

COURTLAND OLDS DIARY FOR 1873

I will summarise many of the entries which are repetitive. May omit some of his ruminations on religion, and his own feelings in that regard.

Jan. 1st, 1873. Ma and I out to Dover taking dinner with George Hall's family. Splendid dinner amongst other things oyster soup. — more important the Lord has been with me. I do want to be more holy, to make greater progress in my journey heavenward. To lay aside the weights which have so hindered me. Oh Lord revive thy work in my heart, etc.

Jan 2nd, My labours are the same as usual consisting mainly of chores. Weather fine, but rain tonight. Ma and I went to Dover on request of Mr. Byers — few out, no business done, decided to have tea meeting in town hall evening of 16th.

Jan 3rd, Rain continues, snow gone. Making cider with Mr. Smith's mill which I have had over a month but too cold. Little Tippie with us tonight.

Jan 4th, Took load of hay to Mr. Bryers. After dinner we loaded up and started off. Load upset by Kniffens, queer old time getting it righted. William Wilkinson, who was behind us helped.

Jan 5th, Sunday. Could not go to meeting because of snow and rain. Warmer.

Jan 6th, Ma and I went to Dover. I to Council meeting. New council did not get in though I voted for them. Exciting time. Attended open Lodge[?] this evening at school house. Interesting affair. Large attendance many from Dover and other places.

Jan 7th, Husking corn for fodder. Mr Smith here making up school accounts for the year. Placed in awkward position by our collector Mr. Alexander Marr, who we are afraid is going to give us trouble.

Jan 8th, Attended school meeting this forenoon. My term of trusteeship was up. Reappointed. Weather has again changed and is now as cold as Greenland. Husking corn. The Lord is very precious, yea, he has become the chiefest [sic] among ten thousand to my soul.

Jan 9th, Husking corn, very disagreeable work, so cold. Writing my sister and to Mr. German.

Jan 10th, Biter cold, s-west wind. Drifts as high as the fence posts. Husking corn, two shocks left. My soul is still sweetly trusting in Jesus.

Jan 11th, Finished husking corn and cleaned floor for threshing timothy seed this morning. Dig out road and other chores. Tonight to Dover for mail, cut up quarter of beef on coming home. Saw Mr. Hall. Side road drifted terribly.

Jan 12th, Sunday. Ma and I went to Meeting in Dover Heard Rev. Mr. Wood of Waterford preach the missionary sermon. Song of Solomon. Dinner at Mrs. Bowlby's.

Jan 13th, Have been devoting all my spare time to making cider, not quite done. Smith wants his mill back, but said I could keep it until finished. Weather quite warm with showers.

Jan 14th, Finished cider. Attended missionary meeting. Congregation quite a failure. Deputation of Rev. William Walloughby of Mt. Pleasant and Ford of Waterford. Subject of address in better taste than usual.

Jan 15th, Finished chores and very surprised and pleased to see our old pastor J. W. German drive up. My work had to stand back. He brought an oldish gentleman with him, from the Hullsville Circuit, Mr. Roliston.

Jan 16th, Took Mr. Smith's cider mill back. Tea cancelled by unfortunate weather. Reading.

Jan 17th, Captain McFell came to tell us tea meeting cancelled last night is to morrow. C. W. Smith here, he tells of getting C. Smith's[?] Lydia to teach again. Ma and I went to the tea meeting or rather social. Then Mt Zion choir singing. I did not fancy their music.[?]

Jan 18th, Had terribly disagreeable job to do, done nonetheless, viz to take Sumantha home. Cold and snowing, left cattle in all day. Hands full when I came home late. I am so glad that it is done. We leave [?] to do a great many things in this world contrary to our feelings and desires. But it might be necessary that it should be so.

Jan 19th, Sunday. Ma and I home all day, impossible to get to Church with chores and Sumantha went home yesterday, ma and I alone which is against us. But I have realised the presence of the Lord, even if I have been engaged at my labours.

Jan 20th, ? Butler was here for load of hay for Mr. Husted, the blacksmith. Up to John Williams this evening and learned that Mrs. John Kniffen died. Ill a long time.

Jan 21st, Chores as usual though part of my time visiting with Unckle John Matthews folk, who were here to dinner. Finished timothy seed. I have been passing through trials of late.

Jan 22nd, Have been threshing another flooring of timothy seed. Mr. Thurlow's man came for hay I sold him last fall. Am realising precious sense of his divine presence. One day I am full of gladness and joyfulness, the next of sorrow and misgivings.

Jan 23rd, Heavy north-west wind. Have been brooding over the past today, with it's many trials and disappointments. O how many I have had to meet etc.

Jan 24th, Heavy snow, digging out roads. Threshed a flooring of Timothy. This evening talking to Rev Woods re[?] Thomas Misner.

Jan 25th, Threshed another flooring of timothy. Went to Dover this evening. Mrs. Hall came home with me. roads drifted badly, as I expected but broken very well. In spite of all my efforts to the contrary I have been brooding over present circumstances. Why should I doubt his word.

Jan 26th, Sunday. Mr. Field here today prevented getting to church. Our conversation not entirely fit for the Sabbath but I could not well avoid it.

Jan 27th, Took Mr. Hall to Simcoe and with his assistance made a raise of \$100.00 with which to pay my debts. Settled with Austin & Scotts. Paid a small ballance [sic] on note given to Jane Lemoyne[?] some time ago. Came by Dover, left Mr. Hall, and paid on Schofield's account.

Jan 28th, Cold. Got in three loads of hay. Johnnie McKreddie has helped me. Isaac Austin juniour [sic] kicked by horse and nearly killed. Old Mr. Alexander McQueen died this morning, and also his wife yesterday. Both very aged people and I fear very wicked.

