

DIARY OF WILLIAM HOLMES, Jr.
MARSHFIELD, WASHINGTON, VERMONT

1879

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. Holmes wrote this diary at age 80 and may have been fairly wealthy for his day. Many entries in his diary tell of lending large sums of money and holding notes for them. Other entries tell of his being repaid on several notes. His records give deaths and burials of people in the area, and he wrote a weather report every day. He never referred to his wife by her given name, calling her either "Mother" or "Woman", saying she went away and then when she came home but rarely where she went. His handwriting is steady, mostly legible but small, and his spelling is very good.

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{HIS FATHER):

William Holmes, born in 1772, came to East Montpelier, then Montpelier, as near as can be ascertained, in 1795, and settled in the northeast corner of the town. He took an interest in military affairs and was a captain of militia, a man of great energy and warm sympathies, ever ready to help whenever he had an opportunity. He died at the early age of forty-one years, and without an enemy. He married Margaret Comins, of Charlton, Mass., and their children were John, born May 25, 1795, who died about the same time as his father, of a malignant typhus fever in 1813; William, who died on the homestead; Harriet, who married Alvin McKnight, an died March 23, 1838; Margaret, born in 1803, who married Putnam McKnight, and resides on the McKnight homestead, and is the only surviving member of the family; Horace, born June 1, 1808, who was a farmer, had several locations, and died in Marshfield, in April, 1878; and Edwin, born December 27, 1810, who was a merchant about twenty-five years, and of the firm of Bancroft & Holmes of Montpelier. He had an enviable reputation, and died in Montpelier, May 17, 1871.

{THE DIARY AUTHOR):

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

Wednesday, Jan 1: Went to post office. Paid 12 cents for stamps. Moderate nice weather. Mother had 5 dollars today. Caleb Hathaway¹ buried yesterday.

Thursday, Jan 2: At home today, stormy all day, high wind at night, drifted

Friday, Jan 3: At home today, cold and windy. Aunt Ruth Dwinell² buried today.

Saturday, Jan 4: At home today. Not quite as cold as yesterday

Sunday, Jan 5: At home today. Moderate weather

Monday, Jan 6: At home today. Cloudy but not very cold.

Tuesday, Jan 7: At home today. Good fair winter weather. Permelia Stevens³ buried today.

Wednesday, Jan 8: At home today. Some stormy, not very cold.

Thursday, Jan 9: At home today. Stormy and high wind at night. Lot H. Davis was buried today.

Friday, Jan 10: At home today. Paid Mean 6.92 VT taxes. Paid for Boston Post 1.10. Weather fair

Saturday, Jan 11: At home today. Pleasant weather

Sunday, Jan 12: At home today. Sarah, Austin and Ellen Cate⁴ came here today & Charles Gray⁵ came here in the evening.

Monday, Jan 13: At home today. Moderate indication of a storm.

Tuesday, Jan 14: At home today. Received of Whitney Davis⁶ one hundred dollars. Moderate but a little stormy.

Wednesday, Jan 15: At home today. Sharp cold weather.

Thursday, Jan 16: At home today. Stormy all day.

Friday, Jan 17: At home today. Nice warm weather. Harry Morse⁷ came tonight.

¹ Caleb Coombs Hathaway, age 77, born 08 Nov 1801 in Calais, VT, died 29 Dec 1878 in East Montpelier, VT, son of Thomas Hathaway and Susannah Coombs. He married Polly Hold on 22 Dec 1828 in North Montpelier, VT. She was born 22 Oct 1803 in North Montpelier, VT and died 08 Mar 1887 in East Montpelier, VT. Their children were Diantha (1831), Philena (1835), Caroline (1849), Edwin (1845), Almada (1829) and Melissa (1832).

² Ruth Dwinell, born about 1786 in NH was married to William Dwinell, farmer in Marshfield, VT, born about 1780, son of Henry D. Dwinell and Lydia Curtis. William Dwinell died 14 Nov 1871 in Marshfield, VT

³ Permelia Stevens, age 53, was born about 1826 in VT, wife of Charles Stevens, born about 1809, a farmer in East Montpelier, VT and later of Barre, VT. They had twin sons, George C. and Henry D., born about 1846.

⁴ Sarah D. (1865), Austin P. (1868) and Ellen F. Cate (1871) were 3 of 8 grandchildren by William's daughter Hattie and her husband Alvin McKnight Cate. Hattie Holmes was born about 1833 and died 31 Oct 1878. Alvin McKnight Cate was born 13 Jun 1829, was a farmer in East Montpelier, VT and died 11 May 1900. Other children were Stephen D. (1863), Henry W. (1875), Hattie M. (1875), Alvin M. (1876) and Clara (1878).

⁵ Charles Gray, age 32, farm worker in Calais, VT, born about 1847, son of Clark S. Gray and Lutheria Wheelock.

⁶ J. Whitney Davis, age 31, son-in-law of William Holmes, lived with his wife, William's daughter Charlotte, and their two children, George (1872) and Burt (1877) with his parents, Abial H. and Harriet Davis in Marshfield, VT. Abial was born about 1818 and Harriett about 1822.

