

Irene Dixon Bamford 1913, Diary Transcription

5034_4-2-4

Metadata

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[archival file folder]

Irene Dixon Bamford Diary 1913 1913

[stamp]

Queen's University Archives

Locator

Box 2

File 4

2

1913

3

[stamp]

Photomount

Pamphlet Binder

Manufactured by

Gaylord Bros, Inc

Syracuse, N.Y.

Stockton, Calif.

4

Gramp B - died Oct 22

Date 1913 R.

Interesting

Note Book

120 Pages

6

Friday 6 June 1913

I dont know how to manage this terrible kid Edith Leman. Rachel came over to square up. She sold 21 lbs butter for 25 per. This was done yesterday. V gave her 7 dollars this yesterday morning, she paid \$7.25 for milk can, \$2,20 for tomato plants \$2,50 for flour and the balance for groceries and sundries. Tea, bananas, lemon tea, 2 pair cotton stockings, Denna came but had forgotten 5 galons crock, E & E's shoes &c. We are making rhubarb preserves. I sent Nellie a card and Grace a letter. V is setting tomato plants. Rachel gave H Halliday 12 plants belonging to V and sold 15 other to Sylvia. In writing to Grace this morning I asked of her a favor which I may be sorry for commenced carrying our milk to the

7

factory this morning 196 lbs
Looks very much like rain all pm
V & E & E set 450 tomato plants.
John OBrien here for gasoline.
V wouldnt get it for him by
lamp light - might explode. Thunder
and lightning in Evening put calves in
barn for fear of wire fence and lightning
lost one cow that way dont want to lose
more. Rained when we went to bed
Saturday 7 June 1913
Rained all night and part of a.m.
Everything growing, weeds and
grain. This week we have churned twice
and are now churning again. We made
the dandelion wine, fried and packed the
ham, preserved 5 cans of rhubarb set
450 tomato plants, set onions and
made garden, cleaned V's bedroom.
Sr not well but very growling cross &

8

irrisistable. V had much better go to
V cultivating corn ground better go
to Kingston and find a boy
than leave so much hoeing undone.
very chilly this morning. V out alone
this eve. J OBrien here again this
pm for gasoline, got it this time.

Sunday 8 Jun 1913

A chilly morning and a very chilly
day. V built a fire in dining room stove
couldnt keep warm, then R came over
for yeast cake. Maggie here awhile visiting.

Mr & Mrs Stewart here awhile.

They were out again last night.

Monday 9 June 1913

A chilly morning. V up early
milks our six cows alone and
went to factory. I got up and called
the girls: looked out the window

9

and saw grandad sawing
wood. Emma washed. V went
to Joslin in am on business. I &
Edith wash dishes and got dinner.
Sr sorts potatoes in cellar. A cold
chilly day, wind N. V planting
corn & pumpkin seed and cultivated
potatoes (early potatoes). A Denny came
and brought the 5 gallon crock for the
dandelion wine and brought the shoes
Ediths to small had to send them
back again to be exchanged.
Edith squalled and Sr lectured &
philosophised and was disgsted and medled
a lot. wish he would stop his
noise. Nose stuck in to every
bodies business. A.D. & J.D.
had quite a time heading Harold
off the scent of their private business.
Wind blows so couldnt go out.
Edith went over to R's to say all night

10

Tuesday 10

Wind S clear warm.

V made another trip to Almond Is
& brought the critter home this time in
a box. R & Edith rode over. R

came for seed potatoes after dinner.

Emma preparing to go up to see Ruth Snider
and her two kids and the

snider girl. As she was about to
start, behold they came instead.

So no need of Emma's going there.

They all walked down the shore to
see the old abode. Em going also
came back and stayed to tea.

Edith came with 4 from R's.

Ruth Snider and her tribe went
to PO and home drawing prince
Albert in a wee cart.

A letter and Barbadoes paper from
Watson. A cool evening.

