

Matilda Hill (1856-????)
1884-1885 Diary
Transcribed by Rural Diary Archive volunteers

Tillie Hill

Douglas Village 1884

This is my Mother's book. Jessie H. Simpson

"The Coming of the Silent Guest"

Lo! England sends him back to us, With sealed eyes and folded palms: He drifts across the wintry sea, Which chants to him its thousand psalms. We proudly name and claim him ours; We take him, England from thy breast; We open wide our doors to him Who cometh home a silent guest. We lent him thee to teach thy sons The lesson of the Open Hand, Less famished lips should bless them less than him, - the stranger in their land. We but live, living unto thee, To be a solace to thy pair: But now we want his noble dust To consecrate it ours again. England we take him from thine arms; We thank thee for thy reverent care; If thou and we were ever friends, We should be so beside his bier. His memory should be a spell To banish spleen and bitterness Have kindlier thoughts of us, - for he Was tender unto thy distress, - As we have kindlier thought of thee Because of honor done to him; For, while we weep, we turn to see That English eyes with tears are dim,,

40 Friday February 15th/84 Mrs Jupp died this afternoon, her end was peace. just two weeks to day we buried Father what sore sad changes a few weeks can bring, death and Sickness seem all round us like warning voices saying, "Be Ye also ready". God does not afflict willingly but of necessity to bring more impressively to mind the lesson which is all important; but hardest of all to learn to be "always ready"

Monday Feb 25th 1884 Uncle John came Saturday night. the train was very late on account of the storm, they had to send a special, as the morning train ran off the track half way to fergus some of the passengers were ~~half~~ famished for food. Uncle spoke twice yesterday I think everyone seemed pleased with what he said, he stayed over and has organized the Division tonight. R. Y Blythe, very unexpectedly, opposed it, for a few minutes he seemed likely to carry the day but, George Martin, with some others thought the present time was ours, the harvest time had come. If there was danger in delaying. So after taking the voice of the meeting, which was in favour of no postponement Landsdown Division, Sons of

Temperance, was organized in the Village of Douglas Monday Feb 25th 1884- The officers are C Jarrett {written over top: O.S.S.}, Mrs Mitchel {written over top: J.S.S.}, Lillie Currie {written over top: A.C.}, Mr Taylor {written over top: Conductor}, Alex Currie {written over top: R. S.}, Eunice Cause {written over top is: A. S.}, R Townsend {written over top: F. S.}, Mrs Wray {written over top is: Treasurer}, Jolui Spence {written over top: P.M.P.}, Mr Wray {written over top: {Celiaplin?}}, Mr Smith {written over top: W. P.}, then lastly, but, by no means leastly myself {written over top: W. A.}. I gave R. Y. a slice of my mind for his presumption, as I can call it nothing els. Uncle said, we were to forget all about it and pray for him. Well, I don't say, I wont but at the present time I feel greatly relieved and think the introductry part will do the prayer no harm to do Mr Blythe justice I must say; one redeeming feature in his character is that he never keeps spite. We will be as good friends tomorrow as if nothing had every happened {written vertically in left margin: Annie left for Nassagawago last week with Jane & {Jim?} Campbell.}

Monday March 3rd, 1884

I believe this is the coldest weather we have had all winter. Still, I believe it is going to moderate now. Last Thursday was a terrific day, Mary and I went down to order some millinery and were nearly blown across the road, a fearful day for a fire, and yet - Mr. Black was burned out, he lost all he had excepting a small part of his Library and a few articles of furniture, the Insurance on the building and contents, each one thousand dollars. Mary Rodgers walked home from Fergus and had both of her feet frozen the same day. The Dr. is afraid she will loose part of them, it is a very sad case. Mary says she never saw such a sight. Yesterday morning Mr. Mc Kay (the student) came for breakfast, the trains were all blocked so they did not get through until Sunday morning. Our pump was frozen and when the student presented himself for breakfast it left us in rather an awkward position, however with the aid of friends we got something ready and he was in line to preach.