⁷ Harry Hubert Morse, farm worker in Calais, VT, born 02 Jun 1858, son of James Morse and Mary York

Saturday, Jan 18: At home. Stormy and blustering today. Mrs. Barton⁸ died today, wife of David Barton.

Sunday, Jan 19: At home today. Clear nice weather. Josh Martin⁹ buried today.

Monday, Jan 20: At home today. Pleasant but cold.

Tuesday, Jan 21: At home today. Pleasant but cold.

Wednesday, Jan 22: At home today. Stormy in the morning, not very cold.

Thursday, Jan 23: At home today. Stormy in the forenoon, fair in the afternoon.

Friday, Jan 24: At home today. Pleasant, a little stormy in the evening. Dennis Gray¹⁰ buried today.

Saturday, Jan 25: At home today. Stormy all day, heavy wind at night, drifted. Let S. Greeley have forty dollars. Paid.

Sunday, Jan 26: At home today. Clear and cold.

Monday, Jan 27: At home today. Cloudy, a little snow, not so cold.

Tuesday, Jan 28: At home today. Warm and thawing.

Wednesday, Jan 29: At home today. Cold wind north.

Thursday, Jan 30: At home today. Cold and storm, warmer in the afternoon.

Friday, Jan 31: At home today. Cloudy, moderate and some stormy. Diantha Hathaway¹¹ buried today.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb 1: At home today. Stormy in forenoon

Sunday, Feb 2: At home today. Cloudy, stormy, moderate weather. Loren Gray¹² and woman were here today

Monday, Feb 3: At home today. Cloudy and high wind at night.

Tuesday, Feb 4: At home today. Cloudy, moderate and some stormy

⁸ Lamira Barton (nee Lemira Lorinda Hopkins), age 59, was born 18 May 1813 in Williamstown, VT, daughter of Nathaniel Lillie Hopkins and Lemira Flint. She was the second wife of David Barton, married 16 Mar 1845 in Montpelier, VT. He was a farmer in Moretown, VT, born about 1817 in VT. Mr. Barton's first wife was Fanny Cutler who died 13 Mar 1844. Mr. Barton married his third wife, Clarissa Bennett Dana, 20 Jun 1888. David Barton was born 17 Jun 1817 in Montpelier, VT, son of David Barton and Ann Alls. He died in Calais, VT 29 Jul 1900.

⁹ Joshua Martin, age 79, born about 1800, farmer in Marshfield, VT, wife Betty

¹⁰ Dennis Gray, age 75, farmer in East Montpelier, VT born 19 Jul 1804 in East Montpelier, VT, son of Isaac Gray and Betsey Stevens, married Phila Burnham 07 Feb 1832.

¹¹ Diantha Hathaway, age 48, was born 29 Jan 1831 in North Montpelier, VT, daughter of Caleb Coombs Hathaway and Polly Holt, worked in a woolen mill in Northfield, VT, never married

¹² Loring Gray, born about 1806, farmer in East Montpelier, VT, wife Fannie.

Wednesday, Feb 5: At home today. Clear and pleasant in the forenoon, stormy in afternoon. Paid Charles Newton¹³ fifty cents. Pliny F. Gale¹⁴ buried today of Plainfield

Thursday, Feb 6: At home today. Clear and moderate weather

Friday, Feb 7: At home today. Clear and warm today, snow in evening and heavy wind at midnight. Woman left today. Whitney came here last night and left today

Saturday, Feb 8: At home today. Clear weather

Sunday, Feb 9: At home today. Stormy this morning, in the afternoon stormy and blustery

Monday, Feb 10: At home today. Clear and cold

Tuesday, Feb 11: At home today. Stormy all day, rainy at night

Wednesday, Feb 12: At home today. Moderate weather in the forenoon, stormy in afternoon, high wind at night.

Thursday, Feb 13: At home today. Cloudy and some stormy

Friday, Feb 14: At home today. Clear and nice weather. Stephen Spencer¹⁵ buried today.

Saturday, Feb 15: At home today. Clear, sunny, not very cold

Sunday, Feb 16: At home today. Clear weather.

Monday, Feb 17: At home today. Fair, nice weather

Tuesday, Feb 18: At home today. Stormy in the forenoon

Wednesday, Feb 19: At home today. Good weather

Thursday, Feb 20: At home today. Stormy moderate weather

Friday, Feb 21: At home today. Cold and high winds, drying

Saturday, Feb 22: At home today. Clear, windy.

Sunday, Feb 23: At home today. Clear good weather. Woman came home today.

Monday, Feb 24: Went to Abial Davis¹⁶. Cold

Tuesday, Feb 25: At Davis today. Cold.

Wednesday, Feb 26: At Davis today. Warmer, some rainy at night. Paid Blakely¹⁷ for varnishing wagon two dollars.

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¹³ Charles P. Newton, born about 1841, silver plater in Montpelier, VT

¹⁴ Pliny Fiske Gale, age 20, farm laborer, was born 19 Aug 1859 in Plainfield, VT, son of Sullivan Boutwell Gale and his second wife Laura Washburn Bailey

¹⁵ Stephen Spencer, age 46, farmer in Plainfield, VT, was born 11 Nov 1833 in Marshfield, VT, son of Daniel Spencer and Rebecca Bliss. He married Euthesia Clarissa Gale 28 Mar 1860 in Plainfield, daughter of Sullivan Boutwell Gale and his first wife Rhoda Athelia French. She was born 04 Aug 1839 in Plainfield and died 27 Dec 1920 in Barre, VT.

