

Diary 1891 – Roy F. Fleming

Transcription and notes by Ruth Fleming Larmour

Diary of Roy F. Fleming 1891

Introduction

By Ruth Hogarth Fleming Larmour, grand-daughter of Roy Franklin Fleming.

This is the diary of a twelve-year old boy growing up in rural Ontario in the 1890s. He was living on a farm near the village of Kilsyth in Derby Township, Grey County with his father Charles Fleming, his mother Lyda, his brothers Harvey (age 18), and Stuart (14), and sisters Ruth (9) and Annie (5). Most of his father's siblings and their families are on farms nearby.

When the diary begins on the 5th January 1891 tragedy has struck the family. Their mother has taken ill and has gone to the Kellogg Sanatorium in Battle Creek, Michigan for treatment. Battle Creek is about 530 km from Kilsyth. She is under the care of the famous Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, chief medical officer of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, for mesenteric tuberculosis, a form of abdominal tuberculosis. Treatment here was largely based of nutrition - a vegetarian diet , and physical exercise, administered according to the principles of the Seventh-day-Adventist Church which owned and operated the Sanitarium.

In their mother's absence, the children's maiden aunt Jennie, their father's younger sister, has come to look after them. Her name is Jean but she is known to all as Aunt Jennie.

The diary shows the network of support through family friends and neighbours that helped Charles and children during this crisis. It also demonstrates how important religious life was for them and the support the family received from their beliefs.

Roy's father is a farmer but his land on the South Half of Lot 10 Concession 6 was rather poor and he was not as good at farming as his brothers. He opened a general store in the village of Kilsyth and also ran the post office, of which his father Alexander Fleming had been the first postmaster. Charles continued to farm in a small way as we see through Roy's entries about his chores - haying, bringing in turnips and pease, and pulling potatoes. Roy also had a pet lamb.

Weather was all important. It makes a difference on whether they can go to school and what must be done in the fields.

Roy's penmanship, spelling and punctuation are very good. His hand writing was very well formed and clear in the first half of the year, but became larger and more erratic later in the year after his mother died and after he entered high school - it was likely affected by the emotional tumult in his life.

As can be gathered from reading the diary he was constantly writing letters and post cards and sending requests or orders for one thing or another. He subscribed to Youth's Companion, and kept a stamp collection.

Roy, who became a keen historian, wrote much more about his family in later years. One point he always emphasized was the importance his parents placed on education. In spite of lack of money all five children received an education at either college or university. Roy was one of the first to graduate as a high school teacher from the Ontario College of Education in Toronto. He taught in many schools in rural Ontario, including Derby Township, the Manitoulin Island, and Garden Island. Later Roy became the art master at the Ottawa Normal school in 1907.

He was a talented artist, a prolific writer, and had many interests especially the Fleming family history and shipwrecks of the Great Lakes. He was a member of the Great lakes Historical Society and contributed many articles to its Journal, Inland Seas, and to many Canadian newspapers.

This transcription of his diary is dedicated to the memory of Lyda Warren Fleming, Roy's mother and my great-grandmother.

Roy's Diary

Office Diary and Petty Cash Book for the year 1891. Printed and published by The Northern Business College Steam Printing Office. Scrope Street – Owen Sound Ont. C.A. Fleming, Roy's cousin, owned the printing company in Owen Sound and likely gave this office diary to Roy.

Notes in the comment column explain the names and places that Roy mentions.

January

Date	Entry	Comment
Monday 5	Ruth is out skating with Sarah Kinchen	The Kinchens were neighbours who lived on Concession 7.
Tuesday 6	Mrs. Kinchen and Percy come over for a visit and they take Ruth back home again. Here Percy and I have a game of table croquet.	
Monday 12	I get a letter from Mamma to-day. I send a postal card to Mrs. Ray. Out skating with Ruth. It is very stormy.	<p>Roy's mother Lyda is ill and has gone to stay at the Kellogg Sanatorium in Battle Creek, Michigan.</p> <p>Roy has been keeping Mrs. Ray, a friend of Lyda's, informed. Lyda had known Mrs. Ray in Ohio as Martha Pickett. Miss Pickett took Lyda's younger sister, Mary Amanda "Minnie", as a foster child around 1860 to help Eliza Warren while looking after her sick husband. The Warrens remained friends with Miss Pickett even after Minnie rejoined her mother and family.</p>
Tuesday 13	We send a letter to Mamma. Freezing. Harvey goes up to Uncle John's with a book keeping book of Vickie's. I go to store at night for first time after measles	Vicki is a first cousin, daughter of Roy's uncle John who lives on the next farm, the North Half of Lot 10 Concession 6. Roy's father, Charles, and his Aunt Jennie run a general store in Kilsyth where Roy sometimes works.
Wednesday	I start going to school this year for first time.	The school is S.S. No 3 Derby Twp.

Date	Entry	Comment
14	Blowing last night terribly but calmed down this morning slightly. Nearly frozen coming home from morning mail saying she was some better. I hear that John Black Jr is going to get married.	Roy might not have been at school due to having measles. John Black Sr. has the farm on Lot 10 Concession 7.
Thursday 15	I get a catalogue of guns etc in night mail from G. Henry and Co. Chicago Ill. I go to school. Middling stormy yet. We get a letter and a telegramme, the letter saying Mamma was worse. The telegram was "wait for letter, don't bring trunk".	G. Henry and Co. was a sporting goods store in Chicago. ¹
Friday 16	I get a letter from Mrs. J.M. Ray in morning mail. Only one half days school as the teacher had to attend a Presbyterian Church meeting. Warm in daytime but was very frosty in morning. I get samples of cards from National Card Co. Scio.	National Card Co was in Scio, Ohio.
Saturday 17	It is frosty this morning. Stuart and Harvey go to town for some things at the station. We get telegram from Mamma saying: - Worse, want help, come at once. Herb Agnew takes Aunt Jennie into town and she starts for Battle Creek. We got a letter in morning mail. I bake pies.	Owen Sound is approximately three miles from Kilsyth. Stuart and Harvey are probably picking up goods in Owen Sound to be sold in the store in Kilsyth. It sounds as if Jennie was ready to depart for Battle Creek at very short notice. Herb Agnew is a first cousin, son of Roy's aunt Janet (Fleming) Agnew (aka Jessie)
Sunday 18	I go to Sunday School as usual. No frost this morning to speak of. Chris, Florence and Uncle Donald Fleming come over for a while in the afternoon.	Chris (Christine) and Florence are daughters of Donald Fleming, and first cousins to Roy. They live on the south half of Lot 9 Concession 6.
Monday 19	I go to school as usually. Harvey found a gold pen in his trunk. Stuart shoots a squirrel to-night. Middling mild to-day.	
Tuesday 20	Pa gets a letter from mamma, written the same day as the telegram. Pa also gets a post card from Aunt Jennie saying she would get to Battle Creek about 11 am Sunday (written in Toronto). Thawing to-day. I answer a letter of Aunt Jennie's to the Globe Company. I write to Mrs Ray. Us boys make cider.	Globe Company may have been The Globe newspaper in Toronto, or a company from which Jennie and Charles ordered goods for the store.

