

# Times Hard but Grit Good

## Lydia Moxley's 1877 Diary

EDITED BY JAMES SANDERS

On a chilly November morning in 1871 Anson and Lydia (Dart) Moxley left the small town of Jefferson, New York in a buggy driven by Anson's father, Ezekiel. Through the crisp autumn air they rode to Richmondville where Anson and Lydia boarded a train. After a journey of several days, they arrived at their destination: Grinnell—a small settlement nestled in the prairies of Iowa.<sup>1</sup>

Founded in 1854 by a group of Congregational ministers known as the Iowa Band, Grinnell received a substantial number of settlers from eastern states. One of these settlers evidently came from the Moxley or Dart families, for when Anson and Lydia arrived in Grinnell in November 1871, they reportedly stayed with a relative.<sup>2</sup> While the choice of Grinnell seems to have been influenced by personal or family contacts, Anson

1. Emory Moxley's 1871 Day Book, privately held. "Anson and his wife started for Iowa today. Father took them to Richmondville, got back about dark." In traveling from a New England colony in upstate New York to a settlement founded by New Englanders in the Midwest Anson and Lydia repeated the experience of their ancestors. Both originated from families who moved to Jefferson, New York from Connecticut. In fact, they were second cousins: Lydia's grandfather, William Dart, married Hannah Moxley, the daughter of Anson's great-grandfather. For more information on the Dart and Moxley families see: T. L. Bolton, *Genealogy of the Dart Family in America* (Philadelphia, 1927) and *Moxley Family Genealogy*, Iowa State Historical Department.

2. See "Anson Moxley One of Real Old Settlers," *Grinnell Herald-Register*, 3 March 1941.

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and Lydia probably emigrated largely for personal considerations. For his part, Anson wanted to farm. His daughter, Mabel, recalled that in New York,

the farms weren't anything like out here in Iowa. You know, just a few acres, And it was stony, rocky [soil] and Father said when he was just a young man he wanted to be a farmer, but he didn't want to farm in the East. He wanted to farm out in the West where they had good rich soil.<sup>3</sup>

But in the fall of 1871 a more pressing concern had developed: Lydia, who in later years remarked about her husband that "she wouldn't have married him if she hadn't had to," was expecting their first child.<sup>4</sup> Their marriage, and their subsequent departure for Iowa, proved to be necessary to hide a situation which would have brought embarrassment to both.

Throughout the winter of 1871-72 Anson and Lydia resided in Grinnell. According to their daughter, Mabel, "they couldn't get possession of the farm they had bought until March, so Father thought he should be working at something through the winter, so what did he do but teach one of those standard schools. . . . In March 1872 they moved onto their land. It was "prairie land and there wasn't anything on that farm. Only a house, it was an old house, and an old barn."<sup>5</sup>

The diary presented below was kept by Lydia Moxley during 1877. At that time she and her husband had lived on their farm for six years. They had one child, Lucie, born on March

3. Interview with Mabel Moxley Barns, Red Wing, MN, August 1973. The interviews cited here are being prepared for deposit in the Iowa State Historical Department, Iowa City.

4. Interview with Rachel Barns Sanders (granddaughter of Anson and Lydia Moxley), n.d.

5. Interview with Mabel Barns. Although the land purchased by the Moxleys was still mainly unbroken prairie, by 1871 it had already passed through the hands of several owners. The Moxleys acquired it on January 9, 1872 from Jeremiah Flanders. At the time of his death in 1904 in San Diego, California, Flanders was described as a man of means; possibly his wealth was obtained through land speculation. Flanders had acquired title to the land he sold to the Moxleys only a few months earlier on October 30, 1871 from George and Lydia Harris through a quit claim deed. The Harris couple had purchased the land from John F. Phelps who had acquired it as part of a larger plot on January 23, 1856. Phelps made his purchase from George A. Fierce, a private in the Alabama militia, to whom the land had been warranted on March 3, 1855 for military service during the Florida War. See Warranty Deed, filed 21 February

25, 1872. Entries in the diary report on the couple's daily life. Clearly, Lydia's role was chiefly domestic. She did practically all of the housework, cooked all of the meals, and made many items of clothing. In addition, she helped with the farmwork; churning butter, milking cows, keeping chickens, and helping stack hay and pick corn were routine activities for her. She performed an immense amount of labor. "I feel almost worn out," she notes in one entry. In another she exclaims with relief that she "got dinner for the threshers for the *last* meal." Occasionally, gender-defined roles were reversed, and this did not go unmentioned. On February 9 Lydia notes: "Anson staid home & kept house. [He] had our dinner ready when we got home." In general though, Lydia's work life conforms to the paradigm developed by other writers on nineteenth-century rural women. If the frontier farm is viewed as a business venture, her role emerges as that of a partner. Economically, she provided essential services: manufacture of household items, production of cash crops for local markets, maintenance and repair of the house, and assistance in activities that were considered men's work. The diary offers further evidence that survival and success on these farms depended on a team effort between husband and wife.<sup>6</sup>

