

David Allan (1808-1895)
1862 Diary
Transcribed by Rural Diary Archive volunteers

{Printed} DAILY JOURNAL 1862.

{Printed} CALENDAR FOR 1860.

Wm Larter wants to rent my farm at Kennelworth for 4 years, write George Allen, then Kennelth P.O.

{Printed} DAILY JOURNAL FOR 1860.

New York:

PUBLISHED ANNUALLY BY

KIGGINS & KELLOGG,

Publishers, Booksellers, Stationers and Blank Book Manufacturers,

123 & 125 WILLIAM STREET,

BETWEEN JOHN AND FULTON.

Prices at Smiths Bellows

32 inch \$16

34 inch \$17

36 inch \$18

38 inch \$24

Spikes 7 inch English made {---} spikes

6 inch English made {---} spikes

Nails 6 inch pressed English made 4½¢ per lb

5 inch pressed English made 4½¢ per lb

4, 3½, 3 inch patent pressed {---} nail 7½¢.

2¼, 2½, inch patent pressed {---} nails 8½¢.

Cut nails \$3.25 per 100.		Angle Iron
		from 1 to 3 inches
Chains		broad \$4½ per 100 lb
5/16th - 7¢		
¼ - 8¢		Boiler plate
3/16 - 9½¢ per lb.		Best refined \$3½ to \$4

Bar Iron

from $\frac{5}{8}$ square or round up to 3 inches
square or round \$2.75 per 100 lbs, all best Ref^d.

Large Round Iron

2½ inches diameter	\$2.75
3 inches diameter	\$2.75
3¼ inches diameter	\$3.00
3½ inches diameter	\$3.00
3¾ inches diameter	\$3.25
4 inches diameter	\$3.25
4¼ inches diameter	\$3.50
4½ inches diameter	\$3.50
5 inch diameter	\$3.75
5½ inch diameter	\$4.00
6 inch diameter	\$4.50

1 to 1¼ - Washers 8 ¢ per lb

Pump

a force pump for 1½ suction pipe \$9½.

{Transcriber's note - David Allan's diary is blank up until he begins editing the dates on July 14th}

{Transcriber's note - David Allan is recording 1862 entries in an 1860 diary / book; hence the changing of day numbers.]

July 1862**TUESDAY, 22**

Began to excavate in front of the old Mill for the foundation of the breaks or Pilasters for front door to be carried up to stiffen the wall.

WEDNESDAY, 23

Rained heavy during the night, and a shower of hail fell about 5 a m, Went down to Hamilton this morning, for, Belting, nuts, &c

THURSDAY, 24th 1862

Dry weather all day Began to put in the gudgeons in the new oak shaft Have got the excavation in front of Mill down to the rock

FRIDAY, 25th

The weather very fine & lots of people pouring in to see the show to day Bailed the water out of the quarry this morning.

SATURDAY, 26th

{No entry}

July, MONDAY, 28th 1862

At 7 this morning there was a slight shower but not it was thought sufficient to retard the work & the masons began, but it went off and on till 8 o'clock when it became heavy and at a little past 9 it was heavier still, so that all outdoor work is suspended A great alarm of Fire aroused us at 12 last night, which fortunately was confined to John Heward's stables, had it not been for the supply of water from my Duck pond the Tavern which is of stone could not have been saved, even although there was not a breath of wind to fan the flames

TUESDAY, 29th

It rained very heavy, last night, and the quarry had to be bailed out this morning The Cylinder planing machine is now at work and performs the work well I find I must take down the frame of the old Mill as it delays the masons to keep her working any longer for the sake of making use of the good supply of water as it would throw the work late into the fall,

July WEDNESDAY, 30th

{No entry }

July THURSDAY, 31st 1862

This is a very warm day yet a very good supply of water, have got the 2d lot of corn elevated & will finally stop the old water wheel Got the Bands or hoops on the gudgeon of the pit wheel and of the new shaft 3 of the others were found to be too slack, they would have been right had the wood been left full enough, but must cut them & take them in The masons are cutting the arch stones and dressing the coursers and header stones for the wheel house

FRIDAY, August 1st 1862

Began this morning to take the old water wheel apart The Bands of the Gudgeons are now finished and will be put on after the old wheel is removed to allow the masons to work.

