

The Diary of Rebecca Goble - 1887

JANUARY

January 1, 1887 – Saturday

On this day I will begin writing and try to write a little every day. From this I trust I will derive benefit. I am at home now, after having taught nearly 4 mos. The school work from this on will be hard, but all I ask is success at last. This is, or ought to be, a happy New Yr. to me, but the brightest days are sometimes flecked with clouds. But some of our trials are friends in disguise. I have good health, plenty of friends and God is on my side, so, I am content.

January 2, 1887 – Sunday

This is the first Sunday of the year and I could not go to S. S.[Sabbath School]. Mercury stood at 24° below zero this morn. We keep quite comfortable by staying indoors by a good warm fire. Frank & Dell are here. We are going to church in a sled. I am copying some old time songs. It takes me back to the days of girlhood. We sang them without the instrument but we had merry voices. I have the promise of a visit from a school friend this week but I think the trains will not run just right for his visit.

[Judy's note: I thought S. S. stood for Sunday School, but on January 23rd Rebecca referred to it as Sabbath School.]

January 3, 1887 – Monday

School begun in earnest today. More in number but hard to become settled down to business. Did not get home till nearly dark. School house cold till 10 o'clock. I will try hard to work right, for people are what they are made, by education and the company they keep between the ages of 15 and 25. Weather is severe. I saw one tonight who was beautiful to behold, but Alas! too bold. "When a maiden is too bold, it is time for the admirer to draw back." So say I.

January 4, 1887 – Tuesday

School full to over flowing. House warm and comfortable, the weather having moderated. Class in Civil Government begun today. They seemed to enjoy it. Did some changing seats. Snowing a little this eve. Johnie came home with me. He is going away Sat. Tomorrow is Mary's sale. Sad indeed! When we think that the former owner is lone and still in the cold ground. "Death's but a path that must be trod if man would ever pass to God." "It lightens the stroke if we draw near to him who handles the rod." Mr. Ennefer came on the 7 o'clock train.

[Judy's note: Mary's husband died September 21, 1886, so Mary's sale was probably the "estate sale."]

January 5, 1887 – Wednesday

Today is real cold. Stove pipe fell down this morn. Had only a piece of a broom to use so things did not look very tidy. Company came with me to school and of course he enjoyed the disorder of things. He stayed for 2 recitations, then took the train to go back to Eureka. Had to settle a quarrel in school today, which was not very pleasant. Things must go better tomorrow. Lettie Widney called at the door today. I am tired tonight. Come "Nature's sweet restorer"—Sleep.

January 6, 1887 – Thursday

School better today. Company at Mrs. Nixon's when I got home. Genie returned from her visit. We went to church tonight. Text—"This year thou shalt die." To whom does this refer? God knows. But the shortest life is long enough if it leads to a better one. Rev. Green was at church. He is an earnest Christian worker. I think I will go again. If the sermon is good it inspires, and if not it does not interfere. I feel much better today than yesterday. Ralph W. visited the school today.

January 7, 1887 – Friday

Got up with the headache, but it wore off. School did very well. One patron came over to give me a bit of advice. Of course, I took it, for "She's such a figety (sic) thing." Went to hear Rev. Green preach. Got home at 8:45. Text was, "Roll away the stone." If I were a man I would be a minister instead of a school teacher. It is bright and silvery cold. Snow covers the ground. Baby Henry is crying now. He has a nice home if he only knew it.

January 8, 1887 – Saturday

Snow fell today. I called at Mr. Zimmerman's, Mr. Flood's, Dr. Drew's [and] Mrs. Robinson's. Finished my black mittens. The baby and Mr. & Mrs. Nixon were nearly sick today. Church nearly full. Text "Lazerus & the rich man." Have been studying my S. S. lesson. Have a good class of young men. Ah! that I had greater art of teaching and more influence over them. Wish I could see the home folks now. Johnie is gone. But if he only does well, it is better. Dwight took Genie to Mr. Dickey's party. Snowing now. 10 P.M.

January 9, 1887 – Sunday

Waded snow to S. S. Only 2 of my class there, so I took Miss Given's class. The minister first gave me words of discouragement then words of cheer. Tiny Merriell is to be buried today. Her afflicted father has buried his wife, 3 daughters, a son and a grandchild in a few years. They learned to serve God here. Whom God loveth, he chasteneth. Dwight took dinner here. We had oysters. Rev. Green's text was "Old wells dug out." Shame on me! I got there too late. Apricots, cake and pie for lunch. 9 o'clock.

January 10, 1887 – Monday

Real cold going to school. Good fire and everything went well. I have spent a delightful day. Only a few fitting clouds. Enjoyed the evening service. Text was on the deceitfulness of our hearts. Now I must study some. Elmer is still sick. Have received no letters lately, but it is my own fault. I am rushed on from one thing to another till I will finally be rushed into Eternity. Not, however, without some preparation for I think we should seek first the kingdom of God. 9 o'clock now.

January 11, 1887 – Tuesday

Weather a little warmer. School very pleasant except one thing. Two brothers had almost a fight, but they ceased at one word from me. Too sad! for brothers to quarrel. Must study my S. S. lesson some. Called at Mr. Armstrong's. Mrs. Brassell is to be buried today in the Catholic Semetary (sic) at Springfield. Her children were my scholars 2 years ago. The older one must now take her mother's place in the household. That would be sad work indeed without mother's sympathy.

January 12, 1887 – Wednesday

Had a good school. Preachers Fox and Greene visited us. Weather much warmer. I saw pa bring in a load of corn but did not have time to speak to him. Went to church tonight. Subject, "Come let us reason together." Most of the Weldon people have minds too stubborn to yield even when convinced. Elmer was able to go to the store. He is deeply interested in Life of Lincoln as given in the Century magazine. He is a lover of good reading. It is late now. Others in bed.

January 13, 1887 – Thursday

Weather some warmer. Snow melting away with some rain. We need rain if it will fill the wells, for many have gone dry. Are preparing for some literary work at school tomorrow. Will try to succeed. I am to have an essay. My scholars bothered Miss Given some. Oh! if they would only do as I want them to. But I will do the best I can and with divine grace I will succeed. Went to church. Only a few there. It is 25 minutes past 9 P.M. now.

January 14, 1887 – Friday

Our literary work was a success. Those on the debate were not much embarrassed. Mrs. Lafferty called on me this eve. She is an "Eastern Star." Talking on the subject of Christianity today one says "You are the most liberal Christian lady I ever knew. If I am in Rome I ought to help them. Tried to speak in church but when I spoke of my brothers and sisters, my co-workers in school and S. S., my sympathies were so aroused that I could not talk well. Well they knew what I meant. Am nearly homesick tonight.

January 15, 1887 – Saturday

Went to prayer meeting at 10 A.M. Offered prayer in public for the first in my life. But I had learned in private. I believe more is wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Gilbert Crossan's* wife was buried here today. I called at the milliner shop. Saw Ollie and Lettie and Em Cavender. Came out home after noon with Pa. Jake Capron was here. Saw Frank Powers. He was once my pupil. Is a widower now. Read a letter from Johnie today. Mary & Lewis at Emma's. How nice to be at home! (10:50 P.M.)

**Note for January 15: Cameron Davenport married Maggie Lane and they were the parents of two sons and two daughters, all now deceased. One of the daughters, Fairy, married Gilbert Crossan and they were the parents of Ernest Crossan. Mrs. Crossan passed away when Ernest was only three years old and he made his home with his grandparents, the Jerry Davenports.*

January 16, 1887 – Sunday

Pa brought Bettie & me to S. S. I had a very interesting class. The sermon after I did not enjoy, my thoughts were not there. I am sad today. No one knows my trouble but "He who knoweth all things." He goes with me into the dark recesses of life. Came home from church and took a nap off in the bedroom. Ate dinner at 3 o'clock. Fan Pace and John were here (at Elmer's). Genie has gone to church with them now. It is 8:30 o'clock. Very cold and dark. Good Sleighing.

January 17, 1887 – Monday

Very good school. Belle Brooks visited. She is a teacher but will re-enter school here for a while. I feel better today than yesterday. We begun our 5th month of school. I believe we have done well. This is the most blustery day of the winter. Pa was to go to Clinton. Nellie froze her fingers coming to school. Genie froze her ear. Saw George F. (or T.). He was a former school mate of mine, but he was and is a bad boy. Am ready to write to Edna tonight. Have not seen her since Thanksgiving. Wilber in Cal.[California].

January 18, 1887 – Tuesday

School not very good. Ralph Widney visited. He intends to enter sch.[school]. Has attended at the La Harpe Seminary. Myrt. Zimmerman came to get her books. She has given up trying to come. Elwin built the fire before daylight. Weather getting warmer. Are doing very well in Civil Government. Have not heard from home this week. Do not get up very early. Get home nearly dark. Have a splendid boarding place. Am not in a mood for writing tonight. Did not go to church.

