

[MS 1016, Roll 10, Roll 22]

1844

March 18 The temperature during the past winter has been remarkably mild. In fact we have had scarce winter. We ploughed and sowed spring wheat about the 30th Feb. The grass is growing finely and the blossoms of the Peach are swelling & ready to open. Last night we had a change & today we have 2 or 3 inches of snow and it is quite cold. Fear that there will be no fruit. Last year there was no appearance of vegetation until in April. Left Boone on the 3rd April for Louisiana. Found no green leaves until pretty well down the Mississippi the peach trees were in blossom about the upper line of Louisiana.

March 19. Still cold. The Therm. in the shade at the freezing point and the ground this morning frozen pretty hard. The snow mostly melted in the course of the day.

30th. Heavy rain yesterday and cold with snow this morning. Icicles on the peach blossoms that are bursting. The grass is quite green in the fields – frogs were heard about the 25th – the birds are numerous – fear the peaches will be destroyed.

April 7 – Peaches in full blossom. The trees are putting out leaves rapidly. The blood root cover the ground in the woods and is in full blossom.

“ 8 – Planting locust post for a vine trellis from the house up the hill to the woods – dug large holes for the vines and filled them 1/3 full of stones and manure – have planted peas & potatoes

10 – planted ofsetts from my madder – which are several inches high

14 – the apple trees are in full bloom. The peaches appear to be all killed.

April 22 – The silk worms began to hatch today. Last year they hatched on the 16th May. The weather is delightful and every thing is growing vigourously – have counted some 15 peaches on my trees that are not killed – not killed on Uncles place – planted 4 acres of corn more than a week ago.

“ 23 – Planted today 2700 grape cuttings. They have been buried in the ground for some time – they are much sprouted some of them more than an inch

“ 25- The vegetation is pushing out vigourously – observed today the white and red clover beginning to blossom and the blue grass is shooting out its _ed stems. The prospects of the wheat crop most flattering. Our first planted corn is up.

May 2 – There was a light frost on the two last days in April – no injury done. Set a number of locust & Black Walnut stakes in the vineyard – about 100 of each – trees cut last year. Planted a quantity of Lucerne & Tare seed

“ 8 – Planted nearly ¼ of an acre of parsnips and carrots

June 20 – Josephine had a mare colt today – engaged in getting in clover – very much injured by wet at cut [out?] too late by two weeks. Mr. Simmons is harvesting the wheat – that on the hill side beyond the road is very fine – that on the creek is nearly destroyed by the rust.

Sept 10 – Gathered grapes and made wine – have about 5 Gallons which is less than last year. The wet season has caused the grapes to rot – not more than half crops will be made this year.

Sept 17 – Sowed about 4 bushels of orchard seed, partly with rye and part in the woods – brushed in some of it and left the rest on the leaves.

1845

March 1, 1845 – Left home for Louisiana on the 27th January and got home yesterday. The season is very forward at the south. The peaches in blossom at Natchez. Feb. 20 – The winter here has been more mild than last year & the grass has been green almost constantly.

March 15 – The buds of the peach trees are swelled and ready to burst – weather pleasant – planted 11 cherry trees – 7 May Dukes – 1 black Tartarian - 1 Yellow Spanish - 1 ox heart – 1 black Hart – 2 Nectarine – 2 Apricots – 4 Apples - Pear trees

14th Sowed clover seed on wheat – the orchard grass sowed on rye appear to be dead

March 21 – The cold has been for some days very severe. The ground is frozen the ice several inches thick. Fear that the peach blossoms are destroyed – sowing oats

April 7 – The peaches have been in blossom since the 1st inst. It is severely cold today and the weather very dry.

“ 8 – Severe frost last night – ice half an inch thick – presume the peaches are all destroyed. It is too dry for the grass to grow

May 2 – Still exceedingly dry – have planted today 8300 Catawba vine cuttings & 600 cape – the ground subsoiled and in good order. The buds well started

“ 8 – A frost last night that has killed beans [?] – the tops of grape vines and the leaves of many trees. It has done much damage. The exceedingly dry & cold weather ...