¹⁶ Abial Davis, born about 1793, retired farmer in Marshfield, VT

¹⁷ George C. Blakely, age 45, born about 1834, was a painter in Marshfield, VT. His wife Alice, age 35, was born about 1844.

Thursday, Feb 27: Came from Davis today. Colder, very cold at night.

Friday, Feb 28: At home today. Cold this morning, warmer at night

MARCH

Saturday, Mar 1: At home today. [Unreadable], Cold this morning, warmer at night

Sunday, Mar 2: At home today. Clear nice weather

Monday, Mar 3: At home today. Clear nice weather

Tuesday, Mar 4: At home today. Clear nice weather in the forenoon, cloudy towards night, warmer some in the evening.

Wednesday, Mar 5: At home today. Clear but cold

Thursday, Mar 6: At home today. Stormy

Friday, Mar 7: At home. Cold and rough today

Saturday, Mar 8: At home. Warm and thawing today. Austin Foster¹⁸ and family here today

Sunday, Mar 9: At home. Cloudy soft weather today.

Monday, Mar 10: At home. Clear, warm and thawing

Tuesday, Mar 11: At home. Moderate weather, some rainy in the morning, fair in the afternoon

Wednesday, Mar 12: At home. Good weather. Stephen Greeley and woman went to blacksmith. Eben Stevens¹⁹ and woman here today

Thursday, Mar 13: At home. Cloudy moderate weather, some stormy in afternoon

Friday, Mar 14: At home. Clear nice weather in the forenoon, stormy in the afternoon. Steve and Ellen came home about noon.

Saturday, Mar 15: Cloudy and some blustering, a squall of snow in afternoon

Sunday, Mar 16: At home. Clear but some colder in the morning but warmer in the evening

Monday, Mar 17: At home today. Snow fell some 6 inches. Philena Hathaway²⁰ buried today

Tuesday, Mar 18: At home. Clear nice weather

Wednesday, Mar 19: At home. Good weather some thawing. Woman went to Abial Davis today

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¹⁸ Austin S. Foster, age 35, was William Holmes's son-in-law, born about 1844, and a farmer in East Montpelier, VT. William's daughter, Sarah was born about 1847. Their children were Henry H. (1871), Hattie M. (1875), and Hattie M. (1877).

¹⁹ Ebenezer D. Stevens, age 61, farmer in East Montpelier, was born 28 Feb 1818 in Newbury, VT, son of Job and Lois Stevens, married Caroline Farwell Jan 1842, daughter of Lemuel Farwell and Patience Walker.

²⁰ Philena Hathaway, age 44, was born 29 Jan 1835 in North Montpelier, daughter of Caleb Coombs Hathaway and Polly Holt and sister to Diantha Hathaway who died in February. She never married.

Thursday, Mar 20: At home. Stormy in the morning, pleasant in the afternoon.

Friday, Mar 21: At home. Warm and some thawing. Wesley Martin²¹ and woman here today. Holmes²² and woman from Woodbury here today

Saturday, Mar 22: At home. Stormy all day

Sunday, Mar 23: Cloudy, moderate and some thawing. Water run from the eaves of the house. Charles Gray²³ and woman here today.

Monday, Mar 24: At home. Soft thawing indications, rain wind in the south

Tuesday, Mar 25: At home. Cloudy soft weather. Tuck Greeley and woman went to Eben Stevens

Wednesday, Mar 26: At home. Clear sunny day, wind northeast. Whitley here today

Thursday, Mar 27: At home. Cloudy, thawing, wind northeast in the morning, south in the evening. E. D. Stevens²⁴ died at 2 o'clock

Friday, Mar 28: At home. A warm thawing day. Woman came home today.

Saturday, Mar 29: At home. Cloudy soft weather, indications rain. E. D. Stevens buried today

Sunday, Mar 30: At home. Stormy in forenoon, sunny soft weather in the afternoon, wind south

Monday, Mar 31: At home. Cold, rough and stormy, wind north

APRIL

Tuesday, April 1: At home. Cold, blustering, drifting weather

Wednesday, April 2: At home. Clear windy afternoon, a little snow. Dean Patterson²⁵ here today

Thursday, April 3: At home. Clear, windy. Sap run some today

Friday, April 4: At home. Cold, wind in the north

Saturday, April 5: At home. Cold and wind south. John Tabor²⁶ buried today

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Sunday, April 6: At home. Moderate. Sap runs some. Wind north

²¹ Wesley P. Martin, age 51, was born about 1828 in Marshfield, VT, son of James H. Martin and Irene Sibley. He married Mary H. Spencer 06 Aug 1853 in Marshfield. She was born about 1832. Their children were George (1854), and Fannie J. (1856).

²² Marshall Holmes, age 46, born about 1833, was a farm laborer in Woodbury, VT, son of Abraham and Roxy Holmes. In the 1860 census report, the note "idiotic" is captioned in the disability column. By 1910, Mr. Marshall was shown as an inmate at the Woodbury Town Farm. He never married. No relationship to William Holmes has been established.

