

## THE HARVEY FARM

Taftsville, Vermont

*as related by Joan Harvey Cook, 1982  
compiled & edited by Marjorie Martinez*

The Harvey Farm, named Happy Valley Farm, is 200 acres of farm land in the green New England valley community of Taftsville. It is located about five miles from Woodstock, Vermont and many other tiny hamlets, all farming communities. Today the property is owned by the Rockefeller family of New York, with the Rockefeller forester living in the house.

For seven generations, since its founding 200 years ago, the farm remained under the ownership of the Harveys.

The Harvey forefathers came from England on the Good Ship Anne, not too many years after the arrival of the Mayflower. The Harveys landed in Massachusetts and lived there for several generations.

Edmund Harvey (1757-1807) together with his wife Mary (who was his third cousin) founded Happy Valley Farm. Initially Edmund bought 25 acres with a small cabin. They lived in the cabin with their seven children, Olive, Lucy, Persis, Mary, Nathaniel, Nathan and Oliver for the first year or so then built a larger one room log cabin to accommodate his growing children. When Edmund moved to the property, "Not a rod had been cleared," and "it was covered with trees." (*A rod is a unit of measurement, 16-1/2 ft.*) Edmund began clearing trees for pasture and fields and turning the logs into out-buildings for farming equipment. In the New England custom, he used the field stones to make stone walls, outlining pastures and the property boundaries. In 1795 Edmund built the large white clapboard house, trimmed with shutters and with window boxes. The house is the epitome of craftsmanship, standing proud and in good repair after nearly 200 years. Edmund's brother

bought the adjacent property and it was later added to the farm when he disappeared. More acres were purchased and the farm grew to the present 200 acres. (On March 27, 1900 Frank Hiram Harvey purchased the East Corner Lot from Mrs. Mooney (size unknown) for \$100, which became the Lower Pasture. Frank built a bridge across the creek that runs through this pasture.)

Edmund Harvey drowned at the age of 50, in 1807, in a canoeing accident while crossing the Ottaquechee River. It was spring, with the waters high and rough, capsizing the supply-loaded canoe. One son was with him, but he survived the ordeal of being swept over the dam. Edmund's body was not found until the next spring.

It was the custom for the Harvey men to keep a journal of farm work and seasonal activities, as well as weather, and friends who came to call.

Joan Cook holds the leather-bound and canvas fabric Standard Diaries of Frank Hiram Harvey, her grandfather. She has about 20 years worth of these small annual diaries, measuring about 2½ by 6 inches; some measure only 2¼ inches by 4 inches. Most of the diaries are written in pencil, in a script hand that is a challenge to read. They record daily chores and work done for hire, as well as weather, which is simply referred to as "cold" or "warm" or "pleasant." The diaries are saturated with the language of the New England farmer. Work was generally done with a team of muscular draft horses and all heavy work was referred to as "drew" - "Drew manure; drew 4 loads of hay; drew logs in p.m.; drew logs for Hathaway, 9 hours; drew stone; 14 inches of new snow. Drew snow out of the yard." These entries are from the 1900 diary of Frank H. Harvey. Chores done in the morning were described as "forenoon." Also, since the farm was in a hill valley and the surrounding towns and neighbors were down in the valley, "down to" was a much used expression: "Worked down to woods cutting dry fodder," "Worked down to

wood filling silo," "Went down to drill, "Went down to Taftsville." Another word curious to modern ears is the use of "some" in their writings: "Rained some; Plowed some; Cultivated some; Snowed some; Shingled some."

The earliest journal in Joan's possession is for the year 1876, written by George Harvey. During that year George records the farm produced several hundred bushels of apples. During the years 1883-84, Frank H. Harvey records how many barrels of sap were gathered each day in the spring and how many pounds were "sugared off," which in one instance was 90 pounds. Sugaring - collecting and boiling sap, washing the buckets, and selling syrup and tins of sugar were the focus of springtime activities. Beginning in March, usually or in April in a colder spring, sap runs when the weather is right. Six hundred trees were tapped on the farm's sugar orchard in the spring of 1883.

Six different types of apples grew around the farm, most of which were cooking apples. Joan's favorite were the early Transparent, or Dutch, apples. There were three of these Dutch apple trees near the old sugar house. Picking apples, making applesauce and apple pies were as traditional to the modern day Harvey children of Ray and Marion Harvey as they were to the original settlers.

George's son Frank married early and together with his wife Mable, raised four children: Wendell, Ray, Ruth and Evan (who was called "Ted"). Ray bought the interests of his brothers and continued the family tradition of dairy farming. Ray married Marion Jewel Smith of Woodstock. Their children Nancy, Joan, Teddy, Susan and Tommy were raised on the farm. Joan's fondest memories are her childhood hours growing up in the green Vermont countryside. Her father operated the farm as a dairy concern, although in earlier years, it was profitable to raise sheep to supply the thriving woolen industry. There were many mills in the area. In 1876 Frank Harvey recorded the daily births of lambs to his herd, totaling 27.

