

**Irene Dixon Bamford 1904 November to 1905 May,
Diary Transcription**

5034_4-1-13

Metadata

FromThePage export of 5034_4-1-13 from Irene Dixon Bamford made on 2026-02-11 14:35:17 UTC.

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IRENE DIXON BAMFORD DIARY Nov. 1904- May 1905 1904-1905

Queen's University Archives

Locator 5034.4

Box 1

File 13

2

Nov. 1904 – May 1905

3

Re-Read
'76 - '84

4

[diary cover with various non-descript scribbings]

Marjorie

17-1/2 eggs

12 eggs

84

17

204

[affixed stamp]

R

Date 1905

Sealed with Gulfwax

11 butter

17 price per lb

77

11

1,87

2,04

6

8,97

5

Re-Read

'76 -

6

1

Tuesday 25 Oct 1904

A miserable raw rainy day

Wind S W & blowing half a gale

Suppose 'Tis a whole gale on the
lakes

Thursday 4 May 1905

A dismal rainy chilly morning

V drove to the dock carrying Rachel

I send the butter by Rachel for
groceries and things. V brought home

the new incubator which had been

sent down from the villiage on

the Wolfe Island. The name

of the boat has been changed from

Tom Fosset for Wolfe Islander.

Volta set up the incubator but did'nt

put in the eggs but has gone over there

to ditch. Volta drove to dock

for Rachel & groceries

7

Friday 5 May 1905

A rainy wet morning

Thunder heavy in night
with very vivid lightning.

I pulled the curtains down
to keep out the glare of the
bright flashes of lightning.

A regluar [sic] down pour of
rain in night. Voltie

got a stiff and swollen neck
on left shoulder. I doctor

it with worm wood vinegar and
salt as hot as I can bringing
it out, a little better at 9 am.

Maud has to wash separator
breakfast dishes get dinner &c.

Sent a letter to Amanda Dies

Voltie carries it Post Office

A.M.

[various scribblings of letter A]

8

3

Saturday 6 May 1905

A sloppy day we cooked and
cleaned floors, made punkin [sic] pies &c.

Majorie & Irene came after dark
driving old Jake with top buggy
so we sat up quite late visiting

[Image: pencil sketch 'Lafargeville R']

Art Vincent, Bob Reid & Len

Patterson came over rowed across ~~and~~
in Green Farr's skiff, wet to the
pelt where the skiff had shipped water.

so we have company to dinner

Majorie and her betrothed Jo walking
down in cedars. Irene calls it

"lovers retreat". The gals go home at
5 p.m. boys cant go wind blows

so but stay all night.

Continued on 5 page

9

4

Saturday 30 Oct 1904

Evening, Dont think I was ever so tired as I am this night and alone, no one to help and Voltie gone to the villiage after plowing all fore noon, gone for coal and new plow. I cant get around very well I am so lame with rheumatism, shoats all turned out the pen this morning 12 or 19, rooting up every thing well let them go; I dont care. Wells Sr got all the chores to do this pm alone, milk, feed hogs, stew pumpkins for hogs out doors, go and draw a load of brush and wood to put around the kettle out doors. I feed the lame duck after the chickens go to roost. Oh I must go and put wood in stove to keep the supper warm dont know when Voltie will come, tis 8 pm now. he may not come tonight. I hope he may. He came

10

5

Monday 8 May 1905

The wind hushed and gone to rest this morning and those lads leave for Depauville. Rains again towards night. V makes cabbage bed and sows 4 papers of cabbage seed and sets out the dahlias.

Tuesday 9 May 1905

A cold windy day and squally. Maude paints the pantry and floor. V finished setting strawberry plants. 700 plants. Dad plows. I cook, wash dishes & churn. Mail; Good Storries, Whig, Agricultural dispatch, letter from Grace and one from John. V tested the eggs in incubator all good but one, then he accidentally broke one. He set the alarm and got up twice to examine the temperature in incubator

11

This is 20 May Saturday 1905
Have not written in this diary
since 9th of May, many events have
occured since then; my dear old
mother died on the 12 of May 1905
of paralysis at the age of nearly 90 years.
Frank Woodman came over to tell
us. Sunday the body was brought to
the island and laid in the vault as
it was her request to be burried here.
Voltie went for Belle, and she came
home with him and staid till after
the funeral. Will and Flora, Ethel, Lottie,
Belle, Charley, Mary, William & Stanley
Woodman and Rachel and Frank Woodman
and Johny Bamford here to dinner.
Voltie carried them all back over the
river, they went in two skiffs. V rowing
one and Will D the other. V came back
towing one of the skiff home again
through the thick fog on the river.
The weather is disagreeable, windy rainy
and cold. I think V has lost all
his tomato plants by setting them
out on a cold windy day, plants will die.

12

sure, this very morning is nearly cold to freeze.

V coal tared [sic] the punt this morning
going to set a net for fish. The

spring work goes slowly on; onions, cabbage,
lettuce, peas are sowed &c. Rachel and
Lottie came over awhile after dinner.

Mr Roadhouse came down from the cemetery
made a long prayer.

Sunday 28 May 1905 month nearly gone

Not clear and bright but cloudy

yesterday (Saturday). V arose early went
to Kingston driving up by the road to

the villiage. chickens hatching in the incubator.