Monday March 10th 1884

Mary Douglas was married on Wednesday 5th, were all invited but did not feel like going, may her future life be as sunny and bright as the day she left her girl-hoods home. I often think how little a girl know what is before her as she bids farewell to the old house. She leaves the love well tried and true. And ventures on love untried and new. A social was held at Peter Gerrie's on Friday 7th. Proceeds to buy books for Mr. Black, it was quite a success, they made nearly thirty dollars Mr. Hall preached yesterday

{Written vertically in left margin: Mrs. Beck had a little Daughter on the 26th of Feb. She is calling her for Aggie.}

Monday March 16th 1884

We went to Fergus last Thursday to have babies Picture taken, but we just came home as we went for the artist was of the donkey persuasion and I feel like telling him what I think of him even yet. A second social was held at Peter {Girres?} which was as successful as the first. Gorge Martin went to Nassagaweya, Wednesday 12th for the lumber to fix the hall. We had a letter from Annie, who is there. She has been bad with ague. Mrs. Jeff Dobbie was in church last night. She is just starting for {dakalay?}. There were eleven joined the Division tonight. Mrs. Fleming Kitchen is altogether to Swall. Mr. Greasley thinks the hall will be ready for next Monday evening.

Monday March 24th 1884

Jim Goodall left for Oregon last Wednesday. I think he disappointed his friends for they did not think he would go until they saw him on the train. He seemed quite pleased to go. I hope he may do well, and whether prosperity or adversity await him may he have the blessing. If he should never return he left me Baby & Harry for my own. Willie Simpson & Lillie Currie were in the store and we had some fun about the Bribery Case. I cut all the badges and my fingers were blistered. It is going to take over fifty yds of cotton before we get them finished. The Lodge is progressing rapidly.

{Written vertically in left margin: I think we are going to have spring, the roads are breaking up. I was sitting out on the verandah Saturday 22nd, sewing}

Saturday March 29, 1884

Had a good meeting at the Lodge on Monday and it was very crowded. I hope we will be in our own hall by next meeting. The ice went down while we were at the Division. It is about three weeks earlier than last year. The Bible Society meeting was held on Tuesday night in Mr. William's Church. It was a very rough night raining & blowing and very muddy roads. I went up to see the hall on Friday it looks much better & larger than I expected. I think it will be a grand palace when we get it finished. Had a letter from Noble. It was really laughable.

April Saturday 5th 1884

We were in our new hall on Monday for the first time. It was the election of officers, so there was some fun. The Prayer meeting was here on Wednesday evening. Charlie Bick has sold out to Will Taylor. I do not know when he is going yet. Mrs Thorn & Lizze Marshall called this evening. I could not help feeling sorry for Mrs. Thorn. She appeared so sad: it matters little what we have here if we have not health to enjoy it. Mr. Lightbody's people moved over on Thursday. Had a letter from Jim Goodall, he arrived safely. I think he feels lonesome by his letter.

{Written vertically in left margin: Mrs. {Meurin?} had a little boy Monday morning. Three weddings are on Wednesday. Snow, Mann & Clarke.}

April Saturday 12th 1884

Was rather early for Lodge and called on Mrs McGregor, our Deputy Grand overthrew part of the election, there is a little hard feeling but I think it will all come right. Prayer & Business meeting held in the church on Wednesday evening. The later was the most orderly we have had for some time. Mr. Black is thinking of taking up the Fergus Station. I called to see Lizzie Marshall on Thursday evening and was almost sorry I went. Annie came home tonight, just eight weeks since she left. Cousin John's hand is keeping better, we sat talking until after twelve

Saturday April 19th 1884

I was at Sunday School on Sunday morning. I think the school is growing - was at Lodge and came home quite disappointed I hope it is the last time we will have such confusion. Mr Black came but could not get in Wm Millican called while we were away, Annie did the honours, which was a great relief, he is very mannerly tries his prettiest not to appear awkward, and make believe his long extremities are part of himself. Prayer meeting at Mr Lightbodys. busy sewing for Mrs Beck. The first church refuse to let Mr Black go Had letters from our Jim and James Miller to day. James says his hand is not mending very fast I hope Mary will find the five dollar Bill