It was the job of Joan and her siblings to go to the pasture and bring the cows in for milking every afternoon about four o'clock. The cows made this task an easy one, for they were most cooperative Jerseys and always waited by

the gate at the proper time. The children of Ray and Marion used their vivid imaginations for creative play, since they were without developed playgrounds or organized recreational programs. They delighted in simple activities, such as swimming in the brook and fishing for trout. They enjoyed jumping out of the rafters in the barn into the freshly cut hay. They conducted "symphonies" in the meadows, arranging themselves on large boulders and imagining themselves conductors and violinists and harpists. They invented games in the orchards and made their own "bucking horse" ride, tying a saddle onto an apple tree limb.

The farm's activities revolved around the seasons, sowing and harvesting, repairing implements, caring for livestock, sawing wood, gardening and canning.

In spring, sugaring remained a family activity, although it was not done on the large scale of previous generations. Joan's father would select certain trees to tap (perhaps 75) (hence, Sugar Maples) hang the tin sap buckets, then collect barrels of sap during the weeks the sap was running. He would stoke up the fire in the sugar house, cook the sap in the big vat, boiling it until time to "draw it off." During these spring days the sugar house was filled with the fragrant steam. While the sap was bubbling, Mrs. Harvey would arrive at the house with fresh-baked donuts for the children to dip in the hot syrup. The syrup or sugar (a gallon of syrup made 8 pounds of sugar) was the standard sweetener in the kitchen. The delicate maple syrup topped hot cereal, ice cream, and sweetened ice tea. Hot syrup was poured on snow to make instant taffy.

When Joan was about five years old, she remembers a frightening incident which remains vivid in her memory. Her father had just finished with the haying, the hay wagon heaped with freshly cut hay. It was time to unhitch the horses, Peg, a big black mare and Bess, a chestnut. While Peg and Bess were still in harness together, but unhitched from the hay wagon, for some unknown reason they started backing up. They kept backing up until they fell backwards

into a deep moat around the grain silo. Joan remembers the horses' terrifying screams and the panic from the two huge animals falling backwards. Farmers from around the valley came to help pull the horses from the moat and, miraculously, they suffered no broken legs in the accident.

Peg and Bess were tolerant of the children's antics. Despite their size and bulging muscles they were gentle creatures. Joan and Nancy would play around them and practice mischief with no consequence. One of their favorite pastimes was to braid the horses tails -- together!

Farm-school-church-neighbors wove the pattern of their daily lives. It ended quickly with the untimely death of their father, Ray, in February 1952. The long winters with heavy snows and remoteness, coupled with the burden of farm work were impossible for a lone woman. Mrs. Harvey packed a few belongings precious to her family and moved with her four children to a small beach house near Daytona Beach, Florida. The farm sat vacant until Marion sold it in 1953. The farm implements and much of the furniture were sold at auction.

When the Harveys moved to Florida, 13-year-old Joan remembers storing many of the family treasures in her grandmother's garage. These included antique spinning wheels, trunks, porcelain faced dolls, clocks, and stacks of glass pictures for the deguerreotype. Also stored were a trunk of journals kept by the Harvey men for generations. These belongings were destroyed by a tragic fire which burned the garage in which they were stored. Among the items lost were most of Ray Harvey's journals. A strange irony: under one roof for seven generations, and in a quick, few years, scattered among new owners or destroyed by fire.

After moving to Florida for her teen years, marrying and traveling around the world with her Army pilot husband and twin daughters, Susan and Karen, Joan returned to her previous home only once, in 1976. At that time the house was vacant, although in good repair. The Farm has remained an intrinsic part of her heart and soul. It will always be the Harvey Farm.

*Excerpts of*

THE JOURNALS OF THE DESCENDENTS OF EDMUND HARVEY, Taftsville, Vermont  
Selected for Transcription by Marjorie Martinez, April 1982, Fairbanks, Alaska

Vermont farmer Frank Hiram Harvey lived a long and active life, meeting the challenges of his 200-acre farm, Happy Valley Farm, founded by Edmund Harvey around the year 1790. In the family tradition, he kept an annual diary, recording weather, chores, visitors and important events. Frank Harvey's writings reflect his industrious and sincere nature. He was a soft-spoken gentleman with blue eyes, fondly remembered by his grandchildren for his gentle reprimand, "Here, here, let things be." Frank married Mabel Tracy, whose Scotch background brought the McKenzies into the family tree. Frank and Mabel, "Mab" in the journals, raised four children: Wendell, Ruth, Ray and Even. Son Ray took over the family farm. After Mabel died, Grandpa Frank lived in the big house with his son's family until his death.

