

Erastus P. Williams' Diary – 1842

Transcribed by Paul G. Zeller & LDS missionaries & Ruth Finn with Judy Safford

January 1842

21st warm and pleasant with an occasional shower of rain for several days past the weather has been clear and pleasant and not very cold. today I have been visiting- at David Williams and carried my *whole* family- had a good visit on our way overtook two loads of wood going as a present to Mr. Drake- yesterday I drew wood and went to mill- the day before I attended the Conference of Churches and in the evening went to hear Mr. H.C. Wright lecture on the Christian way of treating enemies. about 80 were in- I hope they will profit from what they heard last Saturday evening- I attended the meeting of the society of reformers in E Bethel- heard several tell their experience in drunkenness and one or two addresses may the society prosper and do good and may the *reformers stay reformed*

22nd Saturday a great change in the weather since last evening. clear, cold, and blustering wind very high father and I winnowed 3 bushels of beans and threshed a little Rye did the chores &c the day has passed, the week has passed and what have I done.

23rd calm, clear, and cold, went to meeting. Mr. Drake preached his text in the forenoon was "Yet for all this I will be enquired of by the house of Israel to do these things for thus sayeth the Lord." his sermon was good and appropriate- at noon I went into Mr. Hall's his wife was rather severe upon me for going to hear Mr. H.C. Wright after meeting she called me aside and my forgiveness for what she said hope she was sincere and hope that both of us will go to Him whom alone can forgive for pardon for our many sins; if Mr. Wright is wrong why do sinners hate him

24th pleasant but cold drew wood Ryland and Isabel came from Granville she has been there to take care of James I went to East Bethel this evening and left Isabel there had a pleasant interview with H.C. Wright wish that all could get acquainted with him

25th a very pleasant day Cousin Paul Flinn and wife made us a visit this afternoon and evening had a pleasant visit- Oh! that I could realize how much I owe my Heavenly Father for his kindness in placing me in the midst of kind and affectionate friends why has he done it? my soul canst thou answer? is it because I am worthy and deserve such, blessings or that he is longsuffering and merciful?

26th warm pleasant Ryland and I drew 8 loads of wood today- wife and babies went to father's this evening I shelled corn for E G Angell

27th cold and very blustering the weather is rather fickle, a great many very sudden and great changes this winter finished threshing and cleaning up Rye,- had a little over four bushels- cleaned 2 bushels of beans and threshed a few oats- thus one day after another and one week after another and years are hastening away and what have I done? Alas! what *have* I done? am I prepared to give an account of myself and my work

28th clear and pleasant, father and I drew wood

29th warmer with signs of a thaw I went to the village settled with Dr Dennison and Downer & Nevans and Downer and Fish. I almost dread to settle with anyone for I owe almost every body but I *hope* some time or other, to pay up all my debts our new house has increased my debts a good deal, but probably I have a house that will last as long as I shall

30th Sunday rained last night but was warm and pleasant with high wind through the day Charlotte went to meeting this afternoon, the first time she has been for several months I staid at home and took care of the baby, she slept in her cradle all the time her mother was gone

31st drew wood part of the day, rained hard all afternoon- a complete thunder shower the first this year John Dutton buried his wife yesterday in Tunbridge she died in Monroe they were married and moved there last spring and yesterday Mrs Harper Savage of Hartford was buried they too were married not a year since. this month is now closing and since it commenced death has been busy all around us, Dr. Tinney of Hartford Dr. Crandall's wife of Stockbridge have died this month. mother has done a hard days work washing she came to the door and asked me if Desire had done washing. I told her yes, she said I have just finished washing the floor

February 1842

2nd Mr. C.C. Barleigh gave a lecture on abolition at the meeting house this evening the house was full and the lecture very interesting and night to to the point Widow Safford came to our house yesterday and went home this evening, wind south with signs of a storm

3rd Dea. Flinn came here this afternoon I sold him a set of wagon wheels and took his note for \$12.00 in pine boards at his house in Brunswick Vt drew a load of hay from Mr. Grow. rained hard most of the day the river broke up and cleared this evening

5th rained for several days in succession this afternoon cooler with very high wind the thaw is over for the present, the sleighing is spoiled the ground loose in many places Mr. L. Robinson started from father's for Granville this morning father and I laid a floor in the short stable our fingers were cold before we finished this closes the week and what have I done

