

Francis R. Pease Diary 1902 Orford, N.H.

Spelling and grammar are mostly 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 notes are mostly at the end. Also at the end is a list of the people mentioned in the text.

This is pretty complete, with only a few days without entries. There is a little data on days worked and cash ‘on an order of Crosby.’

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

[Transcribed by grandson Arthur Pease in 2014

- 1\1 getting out bobbin wood on the Baker lot Will Gilman will work for me
1\2 in the woods father is sick
1\3 in the woods I have the chores to do
1\4 cold got out two loads down to the Schoolhouse
1\5 [Sunday] at home all day Alby come over today
1\6 pleasant went up on the hill and got a load of bobbin wood and went to the Village
1\7 Went to the V with wood
1\8 pleasant went to the creamery in the forenoon went up on the hill and got a load of wood afternoon
1\9 pleasant went to the V with wood and got a load down to the schoolhouse
1\10 pleasant went one load had on 136 quarterly meeting over on the hill began today
1\11 pleasant went one load
1\12 [Sunday] at home all day
1\13 logging finished fathers wood today
1\14 pleasant went out and got a load of hay for Joe Kimball
1\15 drawing logs from the Baker lot
1\16 logging broke two tugs
1\17-18 logging
1\19 [Sunday] had my hair cut Uncle Moses and Aunt Esther and Ralph and Alice [*Ramsey*] were here today
1\20 pleasant went with wood Sam Sherburn come up today
1\21 drawing wood Sam went home today
1\22 rained all day sawed a little wood
1\23 pleasant sawed a little wood went over to Horace Clough’s and out in the woods where Fred Mack was yarding pine helped him get out a big one
1\24 pleasant went with the cream and up on the hill and got Charles Woods sled went up to Horace [Pease] and got dinner Sarah [Horace’s wife] is sick abed
1\25 pleasant yarding bobbing wood
1\26 [Sunday] at home all day Ed and Edith come out today
1\27 rained part of the day went to the Village with wood
1\28-29 cold went with wood
1\30 cold drawing wood
1\31 drawing wood tipped over down by Sherburns got home at 10 o’clock the roads are all ice. [*This could be by either of the places Luther Sherburn lived in Orford before buying the farm: Gilman’s Corner or off the Old County Road.*]
- 2\1 snows drawing wood
2\2 [Sunday] Warmer it snowed and blowed all day it lightens the weight
2\3 the wind blows and the snow flies sawed a little wood shoveled snow on the road afternoon
2\3 the wind blows and the snow flies sawed a little wood shoveled snow on the road afternoon
2\4 pleasant come a foot of snow went up and got a load of wood for the house sawed a little wood
2\5 cold went to the Village with wood
2\6 cold drawing wood
2\7 cold went with wood
2\8 stormey snows went with wood
2\9 [Sunday] the wind blows the roads are drifted helped break road a little while