The journals are small, usually 2½ inches wide by 5½ to 6 inches, which necessitated short, and brief entries. Frank's journals are basically "work" journals, recording plowing, sowing, harvesting, logging, caring for the animals, machinery and farm buildings. About 40 journals are divided between Joan Harvey Cook and her sister Nancy. Joan's diaries are of the years 1878-78, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1887, 1896, 1897, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1908, 1908, 1910, 1911, 1916, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1929, 1931. There is also one diary of Frank's father, George Harvey, for the year 1876. Joan's Aunt Ruth had kept these diaries over the years until giving them to her nieces.

It has my privilege and pleasure to read and write about these diaries, and I thank Joan for so generously sharing them with me. Learning about farm life in a state so distant and different from my own Alaska has been a very stimulating experience. I have extracted certain entries which are especially appealing to me or representative of the season's work or special event. To record every entry would be a formidable task, so I have chosen instead to list on these pages activities representative of a week, a month or a season. Most of the entries are not punctuated, therefore I have left spaces, rather than insert commas or periods where there were none.

JOURNAL OF GEORGE W. HARVEY - 1876

Saturday, January 1, 1876

"Warm day. No snow for sleighing"

Sunday, January 2

"Spiritual meeting in Depot Hall been to see Aunt Mary to Mrs. More's"

Saturday, January 29

"rain a little, most all day, freezes at night bought a yearling heifer of D Atwood at twenty dollars"

Tuesday, February 1

"been to the green, Mrs. Osmer comes to work Mild day looks like snow. wind South Perkin's Old Folkes Concert"

Journal of George W. Harvey - For the Year 1876

Monday, February 14

"27 (degrees) hail all day draw wood with the steers"

Tuesday, February 15

"29 (degrees) hail and rain. been to Quechee got load sawdust  
hens laid 21 dozen eggs"

Wednesday, February 16

"been to Green. Mother and Carrie (Catherine, Mrs. George Harvey) been to  
Reeds visiting, windy day. Alice stays with Abbie Richmond tonight"

Thursday, February 17

"19 (degrees) been to see Aunt Mary going to watch with Mr. Martin"

Sunday, February 20

"21 (degrees) grows cold, some windy Mr. Martin died. been to see Andrew  
Will Johnson & wife been to see Aunt Mary"

Thursday, February 24

"9 (degrees) cold and windy. Made a lounge for Mother."

Thursday, March 2

"Some Cloudy draw wood with the steers, very hard crust, most impossible  
to make a road through the crust, Orson Perkins & wife made us a visit"

Saturday, March 11

"Carrie and Mother go and see Mrs. Martin. Frank and myself draw manure  
afternoon"

Wednesday, March 15

"Measured the wood Sold to Otis Richmond the 5 day of Jan., and find them  
to be 7 3/4 cords, draw 2 bad logs to Seavers Mill"  
(Jan. 5 entry reads: Sold Otis Richmond 7 3/4 wood at 2.12½ per cord)

Sunday, March 19

"been to see Mrs. White She not expected to live"

Monday, March 27

"one lamb"  
also, 28, 29, 30, 31, "one lamb" 31st - two lambs, April 1 - one lamb  
April 2 - two lambs, April 3 - one lamb, April 5 - 5 lambs, April 6 - two  
lambs, April 7 - one lamb

Saturday, April 8

"one lamb, one lamb. attended Mrs. White's funeral. Postal card from Alfred"

Wednesday, April 12

"draw 12 loads manure"

Wednesday, April 27

"splitting & piling wood"

Friday, April 28

"been to Taftsville, letter from Alfred, rain some this afternoon,  
set 2 hens on 27 eggs"

Journal of George Harvey, 1876, cont.

Saturday, April 29

"been to the Green - Carried hog away - Worked on highway 25 highway acct. brought forward 1.75, highway labor Paid discount 2.45"

Saturday, May 13

"Alice takes her first Music lesson of Mrs. Tom Resberg"  
Paid out 4.88 Pair shoes for Mother .50 Richmond killed the calf  
Turned the cows to Pasture Aunt Mary came. Mrs. Spaulding came after her"

Friday, May 19

"Carried Aunt Mary to the Green, had a float cup\* with the Spauldings.  
Plant some Potatoes"  
*\*most likely an ice cream float or soda, at the drug store in Woodstock*

Tuesday, May 23

"plant corn"

Thursday, May 25

"finish planting corn and potatoes Set three hens or 89 eggs"

Friday, May 26

"plow the oat field, been after Dr. Boyanton for Aunt Mary"

Saturday, May 27

"Sowed the oats. been to the Green Paid out 1.32. Alice's third lesson  
Dr. Boyanton comes to Aunt Mary"

Saturday, June 3

"been to the Green Paid out 46. Alice's fourth lesson. A heavy rain  
in the evening"

Wednesday, June 7

"Dry weather and crows prevent corn from coming up. 1/3 not come and have  
planted over. 65 degrees at noon"

Friday, August 18

"oats all in the barn"

Monday, August 21

"School began. taught by Miss Hewitt been mending fence"

Wednesday, August 30

"Cut India wheat and corn. Sent for the folio and White's instruction Book"

Tuesday, September 19

"been picking apples. Fred Reed helped half day. Considerable rain"

Thursday, September 21

"Pick 24 apples - Seven bushels India wheat. rain in morning"

Friday, September 22

"Pick 63 apples. boil pumpkin"

Journal of George Harvey, 1876

Monday, September 25

"Pick 24 bushels apples"

Saturday, September 30

"Pick 40 bushels apples. Frank help"

Thursday, October 19

"Frank & Aunt Mary went after steers Paid Mrs. Bigelow 5.00"

Tuesday, November 2

"Presidential Election. Archibald paid for potatoes he bought of me  
June 19, 1874. Snow 2 inches deep."

