

# Irene Dixon Bamford 1899 June–August, Diary Transcription

5034\_4-1-9

**Metadata**

FromThePage export of 5034\_4-1-9 from Irene Dixon Bamford made on 2026-02-11 14:35:16 UTC.

itemTitle: June-August 1899

date: 1899

Title: 5034\_4-1-9

Description: Item is a diary.

Created On: 2024-01-11 17:32:12 UTC

In Scope: true

Uploaded Filename: 5034\_4-1-9

**1**

[File Folder]

Irene Dixon Bamford Diary June–August 1899

[stamp]

Queen's University Archives

Locator 5034.4

Box 1

File 9

**2**

Been Read  
June - August 1899

**3**

Reread  
'76-'89

#### 4

Sunday 14 June 1899

A hot cloudless day am thinking of drouth [sic] but hope not. Wellie came up and stayed a while, lent him a Berralds and a boat. Grace and Maud went to Church & sunday school. Arthur stayed home. Had soiled his clothes so had to stay home. Evening Maud went to Mr Niles with a note for Wallace go to the express office for Grace. Most of the youngsters out this beautiful eve driving. Frank, Emma and Grace in one buggy. Wallace, Marnie Bolton and Minnie Woodman driving in W N's buggy. Lewis, Joy & Mary Gordon in another. Bob Reid and Hattie Joslin in another. Will Robinson, Maud Gillespie & Lilly Woodman in another. Frank raced and drove by them all hollered and yelled, made more noise than a tribe of indians. I wrote a letter to Wells Sr just to say Grey Gillespie & Bessie Gibson out driving too also Perley Burnham and Hannah O'Brien.

Monday 12 June

A breezy hot day.

I worked at the flowers nearly all forenoon. Maud at school. Wish Artemus was there too. To meddlesome by half unmannerly and noisy wants his own way about everything. I dont believe I like him very well but he helps feed boys and fill dirt boxes.

**5**

Wallace has gone over the river, think he  
has gone to Cape Vincent.



I have to churn this afternoon. Churned and weed in garden. Wellie told me that his grandmother had lost the sight of one eye (right eye). Wallace came at eventime and brought the box of candy that Voltie had exported through from Buffalo but no picture yet. Grace went with Wall down to Franks and Artemus draged [sic] out the big rocker, fixed it up with cushions, and putting on his over coat, drew the chair in the doorway and with Tiny in his arms comfortably seated himself to the exclusion of any one passing in or out and was quite angry when Maud forced her way out. Telling her to go clear around to the other door and not bother him, and only this afternoon was much put out when Grace asked him to drive the horses into the pasture, refusing to go: at last when forced to go, like a baulky horse he went with fury both horses on the run dashed through the gate frightening the colt which jumped through the wire fence beside the gate and

## 8

tore a piece of skin completely  
off his neck leaving it on the wire  
fence which our young hero brought  
to the house. I think he'll take a  
trip to the city Thursday and not come  
here again.

Tuesday 13th June 1899

I walk over to see mother and about  
her blindness find them all right enough,  
mother reading with one eye and  
two pair of glasses. Rachel loaded to the  
brim with dirt about Bob Gaskin, poor  
old Rachel wonder will she ever possess  
common since [sic]. I think she is passed that  
period to old now to begin to learn any thing  
but filth. She rolls it like a sweet morsel under her  
tongue. I'm sorry she is not pure and clean  
to bad, to bad.

Wednesday 14 June 1899

A warm day. I churn and make out  
16 lbs of butter for market and dress two  
hens. Bill & Mary come over to go to  
Kingston tomorrow

9

Thursday June 15th June 1899

A fine morning arose at 7  
AM. Maud drove to dock with  
Grace and Mary Winsmill in buggy.  
Bill caught a ride with Niles. Maud  
and I work hard all day preparing  
for company. Arthur drove to dock  
in evening, boat arived [sic] late. Grace  
came bringing Helen Watson for a weeks  
visit. Mary and Bill came back bringing  
nothing but again stay all night. A  
cool evening, rained some.

Friday 16 June 1899

I churn and work in Garden.  
A fine day, plant more pot corn  
for hens to scratch out. Bill and  
Mary go over to Wills visiting because  
the wind blows so they cant cross,  
came back and crossed that night.

## 10

Saturday 17 June 1899

Grace cleans floors. I work in garden.

Sunday 18 June 1899

In evening Grace takes Helen W for a drive to foot.

A beautiful day, breezy from South (and come to Eveline's).

Grace, Helen Watson and Arthur

went to Church and Sunday School.

Irene worked around all forenoon & went

down and looked at my garden and found that

the hens have once again scratched up all the

pop corn which Artie and I planted on

Friday.

Monday 19 June

A very warm

morning. Grace drove to ferry accompanied by Miss Helen

Watson and they ate dinner with a Miss McCartha came back

to Belles and stayed to tea and arrived at home 10 pm.

Will took Jen and Charley across the river to pick berries

for Gloyds strawberries per box, rowed back and rove

to the village with Rachel. R going to cook for Briggs.

Wellie came up and cultivated bushes and potatoes,

looked after the pigs. I work awhile in garden

as usual.

11

19 June 99

Afternoon 5 pm been working all time since dinner. All the others taking an after dinner nap except noisy Arthur and I. A very slight thunder shower this morning but clears and the wind blowing strong breeze from the West. There I am in my bed room going fast asleep in chair. It blows so hard, one of the flower pots was blown from the stand. I sent a letter to Sr and one to Voltie. Hubert came for Vinegar and brought me a piece of factory cheese. Wellie came for the churn and gave him churn full of lettuce & lemons and a bottle of pickles. Hubert came early for butter for breakfast. Arthur pulled mustard. Maud went for wild strawberries.

