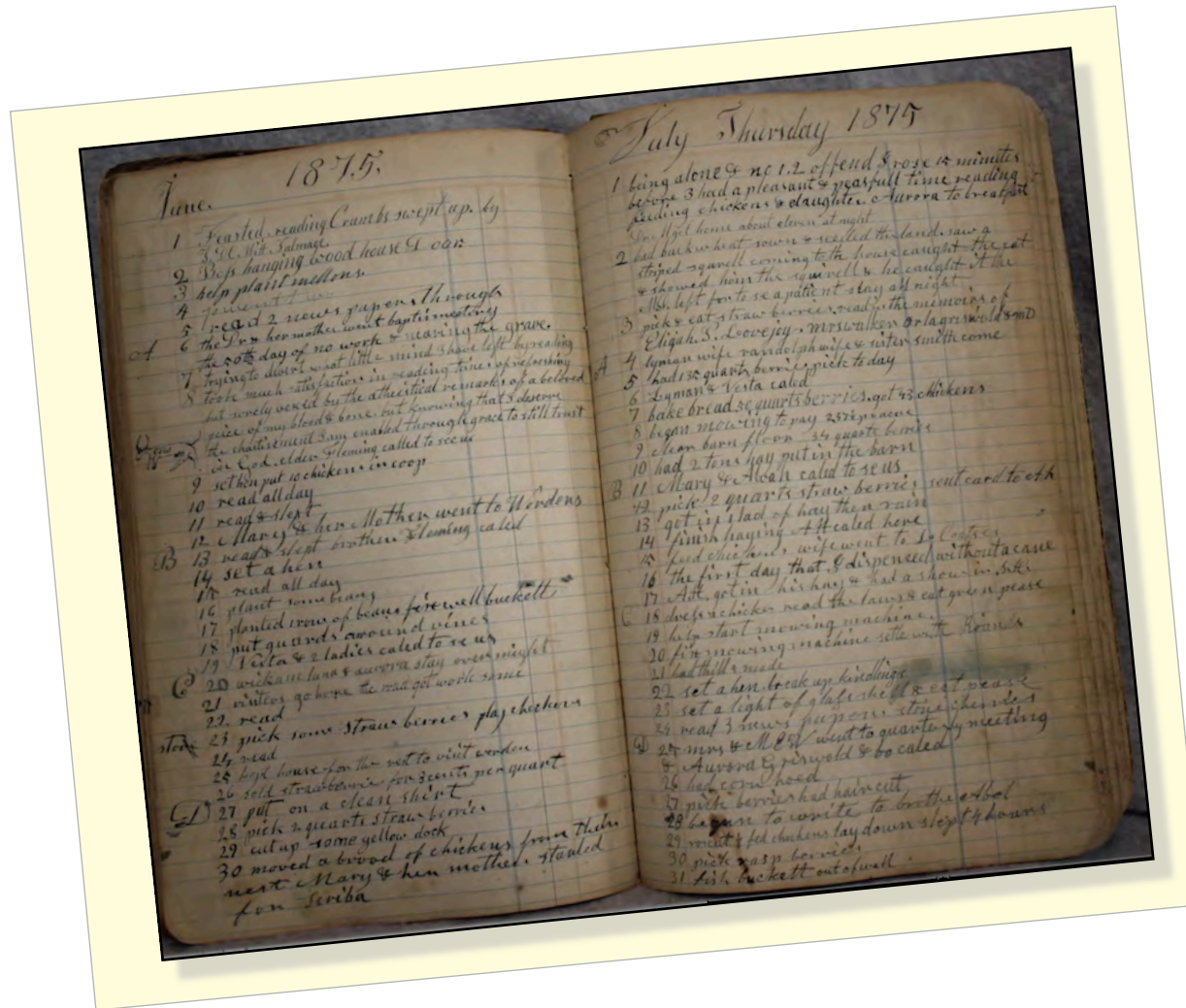


# Alvah Walker Diary Entries

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## The Diary of Alvah Walker

Alvah Walker was born April 9, 1798 in Massachusetts. He later moved to Syracuse, New York where he met his wife, Vesta Walker. They then moved to Oswego Town where they raised their children: Luna, Aurora Borealis, Vista, Abel, and Mary. He was a farmer and grew a variety of crops to be sold in the city of Oswego.

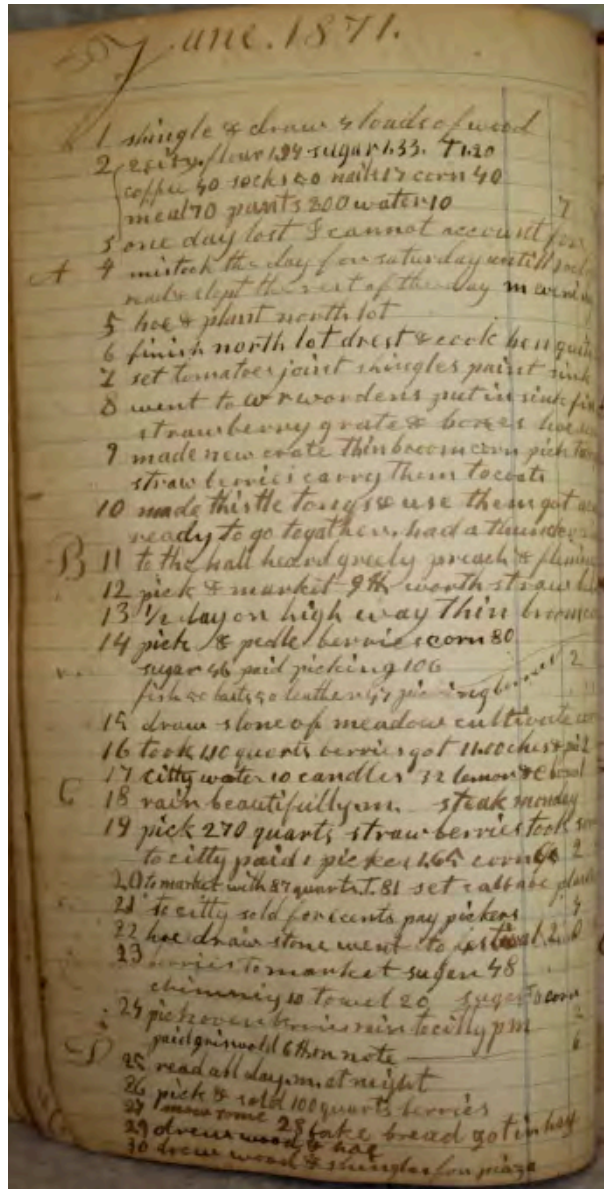
According to his son, Alvah H. Walker, Alvah "he has kept a daily written record since he was fifteen years of age". Here is a small example of his daily entries which records his activities in Oswego Town. From planting crops, cutting hay, "pedling" pears and apples in the "city", Alvah Walker kept himself busy with his daily chores and socializing with friends and family.