¹ Listed in the Lakeside Directory for 1892 <http://chicagoancestors.org/downloads/1892h.pdf>

Date	Entry	Comment
Wednesday 21	I go to school as usual to-day. Very mild weather lately. Aunt Jessie gets a letter from Aunt Jennie saying that she did not expect mamma to come home alive. I write to mamma. I write a post card to Auntie Finch telling her how mamma is. Ruth and Annie also write to mamma.	Jessie is Janet (Fleming) Agnew who lives on Lot 8 Concession 6. Auntie Finch is Isabella (Fleming) Finch who lives in Cecebe Ontario – in the Parry Sound region. Both are sisters to Roy's father Charles.
Thursday 22	I go to school. Douglass makes a great rough about tying Bob Dolphin's School Bag and writing names on the wall. Stuart and I get into some scrapes. Pa gest a letter from Aunt Jennie. I address a hymn book and some papers to Aunt Jennie. Ruth starts going to school	Douglass is the school teacher. Does Roy mean row when he writes rough? Ruth is 8 years old. This was probably her first day back to school after an illness.
Friday 23	We do not get any word from Aunt Jennie. I go to a concert tonight of the Literary Society. It is a pretty good one. I have to white wash on the wall where I was writing names but I do not get it to stick on right.	
Saturday 24	We got a post card and a letter from Aunt Jennie. I write to mamma. Aunt Jessie makes apple butter for us. I bake pies in the afternoon. More snow this morning.	
Sunday 25	I go to Sunday School in morning. There is a collection at Sunday School instead of a Mission Band. I go to church at night. Mr. Lister speaks about "The Church". Stuart writes to cousin Jessie tonight.	The family attended the Church of Christ's Disciples in Kilsyth. Charles J. Lister, a leading preacher, was the minister for many years. Cousin Jessie is probably Isabella Finch's daughter who married James Hunter Trout and was living in Wiarton in 1891. She was 40 years of age and might have been a friend to Lyda.
Monday 26	I send a post card to Aunt Jennie in morning. Stuart sends a letter to cousin Jessie telling her how mamma was keeping. I have to white wash the wall at school where I was writing names, for the second time. Mrs. Robert Moore dies tonight at 6 o'clock pm.	Moore's were neighbours at Lot 10 Concession 9.
Tuesday 27	I go to school. We have "break break break" as our High School Lesson. Very mild. Harvey goes to town. He starts at 10 am. Stuart and I have to do night work as Harvey does not get home till kind of	"Break, break, break" is a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson and was in the Ontario Readers, Third Book.

Date	Entry	Comment
	late. Pa gets a letter and a post card from Aunt Jennie at Battle Creek. Mrs. John Hay gave birth to a daughter. Harvey hears it in town. I write a post card to Aunt Jennie and a post card to “The Times” office and couple of other letters to the “Mail” and “Witness”.	<p>Can’t locate a Hay residing in Derby in the census for 1891 .</p> <p>The “Times” is the Owen Sound Sun Times; the “Mail” is the Toronto Mail; the Witness may have been the Evangelical Witness from London, Ont.</p> <p>Mr. Douglass was giving Roy occasional high school lessons to prepare him for high school. At that time it was necessary to pass an examination set by the Education Department of Ontario to be accepted into high school.²</p>
Wednesday 28	Aunt Jessie gets a post card from Aunt Jennie saying that mamma passed a bad night and that they had to mover her to a quieter part of the building. I go to school. I address the Advertiser to Aunt Jennie. The funeral of Mrs. Moore’s takes place. Stuart sends for a book for making candies. I send a postal to Mrs. Ray. We write to mamma.	Advertiser was an Owen Sound newspaper.
Thursday 29	Stuart and I go to school. Johnny McDermid brings a note to the teacher telling us boys were teasing him. Aunt Jessie gets a letter from Aunt Jennie. I get some papers from Mrs. Ray, Colville. I send a subscription to the “News”.	Seems that Mrs. Ray lives in Colville, Washington, USA. Colville was a mining town just recently emerged from being a frontier town. It was 45 miles south of the border between Washington State and British Columbia. ³
Friday 30	Annie, Ruth and I get a letter from Aunt Jennie in night mail. We have a little concert at school in the afternoon. I go to store at night. The roads are all ice. I write to Aunt Jennie. I send the “Advertiser” and the “Evangelist” to Aunt Jennie.	
Saturday 31	Harvey and I go to town. I stay in music store while Harvey is doing all the business. Snowing to-day. Stuart and I get a letter from Aunt Jennie. We are out shooting. Stuart shoots two squirrels. I only	Roy’s uncle, James Fleming, owns a music store in Owen Sound. James lives across the road at Forest Lawn Farm, North half of Lot 9,

² There is a sample of the high school entrance exams he wrote in 1892 at the beginning of the diary.

³ Arksey, Laura. Colville – Thumbnail History, HistoryLink.org (2010)

http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=9266

Date	Entry	Comment
	shoot at marks.	Concession 6. He also owns Lot 8 Concession 9.

February

Date	Entry	Comment
Sunday 1	I write a post card to Aunt Jennie. I go to Sunday School. Ruth and Annie stay to a meeting and they go over to Kinchen's with Allan. Uncle John is our S.S. teacher to-day.	Uncle John is Charles' older brother. He lives at Ivy Hill, North ½ Lot 10 Concession 6.
Monday 2	I go to school. I get a post card from Auntie Finch in night mail. I write to Mamma. I write to Auntie Finch but date it for tomorrow.	
Tuesday 3	I get a letter from Aunt Jennie in morning mail. Ruth doesn't go to school but Stuart and I go. Harvey goes up to Uncle John's with a book of Maggie Kinchen's named "The King's Daughter".	"The King's Daughter" was a story for young people about the value of temperance. Isabella Alden wrote this in 1873 under the pen name of Pansy. Her books were enormously popular in the late 1880s.
Wednesday 4	Very cold to-day. Ruth does not go to school. We get a letter from Aunt Jennie telling us that Mamma is not so well. I get a catalogue of magic lanterns in night mail.	
Thursday 5	We do not get any word from Aunt Jennie. Pretty cold. Stormy in morning. No girls at school. I get a catalogue of skates. Stuart and I make a set of "authors". Auntie Margaret's sister died.	Auntie Margaret is Margaret (Robertson) Fleming, John's wife. When the weather is very bad girls stay at home and the boys go to school
Friday 6	There is a ventriloquist up in the 9 th school but I don't go up there. I go to the Literary Society at night. Get home at about 20 mins to ten o'clock. Very mild in afternoon.	
Saturday 7	Stuart and Harvey go to town. I make doughnuts in the afternoon.	
Sunday 8	I go to Sunday School. There is a collection at Sunday School again. Snowing quite a bit.	

Monday 9	I write to Mrs. J. M. Ray. I do not go to school till intermission as I couldn't find my cap. I write a card to Bella Sinclair, Blenheim and send a sub to the Globe. Jake Fleming starts going to school.	There was an Isabella (Bella) Sinclair who lived with her parents and siblings in Blenheim, Kent County. At age 34 she was considerably older than Roy. Perhaps she was related to Alex Sinclair, a classmate of Roy's . Jake Fleming – unable to identify this Fleming.
Tuesday 10	I get another letter from Mrs. Ray. I go to school.	
Wednesday 11	Very cold in morning. Stuart and I go to school.	
Thursday 12	Middling warm to-day. I go to school. Ruth starts going.	
Friday 13	There is a concert at school. Stuart read a piece and several recitations are recited. We make spiles at night.	Spiles –small wooden peg or spigot for stopping a cask.
Saturday 14	Harvey and I go to Town. We get a barrel of coal oil. Tom Moore rides out with us. There is two registered letters come for Aunt Jennie. We get a post card in the morning mail from Aunt Jennie.	Tom Moore – neighbour at Lot 10, Concession 9
Sunday 15	I go to Sunday School. Percy Kinchen comes with me from Sunday School and stays the afternoon. Mr. Lister preaches on "Believing the Gospel". Thawing. Pretty near all the snow goes.	
Monday 16	I go to school. I skate over to the store with Pa's supper. There is some drunk fellows at the hotel and they pretty near run into a cutter.	
Tuesday 17	Ruth does not go to school as it is rather stormy. There is a Tory meeting in the town hall. Harvey and Stuart and I go to it. Mr Masson was for Con. and Mr. Cochrane for Reform side.	James Masson of Owen Sound was elected the member of parliament for North Grey in 1887 and reelected in 1891. Mr. Cochrane may have been Jas. Cochrane who owned the north half of Lot 7 Concession 7 . James Cochrane was on the County Council representing Derby in 1891 and 1892. ⁴

