

The Diary of Lucius Clark Smith, November 12, 1869, to August 12, 1871, transcribed by Delores Lewis in 2004. John E. Saveson in 2012, for readers' better understanding, added standard punctuation and spelling and some obvious corrections to the Lewis text

Columbus, Ohio

Friday, November 12, 1869

Today is my birthday. I am, I believe, 35 years old. More time, I presume, than I will live over again. But be that as it may, the present [is] all we can claim. I feel very poor today over my trade. I pay all the place is worth; yet I think it is worth the amount I pay. Yet there are many obstacles that are in the way. The place is in [a] bad state of cultivation & has been run very hard & there is an abundance of work to be done. Yet I do not care so much for that. I have paid out nearly all my money to do what I have done in payment & [it] leaves me only half enough to commence with. I have some five hundred dollars and owe John and Newton over two of that so that about three is all I can command; and with that I must buy a team, harness, plow, cow feed, household furniture and various other things & subsistence for the summer. How it is to be done, I cannot tell; yet I am going to try. My Hilliard property, I sold very cheap; yet I got all I offered to take for it.

[Lucius was born November 12, 1834; died February 10, 1915. He refers to his younger brothers, John Wesley Smith, born August 16, 1838, and Isaac Newton Smith, born February 16, 1842. Lucius feels his financial situation to be precarious. He has failed, with a partner, in operating a grocery store, started in the spring of 1867, at 26 N. High Street in Columbus. He has bought recently a 45 1/4 acre property in Blendon Township north of Columbus, which he intends to farm. (Townships without County designation here and below are references to Franklin County Townships.) To raise money, he has sold to Gilbert G. Collins, his brother-in-law (see below), for \$1500., Lot 57 or Lot 59 (the records vary) in the nearby town of Hilliard northwest of Columbus.]

By my transaction I have only one thing to comfort myself, and that is I have concentrated myself & am prepared to put all my efforts in one direction & at one thing. I am going out home and stay the winter & do what I can to get ready for spring operations. I feel in reviewing the past three years as if I would like to get far away from them and remember them no more; yet many of the transactions & seams [sic] will be of value to me in after life & I am not yet clear broken up. I feel discouraged; yet I hope to recover somewhat of it but worse may be in store for me. Health to me and mine & I hope yet to be in more independent circumstances. Riches I don't care now so much about. A comfortable home free of debt, and I think I will be contented. My driving ambition, I find, is quite subdued. Not like days gone past. With enough for wife and baby, I will be contented. My care is now for them.

[Lucius married Maggie O'Harra on November 25, 1867. They have one child, Harry E. Smith.]

Fixed a cellarway for Gilbert at his house near Mr. Aepa. Pleasant day. My painter is painting his [Gilbert's] house. He owed me \$50.00 & I got him to paint it out for Gilbert.

[Gilbert G. Collins, Lucius' brother-in-law, is an attorney, member of the firm of Collins & Atkinson with an office upstairs at 57 S. High Street. The Columbus Directory for 1870-71 locates his residence at 231 E. Long Street. He is married to Lucius' wife Maggie's sister, Tillie, real name, Matilda. Gilbert acts as Lucius' financial agent and legal representative in collections and court cases mentioned below and throughout the Diary.]

Above, Lucius resolves to spend much of the winter where he grew up in his parents' house northeast of Columbus in Plain Township. For the time being he works on Gilbert's building under construction.]

Saturday, Novem. 13, 1869

Snow, several inches. Mother O'Harra came home from the west early this morning. This morning I tried to make some claims. I have a few that I think I can get something [from]; yet it is poor consolation to try to attempt it. I have plenty of worthless [claims] that I do not bother with at all.

["Mother" O'Harra is coming back from Prairie Township west of Columbus where she has O'Harra and Slagle relatives by blood and by marriage. "Uncle Thomas O'Harra," for example, as Lucius refers to him later, is listed in the 1870 Prairie Township Census as 66, born in Virginia. The Blendon Township Census of 1870 gives Mother O'Harra's given name as "Rachel" and describes her as "living with her daughter."]

It is tempting to speculate that the "Mary O'Harra," described in the 1867-68 Columbus Directory as a widow, owner of a boarding house at 27 W. Town Street, and as a "cook "at that address in the 1866-67 Directory, is Lucius' mother-in-law known by another given name.]

Columbus, Ohio
Novem. 14, 1869

Stayed home all day. It is very snowy and sloppy on the streets & then I have a liking to stay at home. No speculative eye to rummage over town & today no desire to go to meeting. Finished writing my memorandum, or transferring it, of my trip out west. Sometimes I get out of patience of keeping a note of passing time. Yet I have done it so long & it is sometimes of value to me in different ways; so I still keep on at it. Generally in a very hurried, mixed way though.

Plain Township, Franklin County, Ohio
Sunday, Novem. 21, 1869

It has been a stormy, cold, disagreeable week. Snow, rain, & freeze all mixed up. I put in my time at setting my business affairs to rights. Settled up with Mr. Bancroft on the 17th & I owed him on settlement \$38.26. I had collected that much more than I was entitled to hold. Some money had been paid in to him. I got an allowance of nine dollars of him on his part for my services in collections making. When doubled, \$18.30. Him and me are now squared, having passed receipts except a judgment of Pat Frits of some sixty-five dollars, which is to be left in Collins & Atkinson's hands for collection & divided, when collected, between us. He refused to exchange bonds until the judgment was collected. It will make no difference to me; only I would prefer to close up the affair sometime this side of Eternity. Yet it may be as well for me as to have exchanged bonds. Got me a pair of boots; put [out] \$7.00. Made some arrangements with my accts. and got in a few dollars. Went to court several times. My case is to come up the 14th of Decem. Paid my tax. It was \$15.86, \$5.10 being of last year. I went after old Crumm. He promised to see it was paid. Went to Magnolia Lodge on Tuesday. Monday Maggie set [sic] for her photograph. Got a large one and a small one. I got the large one and got it framed. It is a splendid likeness, as good as can be of her. Best one of all that have been taken on both sides of the house. The small ones are not yet done. Thursday, after eating our Thanksgiving turkey, we came on the train to Blacklick. Newton met us. Friday & Saturday snowed and rained all day. The baby is again very sore. His face & head are extremely sore. He is nearly as bad as he ever has been. Real sores, large, heavy scabs cover his forehead and head.

[Above, Lucius refers to his former partner Alvah H. Bancroft. The 1870-71 Columbus Directory describes Bancroft as a clerk at G.A. Hill & Co. (grocer) at 26 N.High, former site of Bancroft & Smith.

Above, Masonic Lodge No. 20, chartered 1847; present address in Columbus, 5885 Cleveland Ave.

Lucius and family are paying a Thanksgiving-day visit by train to Lucius' parents, the first destination being Blacklick, small town and train station east of Columbus, about 7 miles south of Lucius' parents' farm at 6320 Kitzmiller Road in Plain Township. Newton is waiting for them, we assume, with a horse-drawn vehicle.

Lucius' father, Archibald, as a boy, came from New Jersey, with members of his family, to the east side of Plain Township in 1818. While working as an adult as a foreman building the Ohio canal system, he bought, in 1829 and again in 1830, from the Federal Government two 80-acre parcels just south of where his father settled. In 1848 Archibald built, much of it himself, a fine Greek Revival house, one of a cluster of historic buildings surviving in the Township.]

I got the money on my note against G.W. Lakins, interest & all, \$132.50. Gilbert put it into [the] bank for me & I left it with him. The other note of Lakins I put in on my land purchase so [that] I am now clear of all that I traded for on the sale of my interest in the store.

I came near purchasing me a wagon. A Mr. Thomas Taylor owes me \$25.00 & has a wagon but we could not quite agree on its worth.

[Lucius is negotiating with a businessman in downtown Columbus. The Columbus Directory 1870-71 lists a Thomas E. Taylor, patent solicitor, in the Exchange Hotel Building.]

At home, Saturday, Novem. 27, 1869

Monday and Tuesday, snow and cold. Very disagreeable plowing weather. Only fit to

be indoors. Wednesday went horseback over to my place & back. Was going to raise up the house & fix it up; but Andrew [*Andrew Collins, tenant*] preferred to let it alone as he thinks of getting out before April comes so that I can fix it when it is empty. Had a very hard ride of it as I am not use to riding. Tried to get some ground to rent but I fear it will be hard to do. Thursday, was so sore I could hardly get around. Friday Newton and me went with the team and wagon to Columbus. Mr. Taylor came to Gilbert & took my offer to [pay] for his wagon, \$50.00 cash, my note of \$24.25, & interest of \$1.75 & a note Gilbert had of \$20.00, which was to be discounted to me, the amount not yet determined upon. I supposed from what was said one half the wagon is worth one hundred dollars. Would rather have bought one costing less but I was anxious to save my note against him; so I took it. We hauled it out as far as Rocky Fork [*The creek crosses Johnstown Road between Gahanna and New Albany*] where we had to leave it, being too hard on my team. Got Maggie's photographs, one dozen small ones. Gilbert has commenced his addition to his building & wants me to come in & help him. Had a hard day again. Saturday Newton went down & got my wagon. I now have the best wagon in the Township. A new one like it is worth from \$145. to \$160. I finished my big box I have been making so long. Put handles on it and strapped it. The baby has been very bad all week. We are now trying an alternative syrup on him. Homer came home from school at Central College.

[*Central College, a village, sometimes known as "Amalthea," and college founded in 1849, 5 or 6 miles to the west in Blendon Township. Lucius' brother Archibald Homer Smith, born November 28, 1850, became a teacher, Superintendent of Schools, and, later, a farmer in Kansas.*]

Sunday, Novem. 28, 1869

Nice day. First for some two weeks. Roger [*possibly a misreading of "Homer." Lucius' is fond of flourishes with a pen, a problem.*] and me went to Alexander Darum [*Doran*]. He has been out West. Went to buy some land but came back with his money. He likes Kansas best.

[*Alexander, like Lucius, belonged to a pioneer Plain Township family. Alexander lives at home on the original Doran purchase from the 1820's on Johnstown Road, a short distance northeast of New Albany, a mile northwest as the crow flies from Lucius' parents' house on Kitzmiller Road.*]

At home, Blacklick, Ohio

Sunday, Decem. 5, 1869

Monday morning I went to Columbus to help Gilbert with his building. Melissa went in with me. Monday & Tuesday it rained continually. Got my left wisdom tooth pulled out. It has become loose and hurts me & my neuralgia seems to center in it. The rest of the week I got in three days, two whole ones and two halves. We got the building framed. It is 21 by 36. Two stories. Gilbert thinks if he has me to look after it, he is then free from any responsibility, or nearly so. I got another of Maggie's pictures, large sized, and one of mine I had of last spring that had not been finished. Finished up and put them together in a frame and give them to our folks. Came out Sat. on train. Newton came after us. Eliza went down to Nashport (*approximately 30 miles east of New Albany beyond Newark*) to go to school this winter. Snowed and rained all Sat. afternoon and night and today is a very gloomy day.

[*Above Lucius mentions two of his three sisters: Melissa, twin sister of Melsena, both born November 25, 1844, and Eliza Elon Smith, born February 15, 1849.*]

Columbus, Ohio

Decem. 12, 1869

Monday, came in town. Brought Maggie along. Rest [of] day & Tuesday hunted up a dry kiln and put the lumber for the siding in it rest of the week. Bought the sash and paints & painted & put in the glass. Have one of the rooms in the brick building [to work in?]. Got a painter to help me. Gilbert wants me to have the painting done or do it myself. Got the sash nearly done, all but the last coat. Two coats on & glass all in. Sat. helped on the frame half a day when it rained. Nothing has been done at it all the week as he was not ready. Lovejoy, who is doing the carpentering job, has had some roofing to do & the weather has been quite favorable for that this week. We will put it up if the weather is fit. I have put in 5 1/2 days this week. I feel quite contented. I have got interested in a job of work. The baby has been quite bad most all the week. It is very discouraging and such a sore head as he has most of the time.

[*Lovejoy above; "Frank Lovejoy," later. The Columbus Directory 1870-71 lists Benjamin*

F. Lovejoy, carpenter, residing at 177 E. Long Street. It lists, also, Nathan E. Lovejoy, lumber merchant with a planing mill at the southeast corner of Maple and Depot. Apparently Gilbert's building is nearby. Lucius refers later to Gilbert's "Depot" building.]

Columbus, Ohio
Decem. 19, 1869

This past week put in 4 days at work. Lost some time at court. My case with Mr. Scrimger was set for Tuesday [the] 14th but it did not come up at all; but I had to be on hand and ready in case it might be called. It will come up, I think, on Monday or Tuesday. Mr. Armstrong got tired and went home. I presume I will have to fight it myself. He, I presume, considers it will not make him no difference no way & he is worthless. We got the building raised and commenced to put the siding on. Some rain & snow. John & Newton came in to pay the tax and ect. [sic].

President Grant's message is very well received & gives the people an assurance of safety and security that they have long felt the need of. Gold is down to \$1.20 to \$1.22 from \$1.33. The nearer we come to specie basis the harder it must be for the debtor class so that I hope for my part that specie payment may be deferred for a whiie until it works itself to the point without legislation, only so far as no more inflation takes place.

Since Grant's inauguration, some seventy-two millions of debt has been paid.

[Above Lucius reflects on an issue dating from the Civil War which might affect payment of sums owed to him. During the War the federal government issued paper currency ("greenbacks") not backed by government reserves of gold and silver. The Resumption Act of 1875 restored specie payments, i.e., the exchange of greenbacks for "coin." With this act the country returned to the gold standard.]

Columbus, Ohio
Decem. 25, 1869

This week, first three days, storming rain and snow. Snow all went away. I was at court most of the time watching my case. It came up on Thursday morning. Was dismissed at Mr. Scrimger's cost, we having put in an answer denying any such indebtedness & they having failed to put in their papers in the proper time. Their attorney filed a motion to be allowed to do so but he agreed to make only an excuse that he could not get his client on time, mostly throwing the blame on him and not insisting on his motion if I would pay him his fees, which we agreed to do. Hence it's dismissed. I do not presume they will again make an attack on me. It will, I presume, cost me about half the amount of the claim so far. Mr. Armstrong, I found, would not help defend the case and the easiest way generally is the best way. So I thought it best to prevent its coming to a trial and prevent bother and loss of time attending to it. Thurs. worked at the building half a day & Friday and Saturday all day each. I had lost so much time and the weather being nice, I could not afford to lay over on Christmas. General Corrington gave Harry a Christmas present of a book as he did Gilbert's children. Harry is some better the latter part of this week but last week he was very bad. Maggie is trying a homeopathic remedy on him now.

[Above, Lucius' summarizes a court action of December 22, namely, the case of John T. Scrimger v. Lucius C. Smith et al. Armstrong's identity and role in the case, if any, are unknown. If he was a Columbus businessman, a candidate from the 1870-71 Columbus Directory might be E.B. Armstrong & Co., 19 & 21 E. Town Street (House Furnishings). Lucius' reference to "old Crumm" elsewhere (entry of Nov. 21, 1869) refers to the Samuel D. Crum, who, according to court records, in March of 1870 brought an action against Joel C. White and John T. Scrimger. The 1870 Prairie Township Census lists Samuel D. Crum, 47, retired farmer, owning real estate worth \$4000. Bad debts may have been a reason Lucius gave up his grocery business in the city.

Homeopathic above. Contemporary Columbus Directories in their medical listings recognize homeopathic medicine.]

Sunday, 26

Went to meeting. Have not went for some time. Warm & rain mist falling.

Columbus, Ohio
Friday, December 31, 1869

All this week so far worked on Gilbert's building. We got the siding all on. The front is

black [walnut?] siding & painted the north side and east end. We just got the south side done at night. It has been extremely nice weather all the week except Monday, which rained. I worked in the rain that day and [it] nearly made me sick.

The baby is still improving. Hope he will remain so.

Columbus, Ohio

Saturday, January 1, 1870

Forenoon me and Mr. Broher painted the south side of the building. It commenced to snow and rain early; yet we worked on and got it painted. It rained hard all the rest of the day and night. I am sorry we could not have got the roof on as we then could have worked on, storm or not. Wrote to John W. Smith [*Lucius' brother, John Wesley, seemingly*] concerning our farm operations next spring.

Sunday, January 2, 1870

Commenced snowing before daylight and snowed all day. Some six inches in depth. Stayed home all day. I am quite near sick. Chilly and cold on my lungs.

Columbus, Ohio

Week ending Saturday, January 8, 1870

Rain. No work all the week. Middle of the week it rained some but soon got cold and snowed more; and Friday and Saturday were very cold. First real cold we have had. I have been quite unwell all the week. Looked after some claims. My darky man, Mr. Mosan, has got Gilbert's Depot [Street] house painted. So I have. I owed fifty dollars there. I have had the blues all the week. A Mr. Philips wants to trade one property here for my place but I could not use it to advantage if I had it. I have a shrinking frame going up on that place that I can't account for. There are many difficulties in the road for making [the place] pleasant; yet they may not be so formidable when we come to them as they now look to [be] in the distance. Be that as it will, there is no escape that will warrant a trial. We got a letter from Eliza who is going to school at Misses Montgomerys [in] Muskingum County. Answered it. [*At Nashport presumably as before.*]

Sunday, January 9, 1870

Went to meeting at 11 at Chrysta [*Lucius' misspelling or the transcriber's misreading of "Christie Chapel," a Methodist church on Cleveland Avenue downtown. Services at 11:00 and 7:00.*] Stinging cold. Mr Nathan is buried today, one of the councilmen. He was run over by an engine. I saw him immediately after the accident. Called on Maggie's Uncle Bryfogle [*Bryfogle*].

