

# Transcription of Rebecca Marilla Hine Sackett 1862

## Diary

Wednesday, January 1, 1862. Again I have been spared to see another New Year, and oh, how much to be thankful for. My health for the past year has been slowly improving. During the year just closed, we have been blessed with a little daughter. Oh, may she live to be a comfort to us and be found in wisdom's ways.

Thursday 2. People talk a great deal about Iowa<sup>1</sup> winds, but I hardly think we have anything that will go ahead of today. And withal it has been very cold. I have been doing not much of anything as usual. We have had any quantity of smoke in the kitchen.

Friday 3. Today the mercury has not been higher than 12° above zero, the coldest we have had. Mother has been up to E Mitchell's to send for the soldiers. I have great reason to be thankful that I can accomplish a little after so long a time. Had a call this afternoon from Abner Mitchell.<sup>2</sup>

Saturday, January 4, 1862. I had invitation to Aunt Orpha's<sup>3</sup> today, but it has been bitter cold, and the baby had a cold, and was quite icy and I did not feel like mounting wheels more than Amos Lyman, so I stayed at home. Henry went and carried Catherine. Just as they left Helen<sup>4</sup> came.

Sunday 5. Mother and Henry have been to church, so of course I have stayed at home with the baby. We are having real cold weather, but no sleighing. It is pleasant to have one day in seven to lay aside the world, but how poorly we spend our time.

Monday 6. It has been snowing all day without any wind, so we may have sleighing yet. I have sewed a little today as usual, and a very little most would think. But I feel quite encouraged to think I can do so much.

Tuesday, January 7, 1862. One week of our new year is gone. Oh, how quickly the time glides away. Today Henry, Clara and myself have been to Uncle Jonathan's<sup>5</sup>. Went in the morning had a very pleasant visit. But it is not very good sleighing.

Wednesday 8. Today Henry and mother have been to Woodbury, so I have been keeping house. It has been a beautiful day. This evening had a call from Cathrine, and after I had retired Edson<sup>6</sup>, Candace and Lucinda called.

Thursday 9. Have not done much today. Worked too much yesterday. Mother and Henry have been to the prayer meeting. I should have gone in mother's place if my back had permitted. But the traveling is pretty rough.

Friday, January 10, 1862. Have been fitting a dress for mother that she got when she went to Woodbury. Have worked a considerable for me and feel pretty tired. It does not take but little to tire me. It is a beautiful day, not much like winter.

Saturday 11. Today have been fitting an old dress over for mother. Thought I would cut all of her dresses while I had my hand in. This has not got along as well as the one yesterday, for mother has not had any time to sew. Mrs. [Lenin] has been here this afternoon.

Sunday 12. Last night we had snow enough for beautiful sleighing but it has thawed very fast today and this evening is raining. Mother and Henry have been to church today. It was communion. Had Mr. Murdoch<sup>7</sup> to preach. How I would loved to have heard him.

Monday, January 13, 1862. It has been a real winter day. It is all glare ice in the roads and paths. Have written a short letter to father. This has constituted my day's work. Mother does not make her appearance yet. Has been in Conn. almost a month.

Tuesday 14. This morning there was some indications of a storm but it has cleared off quite pleasant . And this afternoon have had a visit from Aunt Orpha and Lucinda<sup>8</sup>. Uncle Elliot<sup>9</sup> came to tea. We had an oyster supper, oysters in the shell.

Wednesday 15. We have splendid sleighing. It is like riding on the river it is so slippery. This forenoon Uncle Erastus<sup>10</sup> came down and brought mother Sackett. He stayed to dinner. It is very pleasant today. I finished off a pair of shoes for the baby this morning.

Thursday, January 16, 1862. What I wrote yesterday should have been here I made a mistake of one day. Wednesday was a stormy day and I did not do much anyway. I've used my arms almost too much for a week or two past.

Friday 17. When Henry came from mill this afternoon he took mother bag and baggage down to Aunt Orpha's. Aunt O. thought she had better make it

home then and I presume she will have things more convenient. Cousin Gideon Hollister is here tonight.

Saturday 18. Catherine came over this morning to spend the day expecting to find mother here but was disappointed. This afternoon Mrs. Calhoun<sup>11</sup>, Sarah and cousin Clarissa have visited here. Had a very pleasant visit notwithstanding the rain.

Sunday, January 19, 1862. It has rained a little most of the time today so that none of us have been to church. I have read the sermon that was preached at the annual meeting of the American Missionary Association<sup>12</sup>, a good sermon for the time.

Monday 20. Another rainy day and a very heavy ice storm. I have been knitting a little and mother washing. Henry has been in the house almost all day which is quite a treat for me at least. Have just heard of Mrs. Bronson's<sup>13</sup> death. Grandmother's<sup>14</sup> age 86.

Tuesday 21. It is beautiful sleighing snow and mother and Henry have been trying it this afternoon. She has been to Uncle Jonathan's and he to Aunt Orpha's. I have stayed home to keep house and so forth. Have sewed a little, made four button holes.

Wednesday, January 22, 1862. It snowed a little last night and this morning, but not so much but what Henry went to Woodbury and carried Aunt Orpha. Was expecting to take his mother but she had a hard cold. She wanted to trade but Aunt Orpha went for her. I wrote to Clara.

Thursday 23. We have not seen the sun for a whole week though it has not stormed. Is beautiful sleighing. Henry went to carry father to Weekepeemee<sup>15</sup>. While he was gone Sherman<sup>16</sup> came up to have us go down to Aunt Orpha's to see the Warren folks. After he came home we went.

Friday 24. Today Henry and Sherm have gone to Bantam, Milton, to Warren. Is not coming home till tomorrow. So I shall be alone tonight. Have been partly fixing my furs today. This afternoon Mrs. Senior<sup>17</sup> had been over. My baby can get up alone on the floor but creeps yet.

Saturday 25, 1862. This has been the longest hail storm I ever knew all last night and all today. But Henry came home stormy as it was. I have worked a

considerable for me today. Have cut some night dresses for the baby besides some knitting and sewing.

Sunday 26. The wind and snow have blown nicely today so none of us have been to church. Henry, Clara and I have spent the day by ourselves. How pleasant it is to have a place where we can be by ourselves. I had the teeth ache last night which is not quite so nice.

Monday 27. The baby has not felt very well today and I have had the teeth ache. Altogether have not had a very pleasant day. Tried to compute the interest on a note for father which made the ache the harder. Helen has been here this afternoon. Father is 80 years old today.

Tuesday, January 28, 1862. My teeth ached all night and have all day, so that I can hardly speak a pleasant word. Have taken a glass of hot sling this forenoon and went to bed and shall again tonight, though it did not seem to do any good. Clara has a hard cold.

Wednesday 29. This morning Jonathan E. brought Sarah<sup>18</sup> up to spend the day but did not find Clara nor me in a very good mood for visiting. My teeth ache hard as ever. Tried another hot sling this forenoon but of no use. This time had a tumbler half full of spirits.

Thursday 30. My face is a considerable swollen but the teeth ache yet. Clara is quite well today. This has been a beautiful day. This evening Mrs. Bryan called here. They started this morning for Ansonia, but learned at Uncle Ed's that Aunt Julia was gone.

Friday, January 31, 1862. Last night Doct. Taylor sent me some medicine that helped my teeth very soon, so I have had a comfortable day myself. But Clara has been very sick. Has hardly raised her head today. I have held her most of the time. Mother came up expecting to see Uncle Erastus.

Saturday, February 1. This morning Uncle Erastus, Aunt Mary and the children came but it has snowed all day. Clara feels a little better but coughs dreadfully. I did not feel much like visit having had the teeth ache all the week almost and Clara sick too. Sherm came up this afternoon.

