

Diary of Ida Kate Handy
of Howard Township, Kent County, Ontario
1875



transcription by Ida's great-great granddaughter, Leah Wilson (2017)

The diary is a bound, lined soft cover sewn bound notebook. The cover has come apart from the contents. Two pages were separated from these contents, but appear to be the front and back pages which wrapped around the main section.

The first of these two pages seems to be the start of the diary as it is dated Jan 1st 1875, but with a different pen. It begins with a poem 'You Know You Do'. The main part of the diary also begins January 1 1875.

What is interesting, is that Ida was told about this poem only on January 3rd. There was a loose piece of paper inside the diary with the poem written again, with additional verses.

It may be that Ida added the poem to the front of her diary later, but could not write the final verses because she had run out of space.

[Inside Cover]

Diary

By

Miss Ida C Handy

[above inscription may have been written by someone else. Ida's name was Ida Katherine (Kate) Handy – spelled with a K not a C]

[Page 1 - loose]

January 1st 1875

Miss Ida K Handy

Morpeth

Ont

Jan 1

You Know You Do

When "some one's" step comes up the walk

 Your cheeks take on a rosier hue

And though no other hears his knock

 You hear it well – you know you do!

When "some one" talks about the grain

 And bows at pa, yet looks at you

You see his glances – ah, 'tis plain –

 And give them back – you know you do!

And though it may be very wrong

 When pa is quite ignored for you

You sing for him your prettiest song

You cunning thing – you know you do!

And when he talks of other girls
Of Hateful Kate and Jennie too
You fling at him your auburn curls
You jealous thing – you know you do!

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You keep your eyes upon the clock
And wish 'twould jump an hour or two
So that your pa would cease his talk
And go to bed – you know you do!

And when the folks to bed have gone
And left “some one” alone with you
You wish the clock would stop its tongue
Or you stop it – you know you do!

He blushes deep and looks afraid
To be thus left alone with you
But your eyes tell there never was maid
But could be wooed – you know you do!

You peep at “some one” 'neath your curls
Until with love you burn him through
And make him hate all other girls
In love for you – you know you do!

And when his arm steals round your chair
You give a smothered scream or two
As if you did'nt want it there

But oh, you do – you know you do!

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January 1st 1875

January 1st

Clear bright and warm, staid to home all day, Louisa¹ and Mary² came up in the evening, Oliver³ came down and him and Julia E⁴ and Frank⁵ and cousin Fanny⁶ and myself went down to Morpeth to a ball at Mr Walters had a good time made the acquaintance of a Mr. H. Coll, left at half past one. Snowing when coming home.

2nd Snowing and blowing quite cold. Felt rather dull. Louisa and Mary still here. Henry and Linny⁷ came up towards evening and also Collins⁸ and all his family. Ate apples, played cards, and

¹ Louisa WATSON *nee* HANDY. Ida's sister and the first wife of Henry (William Henry) Watson. In 1882 Henry and Louisa and their son Clayton travelled to Manitoba, with the intention of improving Louisa's declining health. The journey was taxing and the crossing of a flooded Red River precarious (from: Henry Watson's diary). A few weeks later, on May 6 1882 Louisa died at her brother-in-law's home in Nelson, Manitoba. On Nov 15 1883, Henry married Ida in Detroit (from Henry Watson's diary).

² Ida's niece Mary WATSON, daughter of Louisa & Henry Watson

³ Oliver RANSOM, married Julia Ellen Handy on 6 Feb 1900

⁴ Julia Ellen Handy, Ida's sister. Ida always refers to her throughout the diary as "Julia E." or sometimes "Julia Ellen". She mentions a Julia later with no middle name. This is a different Julia

⁵ Frank HANDY, Ida's brother

⁶ Possibly Ida's cousin Fannie HANDY, daughter of Hale Handy & Laura Wood. Hale & Laura Handy lived in Wisconsin by at least 1870. Later in the diary Ida talks of Fannie leaving for Michigan, and then 'being home at last'.

⁷ Ida's nephew Linneus ('Linny' or 'Lin') WATSON, son of Louisa & Henry Watson

⁸ Ida's brother Collins Handy Jr. who married Elizabeth Watson. Collins Jr. & Elizabeth would have had four children by this time.

drank cider all evening.

3rd Sunday. Fair not very cold. Louisa and Henry⁹ went home today and Linny and Mary remained Anson Willson¹⁰ and Johnny Purvis came down in the afternoon. Anson brought a piece of poetry entitled "you know you do".

4th Quite warm. The boys all went to Morpeth to the election Frank bought a concertina Elvira Stewart and her two children came up in the morning and stayed all day and in the afternoon Julius¹¹ and Otis¹² came up and Fannie and I went home with him to stay till Wednesday.

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January 5th Nice and warm today Lulah¹³ has learned me to polka. Danced and played cards all day and in the evening all went over to Mr Fairchild's had a jolly time.

6th Somewhat colder played cards nearly all day and toward evening Julius and his family came home with us They stayed the evening but Frank, Julia E, Collins¹⁴, Elizabeth¹⁵, Fannie, Lucy¹⁶ and I went down to Mr. Duck's and spent the evening.

⁹ Henry Watson who married Louisa Handy and later Ida Handy

¹⁰ Possibly Ida's cousin. Son of "Uncle Abe" (Abram) Willson & Julia (Julia probably Ida's aunt on her mother's side

¹¹ Ida's brother Julius Handy (later referred to as 'Jule' or 'Jules')

¹² Ida's nephew Otis E. HANDY son of Julius Handy & Lucretia Bryant.

¹³ Nickname for Lucretia (nee Bryant), Julius Handy's wife (Ida was staying with them on this day)

¹⁴ Collins HANDY Jr., Ida's brother

¹⁵ Elizabeth Jane WATSON, wife of Collins Handy Jr., she d. 6 July 1895

¹⁶ Probably Clara Lucinda "Lucy" HANDY, she was still living with her parents by 1891, later married Alvin BRYANT

7th Snowed all day. Expected Mr. Purvis and his sisters down in the evening but didn't come Julius and his family came Mr. Kennedy came with his machine to thrash clover

8th What a beautiful day it has been neither too cold nor too warm Had to wait on thrashers all day.

9th Awfully windy and cold. The coldest day this winter so far Pa bought a [map?] today.

10th Sunday. Not quite as cold stayed in house all day.

11th The weather about the same as yesterday. Fred¹⁷ started for school to day.

12th Warm and pleasant. Fannie and I knit Linny a pair of mittens to day.

13th Cold and stormy

14th More pleasant Washed all day. In the evening Julius and his family and Frank Corliss and his wife and Collins and his wife and Hortense Watson¹⁸ and also Henry + Willie Purvis and their sisters and Anson + Ella¹⁹ was here and spent the evening. Had a [big?] time

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January 15th Not very cold. Ironed all day and in the evening Frank, Fred, Fan and I went to Morpeth and there heard that Peter + Neil McPhail were being tried for stealing clover seed from Mr. Turner

16th The weather continues the same. Received a letter from Melvin Fairchild to-day.

17th Sunday Rather warm. Anson²⁰ came in the after-

¹⁷ Probably Ida's brother Anson Frederick HANDY. Would be about 16 years old.

¹⁸ Henry Watson's sister Hortense "Tennie" WATSON.

¹⁹ Anson & Ella, children of Abram WILLSON

²⁰ Probably Anson WILLSON

noon + in the eve him + Frank Fred
Lucy Fan + I went down to Henry's for a
sleighride and came around by Fairchilds
and brought Wes²¹ home.

18th Clearville Fan Frank + I came down this morning
We staid all night. Henry was attending election all day²².
Mary has been quite sick with diptheria some better now.
19th Henry + Louisa went to Chatham to day +
Frank went home and Fan + I remained to
keep house for them. Had a jolly time. I
locked Fan out-doors in the afternoon to keep
her from snow balling me and Henry Bury
looking out the window, she motioned for
him to help her he came with the horse whip
but he could'nt touch me, so after he had
gone I let her in and she behaved for a
little while till we went out on the
verandah for a promenade and seeing Henry

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looking at us through the window we started
and run and Fan gave me a push and
away I went tumbling and rolling over a lot
of snow and ice scratching my hands most
fearfully Henry of course enjoying the sight
Mrs McFarlane came over about dusk to see
Mary who was sick.

²¹ Ida's brother Wesley Norman HANDY. Wesley married Lucy Olivia FAIRCHILD in 1877

²² Henry WATSON, he was appointed Commissioner of High Courts of Justice in 1872 and became Township Clerk (Orford) in 1875 i.e. around the time of this writing

Jan 20th Splendid good sleighing Ma + Pa²³ came down after us to day Louisa melted sugar and we ate all the wax²⁴ we could Fan + I got weighed she weighed 117 lbs + I weighed 115 lbs.

“ 21st Quite warm Received an invitation to go to Mr Simons this evening but declined. Anson came down to go with us to Henry’s to a party.

“ 22nd Went to the party got home between four + five Snowing when coming home went to bed and got up about one in afternoon.

“ 23rd Thawing a little today Commenced making my Antimacassar²⁵

“ 24th Sunday Snowed all day Mr Lavelle was to have preached in Morpeth to day but did’nt on account of his son’s illness

“ 25th Warm and Pleasant Worked on my antimacassar all day

“ 26th Nice + warm Pa + Ma Julia E + Fan went down to [Page 7]

Julius + George’s ²⁶ today. Received a letter from Annie Fairchild.

January 27th Went to Chatham with Ma + Pa + Collins today Bought me a silk dress + a shawl and Collins + I got some ambrotypes²⁷ taken + I got half a dozen photos. Stormed all day.

28th Snowed nearly all day Lucy + Fan went down to David’s²⁸

²³ “Ma and Pa” is Collins HANDY Sr. & Rebecca BALDWIN

²⁴ “Jack Wax” a taffy made by pouring maple syrup over snow

²⁵ Chair cover

²⁶ George HANDY, son of Collins HANDY sr. & Rebecca BALDWIN. Married Rhoda Angeline WATSON in 1871

²⁷ A photographic process introduced in about the 1850s that replaced the daguerreotype and then was superseded in the 1860s by the tintype (Wikipedia). The tintype was a similar process and may have been the type of photo Ida had taken.

towards evening + Collins + Sherman²⁹ came up in the evening. Worked part of day on my Antimaccasar. 29th Quite warm + Pleasant. Pa bought half a dozen [illegible looks like brooms?] from Mr. Stewart today 30th Somewhat colder. Worked a little while on my Antimacassar. Anson came down in the evening and Fan + I went down to Morpeth and then out to Ridgetown with him for a cutter ride. 31st Sunday Joe Roome's³⁰ + Sarah and Mrs. Potts came up today went home this evening Fred went down to Mr. Fairchild and Franky came home with him and stayed all night - he brought me a letter from Leva. Between 9 + 10 Oclock Anson³¹ came down. It tried to snow a little today. Feb 1st - Clear and cold Sent a note to Leva by Franky " 2nd - Warm and Pleasant - Went in eve to an Oyster supper and dance at Mr. Kennedy's Rained all night

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February 3rd Clear and cold and high winds. The men all went down to Morpeth to the auction. Wes bought a glass pitcher 4th The weather still continues about the same Somewhat colder. 5th Not quite so cold as yesterday Julius

²⁸ Possibly Ida's brother David HANDY

²⁹ Sherman Theodore HANDY, son of Collins Handy Jr & Elizabeth Jane Watson, later became an attorney in Michigan

³⁰ 'Roome' was the maiden name of Ida's maternal grandmother, so these Roomes are probably cousins.

