

# *A Year in the Life: The George Shirley Denison Diary*

1862

June

- Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Got up at 5 o'clock to ride Beauty against Dragoon and Lady Alice. Dragoon won by about a foot. Lady Alice nowhere (bolted 3 times). After breakfast went to Trin. Coll. about drill and got GK. Test. Walked to M<sup>r</sup> L Hurds after dinner, and got ducked. Ran balls remainder of time till tea, after which I began reading Roman Hist. Drizzling rain from ½ past 11 to 5.30.
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Afternoon rifle shooting at 25 & 50 yds Rained from 12.50 to about 3 in showers.
- Wednesday 25 About 3 PM was told I had another brother. In the evening there was to have been a great drill but Insiders did not turn out sufficiently strong.
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> When we were at dinner we were told that Charles' -[?] had hurt himself. Upon going to the barn we found he had backed against some hames and got one fast in him by the hook. When I came over I found M<sup>r</sup> Simms on Beauty trying to go to the Races but couldn't because pony was not willing, so I got on and made her go down the avenue as hard as she could go and back again a little harder, after which M<sup>r</sup> Simms mounted and

went off. (but not very firmly seated). Going over in the evening I obtained my silver mounted whip in exchange for my hunting whip. Trin. Coll. Dinner tonight.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Nothing particular except M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> G Taylor arriving at the Homestead in evening.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Got up about 4.30 and rode up to M<sup>r</sup> Fisher's to get Bob home, arriving there at 6 o'clock, had breakfast and returned home about 10. In the afternoon went to Uncle George's to go for a ride but not being able I staid to tea and came home about 9.15.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Nothing particular. Rained slightly all the afternoon and evening.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Rode to a field-day of the 30<sup>th</sup> in the morning. In the afternoon went to town and Jessie shod, took tea at Uncle George's and for a short ride with Lilla. came home about 9.45.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July Afternoon walked to Uncle George's to see how Lilla was, and came back immediately with a message to grandmother from Uncle George

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July Afternoon went for a drive and saw the pine [?] house set fire to but not burn. Evening drill, 16 present.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July Rose at 4 AM and helped water cabbage plants. Afternoon walked to Uncle George's very hot. Evening rifle shooting with Foster

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Got up at six and went down to see D<sup>r</sup> Morris off. Evening went for a ride with Hettie.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Cleaned up all morning. Afternoon went up to U G's on Dragoon but it was too warm to go for a ride (thermometer 97 in shade at 4 o'clock.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Ther about 98 in shade.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> In morning fought with Geese. 3 not - [?] 6 wounded 4 dead  
Afternoon went for a ride with Lilla across concess to Dundas Street and down to the Lake house.

July 8<sup>th</sup> Tuesday After breakfast rode to M<sup>r</sup> Shaw's and down to Freeman's.  
Afternoon ran balls. Fine but not very hot, garden suffering for want of rain

9<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evening drill.

10<sup>th</sup> Thursday Afternoon went for a ride in town with Hettie.

11<sup>th</sup> Friday Went to a field-day of about 400 of the 30<sup>th</sup> Major Dillon commanding. Evening [?] shooting with Foster. 6 more pigs bought today.

12<sup>th</sup> Saturday Worked at getting in hay In afternoon went to town and to the Band with Lilla.

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rained a little in the morning I went to St John's to church,  
Evening about 9 rained hard for more than an hour.

14<sup>th</sup> Monday Evening went for a ride with Hettie to the Humber plains.

15 Tuesday Nothing partic

- 16 Wednesday Driving about all afternoon after things for the wedding.
- 17 Thursday At 11 o'clock Aunt Georgie married and breakfast. Hung about all day till evening when there was a jolly shine. broke up at 12.30
- 18<sup>th</sup> Friday After I went to M<sup>r</sup> Broughall I started for Uncle George's and owing to a misunderstanding remained there till 9 PM.
- 19 Saturday Rode up to Davis's to get his –[?] but he would not sign thence I went to Uncle George's and then down to George's office and home. In afternoon and evening heavy rain
- July 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rained occasionally during the day.
- July 21<sup>st</sup> Monday Evening went to the Hippojoonomallon [?].
- " 22 Tuesday Evening went for a short ride with Hettie.
- " 23 Wednesday In morning walked down to the Boat to meet Uncle John and aunts Jane & Minnie. In afternoon Sunday School Festival.
- " 24 Evening went for ride with Hettie but could not go
- " 25 Friday Watered Uncle Coates Greenhouse
- " 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday Went to the band with Lilla
- " 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday Took tea at Aunt Coates
- " 28<sup>th</sup> Monday Tried to do a Latin exercise LXXVII but couldn't come it.
- " 29 Tuesday Afternoon picking peas
- " 30<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Eger [?] with sick headache In evening drill put off till 17<sup>th</sup> Sept
- " 31<sup>st</sup> Thursday Evening went up to Uncle George to see Maria Taylor