Sunday 2. Clara has been very much worse all night and today this morning Henry went over to New Milford and this afternoon the doctor came.

Thinks she will get along in a few days. Dear little thing I do hope she may. Our lives hang on a feeble thread.

Monday, February 3, 1862. Oh, I cannot be thankful enough that our little dear is a little better. I do believe in that way of doctoring and it is so much better for children to take. Helen came over this morning to see how she was.

Tuesday 4. Little Clara is convalescent but coughs a considerable yet. It takes all of my time to take care of her. Henry has been to Aunt Orpha's today. Got a sleeve pattern of Aunt's for me. Catherine came in tonight. Capt. Newton<sup>19</sup> has fallen on the ice and hurt his hip badly.

Wednesday 5. Mr. and Mrs. Parker have been here today, and Sarah has been here too. Henry started for Warren this morning. There was a larger gathering at Mr. Comstock's, but the colt had a runaway before he got away from Aunt Orpha's. Henry has come home with the sick headache. Poor fellow.

Thursday, February 6, 1862. It has been snowing again today. I have mended a pair of stockings today, the first work I have done in a long time. We are going to take Clara upstairs at night to sleep. Henry has been home all day. Does not feel very well. Had a hard day yesterday.

Friday 7. It has been quite windy today. Henry has been to Bantam for his sleigh that he took there for repairs Wednesday. Uncle Jonathan came up to butcher our beef and Aunt Jennet came for a visit, but J.E. came for her. They had company.

Saturday 8. It has been pleasant today. Clara is getting quite like herself, plays around again. We have great reason to be thankful. Have been mending a little today. My back troubles me a considerable lately. I suppose it is on account of taking care of the baby lately.

Sunday, February 9, 1862. This has been a very pleasant day. Henry has been to church alone. Mother had a cold and did not like to go. Had a deacon meeting and Mr. Lyman made his farewell remarks before leaving for his sea voyage. He sails Tuesday. May he return with improved health.

Monday 10. We have had another beautiful day. The first pleasant Monday for a long time. I have been raveling a pair of Clara's stockings to knit over. Mother is going to knit them. It is just five years since we were married<sup>20</sup>.

Tuesday 11. Today father and Henry have been to Roxbury. And this afternoon Miss Fanny has been visiting here. Had a pleasant visit. Henry has been to Uncle Ed's this evening. Susan had gone to Woodbury to a party at Mr. Judson's.

Wednesday, February 12, 1862. We had quite a snow last night, but it is pleasant again today. Mother and Henry have been over to see Capt. Newton. Found him better than they expected. He fell on the ice last week. Catherine has been here this evening.

Thursday 13. It snowed quite hard this morning, but cleared off soon, so that Henry and Uncle Ed went to Warren. I have been fixing the sleeves and putting the skirt onto mother's dress. Have been reading war news tonight.

Friday 14. It snowed again this morning but cleared off so that Henry and I have been to Uncle Jonathan's this afternoon, but left little Clara at home. It is the first visit I have made without her, but I was afraid to take her out yet.

Saturday, February 15, 1862. We have a little snow almost every day and today it has snowed most of the time. I don't think there was ever better sleighing than we have had this winter. This afternoon Henry and I went to Aunt Orpha's. I carried some work to Lucinda.

Sunday 16. This has been a lovely day. Mother and Henry have been to church. They had Mr. Hollister to preach again. I suppose his time is about out. I have been reading one of Henry Ward Beecher's <sup>21</sup> sermons.

Monday 17. Today I have been fixing my rope skirt for grandmother to sew on. Sarah and J. Ed called here this afternoon. Henry has been up to Sim Ford's<sup>22</sup>, called at Dea. Baldwin's<sup>23</sup>, and got a high chair for Clara.

Tuesday, February 18, 1862. This morning I cut out two pairs of overalls for grandmother to make, which made my arms pretty tired. This afternoon have been over to see how Capt. Newton was. Stayed there while Henry was gone after the mail. Good news—surrender of Ft Donelson<sup>24</sup>.

Wednesday 19. Today a load of Warren cousins came down to bring mother to Aunt Orpha's. Henry went down to see them and Charley Hine<sup>25</sup> came up here a little while. I have been washing off my windows a little and cleaning my plants. With all am pretty tired.

Thursday 20. This forenoon it stormed a little and this afternoon, mother and Henry have been to the praying meeting. Helen has been here while they were gone. I have not done much today. Have not got rested from washing my windows yesterday.

Friday, February 21, 1862. This has been a beautiful day. Henry carried father and mother over to see Capt. Newton<sup>26</sup> and this afternoon he has died. Mother came up this morning and this afternoon Aunt Orpha and Uncle E. have been here. Catherine is here tonight.

Saturday 22. This morning Henry went to carry mother to Bantam. A short time after he went, J.E. came up for mother. Said Mary had had two fits. Henry has been down but she is not coming home tonight. I led the housework today.

Sunday 23. Another holy Sabbath is remembered with the past. Henry went to meeting this forenoon, came home at noon and in the afternoon I went with him to Capt. Newton's funeral. It was in the Episcopal house<sup>27</sup>. Came home by Uncle Jonathan's. Called to see Mary.

Monday, February 24, 1862. This has been a rainy day and have not had its like in a long time. I have been pretty indolent today after my two or three hard days. I cannot do but little any way, but if it is best I shall in time get better.

Tuesday 25. This morning I fixed grandmother some work on Henry's overalls. Then busted the waist to mother's black dress. This completed my day's work, and tonight I feel pretty tired. Little Clara has got to be quite well for which we should be truly thankful.

Wednesday 26. Today mother and Henry have been to Woodbury again, and I have been left alone to keep house, or not alone exactly, for father, grandmother and Clara have been here. This afternoon Mrs. Senior came over too.

Thursday, February 27, 1862. Today it has been snowing and blowing quite furiously, the most of a storm we have had this winter. After finishing off Henry's overalls, gave grandmother some shirts for her to make. When she sews it takes me most of the time to fix work.

Friday 28. Our snowstorm continues to last. Guess we shall be pretty well blocked in. Have been working on the sleeves to mother's dress today a little besides fixing for the old lady. Suppose I ought not to feel so burdened with it.

Saturday, March 1. We have had another pleasant day after our great snow. This is spring only in name, not much like one year ago when Henry started for Iowa. I have been working at mother's dress again. It progresses slowly.

Sunday, March 2, 1862. Today mother and Henry have been to meeting by going through fields. It was communion day. Had Mr. Loomis<sup>28</sup>. It seems a long time since I have been. Hope if I live till warm weather to go a considerable. Can't breathe very well today.

Monday 3. Today Henry with others have been digging out the road, but it is raining again now pretty hard. I have not done anything today, for I do not get much better of any difficulty at breathing.

Tuesday 4. Last night I could sleep but very little and do not feel very well today. Have not tried to do anything today, for it is almost impossible to work when I feel so. Have had the earache besides.

Wednesday, March 5, 1862. Had a good night rest last night and felt quite well today, though I am rather tired tonight. This forenoon Henry carried mother to Uncle Jonathan's for a visit. And this afternoon Martha Bronson<sup>29</sup> has been here for a visit. Mother got them and got supper.

Thursday 6. This morning it was so pleasant so I thought I would try getting out again. So Henry carried me and the baby over to Col. Newton's, where we spent the day. Had a pleasant visit as could be expected at secession in war time.

Friday 7. This morning I got the papers (I have not read much this week) and sat down to read when Mrs. Thomas came, so there was an end to my reading. She spent the greater part of the day. I do not work yet.



Saturday, March 8, 1862. Today I have spent at Uncle Ed's with the baby. Had a very pleasant time. Found Susan at home. Hellen had gone to Ansonia with Burke. How I would love to go there, but must "let patience have her perfect work!"

