

A Prairie Diary

edited by **Glenda Riley**

This diary was written by twenty-year-old Mary St. John, with some contributions by her sister, Esther, twenty-two. The women came to Iowa from near Walton, New York in 1858 with their family: father Isaac, fifty-two (1806-1883), mother Rhoda Lindsley, forty-eight (1810-1871), brothers Aaron, seventeen, Benjamin, ten, and sister Emma, eighteen. Isaac St. John farmed the family land near Walton, but in the 1850s he sold the farm to enter a partnership in a Walton tannery. Within a few years the partnership dissolved and he decided to seek more productive farm land in the West.

Hearing of a land sale at Osage, Iowa in the spring of 1857, he set out as an "advance agent" for his family. When he reached Iowa, he located the Seely family, former neighbors from Walton, and with their help purchased a suitable piece of land at the head of Crane Creek, three miles northwest of Saratoga (between Riceville and Cresco).

Mary's diary spans the year 1858. Unfortunately, she makes scant mention of the family's travel preparations. On February 23 she records that they began to assemble things to pack and on February 25 she notes that "Father had an auction for the purpose of selling our furniture. . . . most of them sold as well as could be expected."

The St. Johns left their New York home around the first of March. They "took the cars" for the West. "Today is the first time I was ever in a car in my life," Mary wrote. "I like riding in them first rate." The St. Johns, who took the opportunity to visit friends and relatives along the way, rode the "cars" to Chicago, Milwaukee, and finally to Prairie du Chien. On March 31 they crossed the Mississippi River into Iowa where they soon reached their new homesite.

Due to Isaac's firm belief in education, all the older chil-

dren had received schooling back in New York. Mary obtained a teaching certificate shortly after arriving in Iowa. Sometime around the first of June, 1858, Mary left for Round Grove where she taught and was "boarded." The diary was continued without interruption by a second writer, probably her sister Esther, judging from internal references to other family members. The change in handwriting indicates that Mary took over again in the fall but soon turned the diary back to the second writer.

Mary later married Charles D. Cutting on September 3, 1863 and gave birth to her only child, William, on February 11, 1865. If she kept other diaries between 1858 and her death at the early age of 31 on June 3, 1869, they unfortunately are not extant. The portions of the diary reproduced here have been slightly altered to aid readability. They are presented with the kind consent and cooperation of Mary St. John Cutting's granddaughters, Merle Cutting Bohnet and Verna Cutting Lusher of Rancho Cordova, California.

MARCH, 1858

31 Wednesday. Crossed the Mississippi River this morning and took stage to Decoreh. Stopped at Minona for dinner and arrived at Decoreh about nine in the evening.

APRIL

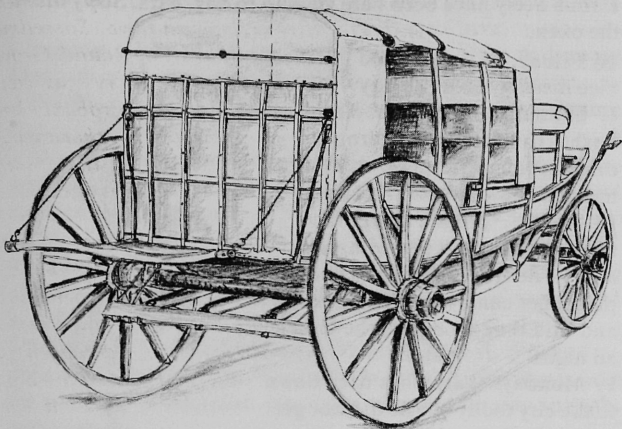
1 Thursday. We started from Decoreh this morning and rode till a little afternoon and we stopped at New Oregon [later named Cresco] for dinner. Got stuck in the mud about a mile from Mr. Seely's and Emma and I walked to the house.