Diary entries courtesy of Oswego Town Historical Society.

NOTE: In the transcriptions, when a word appears to have been spelled incorrectly, the term (sic) is used. A question mark (?) is used in areas where it is difficult to identify the word used in the entry.

# Alvah Walker Diary: June 1871

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June 1871

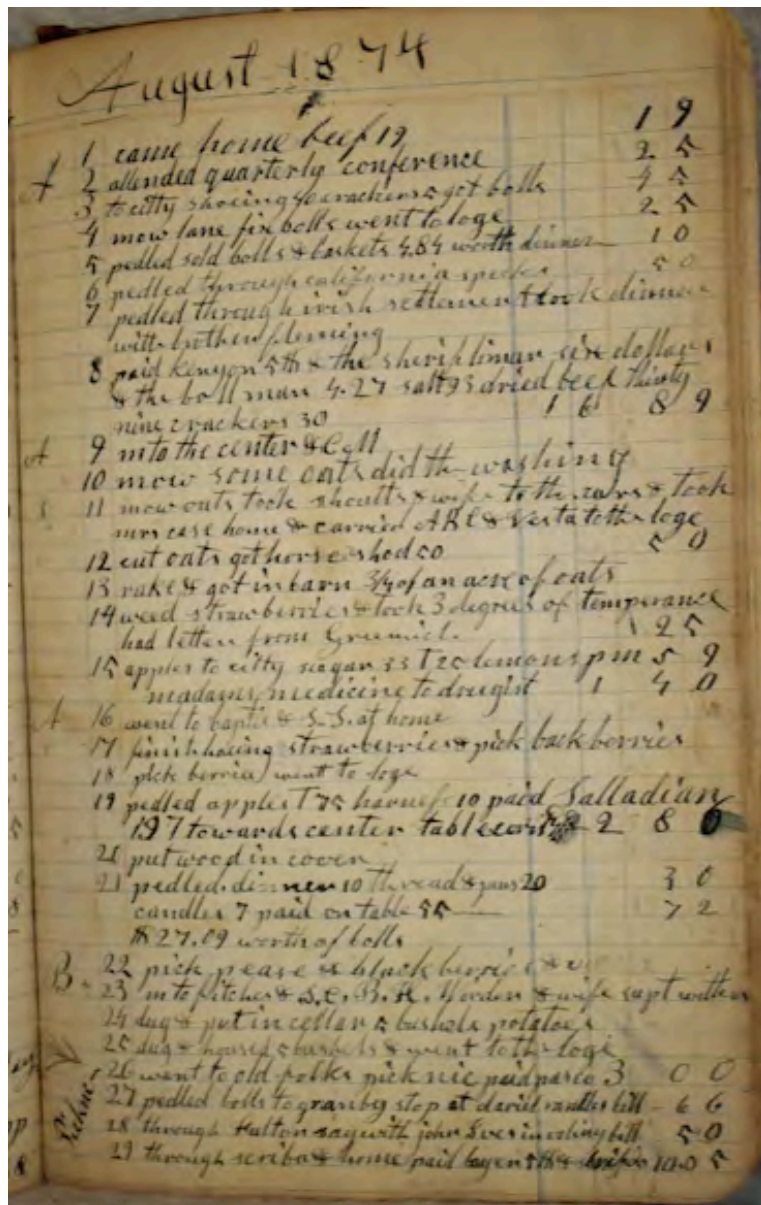
- 1 shingle & draw 4 loads of wood
- 2 city flour 134 sugar 1.33 T1.20 coffee 40 socks 50 nails 17 corn 40 meal 70 pants 200 water 10 7 74
- 3 one day lost I cannot account for
- 4 mistook the day for saturday untill 1 o'clock read & slept the res of the day in evening
- 5 hoe and plant north lot
- 6 finish north lot drest & cook hen quarter
- 7 set tomatoes joint shingles paint sink
- 8 went to w r wordens put in sink find strawberry grate & berries hoe ?
- 9 made new crate thin broom corn pick ? straw berries carry them to coats
- 10 made thistle tongue use them got ? ready to go together, had a thunderstorm
- 11 to the hall heard greely preach & blessing
- 12 pick & market 9 Pt worth straw berries
- 13 1/2 day on high way thin broomes
- 14 pick & pedle berres corn 80 sugar 40 paid picking 100 finish 50 ? 50 leather ? picking berries
- 15 draw stone of meadow cultivate corn
- 16 took 110 quarts berries got 11.00 ches & pd 2
- 17 citty water 10 candles 32 lemon & ?
- 18 rain beautifully ? steak monday
- 19 pick 270 quarts strawberries took to citty paid picker 1.65 corn ? 2
- 20 to market with 87 quarts T.81 set cabbage plants
- 21 to citty sold for 6 cents pay pickers
- 22 hoe draw stone went to ? 120
- 23 berries to market sugar 48 chimney 10 towel 20 sugar ?
- 25 pick over berries rain to citty pm piad griswold other note - 6
- 26 pick & sold 100 quarts berries
- 27 mow some
- 28 bake bread got in hay
- 29 drew wood and hoe
- 30 dress wood & shingles for piazza

**NOTE:**

Transcription is completed as true to original document as possible.  
(sic) represents spelling error in original, ? means undetermined.

