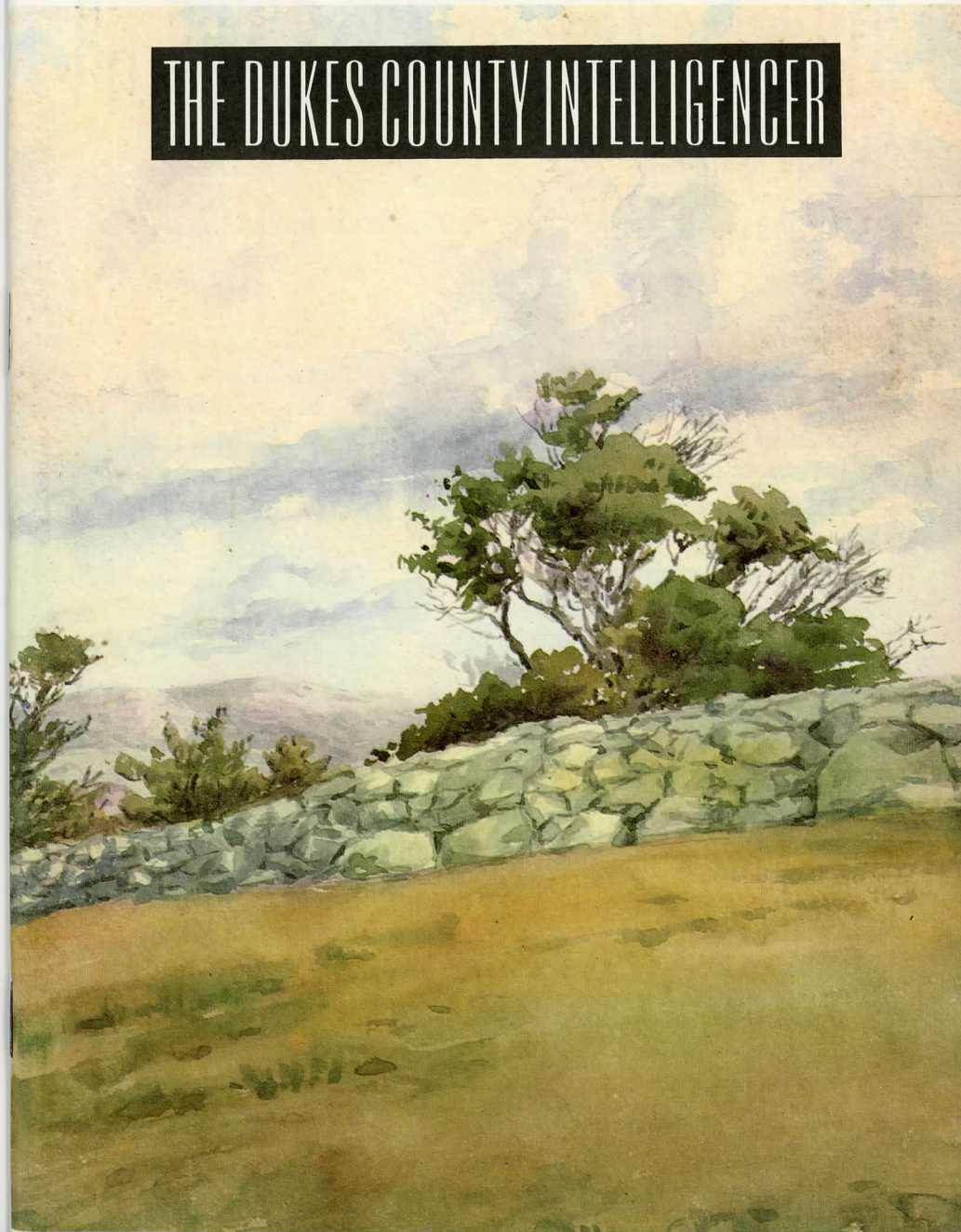


THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER



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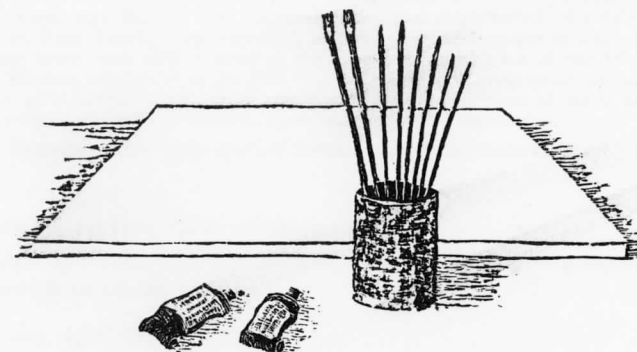
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THE DUKES COUNTY INTELLIGENCER

Published by
 DUKES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
 EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS



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Journal 1849-1850

by

ANNA P. VINSON

Amelia Watson

by

HENRY BEETLE HOUGH

February 1968

Vol. 9, No. 3

Journal 1849-1850

by
ANNA P. VINSON

EDITORIAL NOTE:

The following are excerpts from Anna P. Vinson's diary, which is in the Society's library. The acting editor has no information whatsoever as to who Anna was. He could check in the church records and vital statistics, but perhaps it is just as well to let her entries speak for themselves and hope that life was good to her. She was sixteen years old when the diary begins, for she notes her seventeenth birthday further on.

Anna says that it was lonesome after the ships sailed, the *Walter Scott*, Bark *Sarah*, Ship *Splendid*, and the rest. Of course it was. For every vessel took with it some of the boys and young men of the Island, on whaling voyages or to the gold fields of California, to be gone for years. The girls stayed home, all except Ann-Frances, and some of them went to school. It looks as though all of them went to meeting.

Perhaps we can have more of Anna's diary in a future issue.

Tuesday April 17th 1849 Edgartown

Allen S. Weeks, S.F. Upham and Timothy Pease have gone to East Greenwich to school.

Thursday April 19th

Ann-Frances slept with me last night. This forenoon we went out a little while, went down to the candle house and was weighed—Ann-Frances weighed 108¼ pounds and I weighed 90¼. This afternoon the girls were in here a little while and were all here to spend the evening. I slept with Ann-Frances.