The diary also offers an insightful view of the rural environment in which the Moxleys lived. They resided several miles from the towns of Gilman and Grinnell where they sold their produce and bought supplies. Seasonal operations such as plowing, planting, and harvesting were carried out only with the assistance of neighbors. The diary shows that surrounding families saw a great deal of each other. While this obviously

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1872, Poweshiek County, Iowa, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; *Grinnell Herald-Register*, 22 March 1904 (Flanders' obituary); Jasper County Recorder, Quit Claim Deed, dated 30 October 1871, filed 10 January 1872, Jasper County Courthouse, Newton, Iowa; Jasper County Recorder, Original Entry Book; Bounty Land Warrant No. 2262, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

6. See Glenda Riley, "Not Gainfully Employed: Women on the Iowa Frontier, 1833-1879," *Pacific Historical Review* 49 (May 1980), 237-264 and her *Frontierswomen: The Iowa Experience* (Ames, 1981); Dorothy Schwieder, "Economic and Labor Roles of Iowa Farm Women," in *Farmers, Bureaucrats, and Middlemen: Historical Perspectives on American Agriculture*, ed. Trudy Huskamp Peterson (Washington, D.C., 1980).

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helped them accomplish tasks that none could do alone, and while such interdependence served to provide a social life, neighbors could at times become too close. One senses the John Abplanalp visited the Moxleys more regularly than Lydia might have desired. She notes in a lamenting tone, "John is here as usual," and that he "lay with his feet on the lounge."

In addition to providing a picture of rural society, the diary also contains information on farming in Iowa in 1877. The Moxleys, and presumably their neighbors as well, produced wheat, oats, and corn in the fields they cultivated. They also raised hogs, chickens, and cattle and produced eggs and milk. Potatoes seem to have been a garden product but one which was intended for the market rather than just household use. On October 26 Lydia notes that they had dug 175 bushels. Earlier Lydia reports that they received a price of ninety cents a bushel for potatoes in Grinnell.

Prices for other farm commodities are given as well. They received from fourteen to nineteen cents a pound for butter which they took to town in quantities of as much as sixty-eight pounds. They sold eggs in quantities ranging from five to twenty-six dozen per trip and received from eight to ten cents a dozen. The diary contains two references to hogs: On one occasion five were sold with a combined weight of 1,065 pounds. On another occasion three hogs, together weighing 780 pounds, were sold for \$27.30 or roughly 3½ cents a pound.

As an economic venture the Moxley farm proved to be a success. In later years Anson Moxley must have been satisfied with his youthful decision to leave New York and become a farmer on the prairies of Iowa. During one of his regular visits to his family in Jefferson he told his brother Emory how the farm was doing:

Sept. 24, 1901. Anson told me to day his farm was worth \$10,000. Between them [Anson and Lydia have] near \$2,000 in the bank, 40 or 50 head of cattle, 70 head of hogs. Could sell still this year about \$500 worth of grain if so disposed. 7 head of horses he had sold, already over \$1200 from his place this year.<sup>7</sup>

From 1872 to 1918 Anson and Lydia lived on their farm in Hickory Grove Township. In 1918 the couple moved to Grin-

7. Emory Moxley's 1901 Day Book, privately held.

nell, leaving the farm to their son Talmadge and his wife Jessie. Forty-six years of hard work carving a farm from virgin prairie did not leave them exhausted. Both lived to be more than ninety years old and enjoyed an active retirement.

Lydia kept other diaries describing her pioneer life, but they have not survived. The one presented below is therefore especially valuable, and is almost as interesting for what it does not tell us as for what it does. The entries tend to be objective and factual. Personal feelings must be read in to gain a sense of how Lydia felt to be cut off from family and friends and to live in a raw and physically taxing environment. We do not feel Lydia's frustrations and joys so much as we imagine them as we come face to face with the details of her daily life. Nor do we get much of a feeling for personalities. If obituaries are a reliable guide, both Moxleys were greatly respected by the community in which they lived. Anson, who died in 1941 at the age of ninety-one, was said to have lived "an exemplary Christian life," and to have been regarded as "a truly outstanding man." Lydia's obituary, which came out a few days after her death on New Year's Day, 1948, further noted that both of them were "well known in the community for their unusual physical stamina and sterling characters."<sup>8</sup>

The diary of Lydia Moxley is a valuable historical source which adds detail to our knowledge of farm life in nineteenth-century Iowa and reaffirms the important role women played in settling the West. In the text which appears below some spellings and punctuations have been modernized. Entries which seem redundant have been omitted—around one-third of the original diary appears here.

## JANUARY

Monday, 1.