V came bringing brooder and groceries and
woven wire for chicken yard. Evening

visitors Mr & Mrs Daily, Rube & Mary McFadden
Robert Percy & Bob Henderson'

This morning Voltie

took the chickens from the incubator

80 of them and tranfered them
to the brooder.

13

Saturday 19 Nov 1904

The most beautiful Nov. day
I ever saw, warm, bright like
June. Wells Sr shingling stable. Voltie
building addition to poultry house.
Maud done the Saturdays cleaning up.
Irene made pumpkin pies, fried cakes,
cooked breakfast, dinner & supper
& washed all the dishes and separator.

Wednesday 8 Nov 1904

Not a very bad day for the season.
Dress 7 fowl & two ducks for
market. Rachel came over and
helped me finnish [sic] picking fowl
and staid—no she didnt
and sent her shoe over here
for Maud to take to Kingston
for repair. V plowing another

14

November

Sunday 20 1904

A warm hazy day, wind south blowing rather briskly. Very heavy thunder in the night but little rain. There has been no rain or snow for nearly three weeks, though the ground is, or has been frozen so hard, plowing could not be done for more than a week ago. It is a drouth [sic] in November a very unusual thing, or occurrence for this month. I sat down to write in the diary and wandered off into dream land for half an hour or more when Maud arouses me to pare apples for dinner. Sr up stairs all forenoon. The sky is overcast with thick dark clouds and so thick and smoky Carleton Island is entirely hidden from view. Away off in the South we hear the rumbling of distant thunder but no rain.

15

Monday 21 Nov 1904

A beautiful day N wind
not cold. Wells Sr & Voltie
plowing over the way. June cut
out the pillow ticking. Maud made
one and took the last of the pumpkin
from the poles and Irene put it in
the bag and washed separator and
mixed bread and washed the Churn
and prepared for churning, washes
dishes and helped get dinner.
Maud swept and made beds.

Tuesday 22nd Nov 1904

A fine day and also the
anniversary of my birth 71 years
old to day. I am nearing the other
shore. I wrote and send a
letter to Jen. This is a very poor
pen and worse ink. I'm
sleepy and go fast asleep while
writing. The Weekly Herald
didnt come.

16

Wednesday 23rd Nov 1904

A beautiful day. Voltie buchered [sic] six hogs for market. Charley Woodman helping also Mr McGreggor. I made butter prints 18 lbs for market.

Thursday 24 Nov 1904

Arose at 4 a.m. Voltie going to market with butter and pork. Voltie paid Rogers \$50 dollars on rent. Sent Grace a little basket. A dirty rainy day with flurries of snow

17

Friday 25th Nov 1904

Every thing white with snow.

Voltie went to Geo Rattrays and brought home the cheese together with the lumber for the veranda. A cloudy uncomfortable day growing colder. Sr making a flail to thresh beans. V working in shop till dinner time. Charley Woodman here for buggy tongue.

Wish I could have sent Belle a letter, my poor dear Belle. I dont see her very often, wish I could.

A letter from Flora B, Whig, Hearthstone.

Thursday 9 Nov 1905

Arose at 1/2 past four and pack the fowl in a bushel basket.

I send Grace 1 doz eggs and some apples. Eggs are 30 cts per doz. This is King Edwards birthday. ducks 10 cts per lb and hens only 6 per lb at the fish market. Rachel came over with Voltie and helped me all day

18

~~Saturday 26 Nov 1904~~

and staid all night. The weather
very good. Voltie plowing "over there".

Saturday 27 Nov 1904

19

Monday 28 Nov 1904

Tuesday 29 November

A dirty nasty day. Wind South.

Sr & V drawing out manure

from back of stable. I subscribed

to day for American Home &

Northwestern Agriculturist & Womans

Farm journal & Good Stories.

So that now with Good Litterature

we have renewed 5 papers.

Evening, Voltie goes for mail,

Whig, Dispatch, N agriculturist, American

Woman (Saturday Chicago Blade), no letters.

20

Wednesday 30 Nov 1904

Another dirty nasty day. Wind South. Sr and V go over to plow but soon come home again. They cant plow through the snow banks.

Thursday 1 December 1904

The coldest day yet
subscribed for Hearthstone
and Home Journal, sent
Belle a letter and remailed
Jean's letter from Shannonville.
Voltie enclosing the veranda
with new boards.

21

Friday 2nd December 1904

3rd

22

4th

5

23

6

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25

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11

26

16

17 December

A beautiful day.

Trees covered with a lace work
of frost.

27

Saturday 18 December

18 Didn't rise early as usual.

First outsider came.

Charley Woodman to sample our cider and after drinking a qt, V went with him to the Loban place to do the chores and feed his hogs. Next came Alice Mackey. V put her horse in stable. She staid till 8 pm, next came Walac Niles sampling our grape wine. Maud went to church a congregation of 6 people.

Monday 19 December

19. Wind South East and snowing 2 deg ~~above~~ below zero. V working in shop. Sr patching some old harness or some thing else in kitchen with alls and clomps and leather, he always patches old duds in the house on stormy days.

28

Maude Watson

St Lawrence PO

Wolfe Island

Ont

Can

Maud

Watson

28

\$1,864 Laidlaw

1,35 mill

1,25 shoes

.75 whiskey

.25 Muriel

.25 fares

5 scribler

7 8 Groceries

[subtotal] 6,57 freight

29

30 December Friday

Arose at 4 am. Voltie gone
to Kingston with beef and butter.
Came home at 7 pm. Arthur Vincent
with him from Belles where he has been
since last saturday. He came over to
Christmas all night. V brought home a
lot of things, groceries, books, blankets &c.
he has had a very good day.

