

DIARY OF STEPHEN GREELEY (GREELY)  
EAST MONTPELIER, WASHINGTON, VERMONT

1871

## INTRODUCTION

This diary was purchased from Antiques at 110 Main Street in Montpelier, Vermont with the anticipation that perhaps members of the Phillips family of Addison and Chittenden Counties would be mentioned. Mr. Greeley's handwriting and spelling are poor. It is written in pencil, many entries very light, and I have made every effort to transcribe the diary accurately but some corrections have been made to improve spelling and make easier reading in a modern format. Some of Mr. Greeley's words are not understandable and in those cases, they are written as he spelled them. On many pages are merely numbers or what appear to be mathematical equations, probably used as measurements. His entries are not always on the day they occurred, skipping back and forth with dates, probably as he remembered them.

It appears from his entries, that he lived on credits and borrowed money during the year, paid them off as he was reimbursed for services and at the end of the year he settled his accounts. His debt was mostly to his father-in-law, William Holmes, and also traded goods with others. Although there is a section in the back of the journal to record cash records, both debit and credit, Mr. Greeley chose to enter his receipts on the day they were done. His journal also has some entries for 1872 and 1873.

In 1870, Stephen Greeley was a farmer in East Montpelier, VT. He was age 29, born about 1841 in Marshfield, VT and died April 12, 1882 in East Montpelier. The value of his property was \$7,000 and he had a personal estate of \$1,500. His wife was Ellen Holmes, age 28, born about 1843. Their two children were William N., age 3 born about 1867, and Mertie E., who wasn't born until about 1878. Stephen's mother, Merinda Dodge, lived with them. She was age 63, born about 1807. It is assumed that Stephen's father died and his mother remarried. Stephen and Ellen Greeley's parents were found in the 1889 Washington County, VT Gazetteer and I've included them here.

EXERPTS FROM "GAZETTEER of Washington County, VT" Edited by William Adams, Compiled and Published by Hamilton Child. THE SYRACUSE JOURNAL COMPANY, PRINTERS AND BINDERS, SYRACUSE, NY, APRIL 1889

*Newell Greeley was born in Canterbury, NH in 1804, and was a distant relative of the late Horace Greeley. When he was seven years old he came with his mother and two younger sisters to Marshfield, VT, where he afterwards resided and was a farmer. He died October 20, 1851. He married Miranda Cate. Their children were Archelaus, Ambrose N., Stephen, and Webster. Ambrose N. Greeley, the only one now living, married Ellen M. Parks, March 19, 1859. Their children were Elmer Elsworth, who died in infancy, and Gertrude L. Mr. Greeley is a mason, and with his wife and daughter resides in Plainfield village.*

*William Holmes, Jr., born on the Holmes homestead, February 26, 1799, received his education in the common schools of North Montpelier village. He married Diana Stevens, May 19, 1836, who was born July 18, 1812, and commenced housekeeping on the farm where he was born. He was always a Democrat, and always used his influence to advance the interests of his party. He was an industrious farmer, and loved his family and home. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes had nine children, four of whom died in childhood. Those who lived to mature age are Harriet (Mrs. Alvin Cate), who died at the age of forty-nine years, and left an interesting family of eight children. Ellen married Stephen Greeley, and about four years after their marriage Mr. Greeley bought the Holmes homestead, and Mr. and Mrs. Holmes had a home with them. Mr. Greeley died April 12, 1882. Mrs. Greeley still resides at the home, and has two children, William and Mertie Ellen. Charlotte (Mrs. Whitney Davis) resides in Marshfield village. Sarah (Mrs. Austin Foster) resides on a farm in her native town. Mrs. Kate R. Morse resides with her sister, Mrs. Greeley. Mr. William Holmes died July 8, 1884, aged eighty-five years. Mrs. Holmes survives, aged seventy-five years.*

JANUARY

Sun, Jan 1: May 5 [unreadable] on the Hashinly [sic].

