

**David Allan (1808-1895)**  
**1867 Diary**  
**Transcribed by Rural Diary Archive volunteers**

{Printed page} DAILY JOURNAL, 1867.

{Printed page} CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 1867. BANK HOLIDAYS. TABLE OF STAMP DUTIES. RATES OF POSTAGE

{Printed page with newspaper cutting} DAILY JOURNAL FOR 1867.  
TORONTO:  
PUBLISHED BY BROWN BROTHERS,  
MANUFACTURING STATIONERS.

{Newspaper cutting - notice of Marriage}

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**February. MONDAY, 11. 1867.**

The weather is cold and windy to day but not so cold as yesterday which was very bitter, the wind being so keen. Went out to the Rocks {caves at what is now the quarry at the Reformatory} and drove all round and find a considerable quantity of parts of piles of dry wood yet left, hardly any wheat in the market to day

**TUESDAY, 12.**

Mild weather to day, but no increase of water yet but have plenty for 2 run. Saw 14 hogs weighed to day in the market fed by Griffeth of Eramosa, and after deducting 2 lbs for each hog they amounted to 5780 lbs @ \$5.50 = \$317.90

**WEDNESDAY, 13.**

Mild weather to day, and raining hard during the whole of the forenoon and most of the afternoon

**FRIDAY, 15.**

Very fine winter weather, Went down to Fishers Mills {2 km north-west of Hespeler on Chilligo Creek} to day, Higinbotham & wife and Wm & Johny, Mrs A and self, the sleighing was good considering the washing it got from the rain on Wednesday they had plenty of water running over the dam there

**SATURDAY, 16.**

This is a very rainy and stormy morning but cleared up by noon. There is a great deal of water flowing over the apron to night, but think there is no need to lift the gates as it is freezing now. Began to {blank} on the rafters for roof of Shed at the furnace door of Distillery

**February. MONDAY, 18. 1867.**

This has been a fine mild day, and the snow melting away pritty fast on the roads, a considerable quantity of water is flowing over the dam. Have resolved to day to set up the Cronometer Steam Guage to test the little Boiler in the distillery Have begun to put on the sheeting for the roof of the shed in front of the furnace doors

**TUESDAY, 19.**

The New Woolen Factory to be built on the old Tannery lot (Jacksons) is to be 81 feet long & 34 feet wide & 2½ stories high, the lower 10 feet the next to be 9 feet high

**WEDNESDAY, 20.**

Went down to Hamilton this morning & found that they had a greater fall of snow than we had last night. This being the day of Meeting of the Corn Exchange, the attendance was very poor, and sales made, the trade in general is very dull

**February. THURSDAY, 21. 1867.**

This is a cold day, and clear yet not very hard frost. It appears that the Wollen factory contracts are taken the Mason work is to be completed for \$1770.00 & the Carpenter work for \$1050.00

**FRIDAY, 22.**

This has been another coldish day. but quite clear. Some snow fell last night and through the forenoon but all of it did not amount to much, nor make sleighing. Have made preparations, by way of attaching the little Boiler to the old one, so as to give it a fair trial tomorrow. We are also now grinding N<sup>o</sup> 2 wheat into a 2d quality of flour, it would have been much better had the wheat been dried on a Kiln

**SATURDAY, 23.**

I made a fair trial of the boiler this morning and after several hours hard firing got the steam up to 12 lbs but when ever it was turned on to the still it went down at once, and after working on till after 10 oclock could only run one charge and had hard work to blow of that, we pulled out the fire and put it into the old furnace and started it, and had the steam up in a very short time

**February. MONDAY, 25. 1867.**

This has been rather a coldish day, the wind sharp. Mrs Stewart of Montreal and little Duncan left for home at 3 o'clock. Very few loads of wheat came into town to day and some sold as high as \$1.50

**TUESDAY, 26.**

Fine winter weather but hardly any sleighing on the main roads. There was a good deal of wheat in town to day, but all very high, some loads commanding \$1.52 in silver and not unfrequent \$1.50 in bills, poor fall wheat \$1.71 Pork heavy from \$5.30 to \$5.40

**WEDNESDAY, 27.**

This has been a very fine day, I went down to Hespeler to enquire about square timber and flour Barrels and agreed for 1000 from Kribs at 30 cents there at the shop. He could not furnish the timber himself but have heard from since that a party will deliver it rough hewn at \$8.68 or counter hewed at \$8.80 per 100 feet in Guelph

**February. THURSDAY, 28. 1867.**

Cold to day by what it was yesterday and looked like rain in the afternoon. The team brought up a load of Barrels from Hespeler, also a load from Evertown and one from Kelly. This has been our Fast day in the Church {St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Suffolk and Norfolk streets} and was very well attended both morning & evening.

**March. FRIDAY, 1.**

Very mild to day, team brot another load of Barrels from Waterloo But have set about making a new large Rack to hold a hundred Bhls at least. Attended a General Meeting of Directors of Insurance Company. Also set about taking out the boiler put into the distillery on trial. It began to rain this evening and likely to continue all night

**WEDNESDAY, 6.**

This is our Monthly fair day and a considerable number of cattle came in and all those that were fit sold quick. at much better prices than last fair day. I sold 4 steers for \$160 in bills, at least \$5 a head more than could have been got for them last fair.

### **FRIDAY, 8.**

Went down to Hamilton this morning by train to attend meeting of Steam Ship Company. Much more snow had fallen there yesterday and during last night, than in Guelph for I went up to town in a sleigh which could not have been done in our town, the City seemd dull

### **SATURAY, 9.**

Rec<sup>d</sup> a letter this morning from my Sister in Illinois

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### **FRIDAY, 15.**

This has been a clear bracing day, blowing a cold wind from the N West. Got up 6 of the long pine beams from Morriston to day. In the afternoon I went down there myself with another order for timber, which I have to pay \$8 for del<sup>d</sup> in town. Little said that the large timber was far too cheap at \$9. and that he would make no more at less than \$12.

