

## Francis R. Pease 1891 Diary Wentworth, N.H.

Spelling and grammar are as Grampa wrote them – his penmanship is such that there are very few places where it is not clear what he is writing. I have made a few notes & comments in the text but they are mostly at the end. Also at the end is a list of the people mentioned in the text.

This is incomplete, covering most of April, May, and December, with a few days in several other months

A copy of this transcription has been given to the Wentworth and Orford Historical Societies, and various family members

[Transcribed by grandson Arthur Pease in 2014]

- 3\24 Sold a pair of oxen for \$100.00 Sawing wood  
3\25 Sawing wood and washing buckets [before hanging]  
3\26 Drawing wood for Uncle Francis [*likely Randall, his mother's brother*] all day  
3\27 Drawing wood for Uncle Francis taping in the afternoon  
3\28 Drew a load of potatoes to the Village [Wentworth] sugaring in the afternoon  
3\29 [Sunday] Went over and paid Eugene Downing  
3\30 In the sap place gathering and boiling  
3\31 Went to the Village in the forenoon and got some cans and pails [*likely for syrup and dry sugar*] gathering sap in the afternoon
- 4\1 Went over to father Sherburn's and got some hoops boiling sap  
4\2 The sap house burned last night Went to the Village and got heater fixed.  
4\3 Snows like the devil sold the old oxen to father for \$100 Went to the Mill [*Brown's Mill, at the foot of Lower Baker?*] and shod old buck [*horse named Buck?*]  
4\4 father and Ed [*Francis' brother Edwin*] went home today Went to the village  
4\5 [Sunday] at home all day Scott's folks was here today. [*Likely Scott and Maria Sherburn Johnson, who had a farm one or two farms east of the Mt. Cube Farm.*]  
4\6 Went and got a sap pan in the forenoon gathering sap in the afternoon  
4\7 gathering and boiling all day  
4\8 Saping all day  
4\9 Went to Warren and got some shoes for the kids and some sugar pails  
4\10 gathering and boiling like the devil  
4\11 rain gathered the sap place over in the morning boiling part of the day sugared off 2 times today  
4\12 [Sunday] Boiling sap and emptying buckets the grey cow calved today  
4\13 Went to the Village sent a can of syrup to horace chopping wood in the afternoon  
4\14 sawing wood at the house  
4\15 gathering sap and boiling  
4\16 sawing wood all day  
4\21 Sawing wood  
4\22 Sawing wood all day  
4\23 Went to the Village in the forenoon put the \_\_\_\_ harness on the colt in the afternoon  
4\24 picking up buckets  
4\25 Went to Gilman's auction stayed to father Sherburns [*there were Gilman's living along the road near Upper Baker Pond - Gilman's Corner on topo maps - and 'father Sherburn' lived about one-half mile up the hill on what is now the Pease farm.*]  
4\26 [Sunday] came home today  
4\27 fencing in the forenoon went to the Village in the afternoon Eugene [likely Downing] plowed  
4\28 fencing and drawing dung went over to uncle Chase's in the evening. [*Chase Pease, Samuel's brother, lived two farms west of the Sherburn\Pease farm, on the place now known as the Chase place. Stanley and Eleanor Perry Chase lived there for many years.*]  
4\29 father and Arthur [*Francis' brother Arthur*] came today helped Serenade Andy Chase tonight [*Probably a sort of bachelor party; an A. Chase lived one farm north of Sam Pease in in Wentworth in 1892.*]  
4\30 Arthur and I went fishing in bracket brook and went suckering [*Probably in the brook between Upper and Lower Baker Ponds, where suckers were plentiful*] in the evening.

