

Loring Stow's 1860 diary, along with six others, was located in 2020, three years after Jim and Ellen Stepleton donated the Stow Family papers to the Filson Historical Society.

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The front free endpaper of this diary bears an inscription: *Loring B. Stow Presented by his Father*. The inscription is in Loring's handwriting. It leads us to surmise that either on Christmas (1859) or New Year's Day (1860), Uzziel Stow gave this memoranda book to Loring.

On January 1, 1860, Loring was 21 years old and had been farming at Stowtown with his father and uncle for the last eighteen months; he was (we think) in the early days of his courtship of Eleanor Dufour of Vevay, Indiana; and he was anticipating his first flatboat trip to New Orleans.

NOTE:

The attached transcription contains punctuation not found in the original; some, but not all, of Loring's spelling errors have been corrected; the transcriber will have made errors as well. If precision is required, please consult the original.

"..." indicates a word or a portion of a word that could not be deciphered.



*Loring B. Stow*  
*Presented by His Father*

**Sunday, January 1, 1860**

The new year came in intensely cold. Ther 11° below zero. Spent the day at home in company with Howard, Edward, and Bledsoe, besides our own family. All well.

[The persons named are James Howard Stow, Edward Manser, and Lemuel Bledsoe]

**Monday, January 2**

Very cold and clear. Remained about the fire with our company nearly all day. Bledsoe returned home. We are all enjoying ourselves very finely. River is full of ice.

**Tuesday, January 3**

Father started to Madison with Howard, Ed, and Julia [Julia Stow] in the spring wagon. I busied myself about home all day, but feeling quite lonely after so much company, Still very cold. Went to Singing School this evening.

**Wednesday, January 4**

Snowing some this morning. Went to Allensville, thence to Enterprise. Came back and put up ice in the afternoon. Ice very clear. Bill Hollcraft & Jim assisted me. Still cold but very clear.

**Thursday, January 5**

Worked all day at the ice with the same help. Spent the evening at home reading. Our family seems most broken up, there are so few of us. Father is at Indianapolis at the State Board [of Agriculture].

**Friday, January 6**

We finished filling our ice house to day, very much to my joy. We have it full of beautiful ice. Nothing of importance has taken place. Weather growing warmer. Thompson is here to night. [Josiah C. Thompson]

**Saturday, January 7**

I was jobbing about the place all day. Thompson & Jim cut wood. Mr. [Moses] Cole & Jacob were thrashing rye for us with flails. Bro. Styver is here to night.

**Sunday, January 8**

Weather much warmer and thawing fast. Went to Bethel to church to hear Bro. Styver. Travelling very bad. Returned home and spent the balance of the day. Mr. Chihane [sp?] here to night.

**Monday, January 9**

We are having a complete thaw. Mud any depth you may call for. I did nothing but chores to day. Jim cut wood, and Baron is off to school. Father has not yet returned. Nothing new.

**Tuesday, January 10**

Was busy all day doing chores & husking corn. Jim is sick to day. Father returned this

evening. Had a pleasant trip and found all well.

**Wednesday, January 11**

Went to Allensville this morning, thence to J-ville after the mail. Rec'd one letter from M. B. Clark. [Betsy Maria Clark] Oh. Weather turning cooler & snowing. No special news by mail to day.

**Thursday, January 12**

Father went to Vevay and brought home with him three men from Franklin, came to see the county. I husked some corn besides doing many chores. Quite a snow fell last night on top of the mud.

**Friday, January 13**

Again I stayed home all day doing chores, read some, &c. Father went to town since noon to take those men down. Rec'd a mail, nothing particular. Weather cold & sleety.

**Saturday, January 14**

Helped the boys clean up some rye, did a few chores, and some time reading. I rec'd a letter from Ed [Manser], now out in this state. Weather disagreeable enough.

**Sunday, January 15**

Spent the entire day at home, as the weather & travelling were so very bad. I read considerable and wrote two or three letters. Took tea and spent part of the eve. with Uncle S. [Shelomith Stow] Weather cool.

**Monday, January 16**

Killed hogs this forenoon, had but four to kill which made a short job. Started to Vevay after dinner and brot Julia [Julia Stow], E. [Emma] Branham, and Miss [Elizabeth] Bledsoe home with me. Drove all the way home after night.