²³ Charles A. Gray, age 32, farm laborer in Calais, VT, was born about 1846, son of Clark S. Gray and Luthera C. Wheelock.

²⁴ Ebenezer D. Stevens, age 61, born about 1818, married to Caroline, age 60, born about 1820. Their children were Mary (1846), Enos/Eli (1848), and Ella/Ellen (1851).

²⁵ Dean Hopkins Patterson, age 60, was born 28 Feb 1819 in Montpelier, VT, son of James and Betsy Patterson. He married Lucretia H. Giles 07 May 1841 in Montpelier, VT

²⁶ John C. Taber, age 57, was born 21 Dec 1821 in Montpelier, VT, son of Elihu Taber Jr. and Laura Cutler. He married Maria E. Barns 04 May 1848 in Worcester, MA. She was born about 1827, daughter of Artemas Barnes and Nancy Merriam. She died 01 Jan 1883.

Monday, April 7: At home. Cold south wind. Received of Stephen Greeley two hundred dollars to be applied on interest on his notes.

Tuesday, April 8: At home. Clear nice weather. Wind in the south

Wednesday, April 9: At home. Clear cold wind south and southwest. Sap day

Thursday, April 10: At home. Hazy indicator of a storm, snow in the afternoon and evening

Friday, April 11: At home. Stormy today, wind north, afternoon rough and stormy

Saturday, April 12: At home. Not quite so rough wind south, thawing. Let Austin T. Foster²⁷ have five hundred dollars and have taken his note for this noon

Sunday, April 13: At home. Cold wind south and southwest. John Whitley came here last night. Hiram Merritt²⁸ buried today.

Monday, April 14: At home. Good weather. Sap runs well today. Whitley left here this morning.

Tuesday, April 15: At home. Good sunny weather in the forenoon, cloudy and some stormy in the afternoon.

Wednesday, April 16: At home. Warm and thawing in the forenoon, colder in the afternoon

Thursday, April 17: At home. Good weather for sap afternoon indications of a storm

Friday, April 18: At home. Cloudy indications of a storm, stormy in the afternoon and windy

Saturday, April 19: At home. Cloudy the forenoon, clear in the afternoon

Sunday, April 20: At home. Good weather for sap

Monday, April 21: At home. Good fair weather, warmed up today

Tuesday, April 22: At home. Clear sunny day

Wednesday, April 23: At home. Rainy this morning, cooler in the afternoon, windy

Thursday, April 24: At home. Clear but cool, windy in the afternoon.

Friday, April 25: At home. Cloudy, appearance of rain, rain in the evening

Saturday, April 26: At home. Clear nice weather

Sunday, April 27: At home. Cold indications of a storm

Monday, April 28: At home. Cloudy, looks like rain, evening rain

Tuesday, April 29: At home. Fair weather. Mother left here today

Wednesday, April 30: At home. Went to North Montpelier, at home the rest of the day. Paid Nye 10 cents for cake of soap. Rained a little in the forenoon

²⁷ Austin Theophilus Foster, age 56, was born 20 Sep 1822 in East Montpelier, VT, was a dry goods merchant in Derby, VT. He married Aurelia May about 1844 and Sarah Heard Gilman about 1852. Austin Foster died 31 Mar 1900

²⁸ Hiram Merritt, age 56, born 02 Jan 1822 in Calais, VT, son of Oliver and Sally Merritt. He was a merchant in East Montpelier, VT

MAY

Thursday, May 1: At home. Cold raw wind today, wintry weather

Friday, May 2: At home. Cold and rough

Saturday, May 3: At home. A little warmer. Went to the Hollow for mail

Sunday, May 4: At home. Received of Stephen Greeley ninety two dollars to make up the compliment together with my board bill up to April first and the same is endorsed on his note. Compliment. He is three hundred and fifty four dollars.

Monday, May 5: At home. Warm nice day a little rain at night, high wind

Tuesday, May 6: At home. Clear nice weather in the morning, cloudy in the afternoon, in the evening rain

Wednesday, May 7: At home. Cold wintry day

Thursday, May 8: At home. Fair weather, windy

Friday, May 9: Went to Plainfield. Received of Hoyt²⁹ fifty dollars the balance due on the Perkins note, paid him one dollar for collection. Warm sunny day

Saturday, May 10: At home. Dry windy

Sunday, May 11: At home. Dry windy

Monday, May 12: At home. Dry and warmer

Tuesday, May 13: At home. Clear, hot and dry

Wednesday, May 14: At home. Hot smoky weather

Thursday, May 15: At home. Hot smoky weather

Friday, May 16: At home. Nice rain today

Saturday, April 17: At home. Went to the woods in the afternoon for hoop poles. Clear nice weather

Sunday, May 18: At home. Woman came today. Hot dry weather

Monday, May 19: At home. Hot dry weather

Tuesday, May 20: At home. Hot dry weather

Wednesday, May 21: At home. Cold wind

Thursday, May 22: At home. Cold high wind. Went to the Hollow for paper

Friday, May 23: At home. Cold high wind, some frost. Ezra Paine³⁰ died today

²⁹ Hoyt Ransom Gallup, age 26, born 31 Jul 1851 in Plainfield, VT, son of Alanson Gallup and Nancy Hodgman. He was a farm hand on the Greeley/Holmes farm and married Lizzie Glidden 28 Oct 1888. She was born 01 Apr 1864 in Woodbury, VT, daughter of Henry and Mary Glidden. Hoyt Gallup died 20 Mar 1920 and Lizzie Glidden Gallup died 20 Jan 1915. Their children were Myrtle (1882), Charles (1885), Harry (1888), and Leila (1892).

