

A Farm Journal of 1874

From the original diary of John Barnhill, an early settler on S $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 21 Concession 9, Morris Township in the County of Huron. His household consisted of himself, his wife Rachel, James, presumed to be a brother, his son, Charles and a daughter Meggie.

Thursday Jan. 1

James went to the bush with the gun. Watch (the dog) with terror staying in the barn. Jas. and Meggy at the Stewarts for tea. Charlie went to Blyth to see Doctor for his hand.

Friday Jan. 2

Went to Seaforth with Jas. with 20 bags of spring wheat-- left home at 7 about daylight and arrived home about 8. Great trains of teams on gravel road with cordwood. Many waiting to empty wheat at Big Mill. Seaforth in a great bustle. The snow melting.

Saturday Jan. 3

James cutting stave bolts with Sam Stewart. All writing letters. Letter from Miss Young telling of Dundas Church being blown down by gale of Dec. 6. Strong thaw, fields becoming green again today. Weather so warm scarcely need a fire.

Sabbath Jan 4

Roads muddy--only Jas. and I at Mr. Mann's Church. Sermon from psalm 66. Evening stormy and cold, meeting at Stewarts. Spoke a few words on Job Chapter 2.

Monday Jan. 5

Polling day for election for Reeve and Council. I voted for Thos. Kelly against Pat Kelly, a Roman Catholic. Johathon Moore called. Evening Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. J Shortreed came to tea. At 5 o'clock McArthurs called--they voting on the other side.

Tuesday Jan. 6

Mrs. Sorrel and her mother and children came to tea. Mr. Sorrel came for them at 6 p.m. Walked to Harry Clark's farm to get Charley for tomorrow. Found him squaring elm timber for barn, Jas. fixing up the sawing machine. I, preparing wood for stove.

Wednesday Jan. 7

All up early. Jonathon Moore came. Set off for McArthur's wood to cut stove wood. Machine broke down, went to Walton for repairs. Did little till dinner time. All went to Stewarts to dinner. Went out again cut about 13 cords of wood.

Thursday Jan. 8

All up at 6 a.m. to get breakfast to go to bush. Stewarts all there. John and Dick McPhail came with their oxen to draw logs. Charlie and Dick splitting, Sam Stewart piling, Jas. drawing logs. All took dinner with us. Fried pork and tea.

Sabbath Jan. 11

Communion Sabbath. Heard Mr. Mann on Eph. 5, "Walk in love". Mr. Rennell preached a striking sermon from "We are the circumcision." Were out about 3. Deep snow--many sleighs at Walton. Interesting communion service. Just one table in the area, only 2 elders required. Mothers with infants came and sat all the time.

Monday Jan. 20

Got to church in Farquarson's sleigh. Mr. Richardson and Mr. Campbell had children baptized. A sermon by Mr. Rennells. Skidding firewood logs. Got letters from Aunt Meggy at Edinburgh, Mr. John Gillies from Esquesing writing us to visit him. Meggy received fine Christmas card.

Tuesday Jan. 13

A busy day--sawing firewood in McArthur's bush. R. Shortreed and his oxen. Mr. Farquarson, the Stewarts, all came to dinner, and Jonathon Moore to tea. Charley splitting, Jamie Stewart driving--had the sleigh going to and fro. Cut about 30 trees.

Wednesday Jan. 14

Very cold and snowy day, north wind. Charly went to Harry Clarke. Annual meeting at school. Greater interest hearing school has been needlessly condemned. Trustee to be appointed and report received. Old McArthur called with boot to be mended.

Saturday Jan. 17

Jas. made a rake and teeth from stick of new firewood from McArthur's. Cold wind--Water in pails in house freezing. Horses fond of a roll when coming from the wull. New cloth being made up into trousers. Days stretching out. Taking tea sometimes in afternoon by daylight.

Monday Jan. 19

Went to Brussels to the mill at 9 and home at 4½ p.m. Dinner with Mr. Ferguson the minister. Called with him on Rebecca Moore who is recovering from a severe illness. Evening all engaged writing to Scotland. The young Brodies and the Stewarts came in.

Wednesday Jan. 21

Went early in Jonathon Moore's sleigh to cut firewood in Farquarson's. 8 men engaged--David Moore, Jas. McDonald, Jas. Farquarson, young Peter McNab. In the evening a meeting of J. Lockie's supporters for a member of parliament. Marked the logs and attended at the saw.

Thursday Jan. 22

A day of drizzling rain without ceasing. Water pouring off the roofs. Leaving accumulation in the pipes. Pulling Indian corn off cobs. Reading Dr. Burns' Life & Times. Churned for the last time. Churn takes a long time. Cabbages for cows about done.

Friday Jan. 23

Heard the Jackson's have got a harmonium. Jeany Stewart came with the big wheel and Meggy set it a going. Jas. giving a half day to the Farquarsons' to finish their sawing. Burning the new wood in the stove now. Black cat staying mostly in the barn.

Monday Jan. 26

Jas. taking home firewood--7 loads. Wild starved pig sometimes come around. Carried in some swedish turnips from the pit. Colin McArthur called in the evening with papers. Meggy making and twisting worsted. Well freezing up--pouring in hot water. Jonathon Moore called to settle for sawing.

Tuesday Jan. 27

Got from Farquarsons $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cow--150 lb. Took it home on top of firewood. Cold and sleet then thaw. Cut up meat in the evening. Starved wandering pig found this morning sleeping with the young pigs. Closed in all the doors. Seems weak for want of food. Took woollen and cotton yarn to Stewarts' to weave.

