

Irene Dixon Bamford 1895-1899, Diary Transcription

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Metadata

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[file folder titles/subjects]

Irene Dixon Bamford

Diary

Parts of 1895-1897-1899

[Queens date stamp]

Queen's University Archives

Locator 5034

Box 1

File 10

2

Parts of 1895 - 1897 - 1899

4

~~21 July~~ 1st August 1895

Saturday 30 Jan 1897

A clear bright day, cold, the ground white with snow far and wide
Wells Sr gone to Kingston with double team. Both Wellie and Will butchering beef. G cleaned floors.
Maud insisted in going to Mr W for the mail came back crying with cold feet; a letter from Kirk on Roy wanting money on the 75 acres. I think they'll have to wait. A Whig, my correspondence went to press to late Jen. W had sent first expected a letter from John but got none. Wells came early at 6 pm brought Wellies over shoes No 7 think they are too small
After dinner W Jr and V went to the island for wood, found the ice poor

5

Sunday 31 Jan 1897

A cold clear bright morning
sun rising in a rosy red sky; trees
covered with a heavy white frost
Edy Bates called here on his way
to Church. We gave him Dr Watsons
parcel. Will & Charlie here
Dick holliday made us an Evening
visit

6

2 August Friday 1895

A very fine morning Wind South & breezy. Grace done big washing we washed two quilts.

Thursday 4 February 1897

A clear cold morning

I & W Jr drawing wood from Linda. W Sr gone to Clayton for Calico.

Maud will have to stay home to day from school. Grace sewing on her dress shaker flannel from Kingston chrushed strawbery color Wills little ones walked to school this morning and home again at night

Jim Morgan here to borrow a rip saw borrowed 1 of Wellie I clean part of the pantry shelves dont feel very well Sr came home bringing 98 yds cloth

7

Friday 6 February 1897 a fine winter day. Wells Sr drove with Maud to school I cleaned pantry shelves and warms coating. ~~[crossed-out]~~ V & W Jr drew wood from Lindas ~~[/crossed-out]~~ V cleaned ice house and shop worked Wells went for Maud and carried Wells little ones home. Rachel got a bad cold or cough. Tomorrow V is going for the Dr for her. A dance to night at Dignam's V & G attended. A big methodist crowd down from the villiage

8

Saturday 3 August 1895

A breezy day cloudy looks like rain. Grace brought in the clothes early this morning. Wellie here to lunch with us. Voltie & Wellie drew this forenoon the barley, only two loads a heavy crop. Had shelled beans for dinner golden wax. After dinner Maud and Beatrice go to Wellies for peas and then go to Wills for fence wire staples. Rachel at Wellie's for cucumbers &c.

Saturday 6 February 1897

A rainy day V and G came home at 3 A.M. Cant go for Dr to day. A regular downfall of rain. G moped [sic] floors and went to bed after dinner; had a long nap & after coming home from Dignum's slept 4 hours in the morning

9

Sunday 7 February 1897

A cloudy half drizzly day
& snow all slush and water
can scarcely go a foot from

door without getting feet wet.

Dont expect visitors to day. Grace

popped corn at three O'clock

came Minnie OBrien & Miss

Staley teacher & stayed to tea

and till 9 O'clock pm. Came

down in cutter. Evening visitors

Minnie OBrien, Agnes Staley,

Will Dixon, Wallace Niles,

and Frank Woodman

10

4 Mauds

Monday 8 February 1897

A cloudy soft day froze
a little through the night
but soft and sposhy & slush
every where "An exchange of
residence to day between Frank
Woodman and Charley. Frank
moving one way from home &
Charley moving home. Up and
down the ice the horses fly with
chairs, beds, and all household
goods. Wells Sr drove to school
with Maude and went again at
close of school & drove in to it. Barries
with Ruth roads are terrible
Wellie came up with sail
for Grace to stitch Volkie
gone visiting this evening at
J Niles.

11

Tuesday 24 March 1897

Wells Sr drives with Maud to school and then drives with me to Wills where I stay all day till Sr drives to Wills with Wills children. Rachel got a cough. Grace washed a few things. Sr calking the front. Sr is hoarse. A fine day but cloudy towards night. Froze some in night, growing colder from N air George and Wall Niles here playing pede till after 10 Oclock p.m.

12

5 Wednesday 10 February 1897

A beautiful day. Grace cooking for O'Briens dance which takes place this eve (Michael). All go in sleigh. Frank, Wall, Voltie, Grace & Agnes Staley & Will Dixon and stay till 5 O'clock AM.

Growing colder before morning

13

~~Wednesday~~ Thursday 11 Feb 1897

14

6.12
Friday

15

Saturday 13 February 1897

V gone to Kingston for

Miss Quinn to take her to the

ball at Marysvillesent 10 lbs

butterCharley drove down with

Belle and children and went home

again leaving Belle and the children

here. V came after dark with Miss Q

well what a jolly house full

16

7

Sunday 14

A fine day wind blows some
from South But Charley comes
down, stays till after dinner and Belle
and the little ones pile into the sleigh and
are well covered from wind with blankets
and robes and away they go towards home.
Grace popped corn

17

15

Monday A very fine
Day. Grace and Lill prepare
for the ball at Marysville
I,m,b,a. I'll be glad when its done
for V drives for Miss Staley all
going in sleigh Volty, Wall Niles,
Grace, Aggy Staley & Lill Quinn.
They pick up Bernard Morgan on the
road and take him too

18

Tuesday 16

After the ball is over

Came just at sunrise breakfast nearly ready. After breakfast V drives with Miss Staley to School house. Grace, Miss Quinn go to bed and sleep till dinner time.

V takes a nap too. Daily visitors Frank Leatherland, Dick Spoor and a stranger, Wall Niles, Shell Niles, Will Dixon, George Morgan, Mabel Morgan.

At evening time they all go (except Wall, George & Voltie) to tea meeting. Will, Geo & Voltie give us a musical entertainment at home which is very fine. Our stove pipe burnt out this morning after breakfast.

19

Wednesday 17 February

Snowing this morning.

Verandah floor covered an inch with snow. Wells Sr after thinking the matter over a while goes to Kingston for sill lumber and other building material. Frank Leatherland called here on his way to Kingston and is as polite and darling as ever.

Dick Halliday here for V to go with him and invite for a dance at Bells next monday eve.

Devers Breakey drove here to see V for some thing. Wall Niles Drove in here for Miss Quinn to accompany him in cutter to Wellies.

Will here a little while. Grace went to sleep after dinner awhile. Got up and cleaned floors. Wellie here for butter. Weather shimpy and soft.

Evening visitors Will Dixon, Wall Niles Shell Niles, George Morgan, & Jim Morgan, Agnes Staley, Ed Weaver, Miss Quinn. Danced in kitchen & Grace stood over the hot stove and popped corn for them till she is

20

9 Agnes Staley, Ed Weaver,
Miss Quinn. Danced in kitchen &
Grace stood over the hot stove and
popped corn for them till she is
nearly fainting with heat. They
stayed till midnight. I wish
the fools would stay home. Oh
Lord how long.

Thursday 18 Feb 1897

A cloudy morning looks like snow
or rain. V gone to Kingston with
Miss Quinn. Wells drove to School house
with Maud & Miss Staley. Grace
sick in bed with erysipelas and
cold brought on by over exertion
and dancing. A social at Burnhams
this Eve. V returned at 5 pm. Evening
visitors. Wall Niles, Henry Halliday & Rob Ranon
sold 10 lbs butter today at 16 cts
per lb to Wards.

21

Friday 19 February 1897

Froze last night. Grace better this morning. A thin veil of clouds cover the face of the sky but soon the sun came out clear and bright. Maud walked to school this morning. V and Jr put straw in the barn. V going for Maud and Miss Staley. Will gone to corners for Kerosine for Jr and to get the Dr for R. Sent Rachel cod liver oil. Voltie drove across the river after supper with Miss Staley and Grace to Capt Bogarts.

22

11 Saturday 20 February 1897

A mild day. Grace over river.

Maud and I do saturday's work,
wash a few things. Jim Morgan
here after dark for Volty to iron
off his cutter fills and stayed
in the shop till nearly one am
infringing on the sabath,
got nervous & called Sr out of bed
to see what was trouble and he
went out angry. Wind blowing a
gale from south and the washing
hanging on the veranda line
and I afraid to go out in wind
for my throat sore can swallow
with difficulty. V brought them
in at one am.

23

Sunday 21 February 1897

A pleasant day after the storm.

I bake mince pies and rub
the dirty spots on the floor.

Volty drove to Hallidays
from there. V & Dick drove
to Bells. V returned at 3 pm
then drove to corners for Grace
and Staley. They all returned
late again. Sr went to Wills
to to [sic] see how Rachel is getting
along.

24

12

22 February 1897 Monday

Volty drove to school with Miss Staley and Maude. Jim Morgan

here to for V to finish the cutter

fills. L Larush and Miss G Davis

came down on ice boat, ate dinner

here and banged away on the piano

till the snow storm from the North hurried

them off. Next came Dr Watson on

his return trip from Doctoring Rachel

who has a bad cough. After putting

his horse in barn and visiting awhile

he hitched the old mare to the cutter

and started & got as far as the turning

point at the concession when the cutter

slowed around upsetting and tumbling the

Dr out, the horse got away from him

and is gone no one knows where.

Back came the Dr to the house bringing

one robe and blanket. When V

returned from driving Wills home

25

home from school. V and his
dad and Harry started with
double team in pursuit
of the runaway, tracked her
as far as Ed Rattrays and there
she took her way towards Clayton
across the trackless ice. V & dad drove
to Rob Percey's where they deposited Dr Watson,
a sad but wiser man. V
promising to trace the fugitive early
this morning. Horse, cutter, robes,
medicine box, all gone of [sic] on a
tour through a blinding snow
storm from the north. V got
a new addition to his cold. Sr
ceiling the kitchen. The storm has
ended the dance at Bells this
eve - good. Our dissipated youngsters
will get a nights rest.

13. Tuesday 23rd February 1897

This morn the storm has abated - no wind but the horse track so filled no use looking for it. Voltie gets or borrows J.N.'s bobs and goes over river for saw dust. Sr ceiling kitchen. Sr drove with Maude to school. Clouds appear like breaking away and becoming clear again. Wellie here for butter and cleaning up a grist for mill. paid. Buchanan was over looking for his rig but had not found it yet had been to Clayton and Gananoque but no clue. Dick Halliday here this eve, says going to dance at Charleys tomorrow night for Dick has bought the oysters. Aggy gone home with Shell to stay over night.

27

Wednesday 24 Feb 1897

A fair morning sun shining
out clear for a while. A blustering
time with wind and snow at noon
Guess Dicks oysters will not spoil.

I hope they can go this pm and
get the job done with at last.

Heard this am by way of
Irvine, that Buchanan's horse cutter
medicine box &c &c are safely found
with some man below Clayton.

For Harry's sake I'm glad
Charley Woodman gone to Gananoque
to day. Our stove pipe burnt out
again to day at noon. V and
Grace to Bells to dance all night
taking boiler and milk, mince pie

28

14. Thursday 25 February 1897

Came home at 9 and tumbled into bed once more. After an other nights dancing slept till 1/2 past 10 am. Sr went to school with Maud and then drove Jess to Kingston. Will here to dinner. Another invitation to a dance tomorrow night at Keever's and one in Kingston. There was one last eve on brad point. Rachel out of doors to day walking around.

Rejoice in your heart Oh young man. and be merry but remember for all these things thou shall surely be brought into judgement. Aggy Staley came home with Maud and stayed all night. Sr rode his lumber down with All Joslin and he followed on with cutter

29

Friday 26 February 1897

A very good day. Voltie drove this morning to school with Chris Staley and Maud. Sr finishing ceiling in kitchen.

Den Paine drove in here to make a visit. Wellie here a few minutes: its the same old talk about Balls and parties and dances and one next Monday night at corners. Grace sewing on my dress waist &c

30

27

15. Saturday Volty gone to Kingston drove Jess. A very fine morning when he drove away. Wellie gone to Gananoque to mill. After noon blinding wind and snow squalls. Worried about Wellie think Devolson will come as far as Charleys and stay all night. Charley and Ethel came over for some thing forgot. Will came over and said Wellie came at 3 pm. Will stay awhile and wonder of wonders V came home bringing two Quinn's home with him Lill Quinn & Edna Quinn. Am I glad to see them? not much I've had visitors enough for awhile. Gave them their supper and they giggled and teehee'd and yelled and talked and laughed all at same time. rather loud for a city belle I think.

Sunday morning 28th February 1897

Awoke this morning to once
more find our domicil invaded by
the enemy. A blow to peace and quietness
more loud talk and high laughter
giggles & yells of nonsencical [sic] side
splitting mirthlessness. Oh for a
refined quiet ladylike demeanor.

The day is fine and is spent in cooking
and eating, cutter riding, ice boating, calling
on the Niles and Eveline. In evening
W. Dixon, Wall N & Will Niles visit
us. more noise, more banging on
the piano, more loud laughing that
speaks the vacant mind and
kept up till 11 O'clock. No one can
sleep till after 12 O'clock. Lill is a
methodist.

32

16 Monday 1 March 1897

After breakfast and hand shaking
all around and adieu's and good
byes V came to the door and they
tumble in to the cutter and are duly
tucked into the robes and blankets
and V drives away again Cityward with
with [sic] Lillian and Edny and with
a long drawn breath of releif [sic]. I turn
to washing dishes and Grace to sewing
Sr drives to school with Maud. Will
Dixon trying to get up a dance at
his house before the 3rd of March when
Lent begins and like a last forlorn
hope if he cant dance to night
he'll dance at his house tomorrow night
till 12. After noon stormy. wind blowing
great guns and snow flying so cant see
an inch from your nose and while I'm
thinking V will not return, he walks in
looking like a snow drift having driven all the way from
Emerson in a snow storm

Tuesday 2nd March 1897

A tolerably decent day.

Storm abated at midnight snow drifts
this morning like hills sun partly
shining finished writing and sent
a letter to John. V at J Niles this morning
helping fill Niles new ice house, came
home after dinner and gone to Wellie's
to help W Jr put straw in barn. Will
called here after going a way with
Charley & Flora to school then he
went home to get wood. Aman
Chatterton getting ready, washing her clothes
going to leave Sams & going to the
Bellville [sic] home next Tuesday. Maud
home from school. Grace washing
a few things &c. Sr putting
mouldings on kitchen.

Evening mail a lettter from Dick
Brown. Grace a letter from Glen and
Miss Wormwith.

34

Wednesday 3rd March 1897

A storm of rain ice fog and some wind. Wills' children gone to school. Maud at home. Grace making herself a dress and working on her piece quilt. Wells Sr moulding the kitchen doors and made new end pieces for the quilting frames. Volkie working in shop all day. Will here this afternoon. We were much disturbed by a strange dog last night a wailing and howling around the house like an narly [sic] banshee. Volkie caught the dog and put him in the cow stable. I gave him his breakfast this morning and he is gone away. Well this is all only the weather is dismal.