# Alvah Walker Diary: August 1874

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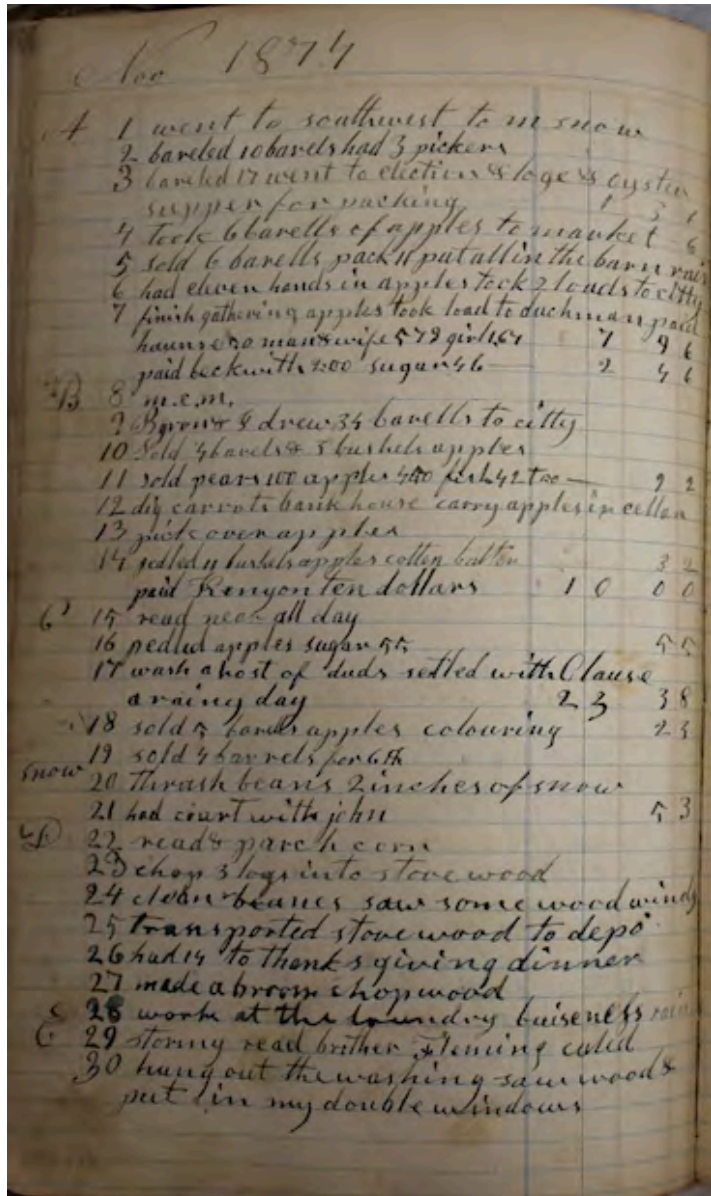
August 1874

- |    |  |       |    |
|----|--|-------|----|
| 1  | came home beef   | 19    | 19 |
| 2  | attended quarterly conference  |       | 25 |
| 3  | to citty shoeing 40 crackers 5 get bolls   | 45    |    |
| 4  | mow lane fix bolls went to loge  | 25    |    |
| 5  | pedled sold bolls & gaskets 4.84 worth dinner  | 10    |    |
| 6  | pedled through california speaker  | 50    |    |
| 7  | pedled through irish settlement took dinner with brother fleming   |       |    |
| 8  | paid Kenyon 5\$ & the sherif liman six dollars & the boll man 4.27 salted & dried beef thirty nine crackers 30 | 1689  |    |
| 9  | into the center & call   |       |    |
| 10 | mow some oats did the washing  |       |    |
| 11 | mow oats took sheatts & wife to the cars & took mrs case home & carried ARC & Vesta to the loge                |       |    |
| 12 | cut oats got horse shod 50   |       |    |
| 13 | rake & got in barn 3/4 an acre of oats   |       |    |
| 14 | weed strawberries & took 3 degrees of temperance had letter from Greenwich                                     | 125   |    |
| 15 | apples to citty sugar 33 T20 lemons pm madams medicine to drugist (sic)  | 140   |    |
| 16 | went to Captin & S.S. at home  |       |    |
| 17 | finish hoeing strawberries & pick backberries (sic)  |       |    |
| 18 | pick berries went to loge  |       |    |
| 19 | pedled apples T75 harnefe? paid Salladian 197 towards cente  |       |    |
| 20 | put wood in cover  |       |    |
| 21 | pedled dinner 10 thread & jam 20 candles 7 paid on table 55  | 7     |    |
|    | \$27.09 worth of bolls   |       |    |
| 22 | pick pease & blackberries  |       |    |
| 23 | m to pitcher & S. E. R. H Wordon & wife supt with us   |       |    |
| 24 | dug & put in cellar 5 bushels potatoes   |       |    |
| 25 | dug & housed 5 bushels & went to the loge  |       |    |
| 26 | went to old folks picknic paid pasco 300   |       |    |
| 27 | pedled bolls to granby stop at dariel vanlles bill   | 66    |    |
| 28 | through Fulton say with John Iver in ? bill  | 50    |    |
| 29 | thorough scriba & home paid lawyer ???   | 10.05 |    |

NOTE:  
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# Alvah Walker Diary: November 1874