Written vertically in left margin: Mr and Mrs Staler were at church on Sunday morning, I suppose they looked nice, newly married people always do, they say.}

April Saturday 27th 1884

Nothing very particular this week I went to Fergus this morning and had Garbutt's picture taken. We were late for the train thanks to Spence he ran the engine of the track

May Saturday 3rd 1884

Mrs Hannah and I walked over to see Lizzie Johnstone April 27th Andrew and I went over to Miss Martins School. I thought I would not care to be a teacher for she seemed to have rather a lonesome time of it. Miss Martin came with us for tea and then they brought us all home in the evening We papered the hall on tuesday We got babys pictures to day they are not good at all

Saturday May 24th 1884

John and Roy came on the wood train, looked like rain all day. Annie & Lizzie Lightbody went to the forks to meet Mr Brillau, {Can-?} John {Juir?} and a number of others played {Croque?} all day. We excluded going to Orangeville but did not marriage {in?}

Tuesday May 27th 1884

Andrew Johnstone wants to Favorite he {intrudes?} taking a {leriu} at the {that?} haud-school

Thursday 29th Mr Brillau left for New York

{Written vertically in left margin: Wrote to Sev about an instructor}

Tuesday June, 17th 1884

Mary left this afternoon for Markdale. She is going to take a qarter of music lessons.

Saturday June, 21st 1884

Our picnic came off this afternoon, it was a grand success as far as money was concerned, but oh, dear the rain came on, and such a rain. I never witnessed, it just poured down in bucketfulls, muslins and crimps, together with all connected with the millinery line, could have been bought up at a large discount, the water ran in streams from the gentlemen's coat-tails and oozed out of their Boot tops. My head ached as though it were being torn from my shoulders. but after all we made the money and that is the main thing, our hall is nearly clear of debt, hurrah for temperance, cold water inside or outside.

Tuesday, July 1st, 1884

Anne and Rob. went to Little Toronto. Our boys played a Base ball match with the Toronto fellows and came off victorious. I went to Mrs. Lindsay, got a hen and set her, the first Start.

Thursday 17th July 1884 Jim came up from Nassagaweya with my incubator.

Wednesday July 23rd Set the incubator, got it going splendid. Prayer meeting at Mrs. Lindsays.

{Written vertically in left margin: Mr. Lightbody went up to fish and thereby hangs a tale. Sat. 28th Excursion to Owen Sound. Sent the saddle with Mr. Cause}

"If happiness be not the seat and centre of the breast We may be rich, or wise, or great, but never can be blessed" (Burns)

Wednesday August 6th 1884

Doctor {Faeublyer?} was married to day. I watched the train as it bore them away, and oh, how many thoughts flitted through my mind. God forbid that young hopes should be blighted, tender affections crushed e'er they have scarcely bloomed. Oh that cruel monster drink what homes it as robbed of its brightest and best

My incubator is doing {in-anly?} (Greville, Hill & Co.)

{Written vertically in left margin: The piano in Sargents bush a failure}

Monday Aug 18th 1884

The first egg chipped this morning, I could hardly believe my eyes

Mrs. Bellamy died this morning

Saturday Aug 23rd 1884

What a week I have had, nothing but chickens wherever I turn, I am nearly mad had grand success nearly a hundred chickens

Thursday 4th Friday 5th September /84

Sunday School convention in Fergus I enjoyed the meetings very much, was at Mrs. Mullans for tea, & flower show in the evening

Sat. 6th. Came home in the afternoon, missed the morning train, I felt so sorry for Mrs. {Gerrie?} what a checkered life she has had, Oh: what a fearful curse drink is! Mrs. Hannah's {sixth?} son was born this morning

{Written vertically in left margin: Sept 11th John Campbell came home with his bride they drove through the village like John white gloves and all. Friday 12th I had an interview with Jim, I felt sorry for him but I suppose it is all for the better, whatever comes or goes I wish him well for we have spent many happy hours together.}

Friday Sept. 12th /84

Cleaned the church to day; I am so tired I do not feel like sleeping. I wonder what Mr. Ward will say. I think Marjory Blythe and I had better take a trip to Flanders until he cools off, If I had a man like Ward I would lie awake all night before I would't have some plan invented whereby his lower extremities might move a little faster, if all else failed I would try Bill Rodgers receipt that he had for Lightbodys Old cuddy.

