

## Introduction

The George M. Burnes family was one of the first pioneer families to settle in Minnetonka and Hopkins. The family came here from Taunton, Massachusetts, in 1855.

The following diary entries were made for the year 1872 by George M. Burnes, Jr., (1847-1930). George's father, George M. Burnes Sr., settled initially in Minnetonka. Later the Burnes family also had a farm in Hopkins east of Excelsior and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues. George Jr., who turned 25 in 1872, was about nine years old when his family came to Minnesota from Massachusetts.

The original diary is written in cursive and is at times difficult to read, so each entry is transcribed as here for clarity and easier reading. Punctuation has been added to some entries here for the same reason. Some spelling errors and other grammatical variances are maintained in this transcription when they do not affect readability.

The diary has a pocket that contains various paper items, including “weigh station” receipts, which seem to show the weigh station as a first stop on the way to market, to ensure that a wagon of goods was weighed properly for payment at its ultimate destination. Also included in the pocket was a ticket, about the size of an old movie theatre receipt, which retains a little of its original red color, that says “FOOT TICKET He. Co. Bridge.”



The Hennepin County Bridge entry in Wikipedia is as follows:

“The **Hennepin Avenue Bridge** is the series of spans that have carried [Hennepin Avenue](#) across the [Mississippi River](#) in [Minneapolis, Minnesota](#) at [Nicollet Island](#). Officially, it is the **Father Louis Hennepin Bridge**, in honor of the 17th-century explorer [Louis Hennepin](#), who discovered the [Saint Anthony Falls](#) a short distance downriver. Three of the structures have been [suspension bridges](#), while a fourth—which survived nearly a century—was composed of [steel arch](#) spans. The original crossing, which opened as a [toll bridge](#) in on [January 23, 1855](#), is believed to have been the first permanent span across the Mississippi at any point. Other bridges were completed in [1876](#), [1891](#), and most recently [1990](#). Today, the bridge's main span is 625 [feet](#) (190 [meters](#)) in length, making it rather small by modern standards.”

As you will see in reading the diary entries, George made numerous visits to Minneapolis during the year, and if he needed to get to the other side of the river, this bridge is certainly the point at which he crossed the Mississippi. Why he might have crossed the bridge on foot, however, is anyone's guess.

When other place names are mentioned in the diary, I have included notes on my research of such places (if any) and included comments as such for these kinds of entries.

George makes a large number of mathematical calculations throughout the diary. I have not checked his math. In fact, some of his more lengthy calculations I have omitted from this text in the interest of readability.

The diary concludes with listings of cash account entries punctuated with a number of stanzas of rhyming verse, also omitted from this text.

**Diary of George M. Burnes, Jr.**

**Monday, January 1, 1872**

Went up to the swamp for a load of wood. Broke my sled and came down empty.

Sold Richardson one barrel of flour. \$6.50

We have 8 cows, 3 steers, 9 head of young cattle and one calf. 4 working horses, one driving horse and five colts (2 coming 3, 2 coming 2 and 1 coming a year old next spring).

**January 2. Tuesday**

Hauled a load of hay to the Globe Hotel. 1085 lbs. At \$10 per ton. Amount \$9.00.

*[Ed. Note: The Globe Hotel was in St. Paul, Minnesota at East Kellogg and Jackson, according to a photograph in the Minnesota Historical Society collection of a Carte-de-visite, ca. 1867. Seems like a long way to go for \$9.00, even in 1872.]*

WEIGHED ON FAIRBANKS' STANDARD SCALE.		
Load of	<i>Hay</i>	<i>8</i> 1872.
From	<i>Burnes</i>	
To	<i>Globe Hotel</i>	
	Gross	<i>3375</i> lbs.
	Tare	<i>935</i> lbs.
Fees	Net	<i>2440</i> lbs.
<i>10¢</i>	Net	<i>2440</i> bus.
<i>Joseph</i>	WEIGHER.	[Space for figuring on back side.]

**January 3. Wednesday**

Hauled a load to Perkins. 2270 lbs. at \$10. Amount \$11.00.

**January 4. Thursday**

Hauled a load of hay to Day. 1855 lbs. at \$10. \$9.275

**January 5. Friday**

Hauled a load of hay to Day. 2535 lbs at \$10. \$12.675.

**January 6. Saturday**

Hauled a load of wood to Patterson.

Richardson and Ice were here and agreed to rent 150 acres for one year. Sold R. one quarter of beef. \$73 lbs. at 06. Amount \$4.38.

**January 7. Sunday**

Went down to the School house to servise [sic]. From there up to Millers.

**January 8. Monday**

Chopped wood and chored around.

Father hauled a load of hay 2440 lbs. to the Globe. Amount \$12.20

*[Ed. Note: Hopkins Historical Society documents give the date of death of George M. Burnes Sr. as 1870, however George M. Burnes Jr. uses the term "Father" in many of his entries throughout this diary for the year 1872.]*

Richardson had the team to haul a load for himself.

**January 9. Tuesday**

Chopped wood and chored around.

Father hauled a load of hay (3285 lbs.) to the Dairy at \$10.00 per ton. Amount \$16.40.

**January 10. Wednesday**

Went up to the woodlot. Thence over to Mr. Woolsey's to a party in the evening. Broke up at half twelve O'clock

Ice hauled a load of wood for himself.

