

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Martha R. Willson

New Years Gift

from

O. J. Willson<sup>i</sup>

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January 1850.

As I seat myself to write for the first time in this book, thoughts crowd themselves into the mind much faster than they can be put upon paper. But my first thoughts are with that dar brother, who so kindly presented me with this volume, as a New Years Gift. And in return for the beautiful gift, would render him my heartfelt thanks, and kind wishes. New Yars day is one of interest to all. To the child, this day, is one that brings gifts , and plays. To the youth the ever brightening dreams of life, no cloud lowers upon their sunny path, no shadows cross this sunny way. Life with them has begun, and with them, "Life is real. Life is earnest." To the aged it is a time for serious reflection, their laughing childhood, and fond youthful hopes, have long since past away. The opening year this meets us all, with sumes well adopted, to our age and character, to all alike it has a lesson. It sums but a short time since the year of 1849 was ushered in upon us; and where it now are the months and days of that year, and how spent? But I will indulge in no sad reflections of the past, and wishing one and all of my friends, not only one, but

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many "happy new years," I close the preface of my book.

Tuesday Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. I rode to the street this morning and purchased several new years presents. Julia Nichols is sewing for Susan. Miss Reed and brother gave us a call this afternoon. At home all the afternoon and evening, have not been to school today. Thus ends the first day of the year with me, to those kind friends who have so kindly extended their pleasant wishes to me they will ever shore in mine.

Wednesday Jan 2d" At school all day, company in school. Spent the evening at home with company. Julia A. Thompson died this evening.

Thursday 3d. At school all day. Spent a very pleasant evening at Mr. W. S. Hutchins singing School, at Marlboro, in company with Lusad [?], L.P. & J.S.N.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>. At school in forenoon, no school this afternoon. The funeral of Mrs. Thompson this afternoon, Attended

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A Reading meeting at the school house this evening.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>. No school to day. At home. Cousin Helen visited with us. \_\_\_\_ sing at Mr. Wrights in the evening. George Thompson died this morning.

Sabbath 6<sup>th</sup>. At church all day. Sermons by Z. S. Barstow D. D. Forenoon, text Acts 3.18. No of deaths during the year 1849 70. 6 more than any year before, since the settlement of this town. 20 were heads of family. 18 under three years of age.

34 under ten, 15 over 60 years of age. 12 over seventy. 3 between 80 & 90. From all these 70, only 7 were members of any religious denomination. Afternoon text John 12.35. Mrs. Thompson joined the first Congregational Church 14 years since. Whole No. of deaths in this town since Mr. Barstows stay here is 1353.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup>. At school in the afternoon, called at Mr. Hodges in the evening. Brother Oscar spent the night with us. An oyster supper at 8 ½.

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Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>. At school all day. Oscar returned this morning. Warren has gone to Hillsboro. P. Nichols has gone with him.

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>. At school all day. Went to an Arithmetic School in the evening.

Thursday. At home in the morning. At school in the afternoon & evening. Several of the young people of the village have gone to Marlboro this eve.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>. At school all day.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>. At school all day. Uncle William, Aunt Amanda little cousin Mary, cousin Elliot, and aunt Mary, spent the afternoon here. Company in the evening. An Arithmetic school this evening, have not attended it. Ellen is quite unwell.

Sunday 13. At church, all day & to the Sabbath school. Sermons by Z. S. Barstow D. D. text fore[?] Hosea 10:1. Afternoon Hosea 8:12 a temperance lecture by the Rev. P. B. Merrick this evening.

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Monday 14<sup>th</sup>. At home in the morning. At school in the afternoon, an Arithmetic school this evening. I have not attended. I have just pinned a letter to Hatty Willis and in so doing, memory wanders to happy, happy hours we spent at Fitzwilliam. Shall I never again meet those dear friends, who met in that old school room, and with whom, the hours flew on golden wings away last autumn? Perhaps on earth we may not all meet again but may we all meet in Heaven.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>. School all day. Susan has been to the street this afternoon. Company in school C. R. Mason.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>. At school, company in the evening

Thursday 17. At school all day. Spent the evening in writing a Composition for the Examination.

Friday 18. At school all day. Company in school A. Gerrould & A. Joslin. A meeting of the Common school Association at the

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school house this evening. The meeting was called to order by T. C. Thompson. Singing by the scholars, \_\_\_\_\_[?] Lee Our \_\_\_\_\_[?] With Feathered Spray. An account of the school by Mr. Mason in which he stated his whole No. of scholars were 29. over age No. 23 Absences 194 Visitors 20. Hon. John Prentiss made a few remarks. The proceedings of the last meeting was read by N. R. Cook Esq. Remarks were then made by Hon. P. Prentiss. He commenced by congratulating the District upon the very pleasant house they have. He mentioned Geography as one of the most beautiful studies. Astronomy not only a pleasant but instructive study. He mentioned several of the names of stars, that can be seen now, among which was that beautiful constellation the Ursa Major. Reading of the paper by M. E. Willson & A. S. Davis. Singing Tune, Cold the Blast May Blow. Remarks by Misses Marshall & Bread. Classification of maps by the scholars. Singing Tune Ca\_\_\_\_? Boat Long. N. R. Cock moved the meeting be adjourned at 8 ½ o'clock.

Received an invitation to attend a ride to Brattleboro next week.

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Saturday 19 No school today. At home in the morning. At the street in the afternoon.

Sunday 20. At church all day. Text A.M. Luke 11.28. P.M. John 1.47. Heads of the serman

1<sup>st</sup> the Character of Nathaniel.

2d His readiness to instill his principles into all around him.

3d Will not every individual of this congregation seek for the honors Christ gave Nathaniel.

