

WILLIAM SAVAGE

Iowa Pioneer, Diarist, and Painter of Birds

(This is the Diary of a naturalist and farmer who settled in the north-eastern part of Van Buren County, Iowa, in 1855. Earlier installments appeared in the ANNALS of October, 1933; January, 1934; October, 1934; October, 1935; and October, 1936.)

[Continued from the October, 1936, number.]

6th. Went to Sam's and then to Uncle William's, stayed all night. He gave me poor Tom's likeness.

7th. Came home, shot 2 doves. Thos. Siveter here. Went with him to look at a place for a cabin.

8th. Sunday. Went to J. Turnham's got 1 pint whisky, 10 cts.

9th. To Conleys, then home and cut poles in branch for a corn crib.

10th. Went to Sneath's for milk. Wrote a letter to Jim. T. Siveter here, then we went to Conley's. They had turned out the oxen, we hunted for them, did not find them. Carry wood.

11th. Help Tom make fence, 50 cts. per day.

12th. Had Conley's oxen and hauled 2 loads poles for corn pen and 2 loads wood and 1 of boards.

13th. Help Tom on fence $\frac{1}{2}$ day, rec. 75 cts. other $\frac{1}{2}$ began a pole pen for corn and put corn in it.

14th. Went to Sneath's for milk. Chat O. M. Wells, then home and take a nap. Meadow larks and chewinks appear.

15th. Sunday. Hunt. Kill 1 flying squirrel. Ducks and pigeons plentiful. Dav' Siveter here.

16th. Fixed my boot and Walter's shoes.

17th. Fix John's shoes and chop wood at Watson's.

18th. Sold old cow to Henry W. Johnson for \$10. Rec. 5 down. Then split and chop wood at Watson's.

19th. Fix pants. Rainy. Took 2 hams to J. Wright's to smoke, then to Wells'.

20th. Hunted with Lee Wells. Shot 4 pigeons and 1 duck, the first this spring.

21st. Help I. Conley make a fence west side his farm, then set out some gooseberry trees.

22nd. Sunday. Sam'l Davis here, he and I hunted. He shot 1 duck and Watch caught 1 squirrel.

23rd. To Sneath's, help him skin a cow that got her head under his yard fence and died. Stop'd at Wells', then finished my wammus.

24th. Went to Turner's about buying some calves, they were sold, then help Sneath's kill 3 fat hogs. Pack wood, and to Conley's.

25th. Had Conley's oxen, haul 1 load wood and 1 of fodder and took them home, then hunt cows. Shot 1 Duck, trap 1 quail.

26th. Trap 1 quail, then to Salem, took $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. butter, 10 cts., and

4 doz eggs, 5 cts., traded them out. Went to Dr. Siveter's, stayed all night.

27th. To Samuel's and to Dr. Shriner's, got some rose bushes, then home.

28th. Commenced grubbing, then J. Wright and I went to Conley's and cleaned up some wheat for him, he being gone to Keosauqua we chopped a load of wood up for Mrs. Thornton. Hunt cows.

29th. Sunday. Hunt some, shot 5 ducks, in eve went to meeting. Thornton preached.

30th. Grub.

31st. To I. Conley's, had his oxen, haul 2 loads wood and 2 of stakes and 1 of fodder. Took oxen home.

April 1, 1863. Went to Cedar Bluff with William Conley, he got some small cedar trees. Then to Nick Boley's to look at his mare. Shell corn in eve.

2nd. Took said corn to mill, then grub.

3rd. Went to Mrs. Weaver's, got pieplant roots and shrubs, then grub and burn brush.

4th. A. M. grub, P. M. went to Uncle William's. Shot 1 duck. Stay all night.

5th. Sunday. Shot 1 pigeon, and went to John Savage's, at C. I. Poulter's, then to Uncle William's and stay all night.

6th. Shot 6 pigeons and came home in morn and grub.

7th. Grub.

8th. To I. Conley's, got some red currant cuttings, then grub. Anna went to Wells'.

9th. Went to creek east, got 11 small cedar trees and set them out, then grub.

10th. Grub and to Wells' to look at Rufus' calves. He sold them. Then home and grub.

11th. Grub.

12th. Sunday. At home. P. M., we went to Carter Island.

13th. A. M., split some rails back of schoolhouse. P. M. made garden for Mrs. Wells.

14th. Made garden for Mrs. Wells. P. M., grafted apple trees for Job Davis.

15th. Worked for Mrs. Wells. P. M., split rails at home.

16th. Chop and carry poles for a fence south side pasture.

