

MARY SACKETT'S JOURNAL

1841/1842

A gift to the Otter Creek Historical Society, from W.H. Underwood

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## INTRODUCTION

In the following pages there is a copy of a journal kept by Mary Johnson Sackett in 1841 and 1842. It gives a day-by-day account of her journey with her parents, as they moved from New York city to Laona, Winnebago County, Illinois, about eighteen miles northwest of Rockford. It tells of the things she saw and did, people they met, and of their building a house and settling in that pioneer territory. They went by steamboat up the Hudson to Albany, through the Erie Canal to Buffalo, by steamboat through the Great Lakes to Racine, Wisconsin, and finally by horse and wagon to Laona. The journal is generally self-explanatory, but some background information may be of help and interest to the reader.

Mary Johnson Sackett was born in Providence, Rhode Island on April 23, 1825, the second child of Isaac Sackett and his wife Mary Johnson. Her parents had married in Newport Rhode Island on December 29, 1822. Their first born was a boy, Isaac Erustus Sackett, born November 4, 1823, but he died in February of 1825. So Mary was the eldest of the living children.

There were three other children. Mary had a brother, George Henry Sackett, a year younger than she, born August 24, 1826. It is he to whom she was writing. He had been left behind, in New York, presumably because he had become an apprentice, or something of the sort, and was living with another family. Altogether, there were nine children born to Isaac Sackett and his wife Mary, but only four survived to maturity. The other two, beside Mary and George, were Caroline Elisa Sackett, born February 25, 1831, and Richard Johnson Sackett, born October 10, 1838. So Caroline was ten, and Richard two and a half when they started their trip.

Caroline grew up, married Daniel H. Smith, and had four children, one of whom, Charlotte Emma Smith, married Clarence A. Murray and became my grandmother.

Mary Sackett had just turned sixteen when she began her journal. It is apparent that she was an avid reader, and something of a musician. She was also interested in writing, and wrote well. She was a little self-conscious on starting her journal, but she quickly overcame that and wrote with great skill and insight, telling a fascinating story. A couple of years after the journal she edited (or wrote) a literary periodical called "The Prairie Flower". I have manuscript copies of several issues. I don't know if it was actually published. Beyond that, I have only a few bare facts.

In 1847, when Mary was twenty-one, she married Hanson C. Pearson, but he died about a year later. Then in 1852 she married Samuel Chapman. They had seven children, one of whom died in infancy.

Sadly, Mary died on January 1, 1869, at the age of forty three, leaving six young children.

Mary's mother, Mary Johnson, the wife of Isaac Sackett, was born in Newport, Rhode Island, the daughter of John Johnson and Mary Lyon, both of whom had been born in Newport. John Johnson was the son of Richard Johnson, who was born in Wexford Ireland in 1747, a son of Robert Johnson. John's mother was Mary Stockman, born in Newport in 1750, a daughter of Jacob Stockman. This may be a little confusing, so I have included a family tree for Mary Johnson, the mother of Mary Sackett.

In a sense, Mary's father Isaac Sackett (or Sacket, as he himself usually spelled it) is the central character of her story. I include his pedigree, as well. It shows him as having been born in Southwick, Massachusetts, although he may well have been born in the adjacent town of Westfield. Isaac's father, John, was proprietor of a large hotel in Westfield ("on the spot where the old Woronoco house stood", according to a newspaper account), and his grandfather Adnah Sackett was a large landowner in Westfield. Grandfather Adnah also appears to have been a lieutenant in the revolutionary army. Isaac was descended from the Moseley and Chapin families on his mother's side.

Isaac's family figures largely in Mary's journal. He had seven sisters and brothers, all but one of whom lived to maturity. His brother John died at twenty one, but all the rest lived to a good old age. His older brother Adnah, who is mentioned in the Journal, lived in Providence, Rhode Island, and was a very successful businessman. He invested in land in Illinois, with Isaac acting as his agent and manager.

Isaac's younger sister Abigail married Charles Cleveland and moved to Illinois a couple of years before Isaac. Charles Cleveland and his brother Lewis lived adjacent to each other in Laona. Isaac and his family lived in a house on Charles' property while Isaac was building his own place. There is some suggestion that Isaac may have loaned Charles the money to buy his place in Laona, but I haven't verified this.

Some years before Isaac's move to the middle west his younger brother Israel had moved to Albany, where he "opened the first coffee house and hotel ever kept in that city", according to a newspaper account. Presumably the Moseley family that Mary speaks of as visiting in Albany were relatives.

The children Mary, George, and Caroline were all born in Providence, but Isaac moved his family to Brooklyn, New York about 1838, so Richard was born there. A city directory shows Isaac as living at 17 Hicks Street in 1839, and his occupation as "agent". (But agent for what, the directory doesn't say).

Isaac was forty-three when he moved his family to the middle west. It is apparent from Mary's account that he had already made a visit to their new land, and to his sister and

brother-in-law, Abigail and Charles Cleveland, sometime before that.

It is also apparent that Isaac must have had considerable of what today we call "presence". The reader may notice that they didn't eat with the immigrant passengers on the boat up the Hudson; they were invited to have tea with the captain. When Isaac was called to Rockford to sit on the grand jury, he was asked to stay over and was made foreman of the petit jury. He later served as County Commissioner for a couple of years.

Isaac was obviously a respected person in the community. It is also apparent that his leadership qualities gravelled his brother-in-law Charles. Particularly so since Isaac was quite successful financially, and Charles wasn't. Isaac's family didn't give Charles Cleveland much respect, and this led to a fascinating family quarrel, as the reader will see.

There are some details of Mary Sackett's journal that are not quite clear, and many more that could be expanded upon, relating them to the history of that day. I am researching those details. It is my intention to publish her work in an expanded form, giving the background to make her account even more vivid and interesting. But time and chance being what they are, it seems to me better to publish what I have now, and keep working on the expanded version, to be published later in a more attractive and permanent form.

So here is Mary Sackett's journal as she wrote it. The only changes I have made are to modernize the punctuation, making it more easily readable. I couldn't always decipher her manuscript, particularly as regards proper names. She wrote very fine, line after line on sheets of paper held together with a linen thread. Where I was unsure of what she wrote I inserted my best guess in square brackets. One usage that may seem strange to today's reader is the word "eat". But it is correct. My grandparents habitually used the word, pronounced "et", where today we would say "ate".

I feel extraordinarily lucky to have found her journal. My mother told me several times, when I was a boy, about one of my ancestors who had kept a diary during their trip west, "in a covered wagon". But I had never seen it, and had no idea who had it. I often wondered about it, and thought of sending inquiries to the relatives to see if I could locate it. So how did I get it?

One day I was going through some old pictures and things that my father had given me from his attic in 1965. There in an old, broken, dirt-smeared cardboard box, was a sheaf of papers that I remembered having seen as a boy in my grandmother Murray's things. My grandparents Murray had gotten wiped out financially, in their late years, and had to come to live with us. They brought some of their furniture and personal things and stored them in our basement.

The duty of closing out her mother's affairs must have fallen on my grandmother Murray, who lived nearby in Rock County, Wisconsin, when her mother died in 1891. Great-grandmother Caroline Sackett Smith's other children lived in Chicago and Montana at the time. Grandmother, I presume, recognized the papers and saved them from her mother's things. So how had Caroline gotten them? As mentioned earlier, her sister Mary had died in 1869. Perhaps Caroline got them then, from her brother-in-law Chapman, or perhaps they had been given to Isaac, and Caroline got them from his things when he died in 1881.

Grandmother also had the Sackett and Murray family Bibles with her things. My brother Charles rescued those when he and my father parted company. Charles is dead now, so his wife Leola gave them to me, with the understanding that I would go through them and put the information together in a genealogy. The information they contained was tremendously useful as I worked on Mary Sackett's journal.

One more bit of information about Isaac Sackett, before you read Mary's journal. Isaac's wife Mary died in 1869 also, about six weeks after the death of their daughter, the author of this journal. Isaac was seventy then. He had outlived his wife and all but two of his children. He lived alone for a couple of years, but then in about 1872 he married a girl of thirty-one (Theresa, I don't know her last name), and had two more children. A son Adnah was born in October 1873, and another son, Pomeroy in December 1876. Isaac died in April of 1881, at the age of 82.

So here is the journal of Mary Johnson Sackett, a pioneer to the middle-west in 1841.

William Murray Underwood  
Kirkwood, Missouri  
26 December 1985.

MARY SACKETT'S JOURNAL

Dear Brother.

I now commence the journal which I promised to keep for your reading. I shall not have anything to write, I fear, that will be very interesting to you. A journal of such common events, and from such a pen as mine will, I fear, merit but little of your attention, but if you will promise that no eyes but yours will see this, I will do the best that I can, hoping that wherein I fail your better judgement and kindness will allow you to correct me.

I shall commence on the 18th of May 1841. After a painful parting with you and our friends we retired to the cabin which we found nearly full of Irish, Dutch, or English, who were preparing their supper, which they spread upon the cabin table and eat, with much apparent enjoyment.

We took tea with the Captain whom we found to be quite a jovial sort of a man. He told us that he was going to take his wife on board as soon as he came to his farm which lay on the banks of the river, and give her a sail for her health, and she would be some company for us. We did not however reach the farm before night and were thus deprived of the lady's society. Her health not permitting her to venture out at so late an hour.

The steamboat on which we sailed was called the Commerce and at that time had five boats in tow which were well laden and prevented our going fast. We retired at an early hour with severe headaches which after a night of sound sleep was entirely dispersed.

MAY 19th, 1841

When we arose we found we had proceeded but little toward Troy. You will remember that when we left N.Y. we calculated on rain at least every other day. It being pleasant the day we started we of course expected rain today but were favored with pleasant weather though light clouds occasionally obscured the sun. We spent most of the day on deck where we took our rocking chairs, and sat very comfortably with our cloaks and bonnets on.

Papa and Dick walked the deck most of the time, Nanna knit and Caroline and myself sewed on our patchwork. We had some conversation with some of our fellow passengers, whom we found had arrived in N.Y. but the day before they left there, and like ourselves were bound for the West.

The scenery along the river this time of the year was indeed beautiful. The many farms, landings or villages formed many a handsome scene for a painter. We arrived at the highlands about dusk, which seen in the twilight appeared very gloomy and yet sublime. They cast a long shadow on the water, which was quite clear and smooth, making it appear as black as night. We watched a long time to catch a glimpse of St. Anthony's nose, which is a point in the rocks, said to bear an exact resemblance to a man's nose.

20th.

We were awakened about three, with the news that the boat would land us in Albany, which we did not expect. We were soon prepared to go on shore, and leaving our baggage on board to proceed to Troy, we proceeded to Mrs. Moseley's in Hamlin St. at the foot of which we were landed. We found none of them up, but soon aroused them.

We took breakfast and then called on Mrs. Cordell whom we found very well, and busy papering and painting. Caroline staid with her to play with Jane, and Momma, Papa, Dick and myself proceeded to Franklin's store. After purchasing what goods we wanted we went to his house and took dinner. Before this however Papa had been to Troy and back, having seen our goods and baggage on board of a canal boat and engaged our passage.

After dinner we returned to Mrs. Moseley's. Toward night Harriet and I went out to take a walk and were met by Papa and Charles who had been out for the same purpose. [The following two sentences were written, then crossed out later in a different colored ink.] I told Harriet of my engagement with Henry, which she promised to keep for a friendly secret. She neither expressed like or dislike but went on talking to me that which I was not(?) to mention.

We returned home and spent the evening in playing the piano and singing.

21st.

We spent the forenoon with Mrs. Moseley and Patheria and started about two for the Troy boat. On our way we stopped in Mr. Ainsworth's store who treated us with wine & were joined by him and Charles, who accompanied us to the boat. The boat started about three and after about 25 minutes very pleasant sailing we arrived in Troy, which from the river appeared to be quite a

place. There were many new houses going up along the banks of the river, and most of the houses near where we landed appeared to be new.

We went on board the canal boat, which lay but a few steps from the steamboat landing. The cabin was very small, but neatly furnished having 3 windows on either side, with blinds and curtains, two immovable settees which contained bedding round wood stools a looking glass and stove not forgetting the carpet & curtain which we could draw and thus divide the gents from the ladies cabin.

Upon the whole it looked much better than I expected. Papa could not find his box of clocks or weights and had to go off and leave them, the forwarders promising to send them on in the next boat.

We started about 5 o'clock though Papa or the Captain were not on board which gave us no small uneasiness, but we soon learned that a canal boat was not like a steamboat and that there was no danger of them being left far behind. When we started there were four passengers beside ourselves, two old ladies being mother and daughter, a young lady named Harriet Spencer, and a young man by name Mr. Holmes.

We sat upon the deck most of the time till night. Before we retired we passed through three locks and under 11 bridges. We presented quite a comical appearance when we were near a bridge. All hands were squatting, or if a very low bridge, laying flat on the deck or scampering for the cabin once. I got my head knocked a little once but was pretty careful afterwards. While we were in the waylock Papa came on board.

### 22nd.

After enjoying a good nights rest I arose, found it very pleasant, and that we had proceeded but 12 miles toward Buffalo. We being now out in the country we were not obliged to pass under so many bridges so we took our rocking chairs and work and sat upon deck most of the day. We stopped at a number of small places during the day. We arrived at Schenectady in the afternoon it seemed quite a place. I must here mention the wickedness of the drivers. Whenever they met instead of a friendly good Morrow ----- (?) and horrible with bitter curses passed between them, they seemed to hate the sight of one another and would almost push one another into the canal rather than turn out. Our fare was very poor though we had been assured we should have the very best, for want of a good cook. She was not only cook but chambermaid and Captain's wife though she was not married.

### 23rd.

At one o'clock the boat stopped, the line to which it belonged not travelling on Sunday. We had quite a laugh at Papa who told

us that he thought that the 6 day line went through to Buffalo in 6 days instead of stopping every 7th day. We stopped in a very nasty windy place and spent a long lonesome tedious day in reading writing and sleeping.

Toward night Papa, Mr. Holmes, Harriet, L\_\_\_\_, Caroline and myself went to walk. We had quite a pleasant walk and returned just before sunset after which the two old ladies, Harriet and Mr. Holmes went to meeting in someone's kitchen not far from where the boat lay. The day was very warm and pleasant. The boat started about 11.

24th.

After breakfast we took our work and chairs upon deck. Mr. Holmes knit for me most of the forenoon. He said he had knit many pairs of stockings and done a great deal of sewing too. For the afternoon he helped Caroline and me sew our patchwork. The Captains and drivers whom we met today were so contrary that it was with some difficulty that we got along.