2 Friday. Father has been after his oxen today and the rest of us staid to Mr. Seely's.

3 Saturday. Esther, Emma and I went up to S. W. Seely's today.

4 Sunday. Father, Mother, Emma, Benny and I are here to Mr. Seely's today. The wind has blowed very hard all day.

Editor's note: Due to the repetitiveness of domestic details in the diary, the months of May, July, October, and November have been omitted.



drawing by Scherrie Goettsch

Stagecoach drawn from an exhibit in the State Historical Museum.

5 Monday. Have not been out of the house but once today and then Emma and Emma Seely and I went up to meet Father and had a ride after the oxen.

6 Tuesday. All came over home this morning except Mother and she staid to S. W. Seely's. Unpacked some of our things and made up two beds.

7 Wednesday. It has rained most all day. Mother has come over today. Esther, Emma and Aaron and myself staid in our house alone last night.

8, 9, 10, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. (no entry)

11 Sunday. We have all been at home all day today. It has been very cold and it has rained all day, thundered some.

12 Monday. Have washed today but it rained so we had to put our clothes a soak.

13 Tuesday. Father and Aaron have made some stools today and a Drag. It has rained some. The wind has blowed pretty hard all day but it looks some as if it might clear off tonight.

14 Wednesday. Today we hung our clothes and they got dry. Father and Aaron went out to look around on the farm and Aaron shot a Badger.

15 Thursday. Mrs. Ann Seely and Charley, Mrs. Allen and

Emma Seely have been here visiting to day. Mrs. Seely drove the oxen.

16 Friday. E. and B. and I picked a nice mess of flowers today.

17 Saturday. We set out our current bushes this forenoon. Aaron is dragging this afternoon and Father has gone down to Mr. Field's.

18 Sunday. We are all at home again today and it is raining very hard. The stage driver and one passenger came here this morning and said they lay out on the prairie all night.

19 Monday. Aaron has been down to the city today but he did not get any mail. Father has made some cucumber boxes today.

20 Tuesday. Today we have washed and baked some bread.

21 Wednesday. Father went to Mr. S. W. Seely's after the mail.

22 Thursday. Done our ironing today and baked and in the afternoon tried to keep the stove warm. The wind blew very hard.

23 Friday. Father, Aaron and Ben have been over to S. W. Seely's.

24 Saturday. Father, Aaron and Benny have been down after some wood today. Shot one chicken while they were gone.

25 Sunday. No entry.

26 Monday. Father started for New Oregon this morning.

27 Tuesday. Father has not come home yet. There are prairie fires most all around us tonight.

28 Wednesday. Last night about twelve o'clock Father came home from New Oregon. They have been ploughing some today and dragging some.

29 Thursday. Father has ploughed the garden today and commenced sowing his wheat.

30 Friday. Father, Aaron and Benny have been down after some wood this afternoon.



drawing by S. Goetsch

The bloodroot is an early blooming wild flower.

JUNE

1 Tuesday. Ironed. Mary, Emma and Benj. went to Saratoga. Mary stays down to get a certificate. Raining at bed time.

2 Wednesday. Baked bread, Mary came home this morning. Has rained much today.

3 Thursday. Another heavy thunder storm last night, creek very high this morn. Aaron went to Mr. Rickers to get boots mended. Mary has gone to her school. There is a heavy fog to night.

4 Friday. Cloudy and showery this forenoon. F. and A. have dug stone some. Es., Em. and Ben. went out for flowers this eve. Clear sunset!!!

5 Saturday. Have baked, mopped etc. F. and A. dug and drew stone in forenoon. Went after wood this afternoon. Sent for the *N.Y. Evangelist*. Has been pleasant all day though rather windy.

6 Sunday. Cloudy with a little rain. All went to meeting. 25 present. Reading of 2nd Lecture in "Jay's Christian Contemplated" by Mr. Sanders. Subject, "Christian in the Closet". Plenty lightning with some thunder and rain and wind this eve.

7 Monday. Clear but windy. Washed and baked bread. Too wet to break. Aaron has been draging. Planted corn this afternoon. Went to gather flowers after tea. Folded clothes for ironing.

