

**Irene Dixon Bamford 1899 August to 1900 January,
Diary Transcription**

5034_4-1-11

Metadata

FromThePage export of 5034_4-1-11 from Irene Dixon Bamford made on 2026-02-11 14:35:12 UTC.

itemTitle: August 30th 1899-January 18, 1900

date: 1899-1900

Title: 5034_4-1-11

Description: Item is a diary.

Created On: 2024-01-11 17:30:14 UTC

In Scope: true

Uploaded Filename: 5034_4-1-11

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[File Folder]

Irene Dixon Bamford

Diary

August 30th 1899–January 18, 1900

[Stamp]

Queen's University Archives

Locator 50034.4

Box

File

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August 30th 1899 - January 18, 1900

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Re-read
'76 - '84

4

Wednesday Aug 30th 1899

A very hot day & dry smokey

#3 [stamp: Date 1899 Sealed with Gulfwax] Interesting

Thursday Aug 31st 1899

[left margin tape has covered writing down the entire page]

A beautiful dry hot smokey day.

Grace goes to Kingston 8lbs butter at 25¢

per pound. Hubert came up for me

said his ma is sick and wants me so

[?] hitches up Bess and away I go and find

[her] in bed with pain in side and shoulder

cant move. So I doctor her with

burdock leaves & hops & vinegar & salt

She gets better towards night and can

[get] up and walk some but it would

[not] mattter if she was going to die why

[?] would have to suck and maul her around and

[?] thin as a skeleton. I churned and [?]

the butter [?] down cellar and set top the cellar steps and

the cellar [?]

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Re-read

'76-'84

Friday 1 September 1899

Stay with Eveline all day

she is better but will persist

in doing work but I keep

her quiet as possible. A fine day.

Willie working for Geo R. They

are threshing for Niles.

Saturday 2 Sept 1899. A fine day.

Stay with Eveline all day and

help her all I can. Eveline gets

well to fast: her ambition

greater than her strength poor dear

girl. We fill a straw bed at the

stack with new threshed oat straw

and then Eveline & the children and

I go to the garden to see the

vegetables—cucumbers, tomatoes, melons,

squashes, beans, corn, pumkins, cabbage

carrots, potatos, Eveline leads Dan to

[tape covering bottom of page, covering last lines of page]

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Sunday 3 September 1899. 3

A fine day Arthur came for me last night with Bess and the buggy. Sorry to leave Eveline but always happy to come home.

Monday 4 Sept 1899

A fine dry day. Wills children carrying all their water from the river and drove their cows to the concession to water.

7

Re-read

'76-'84

4

Tuesday 5 Sept 1899

A cool morning. Grace goes to Evelines to pick cucumbers found her sick in bed so staid [sic] and done the work and took care of her. Babcock picks the cucumbers. Frank Woodman threshing peas in field with their old horse power.

Wednesday 6 Sept 1899

A fine day but cool. Grace went this morning to wash for Eveline gone till 2 o'clock pm. Came back bringing Evelines butter which I work out the brine and make 6 prints, and a piece which I send back for Arthur. Irene churns and make 8 lbs for ourselves. Grace just going to take a nap when behold! Jen & Mary Anne come over visiting and so we had to gossip and music and get extra tea. Mary Anne has a fearful bad cold in her head and a cough. Jen carries away her apron.

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Thursday 7 Sept 1899

A very fine day. Arthur drives to the dock with Grace—8 lbs butter for us and 6 for Eveline. Willie sends Babcock to draw Volties grain to scow he works here all day and I get his dinner and tea.

Arthur having a high time to day.

I churn for supper and milk three cows. Maud goes canvassing for "Family Herald & Weekley Star" gets 4 subscribers. Arthur drives to dock at sundown. Grace comes home after dark bringing sugar, onions. John brings the grist for the boys and flour from the mill.

Mary Anne Duggin goes home this morning.

Jen goes to Kingston too and they all meet in kitchen of the Pierpont.

R says she is sorry she ever said any thing about Bob said it was said in ignorance but the better way would have been to have said nothing for words once spoken can never be recalled, they are there for eternity, they may be forgiven but never forgotten [sic], speak well of every one or dont speak at all.

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Friday 8 September 1899

A warm morning, clouds moving southward, cows all here lying on the point. Sun shining out through clouds. John Babcock assisted by Hubert and Arthur cleaning and drawing oats to the scow at dock. Dick Larush Passt. Maud at school didn't want to go. Charley Dixon came over at noon stays and turns mill 2 hours. Arthur got a spell don't like to work very prankish. Bob says keep him away from the grainery for he hinders work. Muriel came up bringing a basket of flower cans and getting subscribers for the "Ladies World". She has six subscribers already. Muriel says Ethel told her mamma (Eveline) that Grace pd. 30 cts for butter yesterday. Grace got 25 cents only. Grace sold E's butter on market "Don't cher know". Shell came down to practice her music on piano. Ethel & Lottie came over and brought the drippings that R. gave Grace yesterday on the boat. Asked Ethel about the price of butter said he told Eve so for Jen has said it was 30 cts in market. Work at grainery goes very slow pretty near 4pm and only 1 Load

10

Grace has to go to grainery to help clean grain. A warm quiet day. We make peach preserves. Grace sends Mrs G a postal about those cucumbers for mustard pickles. It looks like rain. Ethel said her grandmother is sick, they brought a basket for apples and piled it full. Babcock worked at clearing oats for Wellie & Voltie till after dark. Arthur & Hubert went with John B to the dock. Mail a letter from Voltie with order for \$25 dollars, a letter from Rathbun Company, one from May Wormwith, Whig, Family Herral, 2 papers from Dick Brown England.

Saturday 9 September 1899

Wind North a cold morning.

The first one out is myself with fire built and bread mixed. We have our breakfast, I wash dishes and clean pantry. Maud fixes the house rooms all up tidy and cleans floors. Grace & Arthur digs potatoes. We think & believe our potatoes have been dug by thieves afraid we will not have enough for Winter. I saw wood & get dinner. A beautiful day clear cool but dry

11

8

Sunday 10 September 1899

A fine day very warm and dry, arose at 6 A M. I employ most of the day writing letters. Write a long letter to Dick Jackson, London, England. Grace takes a long nap on the couch in parlor then gets dinner. After dinner I walk over to Wills to see Gran. Charley came out to meet me and when nearly there. Bernard Morgan & Flora McDonel passed us in Buggy and after saying how we do said they were going down the island for a drive and were coming to our house when returning homeward. Found Wills folks well and Jen baking the greatest lot of bread and buns. Flora & Bernard after a short drive came back and stoped at Wills and we all staid to tea. And Oh my what a spread! hot buns & butter, honey, plums, preserves, pumpkin pie, lemon pie, pickles & port, cream and sugar and a powerful cup of tea then Bernard, Charley & Will went & milked the cows & fixed the fence. And of course Maud came over as usual. Flora, Jen and I drive over here home in Bernards buggy leaving Will, Bernard and Charley to follow after with Maud & Flora in the rear. When we arrived at home we found Wellie & Eveline and their children here with Grace and Arthur and we had a very

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social time till 11 pm. Eveline
and Wellie and kids went home earlier got
to bed about 12 midnight circle around sun

Monday 11 September 1899

A cloudy morning sprinkled
several times during the day. Arthur
drew a barrel of water for Grace to wash,
done great washing; all the lines full.
Maud at school. Hurbert at school.
Arthur draws a barrel of water for hogs and
picks up apples. I milk 2 cows and
Grace gets breakfast. Arthur and I clean
cider mill and try to make cider but
dont know how the mill works at all so
leave it in disgust; afterwards put the plow
in the machine shed, feed the hogs and
come to the house again.