35

4 March Thursday 1897

A day of brightness snow every where resembles highly polished marble. V drove to school house with Maud and then drove up the ice with the tramp dog and found it belonged to Morgan. From there he drove to Wm G Woodmans for elm lumber for sleigh raves. Drove for Maud. Miss Staley came home with them and after supper Volkie hitched up old Nell and away they drove to Wellys to visit till 1/2 past 11 pm. The dog again visited us last night at 11 O'clock disturbing the whole household and Volty in particular.

36

5 Friday March 1897

A thick hazy morning looks
very much like rain. V trying to
bend sleigh runners in the tank
soften them I mean.

Will came over while

George Darling here to day
rain came tumbling down.

V went to Frank W's this eve
and played pedro with McNealy.

We took another can of tea 30 lbs.

This morning V drove to school
with Maud and the teacher

37

6 March Saturday 1897

A fine day. cold freezing ice
every where river like a mirror in
the sunlight. Charley & Belle and
Mary Murphy & little Grace came down
and stoped [sic] long enough to warm
and then drove over to Gloyds and
the corners leaving little Grace here.
While gone Belle brought me the
scrap book's 3 of them. They said [Jim?]
yesterday ran away. Will and Wellie
here. Voltie went with them to the corners
for kerosine and more medicine
I suppose. Belle got present for
Flora came over for butter milk.

38

19. Sunday 7 March 1897

A beautiful day but cold.

V drove over to Wills with me to see R and mother got there before breakfast. Johny Bamford our own Johny drove over for me toward evening. He came from Limerick to day. We drove around by Wallis's the driving on the ice is beautiful every where. The ice boats were out in force to day. Anne Chatterton came to Wills to day, wants to go over the river. I caught the neuralgia in ear & face to day. Found Agnes Staley here to day when I returned from Wills. Will and George Morgan here in evening, dont get to sleep till after 12. G and A talk and laugh till 1 am

39

Monday 8 March 1897

V drives to school with Aggy
and Maud, Aggy not coming
again in three weeks.

40

20 Tuesday 9 March 1897

41

Wednesday 10 March 1897

A rainy morning but clears
away. Sr drives to school with
Maud. I quilt nearly all day.

Volty not well but reads most
all day. Grace does house work. Ed Bates
and John Barnham here and Welly
and they saw wood for Vi in the
evening. Pat Loban here for
to cut wood tomorrow for O'Brien.
Wells sr told Pat V couldn't go.
Ed Bates here in evening playing
checkers with V. Flora came over
for tea

42

21. Thursday 11 March 1897

A fine clear morning Welly & Jess go to Kingston on the ice, on a sled, with two horses. Wellie gone up for lumber to ceil his kitchen. Ed Bates went also. Will here for buttermilk. Grace and I finished the quilting of Belles present she gave me 4 or 5 years ago. Volkie better reading one studying all day. Grace done house work. E Bates went to Kingston with Jr. Received a letter from Nelly Woodmans teams (Franks and Charley's got in ice by Morgans point. Niles drove across the river for saw dust for ice. Sent K a scrap book.

43

Friday 12 March 1897

Wind east and rain falling
nearly all day. Snow rapidly
disappearing [sic] ground nearly bare of snow.

Wind hauls around to west and
freezing hard at night. Wind blowing
at gale. Wells went to Samy's to post
a letter and was treated to a glass of
cider. V reading and studying.

Maud stayed home from school.

I began making a new scrap
book. Grace cleaned chamber floors
and moved the lounge upstairs
we churned and bound the new
quilts.

44

22

Saturday 13 March 1897

A very fine day. W Sr drove to Kingston on the ice with one horse. Came back before night dark brought candy, soap, clothes pins and three papers. via the Artica Globe, War cry and Saturday Whig. Maud goes to post Office for the Weekly Whig & goes skating all the afternoon still on the ice too. The ice yachts are out to day in force about 20 or more pass down the river on Their way to Kingston to the racing contest to day. V reading Shakespeare and doing the chores. Aunt Rena done several things which didnt amount to much. Wellie, Hubert and Muriel here. Flora and Charlie here. Grace done all the cleaning and made cake and cookies in the Evening. G & M went to pay Mrs N a visit. W Sr says Lil Watson and E. Quinn & her dada in K. Old Mrs Watson sick

45

Sunday 14 March 1897

All day A great snow storm sweeping o'er
all the land. With great difficulty Sr
brings water from the river 2 pails full.
Cattle will not go to river to drink
All is quietness and peace within the
home to day. A clean hearth and warm fires
and reading- galore. Grace and Maud
getting dinner. We we eating dinner
when once more the alarm, the
stove pipe is burning out, and
at this time it nearly proved to be most
serious. It took V and his father
with a pail of water and climbing the
roof on the lader [sic] in this blizzard of a
snow storm to lay the fire flue once
more. Afraid, some time, the house
and all our household goods will
go up in smoke and no insurance.
Something has got to be done there
has warning been given so often
that it is folly to let this go on any longer.

46

Aug 24th Saturday 1895

Wellie & Voltie helping Mr Niles
draw oats, after noon it rain
drizzled all fore noon, guess Niles
oats got wet for they loaded oat
right through the rain

[part of page missing indicated by ?]

Sunday 14 March 1897

[?] great snow storm sweeping o'er

[?] with great difficulty Sr

[?] the river 2 parts full

[?] to river to drink

[?] peace within the

[?] hearty and warm fires

[?] Grace and Maud

[?] dinner

Monday 16 Match 1897

A bright beautiful day

Maud at school then Sr drove

for Rachel. R stayed till Sr drove

from School and then took R

home. Grace washed big washing

& hung on the line. V painted kitchen

yally and brown. Wellie here awhile.

Wellie got a bad cold. V not well.

Will worked on N's ice house.

48

25 August 1895

Sunday A beautiful

clear warm day after last nights

heavy rain storm. grass and

all vegetation bright and green.

Grace & Voltie went to Carlton Island

returned at sundown. I alone

nearly all day. Maude, Charlie & Flora

went to church. Evening visitors

George and Florence Morgan & Miss Foley

teacher.

49

Sunday 14 March 1987

[page has been torn and much is illegible and indicated here as a ?]

snow storm sweeping o'er

[?]with great difficulty Sr

[?] the river 2 parts full

[?] to river to drink

[?] peace within the

[?] and warm fires

[?] Grace and Maud

[?] dinner

50

[page torn - much of the entry is not visible and indicated here with ?]

26 Aug

[?] way

[?] laughter

[?] down the island and

[?] 15 miles to G Gillespie's

[?] go afterwards drove over

[?] R made Niles a

51

Sunday 14 March 1897

[page has been torn and much is illegible and indicated here as a ?]

snow storm sweeping o'er

[?] with great difficulty Sr

[?] the river 2 parts full

[?] to river to drink

[?] peace within the

[?] and warm fires

[?] Grace and Maud

[?] dinner

Tuesday ~~15~~ 16 March 1897

A fine day bright and warm

finer than yesterday In evening

froze last night. V drove over the

river came back at 3 - carried Mrs G

a piece of beef

52

27

Wednesday 16~~17~~ March 1897

Grace preparing to go to the ball at the Cosners, prepared nearly all day, going with Wall Niles only she didnt go. Wallace flunked out under pretence of a bad cold. Glad she didn't go with Wall,- or glad Wall sneaked out which is a providence to Gracie D Bamford.

[] V had better not dance just now

V drove to school for Maud and Agnes
Came home with them,-which is fine. and
And the evening passes away
all night with music and laughter
merriment. Sr drove down the Island and
tried to hire out the 75 [] to G Gillespie
& Rosen but no go. Afterwards drove over
the river to R R []. V made Niles a
visit.

53

Thursday 18 March 1897

A very fine morning Wells drives to Kingston on the ice and Irene goes with him as far as Belles. Thawing all day. Bamford gets back to Charlie's at 4 1/2 pm and Marjorie comes home with us. Belles house is fine but a chance for great improvement. B Sr went to land office always trouble there, more money more money more money & more & more more more

54

28

Friday 19 March 1897

A fine warm day wind south.

Earth mostly bare of snow. V drove to school with Maud & Marjorie and went for them again at 4p.m. Grace washed clothes, a line full. Wallie & V pitched straw in barn. Sr done chores and brought water and nodded over his newspaper. Churned. Grace skips across the field to mail a letter to Helen Watson, Kingston. A soft warm day winter disapearing [sic]. A robin on the wing and crows galore. A foggy morning and foggy nearly all day

55

Saturday 20 March 1897

A day of mud melting snow
fog and a thunder and lightning
shower. Grace cleaned the floors.
V painting and cleaning the
kitchen. Wells doing chores and brought
some water. If we had a cistern! it
would prevent many weary steps and
waste of time. Margaret & Maude visiting
all day. In the evening Volty went to
J N's to play pedro. Came home at 10 p.m.
all in bed long ago but I.

29 Sunday 21 March 1897

A fair day sun shines out now and again, ground is bare and dirty, and more mud than yesterday. A sleepy quiet day. reading is the business of the day. Alone all day - no visitors to day. Within the space of 6 lines I have written "day" 6 times - 7 times 8 times in all on this page. George Gillespie drove up on the ice to church this afternoon Monday 22nd March 1897

A fine spring day thawing all day snow gone except a few patches here and there. Will called here on his way to Morgans for his iceboat. Ed Bates crossed the ice on foot this am. Wells Sr walked to Breakeys for window sash. Found Mrs Hodgers there, wanting to get over the river enroute for Rochester. V making moulding for kitchen. I wrote to Nelly

57

Tuesday 23rd March 1897

A beautiful morning, spring
birds are singing. Will and Volty
are painting the house outside. "Sams'
boys are shingling their barn. Wells Sr
brought in 15 eggs to day. V taped [tapped] 3
trees & Maud and Marjorie are gathering
the sap at night. 1/2 past 4 pm
Clouds gathering dark, looks like a storm.
I cleaned part of the pantry woodwork.
V & Wall & George this eve gone to Wellies
to play pedro V came home early at 9 pm.

Wednesday 24th March 1897

A stormy day - rain from the north.
We are not working very heavy to day.
Will came over towards evening and
V gave or paid Well 20 lbs pork
and 50 lbs of flour. Sr reading
and V reading Shakespeare

58

30

Thursday 25 March 1897

A dirty day half rain half snow
all day Charly came over for Wells. Sr
to go over there and brought over the
basket and pillow slip that Will had

~~Thursday a fine warm~~

~~day. Voltie drove to dock with~~

~~Grace—going to K market with
butter and eggs~~

yesterday Walls Sr went over.

Sr brought in 18 eggs to day

59

Friday 15 May 1896

Rained a smart shower last night. Nearly all trees in leaf.

Wind south, warm. Sarah Gillespie here making M and a dress. R here with cider jug.

Voltie goes across to D Bedalls for cider for Wellies Stone

Bee. Expected a litter from Wells. Bid got more.

Will attempted coming here but went back. too weak yet from Rheumatism.

Received the flower seeds at last

60

31

Saturday 16 May 18

Wind blowing

hard from South. I sowed
garden and flower seeds,
carried dirt and filled boxes.

Grace cleaned all the flowers
and helped get dinner &
after dinner finished Mauds
dress so Maude could go with
V & G. to the litterary [sic] circle.

61

Sunday a quiet sleepy
dreary day no one here till
evening except Wellie came
for his mail in am and
stayed about an hour. Morning
cloudy and rained a little shower.
Evening visitors Mrs. John Niles
and Shelly. Evening wind blowing
from S.W. and cold

62

1 September 1895

Monday 18 May 1896

Wind South West,

a strong breeze partly cloudy.

A sort of sickly sunlight &

cool AM. V plowed

corn land on grange pm, plowed for

corn at home in raspberry

field. Maud at school.

Flora here for sage for

Lottie, said Will is much

better. Irene churned and

washed some things. Grace

made pies and cookies

& sowed on carpet.

Tuesday 19 May 1896

Jen came over and stayed

a time or two till eve.

Jen & Grace went to see

Dora Gillespie who is under

the doctors care. Dr Watson

63

20 Wednesday May 1896

A cool day for rain.

People longing for rain.

Churned and made

24 lbs of butter.

1 Thursday May 1896

Fine cool weather,

good for butter. Grace

gone to Kingston with 24

butter [?]. Maud working

will and peas or good luck.

V visit set tomato plant

and hop time. Bell had a

tick pulled nor rain.

Will ate dinner.

64

2

22 Friday

cool after the very slight shower

in the night with thunder

but the ground is dry.

G & I sewed carpet and

churned. V plowed for corn.

Rachel here in evening.

No letters from Bamford

Mr Merry

Frank Caine

Grace D Bamford

Alf Rainwell

Halen Grey

Harvey Joslin

Cliff Milne

Geo Gates

Mr Merry

65

23 May 1896

Wind North

strong breeze cool Weather

dry general complaint

throughout Ontario, no

rain. Grain looks badly

Apples trees in full bloom.

V preparing to plant

corn. Maud helping

Will run fish nets in

front of house, this is

Saturday and lots of work

to do.

66

3

Friday 26 March 1897

A very good day as compared with yesterday.

G washing a line full of clothes.

Will painting house for V. Voltie

painting kitchen floor. W Sr doing

chores. Maud and Marjorie playing and

boiling sap in a tin pan. Welly came

up for ground provender & said Muriel

& Hubert got a bad cold. V helping

Will paint outside this afternoon.

Saturday 27 March 1897

A fine day. Grace cleaned floor. V and Will painted house.

Agnes came at 10 O'clock.

Maud & Marjorie visiting and teasing to go to Wills.

Sunday 28 March 1897

A bright fine day. Agnes, Voltie and Grace and the family in general are reading. After dinner Grace took a nap and then walked to Wellies and stayed to tea. Wallace here a while.

68

4

Monday 29 March 1897

A beautiful spring day.

Agnes and Marjorie & Maud
gone to school. V gone to Devero's
bee—dock building. Will painting
outside house. Wells Sr gathering
sap and eggs. Gracie washed big
washing and after dinner went
to Wellies for yeast. Wellie
here for old milk can to draw
sap in taped 22 of Frank W's
maples.

69

Sunday 15 January 1897

A dull cloudy day. Earth bare and muddy. A quiet day not much wind, gently breezy from South. Grace gone to bed again after sleeping 12 hours last night. V gone to Wells Jr for hay knife. W Sr reading. Guess Maud has gone to bed too. dont hear any thing from her. Well I suppose I'll have to get dinner for it must be nearly 12 noon

71

Monday 9th January 1899

A freezing cold day all
nail heads inside the house white
with frost, ground nearly bare but no wind.
Sr drove to school with Maud. she
rode home with the Niles family.

