DIARY OF MARY HARGER

1870

*INTRODUCTION*

*Mary Harger was born in 1844, the 7th of 8 children born to Ruth Beardslee Harger and Alfred Harger. Her youngest brother died as a toddler, so by the time she was writing her diary in 1870, she was the youngest surviving child. Her mother died in 1852, and sometime after that, Alfred Harger remarried. His new wife was Sarah Scott, and they had one child, Lewis, but he too died young. Mary seems to have a good relationship with her stepmother, refers to Sarah as “Mother” and apparently helps care for her during her frequent illnesses.*

*At the time of Mary’s diary, the family lived in the house Alfred Harger built in 1830 at what is now 329 Quaker Farms Road. Mary’s brother John, his wife Sarah and Mary’s beloved little “Bertie” (variously spelled “Burtie” and “Burty”) reside across the road. [Note:“Bertie” is Edgar Burton Harger who will become the father of Alfred Harger, well-known Oxford photographer and naturalist.] The only house that fits this description is the George P. Sanford Homestead still located at 330 Quaker Farms Road, although the 1868 Beers Map of Oxford lists the house as belonging to G. P. Sanford. Perhaps the name on the map came from the original builder, not the current owner.*

*Mary appears closest to her next oldest brother Oscar who is working as an assistant in paleontology to the famed Professor Othniel Charles Marsh at Yale. Oscar brings home staff from Yale to visit. Professor Dana is either James Dwight Dana, a Professor of Natural History and Geology or Edward Salisbury Dana, an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Astronomy and later a Professor of Physics. Oscar also accompanies Mary on walks to the river, helps make sure she has transportation for her vacation, and shows her around the Yale campus. She writes him frequently.*

*Mary’s father Alfred Harger is a farmer and a well-known surveyor. Many of his maps and papers are still on file in the Oxford land records. He was also a member of the Connecticut General Assembly. Mary’s brother John also worked as a surveyor. It is clear that this family is unusually intelligent and liberal in their views. Their celebration of the passing of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution is almost giddy in Mary’s recounting.*

*Mary’s diary shows her to be well educated. It is unique in that she wrote in part for a future audience of readers, with her sense of humor shining through. She is obviously very bright and makes acerbic comments about the monotony of the household drudgery that fills her days. Her social life focuses on making calls and having friends and family stop for visits. Mary is also deeply involved in the workings of the Congregational Church and documents the improvements made to that structure in 1870. The 1880 Census lists her as organist there. She also served as a judge at the Oxford Agricultural Society Fair in 1875.*

*Mary lived on until 1932, never marrying. Family descendant Beatrice Sellner gave a spinning wheel to the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead saying that it was within living memory that a maiden aunt had spun flax on it. I wonder now if Mary was that spinner.*

*Having glimpsed her life and her spunky personality, it is frustrating to have Mary’s biography begin and end with just the year 1870. It is to be hoped that if more of her diaries exist that they will become available to us as a record of one extraordinary woman’s life.*

*Specific information about the Harger family can be found at* [*http://www.oxfordpast.com*](http://www.oxfordpast.com)

*Many thanks to Essie Lydon for editing and correcting my interpretation of Mary’s handwriting.*

*Nancy Farnum, Transcriber*

*Oxford Historical Society*

*February 12, 2019*

*Sources:*

*Wikipedia*

*“History of the Town of Oxford Connecticut” (Litchfield and Hoyt)*

*“Historic Buildings of Oxford Past and Present”*

*“Early Houses of Oxford”*

*http://www.oxfordpast.com*

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**THE DIARY**

Inside cover (left): 45

75

Inside cover (right): 103

Mary Harger

Oxford

Connecticut

Title Page: Pocket DIARY.

1870

PUBLISHED FOR THE TRADE.

1870

A calendar for 1870 and a list of RATES OF POSTAGE precede the diary.

**Saturday, January 1, 1870.**

The new year finds us four at home, Father, Mother, Oscar and myself. Oscar is taking his vacation. John, Sarah and Bertie live across the street. In the West are Henry, his wife & two boys and Charles with like “incumbrances.”(sic) [Note: Henry and Charles are also Mary’s older brothers.]

**Sunday, January 2, 1870.**

A severe storm of rain kept us all from church.

**Monday, January 3, 1870.**

Weather uncommonly warm. Washed. Worked with doors and windows open.

**Tuesday, January 4, 1870.**

Oscar went hunting (?) for materials to furnish Louise Newman’s (?) fernery (?). Afterwards we went down to Aunt Lucinda’s.

**Wednesday, January 5, 1870.**

Oscar & I called this evening on Joel & Mary Wheeler.

**Thursday, January 6, 1870**

Carried Oscar to Seymour to take the cars. [note: railroad]

**Friday, January 7, 1870**

Hattie Hawkins called just at night.

**Saturday, January 8, 1870**

Snow again – some hope of sleighing –

**Sunday, January 9, 1870**

Mr. Churchill preached. New chairs (.) sermon this afternoon – stayed – A project afoot to visit Mr. Churchill at his home on Thursday –

**Monday, January 10, 1870**

More snow and a little cold but we have had hardly any cold weather.

**Tuesday, January 11, 1870**

A perfect day. Mother rode over to Mrs. Griffins – Ch [Charles] & wife spent part of the day with us –

**Wednesday, January 12, 1870**

The snow vanished like the early dew.

**Thursday, January 13, 1870**

John brought over his sewing machine & we have been working busily. Rain kept the people from going to Woodbury.

**Friday, January 14, 1870**

Cold & snow (?)

The good people some twenty in number went to Woodbury –

Mother purchased a pair of pebbles –

Emma Wheeler has the diphtheria

**Saturday, January 15, 1870**

Finished our machine sewing – Mr. White called. Doctor coming across on foot from Bower’s hill stopped in & left again in a pouring rain refusing a horse –

**Sunday, January 16, 1870**

Mr. Churchill preached an able sermon this afternoon from the text “They that are whole need not a physician but those that are sick. The day has been warm & perfect –

**Monday, January 17, 1870**

Washed in the rain. Made ready to go to New Haven with Father in the morning – Visited a little with Bertie as usual this evening. Mother sewed on the machine and it has gone home –

**Tuesday, January 18, 1870**

Went to New Haven with Father. Did but little shopping and was vexed enough to find that I had left Sarah’s sampler, John’s Diary (?) and my own S. S. question book on Oscar’s table – So much for thoughtfulness. A letter from Miss Haskins – Most (?) unfathomable

Doctor took Mr. Clark to Middletown

**Wednesday, January 19, 1870**

Father walked over to the Center this afternoon.