Wednesday, November 8

"Snow most all gone. Carried 23 bushels apples to Raymond Smith for cider  
Great excitement over Presidential Election. Tilden a little ahead.  
Richmond killed 2 sheep"

Monday, November 13

"Carried 25 bushels in all & have got 58 gal. of cider"

Tuesday, November 14

"boil cider. draw stone, go to Quechee in the evening. Carrie went with me"

Wednesday, November 15

"draw 8 loads manure. 3 loads for top dressing A flock of about 50 wild  
Geese went over going south"

Wednesday, December 15

"been to the Green. bought a pump and pipe to draw water from the cellar to  
the kitchen where we live. Pump and pipe cost 3.10"

Friday, December 15

"been making alterations in the house"

Saturday, December 16

"been to Lock Woods after R\_\_\_?. Geo. Richmond come and killed seven sheep.  
Very Blustering Freeze one ear"

Monday, December 25

"temp. 7 am, Noon, 6 pm: 5, 9, 8 degrees" been to the green got two chains,  
bunk irons, .50 Cloudy all day." *Note: No mention of Christmas*

Tuesday, December 26

"broke a road to the wood - a little cloudy all day - very little snow after  
3 o'clock been to singing. haul ice"

\* \* \* \* \*  
*Two additional entries at the back of book:*

January 1, 1877: "Sun Shine a little forenoon after noon cloudy 5° at 6 am"  
February 21, 1877: "All the family started for Goshen to get to Mr. Wileys in  
Mill Village. got to Goshen 11 o'clock. Golden Wedding, 28th 90 persons  
present - had a very good time. Returned home March 6th being gone 2 weeks  
Geo. Richmond stayed all night. done the chores to the barn"



Journal Entries of Frank H. Harvey

1883

Tuesday, April 17

"gathered 5½ bbls sap. went down to Taftsville with Fred"

Saturday, April 21

"went to Taftsville after load of sawdust split wood up to sugar house"

Monday, April 23

"gathered 7 bbls sap. worked for Reed 6½ hours. 80 cents ...."

Wednesday, April 25

"Plowed a little. went to Post office gathered 4 bbls

Thursday, April 26

"Plowed. gathered 2 bbls sap"

Sunday, April 29

"gathered 8 bbls sap. went to meeting at Taftsville"

Monday, April 30

"Finished harrowing wheat field. drewed 10 loads of manure. Father went after furniture"

Wednesday, May 2

"gathered sap buckets. went to Lodge"

Thursday, May 3

"bad cold sore throat"

Friday, May 4

"Drewed 5 loads manure. played Croquet"

*There is an entry for May 5, 1883 recorded in the 1878-79 Diary, in the back of the book. See page 6*

Tuesday, May 8

"Sheared sheep. I sheared seven, average 9-2"

Thursday, May 10

"washed buckets"

Thursday, May 17

"... planted Early Rose Potatoes"

June 15

"Worked on Woodshed. Frank White paid for 1 gallon Surup .80 Lizzie Gilbert came up. Bees swarmed"

June 21

"Cultivated corn"

June 22

"Mowed for fodder corn"

Journal Entries of Frank H. Harvey

1883

June 27

"planted fodder corn a.m. pm finished hoeing corn & potatoes"

August 6 & 7

"cut oats , cut oats - Bound oats"

August 9

"cut hay"

August 16

"Father & I went to Bridgewater to see Euggies. Finished getting in oats"

August 29

"Worked on house. Shingled some went down to drill"

September 4.

"Soldiers Reunion at Hartford. Went with Taftsville Company. 26 guns  
Hard frost this morning"

September 10

"cut corn forenoon sick with a cold pm"

September 13

"Dug 8½ bu. potatoes"

October 6

"gathered 23 bu of apples"

October 13

"Husked corn. Very warm"

October 23

"Turned cattle into the mowing"

October 27

"Put tin roof on the Piazza" *(This is the porch attached to the house)*

October 29

"Thanksgiving. Sweet potatoes Grapes and Cranberries from Boston.  
I went hunting. Got colts to the barn"

December 15

"Cold and blustering. Thermometer at zero. No snow for sleighing  
Frank Ward got mumps"

December 19

"snowed 3 inches. not much difference between sleighing and wagoning"

Journal Entries of Frank H. Harvey

1863

December 21

"rehearse singing. last day of school snowed enough for pretty good sleighing. Christmas Carol. Admission 10¢. house full went off well. took part in singing exercises"

December 23

"cold 27 degrees below zero. coldest day" (at bottom of the page this entry: "coldest day for many years. coldest at Woodstock of any place 32 degrees below zero. 13 below in Boston"

December 24

"made new body for traverse sleds. Father & I went down to Taftsville to xmas tree, very good time."