Monday Sep. 22nd 1884

Just got home from Scarboro. what changes a week can bring poor Cousin Jimmie, who was so well only a few days ago, is done with earth & earthly things but his friends Sorrow not as those who have us hope, for although young, with everything bright & promising before him he had not forgotten that he was not too young to die, and had sought to remember the one thing needful. Johnie, Jane & I went in to the Exhibition, met Aunt Lizzie who showed herself off in her true colors. Andrew Johnson came out to Uncles on Saturday evening. Jim and Aunt Tillie went to the station in full dress to meet him. We made a pot of taffy and had quite a nice time. Andrew Uncle & I came into the city on the morning train. What a trial we had searching for tickets, Uncle lost two, one after the other, but we got to the city alright. It rained all day. We had to stay at Mr Taylors until noon, so we had quit

{The following is a loose-leaf memorandum kept within the journal}

MEMORANDUM

FROM Benegough's Shorthand Antheneum and Type-Writing HEADQUARTERS 29 King St. West, Toronto

TO

88 Maitland St, Toronto: Feb 5, '83

My dear Friend Tillie,

I snatched a moment in an interval between classes to express my sympathy with you and your afflicted mother and family in this sad trial you are called upon to endure. I heard about it yesterday by a letter from home. So sudden, it must have been a tremendous blow: it would have been hard enough in ordinary circumstances. One satisfaction to me in writing you is that I know you take the affliction wisely, as from the hand of one who is as kind as He is wise, and who can never do anything wrong. "I was dumb" said David. "I opened not my mouth, because thou didst it" What can we say in such a case? M would not find fault with Infinite wisdom and Love. And I know God will comfort you, for "He is the Father of Mercies and the God of all Consolation." It is He who wipes away all tears from our eyes.

{End of memorandum}

a talk about the Scott Act Mrs Taylor is greatly in favour of it, she was telling me that Jake Alpaugh was to be married in a few weeks. After dinner we took the street cars down and went to see Mr Barker, he was teaching a class in short hand and was so pleased to see me. I had a nice talk with him, by what he says I don't think Andrew will make much at short hand, he is so far behind in other things that Mr. Barker thinks he will never be able to take a situation.

Aunt Tillie came in on the afternoon train and brought baby. Jim came with me as far as Shutsville. I could not help admiring him he was so kind and thoughtful, I hope he may be kept from all temptation such as is common to youth, and have wisdom granted him to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and then he will be usefull in whatever sphere he may be placed. I met Sara Campbell at Shutsville so had company all the way home. Mrs. Mitchell met us at the station, and then we finished up the day by going to a temperance lecture in the church which was indeed well worth hearing, it was given by Han. Ansley Grey the temperance people have engaged him for fifteen lectures, so we expect to hear him again before he leaves our country. Sara Campbell says all the Fergus girls are crazy about him. If he gets that string of old maids after him he will have enough to do

Tuesday Oct 14th 1884

We have just got the show safely over. We had a splendid day at the Division, did not make so much money but cleared all expenses, had a taffy off in the evening I think everyone enjoyed themselves It was very cold in the evening Nellie Cassidys concert was a complete failure. Mr & Mrs Clyne came out on the morning train Will Taylor is to be married to-morrow.

Jupp asked me to go for a drive was there ever anything worse, I did not know what to say I was so astonished, I think all these old roosters ought to be shot off.

Monday Oct. 27th 1884

Mr. & Mrs. McGregor, Rev Mr Smith & Beattie together with Mr. Graul all came for tea They went in the evening to Mimosa, all started off smoking cigars and such is life, ministers, I suppose, are only mortal like ourselves.