I did up work and baked a jell cake. Mr. & Mrs. McCoy were here. Mr. McCulloch called, also J. Burroughs.<sup>9</sup> I cooked a chicken. Knit etc.

8. "Anson Moxley One of Real Old Settlers," *Grinnell Herald-Register*, 3 March 1941; "Mrs. Lydia Moxley Died Thursday, Aged 96 Years," *Grinnell Herald-Register*, 5 January 1948.

9. William Henry McCulloch moved to Hickory Grove Township from Illinois in 1869 with his wife Ellen Samantha Allen. John Lockhardt Burroughs

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Tuesday, 2.

I got up at 4 o'clock & cut out a water proof dress for Lucie, and partly made it. Miss Grant came back tonight.<sup>10</sup> I baked three loaves of bread.

Friday, 5.

I did up work & baked 7 pies, Anson went to Breedens' to get some feed ground.<sup>11</sup> I finished Lucie's waterproof dress. Miss Grant did not come here to night.

Saturday, 6.

I did up work and we went over to a "women's sewing" at Frank Burroughs. Anson took Mrs. Rowe and Mrs. McCulloch home.<sup>12</sup>

Sunday, 7.

I staid at home all day. Read etc.

Wednesday, 10.

I did up work & we went to Morris's a visiting (had a nice time). Knit etc. Miss Grant had a fire when we got home.

Friday, 12.

I did up work and made a jar of butter into rolls (about 40 pounds). Sewed etc. Miss Grant went to a "free Masons" supper tonight.

Sunday, 14.

We went to U.B. [United Brethren] meeting in the morning, also in the evening to hear Breeden preach. Mr. & Mrs. Durfee came home with us.<sup>13</sup>

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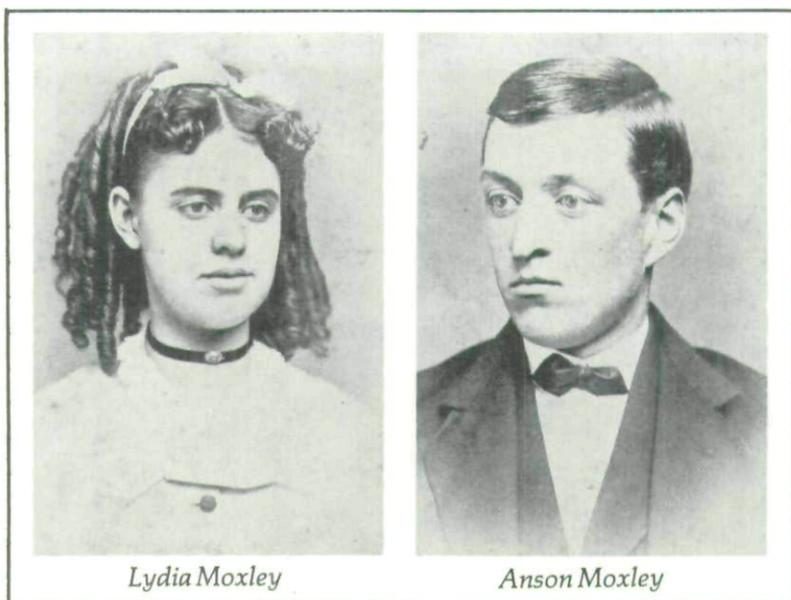
came to Hickory Grove Township from Ripley County, Indiana in 1865 with his parents. *Pioneers Past and Present* (Newburg, Ia., 1978), 77, 112 and *Grinnell Register*, 1 October 1934.

10. Miss Grant was a school teacher who lodged with the Moxleys. Interview with Mabel Barns.

11. This is most likely a reference to John and Margaret Breeden who came to Hickory Grove Township in 1856, apparently from Jefferson County, Tennessee. A John Breeden is listed as residing in Section 33 of Hickory Grove Township, just to the south of the Moxleys' in Andreas' *Atlas*. *Pioneers Past and Present*, 71 and A. T. Andreas, *Illustrated Historical Atlas* (1875; reprint ed. Iowa City, n.d.), 531.

12. George Rowe was a neighbor of the Moxleys. He came to Hickory Grove Township from England. Mabel Barns to author, August 1973.

13. The United Brethren Church in Hickory Grove Township which Anson and Lydia attended was established in 1874. The church burned down on January 18, 1925. The Durfees were Rev. Howard Durfee and his wife Melinda Breeden Durfee. *Grinnell Herald*, 26 May 1925; *Pioneers Past and Present*, 73.



Lydia Moxley

Anson Moxley

Thursday, 18.

I did up work etc. Got up at 4 o'clock. Anson is sick. We sent for Geo. Rowe to come over to do chores. I milked etc. Brought water, Hen. Walker was here all day.<sup>14</sup>

Saturday, 20.