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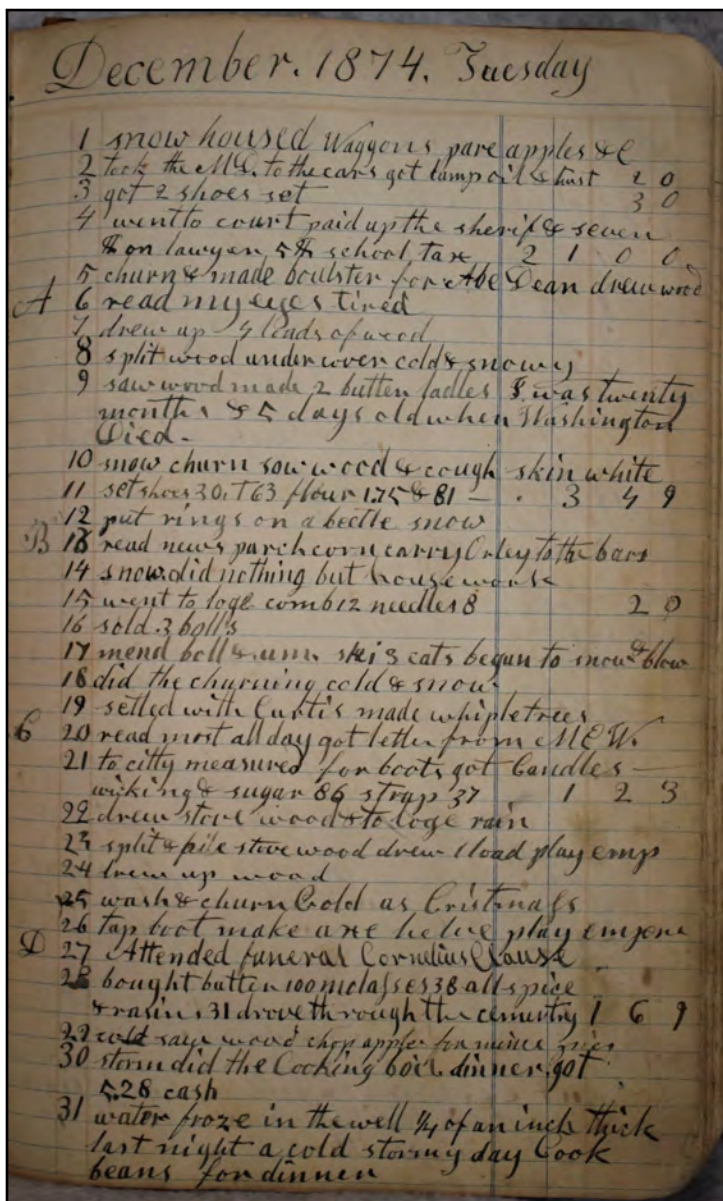
November 1874

- 1 went to southwest to see snow
- 2 bared (sic) 10 barrels (sic) had 3 pickers
- 3 bared (sic) 17 went to election & loge & oyster supper for macking 131
- 4 Took 6 barells (sic) of apples to market 6
- 5 sold 6 barells pack 11 put all in the barn rain
- 6 had eleven hands in apples took 2 loads to citty (sic)
- 7 finish gathering apples took load to duchman paid ? man & wife 579 girl 1.67 7 96  
paid beckwith 2.00 sugar 46 2 46
- 8 m.e.m.
- 9 Byron & I drew 34 barells to citty
- 10 sold 3 barrels & 3 bushels apples
- 11 sold pears 100 apples 450 fish 42 T 92
- 12 dig carrots bank house carry apples in cellar
- 13 pick oven apples
- 14 pedled (sic) 11 bushels apples cotten (sic) batter 32  
paid Kenyon ten dollars 10 00
- 15 read near all day
- 16 pedled (sic) apples sugar 55 55
- 17 wash a host of duds setled (sic) with Clause a rainy day 23 38
- 18 sold 5 barells (sic) apples colouring (sic) 23
- 19 sold 4 barrels per 6\$
- 20 thrash beans 2 inches of snow
- 21 had court with john 53
- 22 read & parch corn
- 23 chop 3 logs into stove wood
- 24 clean beanes (sic) saw some wood windy
- 25 transported stove wood to depo
- 26 had 14 to Thanksgiving dinner
- 27 made a broom shop wood
- 28 work at the laundry business
- 29 stormy read brother Fleming caled (sic)
- 30 hung out the washing saw wood & put in my double windows

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# Alvah Walker Diary: December 1874

