

Courtland Olds (1844 – 1896)

1896

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{Note to reader: The original scan, done years ago, cut off the right-hand side of the page for a number of pages throughout the diary. This is why some entries make less sense and/or why some entries have numerous comments in curly brackets. In cases where words or sentences are cut-off due to scanning, our best educated guesses were used to attempt to complete those entries.}

THE CANADIAN POCKET DIARY FOR 1896.

C.C. Olds

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January WEDNESDAY 1 1896

Got up a couple of loads of wood this forenoon to be-gin the new year. This afternoon Have been engaged entertaining vis-itors most of the time. Went over to the prayer-mee-ting to-night, and had a very good time. There are in-dications of a shower of bless-ings upon our neighborhood. May we not only ask, but ask be-leiving.

January THURSDAY 2 1896

Have been working in thee woods again to day as u-sual, Part of Awfords force, have been & helping. There is a change in the weather takeing place. It is becomeing colder Wife and I went over to Mr. Ebersoles to spend the eve-ning. Had a very pleasant time with him and his excell-ent wife.

January FRIDAY 3 1896

Cold weather has come at last, and seems likely to stay with us for a while. I have been working in the woods, Jim & John have been helping me. I found it pretty cold working as a very strong North west wind has been blow-ing all day. Mr. Awford is has been to mill takeing a grist for us as well as for himself.

January SATURDAY 4 1896

The very cold weather have continued today. The pre-vailing winds are from the West and North West. Have been buisy as usual to day trying to get wood prepared for the fire. It has been almost to cold to work out of door today. Had a letter from S. Kitchen to day which made me feel blue, it was a dunning letter.

{Duplicate of the previous page}

January SUNDAY 5 1896

The contin-ued cold weather and bad roads ~~are~~ were suf-ficient to keep us from going out to our own church to day. Went over to hear Mr Ebersole this evening how-ever and en-joyed the ser-vice very well. We have been praying and look-ing for a revi-val in this church but, so for our expectations have not been real-ised. Lord in-crease our faith!

January MONDAY 6 1896

I worked in the woods this forenoon with the Awford's at cut-ting wood. This afternoon I went up to Lynnvalley calling at A.C. Matthews' on the way and A.G. Rose's. Went to see the tax-collector about our tax, it being still unpaid. Our Township council were vo-ted for to day and I had to put in my vote as usual. The weather has been very cold and Wintry.

January TUESDAY 7 1896

I have en-gaged at wood-cutting to day. Mr Awford's have also been help-ing. There has been but little change in the weather; except continued signs of a snow-storm. Had an offer of Lombard plum trees for next Spring's planting at twelve cents each. This is by far the lowest price so far. The Green Company of Rochester is the party.

January WEDNESDAY 8 1896

We were cuting wood in the woods again this fore-noon. This afternoon I have been geting up some wood for ~~our~~ our own use. The little snow that has lately fallen makes it possible to draw wood with the sleighs. There is a con-stant appearance of snow, but it only seems to come in moder-ate quantities, If it keeps on how-ever it will not be long befor we have sleighing in earnest.

January THURSDAY 9 1896

Have had a family dinner today. All my unckles except one on my mothers side with their wives and ~~ehil~~ some of their chil-dren favoured us with their pres-ence for din-ner. Went down to William Watts'es {Watts'} for another dinner this evening. Had a pleasant visit there also, my old friend W.J. Car-penter & wife was also there. Think that Watt's & his wife also have been benefited by their Sojourn in Harriston

January FRIDAY 10 1896

Did not feel overly well from our late night out, last night. So did no do very much this fore-noon. Had a Mr Jones here from Jarvis who is dealing in various kinds of timber. partly promised to let him have some hickory and other loggs. Went out to Port Dover this afternoon take-ing Maggie with me. We are laikely to have snow soon again, apparently.

January SATURDAY 11 1896

Mr Awford and I have been buisy to day get-ing in the ball-ance of straw-stack, the weather being quite favour-able for our work. There are strong indications of a thaw or of a storm close at hand. Have been blessed to day with peace, such as God above can give. My poor Soul is resting sweetly on the bousom of my precious Saviour. Glory be to thee O Lord Most High.

January SUNDAY 12 1896

Went out to meeting in Port Dover this morning take-ing my mother with me. Had an excellent discourse from our own minister. His text was, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory ~~th~~ which shall be revealed in us". We had a precious time in our class meeting also. Went over to hear Bro Ebersole this evening, and had a good time there also. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

January MONDAY 13 1896

There is a constant appearance of snow, but still it does not come. Mr. Awfords and I have been cutting wood in the woods again to day. Have just been reading a letter of Mr E.D. Tilson respecting his experience with the silo. He says that He he could not farm success-fully without this mode of preserving feed.

January TUESDAY 14 1896

We have been cutting wood in the woods to day, the Awford and I. The weath-er is rather cold; but as there is no snow to speake of on the Ground it is a fine time to cut wood. Have been enjoying the blessing of the Spirit of which we are told that. as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the Sons of God. What a wondrous exaltation.

January WEDNESDAY 15 1896

The weather is very fine and rather mild though Win-terlike. Have been working in the woods again to day and Mr Awfords have been helping as usual. It makes quite a difference w weather we have but one hand or three to keep when cutting wood even. Four of us have been working together most of the time and our pile has grown fast.

January THURSDAY 16 1896

Worked in the woods this forenoon at wood cutting as usual, Mr Aw-ford helped me. This afternoon I have been getting up wood. with the sleighs. There is every appearance of a thaw just now. Had a visit from Wellington J. Carpenter and wife together with W.A. Watts and wife with Nellie. We had a very nice time with our friends.

January FRIDAY 17 1896

Worked this forenoon at sundry jobs. Went down to the saw-mill this afternoon and got a load of bass-wood lumber and took it out to Port Do-ver afterwards where I left it with my unckle George Matthews. Found the roads rather better owing to the present warm spell. It is even get-ing muddy.

January SATURDAY 18 1896

~~Took~~ Got up a couple of loads of wood this forenoon after which I went out to Port Dover to attend his birth-day dinner. ~~Found~~ Maggie and my mother went with me. Found quite a gathering of our friends and relatives gath-ered together to celebrate the occasion. My unckle has arrived at his Seventy first birth-day.

January SUNDAY 19 1896

Went out to our own church this morning as usual, Bro Ben-net officiated in his usual way. The subject of dis-course was prayer, and the promises in conection there-with. The first condition in order to the answering of prayer is, to abide in Him as a fruitful branch Went over to Bro Ebersoles mee-ting this evening as usual and enjoyed his dis-course on Felix & Paul, very much.

January MONDAY 20 1896

Worked this fore-noon at fixing up my bob sleighs. The snow that came yesterday and day before making it necess- This afternoon I went down to the saw-mill and took a load of heavy lumber to My unckle George Matthews in Port Dover. The snow has been going off quite fast to day; but, the wheeling is very good however. Went with the waggon.

January TUESDAY 21 1896

Went out to Dover this fore-noon with an-other load of hickory and White ash lum-ber from the saw mill. The roads are very good from the mill out. Went up to Clarke Matthews this evening for a visit took Maggie and my mother with me also Eveline. We had a very pleasant evening with our friends some ten or more of whom were present.

January WEDNESDAY 22 1896

Went over to my neighbour Horns {James Horn} this fore-noon and he and I cut up the big white-ash tree along the line fence about which we came near having a dispute. We divided up the tree equally as near as possible. Went down to the mill again this afternoon and got another load of heavy lumber for my unckle George. Took it out this afternoon

January THURSDAY 23 1896

Was intend-ing to go to the farmers in-stitute at Vit-toria to day. It began rain-ing just before we were ready to start however and we thought best not to go. Our decis=ion proved to be a wise one for it has been raining in=cessantly all day. Went over to john Marr's to spend the eve-ning, Maggie having gone over this afternoon.

January FRIDAY 24 1896

The rain that began yesterday morning has con-tinued to day, It has ~~be~~ not been heavy, but very incess-ant and rather inclined to snow. I have been engaged at sundry jobs in-side, such as fixing bob-sleigh, makeing foot-stool and sundry the jobs for the house. Have felt rather blue to day, perhaps from the state of ~~of~~ the weather.

January SATURDAY 25 1896

Worked arround this forenoon at sundry jobs This afternoon however Maggie and I started for Wyecombe. Stopped in Sim-coe for a short time at G.W. Lemon's on the way and made some arrange-ments for the comeing Spring delivery. Arrived safely at Wyecombe in due course and found the old people well. Mrs Ferguson is not very well though.

January SUNDAY 26 1896

Went with Mr. and Mrs Ferguson to the Wyecombe Church for the morning ~~e~~ ser-vice. Had the satisfaction of hearing the present Simcoe minister Rev Mr. Prescott. - Enjoyed his discourse very much. Towards night we drove over to Delhi, and heard Rev Mr Write the new minister there. Was pleased and proffited by his discourse also. His wife sang a beautiful solo.

January MONDAY 27 1896

Spent the forenoon in Delhi, Maggie and I - most of the time at her brother Will's. Had a very pleasant and proffitable visit with them. Told him some of my plans for the feeding of cattle for various purposes, and of the proposed plant-ing of plum trees ~~for~~ in the Spring. Was pleased to have his appro-val in both projects. Came home this afternoon.

January TUESDAY 28 1896

Went down to the mill this forenoon and after getting a load on the waggon I took it to Port Dover delivering at the shop of my unckle George. While in town paid my life insurance for the month. The day has been quite mild and the snow had been fast dis-appearing. It is good waggon-ing however.

January WEDNESDAY 29 1896

Went down to Jarvis this forenoon to see about selling wheat to pay taxes. Found that the price had improved somewhat and was seventy two cents per Bu. Have been up to Rose's to get some lumber out of his pile, taken there by mistake, And from there in Thomas Jacksons, Comeing home by William Wattses Got to the prayer-meeting to night & had a good time.

January THURSDAY 30 1896

Went down to the mill this forenoon after another load of lumber which I brought home Mr Awford killed his old sow this afternoon and I helped him awhile. Got home a load of lumber from A.G. Rose's this afternoon that had been taken there last Spring by mistake. Am anxious to get done with this lumber drawing so as to do some-thing else.

January FRIDAY 31 1896

Went down to the saw mill this morning after a load of saw-dust for bedding. This afternoon I took the last load of lumber out to my unckle George Matthews, so this job is out of the way after such a long time. Had an offer of nine dollars per 1000 ft. for hickory in the log, to day to be delivered in Jarvis Thought to take some loggs down if the roads should be favourable. Weather is still mild with an East Wind.

FEBRUARY SATURDAY 1 1896

Cut wood this forenoon at the woodhouse with Jims help. Went to the woods this after-noon, We cut down a hickory tree for, sale, pro-viding snow en-ough comes for sleighing. Have a chance by de-livering in Jarvis to sell at nine dollars per thou-sand ft. in the log all the hick-ory's we want to spare; of course this will not be many. Weather continues very mild.

February SUNDAY 2 1896

Went out to our Quarterly Meeting in Port Dover this mor-ning. Our own minister officiated. The day being very pleasant and the roads good there was a good congregation present. The Lord was also in our very midst, to own and bless. Had dinner at my unckle George Matthews. Went over to hear bro Ebersole this evening as usual.

February MONDAY 3 1896

There has been a contin-uous snow storm to day from dif-ferent quarters. The quantity of snow that has fallen is quite moderate how-ever. Have been reading up on fruit cul-ture to day, the storm being to severe for out-of-door work. Had a very pleasant visit from Mr and Mrs Ebersole this evening. They are our near neighbours now.

February TUESDAY 4 1896

I have been buisy to day as usual. Got up a couple of loads of wood this forenoon, snow having come in sufficient quan-tities for sleighing. This afternoon have been take-ing the bark off of a

hickory tree, preparatory to drawing. Recieved a small book on silage by Prof-fessor Will of Wisconsin Univer-sity to day. Hope it will be of advantage to us.

February WEDNESDAY 5 1896

Went down to the saw-mill this forenoon after a load of saw-dust for bedding. The snow that Came yesterday has made very good sleighing, It has been badly spoiled this af-ternoon however, Have been drawing up wood this aft-ernoon from the woods.. ~~Went~~ Was sur-prised with a bailif to day about my taxes so will have attend to it at once.