72

Tuesday 10th Jan 1899

A fine day ground bare freezing cold
Maud at school. Grace done big washing
and hung them on the line and clothes
bars. V brought most all the water.
Dady brought the rest.

73

Wednesday 11 Jan 1899

A beautiful day but cold freezing
cold. ground bare. Voltie and Charlie Woodman
gone to Kingston drove
up on the ice. found the jam ice
a formidable obstruction to their
way started at 8 am, arrived in K
at 2 pm, returned home at 9 pm.
Voltie sold his pork to Green at 5 1/8 lb per
V subscribed for Saturday Evening Post.

74

Thursday 12 Jan 1899

A most beautiful day. Grace brought in and ironed the clothes. Voltie went over to to the Island to bash a road to draw wood & went to see Mr & Mrs Gloyd. she gave him honey and lent him a book. Wells Sr painting window sash. Mr G came down to day from Kingston. Will here & Charley

75

Friday 13th Jna 1899

Cloudy morning weather all moderate.
Welly, Voltie & Gaskin gone to Linda's
for wood. Wells Sr put the outside window
by the kitchen stove in this morning. Maud
staying home this morning for a headache
a good excuse. Mr G brought Maud a
new pair of skates. Maud is studying
arithmetic. Will and Charley came awhile
Will and Grace practicing music in parlor.
Will brought me some coffee. Will Robinson
called to say good bye. Frank and Charley Woodman
gone to Kingston
on the ice, ground bare. At 4 O'clock
Voltie, Mr Gaskin, and Grace start for
the village, driving on the ice. V going
first to pilot Mr G who is new to the ice road.
A pleasant home evening.

76

Saturday 14 January 1899

A rainy morning and

Voltie and Grace at the villiage.

It rains all a.m. clouds break

and partly clears at two p.m. sun

shining out. Wells Sr out to barn working

and doing chores nearly all day. I cooked

and washed dishes. Maude swept, dusted

and moped floors. Saw one cutter flying down

the river on the ice, a single horse driven

by one man. Tis 20 minutes to 3 oclock

and V & G have not yet arrived. "Hope

defered maketh the heart sick" I ought

to be hardened to watching and waiting

by this time. They return safe and sound

at 1/2 past four and the rain commenced

pouring down as they were coming ashore

at the concession and some how Bers

succeeded in breaking cutter fill. V

unhitched her from the cutter and Grace

led her to the house while V drew the

cutter to the barn by hand which was very hard work for the ground is bare and very muddy but all is well that ends well and they are safe home again and the rain comes tumbling down. V & G dont sit up long but go to bed before supper.

Sunday Morning 15 January

A dull, muddy, cloudy day. Grace has another nap. Irene tries to read but goes to sleep. Wells Sr reading. Maud thumping on piano. V goes to Wellies & comes back in time for dinner at 2 p.m. Wellie came up for salt. Charley & Will here. Maud tried the new skates. The ice not very smooth for skating Charley tries the ice. Read aloud in the evening. Jack Niles came after dark and brought Sr a letter from Jim Gothum

78

Monday 16 Jun 1899

Saturday 26th Nov 1898

V goes to Marysville and from there to Kingston, with the band to play at the consecration of the Archbishop Gauthier. A very cold stormy day. Jackie Niles came and done all the chores, chopped wood and brought water. Will came in evening with Dick Jenkins and milked the cows.

Sunday 27th Nov 1898

A clear cold day after yesterday and last nights storm. V came home from Marysville at two O'clock am. Jack N came down to do the chores but found V at home. V obliged to work all day went to Wm D's for stove pipe and finished putting pipe together, built a coal fire, took up the calves and drove them home, fed hogs, cleaned stables, milked cows. Wallace here for borrow dog cart, going to [illegible] to see his sweet heart. Will came over and in evening Bernard made us a visit till nine O'clock. Grace has a slight attack of toothache.

80

Monday 28 Nov 1898

A beautiful day, snow rappidly
disapearing. V butchered his hog. Will &
Welly, & Jenkins helped, then Will drove home and
brought his second pig to butcher here. Jen and
Charlie coming too excepting Welly, all here
to dinner. Jen mad because grandmother
returned home again wanted she should stay
here. Jen going to clear out and take Flora
with her; going to Maryanne's. R mad too so for
(poor old lady)

29 Tuesday 1898

A pleasant day considering the
lateness of the month, snow has again
disapeared except in the burrows and
along the fences: a circle around the
moon all last night wider than three cart
wheels. Wallace N gone to the Cape with fish.
V having a very small bee drawing fertilizer, from
the stable yard. W.N. will not be here. Maud mopped.
The remains of Sylvia Woodman Woolcott brought home
to day: No bee. Wellie in am butchering for
Wm Rattray. pm getting out wood.

81

from the river over by the Ross
place. V helping W. Jr.

Monday 16 Dec 1899

A fine day. Sun brightly shining.

Froze last night but weather not cold
ground bare ice good for drawing loads.

V gone to McFadens with pig.

Maud at school. Grace washing clothes.

Voltie &

Grace has received an vitation to Geo Morgans
wedding. A day like latter part of April.

Voltie says he has a pain in his right lung.

Frank & Charles Woodman gone across to
see Dr Buchanan. F got a lame back & Chas
got gripp. Voltie in evening goes down to see
Frank but does not find him at home.

82

Tuesday 17 Jan 1899

A warm bright day no wind but very light breeze from south. Ground bare of every vestige of snow, muddy. Grace ironing and practicing on the piano. Maud at school.

W Sr fixing outside window in parlor.

V at shop working on his own sleighs.

V early gone to bed. Will & Chas

here to bring a note from Armstrong

a oyster party tomorrow at village club

Friday 3rd December 1908 hall, came dressed in uniform ie Will, Frank & Devolson

Wed 18 Jan 99

V drives over to Wills. I go

to see the family. After dinner Wm & V

and F drive to the Village on ice, Jenkins goes with

V. They return at 4 am not cold but freezing

ice boating but bare ground, a clear sky.

Jim O'Brien came down to cross the bay for oil

He called for V but V not home. Sr drove for me

Saturday 4 Dec 1898

A lovely day. V & W Jr gone all day to North shore getting wood from out the river. Frank Bamford came over to day.

Sunday 5 December

Not very cold but cloudy. Ground bare. Grace not very well. Will Dixon and Dick Jenkins here. Wellie went across to Millens Bay in Niles skiff. Wall N here. Dave Mahoney came. Evening visitors D Mahoney, Maggie Scott, Wall Niles, Frank Bamford. A snow storm from the North. D Mahoney goes home at 10 pm. Maggie stayed all night. Wall went home in snow storm. Snow and blow all night. V built another coal fire.

84

Monday 6 December 1898

A snowy morning. Earth white with snow.

Wind N changing S at noon and blowing, not very cold, snow and rain.

Frank Bamford went home at noon.

Voltie put in three storm windows and put a bottom sash in pantry window.

Grace abed all day with a very bad cold.

Maud and I do the house work, try the lard, clean pig's feet, churn &c.

No visitors to day. Voltie drove to the lower school with Maggie Scott in dog cart.

Geo Rattray drove in here to see about his bob sleigh. OBrien hired man. Murphy drove in for pig box. Voltie goes early to bed. Grace gone to bed.

85

#1 - 1098

Thursday 19 Jan 1899

A very fine day, ground bare,
no snow, a winter drouth [sic], ice
very good. The cutter turned over last night
when V was returning home at 3 O'clock am
and V and Jenkins tumbled out and jamed V's
Cornett pretty badly. Maud at school.

Friday 20 Jan 1899

A fine day, no snow
no rain, bare ground. Maud at school.
Letters from RG and Helen W, the
Whig but no post.

Saturday 21 Jan 1899

A cloudy day but warm, no snow
but Volty goes to the villiage for his
grist. rain and snow squalls all pm.
V started for the villiage after dinner
and returned at 5 pm accompanied by R Gaskin
in another rig. They are wet, cold
and hungry. Will here when they came & Charley too
but they soon get warmed with hot peppered cider and
a warm supper.

Sunday 22 Jan 1899

A very good day, warm enough, no snow, ground
as bare as your hand. Irene cooks chicken for dinner.
Grace takes long nap. RG reads. Sr reads.
Voltie goes to Junior and home again.
In evening Grace & R.G. goes to W Jrs
on the ice, stay till half nine and return
on the land; we all go early to bed,
forgot to say We were honored with the company of Miss Scott
(teacher) and Miss Hattie Joslin. Hattie
asking V to take her to St Lawrence NY Tuesday eve
next at a dance. C nonsense.

Monday 28 Jan 1899

Arose early. After Breakfast R Gaskin leaves for Kingston drives like Jehu hurrying to get to the city by nine O'clock am. After dinner Grace & Volty drive to the villiage and to Kingston ate dinner at Quinn's, bought the bride a weding present, called on R.G. at the Grand Union and again crossed to Garden Island to the weding of Miss L. Sauve and Geo Morgan which this morning was selebrated at the R Catholic Church, Marysville. Levi Banter here to dinner the old man is foolish; has lost his mind.

Tuesday 24 Jan 1899

No post. Wherd [sic] how it rains this morning and our youngsters not home yet from the weding. Maud wants to go to School but weather not favorable. Maud sweeps and cleans up the rooms, mops pantry and around the coal stove. Voltie and Grace return from the wedding at 2 p.m. bring Laura Davis with them equiped for another dance over the way at St Lawrence but D not having slept for 6 hours they stay home. F. W. here wish he'd stay home this time made us call on his way to Rattrays. Lottie here for soap.

88

Wednesday 25 Jan 1899

A beautiful day, clear but cold, ground bare, no snow this month so far. V went to River View for Kerosine. Laura Davis went too.

V sets two shoes on Bess. After dinner V drives to villiage for coal & Laura goes home to the villiage with Volson, they drive up on the ice with two horses before the sleigh.

Maud went to school but returned; no school. Teacher sick with gripp.

I'm writing from a new bottle of ink.

Wellie & Hubert here for a few minutes. I'm a very poor writer, used to write quite a decent hand.

Devolson returned early in evening with a load of coal.

89

Thursday 26 Jan 1899

Wind South this morning.

A little snow on the ground this morning like a heavy frost. Sun shining out clearly part of the time. Maud at home teacher got grippe. Voltie went to OBriens to send for spangles for his masquerade costume. OBrien going up to City. Grace fixing Maudes old blue waist.

90

Friday 27th Jan 1899

Fixing all day for the
masquerade at the villiage.

A very cold day but they
leave just after sundown,
clear crisp and cold. John Coxall
called here on his way
from Napanee, stayed
1 1/2 hours, talk, talk all e can.

Another big fire in Kingston
this morning. The Saturday
Evening post came this eve
with a letter from Martin to
Voltie.

91

Saturday 28 Jan 1899

A blustering morning
snow from South, squally
Grace & V returned
home from masquerade
at about 9 am. V milked
cows and went to bed. Grace
didn't wait for any thing but
went to bed immediately and
slept till after 3 p.m. V slept till
1/2 past 2 p.m. M cleaned floors
- made pies. Grace arose and
prepared the evening meal
some of the house plant
froze last night. The rose
scented geranium froze
stiff.

92

Sunday 29 Jan 1899

A beautiful clear day, a brilliant sun high over all the earth, no sleighing yet. V gone to exam the ice to Linda's. Bernard M here, came down from the post office, fine driving on the ice along the shore. Wellie called on his way from the post office then came Will & Charles. G came 3 1/2 p.m. A fine evening. R.G. stays all night. Sleeps in the Big Chamber. Hope he will not freeze.

Monday 30 Jan 1899

A snowy blustering morning
wind south. We rise early so
Bob can start for the city. Clears up
at 10 a.m. V & Sr working in shop.
Maud at school: caught a
ride with the Niles family of
pupils and teacher. Geo driving.
Voltie went to Wellies to get him
to help draw wood form Linda's isle
but Jr going to help Geo Rattray butcher
9 hogs tomorrow. V came around
by Wills with Frank and visited
with them 1 1/2 hours. Will and Charley
making Morgans an evening visit.
Florence better from grippe. Geo Sr at
home. the bride Laura at home on
garden island sick with grippe.
The old folks ball at the villiage
this evening 25 cts dance, all
the youngsters from the foot attend except
ours.

94

Tuesday 31st January 1899

This is mail day. Expect
the Saturday Post to night.

A beautiful day, brilliant
no wind. V & Wm drawing
wood from the Linda's.

Maud at school caught a
ride again with the Niles.

Grace washed and hung the
clothes on the line and bars.

V drew the coal box from
the shop and set it under
the kitchen window next to Samy.

Sr emptied the coal from
the bags which were in the sleigh into the coal box.

In evening Grace & Maud
went for the mail. V went
to Franks.

95

1st February, Wednesday 1899

A fine morning. Grace and Volty go to K on the ice in double sleigh going to get 900 lbs of coal from the villiage. Grace gone for her fancy dress ball out fit. begins to snow at 3 pm. Wellie here cleaning a grist. Maud went to school, walked there When M returned from school she brought in the clothes from the line. Will here too helping and went to J Niles for a grist. Retired at 10 pm. Sat up reading all about the cultivation of oysters in Saturday post. K & G came at 11 pm. Grace having been to Gaskins for tea. Bob brought her across to the villiage. V & Grace came down the ice midst haze and snow.

My dear Helen

Please accept my sincere thanks for your beautiful X'ms gift which for a few moments (on first receiving) I was at a loss to understand its usefulness but of course you will understand and pardon my rusticity but I tryly [sic] appreciate the ornamental design and daintiness of so useful an article and have placed it on the wall beside the mirror where it has a very decorative effect and yet I have given you nothing in return for your kind and loving remembrance. But I will and dear Nellie how can I ever find words to express my gratitude to you and your dear good mother and sisters for the pleasure Grace received while visiting your city home. I think she has entered most freely into the minute details of her visit and the kindness bestowed upon each member of your family and your aunties Mrs Pannell and Mrs Berry and Nellie. I thought

I would really like to get acquainted with your aunty Barry. I know I should love her dearly for I do already. But we may never meet in this world, who can tell. While sitting here writing I look through the window, and the thought occurs to me, is this really winter, the 7 of Jan, and warm as May and not a snow flake any where to be seen except a little mound of snow by the church shed covered with dirt and am thinking what sort of description block the novelist would paint his scene in words. He certainly would make a most exquisite picture of it, mud and all. I like the Sea Lions by Cooper which Grace sent home at Christmas time. I would like you to read it Nellie and recommend to your reading all of his works for several reasons. firstly they will bring your atlas into use and will help now in that important branch of study more than any other writer that I know at present beside enlarging your love of nature in all its lofty grandeur his writings are thoroughly American. What

I mean is his stories takes in the whole vast continents of North and South America and again their are so moraly pure and elevating. I am glad to think that when you return to dear Old England you will have an English Country home. Not in a crowded noisy roar city like London or Manchester or any other great or small not even a suburb but rural England the very sound is charming.