6th Sunday the sun rose clear and pleasant this morning. I have not been to meeting hope I do not grow lazy about going but fear I do some Mr. Harrison Dewey's child was buried today the was attended at the meeting house its disease was Canker rash

12th rained through the night and this morning but soon cleared off and towards night began to freeze. I went to Mr. Brooks' and had the mare shod and then went to Mr. Shipman's to see Mr. Eaton but did not. went home and have been puttering the rest of

the day. uncle David and wife came here to see mother Aunt Mary went home with them uncle D bought two bushels of buck and india wheat of me Mr Eaton came here this evening I took up the note he held against it amounted to \$22.10 yesterday Mr. Paige and James started for home. Mr P brought his wife down yesterday. I went the day before; I went to Mr. Davis' George had gone to Broadbrook so lost my journey there. on my way home stopt at uncle David's and borrowed \$20.00 of him to pay for signing another man's note; Thursday threshed provender this is pretty much all I have done this week and yet I have not been very lazy the thaw has spoiled the sledging so I have a good excuse for not drawing wood.

13th Sunday cold and rain, wind south cloudy with signs of rain Harrison Dewey's 2nd child was buried today they both died with the canker rash, I went to meeting in the forenoon Aunt Mary came home with me went to the store and bought some rum and camphor for mother this afternoon I stand here writing, is it profitable? am I doing right

14th I have been doing chores, bringing water to wash, chopping wood, threshing, yoking steers fretting etc. and yet no one bears my [scolding] and what does it do. I must leave it off. a great change in the weather this afternoon the sap run well part of the day a very cold with snow and high wind this evening

15th Grandpa is 92 years old today. Mr. Isaac Pinney died with lung fever Mr. Drake called to see mother this afternoon father and I have been threshing

16th snowed steady all day Aunt Nancy came here this morning she started from Lebanon at 2 o'clock; Dr. came a sled to see mother. I have been threshing

17th real winter weather out this morning the snow is a foot deep the crust on the snow is nearly an inch the wind is high, it snows fast I have been to the barn and fed the cattle and come back here and am now writing this stuff wonder who will ever take the trouble to read it Desire has got the breakfast table out and I will lay my pen away

18th finished threshing provender

19th rained hard part of night and this forenoon the small streams are high and the snow settles fast cold and windy tonight, I began to fix my shop Mr. Paige came from Granville

20th Sunday, cool clear and pleasant wife and I went to meeting this afternoon Mr. Parker preached, his text was "Now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of Salvation" he made himself easily understood by using many apt and familiar illustrations he has been in town since last tuesday

27th Sunday clear and pleasant, wife went too meeting with Ryland, Adeline went with father Mr. Parker preached; I have been confined to the house these days with a bad cold which has settled on my lungs

28th this month has closed and what have I done for time or eternity? how shall I answer for the time I have spent this month in vanity and idleness? time flies and how little do I heed it how many opportunities do I let slip through mere laziness? Lord, help me to be more active in the discharge of every duty may I feel my responsibility more and more, may I love Thee supremely

March 1842

March 1st town meeting; I did not attend father and I fell a craggy birch at the upper end of the meadow and drewed it home for wood Mary and Wm Safford came here this afternoon Mary staid and watched with mother and Desire went home with William

2nd went to meeting Mr. Parkers text was "Why sit we here till we die" I went to the prayer and conference at the methodist house at noon, and such a meeting I never before witnessed in Royalton a number of young men and boys arose and expressed the determination to serve the Lord and 7 or 8 of them led in prayer; they have the influence of the holy spirit to help them on in the path of duty

6th Sunday, cloudy but moderate. the snow fell for 4 inches last night. Desire and I went to meeting Mr. Parker preached; in the afternoon his text was "Lord what will thou have me to do" he pointed out the Christian duty and the evidences of religion, the plainest of any man that I ever heard speak he invited who are indulging a hope and have not united with any church to take the body slips and 20 slips were immediately filled with from 6 to 8 in a slip! old and young from 6 years old to 60 or 70 were there how many are truly converted and will remain faithful is known only to Him who knows the thought of all hearts. Mr. P. leaves tomorrow; 7 years ago M Birchard held a meeting here and made more excitement than we have seen now but I hope Mr. Parker has done the most good but that can be known only in eternity; yesterday it rained most of the day father and I cleaned up provender