³¹ Possibly Anson WILLSON, son of Abram

was here in the evening.

6th Henry + Louisa and the children came up this afternoon and staid till after tea and then went down to Mr. Watson's³² to stay all night Julius staid all the afternoon and in the evening he took Fan Lucy + I down to Morpeth we went and called on Julia³³ Had quite a talk with Johnny³⁴. When we came home Anson was here.

7th Sunday until Friday night. Left here Sunday Fan and I [illegible] visiting Mr. Fairchilds Had a splendid good time Played cards all the evening On Wednesday I wrote a valentine to E. Miles and Leva wrote one to W. Perrin and today I wrote a letter to Annie. Had the sore throat the fore part of the week Frank came down after us tonight and he took us to Morpeth It was never known to be so cold for such a length of time as it has been the last two weeks

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February 13th + 14th Collins came up after me yesterday to come and stay till today Elizabeth is sick

³² Prob. John WATSON, father of Henry Watson. He d. July 1887

³³ Throughout her diary Ida refers to her sister as "Julia Ellen" or "Julia E". Julia E. & Ida were still living with their parents in the 1871 census. By the 1881 census they were living with Henry Watson to help care for their sister Louisa (Henry's wife). It seems clear this is not Ida's sister. It could be Julia Willson, daughter of Abram.

³⁴ Might be Johnny Purvis

The children stayed here all night Collins
brought me home tonight Julius and his
family came up for a sleighride Frank
took Julia E + Fan up to Mr. Ransom to stay till Tuesday
“ 15th Wrote a letter to Mr. Allen about my photos
Fred took it to Troy to post and also
the two Valentines
“ 16th Lucy went to do the work at Collins today
Not quite as cold as usual
“ 17th Oliver³⁵ brought Fan + Julia E. home to
day he staid till after tea
“ 18th A little warmer today. Julia E sick nearly
all the day
“ 19th Snowed part of day in the evening went
to Morpeth to hear Beadles Swiss Bell
Ringers
“ 20th John McFarlane came up today after Ma Mary³⁶
had the scarlet fever Was taken Wed night about 12
“ 21st Sunday Received word this morning of poor Mary's
death died at 25 min past seven Went
down in the afternoon. Linny taken with it
today

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February 22nd Sat up all night Linny some
better
“ 23rd Mary was buried this forenoon Commenced
to rain as we got nearly to the graveyard

³⁵ Probably Oliver Ransom. He married Ida's sister Julia Ellen in 1900.

³⁶ Daughter of Henry & Louisa WATSON

I came home Ma stopped down Linny
about the same Charlie Sheldon³⁷ and his
three little boys came here for dinner
Heard today that Uncle Abram + Aunt
Sarah had parted³⁸ The snow went all off today.
“24th Quite warm Rained Thundered + Lightening’d
last night.
“ 25th A little colder Ella Willson³⁹ came down this morning
and staid till about 2 Oclock then Eddie⁴⁰ came
and staid a couple of hours
“ 26th Snowed nearly all day
“ 27th Not very cold Received a letter from Henry
stating that Linny was a little better
“ 28th Sunday Pa + Lucy went down to Clearville after Ma today
Lucy staid Linny is getting better David⁴¹ was over
this morning + Anson⁴² came down and staid till
evening and then him and Frank went to Morpeth
to Church. I wrote a letter to Melvin this evening
March 1st Snowed + blowed all day
“ 2nd Not very cold Eddie⁴³ called in this morning
Frank posted my letter to Mel tonight.

³⁷ Charlie Sheldon married Ida’s cousin Louis HANDY

³⁸ probably meaning Abram WILLSON & Sarah BALDWIN. After her first husband died, Sarah married Abram in Detroit on 1 March 1867 (according to the Kent County branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society Newsletter vol. 16, #1 1993.) But what does this mean? Sarah was living with Abram in the 1871 census and still living with him in 1881. However for the rest of this diary they are not mentioned together, in fact seem to be living apart.

³⁹ Ella WILLSON, daughter of Abram

⁴⁰ Possibly Edwin WILLSON, son of Abram

⁴¹ Possibly Ida’s brother David

⁴² This is likely Anson WILLSON. Although Ida’s brother was Anson Frederick HANDY, throughout most of the diary she refers to her brother as Fred. Also Anson Frederick age 16 was probably still living at home

⁴³ Could be Edwin WILLSON, son of Abram?

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March 3rd 1875 Snowed and blowed most fearfully all day The men picked beans all day

“ 4th Thawed considerably today

“ 5th Snowed nearly all day + then in the evening it rained Ma + Pa went down to Clearville

this morning + returned this evening Anson came down after Julia E. this morning

“ 6th Not quite as cold Wes went to draw ice for Julius Uncle Abe⁴⁴ brought Julia E home this afternoon

Mr Malcom called in this afternoon and we had considerable sport with him. Heard that James Ransom was married

“ 7th Sunday Quite pleasant Frank Fan Julie E. + myself went down to Mr. Scarlet's today. Johnny P + Anson⁴⁵ came down while we were gone

“ 8th Warm + nice

“ 9th A little colder Julius was up this afternoon a little while

“ 10th Snowed part of the day, finished making over my black dress

“ 11th Julius + Lulah⁴⁶ came up this morning and she made Ma a present of a hanging basket Fan + I went with them to Ridgetown for a sleighride did'nt get home till three O'clock It rained the rest of the day

“ 12th Nice + warm today Anson came down and spent the evening Played Pedro Pitch⁴⁷ all the evening

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⁴⁴ Abram WILLSON

⁴⁵ Possibly Anson WILLSON

⁴⁶ Julius HANDY and wife Lucretia

⁴⁷ a card game

March 13th Splendid nice day The boys tapped a few trees and the sap ran quite well. Mr. + Mrs. Willson⁴⁸ of Ridgetown + Mrs [Beribee?] of Chatham were here this afternoon visiting. Pa went to Chatham with a load of beans Received a \$1.22 per bush for them

“ 14th Anson came down and him + Wes went to Morpeth to get a tooth pulled this Morning and when they came back Fan went home with him to stay this week Had quite a thunderstorm this afternoon. Mr. Fisher was over this evening.

“ 15th It has rained nearly all day Uncle Abe was down this forenoon. He starts for Troy New York this afternoon Wes took Julia E down to Julius this morning to do some sewing on the machine Henry H was up this afternoon a little while. Commenced making my silk dress today.

“ 16th Snowed + blowed all day. Anson called in as he was going to Morpeth and gave me an invitation to a dance [illegible – ‘at’?] his place tomorrow evening but declined on account of the recent death of Mary He called in again coming back + I sent a note to Fan by him

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March 17th Snowed + blowed all day fearfully cold. I went over to Mr Smith's in afternoon to borrow

⁴⁸ Presumably not Abram WILLSON & Sarah, who Ida would have referred to as Uncle Abe/Abram and Aunt Sarah.

an over shirt pattern. Mr Mosher came down after me to go to the dance but I refused He brought me a note from Fan

“ 18th Somewhat warmer today Julius brought Julia E home this morning Sent a note to Leva⁴⁹ by Fred.

“ 19th Anson was down this morning to give us an invitation to an evening party at his place next Tuesday eve. Commenced snowing this afternoon Received a note from Leva

“ 20th Not very cold Pretty good sleighing today.

“ 21st It is a most a lovely day Beginning to look like Spring. Wes went down to Mr. Fairchilds.

“ 22nd Quite warm Mr. Carson was here for dinner Pa + Wes went to Chatham with a load of peas rec'd 55cts- per bushel Was in bed all afternoon sick with a fearful headache and sore throat

“ 23rd A little colder than usual. Some better today. Henry came to saw wood this morning. Did not go to the party + Ans + J. Purvis came down after us but I could'nt go on account of sore throat and The rest would'nt it being so late. Ebenezer⁵⁰ brought Fanny home this afternoon. Anson took her down to Sarah's on Sunday to stay till today Henry + Linny were up this afternoon. They have all got well of the scarlet fever.

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March 24th Quite cold + windy tried to snow a little in the after-

⁴⁹ Leva was a nickname for Lucy Olivia Fairchild. Lucy married Ida's brother Wesley in 1877.

⁵⁰ Ebenezer might be Ida's cousin, son of Sedgwick HANDY (this Ebenezer born abt 1848 in probably New York, died 1907 in Morpeth)

noon. Pa + Collins + Sherman went to Chatham today with a load of Peas. Mr. Downie the Church of England Minister called on us this afternoon.

Anson came down and took Fan + I to the entertainment up the Old Street. Had a good time. A letter from Henry Watson stating that Louisa was very sick.

“ 25th Not very cold. Otis came up with his dog with Julius today + Fan went home with them They finished sawing wood today. Fred's birthday, 16 years old The last day of school.

“ 26th Good Friday Nice and warm. H Watson⁵¹ was here this evening had been attending Court all day at Ridgetown. Louisa a good deal better.

“ 27th Quite warm The boys tapped the trees this afternoon and the sap ran considerably. Henry + Louisa came up this afternoon and stayed till after tea then went down to Theodore's⁵² expect them back tomorrow.

“ 28th Easter Sunday. Not quite as warm as usual. David was over a little while this morning. Henry + Louisa came back this morning and stayed all day and also Collins + Elizabeth. Anson called in this evening

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March 29th It has been quite warm today. Mr Grant called in this morning. Frank brought up some syrup this

⁵² Theodore WATSON, brother of Henry WATSON

evening.

“ 30th The weather continues the same. Pa received a Post Card from the New Covenant office stating they had received the money for the paper

“ 31st Somewhat warmer today than usual. Julius brought Fan back this forenoon. Dave's wife and child and Grandma⁵³ were over this afternoon visiting. H Watson called in as he was coming back from Dr. Hick's child's funeral

April 1st Rained nearly all day. Sugar'd off and had all the wax we wanted to eat

“ 2nd Quite pleasant - Fred took Fan and Julia E down to Mr Ransom's to spend the afternoon and Frank went after them and spent the evening

“ 3rd Warm + Pleasant. Fan + I went down to Dave's this forenoon and stayed till four O'clock and then went down to Collins + stayed until eleven 11 in the evening. We played Pedro Pitch and ate wax all the evening Frank came from Morpeth about 9 O'clock + stopped and came home with us. Sherman's birthday 8 yrs old

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April 4th Sunday Most a beautiful day. Fan Frank and Julia went down to Clearville and Lucy came home with them to stay Julius + Lulah + Otis came up in the afternoon

⁵³ Likely Ida's grandmother Catherine BALDWIN (nee ROOME). Catherine returned to Ontario from Wisconsin after her husband died. Ida's other grandmother Louis Handy had died by this time.

“ 5th Warm and Pleasant. Ella came down to get a Print dress cut and stayed the afternoon
Leva came up also and going to stay all night we had a big time Ma made some wax and we ate all we could Frank took Fan down to Sarah’s + Elvira’s to bid them goodbye Dave + Jules was here this evening to bid her good bye Henry Louisa + Linny came up from Mrs Watson⁵⁴ about dusk. Louisa is very sick. ⁵⁵

“ 6th Frank Julia E and myself went to Chatham with Fannie who starts for Michigan. she stopped in Chatham all night and intends taking the cars tomorrow morning I got two pictures taken one for Fannie and one for somebody else [‘somebody else’ underlined]. Got home about half past seven. Louisa worse today. Leva went home this afternoon and Lucy with her.

