

Ebenezer H. Robbins: Diary Background

Ebenezer H. Robbins was born in Unadilla, New York on 3 November 1819. On October 2, 1850 he married Louisa Storms, who was born on 30 April 1835. Together they lived on a 100 acre lot from the Wallace Patent located between Otego and Wells Bridge, New York. The lot was bordered to the south by the Susquehanna River.

Ebenezer's mother was Elizabeth Howland Robbins, born 1794 in Massachusetts. His father Ephraim was born in Carver, Massachusetts on 10 January 1793. Ephraim passed away in 1842. Ebenezer had three sisters and three brothers: Emily, Ellison, Eli, Elizabeth, Enos, and Eleanor. Enos died in infancy. Brother Ellison moved to California around 1850. The other siblings resided in Unadilla.

Louisa's family lived in the Sand Hill section of Unadilla. Her father is referred to in the diary as Henry J. Storms, H. J. Storms, H. J. S., father Storms, and f. Storms. Louisa's mother, Mary Voorhees Storms, is referred to as Mother Storms and m. Storms. Louisa's sister Elizabeth was called "Libby."

Elizabeth Robbins, born 1824, was married to Henry W. York. Elizabeth is sometimes referred to as E. Her husband, Henry, appears frequently in the diary as H. W. York, H. W. Y., and H. Y. Ebenezer's sister, Eleanor, was thirteen in 1851. Her name is generally spelled in its entirety. Ellison is referenced with respect to letters received from California.

Ebenezer and Louisa generally attended church on Sundays in Sand Hill. He frequently abbreviates Sand Hill with the letters S. H. Ebenezer enjoyed leading the church choir and also conducted a Singing school which he abbreviates as S. S. and Sing School. He also used the letters S. S. to refer to Sunday school. In addition to singing, he played the melodeon in church, most notably mentioned on January 12th, 1851. (A melodeon is a reed instrument with a keyboard similar to a piano. For further explanation see the [Heritage Magazine](http://wnyheritagepress.org/features/melodeon.html) article entitled *When Buffalo Was Melodeon Capital of the World* at the following link: <http://wnyheritagepress.org/features/melodeon.html>).

Further common abbreviations are: b., and bus. to represent the word bushel, and b.wheat to indicate the word Buckwheat.

Where I was unable decipher an entire word, I indicate as such by placing square brackets [] around the undetermined letters. In cases where a word was missing or abbreviated, I inserted the missing letters of the word within curly brackets { }; I also enclosed explanatory notes within curly brackets. Spelling is that of Ebenezer, but punctuation has been modified somewhat to improve readability.

Julie Callahan—4 August 2012