



Transcription of the diary of Sally Ripley (1785-), 1799-1801.

This handwritten diary is in the collection of the American Antiquarian Society (Catalog Record 272044)

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Please note: Ripley’s diaries after 1801 are not included in this transcription. There may be references to diaries 1802-1804 (which are owned by the Schlesinger Library) and 1805-1809 (which are owned by AAS) throughout the transcription and supplementary materials.

Preface

I began my search with the aim of retrieving and investigating a segment of women's experience in the American past. In the process, I found myself trying on the various occupations that accompany scholarship; explorer, detective, debater, assessor, interpreter, inquisitor. It was an excursion designed not only to bring together the scattered pieces of Sally's past through her own words, but to place them in a context, which meant probing the surrounding terrain. Like any expedition into the unknown, a substantial support team supplied the provisions, carried the baggage, and helped read the map.

Tilton School, under the leadership of Headmaster Herbert P. Moore, provided a generous stipend each summer and thus underwrote a significant portion of the project. The Massachusetts Historical Society and the Historical Society of Wisconsin archives both yielded treasure, as did the Springfield Public Library's genealogy room, which houses a fine collection of material from an earlier Springfield. The New Hampshire Historical Society filled out data on the Stearns and Ripley families. The Franklin County Probate Court and the Springfield City Clerk's Office gave tangible form, through legal records, to Sally and her family, and the staffs of both offices were helpful in trying to trace the thread of Sally's "invisible" years. The Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe and the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts currently house portions of the journals themselves, and they kindly made both original and microfilmed copies available to me, as did the Smith College Library. The tremendous resources of Dartmouth's Baker Library made research not only possible, but a pleasure. Among those resources is the Head of Interlibrary Loan, Patricia Carter, whose unstinting efforts on my behalf were impressive and are greatly appreciated.

Dr. Jere Daniel spent a summer trying to teach me how to write, and I can only hope he feels he had some limited success. My errors didn't make it past Judy Schneider, whose professionalism was greatly appreciated. My debt to my family is unbounded. They know Sally Ripley's story nearly as well as I do at this point, understanding and sharing my enthusiasm if not my obsession. My brother, Kempton Page, gave me a gift of freedom by unselfishly taking on difficult familial obligations. My daughter, Virginia, chief taco maker and bottle washer, knows

woman's work is limited only by her imagination. By holding down the fort, she bought me the time to search through cemeteries. My husband, Joseph, who is and always shall be my rock -- thank you for knowing what it meant to me, and for knowing that I needed this.

Introduction

When Sally Ripley began her journal in 1799, she was fourteen years old, eldest daughter in the house of a prosperous Greenfield, Massachusetts merchant, an earnest Congregationalist and a student in the village school. By 1818, when the journal ended, this once confident young woman stood facing an uncertain life of poverty and dependency as the widow of a debt ridden man.

Beset by doubts about her spiritual life as well as her temporal future, she believed that her distress might have been caused by her own failure. She wrote, "my sins might have justly provoked the Lord to consign me to that world where hope never comes." Her words are testimony to her Congregational heritage--and to more. She continues: "It becomes me not to murmur or complain...", thus reflecting a much broader cultural paradigm which prescribed a life of submission, piety, and purity for women. It also prescribed domesticity, thus denying her access to means by which she could support herself and her "Infant family."¹

It was not a life she would have chosen for herself, had she been able. Bright, capable, a member of a family at the center of Greenfield's elite, enthusiastic and optimistic, she was a young woman of spirit and ability. Her path was nonetheless carefully circumscribed--every circumstance ordered--by boundaries based primarily on her sex. What barriers enclosed her, limiting self-determination and frustrating a fuller use of her talents? How had she come to know and accept these barriers? What was possible--and what was not? How did she function, as adolescent, young adult, wife and mother, within her proper sphere?

¹ Sally Ripley Stearns, Journal, December 20, 1818.

The journals provide a latchkey to understanding. They describe, in the non-continuous set of four volumes which remain, the life of a white, upper middle class New England woman. While Sally Ripley's experiences are representative of her class, race and gender in many respects, she is not every woman, by any means. Still, her words, written in a hand which changes according to age, mood, and occasionally subject matter, do provide entry into the pre- and proscriptions which formed not only her life but also those of many other women of her time and relative circumstances. Sally Ripley is also a historical actor responding to circumstances, and shaping experiences. For those reasons alone, the journals are worth exploration.

They also provide evidence of a particular society, place and time, providing myriad details about life in a western Massachusetts town during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Sally Ripley serves not only as an exemplar of a particular life pattern, but also as a recorder of family and town histories, giving flesh to otherwise thin bones and humanity to dry records. Unofficial, unheralded, and uncounted by earlier historians, the journals are also perceptive, intimate, and rich in detail. They offer us a history of time and place as well as a person.

Greenfield: An Economic and Social Setting

The Ripleys were people of respectable Congregational stock, descended from early settlers of Hingham, Massachusetts. By the time of the Revolution, Jerome Ripley had moved to Boston to seek his fortune. He found a wife, evidently being of sufficiently good merit to marry Sarah Franklin--kinswoman of the celebrated Benjamin. Toward the end of the 1780s, the Ripleys moved west to start anew in Greenfield. They brought with them their daughter Sally (b. 1785) and their sons Thomas (b. 1787) and Franklin (b. 1789), all of whom had been born in Boston. Sarah Franklin Ripley bore seven more children in Greenfield: Lydia (b. 1791), Elizabeth (b. 1793 and called Betsy), Harriet (b. 1795), Marianne (b. 1797), George (b. 1800, d. 1802 in the dysentery epidemic), George (b. 1802 and named for his recently deceased brother), and William (b. 1806, d. 1810). The children who survived were Sarah Franklin Ripley's only legacy.

Greenfield could boast another member of the Ripley family. Jerome's brother David had also emigrated to Greenfield, perhaps earlier than Jerome, and had opened a bookstore on the main street. On September 6, 1790, Jerome purchased from Samuel Wells an eight acre lot

fronting on the same street as his brother's shop, and on it he built a store. A year later, he sold the westerly portion of the lot to Eliel Gilbert (who opened a saddlery), which may have given Jerome the capital needed to expand his business to include keeping a public house. Labelled as Lot #9 on early maps,² Jerome's property was located just south of the Common and the junction with the road that led down Clay Hill to the wharves at Cheapside, the landing area on the Deerfield River. The area was not the oldest part of town--that honor belonged to Trap Plain, located further north, where a few buildings, including the meeting house stood--but it was the center of a growing commercial district.

The move proved to be a beneficial one financially. The Direct Tax List, compiled in 1798 in response to Federal requisitions, lists Jerome Ripley as owning houses and outbuildings worth \$1900 and land worth \$850³--substantial assessments that made him one of the wealthier men of the town. Only two other citizens among the one hundred forty listed owned buildings with higher assessments. Jerome had constructed a large and elegant two-and-a-half story building with an impressive Doric colonnade: the store occupied the downstairs and the family lived upstairs in what appear to have been capacious quarters.⁴ (The building was termed the "Ripley mansion" when converted into two stores by a new owner in 1845.)⁵ Jerome's wealth was not all in Greenfield land and buildings: on his death in 1838 he left a sizeable estate which included shares in the Greenfield bank, other real estate in Fitchburg, cash, and an extensive inventory. In all, his net worth after a lifetime of work was nearly seventeen thousand dollars.⁶

Jerome became a man of important social and political position in the community as well as making a good deal of money. The nearly fifty years that he lived in Greenfield saw him hold a variety of offices, both appointed and elected, including town moderator, state legislator and associate justice of the Franklin County Court of Sessions.⁷ On town meeting days, Sally often

² Francis Thompson, *History of Greenfield* (Greenfield: T. Morey and Son, 1904), 1066-1067.

³ Thompson, 893-897.

⁴ *A Pictorial History of Greenfield, Massachusetts* (Greenfield Historical Society, 1953), n.p.

⁵ Thompson, 327.

⁶ Holographic estate administration documents. Franklin County Probate Court records.

⁷ Thompson, 842.

noted, "Papa had company to dine."⁸ He served as a committee member to choose a new minister, to relocate the meeting house, and to seat it as well. He was probably a lay elder, as he enjoyed a front pew directly beneath the pulpit, and may have professed the somewhat revivalistic, nonseparating New Light sentiments common to the area at the time. Eventually, he led the movement to establish a Second Congregational Church, located more conveniently for the people of 'the Street' as the growing commercial area came to be called. He served as treasurer of various benevolent orders: the Franklin Society for the Suppression of Intemperance, the Franklin Bible Society, the Auxilliary Foreign Missionary Society. Jerome Ripley was a living example of the virtuous citizen required to sustain the fledgling republic. He was also an upwardly mobile merchant, whose activities enhanced his business.

Such material and spiritual wealth gave the Ripleys elite social standing. Sally's friends and companions, a limited group listed repeatedly in her journal, were members of the leading families of the community: Munn, Smead, Wells, Willard, Leavitt, Allen and Alvord are names of members of the local elite. They were able to enjoy their leisure and shared activities together. "I partook with avidity of many of those amusements with which young people are fond" wrote Sally on her nineteenth birthday, looking back at the year just passed. Evenings spent paying calls, playing cards, giving and going to dinner, "time on weekdays divided between parties, friendly visits, and walks,"⁹¹⁰ particularly as she grew into young womanhood, spelled a life of ease and conviviality. The group married, in large part, among themselves or with others from similarly well connected backgrounds. Sally appears to have been popular, spending a great deal of time in an everlasting (and ultimately, she confessed, rather dull) round of teas, outings, and gatherings in their company.

Jerome Ripley's success was both the product of and an inspiration for Greenfield's growth. A community blessed with an abundance of resources, it was set at the center of natural transportation routes, and populated by people who were determined, as Jerome was, to achieve

⁸ Journal, April 7, 1800, April 6, 1801, April 6, 1807, March 3, 1809, April 4, 1808.

⁹ Journal, November 26, 1804.

¹⁰ Journal, April 23, 1810.

material prosperity. Located at the confluence of the Green, Deerfield and Connecticut Rivers, the plain on which Greenfield sat was protected from the worst ravages of a flooding Connecticut by a ridge of capstone called Rocky Mountain on her eastern flank. To the west, the country rose sharply into the highlands of the upper Appalachian chain. Favorable growing conditions for a variety of crops, particularly the rich alluvial soil, had made the plain attractive to farmers from Deerfield, which had been settled in the 1670s, and they had moved north in the eighteenth century to begin again in what were, quite literally, greener pastures. They planted alfalfa, timothy, clover, flax and corn as well as starting dairying operations. By 1790 and the arrival of the Ripleys, the population was nearly fifteen hundred souls--ninety percent of them engaged in agricultural pursuits.¹¹

Greenfield could boast of significant advantages over her neighbors: her location, sitting astride a network of rivers, provided multidirectional access for the flatboats that carried goods, people and news. Greenfield, unlike Factory Village, Montague or Gill, was downstream of the dangerous sweep of Turner's Falls, and it was further north than Deerfield. Access north or south by river meant a trip to Greenfield, where goods could be offloaded for sale by merchants like Jerome, reassembled for further shipment to the interior, or sent downstream to the larger markets of Springfield, Hartford, New Haven and New York. The rivers also held the possibility of water power for mill sites, and corn and grist mills were among the earliest buildings on the Green River. Eventually, water supplied power to a variety of mills, including cutlery and woolen manufacturers. Agriculture, trade and manufacturing supported healthy growth in commercial enterprises like the Ripleys during a period when many other New England towns struggled or declined.¹² The first issue of the Greenfield Gazette for the year 1800 contained advertising for

¹¹ United States Government Bureau of the Census, *Abstract of the Census of 1860* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1861), 202. Also, Henry Edwards Scott, ed. *Vital Records of Greenfield, Massachusetts to the year 1850* (Boston: F.H. Gilson Co. for the New England Genealogical Society, 1901), 3.

¹² George Wingate Chase, ed., *Abstract of the Census of Massachusetts, 1860* (Boston: Wright and Potter, 1863), 202. Further information concerning the pattern of growth and decline may be found in the *Relation Between Certain Population changes and the Physical Environment in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties, Mass., 1790-1925*, a thesis in Geography by Lester Earl Kilman (Philadelphia: 1933).

both David's book store and Jerome's mercantile. Jerome, selling long wood, red wood, fustic, alum, copperas and brimstone, sought cash and wood ash. Other stores announced crockery, India cotton, glass ware, cod fish, 100 nails, woolen goods, muslin and calico for sale, seeking both cash and agricultural products which could then be shipped to city markets.¹³¹³ A wide variety of consumer goods were available and the commercial district was on its way to participating more fully in a cash economy. Economic well-being created a surplus which allowed, for some, time for reflection. For others, it allowed time for learning.

The Life of the Mind: The Boundaries of Education

Both Jerome and Sarah Franklin Ripley were literate, at least to the point that they could sign their names in firm and legible script, and probably beyond that.¹⁴¹⁴ As participants, albeit in different ways, in a society that was heavily invested in Scripture and subscribed as well to the duties demanded by a republic, they believed in the need for basic education for their children, and sent all of them to school. The schools they attended, and the length of their enrollment, depended on gender.

For his sons, Jerome supported elementary and college preparatory work at the village school, and then proffered the possibility of college. Two of his sons took advantage of the offering: Franklin attended Dartmouth and then journeyed to Cooperstown, New York, to study law with a respected judge, and George, a member of the Class of 1823 at Harvard, also graduated from Harvard Divinity School. Only Thomas did not go on to advanced schooling, preferring to become a merchant like his father. For Sally and her sisters, the educational foundations held some similarities, but the eventualities were very different. Unlike the boys, they had no need to study the classics or theology, law or other subjects that would enable them to cultivate a life of scholarly or commercial occupation. If not to prepare for entrance into public life, what, then, was the purpose of sending girls to school at all?

¹³ Greenfield Gazette, January 25, 1800.

¹⁴ Holographic will of Jerome Ripley, admitted to probate January 26, 1839. Sarah Franklin Ripley signed [a document] agreeing to the division of her late husband's estate.

An influential and early advocate of education for women, Benjamin Rush suggested that schooling should "be accommodated to the state of Society, manners, and the government of the country." As there was little time in which females might be educated, owing to early marriages, attention should be given to "the more useful branches," thus preparing women to "assist as stewards and guardians of their husband's property." To that end, he prescribed a curriculum that included bookkeeping, writing, pa natural philosophy, an acquaintance with geography, and, as there was no servant class, domestic affairs.¹⁵

Greenfield's schoolmaster, Proctor Pierce, an adequate, if somewhat uninspiring teacher, evidently took Rush's prescription to heart. Son-in-law of Greenfield's revered Congregational minister, the Reverend Dr. Newton, Pierce had been graduated from Dartmouth in 1796, at the age of twenty-eight. Selected first to keep school at the Academy of New Salem, he came to Greenfield in 1799 and opened his own school.¹⁶ Pierce offered a curriculum consisting of basic mathematics (including simple interest), reading prescriptive texts such as Mrs. Chapone's *Letters on the Improvement of the Mind*, writing, grammar, declamation, spelling and geography, as well as a smattering of astronomy. No higher mathematics, sciences, classics or other advanced subjects were included, as Pierce evidently also subscribed to the idea that too much education for girls was either useless or perhaps worse.

A second motive for educating women lay in what Linda Kerber has termed Republican Motherhood.¹⁷ If women were prohibited from direct participation in a democracy, what was their function? Early Republican ideology aligned the domestic sphere occupied by women and the political arena denied them by proposing that the female contribution to republicanism lay in inculcating virtue in their children-- notably in their sons, who would someday participate

¹⁵ Benjamin Rush, "Thoughts upon Female Education Accommodated to the Present State of Society, Manners and Government in the United States of America" (Philadelphia: 1787) in Frederick Rudolph, ed., *Essays on Education in the Early Republic* (Cambridge, Mass.: 1965), 25-40.

¹⁶ Thompson, 751.

¹⁷ This thesis, which defines the rationale behind educating women as based on the needs of the Republic, extends beyond involuntary domestication and projects an education which would help to create competent and confident women. See Kerber, Linda, *Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980), especially pp. 185-288.

directly. Women might also function as guardians of their husband's morals, as females were removed from the temptations of the public sphere and were both the source and support of gentility. Thus, while being denied direct political participation, their role was endowed with political purpose. It was both important in its own right and complementary to that of the male. For the very survival of the Republic, children needed to learn, and men had to function, virtuously, in order to teach and guide them, women had to assimilate the canon themselves first, learning the precepts and attitudes of virtue and, indirectly, their role in preserving and propagating them. Preparation for Republican Motherhood could occur—and did, to some degree—in the classroom.

Persistently reinforcing religious and moral views, Pierce described Asia, for example, as "the theater of the most important transactions that were ever performed. It was here that our Saviour was born he lived and was crucified here by the Jews."¹⁸ Prayers were offered by the schoolmaster at the conclusion of every examination period, and poems selected included "The Advantages of Virtue" and "Virtue and Ornament."¹⁹

At times, the instruction became more direct: Sally reports that she and her schoolmates received a lecture from our instructor this afternoon on the importance of conducting ourselves with propriety in this life that we may eternally be happy in that which is to come.²⁰ Pierce, named for his maternal ancestor John Proctor of the Salem witch trials, served as a deacon of the Congregational church and was chosen by the town to serve as orator during the ceremonies memorializing George Washington.²¹ He dined, occasionally, at the Ripley table and could be relied upon to hold correct views, as befitted a man put in charge of young minds.

Education for women could also translate into upward social mobility by preparing them to be attractive candidates for marriage. This theme was common enough to be encapsulated in an end-of-term play in which both Sally and her brother Thomas participated. The lines assigned

¹⁸ Journal, September 10, 1799.

¹⁹ Journal, June 25, 1800 and August 1, 1800.

²⁰ Journal, November 25, 1799. Sally may have been particularly sensitive to this point as it was the day before her birthday, upon which occasion she annually recalled the precarious nature of life.

²¹ Journal, February 22, 1799.

to Sally as Nelly Goodheart in "The Mother of a Family" taught the class about the purposes to which a woman's education might be put, and thus the degree of education which might be desirable:

"If I really thought I could get a nice husband I don't know but I should try to learn...I'll go to school with all my heart...likelihood you should by Arithmetic (add to) the certainty that you should be married--I'll learn Arithmetic, I will, I will!"²²

The school met, on a more or less regular schedule, six days a week during four quarters of the year which corresponded to the seasons. A fortnight's vacation separated the quarters. In the early entries of her journal, Sally listed the girls who were in her class, and then added, almost as an afterthought, "besides a great number of boys."²³ She usually attended only in the forenoon, and perhaps most afternoons were reserved for the college preparatory work required of the boys, as was an "evening school"²⁴ kept by Mr. Pierce. No males are listed among Sally's afternoon companions, and simple segregation does not seem to provide the answer, as they socialized together on other occasions.

Pierce relied heavily on memorization, and there is little that suggests expansion of ideas or discussion by his students. Sally "parsed," or was given a breakdown, of a lesson, and then memorized it so that she could recite it. Her assignments, as often as not, were tested by recitation for her teacher, for village elders who came periodically to examine the school, or in public on "exhibition days."

Sally did submit one unsolicited piece of her own to her teacher, as "several of the young ladies in school have been writing one, we wrote in the form of a letter and directed it to a Sister living at a distance...."²⁵ In the only example of creative thought given, the form is that of a

²² Journal, end of the volume dated July 1799-June 1801. Sally used her Journal, evidently, to rehearse her parts in the several plays performed by the school, and copied her lines and cues into the back of the volume.

²³ Journal, July 15, 1799.

²⁴ Journal, May 14, 1800. See also Journal note 44.

²⁵ Journal, June 28, 1800.

private woman—a socially suitable letter—rather than any of the more public (and therefore more masculine) patterns such as an essay or speech.

The journal itself was begun as a school exercise, and this assignment was given by a schoolmaster interested in regularizing the habits of his pupils, encouraging self-examination for signs of progress in one's spiritual life, and inspiring awareness of the transience of mundane things. Proctor Pierce succeeded, at least with Sally. Obviously intended as a long-term project, the journal was meant to serve as a bridge between what had been prescribed in school or public worship and her future life; it would aid her in continuing her spiritual journey, in the observation of her world, and as a practical source of notes—all of which was quite consistent with the purposes to which her education would be put. She was herself aware of her utilitarian resolve, and introduced her diary by stating plainly:

This day Monday July, 1799 I begin a diary in school to calculate to make such remarks as shall be of use to me in my future life. My practice shall be, when consistent with health and business, at evening to give the most important incidents of the day, the remarks I may have made in any way in the course of it and if thoughts upon my moral and religious character, a place in my diary, that I may be able to compare different periods of my life and see whether I make a proper use of my time and of the faculties given me by my God.²⁶

She kept that resolution for the next nineteen years at least, with a greater or lesser degree of attention, and reinterpreted what Schoolmaster Pierce had originally assigned in a much more personal way as she grew into adulthood.