**Tuesday, January 17**

Went to Allensville this morning – returned and assisted Father about cutting up and salting the hogs. The girls and I took tea and spent the evening at Aunt's. Weather cool –

**Wednesday, January 18**

Went over to Mr. Houze's [Andrew J. Houze, 1814-1904] this morning and engaged a set of boat sweeps and an anchor towards fitting up a flat boat. Father went to the city with Mr. Cole to buy a boat. The girls are all here this evening. Enjoyed ourselves very well singing, &c.

**Thursday, January 19**

Spent the entire day at home choring – visiting with the girls, &c. This evening we were all invited over to Aunt's. Spent the evening very pleasantly. Quite a company of us. Weather cool.

**Friday, January 20**

Went to Jacksonville this morning after the mail, rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Vevay. Got a large mail. We have news of the falling <sup>^</sup>burning of a mill in Mass. [this was the Pemberton Mill Disaster] Also of Oxford H.S. Cut wood this afternoon. Spent the evening with the girls.

**Saturday, January 21**

Helped Jim off to the river with a load of hay. Father at home this forenoon. Brot a boat down for which they paid \$150.00. Also bought lines, &c. Trimmed some apple trees to day. The girls are all here this evening.

**Sunday, January 22**

Spent the day at home as the roads were so bad. Uncle Joe [Malin] and Aunt [Harriet] came down to day and this evening the girls are all here, also Lem Bledsoe. Weather beautiful.

**Monday, January 23**

I started to the river early this morning. Worked nearly all day at cleaning out our boat. Found it a very nice one. Returned home and went to Mr. Bliss's to spend the evening. Had a very pleasant time indeed.

**Tuesday, January 24**

We got out ridge poles to day for our boat – scored and hewed them. The weather is very pleasant yet. This evening we had a little company here, as Emma is to leave tomorrow. Had a very nice time.

**Wednesday, January 25**

Assisted Jim off to the river this morning with a load of hay, after which went to the P.O. Father went to Vevay with Uncle S. and Emma who are going to Madison. Trimmed apple trees this afternoon. Weather pleasant.

**Thursday, January 26**

Started for the river early to work on the boat in company with [Moses] Cole. Father also came down to give us a start, got along tolerably well. Rained some to day but turning cold to night.

**Friday, January 27**

Was again off to the river early to work on the boat. I board with Gibson. We find it slow work as we neither of us know much about it. Our boat is 110 ft long, 18 wide, a very nice boat. Stayed with Gibson all night. Clear and cold.

**Saturday, January 28**

Took breakfast at daylight, and was at work on the boat in good time. We put on some roofing to day. Jim and Cole's boys are hauling lumber. Returned home a little after dark. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters to day from Keckeler and Bonham.

**Sunday, January 29**

The day came in beautiful, clear and pleasant but feeling somewhat tired. I concluded to spend the day at home reading, writing, &c. C... Tinker was buried to day.

**Monday, January 30**

Started for the river early and expect to put in the whole week on our boat. We began roofing, &c. The boys are hauling lumber to us. The weather is fine and all goes on right-

**Tuesday, January 31**

Indications of storm to day and we had not worked but a short time [when] it began snowing. Did all we could however. Went up to Hastie's and spent the night very pleasantly. [The Hastie farmstead was near the mouth of Log Lick Creek.]

**Wednesday, February 1**

Very cold this morning, and did not go down to the boat until 8 o'clock. We could do but little to day as it was so very cold. The board at Gibson's have a very good time.

**Thursday, February 2**

Weather a little milder to day and we went to work in better spirits. Got along very well. The creek is frozen solid and the river falling. Worked until midnight to get our boat to the river but could not do it. [The boat was moored on Log Lick Creek, not far from its outlet into the Ohio. The hay warehouse was somewhere nearby.]

**Friday, February 3**

Felt pretty tired this morning after our night's labor, but breakfast made me feel better and we went to work again. We drifted out of the creek to night and we are now clear of ice. Weather pleasant.

**Saturday, February 4**

We finished covering & siding up our boat to day so that we will soon be ready to go to loading. Father came down this afternoon with a load of hay – hitched his horses and both got loose and ran home. Cole and I walked out.