In the afternoon it clouded up with very heavy clouds. The lightning flashed, the thunder roared the wind blew violently and we had every appearance of a heavy shower, but we had very little rain till night. This was the first rain we had had since we left N.Y. During the storm we passed through ["Valley" was crossed out and replaced with "Little"] Falls but did not see much of the main fall of the river. The bed of the river was covered with rocks over which the water tumbled along with great rapidity, throwing up spray and foam. It was quite a romantic pretty looking place.

About one mile from the village of Valley Falls the canal is laid on the bed of the river being 50 ft in depth and much wider than usual. Here was the most splendid scene I ever witnessed (for you know I never travelled much in the country). On each side of the canal were rocks 40 or 50 ft in height which were covered with tall trees to which the stillness of the water (though the wind was blowing very hard we did not feel it here) the low black clouds, the sharp lightning and pealing thunder added much sublimity and grandeur. It continued raining very fine showery raining all the evening.

During the night we came into very shallow water so that we were aground part of the time. The canal here was so full of boats that it was almost impossible to get along. We were banging and thrashing about 'll night, first against one boat and then against another. Our boat was not heavy laden or we could not have proceeded at all. As it was we did not progress but 6 miles.

25th.

I was [up] quite early having passed a restless night on account of the noise and bustle on deck. The weather was cloudy chilly showery & pleasant by spells so we were obliged to sit in the cabin all the forenoon. We felt quite homesick and many times wished ourselves back in N.Y. From 10 till 2 we lay in Utica to have our rudder repaired, which had been broken the preceding night. While we were there we were obliged to keep in the cabin as it rained very hard most of the time. This made us still more lonesome. As the weighlock was covered like a house it was dark and gloomy enough. I can assure you we were thankful to leave Utica. About noon it began to clear away and by two was quite pleasant.

From Utica to Rome, a small village, the scenery was beautiful. The rain had made everything green and fragrant so that it was delightful. Today we pass a number of log cabins, which Papa assured us were much better or about as good as Charles'. I could hardly believe him. It did not seem possible for decent folks to live in such looking places.

The evening was very pleasant and moonlight and we all sat upon deck to enjoy it. Caroline and I sang for the amusement of the company who of course were very much pleased with it. Mr. Holmes thought "The Lords of Creation" first rate, also "Nothing Else to Do".

26th.

We spent most of this day in the cabin as it was chilly, but were not as lonesome as the preceding day. At Utica we took on board two flute players a clarionette player and a singer so today we had music enough. Caroline and I sang with the flute and without it and the young man (the singer) also. As the dinner bell rang I was in the midst of a song, the singer said, "he had rather go without his dinner than be interrupted". From that I suppose he was very much enchanted. I expect both of us would have been very much smote had he not happened to have been married a few weeks before. In the evening we sat on the deck & listened to the flute and clarionette. Pleasant and moonlight.

27th.

A very pleasant day most of which we spent in sewing. About two we arrived in Syracuse where our two old ladies went on shore to see some friends while the Captain went to do some business, this being his native place.

We returned in about [an hour?] but the old ladies were amongst the missing. We waited for them till about 5 then went off without them. It was so pleasant we begrudged every moment that we were laying still, we had not proceeded but about 6 miles when

we saw the two old ladies waiting for us. They had hired a horse and carriage and gone on to the next landing place. When they came on board they did not appear to like it much that we should have left them. I expect the Captain would have waited, but he had to be hindered at most every [turn?] by them and had got out of patience.

Just after we took them on board Harriet saw the man whom she was going to see on another canal boat so we had to stop to hail him and take him on board and before night we stopped at a little village where we landed them both with all their baggage. We had proceeded but a little further before we were stopped again to take some freight on board. It seemed as if everything was combined to prevent our making any progress today, for you must consider that with poor fare &c we had begun to be quite impatient to arrive in Buffalo. Had very pleasant moonlight evening.

28th.

We spent most of the day in sewing and listening to flute players. During the day we passed a number of small villages at most of which we stopped to get fresh water or provisions. At one of them which was within 10 miles of Rochester all our men passengers went on shore to go to Rochester on foot it being nearer than to go by the canal.

The day was very warm and fine. We arrived in Rochester about 4 in the afternoon where we found the men waiting for us. They had been there a number of hours. Rochester is quite a large place. It put one in mind of N.Y. On each side of the canal the store houses are as thick as in Waterstreet most of them being 4 or 5 stories high. The river runs through the place over which they were building very many handsome bridges. Today Mr. Holmes knit the heel of my stocking bound it off and got out of the slip and binding. Spent the evening on deck listening to the flute and clarionette.

29th.

It was rather chilly. The sun shone very warm but the wind was raw and cold in the fore part of the day, by noon it was moderated and in the afternoon was very warm. Today I finished off my stocking and bed quilt and commenced another stocking and quilt called Job's Troubles. The pieces were 6 sided. Toward night we arrived in Lockport. Along here the canal runs through a valley formed by two high hills being 50 ft formed by nature but very convenient for the canal, at the tops of these hills is situated the village. On the skirts of it there were many handsome residences surrounded by handsome flower gardens which look very pleasant from the canal. There are 5 locks one right after another, there are two sets of locks, one for boats going, the other for those coming making 10 locks. They are all built

of handsome square stone, looking at a little distance like an immense pile of stones, there are three flights of stone steps with railings for travellers to go up on if they prefer it to going through the locks in the boat. Each lock raises us about 12 feet making in all 60 feet. After we passed through the locks we found the canal to be cut through the solid rock for the distance of one mile. It hardly seemed possible for man to do so much. I felt very sorry that we could not have passed through there in the day time as we could have seen it to much better advantage. I wish I were an orator that I might give it such a description as it deserves.

30th.

We stopped within 11 miles of Buffalo about sunrise at a place called Pontawonto through which the steam cars passed on their way from Buffalo to Niagara. We had anticipated another long day but were agreeably disappointed. The day was very pleasant and just warm enough to be comfortable. About 11 the cars came along in which we seated ourselves Mr. Holmes being of our party and were soon on our way to Niagara Falls.

After a pleasant ride of 3/4 of an hour in which time we went over 12 miles we were landed in Niagara village. As soon as the cars stopped there were over 20 or 30 black and other servants and kept up an incasson[?] repetition of not "will you have a carriage sir?" but "the Niagara House is the best and cheapest in the place". "The Franklin is much the best and a great deal nearer". "Shall I take your baggage to the Washington?" so that we had most as much difficulty in getting out of the cars as should, had we been landing from a steamboat in N.Y.

Niagara village is about 1 mile and 1/2 from the falls. After having learned that the cars would leave again @ 2 we walked through the village which contained many handsome hotels, pretty cottages, and dwelling houses besides 3 or 4 meeting houses and a railroad depot.

After passing through the village we walked along on the shore of the Niagara River which was much larger than I expected to find it. Its bed for 1/4 of a mile above the falls is covered with rocks over which the water dashes with fury presenting a sheet of spray and foam sparkling in the sun really beautiful. We could see Grand Island which is now in possession of the Americans but formerly belonged to Canada. The island is covered with very heavy valuable timber and from the shore looks very pleasant. Many go over to the island landing at the upper end of it and walk to the other end which is just at the turn of the horseshoe form of the falls but it looks very dangerous.

We soon found ourselves at the Niagara Falls a place which I certainly never expected to see. The river falls about 100 feet upon the small ledges of rocks before it reaches the main fall of 175 feet. To describe it would be impossible for me. I could

not give you the least idea of its sublimity. You must see it before you can have the least idea of it, it seemed as though. I could not take my eyes from the spot. We picked up some little stones and shells which we preserved as coming from the falls. There were a number of persons who went down a pair of stairs as high nearly as the falls, and walked under the rocks over which the water poured. Mr. Holmes asked me to go down with him but I felt afraid to, but have been sorry since that I did not go.

Round the falls were many houses of refreshment, which were filled with Indian curiosities for sale. At one house we saw an eagle. It was sitting on a fence, being chained up. After strolling round and gathering flowers which by the way we kept Mr. H. pretty busy cutting, we returned to the village, took some dinner, and seated ourselves in the cars loaded with flowers with which we adorned our cabin in the most beautiful manner. After we got back we found ourselves very tired and glad to get a good supper if we could, but all we could get was some poor tea crackers and rank butter. We started about tonight about 10 and arrived in Buffalo about 4 in the morning, of the

31st.

Mr. H. and Papa went off to see about getting passages in steamboats across the lakes. We all took breakfast on board when Mr. Holmes bid us good by as he was going to take the boat which [was] going that day for Detroit. We all felt sorry to have him go for he seemed almost like one of the family he had been with us so long. He told us we must send him some papers and let him know where we lived, and if he ever traveled that way, which very likely he should he would certainly come and see us. He would like to cross the lakes with us but Papa told him he thought we should stop in Buffalo for a few days. We saw him on board the canal boat where we staid most of the forenoon after he had started for Detroit as he passed he waved his handkerchief to which we answered.

It seemed very lonesome now for Papa was gone all the forenoon and we were left entirely alone. About noon Papa came on board and said that he had engaged a steerage passage on board the Missouri for us and one for our things on board of a ship so the canal boat pushed up to the vessel and put our goods on board and then up to the steamboat and put our baggage and selves on board of that.

After we had secured everything in our little stateroom, which contained 3 berths a stool & window and just room enough to turn round. Papa and I went over to the ship and took out our bedding some small chairs dishes and other necessaries and took them on to the steamboat. Mama and I then went to making our beds while Papa drove nails all round the room. We soon had up our looking glass a curtain to the window and a lantern suspended from the top also a carpet on the floor and things arranged quite comfortably. Outside on each side of the door stood one of our

chests one of which was on Papa's trunk which we used for a table. In these chest we kept all our cooking utensils and provisions. In front of the door stood all our trunks so you see we had everything homely.

Papa went out and bought us some provisions and at tea time went to the stove which was kept on purpose for steerage passengers to cook by, put on our teakettle made some and poached some eggs. We spread our supper on the ----[?] chest and stood around to eat it. After supper we cleared away and prepared for bed. I slept in the upper berth, Caroline and Dick in the one under me and Mama in the under one. Papa had a berth in one of the other rooms. After we had all gone to bed Papa packed in our stool, rocking chair, Dick's highchair, Caroline's chair and Dick's little chair, our market basket, an ----[?] bandbox, 4 small baskets, his grape vines, my flower pot and many other unmentionables, besides all our cloaks coats and bonnets which hung around the room. After I got to bed I could not help crying to think that we had got to go in such style but I soon forgot my troubles in sleep and pleasant dreams.

1st.

When I awoke I found the sun shining brightly into our room; when I got up Papa had our breakfast nearly cooked. He had some eggs, coffee & potatoes with bread butter and milk which we bought. After breakfast we all went to walk. I did not like the looks of Buffalo much, the streets were so narrow and dirty. We walked to the American barracks where we saw the solgiers exercised and heard the band practice some first rate pieces. We returned to the boat and took dinner, Papa having bought some crackers and fresh meat, we lived very well. We spent the remainder of the day in sewing and knitting.

The passengers kept increasing in number very fast, among them came a man and his family who took the stateroom next to us. They were accompanied by a young lady by name of Sophia Smith. They were all very genteel people but took a deck passage because it was so much cheaper. They had nothing in the world to live with on the passage as they had expected to take a cabin passage. They got some bedding of the Captain and we lent them enough to make out. Mr. Titus laid in his provisions and other necessaries and used our dishes and everything that they wanted. Toward night Miss Smith, Mr. Titus and myself went to walk.

2cd.

Was a very pleasant morning, but cool on the water. We started about 10 in the morning and arrived at Dunkirk a distance of 45 miles in exactly 3 hours & 15 minutes. Amongst the passengers that came on board there was one family who were inclined to be very sociable. They very soon let us know that they were going to Milwaukee, that they had lived there for two years, and had

been east about 6 months on a visit, that they took a cabin passage before but thought they wculd take a deck one this time, and ever so much more. Finally we told them where we came from. They said they knew a woman by name of Potter who came from Rhode Island, after asking some questions we found it to be Lydia Poppin [Potter?] and her husband from Providence. We sent our respects to them and they said they would give them.

Another extremely talkative person on board was a lady travelling with her sick sister. The first we knew of her she came and carried off our stool, which we soon took again, then she came to borrow our key to the door which of course we did not lend. We did not like her appearance and therefore said but little to her. In the afternoon Miss Smith & I were sitting together talking when she came and seated herself close by us and the following conversation ensued. To Miss Smith. Do you make your own dresses? No. Have you any patterns of this? No. How wide is this ruffle? You can measure it. Will you allow me to examine your dress a little, I used to be a dressmaker and meant to have got me some patterns but I forgot it? Oh! Yes. She then looked and measured for about 10 minutes and then went away without thanking Miss S. for being so picked to pieces.

The weather was very warm and pleasant in the afternoon.

4th.

When I awoke I found the boat was just leaving a place called Big River. About noon we landed at Cleveland Ohio, but could not see much of the place except a few cottages on the hill. I spent the day in sewing and finished of my checked dress. About sunset we arrived in Detroit where the boat lay all night. In the evening we all walked around the city. There are some very handsome buildings and some of the streets look very pretty but I did not like the looks of the place much.

5th.

Very pleasant. We started about 8 and passed through St. Clair Lake in which the water was very shallow, or what is called the flats. From there we passed through St. Clair river where we stopped for two hours and took on 60 cords of wood. In the afternoon very rough, some were seasick. About sunset we landed at Macinaw [Mackinaw?].

6th.

Very cloudy morning, very cold and rough. About daylight we landed at Minatau [Manitou?] Island. There three ministers on board and today being Sunday they held a meeting. Mama and Caroline attended but I laid in bed and read to keep warm. About 4 we landed on an island where we saw many Indians, one Indian

Chief who was very pretty dressed and good looking. There was a large handsome fort situated on the island. Miss Smith and a gentleman went off to see it but came very near being left. The Captain rang 5 bells for them.

Ziba

Pleasant in the morning. We landed and took on more wood. In the afternoon it clouded up and about sundown we had a violent storm of wind and rain accompanied with sharp lightning and heavy thunder. In the evening Miss Smith and I were sitting by the smoke pipe which was nearly opposite our room when on a sudden the whole machinery stopped. We were very frightened, but soon learned that the boat was aground on a bar of sand about 10 miles from Milwaukee. It was so foggy that we could not tell where we were at first. They tried to get the boat off first by moving the freight to one end of the boat, then by making the passengers all go on one side of the boat and all run together to the other, but finding this would not do they commenced carrying the deck passengers on shore.

Papa told us to go into our berths and lay still until he came back, but we said if he went on shore we would go too, so we all went into our little room. Papa sat down behind the door and we laid down in our berths. As mine was an upper berth I could see all that was passing from the window. Every time it lightened I would see the small boat full of people tossing about on the water which was very rough. After most of the people got on shore there came up a violent thunder shower and wet most of them dripping wet. Mr. Titus took one of [our?] bedquilts and covered themselves all up with it and he made out to keep dry.