Oct 28th drove over to see Mr. Black, such a fraud, some men are confirmed humbugs.

Oct 29th Mr. Grant's teameeting at the upper church. public opinion is of little worth, how soon the tide turns Highlanders with all their policy, and pretty sayings, get into trouble like other people.

I hope the Collage Boys enjoyed their cake

{Written vertically in left margin: Thursday, Oct 30st Spent the day at Misses Black and Simpsons It was a long day for the time of year Enjoyed the drive in ~~the~~ very much The Yankees came on the noon train}

Thursday Nov, 20th 1884

Mrs. Wray died this morning, what a beautiful, long-to-be remembered death bed it will be to may we hear of them again, how sadly she will be missed, what great Blanks & sore places death makes, but as she told me once, and I have often thought so since, that death was sweet compared to what God in His wise Providence, sometimes called His children to pass through

Wednesday Nov. 19th 1884

Mrs Currie flew of the handle, this morning and took me to task ~~over~~ about a tub of butter, oh Well, "tis a long lane that has no turn" I did not mean to do Ms Currie a wrong in the transaction and my conscience is perfectly easy, so I know it will all come right

Friday Dec 5th 184

Sold all the hens to {Juie?} Bellamy came to about twenty dollars so that was not so bad after all of the contracts ever I had anything to do with the cleaning of that hen house I think, was really the worst, Mrs. Mitchel whit washed it and it looks very nice, Went to hear the

Jubilee Fisk Singers in Fergus, the singing was beautiful to grand for me to appreciate it was raining nearly all day but cleared up nicely in the evening - we have been busy sewing for Aunt Mattie Uncle & Lizzie Lightbody and all who ever in the world ever dreamed that Lizzie Lightbody would need a wedding dress

Friday 19th Dec. 184

Our friends left for Nassagaweeya this morning Uncle brought up a covered sleigh, so they were all packed in little-boy big-boy Carpet sack o & Bundles

{Written vertically in left margin and into the page:

Presented Lizzie May with a Locket & chain, such a night I never put in I was ashamed of our crowd

Dec. Thursday 11th

Had an entertainment in the Hall, it was rather a rough affair John {?}allry & Melin sang very nicely

Dec. 17th Lizzie Lightbody was married this afternoon, everything passed off very well the Boys were a little noisy at night Mother & I went to the church meeting Mr. Black spoke very disrespectfully not at all befitting a gentleman much less a Minister Maggie Esson was married in the forenoon

Dec. 25th Went over to Mr. Blacks Church to a social, it was very cold. I think Maggie Lightbody and cook are fair crazy}

Thursday Jan. 1st 1885

Have got the teameeting safely over and I hope it will be the last we will ever have, The Boys behaved so shamefully Mr. Rea tried to keep order but it was of no avail, Mr. Clarke declares he will never come back to be abused in such a manner, Mr. Crane & Clark got quite hot over it, the singing was a success, I do wish Will Lightbody could stay here all the time, he is just simply grand. Our oyster supper came off real {nice?} everything was just splendid, Emma Cause came and acted so nice, soap bubble blowing was something quite new I wish Smart had waited until warmer weather before he gave us so much fresh air, I hope Will Taylors prizes will come in useful. After closing with Singing & prayer we wished one another

a happy New Year, and then all went to their respective houses. Sleighing all gone what a change from Christmas

Saturday night Jan. 3rd

Social over and everything cleaned up. the {christmas?} tree looked very nice, but the noise was dreadful

Wednesday April 22nd/85

Mrs. Lightbody died this afternoon, she was very nice and did not appear to be suffering any pain, just {slipped?} quietly away. Mr. Millican came in and had a nice prayer Mrs. Hannah and I went to see about the shroud, they will miss her very much but I think she was a good woman with all her short comings.

