

## Elam Bartholomew diary

### Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

Elam Bartholomew was a resident of Rooks County and Hays, Kansas. He was a horticulturalist, internationally known for his work with fungi. His diary reflects his active participation in Republican Party politics, local government, the United Presbyterian Church, farm organizations, and experimental farming. Elam Bartholomew settled in Rooks County, Kansas, in 1874. He was born in Pennsylvania and his family moved to Ohio and then Illinois. In 1873 he became engaged to Rachel Montgomery and returned to Illinois to marry her in June 1876. They returned to Kansas in September of 1876. The Bartholomews lived on their farm on Bow Creek until 1929 when they moved to Hays, where he served as curator of the mycological museum at Fort Hays Kansas State College. He died in 1934.

Creator: Bartholomew, Elam

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## Elam Bartholomew diary

Tuesday 6 = A Rain storm being  
the order of the day the time was  
spent almost exclusively within  
doors reading, writing, eating  
watermelons & quarrelling with  
the children

Wednesday 7 = Today still being  
wet and muddy the time was  
spent about as yesterday

Thursday 8 = Worked all day at  
cutting off corn fodder

Friday 9 = Cut corn Fodder in  
the a.m. & in the p.m. attended  
our sp. caucus & was chosen in  
company with Geo. L. Granger and C.  
C. Foot as a delegate to the county con.  
to be held at Stockton on the 17th.  
Sat. Got home about 4 p.m.

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Sept; Sat. - 10 = Plowed in the a. m.  
and spent the p. m. in knocking  
about - a - little odd jobs, among  
other things going up to Sam. Helms  
after his fanning mill to clean up  
some wheat - & take to mill & come  
to sell. Received a letter from brother  
Elias of Louisville stating that he  
was married to a Miss. Bessie Bains  
of that town, on the 28 ult. Long  
may he wove! His third attempt  
to commit matrimony has proven  
successful & we all hope he will  
be happier as a married man than  
a dried up old bachelor.

Sunday, 11 = Attended Sab. school  
& church at the usual hours & listened  
to a most excellent sermon by Mr.  
Bracken, from Deut. 4 = 39. Mr. Bracken,  
wife & children took dinner at mother's  
as did we also. Got home at 4:30 o'clock.

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Monday 12 = Went to Stockton  
to take over a load of wheat for  
sale & to take a just to mill &  
to attend to a large amount of  
miscellaneous business. While in  
town had the pleasure of meeting  
and holding pleasant conversations  
with Rev. F. E. Sherman, Judge Deaney,  
Clerk Mitchell, Treasurer Stewart,  
Superintendent Clark, Surveyor Boggs  
Attorney Smith, Dr. E. J. Donnell  
and a number of others.  
Got home at 9 o'clock in the evening.

Tuesday 13 = Cut off corn fodder  
in the a.m. & in the p.m. worked  
about 2 hours raking up some  
hay I had Sam Hebrew cut  
during the forenoon & spent the  
remainder of the day cutting  
off corn again.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Wednesday 14 = Worked at tying up & hauling in corn fodder until 10 a.m. & worked the remainder of the day plowing - backsetting sod - on the low bottom land east of the house

Thursday 15 = Plowed as above.

Friday 16 = The weather being quite chilly & disagreeable did not do much of anything until 9:30 o'clock at which time I resumed plowing wheat stubble ground, working thereat until 4 p.m. & at 4:30 went up to Rockport after the mail getting home about one hour later which finished the business of the day.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Saturday 17 = Went to Stockton  
to attend the county convention  
as a delegate, and while in town  
had the pleasure, as is always the  
case on such occasions, meeting  
a large number of friends and  
acquaintances from all over the  
county with many of whom I  
had pleasant chats & genial hand-  
shakings. Convention met at 2  
P.M. at the new court-house and  
after a temporary organization was  
effected committees on credentials and  
permanent organization & order of  
business were appointed a recess of  
half an hour was taken to allow  
time for report of committees. I  
was a member of the committee on creden-  
tials & acted as secretary of the same.  
D. H. Budd was then made permanent  
chairman & W. J. Thomas secretary.  
The convention then proceeded to

## Elam Bartholomew diary

business and nominated in a short space of time the following ticket - for support at the Nov. elections.