About three in the morning I saw by the trees on the shore that the boat moved. Papa went out and sure enough the boat was moving. Never were folks more rejoiced than we for we had lain in fear & trembling expecting every minute to hear the boat was broken or the boiler burst. About 4 the passengers were all brought on board again and we started.

About 5 we passed the Illinois on its way to Buffalo. Both boats rang their bells. It seemed to be full of passengers. We arrived at Milwaukee about 7 and were hindered there nearly two hours as they had to land a good many passengers and a considerable freight and take on more wood. Most of the folks went on shore here in a small steamboat which was built for the purpose. It did not look like anything by the side of ours.

Milwaukee river is plenty wide enough for the large steamboats but there is a bar of sand across its mouth which prevents them from going in. In time I suppose they will have this taken away so that the large boats can get in.

About 11 we arrived in Racine to our great joy. There was nothing here for us to land on but an old scow. On to this we

got with our baggage, some freight, wagons, a horse, wagons, and ever so much more. In a few minutes we were on terra firma and in Wisconsin. I can recollect when I was small and studying Geography it did not seem as though anyone could ever get there, and sometimes I almost doubted that there was such a place. As soon as we were on shore we had our things put into a wagon and we walked up to the Racine House, which is 4 or 5 stories high, built of wood and most as large as the main body of the City Hotel in Providence. We were told it cost 11,000 dollars to build it.

We all liked the looks of Racine very much. It is situated on very high ground very near the lake and has a good many pretty little cottages on the street, a court house and a light house. On the back of the village runs a small river the banks of which are very pleasant. Besides the dwelling houses there are two tin shops, 2 law offices, a post office, a tailors shop and 12 streets laid out. After tea we went to walk on the lake shore, by the light house, and round through the woods where we found a variety of wild flowers and returned quite tired. Mr. Ives called on us. We liked his appearance, he appeared sociable and pleasant.

I finished off my other stocking pretty early and retired. We all slept in one room which is western style. I should have told you that after the boat started from Buffalo the room in which Papa slept was so full of Irish and everything that he had to sleep on the floor in one little room, under the chair and other things.

8th.

A very pleasant day. We took breakfast and dinner at the Racine House. In the forenoon Papa hired a house which consisted of one good sized room with three windows in it and a few shelves. In the afternoon we moved into it. Papa fixed up a board which we used for a table. Our cooking we did out of doors.

We called on Mrs. Ives, found her a very pleasant woman but found her subject to the ague. We borrowed her pounding board, tubs and kettle then went home to washing. Papa brought all our water from the lake though we had a well in the yard but the water was so hard we could not use it. There was wood and chips enough lying round our door so we had no trouble on that score. We made out to get tea quite comfortably compared to what we had done on board the steamboat. Our beds were spread on the floor but as we were tired we slept soundly. In the night we heard the wolves howling. At first we thought it must be Indians.

9th.

Very pleasant. Papa started very early for Uncle Charles' in the stage. After he had gone we finished our washing and got out our

clothes. In the afternoon Caroline Dick and I went down on the beach and took our work. In the evening Ollive[?] Ives called. We did not know him but he soon introduced himself. He is cousin to Papa and to Stephen[?] too.

10th.

Very pleasant in the forenoon but in the afternoon it clouded up and at night we had the hardest thunder shower I ever heard and it continued for 4 or 5 hours. Spent the day in sewing.

11th.

It was cloudy cold and rainy. We felt very lonesome. Mr. Ives called.

12th.

Cold cloudy and very lonesome. Spent most of the time in sewing.

13th.

Cloudy in the morning. In the evening Mrs. Allos(?) and husband called on us. They were the Landlord and Lady of the Racine House.

14th.

Very cold but pleasant day. Passed as usual.

15th.

Very cold again. We needed a good fire to sit by. In the afternoon I called on Mrs. Ives and borrowed a book. Toward night Papa returned with Mr. Arnold, formerly of Providence, who spent the night with us. Just before they came my tooth began to ache and pained me so that I took but little sleep. This was the first time I ever had a real hard toothache.

16th.

I laid in bed most all day with toothache, reading whenever I could. Rowland Ives called. He is Steven's brother. Mr. Arnold staid with us. Today he was trying to sell his horses and wagon to get money for to pay for his land. He sold them and got 150 dollars in gold. Mr. A. was a plain honest kind of a man and I really pittied him while the men were beating him down on his horses. Mrs. Ives finally got them.

17th.

My tooth was no better and I commenced poulticing it and lay on the bed most of the day. Papa and Mama wrote to you and sent it on by a family that was moving to New Jersey.

18th.

My tooth was better and I read nearly all day. In the afternoon Mama called on Mrs. Ives and her mother Mrs. Cox. It was cloudy and unpleasant today. Toward the evening and through it we had a plenty of music. At the tavern someone was playing on the flute which was on one side of our house, in the Doctor's shop which was on the other side was a clarionette playing and opposite the back door was a house in which someone was playing the french horn. Mr. A. went home on foot this morning.

19th.

My tooth was much better today though very sore, the cold all came out of it into my lips which were all swelled up to about 1 inch in thickness. I went to my sewing again and Mama to her washing. Caroline and Dick gathered strawberries which grew on the sloping hill that led down to the lake shore.

About noon Caroline and I went with Mrs. Cellop[?] strawberrying. We rode through slews, mires and everything else and found but few berries. We did not enjoy ourselves but little for Mrs. C. was so vulgar that we were disgusted with her. We returned home about dark having gathered but a quart of berries, very lame and tired.

When we moved into the house there was a man came to us and wanted us to keep his calf in the yard as he was going to have the house as soon as we moved. This we consented to and he gave us milk from the cow whenever he brought her for the calf to suck. Today he killed the calf and we had some for supper.

20th.

Early in the morning we had a heavy thunder shower but it cleared off very warm and pleasant. I was reading "The Last Days of Pompeii" when Papa came in and went to reading loud, which disturbed me so much that I went out in the yard and sat down on a stump with my book. Pretty soon I heard Mama and Papa and Caroline laughing very hard. When on turning round I perceived they were looking and laughing at me, as I did not like to be laughed at I took my book and went to the lake shore where I staid till supper time. There was a meeting held in the courthouse but none of us attended. After supper Papa, Caroline and myself went to walk through the woods. It was really

delightful though the mosquitoes were very troublesome. After walking about a mile we came to a piece of cleared ground with a log cabin on it where the strawberries were very plenty. We picked 3 quarts in a short time beside all that we eat and returned much pleased with the walk.

21st.

Was very pleasant all day. Papa borrowed a wagon into which he tackled old Jim, and he Mama Caroline and Dick went to ride. They went out to see Rowland Ives' family, liked them very much. I finished reading "Last Days of Pompeii". In the afternoon S. Ives and brother called. R. Ives spent the evening with us during which time had plenty of music round us.

22nd.

It was very pleasant. Mama baked some pies and bread and Caroline and I went over with them to Mrs. Stephen Ives and baked them in her stove.

23 & 24

Cloudy cold and stormy. We were lonesome and spent our time in sewing.

25th.

It was pleasant. Mama, Papa and Caroline went to a lecture on Electricity, Magnetism, &c. held at the tavern in the evening. I commenced a letter to Aunt Lucinda. About 9 a man knocked at the door which I had fastened. When I opened it he asked me if the horse he had belonged to us, which I soon recognized as Jim. He had found him two miles from home with some other horses. I led him into the yard but did not tie him. But he soon went over the fence and off again. Papa found him again before he retired.

26th.

Very pleasant. Papa started on Jim for Chicago to see about his goods. Caroline and I took our work to the shore. We had a most splendid moonlight evening which I spent in playing on my accordion.

27th.

Was sunday and very pleasant. We spent the day in reading. Toward night a vessel came from Chicago which by Mr. Ives we soon learned had our goods. After ten we took a walk on the shore and

watched the vessel as it unloaded. We now wished Papa had not gone to Chicago.

28th.

Was pleasant. Passed the day in sewing.

29th.

Papa returned from Chicago.

30th.

It was cloudy in the morning but cleared off very pleasant and excessively warm. Mama Papa and Caroline spent the day at Rowland Ives. I staid at home and wrote to Marie Otherman[?] and sewed. Chauncy Ives called.

July 1st.

We packed up our things to start for Uncle C.'s.

2nd.

We hired Chauncy Ives to take most of our baggage and two boxes of goods for us. About 11 Papa Mama Caroline and myself started in the wagon for Mr. R. Ives where we were to wait till Chauncey came. Besides ourselves our wagon carried some pillows bolsters & bedquilts a trunk bandbox valise keg of grape vines canpail[?] kettle chair and other articles. We presented quite a comical appearance. We had a very pleasant visit with Mr. Ives. I was very much pleased with his two sisters who were about the age of 18 & 20. About night Chauncey came home saying that he had got his [wagon?] swamped. So all the men with the oxen went down to get it out. But they could not draw it out without all unloading it. It was so late when they came back that we did not set forward on our journey till next morning.

3.

We started from Mrs. Ives about 7. It was a pleasant day and [for?] traveling. We took a cold dinner in the woods. After finishing we [were] just getting into the wagon when I heard a snake rattle close by the wagon where we had been sitting for an hour. We soon found him and killed him. He was quite savage and tried to bite us after he was wounded.

4th.

After a night of very good rest though a short one, for we did not go till 12 to bed and arose at 4, we pursued our journey. We breakfasted at 9 and took another cold dinner.

All day yesterday and today Caroline and I kept getting out of the wagon to pick flowers which were very plenty all the way. As soon as one bunch was withered we would get out and get some more. Yesterday we made a reath about 1 1/2 yards long and 1/2 yard thick of nothing but flowers of various colors with a few green leaves which we put round old Jim's neck with some green boughs on his back and behind and he looked fine. We took supper at Beloit which is about 18 miles from C.'s which distance we thought we could travel by 12 o'clock but we lost our way and did not reach there till about 4 o'clock on the morning of the

5th of July.

I was so fatigued that I was sick for 3 or 4 days. I shall now leave off my journal till some other time as I shall write you most of the news in my letters.

AT CHARLES +

Dear Bro ASGAIL  
CLEVELAND

It is now to feel 1 July 4/1841 to ave kept my journal but as I happen

to 1842. I shall commence again.

At the 28th April 28th  
House MARKET

March 1842

25th.

Dear Brother. It has been quite unpleasant all day and quite showery. Today Uncle Charles and Erastus have finished cleaning up the door yard which looks extremely nice. After they finished carrying off dirt &c., Charles sowed a large quantity of grass seed all round where he will have to draw his wood, chop it, &c.. I mention this merely as an example of his good calculation which he brags so much about.

Papa and Oliver started this morning with the horse team for our timber to draw some logs. When they came home tonight they had broken one of the axeltrees. While they were loading a log the pin came out, the wheel came off and let the axeltree on the ground and broke it. Papa sat up last night till most morning writing to Uncle Adnah.

About daylight I woke and heard Rose making a great noise. She was in another fit. I had just got into a drowse when she woke me again coming out of another one. Just after breakfast I gave her some more Sulphur, though I felt as though it would not be of much use. Soon after she went into another fit which seemed much worse than any she had had before. I told Papa I thought he had better kill her as she seemed to grow worse and worse, and I felt afraid to stay in the house with [her] when she was in the fits which kept coming over more and more often.

Papa dragged her out of doors, though I had no idea he was really going to kill her as I had asked him to once or twice before when she had been in fits and seemed to be suffering a great deal for I felt as though I ought to relieve her from misery but hearing her howl I went to the window and I saw my little Rose that I thought so much of, that I had played with so much, her who I had taught so many little tricks Yes! I say, I saw her with a rope around her neck being strangled to death and yet George there she stood wagging her tail to the last. I could not bear it. I ran upstairs and shed torrents of tears. Yes! I shed tears of real heartfelt sorrow for the death of my dog. And yet I knew it was best that she should die for I believe it would have been impossible for her to have got well. I have not thought of her today but that tears would fill my eyes and even now while I am writing I can scarce keep from crying. Thus early has my Rosy died and thus for her I mourn.

Perhaps you will laugh at me for what I have written. I cannot help it. I have written as near as I could the state of my feelings. If I should get me another dog I do not think I could love it as well as I did Rosy. I never mean to love anything again as much as I did her for fear I should lose it.

Caroline has been taking Senna Saltze[?] today as we were afraid this morning that she was going to have the scarlet fever. Her flesh felt very hot and her throat was very sore, but this afternoon she is quite smart and wants to eat everything she sees.

I have been working my bag today and Mama has been washing a few clothes which she has dried between the drops of rain. Mr. Brisbon has yet to do a little to our frame which he keeps putting off. He told Papa today he would positively have his part all done next week or he would not charge anything for putting on the eve gutters for which they have been drawing scoring and hewing a log. The folks are all abed and asleep except Papa, Oliver and myself. The first is sleeping in his chair, which he generally does for half the night, the second is reading, and I of course am writing so now Good Night.

26th.

Today it has been quite pleasant and today it is delightful. The moon is shining brightly, the frogs toads &c. are singing so that it appears quite summerish. But pleasant evenings do not seem to do us as much good as they used to when we lived in Brooklyn and you and I used to run up to Aunt Eliza's, Mrs. Collins', or somewhere else. But I will stop soliloquising and write the events of the day, which has been one of misfortune to me.

In the first place Papa woke me much earlier than common, to get his breakfast early, which of course added not to my good nature. After breakfast Papa & Oliver went with the horses to the claim. Mama went to clearing away, Caroline to marking her samples, and I to preparing my things which I should need next Monday morning to wear to Rockford, where I am going with Papa.

About noon Mama started on foot to visit Mrs. Herd and I went to ironing but I had not ironed long before I burned myself badly, blistering a place about as large as a two shilling piece which pained me very much. I went to washing and had just hung out my ----[?] which entirely disengaged me for an hour, and has left me with my neck so stiff that I cannot turn my head but a very little. But I can very easily account for the pain. While I was washing I got into a violent sweat, in the height of which I left off and went to the spring for a pail of water. One of the boards on the bridge was loose, on to one end of which I stepped and the opposite one flew up leaving me partly in the spring and partly on the bridge. As soon as I got to the house I took off my wet

shoe and stocking and thought no more about it, but went on in my washing and was soon in another sweat in which I went out to hang up my clothes, soon after which I was taken with a violent pain. After heating, bathing and very sore.

Mama and Caroline are going to bed and keep such a jabbering that I can hardly think. Papa is downstairs, asleep as usual. Olliver is reading.