Harry is again broke out bad. Truly discouraging case. A continual nurse and care. First of the week he had [a] vomiting spell of two days with his teeth. But is now over that.

Columbus, Ohio

For the week ending Saturday, Jan. 15, 1870

Monday it commenced to moderate and thaw and we went at our building again and kept at it all the week through rain and cold until Saturday night. We had it roofed and inclosed and one coat of paint on. I am glad it is inclosed and under cover as it has been under very unfavorable circumstances that it has been accomplished. And I feel quite used up by the week's work and would not care to do it over again, nor in fact the whole job, as it has been a continual fight against weather to do it. Harry is still bad with a very sore head and face. Newton was in one night. Came to market.

Columbus, Ohio

Week ending Saturday, January 22, 1870

Monday it finished up a big rain. Having rained Sat. night, Sunday, and Sunday night, the river was higher than it has been since 1849. So said, much damage has been done. I put in 4 1/2 days on the building, mostly painting. Painted the end and north side of the house and finished the window sash. Got part of the front blocked out. Lovejoy was away most of the week. Thursday afternoon I went up to the Legislature, to the House, to see the fifteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed. It passed the Senate last week by one majority. The vote was not taken until late at night; so I did not witness it. It resulted 57 for and 55

against; so Ohio has again ratified it [as it did] last winter. The democracy rescinded the ratification of the winter before; 26 states have now ratified. Two more wanted.

["The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."]

Harry has been sick all the week with a swelling under his chin and jaws. It is going to break just under his chin. Poor little fellow. He bears it like a man. It is produced by his breaking out, I think; and if it should discharge freely, may do him good. I do hope so; he has suffered enough, mercy knows.

Very nice weather all the week except Monday. Mother O'Harra came in from John Slagles.

[The 1870 Census of Prairie Township, west of Columbus, lists John W. Slagle, 36, farmer, and his wife, Maria, 27. Living in their household is William O'Harra, 19, described as a "farm laborer."]

Columbus, Ohio

Jan. 30, 1870; for the week ending Sat., 29

Put in five days at the building. This week finished blocking the side and painted it & Frank Lovejoy and me put down the floors. It is now inclosed. Painted two coats. Windows in. Eaves, troughs, and spouts are closed up and secure & looks real well. Quite pleasant most of the week. The baby's face broke, or I had it lanced on Tuesday. It discharged greatly for a day or so & then healed up & he is again as well as usual.

I have felt this week exceedingly gloomy, disheartened. I can't quite [see] how I am to get along. I have not money to near reach what I must have but I will try. I could borrow but I don't want to do that.

Columbus, Ohio

Saturday, February 5, 1870

Monday worked 3/4 day at the building. Evening Maggie, babe, and me went on train to Jefferson to Slagles, and Tuesday John and me went to London to their stock sales to see if I could suit myself in a horse; but they were from \$150. to \$200. that I would want and no disposition to sell at that. Cattle sales were the order of the day. Wednesday looked at some horses and helped catch a coon. Thursday John and me went to a sales but found nothing. On our way home I came across a horse and had his owner, Thomas O'Harra, Jr., fetch him for the Slagles; and we tried him to work. He is a black, 16 hands in height, 4 years old next spring, well made except his head and eyes have an odd look, but warranted sound in all respects. Him I bought for \$145.00 and left him with Slagle to keep. If he is what he seems to be, I have a good bargain. There is plenty of horses for sale yet all good horses are high.

[Lucius and Maggie above pay a visit by train to the John Slagle identified above, presumably Maggie's cousin. "Jefferson" in Lucius' account is West Jefferson over the line in Madison County. Ten miles southwest of Jefferson in Madison County is London where John and Lucius visit stock sales.]

Friday we came home and in the afternoon I went to work putting on the ceiling. Three of us. No work has been done since I left. Sat. worked and at night we got the ceiling done overhead on the lower story. The week has been snowy and cold. Some nights, quite cold. Seems to me some sugar weather the last of the week.

Sunday, February 6, 1870

Went to meeting at 11 at brista *[It seems that we are dealing again with a misspelling or misreading of "Christie Chapel." Lucius' flourishes at the top and bottom of a capital "C" can make it look like a capital B; and the "a" at the end may be the way Lucius heard the "ie."]* Afternoon went to see Iis Boyle. He is sick with erysipelas. Seems to be better than last Sunday when I saw him but I don't think he will get well.

Columbus, Ohio

Saturday, Feb. 12, 1870

This week, the four first days, worked at the building. Helped set the partitions and got a man to help me lath and got the upper story done. Lovejoy is making the stairs. Friday borrowed a horse and went up to my place. Mr. Collins is cutting green timber for wood. I forbid him. Went to see a man concerning a place which, [it] was supposed, would be for rent but it is not.

[Andrew Collins, tenant of Lucius' Blendon Twp. property. Lucius' continuing relationship with him, together with his name, suggests that he is a member of the Collins family to which Lucius is related by marriage.]

Saturday Maggie, me, and Harry went out home. Pleasant day but got cold during the day. All along I have calculated on John's going in with me on my place in partnership; and he told me he would go with me but now he wants [to] back out on the grounds that we cannot rent land and [we] have not already enough. If he should refuse to go with me, I can't know what I will do as I have not money enough to buy what I want to use and live; and to borrow will not mend the matter much. He has a Western notion in his head and to me it seems very foolish as he has not money enough to do any good in buying land; & to work here is a better place than west just now. I hope he will reconsider his action & go in with me. We can go on the place this year and fix it up and rent land if we can and do the best we can next year. We can rent it out or sell it & rent a large farm if we see fit.

Sunday, Feb. 13, 1870

Out home all day. Baby is broke out again.

Columbus, Ohio

Friday, Feb. 17, 1870

Monday forenoon I came through the rain to the [Blacklick] station & to town. Worked in the afternoon & the rest of the week to Friday night. Got the building ready for plastering. Stairs are made; door frames in; and all lathed complete. It took 7500 lath to lath it. It all has one coat of paint inside. I painted it today, closets and all. Hauled up the remainder of kindlings. I have sent up to Gilbert's house three loads of them. For a while all were carried off. First of the week, rain and last, rain & snow. Last night some 8 or 10 inches fell. Tuesday night I went to Lodge & to see Dr. Boyce. He died on Wednesday. Will be buried on Sunday. He was a man I thought a great deal of. He was a man of great ability & a wholesouled man, a friend to humane nature; yet his own worst enemy, drink, was his ruin. Yet one could but like him.

I have been very lonesome all the week, seldom sleeping until midnight. It is not good to be alone

Saturday, February 19, 1870

Went out to Blacklick and walked up home in the snow and mud. As about as bad a walk as I ever had. At night turned cold and froze up.

Plain Township

Feb. 20, 1870

Sunday, today, is very cold. Mercury below zero. Had hard work to keep warm. Coldest of the winter.

Saturday, Feb. 26, 1870

Monday very cold. Stayed indoors all day. Tuesday came to Columbus by R.Road. Wednesday went out with John Slagle. Thursday got Will O'Harra to ride my horse in town. I came on the cars. Afternoon I rode him home. Still cold but thawing some in daytime & freezing hard at night. Friday fixed a place for my horse. He is some stiff from his trip. Saturday John & me came in town with the team & I got a lot of remnants of lumber at the building. I want to make several articles of furniture. Got home late at night. The roads are getting muddy and we just made our time. It commenced to rain just as we got home.

9 o'clock night. I have felt quite unwell all the week. Harry is broke out bad again. It seems as if he would never get well. He has cut one of his back teeth.

Sunday, Feb. 27, 1870

Very stormy. Disagreeable weather. Rain, snow, and mud. Stayed home and set by the fire. The baby's face and head are very sore and his jaws & neck are swollen bad.

Home, Plain Township, Franklin County, Ohio

For the week ending Saturday, March 5, 1870

Monday, Feb. 28

Snowed and blustered all day. I commenced to make me a cubbard Got out some of

the stuff for it.

Tuesday, March 1

Morning drew up an agreement with John that on or before the first of June next, for the consideration of six hundred dollars, I am to make him a deed for ten acres off the north side of my place, being a strip of sufficient width to make the ten acres across the north side of the place. I took my note given to him most three years ago of \$155.00 with an indorsement on it of \$12.00, which left a remainder of principal of \$143 and interest of \$24.25, making a total of 167.25. He paid me cash in hand \$207.75, making a total of \$375.00. He is to pay me in corn and oats this spring, when I want them, \$25.00, making the sum of \$400.00. The other \$200. he is [to] pay me one year from next November with six per cent interest from April 1 when I am to give possession. His last payment will make my first to Gilbert. I did not want to sell it but I could not help myself. I could borrow but when could I pay was the question, especially now as hard as money is and all values setting downward. One can scarcely calculate ahead with any certainty. Now I hope, if fortune is on my side, to keep the place if I desire to & not be compelled to sell it. At least I am going to try. I do not however feel very sanguine of success. I would rather John had went in partnership with me but he did not see fit to do so. It will take over six hundred dollars to fit us out with the smallest we can do, & not much to live on, which has all to be bought the first year. I have nearly died with the blues thinking over how we are to get along & how to manage but have tried to give it up & do my best & let results take care of themselves. Afternoon went into town & to Gilberts.

Wednesday, March 2, 1870

Went to Hilliards & spent all day seeing Mr. Wm. M. Gill concerning balance [of] rent due on my house. He wanted to sell me a horse on it but asked more for it than it is worth. He will not pay money nor does he want to give a note. He promised to come in town & see Mr. Collins this week & say what he will do. He would like to get clear of paying it as it is a loss to him as he has not got anything for the house of his sister who lives [*lived* ?] in the house. Night Gilbert & me fixed up his, Mr. Gill's, case so as to sue him in court on Saturday if he fails to come & fix it by that time. Also drew up a cross petition to come in on a mortgage being closed on Mr. Pat Fitzpatrick, who owes Bancroft & me.

[The 1872 Map of Hilliard shows William Gill owning a large tract of land on the town's outskirts to the southeast. The only house Lucius owned at the time, so far as we know, was the house on his Blendon Township property. Possibly Gill had rented it before Andrew Collins. Gill's reason for not paying up is, to say the least, unpersuasive. On March 16, Gill gave a promissory note of \$100. with interest at 8 per cent.]

Thursday morning

Went to court & swore to my papers. Then went & priced furniture, cooking stove, plows, & ect. Afternoon borrowed Mr. Favcick's horse & went out to Bart O'Harras to see his horses. He has several to sell from one to two hundred dollars. He has a seven-year-old mare, sound, except a blemish on left hind foot, for \$100. The defect may never hurt her at all or may. Can't tell. It was hurt last fall. Stayed all night with Bart. Cold & raw. Disagreeable.

Friday morning

Came in town & then on the cars to Blacklick & walked up home. Snow & mud. Bad walking a little. Walked up with Bill & Isaac More. Pretty near used up. Saturday more snow. Worked at my cubbard. Quite winter in appearance. Very disagreeable.

Sunday, March 6, 1870

Again home by a good fire all day reading & ect. The baby is better. His face & jaws & throat are quite well like. Snowed hard. All dreary, winter like.

For the week ending Saturday, March 12, 1870

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday worked at house furniture. Got my cubbard done, all but the doors. It is very good and nicely made. Made a kitchen table & a lamp [table]. Both are nice for their kind. I have worked hard & night felt very tired. Snowed all four days. Quite winter, almost sledding. Our folks went one night to meeting with a sled. A Revival is in progress at Albany.

Friday went over to see if Andrew Collins had [moved] or would move soon. He is going

to move next week. Tried to rent some ground. Rode around all day but found none. Went to Uncle Lewises. He has bought a house & lot at Blendon Corners & moved on Thursday. Stayed all night with him. [The 1872 Map of Blendon Township shows "L. Beach" owning a small property at the intersection of the Columbus and Westerville Pike (now Route 3) and Dublin Road (now Route 161). The Blendon Township Census for 1870 lists the following family members, all of whom turn up in Lucius' notes: Lewis, 53, farm laborer; Priscilla, wife, 47; William 22, farm laborer; Ann Eliza, 24, domestic servant; Benjamin, 19, farm laborer; Alice, 17, domestic servant. Lewis must be the brother or half-brother of Lucius' mother, Maryann Beach, whom Archibald married November 28, 1833.] Thawed out & rained Saturday. Went back to Harters to meet Mr. Baker who is administrator of Harter's estate. Looked at the place. It is for rent but is poor & wet & I did not want it. Yet I would not say so. One of the boys wanted it for grain rent & if it was not rented for cash, he was to have it. Finally I arranged with him to take the place & rent me one field for cash at \$5.00 per acre. Some [fields] near five acres. I paid him \$5.00 & took a receipt; yet I fear the rest may make him undo what he has done with me. I shall try to hold. However they are [a] curious, mixed mess of people. Came home very tired & used up. It is very muddy. Andrew has things looking so bad and sioventy & it is all so muddy & swimming with water. It is enough to discourage any person. I feel blue and can't help it. Eliza & Homer went to Columbus & got certificates to teach Eliza for six months. Home 12 months Friday & eat sugar with the boys. Have opened some 75 trees. My horse seems to have the distemper & has been quite unwell but seems to be better now.

[The 1872 Map of Sharon Township shows a 130-acre farm owned by the heirs of William Harter west of and opposite Lucius' farm on the Blendon-Sharon-Township-Line Road. Lucius' house and the Harter house front on the road. The Harter estate, or part of it, is still undivided. The 1870 Sharon Township Census lists Hiram Harter 34, and wife, Mary, with 3 underage children. On a document having to do with the estate, Hiram appears as one of the heirs of William Harter. The Census taker describes him as a "farm laborer," it would seem, because he cannot describe Hiram as an owner. As Lucius settles in, the evidence is that Hiram is in possession of the Harter farm. He lives in proximity to Lucius, whose family he boards at one time and with whom he exchanges labor in the Midwestern tradition.

There are other references in the Diary to "John Baker," above. He is, most likely, the John Baker whose name appears as owner of a 135-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the 1872 Clinton Township Map, a mile southwest of Lucius' farm. John W. Baker, also, is listed as one of the heirs of William Harter on a deed having to do with the Harter estate (Franklin County Deed Book v.100, p.415). The 1870 Columbus Directory lists a J.W. Baker as a real estate dealer with an office at 120 S. High Street. The fact that the 135-acre parcel has 6 small lots carved out of it might suggest that John W. Baker and J.W. Baker are one and the same.]

Sunday, March 13, 1870

Stayed home. Stormy day. I had calculated on going to meeting but it is not fit to go.

For the week ending Saturday, March 19, 1870

First four days I worked at my furniture, painting them & making the doors to my cubbard. Friday I went to Columbus and out to Bart O'Harras & stayed all night. Saturday I bought a horse of him, seven years old this spring. Instead of a horse, it is a mare. Bay, sixteen hands high, rather good looking, well broke & ect. Sound except a hurt on her left, hind ankle. Hurt last fall. But to all appearance, now well. Slightly enlarged. Paid one hundred dollars, (\$100.00); \$50.00 down; note due first of July next. I am to do the painting of his house, if I can have it done, or help him on his barn. Rode my horse home. Got home just at night. Mr. Wm. M. Gill came in and give his note for six months at 8 per cts. Gilbert attended to it for me. First four days it snowed & stormed almost continually & was some days real cold. Frid. & Sat., pleasant & the snow went off. Sugar weather. The boys have quite a boiling job on hand.

Plain Township, Ohio

For the week ending Saturday, March 26, 1870

Monday went to the station & got Mother O'Harra. Also got my harness of Esau Rice. Paid cash, \$37.00. They are a very nice set of harness, as good as any I seen for some time. Painted my cubbard again. Tuesday painted my box and lounge [?], & ect. Harnessed up my horses for the first time. They done very well. Me and dog, John & me went over to my place. Hauied over some corn & things. Bad, very bad going. We were from morning until 2 o'clock

getting over. Hauled up some poles to raise the house with & hunted up some hands. Thursday leveled up the house the best we could. It was a very hard & mean job. It is not done as it ought to be nor can it be done without nearly ruining the house. Some 8 men helped me. Afternoon we came home on empty wagon. It [was] a load though mud has dried up tremendous & for once we have several nice spring days. I was nearly used up, lifting & working. Got my ware of Joshua Bailey at Albany. Friday Homer & I went up to Melissas hunting a cow. Stayed at Newtons. They have sold 30 acres off the old place for \$2000. Everybody is making sugar. Our folks have made quite a lot this week. Sat. morning I went to Rhodes and then came on my way home. Went west of Johnstown to see a cow but when we got there, she was not for sale. Saw another one, a little cow, price \$60.00. Fresh cows are hard to find. We rode nearly all day in the rain & give it up. I got my black horse shod yesterday in Johnstown, four feet, for the first time.

