

Alvin Thompson Smith
Diary 1851

Jan.

- 1 Cut wood at the door & Messrs Geiger & Clarks familys came here & took dinner & we went & took supper at Mrs. Browns
- 2 Went over to the County Seat & back
- 5-11 Cut wood & did chores
- 14 Cut wood & helpt Mr. Naylor butcher a beef
- 15 Cut wood & went to Mr. Naylors & got a quarter of beef to pay for camp meeting beef
- 16 Went down to Portland
- 17 Came home
- 20 Did chores about home & went over to Mr. Geigers & took home some borrowed beef & borrowed some flour
- 21 Tended the burial of Old Mr. Emerick & then went to Mr. Eells with Mrs. Smith & had a talk concerning our church & the Academy & traded some at Mr. F.W.Browns
- 22-30 Did chores about home
- 31 Butchered a beef & let Mrs. Brown have one $\frac{1}{2}$

Feb.

- 3 Did chores & tended some to the Post office
- 4 Did chores & transplanted some peach trees
- 7 Went over to Hillsborough & back
- 10 Worked on Mr. Naylors bridge
- 12 Started for Portland & went over to Mr. Pomeroy's
- 13 Went to Portland & Mr. Pomeroy paid on what he owed me for cattle

Sat

- 15 Tended ^{church} meeting & had a very unpleasant meeting

Sab

- 16 Tended meeting
- 17 Repaired my pasture fence
- 18 Went to Harrison's mill with grist
- 19 Came home with my grist & paid Mr. Geiger what I borrowed of him
- 24 Did chores & took the money to Mr. Geiger for him to pay the second payment for the Goldhunter steamer
- 25 Did chores & wrote a letter to the Customs House Officer at Astoria

May.

- 1 Went to work at the bridge at H. Davises but no work done, came home & tended church meeting but no action except to call another meeting in two weeks but considerable conversation
- 3-4 Thrashed oats
- 5-8 Plowing
- 10 Did chores & went to Mr. Buxtons
- 11 Worked some at a harrow & rented apart of my field to Mr. F.W.Brown on the same condition as I have usually

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Mar

- 13 Helpt Mrs. Smith about her ash leach
- 14 Butchered a hog for Omri Parsons which weighed 215 lbs & hunted for another to kill but could not find him. Mr. Parsons paid me for the hog
- 17 Plowed some & sold Amy to Mr. Jenckins for a month work commencing immediately
- 18 Tended to plowing & mr. Campbell came for his fruit trees
- 19-24 Did chores about home
- 25 Went over to Hillsborough & back
- 27 Went over to Wimples & Harpers & home
- 28 Butchered my 2 hogs which weighed 514 lbs. Let old Mr. Parsons have 154 lbs at 10 cts per lb

Apr.

- 1 Traveled about pararie (sic) to collect some postage for newspapers published in Oregon
- 2 Went to Mr. Tuckers & got my chain mended
- 3 Wrote to the postal agent at Portland respecting making out quarterly accounts & postage on the newspaper published in Oregon
- 5 Did chores & tended church meeting & Mr. Owens & wife & wifes sister came on a visit & I received a letter from Mr. Spalding & one from Luther White
- 7 Tended Probate Court
- 8-12 Did chores & plowed

Sab

- 13 Tended meeting

14-19 Plowing

Sab

- 20 Tended meeting
- 21 Tended to the appraisal of the property of Christian Emerick, deceased
- 22 Went to Hillsborough to tend court
- 25 Cleaned my oats & tended court
- 26 Did chores & tended court & heard the verdict of the jury in the case of Heene (or Tleene?)
- 29-30 Sprouted potatoes & Brown planted some

May

- 1-3 Planted oats
- 7 Helpt Mr. Geiger raise his barn
- 8 Went down to Portland
- 9 Drew the draft of 250 dollars on Couch Co. that Joseph Gale sent me & brought 2 of the boxes that Gale sent home with me
- 12 Sowed about 12 bushels of peas
- 14 Planted corn, melon, squash & cucumber seeds