May 16 & 17 – There has been severe frost these mornings which have cut down the corn.

“ 20 – A fine shower last night which is the first rain to wet the ground more than two or three inches since the 4th March – every thing has suffered intensely.

June 8 & 9 – A fine drenching rain these days – every thing was suffering intensely the last rain not seeming to do much good. The grass crops & oats appear to be lost – wheat looks well – a great proportion of the vine cuttings throughout the country are lost mine on the bottom look well

Decr 1 – The past summer was rather wet but the hay crops are very short on account of the early drought – the wheat crops have been very good corn crops about an average.

The autumn has been very dry and favourable for gathering corn.

Decr 25 – The weather has been rather mild until today when it has changed to very cold.

1846

14 February – The weather after the 25th Decr has been intensely cold for about 3 or 4 weeks afterward until this date rather mild & free from snow

“ 28 – The weather again very cold for two weeks with six or 8 inches snow.

March 8 – Warm pleasant weather for several days – the snow has disappeared from the ground excepting on the north hill sides – no appearance of swelling of the buds of the fruit trees – am trimming my vines

April 20 – The weather is now quite warm – the grass is growing finely. The peach plum and cherry trees are now in full blossom. The peach commenced about the 10th inst. Ten cherry trees mostly planted last year are now in blossom – am planting vines – peas and other garden seeds up.

Aug 8 – Have just finished planting 40,000 vine cuttings in good order

“ 10 – Heavy rains have raised the creed over the ground planted in vines & the buds which had put out have been broken off and apparently much damage done – have not had time to plant more madder this year

“ 23 – commenced planting corn on the 19th inst. – had been obliged to plough my bottom land twice in consequence of the rains hardening the ground – have nearly finished planting my old ground today. The peaches look very promising for a crop but fear the trees will die in consequence of injury by frost in winter – strawberries beginning to get ripe

October 18 – The first frost which I have seen this year. The summer has been unusually hot and wet. The wheat, corn & grass crops have been fine – the grapes have mostly rotted excepting on steep hill sides.

Nov. 26 – Pretty cold – several inches of snow and some ice – the first cold weather. The crop of peaches was fair this year – the apples mostly rotted especially on the bottoms. My grape cuttings have done better than I had expected – they have been flooded two or three times.

1847

The spring pretty forward – the peach blossoms generally killed by frost – summer very wet. The grapes on level clay land nearly all rotted – on steep side hills and on the sandy land the crop good – made more than two barrels wine – Thomas made about the same – crop of apples much injured by bitter rot – fine crops of corn & grass – planted ___ 2 acres of osiers the planting _____enating of which cost me about \$40 pr acre – sold the crop for \$250 [2.50?] pr. 100 lbs on the ground to be weighed when peeled and dried amounting to about \$52.

1848

July 26 – Last winter was quite mild – so much so that few persons secured any ice. The peach buds were all killed in the winter on my place – there are peaches on the river bottoms and on the side hills near Cini. The spring has been quite dry but for the last month or six weeks we have had light showers which have given the corn a favourable appearance – the wheat crops throughout the country have been very fine – the grass and oat crops light – plenty of apples and grapes – the latter have a beautiful appearance and promise rich harvest – have sold a barrel of my wine of last years growth for \$1.25 pr gallon – sold 1000 grape vines of 2 years old for \$40 only – planted last spring on the side hill above the house about _____ vines principally 4 or more years old.

Have planted to day in my vineyard 2 rows of the Lagrange strawberry beginning at the lower row. The third row is Honeys Bedding [?] – the fourth row between each alternate vine 2 plants of the same and 1 plant of the Joway male.

The osiers look well – have ploughed them over & hoed them twice.