**Sunday, February 5**

Somewhat tired this morning after my walk. [The distance would have been about 12 miles.] Si [Josiah C. Thompson] went down after father. Remained at home all day as it was rainy & disagreeable. Spent the time reading, &c. Nothing of importance occurring now days.

**Monday, February 6**

Went to the river again this morning and again went to work on our boat. Have it nearly finished up. Everything passes off pleasantly.

**Tuesday, February 7**

Getting ready to commence loading. Father came down to day to help us a little. I came out home this evening. Found all right. Weather pleasant.

**Wednesday, February 8**

Finished our preparations for loading and took our boat up the creek for loading. Father went to Vevay after our "setting out." Rec<sup>d</sup> two letters to day, one from Tom [Bonham] and one from E. [Emma Branham]

**Thursday, February 9**

Hands came on to day to begin loading, but we were late getting at it. However put in some hay. Eat our first meal on the boat to day. Quite amusing to see us.

**Friday, February 10**

Commenced early as we could and run in 3 or 4 hundred bales to day. Jackson's boys & Scofield & Cole's are all on hand. Found ourselves aground to night and had to work till midnight getting out. Walked out home to get teams.

**Saturday, February 11**

Teams came on this morning to haul our hay to the river. Got along slowly. Came out home this evening. We had a little party at our house to night - quite a company present. Weather is cold and snow fell to day.

**Sunday, February 12**

Again remained home all day and tried to rest one more Sunday before embarking. Spent the time reading, &c. Weather still cold and clear. Went to the river this evening.

**Monday, February 13**

Was off to the river again early and all hands went to work loading. George D [?] and N. Seymour [William Newton Seymour] are with us. Rained some this afternoon. Stayed at Gibson's with the boys. Hope to finish loading tomorrow.

**Tuesday, February 14**

All hands at it again in good earnest to finish loading, and much to my joy did so just before night. Went home this evening to pack up and get ready. Cannot realize that I am so soon to start.

**Wednesday, February 15**

Finished my preparations and bid them Goodbye and started to the boat. The girls went with me and stayed some time with me before separating. Could not get off to day so laid over for the night.

**Thursday, February 16**

Had to wait this morning for our pilot but were busy in rigging up. We put out at about 11 o'clock and drifted down to Vevay where we made a call and got two more hands (Bettens & Cotton) and at 5 o'clock we cut loose for good. Weather calm and we run right along. Stood my watch the fore part of the night.

**Friday, February 17**

At Bethlehem. All hands in good spirits and calm, pretty weather to run in. Frank Jackson [Francis A. Jackson, 1837-1918] is our pilot, Bettens the second, Scofield cook, and six willing hands comprise our crew. Have just passed 18 Mile Island. Arrived at the Falls at 5 P.M. Took on a pilot and soon went over. They looked a little fearful but went over safely. Had hard wind to night but kept on our way. All hands were up most of the time.

**Saturday, February 18**

Near Brandenburg this morning and wind blowing like the mischief. Had to pull most of the time. Passed Mauckport, West Point, Amsterdam, and Leavenworth. River running high to day but we kept on our way and made tolerable speed. Wind increased towards night so that we landed in at Schooner's Point - 40 miles below L-ville and put up for the night. Boys are all jolly - but I got some sleep. Weather cold.

**Sunday, February 19**

Was waked up at 4 o'clock. Wind having fell, we put out again. The sun rose clear and calm. Seems like a spring morning. After breakfast all hands washed up and spent most of the time out on the deck in the sunshine. Wrote a letter to day- E. Branham. Passed the towns of Concord, Derby, and several other small places. Also Stevensport, Rome, Cannelton. Thus passed the first Sunday on our trip. Evening clear & beautiful.

**Monday, February 20**

Had a good night's rest and woke up in sight of Rockport, Ind, a thriving little place. The sun rose clear and beautiful and everything looks enchanting. Arrived at Owensboro a little before noon, and three of us went ashore. Called to see M. Simmons but he was not in. We found it a very pretty place, larger than Vevay. Passed the French Islands this afternoon. Sent out a skiff to a steamboat and got a paper. Spent my time to day in posting our accounts. Passed the cities of Evansville and Henderson during the fore part of the night. Didn't pull enough to day to exercise us.

