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HIS DIARY

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Amos Seaman — 1788-1864



Mrs. Amos Seaman

“THE OLD KING IS BACK”: AMOS “KING” SEAMAN AND HIS DIARY

by

BRUCE FERGUSON

Amos Peck Seaman was born in 1788 and died in 1864. His life was extraordinary in several ways, but its interest for the inquirer of today depends mainly upon two considerations — the light which his career throws upon the spirit of his age and the factors of heredity, environment, and personality which moulded his development and made him what he was. To his descendants he may be a real as well a legendary figure; to many of the residents of Minudie and its surrounding area at least some of his characteristics are remembered; but, strange to say, perhaps, for other persons farther from his former home, his name and his achievements are hardly known.

His parents were Welsh in origin. His father, Nathan Seaman, who had been born in Swansea, Wales, on May 14, 1742, crossed the Atlantic to America and on August 27, 1769 married Zena (Zeniah) Thomas, whose great-great-grandfather had migrated from Wales to America in the seventeenth century. For a considerable time the Thomas family lived in Rhode Island, and Zena Thomas's parents, John Thomas and Elizabeth Peck were married in Providence. Afterwards they lived in Eden, Maine, where John Thomas was a sea captain and a cooper.

It has sometimes been erroneously stated that Amos Seaman's father was a Loyalist. In fact, however, Amos's father and mother were both in the New England emigration to Nova Scotia before the American Revolution and they settled with their parents in the Township of Sackville, now in New Brunswick, as early as 1764. The names of John Thomas and Nathan "Seamans" appear in a list of the people on the spot in Sackville on February 18, 1765. In the land grants for the Township of Sackville in 1768 and 1773, however, the name of Amos Seaman's father appears as Nathan "Simmons" or "Seamans," and in the return of the Township of Sackville on January 1, 1770 it is recorded as "Nathan Simmons."

According to the Township Book, Nathan Seaman and Zena or Zeniah Thomas were married in Sackville on August 27, 1769. (It may be noted, however, that in the genealogical chart entitled "Descendants of John Thomas, Who Removed from Wales, G.B. to America," their year of marriage is given as 1767). They had eleven children, six sons and five daughters. Their first child, Nicholas, was born on June 5, 1770, and their eleventh child Gilbert, was born on August 30, 1794.

One of the descendants of Nathan Seaman and Zena Thomas described him as a religious dreamer and her as a very lively, witty woman. He was evidently a dissenting preacher, whereas she was of the Church of England. She was so fond of her husband, it has been said, that she did not complain if he sat on the river bank and wrote verses about the red, swiftly flowing water, while she wrestled with house-keeping problems. It is also said that an uncle of hers had been on military service in this area and that her father had been on friendly terms in Boston with Mrs. Michael Francklin, née Susannah Boutineau.

Whatever her circumstances might have been in Boston, she and her husband and their growing family were engaged in a struggle with poverty in the Township of Sackville. There were limited opportunities for them to be fed of the dainties that are bred in books. Yet Mrs. Seaman did her utmost in the circumstances.

Amos Peck Seaman, named after his mother's brother Amos and his mother's mother, who was a Peck, the tenth child of Nathan Seaman and Zena Thomas, was born at the John Peck house, merely a hut, in Sackville, on January 14, 1788. He and his brothers and sisters were taught the rudiments of reading, writing and arithmetic by their mother, with the aid of a bible and a book of sums which she made herself. Life was undoubtedly real and earnest, and Amos, a favourite child, probably concluded quite early in life that to be poor and independent is very nearly an impossibility. As he learned to write his name, he did not like it and so he left out Peck which, he subsequently stated, seemed too small to him. From his father he evidently obtained his propensity to write verse, while from his mother he apparently inherited "his lightning wit, quick speech, and uncanny memory." Of humble birth, he was to be distinguished less for formal education and refinement than for ambition and intelligence, diligence and determination, vim and vitality, acumen and thrift.

Meantime blessings of sorts came to this little man. At the age of eight, and barefoot, for he had no shoes, Amos Seaman first landed at Minudie in the year 1796. As a child he is said to have known Governor J. F. W. DesBarres and the Governor's Minudie estate. Ambitious, precocious, and thrifty, he saved money and participated in trade with Saint

John and Boston. He never went to school until he was old enough to work in the daytime to pay for evening school. He attended school in Maccan early in 1813.

In the same year Amos Seaman and others applied for land from the Crown in a petition dated at Amherst on March 27, 1813. About a year later grants were recommended for them and in 1818 Amos Seaman purchased half an acre of land at Minudie. As time passed he was to have many transactions in land.

In the meantime Amos Seaman and Jane, daughter of James and Ann (Gill) Metcalf, of Yorkshire, England and Nova Scotia, were married on May 12, 1814. Amos Seaman is said to have accepted his mother's counsel in everything except the choice of his wife. His marriage, however, was a very happy one. His wife, whom he called "Jinny," was "very pretty and a sweet woman." She was very fond of her home and her garden in Minudie, and her flowers were remarkable. She had gardeners to assist her, and ornamental trees and shrubs, as well as seeds and plants, were used to embellish the property. She is said to have gone to Boston only once, and on that occasion her portrait was painted.

For a time Amos Seaman and his brother Job were partners in business. A. Seaman & Co. had an agency in Boston as early as 1810. After he and his brother dissolved partnership on January 1, 1823, Amos Seaman continued in business on his own account, sometimes sailing to New England with his cargoes from Nova Scotia, and also trading in the West Indies, and bringing from New England supplies that found a ready market and profitable sales in Nova Scotia.

In those days, when the Province (including Cape Breton) had a population of about 94,000 in 1817 and a population of 142,000 ten years later, the staples of export were fish, lumber, gypsum, and grindstones. To that list coal was added when the General Mining Association, which possessed a monopoly of the underground resources of Nova Scotia, began its operations in both the peninsula and Cape Breton Island in the late 1820's.

Two other changes in the conditions of trade made a striking impact. Following the War of 1812, Nova Scotian fishermen and traders eagerly sought the continued exclusion of Americans from British North American coastal waters and from trade with the British West Indies. By the Convention of 1818, however, the hopes of Nova Scotians were partly dashed. Thenceforth the inhabitants of the United States were to have the liberty to take, dry and cure fish on certain coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador and, while renouncing the right of taking, drying, and curing fish on or within three miles of the other British North American

dominions, they might enter any bays and harbours for shelter and repairs, or for wood and water. In the same year Halifax and Saint John, as well as certain places in the West Indies, were designated as free ports. Certain enumerated articles, such as food, lumber, and naval stores, were to be allowed admittance to these free ports in foreign vessels, if they were the produce of the country owning the vessels, and the exportation of any commodity was permitted in those vessels to the country of registration.

Significant changes in British commercial policy in the 1820's also had their effect. An imperial statute of 1822 regulated trade between British possessions and foreign countries in the Americas. It allowed certain enumerated goods to be imported from any American port in British vessels or in vessels owned by the country from which exportation was made. It also permitted exportation direct to those countries, in such vessels, of colonial produce, excepting fishing products, which, along with imported British manufactures, were still reserved for the British carrying trade. Another imperial statute of 1822 opened a direct trade in specified articles between the colonies and the foreign ports of Europe and Africa, although this intercourse was restricted to British-owned ships sailing directly between the two ports. Three years later a further extension of colonial trade was made by the Huskisson Acts. Free intercourse was now to be allowed between British colonies and other countries, either in British ships or ships of those countries, with the latter being permitted to carry to British colonies the products of the country to which the ship belonged, and to take from the British colonies all the articles of the growth, produce or manufacture of those colonies to the country whence the ship came, or to any other part of the world, the United Kingdom and all its dependencies excepted. All traffic between British ports was still reserved entirely for British ships.