December 25

"Xmas. Father & Mother went up to Mials got home. drew 3 loads of wood. Pleasant not very cold."

December 31

"Cut the Basswood that the wind broke over. got down 2 logs. snowed some"

\* \* \* \* \*

For the Years 1878 and 1879

1878-79 : Frank Harvey used one book for these years, a beautiful purple (fine canvas fabric) journal, 3½ x 5 3/4" an "Excelsior Diary" with gold lettering and intricate black designs cut into the fabric cover. The entries were very brief in most cases, and many skipped pages in between. He practiced penmanship, writing his name in ink, and doodling here and there. There is also a list of sap barrels gathered in the spring of 1880 and 1881. Another entry for January 1, 1878 was found in the back of the book, and I have listed it under the initial entry, below:

Inscribed: *Frank Harvey, Esq. Taftsville, VT. Windsor County*

January 1

"This Diary was made for 1876 but is used for 1878 and 79"

"Very Pleasant not a bit of snow had a New Years Eve molasses pull party here last night the molasses which was so poor it wouldn't make candy a large load\* came up from Taftsville - had a splendid (time) Mother gone to Goshen\*\* went to singing school am."

\*a lot of people

\*\*New Hampshire

Journal Entries of Frank H. Harvey

1878

January 2

"It is quite cold. I sent to school and to singing school in the evening"

January 3

"quite pleasant. QUITE PLEASANT"

January 4

"quite pleasant went to school"

January 10

"Father went to Woodstock"

January 11

"Father went to the Green to Agriculture meeting Mr. Abbott stayed here over night Granlin tried to kill himself"

January 12

"Father and Mother went to the Green"

January 13

"Father and Mother went to Quechee and got me a Diary I yoked my steers (sic) and went out to Mr. Reeds It is quite pleasant (sic)"

January 16

"I went to school and to singing school in the evening. Father broke out the road in the morning Mother finished papering the bedroom"

January 19

"went to school Father and Mr. Richmond killed old red"

January 27

"Pleasant Father went to the Green got me a bottle of ink"

February 22

"got over to Grandfather about noon went to school in the afternoon with Willie and Franki Alice went to the Ball over to Edgar's in evening Frank Willie haven't"

February 28

"I here to Grandpa Brown\* it is the 50th Anniversary of their Marage (sic) having a good time

\*maternal grandparents; parents of Caroline "Cattie" Brown Harvey.

Blank pages, and - Pleasant, went to school scattered throughout

Next Entry: "Sap gathered in the Spring of 1880"

beginning with March 21, 3 Barrels, ending with April 20, 23½ Barrels  
Total 88 Barrels. Frank listed the number of barrels for each day.

Journal Entries of Frank H. Harvey

Sap gathered in the Spring of 1881:

March 8	-	3 Barrels
March 9	-	5 Barrels
" 10	-	5 "
" 13	-	4 "
" 14	-	11½ "
" 15	-	12 "
" 16	-	16 "
" 17	-	4 "
" 18	-	8 "
" 19	-	8 "
" 20	-	2 "
" 21	-	10½
" 22	-	8
" 23	-	4
" 24	-	4
" 25	-	8
" 28	-	3
" 29	-	4
" 30	-	8
" 31	-	10
April 1	-	9½
" 2	-	4
" 4	-	4
don't know		4
April 8	-	8
" 9	-	9
" 10	-	12
" 11	-	11
" 12	-	6
" 13	-	4

Notes on Sugaring:

Sap boiled for fancy syrup then strained and the grade B or C syrup would be put in the sugaring off pan and boiled down to sugar. A gallon of syrup made 8 pounds of sugar.

Cream was added to the syrup to make maple sugar candies. The syrup was poured into moulds to make candies.

"Sap runs only when the weather is right"

Sugaring off parties were joyful get-togethers which rewarded the hard work of gathering the processing the heavy barrels of sap. Hot syrup was poured on the snow bank outside the sugar house (or in big pans of snow) for instant taffy for the children.

20-quart pails were used to bring the sap from the trees to the gathering tub.

A Barrel (bbl.) is 31-1/2 gallons.

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Entry for February: snowed all day did not go to school  
(no dates) not very cold, I went out and skated on the meadow (sic)  
in the evening"

Thursday, July 6, 1879: "Don't write any more in this book, Dont"

August Entry: "Red Squirrels"  
"Woodchuck"

Entry in the back of book, dated May 5th 1883 (written carefully)

"Dramatic Entertainment May 5th 1883 at school house, Taftsville.

