

DIARY OF HENRY SHELDON
JANUARY 1861 – DECEMBER 1871

Note: The transcription of the Diary of Henry Sheldon is as close to the original writing as I can make. There are many questions as I go through the diary, since the writing of the 1860s and 1870s varies from that of the twenty-first century. Words that are in question are put into parentheses. In addition, Henry Sheldon used more capital letters and fewer punctuation marks than in use today. I have tried to keep the capital letters as much as possible, and have added commas and periods in places to help the reader. In other places, I have refrained from adding punctuation if I am not certain where it might be placed and also to give the reader a sense of the flow of the writing. Spelling, rarely an issue in the diaries, is left as is. One exception is the word very, which Henry Sheldon spelled verry. – Frances Holst

1861

January 1st: We are entering on a new year. Forty six years have passed over my head and tho I have never enjoyed good health yet I have out lived many with fairer prospects of long life. In the hands of God are the issues of life and death. We are having a fair run of Sleighing with but little Snow. Many important changes have taken place during the past year. China Japan Italy Turkey and now in the United States. Despotism & Heathenism seems to be in the last throes of dissolving nature or power.

2: Are having a good run of Sleighing.

3: Josiah Waid one of the oldest residents of this town died this afternoon and while I would spread the mantle of charity over his memory in my mind I should do injustice to truth should I not say his days have doubtless been shortened by his intemperate habits. He has long been a member of the church here or at Canton and was the only Mason in the church & I hope the last. The Masons performed their Seremonies at his funeral while the church stood aloof. He (loved) Masonry above the church.

5: He was buryed today a cold Stormy day. Funeral in the Presbyterian House. Sermon by Rev. O.W. Babcock and the Blasphemous Mumeries by Mrs. Eddy of Canton a Universalist.

6: A cold day but a good Congregation.

12: The past week has been some of the coldest days we have had. A little Snow a good run of Sleighing. Secession is going in rapidly and blindly. The Charleston Troops have fired into the Star of the West going with Supplies & troops for Fort Sumpter. She has gone back to N.Y. All this for the support of the greatest Sin a nation can be guilty of, the support of Slavery.

13: An Exceeding cold day a few out to Meeting.

14: Dods drawing mud for me today.

15: Dods, Chamberlain & Pas team Hauling mud from Mr. Barney's farm.

16: A very Stormy day sometimes Snowing fast and nearly or quite rain. Snow finally predominates and adds about 8 inches to about 14 inch on the ground before. Mr. Short left for Ogdensburgh this morning.

17: Pleasant & Comfortable. No War news.

18: Snow falling getting things arranged for the Elders Donation this evening. Say they had an unusually interesting prayer Meeting last night. Several inquiries. May the Lord Pour out upon us his spirit.

Saturday 19: A very pleasant gathering at our Pastors last night. Donation of about \$80, and some more to come in – Cost me about \$5, as usual. Mild this forenoon & snowing some. Have got 26 cords wood in my yard.

20: Quite a cool day. 2 Good Sermons and a fair Congregation but I can not Make that improvement I wish I could. It seems as tho I had No Memory and all I hear is as a tale that is told. Wife went to Evening Meeting. I took care of our Timothy Baby at home. 2 Came forward for Prayer, a full House.

21: Monday quite cool but pleasant. Traded Horses Saturday, got shaved as usual With Mr. Hardy.

22: A very cold day. Nothing new.

23: A little Warmer but still cold. Took a Cutter ride over the river today. Sent for Singing books for Fosgate. Pd Seeley & Brown \$10 in acct. No particular Secession News. 5 Southern States have already gone so they say. Think they will be glad to come back. The Slavery question is taking quite a change, its advocates now are driven to try sustain it by appealing to the Bible to sanction it at the Fast of the President. Many pro Slavery Sermons both North and South were preached.

24: Warmer, commenced Snowing at 9 a.m. and has fallen at dark about 5 or 6 in.

25: Weather Mild but Snow too deep to do Much. Louisiana has seceded.