February THURSDAY 6 1896

Cleaned up a load of wheat this foreneen with Jim's help Snow and rain has been falling all day makeing it a very disagree-able day al-together. Have been studying my new book, on Ensilage this afternoon. Would like to make a silo for filling next Fall, There seem to be a possibil-ity of makeing them cheaper than we used to think

February FRIDAY 7 1896

Jim and I cleaned up a load of wheat for market this forenoon, Intend-ed to have ta-ken it to Jar-vis this after-noon but a snow and sleet storm has been in progress part of the time at least. Went out to Dover this after-noon to attend our first Hor-ticultural so-cietiy meeting. Got seventeen members to start one.

February SATURDAY 8 1896

Worked arround this forenoon at sundry jobs. This afternoon however I went down to Jarvis with a load of wheat. The snow-storm of yester-day did not make sleighing so I went with the waggon. Sold my load of wheat to B. Allen at 80 cts per Bushell. I find that the proceeds at this price is some-thing more than when at fifty cents.

February SUNDAY 9 1896

A heavy snow storm has been in progress since last night, lasting all of to day & is still in progress. There was no possibility of geting out to church. We have how-ever been proffiting on the time af-forded by the precious sabbath of rest for reading and for other rel-igious exer-cises.

February MONDAY 10 1896

Have been working this forenoon at cleaning up my last load of wheat for this year for market. Kept Jim home to help me until noon. Mr Awford went out to town this afternoon to see Mr Ellis but just made out to mils seeing him. He took out a grist of chop to the mill also. A terrible snow storm is in pro-gress to night.

February TUESDAY 11 1896

Have had a terrific wind & snow storm last night and to day, piling up the snow at a great rate Went down to Jarvis this afternoon with my last load of wheat. Sold for the same as the last load, previous - viz eighty cents per bushell. Took ten ~~load~~ bushells of buck-wheat which I sold for thirty five centers per Bu.

February WEDNESDAY 12 1896

Went up to Simcoe this forenoon, to pay my taxes for the next year. Had to pay something over two dollars cost which was not very pleasant. Called at my uncle John's on the way home and took dinner. This evening attended prayer-meeting and had a good time, The Good Lord was with us. Chris. Nelson & wife have taken our store, Went in to see them to night.

February THURSDAY 13 1896

There has been another continuous fall of snow for some twenty hours duration. Have not been able to work outside to day as a consequence We seem likely to have an abundance of snow and sleighing after all. We have decided to undertake building a silo for another seasons use & will get logs in for this purpose.

February FRIDAY 14 1896

The snow storm of yesterday, has left us with a considerable quantity of snow on the ground. Most of it seems piled up in the corners and side-roads. Have been doing sundry jobs to day. This afternoon I have been painting my sap pails, and getting them ready for spring work.

February SATURDAY 15 1896

Have had a very cold, stormy day. The fall of snow has been steadily increasing. Thought to have gone out to town, but the weather has been rather bad for going. Have been improving the time in different ways, mostly at splitting wood and in reading. We have decided to try building a silo the coming summer.

February SUNDAY 16 1896

Went out to church this morning taking my wife with me. The weather has been very cold to day, the Cross roads are badly drifted, Went out to hear Bro. Ebersole again this evening also. Feel thankful for the benefits derived from the services of the sanctuary. "The best of all is God is with us.

February MONDAY 17 1896

Owing to the very cold weather yesterday and to day I worked in the woodhouse this forenoon. This afternoon I went out to the woods and worked awhile. Selected a couple of elm trees to work into the proposed silo, and got them partly cut down. The thermometer was down as low as twelve degrees below zero this morning. Some of the neighbors say twenty.

February TUESDAY 18 1896

The very cold weather has passed away since morning Snow has been falling this afternoon, but I have been cutting down a couple of elm trees and John has been helping. We purpose having our studding for silo made out of elm, and boards mostly as well, this being our most abundant timber for present use.

February WEDNESDAY 19 1896

Went out of the woods this forenoon to cut saw logs from some elm cut lately. Before noon however it began to snow and blow from the West and North-West, so I had to stop work. Have been reading over some old papers this afternoon. Came across a place for building a barn, called the plank barn-no timbers being used simply plank.

February THURSDAY 20 1896

The stormy cold weather still continues. Have continued to stay in the house most of the time to day, a cold wind being in progress all day. Had the pleasure of receiving some money from Mr Awford to day - a return of a portion of our years tax, Feel much encouraged by the change that has taken place since he came.

February FRIDAY 21 1896

Got our roads broke this forenoon and a load of pea straw up from the little barn. I went out to the Port Dover mill with a grist of chop &c this afternoon. While it was grinding drove down to the village where I had several errands to attend to. The weather is much milder than yesterday, but still it seems pretty cold.

February SATURDAY 22 1896

Took Jim with me to the woods this forenoon and we finished cutting our six elm logs & getting them ready to draw. Took the family down to William Wattses this afternoon to see the new arrival. Mr Edmondson came and took away his two remaining Sheep this afternoon. The sleighing is quite good at present.

February SUNDAY 23 1896

Owing to rain that has been falling to day we did not get out to church this morning. Went over to hear Mr Ebersole this evening however, and as usual felt benefited by going. The sabbath is a precious day even when we cannot get out to our usual morning service. The Lord does not confine his blessings to the sanctuary.

February MONDAY 24 1896

Our thaw that began yesterday has continued until to day noon since which time it has been freezing. Have taken my two first saw logs down to the mill this afternoon. or rather to day. Intending for use the lumber for a silo, which we proposed making next Summer. We are rather short of feed and don't feel like depending on common feed supplies much longer.

February TUESDAY 25 1896

Had a very discouraging time this forenoon with my saw-logs. Failed to get even one to the mill beforenoon though I had one loaded twice and broke down besides. Will have to load it up again. Took my wife and children up to Simcoe this afternoon en-route for Delhi and Wyecombe and expect them to be away for a fortnight at least. Feel very blue to night.

February WEDNESDAY 26 1896

My natal day has again returned; but owing to a cloud that has been over me it has not been one of joy I have been engaged as usual at my work. Took a couple of large elm logs down to the mill this afternoon - the sleighing being very good. It seems hard to live without my wife and children, they being all away on a visit.

February THURSDAY 27 1896

Got to work in good time this morning at my saw-logging. Took two logs down to the mill before dinner & large ones too. This afternoon I managed alone to get out a large oak log that was very difficult to handle Succeeded however in getting it as far as Mr McBrides on the hill. Weather is quite warm and snow fast disappearing. Am nearly through with my saw-logs however

February FRIDAY 28 1896

Took our large oak log down to the mill this morning. Had to work until nearly noon before it could be got on the roll-way. This afternoon took the two white ash logs down to the mill that fell to me from the large tree on the line between James Horn and us. We divided the tree equally as near as we could. This tree has been a bone of contention for many years, but is done for now and I am very thankful.

February SATURDAY 29 1896

Split and cut wood at the house this forenoon with Jims help. This afternoon we all went to the woods and continued the same work. Have noticed that the three last days of February which some say rule the three Spring months have all been very mild. The last one has been the coldest somewhat. Do not however take much stock in these signs, for I have seen them fail more than once.

March SUNDAY 1 1896

On account of the almost im-passible state of the roads we did not get out to church this morning as we desired. Have been improving the time as best we could at home. This evening however I went over to hear Bro. Ebersole. Always feel benefited in this way. His discourses are always earnest and practical, It seems to bad that his congregation could not be larger.

March MONDAY 2 1896

March is coming in like a lion indeed, on time. Both yesterday and today have been very cold and blustery. Have been cutting up our elm tops to day cut off Mr Awfords John's help. Working in sheltered place we found it rather a pleasant day to work. Have been somewhat busy of late with anxiety for the Spring payment so soon upon us; cut off

March TUESDAY 3 1896

March has brought us another very cold windy day. This makes them now, all about alike. Have been cutting wood in the woods again today with Mr Awfords help as usual. Had a letter from my wife to night, and was glad to find that their visit was progressing favourably. She is visiting now at her fathers with the children.

March WEDNESDAY 4 1896

Mr Awford's I have been in the woods again today The weather has been very cold and wintry, tonight for working in the woods John started to draw wood this afternoon but broke down his second log. Have one of Mr Irae Wood's sons staying tonight with us He came from Wyecombe this afternoon, Report well there as are our folks.

March THURSDAY 5 1896

Young Mr Wood-ward who spent last night with us, went away this forenoon for his home at Wyecombe. Got to work this afternoon at drawing up wood from the woods. Succeeded in getting up five good big loads. We seem to be on the eve of warmer weather. It has been much warmer even to day. Recieved my first copy of the Horticulturalist to day, The first for some years.

March FRIDAY 6 1896

It rained most of the forenoon I worked inside and made a pile of axe-handles This afternoon however we have been getting a couple loads of pea straw Went down to the mill this evening and brought home small load of lumber, besides looking after logs. Have cut off logs yet to get on the way. The weather is turning warm to night.

March SATURDAY 7 1896

To day we have seen continued stormy windy weather. I went up to Simcoe this forenoon notwithstanding the storm. While there got twenty five more pails for sap, also some more spiles. Attended also to a matter at the bank. Recieved a letter from my wife this evening, also one from my little girl Dottie. Could not make out much sense the latter though.

March SUNDAY 8 1896

Went out to church this evening, the first time in four or five weeks taking Bertha with me. Found that our own minister was away but an y cut off too, whose cut off was unknown to us officiated. Called at William Watts on the way home. He having lately had a very narrow escape from cut off from a mad cut off Heard Bro Ebersole this evening as usual

March MONDAY 9 1896

Went down to the saw-mill this morning after a load of lumber, also to see about getting the remaining logs on the rollway. Found the latter job impracticable. Brought home the lumber however. Got started this afternoon at getting up ice for Summer use. We intend putting in a corner of our wood-house. Weather is moderating somewhat.

March TUESDAY 10 1896

Have been working away to day with all our might, trying to get our Summer supply of ice put away. Jim has been helping me We got up cut off loads from the creek on our own place, cut off we thought would be sufficient and have been packing away in the corner of the woodhouse Our old friend G.W. Lemon Came in to cut off over night with us to night cut off a long time

March WEDNESDAY 11 1896

We are having our cold weather now, instead of in the early winter months. Have been having a cold N.E. snow and wind storm to day. Snow has been falling in quite large quantities. Got our ice all packed this forenoon and ready for covering with saw-dust. Have been working inside at Making axe-handles this afternoon, having found a piece of hickory recently. Our friend G.W. Left us again this morning.

March THURSDAY 12 1896

Have been exceedingly buisy t{his} forenoon geting {the} ice covered with saw-dust besid{es} other jobs. ~~Get~~ Went up {to} Wyecombe this e{ve}ning after my w{ife} and children. G{ot} there about ni{ne} o'clock. Found them all well except colds, a{nd} ready to go ho{me} with me in the morning. Had {an} exceedingly cold drive up, it w{as} Zero weather {in?} earnest, with driving north w{est} wind.

March FRIDAY 13 1896

We started from Mr Ferguson's Wyecombe this forenoon at about ten o'clock - Maggie, the two children and myself. Had a rather comfortable drive down to my friend W.J. Carpen-ters, where we arrived at about two P.M. Attended the Far-mers Institute and Horticultural meeting in the town hall this afternoon. A very interesting and instructive address from or by Mr McNeil of Windsor Ont. on growing small fruits & grapes &c. Got home safely in good time.

March SATURDAY 14 1896

Have been wor{king} away as usua{l} to day at sun{dry} jobs. Got home part of a load {of} saw dust for {cov}ering the ice {and?} a couple of loa{ds} of # lumber f{rom} the saw-mill, {leav}ing one there s{cut off} for another day The weather c{on}tinues to be cold and rather wi{ndy} as is usual in March. It is quite a {cut off} to have my wife and children ho{me} again. I seem to miss them more {and} more as they get older.

March SUNDAY 15 1896

Maggie and I went out to Port Dover this morning to church Our own min-ister officiated and in his usual very acceptable way. Went over to Mr Ebersoles church this eve-ning as usual, Feel much ben-efited always, by attending the house of Worship. Wonder that so many people can be contented to deprive them-selves of this bless-ing

March MONDAY 16 1896

Went down {to} the saw mill this morning a{nd got?} the last of {our} silo lumber e{x}cepting the lo{ggs} yet to saw. Have been ge{t}ing up wood since. The lumber hewers came {to} day and have nearly got {the} five hickory {loggs?} ready to dr{cut off} My cousin A{llice} Culver came {this} evening to s{tay} over night w{ith} us. She came after my mo{ther} for a visit {as} well.