Drama, Little Brown Jug and a "roaring Faver called Hash" Admission 35 ¢  
Reserved Seats 50¢ Come early and reserve your Seats  
Doors open at 6¼. Exercises commence at 7.00"

Journal Entries of Frank H. Harvey

The Standard Diary for 1884

Frank Harvey wrote his name on the cover pages three times, twice in pencil, once in ink. On the inside back cover are penciled additions of hours worked for Daniel G. Spaulding and the monies earned. In the inside pocket of the jacket folder I found this receipt, folded six times:

"No. 20 Recorded page 92 Taftsville, Vt., Nov 6th 1878

This certifies that George W. Harvey  
is entitled to one share in the capital stock of the  
Taftsville Combination Stage Association,  
of Taftsville, Vt. This share is transferable only on the books of the  
Society.  
Daniel G. Spaulding President  
Lewis J. M. Marcy Secretary.

Photo Copy:

No. 20 Recorded page 92 Taftsville, Vt., Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1878  
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of Taftsville, Vt. This share is transferable only on the books of the Society.  
Daniel G. Spaulding President.  
Lewis J. M. Marcy Secretary.

Up to this point, Jean did not know her Great Grandfather's Middle Initial --  
She would have to write Aunt Ruth. What a nice "find" this was!

Journal Entries of Frank. H. Harvey

For the Year 1884

January 1, 1884 (Tuesday)

"Questions Resolved: That one derives more pleasure in anticipation than in participation"

January 4 & 5

"Census 1870 Principal Cities of U.S.

1. New York, NY	942.292
2. Philadelphia, Pa	674.022
3. Brooklyn. N.Y	396.099
4. St. Louis Mo	310.864
5. Chicago Ill.	298.977
6. Baltimore Md.	267.354
7. Boston Mass	250.526
8. Cincinnati O	216.289
9. New Orleans	191.418
10. San Francisco Cal	149.473
11. Buffalo NY	117.714
12. Washington D.C.	109.199
13. Newark N.J.	105.059
14. Louisville Ky	100.753

January 19 (no entries between Jan 5 & 19)

"Candidates For President James G. Blane of Maine  
For Vice President John A. Logan of Illinois

February 13

"Father went to Quechee today and got this diary so I will begin to take notes. Went to school stayed with Reed until after the Lodge. payed dues"

February 16, Saturday

"l below, cloudy went out to stake on Baydens meadow Whitewashed half of the kitchen paint some. Went down to Taftsville called to see F. White"

February 21, Thursday

"Went to school had a written review in Physical geography. stayed after school to rehearse for Syrium Uncle Ira & Aunt Anna came."

February 24, Sunday

"Tryed to find poem by Longfellow to speak but could not find any"

February 27, Wednesday

"Mowed split wood some went up on the hill and cut up the Ash that the wind blew down. hard crust. Went to Lodge got dramatic book  
"Never Say Die" for Ly ? "

February 29, Friday

"Windy 20 (degrees) terrible blustering did not go out any. I've not been to school this week Whitewashed the kitchen"

Journals of Frank H. Harvey

1884

March 8, Saturday

"Largest snow storm this winter 12 to 14 inches. Sawed ash logs"

March 9, Sunday

"some snowy rained a little write composition subject: Sugar Making"

March 12, Wednesday

"Went to school stayed to rehearse Composition got mask for festival 15¢  
Cow calved."

March 14, Friday

"cloudy school finished. Read composition. Rank 9.59 Lodge Festival  
dressed up as an old woman"

March 20, Thursday

"40 pleasant Six inches new snow Drewed 5 loads manure Tapped 50 trees"

March 21, Friday

"Warm and pleasant. Tapped 200 trees" \*

*\*using 3/8" drill bit, boring  
1-1/2 inch deep into tree,  
then hammering in metal spout.*

March 22, Saturday

"Gathered 8 bbls sap"

March 23, Sunday

"Gathered 5 bbls sap. Father & Mother went to church"

March 24, Monday

"Sugared off 50 lbs. into cakes"

April 1, Tuesday

"Went to Woodstock carried Alice over to Mr. Vaughans began giving lessons  
Went to sugar party out Taftsville Lodge"

April 5, Saturday

"Snowing a little all day not warm enough for sap have not had any  
good sugar weather yet"

April 24, Thursday

"Gathered 7 bbls. sap and gathered buckets"

April 25, Friday

"Traded Watch for fiddle with F. White - got G string and 2.00 to boot"

April 26, Saturday

"Washed buckets"\* *(This was a big job, easily a full day's work, and more)*

May 3, Saturday

"Plowed back of the barn Will Reed married"

Journals of Frank H. Harvey

1884

May 7, Wednesday

"rain some Sawed Wheat Fred moved away this morning board 2 weeks and 3 days"

May 11 & 12

"Stayed with Fred over night Went to Rutland with Fred"

May 14

"Open Lodge Played "Never Say Die" Father worked for Casnell 1/2 day"

May 30, Friday

"Decoration at Taftsville Played Ball Team from Woodstock came down Uncle Ira & Aunt Anne came."