For Treasurer,	W. M. Stewart
.. Sheriff,	W. P. Isenbuz
.. Clerk,	A. J. Davis
.. Register,	Ben. Hill
.. Surveyor,	S. S. Boggs
.. Coroner,	T. C. McBreen

All elements & factions worked harmoniously together and each candidate after receiving a majority of the votes cast also received the unanimous nomination by acclamation. At close of convention I was appointed a member of the Co. Cen. Com. to represent Farmington Jp and was selected Secy. of said committee to serve for the ensuing year. Got home at 8:30 o'clock in the evening.

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Sept: 1881

Sunday 18 = Attended Sab. school and prayer meeting at the usual hours of 10 and 11 a.m. and getting home at 1 p.m. spent the remainder of the day in reading + rest.

Monday 19 = Worked at stacking hay. Had Theo. Allen help me.

Tuesday 20 = Hauled in corn fodder in the a.m. and plowed in the p.m. for Theodore Allen.

Wednesday 21 = Plowed in the a.m. on the low bottom land n.w. of the house and in the p.m. went over to mother's on an errand and while there learned the sad news of President



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Garfield's death which took place at 10:35 P.M. Monday. Came home & spent the remainder of the day in running through the fanning mill a load of wheat to take to Stockton (tomorrow)

Thursday 22 = Went to Stockton to take over a load of wheat and to attend to other business & got home at 8 o'clock in the evening. Got a newspaper while in town containing full particulars of the President's lamentable death.

Friday 23 = Hauled in a load of corn fodder in the morning & spent the remainder of the day fanning as on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Saturday 24 = Spent the day at hauling corn fodder, getting up wood & gathering rice corn.



Elam Bartholomew diary

Sept. 1881

Sunday 25 = Spent the time until 3 P.M. in reading, writing and rest. And at that hour attended Sab. school and immediately thereafter listened to Mr. Bracken's last sermon at this place as he intends to start in a few days for Birmingham, Van Buren Co., Iowa, to which church he has had three calls during the past year, the latter of which he says he has considered it his duty to accept.

His text was 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 13-11. "Finally brethren, farewell. Be perfect. Be of good comfort. Be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." A large congregation was present. At the close of the sermon a general handshaking was indulged in & we all bade Mr. Bracken farewell, perhaps never again to meet him in the flesh. Got home at 6 o'clock.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Monday 26 = Hauled in a load of cornfodder in the morning & then went to plowing a ten-acre piece of land near the S.E. corner of the place, on which to sow wheat, working thereat the remainder of the day.

Tuesday 27 = Hauled in fodder in the a.m. and plowed as above in the p.m.

Wednesday 28 = Plowed

Thursday 29 = On account of the heavy rains of last night & this morning did no work until 11 a.m., working from then till 2:30 p.m. at cleaning up about 30 bu of wheat with fanning mill, & then went over to mother's after some seed wheat and getting back at 5 o'clock spent the remainder of the day at sowing wheat on a 5-acre piece of land on which I had corn this year & from which I removed the stalks

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Sept. - Oct. 1881

Friday, 30 = Finished the above wheat-rowing early in the morning & then tried to cultivate it in but the ground being too wet, went to gathering rice corn & worked thereat till noon, spending the p.m. in plowing.

Saturday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> = Went to Stockton to meet with the Rock Co. Gen. Com. & to attend to other business & got home about 8 o'clock in the evening.

Sunday, 2 = Went to Rockport at 8:30 a.m. to see if our S.S. quarterlies for 4<sup>th</sup> q<sup>r</sup> of 1881 had come & getting home on time later attended S.S. at the usual hour & from there went down to see Mr. Foot, he being quite sick. Got home at 2 p.m. spending the remainder of the day in reading & rest.