March TUESDAY 17 1896

Have been buisy to day as usual. Got up our two last loads of pea straw from the little barn this forenoon. This afternoon I have been get-ing up wood as fast as pos-sible, for fear of the snow leaving us. It has been thawing quite fast to day. Had a visit from Alice Culver last night. She went home again this morning takeing my mother with here for a week or so.

March WEDNESDAY 18 1896

Went out {to} the Port this fo{re}noon, Calling {at} James Feasgues {on} the way to see about the dra{w}ing of some l{um}ber. Had dinner {at} my unckle Geo{rge} Matthews. Got pay for {the} timber sold {last?; cut off} but it was a {cut off} disappointing {cut off} Fully expected to {cut off} {have?} had some eighteen {or} twenty dollars; bu{t,} realy had scarce{ly; cut off} Weather quite S{pring} like, and sho{uld} think, a sap {cut off} though I have m{ade} it for this time.

March THURSDAY 19 1896

A storm has been in progress to day - mostly from the North East, snow has been falling fast. I have been working inside at making axe-handles &c Always find something to do even if the weather is storm-y. Our family is much reduced and seems quite small, Bertha and my mother both being away. The latter is helping Miss Giles.

March FRIDAY 20 1896

The terrific snow and wind storm last yesterday continued through last night and most of to day It came latterly from the North drifting up the Concession in a great shape. I have been busily engaged to day at sundry jobs as usual Mostly getting cut off in readiness to work after the seasons arrive for it. The weather is also quite cold for the time of year.

March SATURDAY 21 1896

Worked with Mr Awfords at getting up willow wood this forenoon. This afternoon I have been taping trees for the first. The sap ran very well for a little while, The weather is rather cold yet however for maple sugar making. Have had an exceedingly cold March this time. Have no doubt it will be followed by a warm April.

March SUNDAY 22 1896

On account of the terrible state of the roads we did not get to our usual morning service at Port Dover; but, went over to hear Bro. Ebersole instead, both morning. As usual enjoyed the service very much This brother is always earnest and a proficient preacher to hear The weather is very cold and wintry. A N.W. Wind being the cause just now.

March MONDAY 23 1896

Have been very busy today as usual. The weather is rather cold for sugar making so that we have had but little sap after all. Split fence blocks &c this fore-noon. Have been trimming trees &c this afternoon. My mother came home again this evening from my uncle Robert Culvers. James Holcomb came after one of our horses this evening.

March TUESDAY 24 1896

Have been very busily engaged at trimming trees to day most of the time. Tapped a few more maple trees this afternoon, which must make something like one hundred and forty or fifty Went down to Watts'es this evening to see him about surplus horse{s} Did not find him at home however. Found Mr C. Smith quite unwell.

March WEDNESDAY 25 1896

I went down to W.H. Watts' this morning to get his advice about our two Mares Took them down to Jarvis this afternoon - there being a buyer there from Buffalo. Did not succeed in getting an offer on either one of them however, although I was anxious to make a sale of both. Sap has been running. Got our first gathering this evening.

March THURSDAY 26 1896

Worked this forenoon at sundry jobs, mostly inside, however as a snow & sleet storm has been in progress This afternoon have been working in the woods at gathering sap &c. There

was quite a run yesterday and last night, rain came with it though so that it will be of inferior quality. Maggie and I visited our new keeper & wife this evening, Cris. Nelson

March FRIDAY 27 1896

Have been very busy as usual, to day. Worked this fore-noon at sun-dry jobs; but, this afternoon have been pre-paring wood for Summers use. Weather is cold again, and sap don't run very much. W.H. Watts was to dinner with us; and, while here hired George Awford for the Summer. There seems to be an unusual number of men this year.

March SATURDAY 28 1896

Worked at splitting wood this forenoon at the woodhouse. This afternoon I went out to Dover taking my mother with me. The roads are very bad and yet my mother stayed going home with W.J. Carpenters necessitating my return to morning. Found my friend L.G Morgan laid up with lumbago, so that his office has to be run by his friends.

March SUNDAY 29 1896

Went out to meeting this evening instead of this morning on account of the bad roads partly; and on account of my mother who is already there. Thought it would give her another chance to go to church. It has been a beautiful warm day and the snow has been disappearing very fast. We seem likely now to have warm weather in earnest.

March MONDAY 30 1896

Have been exceedingly busy to day and Jim has been helping me. We gathered and boiled down our first batch of sap. Had a nice gathering for this time Did not all get done though for we have some four barrels of sap yet on cut off for to morrow boiling. Have had a beautiful Spring like day.

March TUESDAY 31 1896

Have been boiling down in the woods to day, and Jim has been helping me. It has been a very good sap day as well so that our stock of sap has not decreased so very much, after all. Had W. Watts and family here to dinner with his eldest daughter Emma. Could not spend much time with them however, from my work.

April WEDNESDAY 1 1896

We gathered sap again this forenoon; but, owing to high East wind thought best to postpone the boiling down process, until better weather. Have been working at the wood cutting & splitting the most of time since. G.W. Lemon came just before noon, to see me about the coming Spring Deliveries at Simcoe and Port Dover. It seems that I am required for cut off

April THURSDAY 2 1896

I went down to Jarvis this forenoon to try and sell our two spare horses. Had a terrible time going down and back owing to the wind and snow storm that prevailed through the day. Failed in my purpose however and had to bring the horses back home again unsold. This is the second time I have failed.

April FRIDAY 3 1896

A cold Nor{th} West wind {has} been blowi{ng} to day with occasional s{now} squall. It h{as} consequently {been} very unplea{sant} out of doo{rs} Have been {working?} at sundry j{obs} mostly insi{de} however. My friend {cut off} Wilson's son ~~Walter~~ {illegible} up this eve{ning} He has co{me} to spend {the} Easter hollo{wday} with me i{n} the Sap bu{sh}

April SATURDAY 4 1896

Went up to Simcoe this fore-noon to see about a note I had there to attend to; and another matter also that required to be attended to. Went up to Delhi this after-noon to see about geting W.A. Ferguson to send for my plum trees for this Springs plant-ing &c. Drove home again this eve-ning, arriving safely at about half past eleven P.M.

April SUNDAY 5, 1896

Did not g{et} out to chu{rch} this morning {by?} myself; but {got?} out my wif{e} with two oth{er} members of {the} family. Went over {to} hear bro. Ebe{rsole} this evening {how}ever. It be{ing} Easter Sun{day} the services {to} day and the evening were {cut off}ed to the occa{sion} Have been {cut off} with a very {prec}ious sense of {ap}preciation of {the} death & Suff{ering} of our Savi{our} Surely he died fo{r}; cut off}

April MONDAY 6 1896

I went out to town first thing this mor-ning on a mat-ter of business with bro Ellis. Got home again before noon and this afternoon went down to the saw-mill, after a load of saw-dust and to put a log on the roolway. Found this evening that the sap had been runing consider-ably for the last three days the pails and pans being well filled up.

April TUESDAY 7 1896

Began sow{ing} clover-seed t{his} morning in {the} field back {of} the barn. A{fter?} seeding it w{ith} Alsike. Have been {en}gaged at s{un}dry other jo{bs} as well, cu{ting} wood, and gathering s{ap} The weathe{r} has been c{cut off} and quite s{cut off} for several {days?} but, not {cut off} cold but wh{en} sap would {run?} So we hav{e} now a goo{d} lot to boil down.

April WEDNESDAY 8 1896

We began again to boil down sap to day; having a considerable quantity on hand. Succ-ceeded in get-ing a nice batch into syr-up by to night. The run of sap near began last Saturday still continues and is an unusualy good one. Have had lots of help, such as it was. Walter Wilson & George Gutcher with Jim.

April THURSDAY 9 1896

Jim and I with Walter {Wilson} have be{en} boiling do{wn} to day aga{in} The latter w{ent} out to Dover {on} the way h{ome} this afterno{on} however. Rain has b{een} falling this {eve}ning in c{on}siderable qu{an}tities make{ing} our work in the woods r{ather} disagreeable Sap has be{en} flowing be{au}tifuly an{d} we are g{eting} a nice co{cut off} ready to bo{il down}

April FRIDAY 10 1896

We have been boiling down again to day, jim and I. Had some six pails of syrup this evening as the result. Much the larg-est batch yet. It took us un-til ten o'clock to night to get through with the job. Due of the result has been the contraction of a severe cold, by myself. Sap has con-tinued to run grandly today.

April SATURDAY 11 1896

Had deligh{tful} April Shower last night {and} this forenoon Jim and I h{ave} been working away at b{oil}ing down s{ap} as usual to day. Made {a} considerable {ad}dition to the stock of Syr{up} Had some visitors at boiling plac{e} to night, w{hich?} is a very C{cut off} sion occur{rence} during sy{rup} makeing. {Cut off; I?} always try {to} fill them {up} on demand

April SUNDAY 12 1896

Owing to the terrible state of the roads we did not got out to our own meet-ing; but, went over to Mr Ebersole's church instead both morning and evening. The weather is very warm and there are bright prospects of good roads before long. Enjoy the sab-bath at home once in awhile without going to church, but only once in a while.

April MONDAY 13 1896

Jim and {I} have got to {work?} again at o{ur} Syrup make{ing} as usual. {The?} weather is {be}comeing ra{ther} unfavourable for sap alth{ough} it is runing still. We {suc}ceeded in ge{ting} another ni{ce} batch this {eve}ning. We had o{ur} near neighbo{rs} to eat suga{r} this evening Mr Awfords {and?} some neigh{bor} boys. Weather sti{ll} is} very fine.

April TUESDAY 14 1896

Have been boiling down sap again to day expecting this time to make a finish of it. Failed however, for we had nearly two milk cans full after our days work was done. Maggie went down to Thomas Jacksons after some eggs for seting this eve-ning, and Mrs Clarke came home with her. The weather con-tinues very fine and warm.

April WEDNESDAY 15 1896

Our last {boil}ing of sap c{ame} off to day. {Cut off} it was a s{mall?} one. After g{eting} up backlogs {cut off} wood and ge{ting} them started {cut off} let Jim and Bertha do {the} boiling. There is v{ery} little appear{ance} of another r{un} of sap this year, the w{eather?} being a good deal like s{um}mer. Grass pr{os}pects are fex inside {cut off} two week{s}

April THURSDAY 16 1896

I have been busy triming apple trees in the front yard this forenoon, also most of the afternoon. Find that our ground is rather wet yet and yet Mr Awford is ploughing on the Big Flat. Spring like weather still continues and buds both bloss-om and leaf are geting well forward. There seems dan-ger of a rep-etition of last year as to fruit.

April FRIDAY 17 1896

Have been engaged at sundry job{s} this forenoon Went up to Simcoe this {af}ternoon Stop{ed} at Lynn val{ley} for some {oat?}meal. Too{k} some syrup {to} Florence a{nd} gave Gallon's {to} Sarah

Crysl(er) besides a {cut off} for Charley {Crysl(er)} to pay for {the} lot of ca{cut off} recieved ye{ster}day. Brought h{ome?} a Grimsby {disc} harrow, to {day} of Hamilton {Olds}

April SATURDAY 18 1896

Worked this forenoon at puting the new Grimsby harrow together lately bought of Hamilton Olds. This afternoon went over the onion patch & Straw-berry patch with it and like the way it works very well. Went out to town this eve-ning takeing my mother with me. Had a successful trip amongst some of my friends with maple syrup.

April SUNDAY 19 1896

The roads {hav}ing become p{ass}able we were able to get o{ut} to our own meeting in P{ort} Dover again to day. It {cut off} nearly a mo{n}th since this {was?} our priveleg{e} Had an exc{ellent} discourse fr{om} Bro B. on Al{l} things are goo{d?} and ye are C{cut off} and Christ {cut off} Went over to hear Brother {Eb}ersole this e{ve}ning as us{ual} Enjoyed this service ve{ry} much.

April MONDAY 20 1896

We started the harrow to day in the front field but owing to the ground being wet in spots had to resort to common harrow instead of the disc. Gathered up our sap-pails to day and plugged up the holes in Ma-ple trees for the season. Have also been dong what I could at triming cherry trees and apple trees as well. Weather keeps quite warm & dry.