In 1828 two additional ports were accorded free-port privileges. These were Pictou and Sydney whence coal was exported in increasing volume as the General Mining Association proceeded.

The satisfaction felt by Nova Scotians at the lifting of certain restraints on trade was, however, offset to some extent by the admission of the Americans to the West Indies in 1830.

In the meantime Amos Seaman had commenced a lucrative venture in grindstones. The quarries were on the Joggins shore in the Estate of DesBarres at Minudie.

This Estate had its origin in a grant of 8,000 acres to J. F. W. DesBarres and others on May 5, 1765. Shortly afterwards one-eighth of this

tract was allotted to Edward Barron and the remainder of it was possessed by J. F. W. DesBarres, who became the sole owner of it.

On and near this estate of DesBarres there were many strata of sandstone of a superior quality for grindstone both in the bank and between high water mark and low water mark. Late in the eighteenth century quarries in the area were being worked, and rents were being demanded or paid either for the quarries themselves or for the privilege of encamping on the adjacent upland and cutting wood for fires. In ensuing years the agents of DesBarres and his heirs endeavoured to collect these rents.

Amos Seaman became more familiar with these operations when he became one of the tenants on the Minudie Estate in 1823 and when he acted as agent for Augustus Wallet DesBarres and collected the rents for him in 1825 and 1826. He then secured a lease of all the quarries on the Minudie Estate on January 8, 1826, with the land adjacent to the shore, for £35 per annum for himself and his partner William Fowler, and renewed this lease at £40 per annum till 1833. Upon the expiration of this lease the partnership was also terminated.

By this time Seaman's claims were being hotly disputed. Rivals resented the monopoly which he wished to assert; squatters and tenants claimed that no rents had ever previously been paid for quarrying grindstone between high water mark and low water mark; the Surveyor General and the Solicitor General expressed the opinion that the boundary of the tract next to the sea was the high water mark; the Lieutenant-Governor was bombarded with petitions; and more than one of the highest authorities in the Province regarded Amos Seaman as an intruder on Crown land.

With the aid of legal advice, Seaman strove to refute these arguments. In the meantime, before the matter was settled, and before his lease of the property expired, he desired to renew the lease or make some other arrangement which would be mutually satisfactory to himself and to the agents of the owners.

On July 27, 1833 he outlined his proposals in a letter to J. W. Johnston, W. B. Bliss, and Alexander Stewart. If a new arrangement might be made, he offered either to purchase all of the Minudie rents then due, including the back rents, for an agreed sum, and a yearly sum for the Joggins and Minudie leases, they giving him power to collect the rents then due, or, as his business was in some measure connected with the property, to purchase the whole estate at an agreed price. He reminded them of the trouble and expense to which he had been put by the title being disputed and of the lawsuits in which he was involved in contending with "the strong prejudice that exists in the Country against the claims of DesBarres to the Joggins property."

In reply to a request for more specific proposals, Seaman stated that he was willing to give £8,000 for the whole Minudie Estate or a proportionate amount, if the share allotted to James DesBarres were not included, for the other seven shares. He was then not prepared to be more definite about the sum he would give for the rents, without knowing the amount due and the names of those in arrear.

The agents, regarding the sum of £8,000 as being more than expected, not only accepted Seaman's offer for the estate, subject to a decision about the share of James DesBarres, but they proposed that Seaman should buy the back rents at a sum to be fixed by Daniel MacFarlane. In such a case, they made it clear that if legal proceedings were necessary to enforce payment of the rents he would adopt them at his own expense. They also stated that notwithstanding their opinion that the title was unexceptionable, they would not make the executors and heirs personally responsible for it. At the same time Amos Seaman, as the purchaser, would of course make such inquiries as he deemed advisable. At this stage the Minudie rents remained unpaid and the tenants were meeting nightly for the purpose of resisting payment.

Eventually an indenture dated November 20, 1833 between Augustus Wallet DesBarres and Isabella DesBarres, his wife, on the one hand, and Amos Seaman, on the other, was prepared. By it Amos Seaman was to pay £8,592.4s.8d. for the Minudie Estate, excepting the Manor Farm,* and for the arrears of rent on the unexpired leases of a number of tenants. It was specifically stated in this indenture that he was to have "the quarries and ledges of Grindstone of the said Estate as well opened as unopened as well down to the water's edge at low water mark as above and in the bank or elsewhere on the said Estate and the shad fishing. . . ." It may be of interest to note that the small trunk in which the money for the Minudie Estate was taken to Halifax is now in the Museum at Fort Beauséjour.

Circumstances prevented the sale from being completed at that time. There was a determination on the part of the tenants to refuse payment of their rents and it became necessary to commence actions against most of them. It was accordingly decided not to conclude the sale until after February 1st, when the next quarter's rent became due.

The sale was completed on February 2, 1834, and Amos Seaman became the owner of the Minudie Estate at that time. The difficulties in regard to it did not simultaneously cease. There were still doubts about the title and questions about the quarries between high water mark and

*Amos Seaman purchased the Manor Farm in 1840.

low water mark. Amos Seaman felt himself to be harassed by trespassers on his quarries and to be inconvenienced by tenants who refused to pay rents for their farms as well as for occupying ledges below high water mark. He became involved in litigation and he forbade the Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands to make a survey of the ledges as a preliminary step to leasing them on the part of the Crown.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, however, Amos Seaman continued to quarry and sell grindstones, and grindstones already formed an article of commerce of much greater importance than was generally considered. "At the Bank Quarry, owned by Mr. Simmonds, a very industrious individual," Abraham Gesner wrote in 1836, "the gravel and upper stratum is first removed, then the rock beneath is broken into large masses by blasts of gunpowder. After having been split into pieces of smaller dimensions, with iron wedges, it is conveyed to the stone cutters, who with a pair of compasses describe the circle, and with amazing facility cut the eye, and complete the whole process in a shorter space of time than would be required to form a piece of wood of similar size into the figure of a grindstone." "One man will cut fifteen and even twenty of the common grindstones in a day," Gesner added, "after the rock has been quarried properly and placed at his hand. The smaller grindstones are most valuable, and those of the quarry just mentioned, are preferred by purchasers in the United States to any other." "The value of a finished stone at the quarry," he continued, "is from two shillings and six pence to three shillings; hence it is easy to perceive the great profit arising from this source, as they are often sold in that country as high as ten shillings per stone. Much larger grindstones are quarried and floated between large boats, from the reefs covered by the tide at high water; some of these are six feet in diameter, and twelve inches thick. They are used by the Americans in grinding and polishing the metals. . . ."

The significance of grindstones in Nova Scotia trade at that time may be seen in the numbers exported. Exports of them to the United States increased from 10,300 in 1831, to 18,413 in 1832, and to 30,671 in 1834.

As quarrying of grindstones continued petition and counter-petition repeated the arguments about the reefs at the South Joggin. Late in the summer of 1836 it appeared as if Amos Seaman might be required to pay reparation for the alleged injury to the Crown from continuing to quarry at the reef in Minudie. He desired to avoid a contest with the Crown, but he argued forcefully in defence of his claims. He asserted that long continued possession by J. F. W. DesBarres and his heirs of the space between high water mark and low water mark, which he had purchased and for which he had paid, should receive consideration; that without the adjacent upland neither Ragged Reef nor his own reefs could be worked

at all; that before he purchased the area he had held a lease of all the quarries on the Minudie Estate; that the sea had eroded the coastal strip of the land granted to DesBarres and caused it to be washed under water; and that he wished to be permitted to exhibit his claims to the Attorney General. Eventually the Lieutenant-Governor directed an inquiry to be made into the equities of Seaman's case by the Attorney General and the Solicitor General of Nova Scotia, and Seaman thanked Lord Glenelg, Colonial Secretary, for his powerful and effective interposition.