I did up Saturday's work & baked a lot of ginger snaps and stirred cake, etc. Anson is worse. I went over to Mr. Rowe's and sent for medicine. It cost \$2.25. Mr. McCulloch called. He also left some medicine.

Monday, 22.

I did up the work & cooked a chicken for dinner. Anson is feeling somewhat better. George staid over here all day. I knit etc. We sent to town for oysters.

Tuesday, 23.

I had to be up all night with Anson last night—: went over to

14. Henry Walker's farm adjoined that of Anson Moxley. The two were good friends. Henry Walker was the second child of Jerome and Sarah Walker. The Walkers' other children were Mary, Richard, Jackson (Jack), Caroline (Kate), Charles (Cal), and Lizzie. *Grinnell Register*, 24 December 1926; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Manuscript Census for 1880, Iowa, Jasper County, Hickory Grove Township.

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Mr. Rowe's before sunrise to send George for a doctor, he went to Gilman after Potter & could not get him then Mr. Rowe sent to Grinnell after Lewis and got him.<sup>15</sup>

Wednesday, 24.

Anson is still very bad. I churned & did housework. Mr. Rowe, Walker & McCulloch called last night. Jack & George Bell & Mac have all called. (Have my hands full.) Dunlap & Forrester called.<sup>16</sup>

Tuesday, 30.

I did up work and churned. Made 9 pies etc. Anson is gaining slowly.

FEBRUARY

Thursday, 1.

I did up work. Went out and milked. George did not stay here last night. Mrs. Walker and Rich were here all day. I knit etc. I feel almost worn out.

Friday, 2.

I did up work & mended stockings etc. George staid over all day.<sup>17</sup> Anson is quite smart. Miss Grant went home tonight.

Saturday, 3.

I did up Saturday's work & baked 7 loaves of bread & a tin of biscuits, cooked some crab apples etc. Anson went out doors today. . . .

Friday, 9.

I got up "bright & early" and got breakfast for Miss Grant and George. Then George and I went to Gilman. Anson staid to home & kept house. Had our dinner ready when we got home.

Thursday, 15.

Sick. I churned 13 lbs. of butter, made 5 loaves of bread & 5

15. H. C. Potter was a physician who practiced in Jasper County. John Lewis also practiced in the area: he had his office on Broad Street in Grinnell. James B. Weaver, ed., *Past and Present of Jasper County, Iowa* 2 vols. (Indianapolis, 1912), 1:253; *Grinnell General and Business Directory for 1878* (Grinnell, 1878), 102.

16. George Bell was a son of Stewart H. Bell who had moved by covered wagon to Hickory Grove Township in 1875. Mr. T. Forrester farmed a plot in Section 35 in the township. Dunlap is unidentified. *Pioneers Past and Present*, 68-69; *Grinnell Register*, 15 March 1927 (Bell obituary); *History of Jasper County, Iowa* (Chicago, 1878), 616.

17. George Rowe did the chores during Anson's illness.

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pies and 3 fruit cakes. Had baked spare rib for supper. George quit doing chores.

Saturday, 17.

I did up my work and we went to McCoys', took Miss Grant & Mrs. Rowe. Had a fine visit. Made Lucie an apron.

Monday, 19.

I did up work & churned 18 pounds of butter, washed some and ironed. Made 5 doz. ginger snaps. McCulloch assisted Anson tonight.

Tuesday, 20.

I did up work & Lucie went to school. Anson went to Gilman with a load of corn. . . . Butter & eggs down to 14 & 10 cents.

Friday, 23.

I did up work & made 6 loaves of bread & 4 pies. Churned 7 pounds. Anson made a sled to draw water on, and called over to McCullochs.

Sunday, 25.

We went to Quarterly Meeting, had a large congregation and good sermon. . . .

Tuesday, 27.

Anson went to Gilman. I sewed and mended. Anson only got 8 cents a doz. for eggs.

## MARCH

Thursday, 1.

Anson had Mr. Dunlap to help him shell corn. I mended socks about all day. Lucie went to school.

Saturday, 3.

I did up Saturday's work and "cleaned up" upstairs. Made an apron. Henry Walker called. Miss Grant closed her school with a dinner. . . .

Monday, 5.

I did up work and washed. Anson went to Gilman with a grist and to school meeting. They put him in as director. I boiled ham and made a rice pudding.

Saturday, 10.

Anson went to Gilman and I rode along up to Newtons'. I finished my dress, knit etc.

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Sunday, 11.

Sick. We went to U.B. Meeting. George Rowe came home with us & he & Anson went to class meeting at the school-house.

Wednesday, 14.

I did up the work and knit etc. Anson set in the house all day.

Friday, 16.

I did up work, stewed some apple sauce and cut carpet rags. Anson called over to Mr. Rowe's. Rowe sold his potatoes for 90 cents a bushel yesterday.

Saturday, 17.

