

James "Rowand" Burgess (1898 - 1968) 1918

Transcribed by Rural Diary Archive volunteers

{Front cover. There is artwork of two pointer dogs following a scent through tall weeds, in black ink. The cover's colour is a dull auburn.}

1918

Rowand's Diary

POINTER NOTEBOOK

Saturday January 26 - Fine and very cold. Temp. -12°. Papa and I were in town- Noble cleared pig-pens

Sunday January 27 - Fine and very cold. I was at church in the morning

Monday January 28 - Cold and stormy. Arthur and I were at McAndrew's to-nyte.

Sunday January 29 - Very cold We were cutting wood.

Wednesday January 30 - Dull and cold. Papa and I were in town. Noble took in 5 pigs averaging 200 cwt for which he got \$17⁵⁰ a cwt. At the Literary meeting to-night there was mock parliament. I was on the Government side supporting a bill to abolish capital punishment.

Thursday January 31 - ~~Dull~~ Fine and cold. Noble took a load of chop to town left it there and brought out some mill feeds and flour - After we got a load of logs home and sawed wood

Friday ~~January~~ February 1 - Fine and very cold. Temp -27°. We cut wood all day

Saturday February 2 - Fine and very cold. Temp -2° - Papa and I were in town. Noble ~~and~~ took in a load of logs.

Sunday February 3 - Cold and turning stormy in the afternoon.

Monday February 4 - Fine and very cold. Temp. We were sawing in the bush but could not keep warm.

Tuesday February 5 - Fine and very cold. Temp -27° - We were not doing anything. Oliver Geddes was down this afternoon.

Wednesday February 6 - Fine and cold. Noble ~~brought~~ took in a load of logs.

Thursday Feb 7 - Fine and warmer. We put a load of logs on the sleigh in the morning and Noble took it in the afternoon ~~In the afternoon.~~ Edgar and I were chopping.

Friday Feb 8 - Fine with a strong South wind. We cut wood all day Arthur borrowed our team and sleigh to bring out some mill feed from town.. Rain at night

Saturday Feb. 9 - Colder with some snow We shovelled out the road at the bush and brought home 3 loads of 14 inch wood. In the morning I we brought up the chop and took down some grain. Papa and Mamma went to town this afternoon but did not stay long as business place's were not allowed to keep fires by order of the fuel controller.

Sunday Feb 10 - Milder with a {two words are illegible} I was church in the morning

Monday February 11 - Fine and quite mild. ~~Noble took a load of~~ We bought two loads of wood from the bush and after dinner Noble took a load to town.

Tuesday February 12 - Mild with rain turning in afternoon to snow. Papa and I were in town all day Noble did some odd jobs and threshed peas.

Wednesday February 13 - Dull and not very cold. We threshed peas in the morning and the afternoon cleaned the spring wheat some fall wheat and some peas.

Thursday February 14 - Fine and mild I took a load of wood to Mrs. Ewald in the morning. Noble threshed (he has a bad cold). After dinner we both threshed.

Friday Feb. 15 - Fine and cold. Papa and Mamma went to town and are staying over night at Miss Geddes's. Noble is laid up with the cold. I took a load of wood to town to Mrs. Ewald, after dinner

Saturday February 16 - Fine and cold ~~Nob~~ I took a load of wood to Mrs. Ewald's this morning. ~~Pa~~ After dinner we brought some chop up from Uncle Alfred's and cut some wood at the bush. Papa and Mamma came out to night

Sunday February 17 - Fine and cold.

Monday February 18 - Fine and cold turning warmer in the afternoon. We cut some hemlock logs some poles and bagged up grain for chop.

Sunday February 19 - Warm with a lot of rain. Papa and Noble were in town. We cleaned the stovepipes and I fixed the wheelbarrow measured some lumber &c.