Strive to cultivate his disposition. Be decided. Study the bible.

Monday 21. At home in the morning. School in the afternoon. Oscar spends the week at home.

Tuesday 22. School all day. An Arithmetic school this evening.

Wednesday 23. At school in the morning. Examination this forenoon. 14 visitors. Have not been to school this afternoon. Been to Surry, visited H. M. Willis school

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Took tea at Mr. Hills. Hatty rode hom ewiht us, spends the night here. L. S. & L. N. called this eve.

Thursday 24. A lovely day, a band some 12 in number, planned a sleigh ride to Brattleboro, our hopes that this day would be as beautiful as it was yesterday were high, and not until we were fairly started were we conscious of the pleasantness of the day. 8 ½ o'clock found us on our way. We passed through Keene to Chesterfield, called at the Tavern occupied by Mr. Mead, after making a short stop and taking some crackers and a large squash (provided by one of the gentleman) we again commenced on our tour. We passed from Chesterfield into Brattleboro, on the way we noticed many interesting things. The most prominent of which as a gentleman, lady, & child. From the gent. The ladies, received what was termed a complimentary remark, to the same Mr. French responded in good earnest. We soon drew up at the Stage House in Brattleboro occupied by Maj. Smith. & I found myself for the first time without the limits of my native New Hampshire.

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We were soon doing honor to the dinner set before us, often finishing our repast we repaired to the parlor, where we amused ourselves with reading. & chatting until nearly 4 o'clock after taking a short walk with Miss Brooks I returned to the Tavern, & seating ourselves once more in the sleigh (which by the way was a splendid one drawn by 4 horses) we were soon on our way home; we passed from B. to Hinsdale, which is a very pleasant village. & from there to West Winchester, then to Winchester village where we called at the Tavern of L. Rice & Called for tea while it was preparing Hatty & myself made a call at Mr. Brignaws [?] but not finding Miss Julia we returned. After tea we again commenced our ride, passing from Winchester, we entered Swanzey & from there Keene our native town.

We found A. E. Metcalf & H. M. Willis, A.C. Thayer & M. P. Towns, G. Joslin & L. A. Willson, O. J. Willson & E. Wadworth, A. Joslin & J. Brooks, P. L. Nason & M. R. Willson safe at home. Thus have I given a faint, very faint description of the pleasant day spent in a ride to Brattleboro. The true pleasure of that day, can only be taken by those who enjoyed the ride, & in

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other memories alone can be found an answering response & the sweet remembrances that will ever remain in mine. Memory has on \_\_\_ many a lovely day but non more bright, more beautiful, than the 24 of Jan. 1850.

Friday 25. Hatty returned to Surry this morn. Oscar & myself spent the evening at Uncle William Metcalf's. called at Uncle Abijahs as we came home.

Saturday 26 At home all day. S. H. Grimes & M. A. Wilder called here this afternoon. G. P. & I. S. N. spent the evening here.

Sunday 27. At church all day, sermons by Z. S. Barstow D.D. A.M. Texts Mark 3.29. Matt. 12.31 & 32. John 5.16. P.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 28.20. The dying admonition of David to his beloved Solomon.

Monday 28. At home in the morning. Commenced work for Uncle Edwin today, came here at noon.

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Tuesday 29. At Uncles in the morning; spent the afternoon at Mr. Thompson's. the evening at Uncles.

Wednesday 30. At Uncles all day. Mrs. Tolman called.

Thursday 31. At Uncles. Mrs. Dudley called here. Mary & Helen have been here. A part at Mr. Aaron Reed's this evening. I have had no invitation. Susan & Oscar have been invited. Gilman, Susan, Albert & Jane have been to the party.

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. At Uncles. Eddy spent the day with us. Julia Howe spent the afternoon with Helen.

Saturday 2. At Uncles. Spent the night at home.

Sunday 3. At home in the morning rather stormy. At church in the P. M. sermon by Z. S. Barstow. Text Matt 11.28 & 29 versus. Returned to Uncles this eve.

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4 Monday. At Uncles. Mrs. Warner called in the afternoon.

5 Tuesday. Helen spent the day & night with me. Called at Mr. Warners in the evening.

6 Wednesday. Helen returned home this afternoon.

7 Thursday. Mrs. Warner called this morning. Uncle is quite sick today.

8 Friday. Uncle & Helen have gone to Keene. Commenced reading a book today, entitled "Learn to die." Edited by Christopher Sutton D.D. Mrs. Warner spent the afternoon with me.

9 Saturday. At Uncles in the morning. At home in the afternoon. P. S. N. spent the evening with us. I spent a very pleasant evening indeed!

10 Sabbath day. At home in the morn, at Church in the afternoon, sermon by the Rev. of Manchester, in which

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he described the condition of those who are too poor to pay for seats in the churches at Manchester. He also stated that a new church was partly completed but not having found funds sufficient to finish it, he wished to raise money from the several churches in New Hampshire so that it should be completed, for those poor people who cannot afford to hire seats, a contribution was taken up after the sermon was through. Texts R\_\_\_\_.

Returned to Uncles this evening.

11 Monday. At Uncles. Mrs. Follensbee spent the evening here. Mrs. Warner is quite sick.

12 Tuesday. Called at Mrs. Warners. Wrote a letter to Miss Bigelow this afternoon. O.J. spent the evening with Helen.

13 Wednesday. At Uncles. What a place home is. How many times in a day do I wish I was at home, still, how many there are that have no home, they call call their own, & many too that have good homes know

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not how to price them, or at least do not price them as they ought. Some go so far, as even to ridicule their own homes & friends; But to me "There is no place like home." Give me those. I ask neather. Those that bless my childhood home, Where dwell my Father & my Mother. O! Give me but my childhood's home.