In June of 1803, Sally's dearest friend left Greenfield to spend the summer furthering her education at Dorchester Ladies' Seminary. Rachel Willard, daughter of Beriah and Catherine Willard, was the same age as Sally and also lived on the Street, where her father kept a store similar to Jerome Ripley's. Rachel returned from Dorchester the following September, an event that Sally noted with a tinge of envy, writing that Rachel, "has learnt Music and Embroidery and her father bought her a Piano Forte."²⁷ Such accomplishments would enhance Rachel's prospects

²⁶ Journal, July 15, 1799.

²⁷ Journal, September 19, 1803.

in the business of finding a suitable husband. If one element in the emergence of a ladylike ideal was the education of women, it was education designed to enable a proper lady to carry on conversation with a beau, entertain with songs at the pianoforte, and display virtuoso talents in decorative needlework.

The following May, having evidently persuaded her father that she should also pursue such accomplishments Sally accompanied Rachel to the Ladies' Seminary. It was a summer, one presumes, of music and embroidery, but the journal contains no listing of subjects studied in the classroom. The sojourn to Dorchester did provide, however, other and perhaps more important educational experiences for Sally. She had a chance to be somewhat more independent than she had been heretofore. She could gain in self-confidence while out from under her family's roof, even while remaining in a secure situation. She also participated in a world that was exclusively female, and she could observe, if not exercise, organizational and leadership skills that would be useful to her in later life. Friendships begun in childhood took on a deeper and more permanent cast as well, as her special relationship with Rachel and with Eunice Callendar had a chance to flourish in the more sophisticated, more supportive atmosphere of the Boston suburb.

The school had thirty boarders when Sally entered it that May, as well as twenty day students. By August it had grown, with half again as many boarders and almost twice as many day girls. The boarders came from the eastern towns of Massachusetts for the most part, with one listed as coming from St. Croix. They ranged in age from six to eighteen, and Rachel and Sally were among the oldest.

Sally arrived at the Seminary in May of 1804, where her father "left me to the care of Mrs. Saunders and Miss Beach for a few months."²⁸ Within two days, the young ladies had organized themselves into a society, which they entitled "The Band of Sisters." They had a Presidentress and a Secretary, and the stated aims were twofold: to meet on Saturdays and Sundays and read in instructive books or the Bible, and "to live in perfect harmony and friendship and no young lady belonging to the Society is to speak unkindly to a sister."²⁹ The artificial situation of the boarding school had been reclothed along with familiar, familial lines:

²⁸ Journal, May 17, 1804.

²⁹ Journal, May 19, 1804.

the girls were to live together as loving sisters. It was an optimistic and benevolent arrangement for social order and self-improvement based on the model they knew best: the domestic sphere. One crucial difference becomes immediately apparent, however: there was no male to serve as patriarchal leader, protector, and decision maker. Instead, the group was led by one of its own members, a seventeen-year-old named Maria Otis. Within the sphere of domesticity, a different role had been assumed. That Maria Otis was respected as a leader is evident from Sally's comment that "her departure is regretted through the whole school"³⁰ when Maria returned to her home in Barnstable. Maria appointed a new presidentess before setting off, and left a "letter to the Band of Sisters which was this evening read." Long after Sally had returned to her life in Greenfield she sought to prolong the relationship with this admired acquaintance by corresponding with Maria.

Sally's friendships with Rachel Willard and Eunice Callendar were more immediate and more intense. Eunice, a cousin of Sally's who lived in Boston, corresponded regularly through letters that were usually transported by a member of the family who happened to be making the trip to or from Greenfield. Their friendship was more than merely epistolary; each made extended visits to the other's home, during which they were seldom out of each other's company, even carving their names on two trees while walking in the orchard. Eunice wrote of the very high value she placed on their friendship:

Oh could you see with what rapture...all your epistles are opened by me...then would you acknowledge that my Friendship at least equals your own, and yours I believe is as true as pure a flame as ever warmed the breast of any human Creature.

She hoped that their relationship would be "firm and united to the last"³¹ and surviving letters show that it endured for at least thirty years.

Rachel Willard, however, was Sally's "constant and favorite companion" until Rachel's premature death in 1808. "...our residence being near each other we were often together and each in the friendly bosom of the other could repose their secret thought in perfect confidence." Sally's

³⁰ Journal, July 14, 1804.

³¹ Eunice Callendar to Sally Ripley, May 21, 1803 and May 26, 1810, Stearns Collection, Schlesinger Library.

description of Rachel as "truly amiable and virtuous, mild and gentle in her disposition of unassuming manners"³² gave an indication of the model to which she and other women aspired; five years later, Sally named her newborn daughter in memory of her deceased friend "whose virtues I hope she will imitate."³³

When Sally left Dorchester and resumed her position in her parents' house, her education had been completed. She could read, write, cypher, and make her home a more pleasant place in which her husband might retire from the press of his public affairs. She could also, presumably, serve as both guardian and incubator of the Congregational ethic and republican virtue. The preparation for the latter duty had been thorough—certainly much more frequently stressed than geographical facts or the finer points of punctuation. In her interior spiritual life, however, there was increasingly a sense of struggle, in spite of her training.

The Life of the Spirit: Observance Without, Turmoil Within

Sally's earliest religious experiences had been in the meeting house on Trap Plain. Located about a mile north of the Street, the plain, clapboarded building extended forty by fifty feet and had been begun in 1760, presumably to replace a log building that had served the earliest settlers. As it was unheated for most of the years that Sally and her family attended services there, people carried foot warmers and a nearby tavern keeper heated his rooms so that the congregation could retreat there during the noon break in winter Sabbath meetings. According to one informant who attended the meeting house as a boy, girls were seated on the eastern side of the upstairs gallery, separated from young men and boys, who sat on the western and southern sides, a system doubtless designed to keep young people's minds on the business at hand.³⁴

That business was earnest attention to the sermon given by the Reverend Dr. Newton, who had begun his ministry in Greenfield in 1761. Born in Durham, Connecticut in 1737,

³² Journal, November 12, 1808.

³³ Journal, October 31, 1813.

³⁴ Charles Corss, "Recollections of the Old Meeting House" in Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Society History and Proceedings (V. 3, 1890-98), 255-259.

Newton was a graduate of Yale (1758) and received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Dartmouth in 1805.³⁵ The fifty-six years of his ministry gave the Greenfield congregation a continuity that precluded disputation and partisan division. David Willard, town historian and Rachel's brother, wrote that Dr. Newton was possessed of "Consummate prudence, caution and shrewdness" and that his "prayers in public worship had much of the sameness and formality, yet no one found fault therewith; they were seldom varied...yet he was always pertinent..."³⁶

Such consistency could not continue indefinitely, however, and when it ended the ensuing discord produced enormous uncertainty and tension in Sally. Between 1808 and 1816, her minister, meeting house, and theology all underwent significant changes that disrupted the once stable terrain of her religious life.

A death may have sparked her doubts. Rachel Willard had been married less than two years when she died in November of 1808 at the age of twenty-three. Sally was devastated, writing,

How sudden, how shocking, how distressing an event and even now when all is over and I have seen her layed in the cold ground, the sods of the valley covering her I can scarcely realize to my solemn truth, can scarcely bring it home to the imagination that my Rachel is gone forever....³⁷

Her profound grief produced a depression that lasted for months, and she struggled to remain thankful "for the many mercies I still enjoy"³⁸ in spite of "the many dreary hours which I of late have passed."³⁹ By April, Sally wrote that she was

not unhappy, though indeed I sometimes feel a greater degree of dejection than I was formerly accustomed to. I often muse upon my absent friends and regret my separation from them.⁴⁰

³⁵ Thompson, 459.

³⁶ David Willard, Willard's History of Greenfield (Greenfield, Kneeland and Eastman, 1838), III.

³⁷ Journal, November 12, 1808.

³⁸ Journal, December 1, 1808.

³⁹ Journal, March 3, 1809.

⁴⁰ Journal, April 2, 1809.

The episode stands in sharp contrast to Sally's reaction to earlier deaths, notably to that of her young brother George during the dysentery epidemic of the summer of 1802. The boy was a year-and-a-half old; Sally was seventeen, and there were six siblings in between. The Ripley family was not alone in their bereavement; forty-seven children died of "the bloody flux" that summer. Sally's reaction was to write dispassionately about the loss and comment that

it is wrong to repine. He is doubtless gone to happier scenes and it now remains for me to be prepared to follow him whenever it shall please my Heavenly Father to call me home.⁴¹

When the new burying ground was created on Federal Street in 1804, Jerome was one of the original proprietors and had his small son's remains removed to what was to become the family plot; it was a disappointment to Sally that she was not allowed to see her brother's remains "much as I wished to."⁴² Such interest bespeaks an active curiosity as well as an absence of fear about what might have happened to George's corpse in the meanwhile, but gives no hint of the desolation and emotional ravages she underwent with the death of Rachel. To lose a contemporary who was her dearest friend and who lacked an obvious burden of sin made her own mortality a more constant concern.

In the summer of 1810, another brother, William, died at the age of four. Sally found some consolation in

remembering it is the Lord who hath done this and may I be enabled to acquiesce in all his dispensations and may the will of the Lord be done.

Still, she found it "a heavy trial" and found

the ways of the Lord unsearchable and his judgements past finding out ... he sees fated times to send judgements as well as miseries to his children.⁴³

⁴¹ Journal, August 20, 1802.

⁴² Journal, January 4, 1804.

⁴³ Journal, June 29, 1810.

Sally, who was twenty-five and old enough to be the boy's mother (and likely played a role of surrogate mother to him in this large family) once again struggled to resign herself to acceptance, to bring order to this circumstance and thus cope with her emotional turmoil.

After 1808, and in spite of her increased anxiety about the welfare of her soul, she found herself less and less able to focus clearly on religious matters. She reproved herself repeatedly for her "lukewarmness and want of zeal."⁴⁴ Sometimes referring to her waning enthusiasm as "spiritual slothfulness"⁴⁵ or "an inattentive and lethargic"⁴⁶ mind, Sally's Sabbath torpor also coincided with the increased responsibilities and activity demanded by motherhood. Sunday's church services provided one of the few respites from a life of physical and mental exertion.

The Reverend Roger Newton was not likely to be of much help. As far as it is possible to discern from Sally's notes regarding text and sources, his theological leanings were moderate. Frequent themes included the tensions between material goods and spiritual wealth, the possibility of Christian perfection, and the ever present need to prepare for eternal life. For Sally, who often and earnestly hoped that such words "made a suitable impression"⁴⁷ on her mind, the uncertainties of life created a two-edge press: not only was it imperative that she be prepared to meet her God at whatever moment it should please him to call her, but there might be very little time in which to affect such necessary preparation. Constant vigilance and effort were necessary, given the lack of certainty about how much time one might have.

By 1813, an increasingly aged Newton was unable to continue shouldering all of the burdens of his office, and after a series of lay and ordained preachers had helped out by giving the Sabbath afternoon sermon, a committee of elders (including Jerome Ripley) was chosen to select a second minister who would work alongside Dr. Newton as a colleague.⁴⁸ Sally, who had by this time moved to Shelburne as a new bride, had been alternately attending the Shelburne church

⁴⁴ Journal, March 5, 1809.

⁴⁵ Journal, November 21, 1813.

⁴⁶ Journal, May 1, 1814.

⁴⁷ Journal, November 25, 1799.

⁴⁸ Thompson, 459.

under the direction of Reverend Packard and returning to Greenfield to attend the familiar services of Reverend Newton. Even while living some distance, her spiritual touchstone had thus far remained in place, and she had returned to it frequently.

The committee chose Gamaliel S. Olds to serve with Newton, and invited him to settle as co-worker with their much beloved but increasingly feeble pastor. For Olds to do so, he needed to be approved by a council of ministers, and the divisiveness that had long been avoided for so long began to surface.

Earlier ecclesiastical events and the rise of Unitarianism made the confirmation of Olds difficult. Some years previously, a council led by Dr. Newton had refused to approve a candidate for Deerfield's pulpit—one Samuel Willard—as they feared his Unitarian learnings. A second council, this time composed of more liberal ministers from eastern Massachusetts, was convened and ordained Willard, which gave him the right, now, to sit in judgment of Olds' qualifications. Several members of the panel refused to participate with Willard, as to do so might be seen as an endorsement of his Unitarianism. had refused to ordain Samuel Willard, and his sermons, as described by Sally, dealt in large part with the dangers of the surrounding theological heresies:

And in the morning, [you say] "It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening." Ye know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but can ye not interpret the signs of the times.⁴⁹

gave a clear signal that Reverend Packer stood in the Puritan tradition and the Congregational mainstream of the Connecticut River valley.

Perhaps it is an added indication of the tension Sally felt in 1813-1814 to note that when a Unitarian Church was finally established in Greenfield in 1825 (as the Third Congregational Society), her uncle David was one of the organizers, as was her brother-in-law, Sylvester Allen.⁵⁰ Her younger brother George was ordained in 1826 as a Unitarian minister and served the Purchase Street Church in Boston before helping to formulate Transcendentalism and founding,

⁴⁹ Journal, April 8, 1813. The text chosen by Reverend Packard is referred to in the Journal, and here given in full.

⁵⁰ Thompson, 483.

with Emerson and Alcott, the utopian experiment called Brook Farm. Certainly the public direction of part of the family in later years was Unitarian.

Unitarianism was not the only threat to Sally's religious continuity, however. Another division came with the inability of an appointed committee to select a site for a new meeting house. The old one, which Sally had attended for most of her life, was in serious disrepair. Those who lived on or near the Street were anxious that the new church be built there, making attendance possible in times of inclement weather and saving a tedious journey. Eventually growing weary of the committee's inability to act decisively, a portion of the membership petitioned in 1816 to be separated to form a Second Congregational Society and to build a church on the Street. Like Abou ben Adam, Jerome Ripley's name led all the rest.⁵¹

Jerome's wife Sarah, Sally and her husband Charles Stearns, and the other Ripley daughters followed suit. Jerome's sons Franklin and Thomas did not, in spite of the fact that evidence suggests that they were both settled in Greenfield at that point. Also signing were David Ripley and his wife Orra, as well as other Street residents such as the Wells, Leavitts, Billings, Dickinsons and Alvords. Conspicuous by their absence were the names of families of many of Sally's friends: Willard, Smead, and Munn, among others.

Clearly, the even temper of her childhood had been shattered by change and loss. Sally struggled, in the face of both personal and official metastasis, to find peace of mind regarding the nature and demands of her Creator:

...of late my mind has been disturbed by spiritual doubts -- the controversies of the Religious world has affected me -- and caused me to have many doubts and fears. I have been tossed to and fro and shaken about by different doctrines -- sometimes I feel more firmly established in my previously formed opinions and views -- at others I am inclined to doubt all -- everything that I once believed -- but these feel tempting to forsake the suggestion of Satan to silence my think must be the one living and true God -- I have during the Summer attended the ministry of the Rev'd Mr. Olds -- he has lately

⁵¹Thompson, 459.

established a course on the explanatory lectures -- his began with the first chap. of John -- and appears to be attempting to prove the Divinity of Christ --⁵²

Sally's participation in a life of the spirit was not confined to attending meetings, reading and copying religious tracts and prescriptive texts, and feeling anxious about the state of her soul. The Second Great Awakening, rejecting eighteenth-century Enlightenment rationalism, produced an age of religious fervor and brought with it an era of female societies whose aim was the regulation of moral behavior. The need to prepare for the life beyond, so keenly felt by Sally and others, created the necessity of reforming both self and society, and reform groups were organized to make the individual virtuous. Women played a particularly vital part in raising money, sewing, collecting clothing, operating schools for the children of the poor, fighting intemperance and encouraging a life of prayer, moral rectitude, hard work and self-sacrifice.

Sally's earlier experience within Dorchester Academy's Band of Sisters may have provided her with a model when she agreed to serve as the secretary of the Greenfield Female Association for the Education of Heathen Children. Her friend of long standing, Clarissa (Grennell) Williams, was president of the Association, and Sally's attachment to this group was strong enough that she continued in her office after being widowed. Her sister Lydia was listed as treasurer of the Greenfield Female Benevolent Society, and another sister, Marianne, served as vice president.⁵³

Sally also began to participate in the revivalistic fervor that swept through the region, petitioning God to help her to be "animated and encouraged to go forward with my face set like flint and every exertion to promote the latter day glory."⁵⁴ Still, she felt herself to be less than wholly committed, feeling that she fell short even as she invested more deeply in her striving to please her Lord. The language she used to describe her religious feelings is more emotional, less controlled, more fervent in the years 1817-1818 than it had been, and coincided with her period of greatest trial, bringing the journal to events of psychological climax.

⁵² Journal, October 8, 1815.

⁵³ Greenfield Gazette, January 19, 1819.

⁵⁴ Journal, June 28, 1817.

The Life of the Self: Relation and Rupture

Prior to her marriage, Sally spent a large majority of her time in the company of other women. A homoerotic and homosocial world provided her with long lasting and deep friendships, and while what Carroll Smith-Rosenberg has described as a female world of love and ritual⁵⁵ gave way eventually to a world with the demands of spouse and family at its center, Sally still relied heavily on female networks. While this female world has been characterized by some later historians as being confining and anti-intellectual, there is an alternate argument that a separate sphere enabled women to strengthen their sense of themselves, developing networks, alliances and a separate female culture that would form the seedbed of a later feminism. Intensely close relationships within that sphere involved both practical support and a love that was passionless and spiritual rather than sexual.

The exception to that life pattern was the period of time devoted to finding a husband. As Sally moved through young adulthood, she began to spend increasing periods of time with young men as well as women, in a round of both organized and informal occasions. One name began to be increasingly linked with hers. For five years, Charles Stearns of Leominster filled a particular place in Sally's heart, and the progress of her feelings for him is clearly discernible in the journal. Referred to as "an absent friend" and then as Mr. Stearns or Mr. S.- as conventions of the day dictated, the relative position of his name on her list of companions shifted from being just one of the group to being set apart by being either first or last. Eventually, as the relationship deepened she sometimes called him Charles.

Five years is a long time, but neither party could hurry a process which involved such carefully choreographed steps. Once sure of her feelings for him, Sally worried about the constancy of his feelings for her. When they had enough private time for him to give some indication of returning her feelings, she wrote that "a weight of anxiety is removed from my mind

⁵⁵ Carroll Smith Rosenberg, *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 53-76.

and many unpleasant feelings banished."⁵⁶ The question of his ability to support her seems to have raised some thorny problems, with what Sally described as "many trials in his worldly affairs, many projected schemes [that] were disappointed."⁵⁷ For several years, Sally wrote periodically of her hopes that "some favorable circumstance may arise but alas how vain is hope how discouraging is disappointment."⁵⁸ Eventually, perhaps in acknowledgment of his eldest daughter's unchanging devotion to this less-than-successful young man, Jerome Ripley agreed to set Charles up in business in a store in Shelburne. Charles and Sally were finally able to marry in 1812.

The fact that Sally chose her husband and was chosen by him is an indication of the changing framework of family structure. While some women still had their husbands selected for them by their parents, there was a general trend toward a male initiated courtship. Women essentially were able to refuse those suitors they found repugnant, but were not able to choose those they wished. That Sally was able to marry because she loved Charles and was loved by him is also a testament to her persistence and the strength of her commitment. He was not a particularly attractive candidate by other standards.

The marriage signified tremendous change, of which Sally herself was aware:

I gave my hand in Marriage to Mr. Charles Stearns of Shelburne and accompanied him immediately home -- I have now quitted the abode of my youth, left the protection of my parents and given up the name I have always borne to enter upon a new and untried scene.... Our intimate acquaintance has continued for more than five years during that space of time we have both met with many trials and disappointments and past through various changing scenes. Our constancy has been tried and our affection proved and now we are calmly settled in the still peaceful scenes of domestic tranquility....⁵⁹

The couple went directly to Shelburne, where they took up their appointed roles: Charles running the store, and Sally establishing a home for her husband and herself.

⁵⁶ Journal, May 1, 1809.

⁵⁷ Journal, December 20, 1818.

⁵⁸ Journal, February 2, 1810.

⁵⁹ Journal, November 10, 1812.

By the following June, Sally transcribed into her journal an extract from the memoirs of one Hannah Hodge, a Philadelphia widow who had continued keeping her late husband's store. Knowing that having long been accustomed to fill up a large portion of the day with active business, she would be likely to feel the need of it, both in body and in mind, when it discontinued,⁶⁰ Mrs. Hodge had continued to run a business. Justified because she gave all of the proceeds to charity, shopkeeping thus became an extension of the acceptably Christian and ladylike occupation of good works.

Sally had earlier been trained and had had opportunities to function in a similarly public sphere when she was put in charge of her father's store for periods in 1808 and 1809. She had been understandably anxious about her participation in that new and serious arena, undertaken while her father was away on business in Boston: "I hope I shall fulfill the duties incumbent on me in an acceptable manner."⁶¹ Evidently she did, as she once again stepped in to take charge of the family's business when her father was ill in 1809, and again later that year when he once again made a trip to Boston. A regular participation is suggested by her offhand comment that her father "has now got a young man in the store which has released me."⁶²

In spite of the possible model of Widow Hodge, there is no suggestion that Sally participated with Charles in running the store in Shelburne. Instead, she began having children. Disguising her body in a sable habit on the first Sunday of September, 1813, she went to church attended by anxiety about the coming birth of her first child. Successfully delivered a week later in what she called "a trying scene,"⁶³ she had the baby christened Rachel Willard Stearns in homage and affection for her childhood friend. Sally had the company of either her mother or one of her sisters during the baby's first months, confessing that she felt "quite lonely"⁶⁴ when left with only the company of her husband, her new daughter, and an orphan girl whom she had

⁶⁰ Journal, June 12, 1813.