Friday April 20th

Ann-Frances went away to Ipswich to go to school. How I shall miss her. Lydia was here to dinner—Sewing society met here this afternoon. H.B. Marchant and myself went to call on Mrs. Russell.—

Wednesday April 25th

Went to walk this morning. Ellen, Sarah, Lydia and myself went on the bridge and on board the ship *Walter Scott*. Lydia and myself went over the Plain to stay until Friday. Went down to the beach. . . . Had a very pleasant ride.

Thursday April 26th 1849

Sarah and Ellen came up over the plain to Mrs. Lydia Ann Pease's—They went over to Cousin William's and spent the afternoon and evening. What do you call that. James H. Bunting returned today from school; did not like staying.

Friday

Lydia and me were over to Mrs. Lydia Ann Pease's to dinner—had a very pleasant visit. Returned from there about 3 o'clock—Returned home a little after dark—Lydia slept with me.

Saturday April 28th

Caroline had a little boy this morning—J.H. Bunting, Charlotte, Sarah and Lydia were here a little while before singing school—Went into singing school about 8 o'clock—

Sunday

Attended meeting all day—In the evening Mr. Upham delivered an address before the California company and Mr. Goodman delivered a poem—I went.

Thursday May 3rd 1849

I was down to Mrs. Jane Baylies and spent the afternoon—Lydia and me kept house for Mrs. Fisher in the evening. Gave a book-mark to T.D. Pease.

Monday May 7th

Wilson Crosby was married this morning—about half after eleven the steamboat came in to tow out the ship. There were a great many ladies and gentlemen down there when it went—I was there. It is lonesome—Was down to Caroline's and spent the afternoon and evening. Sent a letter to Ann-Frances.