At last the matter was investigated by the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, and Amos Seaman's claims were, in effect, upheld by their opinion dated January 13, 1838. Even then everything was not quite satisfactory and about six months later he applied for a grant of confirmation of the area, in which he had spent money to improve the old quarries and open new ones, as well as to build a pier in front of the property to a considerable distance beyond high water mark for the protection of his vessels. On November 1, 1838, the Executive Council of Nova Scotia ordered that a grant of confirmation be made for Amos Seaman. It was issued on November 24, 1838, confirming to him a lot of land at times covered with water comprehending the reefs at Upper and Lower Coves, South Joggins, situated in front of the Minudie Estate.

The barefoot boy had become the Grindstone King. He was a merchant and farmer and shipbuilder who engaged not only in quarrying grindstone on his own account but also in renting grindstone quarries to other persons. Every person who rented a quarry lot from him paid him two pounds per annum, plus five shillings additional per month for every hired labourer employed by the renter of the lot.

A fascinating glimpse of Minudie and the Joggins in 1848 is provided by a traveller. "After a drive of eight miles," he wrote, "we reached the ferry at the mouth of the river Hebert, and were landed at Minudie. This is a settlement of Acadian French, on the extensive property of Amos Seamen [sic], Esq., who within a few years past has rescued from the sea upwards of 1500 acres of salt marsh, by the erection of dykes and *abateaux*. It is the most valuable estate in Nova Scotia, and a noble reward and enterprise of its proprietor." "Having walked about five miles," he added, "we reached Lower Cove, or the Joggins, on Chignecto Bay. This is the site of the most valuable grindstone quarries in America, which are also owned by Mr. Seamen. The tide rises about 50 feet. At low water the reefs of sandstone are broken up by the workmen. Large masses of rock are secured between boats, and at high water they are brought to the shore, where they are cut into the desired forms. These grindstones are frequently 6 feet in diameter and 18 inches thick. They are called 'water stone' and sold in the United States for the use of the iron manufactories."

Besides this "water stone," there was a peculiar layer of rock called the "blue grit." It was about eight feet in thickness and by 1848, from having been worked many years, had been followed into the bank for a distance of 300 yards. It was originally covered by 30 feet of gravel, which was removed at considerable cost. A wooden railway had been laid from the working area to the shore, where a house had been erected to shelter the cutters. This was the Bank Quarry, and it supplied the best grindstones in America. In 1847 the number of grindstones shipped from Cumberland County was 33,075.

Carrying on an extensive trade in shipping grindstones from Minudie to several ports in the United States, Amos Seaman urged the expediency of permitting vessels to bring back directly to Minudie cargoes from the United States. This he did in 1837 when it was necessary for vessels returning to Minudie with goods from the United States to call at one of the free ports—St. Andrews or St. John—before proceeding to Minudie. He regarded the regulations then in effect as being a cause of delay, danger, and expense, and he believed that large quantities of hay, pork, beef, gypsum, and other agricultural produce might be shipped from Minudie to the United States if permission could be obtained to bring cargoes directly back to Minudie. At that time, however, the authorities were unwilling to accede to his request.

Amos Seaman was interested in coal as well as in grindstones, and early in 1842 he requested the Lieutenant-Governor to grant him a lease of the seams of coal on his ten acres of land in River Hebert or to cause them to be opened and worked as Falkland might deem best. It was then within the prerogative of the General Mining Association to mine coal in any area of the Province if it did so within a year of receiving a notice of it from the Lieutenant-Governor. Seaman's petition was forwarded to Hon. Samuel Cunard, agent of the General Mining Association, which before very long operated the Joggins mine on a small scale.

Enterprising and industrious, Amos Seaman built the first steam mill in the Province at Minudie in 1843 at a cost of £1,500. On Thursday, August 10th of that year that mill, on a site very near the spot on which he landed at Minudie in 1796, was set in motion, and its first corn was ground. Soon afterwards a lot of superfine flour from this large mill was taken to market in St. John. It was said to be at a distance of twenty miles from any other of a similar nature, and to be in the midst of a fine agricultural district, affording a great convenience to the adjacent countryside.

Concerned not only with private affairs, but also with local improvements, Amos Seaman took a considerable part in public matters. For many years he was a surveyor of highways. He was also a member of

the Grand Jury of the county, assessor, ferryman, and overseer of the poor. In 1838, moreover, he was commissioned as Justice of the Peace; but he declined to accept this office, recommending for it a relative named Amos T. Blenkhorn who, in his opinion, was eminently qualified for it. He petitioned for changes in postal arrangements and for improvements in roads.

He travelled in the United States and in Great Britain. While in the United States, he became a member of Eastern Lodge of the Free Masons at Eastport, Maine, and on May 20, 1822 he and Matthew Sharp, describing themselves as "the struggling Brethren of the County of Cumberland," addressed a petition to John Albro, the Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge in Halifax stating that they and other Masons in that district were desirous of establishing a lodge there. This petition was renewed in 1825, and Cumberland Harmony Lodge was formed there. Amos Seaman, merchant, was one of the charter members, and he became Worshipful Master of Cumberland Harmony Lodge in 1828.

In 1846 he sailed in the *Hibernia* from Halifax for the United Kingdom. Disembarking at Liverpool on March 10th, he remained in that city for two days. Then he went to Manchester where he spent two more days, after which he proceeded to London, Newcastle, York and Sheffield, and in the course of his travels he purchased dishes and flatware. His plans included a visit to Stamford, a return to Manchester and London, and a trip to Scotland, where he hoped to pick up a few Scottish farmers. He saw a good deal of England for so short a visit and he found it to be a very fine country, far beyond his expectations. He visited the House of Commons, and sat there for eight hours while it was in session. He returned to Halifax in the *Caledonia* and then proceeded to Boston and Philadelphia and Minudie, reaching his home on May 15th.

In certain respects, Amos Seaman had a marked religious bent. One aspect of it is seen in his advice to his son Gilbert when the latter left home on September 13th, 1840, for Boston, where he was to commence business on his own account. He "is young," Amos Seaman recorded in his diary, "will have many difficulties to contend with through life." "My advice to him", he added, "is to be deligent & to have communion with few be intimate with *One* deal justly with all and speak Evil of none." Amos Seaman was a teacher in the Sunday School in Minudie. When Bishop John Inglis visited Minudie in June 1847, he conducted divine service in Seaman's house. Annually for seven years Rev. Nathaniel Gunnison, a Universalist clergyman, visited Minudie and stayed at the home of his friend, Amos Seaman, where he was warmly welcomed. While he was in Minudie, Mr. Gunnison preached morning and evening in Mr. Seaman's schoolhouse to a large and attentive congregation.

Amos Seaman built not only the schoolhouse in Minudie, but also the Protestant Church and the Roman Catholic Church. The Protestant Church was available to all Protestant denominations.

Though his own formal education was very limited, Seaman saw to it that his own children were not similarly handicapped. It is said that four of his older children were sent to private school in England. At least two of his sons attended King's Collegiate School in Windsor, and one of them not only matriculated at King's College, but afterwards studied law and became an attorney and a barrister. At least one of his daughters went to school in Portland, and it is said that he hired English tutors for his children.