**Tuesday, February 21**

All had another good night's rest, and we found ourselves at Diamond Island this morning. Wrote a letter home and mailed it at Mt. Vernon, the last town in Indiana. Found it a snug little town. Bot a book called "Helper's Crisis." Passed Union Town after dinner and Wabash River Island just at night. A terrible storm of rain and wind came upon us so that we laid up to night. [The book referred to is H. R. Helper's "Impending Crisis of the South."]

**Wednesday, February 22**

All got a pretty good sleep last night after braving such a storm as we did. We are laying one mile above Shawneetown, Ill. All clear again and we cut loose but the wind was so high we put in a mile below town and laid up all day. A man was murdered here last night in cold blood. Went up town and found it a hard place. Wind blew a hurricane all day.

**Thursday, February 23**

Here we are at Shawnee yet this morning and the wind still blowing. At 9 o'clock we put out, concluded to try the wind as we are all tired of S-town. Wind blew high all day but we kept

out. Passed the towns of Caseyville, Weston, Caving Rock [Cave-in-Rock], &c. Went ashore and visited the cave. Found it a great natural curiosity. The bluffs are more than 100 ft high and the cave is about 150 ft deep. The rocks are covered with names. Also passed some coal mines to day. Layed up again to night just below E. Town [Elizabethtown] Ill. on account of a wind. Went to bed at 11 o'clock. Weather cool and cloudy.

#### **Friday, February 24**

Put out this morning at 3 as the wind calmed down a little – was very pleasant running until 9 – the wind rose again which makes hard pulling for us and were obliged to put in at noon. Spent the afternoon roaming about over the country. Hunted but got no game. Found it a hard country. Mr. Hatt...lives down here. Cut loose at 9 P.M. and had a good night's run with but little wind. Passed Golconda this morning and the Cumberland River to night but did not see it.

#### **Saturday, February 25**

At sunrise we were at Paducah, the mouth of the Tennessee, a very pleasant entertaining little city. A marine hospital located here. Passed the towns of Brooklyn [Brookport] & Metropolis, Ill. this forenoon. Country low and level. Wrote a letter home to day. Passed Mound City a little after dark and was soon at Cairo, the terminus of the Ohio. Went ashore to mail some letters. business place. First view of the Mississippi to night. Really grand.

#### **Sunday, February 26**

This morning at 5 we were at Hickman, 40 miles below Cairo. The day came in calm and beautiful. And the old Mississippi bore us on fully one third faster than the Ohio. Spent all the morning on deck admiring the grand scenery. Past New Madrid about noon, 35 miles below Hickman. Neither places are very large. We had to pull about two hours at the latter place around a big bend. Wind blew considerably this afternoon but the sun shone brightly all day. The scenery is about the same all along here. The wind blowed so that we put in about 11 P.M. and laid up for the night.

#### **Monday, February 27**

Pushed out at 3 this morning – all feeling fresh from a tolerable sleep. Nothing of unusual interest attracted our attention to day – saw some levees and canebreaks. Country low and heavy timbered. Passed no towns of importance since we left Madrid. Wind blew steady all day – hard pulling. Laid up at 5 on the Tenn. side for the night. Some rain fell.

#### **Tuesday, February 28**

Put out again as soon as it was light. Considerable rain fell during the night. Had some wind to day but made very good headway. Saw several fine plantations, about

the first of any note we have seen. Saw the first canebreak of any size. Landed at Memphis at noon – found it a very business place. Run about town most of the afternoon. Hay worth \$25.00. Laid here until midnight and again put out.

#### **Wednesday, February 29**

Had a fine morning's run with some fog, but the sun rose clear, and all cleared off beautifully. The prettiest morning we have had. At sun rise we were about 40 miles from M. Continued calm and clear all day and had to pull out very little. We had about the same scenery to day as usual. Passed a few cotton farms to day with extensive Negro quarters. Many commenced plowing. Beautiful moonlight to night. Met a good many steam boats to day.

#### **Thursday, March 1**

Floating swiftly along with a clear sky and calm weather. Everything begins to look spring like and planters are improving the time. Coming into a better country and more cultivated. Saw nothing more than ordinary except some large cotton plantations. No towns. Passed St. Francis river at dark.