Wednesday

Margaret went over the Plain today—This evening kept house for Mrs. Fisher—Timothy Pease is sick, and his mother has gone to see him—

Friday

The sewing circle met here this afternoon. Charlotte was here and spent the afternoon and evening. Lydia was up here this evening and staid all night—Sarah went up to Charlotte's today. Went out a few minutes in the evening, C.E. Lewis went home with me.

Monday May 14th

Was invited to Ellen Ripley's to a party in the evening but did not go. Went out to walk with the girls and we met the boys and they invited us to go into the Ice Cream Saloon. . . . William B. Marchant went home with me.

Tuesday May 15

Timothy Pease arrived home this afternoon. This evening was down to Lydia's. We went out a little while.

Thursday

Was down to Eunice Pease's and spent the afternoon and staid all night. Sarah Darrow, Levi Thatcher and his sister came this afternoon. They came down to Eunice's after tea a little while. Charlotte was with them and then we went up to Cordelia Pease's and spent the evening. I went into the Ice Cream Saloon with Eunice. Received a letter from Ann-Frances.

Friday

Mother went over the Plain this afternoon. I went down to Harriet Fisher's to the sewing society this afternoon and after that was over I went down to Eunice's and staid all night. Went to walk with the girls.

Tuesday

Went down to Joanna's and spent the afternoon and evening. Velina Pease was there in the evening. Went up garret and swung in the hammock. It was beautiful swinging.

Wednesday May 23rd

Mrs. Lucy Norton died today. I went to walk in the evening with the girls. Lydia slept with me. Sarah Linton has experienced religion up to Eastville.

Sunday May 27th 1849

Did not go to meeting in the morning. Went in the afternoon with Joanna—Lydia and me went up to the graveyard after tea. Did not attend meeting in the evening.

Tuesday May 29th

Sarah came down this morning—Went to meeting with her in the evening. Ellen Vincent experienced religion in meeting.

Friday June 1st

Sarah and me went to sail with J.H. Bunting in the forenoon. Had a beautiful sail. I went to sewing circle in the afternoon. In the evening went to meeting.

Sunday June 3rd

Lydia and me went to Baptist meeting in the forenoon. In the afternoon and evening went to the Methodist—

Thursday June 7th

1 month since the ship Walter Scott sailed. . . .

Saturday June 9th 1849

. . . I was down to Lydia's a little while, went into Mrs. Fisher's

to practise, and to sail with J.H. Bunting and Sarah. Went to meeting with Sarah in the evening.

Tuesday June 12th 1849

The Barnstable County Conference convened in this town today. Rev. Mr. Tolman, Deacon Crowell, Mr. Nickerson, and Dr. Swift, all of South Dennis stay here. There was prayer meeting at two o'clock, and preaching at three by Rev. Mr. Tolman of South Dennis—at six o'clock an account of the different churches by the ministers and delegates—Preaching at night by Rev. Mr. Thatcher of Nantucket. Lydia went down to Cape Poge today—

Wednesday

To prayer meeting at ½ past five in the morning. There was a discourse at ½ past ten on “the duty of every individual to give his substance to benevolent purposes”—To prayer meeting at ½ past one, preaching at ½ past two by the Rev. Mr. Rich followed by an address from Rev. Mr. Van Lemeep a returned missionary from Constantinople—Prayer meeting at 6½ o'clock, and preaching at eight by Rev. Mr. Wells of Sandwich—Sarah went to meeting with me—I slept with Sarah. James H. Bunting went home with us. Received a letter from Ann-Frances.

Thursday June 14th

To prayer meeting at ½ past five—Sarah went with me. Devotional exercises at ½ past eight—preaching at 10½ by Rev. Mr. Hyde of East Falmouth, after which the Lord's Supper was administered. Conference closed at 1 o'clock, and after dinner the people left for home. To walk after tea with E.G.C.—up to the graveyard. To the meeting in the evening. Mr. Thacher preached. J.H. Bunting came home with me.