⁶¹ Journal, October 17, 1808.

⁶² Journal, December 29, 1809.

⁶³ Journal, September 11, 1813.

⁶⁴ Journal, October 31, 1813.

taken under her care, presumably in return for help with household chores. Once again, a female world had enveloped her during the important process of the transition to motherhood.

In March of 1815 she had a son, William, and by October of 1816 another daughter, Sarah. It was a demanding life for her, and she noted that she no longer had time for reading or reflection as the "care of my babes takes up so large a portion of my time and attention."⁶⁵ She was, at that writing, within three days of the birth of her third child, and yet had a few months before attempted to form a Maternal Association, was looking forward to a proposed Juvenile Institution, and continued to participate in the School for Heathen Children.⁶⁶

The family moved back to Greenfield in May of 1815 for unspecified reasons, but it seems likely that Charles was not making a go of the store. In spite of Hannah Hodge's example, the idea of using Sally's experience and expertise in the store either did not occur to them or was seen as impractical, imprudent, or both. Charles borrowed money from Sally's brother Thomas, and began again in Greenfield.

It was not a happy time for Sally.

Although I have left Shelburne I have not left sorrow and trouble behind ... I have of late suffered some disappointments of a grievous nature and particularly hard to bear with composure I hope I shall by divine grace be enabled to conduct with prudence and prosperity in so disagreeable a case and learn not to give way to the warmth of my own feelings....⁶⁷

Charles' affections seemed to cool. She bemoaned the physical maladies that burdened her as well as her mental unease, and wrote of dreams concerning her brother Franklin's spiritual health.⁶⁸ An incident during which the back of her dress caught fire and was extinguished by her husband she took as a sign of "a wonderful interpretation of Providence"⁶⁹ in spite of the fact that she felt herself "grovel with sin."

⁶⁵ Journal, October 13, 1816

⁶⁶ Greenfield Gazette, January 19, 1819.

⁶⁷ Journal, June 11, 1817.

⁶⁸ Journal, November 12, 1817.

⁶⁹ Journal, October 7, 1818.

In October of 1818, after what Sally described as "a summer of unusual distress and spiritual heaviness" she was faced with disaster. "An event which has altered the whole face of the world and brought me low indeed"⁷⁰ was her description, and it held little exaggeration. Written ten days after her husband Charles' death from typhus, her first response was to hope that catastrophe must be for her spiritual benefit -- that it might purify her -- but was unable to enter anything else in her journal.

It was two months before she was able to resume, and when she did, it was with a remarkable outpouring. She had come to perceive Charles' death as a punishment for her sins. In that way, his death became explainable as her failure to conform to the prescribed ideal, with its unattainable standards. In a melancholy and disturbed state, she gave birth to her fourth and last child, a boy whom she named Charles for his recently departed father. She wanted to raise her children as Charles would have wished. She noted his attitude toward them had been one filled with "very peculiar notions ... no one seemed to have the same views as us on the subject -- he was remarkably tender and indulgent with them ..." and she resolved to raise the four to live usefully in the real world, educated suitably and "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,"⁷¹ to live for others and without any false expectations about their futures.

It was a modest enough proposal, but it would not be an easy one to fulfill. Accountings attached to Charles' will proved an estate that was deeply in debt, primarily to Thomas. Owing nearly twenty-five hundred dollars, the net to his wife and children was about a thousand dollars. Sally petitioned Judge Leavitt and was allowed

out of the Inventory of the Personal Estate of the deceased, for her own use, her own wearing apparel and other such articles as she may have occasion for..."⁷²

and was eventually granted the legal one-third of her husband's estate. The remaining two-thirds went to her children, and she was appointed their guardian. In January of 1823 she submitted an accounting of the costs of raising Rachel, William, Sarah, and Charles; clothing and schooling,

⁷⁰ Journal, December 20, 1818.

⁷¹ Journal, December 20, 1818.

⁷² Holographic will of Charles Stearns and associated administrative documents, Franklin County Probate Court Records.

twelve-and-a-half dollars each, and one hundred twenty-seven dollars for boarding the four. Each child retained a balance of one hundred forty-nine dollars, which would have to see them through until they could contribute to the family's finances.⁷³ It was a bleak prospect.

The journal ends with the death of Charles Stearns and Sally's acknowledgement of her radically changed circumstances. Perhaps she continued to write, and later volumes have simply been lost, or perhaps she was unable to continue recording her life and that of the town, prevented by a lack of money, time, or inclination. In any case, she was now outside the mainstream of female experience, cut off from normal expectations by the loss of her spouse. Lacking grown sons or sons-in-law, she had no visible means of support, and she and her small brood would be sustained only through the continuous charity of her brothers and sisters.⁷⁴

Sally returned to the house of her childhood. Her parents, her sisters Lydia and Elizabeth, and her brother George still lived over the store on the Street in Greenfield. The following summer, Elizabeth married David Brigham,⁷⁵ and that fall George departed for Harvard. Lydia continued to live at home until the death of her parents in 1838 and 1839, whereupon she married, at the age of 48, a minister from Bernardston named Fowler. She was dead within two years.⁷⁶ By the early 1840s, George was deeply involved with Transcendentalism, and his Brook Farm experiment attracted Sally's sister Marianne as well as her daughter Sarah Stearns. When Brook Farm disbanded, Marianne removed to Wisconsin to live near Elizabeth and David Brigham. Sarah, still seeking answers after three years at Brook Farm, converted to Roman

⁷³ Franklin County Probate Court records concerning the administration of the estate of Charles Stearns, December 1, 1818, December 8, 1818 and July 6, 1819.

⁷⁴ In fact, Sally would live in poverty for the rest of her life. In 1868, her youngest brother George directed that his share of their sister Marianne's estate be given "to Aunt Stearns, who in any case will benefit most by the arrangements [she] is rather destitute." George Ripley to F. Ripley Brigham, June 1, 1868. George Ripley Letters, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

⁷⁵ Thompson, 821.

⁷⁶ Josiah Gilbert Holland, *History of Western Massachusetts*, (Springfield: Samuel Bowles and Co., 1855), 409.

Catholicism and became a nun, dying in a convent in Harlem, New York in 1856.⁷⁷ One can only imagine Sally's reaction to her daughter's choices.

In 1857 Sally moved to Springfield with her son William. Business directories listed him as employed by a series of jewelers as a watch repairman.⁷⁸ Sally evidently kept house for her son, described by the family genealogy as "always an invalid."⁷⁹ When William died in 1869, his estate was administered by his brother Charles, who had earned a divinity degree at Oberlin, espoused the theology of Charles Finney, and gone on a series of preaching tours through Tennessee and Kentucky before settling down as the owner of a plantation in Columbia County, Georgia, in the years following the Civil War.⁸⁰ He had been joined there by his sister, Rachel, who was a teacher, abolitionist, and activist in the W.C.T.U.⁸² One suspects that Sally, at the age of eighty-four, moved south after William's death to take up residence with her remaining children, and it seems likely that Sally is buried in the red clay of Georgia, instead of the green fields of what once had been home.

At the point of the journal's end, Sally becomes part of the invisible numbers of women whose voices and consciousness have been unrecovered, and appear unrecoverable. Only the roughest outline of the rest of her existence remains--and then only through drawing connections that have relied largely on inference and assumption.

What do the contours of her life tell us? Sally was a woman whose training and discipline demanded submission to an ideal of piety and domesticity. Within the narrow sphere described

⁷⁷ Avis Stearns Van Wagenen, *Genealogy and Memoirs of Charles and Nathaniel Stearns, and Their Descendants* (Syracuse: Courier Printing, 1901), 143.

⁷⁸ *Springfield City Directory and Business Advertiser* (Springfield, Samuel Bowles and Co., 1857), n.p. William [Ripley?] Stearns is listed each year between 1857 and 1869 as living at 25 Garden Street in Springfield. Mrs. Sarah Stearns of the same address is listed between 1861 and 1869.

⁷⁹ Van Wagenen, 143.

⁸⁰ Springfield Probate Court records of the administration of the Estate of William R. Stearns, deceased September 2, 1869.

⁸¹ Van Wagenen, 234.

⁸² Van Wagenen, 142.

by the boundaries of grace and hearth, however, there was ferment; the journal records intense internal struggle as she brought tremendous efforts to bear on her attempt to reconcile the criteria of the accepted canon and the humanity of her existence—to order her every circumstance. The spirit of her struggle pervades the journal, and one senses that it continued into the invisible years of poverty and disappointed hopes. That she was unable to find resolution did not quiet the voice of her search. At the bleakest moments of her life, the strength of her resolve to meet the standards she felt imposed on her by her God and her society remained her firm purpose.

I know my mind,
she wrote in her last entry, seeking to follow the path she and her beloved Charles had originally set out upon,
and may it be my endeavor to follow his wishes and designs as far as will be practical in my bereaved situation and may God add a blessing.⁸³

A Note on the Text

"No editor can be trusted not to spoil a diary."⁸⁴

Arthur Ponsonby, a respected historian of British diaries, thus presents the obstacles facing anyone who attempts to work with such an intimate and immediate recording of perceived realities as a journal. Even small changes can shape and change the impression of a passage. Adding punctuation marks where there were none or regularizing other inconsistencies alters the record of the diarist. For those reasons, such changes have been minimal.

Given the age and condition of the journals themselves, however, it is sometimes impossible to tell if a punctuation mark is present or not, or to decipher a particular word whose

⁸³ Journal, December 20, 1818.

⁸⁴ Arthur Ponsonby, *English Diaries: A Review of English Diaries from the Sixteenth to the Twentieth Centuries* (London: Methuen, 1923), 5.

form has been blurred with time. In the case of uncertain punctuation, I have chosen to omit rather than add what might not have been there originally. Words which remained mysteries have been replaced by [unclear], and absent words have been substituted for by [word omitted]. The word and has been used in place of the ampersand. Otherwise, the words are as Sally wrote them.

The same cannot be said for spacing, pagination, or the occasional decorations Sally used to embellish her journal entries, especially in the early years. I have chosen to indicate the dates of each entry in a somewhat more consistent manner, with the date given at the left and on the same line as the beginning of the entry. Large blank spaces have been eliminated. The pagination ignores the original, in order that this work might have some internal cohesion. Thus, such entries as those which Sally included to index passages she had copied from other sources, to give her easy reference to poetry and prescriptive texts, apply only to the original manuscripts.

Editorial material inserted into the text by the editor is contained within brackets, and will not, I hope, prove to be too great an interruption to the reader. Sally herself, in reviewing earlier entries, also provided commentary, but as the circumstances of these seems indicated with reasonable clarity, I have left such later comments to stand with little additional explanation. Sally also occasionally crossed out a word or phrase, and the same has been done here. Doodles and practiced signatures, which created such a joyful sense of being when they appeared in the original journal pages cannot, unfortunately, be reproduced here, but are indicated by an editorial note.

Explanatory notes are located at the bottom of the page instead of at the end of the text to facilitate ease of reference.

The Journals
1799-1805

Greenfield July 1799 This day Monday 15th July 1799 I begin a diary in school. I calculate to make such remarks as shall be of use to me in my future life. My practice shall be when consistent with health and business, at evening to give the most important incidents of the day, the remarks I may have made in any way in the course of it, and my thoughts upon my moral and religious character, a place in my diary, that I may be able to compare different periods of my life and see whether I make a proper use of my time and of the faculties given me by my God.

Monday 15th This day I attended the school which is kept in this town by Mr. Proctor Pierce. The following young ladies attend the school (besides a large number of boys) Miss Cornelia Hall Miss Betsy and Clarissa Grenells, Miss Sally and Sabra Wells, Miss Eliza and Miss Caroline Smead Miss Nancy and Amanda Willard Miss Lucinda and Melinda Alvord, Miss Rachel Willard Miss Eliza and Miss Mary Chapman and Miss Lucy Stone Clap. Mr. Pierce opened school the 13th May and during that time I have engaged in the study of the English language and tomorrow I shall begin the study of Geography.

Tuesday 16th This day I attended school I began the study of Geography this forenoon. I have attended to Geography a little before but not so thoroughly as I now propose to. I intend daily to write in my diary some account of my lessons. I recited the following lesson today: Geography is a term derived from the Greek and literally signifies a description of the earth, and of the several parts of its surface, it is either universal or particular. A complete knowledge of geography cannot be attained without some acquaintance with Astronomy; astronomy treats of the heavenly bodies and explains their motions, times, distances, and magnitudes, it was first attended to by the shepherd on the beautiful plains of Babylon in Egypt,¹ their employment led

¹ At the time of Sally's journal entry, the Biblical area known as Babylon was under the sovereignty of the Ottomans, as was Egypt. Another possibility is the fact that the city which came to be called Cairo was called Babylon-in-Egypt by Persian, and later Greek, invaders, making this a classical, rather than Biblical, reference.

them to contemplate the stars and While their flocks were enjoying sweet repose the spangled sky would naturally invite the attention of the shepherds. The observation of the heavenly bodies afforded them amusement and assisted them in [unclear] the night. By the aid of a lively imagination they distributed the stars into a number of constellations or companies to which they gave the names of the animals they represented. I have spent this evening at home.

Wednesday 17th This day I attended school and recited a lesson in Geography. The Ptolemaic system is so called from Claudius Ptolemaeus a native of Pelusium in Egypt, who adopted and defended the prevailing system of that age, which supposes the earth immovably fixed in the centre of the universe and that the moon, planets, fixed stars all move round from east to west once in 24 hours in the following order; the Moon, Mercury, Venus, the Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Herschel² and on the fixed stars. These were all supposed to be fixed in separate chrySTALLINE spheres to be included in another called the Premium Mobile which gives motion to all the rest Tycho Brahe a nobleman of Denmark an eminent astronomer proposed another system to account for the motion of the heavenly bodies; he supposes the earth to be at rest in the centre of the universe, and the sun together with the planets and fixed stars to revolve about the earth, at the same time all the planets except the moon revolve about the sun but this system was even more absurd than that of Ptolemy and it was accordingly soon exploded. Copernicus, a native of Thorn³ in Royal Prussia supposes the sun to be at rest in the centre of the universe and that all the planets move round it from west to east in 24 hours. This is the true solar system. The sun is the centre of the motion of the seven spherical bodies called planets whose diameters distances and periodical revolutions are exhibited in the following table.

Sun and Planets	Diameters in English miles	Annual periods round the sun	Diurnal rotation on own axis
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² The planet Uranus, discovered in 1781 and first named for its discoverer, Sir William Frederick Herschel.

³ Now Toruń, Poland.

	-----	Yr. Da. hour	D h m
Sun	890,000 --	-----	--
Mercury	3,000 --	0.. 87.. 23 --	unknown
Venus	9330 --	0.. 222.. 17 --	0.. 23.. 20
Earth	7970 --	1.. 365.. 6 --	1 or 23.. 50
Mars	5400 --	1.. 321.. 23 --	0.. 24.. 40
Jupiter	92000 --	11.. 314.. 14 --	0.. 9.. 56
Saturn	78,000 --	29.. 167.. 2 --	0.. 10.. 16
Herschel	37,000 --	83.. 150.. 18 --	0 unknown

Thursday 18th—I recited upon the seven planets mentioned in the table they are called primaries besides these there are 14 other bodies called secondary planets, moons, or satellites which move round their primaries from west to east and are carried with them round the sun. The earth has one moon, Jupiter four and Saturn seven and Herschel two, Saturn is also encompassed with a broad ring the motion of the primaries round the sun and of their secondaries round the planets is called their annual motion. Besides this they turn on their own axis from west to east. This is their diurnal motion. The seven planets with their satellites and the comets constitute the Solar or as it is sometimes called the Copernicate system in honor of Copernicus who adopted the Pythagorean opinion of the heavenly bodies and published it in 1530 it is now universally approved as the true solar system. Besides the planets and stars we perceive in the expanse of the universe many other bodies belonging to the system of the universe seem to have much more irregular motions. They are large opaque bodies which move in all possible directions. The figures of the comets are very different, they move about in very eccentric ellipses and are of a much greater density than the earth, the number of the comets is unknown. This system is surrounded with the fixed stars so called because they at all times preserve the distances with regard to each other. They are at least it is supposed up 100,000 times further from us than we are from the sun. We do not borrow their light from the sun as do the planets, it is supposed there are as many systems as there are fixed stars, the earth tho' called a globe is not perfectly round the diameter from east to west is 34 miles longer than from north to south.

Friday 19—this day I attended school and recited upon the doctrine of the sphere, a sphere with astronomers is the whole frame of the earth a being of globular figure. In Geography the circles which the sun apparently describes in the heavens are supposed to be extended as far as the earth and marked on its surface. Each circle is divided into 360 equal parts called degrees, each degree is divided into 60 seconds, Great circles are those which divide the sphere into two equal parts of these there are six the Equator, Meridian, Ecliptic, Horizon and the two [unclear] circles are those which divide the sphere into unequal parts of these there are four, the two tropics and the two polar circles. The axis of the earth is an imaginary line passing through its center from north to south, the extreme point of the axis are called its poles. The equator is that line or circle which encompasses the middle of the earth, dividing the northern-half from the southern. From this line latitude is reckoned. The meridian is represented on the artificial Globe there are a number of meridians which vary as you travel from east to west. If two circles were drawn parallel to the ecliptic at the distance of 8 degrees on each side of it the space between the two parallels is 16 degrees broad and divided in the middle by the ecliptic is called the Zodiac. The Ecliptic is a great circle in the plain of which the earth performs her annual revolution round the sun, it is called the ecliptic because no eclipse of the sun or moon happens, but when the moon is in or over the plain of this circle, it makes angle with the equator at 23 degrees 30 minutes and intersects in the two equinestical points; when the sun is in either of these points the day is equal to the night all over the world. The vernal equinox is the 21st March the autumnal the 21st September, the ecliptic is divided into twelve equal equal parts of 30 degrees each, called the signs. The horizon is represented on the artificial globe by a broad wooden circle and it divides it into upper and lower hemispheres, it is divided into four quarters and each quarter into 90 degrees, the four quartering points viz. east west north and south are called cardinal points. The poles of the horizon are the zenith and nadir. The former is directly over our heads the latter directly under our feet. The two meridians that pass through the four above mentioned points have particular names, that which passes through the first degree of entire Aries and Libra is called the equinoctial, and that which passes through the first degrees of Cancer and Capricorn is termed the solstitial calm the two tropics are two circles drawn parallel to the equator at the

distance of 25 degrees 29 minutes on each side of it the two polar circles are described round the poles of the earth at the distance of 23 degrees 29 minutes.

Saturday 20th—This day I attended school and recited a lesson. The surface of the earth is supposed to be divided into five unequal parts called zones each of which is terminated by two parallels of latitude 1 is the torrid 2 the frigid and 2 [sic] the temperate zones. Climate is a tract of the earths surface included between the equator and the parallel of latitude or between two parallels of latitude of such a breadth that the length of the day in the one be half an hour longer than in the other; there are thirty climates between the equator and either pole. The Latitude of a place is its distance from the equator reckoned in degrees etc. north and south on the meridian the greatest Latitude is that of the poles the Longitude of a place is the distance of its meridian from some other fixed meridian near and on the equator. A Map is a representation of some part of the earths surface delineated on a plane. The Air which surrounds the globe is 45 miles in height wind is air put in motion. The Land is divided into Continents, islands, peninsulas, isthmuses, promontories and mountains. The divisions of water are oceans, lakes, seas, straits, bays and rivers.

Sunday 21st—This forenoon I attended the public worship of God, since I returned home I have reading in the life of Mr. George Whitefield a Methodist minister⁴ 22nd Monday This day I attended school and recited upon in Geography, America was discovered by Columbus on the 1st of August 1492 the continent of America extends from Cape Horn the southern extremity of the continent in latitude 56 south to the north pole and spreads between the 40th east and the 100th

⁴ George Whitefield (1715-1770), originally associated with John and Charles Wesley and the Methodist movement, eventually broke away in a more Calvinist direction. Preaching to large crowds and stirring the religious revival known as the Great Awakening, Whitefield, an Englishman, held considerable attraction during his evangelical years, 1738-1770. Sally's daughter, Rachel Willard Stearns, eventually became a Methodist, after considerable soul searching and discussion with her mother who had been familiar with Methodist ideas from an early age. See Rachel Willard Stearns Journal, in the Sally Ripley Stearns Collection, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College.

degree west longitude from Philadelphia⁵ it is nearly 10,000 miles in length its mean breadth has never been ascertained, it is watered by some of the largest rivers in the world, the principle of which are the Rio Dela Plata, Amazon and Oronoko in south America and the Mississippi and St. Lawrence in north America, the Gulf or Bay of Mexico lying in the form of a bason [sic] between North and South America is conjectured by some to have been formerly land. The Andes in S. America stretch along the Pacific ocean; from the Isthmus of Darien⁶ to the Straits of Magellan 4300 miles; Chimborazo the most elevated point in this vast chain 20,280 feet high. North America has no remarkably high mountains the highest are the Alleghany. It has been conjectured that the West India Islands were formerly united to each other connecting north and south America, their present disjointed situation is supposed to have been occasioned by the trade winds—After school I visited at Mr. J Halls.