Mon, Jan 2: Montvill, Medina, Medina County, Ohio

Sat, Jan 7: 1 oz of tincture of iodine, 2 oz elk hull

Sun, Jan 8: Carbolis Said – 2 feet long, 14 in high, 16 in wide, box free 18 tacking

Fri, Jan 8: Thomas Keys<sup>1</sup>, Front Street, J. F. Brierly

Fri, Jan 20: A. Greely<sup>2</sup> worked one half day

Tue, Jan 24: Borrowed Wm Holmes<sup>3</sup>, paid \$10.00, paid \$3.00

Mon, Jan 30: A. Greely worked one day \$1.25

Tue, Jan 31: A. Greely worked one day \$1.25

FEBRUARY

Mon, Feb 13: A. Greely worked one half day \$.62

Tue, Feb 14: A. Greely worked one day \$1.25

Thu, Feb 16: Borrowed of W. P. Martin<sup>4</sup> \$8.00 – Paid \$5.00, paid \$3.00  
George Tabor<sup>5</sup> oats

Fri, Feb 17: Borrowed of Holister, \$15 Paid

Tue, Feb 21: A. Greely worked one day \$1.25

Sat, Feb 25: Borrowed of W. Holmes, \$20.00 Paid

APRIL

Fri, Apr 7: Borrowed of Wm Holmes \$5.00 Paid

Fri, Apr 14: Borrowed of Wm Holmes \$40.00 Paid

Thu, Apr 20: Bought of J. D. Hollister<sup>6</sup> 1½ tons of hay \$22.50 Paid

Fri, Apr 28: W. Martin, on to corn [or cash] \$2.00

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas C. Keyes, 26, merchant in East Montpelier

<sup>2</sup> Ambrose N. Greely, 37, (Stephen's brother) stone cutter in Plainfield, VT, wife to Emma, 29, daughter G.S., age 6

<sup>3</sup> William Holmes was Stephen Greeley's father-in-law

<sup>4</sup> William P. Martin, 42, was a farmer in Marshfield, VT, wife Maria, 37, three children, George 15, Flora 13 and Janette 11

<sup>5</sup> George Tabor, 39, was a farmer in East Montpelier, wife to Mariah, 38

<sup>6</sup> James D. Hollister, 37, farmer in East Montpelier, VT, wife Laura, 27, had two sons, Henry 6 and Harry 3

APRIL CONTINUED

Sat, Apr 29: Chs Benet<sup>7</sup>, box to pegs \$8.00  
Clark King<sup>8</sup>, received \$20

MAY

Wed, May 24: Dr. to J. D. Hollister, 4 bushels oats \$60, paid

Sat, May 27: W. Martin, sat one day, dr to cash \$2.00

Sun, May 28: Geo Ney<sup>9</sup>, June 2, one half day  
June 3 one day  
June 5 one day  
Zeke Ney, one half day

Mon, May 29: Alden Hathaway<sup>10</sup> Estate paid road tax \$2.13  
Lewis W. Nelson, paid

Tue, May 30: One day work on the road, \$5.50

Jun 18: Chs Sibley Estate, paid road for \$6.80

Wed, May 31: W. Martin dr cash paid for bot sort one half day \$.25  
Settled all book account with S. S. Gillman, paid \$3.86

JUNE

Thu, Jun 1: One day on the road \$6.00  
Sept 22 Edwin Chote<sup>11</sup> dr paid road tax \$3.00  
Lester Watress paid \$5.19  
Walter S. Merritt<sup>12</sup> to by work \$1.26  
One day on the road \$5.50

Sat, Jun 3: One day on the road \$5.50

Sun, Jun 4: Took 4 yearlings to N. Davis<sup>13</sup> pasture, paid

Mon, Jun 5: One day on the road \$6.00

Tue: Jun 6: One day on the road \$5.50

Wed, Jun 7: One half day \$2.75

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<sup>7</sup> Charles Bennett, 44, a house joiner in Calais, VT, wife Caroline, 40, had 5 children, Ellen 19, Charles 14, Elia 10, Corrie, 16 and Ina 5