January 19, 1887 – Wednesday

Have been put to my wits' end. The scholars surely took a rest. If not I do not know what they did for they did not work. Had to whip one boy and whipped enough, I guess, but some of the larger ones needed it. Am always sorry when I have to whip. Read some good advice in the Practical Teacher about schools. Miss Given had sick headache, poor girl. My head aches some, now, first for several weeks, but another day like this will wear me out. Hope I will feel better tomorrow. "Into each life some rain must fall, Some days must be dark and dreary."

January 20, 1887 – Thursday

Had the headache, but my school was much better. Saw Lettie Widney on the street. She wants me to be an Eastern Star. Baby Henry went to town to be weighed. 15 ¼ lbs = his weight. Had a letter from Eddie & one from Johnie. Answered J.'s and sent E.'s with it. The ground was covered with ice yesterday but it melted off today. I walked on the ice most of the way to sch.[school]. Went to church. So did Mrs. Nixon. Much water on the ground.

January 21, 1887 – Friday

Took the examination which we finished at 3:10. We then had a debate—"Resolved, That water is more destructive than fire." Question settled in favor of Aff.[Affirmative]. Sent in my petition to the Eastern Star. If I find it a good step I will never regret it. It otherwise, I will not encourage my friends to join. My quarterly fees will be money regularly out, but my list of friends will be increased. "Count not that lost which is spent in cementing friendship." Had a letter [from] M. Welch. Want to go home.

January 22, 1887 – Saturday

It is almost like a Spring day. A warm wind blowing from the south. Could not go home. Worked on the examination papers till 3 P.M. Then I was tired. Took my clothes to Mrs. Flood's. Then Genie and I went to hear Bro. Hite preach. It was very dark and about to rain. I fell down once and got mud on my glove. Mr. and Mrs. Ira Nixon let their light shine coming home, so we kept our equilibrium. Have thought so much about Grandma T.[Tozer]. I fear I will see her no more on earth.

**Note for January 22: In the 1880 census, Rebecca's grandmother, Betsy Tozer, was living with her son Luke in Maroa, Macon County, Illinois. She was 80 years old, so when Rebecca wrote this entry, she would have been 87. I can't find any record of her death.*

January 23, 1887 – Sunday

Sabbath School lesson today was about the Ark and the Flood. I enjoyed the sermon better than a week ago. Pa was at church but it was too damp & dreary to bring the folks. Nannie Wicoff called. I wrote to grandma and Ella today. I want to visit them next vacation but do not know whether I can. A trip west would do me a deal of good. Went alone past the dark depot & stores to church. Sat with Mr. & Mrs. Lafferty and Lettie & Genie. Am going to bed earlier. Hard work tomorrow.

January 24, 1887 – Monday

(3 months later) Something happened that prevented my writing on this page or the next on the days marked, so I will write some on this page now—nearly 3 months later. Jessie F. is sweeping for me now. Elwin had to stop and then Haughton swept for nearly 2 months. He is gone now but he did good work while he stayed. Am not well now as I was on the 24th of Jan., but my school work is comparatively easy now. What a change!

January 25, 1887 – Tuesday

(November 3, 1887) Quite a change since the day this page should have been filled. I am 30 miles east of Weldon now. Wesley Chapel school \$51 per mo. Not so busy as I was in January and am much happier. The family at home are better off. Johnie is married & happy, I hope. Mary is in Kan.[Kansas] for the present. Miss Given is very poorly now. I fear that I will not see her more on earth but I may be called home first. Disease & death are abroad in the land. Hope to go home soon. Banner's is a good place to board but it is not home.

January 26, 1887 – Wednesday

Lou G. is out of school this week for not employing her time well. Belle Brooks is in school again. She did well teaching and intends to go back. Mrs. Antisdell from Clinton is here. Her baby is pretty. Stopped at the shop. Saw Lettie & Ollie and Ralph. He is a good boy. Mrs. Nixon has been up to Ira's. Whipped a boy today for disobeying and being impudent. I remembered the saying, "Convince a boy against his will and he is of the same opinion still." Am glad to get along without whipping.

January 27, 1887 – Thursday

Nearly homesick tonight. Prayer and teachers' meeting but I did not go. Had to go to the stores. Heard there that Wilber came in on the evening train from California. Stopped at John Lisenby's to see him. He has been out there since the middle of December. He showed us some specimens of fine fruit. His talk was very interesting. Eddie will be so glad to see him, in the morning. Have not heard from home lately. I weigh 123 ½ lbs. Have gained 15 lbs. here.

January 28, 1887 – Friday

Had a very good school today. Spelled together after recess. Several good spellers missed the words receptacle and cornucopias. Miss Given and Maria Moore were up in my room after school closed. Jas. Bennett called on business afternoon. My little Frizzly has been a good boy this week. I think lots of him even though he was real bad. One girl has decided to change her conduct a little. This will help the sch.[school]. Some of the larger ones are at home sick. I stayed late after school to work.

January 29, 1887 – Saturday

This was a beautiful morning and I walk[ed] home in an hour. Found the folks all right. Lewis came out to meet me. Washed my hood, wrote some on my essay, worked a little, sang some, and talked more. Saw Mr. Hodge. Frank was at home helping pa fix the pump. Had not heard from home for 2 weeks. This is literary night. Had a postal from Miss Welch saying she will visit us next week. My school needs her influence. I am tired now so I will retire.

January 30, 1887 – Sunday

Slept well and got up feeling rested. It snowed fearfully for a while but cleared off. Colder today. No one has been here. We have talked, read, and written. Have had a nice visit at home. Missed S. S. this morning and

there was no church. Walked back to town in less than an hour. Ida Zimmerman, Lettie Widney & Dwight* were here. Ed Richards was here this eve. He visits at the next door quite frequently. Lida sang "Six feet of sod makes us all the same size" and played "Peck's bad boy" Polka. Had apricots, cake and gooseberry pie for lunch.

**Note for January 30: Dwight was probably Elmer's older brother, Dwight L. Nixon (b. 1860).*

January 31, 1887 – Monday

This day I forgot to write and neglected it till I have forgotten what I did. It is push, push till I can scarcely remember a day's transactions. "Count that day lost whose low descending sun Views from thy hand no worthy action done." But I trust it was not lost for I know I was far from being idle. Probably it is well for me to be very busy as long as I am well.

FEBRUARY

February 1, 1887 – Tuesday

Elmer went to Clinton this eve. It is a sleety bad eve. Am writing an essay. This is my busiest (sic) week. Dwight came home, as I did, but he seemed to think his company worse than none. Baby fretted till nearly 11 o'clock. We retire about 10. Miss Given came up and visited me at M. Oh! yes she knows how to sympathize with me. Her scholars are obedient I think. Well so are mine at least some of them are. Wish I could go home oftener (sic). My work has many pleasant hours.

February 2, 1887 – Wednesday

Did not get up very early. Worked hard all day. Got home at 5:40. Saw Frank as I was coming. He was here trying to sell his team but he could not get enough pay. Pa was in town but I did not see him. Feel much happier this week than last. But "Had earth no thorns among its flowers, And life no fount of grief, We might forget our better hours, Though they are only brief." My eyes bother me some. I pray that I may escape my mother's fate, blindness.

February 3, 1887 – Thursday

Have looked for Miss Welch all week but she has not come. School not very full. Adda Moore visited. Elmer is nearly sick. Had an invitation to Kelley's to a party tonight but did not go. First time I have been honored with a bid up here. I waited since last September for the invitation. Bad weather now. Have finished my essay on "Our Conflicts" for teachers' meeting. Hope it will do some good for I labored under difficulties. My productions do seem so tame to me. I am tired tonight but sleep will restore.

February 4, 1887 – Friday

Had a very good school. The debate was a success. Went at noon to see if something could be done to improve order. The young doctor must do better. Miss Given came to my room and we had a talk. She is on the right side. Wrote a letter to Johnie tonight. Had a letter and photos from Fannie Elliott. Saw Arth. Hall, an old school mate in town. Set the alarm earlier so we can get up for the morning train. Miss Welch did not visit us this week. Many of my pupils are sick.

February 5, 1887 – Saturday

I went to Clinton. The teachers' meeting was very good. My essay was not a failure. Took dinner with Miss Welch. Bought my diary of Mr. Rogers. Paid \$3.75 for shoes. Saw Wilber and had a very interesting talk. Saw B. Staymate. We waited an hr.[hour] for the train. Got here at 8. Genie and Ida Z.[Zimmerman] met me there. Now W. has to drive 5 miles out home through the rain. Had cherry pie for lunch. Mr. N.[Nixon] is better tonight. I did not sleep well last night. It is now 9 o'clock.