Tuesday 12

13

10

13 Wednesday

Thursday 14 Sept 1899

Arose at 4 am.

Another market day carrying butter for Eveline
and ourselves and apples and nuts for
young Gaskin Jack.

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Friday 15 Sept 1899

Arose this morning with the consciousness of having to go to Kingston to the dentist. I dont like it but I'll go if Dr Daily pulls my off. Lisa fine day wind south and breezy roads fine and hard as asphalt. At one pm Arthur drives to door with Bess and I mount in and away I go. Bess on trot pass to vehicles on the road, one Mr Dick Irvine. Examine all the orchards along the road. Apple crop poor, saw some men plowing in field a few turnips growing & tomatoes ripening. When in sight of Bells knew they had threshing machine going in full blast so horse did not go to Kingston tomorrow.

Saturday 16

Bell arose early got breakfast for threshers, had hard work to get Mac McClaren up to breakfast. Threshers staid till after dinner, ate nearly all the big roast of beef. Isadore Simons went home mad, because some of the intelligent white irish called Isadore a "nigger"!! After dinner we employ the remainder of the day washing dishes, cleaning up the rooms. Belle glad they are gone had them 4 days with boys 8 horse power and the homliest dirtiest lot of men I ever saw

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Sunday 17

A pleasant day looks like rain after we get the breakfast work done and beds made. Charley goes over to brophys point for nuts. Joe said no one to get my bill he has a hundred qts. The girls and Charles junior went along & picked some from their one tree by their garden. I read most all day and time passes on.

Monday 18 Sept 1899

The warmest september day I ever remember as hot as August and no wind. Charley threshing for Brown. Marjorie, Beatrice, Irene & Charles Jr at school. Belle done (and me too) lot of talking to day about several things. Belle makes her catsup (tomato) 30 bottles; fine gave me a bottle, and peppers. After school Bill goes away down towards the river where they have a garden and brings potatoes, great yellow cucumbers for sweet pickles and water melons. R going to [?] over her head expecting her intentions of picking all the nuts.
[print faded - illegible]

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Tuesday 19 Sept 1899

Awoke this morning to
find the rain pouring but I'm going
Cityward all same so after breakfast V
and I start for the villiage driving Bess
over the muddy roads and through the rain.
Call at Griffins and order Bess shod forward
drive to Costello's and round to the back door
as here we alright and proceed in doors
and are very cordialy received by Mr and
Mrs Costello. Mr C cares for the horse, and
Mrs C invites us to a hot cup of coffee and a
substantial lunch of toast, bread & butter, cake,
grapes &c. Afterwards admiring the paneling of her
rooms, the flowers, the antics of her kittens
when the pierpont arrives at landing and we
go on board through a wind and rain and after
a few minutes proceed to the lower regions of
the domicil of the cook where we are invited
to another breakfast but decline with thanks,
Arrive in Kingston and is [illegible]
Proceed to the market for tomatoes, [illegible]
70 to 80 cts per bushel we dont buy. next go to [illegible]
from there to Haines and Pocket where Bell buys a
pair of rubbers and then to the bank where she gets
[?] cashed for \$25 dollars and then to [illegible]
dentist where we wait two hours for customer [illegible]
sit in dentist chair and bare all my teeth pulled out
but one [illegible]

Wednesday 20 Sept 1897

Awoke this morning to find the rain tumbling down in great force: all the same I'm going home after breakfast. Charley hitches Bess before the buggy and Bell and I pack my articles onions, tomatoes & aggate [sic: agate] ware and other duds and I bid Bell & children good bye and drive out the big gate. Bess very ambitious when she found she was headed for home but stoped her trot before reaching the school house and walked every step of way home like going through porridge, roads all water and mud. Passed several milk wagons on the road and children going to school. Wind North and chilly. I arrive home at 1/2 past 11 am. Waited at the gate till Maud ran up to open gate to let Bess through: found Grace washing and found that I had left all my summer savoy and peppers at Bells but I am so glad to get home. Willie away up the Island threshing for darkie Wells. Charley Halliday gone to the city to day. Afternoon I wash dishes and cook tomatoes for catsup and Jen and Wall Niles came and Grace gone to Evelines to see about the pickles and Hubert & Maud came bringing Eveline back.

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Thursday 21 Sept 1897

The same old thing

get out at four am. Arthur catches tons and Grace loads in more baskets than usual. A basket of butter for us and one for Eveline, a basket of crab apples for Mabel G, a basket of apples for Nellie Grey and Arthur going home to visit for the day carying [sic] a small basket of apples and nuts to his little sister Florrie. Maud drives them to the dock. Afterward Maud and I milk cows in stable.

I scratch around and get a little wood to start fire when Will and Charlie come over & Will chops wood enough to last all day. Maud feeds hogs and I send Maud to Jen's for fruit strainer and to Aunt Ruths for vinegar and make 10 bottle of tomato catsup. Maud milked all the cows at evening. Will came over and fixed the strap to harness and drove to dock for Grace and her things. Grace today paid in office Kirk and Rod \$106 dollars \$7,40 cts to Rathbun Co 10 to McDowel. sold the butter 11 pounds on Market, bought all her own groceries & other things sold Eveline butter and bought more groceries and things. bought all Jens. Hubert called on Nellie went up to G's ate her and super on the Pierpont. Shell & Jen then went up to day. Shell says she (Shell) is very proud Oh my

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Friday 22 Sept 1894

A very fine day. Grace goes to Evelines to make mustard pickles carrying all kinds of spices, onions and vinegar. Hubert & Muriel came up for their groceries, sugar, tea & spices. After a while Muriel came back for Maud to go with her to Sam's for vinegar but they had none for her and were sorry for Aunt Ruth had let me have all they had to spare so I sent them up to Mrs Niles but she has none. A very good outlook three great orchards Niles, Bamfords and Woodmans, and barrels of cider made from the three orchards every fall and not vinegar enough among the trio to make pickles. I suppose the barrels leaked at the tap. Oh well cider is more proffitable [sic: profitable] than vinegar, cant drink vinegar very well and cider slips down very easily. Well I told Muriel if they could not get any from Rube, Grace and Eveline may have the vinegar I am keeping for cucumber catchup. Arthur brings in 6 eggs which makes over 10 dozen laid down for winter. I make pumkin pies and use two eggs for pies. I wrote a letter to V and one to Sr. Evening mail Whig, Family Herralld, two from England, News of the World and comic, a letter from Voltie, one from Bob, postal from

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[Page has faded making many words illegible, these will be indicated with a #]

Saturday 23

Wind north and cool but a very pleasant day. After breakfast Arthur hitches up Bess and Grace drives to Rubes for vinegar and then to Evelines to finish making mustard pickles.