17th. Took Old Cow on prairie to William Lanes for H. Johnson. Received remaining \$5. Coming home I traded Dolly steer, 8 pigs and \$5 to Pleasant Taylor for a yellow mare 15 years old. Home and made a pen to put hogs in.

18th. P. Taylor came and got his hogs. I went back with him and traded with Wm. E. Taylor for an old set of harness, 2 days work in harvest, then brought my mare and harness home and fixed the shed for her. Turned Line-back calf out and put sheep all together.

19th. Sunday. Home. John Savage here. Went to meeting, foot-washing, &c. John went home.

20th. Tom Siveter here. Took corn to mill and got it ground. Fix harness and plow garden. Took Wright's borrowed plow home. Went to Conley's to tell him about his cow.

21st. Work on fence south side of pasture.

22nd. Rain. Tom Siveter and I went to Watson's Mill and ground our mattocks and ax. P. M. work on pasture fence.

23rd. Work on pasture fence.

24th. Had I. Conley's oxen and hauled my wood off John Watson's clearing.

25th. Finish my pasture fence and to I. Conley's to borrow sheep shears and shear I sheep.

26th. Sunday. Went to spring and A. and I sheared 3 sheep. I drew off a brown thrush and a red bud branch.

27th. We sheared 3 sheep and turned them in the pasture, and to I. Conley's and commenced fixing my plow lay.

28th. Finished my plow and paint said branch and a part of said bird.

29th. Grub.

30th. Grub.

May 1, 1863. A. M. grub, P. M. Thos. Siveter and I went to Salem.

2nd. $\frac{3}{4}$ day planting corn for Sam'l Siveter. In the eve David came home with me in buggy. He went home.

3rd. Sunday. Wm. Stanley and I harnessed Kit and Nip and drove them to a wagon to J. Turnham's and Wm. rode Nip.

4th. Shell corn and took to mill, then grub and burn brush.

5th. Had Conley's oxen and plow, haul I load roots and I of corn.

6th. Plowing and haul I load fodder. Took oxen home, then took Kit to J. Turnham's stable horse.

7th. Marking off said ground with Kit and commence planting corn.

8th. A. M. planted all the ground plowed. Fish some and fix corn crib.

9th. Grub and burn brush and fish.

10th. Sunday. Lee Wells here, he and I went to creek and shot a good mess of fish with bow.

11th. To Job's after kettle, then to I. Conley's and plowed while he sharpened my plow. Rainy.

12th. The dog of my gun out of order. Plowing with old Kit.

13th. Help J. Wright plant corn.

14th. Kate cow had a bull calf, Buck. I help Wright plant corn.

15th. J. Wright plowed for me. I carried some of my fodder off, P. M. plowed with old Kit.

16th. Marked off with her and planted some corn.

17th. Sunday. R. Wells and I to creek, catch a good mess of fish, dip net.

18th. Finished marking out and planted some beans, corn and potatoes.

19th. Finish planting said ground that was plowed, and grub some.

20th. Grub and chop poles in clearing, and to Conley's.

21st. Had the oxen and plowed the rest of old ground (very hard). Took oxen home.

22nd. Help O. M. Wells plant corn. Rain in P. M.

23rd. A. M. help O. M. Wells plant corn. In eve fishing, caught good mess.

24th. Sunday. Anna and I went to Sneath's. They not at home, waited till 2 o'clock, caught a few fish and then came home.

25th. Shell corn and took to mill and got it ground, then mark out and plant my 3rd piece of corn.

26th. Chop poles and pile brush. Rain, and I pick wool.

27th. Pile and burn brush, rain. Paint golden crested Kinglet for old Mrs. Wright and took it down to James' and went to Conley's.

28th. Sow my hungarian and brush it in with Kit. Rain. Mend bridle.

29th. Went to Hillsboro, sold 8 lbs. butter 8 cts., and 2 dozen eggs, 5 cts., to J. B. Allen. P. M. home, stuck peas.

30th. Job Davis and I went to Bonaparte with our wool.

31st. Sunday. Made 2 bar posts. R. Wells and I went to creek and swim, then fix hog pen.

June 1, 1863. To Conley's, hunt his oxen, then Pleas Taylor came after his hogs. Got them all in pen but 1. I help him catch them. Then I hauled roots, 7 loads, off new piece, and commenced plowing it with said oxen. Kept them all night.

2nd. Finished plowing and harrowing said ground, then took oxen home, and marked it out with Kit and a rail and Walter and I planted it.

3rd. Help J. Wright plant corn $\frac{1}{2}$ day and fix my water yoke and went fishing; caught some.