Tuesday 23rd—This day I attended school as usual and read in Stearne's Dramatic Dialogues.⁷ I recited a short piece upon the settlement of North America—

Wednesday 24th This day I have been working off two pieces that Mr. Pierce has given me to speak. One is the part of Lemia (sic) in The Insoluble Question and the other the part of Nelly in the Mother of a Family. I recited a lesson. North America comprehends all that part of the western continent which lies north of the isthmus of Darien, extending north and south from about the 10th degree N. Latitude to the north pole and east and west from the Atlantic to the

⁵ Philadelphia was, in 1799, the capital of the United States.

⁶ The Isthmus of Panama.

⁷ Dramatic Dialogues for the Use of Schools by Charles Stearnes was published in Leominster, Massachusetts in 1798. In the preface, Stearns outlines his prescriptive purpose: "It may possibly be objected, that some of the characters are too highly charged and exceed anything found in real life—the character of Nelly in the 'Mother of a Family'... will be tho't of this kind. But the author had his reasons for this seeming excess. In the character of Nelly he would represent the prodigal dissipater, the dower of which even a woman of good merit may appear totally destitute of proper education...." The 'Mother of A Family' is subtitled 'Patience', thus indicating the virtue embodied in the play.

Pacific ocean between the 45th and 165th degree West longitude from London, beyond the 70th degree N. latitude few discoveries have been made, this vast country bounded westerly by the Pacific Ocean, south and east by California, New Mexico and Louisiana, the United States, Canada, and the Atlantic ocean and extending as far north as the country is habitable is inhabited only by various tribes of Indians. The particular Provinces and States are exhibited in the following table

Provinces & States	Chief towns
Belongs to Denmark [in margin]	
West Greenland	unknown
British Provinces [in margin]	
Upper Canada	Kingston Detroit; Niagara
Lower Canada	Quebec, Montreal
Cape Breton isl.	Sidney, Louisburg
New Brunswick	Fredericktown, St. John's

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Provinces & States	Chief towns
British Provinces	
Nova Scotia	Halifax
St. John's Island	Charlottetown
Newfoundland	Placentia, St. John's
United States of America	
Vermont	Windsor, Rutland
New Hampshire	Portsmouth, Concord
District of Maine	Portland, Hallowell
Rhode Island	New Port, Providence
Connecticut	Hartford, New Haven
New York	New York, Albany

New Jersey	Trenton, Burlington, Brunswick
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia Lancaster
Delaware	Dover, Wilmington, New Castle
Maryland	Annapolis, Baltimore
Virginia	Richmond, Petersburg, Norfolk
Kentucky	Lexington
North Carolina	Newbern, Edenton, Halifax
South Carolina	Charleston, Columbia
Georgia	Savannah, Augusta
Tenisee [Tennessee]	Abindon [Abingdon]
<u>Western Territory</u>	<u>Marietta</u>
Spanish Provinces	
East Florida	Augustine
West Florida	Pensacola
Louisiana	New Orleans

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Provinces	Chief towns
New Mexico	St. Fe
California	St. Juan
<u>Mexico or New Spain</u>	<u>Mexico</u>

Greenland is bounded by Davis straits, west; north, by an unknown ocean or the north pole; east, by the Icy Sea & Strait which separates it from Iceland; southeast, by the Atlantic; South it terminates in a point called Cape Farewell, in latitude 69 north⁸ the greenlanders amount to about 7000 & live to the northward of the 62d degree north latitude. I read in Stearns Dramatic Dialogues.

⁸ Sally's longitude and latitude readings are generally somewhat incorrect. For example, Cape Farewell is, in fact, at 60 degrees north.

Thursday 25th I this day as usual have attended school & recited a lesson upon New Britain, it lies round Hudsons bay & comprehends Labrador & now north & south Wales it is attached to the government of Lower Canada, the principles [sic] rivers are the Wager, Monk, Seal, Churchill & Nelson; The country is flat as far inland as the Hudsons bay company has settlements. I read in Stearn's Dramatic Dialogues, this afternoon we attended to speaking.

Friday 26th I recited a lesson upon Canada, its length is 1200 miles, its breadth 500, it is between 61 & 96 degrees west longitude & between 42 & 52 North Latitude, it is bounded north, by New Britain; east by New Britain & the Gulf of St. Lawrence; southeast, by New Brunswick, the district of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, & the lakes, the western boundary is undefined. Upper Canada is an infant settlement, it lies north of the great lakes & is separated from New York by the lakes Ontario & Erie & the river St. Lawrence which is one of the largest rivers in North America, the island of Cape Breton lies between the 45 & 47th deg. N. Latitude & between 59 & 64 deg. W. Longitude & about 45 miles to the eastward of Halifax, it is 109 miles long and 84 broad. Nova Scotia is 37 miles long & 254 broad it lies between 43 & 48 degrees north latitude & between 61 & 67 east longitude it is bounded N. by lower Canada; E. by the gulf of Saint Lawrence; S. by the Atlantic Ocean; West, by a part of Lower Canada & the district of Maine the island of St. John's lies in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, 100 miles long & from 10 to 35 broad. Newfoundland island is situated to the east of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence it is 381 miles long & from 40 to 287 broad. The United States of America are 1250 miles in length & 1040 in breadth, it lies between 31 & 46 degrees north Latitude, & between 8 east & 24 west Longitude from Philadelphia; they are bounded north & east by British America, or the provinces of Upper & Lower Canada & New Brunswick; southeast, by the Atlantic Ocean; south, by east & west Florida; west, by the river Mississippi. It may in truth be said, that no part of the known world is so well watered with springs, rivulets, rivers & lakes as the United states, the largest lake in the world is Lake Superior it is 1600 miles in sumference [i.e., circumference] & contained two large islands, the next in magnitude to Lake Superior is Lake Huron which is 100 miles in circumference, the other Principal lakes are Erie, Michigan, Ontario, St. Clair, Champlain, George, long lake & the lake of the woods. The principal river in the United states is

the Mississippi which is about 3000 miles long, the Ohio is a most beautiful river, its gentle current is unbroken by Rocks or Rapids except in one place.

Saturday 27th This forenoon I attended school & read in Dramatic Dialogues, I recited a lesson, the coast of the United states is indented with numerous space, some of which are equal in size to any in the known world the tract of country belonging to the United states is happily variegated with plains & mountains, hills & vallies [sic], some parts are rocky, particularly New England & the northern parts of New York & New Jersey. In the United states are to be found every species of soil that the earth affords, I have spent this afternoon & evening at home & without company.

Sunday 28th This forenoon I attended public worship, this afternoon I have been reading in the Polite Lady.

Monday 29th I this day attended school & recited a lesson in geography upon animals & birds.

Tuesday 30th The American Republic is composed of almost all nations, languages, characters & religion which Europe can furnish. The English language is universally spoken in the United states it is spoken with great purity. Untill the 4th July 1776 the present sixteen United States or British colonies. On that ever memorable day the representatives of the United States and Congress assembled made a solemn declaration of Independence. Several important branches of manufacturers have grown up & flourished in the United states⁹ with a rapidity which surprizes.

Wednesday 31st New England is bounded north by Lower Canada; east, by New Brunswick & the Atlantic; south, by the Atlantic & Long Island sound; west by New York. It is in the form of 1/4 of a circle, it has a very healthful climate it is a high hilly & in some parts a mountainous country it is better adapted for grazing than grain & is the most populous part of the United States. Vermont is 158 miles in length & 70 in breadth it lies between 42 & 45 deg. N. latitude &

⁹ Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania.

between 183 S. Longitude from Philadelphia, bounded N. by New York, it is divided in the middle by the Green Mountain which runs from north to south, this state is hilly but not rocky. Much cannot be said in favour of the present state of literature in this state, but their prospects are good.

August 1799

Thursday 1st New Hampshire is 168 miles long & 60 broad situated between 45 deg. north latitude & 284 deg. east longitude, bounded north, by Lower Canada; east, by the Atlantic & the district of Maine; south, by Massachusetts; west, by The western Bank of Connecticut river its shape resembles an open fan, it has but about 16 miles of seacoast. The principal mountain are the White Mountains the only college is in the town of Hanover it is called Dartmouth, nine are a number of academies in this state the district of Maine is 200 miles long & 200 in breadth, between 43 & 28 deg. N. lat. & between 4 & 9 E. long. bounded N. by Lower Canada, E. by the river St. Croix; S. by the Atlantic; W. by New Hampshire, the climate of Maine does not materially differ from that of the rest of New England, the creation of a college near Casco Bay is contemplated, I read in Dramatic Dialogues.

Friday 2^d This day I attended school & read in the Lady's Miscellany I have recited a lesson upon Massachusetts its length is 190 miles its breadth 90, situated between the 41st & 42^d degrees north latitude & between the 1st & 5th deg. of east Longitude bounded north, by Vermont & New Hampshire; east, by the Atlantic; south, by the Atlantic, Rhode Island & Connecticut; west, by New York; The principal rivers are the Housatonick, Merrimack, Deerfield, Charles, Connecticut, Mystic, Nashua, Taunton, Concord & Shawseen rivers, the capes are Cape Cod & Cape Ann. There are duck, glass & card manufactories in Boston the literature of this state is in a flourishing condition, there are two colleges, Harvard at Cambridge & Williams at Williamstown there are a number of schools in Boston, this state contains many academies, among which are Dummer Academy at Newbury, Phillips at Exeter & Derby at Hingham. There are likewise academies at Leicester, Taunton, New Salem & Deerfield, Boston is capital of all New England, Salem, Newburyport, Concord, Marblehead, Plymouth, Worcester, Springfield,

Deerfield, Hatfield, Northfield, Greenfield, Northampton & Hadley are pleasant flourishing towns.

Saturday 3^d This forenoon I attended school & learnt a lesson but did not recite it, Rhode Island is 68 miles long & 40 broad, east, by Massachusetts, south by the Atlantic, west by Connecticut it contains a large number of islands, Rhode Island from which the state takes its name is the principal. Providence, Taunton & Pawtucket are the principle [sic] rivers. Rhode Island has a very helpful climate, the only colleges that of Rhode Island at Providence there are several academies in this state. I passed a lesson this forenoon.

Sunday 4th This day I attended public worship

Monday 5th I attended school & read in the geography, Connecticut is 100 miles in length & 72 in breadth it is bounded north, by Massachusetts; east, by Rhode Island; South, by Long Island; & west, by New York. The principal rivers are the Housatonic, Connecticut, Thames & their branches, the climate is very healthy, there are a great number of very pleasant maritime & inland towns in Connecticut it contains 5 cities. In no part of world is education more attended to than in Connecticut there is a college at New Haven called Yale College academies have been established at Greenfield, Plainfield, Norwich & several other towns. this afternoon I recited a lesson upon the second grand division; bounded capital N. by Lower Canada; E. by New England; S. by the Atlantic, Maryland, Virginia & the Ohio River; W. by the Mississippi the climate varies but little from New England the length of New York is 350 miles & its breadth 300, it lies between 40 & 45 deg. north lat. bounded northeastwardly, by the Atlantic; east by the New England states; north, by the 45th deg. of latitude; northwesterly, by the river Iroquois; southwest & west by Pennsylvania & New-Jersey. Hudson's river is one of the largest in the United States, there are three incorporated cities in New York, New York, Albany & Hudson. Until the year 1754 there was no College in this state in this year Columbia College was founded.

Thursday [sic] 6th I this forenoon attended school & recited a lesson upon the remainder of New York, this afternoon it was inconvenient for me to attend school.

Wednesday [sic] 7th I recited a lesson, New Jersey is 180 miles long & 82 broad, bounded, east, by Hudson's river & the sea; South, by the sea; west by Delaware river & bay north, by New York, the rivers are the Passaick, Hackinsack & Raritan. This state contains two colleges, one at Princeton called Chapan [Chapin?] hall the other at Brunswick called Queen's college there are likewise a number of academies in New Jersey. Pennsylvania is 288 miles long & 156 broad, bounded east, by Delaware river, north, by New York, north-west by a part of Lake Erie; west, by the western Territory & part of Virginia; south by part of Virginia Maryland & Delaware, there are six considerable rivers in this state in Philadelphia is the university of Pennsylvania & the college & academy of Philadelphia. The city of Philadelphia is the capital & the present seat of government of the United States. Lancaster is the largest inland town in the United States. This afternoon we spoke some of our pieces. I recited a lesson upon Delaware its length is 92 miles its breadth 24 it lies between 38 & 40 degrees north lat. bounded north, by Pennsylvania, east, by Delaware river & bay & the Atlantic ocean, south & west by Maryland. This state is extremely low & level. Dover, the seat of government, there is an academy at New York.

Thursday 8th I attended school & recited a lesson upon the western territory it is 900 miles long & 700 broad bounded N. by the northern boundary line of the United States, E. by the lakes & Pennsylvania; south by the Ohio river, W. by the Mississippi no part of the federal territory it is asserted unites so many advantages, as that tract which stretches from the Muskingum the Scioto & great Miami rivers. Maryland is 134 miles long & 110 broad it is bounded N. by Pennsylvania, E. by Delaware, S. & W. by Virginia, Annapolis the capital of Maryland & the wealthiest town in its size in America. Baltimore has had the most rapid growth of any town on the continent. The city of Washington and the District of Columbia was ceded to the United States & by them established to be the seat of government after the year 1800. Washington college was instituted at Chesterfield in 1782. This afternoon we attended to speaking.

Friday 9th Virginia is 446 miles long & 224 in breadth bounded north, by Maryland, south by North Carolina west by Kentucky, east, by the Atlantic, it is not divided into townships like the northern states. Mount Vernon the celebrated seat of General Washington is pleasantly situated on the bank of the river Potomac. This afternoon we again attended to speaking our pieces.

Saturday 10th Kentucky is 250 miles long & 200 broad; it is bounded north west, by the river Ohio; west, by Cumberland river; South, by Tennessee; & east by Sandy river, the climate is healthful & delightful, Frankfort, Lexington, Washington & Louisville are the principal towns. I have spent this afternoon at home.

Sunday 11th this day I attended public worship.

Monday 12th this forenoon I attended school & recited a lesson upon North-Carolina its length is 450 & its breadth 180 miles, it is bounded north, by Virginia, east, by the Atlantic; south by South Carolina; west, by Tennessee. The rivers are Roanoke, Chowan, Tar, News & Trent. At present they have no capital. Newbern is the largest town in the state. There is a very good academy at Warrenton. Tennessee is 200 miles long & 302 broad, its climate is temperate & healthy the summers are remarkably cool. It is bounded north by Kentucky & part of Virginia, east, by North Carolina; south by S. Carolina; west, by the Mississippi which separates it from Louisiana. There are few countries so well watered as this. The river Tennessee [sic] is the largest branch of the Ohio river. An academy & several grammar schools have been established in this state, among the bulk of the inhabitants of great simplicity of manners prevail. The largest town in the territory is Nashville. This afternoon we attended to speaking.

Tuesday 13th I attended school and recited a lesson upon South Carolina its length is 200 miles, its breadth 125 bounded north by North Carolina & Tennessee [sic]; east, by the Atlantic Ocean; south & southwest by Savannah river; this state is watered by four large navigable rivers viz. Savannah, Edisto, Pedee & Santee. The only considerable town in the state is Charleston there is no peculiarity in the manners of the inhabitants of this state except what arises from the

mischievous influences of [?] Georgia is 600 miles long & 250 broad it is bounded east, by the Atlantic; south, by E. & W. Florida, west by the Mississippi, north & northeast by South Carolina. The present seat of government is Augusta, the soil and its fertility are various most of the tropical fruits would flourish here with proper attention the culture of this state is yet in its infancy. I read in Bennett's Letters¹⁰ this afternoon the discontinued. Miss Rachel Willard spent the afternoon with me.

Wednesday 14th I have recited a lesson upon East & West Florida. It is 600 miles long & 130 broad. Bounded north by Georgia; east, by the Atlantic; south by the gulf of Mexico, west, by the Mississippi, it is in the form of an L. The school discontinued this afternoon, I visited Miss Rachel Willard. I spent my time quite agreeably, there was not a small party, it is this alone I believe that true happiness & sociability are found.

Thursday 15th Louisiana is bounded east by the Mississippi; south, by the gulf of Mexico, west by New Mexico; & runs indefinitely north. It is intersected by a number of fine rivers & is agreeably situated between the extremes of heat & cold. The length of Mexico or New Spain is 2100 miles & its breadth 1600, it is bounded north by unknown regions; east by Louisiana & the gulf of Mexico; south by the isthmus of Darien, West by the Pacific Ocean, Mexico the capital is the oldest city in America. This afternoon I parsed a lesson in the American Preceptor¹¹ & we spoke some of our pieces.

Friday 16th I attended school this day & read in the Ladies' Library. I recited a lesson upon Terra Firma or Castile [Deloro?]¹² its length is 1400 miles its breadth 700 bounded S: by the Atlantic; E. by Surinam; S. by Amazonia & Peru, W. by the Pacific Ocean. Carthagenia is the principal [?]

¹⁰ Bennet's Letters to a Young Lady: In Two Volumes, written by curate John Bennet and published in Hartford by Hudson and Goodwin in 1791.

¹¹ The American Preceptor, first published in 1794, was authored by Caleb Bingham (1757-1817), a pioneer writer of textbooks and an educator who kept a school for girls in Boston between 1784 and 1789. The Columbian Orator was also his work.

¹² Presently, Colombia.

town in Terra Firma. Peru's length is 1600 miles & its breadth 500 it is bounded north by Terra Firma; W. by the Pacific Ocean; S. by Chile; E. by the mountains called the Andes; the city of Lima is the capital of Peru. Chili [i.e., Chile] is 1260 miles long & 580 broad, bounded w by Peru, north by Paragua east; by Patagonia South; by the Pacific Ocean west. The climate of Chili [i.e., Chile] is one of the most delightful in the world. Gold & silver mines abound in this country, the capital is St. Jago. Paragua or La Plata is 1500 miles long & 1000 broad the river La Plata is 150 miles on breadth. Paragua is bounded by Amazonia N. by Brazil, E; by Patagonia S. by Peru & Chili [i.e., Chile] W. ... Brazil belonging to Portugal is 2500 miles long & 700 broad, there are gold mines in many parts of Brazil, the climate is temperate & mild, St. Salvador is the capital. These countries are in South America.

Saturday 17th Cayenne belonging to France is bounded north & east by the Atlantic; south by Amazonia, west by Surinam, Surinam or Dutch Guiana is bounded N. by the Atlantic, E.by Cayenne; south by Amazonia; W. by Terra Firma, a number of fine rivers pass through this country [?] is the capital, Aboriginal America contains Amazonia & Patagonia, the length of Amazonia is 1400 miles its breadth 900 it is bounded N. by Terra Firma; E. by Brazil; S. by Paragua; W. by Peru, the river Amazon from which this country takes its name is the largest in the known world, it rises in Peru & after a course of 3 or 4000 miles falls into the Atlantic Ocean under the equator its mouth is 150 miles wide. Patagonia is 1100 miles long & 250 broad, bounded N. by Chili [i.e., Chile] & Paragua; E. by the Atlantic S. by the Straits of Magellan; W. by the Pacific Ocean; the climate is cold, it is inhabited by a great variety of Indian tribes. This afternoon we have attended to speaking.

Sunday 18th I have spent this day at home.

Monday 19th I Attended school we examined in astronomy & parsed a lesson.

Tuesday 20th This day I attended school, I recited a lesson upon North America & the united states I have read in Bennet's Letters to a young lady, we this afternoon attended to speaking.

Wednesday 21st I recited a lesson upon the New England states & New York & New Jersey

Thursday 22^d I attended school we were examined in the introduction to geography & attended to speaking.

Friday 23^d This Day we have had an exhibition in Mr. Munns Hall¹³ we spoke the Mother of a family the insoluable Question¹⁴ & the Wooden Boy & several single pieces.

Saturday 24th this day the school discontinued our instructor has [?] us a few days vacation.

Sunday 25th this afternoon I attended public worship, I spend the rest of the day at home reading in Cain's Lamentation over Abel. Greenfield

September 1799

Sunday 1st I have spent the week past at home and without company, how charming are the pleasures of retirement, I do not think that people who spend great part of their time in ceremonial visits, relish the scenes of domestic life as well those who are more retired from company, this forenoon I attended public worship.

Monday 2nd I have spent this day at home and without company

Tuesday 3rd This day Mr. and Mrs. Callendar of Northfield visited my mama.—

¹³ The Munns operated a tavern, and later a hotel which was called 'Mansion House'. It evidently included a large hall which was used for such public events as balls, recitations, and political gatherings. The building was located at the corner of Main and Federal Streets. (Thompson, 973.)