Jan 29th, Went to Jarvis to settle some accounts. Called on Mrs. Canfield, they are doing well after their misfortunes. They are starting a public house. The station is being built.

Jan 30th, Visiting with friends the Murphys. Down to Smiths tonight on school business, had no teacher since the holidays.

Jan 31st, Ma and I went to Dover to pay County tax. Went to George Halls, Mr Hall there had quite a pleasant visit. Letter from my sister, containing favourable news. Called at Mrs. Bowlbys, had pleasant visit with Hellen Bowlby. Sold Mrs. B. some hay and a little misunderstanding has arisen for which I am sorry.

FEBRUARY — 1873.

Feb 1st, Split wood and threshed a flooring of timothy. Will Hennings[?] marriage to Ester Smith, dau. of Russel Smith of Fairfield, in the Guardian. Mrs. Laird Sr. tried to make me happy with the friendship of this young lady a few years ago. But the Lord did not will that it be so.

Feb 2nd, Ma and I out to meeting in Dover. Minister was missionary to the sailors of the Welland canal. Told of thrilling accidents. Capt. McFell leader of excellent class meeting. Went to George Sells for dinner it being his birthday. He is 37. Mr. Hall and Mrs. Sweetlove not there.

Feb 3rd, According to an old rule winter half over yesterday. I do not remember seeing so much severe weather in the same time. Threshed two floorings of timothy seed. Application for school from Miss Nel Beemer. Tried to finish my letter to Rev. Mr. Woolsey.

Feb 4th, Chopping wood in the woods. Quite mild, snow going. Swale is almost dried up. Writing letter on behalf of trustees, trying to get Miss Beemer to teach.

Feb 5th, Cutting wood. Mild. Visited John Matthews this evening.

Feb 6th, Getting in hay. Johnnie McBride helping. Finished hay from stack near barn and one load of damaged hay from field. 4 loads in all. Very warm. Meadows already exposed.

Feb 7th, Drawing first wood of the winter. Ma and I visit David Olds. Heard Hiram DePew of Canaindagua, has in great measure lost his reason. Softening of the brain the cause.

Feb 8th, Feeling unwell, bilious. Done little but chores and cut wood for Sunday. Out to Dover for papers this evening. Roads not good. My religious experience not as good as I desire.

Feb 9th, Sunday. Got to Meeting in Dover to meet an old college acquaintance, Rev. Joseph Colling, of Nanticoke Circuit. Sad to see him looking so frail.

Feb 10th, Ma and I went to Quarterly meeting in Dover. Also meeting of church and parsonage Board. Certain claims were brought forward by George Wilson a departed member. One of over two hundred dollars was entirely repudiated.

Feb 11th, Have a cold but went to tea meeting at Woodhouse this evening. Went to see Aunt Mariah before it, as she has been very low. Slowly improving. Heard of dreadful case of adultery by Andrew Smith, with his wife's daughter, Jannie, an inoffensive little girl, they used to live in our neighbourhood.. Tea Meeting brought about \$100.00.

Feb 12th, Dreadful east wind and my cold made chores very disagreeable. Visit from Florence Olds. She has become a very interesting young lady. Last evening speakers were Rev. G. McKildine and Joseph Colling of Nanticoke. Reading by Mr. Donly. Splendid meeting.

Feb 13th, Ma and I went to Unckle [sic] John Matthews for visit and dinner. It was his 46th birthday. Ma taken very sick at home this evening. A cold like mine only worse.

Feb 14th, Both of us sick. Went to McBride's to get Dick to help me but failed. James Horn offered and helped this evening. I went to Dover for Doctor for Ma. Brought Mrs. Hall's girl out.

Feb 15th, Dr. Steward out, told Ma she will feel better in few days. I am behind in my work but feeling better, work now a pleasure not a drag. Hannah will stay until tomorrow.

Feb 16th, Attended church in Dover. I took Hannah Mudford home as mother much better.

Feb 17th, Man here wanting the school for lecture in Phrenology. Our new teacher starts today.

Feb 18th, Have had the Prussian lecturer here today. His name is Herr Mark Mendelson. He delivered his phrenology lecture which I liked very much. Had the privilege of walking home with the school mar'm, which I liked better.

Feb 19th, Cutting wood and threshed flooring of timothy. Delightful mild weather continues. Unckle Walker's Frank [Olds] is here.

Feb 20th, Cutting wood in the woodhouse. Went to Phrenologist's lecture on Prussia. Good, but hour and a half lecture could have been crowded in half that time. Displeased me very much, when he insulted our school teacher for whispering when she was not guilty.

Feb 21st, Threshed couple of floorings of timothy seed. Visiting Captain James[?] McFell and wife, who is buying a nearly new vessel the "Mary Jane" in company with Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Bagley.

Cost is seven thousand dollars. Mr. Ansley was here this afternoon and back with two or three teams for his stack of hay.

Feb 22nd, Threshed two floorings of timothy. Went to Dover for papers etc. Frank Olds went home today. Saw Mr. Hall who says our municipal indebtedness makes no progress before House of Parliament. Settled with Mr. Thurlow balance of nine dollars for hay.

Feb 23rd, Sunday. Went to school to hear Mr. Ebersoule preach being too cold to go to Dover. One of our cows came in last night or rather heiffers [sic] and I had to start breaking her. Went over to Alexander Marr's for dinner with the new teacher and Miss Lany Bint. Spent a pleasant hour. Teacher is quite an agreeable person, and very fine looking. I do not know more, however.