### **SATURDAY, 16.**

This is another cold blustering day freezing very hard, Wheat has taken quite a start to day in price \$1.45 yesterday & \$1. 52 in bills to day & \$1.55 in Silver. I Bo<sup>t</sup> 1200 Bush from John Stewart at \$1.45 Bills. Richard Greet Esqr died this forenoon about 10 a m, from a very severe attack of Paralises, he had a light one last year aged they say 52 years but I think he was more, came here 1835 & was 22 then. Robert Swan of Acton died also to day aged 63, he formerly was a farmer on the Elora road Pilkington then a few years a flour & grain dealer in Toronto & lately of Acton,

### **March. MONDAY, 18. 1867.**

A considerable fall of snow yesterday and this morning from 3 to 4 inches, we have hard frost. Mr Rutherford of Stratford came here & Paid in \$5,000 on a/c of flour and was desirous of purchasing another lot of flour, but did not feel disposed to sell any more at present. One of the name of Todd has suddenly left Seaforth having previously sold warehouse receipts to 4 or 5 different parties for the same wheat. The Assizes began to day

**TUESDAY, 19.**

This is a fine clear day but froze very hard last night, the Mercury was down at zero this morning at about 7. It appears to day that the Royal Canadian Bank Branch at Stratford has a claim of \$8,000 on Todd estate. I attended Greets funeral & was one of the Paul Bearers, his Son Alex<sup>r</sup> arrived from the States while the Coffin was in the Church

**WEDNESDAY, 20.**

This is a fine day, but little wheat coming into Market & 1.62 paid for Spring and \$1.90 for Fall. Began to Grind over the middlings at noon to day.

**March. THURSDAY, 21. 1867.**

Went down to Toronto this morning, weather pleasant though looking like a change. Bot of Geo. Michie & C<sup>o</sup> 1 Pun Scotch whisky 162 galls a cask 1.87½ \$303.75. Made enquirey about flooring for Wm's house and found corn seasoned 1½ inch \$30 face measure and 1¼ at \$24. It was very stormy in returning the snow fell very fast and drifting heavy, but it was not dry but rather soft.

**FRIDAY, 22.**

This is a fear full morning a great deal of snow has fallen through the night and still continues but is gradually fallen off. we have not had such a heavy fall as this for years. The Meeting of the Elmira road Co. took place to day and 5 directors when N<sup>os</sup> by ballot fell on Goldie, Massie, P. Winger, Thomson, & Gow, were elected as the first directors of the Road. There was a very good attendance of Stockholders. The Band of the 17<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> came up from Toronto for the concert in the Drill Shed about {blank} people were assembled to hear the Music which was splendid (It was in aid of the Band fund of the 30<sup>th</sup> Wellington Batallion. The Band consisted of {blank} men .

**SATURDAY, 23.**

This is a splendid morning quite mild and if it continues the snow will soon go away. The Band of the 17<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> left by the 10 oclock train. Bot of H Fraser & C<sup>o</sup> of Montreal 1 Pun Jamaica Rum, N<sup>o</sup> 9 = 117 galls 334/10ths OP a 8/6<sup>d</sup> per gall at 16, OP \$228.73 2% off for cash \$223.00. The strength was found to agree correctly,

**TUESDAY, 26.**

This has turned out to be a very fine day for this time of the year, so Mrs A and I went up in the cutter to Fergus & with the exception of a few bare places in the middle of the Road on this side of Blyths tavern the sleighing was very fair so that the late snow must have fallen very generally to the north of us. It got pretty cold on our way home.

**WEDNESDAY, 27.**

Singular enough this has turned out a course morning with occasional showers of snow.

**March. THURSDAY, 28. 1867.**

This is a very pleasant day went down to Galt to attend the Induction of Rev<sup>d</sup> Muir as Minister of S<sup>t</sup> Andrews Church there. Mr M<sup>c</sup>Donell of Fergus preached the Sermon, Mr Hogg addressed the Minister and Mr Thom the people, the Presbytery were invited to dine with the Trustees &c. I went through Messrs Goldie & McCulloughs works, which are now very extensive haveing the new Shop for constructing woolen machinery in full operation. The price of wheat is going up still more, and flour must rise again

**FRIDAY, 29.**

Very good weather busey getting the new Bran Duster taken on trial fitted up

**SATURDAY, 30.**

This has been a most charming winter day, but the snow is melting away fast from the heat of the Sun. Got the Bran Duster started this forenoon. Then a Telegram from Montreal this morning that the N<sup>o</sup> 2 flour sent had been sold to day on Cars at \$8.00

**April. MONDAY, 1. 1867.**

This has been a very rough morning, snowing heavy and driving with the wind quite thick at times but was all over and melted away by noon. The Duster appears to blow out allong with the Bran a considerable lot of fine dust. Mr Joseph Garrard Wright son of Mr Samuel Wright the Baker died here to day, aged 36 years

**TUESDAY, 2.**

This has been a better day, but the roads are getting very bad. Ryan wants to leave the stone cottage on Norfolk Street and Mr Joseph Hobson the Surveyor is to have it, at \$9 a month payable quarterly,

**FRIDAY, 5.**

The River is rising fast and have ordered the Flood gates to be raised this afternoon or tomorrow, the weather is very wet and slushey

**SATURDAY, 6.**

Mrs A & I went down to Hamilton to see Mrs Helen Stewart our Neice, who is very ill, also to see Mrs Tawse who is there for a few days. The weather open and mild, trade but moderate, and flour & wheat dear

**April. MONDAY, 8. 1867.**

Strong frost this morning, the gates are open, and the water has fallen very much but as soon the day was advanced the water rose and the ground became quite soft again

**Wednesday, April 10, 1867**

Birth Mrs George Palmer of a Son this day

**FRIDAY, 12.**

Dry weather. Have been working for some days thoroughly repairing the separator

**SATURDAY, 13.**

The weather is very mild and dry and the roads dried in some parts and dusty. The water is rising considerably.