26: Quite a mild day. Covenant Meeting commenced at 11 oclock today but few out till afternoon, a fair number present and quite a good time. Some more than usual, anxiety for the revival of Religion in our Midst. Voted to authorize a Committee of Rev. O.W. Babcock, Dea. T.M. Thayer & H. Sheldon to make such repairs and alterations inside the Meeting house as the funds on hand will admit without increasing the indebtedness of the Church or Society. We

contemplate Frescoing the House, altering the Singers gallery & the Pulpit, have on hand about \$200 which can be appropriated for that purpose.

Note: Deacon Thomas Muzzy Thayer was a mainstay of the Baptist Church, highly thought of for his teaching, prayer, and many services that he provided to the church. In the 1830s, he came to Gouverneur from Franklin County, New York, where he was born in 1812. He became a cabinet-maker and Justice of the Peace. He died at age 72, on July 3, 1885. His wife was Melinda Moore Thayer, who was born in 1811 in Canada and died in 1885. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery in Gouverneur.

27: Cool but pleasant Sermon, S. School & Communion. A good Lecture at 6 P.M. to a good Congregation. Rally prospects look encouraging.

28: Comfortable weather but very dull. An Auction in Town but cash too scarce for them to do much.

29: Stormy, More Snow 3 feet now or more. Saint Lawrence \$58 on note & acct. Recd on visit of C.W. Barber \$15.00, also of Wm A. Sort on visit \$15.00. Also of Hayden pr W.E. Sterling \$11.

30: Snow in the forenoon, mild weather.

February 4: Nothing very new in this word of turmoil and Strife. Nations are rising against Nation and turning & overturning. Rev. O.W. Moxley preached here yesterday 2 Solemn & Interesting discourses, Ex with our pastor. Today the Delegates of Many states meet in Washington to contrive some way that the North can accede to help the South sustain slavery and not be morally wrong. Hope they will come to no terms not compatible with the present Constitution.

Note: Ex abbreviation for Exchanged.

5: Today Judge Harris of Albany has been chosen United States Senator in place of W. H. Seward whom Lincon has called to be Secretary of State if his administration should not be destroyed by secession and the threatened assassination of Lincon and the taking of Washington be effected. Mr. Aldous went out to sell washing machines.

6: Mr. Aldous started with my Horse & Cutter to take Miss Aldrich to Depauville. Strong sw wind when they start soon commenced Snowing and a severe storm all day.

7: At night wind shifted to the North and today we have the worst snow & blow storm I think I ever saw. No cars last night and none today at 1 o'clock. The Barker family are here holding a Musical Convention. Mr. Peck is here from Watertown selling Goods of all sorts at auction. Uncle Sam Smith has sold the front of His lot reserving his house for \$2000 to a Mr. Hodgkins

from Canton for a Hardware Store. A Mr. Blacomb is holding a meeting in the Baptist Church in Watertown I learn very successfully, 10 men Baptised last Sunday. The dedication of a New Baptist Church was to take place today at Colton. I fear this storm will brake it up for today. None have gone out from this Section.

Note: Cars assumed to refer to railroad cars.

8: Yesterday was the Most Severe Cold and Stormy day I ever saw, doubtless many have perished. Mercury is many places from 40 to 45 degrees. Mr. Aldous weather bound at Theresa. Cost Me \$4 rather Expensive trip.

9: Weather More Mild but business dull.

10: Quite Mild. Met in the Basement. Barkers Sing in forenoon, good S. School, the School takes 50 copies of the Child at Home. Sermon to the Sabbath School in the P.M.

11: Is thawing Strong wind from the South.

12: Still Thawing, snow, more thaw, ½ gone. River very High, hear of Much damage from high water & Ice. Town Meeting today, no particular opposition to the Republican ticket so of course all elected. Mr. Aldous went to Canton yesterday.

Thurs 14: Mild, Sleighing poor. A Kansas Meeting tonight a collection of about \$30 taken and an organization effected by which we hope to reach Every person in Town. Wednesday the Barker family Sing here, did not attend. Had a church Meeting, so few out did not organize. Can't wake up our people to attend to church affairs.

15: Old Mrs. Spencer Widow of Dr. John Spencer died last night 74 years of age one of the oldest inhabitants of this place.

Feb 16: Political affairs are waiting the development of time Lincon has been declared by Congress the duly elected President, Is on his way to Washington via Ia, Ohio Pa N.Y. to Washington. The seceders are carrying on their Plundering, Robing, etc. The Peace Convention is still in cession at Washington. George & Julia went to Dekalb to see Lucia yesterday. Stormy all day yesterday & today.