Anson went to Gilman. I did two weeks' washing & baked 6 loaves of bread and a tin of biscuits. Churned 8 pounds, did chores, etc.

Thursday, 22.

We went to Grinnell. Anson paid his doctor bill. We took down 68 pounds of butter—sold it at 17 cents per pound.

Saturday, 24.

I did up Saturday's work. Made four apple pies and one cranberry one, stewed apple sauce. Anson went to Grinnell with a load of potatoes (33 bu). I did all of the chores tonight.

Tuesday, 27.

I did up work and helped Anson load some potatoes. . . . Anson got \$38.53 for what potatoes he sold to Preston.<sup>18</sup>

Wednesday, 28.

Anson went to Grinnell with part of a load of hogs—\$44.37 worth. I churned 6 pounds and sewed etc. John Alpinalp called.<sup>19</sup>

APRIL

Monday, 2.

I did up morning's work. Washed a two weeks' washing and took up my carpet. Cleaned the floor and ironed some. Mac called. Anson rented half an acre of ground of J. Burroughs.

18. S. S. Preston & Son was the name of a dry goods store in Grinnell. The Prestons bought produce as well. *Grinnell Directory for 1878*, 93.

19. John Abplanalp came to Hickory Grove Township from Switzerland. Lydia often spells his name creatively. In conversation he was referred to as John Palnalp and she often uses the initials J. P. *Pioneers Past and Present*, 76.

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Wednesday, 4.

. . . We went over to clean the school house, it took 6 hours. Came home just about "fagged out." I mended some etc.

Thursday, 5.

I did up work & churned. Anson commenced to sow oats. I went and drove McCullochs' cattle toward home. Tonight I got the cans in the stable & milked. . . .

Friday, 6.

Anson sowed oats. (Sick) I sewed on a wrapper and cut out a dress for Lucie.<sup>20</sup> Tonight I milked 4 cows and fed the calves.

Saturday, 7.

I did up Saturday's work and churned. Albert [Moxley] came here this morning and quite surprised us.<sup>21</sup> Anson sowed oats in the forenoon. This afternoon he & Albert went to Gilman. I baked 5 mince pies. (Should be sick)

Tuesday, 10.

Albert went away today. I ironed and sewed. Churned, did chores, etc. Anson finished sowing wheat. . . .

Wednesday, 11.

I went at "house cleaning." White-washed the buttry and cleaned it. Sowed some cabbage seed.

Friday, 13.

I went to cleaning the bedroom and "airing things generally." Anson is sowing oats on J. Burroughs' land. I took his dinner over & called on Mrs. Hultz.

Tuesday, 17.

Anson set out cottonwoods and tinkered around this forenoon. I churned. Made soap and made 4 bottles of ink, ironed, and done all of the chores tonight. Sowed some tomato seed and pepper seed.

Wednesday, 18.

I done up work & white washed the kitchen and cleaned it. Cooked "pork & beans" for dinner. Anson finished his oat ground over in J. Burroughs' land. I did chores etc. etc.

20. A wrapper was a woman's garment resembling a housecoat.

21. Albert Moxley was Anson's brother. He made his first trip to Iowa to visit Anson around 1872 and stayed to teach school for two years. He returned to New York to study medicine, and after graduating on March 1, 1877, he returned to Iowa and practiced in Kellogg until 1889. Obituary notices in Moxley Family Scrapbook, privately held.

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Thursday, 19.

Anson took the banking away from the house, chased cattle etc.<sup>22</sup> Had a litter of pigs come last night. Saved them all, times hard but grit good.

Friday, 20.

We went to Grinnell (took 26 doz. eggs and 20 lbs. butter). Anson got 12 grape vines & 4 cherry trees.

Monday, 23.

I did up work & washed. This afternoon Kate Walker came up and we papered the bedroom. She staid all night. Anson dragged corn stalks etc.

Tuesday, 24.

I picked and dressed a fowl. We papered the kitchen & Kate went home tonight. I cleaned up etc. Lucie went to school yesterday and today.

Wednesday, 25.

I did up work & churned and smoked hams etc. Anson planted potatoes. I helped him cut them. Washed pictures etc. Cut a new mantle shelf paper.

Thursday, 26.

I did up work & mopped. Made a jellie cake. Cooked some corn. Stewed apple sauce. Anson went to Grinnell to get his plough polished. I made some creeper covers & had all of the chores done when he got home.

Sunday, 29.

Snow quite a depth . . . last night. We staid to home all day. . . .

Monday, 30.

(Sick) I did up work & washed. Cleaned the floor & oiled & stained it. Anson fixed fence. Mr. McCulloch called. He was breaking prairie right by our fence.

MAY

Tuesday, 1.

I churned and ironed. . . . Anson went to Walkers to scour his plough. I rode along for a call. Mrs. Rowe called this evening.