Wednesday Jan. 28

Meggy gone to visit the MacDonalds. Mr. Stewart helping with the firewood and came to tea. Supposed to have 65 cords home. Cleaned out young cattle and stocks. No wild animals seen near house at all except snowbirds. Large elm logs hauled on the road.

Thursday Jan. 27

Blyth whistle shows clock to be 35 minutes fast. Having fresh meat for dinner. Jas. at Stewarts and brought the Globe which is full of elections. Shelling the Indian corn of which the hens are very fond. Mending horse stalls. Heavy snow fall today.

Saturday Jan. 31

Taking in swedish turnips from the pit. Slitting firewood for both stoves. Went with R. to Shortreeds in the evening for tea. Fresh meat stowed. Syrup and steamed apples. Beautiful calm clear day. Fine sleigh roads. Singing several hymns. Walked home--the evening beautiful and clear.

Sabbath Feb. 1

Walked to church on the beautiful smooth white road. Mr. Mann's subject: Eph. "Filled with the fullness of God". Evening at 6 at Robert Shortreed's. Spoke on 1 John: "Walking in the light". A good meeting.

Monday Feb. 2

Engaged putting out large stove which seems giving way. Took in cooking stove and put in a new position. Great snow storm after midday. Went in Mr. Stewart's sleigh with others to vote for Mr. Leckie for to be M.P. for Ottawa. In evening, Mr. R. Shortreed called and conversed awhile.

Tuesday Feb. 3

Jas. went with Robt. Shortreed and the horses to Seaforth with wheat. Johnny Mann came about the proposed bee tomorrow. Brought 3 Weekly Mail's. Charley some work at home. Ordered a Farmer's paper for six months--paid $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar.

Wednesday Feb. 4

Mr. Mann's bee for cutting firewood. Cut about 25 cords--all fallen timber. Charley went to split, Meggy to serve the tables. About 30 men, 1 sawing machine. Some drawing the wood home. Jas. still at the sawlogs. Tonight a meeting by the Plymouth Brethren. None of us went. Shelling Indian corn at night.

Thursday Feb. 5

Charles went to a bee at Widow Johnston's to cut her firewood. Tonight after tea, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and their daughter Mrs. Knight and infant came in. Spent a cheerful evening. Had apples. Sang some hymns. Letters from Aunt Meggy and Jessy. Aunt Maggy at Edinburgh. Moody and Sankey's revival meeting crowded. Mr. Parkell, Mrs. Fairbairn have died.

Friday Feb. 6

Set off for Mike Rowland's in Hullett to pay the bill due for the sale. Afterwards to Mr. Garvin's to settle balance due for new horse. Clear bracing frost. Many horses and sleighs. Saw John McArthur's new house of pine boards. Nice doors and windows. Busy putting up stove. Alex McArthur helping at it.

Monday Feb. 9

Jas. and Charley taking home poles for the bush fence. Evening writing letters to Mr. Gillies and to Rothsay. Mr. Stewart came in the evening with 1 web, $15\frac{1}{2}$ yards cotton and wool for men's shirts. The small sleigh arrived from Walton with repairs executed.

Tuesday Feb. 10

Went at 5 to David Moore's to tea. He had 800 bushels of wheat on 25 acres. Met little Willie coming from school. A late

tea, fine cakes and preserves. Jas. brought the sleigh about 10 o'clock. Plymouth Brethren meeting again tonight.

Wednesday Feb. 11

John Shortreed and Mr. Stewart came to kill the 3 pigs. Kindled fire outside and had boiler on stove inside. Old Mr. McArthur called at midday. Kitty Stewart came in the morning for Bairn. Mr. Stewart brought the Globe. A Tory elected M.P. for North Huron.

Thursday Feb. 12

Set off for Seaforth with James about 8 a.m. Laden with 2 pigs and 22 bushel of peas about a ton weight. A piercing cold wind from the south. Dined in Mansion Hotel. Multitude of teams on road with cordwood and stave bolts. Got home at 6 p.m. calling at the Manns'.

Friday Feb. 13

Cutting up one pig for ourselves. Charles making a corn box for the stable. Jas. made a sieve for cleaning peas. Began a pair of half boots. Thaw and rain today. Snow off the ground in spots. A letter from McIntosh's.

Sabbath Feb. 15

Staid in till 1 o'clock and went to hear Mr. Ferguson on the "Wise men of the east", Matt. 2. Mr. Ferguson ill with asthma. Gave him a paper on the Edinburgh revival which he read to the people. Got in McArthur's sleigh. Evening meeting at Mr. Stewart's. Subject: "The ten Virgins", Matt. 25.

Wednesday Feb. 18

A very clear, bright day of frost. Jas. and Charles cutting up some maple trees for firewood which had been blown down in our own bush. Meggy went to visit Misses Kelly. Jas. went after tea for her with Billy and the small sleigh.

Thursday Feb. 19

Gave salt to horses and sheep. Cleaned out hay barn. Got a lot of chips and sticks. Reading at night Dr. Burns' Life & Times. Peter McArthur came for Charley to go to the new Brethren meeting at the school. Cut out carpet for new carpet shoes.

Friday Feb. 20

Made a pair of carpet shoes for Rachel. Also did all required for horses and cattle. Quite a thaw. Weather quite warm. Strong and warm blue shirts made for each one. Fallen maple trees very difficult to split. Meggy getting well on with the spinning.