31 December Saturday

Another fine day, warm snow
rapidly disapearing. Tom Chatterton
came last night as far as OBriens when
he staid all night and this morning.
He came and went across the river
with A.P. Tom is going to work
for him.

1 January Sunday 1905

A dreary day but not cold,
slush and mud every where.
Maud went to church am; after
dinner went to Niles to make a visit,
came home before dark. Byron Irvine there
courting Shell. I think they should marry for
they have courted five years and that is
long enough. Henry Halliday came here visiting
put his horse in stable, came early & staid till 9 pm,
wouldnt eat any supper but sat at foot of table &
looked on, very odd—eccentric.

2nd January Monday 1905

A cloudy nasty day not cold,
snow nearly all gone. Voltie goes
to township election, comes back
to dinner then goes to Alice Mackeys
to hang an outside door. Comes just in
time to help milk. I write a letter to
Will. After the supper dishes are
washed we sit by the coal fire and
read till 1/2 past 10 pm. except I
finger off a mitten.

31

3rd January 1905 Tuesday

A very cold day. Wind North,
windows covered thick with frost.

Voltie brought water for Maud to wash
and put up the new clothes line
then went to P.O. to mail a letter
I'm sending to Will, came back and
wroked in shop shoeing old Nell.

After ~~dinner~~ breakfast I patch V's old pants,
wash all the dishes, pots, pans & kettle
& get dinner. Maud washing. Sr caulking
cellar door. After dinner we set around
the coal stove. V & M reads. I write
in diary. This is a dismal, dreary
cloudy, cold day. Its been a
good big washing. Not much
snow on the ground any where,
growing colder, frost on window
like snow 3 pm. V still in black
smith shop. Agricultures, Whig,
Dispatch, Herald, American Woman,
Home magazine, American home.
A letter from John, a letter from Grace.

Wednesday 4 January 1905

Cold but very bright day sun shining out clear all day. I finished washing the clothes & Maud hung them out and all the other clothes, a big washing. After dinner Sr and V went to the island for a jag of wood and bushed the road as they went across, ice smooth and good for skaters so Maud put on her skates and away she went to Niles carrying their butter basket. I washed dinner dishes, fixed separator, set the sponge and picked over and put the beans cooking. Maud came home and after supper went out again on the ice but didn't stay long. We sat up till nearly 1/2 past 10 pm reading.

Thursday 5 January 1905

A very fine day but terrible cold. Roderick Jr helps. Voltie draw wood from Lindas island. 4 loads: Maud went skating pm. and helped get supper and then went again. Rod staid a long time after supper at sun set it looks like a storm. V brought in the clothes after dark.

33

Friday 6 Jan 1905

A stormy day, Wind

N.E. Cant draw wood

to day skating all spoiled. Maud

is sorry, I not sorry but I'm

sorry Maud burnt my new apron

Belle sent me for Christmas by

drying. subscribed to day for

Herald Vickerys fire side and

sent V.P. Collins 25 cts for

Agriculturist. Maud made fruit cake.

I made pumkin [sic] pies, churned and

worked over butter. We sat up till

then to read, only one hen

laying each day one egg.

Rachels old hen equal to grinnes old

hen. So stormy P didn't go

for our mail.

34

Saturday 7 Jun 1905

Rains this morning but earth
covered deep with snow, skating ruined.

V (after breakfast) went for mail; only
Whig & Herald, a disappointment.

We expected the Hearthstone.

V brought the sad news that little Samy Woodman
had his hand nearly taken
off in one of those DeLaval Separators.

Charley had to break the separator
with the axe before he could get his
hand free. They sent for Dr Spankey,
he came last night. We sat up
late to read; hard work to get water
to cook meals; snow is deep between river here area.

Sunday

A stormy day, Charley
forgot to get V's tobacco alone.

All day we ate our meals & read.

35

Monday 9 January 1905

A cloudy stormy day.

Maud cleaned pantry
very nicely & cooked and
done most all the house work.

V and Sr started for the
Island for wood but the
storm turned them back.

Bob Henderson here in the evening
brought tobacco for V.

Wal had been to the bay
in cutter. Miss Maud, LWatson

St Lawrence Island

Wolfe Island

Ont.

[random cost additions in pencil]

Tuesday 10 January 1905

The snow blizzard raged
all night. The sun shines out
to day but the snow is flying
as if the demon was in the
swirling sweeping wind. Charley
started early and carried little
[Little Samy|Samy]] up to the doctors.

I wrote and sent letters one to
Will and one to Belle. Sr
as usual patching old horse
blankets in the kitchen.

I have no ink it is all used up
never could write with pencil.

A letter from Nellie Bamford.

Wednesday 11 Jan 1905

Raining this morning and
freezing. V working in shop.

Sr puttering around as
usual.

37

Thursday 12 Jan 1905

A not very good day I guess.

V says he will not attempt
to drag any more wood from
Lindas till the roads settle.

The snow crust is hard and
thick.

Friday 13 Jan 1905

Friday 13 Jan 1905

A very good day. I dressed
9 roosters and one drake
for market also made 13
prints for market. V went for
mail; Chad Woodman till pm.
Mail Herald, Good Litterature,
Womans World, Whig &
Agriculturist, Sunday observation.