**January 11. Thursday**

Chopped posts. Staid [sic] at Thorntons.

Ice hauled a load of posts for us.

**January 12. Friday**

Chopped wood. Staid at Thorntons.

Richardson hauled a load of posts.

Father hauled a load of hay to the Dairy. \$10.00.

**January 13. Saturday**

Chopped wood.

Came down home.

Richardson hauled a load tamerac.

**January 14. Sunday**

Went up to Dows a little while in the evening.

**January 15. Monday**

Did the chores and chopped wood for the school.  
Let Ice have a sack of flour. \$3.25.

**January 16. Tuesday**

Did the chores and chopped wood at the school house.  
Hauled a load of Richardson's wood to the school house.

**January 17. Wednesday**

Did the chores and chopped wood for the school.  
Father took a cow of Baker for debt. \$32.70.

**January 18. Thursday**

Hauled a cord of Richardson's wood to Patterson.

**January 19. Friday**

Hauled a cord of the wood that Richardson chopped to Patterson.

**January 20. Saturday**

Walked up to Frederick's  
Oliver hauled in the corn Richardson husked. 36 baskets.

*[Ed. Note: Oliver (@1862-1918) is George's brother]*

**January 21. Sunday**

Went down to Dan Frederick's and staid all night.

Mr. Ice bought a grey horse of Father for \$175.00. Paid \$100.00 down.

**January 22. Monday**

George Frederick and I helped Dan haul up hay in the forenoon and then went home with George.

**January 23. Tuesday**

Came down to Will Frederick's then walked down to Delano and took the cars there for home at 4 O'clock.

Father hauled a load of hay (2500 lbs.) to the Dairy. Amount \$12.50.

**January 24. Wednesday**

Went up to the swamp and hauled down a load cordwood for the school house.

**January 25. Thursday**

Went up to the swamp and hauled down a load of bass wood.

Ice had the iron grey to go to the swamp.

**January 26. Friday**

Hauled Day a load of hay 2245 lbs. at \$10.00 per ton. Amount \$11.35.

Ice had the iron grey horse to go to the swamp.

**January 27. Saturday**

Hauled up hay yesterday and went to town to day.

**January 28. Sunday**

Staid at home.

**January 29. Monday**

Staid at home and chopped wood.

Father hauled a load of green iron wood to town. \$5.50.

**January 30. Tuesday**

Did the chores and chopped wood for the school house.

Father hauled a load of hay. 2000 lbs. to the Dairy. \$10.00 and a load of green iron-wood to Minneapolis. \$5.50.

**January 31. Wednesday**

Went up to the swamp.

Ice hauled a load of wood for us.

**February 1. Thursday**

Chopped wood in the swamp.

Ice hauled a load for us.

**February 2. Friday**

Chopped wood in the swamp.

Ice hauled a load for us.

**February 3. Saturday**

Settled with Richardson.

We owe him for 7 day's work: 7.00

Hauling from the swamp 8 loads: 4.00

Chopping 4 ½ cord: 2.25

\$13.25

Chopped wood in the swamp and drove one of the teams down home.

**February 4. Sunday**

Staid at home.

**February 5. Monday**

Went up to the swamp.

Chopped firewood.

Father went to town with a cord of wood and hauled the Dairy man a load (2000 lbs. of hay) \$10.00. Wood 5.50.

**February 6. Tuesday**

*[Ed. Note: No entry]*

**February 7. Wednesday**

*[Ed. Note: No entry]*

**February 8. Thursday**

*[Ed. Note: No entry]*

**February 9. Friday**

*[Ed. Note: No entry]*

**February 10. Saturday**

Chopped in the swamp all this week. Boarded at Thornton's 4 nights.

Ice hauled 4 loads this week.

Let him have 3 barrels of flour at \$7.00 x 21.00

Richardson had one sack of flour \$3.50.

Father sold the Dairy one cord of wood.

**February 11. Sunday**

Took Catherine down to her school.

*[Ed. Note: Catherine (1849-1932) is George's sister. Catherine became the first woman to be licensed to practice medicine in the state of Minnesota and the first female physician in Hopkins in 1886. At this time however, Catherine, at age 23, was a schoolteacher.]*

**February 12. Monday**

Chored around. Helped butcher beef.

Richardson got a barrel of flour.

The weather has been very warm for several days back. The snow is almost all gone and it is raining this evening.

**February 13. Tuesday**

Staid at home. The thermometer indicated 16 deg. below zero this morning and a very heavy northwest wind blowing.

**February 14. Wednesday**

Staid at home. Thermometer was 20 below this morning.

**February 15. Thursday**

Went up to the swamp.

**February 16. Friday**

[Ed. Note: No entry]

**February 17. Saturday**

Came down home with a load of poles. 50

Ice hauled 2 loads for us this week. One of poles 50 and one of wood.

Staid at Thornton's 2 nights.

Ice had one quarter of beef. 114 lbs. at .06. \$6.820.

**February 18. Sunday**

Staid at home.

**February 19. Monday**

Father and I each went up to the swamp and hauled one load of wood and one of poles 50.

**February 20. Tuesday**

Father and I hauled up hay.

**February 21. Wednesday**

Hauled a cord of wood and Father a ton of hay to the Dairy farm.

Hay: \$10.00

Wood: 5.00

Took him on up to Mr. Perkinses to spend the evening.