17: Snow fell about 6 or 8 in last night. Preaching O.W. B., in A.M. Afternoon no Services in our house, attended Mrs. Spencers funeral, day mild. Prayer meeting in the evening.

18: Monday Morning. More Snow last night. Mild and thawing this morning.

19: Wife self & children went to Gray's visiting today. Strong west wind. Lincoln on his way to Washington. Great Demonstrations everywhere.

22: Cool & Stormy all day yesterday some usually. Today went to H. Martins to see Levi, Brother Crawford & wife as a Com from the Church. Found him low and Cold, destitute of the enjoyment of the Love of God having laid down his watch & family prayer.

Feb 23: Cold west wind but pleasant. Visited Bro. David Crawford yesterday with our Pastor, found him in a better & more conciliatory frame of mind than for 6 years past & think he will become reconciled and return to the church.

24: Covenant Meeting to day, the usual, no. present had quite a good time. Voted to change the order of our Meetings & have Covenant Meeting once in 2 months & Church or business Meeting the same or every other Month. Preaching a.m. by our Pastor, S.School at noon, the Elder preached at Hailesboro in the afternoon. H.C. Leavitt Preached at the Bapt Ch. P.M. & at the Methodist Chapel in the evening.

25: Have heard of Lincolns passage in disguise from Harrisburgh to Washington on acct of threatened assassination in Baltimore.

26: Wife & I went to Richville today visiting at J.R. Mills, found her better but Mills not able to work. Thankful for the health and comforts a kind providence has supplied us with. Mr. Sterlings Store was broken into last night and Watches and Jewelry to the amt of about \$80 taken, also the Depot office & \$1300 (or \$13.00) taken. Thawing very fast.

Feb 27: Today closes the winter term of the Gouv. Wesleyan Seminary, a usually full term. We have had as Roomers Miss Pike, Mr. Pike, Miss Turnbull, Miss Chapins, Norton Dods and Boarders Jewitt Griswold, Zollar & Fuller. Miss Sybil Thayer has worked for us at 10 pr Mon. Mr. Jacob lost a little Boy 7 years old last night. The Bell has also just tolled the death of Edwin R. Barnes, has been Sick nearly all winter affliction of the liver but he died with a good hope in Christ.

28: Continues to thaw, and it is quite Mild for the last day of Winter.

Friday, March 1: Mild & Thawing, afternoon blustering. March weather. The eyes of all the civilized world has been centered on the 4th of March. The inauguration of our newly elected Republican President whom many have Sworn should never be installed in the White House and now are trying to take his life. Have been paying up some of my little debts and used up about \$400 to that purpose.

2: A sort of a town Market today for the Sale & exchange of Cattle & farming produce. A wet drizzly uncomfortable day most of the time.

3: Sunday Cool Rainy day. Preaching & S.S. as usual today. Our Pastor preached the Funeral Sermon of Mrs. Lamb of Fowler at Hailesboro at ½ past 2 P.M. No Sleighing and not much wheeling. W.E. Sterling I learn is quite Sick.

4: Today the long looked for time has arrived and we shall know tomorrow whether Lincon is our President. Mr. Sterling growing worse.

5: My very Much Esteemed friend and former Employer W.E. Sterling has gone yes death has claimed him for his victim and he is gone. He has finished his earthly course and has been called to an account of his Servant Shep. Was not Sensible of Much after taken down. My dear friend has gone, has left a Mourning family and Many Sincere friends. Mr. S. Was our oldest Merchant and an extensive business Man and the Village & Community will suffer a great loss.

Note: Shep abbreviation for Shepherd.

6: Very Cold Snow fell 6 inches last night but today has blown Some when & cold.

7: Very Cold and Severe North wind today. Mr. Sterling was buried at 2 P.M.

8: Friday Some warmer today tho Cool. Commotion Continues in the South & it is hard telling whether they will brew up a War or not. Many look upon Lincoln's Inaugural as the precursor of Peace and the Sober 2nd thought of the South will be Union. George went to M.D. Morris today.

9: Thawing some. A young man Son of James Clark died today. Consumption.