- August 1 Evening went to Aunt Coates and watered grapes and saw Miss Nation home.
- 2 Saturday Morning went to town and got my hair cut. Evening rode alongside of Uncle George's carriage up to the Highway
- 3 Sunday Evening went to Aunt Coates and had a long talk with Aunt Jane.
- 4 Monday Afternoon went shooting with G Shaw shot a hawk on a tree and one on the wing.
- 5 Tuesday Afternoon bought 3 lbs shot and went up to M<sup>r</sup> Shaws.
- 6 Wednesday Got up at 5.20 and went shooting with G Shaw and got a meadow lark on the wing In the afternoon St. John's SS Festival. Evening took tea at Aunt Georgie's.
- August 7. Thursday. morning went to Aunt Coates Afternoon went for a ride with Hettie to the Humber Plains and saw Miss Napier out riding.
- August 8. Friday. Morning cleaned 7 rifles. afternoon made ramrod and put spurs on to boots.
9. Saturday. Afternoon rode alongside of Hettie and Maria Taylor to the Band, took tea at U.G's and came home dismounting, walked over to Aunt Coates.
10. Sunday. M<sup>r</sup> Broughall at Niagara.
11. Monday. Morn. went to M<sup>r</sup> Carruthers Afternoon George and I started for M<sup>r</sup> Shaw's where we met him just going out to the Humber

plains. There not room for us consequently we walked, up to Col. Thomson's and across the Plains to the mouth of the River where we got a boat that took us up as far as an old scow where we fished for about 2 hours without any success to speak of. afterwards I walked as far as Sunnyside (a good mile) where Mr Shaw managed to take us all in (6) and let me out on Queen St.

12. Tuesday. Went to M<sup>r</sup> Carruthers. M<sup>r</sup> Broughall came home. Aft. Went for a ride but did not go to U.G's having met him on the road. spent good part of aft. in exercising Jessie & Sword. Wore new pair moleskins

13 Wednesday. Afternoon went up to the Henderson's to get Rifles and to T Hurd's. Afterwards saw the splendid Montreal Field Battery arrive from the Falls. Evening drove up to Trin. Coll. and Uncle Richard's.

August 14<sup>th</sup>. Thursday. Afternoon ran 90 balls (95 to the lb). Evening practice.

15<sup>th</sup> Friday. Cleaning rifle all afternoon

16<sup>th</sup> Saturday. Morning went shooting with G Shaw and got nothing came home 12.50. Afternoon the pond was let off and afterwards I had a little rifle practice (25 yds) and walked up to Judge Harrison's for some medicine for baby (I suppose). Evening rifle shooting (25).

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>. Uncle and Aunt George came down in the evening to see how baby was

Monday 18. Went to U G's to go for a ride but the horses not at home

Tuesday 19 Afternoon went to see the balloon ascending [?] Evening went Judge Harrison's and Uncle George's to tell them about the Review.

Wednesday 20 At eleven oclock a grand review of the Regular Battery, 30<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and military train took place in front of M<sup>r</sup> Ambery's in the course of which a medal was presented to a soldier of the 30<sup>th</sup> and one of the M Train had his leg broken. Evening went to Uncle Richard's to a party in honour of Uncle Charles coming of age. got to bed at 11 AM.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Went for a ride with Hettie beyond the necropolis.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Raining all day, evening went to a party at Grandmothers got to bed at one.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Went for a ride to the Band with Hettie and Lilla.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Nothing particular.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Afternoon getting in the oats beyond the Park, walked up to M<sup>r</sup> Shaw's and Uncle George's with messages. Baby very ill.

Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup> Staid about home.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> The baby died about 9 oclock.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Baby was buried in S<sup>t</sup> Stephen's Afternoon went for a on Bob ride alongside Uncle George's carriage. evening practice. Father & Mother went to Niagara at 1 PM.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Afternoon getting part of the oats. Evening went to Grandmother's

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Father & Mother came home. Afternoon rode Bob to the Band with Hettie and Lilla.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Nothing particular except Tickets [?] stopped. Attorney General of Newfoundland at church in the evening with the Simms's.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Shooting out with [?] the rifle at 25 yds in the evening worked hard.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Worked all day at the oats and got them in, in the evening went up to the armoury and remained there till ten PM.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Arms inspected by Col. Wiley who reports them as all right. Shingled all the afternoon.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Morning saw review of Field Battery. Afternoon shingled till 4.15. then went up and wrote in the Parochial Library