⁴ Marsh, E.L. A History of the County of Grey (1931) pg 480

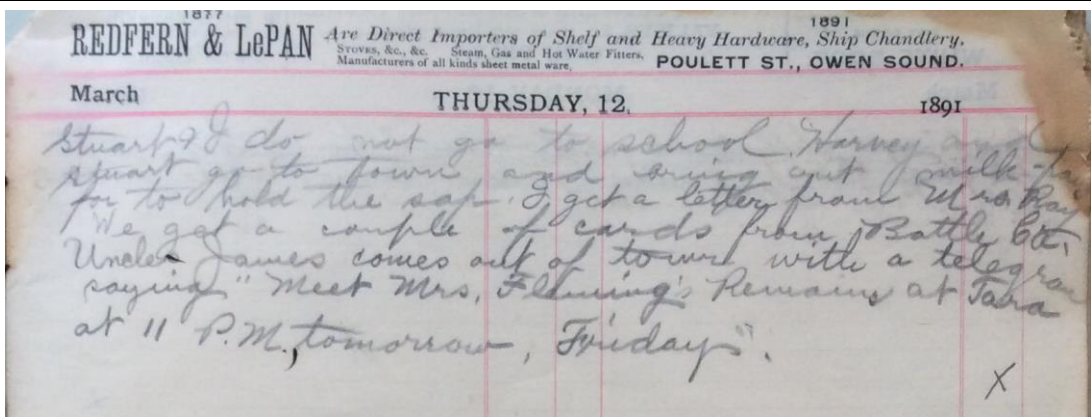
Wednesday 18	Ruth, Annie and I get a letter from Aunt Jennie. I go to school. Ruth does not go.	
Thursday 19	A post card comes in the morning mail from Aunt Jennie saying that Uncle Fred had to come to Battle Creek. Stuart and I go to school. Ruth does not. Stuart and I go down to skate but ice is no good.	Uncle Fred is Fred Read who was married to Lyda's sister Annie. It is believed that he financed Lyda's medical care at Battle Creek. Annie had died in 1885.
Friday 20	Raining to-day a little. We do not get any word from Aunt Jennie. I write to Aunt Jennie.	
Saturday 21	Stuart and Harvey go to town. We get two letters from Aunt Jennie.	
Sunday 22	I go to Sunday School. I do not go to Church at night but Stuart does.	
Monday 23	Stuart and I go to school. Skating at night.	
Tuesday 24	I skate to school. Not very good skating at school. Pa gets a letter from Aunt Jennie. Raining hard in evening . Ruth goes to school.	
Wednesday 25	Stuart and I go to school.	
Thursday 26	Ruth does not go to school.	
Friday 27	I get a post card from Mrs. J.M. Ray and a letter from Aunt Jennie. I address "The Advertiser" to Aunt Jennie. Ruth does not go to school.	
Saturday 28	None of us go to town. Stuart bakes doughnuts. I send away for sample of Cologne.	Cologne?

March

Date	Entry	Comments
Sunday 1	I go to Sunday School and meeting. I then go over to Kinchens	
Monday 2	Stuart and I go to school. We do not get any word from Aunt Jennie	
Tuesday 3	Stuart and I go to school.	
Wednesday 4	Harvey goes to town with some butter.	
Thursday 5	Stuart and Pa get into a rough over a few frozen turnips. Stuart does not go to school. Stuart and	There has been no word about Lyda's health or anything else from

Date	Entry	Comments
	Harvey go to town. The elections are to-day for Dominion House of Commons. Horsey has a majority in Kilsyth of 15 and on 9 th 14. I send a sub to the Mail. No word from Battle Creek.	Aunt Jennie since 27 th of February.
Friday 6	We get a post card from Aunt Jennie in morning mail and one in evening. I hear that Masson is in with 286 about, and Sir John A by 44 members.	General election was on March 5. Mr James Masson, a liberal-conservative was elected as Member of Parliament with 2,511 votes as opposed to the Liberal candidate, Dr. E. H. Horsey's 2,274. ⁵ Short account of the election at Wikipedia
Saturday 7	Harvey and Stuart go to town and sell the butter and eggs. Annie and I go with a's dinner. Pa and I tap an oil barrel.	
Sunday 8	We go to Sunday School. Harvey and I go to Church at night.	
Monday 9	We get a post card from Aunt Jennie. I address a paper to Aunt Jennie. I write to Auntie Finch.	
Tuesday 10	Harvey and Annie go to town. Annie stays at Spencers. They get their dinner there. Harvey brings me a couple of shorthand books.	
Wednesday 11	We go to school. The sap would run to-day but we do not tap yet.	
Thursday 12	Stuart and I do not go to school. Harvey and Stuart go to town and bring out milk cans for to hold the sap. I get a letter from Mrs. Ray. We get a couple of cards from Battle Creek. Uncle James comes out of town with a telegram saying "Meet Mrs Fleming's remains at Tara at 11 PM tomorrow, Friday".	Roy's handwriting is different for this entry – more like his adult hand. He might have written it when he was older.

⁵ The Canadian Parliamentary Companion for 1891 has the results.
<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qGltAQAAAMAJ>

Date	Entry	Comments
		
Friday 13	Uncles James and I are in the store. Pa, Harvey, Uncle Agnew and Jake Fleming go out to meet Aunt Jennie. I write to Mrs. Ray.	Someone must look after the store in spite of the tragedy. Uncle James takes over, with Roy to help him. Someone must be looking after Ruth and Annie but Roy does not tell us who. Uncle Agnew is James Agnew, husband to Jessie. Jennie is with the body of Lyda arriving by train in Tara.
Saturday 14	Uncle James and I are in the store another day. They come home with Aunt Jennie and the remains of dear Mamma. Terrible storms for last two days.	
Sunday 15	Several call to see Mamma. None of us go to the Church in the morning. Mr Lister and Cousin Christie came but there is no meeting in the church. Still storming.	Lyda's body has probably been laid out in the house. Cousin Christie could be a relative of Lyda's mother's second husband, John Christie. Mr. Lister is the minister of the Church of Christs Disciples in Kilsyth.
Monday 16	The storm still continues. Cousin Allie comes. Pa and Aunt Jessie goes to town. Uncle James and I are still in the store.	Don't know Cousin Allie.
Tuesday 17	Uncle James and I are in the store. Uncle James goes into town tonight. Funeral to-day.	
Wednesday 18	Pa and I are in the store.	
Thursday 19	Pa and I are in the store again. Stuart and Harvey go to town. Sun is shining beautifully.	
Friday 20	Pa and I are in the store in forenoon but Stuart and I cut down a couple of trees in afternoon.	

Date	Entry	Comments
Saturday 21	Harvey and I go to town with four baskets of butter and some eggs. We had to bring back one of the baskets of butter	These items are sold in Owen Sound to buy groceries or else are traded for whatever is needed.
Sunday 22	I go to Sunday School. Most of us go to Church at night.	
Monday 23	I start going to school again. Stuart and Harvey saw some trees in the bush.	
Tuesday 24	I stay home from school to-day. We are down in the bush boiling sap in a small kettle.	
Wednesday 25	I do not go to school. The second class and third class have their examinations to-day and yesterday. Aunt Jennie and I go up to Waddell's to see Mrs Crawford. I go over to Uncle Donald's with cutter to take Cousin Allie over.	Waddells own Lots 9 in Concessions 9 and 10.
Thursday 26	We are down in bush. Stuart and I build a wigwam to stay in.	
Friday 27	I go to a concert tonight held by the literary society. We hear that Albert E.C. Fleming gets two of his fingers taken off.	Albert Edwin Fleming is son of John and Margaret Fleming. Often referred to as A.E.
Saturday 28	Harvey and I go to town with butter and eggs	
Sunday 29	I go to Sunday School and evening meeting as usual. This is Easter Sunday.	
Monday 30	Mr Wyce comes with vinegar for store and I have to go over with him to the store. We are down boiling sap again in the bush. Easter Monday.	
Tuesday 31	I get a very nice letter from Mrs. Ray asking me to send notice of Mamma's death to her sister Mrs. Walter Woods, Hood River, Wasco Co. Oregon and enclosed a dime. First day of teacher's convention.	