"Away from the toil of care men warm
Away from the haunts of vice and sin"
Were lines written by Mrs Moody, sister of the Hon Mrs Norton while making the back woods of Canada her home for a short time. She has written a book describing life in the Canadian Wilds, have you read her poem "The Sleigh Bells"
It is exquisitely beautiful. Even when Mr Moody's business called him home to England it was with regret she left.

Sylvan home where many a
night she has listened to baying of
the wolf and the resounding stroke
of the axes as it laid low some old
monarch of the forest, as she writes.
Loud sounds the axe redoubling stroke on
stroke, On all sides around. The forest
bears her oaks headlong, midst echoing
groan, then rustling, crackling, crashing
thunders down" Did you ever watch
the falling of a tree? I think not.
Did you ever notice that the theme
of all poets is Nature. Scott Wordworth,
Goldsmith's deserted villiage, Grey's
Elegy in a counts Church yard, Long fellows
Hiawatha. Oh I love my country
home, the still quietness of a sabath
morning in spring time when the
orchard is white and pink with bloom
and the oriole has built her nest like
an indian babys cradle suspended from

100

1st October 1895

branch of hawthorn
swinging with every breeze; a
cradle for the birdlings and
the St Lawrence some times the mirror
of every crimson and golden cloud
at sunset.

Thursday 2nd February 1899

A brilliant 2nd of Feb Candalmas day.
The Earth white with Snow far and
wide. Will & Wells Jr drove to Kingston
on the ice. Maud at home to day.
Grace making her ball dress.
Yesterday Devolson bought a new axe
and to day Wells Sr is making a new axe
handle for the new axe. Weather warmer
eaves running. Nelly G has a new
bean I ought to write to Nellie.

101

2 February

102

Friday 2nd Feb 1899

I wrote to Nellie G.

12 pages. I was so intent upon my letter that I scarcely noticed the weather, wrote 12 pages closely written. the snow softly falling to day, no wind.

Wells Jr., Volty, Will Dixon and Charley Dixon gone across to Dodges walked over on the ice. I watched them long time but at last they disappeared in the dim snowy distance.

103

Saturday 4 of February 1899

A working day of all kinds
and Maud down with Grippe. We
cook (Grace and I) wash, mop,
bake, take Sc goes to Kingston
returns just after dark brings
glass, putty, darning needles, harness
needles, common sewing needles.
V pair shoes, new lantern and
a new teapot and coffee.

104

Sunday 5th February 1899

A fine day for visitors.

First instalment Bill Winmill,

Mary WinMill, Joy Lee, Della Lee, Nina Lee,

R Gaskin drove down from

Kingston. Morgan load drove in

about 3 pm. Bernard, Lizzie,

Florence, Mabel and Maggie Hayden

They sang, played, danced as

usual. Charlie Dixon and Stanley Woodman

here also. At last all

are gone except R.G. he came

to stay all night and he stayed.

Maud pretty sick all day with

La grippe.

105

Monday 6 Feb 1899

A brilliant day, moderate, weather
snow every where. Voltie and
Robert gone to foot for oats. Bought
them of Rent. Sr putting glass
in storm windows. Maud is
convoalesent [sic] a.m. Glad of that.
Half past Bob just drove off up
the ice to Kingston. A
meeting at the church this
afternoon. Cant find my crochet work
mislaid somewhere. Voltie in evening
reading Quo Vachs. Irene finished
reading Dickens "Cricket on
the hearth". Maud got nose
bleed.

106

Tuesday 7th February 1899

Another Brilliant day; weather moderate but below freezing point W Jr and Will drawing wood from Dodge's. Voltie and his father drawing wood from Linda's. Maud much better. Grace sewing on her organdie. I wash dishes and cook. Grace washing and preparing for the c.m.b.a tomorrow eve at the villiage. After dinner V and his father go to Linda's for another load of wood. Maud sat at table and ate dinner with us. Maud singing which we hail as a good sign of convalescence.

107

Wednesday 8th February 1899

A blustering morning wind N and snowing, but notwithstanding and neverless Grace and Voltie get ready and once again drive off up the ice to Marysville and Kingston going to the c.m.b.a. ball which leaves Maud, myself and W Sr alone. I cook and do general house work enjoy a pleasant evening and go to bed at 10 pm leaving the clothes hanging on the clothes line.

108

Thursday 9th February 1899

A cold morning wind
blowing from West all night,
frost on the windows. Volty
and Grace come home at 8
am enjoyed their party
immensely. Wall & Shell at
the dance too but no Morgans ,
no Dave. It blusters and blows
all day, snow flying and drifting
like a march day. To end up
as a finish the kitchen chimney
took upon its self to burn out,
black smoke and flames rolled
out top like a furnace. V went on
roof with water, poured it down
the chimney which caused steam
and smoke to belch out worse
than before. W Sr says tis three
deg colder than last night
and think it is too for white frost on
window panes like snow.

109

Friday 10th of February 1899

A clear cold day. Frost on windows all day. Gave Maud a thorough doctoring again for Tonsillitiss [sic]. Frank W here for coal. Will D here to dinner and helped V put up a grist of wheat for mill.

Sr cleans and oils harness, only one little pig left of five and guess that one will die. Winter pigs no good.

I almost believe grippe has me this time sick all day.

Evening intensely cold. Volty went to Wellie's for his team to drive tomorrow to Kingston.

Will going too, going to Glenvale to see Jen. Frank Woodman called here, to borrow a bag of coal, Frank going to married a week from Wednesday to Emma Reid.

110

Saturday 11 February 1899

A clear bright piercing cold day. Voltie and Will gone to Kingston this morning. Will going to Glenvale. Maude is better much better. I better too. Grace working hard all day or, I should say buisy [sic]. Sr doing chores all day. Evening not so cold as morning. We go to bed at the usual hour, after Grace has set the table and made coffe for the boys, keeping it hot on the back of coal stove. The boys come at midnight with their grist of flour, beef, and other groceries. V and R.G. eat their supper and retire at one Oclock am.

111

12 Feb 1899 Sunday

A clear bright day warmer
but frost on the windows not
yet gone. V fills the flour can
and then R and V and Sr finish
and draw the sleigh to the barn
to unload the flour which they
put in the shop and over head
on platform. Grace gone to church,
boys reading, Sr oiling the clock, Maud
reading. Wellie came for his
mail! Wish our family would let
Wellie's mail remain in the office.
They sent the children for theirs and
found none in the office, to bad.
G & r 1/2 p 10 pm

112

Monday 13 February 1899

Colder this morning wind north
and cloudy. Voltie gone to Franks
to help hang folding doors. Bernard Morgan
drove here with young souve
and double team. Going to draw hay from
Samys which the Morgans has bought of Sam
to feed their stock. Bernard wanted
Devolson to help draw hay with our
team. Tis dreary winter far and
near. Volty broke ice and cutting ice
G & r till 1/2 p 10 pm. Morgans didn't come,
revival meetings commenced this eve

Tuesday 14 February 1899

A clear brilliant day some what milder.
Wells drove to Clayton drove across and
then down the road. V tried the other
saw, it stuck in the ice but affter
dinner V loosened the saw and
cut a block of ice for a starter.
R reading Quo Vadis, Gracie
cooked and washed dishes. Rene patched

113

Maud pared apples and moped
kitchen floor the ground every where white with
snow. Wells returned from
Clayton all right except with
ticking and (print 40 yrds ticking
10 yds). Grace and Bob went for the
mail from there to church.

10 pm all retired except B who
sits up reading.

Wednesday 15 February 1899

A rather a cold morning wind. S.W.

Wells goes to Gananoque to pay Acton,
comes home early bringing buck wheat,
flour, sodas, candy and 2 spools black
thread No 40. Welly and Will and
Charley here to put ice in the ice house but
blusters so did not to day.

16 Thursday February 1899

Charley came for me to go home with him. Found Belle very sick with Grippe. Sarah Simons there and an old fellow named Dan that chops wood. A ryan girl there too.

17 Friday February 1899

Awoke this morning to find my self at Belles though didn't sleep much last night kept fire all night, old Dan went away this morning. I washed, baked and cleaned floors and waited on Belle. Sarah came again to night and gave Belle another treatment of sweating and poulticing.

115

18 Saturday

Belle much better this morning.

I clean floors

again and cook and bake

Clear bright.

19 Sunday

a long some day.

Wish I was home. Ever so humble

there's no place like home.

116

20 Monday

21 Tuesday

117

22 Wednesday

23 Thursday

24 Friday

A bright clear day. Charley helping
Muriah Sammons draw in straw.
Children at school. I try to go to the
pump for water but get my feet wet
so much mud and water so
come back. Belle goes for oats and
succeeds but her boots are covered with
mud.

25 Saturday at Bells

My poor dear girl done big washing
and cleaned the floors looks like
a storm. Beatrice and I hung out the
clothes all mud around the house.
Charles Jr walking on plowed ground
with his father's rubber boots on,
fell down in the clay mud. Seat of his
pants all mud and boots all mud
to the tops. Charles Sr gone to Kingston
to mill.

26 Sunday February 1899

Charley brought me home and little Gracie came home with me. Rob G here when I arrived. Charley stayed till after dinner. Learned that Mr. & Mrs Gloyd had been here yesterday visiting. Mrs G brought me some honey.

27 February Monday 1899

Cloudy nearly all day
we dont do much more than cook and wash dishes. Grace Halliday a good little girl. Bob went home this afternoon drove off up the island. Wells Sr fixing doors and windows, ground all bare weather soft. V tinkering around the shop. snowing after Robert left hard. Hope he will get home all right.

120

Tuesday 28 Feb 1899

Wednesday 1 March 1899

121

Thursday 2 March 1899

Friday 3rd March 1899

122

Saturday 4 March 1899

A threatening morning cloudy.

Wells Sr drives to Kingston on
the ice gone till night fall.

Bob comes home with him
driving close behind him, a spotted
brochon. Will Dixon drove Wellies
team up for Jen Riley Burnham
& Miss Scott drove up with him.

Sunday 5 March 1899

A quiet day. G.B. not well yet
got a very bad cold. Maud and I
get the meals. V ready, the rest of
us visit, relates stories and anecdotes,
and so the day passes away towards
night the wind rises and shakes the
house. Grace pops corn. M and I get tea.

123

Monday 6 March 1899

Frozed quite hard last night
a fine day after last nights fearful
wind. After breakfast Voltie & Bob
start for Kingston driving on the ice
After getting started B ran back for
V's old gauntletts and had the due misfortune
to tear his storm coat on wire fence. Maud
at school. Charley and Belle drove down on wheels
bringing the children.

Grace sick with worms.

Evening visitors Shell, Miss Gordon,
Frank Woodman & Will Robinson,
Bell and her children.

Teusday 7th 1899

Cloudy, Wind N, blowing half
gale all day. Weather just at freezing
point. Will & Voltie taking Belle
across to Gloyds on Will's ice boat.
Maud at school. Charlie, Gracie
and Kathleen here. Auntie Gracie
carrying Kathleen to keep her quiet till
her arms ache. Voltie & his father
working in shop Flora Dixon
came over to see the children
stays all day.

124

Wednesday 8 March 1899

A cold bright day. Wind N
ground bare and frozen. Voltie
drove with Belle, myself & three
youngest of Belles over to Wills
to make a visit. Voltie butchered
the old sow. Will helped him
Charley D over too after butchering
V and Wm and Chas go to Micheas
for turkeys but to small, dont
want them. V drove for us at 6
pm had a fine visit and a
good dinner. Received a letter from
[John|Johnie]] with his photo inclosed.

125

Thursday 9 March 1899

Snow falling fast all am but
it will not last long. Warmer this
pm, eves running, a tub full of
water. V & Wm went to Kingston
drove up on ice: returned at 1/2 3.
V brought Grace cloth for a blouse
very pretty. Charlie drove down for
Belle and the children came before
dinner and they all went home, driving
across the island and so up the North shore
home. Wm gave me some herring.
I made pickles. I was sad all forenoon
but thank God I feel much better in mind.
The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not
want. Wells Jr went down the
Maud looking for hay but found none.
at Burhams

126

Friday 10 March 1899

This morning the ground covered with snow, which by middle of pm had again disappeared. Froze last night, a white frost covering the earth, trees, fences & every bush. Grace finished her blouse this morning and made one for me and a blue apron for herself. I cleaned the red cupboard and the lower part of the butter cupboard and the inside cellar way, wash dishes. Maud stayed home today. Snog came down and brought buttermilk. Muriel & Hubert at school. Welly carried them: a letter from Rogers for V and W Jr. V burnt them in the coal fire. Grace & Maude went to post office. Maggie Scott and Hattie Joslin came home with them. G rec'd letter from B.

127

Saturday 11 March 1899

A cloudy, soft-day. Wind south
thawing all day. Geo Gillespie drove up to
Kingston on the ice. Grace cleans floor and
sweeps chamber. Irene washes clothes a line
full. Grace made a cake. After dinner
Voltie hitched Bess before the dog cart
and drove to the villiage by the viz of the
road, ice poor and roads muddy. Maud
has a slight cold sent Belle her
music book and Grace's apron.
My Shepard will supply my need
Jehovah is his name;
In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.

128

Sunday 12 March 1899

A dark wet night followed y a rainy, muddy, dark, foggy, cloudy, windy morning. Weather could not be much worse. 11 O'clock am and V not home yet. said he was going to stop at Charles' all night. The roads must be terror to horses and wheels. dont know as V can get home. The house very quiet. Sr writing letters. and I'll write to Johny. Wallace Niles came after dinner stayed all after noon till 4 O'clock. Bed time and Volty not here yet.

129

Monday 13 March 1899

Volty came last night after

11 O'clock bringing Bob with him.

Bob lost his horse Saturday night

after band practice driving from

~~Charlie's~~ to the villiage to

Charlies. Horse broke through

or droped through in a fishing

hole; got the horse out but the

horse died last night at 6 pm.

This is a fine morning froze by

night. Boys are up at breakfast

time. Volty gone to Franks to

to fix the hog pen. Sr at the

barn. Grace reading. Maud reading.

B reading.

130

14 Tuesday

A gloomy day for B

didnot. Maud at home

Evening visitors young Mrs Geo Morgan,

her brother and Mabel. They

came at half past 8 p.m.

stayed till 10 p.m.

131

Tuesday 14 March
Ground frozen last
night. Jen came over
after dinner stayed till
after supper. Evening time
Grace, Voltie, Bob and Maud
visit Mrs Niles return at
11. Jen remained till Will and
Charley came for her. A gay
time this p.m. W Sr and
V working in shop. Mr Niles
up to the city to day said he met
Charley going for the doctor
little Gracie.