February 6, 1887 – Sunday

The drizzling rain still drizzles. I have had the headache all day. Did not eat any dinner. They had turkey. Dwight spent the day here. Mrs. N.[Nixon] and Genie have gone to the M. E. church to hear a lady preacher. I am helping to take care of baby. Elmer is reading Lincoln. I must prepare some school work now. The next 2 weeks must be to prepare for Feb. examination. My eyes bother me so I could not read today. Would like to see the home folks.

February 7, 1887 – Monday

Did not feel very well after my headache, but my scholars were very good. Pa came up and spent the noon hour at school. Stopped at McIntosh's store to have him send the cap of my watch to Clinton to be lettered. Mrs. Nixon & I went to hear Mrs. Vincent preach. She talked very loud in her exhortation. Stopped at the P. O. Received 7 papers and journals but no letters. Read about an hour. It is nearly raining and the walks are very muddy. It is now 10 P.M. and I am very sleepy.

February 8, 1887 – Tuesday

Rain, rain, rain till noon and then sunshine. Good school this P.M. John Till.[Tillman] Lane died today of hydrophobia. He was bitten by his own dog 9 weeks ago. Also Emma Bennett will be buried at Lane tomorrow. Some went to Clinton tonight to take a degree in Masonry. One went to Indianapolis. Bro. Hite preached ton't[tonight] on subject of "religion." Not many there. I led in singing. Most of the young people have gone to a party at Barnes'. I was not invited. Heard of Mr. E. and Mr. Dabney tonight.

February 9, 1887 – Wednesday

Sunshiny and warm, almost like spring. It is quite muddy. Had to punish a boy today. Had the bell-rope repaired. Went to hear Bro. Mavity preach. He pictured the happiness of Heaven in terms that surely caused all to wish to make that our home. This did not seem much like his pulpit at Maroa, I guess. Pa came up to church. Bro. Hite preached the funeral at Lane, but came back on hand-car. Genie has been laughing at me since I came back. Elmer is gone some where. He is good to stay with her & baby. 10:25 o'clock.

February 10, 1887 – Thursday

Byron Staymate, a former teacher of mine, took breakfast here. He gave me a few words of cheer. School very good. Raining occasionally today. Walks muddy. Miss Given loaned a book to me today. Sermon tonight very good. Bro. Mavity told us the excuses we give to absent ourselves from Christianity. Not many out but all seem interested. I just read of a lady's travels in Italy. Wish I were highly educated and could go abroad. We are to have "The Seven Wonders of the World" for geography tomorrow. 9:40 o'clock.

February 11, 1887 – Friday

The cold wave struck Weldon this morn. Very blustery all day. School not very pleasant. Miss Barnes visited. Got up very late. Had fish for breakfast, slaugh for dinner and beef, eggs and cherries for supper. Last night we went back into the other bedroom to sleep. I have not felt so well as usual this week. Had intended to walk

home tomorrow, but can not. Went to church. Sermon not quite so good as last night. Another week is gone and some good done I hope. Ollie Thayer was at church. 9:50 o'clock.

Februar12, 1887 – Saturday

Did not feel like going out home, so I wrote them a letter. They better come in for their box is full of mail. Sunny but cold. A good many in town but had to come on foot on acc't[account] of bad roads. Ollie Thayer called here today. So did Nan Drew. Bro. Mavity preached a very interesting sermon. They sang from the Christian Hymnal. The song, "God be with you till we meet again" reminded me of College days at Eureka. I know my voice trembled as I sang it, but I could not help it. Heard today that Coz [cousin?] Mame is married. Had a letter from brother Johnie tonight. 10:15 o'clock.

February 13, 1887 – Sunday

Eight in my S. S. class. They gave a good contribution. Was introduced to Miss Bowles after church. Saw Mr. Stults who just returned from Keokuk Medical Sch.[School]. Called at Mrs. Kirker's this P.M. It was a fine day but roads so rough that folks walked in to church. Wore my new shoes. They are a better fit than I usually get. Have been reading Caletton's [Carleton's] "Farm Legends." Mavity preached tonight. Fox today. Tomorrow means business with me. I hope to be able for it.

February 14, 1887 – Monday

Though yesterday was bright, today is very gloomy. My feelings tonight are in harmony with the gloom. Some intelligence rec'd today makes me sad. Prepared to go to church but the rain began to pour down. So, I stayed here and made out my schedule for the firth month. Stopped at the P. O. and furniture store as I came from school. Mrs. Ira N. [Nixon] is going to New Orleans tomorrow. Wish I were free to make a visit. There is hope in the thought that "dark clouds have a silver lining." "All's well that ends well." 9:20 o'clock.

February 15, 1887 – Tuesday

Called at Mr. Seaborg's at noon. Had general exercise in geography. Miss Given came home with me to spend the night. We found the walks still muddy. Went to hear the closing sermon of the meetings. Did not enjoy it so well as usual but, at the close one of my scholars went forward and "made the good confession." He is a noble boy. I must confess, better and braver than I had ever thought. I pray that my example may encourage him. His encouragement from home is not what it should be but this will help his parents. "In true happiness there is more gravity than gayety" for me. 9:40 o'clock.

February 16, 1887 – Wednesday

Miss Given ate dinner with me. Just now saved baby Henry from a hard fall and can not write steady. Genie went with Dwight to spend the evening. I have been writing till 9 o'clock. Heard yesterday that pa has been sick. Well, I am going home on Sat. Ira N.[Nixon] boards here now. Mr. Armstrong called on business at school. My work was pleasant today. Sang "Ring the bells of Heaven." My little Christian friend was there. I trust he may never regret the step he has taken. God bless him. 9:20.

February 17, 1887 – Thursday

Nannie Wykoff was here this morn. I put up my dinner, but Mrs. N.[Nixon] sent another dinner. Johnie & Frank F. were at school at noon. It rained fearfully after 4, but stopped then long enough for me to get home. Mrs. Z.[Zimmerman] and Ida came to spend the eve but Ida went with Genie & me to become charter members

of Good Templars' Lodge. It was raining and dark but we took a lantern. The officers were chosen. My duty is to conduct the devotional exercises of the Lodge. May I do this duty to the glory of God. I am sleepy. 10:40.

February 18, 1887 – Friday

The order at school was very good. Our debate was better than ever. Albert took part in it. Mrs. McConkey visited us for the first. The wind has been high all day and is now at 9:10. Mud is frozen up. I think of walking home in the morn if I feel well. I have been happy all day, but this eve I met a little disappointment. Went down town for nothing. A week from tonight I will be an "Eastern Star" if nothing serious happens. I am tired & sleepy.

February 19, 1887 – Saturday

Walked out home this morn. Went first to Dr. T.'s to get some medicine. I feel bad by tonight but will be well by Monday. Johnie was here for dinner. Mary & Lewis are out at Frank's. Saw him today. Am going to bed early. Do not feel like writing. Have not worked much today. Something unusual for me to be idle. It don't seem much like it used to at home. A large family is happier than a small one. I am lonely when I think of it. 8:05.

February 20, 1887 – Sunday

Feel better today than yesterday. Walked back home after 3 o'clock. Mary & Lewis came home before noon. Bettie came to the R. R.[railroad] with me. I did not meet any one. Lettie & Genie came home from church after 4 o'clock. Asa Wilson has been here. No church in town but the girls went to singing. I went as far as Taylor's office with them. Chas. Lafferty called here. Ira Nixon boards here while she is away. Genie is going away before long. I have a cold & cough. Frank will move tomorrow.

February 21, 1887 – Monday

Elmer went to Clinton and I helped Lida feed the pigs and cow, after dark. Genie went home with Ida Z. [Zimmerman]. Mrs. Lafferty can not hear me talk very well. I am not taking my medicine very (often?). My cough bothers me some. Omitted the singing this morn on acc't of hoarseness. Have been studying Good Templar's work. Rec'd the order book from the directors. Miss Given is doing well. Does not board in town this week. My mind wanders from me tonight but to no one place. (Written on the 22d.)

February 22, 1887 – Tuesday

Maggie Byland was at school this eve. She is an Eastern Star. Had a letter from Miss Welch asking me to take part in the teachers' meeting at Farmer City. But I have no way of going. Besides I have my hands about full of other work. Examination work for fair takes next Friday. Mrs. Lafferty was here last night and left on this morning's train. Dwight went to Clinton. Albert said he will be a Good Templar. Mr. Tousman just came in. He is a S. S. Supt. when at home but he is a runner. It is 9 o'clock. Copied Figety wife.* It is dull weather.

**Note for February 22: "The Fidgety Wife" was some sheet music published in 1886.*

February 23, 1887 – Wednesday

This has been a very cold (no) I meant muddy, dark day. Got home from loge [lodge] nearly 11 o'clock. I was willing to perform all the duties imposed upon me. Yes I think I can be an Eastern Star. Porter Moore called. I got my black dress very muddy. Their supper for Billie Packard & me was very nice. Saw Lettie W.[Widney]

and mother, Mr. & Mrs. Lafferty, Mr. & Mrs. Gray, Ishum Cornwell, Dr. & Mrs. Drew, Mr. Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. Byland, & Mr. & Mrs. Marsh. All had gone to bed here but Genie.