“ 7th Louisa is worse today than she has been at all Sent for Dr Van Allen this evening. Aunt Sarah + Dave’s wife were over for a little while. Collins + Elizabeth stayed nearly all night. Julia E

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sat up all night. Pa’s birthday today. He was 64 years old

April 8th Louisa keeps getting worse Dr Van was here this morning and Dr Hicks came again at noon and she

⁵⁴ probably Henry’s mother Rosannah WATSON nee DELONG

⁵⁵ Presumably Henry left Louisa in the care of her family; from now on until she recovers she appears in the Handy home

continued getting worse and we sent for Dr again in the evening. Lucy came home this afternoon and Lillie with her. Lulah + her sister called in + Lulah stayed and her sister went home Jule came up for her the evening + Lillie went home with them Lillie brought me a note from Leva + I sent her one. I gave Lillie my photo Mrs Watson staid all night.

“ 9th Louisa is some better today. Dr Hicks ordered yesterday the bed posts to be set on glass as a cure for the rheumatism⁵⁶ it was done + in less than two hours the pain was all gone. Dr Van was here this morning and came again in the evening.

“ 10th Louisa continues getting better although very weak yet The doctor was here this evening. Angeline + George came up to see Louisa There has been quite a number of callers today.

“ 11th Sunday Louisa is able to sit up in bed today The doctor was here this evening Somebody has been calling in to see Louisa all day. Anson⁵⁷ was down a little while today. Ella⁵⁸ came down this eve and let me have Mr Moshers ring to wear for a time⁵⁹.

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⁵⁶ In Ida's time the term 'Rheumatism' would have been used to describe general pain of the soft tissue which today would cover many different conditions. It may be that Louisa had Rheumatic fever which is an inflammatory disease that may develop after an infection with *Streptococcus* bacteria (such as strep throat or scarlet fever). The disease can affect the heart, joints, skin, and brain.

⁵⁷ Probably Anson WILLSON

⁵⁸ Ella WILLSON, daughter of Abram WILLSON

⁵⁹ What is the significance of Mosher's ring?

Apr 12 - Warm and pleasant. Louisa about the same
The Dr was in this afternoon Henry went down
home this morning + Lucy with him. Mrs [B---t?]
of Clearville called in to see Louisa this afternoon. went down to
Elizabeth's about dusk after
some bread + yeast.

April 13th Cloudy + misty all day. Louisa considerably better today sat-
up for nearly half an hour for the first time. The Dr came
again this afternoon for the last time. Henry + Lucy
came home this evening. Fred brought me a note from
Laura H + Mary Bently tonight. Collins + Elizabeth were
up this evening for a little while. Eliza Jane Oakes called
in this afternoon to see Louisa.

“ 14th Louisa not quite so well. Linny started
to school with Fred today. He brought me
a note from Laura H + Mary Bently tonight.
I wrote them one this morning. Jule + Lucy⁶⁰
called in this evening. Ans. Willson was
down for a little while. I had quite a
conflab with him. H Watson went to
Morpeth this morning and brought a
letter home from Fannie. She is in
Michigan. I had Julia E cut my hair
off short and they made all sorts of
fun of me.

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April 15th Kind a rainy all day. Henry went down
home today + Lucy with him. Louisa

⁶⁰ Must be Ida's brother Julius and his wife Lucretia, although Ida usually calls Lucretia 'Lulah', not Lucy

a little better today. Mrs Watson called in this afternoon.

April 16 - Snowed all afternoon. Louisa a good deal worse to day. Sent for Dr. this evening. Wrote a letter to Charlie Baldwin⁶¹. Heard that George Oaks was married on Monday to Miss Fannie Atkinson.

“ 17th Snowed part of the forenoon. It has been pretty cold Louisa is no better. Henry + Lucy came home this evening. The men all went down to Morpeth this afternoon to Billy Willson's sale of goods. Wes heard that Mary Bennet was married to Pat Story last Thursday
“ 18th Sunday. A little warmer. Louisa continues about the same. Had quite a number of callers today. Julius + Lulah⁶² were up and staid all the afternoon. Uncle Abe was down and staid and had dinner with us.

“ 19th Louisa worse this morning The pain went to her heart Sent for the Dr. Snowed considerably this afternoon. Ella came down this afternoon a little while and brought a print dress for Julia Ellen to make Collins + Lucy went to Clearville with Mr + Mrs Westlake who start for Port Hope tomorrow.

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April 20th Quite cold. Louisa no better. The Dr was up this morning. Collins + Lucy came

⁶¹ Ida's cousin who was living in Wisconsin

⁶² Julius and Lucretia HANDY

home today I slept nearly all day Sat
up all night⁶³. Mrs Watson came up
to sit up tonight. Received a letter
from Leva tonight. Had several
callers in to see Louisa. Today is
Frank's birthday 25 yrs old

" 21st A little colder. Louisa considerably better
today. Elvira came up this morning and
stayed all day. Ella + Miss Montgomery
were down this evening for a little while
Julia Ellen's birthday 30 yrs old

" 22nd Quite warm. Louisa not so well this morning but better
this afternoon. Mr Waddell called in to see Louisa and
also Mrs Reynolds Mrs Springsten + Miss Coll
I wrote Leva a letter this afternoon.

" 23rd Warm + pleasant until towards evening it then commenced
to rain. Louisa sometimes getting better no pain whatever
although quite weak yet. Sarah Roome + Nancy McLean
were up to day. Henry went down home this morning
and returned this evening again

" 24th Cold + Windy. Louisa keeps improving. The Dr called in this
evening on his way home from Theodore's. His little girl is very sick

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April 25th A little warmer today. Henry took Dr. down to
Theodore's his little girl worse this morning Linny +
I went down to the sugar bush. Wes was boiling sap
after being there a little while Lucy + Laura⁶⁴ + Sherman

⁶³ presumably meaning sat up with Louisa

⁶⁴ possibly cousin Fannie's mother: Laura HANDY (nee WOOD)

+ Hale⁶⁵ came down and then Lucy + Laura went over to Uncle Abe's and Anson came back with them. we Sugar'd off and ate all the wax we could and then came home. Ans came with us shortly after we came home Johnny Simons + Julia called in to see Louisa and then they wanted me to go to Theodore's with them. I went, His little girl is very sick. They have no hopes after her. After staying there a few minutes we came back + went down to Mr Simons and had tea and then went to church in the evening to hear Mr. Downie the Church of England minister preach and then Johnny brought me home. Frank was down to church Henry + Julia E went to Theodore's + stayed the afternoon and evening. Heard that James Simons was married Miss Warner last week
" 26th Warm + pleasant Henry went down home this morning + returned this evening. Miss Kitty Scarlet and Mrs Edward Scarlet called in this afternoon Louisa sat up nearly an hour this forenoon. Theodore's little girl died this morning at four O'clock to be buried tomorrow in the afternoon. Received a letter from Miss Annie Fairchild today

[Page 22]

April 27th Most a lovely day. Theodore's little girl was buried this afternoon. Julia E went to funeral with Henry + Linny. A great many of his folks (that is Henry's) called in to see Louisa, when they were returning from the funeral. She sat-up considerable today. Ma had an old friend,

⁶⁵ Cousin Fannie's father, Hale HANDY

a distant cousin of hers, come to see her to-day.
Mrs. Willins [?] her name, She is going to stay
a few days. Received a letter from Fannie⁶⁶
today. She is home at last.

“ 28th Very pleasant. Henry + Lucy went down to Clearville to stay
until Saturday night. Louisa is not able to stand alone
yet. Ma, + Mrs Willins went down to Aunt Sarah's
this afternoon. Mrs Willins stayed all night.

Received a letter from Leva this morning.

29th Rained nearly all day and blew fearfully Louisa tried to
walk today + she made some queer attempts. I wrote
a letter to Leva this evening. Received one from Charlie
Baldwin. Julia E wrote a letter to Fannie this afternoon

“ 30th Clear + windy. Louisa worse today. The pain has come
back into her arm again. Mrs Willins came back from
Aunt Sarah's this afternoon. Homer [?] Shaw⁶⁷ called in this
afternoon. He is a distant cousin of Ma's. The first
time he's been here for eighteen years. Heard today that
James Simons wasn't married it was a false report.

[Page 23]

May 1st Rained all day most fearfully. Pa took Mrs.
Willins up to Blenheim this afternoon. Henry + Lucy
came up this evening in the rain. Ate warm sugar this
afternoon. Louisa about the same.

“ 2nd Cold + windy. Louisa a little worse this morning
but considerable better this afternoon. She came

⁶⁶ Is this the previously mentioned 'cousin Fanny'? Fannie's family by this time was living in Wisconsin, so possibly she had come to stay with the Handy family for a time.

⁶⁷ possibly a relative of Delilah SHAW, who married Samuel BALDWIN ("Ma's" brother).

out and had dinner with us about three O'clock.

Ate warm sugar today. Franky Fairchild was here all day. Jule + Lulah⁶⁸ + sister here this afternoon

" 3rd Clearville, Henry, Linny + I came down this morning Louisa was much better. We went down to Mr. DeLong's⁶⁹ in the evening. Addie + Annie Laura Delong⁷⁰ were up this morning

" 4th Nice + Warm. Washed + baked today. Henry went to Highgate this forenoon. Wesley birthday 23 yrs old

" 5th Henry + Linny went home this evening I intended to go with them but it rained so fearfully I concluded to stay. Libbie McFarlane came and stayed with me.

Orville Delong⁷¹ was up a little while before Henry went away. Eddie Willson's⁷² birthday 24 yrs old. Commenced to write a letter to Fannie this evening.

" 6th Henry came back this forenoon and said Louisa was a good deal worse. I got dinner for him + John Stewart and then they went to Highgate and from there Henry went up home. Libbie came and stopped with me tonight again

[Page 24]

May 6th Continued. After school was out her + I went down to Mr. DeLong's with Addie⁷³, who came up to the store to do some trading. We stayed until nearly 9 O'clock and Orville⁷⁴

⁶⁸ Julius & Lucretia

⁶⁹ "Mr DeLong" probably Peleg DELONG, uncle to Henry WATSON. The family lived in Hope Township until at least 1871 and relocated to Kent County date unknown, but evidently by the time of this diary.

⁷⁰ "Addie" (or Ada) and Annie Laurie DELONG, children of Peleg Delong, cousins of Henry WATSON

⁷¹ Orville DELONG, son of Peleg Delong

⁷² Edwin WILLSON, son of Abram ("Uncle Abe")

⁷³ Probably Ada DELONG, daughter of Peleg Delong and Alvira Ford

⁷⁴ Son of Peleg DELONG and Alvira Ford

came home with us. I finished + posted my letter to Fannie this afternoon.

“ 7th Windy + cold. Henry returned about noon. Louisa a little better when he left. I went with him after tea down to Mr Delongs for a buggy ride. Received letter from Leva.

“ 8th Very warm the warmest day we've had this spring Henry went to Duart this morning and didn't return till this evening. Mrs Cavers was over this afternoon for a little while Libbie was with me also all the afternoon. Orville was up for a couple of hours this afternoon. Henry + I came home this evening found Louisa much better than expected.