7th I helped Mr Grow weigh and load 2 small loads of hay; father went Barnard with James and his wife on a horse sled waggons have gone all the time for 2 or 3 weeks past but Desire says she wants to go to bed goodnight

8th father and I took down the sap tubs, drove the hoops; washed and soaked them, and got them ready for the sugar place. Ryland was taken down with the measles this afternoon, I went after the Dr for mother this evening, stopt at Mr. Sprague's and took two books out of the Library- very bad traveling

9th tapped the sugar place, the sap runs well. the ground is mostly bare which makes it very easy getting about; snowed fast this evening

10th Charlotte is 34 years old today Eleanor Stafford is 4- father and I gathered above 60 pails of sap Mr. Brooks came here this evening and wanted a horse to go to Chelsea tomorrow *I am going to use her*, is this right he told us that Deacon Kinney moved today

he sold his farm to the town last fall his object in selling was to pay his debts, he for 3100 and bought for 3600 hope he will succeed in paying his debts

11th father boiled sap I went to the village to Solomon Aikens, and to Church meeting. Made a trade with Aiken to take his son George till he is 21 years old, expect him next week. cold and stormy wind north mud freezes fast real march weather. Curtis Cleveland told me that Dea Flinn has had all his property real and personal, attached.

12th very high wind all night, it seemed as if the house would blow down sometimes but it is still standing, very cold and blustering. I have been *working at my trade* i.e. *helping Sam*, most of the day, J.P. Brooks came here. I settled with him and gave him my note for 5 dollars on demand hope he wont sue it.

13th Sunday cold and snowy Persia and I went to meeting, communion this afternoon Six united with the church, John Williams and wife were among the number. Aunt Mary came home with father.

14th the sap starts a little this afternoon. I sugared off 25 ½ lbs of sugar that is about all I have done.

15th cut a few black cherry and bass mill logs and drawed wood to the boiling place.

16th a snowsquall last night drawn three bass logs to the saw mill this morning; warm and pleasant this afternoon

17th went to the Dea Kinney's this morning to *trade oxen* but did not see him he was busy moving instead of Dea Kinney for a neighbor we are to have the town paupers— went to the village this afternoon. A meeting at the vestry to reorganize the Congregational Society.

19th drawed four cherry logs to the mill and then Gardner and Eliza Williams made us a short call. Very warm and pleasant weather

20th Sunday cool and windy with signs of the *Equinoctial storm*. Aunt Sena went to meeting with me found very bad wheeling to the river the road is settled most of the way on the river. Mr. Drake preached his text was “My son give me thy heart” in one sense we are all the children of God, he calls upon every one, and it the duty of every one, to give him their hearts

26th the snow fell 6 inches yesterday and last night and still continues to fall but not so fast yesterday I *puttered* and so I have all winter went to Mr. Dearn and a piece of fresh pork for mother. helped Mr. Grow load some hay, laid a floor in *my Shop*. how large it sounds. last thursday I broke flax for Mr. Grow to swings at Capt. Dutton's and earned about 30 cents. wednesday finished threshing and cleaning up oats. had 18 bushels; George and I have been chopping all the time we could get and have not half finished our wood pile yet today we have drawed 5 logs to the mill found Mr. Kent there

with logs he brought more than 6 miles; uncle David and wife called on mother they brought me a fine speckled rooster thanks for their kindness

27th Sunday clear and pleasant this morning rainy toward night. went to meeting in the *team waggon*. yesterday it was good sleighing tonight the ground is mostly bare, and the roads are very soft and muddy

28th went to Capt. Dutton's on an errand this morning. Mrs. Dutton attacked me rather severely on the subject of Nonresistance – how little do many professed Christians understand the principles of the Gospel! strange that any one, especially a mother shall advocate the principle of war! but the time is coming when peace and love should prevail. when all hearts will beat in unison. when war and slavery shall be done away, Oh! that that day might be hastened on

29th clear and pleasant Mr Grow and I dressed flax for Capt. Dutton- dressed 17 lbs. shall not get very rich. about 38 cents per day