I send Maud and Arthur for hickory nuts and grapes, down by the cedars and I do up the dishes, # milk, churning &c. I look out the kitchen window—and a cow in here making straight for the orchard.

I drive her out, dog gone after nuts too soon take another peep out; cows all in the road, and then go on Niles' meadows. I cant go for them. When Willie came back from driving grain to dock, stops and drives them off their meadow then up the road they go; some one dogs them back to the # then Samy dogs chase them down the road then I go for Arthur and Arthur and Prince dog them home again and I continue down to the nut trees. A fine harvest of nuts if only gathered.

Arthur comes home to feed all the hogs, but couldnt Maud gets dinner. M make a discovery, that Grace in our absence [sic: absence] has been home and carried off our three 1 gallon crocks. Arthur and Maud were still # had been here till they furthermore discovered a small bag of # and a lot of geranium cuttings for flower pots soon after # comes home bringing the three jars filled with beans and # off the grapes and puts them in layers with sugar & pickles and a [remainder illegible]

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Sunday 24 Sept 1899

A rainy morning. Wind South and blowing didn't get up this morning till nearly 7 am. No fire in stove: no wood & first thing done cleaned out fire place and ash, pm then skimmed all the milk remaining in cellar; by this time my precious family were well out of bed. Arthur fed the hogs. Grace went to milk. Maud & I went after apples, through the orchard, the wind blew down about 2 bushels of all kinds then I chopped wood & built fire. Grace came in and got breakfast. I washed pans and strained milk. Grace cleaned up the nut shucks from the floor (over a bushel). Grace and Maud washed dishes. Raining pouring, wind blowing the leaves from the trees ground covered with falling leaves like November. I suppose we will not have any visitors to day. I think Grace & Maud are gone to bed have not seen any thing of them in two hours. Arthur shucking nuts most all day, fire in stove gone out. One O'clock pm. Wallace

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Monday 25

Tuesday 26

23

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Wednesday 27

Thursday 28

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Friday 29

Saturday 30

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Sunday 1

Monday 2

26

23

Tuesday 3

Wednesday 4

27

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Thursday 5

Friday 6

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Friday 6 Oct 1899

A fine day warm as

June, colored carpet rags and
was sitting on the veranda sewing
and winding balls. She brought the
summer savory. I left them at her house and
pepper and beans and Graces handkerchief
and citrons.

Saturday 7 Oct 1899

Grace and Bell gathering

nuts and apples and grapes.

Bell picked the grapes for me.

A beautiful day warm and lovely
weather.

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Sunday 8 Oct 1899

A very fine day Belle and Grace drive to Wellies to make a visit leaving Charles Junior here, they staid till 3 pm and then came back & Bell loaded up and went home— pumpkins, squash, apples, hickory nuts, &c &c. We had a rooster for dinner.

Monday 9 Oct 1899

A beautiful day. Will & Jen and Charley went to the bay for kerosine, we sent for 6 gallons oil is 12 cts per gallon.

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Tuesday 10 Oct 1899

A fine warm day

Wednesday 11 Oct 1899

A beautiful day warm and clear. Grace, Arthur and Maud gathered apples 3 barrels. Willie came in evening from threshing & cleaned up two bags of wheat for mill. Arthur helping with Lantern then Wellie carried his bag to the dock in the dog cart and put our bag in the buggy.

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Muriel went to Kingston. I colored rags.

Thursday 12 Oct 1899

A beautiful warm

day arise at 4 am. Arthur drives to the wharf with Grace. Maud sweeps, makes all the beds, cleans floors and after dinner we three drive to Evelines for pumpkins and coming home I stop at Wills sending Arthur home with buggy. Maud & I quarrel and so Maud walks home. Charley and Jen bringing water from the river to get supper. The boat comes in late on account of the Marysville fair.

Friday 13 Oct 1899

A very warm day

sun bright, weather hazy. I write to Voltie. Grace sewing and doing housework. Arthur gathering apples and nuts. Hawk catching our chickens in the orchard.

No letters from any one.

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Saturday 14 Oct 1899

Saturday is a beautiful
fine warm day wind South, grass growing
fresh and green. Washed towels.

Maud went over to Wills to gather
autumn leaves to press. Cloudy towards
eve with a little rain. Jen came over in eve
to learn to point lace & Charley and Will came too.

Sunday 15 Oct 1899

A beautiful warm day while
still but the leaves are falling.

Maud goes to Evelines and to church.
Grace goes to bed. Irene does the
work. But Grace poor girl has to
get most all the wood, we are thankful
for the fine warm weather for we
dont require much wood.

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Monday 16

A clear fine day
and warm as June. Jen came over
to get sewing done, night gowns and
night caps full of complaints about
the neighbors, wants to move but cant.

Tuesday 17 Oct 1899

A clear bright day wind
south, blowing at a gale. I write to Wills.
Maude & I gather hickory nuts in the
grove, a pail full. Grace sewing
after dinner. I spend the afternoon
unsnarling and winding a skein
of carpet warp.

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Wednesday 18 Oct 1899

A very fine day

rained in the night, barrel 1/2

full of water. Wind South. Maud

got tooth ache - churned, pared apples,

to dry. Grace carried the carpet balls

and warp to Mrs Niles and then drove

to Wellies for the pickles but couldn't bring

them home in buggy. Will, James & crossed

the cross cut saw and then went to W's

to thresh. Willie threshing for Morgan.

Grace knitting petticoat trimmings.

Shell Niles, Wills youngones drawing

their cattle to the concession to water

A beautiful warm month of nights

and the river like a mirror.

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Thursday 19 Oct 1899

A very fine day. Wind South Thanksgiving day throughout Canada. Arthur drove me over to Wills had a fine dinner & after dinner Mrs Morgan came and Mrs M & the children and myself went back in the brush for bitter sweet berries. To decorate the house at Christmas time.