4th. Rode to Salem and to Uncle William's; back at night.

5th. Work on road.

6th. The same.

7th. Sunday. Went to north side creek and got arrow head that Lem Bennet found in Sigler's field. Home. Sneath and family here.

8th. To J. Wright's, borrow brush scythe, then shell corn and went to mill. Then began staking east fence.

9th. Finished said fence P. M. Then made set of bars out of yard into pasture.

10th. Making pole fence in northwest corner of field. P. M., to J. Turnham's with Nip and Kit.

11th. Mow hazel brush in path down to spring (plenty water there), then put soles on Anna's cloth shoes. Mow brush in southwest corner of field.

12th. Mow some brush on hill toward schoolhouse and replant some corn.

13th. Jas. Wright and his wife and Anna and I went to Mt. Pleasant. We bought 1 sack of salt and some leather together. Took my 2 guns to be repaired: musket, a new tube, 20 cts.; small gun, tumbler broke, 50 cts., by James Stedman.

14th. Sunday. Wm. Stanley and I took mares to John Turnham's, and I hunted for Bird cow with a calf. Found said calf, but it ran away and I could not find it.

15th. J. Wright and I hunted said calf, found it and brought them home. Sold 5 doz eggs, 25 cts. Made bell collar and put bell on Nip and turned her out. Jim and I cut out our lines [from leather] and divided our salt. I sew on my tick pants.

16th. Went to Salem to work at Dr. Siveter's mowing grass.

17th. A. M. raking hay. P. M., hauling hay.

18th. Fix the hog shed and fence.

19th. Finish flood gate and chopped, and haul 1 saw log to mill. I quit, then pick a basket of cherries.

20th. Came home, got my gun at Mr. Child's. He brought it from Mt. Pleasant. I went to creek with Anna washing, then to spring. Rain a little. Made yarn winder.

21st. Sunday. Home all day.

22nd. Half sole 1 of my boots and plow in my corn.

23rd. Plow corn.

24th. Plow corn and went to Conley's.

25th. Plow corn.

26th. Plow corn.

27th. Went to Salem, took 9½ lbs. butter, then home at night.

28th. Sunday. O. M. Wells here. Home nearly all day. Samuel Siveter here. We had a swim, then I shot 2 squirrels.

29th. Shell corn, took it to mill and got it ground. Then paint an eagle on C. T. P. flag for Sam'l Roberts. Received 25 cts. and took it down to mill.

30th. Went to Salem, took eggs and stay and help Dr. Siveter prepare his wagon for painting and began to paint.

July 1, 1863. Painting.

2nd. Painting.

3rd. Finish painting two wagons and 1 shed. Then home.

4th. J. Wright and Walter and I hunted and fished. We slew 3 squirrels, 1 pigeon, 1 duck, 3 mink, 1 ground hog and 30 small cat fish. The dog of my gun out of fix early in the day. At night we hunted fox. No catch them. Kill 1 possum. J. Wright, Job Davis, John Watson, and I.

5th. Sunday. Shaved. Had a swim, then home all day and sleep.

6th. To Daniel Barger's, borrow a crowbar and dug in spring. It dry.

7th. Went to Salem. Sold 7 lbs. butter and 1 doz. eggs, trade it out, then home and shell corn.

8th. O. M. Wells and I went to Bonaparte to mill and got my rolls [wool] and Roberts', and Conley's, and Thornton's.

9th. A. M. Slept. P. M. went to Conley's and got gun fixed, then to creek and swim.

10th. Commenced making gate for Job into his pasture A. M. Chat Job. P. M., Bill hauled a pole for gate and I worked on it.

11th. To Wells' and Roberts' to borrow augers, and finish and put up said gate.

12th. Sunday. Thomas Siveter here. To the creek and he home. Anna and I went see Mrs. Thornton. She sick. Then I shot 1 squirrel and 1 young turkey, the first this season.

13th. To Salem. Work for Dr. Thomas Siveter. Commenced cradling oats.

14th. Cutting and binding oats.

15th. Finished said oats.

16th. Samuel and I cut and bound wheat west side road. Finish in $\frac{3}{4}$ day. Stay all night. Samuel kills a beef.

17th. Carry water. Walter and I to Roberts' Mill, ground my scythe and I mowed some of my grass.

18th. Mow and cock up my hay. Shot 1 pigeon.

19th. Sunday. J. Wright and wife and Anna and I went to creek. I shot 1 gray squirrel, kill 1 woodchuck. Gun lock dog gave out, then home and wrote some in book B.

20th. Went to Wm E. Taylor's, bind a few oats and mow grass for him to pay for my harness.