Sunday

Attended meeting all day, and to the “Union Seaman's prayer meeting” at six o'clock in the Baptist church—J.H. Bunting came home with me, and T.A.P. with Sarah—broad daylight—Sarah slept with me.

Tuesday June 19th

Sarah went down to Cape Poge to-day. It is real lonesome. Went down to Mr. Goodenow's after tea with H.R. Fisher and Eunice Coffin. To meeting in the evening—

Wednesday

2 months since Anne-Frances left. Caroline was here and spent the

(Continued on page 93)

Amelia Watson

by

HENRY BEETLE HOUGH

THE INNOCENCE painted by Miss Amelia M. Watson on Martha's Vineyard in 1888 and 1889 when she taught art in summertime at a queer old school, the Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute, has never perished. One becomes aware of it still, as vistas are seen in a backward look over one's shoulder. Her landscapes are gentle idyls of a gentle period, and she painted too the landscape of the mind, so that the true life in them persists.

Sometimes hers was an almost tremulous innocence like the fading afterglow, but it was always confident, expressed with authority in a medium as genuine to her as lyricism in any poet. If her landscapes were small and in a critical frame of reference may be called minor, they were nevertheless completely proper to her immediate scene, her purpose, and her own far-off vision. If it were not so, how could so gentle a voice be heard across the boisterous years?

The Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute was odd because it came into existence by a sort of spontaneous germination among the talents of vacation days: an expert teacher of penmanship, a great authority on Shakespeare, a respected botanist — and Miss Amelia M. Watson of East Windsor Hill, Conn. The Institute gathered talent, flourished, and died with the advent of summer schools in colleges and universities which could offer academic credit.

An early bulletin of the Institute describes Miss Watson's program for the Department of Painting: "Lessons will be given in oil, watercolor and pastel. The work will be carried on in all favorable weather out of doors, and will consist of making sketches of the many attractive bits of sea and landscape which the Island has to offer. . . Occasional and inexpensive trips will be taken to some of the quaint towns of the Island . . . pupils will have special opportunity to become familiar with the beauties and characteristics of the Island, and also to receive the full benefit of the air and sunshine."

How proper this was, how confidently simple, how much in the temper of a time when values were known and true, and in a sense, how exclusive. One sees Miss Watson with her pupils appreciating the satiny shingles of an old farmhouse, the shapes of gaff-rigged schooners, the idleness of reflecting waters — and one imagines the admiration pupils and contemporaries felt for the unostentatious but secure attainment of the teacher. It is an admiration, tinged with no small degree of nostalgia and affection, that most of us are bound to feel today.