April

Date	Entry	Comments
Wednesday 1	It rains to-day. We boil some of the sap. I write to Mrs. Ray. I send a notice and a paper to Mrs. W. Woods. Second day of teacher's convention.	
Thursday 2	I go to school to-day. Nothing particular at school. I get some chess and authors from U.S. Card Co.	
Friday 3	I do not go to school to-day. Aunt Jennie and I post books. Snowing. Aunt Jennie gets a letter from Aunt Belle.	Aunt Belle is Lyda's sister, Belle (Warren) Hammond. Jennie and Roy are posting the account books for the store.
Saturday 4	Pretty warm. Nothing in particular.	
Sunday 5	I go to Sunday School. I do not go to night meeting.	
Monday 6	I start school again. I hear that Mullan's are going away tomorrow. Their address is 216 Seaton St Toronto. I get this address from Jim Mullan.	Jim Mullan (or Mullen) was a school mate of Roy's. His parents were Elias and Maria.
Tuesday 7	We play "Sheeps House" at School. "Isles of Greece" is our lesson at school.	Sheeps house is probably a game. Isles of Greece is a poem by Lord Byron from the High School Reader.
Wednesday 8	I go to school.	
Thursday 9	Jack Horning brings the football and we have a game at school.	Jack was a school mate. Hornings were a family of Mennonites living in Derby. ⁶
Friday 10	It rains a little to-day. We play football at last intermission only.	
Saturday 11	Harvey and I go to town. I take a small jar of syrup to Mrs Spencer. We get soaking wet coming out because it rains so hard.	
Sunday 12	I do not go to Sunday School. I go to morning meeting but not to night meeting.	
Monday 13	Jack Horning forgets the football and 2 of the boys go home to Corning's (?) for it.	
Tuesday 14	We have to say all of the "Isles of Greece" to-day.	

⁶ Year: 1891; Census Place: Derby, Grey North, Ontario; Roll: T-6338; Family No: 26

Date	Entry	Comments
Wednesday 15	I go to school.	
Thursday 16	The boys and Pa take most of the potatoes out of the pit.	
Friday 17	I go to school. Nothing in particular.	
Saturday 18	Pa and I go to town. Meg is hitched up first time single and we take her.	Meg is the horse.
Sunday 19	I go to Sunday school and to night meeting. Mr. Lister preaches on "time".	
Monday 20	Ruth and I go to school.	
Tuesday 21	Ruth and I go to school. We have "Go where glory takes thee" for our lesson at school.	Poem by Thomas Moore.
Wednesday 22	Our spring show is to-day. We get out of school at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.	
Thursday 23	We go to school. I go to the store at night.	
Friday 24	We go to school. Pa and I are in the store at night.	
Saturday 25	Stuart and I plant our first onions out in front of the house.	
Sunday 26	I go to Sunday school	
Monday 27	Ruth and I go to school.	
Tuesday 28	I get a letter from Mrs J.M. Ray, Colville Wash. In it she said that if Mrs Woods did not write me that it was for the same reason as Mamma once wrote to her "my cares are many and my body not strong"	
Wednesday 29	We go to school as usual. No person has a ball at school so we cannot play.	
Thursday 30	Ruth and I go to school.	

May

Date	Entry	Comments
Friday 1	Today is arbor day at school. Ruth goes to school but Stuart and I go fishing at Coulters. We catch two trout when a man turns us off and said that the streams were rented.	Arbor Day was first observed in Nebraska in 1872. J Sterling Morton proposed it as a day for planting trees and recognizing the importance of trees. The idea spread through the States and was adopted in US schools in 1882. ⁷ Shortly after, in 1885, Sir George William Ross, Ontario's minister of education, introduced Arbor Day to engage children in planting trees. ⁸ Coulters farm lot 10 concession 4
Saturday 2	The new minister (Presbyterian) came to-day and stays at Agnew. W.A. McLean.	
Sunday 3	I go to Sunday School, morning meeting and night meeting. Mr. Lister has a big white horse.	
Monday 4	We got to school. Douglas gives me a great lecture about staying home from school on arbor day.	
Tuesday 5	Ruth and I go to school. It is rather cold weather to-day.	
Wednesday 6	Ruth and I go to school as usual. I write to Mrs. Ray.	
Thursday 7	I go to school. We have "My Kate" as our High School reader lesson.	My Kate is a poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning.
Friday 8	Ruth does not go to school to-day. She is not very well. Mr. Douglas sends for the football for us to Berlin Ont.	Perhaps Mr Douglass feels sorry for the students and buys them a football. Berlin was renamed Kitchener in 1916.
Saturday 9	I have to scrub the floor to-day and Stuart borrows part of the time and I for a while too. Everything breaks on us pretty near.	

⁷ The History of Arbor Day, n.d. Available from Arbor Day Foundation.
<https://www.arborday.org/celebrate/history.cfm>

⁸ Burley, David G. Ross, Sir George William. Dictionary of Canadian Biography (n.d.)
http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/ross_george_william_14E.html,

Date	Entry	Comments
Sunday 10	I go to Sunday School as usual. Raining a little to-day. We go to night meeting.	
Monday 11	Our Sunday School annual meeting was held tonight. Picnic to be on June 16 at Doyle's Grove etc. etc.	
Tuesday 12	One of the gold fillings comes out of my tooth. We go to school. I have had a bad cold lately. A very nice day to-day.	
Wednesday 13	The football comes tonight.	
Thursday 14	I do not go to school because my cold is so bad. We harrow and fix fences in fore noon.	To harrow is to drag an implement with tines over plowed fields to break up clumps. The metal frame set is called a harrow.
Friday 15	I go to school as usual.	
Saturday 16	Stuart and Harvey go to town. Jno A. Horning rides out with them.	Jno is short for John (aka Jack).
Sunday 17	I go to Sunday School to-day. I do not go to night meeting because I do not get work done in time.	
Monday 18	We start going through geography again.	
Tuesday 19	I do not know my verse (Horatius) very well.	Horatius is a poem by Lord Macaulay
Wednesday 20	Douglass told us to stay in recess for not know our Temperence but we don't stay in. The Youth's Companions came tonight. We sent away for them a while ago.	Youth's Companion – an illustrated weekly newspaper from the US.
Thursday 21	We have Horatius again to-day. I know a little better than on Tuesday (19 th). We commence studying Botany to-day.	
Friday 22	Ruth and I go to school. We get mad at Jack Horning for not playing football fairly.	
Saturday 23	Aunt Jennie and Harvey go to town. Stuart fixes the wagon box. I am in the store most of the time.	
Sunday 24	I go to Sunday School and night meeting as usual. Harvey goes into town with Mr Lister. Queen is 72 years old.	Queen Victoria was born May 24, 1819. Information about her age was written into the diary later.
Monday 25	Stuart and I go to town. We get a ride in with Uncle	

Date	Entry	Comments
	James part of the way. It is the Queen's birthday. We have quite a time.	
Tuesday 26	I do not know my verse again to-day.	
Wednesday 27	I study my lesson tonight.	
Thursday 28	I know my verse pretty well to-day.	
Friday 29	We go to school. We play football.	
Saturday 30	Stuart and I plough in the fore noon. Aunt Jennie and Stuart have a sort of a rough. I have to scrub. We plant onions	
Sunday 31	I go to Sunday school. They make 2 classes of our class. Christina is our teacher now. Peter Rodgers died this morning at 6:55 am	Christina is daughter of Donald Fleming – first cousin to Roy. Peter Rodgers might be Peter Rogers farmer and hotel keeper on lot 9 concession 7.

June

Date	Entry	Comments
Monday 1	Only one half days school to-day. Peter Rodgers' funeral is in afternoon. Aunt Jennie and I are in the store in afternoon.	
Tuesday 2	Raining a little to-day. They are talking about going to the June meeting.	
Wednesday 3	Aunt Jennie and Stuart go to Rockford in the morning to catch the 6 o'clock train. They are just in time to be too late. They go on the afternoon train.	Rockford is a village about 3 miles east of Kilsyth with a train station. They were going to Toronto on the Toronto Grey and Bruce Railway.
Thursday 4	I go to school. I know my poetry in a kind of a way. I write to Auntie Finch. Annie starts going to school.	
Friday 5	Annie goes to school to-day.	
Saturday 6	Harvey and I go to town to-day. I got my picture taken at Ingleharts. Sir Jno A. McDonald died tonight at 10:15 pm.	Having photo cards was popular in the day. Roy later sends the photo to family and friends. (See entry for 29 June) Sir John A McDonald had just been