I colored some carpet rags for Jen and we stayed to tea and such a grand meal I dont get every day. There was mashed potatoes done in cream and butter, stewed chicken & briskets stuff & gravy, rolls & peach preserves, bread & butter, cookies, jelly cake, and muffin ring cakes, and chow chows, cream and tea,—before supper we had wine & cake which spoiled my appetite. Mr Morgan after dark came for the Mrs and Arthur came for I didn't know as I was sure of a good nights rest after eating so much but but I took a big dose of soda water and went to bed and slept the sleep of the just & the righteous without any consequences.

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Friday 20

Saturday 21

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Sunday 22

Monday 23

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Tuesday 24

Wednesday 25

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Thursday 26

Friday 27

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Charley with two masks
an Irishman & a negro
October 31st Tuesday 1899
A cloudy morning beginning to
rain. Rains nearly all day and
rains so much at evening, we
don't send Arthur for the
mail. Grace does the ironing
and gets wood for night
She and Arthur fills the
wood box. Welly finished
threshing for Rattray to day.
The party at Wellingtons
must prove a failure and
Briben cant come for Mary
to take her to the party.
Irene picks the last of the annuals (flowers)
for Grace to take to her friends in Kingston.
Rained so hard in evening. Arthur did not
go for mail till morning.

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Wednesday 1 Nov 1899

A cold rainy day preparing again for market churned and make 13 lbs butter in evening, dress 4 fowl for market. Grace cleans chamber Arthur goes for mail and get seven letters 2 from V, one from Sr, one from r.G. one from Bernard one from Johny one from Laura John writes that Mrs Lindley has a paralytic stroke.

Thursday 2 Nov 1899

Rise at 4 am

get Grace's breakfast put up the fowls in basket (the flowers and butter in basket last night) and Arthur drives to dock. A cold morning and a cold day We did not know what we could do for wood but Arthur filled the wood box full as high as it could be piled and plenty of chip at night. Arthur drove to dock for Grace but she didn't return, but sent a note that she going to stay all night in Kingston to do her shopping tomorrow, she sent home two rockers and the parlor cutains. Grace send word that she will come down with the mail.

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Friday 3 Nov 1899

Awake this morning to find Grace gone but we pass a very pleasant day. Cloudy towards night looks like rain. Maud and Arthur hurry evening and get the chores done early. Arthur helped wash the dishes and then at 7 pm away they go with the lantern clear and brightly burning for Grace and the mail and Irene and the dogs are left alone. They are gone a long time. I peer out in the darkness to see the lantern or hear some friendly sound or more lanterns flitting up and down the road chasing each other from the church down to our barn like a will o the wisp having a ghostly dance. Ten oclock when they come and for a wonder Grace was with them but they were obliged to run for the rain began pouring down the walk.

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long behind time on account
of Miss Obrien stopping at
the ferry for music lesson. Mrs
Obrien stoped at the ferry to have
her leg doctored, she broke a bone
in her ankle two weeks or more ago
climbing apple trees the fat old fool.
She went once this summer to St. Anne
shrine for some sort of a "complaint".
She was mad because Grace wanted
a passage home with them said the
horse couldn't carry Grace & Min. Oh no
but the same horse could drag Min
and the Old "Rhinoceras" to the villiage.
Well Grace bought her dress and
other fixings at Steaceys
At 11 pm we went to bed
forgot to say Wellie came up
and drew us some wood from
below the cedars, knocked out
old cedars stumps &c
All our young folks were in
the road playing
tag each with a lantern.

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Saturday 4 Nov 1899

It is well for us all Grace included
that Grace came down with the mail
for the rain is a steady downpour
all day, but we have wood and
pass the day very comfortably.

We didn't hurt ourselves with work
to day. Grace arranged the parlor and
put up the new curtains. Evening time
Will & Charley came over with the new
books, Will is agent for very fine
books; wish we could buy them.

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Sunday 5 Nov 1899

Raining this morning but
clears away so Maud goes to Sabath
school and quarterly meeting. A.K.. goes
too and Sunday peace and quietness
has come to stay for a couple of
hours. I write to Dick Brown and
Grace goes upstairs and to bed
just before dark. Frank Woodman
A.K. = Arthur Knapp

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Monday 6 Nov 1899

A fine Monday wind S.W. Grace done big washing while I sewed another ball of hit and miss. Charley came over for X cut, it is down to Wellie. Wants to borrow steelyards it is down to Wellies. Wants to borrow a spool of white thread No. 40. He got it. Wants (if I have it to spare) 18 lbs of flour which they are owing Mr. Niles. He says trade the flour on a half bushel of beans which we bought of Will a while ago and which they have already had 32 lbs. So after dinner I weigh the flour (sent A for steelyard) 18 lbs and Maud & I with flour and a quart of kerosine (which we owe Mrs Niles) and a ball of carpet rags & proceed to the Niles mansion where we find Mrs N.

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working our carpet having
at last got Mary Woodmans carpet
out of the loom.

32 lbs flour

18 lbs flour

= 50 lbs flour is l

guess enough for 1/2 bushel of beans.

Evening sunset clear and fine with
a new moon 2 days old some what
cold and not much wood

so go to bed early. Wellie to day
sold old red cow and the yearling
bull & Molly.

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Tuesday 7 Nov. 1899

A fine day. Wind South but cool; not much wood in the box this morning but Arthur had picked up a good lot of chips so we got our breakfast all right. Arthur mad because he had to milk and hit the cow with the milking stool. That was worse than pounding the cow stable door with a club last Saturday morning because it could not stay open on account of wind blowing it shut as fast as Artimus opened it but he soon got all right again and borrowed Mr Woodmans milk waggon to draw gravel to put around the door. Irene raked off the yard and moved the plants into her bedroom. Maud learning to sew on machine. Grace went out to get wood for night when Wellie drove in here and chopped wood. The sunsets bright and clear.

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Wednesday 8 Nov 1899

A beautiful day warm
sunbright but hazy, grass growing green. I
write to Voltie. Wills, Wellie saws down and
splits the ash tree and stayed to dinner and Charley
too. After dinner Arthur borrowed uncle Sams
milk cart and drew more gravel and then drew
the ash wood. Maud cleaned pantry and
kitchen floor. Grace done housework, churned
and pack butter &c

Thursday 9 Nov 1899

Arose at 1/2 4. Irene
going to Kingston. Arthur drove to the
dock, morning being very dark & foggy,
burning a lantern all the way, found only lantern
on the dock which was Wellie's.

A great lot of freight to be carried
aboard, cheese, pork, grists, apples, eggs, butter
and the neighbours gathered around. Boat came
late from Gananoque on account of fog.
Pierpont blew the whistle at intervals all the
way from our dock to Kingston arrived
there at 11 am. Went directly to the

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post office but found I could not get the order cashed for it was in Grace's name but it was all right with the dentist, gave him the order which he accepted for Grace to sign next Thursday.