- 2\10 pleasant sawed wood in the forenoon went up in the woods afternoon and loaded up
2\11 cold went to the Village with wood carried the cream went up in the woods afternoon and cut 2 trees
2\12 pleasant went with wood took Charles Gales sleigh up from the Village
2\13 rough went to the Village with wood
2\14 pleasant drew a load of wood for Uncle Henry Clarence Bean came out and went down with me
2\15 pleasant drawing wood
2\16 [Sunday] at home all day father and Bertha went out to Uncle Mose
2\17 Went with the wood this AM went up in the woods in the afternoon and chopped stormey in the PM
2\18 snowed and blowed like the devil went down to Dan's in the forenoon sawed a little wood afternoon
2\19 Winds breaking roads with horses in the forenoon George Clough come with his sawing machine and sawed up the small wood in the afternoon
2\20 pleasant sawed wood with drag saw
2\21 pleasant finished the wood pile this forenoon breaking road afternoon
2\22 pleasant drew a load of hay for Frank Goodell got my Phosphate had it of Horace got 800 lbs. went to W. Browns to a vister super [visitor supper] tonight
2\23 [Sunday] went with the cream
2\24 pleasant went with wood finished up today went out to Charles Beans in the evening
2\25 warm drawing bobing wood for C Bean from the Kenyon lot
2\26 Warm went to the Village with wood the roads are rather soft
2\27 Warm the road is soft spliting wood
2\28 Warm spliting wood it rains tonight
- 3\1 Warm helped out on the snow drifts in the forenoon Tibbets and Jonas [Learned] were hot today helped get them home they acted like the devil Mide Downing was here today
3\2 [Sunday] I has rained all day and last night the snow is most all gone
3\3 Warm went with the cream went with a wagon lots of damage done by water
3\4 Warm spliting wood By [Smith] helped Uncle Moses was here today
3\5 Warm spliting wood got it most done it snows like the devil tonight
3\6 pleasant went out to the Kenyon place and got a load of logs went up in the woods and got a load of wood in the afternoon
3\7 pleasant went to the Village with wood By went back today split a little wood
3\8 went up in the woods and got some wood and spruce finished spliting the wood pile
3\9 [Sunday] pleasant at home all day
3\10 pleasant went with bobin wood had on 107 ft Chase went down with a load hard sleding
3\11 pleasant went to town meeting took out a load of spruce to have sawed [@ Trussell's ?] snow most all gone brought Caleb Hoyt's trunks out to Cloughs today Joe Kimball died today
3\12 warm shoveled out the snow drift in the yard got out one load of manure it is to soft taped 75 trees after noon sap runs well
3\13 in the sugar place in forenoon went to the funeral afternoon sap runs well
3\14 in the sap place all day gathering and boiling Father has sold his pasture on the hill to Walt Brown they have gone out to henry's to do the writing
3\15 sugaring good sap day
3\16 gathering and boiling all day uncle Moses and aunt Esther were here today
3\17 gathering and boiling got cleaned up today Mose and Clarence came out and got fathers stove today
3\18 cold went to the Village got some grain went up to uncle Henrys in the evening
3\19 cold and stormey it snows not doing anything today
3\21 pleasant sugaring
3\22 pleasant sugaring boiled all night last night
3\23 [Sunday] sugaring all day
3\24 pleasant sugaring
3\25 pleasant went up on the hill and got some birch tops for wood in the forenoon sugaring afternoon
3\26 pleasant sugaring
3\27 pleasant went to the Village went up over the hill got dinner at uncle Francis [Randall]
3\28 pleasant sugaring got cleaned up Ed and Edith were here today
3\29 raining like the devil sugared off
3\30 [Sunday] pleasant went out to uncle Moses Edna went with me lots of mud
3\31 stormey didn't do much today Ed was here to dinner cairred Will Gilmans saw home afternoon
- 4\1 went to the Village got some grain
4\2 got Woods sleds home this forenoon cuting wood afternoon

4\3 boiling sap
4\4 pleasant taped some new trees sap runs well went over the hill to Horaces afternoon
4\5 gathering and boiling sap got a pail full of syrup
4\6 [Sunday] went with the cream
4\7 boiling sap picked up my buckets and kettles and got them home
4\8 Wash the buckets and fix the road back of the barn forenoon picking stone on the potato piece afternoon
4\9 picking stone in the forenoon rainy afternoon
4\10 snowed most all day not doing much
4\11 Went to the Village got a bbl of flour went up to uncle Henrys in the evening
4\12 Went up on the hill and cut a little wood in the forenoon picked up some potatoes afternoon
4\13 [Sunday] at home all day picked up some potatoes went down to Hareys [Harry] and got my hair cut
4\14 cold drawed a load of potatoes to Wentworth had 56 bu got 72 cents [a bushel, I hope!]
4\15 cut wood in the forenoon diging stone afternoon John come tonight
4\16 Went and carried John to the Depot he has gone to Walts [Goodwin?] set a hen drawing off stone went over to Gales in the evening got a suit of clothes
4\17 cut 4 apple trees in the orchard and got off some stone in the forenoon went down and got John and went to Warren[s]
4\18 rainy in the forenoon cut up the apple trees and plowed a little John went out to Eds tonight gales folks come over this evening
4\19 didn't do much today went fishing got 23
4\20 [Sunday] at home all day By Smith and uncle Moses and aunt Esther were here today
4\21 geting off stone
4\22 went to the Village and got some grain went to Moses Auction bought a iron bar
4\23 got off some stone and plowed the corn ground had quite a thunder shower
4\24 went up on the hill and split some stakes and drawed them down set a bar post and fixed a little fence
4\25 worked for Gardner Sherburn drawing manure and plowing and harrowing
4\26 rained most all day Mabel sick tonight got another 9 lb girl [Dorice] Mrs Gale is going to spend the night
4\27 [Sunday] at home all day everybody came to see the kid [*These two entries tickle me. After 5 girls, Grampa must have been hoping for a boy but "got another 9 lb girl". I wish I had his 1906 diary when Dad was born!*]
4\28 drawed a load of potatoes got 75 [cents a bushel?]
4\29 fencing father and I went to Plymouth and back today By Smith come tonight
4\30 rained all afternoon sawed a little wood