Mother & I across the street – Sewed on the machine making aprons – A letter yesterday from Augusta Haskins and one today from Carrie King –

**Thursday, January 20, 1870**

Sarah and Bertie visited at Dewey (?) Smith’s. Maria Hinman called.

**Friday, January 21, 1870**

Called at Mrs. White’s and [crossed out letters: “spe”]] took tea with Mrs. Ward.

**Saturday, January 22, 1870**

Oscar surprised us just before dark by an unexpected appearance. He came up with a friend De Forest who is to preach in Woodbury – John’s girl Kate left to take care of her mother and Bertie has spent most of the day with us.

**Sunday, January 23, 1870**

Mr. Churchill

An unpleasant morning -- but few at church and Sabbath school – Mr. Deforest came for Oscar and staid the traveling is so bad.

**Monday, January 24, 1870**

Oscar & Mr. D. left for New Haven – We were up so early to see them off that the day seemed interminable. John washed –

**Tuesday, January 25, 1870**

A long rainy day, Mr. Nichols spent most of the afternoon with us. Baked, & ironed for John –

**Wednesday, January 26, 1870**

A lovely day – My cold is bad – Sarah & Bertie spent the afternoon with us. Helped Sarah cut out the little fellow’s new dress – John had a letter from Kate. She wants to come back.

**Thursday, January 27, 1870**

Another lovely day. Dewey Smith came in the morning for some milk -- John brought home his new carpet -- He says Mr. & Mrs. Walker started to come over but had to go back home on business.

**Friday,** January **28, 1870**

A good long letter from Miss Adams. A terrible cold. A visit from Mr & Mrs Walker –

Mother & I worked on Sarah’s carpet. Father went to Birmingham.

Lovely weather – The roads are settled –

**Saturday, January 29, 1870**

Rain & snow – Father walked through it all over to the Center and back to see David Clark –

Sarah’s carpet finished. Wrote to Ellen Scott –

**Sunday, January 30, 1870**

Mr. Churchill preached one of his most earnest and practical sermons this afternoon from the parable of the lost piece of silver. “Can these dry bones live?” Mr. Baird & Mr. Arnold at church. Father made Mr. B.’s acquaintance. A lovely day –

**Monday, January 31, 1870**

Snows so Washed. John cleaned house and put down the new carpet –

Mr. Northrop came in to have Father take the acknowledgement of a deed & spent some time talking. Watson’s wall map –

**Tuesday, February 1, 1870**

Helped Sarah a little –

Frank Alling’s house burned last night –

Meet at the Schoolhouse in the evening to reconstruct the mail arrangements.

**Wednesday, February 2, 1870**

Julia & Irving over to Sarah’s. A great scare about trouble in the Center & Mr Ward sent for but it came to nothing except that Mr W was sent to Westville to see about the fire – Ripped up my black alapaca (sic)

Ironed &c –

**Thursday, February 3, 1870**

Mrs. White & Mrs. Northrop called – Mrs. White is not usually well & told Father that she should never come again unless she was better – John went to Seymour for his girl but came back without her –

Bertie was here all the afternoon

**Friday, February 4, 1870**

A pair of runaway oxen exhibited their speed this morning for Mr. Tomlinson. Took up one corner of Sarah’s carpet & had tribulation by trying to put it back again.

Father & John at Moose hill –

**Saturday, February 5, 1870**

Bertie’s third birthday. Helped to make him an apron –

**Sunday, February 6, 1870**

It is good both to hope in the Lord and quietly to wait for his Salvation – Father & I went to church – It has been a chill wintry day –

Mother is nearly sick tonight

**Monday, February 7, 1870**

Bertie’s third birthday – Helped make him an apron –

The above was a mistake. To day has been lively. Bertie spent the afternoon with us.

**Tuesday, February 8, 1870**

Winter has “set in” with the severest storm of the season. I have written four letters – To Oscar, Lizzie, Augusta Haskins and to Emma.

Nobody stirred through the storm but the whistles sound as if the engine was trying to clear the track of snow. Ironed.

**Wednesday, February 9, 1870**

Sleigh bells jingle once more –

William Clark finally taken to Hartford.

**Thursday, February 10, 1870**

Poor little Burtie feeling quite dumpish – John “teaming it” to Seymour –

Father up to Christian street and consulting with Eliza Clark –

Mrs Griffin spent a few hours with us.

**Friday, February 11, 1870**

Father went to New Haven – Burty sick – Albert Chatfield’s hired man taken violent sick with lung fever –

**Saturday, February 12, 1870**

Bertie a trifle better – We reconstructed the stair carpet – The sleighing is no more.

**Sunday, February 13, 1870**

Went to church. Mr. Churchill appointed a church prayer meeting on Friday and hopes to attend it himself – Lewis Tucker addressed the Sunday school – Doctor & Mrs. Barnes called this evening –

**Monday, February 14, 1870**

The monotonous record of the week begins with the usual “washed” – varied tonight with a toothache –

**Tuesday, February 15, 1870**

A letter from Maria King – Rain to disturb the lecture promised by Ike Bromely –

**Wednesday, February 16, 1870**

John went to Seymour after a “girl” – Don’t know whether he found one or not – Sarah and Bertie spent the afternoon with us. Doctor called with Johnny and Lizzie. He has heard from William Clark who is doing well –

**Thursday, February 17, 1870**

Bertie trotting out of doors for the first time this winter. He had serious objections to going in – Dewey Smith came in this evening & I went home with her. Mrs. Edwin Smith was there –

**Friday, February 18, 1870**

Oscar sent up my watch by “The Post”.