30th stormy. I have been choring most of the day. Mr. Alexander came here. I took the colt to Capt. Dutton. Mr. Hawes came here I sold him a few bristles and paper rags, and bought a dipper and wash dish I owe him 34 cents a flock of wild geese went over the first I have seen this spring hope warm weather will soon follow them

31st cold and blustering March *came in like a lamb and is going out like a tiger*. I have been hobling about with one of Job, comfortors, so called, but with a mere particle of his patience. fixed the stalls in the horse stable. just as I was finishing, Geo. W. Davis came. he brought me \$4. instead of \$120 with the chilling news that he could get me no more. Geo. Aikins went home yesterday. he came back today and brought a letter from Mr. Sproat. – *a dun* what shall I do with it? no money to be had

April 1842

April 1st cold and windy, last night was the coldest night we have had for a month I went to Church meeting afternoon. Mr. Drake in his prayer, prayed for those who had lately been converted but were not members of Christ's church. several persons came forward and gave in their relation, and the church voted to receive them into the church; where do they get their power I did not vote; have I sufficient reason for not voting?

April 2nd warm and pleasant this afternoon I cut off Ichabod's tail this morning went to East Bethel this afternoon settled with Patten Davis and O. H. Brooks and talked with a dozen others. got home after sunset and did my chores after dark father carried uncle David's stove home and brought back a pair of chickens thus closes the week what good has been obtained by my life being spared? have I spent my time as I ought? can I give up my account with joy

3rd Sunday warm: went to meeting Capt. Dutton's folks went with me Mr Drake preached from "old things are passed away" in the forenoon, and "behold all things are

become new” in the afternoon. his discourse was directed mostly to young converts but would not hurt old professors he pointed out the Christians very plain, among other sentiments was this. we are to obey God rather than man in all cases even to the loss of our lives. What more do the Nonresistants ask?

4th drew wood to the boiling place helped Mr Grow load some hay chopped a little wood at the door &c somewhat tired when night came. I have not done much

5th cool and stormy. chopped wood at the door part of the day. a meeting at the village this afternoon to reorganize the Congregational Society I did not attend. I have refused to sign the compact. have taken but little part in the exertions made to form a new society have I done my duty?

6th broke flax at Capt. Dutton’s this forenoon went to a raising at A. Brook’s this afternoon. did not finish, must go again

7th cool and cloudy I broke flax father worked for C. and T J Davis with team, harrowing on the hill

8th fast day snowed fast most of the day I did not go to meeting or do much else

9th finished raising Brooks barn. went to the village settled with O. Henry &c

10th Sunday clear and pleasant the ground is froze hard this morning. Mr. Benj Cole died this morning. he is 80 years old, has been sick most of the winter, but his sickness is ended and he has gone, we hope and trust to a happy home. I went to meeting with Capt. Dutton’s folks Mr. Drake, preached in the forenoon from, “Do this in remembrance of me” and “Your rejoicing is evil” his sermon this morning was to show that it is the duty of every convert to join the Church

11th sowed rye on the new piece. father worked part of the day. he has been almost crazy with the toothache for several days

12th father boiled sap Mr. Grow and I finished Capt. Dutton’s flax had just 70 lbs have averaged a little over 3 lbs pr day

13th Mr. Button’s barn was moved this afternoon there were 76 oxen hitched to it and also a *gallon of Rum* the oxen worked well without anything but the men needed a little their whips were heavy at least one man got drunk who is to blame.

14th snowed fast this morning I shelled 1 ½ bushels of corn and went to mill this afternoon father went to Mr. Perrin’s and bought a bushel of wheat for himself and half a bushel for me Mr. Aspinwall called on mother, his loud voice terrified her

15th father and I have been working on the new piece. have drawn off all the timber and got it ready for the fire; Mr. Bowman called on me for taxes this eve I did not pay him

because I could not a very good reaso. how long will he accept it? Ryland went to Mr. Skinner's and got some buttonwood sprouts for setting. it is said that by grafting, they will make first rate appletrees and I mean to try it

18th cool and cloudy with high wind. took up my child's coffin and carried it to the burying place this morning Twas a hard job - almost as bad as to bury him in the first place many times have I wished I had laid him there in the first place - but I have reason to be thankful my other children are spared

