

DIARY OF HENRY SHELDON

1873

January 1: Weather Milder, Mercury above zero. Storms Shipwrecks fires Rail Road disasters Snow & Wind Marks the closing year. Loaned some money today of Mr. Barrell hoping to Sell my place in Vineland to pay it when he wants it. Bapt Soc. Meeting this PM the Treas.r reports funds notes goods &c to pay all debts to 1st Jany and about \$75. to start new 1st Jan will rent slip the 7 to pay expenses if possible.

2: Went to chr Browns this PM, he not being at home sold no book. Sold 2 to Lyon 15.00, 1 to Gleason 5.00. Com. Snowing & by dark was rain.

3: High Wind all night thawing fast. Mild pleasant & thawing all day. Have felt unusually bad today all over very much put to it for breath if I tried to do the least thing but Theodore in Depot & little Boys in School & chores must be done. Went to mill for feed, got doors I have been having made for Portico West Side of Kitchen. Mr. Hill putting them up today.

4: It has been a pleasant and comfortable day after a very heavy west wind with some Snow and rain last night. Chored about with the little Boys all the forenoon afternoon attended covenant meeting wife at home a fair everage number out a good state of feeling and many good resolutions made to be perfected during the year by the help of God. May our zion travail and bring forth many Sons & Daughters to Christ our Saviour.

Note: Glued on the upper right-hand corner of the page that begins with January 4 entry, there is a newspaper clipping with a poem titled "I am Waiting":

I am Waiting
 "I am waiting for the coming
 Of a brighter, happier day,
 When the clouds of gloom and sadness
 Shall be driven far away.

I am waiting, I am hoping,
 And have waited long in vain,
 For the joys that once I tasted
 To return to me again.

On this earth a weary ranger,
 Wearily I've waited long,
 Fighting on, but often vainly,
 Gainst oppression, want, and wrong.

All life's brightness has departed,

Happiness I seek in vain;
 For the glad hours of life's morning
 Nevermore can come again.

I have toiled and hoped and waited,
 Seeking peace, but finding none;
 Learned that human strength is weakness
 When we trust to it alone.

God alone can send us gladness;
 He can strength and hope renew;
 In the storm and in the sunshine,
 He alone can guide us through.

Let my life be gloom or gladness
 I will put my trust in him:
 Though he sends me nought but sadness,
 Never shall my faith grow dim.

I will strive to do each duty
 Till my work on earth is o'er:
 Then the joys for which I've waited
 Shall be mine forevermore.

5: A hard Snow storm towards night almost rain. Ch. S. School & Comn. Comd 1st lesson in Genesis the creation is to be the international series of Lessons. A very good sermon Christ the rock & foundation of the church & a Kingdom which shall stand forever.

Note: Words above are underlined as in the diary entry.

6: A very cold west wind. Everybody shoveling paths & breaking roads, Snow about 8 or 10 inch fall heavy damp & solid.

7: A very comfortable pleasant day. Bapt Soc met to rent Slips & had a social dinner in the Basement.

8: Nothing new. Cool but pleasant till 4:PM. Then blew most a gale from the south & milder. Went to town & up to Gleasons. Stokes is sentenced to be hung as he ought to be. Julia Lucia Gray & c up to Chanceys today, Chancey poorly in health not able to be out much.

9: Hard Storm with wind all night. No trains today, 2 engines off the track towards Watertown from here. Went to town in the storm today. Commenced Canvassing for Swards travels around the World this afternoon, only secured 4 Names.

Note: The first edition of the book, *Travels Around the World*, by William H. Seward, was in 1873. Seward had been Governor of New York and the Secretary of State under President Abraham Lincoln. Seward died in October of 1872.

10: No letting up in the storm, Snowing this Morning, No trains yet. My Nose commenced bleeding about 6 o'clock last evening & bled till after 1 o'clock at night, bled some over a Pint altogether, to much blood letting for me to stand often. Broke road to School house with children this morning. The Churches are observing the week of prayer in concert, I have not attended, dare not be out evenings.

11: Mostly pleasant but cold. Helping little Boys forenoon, PM went to ch meeting, none present, no meeting. Am getting no better but my breathing is worse so I am compelled to give up trying to do anything. The Lord only knows what is for & before me.

12: A cold pleasant day. All to church, good sermon by our young Pastor. Short s school , then a Union S. School concert at the Methodist House. Bapt & Pres. Met at Pres House, our Pastor Preaching.