8 Tuesday. Ironed. The men are draging and planting. Benj. went and carried Es. and Em. part way to Mr. S. W. Seely's. Es. stayed all night. Lamed the ox. Has been pleasant though cloudy in the afternoon.

9 Wednesday. Rain, rain, rain. Creeks very high.

10 Thursday. Aaron went over to S. W. Seely's and from there to the "city". Two letters and a paper in the P. O.

11 Friday. Father went over to Duria today. Aaron and Emma went after Mary this afternoon. Has been pleasant though cool.

12 Saturday. Baking and so on this morn. Mother and Benj. went to Saratoga for Es. Father has been hoeing and planting garden some this afternoon. Mary and Emma have been fishing and picking flowers.

13 Sunday. A pleasant day. All went to meeting. There were 32 present. More than any Sabbath before this season. Subject of the discourse read, "The Christian in the Family". Had four classes in the S.S. Took a collection for the "Child's Paper." Raised enough to get 15.

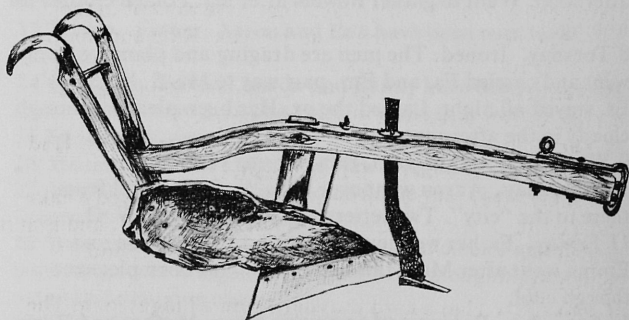
14 Monday. Washed but did not hang up the clothes. F. has been draging and planting today. Aaron went to carry Mary to her school this morn. Mr. Page has been over to look at a large rack. Think he can split it for our cellar wall. Have had a pleasant day, not very warm for the season.

15 Tuesday. Had a very heavy thunder shower this morning. Our folks finished planting before this rain. Have baked bread and cake, and churned.

16 Wednesday. Aaron went to Saratoga and brought the mail. Chamberlain came over about noon to get A. to help him break. Has been pleasant all day. Have rinsed the clothes and done some ironing. F. has been at work in the cellar drain.

17 Thursday. Father plowed some and went to Saratoga. Brought home two letters and a paper. We have churned and finished ironing. Has been a very warm day. A great deal of wind. Ther. 75 after sunset.

18 Friday. We have baked bread and pies today. Very warm,



drawing by S. Goettsch

Breaking plow drawn from an exhibit in the State Historical Museum.

though some cooler than yesterday. Father has gone to draging just at night.

19 Saturday. Father has gone to Mr. Hallet's to look at a piece of woodland. Mary came home with them. We have baked bread, cake, and pies to day. Has been very warm.

20 Sunday. The whole family have been to meeting. Only 21 there. Had a very interesting sermon read from the text, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul". Has been very warm, with quite a breeze most of the day.

21 Monday. Mr. Huyck and Page here to work. Chamberlain here to board. Father carried Mary to her school this morn, paid for his wood lot and brought home a load of wood. Went to Saratoga this afternoon for powder. We have washed and baked bread and made a boiled dinner.

22 Tuesday. Our folks getting out stone and digging the cellar. Have baked bread, cake and pies, rinsed the clothes and prepared for ironing. We all went over to the large rock this afternoon and had a shower while gone.

23 Wednesday. Out door and in door labor has gone on as usual to day. Have had or rather are having a heavy thunder shower this evening. It lightens almost constantly.

24 Thursday. Has rained by spells all day. Aaron went to the city this morn and brought home a letter and some crackers. Have been baking, ironing, etc. They have worked in the cellar and getting out stone what they can. Rain and mud, rain and mud, mud in doors and out.

28 Wednesday. Showers again. Emma and Benj. went a fishing, caught a few and cooked for supper.

29 Thursday. Father and Aaron cut some grass today. Had showers in the afternoon. Baked bread, etc.

30 Friday. Our folks have been cutting grass. Baked a cake and a custard. It commenced raining before 8 P.M. and is at it hard at bedtime. Some hail and constant thunder and lightening.

