

Alvin Thompson Smith  
Diary 1850

- Jan. 1 Went to mill with 4 bu wheat  
 2 Went to the County Site  
 3 Halled wood to the house  
 4 Went to John Fletts to get him & Steneant (Stewart?)  
 to tend church meeting  
 5 Did chores & had church meeting & the church voted to  
 alter the church lot 3 yeas, 2 nays, myself nay
- Sab. 6 Tended meeting & had a communion service  
 7 Started for Portland & went to Mr. Charles Stewarts  
 8 Came back to Mr. Gibsons  
 9 Came home in a canoe across the bottom (Dairy Creek?)  
 10 Helpt Br. Geiger to make a canoe  
 11 Helpt Br. Geiger finish his canoe  
 12 Hunted for my hogs but did not find them
- Sab 13 Tended meeting  
 14 Tend to my stock. Mrs. Smith was called to Mr. Clarks  
 this evening  
 15 Tended to my stock. Mrs. Smith did not come home  
 16-17 Halled wood & tended stock  
 18 Tended stock & went to Mr. Catchings with some leather to  
 make a pair of shoes & Mrs. Smith came home from Mr. Clarks  
 19 Tended to stock & got wood at the door. Edward
- Sab 20 Staid at home from meeting  
 21 Borrowed Br. Geigers sled & went to mill & brought home my grist  
 24 Halled wood to doo & got my mare from Br. Geiger
- Sab 27 Tended meeting & Br. Clark preached  
 31 Tended stock & went to mill to see about lost bag
- Feb. 2 Thrashed some peas & went to tend church meeting but had  
 no meeting. Mrs. Smith went to Mr. Clarks again. Mr.  
 Chadus (?) son born (writing of name faint)
- Sab 3 Staid at home from meeting  
 4 Went to East Plain & tended probate court  
 5 Tended to Probate Court  
 6 Went to Portland  
 7 Staid in Portland & traded some  
 8 Came a part of way home  
 9 Came home  
 14 Thrashed peas & went to Mr. Porters  
 15 Thrashed peas & hunted hogs  
 19 Went to Beagles mill & engaged Davis & Tupper to help me  
 butcher & let Daniel Young have my team & 10 bu of wheat  
 to go to mill

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- Feb. 21 Butchered 12 hogs & Messrs J. Davis, D. Harper, Wm. Geiger & Tupper helped me butcher. The 12 (hogs) weighed 2954 lbs
- 22 Salted my pork & Davis helped me
- 26 Went over to Mr. Parsons with Mrs. Smith
- 28 Tended to my cattle & helped Mr. Fraons raise a house
- Mar. 1 Helped get out timber for repairing the bridge at Joseph Davises
- Sab. 3 Tended meeting & had a communion service
- 4 Sold brown & white (?) to Mr. Butts for 125 dollars & tended probate court at the county seat
- 5 Tended court & bought 2 lots in Hillsborough the County seat of Washington County for \$1095
- 11 Reversed (reviewed?) the road from the bridge on my creek to the bridge at the slough beyond Jacob Reeds field
- 12 Tended to stock & hauled wood
- 13 Butchered hogs & took them to Mr. Parsons the weight 530 lbs
- 14 Went to work on Davises bridge but did not work, came home & thrashed peas
- 18 Went to Mr. Knightons & got the fanning mill & Mrs. S. went to Mr. Benjamin Catchings
- 19 Repaired the fanning mill
- 20-23 Cleaned up peas
- 23 and went to Mr. Catchings & got Ellens shoes (Ellen Gale), paid 15 cts for making & 100 cts for mending Edwards (Gale) & Susans
- 27 Went to work on the bridge near Henry Davises
- 28 Worked on bridge
- 30 Hauled in 48 bushels of peas
- Sab. 31 Tended meeting & Sabath (sic) school
- Apr. 1 Hauled in 12 bushels of peas & did chores
- 2 Went to the court to carry in my report of the review of the road
- 4 Took my bacon to Mrs. Naylor for to get smoked
- 5 Did chores & worked some at my fence
- 6 Worked some in my garden & sowed onion seed
- 9 Worked at my pasture fence that the high water took off
- 10-12 Did the same
- 13 Got out some of my oats
- 16 Went with Mr. Parsons to look out a mill site & tended a meeting of the trustees of the Tualatin Academy
- 17 Finished thrashing out my oats