27 My Dear Friend Rene

It has been a long time since I received your precious letter which I treasure as a keep sake from your dear self. I have been visiting Grace for three weeks at her home in Kingston and had a lovely time. I went to the opera and matinees and other places of amusement and came home 2 days before Xmas. This is a strange winter, no ice nor snow for sleighing only mud every where. The old St Lawrence is rolling wild and free with the white caped waves dashing high on shore. I wouldnt mind it so much only Voltie said we would go to the masquerade at Depauville which is less than three weeks from this time and I had my dress all planed [sic] and have been thinking about it so long and now I know I cant go. Oh it is an

39

29 Sunday January 1905

30th January Monday 1905

I am tired of writing letters sometimes,
recently I have thought and wished that
people would write to me no more. Then
I suppose I'd be sorry if I never
heard from Wellie, Johny, Belle and
Grace. A clear bright cold day.
Arthur Vincent said Voltie went to
Lindas for wood, gone to
am till 4 pm, snow so deep
9 feet around the island.

31 Jan 1905 Tuesday

[continuation of letter written on blank spaces]

awful thing to live on an island
and want to go some where and
cant. Its like being banished though
this island is 30 miles long
and such a beautiful place in summer.

I send you piece of one of my
Xmas presents, 4 yds for a waist,
my father sent it. I'm not going
to have it made till spring with white
silk lace. Sometime when I am in

[diary day placeholder date written here]

1 February Wednesday 1905

Kingston I will get some pretty
post cards of the scenery in water
around Kingston and send them
to you enclosed in an envelope
and then you can address them
to whom you please or keep them.

The fellow you mentioned in your
lettter (Mr Longshort) I dont
know much about him. I think
he is all right any way he is not
bad looking, quite gentlemanly in appearance
and a fine dancer. Last night
we received a letter from
Marjorie, she said Ethel Dixon

41

2 at Floras for a week.

Tis fine thing to live in broad [sic]

Jefferson Co then you can go

any time and whenever you

please. but poor little me

cant go not even to the

masquerade at Depauville.

Dear Rena please write

again. From your loving

friend Maude L Watson

[random additions]

42

4 Saturday February 1905

Looked for Voltie nearly all day.
Just after dark our team came
bringing Spaff and Frances Joy
and their kid Florence. In a
few minutes Voltie came
having rode down with Charley Woodman.

I dont believe I was
glad to see the Joys for it put us to
a great deal of inconvenience. This is
a beautiful day, sun bright and clear.

5 Sunday February 1905

Towards noon Spaff and Frances
walked to Niles that young one
going along. I glad they are gone
for Voltie always has to sleep on
the bindstead loun [sic]: when ever
any one comes to stay all night.
No church service to day.

43

Monday 6 February 1905

A cloudy day a little rain and a little snow. Wind East cold. Alice Mackey came for cider for mince pies. I gave her some beans. I made one fan block for quilt, cooked beans, roasted beef, freshened pickles. Bob Horn & Geo Snub drove in here inviting to a dance at Dick Hallidays tomorrow evening. Voltie threshed the Van beans. Marjorie getting restless about going home. Maud making rug.

Tuesday 7 February 1905

The day proved fine so Voltie, Marjorie and Maud went to Dick Hallidays to the dance after he went for the mail.

44

8 February Wednesday

Voltie slept about an hour. The girls slept till nearly noon when I gave the work into their hands and sat myself down to piece a quilt and enjoy the warmth of the coal stove which I most thoroughly did for I was very tired. it came on to storm snowing and blowing. Voltie had a saw log all ready on the sleigh to draw to Kingston or Garden Island to be sawed to make beadstead and otherwise, but couldnt go on account of storm and bad roads.

9 February Thursday 1905

A terrible day for storm and wind and snow; log on the sleigh by the coal box, snow piled every where there has not been a thaw thro winter. Sr sick with a terrible cold a distemper I think, he has a cold all winter.

45

Friday 10 February 1905

Snow and storm. Charley Woodman floundered his way through for the mail. Tom Dignam drove as far as consession said he could get no further, wants to buy potatoes.

Saturday 11 February 1905

A very bad day, snow six feet between here and the barn, 5 feet between here and the river, awful time to get water and to cook with and shovel roads to the river for the cattle and horses to go to drink and to clean out the water hole. just before dark looked out and said John and Flora and Gladys out to help them bring their valises to the hosue when behold it was Spaff and Frances Joy and the kid.

46

coming back again to stay all night
so Voltie had again to sleep on
the old truck bed. Alice Michea
here for more potatoes. I dont
think she likes to pay for them and
she dont pay as much as other people.

Sunday 12 February 1905

The storm not over yet. after
breakfast V hitched up and drove
away with our New Liskeard visitors
to Geo Ratrays, storm increasing,
snow deeper than ever; a long
peaceful day: Wall Niles here.

Monday 13 February

Sun shines out clear part of the day, cold
cold every day. I am coming down
with the terrible distemper.