31 Saturday. Had a hard thunder storm all night long. The creek this morning is much higher than it has been since we have lived here. Baked bread and cake. Mary washed some calicoes. Some rain through the day.

AUGUST

- 1 Sunday.** All went to meeting. Eighteen present. The remainder of last Sabbath's discourse read. Bridges gone so that the creek people did not come. Has been cloudy most of the day and looks like rain.
- 2 Monday.** Washed and baked bread. Father went to carry Mary to her school and get a load of wood. Did not get back till two P.M. Aaron gone to Saratoga to help put up the bridge. Got home about eight P.M. Have folded clothes for ironing.
- 3 Tuesday.** Ironed most of the clothes. Father and Aaron both down to Saratoga all day. Baked custard and cake.
- 4 Wednesday.** Baked bread, mopped, etc. Father and Aaron gone again. Received a letter, also three papers.
- 5 Thursday.** Father is cutting his wheat today. It is not worth thrashing. Finished ironing the starch clothes. Rec'd two letters and a paper and sent two letters to the office.
- 6 Friday.** Father has raked up his wheat and put it in heaps. Baked two pies, two cakes, and two loaves of bread. Cooked chicken and duck, peas, beans and new potatoes for dinner. Benjamin caught some good nice fish this afternoon. It has been a very warm day.
- 7 Saturday.** Had an early dinner and went to Saratoga hoping to find ministers there according to appointment, but lo, it is again a disappointment. We had a season of prayer, 15 present. Showers during the afternoon.
- 8 Sunday.** Very warm today. All went to meeting except Aaron. Had a very full attendance, 42 in all. No preaching. Subject of lecture, "The Christian in Adversity".
- 9 Monday.** Father has been cutting hay. Went to Saratoga after wood and provisions. Have washed and spread the clothes down to bleach. Took them up at night and put them a soak. It has been excessively warm all day.
- 10 Tuesday.** Haying out doors before noon. Ironing, baking and so forth indoors. Showers during the afternoon and evening.
- 11 Wednesday.** Had a heavy shower last night, but pleasant through the day. Father has been making a hay rigging to day.

Have finished ironing, been mending, etc. We had baked ducks for dinner.

12 Thursday. Baked bread, mopped and so on. Father has finished his rigging and done a little of several things. There was another hard shower this morning. We had a boiled Indian pudding, potatoes and beets for dinner.

13 Friday. Father has cut some grass, tried to get some dry that was cut before. We had baked duck and chicken and new potatoes for dinner. Rather pleasant but warm.

14 Saturday. Baked custard pies and custard and bread, mopped, etc. Father went down to Saratoga in the afternoon and brought a paper and two letters from the office. Aaron has been putting up hay.

15 Sunday. All went to meeting as usual. Twenty four present. Sermon from the *Independant* by H. W. Beecher. Subject, "Special providences of God". A very pleasant day.

16 Monday. Father has built a stack today. Have washed, baked bread and custard. Boiled an Indian pudding, potatoes and beets and fish for dinner. A very pleasant day.

17 Tuesday. A good hay day.

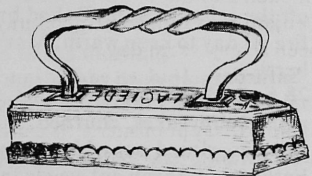
The wind has blown hard some of the time and there is constant blaze lightning in the south this evening. Have ironed a part of the clothes, the rest have been bleaching.

18 Wednesday. Still at haying. Baking, rinsing clothes, etc.

19 Thursday. Finished ironing. Worked at the hay in the morning. Looked like rain before noon so they quit. Aaron and Emma went after a load of wood and brought home some crackers.

20 Friday. Baked cake, bread and biscuit, mopped, cooked artificial oysters and potatoes for dinner. Father has worked in the hay field all day. Threatens rain in the morn but came off pleasant before noon. Cattle uneasy. Three wagons passed here today!!!