It has rained furiously all day-- & just begins to lighten (sic) & thunder—

**Saturday, February 19, 1870**

Bertie trotted over to spend the afternoon with us –

**Sunday, February 20, 1870**

My Sunday school class all present – Gave Orrin the new question book and he is going to supply the class –

Mr. Churchill.

**Monday, February 21, 1870**

A present this morning of eight dollars from Father – Mother met the same good fortune. John also gave me a paper of Old Brown [possibly Windsor] Soap – Glorymonger for one day – Washed – The mercury has started for the zero point. Jack Frost is whistling.

**Tuesday, February 22, 1870**

Mr. Russell came up to get some surveying done. J. proposes to lay aside all such gains till he has enough of them to purchase a good instrument. He is putting a chicken skeleton into shape for Oscar. The thermometer stood at 3 degrees this morning & Father & I have not been to the sociable at Mr. Treat’s. Ironed & baked across the street – “Going out to work.”

**Wednesday, February 23, 1870**

John surveying. Father moderating. Teeth grumbling –

**Thursday, February 24, 1870**

Crocheted Sarah’s mat. Father walked to the Center for the mail.

John Fairchild buried.

A wayfaring man up in Oscar’s room I must fasten my door.

**Friday, February 25, 1870**

Tooth grumbling all day – resorted to my first dose of morphine & slept on the lounge all the afternoon. Burty did want to see Aunty Meamie.

**Saturday, February 26, 1870**

Burt in the highest glee tonight – Mother rather miserable – Mrs. Wheeler is worse again –

**Sunday, February 27, 1870**

A wintry day –

Mr. Churchill preached

“For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Nellie Dean is very sick with scarlet fever –

**Monday, February 28, 1870**

Nellie Dean died last night.

Father went to Birmingham –

A letter from Bethina Dykes – The missionary ship Morning Star has been wicked.

**Tuesday, March 1, 1870**

John attended Nellie Dean’s funeral –

Mother and I cut out & began Oscar’s shirts –

Father over to the Probate Court – appointed conservator for William Clark.

**Wednesday, March 2, 1870**

Father over to the Center – John about home, most sick – Five lambs first installment.

Ironed and worked on Oscar’s shirts.

**Thursday, March 3, 1870**

Ran the sewing machine all day.

**Friday, March 4, 1870**

Mr. Churchill was expected to deliver a preparatory lecture but being sick with a hard cold he did not come – we had a good prayer meeting instead and a goodly attendance (.) Dea. Curtis bought a new stove for the vestry. J & L came home by the way of the mineral spring –

**Saturday, March 5, 1870**

Finished the shirts wrote to Henry & Elizabeth – Father over to the Center –

**Sunday, March 6, 1870**

Mr Churchill probably sick, did not come & we had prayer& Sabbath school & deacon meeting.

**Monday, March 7, 1870**

Quite a snow storm. John went to Ansonia after a woman & his hopes of getting one –

**Tuesday, March 8, 1870**

A lovely day – Mother & I John & his family went out riding – Mary Treat spent the afternoon here and Mrs. Dean. Ellen Brown called also Mary Smith Wheeler –

Mr. Baird of Newtown died instantly last Friday –

**Wednesday, March 9, 1870**

Mary Smith W & I attended a sociable at Jane Perkins – Had a pleasant time.

**Thursday, March 10, 1870**

Had fiery trials with Oscar’s five new fine shirts – Mr. & Mrs. Walker came over just at night and stayed a few hours –

**Friday, March 11, 1870**

John went to Seymour surveying for Edwin Smith. I went with him as far as Albert Tomlinson’s to have a root extracted & came home with the root still in there –

We covered Sarah’s lounge – Berty’s ambition in the dress line is a “petticoat like yours and long dresses”!!

**Saturday, March 12, 1870**

Interviewed the neighbors quite extensively –

**Sunday, March 13, 1870**

A furious storm of wind and snow has kept everybody in doors –

**Monday, March 14, 1870**

A lovely day – The Hargers all took an airing. Father went to Ansonia, John & his family to the Center, Mother to the Farms & I to the River – Washed –

**Tuesday, March 15, 1870**

Berty spent the afternoon with us – Wrote to Charles and Katy –

Wednesday, March 16, 1870

Winter & summer in the same day –

**Thursday, March 17, 1870**

John & I went sleighing to New Haven. Went down the turnpike for the first time in my life & Kit [note: their horse?] celebrated by going over with her feet (?) in the air – Get in to New Haven & found “St. Patrick’s day in the morning” – Bought some plated forks – a boulevard skirt & c—

Sleighing somewhat slim but Kit wasn’t caring & we had a “nice time”

**Friday, March 18, 1870**

Baked & helped Sarah &c.

**Saturday, March 19, 1870**

Mother, Burty & I went sleighing. Mother stopped a moment at Mr. Whites & also at Mr Wheelers – Eliza Clark & Ruth Warner spent the afternoon with us. Mary S. W. called also Mrs. Barnes, Grace & Randolph – A letter from E.E. S. also one from Miss Haskins –

**Sunday, March 20, 1870**

A lovely day.

Mr. Churchill in the pulpit once more –

My class recited their first lesson in the new question books –

**Monday, March 21, 1870**

Blue birds!

John is expecting to go to New York tomorrow to buy a transit

**Tuesday, March 22, 1870**

Song sparrows – I carried John to Seymour to take the cars for New York –

**Wednesday, March 23, 1870**

John came home with his transit. Mrs. Walker spent the day with us –

**Thursday, March 24, 1870**

A blustering day – Susan Smith went home – John rich as a king with his new instrument –

**Friday, March 25, 1870**

Burty spent the afternoon with us –

**Saturday, March 26, 1870**

A row of men working at the woodpile – Sarah & Burty over here –

The circular –

**Sunday, March 27, 1870**

Went to church in the snow and came home in the rain – attempted to sit down stairs but Mr. Churchill sent me up –

**Monday, March 28, 1870**

Washed in the rain & put out the clothes to do the best they may – Cleaned the lamb skins –

**Tuesday, March 29, 1870**

Stretched my lamb skins &c

**Wednesday, March 30, 1870**

A letter from Oscar – He comes home on Friday – A call from Sarah Hinman also from Nancy Tomlinson

Rubbed my lambskins this evening –

**Thursday, March 31, 1870**

The fifteenth Amendment proclaimed & general rejoicing & firing (?) thereupon –

**April 1, 1870**

Spent the afternoon at Sarah Hinman’s with Emma McEwen

Oscar came home to vote.

