



Sunday, January 24, 2010

1:21:00 PM

## Diary of Ebenezer Robbins: 1850

Month	Day of Week	Date	Details of Day
October	Wednesday	2	Ebenezer H. Robbins Daily Journal commencing October 2nd 1850 Otego Otsego Co, N.Y. The weather rather unpleasant, Visited by a severe thunder hail storm just before noon. The day very interesting to me and long to be remembered. Became in possession of the better half. Her in whom my affections are firmly placed I led to the Hymnal after having obtained & secured her warmest affections and mutual consent Although weather unpleasant, the occasion so important and delightful that the "bride" and "groom" not only cheerful but actually a happy pair feeling assured that the Hymnal bands were Sacred and that the purest kind of friendship will exist between them until separated by the hand of Providence, Ceremony performed by Rev. Mr. Burnside of Otego Methodist Episcopal Church preacher, A happy company relative on both sides witnessed the scene who appeared delighted with the important change, The following persons were present, Brother Eli and wife Sister Elizabeth and husband, mother and sister Eleanor, --John Storms & wife, his son. E. G, and Miss Matilda J. Wiley. Rev. Mr. Burnside's wife, Henry J. Storms and wife and daughter Elizabeth, After the ceremony was pronounced and a cordial greeting took place the "bride and groom" accompanied by the welcome guest, partook of a most delicious feast prepared by mother Storms, after which took a short ride,--returned and after other duties performed all returned to rest
October	Thursday	3	The weather pleasant. The party, all (except Eli) attended what is called a 2nd day wedding and Brother in law Henry York and his request, Everything was in order for the occasion and not a thing left undone to make the guest comfortable, An additional company was invited to attend in the evening to see the objects of all this and hear music from them, Duty made it necessary to return home early
October	Friday	4	Myself and lady accompanied by John Storms, wife, Son and Miss Wiley started for St. Johnsville via Laurens, [in] Milford put up for the night at Westville (Stephens) All appeared to be full of enjoyment not only owing the day but at the public house. I dare say the owners thereof would testify to this. Music polished the whole.
October	Saturday	5	After taking a hearty breakfast continued our journey which was very pleasant. Stop at Cherry Valley and Fort Plain at the latter place at one public house saw a few "peacocks" in the form of ladies Arrived at our journey's end about sunset at John Storms
October	Sunday	6	Myself and lady went to James Wiley's found all well attended funeral in the afternoon, tarries over night
October	Monday	7	Made beer for Mrs. Wiley A. M. P.M. went to Uncle John Storms, welcomed as usual,--feel at home here at all times. Delightful visits with them, tarried allnight Weather cold but pleasant,
October	Tuesday	8	Spent the day with the John Storm's family, gathered a few beach and butternuts--called on C. Hyde--he was not at home, Grand father and grand mother Storms started their journey west

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October	Wednesday	9	Wife and I went to fairfield. Arrived at Hendric Voorhees' before sunset--joyous meeting, pleasant visit in the eve--H. & [L]. Green present.
October	Thursday	10	Weather very fine--made a few calls in the morning with Andrew, made beer for him, Aunt E. wife and I called at Mr. Green's, went with the girls to the chapel for prayers,
October	Friday	11	Weather unpleasant, Louisa rather meloncholly--do not know the cause Went to James Wiley. Called on Mr. Nash on the way, who was not at home, arrived at Mr. Wiley's after dark; Partook of a refreshing supper prepared by Aunt Leah expressly for us. Return early,
October	Saturday	12	Went after Matilda at Snell's bush, called on D. McLain,
October	Sunday	13	Went to church at the (School house) played on the melodeon, Sermon by Dewy,
October	Monday	14	Louisa and I went to Rockton, left Matilda at the school house Snells Bush, from R to Brockets Bridge, went into the great tannery, from there to John Storms via James Wiley's
October	Tuesday	15	After a hard struggle in parting went to Albert Walrod's
October	Wednesday	16	Went to Laurens via Cooperstown put up at Mr. Phillips, spent the eve very agreeably
October	Thursday	17	Went home. from there to Otego to attend the lawsuit, Olmstead Plaintiff, Myself and H. L. Birdsall defendant, Judgement \$25,00 unrighteous
October	Friday	18	Threshed buckwheat, Eli L. Ostene [ ] and Henry J. Storms assisted, rains before night,
October	Saturday	19	Louisa and I went to Elis's--done carpentering for him, took mother to Henry York's
October	Sunday	20	We went from Eli's to Unadilla Center Church, Sermon by Rev. Mr. Burnside from Rev. 2-5 very good--Spent the P.M. alone at Eli's. he and wife went to Sand Hill Church,
October	Monday	21	Worked for Eli all day on his additional kitchen
October	Tuesday	22	Limon Osburn and I dug potatoes at home A.M. Louisa and I went to Otego P.M. to the great "Old fellowship Show." Brothers were there from Unadilla, Oneonta and Laurens Address by Priest Hughs in the Presbyterian Church had a fine ride home; Headache this evening
October	Wednesday	23	Nothing very alarming took place to-day--husked corn all day which is the first business of the kind I have done for several years,--hands complain of being abused,
October	Thursday	24	This morning we are blessed with a fine rain. which put a veto on my calculations, however found enough to do,--Separated buckwheat from the chaff, Gathered a few chestnuts with Louisa,
October	Friday	25	Started for the gristmill. Unadilla at 5 A.M. of course arose earlier than usual, which did not hurt me, as some might suppose, Fine rain P.M.
October	Saturday	26	Husked corn A.M, went to Henry and Elizabeth York's P.M. in the rain accompanied Louisa--rainy day this,