³⁰ Ezra Paine, age 84, was born 27 Mar 1795 in Washington County, VT, son of Richard and Hannah Paine. His wife, Rachael Belinda Ormsbee was born about 1797 in Montpelier, VT. They married about 1822 in Montpelier and children were Mason

Saturday, May 24: At home. Warmer today, frost this morning. Mother in the garden

Sunday, May 25: At home. Cold windy weather

Monday, May 26: At home. Colder today and high winds

Tuesday, May 27: At home. Warmer indication of rain. Gave \$2 to Henry Martin³¹

Wednesday, May 28: Smoky dry windy weather

Thursday, May 29: Warm dry smoky weather. Woman left home today

Friday, May 30: At home. More hot and smoky weather

Saturday, May 31: At home. Hot and dry

JUNE

Sunday, June 1: At home. Hot as ever, shower in the afternoon and evening. Woman came home today.

Monday, June 2: At home. Cloudy and very warm. Lemuel Cate³² paid me thirty six dollars as interest on the note of \$600. Hattie Hathaway³³ died today.

Tuesday, June 3: At home. Rainy today

Wednesday, June 4: At home. Showery and hot in the forenoon

Thursday, June 5: At home. Windy, a little rain

Friday, June 6: At home. Cloudy, rain and wind in the afternoon

Saturday, June 7: At home. Very cold, high wind

Sunday, June 8: At home. Frost this morning, cold and high winds in the afternoon

Monday, June 9: At home. Warmer indications of rain. Let woman have twenty five dollars. Woman went to Davis today

Tuesday, June 10: At home. Showery this morning, some thunder with it, fair after 8 o'clock

Wednesday, June 11: At home. Cut brush for peas. Very warm, some thunder and a little rain

Thursday, June 12: At home in forenoon, in the afternoon went to Abial Davis, staid [sic] overnight. Showery, some thunder. Woman had two dollars

(1821), Matilda (1832), Eliar (1838), Elmira/Emily (1847), Jane (1830), Julia (1824), Emeline (1826), Palmer (1838), Austin (1834)

³¹ Henry Martin, age 37, farmer in East Montpelier, was born about 1842. His wife was Amelia, age 34, born about 1845. Their children were George F. (1867), Dwight B. (1870), Dean H. (1874), Harley H. (1876), and Julia L. (1878).

³² Lemuel M. Cate, age 52, was born 03 Sep 1827 in Calais, VT, son of Isaac Cate and Clarissa McKnight. He married Jerusha Pitkin 03 Feb 1858. She was born 06 Jan 1837 in Calais, VT and died 15 May 1886. Their children were George (1859), Isaac (1862), Webster (1864), Eloise (1865), Henry (1870), and Susie (1873).

³³ Hattie Louisa Hathaway, age 17, was born 05 Feb 1862 in East Montpelier, VT, daughter of Henry F. Hathaway and Fanny Howland. The 1879-1880 Mortality Schedule states she died of consumption.

Friday, June 13: Came from Davis this forenoon. Cooler and some windy

Saturday, June 14: At home. Fair in forenoon, cloudy in the after, looks like rain. Mrs. Morse came today. Hoyt had my wagon to go to Cabot.

Sunday, June 15: At home. Rainy today

Monday, June 16: At home. Rainy in the forenoon. Received of A. M. Cate one hundred and three dollars in full for all he owes to me and note given up.

Tuesday, June 17: At home. Cold raw weather today. Betsy Nye³⁴ buried today

Wednesday, June 18: At home. Warmer today

Thursday, June 19: At home. Good weather today

Friday, June 20: At home in the forenoon. Went to the Hollow in afternoon. Good weather today

Saturday, June 21: At home. Clear and very warm

Sunday, June 22: At home. Showery this morning, fair in the afternoon

Monday, June 23: At home. Good warm and dry weather

Tuesday, June 24: At home. Warmer today than yesterday

Wednesday, June 25: At home. Clear and very warm

Thursday, June 26: At home. Cool in morning, hot and sultry in afternoon. Went to Davis woods for well roller, from there to [unreadable]. Paid Nye eight cents for cucumber seeds and onion seeds

Friday, June 27: At home. Very warm, shower in the afternoon

Saturday, June 28: At home. Clear and very warm with showers in the afternoon

Sunday, June 29: At home. Rainy today

Monday, June 30: At home. Good warm weather

JULY

Tuesday, July 1: At home. Good weather, a little cooler

Wednesday, July 2: At home. Very warm

Thursday, July 3: At home. Warm, a little rain

Friday, July 4: At home. Good weather

Saturday, July 5: At home. Good weather, showers at Montpelier

Sunday, July 6: cool in the forenoon, warmer in the afternoon and some rain

³⁴ Betsey Nye (nee Elizabeth Rich), age 63, was born 31 Dec 1815 in Montpelier, VT, daughter of Samuel Rich and Margaret McLeod. The 1879-1880 Mortality Schedule states she died of cancer. She married John Nye about 1851. He was a farmer in East Montpelier, VT. Mr. Nye was born 09 Jan 1807 in Montpelier, VT and died 01 Aug 1881. He was the son of Dennis Nye and Betsey Gray.