21st. Mow and haul hay for the same.

22nd. To Salem took $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. butter, $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ doz. eggs, 7 cts, then help Siveter haul wheat and oats, and home.

23rd. Went on prairie to hunt some work, found it done up (very hot). To creek and swim.

24th. Mowing for O. M. Wells.

25th. The same to pay for beef, &c.

26th. Sunday. Went to Uncle William's, stay all night.

27th. Came home. Fix my boot and fix cow yard fence. Shot 1 fox squirrel.

28th. To Wells' to see about grass on shares. Then pull weeds out of my corn.

29th. Rain some. Went on north side creek hunting.

30th. A. M. pulled weeds, P. M. Walter and I stacked my hay.

31st. Anna and I went to creek washing. I went to Carter bottom. Very dry season.

August 1, 1863. Went to Wright's. I. Conley came there, I got his oxen and James' wagon and haul 1 load wood from J. Watson's, then took wagon and oxen home. Carry water from Brothers' well every day.

2nd. Sunday. Hunt some, shot 1 common partridge, and pick a few blackberries.

3rd. Pull weeds and hunt. Kill 1 turkey (musket).

4th. Pull weeds in morning and pick blackberries, near a tin bucketful. Shot 2 common partridges at once (musket). Carry water for sheep.

5th. Jonah D. Rudisil and James Wright and I hunted. He shot 7 squirrels. I shot nothing.

6th. A good rain. Went to Salem, sold $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. butter, 15 cts. Got some bough apple sprouts. Rain.

7th. Went to Wells' and chat. Seth has a sore mouth. Hunt some and went to John Watson's, got a little honey for Seth.

8th. Jonas and I hunted some. I shot 1 muskrat and 1 fox squirrel. Home. Rain, then pick a bucketful of berries. Walter picked some.

9th. Sunday. Watch McCredie's field, then to Coburn's and Hammond's field. No turkey. My left eye begins to feel sore.

10th. Eyes very bad. Shell corn. J. Wright made some eye salve for me.

11th. Went to mill and then to Salem. Took 8 doz. and 3 eggs, 6 cts. Eyes sore.

12th. Mrs. Wright, Anna and I went blackberrying. Got good mess. I shot 1 common partridge and 1 fox squirrel.

13th. Fix pole fence east and north. Went to U. B. protracted meeting, then to J. Wright's. He doctored my eyes.

14th. To Stanley's after letter from Mary, then hunt. Kill nothing. Very hot. Write some.

15th. Watch the road for turkeys. None came. Kill 2 gray squirrels. To protracted meeting.

16th. Sunday. To meeting twice.

17th. Pick 2 bucketfuls blackberries. In evening shot 2 fox squirrels. Pull a few weeds.

18th. Finish pulling weeds out of corn. Very hot. Went to Carter bottom and pick a few berries.

19th. Mow weeds in fence corners east, then plait on my hat and watch for turkey.

20th. Hunt cows. Big chase after Rose. Eyes much better. Hunted with Jonah, D. R., Jas. R., and L. W. I shot 10 squirrels 7 gray and 3 fox, 1 crane and 1 snake.

21st. Help I. Conley clean out his well, then went to Salem, sold 6 doz eggs, 6 cts., then went to Uncle William's and stayed all night.

22nd. David Burden and I hunted some. Kill 1 fox squirrel.

23rd. Sunday. Anna and Samuel and I went to Job Davis'.

24th. A. M. grub. P. M. hunt. Shot 1 fox squirrel. Went to Jacob Sypers'.

25th. Frost. Went to Salem, sold $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. butter, 15 cts, 1 doz eggs, 6 cts., then work for Dr. Siveter. A. M. mow weeds, P. M. plow.

26th. A. M. went to Little Cedar timber and haul 1 gate post. P. M. plow.

27th. Mend pants, load oats, and then plow.

28th. Husk corn, shell it and took to mill, and gather seed corn. Took it and cobs up to Samuel's.

29th. Frost. Came home. P. M. hunted south. Shot 5 turkeys, one old gob., 1 hen, and 3 young ones.

30th. Sunday. Went to hunt one I shot in evening. Found it and shot 1 more. Very heavy frost. Killed corn blades, vines and potato tops. Home. Write a letter to John Wetsell.

31st. Mow my hungarian. Went to Carter's bottom to meet Uncle William. He not come. Rowed some of said hay.

September 1, 1863. Finish bunching said hay and then took Walter and John to Uncle William's, then home.

2nd. To Salem, sold $5\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. butter, 87 cts., 3 doz. eggs, 18 cts. P. M. work for Dr. Siveter, pick apples and we made $2\frac{1}{2}$ bls. cider.