SATURDAY, 2d

The weather is very warm and the work of taken down the machinery goes on slow by what one might expect

August, MONDAY, 4th 1862

This is a very warm day

TUESDAY, 5th

Another close morning there has been a slight shower of rain, have put on more men to remove the old wheel, must attend Old Mr John Ingles, Funeral to day.

WEDNESDAY, 6th

Fine dry weather and very warm, have got all the wheel and ark out now, but part of shaft that is in the pit wheel.

August, THURSDAY, 7 186{2}

The weather is so far very favourable

FRIDAY, 8th

{No entry}

SATURDAY, 9th

{No entry}

August, MONDAY, 11th 186{2}

Fine weather, and all hands busy taking down purlins with framing &c. which is more difficult to take down than I expected, and one of the men a John Herd got hurt by the falling of one of the bents on him, I looked long for 3 cars of corn to arrive ere the shaft is taken down that drives the elevator but they did not, and had to remove it A Fire broke out at Stewarts plaining Mill, and burnt 20 new fanning mills and 50 about half finished with about 30,000 feet of boards

TUESDAY, 12th

Fine dry weather, and we are taking the remainder of the Fall wheat home to the stack yard of which it will make two good ones, I regret now very much that I did not adhere to my original plan of allowing the old frame of the Mill to stand and build then in to the stone wall my idea was to cut the tennants of every beam and elevate them all to their proper heights and secure them there with straps and props untill the masons built up to them, but I ~~was~~ allowed myself to be prevailed on to take it all down which I now very much regret,

WEDNESDAY, 13th

Went down to Toronto this morning with Mrs A. & met Maggie, the weather was very fine, I returned the same evening I find they have not made much progress during my absence in taking down the large bents, being only and another half down it is slow work

{Transcriber's note - Doubtless Mr and Mrs Allan travelled to and from Toronto by way of the Grand Trunk Railway which reached Guelph in 1856. Allan's home and mill were but a 5-minute walk from the G.T.R. station.} {Might Maggie be their daughter Margaret?}

August, THURSDAY, 14th 186{2}

Got down the hanging bents this forenoon, but the rain comming on rather heavy stopped the work and appears to continue this afternoon without interuption. This stops all outside work, the stone cutters are working in their sheds. I gave Fred^k Marcon notice this evening that I should want to have possession of the house by the day month at least and have begun to lay down stones for building a Back Kitchen &c. I likewise began last Monday to lay down stones at the Wallace house.

FRIDAY 15th

The weather fine and dry to day, and have managed to get down the last bent of the mill this afternoon, I again to day reminded both Marcon & his Wife that I could not allow them to have the house any longer then the 14 Sept and if they can leave it sooner I will deduct the proportion of rent not due,

SATURDAY, 16

{No entry}

August, MONDAY, 18th 186{2}

Resolved to take down the back wall to the rock and start and make a new beginning. Had to get a new upright pole for the derrick a went out to the woods for a small elm of 40 feet long and got that fitted up for the purpose, which cost a day of 3 men and nearly another half day to put it up.

TUESDAY, 19th

{No entry}

WEDNESDAY, 20th

{No entry}

August, THURSDAY, 21st 186{2}

This has been a fine warm day. had to get more assistance in the grass field some of it is almost ready for carrying in there is 6 men and a boy employed to day, the crop is good measured it from 20 to 26 inches long. The oak water wheel shaft of the new mill is again loose and heating and had to stop her this afternoon for repairs, it is many years since it was got out and was found after having been housed in for several years and previous to its being put in it was found a little defective but not of sufficient extent to condemn it, but after having been put in its place the machinery was several years of being finished and put in operation and that is a great cause of its rappid decay