13: Milder & looks like a Thaw. Went with Mrs. Hildreth to near Richville to see if she could buy Wood, came home in the rain against a strong wind, tired Me all out so I did not go out again today, have no power to stand fatigue.

14: Quite a thaw last night settling snow a foot or so but froze this morning. Pd My Taxes \$23.25, have not heard from My Vineland taxes yet. Rented Slip for \$16, am to poor & earning nothing to make a living, it grieves Me that I am thus circumstanced in My old age but will not God do right with Me and Mine. Theodore Stopd work in Depot last night.

15: Cold n wind. Moderating towards night. Lucinda at our house visiting today. I am worse off for breath today than usual.

16: A severe wind all night & hard thaw, rain most of the day today with strong south wind continued. No school this PM, Schools attend lecture about Holy land & the east generally. Cant go to town today, wind, rain, & Ice.

17: Wind Went down & froze last night, cold today. Sent Draft of \$100. to Geo. Whipple yesterday on mort. on Vineland place. Theodore at home, got Poneys shoes sharpened & set today. Very icy and river clear up from the great thaw. Have been to Town today, did not succeed well getting Subscribers for Seward's *Travels*.

18: Wind strong & Cold from the North all day with Snow. Did not go out today, weather to bad. Minnie Jones went home today after a 3 weeks pleasant visit with Emma. Little Boys using their extra time skating.

19: Sermon by our pastor good but needs a little more magnetic life. S School good on the Temptation, sin & fall of Adam & Eve. Not out to evening service. Am useless for this winter for anything I can see done or good.

20: Cold NW Wind, cloudy but no snow.

21: Mild snowing most of the day. Pd VanBuren on land 5870. Went to C Conants, met Mrs. Hurlburt there. Chancey very poorly this winter, does not look much longer for this world than myself humanly speaking.

Note: Chauncey Conant died at age 73, on October 25, 1873, and was buried in Hailesboro Cemetery, in Hailesboro, St. Lawrence County, New York. His wife, Cordelia Sheldon Conant, a sister of Henry Sheldon, died June 1, 1894, at age 85 and is also buried in Hailesboro Cemetery.

22: Mild today tho PM colder & Snow from the n west. Went to Stipes to settle lumber a/c, was not at home. Have earned nothing this or last week.

23: A very cold day, wind NE. Went to Town, Wife Visited at Mrs. Warners. Recd letter & Draft of 2349 of Rev. N.B. Randall rent.

24: Cold N East Snow Storm all day. Very tedious to be out. Stayed at home.

25: Cold, wind N.W. all diging out today, about 2 feet Snow again. Dora Sheldon here this afternoon. Sent Dft & Money Order to Whipple \$42. N.Y. Settled lumber acct with Stipes.

26: Mr. Putnam gone to P.A., no preaching. J.A. Leavitt read one of Spurgeons sermons on Pauls thorn in the flesh, the cong scatters. Day cold but milder & pleasant. Sunday School Supt Bro. Holbrook absent. Did not go to Eve. Meeting. Mr. Earl the Evangelist has left Vineland, gone to Plainfield N.J. We hope the Lord has been in the work at V.

27: Quite a comfortable day tho to cold for me to be out. Felt unusually sick all over today, dont know how to better my feelings but hope should I stand it till warm weather to get better.

28: Very cold & some snow. Self & Wife went to Mr. Litchfields.

Note: A lengthy poem is glued to the upper right corner of the page that begins with the January 28 diary entry. That poem is found at the end of this diary transcription for the year 1873.

29: Very cold again. Mercury this AM 34 degrees. Did not go out.

30: Milder & no storm today. About town P.M.

31: Milder still clears & sun out thawing. Times still dull & money tight, all complain. I have not earned my board the past month nor grown in heavenly wisdom or earthly knowledge, see no advance in goodness or good that I have done.

February 1: A cold day Mercury 8 to 12 degrees below zero, a little flurry snow. Covenant Meeting quite a goodly number present for us, Pastor Putnam not present, snow bound in Pa at his wives Fathers. Discussed about having no meeting tomorrow, decided to have reading.

2: Very cold, way below zero yet pleasant till 4 PM then wind & snow from n west. Spurgeons Sermon read by Bro. Holbook good as preaching. Sunday School lesson Genesis building the ark & gods talk with Noah.

3: Cold cloudy strong west wind. Hiram Fullington a farmer in N Gouverneur died Saturday, had been on a drunken spree all the week, got home, sunk into an insensible stupor & did as the fool dieth, his funeral today. The Methodist man gone with My Horse & Cutter to preach the funeral Sermon. Sold 2 Books today.

