

DIARY OF A VERMONT

SCHOOLGIRL

Laura Allis Freeman was born October 22, 1882. She lived with her family in South Royalton, Vermont, and began keeping this diary on January 1, 1893. In the diary Laura describes her experiences in school, the chores she did at home, the books she read, the illnesses she had, and the activities of her family members. Her family included her father, Frederick Freeman, age 47; her mother, Lucy West Freeman, age 38; her brother West, age 14; her sister Lizzie, age 8; and her younger brothers Edmund and Charlie (the baby). At the beginning of the diary, West had just recovered from scarlet fever.



January 1, 1893 Snowed pretty hard. Went and read to West a while. Lizzie is 8. Had **shivered beef** for breakfast & cranberry short-cakes for dinner. Skated a lot yesterday on the river with [Cousins] George, Roy, Stella and Lizzie.

January 2 Warm. West went out doors for the first time since he was taken sick. . .

January 4 16 below zero. Cold. Slid a lot this noon. West went outdoors a lot today. Had a written exercise in arithmetic and grammar. . .

January 5 Cold. Took our skates to school. Got to have compositions tomorrow. Mine is about fishing. . . Not very good skating. Too much snow on the ice. Feel awfel tierd.

January 8 Very cold. All of us stayed in the house. Had rice pudding for dinner. . . My head aches. Don't believe I shall go to school tomorrow . . .

January 10 Cold. West to school. Drew the map of Europe on the board. Have finished it . . . Had **snow-cream** for supper.



January 14 Cold. Lizzie and I went over to Grandpa's. Lizzie is awful cross tonight. Feel pretty well. Slid 2 times over there on Georgie's and Roy's new **traverse**. Grandpa and Grandma came over here. We made popcorn balls. Grandma gave me a knit jacket.

January 16 Cold..West comes out with the family. There is a little sled for dear little Edmund. Feel pretty well. They are **burning sulphur** in where West was. Played Consequences at school. It was fun.

January 17 Cold but pleasant. Went to school. Feel pretty sick. Have changed seats at school. . .

January 19 Warmer. I stayed at home today. . . I made some cakes all alone. They were pretty good. Feel better tonight. . . I made Charlie a little sled with my new knife.



January 23 Warmer. I stayed at home. Feel pretty tierd. Lizzie took her sled. Painted a bookmark. Took care of Charlie while Mamma cleaned the room West was in when he had the scarlet fever.

January 28 Cold. We ... went over to Grandpa's. Had oysters and figs & dates. West has got his traverse done. We slid on it some. It goes neat. I am awful tierd.

January 29 Warmer. Rained. Papa, Mama & I went to meeting. Had beans for dinner. I've got a loose tooth. Have been learning pieces: "The burial of Moses" & "One by one" Guess I shall speak one of them at school.

January 30 Pleasant. Went to school. West's traverse goes neat. We slid a lot in the road. Charlie walked upstairs . . . I walked both ways to school.

February 6 Snowed & rained. Cold. My writing book is hard. Papa owes me 29 cts. I had an examanation in arithmetic. Was 61. Didn't do 2 examples. Took the "conversation cards" to school. Played with them.

Feb. 11 Thaws awfully. . . We went out without our **cloaks**.

Feb. 14 Pleasant. Mrs. Thurston and Lura visited the school today. Made a valentine for Edmund. Bertha gave me a "comic valentine." . .

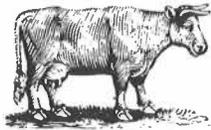


Feb. 20 Cold. The wind blew awfully and made big drifts. The road was drifted so that the teacher couldn't get to school. We all but Rufie were there. Lizzie & I staid till about one. West walked home & he & Papa came after us.

Feb. 22 Snowed. The teacher came today. There was only Lizzie, West & me this forenoon for scholars, but J & B came after noon.

Feb. 25 School kept today because the teacher was not there Monday. Had a chocolate frosted cake for dinner. It was good. Had roast beef for supper. We are drawing the map of Vermont now.

Feb. 27 Cold. Took some yarn to school & crocheted some. Papa went up to the village and sold a calf that was born last night & sold it for 75 cts. It was Peanut's calf.



March 3 School finished. The teacher gave us each 2 cards & a bag of candy and peanuts. . .

July 4 Warm but showery . . . We had a picnic and a lot of firecrackers . . . We had **coffee jelly** & ice cream. . .

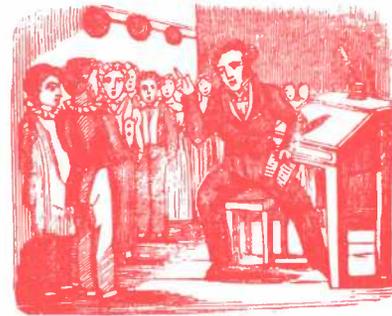
August 21 Cool. . . School was to begin today but the teacher was sick. . . . West and I went blackberrying.

August 22 School began today. The teacher is Jenny Miller. . .

Sept. 9 Warm. I carried the children down to school. Edmund went to school today. Made some pear preserves. . .

Nov. 22 Snowed a lot. Papa and I took the children to school on a sled. Made some snow-cream.

Nov. 24 Cold. I have got an awful cold. I went to school. It is the last day.



Vocabulary

shivered beef - what we might call chipped beef

snow-cream - a dessert mixture of snow, cream, and sugar; others have fancier recipes.

traverse - a big sled, sometimes called a "double runner"

burning sulphur - after someone had a disease that could easily be caught by others, sulphur would be burned in the sick person's room to kill germs.

cloak - an outer garment, like a coat