FRIDAY, 22d

It rained very heavy for a great part of last night & blew strong, the rain continued during the forenoon and put a stop to outdoor work. Began to take down the building of the furnace in the Distillery to get out the Boiler. Also began to lay the first stones in the back wall at the Pit wheel with water lime from Thorold. Burnt out the drift bolts out of the ends of the old shaft and made them 3 feet long and drove them in, which I think will have the effect of firming the gudgeon, also getting home more timber with two teams

SATURDAY, 23d

{No entry}

August, MONDAY, 25th 186{2}

Fine weather and getting on well now with the mason work. I went down to Galt this afternoon to obtain 2 inch oak plank for Spirit vats,

TUESDAY, 26th

Fine weather to day getting in timber with both teams this forenoon, after dinner 1 team at stone from my own quarry the other carting hay on the farm.

{Transcriber's note - According to a note at the top of an early page in this, his 1862 diary, Allan had a farm at Kenilworth which is adjacent to what is today Hwy 6, and some 50km north-west of Guelph.}

WEDNESDAY, 27th

It rained very heavy during the night and this forenoon that it has prevented any mason work being done

August, THURSDAY, 28th 186{2}

After a dreadfull night of rain and thunder with very bright flashes of lightning, it has again cleared of but continues sultry and warm and doubt much whither it will continue fair all day, have this forenoon got the back wall up to the level for the joists which will be begun this afternoon, and the outer wall of the wheelhouse is to be founded also.

FRIDAY, 29th

A fine dry day got well forward with the outer wall, all laid with massive stones from inches to {blank} and from 3 to 6 feet long, and all laid in best water line. The Gudgeon of new mill at the pit-wheel end, was heating considerably to day. Got all the Spring wheat at the back of the hill cut.

August, SATURDAY, 30th

Another fine morning for work.

September, MONDAY, 1st 186{2}

This has been a playday for most of the people of the town and all my masons and carpenters, and only 5 labourers working, and the Mill going, This is a Great Excursion day to Toronto and to the Falls. Startling news this afternoon arrived that the Confederates were only 3 miles from Washington. The Oak tree cut down and hewed on 2 sides, 19 feet long 18 in thick and will stand 18 square, Another cut 14 feet long 20 x 15

1 Elm 10 feet in circumference over the Bark

1 Elm 11 feet 2 in circumference over the Bark

1 Elm 11 feet 7 in circumference over the Bark - thought of trying one for a shaft

TUESDAY, 2d

Fine weather this morning but cool produced by a N. W. Wind. all the masons at work to day, but some are rather sleepy after the Excursion, laying the joists of millstone floor

WEDNESDAY, 3d

Frost this morning and cold, but fine weather for working, busey finishing joists this afternoon. There is a difficulty in getting all to work right as some of the carpenters are not be trusted, and only few that are fit to joint the staves for the oak turns

September, THURSDAY, 4th 186{2}

Fine weather for building, the masons have started on the contract again, from the under side of the beams, and three feet higher next granary. Began to take out the Boiler to day & got the largest out this evening. Wrote to Alex Laidlaw, Millwright Mono Centre P.O to come on

FRIDAY, 5

Fine weather all day. and got on well with the walls. and have got the window frames in front on the Millstone floor set, also the {illegible} of the Buttresses Got Both Boilers out to-day.

SATURDAY, 6th

This has been a very fine day notwithstanding the very heavy rain during the night and morning early. Sent out the teams for timber from the Rocks. It began to rain at 4 P M and stopped the masons.