¹⁴ Both of these pieces were included in Stearn's Dramatic Dialogues for the Use of Schools. See Note number 6.

Wednesday 4th This afternoon Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Jones visited my mama.---

Thursday 5th This day I began again to attend school I recited a lesson in Geography upon Europe it is 3000 miles in length and 2500 broad, lies between 36 and 72 degrees north latitude and between 10 west and 65 east longitude from London, bounded north by the Frozen Ocean, east by Asia south by the Mediterranean Sea, west by the Atlantic ocean it is the least extensive order of the globe Lapland belonging to the Danes extends from the north Cape is 71 degrees north lat. to the White Sea under the Arctic Circle. The winters here are extremely cold. Sweden is bounded N. by the Frozen Ocean E. by Russia S. by Denmark and the Baltic, W. by Norway Stockholm is the capital, Sweden has an inhospitable climate. The length of Russia is unknown its breadth is 1500 miles Petersburg is the capital, Great Britian [sic] and Ireland lie between 49 and 52 degrees N. lat. and 20 E. and 6 W. longitude Great Britain is divided into England Wales and Scotland

Friday 6th—I attended school and read in Bennet's [sic] Letter Germany is 600 miles long and 520 broad, bounded N. by the German Ocean and Denmark E. by Poland and Hungary, S. by Switzerland and the Alps, W. by France. No country can boast of a greater variety of large rivers than Germany. Vienna is the capital of Germany and Austria, Prussia is bounded north by part of Samogitia,¹⁵ east by part of Lithuania south by Poland proper west by Polish Prussia and the Baltic Sea. Bohemia is 478 miles long and 822 broad bounded by Saxony and Brandenberger by Poland and Hungary E. by Austria and Bavaria S. by the Palatinate of Bavaria W. Prague is the principal town Hungary is 300 miles long and 200 broad Petersburg is the capital, the air is unhealthy in the southern parts of Hungary.

¹⁵ Samogitia was a region of the eastern Baltic occupied by the Teutonic knights in the fourteenth century and now part of the Lithuanian S.S.R. At the time of Sally's writing, it was a part of the Russian Empire, absorbed after Catherine II's invasion and the partition of Poland between Russia and Prussia.

Saturday 7th I recited a lesson upon Transylvania Slavonia Croatia and Hungarian Dalmatia these are all known under [word omitted] heard in case they are not sufficiently known to be described separately. Poland and Lithuania is [sic] 700 miles long and 680 broad the capital is Warsaw the length of Switzerland is 260 and its breadth is 100 miles it is bounded N. by Germany E. by Tirol, [unclear] and Lake Constance, S. by Italy W. by France Bern is the most considerable city in Switzerland. I read in Bennets Letters and parsed a lesson this forenoon in the American Preceptor.

Sunday 8th I this day attended the public worship of God

Monday 9th—I attended school as usual and recited a lesson upon Holland. It is bounded E. by Germany S. by the Netherland W. by the German Ocean, Amsterdam the capital of Holland is one of the most commercial cities in the world. The Austrian and French Netherlands are bounded N. by Holland and the German Ocean; E. by German S. and W. by France and the British Channel, Brussels is the capital of Flanders. France is 600 miles long and 500 broad, bounded N. by the English Channel and the Netherlands, E. by Germany Switzerland and Italy, S by the Mediterranean Sea and Spain W. by the Bay of Biscay, Spain is bounded west by Portugal and the Atlantic N. by the Pyrenian Mountains east and south by the Mediterranean Sea Madrid and Cadiz are the chief cities. Portugal is 300 miles long by 100 broad bounded north and east by Spain south and west by the Atlantic Lisbon is the capital of Portugal the capital of France is Paris. Italy is 600 miles long and 500 broad this country is so fruitful it is commonly called the garden of Europe. Rome is the capital, Turkey in Europe is 1000 miles long and 900 broad Constantinople is the capital----

Thursday 10th This afternoon I attended school and recited a lesson upon Asia. This quarter of the globe was the theatre of the most important transactions that were ever performed. It was here our Saviour was born he lived and was crucified here by the Jews. Turkey in Asia is 1000 miles and 800 broad Nature has poured her gifts on these provinces with profusion. The chief cities are innumerable. Tartary is 2000 miles long and 2400 broad. The Empire of China is 1250

miles long and 1260 broad it is bounded by Chinese Tartary and an amazing stone wall north by the Pacific Ocean east by the Chinese Sea south by Tonquin, west the soil is fruitful the tea plant grows in China the chief cities are Peking Nanking and Canton

Wednesday 11th Indostan is celebrated for its antiquity, population and opulence. It is washed on the southwest by the Arabian Sea on the south by the Bay of Bengal and bounded on all other sides by Persia Independent, Tartary, Thibet and India beyond the Ganges, the Peninsula of India beyond the Ganges is 2000 miles long and 10 broad. The name of India is taken from the River Indus. Arabia is bounded by Turkey, north by the Gulf of Persia east by the Indian Ocean south by the Red Sea west, the air is excessively hot and dry. Africa the fourth grand division of the globe bears some resemblance to the form of a pyramid. It is a peninsula of a prodigious extent. Egypt is bounded N. by the Mediterranean Sea, E. by the Red Sea S. by Abyssinia, W. by the desert of Barca¹⁶ the climate is warm and the soil fruitful, Egypt is famous for its pyramids those stupendous works of folly the capital is Cairo, the states of Barbary include Morocco and Fez Tunis Algiers, Tripoli and Barca.

Thursday 12th I attended school and recited a lesson of Africa from the tropic of Cancer to the Cape of Good Hope. The immense territory is little known the inhabitants (except the Abyssinians) are of a black complexion and the religion is the Pagan. New Discoveries the Continent of New Holland¹⁷ is 2400 miles long and 2300 broad it lies between 110 and 153 degrees east longitude and between 11 and 43 south latitude it lies southeast of the Island of Java and south of New Guinea in the great south sea. The great extend of New Holland gives it an unquestionable claim to the title of continent. The other new discoveries are New Hebrides New Guinea and New Zealand. I finished the study of Geography this day

¹⁶ Barca is a coastal desert plateau region of modern Libya.

¹⁷ Australia.

Friday 13th—This day I attended school and read in Mrs. Rowes Letters. I do not attend to any study except writing at present

Saturday 14th This day I attended school as usual and read in Mrs. Rowes Letters

Sunday 15th This afternoon I attended public worship and spent the evening at home ---

Tuesday 17th Yesterday I attended school but this day the school discontinued. I went to the exhibition in Deerfield.¹⁸

Friday 20th I have attended school the two last days and this day, I read in the Ladies Miscellany and parsed a lesson in the American Preceptor. A number of the ladies of this street visited my Mama this afternoon.

Saturday 21st This day I attended school and read in the Lady's Miscellany

Sunday 22nd This forenoon I attended public worship, I spent the rest of the day at home.

Monday 25th This forenoon I attended school I have been reading in Bennets Letters to a Young Lady, he thinks it wrong for young people to indulge themselves in reading novels and romances and that books of history and morality would be more improving.¹⁹ I did not attend school this afternoon.

¹⁸ The Greenfield Gazette of September 21, 1799 reported: "A quarterly exhibition took place at the Academy in Deerfield, on Tuesday last. We are told that the performances of the day were such as to be highly pleasing to a very crowded audience and such as promise the most beneficial effects from that infant Seminary."

¹⁹ In spite of this advice proscribing novels, Sally was reading one a week later (Journal, October 2, 1799)—an indication of a decidedly independent turn of mind.

Thursday 29th The two last days I attended school, this day I read in Dana's Selections,²⁰ this afternoon Miss R. Willard, Miss E. Smith, Miss E. Munn, and Miss P Wells visited me Monday 30th This day I attended school and read in Dana's Selection. Friday and Saturday last the school discontinued, I spent both those days and yesterday at home and without company October 1799

Tuesday 1st—I attended school and read in Dana's Selection this forenoon and this afternoon I read in Lyric Poems

Wednesday 2nd This day I attended school and read in a novel entitled Rasselas the Prince of Abyssinia,²¹ Mrs. Hall Mrs. Jones and Miss Anna Sophia Blake visited at our house this afternoon.

Sunday 6th This day I attended public worship, I spent the evening at Mr. J. Halls, I spent the three last days at school.

Sunday 13th, I attended school every day of the last week, this day I attended public worship, Mr. and Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Jones visited my papa and mama this evening.

Wednesday 16th This day I attended school and read in Bennett's Letters. This afternoon I visited Miss R. Willard Miss Munn, Miss Severance, Miss Wells and Miss Clap were there. I passed my time very agreeably.

²⁰ A New American Selection, or Lessons in Reading and Speaking, Consisting of Sacred, Moral, and Historical Extracts...; Humorous, Sentimental, and Descriptive Pieces. Printed at Exeter in 1799, the selections were compiled by Joseph Dana (1742-1827).

²¹ Written by Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) and published in Hartford as late as 1803.

Wednesday 23rd this forenoon I attended school and read in Popes Homer The school discontinued this afternoon, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Jones, Miss Eliza Smith and Miss Anne S. Blake visited at our house.

Thursday 24th I spent this day at home, Mrs. Hall Mrs. Smead Mrs. Newton spent part of this afternoon at our house. My papa and Uncle arrived home from Boston this evening.

Monday 28th I have spent every day since Thursday at home, this afternoon I attended school and read in the Lady's Miscellany.

Tuesday 29th This forenoon I spent at home and this afternoon I attended school.

Wednesday 30th I have not attended school Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Jones and Miss A. S. Blake spent part of the afternoon at our house.

Thursday 31st I have spent this day at home this evening I visited Miss Willard.

November 1799

Sunday 3rd this day I attended public worship. The last two days I have spent at home

Monday 4th This day I attended school and read in the Lady's Miscellany I began the study of cyphering this day. This evening I visited Miss Eliza Munn with Miss Rachel Willard our chief amusement was at cards.----

Tuesday 5th This day I attended school and cyphered I read in the Lady's Miscellany

Wednesday 6th This day the school discontinued I have spent the day at home

Thursday 7th I have likewise spent this day at home, this afternoon Mr. Newton, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Jones called upon my mama they did not stay to tea----

Friday 8th This day I attended school and parsed a lesson in Pope's Essay on Man, I read in Pope's Homer.

Saturday 9th This forenoon I attended school and cyphered in simple Subtraction. I read in Pope's Homer, this after Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Jones visited my mama ----

Sunday 10th This day I have attended the public worship of God, what an inestimable blessing do I enjoy in having the privilege of attending upon the worship of my Creator, how many people are there who are deprived of this privilege by illness or some other course, and perhaps now regret not improving it better while they professed it, I hope I shall learn to set a proper value upon this privilege while I can enjoy it, and not if I should ever be deprived of it have reason to reflect that while I did enjoy it I did not improve it as I ought.----

Monday 11th This day I attended school and cyphered in Simple Multiplication. This evening I visited Miss Willard Miss Munn was there I spent my time very agreeably.

Thursday 14th The two last days I attended school and cyphered but this day I did not attend, Mrs. Hall visited my mama this afternoon

Sunday 17th This day I attended the public worship of God.

Tuesday 19th This day and yesterday I attended school and cyphered in Compound Addition. This evening Miss Wells and Miss Munn visited me our amusement was at cards

Sunday 24th This day I attended public worship since my return I have been reading in Blairs Sentimental Beauties²² I have attended school every day since Tuesday last. A light snow fell on Thursday it was the first that has fallen this season

Monday 25th This day I attended school and cyphered in Reduction Descending. We received a lecture from our instructor this afternoon on the importance of conducting ourselves with propriety in this life that we may eternally be happy in that which is to come. I hope it has made a suitable impression on my mind.

Thursday 26th This day I completed the 12th year of my life. I am now enjoying what are called the juvenile years of life, yet no one can ensure me my life in this world for one moment, this forenoon I attended school as usual and cyphered in Reduction. I read in the Poetical Epitome, I spent the afternoon and evening at home

Wednesday 27th This day I attended school and cyphered, I read in Evelina²³ I have spent this evening at home

Thursday 28th This day the school discontinued, it be thanksgiving day. I attended public worship, Miss Lee drank tea at our house, she did not stay in the evening.

Friday 29th This day I did not attend school, this afternoon Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Blake, Mr. Jones, Mrs. and Miss Willard visited at out house

²² probably similar to *The Beauties of Blair*, by Hugh Blair (1718-1800). Published in Philadelphia in 1792.

²³ *Evelina: The History of a Young Lady's Entrance Into the World* by Frances Burney. First published in 1778. See also *Journal* of March 25, 1800.

Saturday 30th This forenoon I attended school I spent the afternoon at home Greenfield
December 1799

Sunday 1st This day I attended the public worship of God this evening I have been reading in the
Ladies Pocket Library²⁴

Monday 2nd This day the school was discontinued. Miss Hannah Severance, Miss Rachel
Willard and Miss Eliza Munn spent the afternoon and evening with me

Tuesday 3rd This afternoon I attended school and cyphered

Wednesday 4th This forenoon I attended school, this afternoon I visited Miss Amanda Willard
with Miss Severance, Miss Munn and Miss P. Wells

Friday 6th This afternoon and yesterday I attended school and cyphered in Reduction. Miss Lee
drank tea and spent the evening at our house

Saturday 7th This forenoon I attended school and read in Evelina, I spent the afternoon and
evening at home.

Sunday 8th This day I attended public worship, Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening at our
house.

Monday 9th This forenoon I attended school and read in the Childrens Friend.²⁵ This afternoon I
did not attend, I spent this evening at Mrs. Halls very agreeably

²⁴ Published in Philadelphia, the Pocket Library was into its fourth edition as early as 1809.

²⁵ Authored by Arnaud Berquin and published in Middletown, Connecticut.

Wednesday 11th Yesterday and today I have attended school Mr. Pierce dined with my papa this day

Thursday 12th This day I attended school, this afternoon I visited Miss Eliza Smith with Miss Severance, Miss Willard, Miss Munn and Miss Wells. I passed my time very agreeably

Friday 13th I this forenoon attended school and read in the Childrens Friend this afternoon the school discontinued, this evening my uncle arrived at home from Hartford

Saturday 14th This forenoon I attended school and cyphered in Compound Multiplication

Sunday 15th This day I attended the public worship of God. Mr. and Mrs. Hall visited at our house this evening

Monday 16th This forenoon I attended school and read in Evelina this being Miss R. Willards birth day I spent the afternoon and evening at their house with Miss P. Wells Miss Smith Miss Munn and Miss Chapman very merrily.

Tuesday 17th: this day I attended school and cyphered, I read in Evelina, Miss Marianne Williston spent the day and evening at our house

Friday 20th This forenoon I attended school and cyphered, I spent the afternoon at home, Mrs. Smith Mrs. Smith Mrs. Hall Mr. Newcombe and Miss Cushman visited my mama this afternoon.

Saturday 21st This forenoon I attended school and cyphered in Simple Interest, I have spent the afternoon at home

Sunday 22nd This day I attended the public worship of God.

Monday 23rd This day I attended school and parsed a lesson. This evening I visited Miss Rachel Willard Miss Clarissa Wells was there

Thursday 26th The two last days I attended school in the forenoon and both afternoons discontinued. This day I attended and read in a novel entitled Emma Corbett.²⁶ We this day received the afflicting news of the death of General George Washington, it is said that he died with the greatest calmness and resignation²⁷

Thursday 27th This day I attended school and read in the American Preceptor. This afternoon the Reverend Mr. Newton and a number of other gentlemen visited the school. After the exercises were over Mr. Newton made some observation for the scholars on their behavior and improvements, Papa who had been to Hartford arrived at home this evening, and Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening with us

Saturday 28th This forenoon I attended school and read in Emma Corbett this is a very affecting novel

Sunday 29 This day I attended the public worship of God

²⁶ Written by Samuel Jackson Pratt (1749-1814), Emma Corbett went through at least six editions.

²⁷ Washington died December 14, 1799. First mention in the Greenfield Gazette did not come until the following Monday, so the news arrived with a traveller.

Monday 30th This day I did not attend school, this afternoon I visited Miss E. Munn Miss H. Severance Miss R. Willard Miss P. Wells and Miss L. Clap were there it is Miss Munns birth day today ---

Tuesday 31st This day I attended school and cyphered in Simple Interest in the forenoon I read in the Childrens Friend and in the afternoon I read in Emma Corbett. I spent the evening at home and without company. This evening I have been reading in the History of New Hampshire by Dr. Jeremy Belknap.²⁸

[signed] Sally Ripley, Greenfield Massachusetts 31st of December 1799

[doodle with green ink embellishments]

Greenfield January 1800

Sunday 5th I have attended school every day since Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Smith spent Friday evening at our house this day I attended public worship

Monday 6th This day I attended school and read in Evelina in the forenoon and in the afternoon I read in Count Roderick's Castle of Gothic Times a romance, I spent the evening at Mr. John E. Halls with Mama and Sister Eliza very agreeably

Tuesday 7th This day I attended school. Mrs. Hall and Miss Eliza Smith spent this afternoon and evening at our house

²⁸ Jeremy Belknap (1744-1798), historian and Congregational minister, wrote a three volume History of New Hampshire, published in 1784, 1791 and 1792.

Wednesday 8th I attended school and read in Mrs. Chapone's Letters on the Improvement of the Mind²⁹

Thursday 9th This day the school discontinued I went with my papa and brother Thomas to Deerfield, the inhabitants of Deerfield and vicinity were assembled at Deerfield for the purpose of paying a memorial tribute of respect to the name of General George Washington

"Whose memory, while Freedom lives shall still be dear

"And resplendent honors each returning year

"Not ephemerally shall yield immortal fame

"And endless ages bless his glorious name

"On Freedom's wings his soul is born on high

"And soars exulting to his native sky!

"Old when will Princes learn to copy thee

"And leave mankind as heaven ordained them, Free."

Agreeable to arrangements, the morning was announced by the tolling of the bell. At 11 o'clock the citizens of Deerfield and a number of the neighboring towns with the company of militia under arms assembled at the Academy square and formed a Procession, the procession moved toward the meetinghouse. The music playing a dead march, troops in platoons with arms reversed, when arrived at the meetinghouse the troops formed a line and opened to the right and left and stood leaning on their arms reversed while the procession passed thro into the house in front of which was displayed a Standard fringed with black. The Pulpit Canopy was shrouded in black exhibiting the following inscription --

²⁹ Hester Mulso Chapone (1727-1801) wrote this two volume work, published in Boston in 1783. It went through at least five editions.

George Washington by the decrees of Deity The Father of his country and under God, The author and preserver of its Independence, Its constitution and Laws its peace dignity and Honor, died 14th December 1799 aged 68.

Every countenance was depicted with grief on this solemn mournful occasion and nothing could console the audience but the reflection that

"Adam yet lives whose comprehensive mind
"Ranges at large through systems unconfined
"With tranquil brow awaits high heaven's decree
"And armed with virtue looks to follow thee."

I returned home about sunset

Sunday 12th The last two days I attended school in the forenoon and spent the afternoon at home. This day I attended public worship Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening at our house

Monday 13th This day I have attended school

Tuesday 14th This day I attended and cyphered in the Rule of Three [unclear]. This afternoon I was dismissed before school was done and spent the afternoon and evening at Mr. Chapmans with Miss Pamela Wells

Wednesday 15th This forenoon I attended school this afternoon I did not Saturday 18th

Thursday and Friday I attended school but this day I did not

Sunday 19th This afternoon I attended public worship Mr. George Grenell spent this evening with my papa

Tuesday 21st This day I attended school and read in the Massachusetts Magazine.³⁰ This evening Miss Willard and myself visited Miss E. Smith

Thursday 23rd I have spent this day at home Captain and Mrs. Newton and Miss Mary Newton spent the afternoon at our house and Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening here

Monday 27th This afternoon I attended school and read in Bennets Letters to a Young Lady he does not approve of ladies cultivating poetry to any great degree. This evening Miss Eliza Smith visited me I spent my time very agreeably

Tuesday 28th Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent this afternoon evening at our house

Wednesday 29th Miss Mary Ann Williston spent this day and evening at our house

Thursday 30th This day my papa and mama went to Brattleboro I attended school this afternoon this evening Miss Willard Miss Munn and Miss Chapman visited me

Friday 31st This forenoon I attended school papa and mama arrived at home, I visited Miss Eliza Smith this evening

February 1799 [sic]

Saturday 1st I did not attend school Mr. J. Hall and Miss E. Smith spend the evening at our house

³⁰ "Massachusetts Magazine", or, a "Monthly Museum of Knowledge and Rational Entertainment" was founded in 1789, in Boston. The magazine frequently had stories and essays contributed by women.