Wednesday 21 June 1899

A cool dry day, clouds come trooping up from the west covering all the sky. Wind blowing from the West. I churned and make 17 prints for market. Helen teaching Grace to do embroidery.

12

Thursday 22nd June 1899

A fine morning, arose at 4  
put up the fowls, got breakfast  
and Helen Watson, Maud and Grace  
started for the dock enroute for Kingston.  
A circus in town. Arthur brought water,  
fed dogs, scrubed [sic] pantry and  
kitchen floors, then after dinner, Arthur  
hitched up Bess and we drove to Wellie's  
to make a call. Arthur killed a  
hen for a pot pie. At night we milked  
the cows, fed the hogs and then Arthur  
hitched up Bess and drove to the dock for Grace  
and Maud. Grace came home bringing pea soup, candy  
and dates.

Friday 23rd 1899

A fine day, thunder and lightening  
in the night, some rain; but not  
much. Grace sewed for herself making  
a shirt waist and a shirt for Arthur.  
Irene hoed and worked in garden. Sold  
Ruth Woodman a pound of butter 16.  
John Dixon and Jen came over and stayed  
all evening. John came for mother  
to go home with him but she says she  
will not go. Letters from Wells Sr,  
2 from Voltie, 1 from Robert,  
one from Watson.

**13**

Saturday 24th June 1899

A bright clear warm day.

Grace sewing for her grandmother.

Sold a pound of butter to Wellie  
& 2 pounds of butter to Jen Woodman.

We set cabbage and tomato plants.

Maud went for strawberries only got  
a few, all dried up. Got to wash by the  
river, wish it would rain.

Sent Mrs Woodman lettuce.

Arthur doing all kinds of  
chores, good boy. Maud cleaned  
floors.

25 Sunday June 1899

Maud and Arthur went to  
Sunday school and church service.

Grace dont go but takes a long nap  
two of them, brother John came back  
and ate supper with us. Said he put  
a quarter in the contribution box.

**14**

26 Monday June 1899

27 Tuesday June 1899

15

28 Wednesday 1899

A fine day: after dinner

Grace, Maud and Arthur drive up to the picking in Geo Woodmans Grove. It sprinkles quite a shower. They came home early, admittance for children under 13 to the dinner table 15 cents. Charley Dixon went to the table with 15 cents for his dinner but Charley Woodman drove him away because he didn't have 25 cents. Charley Woodman! a good Christian hog. I have made a mistake in the date yesterday All the above transpired. To day Wednesday it rained all day. Eveline drove to Kingston through the rain.

29 June Thursday

Grace gone to Kingston to market with butter 15 lbs. I had sold Eveline 1 lb and Samy's folks 1 lb. I am not very well and go to bed. Maud and Arthur cleans up the house but I had visitors all the same. Mary Woodman,, Irene Hengie and her little daughter Hazel and her husband came and I got their dinner for them and enjoyed the visit in good faith - from here they went to Wills, found Jen gone to Kingston but paid their respect to their grandmother.

**16**

30 Friday 1899

1 July Saturday 1899

**17**

2 July Sunday 1899

3 July Monday

**18**

7 July Tuesday 1899

Artimus and I drove up to Bells for Marjorie to come home with me and help milk the cows while Grace goes to Kingston to visit the Gaskins for a week. This is a queer old world any way. It keeps one on the [pump?] all the time to keep up the race for others, but I enjoy the drive, find every thing most beautiful all along the road, grain crops are fine. Drive around by John O'Briens arrived at Bells at 8 am.

5 July Wednesday

A fine day. Grace preparing to go to Kingston to stay a week.

19

6 July Tuesday 1899

Arose at 1/2 past 4 this morning.

Every thing in readiness for Grace to go to Kingston to be gone a week leaving me and the three youngsters. Marjorie is good tempered but I expect a good deal of sparring and picking at each other by Maud and Arthur. When Arthur goes to the dock for the groceries I go to Wellies and stay till Arthur returns. Did not know but Mrs Watson would come but happy to know he didn't come, sent 13 lbs to market of butter.

7 Friday July 1899

A very fine day but

Arthur and Maud kicked over the traces first thing lowered Mauds temperature all right but Artie holds spite longer, but willing to help only finds it hard to bring so much water for the hogs so I help bring water from the river. Mail Whig Montreal Stx and Herald and a letter from Helen Watson.

## 20

July Saturday 1899

The girls clean the floors. A  
very hot day. I wish it would rain.  
George Williams drove in here this  
evening with Wellie and took old  
Jim horse away. He will get wet  
for it looks like rain and a fire fly  
in the window curtains.

9 July Sunday 1899

A very wet day and last night  
from 7pm till 2 am it thundered and lightened [sic]  
awfully chrash [sic] after crash of thunder accompanied  
with brilliant flashes of lightning and then  
continued to rain all night. So we are never  
forgotten; in our dire distress for rain, it came pouring  
down in plenty filling boiler, tub, all the pails.  
What a saturating the Earth did get, now potatoes, corn  
and every garden will grow: a long lonesome Sunday,  
wood scarce and wet so burn a scuttle of coal.  
I read to the children Maud, Marjorie & Arthur

## 21

Monday 10 July 1899

A fine day after the rain.

Maud done a big washing lines full of clothes. I hoed the garden and popcorn.

Arthur & I set out cabbage plants till dark. The girls pick a bowl of berries for tea.

Tuesday 11 July 1899

The girls done a great ironing and picked berries enough for 2 two quart cans. Our flowers are begining [sic] to bloom poppies, &c.

Will working for Niles. Wellie working for Rattray. Evening mail a letter from Wells Sr, Devolson, Miss Kate Knapp a postal from Grace saying she is going to Ogdensburg Thursday a postal from Nellie Grey saying what a grand time Grace is having and how sweet she looks and how she takes the shine off the "Miss G's" (Nellie ought to have said the Misses G) but better have not said any thing about it, it sounds foolish, silly. I sent Grace a letter from home.