11

V done a lot of planting
couldnt go out on river. Wind blew.
Jimmy Morgan here with fish
A letter from Grace, a letter for V from Day
Wednesday 11 June 1913
A cool day. Ed[ith] went to school.
I worked around all day. Denny
here brought Ed[ith] shoes. She was
pleased and surprised. V arose and
went on the river got \$1,50. planted
and sowed seeds and corn.
E didnt do much. I churned
a took care of the butter, cooked
and washed all the dishes, polished
the stove. Went to bed early.
Forgot to say R came over
12 June 1913 Thursday
Another market day. V arose at 2 am.
took a whirl on the river

12

Emma and R went to Kingston
secured about \$1,25, milks
cows, went to dock and factory,
came home to breakfast, planted corn
below franks. Sr hoeing potatoes
in garden. A fine day, has the
appearance of a drought. Turned out early
milked the cows, drove to dock, went over
river. Emma bought her new suit to day.
Grace sent me bananas. I'm very tired.
Friday 13 June 1913

A very fine sun bright day. Wind South.
V drove to factory then around to the dock
for seed corn from McFarland which was
was not there consequently he was late
to breakfast which caused some remarks
from the throne. Sr out hoeing potatoes
he sent again for more morphine and
a plaster on Thursday. V phoned for
Dr Nichols to doctor Molly Heifer
for giving blood instead of milk from
one teat. Went on river

13

Saturday 14 June 1913

Arose early a fine day; a good rain would be beneficial. Expect the vetenary D. Bell from Kingston and to dinner. He came but not to dinner. Doctored the heifer. V gave him 5 dollars, owe him \$1.50 more. Emma cleaned all the floors before dinner. V working down on the lower farm. Sr got back ache. Edith very reluctantly pulling a few weeds from the onion beds. I went out in garden to throttle her. I made an apron for Emma. Wonton River.

Sunday 15 June 1913

A fine day. Voltie took a Sunday crop. Harold phoned for V to come over and see what is the trouble with their motor & fix

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it. Harold drove over for V
before dinner. V came back about
2 pm after getting the engine in
good running order and not
a very substantial dinner awaiting
his return. Rachel came over
awhile. V also broke the sabbath
by putting supers on hives. 8
supers and wants 5 more. I did
read nearly all day. Sr jawing &
swearing about Edith. I'm sometimes
discouraged because I cant get around
every! one can walk and run. I
dream I can walk and run and
swim. Oh blessed sleep when I
cast all earthly cares worries & pains
and enter a new life into the land
of dreams where I meet father & mother
brother sister and the living dear ones,
all my children and grand children
who visit me nightly. They too will

15

be old and have their dreams of
the past, present and future
sometimes when I go to sleep
I wish I might never awaken
again only for Voltie. The others have homes
and children.

Monday 16 June 1913

Another beautiful warm
day. Jim M. brought some fish here.
Edith gone to school. Sr taking
soda water and hoeing
potatoes. Emma washing got
her washing out before Sylvia.
Denny here. V planting or cultivating
over on R. waited a long time
for him to come to dinner
when Dignam's phone rang telling
no V is there fixing their motor
and we waited dinner no longer
After dinner R came looking for
V saying horses standing in

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field in hot sun and dont know
the whereabouts of V. Informed her
he is at Dignams. Sr says
to bad V is not capable of looking
after himself without the help of
two old women. I pieced on
log cabin, mended a pair dresses
for Edith; cleaned and roasted
a fish for dinner. V came early
from R's ate supper and after doing
chores, milking &c hoed potatoes as till dark,
carried the little haycock of new mown
hay from the door yard to the barn by
fork full, then went on the river found
\$1,50 going to bed now. Good night.
Tuesday 17 June 1913
The sun arose clear but soon becomes
cloudy and looks like rain. Very little
wind North. Sr hoeing potatoes V
gone over to R to build fence

17

dug & post holes, cut some posts. Edith churned, helped wash dishes, pulled one onion bed of weeds, brought in a wheelbarrow full of wood and a pail of chips, clean the lamps, brought 3 pails water from well and one from river, washed dinner dishes alone and went to visit Rachel's for cake tins, set the twice table went to visit R again for powdered sugar went to post office fed the chickens. Emma ironing and preparing for the picnic made 19 lbs butter prints. went on the river alone.