**April. MONDAY, 15. 1867.**

This is a very wet day, there was no rain yesterday, yet in the morning before going to Church had to raise the Carding Mill gates to prevent a place in the dam from cutting away until I could stop it to day. Mr & Mrs Lambie of Detroit came off here this afternoon on their way to England

**TUESDAY, 16.**

This has been a better day than yesterday and dry walking. Mr & Mrs Lambie started at ½ past 3 this afternoon for the old country

**SATURDAY, 20.**

This has been a very fine day though somewhat colder than yesterday. Mr Boulton has got so far recovered as to go out today a little. Jas Davidson has made a fair beginning of the foundation of the Independent Church also Kennedy & Pike

have made great progress in taking out the cellar for basement of the Mercury Printing Office

**April. MONDAY, 22.1867.**

A considerable shower of snow came on during last night and continued the most of the forenoon, but melting very fast on the road or where there is gravel. It is freezing this evening

**TUESDAY, 23.**

This is a much drier morning & frosty, and began this day at noon to strip the earth of in front of the Jarvis lot to make a road down and at the same time test the quality of the stone, before fully opening out the quarry. This is S<sup>t</sup> Georges day, dinner in Town Hall

**WEDNESDAY, 24.**

The roads were hard and dry this morning & there had been hardish frost during the night, and this afternoon it is quite wet with snow & sleet,

**FRIDAY, 26.**

It blew very hard this evening

**SATURDAY, 27.**

This is a cold windy morning. and there has been rain during the night and frost this morning. I notice the death of Jane relict {widow} of the late John Ewart Esqr Toronto, in her 79 year, she died yesterday. Crester Johnston of the Plains Puslinch died this morning

{Yesterday's diary entries repeated with newspaper cuttings pasted over.}

**May. WEDNESDAY, 1.**

This is our Spring fair day, and a considerable number of cattle, but the price was not so good as last market day. The weather is cold and backward. Engaged George Cole for a month on trial at \$9.00 a month & Board

**May. THURSDAY, 2. 1867.**

John Goggan asked an advance of wages, and I agreed to give him \$10 next month.



**FRIDAY, 3.**

This is a finer day than we have had for some time. I engaged John Gore and he begins this morning to quarry stone in front of lot on the Waterloo Road so as to open a road into my own ground, his wages \$1.25 as wages and an allowance for taking charge of the work of 25¢ extra per day. Went down to Toronto to day to see that Mrs Campbell got her luggage that was left behind, and found that flour had been sold freely at \$8.50 for N<sup>o</sup> 1 Spring

{Newspaper cuttings on page}

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**May. MONDAY, 6. 1867.**

This was a wet morning yet the men began and worked

**TUESDAY, 7.**

This has been a dry day but cold

**Wednesday, 8.**

The Court of Chancery began its sittings to day the weather is coldish yet. I attended the Presbytery to day, also meeting of Directors of Mutual Insurance C<sup>o</sup> regarding application from Fraser for insurance on New Mill at Elora now nearly ready

**May. THURSDAY, 9. 1867.**

This has been a very fine day and not so cold quite as for some days past. The Court of Chancery had the Case of Ontario Bank and Hackins on hand all day and left of at 6 and begin tomorrow,

**FRIDAY, 10.**

This has been a very fine day, the court is still sitting, went out to the Rocks this afternoon and also down at the Quarry on the Waterloo road which is turning out very blocks of stone,

**SATURDAY, 11.**

I went down this morning to Hamilton, and found business but moderate the extream prices are hardly obtained here. In returning fell in with Mr Ross of Whitehead & Ross who is to stay over till Monday

**May. MONDAY, 13. 1867.**

This morning a somewhat wet & cold but faired up during the forenoon and drove Mr Ross up to Goldies Mills. I agreed to advance the wages of William Taylor (now 2d mashman ) to \$16 per month to begin after the present month is out.

**WEDNESDAY, 15.**

Died. At S<sup>t</sup>. Fort Cottage Brantford Capt<sup>n</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> A Stewart in his 28th year.  
Son-in-law of Capt<sup>n</sup> Vale

**May. THURSDAY, 16. 1867.**

This was a fine morning though a little cold. John & I went up to Berlin and also to Waterloo and examined the piggeries there belonging to G Randall formerly Hespeler & Randall which the latter bought out this Spring, and Hespeler sailed for Europe this present week, they are now distilling 65 Busels. I did not think their pig styes fit for feeding in cold weather

**FRIDAY, 17.**

This has been a very fine day. My old acquaintance James Beachall. Contractor of Toronto died there to day aged 57.

**SATURDAY, 18.**

It was cold this morning for this season of the year but was pleasant through the day but windy. There has been a good deal of Wheat sold in town to day. I agreed with Robert Ward to continue for a year at \$15.00 per month to begin when his present month ends. Mr John Ross our old townsman was here to day

**May. MONDAY, 20. 1867.**

This is a very pleasant day but dry weather, there was a little fine rain yesterday evening, but nothing to speak of. Robertson the Millowner of Fergus left here this afternoon for the old country & the worlds fair.

**TUESDAY, 21.**

This has been a cool forenoon, and the middle part of the day was very windy & dust flying at a great rate, when on came the rain about 3 oclock and continued till after 7 p m and cold. I have been trying to hunt up all the evedence I can in the M<sup>c</sup>Antee case, & intend going to Toronto in the morning to see Mr M<sup>c</sup>Michael about it,

**WEDNESDAY, 22.**

This was a tolerably fine morning but not at all warm. I went down to Toronto to see Mr Fitzgerald about the M<sup>c</sup>Antee case, the train was late in getting in to the City and not being able to find Mr F. when I first called, and after he came the consultation continued till after the train had left, and made up mind to stay all night

#### **May. THURSDAY, 23. 1867.**

This was another coldish morning for this time of the year, and a shower of rain came before we got to Georgetown, when it got fair, we were detained here for about an hour, on account of a great smash up just at the Station of no less than 5 cars being smashed to peices and the flour & Pork barrels, strewed on the road, the locomotive and one car became detached from the rest and run on for over a ¼ of a mile ere the could stop it although the car was draged with only one axel and a pair of wheels, and one would have thought from the manner in which the ties were cut up that such of itself would have stopped it, we got round the wreck by the track at the back of the Station house. Had a meeting in the Church & decided to build the Gallery

#### **FRIDAY, 24.**

This had the appearance of being a very fine day for Celebrating the Birth day of our Gracious Queen and turned out to be so for the earlier part of the day, but a storm of wind rain & thunder broke up the sports for the afternoon but in the evening it became fair, and a large number of people gathered together to witness the setting off of the fireworks