Wednesday 12 July 1899

A fine morning. 5 minutes to six when I arose at nearly six. Maud & Marjorie finish ironing and pick berries. I hoe a few potatoes. John Coxall here to borrow a pig box. John told me that Frank Woodman's cows - ten of them, he (John) drove out of our grain this morning and drove them into Franks pasture and shut Franks bars that Bob Reid had & sent left open when Bob drove out last night. I wrote Frank a note. Wellie "blowed" Frank up. Frank at dark was again driving his cows home from out the road. Will McDonel Sr came for 4 pigs, sold them for 11 dollars per pan. We going to buy feed for the others. We put all our cows in the stable to night.

Thursday 1 July 1899

A bright breezy day  
arose at 1/2 past 5, called the youngsters.  
They turned the cows out the stable  
and milked them in the barnyard and  
then drove them into the pasture. They had  
been in pasture about ten minutes when  
Charley Dixon came over to say he had just  
driven old blue cow & the black one out  
of the grain. I gave Charley a boquet for the  
dinner table and told him to come back and get some  
berries. He came brining me three new laid eggs.  
Arhtur cleaned the pig pen which is horrible filthy.  
Fell and hurt my hip while pulling weeds for the  
pigs so I am very lame. Will went to bay for tobaco bought a  
lb of butter of me. Irene churned. Dont make much butter.

**23**

Friday 14 July 1899

Wellie came last night for the buggy and express order from Voltie, \$16. Eveline is going to take it to Grace in Kingston for Grace to get the money for it to pay Rattray. We put the cows in the stable again last night. I didn't sleep any last night in such pain from falling couldn't rest; but I went down cellar this morning and skimmed the milk and washed the pans and got the breakfast. Arthur don't like to work only as he is ruged and pooped; The blue cow in the grain again and he wouldn't have known it if John Coxall had not called to him, and after he has been told so many times to watch that cow. Marjorie is cleaning pantry floor and the steps. Wess didn't come and I'm so glad and so is Maud. We never want to see him again.

## 24

Saturday 15 July 1899 1899

It rained at evening timie  
and all night but caught no  
water for the tub and boiler were not  
set out.

Sunday 16 July 1899

Grace was going to drive up with  
Marjorie but the rain prevented.

**25**

Monday 17 July 1899

Grace after picking a few  
quarts of berries for Belle drove  
up to Bills with Marjorie and returned  
bringing Grace home with her.

Tuesday (1899) 18 July

**26**

Wednesday 19 July 1899

Thursday 20th July 1899

Arthur drove to dock this morning  
with Grace only carrying 12 lbs of butter.

A warm cloudy lonesome day. Two  
youngsters, Arthur & Gracie both troublesome  
and noisy: if only Arthur here it would  
be all right but Grace is a terror. After  
the work was all done I took the hoe and went  
to the tater patch to hoe taters.

Friday 21 July 1899

A fine breezy day, wind South.

Grace washes a few things and I hoe potatoes. Evening Mail Whig, Herral, & Saturday Evening Post. A letter from Voltie and one from John with a letter from Mrs Lindley and a few lines from Flora.

Grace received a letter from Bob of course.

I was so tired couldn't read much but went to bed and slept soundly all night.

Saturday 22 July 1899

A fine day. Grace cleaned floors while I churned and made butter prints 2 for Mrs Woodman and one for Eveline. after working around the house went to hoe potatoes and hoe till supper time. And go to bed tired enough after washing dishes.

Sunday 23rd July 1899

A clear cool day, wind

North and breezy. Arthur and I alone nearly all day. Grace drives to Bells for Maud taking Gracie with her, came back towards night bringing Gracie back with her and Beatrice also. Charley Dixon came over for ice cream freezer and ice. I had no freezer but he got a pail of ice.

Arthur and I picked a few raspberries for tea. Grace came early bringing Maud, Beatrice and wee Grace came back again. Mrs Niles came and Inez & Lulu Niles, a homely young one of Geo Niles. Wallace came to & he and Grace went over to Wills for Ice Cream.

Monday 24 July 1889

Grace sick this morning of indigestion.

After yesterdays Debauch of driving up to Belles through the heat, eating hot yeast bread and honey with ice cream at Wills & then must be so flat as too smoke a whiff or two of Well's dirty cigar. I have read somewhere that sickness is a disgrace and I believe it.

I and Maud done big washing and hung them early on the line, cooked, hoed & cleaning. Sold Frank Woodman a pound of butter but Geo Snub but no money forthcoming. I may never get it; Will Dixon went to Millens bay this morning. Let Arthur go with him didn't get back till 1/2 past 10 am. Will

a jug of cider of H Dodge and crackers  
and cloth. Wellie is drawing in Wells hay.  
Grace abed all day, a very hot day.

Tuesday 25 July 1899

A breezy day from the  
south. Wellie here plowing out potatoes.  
Arthur pairs greened the potatoes  
and cut burrdocks but he dont  
like to work but likes pan cakes  
and all the green apples he can  
get. Well's mad, says "what the  
deval [sic] do you keep so many  
young ones around for, send three of them  
home and lower your family expenses  
about half. I guess he is right.  
Grace is better and is sewing making  
Irene a waist. Irene washed more  
clothes and hung them on the line.  
Maud done big ironing and  
cleaned up the parlor &c.  
My flower garden is fine.

Wednesday 26 July 1899

Another hot day.

Sold John Coxall one pound  
butter for Samy's folks 23 cts,  
churned and made 8 lbs butter for  
market. So warm could with difficulty  
make it out, wish it would rain.

Hand cleaned the chamber.

Arthur lazy ickle boy a nuisance,  
wants to eat all the time between meals.

