone to hear Rev. Gray for last time. Don't expect we will have the equal of Bro. Gray as a business manager of a circuit and as a sound preacher. He excells.

June 28th, Willie ploughing. John laid up with sort of billious attack. I have been puting Paris Green

on potatoes, bugs are very numerous. Expected Ma home. Good Lord still my guide.

June 29th, Willie and drawing hay, John laid up but hepped some. Got Ma in Simcoe this evening and Nellie and Leilia came for summer visit. Surprising how fast my sisters children have grown

June 30th, Willie ploughing. John and I got up balance of hay but rakings - 17 loads in all. Received the July No. of the National Repository. Sorry to be discontinued - lack of patronage.

JULY — 1880

July 1st, I raked big flat stubble and Willie and I got a load in the barn. John ploughing under a heavy crop of thistles. Don't know how it will work. I began cutting in orchard this evening.

July 2nd, Boys continue ploughing in front field. Hindered by showers. Many have done little haying as yet. I went to Dover with Mr. Culler this evening. Experience as a Christian not bright.

July 3rd, John & Willie ploughing. I cultivated corn & raked and cocked hay this afternoon.

July 4th, Nelly & Leilia went to church with me. Heard Rev. David Chalmers preach for the first time. Was very favourably impressed. A small man bodily, but seems to have a large mind. I take him as a worker. Had fellowship meeting in first Sunday of month, as opposed to past.

July 5th, Boys got in two loads of hay from the orchard, then ploughing. I finished cutting, then cultivating corn. **Mr. Barret's son Harry, came this forenoon according to promise and has been hoeing in the garden for me since. He does very well at this work. And will, I hope be a help to us in our harvest.**

July 6th, Boys ploughing except for getting in our last two loads of hay, making 22 in all instead of 46 last year. Arranged for 4 days hoeing corn from Mr. Lundy. I worked at cultivating. My boy Harry has continued to work for me today, and I am glad to say that he has done very well, & seems like a nice boy.

July 7th, Boys ploughing, Willie in the big north-east corner field. Ground hard. I finished cultivating and went to Dover after groceries etc. Many on the way into their haying and some cutting wheat. Harry has helped as usual.

July 8th, Mr. Lundy & his boy help hoe corn again today. Harry & I finished up the potatoes. Willie & John ploughing, though the latter has met with several mishaps. Broke his plough & I sent him down after L. Bint chilled iron plough which I have been wanting to try this some time. It certainly works well in hard ground and draws much lighter than the Yocom.

July 9th, Lundy and boy here a half day. Concluded to keep the L. Bint plough, it went so much easier in hard ground. Price is \$15.00. John finished ploughing the front field tonight with it.

July 10th, Boys and I worked in corn all morning. This afternoon started the reaper but broke down

seriously, first time around. Started to Brantford after tea for repairs but got them easily in Simcoe. Went to Vittoria in morning about getting hands but failed.

July 11th, Ma, Nellie and me out to church, Mr Chalmers is certainly an eloquent preacher. Our newly formed choir commenced their duties. I was leader of clas meeting after church.

July 12th, Repaired reaper is working well in badly tangled wheat. Albert McWade started helping at daily wage of a man if he earns it. Hands are very scarce.

July 13th, Stopped by rain in mid afternoon. Cuting thistles, John ploughing. Wheat is down badly & starting to grow in exceedingly damp hot weather. Prospects gloomy. Try not to find fault.

July 14th, Willie and I bind and set up wheat. John ploughing and Albert cuting thistles. This afternoon running reaper, my three new men with Harry's help keep grain bound and set up to behind the reaper, making it move along pretty fast.

July 15th, Harvesting all day with the men's help, finishing the field by McBride's. Harry attacked by pain in the back which laid him up from work for the time being.

July 16th, Continue harvest in field by the drive barn. Wheat is shelling a good deal.