#### **SATURDAY, 25.**

This morning was fair but about ½ past 10 it began to rain and continued showrey for the most of the afternoon. Mr Alexander & I bargined with S. Boulton to put up the Gallery & make front door open out for the sum of \$500.00, and have it finished by the 26<sup>th</sup> of July,

#### **May. MONDAY, 27. 1867.**

This is a fine morning, but the planks on the sidewalk was covered with frost at ½ past 6 but the day continued throughout dry and fine. I began to day to put up the large two chamber still in the corner of the distillery & Rectifying house so as to fit all the hoops, manholes pipes valves &c and cause as little delay as possible in putting it in its proper position, and will do the mash tun in the same manner shortly. I wrote to Dr Fairbairn at Hamilton this evening inviting him to pay us a visit, with his wife. I sent our cow this morning to Stone's Hereford Bull {Frederick William Stone after whom Stone Road is named}

{A mash tun is a vessel used in the mashing process to convert the starches in crushed grains into sugars for fermentation.}

**TUESDAY, 28.**

This morning is dark and gloomy and began to rain about 9 o'clock a. m. Our Clerk Alex<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie left for New York on a visit this morning

**WEDNESDAY, 29.**

This has been a dry day

**May. THURSDAY, 30. 1867.**

This morning looks dull and somewhat like rain. the stonecutter began this morning the wages to be \$2.25 per day.

**FRIDAY, 31.**

This is a very fine morning, and all through the day has been fine and warm. Mr Boulby from Berlin was here and have signed the various papers appointing the 18<sup>th</sup> June for the Arbitration of Unger vs Wilhelm

{Newspaper cutting}

**Saturday, 1.**

This is the finest morning we have had

**June. MONDAY, 3. 1867.**

This has been another wet day, of & on short showers, it rained the most of yesterday forenoon. Mrs W Allan Jun<sup>r</sup> & 2 children & Mrs Hogg started for Montreal this morning, some heavy showers fell late in the afternoon

{Newspaper cuttings}

**TUESDAY, 4.**

This is a very fine morning, and has the appearance of settled weather, finished my letter to my Sister this morning, Mr John A Wood & wife, also David Dickson started for the Old country this morning

[2 blank pages}

**SATURDAY, 15.**

The weather is now very warm & almost too much so to work out of doors. I will have to begin at once to put up the scaffold for the masons to finish the granary. I cannot get Davidson this year to superintend the men. Dobie is a very good workman & may get him he has just finished the new woolen works House for M<sup>c</sup>Crea & C<sup>o</sup> which is the day agreed on after that a penalty of \$10 per day, Kennedy & Pike have also completed the Mercury Office to day

**TUESDAY, 18.**

This is a very fine morning, and hurrying on other work to enable me to be in attendance at Martins Office before 10 Oclock to begin the Arbitration between, Christian Yuger Plaintiff Anthony Wilhelm and Valentine Guilder defendants. My old friend Kenneth Robertson of Galt died there to day aged 67 years

**WEDNESDAY, 19.**

This is another fine morning, begin the Arbitration at 9.30

**June. THURSDAY, 20, 1867.**

This is another very dry morning. Could not get away to attend Kenneth Robertson's funeral to day

**June. MONDAY, 24. 1867.**

This is another very warm day, Maggie & her Husband are about to travel to Rochester &c. and start this afternoon

**TUESDAY, 25.**

Warm and dry weather. Miss Helen Hewatt left for Scotland to day

**WEDNESDAY, 26.**

This morning opened dark & gloomy and the long expected rain began to fall at 10 Oclock and continued till 1 P.M. with little intermission

**June. THURSDAY, 27. 1867.**

This has been a warm and sultry day, with little or no rain. F. W. Stone left here

to day on his way to England

**FRIDAY, 28.**

This has been a very fine day, Mr Ja<sup>s</sup> Massie {James Massie, prominent Guelph merchant} & Mrs Rob<sup>t</sup> Armstrong (widow) left this morning for New York & Mrs A {likely David Allan's wife, Christina} on her way to San Fransisco, & my daughter Mrs Higinbotham {Margaret Jane (Maggie) Allan who was married to Nathaniel Higinbotham} will meet them beyond Rochester & accompany them to N. York. I signed my award to day as arbitrator in favour of Defendants, and charged for my fees \$40. William left this morning for Montreal to join his wife & children. A large party came up from Hamilton in a special car to assist or witness the breaking ground of the {blank}

**July. MONDAY, 1. 1867.**

This is a very fine morning, I went up to the Drill Shed to see the Riffle and Artillary Companies go through their evolutions, and marched out into the Square and fired 3 rounds and three cheers for the Queen, the day was spent in great quietness a Meeting of Ministers in the Town Hall where Prayers were said and addresses, and "God save the Queen Sung ", in the Evening the Town Hall was beautifully illuminated

**TUESDAY, 2.**

This has been another warm day. A Bill of Exchange was presented from Chicago for 8,000 Bushels of Corn. Rec<sup>d</sup> a letter to night from William dated Montreal the 1<sup>st</sup>

**July. THURSDAY, 4. 1867.**

This is a wet morning to all appearance but about 9 a.m. it faired up, I had to go down to Toronto for some one to put in the new apperatus in the distillery and cannot get my licence untill that is finished I am therefor prevented from mashing, I am to get Booth on Monday. This is the Horticultural show day.

**FRIDAY, 5.**

We had a fine shower this morning, and cool at times and then very sultry, the men are busey lathing Williams house and Stephens building in the grate, I also began to build up the front of the granery, John Armstrong the miller arrived this afternoon from Scotland, he was only a month there

**SATURDAY, 6.**

Heavy rain this morning from 6 to 8, and dried up afterwards, going on with building of granary

**July. MONDAY, 8. 1867.**

Fine morning. Mr Davis the detective came up this morning and the younger Mr Booth the copper smith and plumer, came up with him as I had arranged when down, he at once instructed him as to how it was to be done

**July. THURSDAY, 11. 1867.**

This is another fine day and Mr Booth had just got done last night, when it was found that one of the points had cracked which he had to stop to repair, and left in the afternoon for Waterloo

**SATURDAY, 13.**

This has been a splended day warm & with cooling breezes at times, have got on very well with the granary. Mrs Higinbotham came home this afternoon from New York.