Grace had to hide the cookies.

I wish he was in Kingston, wont  
have him around another summer  
if all is right. I dont believe I mean  
what I write about Artimus poor little  
imp got no mother, pretty good boy after  
all only sometimes I loose [sic] patience.

Thursday 27 July 1899

A very warm day. Artemus drives to  
dock with Grace, Beatrice, Maud &  
I work around all day (& also Arthur)  
preparing to receive our city guest Mrs Gaskin.  
I and Arthur clean cellar and platform  
door, steps to cellar more and arange [sic] all  
the flowers. Arthur drove for them. Grace came limping.  
The lovely Mrs G Well how do I like her? Will

tell you much better at the close of her visit. Watson & Ben came too but stoped [sic] all night at Wells.

Friday 28 July 1899

Grace hung the hammock between the trees and our guest with book in hand comfortably took to the hamock [sic] and read and slept to her hearts satisfaction after dinner. Mrs G and Grace wandered off down among the raspberries, came back with a bowl of berries for tea and then drove to the foot of Island, came back at bed time. Wesley Watson & Ben came this morning and his gabble gabber is going all day. Ben is sick, ate so much to fill himself up.

Saturday 29 July 1899

A fine day. After breakfast Grace drove to village with Miss G taking Beatrice & Gracie home and after posting letters drove back to Bells where they stay till 5 pm then drove home bringing Irene with them for an indefinite length of visit. Wallace came in evening and gets acquainted very fast with Miss G. I think when she calls me in the parlor and tells me that Will Niles is putting his arm around her. Watson and Ben gone to bed. Ben pretty sick. Asked Watson what he drags that young kid around for

Sunday 30th July 1899

A fine day. After breakfast Maud and Irene go to Sunday school. Grace and Miss G go to church service. Watson tries to get passage for himself and Ben with the preacher but fails. After dinner Grace and Miss G drive to English church service taking Ben and Watson's bag with them while Watson gets a ride to the church with Percy Gillespie and from church gets a passage with his Reverence (Mr Dibbs) who drops Watson, Bell and the bag at Bells. There they stay all night. Ben was sick all the time even when he left here. But I enjoyed Watson brief visit with his Biology and Botany. Wish I was the happy possessor of the Botany, the price of the book one dollar. Lazy old Watson can have it but not I. Wallace here again this evening and Will & Charley. Miss G cant sing, cant play. Watson raked. Verona people bald headed, low immoral beastly set so said Wess.

Monday 31 July 1899

A fine day. Wellie reaping & binding oats. A novel sight for Miss G never before having seen any farming done. Wellie wouldn't stay to dinner nor to supper. Aunt Ruth sends Viola for two lbs of butter. Charley Woodman bought 1 lb butter, 23 per lb, dont have to take butter to market any more - sell it all to our neighbors - dont make much anyway. Grace, Miss G and Wallace make ice cream in the cellar, old blue tail gets in the grain so many times I cant keep a record - keeps Arthur on the pimp. Grace invited Shell and Jen Gordon Wall and Jack to ice cream. Wall came of course but Shell scorned the invitation by going instead to visit Mary Farr Joslin all right Shell Niles. Jen Dixon sends over Charley for butter - one lb and send a two dollar bill. We couldnt change so didn't get pay for butter.

Tuesday. A fine day for the 1st of August 1899.  
Wellie finish binding oats in the field,  
he came in and I introduced my son Wells  
to Miss G. After breakfast, Grace & her guest  
visit Eveline and stay to dinner. Jr eats  
his dinner here. After they return at 1 o'clock  
pm by invitation. They drive up to Wm G Woodmans for  
a visit where Miss G has a delightful time  
for Wm & Mary make the visit very entertaining  
by a description of Watson's bride, the marriage  
and the brides trosseau and also  
told Grace that Watson has obtained the  
Marysville school for the remainder of  
the year. If true there will be a sequel [sic].  
They had for tea hot rolls and honey.  
Mrs George Woodman very sick.

Wednesday 2nd August 1899

A cool day but bright and clear.  
Weather very dry, roads terrible for  
dust, pastures brown and bare enough  
every cow in the country going dry. Will  
Young ones carry water from river now every day.  
Wellie working home to day. After dinner  
Grace and Miss G driver over to Breakeys to  
deliver a letter to a young lady boarder named  
Miss Watson which had been given to and an

opened by Maud by mistake. from  
Breakeys, they drove to Montgomerys for  
an afternoon visit. They return  
at sunest and without ever coming  
into the house go to call on the Niles  
family. They found Shell and Gordon  
on the river in skiff where they proceeded  
to remain till "we sins" returned  
home accompanied by Wallace and Jim Maloney  
who stayed till 10 oclock pm, and of course  
we have to get up early tomorrow morning,  
boat leaves our doct at 1/2 past 5 am.  
Viola here for butter churn and send Maud with it.  
Sam pays for Franks butter that Frank got a week ago.  
Thursday 3rd August 1899  
A fine day. Get up at 4 and  
hustle, a heavy fog envelopes every  
surrounding [sic] object like a shroud.  
But Arthur gets out and hunts  
around for Bess to drive to dock at  
last with bundle and baggage and  
great bunches of flowers. Arthur drives  
away with them, good bye. I'm glad  
you are gone. This has been a tough  
week for me but I'm alive and kicking  
all right: haven't been so happy and  
free in a week. Grace didnt' want to  
go to town today but was afraid

to go for binding twine bought 4 more for Voltie and two for Wellie which makes ten balls altogether all paid for with Volties money. Mab is a good girl enough but crude, unrefined, no accomplishments whatever, dont play piano, dont sing, not artistic by way of any kind of crochet, knitting, needle work, no painting or drawing, cant dance but at same time would like to assume a great many high bred airs. No substantial solid reading, only novels, but a good common neat home keeper and as near as I can learn this is the first time she ever was away from home. For all that Mabel is a good girl but is sadly deficient in fine training. There is nothing like good books which elevate the mind with a certain amount of travel for a girl and again a determined persistence in self culture which certainly will work wonders by unfolding the mind to the beauties of art and especialy nature in all varied forms for our heroin has not even a common delight in flowers, that great source of pleasure to most common minds. But how i have anyilzed [sic], criticised. I ought to be ashamed of my

self but who will ever see my old diary. They were all so very good to Grace when she visited in Kingston. Oh well, I like her herself. Tis night again. Grace is home once more. The Wormwiths came down this pm to board at Brekey's. Twelve boarders there now.