20th father and the boys have been drawing manure 3 day - while I have been ploughing. today have been breaking up on the meadow yesterday ploughed the garden Cousin Henry spent the afternoon yesterday here. Isabel went to uncle David's this morning

21st warm and pleasant. today seems the most like spring of any this month. father went to Granville I ploughed on the meadow in the forenoon, burnt brush in the afternoon also went to mill. Desire went to the factory to look around. whilst I am writing Persia is looking over my shoulder but has not spoke a word

22nd very warm the oxen could not work much, ploughed a little on the meadow worked on the new piece this afternoon. Mr. Eaton has been chopping and drawing wood. Calvin Davis brought a bushel of corn to exchange for pease Isabel came home this evening. what else? the children have gone to bed and it is time for me to go, and can I go without feeling thankful for the mercies I have this day rec'd

30th this day is gone. this week is gone and this month is gone - where? what kind of an account is charged against me for what I have done this week, even? my heart grows hard and is full of wicked thoughts and I am quite too willing to indulge them my mind is unstable and wandering, and I am lazy - yes I am *lazy* and stupid and yet I work hard enough with my hands. how little do I realize the swiftness of time and the fast approach of death, judgment and Eternity am I prepared for Eternity? and yet how necessary! today I heard of the death of Judge Paine of Williamstown aged 85 and J C Cornell's child not a year old no age is shared and why am I not cut down as a cumberer of the ground? tis mercy that bears me up Oh may I feel it more. may I act as if I believed it and may I ever remember it. Almighty God give me thy Holy Spirit to help me on in the path of duty

30th have been breaking up west of the barn near the woods. sowed ½ bushel of peas. sowed hay chaff on the rye &c Dea Flinn came here, this afternoon. he gave me a deed of a lot of wild land in Bethel Gilead valued at \$200. I still keep his note and am to give up the deed when he pays the note. I hope it will be soon for I need the money father has been mending fence, the first day work mending fence I have had done this spring. yesterday I brought Mr. Wright stone home and set it up. ploughed a spot for a garden west of the road. in the evening went to Mr. J. Safford's after Desire father has been rolling some new stocked pieces. thursday I helped Mr. Abbot move for the sake of Wright's stone father ploughed for Mr. Grow Monday and tuesday sowed wheat and rye

on the new piece cold and rainy the most part of the week. good weather to work a team when not too wet have sowed a bhl peas, ½ of wheat, and 2 of rye

May 1842

1st Sunday cool and showery, a thunderstorm this afternoon. this day will be long remembered by the church here 42 united with the church most of them were young, and all were young converts communion day. Mr. Cornell's child was buried this forenoon

7th father and Harvey have been mending fence most of the week on the east side of the road Geo and I have been ploughing, harrowing, sowing, etc. David Dutton has been harrowing in oats for me today last wednesday I went to the village and to T..H.Safford's and brought home 25 appletrees the next day set them out. have sowed 12 ½ bushels of oats and ½ bushel flax seed. cool most of the week

8th Sunday cool and cloudy. I have spent the day at home, shall I say idly? Carlos Fowler died last night

9th cold, windy, and snowy I have held plough all day with my mittens on finished breaking up for corn

10th drew manure on to the new garden in the forenoon went to C Fowler's funeral this afternoon Mr. Kimball's text was "the Lord gave and the Lord taketh away and blessed be the name of the Lord."

11th went to Mr. Edda's and got 30 cherry and plumb trees. *Ichabod* acted very bad, but we got home safe

14th went to the village this evening. have been drawing manure most of the week. cold and rainy. Daniel Davis went from this place last night in the middle of a heavy shower. hope he is neither sugar nor salt

15th Sunday wife, Desire and George went to meeting I staid at home to take care of the babies had a hard day's work

16th began to plant corn cool and windy

17th ploughed and harrowed for corn I have whipped the colt more today than ever I did before have I done right? I hope he will not want another whipping right or wrong it is work that I hate

17th wife and I went to M. S. Hutchins while the colt was resting and bought a new dress, bedtick, etc. father and the boys have been drawing dirt & manure. very warm and pleasant