10: Sabbath, a little Snow last night. Rev. Mr. Parsons from Stuts Corner Exchanged with Elder Babcock today, appeared a good but Moderate Man. Congregation Small. Consulted a little as to continuing our Pastor another year. Have heard from Charles that he was Married and at work at his trade in Decatur.

11: A cool but pleasant day, dont feel first rate.

12: A cool but windy day. All up in arms from the news that it Is necessary to give up Fort Sumpter as no means are in the hands of the President to re-enforce or maintain it.

13: Nothing further Strife and anxiety continues.

14: Cool but looks springish. Had Leavitt draw out some of (LaChines) wood.

15: Friday a very pleasant day. Chas Gone, has been here from Ohio to see about Mr. Sterlings affairs and Lewis & Philo Parsons are here Executors of his will and while his property foots up 75000 dollars his debts amount to \$50000, and doubtless many bad or worthless debts, so the probability is that after 30 years incessant toil with many thousand dollars invested, he has died leaving less real property than he had to Commence with. Bot ½ ton of Hay of C. Conant delivered today.

Note: Chauncey Conant was married to Cordelia Sheldon, sister of Henry Sheldon.

16: A fine pleasant morning looks like a sap day. Old Mrs. Newell was buried yesterday. Old Mr. James Haile died last night, for over 50 years a resident of this Town and a neighbor of My Father's.

17: A very Severe winter day and cold N. Wind. Preaching, S. School as usual.

18: Monday continues very Cold Severe winter weather, no Sleighing. Have agreed with a Mr. Kipp from Canton to fresco the church and in alterations & repairs to lay out about \$250, dollars. No particular political developments, rumor of a Battle at Pensacola. Suppose George has been at work this past week for M.D. Morris.

Note: M. D./Duane Morris was married to Maria Sheldon, sister of Henry Sheldon.

19: A very cold but a bright pleasant morning.

23: Several days Cold 4 to 5 inch Snow tho 20 & 21 some Sleighing but all gone now. A good sap day today, quite muddy, high wind and this evening rain & mud. School Commenced in the Academy Thursday the 21 but few Students to Commence with. We have decided to take no boarders this term and live as cheap as we can and pay what I can on my debts. Trade very dull, hardly know what I shall do. Hayden Mind out of my house today Mar 23rd owes me \$6 rent. Calista Came home yesterday and went back to D. Morrises today. They intend to go to housekeeping soon.

Note: Calista Sheldon, was born 1841 and died in 1917. She was the daughter of Henry Sheldon and his first wife, Betsey Botsford. Calista married Lewis H. Morris. Lewis was born in 1837 and died in 1908. Calista and Lewis were buried in Sheridan Cemetery, Nemaha County, Nebraska.

24: Sunday a cool & somewhat blustering day. Meetings as usual. Henry M. Corbin died at Watertown yesterday & was brot home last evening on the Cars.

25: A Cool bad day. Henry Corbins funeral, at the Baptist Meeting House, a universalist Man by the name of Lee from Canton Preached, Mr. Corbin being a Universalist tho his wife is a Member of the Bapt. Church. Henry said to rest in Universalism. Julia & Theodore Com School today. Julia to Mrs. Wright. Theodore to Mrs. Zimmerman.

Note: Com abbreviation for Commenced.

29: Nothing particular transpired so far, have had cold bad weather. Mrs. Converse died Tuesday at Mr. Harrises formerly a resident of this town. Mr. Ormston of Ox Bow has bot Mr.

Sterling Store & Goods and will move here & go into business. There is much building anticipated here this season.

Church Meeting today got along with some business. Made an effort to fill up the sub for our pastor for another year. Times are hard and we feel it in Church finances as quick as anywhere tho it ought not so to be. Sunday held the 1st meeting in the Basement preparation to Frescoing and repairing the church above. Hope to be able to retain our pastor Rev. O.W. Babcock another year.

Note: Sub abbreviation for Subscription

Monday April 1: Snow Snow all day but at night only 3 or 4 inches

2: Snow 3 in deep this Morning but mostly went off during the day.

3: A Cool and pleasant day, Sap runs, Snow 3 to 4 inches this morning. Met last night to hear report from Subscription and decide about retaining the Elder.