Friday 4 August 1899

A fine day. Grace done a big washing. Wellie binding wheat till 4 pm, then went home. Arthur setting up bundles. Grace towards night fall drives over to Breakeys. Brings Miss May Wormwith home with her. I am pleased to see her. Have not seen May in long time: find her as pretty and dainty and refined as she was two years years [sic] ago. The little aristocrat. Wallace put in an appearance and though acquainted with May seemed as abashed and awed by her presence as though she was a princess. Well our guest stayed till 10 pm. When Grace drove back to Breakeys with her accompanied by Wallace to drive the horse home for Grace. Grace promising to take May to church

Sunday. I churned a few lbs butter.

Voltie wrote that those pictures are now at the Cape.

Saturday 5 August 1899

A fine day except the west wind is blowing a gale. When just as we had our Saturday work all done and Arthur setting up wheat, Belle drove down home with old Dan hitched to the double buggy bringing Charles Jr, Gracie B & Cathline going to stay all night. Sold Eveline a pound of butter. Eveline sent cucumbers and eggs. Eveline good girl.

Jen sent Sylvia down for a pound of butter and to accomodate her. I churned after dark and sent Maud with it all right 23 cents. At last all abed and asleep then Charles Jr, the night walker all unconscious of himself came and crept into bed with me and never awoke till 9 o'clock am and was much surprised to find himself in a strange bed.

PS We had our first mess of green corn to day.

Sunday 6 August 1899

A hot day, a scorcher.

Arose at six am and get breakfast for nine all told. No one offers or makes a move about going to church.

to day. Oh no but Graces new hammock is put out for the pleasure of the Kidds and it gets a racket of course: dirty from soiled clothes and dirty shoes with broken cords and drawn warp. Oh it is a pretty looking thing now. There never yet was anything around this home but had to with stand a siege for of course every thing here is public, for the remark was made that Grace bought that hammock for the "quality" and of course the quality used it and now - well are right. Well after dinner. Bell became drowsy and went to bed. Grace went to bed and I dozed in the rocking chair on the veranda while the quality were quarelling and destroying the hammock, 5 at once. While I was comfortably sleeping in chair. A little sprite said "aunt rend mama wants to get some butter milk to make a Johny cake and looking up saw it was Lottie Dixon and impatient at being disturbed and so sleepy. I requested Irene to go down cellar, get the buttermilk telling her where she would find the crock on the back shelf and to

give Lottie all the buttermilk there was in the jar so Irene went down and took the cream jar from the table and emptied all the cream in to Lotties pail, which she took home at once to make Johny cake, when I as usual went to skim milk. I found the cream pot empty and by inquiring about the affair found that Irene had done the buisness [sic] and I immediately sent Irene over for my cream and behold Jen sent me back a 1/2 teacup full having used the rest for cooking purposes, cakes, cookies, Johnie cakes &c. Belle started for home about 4 oclock bag and bandbox leaving Irene behind. Wills folks mad because Bell didn't carry her grandmother up home with her. After Bell was gone Grace drove over to Breakeys and took May out for a drive down the island and back again. May was coming home with Grace to stay all night while I was washing the milk pails who should present himself but his reverence Mr Weese, then I cast all care and work aside to talk with his reverence till 10 pm when he took leave for Mrs Niles to stay

over night. Grace drove in just as the preacher left and so we go to bed. Grace tomorrow going to the villiage [sic] for groceries for Wellie is going to draw in grain and build stack Tuesday Monday 4 August 1899 A dry day, wind North. Arose at 1/2 past 5 am found old bue and 5 of Franks horses in Volties oats. Set Prince on the cow chased her around and around the fence and away up by the church and there she stood still and let the dogs bark all they wanted too till Arthur went with Rachel and drove her out into the pasture. Then Grace sent him for Bess to drive to the villiage while Bob Reid was driving Franks horses out the grain. And Arthur thinking Bess was in the grain too, caught Frank's old mare Doll and put her in the stable and gave her hay and oats, and discovered his mistake when he went to put the harness on her. Bob Reid called

to him when he was leading old doll out the oats, asking him what he was leading old doll for. But Arthur said it was Bell so Bob said no more. Arthur has just come back from Wellie's where he has been to set up grain. Wellie came bringing the binder and waggon. Wellie is going to draw oats this pm. Maud and Irene gone over to Wills for our gobbler. He broke loose again. I dont know what proffit in trying to raise turkeys, from one gobbler and two hen turkeys we have got one little turkey. A woman is fishing here in front of the house sitting in a skiff & guess it is Alvira Burnham by the rig she wears and old tattered straw hat. Maud, Irene, Arthur and I do all the chores. Grace come at sundown could not get beef or scarely any thing close Tuesday 8 Auguast 1899  
No rain, dry and cool.  
The face of nature is perishing for water.  
No rain of any account since 9th of July.  
Wellie drawing and stacking oats and wheat clared the field of all the bound grain.  
John Babcock helping him. After dinner