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- Apr. 22 Began to plow for peas  
 23-25 Did the same & David Harper helpt me  
 26 Sowed 8 bushels of peas  
 29 Dug some potatoes & Mr. & Mrs. Spalding came to our house  
 30 Helpt Mr. Spalding start for home & loaned him one of my horses & dug some potatoes
- May 1 Dug potatoes & Mrs. Smith went to Mr. Geigers  
 2-7 Plowing  
 8 Did same & Mr. Black brought his mare & put into my pasture  
 9 Plowed some & went to MR. Buxtons & got 2 bushel of potatoes for seed  
 10 Harrowed some ground for planting potatoes & did chores  
 11 Planted potatoes & sold Mr. Holbrook 4 oxen for 250 dollars. He paid me 64 dolls the balance is due. Mr. Black & Saxton each put a mare in my pasture  
 13 Sowed 6 bushels of oats & harrowed some  
 15 Plowed some & sowed 6½ bu oats  
 18 Plowed some & planted corn  
 20 Went with Br. Stewart as a committee of the church to visit Anderson Smith  
 21 Worked in my garden & went with Mrs. Smith to Mr. Griffins  
 22 Came home & planted my squash  
 23 Plowed my old house garden & went up to the mill to see if I could get some grinding  
 24 Planted my old garden & sheared sheep  
 27 Sheared sheep & Mrs. Smith came home  
 28 Did the same & broke my shears  
 29 Went & borrowed a pair of sheep shears  
 30 Sheared some sheep  
 31 Did the same & helpt Henry Davis raise his mill
- June 1 Halled wood & tended church meeting  
 Sab 2 Tended meeting  
 3 Went to Oregon City to see the Indians hung that were wondemned for the murder of Doc Whitman  
 4 Came home  
 5 Went over to Mr. Wilks & had a settlement with Mr. Isaiáh Mills & then home  
 8 Went over to Mrs. Pomeroy's to appraise the property of the estate of John Pomeroy  
 10 Planted some corn & cucumber  
 12 Worked some in the garden & helpt Mr. Beagle to raise his grist mill

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- June (Sab) 16 Tended meeting. Alanson Hinman preached  
18 Warned the people to work on the road  
19-22 Worked on the road  
24 Went to Portland & wrote a will  
25 Did some trading & came home  
26 Went to the County Seat & back  
28 Mended my fence to keep the hogs out  
29 Plowed my potatoes & helpt lay the foundation of the Tualatin Academy
- Sab 30 Tended meeting
- July 1 Tended Probate Court  
5 Made a yoke & plowed some of my corn  
6-7 Tended a meeting on the North Plain  
9 Helpt about raising the Tualatin Academy  
10 Did the same  
11 Helpt Mr. Mulkey raise his barn  
12 Went to Portland & got a letter from Mr. Gale & a draft on Couch & Co. for 250 dolls  
13 Drew the money & came home
- Sab 14 Tended meeting.  
15 Cut some of my wheat for feed  
16-20 Did the same & helpt Mr. Parsons raise a barn  
24 Tended a meeting at Mr. Harpers of the Tualatin Indians & the neighbors respecting the Indians stealing & they punished an Indian by whipping for stealing & I came home & went to Beagles mill & got a small grist ground  
26 Tended the sale of property belonging to the estate of J.F. Pomeroy  
27 Went to Joseph Davis & bought some things for Gales children & some for our own  
29 Raked up some of my wheat. Lingenfelter began to cut the wheat which he took of me  
31 Went to Hillsborough & back
- Aug. 1 Mended some fence the high water took away & Mrs. Smith & Catchings went to the Wallamette Falls by Mr. Clarks  
5 Went to Beagles mill & got a grist ground  
6-9 Worked up some of my wheat for feed  
10 Mended fence & worked some at my barn floor  
12 Mended my barn floor for thrashing  
13 Cut some of my oats  
14-16 Did the same

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Aug.

- 17 Went to the Wallamette Falls to tend the dedication of the meeting house
- 19 Went to Milwaukee & Portland
- 20 Came home & Mr. Young paid me 70 dollars for pork that I sold him last winter
- 21-23 Cut oats
- 24 Wrote a letter to Mr. Gale to send by Hunter
- 26 Staid at home with a lame back
- 27 Worked at my fence to stop the hogs out of my field
- 28 Went to Portland & Milwaukie
- 29 Traded some & came home
- 30-31 Cut oats

Sept.