1849

Feb. 24th – Last season proved not so favourable for the grapes as was hoped – rain in August caused them to rot on level clay soils – mine were good – made about 160 gallons

wine – corn crops very fine and weather very favourable for gathering. The Winter has been excessively wet or cold and disagreeable have not seen any so much so in Kentucky. The roads are in a dreadful state

April 27 – There has been severe cold for three of four nights past with ice – the buds of the peach and other fruit trees are well swelled and ready to burst. On some of my trees more than half of the buds have been killed in the winter. Last year on the 29 inst observed the peach trees in full blossom on the river below – the crop of peaches on some locations on the river was good – mine were all killed by winter frost.

April 10 – The peach plum & cherry trees in full bloom with a good prospect of fruit. Have planted today apple trees on the side hill beyond Morrisons old cabin finished three rows part of which were planted 2 or 3 years ago with 12 Windsap trees. The next row above a full row; consists of 11 Genetan trees. The next row 10 Genetan & 1 the next row above 8 wine sap & 3 The next 2 rows 11 Newton Pippins each. The next row 3 Newton Pippin 5 Wine sap & 4 Genetan.

April 16 – Severe frost and ice for the last three nights. The thermometer at 7 o'clock this morning stood below 26 [degrees] – fear the fruit is all killed

April 20 – Severely cold for the last week in which the ground has been frozen & ice has been made every night – have seen nothing of the kind before. The blossoms of most of the fruit trees are killed – also the shoots of the vines which are most advanced.

The black mare Rose had a colt on the 5th inst.

June 2th – The spring has been very dry and cold until about a week past since which we have had some good showers. The corn looks backward and yellow. The grass light. The grape vines have plenty of blossoms and look well – all the peaches, cherries, and plums and a good portion of the apples are killed.

July 15th – The mare Black Rose put to Mr. Stansifers horse

“ 18 – the mare Fanny put to same horse

August 8 – May & June this season were very dry my vines promised an immense crop but heavy rains commenced about 15th July and about one third are rotten – on the clay lands about Cini the grapes are nearly all rotten

August 20 – Put Black Rose again to Stansifers horse

Octr 3 – Finished making wine today – have in all about 80 Gallons – put in it about 8 ounces of sugar to the gallon – about three fourths of my grapes lost by the bitter rot.

There is a general failure of the grape crop this year by the rot in July

Decr 5 – The season thus far has been remarkably mild and dry – no severe cold.

Have finished gathering corn & have got from my Tenants as follows:

My rent from Jas. Majors	14 loads of 25 ½ bushels	357 bush
“ do “ Wm Majors	16 do “ “ “	408 “
	Mrs. Williams	89
	D. Hickman (sold)	107
Fed in the field to the hogs	4 acres	160 “
My Rent from Luther		95
“ “ from Carter	(sold)	60
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Total		1276 bushels

1850

April 12 – The past winter has been rather cold and disagreeable. The spring thus far has been cold and backward. The blossom buds of the peach are now ready to burst. For several days past there has been frost and ice every morning.

April 12 – Planted today 51 apple trees on the side of the hill facing east on the west side of Morrisons old house. Beginning at the lower side near the fence planted 20 Bellflowers and 3 of kind not known. Then 13 Jennettans (sic) next 13 R. Russet next 1 N. Peppin & last 1 sweet and sour.

20 – Planted this 8 rows of apple graft in the patch beyond the Garden commencing on the west on the Northern or upper end planted 80 Newtown Pippins – then about six rows or 480 Jennatans – next 13 Northern Spy – then 80 labels lost – supposed N. Pippins or Tall Pippins – then 25 Bell Bleurs – next about 100 Jennetans - & last 40 Fall Pippins, going down on one row & returning on the next and so on through the whole

22 – Planted on the side hill back of the house the following pear grafts beginning at the south end and lower side & planted

First

- No. 1 – 48 Ronselette de Rheims
- next No. 2 – 41 Dix
- No. 3 – 36 Louise Ion de Jersey
- No. 4 – 16 Seckel
- next No. 14 – 145 of sundry kinds labels lost
- No. 5 – 39 Dearborn
- No. 6 – 26 Bloodgood
- 7 – 19 Buirre d' Aremburg
- 8 – 26 Marie Louise
- 9 – 15 Andrews
- 10 – 15 Henry 4th
- 11 – 15 St. Chislain
- 12 – 14 Charles of Austria
- 13 – 9 Buerre Spence or Diel
- No. 15 – 20 Buerre W. Amalis
- No. 16 – 28 Bartlet
- No. 17 – 22 Wilkinson
- No. 18 – 21 Buerre Magnifique or Diel

Five hundred and forty seven in all pairs grafted on apple & part on quince roots.