5\1 didn't do much of anything went fishing in the evening  
 5\2 father went home today Went to the Village  
 5\3 [Sunday] reading all day  
 5\4 killed the colt today *[I'm not sure if this should be taken literally, as there is no mention of the colt being sick, but don't know what else it can mean.]*  
 5\9 plowed in the forenoon Went to the Village in the afternoon  
 5\10 [Sunday] at home all day let Charles Goodwin have 7 bushels of father's oats  
 5\11 Sowed 5 bushels of oats in the forenoon fencing in afternoon  
 5\12 not doing much in forenoon fencing in afternoon  
 5\13 Went to the Village in the forenoon fencing in afternoon  
 5\14 fencing  
 5\15 fencing with Barnard *[Barnard Randall, his father-in-law or uncle]*  
 5\16 rainy went down to the mill  
 5\17 [Sunday] Went to the mill a little while  
 5\18 Went to the Village with the cattle *[probably oxen, to haul the barrel of potatoes]* sent a barrel of potatoes to horace and some butter  
 5\19 fencing in the forenoon plowing in afternoon  
 5\20 plowing in forenoon went down and got Wall's *[perhaps Wallis Brown, someone John B. Chase writes about]* harrow  
 5\21 rainy harrowed a little  
 5\22 harrowing all day  
 5\23 planting taters  
 5\24 [Sunday] Went down to Walt's and got my hair cut  
 5\25 sowed grass seed and rolled the oats  
 5\26 planting taters  
 5\27 barnard helped me finish my potatoes today  
 5\28 Went down and helped barnard draw dung with the oxen the old mare had a colt today

On page starting with 5\31 are the following notes:

1892

the g\_\_t cow took bull Aug 6  
 the Johnson cow took Aug 3  
 the speckled cow took Aug 8  
 the black cow took Aug 10  
 lindy took the 14  
 the brown cow took the 20

*[The various cows came in heat and were bred on those days. He wanted to keep track so he would know around when to dry them off and to expect the calf.]*

On page starting 6\4-6\5 are the following notes:

Charles Bradbury milk

37	39	37	4.92
34	33	36	6.49
34	37	35	<u>2.60</u>
35	36	40	14.01
33	35	35	
30	35	40	
31	37	<u>37</u>	
29	37	[260]	
30	34		
28	46		
39	37		
28	41		
33	40		

41                    40  
[492]                   56  
                          36  
                          35  
                          [649]

*[Francis must have sold milk to Charles Bradbury, with these charges, probably based on weight. The 39 charges totaled \$14.01. I don't know over what time period this occurred.]*

7\12                    [Sunday] Ed went home today We went over to father Sherburn's  
7\13                    helped Barnard hoe *[probably potatoes]*  
7\14                    helped Barnard hoe in forenoon Went to the Village in afternoon  
7\15                    rainy doing a little of everything Went to the village in the evening sent some potatoes to Horace  
7\16                    haying went to the mill and got Walls hayrack  
7\17                    haying

8\5                    put the old mare to horse today [must mean had the mare bred]

9\5                    helped Rowell chop wood in the forenoon

10\12                   finished picking apples down to Walt's  
10\13-17               digging potatoes\paters  
10\18                   [Sunday] had a hell *[or hall]* full of company  
10\19                   Went to mill  
10\20                   rainy dug a few potatoes

11\3                    helped Barnard pick apples  
11\4                    doing little of everything  
11\5                    Went to Warren with a load of apples  
11\6                    Made cider today *[at home or at a mill in Warren?]*  
11\24                   Worked all day for Wall began work today for Brown  
11\25                    Worked all day  
11\26                    Went gunning and over to Scotts  
11\27-28,30            Worked all day

12\1-3                   Worked all day  
12\4                    Did not work rainy  
12\5                    Worked all day  
12\6                    Went over to \_\_\_\_\_ and to Uncle Chase's  
12\7                    In the woods half day went to Village in afternoon  
12\8-9                   Worked all day  
12\10                   Worked all day father and Lorenzo *[Francis' brother]* were up in the woods today  
12\11                   stayed at home and took care of the kids Mabel and Mother went to the funeral  
12\12                   at home today went to the Village in the evening got some oysters  
12\13                   [Sunday] home all day father and mother went from here today  
12\14                    Worked all day  
12\15                    Worked all day snowed like the devil  
12\16                    killed the hogs today  
12\17                    cut up the hogs and salted them they weighed 258 and 315 *[Cut up most or all of the meat and put in wooden casks or large crocks in a salt water brine. Seems as if they would also have 'tried out' the fat and made lard. I don't know if he smoked his own hams and bacon as Dad did.]*

12\18                    in the woods Arthur *[Francis' brother]* came down today  
12\19                    in the woods  
12\20                    [Sunday] Went over to uncle Moses *[Probably Moses Bean]* Mabel went over to Scott's Arthur went over to Walt's  
12\21                    in the woods all day  
12\22                    Went to the auction