- 2 Halled 26 bushels of wheat to Mr. Clark which Orus Brown paid me & 24 to the grainery & 45½ of my own to the grainery
- 3 Did chores about home & got a scythe of Mr. Brown to cut my peas
- 4 Did chores & helpt Mr. Clark butcher a beef
- 6 Went to Dixons & got my auger & yoke
- 9 Cut some of my peas. Spalding came this evening
- 11 Butchered a sheep & went to mill & did chores
- 12 Cut peas & tended a meeting of the association

Sab

- 15 Tended meeting
- 16 Cut some peas & went to Mr. Griffins with Mr. Spalding
- 17 Went to mill & got my grist & paid Messrs Eells & Clark the borrowed flour
- 18 Repaired my trucks for halling logs & Mr. Mix from New Haven came here
- 19 Halled logs for Mr. Clark
- 20 Spent the day in fasting & prayer as recommended by Governor Gains in consequence of the death of President Taylor
- 21 Cut some of my peas
- 23 Cut peas & warned out the men to work on the road
- 24 Went to Milwaukie
- 25 Went to Portland & home

26-28 Worked on the road

Sab

- 29 Tended meeting
- 30 Worked on the road

Oct.

- 1-2 Worked on the road
- 4 Cut up my corn
- 7 Shocked up my oats & did chores
- 8 Cut & halled wood & mended fence
- 9 Went down to Portland

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- Oct. 10 Traded some & came home  
 11 Went to the post office & to Mr. Griffins  
 12 Did chores & tended church meeting & the church voted to employ Mr. Clark another year  
 14-19 Did chores about home
- Sab 20 Tended meeting  
 21 - 26 Halled in my oats & peas
- Sab 27 Tended meeting  
 28 Halled in the balance of my peas  
 29 Got in my beans & got some wood  
 30 Got in my corn  
 31 Halled in some of my squashes
- Nov. 2 Tended sacramental lecture & had a conversation with Mr. Clark respecting my course toward him. He asked me if I voted for him to stay another year. I told him that I did not vote at all. He asked me then if I thought it was right to circulate a subscription paper to get money for him while I was opposed to his preaching here. I told him I did it because the church requested me to. He said that he was opposed to such a course & that he should object to it. He also said he did not wish to have me collect money for him. He also said that he was glad that Mr. Geiger had not paid him anything for the last year. He also said that he would not receive anything from him nor from anyone opposed to him. I told him that he had received some bushels of wheat from me. He said I did not know you was opposed to me. He asked me why I was opposed to him. I told him of one thing because of his stopping preaching last winter. He had considerable more conversation to the same purport to that above. He requested me to let him see the subscription paper which I did. He asked me why I wrote it so if it was not out of contempt for him. I told him no that it was written precisely as the other with the difference of (stated supply) in place of (Pastor). Here followed considerable conversation concerning Reverend & I asked him where it came from if it did not come from the Popish Church & I told him that I despised this kind of Reverence that was paid to the priests. Considerable more conversation took place than what I have written.
- Sab 3 Tended meeting  
 4-7 Worked about home  
 8 Took up & set some of my apple trees  
 9-15 Dug potatoes (except not on Sab.)
- Sab 17 Tended meeting. My birthday 48 yrs old & much of my time has run to waste but I pray God to forgive the past & give me Grace for the future.  
 18 Cut wood in the woods

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*Jb*

Nov.

19-23 Did chores & halled wood

25 Did chores & tended to my bacon at Mr. Naylors

30 Did chores about home & subscribed to a railroad from Portland to Yam Hill Falls

Dec.

2 Went over & tended Probate Court & heard of the passage of the Oregon Donation Land Bill to settlers

3 Tended to the examination of the school

4 Cut & halled some wood out of the swamp

6 Halled up some wood & subscribed for the Western Star & paid 350 cts or one half in advance

7 Went to Mr. Benjamin Catchings & tended church meeting

Sab

8 Tended meeting

9-12 Halled up wood & polls for a wood house

13 Did chores about home & went to Mr. Ben Catchings

14 Went over to the County Seat & back

Sab

15 Tended meeting

16 Went to Br. Geigers & did chores

18 Went to Hillsborough to tend a meeting of the citizens relative to purchasing an interest in the Steamer Goldhunter. I bought one share for 1000 dolls one third to be paid down the balance in 50, 90, 120 days

23 Staid about home & was qualified & gave the requisite bond to act as Postmaster in the Tualatin Post Office as Agent, Special Agency, Post Office Department, O.T.

24 Staid about home & did chores & took back my old oxen from Mr. Pomeroy at 75 dolls

26 Went to Portland & paid W.W.Chapman 335 dollars the first payment for my share of the Goldhunter & also paid for Wm. Geiger the first payment for his share of the Gold Hunter

31 Cut & halled some wood. Thus closes up another year of my pilgramage here on earth. May the Lord help me henceforth to live more to His Divine acceptance.