April 23rd - went to Division, Mr Smith was bringing the law down very pointedly. So we dismissed and came home - April 24th Mrs. Lightbody was buried this afternoon, Will came by the noon train, Mr. Blacks part in the ceremony was very cold and and unchristian-like the boys were so tender about their Mother & it seemed as if they could hardly tolerate him. Mr. Campbell called and had worship, he appears to be very nice

27th Mattie & Mr. Grant came this afternoon

May 24th/85 very quite {quiet} in the village, Annie & Mary spent the day at Mr. {Louthts?}. I went for a drive in the evening, we are getting along real well with the sewing. I think we will be done in about three weeks.

{Written vertically in the left margin: May 13th Mattie went home yesterday we got all her sewing done.}

Thursday July 2nd 1885

Well, Well Old Diary - Wonders will never cease, I think we have given the village gossips material enough to work on for the next ten weeks to come, such a day in Douglas as the 30th of June will be long remembered. I do not know when I ever felt so sad it seemed as if the sun would never shine again, when Annie told me that she could not marry Willie Brittain, that she would rather die than take him, for the first instant I thought my heart would burst its prison wall to be free. I cannot enter into details and tell you everything, but after we had raised all the sleeping ones, and told them the strange news, John went for Willie Brittain. He

acted very gentlemanly all through, but all his persuasions were in vain Annie still said she could not go, then W. H. Clarke came and he gave us such a lecture all round, but still it made no difference, things were all at a standstill, the neighbours all left their work, and stood in groups at every corner, K.Y.B. near{ly} spoiled his batch of bread. After diner we all went to class and left them, I was so glad to get away, not for the sake of enjoying myself but I felt I could hardly live if I did not get out someplace,

Aunt had everything just beautiful, she was very kind and said not to be too much cast down as there was always a silver Lining to every cloud and relief was sure to come, perhaps not in just the way we looked for it, but it would surely come, so we started home and

{continued from previous page} I wondered where that relief would ever come from. Aunt sent a story of the cake and I wished it would only fall out of the buggy on the way home for I did not know what to do with it, but the relief was nearer than I imagined for when we got home Mother told me that Annie was married and away, what a great burden had rolled away, the very air seemed to be free and I thought I could breath easier, I went to bed but was so overjoyed I could not sleep, Bert & John came up from Toronto

Aunt Tellie left for home this morning, what a strange ending after so much preparation

Bert & Kay went home after breakfast, she is in a great state about his face, she send if John had brought him to Toronto she would have sent them both to a hotel and not answered either of them.

Monday July 6th

Had a letter from Annie, they arrived safely and got through the custom house Officers {Hand?} without any trouble, she said she was as happy as she could be, just fancy, after all the headaches, heartaches and every other Kind of ache that mortal man or woman is subject, getting a letter like that.

I went to church last night, and could not listen to sermon for thinking every person was looking at me and saying; what fools Hills have made of themselves. Our house seemed so dull Yesterday, Bert & John & Willie & Willie Simpson came for tea

{Written vertically in the margin: Marjory Blythe Yesterday and broke down the morning}

Friday July 10th/85

Mary came home from Nass.{Nassagawago} with her new teeth, they look just splendid better than ever expected, I picked ten qts of strawberries this afternoon, and put them down, I had no idea the little patch would do so well, sat up last night with Mrs McGregors Babies, twins, I think one of the little things will hardly live, John Hannah is real sick I am afraid Mrs. Hannah be worn out waiting on him, I am afraid the neighbours are not doing their duty. Mary had letter from Brittain. I think By the tone of it that he thinks I persuaded Anne not to go with him, I feel real hurt about it for I am sure I never said one word against him, but perhaps it will all come right sometime and if it never does I need not mind for God knows all things even the very inner most thoughts of our hearts - I went for a drive in the evening it was quite chilly. I don't think I was very good company, I felt so dull and my thoughts seemed so scattered

Sat. July 11th/85

Miss Emma Martin was married this afternoon, under an apple tree in the Orchard, we got a peep of them when they came to the station with the aid of the telescope

Tuesday July 14th/85

Our S.S. {Sunday School} Scholars had their picnic in Mr. Rodgers bush, the day was not every promising but it turned out real nice, Mary said it was the first Picnic she has been at for a long time. Emma & Mr. Campell walked home together, I suppose the gossips have them married next week.

