

## David Freeland Van Syckel

David Freeland Van Syckel kept a "Ledger" (a type of diary) between January 1891 and December 1892, which has been handed down to Mark Spooner. The Ledger documents the weather, David's daily activities on his farm, and other activities in his life. Here are a few examples of the entries: January 13, 1891: "Bot [sic: bought] 2 lbs coffee, \$.54; 1 lb tea, \$.35, 2 lb rasons, \$.17." January 19, 1891: "Cleaned up and drew to market 2425 lbs wheat for Westfalls ... \$36.35; bot writing paper, \$.10." Tuesday, January 27, 1891: "Sawed wood. Went to church tonight." (The family apparently was quite religious, because David documents that he and/or other family members often went to church on weekdays, as well as on Sundays.) "Plowed for rye in fore noon. After noon thrashed beans. Had 75 bu. Paid for thrashing \$3.75." Tuesday, October, 13, 1891: "Bot mother pr shoes, \$1.65; Gave Augusta cash, \$4.15; Birt dug his potatoes; Birt away tonight." (Birt was David's son and apparently was his chief helper on the farm. The Ledger makes many references to Birt and his activities.) Wednesday, November 16, 1892: "Went to Pinkney. Sold hog; waid [sic: weighed] 253 lbs; 6 cents a pound come to \$15.18. Sold 1 calf to F. Reason, \$5.00. Bought stove, \$14.00."