

Alvin Thompson Smith  
Diary 1852

- Jan. 1 Went with my family on a visit over to Mr. John S. Griffin  
 2 Came home from Mr. Griffins  
 3-5 Did chores about home  
 6-7 Mended fence  
 9-10 Worked some at the new house
- Sab 11 Staid at home  
 12 Worked at the new house & Mr. Mulkey paid me the balance for my hogs. Found one of my steers on the prairie with his hip out of joint.  
 13 Went and got Br. Geiger to help me butcher my steer  
 14 Went to Portland with my butter  
 15 Did my trading and came back to Mr. Youngs  
 Sab 16 Came home & tended my things  
 17 Did chores about home
- Sab 18 Staid at home  
 19-20 Did chores at home  
 21 Cut up & slated a part of my meat  
 22 Did the same  
 23 Went to Henry Davis to get some grinding done but could not & went to Hillsborough (sic)  
 24 Did chores about home
- Sab 25 Went to meeting at Mr. Griffins school house  
 26-27 Cut up & salted my beef  
 28 Repaired some of my fence that the high water tore down  
 29-31 Did chores about home
- Sab Feb. 1 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells school house  
 2 Went to Mr. Naylors & assisted him in the sickness of his wife who died about four o'clock this afternoon  
 3 Located a new burying ground & tended the funeral of Mrs. Naylor  
 4 Did chores about home  
 5 Cleaned up some wheat for mill  
 6-7 Worked at my fence the high water took out
- Sab 8 Tended meeting & heard Mrs. Naylors funeral sermon  
 9-10 Worked at fence & went to mill

- Feb. 11 Got my grist & came home
- 12 Did chores about house & gave order on brother Caleb Smith to George Blish for three hundred dollars & took his & Elam Young & his sons obligation for the money if Blish gets the money, the obligation in full force. If not, it will be null & void.
- 13 Worked at my fence & did chores
- 14 Worked on my new house & tended to the meeting
- Sab 15 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells school house
- 16 Worked at my fence
- 17 Started for Portland & tended a mass meeting at Hillsborough to express the sense of the people respecting the Salem legislature.
- 18 Went to Portland with butter & eggs with Mr. Elkanah Walker
- 19 Did our trading & Mr. Hammond paid me 150 dollars & we came to Mr. Elam Youngs
- 20 Came home & did chores
- 21 Did chores & tended to the mail
- Sab 22 Staid at home
- 23 Worked at some of my fruit trees
- 24 Went over to Mr. Dorans & back
- 25 Went over to Mr. Eells with Mrs. Smith
- 26 Butchered my hogs
- 27 Cut up & slated my hogs
- 28 Did chores & went over to Mr. Eells to see & take care of Mrs. Eells
- Sab 29 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells
- Mar. 1 Came home from Mr. Eells
- 2-3 Did chores about home
- 4 Staid about home & Mrs. Smith was at Br. Geigers
- 5 Did chores & brought Mrs. Smith from Br. Geigers
- 6 Tended to the mail & did chores
- Sab 7 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells school house
- 8 Tended to the mail & did chores
- 9-10 Worked at the new house
- 11 Staid about home & visited with Mr. Perkins
- 12-14 Did the same
- 15 Did chores & sold Eli Perkins 3 sheep which he is to settle for at some future period
- 16 Went to Jollys & Pease saw mill to see about getting lumber for my building
- 17 Went to Porters mill to see about getting lumber to build
- 18 Did chores about home & agreed with Darius Smith to get my wood for the fire & to do my chores for his board