5\1 helped Chester fence turned [out] the cattle today
5\2 plowed for Will Gilman Ed and Clare come out and fixed fence
5\3 Clare came out with his cattle I turned 3 up on the hill with them went to the Village afternoon Henry went with me set a hen
5\4 [Sunday] at home all day Warren & Edith called [] they went home Milton Blodgett and Aunt Hannah called By went fishing
5\5 not doing much in the forenoon plowed for Gale in the afternoon went suckering got 3 By went fishing
5\6 finished plowing for Gale and got a load of wood in the forenoon uncle Chase come down and grafted afternoon I helped him By went fishing
5\7 rainy By and I went fishing over to the north brook didn't get many
5\8 fencing in the forenoon drawing manure afternoon By helped
5\9 cold drawing shit [The cold must have made him cranky: not 'manure' but 'shit'!]
5\10 cold snowed last night didn't do much in the forenoon fencing afternoon went to the Village and got Ren [*from the train, I'd expect*] went fishing got 3 tonight
5\11 [Sunday] Ren and I went over on the hill [*to the former Sam Pease place, owned by Horace?*] fishing got 75
5\12 went to the Village with potatoes have sold 125 bu for 75 [cents] By went away today
5\13-14 drawing dung [feeling better – more polite;-)]
5\15 killed the pigs father came today Chester and I went fishing didn't get any
5\16 cut up the pigs in the forenoon drawing dung after noon father went home today
5\17 harrowing for Will Gilman
5\18 [Sunday] at home all day uncle Mose and aunt Esther were here today
5\19 plowing up in the back field Will Gilman worked for me spreading shit
5\20 spreading manure and plowing
5\21 plowing and harrowing
5\22 harrowing and getting off stone in the forenoon went out to Eds and got 5 bu of potatoes afternoon

5\23 plowing
5\24 plowing in the forenoon finished breaking up went to the Village and got some grain afternoon
5\25 [Sunday] Clarence Bean and Ralph Ramsy were here today Horace and Sarah were [here] this evening
5\26 rainy helped wash and fixed fence
5\30 went to the Village got some grain and feed John and his girl came today got a bbl of flower
5\31 John and I went fishing got 8 harrowed afternoon

6\1 [Sunday] at home Ed's folks and Mose and aunt Esther were here today John went home today
6\2 hot went down and plowed and harrowed for Will Gilman
6\3 harrowing all day
6\4 harrowing sowed a piece of hungarian [*wheat*] got the corn ground ready Horace planted Chases today
6\5 Plowing in the AM Horace planted my corn in the PM [*sounds as if Horace had a corn planter*]
6\6 Harrowing in the AM Will Gilman helped me plant planted 10 bu. potatoes in the PM
6\7 plowing and harrowing in the AM rained all afternoon went fishing got 19
6\8 [Sunday] rained most all day cold tonight
6\9 sowed a piece of hungarian
6\10 Went over and plowed for Horace
6\11 diging ditch
6\12 work on the ditch drawing stone and laying them
6\13 rainy
6\14 harrowing for Will Gilman in the forenoon drawing stone for the ditch afternoon shot a crow
6\15 [Sunday] at home all day
6\16 went to the Village got the horses shod rained like the devil
6\17 Chester and I went out and got our logs sawed uncle Hayes [Hazen?] and aunt Nell come out today
6\18 worked on the road with the horses geting out stone
6\19 stoneing the ditch
6\20 went with the cream drawing stone afternoon
6\21 uncle Chase helped me on the ditch 2 hours it rain the rest of the day went fishing got 7 nice ones
6\22 [Sunday] Mabel and I went to uncle Moses afternoon
6\23 Went to Farlie and got Warren Chase's goods [from the train depot]
6\24 uncle Chase come down and finished the ditch in the forenoon covering the ditch afternoon
6\25 finished covering the ditch and plowing
6\26 helped Chase hoe potatoes
6\27 rainy in the AM harrowing where the hens scratched up the corn in the PM
6\28 Went to the Village and got 16 bbl of ashes Harry Saunders went with me
6\29 [Sunday] went over to Horaces in the evening
6\30 Horace come over and planted some corn and beans in the AM sowed some indian wheat and some ashes
afternoon

7\1 finished my nigger wheat
7\2 hoeing corn Warren [Chase] helped me Mariah [*Maria*] and her kids come tonight
7\3 rainy cultivated the potatoes
7\4 worked in the garden
7\5 Went out to Eds and got 2 pigs
7\6 [Sunday] at home all day had of a hell full of company By Smith come by today
7\7 hoed my potatoes and beans in the forenoon By and Warren and John Chase helped By and I went fishing
afternoon
7\8 went to the Village with the cream
7\14 haying
7\15 mowed a little by hand
7\16 went to the Village got a bbl of flour
7\17 mowing by hand
7\18 haying
7\19 doing a little of everything
7\20 [Sunday] rainy went with the cream the old mare is lame
7\21 rainy Eds folks come out today they brought Bertha home Ed and I went fishing
7\22 mowing a little John Chase come up and shod the horses hind feet
7\23 haying a little poor weather
7\24 haying a little the black heifer calved today
7\25 trying to hay