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Monday 3 = Cultivated in the five  
acres of wheat-rown last-Thurs. and  
Frid. which took until 3 p.m. Worked  
the remainder of the day at-harrowing  
the same

Tuesday 4 = Finished harrowing at 10  
a.m. and from then till noon plowed.  
but the p.m. being rainy the time  
was spent within doors reading + writing.

Wednesday-5 = Attended S.R. Guthrie's  
stock sale + getting home about 3 p.m.  
went shortly after down to see Mr. Foot  
again and found him very low and  
not expected to live through the night.  
As a consequence of which I remained  
with several other of the neighbors & watch  
by his bedside during the night. He had  
been unable to speak since about 10 a.m.  
His disease is diabetes in its worst form  
a cure of which is said to be impossible.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Oct- 1881

Thursday 6 = Came home at 4 o'clock this morning and after taking a short-sleep & partaking of a light-breakfast, Rachel & I went down to Mr. Foot's again, finding him growing rapidly weaker. We came home at noon. Spent the p.m. in flowing and at 7 o'clock in the evening we returned again to Mr. Foot's and found him dead. He having passed away an hour previously. About 9:30 o'clock S. R. Guthrie & I went to Stockton after a coffin and other necessary articles getting there about 11 o'clock & remained in town several hours while things were being gotten in readiness for our return.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Friday 7 = We got back at 4 a.m. and shortly after, I came home and about 8 a.m. went up to Rockport & from there up to N. Gerbig to inform them of Mr. Footis' death and getting home at 9:30 o'clock went over to mother's after Rachel & the children & after partaking of dinner we came home & getting ready, all went down to Mr. Footis to attend the funeral at 3 o'clock. Rev. F.E. Sherman preached the sermon. A large number of friends and acquaintances were present to pay the last tribute to the departed. The interment took place at the Hebrew graveyard just at sunset. Got home at 7 o'clock. Thus has gone to his final rest a valued personal friend, a man of an eventful career and a checkered life, cut down in the prime of middle life in the 49th year of his age.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Oct. 1851

Saturday 8 = Plowed.

Sunday 9 = Attended Sab. School & prayer meeting at the usual hours of 10 & 11 a.m. & getting home at 4 p.m. spent the remainder of the day in reading, writing and rest.

Monday 10 = Plowed all day finishing the 10 acre field, commenced on the 26 ult.

Tuesday 11 = Sowed wheat in the a.m. and harrowed it in in the p.m.

Wednesday 12 = Sowed & harrowed alternately until 4 p.m. when I finished wheat sowing for 1851. Continued harrowing the remainder of the day.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Thursday 13 - Harrowed all day.

Friday 14 = Finished harrowing in the above spoken of 10 acres of wheat at 10 o'clock a.m. & immediately thereafter went to Stockton on miscellaneous business & especially to do all that I could in preparing papers praying for the removal of Jas. T. Stroup the Rockfort Postmaster. Got home at 7 o'clock p.m.

Saturday 15 = Plowed for Theodore Allen, ground on which to sow wheat.

Sunday 16 = The weather being rainy & disagreeable the day was spent at home reading, writing & in rest.

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Oct- 18 81

Monday 17 = Plowed for Theodore Allen

Tuesday 18 = Went to Stockton today again to complete the preparation of papers relating to the postoffice matter spoken of on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. While in town had the pleasure of meeting & forming the acquaintance of Hon. W. H. Pratt candidate for Dist. Judge. Got home at 6 o'clock in the evening.

Wednesday = 19 = Hauled up corn fodder until 10 a.m. & from then till noon plowed on the 5 acres broken last spring on the low bottom on the S.W. corner of the place on which to plant timber. Plowed in the p.m. for Theodore Allen.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Thursday 20 = Plowed as yesterday forenoon.