February 24, 1887 – Thursday

One year ago tonight Frank was married.* Oh! dreadful, rainy, muddy time. George's little Clyde stepped upon the stage of existence before the morning of the 25th. Tonight we have frozen rough roads. I am different in many respects from one year ago but I am the same in name. Yesterday I excused 4 young gentlemen from the class for disorderly conduct. They were better today. Went to Good Templar's tonight. Took in 5 new names. My work is very pleasant there. We have a nice room. Returned at 10 o'clock.

**Note for February 24: From the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index:
GOBLE, FRANK CRISMAN, DELLA 1886-02-24 DE WITT*

February 25, 1887 – Friday

One year ago today Bettie & I got dinner for the few invited guests. Weather was colder than today. Roads were very rough. Though the day to me was sad, I tried to entertain the company. Mary left her sick companion & came to help us some. Mother was at George's.* How terrible it would be to be without a mother. "Can one think too much of a mother?" is a question I would ask. Had examination at school for the fair. Wonder if we will be rewarded with a premium. Genie went away to stay. We miss her. 9:30.

Written upside down at the top of the page: My school received premium on penmanship September 1887.

**Note for February 25: George's wife just had a baby, so Rebecca's mother was there helping out.*

February 26, 1887 – Saturday

Another cold wave struck us this morn. Wind very disagreeable. Was scarcely out of doors except to go to Mr. Flood's after dark. Helped Mrs. N.[Nixon] a little. Sewed a little, played a little & sang some. Goldie took care of baby Henry. Genie is gone. Mr. Burks called. Have not heard from the P. O. today. Must study the S. S. lesson. Wish I could hear from home. Heard another mad-dog story. I see I can't write well, now, so, no more.

February 27, 1887 – Sunday

When I woke this morn at 8 o'clock the wind was still raging and quite cold. Prepared to go to S. S. before eating. Dreamed of being kissed by a friend but I did not return the compliment. Our lesson today was Sodom destroyed, Lot's wife looked back, and her punishment shows that Christians should keep their faces towards the place of safety lest they fall. The sun shines very brightly, but I am lonely. Went at 3 to hear Bro. Stoddard [Stoddard] preach. Called at Mr. Kirker's.

February 28, 1887 – Monday

The wind has subsided and the sun is still shining brightly. I do appreciate this for it was 3 weeks Sat. since this dark, gloomy, rainy, windy, muddy weather began. School very good today. Meeting begins at the M. E. church tonight but not many can get in from the country. More wagons in this morn than has been for a week. Baby Henry is real cross. He is about sick. Rec'd program of the Farmer City meeting today. Nearly 11 when I retire.

MARCH

March 1, 1887 – Tuesday

What a beautiful bright warm day! All the scholars anxious to play out. Two of poor judgment came bare footed but I guess we will have March weather yet. Saw Gertie Clifford & Mollie Armstrong sitting on the fence. Went down town after supper but the cap of my watch is not lettered yet. Called at Nixon's store. Lots of teams in town. Ollie Decker is here taking care of Henry. She is going to move west soon. She has been my scholar. I want to go home but cannot.

March 2, 1887 – Wednesday

Bettie, Mary and Lewis walked up to town. Bettie came to school. Mary and L. [Lewis] went to Dr. Drew's. The morning was mild & lovely but at 3 o'clock the weather turned very cold, so their walk back was not pleasant, but the visit did me some good. A number of my scholars were chasing butterflies or something else this P.M. The question tomorrow will be, "What excuse can I make to the teacher?" I feel lonely now. I want to go home Sat. but can not go unless I walk and do not think I better try it. 9:10.

March 3, 1887 – Thursday

Today's work meant saloon or no saloon in Weldon. Some temperance folks worked very hard to keep the town for being incorporated. We went to lodge but the officers were not all there. Gertie Clifford was initiated. Mrs. I. I. Nixon returned from N. O. [New Orleans] into this cold, blustery climate. She had been where the "orange blows." The voting stood 35 for and 41 against whisky. Saw one genteel fellow tonight who stands up for temperance. We welcome such to our town. Go to bed at 10.

March 4, 1887 – Friday

Quite a good deal to note. Steven Stults visited school till recess, then Porter Moore and Theo Widney came in to hear the debate, which was not so good as usual. Called at Milligan's and had quite a pleasant chat. Stopped at the P. O. and found pa there waiting for me but I did not go home with him. Got home after sup. [supper] but Genie came in in time to eat with me. Got ready for "Eastern Star" and went to Lettie's. Went to the lodge room but it was not open so went to church. Met Port and Maria. She went to church with us. Ed Lesch is here playing checker[s]. It is 9:15 now.

Written upside down at the top of the page: United with the Christian church 4 years ago today at Maroa.

March 5, 1887 – Saturday

Teachers' meeting at Farmer City, but I could not go. Had a postal from Miss Welch. I remodeled my light brown dress. It is a wet, misty muddy day. Called for some more medicine. Rec'd some good advice. Went to the Good Templar's tonight. Had a good meeting. Belle Brooks entered. Oh if we could get some more of the boys to enter. Sad, very sad, for a devoted teacher to hear that two of her scholars were seen reeling as they walked. God forbid that these bright boys should be so blinded. I am sad tonight. 10:35 P.M.

March 6, 1887 – Sunday

Arose quite late. Bad morning so I wore my school dress to S. S. Had a good class. No preaching so I came home. Had wild duck and lemon pie for dinner. Genie and Lettie came at 4, then I dressed and we went to walk, the P. M. being mild & bright. Lettie and I called at Chas. Lafferty's and stayed till church. Went with them. Text was "He that gathereth not together, scattereth abroad." Part of the sermon came home to me. Good audience. Came home with Lida & Elmer. Ate cherry pie for lunch. Go to bed at 9:45.

March 7, 1887 – Monday

Just 4 years ago tonight I was baptized. It was the bravest and most profitable step of my life. A clear conscience in the sight of God is a great source of pleasure. If I am always this well satisfied with my condition I will not fear death and the resurrection. I feel weak and sinful, but I do the best I can. Went to church. Father Pomphret came home with us. Haughton Fox swept for me. Elwin is in the store. My school grows smaller, sad to say, but my work is not finished. It is 10 o'clock.

March 8, 1887 – Tuesday

This was a beautiful day and a bright eve. Mol (?) Lafferty came on the evening train. I did not go to church. Subscribed for the "Treasure Trove" for some boy friends. It is a good paper for school-boys and girls. Visited at noon with Miss Given. Mrs. I. Nixon & Lloid [Lloyd] were here this eve while he was at lodge. I have been more free this week than since school begun last fall. Would like to take up music soon. Myrtle Z. came home from the country today. Wore my calico dress yesterday & today. It is 9:30 now.

March 9, 1887 – Wednesday

Cloudy today and colder. Genie is going away tomorrow for good. Sent a letter to Herman. Lettie and Ollie called this eve, then Lettie went to church with me. It seemed real good to hear Mr. Widney preach again. House nearly full. Mrs. N. [Nixon] is going to Bloomington tomorrow, so I have to board some place else. Many went to singing. Genie went. Had the A and B Arith. [Arithmetic] class recite together today. They did not like it for we took some primary work. We have to get up early in the morning. It is 9:35 now.

March 10, 1887 – Thursday

Mrs. N. [Nixon] went to Clinton after supper. I went over to Mrs. Lafferty's to stay a while. She & I went to the Good Templar's lodge. Had a very good meeting. Charlie got home before we did. He had been to church. Has been a little cloudy all day. I begun this writing on the wrong page, for this is Thursday the 10th. Paid Elwin this eve for his services. Am going to bed at 9:30. Want to go home Sat. Had some unpleasant cleaning sch. [school] house, for the boys today.

March 11, 1887 – Friday

Cloudy morning. Haughton has everything at school as neat as a pin. Elwin came up to see how we are. He was so tired of sweeping that he could not do it well. Had miscellaneous work after recess. My head ached this A. M. but is better now. Must take up orthography next week. Am writing this at school while Haughton is sweeping. Am going back to Mrs. Lafferty's this eve. Lettie came up to go to church with us. Chas. came to the church to wait for us. We go to bed at 9:30.

March 12, 1887 – Saturday

A very bright morning. I walked out home from Mrs. Lafferty's. Stopped at Elmer's but he was gone. I learned that his step-mother is dead and they went to the funeral. Do not know when they will be back. Stopped at Mrs. Stults.' We think of taking lessons in music soon. Bettie is ahead of me now. I think my organ must belong to her if I die soon for she will appreciate that more than something else. Pa & the hand are getting ready to sow oats. Not rushed in school as I was.