7\26 got in 3 loads of hay the lined backed heifer calved today
7\27 [Sunday] went down to Warrens [Chase] a little while got in a load of hay lots of callers today
7\28 good hay day mowed the Orchard Moses and Esther come out tonight
7\29 haying
7\30 went with the cream got in too loads of hay
7\31 haying

8\1 no hay weather
8\2 not doing much went down and got Johny Chase to shoe my horses
8\3 [Sunday] at home all day got in a little load of hay
8\4-5 haying
8\6 no hay weather went out to uncle Moses got 4 qts of raspberrys
8\7 finished mowing the 4 acre field rained afternoon
8\8 rainy not doing much
8\9 went with the cream got in 4 loads of hay afternoon the jersey heifer calved today
8\10 [Sunday] at home all day
8\11 rainy mowed a little
8\12 Went to the Village and got Orins folks got in 2 loads of hay By Smith come by today
8\13 haying By went away today
8\14 haying
8\15 haying didn't get in any didn't get dry
8\16 finished haying Orins folks went home today Mabel carried them to the Village
8\17 [Sunday] went with the cream the Wall Brown cow calved last night
8\18 haying on the College lot sold 2 calves 3 weeks old got 12.00
8\19 not much hay weather not doing much Mose and Esther were here today Mose went to the Village
8\20 haying got in 2 loads Bertha backed the old mare into the cellar rake and all
8\21 rainy mowed a piece with the machine
8\22 haying not very good weather got in one load
8\23 rainy got a load of wood
8\24 [Sunday] Mabel and I went out to uncle Moses raked up 2 loads of hay when I got home
8\25 mowing by hand got in 2 loads rainy afternoon father and Charles come today
8\26 haying in the forenoon rainy afternoon father went bee hunting
8\27 went bee hunting in the forenoon got in 2 loads of hay afternoon father went out to Eds today
8\28 haying got 2 loads
8\29 went with the cream got me a pair of shoes
8\30 cut a small load of hay helped Chase after 2 o'clock with my horses
8\31 [Sunday] at home all day

9\1 haying finished today father sold his cows today
9\2 went to the Village got a bbl of flour went out to Moses afternoon
9\3 mowed some kale and india wheat in the forenoon went down and drawed wood for Sherburn afternoon
father Sherburn went to Woodsvill today
9\4 doing a little of everything got some shoes set on the horses drove the lineback heifer
9\5 doing little of everything Harry Saunders baby died last night
9\6 helped uncle Henry get in Oats got in 8 loads after 10 O'clock Harry had the team to go to the Village
9\7 [Sunday] quite a frost last night Harrys baby was buried today
9\8 Went to the Village with the cream mowed a piece of hungarian for Will Gilman and a piece for myself
9\9 Went out where Ed was stilling Oil [spruce oil]
9\10 mowing india wheat cuting up corn
9\11 mowing india wheat and cuting corn got in a load of hungarian went down to Dans in the evening mowed a
piece of hungarian
9\12 cuting corn
9\13 rainy
9\14 [Sunday] Mabel and I went out to Eds
9\15 cuting india wheat finished the corn worked on the hungarian
9\16 finished the india wheat and got in the hungarian John and his girl [friend?] come tonight By Smith come
tonight
9\17 Went to the fair at Plymouth Bertha and Della John and Nellie went
9\18 Went to the Creamery diging potatoes after noon John went to uncle Moses tonight
9\19 rainy By and I went to the pond fishing

9\20 sawed a little wood and stocked down a piece to grass
9\21 [Sunday] went up on the hill and saw the cattle
9\22 Went out and trimed Browse for Ed
9\23-24 diging potatoes
9\25 went out and trimed browse
9\26 rainy went over to Horaces and got 2 pigs
9\27 rainy pilled a few beans Arthur Downing was here to dinner
9\28 [Sunday] went with the cream
9\29 Went out and trimed browse Warren Chase is helping me We worked 2 hours and came home it rained
9\30 triming browse

10\1 triming browse in the forenoon it rained afternoon
10\2 triming browse Warren didn't come today uncle Moses helped me trimed spruce
10\3 triming browse Warren helped father came tonight
10\4 helped Mose get in Oats father went out to Moses
10\5 [Sunday] at home all day Mose and Esther were here today
10\6 doing little of everything sawed wood picked apples put some potatoes down cellar
10\7 triming browse father went out and helped Mose dig potatoes
10\8-9 triming browse
10\11 picked apples on the Meb\Web ? place got 35 bu
10\12 [Sunday] went to the funeral Mary Simpson was buried today
10\13 Went out to Charles Beans got a load of wood picked apples afternoon
10\14 went with the cream picked apples afternoon
10\15 Went with wood Mabel went to Woodsvill today father carried her to the Village
10\16 Went out to Charles Beans and got a load of wood picked apples afternoon
10\17 went to the Village with wood got in some beans picked a few apples father and I went to Thetford today
10\18 cold had a hard freeze picked a few apples and cleaned out the cider barrels thrashed 2 bu of beans
10\19 [Sunday] at home all day picked a few apples it is warm had a heavy thunder storm tonight it hailed
10\20-22 drawing wood
10\23 went to the creamery pulled the beets
10\24 Went down to the Mill and helped blast out the ledges in the road
10\25 went to Warren[s] and made cider
10\26 [Sunday] Uncle Sam Sherburn and Elie [?] were here to dinner
10\27 rainy went out and got a load of wood put the cider down cellar sold 7 chickens got 2.70
10\28 it rained hard all last night and all day today
10\29 Went with wood it snowed quite a lot today
10\30 Went with wood