Monday, July 7: At home. Showery all day. Avery Cummins³⁵ died today

Tuesday, July 8: At home. Cooler and a little rain in the forenoon, hot and sultry towards night.

Wednesday, July 9: At home. Cool in the forenoon, wind southwest, warmer in the afternoon

Thursday, July 10: At home. Cloudy, not hay weather in the forenoon, hot in afternoon, indication of rain tonight

Friday, July 11: At home. Good hay weather, indication of rain, 4 loads hay

Saturday, July 12: At home. Good hay weather, 8 loads hay

Sunday, July 13: At home. Hot weather today

Monday, July 14: At home. Very hot today, 1 load of hay today, shower in the afternoon

Tuesday, July 15: At home. Good hay weather today, got 5 loads of hay

Wednesday, July 16: At home. Good hay weather, got 8 loads of hay

Thursday, July 17: At home. Hay weather, got up 3 loads of hay

Friday, July 18: At home. Got 5 loads hay, weather not very good

Saturday, July 19: At home. Good hay weather, got up 9 loads

Sunday, July 20: At home. Good weather

Monday, July 21: At home. Got 2 loads hay, weather not very good

Tuesday, July 22: At home. Lowery, no hay got up, heavy shower last night

Wednesday, July 23: At home. Wet cloudy day

Thursday, July 24: At home. Dull hay weather, no hay got up

Friday, July 25: At home. Good hay weather, got up 9 loads

Saturday, July 26: At home. Got up 7 loads and finished haying

Sunday, July 27: At home. Fair all day, shower at night

Monday, July 28: At home. Fair today. Woman came home today

Tuesday, July 29: At home. Very warm today

Wednesday, July 30: At home. Very warm, some wind

Thursday, July 30: At home. Very warm Ellen went raspberrying

³⁵ Avery Cummings, age 76, was born 08 Apr 1803 in Montpelier, VT, son of Elisha Cummings and Rachel Eddy. 1879-1880 Mortality Schedule states he died of a cancerous liver. He married Eliza Durant 22 Jun 1862. She was born 05 Mar 1826 in Marshfield, VT and died 13 Mar 1895.

AUGUST

Friday, August 1: At home. Very warm and dry
Saturday, August 2: At home. Very hot, indications of rain
Sunday, August 3: At home. Very warm and dry
Monday, August 4: At home. Very warm and dry, shower at night
Tuesday, August 5: At home. Woman went to Cates today. Very warm and dry
Wednesday, August 6: At home. Cooler with high wind. Paid Stephen Greeley 50 cents
Thursday, August 7: At home. Cooler today
Friday, August 8: At home. Cooler
Saturday, August 9: At home. Went to the Hollow. Cloudy and cool
Sunday, August 10: At home. Good weather
Monday, August 11: At home. Good weather to get up oats
Tuesday, August 12: At home. Hot dry weather
Wednesday, August 13: at home. Good weather
Thursday, August 14: Went to Chester Dwinell³⁶, paid him 50 cents for writing my will. Some rain today
Friday, August 15: At home. Good weather
Saturday, August 16: At home. Rainy this afternoon and evening
Sunday, August 17: At home. Rainy
Monday, August 18: At home. Rainy
Tuesday, August 19: At home. Cloudy and cooler, rain in the afternoon
Wednesday, August 20: At home. Weather fair
Thursday, August 21: At home. Dull today, a little rain
Friday, August 22: At home. Lowery
Saturday, August 23: At home. Weather fair
Sunday, August 24: At home. Cooler today
Monday, August 25: At home. Good weather
Tuesday, August 26: At home. Went to the Hollow. Good weather
Wednesday, August 27: At home. Good weather

³⁶ Chester Wright Hayward Dwinell, age 56, was born 24 Feb 1823 in Marshfield, VT, son of Simon Dwinell and Sally Hayward. He married Orpha L. Jacobs about 1847. She was born about 1827 in Marshfield, VT. Their children were Dean (born 1848), Emily (born 1850), Cyrena (born 1852) and Hiola (born 1870)

Thursday, August 28: At home. Good weather

Friday, August 29: At home. Woman left home today. Clear in the forenoon, cooler in the afternoon, showering

Saturday: August 30: At home. Clear good weather

Sunday, August 31: At home. Warmer today. Woman came home today

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 1: At home. Warmer indication of rain

Tuesday, September 2: At home. Dry weather and very warm

Wednesday: September 3: At home. Warm in the morning, cooler in the afternoon, appearance of rain

Thursday, September 4: At home. Cooler and cloudy and a little rain

Friday, September 5: At home. Cool and windy

Saturday, September 6: At home. Clear, good through the day, rain in the night

Sunday, September 7: At home. Indication of rain, rained last night

Monday, September 8: At home. Very pleasant in the forenoon, cooler and showery in the afternoon and evening