**February 22. Thursday**

Went up to the swamp with Father. Hauled 2 loads of wood.

**February 23. Friday**

Went down to the school. Ed Perkins was there.

Father went to town. Sold the beef hide. 61 lbs. at .08 ¼

Amount \$5.00

**February 24. Saturday**

Staid around the house. Stormed.

Father went to town. Bought 2 dressed hogs.

*[Ed. Note: To 'dress': skin, gut and cool]*

One for Ice weight 190 lbs.

One for Richard 181 lbs. @ .05

Richardson had one sack of flour and one barrel of salt.

**February 25. Sunday**

Hitched up Kits colt and drove up to Millers.

**February 26. Monday**

Hauled a load of wood for Allen. \$5.00.

**February 27. Tuesday**

Hauled Allen a load of wood \$5.00.

Father hauled Allen 50 posts \$5.00.

**February 28. Wednesday**

Hauled Allen 50 posts. \$5.00.

Father helped move the school house at Waterville Mill.

*[Ed. Note: Although this mill was located in Edina, it ran on the water from the Minnehaha Creek that came from St. Louis Park. This mill was located beside the dam where Browndale Avenue crosses [Minnehaha Creek](#) at 50th Street, and was built in 1857 by William Marriott. Source: St. Louis Park Historical Society web site.]*

**February 29. Thursday**

Chopped wood at home.

Finished husking the corn.

**March 1. Friday**

Hauled  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cord of wood to the Dairy. \$3.75.

**March 2. Saturday**

Shelled corn.

**March 3. Sunday**

Took Catherine down to her school in the buggy.

**March 4. Monday**

Hauled out manure.

**March 5. Tuesday**

Went down to Waterville to mill.

Sold Richardson 790 lbs. corn. Sold Ice 776 lbs. corn.

**March 6. Wednesday**

I hauled 100 posts. \$10.00.

**March 7. Thursday**

Snowed all day.

**March 8. Friday**

Snowed all day. All staid at home.

**March 9. Saturday**

Went up to the swamp and hauled down 30 posts.

The snow is... [sic]

**March 10. Sunday**

Staid at home all day.

**March 11. Monday**

Went up to the swamp. Hauled a load of wood.

**March 12. Tuesday**

Went up to the swamp for a load of wood.

**March 13. Wednesday**

Oliver and I went up to the swamp and hauled one load of wood and one of posts (30).

Ice chopped for us  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day.

**March 14. Thursday**

Ice, Oliver and I went up to the swamp and chopped posts. Hauled down two loads in the evening.

**March 15. Friday**

A.M. Hauled a cord of wood to the Dairy. \$5.00

P.M. Hauled a load of posts (60) from the swamp.

Father went to town and bought a dressed hog. 169 lbs. at 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents. \$9.295.

**March 16. Saturday**

Ice and I went up to the swamp and chopped wood. Hauled down a cord of maple in the evening.

Oliver hauled a load of posts from the swamp.

**March 17. Sunday**

Went down to Kate's school with Kit's colt.

**March 18. Monday**

Ice and I chopped wood.

Hauled down a load of wood and 50 posts.

Father hauled a load of wood to the Dairy. \$5.00.

**March 19. Tuesday**

A.M. Hauled a load of wood from the swamp.

P.M. Hauled a cord of wood to the Dairy. \$5.00.

Ice chopped for us  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day.

**March 20. Wednesday**

Hauled a load of posts from the swamp.

Oliver started for Northfield this morning.

**March 21. Thursday**

Went up to the swamp for a load of posts.

Ice hauled 2 loads of wood for us.

**March 22. Friday**

Hauled a load of posts from the swamp and a load of posts (50) to T.

Ice hauled a load of wood from the swamp.

**March 23. Saturday**

Hauled a load of wood from the swamp.

**March 24. Sunday**

Staid at home.

Charles Miller was here and staid the afternoon.

**March 25. Monday**

Went up to the swamp and hauled down a load of fire wood.

Father hauled a load of wood to the Dairy man (\$5.00)

And hired a Painter, Dreblow

**March 26. Tuesday**

Hauled a load of fire wood from the swamp.

Ice hauled 2 loads of wood from the swamp.

**March 27. Wednesday**

Went to Minneapolis and bought 2 galls. of oil for the Painter.

**March 28. Thursday**

Hauled 51 posts for Ghound.

**March 29. Friday**

Hauled 56 posts for Ghound.

**March 30. Saturday**

Hauled 50 posts to Ghound.

**March 31. Sunday**

Went up to Thornton's. Took Catherine with me.

**April 1. Monday**

Corded up the School house wood.

Ice helped me  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day.

Corded up 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cord of the wood that Ice and Richardson chopped.

**April 2. Tuesday**

Cleaned up the yard.

**April 3. Wednesday**

Cleaned up the yard and chopped wood.

**April 4. Thursday**

Walked up to Frederick's.

**April 5. Friday**

Went down to Charley Frederick's. Came back in the afternoon.

**April 6. Saturday**

Walked up to Lake Howard, then over to Eugene Merriman's and back. Staid all night at Thompson's.

**April 7. Sunday**

Walked up to Martin Edgerley's.

**April 8. Monday**

Started from Edgerley's and walked down to Maple Plain. 27 miles. Then came down home on the cars.

**April 9. Tuesday**

Chored around.