July 17th, Done and shocked up all but sidehill in field by dr. barn. Will cut it with a cradle. Starting after the wheat is so ripe a big mistake. It is such a loss.

July 18th, Went to meeting in Dover taking Nellie and Samantha with me. Good class meeting.

July 19th, All hands at harvest. Rainy making it go better. Working in field west of woods.

July 20th, Finished wheat save around stumps and steep places. Commenced cuting barley. Had visit from Jerome Platt and wife, but little time to visit. Tom Murphy reviewed my insurance this evening. Old policy expires on 27th, of this month.

July 21st, Willie & John cleaning up wheat fields. They got in a load tonight. Albert cuting barley. I went after threshers, sorry to find John W[ess] McBride had serious accident that will stop him threshing this fall.

July 22nd, Boys get in seven loads of wheat and two of barley, with one team and I cut barley with the other. Weather is much better but we do not make much headway.

July 23rd, Finished raking and cocking barley and got it in barn. Makes 10 loads of barley and 10 of wheat. Am still permitted to walk with God, realising in most precious sense joy of presence.

July 24th, Five hands and two teams nearly cleared field by McBrides. Stack of nineteen loads.

July 25th, Ma, Leilia and I to church. Class was season of proffit. Tickets for quarterly meeting.

July 26th, Started a new stack of wheat and drawing all day for it. A shower threatened.

July 27th, Permitted to finish all but rakings of wheat harvest. 32 loads from McBride's, 20 from drive barn field and 11 from field west of the woods. - 63 and exceedingly thankful it is done.

July 28th, Willie and John ploughing. I raked stubble and this afternoon went to Dover to visit Mr. & Mrs. Platt from York state. Had tea with them at James Riddell's. To see John Clark about threshing as he recently got a new engine and machine. Failed to get as early as I desired.

July 29th, John & Willie ploughing. I went to McMullen's about Will's new sheave thresher, but failed in this also. Went again to my old threshers, Stringer & McBride, and will wait for them.

July 30th, Both teams ploughing this morning. John and I get in rakings, four loads, in afternoon.

July 31st, Raking, and boys draw in. 12 loads altogether. More than common because of the Hessian fly, besides the wheat was beaten down by storms.

AUGUST — 1880.

Aug 1st, Attended Quarterly Meeting at Woodhouse Chapple, with Ma & Nellie. The Lord was with us. Exceedingly warm in church so did not enjoy sermon as much as I wished. Dinner at John Gilbert's and called at Peter's on way home.

Aug 2nd, Boys ploughed in big field, hindered some by rain. I attended first and I hope worst quarterly meeting at Woodhouse chapple of the year. Impossible to agree on some important points, especially on apportionment of the minister's salary.

Aug 3rd, Cuting and binding oats in field in front of tenant house. Sowed bus and a half per acre but oats thin on the ground and poor clover catch, too. Am satisfied we sowed too thin.

Aug 4th, Boys ploughing in big n-e corner field with both teams. Harry and I finished the oats that were yet to cut. Ma and Aunt Lydia went to Simcoe, taking my horse so could not cultivate. Had to borrow ten more bushells of oats, these, from Port Ryrese.

Aug 5th, Willie ploughing. I cultivated corn. Had idea corn could not be cultivated after out in tassel. But find this a mistake. It don't seem as liable to break off as when younger excepting aaround stumps it works splendidly. Seems to me it cannot but help the corn.

Aug 6th, John & Willie have about finished the big field making 20 acres ready for seeding. One field to plough yet. I have been cultivating and geting this job well along. Much pleased with early Compton corn, only objection is the coarse stalks, many stalks have 3 & 4 ears on them.

Aug 7th, Willie finished ploughing the big field, John rolling the field by the church. I finished corn Ma, Harry and me went out to Dover. Met Mr. Barret just as we got there. Excepted an invitation to tea with him and his family. We enjoyed it much. I feel very thankful to myportion Heavenly Father that He gives us so many kind friends, and, permits us to enjoy their company.