Dick has been as mischievous today as a monkey. And if I scolded him he would tell me to do my own business and call me a brute, a huzzy, a torment, and everything else he ever heard David or Erastus call the cattle or dogs. When Uncle Charles is driving cattle if they do not mind him upon the instant he will bawl out go along you old brute, torment, or something else and from him Dick has learned it as he does everything else he hears anyone say.

When Papa was down south he bought a saddle with Jim which was left here for Charles who has worn it all out and hung what remained of it up on his house. Yesterday Papa saw it laying on the ground and concluded it had blown down so hung it up again. This morning it was down again and Charles told Olliver he wished he would take it out of the way for it blew about so that it kept him awake nights. He said he had thrown it down two or three times but some one kept hanging it up. I think it must be that he is more easily disturbed than he used to be.

Good night, pleasant dreams.

27th.

Today has been Sunday but I have not spent it as such for I have been sewing most all day. The day has been cloudy and pleasant by spells. Papa, Mama and Dick went in the pleasure wagon over to Mrs. Hill and spent two or three hours. Mr. Hill smoked a couple of hams for us, one of which they brought home & a bushel of potatoes for we have to buy all the vegetables we now eat.

When Olliver came home from the P.O. he brought two Journals of Commerce and a Ladies Magazine from Henry. This evening I have been putting up flower seeds to carry to Mrs. Morgan who I am going to visit in Rockford. She has, so I hear, a very handsome garden from which I hope to beg a few plants or seeds. Mrs. M. is a lady who formerly lived in Springfield opposite Grandpapa's. It now thunders and I am fearful we shall have rain tomorrow. Good Night.

28th.

I awoke about 5 and found we were going to have a very pleasant day for traveling. We took breakfast and were on our way by 1/2 past 6. Everything is really delightful now. The sun is shining

very warm and bright and is melting quite a heavy frost which fell during the night, which is the heaviest frost we have had for two or three weeks. The prairie hens are so chilly as to allow us to ride quite near them, of which there are hundreds and they keep an incessant cooing. The Prairie devils (a bird) are numerous and the sand hill Cranes which make a great deal of noise. These birds have bodies about the size of a turkey but their necks legs & bills are 3 times as long. Besides these there are many smaller birds which are chirping and singing very happily. A ride here before sunrise should not be mentioned with one in the city, though each have charms, yet the former by far surpasses the latter.

We passed Mr. Fritzou'. He was in his farm yard surrounded by 40, 50 pigs to which he was throwing corn. He left them and came out to speak with us. He told us the the Traskis[?] ferry boat had gone off and that the upper bridge road was very bad that the two new bridges were not done so we concluded to go by the lower bridge which is a toll the upper one being free. The bridges all cross Sugar river.

We now rode on till we came to Mr. Rob's sugar camp where he [has] some log houses put, in which he and his family live while they are making sugar. There were none of them there however for the weather has been so warm that the sap would not run and there has been but a few days this year when it would. Consequently there has been but little sugar made. Our road lay about 4 miles through the woods which was mostly very muddy hard going.

After we got through these we had a good road and soon reached the bridge, which is just 6 miles from our house. Around here people appear to be settling very fast. There is a considerable land cleared and fenced, which I suppose is to be broken this summer. We paid 18 pence to cross the bridge and were to come back free of expense.

Our road now lay along the banks of Sugar river which are very pleasant but unhealthy. From the bridge we rode through barrens for about 3 miles when we crossed quite a wide spring brook (an a sloug [?]) [and a slough] after which our road lay for 12 miles on one wide Prairie over which were scattered a very few houses. We reached Rockford by 1/2 past 11.

Mrs. M's residence lays just this side of the village which looked to be quite thick from a distance. She has a very large garden which we saw from the road and a pretty house for this country. Mrs. Morgan & her daughter Mrs. Horseman[?] live together and are both very pleasant women.

After dinner Papa, Mrs. H. and myself went out to ride to see the big city of Rockford. After riding around a little we attempted to cross a creek to see another part of the village but had not got more than six feet into the water when we discovered our waggon to be afloat and our feet as wet as a sop. Papa now tried to back Jim but the bank was so steep that he could not back very

well which made him a little angry and he acted as though he were going to lie down in the water which he is apt to do if mad. Papa now drove him up to the bank and got a plank which he put from the waggon to the shore. Mrs. H. was just on the middle of it when it broke and down she went into the creek wetting herself up to the waist. Papa took me on shore on his shoulder so I wet only my feet. Mrs. H. laughed from the time she wet her feet till we got home. It made us a good frolic though it spoiled our ride. Mrs. H. is not very healthy and her folks told her it would do her good.

We spent the evening very pleasantly mostly in reading. Papa and Mr. H. sat up very late talking about his business with Charles. A great many blame Papa for not being more severe with him & Lewis, they have treated him so. For this reason he thought he would get a little advice. Mr. H. told him he would buy his claim from him. Some think he had better go to law with him but I presume it would cost more than we can get, and another thing it will be a disgrace to be in law with so mean a man as Charles Cleveland.

29th.

I enjoyed a night of sound repose and felt much refreshed. It was a most delightful morning. I gave Mrs. H. the seeds I carried and she gave me about 15 different kinds, making with what I had on hand 71 different kinds of flower seeds. Mrs. M. then went into the garden with me and gave me some roots such as sweet William, Pinks, 5 rose bushes, daisies, blue bells, hop, sage, Rhubarb, Columbine & others of which I have forgotten the names.

After this Dr. Thomas called to see me and invited me to his house, but I did not go as Papa intended to start soon. Mr. H. took his wife and myself to ride. We called on Mrs. Taylor who lived in the village in a very handsome house which was handsomely furnished with furniture made of black walnut. We rode home after which Mrs. H. and I went down to the store where I bought a nice pair of kid gloves for 6 shillings. The usual price was 7 but the best had been picked out and these were riped [ripped] a little. Some other articles which I bought were much higher than in N.Y.

After dinner Papa started, it being just past 12. The wind blew very hard indeed though happily to our backs and it was extremely warm, so very warm that I actually wore nothing but the cape to my dress on my back. It really seemed like August. We were about 1/2 across the Prairie, being on the highest part, when Papa was driving very fast down a little pitch on the foot of which was a little jounnal[?] in going over which he snapped the whippetree in two. We were obliged to untackle Jim and I held him while Papa tied it up. I stood with my back to the wind and twice was lifted fairly off my feet. I felt afraid I should blow away. You can have no idea how the wind blows here until you

some and feel and hear for yourself. We soon came to an house where Papa borrowed and axe and a piece of wood with which he fixed it, quite strong. Going through the woods we found one or two trees that had blown directly across our path. I felt afraid that some might blow onto us and did not take much comfort riding, for my eyes smarted and burned and my head and neck ached [to] hold them against the wind which almost blew them off my shoulders.

We got home before dark and found all well. In the evening Papa read some Springfield papers which Mr. H. gave him. Oliver read Scott and I made bags for my seed. During the evening we had a thunder shower with but little thunder and a considerable rain. Retired very early being very tired.

9th.

Today I went with Papa and Oliver as soon as we finished our breakfast to the claim to set out our plants. Papa wanted to rag the ground over and fix some beds so that we should not have them to move again. While I was waiting I went to Mrs. Stephens, got some onions, some vegetable oysters [egg plant?] and some lobe seed.

When I came back Papa was putting in his drag teeth so I looked into the house which was not quite framed, into the cellar which had about a foot of water in it, and then went into the house which is on our claim, in which Mrs. Flemming now lives. Here I laid till 12 o'clock and then went out to see them drag. About Papa commenced laying out the beds and I went to raking, Oliver to drawing rails to put a fence around them as there are so many Prairie Pigs here they would root the plants up. We laid out a wide path from the middle of the back of the house toward the spring and a bed on each side of the path. In the beds I set my pinks and in the middle of my beds I put my roses. Beyond the links on each side of the path are the grapevines my box[?] &c. I suppose we shall have an harbor before many years if the vines live. Beyond this I put the Rhubarb, sage &c.

finished about night and went over to Mrs. Stephens where I got dozen of eggs. As soon as Papa finished the fence round our garden, being a place about as large as our yard in Hicks St. we rode home. Mr. Cole being with us. He had been to work today making shingles for the house. Mr. Brisbon was also at work with a hired hand by the name of Ripley. They were putting in studs, braces &c., and making the eaves troughs. [When] we came home Mr. Gunsollie [Gonzales?] was waiting for us, he had come to work two days. In the evening Oliver and Mr. Cole spent the evening with Aunt A's who sang for them.

Today Mr. Flemming told me that Kathy(?) told him that if we did not move Friday which is the 1st day of April he should put our things out Friday night. This he has threatened before, but people seem to think he will not dare to, as the law does not

allow a man to be turned out unless there has been a law suit and then he is obliged to be put out by a sheriff. Mama feels fitful and so do I.

31st.

This morning Caroline went over with the men and is to pack up the shingles Mr. Cole has made that they may know if there are enough to shingle the house. In the forenoon Charles went up to Louises [Louis'] and back and we expected he went to get men to help put us out of the house. In the afternoon he went towards Mrs. Fritz's we supposed for the same purpose. About 4 he came back and had a long talk in the field with Erastus who was plowing.

During the forenoon Mama sent some papers in to Aunt Abby which had been sent to him, Charles, and brought to us by Squire Hoit nearly a fortnight since which we had neglected doing before as Papa had to pay the postage and thought he would read them first. Cleveland had not been home more than 5 minutes before he burst open our door and rushed in saying, "Here take your d...n infernal stuff and don't you send any more of your G.d d...n mess into the house to insult me", and [threw] one of the papers toward us. We told him we should like to know how he was insulted or what he meant for we could not comprehend him. "Why there", said he screaming loud enough to be heard at least one mile and walking right up to me, "See your G.d d...n pencil[?] marks done on purpose to insult me. I then reckcollected that the bankrupt lists were marked and told him that Edward marked them. But he knew better. Edward never marked a paper in that style and then sent it in our care. We need not tell him such stuff. We would do anything in the world to insult him. He did not want to see us any more. He wanted us out of his sight. Finally we found another paper which was sent in the same wrapper and showed him the same marks on the bankrupt list. He now went out and came back with the other paper a little cooled. I told him he could not consider that an insult unless he calculated to take the benefit of the act and felt very much ashamed of it.

He was going to and was willing we should know it for he was obliged. We had got all his property away from [him?] and now he had got to do so. After he came in the second time I told him he ought to make some apologies for using such language before ladies. He said then that he had none to make, but that he did not mean us but Papa, though he came right up to me and told me those were my marks. He went off saying he was not satisfied, he thought [it] very strange that Edward should direct papers to our care. The wrapper had been lost or we should have shown it to him.

At night Caroline, Papa, Mr. Gunsollie, Mr. Cole, and Oliver came home. They had got the sheeting on the roof and Oliver had drawn some more of the clapboards and some flooring from the mill. This we were rejoiced to hear for Mama had declared she

would not stay here while Papa goes to Rockford. While we were there he was summoned to sit on the grand jury which sits on the 11th of April. He will have to go on the 10th so you see we have but a few days. Caroline said she watered my plants which she said looked pretty well this evening. We sat up till after 11, Caroline, Mama's & my musick was so enchanting.

April 1st.

This morning it was quite cloudy and the wind has blown hard all day. Papa took over to the claim most of his fine boards to make window frames of for the house. He told us if Charles came over with his posse we must send Caroline over and he would come with men enough to put him out of the way. We have watched him pretty close but he has not troubled us.

We came pretty near sending for them once, however. Louis & his hired man came down here on horseback and they went into the field for Erastus, then into the house and had a talk. Then they all came out and appeared to be looking round the house. Caroline began to cry and was for going right off. Finally they all went off as we thought for more men. Soon we saw them coming back with them which at length proved to be a yoke of steers. When Mama first saw them coming she thought we had better send for the men immediately, but luckily we waited till we discovered the cause of our alarm.

I am thus particular to show you in what misery we lived. This morning when the men went away we told them to be sure to return at night as we expect to be attacked, though I must say that none of them appear much alarmed but Mama, Caroline and myself. The men have all returned, however. Today they have put on one side of the roof and part of the other and have sawed out the window frames. Mr. Brisbon finished his part today. Besides him there was at work on the house Mr George, Mr. Hill, Mr. Gunsollie, Mr. Cole, Oliver & Papa. Most of them seem to think we cannot move by nex[t] Friday, but we are determined to if we have to live on the timbers rather than stay here by Charles Cleveland. I now live with the expectation of being disturbed before morning, though I hope I may be disappointed. Papa is snoring away in his rocking chair, and Mama and Caroline are not far away from the same business. Oliver is reading. The wind blows cold.

2nd.

I arose this morning without having been disturbed during the night except by a very unpleasant dream. This morning the men rode over to the claim, Papa taking his tool chest, some more of his fine boards, and stopping to Louis's and getting some seasoned black walnut boards which Louis took from his chamber floor, shoving his things one side.

This morning Mr. Hill came over to go up with them to the claim. When he came I was just picking up the beds off of the the floor, &c. "Good morning", says he. "Why! What ye all doin her? You don't look as if you had got up". I told him we had not hardly. "Well I've been up, done all my chores and sowed 5 bushels of oats", then turning to Papa, who was weighing out some powder, "Come Sackett, pick up those tools or part of them will be forgot", &c. He made them stir round when he came. Two of the men finished their breakfast before the rest. Addressing them he says, "Come, boys, flop out and get those horses ready".

After they were gone I put on my things and walked over to the claim. It was very foggy and looked like rain. On my way I had to go very near a fire which was burning in a thicket through which I passed. When I came in sight of the house, the roof looked alive with men. When I got there I found not less than nine men at work being Mr. Hill, Mr. Herd, Mr. Gossollie, Mr. Cole, Charles Turney, Augustus Hill, Mr. George, Papa and Oliver. I now looked at my plants which I think are doing well and watered them. I then went over to Mrs. Stephens' and got some eggs and butter. While I was here it began to sprinkle & Oliver came after me with the team to take me home as he was going for some nails & more dinner as we did not expect so many men in the morning. When I got to the house I found 3 starting for the woods for shingle timber, their shingles not holding out.

I got home just in time to save being well wet for we soon had a hard shower. Most of the men left at noon but enough staid to make the shingles and put them on so our roof is now all done, one window frame in and the others all commenced. Our chamber floor is to be made of poplar which is sawed very narrow and most of it is drawn to the house and spread out on the timbers to be seasoning. The lower floor too which is to be ash is mostly sawed and drawn. None of the men came home tonight but Rufus(?), Cole and Oliver, so we have quite a small family. Toward night it began to rain again very hard so that they looked when they got here like three drowned rats. This evening it thunders and lightens very sharp.

3rd.