“ 9th Sunday Rained all day most fearfully. Louisa a good deal better. Wrote a letter to Leva this afternoon Heard that Laura had an organ

“ 10th Clearville Warm + nice this forenoon but somewhat gloomy this afternoon. Came down this morning with Henry + Linny. Louisa a good deal better to day. Met Orville as we were coming he was going up to Mr. Watson's. He brought some bushes for Louisa.

“ 11th Cloudy + dull Went down to Mr. DeLongs for a buggy ride with Henry + Linny

[Page 25]

May 12th Rained nearly all day. Cleared up this evening Henry went up home expects to take Louisa home tomorrow with him. Alforetta Delong⁷⁵ came up to stay with me until he came back. Orville came up + him + Duncan + Linny went over to

⁷⁵ Alforetta DELONG, daughter of Peleg Delong (other spellings: Alphoretta)

the school house to hear Mr. McAllister lecture on Phrenology. They came back about ten O'clock and he (Orville) stopped quite a little while Miss Delong + I went over to hear Libbie play on her organ.

“ 13th Warm + Pleasant Miss Delong went home this morning. Louisa + Henry came down this afternoon. She was pretty tired when she got home Mrs Delong + Orvil were up this afternoon to see Louisa and also Mrs MacFarlane Mrs Smith + Mary were in to see her

“ 14th A little colder Mrs. Cavers was over for a little while this forenoon I helped Henry make flower garden this afternoon Mrs Bury was over in the afternoon + also Mrs. Campbell called in.

“ 15th Quite clear + windy. Emeline Delong⁷⁶ was up this forenoon and stayed till after dinner. Mrs McFarlane was over this afternoon + also Mrs. Cavers this evening. Henry has quite a lame back.

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May 16th Sunday a little chilly today Ma + Pa + Lucy came down this morning Tommy Feetzel⁷⁷ called in this afternoon. Linny went down to his Uncle's this morning.

“ 17th A little warmer. Washed all day Mrs Davis

⁷⁶ Emeline DELONG, daughter of Peleg Delong

⁷⁷ The name here looks like an F as in 'Feetzel' but on June 16 and July 8th the surname looks like like 'Teetzel'. There are several 'Teetzels' in the area in the 1871 census.

called in the evening. Mrs MacFarlane was over this afternoon. Addie was up this morning

“ 18th Quite warm. Henry no better with his back. Annie Laura was up this afternoon. Mrs Bury was in Besides several other callers this afternoon

“ 19th Very warm Today Emeline was up and had tea with us. Henry a little worse today

“ 20th Quite Windy Emeline + Chester were up this morning Mr Davis pulled a tooth for Chester. I was over to see Libbie this evening. Maggie Smart + Belle Newcome was in to see Louisa She is worse today + Henry too

“ 21st Rained nearly all this afternoon Louisa no better + Henry either I went with Duncan + Libbie to the Fruit Festival at Palmyra. Had H Purvis + H Coll's company all the evening got home about half past 12 found Louisa + Henry a great deal worse. The Dr was in this afternoon I sat up nearly all the rest of the morning

[Page 27]

May 22nd Louisa + Henry a little better today Very warm + close. Addie + Annie Laura⁷⁸ were up this afternoon We all got weighed I weighed 102 lbs. Orvil called in this afternoon + then in the evening him + Alfaretta came up she stayed all night + he went home Duncan went up to Morpeth this afternoon to get some medicine

⁷⁸ Addie and Annie Laura, daughters of Peleg DELONG and Alvira FORD

for Louisa and he carried a note for me to
Julia E. Mrs McFarlane + Libbie were over this eve
“ 23rd Sunday Quite warm. Emeline came up this
morning. Henry + Louisa a good deal better
today. Collins + Elizabeth, Frank + Julia
E came down Julia E is going to stay this
week. About 2 O'clock Orvil came up and
after dinner we all went down to Mrs DeLong
except Frank and stayed till after tea +
then Orvil came home with us and stayed
the evening

“ 24th Rained this forenoon but quite warm this afternoon
Duncan went to Ridgetown to spend the 24th
I was over to Mrs McFarlanes a little while
towards evening and she came home with me
Louisa was taken worse again last night but is a
little better today. The Dr was in this afternoon

[Page 28]

May 25th Nice + warm. Louisa a little better The Dr
was in again this afternoon. Addie was up this
morning Julia E + Henry went down to see
Mr DeLong this forenoon

“ 26th Not quite so warm. Henry got a note from
H Gilmore last night stating that Uncle Sam was very low
and he (Henry) wanted to see him so Henry + Mr
McFarlane went down. Received word this morning
that he was dead. Sent a telegram to Abram Gilmore
in [illegible]. Duncan + Linnny went up home today
and to Mrs Watson after some potatoes for
Mr DeLong

“ 27th A little chilly Uncle Sam was buried this afternoon Julie E + Henry went to the funeral Abram Gilmore + his wife came about an hour after he was buried

“ 28th Nice + warm Went down to Mrs Delongs this forenoon after some patterns for Louisa. Henry + Abram Gilmore were here for tea

+ 29th Quite warm Emeline + Annie Laura came up and spent the afternoon Her + I were over to Mrs McFarlanes for a little while went home with Mr McFarlane Maggie Smart called in about sundown to see Louisa

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May 30th Sunday Quite chilly Henry + Louisa went down to Mr Delongs this afternoon. Henry Uncle + Aunt (Mr Robert Watson + Wife) + Mr Scarf were down there. I wrote a letter to Charlie Baldwin while they were gone. They all came back here to tea. Frank + Anse came down + Julia E went home with them. Mr Neil MrPhail + Kitty Scarlet called in this afternoon

“ 31st A little warmer. Addie was up this morning Henry + Louisa went up home this afternoon Henry went to see his father who was very ill. They brought some of my clothes down + Julia E wrote me a note Libbie McFarlane came over and stayed all night.

June 1st Warm + Pleasant. Mrs Richard Bury called in this afternoon. Had and invitation to a bee

this afternoon at Mrs Davis sewing carpet rags but declined going Addie came up after school and then after tea Henry + I went down home with her
“ 2nd Had quite a rain storm this evening. Mrs Smart was here to tea. Mrs Davis called in this evening. Libbie was over also I wrote a composition for her on [Time?] Louisa is quite poorly

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June 3rd Very pleasant. Commenced making my print dress Louisa gave me Went over to Mrs Cavers and got her to cut me a garibaldi pattern. Was over to see Libbie a little while this evening

“ 4th Very warm. Mrs Oaks + Jenny were here this afternoon. Worked on my dress nearly all day. Bought some lace + silk cut from Mr Davis today Libbie was over this evening

“ 5th Pleasant. Had lots of work to do today Mrs Crane + Florence were over this afternoon. Orvil was here + had tea. Mrs McFarlane was over a little while this evening

“ 6th Sunday Rained a little this evening Duncan Libbie + I went up home today. Met Maggie + Fred coming down Got home before they left Mrs Smith + Mrs Carpenter called in this evening Heard today that Myron had sold his

place for \$3200 – 50 acres

“ 7th Rained nearly all day Mrs Carpenter came and spent the afternoon Henry went up to see his father today Mrs Cavers called in this evening

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June 8th Bright + warm Sarah Roome came up this morning and stayed all day. After tea I went with her down to Mrs DeLongs. Orvil got badly hurt yesterday with a span of horses. Received a letter from Fannie today.

“ 9th Warm + bright. Louisa sent some of Mary's hair to the Artist at Duart by Mrs Cavers she intends have Mary's picture taken large

“ 15th Quite warm. Elizabeth + Hortense came down this morning and Louisa went with them to Delongs Orvil came up just as they were going away he staid a couple of hours they came back and had tea Henry went to Ridgetown after tea. Received a letter from Leva this afternoon

“ 11th Most sultry warm today. Alfaretta + Annie Louisa came up this afternoon

“ 12th Quite cold. Was over to Mr McFarlane's a little while and also to Mrs Cavers a little while this evening Linny + Henry went to Duart this evening

“ 13th Sunday A little warmer. Linny Libbie + I went to the Old Fort for a walk this morning. This afternoon

Henry + Linny went down to Delongs wrote a letter to Leva while there were all gone Annie Laura came home with them

[Page 32]

June 14th Nice clear + bright not a cloud to be seen Twenty one yrs old today⁷⁹

Annie Laura went home this afternoon

Chester was up at noon Libbie was over a little while this evening. Louisa + Duncan went to Duart after tea I sent my watch by them to get fixed

“ 15th Very pleasant Linny's birthday 11 yrs old After tea Henry + I went to Morpeth Saw Wes + Collins there. Had a long talk with H Coll. Was in to see Johnny and also saw H Purvis Eddie gave me an orange Had a splendid good time all the evening After Eleven, when we got home

Mary Smith was here when we returned

“ 16th Quite warm. Mrs Smart + Mrs McFarlane called in this evening. Mrs Teetzel + Tommy + Mr Blanchard were here for dinner

“ 17th Tried to rain a little this forenoon. Orvil came up this morning and stayed till after dinner. Libbie was over a little while this evening

“ 18th Very pleasant. Addie was up this morning. Orvil came up and him + Louisa went to Duart the forenoon. Henry + Louisa + Linny went up home tonight

⁷⁹ Ida was born June 14, 1854

intend going to Chatham tomorrow. Libbie came and stayed with me

[Page 33]

June 19th Quite warm Addie was up this afternoon
Mrs McFarlane was over a little while
this afternoon. After tea I went down to
Joe Roome's.

" 20th [margin: 'Sunday'] Very warm. Sarah + I came up to Church
this afternoon. I went back with her and
stayed till after tea + then came home
she came as far as John L Smiths with me
Henry + Louisa + Linny came home shortly
after I did Henry made me a present of
a pack of [illegible]

" 21st Very sultry. Louisa + Henry went down to Mr
Delongs this morning didn't come back till
after dinner Commenced Louisa's dress this afternoon

" 22nd Warm. Henry Gilmore worked for Henry today
After tea Louisa + I called on Mrs Maggie
Bury for the first time. Alfaretta called in this evening

" 23rd Most fearfully warm. Henry + Louisa went up
to Morpeth to fix little May's⁸⁰ grave
Henry Gilmore worked here this forenoon. Addie
was up this morning

" 24th Most awfully tired tonight washed all day
It rained nicely this afternoon Received a
letter from Ieva and one from Charlie

⁸⁰ 'May' is Mary WATSON, daughter of Henry and Louisa

[Page 34]

June 25th Very warm Louisa + Henry went down to Mr Delongs this forenoon came back before dinner Mrs McFarlane was in this forenoon and again this evening. Chester⁸¹ was up this morning

“ 26th Quite warm Henry Gilmore worked here this forenoon. Mr + Mrs Alex Campbell called in this afternoon.

“ 27th Sunday. Not [any/too?] warm today. Wes + Leva came down today. Mr + Mrs Alex McTavish came and spent the afternoon. After tea I went home with Wes + Leva. Leva went home and staid all night with me

“ 28th A little warmer. Leva Julia E Lucy + I went over to Mr Smith's in the afternoon played croquet all the afternoon. About dusk I went home with Leva.