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December, 1874, Tuesday

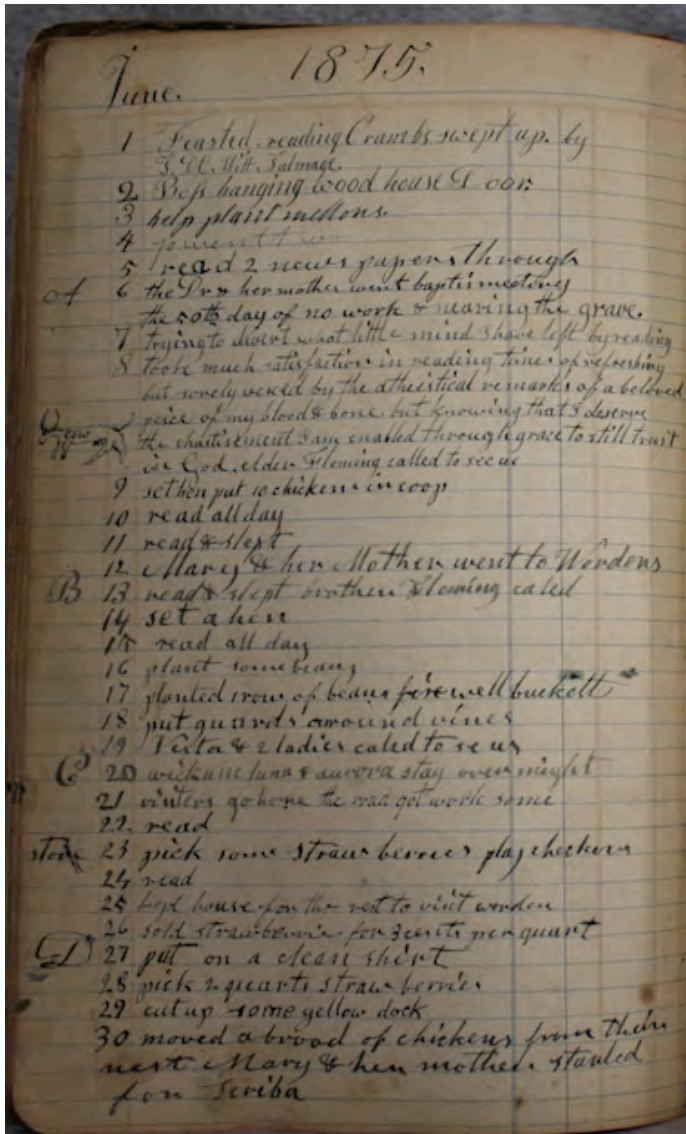
- 1 snow housed Waggon's pare apples & c
2. took the MD. to the cars got lamp oil & c 20
3. got 2 shoes set 30
4. went to court paid up the sheriff & seven \$ on lawyer 5 \$ school tax 2100
5. churn & made boulder (?) for Abe Dean drew wood
6. read my eyes tired
7. drew up 3 loads of wood
8. split wood under cover cold & snowy
9. saw wood made 2 butter ladles I was twenty month & 5 days old when Washinton Died.
10. snow churn saw wood & cough skin white
11. set shoes 30. T63 flour 1.75 & 81- 349
12. put rings on a beetle snow
13. read news parch corn carry Orley to the barn
14. snow. did nothing but housework
15. went to loge comb 12 needles 8 20
16. sold 3 bolls
17. mend boll & um. ? cats begun to snow & blow
18. did the churning cold & snow
19. settled (sic) with Curtis made whipltrees
20. read most all day got letter from MEW.
21. to citty (sic) measured for boots got Candles - wiking (sic) & sugar 86 strap 37 123
22. drew stove wood ? to loge rain
23. split & pile stove wood drew 1 load play emp
24. drew up wood
25. wash & churn Cold as Cristmass (sic)
26. tap boot make are helve play empona(?)
27. Attended funeral Cornelius Clause
28. bought butter 100 molasses 38 allspice
29. cold saw wood chop apples for mince pies
30. storm did the Cooking boil dinner got 5.28 cash
31. water froze in the well 1/4 of an inch thick last night a cold stormy day Cook beans for dinner

**NOTE:**

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# Alvah Walker Diary: June 1875

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June 1875

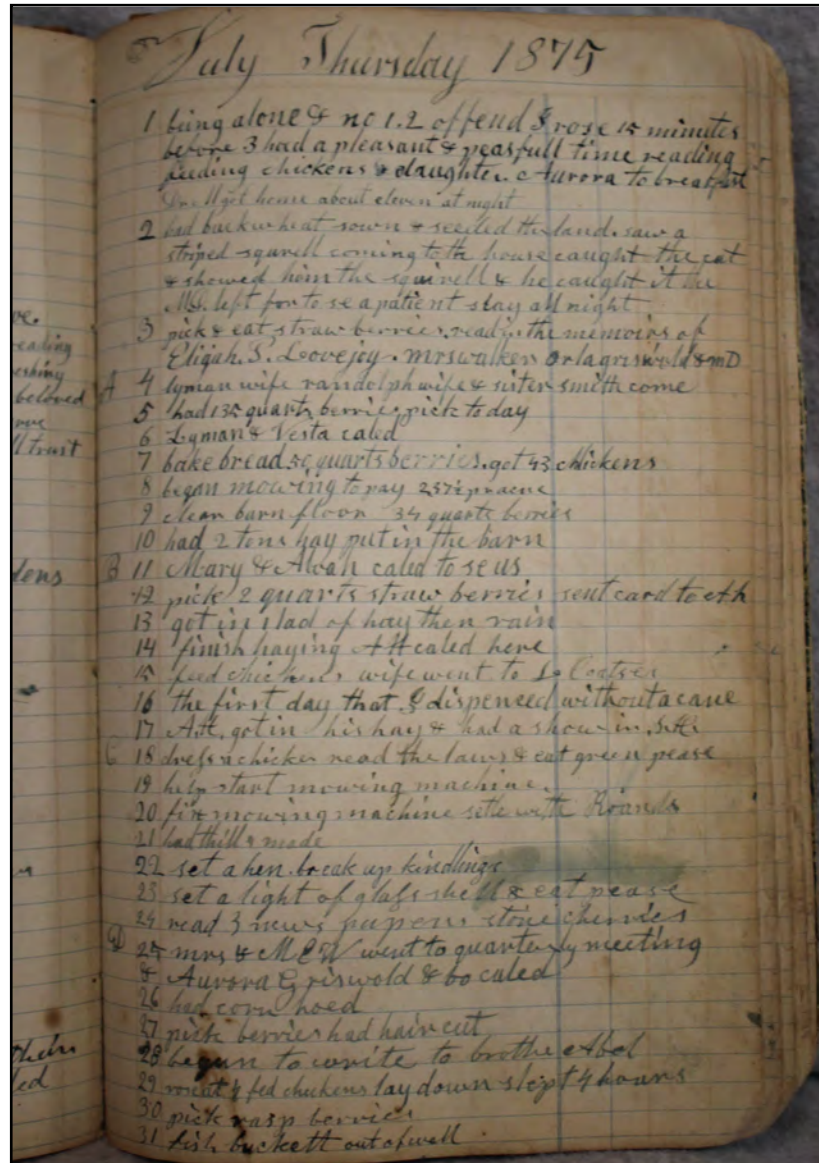
- 1 Feasted reading Crumbs swept up by T. H. Witt. Talmage
- 2 Boys hanging wood house Door.
- 3 help plant mellons (sic)
- 4 jo went two ??
- 5 read 2 news papers through
- 6 the Dr & her mother went baptis (sic) meeting the 50th day of no work & meaning the grave.
- 7 trying to divert what little mind I have left by reading
- 8 took much satisfaction in reading time. of refreshing but sorely vexed by the atheistical remark of a beloved piece of my blood and my bone. but knowing that I deserve the chastisement I am enabled through grace to still trust in God. elder Fleming called to see us
- 9 set hen put 10 chickens in coop
- 10 read all day
- 11 read & slept
- 12 Mary & her Mother went to Wordens
- 13 read & slept brother Fleming caled (sic)
- 14 set a hen
- 15 read all day
- 16 plant some beans
- 17 planed 1 row of beans fine well buckett
- 18 put guards around vines
- 19 Vesta & 2 ladies caled (sic) to se (sic) us
- 20 wickam luna & auroora stay overnight
- 21 visitors go home the road got work some
- 22 read
- 23 pick some straw berries play checkers
- 24 read
- 25 kept house for the rest? to visit worden
- 26 sold strawberries for 3 cents per quart
- 27 put on a clean shirt
- 28 pick 2 quarts straw berries
- 29 cut up some yellow dock
- 30 moved a brood of chickens from their nest Mary & her mother started for Scriba