Wednesday February 20 - Dull and cold with a strong wind. Arthur helped us to kill a pig in the morning. In the afternoon ~~Noble got~~ we cut wood. Noble got his nose frozen and I got my nose frozen and my cheek badly frozen.

Thursday February 21 - Fine and very cold. We did not got to the bush Uncle Sandy was down this afternoon.

Friday February 22 - Dull and cold. Papa and Mamma went to town and are staying overnight. Arthur helped us to cut wood in the morning and after dinner we cut wood with their saw. Arthur took our saw to Karcheis to be sharpened. I was skating at the creek to-night.

Saturday February 23. Fine and cold but turning milder. Noble took a load of chop to Arkright. After dinner we hauled home a load of poles to cut with the crosscut {crosscut saw} and a load of hemlock logs. I was skating at Cunningham's to-night.

Sunday February 24 - Fine and quite mild.

Monday February 25 - Dull and mild with in rain in the late afternoon and evening. We cut poles. till about 430 p.m. Papa and Olive were in town

Tuesday February 26. Cold with a very high wind. Noble was cutting poles. In the morning Papa and I sharpened an ax. In the afternoon I mended my rubber made sausages got in some wood &c.

Wednesday February 27. Fine and not very cold. We were cutting poles. Arthur and I were at Mclvor's {Mclver's} to-night. ~~We~~ The Literary Society were having a social evening there. Ethel Christie came over to Geddes's to-day and was at the Social.

Thursday February 28 - Dull and not very cold. Noble took Papa and Mamma to town and cut poles. After dinner we sawed wood. Ethel Christie and Bessie Geddes were her{e} for dinner.

Friday ~~February 29~~ March 1 - Fine and cold Noble took a load of logs to town After dinner we ~~cut~~ got a load from the bush and cut more logs.

Saturday March 2 - Fine and mild. Noble took a load of logs to town in the morning. I cleaned the pig pens In the afternoon we ~~cut~~ brought home another load from the bush. Noble went to town and brought Papa and Mamma out.

Sunday March 3 - Fine and mild turning colder at night. I was at Church at night.

Monday March 4 - Fine and warm in the morning turning to rain in the afternoon. Papa and Olive were in town. Noble took a small load of logs to town. After dinner we cut logs.

Tuesday March 5 - Dull and misty We were threshing peas all day.

Wednesday ~~fe~~ March 6 - Fine and cold with snow at night. We ~~of~~ cut some more logs and hauled all home but one load. I was at Literary Meeting

Thursday March 7 - Dull and cold Noble took two loads of logs in and I brought out the lumber from two load of logs. I finished threshing peas.

Friday March 8 - Fine and warm. ~~Noble too~~ In the morning we cut a ~~te~~ couple of elm logs and brought home a load of logs. After dinner Noble took it to town and ~~finished~~ Arthur helped me to cut wood. Papa and Mamma went to town.

Saturday March 9 - Dull and quite cold turning very stormy in afternoon. Noble and Edgar and took in a load of our logs and waited for the lumber. I cleaned pig-pens. Papa and Mamma came out to-night.

Sunday March 10 Fine and cold. I was at Church in the evening.

Monday March 11 - Cold but becoming milder in the afternoon. We unloaded the ~~rest~~ lumber took our seed down to Uncle Alfred's and brought up the lumber Edgar brought out. After dinner Noble took one of the white pigs to town, also the harrows to the black mill to get some repairs and brought out some shingles.

~~Wednesday~~ Tuesday March 12. Some rain last night, fine and very mild. Papa and I were in town all day.

Wednesday March 13 - Dull and mild. We were cutting wood for the church.

Thursday March 14 - Mild with quite a bit of snow. Noble split up part of the wood we cut. I was at Uncle Alfred's clover threshing. The clover turned out very poorly

Friday March 15. Fine and very cold. Papa and Mamma went to town. In the morning we cut wood for the church. In the afternoon. Noble went to town and brought 2 tons of shorts and ¼ ton feed flour which we got from R. Selford.