Feb 24th, Have drawn wood and done the chores. By far the busiest I have been lately. I should like to attend lodge but Ma says I should not go. So far have obeyed, but shall have to by and by.

Feb 25th, Threshing and cutting wood. I have been threshing since Christmas. Have all the stack in the barn, feeding straw [from timothy] to the horses.

Feb 26th, Busy with chores. Mrs Hall and Mrs. Sweetlove came this morning and are staying all night. I enjoy their company. Mrs. Hall takes quite an interest in my welfare for which I am grateful. Today is my twenty-ninth birthday.

Feb 27th, My work has not progressed very fast. Have felt growly [sic] and mean, but by taking to prayer have found a sure remedy. What a blessed privilege.

Feb 28th, James Ham[?] helped me get in a stack and some wood. Mr. David Horton arrived tonight unexpectedly on the Air Line, from North Pelham.

MARCH — 1873.

Mar 1st, Ma and I went to Dover this afternoon. Tea at Mrs. Halls. I settled up the note Miss Howell had against me. Letter from my sister with photographs of the children. Little boys changed. Lydia came down just after we got home.

Mar 2nd, Sunday. George and Mrs. Hall came, as he cannot come week days. They of course are not in possession of the pearl of great price, so that our conversation partook of a worldly nature.

Mar 3rd, Much colder. Have been cutting and splitting wood in the woodhouse. Amidst the trials, temptations and difficulties of life, how consoling is the thought that this earth is not our home. The longer we live on it the more we realise that we are pilgrims and strangers as all our fathers were. How important that our short stay here be improved.

Mar 4th, Cutting wood in the woods. Went up to Peter Ryerse's and Uncle John's. There have been three deaths of children in our neighbourhood within a week. Have enjoyed a measure of the spirit's influence today. Though I do feel I am not fit to be a temple of the living God, I am guilty

of so many shortcomings.

Mar 5th, Cutting wood. Intended to go over to Clarke Matthews tonight but Wm Smith came.

Mar 6th, According to his promise Sandy Shand came over to help get in the last of the four stacks of hay in front of the tennant house. Had to refuse two applications for hay. Engaged Sandy to cut my summer wood for me at five shillings a cord.

Mar 7th, Fixing fences on side road and back concession. Sandy Shand got my papers, reading tonight about municipal indebtedness fund and prospect of settling it.

Mar 8th, Usual chores. Ma and I to Dover, where she plans to stay until I come to church tomorrow. The government have wiped out old township debt of nearly two hundred thousand dollars. This will put township in a position to assist the railroad project which is a foot.

Mar 9th, Sunday. Went over to hear Mr. Ebersoule, Ma being away to Dover. To Unckle Johns to dinner. Found John Marr's and school mar'm there. Snowing tonight so could not get out to church. Do not agree with Mr. Ebersoule's texts for sermons of late.

Mar 10th, Got Albert's breakfast, went out for Ma being heartily sick of bachelorhood. Learned from Mr. Hall that township bill has only passed first reading in Parliament. Sandy Shand looked at trees to be cut in the woods.

Mar 11th, After chores Ma and I went in cutter for Sumantha. [sic] Ma stopped at Mr. David Sterlings until I came back. Quite a bit of bare road.

Mar 12th, Cutting wood in the Woodhouse and making brine for meat etc.

Mar 13th, Commenced cleaning timothy seed. Tedious job. Visited the school. Miss Beemer on trial for a month. Doing well considering how bad it was. Concluded to keep her remainder of yr

Mar 14th, Ma and I to Dover this afternoon, called on Mrs. Bowlby. Took tea with Mrs. Hall. Sara and Annie Douglas[s] who returned from visit to Toronto. Funeral of old resident Sandy Clarke today. Upwards of seventy and a great drinker. Agitating for railroad to Hamilton and Woodstock roads.

Mar 15th, Cleaning timothy seed. To John Marrs, had nice chat with Miss Beemer.

Mar 16th, Sunday. Badness of roads & chores kept us home. Striving with the Lord today.

Mar 17th, Cleaning timothy, a hideous job. Robin and Bluebirds return, the harbingers of spring.

Mar 18th, Finished timothy and have over 4 bushels. Nursing a sick cow. Snowing all day

Mar 19th, Still in labours abundant, days longer, taking poles from creek and building fence behind

the barn to keep sheep from the field. Enjoying much more of the divine presence.

Mar 20th, Carpentering, making a waggon box. My old cow died at last. Have a sick sheep.

Mar 21st, Sandy Shand helped me get in 5 loads from a stack of hay. Wintry and some snow.

Mar 22nd, Sold Sandy hay at ten dollars a load. Ma and I went to town, left her at Capt. McFells. He took me to see new vessel, the Sarah Jane, carries 1150 bus. of wheat. He rode out with me. Received letter from my sister containing the photograph. All are well.

Mar 23rd, Sunday. Mr. Ebersole preached good and useful sermon about kindness to neighbours and brethren. His ideas quite Methodistic. Unckle John's came with me to dinner. Pleasant little sing at John Marrs. She [school teacher?] is quite a musician, apparently a fine girl, but engaged.

Mar 24th, Ma and I went to Simcoe, hideous drive. To Tom Murphy's to dinner. Violent e. wind

Mar 25th, Got up five loads of summer wood. Sandy has quite a quantity cut. Severe east storm.

Mar 26th, Having old fashioned winter, now Easter. The snow has fallen a foot in depth. Completed my new waggon box. Reading cheering news from Japan, the gospel is spreading amongst that people. Hundreds are anxious to study the word of God. Mostly young men.