Date	Entry	Comments
		reelected. His death was a terrible shock to all.
Sunday 7	I go to Sunday school and meeting. Pa, the two little girls and I go up to Uncle Alexander's.	Two girls are Ruth and Annie. Alexander, Charles' brother, lives at lot 6 East ½ Concession 9.
Monday 8	All three of us go to school to-day.	
Tuesday 9	Jack Horning and I have to copy out some questions and answers out of a paper Mr. Douglass gave us.	
Wednesday 10	Stuart comes home to-day from Toronto. I get a letter from Mrs. Ray with some flower seeds to plant on dear Mamma's grave.	
Thursday 11	Ruth and I go to school. I draw a map of Washington tonight for Mrs. Ray. She asked me to in her letter. Sir Jno A. McDonald was buried to-day.	
Friday 12	We go to school to-day as usually. We play football. Jack Horning, Jim Fenton, and I play the rest. Stuart and Harvey go to town. I plant the seeds in a bed and in a small pitcher (the ones that Mrs. Ray sent me to plant on Mamma's grave). I intend to transplant them after they grow.	
Saturday 13	I am in the store to-day pricing the new dry goods.	
Sunday 15	I go to Church in the morning and Sunday school too. It has been very warm lately. Uncle Donald said Mr. Lister had gone to the Island. I go down to the other Church.	Other church is Presbyterian.
Monday 16	My photos come in to-night's mail.	
Tuesday 16	I mail a photo to Mrs. Ray this morning. Our picnic is to-day. We have a fine time at Doyle's Grove boating.	Doyle's Grove might have been in Shallow Lake where Richard Judson Doyle developed The Owen Sound Portland Cement Company. As a member of the Disciples of Christ Church and a publically-minded person he might have permitted boating on the small lake on his property. ⁹

⁹ Doyle, Richard Judson. Grey County Luminaries, Grey Roots Museum.
<http://www.greyroots.com/exhibitions/virtual-exhibits/grey-county-luminaries/doyle-richard-judson/>

Date	Entry	Comments
Wednesday 17	I find the first two ripe strawberries tonight. I mail one of my photos. Hannah Linn died this morning at 10 am. Raining a little to-day. I write Aunt Belle and Uncle Harry. Send Uncle Harry my photo.	Hannah Linn, daughter of Robert Linn and Margaret Agnew, died at the young age of 26. They lived across the road in Concession 5. Aunt Belle is Belle Hammond, Lyda's sister. In 1880 she and her husband Thomas were living in Forsythe, Dakota according to the US Census. Harry Warren, a brother of Lyla, lived with his wife Emma Shears and family in Trenton, ON in 1891.
Thursday 18	I go to school. Mr. Douglass is pretty easy with me now. Aunt Jessie went to town to see about a trunk of hers that cousin Jennie Agnew sent her.	Cousin Jennie is daughter of Jessie (Fleming) Agnew.
Friday 19	Hannah Linn's funeral is to-day. We three boys go to it but not to cemetery. It rains a little. The stage driver brings Aunt Jessie's trunk out. No school to-day.	There were daily stages from Kilsyth to Tara and Owen Sound.
Saturday 20	I have to take the saw over to Alex Fleming Jr this afternoon. I am in the store in the afternoon. Ruth and Annie get a string of beads tonight.	Alex Fleming Jr (b. 1832) the son of Alexander Fleming (b. 1858) who farms Lot 6 East ½ Concession 9. Alex Jr's grandfather was Alexander Fleming (b. 1799).
Sunday 21	I go to Sunday school and morning meeting. I find out that Mr. Lister did not go to the Island. We go to the Presbyterian Church tonight.	Likely the island Lister did not go to was Manitoulin
Monday 22	I write to Mrs. Ray and I send her a map of Washington that I drew.	
Tuesday 23	I send for the answer to a square problem advertised in the Globe. We have dictation tonight.	
Wednesday 24	I go to school. Alex Sinclair and Jno Horning won't let me see the answer book that Alexander brought to school. Statue Labour	Alex Sinclair was a friend who lived South ½ Lot 8 Concession 7. Probably was referring to Statute Labor – residents were required to contribute hours of labour to the township for upkeep of the roads. This was abolished in 1904.

Date	Entry	Comments
Thursday 25	I go to school. Ask Mr. Douglass about a picnic and he says he cannot go. Statue Labor is to-day again. Prayer meeting at Kinchen's. Stuart goes.	
Friday 26	I receive a letter from cousin Maud in tonight's mail. No school from 2:30 pm 'till Monday. Stuart and Harvey to town to-day. Answer to the square problem same tonight.	Maud Read, daughter of Annie Warren Read, Lyda's sister. Maud, born in 1866, is 25 years old and married to R.P. Bronson – they might be living in Los Altos Ca. USA
Saturday 27	Pa and I are in the store. I send a letter to Aunt Jennie to order some boots. I send \$18.51 to Brayley Sons and Co for medicine. We play football tonight.	Jennie must be away. Purchase of medicine was probably stock for the store. Otherwise would be vast amount for private purchase. Brayley, Sons & Co was a wholesale drug company in Montreal. They also produced a medical almanac. ¹⁰
Sunday 28	Cousin Maud's baby is 2 years old to-day. Mr. Robertson preached in Disciples Church tonight.	Two children were Lida and Annie.
Monday 29	Receive a post card from Auntie Finch telling me that she got my photo and thanking me for it. We get a telegram to meet Aunt Jennie at Rockford.	
Tuesday 30	This is the last day of school for a while. Aunt Jennie comes home to-day. Aunt Jessie went to meet her at the station.	

July

Date	Entry	Comments
Wednesday 1	I am at home mostly to-day doing chores. We clean out Aunt Jennie's cellar.	
Thursday 2	I get a letter from Uncle Harry telling me about his garden and thanking me for sending him my photo.	
Friday 3	Working in the store to-day helping Pa. I hear that Florence Fleming has gone out of her mind. They read it in the Times. Fixing stove pipes at Aunt Jennie's house.	Florence, daughter of Donald, was admitted to the Asylum for the Insane, Toronto –age 28 – in 1891, following her mother Esther who was admitted in 1879.

¹⁰ Advertisement for Brayley, Sons and Co is seen at http://bouteillesduquebec.ca/publicites/brayley_sons.htm, a page of the website for Antique Quebec Medicine Bottles.

Date	Entry	Comments
		Jennie's house was the original family homestead (called Springfield) and was close to Charles' house. Jennie more or less lived at Charles's to help with managing the home and children.
Saturday 4	Harvey and Pa go to town. Aunt Jennie and I are in the store. Council meets to-day. Cold to-day.	
Sunday 5	Mr. Lister preaches in Disciples Church tonight. Kate Donald is our teacher in Sunday School. Pa takes Mr. Lister in tonight because he walked out.	Kate Donald is a sister of Margaret Ellen Donald who married Christopher A. Fleming – another cousin of Roy's. The Donalds were neighbours to the Flemings. Kate married Archie "A E" Trout. Likely Charles drove Lister back to Owen Sound.
Monday 6	We are hauling rails and fixing the fences this afternoon. Not very warm yet. Bills came out for a concert for 7 th and 8 th tomorrow and the next night.	
Tuesday 7	We send away three registered letters this morning. No concert tonight. The fellows don't come at all to start it.	
Wednesday 8	Stuart and I fix fences in the afternoon; also hauling wood from flats.	
Thursday 9	We are stuffing the potatoes in afternoon.	
Friday 10	Working at turnips to-day. Pretty hot.	
Saturday 11	Working at the turnips again. The horses get away but we catch them in front of Burrs.	
Sunday 12	Mr Kinchin is our teacher to-day at Sunday School.	
Monday 13	Write to cousin Maud and Uncle Harry. Jno Black Jr mows today.	
Tuesday 14	Cecelia Brown (Melissa's baby) died tonight at 8:30 pm.	Melissa, a first cousin, is daughter to John Fleming – and married to Samuel Horton Brown. Cecilia, the baby born July 22, 1889 was not quite two.