Thursday 30 Nov 1899

A long time since I have written in my diary many events have transpired but am thankful to write "Nothing very alarming except that Mrs Catherine Rattray is very sick and not expected to live long. She is afflicted with a cancer. Grace's dressmaker has come and gone this morning through the dark and rainy November morning—had to carry a lantern to find the way to

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the wharf. During the present month we have a plowing bee, 8 teams and their drivers. The neighbours were good to help us. Charley Woodman, Frank Woodman, Robert Reid, Percy Gillespie, Welly & Jack Niles & Herbert Dignam & Geo McDonel. Welly and Will butchered for us a week ago. Sold one hog and salted the other. We have not suffered for fires yet. Grace bought one bag of coal which lasted a week. The weather has been unusually warm all through the month of November. The cows getting a good feed of grass every day, only one fall of snow which

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did not last long. Rob Ranous
and a Miss McMullen were married
this month and a son born
for Mr & Mrs George Morgan Jr.
Jen had a quilting but I
could not attend but she had
most of her relatives from off
the foot of the Island, the Micheas
& Gillespies and Nesbits and
Mrs. W.H. Woodman & Mrs Frank Woodman.
My mouth been sore all month
cutting teeth so late in life does
not agree with me very well
but "They Say" I'll get used to
them. Hope so. Frank Bamford
and Jim Maloney came for school tax
on Lindas 85 cts paid and receipted.
Frank came over again and went to Kingston.

53

52

Mrs Niles wove our carpet which
by the help of Will and Welly we
stretched over the dining room floor
and under the coal stove. I colored
rags for Jen violet, green, and
red. Ought to have answered
Bernard Morgans letter but
never have up to the present date.
Sent Johny letters & new papers
but no returning answer yet.
Will Ranous and wife have
adopted a baby. Did not receive
any letter from Voltie Tuesdays
mail and am disappointed.
Wellie came to day and chopped us
wood & Arthur & Maud picked
up some from away down below the
cedars on goose point so we are well
fortified against the weather for a time.

54

55

Friday 1 December 1899

This is the first day of the last month of the year 1899 and not a very pleasant day, barometer falling but not very cold day. Grace sewing. I chop mince meat & apples and "stone raisons". Grace sewing all day. Evening pleasant in door but rainy dark & windy outside. Arthur mad & refused to go to bed but we manage to get him started at last. Will went up the Island this morning canvassing for subscribers for his new books. Wellie gone to Rattrays butchering 3 hogs for George R came home at 3 pm. Our mail came late tonight. We received two letters from Voltie, the latest date 27 Nov one from RG one from W.F.W. but none from Wells Sr. The Whig, Montreal Star, Christian Guardian & Christian Herald.

55

54

Saturday 2nd Dec 1899

A dirty rainy morning but not cold. Wind S. Wellie came up and chopped us a lot of wood. Maud washed a few things and cleaned pantry and kitchen floor, sent Arthur to Mrs Niles to buy 10 cts worth of vinegar. Wallace sent me a gallon of vinegar but would not take pay for it. Wall is a good generous boy. I prepared the mincemeat already for pies. Grace made cookies and sewed. Wallace made us a short visit in pm. Gave Wellie a bottle of homemade wine and some candy for the children all I had to give. Hubert brought me some sour krout which is a feast indeed. A windy squally night. Grace, Arthur and Maud go after dark and bring in all the clothes from the line.

56

55

wringing wet. Arthur as usual put the dogs in the barn but our noble prince managed to get out and whined and barked and fought other dogs all night in the door yard & barn yard. And I sat up till 9 o'clock pm reading the history and origin of dogs, their education and training. Their good & bad traits of characters of all kinds and sort of dogs mastiffs and curs, blood hounds, collies, newfoundlands, St Bernards, Esquimoux, deer hounds, fox hounds, grey hounds, bull dogs &c &c &c and then I was annoyed by the dogs all night and several other nights previous. If I was in command I'd keep no dogs & tiny is a bird yip yip to get out & yip yip to get in who hears

57

56

Sunday 3rd December 1899

A quiet half cloudy day,
not cold, grass green and
growing. A most remarkable
autumn for fine weather thanks
be to God. Will came over awhile
said he came home long after
dark last night, footed it all
the way from the villiage. He
stayed all night friday with
Belle's family & has has 20 subscribers.
Bell takes 2 books. Grace
has gone over to Wills to dinner
and from there to Evelines. Flora &
Ethel came over to visit Maud &
Arthur went over to visit Charley.
Maud hung the clothes on the line this
morning then went to Church
evening. Maud & Arthur gone down
to Wellies both lasted to come

58

57

some cutter. Grace and I am alone

[??????]

Monday 4 December 1899

Awoke this morning to find
the ground covered with snow
and not much wood and
no coal but we are well.

I build fire in kitchen stove.

I mend Arthurs sweater and
pants and mend stockings.

Arthur twisted the ring out of
the stove hearth with a stick
which he ought to have laid
to his back. always breaking
something. Wellie came up
and got wood for us. Wellie's
got a bad cold. Grace fixing
a dress for Maud & Maud is
ironing all the clean clothes. Cloudy
all day looks like more snow but
not very cold. Wellie Sr came

59

58

then rapped loudly on the door and I bawled out "come in" and the door was reluctantly opened by some one and behold! our old gentleman presented himself life size and though we were looking for him each day for a week, he came rather unexpectedly at last but none the less welcome. Grace & Maud flew around and soon prepared a hot meal as he had not broken his fast since leaving Watertown at 8 O'clock pm. Well we sat up till 11 O'clock talking

60

59

Tuesday 5 December 1899

A cold morning. frost on window

and snow on the ground

and a dark threatening

horizon, but awake to find

one of our dear absent ones

safely at home and I am glad.

The day passes uneventfully away

with the usual routine of getting

the three meals and making a

few mince pies. Grace sewing for

Maud. Arthur choring around.

We hope to get a letter from

V to night and K9 too. Wells

went over the river to Van's for

his trunk. Wellie went with him

rowed back through a snow storm

No letters from Voltie nor from K9

61

60

Wednesday 6 December 1899

A lovely morning the
snow over a foot deep on the
level and snowing as hard
and fast as ever it can fall.
Every tree, and branch, & twig
and bush, and shrub covered
and loaded down with snow.
the every barn and house roof
covered deep in snow. We shoveled
enough snow from the coal box
cover to fill the tank and kettles
with pure snow water - the trees
and shrubery are beautiful in
their dress of pure white the
river is obscured weird
misterious veil of falling snow.
Arthur out door wading in snow
to his waist after cattle and
horses and he thinks it is great
fun while not a beauty.