47

Tuesday 14 February 1905

A very cold day. I helped get breakfast and could do no more, dont feel well, got the distemper. Voltie coming down with it too, head ache awful. Girls done house work and made rugs. I made rugs too; I dont like to give up. I never saw so much snow on the ground as now, and it looks like another storm. Charley went for the mail. Spaff Joy went up with him. Geo Rattray here for potatoes and paid Voltie four dollars on account. Snowing again harder than ever. I dont eat any supper. Voltie goes for the mail; Whig, Dispatch, Good Storries, Woman's farm journal, a seed catalogue from Mills and a postal from Nellie Brooks and a book from Dingman and Puglesly ought ot have two

48

Wednesday 15th February 1905

Snowing all night, snow deeper than ever, no traveling, people waiting for a thaw, our North window half covered with the piled up snow. Bob Reid helping.

Voltie pitch straw in barn and staid in evening till bed time.

Thursday 16 February 1905

Very cold morning, thermometer 22 below zero. Wrote to Nell Brooks and to Hearthstone for her and send her a paper. Snow all day and increasing toward night. Maud washed but couldnt hang out the clothes for wind and storm.

Girls, after dinner worked on rugs till time to get tea.

49

Friday 17th February 1905

Storming and snowing all night
and all this day and blowing
and snow flying, drifts piling
higher & higher. We can yet see
the top of our barn. Voltie carried
the mail to PO but dont think
Charley will go for the mail to day.
Wal Niles drove to River View yesterday.
Said not much water on ice, only
along the shore; he came this am
and brought home the tobaco.
I darn a pair of mittens for Voltie.
Charley went for mail
found the travelling awful and
got lost in a blizzard, found
himself in the wire fence in Niles
field. so late V didn't go for
mail this evening. I sent Mrs Brooks
a letter and paper and wrote to Hearthstone
for her.

50

Saturday 18 Feb 1905

A cold clear day wind S.W.
and blowing. Maud hung out the clothes
towards night. V brought them in.
I cooked beans, freshened cucumber
pickles, set yeast, sowed on rugs.
Maud moped floors we are short
of groceries. Want soap, sugar, tea
and rolled wheat but dont know
when but dont know can get any
where to get any

Sunday 19th February 1905

A clear bright cold morning 18 Deg
below zero, no thaw yet and no
tea. Voltie went to uncle Sams to borrow
tea, they had none nor McGreggors
had any. Rody gone to River View
for tea. Voltie sent by him for tea
and sugar. heay [sic] crossing on ice.
Henry Halliday & Mr William McNeely
came calling. McNeely staid to supper,
a great conversationalitst [sic] about politics
and Government affairs; a conservation

Monday 20 February 1905

A little warmer but cloudy and the wind is blowing and snow flying. Girls making rugs. Thawing some this pm, snow settling a little. Bob Reid and McNeely undertook to go to Depauville, got as far as the other side to Quinn Beadles, found the roads impassable, turned about and came back again.

Tuesday 21st February 1905

A warmer day, snow settling some sun shines but not very brilliant. Old Prince dog gone this morning went off last night after dark after being gone all day yesterday and now at 12 noon he's not come home and probably never will. he came home long enough to get a good square meal and went away again. Reid & McNeely again try to get to Depauville, guess they will succeed [sic]

this time. Robert came down a few minutes and I sent our letters by him, one to Puglesly and Dingman and one to Womans World. Sr sent one to Supervisor Cape Vincent. Arthur Vincent and Tom Chatterton came across the ice. Stay over night; horse tired out. Looks like storm. Did not get any books Whig, Dispatch, Vickery's fire side visitor, Parks Floral magazine. Wedney [sic] 22 February 1905 Vincent Chatterton and Majorie went home to day. Weather cloudy but not cold, slush on the shore road to the top of cutter so we are done once more. On evening Voltie and Bob Reid drove to the corner for kerosine for the Woodmans, came home at 10 pm all abed but me

53

Voltie bought matches, sugar,
and yeast cakes, thimble,
tobaco

Thursday 23rd February 1895

Sent this morning by Snub
for 6 bars comfort soap
and 1 lb tea then drove
to Clayton for coal, only
got 200 lbs for they had
no chestnut coal. Maud went
with Voltie goes to Lib Bamfords.
They came home early. The day
is fine and warm snow
settling. Lib and I have
a circulating library between
ourselves.

54

Friday 24 February 1905

Colder again this morning but clear. Voltie gone to Kingston for coal & carried 3 bags of potatoes, a basket of beans & 5 doz eggs and I sent 50 cts for an express order for seeds, bulbs and the Home Magazine & V came bacck from Charley's. Belle and Henry came too. Voltie came just at sun down bringing coal & groceries.

Saturday 25 February 1905

Clear warm day, snow settling slowly. V drives over to Geo Rattray to ask him to go with him to Wellies. Maud went to Niles for buttermilk & forgot to ask for the Book.

55

Sunday 26 Feb 1905

A beautiful day. Another load from the "other side". Aday and her two youngest girls and old Dilason and Ben Percy. V came drunk as usual and as usual, I swears and talks like a fool. Lib returned the Book I lent her "The Virginian" had no use for it, traded of "Cow boys". Had it been some antiPopery book it would have been read with gusto. I returned her book which she sent over by Maud so our exchange library is ended. I lent the book to Adda. In the evening, Rady and Geo OBrien came to invite to a dance at Flynn's and so ends the day. P.S. only brought in two eggs this day, no potatoes cooked for the hens, cow not milked, one egg

Monday 27th February 1905

A beautiful fair morning colder.