His penchant for versifying was notable. In the centre of the village and at crossroads were posts on which he used to place orders for his tenants and employees, and it is said that frequently they were written in quaint couplets. Samples of his verses may be seen in his diary for 1840 to 1864 which is still extant.

He might have been abrupt, decisive, jealous of his authority, with that pride of opinion and incisiveness of assertion which are characteristic of self-made men, yet beneath this hard exterior were warmth and tenderness. He was just in his dealings, a pitiful tale melted him to tears, and the sight of suffering evoked his warmest sympathy.

Many a story was told about him. One may be indicative of the many. A man known as Peter Man, who is said to have been a son of Governor DesBarres, lived at Minudie with his married son, Peter the boy. When Peter Man was dying his son rushed for the priest and when the priest arrived the dying man curtly dismissed him. So it was that when Peter Man died he was buried outside the cemetery fence. At night Peter the boy moved the fence so that his father's body was fenced into the cemetery. Provoked by this action the priest directed him to restore the fence to its former position. Peter the Boy then in despair went to see Amos Seaman about it, and Seaman went to the priest and said: "People are moving into Minudie very fast; in a short while the cemetery will need to be enlarged; so I am leaving you a deed of some adjoining land." This addition put the reprobate, Peter Man, in the centre of the cemetery.

Amos Seaman and his faithful horse Charlie grew old together. They continued to make their rounds of the estate, a familiar sight to members of the family, to tenants, and to employees.

Near the end of his life he feared that there was trouble ahead for his family. When someone spoke of what a success he had been, he shook

his head and said: "Not such a success—not such a success at all. I seem always to have failed in the thing I longed to do most—to please my own. Except my wife. She is and always has been my greatest comfort." Their family comprised six sons and five daughters.

Early in 1864 he confided to his diary that he was still striving to save the ship.

Abandoned by more than half my crew
Lashed to the helm with port in vue
But I see the light I am allmost hom
And when I have wathered out the Storm
the Stores I leve to others may do them harm
for as the[yl fall out by the way
What the end may be its hard to say.

Two days before his death, while he was feeling very depressed, he wrote:

When I am dead there lay me down beneath some lonely sod
Let me return to dust again, the spirit to its God.
Let no parade or empty show be seen around my bier,
Nor let the sable shroud of woe on kindred form appear.
But let a friendly few be there, my couch of death around,
Let there be said a fervent prayer, then lay me in the ground.
Place there a lonely stone or not, it matters not to me,
Whether remembered or forgot this mortal man may be.

In the last entry in his diary on May 12, 1864, Amos Seaman wrote: "I have lived a Happy but Buisey life *thats a fact.*"

He died suddenly at his home in Minudie, after a short illness, on the night or early morning of September 13-14, 1864. "In him," it was stated in *The British Colonist*, of September 22nd, "the poor will lose a benefactor, and his deeds of kindness and hospitality will make his memory long cherished by all who knew him." "Father Seaman," as Rev. Nathaniel Gunnison called him, the patriarch of Minudie, was dead.

As he had feared, after his death there was long litigation in connection with the distribution of his estate. The impact of his personality lingered in various ways. Five years after his death the Saxby Gale struck with all its fury. The dikes of the Elysian Fields broke and the whole marsh was flooded. The night was black, the wind was furious, and the tide was roaring. Five men from Minudie went to the Marsh gate to see the state of affairs. In Seaman's lifetime they had been accustomed to seeing him and his old horse Charlie ride their rounds; they had had tremendous confidence in him, believing that he could do almost anything. Now, in a blazing flash of lightning, they saw the old King riding Charlie around the dykes just as he used to do. When they returned, they said: "It's going to be all right now; the old King is back."

THE DIARY OF AMOS SEAMAN

1840 - 1864

Minudie Sunday Morning august 9th 1840. 6 O'clock all hands setting off Rufus and William for Windsor to the academy there Gilbert takes them to Parrasbrough in Mr. Blinkhorn's Shay to meet the Packet on Monday morning I leve in the course of an Hour for Boston. James is to take me to Wood Point in the Boat from there to Dorchester & so on by Stage in the morning to St. John thence by Steamer North Amarica to Boston where with the Blessing of *God* I hope to *arrive* on Saturday next

10 O'clock wating for the tide and Boat, Boys off all in good sprits day verry fine

last Evening I had all my famely at tea 10 children with other inmates of my famely 20 in number all in Good health for which we all ought to feele verry greatful to Divine provednce for, let us be thankful for all Blessing bestowd upon us by our Havenly Father — Great are his Mercies for which let us be more then thankful, *let us be humble*

and now I'll conclude in the language of another taught when young by an affectenate *Mother*

He thats down needs no fall
He thats low no pride
He that Humble Ever shall
Have God to be his Guide

Mrs. Eveleth will pleas continue this Journal —

Amos Seaman

Sabbath evening 11th

In compliance with Mr. Seaman's request I will cont[inue] his journal until he returns *for his eye alone*. We regretted the necessity of so many of the family leaveing at the same time — we began to feel the void when Mr. & Mrs. Blinkhorn, Mrs. Harris, Thomas & Miss Chandler came in to dine with us. Soon after Mr. [Pride from] England with Mr. Brown of Halifax returned from the Joggins. Mrs. S. & Ann attended to their desires & made them at home. Mrs. Harris accompanied us to the sabbath school. We found a good num[ber] of children who were as attentive as ever — James returned from Wood Point about dark. Mrs. Duncan gave a hint to Joseph Reed that a hired man of Joshua Reeds, named Tobin had in his possession goods to some amount. Mr. R[eed] repeated it to Mr. Pride, who come directly to say so to Mr. Blinkhorn. Mr.

Blinkhorn went immediately to Joshua Reeds, after conversing with Mrs. Reed, he was convinced that the goods were taken from the store — he the[n] went to Mr. Charles Bakers to obtain a writ Mr. Baker refused to give one and gave as a reason, that he had no form and was too ill to attend to the business. Thom[as] James, Mr. Pride, Dobson, Wilson, Black, McKay, Blink[horn], Casy, E. Reed & John Baker went to surround the house take him prisoner and brought him to Minudie and placed him in the Widow Reed's house for two or three hours — After James takes Thomas across to Obtain a warrant. About on[e] o'clock Mesrs Blinkhorn, Pride, Black, E. Reed took the prisoner and went down the river in a boat. As they went toward Amherst Thomas met them with the writ and returned with them to Mr. Dickey's office to hav[e] the prisoner examined and after committed to gaol. Mr. Blinkhorn with the others returned at six in the morning.

Monday eve 10th

The day had been delightful for our friends who are traveling — Thomas and wife with Ellen Chandler come from Amherst this morning — Mary Chandler has returned home. Thomas and James have been searching for stolen goods and have found [them]. A large bundle weighing more than 19 lb. was found in Joshua Reids [barn]

The scholars have done well —

Tuesday 11th

Another beautiful morning. Ann & Ellen have gone to Amherst to have their teeth extracted — We feel solitary enough —

Thomas, James, Joshua Reed, Duncan, Dobson & Carrol went to Amherst as witnesses against John W. Tobin. They were examined — the fellow committed to gaol to stand trial on the 4th Tuesday in September — Thomas and James return[ed] about eight this evening — The scholars were quite obedient.