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October	Sunday	27	This morning found ourselves very comfortably situated at Brother and sister York's, Had a first rate breakfast--had a good time as usual at that place,--This day will pass for a rainy day topped off with a Snow Storm which made the hills appear white
October	Monday	28	Weather quite cold, dug potatoes all day
October	Tuesday	29	Clear and pleasant, husked P.M. exchange Sto[v]jes, Pedler put up for the night with us,
October	Wednesday	30	Went to Unadilla bright and early, The face of the earth stiffened with frost husk corn P.M. and eve, Father and Mother Storms went to Eli's to spend the night
October	Thursday	31	Nothing worth recording to day only. only that it is the last day of the month, and a very pleasant day,
November	Friday	1	To day very pleasant, Thrashed buckwheat went to Otego in the eve, quite a shower before returning, accompanied by Mother Storms and Eleanor. The night was so very dark we could not see the road, horses or anything else except when a flash of lightning appeared. Egyptian darkness could not excel it
November	Saturday	2	Very foggy this morn. Could not see more than 4 inches into a millstone even if there had not been one half as much fog,--P.M. was very warm and pleasant, uncommonly so for this season of the year, Went to Otego in the eve with Louisa Robbins,
November	Sunday	3	A very foggy morning--All, at any rate, I was very anxious to go to Unadilla Centre to attend a Methodist Quarterly meeting. We did go. i.e Louisa Robbins, Mother Storms & Henry and wife Church well filled, which I always like to see as it is a sure sign that some love to hear the Gospel preached. We listened to a good sermon by P. E. Parks from Rev. 3,20, I have heard no better preaching for years. And truly there was truth in it, which none can dispute Quite a large number partook of the Sacrament. On our return took some refreshments at Sister Yorks which very much relieved us from hunger This eve I find myself very comfortably seated in my chamber by the side of my wife, sometimes talking, then writing, then play on the melodeon.--My birthday
November	Monday	4	Very much fatigued in consequence of doing a great days work, husking corn, stacking stalks, drawing and thrashing buckwheat drawing corn and many other things which I have not time to put on record,
November	Tuesday	5	This day is noted for being the general day for Election throughout the state, Otego held her election at a place up the East Branch of the Odsdawa called Goatsville. 9 miles from here. I was on hand in due season, -appointed Clerk of the board--had a hard days work. Completed canvassing and making out certificates at about 10 eve,--rode home on horse back--tired enough, There was one man said that he came on purpose to vote against Free Schools,--he did so and no more The distance he traveled to satisfy his will was some 8 or 10 miles, his name was Stephen Wait,
November	Wednesday	6	Called up very early to go to Otego with H. L. Birdsall, to enter "Appeal papers." return at 10 A.M. Finished gathering corn--Think I nevers saw the weather more beautiful and pleasant at this season of the year than it has been for a few days past, Almost as warm as summer; It rains this evening--very dark,