**July. MONDAY, 15. 1867.**

This is a fine morning though a little cloudy. Peter Idington here to see about the mowing of his lot & Mr Tawse. It began to rain about ½ past one, and some fine heavy showers fell during the afternoon

**TUESDAY, 16.**

This is a fine morning. Began this afternoon to take of the roof of the granary on the N East side.

**WEDNESDAY, 17.**

This is another fine morning. The Masons are not working to me to day, they are all at Barclays. The stone cutters are working. The carpenters are removing the roof all over. The large worm was leaking to day & had to stop untill it was wraped up at about 12 noon. The inside diameter of it is 6 feet 1 inch and the upper round or bend is 5 inches in diameter

**July. THURSDAY, 18. 1867.**

Fine morning but very warm. Mrs A & I went out to Nassagaweya to Cargills Saw Mill, Willie & Davie {likely the grandchildren of David Allan, the children of Nathaniel Higinbotham and his wife Margaret Jane (Maggie), nee Allan} with us. A M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie for office use to cheque \$100.00.  
A M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie silver \$200.00

### **FRIDAY, 19.**

This is a very fine morning, and likely to be fine weather for the Hay

### **SATURDAY, 20.**

This has been a splended day for getting in the Hay and the crop has turned out very fair. The great meeting for hearing the sentiments of those comming forward as candidates to represent the South & {blank} Ridings of our County. am now trying to get a person to run the Engine for some time as the water is getting very scarce

### **July. MONDAY, 22. 1867.**

Fine dry morning, the appearance of rain yesterday has gone off

Ordered from Gowdy.

65 joists 8 X 3

65 joists 8 X 2½

130

all 15 feet long

50 peices 10 X 3.

50 peices of any breadth above 10 inches & 3 inches thick

20 peices 6 x 6 all 12 feet long

wrote to William this morning.

### **TUESDAY, 23.**

This is a very hot day. I again wrote to William and am preparing to leave for Toronto by the evening train. The Masons have begun to day the foundation of Mr John Hoggs corner store. of which the Branch of the Bank of Commerce is to have a portion

### **FRIDAY, 26.**

I engaged {blank} Riddel to drive the Steam Engine 15 hours a day, and his wages to be ~~Twenty~~ 1¼ dollars a day ~~month~~ and board, and when there is no need for the Engine, and he is to do any other jobing work out or in doors, the



wages to be twenty dollars a month & Board, he is to begin work on Monday first

{Transcriber's note - no entries after the above date until August. SATURDAY 3. 1867}

### **SATURDAY, 3.**

The weather is extreemly dry and warm have been working the Engine since {blank} but have often to stop her creating a great delay and loss of wood

{Yesterday's diary entry repeated with a newspaper cutting pasted over.}

### **August. MONDAY, 5. 1867.**

This is a warm and close morning. Ingles sent down a man to put the Engine in line

### **TUESDAY, 6.**

This has been a warm forenoon and very dry, but this afternoon we were visited by a thunder storm and two very heavy showers of rain, which gave us a good deal of trouble owing to the grannery being without a roof, the water ran down through the different floors and wetting some fall wheat in the lower stor flat. We got the Engine started again this evening and seems to work some easier but heats yet

{Transcriber's note - no entries after the above date until August. THURSDAY 29. 1867}

### **August. THURSDAY, 29. 1867.**

The weather is getting a little changeable a little rain now & then but nothing to effect the river which is very low. The steam Engine going every day

### **FRIDAY, 30.**

Quite cold this morning, & had to have a fire in the room at breakfast, but the day turned out fine after all. I went up to Chipchases for 3 loads of light coloured sand for pointing the walls of new building, & we are now prepared to put up the rafters

### **SATURDAY, 31.**

The weather was cold this morning again, but the forenoon was fine, attended at the Masters Chambers (Mr Hall) to answer as to whether Boulby had any conversation with me previous to signing my award in the case of Unger & Wilhelm & Guildner. Mr Hancock of Toronto attended on behalf of Plaintiff. Mr M<sup>c</sup>Klennan was sworn as to what became of my written instructions to him for making out the award and as to the words contained in it, and if it ordered the plaintiff to pay all the costs of the suit, Arbitration, & the Award, he said that my instruction after the award was signed was destroyed. but was fully ordered to pay all costs, Mr M<sup>c</sup>Coig, as witness swore that he came in to M<sup>c</sup>Lennans office & heard Boulby say to me that I had not mentioned costs of Arbitration. but that failed in its worth to disturb the award. It rains close this afternoon. Masons stopt work

### **TUESDAY, 3.**

This was a very fine day. Went down this evening to Toronto to hurry on the ascending worm

### **WEDNESDAY, 4.**

Returned from Toronto this afternoon

### **FRIDAY, 6.**

The Elections for South Wellington begins to day. The news this evening is not so good, we appear to be far behind in Puslinch

### **SATURDAY, 7.**

We go on with the Election again to day. The worm has arrived and brought home

### **September. MONDAY, 9. 1867.**

This morning opened fine after a very light shower had fallen during the night. The forenoon was clear but the afternoon became cloudy and heavey showers fell that drove the men from their work. The carpenters were fitting and securing the rafters of the grannery. The towers are nearly finished. The mason work of the building is about done, they have been pointing these two days.

### **WEDNESDAY, 11.**

Fine weather all day. Got great alarm from fire in Armstrong M<sup>c</sup>Crea & Co Factory taking fire about the Picker room, & flames broke through the roof but was greatly retarded by the mortar below the shingles

**September. THURSDAY, 12. 1867.**

This morning opened fine, and heard that we had another fire during the night or early this morning. viz. Dyson's waggon shop, a frame, lath & plaster walls, nothing was saved, and no Insurance whatever on it. Met as directors to enquire into cause of the fire in Armstrong, M<sup>c</sup>Crea's woolen mill &c, but deferred till tomorrow, damage laid at \$2,000. had a light shower this afternoon, got done with most all but one stone cutter. getting on well with the roof of granary, and slating begun

**FRIDAY, 13.**

This has been a broken day, for rain fell both forenoon and afternoon. Had a meeting of Directors to see if we could agree about a sum for loss & let him go on with his work, & resolved that it be referred to full board on Friday 20th next.

