

The Balloch Diaries

James Balloch, 29 years of age, emigrated from Scotland in 1790 and settled on a River Farm in Cornish, New Hampshire. He was successful, but his success was eclipsed by the accomplishments of his son William.

The Balloch Diaries were written by William Balloch, the 9th child of James. William was born in 1820 and died in 1893. He was, in addition to being a very successful farmer, “a man of good gifts” repeatedly elected to the highest offices in Cornish, New Hampshire. The 8 diaries I have begin with the year 1869 and the last one is 1888.

Each of the books measures 3"x6" and is about ¾" thick. Each is in a leatherette case which also contains a slot for a pencil. Page edges are coated in gold. Some do not list the publisher, but for the year 1872 the publisher is listed as Claremont Stationary Company, Claremont, N.H.

The opening pages of each diary contain pages for current year calendar –divisions of time – things worth knowing (mainly scientific, ie; atmospheric pressure) – table of stamp duties (4 pages) – eclipses – tide tables for New York and Boston – Chicago almanac and rates of postage. These are page titles, some pages contain additional subject matter such as cost of money orders at post offices.

Fortunately William Balloch wrote in a clear hand in pencil, therefore the diaries are mostly quite readable. Where I was unsure of spelling, I have indicated with (?) Where I could not decipher a name or word, I have indicated with (???)

It is my project to copy the diaries, then send the originals to whatever Historical Society might make use of them.

Ed Barrett
1402 South Border Avenue #777
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Telephone: 360-907-1354

Email: edandannebarrett@gmail.com

1869

January

- 1/1/69 – note from March 9th 1869 –for governor Storms 198 - Bedel 109 - W.W. Parker 107
- 1/2/69 – Cushings bill \$53.50 Colby bill 42.17 = 135.67
Mrs. Ellis Root died June 17 1868 aged 83
- 1/3/69 – list of materials for a coat
Several items unreadable
- 1/4/69 funds for painting church \$2.12
Shopping list
- 1/5/69 list of invoices and taxes
- 1/6/69 Nathan Harris enlisted July 1862 Company G, 9th regiment discharged
September 1863 = Bounty
Town \$50
State \$50
Gov \$25
Expected to receive 75 dollars from U.S.
- 1/7/69 Michael McCarty pasturing 3 calves from May 25 to Oct 17 1868. 21
Weeks @25 cts per week \$5.25. Pasturing colt 3 weeks 75 cts total \$6.00
(rest of page unreadable)
- 1/8/69 William Balloch/E.R.Shedd/J.M. Bent appraised at Charley (unreadable) June
15 1869 AT 9 O'Clock
- 1/9/69 accounting records
- 1/10-11/69 appraisal of Charley Kelly's estate (quite detailed)
- 1/12/69 list of taxes for 1869 and some purchases
- 1/13/69 recipe for whisker dye. 1 oz ammonia + ¼ oz nitrate silver + ½ oz water
- 1/14 – 1/31/69 – lists of expenses and sales of farm products.

1869
February

2/1-2/7/69 receipts and accounts

2/8/69 Republican Club – Wm Balloch President + list of officers

2/9-2/19/69 pages are blank

2/20/69 Provost Marshall's certificate shows that ??? H. Kingsbury enlisted March 14 1864 And was mustered into service March 19th and that he received a town bounty of \$200.

Trace(?) H. Kingsbury mustered into 1st N.H. Cavalry March 19 1864. Bounty paid by H. Gould to G.B. Hutchins of Lisbon(?) N.H. \$135.