September, MONDAY, 8th 186{2}

{No entry}

TUESDAY, 9th

{No entry}

WEDNESDAY, 10th

{No entry}

September, THURSDAY, 11th 186{2}

Very fine weather to day,

FRIDAY, 12th

Weather keeping good which enables us to get on well with the work, the Boiler is about finished. I went down to Toronto this afternoon to get the pipes of the boiler (blow off ones) repaired and took a look at several chimney stalks and found they did not differ much from what I had designed myself as to size. I orderd Rennie to order the slates for the roof of the mill as soon as possible. The price of Lehigh coal was \$8 per ton on board cars

SATURDAY, 13th

The weather was fine to day and after, doing business at various places in Toronto, started by Express and reached here at 12 a m. Began and got the Boiler into the distillery. Got in all the Beams into their places above the water wheel house

September, MONDAY, 15th 186{2}

This morning was fair though not clear but continued so untill 11 when it began to rain, which stops the masons in the mean time. I began to thrash out the wheat on the farm this morning and will now be retarded

{Transcriber's note - no entries after the above date until January, WEDNESDAY, 24th}

WEDNESDAY, 24th

Fine weather. I went down this morning to Toronto to see the Provincial Show. the Exhibition of cattle was very large, as well as that of Fruits and vegetables, but in the fine Arts it was not so good as I have formerly seen, and the same may be said of machinery, there was 3 Steam Engines 2 in Motion - & a great many Ploughs. The Governor General {Transcriber's note - Viscount Monck} was on the Show Ground. I returned home same night. I heard that he was going to pay a visit to Guelph in passing tomorrow

{Transcriber's note: And so it came to pass that on September 25th, 1862 Lord Monck visited Guelph... The visit is detailed on pages 124 to 126 of the "The Annals of the Town of Guelph", published in 1877 to celebrate the town's 50th anniversary. At the bottom of page 125 we find mention of the Governor General making remarks to various gentlemen on the train platform before he left Guelph. Among these gentlemen was "Mr D. Allan" whom he, the G.G. "recognized as his fellow passenger from Liverpool, ..."}

September, THURSDAY, 25th 1862

This has been a fine morning and have got up our flags at the Priory {Transcriber's note - David Allan's residence, immediately south of what is now the River Run Centre} and Mill, and throughout the Town, and the Council have constructed a platform to receive his Excellency {Transcriber's note - Governor General Viscount Monck} on, at length the Car came in sight which was announced by the firing of cannon about 12 o'clock, when after the Mayor having read the address and his Excellency having made his reply the council was [illegible word struck out] presented by the Mayor, but I was introduced by the Secretary to his Lordship who remembered me well as a fellow passenger on board the North Briton from Londonderry last year - and spoke of how fortunate we were in getting such a fine safe passage in the ill fated vessel, he was on his way to Dwight in Illinois to shoot,

FRIDAY, 26th

{No entry}

SATURDAY, 27th

The Boiler is now built up and finished and now waiting for the water wheel to be ready

Sept MONDAY, 29th 1862

The weather pretty fair but inclines to change got up three beams on the 2d flat above the stone floor. The back wall of the wheel house is about its height now

TUESDAY, 30th

Went down to Toronto with E Martin to consult with Cameron, it rained through the night and was showery during the day Found that Lehigh coal had got up to \$9 and Brierhill house coal to \$6½ I bought 5 tons of each

October, WEDNESDAY, 1

Very wet weather that the masons could not work. The Horticultural Show was held to day in the Town Hall, I took 24 prizes. This being also the monthly fair the Town was pretty throng, about 300 cattle entered the yard for sale

October, THURSDAY, 2d 1862

It rained heavy during the night and continued showrey during the day the builders did not work. The water wheel in the Distillery is far advanced. The arms and shrouding is completed for one ring of the new mill water wheel it is being fitted together in the new carpenter shop, with holes bored and ready for the bolts,

FRIDAY, 3d

Considerable rain fell last night, and through the day it continued thick muggy weather with now and then a shower the masons made a start in the morning but were beat off. The Township Show is held to day & ~~between 2 and 300~~ a good many cattle were entered. We have now had a long continuation of wet weather which retards the work very much, having yet to complete the present and build another story before we can begin the roof.