Mar 27th, Trying to make best use of snow. Got up five loads of wood. Went to Dover with the cutter. Ma going to stay a few days. Woodstock railroad advanced. Gov. bonus \$2,000 / mile.

Mar 28th, Drew last of wood Sandy cut, 6 cords. Sumantha and I are keeping house alone. Have been thinking about my past unfaithfulness as a Christian and of God's great goodness and mercy notwithstanding. Sure his goodness has passed before me daily.

Mar 29th, Raining. Hamilton Olds here at ten until after dinner. He says his father buying the Nelles farm, south half of lot they live on. \$4,000. Got up load of hay notwithstanding the rain.

Mar 30th, Sunday. Could not get to church so went to hear Mr. Ebersole, but a man named Erookee [?] preached. I thought I wanted to be away. He had no mercy on his brethren of other denominations, but dealt out blows right and left. He denounced tea parties as a terrible thing worse than evening parties in their influence.

Mar 31st, Drawing up 3 loads of wood. Sandy still cutting. Ma still away so I went to Nu Lodge. Disappointed. Few out and what there were there were very ill behaved. It deserves the name of a sparking school more than I thought.

APRIL 1873

Apr 1st, Hauled wood and one load of hay. Frank Olds is here and says he is going to go to school awhile. Have had the most precious communion with the heavenly today.

Apr 2nd, Have ten cords of wood up. Ma not home but Frank Olds being here do not miss her so much. Getting tired of the muddy weather.

Apr 3rd, Ma came home. George Hall brought her and good news. Our municipal indebtedness has been cancelled. Govt. has voted \$2,000 per mile to Woodstock railroad, as a bonus. We are likely to be called on shortly to vote a bonus besides.

Apr 4th, Sandy helped draw 2 loads of hay from little house and 2 loads from ten acre field, barn. Had to use sleighs. East wind drying mud. Do not feel my religion as much as other days.

Apr 5th, Split wood, half cord in block of the big oak. To Dover this evening. Mr. Hall met with bad accident, nearly broke his leg. Roads very bad. My religious experience much the same.

Apr 6th, Sunday. Had to remain home because of roads. Might have heard Mr. Ebersole but so often wished myself away, when there, I didn't care to go. Have thought of the goodness of God.

Apr 7th, Warm and showery, frost nearly out. Took out waggon load of potatoes for market tomorrow. Kept splendidly. Miss Beemer here tonight. The presence of the Divine has been mine

Apr 8th, Inclement weather. Solomon Austin and Unckle John Matthews here. Worked in shop some. Looking over old letters, has made me sad and gloomy as well as happy.

Apr 9th, Four days of incessant rain. Cutting wood in woodhouse. Put up couple of door on gable end of the waggon house. Wedding nearby. Fan[n]y Bint and James Austin.

Apr 10th, Mending hounds of one of the waggons as well as chores. An old fashioned shivaree for Fany Bint and Jimmie Austin is quite laughable. I have been listening a long time and am enjoying it greatly.

Apr 11th, Have lost three lambs mostly through lack of care. Too much to do, something must suffer. Johny McBride helped me draw up four loads of hay. Roads are better.

Apr 12th, Busied myself at my calling this forenoon. Ma and I went to Dover and found the Doverites all astir about the railroad bonus which it is proposed to raise for the two railroads now in contemplation. Had a talk with Mr. Hall. Roads in very bad state.

Apr 13th, Sunday. Over to hear Mr. Ebersole's Easter sermon. Up to Unckle John's for dinner. Perhaps a wrong move as we are to remember the Lord's day and keep it holy. Should stay home

Apr 14th, Sowed clover seed. Put gates across the creek. Misfortune to lose a bull calf injured by some means. Hammon Oakes here to see about his work.

Apr 15th, Bro. Byers made pastoral visit. Rode french colt Maggie to Jarvis to see about getting market for potatoes. Mr Canfield promised to take a load. Pleasant visit with Mrs. C.

Apr 16th, Raining. Lost a sheep. Cutting wood in woodhouse. Frank back today.

Apr 17th, Sowing grass seed on field next barn and hill by the creek. Am leg weary. Thinking that farmers are more than any other class workers together with God. That is in a world sense. We plough and sow but God alone can give the increase.

Apr 18th, Took twenty bushells [sic] of potatoes to Jarvis over terrible roads. Got forty cents a bushell. Frank went with me. He saw the carrs [?] for first time. Quite a sight he thought.

Apr 19th, Out to Dover after papers. Learned that railroad meeting had resulted favourably. Turner of Hamilton road said Dover branch not built for less than \$25,000 bonus. Dover folks propose taking extra \$10,000 bonus which will do the job.

Apr 20th, Sunday. Ma and I to Dover to church. First in three months. Bro Byers an excellent preacher and wears well. Captain McFell leader of class meeting. Went to Benson Sterling's to dinner. Came home after. Surely it is good to wait upon the Lord.

Apr 21st, Met with another loss of a yearling calf, best of the lot. It came evidently from a hurt. Inflammation set in afterwards, and ended fatally. The little fellow was fat enough for beef. Had Mr. Horn over to see him and he pronounced it inflammation. Hammon came tonight. Glad of it.

Apr 22nd, Have been in labours abundant. Fixed a bridge by the road. Drawing a stack of hay, six loads in it. Hammon helping. Thankful to be so abundantly supplied with feed for our cattle, when so many of our neighbours are out of feed entirely.

Apr 23rd, Trimming trees, then sowing oats for Hammon. Had Charlotte Sovereign and Allie Wilson on missionary collection. Gave our little portion of \$4.00. Unckle John here tonight.