- Mar. 19 Worked at my new house  
 20 Did the same & tended to the meeting
- Sab 21 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells school house  
 22 Did chores & tended to the mail  
 23 Went to Portland with butter  
 24 Staid in Portland & inquired about building  
 25 Came home from Portland  
 26-27 Did chores about home
- Sab 28 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells school house  
 29 Tended to the mail & did chores  
 30 Helpt Mr. Geiger butcher hogs  
 31-1 Did chores about home
- Apr. 2 Tended to making out my P.O. Quarterly report  
 3 Did the same & Mr. Spalding came here today
- Sab 4 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells  
 5-8 Tended to Probate Court  
 9 Did chores about home  
 10 Did the same & bargained with Mr. Patrick Cain for the  
 lumber for my house -cedar at 25 dollars per thousand, fir &  
 other lumber at 15 dollars per thousand & cedar shingles at  
 5 dollars per thousand
- Sab 11 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells  
 12 Tended to the mail & did chores  
 13 Staked some of my pasture fence  
 14 Went to Portland with butter  
 15 Did my trading & came home  
 16 Did chores at home  
 17 Made out my bill of lumber for my house & Mr. Patrick Cain  
 agreed to furnish it at 25 dollars per thousand for cedar,  
 15 dollars per M for fir & ash, & 6 dolls per M for shingles  
 & I let him have my sorrel horse to break in & gentle for the  
 use of him until the next Fall comes
- Sab 18 Tended meeting  
 19 Tended a mass meeting of the citizens of the county at Hillsboro  
 20 Commenced plowing  
 21-24 Plowing
- Sab 25 Staid at home  
 26 Trimmed up my peach trees  
 27-28 Did chores about home  
 29 Worked some at my new house  
 30 Did the same & went to see the surveyor run the 3rd township  
 line south of the Baseline. Made a contract with F.W.Brown for  
 my butter, 3 months at 50 cts a lb

- May 1 Did chores at home  
 2 Staid at home & wife went to Mr. Elkanah Walkers & he had a son  
 3 Did chores & hunted my yearling colt  
 4-5 Worked some at my new house  
 6 Plowed some & sold Kit & her colt to Mr. Elkanah Walker for 65 dolls. He paid me 50 dolls down  
 7 Went to the blacksmith & got a staple mended & fixed my yoke  
 8 Did chores about home
- Sab 9 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells school house & had a communion service  
 10-15 Plowed in my field
- Sab 16 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells  
 17-18 Plowing  
 19 Went to Portland with some butter  
 20 Did my trading & came home  
 21 Tended to the mail  
 22 Tended a political meeting at F.W. Browns store
- Sab 23 Staid at home  
 24-25 Plowed & worked at my new house  
 26 Mowed some in my orchard  
 27-29 Did chores at home
- Sab 30 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells & at Mr. Jollys  
 31 Plowed some in my orchard
- June 1 Went to Oregon City with my claim against the Government growing out of the war with the Cayuse Indians & a claim for Matthew Hunter which he gave to me & I took a claim for J.P. Reed  
 2 Staid in the city & tended a meeting of the Bible & Tract Societies & did some trading  
 3 Witnessed the notification of Messrs Clark & Walkers land claims & then came home  
 4 Did chores about home  
 5 Lowed some in my orchards & did chores
- Sab 6 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells  
 7 Tended the election  
 8 Plowed in my orchard  
 9 Finished plowing in my orchard & traded off my mare Sally & her colt with Mr. B. Hoen for a grey mare which Mr. Nusbaumer bought for him at Fort Vancouver & Mr. & Mrs. Griffin came here on a visit
- 10-12 Planted corn, cucumbers & squash
- Sab 13 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells  
 14-15 Tended Probate Court