“ 29th Quite a nice day Helped Leva to make her dress. After tea Leva Nettie Libbie + I went down to the Lake

“ 30th Very pleasant. In the afternoon Franky took Leva + I to Morpeth Leva went to take her French lesson I went with her and Mrs Warner gave me one too. We went into nearly every store Had a splendid time I got home about dark

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⁸¹ Chester DELONG, son of Peleg DeLong and Alvira FORD

July 1st Quite pleasant Fred, Wes, Julia E, Lucy, Laura, and myself went down to Morpeth in the morning to see the Calithumpians and then up on the Point to the [might be 'picine' or 'piscine'?]. Stayed there till the afternoon and then came back to Morpeth Had a gay time I had my tea at Johnny's He wanted me to go down to Hamilton and across to Cleveland with him this next week but I declined going. Had quite a chat with Anse Left Morpeth about dusk came with Mr Claks and his family as far as the sideroad and the rest of the way home with Louisa + Henry

" 2nd A little warmer Mrs Gilmore was here this afternoon and Addie + Annie Laura also Mrs Jimmy White + Mrs William Desmond called in this evening Sarah Roome was up this morning

" 3rd Rained quite nicely this evening. Henry + Louisa started for Newbury this morning Libbie has come over to stay all night with me

" 4th Sunday warm + sultry Libbie stayed till after dinner and then we went down to church I wrote a letter to Annie and also to Leva + Fannie. Louisa + Henry returned this evening. Brought the picture of little May home

[Page 36]

July 5th Cloudy, Washed all day. After tea Duncan and I went up home drove down to Rachel's first after strawberries but she sold them

all and then up home. Grandma is stopping there now

“ 6th Cloudy + gloomy came home this morning. Orvil was here when I came. Emeline came up this afternoon intends staying all night

“ 7th Quite sultry. Emeline went home this afternoon

“ 8th Very warm Mrs Maggie Bury + little Laura Teetzel called in after tea. Louisa + I were over to Mrs McFarlane's a little while this evening

“ 9th Cloudy + dull I went down this morning to Mr Delongs and stayed till after dinner + then Alfaretta + Annie Laurie went down to see Sarah Roome stayed till after tea + then Sarah came [illegible] with us. After I got past Mr Delongs a little ways Orvil + Emeline + Mr Walker the teacher came along + gave me a ride

“ 10th Very warm Alforetta was up and stayed for tea. Louisa + Henry + Linny went to Duart to get their pictures taken this forenoon

“ 11th Sunday Nice + cool Collins + Elizabeth + the children came down today + Lucy Fred + Nettie also Nettie is going to stay all the week with me

[Page 37]

July 12th Quite warm. After tea Louisa + Henry went up to Mr Mills + Nettie + I went for a walk

“ 13th Very warm Louisa Nettie + I went up to Mrs Smarts this afternoon had a splendid time Mrs McFarlane was

over a little while this forenoon

“ 14th As warm as ever Louisa + Henry went out to Dr Hicks visiting this afternoon didn't get back until eleven O'clock after tea Nettie + I went over to see Libbie stayed there until 9 O'clock Addie was up a little while after school was out –

“ 15th Warm Louisa + Henry went up to Palmyra this forenoon to see about some cherries Mrs McFarlane was over this morning. After tea Henry Linny + Nettie + I went down to the lake for a ride

“ 16th Very Pleasant Louisa put on a quilt this afternoon and we all quilted till tea time. Maggie Smart called in this evening Received a letter from Fran today

“ 17th Quite Pleasant Nettie + I went up to Morpeth with Henry Gilmore this afternoon left [illegible] there

[Page 38]

July 18th Sunday Rained last night + this morning considerable. Libbie was over this morning Orvil came up about ten O'clock and in the afternoon I went with him to Church Mr Downie preached After church I went home with him + his sisters and in the evening him + I + Emeline + Alfaretta went out to Duart to meetings and then home

“ 19th Very Pleasant Henry Louisa + I went up to Mrs Gosnells to pick cherries this forenoon. Canned

them up this afternoon, Henry + Linny went a fishing after tea down to the lake. Libbie was over a little while

“ 20th Quite warm. All of Mr Delongs girls came up this morning and called for Linny + I to go up home. We first went to Collins and stayed until after dinner and then we all with Elizabeth + Julia went up home + stayed till after tea and then back here again. Linny + Adda stayed up

“ 21st Warm as ever Washed all day. Henry went a fishing after tea

“ 22nd Quite nice. Eliza Jane Oaks + Jennie Bailey came down this morning and stayed all day Henry + Abram Gilmore + his daughter came up and spent the afternoon. Dr Roome + wife called in. About dark Louisa + I went over to Mrs McFarlanes and helped her pit her cherries

[Page 39]

July 23rd Warm After dinner Henry, Louisa + I went down to Joe Roome's after cherries came home about four. After tea Mrs McFarlane + Libbie came over and helped us pit them Orvil came in while we were pitting them and we went for him most unmercifully

“ 24th Very Warm. Henry + I went up to Mrs Gosnells after cherries this forenoon Mr Smith from Bothwell was here to dinner. After tea Louisa + Henry went up home + Libbie + Duncan came over + stayed all night with me

25th Sunday Fearfully warm Libbie stayed all

day with me Louisa + Henry got home about 9 O'clock this evening + Adda came with them

26th Had quite a shower this afternoon Eliza Jane Oke's + her Aunt came down this morning Eliza Jane went home after tea but Mrs Lutes [?] remained to stay a couple of weeks I went over to Mrs McFarlanes and spent part of the evening Adda went home this morning.
" 27th Very warm Henry went up after his Grand mother⁸² this morning came back this afternoon The Artist Mr Frances brought the pictures this afternoon Mrs Cavers was over this evening

[Page 40]

July 28th Quite warm. Helped Louisa make her black Print dress. Was over to Mrs Cavers after tea for a few mintues

" 29th Sultry warm Went over and picked some peas for dinner and after tea Louisa + I went again and picked some for pickles came by Mrs McFarlane and her + Mr McFarlane were quarreling at a great rate he was drunk and abusing them most fearfully.

" 30th Quite chilly this evening After tea Libbie + I went over and picked some peas

" 31st Warm + nice Henry went to Duart to

⁸² Could be either his maternal grandmother Sybel DELONG (nee DECKER) who died possibly 1879, or paternal grandmother Mary who died 1885. More likely the latter as she lived in Howard.

Council this morning and came home
with a fearful headache this evening
Mr Tucker + wife and little girl was here
for dinner. Libbie was over this evening
a little while

August 1st [in margin: 'Sunday'] Rained all day. Mr David Watson⁸³ + wife
came + brought Linny home and returned this
evening in the rain. Mr + Mrs Tucker + Jennie
came over this afternoon and stopped till after tea
+ then went back to Mr Bury's
"2nd Rain ! Rain ! Rain ! all day long Frank + Collins
+ Julia came down this afternoon. Julia is

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(Continued) going to stay Mr + Mrs Tucker + Jennie
came over this afternoon intend stopping
all night

August 3rd It still continues to rain Mr + Mrs Tucker
+ Jennie went up to Mr Hill's this afternoon

Received a letter from Leva today

" 4th Quite nice + warm this forenoon. Cloudy + dull
again this afternoon Mr + Mrs Tucker + Jennie
returned again this afternoon They staid at Bury's

" 5th Rained all day nearly Mrs Tucker + Jennie came
over this morning and stayed till after dinner
+ then they went out to Duart. I was over
to see Libbie a little while this evening

" 6th dull + gloomy. Henry Gilmore worked here
today Libbie was over a little while

⁸³ Henry WATSON'S brother

“ 7th The weather no better. Libbie + I went up to Mr Smarts after tea and stayed till dark Mrs Cavers was over a little while this evening. Mr John Watson⁸⁴ + a friend of his Mr Stephenson came down and stayed till after tea + then went down to Mr Delongs

“ 8th Sunday Very pleasant Mr Watson + Mr Stephenson came back for dinner today. Libbie was over a little while after tea Fred brought Julia Ellen down this eve[ning?] to go to the [illegible] tomorrow in the excursion. I have most a painful thumb

[Page 42]

August 9th A lovely day. Fred stayed all night and took us out to the station at Highgate Henry + Louisa, Julia + Linny + Julia E + I. Had an excellent good time. Bought a beaded watch case. left Highgat[e] at half past five and got down there at one and left there at seven and reached home a little after five the next morning My thumb pained me considerable all the time – was pretty tired

“ 10th Quite pleasant. slept till nearly 10 Oclock Collins came down after us this morning came home after dinner Louisa + Mrs Lutes came up with us + Henry brought Mrs Watson home also. My thumb keeps getting worse

⁸⁴ Henry WATSON'S father

“ 11th Nice + Warm Leva called in this afternoon for Lucy to go and take her French lesson. Sarah Smith was over two or three hours this afternoon Wrote a letter to Charlie Baldwin

“12th Quite pleasant My hand a little worse today wrote a letter to Fannie this afternoon or at least commenced one

“ 13th Very warm Finished my letter to Fannie this morning Sat up nearly all night my hand pained me so bad Had a little shower of rain between 9 + 10 O'clock.

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August 14th Quite pleasant. Lucy went over to take her French lesson after dinner + in about two O'clock Leva came along + called in + I went with her. My thumb pained me so bad I could scarcely sit still. Leva came back with me + is going to stay all night

“ 15th Sunday. My hand considerable better. Johnny Simons + James Smith was here to dinner + after dinner they went to Sunday School with Leva Wes + I. I went home with Leva

“ 16th [Illegible] Rained a little this forenoon but was lovely this afternoon. After tea we all (Mr Fairchild's girls + myself) went down to the Lake and had a boat ride by moonlight out on the Lake until ten O'clock

“ 17th Rained again today. After tea we all started off with each of us an umbrella

over to Julius and stayed till ten
O'clock had lots of fun
" 18th Rained again as usual. Nothing of any
account happened today. The girls very
busy preparing for the Masonic picnic tomorrow

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August 19th Quite pleasant this forenoon but a little
showery this afternoon Mr Fairchild took
us all to the picnic this morning An
excursion party from Port Stanley were to
be there it was held in Mr Simpson's grove
After dinner Lillie + I went for a ride
with Henry Coll we went up as far as the
Eau and back again and then down to
Clearville and stayed to Henry Watson's
till one clock and then back to Mr
Fairchild's, after two when we got home
Had a gay old time

" 20th Didn't get up till nine O'clock Rained
nearly all the forenoon. In the afternoon
Leva came home with me and is going to
stay all night

" 21st Rained all this afternoon. Leva + Lucy went
over to take their lesson

" 22nd Sunday Clear + quite cool Henry + Louisa +
Linny came up this morning + stayed till after
dinner + then went down to Mr Watson's
Julia Ellen went home with Leva this
afternoon Ella Willson called in this
evening and stayed a couple of hours

Frank + Mr George Reynold went to camp meeting today

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August 23rd Quite chilly had to keep a fire on all day Aunt Sarah + little Cora came over this morning and stayed till after dinner. Julia Ellen came home this afternoon. Miss Eliza Patterson called in the evening

“ 24th Very pleasant Julia E went down to Rachel's after dinner + Henry brought her home this evening. Ma + Pa + Lucy went to Morpeth + Ridgetown this evening Received a letter from Melvin today

“ 25th Quite warm Leva called in this afternoon and also Mr + Mrs Delong

“ 26th Very warm. Julia E went down to Henry's this afternoon to keep house for him this next week as Rachel intends starting for Pennsylvania tomorrow goes down as far as the Suspension Bridge in an Excursion train to Niagara Falls.