March 13, 1887 – Sunday

Did not feel well today. Took a sleep after the morning's work was done. Mary is at Frank's. Pa & Ma brought me up to Mrs. Beggs where I am to stay all night. Called at Mrs. Lafferty's but she was not at home. Missed S. S. this morning. So did my assistant teacher. He went to DeLand to hear Brother Lemen preach. Heard that a sober acting young man of my school was drunk in town yesterday. Oh! how terrible. Stayed at home from church tonight. This is the first time Ma has been at town for months. Sun is bright but the wind is cold.

March 14, 1887 – Monday

Did not rest well. Was a little flighty(?) in my sleep. Hope I shall never spend such another night. Have been sad all day. O Walter! What will become of you? But for the curse of alcohol you could become a wise and a useful man. You are fast going the downward road. Only a boy, and drunk at school. If you will keep the promise you made to me you will reform. Brenton tells me he loaned my book. Am writing at school. Today closes the 6th mo. [month]. Went to church with Mr. & Mrs. Beggs. The meeting closed.

March 15, 1887 – Tuesday

I am too weak in mind and body this week to teach school. It is a task to keep patient. With Divine help I will be better soon. It must be worry instead of work that wears me out, for my work is lighter than it was. Mr. Nixon's returned this morn. I am here with them again. Guess I was homesick, for I am glad to get back. Dr. Dora F. was with Mrs. G. Nixon when she died. I am glad that a Christian can die peacefully. Ollie went home & I tried to care for Henry.

March 16, 1887 – Wednesday

I feel so much better today than I have before this week. Have great cause to feel thankful for it. Elmer just now told me that I have a little niece out at Frank's. Well, that's all right. Made out my schedule after school which made me a little late for supper. Saw Ollie and Lettie this eve. Are going to lodge tomorrow eve. Heard that Mr. Housman of Lane is dead. Bennie Hanger is here. He is so polite. The subject of our reading lesson is Charge of the Light Brigade. Bright day this. Roads better.

March 17, 1887 – Thursday

School better today. Called at the furniture store to select a frame for the charter at lodge. Have just returned from a lodge meeting. Went & came alone, though it was dark. Must prepare some work in Allegation for tomorrow. Just heard that 2 of my boys have left the town. That makes 4 runaways. Sadie Adams came back here today. Belle tells me she can not come to school after tomorrow. She will stop to teach. Miss Widney's school will be out tomorrow. Two years ago today Jonah Holt died. 9:45 o'clock now.

March 18, 1887 – Friday

This has been the brightest of spring days. Chas. Flood visited before recess and Emma Cavender after recess. Elwin and Chas. Zorger were there also. Belle cannot come anymore. Was not well today. Took a rest after school. Bennie H. went after my washing for me. Emma C. and Miss Given and I expect to go to Clinton in the morn. Had to miss lodge. Have not been there since I was initiated. Talked so long after suppe[?] school that I got home after supper.

March 19, 1887 – Saturday

Arose early and dressed to go to Clinton. Went at 7:30. So did Miss Given, Mrs. Packard, E. Cavender & Dr. Taylor. Miss G & I ate at the Magill House. Got a navy blue sateen dress & a tan colored jersey. Was with Miss Welch a good share of the day. It was bright & warm for March. Talked a while with Mr. Hill, Mr. Beal,

Judge Ingham & Dr. Wilcox. Came home at dusk. Train rather slow. Bettie came in soon after supper. We went down town. Saw pa. Rec'd a letter from Ella Tozer. Then I went to hear Hite preach & they went home.

March 20, 1887 – Sunday

Ate breakfast at 9 o'clock. Went to S. S. at 10. Had a good class. There was quite a crowd there. Walked home with Mr. & Mrs. Stults. She was organist today. Evans, a smart but wicked man, is in town teaching Masonry today. Was here to dinner. The Biblical sentiment on that would be "He that loveth masonry better than me is not worthy of me." Elwin F. and Porter Moore were baptized at 3, but it was snowy and only a few could go. We went to the M. E. church where they organized S. S. I was elected "Recording Secretary." Mrs. N.[Nixon] went with me to hear Bro. Hite preach. She played & Mollie and I sang tonight.

March 21, 1887 – Monday

STOPPED HERE

Snowing some. Walks muddy. Had to reprimand my scholars. Paid Bennie 5 cents, Haughton 10 cents and Mrs. Robinson 20 cents. Mrs. Nixon has sore throat. Saw Wilber at the store, also Billy P. Took my clothes to wash. Saw James Bennett and Elwin F. Can not think of much to write. I hear an old dog howling. Bought Spencerian pens. Want to begin taking music soon but have so much else to do. Dwight has gone to Clinton as jury man. Said last eve he must write to his girl instead of going to church.

March 22, 1887 – Tuesday

Got up at 7 o'clock. Bright morn but cool. Stopped at the store, had a talk (on organizing Sabbath School next Sabbath) with James Mc. He is willing to do his part and deserves more praise then he gets. I do not desire to be Sabbath School Superintendent for I am only a beginner in the work. Would rather be a subordinate so I could enter a class as scholar. They told me at school that ma, pa and Bettie were in town. Our Arithmetic work is not very satisfactory to some just now, but we do first rate. We go to bed a little earlier than we did.

[Written on the side of the page: One year ago today I bought my organ.]

March 23, 1887 – Wednesday

Warm day. I went to school with just my jersey around me. Sang in opening "Waiting for me." Came around by Mr. McConkey's for a song book which Katie promised me. Saw the little black-eyed baby. Talked a while then came home. Evening still warm and bright. After supper went to the store and got some information about my lodge report and wrote to the "Public" and "Decatur Sentinel." Too tired to write in my diary. Nearly 11 o'clock and have to teach tomorrow.

[Written on the side of the page: This day a peculiar letter was written to me.]

March 24, 1887 – Thursday

A little cooler and I have a cold to pay me for going with no wrap yesterday. Went to Flood's after my washing, and then got ready for Good Templar's lodge. We elected Mr. Cobean. Mr. Moorehead was initiated. He needs much praise for he was once a very low intemperate man. Has been Sabbath School Superintendent, now, for a year and a good man in general. Belle Brooks came part way home with me because I had to come alone. Mrs. Nixon is better. Wrote a report for a temperance paper in Iowa. 10:30.

March 25, 1887 – Friday

Colder this morn. I tore the window curtain down. School very good. Went and had a talk with Mr. Seaborg at M. Ordered a frame for our charter this morning. Had a talk about organizing Sabbath School. I think I would not make the best superintendent but I must work wherever they put me. Elwin came up after noon. We spelled after recess together and closed with a song. Left school early to go out home. Bought a dress for Bettie. Walked all the way against the wind. Folks well but not expecting me. Sat up till 9:30.

March 26, 1887 – Saturday

Was nearly sick this morning. Got up after the rest were done breakfast. Heard that Frank had been thrown from a horse against a tree. Pa, ma and I went down. We got there before the Dr. did. Does not seem to be very bad, but it is surely a narrow escape. Dr. stayed till after dinner. So did we. Cold and snowing when we came home. Sarah came down and stayed an hour. My head feels better. The rest have retired. Received the intelligence today that a school mate, Anna Merriman, is dead. She live in Jacksonville, but married a Davis and moved to Colorado.

March 27, 1887 – Sunday

Today Pa is 60 years old. Sad to see him getting old. No one here for dinner but Pa, Ma, Bettie and I. George came about 2 o'clock. Have not seen him since Christmas. Wanted to go back to town tonight but pa wanted me to go the in the morning, so I will. Has stormed all day. My head aches. Have not heard from Frank. Missed Sabbath School but must go next Sunday. Went to bed at 5 nearly sick. Got up at 7. George had gone and Sky light(?) was here. I wish I knew he is as good as he looks. Bettie would be safe then. Well maybe he is. I must not borrow trouble.

March 28, 1887 – Monday

Wrote a letter tonight. Mrs. N.[Nixon] has gone to practice for the concert. Mr. Lisenby brought our orders up to school. Pa brought me to town early. It was pretty cold. I took my washing as I went to school. Came back by Mrs. Beggs' to get my gown but she was not at home. I feel better today than last eve. Miss Zimmerman was here this eve. Is going out to see if Bettie can take music. Elwin is reading "Voice of Masonry." It is 9:30 and I am going to bed tired, nearly sick, and a little blue. Begone! Dull care!

March 29, 1887 – Tuesday

Have just returned from Mr. Stults. It seems better to see them in their old home. Mrs. S. will give me music. Am to begin next Tuesday. Heard today that Frank is better. The Bennett girls left today and James went to Chicago this eve. Saw Will Winslow on the street this morning. He looked natural. Willie Lesch visited the school this P. M. Have received payment on 2 orders just now. Mr. S. wants me to be teacher at the M. E. Sabbath School but I must be secretary, first. Mrs. N.[Nixon] has been to practice for the cantata.