- June 16 Did chores & went to Mr. Buxtons & got a barrel of ashes for soa  
 17-19 Worked at my Wimple house
- Sab 20 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells school house & had a communion  
 service & Jotham W. Goodell preached  
 21 Worked at the Wimple house  
 22 Helpt Mr. Walker fix his wagon to go to Portland  
 23 Went down to Portland with Mr. Walker  
 24 Came home  
 25 Tended the mail & went to the camp meeting near Mr. Jollys  
 & back  
 26-29 Tended to the mail & went to camp meeting  
 30 Did chores about home
- July 1 Made out my Post Office Quarterly Account  
 2 Tended to mail & did chores  
 3 Did chores about home  
 4 Staid at home rather unwell  
 5-6 Tended Probate Court  
 8-10 Cut oats
- Sab 11 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells  
 12-14 Mowed in my field  
 15 Raked up a part of my fodder  
 16 Took up my oats  
 17 Went up to the sawmill to see about my lumber & made a contract  
 with Patrick Cain to hall it home to my house for that 2 yr  
 old colt & the use of 200 dollars for 30 days from this date
- Sab 18 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells  
 19 Did chores  
 20 Went to Portland  
 21 Came home  
 22 Shocked up my oats & went with Mrs. Smith to Br. Geigers  
 23-24 Raked up some of my hay
- Sab 25 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells  
 26-28 Mowed & raked hay  
 29 Went to Harrisons mill  
 30 Did chores about home  
 31 Hunted for a stick for a wagon tongue
- Aug. 1 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells  
 2 Helpt Mr. Walker fix his wagon

- Aug. 3 Went to Mr. Walkers & got a stick for a wagon tongue & took to Wm. Catchings
- 4 Went to Wm.- Catchings & got my wagon repaired
- 5 Went to Mr. Catchings & got my wagon & paid him for his work 4 dollars & took the work to the blacksmith shop
- 6 Went to the blacksmith shop to fix my wagon
- 7 Did chores & fixed my wagon
- Sab 8 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells school house
- 9-10 Made some fence to stop the hogs out of my field
- 11 Ditto & went to the sawmill
- 12 Did chores about home
- 13 Went to Harrisons & Peases mill(s?)
- 14 Did chores about home
- Sab 15 Tended meeting with my family
- 16 Did chores
- 17 Went to Messrs Eells, Griffin & Stewarts
- 18-20 Tended to the mail & did chores
- 21 Did the same & conditionally sold William Beagle 8 head of cattle at 50 dolls each
- Sab 22 Went to meeting with my family
- 23 Worked some to fix my wagon
- 24 Loaned Mr. Eells 20 dolls
- 25-26 Worked on my wagon
- 27 Went to see Mr. Joseph Davis & went for the doctor for him
- 28 Worked at my wagon & tended to the mail
- Sab 29 Tended meeting with my family
- 30 Went to Mr. Hatchs on a visit
- 31 Staid at Mr. Hatchs with family
- Sept. 1 Went to Portland
- 2 Came home
- 3 Tended to the mail & did chores
- 4 Worked on my wagon & tended to mail
- Sab 5 Tended meeting at Mr. Eells
- 6-7 Tended Probate Court
- 8-10 Did chores & budded some apple trees
- 11 Divided the calves with Darius (Smith) all but the youngest, being 22 in number
- Sab 12 Tended meeting with my family

- Sept. 13 Worked at my apple trees  
 14-17 Halled in oats & hay  
 18 Did chores & tended to the mail
- Sab 19 Tended meeting with my family  
 20 Did chores & fixed for going to Portland  
 21 Went to Portland with my wagon  
 22 Came home from Portland  
 23-24 Did chores about home  
 25 Cut up some of my corn
- Sab 26 Tended meeting. Catherine was sick  
 27 Cut corn  
 28 Went to Doct Belnaps for some medicine for Catherine  
 29-30 Fixed a foundation to lay my lumber upon  
 30 Made out my PO Quarterly report
- Oct. 1-2 Tended to the mail & did chores
- Sab 3 Tended meeting  
 4 Butchered a beef & let Mr. Tuttle have 349 lbs & Mr. Walker 165 lbs & kept 190 lbs at home  
 5 Tended to my beef & did chores & Mr. Gunn (?) came here to work  
 6 Went to Portland & found old Mr. McMillen  
 7 Came home  
 8 Tended to the mail & did chores  
 9 Halled up 2 loads of wood & tended to the mail & settled with Mr. Robert C. Finney (or Kinney?) up to this date
- Sab 10 Tended meeting with my family & Henry C. Raymond came this evening  
 11 Did chores about home  
 12 Cut wood in the woods  
 13 Halled up 2 loads of wood  
 14 Did chores about home & let out my cows to Henry Raymond for half the butter & cheese & I give him of 4 cows for 1 yr  
 15 Repaired my trucks some  
 16 Did chores about home
- Sab 17 Tended meeting & Henry C. Raymond commenced taking care of my cows this evening  
 18 Did chores & fixed my trucks  
 19 Went in to Portland & bought a cooking stove for 75 dolls  
 20 Did some trading & came home  
 21-23 Tended to the mail & did chores
- Sab 24 Tended meeting



