

# *The Diary of Christopher Columbus Baldwin*

JACK LARKIN, EDITOR

EDITOR'S NOTE. *What follows is a new edition. The transcription on which the Paine edition of 1901 was based has been compared with the original manuscript diaries. All omitted passages have been restored to the text. Spelling and punctuation have been restored to match Baldwin's actual practice. Standardized dates, in the mm/dd/yy form, have been provided for each datable entry in the diary. These dates are also in italics. Baldwin's original dating, which varied considerably from month to month in form and completeness, is also preserved as part of the text. Individuals named by Baldwin are identified alphabetically in biographical notes in the section titled Individuals Named in the Baldwin Diary, 253–87. These entries include the dates on which a person is mentioned by Baldwin. Footnotes in the diary text indicate a name that cannot be further identified, a historical or public figure that CCB was not likely to encounter personally, or explanatory comments on a particular entry.*

## DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS BALDWIN

1829–1835

*The diary for 1829 consists of two separate interleaved almanacs for that year, one with regular and extensive entries (1829 Diary 1) and one with scattered entries (1829 Diary 2). A few of the Diary 2 entries duplicate those in Diary 1, or briefly record events that are described in more detail in Diary 1. However, most of the Diary 2 entries refer to Baldwin's personal finances: promissory notes and payments to creditors which are not mentioned in Diary 1. Entries from 1829 Diary 2 follow entries of the same date in Diary 1, but are enclosed in brackets.*

*Clarence Brigham (AAS librarian, 1908–30, and director, 1930–59) made a handwritten note in pencil on the page after the flyleaf of 1829 Diary 2. "C.C. Baldwin's Diary. Not as full as his regular diary, which is now printed."*

### JANUARY, 1829.

1/1/29 1. There has been no snow yet, and but very little rain during the whole of the last month. The ground is frozen, tho not deep. The roads are perfectly smoothe, and the weather during the last 30 days has been unusually mild and pleasant: much of the time the earth could be ploughed and all the old people say that they rarely have seen such a December. To-day cloudy and appears like snow: cold. Spy, Aegis and Yeoman addresses for the new year are rec<sup>d</sup> and paid for.<sup>1</sup> Snow falls about an inch in the afternoon and evening: Visit the Burbank School, to ascertain whether the master does his duty, he having been complained of: complaint not without foundation: Reprove the Master & give advice to the scholars: Visit the New Worcester school: divide it, giving part to the Master and part to Mistress, being over 100 pupils in the District:<sup>2</sup> Ride T. Kinnicutt's horse: rains in the ev'g: Visit John Davis and see for 1st time Miss Mary H. Estabrook of Royalston, intended wife of Isaac Davis, Esq: think well of her:

1. *Massachusetts Spy; National Aegis & General Advertiser; Massachusetts Yeoman, and Worcester Saturday Journal and Advertiser.* Worcester weekly newspapers to which Baldwin (hereafter CCB) subscribed.
2. CCB took his School Committee duties seriously. A former teacher, he felt abundantly qualified to correct and criticize the town's teachers.

1/2/29 2. Cold, cloudy: afternoon snows fast: Subscribe for American Jurist, \$5, Editors, Richard Fletcher, Willard Phillips, Sam<sup>l</sup> Sewall, John B. Davis of Boston: pay C. Harris \$25 for books &c:

1/3/29 3. Very cold: at sunrise 10° below zero: clear: get \$350: insured on my books at the Franklin Ins. Office. It all cost \$3.45. Insurance begins at noon: Attend Justice Court, enter 16 actions before C. Allen.

1/4/29 4. Sunday. Not so cold: cloudy: thermometer at sunrise 5° below 0. New Year sermon by Mr. Hill. 55 died: 11 in our Parish: 10 females and one male:

1/5/29 5. Cold: clear: more moderate than yesterday: appearance of snow: Attended Justice Court before Isaac Goodwin, Esq. Lowell Factory burnt: loss \$120,000: Receive a letter from Hon. John Davis from Washington.

1/6/29 6. Warm: cloudy: thaws: Have sick-head-ache: go to bed:

1/7/29 7. Very warm and pleasant all day, thaws much and all the snow disappears. Appears like rain. Get well of head-ache.