Sunday 2nd I attended the public worship of God

Monday 3rd This day I did not attend school I spent the forenoon at home and about 12 o'clock I sat out to go to Shelburne³¹ to visit the Miss Severances in company of Miss R. Willard Miss P. Wells Miss E. Munn and Miss M. Chapman and called at Mr. Arms for Miss Eliza and at Capt. [unclear] for Miss Dorothy, and they both accompanied us. It is about three miles to Mrs Severances we arrived there about 2 o'clock and spent the afternoon very agreeably. We drank tea and soon afterward sat out for home we arrived at home about 6 o'clock

Wednesday 5th I attended school and read in Henrys Meditations³² and cyphered in the Rule of price increase

Friday 7th This day I have not attended school, Mrs. Hall and Miss Eliza Smith spent the evening at our house

Monday 10th I have spent this day at home, the Rev'd Mr. Lincoln Ripley minister of Waterford District of Maine and his brother Mr. Laban Ripley of Gill dined and spent the afternoon and evening at our house. Mr. Samuel Bliss of Nova Scotia and Mr. P. Pierce spent the evening at our house

Tuesday 11th This day Mr. Ripley breakfasted at our house he sat out for Peterham where he has a brother about 12 o'clock --

³¹ Shelburne is a village lying four miles west of Greenfield.

³² Probably among the works of Matthew Henry (1662-1714) who had written such similar works as "The Communicant's Companion," reprinted in Leominster in 1798.

Wednesday 12th I have not attended school this day Mr. Wells and Mrs. Eliza Smith spent this afternoon at our house and Mrs. JL and Mrs. Pierce spent this evening there but Miss E. Smith went home about 7 o'clock and I spent the evening with her and Miss R. Willard Miss M. Chapman and Miss Lucy Church of Springfield who is come here to go to Mr. Pierces school she is the niece to Mrs. Dickman --

Sunday 16th I this day have attended public worship

Monday 17th This forenoon the school discontinued, I attended the funeral of Mr. David Wells who died February 14th in the 75th year of his age. There was a large collection of people, the scholars of Mr. Pierces school, and some of the students of Deerfield Academy with Mr. Pierce Mr. Cutter the trustees of Deerfield academy and the committee of our school walked in procession before the corpse I attended school this afternoon

Wednesday 19th This day and yesterday I attended school and began the study of geography this study day I recited a lesson upon the introduction I spent this evening at Mr. John E. Halls with mama and sister, Lydia very agreeably

Saturday 22nd I attended school the last two days and recited lessons in geography this day the school discontinued the inhabitants of Greenfield and a number from the neighboring towns formed a procession and marched to the meetinghouse where oration was delivered by Mr. Proctor Pierce upon the death of General George Washington, who was born at the parish of Washington in Westmoreland County Virginia the 22nd February 1732 and who died 14th December 1799 at Mt. Vernon (his seat) in Virginia. He was elected president of the United States and died Lieutenant General of the American army. Mrs. Hall drank tea at our house but did not spend the evening ----

Sunday 23rd This day I have attended public worship since I returned I have been reading in Mayhew's Sermons

Monday 24th This day I attended school and recited a lesson in Geography

Tuesday 25th I this afternoon attended school and recited a lesson in Geography this evening I visited Miss Eliza Munn Miss Rachel Willard Miss Pamela Wells and Miss Mary Woodward were there

Wednesday 26th I have spent this day at home Mr. Noah Ripley of Petersham papas cousin drank tea and lodged at our house

Thursday 27th I attended school this day and recited a lesson in Geography upon North America, Geography is very pleasing and useful study.

Friday 28th This afternoon I attended school, I spent the evening at home

March 1800

Sunday 2nd This day I attended the public worship of God [doodle]

Monday 3rd This afternoon I attended school and read in a novel entitled Charlotte a Tale of Truth by Mrs. Rowson³³

Tuesday 4th This forenoon I attended school and recited a lesson in Geography, this afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Callendar of Northfield visited my Mama, they returned home about 6 o'clock

³³ First published in 1791, this novel by Susanna Haswell Rowson (c.1762-1824) was retitled Charlotte Temple: A Tale of Truth and went through two hundred editions. A classic seduction story, it was still in print in 1905.

Wednesday 5th This afternoon I attended school and read in Alexis or the Cottage in the Woods a novel.³⁴ I recited a lesson in Geography

Thursday 6th Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent this evening at our house

Friday 7th This forenoon I attended school and read in the Fille De Chambre³⁵

Saturday 8th This forenoon I attended school and recited a lesson in Geography upon the United States of America

Monday 10th This afternoon I attended school and recited a lesson Mrs. J. Hall visited my mama this afternoon, this evening Miss Rachel Willard Miss Eliza Smith Miss Pamela Wells Miss Eliza Munn Miss Lucy Church and myself with Master Enos H. Burt Master George Grenell Master Cyrus Smead Master Calvin Wells and Master Calvin L. Munn rode up to Bernardston to Mr. Pinks on a hayride, we returned about 10 o'clock ---

Tuesday 11th Mr. J. Leavitt Mrs. and Miss Willard and Mrs. Hall spent this afternoon and evening at our house ---

Wednesday 12th Mrs. Dickman Mrs. Hall Miss E. Smith and Miss L. Church visited at our house this afternoon.-

³⁴ Written by Francois Guillaume Ducray-Duminil (1761-1819) and published in Boston in 1796.

³⁵ Also written by Susanna Haswell Rowson, The Fille de Chambre was first published in 1793 and later retitled Rebecca; or, The Fille de Chambre.

Friday 14th Yesterday afternoon and this forenoon I attended school this afternoon I visited Miss Lucy Church at Mr. Dickmans with Miss Willard Miss Smith Miss Wells Miss Munn and the two Miss Chapmans I enjoyed myself very well

Sunday 16th This forenoon I attended the public worship of God I spent the afternoon and evening at home and without company

Friday 21st I have attended school every day since Sunday except yesterday I spent this evening at Mr. Hall's with Miss Rachel Willard very agreeably ---

Sunday 23rd This day I attended public worship. Mr. and Mrs. Hall visited my parents this evening

Tuesday 25th This day I attended school I have [word omitted] writing of a piece that Mr. Pierce has given me to speak. The character of Mrs. Allworthy in the Female Gamesters,³⁶ I hope I shall speak it as Mr. Pierce wishes to have me I shall use my utmost endeavors to act it to satisfaction, I recited a lesson and read in Camilla, a novel by Miss Burny (sic) the celebrated authorist of Evelina and Camilla³⁷

Wednesday 26th This day I attended school as usual and read in the Romance of the Forest by Miss Ann Radcliffe³⁸

³⁶ A play from Stearne's Dramatic Dialogues, the work was published "Danger and Cure of Vicious Habits." See also Note number 65.

³⁷ See Note number 23.

³⁸ Ann Radcliffe (1764-1823) is credited with the first 'poetical novel' [Dictionary of National Biography, S. Lee, Ed. (New York: Macmillan and Co., 1896), 89]. First published in 1791, The Romance of the Forest's success paved the way for her most famous work, The Mysteries of

Thursday 27th This afternoon I visited Miss Mary Chapman and Miss Sabra Wells Miss C. Grenell Miss C. Smead the Miss Alvords Miss R. Willard Miss L. Church Miss P. Wells and Miss L.S. Clap I spent my time very agreeably we began the evening with cards but soon dismissed them and ended it with music and dancing

Sunday 30th The two last forenoons I attended school and spent the afternoons at home. Mr. and Mrs. Hall visited our house this evening

Monday 31st This forenoon I attended school I spent the afternoon and evening at home I have been reading in Camilla I think it is a very entertaining novel

Greenfield April 1800

Tuesday 1st This day I attended school I drank tea and spent the evening at Mr. B. Willards with Miss Clap Mr. and Mrs. J. Hall Mr. G. Hall and a Mr. Joy spent the evening there

Thursday the 3rd Yesterday I attended school this day was observed by the inhabitants of Massachusetts as a day for solemn fasting and prayer³⁹ I did not attend public worship this evening I visited Miss Eliza Smith with my sister Lydia and Miss R. Willard

Udolpho. Sally's love of novels is evident. For further illumination of the rise of the novel, see *The Revolution of the Word* by Cathy Davidson (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987).

³⁹ Usually held in early April, a day of fasting was appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth. See Note number 95.

Sunday 6th The two last days I did not attend school as it rained. Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent this evening with us

Monday 7th This day the school discontinued as there was town meeting held in the school house. Mr. Smith, Mr. Atherton Mr. Wells Mr. Coleman Mr. Smead, Mr. Corse and Mr. Martindale din'd at our house. This afternoon I visited Miss Rachel Willard with Miss Sabra, Clarissa and Abigail Wells,

Wednesday 9th This day and yesterday I have attended school. This afternoon I visited Miss Pamela Wells, with Miss Munn, Miss Willard and Miss Church, The time passed very merrily

Thursday 10th I attended school Mr. Pierce spent this evening at our house

Friday 11th This day I finished reviewing the Geography this afternoon we spoke the Female Gamesters and the Citizen

Saturday 12th This day the school discontinued. This afternoon my Sister Lydia⁴⁰ and myself visited Mrs. J. Hall I passed my time very agreeably I think Mrs. H. a very amiable and agreeable woman

Sunday 13th I attended the public worship of God Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening at our house

Monday 14th The school discontinued Mr. Pierce is gone to New Salem I have spent the day at home it rained hard all day

⁴⁰ Lydia Hobert Ripley Fowler (1791-1841), a dutiful daughter who lived with and presumably cared for her aging parents, marrying (at the age of 48) the Reverend Bancroft Fowler six months after her widowed mother's death. She herself was dead within two years after her marriage.

Tuesday 15th This afternoon Miss Rachel Willard Miss Eliza Munn and myself took a walk down to Green river. We went to the mills⁴¹ and drank tea at Mr. Charles Hickok and returned home at about 7 o'clock, we had a very pleasant and agreeable visit

Thursday 17 I attended school and read in *Rasselas* and *Dinarbas*.⁴² This evening my papa sat out on a journey to Albany and my uncle went to North Hampton. Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening at our house

Saturday 19th This forenoon and yesterday I attended school

Monday 21st This day I attended school the Citizen was spoken Mr. Pierce gave me the part of Miss Emily Howard in the *Spring for Flowers* to speak

Wednesday 23rd This day and yesterday I attended school, we attended to speaking the Citizen and the Female Gamesters. This afternoon papa arrived home from Albany, Mr. and Mrs. Hall passed the evening with us

Thursday 24th This forenoon I attended school, this afternoon I visited at Mr. Jonathan Leavitts with mama and a large party

Friday 25th This day I attended school this afternoon I visited Miss Melinda Alvord with a number of other young ladies

⁴¹ See Note number 54.

⁴² *Dinarbas; A Tale*, written by Cornelia Knight (1757-1837) and published in Philadelphia in 1792.

Sunday 27th Yesterday forenoon I attended school this forenoon I attended public worship

Monday 28th This day I have attended school and read in Thompsons Seasons⁴³ [sic]

Tuesday 29th This day I have attended school I have been writing of my part in the spring for flowers I hope I shall speak it so as to please Mr. Pierce. Several of the scholars have been dissatisfied with their parts. Mr. Pierce gave Miss Melinda Alvord the part of Corrina in the Citizen but she was not pleased with it but she has concluded to take it. He gave Miss Carmella Hall the part of Mrs. Palmer in the West Indian and she appeared to be much pleased with it till a few days since she informed Mr. Pierce she would not take it. She gave the part to Miss Caroline Smead

Wednesday 30th This forenoon I attended school. We spoke the Female Gamester and the Spring for Flowers. A number of ladies visited my mama this afternoon [doodle]

May 1800

Thursday 1st I this day attended school and read in Thompsons Seasons. This evening the Tragedy of Cato was spoken. it rained very hard

Friday 2nd This afternoon I attended school I drank tea and spent this evening at Mr. John E. Halls with mama [doodle]

Saturday 3rd This forenoon I attended school, the dialogues of the School Master the Female Gamesters and the Spring for Flowers were spoken. This afternoon I went with Miss R. Willard to the school house to hear the Tragedy of Cato rehearsal. This evening papa who has been to

⁴³ Written by James Thomson (1700-1748), The Seasons was first published in 1764. The first American edition was published in Newbury Port in 1790.

North Hampton came home. Parson Lymans daughter of Hatfield accompany'd him she is going to teach a school in this town

Sunday 4th This day I attended public worship, this evening mama Mrs. Hall and myself took a walk in the burying ground how solemn is the thought that in a few years perhaps in a few days I and all who are dear to me must be layed in the silent grave no person can tell how long they have to live. I hope I shall improve the time that is allotted to me in this world so as to be eternally happy in the next

Monday 5th This forenoon I attended school. This afternoon I visited Miss Amelia Harriet Stiles at Mr. Jonathan Leavitts. Miss Lyman Miss Newton Miss Hall Miss Smead Miss M. Alvord Miss N. and A. Willard Miss B. and C. Grenell Miss Munn Miss Church and Miss Chapman were there in the evening we amused ourselves with cards

Tuesday 6th This forenoon I attended school this afternoon it discontinued. I went to Mr. Halls home and staid [sic] with Mrs. Hall about an hour. I went to hear the tragedy spoken Yesterday Miss Lucy Church left school. She has attended a quarter and instead of speaking in the exhibitions she came from Springfield here and intends returning soon there. I shall regret the loss of her society very much

Wednesday 7th This afternoon a number of gentlemen came to examine the school. After we had gone through with the exercises the Reverend Mr. Newton made some observations to the students and he observed that though many of us pronounced our words well and read loud etc. that we did not read intelligibly but blended our words together, I hope I shall correct this fault before another examination takes place, Mr. Newton made a short prayer and after the gentlemen were gone we spoke some of our pieces. Mrs. Hall spent this evening with mama

Thursday 8th I attended school Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening with us

Friday 9th This forenoon I attended school this forenoon afternoon Miss NA and R Willard Miss SLC and P Wells Miss E Munn Miss E Smith Miss L Church and Miss E and D Arms and Miss A Smead visited me in the fore afternoon we went to Mr. Wells Hall and spoke several of our pieces

Sunday 11th Yesterday I attended school on the forenoon attended public worship

Monday 12th this forenoon I attended school it was discontinued this afternoon I spent the evening at Mr. J. Halls with papa and mama

Tuesday 13th This day I attended school school. We attended chiefly to speaking. It is a year this day since Mr. Pierce opened his school I have attended the chief part of the time. During this year I have engaged in the following studies Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography Speaking When At school I have spent some very agreeable hours. The society of the students the conversation and precepts of the instructor and the various studies in which we are engaged make it a scene of pleasure I do not often experience elsewhere

Wednesday 14th This is our exhibition day about 9 o'clock this morning all the students when [sic] to Captain Claps and found a procession and walked down to Mr. Wells preceded by Music in the forenoon we exhibited the dialogues of the School Master the Female Gamester the Spring for Flowers The Citizen a Comedy and in the afternoon the West Indian a Comedy was acted and in the evening the tragedy of Cato was performed by some young gentlemen who attended with Mr. Pierces evening school.⁴⁴ I drank tea at Mr. B. Willards with a number of young ladies ---

⁴⁴ Pierce's evening school was doubtless designed to prepare young men for college entrance. Denied women, the evening school would, therefore, have offered "paternity which Walter J. Ong has suggested functioned as a Lupanar, rite" in training them to join the exclusively male world

Friday 16th This forenoon Mrs. Blake Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Jones called upon mama

Saturday 17th This afternoon Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Jones called upon my mama

Sunday 18th This forenoon I attended public worship --

Wednesday 21st This afternoon I visited Miss Eliza Smith Miss Pamela Wells Miss Eliza Munn and Miss Mary and Eliza Chapman were there likewise

Friday 23rd This afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Ripley of Gill (papa's cousins) visited my parents, I spent this evening with Miss Eliz. Smith Mr. and Mrs. Hall are gone to Middletown

Monday 26th This day my papa mama and sister Eliza sat out on a journey to Boston. I have spent the day at home.

Tuesday 27th This afternoon I visited Miss Pamela Wells with Miss R. Willard and Miss E. Smith

June 1800

Sunday the 1st I spent this day at home reading in Dramatic Pieces I expect to attend school on Monday

of scholarship. See Walter J. Ong, *The Presence of the Word: Some Prolegomena for Cultural and Religious History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967), 245-255.

Monday 2nd This day I attended school this evening I took a walk with Miss R. Willard Miss E. Church and Miss P. Wells

Tuesday 3rd This forenoon I attended school, this afternoon I visited Miss Eliza Munn with Miss Smith Miss Wells and Miss Chapman

Wednesday 4th This day I attended school this afternoon Miss Rachel Willard visited me and I spent my time very agreeably

Thursday 5th This day I attended school and began to review the grammar

Friday 6th This day I attended school as usual Mrs. Hall spent the evening at our house

Saturday 7th This forenoon I attended school this afternoon my parents and Sister arrived at home from Boston Mrs. Hall visited them this evening

Sunday 8th This evening Mrs. Hall visited our house

Monday the 9th This day I attended school the Reverend Mr. Newton visited my papa this evening

Tuesday 11th This forenoon I attended school, I have spent the rest of the day at home and without company. I do not spend so much of my time in Company as many young ladies of my acquaintance do but I believe I enjoy myself as well in my own family circle those who spend a great portion of time in paying and receiving visits of ceremony lose their relish for domestic

enjoyment while those who are more at home grow more and more attracted to their situation--

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Wednesday 11th This afternoon I visited at Mrs. Halls with my mama. There was not any other company and I enjoyed myself very well

Saturday 12th This forenoon I attended school I employed my time this afternoon in writing to my friends at Boston --

Sunday 15th I this afternoon attended public worship ---

Monday 16th This afternoon I attended school, after school I went a strawberrying with Miss R. Willard Miss P. Wells Miss J. Upham and Miss L. Clap

Tuesday 17th This day I attended school. This afternoon Mrs. Hall visited my mama

Wednesday 18th This forenoon I attended school this afternoon I visited Miss Eliza Arms with my sister Miss R. Willard Miss E. and N. Munn Miss P. Wells Miss D. Arms Miss A. Smead Miss M. Nims and Miss H. and E. Severance

Thursday 19th This afternoon I attended school Miss Mary Ann Williston spent this day at our house

⁴⁵ Sally appears to be trying to convince herself that preparation for her adult life in the domestic sphere was preferable to the carefree life of adolescence. See Nancy Cott, *The Bonds of Womanhood: "Woman's Sphere" in New England, 1780-1835* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977), especially pp. 53-54.

Friday 28th This day I attended school and parsed a lesson in Woods Mentor or American Teachers assistant. Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent this evening at our house this afternoon I wrote a piece of my own composition to show Mr. Pierce, several of the young ladies in school have been writing ones we wrote in the form of a letter and directed it to a sister living at a distance the following is a copy of one which I wrote

To Miss Harriet Ripley . Boston

Greenfield 20th June 1800

It is with inexpressible pleasure that I improve the first opportunity of writing to my dear Sister. Although you are placed at so great a distance from me, yet you may be assured that my affection for you is still undiminished. I am extremely sorry to be deprived of the pleasure of your company so long; but I am sensible that it is for your advantage. Your prospects with regard to an Education are at present very flattering; and I hope, that you my dear Harriet, will not be so unmindful of your advantages, as to neglect so good an opportunity of improving yourself in every branch of useful knowledge. In your next, I must desire you to inform me what studies you are engaged in and what progress you make in them, I read with pleasure every letter that comes from one I so much esteem, as I do my Sister. Mama wishes me to give her best regards to you, she says you must not omit writing to her the first opportunity your Brothers and Sisters desire to be affectionately remembered to you and so do all your young friends, we anticipate your return with the greatest impatience. Be so good as to write to me the first opportunity.

I am Dear Harriet

Your ever affectionate Sister

Sally Ripley

Miss H. Ripley

Saturday 21st I have attended school this forenoon this evening I have been reading in Edwards
Various Views of Human Nature a novel

Sunday 22nd This afternoon I attended public worship

Wednesday 25th Monday Tuesday and this day I attended school. I read a piece on Virtue⁴⁶
which pleased me so much that I will copy it

The Advantages of Virtue

Virtue, soft balm of every woe
Of every gift the cure
It is thou alone that canst bestow
Pleasures unmixed and pure

The shady wood the verdant mead
Our virtues flowery road
Nor painful are the steps that lead
To her divine abode

Tis not in palaces in halls
She in her train appears
Far off she flies from pompous walks
Virtue and peace dwell here

⁴⁶ Virtue, in this context, may be defined as "a selflessness in which individual desires and interests were secondary to the welfare of the body politic" as well as the more traditional definition embodying chastity and moral righteousness. See Mary Kelley, *Private Woman, Public Stage* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1984), especially 59–61.

[signed] Maria

Saturday 28th Two last days and this forenoon I attended school - I read the following Sonnet

On Life

Life's a varied, bright illusion
Joy and sorrow light and shade
Turn from sorrows dark effusion
Catch the pleasure ere it fades.
Fancy paints with hues unreal
Smiles of life and sorrows moved
If they both are but ideal
Why reject the seeming good!