12\23 Worked half a day  
 12\24 Worked all day  
 12\25 Went to the Village [no mention of Christmas, except that he didn't work. Ma said that they never celebrated Christmas at home when she was a kid.]  
 12\26 rainy got uncle Nelson's buck [goat?] lucy took buck today [Seems as if he would have written 'ram' if he was referring to sheep, so I think they had at least one female goat, who they bred.]  
 12\27 Went down to the mill a little while  
 12\28 Went to the woods got my axe  
 12\29 in the woods  
 12\30 Stormey went to the mill  
 12\31 in the woods

*In the 'Memoranda' section at the back of the diary:*

Worked for Brown's days 32 54 [=] 86 [total for the year?]

Nov 22	one bag of mixed feed	1.50	
Dec 16	2 lbs Roosin		.10
Dec 17	1 bu salt [to cure hog meat]		
Dec 30	tobacco	.10	
	nutmeg	.15	
	1 gr? cloves		
	1 gr? allspice		
Jan 4	10 Doz crackers	.50	
	tobacco	.10	
Jan 8	1 lb coffee		.30
Jan 19	bag meal [probably corn meal]	1.45	
Jan 29	one lb soda		
	10 Doz crackers	.50	
	5 gal kerosene	.90	
Feb 3	tobacco	.10	
	soap		.25
Feb 24	34 1\2 lbs beef	1.38	
Feb 29	mustard	.10	
	bbl flour	6.50	
Mar 1	1 bag meal		1.25
Mar 4	2 lbs soda		.16
Mar 5	1 pk onions		.25
Mar 16	1\2 bu beans		
Mar 20	24 lbs beef		.96
Mar 25	bought a pair of cattle of Browns for 65.00		
Dec 2	had of Blodgett 2 bags	1.50 ea	
Dec 25	4 bags	1.40 ea	

**People Mentioned:**

Blodgett [perhaps Webster Blodgett, brother of Harriet Blodgett Sherburn]  
 Charles Bradbury [apparently someone to whom Francis sold milk]  
 Wall [perhaps Wallis Brown]  
 Andy Chase  
 Eugene Downing  
 Gilman [likely living near Upper Baker Pond]  
 Charles Goodwin [perhaps father of Walter Goodwin, husband of Francis' sister Georgianna]  
 Walt [likely Goodwin, husband of Francis' sister Georgianna]

Scott [Johnson, husband of Mabel's sister Maria]  
Arthur [Pease, Francis' brother]  
Uncle Chase [Pease, Sam Pease's brother]  
Ed [Pease, Francis brother]  
Horace [Pease, Francis brother]  
Lorenzo [Pease, Francis' brother Ren]  
Barnard [likely Barnard Randall, a relative of his mother]  
Uncle Francis [likely Randall, his mother's brother]  
Rowell  
father Sherburn [Luther P. Sherburn, Francis' father-in-law]  
Uncle Moses [Bean, husband of Francis aunt Esther Randall Bean, his mother's sister]  
Uncle Nelson