“ 27th Pleasant Lucy + Fred started to go on the excursion but the cars did not call at Weldon's station as the cars were all filled up and could not take no more on so they had to come back and also Henry + Rachel + Laura. After tea Frank + I + Lucy + Fred went down to town Had a pleasant time

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August 28th Very warm. Mr + Mrs Delongs called on this afternoon

“ 29th Sunday Most dreadfully warm. Ma + Pa + Grandma + Fred went down to Julius's today, Lucy went to Sunday School + Nettie Fairchild + Lizzie Willson + Maud Bell came home with her Lizzie + Maud went home after tea + Nettie is going to stay all night – Joe Roome + Miss Potts called in about dusk on their way home from the Eau where they had been for a ride Frank went to Church at Morpeth this evening + Julia E went home with Henry. Ella + Miss Mosby called in this evening

“ 30th very sultry, Rachel started for Pennsylvania today took the cars at Ridgetown. Not very well this evening

“ 31st Still continues warm. Nettie + Lucy went over to Mr Smiths this afternoon. George Smith to work pulling beans for us today.

September 1st Extremely warm. Nettie went with Lucy over to Madam Warner's to take he[r?] French Lesson but she was not at home and left word that she could'nt teach any more was going to Montreal so Nettie went home. Georgie Smith + Charles Bell working here today

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September 2nd Warm as ever Grandma went down to

Aunt Sarah's this afternoon and stayed till
after tea. Georgie⁸⁵ here again today

" 3rd Very warm this forenoon had a little shower
of rain this afternoon Henry + Julia E came
up this morning and stayed a few minutes
George is here to work today + also Henry's
hired [Rory?] + Georgie Smith all pulling beans.

" 4th Note quite so warm Had quite a shower
of rain last night Pa + Ma went to
Chatham today

"5th Sunday Warm + windy Frank went down to
Clearville after Louisa this morning they all
came up this afternoon Laura came up
and her + I went to Sunday School together
Henry Handy + Julia E came up and stayed
till dark

" 6th Very Pleasant Louisa + Henry went to Chatham
today + Linny pulled beans this forenoon +
in the afternoon him + Lucy went down to
Henry's after tomatoes. Louisa + Henry got
back about sundown stayed till after tea + then
went home

" 7th Warm. Laura was up a little while this afternoon After tea Frank Wes +
I went down to Morpeth. Saw Anse there he made me a present of yd of
ribbon

[illegible] Jo Simons He asked us to go to the Reform Picnic at Ridgetown
tomorrow with him

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⁸⁵ Might be Ida's brother George HANDY

September 8th Warm + most fearful dusty Johnny came up about half past Twelve. We left at one and reached Ridge-

just as the Honorables was coming from the station we then drove down to the Grove (Mr S[???)

The Hon Mr McKellar in whom the Picnic was given in honor of was presented with a handsome Gold Watch + Chain The speakers were the Hon's E C Wood, Casey, Willson, Waterworth, McCraney, Mills, McKellar. It was six O'clock before the speaking finished we then left and reached Morpeth about dusk. Julia got tea for us and then he brought me home

9th Very pleasant this forenoon but cloudy and rainy this afternoon Henry + Louisa called in this morning on their way to Dealtown

After tea Frank Wes + I went to town

I bought a pair of shoes from Johnny

When we came back found Henry +

Louisa here they are going to stay all night

10th Rained all night but pleasant today. Henry + Louisa went home this morning.

11th Quite cold.

12th Not much warmer, Lucy went up to Uncle Abe's today + Wes + I went down to Julius

Wes stayed a little while + then went across to Mr Fairchild Julius brought me home Otis came with us Henry + Louisa had been here

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September 13th Very warm. Pulled beans all the afternoon Johnny S---- called in today to let me know the Excursion to Port Stanley was

postponed, Grandma went down to Aunt Sarah's this afternoon

" 14th Cloudy + dull, Grandma came back this afternoon Henry went after Rachel today

" 15th Quite warm. Julia E came home this forenoon

I went down to Elizabeth's to get some stitching done on her machine stayed till after tea and then rode up with Collins him + the boys +

Pa went to Blenheim this evening to a political meeting Rachel + Henry called in this evening

Today is Ma's birthday 61 yrs old

" 16th Cold + Rainy. Pa went down to the election for Member of Parliament between Mr Laird a conservative + Mr McCraney a Reformer.

Commenced spinning today. Ella was down a little while this evening Heard that Ebenezer⁸⁶

was married last Monday to Miss Miriam Ferguson

" 17th Showery and quite cold. Heard today that Mr McCraney was elected with a majority of 200 and over. Louisa + Henry + Linny came up this evening intending to stay a few days

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18th Cold + Cloudy Day + Henry went to Chatham this morning + returned this evening about six. They heard the true statement of Mr McCraney's majority which is 168. Henry + Louisa went down to Fred Watson's⁸⁷ to stay all night and the rest of us except

⁸⁶ Ebenezer HANDY, son of Sedgwick Handy

Pa + Ma went down to Morpeth to hear the Chatham Band play.

19th Sunday, Cold and cloudy all day Rained a little this evening Went to Sunday School this afternoon. Henry + Louisa + Linny came back this evening. Wrote a letter to Mel

20th Dull weather as ever. Frank took Henry down to the wharf this morning intending to go to Cleveland on an excursion but the Lake being so rough the Steamer (Riverside) could not come in so he came back again during the time Louisa + Julia E went down to Rachel's and when he came back he went down after Louisa and then went home. Julia Ellen came back in the afternoon. Henry Handy + Rachel + Laura came up and Julia E went to Morpeth to a dance in the Hall at Morris's Brick. Frank posted my letter this morning to Mel I sent him my picture

21st The weather continues the same

22nd Cold + cloudy

23rd A little warmer and very little [illegible] There has been frost every night this last week.

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September 24th A lovely day The Ridgetown Fair was to day none of us went

“ 25th Bright + warm this morning Collins, Elizabeth, Julia, Hale, + Frank + I went to Chatham

It commenced raining just before we got to Chatham and rained all the forenoon The afternoon was bright + warm till about five and it continued

⁸⁷ Would be Henry's brother Theodore Frederick WATSON who was also known as Fred

raining again shortly after we left Blenheim, Collins made me a present of a tie. Elizabeth + I got our pictures taken together + also Frank + I. I bought me velvet for a coat

“ 26th [in margin: Sunday] Not extra warm although some warmer than has been Fred + I went down to Jule's and about half past three Lucy went with us over to Mr Fairchild's we stayed there till after tea and then all the girls + Franky came back to Jule's with us Jule brought me home when we got home Oliver Ransom was here and about 9 O'clock S Brown called in for him he had been down to see Julia Simons

“ 27th Nice + warm today. Mr Simons came up this morning and asked me to go with him to Port Stanley on an excursion tomorrow I accepted

“ 28th It has been a most lovely day. Johnny came up this morning after me we stopped for Julia + then went down to the dock

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the boat had'nt got in when we got there but came in shortly after but owing to the small crowd that had collected they did'nt think it worth while going so the boat went back again we came back to the store and had sinner. Lulah Julius + Lucy came and had dinner too, I staid till after tea + then Johnny brought me home. He said some funny things before we got home but I guess at any rate he wont ask me to go with him again. I Received a letter from Fannie

29th Very pleasant all day until this evening it rained

thundered + Lightning'd quite hard. Louisa + Henry
+ Linny was here for dinner

30th Cloudy + dull this forenoon but somewhat brighter
this afternoon

October 1st Very pleasant Mr + Mrs Ransom came down
this morning and stayed all day. Lucy went up
to Uncle Abe's after dinner and after tea Fred
Frank Wes Julia + I went to Morpeth I went
in and seen Johnny for fun When we came back
Ella was here and shortly after Henry + Louisa
came. Anse + Joe stopped for Ella about
9 oclock

" 2nd Nice + bright Pa + Ma + Henry + Louisa went to Chatham
today after dinner I went up to Uncle Abe's

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October 3rd Sunday Clear + windy Ella + Miss Montgomery brought me
home this morning. Louisa + Henry went home last night
I wrote a letter to Fannie this afternoon Jule + Henry +
Collins were all here this evening Ma brought me a
brown cashmere dress yesterday.

" 4th Quite pleasant. Commenced making up my coat this afternoon

" 5th Dull + cloudy. Rained a little this afternoon

" 6th Rained thundered + Lightening'd last night and has
rained all day today

" 7th Nice + bright day. They all went to Chatham to
the fair except Ma, Grandma, and me

" 8th Cold and not very clear. Lillie came up today intends
staying a couple of days.

" 9th dull and cloudy. Lillie + Julia Ellen went up to Uncle
Abe's a little while this afternoon Rained this evening

“ 10th Sunday Not very warm. Laura came up this morning and her + Julia E + Lillie + I went to the woods for hickory nuts and the boys went up on the Point when we came back Julius + Otis was here and the boys had come back after tea Fred + Lucy + I went home with Lillie. Leva let me have Tennyson's poems + Bateman's poems to read Anse + Ed⁸⁸ called in this forenoon
11th Cold + cloudy snowed a little this evening. Lucy went up to Uncle Abe's to stay this week

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October 12th Clear and cold Pa went to Chatham with a load of beans + wheat received a dollar a bush for both he took mine + Lucy's beans with him

“ 13th Quite warm + bright Pa + I went down to Morpeth this afternoon brought some lace and buttons for me coat.

“ 14th Warm and bright but quite windy. Went to the fair at Blenheim with Mr Fairchild's folks. Leva went with our folks, Louisa + Henry called in on their way up and then came back and stayed all night and Linny also Henry not very well. Pa went to Chatham today with a load of wheat.

15th It has rained all day. Received a letter from Charlie Baldwin this evening.

16th Cold + rainy

17th Sunday Cold + rainy as ever. Mrs Stymers[?] came down

⁸⁸ Probably Anson & Edwin, sons of Abram WILLSON

this morning and stayed all day. Jule + Lulah came up this evening a little while and also George Lucy⁸⁹ is 19 yrs old today

“ 18th Cloudy and cold

“ 19th Warm and bright Julia E + I went hunting hickory nuts we went through[h?] the Colonel's woods and then down to Jule's and then Lucy and Otis went with us down to Joe Pattersons woods we got our dishes partly full and then

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came back to Jule's and got our dinner and then started for home we called in to see Rachel and also called on Elizabeth. Pa went to Chatham today with a load of wheat he had contracted for a dollar a bush. Received a letter from W. E. Perrin this evening Oct 20th A little warmer today Finished spinning this afternoon

“ 21st It has been most a lovely day warmer than yesterday Pa went to Chatham today Uncle Abe called in and gave us all an invitation to a party at his place tomorrow evening

“ 22nd The weather continues the same. Mr Bell + Mr Manford a Universalist minister came down this afternoon, he (Mr Manford) preached this eve in the slabtown school house we all went and the minister came back to stay all night with us we then went up to Uncle Abe's to the party

“ 23rd Quite warm Mr Manford + Pa went out to Ridgetown and then to Morpeth and down to the Eau this forenoon. Fred, Julia E + I went down to Morpeth

⁸⁹ Ida's sister Clara Lucinda

this evening.