Sunday 9. Have stayed at home today as usual. Hope if it is pleasant to go to meeting next Sabbath. Mr. George Richards<sup>30</sup> preached today. I would love to have heard him. The baby has not let me read but little today.

Monday 10. Another stormy Monday. Henry was greatly ready to go to Warren this morning, but it looked too much like rain and did not go. Went out and shot some squirrels. I have not done anything but feel very tired. Arms and legs ache. [Capt. Hurlburt have got a young Jeff Davis born today.<sup>31</sup>]

Tuesday, March 11, 1862. This has been a beautiful day. Henry and Sherm have been to Litchfield. I have written to Phebe today, the first letter I have written in a long time. Hellen came over a little while this afternoon. After she went away Mrs. [Eelizen] came.

Wednesday 12. This morning I took quite a sudden start to Aunt Orpha's, when Henry went to Warren. Mrs. Griswold and daughter and baby were there this afternoon. That broke in upon my visit with Aunt Orpha. Uncle Elliot brought me home.

Thursday 13. I have felt pretty old after my visit yesterday. I missed my improvement on the back of the seat coming home last night. Mother and Henry have been to prayer meeting today. Our sleighing is fast leaving us.

Friday, March 14, 1862. Today I have tried to work a little mending a pair of stockings, but find my breathing difficulty has not left me enough to work much, though I am a considerable better than I have been.

Saturday 15. It has stormed all day. Does not look much like a pleasant day tomorrow. Have been trying to work a little more today, but have not yet finished my stockings I commenced yesterday.

Sunday 16. It stormed all night a kind of hail with a little snow, but it has stopped today enough so that Henry has been to meeting. It is splendid sleighing again. Have read the fight of the Monitor and Merrimac.<sup>32</sup>

Monday, March 17, 1862. The trees have been loaded with ice all day. It does not look much like spring. I have today finished the work I commenced Friday. Feel quite encouraged. I think I have got one pair mended, though I had the luck to burn one.

Tuesday 18. This forenoon I mended some stockings while Henry and mother were gone to Woodbury. In the afternoon we went to Aunt Orpha's and carried Clara. Met Henry Seeleys<sup>33</sup> there. Had a pleasant visit.

Wednesday 19. Today mother has had the sick headache. Has not sat up any since she washed her breakfast dishes. Just then Mrs. Senior brought a dress for me to plait the skirt, etc. And J.E. and Sarah came to spend the day. With all I had my hands full.

Thursday, March 20, 1862. Have not done anything today. Have had the headache and my stomach has troubled me, the effects of yesterday. Went with Henry down to get the sap<sup>34</sup> today. It is beautiful sleighing. Seems like mid-winter.

Friday 21. I feel better again today. This afternoon have measured and plaited and busted the skirt of mother's black dress that has been in the works so long. It has been quite a stormy day again.

Saturday 22. We have had another snowy day. Have been fixing the sleeves of mother's dress and the thing is finally completed. Henry has been down to Aunt Orpha's this afternoon. It is still snowing.

Sunday, March 23, 1862. It has snowed a little most all day. I have been to meeting this afternoon. Mr. Loomis preached. It really seemed good to go to meeting again, but I feel very tired tonight.

Monday 24. Have been with Henry twice today down to the sap trees and carried the baby. This afternoon we called at Uncle Jonathan's a few minutes. Cousin Clarrisa and Mrs. Thomas were there. When we got home, found Samuel Tanner<sup>35</sup> here.

Tuesday 25. I rode almost too much yesterday and the day before for my good. Was very tired last night and I have not done much today. Henry has been up to Cornelius Allen's<sup>36</sup> today.

Wednesday, March 26, 1862. Today Henry has been up to Sim Ford's and brought mother home with him tonight. He went in a sleigh. I have been

busting work on my calico dress for grandmother to do. Henry has gone over to Mr. Gunn's exhibition.<sup>37</sup>

Tuesday 27. This morning I went with Henry down to the sap again. I do not go for myself, but want to have Clara have the air. It does not suit me to ride. This afternoon Cornelius, Cordelia, and children and Hellen Sackett have been here.

Friday 28. It has been quite cold today. Snowed some. Henry carried mother to Aunt Orpha's this morning. Mother has made the button holes on my dress today, so it is all finished. I have been pretty tired all day.

Saturday, March 29, 1862. This morning Henry, myself and Clara went down to Seth's. Found very good sleighing most of the way. Lora sugared off<sup>38</sup> this afternoon. Had all we wanted and some to bring home. Martha and Burke were there this afternoon.

Sunday 30. Another sabbath I have spent at home. Have read in my American Missionary. Mother and Henry have been to meeting. Mr. Robinson preached. I feel pretty tired from my yesterday's ride.

Monday 31. I have not done much today. Have commenced a little about my delaine dress<sup>39</sup> that I am going to fix over. I am nearly six inches larger than I used to be. Quite a change.

Tuesday, April 1, 1862. It has been rather cold and unpleasant today. Our snow does not get away very fast. Have been working at my dress again. Probably it will hang around a month. I ought to be thankful I can fix work.

Wednesday 2. The same old dress has been on hand again today. It progresses slowly. This afternoon Mrs. Eliza Newton has been here. It is cold weather for the time of year. A great deal of snow on the ground yet.

Thursday 3. This afternoon mother and Henry have been to prayer meeting. When it gets to be a little better traveling hope I shall go. They came home by Aunt Orpha's thinking of bringing mother, but did not see her. She and Lucinda were gone.

Friday, April 4, 1862. This morning I commenced bright and early to cut my sleeves. They need a great deal of piecing. Grandmother sews after I have busted. Aunt Jennet has been here all day and that together with my work has made me very tired.

Saturday 5. Today have had to rest upon my oars after my tiresome day yesterday. It has rained, hailed and snowed today. I have been reading papers as I usually do when I can't work. Henry has been to Uncle Elliott's.

Sunday 6. I have spent a very pleasant day at home. Have read an excellent sermon of Horace Bushnell's<sup>40</sup>. Hope I may profit thereby. "He that is faithful in the least is faithful also in much" was the text.

Monday, April 7, 1862. It has been very cold though quite pleasant today. This afternoon Henry, Clara and myself went to Aunt Orpha's to see mother before she left for Iowa. Heard of Homer Sackett's<sup>41</sup> second wife's death. He is quite afflicted.

Tuesday 8. Henry has been to take mother and Sherm to New Milford. Very cold and chilly. Has not thawed any today. I have been crocheting a little on my collar. I commenced when I was at Lora's. Did not feel like sewing.

Wednesday 9. Today have finished my collar. I feel as if I had accomplished a great deal when I get one piece of work finished. Feel quite tired tonight. It will not be long now before we start west. The months will pass quickly.

Thursday, April 10, 1862. Today my dress is finished. It has been so very windy that none of us have been to meeting. We get glorious news from the war. Island No. 10<sup>42</sup> has surrendered and a great victory for the Union at Pittsburgh.<sup>43</sup> Near Corinth, Ala.,<sup>44</sup> a great many killed.

Friday 11. It has been very pleasant today. And this afternoon mother, Henry and I have been to Mr. Calhoun's. Had a very pleasant visit. Found cousin Clarissa there but she was just starting for Mr. Nettleton's.

Saturday 12. After visiting I always have a day I do not do as much as usual, which of course can't be much. Clara has been running around in the yard today. When Henry went after his sap I went and carried her. Bad going over the drifts. Nearly turned over. I got out.

Sunday, April 13, 1862. This has been a lovely day. No wind and a bright warm sun. I went to church this afternoon. Mr. Mills, a student, preached. He had a very good sermon upon Abraham offering up Isaac. Referred to mothers that had lost children or sent them to war.