["Esau Rice" above: the 1872 Map of Plain Township shows Esau owning a property on the west side of the New Albany-Reynoldsburg Road where it crosses the south Plain Township line. The property is marked with a blacked-in square labeled "Harness Shop." "

"Joshue Bailey" above: the 1872 Map of New Albany shows "J. Bailey" owning the third shop on the east side of High Street north of its intersection with Main Street. Lucius' use of "ware" might suggest a hardware store or its equivalent that sold kitchen equipment. Lucius' comments on sugar making: in 1862 he set up on his father's land a "cane house" and "mill" for making sorghum molasses. He is no longer involved but the family continues the business.

Lucius searches the countryside for a cow. "Rhodes" above most likely is "H. Rhoads, owner of 92 acres, as shown on the 1872 Jefferson Township Map, five or six miles south of Lucius' father's house on the road to Blacklick. Having failed in that direction, Lucius reverses course to go north to Johnstown.]

Sunday, March 27, 1870

Rained all last night & all day today & all evening. Water, high. To move looks bad indeed.

Blacklick, at home, Plain Township, Franklin County, Ohio

For the week ending Saturday, April 2, 1870

Monday Maggie, her Mother, Harry & me went to the RR & went to Columbus. Still raining & bad. I am feeling nearly sick with my kidneys. They are hurting me. Tuesday I went and bought my furniture set of wood chairs, \$4.50; baby high chair, \$1.50; one table \$.00 [sic]; one bureau, \$14.00; 2 bedsteads, one \$8.00, the other, \$5.00; one cooking stove, \$27.00; one plow \$16.00; and various small household fixtures. Night went to Magnolia Lodge. Wednesday John came in at noon & about 4 o'clock we started for the place with the stove and plow & enough to make a load. We went up the Westerville pike as far as Mr. Ganses, when it was dark & raining, & we concluded to stay all night; & going to drive the wagon in the barn, the team, when their fore feet were in the barn, their hind feet tore up a plank & they went down, laying on their bellies. We secured them from floundering around. Got off the harness & got some help & tore away the bridge behind them & dropped them down one at a time about six feet. Fortunately they got off with only scratched-up hind legs but I feared my team was done for. Sure I feel very thankful that it was as well as it is. Mine was the 4th pair of horses that has went through there. I feared the way before I drove on it & looked at it. But they said it was in use; so I drove on it but in future I will be more on the lookout.

[Lucius and John have reached Andrew G. Gantz's 162-acre farm bordering Lucius' property on the southeast. The Census describes Gantz as 33 with a wife Sarah, 31.]

Thursday morning raining. Rained all night. Water, high. I got Will Beach to haul my load across the field to my place as I did not want to pull my team. Will is working for Mr. Ganse. Found Andrew still there. Got him to hove [heave] his things out to one of the neighbors & I went to fixing the house. I bought me a good whitewash brush and went at it.

[Lucius and Andrew continue to associate, cooperating in farm tasks. That association and Andrew's surname suggest he belongs to the Collins family Lucius is related to by marriage. Andrew probably is the "A. Collins," owner of a 25-acre parcel over the line in Sharon Township a short distance southwest of Lucius' farm.]

Friday put all day in at the house. Still raining. John is nearly sick. Everything is swimming with water & mud. We are boarding at Hiram Carters.

Saturday afternoon got done all that I calculate to do now & got a woman to scrub & clean the house. I gave it all two coats of whitewash & made it look quite respectable. Took

every door off its hinges & fixed it so it would shut. Fixed the floors. Put in a new hearth. Fixed the mantle. Put up the stove & various other things. Of all the filthy places I ever saw, it was the worst & besides everything gone into decay & ruin. Taking all things into consideration, I feel very blue. Had I not bought, I never would [again] at any price. I would take my chances & trust to something else; but since it is as it is, must go on. Yet I can't help to regret that circumstances are such as to compell me to do & live as I must. Have to live yet fortune may have more in store for us than I am at present willing in my blue mood to see. Hoping for the best. I will try. We came home to Fathers at night. Mud and slosh. Tired out & discouraged.

Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio
At the place we call our own home or place
Week ending Saturday, April 9, 1870

All this week the wind has been in the north and I never saw mud & water disappear so fast in my life. By the middle of the week the roads only in very deep mud were [not] dried up & hard as if frozen up. Sunday John & me went to Alex Dorans. Monday morning early we packed up the wagon full & put four horses to it & came over to my place. Newton & Homer came over with me. Newton went back home & Homer stayed with me. We slept in our own house. Tuesday I borrowed a roller & Homer rolled my meadow & I fixed at the house. Afternoon I went with the team down to Columbus. Homer is to come tomorrow with Mr. Harter who is to come down after a load.. Found Maggie had been expecting one yesterday. Lewis & Will O'Harra are at Gilberts. Lewis has just enlisted for five years in the regular army. Settled up with Gilbert (see cash acct. for 1870) & bought a lot of things. Nearly tired out. Sold Gilbert one chair, wardrobe, & washstand for \$20.00. They cost me \$25.00. He is now owing me some \$250.00. He seems hard up. Drew no money from him & I will not want it now. He has rented his boarding house for seven hundred dollars per year for two years.

April 6, 1870, Wednesday Harter & Homer came down & I had all the things packed. I loaded him up with my new furniture: one set of wood chairs, one table, & baby chair, one bureau, and 2 bedsteads. Bought my groceries & various other things. We had the two wagons loaded full to get it all on. We arrived at our place a little before night & set to work with a will, Maggie & me, Homer, & Will O'Harra, who came up with us to arrange things. We worked late & got only partially unpacked. Pleasant day. A little cool.

Thursday morning worked a while at fixing up & then started plowing for oats. The ground is drying so very fast. After dinner Will went home. Rode Gilbert's colt down which is here. Homer plows & I help Maggie. Still pleasant. Wind in the north & a little cool.

Friday Homer still plowing. I got some oats & sowed & he harrowed in what he had plowed. We are getting things somewhat in shape but everything is so out of fix around the house it is slow work to make much headway. Harry is so cross and cries so much. It is very trying to work & take care of him.

Saturday worked at the oats again. I cleaned up the yard & around the house. Sowed grass seed on the yard & ect. We have things pretty well arranged for temporary fix until I can get time to fix some in way of improvements. John came over & brought me some oats. Still clear & pleasant. Wind in the north yet appearance of rain, but no rain.

The Fifteenth (15) Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America was last week declared by President Grant to be adopted, and the colored population of Ohio voted last Monday for the first time. So has terminated the Rebellion instead of making permanent, slavery. It has brought entire freedom & universal suffrage for the nation. Truly we live in an age of advancement. It is good to realize how well all things come around. Hail to Freedom.

Sunday, April 10, 1870

John & Homer went home. I supposed we would not have visitors today but was mistaken. Miss Loretta Montgomery called & stayed to dinner. Still warm & pleasant.

Week ending Saturday, April 16, 1870

Monday & Tuesday finished putting in my oats. My foot is so sore I can hardly get around. I have a corn on the inside of my little toe in the last joint & it is festering & coming out. It is so sore I can scarcely get around. Wednesday plowed & manured my garden. Mother & Aunt Eliza [*older sister of Lucius' mother, Maryann, nee Beach*] came over on Tuesday & went home on Wednesday. Thursday made my garden & commenced to break [up] my sod but it is too tough. Went to the post office. Got my *Rural New Yorkers*. It is real warm & getting so dry. We are needing rain very much.

[*The Rural New Yorker was a weekly periodical founded in 1841. It continued through the middle of the 20th century.*]

Friday forenoon helped Hi Harter roll logs. Afternoon he helped me plow sod, putting in one of his horses; but we did not make much headway at it. When I rent sod again, I think I will rent lease ground.

Saturday forenoon plowed sod. Afternoon Maggie, Harry & I went over home. It turned very cold after dinner, from real pleasant to a cold, hard west wind. We got very cold going home. It has been very windy all the week. Real March winds.

Sunday, April 17, 1870

Today is Easter & a very cold, gloomy day it is. It tries to rain & snow but does not make much out of it. We are needing rain badly & I hope we may get some.

Blendon T.P.

Week ending Saturday, April 23, 1870

Monday morning hitched up & went down to Alexander Dorans to look at a cow. She is too old, 18 years. Alex gave [me] a pair of hens. Forenoon loaded up & after dinner we started for home. It snowed very hard most of the forenoon, then turned to rain. We had a bad trip of it. Mother gave us six hens & a rooster. I brought over corn & oats & some other things. Eliza came over Tuesday. Rained all day. Made a platform to well, it having had only a few loose boards to cover it. Wednesday forenoon tinkered around. Afternoon plowed sod. Commenced to rain before night & rained on into the night. Will O'Harra came up.

Thursday too wet to plow. Hauled wood half day. Afternoon made a hen house & evening went with Will to the crick fishing. Caught only a few. Quite cool like.

Friday ditched off my ground. Plowed a ditch alongside of the road & one from the well south to the run & plowed a road up, or back furrowed it, to make it straight from the house to the meadow. From that it is straight to the woods. More pleasant & warmer. The land assessor came around. As near as I could get, my land will be appraised at \$87.00 per acre. The chattel assessor also came around. I got off with \$230.00 of an assessment.

Saturday plowed sod all day. It is quite hard work for three horses. Harter is helping me. Nice & pleasant. Will O'Harra went home. John Smith came over & brought me some corn. The girls came along. They all went home afternoon.

Sunday, April 24, 1870

Morning went over to the P.O. and got my papers. We were alone all day for once. Pleasant & warm.

Monday, 25

Finished plowing my sod & planted some potatoes. I covered them with manure. Somewhat cool.

Tuesday, April 26

Helped Hiram Harter with my team plowing new ground.

Wednesday, 27, and Thursday, 28

Also helped him & got done Thursday evening. Rained some Thursday. Quite cool. Frost some nights. Plenty wind in the north.

Friday, April 29, 1870

Commenced plowing stubble ground for corn. Afternoon went down on the crick & bought five bushels of potatoes at 25 cts. per bushel. Real large, nice ones. I got real provoked today in paying for some butter. We have had 87 1/2 cts. per lb., which is Columbus price. Same way with anything you buy. If I don't get even, then I miss my guess. Homer came over to stay while we are gone to Maggie's mother's birthday dinner. Quite cool wind in the north.

Blendon on the Harbor Road, Franklin County, Ohio

Saturday, April 30, 1870

Homer commenced to work for me. He is going to take my watch at twenty-five (\$25.00)

dollars & work it out at twenty dollars per month. It was something I hated to part with but he wanted it & I am not able to keep it. It has been the best watch I ever owned by far. Got Will Harter's one-horse rig and went down to Columbus. Stayed there until middle afternoon. We went on out to John Slagles. I went to see about the broom-corn prospect & it is as I had expected. Going to be, to all appearance, overstocked. I feared it ever since last fall as it was so high last fall & winter. Sneaker [from the context, a misreading of "Slagle"] advises me not to plant this year. From the papers I see that people are all worked up to planting it, yet they may not plant it, or it may be a short crop & not be overstocked yet. There was a very heavy frost this morning, ice 1/4 inch thick on a tub; but then it is so very dry I think it probably has done no hurt.

Sunday, May 1, 1870

Stayed all day at Slagles and a very lonesome day it was. So very long. Quite warm, clear & pleasant. We are needing rain very bad. The long, heavy rains we have had all the spring contribute to make the ground as hard as the road. Meadows are on a standstill.

Monday, May 2, 1870

Morning John Slagle & I went over to Jefferson after Tillie & her children & her mother came out on the train. Bart & family came up. George & family did not come. Will was there, which with John's folks were all that was to the old lady's birthday dinner. She was kept from knowing it until she came out. She is 57 years old today. I meant to see a man who has been keeping a dairy & is selling out his cows. Has yet 20 to sell but he had gone to London so I could not see him. I enquired but failed to get hold of a cow. We came on to town & I bought a clock for six dollars and some groceries & came on home nearly nine at night. Found Homer all right.

[Persons at the birthday party Lucius names above are Gilbert Collins' wife, Tillie, and children; Mother O'Harra, of course; Bartley O'Harra, described in the 1870 Prairie Township Census as 35, a farmer, with wife Rhoda, 37; William O'Harra, described in the same Census, as 22, single, "works on Jacob Dougherty's farm"; and John Slagle and family, identified previously.]

Blendon, Ohio

Tuesday, May 3, 1870

Homer went home. I went to see a Mr. John Wagner who has been in the broom-corn business a long time but could arrive at no conclusion from him as he refused to advise either way. But I found that a great many new men were going to plant broom corn & that the prospect was not flattering. Looked at some potatoes. I can get all I want of nice ones. They are feeding them all over the county to hogs. Afternoon plowed. It is very hard.

[John Wagner, above: probably the John Wagner the 1872 Blendon Township Map shows owning a 187-acre farm north of Lucius near Westerville with access from the Westerville Pike. The 1870 Census describes him as 45. Also in this entry, John C. Wagner, 17, who "works on the farm."]

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, May 4, 5, & 6

Plowed. I made but slow progress as it is very warm & the ground, very hard. It has rained all around us but still we get none save a sprinkle. I feel quite discouraged. The ground has been run & tramped to death & now it is so dry. Had I been here in time, I might have plowed my sod before I did and not hindered my other plowing; but I must make the best I can of it now. When I think how I am to make money to pay off my indebtedness, I get lost & blue. But then I will try to do all I can for each present day and probably the future may come around better than it now looks.

Saturday, May 7, 1870

Harrowed at my sod ground all day. It works hard from being so dry; yet by putting on plenty of work, I make it look quite nice. Quite cool today.

Sunday, May 8, 1870

Stayed home all day. Gilbert's folks did not come. Homer came over to help me. Had a sprinkle of rain. Will Beach here to dinner.

Monday, May 9, 1870

Forenoon Homer & me went & got a load of potatoes, 80 bu. for six dollars. Afternoon commenced planting them. I went to plowing. I am drilling the potatoes. Cut them & drop from 12 to 14 inches apart.

Tuesday, May 10, 1870

Forenoon I harrowed some more sod & furrowed out some for Homer. Rest [of] day plowed. Still dry & cold mornings & nights, quite cold. Wind in the north.

Wednesday, May 11, 1870

Plowed again. It seems as if I could not get my piece done. There is some 8 acres in it; yet it holds on. It is extremely hard to plow. Homer planting potatoes.

Thursday, May 12, 1870

Finished planting & commenced harrowing. The harrow does but little good. The clods are by the thousands, & hard, as if they grewed. Still cold. Planting looks very discouraging. The ground is dry and it is so cold.

Friday, May 13

Finished harrowing & commenced rolling the roller. Does more good yet it does not mash all the lumps. Our potato planting goes slow for one to cut them, drop, & cover them. He can not plant much in a day. Cold yet. A coat is worn most of the day.

Blendon, Saturday, May 14, 1870

Got my ground ready to mark out & planted potatoes most of the day. Homer went over home. Father & Mother came over. Gilbert & Tillie & children came out so we had plenty of company. I am nearly used up. Am behind & trying as hard as I can to make all the speed I can.

Sunday, May 15, 1870

Father & Mother went home & Homer came over again. Gilbert's folks stayed all night. Cassius [*Gilbert & Tillie's ill-fated son*] had the ague & was quite sick. Quite warm.

Blendon, Ohio

May 21, 1870

Monday & part of Tuesday worked out my corn ground. Homer planted it with the planter. Got done Wednesday. I harrowed the rest of sod ground. It mellowed up nice. Bought me 11 bu. more of potatoes & finished planting them. Friday noon commenced to plow my orchard piece. On Thursday, had a nice shower on that evening, [the] first [shower] of the month to do any good. Father & John came this way from Columbus on Friday at noon. Got John to help me plow until Sat. noon. Father & Homer planted my cane seed, broom corn, melons, pumpkins, squashes, & ect. I have them on my sod piece with a little corn. Rest is in potatoes, some 8 1/2 acres; seed planted, 48 bushels. It is extremely hot, most too hot to work, especially a team. We are needing so bad a good soaking rain, but I presume we will not get it this month, or until the last of it.

Sunday, May 22, 1870

Maggie & me went over home. Came back in evening. John came along with team. It is so pleasant over there. Nice shade and grass.

Blendon, Ohio

Monday, May 23, 1870

John & me run both teams plowing & got nearly done. I never knew what it was to break ground before.

Tuesday, 24

Finished plowing & harrowed with one team & drug two logs across the ground with the other. By so doing, we succeeded in making the ground so we could get over it.

Wednesday, May 25, 1870

Forenoon we worked the ground out both ways. Afternoon commenced planting. John went home & I planted with the planter. The wind is in the north & east & is real cold so as to need fire some nights. My ground is as dry & dusty so that a person working it gets full of dust as if on the road with a team. Clouds of it. It is truly a blue-looking time. Grass is dieing out. Meadows can not be much; yet my corn planted last week is coming up, but it certainly can't make any progress in growing.

Thursday, May 26, 1870

Finished planting corn & rolled my ground & got it nicely mashed up. Harry walked today for the first time. He has taken a few steps before but today he found out he could waik & he tried so hard & fell. So proud of it. He has never crept any except to hitch along on the floor from one side to the other. He is 16 months old the 26 inst. He is almost well of his breaking out. Some on him yet but he is so much better than formerly. We almost count him well.