4: Southwest wind all night strong & thawing this morning. Wife washing, Emma sick. Rains again. Snow about 16 to 20 in deep.

5: Pleasant & mild. Went to Dods & Hails to ride so pleasant a day. Mr. Putnam our Pastor returned last night from Pa, was snow bound so he could not get home Saturday last. Am more than ever troubled for breath.

6: A mild pleasant day all day thawing. Spent most of the day in the Village, but am oppressed for breath & can only move slow and that without attempting to do anything. My trust is in Jesus My Saviour & all will end well.

7: This has been a very mild and pleasant day. Mercury up to 44 degrees above zero. At the Village in the forenoon afternoon rode up to chr. Browns mostly on bare ground. Today received a letter from our dear absent Daughter Julia heralding to us the glad tidings that she is born again, that our precious Saviour has brought her into his fold, that she is rejoicing on a good hope, a joy to our hearts never before experienced. I had nearly doubted my prayers would ever be heard, for many years my prayer has daily been that my children might be saved and that to if it might be so not at the Eleventh hour but the Morning and Meridian of their days might be given to the service and Praise of God I do feel to call upon My Soul and all within Me to Praise the Lord, Bless his Holy Name and magnify oh my soul the riches of his grace. May his grace which I know is sufficient win our other children to his love, to the Saving knowledge of his Truth.

8: Some Warm & then colder some sun then cloudy, some Wind some snow some Thaw some freeze is the record of the weather. Mrs. Holbrooks Bible Class went on a ride and dinner & good time generally to Richville today. Met in the old church there, had Oysters & dinner a

pleasant time & home all safe. Wife Arthur & Jas. & 4 others went in our one horse sleigh. I have felt bad enough today to lay down and do nor wish to do anything. The republican caucus meeting is being held this Evening to nominate Town offices. Some strife about collector as it pays whoever is the lucky one. My interest has narrowed down to a temperance interest & overthrow of Liquor selling.

9: Day cold & clear. Church S School & S.S. Concert. Suppose Julia follows the saviour in Baptism this evening. May she be truly dead to the world and alive in Christ as she has been buried with him and raised to his likeness so may she live.

10: Cold & pleasant Mercury 10 degrees below zero. Have not even tried to do anything today. Mild alternately Snow & rain & at night cleared up. Town Meeting today some Strife on Collector other candidates only one ticket Mr. King & Merritt the candidate. But little snow & rather poor Sleighing. The Bapt. Sociable at Harvey Thompsons this evening Martha & Theodore gone.

12: A cold day. My nose bled from 10 last night till 8 this morning bleeding some over a pint, think it need not bleed again for some time.

13: A very pleasant day Mercury 12 degrees below at 9 AM. Stayed at home again all day today, boiled Potatoes for my cows & read a lot of Plainsvill Papers Charles sent me.

14: Mer 10 degrees below zero, pleasant all day & motivating. Done chores & read Examiner all forenoon. Went to Town PM Called at Mrs. Spencers & at Mothers. Settled a/c with Barney & Bonn due me 4.06 & pd. Have the best news from many places that God is reviving his work & converting many souls. Lord come to this place let our united prayer be.

Note: Barney & Bowne was a hardware store in Gouverneur.

15: Mer. 12 to 18 degrees above zero and pleasant all day. Am feeling sick all over. Went to R. Willsons to buy Hay or Straw but did not, asks \$20. pr Ton for hay put in My Barn no straw. Engaged this PM a load Rye straw of Baxter at \$11. pr Ton. Have been down town this PM but feeling to bad to try to do anything, am about going to bed hoping if spared to be able to go to church tomorrow and profit by its privileges.

16: Comfortable & pleasant. Went to ch, enjoyed it, also S School, had to take Bro. Ells class. Voted Bro. Soper a letter to Ogdensburg ch. Collection for Foreign Missions pd 1.00. Am More than usually out of Gear. Zerviah Alous here today, came yesterday. Mrs. John Fosgate not expected to live.

Note: "Zerviah Alous" is Zerviah Aldous, sister-in-law of Martha Aldous Sheldon, Henry's wife. John Fosgate was a lumberman and miller who died at age 73, on February 2, 1874, and was

buried in Riverside Cemetery. His wife was Sophronia A. Adams Fosgate, who died at age 67, on March 6, 1873, and is also buried in Riverside.