Monday 14. It seemed some like spring now. The birds sing very sweetly. We had a visit from Mrs. Senior this forenoon. They were over after the remainder of their things. I have knit a little today and cut the yoke of mother's dress.

Tuesday 15. This morning I was expecting to go to Uncle Jonathan's, but it looked likely to rain and I did not go. Have spent my day helping make some sugar out of our molasses. Had a pretty day and am pretty tired.

Wednesday, April 16, 1862. This has been a real spring day. This snow has disappeared very fast. A whole foot of ice out the back door has gone today. I have been to Uncle Jonathan's and spent the day. Clara does not take much comfort with Mary.

Thursday 17. I have commenced to wean Clara today. She has been a very good girl. I have not done much but read the newspaper. Felt tired from yesterday.

Friday 18. This has been our annual fast<sup>45</sup>. Mother and Henry went to meeting but did not have any preaching. After meeting we young folks took a ride around to the post office and called at Aunt Orpha's. Henry got a letter from Sherm.

Saturday, April 19, 1862. Our great snow banks that were higher than the fences one week since have entirely disappeared. Without any rain the ground is now quite dry in most places. Is beautiful traveling. I have worked in the flower beds today.

Sunday 20. Last evening Lucinda and Helen Sackett came up to tell us of Eben Tanner's<sup>46</sup> death. He is buried today and Henry has gone up. Will not be home tonight. He died with lung fever. Friday morning mother rode with Uncle E. to meeting.

Monday 21. Henry came home this morning. Uncle Tanner was taken Tuesday afternoon. Was insensible till he died. We had a snow and hail storm today, so that I was obliged to bring in my plants.

Tuesday, April 22, 1862. I have been fixing some work for grandmother on a dress for the baby. It has rained today. Father has a very sore foot. Cannot walk on it. It is swollen very full. Hellen called here a little while this afternoon.

Wednesday 23. This morning Henry and I went over to the store to get some liniment for father. Then took a sudden start to Woodbury. Called at Mrs. Banks to get a shaker for Clara. It is quite cold for the season.

Thursday 24. I have been cutting a dress for Clara today and grandmother is making it. Feel a little tired from my yesterday's ride. Father's foot is a little better today.

Friday, April 25, 1862. This morning Henry took Clara and me to ride. He went to Rufus [Lewis]'s besides stopping at several other places. He got me a new calico dress. I got so tired I did not do a great deal today, though I have fixed a little work for grandmother.

Saturday 26. I have worked in my flowers a little this morning and this afternoon Mrs. Ward has visited here. Since she went home Henry and I called at Aunt Orpha's to get Clara's shaker, but it was not there.

Sunday 27. It has been very pleasant today and this afternoon I have been to church. Mr. Lobdell<sup>47</sup> preached. Text "Work out your own salvation." It was an excellent sermon. It does seem so good to go to meeting.

Monday, April 28, 1862. Have been fixing things a little preparatory to going to Winsted, but I get along pretty slow with my work. If everyone worked like me, guess there would not be much done. Let patience have her perfect work.

Tuesday 29. This has been a real April day, rain and sun alternating. It will make things grow finely. Hellen brought up the baby shaker from Woodbury, but it is too large altogether. Shall exchange it.

Wednesday 30. This has been a lovely day. Mother, Henry, Clara and I have been to Aunt Orpha's. Had a very pleasant day. I got quite a lot of flowers. I got quite frightened at Dobby's<sup>48</sup> actions before starting at Aunt Orpha's.

Thursday, May 1, 1862. This morning Henry set out my plants for me. While he was doing it, Mr. Parker came for him to harrow in his oats, so mother and I went with him as far as Uncle J.'s. Had a rain to come home in. Mary troubles Clara so I cannot take much pleasure there.

Friday 2. Today I have felt pretty much tired out from my two days visits. Have lain still most of the time and begin to feel a little rested tonight.

Saturday 3. This morning I took a very sudden start to New Milford with Henry. We took dinner with the doctor. I made two or three calls upon [Miliners]. At last found a shaker for the baby, the great object of my journey. Henry picked me a nice bouquet of arbutus.

Sunday, May 4, 1862. Today I have been resting on my oars again as usual after doing a little more than usual the day before. But I stood my ride much better than I expected.

Monday 5. For my work today have trimmed the baby's shaker. We have had a real April day. First rain, then sun alternately.

Wednesday, May 7, 1862. This morning I packed my things for a start towards Winsted. And this afternoon about three we started and came as far as Bantam, staying at Uncle Erastus. Have had a dreadful wind all day.

[no entries for May 8 – May 14]

Thursday 15. This morning I wrote to Henry<sup>49</sup> and mended a pair of stockings just after dinner. Mr. Woodruff took me down to Clark's and I am spending the night here. Clara came down and spent the afternoon. Had company this evening.

Friday, May 16, 1862. It is quite warm today. My worsted<sup>50</sup> dress feels almost uncomfortable. Mary came from school about eleven. I guess her sickness was feigned. She has played with the baby all day.

Saturday 17. Both of the girls have been home today. Sarah is a fine girl. Tonight, Mr. Gilbert came down for me so I am again at Clara's. It seems quite like home here.

Sunday 18. This has been a beautiful day. Clara went to church this afternoon. Emily came here this morning. I would dearly love to go to meeting here once but have no suitable bonnet. Feel pretty well today. Clara loves to get outdoors.

Monday, May 19, 1862. This forenoon Mr. Gilbert brought me in a letter from Henry. I was very glad indeed to hear from home. This afternoon Mr. Gilbert took Clara and me over West to the store. Got me a dress and Clara a sacque.<sup>51</sup> She stayed with Julia.

Tuesday, 20. Today it has looked like rain all day, but we have not got much. I have been cutting Clara's sacque and Clara has sewed the seams for me. Clara is going to have another tooth, or rather it is just cut through. 16 teeth and 16 months.

Wednesday 21. Today I have been binding or partly her sacque. Do not make great headway. This afternoon I called at Mr. Judd's. Mrs. Beecher called here. And Mr. Dana, the minister, is quite young. Very pleasant appearing. Wrote to Henry today.

Thursday, May 22, 1862. Last night my baby was taken with the diarrhea in the night. I got up with her twice. Have been making her herb drink today. This afternoon Clara and I called at Mr. Beechers. A very pleasant call. Clara saw the birds.

Friday 23. Last night I was taken with a diarrhea. I got too tired yesterday. Clara has been doctoring me today. This afternoon I felt better. Clara continues about the same. Little thing I hope it will not last long.

[no entries for May 24- June 6]

Saturday 7. This morning it was pleasant, and as Henry and mother were going to Woodbury, I rode over to cousin Preston's for a visit. Had a pleasant time. Read Fitz's<sup>52</sup> letters. It rains very hard tonight. We called at Aunt Orpha's tonight.

Sunday 8. It rained hard this morning with a prospect of a rainy day, so mother did not go to church. Henry rode with Mr. Calhoun. This evening Aunt Sally and Lucinda and Fred have been here. Came quite unexpectedly.

Monday, June 9, 1862. It has been very pleasant today the most I have done since coming from Winsted has been to sit around and look at the flowers. Just when we were at dinner, Jonathan E., Sarah and Mary called here.

Tuesday 10. I just got my dress around and thought I would see if I could sew a stitch when Dea. Punderson<sup>53</sup> came. He looks better than I expected. Mrs. Sterling and Newton Buck<sup>54</sup> spent the forenoon here. He looks much better than Simeon<sup>55</sup>. They have seen hard times.



Wednesday 11. Today have felt very miserable. Have not felt able to sit up at all and in fact have lain down most of the time. Catherine called here tonight. Mr. Robinson<sup>56</sup> is ordained in Woodbury today.

Thursday, June 12, 1862. It has been a very pleasant day and I have felt better, though I do not suppose the weather affects me. I am feeling worse tonight and shall retire early.