Last night we had thunder, lightning and heavy rain all night long. When I got up I found the spring brook was all overflowed. Charles told Rufus that he never saw it so high before. Most all the bridges were carried away so that going now is almost impossible. The going was so hard that Oliver could not go home. He therefore contented himself with reading. I could not help asking myself if his family would feel as much disappointed as we used to when Sunday came and you did not come to see us.

During the forenoon Mr. Cole and Papa settled, Mr. Cole taking Papa's goods. Mr. Cole then started for home. After he was gone

Papa said he believed he was going for to get married for all he thought of getting was a nice suite of clothes. Rufus, his father and two brothers keep, as Rufus says, "Bachelor's Hall". I do not blame him for wanting to be married.

About noon Mr. Fritz called and took dinner with us. Mr. Fritz said he had sent things by Louis when he went to the diggins with his load of eggs, bacon, hams, &c., and was going up there to see him. Papa told him he understood he had mentioned three or four prices. To one person he says he had got so much, to another he says another price. Louis told Papa that he lost most of his eggs, that they stole them or broke them. What people here seem to think, Louis tried to cheat them and they returned the compliment.

In the afternoon Papa asked Oliver if he thought he would like to live with us a year. Oliver told him he knew of nothing then to prevent. I hope he will stay for we all like him, and I don't think we could get one to suite us better. They did not make any bargain though.

It continued showery most of the day and evening.

4th.

To day it has been very windy all day. It has seemed as though it would blow us away. We washed part of a three weeks wash. I felt dreadfully all day having a severe headache which I had had nearly all the time since I returned from Rockford. About the middle of the afternoon I was obliged to give up and go to bed.

When we talked of trading our claim with Mr. Hill last Fall Mr. Stephens told Papa if he would build over there instead of on Mr. Hill's he would put on our roof for us. At the time our house was shingled Mr. Stephens was not here. When Papa came home tonight he said Mrs. S. had been at work all day on our house, and was going to work for us all the week. Today they have sided one gable end or one peak. Mr. Flemming has so much backwater he cannot saw any now.

5th. The wind blew very hard all the forenoon but in the afternoon it was calm and pleasant. We finished washing, dried and folded all our clothes.

In the afternoon Mr. Colton called. He was on his way with an execution for Lewis. He told us that Mr. Hoit and his wife were on their way to make us a visit, but he did not think they could get here on account of the bridge. Mr. Colton said he had to get off from his horse and let her wade or swim and he walked across on a stringpiece which was left of the bridge. Mr. C. is a fine little fellow (of course you will know he is the constable) and I regretted very much that I did not see him. But I happened to be upstairs asleep and I felt worse than ever today and and felt afraid I was going to have the ague, for I felt hot and shivery by spells.

In the morning Papa went off very early to the claim, leaving Oliver here with the team to draw up some wood. Just as Oliver started for wood Louis drove in to the yard to see Charles before he went to Rockford where he was going to repeal [sic] his case about the calf with Mr. Compton.

I forgot to tell you that last night Mr. Compton and Brisbon came down here. Mr. C. came to ask if any of us had seen Erastus Cleveland on the premises on the 19th or the day Louis's court was held on his case. He said Louis swore Erastus was in the territory for a gun, but he had understood that we had seen him here. Papa told him we had. Mr. C. intends to have him indicted.

Mr. Brisbon had been drinking and felt pretty keen. He came very near getting mad with Papa because he told him some braces were not put in straight, but he got over it and promised to come the next day and put them in straight.

After Charles and Louis had talked some time Charles goes down cellar and brings up our little red molasses keg. Caroline happened to see him and told us, so we looked into the cellar and found it was gone. I then went out and asked him if he had taken our keg out of the cellar. He said he had taken a keg but it was none of ours. "Why, Mr. Cleveland, you know it is ours, and you know we brought it from N.Y.". "Oh, you brought everything from N.Y., didn't ye. Them pickles you took wan't yours either". I told him they were.

I suppose I must begin and tell you the whole story. Last Summer Papa used to take all the care of the cucumbers vines, picks all the cucumbers and salted them down during the Summer. Papa and Charles made some vinegar, some in a barrell which Papa bought in Rockford. One paid for half the vinegar materials, the other for the other half, and half of course was to belong to one and half to the other. Either before or after this time Papa hired Mr. Cole to make for him a couple of yokes for his steers. At a certain time Cleveland took a notion that he would paint his waggon wheels, even a neck yoke, tongue, and whippletries. After he had finished he found he had not painted quite as much as he would like too, so he painted the said yokes and then went to daubing the vinegar barrel and keg which stood on the top of a log henhouse which was baked over with dirt resembling a hill in appearance outside where the barrels were put to get the sun that the vinegar might make faster. The vinegar barrel Papa bought in Rockford and the keg we brought from N.Y..

The pickle barrel was an old one of Uncle C.'s into which all the pickles were put, and both families used as many and much as they wanted of either, till Louis bought Charles' propperty at which time Charles took a notion to sell our part of the pickles of the vinegar, not excepting the vinegar barrel which we immediately brought into our room to prevent their carrying it off. We then took out what pickles we wanted and when they were gone took out some more, which I supposed they missed. This was on the last

day of March. On the 2nd of April he asked Mama if we had taken any of those pickles. He then said Louis had tried hard not to go to law with us, but we should get enough of it now. They then carried off the pickle barrel, pickles and all. I don't care, we have enough to last till cucumbers come.

Well, as I told you he took the keg and carried it into the house, and said he would not let us have it. I then put on my cloak and bonnet and went into the barrens after Olliver who came right back. He said he would go to Mr. Fritz where he had an errand to do and would then go after Papa. Louis started on a little before but both returned together as they could not cross the bridge. We had brought up all our small things and had put them upstairs and now asked Olliver if there was anything round the house which he could trouble. We then discovered that he yokes were gone. We asked him if he had taken them and he said he thought he had painted them and meant to have his pay for it. And that corn too had got to be settled, meaning I suppose some corn which Papa took once when he was away and in which he pretends Papa cheated him, but I saw him measure it myself.

Olliver now went over to the claim. We told him to tell Papa to come right back but he did not come till night when he said he should take Charles up for stealing.

6th.

I received a letter from Janett too day, with [which] I was much gratified.

Papa and Olliver went to the claim as usual. Mama and Caroline ironed and I took some pwerful pills. When the men came home they said they had used up all the siding and there was so much back water the mill could not saw. Tonight my head ached worse than ever, in the evening especially.

7th. It rained most all day so they coyuld do nothing at the claim. Papa wrote a letter to Mr. Ainsworth and then started to get a search warrant dressed in his rubber coat and moleskin breeches. After he went Olliver went to coaming down Charley (horse) and cleaning out the stable when Charley the man came along and told him the whole story of his wrong, just as he does to any one that will listen to him. He talked as long as Oliver would stay and then was obliged to stop. I told Olliver I almost envied him his happiness in listening so long to the Orrator.

When Pa's came home he brought a letter for Charley from Mr. Bushnell saying that Mr. Sackett had complained of his doing so & so and that unless he delivered the Property taken he should be under necessity of binding him over to keep the peace. Olliver told Papa that Charley said he would whip him within an inch of his life, for which Papa said there was a law that he could put him in jail. He told Olliver that he had called on Mr. S. many times for pay since he painted those yokes and many more lies not worth mentioning.

In the evening Olliver carried the letter in and sat down. He said Charles would swear out between the sentences most bitterly and then he read it loud as though it were written to Mr. Sackett. Then he raved out handsomely, first against Mr. Bushnell and then against Papa. And finally he said he did not blame Mr. Bushnell at all. When Olliver told him (which Papa told him to do) that he must put the property back by 7 o'clock, he said he would suffer martyrdom first.

In the morning Papa told Erastus (of yesterday) Papa told Erastus before evidence that all the improvements he made on this claim (as the claim belonged to him (as security for what Charles owed him by papers now in his possession) were holden to him as all Charles' improvements are holden to me. "What's that you are going into? You son of a lousy bitch", said Charles, flying round at him. "I have nothing to say to you", said Papa. "You deserve a good whipping", said Charley, "And I will give it to you". "Come on", says Papa. "I can do it, and easy too", says Charley. "I am ready for you", says Papa. He however backed out, either from fear or of the law.

I have been no better all the day. My head aches violently most of the time.

8th.

Today it has been very warm and pleasant, but I have felt no better. On the contrary, much worse this morning.

Papa and Olliver went into the barrens to get some wood. They had not been there long before Louis came along and began to talk about Charles and so forth. And then Charles himself appeared and gave Papa a real sermon and threatened to bring him up for criminal cases in Brooklyn by which means he was going to get him off from the Grand Jury. Then Louis asked Papa if he would give up the vinegar barrel if Charles gave up the yokes. "No", was the answer. "Then", says Louis, "war is declared between you and Charles". "Let it go on", said Papa, not at all alarmed by him.

He then went off, but soon called to Papa and asked him if he would give up half the vinegar. Papa told him he would if Charles would give up a iron bolt he had borrowed of Papa, also a pound of borrowed nails. Louis then gave his word (which by the way is worth a great deal) that the things should be returned. Papa told him he would take his word and Louis promised to come down this evening and see it fairly done. I hope it may turn out, but I have some doubts.

After this Papa and Olliver went over to the claim. The day passed with us as usual. Mama did the housework. Caroline growled, whined and stormed at everything for she has got to be the frettis(?) little thing I ever saw. Dick played and teased Caroline to fix his horses and when she would not do it he

appealed to Mama with, "Can't that child do it?" And I went from Dan[?] to Rasaba[?] for what I know. I felt so bad after taking a powerful dose of Pink I would lay on the bed a little while and then sit in the big chair. Louis did not come in the evening as he agreed.

9th.

I got up about breakfast time feeling no better. About 8 we saw Louis coming down with a small white keg under his arm. After talking a few minutes with Papa he went into Charles and got our little red keg and then came in with them both. He sat down as if waiting for the vinegar. Papa asked him where were the yokes? I give you my word you shall have them says Louis. "I shant disturb the vinegar until I see the yokes", says Papa. After two or three minutes thought Louis went out and when he came back said the yokes were out there. At that instant Charles came along saying in a loud tone, "Here are the yokes, Louis, and you had better look out for him or watch him".

Pretty times too if a man must be watched for he will touch his own property. As soon as Charles said that Papa walked to the door. Before this though Mr. Hill came in with a couple of fowls and was standing on the hearth, a looker-on. Papa then took hold of one of his yokes which Charles immediately grabbed by the other end and tried to pull it away. Louis then walked out and took Charles part and there was two against one pulling the yoke. Louis then began to get mad and told Papa if he did not go and measure off that vinegar he would put the whole out of the house quicker than lightning, and if he did not let go of those yokes he would smash him. Papa told him to do either if he dared. But by this time Mr. Hill, who can whip most of the men around here, had Louis by the arms or shoulders. Charles of course was calling Papa all the names he could and Abby (shame for her) was holding her Brother by the collar of his coat though not for a long time for she gave up her fighting posture at the words, "Let go of me".

Mr. Hill soon got the yokes from the whole of them & Papa & Louis who was now cool again went to measuring out the vinegar. When Papa first said he must have the yokes before he measured the vinegar Louis said he must see the vinegar measured first so to know how much there was. He thought Abby said they ought to have 7 1/2 galls as there was enough put in, in the first place, to make twice that amount. Papa told him that Abby knew nothing about how much there was put in. He told him he could have half of what there was in the barr'l and no more. It might be more than 7 galls. or less. He told him they had used out of the barrel just as much as they wanted and so had we and that some had leaked out in the cellar, so Louis had to give up getting half of what there was in the first place. There proved to be 5 galls. lacking 1 qt. per piece. Louis took his and went off and Mr. Hill delivered the yoke to Papa.

Papa and Oliver then started for the claim, Mr. Hill to his work, Ratty[?] and Charley to theirs, and we were left alone. I should have told you that Erastus, Oliver, Mama and myself were quiet observers of the drama. After they were gone I took a good dose of Senna and squirmed about on the bed, floor, or chair most of the day. Oliver spent the evening in Aunt Abby's.

10th.

This morning when I got up I walked around pretty smart for about 1/2 an hour and then I was all down again. I have not eat in more than a week half of what I have eat at one meal. Oliver has gone home today on Charley [i.e., the horse] but is coming by night.

Papa has started for Rockford so as to be there in season for tomorrow. Cleveland has threatened two or three times to get him off the jury by presenting some criminal fault of him of which he was guilty in Brooklyn. Time will show what that great fault is.

After Papa and Oliver were gone I commenced reading "The Lady of the Lake". In the afternoon Uncle Charles and Aunt Abby took a stramble(?) round the farm. Charley was dressed as nice as you please but Aunt A. had on one of those indigo blues and Mama's old hood which we sent out here. I should think she would be ashamed to wear it, for my part. After they came back the children went to walk, so Caroline and Dick thought they must go too. When they came back they had some wild flowers which they had gathered which were very pretty. Toward night I went out to the stacks and walked around a little, looked at the calves &c., which looked fat & well.

Before Papa went away David told him there was a man come yesterday and drove away one of Papa's steers, saying that it was his. At night when Oliver came home Uncle C. took much pains to come and tell him the same story. Charley said of course Mr. Sackett would not call on him for a witness because he would take a false oath. He said he was down there with the man and saw him drive the steer off. He said too that if one of his Oxen should go off and be gone a fortnight he would not take an oath that it was his Ox, for there might be one exactly like it somewhere else. All these speeches and many others, the unnatural anxiety he shows about the steer, struck me as being very suspicious and I have a notion that Charley is at the bottom of the steer's going off.

After Charley got through Erastus came and talked on the same subject, repeating what Charles had said about being down there &c., &c.. Erastus said it was the strangest thing he ever heard of for the man described the marks on the steer which were just like those on ours. (By the way I believe he had them described to him first). I think it is the most surprising that Erastus thinks so strange of it for last summer they had a yoke of steers go off and they heard of a man that had them. When he came home

he said they were as near alike as they could be and he should think they were the same. But the man said they were not and they afterward found their steers somewhere else. And now he thinks 'tis so strange that there should be a steer like ours somehow. Put it all together and it looks suspicious.

Olliver borrowed Shakespeare of Mr. Bushnell for me and this evening I commenced reading "The Merry Wives of Windsor".

11th.

Last night I had the fights just as Mama used to when we lived in Brooklyn and Papa was gone away. Nothing disturbed us however. This morning Olliver had to go to Mr. Fritz' for some potatoes, so mama got him to go to Mrs. Baker's who is a Ransonian[?] and got me some Lobelia. After he got back and brought it, and went to the claim to plant his potatoes, I went to work with fear and trembling to take it. I took a tea spoon full in warm water which I had no sooner swallowed than it put me in violent pain which lasted a ["great while" was written, then crossed out] short time. I was to take another spoonfull in 15 minutes if the first did not vomit me, but I could not muster courage. In about 1/2 an hour I commenced vomiting. It brought bile as though it had gone to the spot, but I took so little that it did not vomit me much. I have been sorry ever since that I did not take any more. It is the most powerful stuff that I ever took. It makes one feel sick to the ends of their fingers and toes.