Saturday March 16 - Fine and ~~not~~ ~~very~~ mild. I took four loads of wood to the church and brought another home. Papa and Mamma came out to-night

Sunday March 17 - Fine and very mild. I was at church in the morning.

Monday March 18 - Fine and very mild A lot of the snow has gone and the roads are getting poor. {Between the lines it reads: We cut some wood and then} I handed the rest of the wood to the church, 3 loads, and brought 1 load of poles home.

Tuesday March 18 - ~~Mild and~~ Fine and thawing a lot. Noble took a small load of wood to town to ~~Day~~ Miss Geddes. After dinner I tapped some trees and we then drew home two loads of poles.

Wednesday March 19 - Fine and quite. ~~Temp 60° in shade in afternoon.~~ In the morning we cleaned up some seed barley and after dinner cut up some taps at the bush and gathered the sap. The creek is very high.

Thursday March 20 - Fine and ~~very~~ quite hot. Temp ~~20~~ 60° in shade in the afternoon In the morning we cleaned and in the afternoon helped Uncle Alfred's to cut with the buzz saw and gathered the sap.

Friday March 22 - Fine and ~~e~~ cool. We cleaned grain in the morning and ~~†~~ in the afternoon I took ~~a~~ ~~he~~ the roan heifer to L. Colean's, Noble gathered and then we cleaned grain Papa and Mamma went to town this morning.

Saturday March 23 - Fine and cold. We cleaned grain and ~~then~~ in the afternoon Noble took Beauty to L. Colean's We finished cutting poles. Papa and Mamma came out.

Sunday March 24 - ~~Fine and a little warmer~~ Dull and cold

Monday March 25 - Dull and cool. We chopped some grain and wheatmeal Bert Struthers bought our fat cattle. In the afternoon we brought the chop home, split some wood and ~~fo~~ gathered the sap.

Tuesday March 26 - fine and warm. Papa and I were in town. Noble went to A. Kerr's and bought a white sow and some roots

Wednesday March 27 - fine and cold. Noble went to Kerr's and brought home the sow and the roots. I fixed up a pen for her. After dinner we helped Arthur and Edgar to put up a temporary addition to the bridge.

Thursday March 28 - Fine and very mild. We were hauling home poles and took the sap home on the sleigh.

Friday March 29 (Good Friday) - Fine and mild. We finished the poles. After dinner Noble took the little red heifer to A. Eaton. Papa took the buggy in. I helped Arthur to draw poles and gathered the sap.

Saturday March 30 - Fine and mild Papa and I were in town. Noble helped Edgar to take down the bridge, split wood &c.

Sunday ~~March~~ 31 - Fine and mild. I was at church twice.

~~Tuesday~~ Monday April 1 - Fine and cold. We split wood and gathered the sap. {Between the lines it reads: ~~The~~ Cherry had a red heifer calf to-day.}

Tuesday April 2 - Fine and cold. We were at Uncle Alfred's sawing with the buzzsaw. Papa and Olive were in town.

Wednesday April 3 - Noble went to town to get coal and got 10 bags of chop. Edgar brought up the engine and saw. After dinner we sawed wood. I was at Literary meeting. Papa and Mamma were in town

Thursday April 4 - Fine & cold. We cut wood all day with the buzz saw

Friday April 5 - Fine and warmer. We hauled ~~her~~ out 3 loads of manure, split some wood and sawed some in the bush.

Saturday April 6 - Fine and mild. Papa and I were in town. Noble took the ~~Black~~ black sow to Peirson's hauled the sap home and ploughed a little in the back field.

Sunday April 7- ~~Dull and very cold~~ Fine and warm.

Monday April 8 - Dull and very cold. In the morning I split wood. In the afternoon we took the three pigs to town. Noble is not well and was at the doctor's. ~~He~~ The nerves out his ribs are affected. I brought the sow home.