**April 2, 1870**

Baking &c –

We made John’s pants –

**April 3, 1870**

Another unpleasant Sunday

**Monday, April 4, 1870**

Election day

Oscar went back in the storm

**Tuesday, April 5, 1870**

Washed – swept out across the street &c

Wrote in the circular – Snow –

**Wednesday, April 6, 1870**

Snow rain &c

**Thursday, April 7, 1870**

Went to Seymour for Miss Bunnell & Fannie & found them over at the center – The sun shining once more – Mother spent the afternoon with Lucy and Mary –

**Friday, April 8, 1870**

A lovely day

Fanny went back – Julia & her family over

**Saturday, April 9, 1870**

Nancy, Hattie & Mrs Ward –Sarah, Miss Bunnell & Burtie took tea with us Mother had the nervous headache – A warm & lovely day.

**Sunday, April 10, 1870**

The South Britain minister –

**Monday, April 11, 1870**

Stormy as all our Mondays are **–** Put out my clothes & was glad to get them all back in the tub

**Tuesday, April 12, 1870**

Began house cleaning by putting things to rights “up garret” –

**Wednesday, April 13, 1870**

Oscar came home.

**Thursday, April 14, 1870**

A warm & lovely day –

**Friday, April 15, 1870**

Fast day

**Saturday, April 16, 1870**

Oscar & I went down to the river & to Aunt Lucinda’s [Note: “the river” is probably 8 Mile Brook.]

**Sunday, April 17, 1870**

Mr. Churchill preached an Easter sermon in the morning and touched on temperance in the afternoon –

**Monday, April 18, 1870**

A furious rain – John has another hand maiden Hannah Tracy –

Cut my dress

**Tuesday, April 19, 1870**

Washed &c –

**Wednesday, April 20, 1870**

A letter from Jennie Dunbar

**Thursday, April 21, 1870**

Wrote to Miss Haskins – Mrs Nichols called

**Friday, April 22, 1870**

Oscar painted Mother’s room –

**Saturday, April 23, 1870**

Mrs. Griffin and Jessie Perry called –

**Sunday, April 24, 1870**

Attended church – Mr Churchill – A rainy day –

**Monday, April 24, 1870**

Washed & then went to bed sick –

**Tuesday, April 26, 1870**

Stayed there –

**Wednesday, April 27, 1870**

Felt better & crawled (?) out once more

**Thursday, April 28, 1870**

Orre (A nickname for Oscar?) went back – A thunderstorm –

**Friday, April 29, 1870**

Did not attend the preparatory lecture – Mary Edmonds came down & ironed –

**Saturday, April 30, 1870**

About the premises once more –

**Sunday, May 1, 1870**

Attended church Communion service at noon –

**Monday, May 2, 1870**

\_\_\_\_(?) is wash –

Headache –

**Tuesday, May 3, 1870**

Went to Ansonia after millinery –

A warm day –

**Wednesday, May 4, 1870**

Cleaned my room –

**Thursday, May 5, 1870**

Cleaned house a little & subsided –

**Friday, May 6, 1870**

Finished cleaning the chambers – John’s folks went over to the Center – Trimmed my new hat.

**Saturday, May 7, 1870**

Sewed all day.

**Sunday, May 8, 1870**

Attended church – Mr. Churchill preached in the morning on Hope & in the afternoon on Joy –

**Monday, May 9, 1870**

Cleaned the pantry and sink room –

**Tuesday, May 10, 1870**

“Monstrous wash – same as two families” –

**Wednesday, May 11, 1870**

A rainy day prevented the meeting of the Sociable –

**Thursday, May 12, 1870**

Attended a sociable at Orrin Buckingham’s –

**Friday, May 13, 1870**

I never knew a pleasanter May-- Emma McEwen brought Ellen Stone & Sarah Hinman came with Della and Mr Albert Chatfield’s wife & we had a tea party –

**Saturday, May 14, 1870**

We called at Mr. White’s and Mrs. Barnes was here to tea –

I carried Ellen over to Orrin’s and came back by Mr. McEwen’s to take some hops & shrubs – Mrs. McE. gave me a great piece of cheese.

**Sunday, May 15, 1870**

A June day – Mr. Churchill preached. A new scholar in Sabbath School Elida Crissy –

**Monday, May 16, 1870**

Washed. Such lovely weather! The apple blossoms is unparalelled (sic) –

**Tuesday, May 17, 1870**

John went to New Haven & it tried to gather a storm but Sarah & Mother & Burty & I went up to Bernice Meigs & to Mrs Flagg’s calling – Mr. Flagg has for some time been “out” – Yesterday he started for Michigan.

**Wednesday, May 18, 1870**

Haven’t amounted to much to day began wrong by fainting almost away just after breakfast.

**Thursday, May 19, 1870**

Sociable at George Sperry’s – I Didn’t do any thing. Mer [Mother?] working out Wm. Clark’s road tax –

**Friday, May 20, 1870**

Father went to Birmingham –

**Saturday, May 21, 1870**

Cut out Father four shirts –

**Sunday, May 22, 1870**

Mr Churchill –

A pleasant day

& unusually large congregation –

**Monday, May 23, 1870**

Washed & sewed on the machine –

**Tuesday, May 24, 1870**

Ironed & finished the machine work on Father’s shirts –

**Wednesday, May 25, 1870**

Cleaned the sitting room

Hannah came over & washed the floor for me –

**Thursday, May 26, 1870**

Cleaned the kitchen –

**Friday, May 27, 1870**

Finished Cleaning House!

**Saturday, May 28, 1870**

Dipped candles –

**Sunday, May 29, 1870**

Mr. Churchill preached in the afternoon on Spiritual discernment.

**Monday, May 30, 1870**

Washed &c

**Tuesday, May 31, 1870**

Mr Yates came to work on the old house.

