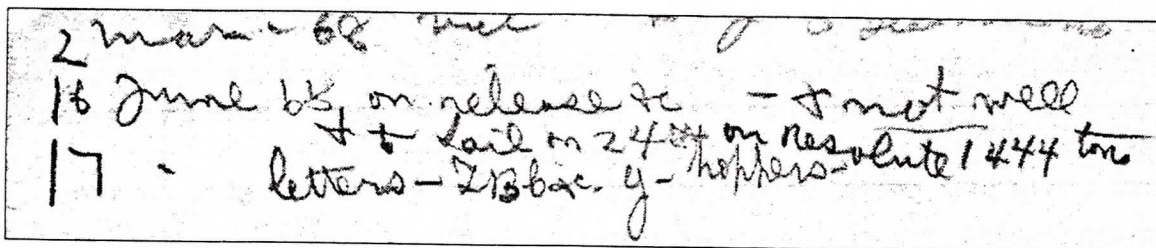


Leadership responsibilities are not all pleasant as he also noted. He was also forced to deal with some of the unpleasanties of a church body in which all are not faithful. On Aug. 14, 1867, he notes that he administered to a woman and then came back to hold a council meeting to resolve a difficulty between two sisters. "It commenced very good but soon gave way to a spirit of accusation more than to council and it was settled satisfactorily. However, it was a great lesson for all present if they make it so," he wrote.

His non-stop travel from one community to another and the inconsistency of his sleeping and eating habits took a toll on Ezra James. His journal entry of Sept. 12, 1867, is perhaps one of the most telling about his circumstances and the willingness of his heart to do his duty, in spite of them.

"We walked to Faversham. A letter was waiting or here from father containing one from mother, sister Mary and J. F. Smith. My parents were very anxious about me having heard of my having been poorly last May when Bro. Hubbard was here. I had not been sick but was thin in flesh as this country does not seem to agree with me as my mountain home used to, but I have been gaining, though slowly since May and I hope to do so and stand it till honorably released to return home to the mountain of the Lord's House in the top of the mountains."¹⁵

His honorable release did come, in June of 1868, but it appears as though his health never was robust. When the daily journal entries stopped, there was still a page in the back of his second journal in which he scribbled some notes, among them the fact that he was not well upon his release.



2 March 68
16 June 68 on release to - not well
17 June 68 letters - 213 bac. y - hoppers - white 1444 tons

This photo of the last page of Ezra James Clark's journal includes the note, to the right of 16 June, that he was not well. The note to the right of 17 indicates a letter to T.B.---his brother.

¹⁵ Mission Journals of Ezra James Clark, page 62