8: Monday Fine weather for the season. Raymond Austin died Sunday afternoon for the last 27 years a resident of this village.

12: find pleasant weather all the week.

13: War Begins. News today of the Commencement of Hostilities at Fort Sumter. The rebels have fired upon Sumter and Anderson has returned the fire, its bombardment continues. Benjamin Drake lost a Child yesterday about 2 years old, Sore throat, Thus he is admonished of his duty to God. Commenced repairs & alterations in the Church this week. Rainy all day today Saturday 13th Apl 1861. Cant tell what will be the result of this rebellion on business or where it will end.

14: Met in the Basement for Meeting & shall meet there during the repairs.

15: Monday have heard of the Surrender of Major Anderson and the inside of the fort burned.

16: Anderson on his way to N.Y. with his Company, no men killed in the engagement of 34 hours.

17: Have a hard Snow Storm fell nearly 1 foot.

18: Much excitement here and all over the Northern States which just begin to make up. A War Meeting held in Van Burens hall tonight 25 Enlisted and \$115 raised for Expenses and for the benefit of the families of those who go.

20: News of Jefferson Davis on his way to take Washington still greater Excitement Virginia Seceded, Harpers Ferry arsenal Burned by the Soldiers to prevent the arms falling into the hands of the Virginians. Mob in Baltimore. Some Boson troops Killed & several Citizens, RR track torn up & Telegraph Wires cut there. Much danger felt for Washington in its present to defenceless condition.

May 6: I have not kept a daily account of occurrences. In Weather We have had mostly cold wet weather with North wind, in War Matters no Battles yet. The Navy Yard in Virginia has been burned by order of the U.S. Government at a loss of over 10 Millions property to defeat the Secessionists of Virginia. The Mob in Baltimore attacked the Soldiers of Mass. and Pa. As they were passing through the City, 4 men killed and some have died Since the Soldiers were ordered to Fire upon them by the Mayor. They did so and killed 13 of the rioters. Troops Continue to go forward. Washington has all it needs and we expect soon to hear of some other moves. A Blockade has been proclaimed of all the Southern Ports. Troops are being gathered in Maryland and doubtless Secession will be crushed out.

Today May 6th a Company of about 80 left here on the 4 oclock train for Albany and the War Commanded by Geo. Parker Captain. Charles Conant was in the Company. The Ladies presented them a nice Silk Flag and thousands gathered to see them off and bid perhaps a final adieu to husbands fathers & Brothers with a God bless them and the Cause in which they have enlisted.

20: War preparations continue tho up to Saturday no Collision had taken place. Maryland is kept in the Union, Kentucky & Missouri will be. Weather Cold Season wet and backward. Mr. Kipp finished Frescoing the meeting house Wednesday, his job was \$125, Cash. Our Basement is well filled Sundays. Have not planted anything yet.

27: Another week is past, had quite a good week for Farmers Season very late. A little firing at Sewells Point Va, and Troops continue to move on to Virginia. Friday night troops went over from Washington into Virginia to the number of about 10000 and the Country have to mourn the assassination of Col. Ellsworth of the N.Y.Zouaves, after taking down a Secession flag from a Hotel in Alexandria he was shot dead by the Land Lord who in an instant followed him to the world of accounts. Repeated firing at Harpers Ferry. The Brothers & Sisters met Tuesday and Cleaned the meeting house. Have let A.J. VanDuzee have the job painting & Graining the inside for \$28. H. Parsons ploughed for me Thursday.

June 1: No very particular news. The Government troops have advanced as far and taken Fairfax Court House 14 Miles back of Alexandria Va. Jeff Davis has been at Harpers Ferry. Genl. Bouregard is at Memphis. The rebels at Baltimore hate to give up and ought to be taken care of Especially Rev. Mr. Fuller. The Troops have marched into Virginia via Wheeling, taken Grafton. Supposed to be 70 to 75000 Gov. troops now in Va.

2: Quite a warm day. Mr. Cushman from Adams preached us 2 Sermons today, our Pastor & B.F. Leavitt went Churches Mills at 5 P.M.