**Wednesday, June 1, 1870**

Went to Seymour & had four teeth filled.

Grandpa mending the old house

**Thursday, June 2, 1870**

Spent the afternoon at Emma McEwen’s with Sarah Hinman.

**Friday, June 3, 1870**

Packed up my things for a visit to New & West Haven

**Saturday, June 4, 1870**

Mrs. Perkins is having a cancer taken out & so we did not go to Woodbridge – We all called on Mrs. Ward & at Mr. White’s & at Hattie Hawkins but she was not at home.

**Sunday, June 5, 1870**

A sultry day – Mr. Churchill preached –

**Monday, June 6, 1870**

Went to New Haven to \_\_\_\_(?) \_\_\_\_(?)

Called at Mrs. Tuttle’s in the evening –

**Tuesday, June 7, 1870**

Weather kept us in doors but Okke {a nickname for Oscar?] came up – Mr & Mrs. Warren (?) Taylor appeared. He is representative from Bethlehem.

**Wednesday, June 8, 1870**

O & I went down to Augusta Hendrick’s & in the evening we all attended an organ concert in the Howe St church given by Master Willis Shelton aged 15 –

**Thursday, June 9, 1870**

We attended the Installation of Rev. Phebe A. Hanaford at the universalist church –

**Friday, June 10, 1870**

Went in to the art gallery & stayed & stayed – A chapter of adventure in getting over to West Haven.

**Saturday, June 11, 1870**

Muggy weather

Visited with Mrs Austin –

Oscar came over in the evening –

**Sunday, June 12, 1870**

Went with Mr. Austin to the congregational church –

**Monday, June 13, 1870**

Oscar came over & we all went to look at the Derby rail-road. The rain came suddenly & we had a view of the interior of paddy shantys (sic)

**Tuesday, June 14, 1870**

Went over to Burton Holbrook’s. Oscar spent the afternoon then Mr. B. carried him back to N. H. –

**Wednesday, June 15, 1870**

Burton Dewey & I went to N. H. & Oscar took us around the college buildings

**Thursday, June 16, 1870**

Rode down to the beach twice & over to New Haven – Saw Cousin Louisa in at Wilcox & Halls.

**Friday, June 17, 1870**

Went down to Mrs Austin’s but Oscar came over to Burton’s & I went back there & over to New Haven after supper –

**Saturday, June 18, 1870**

Burton Holbrook brought me home – Hot day –

**Sunday, June 19, 1870**

Attended church

Mr. Churchill preached the last part of his sermon viz sacrifice the first of which I missed last Sunday –

**Monday, June 20, 1870**

Washed – an exceedingly warm day –

**Tuesday, June 21, 1870**

Sudden change of weather –

Ironed –

Cut out my Ninon Paletot – [note: a type of topcoat]

**Wednesday, June 22, 1870**

Sewed over to Sarah’s.

**Thursday, June 23, 1870**

Helped Mother sew some.

**Friday, June 24, 1870**

Carried Mother to the Center & left her at Doctor’s while I went to Seymour

Warm weather

**Saturday, June 25, 1870**

90 degrees – in the shade –

Men at Mr. Robert Treat’s distributing – Mother rather the worse for wear—

**Sunday, June 26, 1870**

Extremely warm weather “If thou faint in the day of adversity thy strength is small (.”)

Mr. Churchill.

A bit of athsma (sic)

**Monday, June 27, 1870**

Wash \_\_\_\_ (?) worse

**Tuesday, June 28, 1870**

Warmest day of the season 91 3/5 degrees

**Wednesday, June 29, 1870**

Letter from Oscar – Aunt Mary coming -- sometime

**Thursday, June 30, 1870**

“Busy here & there.”

**Friday, July 1, 1870**

Raining a shower at least – Wrote to Oscar –

**Saturday, July 2, 1870**

Oscar, Aunt Mary & Minnie appear on the scene –

Wrote to Carrie King –

**Sunday, July 3, 1870**

A rainy morning – Attended church.

**Monday, July 4, 1870**

Father took Oscar to Seymour in the morning. I did not attend the picnic – Sarah took tea with us & brought her picnic boqqet (sic) a cake.

**Tuesday, July 5, 1870**

After going to the river Sarah Burty & I tried to take a ride but the wheel stuck by Mr. Tomlinson’s & L & B. stopped there. I came home alone – John went after them after work. Washed & picked red currants

for jelly –

**Wednesday, July 6, 1870**

Ironed, sewed, fussed &c –

**Thursday, July 7, 1870**

Mother about sick – John went after the mail.

**Friday, July 8, 1870**

Rain & shine

**Saturday, July 9, 1870**

Aunt Mary & I rode to Seymour in the most delightful weather –

Mrs Northrop & Mary called – Victory Lounsbury was married yesterday morning –

**Sunday, July 10, 1870**

Rev. Mr. Smith of Southbury –

Wm. Clark returned last night from the Insane Asylum & was at church today –

“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”

**Monday, July 11, 1870**

Green corn for dinner. Washed – Mother watched a setting hen & found a nervous headache –

**Tuesday, July 12, 1870**

Mr & Mrs Wm. Clark & Judge Dikemen(?) called this evening \_\_

**Wednesday, July 13, 1870**

Very warm weather but the rains have refreshed every living thing –

**Thursday, July 14, 1870**

Sewed &c

**Friday, July 15, 1870**

Mrs. Flagg & Jo. Called. Mr. & Mrs. John Wooster have a daughter today.

Aunt Mary & I went after the mail – A letter from Charles from the Sheffield Scientific School –

**Saturday, July 16, 1870**

Showery – Sewed, baked &c

**Sunday, July 17, 1870**

The very warmest day -- \_\_\_\_(?) at church – Mr. Churchill preached in the morning & touched on prison discipline & somewhat startled me by his “radical” ideas –

**Monday, July 18, 1870**

Oppressive weather -- \_\_\_\_ (?) & Laura over –

**Tuesday, July 19, 1870**

I am rather bad nearly all day –

Lewis Perkins’ barn struck and burned by lightning

**Wednesday, July 20, 1870**

Ditto

**Thursday, July 21, 1870**

I cooked a little for Oscar –

**Friday, July 22, 1870**

Went to Seymour under protest after Oscar & found him after a long search –

**Saturday, July 23, 1870**

Aunt Mary & Minnie went over to Mrs. Walker’s. Weather too warm – 92 1/2 .