Tuesday Feb. 24

Charles went seek work in the lumber woods in McKillop. Jas. began a pair of Blucher boots. At tea the assessor came. Valued

the farm and property on it \$80 above last year. At 7, Jas., Rachel and I went to the Brethren meeting at the school. Subject: John III. Sung hymns, rec'd tracts.

Saturday Feb. 28

Went with horses to McCallum's. Took home a log of large pine for a roller and a trough. Afternoon went with small sleigh to Smith's to get harness and chains mended. Called at Mr. Mann's, got Weekly Mail. J. Shortreed came and spent evening. Got Farmer's Advocate.

Tuesday Mar. 3

Sawing up 4 ft. cordwood into stove wood. At 3 o'clock went to Jacksons' for tea. Met Mrs. J. Shortreed. Was taken through the new house which is very fine. Large family at home, 5 sons. Had a good deal of music. Played the melodeon. Two of them getting lessons.

Wednesday Mar. 4

Went with Mr. and Mrs. Stewart to Mr. Mann's manse to tea, arrived soon after 2. Went in Mr. Stewart's small sleigh. Was at Walton sawmill about sawing logs. Changed eggs in store for mustard and pepper. Had singing and discussion about singing hymns and U.P. principles, secret societies. Reached home about 10 o'clock.

Saturday Mar. 7

High winds, rain, very cold. Went to saw mill but did not do anything. Meeting in the church and voting about uniting with the Established church of Scotland. The elder, Mr. McFie's, daughter died of diphtheria. Mr. Stewart came with 2 webs for dresses, 21 yards.

Tuesday Mar. 10

This day the storm abating somewhat. Again at the sawmill drawing logs and taking away timber. Took a maple log out of the bush after dinner to be sawn. Sideline blocked with snow high as fences. Reading Dr. Charllus' travels in Africa. See children passing through snow to school.

Wednesday Mar. 11

Last night the horses and sleigh ran off from Walton at dark, and could not be found. Sam Stewart and I set off with lantern to search McGavin's wood. John Shortreed had found them at his yard and came after us and cried. Some wood on it was thrown off. All was recovered today. Chas. went to look after cutting cordwood.

Friday Mar. 13

Snowing nearly all day and very hard frost. Well firmly froze. Taking water up in pails. Jonathon Moore called, going to a sale through the fields. Mr. Stewart called at night for more yarn.

Conversed on all farming activities. Lent him a Farmer's Advocate.

Saturday Mar. 14

A beautiful day of clear sunshine. Jas. and Rachel took the sleigh to Brussels with the roller to be bored but had to leave it. Took out pump. Took it in the house beside the stove to thaw. Mr. Stewart brought another web for summer clothes. Took out accordin after long interval and oiled keys. Finishing Dr. Burns' Life.

Tuesday Mar. 17

Went on horseback to Walton with letters. Heavy rains today. Roads very muddy. Called at the Manns' for the Weekly Mail. Mrs. Mann in alone--had a long conversation. Jas. rounding the rollers. Fresh butter just now 25 cents per lb.

Wednesday Mar. 18 :

Went to bush, tapped a number of Maple trees and set troughs. Carried over kettle and churn and set up a fireplace. Creek very much flooded and over flowing. Cattle and sheep roaming over the field. Mr. McPhail came to tea. Meggy went after another kettle.

Friday Mar. 20

Jas. mending Mr. Stewart's broken gate. Getting windows of house opened. In the evening, Mr. and Mrs. John Shortreed and Andrew Laidlaw came. Had a survey of the pictures and discussion on the Est. church claim and protest. Sung "The Gospel Shepherd" and "God is Love". Meggy got 3 pails of sap. Geese making great noise.

Saturday Mar. 21

Meggy gathered 5 pails of maple sap. Got roller and frame sent to smithy. Charley home from cutting cordwood, cutting 3 cords daily for 2 men 85¢ a cord without board. Went off to Harvey Clarke's. Snow nearly all gone. Weather very mild. Getting windows opened.

Tuesday Mar. 24

Went to McArthur's bush, took out three loads of firewood which remained. Afterwards cleaned roads in our bush. Reading Egypt Benees lent by Mr. Mann. No letters or papers from the Glasgow friends for a long time. New maple syrup found to be very fine. Peeling last of apples for sauce and to be dried.

Wednesday Mar. 25

Cleaning some wheat for the mill. At night, Mrs. John Douglas and her infant daughter came to stay a night. Mrs. Clennan came with her. Heard 4 of Mr. McFie's have died of diptheria, all about one time. Much sympathy felt for them.

Thursday Mar. 26

Found Billy horse broken loose and Kate with a large cut and the stall broken. John Shortreed came and Mr. McArthur. Got a needle from McNab. Jas. sewed up the wound. John Douglas came with wagon for his wife. Staid to tea. Went in with them to Walton. Went to prayer meeting in Mr. Fulton's. Mr. Grieve prayed and Mr. Smilie. Walked home at 10 p.m.

Friday Mar. 27

Sowing some clover and grass seed. Got very cold and windy and had to stop. Jas. busy splitting firewood. Doing odd jobs at steading. Took eggs in yesterday. Got 10 cents. Bought some butter at 25¢ per lb. Mr. McFie's fourth child buried on Monday.

Saturday Mar. 28

Sowing grass seed till midday. Jas. splitting a lot of firewood. First lambs came this morning. After tea, went up to Mr. Jackson's trying the harmonium. Staid about 2 hours. Came home by beautiful moonlight. Found Mr. and Mrs. Stewart at home sitting. Charley home at 10.