2/21-2/28/69 blank except for misc. notes

1869

March

- 3/1/69** Very cold day. Remained at home. Sawed wood.
- 3/2/69** At home. Sawed Wood. Willie went to Windsor.
- 3/3/69** Went to H.S. Church and drove home cow. Took dinner there.
- 3/4/69** attended auction at Rueben Davis place. Went to Windsor
- 3/5/69** Attended funeral of Mr. Ford's child at Mr. Mathewson's. Cut wood in yard. Mr. & Mrs. Read Shedd and Francis Seward(?) spent evening. Bought 25 bushels of corn of Erastus Read at 1.12 per bu.
- 3/6/69** Hauled 25 bu of corn from Erastus Reads. Silk peddler took dinner. Settled with Hiram Sturtevant.
- 3/7/69** At home. Called at Mr. Hart's in evening.
- 3/8/69** Attended Republican caucus at Town House. Called at Mr. Sully (?) in evening.
- 3/9/69** Attended annual town meeting. Officers chosen.
L. T. Chase – N.E. Hebend – Dana Morgan – Selectmen (? Names?)
Daniel O'Hare – clerk J.M. Davidson – treasurer H.M. Day School Commissioner
- Vote for Governor REP: (???) Stevens 158 DEM: John Bedel 109 REP majority 53
Nathan Harris came here. Alber Hayden spent the evening
- 3/10/69** Went to Claremont with N. Harris. Went into Town Meeting. Attended ????
funeral of Mr. E. Chase. Very rainy day.
- 3/11/69** Very Pleasant day G.H. Kenyon(?) L.T. Chase, H.S. Chase with their wives spent the day. Nathan and Willie went to Windsor. Michel Coil commenced work at noon.
- 3/12/69** (?) Ellis Boots(?) estate at Windsor Savings Bank - 32.33. Cut wood in yard. Went to Windsor. Nathan & Ellen & Emily spent evening at Mr. Haydens. (?) (?) called.

3/13/69 Cut wood in yard. Brother George & wife spent day. Nathan, the girls and Willie spent evening at Mrs. Harts and called on Mrs. Reads in evening.

3/14/69 At home. Nathan, Ellen and Emily attended church at West Claremont.

3/15/69 Carried Hiram Sturtevant's family and goods to depot at Windsor to take the cars for Bradford Vermont. Willie carried Nathan down to his brothers family. Edwin R. Shedd spent the evening.

3/16/69 Cut wood in yard. Willie, Ellen and Emily went to Claremont. (?) Bell Rice called. James Tasker(?) called. Spent evening with Ellen at Hazel P. Shedd's.

3/17/69 Cut wood in yard. Ellen spent the day at Mrs. Mathewson's. Mrs. B. called at Mr. Hayden's.

3/18/69 Went to John L. Paget's and got Mr. Ellis Roots will. Called at N. Sturtevant's mill.

3/19/69 Cut wood in yard. Went to Claremont. Consulted Judge Allen relative to Mrs. Roots will.

3/20/69 Forenoon snowy. moved hay from H. Sturtevant. Afternoon cut wood in yard. Misses Edna Pope and Marcella Hammond spent afternoon. Winslow Hammond spent evening. Attended school meeting, was chosen moderator and district clerk. William C. Hurt was chosen Prudential Committee.

3/21/69 At home. Willie & Michael went to young(?) Taskers(?).

3/22/69 Cut wood in yard. John G Paget N.A. Deming and Herbert Deming called Largelle(?) Hart spent the night. Red cow calved.

3/23/69 Very snowy day. 20 inches of snow fell. Mended boots and shoes.

3/24/69 Went to Sturtevant's Mill and to Windsor. Mr. Hart's children and Lizzie(?) Bartlett spent the night.

3/25/69 Went to Windsor. Yoked steers. Took tea and spent evening with Mrs. B at H..P. Shedd's. Michael Coil went home.

3/26/69 Rainy day. Went to Claremont. Called at Mr. Barkis(?) and Mrs. West's Philander W. Smith & wife visited here.

3/27/69 Went to Mr. Dunsmore's to look at hay. Called at Mrs. Converse's. Went to Simeon Chase's. Spent evening at Mrs. Hart's.

3/28/69 Remained at home. Albert Hayden spent evening. Michael Coil came back.

3/29/69 Hauled two loads of hay from Simeon Chase's. Attended Easter meeting at Trinity Church. Afternoon rainy.

3/30/69 Rainy day. Mended tin ware. Carried Ellen to Claremont to attend the Stevens High School. Miss Edna Pope is to room with her at Mrs. West's.

3/31/69 Attended probate court at Claremont. Called at Mrs. Wirtz(?) Spring term at Stevens High School commenced.

1869

April

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4/1/69 Went to Windsor. Took Dinner at Simeon Chase's and hauled home small load of hay. Called at Edwin R. Shedd's and settled and balanced all accounts with him to date. Crop eared cow calved.

4/2/69 Hauled small load of hay from Simeon Chase's. Selectmen L.T. Chase, N.E. Hebard, and D.N. Morgan took dinner here. Attempted to break road to woods Snow so deep could not get through.

4/3/69 Went to Windsor. Took tea and spent evening with Mrs. B. at Wm. C. Harts. Willie spend afternoon at H.P. Shedd's.

4/4/69 Cool Squally day. Remained at home. Boys tapped some trees on Capt. Hammond's land.

4/5/69 Fair day. Went to Windsor. Called on George Gilbert. Went to N.A. Deming's. Paid N.A. Demings note. \$200. Interest \$13. Total \$213.