**September. MONDAY, 16. 1867.**

This is a dullish morning. The rain began to fall about 9 o'clock and the masons had to quit work. We have no mashing to day in the Distillery but only running of the beer preparatory for repairs,

**TUESDAY, 17.**

This morning opened fine, but became very sultry and warm and clear, and the rain kept off. This is the day of our Horticultural Exhibition. Mr Flemming, Mr Gray, & Mr {blank} from Toronto are here as Judges. I am Vice President this year.

**WEDNESDAY, 18.**

Rather cloudy to day and warm with considerable appearance of rain, but none fell, I am getting on well with the roofing and slating. Have begun to day to take the old mash tun to pieces and is as rotten as muck

**September. THURSDAY, 19. 1867.**

Fine morning, Mr Tawse started by this morning's train for Stratford. Have been taking sundry {illegible} the old stills after being in about {blank} years the oldest is the upper one and is remarkably sound & could have run for several years yet, were it not for the pipes passing through burning the staves

**FRIDAY, 20.**

Very fine day, had a general meeting of Directors of the Wellington Mutual Assurance C<sup>o</sup> to day to consider the claims for loss by fire in Armstrong M<sup>c</sup>Crea & C<sup>o</sup> woolen works, and other matters. Had family dinner to day Mr Tawse came, but I was absent at meeting of directors

**SATURDAY, 21.**

This seems to turn out a fine day. All the old beams are &c that can well be removed are now out, and are now digging for proper foundations for new posts for the new mash tun and the still & doubler, and have them so disconnected that at a future period beams & joists can be put in without disturbing them. Local directors met and settled the waterworks claim for \$2,015.00

**September. MONDAY, 23. 1867.**

Fine morning and very dry, the water in the dam appears hardly to have risen any thing since Saturday when we shut down

**TUESDAY, 24.**

The weather quite dry yet, are now building the stone foundation for the new chamber still

**WEDNESDAY, 25.**

Fine morning but dry, and have begun to take down and fit up the staves of the new still. And fitting up the posts and beams for, the Mash tun

**September. THURSDAY, 26. 1867.**

This is another dry morning. I went down by train to Galt purchase a pump log rimer 3½ in diam & bought also one of 2¼ inch. H.H. Date the tool maker has out all his tilt hammars & refixing their foundations some 6 feet deep under ground & overhauling shafting drums &c

**FRIDAY, 27.**

This is another fine day, and the masons are about a close with the pointing of the building and the masons taking home their tools. Hard at work driving on the hoops on still

**SATURDAY, 28.**

Another dry and warm day & a great deal of wheat bought in to day also. ~~place to~~  
~~day~~ got the new mash tub put in its place to day, and the shaft and rake put in.  
On examination to day found that the new Gallery in Church is too high in front &  
too low at back & have stopt the work, & propose to lower front & raise the back  
18 inches

{Yesterday's diary entries repeated with a newspaper cutting pasted over.}

**September. MONDAY, 30. 1867.**

Still very dry weather. We raised the large worm tub to day fully 18 inches

**October. TUESDAY, 1.**

This another dry day, and hear that there has been a great fire in Galt which  
began at 1.40 this morning & have not learned the number of houses burnt nor  
the exact amt. And hear also that Buchanan, Hope & C<sup>o</sup> has failed. I leave this  
evening at 7 for Toronto

**WEDNESDAY, 2.**

In Toronto last night and to day sketched out the form of the coppar pipes  
required. And also bought some iron ones. John Cameron Esqr late of the  
Commercial Bank at Toronto died yesterday morning, aged 57.

**FRIDAY, 4.**

Warm dry weather

**SATURDAY, 5.**

There was a good deal of rain fell during the night, & the water got in through the  
unfinished portion of the roof between the two Mills but got it all secured during  
the day. Some coppar pipes came up by Express from Toronto to night, but find  
they are not right and will return them on Monday

**October. MONDAY, 7. 1867.**

Yesterday was fine weather but cold from what we have had for some time back.  
Weather to day is dry but the frost was on the ground this ~~last~~ morning. We have  
got the doubler &c in its place, pipes in inside of still set, and going to work till 9  
oclock to night to hurry on better. The rain on Saturday night must have been  
very considerable up the country, as we have had ample water for two run at a  
good rate all day

**TUESDAY, 8.**

This has been a fine day, but the water has not been so abundant as yesterday, that we could only run one pair of stones. My Sister Mrs Cuningham came this afternoon

**WEDNESDAY, 9.**

This has been rather a heavy and dull day and began to rain after 2 O'clock but not heavy still pushing on with the distillery but it takes much longer time than I expected

**October. THURSDAY, 10. 1867.**

This has been a wet day yet no great quantity of rain fell here, yet it may improve the water in the river, we could only drive one run by water and two by steam. The various pipes in the distillery consumes a great deal of time in screwing & fitting them. Mr Morrison brought up The new horse arrived from near Montreal

**FRIDAY, 11.**

The weather is moist and roads getting very muddy

**SATURDAY, 12.**

This has been a drizzling rainy day, but has not as yet given us a supply of water, but from appearances to night there is every likelihood of there plenty on Monday morning. Have got well on with the pipes of the distillery this week. Mr Morrison left this afternoon for Toronto going home

**October. MONDAY, 14. 1867.**

Rather a raw day but yet no rain. Went up to day Hodgert and Smiths oil Refinery to see Parafin or the refuse of the Coal oil applied firing up the furnace of the Engine, and saw myself that with only 1 jet of oil burning it produced sufficient flame to raise the Steam from 40° to 60° in four minutes

**TUESDAY, 15.**

This has been a very fine day, and looks as if it were the beginning of the Indian Summer. The rain has not as yet produced any lasting benefits for we had to down the water mill about 6, O'clock and continued Steam till about 9.