Monday Mar. 30

Mr. Michie called with a waggon collecting for Mr. McFie and his family. Gave a bag of potatoes. Mrs. David Moore very ill after a miscarriage. D. Moore also ill. Jas. and Meggy went to see them. Meggy staid all night. I went to Mrs. Clennan's for some milk for the lambs. Reading Seaforth papers from McArthurs'.

Saturday Apr. 4

Working at the bush fence. After dinner, Jas. and Meggy went to Geo. Jackson's raising a shed. Many hands and soon over, about 5 p.m. and supper over also. Walked in evening to Walton with eggs (10¢) and took home butter, 23¢. The evening very fine--calm and hard frost.

Tuesday Apr. 7

Sawing blocks for firewood through with large saw. Called on the Stewarts with the Weekly Mail and the Globe. Their horse Jim had cut his heel bad. Jeany busy plaiting straw for hats for the family. Beautiful streamers in the north.

Wednesday Apr. 8

Writing letters home--Uncle William, Uncle Thomas. Jackson and Andrew Laidlaw who are framing at Clennan's came in to spend the evening. Had music and pictures. Parliament met in Ottawa. David Livingstone dead--body at Suez.

Thursday Apr. 9

Lamb dropped this morning, all right, put mother in granary for warmth. Sun warm and soft mud during the day. Frost

at night. Went to Walton with eggs. Changed for rice and postage. Got letters and the Buteman. Prayer meeting in Mr. Dougall's farm--about 20 there. Got home about 10 p.m.

Friday Apr. 10

Day of William Clennan's raising. Jas. and Meggy left in the morning carrying dishes to be used at the repast. 55 men attended. Witnessed the progress with the field glass. A beautiful bright bracing day. Catholics there who abstained from meat--Friday. Drew up a reply to D. Doig asking about prospects.

Tuesday Apr. 14

Wind changed and heavy rain fell today. Meggy absent two nights at Douglas'. Rowland's bush now fenced. Mended boot. Getting harness repaired and oiled. Jas. split more firewood. Snow nearly all off the ground. Grey not calving at her day. Heard birds singing. This day like spring.

Thursday Apr. 16

Willie Rowland came with Bob for his lost pigs. No callers today. Weather pleasant again, grass beginning to grow in marshy spots. Bad account of fall wheat in the papers. Read French lady's account of life in the backwoods. 3 things needed--a road, a church and a Doctor.

Saturday Apr. 18

P. McArthur came and got bush fence finished. Meggy got a goose from Mrs. Rob. Shortreed. Boiling sap in the bush--got a good lot of molasses. Jas. went to Walton with waggon for the roller, road soft. A pair of twin lambs today. Letter from Charles in Michigan, also one from Aunt Tessa and Uncle James.

Monday Apr. 20

Great rain fell. Water barrel speedily filled. Put half soles on the light shoes. James mending and oiling harness. Mr. Stewart began ploughing. Reading good account of Glasgow revival in British American Presbyterian from Mr. Smilie. Touching narrative of Lorrie Hamilton, 13 years old, by A.A. Bonar. 700 known to be savingly changed.

Tuesday Apr. 21

Shifting rail fences with waggon to enable plough to begin. Rachel went to Walton to post Chas.' letter to Michigan. At 2, took tea with the Manns. Jas. found a ewe with 2 lambs, one cold. After being revived, its mother refused to take it. Kept it in the house. Letter from Mary McAlister.

Wednesday Apr. 22

Plough started at sideline for pea ground. Land in fine order. More lambs today and 1 yesterday. Ducks gave us 3 eggs. Sailing about the pond. Birds singing nicely in the bush. Frogs

at night making great noise. Still a good deal of frost last night. Gathering milk for a first churn. Rhubarb appearing.

Saturday Apr. 25

Making up old fence of logs on side line. Meggy gathered $3\frac{1}{2}$ pails of maple sap. Tried boiled wheat with milk after dinner of stewed veal. Another pair of twin limbs--have 15 now. James went to bring home the roller. Ploughing $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres a day.

Monday Apr. 27

Planted Miss Young's trees which arrived--currents, cherries and plums. Rosy calved during the night. Meggy was up attending. James took Kate to the horse at John Shortreed's. Went in evening to McPhail's. Read a long letter from Mr. and Mrs. Gillies. Got cellar door opened this afternoon.

Wednesday Apr. 29

Working at fence in swale park. The ploughing in of peas going on, on fall ploughed land. Glad to get milk and cream. Churned also and got some fresh butter. Went in evening to David Moores' about seed peas. Saw Mrs. Moore still unwell in bed.

Thursday Apr. 30

White head calved calf very like herself. Meggy up during the night. James went to D. Moore's for seed peas. Busy mending harrows and sowed about 2 acres. No callers today. James shifted the notes of the accordion and thinks it's much better. Very glad to see the piercing north wind changed.

Wednesday May 6

Got some maple sugar from Mrs. Mann. Cold in throat, better by day, returns at night. Jas. went with waggon to Sage's for 32 fruit trees. Apples, plums and pears. Evening began to take off stones of pea field. Wrought late. Beautiful sunsets every night. Crimson sky.

Thursday May 7

Rolled all the peas with the new roller. Last night at 9, had visitors, Jerry Blashall with his fiddle--played a good number of tunes. Also Mrs. Rob. Shortreed and Andrew Laidlaw and the young Brodies. Had supper, left about 12 our time. Planting fruit trees at the back of the house. Lent books to Mrs. D. Moore to read.