The effect of yesterday's debauchery by Van Bamford and Ben Percy is still very depressing to mind and memory. Did not do much this day. A dance at Flynns this evening. Maude dont go. 2 eggs.

Tuesday 28 February 1905

Cloudy this morning snowing a little in the night.

Maude went to post office carrying a letter for Belle to Marjorie and one I sent to Grace & Robert. She brought back the news that Shell & Byron are married last night at 7 O'clock pm.

A regular sneak weding [sic] a Niles weding. Alice Mackey here for turnips. Only White and Northern Agriculturist. A clear starlight evening. 0 eggs to day, hens ate them up. Nothing looked after as it should be when Voltie is gone.

57

Wednesday 1st March 1905

A clear bright day & cold heavy frost on all the windows. We expect Voltie home to day. Maude washing. Sr gone to Cape to pay taxes on the island. Belle reading Capt Eri in Hearthstone. I washed colored clothes. Sr came back before dinner going no farther than River View, sent the tax money by Mr White. Charley came down for Belle and stayed all night. Evening visitors Eva Pike & Nez Niles. Eva inviting to party to her home tomorrow evening.

March 2n 1905

A clear bright day. Charley and Belle went home this morning. Expect Voltie home this day for sure. This is the hour of 10 pm. Dont know what I may record before night, nothing bad I hope. Voltie came home at 5 pm had a fine visit. Wellie has moved, Voltie and Will helped. Wellie more very near Watertown, fine farm 30 cows. A knapp got back to John

58

Friday 3rd March 1905

Cloudy this morning a light snow fell in the night. Maude very anxious to go across the river to the dance at the Corners. Charley Woodman called had a fine time at the party last night. After dinner Voltie went across the river to try the ice and Maud went across with him to Adda Percy's to go with them to the dance tonight with Adda's young people. V going to try and draw a saw log to Clayton tomorrow if the ice permits. V returns saying cant go to Clayton so many pitch holes in the road so concludes to draw the log to ~~Clayton~~ Kingston tomorrow morning. not much mail only Herald and Whig and a letter from John. night sets in dark and cloudy looks like a storm

Saturday 4th March 1905

A snowy blustering morning wind
North. Voltie dont go to Kingston
nor any where else. roads are again
drifted full, clears off at noon
but the wind blows. Charley Woodman
here to have his hair cut and brings
an invitation for V & M to attend
a party at A Berries. Voltie drove
over for Maud, she relates all
about the party and her visit to addas.
We read till 11 pm. Roseveldt's [sic]
inauguration day.

Sunday 5 March 1905

Cloudy again to day. Wind North,
an awful depth of snow on the ground.
1/2 past 11 am and no visitors, we like
a quiet sabath. I have just finished
reading "The Light of Asia" by
Sir Edwin Arnold a masterpiece of
the mind. I wish I could get his
biography. Maud asleep on the lounge.
Voltie at the shop. Wells Sr paring
potatoes for dinner. The day passed quietly,
no visitors. I write a letter to Grace

60

March 6th Monday 1905

A clear day cold snow very deep.

Voltie and Sr still has to go over the snow hill to get to the barn.

Rheumatism has poor me firm in its chitches and I dont believe I'll ever get over it. I'm discouraged over it.

Voltie went to Woodmans for his fur coat. Edy Bates here inviting to his dance to night at St Lawrence hall. V and M go to the dance.

Charley Woodman goes to Al Berry's A dance and oyster supper at Dick Hallidays for the chosen friends this evening.

Tuesday 7 March 1905

V and Maud didn't get back from the dance till after breakfast this morn.

V bought C Halliday 9 bags of tobacco (\$1,00). After dinner V goes over to Quinn Beadles with beans 3 bushels. Mail Whig Dispatch, Womans World, Heathstone, Good Litterature & New Thought, and "The Streket Monster a postal from Nell a letter about the island.

Wednesday 8 March 1905

A stormy day snow falling fast and furious and blowing too. going to begin working better than ever. I'll count some things done in this diary to day. Made a chemise for my self and made the sleeves to small, help do house work and make me help V get ready for Kingston tomorrow.

Thursday 9th March 1905

A very fine day. Voltie goes to Kingston carrying beans, potatoes. I sent Grace a few apples; made rug to day, done my work over. Voltie came early bringing Robert with him. Wal came also. A new boy at Geo Niles; their first baby.

Friday 10 March 1905

A soft day. After dinner V and R.A.G. drives over to Maloney's. V going to Quinn's carrying J his tea. To day I sent away for seeds from J.B. Mills and to Presleys for 2 books &c &c. R & P drive over to Maloneys. They take Quinns tea home.

62

Saturday 11 March 1905

4 below zero this morning quite
frosty but clear 3000000000
miles of sun spot; so the papers
say. I dont believe they (whoever they are)
can measure it. V gone to Rattrays
for ice tackling of some sort.

R reading and sleeping.

We had just retired to our restful
beds and comfortably dozing
when we were suddenly awakened by
some one driving to the door
when who should prove to be but
John and Flora. Well we all got
out of bed except Dada. John had
brought his phonograph and we
got them supper and sat up till
nearly 3 pm visiting and listening
to the phonograph which is realy [sic] a
grand one.