#### **Friday, March 2**

Weather still continues very fine – have but little rowing to do. Took my gun this morning and went on shore but could find no game. Wrote a letter to Ed – besides reading considerable. Saw some fine country to day and some very hard. Passed Napoleon at the mouth of the Arkansas River at dark. Wind raised, causing us a tiresome night. Weather warm.



[During its brief existence Napoleon, Arkansas was a thriving river town. Its destruction was insured when Union forces re-routed the Mississippi River at Beulah Bend by creating a cut-off. Ruins of the town emerge from their watery graves whenever the river is running at an extremely low stage.]

#### **Saturday, March 3**

Got but little sleep last night, but felt well as ever after breakfast. The wind calmed down and we had another easy day's run. Saw peach trees in blossom to day for the first [time], and the woods are beginning to look green. Saw some flowers in bloom and some fine oats growing. Farmers are preparing for planting. Passed some small towns and a

number of fine plantations. A heavy fog came upon us towards night and had to lay up.

**Sunday, March 4**

We put out again at 4 o'clock having had a good night's rest. The fog cleared off early and we had a good run until noon when the wind arose and we put in for an hour. Explored the woods awhile and again cut loose. Passed some rich plantations. Had a pretty good night's run. Thus passed another Sunday.

**Monday, March 5**

The sun rose brightly and all goes off right. At 10 o'clock hove in sight of Vicksburg and landed there just at noon. Took dinner and went down town. Saw some Indiana friends, Mr. Graces and North. Was offered \$30 for our hay but declined. Took a stroll over Vicksburg. Found it a very pretty place. Layed there 3 hours and again pushed out for N.O. Laid up a short time for wind.

**Tuesday, March 6**

Had a very windy night but kept running. All hands was up most of the time. Calmed down some this morning. Remained so but a short time. We passed Grand Gulf and Rodney before noon. Wind rose so high that we had to land at noon by a large plantation. Strolled about and seen all I could. They work about 35 Negroes. Beautiful moonlight night but wind blowed too hard to run.

**Wednesday, March 7**

Put out at 6 a.m. and had a run of but a few miles, then the wind commenced again. Was obliged to land as we had to make a bend of about 15 miles distance across only half a mile, called "Cole Creek Bend." Laid up about 6 hours. Spent the time exploring and reading. Beautiful place and fine day. Pushed out and run but a few miles and again had to put in and lay up for the night.

**Thursday, March 8**

Started at 5 this morning and arrived at Natchez before noon. I took the skiff and run out to mail a letter and get a paper. Men at Natchez were very anxious to buy hay -but we had got too far by to land. I had a lot of papers given me by the ... Master and left the town regretting that we did not land. Run but a few miles and had to lay up again for wind. Landed at a splendid plantation. Spent the afternoon walking, sleeping, reading, &c. Just at night there came up an awful storm but we lay in a good harbor. Rained hard.

**Friday, March 9**

Pushed out this morning at 3, the storm having passed over and all was clear again. Passed Ellis's Cliffs a little before day, where the magnolia grow so abundantly. At sunrise the wind raised and blowed hard all day downstream. It was hard work to keep the boat right -but we run like a steamboat.

Passed Red River about 2 P.M. Most of the country to day was low and wild. Some good plantations however. Had another beautiful night - moonlight and calm. We run 100 miles to day - best day's run we have had.

**Saturday, March 10**

We were at Baton Rouge at 4 this morn. This is one of the loveliest mornings I ever saw, and we slide along so easy & smoothly. Saw my first sugar plantation to day and some of the most beautiful mansions I ever saw. Passed several small towns. The wind raised at noon and blew us ashore at 2 ½ P.M. at the White Corinthian plantation. [probably Nottoway, at White Castle, La.] Layed there until dark and started again. Had a tiresome night but we made a good run. Weather clear and cool.

**Sunday, March 11.**

Begin to feel that we are nearly there and all are in fine spirits, but at 10 the wind blowed us in at B...C... - laid there until 1 and put out - distance 35 miles. Country is settled like a village all the way along. Spent all the time on deck enjoying the scenery. The evening was calm and beautiful and at 10 we hove in sight of the great city. Landed at ...reepport at 11. I feel somewhat more at ease.

