

Leavitt Thaxter Norton

Daily Journal for 1858

Typed by Jenny Hobson who located the original in the Massachusetts Historical Society. Blanks are uninterpretable.

Diary of Leavitt Thaxter Norton of Tisbury, Mass. (on Martha's Vineyard), 1 Jan. 1858-18 June 1860. The diary, kept while Norton was a teenager living and working on his father's farm, describes the weather; farm chores, including cutting wood, making deliveries to other towns on Martha's Vineyard and to "Indian country," fishing, and caring for livestock and crops; local news; social activities; school attendance; health matters; and religion. Individuals mentioned include Norton's father Bayes Norton; mother Eugenia Dunham Norton; brother Bayes F. Norton; uncles Elijah and Darius Norton; Eliza P. Luce, whom Norton would later marry; and other members of the Norton family and local families. Included are some poems, accounts, and memoranda. Entries for 1858 are written in an 1856 diary.

[NORTON, Leavett Thaxter](#) b: 1840 in Holmes Hole, Tisbury, Dukes Co., Massachusetts, USA (Martha's Vineyard) d: Aft 1910. 1910: 2 children, 2 living. Noted as cordwainer and shoe dealer

10/17/1865 Leavitt Thaxter Norton from Tisbury age 25 Cordwainer married Eliza P. Luce from Tisbury, age 19. Daughter Mary N. Norton born about 1868. Died after 1870.

Bayes Norton, father; Eugenia Dunham, mother
Great, great, great grandparents – Joshua Daggett and Hannah Norton. Both born in Edgartown in 1664.

1850 U.S. Census

Mocavo Image 004194639-649 <http://www.mocavo.com/1850-United-States-Census/126206/004194639/649#row-38>

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Tisbury in the County of Dukes State Mass.
of Massachusetts enumerated by me, on the 24 day of Sept. 1850. Richd. L. Rice Ass't Marshal 436

1	2	DESCRIPTION.			7	8	9	10		11	12
		Age.	Sex.	White, black, or color.				Married within the year.	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read & write.		

This morning it is quite pleasant. Father has gone to Holmes Hole with a load of cord given and into the woods and cut some wood in the afternoon. We worked down to the Dike. I hear that there is to be a fair pretty soon. The wind blows very hard it is S.W. Basy [Bayes, younger brother of Leavitt] went down to the village to school but there was none. It is to commence next Monday, Mr. Coffin is to keep it.

Tuesday

This morning I went to Edgartown and got my gun repaired also got a suit of Oil Clothes got home about three in the afternoon. We had a meeting and did nothing of any importance. This evening I have been to the fair there has been a great time it is to last until tomorrow night. I had a quite a good time there was a great many there.

Wednesday

This morning it began to snow. The wind being about NE and snowed very fast until about four in the afternoon when it broke away and the wind went out North and it is getting very cold. I do not think that they had any fair this afternoon. It makes it hard for them. Eliza [young Eugenia??] is down to Aunt Hannah's she did not come home last night after the fair. Basy has gone over the pond.

January

Thursday

1856

This morning it is very moderate. I went off eeling this forenoon and got eight. I've never given the time when they were so scarce. Father went down to the village with a load of wood this afternoon. I went down and cut up some wood for Aunt Mary. They had their fair yesterday in all the storm. When I came up too stopped to Mrs. Dircas Norton's and talked about the Long Point affair. She is going to put it through or Esq. Eliakin for her. It had grown cold to night and the wind blows pretty hard now.

Friday

This morning it is very cold. The wind is N. West. Father has gone down to the village with a load of wood. I and Rick went over the pond and cut wood a spell in the afternoon. We greener Chaney and Myself we went down to grandmothers and then over to the village. We then came back and he stopped here the evening. Eben and Orlando went across the slice and so I spent with saying good bye.

Saturday

This morning it has quite cold but sun began to _____ the wind being S. West at about ten O'clock I went down to Grandfathers to carry ___ Johnson's down to Edgartown. She had gone over to the Doctors to get ____ set she had a bone out of its place at about half past

eleven she came home. We then started we had got above that but by Ms. Thomas Smiths and it began to sprinkle
try to finish later

Saturday

When I awoke this morning the rain was falling in great abundance the wind blowing hard South it settled the pike some on both sides the tide ____ the break or little while this afternoon the first time that it has ran in since the Pine was raised. The you ____ ____ by that was very high. I went over to Uncle D ____ this morning and fixed my shoes and helped ____ ____ make a cart. Elize has not got home yet. The wind blows some more. I think that it will e N West in the morning. Basy is reading some Betry T ____ in ____ about Samuel Ridder. Mother has got something in her throat she thinks that it is a little piece of stick it feels very bad.