Tuesday April 9 - Fine and very cold. Papa and Olive were in town. Noble and I were unable to work much. I cleaned out some of the pens

Wednesday April 10 - Fine and ~~cold~~ warmer. In the morning I cleaned the rest of the pens and the hen house. Noble fixed some things about the stable In the afternoon I split wood. Noble tried ploughing but it was not thawed enough.

Thursday April 11 - Fine and warm. In the morning we got two loads of stone from S. Smith. In the afternoon he ploughed and I split wood.

Friday April 12. Fine and warm. In the morning Noble split wood and Noble ploughed. In the afternoon I ploughed and Noble split wood.

Saturday April 13 - Fine and warm. In the morning Noble went to Grants to try and get some pigs. I ploughed. In the afternoon, Noble ploughed and I went to a sawing bee at D. Dicks. D Dick is laid up. Papa and I ~~were in~~ Mamma were in town.

Sunday April 14 - Fine and warm. I was at Church twice.

Monday April 15 - ~~No~~ Fine and ~~cool~~ warm. Noble finished ploughing the back field and started to plough the piece we summer fallowed for twitch {gras}s last year. I went to town and brought some things out ~~from~~ we got from Eatons. after dinner I took the sap out of the trees.

Tuesday April 16 - Fine and warm. Papa and I were in town. Noble ploughed most of the piece we summer-fallowed for twitch grass last summer.

Wednesday April 17 - Fine & warm turning to rain. Noble finished ploughing the piece harrowed it, disked ~~it and~~ the orchard and started last years root ground. I split wood.

Thursday April 18 - Cold with rain and snow.

Friday April 19 ~~Fine~~ Fine with very cold wind. I went to W. Greatheads and got 5 anchor parts. Noble went to Grants and got 4 little pigs. After dinner we worked at the bush.

Saturday April 20 - ~~Dull and cold with~~ Fine and cold. Noble split wood, cleaned pens &c. Papa and I were in town.

Sunday April 21 - Dull and cold with rain in morning.

Monday April 22 - ~~Fine an~~ Cold and rainy in morning turning fine and warm in afternoon. We split wood in afternoon

Tuesday April 23 - Fine and cold in the morning. Rain and snow in the afternoon. Papa and I were in town all day. Noble was splitting and ~~piling~~ piling wood.

Wednesday April 24 - ~~Fine and very cold.~~ cool Dull and cold. We were working ~~and~~ at the wood. Olive and I were at a social at the manor.

Thursday April 25 Fine and cold. In the morning we hauled ~~two~~ three loads of rails We then worked at the wood.

Friday April 26 - Fine and warm. ~~in~~ We were at the wood.

Saturday April ~~23~~ 27- Dull and warm. Papa and Mamma were in town. We finished the pole wood cleaned out the ~~at~~ pens and set up the fence round the calf pen..

Sunday April 27 28 - Fine and warm, ~~We~~ with rain in evening. ~~We~~ I was at church in the morning. At night Noble and I went to town to the Presbyterian Church.

Monday April 28 29 Dull and warm turning to rain in the afternoon. ~~Papa~~ Noble disked part of the root ground. I was working at fences.

Tuesday April 29 30 - ~~Fine~~ Dull and quite cold. Papa and Mamma were in town. Noble and I fixed the front fence ~~and~~ took the wires off the fence accross the creek and dug an anchor and brace port hole.

Wednesday ~~April 30~~ May 1 - Fine and cold Noble got a load of stone from Wark's I worked at the fence accross the creek Noble disked part of the 10 ac. field and part of the fall wheat.

Thursday May 2 - Fine and windy. Noble finished disking and harrowed ~~Θ~~ the piece. Papa and I put in one anchor part. I dug ~~and~~ another hole and ~~wee started~~ set the post in.