Friday, May 27, 1870

Planted some over 1/2 acre of beans & done many little things long neglected on acct. of corn planting. My planting is done; whether it ever pays for the work is very doubtful indeed. I had the blues so bad this week. I can't but look ahead & I can't see how I am to do. Hardly make a living. Sometimes I feel I am ruined but then what is the use? We can do all we know for each present day & maybe the future may be different. Still cold wind in the north. Clear, cold, bright, desolate-looking sky.

Saturday, May 28, 1870

Went to Columbus with wagon. Bought bbl. flour, \$5.75; a shovel plow, \$6.00; double shovel; a churn; & a lot of groceries, meat & ect. Drew on Gilbert for some money, \$30.00. He now owes me yet \$150.00, \$150.00 of which I owe Bart O'Harra. The balance is all that stands between me & want, for I don't know how long.

Sunday, May 29, 1870

Stayed home all day. Rather lonesome.

Saturday, June 4, 1870

Monday bought me a cow for sixty dollars & calf some 2 weeks old. Had privilege of returning the cow if we did [not] like her. But so far she is doing well. She gives good rich milk & plenty of it, over 4 gallons per day. John Slagle & family came up in evening.

Tuesday Slagle's folks went home. He brought me Will O'Harra's shotgun up. I hated to see them go as it leaves us rather lonesome. Fixed the well up by putting a partition in it some 8 ft. from the top so that we can let the milk down by means of ropes. It does well, only considerable trouble to let down & up. It is very hot and so dry it seems as if all things would die. Rest of the week replanted my corn which was quite a job on that day. Paris of it has failed to come through the ground but lies curled up under the crust formed by the shower we had in May. My meadow & oats look hard indeed, past rain [not] doing much good. Commenced to roll my corn again. My mare is lame from corking herself some time ago. Done various things. Bushed my peas & cleaned out the garden. It is looking well. Cabbage plants are out of the question to be had. The bugs eat them all up. I must try in town once more. Sat. afternoon went out squirreling. Got three. They are plenty, more so than I have seen for a long time. Hen no. 2, 15 eggs, brought out 14 chickens. All this week has been very hot, a kind of a fierce hot that almost burns dry hot. People begin to feel scary on acct. of prospects. Blue indeed.

I have now put in two months faithful, patient hard work, seldom quitting until so dark I can't see. I yet hope to reap some benefit therefrom.

Sunday, June 5, 1870

Went to a woods meeting just below us & to see two women immersed at Alum Crick. Uncle Lewis, Will, & Alice here to dinner. Melsena came over with [Uncle] Lewis. Warm & dusty as mid-summer. Rain passing around.

Saturday, June 11, 1870

This week, Monday & Tuesday, rolled my corn most of it both ways. Replanted some corn in my cane & broom corn as it did not come up good. Had a shower of rain Tuesday.

Wednesday plowed my corn patch north of the house & various notions [sic]. Went squirrel hunting Thursday. Forenoon rained. Hunted again & painted some window sash. Friday Maggie & me & Harry went to Columbus. Took 6 lbs. butter. Got 25 cts. per lb. for it. By going to the south end of town, I made out to get 125 cabbage plants for 50 cts. They are very scarce. Rained very hard in town & at home. Saturday rained most all day. Set out my plants & some beet plants & fixed my milk arrangements in the well over. I got new cords to let them down with & tin lids for the crocks to keep out dirt & water. I now have it complete. Eliza & Melissa came over during the week. Got my mare shod. Find her hard to shoe. She is not yet well of her sore foot though not lame. Hen no. 3 came with 14 chickens. One died since. Now have 86 chickens.

Sunday, June 12, 1870

Rained most all day, sometimes hard. Gloomy day. The girls went home, all three. Left us some lonesome. I do not, however, get lonesome like I use to since I am married.

For the week ending Saturday, June 18, 1870

First of the week rather wet and rainy. Wednesday morning we had a hard rain which started the run & made me ditch some. Worked around choring & painting my window sash & ect. Wednesday John & Father came over & Father & me went to Columbus. Took some more butter in, 6 1/2 lbs. Got me some lumber to build a privy with. Roads muddy & bad. Corn seems to be on a standstill ever since the rain. It is now too wet. Thursday Father, John, & me surveyed my place & they went home. I have not yet the amt. of land as he did not take the time to count up. Pleasant rest of the week. Hope it will not rain anymore as it [is] too wet for corn & potatoes now. Potatoes are witting up some places. Some of mine, the last planted, are just coming up & some have rotted. The cane too has come up since the rain. Replanted my orchard piece of corn & my beans. Made me a spout to run the water from the well.

[Lucius' father, Archibald, had little formal schooling but he taught himself a number of skills, among them, surveying. He laid out various Plain Township roads and properties; at least part, probably all, of the town of New Albany; and the main part of Gahanna in Mifflin Township.]

Mother O'Harra came up Friday on the hack to Blendon Corners & I brought her over. Had the blues quite bad this week. To get out of debt is the question. I am inclined to give John a mortgage on the place instead of selling him ten acres & sell the place as soon as I can. I wanted John to buy my interest in the home place but he does not want to. I will wait for events. Maybe some way will open that I do not now know or see.

Sunday, June 19, 1870

Stayed home all day. Homer came over yesterday to help me.

Blendon, Ohio

For the week ending Saturday, June 25.

Monday Homer & me hauled out manure on the corn. Put it on the hills. Manured some 8500 of them & commenced to plow potatoes. Plowed with Tom as I want to break him to plow. The mare does not seem well, somewhat stiff. Her foot about the same, some sore yet. I am putting liniment still on it & some burnt alum as it looks some like proud flesh. Yet it does not make her lame nor is it swelled.

Tuesday we plowed out my potatoes & commenced on the corn. Plowed his [Homer's] horse, Jack, & Tom. Worked with double-shovel plows. Warm & getting nice to work; the ground is.

Wednesday morning found my mare sick by her eyes. She was hers which were so swelled [*meaning is unclear, possibly her eyelids*] that they could not go over the eye, hence a flickering of the eye. On examination I found her throat swelled some & her jaws partly locked. Doctor Landon happened to come along & he pronounced it lockjaw & thought it came from her sore foot. Went to Worthington & got me 2 lbs. of salts & gave her about one pound & gave her injections. Got a passage of what was in her but no move of the bowels. Home. Plowed corn.

[On the 1872 Mifflin Township Map, bordering on the Mifflin Township line to the north, east of Alum Creek on the road to Central College, and a short distance southeast of Lucius' farm, is an 89-acre property belonging to Dr. C.P. Landon. The Map's business directory describes him as "Physician and Surgeon."] Thursday morning early gave my mare 5 or 6

oz. of aloes. Had to throw her down & power [pour] it down her nose. Afternoon went to north Columbus & got a horse doctor. He came at evening and we worked half the night for a move in her bowels but got none. Gave the most powerful remedies as it is a move or death. I gave the mare up as soon as I knew what was the matter of her but yet I could but try. Homer plowed corn. It is extremely hot.

Friday, June 24, 1870

The Dr. and I worked with the mare until noon & then gave her up. We have chloroform at the nose & relaxatives by injections but to no good. Led the mare up to the woods & put her in the shade. She can walk, yet slowly, but rests. She cannot drink. I give her water, powering [pouring] it on her. Helped Homer plow corn afternoon. I am really worked out & it is so very hot one can hardly work.

Saturday morning early went to see my mare. Found she had went to the run to get water & got down in it & was nearly dead. The water, however, was the best place she could have got into. You could hear her breathe through her nose over one hundred yards. I put her out of her misery by shooting her. I opened her but could not gain but little satisfaction. Her stomach was empty but her second stomach was full. I found some small worms outside [sic] in her bowels. So ends the poor mare. What was the cause is hard to say. The Dr. thought it was not her foot that caused it; yet there is [little] doubt but what it was her foot. Of one thing I am sure. It was not of any ill treatment. It seems it can hardly be that she is dead. The loss to me, I dare not try to calculate. I made no calculation on such loss & have not the means to replace. We finished plowing the corn one way. Got done just at night. It [is] about as warm as it ever is here. Gilbert Collins & family came up evening & Bartley O'Harra & his little girl.

Sunday, June 26, 1870

Stayed around home all day. It is extremely hot. Rain passed around. We are needing it bad. Bart went home. I gave him an order on Gilbert for fifty-dollars balance due on the mare. He would not abate any from the original price. It seems to me I would under like circumstances but we are not all alike, as it happens.

Monday & Tuesday, June 27 & 28

Homer & me plowed corn & potatoes. Gilbert's folks went home Monday morning. Still very hot & no rain. Only passing around. Corn is almost perishing for it.

Wednesday, June 29, 1870

Homer, me, Maggie, & her mother & baby all went over home to Fathers & back at night. Homer stayed to help harvest. They have nice wheat, most must [free]. Yesterday I hurt myself drinking water & feel very unwell from it. Rain in sight at night. Got the survey of my place. There is 45 1/4 acres of it. I have concluded to give John a mortgage instead of selling any. He is willing. I have one & one-fourth more acres than I paid for.

Thursday June 30, 1870

Plowed corn & arranged things that have got out of fix for some time.

Still hot. Rain passing. It seems to skip this vicinity until there is a general rain.

Friday & Saturday, July 1 & 2, 1870

Plowed corn & cane & got over all the second time except part of my beans. Maggie went to Columbus Sat. with Mr. Beers & took the butter in. We have sold last month 25 3/4 lbs. for \$6.27 besides what we have eaten & kept the calf.

[Mr. Beers above, "Mr. Burs" in the original, the latter not a name that surfaces anywhere else. Lucius' "e" often lacks a loop and two together look like a "u." What helps to identify Mr. Beers is Lucius' note (June 3, 1871): Mr. Burs sold out this week his place for some \$62. cash per acre." Franklin County Deed Book 105, p.131, records the transfer of a 12-acre property in 1871 from Solomon Beers to James Holmes. On the 1872 Sharon Township Map James Holmes owns 61 acres three properties north of Lucius fronting on the Blendon-Sharon-Township-Line Road. The 1870 Sharon Township Census Index puts Solomon's age at 67.]

Maggie and Lucius and the Beers are good friends. For Lucius the elderly couple, it seems, fill an emotional void left by the absence of his parents. Lucius treats the Beers with respect. In Lucius' more formal phrasing, they "dine" with each other. Lucius refers to the Beers as "Mr." and "Mrs.," ordinarily except a time or two he refers to "Lun" or "Lan" Beers,

diminutions of "Solomon."

Friday noon had a nice shower but not near enough. Things are growing but not like if they had rain sufficient. When I was over home, I left Jack & got John's colt. He will do to go around and make out any teaming I may want to do.

For week ending Saturday, July 9, 1870

Monday barned wheat for Mr. Rennell & Tuesday him & I plowed my orchard piece of corn. Wednesday I plowed corn. Had a shower of rain Wednesday evening. Newton & Homer came over Thursday. Rained all the forenoon. I got shoes put on horses' fore feet. Afternoon Homer & me hoed out my pumpkins & hoed cane. Newton went home. We had a splendid rain yet it failed to wet down on the windward side of corn hills. It was dry after the rain was over, the hill having caught the rain; yet it is worth all the rain we have had yet, it came so nice.

[*Rennell above. Most likely a misreading of "Kennei." The 1872 Sharon Township Map shows John Kennei owning 39 acres on the opposite side of the Township Line Road, the second property to the north of Lucius' holdings. Lucius' entry offers another example of farm neighbors exchanging labor in Midwestern fashion.*]

Friday I plowed out my potatoes, cane, & corn on my sod. It is in splendid order. Homer thinned out & hoed the cane.

Saturday Homer plowed corn in my back piece half day. Rest [of] day hoed beans. Forenoon I hoed out my broom corn; afternoon went to town. Maggie & her mother went along. We came home in evening. Since the rain it has been cooler. Friday night was real cool.

Sunday, July 10, 1870

Afternoon we went over to Uncle Lewises. I got some cabbage plants of him & put them out. Something is killing those I put out. Maggie is lonesome & out with the place & thinks it horrible to stay here. It is not nice I admit yet there are worse places.

For the week ending Saturday, July 16, 1870

Monday & Tuesday had some nice rains. Nicely wet down the ground but no water to stand on the ground. Corn is doing fine this week. Made my hay. Cut some seven acres & got four tons of hay. It is pure Timothy & splendid hay but a poor yield. I had to pay 75 cts. per acre to get it cut. Finished hoeing my beans. Plowed corn & thinned out my large piece of corn. It is too thick. The planter dropped too many. I left an acre of grass to cut for seed of the best. Father came over Saturday after Homer. He has worked his time out for the watch.

Sat. forenoon I went to town with the butter & some cucumbers. Got from 10 to 25 cts. per dozen. Last week they [were] worth 50 to 60 cts. I supposed the market stocked [up] before this time or I would have sold 3 or 4 dollars worth. As it is, I have receipts for only \$2.10 from about one dozen hills. Latter part of the week, very warm. News is that France & Prussia have declared war. If so, it is money to us and we are needing it badly. [*Lucius refers to the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.*]

Sunday, July 17, 1870

It is very hot. Mercury nearly a hundred & it is drying out very fast.

Saturday, July 23, 1870

This week cut my oats, part with a machine & part with a cradle [*scythe*] & put them up. Part of them were so short I had to take bands of the long oats to bind them. Had 115 dozen. Hot all the week so one could hardly work. Mercury 95 & 98. I got nearly used up. Last of the week it got very dry. Corn rolled up & is on a standstill. Potatoes are doing nothing. Saturday night went down to town with Harter. Gilbert's folks have another boy born Friday. The Prussian & French war seems to be progressing. I hope it will. I want to see France whipped out. With it goes the Pope of Rome. All articles of produce have advanced. Flour, one dollar this week; now, \$7.50.

This has been blackberry week. We have put up some near 40 quarts canned but they have been tedious to pick. The drought has hurt them & now they are dried up on the bushes.

Sunday, July 24, 1870

Morning I went out & picked a bucket of berries & sent them down to Gilberts. It is the

last chance or none. Very hot and everything seems as if it would perish for want of rain. Evening we got a shower. Went to post office. Have not got my papers for two weeks. I have been so busy I could not go after them.

For the week ending Saturday, July 30, 1870

Fore part of the week helped Doherty 1 1/2 days & Mr. Beers some for machine work. Finished plowing my corn that had not been plowed the third time & done various things. Put in every moment hard all the week. First of the week extremely hot & dry. The little rain we had on Sunday was soon gone & corn seemed as if it must die; but on Thursday we had quite a rainy day & it wet down quite my potatoes. Have no potatoes on yet & the chance of having any is very gloomy indeed. My oats got all wet & I had to set them all out to dry. Last of the week, quite cool. The summer is now, I presume, broke. From this time everything will wear the appearance of fall. How short the summer is. I have my work done ahead of all around here if I am alone.

[Doherty above. On the 1870 Sharon Township Map "Daugherty's" 60 acres fronts on the Blendon-Sharon-Township-ine Road, opposite Lucius property on the other side for a few feet. The Census describes Daugherty as 28 with wife Mary 23 and 3 children. Lucius is looking west to help another of his neighbors.]

For the week ending Saturday, August 6, 1870

Monday & Tuesday plowed my orchard piece of corn & done sundry other little things. I had calculated on plowing all my corn again; but it is too far advanced & it is too dry to risk doing it. It is clean & nice now. Wednesday Maggie & me went to Columbus & then out to John Slagles. We received pay of Gilbert's folks for canning & picking blackberries: 28 qts. at 15 = \$4.05. Found Slagle working his corn, yet he has a hard site for corn. It is on sod & short. There is along the road some splendid pieces of corn & plenty of very poor. Some, only knee high. I went away from home somewhat blue but came back quite resigned. Thursday we came home. Slagle gave me a small pig. Friday & Saturday took down a beam over the kitchen & put it up again in the barn & made a very good one of it. Father & Mother came over & went back again. Took my wagon along. It is again very hot & dry. It seems as if corn would die but it stands it better than one would think. I fear my potatoes must be a failure. No potatoes yet some have a few as large as peas. I bought the first of the week a pig for \$2.00. Now have three at a cost of \$8.00.

Sunday, August 7, 1870

Went to a woods meeting at 11. Mrs. Longman & son came up. Will Beach & Ann Eliza also came. Still with rain signs but no rain. It seems as if things could not wait much longer but we thought so ten days ago or so. This morning found the horses in my corn. Threwed down the fence.

[The 1870 Clinton Township Map shows a 90-acre "Fair View" farm owned by John F. Longman to the south on the Columbus-Westerville Road.]

For the week ending Saturday, Aug. 13, 1870

Put in nearly or [not] quite half the week fixing up fence & got it so it ought to turn most anything; but John's colt is a great jumper. It was so very hot working at the fence I could hardly stand it. Nights so warm we could scarcely sleep. Thursday we went over home & back. Had a good mess of watermelons. Newton has near an acre of them. John is going to fine the seed wheat & put [it] in my ground. Wednesday night & Thursday morning we had a nice rain but it does not make an impression on wetting the ground. It seems we cannot get enough rain to soak the ground. Rest of the week worked at my Timothy seed. Thrashed it out with a flageel. *[Not a present-day word but possibly used this way in Lucius' time. Cf. "flagellant."]* Friday my three sisters & Miss Mary Montgomery came over & went back Sat. noon. Mat Williams & wife came on a visit. Him & me went to Westerville. Voted on the agricultural-college question of giving \$300,000. by the county, payable in ten years yearly for its location in this county. Voted yes. Had another nice rain from the northeast. As we were coming home, we came across two young coons & caught them alive & brought them home. They are half grown or hardly. Got my papers at Westerville on acct. of the removal of the post office. The French & Prussians have had a severe engagement & the Prussians were victorious.