Sunday

The weather is very fine this morning. I did not go anywhere this forenoon because I thought Eliza would be at home but she did not come and so in the afternoon I went down to Ridder Coling. I first went to Mr. Charles Ridders there was nobody at home except Mary Abbie. I mean of the young folks they had gone to Eastville to meeting. I then went to Ms. Steven Ridder's and Lydia and her Mother was there alone when I first went in I staid until about half past four. Then came home, found Eliza at home and little Elisha L. Luce in the evening Mr. Eurgh Hatah and David and Richard Beetle were here Esery had his music box and it played some good tunes.

Monday

When I got up I thought that it would snow but it cleared off. I then went down to Aunt Mary's and cut some wood for her. Father went to Bolts Farm and carted Seaweed. I came at about three o'clock and then it snowed a little it was s ____ for a spell and then it cleared away. This evening Eliza and myself have been over Mr. Elisha Smiths we had quite a good time. Peggy Shiff has got a boy as big as an ox and several there have hatched. The wind now is N. West and is quite cold. I an Eliza are writing it is nine o'clock

Tuesday

This morning Father and myself went down to the field chopped a _____. Uncle Darius, Uncle Elijah Chaney and David were all there. It is the pleasantest weather that I ever saw. There has been a lot of people there today Uncle Henry Aunt Mary and Sophronia Billy Ed Little Johnny and two ____ they staid and we did not want them. Eliak's in and Marcus have been over here this evening. They were carried out with walking. Eliza is writing her last practicing letter to her Bean and I don't care. I went down and carried Sophronia and Aunt Margaret Mary kept house for Aunt Margret and then came home with me.

Wednesday

The weather being quite cool we thought that we would go down to the Indian Country and chop some wood. Uncle Darius and Uncle Elijah were there in the afternoon. I greased the harness and the rest of them went up to the Chase Pease lot and divided the wood in the evening. I and David went down to dancing we then went down to the patch up and there was a dreadful lot of people there. Some old towners were there it was cold weather and so forth.

Thursday

This morning I got up and felt very sleepy for I did not get in bed until two o'clock this morning. David started for home this morning before breakfast we went into the woods this forenoon and in the afternoon we worked the Dike carted in stones. Sophronia helped her Basy is going to stay with Grandmother tonight. Eliza has gone down to Lydia G. Ridders to sew. The wind is S West and blows quite a gale. Orlando E Davis and some others are chopping in the Chase Pease lot they are going cut five trees each. They have cut before this year 240 cords. Marcus and Eliakins have improved in dancing very much.

Friday

When I woke this morning my window rattled tremendously and the wind was North very cold indeed. Father and myself went down to the Indian Country to work. There was ten men chopping around Chancy was around last night at Edgartown he said that they did not have much of a _____. We found a dead sheep and pulled it. It is very cold this evening. Aunt Mary Dunham was up here to day and went home tonight. Basy is down to Grandmothers to night. There is some ice in the head of the pond. Mother has got something in her throat she says that it seems like a little stick out of the tea so fare the well sweet night.

Saturday

This morning the weather was quite pleasant. The ice was quite hard Father and myself went eeling we got about three dozen above the point and one below. Grandfather was there too. In the afternoon I went down to the village and carried Sophronia and Margaret. Sophronia has been up here visiting. Margaret came back with me. I stopped at Uncle Henry's and shaved cut some wood for Aunt Mary. Finished it up that makes five loads in the evening. I went down to Mr. Christopher Beetles.

Sunday

Last night I staid down to Mr. Christopher Beetles and in the forenoon we had a quite a time combing hair. Emily combed mine and curled it. She is a first rate girl. I must make some poetry about her. In the afternoon David and myself went down to Eastville to meeting Lyman Norton and Henry ayes and Williare C___ all came home yesterday after meeting we wend down to Mr. _____ then came home and stopped at Mr. James Luce. Martha and Graftian and Theodore came up Chancy came home with Elize: she has been down to _____ ___ lately.