April TUESDAY 21 1896

Have been able to trim tr{ees} most of the tim{e} to day, on account of havi{ng} Jim to drive {the} teem for me Had quite a shower of rain this afternoon which preven{ted} further seedi{ng} operations. My two aunts Lydia and Ja{ne?} with my cousin {cut off}nord were her{e} to dinner an{d} spend all aft{er}noon. Had a letter {from} Mr Whitesides {re}lateing to my {in}terest to day.

April WEDNESDAY 22 1896

Went down to Jarvis this forenoon to see about selling a horse or tow, takeing my wife with me. Did not get much satisfaction from my trip however. There does not seem to be much chance to see horses just now, the market be-ing over-stocked. Have been trim-ing trees this afternoon while jim has been harrowing in the front field

April Thursday 23 1896

Have had J{im} harrowing in {the} front field a{gain} to day. He ge{ts} along very w{ell} for a boy of {his} age. I have bee{n} buisy this f{ore}noon at tri{m}ing apple {trees} except when at other bus{iness} Mr Creighto{n} was here th{is} afternoon a{nd} bought our big mare Je{cut off} The price wa{s} small, but don't realy {need} her any m{ore} Fifty dollars {the} price recd.

April FRIDAY 24 1896

Had a heavy rain last night and this fore-noon, mostly from the East. Took the mare that I sold to Mr Creighton of Jarvis yesterday down to Hagers-ville this af-ternoon. Had a somewhat eventful trip but got there without serious accident, deliv-ered the horse and recieved the ball. due. Got home in good time about dark.

April SATURDAY 25 1896

Went up to Simcoe this forenoon, mostly to take some money for Interest, Paid the fifty dollars received yesterday on same. Called at A.G. Rose's on the way home for dinner and brought my mother home from there. Went out to Dover this evening to look after some small matters Put an Ad. in the Reformer & the maple leaf about our colt.

April SUNDAY 26 1896

Went out to church this morning taking my wife and Bertha with me. Had Bro Bennet to minister to us as usual. He gave us a grand sermon about the work of the Spirit &c. Went over to hear Bro Eber-sole this evening also. Never attend the ministrations of this brother either without profit.

April MONDAY 27 1896

Have had Jim finishing in the front field today while I have been trimming trees in the orchard The rain yesterday and last night left the ground somewhat wet, and everything is growing very fast. Never saw grass more forward at this time of year than now. Pasture is very good indeed.

April TUESDAY 28 1896

There was every appearance of rain this morning but it did not come after all. Have been drilling in oats and peas mixed in the front field by the church. Succeeded in getting all sown except what is still to plough and a small piece of wet ground. The weather is very warm and everything is growing very fast.

April WEDNESDAY 29 1896

Have been very busy today getting the front field cut off the store drilled in to a mixed crop of oats and peas. Finished all but about half an acre that is not yet ploughed It went in very well Went over to the prayer meeting this evening, and had a good time with the Christian friends.

April THURSDAY 30 1896

I started for Delhi early this morning, after straw-berry plants. Arrived there at a little after eleven o'clock A.M. After dinner I went to digging straw-berry plants, near the factory. Was stopped by a shower of rain about three o'clock; but, succeeded in getting what I wanted and home again this evening or night at 1? A.M.

May FRIDAY 1 1896

Have been very busy at setting out straw-berry plants in the front garden next to the road. Succeeded in getting them nearly all set out with John's help also Jim's and my wife's. Drove out to Dover this evening to see after the boxes of trees. After making ample arrangements, drove on to Simcoe for tomorrow's delivery.

May SATURDAY 2 1896

Our delivery at Simcoe came off today. My friend G.W. Lemon had just finished notifying last night. Had a rather successful time although there was a good many who could not pay for their

trees. A shower of rain this af-ternoon prevented people come-ing in from the country, so we had a large number of or-ders to keep over sunday.

May SUNDAY 3 1896

Went up to our regular Quar-terly meeting at Woodhouse to day takeing my wife and mother with me. Found the roads very bad owing to recent heavy rains; but felt amply repaid for going, by recieving a spiritual bless-ing, from the service of the occasion. Could not help thinking of the de-parted who but a few years ago worshiped under the same roof.

May MONDAY 4 1896

Brought home my plum trees this forenoon from Port Dover. Took them out of the box as soon as possible and found them quite advanced, being already in leaf. Set them in water as usual, until I could get time to set them out. Began deliv-ering notices for Port Dover De-livery, this af-ternoon. Tooke the Western por-tion of my ter-ritory this time –

May TUESDAY 5 1896

I have been out on the road to day deliver-ing notices, and found it diffi-cult to get the job done ready for the Delivery to morrow. Had a pleas-ant visit at Mr. W.L. Hedges an old English resident at peacock's point below Nanticoke. Finished up in Port Dover and did not get home until half past ten P.M. Found the folk's nearly all in bed.

May WEDNESDAY 6 1896

The Port Dover delivery came off to day. Got there about eight o'clock and found G.W.L. there and the trees all out of the boxes. Our delivery was a great success, there being but one note and not many but what paid us the cash down, for their Stock. Had a fine day for it and we got through much sooner than is usual, with ev-ery order off our hands.

May THURSDAY 7 1896

Felt much re-lieved to day to get home again where so much work was awaiting me. Began this mor-ning seting some Sovenir du Congress pear grafts obtained yesterday. Prepared onion ground after-wards and plan-ted the seed while Jim was geting the ground ready for plant-ing the plum trees. Mr William Small the old stock buyer came this afternoon also the tea man.

May FRIDAY 8 1896

Jim and I have been seting out Bur-bank plum trees to day. We began in the north End of the lot. The ground is in excellent condition for seting out trees, so it does not take half the work to put them in that it did last year a-mong the ap-ple trees of the orchard. I like working amongst trees how-ever, even seting them out.

May SATURDAY 9 1896

I have contin-ued to work at seting out ~~trees~~ plum trees to day as usual. Have cone my best, but there is still some-thing like forty to put in the ground yet. We are have-ing real sum-mer weather, so warm and dry just now. Rain has ceased comeing and may-be we will not have any more for a time..

May SUNDAY 10 1896

Went out to church to day as usual, Had the usual Spiritual feast from the min-isters discourse and a good time in our fellowship meet-ing as well. It has been very warm to day, and vegeta-tion is, become-ing quite for-ward. Went over to hear Mr Eber-sole this eve-ning as usual takeing the fam-ily with me.

May MONDAY 11 1896

Have been as buisy as ever at seting out plum trees in the new plot. Jim has been helping most of the time. Suc-ceeded in geting the last of the hundred and twenty five in the ground by the middle of the afternoon. Have since been working at re-pairing fences preparatory to turning out the cattle to pasture. Weather has continued very warm.

May TUESDAY 12 1896

We kept on seting our plum trees this forenoon Jim and I. Had some fif-teen or more of our own raising that we brought best to set out in the unoccu-pied portion. We have con-sequently suc-ceeded in get-ing at least one hundred and forty one plum trees ad-ded to our num-ber of this variety.

May WEDNESDAY 13 1896

Jim and I have been hoe-ing out our straw-berry patch to day. We have had a rather serious time owing to the grass having started seriously. The weather has changed very much and it seems now as though we might have an East storm of rain before long, there be-ing every ap-pearance of rain just now, besides being so much cooler.

May THURSDAY 14 1896

Jim and I finished hoeing out the straw-berry patch this forenoon. for the first. Got to work at ploughing in the field by the church where there is an acre or so to turn under for oats and peas. Found the ground very hard, and that it was almost impos-sible to plough it. There is a fine shower of rain comeing this evening however.

May FRIDAY 15 1896

I have been ploughing away in the front field, along the road, trying my best to get done. Last nights rain helped the ground to plough much better; but, it is hard enough yet. The weather has cooled off nicely since the rain, It has been quite com-fortable for work to day.

May SATURDAY 16 1896

It has taken me about all day to get the remaining por-tion of the front field ploughed. It was nearly six this evening when I fin-ished. Went over to George Ryer-ses this mor-ning after a couple of little piggs, for which I paid him a dollar and a half each. The G.T.R. is constructing a Railway bridge accross the river in Pt Dover just now.

May SUNDAY 17 1896

Went out to our own meeting in Port Dover this mor-ning as usual takeing my wife and mother with me or rather Bertha, for my mother stayed at home. Had a great gale of wind to day that seemed al-

most to take the top off the buggy sometimes. Had our usual feast of spiritual blessing both this morning and evening, notwithstanding the high Winds.

May MONDAY 18 1896

Have had Jim harrowing in the front field to day, He rooled the ground once as well. We have it now about ready to drill with oats and peas. I have been buisy at sun-dry jobs through the day. The Good Lord has been own-ing me as his child of Late - to the joy of my poor Soul. Glory be to the Lord most high

May TUESDAY 19 1896

Owing to rains last night and this forenoon we had to leave off our harrowing in the front field, to day. Jim and I have been cuting some willow wood at the house this forenoon and part of the afternoon. This evening I took Maggie and my mother out to Port Dover, mostly to attend a District mee-ting service in our church. Had a great treat while there.

May WEDNESDAY 20 1896

I went over to George Ryer-ses this mor-ning after some wailson straw-berry-plants to fill in where ours had died out. It took one hundred and thirty. Got them set out this forenoon also. This afternoon I have been drilling in the last of our oats and peas in the front field. Got it done to night. Had our old friend G.W. Lemon to visit us to night.

May THURSDAY 21 1896

The weather has continued to be fine and rather cool. Jim and I furrowed out the front field this morning and he has cleaned out the ditches. We also culti-vated the straw-berries, and this afternoon I have been hoe-ing them out. Had an offer from Mr Aber-crombie of twen-ty dollars for our three year old colt. which by the way, I have been asking fifty for

May FRIDAY 22 1896

Have been very buisily en-gaged to day trying to get the Strawberries hoed out the second time. Find it hard to conquer the thrifty weeds. The strawberryies ~~are come~~ plants are growing nicely however, with but a fiew vacancies. Jim has been rolling to day in the front field. He has rolled all the late sowing and some of the early.

May SATURDAY 23 1896

I went down to Jarvis this morning with the democrat, to take Bertha and Mrs Nelson to the Station, both of them being bound for Tor-onto. Called at Holcombs on the way home and had dinner. Have some hopes of selling the colt to Billy Holcomb. Went out to Dover this af-ternoon, and did some coll-ecting for Mr. Mackay.

May SUNDAY 24 1896

Went out to our usual morning ser-vice, this morning take-ing my mother and little Evel-ine with me. Our own min-ister officiated and gave us a stirring dis-course on the necessity of be-ing filled with the Holy Ghost. Went over to the neighbouring church this evening where Dr Lake preached enjoyed his dis-course very much.

May MONDAY 25 1896

There has been every appearance of rain to day; but it did not come after all. I have been very buisy as u-sual. Worked at rakeing out the onion bed this forenoon, and have since finished hoeing the Strawberry patch the sec-ond time, fin-ishing this eve-ning. The Queen's birth-day has been celebrated to day, in Jarvis and Simcoe.

May TUESDAY 26 1896

Have been ploughing and planting our patch of early potatoes to day. Went over to Mr Starlings this morning after potatoes to plant. Got a half bushell that he had got of my unckle John, and he of A.G. Rose from the latter from the U.S. be-ing a choice va-riety; but, he did not know the name. We had a very heavy rain last night, the heav-iest of the season

May WEDNESDAY 27 1896

Worked in the garden this fore-noon at planting some pota-toes and weeding out the onion-bed, with the rake. Went out to town this after-noon takeing my mother with me. Called to see Bro. Ellis, about visiting us before long. Saw the Shen-ango No 1 Come in with a big load of loaded carrs, twenty six I think. There is quite a stirr about town just now.

May THURSDAY 28 1896

Each day brings its labours; its joys, and its sorrows. The Good Lord has been gracious to us this day also. It has been a joy to serve him. A heavy rain and thunder storm came last night and to day we have had very high winds, though not cold. Went to the mill this after-noon after some lumber - the last for this time.

May FRIDAY 29 1896

Have been building over the fence on the back side of the field back of our barn to day. Jim has been take-ing the fence down for me and been otherwise use-ful. We did not lack a great deal of geting our fence all built over. Have had a gale of wind both to day and yes-terday; but it still keeps warm.

May SATURDAY 30 1896

Have been building over the fence north of the field back of the barn this forenoon. Jim has been helping me. Got about done by noon; and a good job too. Rain came this afternoon and we had to stop work out-side. Drove down to Jarvis this evening after Charley Crysler, and found him there as expected. Had a dark mud-dy drive home.