["Mary Montgomery," 14, is described in the 1870 St. Albans Township Census in

Licking County, bordering Franklin County on the east, as "at home" in the household of James S. Montgomery, 55, a farmer owning real estate worth \$10,450. When she married, Lucius' mother, Maryann Beach, lived in St. Albans Township and still has relatives in Licking County. Montgomerys appear to be relatives or long-standing friends.

in 1870 Ohio established an Agricultural and Mechanical College on the north side of Columbus. Lucius tells us, in effect, how the site for it, in Franklin County, was chosen. In 1878, the name was changed to the Ohio State University. Through the efforts of the governor, Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-81), its purpose had been redefined from that of an agricultural college to that of a comprehensive center of learning.]

Sunday, Aug. 14, 1870

Cool most of the day. Had fire in the morning & last night. Mr. Williams went home in the afternoon. He took one of the coons. It is so lonesome when company goes away. There is no such thing as it is here.

Saturday, August 20, 1870

This week done a lot of fixing. Painted some window sash & John & Newton & Melissa came over on Tuesday & Wednesday. We put three jack screws & raised the house. Done it easily but could not get [it] as it ought to be unless it were nearly torn down. We broke nearly all the plastering off the walls as it is. John & me worked out my two days on the load & hauled up sand for to plaster the house inside & out. I put in, or John did for me, part day thrashing for Uncle Lewis. Newton went home Wednesday. Melissa stayed & Maggie & Harry went down to town & Saturday I went after them. Mr. Monroe brought Eliza over & took her & Melissa home at night. Gilbert has sold the Hilliard property for \$930. Dry & quite warm all week until the last. A little cool wind in the north.

[Gilbert lost money, it seems, buying Lucius' Hilliard lot. Gilbert bought and sold lots. No doubt he took such losses in stride.]

Saturday, August 27, 1870

This week cleaned up my timothy. Had 3 bushels, which is worth \$6.00 per bushel. Helped thrash at two places & thrashed my own. Had 107 bushels as nice clean, bright oats as I have ever seen. Went to town Saturday. Got me some lumber & lime to fix my house with. It is still very dry. Pastures are all dried up. We had a shower on Thursday but it seems to do no good. My chance for potatoes gets no better. It now seems as if I would not get any seed back. Hay is worth from \$18.00 to 20.00 per ton.

The Prussians are using up the French badly. They have had severe & hard fighting & the Prussians are moving on to Paris.

Saturday, September 3, 1870

Monday went over home. Maggie & baby bought 8 bushels of wheat of John & took part of it to mill. Had a nice shower of rain but it seems to do no good. In a few hours it is gone. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, with the exception of going to mill, harrowed my oats. Tilled, & sowed it with timothy seed. It took a great deal of work to get it harrowed up nice but I got it done finally. Sat. helped thrash at Mr. Beers & part day at Musseys. Sat. bought a half sheep of Mrs. Musey. We have been so long without we can't stand it no longer. It has been very hot some days of the week. Maggie calculated on weaning Harry this week. Deferred it. It is a serious job. Pastures are so used up people have commenced to feed already.

[On the 1872 Blendon Township Map the 26-acre tract immediately north of Lucius is labeled "Mrs. Musey."]

Today Sat. news came of the surrender of Napoleon.

[Lucius refers to Charles Louis Napoleon Bonaparte (1808-1873), Napoleon III, Emperor of France. He was the third son of Napoleon I's brother, Louis Bonaparte, King of Holland. On September 2, 1870, Napoleon III surrendered to the Prussians at Sedan with 80,000 men. Lucius noted earlier that France declared war with Prussia in July of 1870 and has followed the progress of the War in the papers since then.]

Sunday, Sept. 4, 1870

Went to meeting at the schoolhouse quarterly meeting.

For the week ending Saturday, Sept. 10, 1870

Monday helped finish Musey's thrashing. Father & Mother came over. Father & I measured my meadow & my potato field. I have in it $8 \frac{81}{100}$ acres. Commenced digging my Shotwell potatoes. They are some quite nice ones but few of them.

Tuesday Maggie & me went to town, she to get the fall & winter clothes, & I took down 3 bu. Potatoes. Got for them \$1.20. They have been higher. Rest of the week cut my broom corn. Commenced to cut [field] corn. Pulled part of my beans. They are very good. Part of Friday & Sat. forenoon dug potatoes & got 9 bushels fit to sell & took them down to town. Got \$1.20. Friday we had a sprinkle of rain, not enough to lay the dust. If we could get a rain, my late potatoes would yet do quite well but I presume we will not get it.

The news of last Sat. of the surrender of the French is correct. On [the] 2nd Napoleon surrendered himself, having no command; & Gen. McMahon surrendered his army after a desperate battle. The French have declared a republic.

[Lucius refers to Marie Edmé Patrice Maurice de MacMahon (1808-1893), Duke of Magenta and Marshal of France. He was descended from an Irish family that went into exile with James II. MacMahon was wounded and taken prisoner at Sedan. The French empire ended on September 4, 1870, when a republic was declared in Paris. MacMahon served as president from 1873 to 1879.]

Blendon T.P., Franklin County, Ohio

Sunday, Sept. 11, 1870

Maggie & me went over home. I went to get one of the boys to come & help me cut corn. Harry fell into a tub of water. Fortunately his mother saw him fall in or else he might have drowned. Very dusty to be on the roads.

For the week ending Saturday, Sept. 17, 1870

First of the week finished pulling my beans & got them under shelter. They are the best filled & most on the vines I ever saw. Rest of the week cut corn. John came over Thursday noon & helped me until Saturday afternoon. The corn is drying up so as to most spoil the fodder. All the moisture seems to go right out of everything. Warm most of all the week except a few nights. We are next to no dew at all & as to rain, probably we may get some when the sun crosses the line. I have been quite unwell all the week. Hardly able to work yet I worried along with it.

For the week ending Saturday, September 24, 1870

Cut corn all the week until Friday noon when I got done. The corn got so dry that I had to work in the forenoons only. Had 438 shocks of 100 hills each & it will make somewhere from 3 to 4 hundred bushels. The fodder is well saved. Friday afternoon Maggie & me went over to Uncle Lewises. He is just commenced making sorghum. I feel clear worked out. Saturday, half day, chored around. Afternoon Maggie & me went down to town. Got home in the evening. I never saw the dust so deep or so bad. It is hardly fit to be on the road. Nearly a month now since we have had rain enough to lay the dust. Pastures are gone. People are feeding. I commenced this week. Very warm all week, most as warm as July.

The Prussians have besieged Paris. Peace is talked of but not probable.

[The Franco-Prussian War continued after Napoleon III's surrender. The Prussians besieged Paris, which fell January 28, 1871. The Treaty of Frankfurt, ending the war, was ratified on May 10, 1871.]

For the week ending Saturday, Oct. 1, 1870

This week harrowed my corn field beside the meadow. Some 8 or 9 acres down nicely for grass seed & then chained two logs together & went over it & got it [in] splendid condition. It is as mellow & nice as a garden. Sowed my seed on Friday. Hauled cane for Uncle Lewis on Saturday. Painted & put in some window sash as it was rainy & wet. It commenced to rain a little Tuesday 27 & 28 & 29. Wet down some 2 inches. Warm & pleasant rain from the northeast.

I have worked very hard this week from daylight to late at night at my windows. Will O'Harra came up Sat. night. Newton, Eliza, & Melsena also came over. The war in Europe is progressing. The Prussians have Paris surrounded & have taken Strausburg. The Italians under Victor Emanuel have occupied Rome. What will now become of the Pope is doubtful. His temporal power is gone forever. Good for that.

[Lucius is following newspaper accounts of the reunification of Italy, which was effected in large part by Victor Emanuel II, King of Sardinia. Abolition of the Papal States, ruled by the Pope, was part of the reunification.. Although the King had defeated Papal forces at Castelfidardo in 1860, the Pope remained in possession of Rome. Napoleon III, pressured by Catholics, maintained a French garrison there to defend the Pope; but after Sedan, the French withdrew. Victor Emanuel occupied Rome and made it the capital of a united Italy.]

Oct. 1

Maggie commenced to wean Harry.

Sunday, Oct. 2, 1870

Rained all day steady. None of the folks went home.

For the week ending Saturday, Oct. 8, 1870

Monday morning the folks all went home. The ground is quite muddy but little water standing & not all wet down yet. Hauled cane for Uncle Lewis. Tuesday hauled wood for him until noon. Afternoon Homer came over & him & me worked at my cane. Wednesday forenoon got it done and hauled it over to Lewises in afternoon, 2 big loads. Homer dug potatoes. I have felt all of last week that my potatoes ought to be sold. Thursday dug potatoes & Friday until noon. Afternoon we went to town with them. Had 23 bushels. Found I was two days late with them as they have commenced to ship in potatoes from New York. However I got \$1.10 instead of \$1.25 but still that will do. If the rest of my potatoes were only Shotwells instead of Peach Blows]. I have now sold 85 bushels for \$39.70. Saturday forenoon dug my early Goodrich, 6 bushels, & hauled in my seed. Shotwells, 8 bushels. Hauled in my pumpkin & cane seed. Afternoon Homer went home & [I] chored around until night. First of the week, cloudy; last, pleasant & cool at night, bordering onto frost.

Sunday, Oct. 9, 1870

Morning first frost I have seen & but little of it. Splendid nice clear, pretty day. My Timothy seed is come. Sowed little over a week. Mr. G. Collins & Cassius [*Gilbert's son*] came up. Gilbert wants to know about renting a farm for broom corn. He offers to find a man & buy one team & go in with me & I told him to rent the place. We had a pleasant good visit & talk. Uncle Lewis came over & the two, Mr. Beers & Mrs. Beers, came down & spent the evening.

For the week ending Saturday, October 15, 1870

Monday hauled wood for Uncle Lewis & helped him to make my molasses. Did not get it done. Night, rain. Tuesday went to election & brought home my molasses. Had 36 gallons. Quite cool. Rest of the week, I put in very faithfully. Got the upstairs done inside & out. Daubed it & fixed the window. It looks now very neat. I whitewashed the mortar after I put it in. Finished my windows. Got all the glass in most of the sash. I must give one more coat of paint yet. I came pretty nearly working night & day from before light until, sometimes, bed time. One thing of which I am glad: I am able to do it. Latter part of the week, warm & pleasant.

Sunday, Oct. 16, 1870

We went over home. Our folks are roofing the house & painting it. Real pleasant day.

For the week ending Saturday, Oct. 22, 1870

This week straightened the doors & windows to the rooms of my house. Put new casings on them. They were a tedious job to get righted up. It is pleasant weather & I have hurried as fast as I could as next week I must dig potatoes & it will take more than a week yet to fix my house. Hauled wood for Uncle Lewis one day. I have to haul water for my cow & my well does not afford water enough.

Wednesday & Thursday had some rain. It was needed. My grass seed is doing fine.

Sunday, Oct. 28, 1870

Morning Maggie & I & Harry went over on the river to Wm. Williams & took dinner. Then went to John Slagles. Got there about 4 o'clock. Stopped to see Maggie's Uncle Thomas O'Harra about a cow. Pleasant day, warm & nice.

[Lucius uses "over" if the direction is east or west. Of the two rivers to the west, the

Olentangy is the nearer and hence one he would refer to familiarly.]

For the week ending Saturday, Oct. 29, 1870

Monday morning seen Mr. O'Harra. He is to let me have a cow this winter. Came on to Columbus. Stopped at Gilberts to dinner. He cannot find a place for us as easy as he talked & wants me to hunt. That, I presume, will be the end of it as I can't go now & it is now too late as most places are rented. Engaged my potatoes for 80 to 90 to \$1.00 per bushel. They are coming down about as I expected & I think I do well to get that. Came home & the rest of the week dug potatoes. John came over on Tuesday night & I got Will & Ben Beach nearly three days. Friday forenoon hauled wood for Uncle Lewis, John & me & him. The afternoon it rained so we dug no potatoes but on Saturday John, Will, & me nearly finished all but 9 of the shortest rows. We must have over 100 bushels dug. They are hardly as good as I expected. The black ground, of which it is over half, is almost an entire failure. Little, small potatoes & few of them. The dry time killed out the vines. On ground of more clay, they lived until it rained & have since grown. We plowed most of them out. Warm & pleasant most of the week. On Sat. morning, quite a freeze.

Sunday, Oct. 30, 1870

Stayed home alone all day. Maggie, Harry, & me.

For the week ending Saturday, Novem. 5, 1870

Monday sorted over a load of potatoes. There are a great many small ones. Some of them I sort twice: selling [and] medium for us to eat & seed. Part only, selling & seed. Tuesday went to town with a load, 86 bushels. Sold for 80 cts. at store to Davis. He now owes me a balance on potatoes of \$25.00. Wednesday sorted out 20 bushels & buried some. Thursday I took them down. Got 90 cts. by selling in lots of 5 to 10 bushels. Friday finished sorting & burying them & killed the pig, [the] largest one. It weighed 140 lbs since middle of June. A pig for a dollar. Saturday morning rain, not much. Went to town with my potatoes. So ends my potatoes. I have sold in all 111 1/2 bushels for \$105.50 & have some 57 bushels left to eat & seed & a few to sell. I am glad I am done as my hands are nearly worn out & it was a great deal of work to sort them. So many small ones but when sorted, they looked well. Good size. Weather most of the week, nice. First of the week, Tuesday morning, quite a freeze & Sat. cool.

[Lucius, above, sells a load of potatoes to a storeowner named Davis. Cf. in the 1870 Columbus Directory, "Lodwick D. Davis, grocer" with a store at the southwest corner of Gay and 3rd Streets and a residence at 63 E. Long.]

Sunday, Nov. 6, 1870

Uncle Lewises & folks were over today. Pleasant day.

For the week ending Saturday, November 12, 1870

Monday morning made me up a bed of plastering mortar & rest of the day & Tuesday finished casing my windows & put up shelves in the kitchen. Then for the rest of the week worked at plastering the house. Inside, most of the walls had to come off. I put it through from early in the morning until late bedtime. The closet under the stairway, I plastered up in good style & shelved it off & made it a very nice place which before was almost worthless. Got done plastering Sat. afternoon & a very nice job of it. I got so I could do it very fast. We moved downstairs again, as we had moved upstairs. I am glad it is done as I am so behind with all my fall work & am nearly used up. Maggie went to town on Friday with Mrs. Beers & got paper to paper it. Pleasant all the week, first part quite cool & froze quite hard some nights. Today is my birthday again, Novem. 12.

Week ending November 19, 1870

Put this week in at painting the house inside & daubed most of the outside. Too cold & freezing or else I would have finished it. Gave the room two coats & the kitchen, one. I worked from early to late at night & nearly used myself up. Tuesday Maggie & Harry went to town with Mr. Beers & Friday I went after them. Saturday I went to Westerville & traded 2 bushels of spring wheat I got of John for feed for cow & got a load of sawdust & got up some wood. Tuesday first snow of the season & snow most of the week by squalls. Some hard freezes. Looking for our folks over, yet they do not come. I have felt very blue most of the week. Some

unwell & worked down. Seems I cannot get my house done. Hope I may never have an old house to fix up again.

For the week ending Saturday, November 26, 1870

Monday & Tuesday worked at my house. Finished daubing it & underpinned it & banked it up with sawdust. Got it done Tuesday afternoon in the rain when it commenced snowing & snowed on until next morning. Six inches of wet, heavy snow. Wednesday got up some wood & shucked some corn. Thursday went over home & got John to help me haul up wood. It is Thanksgiving today and our third wedding day. Had oysters on it. Uncle Thom O'Harra came out on Monday and went home on Thursday. He wants me to take one of his places next year but I fear it will not do for broom corn. Friday & Saturday hauled wood logs & the log sled. Got up quite a lot. Snow going off.

For the week ending Saturday, December 3, 1870

Monday John & me hauled stone & made a stone walk from my barnyard gate & before the barn door. Took 4 wagon loads of stone. Snow mostly gone. It all soaked away so as to scarcely leave any water for stock. So water is yet scarce. Tuesday thrashed at my beans. Rained some Wednesday. Dug a ditch along the road in front of my house & worked out my road tax. Evening went over & got Alice Beach to stay with Maggie. Thursday went out to Uncle Thomas O'Harras after one of his cows that he is to let us have to winter. Found him at Slagles. Stayed all night there. Friday went [with] him to his place & got the cow. She is an old cow. Large, red, fine cow. He had another that I expected to get but she had just had a calf and he had let one of his children have her as it was Hopkins choice. Saw his place. It will not do for broom corn. Got home some after dark nearly used up, as was my horse. He has a sore mouth so he can hardly eat. Saturday painted the front of my house & various things. I now have my fixing mostly done & must get out my corn after going to town next week. Splendid weather. Clear & nice.

Monday John got home sick. Took his horse & went home.