3: The Telegraph news tonight is the Death of Senator Douglas, who Died with the Typhoid Fever at Chicago at 10 minutes past 9 o'clock A.M. today. He will be lamented and regretted by the Entire North whose Services the Country apparently can hardly afford to loose at this time of her trouble. Tho the opposing Candidate of President Lincoln last fall and opposed to the present administration. he went Heart & Soul for the Union and in Maintaining it, Sustained Lincoln & the Country. He has filled important positions in the Government of his adopted State and was 2nd to None in the U.S. Senate to Sustain and Carry out what he thought Constitutional Measures, but his earthly career is ended Showing us that the high as well as the low the Statesman and all must die.

8: The past week has been one of anxiety mourning hope & fear England through her cotton interests would enable her to forego all moral obligation and acknowledge slavedom but I think she begins to find out there is a North and at least she better remain neutral.

15: No very serious things occurred in the Civil or Military Conditions of the world. Harpers Ferry being evacuated by the rebels. Some skirmishing but no extensive battles.

18: George left Grays this morning, gone in dont know where, foolish Boy.

22: Found him down to Richville to work for a Mr. Keys, came home with me. Children wife down with me.

23: Warm. 2 sermons by our Pastor.

29: Worked on the road some, Hayed it some and waited on the hard times. No very great Military News getting ready.

30: 1 Sermon & Communion today, did not attend communion, took care of Arthur & let Wife go.

July 1: School closed June 20. Exhibition in the grove & once rainy. Mr. Kinney & Graves close their labor as Teachers.

6: Closes the 1st week in July. The 2nd was my 47 Birthday and I am really getting to be an Old Man with only a boys attainments. The 4th was the extra session of Congress commences and the 4th Celebrated generally. Walter VanDuzee formerly of this place got his left arm blown off firing Cannon at Antwerp. Had no celebration here, only () Smith made and fired off a Torpedo braking over 80 lights glass from Stores & Houses.

7: Sunday Rev. O.W. Moxley of Richville preached here, exchanged with our pastor. Meeting at 8 o'clock in the evening when the Ordinance of Baptism was administered to 4 Candidates Chas Smith & Wife, L.B. VanDuzee and Miss Leech. A full house and an interesting time – day very warm.

8: Rain. President's Message very good foreshadows liberty to all and in all probability it will be the end of the present struggle. Liberty Must be proclaimed throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof. Patterson Defeated Johnston, Wise Wounded 10 reported. A Flag of truce from the rebels result or design not learned.

10: George went off yesterday to find a place to work. Hard rain Monday afternoon and evening, heavy thunder. A Mr. Gardner had a yoke of Oxen 2 cows some young Cattle & Sheep Killed by lightning. Elder Babcocks 2 trial or lawsuit comes on today at Somerville. Mr. Thayer & Wife started for Franklin Co. visiting. Volney R. Blanding has purchased a horse & starts today for Adams Jeff Co. to commence the Practice of Medicine. Mr. Short went to Canton 9th into 10th.

13: The past week has been an unusually wet one. Have been waiting all the week for a good Hay day. The Elders Horse lawsuit came off Wednesday. Pike withdrew his suit. The War Movements are a ratification of the President's acts by Congress an appropriation for 400000 Men and 500 Million Dollars and a vigorous prosecution of the War. A Battle at Carthage and at Monroe in Missouri, also a reported Battle by Gen McClellan in Western Va, all resulting in favor of the Federal or U.S. troops. Many grand Speeches made throughout the Country on the 4th of July that will tell for the good of our Country and the liberty of the people & the entire emancipation of the Blacks in Slavery. We look for a settlement of these troubles only in provisions for positive Emancipation. 11th An Earthquake at 9 P.M. 1 Minit.

August 1: August has arrived and the Summer is nearly gone. Great preparations are being made for the prosecution of the War against the rebellion. A.C. Barrell made us a short visit this week, left Wednesday night. J.F. Willcox has been here on a visit, left Friday morning August 2nd.

4: Sunday the Methodists Met with us and their Minister preached A.M. Rain every day.

5: Father Aldous left this Morning for Wisconsin intending to Make his home with his Son John. Lewis Morris got in my Hay today.

12: The past week has been mostly good weather and the Farmers have improved it much. 2 Sermons by our Pastor yesterday.