SATURDAY, 4th

A good deal of rain has fallen through the night, this morning looked as if it was going to become fair but ¼ past 7 it began to rain heavy and continued for some time but about noon, it began to clear up that the masons began and worked all the afternoon, they made an attempt to put on the withering of the Buttresses above door but broke one of them. Got the new water wheel in the Distillery finished today

October, MONDAY, 6th 1862

This morning appeared like settled weather the ground and any boards exposed were white with frost, but about noon it began to rain and about 2 p m a heavy shower fell, and after a second one the masons dropped work, had to put in a new sluiss for distillery wheel of pine the oak one having worn very unequal and leaked very bad but this one stopes the wheel well, had up steam to day preparatory to mash but the pipes leaked steam and had to tighten them.

TUESDAY, 7th

{No entry}

WEDNESDAY, 8th

{No entry}

October, THURSDAY, 9th 186{2}

This day seems as if it were going to keep fair and so far the work has gone very well to day, Have begun to lay the sleepers or joist in the lower celler floor of the mill all of cedar. The hewing of the stones for the buttresses and window is behind with part of the front walls. This was a Bank day (the

board met) Old Mr Wm Dunbar of Pickering was here to day, and a Grandson William's. It began to rain lightly in the afternoon and of any thing increased and got heavy about a ¼ befor 6.

FRIDAY, 10th

It have rained through the night, but it was fair this morning so that the men that is the builders worked all the forenoon, but at noon it began to rain and has continued all this afternoon, the stone cutters are working, and the carpenters & millwrights have indoor work. This is the County Show day, and a bad day it is for it.

SATURDAY, 11th

{No entry}

October, MONDAY, 13th 186{2}

{No entry}

TUESDAY, 14th

{No entry}

WEDNESDAY, 15th

{No entry}

October, THURSDAY, 16th 186{2}

This appears to be a wet day, and though light showers fell it did not ~~hurt~~ retard the work very long. Went out and bought some dry 2 inch Planks from Thompson on the Dundas road {Transcriber's note - now Gordon Street}. Rcd payment of a/c,s from Mrs Hamilton.

FRIDAY 17th

This is rather a dull day but no rain, through the forenoon it threatened a good deal but very little fell. I thought of going to Hamilton to day but found I could not leave the work

SATURDAY, 18th

This has been the finest day we have had this week, and has enabled the men to get well on with the work. the front wall Gothic window was finished this forenoon and the front all but ready for the last of the uppermost beams. The breast beams forming the Throat for the water wheel is in to day. Bought 40 pigs to day on the farm of Mr Whitman, Boundary of Guelph and Waterloo for \$ {blank}

October, MONDAY, 20th 186{2}

This has been a fine day for working though the wind was blowing sharp and cold

TUESDAY, 21

It rained a good deal last night and it was wet this morning and most of the forenoon. But it got fair and the masons began at 1 o'clock it soon got dark and a smart shower drove them home

WEDNESDAY, 22d

Rather a wet forenoon, but yet the men worked the greater part of it. But in the afternoon they enjoyed themselves on account of my Son's marriage this forenoon.

October, THURSDAY, 23d 1862

This morning is dry but cold and raw the ground was whitish, but the men are all working.

FRIDAY, 24th

This morning was damp, yet it turned out a very fine day, I went down to Hamilton this morning and returned in the evening, made enquirey about copper pipes for distillery but found they must be made to order. Trade has greatly improved of late there

SATURDAY, 25th

A good deal of rain fell during the night and this morning the gangways were covered with frost, throughout the day it has been cold with a light drizzling snow which did not lay but melted as it fell. All hands are employed at the roof and 3 bents of the purlin frame are up and the masons nearly done the cornice being nearly all laid and the Gable about up.

October, MONDAY, 27th 1862

Rather a cold this morning, it froze hard last night that the mortar is hard, and the ground white, the mason did not begin till noon. got the purlin plates on the walls and 3 of them put together this evening

TUESDAY, 28th

The weather is much milder to day and have got on well with plates &c.