May 1st . The peaches have been in blossom for the last week & promise a good crop the cool weather having kept them back.

May 6 The cherry trees are now in full bloom – have upwards of 20 trees in bloom

“ 10 The apple trees are now in full blossom and have a beautiful appearance

June 17 The mare Fanny put to Stansifers horse the 18th of June last has a horse colt today.

June 18 The season until yesterday had been very dry & cool. In many parts of the country the crops have suffered dreadfully from drought. We have had some little showers here & have not suffered so much.

1851

Jan. 29 The weather this winter has been remarkably mild and dry. This month has been like March in other years

May 10 The past winter has been very mild and dry. The month of April cold dry & backward in vegetation. Peaches in blossom from the 1st to the 7th April. On the night of the 1st May came a black frost ice half inch thick followed by several more nights of ice and frost. The blossoms are nearly all killed as also the shoots of the vine the ground now excessively dry with little grass vegetation of any kind.

1852

April 8 The past summer was excessively dry. The autumn continued mild until about the 26th December when it became very cold and continued so for six weeks. On the 16 January the thermometer was down to 20 degrees below zero. The tender cherry trees appear to be killed by the cold.

May 1 The Spring thus far rather cold & backward with frequent gentle showers of rain. The apple trees are now generally in full bloom – the Genettan just leaping out. The Yellow Spanish cherries killed in the bud – the trees much injured. The Morells and Early May in blossom.

May 6 The Genetan are now getting in blossom and even the small trees planted three years ago promise some fruit. Peach buds all killed as are also most of the branches of the trees.

July 26. The Summer thus far has been very dry the wheat crops are finer than I have ever seen before – the oats good – the corn promises very indifferent crops – grass pretty good

Oct 1852 The corn crops light this year in consequence of drouth.

1853

March 14th The past winter has [been] mild until about the first of February since which it has been cold and wet. It is now disagreeably cold with little appearance of vegetation.

April 20 1853 The Peach trees have been in blossom some days. The Pears 36 in number are in full blossom. The spring has been cool but the grass is growing finely.

1853 April – Planted in the orchard next ____ 85 Apple trees about 12 Belle flowers and the rest Gennetans.

April 12 Planted at the cabin on the top of the hill cherry trees as follows (viz). To the right in front of the house 1 Napoleon Bergaman. On the left in front 1 Buerre Seedling [?]

At the South East corner 1 Elton at the East end 1 Downess Late Red and one yellow Spanish. At the West end 1 early May & 1 Black Tartarian. Behind & close to house 1 Black Eagle – next 1 May Duke – next & east 1 Belle de Chissey.

Planted back of our house & below the Pear trees beginning at the South End (viz)

First 1 Burris Seedling	7 th 1 D__ Late Red
2 nd 1 Bell Magnifique	8 th 1 Yellow Spanish
3 1 Early May	9 th 8 Black Eagle
4 1 Eltons	
5 1 Napoleon Bergamon	

6 1 May Duke

April 12 Planted on the hill 48 pear trees on Quince – all labled – 2 do back of the house
14 Planted apple trees on the hill north of Grenats house as follows beginning at the west and & going east first 3 Belmont or Gate next 4 Gravenstein, next 4 Porter, next 5 Swan – 4 Willow Twig – 9 American Pippin – 5 Willow – 6 Golden Russet –

1854

March 14th The last winter was mild until about Christmas since then until the 1st March rather cold & disagreeable heavy rains since the commencement of this month the weather now is warm and the pear & peach buds are swelling and of this weather continues will be open in a few days.