Wednesday eve. 12th

Another very pleasant day has passed — Ann returned accompanied by Miss H. White about three this afternoon she had out her tooth. Gilbert and Ellen came from Amherst also about eight this evening. Ellen had her tooth extracted. Thomas and wife dined & took tea with us. The children in school were pleasant and diligent. Mrs. Joshua Reed was examined respecting their hired man, before Charles Baker & Mr. Blinkhorn.

Thursday eve. 13th

The weather has not been fair — several showers we have had — Mrs. Christie passed the day with us — Mr. Gilbert Seaman had a son born to day — Nathan is more quiet.

Friday eve. 14th

The day has been very fine. Lucy Baker took tea with us. Mary, Emily and Ellen [assisted Jane] on her quilt & were here for tea. The children were obedient.

Saturday eve 15th

Another week has passed and we are all well — Mrs. Harris & Mrs. Blinkhorn to tea — We hope that Mr. Seaman has safely arrived at Boston in good health & spirits. We miss him much —

Sabbath eve 16th

Dr. Purdy here to dine. Ann left for Amherst with him for Wallace — We went to sabbath school James gave his Mother a drive —

Monday eve 17th

Fair weather. Mrs Moffat & Mr. G. Seaman to breakfast. G's wife is very sick — Mrs Harris returned with him. The children have been pretty good.

Tuesday eve 18th

The Scotch girl is quite ill to day — The weather is delightful — Nothing interesting to write —

Wednesday 19th

Mrs Seaman went with me to tea at Mrs Christie's we returned after a shower — The Token has arrived. Gilbert went to Amherst.

Thursday eve. 20

Mrs. Seaman accompanied me to Mrs. Blinkhorn's to tea — Gilberts wife, not as well —

Friday eve 21.

Beautiful weather, pleasant school, and many mercies to be grateful for. —

Saturday eve 22.

Fine weather — After school, Mrs Seaman went with me to dine at [Mrs. Charles] Baker's had a fine dinner & a very agreeable visit — Thomas returned from his excursion [after] dark. —

Sunday eve 23.

Mrs & Mr Atkinson came to dine with us accompanied by Mr. Cutting and wife from Amherst. They attended sabbath school. Mr. Cutting addressed the scholars. Mr. Blinkhorn & wife left for Windsor —

Monday eve 24.

Rainy in the morning. Mr. Wilson the methodist preacher come in the afternoon to have a meeting in the evening. The liberal school house was full, all very attentive and appeared to be pleased with Mr. Wilson. he spent the night with us and was very conversable and agreeable. James & Gilbert entertained him. He gave us many anecdotes, most of which were connected with Newfoundland, where he had resided fourteen years — He was much pleased with Minudie —

Tuesday eve 25

Rainy unpleasant weather. Mr. Wilson dined & took tea with Jane; preached again this evening. Amos Sharp to tea, leaves for Horton tomorrow —

Wednesday eve. 26

Nothing interesting has occurred to day — Every thing is pleasant and agreeable. The children behave well. —

Thursday 27

Thomas & James took Mrs. Seaman Ellen & little Jane to Mr. Sharps to dine — has a pleasant eve. — The day has been delightful — Every thing agreeable —

Friday eve. 28.

Thomas returned from Amherst with a letter; but not for me — At three they heard that the Sarah Ann was at the [wharf]. Thomas and Gilbert went to load it — returned about nine. [I] dine'd at Janes — The weather is fine —

Saturday eve 29.

We had a very happy week. All the children have been obedient and diligent After school Mary & little Jane went to Mrs. Sharps. Gilbert & Stewart carried them — Hannah Stilman took tea with us. She saw Mr Seaman just a week since — We hope to see him on the following Saturday — Job went to Amherst to see a show —

Sunday eve 30.

Another beautiful sabbath — Mrs. Seaman, James, Gilbert, Sarah & Ellen dined at Gilberts found her better — then rode to John Seaman's with whom they took tea — they returned about dark having a pleasant drive — Emily went up the river in a boat — I dined at Jane's & attended the sabbath school which is very interesting to m[e] & then went to Mr. Blinkhorn's to welcome them home. She appeared better for the journey — brought home some nice pears — which were divid[ed] among the three families as usual —

Monday eve. 31

Mrs. Harris Mrs. Blinkhorn Jane & Thomas to tea with us. Job returned from Amherst — much pleased with his visit. —

Tuesday 1 Sept.

Mr. M'cKay went to Wallace — Mr. Gourley to dine. fine weather. —

Wednesday eve 2d

Miss Nancy Christie to spend the day — James & Gilbert went up the river —

Thursday eve 3d

Gilbert went to Amherst for the femails — not any thing else took place —

Friday eve 4th

Mrs. [Seaman] went with me to Mrs. Debar's where we had a nice tea — a good laugh & pleasant visit. — [3 words blurred] came to pass a few days with us. beautiful weather — Gilbert returned

Saturday eve. 5th

Mrs Rogers to dine — Another heavenly day — We are expecting Mr. Seaman —

Sunday eve 6th

The day was rainy. No Sunday School. Samuel Sha[r]p returned —

Monday eve. 7th

James went for Mary & Jane in season to attend school — The day pleasant in house & out. —

Tuesday eve. 8th

Mary invited a few children to tea after school. They come — conducted with propriety — Smith called and played on the Jews harp for them to dance we all enjoyed it much.

We have all been well in the absence of Mr. Seaman & all very happy to have him return to us again After four weeks & two days absence. His daughters have been pleasant & obedient in school & out —

see other part journal

Wednesday Morn. Sept. 9th,
1840

September 10th

Yesterday I Got hom come on from Boston direct in the schooner British Token in a passeege of six days enjoyed good health while I was away *Jest one month*. found all well at [home] buisey this day discharging Goods and looking Ra[iny]. all hands at hom except Ann who is on a visit to Wallace.

11th

The day being wet but little going on outdoors Mrs. Eveleth attending to her School Gilbert gon[e] to Amherst Wind from the Eastward Schooner B. Token left for the Joggin to take in a Cargo of Gridston agane for Boston.

12th this day dark & rainy went to the Joggin found the Token on at Lower cove taking in Grindston men all wet fetuged & worn out Gave up all hours of getting her loaded to night agreed to [give] them a dollar Each to finish loading her all hands turns too gother loaded & off before 12 a m. Returned hom in the Evening had a good night Slee[p]

13th Sunday

Wind from the northerd Rainy & thick weather at 2 oclock Gilbert leves hom in a Boat with John Barns for Woodpoint on his way to Boston to cummente business there on his own account he is young will have many dificuluties to content with through life, my advice to him is to be deligent & to have communion with few be intimate with *One* deal justly with al[l] and speak Evil of none

14th

this day Continues Rany with northerely wind but little doing put up the coockingStove high freshet Evening wind change to the westward dropt in to McKay's smoked a cegar come hom eat two big appels and went to bed

15th

Morning wet Mr Blinkhorn Returns from Amhirst. bootchered tow pigs and 12 [chickens] clear high wind from the West, maid a new hammer handle Ann returns from Wallace.

16th

morning verry fine Mr. Brooks cam over to Build a chimney in a Log Cabbin intended for a tennant

17

weather continus fine Road to the Great Marsh Mr Allison's Simanry at Sackvill in vue a Stately Building a credet to the founder may he prosper & do Good

18th

Road Round the Shore to the Joggin Returnd in the afternoon.
Schr M. Grace Cole arived from Hartford with Stoves Mr. Gorden Came
over in the Eveng

19

up at Gray day light Mr Gorden crosses the ferry M. Grace leves,
Wife & me a bout to leve for Maccan to See Mathew Sharp who is ill, Mrs
Harris here quite unwell

20th Sept.