132

Wednesday 15 March 1899

Froze this morning. Maud
gone to school. I washed a few
things towels, sheets, shirts and other
things. cloudy and stormy
raining hard towards night, ground
full of water and mud every
where. Volty drives to school
for Maud and carries Muriel
and Hubert home in dog cart.
A pleasant lonely quiet
day. V fixing Frank Woodmans
old waggon. G & F's
Dick and Lydia married to day.

133

Thursday 16th March 1899

A sun bright day after the storm of yesterday, froze hard last night. Wells Sr gone to Kingston drove the dog cart up the road, ice no good now for traveling though. Bob is trying it on skates. Grace and Maud getting dinner. Nelly here for rick & waggon going to draw hay from Michea's. Wellie has bought two tuns of hay of Michea. Maud at home not doing much but went to Samy's for eggs. I wrote a letter to Jess. Wells came home just after dark saying little Gracie no better had two Doctors for her to day.

134

Friday 17th March 1899

A fine day only not much
traveling on ice or in roads.

Grace sent by mail to inquire
about little Gracie. Majorie
writes that she is no better.

Bob and Grace go to Bells
for butter, walked on ice. Grace
irons the clothes. Maud
to school. Evening visitors are
Will and Jen, Frank Woodman,
Geo Niles, Wall Niles, Shelly Niles,
Miss Mary Gordon, teacher

135

Saturday 18 March 1899

A stormy day, a Northeaster snowing all day. Bob and Grace went up in Volties top buggy. Voltie walked cross lots, going to band practice at villiage. Grace going to stay at Belles till Gracie is better. Frank and Will intend going up this evening to band practice but storms so guess they cant go. A stormy gloomy evening and night. Think Frank and Will didn't go to Marysville. Wills, Maud & I here alone. Eveline sent by V. 11 lbs butter for groceries.

136

Sunday 19 March 1899

Snow covers the earth this
morning Wind N.E. rained
in the night and this morning.
11 O'clock am and V not
home. The house quiet. Maud
reading. Sr watering the horses.
We are anxious about little Gracie.
Dreamed (last night) that she
was dead. Volty came after long
watching out the west window
and said Gracie is better
he wanted to hear the Dr's
verdict... and now I can cheerfully
get supper for our hearts
are relieved of a load of bitter
doubt and care. Will came over
for his tobacco that V brought him

137

Monday 20 March 1899

A cold windy
day, (West wind,) the snow flying
across the icy clear crust of snow which
froze hard Sunday night.

Windows covered with frost.

Wellie came for his groceries.

John Coxall here too and also
Frank Woodman.. J Coxall relating
his experience to Charlie W's on
account of their filth and untidiness.

Evening visitors Robert Ranous
and Harry Davis drove here with
cutter just after sunset and stay
till 10 p.m. [Harry Davis|Harry D]] stays all
night wants a sailing berth
Voltie complaining of palpfsitation [sic]

138

Tuesday 21st March 1899

A bright morning. Wind N/
Volty and his father go to
Macheas for a 1/2 tun of hay.

After dinner Volty and
Harry D go to the north
shore for river wood. They
met Ranous' Co and H. D.
goes home with them. I
get an early supper.

V shaving himself.

He going to Kingston
tomorrow if dont storm.

Clouding over for a storm
good sleighing now and
cold the house quiet
still and lonesome

139

Wednesday 22 March 1899

Voltie this morning goes
to Kingston going to the
land office and get him a
bottle of Dr Agnews heart cure.

I clean the pantry shelves and
wash all the dishes and Maud
and I washed out quite a washing and
Maude hung them on the line.

Will came up from Franks for
Volties cornet and musick. Wm
& Frank Woodman going to the villiage to band
practice. A cloudy gloomy day
wind North looks like a storm.

Wellie & Will draw wood from
Geo Morgan Sr. Geo M got blood
poisoning. Frank W drove to the villiage
with our sleigh, wants to get a man
or boy bat cant get one.

140

Thursday 23rd March 1899

Voltie came this morning
at 3 O'clock am, he had paid
Rogers 10 dollars which his
father had given him. V stoped
at Charlies going up in morning
and after band practice. Called again
Found Bob there. he came on
Tuesday going to stay till Saturday
when he will bring Grace home. little
Grace better but very weak and thin
Awoke this morning to find the
rain pouring down, tub full, and
boiler too. wind South but hauled
West. Thunder and lightning this
morning. Clouds break away in pm
but snow squalls chase each other
V brought white sugar. Belle sent me
a dozen new laid eggs and some
butter. V brought home Dick's Violincello.
Maud ironing. I bake bread, make cookies
cook beans and stew currants for pies.

141

24 March 1899 Friday

A very fine day. Reverend Weese
here to dinner. Still
holding revival meetings.

Wellie brought me more butter.

Wellie went to church and also
Maud, sent Eveline the Quassia
cup

142

Saturday 25 March 1899

A beautiful day light &
wind, the snow fast disappearing.
V butchered his pig. Wellie helped
him. Charley and his dog here
with the sled. Maud and
I done Saturday's work
all right. Let will D have
one hundred lbs flour.
V going to the villiage to
band practice. Expected Grace
and Robert home to day but
not come yet and nearly
four Oclock p.m. may come
yet. Miss Gordon and Maggie Scott
visiting Eveline this pm
looks like a storm in the south
and did snow this saturday
night.

143

Sunday 26 March 1899

A fine day S wind. Grace and V came home at 2 am expected Robert with them but he went to Kingston Saturday morn. Grace abed till 11 am. arose long enough for her dinner and then went again to bed. Niles here awhile. V went with Wal as far as Wellie's then came back to Franks and then returned home. revival meeting in church this evening. Frolick preached. V carried Sr a piece fresh pork

144

Friday 1st November

Wind South breezy,
sun looking down on Earth through
billowy clouds and chilly. Voltie began
plowing on the grange to day for the
first time this autumn. Last nights rain
may have softened the ground some.
I wrote a letter to Bamford. Ethel Dixon
sick and Grace has gone there to see how
she is, and stays so long. I think
perhaps she & Rachel have gone for butter
sweet berries. Well I put some more wood
in the stove to keep the fire cooking
our dinner.

145

Monday 27 March 1899

A fine day the snow disappearing.

Maude goes to school. V & his

daddy working in the barn or

shop. 12 noon time and nothing

transpired for to day worth recording.

Grace & V practicing music

On eve Franks and Voltie

practice on violin & violin cello

till 1/2 past eleven p.m.

146

Tuesday 28 March 1899

Arose at 4 am hustled
around and got his (Wells Sr)
breakfast, he going to Kingston.
froze last night. Robert
came down, (just after dinner)
to make us a last visit
for a long time 8 months
perhaps. We are sorry he is
going away. but if his
life is spared he will return
again and then ___
Well in evening Robert
and I have a long talk
about ____ I'll not write
our conversation and betray
his confidence even to my
diary only I'll say this, Rob
is a good boy. Wells came at
dark bringing grass seed, candy,
yeast cake, soap &c

147

29 March Wednesday 1899

A stormy morning snowed
in the night and still
snowing and blowing from the
west. Rob bids his good by
at 1/2 past 8 and Maude goes
in cutter with him as far as
school house. Grace takes a
nap on the couch in parlor.
Wallace came down and made
us a visit, lent him a book the
"Sea Lions". This is the last evening
of our revival. Wellie here in evening.

148

Thursday 30th March 1899

A fine day after the storm of yesterday. Frank W ate dinner with us. Voltie & Will go to Franks to practice their band music. Grace broke sewing machine needle. V borrowed one from Eveline, borrowed a pound of butter from Jen

149

Friday 31 March 1899

A soft bright day, snow
going away, plowed ground
dirty and fare, water running
across flat through the ditches.

Maud at school. Will helping
V saw wood at the door with
cross cut. No tobacco over to
Wills. Grace sewing for Maud.
Irene made cookies and pies
and drank bowl of cider which
made me step light

150

Saturday 1st April 1899

A bright day, ground frozen.

Sr goes to City driving dog cart.

Went for grass seed and a pair of shoes Adams is manufacturing for W. Sr. Irene does the disagreeable business of mending old garments and over coat for Sr and also a shirt & a dress for Maud. Grace irons clothes

Maud cleans floors. Our mop is an old broken down thing comes to pieces every swipe across the floor. I arrange the Saturday posts for Bob; I'm going to send them next week: W Sr came home early brought grass seed, shoes for himself, letter paper for me, sewing machine needles for Grace, soap, matches &c. John Coxall here playing checkers with V. then came Jen and Will - horn blowing. I gave Jen my white apron with knited lace.

151

Sunday 2 April 1899

A clear cold frozen morning,
the ice is still covering the river
land locked from either shore but
no crossing, patches of snow
every where in drifts: West wind
but earth mostly bare. Belle sent
me butter by her father when he
came home; little Grace is much
better. The dreariness of this
long lonesome day will be
ended. How can I best keep my
resolution. Grace is napping
as usual of a Sunday afternoon.
Our spotted cow is sick. Snow squalls
are frequent to day. Maud went
to Evelines for baking powder .
Evening time Wallace our only visitor
and stayed till nine O'clock.

152

Monday 3rd April 1899

A very pleasant morning
ground somewhat frozen.

Voltie and Grace and Maude
preparing for the grand concert at
the villiage this evening. Tis a band
concert and ball to raise more money
to pay the ballance of the band debt.
After dinner they get started. Will Dixon
and Maude in dog cart.

Voltie and Grace in the top buggy.
Frank and Mary Gordon in Franks
top buggy. Towards night, Wall Niles drives
to the concert in their old open top buggy
and Sr and I are left alone
till evening when we were entertained
by a visit from John Coxall who stayed
till nine Oclock. At 10 I went to
bed. A clear starlight night, beautiful

153

Tuesday 4th April 1899

A lovely morning. Sun bright
and clear all day. Will came alone
at sunrise and he left the ball at 3 this
morning. I get breakfast and wash all the dishes
At 9 O'clock Wallace comes bringing Grace as
far as their gate and she walks to the house
from the consession. Voltie and Maud came
next, and then Frank & Mary G. Grace
received a letter from Robert last night.
Bob begins his letter by addressing Grace as
"My dear Wife, I suppose he immajines
she is or will be and so adresses his letter to
see how it looks at the beginning
of his letters. Grace, Maud & V took
a nap. Grace slept till three
Maud till _ Voltie 3 hours.
Shell came bringing me buttermilk
Inez came too.

154

Wednesday 5

Dont know done to
day forget

Thursday 6 April 1899

A fine day but windy. Mrs
came after dinner and made us a
visit all afternoon and stays
all night.

155

Friday 7th April 1899

A rainy morning, rains
all day steady raining so hard couldnt
go for the mail.

Saturday 8 April 1899

Volty went for the mail this
morning through the mud after the heavy
rain of yesterday. A letter from Miss Mabel Gaskin,
The Herald, Whig. Maud moped
floors. V has a lame arm cant work
so reads the polar and tropical world.

156

Sunday 9 April 1899

A very fine day. After breakfast Grace and Maud wash dishes and I employ nearly the whole day writing to Nelly concerning poor Frank Kane who is about to enter a monistary in San Francisco and even now has become a teacher in a monastery Wallace made us an afternoon visit. Grace took a long nap. Evening Grace wrote to Bob and his sister.

Monday 10 April 1899

A fine day. Wind South

Grace washed. I finished writing to Nellie No visitors the day passed of very quietly and pleasantly. The ice still hangs in the river though the Channel is open. The snow all gone. The ground this morning covered with white frost. Maud at home. Too muddy to go to school. I churned a bit of white butter.

157

Tuesday 11 April 1899

A very fine morning air hollow which indicates rain. Volty put in a horse with Frank and drove to the villiage. They are going to the city. Frank going for a hired man. V going to see about a bank note which is due. Grace cleaned the sides of kitchen all around. I sorted and burnt a lot of old papers from out my bed room. Muriel made us a visit, and brought butter nuts & butter. Wells Sr done all the chores. Wells Jr here going to post letter for garden and flower seeds. Grace and Maud went for the mail. Mr Woodman says that Mr Devolson and Mr Defranklin are not coming home to night and by Swan they had better move to the villiage at stay there for their minds are there all the time and where their minds are their bodies ought to be. A letter from Bob and he wrote that another was missent so Grace received a postal from Washington saying my letter is there.

Wednesday 12 April 1899

A cloudy rainy day. Wind South
Voltie and Frank at the villiage where they have been since yesterday evening. Frank stay over night, waiting for John Reid to come across. John Reid is going to work for Defranklin this summer.

158

Thursday 13th April 1899

A fine day. Wells Sr trimmed
apple trees all day.

Friday 14th April 1899

A very fine day. Voltie
plowed part of the day. Irene colored rags
for carpet. Grace ironed all the clothes.

Wells Sr drew brush out the orchard.

Letters Grace one from Bob, Herald
and Whig. Miss Gordon, Miss Scott,
Frank Woodman & Bob Reid
and Jen and Wellie here in evening.

159

Sat 15 April 1899

A fine warm day. Wells goes to Kingston for groceries, came home just after dark bringing Marjorie home with him, brought Wellies groceries. Wellie here in evening from Geo Rattrays finished Geo's kitchen complete built it, plastered, it build chimney. Wallace Niles here too in eve. Irene sewed carpet rags. I sent Maud over to see is Grannie would come over if V drove over for her. Maud and Grace cleaned the floors. A very pleasant day. Voltie plowed all day

Sunday 16th

A cold raw day
wind North and river clear of ice.
Voltie drove over for his grandmother. She came without any breakfast. R turned her out and abused her so she said. Voltie got cold in his head yet but much better. I write to Edna after dinner. Maud & Marjorie go to church. Grace read the "Wide Wide World" and writes to Robert. Will and Charley here awhile.

160

Monday 17 April 1899

A fine day. Grace washed,
Grannie reading. Maud & Marjorie
at school

Tuesday 18 April 1899

fine morning. At the breakfast table this morning,
came to the sudden conclusion that

I would avail myself of the opportunity

to drive up to Belle with Voltie as

he is enroute for Kingston so went

But to late for Boat, which went at 8

a.m. so V came back at noon time for dinner.

I helped Belle and we done a lot of

talking and our conversation was very interesting

to ourselves. V took a mop before going to the literary concert at
the villiage.

161

Wednesday 19 April 1899

A very fine day warm

Belle washed and Irene helped
do the house work and talked all
fore noon made bread served rags,
the children at school. After dinner
Voltie came from the villiage and we came
home & had a pleasant drive, found all well
at home.