<sup>8</sup> Clark King, 39, farmer in East Montpelier, VT, wife Roxana, 39, three children, Cora 12, Daniel 8 and Charles 7

<sup>9</sup> George G. Nye, 55, farmer and a muciel [glue] dealer in East Montpelier, wife Emeline, 52, had two children, Willie G. 24 and Emma T. 11

<sup>10</sup> Alden Hathaway, age 47, boot & shoe maker in East Montpelier, wife Louisa, age 49

<sup>11</sup> Edwin R. Choate, 38, house joiner in Calais, VT, wife Mary, 31, two children, Minnie 3 and a baby born May 1870 who was still unnamed

<sup>12</sup> Walter Merritt, age 52, farm laborer in East Montpelier

<sup>13</sup> Nathaniel Davis, age 67, farmer in East Montpelier, wife Irene, age 63, son Nathaniel, age 31, worked on the farm, married to Laura, age 24. Their son was Nathan, age 1

JUNE CONTINUED

Thu, Jun 8: One day on the road \$5.00

Fri, Jun 9: Blood root  
Skunk cabbage red  
Bittersweet steeped and milk and lard  
W. Martin sort one day

Jun 2: Walter Little<sup>14</sup> work one day \$1.50  
One horse and cart 1.75

Jun 3: One day \$1.50  
Horse and cart 1.75

Jun 12: One half day .75  
Horse half day .87

Jun 13: One half day .75  
\$8.87

Sat, Jun 24: W. Martin, sort one half day

Fri, Jun 30: W. Martin, sort one half day  
W. Martin, dr the one day \$1.25

JULY

Mon, Jul 2: Webster Greeley died Jan 23, 1871, aged 28 years, 4 months, 16 days

Tue, Jul 4: Wm Martin lost one day, dr to cash \$2.00  
A. F. Daniels, Sumer Street

Sat, Jul 15: Tom Stevens<sup>15</sup> \$ 1.00  
Lent 10.00  
Barbers 6.40  
For [?] 3.00  
Paid Bill 45.00  
Car bill 25.00

Sun, Jul 16: Emulator No. 10  
Poultry to home  
A. J. MacFarland

Tue, Jul 18: Took my yearlings out N. Davis<sup>16</sup> pasture

Thu, Jul 20: Wm Martin sort one day  
Dr to cash paid for pants \$1.98

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<sup>14</sup> Walter Little, 28, farmer in East Montpelier, wife Fanny, 24, two sons, Walter 4 and George 1

<sup>15</sup> Thomas Stevens, 36, farmer in East Montpelier, wife Julia, had daughter Susan, age 1

JULY CONTINUED

Fri, Jul 21: Lielster House, Lealand St

Sat, Jul 22: Wm Martin one day

Mon, Jul 24: Paid Tom Stevens \$1.00  
S. Lambton  
Cash lent \$10.00  
30 lbs of turkey

Tue, Jul 25: Cr by freight paid on pottery \$8.75  
Telegraph \$.75

Fri, Jul 28: Wm Martin dr to one pair pants \$1.50

Mon Jul 31: Wm Martin sort one day

AUGUST

Wed, Aug 2: Meat cow, shared halfor (heifer?), white cow

Sat, Aug 5: Wm Martin sort one day

Fri, Aug 11: Wm Martin sort one day

Sat, Aug 12: Wm Martin sort one day

Mon, Aug 21: Wm Martin, sort one day, dr to cloth \$1.14

SEPTEMBER

Sat, Sep 2: Wm Martin dr to mending boots \$1.30

Tue, Sep 5: Sold to Geo Miles<sup>17</sup> [?] head cattle, paid \$194.00  
Dec 5, received \$100.00

Sat, Sep 9: Wm Martin dr to box palls \$.25

Thu, Sep 21: Borrowed of Wm Holmes, paid \$10.00

OCTOBER

Wed, Oct 4: Paid for butter tubs \$7.80

Sat, Oct 7: Mr. Green, can't you make out a memd of this poultry so I can send to Boston without any delay?