18

Wednesday 13 1913

another rainless day. Rain is sadly needed. This is picnic day in Snub grove. Emma went carrying a cake, umbrella, rode down in John OBriens rig at nearly dinner, time discovered we had no tea, sent Edith to Rachels for tea and ask her over to dinner. she came bringing cake for dinner. The apple pies are super excellent. Jim Morgan & his eldest son Alan here with fish for Denny. Jim borrowed the garden drill. R & Sr quarelled two childish old fools. Twitted each other of being meddlesome and Wells sick shouldnt think he would feel much like quarreling but the old disposition asserts itself to the very last.

19

Thursday 18 June 1913

A cloudy morning. V gone to town
in motor. R didnt go.

V came early enough but brought
drunken C Woodman came

[?] with him in motor through

the rain. Well they are all come

except Reginald and had given

up hopes of him when he popped

into the kitchen. V also [?]

[?]. These all mud and

warm as a pepper pot with

carrying the suit case but

are pleased and happy

to get home once more

to uncle V's. Well C W came

down hugging his oil can

wanting V to go across to

R Percy's for kerosine

and as we were without

kerosine too V went

20

It was a beautiful moon
light night so still on the
water and warm. V came home
at 1 O'clock in morning leaving
C.W. at R Perceys drunk on
old Rob's whiskey. V carried
by hand 11 gallons of kerosine from
RP's to Dilevan's and down
that long steep hill, waited
four hours for C.W. then came
home. Early next morning
old Rob rowed C.W. over
home in his skiff and brought
his bottle with him & while
C.W. went home to get horse and
cart to draw his kerosine home,
Rob instead of going home must
come up to the house and visit
with Rena consequently
he staid to breakfast by that

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time C.W. had come back
also Jim Morgan bring a
saw for V to set and
also aunt R had arrived
on the scene and your
father amongst them too.
They had all assembled in
front of the shop. By that
time old Rob was so drunk
he couldnt row himself home
but he kissed aunt R and
of course V would have to
motor him home to get
rid of him. So while he
doctored Jim M saw he
set the whole gang to
setting out cabbage plants
300 that he had among
on K market. Rob didnt
sit plants. He couldnt

your father didnt try to. I sent Emma to request V to come to the house. I wanted to speak to him concerning his taking Rob Percy & C.W. across the river but instead of V coming C.W. came to ask what I wanted of V. I said, dont go across the river with R.P. let him go the way he came. Oh no! must go over the river with Rob for he was so drunk he couldnt row himself across. I said Now Charley promise you will come directly back soon as he is safely on the other shore. Oh no I wont promise that for we are going to Clayton. What for? Volt has got to have gasoline for his boat. Well I had C.W. cornered where I could talk to him and

23

3

fulfilled the opportunity. He acknowledged he didnt do right said he tried and failed every time. but I couldnt persuade him not to go to Clayton but he promised he would surely be home by 1/2 past 3 pm and gave me his hand on it. By that time V had come in from shop also R.P. maudlin drunk. He took his bottle from the table and drank from it every drop and got out the house and staggered to the river as fast as he could before he colapsed [sic] entirely. When V and C.W. went to the boat, found R.P. down on his back, arms extended out wide as possible

25

Sunday 29 June 1913

Sunday bright and beautiful.

Have not written in this diary for a long time not since 18 June many an incident worth recording in this my diary but not of a very serious nature but I can trace back from day to day many an event insignificant to every one except myself. V this morning early went over to Dignum's to once more doctor their motor boat this is the 5th time he has been called over there anent their boat. Tom drove for him ate breakfast here. Emma "Horse du combat". Reginald noisy and assertive but not a very good boy with a mouth for pumpkin pie and most any thing else! Harold brought

26

Voltie home after getting their motor running again. Treated Harold to Dandelion wine. Sr sitting out door nearly all day. I in pm picked strawberries, cooked a rooster, gave Sr the broth. He says he is going to town tomorrow to see a doctor. A lovely warm evening but no moon.

Monday 30

No rain

Tuesday 1 July 1913

No rain

27

Wednesday 2nd

No rain

Thursday 3

No rain

28

Friday 4th

No rain

Saturday 5

No rain

29

Sunday 6 July 1913

No rain. Wind blowing half gail.