Tamson Luce's Hill, Lambert's Cove



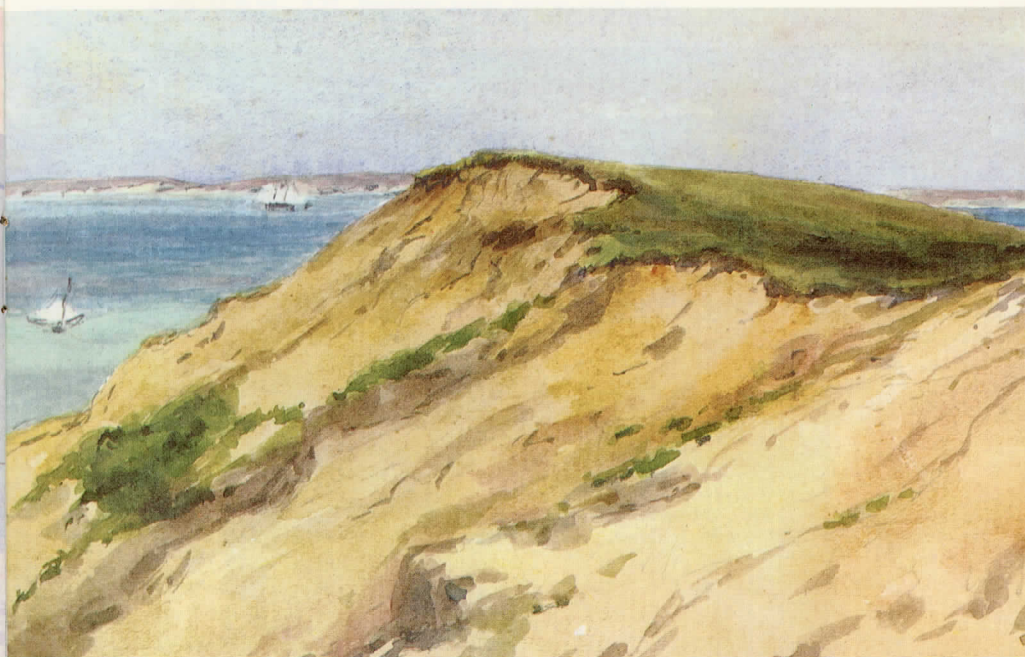
A Vista



Haven Bound, East Chop



The Eyebrows



Squibnocket Cliffs





Amelia M. Watson

(Journal—continued from page 84)

day. Went bathing with the girls after tea. To walk in the evening with H.B.M. J.H. Bunting went home with me—

Saturday

To Lydia's and spent the afternoon to a tea party. We went in bathing with the girls after tea was over to the "eel pond." Had a good time.

Sunday

Went to prayer meeting to the Methodist at nine o'clock, and to our meeting in the forenoon and at six o'clock. Did not go in the afternoon.

Monday

Phoebe Ann Marchant was here sewing in the afternoon. After tea went up to Tower Hill with the girls and went in bathing—

Tuesday June 26th 1849

. . . Sent a letter to Ann-Frances.

Saturday June 30th

Father, Margaret and myself started to go to Providence this morning at seven o'clock. Got to Holmes Hole about ½ past nine, then went in the boat to New Bedford where we arrived at twelve. Went to Mr. Packard's and took dinner after which went out a little while. At three the carriage came to take us to the cars and we were soon on our way again. Got to Providence depot at six.

Wednesday July 4th 1849

Heard the bells ring this morning in the city. At nine Mr. & Mrs. Gerald, M and myself rode into the city. Saw the horse company. Went into Howard Hall to hear an oration delivered. Took dinner at Mrs. Elizabeth Borrow's. About two o'clock rode out into the country and then went to Pawtucket to a picnic. Had a very pleasant time. Returned from there into the city, saw the fireworks (which were very handsome) then went home where we arrived at ½ past eleven—

Thursday

Aunt Lydia and Mary Mitchell were to Mr. Vincent's and spent the afternoon— It is a rainstorm but I do not feel homesick—

Saturday July 7th

2 months since ship Walter Scott sailed. To walk in the morning. To aunt Lydia's a little while. . . .

Wednesday

Returned from Aunt Lydia's about eleven o'clock. After dinner went into the city, at four went to Warren in the steamer Vinton. Had a very pleasant sail arrived there at six. Went in bathing. Stopped all night.

Saturday July 21 1849

Started from the Vincent's for home at seven o'clock, arrived in New Bedford at half past ten. It rained hard. Stopped there two hours and a half, took dinner then went to the boat, got to Holmes Hole at three arrived home at five after having a *very pleasant* visit. To walk after tea.

Saturday

Ann-Frances was here and spent the afternoon. We went out to make some calls. After tea went in bathing. To walk in the evening—

Monday July 30th 1849

Ann-Frances left for school again this morning. This evening went up over the Plain. . . .

Tuesday

T.A. Jernegan went to Lawrence to-day to learn a trade.

Friday August 3rd 1849

Fast day. Went to writing school in the morning; went down and was weighed. . . . About six o'clock the boys and girls went up to Sukey's. Had a beautiful time. Returned from there ½ past ten. T. Pease went home with me. Lydia slept with me.

Tuesday August 7th

Three months since the ship Walter Scott sailed. To writing school ½ past seven in the morning. . . .