- Oct. 25-28 Did chores about home
- 29 Went to Davis mill with a grist
- 30 Got my grist & came home & tended to the mail. Mr. Naylor took away his little Margaret home
- Sab 31 Staid at home from meeting
- Nov. 1 Did chores at home & sent Mr. Dryer some butter & eggs & Mr. Burkhart some butter
- 2-4 Staid at home lame with a boil
- 5 Tended school district meeting
- 6 Took my plows to Mr. Ben Catching to get stocked
- Sab 7 Staid at home
- 8 Worked some at my house & went to Mr. Catchings & got my plows
- 9 Worked some about my house
- 10 Did the same & Mrs. Adams came this afternoon
- 11-13 Worked on my house
- Sab 14 Staid at home
- 15-16 Halled up 5 loads of wood
- 17 Rented my farm to Henry Raymond & William Adams. I furnish teams, seed & implements of farming & they give me helf of what they raise in the half bushel in good order, except potatoes they are to be put in my cellar in good order, they having only the other half raised
- 18 Worked some at my house. My birthday 50 yrs old. God help me to live to thine Honor & Glory
- 18-20 ~~Worked~~ worked at my house
- Sab 21 Staid at home
- 22 Fixed for going to Portland with butter
- 23 Went to Portland with my butter & sold it for 90 cts per lbs
- 24 Did my trading & came home
- 25 Did chores about home.
- 26 Did the same & paid Omri Parsons 143.41 cts for lumber on the Cain contract
- 27 Did chores & worked some at my house
- Sab 28 Tended meeting with my family
- 29 Went to Mr. Tuttles & got 200 dolls of George Y. Davis & gave my note for it & he is to receive the money in Portland that ~~Milton~~ Tuttle gets ffrom the Beagle draft on Adams & Co. Express Office & to let Mr. Eells have the money & I sent a copy of the report of the School District No. Two to the County Commission
- 30 Worked some at my house & loaned to Mr. Eells 200 dolls & took his note for 400 dolls
- Dec. 1-4 Worked at my house
- Sab 5 Tended meeting

- Dec. 6-8 Tended Probate Court
- 9 Kept thanksgiving with Mr. Walker
- 10 Did chores & butchered a beef
- 11 Did chores & sold Mr. John Reasoner 463 lbs of beef & let him have my team to take it home
- Sab 12 Staid at home
- 13 Tended the funeral of Lydia Flett & then went & had a settlement with F.W.Brown
- 14-15 Did chores about home & tended stock
- 16 Tried to get to Mr. Geigers but could not get there
- 17 Worked some at my house
- 18 Tended to cattle & did chores
- Sab 19 Tended meeting at Mr. Walkers
- 20 Cleared the snow off the bridge & worked at my sled
- 21-22 Hunted for my cattle & worked at my sled
- 23-25 Worked on my sled
- Sab 26 Staid at home
- 27 Did chores about home
- 28 Hunted up my cow & calf
- 29 Took Mrs. Smith & Geiger to Mrs. Walkers to Maternal meeting & helpt Mr. Naylor hunt up the wild cattle
- 30 Did chores about home
- 31 Thus closes up another year. O Lord, forgive the past & give Grace for the future