Monday

This morning it is kinds foggy. Father and I went up to the Chase Pease lot and chopped this forenoon. Orlando and his son were up there. In the afternoon we went clamming and got about one half bushel we then went up and sharpened some Chestnut ____ that came from Connecticut. This evening Uncle Darius came over here. Father and Mother has gone over to Mr. John Crowells. Mrs. Crowell is sick. Mr. Eeery Hatch is up here with his music Box. The wind is S. West. I think that it will be cold in the morning.

Tuesday

This morning the weather is very warm. Father and I went down to the Indian Country this forenoon and in the afternoon we went down to Holmes Hole and carried some wood Father went with two yoke of steers one pair. Three was sold and the other two they carried one half cord. I went with the horse and carried two feet. We carried to Charles Bradley's house. We then went down to the Beach and got a load of seaweed and then began to rain a little but did not rain much until we got home. I headed [heard?] down to the village that Mr. Shubad ____ cut himself very bad indeed. He cut right through just below his ankle clear. Rains quite hard now the wind blows too.

Wednesday

This morning the weather is very pleasant. Father and I went to the Chase Pease lot and spent the day. Uncle Elijah went to Newtown, this afternoon towards night John Lincoln came here. He left his ____ over the pond and he came along. By the ____ he said that he saw some flat fish and I went down and saw about twenty. I then caught six with the eel spears in the ____ I went down to Mrs. Discas Norton's. Mother and Eliza were down there. We sung some and it pleased them very much. The weather is very warm first rate. ____ ____ hipopalangosus and Co.

Thursday

This morning the wind is E. N. East and looked as though it would rain. I went down to Holmes Hole and got a keg of Molasses. The tide ran in the trunk we shut it down and when the tide turned I opened it again. There was a remarkable high tide it settled a little. I got seven flat fish tonight. This afternoon we chopped up above Uncle Dariuses Eliakina has been here to night. He says that they had a high time last night. Danced until after twelve. Father was gone over to Mrs. Crowell's. I though that I saw a school of smelts to night. It looks as though we should have snow storm very much tonight.

Friday

The wind is N. East and snows a little it is very cold. Basy has gone to school he carried some fish down to Aunt Mary. There has been a very high tide to day it washed the Dike down a considerable. This afternoon we wend up to the Chase Pease lot. I cut a half cord and put it up had a half of a food left and got home a little past four O'clock. This evening I went over to Uncle Dariuses and Silas Daggett was there. He told about the Indians going and cutting wood

on Horatis Norton's lot they pretend to claim a good deal of land down that way. I expect that there will be a time soon.

Saturday

We arose this morning at just about the sight time, got breakfast and went up to the Farm Road and chopped finished off up there. In the afternoon we carted stone on the Dike. I carted with the horse and Father and Basy with the oxen. Uncle Darius carted. I saw Martha Luce and Maria down on the Bridge & day, got six flat fish tonight. Father has done down to Uncle Henry's. Margaret and Basy have gone over the Pond. The wind has freezed in heard from Mr. Shuback weeks later.

Sunday

I arose this morning and got ready went down to Holmes Hole and went to the Methodist meeting all day and evening. At noon I went up to Aunt Mary's and got dinner and then went down to Tristan Cromwell's. she was very solemn after meeting in the afternoon I came home got supper and went back again. The girl that I intended to go home with I did not see when she came out of church and therefore I never got a change to go home with her. I awaited and Richard Beetle have been up her tonight but I was gone away. I wish that I could have seen them.

Monday

When I arose this morning the air was very cold indeed. Father and myself and Uncle Darius and Uncle Elijah chopped down to the Old Field in the afternoon. We went down to Holmes Hole and got a load of seaweed. When I got home Eliza said that in John ____ had been here and wanted to see Father very much. When I got home Mr. ____ was going through Uncle Darius's field. I wrote some notices and put one up on the guide board up by Mr. Thomas Smith's we went to Mr. Elisha Smith's and spent the evening. Edward Norton's son is up to Thomas Smith's making a visit. The wind is East and I guess that we shall have a storm. Mother has gone down to ____ mothers to stay all night

Tuesday

This morning there seems to be a steady rain. Basy got up first and made a fire because he wanted to go to school. In the afternoon Uncle Elijah, Uncle Darius, Father, David Wellington and myself were there. We cart a spell and then came home. Mother has gone down to grandmothers. She expected to be home tonight but she has not arrived yet. Father has gone over to Mr. John Crowell's. Mr. Thomas Smith has been down to men the like today. I should not think strange if they had a dance to night. David talks of coming up to go down to the dance tomorrow night if the weather is good. The wind is S. West and is quite cold.