[signed] Adeline

This afternoon I took a walk down to Green river with my Sisters. When I returned I met Miss Eliza Smith and she introduced me to Miss Nancy Butler of Hartford, Mrs. Hall has been a Journey to Connecticut and Miss Butler came up with her [doodle]

Sunday 29th This day I attended public worship. This evening I visited Mr. J. Halls with papa mama and Miss Munn I passed my time very agreeably. I think Miss Butler is a very pretty sociable and agreeable Young Lady she is about thirteen years of age [doodle]

Monday 30th This forenoon I attended school, this afternoon I visited Miss Upham and Mr. Leavitts with Miss E. Smith Miss Butler two Miss Munns Miss P. Wells and Miss Chapman in the evening we walked on the hill I passed my time very agreeably [doodle]

July 1800

Tuesday 1st This day I attended school this afternoon I visited at Mr. Newtons with mama Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Leavitt Mrs. Hall and Miss L.H. Leavitt ---

Friday the 4th The last two days I have attended school and this forenoon it discontinued this afternoon. This day is the anniversary of American Independence. There were a number of gentlemen dined at Mr. Munns hall where Mr. Eliza Alvord pronounced an oration, I took a walk this afternoon with Miss Nancy Butler Miss Eliza Munn and Miss Lucy S. Clap we went as far as Deerfield River and got home about six o'clock.----

Sunday the 6th Yesterday forenoon I attended this school this day has been the warmest we have had this year the thermometer stood at 98 degrees yesterday it was 90 I did not attend public worship

Monday 7th This afternoon I attended school it is extremely warm I read the following

Sonnet to the Morning

Morns beaming eyes at length unclose
And wake the blushing of the rose
That all night long appeared with dews
And veiled in chilling shades its hues
Reclined forlorn its languid head
And sadly sought its parent bed
Warm from her ray the trembling flower derives
And sweetly blushing through its tears revives
"Morns beaming eyes at length unclose"

And melt the tears that bind the rose
But can their charms suppress the sigh
Or chase the tear from sorrows eye
Can all their lustrous eyes impart
One ray of peace to sorrows heart
Ah no their fires her soul oppress
Eves pensive shades more soothe her meek distress

(signed) Caroline

Tuesday 8th This day I have attended school this afternoon I was dismissed before school was out and my Sister Lydia and myself visited Miss E. Smith and Miss N. Butler there was but a small party and I enjoyed myself very well

Thursday 10th This forenoon and yesterday I attended school this afternoon I visited at Mr. B. Willards with mama and a large party

Sunday 13th I attended school the two last days and this day I have attended public worship. This evening I read in Burtons Lectures.⁴⁷

Tuesday 15th This day and yesterday afternoon I attended school, this afternoon Mrs. Hall and Miss Butler visited at our house [doodle]

Wednesday 16th This day my papa and brother Thomas sat out for Hartford I attended school this afternoon and visited at Mr. J. Halls with mama and a large party. I spent my time quite agreeably --

⁴⁷ Burton's Lectures on Female Education, written by John Burton (1745?-1806) and published in 1794 in New York.

Thursday 17th. This afternoon I visited Miss Rachel Willard with a large party

Friday 18th This afternoon Mrs. and Miss Phelps from Hadley and Mrs. and Miss Newton Mrs. Hall Mrs. and Miss Newcomb Miss Lyman Miss Cushman and Miss Butler visited at our house

Saturday 19th This forenoon I attended school. My papa and brother arrived at home from Hartford this day

Sunday 20th This forenoon I attended public worship. I passed the rest of the day at home there was a heavy shower of rain fall we have not had any rain this some time passed [doodle]

Monday 21st I attended school this afternoon Mrs. Smith Mrs. Hall Mrs. and Miss Willard and Miss Butler visited at our house

Thursday 24th The two last afternoons I attended school and Mrs. Hall called upon mama this afternoon [doodle]

Friday 25th This forenoon I attended school this afternoon Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hall visited mama

Sunday 27th This day I have attended public worship

Tuesday 29th This afternoon and yesterday I attended school and spent this evening at Mr. J Halls with papa and mama very agreeably

Thursday 31st This day and yesterday I have attended school. I read in Walkers Academy Speaker. This evening Mr. Gannet and the Reverend Mr. Holmes of Cambridge visited papa

August 1800

Friday 1st This day I attended school I read a piece which pleased me very much

Virtue and Ornament

The Diamonds and the rubys rays
Shine with a much finer flame
And more attracts our love and praise
Then beauties self if lost to fame

But the soft tear in pitys eye
Transcends the diamonds brightest beams
And the sweet blush of modesty
More beauteous than the ruby seems.

The glowing Gem the sparkling Stone
May strike the sight with quick surprise
But truth and innocence alone
Can still engage the good and wise

Nor glittering ornament or show
Well ought avail in grief or pain
Only from inward worth can flow
Delight that ever will avail

[signed] Orinda

Saturday the 2nd This forenoon I attended school, this afternoon my mama called at Mr. J. Leavitts to see Miss Maria who is very ill [doodle]

Sunday 3rd This forenoon I attended public worship

Tuesday 5th This day and yesterday afternoon I attended school, this afternoon I visited at Mr. Timothy Halls with mama, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Newton, Mrs. J. Hall, Mrs. Lyman, Miss Newton and Miss Butler

Thursday 7th This morning about six o'clock Mrs. Sally Stone wife of Dr. John S. of this town died. She was twenty-six years old and has left two sons and a daughter. I attended school this day and yesterday recited a lesson in Geography and grammar

Friday 8th This forenoon I attended school this afternoon it was discontinued. I attended the funeral of Mrs. Stone, there was a large collection of people Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Hall and Miss Butler drank tea and spent the evening at our house --

Saturday 9th This forenoon I attended school I read the following piece in the newspaper on the death of Mrs. Stone

[doodle]

"Oh death what a terrible void
Thy visitation hath left in this breast
What sources of bliss are destroyed
What hopes hath there rendered unblessed

"His conjugal joys thou didst blast
His bosoms first love felt thy dart

Ev'n her whose affections were fast
Entwined in the folds of his heart

"Oh! choice of his earliest prime
The partner his soul held most dear
No circumstance ever through time
From him thy loved image can tear

"Oh faithfulest tenderest of those
Whom providence kindly had given
To lessen the numberless woes
Which thwarted his passage to heaven"

"Her loss is to be lamented as a tender affectionate and faithful wife, as a careful, good and indulgent mother, and as a kind, sympathetic and benevolent neighbor—Of a mild and gentle disposition, of agreeable unassuming manner, she was endeared to her numerous friends and had conciliated the affections of a large circle of acquaintances—the remarkable complacency and resignation and patience which she manifested during a long debilitating and wasting sickness evinced the meekness of her disposition her full confidence in the religion which she professed and her entire reliance on the efficacy of redeeming love

The tear of grief—your friend is slain,
The tear of joy—she lives again"

Tuesday 12th This day and yesterday afternoon I attended school, this afternoon I visited at Mr. J. Halls with mama and Sister Marianne

Wednesday 13th This day I attended school and read in the Search After Happiness with Miss N. Butler in the forenoon and in the afternoon read in the Children of the Abbey a novel. After school I visited at Mr. Munns with mama, Mrs. and Miss Smith Mrs. Hall Mrs. and two Miss Willards Mrs. Mary M. and Miss Butler

Sunday 17th I have attended school since Thursday except Friday afternoon. This forenoon I attended public worship

Thursday 21st This day and since Sunday I have attended school, this afternoon I visited at Mr. B. Willards with mama Mrs. Dickman, Miss Church and Miss Hall and Miss Harriet and Miss Susan Whitney of Brattleboro ---

Friday 22nd This day I attended school this is the last day of the quarter. This afternoon my papa and mama and a number of the other gentlemen and ladies of this street called to examine us as we read recited and parsed and were examined in Geography and Writing and several of the young gentlemen spoke single pieces when we had gone through the Reverend Mr. Newton made a short prayer. Mrs. Smith Mrs. Hall Miss Nancy Butler Miss Anna S. Blake Mr. Hall and Mr. Pierce drank tea and spent the evening at our house

Sunday 23rd This day I read the following

Sonnet to Friendship

Oh thou whose name too often is profaned
Whose charms celestial few have hearts to feel
Unknown to folly and by pride disdained
To thy soft solace may my sorrows steal

Like the fair morn thy mild and genuine ray

Through life's long evening shall unclouded last
While pleasures frail attachments swept away
As fades the rainbow from the northern blast!

'Tis thine, oh nymph! with balmy hands to bind
The wounds inflicted in misfortunes storm
And blunt severe afflictions sharper dart
'Tis thy pure spirit warms my Annas mind
Beams through the pensive softness of her form
And holds that alter on her spotless heart.

[signed] Louisa

I have spent this day at home Mr. Pierce has given us a weeks vacation [doodle]

Sunday 24th This forenoon I attended public worship [doodle]

Wednesday 27th This afternoon Mrs. Hall called at our house Miss Lucy Church and Miss Nancy Morley of Springfield Miss Eliza Munn Miss Nancy Butler Miss Pamela called on me this evening they stayed a little while and then Miss Munn Miss Church Miss Wells and myself called upon Miss Rachel Willard, Papa sat out for Northampton today

Sunday 31st I this afternoon attended public worship it has been a very rainy day papa got home from Northampton on Friday

September 1800

Wednesday 3rd This afternoon Miss Lee called upon mama

Friday 5th This day my uncle sat out for Boston. I spent the evening at Mr. J. Halls with papa mama and Mrs. Henderson Miss Bigton and Miss Ellsworth from Middleton and Mr. and Mrs. Willard and Mrs. Jones.

Monday 8th I yesterday afternoon attended public worship this afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Newton Mr. and two Miss Willards Mrs. Hall Miss Bigelow Miss Ellsworth Miss Lyman Miss Butler Miss Henderson and Miss Blake visited at our house [doodle]

Tuesday 9th This afternoon I began to attend school again school began the first of September

Friday 12th This day and the two last days I attended school this afternoon I visited Miss Lucy S. Clap with my sister Lydia Miss Rachel Willard Miss Nancy Butler Miss Pamela Wells and Miss Eliza Munn

Monday 15th This day and Saturday forenoon I attended school I spent this evening Mr. J. Wells with papa and mama [doodle]

Tuesday 18th Mr. and Mrs. Hall and Miss Martha Ellsworth spent this evening at our house

Sunday 21st I have attended school since Tuesday, this forenoon I attended public worship my uncle arrived at home on Thursday

Monday 22nd This afternoon the school discontinued Mr. and Mrs. Hall and Miss Ellsworth spent the evening at our house

Saturday 27th I have attended school every day since Monday and this forenoon I read the following piece

On the prospect of Spring

How long dread Winter will thy cheerless gloom
Shut out enlivening springs refreshing gloom
When will thy ivy carpet quit the field,
And let dear goddess nature's fragrance yield

The eye with viewing bearing prospects tired
Looks for those scenes when nature glown admired
The flowery meadow and the verdant lawn
The tangled thicket and the rosy thorn

Fatigued with tempest from the northward howling
And the rude frost which sits on mountains scowling
The heart throbs anxious for the vernal breeze
Which wafts sweet perfume from the sweet scented [unclear]

Come, genial favorite of the varied year
Let all thy varied beauties quick appear
Deck the gay garden with perfuming flowers
And scatter fragrance round secluded bowers

Quick let the merry swallow spread its wing
And teach the feathered warbler again to sing
Its early notes unseals the sluggards eyes
And bids the drowsy husbandress arise

Come grateful spring thy blushy blushing charms disclose
The pink the tulip and the gaudy rose
Awake delight diffuse thy joy is round

Bid thy leaves open and thy music sound

[signed] Louisa

Tuesday 30th This day the school discontinued. A body of militia consisting of a squadron of Cavalry, commanded by Col. Gilbert two companies of Artillery commanded by Major Smead and three regiments of infantry commanded by Col. Goldsbury Col. J. Wells and Col. D. Wells was reviewed in this town by Major General Mattoon after the review the General made a speech to the soldiers, I spent the day at home. We had company at our house [doodle]

Thursday 2nd This forenoon and yesterday I attended school ---

Friday the 3rd This day I attended school and cyphered. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hall visited my mama this afternoon

Sunday 5th I attended public worship this day

Tuesday 7th I spent this afternoon and evening at Mrs. Willards with mama Mrs. Norton Mrs. Smith Mrs. Hall Miss Eliza Smith Miss Nancy Butler and Miss Anna Sophia Blake

Wednesday 8th This forenoon I attended school and read the following

Ode to Hope

Friend to the wretch, whose bosom knows no joy!

Parent of bliss beyond the reach of fate!

Celestial thought divine

Sweet balm of grief

Oh still be mine

When pains torment and cares annoy
And gild gloom which shades this mortal state

Though oft thy joys are false and vain
Though anxious thoughts attend thy train
Though disappointments mock thy care
And point the way to fill despair
Yet still my secret soul shall own thy power
In sorrows bitterest pang and pleasures gayest hour

For from the date of reasons birth
That wondrous power was given
To soften on every grief on earth
And raise the soul from thoughtless mirth
To wing its flight to heaven
Nor pain nor pleasure can its form destroy
In every varied scene it points to future joy

[signed] Louisa

Tuesday 14th This afternoon I attended school and read in the *Columbian Orator*⁴⁸ I spent the evening at home

Thursday 16th This day I expected to set out on a journey to Boston with my papa but the rain prevented us we shall go tomorrow if it is fair ---

Boston October 1800

⁴⁸ The *Columbian Orator* was the work of Caleb Bingham.

Friday 17th This day I left Greenfield and sat out for Boston. We passed thro' the towns of Deerfield Sunderland Amherst Hadley Belcher Town and Palmer and arrived at Blairs Tavern in Weston about 8 o'clock where we supped and lodged we rode 43 miles today⁴⁹

Saturday 18th This morning we breakfasted at Blairs and rode through Weston and Brookfield and stopped at Masons in Spencer where we were detained several hours by the rain. We rode through Leicester and arrived at Barkers Tavern in Worcester at 7 o'clock. It is about 25 miles from Weston to Worcester we lodged at Barkers

Sunday 19th This morning we breakfasted at Barkers and sat out from there about 10 o'clock and passed through Shrewsbury Northboro Marlboro and Sudbury and arrived at Weston about 7. We lodged at Flaggs it is about 33 miles

Monday 20th This morning we rode through Weston and Waltham and breakfasted at Willingtons in Watertown and rode through Cambridge and arrived at Boston about 11 o'clock. Boston stands on a peninsula and joins to Roxbury by a neck of land at the south part of the town.⁵⁰ It is connected with Cambridge by a bridge over Charles River leading from West Boston to Cambridge and another bridge across Charles River connects the north part of the town with Charleston. Boston contains a large number of handsome buildings I went to my uncle Emmons in Newbury Street and spent the rest of the day there. My aunt and cousin George W. Callendar spent the day there and Miss Jane and Eunice Roulstone and Mr. John Roulstone spent the evening there

⁴⁹ This route follows the Connecticut River valley south, then turns east to follow approximately modern Massachusetts State Route 9 before intersecting with the Boston Post Road (Route 20).

⁵⁰ The area called Back Bay was not filled in until the mid 1800's, hence the identification of Boston as a peninsular city.

Tuesday 21st This morning my cousin Miss Eunice Callendar came up to my Uncle Emmons and I went home with her and spent the day at my Uncle Callendars Miss Catherine Greenleaf Emmons and Miss Hannah Emmons spent the afternoon at Uncle Callendars. This forenoon I called at Mr. J. Roulstone mamas uncle and this afternoon the young ladies and I went to see the statehouse which is a very large and handsome building lately created. It has a large dome on the top and commands an extensive view of Boston and its harbor. I returned to Uncle Emmons about 6 o'clock and lodged there [doodle]

Wednesday 22nd This forenoon I took a walk with the Miss Emmons to the rope walks⁵¹ and this afternoon I took a walk downtown with my aunt Miss Eliza Franklin and purchased some things and spent the rest of the afternoon and the evening at Uncle Roulstones with Miss E. Franklin Miss E. Callendar and Miss C. G. and H. Emmons I lodged at Uncle Callendars

Thursday 23rd I spent this forenoon at Uncle Callendars and returned to Uncle Emmons about 11. This afternoon Miss Franklin and I called at Mr. Williams and Mr. Cooks and I drank tea and spent the evening at Aunt Emmons

Friday 24th This forenoon I called upon Miss Andrews and about noon papa carried me in the chaise to the north end. I dined at my uncle John Ripleys and in the afternoon my aunt and Miss Maria and Caroline Ann Ripley went with me to my uncle Peters where I spent the afternoon I returned to Uncle Emmons about 8 o'clock

Saturday 25th This forenoon Miss Franklin Miss Callendar the Miss Emmons and myself called upon Miss Hyler and this afternoon about 4 o'clock I sat out to go with papa to Hingham a

⁵¹ With Boston's growing importance as a port had come various industries associated with providing ships' supplies. Nearly all rope was made of hemp, and rope walks (extremely long sheds) allowed considerable lengths of rope to be 'laid' or twisted, and formed into a strand.

pleasant village about 20 miles from Boston and arrived there about 8 in the evening. I lodged at Mr. Lincolns my grandpapas

Sunday 26th This day I attended public worship at Hingham. Miss Rachel Ripley (my aunt) and Miss Rachel Lincoln went with me. My cousin Miss Nabby Fearing dined at grandpapas and after meeting Aunt Rachel I rode up to my Uncle Neemiah Ripleys and drank tea there but passed the evening and lodged at Uncle Fearings

Monday 27th This forenoon I returned to grandmamas and dined and this afternoon I went with Miss Martha Lincoln to see Mrs. Beatler, a lady who keeps a boarding school in Hingham, I attended her school a quarter several years since I stayed about half an hour.⁵² Papa called for me in the chaise and about 2 o'clock I left Hingham and passed through the towns of Weymouth Braintree Quincy Milton Dorchester and Roxbury and arrived at Boston about 7 o'clock. We passed by the seat of President Adams at Quincy I spent the evening at Mr. Roulstons and lodged at Uncle Emmons

Tuesday 28th This forenoon Miss Jane Roulstone Miss Eunice Callendar Miss Catherine Greenleaf Emmons and Miss Hannah Emmons and myself made Miss Andrews a visit. Mrs. A's name was Elizabeth Roulstone before she married. She is mamas cousin. She has been married about two years. This day I dined at Uncle Emmons. Dr. B. Waterhouse of Cambridge came there to inoculate my cousin Jonathan E. for the pine pox.' This afternoon I expect to leave Boston

⁵² Mrs. Beatler undoubtedly kept a 'dame school'. See Thomas Woody, *A History of Women's Education in the United States*, 2 vols. (New York: Science Press), especially 137-153 and Lawrence A. Cremin, *American Education: The Colonial Experience 1607-1783* (New York: Harper and Row, 1970) for a further explanation of these early efforts at primary education and the extension of the domestic sphere to include a suitable paying occupation.

Tuesday 28th Afternoon - This afternoon my papa and I left Boston and rode to Howe's Tavern in Sudbury where we lodged

Wednesday 29th This day we rode from Sudbury to Brookfield about 45 miles we lodged at Hitchcocks in Brookfield

Friday 30th This day we rode through Weston Palmer Weare Belcher Amherst Sunderland and Deerfield. and arrived home about half past seven. It is about 115 miles from Boston to Greenfield

November 1800

Monday 3rd This day I began again to attend school and read in Search After Happiness and cyphered in Compound Subtraction

Wednesday 5th This forenoon and yesterday I attended school and cyphered in reduction. This afternoon it discontinued as there was a lecture preached to the Association of Ministers by the Reverend Mr. Field of Charlmont I attended the Lecture

Sunday 9th I have attended school every day since Wednesday and this day I attended public worship Mrs. Hall visited mama last evening

Wednesday 12th This afternoon and the last two days I attended school last night there was considerable snowfall but it has almost all melted away it is the first snow that fell this season. This evening Mrs. Hall visited mama

Sunday 16th The two last days I attended school and this day attended public worship Mr. Smith and Mrs. Hall visited mama this evening

Monday 17th This day I attended school and read the following Sonnet,

Sonnet

The mariner who has long been the sport
Of howling tempest and the midnight blast
To Hope's fair landscape eager will resort
Or traces o'er the happy moments past

Though from the dizzy mast he looks to explore
The unknown path preserves a lonely track
Tho' thunders roll and oceans [unclear] roar
He thinks on pleasures passed and calls them back

The shipwrecked seamen weary, wreck'd and faint
To pilgrims lost benighted on the road
Still having fancy flattering prospects paint
Some gleam of sunshine breaks the bleakest dawn

Then sensibility thy aid impart encase the sorrows
then of this griefworn heart

[signed] Adela

Friday 21st This forenoon and everyday since Monday I attended school it snowed very hard all this afternoon and the snow drifted so that I could not attend school

Saturday 22nd This day being quarter day the Reverend Mr. Newton and a number of other gentlemen called to see the school I do not expect to attend the next quarter. Mr. Pierce has given the scholars a weeks vacation

Wednesday 26th This day is my birthday. I am now fifteen years of age [doodle]

Thursday 27th This day being Thanksgiving day I attended public worship. Miss Smith drank tea at our house. This evening I visited Miss Pamela Wells with Miss Smead and Miss Munn

December 1800

Tuesday Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hall visited mama this afternoon

Wednesday 3rd This day the Electors of the President and Vice President of the United States assembled in their respective states and gave their votes

Sunday 7th Mrs. J. Hall breakfasted and spent this forenoon and dined at our house [doodle]

Monday 8th Miss Hall visited mama this evening [doodle]

Tuesday 9th Miss Susan Newton spent of the afternoon with mama

Saturday 13th Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent this evening at our house

Sunday 14th I attended public worship

Monday 15th Mrs. T. Gale visited mama this afternoon [doodle]

Tuesday 16th This being Miss R. Willards birth day I visited her this afternoon with Miss Wells Miss Smith Miss Upham and Miss Clap

Friday 19th Mrs. Hall called upon mama this afternoon

Sunday 21st Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent this even at our house [doodle]

Wednesday 22nd This afternoon I visited Miss Amelia Harriet Stiles at Mr. Jonathan Leavitts with Miss Nancy and Miss Amanda Willard and Miss Isabella Bliss Upham. I did spend the evening there. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hall spent the evening with mama

Thursday 25th This day is Christmas Day. I have spent the day at home and without company

Sunday 28th This day I attended the public worship of God I spent the evening at home

Thursday 30th This day I have spent at home. Miss Rachel and Miss Catherine Willard spent part of this afternoon at our house and spent Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening at our house
Here is the transcription of the text from the image:

Sally Ripley's

Diary

Greenfield 30th December 1800

County of Hampshire⁵³ and

State of Massachusetts

[Extensive doodle with embellishments in green ink.]