When I felt smart enough I read Shakespeare. Mama washed. Caroline and Dick spent most of the day in playing out of doors. Dick took his wagon and drew wood and chips for us. He goes whistling along, or trying to, as happy as anything. In the evening I commenced reading Waverly aloud. Oliver went into Aunt Abby's. Today the court sets and I have not heard that Charley has got Papa off the jury yet.

12th.

Today after eating a slight breakfast I dressed to go to the claim on old Charley who Olliver saddled and bridled. I rode over as far as the saw mill with Olliver who went on foot. Here I left him to gallop Charley to see how I liked him. I think he trots a little easier than Jim and gallops about the same, though he is not so willing to gallop as Jim is. He seems to prefer trotting.

When I got to the claim I dismounted to look at my garden. I found my None-so-pretties in bloom, my daisies, bluebells, sweet Williams, &c., doing first rate. My Rhubarb, or pie-plant as they call it here, had leaves on it as large as my hand. My sage and columbine too were growing finely and my boxwood is all full of new leaves. I have 6 roots of it. My rose bushes and pinks

do not appear to have started at all. I am afraid them and the grapevines will die.

After I had looked at the house, which has one end all sided, and the point on the other one, I proceeded to Mrs. Stevens. After hitching my horse I went in and took off my things. He did not seem to like to stand in the hot sun very well, all saddled, so Mrs. Stephens told me I had better take off his things and let him loose in the yard, for he would do no hurt. I accordingly did so. Just at the moment Mr. Gould, a man that was at work for Mr. Stephens, came from the spring with a young rattlesnake. He was about 2 fingers long. He would stick up his tail and try to rattle, though he had no rattles to rattle, and then he would jump at us and try to bite.

My horse stayed round in the yard very peacefully, till about noon he took a notion to jump over the fence, and was over and half a mile off before we could say Jack. Mr. Stephens immediately set off for him but as this was the first time he had been loose since last Fall so that he felt extremely antic and it was a long time before they caught him. Finally he ran down by our claim and Mr. S. and Oliver drove him under some stables where they caught him. Mr. S. then brought him back, tied him, and then started for the territory where he is at work cabinet making.

About the middle of the afternoon I got ready to go home and went and began to pat Charley who was as gentle as you please. Mrs. Stephens then came out, to put on his martingales, when he stuck up his head as high as he could get and would not let her touch him. He pulled back so hard as to pull four large rails, to which he was tied, off from the fence and dragged them across the yard.. When he broke his halter and scampered off to the other side of the yard he stopped and looked round. I then had to go up to him and try to catch him myself. For Mr. Gould said if he came[?] past his horses while he was ploughing they would run and the devil would not stop them & Mrs. Stephens was too much frightened. I went along very slowly saying, "Whoa! Charley. Whoa! Charley" and he stood perfectly still and let me go up and pat his nose and get hold of his mane.

When I found I really had hold of him I began to tremble like a leaf. Mr. Gould then left his horses and came and put on his saddle and so forth. As soon as I got on he walked off as gentle as you please. I went over to the claim and waited till Oliver was ready to come home, for he had been so full of his anticks that I was afraid he might take a notion to play me a caper.

Coming home it was delightful. The birds were singing, the frogs croaking and numerous insects were humming and buzzing about, not excepting the mosquitoes. When I came to the top of the hill I was delighted with the scene. I had to stop my horse and gaze upon it. To my left and right were thickets that contained many small poplar trees. Before was a large flat through which run many brooks which causes the grass to grow very fast. Near the brooks the grass is of a lighter green than on dryer spots,

making it appear very handsomely shaded. A little to the right ahead was Charles' house with the stacks, outhouses, &c.. To the left lay Louis's field which is spread on the side of a gently sloping hill.

Near the field, on the grass, Louis' cattle were straying. Along was seen riding a young man on horseback. And to crown the picture, from the opposite direction rode a young lady followed by two gentlemen descending the hill. What a good commencement for a novel! Now my horse must take fright just as the Lady and Gentleman meet on a small bridge, the gent jumps from his horse to the rescue, the other gentlemen come running up, and ha! ha!! ha!!! fill it out as you please, but don't laugh at my rude attempts to describe our beautiful scenery. The two gents were Oliver and John Pettingale who was coming here to get some paper.

We got home without any accident and eat some broiled chicken supper. Mama told us that Louis and Charles had gone to Rockford, that Mr. Hill had been here and talked of buying Charles' claim. Mama told him Papa calculated to enter it and said if he swapped claims [with] Erastus (for that was the way they were to trade) he ought to lose his claim as he knew all the circumstances. He said he should not take it till he saw Papa. He said Erastus wanted to change because he was afraid Papa would enter it.

Oliver and I spent the evening which we lengthened out to 11 o'clock in playing backgammon or blackgammon as he says. About dark it began to thunder and lighten. It rained considerable during the night.

13th.

Yesterday it was extremely warm but today it is quite chilly and the northwest wind blows very hard. It is pleasant however.

Mama is making a rag mat. Caroline is cyphering, and Dick is in all manner of mischief. I feel quite lame and lazy after riding. When Oliver came home he said Mr. Cole had been on the claim breaking. Every time Oliver comes home Erastus has something to say about the steers, and when Papa is coming home.

Spent the evening in playing backgammon. Just as we were eating supper there came such a gust of wind as shook our house so as to rattle the dishes and set the rocking chairs rocking. We were [a] little alarmed.

14th. Today the wind has blown terribly. I have been knitting a knit for Mrs. Stephens' little girl. Mama has been knitting, mending and ironing. I do not feel well, though better than I have been. We are all very pleased by seeing Papa who has just come on sight.

Papa has safely arrived. He has brought a parcel of cake from Mrs. Morgan to Dickey. He said after he got off from the Grand Jury they put him as foreman of the Petty Jury. Mrs. Morgan was going to have a large party the night he came away. Papa said that Mr. Wolding, who you know formerly kept school in Providence, had four men indicted who had tarred and feathered him. From all accounts I should think he was much like Cleveland. In the evening I finished my net.

15th.

This morning I took all our seeds and went to the claim in the wagon with Papa and Oliver, who both worked all the forenoon in the garden making beds for me. I worked as hard as I could all day hoeing, raking and planting. My flower bed I sowed as follows. First Snappers, Coriopsis[?], Double Carnation Poppy, Star of Bethlehem, Tulips, Globes, Golden, Eternal flower, Double Dahlia, Thorn Poppy, Purple Egg plant, Poppy, Mourning Widow, China pink, Lady in Green, Poppy, Pink Bergand[?]. Besides this bed I have two others that are larger in which beside the things I told you of I have put more Dahlia roots which Mrs. Morgan sent by Papa, and some Pina[?] seed. I intend to sow more seeds by and by. Everything is doing first rate except my Pinks, Rose bushes and Grapevines. I saw one bud on one of the Grapevines yesterday. I am in hopes they will come to it by & by.

Besides my flowers I planted some beets and parsnips and in the root and herb line some coriander, hoarhound, sage, dill, balm, bergamot, peppers, sweet Marjoram, Summer Savory, Lavender, Cayenne peppers, saffron. Our neighbors seem to think we shall have a very handsome garden and I am in hopes that I shall have one. You know it was all the comfort I expected to have in the West, and sure enough it is.

After I got through I went over to Mrs. Stephens with my net with which she was very much pleased. Yesterday was quite chilly in the wind, which did not blow very hard. In the sun it was very warm indeed. About noon Thomas Hamilton came to the house to get work so Papa sent him to the woods to chop logs, two of which Papa and Oliver with the horses drew over to the mill & one for a house beam. Oliver brought a load of boards from the mill, some siding & some flooring.

Spent the evening in reading Scott.

16th.

Today it is very chilly and the wind blows very hard from the Northeast. I am writing while I am waiting for Oliver who has gone to Mr. Hill's for potatoes with Charley. But now he has come back, and has the horses most tackled. I am going over to work in the garden again. Papa and Thomas Hamilton have gone off

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on foot. Thomas is going to work in the woods. Papa has gone for Mr. Gunsollie to get him to work on the house.

When I got to the claim I found it so cold I thought I should have to give up working in the garden. But I mustered courage enough to plant an asparagus bed and then I went to Mrs. Flemming's to warm me. But I came as near being smoked to death then as I had been to freezing. She told me she had lived there four years in just such a smoke, though one hour's work on the chimney would prevent it all. But Mr. Flemming was no hand to fix anything round the house.

One thing led to another and she told me that when she lived in Indiana she had to get up in the morning, leave her children abed and asleep and go a 1/4 of a mile to milk her cows & then bring home two pails full of milk. Then if her children had waked she would tie them to the bedpost and go a 1/4 of a mile in another direction for a couple of pails of water. Then she had the horses and cows and cattle to fodder and lead to watter. Mr. F. was at work at his trade. She said she would have the same to do at night.

Since she moved here she says Mr. F. has not brought one pail of water, and in fact she never knew him to in her life. She or her daughter have to work above their knees in snow sometimes. Amey told me she always had to get water in the basin and carry it to him to wash. And she very often goes out on the prairie, catches, saddles and bridles his horse for him while he sits in the house doing nothing. I told her I thought my father would not ride horseback very often if I saddled and bridled his horse for him.

In the afternoon I planted 5 or 6 different kinds of flower seeds. Papa worked on the house all day. He was siding up one end. Oliver planted some corn & drew some rails. Mr. Gunsollie did not come. In the evening I played backgammon.

17th.

Today is very cold but pleasant. I don't mean very cold but that the wind blows very hard and chilly from the north. Papa is quite sick this morning with sick headache. Mama is making turnovers. Caroline is reading Shakespeare. Oliver has not gone home but sits here reading.

About noon Papa began to get better and rode over to Mr. Frost's. Before he went away he asked Oliver if he was going home. He said he was. "Well, you are coming back again?" "No. I guess not." Last night they tried to make a bargain for Oliver to stay a year, but Oliver did not like the pay which Papa offered. He offered him \$125[?], \$25 to be paid in cash, the rest in something else. Oliver thinks that he can do better, but has concluded to ride Charley home and see his father and then let us know what he will do. Also to stay this month

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out, which will be the second he has been here, and is up on the 6th of May. I hope they can agree to something so that he will stay with us longer for he is an excellent hand.

While they were gone Charles Turney called and brought us a paper as he came from the office. It was "The Western Prairie Farmer". When Papa came home he said Mr. Frost said that when he came after the steer Charles told him it was not wintered here, either by him or Papa, and he did not know where it was wintered. And if he thought it was his steer he had better drive him off. Then Charles came home and told Oliver that he told Mr. F. that he had better come and see Papa, and that he knew it was Papa's steer, and ever so much more. Papa did not see the steer as he was not to be found.

Mr. Fritz called in the afternoon and got 34 lbs. of salt of us.

I forgot to mention that Charles Turney told us that Erastus Cleveland, Erastus Harris, and Augustus Hill were sitting on the straw when he came in, playing cards. Uncle C. and Erastus I believe play nearly every evening.

Tis a splendid moonlight eve.

18th. Monday.

Papa went to Mr. Frost's again, but could not find the steer. Mr. F. told him if he found the steer he would drive him home. Papa thinks if he is lost Mr. F. is answerable for him.

Oliver came home about 10, tackled the horses, and took Mama and Caroline over to the claim, so Dick and I am here alone. I mended my dress, then sewed a little on my patchwork, and then churned 5 or 6 pounds of first rate butter. Then I made a custard pudding and buttermilk cake, and boiled some potatoes for supper. I was just clearing away the dirty dishes I had made when all the folks, excepting Caroline, rode up. She was going to stay all night with Mrs. Herdes little girl, where Mama and she had spent the day. Papa had been siding up the house and had both ends and some on the North side done. We think of moving in next Monday. Oliver has been drawing boards and logs and has planted some corn. Mama liked the looks of things very much. After supper Papa took his milk pail and went off to the prairie to milk a cow which had calved a steer calf in the afternoon.

Mr. Cole, brother to Rufus Cole and the one that is breaking for us, came to stay all night.

19th.

Today it has been excessively warm, the sun and ground fairly burned one.

This morning Mr. Flemming's boy came over to drive off a couple of cows which Papa is going to let Mrs. F. use until her cows calve. Papa and Oliver went to the claim as usual, Mama and I to washing, & Dick to drawing in wood and chips in his waggon. Charley spent all the forenoon in stuffing up holes in the fence with straw to stop out his pigs. But they could push it out as fast as he put it in. In the afternoon he sewed a little wheat and the rest of the day he spent in preaching to an old man who came here. We have finished our washing and dried our clothes.

20.

Today I went over to the claim and took my patchwork. I brought up water from the spring till 11 o'clock, then I sewed the rest of the time. In the evening I played backgammon with Caroline. The water was to put on my plants which are doing finely, some being in bloom.

21st.

I went to the claim today, sewed some cabbage seed, set out some garlics and planted some celery. It was an extremely warm day so I could not work later than 11 o'clock.

In the forenoon Papa measured off some land for Mr. Cole to break, and set fire to the grass, as it is better to be burned over. As the wind blew very hard the fire burned very rapidly and went towards some rails which Papa had drawn and piled ready to lay up a fence and soon destroyed an hundred or more. I went up and carried water to help put them out. Papa burned all his fingers on both han[ds] which I dressed.

When we went over in the morning I went as far as the sawmill with Papa, who walked the remainder of the way, it being about a mile from the mill to our house. From there [he] went to Mr. Pettingales where he got Mr. P. and to yoke of cattle to draw logs for him & left his horses & waggon to be used on Mr. P's farm in place of the cattle. They put on a yoke of our steers before each of Mr. P.'s cattle and so had t[wo] teams. Mr. P. drove one, Oliver the other.

After putting out the fire Papa walked up to the timber pound they had started with their logs and came back again all tired out. I made him some sage tea and he laid down on some bags of oats to go to sleep. My sage I cut from the four little roots I brought from Rockford. They do finely.

Toward night I went down into the cellar and dipped water into the pail which Papa drew up and put onto my garden & the plants. He gave them a fine watering. I walked to the mill at night where the horses met us.

While Papa was talking with Mr. P. I walked along up the hill and sat down on the ox yokes which Oliver left there after drawing logs (he unyoked the steers and they went home). Pretty soon Papa came along and hollered, "Get up! Get up!", as I thought to the horses, but I soon found he meant me, for I had frightened Charley most out of his senses. Papa said he (Charley) came very near jumping over Jim two or three times. I walked round a little and then walked up to Charley, but he snorted and acted pretty skittish till I came close to him.