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November	Thursday	7	Very cold after a little rain--Went to Louisville via Unadilla Centre. Gilbertsville gathering beer jugs--Louisa accompanied me--arrived home 7 P.M,
November	Friday	8	Stay home all day. choring &c.--(wood/
November	Saturday	9	Very pleasant. Went to Bainbridge and returned gathering beer Bottles. Louisa went with me, never saw the going better, no need of Plank or rail roads if they would remain so, arrived home 5-6 P.M,
November	Sunday	10	Beautiful Sabbath morn. Companion and myself with parents attend Church at Otego-- Sermon by Brother Lynch from Rom. 6-23 Goodly number present. Stayed in Class meeting. To all appearance mu[ch] manifested for the welfare of the Religion. Came home and after taking some refreshment wife and I went on or partly on the hill,--playing the melodeon this eve,
November	Monday	11	This day begins with one of the finest and most beautiful morns ever dawned on the face of the earth,--the travelling great, Roads better than in midsummer, I have been engaged today in stacking straw cleaning buckwheat, sorting corn, husking corn, thrashing and cleaning beans, pulling carrots, removing stalks, cutting wood &c &c
November	Tuesday	12	Every appearance of a snow storm this morn but this evening every appearance of a dry time, brought my harvesting to a close, save the carrots, The fall crops are as follows from 75 to 100 bushels--corn 193 b. ears. besides seed corn and a quantity of s[i]ft corn Beans 2 bushels, Buckwheat of 2 bushels, Carrots in all 71 bushels
November	Wednesday	13	Lonely did I leave home on horseback for Westville via. Oneonta, Laurens and Milford to make some arrangements in the singing school line.--put up for the night in L. at Mr. Sleepe[r]'s,
November	Thursday	14	A cold frosty morn pleasant and bids fair for a fair day--often calling on a few friends pursued my journey--Arrived at Westville before sunset. called on Brother Wells who was at father Lakes. Stayed at Mr. Nellis, in co, with A[d] Wells, enjoyed the visit well, Too late for a school in that place
November	Friday	15	Returned home via. Oneonta, called also at West Davenport, Arrived home in the eve found Misses Phillips & Hurlbut just leaving my house for home (Laurens) The day has been very fine, roads comple[te]
November	Saturday	16	After doing a few chores Louisa and I went to Laurens, called on Don Southworth And after chatting and playing a few tunes on the Melodeon--return to rest,
November	Sunday	17	rainy day, some snow Attend Church A.M and eve. Preaching by Don. S A.M from PS, 34-2 P.M, from, Played on the melodeon in church tunes were as follows Balerma, Zion and Murton Artonville, Rolland and Greenville, Stayed Mr. Mulkins,
November	Monday	18	Cold--quite a snow storm started for home via Oneonta Called on Brother Shank Took refreshments prepared by Mrs Shank Good woman. Arrived home after dark
November	Tuesday	19	Cold and blustering but the snow in the valley has disapeared

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November	Wednesday	20	Rather more pleasant. Father and Mother Storms gone to Franklin to get milling &c did not get home until 9 P.M, I put the 2nd covering on my potato heap At Supper Louisa and I feasted on a stuffed chicken prepared by the former,--delicious, Played the Melodeon for at least 1 hour eve
November	Thursday	21	High winds and cold accompanied with here and there a prodigious snow squall Father Storms and I have been over the river to get wood--Elizabeth came to night to fetch mother home who has been absent 4 days, This eve have been reading an epistle from Ellison who is in California
November	Friday	22	Quite cold but pleasant Went to Sand Hill P.M. Called on Elder Spafford. [Wm] and Eli Buckley--business to see about a singing school,--Took tea at Sister Elizabeth's as usual, came home early in the eve
November	Saturday	23	This morn the ground is frozen quite hard Stayed home all day, choring--Brother Eli called on his way to Otego took my horses, Mr. Storms has found his match, his skill is baffled His hands and wrist are badly poisoned Can't tell what will cure them,--try this thing and that thing.--a little of everything, as is generally the case when Dr.s disagree,
November	Sunday	24	Cold, pleasant Sabbath morn,--Louisa and I attend church at Otego, Sermon by Brother Burnside, from Rev. 22.--17---P.M. went to Sand Hill after Eleanor via. E. B. [&] L. S. Feel rather more cheerful this eve, being somewhat freed from the burdensome cares of life, which is so natural for mankind [to] carry unnecessarily and voluntarily--"It is all folly for men to perpetuate perplexity by heaping up treasure on earth, but it is ever So, the more a person has, the more he wants"
November	Monday	25	Nothing special to day. Weather moderate, Went not from home except called on Mr. Youmans,
November	Tuesday	26	I believe the flowers in my dooryard have finally disappeared, There have been flowers of some sort in the yard without intermission since quite early in Apr, last, To day the weather is rather unpleasant--warm and rainy--this eve met with the singers in Otego to arrange the singing school matters--good turn out, very dark home
November	Wednesday	27	Weather warm as early in the fall, muddy travelling of course, Slaughtered a cow for beef aided by L. Lathrop, All about sick but Eleanor and I. Some complain of the headache--some poison limbs, some of bad cold and the rest I do not know, as for myself I feel about as well as usual, only somewhat fatigued and considerable lazy,
November	Thursday	28	Rainy day--very warm for this season of the year--Went to Otego P.M, with my beef, mud quite deep--very dark this eve,
November	Friday	29	I arose this morning early, as usual, which was not very early of course, It had the appearance of one of those beautiful morns, which we often see in the later part of Apr, I busied myself in the former part of the day in doing what we call chores, cutting up beef, &c, The later part of the day father Storms and myself crossed the Susquehanna and ramble up the mountain on the other side, to examine a wood lot belonging to Henry Williams who is noted for his peculiarities when he is a little "over the bay,"--We returned before dark--and this evening it is so warm that I sit in the house without a coat or even fire in the stove,