⁵³ The northern half of Hampshire County was set off and became Franklin County in 1811, with Greenfield as the Franklin County seat.

Greenfield January 1801

Thursday 1st This day we begin a new year and likewise a new century is began. It is not probable that many who are now living will live to the close of this century. This evening I visited Miss Rachel Willard with Miss Eliza Smith and Miss Pamela Wells we amused ourselves with cards

Sunday 4th This afternoon I attended public worship it being the first sabbath after new year Mr. Newton preached a sermon on the occasion from the 21st chapter of St. Luke the 28th verse. Mr. N. remarked that eight persons had died in this town in the course of the preceding year. Their names follow Mr. David Wells aged 74 Mrs. Sally Stone age 26 Mrs. Lyon Mr. Ellis Master Ebenezer Graves age 12 Master Solomon Smead aged 7 a son of Mr. Walter Browns aged 1 year and an infant son of Mr. Amos Allen [doodle]

Wednesday 7th Parson Newton called upon papa and mama this forenoon

Thursday 8th Mrs. Hall visited mama this afternoon

Sunday 11th I this day attended public worship

Monday 12 This afternoon my Sister myself [sic] visited Miss Eliza Munns with Miss E. Smith Miss R. Willard Miss P. Wells and Miss J. B. Upham. Mr. Stebbins teaches a dancing school and Monday and Thursday evenings in Mr. Munns hall and this evening we went in to see them dance

Wednesday 14th William Billings Esquire of Conway spent this evening and lodged at our house

Thursday 15th This morning Squire Billings breakfasted at our house [doodle]

Sunday 8th This day I attended the worship of God. Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening at our house

Thursday 22nd Miss Rachel Willard visited me this evening this morning Miss Isabella Bliss Upham left Greenfield she is gone to Montgomery in Vermont. She has resided in Greenfield about a year she is cousin to Mrs. H. Leavitt her parents live at Montgomery [doodle]

Sunday 25th I this day attended public worship. Mr. and Mrs. Hall visited my parents this evening. Last week I received a letter from Miss Nancy Butler of Hartford. She attended Mr. Pierces school a quarter last summer and left Greenfield in October. I have received several letters from her since

Friday 30th Mr. and Mrs. Hall and Miss E. Smith drank tea and spent this evening at our house

—

February 1801

Sunday 1st This forenoon I attended the public worship of God --

Tuesday 3rd This afternoon I visited Miss Sally and Sabra Wells with a number of other young ladies among whom was Miss Edwards of North Hampton. It is Miss Sabras birth day

Wednesday 4th This afternoon Mrs. and Miss Willard Mr. Hall Mrs. Jones and Miss Smith visited at our house

Friday 6th This day my papa uncle and brother sat out for Boston. This afternoon I visited at Mr. B. Willards with MaMa Mrs. Newcomb Mrs. Hall Mrs. Jones and Mrs. and Miss Munn

Monday 9th Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent this evening at our house [doodle]

Monday 16th I have spent the week past at home. This day my papa and brother arrived at home from Boston. This evening I visited Miss Rachel Willard [doodle]

Sunday 22nd This forenoon I attended public worship

Monday 23rd This day I have spent at home last evening a house belonging to Mr. Askar Newton and occupied by Mr. Walter Brown took fire and burned to the ground and last week the mills owned by Messrs Daniel and Sylvanis Nash were burned.⁵⁴

Tuesday 24th This afternoon I attended the examination of Mr. Pierces scholars. There were a number of Ladies and Gentlemen attending the scholars read and spelled and exhibited their writings and two dialogues were spoken by a number of them. My brothers each took part I drank tea and spent the evening at Mr. J. Halls with mama sister Lydia and Miss Sophia Willard

Friday 27th This afternoon Mrs. Leavitt Mrs. Newcomb Mrs. Green Mrs. and Miss Willard and Mrs. Hall visited at our house

Saturday 28th I have spent this day at home it is the last day of this winter it has been the mildest winter I ever recollect to have seen the snow is almost all gone off the ground

March 1801

⁵⁴ One of the earliest mill sites developed on the eastern bank of the Green River, Nash's Mills dated from the mid-eighteenth century and housed a variety of industries. The site was destroyed by the construction of Interstate (Highway) 91. The Greenfield Gazette of February 23, 1981, reported: "On Friday evening of the 13th inst. the Grist Mill, belonging to Messrs. Daniel and Vanne Nash of this town was consumed by fire, with about one hundred bushels of grain deposited therein. The loss is estimated at about 1000 dollars." The fact that Sally recorded the event on the day the newspaper announced it, rather than on the day it happened, suggests she was somewhat removed from village gossip and read, rather than heard, the news.

Sunday 1st This forenoon I attended the public worship of God

Tuesday 3rd This day the administration of John Adams Esq. x-President of the United States ceases. Thomas Jefferson Esq. is elected President and Aaron Burr Vice President. Mr. Jefferson was Vice President before. I drank tea and spent the evening at Mr. Halls with mama

Wednesday 4th This afternoon I visited Miss Pamela Wells with Miss Willard, Miss Munn, Miss Smith and Miss Chapman

Friday 6th This day Mr. Taft and Mr. Lawrence dined at our house and Mrs. Hall spent the afternoon and evening here. It snowed considerably this day

Sunday 8th This day I attended the public worship of God it was very bad sleighing, coming home Mr. Leavitts sleigh overturned and Mary Cary who was in it broke her arm

Monday 9th This evening I went with Miss R. Willard to see Mr. Stebbins scholars dance.

Wednesday 11th Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening at our house it has rained all day

Thursday 12th This evening I attended Mr. Stebbins public ball there were a large collection of ladies and gentlemen attended

Friday 13th The Rev'd Mr. Newton visited papa this evening

Saturday 14th This day Mr. Crosby and Master William Chamberlain of Wadsboro dined at our house, William C-lost his father several months since and is going to live with his Here is the transcription of the text from the image:

uncle in the District of Maine,⁵⁵ he is going to stay at our house till he has an opportunity of going to Boston [doodle]

Monday 16th This day I began to attend Mr. Pierces school I read in Bennets Letters there was not any young ladies of my age at school except Miss R. Willard

Tuesday 17th This day I have attended school, this forenoon I wrote a letter to my aunt Miss Eliza Franklin of Boston Mr. Clement Smith carried it and William Chamberlain went with him, Mr. Pierce dined at our house and Mr. and Mrs. Hall drank tea and spent the evening here [doodle]

Saturday 21st This day I attended school in the forenoon I have spent my time since Tuesday at home it has rained hard the three last days---

Monday 23rd This day I have attended school, I have been writing to my friends in Boston and Hingham [doodle]

Friday 27th I have attended school since Monday, Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent Tuesday evening at our house and this evening I visited Miss Rachel Willard [doodle]

Saturday 28th This forenoon I attended school [doodle]

Tuesday 31st This day and yesterday I attended school. Mr. Hall dined at our house and he and Miss Eliza Smith drank tea and spent the evening here

⁵⁵ Maine did not become a state until March 15, 1820.

April 1801

Thursday 2nd This day I attended school, the following young ladies attended school now Miss Clarissa Grenells Miss Sabra Wells Miss Rachel Willard Miss Eliza Munn Miss Mary Chapman and Miss Lucy Stone Clap. This day papa went over in the meadows to the funeral of Mr. Ebenezer Allen who died on Tuesday aged 75 his disorder was a cancer on his lip

Sunday 5th the 6th The two last days I attended school and this forenoon I attended public worship

Monday 6th This day the school discontinued, as there was a town meeting held in the schoolhouse, they voted for Caleb Strong, Esq. for Governor and for Samuel Phillips for Lieutenant Governor of the State of Massachusetts, and chose Capt Isaac Newton, Captain John Russell and Mr. Quintus Allen, Selectmen, several gentlemen dined at our house and this afternoon a large number of Ladies visited my mama [doodle]

Thursday 9th The two last days I attended school this day it discontinued being fast,⁵⁶ I attended public worship.

Monday 12th I attended school and drank tea and spent the evening at Mr. B. Willards with Miss E. Hall and Miss S. Wells, Mr. Pierce and Mr. Callendar

Friday 17th These last days I attended school but this day I did not

Saturday 18th This day I attended school in the forenoon but spent the afternoon and evening at home

⁵⁶ A fast-day, proclaimed by the civil authorities.

Wednesday 22nd I have attended school this day and yesterday afternoon and Monday Mr. and Mrs. Hall spent the evening at our house this has been a very pleasant day.

From southern isles, on winds of gentle wings,
Sprinkled with morning dew, and rob'd in green
Life in her eye and music in her voice
Lo spring returns and wakes the world to joy

[signed] Dwight

Thursday 23rd This day I attended school and read one of Stearn's Dialogues--

As yet the trembling year is unconfi'd,
And winter oft at eve resumes the breeze
Chills the pale morn, and bids his driving fleets
Deform the day delightless

[signed] Thomsons Seasons

Friday 24th I attended school, the day has been rainy and very unpleasant.

The north east spins his rage, and now, shut up
Within his iron cave, the effusive south
Warms the wide air, and o'er the void of heav'n
Breathes the big clouds with vernal showers distand
At first a dusky wraith they seem to rise
Scarce staining ether but by swift stages,
In heaps on heaps, the doubling vapor sails
Along the loaded sky, and mingling deep,

Sits on the horizon round a settled gloom,
Not such as wintry storms on mortal shed,
Oppressing life; but lovely gentle kind
And full of every hope and every joy
The wish of nature.

[signed] Thoms. Seasons

Saturday 25th This forenoon I attended school and read the following beautiful little piece in
Thompsons [sic]

Seasons

Low surly winter passes off,
Far to the north and calls his ruffian blast
His blaster boy, and quite the howling plain hill
The shatter'd forest and the ravaged vale
While softer gales succeed, at whose kind touch,
Dissolving snows in livid torrents lost,
The mountains lift their green heads to the sky.

Sunday 26th This day I have spent at home it has been quite a stormy day, Mr. and Mrs. Hall
spent the evening at our house I read in Aikin's letters to his son⁵⁷ on literature and the conduct
of life. He observes that a taste for reading novels and romances is a kind of false appetite
resembling that for snuff and tobacco which rather seeks the supply of a want than the
enjoyment of a pleasure

Monday 27th This day I attended school it is a very pleasant day

⁵⁷ John Aiken's Letters From a Father to His Son, published in Philadelphia in 1796.

Come gentle spring, ethereal Mistress, come,
And from the bosom of yon drooping cloud
While music waits round veil'd in a shower
Of shadowing roses on our plains descend

[signed] Thompson [sic]

This afternoon I attended school and read in Thomsons Seasons the following piece from that
admired author pleased me very much---

From the moist meadow to the withered hill
Led by the breeze the vivid verdure runs
And swells and deepens to the cherished eye
The hawthorn whitens at the juicy groves
Put forth their buds unfolding by degrees
Till the whole leafy forest stands displayed
In full luxuriance to the sighing gales
Where the deer rustle through the twining break
And the birds sing concealed. At once array'd
In all the colors of the flushing year
By natures swift and secret working hand
The garden grows and fills the liber'l air
With lavish fragrance while the promis'd fruit
Lies yet a little embryo unperceived
Within its crimson folds [doodle]

This day Eunice Banister of Conway opened school in this town,⁵⁸--my three youngest sisters attend her school

Tuesday 28th This day I have attended school I spent the evening at home

Wednesday 29th This day likewise I attended school this morning my papa and uncle set out to go to Hartford. I wrote to Miss Nancy Butler by then, I received a letter from her yesterday, I think she writes very good letters and I always receive them with pleasure [doodle]

Thursday 30th This day I attended school this afternoon we had the pleasure of a visit from Mrs. Jones of Brattleboro, she brought with her her little daughter Eliza who is about four months old. Mrs. Hall and Mrs. and Miss Willard came likewise-----

May 1801

Saturday 2nd This forenoon and yesterday I attended school and read in Thomsons Seasons---

Short is the doubtful empire of the night;
And soon, observant of approaching day
The meek eyed Morn appears Mother of dews
At first faint gleaming in the dappled east:
Till far o'e there spreads the wid'ning glow
And from before the lustre of her face
White break the clouds away With quicken'd step
Brown night retires. [Young] day pours in apace

⁵⁸ Evidently a dame school. Sally's three youngest sisters would have been Elizabeth, then 7 years 4 months old; Harriet, 5 years 10 months; and, Marianne, 3 years 11 months. It seems unlikely that Marianne would have started at such an early age, and perhaps Lydia, at 10 years 3 months, was the third sister.

And opens all the leoncelar prospect wide.
Rous'd by the cock the soon clad shepherd leaves
His mossy cottage, where with peace he dwells.

Falsely luxurious will not man awake,
And springing from the bed of sloth, enjoy
The cool, the fragrant, and the silent hour,
For meditation due and sacred song?
To lie there out in sleep can charm the wise?
To rise in dead oblivion, losing half
The fleeting moments of too short a life;
Who would in such a gloomy state remain
Longer than nature craves, when every Muse
And every blooming pleasure wait without
To bless the wildly devious morning walk

Sunday 3rd This day I have attended the public worship

Monday 4th This forenoon I have attended school, this afternoon it discontinued.

Tuesday 5th This afternoon I went with my Sister to Mr. Munns to see a collection of wax figures. I was much pleased with them, I attended school this afternoon

Wednesday 6th Mrs. Hall visited mama this afternoon

Friday 8th This day and yesterday I attended school Mr. Pierce gave me the part of Daphne in *The Coquette*⁵⁹ to speak.

⁵⁹ From Stearn's 'Dramatic Dialogues', and subtitled 'The Folly of a Capricious Temper, and the Disadvantage of Coquetry to the General Interests of Women'. See also Note number 6.

Saturday 9th This forenoon I attended school we spoke The Coquette I spent the afternoon at home

Sunday 10th This day I attended public worship I spent the evening at Mr. Halls with Miss Eliza Munn.

Monday 11th This morning I planted some flower seeds in the garden

At length the finished garden to the view
Its vistas opens and its vallies green.
Along these blushing borders, bright with dew
And in yon mingled wilderness of flowers,
Four handed Spring unbosoms every grace;
Throws out the snow drops and the crocus first,
The daisy, primrose, violet darkly blue,
And Polyanthus of unnumber'd dyes
The yellow wall flower, stain'd with iron brown,
And lavish stock that scents the garden round
From the soft wing of vernal breezes shed
Anemonies auriculas, enrich'd,
With shining meal in all their velvet leaves
And full ranunculus' of glowing red
Then comes the tulip race whose beauty plays
Her idle freaks from family diffus'd
To family as flies the father dust.

No gradual bloom is wanting, the bud
First born of Spring, to summers musky tribes:

Now by a winter of purest virgin white
Lor bent or blushing inward, nor jonguil
Of potent fragrance nor Narcissis fair,
Nor broad carnations, nor gay spotted pinks,
No shower'd from every bush the damask rose,
Infinte numbers, delicacies, scents,
With hues on hues expression cannot paint,
The breath of nature and her endless bloom.

This day I attended school, we spoke The Coquette

Tuesday 12th This day I attended school and read in Murrays Meditations I spent this evening at home [doodle]

Wednesday 13th I attended school, after school I visited Miss Eliza Smith with a number of Young Ladies---

Saturday 16th I have spent the two last days at home. Mr. Pierce has been at North Hampton, this day I attended school we spoke The Coquette. This afternoon I rode to the falls.⁶⁰

Sunday 17th This day I attended the public worship of God Mr. Willard and Miss Levina [sic] Willard spent this evening at our house

Monday 18th I attended school and read in Murrays Meditations

⁶⁰ Presumably Turner's Falls, located 2 miles northwest of Greenfield. The Connecticut River drops precipitously at this point while simultaneously turning from a westerly course to one that carries it due south.

Wednesday 20th This day I have attended school and yesterday and read in Miss Rowes letters. I read a letter out of Miss Rowes letters to show the committee tomorrow. This day my uncle sat out for Boston and yesterday my papa did. This evening I wrote a letter to papa.

Thursday 21st This forenoon I attended school this afternoon a number of Ladies and gentlemen called to examine us. We read, spelt and showed our writings and spoke a number of dialogues and single pieces in the following order.

A prologue by Franklin Ripley a single piece by George Grenells a dialogue on Physiognomy⁶¹— a single piece by Thomas W. Ripley and single piece by Calvin Wells Self Interest a dialogue and the Bottle Conjurer, The Coquette and the Conjuror all dialogues. I spent this evening at Mr. Elisha Wells very agreeably

Sunday 24th I have spent this day and the two last days at home. Mr. Pierce has given us a vacation of a fortnight. This afternoon I wrote to my papa

Monday 25th This morning Lt. Samuel Wells departed this life. He has not been confined but a short time he was an agent man. This evening I read the newspaper it contained accounts of a number of accidents. There was an account in it of a linen yarn factory in Great Britain which suddenly took fire and burnt down, and a number of boys and girls who were at work in the upper part of the building fell victims to the flames. About forty persons were burnt to death mostly children.⁶² How short and uncertain is life! How many people there are who in the full

⁶¹ Physiognomy: the art of discovering mental characteristics from the outward appearance, especially from the face.

⁶² Greenfield Gazette of May 25, 1801 reported (p. 4): "From a London Paper. On Thursday, January 3, at night, a large linen yarn factory belonging to Messrs Littlewood and Kirby, near Oxford Road, Manchester, suddenly took fire and burnt, with the most destructive fury for a considerable time. The catastrophe was dreadful, as a number of boys and girls who were insured in the upper parts of the building at labour, fell miserable victims to the flames. Three or four young women jumped from the upper story, but we are told not one survived. A more heartfelt rending sight was never witnessed. Several of the unfortunate children were seen running through the flames in a state of distraction, without the most distant possibility of escaping; one boy was seen suspended by the hand to a beam,

enjoyment of health and strength are suddenly reduced to pale and senseless corpses. We are liable to numberless accidents and casualties that in an instant may deprive of life. How watchful then ought every person to be so to live as to be prepared for death.-----

Tuesday 26th Mrs. Smith and Miss Eliza Smith drank tea and spent this evening at our house--

Wednesday 27th This afternoon I attended the funeral of Lieut. Wells who died on Monday aged 71 years he has left three sons and one daughter and twenty-three grandchildren to mourn his loss

Friday 29th This evening my papa arrived at home from Boston. It rained very hard this afternoon and evening the rain was accompanied with loud peals of thunder and very sharp lightening. The lightening struck the chimney of Mr. B. Willards store but did not do any damage. A number of buildings in Heath were struck and one man was killed.-----

Sunday 31st This afternoon I attended public worship

June 1801

Wednesday 3rd Miss Sophia Willard spent this day at our house. [doodle]

Friday 5th This evening my uncle and aunt Fearing from Hingham arrived at our house on a visit [doodle]

Saturday 6th Uncle and Aunt Fearing have spent this day at our house

from whence the poor creature dropped into the body of the fire. We have been informed that about forty were burnt to death, mostly children. The greater part, we hear, were in the highest room, to which they ascended by a ladder, through a trap door."

Sunday 7th This forenoon I attended public worship Miss H. Wells spent this evening at our house

Monday 8th I have spent this day at home. Mr. Pierce opened School this day but I shall not attend this quarter [doodle]

Tuesday 9th This afternoon Mrs. J. Hall Mrs. Smith Mrs. Willard and Mr. J. Hall visited my Mama [doodle]

Wednesday 10th This afternoon my uncle and aunt Fearing left Greenfield my papa mama and brother George accompanied them as far as Barre [doodle]

Saturday 13th 13th This day my papa and mama arrived at home from Barre

(to be continued)

[The next page is blank with an oversized signature saying Sally Ripley's Book Greenfield.]

Sally Ripley's

. Book

Greenfield

[The next page has in regularly sized script Sally Ripley Greenfield and has the letter d centered on the page.]

Sally Ripley Greenfield

d