4/6/69 Pleasant day. Gathered sap Commenced building shard(?) sled(?) Wm P. Johnson took dinner. Spend evening at Mrs. Hartz

4/7/69 Pleasant day. Commenced raining about sunset. Split wood in yard. Went to Claremont with horses and sled. Brought home Ellen and Edna Pope. Left petition of John M. Root with Ira Colby to hand to Judge of Probate.

4/8/69 Fast-Day. Pleasant but some snow squalls. Brother George and wife spent the day here. The ice in the river broke up and moved off very quickly.

4/9/69 Pleasant day. Worked on wood. John M. Root called. Ellen and Mary Hayden visited at S. Wilder's (?). Spent evening with Ellen at Mr. Hart's.

4/10/69 Pleasant day. Worked on wood. Michael Coil went home at noon.

4/11/69 Pleasant day. Remained at home. Boiled some sap. Mr. Bell called. Willie carried Ellen to Claremont. Michael came back.

4/12/69 Cloudy day. Sawed Hemlock logs in yard.

4/13/69 Pleasant day. Split Hemlock wood. Nathan Harris came back here from Massachusetts. Spent evening with Nathan, Emily, and Willie at Mr. Hart's. Gave up trying to tap trees in the woods, and put away buckets.

4/14/69 Pleasant day. Split wood in yard. Nathan went to Windsor and came back at night.

4/15/69 Very pleasant day. Split wood and sawed pine logs in yard. Mrs. Shaguit(?) Ford(?) and 4 children moved into my house from Windsor.

4/16/69 My 49th birthday Very pleasant. Filed saws. Went to Claremont and brought home Ellen. Nathan went down to his brothers. G. H. Blake and Mr. Coburn called. Dana(?) N. Morgan took supper.

4/17/69 Pleasant with a slight shower in the afternoon. Spent the day at Dana M. Morgan's assisting him about making his highway taxes. Attended school meeting in the evening.

4/18/69 Pleasant day. Remained at home. Willie carried Ellen to Claremont. Two year old heifer calved.

4/19/69 Cloudy with slight showers Commenced raining very hard in evening, some thunder. Cleared out shop and commenced making (???) tub. Willie went down to Dan'l Harris and brought Nathan home.

4/20/69 Showery day. Worked in shop. River rising rapidly. Loretta Hart and Ella spend evening.

4/21/69 Pleasant with gentle showers Worked in shop. River very high indeed. J.M. Root and Wm. C. Hart called.

4/22/69 Fair day. Worked about the house and barn. Willie went to Sturtevant's Mill Called at Edwin Shedd's Spent evening at Mr. Harts with N. Harris

4/23/69 Very pleasant and Spring like day Tagged sheep. Willie carried brother George to Windsor. Went to Claremont and brought Ellen home. White faced cow calved.

4/24/69 Pleasant day. Finished tagging sheep. Mended fence in South (???) Went to Mr. Grannis (?) Michael went home at noon.

4/25/69 Fair day. Remained at home Sherman(?) Harris spent day. Willie carried Ellen to Claremont. Spent evening with Mrs. B. at Mr. Hart's. Michael came back. Let cattle and sheep go out in the pasture

4/26/69 Pleasant day. Commenced plowing on side hill. (???) and Willie mended fences.

4/27/69 Plowed corn stubble. (???) and Willie mended fences in Jarvis portion. Nathan went to Windsor.

4/28/69 Pleasant and warm. Went to Sturtevant's mill and to N.G. Jacksons & to (?) Smiths looking for oxen to buy. Nathan started for Unity.

4/29/69 Very pleasant day Went to Windsor. Bought oxen of George Jackson. Plowed in afternoon.

4/30/69 Pleasant day. Plowed corn stubble. Willie went to Claremont after Ellen Nathan came back. Albert and Mary Hayden and (???) Hart spent evening. Sowed 1 ¼ bu of rye on bank. Nathan left in evening for Albany VT.

1869

May

5/1/69 Pleasant in forenoon, commenced raining at 4 PM. Sowed oats and barley and harrowed. Willie and Minnie spent afternoon at Mr. Hart's.

5/2/69 Severe storm of rain and snow. Got in yearling sheep. G. Converse called.

5/3/69 Cloudy. Snow 3 or 4 inches deep. Sleighs were passing. Made soap etc. School commenced, teacher Miss Frances Dunsmore.