Wednesday

This morning Father and Uncle Darius threshed out some clover seed. I went over above Uncle Dariuses and cut some wood and in the afternoon Father went up to the Tashmoo lot and got a load of wood. I went down to the Village and carted two loads of seaweed at night David came up and we went down to the Dance. We had a real good time. There was a great many Edgartowners there. Aneliza Barrows was there John Barrows daughter. I went to grandfathers to see where mother was and they were all sick. Grandmother was sick a bed Sophronia was sitting up and they were pretty bad off. Mr. Edward Norton's boy was there again to night. Chancey and Phebe were at meeting.

Thursday

We arose quite early this morning. David went home before breakfast. It was very calm. Father and Uncle Darius went down to the old field Point over above Uncle Dariuses and trimmed limbs. After dinner we carted stones and sand on the Dike. Mr. Issac Norton was around with his big gun. He fired at some shell Drakes and wing broke one and hurt another. I guess this evening I got twelve flat fish. Father says that he never knew them to be out this time of the year before. Mother has not got home from grandfathers yet. He is very sick and grandmother is not much better. The wind is S. west does not blow much but looks like a storm.

Friday

This morning the wind is N. West pretty cold. We went up on the Chase Pease lot and cut wood a spell. In the afternoon put up a piece of fence and pried out some stones to make stone wall. Went down to the Gluice way and caught nine flat fish tonight. Mother arrived this afternoon. Eliza has gone down to Holmes Hole to keep house for Polly. Margaret has gone down to Farm Neck. Basy is staying with Grandmother to night and they are all gone except me. Mother _____ some.

Saturday

This morning the air is very cold wind is N. West. WE worked the oxen and dragged stones to make a piece of wall next to Ms. Thomas Smith's place. In the afternoon I carted stones and Father made wall. He put up about two rods and a half [41 ¼ feet]. Uncle Darius and Ms. George Cleveland have been here this evening. He came I expect to find out something about the next meeting. The girls are both gone away. Basy sits here singing out of the himdel. My ring worm is most well. It was very bad. I went to the Dr. Seach and he gave me something that helped it.

Sunday

When I arose this morning the weather was rather cloudy. Wind S. West. It began to snow a little before I started for meeting and snowed a quite a spell. I went down to Grandmothers and went to meeting with Sophrenia at noon. I went up to Aunt Mary's and it might took ___ with Polly Luce. Chancy was there. He had come to bring Polly home. She had been over there visiting. I

went to meeting in the evening and came up with Chancy and Eliakim Smith's. It is now about quarter of ten the wind is west and clear.

Monday

This morning when we got up it was calm but soon breezed up. N. West and was very cold. We went up to the Chase Pease lot and cut. Uncle Elijah who was there trimming limbs at night. I went down to the Dike and got one fish. In the evening went over to Mr. Elisha J. Smith's and they talked about our not calling. Then I told them that if they wanted work they much ask for it and they sobered down and said nothing. Margaret is down to Farm Neck and Eliza is down to Holmes Hole.

Tuesday

This morning father went down to Indian Country to work on posts. I went down to Holmes Hole and got two loads of seaweed with the horse. In the afternoon I went with the horse and two yoke of cattle and got a lot of it. Howland and his gang are carting ice from the Lilly Pond. They had four trains today and they are carting it for Capt. Elish Dexter. He intends to have a lot of ice cream. He makes a great deal of money by selling such stuff. We met today and adjourned to Tuesday 16th of February. We chose Uncle Darius a _____ he is strange is he not Ha.

Wednesday

This morning when I awoke I heard the rain pour down but after I got up it cleared off. I have been prying up stones all day. Father has been at work down to the Indian Country. This afternoon Basy came home and said that they thought grandfather would die and so she went down, Mother I mean. I went down and carried her and brought Eliza home. William Baxter is down here he came here this afternoon. The has breezed off in the N West and blows a hurricane. Chancy was over in the Dance last night. Margaret has not got home from Farm Neck yet.