11\1 doing little of everything in the forenoon picking apples afternoon
11\2 [Sunday] Mabel and John come today went up on the hill and got the cattle in the pasture
11\3 John went home today pulling apple trees
11\4 [Tuesday] went to town meeting
11\5 killed the black pig Chase helped went up and helped Chase get out shit the rest of the day
11\6 rainy doing nothing
11\7 triming browse
11\8 Went with the cream
11\9 [Sunday] Went to meeting
11\10 triming browse
11\11 triming browse father come tonight
11\12 rainy doing nothing father went out to uncle Moses tonight
11\18 made cider sent a barrel to father
11\19 boiling cider and putting it down cellar
11\20 triming browse
11\21 went hunting in the forenoon went to the Village afternoon Mr. Waakfield was here to dinner and By Smith
11\22 [Sunday] went hunting shot a rabbit
11\23 trimming browse
11\24 cuting up apple trees and burning brush
11\25 plowing for Charles Gale
11\26 it snows today finished plowing for Charlie in the afternoon

11\27 not doing anything went hunting a little while
 11\28 went to the Village got some grain Chester shot a deer today
 11\29 cutting wood
 11\30 went down to Harrys and got my hair cut

 12\1,4 cutting wood
 12\5 snows like the devil cutting wood in the forenoon
 12\6 getting up wood
 12\7 [Sunday] at home all day
 12\8 stormy go the sleds ready to draw wood Ren come tonight
 12\9 cold didn't do anything it is 18 below zero
 12\10 cold and stormy went to Village with wood for Harry Saunders Ren went back today
[Last entry for 1902]

At the end of the diary are several 'Memoranda' pages with information on them. The numbers in a sort of long division format are indeed division. 128 being the number of cubic feet in a cord, he is determining how many cords of wood he has drawn: for example below, 2796 divided by 128 = 21, with 108 remainder.

Memoranda #1 Wood for father [about 5.5 cords]

30 ft
 77
 110
 97
 136
 141
182
 693

Memoranda #2 Wood from the Baker lot

117	99	128] 617 [4
135	104	<u>862</u>
115	114	65
122	110	
137	93	
140	111	1580
142	126	<u>1122</u>
125	117	128] 2702 [21
134	121	<u>256</u>
152	<u>127</u>	142
130	1122	<u>128</u>
<u>131</u>		14
1580		

Memoranda #3 [This may be pay for the bobbin wood he hauled to Wentworth]

Jan had an order for 5.00
of Crosby

Jan	29	5.00
Feb	1	1.40
	5	5.00
	13	5.00
	25	5.00
Mar	7	5.00
	18	5.00
Apr	1	6.00
	22	6.00

May 3 Cash 50.00
98.40

Memoranda #4 [Likely work for the town]

breaking roads
self and horses hours

Feb 19 3
21 3 1\2
24 3

Mar 1 self 2 1\2

Feb 25 drawing wood for Charles Bean

92 ft
121
72
107

Memoranda #5 [Must be trimming browse]
work for Ed

days 6 1\4

Oct 7 had 10.00 [for the work]

People Mentioned:

Charles Bean

Clare [likely short for Clarence – could be Bean, Blodgett, or Pease]

Clarence\Bean [son of Moses & Esther Randall Bean]

Uncle Moses, Aunt Esther, Ralph, Alice [Moses & Esther are Beans but Ralph & Alice are not their children]

Clarence Blodgett [son of Webster & Dilla Blodgett, brother of Mabel's step-mother Harriet.]

Milton Blodgett & Aunt Hannah [must be related to Mabel's step-mother Harriet.]