**October, THURSDAY, 17. 1867.**

Fine weather and the water is holding out better than could be expected considering this dry weather, bought a large new fine horse to day for the Farm

**FRIDAY, 18.**

This has been a very fine day, and have got the highest slop cistern nearly lowered to its proper place and have got the steam pipe fixed into the lower chamber of New Still and the hop tub attached to it again. Traded away the horse "Barney" for a larger one to mate the one b<sup>t</sup> yesterday

{Yesterday's diary entries repeated with a newspaper cutting pasted over.}

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**FRIDAY, October 25, 1867**

Fine weather this morning, the Court of Chancery began its Sittings here to day about 11 O'clock – {Vancounaught} Preciding. I have a case and have been in attendance, but the one that is now on will take all day. Have not made so much progress with the distillery to day being much in want of pipes from Toronto. great excitement yet about the Commercial Bank

**SATURDAY, 26.**

This is another fine day. No pipes from Toronto yet. The case begun in Court this morning lasted to night

{Printed Funeral Notice}

{2 pages of yesterday's diary entries repeated with newspaper cuttings pasted over.}

**October. MONDAY, 28. 1867.**

This has been rather a dull day, and has some signs of rain. The pipes came up this morning from Toronto & hope to get them on by tomorrow evening. Chancellor Mowat opened the Court & This afternoon Eldridge made proposals to settle the suit I had against him I tried to get \$350.00 but he would only agree to give \$300.00 & pay his own costs, so I accepted the offer payable in 3 years in equal annual Installments with Interest at the rate of 8 per cent per annum on each payment

**TUESDAY, 29.**

Fine weather still continuing, have got a man that was jobbing here for harding of Toronto to connect the pipes for the receivers Doubler &c, to day he began at 8 and finished at 5 Oclock P.M.

### **WEDNESDAY, 30.**

Another charming day, Wm Wife & Son went to Toronto this morning, the day was very fine they returned in the evening with Miss Morrison

### **October. THURSDAY, 31. 1867.**

This is a fine day, the masons are building a brick chimney for Nat instead of the stone one which was very defective in the construction of the flues. Mr Rob<sup>t</sup> Wallace got married to Miss Abby Higinbotham at noon to day

### **November. FRIDAY, 1.**

This is a dry and very dusty day the wind blowing a strong westerly breese, went out to the farm at noon where they are taking up the turnips & producing a very good crop even considering the long continued drought this season, water all over is extreemly scarce, the Grand River at Elora is very low. The Thames at London & at Stratford was never known to be so low. We got the Distillery started this afternoon and offers well, the Mash can be cooled off in half the time that it formerly could be done in with copper sides only in the Mash tun. The bottom lining is a great improvement, made new agreement with John Stewart to buy grain

### **SATURDAY, 2.**

This is another windy day, and the fire is now running on both sides of the Railway, it began yesterday in Rob<sup>t</sup> White's swamp & also beyond the Shanties and through into my swamp. Burning a good many pannels of rails there & at Whites also

### **November. MONDAY, 4. 1867.**

This has been a cold raw day after the rain that fell yesterday and during last night, which was very stormy, one or two slight showers of snow fell during the afternoon but what fell after dark is laying on the ground. The water in the Dam is not much improved by the rain as yet. Carpenters repairing the feeding Byres, stakes, floors &c which were much worn and broken through. My Sister took ill during the night with a pleurosy in her right breast

### **TUESDAY, 5.**



Cold this morning the snow laying on the side walks, but melted away during the day. The water has improved to day and we have 2 pair of stones going by water. Robertson & Sons has a boiler plate reservoir made and all the cocks burners retort &c fitted up and goes off with Mr John M<sup>c</sup>Crea to England tomorrow, where he is to take out a Patent to protect their Invention for using Coal Oil as Fuel for Steam Engines. They will then push on mine to completion. My sister Mrs Cuninghame is a little easier to day, after having applied a large mustard blister & then called the Doctor

### **WEDNESDAY, 6.**

This morning looked very wintry like with a general covering of snow on the ground but as the day advanced it melted away and became sloppy. This being the Fair day a great many people were in town & a number of cattle and horses. John M<sup>c</sup>Crea Esqr left here this morning by G. Trunk for Quebec, thence to London to take out a Patent for the Oil Burner

{Handwritten note} Grinding Middlings. It is best to grind them on a stone by themselves then bolt them also by themselves and run the flour into the cooler by that means you avoid any risk of the specks of their offal getting into the best flour. That system of grinding high for the first grinding, and taking out a first quality of flour and after that to grind the rest lower and make another quality, is now found not to be so profitable as it makes too much of the 2d sort which the extra price on the best will not make up. 16th Jan<sup>y</sup> 1867

### **November. MONDAY, 11. 1867**

This has been a cold day and some frost in the morning, the Grand Trunk men are still busey putting up the iron Girders of the Bridge instead of the Wooden ones

### **TUESDAY, 12.**

This is been another cold day. Wind northerly and blowing strong, freezing almost all day N Higinbotham went up to Alma with his father and returned in the evening, little Willie was with him, I am carting the masons chips on in front of the cattle byres instead of the wooden platform. The air valve in the distillery was turned back over by the force of the air, and put on the coppar one to give more vent. Still lining at the granary walls. The windows are not ready to put in yet.

### **WEDNESDAY, 13.**

This also is a somewhat cold day. My Daughter Mrs Higenbotham gave birth to a daughter this morning about ½ past 7 a .m. and I having previously arranged to get the chimney or rather the grate built in in their parlour it was done as quietly

as possible to their great satisfaction

{Mathematical calculation}

### **FRIDAY, 15.**

Frosty and windy this morning. The coal oil Burner again going this forenoon, W<sup>m</sup> Barbour & a brother came up from Georgetown this morning to see it, having heard in Toronto yesterday that it was going. James Cuninghame arrived by the Grand Trunk this morning around 3 a. m

### **SATURDAY, 16.**

The wind is very strong and cold this morning and about as dusty as yesterday, The coal oil heating apparatus went very well this forenoon for a while but it was ultimately found that the pipe for supplying the steam was too small and it was therefor taken out for enlargement. The men got up the last of the iron beams of the Bridge this afternoon that is intended to be put up this season

### **November. MONDAY, 18. 1867.**

Pretty hard frost this morning ice all over the dam, and the water not running over, yet we are driving 2 run of stones, but no steam this day, received Bill of Lading of corn having been shipped from Chicago. Went through Goldies Mill this afternoon they say that they will be able to start to grind in about a week, the masons are building at the large fireplaces that is 2 double ones for the cooper shop, the men are on the roof shingling it to day & a cold berth they have. I told the carpenters and outdoor labourers to drop work at 5 p.m

### **TUESDAY, 19.**

This has been another cold day, with strong wind but still dry and dusty, a good deal of wheat coming in to Market, and the price declining. We have been running the Engine to day and continued grinding untill 9 pm. but had great difficulty in keeping up the supply of water the pump not going fast enough, as the Boiler takes more water on account of a larger steam pipe having been fitted into the dome so as to supply the burners with as dry steam as can be got.