**Monday, March 12**

Was up early - hurried breakfast over - and went down town to see what the prospects were. Called on C. Mason, Barton & Co. but made no sales to day. Got money and settled with our hands. Returned to the boat and all took dinner for the last time together. Cole and I spent the day running about town. Sold our skiff but nothing else. Seems rather lonely this evening.

**Tuesday, March 13**

Went down town again early this morning to see how the market was going - run about until 10 o'clock visiting hay dealers but none wanted the whole load. Finally sold to Barton & Co. for \$32.00 per ton wholesale rather than to run the risk of retailing. Went to the P.O. and got five letters which added much to my pleasure. Returned to the boat - hired a job boat to drop us down, and put out 60 bales for a beginning. Walked about town awhile this evening. This is a great city.

**Wednesday, March 14**

After breakfast we commenced rolling hay on to the scales. Had one hand besides three of us. I quit at noon, hired a man in my stead and went down town. Spent most of the afternoon down there in walking about, seeing the city. Went to the P.O. but got nothing. The great staple here is cotton of which there is any amount. Returned to the boat and spent the evening. Put out 200 bales to day.



**Thursday, March 15**

Up early and put out 60 bales after which went down town. First went along the steam ship landing and visited one just [in] from New York. I was well paid for my visit as it is truly a wonderful craft. Thence down to the P.O. and then to the St. Charles Hotel, one of the largest in the Union. Everything is on the grandest scale. Returned to the boat and put out more hay. Business is quite brisk on the wharf and the weather could not be more pleasant. Spent the evening on the boat reading.

**Friday, March 16**

Looked so much like rain this morning that they did not want any hay put out. I went down town and spent the fore noon. Called at Mr. Barton's office and sit awhile with Mr. [Aimé] Dufour, read paper, after which run about a while. Took a dish of oysters and returned to the boat, Spent the balance of the day reading, writing, &c. Rained all the afternoon and evening.

**Saturday, March 17**

The rain has about ceased, but is still misty. I went off down town where I could see something. First, went aboard the Switzerland. Saw U.P. Schenck. Thence up to the P.O. and around town until I got tired, then returned to the boat. Put some hay to day, enough to fill orders.

**Sunday, March 18**

Took an early breakfast and went to town to meet Mr. Dufour according to invitation. First went to the French Market, which beat anything of the kind I ever saw. Then went to the Cathedral, an immense building full of people. We then took the cars for the Lake and spent an hour there - a great resort. Returned and took dinner with Mr. D., after which took the cars for Carrolton and the Lake again. A much prettier place than the other. Hundreds of people out to day, pleasure seeking. Returned to the boat at dark.

**Monday, March 19**

Got up this morning feeling much refreshed after yesterday's excursions. Went down town and spent a few hours about as usual. Returned and put out some hay. In the evening went down town and went to the Theatre in company with Mr. D. We had a grand time. The plays were excellent and called forth much applause. The Nelson Sisters were the chief performers. Had three different plays. Closed at 11 P.M.

**Tuesday, March 20**

Went down town this morning to secure our passages on Steam Boat. Found the Ohio Belle getting ready to go up and engaged passage. Returned to the boat and finished putting out the hay, packing up our things for shipping,

delivered over our boat, and went down town and took up our lodgings on the Belle. Spent the evening walking about town as it is to be our last walk for a while. Weather beautiful. Retired at 11 o'clock.

**Wednesday, March 21**

Went up town immediately after breakfast to lay in a stock of groceries. Bot to the amt of \$140.00 consisting of sugar, molasses, coffee, &c. Also settled up with Mr. Barton for the load of hay which amounted to a little more than \$5500- took a draft on N. York for the amount. Spent the balance of the day about town, buying sundries, and just as the sun was setting our boat put out with a good crew of passengers.

**Thursday, March 22**

Woke up this morning and found we were about 70 miles above N.O. Landed about 9 o'clock and took on about 300 hogshead of sugar. I also bought a Mocking Bird of an old Negress for \$3.50. The day was beautiful and all passed off pleasantly. Scenery is more beautiful than when I went down.