Sunday at 2 A.M. day pleasant high wind from the Westward
Returnd from Maccan found Mr. Sharp verry bad much [worse] then
Expected he will I think never agane ari[se] from his bead of sickness
but his days are numbered and So is the days of us all. he is an old friend
an acquaintance and from him in my youthful days [I received] many acts
of kindess I shall likely See him no more in this World bu[t] in the next
we Shall Meet and there be all Compleat and long to geather dwel and
serve the Lord with one acord So Mathew fare you well

21

Weather fine wind from the Westward but little dowing to day

22nd

Continus fine weather all hand at hay Schr Sarah Ann arives from
Boston Boys gone to Court, all will

23rd

Mr. Blinkhorn gone to Ragged Reef to load the M. Grace with G.
Ston wint to Amhust Returned in the Evening

24th

Weather verry fine wind from the Easterd Blinkhorn & James at
the Joggin loading M. Grace & Sarah Ann wint to Amherst attended
Court Returnd in the Evening So Ends this day.

25th

Mr Blinkhorn & James still at the Joggin went in the morning
to Amherst prisiner Toben underwent his trial and auquited for want
of proof Goods Recovered & Brought hom

26

Weather Continues fine wind fresh from the S. W. M. Grace &
Sarah Ann boath partely loaded British Token hourly Expected from
Boston Mrs End makes us a vissit Glad to see her

27

Sunday morning weather fine intend going to Amhurst in the afternoon

28

Monday Morning at Amherst Breakfasted at S. H. Morse Esqre purchased the Manner Farme of James Stewart Esqre agent for Judge DesBarres Returnd Returnd hom at noon Schr B. Token Agen arivd from Boston with spars carr[i]ed away

29

Wind from the Eastward and Schr M Grace finished loading & off for N York men employd in making spars for the Tokin all well

30

Weather fine wind from the Suthard Mr Landles goes on to plough new marsh Mr Woodman Son and and daughter Mr. Gorden and daughter Miss Crane Mr Decky & Holeleston makes us a visit

October 1st.

Morning fine Wind from the East ward Mr. Blinkhorn and James Gone to the Joggin to finish loading Schr S. Ann Tokin Goes down [to] load Rode to the Great Marsh with Mr Woodman [&] to Mill creack Dined at 2 P M at 3 all hands Crossed over the Rever for hom

2nd

weather Still continus fine wind from the East. Token mised Getting in to load S. Ann saled for Bo[ston].

3rd

Stil fine wind light from the Suthud Tokin is loading in the afternoon wind blows half a Gale Schr loaded & off with out damege Som Rain during the night

4th

Sunday morning *weather fine* Ann & Mrs. Eveleth away to Westermeland [Westmorland] spent the day Reading etc.

5th

Monday weather fine wind fresh from the Westward commenced diggin potates fine Crop.

6th

Still fine weathr Mrs. E & Ann coms hom Mrs Sharp with them

7th

weather Still fine wind light from the Notherd Rode to the Joggin in Co with Mrs Sharp Mrs E. & Wife

8th

weather verry fine wind from the West all hands buisey diggin potates wind N. E.

9th

wind Still from the Eastward light breezes Mrs Sharp here on a visit

10th Weather colder Wind
from the East Mr & Miss Gorden here finished diggin potates

11th Sunday wind from the
West Mr Tupper holds meeting at the Baptis[t] House all hands attend.
I Stay at hom to keep Ship

12th Monday morning weather fine, wind from the West.
W [Holt] moves to Menudie

13th

Still fine weather wind from the Sutherd Blows half
a Gale Schr Mary arives from Boston

14th Moderate wind from the westward weather fine

15th Wind from the westward weather fine

16th Wind from the Notherd went to Amhirst Returnd in
the Evening Revd Mr Wilson & Wife visits Menudie and Returns Same
day —

17th wind from the North weather fine went to Amhurst.

18 Returnd from Amherst weather fine

19th Still fine weather Mr Blinkhorn & James Returns
from the Barns [barrens] back with 58 partedges

Tuesday 20th

Weather fine S. Ann arives from Boston all well

21st Sutherely wind & Rain

22nd thick weather & sutherely wind

23 Schr B Token arives from Boston all well

24th Schr B. Tokin [goes] *up the Rever* to load Wind from the West —

- 25th Sunday, weather fine Wind from the *Eastward*. Token comes down the River
- 26th Went to Cumberland planes to See a horse Race wind blows half a Gale from the Sutherland Schr S. Ann en at Lower Cove nearly loaded drove up to high water
- 27 [Returned] from Amherst part of S. Ann Cargo taken out tide rip off she does not float will have to lay 2 weeks at least
- 28th Schr B Token Sales for Boston Mr Blinkhorn Goes in her wind from the Sutherland thick & Squaley
- 29th Still thick with heavy wind from the South a Schooner from Westport with fish bot 50 Bbls of Mr Rugels
- 30th thick & high wind and heavy Rain Schr Lark from St. John here lost an anchor
- 31st Rainy wind from the East thick weather high freshet Roads very muddy & so ends this week & month

Sunday Novr. 8th 1840

and now another week is Gone ile Sing my makers praise his Comforts Ever hour make known his providence and Grace, nothing very Special taken place for a week. Wind Study from the N. E. the last six days to day at the S. E. Appearance of a storm Sarah Ann floats & off today tomorrow the County Election Commences at Amherst Court Houses all hands engaged

- 15th Sunday againe and weather disagreeable the last week Stormy wind Studey from the N. E. Rain & Snow in a bundence the Grounds now white with Snow but appearance of the weather Clearing off — Elections Going on all hands engaged there in
- 22nd Sunday againe Schr. B Token arrives from Boston. all well news from Wallace, County Election at an End Messrs. Lewis & Fulton elected McKim called him very Sudenley weather Stormy and disagreeable
- 29th another week Ended winter weather Schrs M. Grace & S. Ann arrives from Boston R M[c]Gown Dickey [Dickie] Esqre Elected for the Town of Amherst all well

December 6th Sunday againe winter fairly Set in River full of Ice Slaying good Rufus & William both home from Windsor academy Rost Gees for dinner all well —

December 6th I attended Sunday school took a class in the testament until I leave Minudie. a pleasant day rather cold.

Monday 7th

Made Mrs Barren Baker a visit [a]nd found one of her sons badly cut with an axe on the back. Father had two hogs killed. a mild snow sto[rm] during the day. We are comfortable[y] warmed we have six fires

Tuesday 8

Pleasant day, spent part of evening at Janes

Wednesday 9

Minudie July 4th 1843

The Lord be praised this Scruby Spru[ce]
was never maid without its use
it picked me up upon the Sea
and Saved my life with pashege free
while two Sweet youths boath young & brave
were doomed to Share a watery Grave
Longtime they Strove Gain the Shore
but alas, alas, they Sunk to Raise no more
there manly Souls unwillingley betook there way
and left there infint bodies a load of lifeless clay
there Spirits fled to Soar aloft
to Sing Gods parise boath fine and Soft.
Me think I hear those widdows morn
who know there Sons Cannot Return
but unto them theye Surely Go
When all there Labour is dun below
in yonder Sky theye Join there Boys
with Angels Shout Etternal Joys
in Christ Kingdium theye will together [meet]
when all there [joys] will be complete

Corbet

The Lord be praised this croocked plough
it Saved my life I cant tel how, it rose me up a crost
the Sand and left me Safe on the dry land.
Stewart

Sunday 13th August 1843

On Thursday last the 10th, Steam Mill first Set in motion by Steam and Corn Ground So that the *tenth day* of August may be cald the Anaver-sary of the Minudie Steam Mill the first Erectd in this provedence [pro-vince]. I have built this Mill at an Expense of fifteen hundred pound the foundation of which will Remain Long after I am Gone from this [fen] I know that this is not my hom & I feele my Self wearing out and why shud we wish to live here longer then we can be usful.