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Morning went to town to buy a cap got back in time to go to M<sup>r</sup> Broughall 10.30. Father went off at 2 PM to go to Quebec and Montreal. Shingled all afternoon. Rained in night.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>. Walked over with Evy to Aunt Coate's to take a prescription. Afternoon rode to post office and up to Uncle George's but as

he and Lilla had gone up to M<sup>rs</sup> Lewson's we could not go for a ride. Left Rusholme at 8 o'clock and rode home in the rain.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>. Saw M<sup>rs</sup> Morris home after Church

September 8<sup>th</sup> Monday. Afternoon cleaned up and rode to the post to post a letter and then up to Aunt Coate's to see how the baby was and to Turner's to get my whip with cracker on (which cost me 10 genaric [?]) Evening about ½ past 6 some man (supposed to be Dillon) turned his cows into D<sup>r</sup> Bovell's field by taking out the staple of the lock.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went up to Dick's farm by the side line and came home after tea.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Morning walked to town and got my hair cut Afternoon went for a ride with Hettie around by the Humber Bay and across the concess. meeting four couples out riding.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Afternoon worked at the hay and got about half ready to go in. evening went over to Aunt Coates' to meet Lillie and then, being [?] persuaded to the step, proceeded on to the Horticultural Gardens where there was an exhibition. After it was over I was presented with a bunch of Uncle Coates third prize grapes (weigh about 1 lb 6 ozs.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Morning threatening rain we worked hard at the hay and got in with any serious wetting. Afternoon at 4 went to Uncle Richard's baby's funeral, swallowed on the way nearly a peck of

dust and was very nearly frozen to death (fortunately not quite). got home about 7 PM.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Cleaned up and helped rake hay all morning. Afternoon rode to town and was very nearly up to Uncle George's when Jessie's shoe came off and I picked it up and came home.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Father came home in the morning at 7 ½ o'clock but was not well enough to go to church

Monday. 15<sup>th</sup> Went for a sail and got as far as the Gap when the wind failed and we had to row in. Afternoon went to M<sup>r</sup> Broughall.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Worked at the hay and got done at 10 AM Afternoon went for a ride up to Uncle George's but the girls could not go so I went to town.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went for a sail with Uncle William, Maria Taylor, Maggie Coates, Will & Harry Sims. we got over as far as the Island skipping seas all the time, came back and bailed out and then started again. Came home wet through.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Morning went to Loyds and got measured for a suit of Black and to Betty's and ordered 12 collars Afternoon went to see the Troop and Battery drilling and then ordered the coal coming home got ducked.

Friday. 19<sup>th</sup>. Morning went up to warn some of the Trinity men out. Afternoon went to see the military games, which were very amusing.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Went to Trinity College and got my Rifle and - [?]. Afternoon went up for drill but there was none.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Nothing partic.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Governour Generall arrived in town drove Father down to the levee and then went up to Uncle George's to get some uniform.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Acted as Aide-de-camp to Col Denison and had a good look at the Governor General when he was presenting the prizes of the Rifle Match [?]. Afternoon warned some of the Trinity men for Wednesday morning.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Turned out in Trin Coll Corps to receive the Governour at the College. After dinner went up to the Exhibition

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Morning went to the exhibition came home to dinner and went up in the carriage afterwards.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Went to M<sup>r</sup> Broughall in the morning Afternoon went up to the Exhibition and saw the wild men of Borneo.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Morning cleaned up several things and in particular the gun which I took home.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Found I had a bad cold.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Went to M<sup>r</sup> Broughall and was laid up with cold all the afternoon.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Did not get up till 10 and was in the house all day

Wednesday Oct 1<sup>st</sup> Went up for examination at Trinity College with about 16 others Gk Test and Prose Comp subjects

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Subjects Xenophon's Anabasis Book one and Euclid.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Subjects Scripture Hist & Algebra and Arithmetic.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Subjects Sallust and History.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Was told I had passed.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Went to Trin Coll and did some of of the mathematical paper scholarship [?], but came home to dinner

Tuesday 7. Went up to Trin Coll and down to Biltons to get measured for my gown Afternoon went for a sail to the Island. Passengers Miss Coates the two Misses Hallowell Aunt Georgina crew. Hallowell Sims Denison and skipper Coates.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Morning William and I made about 10 pails cider. Evening went down to Aunt Georgina's and came home in the rain.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Put a new roof on Toby's Kennel Evening practice but I was too unwell to do anything more than lie down on the sofa. Spent a very unpleasant night.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Did not get up till half past 10 and staid in the house all day. Father and mother went away early in the morning to Montreal.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> After breakfast went down to Rowsells in the cars and got some books. Afternoon went for a ride to Uncle George's and Trinity Coll. Evening wrote to Father. Making cider.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Began Work at College afternoon went to Rowsells. Cleaning out pond.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> One extra man employed two carts

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Two extra men employed two carts

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Raining unable to work at pond

Friday 17. Working at pond. two men two carts

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Led carts all day taking out about 116 loads which were spread over the field.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Went up to chapel in morning

Monday 20 M<sup>r</sup> Ambery did not lecture. Only one extra man employed (Elwood)

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Raining in morning. Afternoon rode down to Biltons Ellis' and Post office.