Friday 13. I am improving some I think. Hellen had the sewing society<sup>57</sup> this afternoon. Sent me an invitation but I did not feel well enough to attend. Lucinda and Amos called here this evening.

Saturday 14. This morning Catherine called here. Came up in my chamber and stayed quite a while. I hope next week I shall be able to do a stitch or two. Do not expect to much more.

Sunday, June 15, 1862. Mother and Henry went to hear Mr. Averill preach today. I stayed at home as usual and took care of baby. Also read some. Shall be glad when I feel well enough to go to meeting.

Monday 16. I have accomplished something today, have mended a little torn place in my dress. Feel quite encouraged. This afternoon Cousin Phebe<sup>58</sup> was here and Hellen and Catherine came here after school.

Tuesday 17. Catherine spent the night here. She sewed on my dress and helped me a considerable. Offered to come again and help me. Clara is seventeen months old today, weighs 21 ¼ lbs. She is gaining now, never weighed so much before.

Wednesday, June 18, 1862. It has been a windy unpleasant day today. This afternoon were quite surprised with a visit from Clark, Ellen, and Clara. If the weather had been favorable we should have been looking for them. As it was did not expect them.

Thursday 19. It was quite rainy last night and today Clark and Henry went fishing. Clara and Ellen carried them down, and this afternoon Clark took them for a ride onto the green and to the graveyard.

Friday 20. This has been a very pleasant day for Clark and Ellen's ride home, though rather cool. Yes, I have bid them goodbye, probably forever. The time will soon come when I must bid them all goodbye here for my western home.<sup>59</sup>

Saturday, June 21, 1862. I forgot to say yesterday that Uncle Erastus and Herbert were here to dinner. Today Henry and mother have been to Woodbury. Did not get home until very late. I had a considerable to do today and am very tired.

Sunday 22. This has been a very pleasant day, though I have not felt able to go to church. Mother and Henry have been. Oh, what a great privilege it is to be able to attend meetings. Methinks I shall prize it if I am ever able.

Monday 23. After lying down a great part of the day, I cut the sleeves to my dress. This afternoon Maggie Black made us a call. It has been quite pleasant today, quite warm.

Tuesday, June 24, 1862. This has been a cold rainy day, not much like yesterday. Henry has been quite off the hooks today. Think he took cold sleeping with the window up last night, but I imagine we shan't want it up tonight.

Wednesday 25. Another rainy day. I have worked a little on my dress again today. Hope to get it finished with mother's help this week. The sewing society met at Mr. Mansfield Smith's this afternoon to work for the soldiers.

Thursday 26. This afternoon it has cleared off quite pleasant. After the prayer meeting, Aunt Orpha and Uncle E. called here. I was very glad to see them. Henry went down to West Mountain Brook<sup>60</sup> a few minutes just at night 12.

Friday, June 27, 1862. It has been very warm today. I have plaited the skirt of my dress and mother has sewed it on, so perhaps it will get finished. Clara has not sit up any today. She took cold coming and has been growing worse since.

Saturday 28. This morning I got up and finished off my dress. Clara is much better today. Has sit up a considerable. Hope she will not be hard sick, though she has nearly had the lung fever. It is very warm indeed today.

Sunday 29. I have been to meeting this afternoon. Mr. Richards preached. Oh, how thankful I ought to be that I can go again. Dobby acted so that I was very much afraid all of the way home. It has been quite cool this afternoon.

Monday, June 30, 1862. We have had another rainy day. How much rain we do have. But it has cleared off tonight. J.E. was up this forenoon. I sent Sarah a slip of geranium. This evening I have had a call from Catherine. I have been resting today.

Tuesday, July 1. This morning Henry started off quite early for Bridgeport. Fred is going to take him and Lucinda to the cars. They have had a very fine day to go down. I would like to have gone but hardly think I shall if I go to Iowa this fall.

Wednesday 2. We have had another rainy afternoon and not a very pleasant forenoon. I would like to look in on the Bridgeporters. We have had visits today from Uncle Parker and Sam Indian. The baby was not afraid of him.

Thursday, July 3, 1862. It has cleared off quite pleasant this afternoon and mother has been to the prayer meeting. I thought some of going and taking Clara but I did not feel like riding so far. This forenoon we received a call from Louis Nettleton<sup>61</sup> and wife. They start home next Tuesday.

Friday 4. Oh, what a delightful day this has been for the 4th. Hope the Bridgeporters have enjoyed it. This afternoon we had a visit from Miss Fannie, and this evening a short one from cousin Phebe.

[no entries for July 5 – July 26]

Sunday, July 27, 1862. It has been very pleasant today, just cool enough for comfort. Mother and Henry have been to church today. I did not feel hardly well enough to go, so I stayed at home as usual, and got the supper with father's help.

[no entries for July 28 – August 2]

Sunday 3. It has been very warm today, but I have been to meeting this afternoon. We had Mr. Churchill.<sup>62</sup> He gave us a pretty good war sermon taking the whole of the 83 Psalms for his text. It really seems good to go again.

[no entries for August 4 – August 8]

Saturday 9. Clara had quite a fever most of the night and her head was very hot, so I did not sleep very much. Today she is better. Mother and Henry

have been whortleberrying,<sup>63</sup> so I got the dinner. Feel pretty tired. It has been very warm. A shower tonight.

Monday, August 11, 1862. Clara is far from well. Her throat is badly swollen and tonight Henry has been over to New Milford after the doctor. He is staying here. Tonight there is some danger of diptheria. By how slender a thread we are held here.

Tuesday 12. Clara seems better today. We went to Aunt Orpha's with her a little while this afternoon. Thought a ride would do her good. This noon we had a very hard shower. Since then it has been very warm.

Wednesday 13. Clara does not seem like herself. She is so very irritable, but I suppose it is a sign she is better. I hope I shall feel truly thankful when she is once well again. It is a great trial to be deprived of one's health.

[no entries for August 14 – August 31]

Monday, September 1, 1862. It has been very windy, half-rainy, unpleasant day. I have lain around about as usual. Tomorrow am expecting to go and see Dr. Buel.<sup>64</sup> This afternoon Henry has got the trundle bed moved into our chamber, and we have it rigged for Clara.

[End of entries in the diary]

# Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Henry and Marilla lived in Garnaville, Iowa, from about 1858 to 1861, and are shown in the 1860 US Federal Census. This is where Henry's parents had moved in 1855. For some undocumented reason, they moved back to Washington in 1861. They did lose their first son, Henry Hine Sackett at the age of 18 months in 1859. Per the 1860 Iowa Federal Census Mortality Schedules, he died of inflammation after a sickness of 40 days.



NAME OF EVERY PERSON WHO DIED during the year ending 31st June, 1860, whose usual place of abode at the time of death was in the Family.	SEX AND AGE						PLACE OF BIRTH, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	THE MONTH in which the person died.	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE.	DISEASE OR CAUSE OF DEATH.	NUMBER OF DAYS ILL.
	M	F	U	A	S	O					
Elizabeth Cook		26	F				Mich <sup>y</sup>	Sept	Dys <sup>men</sup> strua	Swear	21
Wm. Biggs		3	M				Iowa	Sept	Fall		1
A. R. Nelson		3	M				Iowa	July	Fever		21
Ann Mottet		1	F				Iowa	August	Fall		7
John Quincy		40	M				Ireland	June	Fever	Fall	1
Robert Baine		37	M				Ireland	July	Fever	Went struck	1 hour
Henry H. Sackett		1	M				Iowa	October	Inflammation		40

<sup>2</sup> Abner W Mitchell, 1821-1864. A farmer from Washington, Connecticut, he was drafted and became a private in the Union army. He would later die Aug 20, 1864, from wounds suffered as a member of the 6th infantry in the second batter of Deep Bottom Run, Virginia on Aug 18, 1864, one of 4,399 to die in the battle (2,899 Union, 1,500 Confederate). Ancestry.com *U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865*.