I spent the evening in playing Backgammon with Caroline.

22nd.

This morning when I got into the waggon I put in my work, a tea kettle, tin measure & some sage, thinking to make some sage tea over to the claim. Papa took 10 empty bags with him and we rode up to Louis' where he got them filled with 15 bushels of wheat, for which he allows Louis 5 shillings per bushel being one shilling more than people generally [get] especially where one takes it from their door and they have no trouble about it.

While they were measuring the wheat I went into Mrs. Cleveland's. She told me they milked 8 cows and had 5 large sized pails full of milk every night and morning and that she churned 5 pounds of butter every day. They have 8 calves, these they feed with skimmed milk which of course is never as good. If we had as much milk to take care of I would think we had business enough to do, but we do not give our calves skimmed milk.

After the wheat was loaded we started to cross Louis' spring brook. We had just got over the bridge when one of Jim's traces came off and we were obliged to stop right in a mud hole to fix it. The back wheels were in the mud, half of the hubs being covered with mud which was just thick enough to be as bad as possible. Louis flew round, got some rails, threw out the wheat and seemed as good natured as Charles is ugly. He lifted out one wheel with a rail, and Oliver and Erastus Harris the other, and our horses both of them pulled like good fellows. We had to cross two more slews through which we made the horses go lively.

When we got over to the claim we found Mr. Stevens at work and the watter in the cellar most dried up. We drew up about a barrel and a half full of watter which [makes it] nearly dry. The mud seems to be about four inches deep and then there is good dry dirt. Papa seems to think no he can get along without having a drain dug. Papa and Mr. S. both worked on the [house] which is all sided up but about one fourth of one side.

Oliver went to the mill and got some boards & then planted some potatoes on the sod. I worked in my garden cleaning the beds till about 11. Then I tried to make my tea, but first the tea kettle tipped over and lost all the watter, which I filled and

boiled again. Then after I had put my measure down to steep the tea, that blew over and I lost all a second time, so I gave it up for a bad job.

I then went at sewing till about 3. I went to Mrs. Herdies[?] to get Mama some yeast cakes. She also gave me some new kinds of flower seed (New to me) and some juice which she pressed out of crabapples, which tasted first [rate] though not like cider for it had not begun to work.

When I went back I did not go the same way that I went. I came to a slough which was covered with last year's grass that was two yards long and all laid flat. I could not see one drop of water but every time I stepped I would go down over shoe.

Toward night Papa & Olliver watered the plants. Very warm through the day but came up cool at night. Spent the [evening] in playing backgammon with Olliver. Moonlight.

23rd.

This morning Papa, Olliver and Caroline went to the claim. Mama went to Mrs. Fritz[?] and spent the day & Dick and I staid here alone. Papa finished putting on the siding to the house.

Louis came down in the evening to get his wheat endorsed on the note. Papa & he told many war stories which were quite amusing. Papa said he thought we should have war soon, which frightened Caroline very much. I do love to see Louis when he is engaged in talking. His whole heart & soul (if he has any) are in his eyes. He stretches them open as though he heard, saw and talked with them. He seems to feel everything he says, for the moment at least.

Olliver sewed some oats today.

24th. Sunday.

This morning Olliver with the team rode home, gave his father a Mr. Cable an invitation to come up Wednesday when we moved. When he came home he brought us some wheat to sew. He brought us two papers from you, the wrappers of which were written on. They were mailed April 6th and 9th. One mentioned Grandpapa's sickness, Edward's going up [to Springfield?], your writing to Uncle A., also some papers from Henry & a lady's book with some papers for Uncle C. not marked in our care.

Papa went over to the claim and tacked in the glass to some of our windows. Augustus Hill came in all dressed up with some etc for us presented by Mrs. Hill. Aunt Abby, Uncle Cleveland and the baby all went with Louis and his family to Mrs. Rob[?] who was Mrs. Louis Cleveland's mother. These people, Louis not excepted were those that were not fit to associate with, they were such

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low ignorant folk, but it must be they are changed now. For my part my thoughts incline the way Charley's bent last Summer.

I spent the day on the bed reading Shakespeare. In the evening I read my magazine. Papa read papers, Oliver Bonaparte & Caroline Shakespeare.

Cloudy and unpleasant most of the day. I wrote to Brooklyn &c.

25th. Monday.

Caroline went over with the men and brought up a barrel of watter from the spring which she let stand in the sun all day, and at night put it on my plants. Mr. Stephens worked for us today. They all together laid part of the chamber floor which is laid of rough boards painted. Papa puttied all the windows and put one in in the morning. Papa carried over his bench and a number of other things including the vinegar barrel.

27th.

This morning Papa took over the stove and made out a load of other things. Mama was packing up all day yesterday and has been today. I have ben sewing some and packing some. My health is not good and has not been since I came from Rockford. My head is dizzy a great deal and aches very badly. My tongue is coated and my breath hot though I do not seem to have any outward fevere. I am using up my last bits of calico in hopes to be supplied by the arrival of the little box of things.

28th.

Today we have moved and are now in our own house. We are now away from Cleveland's and have got home for the first time since May 11th 1840. I came over about 8 o'clock with the first [load] and have been here all day to help receive things. It is really a cold day and it seemed as though I should freeze before Mr. Stephens who has been here all day to help them unload [could get the stove up ?]. About noon the stove was up and I made a fire in [it], sat down to my patchwork, and have been very comfortable since.

Peter and James Finland[?] came each with a team to help us move. We had 9 loads and got all over here about 4. Squire Hoit came up, as he said, to see us move. We invited him to come because he is a man of some influence and we thought Charley might possibly keep cooler. Charley felt so bad all day he did not know what to do with himself. Augustus Hill who also helped us said he was the maddest man he ever saw. And yet I cannot see at what he should be mad. He found it impossible to keep still all day. He had to tell Papa that he was a lousy rascal besides many other things. We expected to have had some trouble about

getting our windows and doors away but did not. After all the folks were in the waggon and ready to start, "Mr. Sacket", says Charles, "Don't you never, never, never, never, never set your foot on my claim or in my house again". Papa told him if he would come our way he would accomodate him.

Mrs. Hoit came over with the rest and we took tea. Papa went right to work driving nails & pegs to put away things on.

29th.

Today we have [been] fixing up and putting away all day and have got considerably fixed, to our way of thinking, though I suppose should you see us you would not call it any living at all. Oliver has planted a little sweet corn & drawn a few rails. Dick is all hoito toity here, he feels so pleased to get over to the claim. He has been drawing chips, fetching water to put on the garden and a great deal of other business.

All the forenoon Mr. Stephens had Oliver drawing in wheat for him. Mrs. Flemming came in here too and wanted to get a straw hat for her boy, who she said had nothing but a rag on his head, and pay for it in eggs, which Papa let her have.

I forgot to tell you that Mr. Randall was here yesterday and asked me if I were going to teach his school. I told [him] I did not know as we could agree for I had understood that some people would not allow their children to be punished. He said it had been the case. I told [him] I thought it would not answer to punish a fault in one that I would not in another. I told him I should be very strict. Well he said he wanted I should and if I had any schollars who did not mind I must send them away from school. He thought he should be ready for me to commence in about three weeks.

I have spent most of the day in sewing. Worked some in the garden.

29th.

I spent most of the morning in weeding and cleaning off my flower beds. Mrs. Stephens came over in the afternoon and took tea with us with her little girl.

30th.

Today I spent the forenoon in working in my garden. It was very warm & the wind commenced blowing very hard about noon.

Mr. Peppers[?] and Warner called. Mr. P. took some cloth. Had quite a talk with him on gardening. Toward night I sewed some flower seeds and some artichokes. Spent 1/2 an hour in

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Mrs. Flemming's. Oliver sewed and dragged in some wheat. Papa & Mr. Stephens worked on a privy. After Mr. P. examined our table, as he does most every piece of furniture he comes across, being a cabinet maker.

May 1st. Sunday.

Today I went on Charley with Oliver who rode Jim to a meeting over 7 miles from here. We went in about an hour and a quarter. The road was first rate most of the way excepting a few sloughs which were pretty bad. We had a most delight[ful] ride. Sometimes our road lay across the prairie, sometimes through the thickets where the crabapples, choke cherries, strawberries and other fruits were all in bloom, making the air very fragrant. Then again we were riding through the woods where the birds were singing, the leaves rustling and every[thing] was delightful here.

We passed through the Methodist camp ground where Oliver pointed out the different pews[?] and told their uses. The pews[?] are made of a few rails laid up. There was one place called the anxious seat where there sat those that felt anxious for the souls of others, then those that felt serious would go up and be prayed for by them.

We had a Methodist meeting. The preacher tollerable. After meeting I had an introduction to a number of people. Mr. Hoit and all his family were there and we all went down together to his house where we took dinner and started for home where we arrived about 4 and found Caroline anxiously waiting for us expecting to take a ride in the waggon, but Papa disappointed by saying he was going horseback.

Papa & Mama then rode up to Peters. Mama went trotting off finely and came home on the gallop. She was delighted with her ride and so was I with mine. We galloped over the prairies just like any first rate horsemen.

When I got home I cooked a fresh fish which one of Mr. Flemming's boys caught in the mill pond. It tasted first rate, being the first fresh fish I have eat since I have been in the country.

2nd.

This morning I felt lame from my ride. We had quite a thunder shower though there was not enough rain fall to do our plants much good. Mr. Cavener came down to finish digging the cellar. Papa, Oliver & he went a little way from our house on the claim where they found very good stone which they commenced quarrying to build a cellar wall and build a foundation for the house.

3rd.

Very pleasant day. Mama commenced washing which was quite a job as we had not washed here before and had everything to get together.

In the afternoon Mrs. Herd and Amey Flemming came after us to go to Mr. Randall's to a meeting. I went, also Caroline, but we had no meeting as the preacher was sick and did not attend. I enjoyed myself very much however in talking or taking a pleasant walk. When I returned Mrs. Flemming was sitting and chatting with Mamama.

Mr Cavener worked today. Mr. Stephens part of the day.

4th.

Very pleasant. Papa & Mr. Cavener worked in the stone. Mrs. Cavener came down very much alarmed saying that Mr. Warner, one of our distant neighbors, had told them that the whole community had joined in a conspiracy in which they had agreed to mob Peter's house, kill the inhabitants and fire the house. (Mr. Cavener & family live with Peter). We told her it was all a lie made up to frighten them, but she would not think so. They both went home at night, though Mr. C. did not appear to be much alarmed.

5th.

Today would have been very pleasant but that the wind blew very hard. About 2 Miss Randall, Miss Putman & Miss Flemming spent the afternoon with me. We spent our time in sewing and talking.

I have a carpet in my room. The bedstead is one of those curled maple, on which I have a well made bed covered with a white spread and a flounce round. I have one window in my room, one side of which stands my wash stand, and beyond that the beadstead. On the other side of the window is my work table, and opposite the bed stands the beaureau on which is a white spread, the looking glass, and some boxes. On the work table I keep my mahogany box and in the window are two rocking chairs. Next to the beaureau stands one of our large boxes full of bed clothes. Next to that the tobacco box and then the other beaureau.

have a couple of sheets hung up to partition my room from Mama's and she has some blankets hung up to partition hers from Oliver's. In my room next to the partition I keep three trunks under the bed is packed as much as possible. Mama's room is filled with boxes, barrels, trunks, pails, &c.. Oliver's is full of bags of grain & exceteras.

ownstairs we merely keep those things which are necessary for housekeeping.

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In the morning Olliver with the horses dragged in Mr. Stephens' field. Mrs. S. worked here half a day.

6th.

A very pleasant day. I rode horseback to Mr. Johnson's and got Charley shod. I sat with Mrs. Johnson about 2 1/2 hours. Found her a very pleasant woman. Had some trouble about crossing the bridge by Mrs. Flemming and had some fears while crossing the ford, but had a delightful ride. Mr. Cavener and Mr. Stephens worked here.

7th.

I ironed all the forenoon. Mr. Cavener, Papa and Olliver finished a stone underpinning to our house and banked up all round with the dirt that was thrown out of the cellar. Olliver drew some rails. Very pleasant all day.

8. Sunday.

Very Pleasant. Spent most of the day in reading. Had some hazle [hazelnuts?] cracked and eat. Papa went to Cole's but found them not at home. Shewed Olliver my drawings. In the afternoon Papa, Caroline, Dick and myself went to walk and gathered wild flowers enough of 10 different kinds & colours some of which were very fragrant to fill 5 pitchers full and enough to have made 20 large nosegays. Returned home very tired having walked 3 hours. Found Mama getting supper and Olliver reading.

This evening Papa and Olliver tried to make a bargain about Olliver's staying here for 8 months. Papa offered to give 12 per month and pay one fourth in money, the rest in goods. Olliver wanted 12 1/2 per month and one half in money, therefore they could not agree.

9th.

This morning Olliver started to go home but went with Papa to drive home the steer from Mr. Frost's which they made out to get, but not without an arbitration. I have some reasons to think that Mr. Frost is a good deal like Cleveland. It took him some time to decide what men to leave it to, and then changed two or three times. It was finally left to Mr. Johnson & Pettingale(?) who both agreed it was Papa's.

Abigail Pool spent the day here & I cut a waste lining for her. The cattle have bothered us much lately about going off and wandering about.

10th.

Papa went to the P.O. today. Took Oliver home. Came home [with] a letter and paper from you, and a little boy named Richard Washington Mann(?). He is as ragged as he can be. Has a pair of mens pants on that hardly cover him and a part of a shirt. He appears to be a smart intelligent child.

Papa went to bed with a sick headache. Mr. Homes called to get hired. Mr Stephens worked here part of the [day]. I churned about 9 lbs. of butter. The wind blew very hard. Caroline and Dick had to race way off after the cattle. Sewed most of the day.

11.

Mama and I sat right down to sewing for Washington and left everything.

In the afternoon Mr. & Mrs. William Herd, his mother, and her mother Mrs. Turney & Mrs. Randolph and baby spent the afternoon with us, also Charles Turney. Mrs. Randolph is William Herd's sister

I have had some None-so-Pretties in bloom this three weeks and some caroway that has been in bloom for a week. I have some Sweet Williams, Pinks, Chives(?) & 4 or 5 other roots which I got in Rockford in bud, which will bloom in the course of a few days.

12th.

Today Mama and I have been finishing off a shirt and pantaloons for Washington. It has been cloudy, windy and unpleasant all day, and this afternoon we had quite a a shower which will do my garden much good.