May SUNDAY 31 1896

Went out to our usual morning service in port Dover this morning take-ing Charley Crysler with me, also Dotie. Felt much edified by our ministers discourse on the great gift of the Holy Spirit It is a matter for rejoicing that all may have His wondrous presence. He has said, That He may be with you and in you forever. He is indeed our {men-ttor?} & guide.

June MONDAY 1 1896

Went through our onion patch this forenoon with the rake, also the straw-berry patch with the cultivator for the third time. Have been preparing some ground for corn in the plum orchard, in the South portion. Am so thank-ful that what-ever come,s weather, world-ly blessing or disappointments, God knows best, and the promise will still hold good All things shall work together for good &c.

June TUESDAY 2 1896

We actualy got our six sheep washed this forenoon. Had Charlie Crysler to help us. The water was very cold for the time of year. Have been discing the plum tree ground East of the house this af-ternoon. Think of sowing it to beans rather than have it idle all Sum-mer. Have got it nice and clean now. Weather still quite cool.

June WEDNESDAY 3 1896

Went over to George Ryerse's this forenoon and got three pecks of beans to sow in our plum tree lot East of lane. Got it sown and some other seeds such as corn for table use &c in the same field. We harrowed over our last sown peas and oats to day also, it being a good deal crusted over from recent rains followed by dry-ing weather.

June THURSDAY 4 1896

Harrowed over an acre of or so of late sown peas and oats that had been sown late and the ground crusted over by the late heavy rain. Got to work at ploughing for fodder corn back of the drive-barn this afternoon. G.W. Lemon came this after-noon to have me make out the Simcoe Re-turns, so I had to stop ploughing Have been at it this eve-ning also.

June FRIDAY 5 1896

Did not get a chance to plough this fore-noon but did this afternoon. Got through with Mr Lemon but not in a very satisfactory way. John Ross the veterinary from Port Dover came and altered Fred the two year old colt,, also a bull calf. The weather has been very warm to day, and there has been some ap-pearance of a shower.

June SATURDAY 6 1896

Owing to rain last night did not start ploughing until late this forenoon. Got nearly done how-ever and had it harrowed down afterwards. My wife went up to Wyecombe this forenoon takeing Charley Chrysler and our Dottie with her. Drove out to town this eve-ning, and recieved some sixteen dollars which I am send-ing away to pay for plum trees bought of E. Moody and Sons of {L}ockport NY.

June SUNDAY 7 1896

Went out to church this mor-ning as usual takeing Jim with me. Had our usual treat in a sermon from Bro. Daniel Wooley, this be-ing conference Sunday and the minister away. It was good to be there, both to the preaching and class-meeting. My dear wife returned this eve-ning from a short visit to her mother. The Good Lord has sent us another fine service this evening.

June MONDAY 8 1896

Rain came in quite large quan-tities last night, so to day we have done but little but wet weather jobs. This afternoon however I got to work with the plough again. Finished plough-ing the fodder

corn ground after a long time, the rain acting as a great softener. It is wonderful to see how things are growing just now, especially hay and pasture's.

June TUESDAY 9 1896

Got to work on the road this morning at our statute labour, both Mr Awfords & us. Went over to Mr James Watson's for my dinner, and had a nice visit as well. This afternoon rain came just after dinner and prevented further work for the day. Heard this evening that my uncle Caleb Matthews died this morning in Michigan.

June WEDNESDAY 10 1896

On account of the rain yesterday we thought best not to go on the roads this forenoon, So we worked at our onions, trying to get them hoed and weeded out. Went to work on the road this afternoon however and succeeded in getting in a half of our portion of the Statute labour done for this year. The weather is fine again, and cool.

June THURSDAY 11 1896

Maggie went up to A.G. Roses this forenoon with my mother. She came home without ma, who remained for a week or so to visit I have been ploughing the sod back of Drive-barn where we want to sow fodder corn to day, or; rather most of the time. Drove out to town this evening. Called at Mr Ellis who promised to come out to morrow night.

June FRIDAY 12 1896

There was a heavy rain-fall last night which rather prevented work on the land to day. I finished ploughing the ground where we intended sowing corn for fodder, towards night. Went out to town this evening expecting to bring my friend Mr Ellis home with me but he had just returned from Conference and was tired; so, did not come.

June SATURDAY 13 1896

Sowed our fodder corn this forenoon and this afternoon we rolled it, or Jim did while I worked at the onion patch. Went down to Jarvis this evening taking my wife with me. Met Charley Chrysler on his way to his home in Toronto. Sent a pail of butter with him for his mother. Called at Dr. Bennets office with my wife who is somewhat unwell.

June SUNDAY 14 1896

Went out our regular morning service in Port Dover as usual, Had the usual spiritual feast provided. Bro. Bennet officiated and the usual class-meeting followed. A real prodigal son turned up at our service and remained to class, He told me that he had a praying mother in England, whom he left some six years ago, becoming a real prodigal. Some signs of repentance were manifest.

June MONDAY 15 1896

Went up to Simcoe this forenoon and took our crop of wool with me, only six fleeces however and sold it at seventeen cent per pound cash, to Brooks. Saw my brother-in-law W.A. Ferguson and was glad to leave an opportunity for talking to him about my interest. Cultivated out our strawberry patch for the fourth time this afternoon.

June TUESDAY 16 1896

A circumstance happened this morning that gave me much relief. Sold the three year old colt that I have been fitting up to sell for this long time; Strange to say she only brought twenty nine dollars though quite a fine large beast, and perfectly sound. Mr Abercromby a near neighbor made the purchase. Have had some beautiful showers last night and to day.

June WEDNESDAY 17 1896

Got started at cutting clo-ver in the field by Mc.Brides to day. Made a very good days work, for the first. The weather does not seem settled yet however for we had another shower this afternoon. Am afraid that we have waited too long before cutting our clover field. as seed is our aim ~~an~~ from early cutting.

June THURSDAY 18 1896

Got our sulkey rake wheels re-paired this morning in time to rake up hay this afternoon. I worked at cutting most of the forenoon and this afternoon have been putting up hay while Jim has been driving the horse rake. The weather has become faire at last and we seem likely to have good hay weather now for a-while.

June FRIDAY 19 1896

Jim cut some more clover with the machine this forenoon and this afternoon we have been raking and cocking up. We were very agreeably surprised at seeing Mr and Mrs J.W. Ferguson this afternoon. They were not here long before we had Mr. F. in the field helping with the hay.

June SATURDAY 20 1896

Have been raking and cocking up hay to day. Jim has driven the horse-rake while my wifes father who is visiting with us has been helping me put up the hay. We succeeded in getting all up except a very small portion. It took us until after ten o'clock this evening however to finish our job.

June SUNDAY 21 1896

Having my wifes father and mother with us today we thought best not to go to church since they did not want to go. They left us this afternoon however, and I went over to hear Mr Ebersole this evening, which made up in some measure for our staying home this morning. Mr. Ebersole is going away for a month or so soon

June MONDAY 22 1896

Went to work this morning at making preparation for drawing in hay, from the first cutting. Jim and I got in one load before dinner. This afternoon we had Addam Frollick helping us and we have consequently got in six loads altogether for the day. A heavy ~~W~~ N.W. Wind has been blowing and has hindered us some in our work.

June TUESDAY 23 1896

We went to work again in good time at drawing in hay as usual. Succeeded in getting Seven more loads safely housed, which makes thirteen so far. This being the day of the Dominion election I

went to poll my vote this afternoon. Got there just in time to put the last vote for the occasion Had William H. Watts and his daughter Nellie here to tea.

June WEDNESDAY 24 1896

Have had Ad-dam Frollick to help draw in hay this forenoon. where we got in four more loads. He also helped me put on a load after dinner to take out to my friend Mr Jonathan Ellis. Had eighty pounds over a ton by weight. Was told this afternoon that a liberal victory had been obtained yesterday through-out the country Mr Laurier's party will have a good majority.

June THURSDAY 25 1896

Have been ex-ceedingly buisy again to day. Got our straw-berries cultivated over this fore-noon, also our sweet corn and early potatoes. This afternoon have in hoe-ing and weeding in the garden. Have decided not ~~de~~ to do any more hay-ing until next week, Our strawberries re-quire hoeing and weeding out besides a num-ber of other jobs first.

June FRIDAY 26 1896

We were blessed with another delightful shower last night which prevented us going to our usual out-of-door work this mor-ning. Have been build-ing fence or rather removing a fence to en-large our garden patch for fodder corn &c, North of Drive barn. We failed to get it all done however, this evening. My mother return-ed this evening from her visit to Simcoe.

June SATURDAY 27 1896

Jim and I finished our fence this morning af-ter which we got in a load of rakings. We have since been hoeing straw-berries. Find a very serious job again owing to the pusley and pig weed which has got quite a start. Recieved a letter from Mr. Mackay about my plum trees this evening, find him all right on that line, if his as-sistant is not.

June SUNDAY 28 1896

Owing to a heavy shower that passed over about the time we usualy go to church we did not go this mor-ning but went this evening instead. Enjoyed the day very much for its privelege of rest, after the hard weeks work. The Lord has also been with ~~my~~ me, and my heart has been satisfied with His pres-ence.

June MONDAY 29 1896

Jim has been helping most of the time to day at sundry jobs. Our straw- weeding and hoeing still keeps us buisy and seems like-ly to last an-other day. Begin to feel anxious about our haying, for the grass is apparently ready to cut. Mr. Awford has ~~been~~ made up his mind to try seting out strawberries.

June TUESDAY 30 1896

Our job of cleaning out our straw-berry patch kept us going until to day noon. This afternoon I have been hoeing corn and plum-trees besides geting ready to begin cuting grass for hay again to morrow. Amongst my plum trees to day I only found one really dead in the whole one hundred and twenty five.

July WEDNESDAY 1 1896

Went out to town this morning to take the children mostly. Left Jim there, and came home by dinner time. There was quite a crowd collected even by noon. The great Shenango No 2 seemed to be the chief attraction, until then. Have been mowing the remaining portion of the field by McBrides this afternoon.

July THURSDAY 2 1896

I have been mowing away in the remaining portion of the field by McBrides to day. Jim got home by noon and has been driving the horse rake this afternoon. The temperature has risen up to near ninety ° in the shade so we find it best not to work too hard. There are some indications of an approaching thunder shower before long.

{Duplicate of the previous page}

July FRIDAY 3 1896

Have been working away at our hay-ing to day with all our might. Did not however accomplish what we intended. Mostly on account of the tires running off of our sulkey rake wheels requiring repairs. Have had Adam Frolick cocking up for me but he did not quite finish. So I have not got the mowing all done either.

July SATURDAY 4 1896

Jim and I got to work at our hay this morning; but, did not work long before it began to rain. Have been doing some necessary repairs to harness & implements during the day besides having a good rest. Began to feel nearly worked out, so it was just about time for a rainy day to come.

July SUNDAY 5 1896

Went out to church this morning as usual and received the usual blessing from being there. Took my mother and Jim with me this time. Had dinner at William Watt's on the way home. My wife and I went to hear Rev. S. Ebersole, whose home is now in Pennsylvania. He has become quite an interesting preacher.

July MONDAY 6 1896

After it had dried off this forenoon I went to work at cut the ballance of the field by McBrides. Got it done before noon and this afternoon Jim has been raking while I have been cocking up. The crop is particularly heavy on the corner next to our old garden. The weather is still very fine and has become cool since the rain.

July TUESDAY 7 1896

Have been busy at cocking up hay to day, with Jims help. We finished our hay this afternoon at about four o'clock. The hay crop is very heavy in places; But, of course there are places where it is correspondingly light and poor. The weather is very fine and cool again.

July WEDNESDAY 8 1896

Jim and I have been geting in hay to day, alone. Succeeded in get-ing six loads in the barn safely. Went out to Port Dover this evening to look after some small matters of business. Found that Mr. Ellis had gone away last night and would be gone for three weeks. Succeeded in geting blank to take up note though Mrs E. had to look some time first.

July THURSDAY 9 1896

Rain came a-gain last night which prevented further drawing of hay until towards this eve-ning when Jim and I got in a couple more loads. Finished a letter to Mr. Mackay this morning and sent my wife up to Simcoe on some business at the bank. She failed to go in time however so that our matter was not settled as we intended. Rain seems brew-ing again.