WEDNESDAY, 29th

This has been quite a mild day, and the row steps on the middle gable of the mill is up to the top and only wants the finishing stone the rest of the mason work is about complete. I think of going down to Toronto in the morning to consult with Mathew Cameron about the suit, Beardmore vs Allan

{Transcriber's note - no entries, apart from day and date, after the above date until December, MONDAY, 8th 1862}

December, MONDAY 8th 1862

Pretty hard frost putting gate posts at the Carding Mill. My Sister Margaret (Mrs Fisher) died to day at noon

TUESDAY, 9th

{No entry}

WEDNESDAY, 10th

{No entry}

DECEMBER, THURSDAY, 11th 1862

{No entry}

FRIDAY, 12th

This appears to have been the day on which my poor Nephew, William Cunningham, died at Helena in {blank} while incamped

SATURDAY, 13th

{No entry}

December, MONDAY, 15TH 1862

{No entry}

TUESDAY, 16th

{No entry}

WEDNESDAY, 17th

{No entry}

December, THURSDAY, 18th 1862

Went down this afternoon to Hamilton

FRIDAY, 19th

Rather a cold raw day in Hamilton

SATURDAY, 20th

~~Quite mild open weather, so that plowing might go on if the ground was dry enough~~ Have got water wheel shaft on the Bridge & ready to put in when the Brasses are bored out

December, MONDAY, 22d 1862

{No entry}

TUESDAY, 23d

{No entry}

WEDNESDAY, 24th

{No entry}

December, THURSDAY, 25th 1862

This being Christmas day, only the Mill and Distillery are going for part of the day it most beautiful weather, as mild and free from snow as in May, the ice on the Dam is still sufficiently strong and good and frequented by Ladies as well as young men in great numbers. I went out and took a walk over the farm and pointed out what trees and brush I want cut down. Alex^r Glass went up this morning to Minto to serve James Burnett with notice to attend, Heir & Divorce Court

FRIDAY, 26th

There was a heavy fall of rain during the night and continued more or less during the day and late in the evening. I have rarely seen such a continuance of mild wet weather at this time of the year. The greater part of the forenoon was taken up in ascertaining if the pillow blocks for the new gudgeons working in, were level, and found them so, the pit wheel end about $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch the highest, in the afternoon began to get the shaft in until the rain drove us off.

SATURDAY, 27th

This morning is dry and cold, but are keeping busy in getting the shaft into its place, which goes on steadily. Have got the shaft in its place and all fits well. Have just now rec^d a letter from Illinois announcing the death of William Cuninghame on the 12th inst.

December, MONDAY, 29th 1862

Yesterday was a very fine day, the Sun shone out as in April or May. The New Church was opened for Divine Service yesterday. The weather to day is still mild but dull and heavy & brooding rain or snow

TUESDAY 30th

Fine weather and neither rain or snow fell

WEDNESDAY 31st

The same fine weather still continues, but freezing rather harder at night. Straightened up the high board fence next the railway bank in the side yard.

{Blank page}

{Printed page} SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE CO. OF EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

U.S. BRANCH, HARTFORD, CONN.

M. BENNETT JR. MANAGER

JAS. H. BREWSTER, ASST. MANAGER

J.W. OGSTON, Resident Agent, Guelph, Ont.

{4 printed pages - advertisements and testimonials} BRANTFORD FOUNDRIES UNITED ENGINE WORKS.

{Printed page - Newspaper cuttings and handwritten note dated May 1st 1863.}

Moyer & Co. of Waterloo

Has during the last winter shipped bag flour to Quebec through Mr David Birch also some to Portland, through Tho^s Raefield, who made about 10¢ better of it than James & Oliver though he considers them very good agents. He has also sent to the copper mines at Seton, and has got rid of a great deal of ground middling and screenings and a good deal of poor wheat, which neated in Waterloo over \$2 per {102} lbs

1st May 1863.

For more information on David Allan, check out the “Meet the Diarists” page under “Discover” on our website: ruraldiaries.lib.uoguelph.ca