22. Bales of hay or straw were banked against houses for insulation in cold weather.

THE ANNALS OF IOWA

Wednesday, 2.

I did up work & sewed some. Lucie went to school. Anson commenced ploughing for corn. He went over to the school house today noon to carry some cobs and kindling wood. I set out 16 gooseberry bushes. Made a pie plant pie & custard one.<sup>23</sup>

Saturday, 5.

I did up Saturday's work and churned. Anson ploughed in the forenoon. In the afternoon he went to Gilman. Jack Walker was here to work in the p.m. I tacked down carpet etc. Mended.

Monday, 7.

Rained so hard I could not wash. I cut out a sun bonnet & mended some. Anson paid 35 dollars on Dobbin today.<sup>24</sup>

Thursday, 10.

I did up work & fried down a ham and packed it in a jar. Called over to Mr. Rowe's this afternoon (bought 9 turkey eggs for 17 cents). Set two hens this evening. Set one last week.

Friday, 11.

I did up work & churned. . . . Anson finished plowing his corn ground and commenced shovel plowing his fall plowing. . . .

Sunday, 13.

We went to the school house to meeting this afternoon. I wore my summer hat, was the only one that had on a "summer one."

Monday, 14.

Anson commenced marking his corn ground. I washed and put the white clothes to soak. Churned and sewed. Helped Anson about his corn marker and did all of the chores.

Tuesday, 15.

I rinsed up my clothes and put them up stairs. Sewed and did part of my ironing. Set my big hen this evening (17 eggs).

Wednesday, 16.

Anson *puttered* around all day. I sewed and churned. . . .

Saturday, 18.

I did up Saturday's work and baked 4 loaves of bread and 5

23. Pie plant was another name for rhubarb.

24. Dobbin was one of the Moxleys' horses.

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pies, a fruit cake & rice pudding & made some molasses & stewed apple sauce. Albert and Jack & George were here to work. They finished planting corn.

Wednesday, 23.

I churned and mopped etc. Baked two pies. Mrs. McCulloch called. Mrs. Rowe and I were going to McCoys'. I went this afternoon. Anson done the chores.

JUNE

Saturday, 2.

I did up Saturday's work. Baked 3 loaves of bread and 3 pies, a jellie cake and churned. Anson sowed Hungarian seed etc. I chored around out doors, etc.

Friday, 8.

Rainy most of the day. I sewed and helped Anson clean out the cellar. Mr. Hultz called after some eggs and I gave him 30.

Sunday, 10.

We went to the concert at the school house. Kate Walker came home with us.

Wednesday, 13.

I did up work and ironed. Set out cabbage plants (66). Had strawberry shortcake for supper. Anson called at J. Burroughs'.

Friday, 15.

I went down to Mr. Dunlap's for a visit; went afoot. Mrs. Dunlap gave me some strawberries. Came home about tired out. Had 13 chickens killed by *the rats*.

Sunday, 17.

We went to U.B. Meeting. Had green peas and *new* potatoes and strawberries for dinner.

Thursday, 21.

I picked strawberries (this forenoon, 5 qts). Sent Mrs. Rowe a pail full. Canned 3 cans and preserved some. Anson helped George Rowe weed onions. . . .

Saturday, 23.

(Sick) I made a jellie cake and did up Sat's work. Anson took his hogs to Grinnell (5 weighed 1065). I hoed in the garden and fixed up screens.

Monday, 25.

. . . Had a hard rain this morning. Anson let out my chickens and 7 drown.

THE ANNALS OF IOWA

Tuesday, 26.

I did up work and went down to Walkers' to get Kate to help me on my white basque.<sup>25</sup> She was gone over to Frank's to work. I cut it out myself.

Thursday, 28.

I did up work and put up screens upstairs. . . . This afternoon I fitted my basque, picked strawberries. . . .

Friday, 29.

I went and helped Anson get a bushel of new potatoes. Baked 4 loaves of bread yesterday. . . .

Saturday, 30.

We went to Grinnell. . . . I got me a new calico dress. Dobbin was sick coming home.

JULY

Tuesday, 3.

I ironed and did chores, cooked beans, etc. This p.m. went down to Walkers' and sewed on Kate's machine.

Wednesday, 4.

Anson ploughed corn in the forenoon. Cal and Liz Walker came up to ride with us to Gilman this afternoon. We had a "jolly time."

Thursday, 5.

I did up work and churned, sewed etc. Anson ploughed corn until about 4 then he went and dug potatoes until dark. I did all the chores. Thermometer stood 108 de.

Friday, 6.

Made a jell cake. I did up work and heated a boiler of water as usual. Anson went to Grinnell. I went over to Mr. McCulloch's to sew some on her machine.

Thursday, 12.

George Bell helped Anson get up his hay. Then he went to McCulloch's. I sewed etc. The hay stack fell over and I helped get it up.

Friday, 13.