W.\Walt Brown [likely connected to the people who owned the sawmill at the outlet of Lower Baker Pond]

John W. Chase [neighbor just down the hill toward Upper Baker Pond, brother of Warren]

Warren [Chase – neighbor who had blacksmith shop and cider mill, down the hill toward Upper Baker; father of Rufus, who worked for Dad for many years in the 30s and 40s]

George Clough

Horace Clough [at head of Upper Baker Pond, now owned by Thorndyke family]

Arthur Downing

Mide [?] Downing

Charles Gale [owned next farm west of Sherburn\Pease farm]

Frank Goodell

Caleb Hoyt [a Hoyt lived on the Pond Road in 1892]

Mariah [Maria Johnson, Mabel's sister]

Joe Kimball [there is a J.H. Kimball about half a mile west of the farm in 1892]

Jonas [likely Learned, as there was a Learned family nearby]

Fred Mack [husband of Mabel Ramsey Mack, niece of Mabel Pease]

Bertha [Pease, Francis' daughter]

Charles [Pease, Francis' youngest brother; the only one I knew]

Chester [Pease, Francis' cousin, son of his uncle Chase Pease]

Ed & Edith [Pease, Francis's brother & wife, operated store in Orfordville]

Edna [Pease, Francis' daughter]

Uncle Henry [Pease, Francis's uncle, lived three farms west of Sherburn\Pease farm, on the place owned by Joe

Kimball in 1892. Kimball was Mary Gale's father and lived with her before his death in 1902. I expect that

Henry bought the farm we knew as the 'Gould place', now owned by Peter Thomson, sometime around 1900.]

Horace & Sarah [Pease, Francis' brother & wife, lived on Sam Pease farm in Wentworth]

John [Pease, Francis' brother]

uncle Hayes and aunt Nell [Must be Hazen & Ellen Blodgett Pebbles, sister of Mabel's step-mother Harriet. They lived on Dame Hill, so 'come out' is the term Francis would have used.]

Ralph Ramsy [Ramsey – perhaps a son of James & Nettie Ramsey, Mabel's sister. It would explain where Ralph Mack's name came from, his mother Mabel Ramsey Mack's brother.]

uncle Francis [Randall, must be Grampa's namesake, his mother's brother]

Harry Saunders [lived roughly where the school was built in 1903]

Orin [Sherburn, Mabel's brother]

Sam Sherburn and Elie [?] [Luther's brother, living in Plymouth by 1897]

Dan [Simpson, lived at foot of hill, on Pond Road; husband of Martha Blodgett, Mabel's step-aunt]

Mary Simpson

By Smith

Mr. Waakfield [Wakefield? perhaps a minister, since he was called 'Mr.']

Charles Wood[s] [lived north of Upper Baker Pond, on Savage\Saia\D. Bischoff place

Alby [? Francis also writes of Alby while in Franconia]

Nellie [perhaps John's girlfriend]

Tibbets [neighbor]

Notes\Questions:

- 1\1 getting out bobbin wood on the Baker lot Will Gilman will work for me' I'm not sure where this is but he writes of drawing wood 'down to the Schoolhouse', so I think it may be southeast of the farm, on the hill above Lower Baker Pond. In 1902, the schoolhouse was on the south side of the road\brook, just east of the bridge on the Baker Pond Road [Rt. 25-A].
- 1\6 went to the Village' The village is Wentworth, 5 miles away, on the railroad line. Orfordville was 7 miles away and Francis rarely went there. He does go to his brother Eds at times. Ed ran the Orfordville store in 1904-05 and must have been living somewhere west of the farm in 1902 but I don't know where.
- 1\8 pleasant went to the creamery in the forenoon' He must have had enough milking cows to make surplus cream, as he writes about going to the creamery quite a few times and says he is taking cream. I think he is going to Wentworth with it.
- 1\10 pleasant went one load had on 136' This is a measure of the amount of wood but I don't know if it is in board feet or some thing else. I expect it is a large amount, as it is one of the only times he mentions an amount.
- 1\16 logging broke two tugs' Tugs are the straps on either side of a harness that hitch to a whiffletree and allow the horse to pull a load.
- 1\31 drawing wood tipped over down by Sherburns got home at 10 o'clock the roads are all ice.' This entry confuses me. If he is on the way to Wentworth, he would not have gone by Luther Sherburn's old place on the Orford-Wentworth border. Perhaps he means coming out of the woods from up on the hill behind the farm, when he might be following the old road that went by the former Sherburn place.
- 2\3 shoveled snow on the road afternoon' The road work was coordinated by Highway Supervisors for districts of the town, who hired men to do the needed work. In winter, that meant shoveling drifts. I expect that the road from right in front of the farm down to the bridge always needed to be shoveled, as it used to drift full at times. When I was a kid, the state always put snow fence almost from out lower driveway east to Charlie Ladd's place, to keep the drifting snow out of the road.
- 2\4 went up and got a load of wood for the house sawed a little wood' Apparently Francis' didn't get wood for heating the year before, as this is the first of several references which make it seem that he is drawing and sawing wood for use in the house that season.
- 2\12 took Charles Gales sleigh up from the Village' I think he put the sleigh on his sled and brought it back to Charles Gale, who owned the next farm west of the Sherburn\Pease farm.
- 3\12 got out one load of manure it is to soft' He must mean that the ground is too soft to haul manure on the fields in the dump cart
- 3\29 sugared off' Perhaps he means had sugar on snow.
- 4\12 picked up some potatoes afternoon 4\13 picked up some potatoes 4\14 drew a load of potatoes to Wentworth had 56 bu got 72 cents' I think he means picked over and got ready to sell. He must have taken them in bulk to sell [perhaps at Davis' store]. Seems as if he must mean he got 72 cents a bushel.
- 4\17 cut 4 apple trees in the orchard' He likely means what we called the orchard behind where the tool shed is now. There was only one apple tree there when I was a kid but apparently there had been more at one time.
- 4\24 set a bar post and fixed a little fence' Must mean a post for a barway in some fence line.
- 4\26 Mabel sick tonight got another 9 lb girl [Dorice] Mrs Gale is going to spend the night 4\27