I walk over to Wills to see grandmother, find Wellington and Perley repairing the bridge where Rob Ranons had met with, what nearly proved to be a serious affair by his fast driven team breaking through plank, upsetting the waggon, throwing Bob one way and one of his horses falling down in harness, but after all done only badly shaken up. Found Mrs Niles at Jens sewing; making the little girls dresses. Jen & Mrs Niles have learned the art of cutting and making garments of a Mrs Haskins a "widdy" from Gananoque who is traveling around giving instruction in the art. A good thing for Jen, price \$2.00 dollars with a chart. Stayed to tea: had taken Irene with me, found Inez N. There also at sundown Maud and Arthur came and so the noise which had been tremendous all afternoon, now became an uproar, a perfect pandemonium. Several vehicles passing up and down the road. Grace among the rest with Miss Wormworth from Breakeys going to Bamfords to visit for - dont know how long time. Wolfe Island has become a very unsafe place to live in especialy [sic]

in summer time, from invaders, city town. I walk home in evening, cool dusky and quiet, with millions of stars looking down upon this old dried parched earth with uncommon brilliance. Letters none only the Whig & Saturday Evening Post.

Wednesday 9 August 1899

Clear cloudless day, wind North and pleasantly cool. Wellie & Babcock working at Wellies. Mrs Wormwith lies in bed quite late, consequently has breakfast alone and then while embroidering a patch swings in the hammock. Our poor little flower garden all dried up, sweet peas, phlox, asters, poppies.

The day passes away like its uneventful predecessors excepting the children bring few pails water to water the flowers and Grace and May go driving and call upon Mrs William McDonel Jr of the Cheese factory, after which the return gossip awhile and retire for the night. Tomorrow morning we must arise at 4. Grace going to Kingston.

John Coxal here after dark for a pound of butter.

45

Thursday 10th 1899 Aug

A beautiful cool day.

Arthur drove to dock with Grace. Miss Wormwith staying with me and proves to be a very companionable young lady and accomplished and gifted. Music painting, drawing are among the few acquirements a good literary scholar. I work around all day cookign and doing general house work.

Arthur turns the cows in ealry.

Maud is going to drive to dock and is in hurry to get there.

So they are going to get the milking done in time but old blue won't stand so they chae the poor old beast all around the cow yard and then she comes through the gate and goes dashing through the front yard and they succeed at last in putting here in stable but will not put his head in the stancion: after they had whaled her long enough. I ordered them to turn her bck in pasture and let her go which

they did. When Grace came old blue  
was as docile as a lamb and gave nerly  
a pail full of milk. Miss W and  
Maud drove to dock for Grace.  
Grace paid Loucks \$9 dollars  
for V & took the note.

Laura John is come down from Woodstock to visit  
her uncle Almon. Suppose she will  
visit us next.

Friday 17 August 1899

A day of extreme  
heat. It is so sultry dont feel  
like work. Men surely must  
suffer in the harvest field to  
day. Wellie is working for Geo  
Ratray. I churn about six lbs  
of good butter. Grace makes ice cream.  
Dr Stewart drove down to  
visit Miss Wormworth and stays  
to tea. Mrs Niles came accompanied  
by Miss Irwin, dirty and barefooted  
they stay for ice cream too. Dr S  
took the girls driving then and goes back  
to the villiage after dark. Mrs N should  
train that young daughter of hers  
to better manners or leave her at

home. After Grace & May return from their drive with Dr Stewart they go partly home with Mrs N through weeds and stubble. [sic] Grace requesting Inez next time she came down to wear shoes and stockings. May replying that she wanted to only "Ma was so darned stinking proud she wouldnt let her".

Saturday 12 August 1899

Wellie binding oats here to day.

A hot dry day, wind South.

We all work steady and hard enough all day, except May who reads nearly all day.

Arthur, Maude & Irene shock oats till the heat drives them homeward.

The drought is a horror. Wellie says the boys are going this evening to cut peas by moon light, Will Robinson, John Babcock, Frank W and Bob Reid.

I gave Wellie a lunch at 5 pm.

Viola came for butter and paid 40 cents. Bernard came on his wheel.

Joh Coxall came for butter. Wellie came for butter and then Will R & John Babcock came to cut peas but so dark cant see so John Coxall

entertains the company till 10 o'clock  
when each take their butter and go home.  
I'm sure I never saw May Wormworth  
laugh so much, as at John Coxall's performance  
and so ends Saturday 12 Aug 1899 and  
we all go to bed.

Sunday 13th Aug 1899

A clear dry day. Grace and May  
go to church, go around the road by Samys.  
John Coxall runs out the gate dressed in a new  
suit and walks to church with them.  
Next thing after dinner, Grace & May drive  
to the English church and by the time  
I get the work done and dishes washed  
back they come again bringing Lill  
Runion with them. Miss Quinn having  
rode down with Bernard Morgan from  
the village as far as the English church  
where Bernard espied our rig and deposited  
Miss Quinn in our buggy till church service  
was closed. Well after supper Grace  
drives over to Breakeys with Miss Wormworth  
her visit here for the season being  
ended. Lill went also and after  
the dishes are washed and milking done,  
I get breathing time of an hour or

49

So, having worked hard all day  
think Ill not wait for Grace, but  
guess I go to bed when in wheels  
Bernard with Lills valise  
strapped to his bycicle [sic] and is here  
talking Regiopolis a whole hour before  
Grace and Lill return when they  
adjourn to the parlor to  
drum on piano and haw haw and  
tee hee till 11 pm when Bernard  
takes leave

Monday 14 Aug 1899

Wind North, dry cool,  
no rain or any sign of rain.  
The earth brown, garden all  
dried up. Wellie binding oats.  
Hubert & Arthur setting up oats.  
Wellie wouldn't stay to dinner.  
We had sucotash. Lill reads, sleeps,  
eats and thumps on piano. I  
churn this morning before breakfast.  
Grace up stairs taking a nap. Lill  
in hammock. Wellie after noon  
gets Arthur & Maud and Grace  
all out setting up oats. Maud

mad because she has to go. Irene  
dont want to go either. They say  
they'll wear their shoes all out, and  
think so too. Arthur works like a  
hero. Wellie finishes binding for this  
year and summer 1899 and puts  
the binder in the machine house  
and then Wellie and Arthur set  
up all the oats in both fields which  
takes till after dark. Vill been working  
for Niles all day calls here on his way  
home. Piano drumming makes me tired.  
Dont believe I like music any more  
tis like an old song - worn out.