24th Sunday. Most a beautiful day. Pa + Collins + Lucy and I went to Blenheim to meeting this forenoon took the minister Mr Manford up with us. Julia E + Frank went together Louisa + Henry came up and went, after meeting came home and went up again in the evening. Henry went to Chatham after meeting
Louisa came home with Frank + Julia

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October 25th Cloudy and dull but not cold. Jule came up about one O'clock this morning after Ma Fred took Louisa down to Jule's + to George's this forenoon he came back and said Lulah had a little boy⁹⁰. Henry Watson came back from Chatham about dusk he only stopped a few minutes and then went home George⁹¹ is 28 yrs old today. Have got quite a sore throat today

" 26th Cloudy Jule brought Ma home tonight

" 27th Cold and dull My throat is pretty sore today.

" 28th Cloudy but not very cold My throat is a good deal better today. Mr H Purvis and sisters Mr J Mosher and sisters Miss E Hungerford and Ella + Anson were all here this evening. Today is thanksgiving day

" 29th It has rained all day and no prospects of it stopping

" 30th Cold and very windy. Fannie and Jane Smith came over this afternoon and stayed until 8 O'clock in the eve –

⁹⁰ The little boy would be Loren HANDY, son of Julius HANDY and Lucretia BRYANT. He was born 25 October 1875

⁹¹ George HANDY, Ida's brother. He was born on this day

“ 31st Sunday Very cold. Lucy Fred and I went down to Jule’s this morning and then we all with Lucy Bryant and Jule went up on the Point rambled through the pines + hickerys till about four Oclock and then came back to Jules Lucy + Fred stayed till after tea and then they went home and I remained.

Nov 1st Cloudy but some warmer than yesterday finished stitching my dress this afternoon Frank F----- came over with a note from Leva telling me her cousins were coming up to be there tonight. I came home about three Oclock

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November 2nd Clear and bright and quite warm. George was up this afternoon they lost a little girl this morning. Finished making my print dress this morning and wore it this afternoon. Uncle Segie⁹² started for Nebraska a week ago today.

“ 3rd Cloudy. Leva and Lillie and Melvin came up this evening and staid till about three Oclock in the morning. I went home with them

“ 4th Not very cold Mr Fairchild + Mel went to the Eau to shoot ducks gone all day they went in the eve to Morpeth and Mel brought three cans of oysters played euchre till Eleven o’clock after they came back. Leva and Mrs Fairchild went to Morpeth this afternoon

“ 5th Quite pleasant Mel and Mr Fairchild went hunting this forenoon and in the afternoon Mel went over to visit McCary’s school. Leva + I went to Morpeth and in the evening Mel came down and we went to Johnny’s for tea. I dressed up in Lillie’s clothes

⁹² Sedgwick HANDY, brother of Collins HANDY Sr.

and Leva in mine Cooked the oysters this evening
“ 6th Very pleasant and warm Mr Fairchild and Mel
went to shoot ducks again today and us girls all went
over to Julius’ a little while I borrowed Jule’s buggy
for tomorrow He (Jule) took Lillie and I to town
this evening Had a gay time Jule left the buggy
to Mr Fairchild’s when we came back I dressed up
in Leva’s clothes and Lillie in mine

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November 7th Sunday. Mel Leva + I went down to Clearville
today and stayed till about sundown and then
back to Mr Bannister’s and stayed till after
tea and then they brought me home and stayed
till nearly Twelve Oclock Mel starts for home tomorrow
and Lillue goes with him on a visit Sent Annie a
watch case. Ma, Frank, Coll Lucy Henry + Rachel came down while were
there Lucy [above] (stayed)

“ 8th Not quite so nice and warm today as usual

“ 9th Cloudy and dull Ma commenced weaving blankets to
day

“ 10th Rained nearly all day

“ 11th Nice and bright

“ 12th Clear and quite warm. Wes, Julia E, and I went up to Uncle
Abe’s and spent the evening. H Purvis was there

“ 13th Snowed all day

“ 14th Sunday Stormy and dull all day. Henry + Collins were up
and had dinner with us I wrote a letter to

Billie Perrin this evening

“ 15th Cloudy Commenced making my brown dress today

“ 16th Stormy and quite windy Received a letter from Fan

Uncle Abe had his sale today

“ 17th Clear and bright

“ 18th Cloudy but not very cold Frank went to town this evening and brought me a letter from Melvin

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Nov 19th Cloudy but not cold. Went down to Elizabeth's this afternoon to do some stitching on the machine came back and after tea Wes Frank Julia E. and I went up to Mr Purvis to spend the evening

“ 20th Quite pleasant Julius + Lulah came up this afternoon and stayed till after tea we came home from Mr Purvis's between 3 and 4 O'clock. Mr J McTaggart and sister Mr P Haggart and sister, Mr J Mosher and sister Mr A Patterson, Mr R. A. Hughes and Anse + Ella were there had an excellent time

“ 21st Sunday Very pleasant Fred went down to Clearville and Wes to Fairchild's

“ 22nd Clear and cold Wes brought me a note from Leva last night. Pa went to Chatham today with a load of beans got 95 cts a bush

“ 23rd Cloudy but not very cold picked beans all the evening

“ 24th Clear and bright Collins + Maynard came up this evening and helped us pick beans

“ 25th Clear and cold Pa went to Chatham today with a load of beans got 95 cts a bush. Ella Willson came down about dusk and is going to stay all night

26th Rained nearly all day. Ella stayed all day and about dusk her father came after her Collins and Maynard came up to pick beans. He brought me two letters, one from Annie and the other from Billie

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Nov 27th Cloudy and dull Pa went to Chatham with a load of beans today

“ 28th Sunday. Rained nearly all day Julia + Hale were up a little while

“ 29th Cloudy and most fearful cold

“ 30th Blowed and snowed all day

Dec 1st A good deal warmer today

“ 2nd About the same not very cold Received a letter from Lillie Fairchild

“ 3rd Quite warm and nice today.

“ 4th Warm Frank + Wes went out to Chatham with a load of beans + Pa + Ma went with the horse + buggy Collins + Hortense Watson went with them Rained when they were coming home Ma bought me a [looks like 'cloud'?] and a felt skirt

“ 5th Sunday Rained all day. Jule + George were up this afternoon. Julia Ellen + I wrote a letter to Fan and also one to Lillie

“ 6th Rained + thawed all day

“ 7th It still rains. Anse called in this afternoon

“ 8th Cloudy + dull

“ 9th Cloudy but not cold Uncle Abe came down this morning and said that [?ra?ler] had smashed up so him and Pa went out to Chatham to see about it but found out that it was a false report

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Dec 10th Snowed a little last night. Henry came up to saw wood today. Pa received a paper from Louisa this evening.

11th Not very old today. Louisa + Henry called in this evening on their way to Mr Watson's Wes was down to Morpeth and brought home word that Mr Bannister is were going to have a party Tuesday Evening and invited us all to go

" 12th Sunday A little colder Louisa + Henry came back + had dinner with us Wes went down to Fairchild's I sent a note to Leva and also sent a note to Oliver by Fred asking him to come and go to the party. Anse + Eddie⁹³ called in this morning and again this evening. Wrote a letter to Billie this evening

" 13th Quite cold + windy

" 14th Very cold. Oliver came down this afternoon we all except Frank went to the dance had a very good time. Snowed when coming home

" 15th Snowed nearly all day Pa went to Chatham with a load of beans and Collins went with him. Oliver went home about noon.

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Dec 16th Pretty cold Pa + Frank went to Ridgetown to the sale

⁹³ Anson and Eddie Willson, likely

“ 17th Very cold Snowed a little
“ 18th A good deal colder
“ 19th Sunday Clear and cold, Julia E + Frank went down to Clearville this morning + Lucy came home with them this evening. Julia was up a little while this afternoon. Ella + Coll⁹⁴ were down this evening a little while.
“ 20th Quite warm thawed all day
“ 21st Quite warm but rainy
“ 22nd Clear and warm George came up and helped white wash today
“ 23rd A little colder Cleaned house today
“ 24rd Rained all day Henry Handy was here for dinner I received a letter from Mrs Roxy Moffitt
“ 25th Christmas Clear + bright + not very cold
“ 26th Sunday Rained all day Wrote a letter to Roxy Anse stopped in out of the rain and had to saty all night
“ 27th Clear + bright + not very cold. Jane + Lizzie were over this afternoon visiting Received a letter from Billie this evening
“ 28th Quite pleasant

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Dec 29th Thawed + Rained all day. Received a Post Card from the Custom House Officer at London stating that there was a parcel lying at his office for me and by paying the Duty which was twenty five cents I would get it. I wrote a

⁹⁴ This might be Collins Willson (Ella's brother)

note with the money enclosed and Frank took it down and posted it.

“ 30th Warm but fearful muddy. Laura came up this morning and is going to stay all night

“ 31st Very warm Lulah + Jule + Otis + Lorum⁹⁵ [should be ‘Loren’] came up this morning and stayed all day Jule + Wes went to the shooting match at Troy Wes brought home a goose for dinner tomorrow. Laura is still here. So endeth the last day of 1875

[in a different pen]

In reply to your polite note of yesterday morning I hasten to assure you that I am highly sensible of the honor you have done me in the proposals you have so handsomely made and that I appreciate the frank and manly tone in which you have spoken of yourself. Believing that you are sincere in the sentiments which you express toward me having great respect for you as a man and a gentleman and esteeming you as a friend, it is with regret that I am compelled to give you pain by declining your addresses and informing you that circumstances render it impossible for me ever to be more to you than, as, I am
now Truly your Friend -----

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Fruit Cake: five eggs, two cups of sugar, one cup of molasses three cups currants well rubbed in flour, two cups stoned raisins, nutmeg, cinnamon salt, one cup

⁹⁵ This would be referred to Julius and Lucretia's new son Loren HANDY

milk flour to thicken (not too stiff) half teaspoon
ful soda, one of cream tartar. Butter the tins well +
bake in a moderate oven.

Coconut Cup Cake: Two cups of rolled white sugar, one and a
half cup of butter, one cup of milk, half teaspoonful
of soda one of cream tartar, four eggs well beaten
a nutmeg, salt, the white of one coconut grated
flour enough to make a stiff batter. Beat it well
put in buttered tins an inch thick: bake in a quick
oven and when well done frost it and cut into
square pieces

Marble Cake: Light part – One and half cups of white
sugar half a cup of butter, one cup of sweet milk
half a teaspoonful soda, one of cream tartar
whites of four eggs two and a half cups of
flour. Dark part – One cup of brown sugar
half a cup of molasses, half a cup of butter, one
cup of sweet milk half teaspoonful soda one
of cream tartar two and half cups flour Yolks four eggs clove
allspice cinnamon and nutmeg salt.

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Jelly Cake – Three eggs beaten very light, one cup of sugar, one
cup of flour one teaspoonful cream tartar mixed
dry in the flour half a teaspoonful soda dissolved
in hot water one tablespoonful of cream or butter half
a teaspoonful of essence of lemon.

Delicate Cake – Take the whites of four eggs beaten to a
stiff froth one cup of sugar, one cup of flour
half a cup of sweet milk, three tablespoonfuls
butter, one teaspoonful of soda three of cream

tartar flavour with lemon essence salt

[The following recipe seems to be written in a different hand]

Raspberry Vinegar: To two quarts and a half of ripe raspberry put one pint of the best vinegar. B[----?] them well and let it stand three days. Strain the juice through a bag and add its weight of sugar. Boil it, skim well and bottle it closely.