21 Saturday. Working in the hay field as usual. Cool and high wind some of the time. Baked custard pies, also two



drawing by S. Goettsch

Flat iron

Johny cakes for dinner, boiled potatoes and fried chicken. Mopped the floor of course. A very pleasant evening.

22 Sunday. Went to meeting as usual. Nineteen present. Subject of the lecture read, "The Christian in his Spiritual Sorrows". Quite cool all day.

23 Monday. Still at work in the hay field, making a new stack today. Washed in the forenoon. Baked bread, and a Johnycake for dinner, cooked beets and potatoes and corn. Has been rather cool again today.

24 Tuesday. Our folks have cut hay today. We have put on a quilt today. Find ourselves in rather close quarters. Looks some like rain.

25 Wednesday. Baked bread, worked on the quilt, etc. Father drew a load of hay this morn before breakfast and finished drawing before noon.

26 Thursday. Father and Aaron have been mowing weeds this forenoon. Benj. went with Father after wood this afternoon. Brought home three papers, a ham, and sack of flour. Finished the quilt before night.

27 Friday. Cold and windy. Father and Aaron have smoothed off the cellar bottom. Baked bread. We have had a good smart fire all day to keep warm. Mary brought home some black berries.

28 Saturday. Baked two pies, two loaves of bread and a fowl and 2 Johnycakes, churned, mopped. Mary washed some calicoes, rinsed our white clothes, ironed some of them. Father and Aaron cut weeds in the slough, cold yet.

29 Sunday. All went to meeting. Thirty two present. Subject of lecture read "The Christian in his Spiritual Joys". Quite cool but pleasant. Some frosty this morning.

30 Monday. Did not wash because we have no soap. Baked bread, churned, mopped, ironed, made emptyings, etc. etc. Father and Benj. went to take Mary to her school and brought home a load of wood.

31 Tuesday. Father went to New Oregon this morning. Aaron has been mowing grass. Cool and pleasant.

SEPTEMBER

1 Wednesday. Aaron cutting grass yet. Father brought back a sack of flour, provindes, and groceries. Raining this evening. Mother washed the windows today.

- 2 Thursday.** Washed, baked, boiled dinner, etc. Father and Aaron have cut weeds and done chores. Cool and high winds during the day. Had a hard shower in the night.
- 3 Friday.** Father and Aaron have been to Riceville. Rinsed and ironed the clothes, baked cake and burned coffee after tea. Showery. Heard tonight that Mr. Coleman and wife are in town and there will be a meeting tomorrow to organize a church.
- 4 Saturday.** Baked bread, cake, pies, mopped, churned etc. Father, Mother, Esther and Benj. went to Saratoga to meeting. Organized a church with ten members. Expect more to join us soon.
- 5 Sunday.** Had two services today and omitted S.S. Three more joined us making all thirteen members. Had a sermon in the morning on "Church Polity". A short one in the afternoon after which Mr. Banks' child was baptised and the communion service attended to. Forty two present.
- 6 Monday.** Washed this forenoon. Father drew two loads of hay, had an early dinner and went to Riceville for lumber. Attended a school meeting where they voted taxes for building school houses.
- 7 Tuesday.** Rained by showers through the day. Our folks have been lathing. Baked bread in the morning.
- 8 Wednesday.** Lathing today. Aaron has been plowing this afternoon. Pleasant and cool. Dried the clothes and folded for ironing.
- 9 Thursday.** Baked bread and cake, ironed, etc. Lathing all day. Rained most of the time.
- 10 Friday.** Have cut corn for drying today, been lathing, etc. Father went after Mary this afternoon. Her school is out. Brought home two papers. Quite cool tonight.
- 11 Saturday.** Father and Aaron went to draw hay for Uncle Darius today. Did not get back till late in the evening. Baked bread and a chicken pie, mopped, etc. There has been a high wind most of the day.
- 12 Sunday.** Went to meeting. 25 present. Mr. D. Seely read the lecture, entitled the "Christian in Death". Re'cd a letter and a paper from the office. A very pleasant day though cool. A little frost this morning.
- 13 Monday.** Washed and dried and folded the clothes. Father

went to Riceville after lumber. Aaron has cut wood. Rained in the forenoon, wind has blown hard some of the day. Had a Johnycake for dinner. Cooked a chicken, potatoes and beets for supper. Baked bread.