5/4/69 Cold & Squally Carried hog to George Jacksons went to Windsor. Commenced plowing green sword on North Side of swale. Spent evening with Mr. Hart at Judge Putnam's.

5/5/69 Clear cool day. Plowed green sword Sowed grass seed Willie went to Windsor after meal. Annie and Abbie Balloch spent night.

5/6/69 Pleasant day – plowed green sword. Sukey mare (???) her foal during the night

5/7/69 Pleasant day sowed grass seed bushed ground Went to Claremont Called on Belle(?) Corning Brought Ellen home.

5/8/69 Very pleasant went to Jackson's after hog. Called at D.W. Morgan's. Went up to Jarvis pasture Went up to the church Met selectmen at Mr. Owens to take affidavit of John Bell

5/9/69 Fair with some wind. Nathan arrived here from the North at 4 O'clock AM Went to Windsor after fresh fish. Called with Mrs. B at brother George's Nathan carried Ellen to Claremont Mr. & Mrs. Hart spent evening.

5/10/69 Very pleasant day plowed green sword Sowed barley and grass seed opposite house and harrowed. Willie went to Windsor. A traveler's horse died very suddenly in the road near Edwin R. Shedd's. D.N. Morgan called.

5/11/69 Pleasant Wind South finished plowing green sword and commenced harrowing Nathan went to Windsor

5/12/69 Pleasant and warm finished harrowing and commenced hauling manure. D.N. Morgan called bought two pigs of Wm. C. Hart pd 8 dollars Mrs. Francena (???) called.

5/13/69 Cloudy forenoon hauled manure & plowed turnip yard. Mrs. Howe took dinner.

5/14/69 Cloudy forenoon Hauled manure. went to Claremont brought Ellen home Nathan went to Windsor.

5/15/69 Cloudy and showery Hauled wood from river and cleared off meadow. Hauled 2 loads of wood from Capt. Hammond's meadow for John Sturtevant. Nathan went to Windsor and went down to Claremont on the cars.

5/16/69 Cloudy & showery. Remained at home. Albert Hayden, JM Root & Phil Lynch called. Capt. Charles Long of Claremont died.

5/17/69 Cloudy & cool. Hauled manure and plowed J. Sturtevant's garden. Nathan came here from Claremont. Went to Windsor. Ri(?) drivers (???) down the river. Willie carried Ellen to Claremont this morning.

5/18/59 Pleasant but showery. Hauled manure. Went to Windsor with Mr. Hart. Called on Rev. Mr. Douglas. Nathan left for Roxbury. Willie went to Claremont.

5/19/69 Showery. Hauled manure. Sowed onions and beets. Spread manure and harrowed.

5/20/69 Fair and cool. Spread manure. Harrowed and commenced planting corn.

5/21/69 Pleasant day. Plowed green sword. Planted corn and potatoes. Mr. Hart brought Ellen from Claremont.

5/22/69 Pleasant and cool Finished plowing green sword. Went to Cornish. (???) with Mr. Hart. Three year old red cow calved. Turned calves out to pasture.

5/23/69 Pleasant day. Remained at home. Michael went home and returned at night. Willie carried Ellen to Claremont. Spent evening with Mrs. B at Mr. Hart's. G.A. Billings called.

5/24/69 Pleasant and warm. Plowed old garden. Went to Claremont. Went to Windsor.

5/25/69 Pleasant and quite warm. Planted melons and cucumbers, sowed carrots and lettuce. Harrowed and planted corn and potatoes. Grafted Apple trees.

5/26/69 Cloudy & windy. Attended Probate court at Claremont. Took dinner at Mrs. West's. Finished planting corn, went to Windsor, called on Judge Putnam.

5/27/69 Fair and quite cool.. Plowed ground for J. Sturtevant. Went to Windsor.

5/28/69 Pleasant. Planted grounds around house. D. G. Billings called and paid twenty five dollars to settle suit brought against his son George A. Billings by Miss Bell Comings(?). Willie went for Ellen.

5/29/69 Cloudy with showers. Sowed beets and turnips. Went to Charles Kelley's. Went to Windsor. Boys went fishing.

5/30/69 Pleasant and warm. Attended service at Trinity Church. Spent evening with girls at Mr. Hart's. Mr. Douglas preached for the first time in Trinity Church since the house was repaired.

5/31/69 Cloudy & showery. Worked on highway. Wm. Balloch surveyor. Willie carried Ellen to Claremont.