Thursday

This morning when we got up it was so cold that we could not get out to work. We have not done anything. Mother is down to Grandfather and Father has gone down there to stay all night. There is no one here but myself, Eliza, Basy and William Baxter. Mr. Charles Ridder has been here to day Marcus and Eliskin stopped here a spell to night. They were going down to Dancing school to night. They have ___ high times it has been. The coldest day to day that we have had this winter.

Friday

This morning when I got up I went to milk and it was very cold. Father had stayed down to Grandfathers. When I was clearing out the barn, Mr. Howland and Charles Allen came. We went on to the ice and it froze over last night so that it bore. Father said that he never knew it to freeze over in one night so as to bear before. In the afternoon I and William Baxter went down to the

Farm Neck after eels. I got fifteen and he got five. We went with the Horse. Maria Abbie Daggett and Adrianna Luce have been up here this evening. William and Eliza have gone down to Aunt Marys.

Saturday

Last night was very cold indeed. The pond is froze quite thick above the Dike and very slick. First rate skating. There is no eels caught worth speaking of. William Baxter went home this morning. He had the Ear ache dreadfully. He is a cleaver fellow. This afternoon we have been on the Chase Pease Lot. This evening I have been over to Uncle Dariuses. The children have got a new song and it is a first rate one. It is Nellie Frey. Father has gone over to Mr. Crowells. The wind is N. East and looks very much like a snow storm

Sunday

This morning just after I got up it began to snow. After doing the chores I went down to Mr. _____ Ridders Potes I had gone over to the drath one where I oh not know where he stayed but I wanted to see him. Lydia had not got up. She had had the toothache. I stopped to Mr. Charles Ridders a spell then went over to Uncle Elijahs stopped and towards night and then came home this evening. The wind is N. East and snows some off the west. It gets tough I shall go along on deep waters.

Monday

It snowed a spell last night and this morning had cleared off. I went off Eeling in deep water. Got about eight dozen there was several off. This evening I went down to Holmes Hole. Eliza went with me I went over to Grandfathers he was rather better. The people in the village have bought a wheel to work out most anything that you wish. But I heard that it turned out to be nothing.

Tuesday

This morning I got up and went of eeling I got about five dozen. In the afternoon we had a meeting and chose Officers. I was chosen Clerk. Father treasurer and three directors John Linson, Elisha Smith and Father. This evening Dr. Hatch has been up here. He has got his music box. He is going to have a party – so he says. The wind is N. West and blows a hurricane cold as Greenland.

Wednesday

This morning when I arose it was bitter cold, so cold that I could not go off eeling. Some people thought that there would be no cold weather it was warm so long before it came. Eliza has been over to Uncle Dariuses to spend the day. I have been down to see the Doctor about the ringworm that I had upon my neck. This evening Eliza and I have been over to Mr. Elisha T. Smiths. The weather is not quite so cold as it was this morning but is pretty cold. Grandfather is rather better then he was. He does not have the asthma or has not had it for some time.

Thursday

This morning the air was a little warmer and I went off eeling and got about four dozen. there was a quite a gang off. This afternoon I went down and carried Eliza and Margaret. Eliza is going down the Neck and changed down to grandmothers to stay with her ____ came up here. I brought her up Esery Hatch was up here this noon to tell about his party. It is to be tomorrow night. They intend to have a first rate time. I do not know whether I shall go or not.

Friday

This morning it is quite cold. Father went off eeling and got fourteen. I went and carried down two feet of wood and got some first rate molasses. In the afternoon I got ready and went down to Mr. Dennis Dexters and stopped until night and then we went up to Eserys party. They had some oyster soup that was first rate. They had a good many things. Had some pretty good dancing. I left at about half past one and then they had just began to have a first rate time. It began to snow just about dark and when I went to bed it still snowed. Wind about N. East.

Saturday

This morning when I got up the snow was falling in great abundance. I was at Aunt Marys in the forenoon. I came home brought Sophronia some of Mr. Hatches goodies. She did not think much of them. She is tell me to say that I went to an oyster supper. It is snowing pretty fast. The wind is about N. East. The weather is quite cold. I think that the wind will be N. West in the morning and cold as Greenland icy mountains.