July FRIDAY 10 1896

We got in a couple of loads of hay more this forenoon; and had to call on my wife to help mow them away. This af-ternoon however Addam Frollick came and helped get in a load af-ter dinner and helped me get a load on the waggon to take to Port Do-ver. Took it out as intended geting there after six and consequently did not get weighed un-til near dark. Got unloaded at Mr Ellis'es and home again however.

July SATURDAY 11 1896

Have had Ad-dam Frollick helping to day. He helped get in a load of hay this forenoon, also to get one loaded up for Port Dover, which I took out this afternoon for our Minister, Bro. Bennet. Had some two or three hundred pounds over a ton on my load. Promised to take a load on Mon-day for Mr. Harding. Addam has been Mowing around the big field to day when not help-ing me - also along the gully East of the new plum orchard.

July SUNDAY 12 1896

Went out to church this mor-ning as usual takeing my wife and children with me. Had a proffitable waiting upon the Lord and felt thank-ful for the priv-elege of meeting togather with God's people. Went over to hear Bro. S. Eb-ersole this eve-ning as usual, and enjoyed the service. Had James Hol-comb and his wife to dinner with us to day.

July MONDAY 13 1896

I took a load of hay, out to Dover this fore-noon, it being my last load from the big field. Mr Harding took this laid and is to pay Seven dollars per ton. Had one ton lacking forty pounds. Addam Frollick helped me about half of this fore-noon at mowing in front of orchard along the gully. We took a-half-a load of hay down to him this eve-ning - about half rakeings s.

July TUESDAY 14 1896

On account of the kindness of my neighbour George Ryerse we have been able to cut wheat to day. Our own old Tor-onto binder has about played out and is compar-atively worthless. So in our dilemma it was a great favour to have one provided for the occasion. Went out to town this evening to take or rather to send away some money to pay our Bbl Sugar lately bought.

July WEDNESDAY 15 1896

On account of rain that fell last night we had to leave off cutting wheat this forenoon. Jim and I got the potatoes and strawberries cultivated instead. Also the wheat cut already set up in shock. This afternoon we have finished our wheat cutting for this year. Mr. Awfords have also finished their and got it mostly in the barn.

July THURSDAY 16 1896

Started cutting hay in the little field East of the lane this morning but found that my machine would not work so went down to William Wattses and got his new machine which did the work up in good style. Find that the Toronto Mower has played out in its fifth year, mostly from being worn in some of its parts. The weather keeps quite warm and seems much like rain.

July FRIDAY 17 1896

We have been cutting hay in the orchard to day as usual. Succeeded in getting more than half done cutting this forenoon. This afternoon we have been raking and cocking up, with all our might. Had a visit from Master Walter Wilson, a son of my friend C.A. Wilson of Toronto. He is much interested in country life, apparently.

July SATURDAY 18 1896

Jim and I have kept on at the orchard to day. Succeeded in getting the hay all cut and raked up besides getting all up in good shape for rain. It took me until near ten o'clock this evening however to get through with the job. The weather is very warm and muggy, much like rains of late.

July SUNDAY 19 1896

Went out to church as usual this morning taking my wife and Jim with me. Had a very profitable sea-son together throughout both services the Good Lord being with us. This evening we went over to the neighboring church to hear Mr Aw-ford preach. He is certainly quite a preacher and uses sound doctrine.

July MONDAY 20 1896

There was a heavy rain fall last night and to day; which did not cease until this afternoon. Went out to Dover this evening with the democrat taking a small grist. Maggie went with me. Found that our miller Mr John Shaw had died yesterday and the mill was closed, so we brought our grist back without grinding.

July TUESDAY 21 1896

The rain of yesterday & day before left our hay rather wet Have been spreading out to day. Had Mrs Dr Caught and the W. Watts' family here for dinner and for a short visit this afternoon. A Mr. James Hoose of H Pelham Nurseries succeeded in selling me two Hundred Plum trees to day, to be paid for when the bear fruit, The first payment for two years from this Fall & time to be extended as long as necessary.

July WEDNESDAY 22 1896

Jim and I got another load of hay for Mr Jonathan Ellis this forenoon This being his third load. We were greatly surprised this evening by the arrival of Mr. R.J Winter, the husband of my niece Nellie.

He came quite unexpectedly. Reports all being well in Chatham and Dresden. He came to take my mother home with him.

July THURSDAY 23 1896

Took my last load of hay to Mr Ellis' this afternoon, This makes the fourth load to him. Had a surprise to day in the arrival of Jim's father We have had Nellies husband with us to day also. Took him around the place this morning, and had a nice visit with him. He also rode out to Dover on my load of hay.

July FRIDAY 24 1896

Got our load on the waggon this morning, but rain soon came as we drove the load in the barn until the rain ceased.. Took it out this afternoon and delivered at our ministers barn. Rame Winter went up to Townsend centre this afternoon to visit with {Rinnie? Rennie?} Fonger but he found them all away. George Gutcher left us this afternoon, after an unusually short visit.

July SATURDAY 25 1896

Jim and I put our last load of hay on the waggon this morning. Took this load to Mr. A. Edmondson, and there being some damp hay on the load agreed to let him have the load for a ton though it weighed a considerable more. He has to allow me the same as Bro J. Ellis gives me for wheat was taken to him. Finished our hay, & got in two loads of wheat this afternoon.

July SUNDAY 26 1896

Had a very profitable waiting together this forenoon as usual in our Port Dover Sanctuary. The Good Lord being in our midst. Bro. Bennet always seems to give us a "word, in Season". something to think about and to remember. Came home by the lake shore road on account of our friend R.J. Winter who went to church with us.

July MONDAY 27 1896

Owing to a heavy rain last night and this forenoon we did not get in the last load of wheat to day as we anticipated. Worked this forenoon at digging around plum trees in the orchard when rain was not falling. Went out to mill this afternoon with a grist, as intended. My wife went up to Fongers, with R.J. this afternoon.

July TUESDAY 28 1896

This being the day of the Delhi excursion to Port Dover, my wife and I thought best to meet the friends there, so we have spent the most of the day there with our whole family except Jim. There was a big crowd there. Had a very pleasant time. Our Chatham friend R.J. Winter being with us. A heavy rain somewhat marred the close of the day.

July WEDNESDAY 29 1896

I took my mother and friend R.J. Winter to the station this morning en-route for Chatham Ont. My mother expects to visit my sister in Dresden also and is to be away for a month or so. Have been digging around Lombard plum trees this afternoon. The ground is rather wet from yesterdays rain however.

July THURSDAY 30 1896

Went to Jarvis this morning with a package of butter for Mrs. Crysler. Took a lot of pears with me hoping to sell them but failed owing partly to the great abundance of fruit. Finished digging around my lom-bard plum trees to day. We have also got in our last load of wheat this eve-ning. We have our rakeings out yet, for to-morrow. Weather fine again.

July FRIDAY 31 1896

We got one wheat field raked this forenoon and the rakeings drawn in first thing after dinner. We were surprised about the middle of the afternoon to see our old and respected friend Mrs D.W. Horton of North Pelham. She had Lavernes two children Dee. and Leone, now quite near grown up. Got started at cutting our oats and peas this evening with the mowing machine, having W. Porters pea harvester attached thereto.

August SATURDAY 1 1896

Jim and I could not start our pea-harvester until ten-o'clock or thereabout to day, on account of the wet. This afternoon again we found it necessary to stop work for the same cause. We are putting in all our spare time now at weeding out our strawberries - the growth of weeds since haying time being some-thing terrible. Rain has come again this eve-ning.

August MONDAY 3 1896

Jim and I have been cut-ing peas and oats most of the time to day, in the field by the store. I went out to our Quarterly business mee-ting this af-ternoon however Failed to get the money ex-pected of bro's Ellis and Ben-net for hay. A great Regatta is in progress in Lake Erie off Port Dover, and a large number of fine yachts are there.

August SUNDAY 2 1896

Our regular quarterly Meeting came off in Port Dover to day. Our own minister officia-ted as usual and a good Con-gregation was present. There was an old resident and member present with her daughter Mrs William Routhnow of Brant-ford. We came home directly after service, and enjoyed the remainder of the days oppor-tunities as best we could.

August TUESDAY 4 1896

Another heavy rain has just visited us, so that we did not get star-ted at our oats & peas un-til this after-noon. We are able to weed strawberries, however, no matter how wet the ground. Jim's Father has come to visit him, and reports heavy rains & wind storms in Mich-igan. Also a short grist crop.

August WEDNESDAY 5 1896

On account of heavy dews we are not able to start work at our peas and oats until nearly noon, so we spend most of the forenoons in the strawberry patch. We seem likely to have a last-ing job there for the weeds have got to be a terrible sight. It is impossible for us to hoe any more to weed by hand altogether.

August THURSDAY 6 1896

Jim and I have been cut-ing peas and oats in the front field again to day. Succeeded in geting all done of the first sowing excepting about an hour's work An exceedingly heavy rain came this evening so we are not likely to do any more harvesting for some time to come. My wife is quite poorly; and, I feel anxious about her.

August FRIDAY 7 1896

Owing to the heavy rain of last evening we did not get at our pea and oat harvest to day at all. Have however been weeding out strawberries as best we could We were visited by another fall of rain this afternoon; but, not so heavy as yesterday. The weather continues to be warm and very moist. Feel somewhat anxious about our grain that is still out.

August SATURDAY 8 1896

Owing to the heavy rain of yesterday we did not get to work at our peas & oats un-til this afternoon. W suc-ceeded in geting the ball. cut that we left before. and a load in the barn besides. We worked most of the forenoon in the straw-berry patch, at weeding &c. Found that our peas had grown some under the bunch-es. Weather still very warm.

August SUNDAY 9 1896

Went out to church this mor-ning as usual takeing Miss Daisy Seafortune and Olive Ferguson with me. They Came last night from Del-hi to visit us for a fiew days. The heat has been very oppress-ive through the day especialy when in church. Went over to hear Bro. Ebersole this evening, He has just re-turned from a holow-day away, for several weeks. Rain again to night

August MONDAY 10 1896

Worked awhile this forenoon at the straw-berries as usual, it being too wet after the heavy thunder Storm of last night to do any-thing else. My unckle Dan-iel Olds and his wife came from Simcoe to visit us to day. We got a load of peas and oats ready to bring in this evening but another shower of rain came before we could get our load on.

August TUESDAY 11 1896

Jim and I got to work at the peas. and oats again this after-noon. There was another rain last night which wet up our grain. We worked at our strawberries again this fore-noon. Towards night Jim and I suc-ceeded in geting in two more loads of oat and peas, make-ing three alto-gather so far. Am told that the heavy rains do not extend East of us but a fiew miles.

August WEDNESDAY 12 1896

Owing to an-other rain last night we could not go do work at our Pea and Oat drawing to day as we expected. Worked through the fore-noon at sundry jobs, and got John to help me for about three hours. This afternoon jim and I turned over a lot of wet grain. My friend W.J. Carpenter & his wife came to see us towards evening. So, I vis-ited with for a couple of hours.

August THURSDAY 13 1896

We succeeded in geting two more loads of peas and oat in the barn this forenoon Mr C. Nelson has been helping us. This afternoon I have been work-ing in the straw-berries, having let Jim go out to

the Sunday school pic-nic at Erie-Park. Port Dover. There has been every appearance of rain this af-ternoon; Indeed, it did rain some, but af-terwards cleared off.

August FRIDAY 14 1896

Have had my neighbour Mr. Cris. Nelson to help us most of the time to day. We fin-ished turning over the peas and oats before noon in time to to put on a load. This afternoon we got in five more so we have got in six to day makeing nine eleven altogather so far. Was told this evening that the price of wheat was im-proving slowly.

August SATURDAY 15 1896

Have been work-ing away as best we could at geting in our oats and peas. Our helper Mr. C. Nelson could not remain with us all day it being mail day, he helped us get in three loads out of five however, Makeing sixteen, with one more load and the rake-ings still out. Have had an exceedingly warm and even sultry day, too warm to work almost.

August SUNDAY 16 1896

Went out to church this morning as usual. takeing wife and children with me. Quarterly tickets were renewed to day and our own minister officiated. The heat was so great that but fiew people were out to church and we felt it consider-ably both going and comeing. Did not get over to Bro Eb-ersoles church this evening for the same reason.