Wednesday 22 No drill.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Ambery lectured

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Afternoon rode to town and up to Uncle George's where I spent the evening

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Cleaning up all morning After noon went for a ride with my fair cousins but found it so cold that we were glad to go back.  
Evening M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Simms here.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Moring 9 oclock went down to the boat to meet father. Came in at 12 being late five hours.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Late for chapel having called for G Shaw. evening wrote to mother.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Worked at the potatoes all day receiving a shilling. Holiday SS.  
Simon & Jude.

Wednesday 29 Drill in afternoon.

Thurs 30 M<sup>r</sup> Ambery did not come to lecture.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Helped move some seats at church

Saturday Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> Morn Rode up to M<sup>r</sup> Shaws and down to M<sup>r</sup> Hards.  
Afternoon went up to Uncle George's to go for a ride but  
couldn't

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Rained all night.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Drove to town in afternoon to get tree from Niagara went to  
Biltons and got my cap and gown Organ in the church being put  
up.

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Went for a ride with Hettie and bought a girth

Wednes 5<sup>th</sup> Nothing partic except no drill owing to rain.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Afternoon walked to town got my hair cut and bought a dozen  
collars

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Thermometer below freezing all day. evening made naval white  
light [?].

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Pig killing all afternoon (6) went to drill got my military Great  
coat

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Organ played in morning by D<sup>r</sup> Strathy Prince of Wales birthday

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Collars too small - changed Afternoon went for a ride with Hettie and Lilla and received a present of 2 woollen neckties from the latter

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Holiday in honor of the Prince of Wales birthday. Afternoon rode with Fred up to Edwins to warn him out for drill.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Hynd [?] did not lecture. Drill 18 present.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went to town and got measured for a great coat Cavalry out for drill (26)

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Rossin House took fire at 2.30 AM and is still burning (6.30 PM). Rode down at 7 am to see that Ontario Buildings were all right. Afternoon helped to fix the church stoves and take in [?] cabbages.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Afternoon drill 18 present

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Langtry preached in the morning (35)

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> staid about home all the afternoon

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Made cider in the afternoon

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> No drill on account of the rain.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Went to M<sup>rs</sup> Nations to see after a surplice for Sunday.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Afternoon walked up to Well's Hill and cut a heavy walking stick.

Saturday 22. Afternoon drill & meeting after it.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> morning went up to Chapel because the Bishop preached.

24<sup>th</sup> Monday. M<sup>r</sup> Irving ill did not lecture

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Rode up to Uncle George's had a small necktie given me

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Did not go to drill because I had my work to do. Evening went to a concert in aid of S Annes Church in the music Hall.

Thursday 27. Received certain intelligence of Fathers appointment to the Brigade majorship. went up to Uncles Richards and George's to tell them about it.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Afternoon took skates to Rooke's to be sharpened and walked up to M<sup>r</sup> Shaw's & after tea went over to Trin Coll to the Lit. Institute but although I was passed I was not introduced.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Went down to Stibbs and Walkers to get measured for a pair of trousers to cost 5\$. Afternoon drill. Major Denison gave the Company into M<sup>r</sup> Rogerts charge.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Very few at Church in the evening. bad walking [?]

Monday Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1 Ordered 3 skates for "Shandaradan" cleaned gloves. took 'The War Russell out of the Institute

Tuesday 2. Afternoon went down to Ontario Buildings and got my skates on the way home (ninepence).

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Evening went up to Uncle George's and came home in 20 minutes (round).

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Eat my dinner quickly and went up to Trin Coll to muster (-2 [?] present) started for the S<sup>t</sup> Lawrence Hall and met the Battallion at Church S<sup>t</sup> proceeded with them up King to Bathurst, up Bathurst to Davenport road thence westerly a short distance

and halted for about 10 mins. We then went along the Davenport to Yonge S<sup>t</sup>. and down to Queen and up to Denison Avenue. Total distance was about 13 miles.

- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Spent the evening at Uncle George's got home at 1 AM
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Got Thomas Taylor's name to the Pay Roll of the troop.
- Sunday 7. Evening M<sup>r</sup>. Hilton & Hettie (Richard) came down to S Stephens.
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Went to Walker's and was measured for a great coat. and to drill in the drill shed of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Bear tree cut down.
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Afternoon worked at the Shanderadan and nearly finished it. tried it and had a little skate.
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Cleared away a little snow from the pond.
- Thursday 11. After M<sup>r</sup> Irvings lecture I went up to tell Hettie & Lilla not to come down to skate this afternoon as the ice was too soft. When I came home I found my greatcoat had arrived and then I went to town & bought two gerislets [?] & a pair of suspenders & cap & ordered two shirts. afternoon took two benches up to the Pond and scraped the rough ice.
- Friday 12. Lectures over. Aft. finished the Shandaradan
- Saturday 13. As I had nothing better to do and it was raining I went to work and made another shandaradan with old materials. In rummaging in the Attic I found Charlie's old walnut skates.