62

61

wind disturbs the scene, all
nature stands motionless except
fast falling snow not very warm
not very cold. P.M. the storm partly clears
the sun shines fair and clear, a slight
wind sends the snow tumbling from
the trees, soon clouds over again.
Wells Sr put on his every day
attire and prepared for the battle of
domestic care. firstly he put
Jess in stable but young Jess he could
not manage for she has not been
broken to the halter and is wild so
she ran around barn and cantered
& bounded across the fields of snow
at will. Then Sr put all the young stock
in the stables, chopped wood, brought
water, fed cows, brought his old cutter
out, hitched Bess up and drove
down the road and over to dock
(or near there) found the snow so deep
couldn't get through. Grace sewing all
day for Maud. Arthur shoveled
snow paths to barn and river
Irene churned made 7 prints for market.

63

62

cooked and washed dishes. Charley came over to see his uncle Wells to pay his respects a complimentary visit. Maud cleaned kitchen floor &c &c &c and so ends the day and we go early to bed for we must arise betimes 4 O'clock. Grace & Sr going to the City Thursday 7 December 1899 Arose at 4 this morning bustled around and got breakfast for all hands; very dark morning and cloudy. Arthur went to the dock to drive the team back carrying a lantern. Will came home last night from a canvassing tour, walking through the snow. The snow this morning is sticking to the lower branches of all the trees. Uncle Sam's orchard looks ghostly in its dress of white. Maud is writing to her papa would very much to know where Voltie is now a long time since he went from there

64

63

Arthur whistles and sings so much it is tiresome and disgusting. Make and fry cakes and melt snow to wash clothes. Wells Jr has a tough time getting wood for stove. It would be a fine—a satisfying move, to move into the woods. Ah a man that has to be always on the watchful for fuel morning noon and night.

"Well, I'll have to look around somewhere today and get some wood: dont hardly know where I'm going to get it." 3 Oclock pm growing colder. Wind N.W. freezing looks dark and stormy and winter is here in earnest after all our recent warm days and green fields, and Arthur our little man of all work digs some oak limbs from under the snow and bravely chops wood enough to fill the wood box then brings water for night after melting snow enough to fill the tank and boiler so we can wash the clothes tomorrow, milks 4 cows and fills their stanchions and waters horses & cows, feeds 5 pigs and then brings Bess to the dock for Grace and her father and Arthurs boots are not good but

65

64

have holes and his feet
are wet and cold—a pair
of Volties old boots he left
home last spring, poor Arthur.
I'm sorry for him, for he is so
uncomplaining. Maud swept
and straightened the rooms.
We made fried cakes and mince
and apple pie and sauce for
supper. Arthur drives to dock
for Sr & Grace, snow drifted in
roads, Sr walked home all right
but foot sore, had supper all
ready.

66

65

cooked & washed all the dishes
Wells kindled a coal fire which brought on
cheers and warms all the room
and the hearts of all the family.
Evenings mail, a letter from Laura Joslin,
2 from Voltie, "Herald
& Star", "Whig", "Christian Guardian"
War news is that the Dutch are
whipping the "Dickens out of the
English" good for Uncle "Paul".
Beat them back old man. Dont
let the Englishers enroach [sic: encrouch] into
your little Republic and rob you
of your country & homes and gold
mines and diamonds. They already
own enough of this Earths surface, much
more than they can keep clean
There is a darkest England as well
as a darkest Africa

67

66

Saturday 9 December 1899

A bright day. So went to the
village for coal, drove Jess & Bess
This first time Jess been in
harness since last May and
she thought because she had
not been in harness so long that
she was superannuated and balked
accordingly and as Bess dont like
to drive double there was war declared
instantly. But we soon brought
them around all right and they
drove home a load of coal at
night. Sr had 4 shoes set on
Bess and called at Charlies going &
coming. We churned, put the clothes
all on the line, cleaned floors and
swept all the rooms and done general
house work. Will came in the evening with his
Canvassing Book, left it here for Sr inspection
and then went to Niles to meet Jen and Charlie
who have preceeded him.

68

67

Sunday 10 December 1899

Weather moderate cloudy
wind S, clothes out on the line,
dry enough to be gathered in. Wells Sr
reading "Herald and Montreal star". Arthur
poking his mouth full of pop corn.
Grace reading while Maud combs Jens
hair. The house quiet no sound except
the ticking of the clock and Arthur munching
pop corn. Never since Arthur came
here, have I ever seen him take a
book in hand to read. I think
he hates books as a cat does water.
I suppose I ought to write Watson
and Bernard. I'm sometimes tired
of writing to [?] of my own family
Wells examined Wills books. Will came
over & stays a while. Wells promises
to take a book. hope he will.
Our turkeys this morning are gone
Cont tell

69

68

Monday 11 December 1899

Arose at 6 a m Wind south
raining, snow nearly gone
all mud. Was going to wash
but rains heavy so finished writing
to Miss Watson. Wells Sr fixing
up around the barn. Arthur
puttering around. Grace ironing.
Maud washes dishes and
helps cook. Irene make mince and
apple pie. V will be at home in
less than 9 days. A long winter
before - us hope it will be a pleasant
one. 1 pm sun shining out
from behind a dark rain cloud.
Charley brought Jens coloring
for me to do - but, cant color to
day.

70

69

Tuesday 12 December 1899

rained all last night; snow
all gone not a sign of snow
any where. The flat this side of
Consession covered with water.

Wind on the rampage all the
time. Only wish Voltie was here.

I color for Jen and send a
letter to Watson Ottawa.

Grace sewing, Wellie didnt come
up to day. He started to go to get
wood from the north shore (Me and
Will) but the wind and rain
coming on they turned back again.

No letters to night only one from
Helen Watson, none from Voltie
or Robert. Will's book co sent him
a letter adressed Rev WC Dixon

Oh the days are lonely enough

71

Wednesday 13 December 1899

The month is slowly passing
day after day goes by and
Voltie does not come yet. We heard
from him up till the sixth of December
7 days ago, expected a letter last night
but was disappointed. Wind blowing
fiercely from SW - churned and
made out butter for market and
washed dishes. Grace fried cakes and
helped around the house. Maud
pattered around too. Grace up
last night at two fixing R.R.R.
for Maud for she has got the belly
ache. Oh this is a stormy month
of wind snow and rain. The ground
as bare as June and grass is green
since the snow went off. The cows
and horses can pick their living
out in the fields. I think

72

71

Geo Niles has come home – just now saw a man with a long overcoat go up along the shore to Niles. The wind is howling and Grace is gone down to Wellie's: another dark squall arising in the South. The clouds are blue black like ink. Voltie wrote he would come home before the 20 December or about that time. Sr fixing fence all day, he cant find things: he cut the rib and I have it cooking in the pot. The white cap waves are chasing each other today, while the river is is blue, green & purple & mud color along the shore. Wind blew a half gale all last night. Cant get any trace or word of our turkeys. Grace went down to visit Irene and cheer her up a bit & carried her a bag of dough nuts. brought back a pail of pickles. Arthur went down in eve to accompany Grace home

73

72

Thursday 14 December 1899

Arose at 4 am. Sr kindled
the kitchen fire. (The fire in coal
stove went out Tuesday night).