Sunday, Decem. 4, 1870

We have looked for some of our folks over all the week. I feel very sorry they care so little about us as to come so few times since we have lived here. I feel at times like cammeling [sic] them in respect to what I had better do but can't. John was in a continual stew all the time he was here & I was glad when he was gone. He must be paid a good sound price for everything he does for me & then does it under protest. I had thought some of them could & would be over more but it is not so. As it is now, I or we can't go since John has taken his horse away.

Week ending Saturday, Decem. 10, 1870

Monday helped Mr. Beers kill some hogs. Tuesday went with him to Columbus. Maggie's mother came out. Wednesday went over home & got John's horse. Thursday made a pipe 7 ft. (seven-feet) long out of a sheet of sheet iron & put it on my stove chimney. Rest of the week hauled up corn from the field & piled it up & husked some. Sat. night Bart O'Harra came. Tuesday had hard blow that done some damage. Wednesday rained 1/2 day. Rest [of] week, pleasant.

Sunday, Decem 11, 1870

Rained hard all day from the northeast. More rain fell than has fallen all summer & fall. Yet it failed to start the runs [or] make any water stand on the ground. Only in the road & hollows. Otherwise it all soaked away. Bart stayed all day as he could not get away.

Saturday, December 17, 1870

Monday Bart went home. Maggie went down to town with him. I husked some corn & cut some wood & got Mr. Beers' spring wagon to go to town. Tuesday went [to] town after Maggie. Bought me a pair of rubber boots, \$4.50. Got my brooms, five doz. Cost 60 X 8 = \$4.80. Sold them all but seven for our own use for \$10.25. Turned cold & froze up.

Wedns., Thurs., & Friday

Quite cold. Worked at my beans. Thrashed & cleaned them up. Had 10 1/2 bushels. I am satisfied there was not less than 15 bushels on the piece of ground, a little over 1/2 an

acre. Newton came over Friday night. Saturday made my corn bin in the barn. I had to get my beans out of the road before I could make it or have any place to put my corn. I am now ready to husk corn. John Slagle & family came Sat. night; lot of 10 kin all in a small house makes it full. Afternoon snowed an in. or so. This week I have been attending George Muzzy, who has a bad swelling on his neck. Had to cut it in two places.

[*On the 1872 Sharon Township Map, opposite Lucius' farm on the Blendon-Sharon-Township-Line Road is a 15-acre parcel labeled heirs of "P. Muzzy." Lucius may have absorbed some medical knowledge from his brother Newton.]*

Sunday, Decem. 18, 1870

We have a house full today. Newton went home in the afternoon. That is the way; when one comes, they all come. So we have hardly place to put all.

Saturday, December 24, 1870

This week done nothing but husk corn, cut wood, & haul, one & a half days. Will Beach helped me one day. Monday it snowed some 4 to 5 inches & then rained & turned cold. Tuesday snowed more & got colder & was very cold all the rest of the week, mercury averaging about zero several mornings. Friday & Sat., 10 below zero. We had all we could do to keep fire enough to keep comfortable. It is said the mercury was 15 below over at Worthington. It has been quite still or else it would have been impossible to be out [at] all. As it was, one would soon get frosted. John Slagle & family went home & Monday the old lady O'Harra went with them to town. She seems to have a special bone to pick with me all the time she was here. It is as I told her, she never complimented me. She is troubled with gout, which, I presume, helps her to be ill-humored to a great extent. If this cold weather holds, it will be hard for water as wells have to afford all the water & they are, most of them, dry.

For the week ending Saturday, December 31, 1870

Monday covered my potatoes with manure. I presume there are some frozen. Husked corn. Cut wood. Got my horses shod. Shelled corn & went to Westerville with some grain for cow feed. So much up to Wednesday night. Thursday we went over home to Melissa's wedding. She was married, six o'clock, to a Mr. Theodore Hashman, so pronounced but not so spelled [*Theodore Heischman*], a young man of 21 years. Seems like a good fellow yet I can't say that I am satisfied with the match. I don't like the name nor his connections yet it may all end well. Hope it may. Everything passed off very well on Friday. We calculated on going to the Infair [Infair?] but it snowed a perfect storm so we did not go. Three buggies went however. We came home Friday evening. It [is] quite moderated.

[*Theodore Heischman, above, son of John Heischman and Christina Souder, who married in Franklin County in 1848. Both were born in Virginia. Lucius' misgivings were warranted. In a letter of July 20, 1908, to Homer in Kansas, Newton argued that he had borne more than his share of the "burden of looking after our family helpless ones." Earlier in the letter, "I took care of Liss & Theodore years & years...while I was paying 6 per cent for money borrowed to get my education (medical). And later, "Lucius is the one you ought to strike the hardest. He has never had any such care at no time in his life." Newton writes from Westerville where he is in practice.]*

Saturday husked corn as it was quite warm with snow squalls. First three days were, after last week, cold; the last three, more moderate.

Thurs. winds up the old year. Ends as must all things. Gone with all its hope, pleasures, & troubles, never to return. So we enter a new one, ever hoping for the better.

Blendon

Sunday, January 1, 1871

Today is a splendid, nice, sunshiny day. We went up to Mr. Beers to a dinner. Their friends from town were there.

Last Sunday Maggie stopped Harry from nursing. He made a big fight for a few days but now is quite reconciled & doing well & is less trouble.

Saturday, Jan. 7, 1871

Monday husked corn & went to mill after my cow feed. Tuesday hauled wood. Will Beach helped me. Wednesday him & me went to town. I took in two barrells of molasses for him & brought out lumber for my porch flooring & siding & lumber for my hot-bed sash. I have

been on a great stand [still?]. What to do in the matter? I see no other course & yet I do not seem inclined to do it. I will have so many difficulties to contend against to accomplish anything. I feel almost driven to despair. Sometimes so little to do with & so much expected. Thursday I hauled wood & quit, as I think I have an ague.

Friday we started to go over home with my sash lumber but it turned cold this morning & the roads were too icy & we came back. Rest [of] day & Saturday husked corn & cut wood & went to see Mr. Inskip about trading my big wagon for his spring wagon.

[*The 1870 Blendon Township Census lists William Inskip, 34, farmer, and wife, Sarah, 27.*]

First of the week, moderated. Middle, colder. Thursday snow melted nearly off. Frid. & Sat. cold again with snow on Sat. night.

Saturday, January 14, 1871

Monday cut wood & husked corn. Tuesday hauled corn from the field in the shock. Wednesday morning went over home with team & took my hot-bed-sash lumber over to Father. Afternoon boys & me got my shingle timber for my porch. Uncle Lewis went over with me. The roads were very slippery, so much so that I could hardly get along. Thursday came home. Had quite a hard pull as the frost is going out fast. Friday went to Westerville & got a load of lath & rafters & studding for my porch. Saturday husked corn. I now have 50 bushels [of] assorted corn husked. Monday & Tuesday thawed some. Wednesday, snow mostly gone. Thurs., frost half out. Friday, nearly June. Saturday, warm as spring; the water all soaked away & left the dry [ground].

Sunday, January 15, 1871

Turned colder. Mr. & Mrs. Beers were here to dinner. Our Sundays are generally very long & lonesome.

Saturday, January 21, 1871

Monday husked corn & cut wood. Tuesday morning walked down to town. Went to see Mr. Peters & Binns about getting me a spring wagon made & paying for it in lumber, Father to furnish it & take my mortgage. They will do it & I got a bill of them. Tried hunting up old accts. to get some money. Succeeded in getting some promises but no money. At night got Gilbert to draw up mortgage on my place to John for \$400.00, what I owe him. Wednesday came home. Walked. Found John had come over. We hewed my porch sills. Thursday forenoon John & me hauled up the stone for my porch. Afternoon he went home & I husked corn. Friday Will & Ben Beach helped me husk corn. Saturday I husked corn alone. Newton came over to say that they would get out the lumber for my wagon. He went home again.

[*Peters Benns & Co. was a carriage manufacturer located at 115 E. Town Street. John Benns lived at the southeast corner of 3rd and State Streets. George M. Peters lived on Summit near the city limits. Lucius' later conversations are with Peters.*]

Pleasant all the week, freezing quite hard most every night.

Paid my tax, half of it, when I was down. It was \$9.05.

I have the blues sometimes so bad I don't know how to get along. I have not slept a good night's sleep this week. I try to not think of it but I can't drive it from my mind.

Week ending Saturday, Jan. 28, 1871

Monday went to town horseback & completed my wagon trade. My spring wagon is to cost me \$125.00. Tuesday cleaned my beans over again. Real cold day. Wednesday hauled corn out of the field. Commenced snowing at noon & snowed until next morning & finished with a very bad sleet & crust on the snow. Storm from N.E. Thursday hauled fodder & went to Mr. Beers to a quilting party. Mr. Gants called to see about getting boarding here. We did not at present agree on price. We want to board him if we can agree on price. Friday Maggie & Harry & I went to town. I took down 7 40/60 bushels. Sold them for \$2.00 & 2.25. Got me barrel flour & some groceries. We are not needing the flour but then in the spring it will be bad hauling & I will only have one horse. Got my nails & ect. for my porch, glass & putty for my hot-bed sash, 2 boxes 8 by 10 at \$2.50 = \$5.00, oil paint & ect. Near \$10.00. Frank Lovejoy is dead. Died last Tuesday. We went down in big sled. Saturday done various odd things. Mr. Heischman & Melissa came in the morning. Snowed hard all afternoon. Evening we all went over to Uncle Lewises.

[*Mr. Gants above. Lucius doesn't help us with a given name or a reason why Gants*

needs to be boarded when two Gants farms with houses are contiguous with Lucius' own. Bringing furnishings up from Columbus earlier, Lucius sheltered over night with A.J. Gants, whose property fronted on the Westerville Pike. J.P. Gants, on the 1872 Map owns a hundred acres and house fronting on the Blendon-Sharon-Township-Line Road, just south of Lucius' place. If there is a story here, it remains a mystery.]

Blendon, Ohio, Franklin Co.

Jan 29, 1871

Sunday Uncle Lewis's folks came over & we had a house full. Melissa & her man went home. He, Mr. Heischman, seems like a very good sort of fellow & thinks much of Melissa. Yet I do not like his connections. Yet for all that, he may do well. But they are very poor & have not the means to hardly go to housekeeping. Melissa is very sensitive & I fear she will hardly be able to take things as they will undoubtedly have to be. In fact I feel sorry for her & would she had not married. Yet I hope it may all be yet for the best.

I am feeling very unwell, cold & a cough. Good sleighing now.

For week ending Saturday, Feb. 4, 1871

Monday went with team & sled & helped Uncle Lewis haul saw logs. Hardly able to go. Feel very unwell. Tuesday thawing out with rain. Done but little. Nearly sick. Wednesday Will Beach came over & we husked corn. Newton came over after my wagon. They were to let me have their old one to use but they have broken it down so as to leave [me] without any. Thursday Newton took the wagon & Maggie & Harry & me went over home in Uncle Lewis's spring wagon & got my hot-bed sash, 7 in no. Turned cold & very disagreeable. Friday chored around. Nearly used up again. I cough nearly all night & day. Feel weak & unfitted for work. Hired William Beach to work for me half a month for \$8.00. Pleasant day after part of it.

Saturday forenoon painted some hot-bed sash. Afternoon Will & Uncle Lewis helped me husk corn. Splendid warm day. The ground is about half thawed out & is dry & nice. To husk my corn & build my porch is more than I can do alone. If I were well.

Sunday, Feb. 5, 1871

Morning, wind in N.E. & cold, raw day. Set into snowing at night. Lonesome day all alone. Paris has surrendered to the Prussians.

Week ending Saturday, Feb. 11, 1871

Monday & Tuesday hauled corn out of the field to the house. Tuesday night had a surprise party from the other road of young folks. Most of them were of the aristocracy of over there. Quite a condescension to come over here. Whole wagon load. Had a very good time. Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday Will Beach & me husked corn. I now have 190 bushels of good corn out.

[The "other road" Lucius mentions above must be the north-south road into the town of Central College east of Westerville and of the Westerville Pike. Hard-working Lucius might see the students as a privileged aristocracy.]

Saturday I hauled corn out again off of my new meadow corn field. Snowed most all day. It is hard, disagreeable work. The corn is all frozen down so that is a very tedious, vexatious job to get it out. Will went home last night to work a few days. Wednesday we killed one of my pigs. It netted 199 lbs. I worked some at my hot-bed sash. Homer & Newton came at night from town this way home.

I was glad they came as I was all out [of] sorts & vexed with my work. Maggie has been very unwell all the week. Harry is again all broke out & sore. It seems as if we were never to see him get well. Same vexing thing must continually be on hand. If not one thing, it is another or [a] continual fight to live to enjoy it. Real pleasure seems out of the question. If it is not present trouble already on hand & to be attended to, it is [the] same one almost ready to come hanging over one's head.

Sunday, Feb. 12, 1871

Cold, bad day, quite wintry & snowy. Boys went home after dinner, which makes it lonesome.

Saturday, Feb. 18, 1871

Monday hauled out corn. Cold & snow on the ground. John came over and brought me

a cart Newton made out of the forewheels of their old wagon. Tuesday hauled corn & got it all out of my grass field & in the afternoon helped Mr. Beers cut & haul a stick for a roller to roll ground. John went home & took his horse & left the old mare for me.

Wednesday quite pleasant & thawing. Some painted my hot-bed sash & put in glass on one sash. Thursday warm & nice. Snow mostly gone. Worked half a day at my sash & then husked corn. Expected Will but he did not come.

Friday Will & Ben came & we husked corn until noon when it commenced raining & rained all day & night, making water run in my run & making water plenty for the first time. Afternoon we thrashed corn with a flugel for cow feed. Night put glass in another sash. Saturday finished shelling corn. Shelled 16 bushels. I shelled my poor corn. Made shingles for my porch. Rather cold & windy. Harry has been very troublesome all the week. He is nearly as bad broke out as he ever was. It seems he never will get over it. For two long years, most of the time, we have hardly known what a whole night's rest was & yet it continues.

For week ending Saturday, Feb. 25, 1871

Monday & Tuesday husked corn, 90 shocks. Will Beach helped me. Quite cold & freezing at night. Wednesday forenoon hauled in the corn. I now have 255 bushels of good corn & some 25 of small & 47 shocks to husk yet. Wednesday afternoon Will went home & I went to Westerville with my corn & got it ground. Pleasant & warm. Hitched up the old mare with team for first time. I made her do but it will be a poor [fix?]. I would rather kill her than work her but necessity compells. Thursday painted some sash & worked at ditching off my ground. The frost is about all out & water seems to come up instead of going down. Heard first peepers or frogs hallo today. Friday ditched again & fixed my cart bed on, as Newton had made it so that [it] would tip up with nothing in. Very windy day; hard, sweeping wind. Saturday painted more sash & made shingles. Afternoon, rain; very spring-like.

Blendon, Franklin Co., Ohio

Week ending Saturday, March 4, 1871

Monday dug my pit for hot bed & got me some lumber. Tuesday hauled out my corn from the orchard & put my manure in a pile to heat. Morning froze some but pleasant. Wednesday Will & Ben came over & Lun Beers & we all husked corn & got done before night. I now have 275 bushels of good, sorted corn & some 45 of the sortings. It has been a long, tedious job but is at last done. Nice day but windy. Thursday made my frame for my sash & put my heating material in the pit & completed the whole thing in nice order. Friday rained all of last night & part of today. Run off a lot of water by ditching & put my ground in my hot bed. It has all the appearance of spring vegetation all starting.

Saturday went to town. Bought my garden seeds. My wagon is done. Bought me breeching for my harness & a watering pot & ect. Still warm & spring-like. I am afraid I am behind with my hot bed if spring is already come.

This week Harry has been quite bad & fell in the fire & burnt himself on his hand some but not bad. The chickens are still dying off. Will, I presume, all go.

Sunday, March 5, 1871

Rode over home horseback. Mr. Peters wants me to get him 100 grape-vine posts & I went to see if Father could furnish them. He can do so if [he] can agree with Peters as to price. Will Beach went over with me. Pleasant day. Very. It does not seem as if spring could be come already.

Saturday, March 11, 1871

Monday sowed my hot bed with cabbage, tomatoes, & but a few sweet potatoes. Tuesday Will Beach & me put down the stone for my porch & put the timbers. Afternoon I went to town. Saw Mr. Peters & could not agree on price of posts. Got me a pair of shoes & some spikes for porch. Will went home. Rest of the week I finished making shingles, some six hundred. Made my hot-bed sash for cucumbers. Saturday painted sash & whitewashed the ceiling of the house & glued the walls to paper them. I put in every minute all the week as steady as the time [allowed]. Very pleasant all the week except Thursday & Saturday rained. Grass is growing nice. My hot bed is doing finely. Seed are coming up fine.

Sunday, 12

Morning, snowing. Rained all night. Turned off warm & pleasant. Harry has been quite

bad at times this week.

Saturday, March 18, 1871

Monday afternoon Father & Newton came & we proceeded to put up my porch. Rather cold & wet.

Tuesday we got the frame up & rafters on. It is a very staunch frame nailed & spiked together.