**Friday, March 23**

We reached Red River this morning a little after sunrise. Our boat makes tolerable speed. The day was beautiful and we passed the time outside viewing the scenery, reading, &c. Arrived at Natchez about 3 o'clock. Had a small dance on the boat this evening. Rained very hard to night.

**Saturday, March 24**

Our boat laid up part of the night on account of the storm but all was clear and beautiful this morning. We reached Vicksburg at noon. The day passed off pleasantly. I wrote a letter to C. C. Godden this evening. They had another little dance.

**Sunday, March 25**

The sun rose beautiful and all betokened a fair day. The air is clear and cool. The day was pretty well observed, time spent mostly in reading. Reached Napoleon at 3 P.M. Landed again five miles above. Took on 10,000 cane poles. I went out into a cane break near by and cut a lot of poles to take home.

**Monday, March 26**

Quite cool this morning, almost a frost. Can already mark a very perceptible difference in the climate. Nothing unusual occurred to day to disturb the monotony of our trip. It seems like we hardly know what to do with ourselves - anything to kill time. We reached Memphis at 9 P.M. Many passengers left us so that we will not be so crowded.

**Tuesday, March 27**

Morning found us still plodding along. After breakfast all resumed their usual pastime. I amused myself listening to the sweet songs of



my Mocking Bird which has become a general favorite of all. Passed no towns of any note to day. The evening is beautiful, having a new moon. Another dance to night.

**Wednesday, March 28**

Immediately after breakfast our attention was drawn by some floating barrels & boxes. The boat was stopped, the yawl sent out which took in several barrels of ... whiskey. We afterwards learned that a barge had been sunk. We arrived at Cairo at 10 o'clock. Several passengers left us. Passed Paducah and Smithland this afternoon. Weather still beautiful.

**Thursday, March 29**

Woke up this morning and found that we are above [the] Wabash River; reached Evansville at noon; and Henderson & Owensboro in the afternoon. Met Frank Jackson & boys this evening, on their way to N.O. Had another fine day & windy at night.

**Friday, March 30**

Twos 2 o'clock this morning before I went to bed, having got acquainted with the Ladies, one of which was to get off early. Had another pleasant day as one could wish. Reached L-ville at 3 P.M. Left the boat and went up town and bought some clothing to the amt of \$24.00. Returned and saw the boat go through canal. Laid at L-ville until 2 o'clock A.M.

**Saturday, March 31**

Passed Marble Hill about 6 A.M. and Madison at 10. Several passengers got out. As my trip is nearly ended I put in my time among the passengers not excepting the Ladies of course, among whom I formed some very pleasant acquaintances. Bid them all goodbye and landed at Vevay just noon. Cole & I hired a buggy and reached home at 3 P.M. Found all well, and thus ends my first flatboat trip to N. Orleans.

**Sunday, April 1**

Safe at home again and one more good night's rest in the old homestead. Everything seems natural enough but the contrast between this and the south I can scarcely realize it. Spent all day at home (it was storming most of the day). Kept me quite busy relating my short experience. Seems pleasant to get back again.

**Monday, April 2**

Prepared myself this morning for going to the city. Went to Vevay to see about getting out my things and took the Prioress for Cinc. But few passengers aboard and it seemed quite lonely after leaving the Belle. Met with some people that I knew. Arrived to the city about midnight.

**Tuesday, April 3**

Took breakfast on board the boat, after which went up town to arrange my business. Called on Ed at the store after which went around to the different banks to sell our check. Sold to

Holmstead [sp?] for 3/8 per. Put up at the Henrie House. Called down and visited the relatives in the evening. Saw some College Hill boys to day.

**Wednesday, April 4**

Ed stayed all night with me and twas quite late before we got up. They gave us a very good breakfast at the hotel after which I went to buy a piano. Met Mr. K. and Cousin Mary at the store and we selected a very nice one for which I paid \$360.00. Took the Queen for home but on starting broke the rudder and had to lay up all the afternoon. Called on Mr. Brown in Covington.