**Sunday, July 24, 1870**

Did not attend church but sweltered at home.

**Monday, July 25, 1870**

John & Oscar gone to Birmingham – hotter –

**Tuesday, July 26, 1870**

Every day is hotter than any of its predecessors –

**Wednesday, July 27, 1870**

Some hopes of rain –

**Thursday, July 28, 1870**

Oscar & I went after the mail. Mr. Walker brought over Mrs. W. & Aunt Mary.

**Friday, July 29, 1870**

John & Oscar over to the river.

**Saturday, July 30, 1870**

Oscar & I went to Aunt Lucinda. Sarah & I spent the afternoon with Lucy and Mary –

**Saturday, July 31, 1870**

Attended church – Mr. Chamberlain was there in the afternoon – The church is all torn up.

**Monday, August 1, 1870**

John took Oscar to New Haven but he will not go from there for two or three days. Everything is drying up entirely.

**Tuesday, August 2, 1870**

Washed &c.

**Wednesday, August 3, 1870**

Partly finished my ironing – went berrying –

**Thursday, August 4, 1870**

Rain! We are thankful for small favors –

**Friday, August 5, 1870**

Carried Fannie to Seymour & bought a new paconet dress – Mother & I spent the afternoon at Mrs. Tomlinson’s.

**Saturday, August 6, 1870**

Katy died –

Made my new dress – all but the finishing –

Letter from Ellen & Scott –

**Sunday, August 7, 1870**

Mr Churchill preached on unbelief – No more services for two Sabbaths – Extremely warm weather –

**Monday, August 8, 1870**

Went blackberrying & sewed on my dress –

**Tuesday, August 9, 1870**

Washed – warm weather – Wrote Henry and Elizabeth –

**Wednesday, August 10, 1870**

A little rain & some hope of more.

**Thursday, August 11, 1870**

Some more rain. A letter from Oscar which I have answered –

Mother sick all day –

Mrs. Chatfield called this evening –

**Friday, August 12, 1870**

John took his family to Seymour for a few day’s visit. Doctor brought his wife over & gave Mother some blue pills: hydrate of chloral.

[Note: Hydrate of chloral is a sedative.]

**Saturday, August 13, 1870**

Mother more comfortable –

More rain tonight –

**Sunday, August 14, 1870**

The sun shining after rain – Mother was sick in the night but “feels better now’ –

A letter from Carrie Frost.

Lizzie King has a baby boy!

**Monday, August 15, 1870**

Mother better – a perfect day.

**Tuesday, August 16. 1870**

Aunt Lucinda and Cousin Jane Beers spent the afternoon with us – Jane gave me an urgent invitation to visit her in Newark.

**Wednesday, August 17, 1870**

John in Seymour with his family

**Thursday, August 18, 1870**

The good folks at home again.

**Friday, August 19, 1870**

Mr. Churchill appeared to us & took dinner with us. Wooster McEwen & Joel Wheeler working at the old house! A warm day. Mercury at 81.

**Saturday, August 20, 1870**

Father in Ansonia after sashes for the old house

Little Phebe Holbrook died –

**Sunday, August 21, 1870**

A quiet day at home. Burty was well enough to pay us a visit but looks pale yet.

**Monday, August 22, 1870**

Washed &c –

Went to the funeral of Ellen Holbrook’s little girl.

**Tuesday, August 23, 1870**

Mrs. Deacon Buckingham and Mrs. Chatfield came over, also Mr & Mrs. Walker from Albert Dutton’s funereal (sic).

**Wednesday, August 24, 1870**

Went over to the Center for Miss Burnell and her little nephew and followed them down to the “Pool”.

**Thursday, August 25, 1870**

Tacked comfortables & (possibly sighed?) for rain –

Which came in the night –

**Friday, August 20, 1870**

Finished our comfortables and spent the afternoon with Mrs. Griffin after Kate Burnell had cleaned out our wagon.

A delightful change in the weather & a character in the shape of Mrs. Griffin’s brother’s wife –

**Saturday, August 27, 1870**

John went to have a tooth filled – Finished Miss Alcotts’ “Moods” and don’t (?) like it – Wrote to Miss Haskins.

**Sunday, August 28, 1870**

Attended church at Quaker’s Farms – Preaching by Mr. Eddy –

**Monday, August 29, 1870**

Washed &c. Miss Burwell & Henry Lum (?) went to the Center –

Father spent most of the day over there –

**Tuesday, August 30, 1870**

Joel and John went up to Roxbury to Mine Hill and had a fine time generally – Snakes and stones came back with them –

**Wednesday, August 31, 1870**

John surveying in Ansonia – He took Miss Burwell & Henry to Great Hill I called at Mrs. Wheeler’s & found Mrs. W. sitting up – the first time I’ve seen her up for months.

**Thursday, September 1, 1870**

A long letter from Oscar – Wrote to Cousin Louise. Caught one butterfly and missed the beauty

**Friday, September 2, 1870**

Emma McEwen & Mrs. Montague called – Mrs. Sanford came & I went with her to Mrs Chatfield’s & saw the “littlest” baby.

Kitty supposed to have gone off last night bumming (or humming ?).

**Saturday, September 3, 1870**

Mrs. Walker came after me and we went over to try the New Organ –

**Sunday, September 4, 1870**

Church once more – Charles and Kate Walker up from Woodbridge

**Monday, September 5, 1870**

Went over to the church to practice –

Charles Walker & his mother [,] wife & niece took tea with us –

**Tuesday, September 6, 1870**

Washed – Lizzie & Cornelia Sherman & Fanny walked over to Sarah’s from Julia’s

We canned pears yesterday & today –

**Wednesday, September 7, 1870**

A letter from Maria King – She is coming on Saturday. We all went over to see the prospect from Mrs. White’s hill & broke down in the old carriage – finished our excursion in the lumber box – Tended the littlest baby tonight –

**Thursday, September 8, 1870**

Societies’ meeting voted to finish the church.