Let us not desire to live forever it never was the perpose of God
that we should after a long pilgeremage of human life we must pass the
Jorden of Death let us not be afraid to Go through the dark tide hope
will bare us up and we shall land Safeley on the other brink where Jesus
the Forerunner hath Gone

We can then Sing with the dying Christian
farewill farewill to all below
My Jesus calls and I must go
Then Lanch my Boat upon the Sea
this land is not the land for me
Praise be to God Our hope on high
the Angels Sing and So will I
where Sarups [Seraphs] bow and bend the knee
O, thats the Land the *Land* for me

Sunday 27 August 1843

Peter Noels Jist over the Rever Reports that poor Chisholm is no
more he died this morning at the House of Mr James Coats, of the Jandous
[jaundice] Sick only about one week

A Stranger in a Strang Land may he find friends in Heaven where
his Soul will be at Rest among the blessed.

Sunday 3rd March 1844

thanks be to him who Rules on high
who gouverns all below the Sky

I am in the land of the livin altho confind to my Room by times
of Late I have Suffered a Great deal my Complaint I know to be danger-
ous and may termanate quick and fatal but it is all Right it is Right that
I Shud Suffer it is so ordered for my good

Sunday 23d of June 1844

I have Jest Returnd from Brother Johns who I found on a Sick
Bead from which he will I think never Recover I have taken my Leave of
him never expect to see him agane in this world — July 5th John has paid
the debt of Nature in the 69 year of his age. I have Jest Returnd from
his funerel attended by a Large concorse of friends & Neighbours his
Remanes is deposited in the old burial Ground on the Lumly Hill farm
at Rever hebirt [River hibert]

the living know that they must die
while all the dead forgotton lye
Minudie 4th December 1844

Jest Returnd from the Lake Burial Ground where we have been to
deposit the Remanes of an Infant Child a *Boy* three weeks old the frute

& first Born of Ellen wife of James this child was born into the world on the 10th day of Novr. apperently a fine child did will until a week old then Sickend pined away and died on the 3rd Inst

Rest little one forever Rest
tho parrents weep below
Safe in the Bosum of thy God
No Sorrow Shalt though know

Minudie May 1st, 1845

The Small pox appears in the place 4 Cases inhabitents much alarmed no person found to take Care of the Sick but they must not be left to Suffer I'll See to that and Save them if I can — 24th all well agane not a life lost & confidence restored

A. S.

Minudie Sunday 18th Januarry 1846

Last Wensday 14th. bing my birth day I Entert[ained] Compay that Evening at the Band Marsh House where I met a No. of old acquaintences & friends Some of which I met in Boyhood 50 years ago when I first Landed at this place which was I think in the month of Sepember 1796. then a verry little boy 8 years old I first set my *bear* feet on the Minudie Shore for I had *no Shoes* — accordin to the old family bible I find my name recorded Amos *Peck* Seaman Born January 14th 1788 which makes me now 58 years old. I was born at the John Peck House at Sackville, N. B. a hut under the hill near where Mr John Boutlers house now lies. I had an uncle by the name of Amos Thomas [when] young man came from the Un. States a Brother of my Mother he took the Small pox died & was buired under a *pople* tree near the house. I can Jest Remember him. for him I was namd with the adition of *Peck* which when I Came to write my name I did not like & so left it out the word *Peck* appeard [too] small to me. I have now lived at & about this place nearly 50 years — I can Count but 2 of what was Call the old standers now alive when I came first viz. old Jo Brain & captn Burguois boath now very old. but I meet on the 14th a Goodly No. of there children whos heads have Grown Gray with my own. I also see a No. of there children who are now the working men of the place also many of there children Great Grand children of the first who must soon leve — may they prosper & do will

Sunday 25th

Another week is past & Gone, at hom alone with my famely I Cannot help loocking back & Reflecting on passing Events for 50 years the time I first landed on this Shore near where the Steam Mill now Stands — I from that time to the present I have had to work my way never having but one friend to assist me & never went to School until I was old enough to work day time to pay my way for Evening School

I have worked hard & seen a good deal & Suffered much persecutions — but have many verry many things to be thankful for far more then I have deserved or Expected & it is now a Great Consolation to me to have had it in my power to assist my aged parents when old & infirm & keep them from want — I have traveled a good deal mostly in the U. N. States & now think of leving on Thursday next for Halifax to take Steamer for Liverpool I have long had a desire to See old England & if I dont Go Soon I shall be to old & So think I shall Start if I go to England I may be hom again in May — or I may perhaps never Return for Either way I am Resigned —

If the Gasping of the Sea Shud be my *watery* toom
May I awake with the my God and find a peaceful hom

I a gane Repeat that I aught & do feel truly greatful for the many blessing Received through a long life — but if there is one thing more then another for which I feele Greatful at this time it is for the Revelation which God has made to our Sinful world of his will in Regard to the final destiny of man — beleving in the Grand and Sublime truth of universal Redemption — I Rejoice and am happy

A. S.

poor Blinkhorn a lost man lost to himself lost to his famely & to the World.

Minudie 20th May 1846

After Crossing the atlantic in the Good & Noble Steam Ship Heberna in a passege from Halifax of 10 days I left England again on the 4th of February in the Steamer Caledona had a Rough passege of 14 days to Halifax & 2 more to Boston on as far as Pheledelphia and arived at hom on the 15 may all well — Ship Junius of 400 ton loading with Deal Cut from the Mill She left the wharfe loaded on the 28th — on the Morning of the 30th a Gray day light disturbed by by *fire* in the Mill all hands soon on the Spot but to late in one hour all level with the Ground loss over £3000 and so Goes the world up to day & down tomorrow — agane to Rebuild it is my intent & if I insure Such loss may prevent - - -

March 1st 1847 Steam Saw Mill in full operation Cutting 150 logs aday Bring in you Logs 30,000 or more She will Cut them all up before the year is ore [o'er]

My Second Daughter Mary was married at hom Monday August 10th 1846 and left the day after but one with her husband E. G. Vernen for St John to take up her abode among Strangers may they be happy

Amos

May 1st-----1847

left Boston on Board Schr Britain head wind & long passee taken sick on Board Suffered a Great deal landed at Lower Cove on the 14th hom next day Sent for Doctr. Wilson Continud ill for along time.

A Seaman

October 14th 1847 left for Boston by Stage via St John went on to N. York Returnd to Boston on the 24th left a gane in Company with a few friends for the Land of Study habets *Hartford* where on the Evening of the 28 my Old Gal Ann Exchanged her fathers name for that of Mc. Ceremony preformd in Christ Church by the Revd Doctr Fisher accordin to Law, Returnd to Boston on the 30th

Monday Nov 1st took Steamer Admereal for St John arived there on tuesday the 2nd where we met Thomas who on Thursday Evening 4th Joind hands with Widdow Carroll arivd hom on Monday the 13th. Thomas agane settld in his own house to day Sunday 21st McFarlean & Wife tooke there departure for there Residence at Amherst may they all prosper & be hapy

Minudie January 1st 1850

I live to See the day 62 years has Soon past away wheathe[r] 8 more the usual life of man is to be added is not for me to say
Thomas has been over a year Suffering
James away to the West Indies left hom verry ill
Returns in May health som improvd
leves agane for the South in Novr.