Father put in wheat with the seeder this afternoon. Tried to yesterday but the ground was to [sic]. Soft.

**April 10. Wednesday**

Helped Bates how [sic.] sleepers.

*[Ed. Note: "Sleepers" may be slang for dead plants.]*

Father drove the seeder a little this afternoon.

**April 11. Thursday**

Put in wheat.

John went to town to Cook's.

**April 12. Friday**

Went up to Miller's and then over to Dow's. Snowed some and the wind blew hard all day.

Truss Thompson staid with me to night.

**April 13. Saturday**

Put in wheat.

Let Richardson have one sack of feed and 7 and 11/32 bushels of oats.

Let Ice have 8 and 30/32 bushels of oats.

**April 14. Sunday**

Took Catherine over to the Byrnes [sic] District.

She is to teach there three months.

**April 15. Monday**

Hauled out manure.

Snowed last night.

**April 16. Tuesday**

Sawed posts and chipped poles.

**April 17. Wednesday**

Began farming again to day at noon.

Harrowed.

**April 18. Thursday**

Harrowed.

**April 19. Friday**

A.M. Harrowed

P.M. Drove Kit's colt to Minneapolis and brought Catherine home.

Ice harrowed, drove my team  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day.

Ice and Richardson finished sowing wheat. Have sowed  $26 \frac{1}{2}$  bushel.

**April 20. Saturday**

Harrowed wheat.

Sold Wilkburgher 75 and  $14\frac{32}{32}$  bushel of oats.

Richardson helped us burn brush  $\frac{1}{2}$  day.

**April 21. Sunday**

Took John and Catherine over to Harris.

**April 22. Monday**

Harrowed wheat.

Father finished sowing wheat.

Ice mowed brush one day.

Sold 16 and  $9\frac{32}{32}$  bushel of oats at .50 per bushel. Amount \$8.75.

**April 23. Tuesday**

Harrowed.

Father put the piece of old land in front of Bassett's into oats with the seeder.  $4 \frac{1}{2}$  bushel.

**April 24. Wednesday**

Finished harrowing wheat for the spring.

R & Ice finished their oats. They have sowed 26 bushel.

**April 25. Thursday**

Finished harrowing our oats for this spring. Have sowed 26 bush.

**April 26. Friday**

Helped Father grade around the house.

**April 27. Saturday**

Went to Minneapolis. Brought home John and Catherine.

**April 28. Sunday**

Took Catherine over to her school.

**April 29. Monday**

Rained.

Chored around.

**April 30. Tuesday**

Plowed for the garden.

**May 1. Wednesday**

A.M. Father and I hauled dirt from the barn cellar.

P.M. Peeled posts.

**May 2. Thursday**

Hauled out manure.

Ice planted corn for himself.

**May 3. Friday**

Went over to Mr. Halleron's and peeled posts (70).

**May 4. Saturday**

A.M. Hauled out manure.

P.M. Peeled poles.

Father finished plowing the corn land.

Sold Walter Frear 13 bushel of oats at .41. Amount \$5.20.

**May 5. Sunday**

Took Catherine over to her school.

**May 6. Monday**

Harrowed for corn.

Richardson helped Father grub on the forty.

**May 7. Tuesday**

A.M. Finished harrowing the corn land.

P.M. Rained.

**May 8. Wednesday**

A.M. Grubed [sic.] on the forty

P.M. Went down to Smith's to break but just as we got the piece struck out it rained so that we came home.

**May 9. Thursday**

Helped break for Smith.

**May 10. Friday**

Rained. Snowed some in the evening. The ground is white now.

Staid at home and did the chores.

**May 11. Saturday**

A.M. Grubed.

P.M. Wirked [sic.] on fencing

Ice helped us ½ a day. Drove the team. Father was breaking for Smith.

**May 12. Sunday**

Staid at home. Put the horse colt over in the pasture.

**May 13. Monday**

A.M. Chipped poles.

P.M. Planted corn.

**May 14. Tuesday**

Planted corn.

Father had old grey to help break.

**May 15. Wednesday**

A.M. Planted corn.

P.M. Richardson and Ice both helped us grub and break on the forty.

**May 16. Thursday**

A.M. Grubed on the forty all day.

P.M. Ice helped us break.

**May 17. Friday**

Planted corn.

Ice helped Father break for Sokup. \$1.50.

**May 18. Saturday**

Finished planting corn on the old land.

Ice helped Father break for Lexer. \$1.50.

**May 19. Sunday**

Took Catherine over to her school.

**May 20. Monday**

A.M. Chipped poles.

P.M. Finished grubing the forty.

A.M. Father drove Kit to town.

P.M. Father and Ice broke on the forty.

**May 21. Tuesday**

Chipped poles.

Father and Ice finished breaking the forty. Allowed Ice  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day.

**May 22. Wednesday**

Chored around. Began to plant corn on the breaking.

Father broke for Macoskie.

Ice helped him with old grey.

**May 23. Thursday**

Rained.

Sold Richardson five bushel of corn and five bushel of oats. Amount \$5.25

Father went to town. Brought home two colts which are to pasture for Mr. Vrnest.

**May 24. Friday**

Chipped and peeled poles.

Father went to town with a load of wood and brought home a load of sack.

**May 25. Saturday**

Planted corn on the breaking.

Ice helped Father break with old grey. \$1.50.

**May 26. Sunday**

Went up to Dow's a while.