14 Thursday. Edna Wallace, Marion & Ella spent the evening here

15 Friday. At Uncles in the morning. At home in the evening. Spent the night at home.

16 Saturday. At home. Jane Towns called here this afternoon. Jane, Susan & myself took a short ride. Wm. S. Hutchins singing school commenced this evening.

17 Sabbath Day. At church all day. Sermons by Z. S. Barstow D. D. Text A.M. Matt. 3.10. P.M. 1<sup>st</sup> John 2.15, James 4.4. At uncles in the evening.

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18 Monday. At Uncles. Mrs. Warner spent the afternoon here. Mrs. E. Page is very sick. Mrs. Woodard made us a short call.

19 Tuesday. A beautiful day. At Uncles all day, braided a bracelet for myself of my Mothers hair. The clasp is to be a plain gold, without diamonds. Spent the evening at Mr. Warners.

20 Wednesday. At Uncles. Mary spent the afternoon, & the night with me. Mrs. W. spent the eve here. I commenced a bed quilt today, piecing it Philadelphia pavement pattern. Received a letter from L. A. Bigelow.

21<sup>st</sup> Thursday. Spent the day at home. Susan & myself made calls after dinner, called at Mr. Joslins was introduced to Miss Elsie she is a charming young lady. Called at Mr. Pages & Mr Wilcox. Oscar is at home this evening. He had just come when Uncle called for us, how provoking! When I wished to see him so badly. I staid long enough to read a letter from William W. Foster however & there was some

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satisfaction in that. Poor Will he has been to several places since he left Keene, & is now in Boston. Thursday evening spent in writing & reading & meditation.

22d Friday. At Uncles. Miss Martha Sturtevant took dinner here today, after dinner they called at Fathers. The next thing we shall here, will be a wedding 'probably.'

23. Saturday. Company all day. Susan spent the day with me. Miss Louisa Tolman called to see me, have not seen here before since I attended school with her at the Academy. Several of the people of Branchville called here this afternoon, went to the comb shop with them, had an introduction to Mr. Alfred. Walked home with them, had a slide on the way. 21 in all that have called upon me today. Spent the evening at home in company with Elsie, Gilman, Albert & James. Mr. N. R. Cook & Miss M. L. Mead were married this evening.

24 Sunday. Have not been to church at home with Mother. At Uncles in the eve.

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25 Monday. Spent the evening at Mr. W.'s George S. Narcross & his Mother are on a visit there I have not seen George before for a year was happy to see him.

26 Received a splendid Valentine this morning through the post. G. called here Helen, cousin Matty, & \_\_\_ spent the arfternoon with me & took tea. Susan has been to Troy with Mr. & Mrs. Grimes returned this afternoon.

27 Wednesday. At Uncles in the morning. At home in the afternoon. Mary & cousin Matty spent the night with me.

28. Thursday. Marion & Ella spent the day with Helen, Susan & myself spent the afternoon at Mrs. Warners made some calls. Mrs. Follansbee & Lusy Whitcomb & myself went to the shop after tea & Alfred got the "Gallon Bottle" for us, we spent a very pleasant evening at Fathers. Kitty & Lusy came home, I remained all night.

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Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Uncle Alva drove home for me this morning. Helen spent the day at Uncle Abijahs. Spent the afternoon with Jane Town?, had a very pleasant time. Oscar is at home this eve, how much I wish I was there too.

Saturday 2d. Uncle Wm Metcalf & family spent the afternoon & took tea with us. I rode up with them. Spent the evening at singing school, enjoyed it much.

Sabbath day 3. At church all day. Mr. & Mrs. Church joined with the church today. Sermons by Z. S. Barsow D. D. text P.M. 1 Cor 5.17. A.M. Deut. 4.23 prayers were offered for Mr. R. Thurston, who is quite sick.

Monday 4. At Uncles all day, spent the evening reading & sewing

Tuesday 5. Mrs. F. called this morning. Sewing with Mrs. W. in the afternoon.

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Wednesday 6. A beautiful day, went home this morning and took Ella with me. Did not stay but a short time. Found Mrs. Nichols spending the day there. A quilting at Mr. Davis this afternoon. Quite a number there. Ellen's quilt, pieced window sash, very pretty. The married ladies left soon after tea. The younger part of the community staid & were joined by most of the gentlemen of the place, to pass the evening in any way most agreeable to themselves. Truth, cross question, Simon, ring, consequences & C. & C. were played during the evening. Refreshments at 9 ½ o'clock. Most of them seemed to enjoy it very well. But we 'pluck no rose without the thorn,' too true do I find this wise maxim at almost every such place I attend. & how many things there for one to regret as they look back upon an evening spent in thoughtlessness & mirth, & as we recall the past moments to our minds, how many little acts done, & words lightly spoken would we recall were it in our power so to do, but as it is not, let us 'forgive & trust we shall be forgiven.'

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Thursday, 7. At home in the morning. At Uncles in the afternoon. Commenced a letter to my Brother this eve.

Friday 8. Finished my letter to Oscar. Mrs. F. & Warner called this morning, went to Mrs. W's after dinner. Lusy Whitcomb staid with me all night.

Saturday 9. At home in the evening. Mary is at the singing school, have not been have a very sore throat, & some cold.

Sunday 10. Have not been to church, at home all day. Commenced reading a book entitled "The Corner Stone." By Jacob Abbott, author of the Young Christian &g. Read 8 chapters in my Bible this eve. Mr. & Mrs. Follensbee have gone to Leominster. Oscar starts for Boston tomorrow morning if nothing presents, on business for Mr. Bridgman.