August MONDAY 17 1896

Had Mr Nelson again this mor-ning for an hour or two. He helped us get in the last load of pea's and oats that we had cut. Jim and I have been cuting the late crop of peas and oats this afternoon. Got along very well but did not get nearly done. We began paring apples this eve-ning my wife and I, for the first. We have a large quan-tity of apples on the ground already.

August TUESDAY 18 1896

It seems that rainy weather has come again and we have had to leave off our late pea and oat harvest which we com-enced yesterday afternoon. Have been working in the strawberry patch most of the day however. Had a visit from our old neigh-bor Peter Ryerse to day. He walked down though ninety or thereabouts, years of age.

August WEDNESDAY 19 1896

Jim and I have finished our cuting of peas and oats at last, It took us most of the day. Maggie went up to Simcoe this afternoon on different errands. Had a call from Archie Reid this afternoon; but, on account of my housekeeper being away could not en-tertain them to tea. Found that our field of clo-verseed was ready to cut at once.

August THURSDAY 20 1896

I have been working at my strawberries most of the time to day while jim has been cuting clover in the field by McBrides this Forenoon. We put in a couple of loads of oats and peas in the cow-stable for feed there being but little grain in it; but, a good deal of green stuff.

August FRIDAY 21 1896

Have had Jim working with the mowing machine in the field by McBrides to day. He has cut some six or eight acres to day. I raked up what he cut yesterday and finished putting up one cock this evening. Have had great appearance of rain to day but fortunately it has all passed off, and we are enabled to keep on with our work.

August SATURDAY 22 1896

A heavy dew prevented us from working in our clover until nearly noon; but, this afternoon we have been at it with all our might. Jim finished raking what we had cut and I have put in cock a considerable portion of the same. Threshing-machine came this evening and we are likely to thresh on Monday.

August SUNDAY 23 1896

Went out to church this morning as usual taking Jim with me this time. Had our own minister this time, and we do not have any that we would rather hear, as a rule. Had the comfort of knowing that the Lord was with us in our feeble efforts at worshipping Him. His service becomes more and more delightful to my poor soul.

August MONDAY 24 1896

Began threshing Mr. Awford peas this morning in the field, the weather being all that could be desired. Feargues {Feasgues'} machine is doing our job. Jim and I have been helping also Mr Starling ~~on my~~ and Addam Frolic. on my account I suppose. Got their peas threshed and near-all their oats as well, by night. So the men have moved their machine to the barn.

August TUESDAY 25 1896

Have been threshing in the barn to day, nearly the whole time at Mr Aw-fords grain. Perhaps they threshed a couple of hours or nearly, at our own grain. We have been disappointed some in our crop, the yield being under our expectations somewhat. The machine has not run very well owing to the numerous delay and tinkering.

August WEDNESDAY 26 1896

Got to work at threshing our own grain this morning, or rather wheat was left. It took us until about ten o'clock. We had to help the machine move down to the lake shore afterwards, which took until three o'clock this afternoon. Rain came again at about four so we did not succeed in getting our oats and peas drawn from the front field.

August THURSDAY 27 1896

Worked at the strawberry vines most of the forenoon but this afternoon Jim and I got in our last two loads of oat and peas from in front. We got in our first load of cloverseed this evening, and found it in good condition for drawing. Our own crop of wheat from the field back of the barn was only forty seven bushells. For this year.

August FRIDAY 28 1896

Had Mr Nelson to help us draw in cloverseed about three hours this forenoon. Jim and I kept on the remainder of the day. Have succeeded in getting five loads, mostly from the wind-row, drawn to the

barn. with one load brought in last night makes six in all so far. We are still blessed with beautiful cool dry weather, just right for takeing care of crops.

August SATURDAY 29 1896

Have been buisy again to day at geting in clover-seed from the field by McBrides C. Nelson helped me about three hours this fore-noon so we were enabled to get in three loads more this forenoon and Jim and I got in one this af-ternoon, making ten so far from this field. Went out to Dover this eve-ning, to look after some small matters.

August SUNDAY 30 1896

Being rather unwell, owing to a severe cold lately con-tracted, I thought best not to venture out this morning. So my wife & I have been enjoying the Sabbath at home. Lydia Jane Matthews and Eliza Vale came this afternoon however and we could not be a-lone after all. A light thunder storm came to us this af-ternoon, again.

August MONDAY 31 1896

Have had time at work with the mow-ing machine Part of the time to day. He did not get along very well, haveing lost a bolt &c. Started to plough in the front field this afternoon, but the ground was so hard that I had to give it up. Think of working up the ground with the disc harrow instead. as it seems to be do a very good job.

September TUESDAY 1 1896

Have had Jim working at the discing of the front field by the church, most of the time to day. He horse-raked the cloverseed cut yesterday, before noon. I have been working at sun-dry jobs, and towards night got to work at cleaning out the straw-berry patch again. There was a slight frost last night - the first of the season. Weather quite cool and dry.

September WEDNESDAY 2 1896

Jim has be{en} working away {at} the disc harr{ow} in the front fi{eld} again to day, {for} the first time on {cut off} Am pleased {to} find that w{e} are likely to get the whole field sown {with?} wheat after {all?} I have be{en} cocking up- {clo}ver-seed mos{t} of the day. Did not get through how{ever} There is cons{id}er{a}ble appeara{n}ce of rain this evening.

September THURSDAY 3 1896

Was rather un-well last night and felt rather blue until nearly noon to day. Got to work this afternoon however at my straw-berry patch this time. Have had Jim discing in the front field again to day. He has succeeded in geting over the field for the first time and has started to cross this after-noon. The disc. is doing a great job for us.

September FRIDAY 4 1896

Have had J{im} working in {the} front field w{ith} the disc har{row} to day as u{sual} He is geting {along} nicely and will soon be over {the} field the seco{nd} time. I have be{en} as usual ex{ceed}ingly buisy {at} sundry jobs mostly in {the} strawberry p{atch} Am rejoic{ing} in God my {Sa}viour thes{e} day. He is {in}deed a sa{tis}fying porti{on} to my poo{r} soul.

September SATURDAY 5 1896

We have been try-ing most of the time to day to get the front field worked up for sowing. Rain has fallin a couple of times and stoped us for a while. Went down to Jarvis this evening to take my wife and child Evelyn, for a short visit to Toronto. Were disappointed in not geting cheap rates as we expected. Took a lot of eggs and butter down as well.

September SUNDAY 6 1896

Went out {to} church to d{ay} as usual, ta{ke}ing Jim wi{th} me. Our o{wn} minister off{i}ciated with usual accep{t}ance. Went over {to} bro Eber{sole} this evening Am glad {to} hear that h{e} is to remain another ye{ar} My wife {and} children hav{e} been away t{o} day and {it} seems very lonesome, {with}out them

September MONDAY 7 1896

The rain on Saturday night last has been quite a benefit to the ground where we intend sowing wheat. It has worked a good deal better to day. Have had Jim working the disc most of the day, while I have been engaged at the straw-berry patch as usual. Do not make much headway, but still every row counts, and am anxious to get through.

September TUESDAY 8 1896

Jim has be{en} workind the d{isc} harrow in the front field by the church {to} day. He got th{ere?} just before m{e?} however and went to work with the harr{ow} preparatory to drilling. I have been buisy in the straw-berry pa{tch} most of th{e} time. Went down {to} Jarvis after my wife and chi{ldren} this evening, {but} did not find them there {as} I expected.

September WEDNESDAY 9 1896

Have had Jim harrowing in the front field by the church to day, while I have been working in my strawberry patch most of the time. Got to work with the drill towards evening however. Went down to jarvis for Maggie this morning but in vains. This evening however I went again & had better success; for, I found her at the station wait-ing for me.

September THURSDAY 10 1896

Sowed nearly all of the fro{nt} field by the church to day Jim has been with me help{ing} to keep the dril{l} teeth clean f{rom?} stubble &c. Never saw gr{ound?} cover any bett{er} Put in about ten bushells of Mr Awfords wheat and si{x} of our own. The weather has been ver{y} warm and dr{y} My wife says {that?} at Toronto & East no rain has fa{l}len for the whole Summer.

September FRIDAY 11 1896

It has taken Jim and I most of the time to day to run out the water furroughs in our nine acre wheat filed just sown yesterday. Succeeded in geting all done by this eve-ning however. Intended going out to Dover this evening but, did not get done in time though. Weather still very warm and dry.

September SATURDAY 12 1896

After a fortnig{ht} of waiting, was a{bout} to go out to th{e} port to day. We {are?} at last through seed and ha{ve} even our ditch cleaned out. Mr Awfords a{re} only just begin{ning} to sow

howeve{r} It still keeps w{arm} and dry, some signs of rain {are} now being seen though. Have enjoyed a satisfactory degree, the fa{ct?} that laughs {and?} impossibilities and cries i{t?} shall be don{e}

September SUNDAY 13 1896

Went out to church this mor-ning as usual takeing my wife and children with me. Had a very prof-itable waiting upon the Lord. The sermon as well as class-meeting being very edifying. Went over to Mr. Ebersoles meeting this eve-ning all of us, and enjoyed this also. We feel very thankful for the priveleges of God's house & service.

September MONDAY 14 1896

I picked ov{er} some Flemish beauty pears t{his} forenoon, and this afternoon took my stoc{k} of Two and a {quar?}ter bushells up to Simcoe wh{ere} I sold them {to} the Canning {fac}tory for only forty cents p{er} bushell. Was glad {to} get even th{at} much for t{hem} however as fruit, of near{l}y all kinds is so very abu{n}dant this ye{ar}

September TUESDAY 15 1896

We worke in our strawberry patch this fore-noon; But; this afternoon have been geting in Cloverseed that was ready to draw. Got in three loads, Jim and I, and two others off of the waggon. The weather is very beautiful and cool just now, as well as dry.

September WEDNESDAY 16 1896

Took off o{ur} load of clover seed this mor{ning} Jim and I. We have be{en} working at o{ur} beans part of the afternoon but, most of {the} day have bee{n} working in t{he} strawberry pa{tch} trying to get {it} cleaned out. We were not nearly done {cut off} nor half do{ne} quite; but it seem's we{cut off} to keep up c{cut off} and w{cut off} away.

September THURSDAY 17 1896

Jim and I have been working at our straw-berry plants most of the time to day, geting it in shape for the next crop. Have been work-ing on my de-livery return's of last Spring this evening. Find it a rather disagreeable job going over what I had thought was settled. The difficulty has been increased by a mistake of the manager of the office at St. Thomas.

September FRIDAY 18 1896

Have been wo{rk}ing most of t{he} time to day {at} our strawberry patch as us{ual} We pulled t{he} ballance of o{ur} early beans t{his} afternoon how{ever} which took u{s} some time. Have been {at} worke this evening geting papers ready to take t{o} Mr L{em}on, Hope to have a satisfactory settlement befor{e} long of this {re?}vised quest{ion?}; cut off

September SATURDAY 19 1896

On account of rain this forenoon we could not work out of doors & so have been engaged at in-side work. Weather star-ted to clear up this afternoon so we started for my wife's fathers in Wye-combe at about four o'clock - Had a success-ful trip although very disagree-able on account of a strong N.W. wind that we had to face on the way up.

September SUNDAY 20 1896

We have been spending the day with Mr. and Mrs Ferguson, my wife and I. Went to church with them this afternoon and enjoyed the service very much. The Good Lord has been very near us in all our association to day, making our hearts glad with his presence. We started for home at about six o'clock this evening, and arrived in due course finding all well.

September MONDAY 21 1896

Went down to Watts' this morning, to see about getting them to take our apples. John said he would take my name down with the rest and thought it would be all right. They only give fifty cents per barrel however. for best Winter fruit. Have been at our old job in the straw-berry patch most of the day, Jim and I

September TUESDAY 22 1896

Jim helped Maggie wash this forenoon while I continued to work at my straw-berr{ies} This afternoon also we kept on our job. Succeeded in getting over the worst of our patch; so, that we do not care to spend any more time at present. The weather is very cold to night; and, the first frost of the season is likely to occur to night.