14 Tuesday. Ironed, mopped, cut corn for drying, cooked potatoes for dinner. Rained before noon. Aaron has been plowing this afternoon, went off hunting for a nooning. Have had five chickens to dress.

15 Wednesday. Father and Aaron went to draw sand, got sloughed and came home without any. Baked bread, pies and biscuit, cooked chickens, onions and potatoes for dinner. Made a custard.

16 Thursday. Father and Aaron went to New Oregon this morning. Cool and pleasant. Fires comfortable to sit by.

17 Friday. Cool and pleasant again, considerable wind. Cooked potatoes and corn for dinner. Cut corn for drying.

18 Saturday. Baked bread, cake and pies and an Indian pudding. Churned, mopped, cooked potatoes and corn for dinner. Father and Aaron came home about four P.M.

Brought two papers and a letter.

19 Sunday. All went to meeting but Mother. Only eighteen present. Lecture read, "The Christian in the Grave". Very pleasant and warm.

20 Monday. Washed, baked bread and mopped. Did not hang up the white clothes till night. Smoky and misty and cloudy and sunshiny by turns.

21 Tuesday. Ironed the calicoes. Father and Aaron went after sand in the morning and Aaron after noon. Have shot four pigeons today. Had chicken and biscuit and potatoes and beets for dinner. Cloudy most of the day.

22 Wednesday. Finished ironing, baked bread and a cream pudding. Cooked a chicken pot pie, corn and potatoes for dinner, mopped, etc. Aaron has been drawing sand. Have dressed 12 pigeons and 8 chickens today.

23 Thursday. Father and Aaron have been to Riceville again. Baked bread, cake and an Indian pudding, cooked pigeons and potatoes.

24 Friday. Father made a riddle in the morning and has been sifting sand all day. Aaron has been drawing sand. Have dressed nine pigeons, made cake, ironed two pieces of new cloth, etc., etc.

25 Saturday. Father has been slacking lime all day, have to heat the water in the house. Baked bread and a custard, mopped just at dusk.

26 Sunday. All went to meeting. Thirty present. The last lecture in the course was read, "The Christian in Heaven". Very strong wind all day.

27 Monday. Did not wash. Our folks finished mixing mortar. Aaron went for wood this afternoon. Mary, Emma and Benjamin went with him to gather hazel nuts. Mr. Fields came just before tea, is going to stay and do some joiner work. Baked bread, 6 pigeons and 1 chicken.



drawing by S. Goetsch

Hazel nuts

28 Tuesday. Had a large wash. Baked the pigeons, cooked potatoes and beets for dinner, baked bread, mopped, etc. Aaron has been plowing. Father and Mr. Fields getting out timber to finish the chambers. Folded the clothes for ironing.

29 Wednesday. Ironed the clothes, baked bread and cake, cooked ham, potatoes and an Indian pudding for dinner. Mother has been lathing, Father and Mr. Fields carpentering, Aaron plowing. Had a chicken to dress.

30 Thursday. Have been lathing all day. Aaron has been to Riceville for lumber. Cooked potatoes and turnips and baked chickens for dinner. Very pleasant now days.

DECEMBER

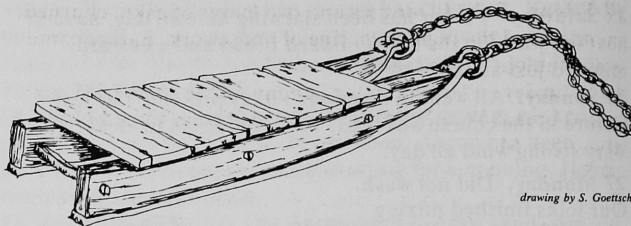
1 Wednesday. Father went to or started for New Oregon this morn. Snow and considerable wind this afternoon.