Monday 11. Washing as usual. Mrs. Warner is very sick today, went in & helped them this afternoon. Spent the eve with Lusy.

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Tuesday. 12. Town meeting day. At Uncles in the morning, walked home in the afternoon, Susan Whitecomb went with me, had a very pleasant time. Susan had some company in the evening. Did not go in.

Wednesday 13. Done my own work in the morning & then went to see Mrs. W's & did hers. Sat with her in the afternoon. Uncle Alva has gone to Boston today. Gilman, Susan, Mary & James spent the evening with me. It rained quite fast when they went home. Guess it will not hurt them much if they do get wet a little. Lusy spent the night with me.

Thursday 14. Very busy all day sewing. Staid with Mrs. W. in the afternoon. Lusy called in the evening. Had some other calls during the day.

Friday 15. Finished my patch work this morning. Company to tea. Susan walked home & spent the evening with me, we had a

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Very pleasant walk back, started about 9 o'clock.

Saturday 16. At Uncles in the morning at home in the afternoon. Oscar came back from Boston this afternoon. Had an invitation to Uncles wedding.

Sabbath day 17. At church all day. Saw Mrs. Cook. She asked me to call upon her. Sermons by the Rev. Henry E. Parker. A.M. text 5 verse of the 146 Psalm. PM 1 Peter 5.5. "Be clothed with Humility," a beautiful sermon. Mr. Parker is soon to be settled in Concord, N. Hampshire. O! could we but live as he would have us how little should we have to regret.

Monday 18. At Uncles all day. Susan W. called this evening. Mrs. F. came back this morning.

Tuesday 19. At Uncles. A beautiful evening walked home, had a pleasant walk.

Wednesday 20. At the street this afternoon, a party at Mr. P's this eve.

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Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>. Busy all day preparing for the wedding. A very pleasant evening. Attended the wedding had a very good time. 8 of us rode home with Uncle after the ceremony was through. Finished work at Uncles to day.

Friday 22d. At home all day. The first time for 2 months.

Saturday 23. Maria, Ellen, Susan & myself took a walk this morning. Made some calls, calls in the evening.

Sabbath day. 24. Have not been to church today, at home. Oscar's birthday can he be 21 years old!

Monday 25. Washing as usual.

Tuesday 26. M. M. & S. S. T. spent the afternoon with us. S. & myself called at Mr. Davis this evening. Called at Uncles in the morning.

Wednesday 27. At home in the morning. At Mr. Page's to a party in the evening. Had an application to teach school in Swanzey District No. 1

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Thursday 28. At home all day.

Friday 29. Maria & Augusta called this afternoon they leave tomorrow morning. So long have they been schoolmates & playmates of ours that we cannot help feeling sad as they go but it is probably all for the best & we are certainly satisfied.

Saturday 30. Busy in the forenoon, street in the afternoon with Alva, made several purchases. Called at Uncle Kidder's.

Sabbath day 31<sup>st</sup>. Have not been to church today at home with my Mother.

Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>. Helen Metclaf has been here this morning. Oscar finished work for Mr. Bridgeman today.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>. Oscar came home this morn cousin George came with him & took dinner with us. Spent part of the afternoon. I think he is a very agreeable young man.

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Wednesday 3d. At home all day.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Fast day. Very rainy. Susan & myself were not little disappointed as we were very anxious to hear the Rev. G. Robbins discourse (today), he is to deliver in Dr. Barstow's church. There is to be one meeting. The evening spent as the saying is in "sugaring off" had a very good time.

Friday 5. At home

Saturday 6. Called at Mr. F's. Mrs. Maria Proctor & miss Jane Towns called here this afternoon. I have attended the singing school this evening a full choir. Enjoyed it very well indeed.

Sunday 7. At church all day & to the L. L. sermons by the Rev. Z. S. Barstow. Text AM Luck 23.34. "Father forgive these for they know not what they do." Dr. Barstow preached a very feeling sermon from this text this morning. Texts PM Prov 4.18 & 19. Jer. 23. 8.

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Dr. Barstow's sermon from these texts was one that he delivered Fast day, but there being so few there, it was the request of many that he should repeat it which he accordingly did today. He spoke to the young, & more especially to young men upon the danger & temptations of the theatre, balls, plays &c, &c. all of which have a tendency to lead the mind astray from virtue to vice, he also spoke of light reading, such as novels, fictitious tales, romances & the like, all of which was very good & many many profit by the same.

Monday 8. Washed all alone. Mary has a very lame wrist, which prevented her from helping me.

Tuesday 9. At home. Mr. Foster spent the morning here.

Wednesday 10. Grandfather staid to dinner with us today. Had a long talk with dear mother this afternoon, which has led me to some very serious reflections. Oh! Why will sinners still strive against that grace which is so mercifully held out to them.

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Why will they spend their precious time in the thoughtless folly? How will they appear and what will they do when after spending their time and talents given them by their Creator, to turn to him & leave the washed & its vanities, when all is spent in folly & thoughtlessness, how are they to appear before an awful judge, & no advocate to plead for them secured. The time was when a kind Savior was offered to them, reasoning with them, "Why will ye die"—ask & ye shall receive—"Seek & ye shall find." & still we still following their footsteps regardless of the warnings that are given us." Such are the words of Mrs. I. Graham & how true they are."

Mrs. Gates, Sarah & Maria Page called here to night.

Thursday 11. Called at Uncle E & Mr. Foster called this evening.

Friday 12. Called at Mr. Follansbee's. Maria Davis gave us a call.

Saturday 13. Snowy all day. Had an invite to sin, did not go. Callers in the eve.