September WEDNESDAY 23 1896

Jim has been helping me with the beans to day. He succeeded in getting our first lot of beans inside, while I have been pulling beans and cutting corn. Had a visit from unckle Peter Ryerse this forenoon or rather to dinner. Had, of course to spend some time with him. Went over to the prayer-meeting this evening and had a good time

September THURSDAY 24 1896

Have been cutting our fodder corn to day besides doing sundry other jobs, one of which was to make a ladder for picking apples, a job that I am almost dreading. Notice by today's paper that Queen Victoria has reigned longer than any monarch in history on the British throne, that time having just transpired

September FRIDAY 25 1896

Have had Jim cutting cloverseed this forenoon in the big field by McBrides. I have been making a ladder to pick apples at the same time. This after-noon we have both been cutting and putting up fodder corn, which grew back of the drive-barn. besides some other jobs too numerous to mention..

September SATURDAY 26 1896

Jim and I worked this forenoon in the cloverseed; he at rakeing and myself at cooking up. This afternoon my wife and I went out to town, for some necessary calling at the Jacksons on the way home and having cut off with them. Found the children and everything else all right on our arrival home afterwards.

September SUNDAY 27 1896

Went down to Jarvis this forenoon to see about selling our peas. Found that the price was much lower than ever before that I can remember, viz. from thirty five to thirty eight cents per Bu. Mr. Allen told me however that he thought he could give us thirty nine cents for ours on account of their excellent quality. Saw Mr Joseph Jackques about apples.

September MONDAY 28 1896

Made a mist{ake} in writing up {to} day for yester{day} so will say {cut off} yesterday, th{at} on account {of the} rain we did not get out to church in the morning {as} is our custo{m} but this evening went {out} to hear Mr {Eber}sole, the ra{in} having ceas{ed} Find it goo{d} to thank and praise the Lo{rd} for his man{y} mercies to us His promises {are} precious of {cut off} to my poor so{ul}

September TUESDAY 29 1896

I worked this forenoon at my young plum trees Im{illgebile}ding them up with cow-manure where the mice had barked them. Quite a large number of them were thus injured. It has been raining most of the afternoon quite hard, so have been moving our old cook stove to a new cor-ner of the kitchen. It has stood there for nearly forty years.

September WEDNESDAY 30 1896

Jim and {I} started at {pick}ing apples t{his} forenoon; but about ten or eleven o'cloc{k} it began to r{ain} and has ke{pt} on until t{his} evening; so we have be{en} into sundry jobs inside Went out to town tow{ards} night to pay my Forrester dues. Had {cut off} enough more {cut off} quite. but s{uc}ceeded in g{et}ing what {was?} lacking of ot{her?} parties.

October THURSDAY 1 1896

We have been picking apples this forenoon - except when picking up ap-ples for John Hamilton who was here for a load, which I sold him at eight Cents per bushell. The ground is very wet from yesterdays rain, so we have to leave off pull-ing beans un-till the it gets dry.

October FRIDAY 2 1896

Jim and I have been pi{ck}ing apples th{is} forenoon with the activity {cut off}posess, there {be}ing quite a h{ard?} job of this pi{cking} on our hands {this} time. We have bee{n} pulling beans this afternoo{n} again. Find this a pre{tty} sore job on the hands, will be glad when we ge{t} done. Went down {to} Jarvis this ev{e}ning to take a bar of butter for E{cut off}

October SATURDAY 3 1896

Worked this forenoon again at gathering, or rather at pick-ing apples, both jim and I. This afternoon we have been geting in a load of beans, this being our first. We have also been pull-ing beans part of the time. There is some appearance of rain again and we are anxious to be ready for it. Mr Awford took two loads of peas to Jarvis to day sold at Thirty nine cts.

October SUNDAY 4 1896

Went out to meeting in Po{rt} Dover this m{or}ning takeing {my} wife with with {me} Had our usu{al} Spiritual feas{t} provided us {by} our good broth{er} Bennet. He {preached? spoke?} to day mostly about christia{n} fellowship in different pha{ses?} Had a blessed time in our class-meeting also.

Was glad to have the pres{ence} of our good b{ro.} John Saunders, {to?} worship with {us} He is just recoveri{ng} from illness.

October MONDAY 5 1896

Went up to Simcoe this fore-noon after pitch-ing off our first load of beans. Saw Mr Lemon while there, about the misunder-standing in con-nection with the Simcoe De-livery of last Spring. Have been working at pulling beans this afternoon. Did not feel satisfied with the slow pro-gress made however. We seem to be crowded with work just now.

October TUESDAY 6 1896

Warm wea{ther} has come a{nd} a south East wind has been blowing this forenoon. Th{is} afternoon rain Ca{me} as a result Had Mr {Aw}fords over t{o} spend the e{ve}ning with u{s} to night. Find it difficult to get our peas an{d} oats drawn a{fter?} the rains {cut off}dering by m{ak}ing bad roa{ds} Feel much {cut off} the peace tha{t} passeth knowl{edge} these days.

October WEDNESDAY 7 1896

On account of a heavy rain last night and yesterday we could not work at our beans or clo-verseed to day; so have been picking apples instead and, are makeing some progress. Not having sold them however, and not likely to it seems, owing to the immense crop every-where this year; we do not pick them with much relish.

October THURSDAY 8 1896

The ground h{as} dried off aga{in} we have been cuting, rakei{ng} and puting {up} cloverseed to day. Jim has go{ne} to work at cu{t}ing the little flat in fron{t; cut off} We are ha{v}ing quite a cool change in the weath{er} since the ra{in} yesterday. There is so{me} good indication of drier wea{ther} for a fiew days, howeve{r}

October FRIDAY 9 1896

Succeeded in geting our big field of clover-seed all out this forenoon. This after-noon we have finished cock-ing up all that was ready. We have got to work at our beans again this evening. Had a visit from William Watts this eve-ning, telling me to prepare my apples and he would barrell and ship them in a week or so.

October SATURDAY 10 1896

Went out to church this mo{rn}ing takeing {my} wife and ch{il}dren with m{e} Our dear bro Bennet preach{ed} to us in his usual way. It is always ver{y} edifying for {us} to listen to {him?} Went over to hear Bro Eber{sole} this evening {as} usual, and must say tha{t} I like his sermons very much also. It is good to sit in heaven{ly} places in Cl{cut off}

October SUNDAY 11 1896 {Written below the printed date is: Saturday -}

Have been exceedingly buisy to day at rake-ing up and cocking up cloverseed in the field McBrides We are all done cuting now and have finished rakeeing and cocking up besides We got through before night so we worked awhile at picking ap-ples in the orchard Waeather very fine and cool.

October MONDAY 12 1896

Jim and I have been {at} work in the orchard at picking apple{s} to day - It rained for a couple hours at abo{ut} noon and {is} raining aga{in} this evening Mr Awford w{ent} down to Jarv{is} with a load {of} wheat this {eve}ning which sold at sixt{y} eight cents {per} Bushell. The weather {is} quite cool a{s} well as rainy

October TUESDAY 13 1896

On account of the rain that came last night and yesterday, we found it rather wet pick-ing apples to day. This after-noon My wife and I went out to Port Dover for various things. Sent away an-other fifty dollars as interest to Mr Whitsides Took a crock of butter to my friend L.G. Morgan, who seemed to appreciate it very much.

October WEDNESDAY 14 1896

Jim and I picked apples this forenoon as usual. About noon a Mr Murphy was here aft{er} me to go to S{im}coe with him {to} settle up with {Lemon?}. Fail{ed} to get the l{at}ter accompli{shed} however. This Mr Murphy is from St. thomas. Came home {cut off} Dover where {I} arrived just {in} time to meet my mother at the station. Brought her ho{me}

October THURSDAY 15 1896

We worked at picking ap-ples this fore-noon jim and I. This afternoon we have been working away at pull-ing beans. We find it a rather tedious process, pull-ing these by hand. My mother is quite unwell since her re-tun home from a very bad cold. The weather is verye fine of late.

October FRIDAY 16 1896

Jim and I have been wor{k}ing away this forenoon at pi{ck}ing apples. Th{is} afternoon we tired the bean{s} again and ar{e} now nearly do{ne} pulling them Find it very hard work on the hands, {in} particular. Think that if we grow bean{s} long we will s{oon?} find another w{ay} of pulling the{m} Went out to town this evening, mostly to see Mr Ellis but found him {cut off}

October SATURDAY 17 1896

Left my work to day and went up to Sim-coe on business. After geting through at the bank I went up to George Lemons and spent three or four hours setling up. We got through in as favour-able a way as I expected. It seems the George has been somewhat worried about this matter, for some time.

October SUNDAY 18 1896

My mother {be}ing very sick last night a{nd} to day, we {did} not get out {to} church to d{ay} We sent for Au{nt} Lydia accordi{ng} to our old cust{om} at such times She thought{hat} ma was not {se}riously ill, {and} would likely {be} all right in {a} fiew days. I went ove{r} to hear Mr E{b}ersole this e{ve}ning as us{ual} Had a very good service and, of course {en}joyed it muc{h}

October MONDAY 19 1896

Went to pick-ing apples again to day jim and I. The weather is very cool and last night there was a heavy frost that I fear, injured some of the apples. We pulled the last of our beans this af-ternoon, and we are not sorry, for it is rather hard on the hands. Went out to Jarvis this eve-ning to see Mr. J. Ellis; but, failed. Called at John Watts on the way home.

October TUESDAY 20 1896

Jim and I have been g{et}ing in our beans this afternoon and {suc}ceeded in geti{ng} the last of t{hem} safely in the barn. We worked a{t} the apples th{is} forenoon as us{ual} Went out to Dover this ev{e}ning, mostly {to} see Mrs Jøh Jo{na}than Elles. Met him at {the} station, ha{v}ing just ret{urned} from janesvil{le} Wis.

October WEDNESDAY 21 1896

Went down to Jarvis this morning after a the doctor for my, Bennet- is our physician now. He came this afternoon, and told us that my mother was being troubled with an affection of the heart. We were surprised at this for we expected that it was only a cold in connection with billiousness attack. Have been gath-ering apples. this afternoon.

October THURSDAY 22 1896

Had Mr. Nel{son} to help us g{et} in cloverseed this forenoon for a couple {of} hours. Jim and I ke{pt} on drawing {this} afternoon a{nd} got in three more loads an{cut off} besides the th{ree?} got in this fo{re}noon. My mother {is} still unwell and I fear s{he} is in a serio{us} state of health We find it nece{ss}ary to stay up at night part {of} the time.

October FRIDAY 23 1896 {Written below the printed date is: Saturday 24th}

Worked arround at different small jobs this fore-noon, and this afternoon went up to Simcoe. this afternoon to see about geting rid of our surplus apples as far as possible. Went to Mr. Jackson's this afternoon & re-cieved a promise from to take the apples at 40 ¢ Per Bbl. Mr Lemon & I continued our programme of settlement also and seem likely to get through all right.

October SATURDAY 24 1896 {Written below the printed date is: Friday 23d}

Had Mr. Nelso{n} part of the tim{e} to day to hel{p} us get in t{he} last of our c{lo}verseed, succe{ed}ed in finishi{ng} our job this afternoon at a{bout?} four o'clock. Had just tw{en}ty ~~four~~ four altogather. My mother i{s} still in the same low condition and {un}likely I am affraid, to stay with us long. Dr Bennet w{as} here this af{ter}noon, for his second visit

October SUNDAY 25 1896

Went out to church this mor-ning as usual takeing Jim with me. My mother is still in a dan-gerous position apparently. The Dr Came again this eve-ning and thinks she is improving slowly. Have had a large number of callers this afternoon to see my mother. They were our own family however, almost entirely.

October MONDAY 26 1896

I went up t{o} Simcoe again this morning, mostly to see Mr. Lemon respecting the ma{tter} of our disput{e} with St Thomas Came home in good time an{d} have since bee{n} working at the apple pickin{g} The weather ha{s} become quite warm and ver{y} fine & pleasant. My mother is still recovering apparently, tho{ugh} very slowly. Wrote to St Thom{as} this evening.

October TUESDAY 27 1896

We have been working away in our orchard to day Jim and I. Gathering Winter apples mostly. Had a visit from my aunt Susan Culver with my cousin Alice. My mother still improves and we are now confident that she will get up again in a few days. The weather has become very fine and warm...

October WEDNESDAY 28 1896

Jim and I have been working away at apple picking and gathering, to day again. Have been looking for the barrel to come for packing them in; but, so far they have not come We are now about through except gathering in our own supply and getting cider made for vinegar and to boil down. There seems to be rain at hand to night

October THURSDAY 29 1896

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October FRIDAY 30 1896

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October SATURDAY 31 1896

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November SUNDAY 1 1896

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December WEDNESDAY 30 1896

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December THURSDAY 31 1896

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