Sylvia and Ruth here for
2 baskets of strawberries.

Sylvia wearing her beautiful new
dress, color cream trimmed red.

Monday 7 July 1913

No rain. Wind blowing yet.

Syvia drove.

30

Tuesday 8th July 1913

Another dry day, no rain for a long time. Sent Margaret to PO with a card for Grace. Reginald and Volta setting up the horse rake preparing to rake hay. Edith squalled because Emma combed her hair. Sylvie asks for Edith to go with her to the villiage for the mail. I said yes consequently she goes. Emma and Margaret pick berries (straw) for canning. A new moon since Friday. I saw the rim of it sinking behind the horizon last night as I was going to bed at 10 Oclock pm.

Wednesday

A thunder shower this morning another and another. Every thing growing & green

31

Thursday 10 July 1913

Grace came to day this pm

bringing Margaret - Emma cleaned
floors. I done what I could

Edith done nothing. Reg & Margaret
went to dock with V. Rachel came.

Reginald went home with her to stay
all night

Friday

Saturday

32

Sunday

A very fine day

Monday 14 July 1913

A very cool day. V drawing hay.

Reginald helped him. Emma

washed clothes; helped in hay field

in p.m., drew 6 loads. Grace put up 2

cans raspberries, picked strawberries for

dinner. strawberries most all gone.

OBriens sent Hannah's boy here for onions

25 cts. Came on horse with a bag. Sheridan Maloney

borrowed V's skiff to go home. V sent by

for a pitch fork. Mrs Niles and Rachel here in evening. Reginald going home with Rachel to stay over night.

Tuesday 15 July 1913

A very beautiful day. V & Reg working in hay field. Grace fixing over Emmas dress. Emma churned p.m. Grace picked raspberries for canning also strawberries for dinner. Emma helped in hay, 3 loads which makes 9 sent by mail. V had to look after R old cow.

Wednesday 16 July 1913

Another fine day. Grace canning raspberries. Emma [?] windows. V and Reginald working in hay field. Edith doing as it pleases herself. We had a fine excitement here. Edith and Margaret & Robert also Isabelle went fishing & caught Isabell's ear with fish hook

34

Edith done it. Of course twas Edith.

Thursday 17 July 1913

A very fine day. Grace and her children (except Reginald) went home. Margaret and Isabelle very daintily dressed in white silk, white open worked stockings and white slippers. We forgot to send memorandum for groceries and the money. Aunt R went to K with 22 doz eggs. We eat one eggs up as fast as laid. 10 of us and 1 of Rachel. Had dinner ready at 1/2 past 11 am. V drove from hay field to dock brought all the groceries. Emma picked raspberries V bought Sr a bottle of brandy

35

R came over but went directly back because she got an opportunity to go with V in the wagon. V drove to the dock for the chair. Grace has sent down for her father. Reginald, Emma and Rachel went along. Edith & I staid home
Friday 18

36

Saturday

Sunday

37

Monday

Emma done a big washing,
lines are full, helped me get
dinner, picked some berries.

Reginald and Edith quarelled.

Hens scratching potatoes. V cutting
hay on this place the home meadow.

Rachel & Mrs Niles here in evening.

Mrs N gave her an apron.

Tuesday 22 July

A beautifuly fine cool
morning. V up before 4 Oclock
am, milked and drove to
factory. Sr up doging hens
out from diging potatoes.

38

Wednesday 23rd July 1913

A very fine day. John King
came to help Voltie in hay field,
came from Virginia- so he says.

Thursday 24 July 1913

A rainy morning or rather
damp. Emma goes to town
for groceries and to bring Margaret
and Robert home with her. They
going to stay while Grace
goes up the Rakes for a trip.
R came over before I was up shurely.
Sr abed all day also R do all
house work alone. E help some & I work

39

Friday 25th July 1913

V and I working in

hay field. Grace gone to

Cleveland to day started at 5 pm

taking Isabelle with her.