We put up grapes.

**Friday, September 9, 1870**

Tooth grumbled all day.

**Saturday, September 10, 1870**

Went to Seymour for Maria King and brought her home with me –

**Sunday, September 11, 1870**

Mr. Churchill preached in the morning & Burritt Smith in the afternoon.

**Monday, September 12, 1870**

Changed the carpet in the sitting room and put up the stove – Maria (,) Burtie & I ran over the rocks

**Tuesday, September 13, 1870**

Maria & I went over to the river to ride –

**Wednesday, September 14, 1870**

Father went to Ansonia & found Oscar in Seymour

**Thursday, September 15, 1870**

We went riding up to Southford & down through the Center for the mail –

**Friday, September 16, 1870**

Stayed at home and sewed, packed and visited –

**Saturday, September 17, 1870**

Wonderful to relate! A rainy day !!!

**Sunday, September 18, 1870**

Mr. Churchill preaching – Charley playing.

**Monday, September 19, 1870**

John started for New York before any body else was up though we rose early – I took Oscar and Maria to Seymour about noon (.) Aunt Lucinda drove up with Mr Beers – Cousin Jane’s husband –

**Tuesday, September 20, 1870**

A monstrous wash – Same as two families.

**Wednesday, September 21, 1870**

Ironed etc –

Lucy and Mary came in and stayed most of the afternoon –

**Thursday, September 22, 1870**

The folks began picking apples.

Went to the Sociable at Mrs. Ebenezer Buckingham’s –

A new organ at church –

**Friday, September 23, 1870**

Washed curtains &c

**Saturday, September 24, 1870**

Ironed & stewed about. Weather unseasonably warm and the pump failing –

**Sunday, September 25, 1870**

Mr. Churchill in the pulpit and Charlie at the new organ – A letter from Oscar and one from Cousin Louise –

Mrs. Isaac Hotchkiss is dead.

**Monday, September 26, 1870**

Washed and cut out my new calico.

**Tuesday, September 27, 1870**

Ironed the parlor curtains. Talk of a Pipe organ for the church –

**Wednesday, September 28, 1870**

Cleaned parlor and went over to play on the organ &c –

Called on Eliza Clark –

**Thursday, September 29, 1870**

Oscar came with Prof. Dana – Randolph fell and hurt him seriously – Confusion – the doctor &c –

**Friday, September 30, 1870**

Rain once more – Oscar & the Prof left for New Haven. Mrs. Barnes came over to take care of her boy who has been suffering a great deal with his head –

**Saturday, October 1, 1870**

Doctor and Mrs. Barnes took Randolph home – Went over myself in the afternoon to find that he bore the journey well – Practised on the organ –

**Sunday, October 2, 1870**

Mr. Churchill on Self deception and on the promise “Look ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you” – Randolph is doing well – Mrs. Wilcoxin (sic)thought to be dying –

**Monday, October 3, 1870**

A rainy day.

town meeting

Sewed on dresses.

Mrs. Wilcoxin (sic) died at 8 oclock P. M. [Note: Anna Wilcoxson is cited in <http://www.oxfordpast.com> as dying on October 3, 1870.]

**Tuesday, October 4, 1870**

Attended the Town Fair –

**Wednesday, October 5, 1870**

A visit from Mr. Topliff and a letter from Maria king

**Thursday, October 6, 1870**

Attended Mrs. Wilcoxin’s (sic) funeral.

**Friday, October 7, 1870**

Cleaned pantry and went to Seymour.

**Saturday, October 8, 1870**

Wrote to cousin Jane Beers –

Mother & Sarah went to Lucy & Mary’s on their own account –

**Sunday, October 9, 1870**

Burty’s first half day at church [.] His mama out also.

**Monday, October 10, 1870**

Oh give thanks unto the Lord for He is good for his mercy endureht forever –

**Tuesday, October 11, 1870**

All ready to go to Newark tomorrow but it looks like rain. Mrs Burnetts house & barn burned last night & Charles Candee disturbed the Center this morning by trying to commit suicide.

**Wednesday, October 12, 1870**

A fine rainy morning. Kept us all at home.

**Thursday, October 13, 1870**

Went to New Haven and from there on with Oscar to Newark – taking my first look at New York.

**Friday, October 14, 1870**

Oscar went back and I went about Newark a little.

**Saturday, October 15, 1870**

Georgie came home and after tea we went over through the market –

**Sunday, October 16, 1870**

Attended Presbyterian church – Dr. Wilson’s in the morning – “The kingdom of heaven is within you” – Dr. Teravin (?) in the afternoon “Who loved us & gave himself for us &c: In the evening we attended ritualistic services at the House of prayer “In as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these ye did it not to me”.

**Monday, October 17, 1870**

Georgie & I visited the cemetery and the hothouses &c –

**Tuesday, October 18, 1870**

Central Park and a day of Adventures –

**Wednesday, October 19, 1870**

Went over to see Auntie Stebbins and bid a very hasty goodbye to Newark –

**Thursday, October 20, 1870**

Came up to Oxford in the rain – Stopped at Eliza Clark’s.

**Friday, October 21, 1870**

Home again.

**Saturday, October 22, 1870**

Getting settled

**Sunday, October 23, 1870**

A cold church – A chilly minister (.) Mr. Churchill has been sick for the first time in his life –

**Monday, October 24, 1870**

Washing – John went to Washington not D. C.

Mr. & Mrs. Ward called in the evening (.) They leave the place on Saturday for Ansonia.

Mrs. Albert Chatfield brought her baby up for a call –

**Tuesday, October 25, 1870**

Ironing Same as two families. Baked, stewed, &c - &c –

**Wednesday, October 26, 1870**

Went to Seymour to meet Oscar and Prof Dana and found another man Mr. Gardner there & we had a wagon full. They all left for Woodbury after dinner and I went up to Mr. McEwen’s to Sociable and played my first game of croquet.

**Thursday, October 27, 1870**

A quiet day at home.