17: Pleasant & warm thawing. Grinnell had my Horse today to go for Hay. Bot a load of Rye straw today of Jno Baxter at \$11. pr Ton, delivered today. Have been in Town but profited me nothing.

18: A warm pleasant thawing day. Have done nothing today. John Gilroy up today with Clarinda. Have sold nothing nor bought anything today. Revivals of religion in many places but this place is as yet passed by, and why?

19: Strong West wind with some rain & thawing.

20: A pleasant day, Sun shines but cool. PM Mother & I went to C Conants, he is quite feeble. Clara Sheldon at our house this PM. J.A. Waid sold his clothing business to Taitt & Dixon, are invoicing today the move into the store he occupied. David Lewis house burned a few nights past. Insured for \$600. about all worth.

21: Cold & Stormy all day Snow from NW with wind. Did not go out, am used up.

22: Nothing very new. The world & old Man Time Moves. Spain is a republic, the King like a wise & good man has abdicated his throne. At home all day, to cold for me to be out. Prof. Finneys letters in the Independent making some stir here about the Bapts during his revival here some 50 years ago.

Note: Charles Finney was a leader in the Second Great Awakening, a time of Christian revival in the early 1800s. Finney has been called The Father of Modern Revivalism. He was most active as a revivalist from 1825-1835 and was known for his innovations in preaching and religious meetings.

23: A cold but pleasant day. A Mr. Andrews I think his name from Pa Preached today, his wife formerly a missionary to Hayti of the Amc. Bapt Free Miss. Soc, gathering funds to start another mission there Sunday school, the above named Laday spok of Hayti in the evening.

Note: Spelling is as it appears in diary entry.

24: Cold & snowing all day again today 12 degrees below. Mr. Holcombs new house near the Depot & not yet finished burned early this morning considered worth 6 to 7000 dollars insured I learn for \$4500. but is a loss to this part of the village and it will not be built again at least as good a house. Arthur partly sick not at school today at home all day today. No train from Rome.

25: Warmer 21 degrees above but cold west wind.

26: Pleasant & stormy too. Am so much out of gear that I am at home.

27: Cold snowy bad day. Not out, sick.

28: Cool but pleasant. Commenced bleeding at my nose at 9 o'clock last night, bled till after 12 M today. Got Dr. Fisher to come & stop it at 9 in the morn, he left me some medicine he said would stop it in 15 minits, took it all up & no stop. Pleasant – thawing a little but except where to badly drifted, fair Sleighing. Am just used up, nothing left me to breathe. The Lord will sustain Me here till he will take me from suffering & Sin to be with him and blessed forever oh gracious deliverance happy state a home with Jesus, would it not (as the apostle says) be far better to depart & be with Christ.

March 1: Day cool but mercury above zero 20 degrees, some shine some snow – but a fine day. Theodore drew 2 loads slabs from Stipes Mill. Sister Julia & Anna here a while in the PM. Wife went to Covenant Meeting PM. Alexr Simpson a colored man related his Christian experience to the ch & was recd for Baptism, was a slave boy in Va came here wates for Col A.M. Barney after the War closed. Merton Conant is going to canvassing for me Monday for Stanleys Search for Livingstone.

Note: Henry Morton Stanley, Welsh journalist and explorer, was hired by the head of the *New York Herald* newspaper to find Scottish missionary David Livingstone in the jungles of Africa in 1869. Upon Stanley's return from Africa, he wrote a book of the adventure.

2: Pleasant & thawing. All to church but myself communion & s school & afternoon Mrs. Holbrooks bible class.

3: Day cold about zero & below. Am feeling unusually weak & bad today. Sister Cordelia came down to see me today. Chancy not able to come, had a good visit, dont see any chance for him more than myself to abide long in the flesh unless a change for the better soon. Children at school, hope they may learn much & be fully qualified for any station God may call them to fill in life. A Mr. Carpenter & Tupper's Sash & Blind factory burned at Hailesboro this evening, learn not insured, a Mr. Garrison badly hurt.

4: Mercury about 8 degrees below this morning but growing warmer, a bright sun but cold n wind. Today President Grant is to be Inaugurated for his 2nd term as President of the U. States, think him as disposed to do right as any we have ever had. May God give him the Wisdom of Solomon without any of his weakness folly & sin & grant him to be a blessing to the Nation & world. Bring him to be a true humble faithful Christian.

5: A cold uncomfortable day. Not been out. Mercury 10 to 12 degrees below zero.