everybody came to see the kid' Not a whole lot of sentiment on the birth of a sixth daughter;-). With a hill farm and need for labor, I'm sure he was looking for a son. He finally got one four years later when Dad was born on his mother's birthday.

•5\1 helped Chester fence turned [out] the cattle today' Apparently has done enough fencing to put the young cattle and dry cows out in at least one piece of pasture.

•5\2 plowed for Will Gilman' There were two Gilman's in the neighborhood in 1892, one just east of the Mt. Cube House and one at the corner of Pond Road and Baker Pond Road [RT. 25-A], in the house which is now the Camp Moosilauke infirmary. I expect his plowing was for this one but don't know. He may have plowed and harrowed on land which was soon to be Camp Moosilauke. Later, he used the term 'went down and plowed, so this supports my theory that it is the Gilman near Upper Baker Pond.

•5\2 Ed and Clare come out and fixed fence 5\3 Clare came out with his cattle I turned 3 up on the hill with them.' By using the term 'come out' and since Ed was living in Orfordville [I think], this may well be Clarence Blodgett, Mabel's nephew. Furthermore, 'up on the hill' is likely the 'Blodgett place', up the hill south of the farm, where Clarences's father Webster P. lived before moving to Dame Hill.

•5\6 uncle Chase come down and grafted afternoon' Ironically, Chase Pease died in 1915 after a fall from an apple tree he was grafting.

•5\7 By and I went fishing over to the north brook' Roland Bixby, in The Hills The Hills Are Home, identifies North Brook as flowing into Upper Baker Pond.

•5\15 father came today 5\16 father went home today' Seems as if Sam Pease may still be living in Franconia, according to this context and info from Barbara Holt in Franconia

•5\19 Will Gilman worked for me spreading shit' Francis didn't have a manure spreader, so he would shovel shit into the dump cart, carry it to the field and dump it around the field. Then, it would have to be spread by hand. Too bad I missed that chore!

•5\30 John and his girl came today' Perhaps his future wife, Florence Edgerley

•6\4 sowed a piece of hungarian' This and the 'Nigger' which Francis mentions later may have been varieties of soft red winter wheat, often planted in New England. However, winter wheat is planted in the fall and harvested in the spring, so I'm not sure. Dad also spoke of planting 'Ingy' or 'India' wheat, which is a variety of buckwheat. Wheat would have been a marginal crop here but there was a grist mill in Orford and perhaps in Wentworth where he could have taken it to be ground into flour.

•6\5 Horace planted my corn in the PM' Sounds as if Horace had a corn planter, which he used to plant for others in the area

•6\11 diging ditch' Over the next two weeks or so, Francis writes several times about building a ditch. I can't be sure if he is talking about on the farm, for drainage [it is stone-lined and covered] or on the road which goes by the farm.

•6\27 harrowing where the hens scratched up the corn 6\30 Horace come over and planted some corn and beans' Perhaps replanted where the hens had scratched out the corn. I bet Grampa felt like shooting a hen or two, as he had the crow!

•6\28 Went to the Village and got 16 bbl of ashes 6\30 sowed some indian wheat and some ashes afternoon' I think he used the ashes as fertilizer but I'm not sure where it came from – and 16 wooden barrels seems like quite an amount.

•8\12 Went to the Village and got Orins folks 8\16 Orins folks went home today Mabel carried them to the Village' Orin Sherburn was Mabel's brother. I don't know where they were living but apparently came on the train to Wentworth for a visit of a few days.

•8\18 haying on the College lot sold 2 calves 3 weeks old got 12.00' We called the lot south, up hill from the sugarplace, the College lot but I'm not sure if this is the same one. Four calves were born within 3 weeks. I expect he sold the steers and kept the heifers to build up the herd but am not sure.

•8\20 Bertha backed the old mare into the cellar rake and all' Bertha, his oldest daughter was 15 and may have driven the dump rake with one horse. It sounds as if she had an accident, as there was no way to back anything into the cellar.