Date	Entry	Comments
Wednesday 15	Raining to-day	
Thursday 16	Funeral to-day of Cecelia Brown. They will not let any of us go to it.	
Friday 17	I go over to Jno Black Jr's on Meg to see if he is going to mow. Hauling in to-day. Jennie B Fleming comes from Belleville.	Hauling the hay. Jennie B. Fleming is the 23-year old daughter of James Fleming in Belleville and granddaughter of John Fleming, Alexander Fleming's brother who settled in Hastings County.
Saturday 18	Working at the hay again to-day. Harvey goes to Uncle John's to see Miss Jennie B. Fleming.	
Sunday 19	I go to all the meetings at our Church to-day.	
Monday 20	Miss Jennie B. Fleming and Vicky came down to-day. Melville MacIntyre came down to play with me. Mrs. Grieve gave birth to twin babes.	Melville McIntyre was about 11, son of Roy's first cousin Mary Jane Fleming (John's daughter) who married Archibald McIntyre. They lived in Owen Sound. Mrs Grieve –Frances Chisholm who was married to James Simpson Grieve gave birth to twins Catherine Chisholm and Isabella Somerville on July 20 [Ancestry.ca – Ontario, Canada Births, 1869-1913)
Tuesday 21	Stuart and I put Paris green on the potatoes. I got a letter from Mrs. Ray, Colville, thanking me for the photos etc.	Paris green (copper acetoarsenite) was a combination of copper and arsenic diluted with water to control the potato beetle. This early pesticide was adopted by farmers in the 1860s.
Wednesday 22	I rake hay with Jess. Starts to rain to-day but only a few drops	Jess – unknown
Thursday 23	Still at the hay. Nothing new.	
Friday 24	We have finished our hay to-day – all except a little to cut with the scythe.	
Saturday 25	Stuart and I go picking berries for the first time this	Likely raspberries – picked on

Date	Entry	Comments
	year at Agnew's old place.	James Agnew's old farm, which was on the west half of lots 7 and 8 Conc..6. James and Jesse Agnew had moved into Kilsyth.
Sunday 26	Minnie Fleming is our teacher. We decide to start Mission Band again.	Minnie is Minerva – 23-year-old daughter of James.
Monday 27	We three boys go picking berries at Kinchens	
Tuesday 28	Our mission band meets to-day at 3 pm. I am elected as secretary.	
Wednesday 29	Hoeing at the turnips to-day for a while.	
Thursday 30	I wash a lot of handkerchiefs, collars etc to-day.	
Friday 31	There is a frost in some places on the ground this morning.	

August

Date	Entry	Comments
Saturday 1	We are cutting and binding the wheat to-day. I am in the store this afternoon. Council meets to-day.	
Sunday 2	Aunt Jennie, Ruth, Annie and I go for a drive to Inglis Falls	Inglis Falls is just 7 km from Kilsyth. Sydenham river drops 18 metres over the Niagara Escarpment.
Monday 3	We are cutting and binding the wheat yet in the old orchard.	
Tuesday 4	Stuart and I get a calve from Uncle Agnew's . Working at turnips.	
Wednesday 5	I find out that my pet lamb "Towney" is going to have small horns. Harvey goes over to Uncle James to see Jennie B. Fleming. I write an essay on China tonight, late.	
Thursday 6	I write to Mrs. Ray to-day. I get some stamps from J.D. Nichols Box 35, Berwick, N.S. Jennie B. Fleming and Mary were over tonight.	Mary, a cousin, daughter of James Fleming and Grace Robertson .
Friday 7	I write to Jim Mullan.	
Saturday 8	Rains very heavily all to-day. Mr. Lediard comes out to-day but scarcely any mission band. The Desboro	Mr. Lediard is Disciple's Church Minister.

Date	Entry	Comments
	football team comes down to play Kilsyth but they do not play as it is too wet. Get soaking wet coming home in the buggy at night.	Desboro is near Chatsworth in Grey County.
Sunday 9	Raining so heavily that there is no Sunday school nor morning meeting. Mr Lister for a wonder does not come and as it rained in there heavier I suppose.	
Monday 10	I get a letter from Jim Mullan tonight. Miss Jennie B. Fleming and Harvey and some others were at Agnews tonight. Aunt Jennie and I are in the store to-day.	
Tuesday 11	Pa and I are in the store. Pa is forever complaining at me.	
Wednesday 12	In the store yet.	
Thursday 13	Still monkeying around the store.	
Friday 14	Mr Douglass, wife and children came home this evening.	
Saturday 15	Aggie Kennedy and Miss Dunn are at the store this evening. Our mission band met to-day. I read an essay on China. Football practice tonight.	
Sunday 16	I go to Sunday school. I get a library book, "The King's Daughter". Mr Brown came out with Mr. Lister in the evening.	The King's Daughter by Pansy – published in Boston 1873. Young person's book. Mentioned on Feb 3 also.
Monday 17	The first day of school is to-day. Alex Sinclair and I are the only ones in the high school class. I write to Jim Mullan.	
Tuesday 18	Jacob Wice and Harvey Linn come over to the school and Jacob and Sam White have a kind or a row.	
Wednesday 19	Johnny Mundle and Letisha Fenton got married at Chatsworth to-day.	
Thursday 20	Stuart and I have to catch Duff after night.	Duff – probably the other horse.
Friday 21	The Presbyterian church Sunday school have their picnic in out bush. Uncle Agnew and I go to look for his cow. School in fore noon only.	
Saturday 22	I pull the first peas I ever pulled in my life. Pretty	

Date	Entry	Comments
	busy in the evening in the store.	
Sunday 23	Melville McIntyre was out at Uncle John's to-day. Was late for Sunday School. Mr. Lister brought a watermelon for Aunt Jennie.	
Monday 24	I find out that Jack Horning isn't coming back to Public School any more.	
Tuesday 25	Alfred Reid and I go down to Hilt's for the football. We arrange sides and neither side wins a game at noon. Our side gets one game at intermissions.	
Wednesday 26	I come home this afternoon to help take in the pease	
Thursday 27	I stay home all day to take in pease. Starts to rain about noon. Ruth is 9 years old to-day.	
Friday 28	I go to school to-day. Wet to-day but no rain. We do not play football.	
Saturday 29	Mission Band met to-day. Ruth recited a small piece. Mrs Willie Wardell gave birth to a girl baby at 12 o'clock to-day noon.	Mrs Willie Wardell - unknown
Sunday 30	Whyte Bro were singing in the other church to-day. Small meeting at Disc Ch. Mr Lister's daughter and baby comes out but not meeting at night as it was given out there would be none.	"Other" church is Presbyterian
Monday 31	Jennie Fleming was over tonight with some apples for Aunt Jennie. I get some stamps from R.J.D. Nichols, Berwick N.S. Box 35. High School opened to-day. Jack Horning and Melville McIntyre start going.	High School is the Owen Sound Collegiate Institute. Roy began high school in 1892 and probably boarded with a relative. [Handwriting changes from the small, clear, right-slanted script to much larger script with mix of vertical and right slant. Some of this may have been added by Roy in later years.]

September

Date	Entry	Comments
Tuesday 1	We have Abigail Beckett for our lesson to-day. I come home this afternoon to help at pease. Whyte	Abigail Beckett - unknown

Date	Entry	Comments
	Bro. sing at Presbyterian Church in the concert. Annie is 6 years old to-day.	
Wednesday 2	I stay at home again to-day to pull pease. Stuart and I make a cake and eat it when Aunt Jennie and Aunt Jessie were out for a drive. It rains in afternoon.	
Thursday 3	Aunt Jennie and Aunt Jessie were at town to-day. It rains again. Home from school.	
Friday 4	We are pulling pease with the horse rake again.	
Saturday 5	We haul one load of pease in in the afternoon. Rains in afternoon. Council meets. I am over at store in afternoon.	
Sunday 6	Collection in church for Home Missions to-day. Percy Kinchen comes over from morning meeting and stays the afternoon. We drive over to English church near Dormie Sinclair's school and then to Inglis Falls.	English Church is on lot 7 concession 3. Dormie Sinclair –might have been a brother of Alex and Bella on the South ½ of Lot 8 Concession 7.
Monday 7	Working to-day at pulling pease and turning them. I am not going to school to-day.	
Tuesday 8	Pa was pretty cross this morning. Very cold.	
Wednesday 9	Hauling in pease to-day.	
Thursday 10	Mr. Irwin came to-day and took away Towny and our other lamb. Aunt Jennie and Mrs Herald went to town to-day. Finished our harvest to-day. The boys got stuck with the last load.	Either the lambs were sold to Mr. Irwin, or he will butcher them for the family. Mrs Herald is Bella (Finch) Herald, married to George Herald, and, daughter of Isabella Fleming (ie Auntie Finch) and Abraham Finch..
Friday 11	I go to school to-day for the first day this week. A.Hendrick and J. Little from Trenton call here this evening and Harvey and they go over to Uncle James'.	Hendrick and Little – unknown.
Saturday 12	Our Mission Band met to-day. I get "10 novels complete" in the store that Pa hid. Pa and Harvey have kind of a racket to-night. Raining in afternoon.	