6: Pleasant but cold wind thawing only a little in the sun. Murton Conant went home yesterday to canvass back. Corporation election Tuesday, did not go down.

7: Warm & pleasant thawing considerable. Went up to R. Willsons to see his cows to buy one, did not suit Me in age, quality or price 30 to 40 dollars. The District School closed today. Mr. Dyke the Principal leaves not able to teach, he is a good Brother having experienced religion here & united with our church. Recd a letter from Julia today breathing a good spirit of Christian enjoyment and anxiety for the conversion of Brothers & Sisters. I have seemed to grow weaker, more pain in chest restless & painful nights and harder to breathe on a little exercise. Wife and the children gone to Prayer meeting this evening. May the Holy Spirit be there to bless their souls.

8: Thawing & Rainy all day. Theodore comd work in Depot this AM.

9: Day pleasant but cold wind a little thaw. All to church but me. Sermon by Bro. Putnam our Pastor. Preached Funeral sermon of Ed Halls Boy PM at Babcock school house. Prayer Meeting evening, pastor not present. Am on the whole getting worse.

10: Cold N Wind & froze up this morning.

11: Hard Snow & Wind all forenoon, cleared up PM thawing & freeze at night. Theodore work in Depot. Gilbert Hunt got sick of canvassing for Stanley's Livingstone & gave it up, traveled 2 days & no subscribers. Lu. Spencer drew small (jacg) of Slabs from Stipes Mill. Mrs. Hill & Mrs. Waldo helping Wife quilt this P.M. I have not ventured out to Town yet must soon.

12: A very Snowy forenoon, clears up PM. Harriet Eliza Rogers Julia Clara & Anna here this PM.

13: All day pleasant & thawing. Rode to the Village in forenoon. Afternoon rode to Wallings to see about a cow. Wife went to Mrs. Clarissa Smiths PM, Gray & Dora came here afternoon stayed evening. Cows selling at Auction high as 40. each in a Dairy of 42 cows Thad. Willards.

Note: Thad. Willard is Thaddeus Willard.

14: A Pleasant morning tho cool bracing wind. Am not trying to do anything.

15: Commenced snowing & Rainy. Kept it up all day. Bought me a cow of Milton Barney for \$45.

16: Cold, froze and some stormy all day. Pastor Exchanged with Mr. Conklin, they are having good evening meetings.

17: Mild & thawing. Have not been out today. John Killmer lost an adopted Daughter today died very sudden this A.M. Some sugar has been made the past week.

18: Day mild & thawing. Attended Auction sale at Wallings today of farming Dairy tools & 14 cows 2 horses, cows averaged near or quite \$60. each. Home safe bot nothing, had better not gone.

19: Mild & cloudy this AM. About 3 inches snow fell last night. Up all night or till 3 o'clock this morning with nose bleed. A heavy fire in Ogdensburg Sat. morning.

20: Stormy today. Have not been out. Not much home news. Am feeling nor getting no better.

21: Snow fell about 10 inches deep last night. Snowing & thawing today. Sold my Dun Cow to Jimmie Sparks today \$40. to pay \$60 to get a good new one. Clara came here today to make Emma a Dress. Meetings Continue every evening at our ch with some encouraging tokens of Gods converting power. Wrote to Rev. N.B. Randall sent rect on rent.

22: A cool Stormy day, Snow not going off. Clarry went to Julias from here this PM, she goes to Rodney's tonight. Rodney called here this PM. Jas Sparks took my cow today.

23: Cold & Snowy all day. Hattie Corbin's funeral today. Services Episcopal. I fear gone without a hope to prove an anchor. Rev. Mr. Lane of Malone Ex. With Bro. Putnam & preached here today.

Note: Hattie Flora Corbin was the daughter of Amasa & Phebe M. Foster Corbin. She died at age 18 and was buried in Riverside Cemetery, as were her parents. Ex probably is Executor.

24: Mercury 8 degrees above zero a pleasant Jan'y morning. No morning train north today so Bro. Lane remains over today. Foster for whom such an effort has been made for a reprieve was hung Friday last. Our Evening Meetings are looking encouraging so say those who attend, my own children are becoming some interested. Lord help for vain is the help of man.

25: A cold day 8 degrees above zero AM, some stormy. In House all day pd G Hunt canvassing 150, Mr. Barnes of Ogd preached last night & tonight. Some interest & some hopes of conversions. District School Commenced Monday Same Teachers except Mr. Dyke Principal. Mr. Huett takes his place. Rutherford drew load hay for Father last night.