Friday 21 = Plowed until 3:30 P.M. & then took Rachel & the children over to mother's on a little visit and got home about sunset.

Saturday 22 = Went to Stockton on miscellaneous business, taking over a gift of wheat, 14½ bu., to French's mill 2 miles east of town. While in town accepted the kind invitation of County Treas. Stewart to dinner at his home & immediately thereafter met with the central committee to transact business relating to the coming Nov. election. Being delayed somewhat did not get home until 8:30 o'clock in the evening.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Oct-1881

~~Monday~~

Sunday = 23 = Attended S.S. at the usual hour & stopping awhile at mother's got home at 2 P.M. spending the remainder of the day principally in reading.

Monday 24 = Worked at fixing our pump until about 10:30 A.M. & from then until about 4 o'clock harrowed on the ground plowed last week & then went up the creek to J. Catterson's place & worked till sunset gathering ash seeds to plant on the ground which I am preparing.

Tuesday 25 = Finished the above harrowing in the A.M. & spent the P.M. in marking the ground out calculating to plant the seeds tomorrow.

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Wednesday 26 = Spent the a.m. in drilling in by hand & covering with an "ironer" two acres of ash seeds, and in the p.m. finished plastering the dugout - which I left uncompleted last summer.

Thursday 27 = Went to Stockton on miscellaneous business and got home about 5:30 p.m.

Friday 28 = Drilled & covered a half acre of hackberry seeds in the a.m. & hauled fodder in the p.m.

Saturday 29 = Worked until 3:30 p.m. at flowing. Finishing up the flowing of my 5-acre timber lot - calculating to plant the remainder to cottonwood trees in the spring. At 4 o'clock went over to Johns on an errand & got home at 6 o'clock.

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Oct. 1881

Sunday 30 = Attended Sab. school at the usual hour & stopping awhile at mother's taking dinner, got home about three o'clock & spent the remainder of the day in reading.

Monday 31 = Went to Stockton on miscellaneous & while in town had the pleasure of meeting the Hon. John A. Anderson, our representative in Congress, with whom I had quite a pleasant chat and among other things settling definitely with him & Senator Patchin the business of ousting old Stroup out of the Rockport P.O. & appointing Sam A. Hebrew in his stead as previously spoken of on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. Also had pleasant chats with a number of our prominent country men on county politics & got home at 6 p.m.

Elam Bartholomew diary

Tuesday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 1881 = Went over to brother John in the morning after some tips which I bought of him yesterday + getting back at 10 o'clock worked from then till noon building a pen for them. Spent the p.m. in knocking about at other little odd jobs.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> = Plowed in the a.m. ground on which to plant corn next year & after dinner went over to Theodore Allen's on an errand getting home at 2:30 o'clock. did not do much of anything the remainder of the day.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Plowed as above.

Nov.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> = Plowed until about 2:30 p.m. & spent the remainder of the day in getting up some wood & knocking about at the little "chores".

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> = Went to Stockton on miscellaneous business and got home at 6 o'clock p.m.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> = Attended Sabbath school at 11 a.m. (the hour of meeting having been changed from 10 o'clock last-sabbath) & getting home at 1 o'clock p.m. spent the rest of the day in reading & in the evening we went again to the school house & listened to an excellent sermon by Rev. J. H. Hunter of Whitfield, Graham Co. Kan. from 2<sup>nd</sup> Chron. 15: 2, last clause. Mr. Hunter with his son came home with us & stayed all night.

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> = Mr. Hunter & son left us for home, about 9 o'clock this morning. We all passed a very agreeable, pleasant & profitable evening & morning with them & will never cease to foster kindly recollections of their sojourn beneath our roof. After their departure spent the remainder of the day in plowing.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> = Attended the election at the usual place of voting & being called on to act as one of the judges of election spent the entire day there. In the evening after the ballots were counted I went to Stockton in company with J. W. Callender & carried in the returns. Staying all night at the headquarters of the Republican central committee helping to tabulate

## Elam Bartholomew diary

The election returns on their arrival from the several townships, the returns arriving from 20 out of the 21 tps. in the county during the night which returns assured the election of the entire Rep. ticket by good majorities.