**Thursday, April 5**

Reached Vevay this morning a 3 o'clock. Went to the LeClerc House and took up lodgings until daylight. Baron came in after me and we reached home a little past noon. Found G. Father & Mother [John & Judith Manser] at our house. Spent the whole afternoon settling up with Cole & Father. Rec<sup>d</sup> for my share \$300.00, but gave \$100.00 back to Father. [The script is not very clear: it could be that Loring's share was \$1300.00.]

**Friday, April 6**

Assisted Father off to town this morning to bring out the piano. After which I helped Mother put down a carpet. Spent balance of the day doing chores. After Father's arrival we unpacked the piano and set it up. All seemed pleased with it. Beautiful weather.

**Saturday, April 7**

Spent the forenoon about home doing various jobs. After dinner, hitched Pete to the carriage and went to Vevay after Viola who has been to Madison on a visit. Having had to wait for the boat until dark I called on Miss Ella [Eleanor Dufour] in the meantime and spent two or three hours very pleasantly. She has just rec<sup>d</sup> a present of a piano. We got home about 10 o'clock.

**Sunday, April 8**

Morning beautiful and summer-like. After fixing up a little, Jim and I took the poneys and rode to Greengrove to church and heard Mr. Mahean [sp?] preach to a moderate congregation. Returned home and found Lem and his cousin here who spent the night with us. Very warm to day and prospect of rain.

**Monday, April 9**

Visitors left this morning and I harnessed up a couple of horses and hauled manure all day. My first day's work on the farm for several months. Jim is plowing for corn. Weather quite warm to day and everything is growing very fast. Some rain to night.

**Tuesday, April 10**

Went out into the field to day and spread manure that had been thrown in heaps.

*Towards night came a heavy rain that made everything appear beautiful.*

**Wednesday, April 11**

*Took a poney this morning and rode over to Allensville but got little mail. Returned home and cut wood this afternoon. The weather is much cooler after the rain. All are well.*

**Thursday, April 12**

*Cut and hauled wood this forenoon. After dinner helped Father and Baron off to the city with a pair of fat cattle. Went to Allensville this afternoon to get some harness repaired. Weather cool & pleasant.*

**Friday, April 13**

*Went to the river this morning with a load of hay to Mr. Blunk's boat. Finished up our crop to day. Returned home and went down to Jacksonville in the afternoon after the mail. Came home and fired some stumps. Weather is still delightful.*

**Saturday, April 14**

*Spent the forenoon about home. After dinner drove over to Allensville to get some harness and the mail. Bill Mount brought our beef cattle back last night as Father did not make a sale. Father got back to night late. Had very good luck up to the city.*

**Sunday, April 15**

*Stayed at home all day as I was quite unwell from a bad cold. Regretted very much not being well enough to go out as it was such a pleasant day. Spent the day in reading & writing. Quite cool to day.*

**Monday, April 16**

*Rained very hard last night and also again this morning but it cleared up toward noon and I hitched up the carriage and took the girls to Vevay to get ready for Julia's wedding. Spent some time in town. Returning home brought Clara McCulla [McCulloch] home with us.*

**Tuesday, April 17**

*Rode over to Allensville this morning to see the minister for Lem [Bledsoe]. Returned home and helped saw some timber this afternoon for fencing posts. Nothing of importance to note.*

**Wednesday, April 18**

*Got up feeling very unwell this morning and was quite sick all day. Took a severe cold yesterday accompanied with a bad cough. No news to record.*

**Thursday, April 19**

*Was very sick all night and got much better this morning. They are all making preparations for Julia's wedding. This afternoon we all went over to Uncle's [Shelomith Stow's] to see the marriage. But few present beside our own folks. Mr. Sparks married them after which went to supper. All spent the evening here.*

[There are no more entries. Loring died of typhoid fever on April 30. Uzziel Stow's 1860 diary notes that by April 20 Loring, Baron, and Jim (the hired man) were all sick. While the others recovered, Loring became increasingly ill and died on April 30. The incubation period for typhoid fever is 6-30 days, which equates to the period of March 19 - April 12... if we pinpoint the onset of symptoms as having occurred on April 18 rather than April 15. Whether Loring contracted the disease while touring New Orleans, during his steamboat journey home, in Cincinnati, or in Switzerland County cannot therefore be determined, nor whether Jim and Baron were ill with typhoid also. If all had typhoid, then it would appear that the infection site was at Stowtown.]