Saturday May 9

Read large quarterly narrative of the Scotland revival sent from Uncle Alex. No letters came. Cat at steading has kittens below byre floor. Chimney was on fire today. Rather dangerous with such high wind. Went in evening to Mr. Jackson's for a trial of the melodeon. Their chimney had set fire to the roof.

Tuesday May 12

Meggy boiling soap with the large kettle. Sowing 3 cornered field with oats. Plenty of roots and stumps and several places quite soft. Evening went to Walton with the eggs. Took $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of black tea at 75¢. Came by the Manns'. 30 acres beside them sold to Mr. McFadzean for \$900--6 acres cleared. A letter from Charley, the registered letter had not arrived.

Monday May 18

Up at 2 a.m. as Blacky calved a 5. Jas. and the rest up preparing to go to Seaforth with oats and also Charley's trunk to the States and butter and eggs. Meggy also went to see the Turnbills. Mr. McPhail came in the afternoon and staid to tea. Dressed quite smart.

Tuesday May 19

Engaged lifting stones and rolling the fall wheat. Some of it very thin and injured by the frost. All the poultry setting. Hens, ducks, turkey and geeso. Cat with kittens. Calves and young pigs, lambs. Cows put out tonight for the first time. Meggy planting and sowing in the orchard. Brought some roots from Turnbills.

Thursday May 28

Washed the sheep in the creek. Old Mr. McArthur came over. Washed in about 2 hours. Plenty of mosquitoes and the water quite warm. Mr. Stewart looking for a lost heifer. Calf offered to Meggy by Rob. Shortreed. Went with waggon to get it.

Friday May 29

Fast day in Mr. Ferguson's. Walked there at 11. Mr. F. preached himself. Good many present. 2 Baptisms. Subject: "Christ as Shepherd", Ezek. 34. Jas. taking lumber from Walton. Letter from Charley, the trunk had arrived, also a letter from Uncle William speaking of soon coming. Got a bath in the creek.

Monday June 1

A busy day. Sheep put in and clipped 20 fleeces. Marking with black paint. I clipped 7 and James 13. Many a struggle before all is done. Some of the apple trees looking beautiful with blossoms. Birds singing nicely in the bush. Racing at night after horse Billy who seems quite wild.

Thursday June 4

Digging all day in the drain from the swale to the concession. Meggy churned. Mosquitoes very abundant this evening. Reading argument against Oddfellowship and Sermon of Dr. Thomson regarding the Bible. Yellow kitten at the steading come out today.

Friday June 5

Mr. Stewart called for the minister's salary--gave him \$5. Searching for a gray he has lost, cannot be found. Meggy heard the whippoorwill bird. Some fireflies to be seen in Mr. Stewart's bush. Early potatoes coming through and the bugs attacking them.

Tuesday June 9

Jas. to Seaforth at 7 a.m. Took in 15 doz. eggs, 12 fleeces of wool, 13 bags of oats and 3 calfskins. Met Rachel at Seaforth coming from Mr. Gillies' in Esquesing. Brought various articles. Groceries, cloth, butter tubs, spade, shovel, Paris green. Great growth. Showers by night, sun by day.

Wednesday June 10

Jas. harrowed potato hills--hoed garden potatoes. At the ditch from after dinner. Went to the Stewart's, saw Jeany Stewart's little son which was born Monday morning at 8. Stewart taking off hemlock bark 4 feet long off fallen trees. Saw the fire flies tonight. Young pigs getting often all mixed together.

Thursday June 11

Duck brought out 8 little ducks all right. The gander plucked today of his feathers. The goose being engaged setting on eggs. This day like Scotland, dark and wind and rain. Rather cold in the drain. Young pigs scampering after their mother. Cows in the bush all day and pasture at night. Gray Gracie calved today.

Thursday June 18

2 men came buying lambs at the same time, sold to the second man at \$2.25. Both thought to be in union. Sowing turnips. Got a loan of scuffler and going through potatoes. Mrs. John Douglas and Alice came for dinner with waggon, also the baby. They were going to McPhails. Globe full of church meeting.

Monday June 22

W. Rowland's wild pig running all about. Sheep came out of bush. Hoeing potatoes. Bug picking took 2½ hours. Evening went after cabbage plants. Saw the McPhails and called on Miss Kelly. Saw their Canaries hatching. Brought home a nice bunch of flowers, honey suckle etc.,

Wednesday June 24

Kitty McArthur and Miss McCrae came in the afternoon to tea. Discussion about Plymouth Brethren peculiarities. Kate mare got in the fall wheat. Taking bark off hemlock. 4 pigs going on the road and thriving, getting no feeding at all. Good prospect of union in Canada--Presbyterian Church.

Thursday June 25

Great storm of thunder and rain today. Meggy going to gather

strawberries, had to come home drenched. Jonathon Moore had a dung bee. Stewarts went, they were stopped by rain, about 15 came. Evening, made a better sketch of the house and steading, several writing for it.

Saturday June 27

McDonald building a large barn with stone foundation. A large plate fell but none hurt. Meggy and Jas. went, about 80 men asked. D. McArthur came for 2 small pigs. Cutting thistle in orchard and wheat. Heard of W. Mackay's death at Hamilton. Uncle William to come in a few weeks.

Tuesday June 30

Cutting thistles. Made a coloured sketch of the farm and steading. Sent it to Rothsay with description. Called on the Stewarts in the evening with W. Mail. Meggy and James went to call on the McNabs. Gathered more strawberries for preserves. Got 2 assembly papers--Mrs. Marshall of Newcastle and Uncle James.