### Notes\Questions:

- At this time, Francis' father and mother were living in Franconia, N.H., shown on the map as the first house in town on the road from Easton. This was just south of the farm owned by H. Whitney, whose daughter Mary married Joe Sherburn, Francis' wife Mabel's cousin. Their farm became known as Pinestead Farm and as of 2014, was still in the family [owned by Joe and Mary's grandson Robert Sherburn Jr. and operating as a guest lodge.] According to Franconia tax records, several of Francis's younger brothers were living in Franconia: Francis mentions visits of several days from two or three of them throughout the course of this year.
- 3\26 It seems as if Grampa Francis must have been named for his mother's brother, Francis Randall.
- There are several references to Barnard and there was a Barnard Randall who lived on Ellsworth Hill in Wentworth at this time – he is mentioned by John B. Chase in his 1892 Orford diary.
- 4\1 got hoops from father-in-law Luther Sherburn – wonder what they were for?
- 4\2 The sap house burned last night Went to the Village and got heater fixed.” Was it a kerosene heater that started the fire? He bought kerosene in late January of this year. I'm not sure why the sugarhouse would be heated with a kerosene heater though. I have no idea where this 'sap house' was, how close to the home it was. On the Pease farm in Orford, Grampa boiled outside in large kettles, while Dad built the sugarplace in 1929 – I understood that that was the first 'sugar house' on the farm.
- “4\4 father and Ed went home today” I'm certain exactly where Grampa Francis and Grammy Mabel lived until 1899. The best I can do, pieced together from oral history and written info, is the following:
  - \*Married 1887 Grampa worked for a year or so on the farm of E.B. Pike, the owner of the whetstone factory in Pike, N.H. Aunt Bertha was born in Pike in 1887.
  - \*By 1889, they were living in Wentworth, where Aunt Della [1889] and Aunt Edna [1892] were born. I think they were living on the Samuel Pease place, on Ellsworth Hill. Francis father and mother, Samuel and Sara Jane were living in Franconia by 1891, as there are several instances in this diary where he notes that his father and a brother [Ed, Arthur, or Lorenzo] and his mother came for what appeared to be a visit of 2-5 days. I wonder if Grampa and Grammy were living on the 'home place'. I knew this farm as 'Uncle Horace's place', the next youngest brother to Grampa. But, there are two instances in this diary of Grampa sending syrup or potatoes to Horace, apparently from Wentworth, likely by rail. So, Horace must have been elsewhere. Perhaps Horace took over the 'home place' when Grampa and Grammy moved to Orford to work for her father, Luther Sherburn. According to family stories, at some point Francis drove the stagecoach between the railroad and the Moosilauke Inn. This is likely when he was living in Wentworth, as when in Orford by April, 1899, he was running the farm and would not likely have had a steady job off the farm.
  - \*Aunt Gladys was born in Orford in 1895, so Grampa and Grammy must have moved to the present Pease farm. Luther Sherburn's second wife, Harriett Blodgett Sherburn, died in 1893 and Great-Grampa Sherburn apparently asked Grampa and Grammy to come there to live/work. There is family lore that Francis and Luther did not get along and by 1896, Francis and Mabel were living in Franconia, where Aunt Vernie was born.
  - \*Grampa worked for his father in Franconia or at least lived in Franconia and worked as a teamster hauling logs. He also worked for at least three other men in Franconia, including fifteen months beginning in January, 1898, when he worked for an Andrews driving a team of horses. It is unclear where they were living then: it doesn't seem from the Franconia diaries that they are in the same house as Sam Pease but perhaps they were or were renting close by. Francis never shows up as a property owner in Franconia.
  - \*Grampa and Grammy Pease moved back to the Pease farm in Orford in April of 1899, where Aunt Dorice was born in 1902 and Dad [Glenn] in 1906. Again, family lore has it that Great-Grampa Sherburn offered to leave the farm to Grammy Mabel if she and Francis would return, live and work on the farm, and take

care of him until his death. However, according to the deed from Luther Sherburn to Mabel Pease, March 25, 1899, she paid \$1,000. In any event, Grammy and Grampa were now in Orford, living and working on Sunset View Farm. Great – Grampa Luther Sherburn died there in 1911, Grampa Francis R. Pease died there in February of 1925, and Grammy Mabel C. Pease died there in July of 1956.

- “4\6 Went and got a sap pan in the forenoon” The ‘sap house’ had burned on 4\2 – I’m not sure how he got an arch built so quickly; maybe something temporary to finish the season.
- “11\24 Worked all day for Wall began work today for Brown” I think this is Wallis Brown and that Francis worked in the woods, based on a couple of references to being in the woods in subsequent days. He was also known as a teamster and worked extensively driving horses in the woods while they lived in Franconia in the late 1890s.
- I expect that Francis charged items at the store and paid at various times, with this being his record of what he bought. There are much more extensive lists in the 1897 & 1898 diaries when they were in Franconia. John B. Chase, in his 1892 diary, also often identifies when he paid a bill but not such info for Grampa.

Samuel and Sarah Jane Randall Pease and children c.1885 Wentworth, N.H.

*[I'm not certain of which three are Lorenzo, Arthur, and Edwin – this is my best guess.]*

*Back, L > R: Francis R., Horace B., Lorenzo B. [Ren],*

*Seated Middle, L > R: Georgianna S. [m. Walter Goodwin], John C., Arthur C., Samuel J., Sarah Jane*

*Seated Front L > R: Edwin S., Nellie M. [m. Frank Young]*



Wentworth, N.H. Looking Northeast from Pine Hill; note church steeple in center background. c.1909