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Sabbath day. 14. At church all day. Sermons by Dr. Barstow. Text AM Rom.12.2. PM Psalms 89 from the 30 to 33. The snow is quite deep. A number of people were out with sleighs.

Monday 15. At home all day. Helen Metcalf is here.

Tuesday 16. Miss L. Spaulding called and gave us an invitation to her wedding.

Thursday eve. Susan & myself took a walk. Callers in the evening.

Wednesday 17. Rode to M--- called at Mr. Whitecomb's, was introduced to the Misses W's Hatty called upon us. Oscar went to the street through Beach Hill.

Thursday 18. At the wedding this eve. Quite a number of our acquaintances there. We left at 9 o'clock. Had a ride around Ash swamp square had a very pleasant ride.

Friday 19. Called at Uncles this eve. M&A Davis called.

Saturday 20. Aunt Martha came here this afternoon.

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Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>. A beautiful day. Oscar & myself walked up to the sing this morn at church all day sermon AM by the Rev \_\_\_ W\_\_\_ text Matt 18.14 did not go to the Sabbath school went with S. to \_\_\_ Kidders. O. S. Felt went with us sermon by the Rev. Z. S. Barstow text Prov 2.1<sup>st</sup> after the sermon the report of the L.S. was read the school during the past year has consisted of 350 scholars & teachers. Besides quite a large class taught in the west part of town by the Misses Grimes there are also two other schools taught in different parts of town. 1 teacher & 3 pupils have died during the year. Geo. Slade of VT lectures this evening, have not been.

Monday. 22. C. O. L. called to night & gave us an invitation to C. Heaton's wedding which is to be tomorrow evening. Callers this evening.

Tuesday 25. At the wedding this eve quite a large company there I enjoyed it very well indeed! We came very nearly in contact with the cars, but we got along much better than I expected.

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Wednesday 24. At home in the morning. Called upon Jane after tea. Had a pleasant call. When thinking of the great danger we were in and of the merciful kindness of Him who snatched us from that danger, how can we thank him as we ought, how great is the mercy in watching over us & shielding us from such danger & how thankful should we be to him.

Thursday 25.

Friday 26. Made a few calls. Mr. B. called wished me commence my school next Monday.

Saturday 27. Went to Rev. E. Rockwoods this afternoon. Next W at 2 o'clock the teachers meet to be examined. O how I dread to go. Called at Joseph's when we came home. Aunt M. called here Susan has gone with her to Mrs. Fairbanks.

Sunday 28. Not been to church.

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Monday 29. Commenced my school this morning. Have 20 scholars. When I think of the responsibility that rests upon me, I can not help thinking of the good advice of Mr. Rockwood upon the duties of a teacher. Oh! If I was only competent to teach, how happy I should be.

Tuesday 30. In my school, have spent a very pleasant day with my scholars.

Wednesday. May 1<sup>st</sup>. In school. Thought of going to be examined this afternoon but the weather was so unfavorable, I did not go. When I got home I found several of my acquaintances at our house after tea we took a walk & was joined by the young gentlemen. Oscar has gone to Mr. Elliott's to fiddle to night. Susan & Mary L G \_\_\_ spent the evening at Mr. T's I have been to M. to a temperance lecture delivered by the Rev. Dr. Merritt of Mass. Enjoyed it much.

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Thursday 2d. In school.

Friday 3. Took dinner with Mrs. Warner. Commensed my basket for Eddy this evening. Mr. R & Dr. \_\_\_\_ called in to my school, after school I was examined.

Saturday 4. In school. Finished my basket & went with Eddy to hang it. We had a nice time, the evening was so dark. Mr. Thurston came to the door we had a fine laugh, seeing him look to see who was at the door.

Sunday 5. Very rainy, have not been to church.

Monday 6. Rainy, the water is very high in the river. It overflowed its banks & the people in the village were in considerable danger of being washed away for some time, but the gentlemen at length, succeeded in stopping it.

Tuesday 7. In school. Mrs. John Grimes took tea with us, Ella spent the day with us. Callers in the evening.

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Wednesday 8. In school all day. S. E. Witcomb & H. Grant have gone to Brattleboro today. They were married at the Stage House.

Thursday.9. Rainy. In school.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup>. In school. After school Susan & myself called at Mr. Wrights.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>. My school does not keep today. Mary & Helen have gone to the street to make purchases, helped make a may basket for cousin Helen to hang. Went to Uncles after tea, took a walk with Aunt. Called at Mr. Ayers as I came home. Took a ride with Alva.

Sunday 12. At church all day. Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Barstow in the forenoon, text Eph. 5.25 & 26. Afternoon sermon by Rev. Mr. Greely of Haverhill, NH text Acts 17.31. a beautiful sermon.

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Monday 13. In school as usual.

Tuesday 14. Everline Dodge is working for Mother this week.

Wednesday 15. In school. Aunt Martha & H. called after tea.

Thursday 16. In my school, rainy all day.

Friday 17. School

Saturday 18. In my school. E. Dodge has gone home tonight. Ellen & Maria Davis called here.

Sabbath day 19. At church all day. Sermons by the Rev. Mr. \_\_\_ agent for the H. M. Society. Text AM PM

Monday 20. In my school. I have 6 new scholars today my whole no. now is 29.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>. school. Called at Uncles after tea. Dr. Amos Twitchell had a shock of the palsy.

Wednesday 22. Callers in the evening. Dr. T. is very sick & can probably live but a short time.