March 30, 1887 – Wednesday

Bettie sent my jersey today. I saw pa in the store. Am going to send my dress to Mary in the morning. I do not want to write tonight. Must, though, for tomorrow night I must go to the lodge. Saw Anise in town. Heard that Frank is better. Had a letter from Professor Coultas. Helped Mr. Nixon hunt up some hard words tonight. Have been reading Masonry a little but not as much as I would like to. Learned something new in Language today. It is 9 o'clock now.

March 31, 1887 – Thursday

This morning Mr. Glasgow died suddenly. Sad family, theirs. The cap to my watch came today with the wrong initial letter. It has been gone since February 7th. Saw Mr. Fristoe and talked with him today noon. Came home for my dinner. We had chicken. Went to Mrs. Beggs tonight. Saw Mrs. Taylor. Must get ready for lodge now. (After) My efforts at lodge were thwarted by the minority. Our aim should be to reach the fallen but some miss the aim.

APRIL

April 1, 1887 – Friday

My head ached when I got up but I went on to school. Worked hard all day. Came home at 4 o'clock and went to bed. Still my head grew worse. Mrs. N.[Nixon] went down town and got some mustard, which helped to ease the pain. Shortly, at 8, she went to practice for the "cantata." Eastern Star met tonight, but of course I was absent. When I could be useful I ought to well. Is it my fault that I am not? Can't write now.

[Written on the side of the page: All Fools Day.]

April 2, 1887 – Saturday

This is Spring weather to perfection. Do not feel extra well. Went to the shop & stayed an hour. Bought some ruching for myself & some to send out home. Walter Nixon & wife came this afternoon while Lida was at town. I am going to sleep at Mrs. Kirker's. (?) Fan Pace was here a while this morn. Mrs. Lafferty called to see the sick and afflicted this P.M. She is a Good Templar, but does not attend regularly. Guess I will call for the mail as I go to church. It is supper time now. Nearly sundown. Saw Johnie & the store.

[Written along the side of the page: There being no church, I spent the eve at Mr. Widney's.]

April 3, 1887 – Sunday

Went to S. S. at 10 A.M. The new management seemed to be a good change. I took the young ladies class instead of the gentlemen's. Stayed after S. S. to talk with the other teachers. Came home ate dinner & prepared to go to the M. E. S. S. [Methodist Episcopal Sabbath School]. Acted as Sec'y for the first time. Did very well. There were 72 present. Within a half hour I knew something of which I had never dreamed. Shameful! But when I know something I know it. Walter & wife went home this eve. Dwight came around for a drive. We went out past home but did not stop. Home at 6 P.M. A bright but blustery day.

April 4, 1887 – Monday

Very high wind all day. The school building trembled. Sunshiny. Have just written application to 2 places for next year's school. One of them is Weldon of course. If a favorable answer comes I will get \$55 per mo. for the year. Will have to wait quite a while for the ans.[answer]. Did not go through town to school. Must take a music lesson tomorrow after school. Had a very small class today in the A.[Arithmetic?] work Mrs. N.[Nixon] has gone to practice for the "cantata." Will be very glad when that is over. Ollie D. is still here. 3 old scholars started again today to school.

April 5, 1887 – Tuesday

Mary came up and talked with me at recess. I came home at noon & sent a package home with the folks at Beggs.' Got back at 12:55. Elwin came to school after noon. Jessie Mc walked part way home with me. I saw Wilber on the street. Went to Mrs. Stults' and took my music lesson after school. Am encouraged for I did

better than I thought I could. Emma Cavender was there a while. Ida Zim.[Zimmerman] was here after supper. Today is election in town. Good many in. Henry cries.

April 6, 1887 – Wednesday

Practiced some before going to school. Only a small school. Quite a blustery day. Brenton is about sick. Preparations for the “cantata” nearly completed. Mrs. N.[Nixon] has gone to the church now. Stopped at the shop. Mrs. Widney was making a cream satin basque. Lettie went with me to see about the charter frame. Stopped and bought a breastpin for a dollar. Have had no letters for a long time. I better write more and read more. Town went Democratic yesterday.

April 7, 1887 – Thursday

Had a letter from Edna as I went to sch.[school]. She intends to come up for me tomorrow. We went to the cantata. It was a success. House crowded. Saw Effie & Kirt, Kate, Mr. Hill, Dona R. and Fannie Gray, among those whom I had not seen for some time. Bettie came to go with me. Surely intemperance is a curse, as shown by the scenes tonight. Part of them were very sad. Ida Z.[Zimmerman] starts to Kan.[Kansas] at 11 o'clock. She acted her part well. This is a beautiful night. Now 15 min. till eleven. Tired.

April 8, 1887 – Friday

Ida Zimmerman has gone west now. Rumor says she is to be married Tues. to Bud Davenport. I came home for my dinner. We had chicken, noodles & cherries. Johnie McConkey & Mr. Chapel were here. Edna came up for me soon after school was out. Howard was with her. We drove to Wilber's in about an hour. Saw Johnie & Miss Olentine. Today is Wilber's birthday. He is 32. Tomorrow is Ettie's birthday. She will be 20. We had a good home visit before we retired. About 8 mos. Since I was here.

April 9, 1887 – Saturday

There was to have been a surprise party for Ettie Martin tonight, but Bob Flood got hurt at Martin's so the party is to be at Manlove's. Johnie was not invited. Eddie & the children went to Frank's. Dell & baby Minnie were alone. We drove Dick. We were informed Mrs. Hofe is dead. She is an old lady, but some one will miss her. Wilber & Johnie are breaking a colt. We came home & went to the hay-shed then with Wilber while he was milking. Went to bed at 9:30.

April 10, 1887 – Sunday

This is Easter Sunday. Edna, the boys & I drove up to church at 11 o'clock. First time she had been here to church for years (?). Came to Elmer's & found them gone. Ate a cold dinner alone. Then they came home & Lida & I went to the M. E. church to S. S. I find the secretary's work not so bad. Went from there to the other church to hear Bro. Robinson. Pa was there. He said Ada (Young) was at our house. Went to church tonight with Pink Crisman & Emma Cavender. George & Lily were there. Glad to see them. Johnie was there also. I am tired now. What a wonder!

April 11, 1887 – Monday

Haughton told me he could not sweep any longer. He is going away. So I paid him off. Jessie F. [T.?] will take his place. Two boys disobeyed me today, so I whipped both when they came back. One repented and wrote me a nice little letter. The other is defiant. Hope I will not have to lay on the whip again. Ira's wife was here this eve. She is too high headed to make or keep friends. Am a little sad. But “Into each life some rain must fall. Some days must be dark and dreary.” Beautiful spring day.

April 12, 1887 – Tuesday

26 years old today. I will soon be old, for “Change” is written on the face of nature, telling to us that we are fast “passing away.” If I live to be old, care & sickness, not years, will make me so. But then every life has its care. Only today poor Allie Magill hanged himself in Clinton. The care of settling vast estates turned his brain. All my sorrow is transient compared to such. Tonight Ida Zim.[Zimmerman] is to be married in a Christian church in Kan.[Kansas]. Lida went to Clinton today. In 6 weeks she wants to start west on a visit home. Elmer is posting books tonight.

April 13, 1887 – Wednesday

Went to school rather late. Practiced my music lesson some. Intended to come home for my dinner but changed my mind. Stopped at the shop and talked with the girls. Came home & found things mussed up generally after housecleaning. Adda M. was here. Dwight called at the door. Allie Lisenby called to see Fan Pace, who had just gone from Lida’s. I went to see a sick pupil then studied my S. S. lesson & practiced some. Am writing this on my lap with my gold pen which does not write well.

April 14, 1887 – Thursday

Clinton “took fire” today burning a livery barn & 5 other buildings. Allie Magill was buried today. Quite a number went down from here. The clerks that were left here were quite busy. I had a letter from Clinton, but the prospect is not encouraging. This is Good Templar’s night, but I did not go. The C.(?) T. has gone to Chicago & other officers will be scarce. I had wanted to go home for several days. Cannot go till Sat. (?) Mrs. N. moved out to the summer kitchen. I helped get supper. We need rain badly. Wells & cisterns going dry. Lonely tonight.

April 15, 1887 – Friday

Mrs. Gray sent word for me to come to the lodge but the folks came in for me to go home. I went to see if Mrs. Stults will board me. I guess she will. George Kirker was there and I brought him up home. Mary says I looked well gathering my children in. The folks were looking for me out home and I was glad to go for I had not been there for 3 weeks. My school work is not hard now, like it was. \$50. is excellent pay for a mo.’s work. How long will it continue is the question.

April 16, 1887 – Saturday

Mary is going to finish my dress today. I wanted to go to the entertainment at DeWitt but could not. Weather much colder. I rec’d Nellie’s & Ada’s picture. They are beautiful. Poor Nellie. She was young, so young to die. Ada still lives & is doing well with her school. I made a photo frame for Miss Merriman’s picture. She is dead. Why do I live on, and my girl friends are going one by one? But His will must be my will. Geo. & Lillie came home to stay all night. Clyde is pretty.