Date	Entry	Comments
Sunday 13	Pa tells Harvey that he is going to send him away Monday morning. Stuart went over to Uncle John's to-day. I give Harvey a dollar.	
Monday 14	I go to school. William Hilts started to school to-day. Harvey went to Toronto.	Roy is probably referring to the 13 year old William, son of Henry and Rebecca Hilts.
Tuesday 15	Play football at school to-day.	
Wednesday 16	Stuart and I go to town in the wagon and Aunt Jennie and Annie in the buggy. They do not get a lunch for us in town and we break into the bread and sugar.	
Thursday 17	We go to school. Mr. Douglass tells us that he might report our monthly examinations in the paper. Aunt Jennie gets a letter from Harvey.	
Friday 18	We have our examination on History to-day. Hyle and Flora Beaton and I are the only ones there to write as it was the last Friday. Albert Fleming gets home from the Exhibition and brings a letter from Harvey to Aunt Jennie saying that he got a situation in a bookstore @ \$2 a week. Board \$3.	Hyle (or John R.H. Beaton) was 11 and his sister Flora 14. Their parents were William and Janet Beaton. Albert Fleming is Albert Edwin Charles "AE" son of Roy's uncle John Fleming and his wife Margaret Robertson. Exhibition is the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto
Saturday 19	Pa gets a letter from Harvey. Alfred J. Reid came down this afternoon to play with me. We get some plums.	Alfred J. Reid - unknown
Sunday 20	Stuart and I got to the Presbyterian Church tonight. Presbyterian church was in the village of Kilsyth, a little further west of Disciples Church.	Now Kilsyth United Church
Monday 21	This week is count week in post office. I mail about ½ doz letters for cards etc. Emma Green started going to school to-day.	Emma Green - unknown
Tuesday 22	We are fooling with Johnny Frankish to-day. Stuart was in town to-day. Got a 1 cent scribbler for myself.	Johnny Frankish - unknown
Wednesday	Stuart making a scrap book for "Mission Box"	

Date	Entry	Comments
23	tonight. Got through our work very late.	
Thursday 24	I take my stamp album to school to-day.	
Friday 25	Examination on Grammar to-day.	
Saturday 26	They are fixing the sidewalk to-day. Mission Band met to-day. Minnie was not there but Mrs Herald took the lead.	
Sunday 27	Mr. W.A. McLean (Presbyterian Church) preaches his farewell sermon. I go down to hear him.	
Monday 28	A detective was at the store tonight and Saturday night.	
Tuesday 29	I get a licken to-day for whispering in school.	
Wednesday 30	I go to school. Nothing particular. I go to prayer meeting tonight and Christian Endeavour Society. Mr. McLean was presented with a purse of about \$35.	Extreme change in handwriting.

October

Date	Entry	Comments
Thursday 1	I got two demerit marks at school to-day.	
Friday 2	Alex Sinclair and I were caught eating an apple in school. I get some stamps from J.D. Nichols in a registered letter.	
Saturday 3	Stuart and I were fixing the fence by the grove.	
Sunday 4	Mr Lediard preached this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Jennie Robinson was over at our place from Mrs. Herald. Also P. Kinchen from this place.	
Monday 5	Go to school usually.	
Tuesday 6	I stay home this forenoon in the store with Aunt Jennie. The fellows get some cards at school.	
Wednesday 7	I go to school. Alex Sinclair is not there to-day. Stuart and Pa went to town to-day.	
Thursday 8	I finish drawing the map of Ontario this morning. I do not go to school. This is the first day of the show	Show is probably the Kilsyth fall fair organized by Derby Agricultural

Date	Entry	Comments
	and I show my map and take the first prize because mine was the only one there. We also show some apples. Stuart and I are training Met to-day to be ready for tomorrow. Very few things at show.	Society.
Friday 9	Second day of show. I write in Town Hall. I only get 3 rd prize. Stuart shows Meg in Dan McCallum's buggy. I go to a concert tonight. Jno Ramsay leads it (same man as last year). I saw the wax figure of Birchall at show.	McCallums had the farm lot 4 concession 5. Roy got 3 rd prize for penmanship.
Saturday 10	Stuart and Pa go to town and bring some butter and eggs to Mr Matthews Steward CPR. Mission Band today but I can't go.	
Sunday 11	Mr Lediard preaches as usual in the afternoon. Alfred Reid and I pick beech nuts before church. Out driving with Aunt Jennie. I write to Mrs. Ray.	
Monday 12	Alex Sinclair and I are made to sit apart for me throwing a piece of paper with Euclid on it to Alex and he is copying it off when the master catches him.	
Tuesday 13	Harvey came home from Toronto to-day. Jennie Agnew is sick.	
Wednesday 14	Picking beech nuts at noon. Raining in afternoon.	
Thursday 15	First day of teacher's convention in Owen Sound. No school. Stay in the house in forenoon. Fixing barn in afternoon.	
Friday 16	Second day teacher's convention. Working at potatoes. 15 rows done.	
Saturday 17	Working at potatoes. Did not get them done. Warmer to-day than yesterday.	
Sunday 18	Go to all the meetings to-day. Out for a drive with Aunt Jennie.	
Monday 19	Raining to-day.	
Tuesday 20	I leave my books on a pile of posts this morning and Douglass sends me for them at about 11 am. Harvey went in to town to-day to go to College.	Harvey attended the Northern Business College in Owen Sound run by C.A. Fleming and may have boarded with C.A. and his family.
Wednesday	-	

Date	Entry	Comments
21		
Thursday 22	I don't know my poetry "The Bard" at school. Mr Lee (traveler) was at store to-day and told me he would give me a \$ if I would get him 5 or 6 lbs of Beech-nuts.	
Friday 23	Threshing at our place in afternoon. I went over to Sinclair's on Meg to ask Angus. Stay home to-day. A year ago to-day was the last day I ever saw Mamma alive.	Angus was a brother of Alex's. On this date in 1890 Lyda went to Marquette Mi. USA to see a specialist. Her brother-in-law Fred Read, husband of Lyda's late sister, Annie, lived in Marquette. Fred paid for her medical care at Dr Kellogg's sanatorium at Battle Creek.
Saturday 24	We were threshing until about 10 am. Machine then goes to Sinclairs. I am 13 years old to-day.	Smaller farms did not have their own threshing machines. Travelling threshers would go from farm to farm with the equipment and labourers to do the threshing for a fee.
Sunday 25	Jim Fenton and I picked beech nuts before afternoon meeting.	
Monday 26	Aunt Jennie and Mr Herald went to town to-day.	George Herald, married to Bella.
Tuesday 27	Very cold to-day. Alex Sinclair was not at school yesterday nor to-day.	
Wednesday 28	-	
Thursday 29	Came home at recess to take up potatoes.	
Friday 30	Pa, Stuart, and I went in to town tonight to hear Crossley and Hunter in Presbyterian Church. Monthly examination on grammar to-day.	Rev H T Crossley and the Rev John E Hunter were evangelists from St Thomas in Southern Ontario.
Saturday 31	Working at turnips in afternoon. I get a letter and a pair of mitts from Mrs. Ray as a present for my birthday. Her letter said that she and her husband were travelling and now they were in San Diego.	Apparently the Rays travelled. Was this his only present?