1/8/29 8. During the night it rained, and froze as it fell, and the ice gathered on the branches of the trees more heavily than it was ever known to before: The shade trees in the street are greatly injured: many of them crushed to the earth. Cloudy and cold, with wind which injures the trees: Dine with Dr. Blood.

1/9/29 9. Clear and very cold. The ice on the trees gives everything the appearance of enchantment: Many families ride out in their sleighs to enjoy the sight. The ice makes good sleighing.

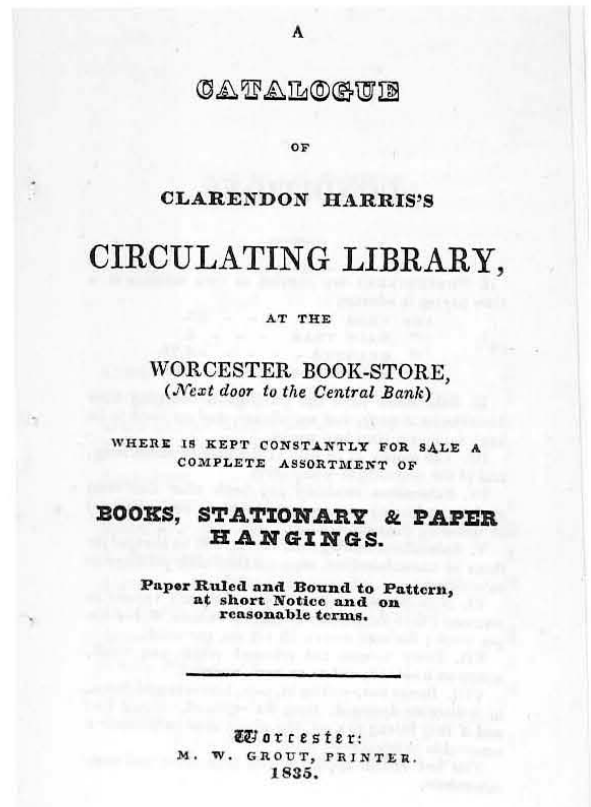
1/10/29 10. Continues very cold and clear, does not thaw: wind: and great damage to the trees, which are surpassingly beautiful: very cold.

1/11/29 11. Clear: cold: does not thaw: The trees and grass invite the people to ride out to enjoy the sight, which is wonderful.

1/12/29 12. Clear: cold: does not thaw: Go to Boston: Charles Paine keeps my office: Put up at Earle's: Go to the old theatre.<sup>3</sup>

1/13/29 13. Rather cloudy: warmer: looks like rain: Go to the Court House at Lechmere Point to look after the history of the name of Baldwin, do not find much: Go to the new theatre:<sup>4</sup> Josiah Quincy is proposed for President of Harvard College by the corporation:

1/14/29 14. Warm and foggy: Look and laugh at many very ridiculous things, viz.: a ram with 4 horns: an ox weighing 4000



CCB notes that he does business with stationer Clarendon Harris. The enterprises of Harris's Main Street, Worcester, bookstore included stationery and blank books, several publications, and a lending library. Among the titles available to subscribers were several that Baldwin mentions reading, including Vidocq and Ouvaroff. *A Catalogue of Clarendon Harris's Circulating Library at the Worcester Book-Store* (Worcester, 1835).

3. Earle's was a Boston tavern, or hotel, with beds and meals for travelers. The "old theatre" — Federal Street Theatre — was Boston's first. Opened in 1794, it was designed by the young American architect Charles Bulfinch with about a thousand seats.
4. The "new theatre" — Tremont Street Theatre — opened in 1827. Financed by a group of wealthy Bostonians, it was designed by Isaiah Rogers in the Greek Revival style.