2 Thursday. Very cold all day and blustering in the afternoon.

3 Friday. A cold day. Baked bread, mopped and baked cake.

4 Saturday. Took down the bedstead in the bedroom and set it up in the chamber. Set up a new one in the bedroom. Baked pies, mopped, etc. Our folks have made a sled for Benjamin.

5 Sunday. Snowed last night. Snow all blowed up in heaps this morning. None of us went to meeting. Seems like a long day to spend all at home. Clear but cold.



drawing by S. Goettsch

6 Monday. Washed, churned, mopped, etc. Father went over to election today.

7 Tuesday. Baked bread and ironed some. Ther. today below 16 degrees at 9 this evening.

8 Wednesday. Finished ironing, mopped, etc. Clear, cold and pleasant. Ther. this morn at sunrise 25° below zero—this eve at 9 it is 23° below.

9 Thursday. Father came home early this morning. Mr. Seely has been over to help him butcher. One pig weighed 152 lbs., other 206 lbs. F. brought home one paper and one letter. Ther. 26° below zero this morning.

10 Friday. Have cut up the pork, cleaned the souse, tried the lard, churned, mopped, etc. Weather has moderated very much. Ther. this morn was 15° above zero.

11 Saturday. Baked bread and pies, fried cakes, mopped. Weather about as yesterday.

12 Sunday. All went to meeting but Mother. Fourteen present. Had a wedding at intermission. One letter and one paper in the office for us. Rained some this afternoon.

13 Monday. Washed, mopped and made souse. Did not hang up the clothes. Father and Aaron went after wood in the afternoon.

14 Tuesday. Rinsed and hung up the clothes, cut and pickled the cuttings, mopped, etc. Father went after wood again A.M. Aaron came home this morn, brought three letters and two papers. A beautiful day.

15 Wednesday. Aaron went after wood thro' A.M.

16 Thursday. Father has gone to N. Oregon. Have ironed, mopped, etc. Most of us have spent the evening in writing letters. Clear and very pleasant.

- 17 Friday.** Baked four pies and two loaves of cake, churned, mended and the regular routine of housework. Father came home tonight with a load of corn.
- 18 Saturday.** Cleaned up for Sunday, made some fried cakes, baked bread. Weather mild. Had a visit from some wolves about 5 A.M.
- 19 Sunday.** All went to meeting. Preaching in the morn by Rev. Mr. Windsor from Eph. 2, 4-7. Communion service in the afternoon. Thirty five present.
- 20 Monday.** Father went west after a load of wood.
- 21 Tuesday.** Washed, churned and mopped. Father and Aaron went after wood and F. went on to Riceville.
- 22 Wednesday.** Have made pies and bread today. Received three papers, two letters tonight.
- 23 Thursday.** Had visitors today.
- 24 Friday.** Father gone to New Oregon. Rinsed the clothes, baked bread, mopped, ironed starch clothes, and some coarse ones. High wind this evening. Ther. 4 deg. below zero this morning.
- 25 Saturday.** Raining quite smart this evening. Father is not home yet.
- 26 Sunday.** Went to meeting as usual. Found Father at Mr. Seely's. He came in last evening. 21 present. Foggy this evening.
- 27 Monday.** Still foggy. Could not wash because the boiler has failed. Father and Aaron went to the woods, Father went from there to Riceville.
- 28 Tuesday.** Has rained moderately all day and has been a heavy fog most of the time. Aaron has been to Riceville, carried over the lime and brought home some lumber. Churned.
- 29 Wednesday.** Washed but could not hang up the clothes. Baked bread and biscuit, and fried cakes, mopped. Father went to Saratoga this afternoon, brought home two papers.
- 30 Thursday.** Prepared mince meat and baked four pies. Father has made a bedstead. Aaron went to Riceville for lumber. Colder and windy this evening.
- 31 Friday.** Father went to N. Oregon today to purchase a stove. Churned, mopped, ironed some starch clothes, rinsed and hung up some. Swept the chambers.

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