Thursday 20th April 1899

A beautiful day

The steamboat comes in to our dock
for the first time this spring morning, none
of our family went up but Wellie.
Voltie drove over for the new seeder
and other things. While V was away to the
dock, Loyd Card drove down and brought
him a telgram from Bob to come to
Buffalo and I set up till 12 o'clock
aranging, planning and getting his thing in

162

Monday 25 Nov 1899

A stormy day ground frozen hard.
Snow falling fast, fields covered with
snow with the burrows marking a dark
line through the pasture. Next summer
I hope to see it all planted to seed house
beans. Grace is washing. We have washed only
a few clothes in two weeks on account of
storm and rain and cold disagreeable
weather. Wellie came for milk this morning.
Says another calf is afflicted with lameness.
Voltie gone to foot of Island for wood.
Afternoon, snow storm turned to rain storm
raining heavy clothes all on the line
and wind blowing half a gale all
night. Grace out at 10 pinning
clothes on line, some on the ground.
Frank Woodman here all evening
ate supper with us and went
home in rain at 10 O'clock PM
preceeding

163

Friday 21 April 1899

A beautiful day & Voltie

left home this morning; his father
drove up with him, and went across
to Kingston. V went to Buffalo to go
sailing on the lakes. Grace received a letter
from Bob. Wells received word to watch out
for a telegram and be ready to start any
time. The young folks are all here again this
eve except Shell and Wallace.

Saturday 22 April 1899

A fine day warm and bright.

Wells Sr working around getting ready
to go away. I churn a little butter, sewed
carpet rags & made Johny cake for dinner.
After dinner Marjorie & Maud took each
a basket and went to the Wetmore place
for Lilly of the valley. Ed Weaver come
which is a good opportunity for M.H. to go home. Ed waited
for M.H. to come at last sent Grace to hurry her
along, she missed them for they went to dignam
wood for at last they came but Grace could
not find them.
Marjorie sat at home with Ed.

164

Tuesday 26 November 1899

Wind South blowing

a gale all night rain pouring in

torrents, clothes twisted on line every way this

morning. Cleared away after breakfast

so Voltie went to the grange to plow

snow & ice all gone but wind howling

Tremendous rain and wind squals

nearly all forenoon. V came

back home just in time to escape getting

drenched but Frank and Charlie get

the whole broadside. Clears up again

at noon & Voltie & Wellie plow till dark.

Grace finished Gracies little hood. I finished

a pair of stockings for Beatrice and began

a pair for Marjorie. Grace finished Mauds

dress. Wind hauling to Westward and is colder

at dark. Maude a very good girl all day.

Barometer stands very low at 29,

letters from John, Dick Brown, Wells note

from Folger \$25 dollars paid.

165

Sunday 23 April 1899

A cool morning wind
north, which has driven all the
ice to the American shore.

The grass is springing green but rain
is needful. We are alone this morning
except Grannie is here, been here a
week this day and Voltie has gone
went away Friday. Irene has a very bad cold.
Went to bed & slept when I awoke found the
house so very quiet & no one here except grannie
and Wells in the kitchen reading.

Grace and Maud at church commenced
dinner before their return. Maggie Scott
and Will Robinson came with them
but did not stay a long time: a fellow named
Little wants to hire here all summer but we dont
want him. Pm went to bed again awoke & found
Will and Charlie here. Mary Gordon came up from
Burnham's & stoped for tea. Grace went home to
Niles with her and stayed awhile. A row between
Mary & Shell.

166

27 Nov Wednesday

Wind West, cold & freezing. Boys plowing. Ed Bates picking his turkeys for market. Maude at school. Grace lining and finishing baby Grace's hood. Grace got a bad cold. Johns letter announces the arrival of a girl baby. John is pleased and so are all of us. Dear old John.

Maud at school.

Monday 24 April 1899

A clear day but wind North and breezing. Gran abed till after breakfast. Maud at school. Grace washing. Wells Sr fixing fence. Wells Jr cultivating for wheat. Irene doing general house work pm. Sr cultivating. Jr sowing wheat with seeder, 14 eggs to day. The young people going down the road this evening make of noise. Miss Scott, Miss Gordon, Miss Niles, Mr F Woodman, Mr R Reid &c &c

167

Tuesday 25 April 1899

Looks this morning like rain
but proves a failure. The river a
calm all day. Irene sowed phlox,
snap dragons, morning glories and
two other kinds. Sr cultivating. Jr worked
sowing wheat this am and went home 1/2 past
11 a.m. Grace took up the dining room
carpet and stair carpet, dining room
out side window cleaned, kitchen windows
and sitting room window, Maud at school.
Maud trying to learn knitting. Gran reading
"Jeremiah at the centennial or worth Fair.
Irene darned socks, cut carpet rags and
grated horse radish and several other things.
Letters 2 from B, one from V,
one for W Jr., Northern transporation Co,
Whig, Deering, Sat port, Song Book old
Favorites. Grace gone with the rest of
young trash down to Burnhams, came
home at midnight. Said All Joslin is
married this evening to Mary Farr.

168

Thursday 28 Nov 1899

Arose early this morning.

Grace gong to Kingston on
Pierpont. Sent 13 lbs to market
butters 18 cts per lb. Wind blowing
strong from south all night but
hushed at day break, a very fine
day. Milly Woodman died this morning.
Voltie went to Kingston with Charley W
to get things for the funeral. Jen went
up on the boat this morning to go
to Mrs Pillars taking the three youngest
children with her. Our cattle breaking in here.
Irene fixing the fence behind the hay
stacks. Sam Woodman driving around
the fields in his buggy to head the cattle
off with his dogs. Drove them out at
last and put the bars up. This evening
Voltie is at Mr Woodmans. Maud went
to school. Grace not very well.
Boat could not stop at Hallidays
water so low. A beautiful evening
with clear moonlight some gone to sleep.
Wellie plowing all day.

169

Wednesday 26th April 1899

A clear morning Wind N

all day: wrote a letter to Voltie and washed a breadth of carpet. Gran reading.

Grace wrote to Robert. Wells Sr cultivating up by the church.

Maud went to school, little Sylvia Woodman commenced going to school to day.

Wellie working at home to day.

Hubert and Muriel went to school today.

Thursday 27 April 1899

A clear warm day. Wells Sr & Grace went to Kingston to day on the Pierpont. Grace saw Nelly, Lill, Edna and called on Mrs Gaskin. a very light Wind North River like a mirror all day. Maud stayed home from school.

I churned, fed hogs, milked the cows morning & eve get 6 meals. Wellie worked here in pm.

Wellie want I should keep on account his time. I sent V's a letter, first letter. Grace sent B and Charley Dixon turned out of school today.

170

Friday 29 Nov 11199

A fine warm

day. Sarah came this morning to finish sewing for Grace, finishing her dress and making Gracie's jacket.

Voltie plowing. V ate dinner at

Wellies, after dinner I went to

see mother and the children

and Rachel—waked over and

found it rather muddy. Had a

pleasant visit, had soup for

supper which was excellent and

came home at sundown with Voltie

on the waggon. Voltie, Ed Bates,

Grace & Sarah Gillespie gone to Mr Woodmans

this evening. Maud has

been at school. Wellie plowing too.

A fine moon light evening but looks

like rain—very warm. Letter from

Bamford—going to make another

inp. from Chicago to buffalo & back to Chicago

Friday 28th April 1899

A clear cloudless day no rain for a long time. The dust follows the pulverizer across the plowed field. Wind South and blowing a stiff breeze. Wells Sr & Wells Jr working in field with five horses. Sr pulverizing with 3 horn & Jr seeding. I cut a pail of potatoes to plant.

Grannie fell and skimmed her nose but she didn't hurt her tongue it wags as much as ever, about an old broach that Jen has got that belongs to her, and about Charley poor Charley so unused by the teacher.

I wash another breadth of carpet and plant a pail full of potatoes.

Wellie worked all day. Sr worked with three horses before the pulverizer till 6 o'clock when Lloyd Card drove down for him with a telegram to go to Milwaukee straight. So he packs up and goes away the last words to me were "Now be sure and go to the dentist. The flower seeds from Moore the

172

Saturday 30 Nov 1899

Cold again. Wind North & freezing.

Milly's funeral at 10 O'clock am.

George Niles came home to day.

Wellie plowed part of the day. Voltie,

Grace & Maud go to the funeral. Sarah

stayed home and sewed on Graces

wrap. Wallace Niles helped. Voltie

drags hay from stack and pitches

up into the barn. Maude went to

Rachels to get me two eggs and made

a little visit. Rachel sent me two books.

A clear bright cold day and evening.

Grace, Voltie & Sarah went over to

Digmans to visit this evening,

returned at 1/2 past 11 p.m. I very

sleepy and go to bed at 11 pm

after making a rousing fire

in the stov. Last I remember as I

am partly asleep is Grace coming in with

the lamp to see if I am asleep, the little

round smiling face looking down & saying

ma are you sleeping

173

Saturday 29 April 1899

A clear day no rain but getting very smokey. Awoke to find Maude, Grace and I alone excepting Gran. Wellie came while we at breakfast. Maud and Grace digging out, sweeping, dusting, washing windows. No rain in 17 days. The farmers dont wish for rain now till their grain is sowed. Will and Charlie came over to dinner. Charley went back for soap. Told C I would teach him arithmetic lessons & geography. Wellie worked here 1/2 day past he employed going to McFadens for oats but got none. Afternoon he worked at home. Miss Scoot & Miss Gordon here awhile. I planted more potatoes and sowed mixed flower seed. Wellie says he has hired young George Woodman and he is coming here on Monday. Wellie came up after dark and got a few potatoes to plant. Muriel came up for vinegar.

174

Tuesday 1899 December 1st

This morning lie in bed

till 7. A very cold morning Wind
South. After breakfast Sarah went
home charging Grace \$2 dollar
only, which Grace paid and then
we are alone all day, but I make
a few fried cakes and bake the bread.

Reading Iron Watchman.

Towards night I send Maud
over to Rachels with some cakes.

In evening reading a story by
Mrs Mary Jane Homes entitled
Meadow Brook. Like the story
exceedingly, well for light reading.

175

Sunday 30th April 1899

A smoky sun bright day, warm,
Wind South. Rained a few drops in
the night and thunder this morning
but no ran in 18 days. Though
the grass is green and I'm so sleepy.
Maud gone to church came home
accompanied by Will, Charley & Flora.
Evening Wallace came down and
stayed till 9 pm.

Monday 1 May 1899

George Snub came to work &
worked 1/2 day, plowed place for a
few garden beds and by the berrie
bushes for potatoes. Thundered and
rained in afternoon. Irene washed a
few things. Grace painted pantry.
Maud at school. Rachel went across
the river to Mrs Gloyd's. Maud went
to Niles for fish. Charley went to school to.
Miss Gordon all come home through the rain
Miss Scott & Gordon here twice after school.

176

Monday 2nd December 1895

Did not sleep very well till
nearly time to get up, for one of the
cows was thumping and whacking
her horns against the house back of
my bed trying to eat all the hay
from the cellar window. Arose at
six to find the rain pouring down, my
tub overflowing with soft rain water,
about 10 a.m. our rain
changed to a snow storm and snowed
all day, ground white again. George
and Wallace made us a visit. Charlie Dixon
here through the storm for
their parlor stove oven door. Charlie brought
me some krout. Maude a very
good girl washing up the breakfast and
dinner dishes. Grace finishing her coat.
I bottle the wine. As I look out the
window what a dreary prospect
and no kerosine or matches in house first Voltie goes
to Mr Woodmans but they have none
and then to Mrs Niles and they have none

177

Tuesday 2nd May 1899

A quiet partialy cloudy morning
rained some in the night.

15 past 5 when we arose. Wanted
to go to Evelines but cant go
Irene sowed pansy seed.

Grace sent letters to Robert &
Voltie. Mail received letter from Voltie,
A letter from Robert, Ladies World,
Saturday evening post, Whig and
a postal from Martin, the nursery man
Continued (see next pages of this book also)
from this page in other book 1899
Marked #2

178

Tuesday 3rd December -95

A beautiful clear cold morning
river steaming, Wind N.W.

but quiet. Voltie & George Niles
gone to Millens bay for kerosine.

Nellie here this morning and went too.

Wallace gone over the river for their
oil which Mrs Niles bought at the corners.

Charley Woodman drove in here for a yeast
cake and his sheep which will come down
and run with our cows. sent a letter by
Voltie to his father and one to John by
our post office.

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[top part is repeat of previous page]

3rd May Wednesday 1899

Wind blows fierce and cold from the
North all day, keep closed doors to day.

Men working in field but I dont
work much. Wellie up looking for
the trees to set but cant find them,
so gave up; found them at last burried
in the cedars, mice had knawed them.

Told me R had been slandering Robert.

Will came over and told me the same.

I am not surprised or hurt by any
thing. R says its only her nature to
slander every one, poor old fool

180

Wednesday 4 December -95

A cold day. Voltie drawing wood from Port Metcaff. A pedlar called here. Our stove pipe & chimney burnt out. pipe red hot, danger of house catching fire. after a while we succed in stoping the draft and build a fire in the kitchen and ate dinner there. Maud frightened and says how will we get the piano & organ out.

Thursday 4th My 1899

A very fine morning clear and bright. Arose at 4 am. Wellie came early and drove over to the dock with Grace, 9 doz eggs and 5 lbs butter and five doz egg for Eveline. I done all the chores and cooked for Wellie & Will. Grace came home and brought a little boy to chore around. Arthur Knapp Grace & I sent letters to V and Robert.

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5 May 1899

A fine day. North wind but not cold. Grace paints pantry ceiling blue. Irene washes carpet and Arthur helps since it at the river. Grannie reading all day. Wellie & Geo W. work till night. Geo stays all night again. Evening Will & Charley are here and all are out on verandah airing themselves. Evening mail a postal from Nettie Naylor inquiring about Lissy. Grace received a letter from Robert. Irene one from Wells Sr & one from Watson. A package of newspapers from Voltie, Whig, Montreal star, and Family Herald. Miss Scott & Gordon were kind and good to bring me Sr's letter. Will brought me soap.

182

Thursday 5 Dec 1895

Snowing nearly all day. Wellie & Voltie drawing wood from Port Metcaf. Grace cleaning pantry. Wells Jr ate dinner with us had chicken pot pie for dinner. Eveline & the children at her fathers for a days visit. Magret home from school, stormy and cannot go. Ed Bates went to Kingston. Voltie drove for him at evening time. Ed bringing for Voltie blacksmith's coal & horse shoes and horse shoe nails.

6 May Saturday 1899

A bright Spring day. Wallace gone the villiage for shrubery & dont know how we will get ours. Grace finished painting the pantry ceiling over head. Wellie Sr and Geo Woodman working here all day. Arthur a pretty smart little boy active and willing to help. Geo Woodman plowed by little flower garden. Irene washed

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and hung out a few clothes,
towels, aprons, and tablecloth
sent Maud to wellies with a little bundle.

7 May Sunday 1899

A beautiful bright day, a cloudless
sky. Excepting once we have had no
rain since the 12 of April. The wheat
is beginning to show green, Irene wants
to go to Evelines but dont know as I
can. Grace, Maud and Arthur are
gone to sunday school and church.
Poor dear old Grannie.