### **WEDNESDAY, 20.**

This is a milder morning, but very dry and dusty, we increased the driving pulley of the Pump 3 inches in diameter which now gives plenty of water, but does not enter hot enough into the Boiler, and have this day ordered an additional Heater to be attached having a coil of pipe for the water to pass through before entering the Boiler. We are also at Work in the distillery to night putting in a new and much larger low wine tub holding about 151 gallon's

**November. THURSDAY, 21. 1867.**

Went down to Morriston to day in search of a Cooper but did not succeed.

**FRIDAY, 22.**

This has been a mild day and very like rain and if any thing foggy, went up to Berlin and then to Waterloo to seek a cooper but found none, was in Randall's Distillery, and saw the enlargement he has made in his Premises, which is only a lean too at the end & Back of the former building and four more fermenting tuns in it. The Engine of Snyder's Mill makes only {blank} revolutions a minute, and burns 2 cords of wood at least from 6 a.m to 7 pm and it was driving 1 run of 4½ feet stones and 2 run of the very small stones for sheeling the wheat for the Haxal flour, and another pair driven by the water wheel,

**SATURDAY, 23.**

Some more fogg this morning but went of during the forenoon, the Engine has been going a part of the forenoon untill the oil on hand was exausted & some crude oil was brought on, but was deemd too watery to attempt it with such burners as we have been using, and the pipes were taken up to be altered. The water in the river is very low that in the afternoon we had to stop the Mill Wheel to enable the distillery One to finish the Mash and pump enough water to supply the Boiler, No appearance of rain yet, and great scarcity of water in many parts of this country, & the States where Locomotives are employed to carry it into the interior. Peter Idington & wife here to day. We are discharging Corn from cars to day

**November. THURSDAY, 28. 1867.**

I went down to Hamilton accompanied by James Cuningham, and shewed him the Rolling Mills in full operation, The trade is not at all brisk. The weather was somewhat cold but still pleasant

**FRIDAY, 29.**

This is rather an unexpected change in the weather has been rain through the night and still continuing which puts a stop to hauling down the Corn from the Station

**SATURDAY, 30.**

Some snow to day, and the ground hard frozen. Meeting of Directors of Mutual Insurance C<sup>o</sup> to close the year's accounts

**December. MONDAY, 2. 1867.**

Snow on the ground, but have only seen one cutter running to day, but no sleighing. The Annual Meeting for the Election of new Directors for the Mutual In<sup>s</sup> C<sup>o</sup>, the old ones were reelected with the exception of Fraser of Elora in place of Webster who is unable to attend. We finished the Corn this afternoon

**TUESDAY, 3.**

This has been very fair weather, and Ja<sup>s</sup> Cuningham and I went down to Toronto and went through Gooderham's Distillery

**WEDNESDAY, 4.**

This has been a moderate Winter day. My Sister and her Son James Cuningham left here at about 11 oclock this forenoon (the train being late) for home

**FRIDAY, 6.**

This has been a cold blustering day. We again started the Steam Engine to Grind and pack up what was in the binn. The snow is almost blown away, I set about building a cow byre at the Wallace cottage for I Stewart

**SATURDAY, 7.**

This is of anything a calmer morning than yesterday was, but last night it blew a fearfull gale and appears to have taken the roofs of several Barn's stables, sheds, &c. Showers of snow came frequent during the day but the wind was too strong for it to lay. We got the flagg staff in its place this forenoon and bought a peice of new  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch rope to hoist it up with. The Engine has been going to day also

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**SATURDAY, 14.**

This has been a sharp morning, yet through the forenoon it was clear fine winter weather. The Alma block took fire about 4 Oclock this afternoon, it originated in shop occupied by W<sup>m</sup> Mullholand Ironmonger, in the room below the stairs where the boy trimmed and lighted the lamps, and from there communicated with Ja<sup>s</sup> Massie's Shop, by a back shop, to the main portion containing his large stock of groceries, about \$22,000 worth of which were saved.

**TUESDAY, 17.**

The frost was sharp this morning. Went down to Waterloo in quest of a cooper

**WEDNESDAY, 18.**

Very cold morning 10 below zero at 8 oclock

**December. THURSDAY, 19. 1867.**

This is a another sharp morning

**FRIDAY, 20.**

This has been a more moderate day and some snow had fallen during the night. We had to saw wood again this morning as the water is so light that we cannot saw long at a time. Harrison the old distiller called here this evening having been at the Gold diggings & made very little

**WEDNESDAY, 25.**

This has been a very rainy and unpleasant day, and no chance for sleigh riding parties as the whole of the snow (though not much) is now being washed away

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**December. MONDAY, 30. 1867.**

This was a pleasant morning, but no snow drove out to the Station in the Buggy, To go to Hawitt Trade, but moderately brisk, the accounts from New York about so many large failurers among the largest Merchants, causes some anxiety. Went down to the Wharf to examine some Indian Corn on board of a vessel and which had got damaged by water so that it heated very much but it was not all landed nor the value of it computed by the Insurance C<sup>o</sup>. Heard that this is the day in England for the meeting of J. Buchanans Creditors, and the desision they may come to will sent by Telegraph.

{Newspaper cutting pasted in - notice of marriage}

{2 Newspaper cuttings - 'The Bread Question' and 'Facts about California wheat and flour'}

**For more information on David Allan, check out the “Meet the Diarists” page under “Discover” on our website: [ruraldiaries.lib.uoguelph.ca](http://ruraldiaries.lib.uoguelph.ca)**