Sunday

This morning the sun rose as clear as a crystal and remarkable bright did it shine for I have not seen a pleasanter day for a great while. The ground is covered with snow. Eliza has not got home from down the Neck yet. Margaret has not got home from Grandmothers yet. Sophronia is still here. We have not been to meeting to day any of us. I heard that there was a schooner on shore down by the Farm Creek. The wind is about S. West tonight.

Monday

I got up this morning earlier than usual and skinned some eels for Grandmother. Basy went down and carried them to her. I went of eeling off Paul's Point. Got about four dozen. in the afternoon we went up on the Tashmoo lot and cut wood. Chaney came here to day and said that Geoge G. Cleavland had contracted & got that vessel off down to the farm. Chose are Falls have not arrived yet. Sophronia is standing over my shoulder talking about Esery. They talk of seining to morrow if the weather is good. But I think that it will be a snow storm. The wind is North cloudy and looks like snow. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQ

Tuesday

This morning the air is very cold so cold that they did not come up to sein. We did not do much of anything this forenoon. This afternoon I went and carried Sophronia down and brought Margaret home. They expected the steamboat to day but she did not come so they did not have any dance. It is so cold that I can not write and therefore I must quit all is I hope that we shall have some warm weather pretty soon if we don't I shall freeze

Wednesday

This morning the weather was warm and the air being still. We carted in a couple loads of hay after we got the hay in we went off eeling. We got about a dozen or thirteen dozen. there was a great many caught to day. I carried down a half barrel to send to New York. Eliza got home to night. Mr. Hatch was up here and Samuel Huxford came here. He has been up here to his Uncles visiting he is a first rate fellow. I think of going over to see him. He lives on Chapaquidick Island. The Steam Boat has not ran for the past week. She stopped to have her boilers fixed and the Captain has gone to Boston to have a law suit about a vessel.

Thursday

This morning it was quite calm so I made up my mind to go off eeling. Well I went and got sixteen whole ones. They eeled all of the good ground over yesterday. They did not any of them get many. This afternoon I found a rotten musk rat in our well so I have to get it out and draw all of the water out of the well. There is a bad report it is this that Capt. Ephraim Harding and his son with all the crew is lost. His daughter is married but her husband has been gone away some time and she is in a bad condition and likewise Elizabeth Luce the widow it is a bad egg. I and Eliakim have been down to Mr. James Luces this evening.

Friday

This morning the weather is quite cold. The story about Capt. Ephraim Harding is true. There has been his writing found on Long Island beach and some of the Crew. Rodolphus was with him and what is still worse, Abbie is in the family. Way to tell the truth. The wise Elisabeth Luce Rorden has ran away. He got some men to carry him across the _____ we have been up on the Tashmoo Lot this afternoon. David Norton has been up here this evening and Martha M. Luce is going to stop up all night.

Saturday

This morning we went up on the Tashmoo Lot and cut some wood and in the afternoon went down with some. I came up with the oxen and Father stopped down until the Steam Boat came to see if he had any letters but he had non and so wrote off to Joseph to see about it. The weather is very thawy indeed. Father saw Mr. John Vinsor at the Boat and said that he should be up Monday or Tuesday and say that his Lagoon Pond tax which was forty five dollars and some odd cents. Which they were to pay within fourteen days after the meeting which they had on the sixteenth day of February. Father and Uncle Darius have payed.

Sunday

Last night I went down to Uncle Elijahs and stopped all night. We then went along to Mr. Beetles and they got ready and we went down to Eastville to meeting. Took Dinner at Uncle Josphehs and took Tea at Mr. Nyes. Stayed untill evening meeting began and then went came home. Mr. Esery hatch was up here with his music. Eliakim was up here. There was a great many spoke in meeting. Uncle Elijah spoke. Uncle Joseph, Mr. James Luce, Cousin Orlando, Mr. Peters, West Phepam Norton. Mrs. Sophia Davis. Mr. Bradley and his wife and that is not all. The Eastville people seemed to be very sociable today. Mr. Capt. Lyman Norton spoke withal.