18th finished planting corn

21st Saturday this week is past and its account is sealed for Eternity. Am I prepared to meet that account? have I spent this week as I ought? what have I done for Eternity? my heart is hard, my feelings are cold, dull, and selfish shall I always remain thus? what evidence have I, while thus stupid that am a christian Oh that my heart, even now and ever while life shall last, might be filled with the Holy Spirit; and what hinders? "All things are *now* ready" Am *I* ready? went to the village this afternoon with Augusta, and found a letter from Henrietta have heard nothing from her Oct it did me good to read it, it sounded like sister yesterday father worked for Mr. Brooks today have been burning brush piling logs and ploughing on the Wight lot

22nd Sunday rainy this afternoon this is the 3rd Sunday that I have staid at home this month. have I spent this day as profitably as I might even at home? a crying babe has occupied my time and mind most of the day. Oh for quickening grace, to spur on in the path of duty! Lord, leave me not to turn my back on thee, and bring a reproach on thy cause and at last sink down in black despair May I love thee supremely, and ever feel that I am fast going to Eternity

25th finished breaking up on the Wight lot. have been holding plough on the steep sidehill three days and I am lame and tired enough. yesterday Dr. Woodworth sold his horse for 150 dollars I would sell both of mine for that Persia is 6 years old today

26th planted beans and potatoes

27th Mr. Grow helped us plant potatoes this forenoon rainy this afternoon

27th went to Bethel with wife this afternoon and bought her a new dress last week she bought one and sold it again. hope she will keep this

28th planted potatoes in the forenoon went to Geo. Davis' in the afternoon the colt grows fractious. yesterday they were raising a meeting house in Langdon N.H. a broadside fell and killed on man instantly and wounded 20 others more or less seriously

29th Sunday cool and rainy. went to meeting but got no good, was finding fault with the minister when probably I ought to be finding fault with my own heart. Oh! for Grace to subdue this wicket heart; shall I always live so?

30th very warm, cooler toward night ploughed on the Wight side hill

31st a little frost this morning father finished planting potatoes on the Wight lot I ploughed in the forenoon. in the afternoon went to Geo Davis and bought a cow for 20

June 1842

June 6th cold and windy. came home from Granville, went up Saturday and carried wife and children, and Augusta. she has gone to keep school there this summer. took supper

at Paul Flinn's tonight. yesterday was very warm. a smart thunder-shower in the afternoon I did not go to meeting and staid at Br Paige's and read Miller lecture on the Sabbath; took care of babies, etc. last week finished ploughing and sowing on the Wight lot ploughed *in* my knife, the first time I have lost a knife for ten years

7th training day. glad I am done training a hard frost this morning, corn, beans, vines and potatoes are killed down but I hope corn will start again. went to the village this afternoon

8th plough a little and sowed some B. wheat

9th cold and rainy. sheared sheep

10th warm and pleasant with light showers corn begins to look up a little went to uncle David's and paid him \$20.00 I owe him 40 cents interest

11th very cold and windy. finished ploughing for, and sowing buck wheat have worn mittens most of the day. father has been planting beans with his great coat on it has snowed most of the time all day but not fast enough to whiten the ground

12th Sunday very hard frost this morning what escaped the other frost is cut down now. the farmers prospects are dark and gloomy but God reigns. Oh may I realize it, and trust in him alone Mr. Drake preached on the providence of God all day. his sermons were appropriate his text in the forenoon was, "The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom ruleth over all." 103 Ps. 19 v. Mr. Smith, the Quaker on his own hook lectured on temperance this evening at East Bethel. Gabel and Ryland attended

13th warm and rainy the first corn day this month. sheared sheep for Mr. O. Perrin

14th clear, warm and pleasant. mended fence, split stakes, etc. Mother went to T.J. Davis's.

15th very warm and pleasant made fence on the medow in the forenoon went to church meeting in the afternoon after meeting settled with Geason and gave him my note for \$7.72 went to East Bethel in evening carried Gifford's paint brushes home, got my paint, etc. last night went eeling and caught nothing but a cold

17th wife, Mary and Desire went to Mr Oel Perrin's visiting. they have lived near neighbors to us 5 years and Mrs. Perrin never saw Charlotte or Desire. Sister Paige and Edwin came here last night sheared 9 sheep for Dutton yesterday after 3 oclock P.M.