June 15, Sunday

"fine Washed Buggy"

June 18, Wednesday

"Finished hoeing corn first time. Warm 84 Hired out to D. G. Spaulding to work on the brickyard for \$10. a week. Went to the Lodge"

June 20, Friday

"Worked on the road. Father, I and the oxen Went to the party out at Will Reeds"

June 23, Monday

"Commenced work for Spaulding on the brickyard"

July 4, Friday

"Went out firing in the morning. Worked for Will Reed haying"

July 6, Sunday

"Went in swimming"

July 11, Friday

"Spaulding had oxen to draw hay Charley came over to rake after 2 loads went in swimming"

July 28, Monday

"Worked in brickyard. Shot Pigeon Hawk"

August 9, Saturday

"Bound Wheat in the a.m. for Spaulding. Played Ball in the p.m."

August 18, Monday

"Set brick. Did not strike"

Journals of Frank H. Harvey

1834

September 3, Wednesday

"Mother went over to Goshen with Frank Brown"

September 6, Saturday

"Went to Newport on the excursion Spaulding began burning brick"

September 8, Monday

"Began going to school at Woodstock"

September 23, Tuesday

"First day of Fair"

September 24, Wednesday

"Went to the Fair"

September 25, Thursday

"Went to the Fair Balloon Assention" (sic)

September 27, Saturday

"Gathered apples"

September 29, Monday

"Dug Potatoes"

October 18, Saturday

"Took apples to mill got sider, got some sawdust"

October 20, Monday

"Plowed potato fields got new point for the plow"

October 22, Wednesday

"Finished blind ditch down by the cold spring Went to Lodge"

October 27, Monday

"Paid Frank White 1.00 Finished seeding and rolling took the roller home and took Dan's harrow home Will Reed came down to see about some stone rainy in the afternoon. Commenced plowing the corn field"

October 28, Tuesday

"Rained some all day. Plowed some."

November 2, Sunday

"Began laying wall beyond the house"

November 20, Thursday

"Eight inches snow this morning Got colts home 4 Weeks 3 days"\*

\*length of time in pasture.

Journals of Frank H Harvey

1884

December 25, Thursday

"Christmas ....."

Memoranda - back of Diary

"Thrashed Sept. 19th 31 bushels Wheat from two bushels sowing 23 bushels Oats  
63 bushels of Potatoes

Tapped 277 trees - *(Using a 3/8" bit, drilling 1-1/2" into tree. A spout was  
hammered into the tree into the hole; the bucket was  
covered to keep the rain out.)*

Journal of 1885

a little accounting book measuring 3"x5"; incomplete entries: through September

March 25, 1885

"Split wood went to Lodge Sent letter to White"

March 26, Thursday

"Broke a rodd into the sugar place

A.- and I went to a dance up to J. Darlings Got letter from White"

March 28, Saturday

"Traveling rather bad Tapped 171 trees.

Meeting to abate taxes finished splitting blocks

March 29, Sunday

"Little to cold for sap. Went down after Alice. Went to meeting at T-"

April 1 W

"Got 25 new buckets tapped 28 more trees -got 300 tapped Went to Lodge at  
Woodstock. Party up to L. Gills. Gathered 7 bbl. sap"

April 3 F

"Gathered 9 bbls sap

April 5 S.

"Pleasant. Sap run well. F.- M.- & A.- went to church"

April 10 F.

"Gathered 4 bbls. Party up to Colbys. Got J.W. Seaver's Violin"

April 11 S.

"Gathered 10 bbls."

April 13 M.

"Gathered 15 bbls."

Journals of Frank H. Harvey

1885

April 15, W

"Gathered 13 bbls Set a hen Black cow calved Holt preached at Taftsville"

April 16, Th

"Gathered 7 bbls. Father got some rubber boots. Parry called to see the oxen"

April 24, F.

"White and I sawed wood Had a dance at Taftsville"

April 25, Sat

"Went down to clean up the hall gathered buckets"

April 26, Sun

"Snowed White went away"

May 1st, 1883, Friday

"Arbor day Father and I dug and set out 25 Maple trees Fred came down to play took black cow over to Spaulding."

May 27

"finished planting corn & potatoes"

May 31

"Decoration\* at Taftsville & Woodstock" *\*Memorial Day, Festivities & Music at cemetery for Civil War soldiers.*

June 9

"Went to Lodge at Taftsville. let Will Reed take the oxen"

June 11

"Base Ball meeting"

June 12

"Mare folded Went to strawberry festival Planted fodder corn"

June 14, Sunday

"Went to Plymouth Union to Spiritual Convention"

June 28

"Went to Universal Concert Father taken sick"

August 2, Sun.

"Ally went down to Church with Will & Laura. ..." (*Ally - Alice's nickname*)

August 4

"Worked for Reed 1/2 day. Reed boy broke his arm"

August 9, Sunday

"Went to church in the a.m. No meeting at the Methodist"

Journals of Frank H. Harvey

1885

August 23 Sun.