<sup>3</sup> Orpha Sackett Brinsmade, 1801-1885. She was the daughter of Benjamin Sackett and Elizabeth Eldred, and was Henry's aunt. She married Daniel "Elliot" Brinsmade in 1837, and they had two sons, Sherman M. (1821-1893) and Frederick Augustus (1824-1907). Frederick would later become Marilla's second husband in 1873.

<sup>4</sup> Likely Helen Sophronia Sackett (1840-1890). There are spellings with Hellen and Helen in the diary. She would marry Remus T Ford August 19, 1862, in Warren. Remus would enlist on September 8, 1862, in the 28<sup>th</sup> regiment, then die from

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chronic diarrhea, an effect of the Civil War, on September 3, 1863, at the age of 25. Per the Sackett Family Association website, sackettfamily.info, she would later marry Simeon Dwight Ford in 1883, who was her sister Malinda's husband until Malinda's death in 1881.

<sup>5</sup> Jonathan Newton Hine, 1803-1881. A first cousin of Marilla's father Herman Hine. Husband of Jennet Pond.

<sup>6</sup> Possibly Edson Seeley, a farmer in Washington, who married Candace G. Ford (a daughter of Sheldon Ford) in 1857. Not sure who Lucinda is. Either Lucinda Cordelia Sackett, or Lucinda Munson, b. 1840, who was living in the home of Daniel Brinsmade in 1860.

<sup>7</sup> Likely Reverend David Murdock, Union College, Schenectady, New York, class of 1845. Ancestry.com. *U.S., School Catalogs, 1765-1935*, who was also referenced in her 1854 diary.

<sup>8</sup> Lucinda is possibly Lucinda Cordelia Sackett, born in June 1828 to Justus and Polly Sackett.

<sup>9</sup> Orpha Sackett's husband, Daniel Elliot Brinsmade. See endnote 3.

<sup>10</sup> Have not been able to document who Uncle Erastus was. He was living in Bantam, per May 7 diary entry. He may be in the downline of the Eldred family, given there was an Erastus Eldred who died in 1830, but have not found the connection.

<sup>11</sup> Mary E Calhoun, wife of Joseph C., with children Franklin, Sarah, and Simeon, and a servant Catherine per the 1860 US Federal census. This family was mentioned multiple times in the 1854 diary.

<sup>12</sup> The American Missionary Association (AMA) was a Protestant-based abolitionist group. It was focused on the abolition of slavery, education for African Americans, gaining racial equality, and promoting Christian values. Per britannica.com, the AMA was a nondenominational society that worked to develop educational opportunities for blacks and other minorities in the United States. The society originally grew out of a committee organized in 1839 to defend a group of African slaves who had mutinied against their Spanish owners and had brought their slave ship (*Amistad*) into U.S. waters to seek protection there. The AMA itself was incorporated in 1846 by the merger of three missionary antislavery societies whose goal was to establish missions for freed slaves overseas. After 1850, the AMA turned primarily to abolitionist activities. When the Union armies began freeing slaves during the American Civil War, the AMA opened schools and churches for them. The AMA founded more than 500 schools in the South for freed slaves in the decades following the Civil War. These schools were actually open to all students and often operated as integrated institutions during the Reconstruction period.

<sup>13</sup> Sarah Ann Bronson, 1775-19 Jan 1862. Buried in Old Judea Cemetery in Washington, Connecticut.



<sup>14</sup> Sarah Hollister's birthday (Marilla's only living grandparent) is January 20.

<sup>15</sup> The Weekepeemee River is a tributary of the Shepaug River, and lies to the east of Washington, in the Bethlehem/Woodbury area. The river was used for sawmill and gristmill activity in the colonial period and into the nineteenth century.

<sup>16</sup> Sherman M Brinsmade 1824-1893. He was a stepson of Orpha Sackett Brinsmade. He would later become Marilla's brother-in-law when she married his brother Frederick.

<sup>17</sup> This is likely Sarah K Senior Hine's mom, Christianna. She was born in 1812 in New Jersey, and married John Senior, who was born in England about 1811.

<sup>18</sup> First cousin Edward Jonathan Hine 1831-1895, and his wife Sarah K Senior Hine 1836-1918. Edward Jonathan's parents were Jonathan N Hine (1803-1881) and Jennet Pond (1802-1892), Marilla's aunt.

<sup>19</sup> Captain John Newton. He dies on Feb 21, 1862 at the age of 89 years, six months.

<sup>20</sup> Marilla and Henry were married February 10, 1857.

<sup>21</sup> Famous clergyman, 1813-1887. He was known for his support of the abolition of slavery, his emphasis on God's love, and an 1875 adultery trial. From Britannica.com, we gain the following information--Henry Ward Beecher was born June 24, 1813, in Litchfield, Connecticut and died March 8, 1887, in Brooklyn, New York. He was a liberal Congregational minister whose oratorical skill and social concern made him one of the most influential Protestant spokesmen of his time.



<sup>22</sup> Short for Simeon. There were a couple of Simeon Fords in Washington in 1862, one born in 1822 (Simeon Dwight Ford, a farmer married to Malinda Sackett) and one in 1794 (Simeon Ford, a farmer married to Mary Ford). It is likely the former, Simeon Dwight Ford, because Malinda was a relative of Henry, and they hosted a Sackett family reunion in 1873 (this family reunion is captured in the Litchfield Enquirer, August 21, 1873 edition).

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<sup>23</sup> There is an article in the September 23, 1880 edition of the Litchfield Enquirer where Deacon Baldwin and Reverend Mr. Thrall spoke at the centennial birthday of Abigail Logan Ford, one year after Washington's own centennial.

<sup>24</sup> The following details come from battlefields.org. The Battle of Fort Donelson (Feb 13-16), was a decisive Union victory capturing Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, enabling Union advances up the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, under Brigadier General Ulysses S Grant. He received a promotion to major general for this success. Forces engaged in the battle were 40,702, with 2,691 Union and 13,846 Confederate casualties.

<sup>25</sup> Probably Charles Hine, 1820-1895, of Warren, Connecticut. He was the son of David Hine and Achsah Sackett, and married Phebe P., 1823-1851.

<sup>26</sup> Captain John Newton, mentioned in a prior endnote.



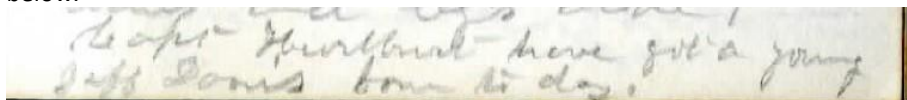
<sup>27</sup> The Episcopal church stands near the south edge of the Washington Cemetery.

<sup>28</sup> Probably Reuben Harrison Loomis, 1848 graduate of Wesleyan university. An article on page 2 of the November 6, 1862 edition of The Litchfield Enquirer places him in Winsted, Connecticut.

<sup>29</sup> Possibly Martha A. Bronson, who was a 19-year old school teacher in Washington, Connecticut per the 1860 US Federal Census. She appears to be the daughter of William and Lucy Bronson.

<sup>30</sup> Reverend George Richards, living in Litchfield in 1862. There are several 1862 references to him in the Litchfield Enquirer, performing a wedding (Aug 7), speaking at a funeral (Nov 20), saying a prayer at a patriotic service (Sep 11), and giving a lecture (Jan 9).

<sup>31</sup> The sentence in the diary does not make much sense as transcribed. Marilla's actual writing is as shown in the screenshot of the March 10 diary entry copied below.