Note: The amount of 150 is probably \$1.50.

26: Milder but snow & hail from north. Nose bled some last night very restless and but little sleep. Gilbert Hunt & Merton Conant started for Iowa this morning.

Day comparatively pleasant but everything buried in snow Drift. No mail till late this afternoon for yesterday. The Meetings continue with an encouraging attendance & interest. Bro. Barnes Pastor at Ogdensburg has preached so far every evening since Sunday. My children are apparently giving some thought to the subject. May God help.

28: Has been a very pleasant day & thawed some even in the shade. Bot a load 1850 tons of Hay today of Wm Rutherford at \$15. pr Ton Delivered , must feed my cows. Hay has held all winter at \$20. pr Ton & Cows are up from 40 to 65 dollars. Have set in the house all day today trying to gain Strength & Blood but am failing in flesh.

29: Thawed fast & Rained considerable. Ch Meeting this PM. Mrs. VanNamee formerly Miss Mayhew restored to the church. Mrs. Van Namee & Mr. Jenning recd on Experience for Baptism. Chas Aldous Came up from Canton this PM.

30: Snowing & thawing nearly all day. All went to ch. but me, has been a rather long day as I am to nervous to read or sleep so to commune with ones own scanty barren thoughts is poor company. Charles Aldous here today, came up from Canton to see James A.

31: Mild but snowing quite fast this forenoon. Chas. Went home this morning. Mr. Davis & Wife left for Pennsylvania this morning. Theodore at work in Depot. Arthur & James at School. Emma at home not well. Mother washing. I hear Joseph Thralls wife died last evening, dont know as she had a hope not acquainted with her. I am keeping house & keeping still to see if my nose will refrain from bleeding. Am taking Iron to make blood & 1 Egg in wine & cream to make strength & bathe nights to keep me anyways quiet sleep but little.

April 1: Day mild and pleasant. Attended Meeting, Preaching by Mr. Barnes. Miss Laura Haywood died today from a broken blood vessel probably the main artery of her neck being eaten by her long & severe Scrofulous disease in her neck. She bled to death in a moment before anyone got to her after she rang her bell for them. She has been a great sufferer at times for a number of years often apparently just on the point of death and now God has called. The meetings continue with interest but the best I can learn they drag for want of the Spirit in its power. Lord help thy people.

Note: Laura M. Haywood was the daughter of Giles and Mary Haywood. She died at age 23 and was buried in Riverside Cemetery.

2: Pleasant forenoon Rainy afternoon. Went to the Village forenoon & got tired out. Mrs. Thralls & Laura Haywoods funerals this afternoon. Emma had a letter from Julia, she is well. Have no particular news.

3: Cool & cloudy just below freezing, wind strong west.

4: Pleasant & thawing. Mailed cash to Appleton for Books.

5: Day cool cloudy & some rainy. Went up to R. Willson to see cow, did not buy. Covenant Meeting afternoon a large number present for us, several related their experience for Baptism & some united by letter. A Mrs. (Yat) Mrs. Stevens Mrs. VanNamee restored Mrs. Shattock who

offered herself to the ch. put over, had formerly been a member of a Bapt. Ch in Canada but had no letter. Mother Sheldon Came home from Lee Newells quite sick this afternoon.

6: Rainy bad day & out of the village very muddy & again Snow 2-3 & even 4 feet deep in the roads bad getting out to church. Sermon by our Pastor Bro. Putnam (Passing away. After Sermon collection for Rev. Mr. Barnes the Ogdensburgh Pastor who has preached evenings for 2 weeks for our people \$21. & to pay other Expenses and at noon Mr. Stephenson Mr. VanNamee & Alex Stimpson a colored boy were Baptised, & in the PM Communion & the hand of fellowship given to 6 or more. Stormy. I at home this evening after Sermon Young Bro. Wing & Shattuck 2 Daughters of Mrs. Wing Louisa Cole, Miss Putnam, & Emma were Baptised in the Baptistry. May they all prove faithful to their Covenant vows & grow up to the perfect stature of Men & Women in Christ Jesus their Lord. Others are to be Baptised next Lords day.

Note: In the April 5 entry, the name Mrs. Stevens partially covered with an ink stain at the end of her name. It is possible that she might be Mrs. Stevenson, wife of Mr. Stephenson listed in the April 6 diary entry. The name of Henry's daughter Emma is underlined in the diary entry.