Apr 24th, Finished sowing grass seed on the fall wheat by the drive barn. Hammon sowing oats. Sowed onion seed etc. Squalls of snow. Enjoy still a measure of the Divine presence, etc.

Apr 25th, Commenced sowing grass seed on the big flats. Hammon sowing oats. Snowing later.

Apr 26th, Trimming trees. Ma and I to Dover, took tea with Mrs. Bowlby. With Hellen's assistance I dug up a lot of plum sprouts. I enjoyed it. Had a pleasant visit with the girls. Quite an excitement about the railroad bonuses. Cannot look at a man but what he will commence about the advantages of voting for the Council.

Apr 27th, Sunday. We all went to Dover to church and heard Father Wessmore preach. A good old fashioned sermon on experimental religion, it's nature etc. It just seemed to suit me. Father W. is getting quite feeble and is failing. He has been in the ministry forty years. To George Hall's with Ma for dinner. Ma is going to help Mrs. Sweetlove for a few days.

Apr 28th, Off on the Lord's business, pertaining to our circuit finances. Saw Bro's Aaron Stringer, William Wilkinson and George Matthews. All interested in Methodism still, and promise to do what

they can for the support of the minister, though they do not get out to meetings. Went to Lodge last night and had pleasant time talking to Isaac Kitchen.

Apr 29th, Sowed oats in forenoon and then grass seed. Grass is growing, cattle soon get a bite.

Apr 30th, Sowing oats this morning for Hammon on front field. This afternoon sowing grass seed on the big flats. Mr. Hall brought Ma home. He is talking up the railroad. Port Ryerse folks are doing their utmost to defeat the by-laws for bonuses.

MAY 1873.

May 1st, Made a hot-bed for Ma. Cleaning out the cellar. Helping Hammon put in Barley this afternoon. It looks like rain tonight. The days go swiftly by, hour by hour. Each setting sun proclaims our days to be one less. When the end will come we know not. But there is one who knows and in Him will I put my trust.

May 2nd, Raining. Have been washing and oiling harness. Got the double set nearly done, beside the new single set. Feel thankful that the Lord still gives me strength to labour, etc. etc.

May 3rd, Oiling harness and fixing fences. Rained till noon. Hammon went to Dover for papers. There seems to be considerable talk about the Norfolk road going to Brantford.

May 4th, Ma and I went out to Dover to Quarterly Meeting, J. C. Willmot presiding. Had a very good love-feast and sacrament, though I felt a little down. Had dinner at Mrs. H. Sovereign's. On coming home I had the pleasure of an hour or so with Miss Beemer.

May 5th, Spent morning at chores, taking out potatoes etc. Mrs. Sweetlove and Mrs. Hall out until after dinner. Attended Quarterly meeting to find ministers salary short \$200. Hall's cow out

May 6th, Hammon finished barley, ploughing pea ground. Three year old heiffer [sic] after calving inverted her womb. Got it back with C. W. Smith's help using pulverised egg shells and black pepper. [???

May 7th, Went after lime for whitewash. Talked to Smith. Had pleasure of a conversation with the school teacher, she is quite an interesting young lady in many ways. Old friends Mr. & Mrs. Murphy here. Hammon went out for plaster and took a grist to mill for me.

May 8th, Raining, regular old Easter. Ground very wet [sic] and muddy. Washing and oiling harness. Got the old Nickerson harness oiled up in style. Hammon having a rest. The heiffer is progressing finely but looks very bad. Have in a pleasing sense the Divine presence in my heart.

May 9th, Hammon and I went to Dover saw mill to pile lumber they have sawn for me. Brought a small load home Sent off a box of treed fruit to May Jane's. Weather good for grass, not wheat

May 10th, Hammon home, too wet. I was up to shop for some repairing but blacksmith not in.

May 11th, Sunday. To Dover, Rev. Mr Craigie preached, our own Mr. Thurlow being ill. Came home directly after service a way I am favourable too, but Ma much opposed to it. Feel very much cast down in spring and know not what to do. How variable are life's scenes. We are so often in the vally [sic] of humiliation, but thank God our troubles do not last forever.

May 12th, Choring around, fixing fence, have bad cold. Went to Lodge, was confirmed in office of secretary. Felt rather foolish in chair. Some of Lodge folks rough & ?. This don't suit me.

May 13th, Cut wood. Visit from John Stickney, tool of Port Ryerse clique, trying to defeat railway bonuses, soon to be voted on. Out to Dover, met Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Sweetlove, and Ma came back with them. Took Mrs. Hall's carpet out for her. Mr. Hall here, information on bonus.

May 14th, Altered the pigs and bull calves with John Marr's help. He got a small jag of hay, three hundred or so. Sold some potatoes for 3 shillings a bushell. Got trees Ma ordered last fall.

May 15th, As usual buusy [sic] all the time, but after all I do not seem to do much. Got early rose potatoes from pit to barn. Hammon still ploughing for peas and complains of the stumps. Warm.

May 16th, Hammon ploughing. I am taking out potatoes, saved very well excepting one pit. I am writing to my sister this evening. Weather continues beautiful and warm. Ground begins to dry.

May 17th, Went to Dover to take Mrs. Hall principally. The foregoing is a mistake. Went with John Marr's and had privilege of Miss Beemer's company. She is certainly a fine girl notwithstanding her love of Jim. Planting potatoes. Attended the railroad meeting at the schoolhouse. Both parties met and had a lively time. Gilbert Moore, Pres. of Woodstock rd. there

May 18th, Sunday. Being no meetings, stayed home. Friend E. H. is with us, engaged in railway affairs, conversation secular and unbecoming for Sunday. Sumantha's folks here. I have a cold.