Tuesday 15 Aug 1899

Another dry hot day. Wind North. Wellie  
working for Geo Rattray and affected  
with a tormenting great boil on his  
leg. Will worked half day for  
Niles and then rowed in Niles boat  
across the river looking for those  
pictures which makes 10 times we have  
expected to see them landed on this shore.  
I have no hopes of seeing them now.  
Grace and Lill went with him.  
Lon Dodge was going to the Cape

last night. Will and Grace came back as usual. Dodge found the freight house closed. Offered Will \$1.25 to go to Cape Vincent. Cant go for he working for "by tunder" and Wall gone rowing one of Halliday's boarders. Will brought cider and went back for 2 gallons more. Wellie going to have a moonlight bee cutting peas. Nobody came to the bee but Will & Wellie. Frank couldnt come his wife sick got hay fever. John Coxall says "Carty's wife sick alle com" - "Franks wife sick allee com - no good". Evening visitors, Mr Wormworth, Miss Wormworth, Mr C Gill & Bernard Morgan and of course Miss Quinn. A great contrast between Miss W & Miss Q, Miss W below the medium size, dark, plump, black eyes & and hair, brilliant acomplished, quiet manners, Lady like, Warmly attached to her few friends, retiring not putting herself forward. Miss Q is tall, thin, very fine complection if her health was good, abundant chestnut colored hair, free in manner to familiarity making friends with every one, mind shallow, no depth. Eyes

pale blue and weak. Poor Lill, good girl  
works hard in Crumley's store till she  
looks like a ghost, accomplished needle woman  
at dressmaking, millinery, mantle making  
&c, wants to marry but bestows her  
attentions equally upon Bob Ramons or  
Bernard Morgan or whatever young  
man happens around. We got supper  
for Will, Wellie, Charley, Arthur, Lill and myself,  
Maud & Irene. The Wormworths and Gills &  
Bernhard went home by moonlight on  
their wheels, long before our midnight  
meal of thanks for the [phrots?] of Northern Wave.  
Enclosed in Graces letter Trent sends Bob a note.  
Wednesday 16 Aug 1899  
No rain, dry hot scorching weather.  
The inhabitants along the shore of old  
St Lawrence ought to feel gratefull  
that they are privileged to look upon its  
vast volume of water as it unceasingly  
flows onward day after day, idle  
tourists in fishing boats lazily drift  
drift [sic] up and down along the shore.  
Lill and Irene gone down to Wellies  
visiting and sewing. Grace washing.  
Im roasting a hen for dinner.  
Wellie cutting peas. Little colt got cut  
in barbed wire yesterday, poor thing

Wells Jr will not stay to dinner goes home: has  
so many hogs to feed: we prepared good  
dinner roast fowl, potatoes, gravy, boiled corn on cob,  
rice with cream and egg, with white frosting  
buns & butter cookies. Lill dressed in her  
bathing suit goes bathing along with Arthur,  
Maud and Irene H. Lill (poor Lill) looks  
like a "shite poke" or mud hen if she  
dont get some fat on those bones of hers  
she will not stay on earth long time.  
Grace took a long nap after dinner,  
While Lill sat with me on veranda  
and told me how the young men  
admire her beauty, how one young  
man told some other young man, that Miss  
Quinn is the best looking girl he  
ever saw. After tea Grace takes  
Lill out for a drive to the foot of  
the Island and I write letters  
to Voltie and his father.

54

Thursday 17 Aug 1899

Another day of blazing heat, a scorcher. Grace, Lill and Arthur embark aboard the Pierpont. Lill going to stop at Halliday's which leaves Maud, Irene Jr & Irene Sr at home. Maud drove the trio to the steamboat and then we fed hogs bringing part of the drink from the river. Irene Sr milked 2 cows, Irene Jr one & Maud one. The flies torment the cows by thousands. I milk 3 cows at evening. Grace came home bringing no one with her for a wonder except Arthur. Wellie went to Kingston to day for first time this summer.

Friday 18 Aug 1899

A dry hot day, wind south. Will working for Niles. Grace cuts and makes June's cape: my shoes are to small. I patch Irene's dress and apron, she is going home tomorrow. I patched her apron in twenty places and then more holes not

Sylvia Woodman came for butter  
one lb, dirtiest butter cloth ever saw,  
looks as though Samuel Roswell had  
moped [sic] the floor with it.  
Mail Whig, Herrald, Ladies World  
letter from Sr, one from V, none  
from \_ A postal from WFW  
saying he is at Otaway Normal school.  
Saturday 19 Aug 1899  
Another dry scorching day.  
I work all fore noon wash some  
clothes, churn &c. After dinner Arthur,  
Irene and I drive Bess to Bells  
cant drive fast, so very hot with scarcely  
any air stiring, find every farmer  
out working at the harvest which is  
a bountiful one this year, some reaping,  
some reaping & binding, some drawing  
and stacking, some cutting peas (a heavy  
crop this year), one man  
was plowing through ground dry as  
powder. Leaves are dropping off  
trees and drying up. Henesey's orchard  
all drying up but the grain harvest  
is grand every where. Arrived at Bells  
about 1/2 past 3 pm, found Bell and  
children well and very scantily