I got breakfast for all hands.

Arthur drove to dock. ground
frozen some in night. Cloudy
wind north but not heavy,
snow lightly falling. Arthur
thought he would get Maud
out to milk but failed.

Charlie came over to get subscribers
for good litterature but I have
no money & never do have
any. Evening Arthur drove
to dock came back bringing Bob
G with him leaving Sr to
walk with Will & Voltie. Wellie
Sr stoped at Wills and we

74

73

waited a long time for Sr to
come and at last sat down to
the table when they, Wells & Will
came in with each a bottle
sticking out of their pocket
and very funny. It is
surprising how foolish men
can talk when drunk. Silly
senceless twaddle. Old Jim
Barrie came to All of Bery's to night,
came down on the boat this pm
RG said V would soon be home.
Ill be sure when I see him
walking in
Friday 15th 1899
A clear cold bright day frost
on the north window in kitchen.
A heavy fall of snow last night
wind blowing and snow drifting.
Sr drove to the dock for hog feed
and lumber Arthur, Will & Willie

75

74

went too. Arthur in Marts old
overcoat which comes clean
to his heels and Sr old muffler
on. Nellie sent her
Christmas offerings last night
and I received a letter from
V mailed from Sault Ste
Marie Dated 9 December 6
days ago. Nelly sent a small
Christmas token to Belle and Jen
but nothing to Eveline who
has done so much for her

76

Saturday 16th December 1899

A cold morning river steaming
snow on ground.

Afternoon warmer those
picture frames came to day
came rushing in with an old
womans picture in frame
said it was mine. The picture
looks like the d—l in distress
I am disgusted that I was
such a fool as to patroning
such sharpers. Grace paid
them for the daub \$200 it will
do all right framed on a horse
collar and {bring, being ?} for the stable
to —— Wish V was home

77

78

Grace is cooking for the
preacher who is going to
dine dine tomorrow with
the Bamford family.

Im sorry it is going to
thaw. Wish Voltie would come

Sunday 17th 1899 December

Wind South, raw, chilly

day. A night thaw. Maud went
to church. Cloudy weather.

His Reverence dined with
us today. fine good man

He got a cold. gave him
a couple of lemons to make hot
drink for his cough on going to
bed. he said he had always
drank hot buttermilk for cold

78

81

but I thought lemons would
be better. Said he had drunk
some hot whiskey once by
mistake. I said it wouldnt
hurt him any. B.G. asked
the preacher to marry him.
next Thursday at two O'clock.
Wish V would come. Oh lord
why dont he come!
It didnt choke Bob any
to ask his reverence in
my presence to tie the knot
but he came very near choking,
he blushed and stamered like
a school boy.

79

82

Monday 18 Decenber 1899

Walls Sr and and R.G.

went to the city to day

and Jen went up. Drove

over for her this morning.

I wash the clothes and Grace

puts them on the line to

dry. W Sr comes just after

dark bringing Bella home

with him and Jim came and

we all had my dinner together.

Will and Charley came over &

go home with Jen. Didn't

bring in the clothes. Wells

brings wine, brandy, club

whiskey and old rye. Lemons,

bananas, grapes, oranges, mixed

nuts and onetionary by the

quart. Bell brought the

ladies cake which she had

made three weeks before.

80

83

Tuesday 19 December 1899

Awoke this morning to find the snow all gone but a patch here & there and clothes flapping in the rain. Went and pinned down them on line the best we could and Bell baked for the wedding and frosted the cake. Voltie dont come, got discouraged and went to bed had been abed about 10 minutes when Grace came to the bedroom door and said "Voltie is here." Well I never will say how rejoyced I was to know that Voltie was home again after 8 long weary months gone on the lakes. He had crossed the river in a punt but claims the flat covered with water up at the

81

84

Wednesday 20 December 1899

A very fine day. Voltie & Wellie go over river for Volties trunk and tow Geo Lidy's punt home and Voltie drives to the villiage taking Belle and Katheleen home leaving Grace Junior behind. Tis long after dark when they start for the drive up the island and wind blowing sharp from the South so they carry lantern which leaks oil and goes out. Stop at Archie Barrys and bring a lantern. Roads all mud arrive at Charlie's at 11 p.m. Sat up late to prepare the family for tomorrow's wedding. Voltie stays all night at Belle's. Belle set the table before going home

Thursday 21st December 1899

Arose at the usual hour

find the weather very fine but
not a flake of snow to be seen
any where. This is Graces wedding
morning and we expect Charlie
and family here by nine O'clock.

They came at ten O'clock am, 8 of
them before Belle, came Jen to
help carve and cut. Next came Will,
Charlie & Flora. Then Wall Niles
abd Shell Niles. Then Wm G
Woodman & family, 6 of them.

Next came the Reverend Mr Wase.

Then Carl brought a load
from Kingston, Bob's father
and mother, Mr & Mrs Gaskin,
Mrs Charlton and Bob himself.

Then Albert Charlton groomsman,

May Wormworth bride's maid

Next two of Bobs cousins

83

86

Dunlop and Gowdy then
Voltie and Laura Davis and
last came Muriel. Geo Niles
& Wellie, Eveline and the two
little boys. Hubert & Clyde
although invited didnt come.
Came nearly forgetting Henry
Holliday & Bessie Gibson.
Geo Niles had to go to Kingston
to get him a suit of clothes for
he is going to marry Louise Dixon.
The presents were many and very
beautiful & costly. Well tis evening
and they are married and gone
on their "Lower" and

84

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Friday 28th December -99

Month nearly gone and

I have not written in this diary since

21st December. Wednes & Thursday snowing

fast and furious. ground snow covered

every where. Yesterday V & Sr went

to Kingston. Friday evening received a

letter from Grace & Bob Brooklyn.

Wednesday V & Junior butchered beef

for us and pork for Wells Jr. Jen came

over to day and I colored green for her carpet.

A letter or card from Nelly Guy she cant come down

to visit us; going away to Montana to marry

Brooks.

85

88

Saturday 29 or 30th December 1899

Cold dismal weather; river steaming. Will and Charley here. Wm going to Niles for hen feed. Charley came for Jens green carpet rags and butter milk. June prepared mincemeat for pies and washed clothes, such as towels, stockings, tablecloth. Maud done parlor, dining room, and chamber & cleaned pantry and kitchen floors. Evening terrible cold and we all gather around the coal stove in the dining room and enjoy a season of conversation and reading ie Wells Sr, Voltie, Maud, Arthur & "yours to command."