[Written on the side of the page: Mr. Robinson is school director.]

April 17, 1887 – Sunday

Geo. & Lillie went to Eddie’s and Bettie went to the Twist to S. S. Then the rest of us came to W.[Weldon] to hear Bro. Hite preach. Quite a good audience but we had to come home in the rain. Wore my sateen dress. Walter & wife were here when I came home. I went to S. S. at 3 but was not well pleased. Johnie was there.

Lou Costley is out here. Still raining, but we need rain so badly. Welcome rain! Elmer's are going to have company and no girl to help, so I am in the way this week. "Patter, on the roof."

April 18, 1887 – Monday

Stormy cold snowy morning but better this eve. Have had the headache all day. Am going to change boarding places. Hope I will get as good a place as this. Stopped at Mr. Stults this eve. School the smallest it has ever been. Heard that Songer is to marry Mat Enyert. (Tut, tut) Several of the whiskey ring went to Springfield on the eve train. Minnie Marsh was here today. Lida can not get along well without a girl.

April 19, 1887 – Tuesday

Do not remember of ever having such a time. Spilled shoe polish down the front of my light brown dress and on Mrs. Nixon's carpet. Then coming to school spilled some of my dinner on my coat. Came to Mrs. Stults this eve to board. Took my music lesson after supper. Have almost the sick headache. Mr. S. says he must go into the country for 1 hr. and ½ that Mrs. Gift is reported dying. A doctor has to go any time. School will close 8 weeks from today if all goes well. Hope I will feel better soon lest I get discouraged.

April 20, 1887 – Wednesday

Raining a little. Got up at 5:30 A.M. Head better but nerves a little shaky. Went back to Elmer's to pack my trunk. Put up my own dinner. Think I will go home for my dinner after while. Mrs. Gift died this morn. Funeral tomorrow at 10. My girls, big & little surely tried to see how ugly they could be. Am very thankful it is not always so. A Arith. Class, having a siege with the 100 promiscuous examplex [examples?] in the back of the book. The B class about through Rays 3d part. Sunny evening.

April 21, 1887 – Thursday

Miss Welch Co. Supt. Visited my schools today. She thinks I have a good assistant teacher. So do I. At 10 min. till 4 it begun to rain. We went to the train while it was raining. I then held my umbrella over old lady Carr going home. Had to go up to Elmer Nixon's to get dry clothes out my trunk. Mrs. Gift's funeral was well attended. We did not close sch.[school]. Stayed at home from Good Templar's. Sang some with Mr. & Mrs. Stults. Went to bed with headache.

April 22, 1887 – Friday

Dreary morn, but the rain is welcome. Practiced some & went to school through the rain. Had few scholars. Not much rain, but the clouds look dark. Weather very cold for Apr. Spelled together. I have found my new boarding place very pleasant so far. The Nixon estate is being divided. The School Board is to meet tonight to decide on teachers for next year. Then I will know whether my work has given entire satisfaction. Nearly ruined my new sateen dress yesterday. (On this day was a cyclone out west.)

April 23, 1887 – Saturday

Got up at 7 o'clock. Practiced some till 11. Then got ready for dinner. Made the beds for Mrs. Stults. Heard that Amsden of Clinton is insane and that Mr. Day has taken poison. There is a new little fox in our town. Went to Nixon's store at 2 o'clock. Bought a large standing lamp for \$1.20. Went to the shop & bought some salmon colored velvet & ribbon to trim up my black hat with. Went to the lodge, acted as Chaplain. Was nominated as Vice Templar. Was up to Lida's to get my black dress. Min was unusually clever. 10:15.

April 24, 1887 – Sunday

Bright morning. When I was getting ready to go to S. S. Mr. Stults said he must go away and that left me to act as Supt. I did poorly enough but it was my best. A goodly number were there. Mrs. S.[Stults] & I ate dinner alone then I went up to Mrs. Nixon's a while. She stopped for me to go to S. S. at 3. I had to read the statement of finance with my secretary report. Did not see any body I cared to see. Went to church at 7:30. Heard a sermon on "Fading Away." There was truth in it.

April 25, 1887 – Monday

Hopes and fears, joys and sorrows have filled my mind today. My thoughts have surely been free to wander. Feel much stronger than a week or so prior but Miss Given is nearly sick with a cough. Haughton was here for a few lessons. George M. & Brenton came to get their book. Scholars acted real nice. I guess Lou G.[Given?] is going to do housework a while. Have been reading some in Wilson's Fourth Reader which takes me back to my early school days. Did not get any mail this morn. Practiced 1 ½ hrs. tonight.

[*Note from Judy:* Miss Given had two sisters, Minnie and Lou, so the Lou G. referred to in this entry might have been her sister.]

April 26, 1887 – Tuesday

Had my music lesson better than usual. Believe I yet can learn music. Took 2 new waltzes for my next lesson. Can play Sacred music with greater ease than 2 weeks ago. Had a very pleasant school. Mrs. Stults had headache this morn but ironed today. Heard that Mr. Amsden has been taken to Jacksonville. Mr. S.[Stults] is away quite a good deal as M.D.'s always are. Saw Ollie A. and Lettie W.[Widney] pass by here but did not get to speak. Have not seen any of the home folks lately.

April 27, 1887 – Wednesday

Stopped at the P. O. as I went to school. Rec'd word that I have been appointed as one to speak at the Farmer City meeting. So I better prepare. My certificate for 2 yrs more came this morn. I blackened my stove at noon. Got my hands very black. Saw one in the store who refused to speak. She used to be quite friendly, but it takes good friends to make enemies. But I am not her enemy. Was sent for, to go to the "Eastern Star," but it is raining and lightning. Rec'd my order for \$50 today.

April 28, 1887 – Thursday

Rain fell in the night. Windy today. Stopped at the shop a little while. Miss W.[Widney] had the headache. I have felt better lately. Like to board at Mr. Stults. Emma Cavender came in to take her music. I went to Good Templar's. Was appointed Chaplain by the C. T., Mr. Nixon. Good lodge tonight. The folks were in bed when I got back at 10 o'clock. Adda Moore went to C. to get certificate to teach the Munch sch.[school]. I want to go home real bad.

April 29, 1887 – Friday

Writing this at 11:05 at night. Am trying to learn the story of Ruth after coming home from lodge. I was provoked a little by being pushed into work for which I have no time. I always say something when provoked that I better leave out. Well I control my temper well to what I used to do. Intend to go home in the morn if I am able. Maria has so much to do, then walks to lodge. Was up at Mr. Nixon's this eve. Rec'd check for \$51. May I use it judiciously. 11:17 P.M.

April 30, 1887 – Saturday

Went to the shop this morn to get some red lace for Clyde a suit. Started at 9 to walk home but met pa coming after me. Came back to town for a few minutes and then went home. Found Bettie was gone. She came home with Geo. & Lillie. Tomorrow will be May Day. How swiftly April passed. Done no work of note but had a good visit. Took home \$75. Owe Mary a little yet. Pa has bought some cuff buttons for me.

MAY

May 1, 1887 – Sunday

Warm morning. Frank & Dell came. Gene came in the P.M. I missed both S. schools by being at home. Charlie Cain was to preach at the Twist. Bettie went. Looked stormy P.M. After the folks went away, pa brought me up to Mrs. Stults'. She & I are alone for he has gone to the country. I am tired & sleepy, must go to bed early. Practiced a little. Ed Freeman* is almost as insane as ever. His wife and children are not safe. Saw Clint & Kate go past tonight.

*Clinton Public—May 6, 1887—Ed Freeman, of Weldon, was released less than two weeks ago from the insane hospital at Jacksonville. The first part of this week he was off his base again, and it became necessary to send him back to the hospital.

May 2, 1887 – Monday

Ed Freeman was taken back to the Asylum this morn. I got up with the headache which lasted all day. Such a windy day. The school house shook badly. Saw Lutie as I came home with his spectacles. Mr. Packard is going to the Hot Springs tomorrow. I am thinking of going to the summer Normal at Champaign when my school closes. It will be just owing to circumstances. I had a good visit at home. Practiced music lesson before retiring.

May 3, 1887 – Tuesday

Rained this morn. Pa came in to go to Clinton. He came over to my boarding place & took my check to the bank. Deckers left this morn. Took the Starlight Waltz for my lesson tonight. Heard that the Obrion boy is dead, but death was sure from "tubercles in the brain." Dull times in town now. All I know is of my work. Hence Jack is a dull boy. 6 weeks from today my school will close. Am grateful to know I have been able to teach so long. But I remember that I, of myself, am nothing. 9 o'clock, bedtime.