3rd. Threshed at Grim's and I sawed wood, and Sam and I hauled oats to his barn.

4th. We threshed at Dr's. and then haul straw and rails. Then to Uncle William's and stay all night.

5th. Brought Walter and John home, then watch for turkey. Shot 1 squirrel. Dr. Siveter here.

6th. Sunday. Shot 4 squirrels and 1 pigeon, then home.

7th. Uncle William, Aunt Mary, and Rosa and John and his Pary wife here. I shelled corn.

8th. Grub some, and cut out a coat for Virgil Knowles, charged, and went to Uncle William's to go to Mt. Pleasant.

9th. Rain. John and I went to William Deacon's.

10th. John and I went to Mt. Pleasant, and went through the insane asylum, then home.

11th. I came home and commenced cutting corn, set up 2 shocks, went to I. Conley's and partly made Walter a corn knife, and strip some cane.

12th. Hunt in morning and showed Margret Weaver about the coat, then at Wright's and got my scythe and mowed weeds in fence corners north and fix fence south and hunt.

13th. Sunday. Fox hunt in morning. I shot 1 grey fox. Then Samuel Siveter and wife here. We went to Carter bottom. I shot 1 gray squirrel.

14th. Cut corn, set 1 shock. Took one wheel up to Thornton's. Hunt cows.

15th. Cut corn, set 2 shocks.

16th. Set 3 shocks, then I. Conley and I stacked my hungarian hay, 2 loads, and his 6 loads, and fix Walter's corn knife.

17th. High wind. Cut corn and hunt. Kill 2 common partridges. Rain and frost.

18th. To Salem, sold $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. butter, $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts. and $4\frac{1}{2}$ doz eggs, 10 cts. Home and cut corn. Rain hard and frost. Sandhill cranes and wild geese fly over. Bought Anna pair shoes.

19th. Cut corn, set 11 shocks, hunt some. Shot 2 fox squirrels.

20th. Sunday. Hunt in morning, then Walter and I picked a basket of grapes by creek, then watch for turkey.

21st. To Conley's. He fixed my bell clapper. Cut a pair pants for A Martin. Received 25 cts. Cut corn and hunt cows. Shot 1 fox squirrel.

22nd. Hunt cows (no find), then cut corn, set 3 shocks. Hunt cows, found them.

23rd. Cut corn, 8 shocks, hunt cows, shot 1 common partridge and 2 fox squirrels.

24th. Cut corn, set 9 shocks, 36 in all. P. M. to F. Thornton's field, cut 19 round shocks, cut it for the fodder.

25th. Hunt in morning and went to Sneath's. P. M. Walter and I cut and set 14 round shocks in said field. Shot 1 common partridge. Hunt cows. Shot 1 gray squirrel.

26th. A. M. Walter and I cut 12 shocks. P. M. hunted. Shot 1 pigeon and hunt cows.

27th. Sunday. We went to Sneath's visiting. Hunt cows.

28th. A. M. work on road from N. Boley's south. P. M. to Wright's and hunt cows and watch McCredie's field for deer.

29th. A. M. cut corn, 7 shocks, making 43 round shocks in the Thornton field. Then in house, cut pair pants for Saml. Morris. 25 cts. charged. Hunt cows.

30th. Sowed timothy grass seed and a patch of rye and hoe it in, then thrashed white beans. P. M. hunt. Shot 1 pigeon and 1 fox squirrel.

October 1, 1863. Went to Salem, sold 3 doz eggs, 18 cts. and 6 7/16 lbs. butter 12½ cts. bought 9 yds. factory, 37½ pr. yd. Rainy, home in evening. A cow got in pasture.

2nd. Round the pasture fix the fence, then to I. Conleys and then to Roberts' Mill, home and shell a sack of corn, and to Thornton's and pay her 75 cts for spinning 4 doz 1½ cuts chain. Hunt cows.

3rd. Rainy, carry wood. Anna and I carry part of our loom down from Brothers' house. Then to J. Watson's Mill and hunt cows. Not find.

4th. Sunday. Hunt cows. Shot 3 squirrels and 1 duck and 8 pigeons. Found cows.

5th. Help Pleasant Taylor rope Bolly steer. He got sullen and we had to leave him. Then cut out Sam'l Morris' coat and sew.

6th. Sewing on said coat. Tom Siveter here (rain).

7th. Sew on said coat.

8th. A. M. cut corn for I. Conley. P. M. finished said coat and cut out a vest for Sam'l. Morris.

[To be continued]

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