- Sunday 14. Captain Dick Cottage where Aunt Georgie lived was found to be on fire about 8.45 PM. Nothing could be done toward stopping the fire and consequently very little furniture was saved. I did not get to bed till 12 o'clock helping to move the furniture up to the Homestead.
- Monday 15. Christmas examination began subjects were Euclid & Gk Test & Catechism. raining.
- Tuesday 16. Terence & Euripides & Algebra First heard of the affair of M<sup>rs</sup> Shaw.
- Wednesday 17. Went to Coll up to Uncle George's and down to drill in afternoon. Evening went to choral service.
- Thursday 18. Convocation (great fun) Evening dinner.
- Friday 19. Evening went with the BM to the Civil Service Company had supper at Aunt Coates
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Splendid skating in the afternoon
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Forgot to ring the SS bell.
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Went to Uncles Richard & George & M<sup>r</sup> Shaw's to get them to come & skate helped decorate the Church in evening.
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Pipe laying [?] gloves in morning Hettie & Lilla came down to skate afternoon fixed the pond up went to D<sup>r</sup> Bovells to help make letters.
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Skating.
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Xmas day service in the morning weather warm.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Ice too soft for skating.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Went to Battallion drill in afternoon & got my hair cut.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Warm

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Rode up to Uncle George's & down town evening played bagatelle.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Skating in the evening

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> Went in the morning to invite the western people to come and skate in the evening where we had about 50 skaters on the pond besides lookers on.

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Jan<sup>y</sup> 1. Skating all day till 7 PM

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Skating and helped write in SS prizes

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Went for a ride in the morning. Evening saw Victoria Rifles drill

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Prizes given & dined at Parsonage. evening took one of the plates.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Kennedy died of smallpox about 1 AM. Went for a ride in the morning. played bagattelle and read "Tom Brown at Oxford".

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Went to M<sup>r</sup>. Kennedy's funeral on horseback (about 30 carriages present).

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Weather getting colder. good skating

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Skating.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Snow on the ground (3 inches)

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Wet drizzling snowing thawing day

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Provost took the service at S Stephen's

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Skating

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Work at Coll supposed to begin only 2 men up on Monday night. Ballard - [?] no chapel.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> No work done as yet. chapel. received receipt for fees which amounted to 5.3.4

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Work began. Aft. raised the pond about a foot.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of students called in order to try and get rid of Impositions. Aft. bought a lb of shot & box of caps

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Started at 10 oclock with G Shaw after rabbits was away till 4 and saw nothing the whole time

Sunday 18. Clement's birthday.

Monday 19. Skated from Queen St up Shaw's creek to the concession and back and the same again got in several times and got well wetted.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Went to M<sup>r</sup> Irving from 1-2 skated rest of afternoon. Took lunch.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Did not get away from Coll. till 3 o'clock took lunch.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Worked at the Pond all afternoon

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Corps in afternoon

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Drove the B M to inspect University Rifles (a dirty lot) and down to Battalion Drill

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Fine & warm

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> New scheme put up at Coll evening went to Batt Drill the only other Company there being the University Rifles rain a little and kept away the sugar & salt rifles.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Hind did not lecture. went to Company drill and learned the Officers salute.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Hind did not lecture working at the Pond all afternoon. Took Punch for – [?] out.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Hind did not lecture nor M<sup>r</sup> Broughall (unwell) signed the Trin Coll pay list. skating in the afternoon.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Trin Coll Drill in the afternoon 22 present

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Sir John Robinson died this morning I worked at the pond all day and if it freezes before it snows there will be skating.

Sunday Feb<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Took the plate in the evening.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Saints day. Morning went to Uncles Richard & George to get their inhabitants to come and skate – in the evening there was quite a number of people on the pond

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Irving did not lecture.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> No lectures. All Trinity went to the Chancellors funeral to the Cemetery. 18° below zero at 8 am.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Took out 1<sup>st</sup> Vol Macmillans Magazine Snowed hard all day.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Worked all afternoon evening played bagattelle & was very successfull.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Made a sleigh for the children Evening wrote an essay on Calcium.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Went up to Chapel morning & evening because the Archdeacon preached the [?] morning for Provost in the evening when I saw M<sup>rs</sup> Ambery home.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Provost did not lecture afternoon made the tray for an electrophorous. Evening witnessed the deed giving over S Stephen's Church to the Church Society.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Had an electric shock at M<sup>r</sup> Hind's lecture.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Made 3 doz play blocks for the children

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Working at the workshop. Evening practice

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> We all got a blowing up from M<sup>r</sup> Irving about the Imp. petition. Afternoon drill 17 present Evening took part in a debate at Coll on the question of Hamlet's madness on the negative side.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Made 72 blocks (+ 22 made previously) for the children. received an invite to a – [?] at Uncle Richard's on Monday evening.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Nothing partic.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Evening went to Uncle Richard's party very jolly got home 3 am.