I churned & Anson ploughed corn. This afternoon I went to school (it was the last day) service.

25. A basque is a woman's blouse with a tight-fitting waist.

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Monday, 16.

I washed and got dinner for harvesters. Ironed some of the clothes etc. Churned about 3 hours went out and hoed. Cut raspberry bushes. Did all of the chores. Anson never got home until 30 min of 10. (sick)

Friday, 20.

Anson hauled a load of sand to Grinnell for Jerome Walker. I churned, sewed. Chased horses away from the fence.

Sunday, 22.

Concert at U.B. Church this eve at 7:30. Meeting at school house. We went to the concert, had a full house and good concert.

Monday, 23.

I did a large wash and churned. Mended horse cover & shade to the harvester. Watered and salted our cabbage plants.

Tuesday, 24.

We commenced harvesting. John Alplanap & a stranger & Hultz worked for Anson. I went over to Mr. Rowe's and ground some pepper & some coffee. Kate came there. I made 3 pies, a cake etc. Sewed some, did chores.

Wednesday, 25.

I did up work. And made 4 pies and cooked beans and chicken for dinner. Had an awful hard days work. . . . John Alplap staid all night.

Thursday, 26.

They cut oats over at J. Burroughs' today. I cooked pies, put up lunch etc. Worked hard. Mrs. Rowe had a girl.

Friday, 27.

I cooked for harvest hands, churned etc. Anson and the hands cut oats. I picked the cucumbers and some green peas.

Monday, 30.

I did up work & washed and watered my cucumbers. Anson helped J. Abplanalp harvest. I did chores, tacked on a screen.

AUGUST

Wednesday, 1.

(We had a fried chicken for breakfast) Anson & John went to Gilman in the forenoon and then harvested in the p.m. I sewed and picked cucumbers.

## THE ANNALS OF IOWA

Friday, 3.

They came down to our house last night, and cut Anson's wheat today. I made 4 pies and a cake. Baked 4 loaves of bread. Had a chicken fried. They staid here tonight. Sent Mrs. Hultz some cucumbers.

Thursday, 9.

They cut Anson's wheat ("odessa") in the a.m. I cooked etc. Borrowed beans, made 4 pies. George Bell went down to John's and John P. had a hand to help him stack wheat. I helped Anson stack.

Sunday, 12.

We went to meeting at the church in the morning and to the basket [lunch] in the p.m.

Monday, 13.

I did up work and Kate W. came over to help me cook for threshers. We went to Gilman. . . .

Tuesday, 14.

(Should be sick) I did up work. John P. commenced threshing this p.m. We had 5 hands to supper. Made cake, pies, etc.

Wednesday, 15.

I did up work made 6 pies and 4 loaves of bread, cooked beans, beef, and etc. Kate Walker was here. We had 7 to supper. Mrs. Rowe called. I baked all the things myself.

Tuesday, 28.

I baked bread and washed. . . . A. and John killed a hog this evening. Mr. Rowe had half of it.

Wednesday, 29.

I tried out lard and fried down the ham & shoulder. Worked hard all day.

Friday, 31.

I cleaned out the cellar. Churned, baked 4 mince pies. Anson ploughed. I cut out a chemise. . . .

## SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, 4.

I did up work and cooked for John P's threshers. Made 4 pies & rice pudding and cake. . . .

Wednesday, 5.

Had 9 men here to dinner & 5 to supper. Baked 5 pies and 2

*Times Hard but Grit Good*

rice puddings, went over to Mr. Rowe's to get some flour, churned.

Friday, 7.

Jack helped Anson put up hay. John is here as usual. I sewed and baked a rice pudding. Jack & John both staid here all night.

Sunday, 9.

Rained. . . . We staid at home all day. John P. lay with his feet on the lounge. . . .

Friday, 14.

Anson helped J. Burroughs. I called down to see Walker. 3 men came with a sewing machine. I got dinner for them and they went off to hunt prairie chickens. They left their sewing machine here, offered it for \$30.00. Anson would not buy it.

Monday, 17.

We got up bright & early. Anson & John P. went to help John Burroughs thresh! Mrs. J. Walker and I went down to Mr. Elliott's after grapes, we got 67 lbs. apiece. I drove all the way down there, got home about 3 o'clock.

Thursday, 20.

I went out to the potato patch and dug about a bushel of potatoes, made 3 pumpkin pies etc. & cooked chicken this afternoon, washed windows and mopped. Ironed some. Anson barbed fence.

Monday, 24.

I did up work & got dinner for threshers for the "last meal" for this year, made 3 pie plant pies this p.m. Anson went to Kellogg. Churned & did chores etc. Jack Walker & J. P. [John Abplanalp] staid here all night.

OCTOBER

Tuesday, 2.

I washed and cleaned a bedstead etc. Cleaned out a box of things upstairs and cleaned the floor etc. Anson went to help McCoy thresh this p.m. A ditcher called.