•8\21 mowed a piece with the machine' Apparently Francis had a horse-drawn mowing machine. I have a photo of him mowing around 1920.

•8\26 father went bee hunting' Several times in 1897-98, when he was living in Franconia, Francis writes of going bee hunting with his father or others. They were hunting for the wild hives to harvest the honey

•9\4 drove the lineback heifer' I can't figure what he means here, unless that he had her bred; she had calved about 6 weeks previously.

•9\20 stocked down a piece to grass' Seems as if he must mean seeded but I'm not sure.

•9\21 [Sunday] went up on the hill and saw the cattle' He may have had cattle pastured on the hill south of the farm, I think on the former Webster Blodgett place. He would have gone up to check on them every once in a while.

•9\9 Went out where Ed was stilling Oil [spruce oil] Francis' brother Ed had a spruce oil still in Orfordville and later on the hill south of the farm. Francis worked for Ed for a few days this fall, cutting the branches off the spruce

trees to put in the vat to make spruce oil. See the 1903 diary for more discussion of the process of making spruce oil.

- '9\27 pulled a few beans' This would be mostly beans to be used for baking. They were pulled and stacked in the field, then when dry taken to the barn and threshed. See 10\18
- '10\15 Mabel went to Woodsvill today father carried her to the Village' She must have gone on the train. I wonder if Scott & Maria Johnson were living in Woodsville.
- '10\17 father and I went to Thetford today' At around this time, some of the Randall's were living in the Thetford area; I wonder if they went to see relatives of Francis' mother there. In the 1950s, Oliver Randall, a relative, lived in Union Village, a village in Thetford.
- '10\24 Went down to the Mill and helped blast out the ledges in the road' I think he means near Brown's Mill, at the outlet of Lower Baker Pond.
- '10\25 went to Warren and made cider' I think he may mean to Warren Chase's, as he had a cider mill. Going to Warren, 8-9 miles, seems quite a ways. In any event, Francis spent 6-8 half-days picking apples, so could have gotten several barrels of cider. When I was a kid in the late 50s\early 60s, Dad put up three barrels of hard cider each year. We picked many of the apples from the fence lines along the fields. Just as I got about old enough to enjoy the cider, Dad stopped making it. He said that he got to liking it too much but I wonder if he was thinking about my tastes as well? ;-)
- '10\27 put the cider down cellar' Gerald says that in the old house [pre-1957 fire], there was not cellar under the kitchen and the cider barrels were stored under the cellar stairs, end to the wall next to the kitchen. After the fire, with a cellar under the kitchen, the cider was stored on the south side of this part of the cellar. A cider story from Gerald: Warren Chase sometimes bought a gallon of cider at a time from Dad. Warren would bring a glass jug w\o a cap. He would fill the jug, then take a small potato from the bin in the northeast corner of the cellar and whittle a stopper.
- '11\4 [Tuesday] went to town meeting' He went to town meeting on the second Tuesday in March, so I think this was just to vote in the state and national elections, as 1902 was a year to elect senators and congressmen.
- '11\18 made cider sent a barrel to father' More confusion as to where Sam Pease is living. The Franconia records seem to indicate that he is still living there but it seems a long way to send a barrel of cider. On the other hand, father [Sam] visits enough overnight to make it seem that he is not living in the area.
- '11\19 boiling cider and putting it down cellar' I have a photo of someone boiling something in kettles outside: I am not sure if it is Grampa Francis or Grampa George Howard and if in Orford or Wentworth. They made boiled cider on the farm and I remember Ma making fried pie [essentially a plate-size doughnut w\o a hole] and eating it with either spiced applesauce or boiled cider sauce [much darker in color.]
- '11\25 plowing for Charles Gale 11\26 finished plowing for Charlie in the afternoon' This is the only instance of fall plowing that he writes about

The Common at Wentworth, around the time Francis is going to 'the Village'. This is looking east toward the Congregational Church. There was a major fire here but I'm not sure when or what buildings it destroyed.



This is John Davis' store in Wentworth, which I think was built after the fire.



This must be about as the station looked when Francis was picking up passengers here and leaving freight. The depot building at the right has been relocated across from the Town Hall and houses the Historical Society.



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This is a family photo labeled "Pa making boiled cider" I am not sure if it is Francis or Theda's father George Howard. In any event, one can see how the cider was boiled down in kettles.



Francis Pease is mowing with Jack and John, with Mt. Cube in the background, c.1920. I don't know if this is the same machine that Glenn used right up through the 1960s but it is certainly very similar.



This must be very similar to Francis Pease's potato pieces, perhaps on the same field. Both Grampa and Dad raised potatoes for family consumption and for sale. I think this is the first field beyond the orchard, on the right.



1946 Gloria Pease