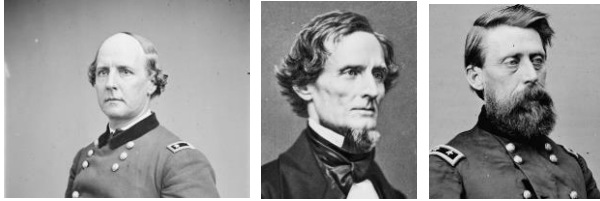


Both names are familiar as Civil War leaders. Hurlbut is likely Stephen Augustus Hurlbut. He became commander of the 4th division of Grant's army of West Tennessee following the battle of Fort Donelson (Feb 11-16). Jeff Davis could either be Jefferson F. Davis (1808-1889), who on February 22, 1862 was inaugurated as president of the Confederate States of America. It could also be Jefferson C Davis, a leader in the Union army commanding a division at the Battle of Pea Ridge in



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March 1862. He was thereafter promoted to Brigadier General in May. Respective pictures of Stephen Hurlburt, Jefferson F. Davis, and Jefferson C. Davis are below.



<sup>32</sup> The battle of the Monitor and Merrimack (or CSS Virginia) took place on March 8 and 9, 1862, and was the first naval battle between ironclad ships during the Civil War. It was also known as the Battle of Hampton Roads. The following is an article from page 2 of the March 13, 1862 edition of The Litchfield Enquirer, which may be the article Marilla read that inspired the diary entry.

WE HAVE news of the most exciting character from Fortress Monroe. The rebel iron-clad steamer Merrimac, about which so much has been said recently, came down from Norfolk on Saturday morning, accompanied by the steamers Yorktown and Jamestown, also iron clad, and moving directly toward Newport News engaged the sailing frigates Cumberland and Congress, blockading the mouth of the James River. The Merrimac is represented to have resembled a submerged house, with the roof only above water. The two frigates opened fire upon her, but with no effect, as the heavy metal glanced from the slanting top of the Merrimac. Even at the distance of only hundred yards, a full broadside from both vessels did her no damage. She ran against the Cumberland amidship, with a full head of steam on, staving a large hole in her side; then drew off and poured in a broadside, after which she dashed against the doomed vessel again, and left her in a sinking condition. She then turned against the Congress, and that vessel, having no regular crew on board, and seeing the hopelessness of further effort, lowered her colors, when she was boarded by the Jamestown, and all her officers were taken prisoners, while the few men on board were allowed to escape in boats. The Congress was then set on fire and left to her fate. The three rebel ves-

sels then opened fire upon our batteries at Newport News, which had been rendering what assistance was possible to the Cumberland and Congress, and the action continued for some time, when the Merrimac and her two companions drew off as far as Craney Island. The Minnesota at the commencement of the action, in attempting to tow the Roanoke up, got ashore near the Rip Raps, and could render no assistance. It was supposed that the Merrimac would attempt to run the blockade on Saturday night, and preparations were made accordingly; but she appears not to have made the effort. Meantime, on Saturday night the iron clad Ericsson Battery Monitor, which left New York on Wednesday last, arrived at Fortress Monroe, and on Sunday morning she was attacked by the Merrimac, Yorktown and Jamestown, but this time they met more than their match. After a five hours' contest, they were driven off, and the Merrimac retreated toward Norfolk in a sinking condition. The full particulars of this last action are yet wanting, but there is no doubt of the correctness of the report, as it is telegraphed officially from Washington, also from Fortress Monroe, by order of Gen. Wool. The latter despatch states that at times during the engagement the two iron-clad vessels were touching each other. The Monitor was uninjured.

<sup>33</sup> Possibly Washington farmer Henry W Seeley, 1830-1906, with spouse Abigail, who were in the 1860 US Federal Census.

<sup>34</sup> Native Americans created maple syrup dating back as far back as 1609, based on written history, as noted at [oberk.com/TheHistoryofMapleSyrup](http://oberk.com/TheHistoryofMapleSyrup). Early New England settlers saw what Native Americans did and copied the process, then eventually discovered the process of boring a hole into the tree and using a tube for the sap to run out. HOLLOWED-OUT LOGS were traded for wooden sap buckets, which were used from the 1700s into the early 1900s. The first metal sap spout was developed in 1860. Maple sap was boiled down to make syrup, and this was done by many private individuals, either for personal use or local trade.

<sup>35</sup> Samuel E. Tanner, 1834-1903. A farmer from Warren, the son of Ebenezer and Dimmes Eldred Tanner, per the 1860 US Federal census. Dimmes was a niece of 26

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Henry's grandmother Elizabeth Eldred 1761-1819, who married Benjamin Sackett 1762-1844. Elizabeth's maiden name Eldred is the source of Henry's middle name.

<sup>36</sup> Likely Cornelius Allen, a farmer in Washington, born in 1821 and married to Cordelia Allen per 1860 US Federal Census.

<sup>37</sup> This is likely an exhibition of Frederick Gunn, possibly at the Frederick W Gunn Select school, which can be found on an 1853 Washington, Connecticut map drawn by L. Fagan. Frederick Gunn was a high school teacher per the 1860 US Federal Census. The exhibit may be related to the *Civil War-Inspired Training Evolves into Camping Movement* article found on [connecticuthistory.org](http://connecticuthistory.org) – "Frederick Gunn's reputation as the founder of recreational camping emerged during the early 1860s, when he organized long marches for his students, who then numbered about 30 boys and a dozen girls. In 1861, he led his first trek 30 miles from Washington to Welch's Point at Milford, Connecticut, on Long Island Sound. The group camped there for 10 days, and amidst swimming and foraging, they performed military drills in preparation for service in the Union Army. The students called it 'gypsyng.'"



<sup>38</sup> The definition of "sugared off," per the Merriam Webster on-line dictionary. An intransitive verb, meaning to complete the process of boiling down the syrup in making maple sugar until it is thick enough to crystallize.

<sup>39</sup> Delaine is a type of woolen fabric that was popular in the 19th century, often coming from delaine merino sheep. The fabric was either made entirely of delaine merino wool or could be a mixed fiber of delaine and cotton. It was either dyed or printed.

<sup>40</sup> Horace Bushnell, 1802-1876. He was a Congregational church pastor and author. From [connecticuthistory.org](http://connecticuthistory.org), we read that he was a leading US theologian of the 19th century. He was born in Bantam, Connecticut, attended Yale, where he first studied law, then later theology. In 1833, Bushnell was ordained a pastor of the North Congregational Church in Hartford, where he served until 1859. While in Hartford, he married Mary Apthorp and had three children, one of whom would later found the Horace Bushnell Memorial Hall in Hartford, known as the "Bushnell"). Over the course of his life, Horace Bushnell authored a dozen books and gained renown as a minister, theologian, and civic leader. Bushnell's lasting

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legacy to the city of Hartford is Bushnell Park, which he conceived in the 1850s. The 50-acre park was completed in the 1860s, financed entirely by public funds.



<sup>41</sup> Homer Sackett II, 1801-1871. He married Flora Skiff, who died in 1859 in Warren, Connecticut, and then Julia Ann Morris, who died in 1862 in Middlebury, Connecticut. He was the grandson of Captain Justus Sackett 1730-1815, who is Henry's great grandfather.



<sup>42</sup> Island No. 10 was a spit of land a mile long and 450 yards wide, and so named because it was the tenth island south of the juncture of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. It no longer exists due to the shifting currents of the Mississippi River. It was the site of the first of three important Union victories that took possession of the Mississippi Valley and the nation's most vital waterway out of Confederate control. Details courtesy of [essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com](http://essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com).