**May 27. Monday**

Started for Minneapolis with a beef steer but he gave out and I left him and came home. Planted corn in the afternoon.

Ice helped father break for Smith  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day: .75

**May 28. Tuesday**

A.M. Harrowed the bean land.

P.M. Planted corn.

Father and Ice took the team and hauled the steer to town. He weighed \_\_\_\_\_. Sold him for amount \$61.0375.

Allowed Ice one dollar.

**May 29. Wednesday**

Went down to Waterville mill. Bought five bushel of wheat at \$1.40 and planted corn the rest of the day.

Father and Ice broke for Smith. \$1.50.

**May 30. Thursday**

Planted corn on the breaking.

Ice helped Father Macoskie  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day: .75

**May 31. Friday**

Finished planting corn on the breaking.

Ice helped Father break for Sokup: 1.50

**June 1. Saturday**

Replanted corn and went to mill.

Ice helped Father break for Sokup  $\frac{1}{2}$  day: .75

**June 2. Sunday**

Took Catherine over to her school

**June 3. Monday**

A.M. Planted beans

P.M. Worked out corn

Sold Wilkburgher 38 bushel of oats at .40: 15.20

**June 4. Tuesday**

Worked out corn.

**June 5. Wednesday**

Went over to Halleron's and peeled posts.

Rained some.

**June 6. Thursday**

Worked out corn.

**June 7. Friday**

Took Catherine over to her school.

Father and Ice went over and worked on Ghould's fence.

**June 8. Saturday**

A.M. Worked on posts.

P.M. Worked out the sweet corn.

**June 9. Sunday**

Took Catherine over to her school.

**June 10. Monday**

Hauled sand for the cellar wall.

The Mason worked  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a day.

**June 11. Tuesday**

Graded around the barn and helped to raise it.

The Mason worked to day.

**June 12. Wednesday**

Worked around the barn with the Mason who left this evening.

**June 13. Thursday**

A.M. Helped to finish raising the barn.

P.M. Chored.

**June 14. Friday**

A.M. Graded around the barn.

P.M. Father and I broke for Lexer. Had old grey to help.

**June 15. Saturday**

Graded around the barn. The Mason worked to day.

**June 16. Sunday**

Staid at home.

Rained.

**June 17. Monday**

Began to work the corn the second time.

Father and Bates put up fence for Gould.

**June 18. Tuesday**

A.M. Father and I broke for Lexer with old grey.

P.M. Hoed corn.

**June 19. Wednesday**

Rained.

Father and I worked at the barn cellar.

**June 20. Thursday**

A.M. Worked at the barn cellar.

P.M. Worked out corn.

**June 21. Friday**

A.M. Worked out corn.

P.M. Planted beans.

**June 22. Saturday**

A.M. Planted beans.

P.M. Hoed corn.

**June 23. Sunday**

Went over to the Jackson field with Fan's colt to pick strawberries, eat dinner with Perkins & Dow.

**June 24. Monday**

Worked at the corn.

**June 25. Tuesday**

Worked in the corn.

Bought five sheep of Mr. Clay for fifteen Dollars.

**June 26. Wednesday**

Put up fence.

P.M. Rained in torrents.

**June 27. Thursday**

A.M. Worked on fencing.

P.M. Hoed corn.

**June 28. Friday**

Worked in the corn.

**June 29. Saturday**

A.M. Put up fence

P.M. Hoed corn.

**June 30. Sunday**

Went up to Clay's with Catherine.

**July 1. Monday**

Hoed corn.

**July 2. Tuesday**

Worked in the corn.

**July 3. Wednesday**

Finished hoeing the corn for this season.

**July 4. Thursday**

Tended the Mason, who laid wall under the barn.

**July 5. Friday**

Worked out the corn.

**July 6. Saturday**

Worked out corn.

**July 7. Sunday**

Staid at home.

**July 8. Monday**

A.M. Worked out corn.

P.M. Worked out beans.

**July 9. Tuesday**

Hoed beans.

**July 10. Wednesday**

Hoed beans.

Sold Ice 5 bus. of corn at .50 and 5 of oats at .50.

**July 11. Thursday**

Finished hoeing the beans.

**July 12. Friday**

Graded around the barn.

**July 13. Saturday**

Worked out corn.

**July 14. Sunday**

Went out to Plymouth.

Eat dinner at Dickey's.

**July 15. Monday**

Graded around the barn.

Ice and Richardson each mowed for us at 1.50: \$3.00

**July 16. Tuesday**

Finished working the corn for this season.

**July 17. Wednesday**

Worked in the garden.

**July 18. Thursday**

Finished hoeing the garden.

**July 19. Friday**

Graded around the barn.

**July 20. Saturday**

Graded around the barn.

The bees swarmed.

**July 21. Sunday**

Staid at home. Drove up to the Mason's in the evening.

**July 22. Monday**

Mowed.

It Rained some.

**July 23. Tuesday**

Laid up fence.

**July 24. Wednesday**

A.M. Rained.

P.M. Worked in the hay a little.

Father drove the Baker cow to town. Sold her for beef at .055. Weight 963: \$33.70.

**July 25. Thursday**

John and I went to Minneapolis.

Father tended the Mason, who came about 9 O'clock.

**July 26. Friday**

Hauled in hay.

Father tended the Mason.