attired on account of heat. 3 hired  
men working at Charleys harvest  
and and [sic] he off rowing his mothers  
old boarders when like a man he ought  
to be at home tending to his  
work. Old Aunt Margaret cant walk  
a step nor lift a hand but sits propped  
up in chair like a dead body groaning  
with pain, and keeping boarders yelling  
out her household orders in that high pitched  
squeaky voice of hers "There fly around now",  
"Pare these apples", "Come bring that water  
here see what these hired girls are doing .  
They aint doin a thing..Aunt Mary  
Saunders says she wishes Margaret  
would die and get along out of the  
world before she (Aunt Mary) goes home  
to Buffalo and then all this turmolt  
and bedlam about boarders would  
stop and her grasping avericious hogishness  
would end for this world any way.  
Well has staid till after sun set  
and drove home by moonlight  
arriving at 10 pm, found the family  
of 2 up (Grace and Maud) and Jen here.  
We met and past six  
rigs coming down one lighted bycicle and  
passed by Geo Rattrays new steam thresher drawn by 8

57

A hot dry day, hottest of the season,  
thermometer 99 in shade, the smoke  
and heat is suffocating. We scarcely  
light a fire all day no [raind?]  
not a [grehpys?]. Oh the heat is intense,  
guess I'll go down cellar and cool.  
Bernard came for butter 2 lbs at 25 cts  
per lb. Grace and the youngones  
were just going to drive out for  
a breath of cool evening air when  
BM drove in so while I was  
getting the butter, Grace drove with  
Bernard and Maud and Arthur  
drove after them with Beas  
Monday 21 Aug 1899  
Hot dry but breezy fro South.  
Barometer falling past change.  
Wellie here drawing and stacking.  
Babcock helping him. Maud went  
to school this morning. A powerful  
wind blowing for an hour or more, kicks up  
a terrible dust all over the country  
for two hours or more scattering apples but sand

Tuesday 22 Aug 1899

A hot dry day, no rain for a long time. Grace done a big washing, lines full. Grace, Maud and Arthur bring part of the water last night. yesterdays and blew the peas away over in Franks pasture and Wellie & Babcock are drawing and stacking every thing to day finished at 4 pm, harvesting all done.

Wednesday 23rd Aug 1899

Hot dry day. Babcock came up after dinner for buggy. Eveline going to the villiage [sic] for groceries. Expect the threshers there on Saturday. Muriel and Clyde came up to stay all after noon till Eveline's return. Arthur goes down and stays with Hubert to watch cows. Eveline come back at 8 pm and brings me a letter from Belle which is an eye opener surely

59

Thursday 24 Aug 1899

A cloudy morning arose at 4. Grace going to drive to the villiage and Hattie & Laura meets her at the road and goes with her. The great Cathoic pickine at the villiage to day. Grace goes across to the city and sends down the groceries for the threshers dinner Saturday and Phillips sends down the coal stove at last & Wellie drives over to it and he and Babcock puts it together as well as they know how but so much fixing it. Cloudy in morning but clears. Well Grace comes home at three am Friday morning leaving Hat and Lorie at the road wher e she picked them up in the morning.

Friday 25 Aug 1899

A scorcher of a day, no rain but dry and hot. We expected the thresher here tomorrow and have cooked beef and stewed pumpkin for pies but Arthur came back from Wellies and said the machine has broken down, smashed the Concave and have to go for repairs so not be here tomorrow. Grace ironing and putting up the curtains ironed all day. I churned.

60

Saturday 26 Aug 1899

A dry hot day. Wind south.

We work all fore noon like dickens.

After dinner Grace hitches up Bess and drives once to Henrys Hallidays for Miss Anna Chapman (one of Hallidays Boarders) who is going to visit.

Belle and Grace is requested to come up and help entertain the young Lady from Washington

D.C. Oh- I'm angry. Grace is always going and entertaining. Oh for the good old days that are gone forever. George,

Wellie & KWM came and finished putting the coal stove together. Will said he has been acro?

Sunday 27 Aug 1899

The day hot dry and lonesome.

Maud, Arthur and I are alone all day except Frank Bamford stoped here for a few minutes on his way home from

JN's. Maud went to Church and sabath school. Grace returned home just after

dark. She would have come earlier

but she drove in to Mrs Hallidays with Miss Chapman and staid to tea and ice cream.

Grace brought a letter from Voltie and the Saturday post which she brought from the villiage. We were just going to bed

when Will, Jen and Charley came. I suppose they came over to see the new stove says she was 40 cans of fruit.

Monday 28 Aug 1899

The day intensely [sic] hot wind North,  
no rain yet; all vegetation near  
dead and dried up. Maud at school.  
Irene churns. Wellie at Dignams threshing.  
Cattle wading in the river and standing  
to their backs nearly all day. So hot Muriel came  
home from school at 1/2 past 2 pm,  
not very well; been eating black cherries.  
We expected the threshing machine here to day  
or this afternoon but it did not come.

(continued from this page in Book #3-18

Tuesday 29 Aug 1899

A hot dry scarcely [sic] a breath  
of air stirring. Sent Arthur to Wellies to  
learn when the machine would set up.  
couldn't tell our beef not very good  
or enough of it for the men. Arthur and Hattie  
ran down two hens and chopped off their  
heads. Irene scalded and striped off their  
feathers in double quick time - when  
dissecting them for the dinner pot found  
them full of eggs. Two ready for lay  
so packed them with the others for winter.  
The machine came limbering along after  
dinner and all hands here so busy

**62**

[back cover with seal\

Red Rope

Magazine Binder

Manufactured by

Gaylord Bros. Inc.

Syracuse, N.Y.

Stockton, Calif.



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

Ann Hopkinson, Eric Irvine, MaryV, carol ann, and Queen's University Archives