Wednesday forenoon Father & me went to Mr. Beers & turned a roller. Newton worked at the frame. Afternoon Father & Newton went home & I weatherboarded. Thursday worked at the porch. Maggie went to town with Mr. Beers. Set in to rain & rained all night. Friday rainy & cold. Went to a sale. Bought a hand saw & some other things. Commenced my roof. Saturday a man came to help me clean out my well. Got it done by middle afternoon & made my one bed for cucumbers. Put in heating material & sods on top. Very warm. Frost this morning.

Saturday, March 25, 1871

This week Monday put on my roof. Tuesday laid the floor. It is quite cool. Wednesday went to town with Mr. Daugherty & got me more siding, 240 ft., door casing, & ect. Thursday planted my first bed of cucumbers, 2 sashes. It is nicely heated up now from the heating material, manure, I put under it. Worked at my porch. Raw, cold day. Friday finished my porch, all but making the door. It looks very well; neat, well proportioned & handsome. Still cold. Saturday cut & hauled sod & put them in the frame & cut them up, 3 by 3 & 3 by 4 inches [sic]. Over 600 of them & in the other bed, 4 hundred. As soon as I think it will do, I will plant them. I am afraid it is yet too soon. John Slagle came out. I am nearly worked out, having been on the jump all the week & I feel old & worn out. This morning, hard frost & a hard freeze. Wednesday I received by Bancroft of Wm. Wheeler on a note on store acct., \$26.00. Paid Bancroft \$1.00 for getting it. It came so good to me. I was almost in despair how to pay for my wagon. It seems our wants are so numerous. Buy something all the time. I think this & that is the last for a while but something comes in & it is buy again. I would not care if we had only plenty to buy with.

[Wheeler above. Among the Columbus businessmen Lucius has had bad dealings with, "Wheeler" may be William Wheeler, furniture dealer at 88 E. Town Street, as listed in the 1870-71 Columbus Directory. Wheeler boards at the Neil House on the Capitol Square.]

Sunday, March 26, 1871

Rained all day & most [of] night. A cold, cheerless, wet day.

Saturday, April 1, 1871

Monday helped Slagle get out his potatoes. Let him have 11 bushels for seed & sent with him 5 bushels of small ones to town & went down horseback to attend to them. Took 3 bushels of large ones, for which I got \$1.25 per bushel. Very cold, disagreeable day. Tuesday helped Beers butcher & killed my hog. It dressed 240 lbs. Still cold & freezing nights. Wednesday Uncle Lewis & me made & put up the door on my new addition. Thursday made my front doorstep & went to John Baker's house raising. Warmer & some rain.

Friday finished some work about my porch. It is now all done & I am ready to commence some farm work. Took out my potatoes out of holes. Saturday harrowed the corn strips in my new grass field & sowed it to grass. Worked rest of day at my hot beds, cleaning them out. My cucumber bed is coming up. Quite pleasant yet cool.

I have been troubled with the blues & feel very despondent all week.

Sunday, April 2, 1871

Went over home as I got a letter from Newton during the week that Peters was not doing the fair thing in regard to the lumber & I went to see about it. We, I guess, can arrange it. Homer & Newton have bought them a new spring wagon for \$130. I had a talk with Eliza concerning a Mr. Noe who is coming to see her but it done no good. She only got very mad & that ended it. When once a woman sets their heads, it is useless to try to turn them. If she must or will have him, she must put up with the consequences. Heard that Gilbert's folks were sick.

[Lucius' sisters are attracting beaux, young men as here with Plain Township names. Lucius' advice to his sisters and any other relative is don't marry. Understandable, given his

son's deplorable health and his wife's dissatisfaction with their living conditions.]

For week ending Saturday, April 8, 1871

Monday forenoon transplanted some tomato plants out of hot bed. Afternoon got Beers' horse & buggy & took Maggie down to town. Found Gilbert's youngest child very sick with lung fever. Left Maggie & came home.

Tuesday sold Andrew Collins half of my stock of hay for \$16. We cut it down. Afternoon went down horseback to town. Found the child no better. They are most distracted on its acct. They wanted [me] to come back & stay all night; so I came home and done up my work & got Beers' horse & buggy & went back after night & set up with child all night. It died at five o'clock in the morning of Wednesday.

Wednesday morning got a photographer & helped him to take the picture. After various things were done & arranged, we came home & broke our axle about halfway home. Borrowed another carriage & came home & then got the broken one to the shop. We both of us are nearly worn out. Turning warmer.

Thursday got another buggy & went again for town. The funeral was 2 o'clock. Maggie & me were quite busy to arrange. There was plenty of help yet it seems Tillie would rather Maggie would do & arrange for her than others. A short funeral discourse at the house & then remains were conveyed to Green Lawn Cemetery and put in the dead house. They were in a splended metallic case, no expense being spared in the whole affair. Ten hacks were hired to convey the friends. After supper we came home. I had a talk with Gilbert. He is quite inconsolable & is Tillie. Very warm, warmest of the spring.

Friday morning plowed my garden & commenced to plow my new ground for potatoes. My horses work poorly together & I feel so blue & used up & so behind with my work & I feel unable to try to get it done. Some of my cucumber plants were hurt by yesterday's hot sun.

Saturday, April 8, harrowed, furrowed out, & planted some early Rose potatoes & replanted some tomatoes from hot bed. My cucumbers I planted on Tuesday are coming up nicely. Very warm. Harry is very badly broke out & quite unwell with cold. Bought a pig for \$5.00 of Mr. Ballard.

[The 1870 Blendon Township Census has John Ballard, 41, with wife Elizabeth, 36, described as a "farm laborer" with 7 children. Landless workers such as Ballard, often housed on a farmer's property, were a feature of the Midwest farm economy until sometime after World War II.]

Sunday, April 9, 1871

Harry sick all day. Has a fever. Lonesome day, alone & sick child.

Week ending Saturday, April 15, 1871

Monday planted some more potatoes & went to Westerville after some medicine for son. He is quite sick. High fever & cold on his lungs.

Tuesday transplanted some tomatoes on sod & helped about Harry. He is very sick all day. Tillie heard he was sick & came out. Got Will Beach to go over home after our folks. Maggie is nearly worn out. Turned very cold.

Wednesday Newton brought Father & Mother over & left them here. Harry is not quite so bad as yesterday. Yesterday morning I called in Dr. Landon as he was passing. He said it was intermittent fever. Transplanted some more tomatoes as I could get the chance. Still cold. Frost this morning.

Thursday Harry was quite sick all night but better today. Heavy frost this morning. Got a girl to wash & then Will Beach & I rolled & cleaned off my new ground piece. It burns nice.

Friday morning, heavy frost & hard freeze. Froze some of plants & I had them covered up good, those I transplanted out. Rolled my new meadow. Cleaned up my dooryard & burnt the chips. The ground is very dry. Runs & water are all dried up. Harry is still better but has fever which comes on later every day.

Saturday plowed at my new ground. It plows very hard. I have by patience got my horse to work. The first of the week he was almost no acct. at all. He feels so good. He [is] almost dangerous to handle. Heavy frost again & freeze. Harry is still mending. Father & Mother went over to Uncle Lewises. This has been a very hard week on us. Both nearly used up

Sunday, April 16, 1871

Harry is quite smart today but does not eat much & is very cross. Homer came after Father & Mother. Mr. Ware & wife & Lib Greene came over a while. Quite pleasant but cool.

For week ending Saturday, April 22, 1871

Monday & Tuesday got my potato ground in order, what I plowed last week, & planted some more potatoes. Wednesday commenced to plow my piece for tomatoes & cucumbers north of the house & land. Had a heavy rain at noon. Trimmed up my orchard.

Thursday plowed my piece of ground. Real cool & dreary. Friday harrowed & rolled my ground, furrowed some out & hauled out manure on it to set my cucumbers & tomatoes in. Calculated to put them out but it is so cold that it would be simple destruction to put them out.

Saturday went to town with Andrew Collins & got my wagon home. It is quite a nice wagon yet does not quite suit me. Newton hauled in \$70.50 worth of lumber on it & paid cash \$26.00, leaving a balance of \$3.50 from him. Yet I paid cash \$54.50 total for wagon of \$125. Very cold, windy day. Wore an overcoat all day. There was an error in lumber since discovered by seeing Newton [on] Sunday 22 of 100 feet lumber & on Monday I saw those wagon men & had it rectified. The last load they sent in by Hashman & left the bill for me in town & they did not see the bill & there was the above error in it of \$2.50 for 100 ft. lumber.

Sunday, April 23, 1871

Morning heavy frost & a hard freeze. See nearly half-inch-thick ground froze hard. I covered up all my plants in the ground & any sash were on my beds good & tight. Yet all my cucumbers of over a thousand hills were frozen except probably 100 hills. All my tomatoes transplanted in one bed, some 700, were frozen. One bed south of barn of 400 nearly all escaped. My hot bed of tomatoes did not freeze at all. Hitched up to our new wagon & went over home. I feel as if I wanted to run away after all my trouble & pains. One night fixed all. My cucumbers were splendid. The last bed of 600 hills were so healthy & nice. Fruit is all killed. It was a general freeze.

For the week ending Saturday, April 29, 1871

Monday morning cleaned out my cucumber beds & replanted them & went to town after more seeds. Tuesday finished resowing my beds, tomatoes & cucumbers & cabbage. Plowed my cabbage patch & set out some plants. I have some nice ones. Wednesday finished setting out my cabbage & put out some cucumbers & planted some corn for early corn. Rained & we commenced to paper the house. Thursday some more rain. Worked at papering & got done late at night. Cold & unpleasant Friday. Plowed at my new ground & cut off a large patch of briars. John Baker wanted me to take a piece of new ground off his hands on old Mrs. Muzzies place [spelled "Musey" earlier and on the 1872 Map]. I would but she would not let me have it. I will get even with her for this summer. She is as mean [an] old rip as lives, as is the whole Emerson tribe.

Saturday we went to town. Real cold & disagreeable. We took down 10 lbs. butter made this week & last. Sat. we took down 9 lbs. for 30 cts. per lb. I went to see Dr. White to get some money but got a promise, sometime next week. Mother O' Harra came up with us. People are planting corn. Yet it seems too cold to do much at it. I have spent most of the week righting up after the frost & papering the house & must now go into my plowing & planting business but I find that my plant business takes up very much of my time.

[*Dr. White above. Lucius reported on December 12, 1869, that Maggie was trying a "homeopathic remedy" on Harry. The 1870-71 Columbus Directory lists Dr. C.C. White as a "Homeopathic Physician" with an office at 33 E Town Street and a residence at 190 N. Front. One thing the doctor might be indebted to Lucius for is produce.*]

Sold Andrew Collins 5 bu. corn for \$2.50 & 1/2 ton more hay. It has been a very blue, discouraging week to me. My prospects on tomatoes were good & splendid on cucumbers; but I have some 6 hundred large, nice tomatoes. Yet I set out some in the patch on Friday. My tomatoes, cabbage, & cucumbers planted Monday & Tuesday are up nice. Maybe I can come in on some of them yet.

Harry has been worse than ever. It seems he would go distracted at times. Day times he is all right but at night, either at bed time or middle of the night for a couple hours, he has a regular scratching & screaming spell. We are giving him an alternative syrup or preparation which I hope will do good. Most all winter & spring hardly a night have we had a whole night's rest. Sometimes I feel like tearing things to pieces to see the child suffer so & can do nothing for him. If we have not had our share of trouble so far, then I don't know it.

Saturday, May 6, 1871

Monday plowed at my new ground. Had to bother with John Turney. He came home drunk & his mother was not at home & he came to me. Tuesday & Wednesday plowed some & set out some six hundred tomato plants. Now in all they are fine, large ones. Rained both days & all night Wednesday. Wet down nicely. We were needing it badly. Uncle Lewis & Andrew Collins took rest of my hay stack. Thursday plowed at my new piece & made a dam across the run in the woods for water. The run is running some.

Friday finished my new ground plowing & went to town [with] Maggie & her mother. Quite cool. Butter is down to 20 to 25 cts. Saturday plowed in my orchard piece. Ground plows nice now. Very cold. Cleared off at night.

Sunday, May 7, 1871

Quite a frost this morning. I covered up all I could of my plants. Buried some of the tomatoes. My cucumbers of which I have over a hundred hills, it hurt quite badly; but the tomatoes, little. The cut worms are eating them bad. They were in the manure I put in the hills. John Van Hauten came up. Hitched up & went over to Uncle Lewises a while. Pleasant but cool.

Saturday, May 13, 1871

Monday & Tuesday finished plowing. Wednesday & Thursday rolled & harrowed my ground & furrowed out some. Friday & Saturday furrowed out & planted some. Set out some more tomato plants. Frost several nights but it did not hurt my tomatoes much but killed my cucumbers. I am nearly discouraged trying to do anything. I have the blues most all the time.

Sunday, May 14

Heavy frost & ice. Froze nearly all my tomato plants. Now all or nearly so of my first planting are gone & the labor with them. All of my first cucumbers, all gone. Everything freezable is froze. I have plenty of plants yet. I will keep on raising & putting out. Went over to Mr. Wares, Maggie, Harry & me. Evening Lide, my sister, & a Mr. Ogden & a Mr. Quinn & girl stopped to supper.

Harry is getting better of his breaking out. His medicine seems to be helping him.

Saturday, May 20, 1871

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday & until noon Thursday planted corn. Uncle Lewis & Benjamin helped me. Lan Beers helped one day. I put a shovel full of manure to each hill of corn & plenty around the apple trees. It took 9 day's work to manure & plant less than 4 acres. But I hope it is well done. Rest of Thursday & Friday harrowed at my potato ground & hauled out manure for the last of my plants. Saturday went to town, all of us. I collected of Dr. C.C. White on late acct., ten dollars. Bought me a pair of blinds for Tom to work him with in the buggy & bought half a pound of cucumber seed for pickles. Monday was the first real warm day for over a month. Thursday & Friday heavy frosts. Rain on Tues & Wednesday. Monday Gilbert & family came up. He went to Westerville & left them here.

We are needing more rain badly. Meadows will be light. All kinds of plant pests are very bad. I put out on Wednesday some 100 hills [of] cucumbers & the bugs eat them right up.

Sunday, May 21, 1871

We went over home & Homer came over with us to help me this week.

Saturday, May 27, 1871

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday harrowed my potato ground & planted it & set out tomato plants every evening. It is very dry & everything suffering. The bugs are eating up all of my cucumbers. I put on Paris green but it does not answer long. They soon come back.

Thursday planted a melon patch & pumpkin patch. I have some over an acre of potatoes. Planted, plowed, & harrowed out my early corn & tomatoes.

Friday hitched up Tom to the buggy & tried to find some sheep for Homer to shear but could not. They are mostly sold off. Afternoon commenced to make a fence across my pasture lot to enclose my patch. Evening put Tom by force in the buggy & drove him a mile or so when he broke one of the shafts. It was lucky we got off so well as we did. He has been sometime spoiled to a buggy. I shall not try him anymore. Saturday worked at my fence. Had an hour's

rain in the afternoon, a timely rain. Set out plants evening.

John, Eliza, & Melsena came over. It has been very hot most all the week.

Sunday, May 28, 1871

Nice rain which was badly needed. Grass will not be much better than last year. The folks including Homer went home.

Saturday, June 3, 1871

Monday finished my fence & worked very hard to do it. It is very hot. Tuesday plowed my potatoes & set out tomato plants as we had a nice rain. I now have out some 1200 plants. Wednesday forenoon went to town with my broken shaft. Afternoon worked at my plants. Thursday replanted my corn & rolled it or finished it. Hauled out manure for cabbage & prepared the ground. Planted lima beans, some 400 hills. Friday plowed out my tomato and cucumber & corn patch. My vines, what is living, are nice. The bugs are not molesting them now. They are however at my melons. My tomatoes are doing finely. Saturday fixed the well to put the milk in it. Hoed out my vines. Planted beans & ect. Winding up at night as tired as a dog. Both of us are nearly worked out. The Colorado potato bugs are taking the potatoes all over the country. As yet I have seen none on mine. The cut worms are nearly ruining mine, eating the tops off. I never saw insects half as bad. Mr. Beers sold out this week his place for some \$62. cash per acre.

Sunday, June 4, 1871

John & Newton came over. John brought his horse over & exchanged him for the old mare to plow corn with. He is very poor. Had a nice rain.

Saturday, June 10, 1871

This week planted some more cucumbers for pickles. Planted corn where the bugs eat up my water melons. Finished setting out cabbage. Have out some 2000 plants. Plowed corn, hoed out my vines & plants, went to town & got buggy shaft & put it on. Got horse shod and Saturday Maggie, Harry, & me went to John Slagles. Homer came over & stayed while we went. Tuesday evening & during the night we had more rain than we wanted, swimming the ground. Too wet to plow corn until Saturday. Quite cool.

Sunday, June 11, 1871

Came home from Slagles. Rain at night, hard. I went to see Will O'Harra to try to persuade him out of getting married but it is of no use.

Saturday, June 17, 1871

This week plowed my corn through twice, also plowed my potatoes, melons, tomatoes, and all of my truck. Cleaned them out good. Killed potato bugs (Colorados). Friday Maggie & me went to town. Saturday more rain.

Sunday, June 18, 1871

Me [sic] went over home. I wanted to get my old wagon to haul off my corn & oats but they are going to use it. Quite cool wind in the north.