18th went to Mr. J. Safford's visiting this afternoon father finished the fence in the hollow below the hog pen

19th Sunday very warm for several days past warm and showery Mrs. Greenfield Perrin died yesterday of the throat distemper

20th began to weed corn father and mother went to uncle David's this afternoon mother staid all night I went to Rice's with wool stopt at T. H. Safford's. went to Mr. Brook's and Capt. Dutton's this evening

26th Sunday I am 33 years old today what is my life but a shadow, a dream, a tale that is told? well do I remember the day I was 6 years old, and it seemeth but as yesterday. How have I spent my time how many times have I gone contrary to my own conscience

July 1842

July 4th warm and pleasant but not so warm as last week. drew logs to the mill in the forenoon. went to "*Independence*" in the afternoon, a sabbath school celebration, and annual Temperance society meeting; yesterday it rained hard most of the forenoon I went to meeting in afternoon- communion day; saturday hoed potatoes, drew a log to the mill etc. Capt. Dutton has been at work on the house for 5 days last week and has not done yet

5th very warm, a thunder shower this afternoon, a shower every day for nearly a two weeks. last thursday a heavy thunder shower with hail and wind. several barns and sheds were blown down. a great deal of timber was destroyed within a mile or two of us, yet we are spared

19th very hot and dry for several days past the ground is very dry and corn is rolling very bad. colder this afternoon finished hoeing corn. drew logs for Brook part of the day visited with Eliza and Henry and so forth &c. the small pox is raging near us. 14 are sick at Mr. Burnham's 4 miles from here they took it from an Irishman who was riding in the stage with Miss Kibbee father and mother have gone to Barnard

20th fixed the barn floors, doors etc.

21st went to Bethel Gilead to see my main farm found it *in the bushes* cooler for several days, very dry

24th Sunday warm and pleasant I staid at home and took care of the children wife Desire and George went to meeting Mr. Watkins of Hartford preached

25th commenced haying; rather, late but but everything is late this year. corn just begins to silk. some pieces of Rye are ripening, fit to cut; got in 3 loads of hay

26th drew in 4 loads of hay

27th mowed a little this morning a heavy thundershower about 10 A.M. the first shower for more than 3 weeks the ground was very dry and vegetation suffering

28th a good hay day got in 5 loads Henry and Eliza came to father's this afternoon. Carpenter, the reformed drunkard stole a horse and waggon, buffalo, hat, overcoat, money and a *drink of rum*, last night; and ran away. he was followed and overtaken in Brookfield whilst waiting for his breakfast, carried to Randolph, had his trial and lodged in Chelsea jail before night

29th pulled flax part of the day. got in 2 loads of hay. went to the village this evening traded a little with Nevens. paid him 2 dollars borrowed money; on my way home stopt at Mr. Eaton's and got a bedstead on Wells, A.C. came home in the dark

30th pulled flax part of the day raining this afternoon settled with Mr. Brooks gave him my note for 31 dollars wife and children went to T.H. Safford's aunt Sena came home with them

31st Sunday rained fast most of the night showery this morning; cleared off cool this afternoon. I have not been to meeting. have staid from meeting more this summer than for 2 years before. why is it? do I love religion less? am I more worldly minded? or am I careless and stupid? have I not reason to fear the latter is the case? my feelings (if I have any) are different from what they were a few years since religion does not consist in going to meetings Sunday and living as I please the rest of the week but it is an every day concern tis the business of our lives and should employ *all* our time. faith in God and submission to him, and love to man, to *every* man, black, red, or white should ever govern us. have I that faith? have I submitted? is my heart filled with love to my fellow men. Heavenly Father give me that faith, submission humility and love that I need. help me from this time to live for thee. may I be a humble follower of thy Son may I be indeed a child of grace. do for me all that which I need, and help me to remember my dependence on thee, that life is short and what I do must be done quickly.