May 19th, Took Mr. Hall home, met many Dover men on the road travelling for benefit of the bonus. Had dinner at George Hall's. Dover folk more excited but fear it may be lost. Hope not, as the roads cannot help but be a direct benefit to us, far beyond the bonuses. My cold still bad.

May 20th, To Dover to vote for the two by-laws for Hamilton and Woodstock roads. Hear they are law with 180 majority. I am pleased. etc. Still have cold but with blessing of God, recovering.

May 21st, Helped Hammon by sowing peas, remainder of day fixing fence.

May 22nd, Clearing up around the door-yard. Grubbing out sprouts etc. Weather warmer.

May 23rd, To Dover, learned Hamilton road has begun this side of Jarvis. Woodstock road waiting until June 5th, when bylaw for \$15,000 voted on in Windham.

May 24th, Ploughing garden instead of celebrating Queen's birthday, except Hammon. Cold afflicts me somewhat & I am getting a little uneasy about it, lest it may terminate seriously.

May 25th, Ma and I heard Father Wessmore preach. Failing fast. Went to Doctor, as I suspected it is Bronchitis. Gave me bottle of medicine. Had very severe smothering spell last night.

May 26th, Hammon not back until noon. Used his team to harrow garden and ploughed more. Little Ettie Sweetlove is here. It seems like living again to have a child around. Heard greater portion of Jarvis was burnt out last Saturday from fire-crackers.

May 27th, Ma and I went to Jarvis to see the burnt out district. One third destroyed, a sad sight. Many lost all including clothes, a poor widow with large family of little children lost all.

May 28th, Have not done much, troubled by bronchitis, and smothering spells. Hammon ploughing big field for summer fallow. The Good Lord is sending the fruitful shower of blessings to replenish the earth. Precious tokens of his goodness.

May 29th, Ma went up to Townsend to take Sumantha home. I had to keep house. My work confined entirely to getting meals. Hammon ploughing. Rain and cool tonight. Against my cold.

May 30th, Spent morning in chores, tending to the bull and such like. To Dover learned there is a misunderstanding about the Hamilton road owing to Lawson's meddling. Hellen Bowlby and Annie Douglass here on my getting home. Was pleased to see them.

May 31st, With Sumantha away I have been doing the milking and cleaning besides my other chores. After a man to wash and sheer sheep. At a raising at Peter Ryerse's of a waggon house. Saw Miss Beemer over to the church.

JUNE 1873.

June 1st, Sunday. Ma, I and little Ellie Sweetlove went to Dover to church. Heard Mr. Bryers preach. Mr. Wm. Thurlow led class afterwards & W. Smith assisting.

June 2nd, Working in the garden. Intended to wash the sheep but my man did not come. Hammon ploughing summer fallow as usual. Cold some better. My poor soul is also having the healing balm applied; so that body and soul I am being cured by an almighty hand. Etc.

June 3rd, Washed the sheep. Hammon and I got up last of last years hay from little barn. Mr. Byers here about getting his horse pastured until back from conference. He promised to take one of our cows at seventy-five dollars.

June 4th, Ma and I to Dover partly to attend the Josey Ryerson wedding at ten in the Presbyterian church. Did not get there until after the service was performed unfortunately. Told that the several parties presented a fine appearance. There was six bridesmaids and groomsmen to match. Have had a beautiful shower since then, which was much needed.

June 5th, Had to go after Sumantha, back at five. Hammon still ploughing summer fallow. The splendid rain is making everything look quite fresh. My soul is being watered by the dews of grace

divine. O! It is so refreshing after my past unfaithfulness to feel again the power of his saving grace.

June 6th, Finished planting early rose potatoes, found large number of potato buggs [sic] on those I planted first. The Giver of all good is still manifesting Himself in the fruitful shower.

June 7th, Though I am very busy all the time, my work does not seem to amount to much. Ma went to Dover and brought home a letter from my sister with glorious news. She has joined the church, and is determined to live a Christian. This I rejoice as a glorious answer to prayer.

June 8th, Sunday. Ma and I went to meeting. Mr. Thurlow took Mr. Byers place. He gave a very good discourse for him, though there are many who do not seem to appreciate his service. Had dinner at Mrs. Bowlby's, and saw her sick boy Morton, still failing and looks very bad. Death of young William Austin last night. Son of Isaac Austin and just married last spring.

June 9th, Hoeing potatoes, buggs very numerous. Stallion Hamiltonian here. Homer Sovereign and lady and Mrs. Sweetlove called this evening on way home from Hamilton. Pleasant visit.

June 10th, Cleaned out the woodhouse and other jobs. Have felt the Divine presence today etc.

June 11th, Sheered sheep at last. Hired it done for four or rather five cents, washing and sheering. Never done so well. Sheep in good condition.

June 12th, Ma and I went to Simcoe to Circus and Menagerie, called Dan Nice's Great Show. Saw many things of interest. The animals were splendid. One large Elephant and two small ones, two large Lions, one Dromedary, a Rhinoceros and a sacred Hindoo Cow. A spotted Leopard and a Bengal Tiger. A Jackal and a Hyena besides a great many other interesting things.

June 13th, Fixed a watering place along the creek. Swales are dry. Went up to Blacksmith's shop and stayed longer than intended having met Miss Beemer at George's. Tea at Unckle John's with Ma. Have not felt as much of the Divine presence in my heart, Lord striving with me

June 14th, Fixing fence and picking up on the new ground. To Dover for papers and groceries etc. Had a time hunting Ma, who got lost from me. She was at Mrs. Hall's and disappointed with me that I could not get home sooner. I met with Mr. Bryer just home from conference.