"Jim helped me get in two loads of oats Spaulding came to see me about working on the brickyard"

August 31

"Worked on brickyard 1/2 day\* Cattle got out fixed fence in forenoon. Will Taylor came looked after oxen" \*at 1.37½ per day

September 13

"Went down and had 2 teeth pulled took gas"

October 26

"Began working for Bugbee & Wood in cidermill Oct. 26 for \$1.25 per day"

\* Back of Journal are working accounts with Will Reed and others

\* Frank also lists all the barrels of sap gathered in spring 1885: a total of 137 barrels -- and a list of Officers in District No. 7 School meeting March 31, 1885, the officers titles are: Moderator, Clerk, Committee, Collector, Agent, Auditor

\* \* \* \* \*

FOR THE YEAR 1887

This is also a Standard Diary, in a peach-colored fabric cover, black borders. It is printed for the year 1881, but Frank changed the 1's to 7's throughout. The first months are blank, except for the notation "school meeting" on March 29.

April 30, 1887

"Frank Vaughan sold 14 wild horses at auction average 110. a piece"

May 4, 1887

"Worked for Will Reed cleaning carpets and fixing fence Jim Jones begun shearing sheep. Fred came down in the evening. Played euchre" (a card game)

May 5, 1887

"Jim finished shearing sheep I sheared 2½ ? about 8 lbs per head"

May 7, 1887

"Some Rainy. Went up to English's mills and S. Barnard with ES Wood buying potatoes Went to Woodstock. Had hair cut."

May 8, 1887

"Warm Went down to sabbath school and to church in the evening"

Journals of Frank H. Harvey

1887

April 9

"Very warm Father and I went to Bridgewater bought colt of Mr. Whitman  
4 years old Brown Mare paid \$115."

May 18

"Harnessed colt in beside of True's horse drew stone off the oat field  
Sowed Oats Took horse home"

May 24

"Had Reeds team all day plowing finished plowing corn ground Mare folded  
3 days before time out

May 28, Saturday

"Wet day Got some harness oil of Job 40¢ a qt. Finished planting potatoes"

May 28, Sunday

"Rainy day Elder Scott preached at Taftsville"

May 30, Monday

"Decoration. (Day) Did not go Drove colt over to G ? and up round  
by Woodstock Father went to Woodstock Mrs. H. Spaulding had a partial  
Shock"

May 31, Tuesday

"cloudy Planted corn Jim worked for me part of the day Sold Jim 2 hens  
for 90¢ and settled up old account shearing sheep ? Harding had a  
smash up"

June 5, Sunday

"Cloudy Took two Wolf teeth out of 2 year old colts mouth. Went to  
Taftsville to meeting Vandalism preached. bought ax helve of Mavin 30¢"

June 9, Thursday

"Took colts to pasture over to Homer Darlings 8.00 for the season  
Father & Mother went to Quechee. Planted fodder corn in the afternoon"

July 13, Tuesday

"Hot 94° Dack and I worked for Gilbert began haying Got in 4 loads"

August 4, Thursday

"Finished haying at home"

August 9

"Pleasant Got in the Barley Good hayday"

August 10

"Warmer Cloudy some Mowed the grass seed stubble Mowed beside the road  
bound the grass seed. Took the black cow to bull over to Dales"

Journals of Frank H. Harvey

1887

September 7

"Considerable warm Began digging up the drain to the cellar"

September 9

"Went to Woodstock to Wittmill's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in tent"

September 21

"Finished setting up and binding corn"

September 23

"Dug potatoes and gathered the squashes and citron" *\*A variety of watermelon having fruit generally considered inedible and hard rind used as flavoring - the preserved or candied rind used for baking.*

October 10 "Got in 3 loads of corn Finished getting in pumpkins 7 loads in all"

October 12

"Father & Mother came home from Goshen"

October 17

"Warm & pleasant Worked in mill (cider mill) Stayed out to Reeds over night. Excursion to Boston 4.00 from Woodstock"

October 22

"Cold Squally Worked in Mill Father grewed a load of apples 23 bush. Put into Pixleys cider 91 gal. 4.26"

October 25

"Worked in Mill Went to Gilson's Magic Lantern Show in the evening at the Hall"

October 31

"Pleasant Worked in the Mill quite a lot of apples came in."

November 10

"Worked on sugar wood<sup>\*</sup> in the a.m. rain and hail in the p.m. letter from Alice Settled with Whitney for working in cider mill"

November 10

"Jim and I husked corn all day About four inches of heavy snow"

November 19, Saturday

"Chopped part of the day Snow and rain in the afternoon and night Ice cream sociable at Taftsville Mrs. Hopkins fell down stairs and hurt her head"

November 23

"Gail & Jim came up in the evening played cards Mrs. Hopkins died Went to Quechee got the Brown Mare shod all round"

*\*Cut in 3-foot lengths, stacked and ready to fire up the furnace ("arch") in sugarhouse.*