**July 27. Saturday**

Hauled in hay.

**July 28. Sunday**

Staid at home.

**July 29. Monday**

Began to cut wheat for Richardson and Ice.

We helped them 4 hands.

**July 30. Tuesday**

Rained last night. We helped R. and Ice 3 hands about half the forenoon.

Drove a cow to town. Sold her for 3 ¼ cents. Weight 800 lbs. Amount: \$26.00.

Worked on the wheat on the forty. Richardson and Ice both helped us this afternoon. Richardson shucked some before he came over.

**July 31. Wednesday**

All worked on the forty all day.

**August 1. Thursday**

Father went down to harvest for Wilkburgher. Took Ice and Richardson with him.

**August 2. Friday**

[Ed. Note: No entry]

**August 3. Saturday**

Came home this evening.

**August 4. Sunday**

Staid at home.

**August 5. Monday**

A.M. All worked on the forty.

P.M. Cut for R. and Ice. We helped him 4 hands.

**August 6. Tuesday**

Finished cutting Wilkburgher's oats.

Richardson and Ice helped us.

**August 7. Wednesday**

Cut for R. and Ice till five o'clock. We helped them 4 hands.

Ice helped us after supper.

**August 8. Thursday**

Worked on the forty till five o'clock. Then it rained.

Richardson shucked his grain till about 9 o'clock, then helped us. Ice worked all day.

**August 9. Friday**

Rained. All laid off.

**August 10. Saturday**

All worked on the forty.

**August 11. Sunday**

Went down to the Minneapolis depot to see if the steam thrasher [sic.] had arrived. Found that it had.

*[Ed. Note: The Burns family purchased the first steam thrasher in Minnesota in 1868. Source: Burns family reunion notes, 2002.]*

**August 12. Monday**

A.M. Finished cutting wheat.

P.M. Cut oats.

Ice and Richardson helped us all day.

**August 13. Tuesday**

A.M. Finished binding oats.

P.M. bound wheat.

Ice and Richardson each helped us ½ day.

**August 14. Wednesday**

Finished binding wheat for this season.

**August 15. Thursday**

Helped thrash this after noon.

P.M. Ice and Richardson helped us thrash.

**August 16. Friday**

Smith and I helped Shuba thrash with 2 teams.

**August 17. Saturday**

Helped Shuba thrash half day with him.

**August 18. Sunday**

Helped Ice finish his oats.

**August 19. Monday**

Helped Shuba thrash my self and team.

**August 20. Tuesday**

Helped Shuba thrash my self and team.

**August 21. Wednesday**

Went to Minneapolis.  
Settled with Shuba. He owes me for 4 ½ days work with team.

**August 22. Thursday**

Stacked wheat.

Charles came home this evening.

**August 23. Friday**

Stacked wheat.

**August 24. Saturday**

Rained last night.

A.M. Went to mill.

P.M. Stacked wheat.

Allowed Turnham 2 ½ days this week.

**August 25. Sunday**

*[Ed. Note: No entry]*

**August 26. Monday**

Rained.

Began haying.

Lent Richardson 2 sacks of wheat.

**August 27. Tuesday**

Worked at haying. Rained again this afternoon.

**August 28. Wednesday**

Went to Minneapolis. Sold a steer for beef at .3 ¾ cents per lb.  
Weight: 1230. Amount: 77.62

Settled for the red steer. 840 lbs. at 3 ¾ cents. Amount: 31.50.

**August 29. Thursday**

*[Ed. Note: entry]*

**August 30. Friday**

*[Ed. Note: No entry]*

**August 31. Saturday**

Worked at haying the last three days.

Turnham worked 4 ½ days this week.

**September 1. Sunday**

Went to the Burns district with Catherine.

**September 2. Monday**

Cleaned a load of wheat, then mowed.

Father took the wheat to town, sold it at \$1.00 per bushel. There was [sic] 52 bushels.

**September 3. Tuesday**

Mowed.

\$70.00 for one year at 12 per cent amounts to \$78.40.

\$50.00 for one year amounts to \$56.00.

**September 4. Wednesday**

A.M. Mowed.

P.M. Helped to stack hay.

\$12 were sent to Minnea [sic]. The interest on \$70.00 for one year at 12 per cent is 8.40 leaving 3.60

The interest on 50.00 for 14 ½ months at 12 per cent is 7.25 making \$7.25.

Paid Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> 30.00 plus the 3.60 makes 33.60

**September 5. Thursday**

Helped stack hay.

**September 6. Friday**

A.M. Mowed.

P.M. Stacked.

**September 7. Saturday**

Worked at haying.

**September 8. Sunday**

Helped stack oats.

Settled with Turnham. Paid him in full \$13.00.

**September 9. Monday**

Rained.

**September 10. Tuesday**

Plowed.

**September 11. Wednesday**

Set out wheat shocks.

Plowed.

It rained again today.

**September 12. Thursday**

Set out wheat shocks.

**September 13. Friday**

A.M. Set out oats.

P.M. Pulled beans.

**September 14. Saturday**

Pulled beans.

**September 15. Sunday**

Drove over to the Byrns [sic] district with Catherine.

**September 16. Monday**

A.M. Hauled up wheat.

P.M. Rained. The Machine came home.

**September 17. Tuesday**

A.M. Helped thras [sic]

P.M. Rained

**September 18. Wednesday**

Thrashed.