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# Alvah Walker Diary: July 1875

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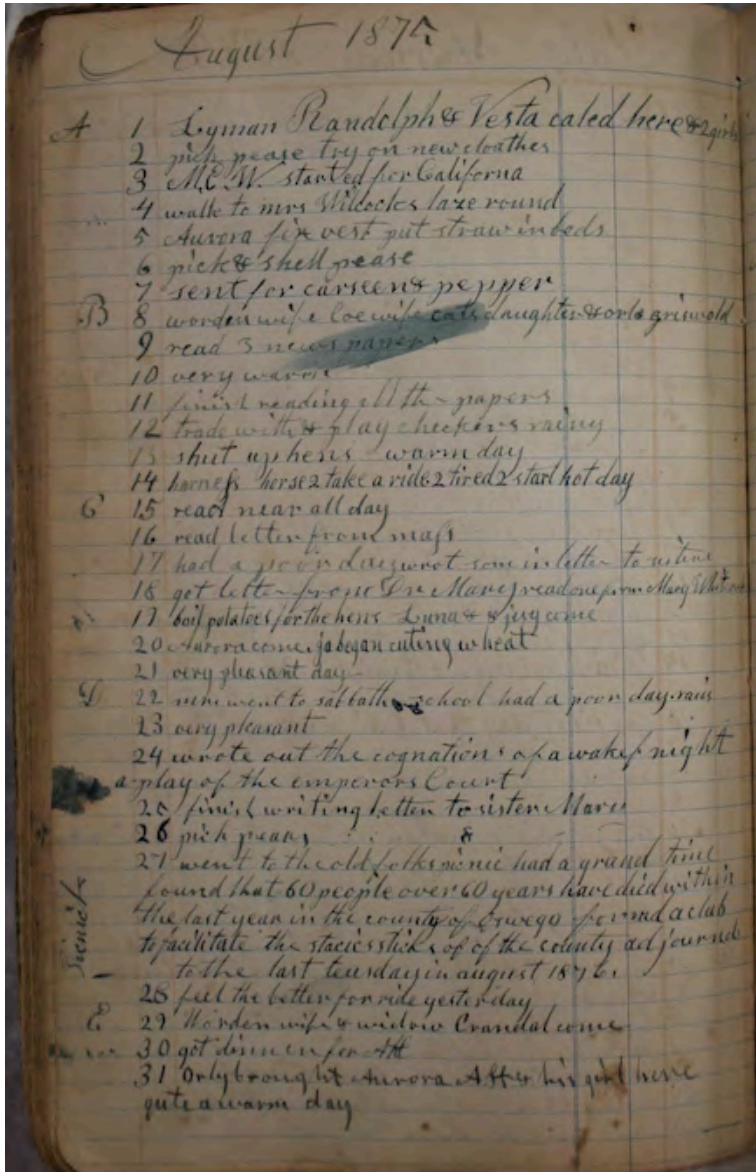
July Thursday 1875

- 1 being alone & no 1.2 offend I rose 15 minutes before & had a pleasant & peasfull (sic) time reading feeding chickens daughter Aurora to breakfast Dr. M got home about eleven at night
- 2 had buckwheat sown & seeded the land saw a striped squirell (sic) coming to the house caught the cat & showed him the squirell & he caught it the MD. left for to se (sic) a patient stay all night
- 3 pick & eat straw berries, read in the memoirs of Elijah P. Lovejoy. Mrs. Walker orlagrisowld (sic) & MD
- 4 lyman wife randolph wife and sister smith come
- 5 had 135 quarts berries pick today
- 6 Lyman & Vest caled (sic)
- 7 bake bread 50 quarts berries. got 43 chickens
- 8 began mowing to pay 238 per acre
- 9 clean barn floor 34 quarts berries
- 10 had 2 tons hay put in the barn
- 11 Mary & Alvah caled (sic) to se (sic) us
- 12 pick 2 quarts straw berries sent card to eth
- 13 got in load of hay then rain
- 14 finish haying AH caled (sic) here
- 15 feed chickens wife went to Le Coastses (?)
- 16 the first day that I dispensed without a cane
- 17 A.H. got in his hay & had a show in S.H.
- 18 dress a chicken read the laws & eat green pease (sic)
- 19 help start mowing machine
- 20 fix mowing machine setle (sic) with Riands (?)
- 21 had thill & meade
- 22 set a hen. break up kindlings
- 23 set a light of glaze shell & eat pease (sic)
- 24 read 3 news papers \_\_\_?\_\_\_ cherries
- 25 Aurora Griswold & bo caled (sic)
- 26 had corn hoed
- 27 pick berries had hair cut
- 28 begun to write to brother Abel
- 29 meat (?) & fed chickens lay down slept 4 hours
- 30 pick rasp berries (sic)
- 31 fish buckett (sic) out of well

