

Diaries, 1857 – 1895

Purchased from Roy Kulp, Jan. 2010

Dresser nowhere identifies himself. Identification was by various items of internal evidence, and genealogy in the town history.

He describes the daily life of a farmer with several lines each day, include haying, berrying, planting crops, apples, beans, cows, sheep, visits from family members, weather events, etc. Overall condition is good, though many pages are rather faded.

1. 1857, May 15 – Dec. 30
2. 1859, July 15 – Jan. 28, 1861
3. 1863, Sept. 28 – May 20, 1865
4. 1870, Aug. 8 – June 1, 1871
5. 1872, Sept. 27 – Jan. 12, 1874
6. 1875 – Oct. 1 – Sept. 23, 1876
7. 1877, Dec. 23 – Nov. 10, 1878
8. 1878, Nov. 22 – Aug. 1, 1879
9. 1879, Au. 21 – June 5, 1880
10. 1880, June 6 – Jan. 31, 1881
11. 1881, Jan. 31 – Nov. 16
12. 1881, Nov. 17 – Sept. 27, 1882
13. 1882, Sept. 28 – Nov. 8
14. 1882, Nov. 9 – June 23, 1883
15. 1883, June 24 – April 12, 1884
16. 1884, April 16 – Sept. 15
17. 1884, Sept. 16 – Aug. 14, 1885
18. 1885, Sept. 18 – April 1, 1886
19. 1886, April 16 – October 5
20. 1886, Oct. 6 – April 23, 1887
21. 1887, April 24 – Sept. 29
22. 1887, Sept. 29 – Jan. 1, 1888
23. 1888, Jan. 2 – June 24
24. 1888, June 25 – Jan. 18, 1889
25. 1889, Jan. 19 – July 31
26. 1889, Aug. 1 – Feb. 1, 1890
27. 1890, Feb. 2 – April 10
28. 1890, April 11 – Aug. 18
29. 1890, Aug. 19 – Dec. 31
30. 1891, Jan. 1 – May 7
31. 1891, Sept. 29 – Jan. 9, 1892
32. 1892, Jan. 10 – June 30
33. 1894, Nov. 12 – April 9, 1895
34. 1895, April 10 – August 19, 1895 (Last entry on his 85th birthday)

Selected quotes, all spellings in original:

"Lucy [his wife] was lame today with a swelling on the leg." 6/17/57

"John Haskell took Bets Hardwicks cow down to my bull." 6/29/57

"A man by the name of Roys came to see me, he is from Manchester, he wanted to rent a house." 10/14/57

"This day is my birthday, fifty years has past away since my birth, what is life but a dream." 8/19/60

"I went up to town meeting to vote for Lincon & Flanders" 11/6/60 "I went to work on my cider, took home four barrels." 12/13/60

"I went up to the North [Sutton] to the town meeting & the Copperheads carried the day." 11/8/63

"Ida went off to meeting to the S.A. [Salvation Army ?] Band that think or say that the Lord is a coming in 1873 to burne up this wicked world all but them." 12/15/72

"Johne Stowell took one mushrat this morning, I helped him take off his pelt." 10/20/73

"The Wolf & her Whelpes eat me out of house & home." 2/27/76

"We sugared off at the house." 4/1/78

"I churned today and picked over some beans, have a bushel of whiote ones & a bushel of yellow eyes to sell." 9/14/81

"H. Spaulding was there, went out doors when I went up chamber, he said that (Fant ?) said that he wished the old cuss would fall down & break his damed neck " 1/31/82

"Took the oxen & steers with sled & plow to break through the snow." 3/14/83

"Cut up my pig & salted it." 9/15/84

Nice description of 1838 [sic] trip to Lake Champlain & Troy, NY 5/12/84

Writes about his birth & family 8/19/84

"I was sick with a bilyous collick & I suffered with severe pain in my bowels . . . I do not know of ever having so much sharp pain in so short a time." 9/16/84

"I stopped a while to see the childrens Christmas tree that they had got loded with presents." 12/25/87

"I am 85 years old today. I feel the infirmatives of age. I feel that I am stopping near of a sett of border roughffians who are wishing me dead & in Hell. . . . I presume that it would give them much pleasure & joey to knowe that the poor old Siner & Hermit was in that awful fier." 8/19/95