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Thursday 23. In my school. After tea Mrs. G. Thatcher & Miss E. Stone called & invited us to take a walk & we all started for a real ramble, we went up the hill by the house of Mr. F. we walked some ways and the rode to Roxbury, after leaving the road we walked across several fields until at length we came to the hill formerly owned by A. Davis, now by Joseph Thatcher, where we had a view of the village, we descended the hill & walked home by the rivers side, we arrived at home about 8 o'clock, we were very tired & quite wet, but we were not so much fatigued as not to wish for an other walk, for we planned another for next week, even longer than this.

Friday. In my school, can it be possible that 4 weeks have passed away since I began my school? But so it is, never have the days & weeks passed so rapidly with me as the last 4 weeks & never more pleasantly. Rode to the street after tea with father & Mary. Went to M. to

[rest of the text is cut out of the diary]

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Saturday 25. Have not been in school today. Called at Mr. Davis' this eve the girls & Milton were at home, they showed us the house & grounds. I think they have quite a pleasant place. We staid an hour perhaps & from there we went to the Panarama of Mexico in the New Town Hall liked very well. Had a very pleasant ride.

Sabbath day 26. Have not been to church. Went to Mr. Pickering's to a sing this eve. Had a very pleasant time.

Monday 27. In my school, had a very pleasant school today. Dr. Twitchell died this morning about 3 o'clock.

Tuesday 28. Called upon Miss Stone after tea. Callers in the evening.

Wednesday 29. Susan has gone to Mrs. Nichols.

Thursday. In school. Went to the

[rest is cut off from the page]

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> 1850. In school all day. After tea Mary, Helen, Eliza & myself took a long walk. We called at Ms. B---s. and staid a short time. After which we walked up to the ledges about ½ mile from there, we had the good fortune to find quite an assortment of flowers which we twined into a bouquet for Mr. Thayer and presented him as we came home. But I must not forget to mention that there was a gentleman offered himself as an escort during our walk but other business of importance prevented his accompanying us. He however very kindly pointed out the road for us to take. We had a very pleasant walk indeed!!

Sabbath day. June 2. I have not been to church. It's a sing at Mr. Page's at 5 o'clock.

Monday 3. In school very warm.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>. A beautiful day. Mrs. P\_\_\_g called. Susan & I called at Uncles.

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Wednesday 5. Election Day.

Alva & Hatty took dinner with us. They took tea at Mr. Whitecomb's. went to ride after dinner, had a very pleasant ride. Came the best road home. Maria & Augusta spent the afternoon with, Susan & Lusy.

Thursday 6. In my school as usual

Friday 7. School. Called at Uncles.

Saturday 8. At home all day.

Sunday 9. At church all day. Texts Gal.6.9 & Heb.2.1-3 verses. The singers met here at 5 o'clock had a very sing.

Monday 10. In school.

Tuesday. In my school, my first class in Geography are very much interested in map drawing. They have finished several pretty ones. Oscar has gone to Holyoke to get him a place to work.

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Wednesday 12. My birth day! How differently these words sound from what they did in my younger days. Then I thought only that I was an other year older. The years how long, but how different now. They seem hardly begun before they are gone. To me this day now awakes deep thoughts. How has time past been spent. & how is the future to be? Each day as it comes round brings with it its trials & its troubles. I need much patience for this year that is now before me & as it passes swiftly away may I be more & more strengthened to do my duty & may another birth day be less spotless than the ones that have gone by.

“Swift years! But teach me to hear,  
To feel and act with strength & skill,  
To reason wisely, nobly dare—  
Then speed your courses as ye will!

Thursday 13. \_\_\_ Mary & the boys are here. Miss Sloane & Miss Lyman called here after tea we took a walk. Oscar went with us. We had a very pleasant time. Who does not like to take moonlight walks, if they do not stay till ten o'clock?

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Friday 14. Mary is very sick this morning. She has had the Dr. Aunt Martha took tea with us. Oscar has gone to carry Aunt Mary home. Mrs. Pickering & sister and Mrs. Taft called I took a short walk with them.

Saturday 15. At home all day Mary is rather better.

Sunday 16. At church, a sing at Mr. Joslins.

Monday, 17. Aurelia & Eliza & Lucretia called here. We took a short walk. Eliza & myself have taken a new study, by the help of Oscar who is our only teacher we think we shall make great progress in it.

Tuesday 18. Mr. & Mrs. T. Mrs. Gates & Ellen gave us a call. We went to see the cars go along. Callers in the evening.

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Wednesday 19. I cannot write today. Dear Oscar has gone to Holyoke to work went this morning. Words can never tell what are my feelings. O! how we shall miss him, every day I learned to love him more & more. I never knew until today how well I loved him.

Thursday 20. In my school.

Friday 21. Mrs. P, Mrs. T. Susan & Mr. A Pickering visited my school this afternoon, went to the street after tea.

Saturday 22. In school. Dear Oscar how I wish I could just look in upon you & see where you are and what you are doing but this cannot be, and I must try to be content with the decrees of Providence for they are just and right.

Sunday 23. Have not been to church. Mr. Wrights to a sing. Mr. Russell played Oscars viol, did not think it sounded much as it does when he plays it.

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. In school.

Tuesday 25. School took a short walk after tea.

Wednesday 26. Quite a party of us went to gather strawberries after tea, had very good success.

Thursday 27. In school, Susan has gone to a wedding today. Helen, Eddy & myself took a short walk.

Friday 28. In school.

Saturday 29. Have not been in my school today. Called at Uncles a few minutes.

Sabbath day 30. Have not been to church at a sing at Uncles, it was so very warm it was almost impossible to sing.

Monday July 1<sup>st</sup> 1850.

In my school as usual, wrote a few lines to my dear Oscar.

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Tuesday. 2. Father has several men at work, repairing the barn.