Names of Parties.	Date of Process.	Cause of Action.	Officer.	Service and Fees.	Court.	Number of Action.	Judgment.	Date of Execution.	Officer.	Remarks.
Asa Walker Worcester							\$64.57	1825		This action was settled by Plaintiff and the costs are accordingly charged to him in Ledger (25)
Jonathan Wintworth Worcester	Feb. 18 1825	Int. \$22.00	Eaton	2.47	C. C. Pleas	193	5.94	March 13	Eaton	
		Int. \$40.29	Eaton		March		25			
							70.76			
Enoch Flagg Worcester							293.35			This action was not entered. The Plaintiff promising to give confession. It was for the benefit of Morning Star Lodge. Intina at June Term 1828.
Reuben Moore Worcester			Eaton		C. C. Pleas	194	11.50	Dec. 27		March 2, 1829, received two hundred dollars.
					March		25			
							\$305.10			
Thomas Tyler et al Worcester							7.98			Worcester, April 7, 1828.
Adolphus Tipt Worcester		Int. \$7.05	Bancroft	2.42	C. Allen	194	2.63	March 3	Bancroft	Received debt and cost and for Creditor Receipt. See Cash Book under the account of Asa Flagg in the end.
		Int. 00			March 1		25			
							10.86			
Asa Flagg Worcester							34.47			July 25, 1828.
Peter Bondall Worcester		Int. \$34.23	Eaton	2.47	C. C. Pleas	195	6.31	March 13	Eaton	Received debt and cost in this action. Chris. C. Buelow.
					March		25			Received debt in this action. Asa Flagg.
							41.03			
Thomas Kimball et al Worcester							5.79			March 26, 1828. Received Perry Bancroft note for debt \$100 payable in 3 months and at same time paid Mr. Upham sixty cents.
Elijah Knowles Worcester	Feb. 22	Int. \$2.00	Upham	2.42	C. Allen	194	2.69	March 3	Upham	
		Int. 3.79			March 1		25			
							8.73			

CCB used a printed book prepared for lawyers to record the legal cases that he accepted and track their course through to their conclusion. C. C. Baldwin Papers. Folio Vols. 1. Legal Dockets. Entries 193-97, March 1828.

lbs.: a cow that runs under the ox: and an Ostrich eating ropes, broken glass and boot heels!<sup>5</sup> Go to the old theatre.

1/15/29 15. Rains all day. Call on Gov. Lincoln. Go to the new theatre. At 10 P.M. start for Worcester in Mail Stage: reach W. 5 A.M.

1/16/29 16. Clear: warm: no snow or ice: Hear of many failures: Great distress among woollen manufacturers:

1/17/29 17. Rainy and warm:

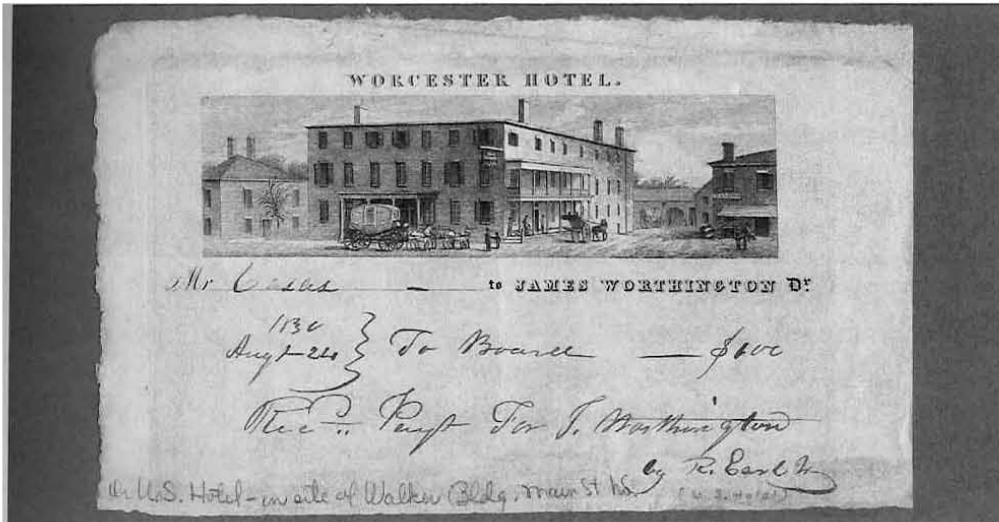
1/18/29 18. Snows and warm. Sick of a cold. Lewis Bigelow assigns his property for benefit of his creditors.<sup>6</sup> George T. Rice & Washburn return from Washington: Have a letter from Hon. John Davis: from Hon. Simeon Baldwin, Conn.