Wednesday July 1

First day at the road work. Filling a waggon and filling up holes on the road. Chipped nigh leg with adze. Dominion day and sports in Blyth and many parties passing with waggons and buggies. Road work hours 8 to 5. Reading Assembly papers, long speeches on Anti-patronage and Re-establishment.

Saturday July 4

Jas. and Meggy went to Brussels with the wheat to grind and wool to card. Brought home a collection of things. Pine boards for lining bedroom, Scythe blades. Mr. McPhail came to tea. Sheep broke out of bush. Evening spent searching along roads and in the bush--7 amissing.

Sabbath July 5

Went to Mr. Ferguson who has returned. A very good discourse: John 11, "Labour not for meat which perisheth." Very impressive. Mr. Smilie came to tea and went to meeting in Mr. McArthur's. Mr. McCallum also came and Mr. Smilie's sons. Room quite crowded. I spoke a short time on Hannah praying.

Monday July 6

Jas. commenced hay cutting today in corner of oat field--very heavy. Say a ton and half to the acre. Went off up Catholic Church concession and down Jackson's to look for 8 sheep amissing. Afternoon went to cut thistles among the oats. Very warm. Read speeches on the new Anti-patronage bill.

Wednesday July 8

A comet seen at night to N. East, tail pointing upwards. Great lightnings last night all around, lighting up the scene.

Accidentally heard horses in the fall wheat. Saw them by lighting flashes. Got 3 sheep in the bush so seem to have all back again. Hay cutting and poisoning potato bugs.

Thursday July 9

Went in the evening to Walton. Mrs. Mann had got a daughter Tuesday night. Mr. Stewart enquiring at Mann's for Charley's address, saying he had power to bring him back. Marriage train passed in Walton, horses with flags and ribbons and racing at full speed. A very sudden death at Brussels.

Monday July 13,

Mr. Knight called. Mr. Mann's baby had died this morning and funeral at 4. p.m. Went in McAlister's waggon to grave yard at Brussels. 3 other buggies full of people. Old Mr. Hislop prayed at the house, I at the grave. Rachel up early preparing to go to Clinton in John Shortreed's vehicle. Morning hot, but day good.

Tuesday July 22

Hay taken out of large park. Wild fruit in the field mostly ripe now. Red and black currants, Rasps, black berries, strawberries, goose berries. Cutting extra ordinary thick timothy and clover near concession road. Meggy began the turnip singling. Rachel visited the Sorrels in the evening.

Saturday July 26

Went in with 10 lambs to Walton with Mr. Stewart and his lambs. Took home fork handles. Sam Stewart came to give a day at the hay. Got 5 waggon loads home. Sheep making great bleating for their lambs. Hay mows getting pretty well filled up. Read account of revival in Glasgow since Mr. Moody left.

Tuesday July 29

Cutting roads in the wheat preparatory to the machine coming. Afterwards put in 4 large loads of hay. Rachel went to Walton, a letter came from Uncle William from Kingston dated yesterday. Preached first Sabbath in Canada in Montreal. Beautiful full moon and settled weather.

Wednesday July 30

A busy day. D. Knight arrived with his reaper. Also P. McArthur and McCallum to bind. Cut about $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres of wheat. Machine did well. Horses changed at intervals in the day. Would need 5 good men to bind. Plenty of thistles, some parts very bad. Took out cakes at 10 o'clock. Had new potatoes for dinner.

Sabbath August 3

Family went to Mr. Mann's. I went to Free Church but found no service. Walked into Walton, called on Mr. Griere who has a sick child. Went near 3 o'clock to Episcopal church at the Orange Hall. Mr. Cooper preached on 1 Cor. 10:13. Quite a high church

sermon on sacraments. Evening meeting in McDonald's: "Abraham as a peace maker", Gen. 13.

Monday August 4

Singling turnips and cutting peas. Cut fully $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres. McCallum and McLeod came to grind cradle blade. Meggy and her mother busy papering the bedroom which is much improved. The bat comes in the house at night. Getting potatoes every day to dinner.

Wednesday August 6

Busy taking in fall wheat all day--12 large waggon loads of 20 stooks, 240 stooks in all. Meggy forking in the barn and raking in the field. Our 4 pigs seem to have gone astray from their quarters at the gate and not to be seen. Farmers Advocate came.

Thursday August 7

Fall wheat all in the barn. 18 waggon loads. Cutting peas and singling turnips. Went to look for 4 pigs, which used to be at the gate at night; Van came around with fresh meat and mutton from Brussels. Not getting much sale. Took some at 8 and 6 cents a pound. Letter from Rothsay. A lad wanting information about the country in view of coming out.

Tuesday August 12

Busy pulling in peas, 9 large loads. Took up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the mow in the large barn. Mr. Ferguson spoke in passing on the sideline, being at a funeral in Blyth. Peter McArthur called at night with a bundle of Huron Expositors. Heat very oppressive today.

Thursday August 14,

Putting in peas, 5 loads. About 7 o'clock, Uncle William made his appearance with little John Smith from Galt from which they came today. Jas. went in with the waggon to Walton for their things. Brought great many parcels and presents. Also letters by post.

Saturday August 16

3 large waggons of peas in and finished. Barn now much blocked up. Not much room left. Walked at night with William on sideline. Man around from Clinton with sewing machines. Killing duck and chicken for dinner.