7: A Bad chilly damp day. Father Aldous brot his Horse here to keep in My Barn preparatory to returning here to board. Mother Sheldon getting better. Pd Frenchman \$1. to shovel over my manure pile. Dr. Carpenter called here to see me today, told me to keep on taking Iron to Make me some blood.

8: Chilly damp foggy bad. Kept in the house.

9: Cool n wind but clearing up a little. Took some vinegar Bitters last night but am growing weaker. Rode to town this PM. Went to P.O. Mothers & K & Ms store & home puffing for breath. All gone to meeting this evening but myself & James. Is raining some, are to have another Storm.

Note: K & M is Killmer & Morris store in Gouverneur.

10: Cool but not very unpleasant. Am so weak & fear to bring on nose bleed that I have stayed in today with all sorts of bad feelings and forebodings about the future. My symptoms are anything but encouraging for a much longer stay on earth but my times are in the hads of my God. If my work is near done however poorly to depart & be with Christ and the saved in him will be far better. The evening Meetings continue with much interest & hope for the salvation of Many souls.

Note: Diary entry spelling as above.

11: Slept poorly & rested but little last night. A mild pleasant drying day to day. Nose bled most of the forenoon but not fast, taking out more blood than I can supply with my Iron & good food in many days so like the frog in the well I get up 2 feet a day & fall back 3 at night. Rode

to town this PM with Arthur to drive. Got a Package of Swards travels from the Ex. Office which have been waiting there for me several days, distributed 5 copies to subscribers & went to see Blairs cow price of \$60. Shall buy if I can get funds. She is really the finest cow I have seen.

12: It has been a pleasant day. Rode up to Beardslees & Gleasons this AM. Bought a splendid 7 year old cow of Blair today \$60. cow & calf & some 200 lb Hay. Have now 3 Cows but must sell one. Attended church meeting today, not many Brothers present but a solemn joyous spiritual time. Eleven persons all young related their Christian experience & were recd for Baptism and Membership, among them son Arthur 12 years of age Bro Hamlins son Albert Eatons Son Miss Walker, Miss Pooler & several others to eleven. God is moving in a quiet Mysterious Way his wonders to perform. Mostly all are members of our Sunday School.

13: A cold bad rainy day. Did not attend church, nose bleed again this AM. Sermon Sunday School, and Evening Sermon & Baptism 16 were immersed.

14: Cold NE Wind chilly & rainy most all day. Did not try to get out. Ella Lyon died last night a class mate & companion of Emma in Sunday & day school. Am gathering strength a little but dont know as it will amount to much. Mr. Dyke called here this PM seeing his old students.

15: Cold NE wind yet & chilly. Had a poor night, did not go to bed till after 3 oclock, am feeling to sort a sick to stir today. Arthur & James with the rest of their S School class have gone to Alex Dods Sugaring. Mrs. Dods is their Teacher.

16: A mild pleasant day. Rode about town but to no particular advantage.

17: A bad rainy day with some snow. Remained in the house looking at & enduring My aches pains & ailments. Sold a Stanley How I found Livingstone. Night dark, meeting this evening.

18: Day cool & Rainy & unpleasant W. N.East. Went to Village & back and read my papers what I could – am taking Iron to make blood.

(no date): Saturday. Rather unpleasant. Only went out to meeting this afternoon, 6 related their chr ex & were recd for Baptism Frank Lounes Adelbert Althouse Freddy Bailey Frank Pooler & 2 others to be Baptized tomorrow Evening.

20: Ground covered with snow this morning. Mr. Dike stayed with us last night went to church today took Mr. Thayers Class in S School. Preaching and Baptism this Evening.

21: Cold north wind pleasant drying a little. Cordelia Clara called here today & Clara mended my morning gown. Gray called to see how I prosper. Am hard up today almost choked for breath.

22: Wind still in the north & cold tho pleasant. A poor night again much pain did not lie down till after 3 this morn, then hard to breathe. Hildreth drew manure for me this forenoon from over the river & cow yard. Am just able to be out & see him work.

23: Cold a little snow. Am in house, painful. Meeting this Evening some earnestly seeking for their souls so my family say.

24: Cold cloudy looks stormy. Self Wife & Emma went to Julias to a quilting. Gray Dora Nancy Clara Harriet Eliza R James Parsons Maria & Duane present. Dont expect ever to meet them all here again. Recd a letter from son George at Humbolt, Richardson Co., Nebraska, is at work by the year at \$23. pr month on a farm, feels lonely to be left by Sally as she left him, has not heard from her since she left Gouverneur. The Dr. called to see me last night, changed the Medicine, gave me pills with Iron in them. Am extremely hard up for strength & breath and endure much pain especially nights and get but little rest.