Wensday January 1st 1851

another year and I am here
Thomas Still in the land of the living
Confined to his bed & Suffering much

James at Charlston S. C. halth Improving. Sarah to School at Portland City all will at Grindston Palace cold & stormy

January 14th/52 another Birthday & I am here
Thomas Still alive and sufering
1853 the tim may Soon com to Set us free
1854 another year is Soon Got over
1855 all will and Thomas Still alive
1856 January 19th Thomas cald hom & his Remanes laid in the Silent Grave and his Suferings over & all is will
July 7th Brother Nathan cald hom age 85
40 years an invalede with Great Suferings

Elysianfields 14th January

the year 1857 Brings me nearer Still to Heaven I am now in my 70th if I Shud be allow to Stay here another twelve month I Shall be of lawful Age and after that Shud I be left a little longer I Shall be living on Borrowd time

March 24th brought to Notice by the Borderer a Small paper published at Sackville N. B the departur of Sister Hulda Farrell on the 18 I *beleve* two Sisters only left from a famely of Eleven whos turn next prehaps mine, but why Shud we Shrink & fear to die & Shake at Death allarm, com when it may can do no harm.

January first 1858 and all is will & Buiseness straight agane —

1859 winter is com & sleding fine

January first day 1860 five Living Sons & four daughters to day all at there old hom Sorrowing for there Sick Brother William now on a sick Bed from which all fear he may not Re[c]over. James to is verry low & waisting away

14th 6 *times* 12 is 72 and & here I am with friends a few
29 Jane Mrs Hiberd with Girle Baby in arms

February 4th at 8 P. M. poor Williams Spirit left the Body which was laid away on the 7th alls Will son James left famely & friends on the 16 day of May following William

Minudie 14th day of January 1861

I am now in my 74 year 65 of which I have Spent at & about those digins, and for good or for Evil here am I yet as Sound as a Brick A. S. February first poor Job Sick & Suffering dropsy Set in Cant be long with us

June 13th all is well Suffering over & Job at Rest is laid away famely troubles Boys behaving Bad 2 only left

Sept 14 Store cleared out & stript to a Gant line

18 I leve to day for Wallace to be out of Sight for a few days — hard lot of mine my days are cast among the sons of strife.

My Eyes are dun [dim] my head is White and I scerely [scarcely] Git a nap at Night poor deluded Sons Why could you not have wated a little Longer before you demand a division of Propety which for the last 50 years of my life I have worked & toild for as but few others have Ever did, it cant be long before you & your Children will com into possession of a property the finest in the province of N. Scotia do Children have patence my head will Soon lay low and away to the kingum of Heaven not far distant I Go, where at Som Short day we shall all to Geather meet when all our Joys will be compleat. Amen.

Sunday Sept 29th 1861

It appears as though my life has Jest begun. for 50 years & Something more I went abroad & keep a store at hom where comforts did abound. But If all be well I leve in the morning for St John to puck up a few articules for winter use for myself and neighbours

Monday morning last day Sept Crossed the River met Mac & Wife at Amherst went on to the Bend next morning october first took cars for valley faire arived there at 1 P. M. 4 hours on the ground & at 5 took cars for St John arivd there at 9 oclock Returnd to cattle Show next morning & againe back to St. John in Evening traine A terrible *Jam* a man by name of Cotten fell of the traine & was Smashed up. Soposed 4000 people on down train for St. John.

Thursday all day about town picking up traps etc.

Friday 4th left by morning traine for hom at Amherst that Evening & hom next morning

Saturday 5th Attending to matters & things againe. Sickly times Children dieng off with throat distemper — and today friday Rufus left Mill Cove in new Schooner Divine for N. Y. York with intention there to Charter for som foren port to be out of Sight for a time may he be protected & Spaird to Return agane to his Minudie Home is the Sincere prayer of a Father & Mother to

A & J S.

31st October month is past away & a heard month it has been for me Got a few Goods in Store

Ephriame in attendence want to Save the young family if I can all four of them now under my Roof pleasant & agreable

Novr) month & winter like confind to the house sufering good deal from a hurt I got by a wild horse a few ribs out of place I fear, verry painful but all Right

5th Charley with 20 men taking his first lesen in Road making in Downs Cove Road

it is hard for me to be confind at hom when all but ther leader is there, but so it is & I must soon give up.

Sunday December month coms in weather Stormy & bad, 2nd, very high tide & havy Breach made in the dyke on South Side & my Self so far Recoverd as to be able to attend to see & direct about Repairs 10th dyke Repaired & winter fairley Set in & 126 *head* of hornes to foder morning noon & Night.

Wensday January first day 1862 & here I am with friends a few Mac & Wife with us cheerful & happy

Elysianfields January 14th 1862 Birth day againe & Heaven in vue the morning bright & verry clear but wather cold & most Severe and here I am in my 75 year trying hard to do Som Good Tho Motives often mis-under Stood, But never mind Ile keep along my works will follow when I am Gone, but its hard to kick against the pricks

Elysianfields October 7th 1862

Mac Wife & Mitchel arived from Wallace

Ann & Mrs Pilsbury also here

7th Revd. Mr Christie arived dinner & tea over at 8 A. M. our youngest Child was handed over in marrege to Doctr Robert Mitchel M.D.

8 Revd. Mr Christie, our Charley, Jennet, Mac & Miss Jackson left for Wallace verry fine day

9 Mac Miss P., Mitchel & Wife *Sarah* left for Wallace day fine & all in Good Spirits may they prosper & be happy

this world is a Beautiful Garden enriched withe the Blessings of life, the toilors with plenty Rewarding which plenty to Often Breeds Strife

New years day 1863

Vessels all in & hauld up & all Banked up Snug for winter, wather moderetaly cold but Sledging poor Got 30 big load of hay from the fields hauld hom about 10 head of hornes to feed beside Horses & Sheep, a big Turkey for dinner no company cam to help Eat Except Mr James Crow Carpenter

January 14th 1863

Birth day agane which Brigns me in to my 76 well & Hearty But not near as Active as when i was 40ty. But I have lived to See what I have Seen, and heard what I never did Expect to hear from a child of mine, but so it is, A. S.

Sunday March 1/63 coms in like a Lamb but may Go out like a Lyon so far winter Extreemly moderate and Easy on hay, much Raine & little snow hardly three weeks *Sleding* yet — poor time to drive work ahead, but gitting on

20th Left for St John arived there on the 23d hom agane on the 28th

April 10 vessels moving & Ice leving looks Spring like

May 1 much Rain & Cold Backward Spring

June 1 Jest heard of the death of my Eldest Sister Mary the widdow of Fardenan Dellesderniear age 89 years who died at her childerns Hom *Dover* N. B. on the

Elysianfields the first day of January 1864 another year has Rolld around
and here

I am yet a Striving hard to Save the Ship
abandend by more than half my Crew.
Lashed to the helm with port in vue
But I see the light I am allmost hom
and when I have watherd out the Storm
the Stores I leve to others may do them harm
for as the[y] fall out by the way
What the End may be its hard to Say

Elysianfields January 14th 1864

Birth day agane & Stil on hand with Heavenly Bounties at my command.
I feed the poor I scold the Nave & working hard the Ship to Save
my Self & old Horse Charley ages togeather is near a 102 me in my 77th
and Charley in his 25th — we go the Rounds *quite* well togeather yet

May 12 1864

1814

50 years ago this verry day I took to my Self a Wife & with her
I have lived a Happy but Buisey life *thats a fact* Amos
Raine fog & Wet Spring verry backward no seed in yet