Friday May 3 - Fine and warm with a little rain in the afternoon In the ~~f~~ morning we took our fat cattle. ~~U~~ Papa and Mamma drove in and are staying over night. Noble and I drove out. I rolled till dinner time. Noble then finished ~~rollu~~ rolling, sowed peas barley and oats. I sowed ~~f~~ grass seed and harrowed. I was in to-night with Edgar.

Saturday May 4 - Fine and cool. Noble disked the acre of wheat and the orchard harrowed ~~and~~ sowed and ~~f~~harrowed it. I cleaned pens treated grain &c and went in for Papa and Mamma.

Sunday May 5 - Fine and warm.

Monday May 6 - Fine warm and windy, ~~turning cold at night~~. I was working at the fence accross the creek. Noble disked the root ground, harrowed it and ~~sowe~~ sowed part with barley and grass-seed.

Tuesday May 7 - Warm and very windy turning ~~warm~~ cold at night. I was at the fence. Noble sowed spring wheat

Wednesday ~~April~~ May 8 - Dull and cold. I was disking the 8 acres next Dave's. One of the braces broke. Noble took it totown and got it welded. I used ~~U~~ Uncle Alfred's disk till noon.

Wednesday {Thursday} May 9 - Raining part of time. I finished disking. Noble worked at fences I broke the brace again.

Friday May 10 - Rain last night and a little this morning. Noble harrowed the 8 acres rolled part of it and sowed some O.A.C. No 3 oats and also some peas and oats. I was fixing fences and treating grain.

Saturday May 11 - Fine and cool. Papa and Mamma were in town. I cleaned out the pens and worked some at fences in the morning. Noble sowed and harrowed. In the afternoon Noble worked at fences and I sowed the rest of 8 acres and harrowed part.

Sunday May 12 - Dull and wet.

Monday May 13 - Fine and cold. In the morning I helped Uncle Alfred's to bring one of their horses which died during the night Noble went to town and brought out some wire After dinner Noble took

some rails back to the bush to the fence between Ferguson's and us. Bernie and Oliver were down to-night.

Tuesday May 14 - Fine and windy. Noble and I put part of the fence

Wednesday May 15 - Fine warm and windy. Edgar was helping Noble to disk. They disked the back field and piece of 10 acre field and sowed the piece with barley. ~~I sowed~~ Noble sowed ~~the~~ grass-seed on the spring wheat and barley and harrowed it. I was working at fences. I led Endeavour to-night.

Thursday May 16 - Fine warm and windy. Noble harrowed the field across the creek, sowed it and harrowed part. I finished harrowing. it after supper. I fixed fences.

Friday May 17 - Fine and warm. I took Papa and Mamma to town. Noble sowed grassseed on the rest of the 8 acres disked part of the root ground ~~noble~~ harrowed it., rolled it and set up drills.

Saturday May 18 - Fine warm and windy. I disked part of 10 ac. field harrowed it and the rest of 8 acres. Noble sowed mangels, and ~~part of~~ most of ground with barley cleaned part of pens and went in for Papa and Mamma. I finished cleaning pens and sowing barley and harrowed it.

Sunday May 19 - Fine and warm.

Monday May 20 - Fine and cool. ~~Papa and Olive were in.~~ Noble ran the water-furrows. I loaded the wagons with manure, And disked the ~~potato~~ rest of the root ground. We hauled out five loads of manure after 4 a p.m.

Tuesday May 21 - Fine and cool. We hauled out manure for the rest of the root ground Noble spread part of it and I got a load of stone at Wark's. Papa and Olive were in town.

Wednesday May 22 - Fine and warm. Rain last night. We cleaned the stove pipes in the morning and in the afternoon Arthur Edgar Noble and I went fishing to Snake Creek.

Thursday May 23 - Dull and cold. I disked and harrowed the potato ~~root~~-ground. Noble finished spreading the manure ~~and in~~ took the black sow to Peirsons and cut some potatoes.