Monday July 20th/85

Mrs. Simpson died this morning, something about the news, I cannot tell, why, but I felt so sad Mrs. Lindsay's Baby was buried this forenoon Mr. Black made quite an address,

Frank Martin came home on this evenings train

Thursday 23rd July

Mrs Slater {added above the line: from Hamilton} called in the evening, she appears to be a very nice person, I did not go to the Division. Willie is so sorry about his Mothers death, How nice to know they sorrow not as those who have no hope. She knew in whom she trusted, in her Redeemer she looked for strength

Monday July 27th/85

Bert & John moved to Hillsburgh Mary went down to help them to fix up things generally Mr. Campbell & I walked over to Mr Martins, played a few games of Croquet and had a nice dish of strawberries & cream, just got home in time to miss a good drive I felt provoked all the rest of the walk. Jamie Bradley says Sheppard is to be married tomorrow, he and Lillie have fallen out, and he has made friends with his old girl in Elora and are going to be married right off, but someway I don't think it's true, but we will see

Thursday Aug 6th/85

Excursion to Toronto, Barrie Orilia Mary & Burt intended going, But Roy was sick, so Mary & Garbutt spent the day at John's

Friday Aug 7th - I walked down to see Mrs. Quarrie this-afternoon. we had quite a long talk about Dr. Tamblyn, how strange things turn round, she is fretting every day about Cassie and could only wish she had her back again. Mr Quarrie drove me home in the evening and we met Mrs Tamblyn, with her {written vertically in the margin: baby at the station she looks real nice and her baby is just a beauty, she says she is just calling him Jim}

Sat. Aug 8th/85 - Had a letter from Annie Not at all a promising morning for a pleasure trip still it did not rain, so me down to Elora, and spent the afternoon among the rocks, if we go again, I think we will invite some others to go along, and I am sure we would have a grand time. the rain Kept off all day, the drive home was pleasant - And so it is in every thing there is a change - I think Willie is a real Christian, of course, there are short comings, but when is there who has not it is strange how the wheels of time turn, and bring about things we never dreamed of - Carriage wheels even change their places and thereby hangs a tale

Monday 10th

Fixed Grivelle's quilt, Mr. Campbell called, & Sarah Campbell in the afternoon, so we had some fun

Thursday Aug 13th/85

Had a despatch from Stayner Aunt Ann died this morning. Mother intended going but could not make the connection, we have no idea what could have been wrong, as we had not heard of her being ill. was just starting for the Division when the rain came an so did not go

Aug 19th Mrs. Tamblyn & her Mother called, I think they are going to Mr Millicans for tea, I was over seeing Mrs. Marshall, she does not look so poorly as I expected to find, she has her hair all cut off and I rather like her apperance I believe it improves her

{Written vertically in the left margin: Ellen Russel was married on the 22nd of June and no one knew anything of it until the 2nd week in Aug. I don't think she has gained very much in doing things that style, nor yet in getting the man she has either, I feel thankful I escaped}

Friday 21st Aug -

Mr. Campbell called for me to go with him to see Mrs. Marshal if he intends anything beyond friendship with Emma Cause, he is a deceitful man.

Emma was fixed in great style to receive him, I am sure she was looking for him we did not stay long, I told Mr Campbell I did not wish to take him away so after we got out he said it is better this way you know - I packed for a while & then went for a drive, Willie brought a beautiful bunch of roses in full bloom at this time of the year just fancy

Sat 22nd The Boys behaved really to bad to night I don't believe I ever knew boys so ignorant in all my life I was so annoyed I gave one of them a bath of cold water for his impudence

Mrs Taylor had a little girl

Thursday Aug. 27th Excursion to Elora from Sheetsville

For more information on Matilda Hill, check out the “Meet the Diarists” page under “Discover” on our website: ruraldiaries.lib.uoguelph.ca