Tuesday: September 9: At home. Cooler. State Fair commences today

Wednesday, September 10: Good weather

Thursday, September 11: At home. Good weather

Friday, September 12: At home. Good weather

Saturday, September 13: At home. Cool and cloudy and rain in the evening

Sunday: September 14: At home. Rainy this morning, afternoon rainy

Monday, September 15: At home. Clear good weather

Tuesday, September 16: At home. Cloudy, indication of rain, in the evening rain

Wednesday, September 17: At home. Thunder shower this morning and high wind, rain in the afternoon

Thursday, September 18: At home. Cool and cloudy and rain in the afternoon

Friday, September 19: At home. Clear nice weather. Charles Tabor³⁷ died today

Saturday, September 20: At home. Cool and cloudy and some rain for part of the day, clear in the evening

Sunday, September, 21: At home. Pleasant but cool

³⁷ Charles Austin Taber (or Tabor), age 46, born 17 Dec 1832 in East Montpelier, VT, son of Samuel Robinson Taber and Diana Foster. The 1879-1880 Mortality Schedule states he died of consumption. He married Jane A. Hammond 19 July 1853. She was born 13 Oct 1833 in East Montpelier, VT, daughter of Elon Oscar Hammond and Fanny Burnham. Jane Hammond Taber re-married to Albert Dwinell 14 Oct 1890. She died 17 Jul 1914.

Monday, September 22: At home. Clear nice weather

Tuesday, September 23: At home. Cloudy and cool in the forenoon and some ran, pleasant in afternoon

Wednesday, September 24: At home. Rainy all day

Thursday, September 25: At home. Cold but pleasant

Friday: September 26: Went to Morse's today, fair today

Saturday, September 27: Fair. Rhoda Redway³⁸ today

Sunday, September 28: Cloudy and a little rain

Monday, September 29: Fair today

Tuesday, September 30: Came from Morse's today. Good weather today

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 1: At home. Cloudy and looks like rain

Thursday, October 2: At home. Clear nice weather. Woman went to Davis today

Friday, October 3: At home. Rain a little this morning. Husked corn today. Caroline Washburn³⁹ died today

Saturday, October 4: At home. Weather fair.

Sunday, October 5: At home. Weather fair.

Monday, October 6: At home. Good weather.

Tuesday, October 7: At home. Good weather, very warm for the season

Wednesday, October 8: At home. Very hot and sultry. Coolidge Taylor⁴⁰ of Plainfield died today. Mary E. Hart⁴¹ died today.

Thursday, October 9: At home. Very warm and dry

Friday, October 10: At home. Warm and pleasant

Saturday, October 11: At home. Cloudy and a little rain.

³⁷ Rhoda Redway (nee Hathaway), age 60, was born 28 May 1819 in Calais, VT, daughter of Elnathan Hathaway and Jane Birchard. She was the widow of Alonzo Redway. He was born 27 Mar 1815 in Montpelier, VT and died between 1860-1870. The Redways were innkeepers in Montpelier and married 05 Mar 1837. Their children were Ellen (1845), Marie (1849), Emma (1851), Albert (1854), and Alfred (1856), and Ida (1859)

³⁹ Caroline Washburn (nee Caroline A. Stearns), age 75, was born about 1804 in NY, widow of Gamaliel Washburn. He was born about 1798 in Montpelier, VT and was a clerk of the freight house in Montpelier, VT. The Washburns were married about 1829 and their children were Justis (1844), George (1846) and Fannie (1951).

⁴⁰ Coolidge Taylor, age 83, born 04 Sep 1796 in Montpelier, VT, son of Jonah and Mindwell Taylor

⁴¹ Mary Hart, age 69, was born about 1811, apparently not married and with no occupation, was a boarder in various homes in East Montpelier.

Sunday, October 12: At home. Cloudy and a little rain.

Monday, October 13: At home. Cooler but pleasant.

Tuesday, October 14: At home. Fine pleasant weather

Wednesday, October 15: At home. Warm, smoky today. Hattie Hamblin⁴² died today.

Thursday, October 16: At home. Smoky and very warm

Friday, October 17: At home. Cloudy and cooler and looks like rain

Saturday, October 18: At home. Rainy today.

Sunday, October 19: At home. Colder and windy. Lucina [Hall]⁴³ died today.

Monday, October 20: At home. Clear and cold. Let Greeley have one dollar, lent 3.

Tuesday, October 21: At home. Clear nice weather.

Wednesday, October 22: At home. Cloudy and cool. Had one dollar.

Thursday, October 23: At home. Warm and showery the forenoon, cooler in the afternoon.

Friday, October 24: At home. Stormy all day.

Saturday, October 25: At home. Clear but cooler. Woman came home today.

Sunday, October 26: At home. Not quite so cold, more pleasant.

Monday, October 27: Good pleasant weather.

Tuesday, October 28: At home. Rainy today.

Wednesday, October 29: Cloudy and high wind and cooler.

Thursday, October 30: At home. Cloudy and some rain in the afternoon, high winds in the night.

Friday, October 31: At home. Some cloudy, cold and windy.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 1: At home. Windy but cool.

Sunday, November 2: At home. A little cloudy, good weather

Monday, November 3: At home. Stormy today, snow fell 2 inches.

Tuesday, November 4: At home. Clear but cold.