Friday

The Hon Daniel Webster being here a picnic was made. It was to be about a mile from here, but being rainy were obliged to adjourn to the Town Hall. Doors were open at ½ past six. A great many were present. Hon L. Thaxter made a few remarks and then introduced Mr. Webster to the company who addressed them for about fifteen minutes. After which we partook of the collations prepared. Several toasts were given by Rev Mr. Goodenow, Mr. Edgar Marchant, T.W. Coffin. Three cheers for Mr. Webster as he was going out. Left for home ½ past eight.

Tuesday August 14th

Mary Eliza was here and spent the afternoon. In the evening

T.G.C. came in with John and stopped a few minutes. Lydia came in and then we all went for a walk. J.H.B. got put out with Sarah and said he would not speak with her again while he was at home but I doubt that. T.G. Coffin went home with me.

Wednesday August 15th 1849

After tea went in bathing with the girls. In the evening went to ride. . . . T.J. Coffin went home with me.

Thursday

To meeting in the evening. T.J. Coffin went home with me. Mr. Ephraim Marchant was drowned today.

Friday

Mary Eliza was up here a few minutes this afternoon. All the girls and boys were to Sarah Sophia's and spent the evening. T.G. Coffin went home with Velina Pease and myself. Some of the girls went on the bridge, but I did not. Glad I didn't.

Monday

Camp Meeting commences today. Lydia has gone up. . . .

Wednesday

Went up to Camp Meeting with T.G. Coffin; and Charlotte went with J.H. Bunting. Saw Susan Maria up there. After dinner rode over to the East side. Had a real good time especially riding home. Arrived home about eight o'clock and went to Caroline's and spent the first of the evening.

Friday

We all went over the Plains to-day. After dinner rode over to the beach and to Sukey's. In the evening called at the Hotel & to walk on the bridge—Mary Eliza "experienced religion" up to Camp Meeting.

Saturday August 25th 1849

. . . Went to walk on the bridge in the evening. T.G. Coffin went home with Mary Eliza and me. Camp Meeting closed.

Sunday

Attended meeting all day. Mary Eliza went with me in the morning. Mr. Rich preached in the afternoon. Went to the Methodist in the evening to hear the California address. T.G. Coffin went home with me.

Tuesday

To Caroline's and spent the afternoon. Went to walk in the evening, T.G. Coffin went home with Lydia and me. Gave a loaf of cake to Charles Lewis, peaches, apples, etc.

Wednesday August 29th 1849

Went on board the barque Sarah this morning. Sent a letter to Ann-Frances. Went down street this evening. T.G. Coffin went home with me. Mary Eliza slept with me.

Thursday

1 month since Ann-Frances left. . . .

Monday September 3rd 1849

Mary Eliza went home this morning. Bark Sarah sailed about half-past nine. Commenced going to school to Mr. Gow. To Caroline's and spent the evening. Catherine and Charlotte were there. Went to walk on the bridge.

Tuesday

To school in the morning. To Caroline's and spent the afternoon, Catherine was there. After tea we went fishing. To walk in the evening. T.G. Coffin went home with Catherine and myself. (Compliments).

Sunday

Went to our meeting in the morning. Catherine went with me. To the Baptist in the afternoon; and to Methodist in the evening. T.G. Coffin went home with Lydia and me.

Wednesday

Went to see Mrs. Andrews married this morning—To Ellen's and spent the evening. The girls were there. T.G. Coffin is sick. Wish Ann-Frances was here—

Sunday

Have been to meeting all day, and in the evening Mr. Goodenow delivered an address before the "Dukes County Mining Company," in the Methodist House—

Monday

Gave Thomas Coffin and James Bunting a loaf of cake—To Mrs. Catherine Fisher's and spent the afternoon. Charlotte and Catherine were there. Went on board the ship. We went to see Thomas Coffin in the evening—Received a letter from Mary Eliza—

Thursday Sept. 20

Went down in the afternoon to see the Ship Splendid go out. It seemed real lonesome and will be now. Wish Ann-Frances was here.