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# Alvah Walker Diary: August 1875

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August 1875

- 1 Lyman Randolph & Vesta caled (sic) here & 2 girls
- 2 pick pease (sic) try on new cloathes (sic)
- 3 M. E. W. started for California
- 4 walk to mrs Wilcocks laze around
- 5 Aurora fix vest put straw in beds
- 6 pick & shell pease (sic)
- 7 sent for carseen (sic) & pepper
- 8 worden wife Coe wife cats daughter & orl? griswold
- 9 read 3 news papers
- 10 very warm
- 11 finish reading all the papers
- 12 trade with & play checkers rainy
- 13 shut up hens warm day
- 14 harness horse 2 take a ride 2 tired 2 start hot day
- 15 read near all day
- 16 read letter from mafs?
- 17 had a poor day wrot (sic) som (sic) in letter to sister
- 18 got letter from Dr Mary read one from Mary Whitcomb
- 19 boil potatoes for the hens Luna & jery? come
- 20 Aurora come jo began cuting (sic) wheat
- 21 very pleasant day
- 22 mrs went to sabbath school had a poor day. rain
- 23 very pleasant
- 24 wrote out the congnations (sic) of a wakef (sic) night play of the emporers court
- 25 finish writing letter to sister Mary
- 26 pick pears
- 27 went to the old folks picnic had a grand time found that 60 people over 60 years have died within the last year in the county of Oswego found a club to facilitate the stacicssticks (sic) of of the county adjournd (sic) to the last teusday (sic) in august 1876.
- 28 feel the better for ride yesterday
- 29 Worden wife & widow Crandal come
- 30 got dinner for AH
- 31 Only brought Aurora AH & his girl here qute (sic) a warm day

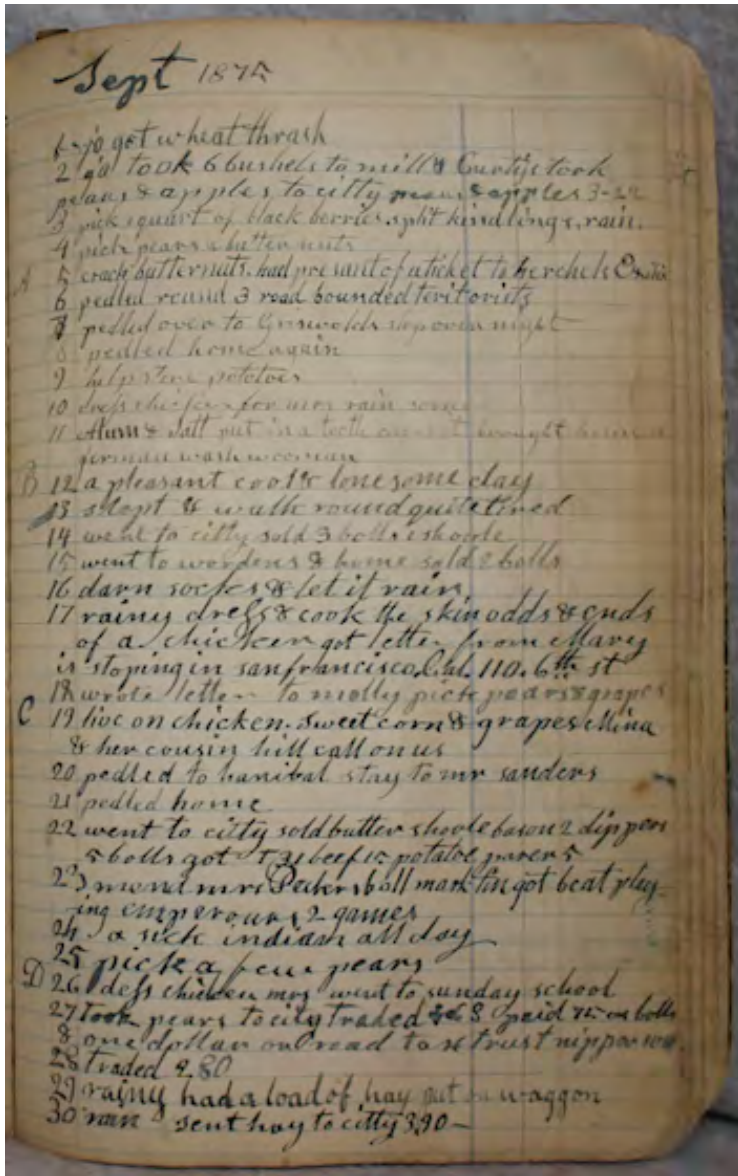
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# Alvah Walker Diary: September 1875