A great many of my seeds have come up that I planted. I have saffron, dill, Balm, lentice [lettuce?], pepergrass (big enough to cut), Dahlias, cockscomb, pinks, poppies and many other things growing finely. We have peas half a foot high, hop vines about the same. Some corn, wheat & oats have come up. The prairies in some places are covered with wild flowers. Caroline & I keep keep five or six mugs and pitchers full all the time.

Augustus Hill called in the evening. Borrowed our lantern to go home by.

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13th.

Mama washed. Squire Cole was here and took dinner. He and Papa measured land. Planted peas, beans, sweet corn, cabbages &c.. Richard fell down cellar.

14.

Albert Cole finished the 9 acres of breaking. Papa sowed wheat, oats, corn, peas &c. on his breaking. Mr. Hill returned our lantern. Mama finished getting out her clothes.

15th.

Mama rode horseback to Mrs. Hoit's. Cinthia went to the P.O. for her. M. returned about dark, brought me the Ladies Book. I kept house and churned. Amey Flemming spent part of the day with us. Mr. Flemming came up. Papa & he made a trade. Papa took his spy glass for some tools.

16th.

We spent in sewing. Not very pleasant. Papa worked in his garden. Mama went to Herd to see about making cheese.

17th.

Papa worked in the garden. Mr. Magill(?) called in the morning. Said he arrived yesterday from Chicago. Told about the commissioners laying land floats. I sewed some seeds. Mr. Blake came to be hired. Papa and he could not agree. Mr. Cavener called and borrowed some cups and saucers. Louis Cleveland called. Miss Kellogg & Mrs. Metcalf drove up to the fence in a waggon but did not come in. Mr. Sanford, the sheriff from Rockford, [came] to collect taxes. Very pleasant. Mrs. Flemming moved from the old house to William Herd's old house. Mrs. Herd called for someone to go to meeting with her. Mr. Fritz called and borrowed some salaratus [saleratus].

18th. Papa went to Mr. Hill's. Fritz(?) we got a pig and Mr. Peppers and got some oats. Saw Mr. Rob who said if he would come over there he would help him steal some of his wife's chickens. Dick went with him. I spent the day in sewing. Mr. Randolph called. Papa finished sewing his breaking.

[She makes no mention of the fact that it was one year to the day since they had left New York. With all their experiences that probably seemed like an incident in the remote past.]

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19.

This morning Papa started his little waggon for Blackman's(?) mill. Took some corn & brought home his flour. Squire Hoit came from the office brought us some papers and a letter from Frank. Mr. Magill called with a compass and chain for surveying. Papa helped him repair the compass. He and Mr. Hoit took dinner here. Mama commenced washing. Received invite to ride to the office.

20.

Mama finished washing. I ironed. Caroline went to Mrs. Flemming. I churned about 9 lbs. of butter.

21st.

Very unpleasant day. Caroline & I ironed. Mama began a pair of pants for Washington. Mr. Stephens was here to see me about keeping school. Papa went to Mr. Randall's who gave him 4 hens. Heffer calved little Tom.

22nd.

Very unpleasant in the forenoon. Commence clearing off about noon. Magill called about noon & spent most of the day. He & Papa had quite a discussion on polliticks. I read the newspaper. Mr. Fritz called in the afternoon. Magill & Papa rode up to Peters after tea. Cleared off and was a most pleasant evening.

23rd.

Mama washed. Mrs. Johnson came over with her little boy to get him boarded here thinking my school commenced on that day which was a mistake. At night we had quite a heavy shower.

4th.

Very warm and pleasant all day. I churned about 8 lbs. of butter and worked 24 lbs. Olliver came over and took dinner with us. Papa and he settled. Said he was going North to stay 6 months.

5.

Very pleasant in the morning. Sarah Stephens came over. Told us her meal was at their house and spent the forenoon with us. Mary Island came over and staid all day and night as it came up a power at night so she could not go. George Pettingale called.

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Mrs. Stephens came over for Sarah. Papa & Mr. Randall were going to kill one of our calves but concluded it was not fat enough. In the afternoon they went to the Post Office (mail had not come), to Mr. Cable's who had not got home from the land office, and to Mr. Daton's(?) to get some corn. Caroline & I got very wet milking.

26.

Rainy by spells all day. Peter came after Mary. Mr. Magill called to see Papa about going to land office next day.

27th.

Papa started on Charley for Mr. Fritz about 1/2 past 4 in the morning. Papa, Magill & Fritz started for the land office. I walked over to Mrs. Fritz and spent a very pleasant day.

Mrs. Fritz told me a report Aunt A. told her from Mrs. Rob concerning Mr. A(?) and self. Lucinda & Maryette came in the afternoon. M. did not speak to me. Mrs. F. urged me to stay all night but Mama sent Washington over with the horse so I rode home.

Just after I left Mr. Marsh [had] called to get me to teach school for them. He lived 8 miles from Mr. Cole's. Mama told him I partly engaged to teach here. Mr. Hoit then came in with a letter from Uncle A. [presumably, Adnan Sackett, Isaac's brother?] and some more papers.

After he was gone Mama saddled old Jim and went to Mr. Johnson's to carry the neckyoke to have it mended. When she got home she found Mr. Putnam waiting for her to borrow sheep shears, which were at Mr. Randall's. Mrs. Herd, Miss Randall and Mrs. Gage took tea with us. I got home time enough to see them.

28th.

Unpleasant all day. Rained some. Mr. Stephens called. Got 5 3/4 lbs. of salt. I churned 8 3/4 lbs. of butter. Sewed the rest of the day.

Washington was standing on some boards which gave way or slipped off the beam and let him down into the cellar but did not hurt him much. Mama cut his hair. I did not feel well all day.

29th.

Today is very pleasant. About 10 Mr. Herring's son called and wished Papa to call on Mr. Herring who lives 4 miles south-west of us to see him about the land. Papa was chosen of the

committee with Mr. Herring and Sterne to bid off the settlers land. About 12 Peter called. Abt. 3 Papa arrived from the land office and went to Mr. Stephens' to inform him that he had been obliged to enter and prove on 40 acres of his land, the 80 running East & West instead of North & South in order to get the 40 his house was on.

Papa read Uncle A.'s letter which Mr. Hoit brought from the office. It stated that Uncle A. was in danger of losing \$10,000, Mr. Suel (?) having failed owing him \$8,000 and the company owe him \$2,000. His family were well as usual excepting Lomirah (?) who he thought was worse. The lame [lame?] one was about the same. Uncle A. did not think of coming out here as Mr. Willard was building and could not leave nor would it be convenient to leave himself but had Mr. W\_\_\_ come he would have accompanied him.

Peter called again in the afternoon. In the evening John Pettingale called to see if Papa had any money to let, which he had not. J.P\_\_ lives 2 1/2 or 3 miles S.E. of us of 1/2 mile E. of Johnson's. He has already entered 160 acres but wishes to get 160 more. There are terrible times I assure you here amongst the folks who have put off getting their money till the last minute. Some go East and some go West. But they might just as well look in the old crow's nest for Land Office Money which is scarce as gold.

[Here begin the last two sheets of the document. They are badly tattered, with some fragments entirely gone. I continue Mary Sackett's account as well as I can. Lost pieces are indicated by dots.....]

30th. Monday.

As we had so many strangers here yesterday I suppose we should have company all the week. About 11 Rufus Cole called to see Papa about the news from the land office. (The Coles live about 3 miles a little South West from us...[) but?].....ut Papa had gone to the Herrings. At noon Papa brought Mrs. Herrings compliments to[?] wishing us to visit her and saying she should call on us as soon as she had leisure.

I spent most of the day in writing. About 3 I went Mr. Randall's (1 mile West of North) called on Eliza who went with me to Mrs. Putnam's (1 3/4 mile Northwest of us) whom we found very sick. Mary Ann Putnam showed us round the farm which was very pleasant. We amused ourselves with an hour's light conversation sitting on the grass. On my way home lost one of my gloves. In the evening Mr. Stephens called to talk about their land.

31st.

After feeding the calves and getting breakfast we went to washing. Mr. Gage (lives 1 mile little S of W from us) called to buy a scythe which Papa could not spare and took breakfast with us. Mr. Magill called. We have had a very warm delightful day. My garden does finely. I shall soon have hundreds of Pinks in bloom. You recollect I told you we sowed grass seed on the clay round the house. It is now about ["two" was crossed out] one inch ["es" crossed out] in length and will soon .....s a very handsome green. Close round the house I planted ..... [morni]ng glories, wild cucumber, scarlet runners, Afternoon ladies, mock orange, hollyhawk, wild pea, sunflower &c. which are now all up.

June 1st.

Very warm and pleasant. Mr. Ripley called. I churned 8 1/2 lbs. of butter and worked over 18 pounds which I have packed down in a barrel that will hold 200 weight [which I am ?] going to fill in the course of the summer. You will see by my journal ...[that I make?]?...ke all the butter and I skim most of the milk and strain a good deal(?) of it. Every morning I skim all the milk that we took from the cows the night before and feed it to the calves. Every night I skim the morning's milk and feed that out. Our 2 largest calves are big enough to go to grass but they get to the cows and suck them so we have to keep them shut up till Papa gets a pasture fenced for them.

Besides these I feed Lucky(?) a little heffier and Tom a steer which we are going to fat [fatten?]. Then there is Tom, another steer we are going to fat who sucks his mother. We now milk 8 cows and have one more heffier to come in. Some times I milk what milk I want to feed Tom with, as we give him new milk besides letting him suck what he can get from his mother. I cannot milk very fast but can do pretty well at it.

In the afternoon Mr. Rush(?) called and took tea with us. He is assessing taxes. Nicholas Finolane(?) called and made us a present of some fresh fish which was oblig..... he brought us a part of a fish that weighed 30 lbs. This afternoon Caroline and Washington took a bushel basket and went out to gather flowers. After they came back I arranged 11 pitchers or mugs full. After tea Mr. Randall called with Mr. Foster, a young gent from Rockford. Mr. Randall wanted to get Papa to change some Missouri money and give him treasury notes.

2nd.

We have had violent thunder showers all day by spells. The rain has seemed to come in sheets. Mr. Bushnell staid all last night and took breakfast & dinner with us.

Mr. Randall and Evvans called in the afternoon. Mr. Stephens called. Papa put the glass into the rest of our sash. I finished my letter to you and sent it by Mr. Bushnell. The fish Peter sent us was most excellent. I forgot Mr. Cole, who called and took dinner.

3rd.

Today has been as warm and pleasant as yesterday was cold and stormy. The rain has [stopped] and warm weather has opened my Spring[?] flowers and brought up many seeds. I think I shall raise some handsome flowers this year but hope to be able to have more handsome ones next year and a garden that is better laid out and more room.

Mr. Randall called. Papa gave him Treasury notes of 50 for 50 Missouri. Mr. R. paid the interest 3, with 200 good oak rails delivered on our claim and 5, for exchange in boards. Mr. Rockwood(?) drew the rails and lumber down here for him today, and Papa went to laying up fence round his 9 acres of breaking which joins Mr. R....(?) on the West who is to build part of the fence on that ac....(?).

Caroline went down to Mrs. Herd's today who came ho...[home with?]... her to help her bring a cat and 3 kittens which she gave her. We shall get a whole family by and by. Papa has been talking [for] some time of getting a puppy but has not time to go for it.

Mr. Herd called and measured Caroline for a pair of shoes. She has been barefoot all this Spring not having a shoe to her foot. She has out of grown every pair we brought out for her. Papa went up to Mr. Randall's tonight to a school meeting & Caroline, Washington & myself did the milking. Papa said today, I "must either milk ...[every?]...night & morning or go without my meals", besides skimming...[all of the?]...milk & feeding the calves.

At the meeting they chose Mr. ....ckwood as committee. They are to get all the subscription.....an and out of it, prepare the house and hire the teacher.

I have been weeding my garden, ironing, and making a waste for Dick as you proposed. I ought to have told you in my last that Dick could sing or whistle half of 3 or 4 tunes. Since he has begun to whistle he keeps it going all the time. He says when he gets long enough he is going to tackle .... When Papa is doing anything Dick says when I get ....gh [long enough?] I going to do it. We call him farmer Dick. He will not be called Richard. It makes him mad. He is very stout and hearty. He will climb any 8 railed fence, brings us water from the spring, picks up chips &c. Papa had a load of light rails laying out here, so Dick goes and builds a cow yard and when I went down to milk was playing drive in his cattle.

Not long ago he went way off on the prairie and drove up part of Mr. Stephens', Flemming's & Gage's cattle and had them all at the gate before we knew it. When he gets tired he comes in and takes a nap on the softest board he can find. We can not move him for he will not lay on a bed at any rate. When Mr. Cole was breaking he went up there with Papa to see him drag. He got so tired that he wanted to ride on the dragg and finally crawled up onto Mr. C.'s breaking plough and slept there till Papa came home, Mr. C. not being there that day.

4th.

I spent the forenoon in finishing Richard's clothes which make him look quite like a boy. They are made of that blue striped shirting we brought. Mr. Herd called and cut out Caroline's shoes. Mr. & Mrs. Fritz spent the afternoon with us. Mr. William Herd called. Squire Hoit came up and brought a package of papers, one for me from Henry, and took tea. After tea Abigail Pool called. Papa has been laying up fence all day round his wheat. Brackie(?) Face calved a bull and [we] named him Sparky. Very warm and pleasant.

5th. Sunday.

Today has been a most delightful day being...[neither?]... too warm nor too cold. It has seemed quite lonesome.....the first day in a fortnight there has been no one.....e. I have spent most of the day in reading my..... This evening for the first time in my life I saw a glow worm. It was [so] splendid & beautiful that I cannot describe it.

6th.

Today has been really cold. We could not keep warm without a good fire. Mama & I went to washing and finished about noon. Mr. Hill called about noon and concluded to stay the afternoon and help Papa. Mr. Magill called. Charles Turney called. About two I went over to Mrs. Flemming to spend the afternoon. Amey, Ann & myself took a walk down to the mill. When I came back Mama said .....ers had been here and took tea. It is cold enough for a frost. .....worn my plaid manselinablane[?] for the 2nd time...[since I've]... been in the country. If you want me to wear this ...[one much?]... you must promise to send me another for I shall never .....t here as good.

I can write no more for sleepiness. Good night.

Mary Sackett's Journal

[7th.?]

.....as been very cool and pleasant though the sun did  
.....liza Randall called for me and we went to M.....spent  
[the] day. We had a very pleasant walk & visit. On our return  
home we called on Mrs. Flemming and gathered many wild flowers.  
Wild roses are now very plenty. We have had and continue to have  
so much cold weather that it is feared it will hurt the crops.  
Peter and his team drew rails for Papa. John Peppers took tea  
with us. In the evening Peter agreed to cut 25 tons of hay for  
Papa, part in the month.....

[And that is all that remains of Mary Sackett's journal.]