**September 19. Thursday**

H. Plowed.

Father thrashed for Richardson.

**September 20. Friday**

Finished wheat [?] thrashing

We raised 150 bushels of wheat and 450 bushels of oats.

Ice and Richardson raised 400 of wheat and 270 of oats.

**September 21. Saturday**

Hauled a load 150 bush. of wheat to town with old grey.

Wheat is \$1.05 per bush. \$52.50

**September 22. Sunday**

Staid at home.

**September 23. Monday**

Hauled a load 150 bush. of wheat to town with old grey.

**September 24. Tuesday**

Plowed.

Father hauled a load of wheat to town with old grey. \$150. Wheat is a dollar and five.

**September 25. Wednesday**

Plowed. Charles took a load of wheat to town with old grey. \$50.00. Wheat is \$1.00 per bushel.

**September 26. Thursday**

Plowed.

Charles took a load of wheat to town with old grey. \$50.00.

**September 27. Friday**

Had the grey horse of Ice to help move the thrashing machine to YoungAmerica.

**September 28. Saturday**

Came down home.

Took dinner at Excelsior.

**September 29. Sunday**

Staid at home.

**September 30. Monday**

Hauled a load of wheat to Minneapolis. \$50.

**October 1. Tuesday**

Cut up corn on the forty.

Charles hauled a load of wheat to town. \$50.00.

**October 2. Wednesday**

Fanned wheat and cleaned up the hay for this year.

Hired Amos Blak yesterday evening. One month for \$25.

**October 3. Thursday**

Plowed.

**October 4. Friday**

Hauled in Potatoes and Pumpkins.

**October 5. Saturday**

Hauled 322 bushel wheat to the Hopkins depot. \$305.90.

Worked old grey about 2 ½ days this week.

**October 6. Sunday**

Staid home.

**October 7. Monday**

Hauled manure.

**October 8. Tuesday**

Plowed.

**October 9. Wednesday**

Went to town.

Paid Woolford \$112.

**October 10. Thursday**

Hauled manure.

**October 11. Friday**

A.M. Plowed.

P.M. Hauled in corn.

Hauled 116 bushel of wheat to the depot. Sold at 93 cents.

**October 12. Saturday**

Hauled in corn and beans.

**October 13. Sunday**

Went down to George Goodriches [sic]. Received 35.40.

**October 14. Monday**

Plowed on the forty.

**October 15. Tuesday**

Stacked stalks.

Mr. Griswold paid Charles \$40.00 on the Merriman order.

**October 16. Wednesday**

Plowed.

**October 17. Thursday**

Hauled in corn.

**October 18. Friday**

Plowed.

**October 19. Saturday**

Hauled in corn.

Have now 250 bush. of ears up stairs in the granary.

**October 20. Sunday**

Staid at home.

Oliver came down home last night.

**October 21. Monday**

Hauled in corn.

**October 22. Tuesday**

A.M. Hauled in corn all day.

P.M. Plowed.

Charles started to go to Father today.

**October 23. Wednesday**

Began to hoe the corn stubble.

**October 24. Thursday**

Stacked stalks.

Richardson hauled in corn. They have hauled 43 load... [illegible]

**October 25. Friday**

Plowed.

**October 26. Saturday**

Hauled in corn. Have put 400 bush. of corn about Ice's and 100 baskets in the granary.

Richardson had fun 2 ½ day this week.

**October 27. Sunday**

*[Ed. Note: No entry]*

**October 28. Monday**

Hauled in corn. Rained this afternoon.

**October 29. Tuesday**

A.M. Stacked stalks.

P.M. Plowed.

**October 30. Wednesday**

Father came down this morning and helped me grade the road this afternoon.

**October 31. Thursday**

Banked up around the house.

**November 1. Friday**

A.M. Stacked stalks

P.M. Hauled in corn.

**November 2. Saturday**

A.M. Finished hauling up the stalks on our piece of corn.

P.M. Finished hauling in the corn. There was [sic] 730 baskets from 371 stacks 8 x 8 hills.

**November 3. Sunday**

Took the wagon tongue up to Minnetonka.

**November 4. Monday**

Snowed.

**November 5. Tuesday**

Went to Minnetonka to the presidential election. Voted for Greeley [sic].

*[Ed. Note: Wikipedia entry on: **Horace Greeley** ([February 3, 1811](#) – [November 29, 1872](#)) was an [American](#) editor of a leading [newspaper](#), a founder of the [Republican party](#), reformer and politician. His [New York Tribune](#) was America's most influential newspaper from the 1840s to the 1870s and "established Greeley's reputation as the greatest editor of his day."<sup>[u]</sup> Greeley used it to promote the [Whig](#) and [Republican](#) parties, as well as antislavery and a host of reforms. Crusading against the corruption of [Ulysses S. Grant's](#) Republican administration, he was the [presidential candidate in 1872](#) of the new [Liberal Republican Party](#). Despite having the additional support of the [Democratic Party](#) he lost in a landslide.]*

**November 6. Wednesday**

Plowed.

**November 7. Thursday**

Plowed.

**November 8. Friday**

A.M. Plowed

P.M. Went to Minneapolis and took Catherine up to Rhyns.

**November 9. Saturday**

Hauled in a load of corn. Am now 4 load ahead.

**November 10. Sunday**

Staid at home.