Saturday 26 July 1913

Sunday 27

40

Sunday 27
Monday 28

41

Tuesday 29

Wednesday 30

A fine day only hot. Had
workmen to day beside John & V,
we had Tom and Harold Dignum.
All here to dinner and supper.
Tom & Harold drew cheese to
dock for Voltie while V and Reginald
went over the river for Flora and Louise.
Made a catsup poultice for JK's hand,
drew 15 loads hay. They stopped here

42

a few minutes long to say how
SylvieR was here to meet them for
to take them directly home with
her. I dont expect to see much of them.

Thursday 31

A beautiful day but very hot,
one thing makes it lovely every
thing is so green and growing.
John King went away this morn.
V paid him for his 6 days work,
his hand no better, he gone to the
hospital, Kingston. V drove to
the dock this morn with John,
Flora Vanalskin, Louise and R
and Margarete and the milk
can. Ate breakfast before he went
then finished mowing the home meadow.
Emma washing at the river. Robert &
Edith helping do the house work
and get dinner.

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V drove to dock for the passengers.
Margaret came home in buggy with
V. Flora presented me with a basket.
Louise a box of note paper. Jen sent
a new apron & Lottie a book, all
new, nice and beautiful and Margaret
a pretty apron. This is the hottest day in the year.

Friday Aug 1st 1913

Looks like rain but dont rain.

V dont feel very well, drank to
much water yesterday. He works
to hard any way and dont get enough
rest nor sleep. Sr about so so
drove to factory. Emma finished washing
and they all go to the Commison
to Sguddle and play in the water.
Margaret went to pay respects to Aunt R
and Flora & Louise, staid
to dinner had a sumptious repast

44

It is very hard work to get noisy Edith to do any work. Noisy & lazy complaining 40 times a day.

Saturday 2nd Aug 1913

Another fine day, breezy. V and Reginald working over there. Had string beans and cake, made 4 rhubarb pies for Sunday. Flora and R came over while Emma cleaned the floor in fore noon. V came home from field to milk and get his supper then went back over there and mowed till after dark. Go to bed earlier than usual

Sunday 3rd August

A fine morning but clouds and rains all pm and very breezy. Flora & Louise came over from R's and staid to dinner and supper. Rachel came over too they all walked

45

home through the rain. V and
Reginald motored to Clayton for
Will but he had been and gone,
was surprised when looking
out the window to see Will
coming through the gate.
It rained a little more and cleared

46

Wednesday 3rd September

A mild warm day, Wind S.

Voltie motored Belle & Henry Sr
over the river to Dilavan, poor pen,
came back in time to thresh for C.W.

R came over to see Belle & Henry
enroute for U.S.A. but they had gone
when she came. Sylvia returned yesterday
last evening from a three week visit to
her grandad, Reids. Sylvia sent
Maggie here for tomatoes 6 cups, a kettle
and 2 qrts vinegar. Belle drove in
from Hallidays yesterday morning
while I was churning when she came
on the north veranda; she came
loaded with magazines about 30.

Tho the machine came enexpectedly [sic]
and we were not prepared for it by
the united efforts of Belle & R we got
doing all right. Wellie and Genevieve

came also yesterday. Wellie came
Sat eve after we were in bed, came
across in Delavan's boat leaving
Genevieve with Muriel. Sat. Belle
went over to Rachels. Henry Sr
drove for Belle and Henry
Sat pm. He ate supper with us.
Sun Mrs & Rev Stewart here yesterday
p.m. Belle is fair, fat & fifty a
beautiful woman. She looks better than
the last time she was here. The Dr (Buchanan)
here Sunday to see Wells.
received a letter from Grace, says Robert has
a pup. I received a letter from Will
his face was awful bad with barbers itch.
Will worked, helped V with hay and
grain harvest 18 days. John came over
accompanied by Bert & Maud
& Bert's mother Mrs Smith.

48

She is big heavy woman weighs
300, they went from here to
Clayton from there to Wills for
supper and then home to Brownville
and 3 miles beyond to Pillar point.
Maud ought to have been at home
instead of on the road visiting.