Friday, 5.

I did up work and went over & helped Mrs. Rowe quilt. Anson went to Gilman, sent 14 pounds of butter to town. Got 18 cents a pound.

## THE ANNALS OF IOWA

Monday, 8.

Anson went to Grinnell and I rode along. . . . Anson got 19 cents a pound for butter.

Sunday, 14.

We staid home all day. J. P. came down as usual. . . .

Monday, 15.

I did up work and churned. This afternoon I pulled the beans (10 stacks of them). . . .

Thursday, 25.

I went down & helped pick up potatoes (gathered 45 bushels). I worked out doors all day. Rec'd a letter from Mother.

Friday, 26.

I did up work and went down to help pick up early red potatoes. Had 175 bu.

Saturday, 27.

I did up Sat's work & churned 6 pounds and made yeast etc. Anson went to the grove in the forenoon and to Gilman in the p.m. I herded the cattle on the oats and gathered the cabbage and cut carpet rags.

Sunday, 28.

I got beefsteak for breakfast. Anson went to U. B. Meeting. . . . I did not go. Also went down to see Planalp he has the rheumatism.

Monday, 29.

We went to Grinnell. I did up work etc. John P. eat breakfast here. (We took 62 lbs. of butter & 5 doz. eggs.) I bought a can of oysters & we had them for supper.

## NOVEMBER

Thursday, 1.

I milked and did up work. Made 3 apple pies & 3 pumpkin ones. Cooked beans, washed some calico things. John P. was here to work. They hauled manure. . . .

Saturday, 3.

I did up Saturday's work and baked 3 pies, a jellie cake & churned. Took up my bedroom carpet and cleaned it and woodwork. Anson gathered the rest of his turnips.

Sunday, 4.

We staid at home all day. Had apple dumplings etc.

*Times Hard but Grit Good*

Tuesday, 6.

I did a two weeks washing. Anson and I fixed up his corn crib. I topped turnips. Sewed some & did chores. Baked bread.

Friday, 9.

Anson banked the house and picked corn. I churned and sewed. . . .

Tuesday, 13.

I did up work and sewed. Made Lucie a pair of drawers. Anson picked corn etc.

Friday, 16.

I did up work and milked (as usual). Made Lucie an apron. Went out and helped Anson pick corn. (He picked 3 loads.) Dunlap called tonight after some butter.

Saturday, 17.

I did up Saturday's work and did a two weeks washing etc. Spread down my carpet. Ironed, made 3 pies and a jellie cake, done all the chores so Anson could pick 75 bushels of corn.

Monday, 19.

(School commences) Lucie went to school. . . . I sewed and helped A. bank the old straw stable and helped pick a load of corn.

Wednesday, 21.

I did up work & sewed, put in a pane of glass, mended mittens. Anson picked corn in the p.m.

DECEMBER

Saturday, 1.

I did up Saturday's work. Anson went over to Mr. Rowe's after some fresh meat. I tried out lard & fixed the sausage meat. . . .

Tuesday, 4.

I ironed & mended etc. Anson went to Gilman with 3 hogs, he sold them (780 pounds for \$27.30). . . .

Friday, 7.

Mrs. Mac went to Grinnell to send all her young ones to school. I did up work & churned & fixed & seasoned my sausage meat. Anson broke his wagon wheel and had to go & borrow a wagon. We finished picking corn this p.m.

THE ANNALS OF IOWA

Saturday, 8.

I did up Saturday's work and sewed. Anson went to Grinnell with a load of oats and to get some lumber. I was awful sick while he was gone but got so I had the chores all done when he came home. He got us some apples.

Monday, 17.

I did not wash for I was about sick. Mrs. Rowe started for Indiana. I sewed some etc. A. put up his steamer house.

Thursday, 20.

I sewed & mended. Baked a jellie cake. Lucie has not been to school this week on account of the mud. Anson hauled straw, filled the straw tick.

Monday, 24.

I did up work and baked bread. Anson ploughed all day. I made a custard pie & a grape one. Mr. McCulloch called this eve to invite us over to Christmas.

Tuesday, 25.

Christmas. Anson ploughed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre and then we went over to McCullochs'. Had a fine time. Anson brought in 6 eggs today.

Wednesday, 26.

Anson went over & got Mr. Rowe's corn sheller and I helped him shell corn, sewed etc. Lucie went to school. I churned. Baked a chicken etc. Stewed a pumpkin.

Thursday, 27.

Anson went to Gilman and Lucie to school. I made 3 pumpkin pies & sewed. Rec'd a letter from Albert tonight & also a box of "ear covers" from Ma.

Monday, 31.

I did up work and did a two weeks washing. Baked an apple pie, made 3 frosted cakes and some maple molasses—stewed some apple sauce. Lucie went to school.

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