184

Friday 6 Dec 1895

A perfect winter day

clear bright & cold. Wind South West and river steaming, sending up clouds of vapor which float away to the N.E.

Earth covered white with snow far and wide.

Winter has begun early. Wells Sr not yet

home. Voltie & Wellie drawing with two teams wood, from

Port Metcalf. Eddy Bates here for Volties

oars. Ed going to Clayton to meet with

his lodge the Order of O.F.'s. Will

stopping here a few minutes to warm, he related

the sad mishap which occurred to Rob Michea

while on the Pierpont enroute

for Kingston. Poor unfortunate Rob

lost a twenty dollar bill which he had just

demande of his sister Lizzie Woodman in

order to get it exchanged in the office that

he might get two dollars which Lizzie was owed

him. Grace is washing. A fine star

light evening. Voltie working early and late

with no help. Evening visitors Wallace,

Frank, Jim Morgan, John McDonnel.

A letter from Wells Sr & one from the

Merchants Bank for Bamford demanding \$4.50

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Saturday 7 December 1895

A cold morning. Wind in the bright
hailed around south not blowing very
hard. Our clothes all on the line this morning.
Voltie brought them in before breakfast. Voltie goes
again this a.m. for more wood & drew a load
of logs. Wallace came after dinner and helped V
saw up a log. Grace irons clothes, cleans floors,
made pies, cookies. Irene bakes bread. A cold
raw cloudy Windy half snowy day.
Maud is eleven years old this day.
I wish we could get a letter from Martin.
A dark dull evening looks like rain.
My faith looks up to thee
Thou Lamb of Calvary
Saviour Divine
Now hear me while I pray
Take wash my guilt away
and may I from this day
Be wholly thines.

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Sunday 8 December 1895

Wind North. A cold morning, river
looks like a boiling kettle all day,
fog rising from its surface and
glittering in the clear sunlight.

People going to church wrapped in
warm furs against the slinging cold.

Will not yet home. Wells Sr not yet
home. Jen and the little ones not yet home.

This is a dull day, in a very dull place, in
a very dull season of the year, with very
few convenience of life. If we wish to cross the
river the everlasting roar and tumble of
the old St Lawrence with cold northern blasts
prevents we can only look across to the Heaven
blessed land of promise beyond. If we wish to
go to Kingston, we can go once a week
by rising long before daylight of a Tuesday
morning & going over to the dock on a buck
board through the mud or on the
sleigh bumpty bump and hurry up or

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you'll get left and this privilege is
ours only twice more this fall and
then & then we must arise yet earlier
and the horses must drag a waggon or sleigh 14 miles in
time "to get the first boat across to Town
so we may get home again the same day.
No matter if we do start at 4 a.m.
and get back to our starting place
at 8 p.m. All the same we have been
to town if we only have brought home
with us a pound of tea and ,50 cts worth
of sugar perhaps a plug of tobao and
we have been to the office and paid
the Taxes.

Monday 9th

A very pleasant day. Ma gone to Wills with
Nellie, Grace & Maud alone
in the house. Voltie doing
work out the barn before noon,
in the after noon
he & Wallace gone to Wills to
chop wood, then they come

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back & go across the river
with beans. Get back
at dark. Charlie same
for Ma, after she came from
Wills and she goes home
with him to stay with the
children while Belle goes to K.

Tuesday 10th

A very good day, the wind blows a little the
river steams. Mr McDonnell
& Algina came back from across
the river, they went over yesterday
with our boat. Gina got
her tooth pulled. I did nothing
more than house work.
Charlie & Flora here. No mail
to night

Wed 11th

A very cold Wind
North blowing very hard. Wells Jr
came up & Wallace Niles came
down & help Voltie move the

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stoves. This stove in the dining
room, all gone to pieces
so they brought in the kitchen
stove, Pike all moved eaten.

Voltie killed 6 chickens for
market tomorrow & I picked
them & try to churn but butter
dont come so leave it.

Gord Burnside here for cattle.

Frank down in the evening.

I go to bed at 9 o'clock. Maud
over at Wills for the night

Sunday 12th

Awoke before

4 o'clock in the morn, call Voltie
he builds a hot fire, the
wind blowing a perfect gale
from the North. We eat breakfast
at 5 o'clock concluded
not to go to the boat for fear
she would not come in

192

Voltie & Wellie goes with the
cattle. Voltie only goes as far
as the Debtors hill, Wellie
goes all the way to the ferry.
the boat did not call at
Breakey's so those that
went "got left".

Voltie tanked the house
Went for Maud. I finished
churning. The boys got
home from Kingston about
8 p.m. Will & Sam Nesbitt
came from the woods rode
down with Charlie Woodman
Friday 13th

So very cold the boys freeze their faces
This day is a
little warmer the Wind is
still in the North but not
much to be cold. Voltie shoeing
horses. Wellie came up &
brought boat to V. I
started to clean the floors

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Will. Sam Nesbitt & Charlie
came. Will gives a great
description of his trip
after they go. I clean the
floors & get dinner, my
feet so swollen with chilblains
I can not get any
shoes on so as to wear
them. Our cellar froze
last night, the coldest
night yet.

Sunday 15 December 1895

Charlie bought Irene & I home in
cutter not so very cold
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday were
awful days wind North blowing a hurricane
and cold as a western blizzard.
Belle picked and dressed poultry
for market but boat didnt come to
the wharf on Thursday morning
But they drove up on Saturday
as lovely a day as I ever saw.

in December: Warm clear sky
and every tree, bush & shrub so
white with frost that the Earth
looks like paradise or fairyland
It makes one rejoice to have and
behold the soft peaceful splendor
and beauty of Nature. Little Grace was good all
day. Charley and Belle came home
at 6 p.m. Well came home but
I was sorry to leave Belle. It seems
but a little while ago since she was
a tiny baby herself and now tis
nearly 12 years since she went away
to make a home for herself and
now has a family of 5 little ones.
As time rolls on it unfold things
most wonderful. Changing changing
always changing. I'm glad tis so
glad I'm growing old. I thought
to find Wells Sr home when I came
but he not here yet.

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Monday 16th December 1895

Rather cold yet so this day
we prepare for Kingston. Wells not here
yet we think he'll come home tomorrow
with Grace and Wellie.

Tuesday 17

Arise at 4 a.m. Grace and Wells Jr start for Kingston
at 6 am and return at 6 pm, raining
quite hard but clears away some
towards eve. Grace bought me a
pair of felt slippers. Wells not come,
wish he'd come.

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Friday 20 December 1895

Wells not home

very strange. no dont even hear
from him nor Mart somehow

I think we may never hear again
from Mart. Voltie this evening went
for the mail. thought we'd hear from
Wells but no letter from him only
the terrible news that Will Irvine is
drowned this morning about 10 am
while fishing.

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Saturday 21 Dec 1895

A beautiful warm day clear.

Wind East changing to South, ground
bare: not a vestage of snow anywhere,
all our house doors open nearly all day.

Voltie working in blacksmith shop.

Will & Charlie here cutting up their beef
which hangs in our barn. Wells lend them
a beef barrel. Irene B wash and mend
Irene Halliday's clothes. Grace makes Irene N
an apron. Wells Sr not home yet.

I wish he would come home and Maud
too.

Evening Voltie gone

to J Niles to borrow buggy to go tomorrow
to the funeral which is held in the episcopal
church at 10 a.m. We were surprised by
Wells Sr suddenly coming after dark when
we had been looking for him all day.

Glad to see him once more hale &
hearty. A rainy night.

201

Sunday 22 Dec 1895

A very damp morning.

Wind South. Grace & Voltie go to the funeral. Rube McFadden drove in here accompanying them from church stayed to dinner. After dinner Wells Sr went down to Wells Jr's and came back by way of Wills. A soft cloudy day all mud is the ground and bares brown. Pines & cedars are the only green thing to be seen. June went home and to church. Wallace Niles here this evening.

Monday 23 Dec 1895

A soft warm

cloudy morning, river quiet as a mirror.

Voltie plowing. Grace getting dinner. Wells Sr meandering around doing just as he likes, walked over to Wills and came back through the rain. Voltie drove home from plowing through the rain. Raining all evening and nearly all night.

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Tuesday 24 Dec 1895

The sun arose clear this morning after last nights heavy rain. Very warm like a fine May day. Very light wind South. Voltie & Wellie plowing. Grace washing. Wells Sr doing nothing. A treated him to grape wine, beef & potatoes for dinner. Maud expecting Santa claus. Boys came back from plowing and have gone gun in hand in the boat up to the marsh fishing for wood & hunting game while the day is so very fine: thinking there may not be another one like this day for getting out wood again this fall or winter. Woodmans Boys plow all day. Grace went to mail 3 letters, one to Belle, one to Nellie and one to Quinn. W Sr says this is a day weather breeder. I hope all its children may be as mild. We have to keep open doors this day.

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Tuesday 25 December & Christmas day 1895

A beautiful warm sunlight
morning but ground all bare as August
and muddy. Grace thinks she'll go
to Mr Geo Gillespies if Belle & family
do not come home. But they came and
very glad we are to see them as they
drive up to the door with three seats
filled. 7 of them and their grandad.
(Wells Sr) goes out to the buggy and liftes each
youngone out little Charlie bringing his toy
gun with catrages. Irene with
her doll and Beatrice with her
(gold) watch & chain, gifts from Santa
Claus. Oh what a noisy happy lot they
are long may they have an undivided
family and Belle was made happy
by a gift from Grace of a warm
wool Facinator. Oh Lord we thank
thee for thy manifold blessings
and little Maud with her Christmas

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toys of dishes, dolls, game, nuts, candies,
&c. Wellie came up for a while
but we have not seen any of
Wills family to day. Our fine
morning changed to rain before
night. But they went home comfortably
leaving at three p.m. well wraped
up & carrying an umbrella leaving
Beatrice behind for a week or
more. All Barries hired man plowing today.

Thursday 26 Dec 1895

Rain tub most full of water
this morning, cloudy and
windy. Voltie plowing. Wellie here
this morning. Wells Sr went to school
meeting. J Niles elected trustee. Stove
pipe caught fire again. have a
tough time with fire & smoke, knock
the pipe all down, wind blowing half
a gale. Voltie and Grace once more
clean the pipe and put it together again.
Raining again quite hard wind howling
all p.m.

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Friday 27th Dec 1895

Rain pouring down
nearly all night . Wind howled
around from South to West. Awoke this
morning to find the ground covered
with a little snow very much resembling
a heavy white frost. Ground frozen
some but not hard enough to prevent
plowing. Voltie plowing and think Wells
is too. Wells Sr dont do much. there is
not much to do. Grace makes apple pie
for dinner. I darn socks and cook
beef and beans [sic]. Sun shining very
clearly, & not very cold. Millions of stars
were out this morning. After dinner
I go over to Will's on old pumper,
roads all wind and mud. As we
pass Uncle Smith's domain (which
is his no more) we saw the Woodmans
plowing with three teams, turning
up the mud in fine shape and Mr.

Woodman in the road leaning
on the fence and watching the boys
turning over the furrows of his new
possession. And days "by swan that
fence will have to be moved for
tis right in the way " and so
Laura's garden fence has to be pulled
down. Voltie called for me at sunset
came home to find Wells Sr had gone
over the river to be gone all night.
I forgot to mention Charley Easton
here to dinner: came to invite G &
V to a dance at John Nesbit's given in
honor of Sam Nesbit. Will & Charlie Dixon
came home with us to help V do the
chores and stay to tea, then they
go to Nesbits to the party leaving Maud,
Beatrice and I alone till 1/2 past 5 a.m.
Great fighting of cats on veranda
& turn Lind [their dog] on them and they scat.
A letter from Mr Watson to Maud & I

207

Saturday 28 December 1895

A fair day with here & there
a cloud floating away to Northwest.
Wind South W: Ground bare. Voltie didn't
plow this day only worked at the cow stables
and put brine on the pork &c. Wells Sr
not returned from his visit over the
river. Wellie came up this morning
looking for his mail. Expecting
a letter from the Adirondack. The
weather is very good & temperature warm
[Random names by different handwriting, perhaps Maud
Grace D Bamford

A A H Beatrice Halliday

Sunday 29 Dec 1895

Did not rise

very early this morning, after seven a.m.
A bright day: river glittering and dancing
in the sunlight, warm, ground bare
and windy. Wells Sr yet over the river.
Shell Niles & John Niles Jr came after dinner
stayed awhile. Shell thumped on the
piano and then they went home.

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Voltie went to Wellies and to Wills,
came back in time for dinner
said Rachel is coming over to tea
but she didn't come. A fine moon
light night. Sabath passed of very
quietly M.

Monday 30 Dec 1895

Wind East & warm.

Voltie plowing. Wells Sr not home
yet. Don't know what keeps him
but time unfolds all things.

Grace washed and hung
clothes out before noon.

Woodman's are threshing with
machine. Irene made mince
pies for dinner. Not much wind,
river very calm, cloudy & looks
like rain. Wells Sr came in
as we were getting up from dinner,
been visiting all this time among
his various friends and relatives over
the way, besides going to Clayton, Saturday

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Maude & Beatrice gone to Mrs Niles
to help celebrate Shell's birthday
and now they are gone. The rain
comes tumbling down in fine shape.
Wish those youngones had not gone
Uncle Sam's has stoped threshing
on account of the rain. Rain drove
Wellie and Voltie home from the field.
After dark Jack Niles came with Maud &
Beatrice bringine lantern & guide them on the way.

Tuesday 31st Dec 1895

A terrible wind blowing all
night from the S.W. Voltie got
up at 1/2 past 3 a.m. and went to
look after the skiff and punt which
he found nearly afloat and the punt
filled with water, so he came back for
a pail to bail with and then
fastened the clothes on the line more
firmly. Well if last night was a bad one
the day is worse. The old St Lawrence
is in a living rage bashed into

fury indescribable. The
billows roll up like hills of water
and the river is white with flying
spray which soars, rolls
and tumbles on the shore with a
sound like thunder all day long,
snow flying. Wind wrenched Niles
barn door off. Niles cattle stood in stable
all day and horses too except the colts
are all day running in out door yard.
Our cattle turned out longe enough
to drink. Freezing quite hard in
p.m. V went to J.N.'s to borrow tea.
Frank Woodman came down to make
a visit, found V gone so didn't stay
long. just after night fall in walked
Mr Hiram Davis looking for voters,
his supper and nights lodging and
breakfast and he gets all and welcome. They
sit up till 10 p.m. spinning yarns
of various kinds. I get sleepy and go to bed.
barometer very low, below 29, two full

moons this month—The first and last of this month.

A New Year Wednesday 1st Jan 1896

Bamford Sr built the fire

this morning. Wind yet blowing,
ground bare, weather more mild.