1869

June

6/1/69 **Worked on highway. Took tea at brother George's. Shower in the night.**

6/2/69 **Pleasant. Worked highway tax for Root(?) Dist(?). Richmond Sargent surveyor. Hauled land muck from Jarvis lot. Boys went fishing. Rev. H.S. Smith and wife called.**

6/3/69 **Pleasant. Mended fence on Jarvis lot, Hauled load of muck.**

6/4/69 **Pleasant Mended fence on Jarvis lot and (???) of woods. Harvey Weld and wife called.**

6/5/69 **Warm with south wind. Attended Masonic funeral of Brother George Bryant of Cornish. Thunder shower at 5 O'clock PM.**

6/6/69 **Pleasant and cool. Attended church. Mr. Brown of Windsor read service. Willie carried Ellen to Claremont. Michael Coil went home in the morning and returned at night.**

6/7/69 **Pleasant and very cool. A slight frost last night. Worked sheep. Commenced hoeing corn. Held inquisition at Charles Kelley's.**

6/8/69 **Pleasant and cool. Hoed corn. Went to Windsor.**

6/9/69 **Pleasant and cool. Hoed corn. Went to Claremont. Returned warrant on P. Kelley's case to Judge of Probate. Mrs. Abbey H. Balloch and three children came here. D. N. Morgan called.**

6/10/69 **Hazy wltth South Wind. Slight rain at evening. Finished hoeing corn. Peddler French took dinner. Also Mrs. Coil took dinner.**

6/11/69 **Fair. Planted cucumbers, beans, etc. in garden. Went over to Jarvis pasture. Willie went after Ellen. Mrs. West came home with them.**

6/12/69 **Cool with slight -heavy wind. Went to Claremont with D.N Morgan on G. Kelley case. Mrs. B & Mrs West visited at brother (???) Abby and Ellen went to Windsor.**

6/13/69 Hazy with South Wind.. Attended church at Windsor in forenoon. Preaching by Bishop Bissell. A young man was ordained as Deacon. PM Attended service at Trinity Church Cornish. Sermon by Rev. Mr. (???) of Springfield VT. Service read by Mr. Douglas Miller. Carried Ellen to Claremont. Mrs. West went home. Went twice to Jarvis lot. Bees swarmed.

6/14/69 Warm, showery. Put in wood. Cleaned up wheat and barley.

6/15/69 Fair and pleasant. Appraised property at Charly Kelly's. J.M Davison took dinner. Mr. Jennings from Meriden spent night

6/16/69 Cool & pleasant mended fences on Charley Kelly's line.

6/17/69 Fair & pleasant. Mended in Jarvis portion on the river. Henry Gould called. G.W. Balloch came in from Washington D.C.

6/18/69 Warm & showery. Finished putting in wood. G.W. Balloch spent day. Went to Claremont after Ellen.

6/19/69 Fair & Cool. Carried G.W. Balloch to Cornish. F.lot(?) Attended lodge meeting. Called at J. M. Davidson's. Went to Windsor. Mrs. Hayden visited here. G.W. Balloch spent night. Commenced hoeing corn. (???) Mr. E Richardson died at North Charlestown this morning.

6/20/69 Rainy. Remained at home. Willie carried Ellen to Claremont. Michael spent the day at home. Mr. & Mrs. Hart spent evening.

6/21/69 Cloudy. Hoed corn. G.W. Balloch took dinner & supper. F.D. Nevins took supper.

6/22/69 Cloudy & rainy. Hoed corn. Carried G.W. Balloch to Windsor to take the cars for home. D.N. Morgan spent the night.

6/23/69 Cloudy. Hard showers. Hoed corn.

6/24/69 Pleasant. Carried fat calf to Windsor. Met J.M. Davidson at C. Kelly's. P. Lynch called.

6/25/69 Hoed potatoes. Cleaned out barn for shearing sheep. Peeled Hemlock trees. Got in sheep. Willie & Emily went after Ellen. Mrs. (???) Atwood & daughter called.

6/26/69 Fair. Sheared sheep. Had (???) Shedd and Reed Shedd for help. Mike went home at noon.

6/27/69 Cloudy. Attended church. George & Ella Hart called. Willie carried Ellen to Claremont.

6/28/69 Rainy. Carried children to school. Hooped vinegar barrel. Called at brother Gr's Went to Windsor.

6/29/69 Fair. Cut & peeled hemlock trees. Sold wood to Mr. Johnson at 40 cents per lb to be delivered at Claremont next Saturday.

6/30/69 Cloudy & showery. Attended the closing examination of the first year of the Stevens High School at Claremont with Mrs. B. Took tea at Mr. Morrisons.