Helped Ghould measure the land he plowed. Paid him 22.30 and he had 3420 before.

**November 11. Monday**

Helped the Mason lay wall under the barn.

**November 12. Tuesday**

Tended the Mason, who worked  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day.

P.M. Finished plowing the corn stubble.

**November 13. Wednesday**

Helped butcher a cow.

Went to town. Sold 1 hide 50 lbs. At .08.

Amount \$21.00.

Brought Father home with me.

Sold Ice one hind quarter of beef. 75 lbs. at .07: Amount \$5.25.

Went up to Carver on the train with Father. It has been snowing all day.

**November 14. Thursday**

Went from Carver to Glencoe. The wind has blown hard all day.

**November 15. Friday**

Went down to the Machine.

Froze hard last night.

**November 16. Saturday**

Helped the boys thrash.

**November 17. Sunday**

Started down home with 5 head of cattle: 3 cows and 2 two-year-old steers. Staid all night at Cahills near Waconia.

**November 18. Monday**

Drove down home.

**November 19. Tuesday**

Worked at the swamp.

**November 20. Wednesday**

Hauled in corn.

**November 21. Thursday**

Banked up the house.

**November 22. Friday**

Went up to Delano on the train, then out to Dean Lake with Anson Elliot and then down to Ves Fredericks.

*[Ed. Note: Dean Lake is about 5 miles northwest of Delano, Minnesota.]*

**November 23. Saturday**

Went down to Charley's Fredericks and then back to his fathers.

Richardson and Ice husked and hauled in corn for themselves. They are 3 loads and four baskets ahead now.

**November 24. Sunday**

Snowed all day.

**November 25. Monday**

Came down home on the train. Got home at half past one.

**November 26. Tuesday**

Went to Minneapolis with some turkeys, which I sold for 15 cents per pound.

Went up to Dow's to a surprise party.

**November 27. Wednesday**

Did the chores.

The weather is very cold.

**November 28. Thursday**

Staid at home and did the chores.

**November 29. Friday**

Wheeled dirt out of the barn cellar.

**November 30. Saturday**

Helped butcher the hog.

**December 1. Sunday**

Staid at home.

**December 2. Monday**

Went down to Waterville mill with a grist of feed.

**December 3. Tuesday**

Chopped wood at the school house.

Went up to Dow's to a party this evening. Broke up at One O'clock.

**December 4. Wednesday**

Started to go to the Machine with the iron grey horse a horse back.

Staid all night at Sam Merrimans.

**December 5. Thursday**

Went through Watertown this morning, the first time I ever was there. Went from thereto Glencoe 25 miles where I heard the boys were five miles out on the Blakley Road where I found them all right.

**December 6. Friday**

Staid with the boys till noon and then drove down to Young America.

**December 7. Saturday**

Came down home.

**December 8. Sunday**

Went out to Clay's.

**December 9. Monday**

Chopped wood at the school house.

**December 10. Tuesday**

Went to Minneapolis.

**December 11. Wednesday**

Did the chores.

John came down home on this morning's train from Carver.

**December 12. Thursday**

Hauled up corn stalks.

**December 13. Friday**

Charles and I drove out to Young America with "Pet"

**December 14. Saturday**

Came home.

**December 15. Sunday**

Took Catherine over to her school.

**December 16. Monday**

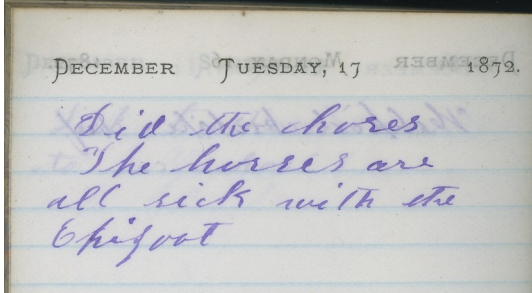
Helped butcher beef.

**December 17. Tuesday**

Did the chores.

The horses are all sick with the Chifoot.

*[Ed. Note: Unable to decipher this entry about the horses:]*



**December 18. Wednesday**

Did the chores.

John Cahill staid here tonight.

**December 19. Thursday**

Did the chores.

**December 20. Friday**

Went to Minneapolis and settled the school district notes with Peter Woolford.

**December 21. Saturday**

Staid at home and did the chores.

The weather is very cold.

**December 22. Sunday**

Staid at home.

**December 23. Monday**

Staid at home and did the chores.

Father & Mother started for Pawtucket.

**December 24. Tuesday**

Did the chores.

The spirit thermometers went down to 50 deg below zero.

[Ed. Note from online glossary of meteorology: *spirit thermometer*—A [liquid-in-glass thermometer](#) that uses an organic substance such as alcohol as the thermometric liquid. This type of *thermometer* has a very low [freezing point](#) and a high coefficient of expansion. The [accuracy](#) of thermometers using an organic liquid, however, is much less than that of thermometers using [mercury](#).]

**December 25. Wednesday**

Staid at home. Snowed some today.

**December 26. Thursday**

Did the chores.

Thermometer down to forty this morning.

**December 27. Friday**

Did the chores.

**December 28. Saturday**

John and I hauled up corn stalks.

**December 29. Sunday**

Staid at home.

Charles shot a deer.

**December 30. Monday**

Helped haul up stalks.

Woodward paid \$10.00 for straw.

**December 31. Tuesday**

Helped haul up hay.