Monday Evening

This morning we arose and got some water to wash with and then did the chores and went down to the Indian Country and made posts. Chaney and Uncle Darius were there. About eleven o'clock it began to rain. We then came home this afternoon. It has been showering and we have done nothing. Eliakim just went down here and Father has gone over to Mr. Crowells. The ice begins to thaw along the shore a considerable I guess that the Lagoon Pond Company will _____ pretty soon. They will have a meeting one week from next Tuesday afternoon
I made a mistake and wrote on the wrong day I meant this

Tuesday

This morning it snowed some was squally all day. Father went down to the mail and had a letter from the men that bought his oxen. They said that they had not collected their bills but thought that they could pay in about one week. Eliza had a letter from Samuel Hufford. Mother had one from Aunt Elisabeth. This evening I and Eliza have been over to Mr. Elisha T. Smiths there was a quite a gang of Wilburs there. The weather had cleared off and the wind is in the West.

Wednesday

This morning the air is cool. Father went down to Edgartown. He saw the Creck Man they are coming up next Tuesday to try and settle with George. This afternoon we went up and cut wood a spell. This evening I have been down to Uncle Henrys. Mr. Hatch was there. He has been over to Bedford and had his teeth hauled and is going to have a new set. There is to be a Dance tomorrow night at candle light if nothing happens.

Thursday

This morning the air is very cool. I waited a spell and then I went up to George Luces _____ and stopped to see Peck and got some solls. He keeps shop up to Newtown. I got home at about one o'clock and then fussed around home till night. In the evening went down to dancing school. David came up and went down with me Richard Beetle was there for we had a pretty fair time. There was a quite a lot of turkey towners up

Friday

This morning the air is very cold so cold that we did not work in the morning. In the course of the forenoon, Uncle Henry came up to get the Horse to go to North Shore to get a load of hay. I and Father went up on the Tashmoo Lot and cut some wood. Marg and Basy came home. He has not been home for one _____ week. Father has gone over to Mr. Crowells. Eliakim is over here. Mother has gone down to Grandfathers she is going to stay all night

May 9th March 9th

Saturday

This morning is colder than ever. Father went down and fed the sheep. He found two dead in the afternoon. We I mean father and myself chopped and Basy carried two loads of wood. This evening I and Eliza have been down to Mr. James Luces and spend the evening. Marg and Eugenia have been over to Mr. Elisha T. Smiths. Eugenia I mean it Aunt Margarets child I think of going over to Chappaquidick tomorrow and staying to Mr. Hiuxfords two or three days.

Sunday

Many days and many nights of sorrow have elapsed and many more will likewise. This afternoon I started to go to choppa whent over to Mr. Elisha T. Smith's and Eliakim went with me. We stopped to the Marcy House a spell to see Sophronia and then went over to the then island. We went to Mr. William Huxfords and there saw all the folks they semed to be quite glad to see us. We got there just at supper time. The wind is West and blows a hurricane

Monday

This morning I and Samuel T. Huxford got up at about eight o'clock. We slept together over to his grandfathers. After breakfast we went on a cruise all around. Went down to the Herring Creek at about three in the afternoon we started for home. We thought that it would be a storm. Sun came over to town with us. It began to snow just as we left Mr. Huxfords house and snows now furiously. Father says that he thinks we shall have more snow then we have had for the winters. The wind is N. East.

Tuesday

This morning there is a considerable snow on the ground. The air is clear and cold. I have lost my banty. This afternoon we have had a meeting _____ _ _____ alas there George G. Cleveland got as mad as a whale. They scolded a good deal. _____ finally passed a vote, to give George two hundred dollars. He finally made up his mind to take it but said that he should call them. Two dollars and a half then it made them rather mad.

Wednesday

This morning I got my breakfast and went over to Uncle Daruises and we went down and fed the sheep. Then I went rabbiting and got five found four in the holes and shot one. This afternoon

George has been here and settled. He had to take off twenty seven dollars towards night. I shot a large cock Shell Drake. Arabella is up over to Mr. Crowells. Eliza is down to Holmes Hole and Basy is down to grandmothers. I suppose that they a dance last night. The wind is about S. West by West rather cool and cloudy

Thursday

This morning the weather is very warm and pleasant but it soon began to cloud up and rain. We carted in some hay. About noon it cleared off. In the afternoon I went down to the village there was a very large Steam Ship going on the ways she is about a thousand years. She ran into a schooner and sunk her and took the crew on board the ship Eliakim Smith has been over here this evening. I have been over to Mr. Crowells and heard him talk a considerable. Mr. Elisha Daggott has been up here trying to sell his land. He wants to move away up into the country.