Wed, Oct 11: Borrowed of L. Mallory<sup>18</sup>, paid \$50.00

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<sup>17</sup> George Miles, 24, farmer in Plainfield, VT, wife Sarah, 21, son Burton age 1

<sup>18</sup> Levi R. Mallory, age 37, cattle dealer in East Montpelier, wife Julia, age 31, had a daughter Lucy, age 12

OCTOBER CONTINUED

Sat, Oct 14: Fifield 194 buckets of corn, paid  
Fri, Oct 20: Borrowed of S. Mallory, paid \$25.00  
Thu, Oct 26: Borrowed of S. Mallory, paid \$50.00

NOVEMBER

Sat, Nov 4: Wm Martin  
Wed, Nov 8: Fifield, 80 corn pails  
Borrowed of Wm Holmes \$550.00, paid  
Thu, Nov 9: Daly, 80 bushel corn, paid \$46.00  
Fri, Nov 10: Baley Parks, 50 buckets corn, \$95.00, paid  
Mon, Nov 20: Borrowed S Hollister, \$25.00, paid

DECEMBER

Sun, Dec 3: Settled all book account up to date with A. N. Greely, paid \$11.00  
Wed, Dec 6: Paid H. E. Fifield<sup>19</sup>, borrowed money \$17.00  
Fri, Dec 8: Paid S. S. Holister, borrowed money, \$25.00  
Tue, Dec 19: Wm Martin, dr to one pair of shoes \$2.25, one pair boots \$5.50  
Sat, Dec 30: Settled all book account with W. P.. Martin, hand due \$122.00  
cr \$ 70.00

1872

January Jan 20, dr by cash \$ 10.00  
cr by one pig \$ 4.25  
February Feb 14 paid W. P. Martin gave \$ 14.75  
Two turkeys \$ 3.00

1873

Mar 29: Paid Will \$5.00  
May 29: Paid Jake \$10.00

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<sup>19</sup> Henry E. Fifield, 30, retail grocer in Montpelier

MEMORANDA IN BACK OF BOOK

Jan 9: Paid Luby \$3.00

Jan 15: Paid Luby 3.00  
Paid 2.00  
3½ Butter .50  
One bucket corn 1.00  
½ bucket beans .50

[Luby worked one day on Jan 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22,23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30 & 31 - no pay mentioned]

Mar 21, 1872: Settled all book account with Wm Luby, paid \$1.36

E. Harbury, 23, 24, 25, 27, dr to 8 lbs lard, 6 lbs butter \$5.00, 2 cords wood, \$4.00

A. Cate<sup>20</sup>, paid dr to turkeys 43½

Paid Sept 21 books, 8 lbs feathers \$20.00  
Dec 28, 6 lbs feathers \$ 7.50

Boston Nov 26, 1871 paid board bill up to date and breakfast in the trade J. G. Reider

Jan 11, 1872: Paid Wm Holmes \$40.00, A. Lawrence \$1.75 tax

J. F. Lachner, West Danville

S. R. Maton, East Cabot

Rory Cole, Waldo

M. N. Hollister<sup>21</sup>: 20 bean, pork, sugar

April 15, 1872: Settled all book account with Wm Holmes up to date, signed Stephen Greely & William Holmes

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<sup>20</sup> Alvin Cate, 40, farmer in East Montpelier, wife Helen, 32, three children, Silas 7, Sarah 5, and Albert 3

<sup>21</sup> Martin Hollister, 41, miller in East Montpelier, wife Sarah, 37, two daughters, Dora 8 and Rose 2