⁴² Harriet Philuria Hamblin, age 23, born 19 Mar 1856, Montpelier, VT, daughter of Marcus Bingham Hamblin and Philuria Grey. She married Frank Willard 05 Nov 1874. He was born 16 Feb 1853 in East Montpelier, VT. It is unclear why William Holmes referred to her by her maiden name.

⁴³ Lucinda Hall (nee Lucinda F. Clark), age 51, born 22 Dec 1827, daughter of Horace Clark and Sophia Foster. She married Mason Hall about 1847. He was born about 1827. Their son Dean was born about 1852.

Wednesday, November 5: At home. Cloudy and looks like a storm. Herein my pay on the S. Bemis work \$168 [unreadable].

Thursday, November 6: At home. Cloudy moderate weather, appearance of a storm.

NOTE: The writing in the diary changes on this date from pen to pencil. The quality of penmanship also changes, although it resembles previous entries. It is mostly shaky and unclear, and perhaps Mr. Holmes was ill.

Friday, November 7: At home. Good pleasant weather.

Saturday, November 8: At home in the forenoon, went [unreadable], cloudy thawing weather.

Sunday, November 9: At home. Weather warm. [next sentence unreadable]

Monday, November 10: At Fosters. Pleasant but cool.

Tuesday, November 11: At Fosters. Cloudy [unreadable] weather, raining in morning.

Wednesday, November 12: At home. Warm, rainy. At Austin Fosters. (NOTE: The writing here changes again, still in pencil but much larger than previous entries. It almost appears that someone else was entering his notes.) Went to village, paid barber 10 cents, paid for diary 10 cents.

Thursday, November 13: At Fosters [unreadable].

Friday, November 14: Came from Fosters today. Moderate weather and rain in the evening.

Saturday, November 15: At home. Warm weather.

Sunday, November 16: At home. Warm and showery in the forenoon, pleasant in the afternoon.

Monday, November 17: At home. Warm, pleasant. Abial Davis here today, paid me fifty two dollars.

Tuesday, November 18: At home. Snow storm today. Snowed all day.

Wednesday, November 19: At home. Warm in the forenoon, cloudy in the afternoon.

Thursday, November 20: Went to the Hollow. Paid Shepard boy fifty cents. Stormy all day.

Friday, November 21: At home. Sunny day but cold.

Saturday, November 22: At home. Pleasant but cold.

Sunday, November 23: At home. Warmer and some cloudy.

Monday, November 24: At home. A little blustery and cold in the forenoon, pleasant in the afternoon.

Tuesday, November 25: At home. Cloudy moderate weather. Let woman have one dollar.

Wednesday, November 26: At home. Fine pleasant day.

Thursday, November 27: At home. Moderate weather.

Friday, November 28: At home. Warm, thawing, rain in the night.

Saturday, November 29: At home. Stormy all day. J. H. Peck⁴⁴ died today.

Sunday, November 30: at home. Cloudy.

⁴⁴ John Howard Peck, age 36, was born 08 Mar 1843 in Montpelier, VT, son of Addison Peck and Mary Dodge

DECEMBER

Monday, December 1: At home. Warmer today and some cloudy. Walked to the Hollow for newspaper.

Tuesday, December 2: At home. Moderate weather, indications of a storm.

Wednesday, December 3: At home. Rainy wet day.

Thursday, December 4: At home. Cloudy forenoon, cooler in the afternoon.

Friday, December 5: At home. Clear warm day.

Saturday, December 6: At home. Cloudy and a little cooler, rainy at night.

Sunday, December 7: At home. Cloudy and a little rain.

Monday, December 8: At home. Cloudy moderate weather. Woman left home this afternoon for Austin Fosters.

Tuesday, December 9: At home. Warm sunny day.

Wednesday, December 10: At home. Cloudy and indications of a storm.

Thursday, December 11: At home. Warm and wet, no snow.

Friday, December 12: At home. Cold and some windy.

Saturday, December 13: At home. Clear sunny day.

Sunday, December 14: At home. Stormy today.

Monday, December 15: At home. Stormy today.

Tuesday, December 16: At home. Pleasant in the forenoon, cloudy and a little colder in the afternoon.

Wednesday, December 17: At home. Stormy day.

Thursday, December 18: At home. Clear and cold.

Friday, December 19: At home. Nice sunny day.

Saturday, December 20: At home. Stormy in the forenoon, cold night.

Sunday, December 21: At home. Pleasant but cold.

Monday, December 22: At home. Stormy windy, wind southwest. Plainfield.

Tuesday, December 23: At home. Warm sunny day. Plainfield.

Wednesday, December 24: At home. Stormy

Thursday, December 25. At home. Clear but colder. Woman came home today. Christmas.

Friday, December 26: At home. Clear but cold.

Saturday, December 27: At home. Cold weather.

Sunday, December 28: At home. Warm sunny day.

Monday, December 29: At home. Warm and cloudy.

Tuesday, December 30: At home. Cloudy in the forenoon, clear and cold in the afternoon.

Wednesday, December 31: At home. Very cold and clear in the forenoon, stormy in the afternoon. Woman went to Davis today.

MEMORANDA AND CASH ACCOUNTS: There are no entries in these sections