Wednesday. 3. Quite rainy. In school as usual. Susan received a letter from Oscar, which was read by us all with great interest.

Thursday 4th. Today closes the 74 year of the independence of America! & where are those who fought & bled for that freedom? How many anxious glances have been given to the clouds this morning. They did indeed look very unfavorable in the morning. But soon they broke away and the sun shone forth in all its splendor and a more beautiful day one could never wish. I rode to Charlestown in the cars had a very pleasant ride took dinner at C. after dinner we walked to the grove where the Sons of Temperance were celebrating, heard several of the toasts and sentiments to same were very good indeed, after staying some time we returned to the Hotel and took the cars for Keene at 5 o'clock, we spent a pleasant day.

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Friday 5. In school as usual, very warm.

Saturday 6. School. Susan went to see A. A. T. Aunt called here a short time.

Sabbath day July 7. Have not been to church.

Monday 8. In school.

Tuesday 9. Went to the crossing to see the cars pass had a pleasant time was introduced to Miss Tyler.

Wednesday 10. In my school as usual. Received a letter from Dear Oscar.

Thursday 11. Callers in the evening. Mother was taken very sick last night. Better today.

Friday 12. Rode to the street with Alva made several purchases for my little scholars, how well I love them I did not think when I commenced my school that I should love my pupils as well. How I shall hate to part with them!

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Saturday 13. As I seat myself this time to write my heretofore willing pen, almost refuses to do its duty, and well it may shrink from performing one so painful no words of mine can describe the feelings with which I attempt to write. This evening, William G. Wright and Albert Joslin went into the pound to bathe and Albert could not swim, he was drowned before assistance could be had and although every means was used to restore life it was all in vain. His spirit had taken its flight and returned to God who gave it well may we rejoice that we have the assurance that he is now among the ransomed that sit around the throne of God at some future time I shall write more upon the death of this young man, but my own feelings will not admit of it now.

Sunday 14. At church all day sermon by the Rev. E. H. Barstow of Walpole text in the afternoon by Rev. text. The funeral of Albert is tomorrow at 10 o'clock at his Father's at Stoddard

## HSCC MG 12- Diary of Martha Rhoda Willson, 1850-1851

Monday 15. A number of the people of this place have gone to Stoddard and among them Susan have not been, could hardly attend to the duties of my school today and for the first time was glad to part with my pupils and get home.

Tuesday 16. In my school as usual. Susan came home tonight.

Wednesday 17. School. Called to see H. Fisher.

Thursday 18. At school. When I call to mind Albert and the manner of his death, it seems all like a dream, can it be possible that he is gone, and shall I never see him again? The last time I saw him was the 4<sup>th</sup> and little did I then think as I shook him by the hand, that day, and laughed and talked with him, that I should never see him again. Oh what a warning to us! A few moments before his death, he was as well and happy as we now are and now he lies in his grave! Dear Friend Albert your memory is cherished by all that knew you, well

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May we say of him, "none knew him, but to love him," but God in his providence has seen fit to remove him to a better and a happier world, and his friends are left to mourn his loss. And does it not speak a warning voice to all his impertinent friends does it not say to us, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." He may call us with as little time to prepare for it as did Albert have, but we trust Albert is now where no sorrow or pain can ever come. And we would not wish to have him here to suffer and die again, we know that it is just and right that he should go now, and much as we loved him we submit to that hand that guides and watches over all.

Friday 19. Eliza Ann closes her school today very rainy indeed. Wished very much to be present to her examination, but could not be there. Called to see her after school.

Saturday 20. Rainy. Close my school to have a vacation for one week.

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Sabbath day 21. At church. Miss Mary Lyman died yesterday. Mr. Barstow spoke of her in his sermon this morning, she lived a humble and devoted Christian and well may her friends follow in her footsteps.

Monday 22. Called at Mr. Joslin's and Uncle Edwin's.

Tuesday 23. Rode to Marlboro with Alva.

Wednesday 24. Called to get Mrs. Taft, cut me a dress. Received a letter from Oscar.

Thursday 25. Mr. & Mrs. Richardson of Rochester, and Mrs. Keyes called here.

Friday 26. Had my dress fitted this morning called to see Mr. & Mrs. Russel at Mr. W's went to the street with Susan called at Mrs. Nichols.

Saturday 27. At home in the morning. In the afternoon, Alva, James, Mary & myself went to Marlboro to pick blueberries we went to Mr. Aaron Stone's. Eliza went out with us, we stopped and took tea with her, had a first rate time.

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Sabbath day 28. Have not been to church. Rainy all day.

Monday 29. In my school as usual.

Tuesday 30. Took dinner at Mrs. Warner's

Wednesday 31. In school, passed a very happy day.

Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup>. Just one year today, we spent this day at Nelson. Oh! That was a happy day! But how changed are things since then.

Friday 2. Came home from school and found Mrs. Nichols & Jane Towns here, walked as far as C. Heaton's with them made a call there enjoyed it very much.

Saturday 3. In my school.

Sunday 4. At church all day. Every one must bear disappointment, we know this, but there are those that it seems very, very hard to bear, but still we must not expect to pass through this ever changing world without them.

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Monday 5. In my school today. It was been a long, long day for me, yet why should we rep\_\_\_ at the ways of Providence we know that the trials \_\_ us here, are to fit us better, for the joys above, and if we make that use of them that we ought, they will make us \_\_\_, wise, and happy.

Tuesday 6. In school. Went to Mr. Follensbee's to dinner.

Wednesday 7. School. Rainy

Thursday 8. Mrs. Page and Sarah spent the PM with our people.

Friday 9. School.