Shortly after arriving in town in the evening went with Mr. Callender to the Methodist Church to attend a church festival & oyster supper & had a very pleasant time.

Wednesday 9 - Spent the a.m. in settling up and paying off all the bills contracted by the central committee as campaign expenses & after attending <sup>to</sup> some other miscellaneous business came home with Sam Hebrew & his father, getting here about 5 o'clock P.M.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Thursday 10 = On account of not having had any sleep since Monday night got up very late this morning & the weather being rather unpleasant did not get about to do anything until about 11 a.m. when I went down to Mrs C.C. Dootie & buying a tree of her for firewood cut it down & hauled home a load getting here at 3:30 o'clock in the midst of a brisk snow storm which continued the remainder of the day & into the night preventing further work for the day.

Friday 11 = Did nothing until 11 o'clock a.m. when I went out hunting about an hour killing a jack rabbit & two quails. Cleared snowing about 8:30 o'clock having deposited 4 inches of snow. Spent the P.M. principally in reading.

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Nov. 1881

Sat. = 12 = Spent the day in & about the house reading & knocking about at little odd jobs of all sorts.

Sunday 13 = Attended Sab. school at the hour of 11 a.m. & getting home at one o'clock spent the remainder of the day as usual.

Monday = 14 = Plowed.

Tuesday = 15 = Went to Stockton on miscellaneous business, taking Rachel & the children along to get pictures of the latter taken & being delayed somewhat - got home at 7:30 p.m. (Mortgaged floor for \$450.)

Wednesday 16 = Worked in the a.m. for J. J. Allen at putting a sod roof on his new house & came home at noon & went down to Mrs. Fiddle's & got a load of wood in the p.m.



## Elam Bartholomew diary

Thursday 17 = The weather being quite cold & ground frozen somewhat did not do much of anything in the a.m. but plowed in the p.m.

Friday 18 = The weather being still colder the day was spent almost entirely within doors reading, writing, &c.

Saturday 19 = Went to Stockton on miscellaneous business and got home at 5 o'clock p.m.

Sunday 20 = Attended Sab. school at the usual hour of 11 a.m. and getting home at half past 12 o'clock spent the remainder of the day in reading and rest.

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Nov. 1851  
Monday 21 = Spent the day in cutting & hauling up wood from Mrs. Fools

Tuesday 22 = Knocked about at little odd jobs until 10 o'clock & from then till noon gathered corn & in the afternoon plowed for John Allen over S.E. about a mile & a half.

Wednesday 23 = The weather being quite cold & disagreeable spent the day in & about the house knocking about at a little of everything.

Thursday 24 = Went to Stockton on miscellaneous business & while in town recd an invitation to dinner by Hon A.L. Patchin which was accepted. Recd \$450 less com. of \$25 from mortgage the same being executed on the 15th inst. Also paid of mortgage of \$326.20 (including int) at home at 5 o'clock

## Elam Bartholomew diary

Friday 25 = Worked at-gathering  
& husking corn.

Saturday 26 = Plowed for John Allen.

Sunday 27 = Attended Sabbath  
school at- 11 a.m. & got home  
about- 1 o'clock p.m. spending the  
remainder of the day in reading & rest.

Monday 28 = Plowed for John Allen.

Tuesday 29 = Sam Hebrew, J. T. Allen  
& I went-over to the S. Fork 3 miles  
west-of Stockton after young cottonwood  
trees & getting several thousand we then  
went down to town & after staying  
about-half an hour, came home  
where we arrived about- 5 o'clock.

Wednesday 30 = Spent the time in and  
about- the house knocking around at- a little  
of everything.