Lemon Pie: Yellow of three eggs, grate the rind and press out the juice of one lemon, one coffee cup brown sugar two spoons flour one half pint water one tablespoon butter bake in one crust and when a light brown beat the white of three eggs very light add two tablespoons pulverized sugar put on the top and bake a light brown

Apple Jelly: To thirteen good sized apples put [missing]

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quart of water and one lemon boil till soft and strain. To one point of juice add one point of sugar and boil twenty minutes

Rolled Jelly Cake: One coffee cupful white powdered sugar, one coffee cupful flour, four eggs whites and yolks beaten separately, salt, beat the yolks and sugar to a cream, add the flour and salt then the whites beaten to a very stiff froth, bake from ten to fifteen minutes

Wedding Fruit Cake: One point of sugar one point of flour one point butter ten eggs two pound raisins three pounds currants one pound citron one tablespoonful cinnamon one tablespoonful cloves one tablespoonful nutmeg

half cup molasses teaspoon soda.

Marble Cake: Light part: A cupful white sugar half cup-full each of butter and sweet milk, whites of three eggs teaspoonful cream tartar half teaspoon soda two cups of flour: Dark part: cup brown sugar half cup molasses half cup butter yolks of three eggs teaspoon cream tartar half teaspoon soda two cups flour half teaspoon each of cinnamon cloves allspice nutmeg. Beat the batter well and lay in the dish a spoonful light and then of dark.

[Page 67]

The greatest pleasure of life is love; the greatest treasure is contentment; the greatest luxury is health; the greatest comfort is sleep; and the best medicine is a true friend. Is there a point where the ideal of love conceived by a woman differs from that of a man? Yes. A man marries a bride rather than a wife, a woman marries a husband rather than a lover. She settles down into a sort of quiet contentment; he when the freshness and novelty of the bride has changed to a sober practical wife, grows indifferent, and seeks other attractions elsewhere.

What in woman is called curiosity, in a man is grandiloquently magnified into the spirit of inquiry.

Much of the comfort of this life consists in acquaintance, friendship, and correspondence with those that are pious, prudent and virtuous.

There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love. Oh, speak not

harshly of the stricken one – weeping in silence! Break not the deep solemnity by rude laughter or intrusive footsteps. Scoff not, if the stern heart of manhood is sometimes melted by sympathy; they are what help to elevate him above the brute. We love to see tears of affection. They are painful tokens, but still most holy. There is pleasure in tears – an awful pleasure

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My Album

This valued Photographic Book
On which you gaze with curious look
Or hallow'd sympathies,
Contains mementoes, rich and dear,
Of much loved friends, as gathered here
Before our wandering eyes

Some who are not here have pass'd the bourne
From whence the travelers ne'er return
To tell their secrets o'er;
And some have cross'd the ocean's swell
Far off in distant lands to dwell
To meet on earth no more

And some still linger with us here
Our homes to bless our hearts to cheer
Enshrined by Nature's art
Loved friends and kindred here we greet
In hope that all at length may meet
In Heaven no more to part

If thou canst add another face
Our book to beautify and grace
We will our thanks bestow

[in margin]

Then pray oblige without delay
Secure the shadow while you may
The substance soon may fade.

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Only A Ring

Only a ring, yet I prize it more
Than all the gems from India's shore;
Not all the wealth of all the world untold
Is dear to me as this band of gold.

Only a ring, but I love it well,
Better than words can ever tell;
'Tis a pledge to me of affection true,
Beset and dearest I ever knew.

Only a ring and yet in this
Is centred all of my earthly bliss;
All my hopes of the future, yes –
Every dream of happiness.

Only a ring, but if you knew
The heart so brave, the love so true
You would not wonder that to me
His ring is more than the world could be

[in margin]

Only a ring from one whose love
I prize all earthly things above;
So do not deem it a trifling thing
For the love of the giver came with the ring.

Wedded life is not one long amatory poem with re-
current rhymes of “love and “dove” and “kiss” and “bliss”

[Page 70 – loose]

We should always be slow in choosing a friend, and still
slower to change him.

We should always be courteous to all, and intimate with few;
never slight a man for poverty nor esteem any one for his wealth
If one could be conscious of all that is said of him in his absence,
he would probably become a very modest man indeed.

People are commonly so employed in pointing out faults in those
before them as to forget that some behind may at the same
time be descanting on their own.

Truth may be violated as much by silence as by falsehood itself.
A person who tells you the faults of others intends to tell others
your faults.

A sure cure for terrible disorder of the mouth commonly
called “scandal”. Take of “good nature” one ounce, of an herb called by
the Indians “mind your business” one ounce, mix these with a little
“charity for others” and two or three sprigs of “keep your tongue between
your
teeth”. Application. The symptoms are a violent itching in the tongue
and roof of the mouth which invariably takes place when you are in
company with a species of animals called “gossips”, when you feel it

coming on take a spoonful of the mixture hold it in your mouth which you will keep closely closed till you get home and you will find a complete cure. Should you apprehend a relapse keep a small bottleful about you and on the slightest symptoms repeat the dose.

[Page 71 - loose]

People who want to think ill of others can always do so. They wilfully blind themselves to good faults, and exaggerate the bad ones. There may be two meanings to many things that are said.

Injustice is very hard to hear, yet we must all learn to expect it and to suffer it as calmly as we can. To have our best deeds turned and twisted into evil ones; to have our acts and words utterly misrepresented, to have those turn cold to us for whom we have always felt the warmest friendship, is only the face of humanity.

Deceiver Go

I'll admit that once I loved thee
That I deem'd thee just and true
That my heart has loved no other
Fondly as it once loved you.
Yet the ties of love are broken
And the vows you made to me,
From this hour and forever
You are nothing more to me.

Fare thee well and if for ever
Still for ever fare thee well;
Even though unforgiving never
'Gainst thee shall my heart rebel

[Loose insert, unlined paper]

Dear Mollie Magee

There's a beautiful Isle afar
Afar o'er the spread of the sea
There's a heart that is sad today
And eyes that are watching for me
Though the months have been few
Since I bid her adieu
Yet it seems like an age since we met
And the look that she gave
Ere I launched on the wave
I can never ah I never forget

chorus

Oh thou beautiful Isle afar
Afar o'er the spread of the sea
Yes 'tis dear to my heart you are
Sweet home of dear Mollie Magee

There's a green little Isle beyond
Across the wide waters away
And I'm dreaming a dream so fond
Of home and of Mollie today
And I think with a sigh
As the moments go by
Of our land that is over the sea
Oh I wonder a while
With a home and a smile
If my Mollie is dreaming of me

I am coming across the main
Am coming again o'er the sea
For I long to be home again
Beside thee dear Mollie Magee
If we meet on the shore
We will part nevermore
For our days shall be happy and bright
And we'll go hand in hand
In our beautiful land
Where our hearts may be joyous and light

[Loose unlined insert, folded]

You Know You Do

When "some one's" step comes up the walk
Your cheeks take on a rosier hue
And though no other hears his knock
You hear it well – you know you do!

When "some one" talks about the grain
And bows at pa, yet looks at you
You see his glances – ah, 'tis plain –
And give them back – you know you do!

And though it may be very wrong
When pa is quite ignored for you
You sing for him your prettiest song
You cunning thing – you know you do!

And when he talks of other girls
Of Hateful Kate and Jennie too

You fling at him your auburn curls
You jealous thing – you know you do!

You keep your eyes upon the clock
And wish 'twould jump an hour or two
So that your pa would cease his talk
And go to bed – you know you do!

And when the folks to bed have gone
And left “some one” alone with you
You wish the clock would stop its tongue
Or you stop it – you know you do!

He blushes deep and looks afraid
To be thus left alone with you
But your eyes tell there never was maid
But could be wooed – you know you do!

You peep at “some one” ‘neath your curls
Until with love you burn him through
And make him hate all other girls
In love for you – you know you do!

And when his arm steals round your chair
You give a smothered scream or two
As if you did'nt want it there
But oh, you do – you know you do!

You nestle closer up to him
Your head drops on his shoulder too
You think it nice to have a Frank
You haughty thing – you know you do!

And when he timidly doth press
His wish to make a wife of you
With happy heart you answer "yes"
You darling girl – you know you do!

Guide to People Mentioned in the Diary

The Handy Family

HANDY, Collins Sr. (“Pa”): Ida’s father.

HANDY, Louisa: Ida’s sister. Married Henry Watson in 1863

HANDY, Collins Jr.: Ida’s brother. Married Elizabeth Jane Watson (Henry’s sister) in 1863.

HANDY, Julia Ellen (“Julia E”): Ida’s sister. Married Oliver Ransom in 1900

HANDY, Julius (“Jule/Jules”): Ida’s brother. Married Lucretia “Lulah” Bryant

HANDY, Otis: Ida’s nephew, son of Lucretia Bryant and Julius

HANDY, George Washington: brother of Ida. Married Henry Watson’s sister Rhoda Angeline in 1871

HANDY, Franklin Morse (“Frank” or “Franky”): Ida’s brother. Married Alice Bryant

HANDY Wesley Norman (“Wes”): Ida’s brother, married Lucy Olivia “Leva” Fairchild in 1877.

HANDY, Clara Lucinda (“Lucy”): Ida’s sister. Married Alvin Bryant in 1884.

HANDY, Anson Frederick (“Fred”): Ida’s brother. Married Anna Mabel Warner in 1883.

HANDY, David: married ‘Rachael’ (unknown surname) some time prior to 1862. There is a Rachel mentioned in the diary, but she does not seem to appear with David at any point.

The Baldwin Family

ROOME Catharine (“Grandma”): Ida’s maternal grandmother. Married David S. Baldwin. She moved to Wisconsin with husband and family in 1849, but returned to Ontario after her husband’s death

BALDWIN, Rebecca (“Ma”): Ida’s mother, daughter of David S. Baldwin and Catharine Roome. Married Collins Handy Sr.

BALDWIN, Sarah Ann Baldwin (“Aunt Sarah”): Ida’s aunt on her maternal side. Sarah married Ida’s father’s brother Ebenezer Handy. Ebenezer died in 1865. Sarah secondly married Abram Willson in 1867, in Michigan.

The Watson family

WATSON, Henry: born William Henry Watson. Married Ida's sister Louisa Handy in 1863, and Ida Handy in 1883 (after Louisa's death)

WATSON, Linneus ("Linny"): son of Louisa Handy & Henry

WATSON, Mary ("May"): daughter of Louisa Handy & Henry

WATSON, Elizabeth Jane: sister of Henry Watson, wife of Collins Handy Jr.

WATSON, John ("Mr. Watson"): Henry's father

WATSON, Hortense: Henry Watson's sister (also known as Tenny)

WATSON Theodore Frederick (sometimes Theodore, sometimes "Fred"): Henry Watson's brother

The Willson family

WILLSON Abram, ("Uncle Abe"): first married a Julia (believed to be a Baldwin and Ida's aunt) who died before the writing of this diary. After Julia's death, Abram married Ida's aunt Sarah Baldwin ("Aunt Sarah" in the diary). Known children of Abram and Julia: Anson, Edwin ("Eddie" in the diary?), Collins, Ella, Julia

WILLSON, Anson: son of Abram and Julia (see Baldwin, Julia)

WILLSON, Ella: daughter of Abram and Julia (see Baldwin, Julia)