March 30 The weather changed about the 17th last since which it has been cold and freezing – the ground frozen several nights & large portion of the peach & pear blossoms not yet open are killed.

March 29 Planted in the south field 00 apple trees – 84 Roman Beauty the rest in a__ and Belleflower

1855

Feb 21 The last season from about July 1st until winter was dry to an unexampled degree. Not more than half corn crops made – wheat & oats fine – wheat selling now for \$1.50 pr bu. December & most of January has been mild, but for the last month the weather has been very cold and disagreeable – the Thermometer as low as 6 [degrees] above zero.

Yesterday and today are pleasant

April 4 The weather since January has been excessively cold. This is the first warm spring day we have had throughout March the weather was steadily cold and dry frost & the ground froze every day until to day.

1856

January 14th Last summer was cool & pleasant with plenty of rain. The crops of all kinds except grapes have been better than I have seen before in Kentucky. Have some corn which produced more than 100 bushels pr acre. The Autumn has been mild & pleasant up to the 24 December since which it has been excessively cold. On the 9th Jan the thermometer stood at 8 o'clock at 23 [degrees] below zero. The ground covered with snow several inches deep.

1857

Feb 16 The weather warm & pleasant, Therm at 62 [degrees]

The last summer was dry to an unexampled degree – not a good shower during the whole season.

The winter commenced early & from 1st Novr the weather was dry & became gradually cold until about the 1st February. During nearly the whole of January the Term remained below zero – was once at 14 [degrees] below zero

July 6 After the 1st March the weather has proved uncommonly cold & the Spring several weeks later than usual. We have had plenty of rain and the prospect for crops of wheat, barley corn & fruit is as fine as I have ever seen.

Sept 1st The weather cool – there has been plenty of rain this summer – crops are fine. Peaches in 1857 – Planted in April last – 26 peach trees on the side of the hill above the vineyard (viz) Firsts row next the vines 10 Early Crawford – The next row beginning at the north end 5 Imperial Purple & 3 Honest John. On the upper row coming back 4 Abergh yellow next 4 Morris red. Planted below the pear trees back of the house 12 Dwarf cherry trees – beginning at this end – First 2 May Dukes – 3 & 4 Bawmers May [?] 5 & 6 Belle de Choisy – 7 & 8 Carnation – 9 & 10 Downers late – 11 & 12 Belle d’Orleans

1858

January 1st From Sept 1st until Nov 19 the autumn was pleasant – then we had a week of very cold weather – since it has been mild and rainy. Today is like spring morning – the thermometer at 43 [degrees] – much of the corn injured by moisture and late ripening.

March 3 Winter very warm until the 1st Feb since which it has been cold. This morning at 8 [degrees] and the ground covered with snow. The roads in terrible condition – the lowest point the Ther has sunk this winter was 13 [degrees] below zero on the 23 February.

March 1858 Planted in the garden on the hill the following pear trees (viz)

Beginning next the hedge and near the cherry trees planted first 10 Belle Lucrative – next 10 Swans Orange – next 10 Duchesse d’Angaleome next 5 next 10 Van Mars Le Cure Louis Bonne de Jersey – next 10 Madaline, next 10 Bartlet including all the upper row but one – next 5 Doixieme de hever [?] – also Seckel behind the vines & in the orchard behind the house.

1861

April 14th Planted 50 cherry trees on the hill 20 May Duke 16 Early May & 14 Yellow Spanish also 165 Apple trees – 100 Red Canada, 50 Smith Cider – 10 Newtown Pippin & 5 Ohio Pippin.

1862

April 15th. The peach trees in full bloom today and the cherries are beginning to open. The prospect for fruit is very favorable. The Winter has not been cold but very wet and disagreeable – the roads worse than I have seen them before. The spring is rather late but the grass is now growing finely. The ground too wet to plough much.