



Title
Author
Type

David Clapp, Diary
David Clapp
Primary Sources: Diary

David Clapp of Dorchester, Massachusetts, was sixteen years old when he kept this brief diary in 1822. His entries concentrate on work and schooling and indicate that his life was still closely bound up with that of his family.

This is the full text of David Clapp's diary. The spelling, capitalization and punctuation are his.

1822

Month	Days	Remarks	Weather	Winds
March				
Monday	11th	Went to school, cyphered* and read	Quite moderate	SW
Tuesday	12th	Went to school as usual	rather cooler did not freeze any last night	NW
Wednesday	13th	Do* Do	Quite cold, clear and windy and pleasant	N,N,W
Thursday	14th	No school to day, staid* to home.	Very cold. AM rather cloudy, PM clear and pleasant.	N, W
Friday	15th	Went to school got through my Carltons Arithmetic	Pretty cold clear & pleasant	NW
Saturday	16th	Went to school AM staid to home PM	AM quite warm & pleasant PM cloudy and windy.	AM—W PM—SW
Sunday	17th	Staid to home all day	clear cool and very pleasant c	NW & &
Monday	18th	Went to school all day	AM clear warm and pleasant PM cloudy.	AM—NW PM—E
Tuesday	19th	Went to school all day did not do much of anything	AM pretty clear warm and pleasant PM clear and chilly	AM—W PM—E
Wedne[s]day	20th	went to school all day	rather warm and hazy	NW
Thursday	21st	went to school all day and wrote	Quite cold clear and chilly	E
Friday	22nd	went to school all day and studied bookkeeping	Quite cold chilly and unpleasant, PM some hail & rain.	E

Saturday	23d	went to school in the forenoon PM staid to home	AM rather cloudy and pretty cold, PM pretty clear and very cold.	NW
Sunday	24th	went to meeting* Dr. Harris preached	Quite cold and clear and very pleasant.	NW
Monday	25th	went to school all day began to write in my bookkeeping books	rather warmer very clear and very pleasant indeed	E
Tuesday	26th	went to school all day and wrote very steady all day in my bookkeeping books all day	quite warm and clear and pretty windy and dusty and very pleasant c	WSW
Wednesday	27th	went to school in the forenoon in the PM went to the museum in Boston	pretty cold & chilly clear and windy, clear and dusty	E
Thursday	28th	went to school all day and toiled very hard at bookkeeping	very rainy all day very windy and pretty warm	S
Friday	29th	staid to home AM worked on the farm. PM went to school and did the same as yesterday	very cold and very windy indeed some cloudy and flurries of snow	NW
Saturday	30th	Went to school AM staid to home PM.	very cold and windy cloudy and some snow	SW W NW N
Sunday	31	went to meeting all day Mr. Whitney preached	AM snow fell considerable deep PM cleared off quite pleasant snow most gone	NW
April				
Monday	1	went to school all day and finished my bookkeeping	AM cloudy and rainy PM pretty clear and cold	AM/SW PM/NW
Tues	2	went to school all day cyphered and read	pretty clear cold and pleasant	NW SW
Wednes	3	AM went to school PM staid to home and sowed pease [planted peas]	pretty clear though rather hazy warm and pleasant	SW NW
Thurs	4	Fast [day]*. went to meeting all day AM Dr. Harris preached	Very pleasant, clear and pretty cold and rather windy froze	NW SW

		PM Dr. Richmond. singing in the evening but I staid to home	some last night	
Fri	5	AM went to school PM staid to home and planted potatoes	Cloudy chilly and some stormy all day not much wind	E
Satur	6	AM went to school PM staid to home	clear very pleasant and cold last night there was the sharpest flash of lightning and the most awful clash of thunder that ever I hears. it struck the Meetinghouse and went down the [lightening] rod without doing damage	W SW
Sun	7	PM went to meeting AM staid to home Dr Harris preached	cloudy warm and very windy	SW
Mon	8	AM staid to home and worked on the farm PM went to school and cyphered	AM cloudy and considerable of rain and warm PM clear and pleasant and some windy rather cooler	SW NW
Tues	9	AM went to school and cyphered PM staid to home and helped break up	AM cloudy chilly and windy PM quite a snow storm	SE
Wed	10	went to school all day cyphered and read	stormy and cold all day. not very windy	ESE
Thurs	11	staid to home all day and worked hard	AM cloudy and chilly PM rainy and afterwards cleared off pleasant	E NW
Friday	12	staid to home all day and worked	very clear and pleasnt and some windy	NW
Sat	13	staid to home all day to work	AM cloudy windy and cool PM very rainy and cool	SW
Sun	14	AM staid to home PM went to meeting Mr. Lowell preached	AM some thunder and lightening and rain and chilly PM	E SE

		evening went to lecture to the poor house Mr. Codman preached	clear and warm	
Mon	15	AM went to school PM staid to house to work	very clear pleasant and cold and windy	NW
Tuesday	16	AM went to school PM staid home and sawed wood	AM cloudy and some rain PM and night very rainy pretty cool all day	AM/ PM/
Wednes	17	AM went to school And cyphered PM staid to home to work	pretty clear very pleasant and cool	NW
Thurs	18	AM went to school PM went down on the marsh and help burn it	AM some cloudy and pleasant PM latter part and night very rainy and windy	E
Friday	19	Staid to home all day had a lame* neck	cloudy and chilly all day	SE
Sat	20	AM went to Boston and back again in 1 hour and 55 minutes. PM staid to home and worked	Cloudy and windy and cool all day AM some stormy	NE, N, E
Sunday	21	went to meeting all day Dr Harris preached. I have forgot where the text* was	cloudy most all day cold and chilly Sunday 21st	E
Mon	22	staid to home all day and worked	cloudy most all day cold and chilly	E
Tues	23	staid to home all day. and I worked most dreadful hard, in fixing the front yard	very clear and pleasant, cold and chilly and windy	E
Wednes	24	got home my school books from the school house	clear and pleasant and very warm	SW
Thurs	25	worked on the farm and in the front yard	clear and very warm indeed in the AM. in the PM rather cooler	AM/W PM/E
Fri	26	worked on the farm all day	very clear pleasant and cool & windy	E
Sat	27	Do	pretty cloudy all day and rather cool	NW E

Sun	28	staid to home all day	cloudy and rainy most all day very windy and pretty warm	S
Mon	29	worked on the farm and the garden	pretty clear all day. pleasant rather cooler and windy	SW
Tues	30	Do	clear pleasant and very warm not very windy	SW
May				
Wednes	1	AM went to Boston PM staid to home and worked	clear most all day and very warm indeed. Towards night some thunder and rain and wind	SW

Sat

Sunday

Monday

Tues

Wednes

Thurs

Friday

Saturday

Monday

Glossary

*cyphered – studied mathematics

*Do – abbreviation for “ditto;” meaning to repeat what came before or above

*Fast day – day declared by the state governor for public prayer and fasting

*lame – stiff and sore

*meeting – church service

*staid – old form of verb “stayed:” to remain

Source

Diary of David Clapp, Dorchester, Mass., 1822. Old Sturbridge Village Research Library. Edited by Old Sturbridge Village.

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