Harry has got pretty near well of his breaking out. His face is clean & nice for the first time since he has been having it. We have given the strong alternative syrup since April.

Saturday, June 24, 1871

Monday & Tuesday hoed my melons, pumpkins, & cucumbers and some of my tomatoes. Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday hauled corn & oats to town, 84 bushels of oats at 50 cts. = \$42.00 and 92 bushels of corn at 58 cts., \$48.82. I have yet some 170 bushels of corn that I will hold, as I feel confident it will advance. At least I will take my chance. Saturday hoed out my tomatoes & dressed up various things. Very warm all the week. Nice rain Saturday. Friday my corn planted with manure is doing finely. My early cucumbers, what was left of them, are not doing well. Something works on the roots. They have some cucumbers on. My early cabbage is doing fine, cabbage to use now, also early potatoes. My first tomatoes that were not entirely killed down to the ground have nice large tomatoes. My meadows, all coming out nicely except the one north of the house. The oats hurt it badly. It set well but will not cut much. Wheat is being cut this week & some last week.

Saturday, July 1, 1871

This week helped Uncle Lewis in his wheat 3 days. Rest of the week plowed corn. Hoed out my cabbage & ect. Went to town Friday afternoon. Took some of my early cabbage & cucumbers. Sold them very well. Paid Gilbert the interest on my notes from date to Novem. 11, 1871, being \$83.13.

Wheat is nearly all finished this week. It is the best wheat & most of it I ever saw. Were it not for the machines, it could not all be saved. It is getting dry. Last of the week real cool. No rain of any consequence & it is getting dry.

Sunday, July 2, 1871

We went over home. Dry prospect along the road. Very warm.

Saturday, July 8, 1871

This week finished plowing my corn both ways. Also plowed my potatoes & ect. Poled my beans, some 400 hills. Quite a job to get the poles. Went to the crick & got pawpaw poles. Maggie drove over home alone & got a lot of cherries. Wednesday I went to town with cabbage & cucumbers. Got 6 cts. for cabbage & 60-30 [Cf. 50 & 40 cts. below] & 15 cts. per dozen for cucumbers. My small load brought nearly 8 dollars.

Tom runs off with me this week plowing my potatoes. My palm-leaf hat blew off & scared him. He was perfectly wild. I will sell him if I do not get half his value. He will never be safe & once he learns a bad trick, it never gets out of him. Had few showers but they seemed to do no good & everything is suffering badly for rain. Very hot.

Sunday, July 9, 1871

Stayed home all day. Rain passing around but none here.

Blendon, Saturday, July 15, 1871

This week worked at my hay. Cut my old meadow & got it in stock [stack Cf. below] & shock. Uncle Lewis & Ben helped me. John Baker mowed it. I helped Baker Thursday & went to town twice Monday & Friday. Got 50 & 40 cts. per dozen for my cucumbers. On Monday I got \$5.30 for a bushel. Tuesday had a heavy rain. Wet the ground down as it has not for a long time. Rather rainy all week & very hot.

Sunday, July 16, 1871

Newton & Homer came over.

Saturday, July 22, 1871

This week went to town twice with cucumbers & tomatoes. They ripen slowly. Helped Uncle Lewis stack his wheat & the rest of the week worked at my hay. Lewis & Ben helped me. Homer helped Frid. & Sat. We got nearly done except 12 shocks. Have 6 stacks a ton in the barn & let Lewis have 1/2 ton. In all, not less than fifteen ton. Very cool all week, nearly frost. Getting very dry. G.G. Collins & family came up Saturday night.

Sunday, July 23

Gilbert & I went over on the Worthington road. We are having a very good visit. Old time like.

Saturday, July 29, 1871

Monday finished my hay. Found a butcher & sold my calf for \$7.00. Went to town twice. Cucumbers are about done. Getting so plenty. We went over home on Thursday & Father & Mother came over on Friday & Father went to town with me on Saturday. It is very dry. We had a shower on Thursday. My tomatoes ripen very slowly. So dry & cold.

Saturday, August 5, 1871

Tuesday & Friday went to town. Took Maggie in on Tues. & brought her home on Friday. Her & Tillie went out to Slagles. I went over home on Wednesday and bought a hog of Newton. Rest of week put in at my truck. I am salting up my pickles as I can't well sell them. It is too early yet. Still very dry & hot most of the week. One little shower. Water is getting scarce. Newton & Homer came over Friday.

Homer stayed with me. He is attending the Teachers Institute at Westerville [presumably at Otterbein University]. Lasts 2 weeks. Newton went home Saturday.

Saturday, August 12, 1871

Monday took Homer up to Westerville. Got up my load for town of tomatoes. Tuesday went to town. Maggie went along. Gilbert & family start east Wednesday. I got 75 cts. for tomatoes. Rest [of] week went down twice. They are down to nothing. Market, full. It is so dry & hot they all ripen & blister before they are ripe. There [are] too many raised. They can't be sold. Sold some pickles, corn, & ect. It is extremely hot & dry. Water is all dried up. My pond I made is dry & I have to drive my things away to water. Had a shower on Friday.

TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE [by Delores Lewis]

The above completes the diary in chronological order from November 12, 1869, to August 12, 1871. What follows are various dates in somewhat chronological order. This last section was located at the back of the diary and appears to have included notes concerning the running of the farm of which some entries were included in the chronological diary entries above.

SECOND TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE [by John E. Saveson]

There are no periods in the original diary entries below. A few in 1871 and more in 1870 have been added to mark out some complete statements.

Record of events 1871

February	10	First crows came
	17	First rain to fill up water places since last spring
	23	Frost all out of the ground
March	1	Spring seems to have come
	2	Made my hot bed
	6	Sowed my seed in hot bed, cabbage, tomatoes & some beet seeds
	10	Set first hen
		Hens are dying of cholera; nearly half dead
		Turkeys all dead
	13	Old red cow had a calf, heifer
	18 & 19	Warm & pleasant. Flies are on the cattle like summer.
	23	Planted my first bed of cucumbers, 2 sash
	25	Severe freeze & frost
April	1	Cold, backward weather
	4	Planted my other bed of cucumbers, 3 sashes
	6, 7, & 8	Warm, like summer
	8	Planted my first potatoes, Early Rose
		Transplanted tomato plants from hot bed to beds in the ground
	10	Made some garden
	10 to 15	Very cold & dry wind in the north. Frost & freezing.
	17 & 18	Planted more potatoes
	21	Planted first corn & some cucumbers in field
	23	Morning hard freeze & frost. Ice 1/2 inch thick. Killed all my cucumbers and most all my tomatoes out of hot bed.
	27	Set out early cabbage
	28	Set out tomatoes in field; large, fine ones
May	3 & 4	Set out more tomatoes. Nice rain
	7	Frost & cold
	9, 10 & 11 & 14	The 14th severely killed nearly all my plants again
	12	Planted some corn
	18	Got done planting corn. Manured nearly 4 acres of corn in the hill.
	17 & 18	Rain

24 Finished planting late potatoes. Set out tomatoes, cucumbers, and cabbage.

April 27 & 28 Rain
30 Finished setting out tomato plants. Have out some 1200. Bugs have nearly destroyed my cucumbers, what was left by the frost.

June 6 Heavy rain
8 Finished setting out late cabbage
11 & 17 Rain
22 Early cabbage to eat. Early beets to eat.
24 Rain
25 New potatoes to eat. Our cow had a calf, bull

July 1 Wheat harvest all done, some cut two weeks ago. Splendid harvest.
7 Laid corn by; plowed it 5 times.
11 Splendid rain. Nice, ripe tomatoes.
12 Commenced to cut grass.

SECOND TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE [by John E. Saveson]

The entries below, as transcribed by Delores Lewis, are, in general, in reverse chronological order. If Lucius followed some other organizing principle, it is not discernible.

Saturday, December 31, 1870

On Monday, Decem. 19, commenced snowing & turned cold & got colder on until Saturday night, [Decem.] 24. The mercury was down to 10 below zero & held cold on until Wednesday 28 when it somewhat moderated & up to date, it is pleasantly cool. We still have no water. Wells do not furnish enough & cricks are frozen up. Ice 12 inches thick.

November 15, 1870

Had first snow, a few minutes' duration, & the rest of the week had several quite spurts of snow & some quite hard freezes. Yet no rain, no water in runs. Stock have to be watered from wells & not sufficient in them.

Novem. 22

Had a regular snow storm from the north, six inches of damp, wet snow. By the 27th it was gone & turned off. Very pleasant & warm. It went away so slowly that it left no water scarcely for stock so that people now, December 4th, have trouble to find water for their animals.

Sunday, Decem. 11

Had a severe rain of all day from northeast, more rain than all summer. Yet it made no water scarcely & water is yet scarce.

Oct. 25, 1870

Commenced to dig my late potatoes. Got most of them dug by the 29. In the best black ground the drought nearly killed them. Out on the clay ground the tops lived until rain came & have since made quite fair potatoes. The rest are small & few.

November 2, 1870

Finished digging my potatoes & Saturday I finished hauling them away & have the rest buried. Hauled away 111 1/2 bushels in all & received for them \$105.50. Had in all, except what we have eaten, 168 1/2 off of not quite 2 1/2 acres ground. Have some over 30 bushels of seed potatoes buried. Rest are eating [potatoes].

Oct. 9, 1870

My grass seed has come up nicely. This morning a slight frost. None to do damage.

Oct. 14

This morning heavy frost & ice. Killed tomato and potato tops. First frost to kill of the season. Grass has grown rapidly since the rain but now, the 15th Oct., we are needing rain badly. People are in full blast sowing wheat yet.

Oct. 19 & 20

Had a nice rain. We were needing rain but all our rain does not make any water on the ground. I have to have water yet. Last of the week warm & pleasant. My new grass seed is doing fine.

Oct. 29, 1870

Morning had quite a freeze, 28. Some rain, 30. Several hours hard rain. Warm & pleasant.

Sept. 23, 1870

Finished cutting corn. Had 438 shocks. Very warm & scarcely any dew. Commenced feeding stock this week.

Sept. 30, 1870

Sowed my large piece of corn ground to grass. Timothy seed about one peck to the acre. Sowed with seed sower. Harrowed it down well, then dragged it with two logs chained together. Got it in splendid condition.

Sept. 27

Commenced to rain from the northeast little, light, warm showers; 28 & 29 also rained some each day.

Oct. 2

Rained all day steady from northeast.

Sept. 13

Finished gathering my beans. Put them under shed. They are a splendid crop, a mass of pods well filled.

Aug. 25, 1870

Had a shower of rain, enough to lay the dust. Very dry pastures gone dried up; corn ripening for want of rain.

August 29, 1870

Had another shower of rain but it is like pouring water on a dry brick. Soon gone.

Sept. 2, 1870

Sowed Timothy seed on oats stubble north of the house, nearly a bushel to four acres. Ground in nice condition. Sowed with a seed sower.

Sept. 9, 1870

Had a sprinkle of rain only. Took cow to Mr. Beers' bull.

Sept. 12, 1870

Commenced to cut corn. It is part of it dead ripe & ought to have been cut last week. Fodder drying up very fast. Sun hot & ground all moisture gone.

July 28, 1870

Had a nice rain that wet down but not enough. Very hot before the rain but cool afterward. Summer, I presume, is now broke. No more so hot weather. Green horseflies have been worse than I ever saw them.

Aug. 10 & 11

Had a nice rain. Wet down near or quite 2 inches. What we want is all-day rain. A shower or a two-hours rain is only a commencement. Corn has nearly perished. Pastures are used up. Potatoes have none on yet. What the result may yet be is hard to determine.

Aug. 13, 1870

Had a two-hours rain from the northeast. Still the ground on the south side of the corn hills is dry. When will we have rain to wet down?

July 11 & 12

Has some nice rains, just enough to wet down the corn & no more; but it commenced to dry up immediately.

15 Finished making hay. Made 4 tons off 7 acres.

28 Finished putting up oats. Had 115 dz [?] on 4 acres. Extremely hot mercury, nearly one hundred in the shade. Flies on cattle & horses are very bad so [that] they fall away & get poor.

July 24

Had a nice shower but it is only a sprinkle to what we ought to have. Corn is all rolled up & on a standstill. Potatoes are doing nothing & will not unless it rains more plenty than it has. Had a mess of early corn today.

July 1, 1870

At noon had a nice shower of rain but we are needing many times as much, as some things are suffering. My potatoes on the sod look very sickly. Corn also on clay ground grows very slow.

Planted some cucumbers; 10 set out. Some cabbage plants. Corn very spotted, some, 5 ft. & some, 6 inches.

July 7, 1870

Had 1/2 day's rain. Came slow & nice; yet on the windward side of a hill of corn it was dry. After all the rain, it seems, we cannot get rain sufficient to wet down the ground.

Turned off very cool from the north after such a long term of hot weather of over two weeks, or three nearly.

Blendon T.P., Franklin County, Ohio

April, 1870

Farm Transactions

Moved on the place	April 6
Commenced plowing for oats	7
Commenced sowing for oats	8
Finished sowing for oats	12
Commenced breaking sod	14
Finished breaking sod	25
Made garden	18 & 24
Commenced plowing for corn	29
Planted first potatoes	25
Heavy frost & ice	30
Put my mare to Bart O'Harra's horse	May 2
Very warm rain passing around; we need it bad.	5
Quite cool	7 & 8
Set my first hen on 13 eggs	8
Commenced planting potatoes and planted all the week. Ground very dry & hard. Nights cold & some of the days. Wind in the north.	9
Set hen No. 2 on 15 eggs	
Set hen No. 3 on 17 eggs	13
Commenced planting corn Monday afternoon & finished one piece, some 9 acres, on Wednesday noon.	16
Finished planting potatoes. Planted some 3 1/2 acres. Put on 43 bushels seed. Drilled 12 to 14 inches apart. Cut potatoes with 2 to 3 eyes apiece. Planted on sod. Plowed deep & well	

worked up	20
Planted squashes, pumpkins, melons, broom corn, & cane enough for use.	20 to 21
Commenced to break my orchard piece. Breaks hard. Dry as can be & quite well seasoned out.	19

Evening of 19 had a shower of rain. First of this month except some sprinkles. We are needing rain very bad. Grass will be light as mice oats. Corn can hardly sprout. Extremely warm.

Blendon, Franklin Co., Ohio
Thursday, May 26, 1870

Finished planting corn, in all, some 14 to 15 acres. The last piece is as dry as can be. I rolled it after planting, having before run two logs & a harrow over it before planting.

25 & 26

Cold & wind in north & east. Cloudy or else there would be frost.

Friday, May 27, 1870

Planted some 1/2 acre beans.

28

Hen no. 1 hatched out nine chickens. One bad egg. Three dead chickens.

29

Wind still in the northeast. Cold, mornings & nights. Some things, grass & corn, is perishing for rain.

30

Bought me a cow & calf for \$60.00 She gives some 4 to 4 1/2 gallons milk. Cow good size. Milk, very good & rich.

June, 2 & 8, 1870

Replanted corn. It all came up but the rain we had in May crusted the ground so that it is curled up under the crust & cannot get through. Considerable is dead that has come up. Wind still in northeast & warm with cool nights. My last corn I planted is some of it coming, although it seems as if there was no moisture in the ground to sprout it.

June 3

Hen no. 2, 15 eggs, brought out 14 chickens. All lived. One bad egg. Now have 23 chicks.

June 9

Hen no. 3, 17 eggs, broke 2. Brought out 14 chickens, one dead in shell.

June 8

Planted some corn in wheat. My cane & broom corn did not come up.

June 6

Rolled one piece of corn, first planted both ways.

June 8

Had nice rain but not enough by half. Wet down an inch or 1 1/2 inches. Most rain we have had since 18 April.

My last planted piece of corn that I planted in the dust is up nicely. Some hills missing which, I presume, will come up yet since it has rained.

June 9, 10, 11, & 12

More rain. We now have plenty. Ground full & standing in places.

11 & 12

The rain came from the east. Steady, easy rain. My pasture is nearly give out.

June 19, 1870

Too wet to work corn. All the week on the 15 we had a hard rain which started the run. Water standing on the corn in some places. Sun hot & disposed to scald. Oats & grass doing fine. Corn is not doing well. On a standstill.

June 20

Commenced plowing potatoes & corn. Corn is growing again nicely. Some of it is hurt by the wet as is some of my potatoes.

June 24

Lost my mare. Died of lockjaw caused probably by a cork on her hind foot, done some time in May. It seemed on several occasions to be well & then would get sore again. Dr.

thinks foot did not cause it.

June 25

Finished plowing my crop one way. Extremely hot & getting dry again. So hot we can hardly work.

June 23, 1870

Something killed hen no. 3 & partly eat her up but did not molest the chickens [chicks].

June 21

Hen no. 4, 15 eggs, brought out 9 chickens. Rest rotten. Now have 45 chickens. 2 hens have died with chicken cholera pervading the country.

June 26, 1870

Had new potatoes, cucumbers & beets. Peas, some two weeks ago.

FIRST TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE [BY DELORES LEWIS]

June 24

The above diary has been transcribed by Delores A. Lewis, wife of Harry A. Lewis, who is the great-grandson of Lucius Clarke Smith. Harry A. Lewis' grandfather was Harry E. Smith, eldest son of Lucius. Harry E. Smith is the baby referred to in this diary who had numerous health issues in his infancy.