1/19/29 19. Cold and clear: Study Law all day: and do no business: Examine a school:

1/20/29 20. Clear: cold: A little snow but not good sleighing: Examine a school: Study Law: Do no business: tho there are failures almost daily:

5. CCB describes a traveling menagerie which he must have seen on the Common or elsewhere in Boston that day.

6. There are two individuals named Lewis Bigelow; this is the Worcester housewright and farmer.



CCB boarded at James Worthington's Worcester Hotel from October 1827 until April 1834, except for a summer when he lived at Governor John Davis's with William Lincoln and John Lincoln. From 1823 until moving to the hotel, he had boarded with Eliza Blake, a widow who supplemented her income by taking in boarders. On April 1, 1834, he moved to the Worcester Coffee House, which was near the Court House and the American Antiquarian Society. Receipt of the Worcester Hotel.

1/21/29 21. Cloudy and appearance of snow: Sick with a cold: Study Law all day: In the evening visited by Joshua Coffin of Newbury, a queer genius and an antiquary: lend him a Dollar, which he says will defray his expenses to Concord, N. H., & thence to Newbury via Providence, R. I.!!!

1/22/29 22. Twelve manufactories of wool & cotton have been burnt in N. E. within the last 20 days!

1/23/29 23. Clear & cold: No sleighing: A little snow: Visit the apprentices school.<sup>7</sup>

1/24/29 24. Study Law: Cold, clear, looks like snow:

1/25/29 25. Mr. Noyes of Brookfield preaches:

[25: Dr. Nathan Smith, of Newhaven, dies. 1829 *Diary* 2]

1/26/29 26. Pleasant and warm, thaws: Eliza. Blake returns from Keene with G. T. Rice.

1/27/29 27. Cloudy and warm: Study Law:

1/28/29 28. Read life of Sir Josh: Reynolds by Northcote

1/29/29 29. Have rheumatism in my wrist very bad. Study law and write to Mr. Davis in W. [Hon. Timothy Pickering dies: 84. 1829 *Diary* 2]

1/30/29 30. Study law. Examined school. It snowed on Tuesday night & since has been good sleighing: Cold & clear:

1/31/29 31. Cold. Study N. T. [New Testament] & Law: I have boarded at Worcester Hotel since 20 Oct., 1827. From 19 June 1823 to 20 Oct. 1827, I boarded with Mrs. Eliza A. Blake, widow of the late Hon. Francis Blake:

# FEBRUARY, 1829.

2/1/29 1. Cold, clear: Mr. Hill preaches & Dr. Bancroft After meeting ride to Holden in sleigh with Gardiner Paine: fine sleighing: Study N. T.

7. Opened in 1828, it was a school "kept during the winter months, for apprentices and clerks, and such other boys as can attend only through a part of the year." William Lincoln, *History of Worcester . . . to 1836* (Worcester, 1837), 304.



2/2/29 2. Write to Maj. Davis: Study Law: Afternoon begins to snow and continues into night: Not very cold: Examine school: Study N. T.

2/3/29 3. Cold and pleasant: Snow falls 6 inches: Study Law: Read N. A. Review: Hear of death of Gen: Andrew Jackson, which is contradicted:

2/4/29 4. Read an interleaved almanack of Rev. Thomas Prince for 1736: Study Law: Finish N. A. Review: Invite Miss Eliz<sup>a</sup> Green to ride out in sleigh: Chs: Paine carries Rebecka Curtis: fine ride: go to Leicester: thence to So: Leicester & home: Take possession of land set off on Execution:

2/5/29 5. Cold night: Study Law: Examine school:

2/6/29 6. Pleasant: Perfect sleighing: Ride to Wesson's in Westboro with Eliz<sup>a</sup>. Green, C. Harris et ux. T. Kinnicutt, Esq. et ux: Ste. Salisbury, Esq. et Sa Bigelow accompany us: Very fine time of it:

2/7/29 7. Warm, thaws: Enter seventeen justice actions: Study Law: Read N.T:

