

Alvin Thompson Smith  
Diary 1848

(Note: in transcribing from the diary for 1848 and subsequent years, the repetitive homely entries, like Halled wood, Cut wood, plowing, sowing, Sab. tended meeting - these have been omitted. Every entry where a person's name is given has been included, plus each entry that indicates a new or unusual event. M.S.Gilbert)

- Jan. 1 Went to the east plain for a letter that came from the States.
- Sab. 2 Tended meeting at the shanty
3. Did chores about home & loaned a horse to Wm. Stokes to go on an expedition against the Cayuse Indians for murdering Doc Whitman
- 4 Did chores about home & loaned Alvin Brown a rifle for the same purpose as Wm. Stokes a horse
- 6 Butchered hogs, John Butts (Butts?) helpt me & I sold him 314 lbs at 4 cts per lb.
- 7 Helpt dig the grave for & tended the burial of Mr. Thompsons child
- 11 Went up to the Tualatin lodge to see Hady (?) Rowlands children as they are orphaned
- 12 Went to Newbanks & Naylors to see if they would take some of the children but they did not agree to
- 15 Went to the east plain to tend a meeting of the citizens to organize into a military capacity for defence against the Indians in case of disturbance
- Sab 16 Tended meeting at the shanty
- 17 Tended a sale on the east plain
- 18 Cut & halled up wood to the door & let Wm. Beagle have my fine horse to go on an expedition against the Cayuse Indians the same as my other horse
- 19 Went to the Falls to Mr. Spaldings & wife & hear more particular of the murder
- 20 Staid at the Falls
- 21 Came home from the Falls
- 24 Halled some wood to the school house & tended a military meeting
- 25 Worked at my new pasture fence
- 26 Worked about home & made some fence & mr. Carle commenced getting out timber
- 27 Halled up logs for the Orphan asylum
- 29 Tended a military meeting & a prayer meeting
- 31 Did chores & got Dickson to mend my shoes
- Feb. 1 Worked at my pasture fence
- 2 Halled some rails for my orchard
- 3 Worked some at my orchard fence

- Feb. 7 Got Messrs Catching & Pomeroy's oxen to go to the falls for Mr. Spalding & his family
- 8 Start to the Falls & went to the buter (? word faded)
- 9 Went to the falls & loaded up the things
- 10 Came out to A.J. Masters
- 11 Came home with half of Mr. Spalding's things
- 16 Killed 2 hogs & sold one to John Sylvester
- 22 Went to Br. Geiger's & back home & visited with Messrs Clark, Spalding & Geiger families
- 23 Went to Mr. Holman's with my wife & made a pair of bars for for my sheep yard
- 24 Worked with my team for the Orphan asylum
- 25 Worked some at my orchard fence
- Sab 27 Tended meeting. Br. Spalding preached
- 28 Worked some at my orchard fence & Mr. Davis begins to plow for wheat
- Mar. 3 Made a settlement with Mr. Gale for everything except boarding his children, Edward & Susan, & he owes me 66 10/100 dolls
- 4 Worked at my orchard fence & Mr. Davis sowed 17 3/4 bushels red wheat
- 7 Worked at my orchard fence & Eli Harper came to work a month at 200 lbs of fresh pork per month
- 8 Worked up on the asylum
- 10 Worked at my orchard fence. Eli helped Mr. Brown
- 11 Finished my orchard fence
- 13 Worked about the old house garden
- 16 Worked on the Orphan asylum
- 20 Plowed some in my orchard & sent a kid skin to Mr. Wilks by his son & put up 4 hogs to fat
- 22 Hunted hogs & cattle & did chores
- 24 Halled stakes & did chores & worked on the asylum
- Sab. 26 Tended meeting at the meeting house for the first time
- Apr. 1 Did chores & tended lecture preparatory to communion
- Sab 2 Tended meeting & had a communion service
- 3 Got out manure & tended monthly concert (Note: first time this recorded)
- 5 Went to Mr. Wilks to see about my leather
- 6 Did chores about home & got my face burned
- 10 Cut some of my bulls & did chores
- 12 Went to Portland on the Wallamette river
- 13 Went to Vancouver, traded some & back to Portland
- 14 Came home from Portland
- 15 Did chores at home & wrote some to Caleb