Sabbath August 17

Rachel remained at home. All the rest went in the waggon to Mr. Mann's. Uncle William preached for Mr. Mann on Gen. 28 "Jacob's dream". Mr. Mann had to preach in Blyth in the afternoon. After sermon, Mrs. Murray took us in for a cup of tea. Heard Mr. Ferguson on Heb. 11 in the afternoon. Evening a large meeting in McArthur's, Uncle William preached.

Wednesday August 26

Fine settled day. Put in all concession oats, 3 waggon loads.. Walked in bush with William and in the evening as usual along the concession. Spoke of Geo. Miller and Dr. Barnardo,¹ David Steed and the Jamieson's. Had a roasted leg of mutton for dinner and tripe for supper, and wild plums from McDonalds'.

Friday August 28

Put in the last load of oats tonight. All finished now. Barn quite packed almost to the roof. In the evening Mr. Ferguson came for Uncle William to take him to Brussels. Took tea and staid fully an hour. Conversing about Canadian customs and ministers' clothing. Going to build a new stone house.

Saturday August 29

Putting out manure about 19 waggons. Using roasted mutton. Some kept in the well for coolness. Stewarts burning stumps, everything very dry. Reading reflections of an evangelist in the country in England. Mrs. David Moore called, not looking well.

Wednesday Sept. 2

Rachel and William went after tea to call on James Kelly and Miss Kelly. Evenings getting longer now. Called on Mr. Button to see after fall wheat seed. Evening very dark coming home. Meggy brought plums from Mr. McPhail. Finished the manure today.

Saturday Sept. 12

Sowed almost all the fall wheat today. Watch had a great barking last night. Jas. rose, found and killed a raccoon eating the Indian corn in the orchard. Heard of McCartney getting his threshing machine burned in McKillop and the barn in which it was. Great loss as debt was on it.

Monday Sept. 14

Harrowing of fall wheat finished. Taking out stumps. Went in evening to Gosmans' to see after threshing machine. Great bush fire in swamp on 8th concession. Bought for \$1700 and cannot be extinguished. Meggy got a letter on Saturday from N. Gelkraid.

¹ Dr. Barnardo operated an English boy's school for children of poor or drunken parents. He prepared them for farm work in the new country and sent them over with the provision that they be given a farm of their own when they reached the age of maturity. Many "Barnardo School Boys" were sent to this part of the country early in the century.

Wednesday Sept. 16

R. Shortreed came to stone up the well up to the top. Finished in the afternoon. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Mann and Johnny came and took bread and milk. Staid till 9 o'clock. Took opportunity to inform Mr. Mann on intention to leave the church. Mr. Mann not pleased.

Thursday Sept. 17

Putting platform on well. Separated ram and 5 lambs. More rain today. Jas. and Rachel went to Walton with the waggon. Sold butter and eggs to Paterson. Got sugar, tea and dishes. Mr. Love the shoemaker, engaged reciting his poetry to a visitor. Got the Globe and Weekly Mail today.

Friday Sept. 18

Pulling out stumps in fields before ploughing. Horses out but very troublesome and restless. Have consumed a great deal of hay while in the stable. Andrew Laidlaw came in the evening. Blyth show day today of cattle and implements etc. Many from around here attended.

Wednesday Sept. 23

A visit today from Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull who came at Midday and staid till 5 p.m. Walked round the fields--made several suggestions. Jas. went after dinner to John McArthur's threshing in the open air. Precentor for the Seaforth church asking \$400 per annum. Mower and reaper combined cost \$160.

Saturday Sept. 26

Busy threshing today 18 hands besides 2 of ourselves. Began at 8 a.m. Stopped near 7 p.m. Large company at the table. Threshed spring wheat, fall wheat, oats and half of the peas--400 bushels in all. Great display at meals--15 persons in all. Engaged keeping chaff clear of the mill.

Sabbath Oct. 4

The family went at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m. in the waggon to Blyth and heard Mr. McLean on denying self and taking up the cross. A full church and good singing. Heard Mr. Ferguson on Acts 12: "Peter's deliverance". About 100 in the church. Evening meeting in McArthurs's. Mr. Fulton came. Psalm 73, 2: "As a beast".

Tuesday Oct. 6

Jas. at the threshing--700 or 800 bushels in one day. Each man quite black with the dust. Wrote Grandmama. Went to Walton with eggs. Posted letters to William and Gracey. A letter from Charles. Gone to work with a joiner at \$1 per day and board. Came home in darkness, rain and mud.

Monday Oct. 12

Rachel and I went to church. Mr. McLennan preached on

Isa. 12:3: "With joy draw water". Two children baptised. A meeting to vote on the Union Basis. Elders' meeting to sanction evangelistic labourers coming in winter. James ploughing and I cutting channel to creek. Andrew Laidlaw came at night, sang hymns.

Thursday Oct. 15

A most beautiful day, bright calm sunshine. Woods beautiful in green, red and yellow tints. Took home about 35 bushels of potatoes. Put 1 waggon load in cellar. Arridance now made of the troublesome flies. Sorted the tubs of butter for going into Seaforth tomorrow.

Wednesday Oct. 21

James went into Seaforth with fall wheat--17 bags. Roads very good. Sold also a pail full of butter. Bought a Catchmore mousetrap. Went after dinner to the Farquarson's threshing. Did not get beginning till near 4 o'clock. Working on the straw stack. Land prices said to be rising rapidly. Good prices offered.