Sunday 12 March 1905

Well Sunday was a fine day somewhat cold in the morning but clear. Flora had brought me cloth and all the trimmings for a new dress the dear good girl. Well we had another phonograph concert of thirty five records. V gave Flora his violin. I gave her — &c and they went home at dark 14 miles and the road not very good. I am sorry to see them go. Sylvia and Samy heard the concert.

Monday 13 March 1905

A very bright day but cold yet. There has been no thaw this winter. Sa and P still continues to climb the snow hill going to the barn. Voltie goes to River view for oil and calls at Quinn's for his bean money \$6.00. Robert sleeps and Read are long. V bought 5 yds print to set a quilt together. snow dont settle any 4 deg below zero.

64

Tuesday 14 March 1905

A bright cold day no thaw,
4 deg below zero; arose early got
breakfast so Robert could go to
Niles' at 7 O'clock am; going up
with Wallace Niles to Kingston. Quinn
drove over, he too going up with Wal.

V & Sr shoveling snow to make
a road to the ice house. V getting
ready to fill the ice house.

Henry Halliday came
for Voltie to help him fill his ice house
tomorrow. Voltie can't help him for
he has to go to Clayton tomorrow with
saw log. Henry here to dinner.

Maud & I cut and sew carpet rags.

Alice Michea drove here for potatoes.

Voltie went for the mail then went
to J Niles for his fur coat which Bob
had worn to Kingston and sent
back by Wall. V did not return from
Niles till 11 pm but played poker
with Niles, Wal & Muloney.

Tom Chatterton drove over with Wills here
gone up to Charley Halliday's. V gone
over to Rachel's for carpet balls for Jen.

65

Wednesday 15 March 1905

4 deg below zero this morn.

V gone to Clayton with oak log to get sawed into lumber to work up in shop. a bright clear day. Voltie came early at 1 pm & we were just rising from the table so he had a warm dinner. Henderson came with the sleigh after we were in bed, said Hank hadnt finishing fillinging [sic] his ice house. Mrs Mr Niles & Mrs Paunp went visiting Shell & Byron.

Thursday 16th March 1905

4 deg above zero this morning.

Sleighing good every where this morning the snow as deep as ever. cloudy. looks like a storm of rain or snow. Chatterton drove down from Charlies, put his horse in stable and stoped still after dinner. I sent Jen a letter. Voltie cut hole in ice and prepared for filling the ice house tomorrow

Friday 17 March 1905

A fine day. Voltie out to the place where he intended to get ice found the water and slush so deep he adjourned the job till later and went to Depauville instead for a stone boat which he paid \$2,50. Wal Niles accompanied him; ate dinner with Wells family found them well; Grandmother, better than usual

Saturday 18 March 1905

A thaw for sure this morning. Raining all day. The ground beginning to peep through the snow in places. Every thing out door look dreary and dismal. A robin trying to sing. poor thing. P.M. Maud and I cut and sewed carpet rags. "Some body laid in the vault to day—dont know where tis: Evening raining hard.

Sunday 19 March 1905

A cloudy North wind day,
growing colder. Chimney burning out
again. river beging [sic] to look streaked.

~~Wallace here to have cross cut saw
filed. Maud and I sewed rags~~

A quiet day hens eating the eggs as
fast as they are laid.

20 March 1905

Monday cold and freezing.

Wall here to get saw filed.

Maude and I sewed carpet rags.

Voltie working in shop making bedstead.

Sr reading novel in kitchen, day passes
of [sic] quietly enough.

Tuesday 21 March 1905

A moderate day. I sent a letter
to Gladys. Sewed rags again to day.

Voltie goes for mail and is informed
that it is the body of Annetoza Warner

that is in the vault. 9 eggs to day.

A beautiful moon light evening.

68

Wednesday 22nd March 1905

Moderately warm cooking beans and baking apples. V gone to corners with Charly Woodman brought soap and pepper also.

A letter from HB Mills seedman about a 5ct price with a hole in it .

The 5 cts was returned to us, rather shabby I think considering we had sent him over two dollars for seeds. Sewed rags to day.

13 eggs to day.

Thursday 23rd March 1905

A cloudy morning looks like rain. Jack Niles came to borrow the bob sleigh to go to Kingston..

Clears up, warm quite a nice day, thawing some, snow disappearing.

Friday 24 March 1905

A cloudy rainy day. The Earth is very dirty in appearance. Wal, Jack & Henderson drew the sleigh home. V went home with Wal—they gave him a calf for the hens. V went for the mail & found that Charley didnt go for the mail to day. traveling

on ice awful. Charley drove to school house for his children and teacher found slush way up to the top of the cutter box, he had to stand on the seat to keep out of it. 15 eggs to day.

Saturday 25 March 1905

A foggy morning sun shines out
dismaly [sic]. Thawing of course.

I washed breakfast dishes. Maud cleaned the floors. Voltie went to Sams to ask Charley to drive to Will Gillespie's with him. Charley sick with cold.

V went on horseback to keep his feet from getting wet. Came back & went to Niles' to ask Wallace to go to River View with him for rubber boots. Wall gone up to visit Shell. Jack went instead.

They started after dinner and walked across the ice to Beadles and then to the corners and returned at 5 pm. found slush and water but very good ice. V remailed my letter to JB Mills.

70

Monday 10 April 1905

"April showers bring forth
may flowers" and also it
thundered. We catch some water
to wash with. Sr fixed an old sweat
collar (one of his rainy day jobs).
Irene churns, wash dishes,
saw flower seeds and transplant
tomatos.