- April 17 Helpt Messrs Shuey & Shepherd to start. Sent a letter to Caleb & a horse worth 60 dollars in cash by Mr. John Shuey & a letter to Connecticut to our friends there
- 18 Hunted for a cow & calf but did not find them. Mr. Davis planted potatoes.
- 19 Hunted my cow & calf. Davis sowed
- 20 Went to mill for self & Mr. Spalding
- 21 Did chores & killed 2 hogs & paid off Eli Harper & let Mr. Spalding have 290 lbs of fresh pork
- 24 Loaned Mr. Gale 200. for milk (?)
- May 3 Worked in my garden & sowed onions & bought a ram of Mr. Patton for 8 dolls & John Terwilliger came here to board & go to school & work for his board
- 4 Went to mill & borrowed 4.6 lbs of flour, bag & all, of Hinmoons & did chores
- 5 Worked in my garden & paid off Mr. Clark for the books I bought of him
- 6 Worked in my garden & surveyed the grounds for the meeting house
- 9 Worked in my garden & bought a quilt of Mr. Giprson (?) for 100 lbs of fresh prok
- 10 Went to mill & got the grist that I took there for Mr. Spalding
- 11 Hunted & altered my bull & did chores
- 16 Went to Mr. Gales & got the steelyards & to Mr. Spaldings & got some sugar & syrup & killed hogs & delivered to Mr. Johnson 200 lbs of fresh pork for Alanson Hinman
- 17 Salted my pork & planted yard
- 20 Sowed some beans & peas
- 22 Sheared a part of my sheep
- 27 Planted some corn & plowed my old garden
- June (June 3 to 20 too faded to read)
- 21 Went to Portland
- 22 Did my trading & came home
- 23 Did chores about home & pulled thistles out of my wheat
- 24 Repaired my yard fence & tended prayer meeting
- Sab. 25 Tended meeting Br. Clark preached
- 26 Worked on the camp ground
- 27 Butchered a beef for the camp meeting & did chores about home
- 28 Moved my family to the camp ground & tended the meeting
- 29-30-July 1-2 Tended the meeting

- July 3 Broke up the meeting & came home  
 4 Went up to Mr. Dixons & did chores  
 6 Got some timber for a cheese press & halled a load of rails  
 10-11-12-13 Worked at my cheese press  
 18 Went to the blacksmiths shop & back home  
 21 Worked at my cheese press & repaired my trucks  
 26 Went to the Wallamette Falls to attend a meeting of the Board of the tract society  
 27 Came home  
 28 Worked some at my cheese press
- Aug. 1 Helpt Mr. Snowden (S) about finishing surveying my claim  
 3 Finished surveying my claim & established NE corner  
 7 Went to Portland & back  
 10 Got Mr. Clarks trucks & repairing them for halling timber  
 16+ Halling in wheat  
 21 Worked at the old house & fixed it for storing my wheat  
 24 Got in 116 bu wheat & went to Mr. Benj. Catchings & paid him off  
 28 Went to Mr. Lenox with Mr. Spalding to get John Himseys (?) deposition respecting that the Roman Catholics were determine to have Dr. Whitmans station
- Sept. 2 Went over to the East Plain to attend a farmers meeting  
 6 Went to Portland with Calvin  
 7 Came back with Calvin B. Green & his mother wishes me to keep him until she returns from California next Spring & she says that she will settle for his staying with us but if she never comes back she wishes us to keep him as our own.  
 9-11 Halling in wheat  
 11 Mr. Gale sent his children here to stay until he returns from California  
 21 Went to Mr. Buxtons with my wife  
 26 Went to Portland & back  
 28 Went to Portland with my butter  
 29 Did not sell my butter & started home & camped in the woods
- Oct. 5 Worked at home at my chamber floor  
 6 Halled in squashes  
 9 Started for Vancouver & went to Logies  
 10 Went to the fort & traded & back to Logies

1848

1848 p.16  
1849

- Oct. 17 Began to frame my corn shed  
18 Halled in corn  
19 Halled in oats  
21 Had a meeting to alter the burying ground & tended the funeral of Mr. Ben Catchings oldest son  
25 Went to Messrs Spalding, A. Smith, O. Brown, Gales, Mills & home  
31 Went to Mr. Wilks & got some leather
- Nov. 3 Commenced plowing for wheat (Note: first time Fall plowing) (Plowed most of the days in November)  
22 Butchered my hogs  
23 Salted my pork  
24 Went to Mr. Wilks with a beef hide & 2 calf skins & got some leather  
30 Went to the meeting of the trustees of our academy to see about locating it
- Dec. 1-2 Did the same  
9 Wrote a contract between Charles Conklin & Alvin C. Brown & tended church meeting  
12 Tended to locating the academy  
13 Went to see Mr. Butts about putting up the frame of the academy
- Sab 31 Tended meeting. Thus endeth another year
- 1849
- Jan. 1 Went up to Mr. Dawsons & up on the Yam hill to see about the cattle belonging to Margaret & Catherine  
2 Came home from Mr. Dawsons  
3 Went to Mr. Spaldings with Mrs. Smith & then went to Mr. Harpers to consult him respecting Eli & he retains his wages which is 6 months & 17 days work  
4 Went to the mill & had a talk with Mr. Allen respecting his & Gales affairs  
5 Went to the probate judge G.H. Coffinburg with Mr. Wm. Dawson & he as agent of the guardian of Robert Owens children got an order from the judge for the cattle belonging to the said Owens estate & the said Dawson received the cattle being 18 in number & brought them to my house, the cattle being 4 old cows with 2 male & 2 female calves, 3 two yr old heifers, one with a young bull calf, two steers & 2 (?)