June 15th, Sunday. Ma and I to meeting in Dover. Mr. Bryer on parable of the sower.

June 16th, Made fence across the creek by the big "Flat", turned cows into field by McBride's. Hammon still ploughing the new ground fallow, geting [sic] along well. Have had various trials and temptations and feel tonight that I have not been faultless before my redeemer. But still he does not withhold his glorious from one, and forgives my trespasses.

June 17th, Picking up on the new ground fallow and tonight seting [sic] fires. Cultivated out the earliest potatoes. He is indeed the one altogether lovely to my soul. O, to be lost in Him. I can conceive nothing more desirable.

June 18th, Cultivating potatoes and corn. Mr Hall here and staying overnight. Had offer for two steers and a little calf. Sixty dollars the lot. Did not take it up as Mr. Hall will pay \$60. For two steers and pay for a couple of months pasture besides.

June 19th, Our friend left and shortly after Mrs. Hall and Hamner[?] came for "goodbye visit" as she is going to York state for a couple of months. Weather still dry and very warm.

June 20th, Hoeing potatoes and corn in the garden. Mr. Byers came for his horse. The conference was the best he ever attended. The projected union with the new connection conference has been carried unanimously in both conferences.

June 21st, Finished hoeing. Went out to Dover with my wool and from there to Simcoe where i sold it for three York shillings a pound. Had something like one hundred and sixty-eight pounds.

June 22nd, Sunday. Out to church and heard Father Messmore, who has just returned from India as a missionary, his health having failed. Preached a solid and practical sermon on Christ being a stumbling block and rock of offence to the worldling etc. etc.

June 23rd, Fencing around pasture. Payed Samuel Ward, Path Master my statute labour. Left money with his wife. Helped raise a bridge near 6th concession on our side-road.

June 24th, Rain, Working on the road. Paid all but half a day this year. Our work is going to crowd us, I fear. Haying must soon commence although weather is not settled.

June 25th, Engaged getting out shingle bolts with my new crosscut saw. Warm work. Ma went to Dover and then to Simcoe, I have been alone. Went to see school teacher, she had gone to bed.

June 26th, Filed my mower, but Jimmie Hocolm [?] came from Pelham and visited rest of the day. He married Ruth Horton who was with him. Went to see Miss Beemer, again disappointed.

June 27th, James Holcomb and family here and put me in notion of building a dog churn. We worked on it all day. This evening we have been out to Dover.

June 28th, Commenced cutting hay. E. H. came last night to stay over Sabbath. Mr. and Mrs. Murphy came. He left Mrs. Murphy here on account of her health.

June 29th, Sunday. Mr. Hall and Mrs. Murphy being with us did not get to church. Warm and so a true day of rest. Engaged in conversation not very becoming for the Sabbath. My happiness has not as a consequence been perfect. I mean in Jesus.

June 30th, Rain, ground quite weat again, spring crops looking up. Up to George Matthews about my dog churn. Hammon brought two men last night for haying, but stoped by rain.

COURTLAND OLDS 1873 DIARY – JULY TO DECEMBER.

July 1st, Tuesday. Up to shop on dog churn business. Got necessary belting. Mowing for Hammon this aft. in ten acre field. Hard work to do so, on account of young lady visitors, Miss Rebecca Forsyth and Miss Graham from Dover. Had quite a pleasant time taking them home.

July 2nd, Sorry to see friend E. H. go home. Mrs. Murphy still here and is good substitute. Cuting [sic] hay for Hammon. Went out to Dover in a.m. and brought back small load of lumber.

July 3rd, Choring around. This aft. Geting old hay barn ready for Hammon's hay. Mrs. Sweetlove here with Mrs. David Olds. Hammon got in six loads of hay.

July 4th, Rain last night. I worked on dog churn. Raked rest of hay in ten acres. All put up and one load in the barn. Tom Murphy's wife came after Mrs. Murphy, she is staying with us.

July 5th, Took Sumantha [sic] to Dover to have a tooth drawn. Hammon working at hay. I mowed for him in field west of the woods. French colt Maggie on mower and much pleased with her.

July 6th, Sunday. Ma and I late geting to church, heard part of Rev. Thurlow's sermon. I remained to class though the Devil tried to get me away. Dinner at Mr. Halls, then to Morton Bowlby. He is looking very slim, evidently failing. There are clouds in Nature and in the Christian's life.

July 7th, Finished cuting hay in spite of bad luck and breakdowns. Boys finished drawing in. Miss Hattie Bowlby, a very modest, innocent appearing girl is visiting with us.

July 8th, Rain last night. I was up at shop for repairs. Mr. Thurlow's man came for the steers. I called on Miss Beemer, but she's gone home sick. I felt sorry to see the poor girl in such a state.

July 9th, Visited John Gilbert, Mrs. Sweetlove joined us. Met with Squire Freeman, brought little Carry Sweetlove home with us. Boys raking hay. Received letter from Mary Jane.

July 10th, Had to lay by working in hay because of rain. I planted sweet potato plants from Mrs. Gilbert. Mowing for Hammon in field in front of little house. Still permitted to feel – spirit, etc.

July 11th, Moving fence out of barn yard and fixing a bridge. Mowing for Hammon in p.m.

July 12th, Mending old buggy for Sumantha to go home with, and working in garden. Ma and I to Dover, she stoping [sic] at Capt. McFell's. Saw Mr. Hall for visit. Mr. Byers has new plan on foot to pay the Minister, on the principle of Rep. By Pop.