<sup>43</sup> The Battle of Shiloh, also known as the Battle of Pittsburg Landing, was a major battle in the Civil War fought April 6–7, 1862. The fighting took place in southwestern Tennessee on the war's western theater. The battlefield is located between a small church named Shiloh and Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. Two Union armies combined to defeat the Confederate Army of Mississippi. Major General Ulysses S. Grant was the Union commander and General Albert Sidney Johnston was the Confederate commander until his death on the battlefield, after which he was replaced by his second-in-command, General Pierre Gustave Toutant-Beauregard. There were 65,085 Union and 44,968 Confederate forces engaged, with 23,746 casualties (13,047 Union and 10,669 Confederate). Details courtesy of [battlefields.org](http://battlefields.org).

<sup>44</sup> This may have meant Corinth, Mississippi, where a significant battle would take place in October. During the early spring of 1862, Union armies in the western theater captured large parts of land like Nashville and Forts Henry and Donelson. In the aftermath of the Union victory at the Battle of Shiloh on April 6 and 7, Union

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commander Henry W. Halleck decided to take three Union armies operating under his command and pursue the defeated Confederate army on their way to Corinth, Mississippi. Corinth was a junction of two main railroads, the Memphis and Charleston and the Mobile and Ohio. If captured, it would help the Union armies have a staging point to take Vicksburg and Chattanooga.

<sup>45</sup> There was an annual state fast on Good Friday each year in Connecticut starting in 1808, as decreed by the state governor. April 18, 1862 was Good Friday, because Easter was April 20. The editorial on page 2 below from the April 24, 1862 edition of the Hartford Courant provides this background.

For the Courant.

MR. EDITOR.—I noticed a paragraph in your paper the other day that the annual State Fast had been appointed for Good Friday since the year 1808. In looking back to the time when that day was selected for this service, it is found it originated with the second Gov. Trumbull, who appointed Friday, the 6th day of April, 1798, and from that time to the present it has uniformly been appointed for Good Friday by all the Governors.

It has been said that Gov. Trumbull selected that day more particularly to accommodate the Episcopalians, who uniformly observed that day; and this was his first Proclamation for a Fast after his election as Governor, succeeding Gov. Wolcott.

E. G.

<sup>46</sup> Ebenezer Tanner, 1791 - 18 Apr 1862. He died in Warren and was buried in Old Warren Center Cemetery. Marilla refers to him as uncle. See the relationship in endnote 35, which is on Henry's side.



<sup>47</sup> Reverend Francis Lobdell, 1835-1899, from Danbury, who was located in Warren, CT from 1859-1863 per Ancestry.com. *Connecticut, U.S., Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920*

<u>LOBDELL</u> , Ellen, child of Rev. F. Lobdell, bp. Sept. 5, 1862	5	151
Francis, Rev., of Danbury, settled as Minister, Nov. 3, 1859; dismissed Apr. 7, 1863; d. Oct. 26, 1899, at Buffalo, New York	5	262

<sup>48</sup> Name of the family's horse.

<sup>49</sup> It looks like she spent time away in Winsted, possibly staying with her stepbrother Herman "Clark" Hine, who had two girls, Sarah and Mary, born in 1846 and 1849. He had just remarried, to Ellen Beecher Jan 14, 1862. Winsted is about 30 miles to the northeast of Washington.

<sup>50</sup> Worsted is a high-quality type of wool yarn, and also a yarn weight category. The name derives from Worstead, a village in the English county of Norfolk, where this type of thread and cloth was originally produced.

<sup>51</sup> An infant's short jacket that fastens at the neck, per Merriam-Webster's dictionary.

<sup>52</sup> Fitz Greene Hollister was the son of Preston and Phebe. He would die as a sergeant in the Civil War at the Battle of Second Petersburg in Petersburg, Virginia on June 15, 1864, as reported on page 2 of the July 14, 1862, edition of the Litchfield Enquirer, shown below. Background on the skirmishing referred to in the death notice is explained in battlefields.org. Marching from Cold Harbor, Virginia, General George G. Meade's Army of the Potomac crossed the James River on transports and a 2,200-foot long pontoon bridge at Windmill Point on June 14. General Benjamin F. Butler's leading elements crossed the Appomattox River at Broadway Landing and attacked the Petersburg defenses on June 15.

**county, deceased.**  
**On the morning of June 15th, 1864, on the skirmishing line near Petersburg, Va., Fitz Green Hollister of Washington, Ct., a member of Co. I, 8th C. V. I., at the age of 27 years, yielded up his life in the service of his Country.**

<sup>53</sup> Likely Deacon David Punderson, 1782-1864, who was also mentioned in her 1854 diary.

<sup>54</sup> Likely Andrew N Buck, per civil war records. He was discharged due to disability on May 11, 1862 per ancestry.com, *U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865*.

<sup>55</sup> Probably Simeon Calhoun, son of Joseph C and Mary E. He is also listed as discharged due to disability on 11 May, 1862, and was from Washington, Connecticut.

<sup>56</sup> Reverend Charles E Robinson. The article below is from the 19 June, 1862 edition of the Litchfield Enquirer.

WOODBURY.—Mr. Charles E. Robinson, a licentiate from the Theological Seminary at Auburn, N. Y., who has supplied the pulpit of the First Congregational Church during the past year, was ordained pastor of said church, on Wednesday the 11th, instant, by a special council of the Litchfield South Consociation. The exercises of the occasion, which were of the first order and full of interest, were reading of scripture and prayer by Rev. Mr. McKinstry of Harwinton; sermon by Rev. Dr. Canfield of Syracuse, N. Y.; ordaining prayer by Rev. Mr. Vaill of Litchfield; charge to the pastor by Rev. Mr. Learned of Plymouth; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Mr. Wolcott of South Britain; charge to the people by Rev. Mr. Richards of Litchfield; benediction by the pastor. The performance of the choir was in keeping with the other exercises, and the occasion will long retain a place in the memory of the large congregation which was present.

<sup>57</sup> In the 1860s, women from both the North and the South formed sewing societies. They would get together and make quilts, warm clothes, bandages or other items for the soldiers.

<sup>58</sup> Phebe Turner Hollister 1813-1895, wife of Preston S Hollister 1808-1888. Preston is Rebecca's second cousin once removed, with them both being great-grandchildren of Gideon Hollister and Patience Hurd.

<sup>59</sup> Marilla alludes to them moving out west again (presumably to Iowa). However, this does not end up happening, as their next two children, Flora and Mary Marilla, are both born in Washington in 1863 and 1866, and Henry passes away February 20, 1868 from phthisis, or pulmonary tuberculosis.

<sup>60</sup> This may be an area in the southeast corner of Washington, now known as West Mountain Preserve.

<sup>61</sup> Possibly Lewis B Nettleton, born 1811 in Connecticut, and living in Medina, Ohio. Have not yet been able to document a relationship with the Hines or Sacketts. He was a lawyer, married to Julia Baldwin, and he is documented returning to Washington on a visit in 1877 (31 May 1877 Litchfield Enquirer) and 1880 (29 Jul 1880 Litchfield Enquirer).

<sup>62</sup> Likely John Churchill, 1811-1880, who was in Woodbury, CT at this time teaching at Woodbury Academy.

<sup>63</sup> The Whortleberry is a name given to a type of wild blueberry. From the memories of Oliver Wolcott Jr., from Litchfield, Connecticut in *The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, 1720-1920*: "My Mother and Grandmother learned me to speak early; I could read before I was four years old, and was proud of my acquirements. The School House was in the street near the N. W. corner of my Father's Home-Lot, and was about twenty rods from home. The street was nine

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or ten rods wide, and the hillocks were covered with whortleberry bushes, which were tall enough to hide a young man or boy from observation.”

<sup>64</sup> Likely Henry Wadhams Buel, 1820-1893, who established a sanitarium in the Litchfield area in 1858. Graduated from Yale in 1844, and College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York in 1848.