August 1842

August 1st freedom's anniversary. how many hearts will this day rejoice. would that the millions in bondage in our country could this day be free, and rejoice with the freed of the W. Indies; May that day come speedily, when not a slave shall be found, when oppressor and oppressed shall rejoice together in Liberty, in virtue and religion May this day be as long remembered as the 4th of July

1st finished pulling flax have been 5 days pulling ½ an acre. began to mow west of the house father went to uncle David's this afternoon Mr. Burnham's child died with the small pox

4th began to reap Rye bound the flax and got it in yesterday

5th worked for Capt. Dutton haying

6th worked for Capt. Dutton part of the day rainy this afternoon

10th a severe storm for several days past that has done great damage to cut grain and hay and standing crops on lowlands are injured very much. many mills, bridges, etc are swept away and roads are generally injured more or less and in return pastures, and potatoes, and other late crops are benefited very much and all nature is refreshed with a plentiful shower

11th reaped and bound rye father has been reaping wheat for C. and T. Davis they think they have raised 150 bushels

20th went to Pierce's carried 4 bushels corn and 1 bushel new rye. showery

21st Sunday went to meeting after meeting Dea Kinney came to me and reprimanded me rather severely for not giving to the A. E. society last sabbath I think I have good reasons for not giving but he says not - which is right? Mr. P. Pierce's 2nd son was buried

22nd father worked for Mr. Perrin's Ryland and I in the lot E. of father's drew in 4 loads of hay 1 of peas

23rd father worked for Calvin Davis we "boys" threshed peas, and got in 2 loads of hay. Geo went to Randolph with Aunt Sena

24th worked on the meadow haying Mr. Brook's horse and waggon were attached by Nevans and Gleason. he wanted I should receipt them to the officer which I did. he gave me my note of \$31.00 for security

26th finished cutting oats on the meadow Mr. Osgood broke the bridge near East Bethel turned his load bottom upwards in the branch, and killed his best horse

27th rainy; cradled India wheat and threshed herds grass seed

28th Sunday I have been troubled with the toothache since yesterday afternoon. it makes me feel cross, but what is the use

29th cooler with high wind from the north Geo went home to see his father this morning

September 1842

September 3rd very warm with frequent thunder showers; I commenced ploughing. the boys finished thinning the corn they have cut nearly 30 stooks and it is thick enough now yesterday father and I cleaned up 6 ½ bushels India wheat, and threshed and cleaned 3 ½ bushels of Rye carried the wool up to Morey, he gave me 30 cents per pound for it. thursday got the colt shod. got the 2 loads of oats and 1 of I. wheat father worked for Kinney

10th rainy this morning father went to Granville I began to spread flax this morning but was soon hindered. Dea J Kinney came here and took up his note - the first money I have seen for many a day. Mr. Eddy came here and made a short stop, then Mr John Brooks came and said I must go to the village with him thus ended my spreading flax I went to the village and gave my note for him to W. T. Gleason for \$19.51 and also recognized for cost in a suit against Brooks by D R Nevans Tuesday finished haying and getting in oats and got in a load of India wheat yesterday was sick and staid in the house all day. rainy wednesday went to mill and to Barnard

11th Sunday rainy this morning went to meeting have not been for 2 sundays before Sullivan Waldo's child died yesterday

April 1843

1843 April 2nd Sunday cold and windy the snow is four feet deep, and drifted very bad, the fences are covered up, traveling bad, hay scarce, a ton will buy a good cow, money none, and confidence ditto; ruin and bankruptcy stare us in the face. the price of everything has fallen more than half and the market dull. sickness and death all around us, many of our friends and acquaintances have died the past winter, in some of the neighboring towns very have died with Erecipelus, a disease as fatal, and more contagious than the spotted fever some 25 years ago a few cases in this town but none have proved fatal. cankerash prevails and has proved fatal in may cases. 2nd Advent lectures all around Mr. Twitchel is now at E. Bethel, many have been converted and have solemnly promised to spend their *all* in the cause of religion. has the cause of Christ been advanced? Oh that I might be delivered from prejudice and sectarianism Oh that the truth might prevail

=====

(Mother's writing)

Carlos Erastus Williams was born September 29th 1843

Erastus P Williams died Nov 11 1844 Oh can it be that two of our members are gone where no traveler can return if I could be permitted to see my husband by traveling I would go thousands and thousands of miles to see him but that cannot be and I must submit but heavenly Father do help me to live so that when I come to die that we shall be permitted to meet with our children in heaven to praise thee through a never ending eternity Amen