Friday

This morning the wind is N. West quite pleasant. Father has been visiting down to Farm Neck. I went off eeling this afternoon and got eleven. The ice is about a foot thick. Peter Clayhorn came home yesterday. I heard that the crew was lost but it seems that they were not. The Abbie R. came yesterday she had been out to look for Rodolphus Rarding. They could not find him. Some think that he was buried. They found Capt. Ephriam Hardings coat with four or five hundred dollars in gold in the pockets. Uncle Elijah talks of buying Elisha Daggetts farm.

Saturday

This morning the wind is N. West and blows a few. Father went down to the old field to split some logs for posts. In the afternoon I went down to Holmes Hole and had returns from my eel. They brought about eighteen cents per dozen. They are hauling that big Steam Ship up on the ways. There was a large mail to day. Sophronia had arrived from Edgartown. She is at Aunt Margret's. This evening Basy and myself have been over to Mr. Elisha T. Smiths. Played murals and fox and geese. Our folks are all at home for once. It seems quite strange to see them all at home. There is a very bright northern light.

Sabbath

This morning I arose and go ready and went to meeting. Went to the Methodist Church at noon went up to Aunt Margs and Aunt Hannah to Mr. Swains and talked about the big ship on the ways. They took her half way up and had got scared so they did no dare to get her up to my fathers. Eliakim came up with me from meeting. We came after dinner because we thought that it would rain. The wind was South West and blew very hard it began to rain about five o'clock. Eliakim is over here now. Eliza has just been reading a letter to him.

Monday

This morning it is the pleasantest morning that we have for the spring. The birds were singing merrily all around my door. In the forenoon Father went to Holmes Hole and got some molasses. Mother has been over to Aunt Angelincas to spend the afternoon and has not got home yet. Father is over there with her yet. Eliza is over dressing up with her ball dress. There is to be a Calico Ball net Thursday eve and she has been making a calico dress. The dancing school is out and I do not suppose that there will be much more dancing this year. Eliza had a letter from Mary Hammel and she is going up there next week I guess. But looks like a rain storm.

Monday

This morning the air is pretty cool. Wind N. West. We that means Father & Myself went down across the Neck and got some wood and carried it to Holmes Hole. Brought home a load of seaweed in the afternoon. We pried out some stones and fussed around home. This evening there has been a gang of us to the Creek. We got three herrings. This morning we got about two dozen eels. I guess that we shall have hard work to get a half barrel. Esery was up last night and he talked a great deal about Sophonia. He wants to marry her very much indeed.

Tuesday Eve

This morning I went down to the creek to take out the pot and there was two herrings trying to get up the creek. We intend no to set the pot anymore and tonight and Mr. Vinson and Mr. Luce came up and made up their minds not to have them fish any more until they got the Seine. They expect it next Thursday and then we shall not have to fish with nets. I have been down to Aunt Margarets this evening and Esery has been up here.

Wednesday

This morning we got up and drove the cattle over to the field. We turned them out of the meadow because they grass begins to grow. I carted out dressing about all day. The wind has been North West about all day and blown pretty hard too. This evening we have been down to the shore and had a fire. We do not catch any herring and they do not intend to until the seine comes. There has been a whale sixty feet long inches up over to the south side. It had been stuck they supposed and died drifted ashore.

Thursday

This morning the wind blows quite hard. I went down and got Grandmother and brought here up home with me. In the forenoon we worked upon the well and this afternoon Father went down with a load of limbs. I stayed around home. Uncle Henry has been up here this afternoon fixing up the sides of the cart. Peter and Leanath have been up here this evening and Uncle Esery is here now. Eliakim has been over here this evening. About night it has clouded up and has rained some. This wind is N. West now. Today one duck has layed an egg.

Friday

This morning the weather is quite pleasant I and Aunt Angeline and Bab have been up to Chilmark. We had a fine time. I went to Mrs. Fian Greys and Bill Bafters went on Rams Hill and Sampsons Hill and all around. Had a notion of going to Mr. Sherest but did not. Got home at eight o'clock and when I came across the Dike the fish were running up the creek quite fast and I went and put the horse up and went down to the creek again and the Smith Boys had stopped them and were spearing them and killing them. My duck layed again to day 2.