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November	Saturday	30	Weather warm and beautiful. Went over the river after wood--Towards night went to Sand Hill, Louisa and E. went along to Henry's found no one at home. I however started a fire, Henry and Elizabeth soon came. Went to the school house in the eve. Good turn out, made arrangements for a singing school
December	Sunday	1	We are blest with a beautiful Sabbath morn All hands went to church from Henry's I use my melodeon there, Preaching by Elder Spafford from 1st John 5-5 very good discourse, Dine at Henry's and made a finish of the rabbit and squirrel which we left this morn--We then went to the school house--listened to Mr. Lynch from John 12-26--We then came home
December	Monday	2	Went over the river to sled cordwood
December	Tuesday	3	Rainy--commence plowing--Eli and wife come here--went to Otego P.M. to put off the singing school,
December	Wednesday	4	The weather to-day appears more like beautiful spring weather than winter, I followed the plow all day long,
December	Thursday	5	A warm rainy day--Settle with [T]. S. P.M, went down near the river to dig a curious kind of root called "Skunk cabbage." I found one root and a monstrous thing it was too, it grew deep and wide, and scores of prongs I worked and tugged for a while, to get it up but all in vain, until I took a rail for a lever. After procuring enough to scent all this part of Otego, I left the place,--a great cavern, And O, what would it have been if it were all taken out, Miss Phelps is here--feels very much grieved in consequence of non fulfilment of agreement on the part of the trustee of this Dist, (Webster and Olmstead) Wife rather more composed and better "natured" than last evening,--Good.--hope she will keep so.
December	Friday	6	Quite cool to-day. Appearance of snow Went over the river to finish sledding cord wood--all alone. Louisa & I went to Mr. Broads, eve
December	Saturday	7	Sure enough--we have a snow storm. Only a small four inches deep--not very cold, quite soft travelling, Commenced my singing school at Sand Hill, Good turn out of boys, few girls, came home, without much difficulty, as I was on horseback,
December	Sunday	8	This is what I call winter, in earnest, Cold and blustering. Stayed home all day long
December	Monday	9	Very cold--Squally--Killed hogs, i.e. 3 pigs, Henry J. Storms 2 pigs, J Broad helped
December	Tuesday	10	Pleasant winter weather--Cut up pork--This eve walked to Otego--Commenced my singing school in that place, Good attendance, Returned with Webster's team, for sleigh ride,
December	Wednesday	11	I have nothing to record to-day save cutting sausage meat in the eve, And that Elizabeth has come here to spend a few days.
December	Thursday	12	To-day is what is termed "Thanksgiving" but I would like to know what the majority of the people in this state think, It is my opinion that they pay but little attention to it, unless it is a day by them set apart for sla[g]ing some. Mother, Elizabeth, Eleanor, Louisa and I attended church at Otego. Sermon for the occasion by Wm Burnside from This eve E. Louisa & I made a visit to Mr. Hyde's--had a good time