19: We have the News of another Battle in Mo., and of the Death of Genl. Lyon the Com of the Union forces, a severe loss to the Country. Dont know the no. killed, probably 200 or more a drawn game tho the enemy (now) reported 21000 & the U forces about 6 to 8 m.

Note: Com abbreviation for Commander.

24: Edward Babcock died this afternoon at 2 o'clock, has been Sick but had got able to ride out, died in a few minutes after being taken worse, leaves a wife and I believe 5 children.

28: Mrs. Jason Smith aunt to My Wife died about 3 o'clock this afternoon, has been failing for some time and suffered Much – Sank away unconscious of all about her.

29: Mrs. Smith's Funeral today, text in James, What is our lives of. A School Picnic at the Island today also.

30: George Winslow with some others left for Watertown & Washington on this Morning train for the War. Sept Have Quite unusual for several days 3 degrees.

Note: Entry starting with Sept may have been written on the next day. On August 31 entry, S for September is crossed out and Aug 31 written.

31: Covenant Meeting today a fair portion of the Sisters present but few Brothers. Mrs. John Seavy related her Chr experience and offered herself for Baptism was accepted and is to be Baptised tomorrow.

Note: Chr abbreviation for Christian.

September 2: Was too sick to be out to Church today. Baptism and the sacrament administered.

3: The Elder started for Association at Colton.

4: Mr. John Holbrook lost a little boy about 2 years old last night. Dissentary & Inflammation. Mr. Wm. A. Livingston also Died last night, a Man of over 60 years, suppose he without hope. Am poorly have not been out today, had Dr. Swan to help me get well. Julia Came home today, got tipped over & (Harwel) driving - George in the Store.

5: The Sons of Temperance hold a festival here today, address by Rev. Mr. Snyder from Watertown & a dinner on the fair ground.

12: The Town fair opens here today tho living in hope it will come off pleasant, the Entries impart a fair exhibition.

13: The 2nd day of the fair a very fine day. Some 3 to 6 m people present, the address by Hon. Edward Everett, appropriate & good and Satisfactory to the people. Receipts about \$670, supposed it Must have paid its way. We have the general excitement but War War, the State politics are laid aside till the War is over and State officers have been selected with a view to the

prosecution of the War to the putting down of the rebellion. Weather fine, some symptoms of Frost but none yet 16th Sept.

27: Times Move and the world is in Motion, our Country especially Battles in Western Virginia in Which the Union forces triumph. In Missouri the rebels seem to have the advantage and Lexington is now taken. Mulligan obliged to surrender to Price. There is quarrelling in high places, Blair & Fremont are by the ears and while the enemy are over running the Country, they are contending – yesterday the 26th Was the National Fast observed throughout the Northern States with how much Sincerity I cant tell, hope the friends of Liberty will keep good heart till over. Government is willing to fight for the destruction of Slavery the legitimate cause of the War and Proclaim Liberty to All. Have had fine weather, the Co. Fair at Canton goes of this week a good time, the last day stormy. Continues very wet probably the wettest season we have had for many years.

October 1: Cut My wheat Oct 1st, a poor crop.

5: Church Meeting a few Present, the pastor adjourned the Meeting and Notified the Trustees of his wish to close his labors as Pastor at the end of the Present quarter which will be the 16th Oct on account of not receiving his pay promptly.

7: Parker Started for Washington on the 3 P.M. Train with 26 recruits for his company now in Camp at Alexandria Va.

8: Has rained for 1 week every day and my grain out. Money scarce with us, Butter 12c, cheese 6c, wheat 8/ oats 2/. Had a letter from My Charles Dated Ohio ago Sept 29th. Has enlisted in a flying artillery Co. under Capt Busteed, and starts this day for Washington.

9: Sky clear and looks like a pleasant day. Hope it will dry my wheat. The Rebels moving back from opposite Washington, Union Victory in Western Va. Fremont in pursuit of Price said to be retreating to Arkansas. A Steamer from England ran the Blockade at Savannah Ga. With \$1000000 worth of Stores for the rebel army.

14: Yesterday was the last of our Pastors ½ year, has given Notice he should leave for want of prompt pay, the Church not having paid him up quarterly as per agreement. Rainy every day. No Frosts yet.