2/8/29 8. Cloudy, warm: Rev. George Allen preaches for Mr. Hill for first time: he is orthodox: much talk about it: the more rigid are worried about it.<sup>8</sup> Study N.T. It rains all night and snow disappears:

2/9/29 9. Examine school: Study Law and N.T: Visited by Rev. Mr. Hill officially:

2/10/29 10. Warm for season: Study Law & N.T. in Greek. Witness Lucy Patch's will: snows in evening: Read President Adams' letter to H. G. Otis & others:

2/11/29 11. Cloudy and warm: Snows in the evening but not so as to make sleighing: Study Law in A. M. et P. M. N.T. in Greek. Visit Doctor Blood in evening: meet Misses L. & S. Bancroft: play vingtun.<sup>9</sup>

2/12/29 12. Study N.T. and Law: Receive an invitation to a party at Gen<sup>l</sup> Heard's for Friday evening: accept it.

2/13/29 13. Cold, pleasant, no sleighing: Study Law and N.T: in Greek: Read Clarkson's life of William Penn: Receive a letter from my friend Jos. Willard of Lancaster:

2/14/29 14. Have a new blue coat of Kimberly \$20.50, to be paid for first of June: wear every day:

[also noted in 1829 Diary 2]

2/15/29 15. Cold: Attend meeting: Hear Mr. Hill. Invite Is. Davis to dine with me: Read in N.T.

2/16/29 16. Last day of service for March Court: make no writs: Read Law and N.T. in Greek:

2/17/29 17. Cold and pleasant: no sleighing: Examine the White school: Horseback: Make a specification of Thomas

TO SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

**DORR & HOWLAND,**  
AT THEIR BOOK-STORE, IN WORCESTER,  
HAVE FOR SALE, THE FOLLOWING  
**SCHOOL BOOKS.**

Columbian Class Book, American First Class Book, Second Class Book, Alger's English Reader, do. Introduction to do. do. Pronouncing Testament, Whelpley's compend and quest'ns Tyler's History,	Goodrich's United States, Blair's Lectures on Rhetoric, and questions, Blake's Nat. Philosophy, Cotting's Chemistry, Wilkins' Astronomy, Definition Testament, Walker's Dictionary.
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Robinson's, Colburn's, Stanniford's, Adams's, and Daboll's Arithmetic—Robinson's Elements of Arithmetic, for little children—Murray's Grammar, simplified to the present state of improvement, for new beginners, by Rev. E. Pond, A.M.—Alger's and Murray's Grammar—Leavitt's Easy Lessons—Cummings', Lee's, Alger's, Perry's, Kelly's, and other Spelling Books—Morse's, Cummings', Worcester's, and Woodbridge's Geography and Atlas.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES in this vicinity, who are about making their selection and purchases of SCHOOL BOOKS, pursuant to the late Law of this Commonwealth, are respectfully requested to call on us, before they purchase elsewhere, as we think we can supply them on as good (if not better) terms as they can be supplied at any other place, Boston not excepted. Being in the habit of publishing School Books ourselves, which we can exchange for any others now in use, we are enabled to sell them on as good terms as the publishers themselves.

WE ALSO MANUFACTURE  
**BLANK BOOKS,**  
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,  
Ruled to any pattern, and generally keep a good assortment on hand, on as good terms as can be had elsewhere—the binding will be warranted.

WE HAVE AS GOOD AN ASSORTMENT OF  
**STATIONARY**  
as can be found in any country Store:—in particular, Penknives, Pens, English and American, Hair Pencils, Drawing Paper, Quills, Slates and Pencils, Lead Pencils, &c. &c.

BOOK-BINDING attended to as usual.  
Worcester, May 31, 1826.

"To School Committees." Dorr and Howland advertisement, May 31, 1826. *Worcester Magazine and Historical Journal*, vol. 2 no. 2 (June 1826), back cover.

8. CCB attended Worcester's Second Church, which was Unitarian and served by the Reverend Alonzo Hill as junior pastor. The Reverend George Allen was a Trinitarian or 'orthodox' Congregationalist minister in Shrewsbury. Most Unitarian and Trinitarian clergy did not exchange pulpits.

9. Vingtun: the still widely played card game, Twenty-One.