Tuesday 17 Went to call on the bride at Uncle George's invited to stay and got home at 12.30

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday read Rienze [?] all aft.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Called in at D<sup>r</sup> Morris' on my way from Coll. to tell them of the practice this evening.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Drill received 6 dollars. Evening service in the School House.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Morning there was skating. I went up to Uncle George's & Richards to get some of them to come down but it was no go. Aft. drove the BM to the University Coll to see presentation to Capt Croft then down to drill.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Took the plate in the evening.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Cleaned my rifle etc. Evening we had a very good battalion drill of 8 Companies

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> No lectures. S Matthias. all day up at Uncle Richards where Georgie was sick. Evening service in the School House and after I had a good skate came in at 9 at sat up till eleven to get my work done.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Afternoon began to make some blocks but was called away to go skating.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Afternoon finished 144 block all but 6. raining and foggy.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Afternoon drill 16 present Lieutenant Bogert took command first rate. evening service in the School House 40 present

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Went down to the post office for BM then to the exhibition of art with Lilla & Miss Tyewhitt. Afternoon rode up to Uncle

Richards to see how George was and then down to Smith's with some letters.

Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> Snowing slightly in the morning

Monday 2. Hettie & Miss Ruth called in the afternoon

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Afternoon got 3 long strips (8 ft each) and made 2 doz long blocks. The BM not well.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Reading all the afternoon.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Reading all the afternoon

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Drill in the afternoon (16 present) Captain commanding Evening service School house full.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went to Officers Battalion drill (about 39 present)

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went to S<sup>t</sup> Anne's and called at Uncle Richards bringing Hettie down with me evening staid at home. Armstrong came in after Church and after a long talk it was settled that I should try to enter the army.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> After lectures I went up to Uncle Georges to get an abstract of the family history to assist one in getting a commission. Evening Trin Coll Company went for a march with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion there being no gas in the Crystal Palace.

March Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> The Prince of Wales' Wedding day I rode to the Old Fort to see & hear a salute for 21 guns fired.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> After lectures I went to Uncle George's to enquire if it were finished but he had been so busy that he could not write it.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Began the Laelius (or de amicitia) today.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Went to Uncle George's for the memorandum but found that he had left it at our house afternoon copying it out. Evening service saw Aunt Coate & M<sup>rs</sup> Buckland home.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Morning copying out, neatly, a paper. Aft. got my hair cut and went to Battalion drill.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Evening went to Hallamore's for medicine for Mother.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Evelyn's birthday. Reading in afternoon.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> S<sup>t</sup> Patrick's Day. no lectures at Coll. Morning walked up to Uncle George's on business. Afternoon rode there to go for a ride with Fred but he did not come home received my certificate of good conduct from M<sup>r</sup> Stewart [?].

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> At 10 oclock went with Father to see the Bishop and thence home and to College just in time for M<sup>r</sup> Irving's lecture. Afternoon borrowed a de amicitia from M<sup>r</sup> Broughall.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Missionary meeting at S Stephen's in the evening.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Went to Coll for drill but there was none only 8 being present evening service.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Morning bought a shils worth of Nitric Acid & mercury. Afternoon got my certificate from M<sup>r</sup> Broughall

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Fred Cumberland sent home my -[?] Xenophon.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Went to Battalion drill in the evening. Trin Company the strongest 24 men 2 sergeants 3 officers. In the morning on my way to Coll called at D<sup>r</sup> Morris's & got a certificate from him.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Raining hard all day. afternoon crape [?] off my Coll cap and put the tassel on.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Annunciation of VM no lectures at Coll. Raining all the morning afternoon had a short ride on Bob & read Sixpenny Magazine.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Term over left Coll for good. Afternoon shingling workshop & went to Coll for drill but there was none owing to the laziness of the insiders – evening practice.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Afternoon made a pair of snowshoes (to walk in the mud) evening service (24 present).

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Got up at 6 am to see Father off to Montreal where he is going to try to get my commission given.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Day [?] cold. blew the bellows of the organ collection taken up in SS for the missions (cts 106

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Service in the morning. 15 present. I went to Aldwells & ordered 10 gals of ale.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> Service in the morning 16 present ripped during the day 96 feet of 2 inch stuff. Evening began a map of India. Mother gave me 10 cts for mending the teapot.

Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> Went down to BM's office & was there all the morning.  
afternoon making a map of India. Evening played bagatelle with  
M<sup>r</sup> Ambery afterwards went to Aunt Coates for Aunt Ellen.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> service in the morning

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday. Evening had to see M<sup>rs</sup> Nation home

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> went for a ride with Hettie & Lilla as far as the Hon. John Ross's

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Began work at the Brigade office Afternoon colouring map.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Snowed all night.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Afternoon ripping boards. Evening went over to Aunt Coates  
because it was Bessies birthday

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Uncle William resigned his office to make way for me. Afternoon  
rode to Uncle Georges. Evening practice Splendid Aurora visible  
between 8 & 9 PM.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Mothers birthday. The pond being dammed [?] up. Evening  
working.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Afternoon rode up to Uncle Georges but H & L could not go for  
a ride so I went up to Seaton [?] across to Yonge Street &  
down to King & home.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Fine day

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Went to the Bank & got a cheque cashed & then paid Rowsell.  
Afternoon went to Uncle Georges but their horses were used up  
so I came home and about 5 oclock went for a ride with M<sup>r</sup>

Simms as far as the toll gate on Bathurst began work with M<sup>r</sup> Armstrong today

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went for a ride with Hettie along the Lake Shore & across 1<sup>st</sup> Concession.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Did not go for a ride in the afternoon as it rained and the mare was taken ill. M<sup>r</sup> Armstrong came in the morning from 7 to 8.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Bought a pair of kid gloves (\$ 1.25) raining all day. The mare very bad with the distemper!

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Trin Coll meeting & drill (20 present)

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Afternoon carpentering.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Evening saw M<sup>rs</sup> Cumberland home.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Raining again. New plough horse brought home

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Went to town in Cars. Afternoon making a fence & pruning some plum trees.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Afternoon practicing at 50 yds with the rifle.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> S<sup>t</sup> George's Day. In the morning walked down to Col McDougall's. Afternoon gardening. Peas cabbages and onions sown.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Afternoon gardening turnips, carrots & beets sown. I went to drill at half past four and after tea unloaded a load of hay.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Afternoon about 26 of Trin Coll Corps practicing at the Dovercourt Range. I came out 3<sup>rd</sup> Trew [?] 1<sup>st</sup>

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Evening saw M<sup>rs</sup> Cumberland home from church.

- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Afternoon our company was to have turned out with the Battalion but, as usual, we did not muster men enough.
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Did not get home from the office till 2.30 having had a great deal of business to do.
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Afternoon trying a little surveying.
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Bought a pair of gaiter boots (4.00) at Sterling's. Afternoon went for a ride to Uncle George's to report myself. Rode home with Charlie.
- Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> Rode Jessie down to town for the Brigade Major afternoon I went to the Trin Coll Drill (about 29) and afterwards lent Fletcher my uniform.
- Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> Got up about six and worked in my garden, and then helped Cap<sup>t</sup> Ince to get out ammunition. Afternoon went to Uncle George's to go for a ride, but Uncle George had gone into the country with the horses afterwards went to see Trin Coll Compy firing, and then home to change and go up to Uncle George's to spend evening, which I did very pleasantly. Came home across country about 10 PM. Got measured by McKeown.\* [\*Written in margin]
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Evening saw Miss Shaw home.
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went to Batt<sup>n</sup> Drill with the Comp. to the Normal School Grounds about 220 privates present, did not get home till about 9 PM.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Armstong did not come having arranged not to do so with me previously

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Money came from Quebec. The BM paid me last month's salary and this in full + 2\$ except 4\$ stopped for a pair of boots & 66<sup>2/3</sup> cts. Morning wet and raining therefor M<sup>r</sup> A did not come.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Armstrong caught me in bed when he came. After breakfast went to town with M<sup>r</sup> A and got the cloth & fixin's for my clothes at Merrick's paid \$11.35. Afternoon went for a ride with Hettie & Fred to town.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Rode the mare to town. Afternoon went for a ride with Hettie & Fred across the Humber Plains to look for flowers but found none.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Went for a ride at 5 o'clock with Hettie and Lilla and M<sup>r</sup> Frank Joseph. I got home about 8 o'clock.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Rained in the evening.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Rained in the morning so that I got very wet. Rained all day in fact.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Got my hair cut in the morning. Afternoon helping to fix the pond. Raining nearly all day. The great marriage came off to-day (Capt Balfour & Miss B Wielder)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Went for a sail with Skipper Coates to the Island (alias Denmark) and out into the lake.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Raining all day.

- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Got my new suit home from Bellevue where it had been sent last night by mistake. Received an answer from Horse Guards stating that I had been noted for the purchase of a commission.
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Received a notice requesting me to place myself on Hettie's staff in compliance with which I went to Uncle George's and rode with Hettie and Lilla across the Humber plains to Gamble's Mills. Father made me a present of a straw hat & 25 cts.
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> My Birthday. Church consecrated.
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Grand Inspection of the 30<sup>th</sup> & Battery I went to town early and got the letters and came back again to the Review. went back to the Office about 12.30. Wrote a letter to the Leader.
- Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went for a sail with Uncle William, it was very windy. Housecleaning to day my room in a great state of disorder.
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Went to Trin Coll to go to Batt<sup>n</sup> drill, but as we only mustered 8 files it was not deemed proper to go. I afterwards changed my things and went over to the Drill first in the Normal School Grounds and then in the Queen's Park where a feu-de-joie was fired.
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Simms left for Newfoundland I went down to see them off, and afterwards went for a sail about the Bay with Grand-mother, Aunt Ellen Miss Coates, Fred and Charley Denison.
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Afternoon shooting. Evening went to battalion Drill (about 362 privates present).

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Evening playing quoits

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Whit Sunday. Queen's Birthday

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> In the morning I went to the Normal School where we fell in and were presented with a handsome mare for the Bandmaster by the Ladies. After the presentation we were march to Spadina Avenue fired a feu-de-joie (better than the Regulars) and marched past as well as the Regulars. Evening I played quoits and afterwards went over to Aunt Coate's to see fireworks.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went for a sail with Uncle William Miss F Foster, Miss Hope, Gatty H. & Lolly [?] B. Fred Foster. we had to pull nearly all the way. good swell on and two of the ladies sick.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Afternoon shooting about the place & cleaned the Indian.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went for a sail to the Island but had to row all the way. Miss Foster Miss Hope W.G. Denison The B.M. Capt Coates.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Afternoon working at my garden, evening went for a walk with Miss Nation and Miss Cushing.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Raining nearly all the afternoon consequently there was no ball practice of our Company.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Raining off an on all day Evening I went home with M<sup>rs</sup> Ambery and got drenched.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June Afternoon walked to M<sup>rs</sup> Nation's with Miss Cushing and Lellie [?].

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Afternoon went for a ride over to the garrison Butts and came back again through the New Garrison \_ before tea I shot a swallow on the wing.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> sent my money for the Institute up to Fletcher by G Harman. Afternoon gardening and shooting.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Afternoon put up the swing .watch stopped.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Left my watch at Ellis's to be fixed. Rained all the afternoon & evening.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Evening went to see the Stratopateticon which gave a very Yankee view of the War.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Did not go to Church in the evening because Catherine was not home in time

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went for a sail round the Island with Uncle W. Grandmother. Miss B & Tom. 2 Misses Foster. Miss Coates Miss Hope Fred Laura & Hattie Haines [?]. I got pretty well ducked by waves breaking over.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Afternoon did my work. Evening went to M<sup>rs</sup> Nation's to bring Aunty home. did not get to bed till about 11. oclock.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Afternoon got my work done. Evening went to the Church Society's meeting in the Music Hall. The Bishop of Columbia spoke. got home about 11 oclock P.M.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Went for a sail (?) with Uncle William. Grandmother Miss Coates 2 Misses B and L.B. Miss Hallowell and brother & Miss Foster.

There was no wind, so I pulled with some help across to the Island. Raining all the time we staid at the tavern there for some time, but as the rain did neither cease not appear likely to, we concluded to row home, which was accomplished by four oars in half an hour. I pulled two.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Afternoon saw the Synod closed and shot a robin on the wing. Evening as the BM was sick I went to the Printing office to get – [?] to drill the officers, but there was no need as it began to rain just at drill time. Coming home I saw an election meeting at the Cor. of Den Av & Queen St in favor of Robinson.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Afternoon went with the Company to the garrison Common to fire for a medal and cross guns given by the officers. Macmartin won the medal. I might just as well have stayed at home for all the good I did.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Morning went with Miss Nation and Miss Cushing to Trin Coll Chapel took dinner at the Nation's and in the evening escorted them to S<sup>t</sup> Stephen's. Toby [?] was poisoned in the evening during church time, not by a policeman.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Went to the Kingston at 2 P.M to see Miss Nation fairly off. afterwards I went and got the boat partially ready for Uncle William but considering it to be too windy he did not come down

- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Morning did not go to the post as the Bde Major went.  
Afternoon we. i.e. Grandmoth. the Misses Coates, Hallowell, Foster, Bovell Tom Burns Uncle William and "dis child", went for a sail about the bay.
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Went for a sail in the afternoon with Uncle William. Wind very light [?]
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Rowed down to the Don, we sailed part of the way home and rowed the rest. The Misses Coates, Taylor, Wi- [?], M<sup>rs</sup> Ambery & Denison.
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Removed into the other book.

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Law Society of Upper Canada Archives, Denison family fonds, "Diary of George Shirley Denison", 984016-1-2.