Davis gone this morning electioneering
down the Island. Wellie here this morning
for butter, gave him three lbs.

Sun shining out with a sickly wind
all day. V went to Mr Rattrays for
our cheese. A new year dance
at Wills this evening in Honor of
Sam Nesbit. A full methodist
attendance. A brilliant moonlight
evening with the firmament clear
of clouds. Our dancers come home
at 4 a.m.

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Thursday 2 January 1896

Wind South, bare ground. Wellie drives in here for pig feed and cheese. Beatrice and I go home with Wellie on jumper, found Renbe McFaden there eating dinner while waiting for Wellie to come and cut his hair. Eveline washing and not expecting visitors. Nor was Hubert expecting company but cried bitterly because Beatrice had come till his eyes were red & swollen "Afraid of girls" he says. Some day he'll not be afraid of girls, more the pity. Weather growing colder. Ed at a well stoning bee at Nesbits. Bamford Sr came down towards night. I intended to return home but stayed all night. Will & Charley at W Jr's in the evening. Lazy Bates came home after dark.

Friday 3rd Jan 1896

Stayed to Wellies till after dinner then Wellie brought Bee and I home again on jumper. Cold and Wind

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hard from N.W. Gave W. Jr a piece of
pickle p. found V at J.N—gone to
help Geo saw wood in the woods but
proved so cold didn't saw but
came home and after supper went
for the mail. Got the Kingston Whig
and two letters for Eveline from Rochester.

Well here in evening says he had a
letter from Jen and must meet her
in Kingston tomorrow. I lend
him the umbrella for Jen and
the little ones. Not much kerosine
for the lamps this evening. E Bates
at Geo Gillespies working on his boat
and so stays to a party at Horns
given in honor of Sam Nesbit.

Saturday 4 Jan 1896

A cold morning

river steaming but not much wind.

Voltie & George Niles gone to Millens Bay

for kerosine. V says if the
wind blows he will not return till
the crossing is good. Well the wind
does blow and I'll not worry for the
Lord is merciful & good. Charley &
Flora came for kerosine but we
have none for them. They were very cold
so after warming themselves, they went
home leaving their bottle behind them
till V comes back from River View.
Ed Bates came up for V to help him
pitch hay in the stable but he went to
the Bay. We gave Ed the letters for Eveline.
Frank Woodman here for shingle nails.
Clear and growing colder. I'm
sorry for Jen and the poor little ones
this night if they come down from Marguerites
in the waggon. Towards night Charlie
came again for oil. But Voltie & George
not come and we do not expect them
thoug [sic] we keep looking out across the river
through the cold fog that arises from the

water. Dark night settles over the bare and frozen Earth, the River is hidden from view and now I know they'll not return to night. Sent Charlie to Wellies for kerosine. Wells Sr builds a fire in the coal stove which is cheerful and brightens the rooms. Wells Sr does the chores alone for the first time since he came home. We enjoy a very pleasant evening, only V is not here. This is the first time he was ever weather bound across the St Lawrence. Finished Marjories stocking and knit a long way on the second one and read page after page in the U. S. History. At nine O'clock pm hear the rumblings of waggon wheels on the hard frozen road which tells of the home coming of Wells Jr, Will, Jen and the children and we sang our prayers, go bed and to sleep.

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Sunday 6 January 1896

A clear cold morning. Wind N.W.
river freezing and vapor rising in
clouds a mile high into the sky but closing
in with new ice which will soon prevent
the rising steam from escaping and
then we can see across to the U.S. my
own native land, mine by birth right
and conquest. Voltie & George yet over
the river this morning, weather bound
and ice bound. Cows not milked
since yesterday morning. Grace playing on
organ awhile then goes to the piano
plays the "Lament of Lady Isabell in East Lynn"
beautiful but mournful. Wish Voltie was
home. Wellie came up bring our groceries on
sleigh, drives home again, comes back and
milks the cows & says Jen & the children
came near freezing so they had to stop
at Mr Fossets and will stay there till weather
gets warmer. Will hurt his knee and arm.
Will gone with Wellie's Team & Niles

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buggy for Jen & their children.
River frozen over sun seting [sic: setting]
clear & cold. O cold Canada,
the hearts of thy people are warm
and generous. No kerosine
had to go to bed by the light
of the coal fire in sitting room
and a wood fire in kitchen.
Heard the buggy drive down the
road, suppose tis Will, Jen & the children.
Monday 6 January 1896
A clear cold (intensely cold) morning.
St Lawrence froze from shore to shore.
Wellie came up walking on the river
from his house to do the chores.
We were pleased to see Voltie across
the ice from down below Linda's island
with Geo Niles. After dinner V & his
father go to election held at the house.

school house. Wells Sr walking &
Develson skating up the ice.
Learned this morning that Will, Jen
and the children were obliged to stop
twice coming down from Fossets, once
at James McDonalds and at Mr Geo Ranous'
to keep from freezing.
Ground bare every where and hard frozen
not a flake of snow any where to be
seen. Came home from Election
after sunset. A clear intense cold
night wind North and breezy.
Frank Woodman here this evening
also John Flynn, Frank to report
election; Flynn for tobacco.

Tuesday 7th January 1896

as cold or colder than yesterday
turning black whiskers and earlocks
to a snowy white with frost.

Seeing is surely believing and therefore
we must believe that Uncle Sam Woodman
is threshing with the 10 horse power this
cold day. Clouds gathering for a
storm. A fine snow falling sifting
down like meal. Voltie & Wellie gone
threshing for Uncle Sam mittened and
muffled for an Arctic winter storm.

Another new milk cow this morning.

A cold time for calves. Indoors all
is warmth and pleasantness. Our work
is getting the meals, washing dishes,
baking bread, setting buckwheat cakes,
knitting. Maud and Beatrice transferring
pictures on transparent paper
from the Spencerman drawing book
Voltie goes for the mail, a letter from Harry

one from Donald Frasier, two newspapers, "Hours at home", & "Sunshine". A cold night. Voltie a long time at the barn looking after the stock. Made a dozen candles. B.R.

Wednesday 8th January 1895

Another cold morning. The ground covered with the snow of yesterday. The Woodmans are yet threshing. W. Jr & Devolson help thresh in p.m. Eveline sent as a present to me a beautiful new skirt which was a very pleasant surprise. But its just like Eveline to be thoughtful of, and good to others. Irene churned and made 7 butter prints and sent Eveline 3 of them. Shelly here this P.M. Grace & V went to Mr Niles in the evening and found the boys i.e. Geo & Wall had gone to Horns and Mrs & Mr N gone to Wills. therefore G.D. visited with Shell and Ina and Jack while Voltie in company with

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Frank W and Ed Weaver went calling on Old Mrs Flynn. A dance in progress at J Wilkinson's Friday evening of this week. V & G came home at 1/2 9 p.m. A circle encircles the sun which indicates a storm.

Thursday 9 January 1896

Weather more mild: Snow fast falling. This morning ate breakfast by candle light. Wells Sr Wells Jr & Devolson cross the river on ice. Sr going to Clayton and Jr & V going for the kerosine and possibly may go to the Cape. I finished Marjorie's stockings which makes the 4th pair I have knit for Bells children. Grace cleans floors. Wallace N here:

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Friday 10 January 1896

Rachel came over to day and brought a quantity of cloth for a quilt.

Saturday 11 Jan 1896

A very pleasant day. Grace swept and dusted all the rooms, parlor, sitting room, dining room pantry, bedrooms, kitchen.

Beatrice & I go with V in cutter on the ice to Wellie's to see the things Ada sent Eveline from Rochester. E pleased with the new books and Muriel with her doll.

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B B

Sunday 12 January 1896

A very quiet Sabbath day, all resting and reading except Irene B reads nor rests all day. V & G intending to carry Beatrice home in cutter but storm snows and blows so from the South they stay home till after dinner when V drives over home with Beatrice. Rachel wanting to go home but stays all night for her boots are very bad for walking.

Monday 13 January 1896

Temperature of weather moderate (or medium) Cloudy with dark masses of clouds lying off to Southward. This is written before breakfast which is nearly ready. Our men waiting a few minutes. After break fast

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Wells Sr goes to OBriens to get two shoes set on Jess's hind feet. V working in the shop. Wellie brought up the grist. Gave Will H flour. Will Winmill came across the river looking for straw. Straw is \$8 dollars per load. Hay from \$16 to 18 dollars per tun. R went home on the sleigh with Wellie. Winmill ate dinner with us. Will & Charlie came over & Voltie helped Will rig the bat winge sail to the ice yacht and away the skim over the the St Lawrence. Began snowing about 1/2 past 3 pm faster than ever so thick the snow is falling can scarcely see the base. Wellie here and went home on the ice through the falling snow after supper. V went to Jr's on the ice and stayed till bed time scarcely any wind. D Breakey drove in here to engage W.D. to assist him while plowing

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Tuesday 14 January 1896

Arose early. Breakfast by candle light. Wells Sr gone to the Ferry for coal. gone all day brought home sugar, onions, coal, raisons. Maud went to school this morning. Went with Wells as far as the school house. Spent the fore noon writing letters. Wrote to Mrs Lindley & Watson. After noon worked in pasture. Frank down here running nets for fish. Welly and Ed up here awhile. Welly & Voltie sawing wood for night. A clear fair day growing colder freezing.

Wednesday 15 January

A fair winter day. Ed Bates here helping set sturgeon nets. Wells Sr drove with Maude to school went to OBrien's came home and drove to J Niles with a bag of coal we have been owing him for a year. W sold

John Flynn a cow for 21 dollars.
Devolson drove over for his grandmother,
soup for dinner. Grace
patching my block dress. I cleaned cupboard
in pantry. Wellie started for the
Adirondack mountains to day.
Grace & Volty going to the Morgans
this evening. Went—drove Jess. She
kicked scared and nearly broke the
cutter coming home, stayed till eleven
p.m.—nearly midnight when they return. I sleep on
the couch. Sleep warm enough but
miserable.

Thursday 16 Jan 1895

Awoke this morning with a
lame back. Wind South and cold,
cloudy looks like snow with barometer
pointing fair. Bamford Sr at OBriens getting
cutter irons. V & Ed Bates running fish
nets a fine pike. Grace makes mince pies,
cookies & biscuits. Slept up stairs on the slat
bed.

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Friday 17th January 1896

A fair winter day,
snow not deep any where. Charlie Woodman
here at the black smith shop.
Charlie W & Will Dixon help Voltie
butcher beef. I churn and make
butter prints for market (8 prints). We dress
8 turkeys for market and get
every thing ready for tomorrow's
market: my back so lame can scarcely
walk. Sleep on lounge.

Saturday 18 Jan 1896

A very fair day. Volty,
Grace and Will Dixon gone to the
city on O'Brien's bobsleigh and return
after dark bringing Nellie Guy with
them. Maud & I work like split all
day doing Saturday work, pantry & dining
room scrubbed, swept, made beds, cooked
and by the time they arrived from the
city had everything
in shining order, parlor, sitting
room, dining room, bedrooms, and

pantry. Wells Sr cleaned the kitchen
but I'm tired, but all is bright,
warm and cozy with supper on
the table and they come ladened
with good cheer and bright faces,
after tea the visit begins in earnest.
Nell & Voltie play the piano. Well
12 O'clock midnight all retire for
the night. Sleep on lounge.

Sunday 19 Jan 1896

A snowy morning. A dreary
prospect without but happy
and contented heart's within doors
to stormy to go to church. [Lauett?]
visiting and reading all day. Voltie
drives over to Wall's taking his grandmother
home but they set up so late at
night. Frank Woodman came down
and stayed all evening. Sleep in south
bedroom.

Monday 20 Jan 1896

A fine winter morning
weather moderatley fine. Wells Sr
goes to Kingston to pay some
small bills and returns early
E old Bates account carried by Will
drives to Maryville with a load
of potatoes for Baker. Nell and

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ate breakfast at 1/2 past nine.
City style I suppose. Grace
got a bad cold. Wells Sr comes
home before dark bringing cough
medicine for Grace, and
a great package of candy which
is joyfully accepted by the young
folks. Set up late again this evening
for tomorrow Nellie has to return to
the city. Well Marjorie came home
from school with Maude bringing
her school books and clothes in
a basket. She came down with her
father when he came to OBriens
blacksmith shop, dear little Marjorie
is not gong to be cheated of her visit,
Beatrice & Irene having made
theirs. Sleep on lounge.

Tuesday 21 Jan 1896

A fine winter day cloudy and warm
coast driving on the ice going to
Kingston with heavy loads of
hay. Davis & Will Allen with
each a toll house & brick

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ice. Devolson drove up to Kingston
on ice taking Nelly home.

McKinn & Connely here to day
staying last night at Charleys
and have drove back there to
stay over night again. V came
home at night 6 O'clock p.m.

Wells drove to school for M & M.
Sleep in my own bed.

Wednesday 22 January 1896

A beautiful winter day somewhat
colder. Wind North bright and clear
good sleighing. V drove down the
ice for Sadie. She going to make
Grace's ball dress. McKinn &
Donely here to dinner, went as they
came. V carried M & M to school
on jumper. George Niles drove for
them at evening. A party small
and select at Mr OBriens this
evening. G & V attended but when
V drove down for Dora too She could

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not come, having evening visitors
and Mrs Gillespie sent Sade
a note saying she didn't like her
daughter to attend dancing parties.
So S like a good obedient disapointed
child, stayed home. The party dispersed
at 12 midnight. Sleep on lounge.

Thursday 23rd January 1896

A dull cloudy day Wind N.E.

Sarah finishes G's dress. V, George
and Wallace bush a road form here
to the U.S.A. by the elem [sic] tree below
Beadles. Sarah finishes Grace dress.
Sleep on the lounge.

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Friday 24th January 1896

Raining and freezing: ice
on every thing, trees bending under
their load of ice. Sarah is obliged
to stay all day which does not appear
to be very disappointing, she reads and
makes a small wall which is very
pretty. A letter from Flora and
one from Nelly Guy with V's photograph
proofs. M & M stay home to day from
school on account of rain. Will here
awhile. Evening in parlor. Piano
playing by Grace . [Wailying?] by V & S
at 10 pm I succeeded in driving them
all to bed. I sleep on lounge

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Saturday 25 January 1896

A soft snowy day.

Eaves running a tub full of soft water. Voltie drove to Mr Gillespies with Sarah. R came over for butter milk (walked over). Will & Charlie running their pike nets caught a big sturgeon in a pike net which was a surprise. R brought some [illegible] and dried corn. A row at the lower school. M & M studying arithmetic and sewing carpet rags. I'm very sleepy. Grace cleaning floors. I tidied up the pantry shelves Voltie from his nets took 6 perch and one sucker. W. Jr here got a cold in head. Voltie in the evening went to C.M Woodman's to see Frank about going to the U.S.A. Ball at [illegible] with two horses, in order

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