Tuesday 11 April 1905

Very foggy morning. Irene washed
dishes & separator, Maud made cake, boiled
beef, pared potatoes. Voltie plowing over here
a very little snow left yet. ice still clings
to shore. V set another hen. R's old hen

71

Wednesday 12 April 1905

A brilliant warm day
plowing and brushing over there,
work on rugs. 23 eggs to day.

Maud abed all fore noon.

Irene cooked the meals, washed separator,
churned, washed all the dishes.

Thursday 18 April 1905

A very fine day but not so
warm as yesterday, darned stockings,
cut a few rags, getting nearly out
of rags. Maud washed the curtains and
a few towels.

Friday 14 April 1905

A cool pleasant day, made
the butter into prints 11 lbs.
counted the eggs. 17-1/2 doz.
Worked at rags.

Saturday 15 April 1905

A very pleasant day. Voltie drove
to Villiage for cultivator he borrowed
J Nile's double cart. Called at Belles.
Marjorie visiting at her grandmother's H's.
Belle sent carrots and a new kind
of tomato seed and coffie berry seed.

Voltie forgot the ginger. He
came early. White wash brush to course

Sunday 16 April 1905

A cold miserable sort of a day,
snow squalls and freezing ground
white with snow. Wind N.W. alone all
day no visitors but enjoyed a comfortable
quiet Sabath day reading and cooking
our meals. Harvey H here in p.m.

73

Monday 17 April 1905

A dismal cold day frozed up again,
cold wind clouds continually arising
in the S.W. Voltie goes to the villiage
again this morning with a portion of
his new cultivator which he found defective.

A light snow partly concealing the earth.

Voltie wore his heavy fur overcoat and
drove up in buggy carrying eggs, butter 11.

Sunday 30 April 1905

Long time since I wrote
in this diary 13 days ago; been
so busy house cleaning making rugs
and carpet, many things and
incidents occur within 18 days.

Maud went to market Thursday
with 21 lbs butter & two fowls,
went to Grace's for dinner. Beatrice
there helping Grace about spring
house cleaning. M met her dad in
town and Ben and Will (her brothers).

Belle got inflamatory rheumatitis
in feet and ancles [sic] cant walk.

H Halliday here last Sunday

74

sent for strawberry plants 28 eggs
and also wrote to Ed Bates to look
out for plants. Saturday 29 Apr 190 rainy all day.

Sunday 30 April 1905

A cool day, ground very wet,
floating cloud. Wind S.W. Charley
Woodman here. I gave him a
pumkin [sic] pie for his dinner, he borrowed
V's buggy to drive to the villiage
for Miss Eva Pike, his fiancée.

V sent Sam a bottle of wine.

I suppose it never left his mouth
till the bottle was empty. Henderson
came after a while, he looks as
though he wanted a drink of cider
but he will go empty. Well dinner
is past and dishes washed & nearly
1/2 past 4 p.m. Sr reading Dispatch.

V reading Herald. Maud reading.

I'm going to write to Amanda but I
dont want to.

75

Monday 1st May 1905

Volta goes to Arch Berrys for seed oats.

Sylvia came bringing the pie plate.

Miss Pike came after school

she wiped the supper dishes, a chilly

day ~~Miss Pike wearing fur coat~~

Tuesday 2nd May 1905

A dreary dismal day, chilly and

wet. Dick Maloney tells VRachel

is at Gloyds and wants V to come

over for her. Dawson Beadle rowed

over bringing all our garden seeds

from F.B. Mills. Volta gave him

20 ducks eggs and 1/2 bushel seed

potatoes.

Wednesday 3rd May 1905

Dreary nasty rainy day. V & Sr

trying to plant potato ground.

We churn and print 18 lbs butter

for market. I plant one seed

"Bird of Paradise". V went across

for Rachel. This diary is continued

on page 1.

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March

Mail

Dispatch

Whig

Herald

A postal from New Thought

March 7.

Hearthstone

Woman's World

Good Litterature

New Thought

A Book the sticked minister

March 10

Home Magazine

Seeds and catalogue from lowe

14th March

North Western Agricultural

Hearth and home

Woman's farm journal

Tuesday 21

Good Stories

House hold Guest

Tuesday 29

Vickerys Fireside

2 Comforts

American Home

Letters

1 from John

postal from Nell

a letter about Lindys island

14 Letter from Gladys

21 letter from Gladys

A letter from KB Mills about a 5 ct with a hole in it

from Flora

from Flora

From Grace

From Watson

From Bob

31 from Gladys

77

[images: stamped pictures of various animals]

MaudeWatson

St Lawrence

PO Wolfe Island

Ont

Canada

Miss Marjorie Halliday

Miss Maude Watson|

Maude Watson

C.L.M.W.

A.W.V. Asher Core

Pearl Lewis

78

V 5 Equitorial Africa

V 9 A thousand miles up Nile

V 11 The Pioneers

V 16 Looker on in London

Treasure Island. Stevenson

David Harum

Rowing in Boston

A daughter of Fife

Chimmie Fadden

Anne Woolson

Samantha among colored folks

79

Upstairs on lower left

Bert

415 W Main St

80

[affixed stamp]
PHOTOMOUNT
PAMPHLET BINDER
Manufactured by
GAYLORD BROS, Inc.
Syracuse, N. Y.
Stockton, Calif.

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