Wrote to Henry and to his little boys –

**Friday, October 28, 1870**

Cleaned house – Mr. Randall came up and bought a load of apples – His wife and baby came up with him and called –

**Saturday, October 29, 1870**

Oscar came from Litchfield leaving Prof. Dana and Mr. G. at Middlebury to walk to Waterbury.

**Sunday, October 30, 1870**

The blinds on the stoves up & fierce fires burning at church – Mr. Churchill not usually well –

The cushions in & the carpets to be made on Wednesday.

**Monday, October 31, 1870**

John and Oscar leveling to the river find that we are 847 feet above its level at the Other rock.

**Tuesday, November 1, 1870**

John carried Oscar to New Haven.

**Wednesday, November 2, 1870**

Walked over to the Center to help put down the carpet. A good many there & plenty of work for all –

**Thursday, November 3, 1870**

I spent the night at Red City and “we” finished the church today –

**Friday, November 4, 1870**

“Sun shining after rain.”

**Saturday, November 5, 1870**

A quiet day at home till just at night I walked up to Mr. Hinman’s for my shoe.

**Sunday, November 6, 1870**

The first Sunday in the “new” church

Communion service at noon –

**Monday, November 7, 1870**

Washing &c as usual.

John & I went to Ansonia to hear Henry Ward Beecher lecture on the Household!

**Tuesday, November 8, 1870**

Carried mother down to call on Mrs. Nichols.

**Wednesday, November 9, 1870**

Went to Seymour to have my tooth taken care of. Was too late to go to the sociable & housewarming at Rev. William Bronson’s –

**Thursday, November 10, 1870**

Burty came over to divert our monotony

**Friday, November 11, 1870**

Burty building cob houses –

**Saturday, November 12, 1870**

John’s cow choked tonight and gave us a fright.

**Sunday, November 13, 1870**

Mr. Smith of Southbury. The organ \_\_\_\_ and we drummed on the old melodeon again.

**Monday, November 14, 1870**

Some signs of rain & Burty guesses that Noah is going to have one of his floods.”

**Tuesday, November 15, 1870**

Father surveying in Ansonia.

A son born to Burton & Mary Tucker.

**Wednesday, November 16, 1870**

Had my teeth filled in Seymour by Dr. Boutwell –

Orion

**Thursday, November 17, 1870**

Nelson, Ellen and Nellie unexpectedly appeared on the scene.

**Friday, November 18, 1870**

Uncle Nelson went back –

**Saturday, November 19, 1870**

Father surveying in Ansonia –

**Sunday, November 20, 1870**

Mr. Churchill preaching. A lovely day –

**Monday, November 21, 1870**

Father surveying in Ansonia.

**Tuesday, November 22, 1870**

washed, ~~dressed~~ & baked & dressed poultry for Thanksgiving & spend the afternoon at John’s.

**Wednesday, November 23, 1870**

Carried Ellen and Nellie over to Mr. Walker’s. Oscar came home. Carrie Smith came over with her arithmetic –

**Thursday, November 24, 1870**

Thanksgiving day – Oscar & I went to Wm. Clark’s & to Red City in the evening –

**Friday, November 25, 1870**

Ironed &c –

The “boys” leveling –

**Saturday, November 26, 1870**

Carrie Smith came over with her arithmetic. The boys fussing about &c –

**Sunday, November 27, 1870**

One of the State Missionarys (sic) Mr. Moore of Berlin preached for us to attempt to give us some statistics.

**Monday, November 28, 1870**

Father took Oscar to the cars and went to Ansonia – A lovely day –

**Tuesday, November 29, 1870**

Brought Lucy over from Red City –

**Wednesday, November 30, 1870**

Mary Smith and I went to the Juvenile Concert at the Center –

**Thursday, December 1, 1870**

Aunt Esther came. She is spending the night with us.

**Friday, December 2, 1870**

Took Aunt Esther to spend the afternoon at Mrs. Griffin’s

**Saturday, December 3, 1870**

Took Aunt Esther to Red City –

**Sunday, December 4, 1870**

Mr. Churchill revived the subject of Tithes.

**Monday, December 5, 1870**

Carried cousin Ruth (?) to Seymour.

**Tuesday, December 6, 1870**

Made my winter hat.

**Wednesday, December 7, 1870**

Washed

**Thursday, December 8, 1870**

Ironed &c –

**Friday, December 9, 1870**

“We” butchered –

**Saturday, December 10, 1870**

John took a sudden & severe cold yesterday and is quite sick today –

**Sunday, December 11, 1870**

John was better through the day and worse at night –

Burton had the croup last night.

**Monday, December 12, 1870**

A rainy day

John rather better –

**Tuesday, December 13, 1870**

Washed &c –

Sarah sick abed now.

**Wednesday, December 14, 1870**

The folks the other side of the street about so so –

**Thursday, December 15, 1870**

Sarah does not sit up at all.

**Friday, December 16, 1870**

Cold as Christmas

**Saturday, December 17, 1870**

We cleaned house and got pretty tired –

**Sunday, December 18, 1870**

Came home from church to find Mother with a nervous headache –

**Monday, December 19, 1870**

Mother sick all day with neuralgia in her shoulder –

Washed &c –

Snow tonight –

**Tuesday, December 20, 1870**

Mother not as well –

**Wednesday, December 21, 1870**

Mother very sick with Rheumatic fever –

**Thursday, December 22, 1870**

No better

**Friday, December 23, 1870**

About the same

**Saturday, December 24, 1870**

And still no better –

**Sunday, December 25, 1870**

A quiet Christmas & Mother apparantly (sic) a little better – Mr. Walker came over on foot this evening –

**Monday, December 26, 1870**

The catarrh complicates matters –

**Tuesday, December 27, 1870**

A slight improvement –

**Wednesday, December 28, 1870**

Mother able to have her bed made for the first time in a week.

The Christmas tree –

**Thursday, December 29, 1870**

Mother still better. The relics of the Christmas tree came over –

**Friday, December 30, 1870**

Mother sat up a little –

**Saturday, December 31, 1870**

Mother still improving

Mr. & Mrs. Walker came to see her –

Oscar & I called at Mary & Lucy’s this evening – I wrote to Lizzie King who has lost her little baby & the old year went quietly out --