November

Date	Entry	Comments
Sunday 1	Mr Lediard preached this Sunday in church and gave us an invitation. I put hymn books in seats in church. We meet J. A. Horning walking to church.	
Monday 2	Mrs Sinclair (mother of Alex, Arch, Ronald etc) died tonight at 11pm. We start working stocks to-day in arithmetic	This was Sarah Sinclair, 85, Alex's grandmother. She lived in Sullivan Township.
Tuesday 3	Stuart and I sent five names tonight to the Youth's Companion to try to get subscribers and in return they will send us a book.	
Wednesday 4	I am home to-day from school. Stuart and I finish topping turnips and we haul half of these in.	
Thursday 5	That fellow at Redfern's store "Fred" started off in middle of last night with some things that he stole out of Redfern's store. Mr Redfern and Mr Reid catch Fred up at Stoddards swamp. Mr Jamison (Presbyterian Minister) was at school to-day and gave us a kind of speech for about ½ hr.	Redfern's store on Poulett St. in Owen Sound sold meal, stoves, and ships' chandlery. Ad in diary: Redfern & LePan are direct importers of shelf and heavy hardware, ship chandlery, stoves etc etc. Steam, gas and hot water fitters. Manufacturers of all kinds of sheet metal ware. Also a D.R. Redfern – dealer in general groceries all kinds of fruit in season. Also fancy goods etc etc.
Friday 6	Examination on arithmetic. I do the whole six examples.	
Saturday 7	Stuart and I cover the turnip pit.	
Sunday 8	Percy Kinchen was over to-day. Also Maggie Kinchen. Mr. Lediard gives an invitation and I came forward.	The invitation is to be baptized. In the Disciples church members are baptized at confirmation. See entry 11 Nov.
Monday 9	Send a letter to Jim Wallace asking him to subscribe to the Youth's Companion. Also I send a letter to W.E. Skinner, coin broker, Boston, asking him whether he deals in English and Canadian coins. Stuart and Pa went to Tara with a load of pease.	
Tuesday 10	We have notes on "The Bard" for our high school	

Date	Entry	Comments
	reader lesson. Stuart went to Tara with another load of pease. Raining to-day.	
Wednesday 11	Pa, Stuart and I go to town to Disciple prayer meeting. Mr Lediard's son and I are baptized at the church. Cousin Jennie Agnew started to Rochester to-day.	Baptism in Disciples Church is by complete immersion. Jean Alexandrina Agnew, aka "Jennie", was almost 30 years old and perhaps was going there to work. She later lived in Buffalo.
Thursday 12	To-day is Thanksgiving. Stuart and Percy were out shooting in Kinchen's bush. Starts to snow to-day.	Canadian celebrated American Thanksgiving in November. Date was changed to October in 1957.
Friday 13	Stuart went to Tara this morning with pease. A lot of snow this morning.	
Saturday 14	Stuart and I went to Tara to-day with more pease. Got back about dark.	
Sunday 15	This is the last Sunday that Mr. Lediard will preach here.	
Monday 16	When I got up this morning I see that the snow is pretty deep.	
Tuesday 17	Still snowing. I do not know my verses "To a Highland Girl"	By Wm Wordsworth
Wednesday 18	Aunt Jennie drives us to school this morning in the cutter.	
Thursday 19	Aunt Jennie drove us to school again. Do not know my verses.	
Friday 20	I send a letter to Mrs. Ray and one to auntie Finch. Stuart and I got to the debate in town hall. Resolved that Burns was greater a poet than Sir Walter Scott. Negatives beat. Examination on geography. He gives us our arithmetic. I get 100. A.S. gets 84	A.S. is Alex Sinclair
Saturday 21	Mission Band met to-day at Uncle James' house. Raining and thawing.	
Sunday 22	Still raining. Mr Lister preached for us this Sunday.	
Monday 23	Norma and I have a scuffle in the mud.	
Tuesday 24	Pa and I have to take the potatoes out of the water in the cellar tonight.	

Date	Entry	Comments
Wednesday 25	Turns cold again.	
Thursday 26	Thawing this afternoon.	
Friday 27	Examination on grammar to-day. I think I did pretty well at it. Mr Douglass gave us our history paper. I get 68 and A.S. gets 86.	
Saturday 28	Stuart and I haul out manure to cover the turnip pit and the rhubarb and flowers.	
Sunday 29	Mr. Lister preaches again to-day.	
Monday 30	We are skating at school to-day. Pretty good ice.	

December

Date	Entry	Comments
Tuesday 1	Skating again to-day. I know my poetry to-day. Six pairs of skates there to-day.	
Wednesday 2	Still skating at school.	
Thursday 3	Thawing to-day. Ruth brings her skates to-day. Five other pair.	
Friday 4	Examination in stocks in arithmetic also two examples in factoring in algebra.	
Saturday 5	No mission band to-day because Minnie was not home.	
Sunday 6	Our mission band met to-day. Fifteen there. Our mission band will meet on Sunday after this.	
Monday 7	Geography on South America to-day.	
Tuesday 8	We have "the Raven" to-day as our lesson.	By Edgar Allan Poe
Wednesday 9	We were snowballing at school. Walter Ferris got his eye hurt at school with a snowball. Alex Sinclair was not at school to-day.	
Thursday 10		
Friday 11	Examination on geography to-day. I think I did pretty well. Missed one question entirely.	
Saturday 12	Stuart and I are hauling out manure. Get four loads out.	

Date	Entry	Comments
Sunday 13	I do not stay at morning meeting to-day.	
Monday 14		
Tuesday 15		
Wednesday 16	There was to be practise at Heralds to-night only one there. Sam and Norman.	
Thursday 17		
Friday 18	Examination on history to-day. (Geo III reign). Get some stamps from J.S. Nichols, Berwick, N.S. Go to the practice tonight at Mrs. Heralds. Sam, Norman and I are going to sing "Old Mother Slipper Stopper"	See lyrics and music.
Saturday 19	Stuart and I hauled wood to-day in forenoon and we train the colt to-day, "Billy".	
Sunday 20	I go to Sunday school and church as usual. Miss Mary Fulton came out with Mr. Lister. Mission band met this afternoon.	
Monday 21	A daughter of Mr Rodgers (aged 4 years) died early this morning. Announced in school.	
Tuesday 22	Funeral of girl above to-day at 1 pm	
Wednesday 23		
Thursday 24		
Friday 25		The Scottish did not celebrate Christmas in the 1800s
Saturday 26	Mrs. Lewis Graham gave birth to a daughter about 3 pm this afternoon.	
Sunday 27	Went to church to-day as usual. Collection for Women's work in Write to Mrs Ray, San Diego, 704 Third St – Ca.	
Monday 28	Nomination at Town Hall to-day. For Reeve Jas Cochrane, R.A. Stark, Wm Breen. For deputy reeve Alex Garvie, Harness. For Councillor Lauchlin Beaton, John Henry Moore, Jno Robertson, R. Henderson, ..., Saul Riely	
Tuesday 29	Stuart and I haul to line fence.	
Wednesday		

Date	Entry	Comments
30		
Thursday 31	Went to prayer meeting at Heralds tonight. Mrs. Alex Finch came out with C.A. Fleming last tonight. Harry and I wash some clothes this afternoon.	Mrs Alex Finch was Sophia Emily De Le Ree who married Alexander Heanage Finch. A.H. Finch was a Disciples minister.

Fleming Family Tree

Isabella (Bell) "Auntie Finch" 1825-1917	Janet (Jessie) "Aunt Jessie" 1828-1918	James "Uncle James" 1830-1910	John "Uncle John" 1830-1909	Alexander "Uncle Alexander" 1832-1909	Donald "Uncle Donald" 1834-1896	William 1837-1927	Charles 1840-1910	Jean "Aunt Jennie" 1843-1942
m Abraham Finch	m James Agnew "Uncle Agnew"	m Grace Robertson	m Margaret Robertson "Auntie Margaret"	m Anne Garvie	m Esther Flower	m Elizabeth Anne Williams	m Lyda Warren 1842-1891	
- Isabella (Bella) 1849-? m George Herald "Mrs Herald" - Jessie 1850-1873 m James Hunter Trout - many more	- William Alexander - Mary Evangeline - John - George - Jean (Jennie) 1862-1950 - Simon - Herbert 1867-1930 - Milton - others	- Alexander Robert - Jessie - Jean Stewart - Robert Alexander - Clara Grace - Margaret Florence Alberta - James Alfred - Minerva "Minnie" 1868-1953 - Martha Emma - Mary Ella - John William - Ernest Stewart	- Christopher Alexander (C.A.) 1857-1945 - Mary Jane 1852-1942 m Archibald McIntyre - Jessie Melissa 1852-1950 m Samuel Brown - Anna Isabella - Victoria (Vickie) 1866-1953 - John William James - Albert Edwin (AE) 1871-1956 - Thomas Alfred Robertson (TA) 1874-1959	- William - Alexander 1858-1939 - John - Joseph - Albert - Jessie - Margaret Jane - David James - Bertha - Ernest	- Florence 1863-1939 - Sidney A. 1865-1929 - Christina A. (Chris) 1867-1945 -many more	- 5 children	- Harvey 1872-? - Stuart 1877-1942 - Roy 1878-1958 - Ruth 1882-1971 - Annie – 1885-?	

Corrections January 12, 2017