Thursday Oct. 29

Kept by appointment of the Ontario Government and the Church as a thanksgiving day for harvest. Both churches were open. Rachel and I walked to Mr. Ferguson's who preached an appropriate sermon from Job. Not many in church. James and Andrew Laidlaw went shooting in the bush. Got a letter from Uncle William.

Friday Oct. 30

A day of wind and rain and mud all around. All the cows determined to stick to the barnyard. Jas. and Andrew Laidlaw began to fit up stalls in the byre for the cows. Engaged cutting up the cow. Made a ham of part and salted the rest in a barrel.

Wednesday Nov. 4

Started early to Wm. Clonnan's threshing. 4 of the Clennans came. Prince, Jas., Wm., John. 2 of Kelly's, Tom and George. McPhail came, feeling much the fatigue and dust and draught. Great display at supper, 5 or 6 different kinds of bread. Sugar set down at tea but not required. Mill often stopping at the peas, belts coming off. Very dark at night.

Thursday Nov. 5

3 threshing mills to attend. McGavin at J. Shortreed's, Gosman at McArthur's, Wilson at W. Rowland's. A. Laidlaw at the first, Jas. at the second. Old Mr. Gosman dangerously ill. Morning began full of rain and mist but cleared. Mostly Catholics at W. Rowland's but all very quiet and sober.

Wednesday Nov. 11

Cutting cedar posts and carrying them out with A. Laidlaw. Jas. Kelly called getting up a surprise party for Mr. Carson who has sold out. Mr. Kelly has purchased a double sleigh. W. Rowland called, had traded an old mare for a sawing machine. Four different classes of pigs to be daily attended with peas and water and bran and bedding.

Thursday Nov. 12

Cutting saw logs in the bush with Andrew Laidlaw. James ploughing. Taking breakfast by candle light mostly. Supper at dark after 6 p.m. Well off with fresh roasted meat for dinner. Put in the cows at night last night. Writing to William and also one to Grandmama.

Monday Nov. 16

James and Rachel went to Brussels to the mill with 8 bags of wheat. Took in the cow's hide. Staid all day at Torrances', to dinner and supper. Played on the fine organ. \$1000 more offered for his farm than last year. Took home a small pig. Sawing the monster hemlock into 5 logs. Took a whole day to cut it.

Thursday Nov. 19

Staid in to get the clock striking repaired. Clearing roads in the bush. Rec'd union discussion on church assemblies. Union to be consummated in June next. Made a long basswood trough for the well. Able to plough all day but frost coming on.

Friday Nov. 20

Seems like the first day of winter--snowing all day, sometimes freezing, sometimes thawing. Gathered up all the loose boards, planks, piled firewood. Making up crotch for skidding saw logs. Old sow caught a large chicken under the barn and eat it up. James at Walton with horses but mail had not come.

Saturday Nov. 21

Mild and fair today. Got at the saw log skidding all day. Mr. Smile's son came at night with a quarter of large cheese which had been ordered, price 13½¢. Black cat very busy bringing mice from the steader to the kittens. Read sermons by Dr. George of Stratford.

Sabbath Nov. 22

Went alone to church. Small number. Day rather stormy. Mr. Ferguson preached a good sermon on 1 Corin., 15. Walked home with Mrs. Rob Shortreed. Did not go to Mr. McFie's as intended. Methodists keeping protracted meetings every night there. Reading Dr. George's sermons. No meeting tonight.

Wednesday Dec. 2

Jas. went to Blyth to attend a registration meeting. No decision given whether a vote allowed or not. Many questions asked. Meggy has quilting going on, occupying a large part of the apartment. Jas. busy at boot making and remodeling. Heard John Douglas. Feeding cows by lantern light.

Friday Dec. 11

Began to put up partition upstairs. Took up a lot of boards, pine and hemlock. At present, have breakfast at half past seven, dinner at half past twelve, tea at half past 5. Began boiling pail of turnips for the horses. Great carrying of pails of turnips and peas down to the house. Pigs getting 10 pails of steeped peas daily.

Thursday Dec. 24

Took in 54 pails of turnips. Tempestuous day, snow drifting like white smoke and high wind. Difficult to get the cows to go to water. James went to invite the McPhails to come tomorrow. Reading Weekly Mail and Duchess of Gordon's Life. Enjoying fresh meat. Great feast at the McNabs'. Fiddle there and some dancing.

Friday Dec. 25

Mr. and Mrs. McPhail came at 11 a.m. Staid to dinner and tea, left at 5. We went for them and took them home in the sleigh. Jas. went to a shooting match for turkeys at Walton. Came home by McArthurs' at 9 p.m. Staid in after dinner mending eye glasses with gutta percha. Finished Duchess of Gordon's life history.

Thursday Dec. 31

Nice day and hard frost. Engaged as usual. Went after dinner with the logs to Walton and attended Mr. Ferguson's annual congregational meeting. Church funds satisfactory. Minister's salary all paid except \$2.50. Only 16 dollars debt on the property. Got Farmer's Advocate with new cover, also Weekly Mail. Visited the saw mill yard. Found W. Toulén's sleigh at Walton just ready to come home. Got a sleigh ride home. Taking home behind a new pair of bob sleighs made by himself. Many teams on the gravel road. Got home about 7 p.m. Sleighing very good.

Opposite: A Farm Portrait: Art Barr, Wallace Potter, Mona Potter (Wilson), Bell Potter, Mrs. Lilian Potter, James Potter, Arletta Potter (Fear). The horse attached to the buggy was 31 years old, the Buggy itself 32 years old, when this picture was taken.