50

Friday 5 Sept 1913

A fine cool day wind N. V

drew 135 bushels oats to scow,
filled 10 cans, red plums. Rec'd a
letter from Grace saying Robt is
coming home sick and Maud has
a boy baby born 30 Aug 1913

PM Rachel came over & brought
a bowl of beans.

51

Sat 6th Sept 1913

A beautiful bright day a gentle breeze from S.E. V drawing oats to scow. Emma helped fill bags. Edith helped me about dishes and every thing. Sinclair here for 8 gal of vinegar (75 cts). Maggie here for tomatoes for their dinner (10 cts). Wells no better. V went over after dinner for Dr B went in motor. Weather more than delightfully warm. Dr B got sore eyes. Heard from Will by way of doctor B, his face is much better.

53

Thursday 6 Nov 1913

A very fine day. V drove to the dock with Emma and Maud and the baby. Maud going to Elginburg for Mrs Smith to take care of her baby all winter. Old Lewy got mad because of so many women folks around in his way and lazy. V was giving him a dollar per day for plowing but he was so mean and disagreeable V paid him off and discharged him.

54

Friday 7 November 1913

Many events have taken place since the last time I wrote in this diary. Wells has died and his body now lies in the vault since the sixth of October. A beautiful Nov day. I wrote a long letter and mailed it to Belle. R carried it to P.O. V and E & E picked the corn from the stalks down on the Smith place this a.m. E & E picking corn this p.m. V sold apples to two Frenchmen from Clayton, got \$3,30 for 3 bushels. Rachel moved home to day bag and baggage. Voltie gone to the dock for his new plow. commenced packing our winter butter to day.

pigs and pick tomatoes and cucumbers. I thought of Margaret and Miriam. She had rode down with Shell and Byron and Tuesday morning she rode to the cheese factory and from there home. It does seem that the three were not to be separated very far away from each other. Emma is a natural musician. I do believe she plays double notes and bass, she is digging into the business every time she has an opportunity. This is p.m. Emma has come and is getting supper. V had gone to dock for groceries and grist. Edith has gone to water R cows. We are going to have a rooster tomorrow for dinner. I am so glad you can see Wellie and his dear family sometime and get milk from Hubert. Now I have 3 more letters to write but I cant they must wait a while. Love for all mother and George

56

seed 12

pig 7

pork 13

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[page is a repeat of page 56]

seed 12

pig 7

pork 13

61

2 cups sugar

1 cup shortening butter & lard

1 egg

1 coffe [sic] cup of sweet milk

2 teaspoons full of well rounded baking pow 2

Salt & caroway

62

bought of McFarland

Flour 50 lb

50 lb

50 " Purity

65

1913 year

6 cows

Friday June 6 milk 196 lbs

Sat " 7 milk 196 "

Mon " 8 " 301

Tues " 9 " 204

Wed " 10 " 206

Thur " 12 " 202

F " 13 " 203

Sat " 14 " 184

Sunday 16 June

Mon " 16 " " 294

Tues " 17 " " 186

Wed " 18 " " 195

Thur " 19 " 196

Fri " 20 " 199

Sat " 21 " 175

Sunday 22

Monday " 23 " 275

Tuesday " 24 " 160

Wednes " 25 " 175

Thurs " 26 " 172

Friday 27 173

Saturday 28 170

66

Sunday 29th

M 30 " 300

Tuesday 1 July 185

Wednesday 2 " 195

Thursday 3 " 196

Friday 4 " 182

Saturday 5 " 184

Monday 7 " 188

Tues 8 " 187

Wed 9 " 187

Thurs 10 " 180

Friday 11 " 178

Saturday 12 " 166

13

Monday 14 164

Tuesday 15 165

Wednesday 16 165

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[various addition scribbles]

Sylvie 4 baskets p .50

R 2 p 20

Grace 24 " 2,40

Rube 20 paid 2,00

R Mc 18 1,80

Louise 26 2,60

Kehoe 24 2,40

Hiram 5 .50

Sylvie 2 paid .25

Sylvie 2 paid .25

Sylvie paid

Rachel 6

Jim Morgan 13

Denny 24

[page filled with various legible & illegible addition scribbles]

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

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