16: Henry Shaver died today at 5 A.M., fever. Elder Babcock at Canton today on his lawsuit with Pike, put over. Harvested My Wheat Tuesday, My potatoes about 50 Bushels Wednesday, 2 pleasant days no rain. No further War news of great account. A Large Naval Expedition gone South. Fremont chasing up Price & McCullough towards Arkansas. Charles at Camp Duncan Washington. Charles Conant near Alexandria. Fremont not removed but the Blairs are bent on having him killed militarily.

20: Elder Babcock preached for us today tho his time Expired last Sabbath. Day cool.

22: Today Mr. Cushman left with about 30 Volunteers for Potsdam to Join Judge Sandford's Regiment filling up at Potsdam. George has Enlisted with my consent and gone today to Potsdam, if accepted will remain. I have been at a loss to know or decide what was duty in his case, he being only 15 years old the 4th day of September last past, but he was determined on Enlisting if he could have My consent. I had much rather he would have stayed at home attended School & helped Me what he could this winter and if necessary Enlist in the Spring but he has gone and May the Lord go with him and preserve him from the evils of the Camp and the dangers of the Battle field and give him the Courage and patriotism to fill his place valiantly till called to lay down his life or permitted to return with honors to his friends & home.

(November)

Note: Obvious shift in date to month of November but month not recorded here.

Have not kept posted up consequently will have to leave out Many important particulars of transactions since last entry. A very disastrous Battle has been Fought at Balls Bluff near Leesburgh Va in which our forces were shamefully defeated and Many valuable lives wickedly lost among which Was Col. Baker, Member of Congress from Oregon tho claimed as a resident of California, a great & irreparable loss to the Nation. A Severe Fight at Springfield, Mo. In which Fremonts Bodyguard of 300 Men drove 2000 from Springfield killing many and loosing only 15 of their no., also at Fredericktown Mo and the Rebels are making advances so that they apparently hold their own. The Fleet have taken Port Royal and Forts Buregard & Walker and Bufort and have thus made a stand in South Carolina. Mason & Slidell Rebel Ministers to England & France are taken and are now at Fort Warren Boston harbor – the report is that there are now 600000 men enrolled for service.

Note: Buregard is Beauregard.

23: George is at Potsdam yet and well. Snowing & Raining all day, no particular news.

24: Sunday Snow 8 inches deep & tolerable Sledding.

25: Had a new floor laid in my Kitchen. Bot a Hog of Gray gave 5c per pound. Have a hard sore mouth wife most sick with a cold. Our Village & school Commenced today John Leavitt & Miss Tasket the teachers, send Julia & Theodore there this winter. A fine pleasant day today thaws some.

Have rented

East Front room to Miss Graham	6.00
Middle F “ “ “ Moxley	4.50
West “ “ “	

Kitchen Chamber to Corbin & Mix	6.00
2 Rooms below to Turnbolls for	11.00
Dining room Chamber	
House Back of Store to D. Day per year	50.00
Rooms over Store G. Goodrich about	10.00
West room for Harness Shop Tilley etc.	54.00
1 Front window in My Storeroom Short	40.00

Dec 18: Went to Potsdam to see George and the regiment Stationed there think it looks like a hard place to live, say to have about 800 men & Boys there still filling up. Bot about 40 dollars worth Books of Seeley. A cold raw windy day & no Snow.

19: Commenced raining today and has nearly broken up.

22: Sunday Rev. Mr. Brown Agt of Amc & F Bible Soc preached today, took Collection about \$8. Whitfield M. Goodrich died Sunday the 22nd at about 4 oclock P.M. Heart disease. Suppose he died without hope and with his Grocery full of Liquor called to an account of his Stewardship so we are all giving. Snow commenced falling Sunday night. Snowed some all day Monday and grows cold. Tuesday Cold and blustering.

Note: Agt of Amc & F Bible Soc abbreviation for Agent of American and Foreign Bible Society.

25: Considerable trade for Christmas & Tolerable Sleighing, children happy in the enjoyment of their presents.

30: The citizens here have got up a lot of nicnacs for the Company at Potsdam from here a new years feast – sent George a quilt. The old year has gone mild and quiet as tho War Strife and Contention did not fill the hearts & minds of Men. War has commenced for the Support and extension of Slavery.