Wednesday October 3rd 1849

1 month since the Bark Sarah sailed. Velina Peas was here and spent the afternoon. . . .

Sunday Oct. 7th

5 months since the Ship Walter Scott sailed. Did not go to meeting in the morning but went in the afternoon and to Sabbath School.

Tuesday

To school all day. It is very pleasant weather indeed. Received a letter from Ann-Frances this afternoon and was real glad to have it.

Saturday Oct. 20th

1 month since the Ship Splendid sailed. Samuel Upham and Joanna Morse arrived this afternoon. Sarah Pease was here in the afternoon.

Tuesday

Mr. Gow was not at school this forenoon and Harriet let us hear some classes. To Mrs. Fisher's in the evening.

Wednesday

Caroline was here with her children and spent the day. To the Methodist meeting in the evening. Three more days and Ann-Frances will be here.

Saturday Oct. 27th

Ann-Frances arrived this afternoon. I am real glad. We went out a little while in the evening. I was over there a few minutes, talked over affairs.

Saturday Nov. 3rd

Went out a little while after meeting. Female Prayer meeting met here this evening. 2 months since Bark Sarah sailed.

Wednesday Nov. 7th

Went to Sarah Mills to the knitting match. Had *quite* a good time. Six months since the Walter Scott sailed.

Thursday Nov. 8th

Went down to the candle house and was weighed. . . . To Caroline's and spent the afternoon. Received a paper from Elizabeth Burrough. Ann-Frances was here in the evening.

Friday November 16th 1849

To Mrs. Amy Eliza Pease's and spent the afternoon. Ellen was there. To Ann-Frances in the evening. A.S. Weeks—G.H. Bailey—F.P. Vincent—V.W. Coffin—E.C.B.—S.M. Swift and myself were there. Had a beautiful time.

Tuesday Nov. 20th

Went down street a little while in the afternoon. Had quite a

conversation in matters and things. Ann-Frances was here in the evening. 2 months since the Ship Splendid sailed.

Wednesday

Commenced going to school to Frances Mayhew. Into Ann-Frances's in the evening.

Thursday Nov. 29th

Thanksgiving day. Had an invitation to go to Holmes Hole but could not go. Aunt Jedidah, Sarah, Caroline and her family were here and spent the day. In the afternoon John, Sarah Pease and myself went up over the Plains. Returned home from there about nine o'clock. Susan Maria came down today.

Friday Nov. 30th

Ann-Frances, Sarah, Susan Maria and myself went down to the candle house in the forenoon. In the evening was down to Charlotte's. Boys and girls were there. Had a real good time. Like to broke my arm.

Monday Dec. 3rd

3 months since the Bark Sarah sailed. It has been a real hard storm today, and Ann-Frances has not gone as she expected. Went to school in the forenoon. In the afternoon Lydia, Sarah, Susan Maria, and Ann-Frances were here and spent the afternoon. We made a call on Timothy.

Tuesday Dec. 25th

Christmas day. No school. We were all down to Caroline's and spent the day. Went into Phoebe Ann Smith's a little while in the afternoon. To meeting in the evening.

Wednesday Dec. 26th

Did not go to school in the afternoon. Was into Rebecca's and spent the afternoon and evening. Sent a note to Ann-Frances.

Thursday

Heard of the death of Hiram Fisher. Went to our meeting in the evening. Went coasting a little while—

Wednesday Jan. 2nd

Have been to school today. In the evening at 7 o'clock went sleigh riding with James Smith, George Bailey and Elizabeth. At eight o'clock went with Allen Weeks, Timothy Pease, Charlotte, Sarah, Lydia and myself. Had a real good time.

Thursday Jan. 3rd

Received a letter from Susan Swift. Expected a letter from Ann-Frances but was *much disappointed*. Was in to Mrs. Fisher's and spent the evening. 4 months since Bark Sarah sailed.

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