

Thursday March 12th

It was again hard enough this morning so that I could haul manure on the old bean patch which was bare ground and I got quite a bit out by noon when it became to rain and the waggon cut through. Right after dinner Reg. Scott came over with his rifle to shoot some cats that Mary wanted killed. He shot two of the half grown kittens but the third one and the yellow cat couldn't be found, and Mary couldn't decide at the time which one of the black cats was the sick one so we didn't let him shoot either of them. It seemed like a murderous business but Mary has been distressed all winter at the prospect of supporting six cats four of which are feline-felines, as it is I think Reg. killed the only two tom-kittens we had. I told Reg. I wouldn't do the job on a bet and he said he hated to lose so I put for the sake of a what he would kill almost any thing. He is on the trail of a coon, whose tracks he has seen along our creek but whose residence he can't locate. I burned some grass in the arched this afternoon and dug our parsnips, the frost seemed to be right out of the ground in the garden. Mary & Harry & I went over to the Lousp. plain with the intention of staying

to dinner but found Harry there alone as Mrs. & Miss King went to Hamilton yesterday to see Mrs. Schram. Mary & I met Charlie Smith on her way home and he told her that Jim Birdwell died in his sleep last night. He was helping Shand's cut wood all day yesterday and went to bed apparently well, about half past two his wife was awakened by hearing him give two or three peculiar gasps and he died with out ever waking up. Charlie didn't know whether Alice was home or not but she managed to get the Shand's awakened up with the telephone. Reg. told me this afternoon that both Mrs. Schram & Billy King died last night.

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I hooked the team to the waggon and sallied forth this morning to get coal. It was a beautiful day when I left here. I had to go around by the farm to get the waggon box and when I arrived there I could find no sign of anyone around the place. I waited awhile to see if any of them would show up as I didn't want to tackle moving the box alone but as it neared noon I decided they must be down at Anstyo for dinner so I shifted the box alone, without a great deal of difficulty. By this time it was noon and I thought there was no use