(no date): Friday. Day cold & chilly, some sun shine some clouds some snow some Hail Some rain to make up the day. Otis Blandin & Wife here this Morning (called. Sold him my Dun Cow had last fall of Sparks to pay \$25 1st July next. Have felt to much deranged to go to Town today tho I ought to have gone on business. Recd a letter yesterday of Rev. Mr. Russell of Vineland about my place there, thinks Ellis can sell it if I will sell for \$1800 dollars. Rev. Mr. Randall still occupes it & Houses are generally taken tho rent low some sales of Property but at low very low figures.

26: Has been a cold rainy day mixed with some snow so I have stayed in the house all another day. Suffering variously, mostly to breath and pain in lungs trying to with considerable Rheumatism & Nervousness, am hard up for breath today. Arthur & James have been to Grays Visiting today. Clara & Anna here awhile today. Settled Mr. Mix Milk bill today \$2.66.

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END OF DIARY

Henry Sheldon died May 2, 1873, two months before his 60th birthday. He was buried in Riverside Cemetery in Gouverneur. His wife, Martha Aldous Sheldon, died December 19, 1878, and was buried beside Henry.

Riverside Cemetery
Gouverneur, Saint Lawrence County, New York

Photographs courtesy of Anne Cady

Grave of Henry Sheldon



Grave of Martha Aldous Sheldon



Original.
The Land of my Beautiful Dead.
WHEN slumber's soft arms had enwrapped me,
And the cares of the day-world had fled,
Last even I went on a journey
To the land of my beautiful dead.
A dream-angel bore me so gently,
On plunons so spotless and white,
To the land where I found my beloved
With sweet features clothed with delight.
Oh! fair were they, all the beloved
I met on that beautiful shore:
Their faces had lost all the earth-look,
And heavenly the light that they wore.
Oh, how they rejoiced at my presence!
From their eyes their earnest love shone:
Joy beamed from each radiant feature,
And spoke in each welcoming tone.
They clasped me with trembling fingers,
Pressed kisses on lip and on cheek:
Their hearts beating wild with affection
Too great for e'en angels to speak
Oh! there was the wee, dainty darling
Who went from our arms long ago:
We wept as we pressed for the last time
The cheek that was cold as the snow;
Not knowing, but only believing,
How lovely our darling would be
When the soul from its earthly bondage,
Its wee prison-house, should be free.
But there was our wee, dainty darling,
Than our wildest dreaming more fair;
The glory of heaven around her,
And crowning her beautiful hair.
The same, only brighter and fairer,
No longer need we to repine:
For we know her features are bearing
The impress of wisdom divine.
And there was the beautiful mother
We laid 'neath a mantle of snow
When her feet were weary of treading
Life's wearisome path to and fro.
How changed were those dearly loved features!
No longer all careworn and pale,
But showing that she had discovered
A home where no care could assail:
A home where no toiling was needed:
A home where the weary might rest
Safe from pain, temptation, and sorrow,
That long have the bosom oppressed.
So saint-like was she, our dear mother,
The old love-light still in her eyes,
The same placid smile on her features
She wore when she dwelt 'neath the skies.
Unchanged was the smile and the love-light,
Save they were more beautiful still:
But the brow was free from its furrows,
Made smooth by the great Master's will.
What joy she displayed at my coming!
Her dear arms were round me entwined:
'Twas mother, yet changed to an angel—
An angel and mother combined.
I had feared that she would not know me,
Would turn from me coldly away:
The earth-love grows stronger in heaven,
As twilight increases with day.
Intensified, brighter and purer,
All cleansed from the dark storms of clay,
Is the love that the blest will enjoy
On that radiant, beautiful day.
Last even I went on a journey
To visit my beautiful dead:
I found them all beaming with gladness,
While blessings around them were spread.
I returned to wait for the summons
To lay a'l my labors aside,
And go with the angels awaiting
To carry me over the tide.
I shall list each day for their voices,
Saying, "Come! awaiting are we,"
I shall go without dread or fearlug,
For my loved are waiting for me.
From the earthly arms that infold me,
I shall go to those waiting above;
Be clasped by the shining immortals,
Change earthly for heavenly love.
GERTIE JOHNSON