Sunday 31st December 1899

This is the last time or day 1899 will be written for the year of A.D. while the Earth continues on its orbit around the Sun. And another such a day for storm. I do not remember since my advent on Earth although may have seen many like this one. Very cold, snowing, blowing & drifting from the North all day. V was going to drive down for E and the children and call for his grandmother but the storm prevented him. How dreary and cheerless is the appearance of the landscape. The old St. Lawrence

86

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seen through the storm looks dark and frowning. We alone all day not a visitor.

Maud gets the tea and washes dishes.

Monday 1st of January 1900.

The weather is moderate this morning, not nearly so cold but cloudy, the snow gently falling. Volty drives down to Wellies for Wellie and his family to spend celebrate this first day of 1900. They came and had a good time & went home at dark. We had oysters, stew, and mince pie, beef & potatoes, cheese, cookies, Christmas cake, hot buns & butter, gravy &c &c. I think Eveline enjoyed herself most thoroughly and also the little ones. While Wellie & Voltie employed their time in the shop making a sleigh. This is election day sure. The candidates for council are numerous. Geo Gillespie, Snub Woodman, Tom Murphy, Job Watts Briceland, Billy Card are a few whom are striving with might & main to secure the coveted & lucrative office and also for the high honor of the distinguished title "Councilor".

87

90

Tuesday 2nd Jan 1900

A snowy day. Voltie gone to
the villiage for coal. started early
Will going with him going to cross the
ferry to the city to look after his books.

I am sleepy. Sr. soldering old
tin slop pails. Arthur playing
in the kitchen with the dog.

Maud studying cook book.

3rd Jan 1900 Wednesday

Louise & Geo married at Ed Rattrays

Thursday

Shell came down in pm to learn embroidery

Friday Jan 1900

Sr went to villiage in Cutter sent
Belle been come county. Belle sent me
big piece of cheese, weather soft

Saturday

a most beautiful fine day
sun brilliant and warm & thawing. The
sun sets in dark cloud bank

Sunday 7 Jan 1900

A rainy dark

day wind South and blowing. ice all broken
and swept away by the heavy wind
lonely day I write to Edna Quinn

88

Tuesday 9 January 1900

Arose at 4 this morning for

Voltie is going to Kingston on the half past nine boat
and when returning will stop at the villiage dance
this evening and come home tomorrow morning

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Friday 12 January 1900

A stormy day. Snow

falling fast and furious. Irene done washing
and hung them on the line. Maud done general
home work. Voltie working in the shop on sleigh.

Arthur at school. Wells Sr doing chores and building
fires, river again frozen over this morning.

Arthur at school.

Nelly Guy married this day

of our Lord 1900 at Montana USA

to one William Brooks, Oh dear

girls must be scarce in Montana and she
wanted a husband pretty bad to go so far.

Well Do hope she is happy & always will be.

Saturday 13 January 1900

A mild snowy day sun

peeping out between clouds now and then. Voltie working in

shop. Sr hitches up and drives to Geo for some tools to
make window sash. Maud cleans pantry & kitchen floors.

Will went to Kingston with G Niles Sr. Went about those
books but was again disapointed. No books at the express office.

Muriel came up to iron the calico patches Herbert came too.

Sent them home rejoicing with some patches. Hubert came too. Sent them home rejoicing
with some patches and their Auntie

Grace's old bustle filled with apples. Arthur accompanies
them home. Sat up reading till 1/2 past 10 Oclock pm.

Maud ironed in the evening.

92

95

Sunday 14 January 1900

A snowy day but not cold. After the dishes are done Maud goes to Eveline's to skate with Muriel & Hubert. V & A follow after I had dinner nearly ready when they return; they came up on the ice but the snow is fast covering the ice which will soon spoil the skating. All reading except Arthur who never reads anything. Arthur feeds his part. We get tea after dark and go to bed at 1/2 past nine O'clock after reading the War papers & "beside the Bonnie Brier Bush". A lonesome day wish Bob & Grace were here at home.

Monday 15 January 1900

cloudy. looks like snow or rain. hazy & not very cold. James Michea died today of inflammation of bowels. Poor boy. he leaves a wife & five children. Arthur gone to school. Voltie working in shop on sleigh has it nearly done. Irene patched Arthurs pants. Arthur & great swearer, uses big oaths when outside the house. Will came over to borrow soap and boiler; boiler at Juniors. Will saw Bob and Grace on the Pierpoint. Will didn't get his books yet. Maud pottering around today. Maud experimenting in the cake making. Arthur at school.

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Tuesday 16 Jan 1900

A cloudy day looks like snow.
I wash all the shirts and drawers
for our men and hang them on
the line. Voltie & Bob Reid go to
the dance at the villiage with Bobs
horse and Volties cutter and harness
and we are more lonesome than ever.
James Michea burried or laid in the vault
today. 82 rigs in the funeral procession
Arthur at school 1/2 day.

Wednesday 17th 1900

Arose at 7 pm when
just as we were getting breakfast. Voltie and
Bob Reid returned from the dance at
the villiage. After breakfast Bob & Voltie
went to bed and slept till half past
11 Oclock. Wellie came up. I didnt
do much work only tried to churn and
butter wouldn't come so turned the
cream out into a pan and washed
the churn. Arthur at school. Irene darned
Arthurs mittens after dark.

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Thursday 18 January 1900

Arose at 7 a.m.

Weather changed to warm wind South and thawing all day. Set tubs under the eaves & full of water in short time, cloudy and looks like rain. Think the snow will all go off again. Maud chopped apples and beef for mincemeat pies. Voltie chopped down one of the twin hickories on the flat for wood and then cut another small tree in cedars & from there went to Frank Woodmans to bargain for hay. He did not return till nearly one O'clock pm. We got an other dinner for Voltie. I was afraid he had walked up on the ice and droped through. no ice to walk on any where. Arthur at school.

95

Many a day has gone since then.
When one day to Kingston I had been
and as the Pierport was returning home
and standing by her dock alone I heard a sigh
and looking up what met my eye
Old Geo McKenzie ghost I swear
alone in the gangway standing there

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PHOTOMOUNT
PAMPHLET BINDER
Manufactured by
GAYLORD BROS, Inc.
Syracuse, N. Y.
Stockton, Calif.

This document would not be possible without the editorial contributions of the following people:

Ann Hopkinson, shashathree, carol ann, Ella Deering, MaryV, Judi , 2alina, Ben W. Brumfield, Giovanna Lim, Reagan MacMillan, Lisa Bremner, Sheila Hewett, and Queen's University Archives