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December	Friday	13	A very severe cold day fetched wood from across the river with the oxen and horses. or, the horses were used to fetch it across the cra[z]y bridge, and the oxen to fetch it home, sleighing quite good, considering the little snow,
December	Saturday	14	A very cold morning indeed--(Filed the saw) Went to Singing school at Sand Hill in the eve, Took Sister Elizabeth home. Louisa and I stayed all night,--The school house full at the school. Quite noisy, More so than common
December	Sunday	15	Arose quite late this morn being much fatigued in consequence of doing a hard day's work yesterday. Had a good breakfast prepared by sister Elizabeth York Went to church A. M, took charge of the choir--played the melodeon,--heard a sermon by Elder Spafford from Luke 10-42 after which we went to Henry's took a "piece" then went church again at the schoolhouse--listened to a discourse delivered by Wm Burnside from 1st Kings 18-21 after which we went to Henry's took tea, and returned home found all is well and enough to eat and drink and as it is not very cold,--fire enough to keep warm--therefore they are much better off than many Californians--It is now 8 oclock and I think I shall retire soon,
December	Monday	16	Quite warm--went to E. Buckley's mill for slabs--P.M, snowstorm--Sylvia Hyde here--And what shall I do
December	Tuesday	17	Cold--Went to singing school Otego, Webster's sleigh
December	Wednesday	18	Made a jumper,--went to singing school Sand Hill, Took Emalissa to A. Waits,
December	Thursday	19	Started this morning for Leatherville Louisa in co, After travelling 3 or 4 miles the snow began to descend, and so continued until night. We went via Laurens. took dinner at Mr. Corbins At sunset we found ourselves at or near a place called Westville, We soon refreshed ourselves with a good supper which seemed to take away the fatigue which was caused by the tedious journey
December	Friday	20	Left Louisa a Brother Wells, I of course pursued my journey towards Leatherville alone, Called on Mr Swan at Cherry Valley. The travelling rather hard in consequence of the unbeaten track, Awhile after dark I found myself at Mr Bramajins near Charleston 4 c[o]r,
December	Saturday	21	Went to Leatherville to day. All had a desire to see me perhaps "out of curiosity" Put up with friend Yates,
December	Sunday	22	Went to Church A.M, Heard a sermon by Rev. Mr. Devall from St. John 12 26 Mr. D. is noted for his extreme addit[y], He by the way is a smart preacher, In the eve I went to Church again. Heard Elder Ross from St John 6-27 Had a full choir both A.M. and eve.
December	Monday	23	A tremendous snowstorm --no body travels, wind turns to the N.W. Hurricane, No prospect of starting for home to day
December	Tuesday	24	Snow very deep, weather very cold I have got to stay here awhile don't know how long. My horses are to Mr. Van Burens' who has hay and oats enough, I am here and there, enough to eat and drink and enough to to talk with.
December	Wednesday	25	Started for home this morn, but the going is so very hard that I conclude to put up at Richmond Bowdich's came here via Gr[o]st corners--Good visit with R. and Elisa Jane,

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December	Thursday	26	Pursued my journey homeward, got along very well but slowly--One of my horses taken sick just at night. Snows fast by spells, When near Brother Wells residence left my sleigh. Got the horse bled, then proceeded to Brother Wells, where I found Louisa joyously glad to see me, but no more than I was to see her. She had been looking very eagerly for several days.
December	Friday	27	Horse is about well, Pursued our journey homeward. sleighing first rate, Arrived at Otego just in time to teach my singing school which I had appointed after which went home found all well
December	Saturday	28	Nothing special, weather moderate L. C. and I went to A. Rowleys spent the P.M, taught singing school in the eve at Sand Hill. Full house Good school. Louisa and [I] came home,
December	Sunday	29	The end of another snow storm All hands went to church at Sand Hill A.M. Elder Spafford preached from 1st Tim 1-15 Went to Mr. Collins--took dinner P.M. Lynch preached from Exodus 33-14 Used the melodeon--We are all home this eve
December	Monday	30	Went to Henry's P.M, in the cutter examined his fowls at Mr. Collin's
December	Tuesday	31	Colder than ever. Henry Storms and I went to examine the wood lot A.M, Brother Lynch called P.M. Went to Otego Church in the eve--heard a sermon by Brother Shank from Phill. 2-12