Saturday 10. No school today. Mrs. Taft came over and swung with me. Susan and myself walked home with her and we piled up wood.

Sunday 11. Have not been to church.

Monday 12. In my school.

Tuesday 13. School. Went to dinner at Mrs. Warner's.

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Wednesday 14. School. Uncle and Aunt Metcalf are here.

Thursday 15. Called at Mr. Page's a few moments. Amos & wife & little girl are there.

Friday 16. Came home from school and found Mrs. B. Thacher, Mrs. J & Mrs. G & Miss L Thacher spending the afternoon here, had a very pleasant time with them. Susan received a letter from Oscar tonight.

Saturday 17. In school. Mary and I took tea with Mrs. F. she, Ann & Ella came home with us.

Sabbath day August 18. At church all day. Mr. & Mrs. Barstow have gone away. Sermons by the Rev. Mr. Orenth. Texts AM Romans 3.28, James 2.14. PM Deut. Xxx11.11 subjects faith, liked the sermons very much indeed!

Monday Aug. 19. In my school.

Tuesday. Pleasant. school

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Wednesday 21. A circus at the street today did not keep school in the morning. Took dinner with Mrs. Follensbee. School in the afternoon.

Thursday 22. Very busy preparing for my examination tomorrow. Went to the street. Mrs. F. & Ann are here.

Friday 23—My examination this morn but very few in Messrs. Rockwood & Adams were both in, my scholars were everything I could wish them to be, quiet and orderly in their department, and punctual in their recitations. At the close of school the scholars sung The Parting Song very prettily indeed! The committee both spoke well to the scholars and praised it even more than I had expected. And what is there more cheering when we have been toiling for a long time, and striving for improvements, than to have it said to us that “we have done well,” to a teacher it is surely something. The afternoon was spent in a walk to the pine woods where we ate our supper, and then returned to the school room once more. None but a teacher that has

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Been placed in a pleasant school, with kind and dutiful pupils, can analyze my feelings as I bade farewell to these dear little ones, that have been under my care for the past sixteen weeks, the time has past swiftly and most pleasantly away, & were I to visit all the schools in NH I think I could not find better pupils in any of them, always kind, ever ready to do just as I would wish them, dear pupils your memory's age and will ever be very dear to me, and my earnest prayer to Heaven is that when our labors all are o'er here that we may all meet together around the throne of God above these to dwell in one unbroken school of love. And in the words of our "little song" we have sung so many times together I must close my book for the night.

And when long, we both have slumbered,  
Side by side in the common dust,  
With thy ransomed people numbered,  
With the assembly of the just,-  
Child and teacher,  
Savior, own our humble trust

A.R. & G. H. Hancock spent the afternoon here.

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Saturday 24. At home all day

Sabbath day 25. At church all day

Monday 26. L. Beckwith called and paid me for teaching \$36.00.

Tuesday 27. Went berrying in the morning. Hatty Fisher took tea with us, called at Mr. Thompson's.

Wednesday 28. Went to the Lecture and went home with aunt Kidder. E. Lovemore & C. S. Felt called in the evening. Spent the night there.

Thursday 29. Made some purchases in the morning called at Uncle Metcalf's in the afternoon visited Fanny Sturtevant's school, called at Mr. Whitemore's & F. Davis after tea at Mr. Esty's and Mr. H\_\_thy's.

Friday 30. Called at Granfathers & Mr. Cook's in the morning took dinner at Uncle AS after tea Martha, Sarah, & myself called at Mr. Hutchin's to see Susan spent the night with Matty.

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Saturday 31. Called to see L. Sturtevant took dinner at Mr. Dwinell's, visited A. H. Grimes school in the afternoon, walked home after tea rather tired on the whole.

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1850. Sabbath day. Have not been to church today. Wrote a letter to Oscar.

Monday 2. At home. Mary & I sent Oscar books marks.

Tuesday 3. Home sewing.

Wednesday 4. School commenced at the Academy, Helen and cousin Martha attend.

Thursday 5. At home all day.

Friday 6. Spent the afternoon at Uncle E\_\_

Saturday 7. At home

Sunday 8. Have not been to church. Reading "Iddo"

Monday 9. At home. Aunt M. called.

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Tuesday 10. At home part of the day. Called at Mr. That5chers with J.A. & S. J. Nichols. Spent the afternoon with Jane Towns had a very pleasant time. Wrought a book mark for aunt Amanda.

Wednesday 11. At home

Thursday 12. At home, had an application

Friday 13. Called at Uncles to teach a short school in Dis No. 4 Swanzey.

Saturday 14. Home sweet home.

Sabbath day 15. At church all day & to the Sabbath school. A meeting at Mr. J. Thacher's at five o'clock sermon by the Rev. G. Robbins. Liked it very well.

Monday 16. At home

Tuesday 17. A meeting of the Agricultural Society all gone but me & mother. Martha spends the night with Helen. The girls spend the evening at Mr. Davis'.

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Friday 18. Very busy sewing all day for Mother

Saturday 19. At home received a letter from Eliza Ann with which I was very much pleased.

Sunday 20. At church all day.

Monday 21. Commenced my school in Dis. No. 4. Dea read introduced me to the school liked very well, a beautiful room carpeted and all so new and nice everything seemed provided for our enjoyment & comfort, now I do hope I shall have good success. Took dinner at Mr. Read's after school Mrs Read called and took me to ride, called to see Edna, had a very pleasant call. She left me at Mr. Rockwood's which for the present is my boarding place.

Tuesday 24. In my school.

Wednesday 25. School. Attended the Lyceum in

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<sup>1</sup> O. J. Willson is Martha's brother Oscar Jehiel Willson b. March 24, 1829 (2 years older than her)