Friday May 24 - Fine and warm.. Noble rolled the potatoe ground and we finished cutting and planted the potatoes. Noble sowed the flax.

Saturday May 25 - Raining nearly all day. Noble cleaned pens &c. Papa and I were in town

~~**~~Sunday May 26 - Wet in the morning and showers through the day. I was at church at night.

Monday May 27 - Dull with some showers. Noble dug the brace post hole in the fence across the creek I cut stakes put on brace wire &c. We cut a brace post ~~and~~ put it in and braced the anchor post.

Tuesday May 28 - Fine and cool Papa and ~~Olive~~ Mamma were in town this morning. We put up the wires on the fence. Theblackheiferhadacalf.

Wednesday May 29 - Dull and warm. ~~Noble~~ Rain in afternoon. I fixed up the the rails at the ends of the wire fence put up bars and put up some stakes. Noble was disking the summer-fallow

Thursday May 30 - Dull and warm. Noble and I put up ~~steak~~ stakes in the morning. After dinner Noble sowed beans and corn and Papa and I finished the fence.

Friday May 31 - Fine and very hot. I took Papa and Mamma to town. Noble disked harrowed and rolled the turnipd {turnips} after dinner he set up drills. I cleaned pens, dug part of garden &c.

Saturday June 1 - Fine and hot. Noble sowed turnips. I hauled rails for a pig fence. We started to put it up.

Sunday June 2 - Fine and warm. I was at church twice. ~~It rained~~

Monday June 3 - Fine and warm but windy. We finished ~~most of~~ the pig-fence. After dinner we went to the p bush and got a pole for the scaffold for shingling. ~~We I hauled out three loads of manure~~ {Between the crossed-out lines it reads: I worked at Creek wheat ground} ~~Noble and I were at a musicale~~

Tuesday June 4 - Dull ~~tw~~ with some rain. Edgar and I were out {spea-ing?} Noble worked at the buckwheat ground. After dinner we worked at odd jobs. Papa and Mamma were in town in the morning. I got my identification card.

Wednesday June 5 - Fine and warm. Noble was helping ~~my~~ Uncle Alfred's to plough their buckwheat ground. I was cutting thistles finished the pig pen- &c.

Thursday June 6 - Fine and warm {Between the lines it reads: with heavy thunderstorm in evening} Noble went to town, got the horses shod and brought home shingle-nails ~~has~~ car for track in barn &c. ~~We~~ I was cutting thistles. We ~~finished~~ hauled out 3 loads of manure. Mamma went to Meaford with Uncle Gilbert Aunt Jeannie Donald and Aunt Lizzie

Friday June 7 - Fine and cold. Noble brought 3 loads of gravel from Millers pit. Papa and I fixed up the wire fence at the road. Mamma came home to-night.

Saturday June 8 - Fine and warmer with a little rain in evening. Papa and Mamma were in town. Arthur helped us to put the scaffold at the barn. We hauled out 4 loads of manure. The white to sow has 11 little pigs

Sunday June 9 - Dull with rain in morning.

Monday June ~~9~~ 10 - Dull and misty, turning ~~cold~~ fine. We stripped part of the old shingles off the barn and started to ~~een~~ shingle. Arthur was was helping us all day. Edgar was helping us in the afternoon.

Tuesday June ~~10~~ 11 - Fine and warm with heavy thunderstorm in evening. Arthur and Edgar were helping us to shingle all day.

Wednesday June ~~11~~ 12 - Dull and cold with showers in the morning. Arthur and I were in town in the afternoon.

Thursday June ~~12~~ 13 - Fine and cool. We took off the rest of the old shingles and shingled the rest of the day.

Friday June ~~13~~ 14 - Fine and warmer. Arthur helped us part of the morning and Edgar helped us all day.

For more information on James “Rowand” Burgess, check out the “Meet the Diarists” section under “Discover” on our website: ruraldiaries.lib.uoguelph.ca