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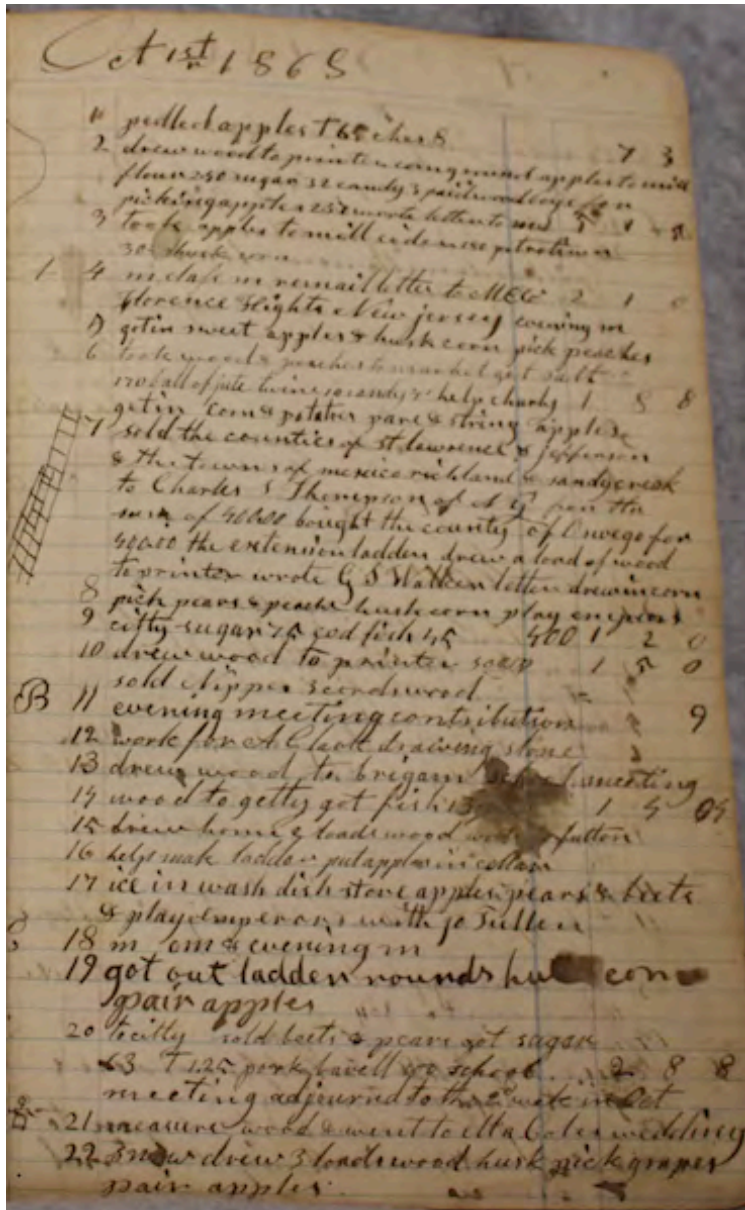
Sept 1875

- 1 jo got wheat thrash
- 2 jo took 6 bushels to mill & Curtis took pears & apples to citty (sic), & apples 3-22
- 3 pick 1 quart of black berries split kindlings (sic), rain
- 4 pick pears & butter nuts
- 5 crack butternuts. had present (sic) of a ticket to herchels Exhibit
- 6 pedled (sic) round 3 road bounded teritoriets (sic)
- 7 pedled (sic) over to Griswolds slep (sic) over night
- 8 pedled (sic) home again
- 9 help store potatoes
- 10 ? chicken for mrs rain some
- 11 Alum? & Satt? put in a tooth cures it brought home a german wash wooman (sic)
- 12 a pleasant cool is lonesome day
- 13 slept & walk round quite tired
- 14 went to citty (sic) sold 3 bools ?
- 15 went to wordens & home sold 2 bools
- 16 darn socks & let it rain
- 17 rainy dregs & cook the skin odds & ends of a chicken got letter from Mary is stoping in sanfrancisco. (sic) Cal. 110 6th st
- 18 wrote letter to molly pick pears & grapes
- 19 live on chicken. sweet corn & grapes Mina & her cousin hill call on us
- 20 pedled (sic) to hanibal (sic) stay to mr. sanders
- 21 pedled (sic) home
- 22 went to citty (sic) sold butter shoole? bason? 2 dippers 5 bolles got T31 beef 15 potatoe paren? 5
- 23 mend mrs Deckers boll mark tin got beat playing emperourous ? 2 games
- 24 a sick indian all day
- 25 pick a few pears
- 26 defs? chicken mrs went to sunday school
- 27 took pears to city traded 3 paid 75 on bolles 8 one dollar on road to ? trust nippon? 10
- 28 traded 2.80
- 29 rainy had a load of hay put on waggon (sic)
- 30 rain sent hay to citty (sic) 3.90

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# Alvah Walker Diary: October 1875

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Oct 1st 1865

1. pedled (sic) apples T65 ches (sic) 8 73
2. drew wood to printer? corn ground apples to mill flour 2.40 sugar 32 candy 3 paid wood boys for picking apples 237 wrote letter to md 5 1 5
3. too apples to mill cider 180 petroleum (sic) 30 husk corn
4. m clafs? m vermail? letter to MEW Florence Hights New Jersey evening m 210
5. got in sweet apples & husk corn pick peaches
6. took wood & peaches to market got salt 170 ball of jute twine 10 candy '+' help churly 188
7. sold the counties of st lawrence & jefferson & the town of mexico richland & sandy creak to Charles S. Thompson of NY for the sum of 400.00 bought the county of Oswego for 400.00 the extension ladders drew a load of wood to printer wrote J S Walken letter drew in corn
8. pick pears & peaches husk corn play emperor
9. citty (sic) sugar 75 cod fish 45 400 120
10. drew wood to printer soap sold Nipper 3 cord wood
11. evening meeting contribution 9
12. work for A Clark drawing stone
13. drew wood to brigam (sic) school meeting
14. wood to getty got fish 13 1 4 04
15. drew home a load wood write to button
16. help make ladder put apples in cellar
17. ice in wash dish store apples pears & beets & play empoerors with jo Tullen
18. m cm & evening m
19. got out ladder rounds husk corn pair apples
20. to citty (sic) sold beets & pears got sugar 63 T 1.25 pork barell (sic) 100 school meeting adjourned (sic) to the 2nd week in Oct 2 88
21. measure wood & went to M. Coles wedding
22. snow drew 3 loads wood husk pick grapes pair apples

NOTE:  
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