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- May 15 Went up to Lafayette to collect the amount of an order on Ransom Clark on 100 dolls that Gale sent to me but did not get the pay
- 17 Did chores & traded some at F.W.Browns & sold him 4 oxen to be given one & brown (?) for 525 dolls
- Sab 18 Tended meeting. Mr. Waller preached
- 19 Worked about home & fixed for going to Portland
- 20 Started for Portland & went about 20 miles
- 21 Went in to Portland & got the remainder of the things that Gale sent & traded some & came back 4 miles & camped
- 22 Came home
- Sab 25 Tended meeting. Mr. Waller preached
- 26 Went to Mr. Elkanah Walkers on a visit & had a conversation respecting the school
- 27 Went to Oregon City respecting the school
- 28 Staid in the city & traded some
- 29 Came home
- 30 Did chores & helpt Mr. Clark about his house
- 31 Did chores & had some conversation about the school
- June Sab 1 Tended meeting
- 2 Went to Hillsborough to tend the election
- 3 Halled up a load of wood & went to Mr. Geigers
- 4 Went to Oregon City to tend a meeting of the trustees of Tualatin Academy
- 5 Tended a meeting of the trustees & had an unpleasant meeting dissenting from them & resigning with one more, viz. P.H.Hatch
- 6 Came home
- 7 Tended church meeting & had a very unpleasant meeting in several respects, touching the preachers & touching giving the meeting house to David B. Williams as principal of the Tualatin Academy & touching the claim between Messrs Walker & Stokes
- Sab 8 Tended meeting
- 9 Consulted with Mr. Eells respecting his teaching school & he agreed to teach. I offered him a cow for to teach the next quarter.
- 10 Planted some corn, cucumber & melon seeds
- 11 Did chores & got Mr. Naylors roller for to roll my field
- 16 Did chores & went to Harrisons grist mill
- 17 Came home with my grist

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June

- 19 Started for the camp meeting on the Abakaw & went to Mr. Samuel Browns
- 20 Went on to the camp ground & tended meeting
- 21 - 24 Tended meeting
- 25 Went to Oregon City & was qualified to act as Probate Judge & County Commissioner & came home
- 27 Halled in peas & halled up wood
- 28 Made some fence to stop my hogs

July

- 1-3 Did chores about home
- 4 Made out my quarterly account
- 5 Tended the camp meeting
- 6 Mrs. Flett died this morning
- 7 Tended Probate Court then came back & tended the protracted meeting
- 8-14 Tended the meeting
- 15-16 Did chores at home
- 17 Helpt Mr. Dixon raise his barn
- 18-23 Worked in my garden (except on Sabath)

Aug

- 1 Cut some oats & helpt Mr. Naylor hall the sills for the bridge
- 5-7 Halled rails from Mr. Clarks
- 8 Helpt Mr. Naylor raise his bridge
- 9 Halled 100 rails from Mr. Clarks
- 11 Ditto
- 12 Worked at my field fence
- 13-15 Worked at my oats
- 20 Worked at the house I bought of Mr. Wimple for 125 dollars
- 21 Halled a load of lumber from Wimples house
- 22-28 Halled lumber from Wimples house (several loads each day except on the Sabath)

NOTE: the writing is very faint, faded for the next few weeks

Sept.

- 1-13 Worked at my house
- 14 Gale came here this evening
- 16 Went to Portland with Mr. Joseph Gale
- 17 Came home from Portland
- 18 Staid about home & let out my cows to Darius Smith for one year, he taking the whole care of them & makes butter & cheese & as a consideration for the same I give him $\frac{1}{2}$ the butter & cheese & half the increase this winter. We have what milk we want & he has his board free by doing chores for me
- 19 Did chores & worked some on the Wimple house

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Sept.

- 22 Settled with Joseph Gale & he started with his children for California
- 23 Went over to East Plain to see the school commissioner & to see David Lenox
- 24 Started to Portland with Mrs. Smith & went to the Dughill
- 25 Went in to Portland & did my trading & loaded up my goods
- 26 Came home with my goods
- 29 Did chores about home. Mrs. Smith is quite unwell
- 30 Worked some at the Wimple house

Oct

- 4 Butchered a beef & took $\frac{1}{4}$ to Mrs. Brown

NOTE: very faint from here to Oct. 23. Mostly did chores and tended Probate court

Sab

- 25 Tended school district meeting & organized the district
- 26 Staid at home
- 27 Worked about home at the Wimple house
- 28 Fixed for going to Portland with my butter
- 29 - Nov. 1 trip to Portland

Nov.

- 6 Went over to Hillsborough to tend court
- 11 Sold all of the hogs I have to spare to Wesley Mulkey at 9 cts a lb gross & received 50 dollars on the trade $\frac{1}{2}$ paid on delivery the other $\frac{1}{2}$ on the first of January 1852
- 15 Delivered the hogs to Mulkey 53 in number () weighing 6656 lbs. He paid me 225 dollars, 140.92 due yet

Sab

- 16 Tended meeting at Mr. Griffins
- 27 Bought an iron kettle of Mrs. Brown

Sab

- 30 Staid at home

Dec.

- 1 Tended Probate Court
- 5 Tended the funeral of Mrs. Monroe
- 12 - 14 Went to Portland with butter
- 19 Went to get subscribers to Sartains magazine
- 20 Got Mr. Buxton & Henry to go around with me to view my claim & witness the corners especially
- 22 Worked some at the Wimple house
- 25 Gave William Yates a written forbiddal to trespassing in any manner upon my Land claim
- 29 Worked at the new house