July 13th, Sunday. Ma, Carrie and I out to church. Mr. Byers read pastoral address from Conference, and Rules of discipline of our Church. Home with Annie Douglass for pleasant lunch, though we found Morton Bowlby in last stages of Consumption.

July 14th, Rainy, I mowed a little and then cuting thistles. Little Eddie German and George and

Allie Scott to stay with us. Have had a precious assurance today of providential guidance.

July 15th, Mowing all day for Hammon. Our family is quite numerous, numbers no less than ten

July 16th, Mowing, but had to take machine to Blacksmith shop. Boys drawing in. Friend E. H. turned up. I was glad to see him. Seems like one of us. When absent we naturally are anxious.

July 17th, Rain stopped haying. At it again in afternoon. Visited by quite a windstorm tonight.

July 18th, Took grist of 8 bus. of wheat and visitors to Dover and brought them back. I visited around all day. At Mrs. Bowlby's for awhile. Found men hard at work at their fruit.

July 19th, Breaking my colt to cultivate potatoes and corn. Went first rate for a colt. Hammon raking and drawing hay. Have had an unmistakable assurance of God's goodness today. [Etc.]

July 20th, Sunday. Ma and I to meeting in Dover. Father Messmore preached plain old fashioned sermon. Text; "Let not your affections be placed on things of earth, but upon things above." Dinner at Mr. E. hall's and stayed until night meeting. Heard Mr. Bryers. Saw A. [Annie Douglass]

July 21st, Cultivated potatoes for last time. Put the old reaper together and hoed in the garden. Hammon finished drawing hay and this aft. commenced wheat harvesting.

July 22nd, Boys working in harvest. I have been cutting thistles and in garden. Am still rejoicing-

July 23rd, Helping Hammon cutting and binding north of the drive-barn. The old St. George machine I bought at the Walker Tisdale sale works well. Probably finish cutting by noon tomorrow.

July 24th, Helping the boys finished cutting and setting up the hill field. I went to Dover, Mr. Bryers prevailed on me to stop at prayer meeting, stayed also to choir practice and met there with Annie and Hellen. Had our friends Mr. Hall and Mrs. Sweetlove to see us today.

July 25th, Little boy visitors left us, seems lonesome. Helping Hammon cut wheat on big Flat, caught in shower at four o'clock. Profitable season trying to pray without ceasing, and give thanks

July 26th, Heavy rain stopped all work. I cleaning up around barn. Hammon and his men went to Vittoria. The Lord continues to be precious to my soul. Satisfied only when filled with his matchless love. Glory to God !

Jul 27th, Sunday. Ma and I to Dover to hear Mr. Bryers, and remained to class. Dinner at Francis Marr's. Brought little "Tippie" Sweetlove home with us. A circumstance filled my heart with thankfulness to Almighty God for his Goodness. It was a little kindness shown me by A. which I take as proof that He is answering my petitions.

July 28th, Worked on big flat in morning, but stoped by rain. Have suffered somewhat from Bronchitis that has not left me yet. Hope a new medicine with the blessing of God will help me.

July 29th, All hands of us cutting and binding in big flat. Bad luck as reaper knife broke twice, and had to go to shop each time. Thinking of keeping less cows, it is so hard to make butter.

July 30th, Finished cutting wheat on the Flats for a wonder. Hammon and I went to cutting barley. Our old reaper gave out several times, made me more than ever convinced to get a new one for next year. If I live? Mrs. Sweetlove and Miss Rose here today.

July 31st, Hammon and I finished cutting barley, and his men cutting around the stumps in the Flat etc. Drawing in barley this afternoon. Ma and I went to Dover. I went to see A. but was badly disappointed to find that she had gone away for a few days. But after all I know that I am lead in every circumstance.

AUGUST - 1873.

Aug 1st, Heavy rain last night stoped harvest. Drawing two loads, thousand feet each, of lumber.

Aug 2nd, Boys finished barley and most of loose wheat. I got load of lumber. Lottie Sovereign here to tea. Had pleasant chat. The presence of the Most High is still my highest delight.

Aug 3rd, Sunday. Went to quarterly meeting at Mt. Zion. Had to take Samantha, being near her home. Little "Tippie" Sweetlove went too. Rev. Hamilton Biggar from Brantford preached. Excellent feeling throughout the whole meeting, especially in the love Feast was this manifested.

Aug 4th, Boys drawing wheat and I stacking. Nine loads in. Taking Ayers Cherry Pectoral with slippery Elm Bark for my bronchitis. Have enjoyed the Spirit's influence the past day.

Aug 5th, Drawing and stacking wheat. Have not often enjoyed as much of the Divine presence -

Aug 6th, Hammon and Asa finished drawing wheat, except putting grass on top of the stacks.

Aug 7th, Hammon's last man left. He is drawing manure for the garden. I went out for groceries and the last load of lumber. Received letter from Mary Jane, anxious to have us come down.

Aug 8th, Mowed orchard. Hammon drawing manure. Troubled some days with the toothache.

Aug 9th, Cut around trees and stumps in orchard and raked it with the old mare. Put it up since tea, and had eighty-seven cocks in all. Hammon working on his summer fallow. Home to Vittoria

Aug 10th, Sunday. Ma and I to church, Mr Byers preached. Dinner at Mr. Halls then I went to Mrs. Bowlby's, met with splendid lady from Brantford, a Mrs. Shanley. Met also with Annie and had a very agreeable season's conversation. Poor Morton failing, professes a hope beyond the grave.

Aug 11th, Monday brings with it, it's labours. Cut around orchard fences. This afternoon a heavy storm of rain and hail. Hammon commenced cutting his oats in front field.