May 4, 1887 – Wednesday

Mrs. Drew visited the school. Then we went to get some Aresene(?) to make some Eastern Stars. Met Maria Moore. Saw Mrs. Lafferty. Got home in time for supper. Practiced some & read some & talked more since supper. Am dizzy tonight but have felt real well for 2 weeks. Heard today that Miss Given will teach the same school next year. She is very poorly now. It is beginning to rain real hard. Miss Ford is here to get up a music class. Was out to see Bettie. I guess Gentle rain on the roof while I write up stairs at Mrs. Stults.

May 5, 1887 – Thursday

Did not go to lodge tonight, though it was installation. Rained some this morn & rained real hard just before school closed. I know I shall never forget the year I taught the Weldon School. So many things have happened to make me a wiser girl. Have never been sorry I took the school. I still have one "Tempest" among the girls but I have several Sunshines. Lutie wears glasses now. Poor child he is near sighted. This is a miserable pen to write on my lap with.

May 6, 1887 – Friday

Went to Mrs. Robinsons this eve. Had a very pleasant call. Would like to be at home tonight, but do not feel well. My eyes feel painful. I am as lonesome as I can well be. Miss Given has acted strangely of late. Besides her I have few intimate friends in Weldon, only married folks. My music helps me to pass my lonely hours more pleasantly. My whole life should be bright but it is not. But thank God is[it] is nothing that I could help, that causes my sad hours. “Laugh while you may, Another day may bring enough of sorrow” is good advice.

May 7, 1887 – Saturday

This is as bright a morning as I ever saw. All nature seems gay. Farmer City meeting today but I am not going. Pa came up in the hack. I sent my lamp and some dishes for Frank home by him. Went down town & bought some lace & some pens. Saw Elmer & Ira, Dr. T. and the Coffman girls. Sent by Mrs. Kirker to Clinton for a rolling pin & some puffing. Have not been well today. Took a nap this P.M. & felt better. Made the beds for Mrs. Stults this morn & helped put up the dishes twice. We studied the S. S. lesson tonight.

May 8, 1887 – Sunday

Warm morning. Went to S. S. & church. Came home with a headache. Went to bed till dinner was ready. Went to the M. E. S. S. at 3 but did not feel like going. Only 35 there. Very warm for May. Came back home & laid down. Mrs. Stults was sick too. Mrs. Kirker came down and the folks went home with her. We gave up going to church, to go to bed early. Saw a goodly number out riding. Mrs. Elmer Nixon came home from a weeks visit to DeWitt. Mr. Moorehead had Hemorrhage of the lungs today. He is reformed.

May 9, 1887 – Monday

Written at noon. I feel so much better this morn and it is such a beautiful morning that I have felt very happy. The scholars seemed to want to do just right. The trees have grown heavy with leaves since one week ago. The girls are out under the trees. We talk of bringing up a class from the lower room to mine soon. Saw Pa coming in town, but did not talk with him. Heard Will McKelvey tell him that he is going to move to Chicago. School a little larger. Stopped at the shop to get some silk floss.

May 10, 1887 – Tuesday

Promoted a small class today. Came home soon after 4 to take my music lesson. The Starlight Waltz is easier now and is quite pretty. Shall take the Sack Waltz next. Went up to Mrs. Nixon's this eve. Found her sick. Mrs. Ira came down. Selected some exercises today for the last day of school. Practiced 2 hours after sup.[supper]. I feel so much better than I did. Must go home next Sat. sure. I must write some letters soon or I will not get any more. I used to be a good hand to write letters.

May 11, 1887 – Wednesday

Sent for a book binder today. Mr. Leavitt was in town testing a road grader. Stopped at the shop and ordered a hat much lighter than I expected to get. Lettie is going to Bloomington in the morning. Practiced one hour today. Saw Ollie A. and Minnie Given. This morning was cooler. Very warm at 4 o'clock and a cool nice shower at 6. Have not heard from home but would like to. Must go to Lodge tomorrow eve. Have not got the cap to my watch yet. Had cherry pie for supper.

May 12, 1887 – Thursday

Worked some on my rolling pin cover then practiced a while till Emma Cavender came. Then went to lodge. Only a few there. Charges preferred against one unfortunate boy. Hope he will do better hereafter. Wish I could take away his appetite for liquor or give him strength to govern it. Mrs. McKelvey called this eve. Bill Munch came in to get his furniture. We have one more day on this month of school. The other month will soon pass by. I will not be as glad as some may think.

May 13, 1887 – Friday

Ordered some music from Bloomington this morn. Saw pa as I came to school. Stopped at the shop and took home my hat. Steve S. took supper with us. I went to lodge (O. E. S.) at 8. Mr. & Mrs. Hand were not initiated. But we had some splendid ice cream any way. Brother Coffman was there. He and Miss W.[Widney] are—well—I don't know. Finished my embroidered ornament and it is real pretty. Expect to go home in the morning. Adda M. walked from Shiloh home 7½ miles. It makes me tired.

[Written on the side of the page: 10:25 So I will just take my nap.]

May 14, 1887 – Saturday

Practiced some this morn then pa came in for me and I went out home. Found Bettie with a boil on her face. Visited till noon then Pa, Ma, Mary, Lewis & I went down to George's. First time I had been there for nearly 11 months. I ought to be ashamed to say so, but I was well employed at home last summer & in town this winter in school. Mary came back with headache & went to bed early. So did Bettie but the rest sat up till 10 o'clock. I don't get to visit with the folks very often.

May 15, 1887 – Sunday

Got up and helped get breakfast. Talked a long while after. Then got ready to come to S. S. Ma went to Mrs. Beggs till church time. S. S. very good. Mrs. Reed of DeLand was in my class. Bro. Lemen preached then went home with us for dinner. Eddie & Wilber were there. Had a good visit. Kate & Sky came & Bettie went for a ride. Clint called after while. Bro. L. & I had an argument on Methodism. Of course he came out best. Came to church early then back to my boarding place. Wore my new hat.

May 16, 1887 – Monday

Got up with the headache and lots of work before me. Dull morning and cooler than yesterday. Found at 10 A.M. that I was having genuine sick headache & could hardly stay in the school room. Got Emma Hall to go & get me some medicine of Dr. T. Was real sick for an hour, but easier P.M. Did not eat any dinner. Mrs. S. is sick too. Bade Cass McKelvey Good-bye this morn. She goes to Chicago to make her home. Gave her my cabinet photo. Andy Thomas will take Jesse's place as janitor.

May 17, 1887 – Tuesday

Feel some better this morn but my head feels the effects of yesterday's pain. Rained gently till 9:30 but Mrs. S. washed & put out her clothes at 2 P.M. Made out my schedule today. Average attendance very low. My new scholars do well. Took my lesson in music. The Centennial March is pretty. So is Sack Waltz, but hard for me to commit to memory. I must find out tomorrow what I am going to do next year or—or any other man. Want to go & get Edna an apron, also get my mail. Maudie Scott gave me some Taffy to eat.

May 18, 1887 – Wednesday

Well yes I found out that it is some other man, instead of me. Poor frail woman. Why was I not a man, then my ability would not be questioned. I trust that All's for the best. I have set my mark high and by God's grace I will yet reach it. My school has been a success and I have learned some good lessons here. If a man can do the work here better, I will say Amen! But I will not yield to discouragements. I've always been provided for. Rec'd my book binder. Went down to settle some bills this morn. Am going to the lodge room now to practice.

May 19, 1887 – Thursday

Tonight is Commencement at Clinton. How I would like to be there. Mrs. Nixon went down. This is lodge night for the Good Templar's but I did not go. Wore my led colored skirt & jersey. Am about out of good school dresses. Fan Blake was in town. Would have walked out home after school but was not able. Nothing of note happened. Mrs. Lafferty & Lisenby went to Farmer City. A basket Festival talked of next Tues. eve.

May 20, 1887 – Friday

Rec'd a letter from Bettie. She told me to go to the shop & get her a hat which I did at noon. It is very pretty. Steve Stults ate supper here. He has given up his school and is going to Chicago for business. Went into Miss Given's room this eve and we talked for an hour. Went to Lodge. Got home at 10:30. Mr. & Mrs. Hand were initiated. We had ice cream. Bought my blue gingham at Nixon's store. Want to go out home to get it made tomorrow.

May 21, 1887 – Saturday

Went down to the shop to see a polonaise pattern. Then took Bettie's hat and footed it out home. Lots of wagons going out but none just in time for me to ride. Pa had gone to C.[Clinton?] with Crismans. Mary & I made my polonaise nearly. Sarah Hodges was here. Mr. Hardin, the next teacher, was around trying to rent a house. Mrs. Stults is keeping the baby while Mrs. Fullerton goes to Clinton. Warm dry day. Corn looks fine. Strawberries & cherries hurt by the last freeze.

May 22, 1887 – Sunday

Headache today. Pa, Ma & Mary went to Edna's today. Came up by town so I could ride with them. I got to Mr. Stults' in time for S. S. which was very good but my lesson was not well prepared. Maggie Baker & Fan Pace were there. Stayed to church. The folks would have taken a drive if they could have got a double rig. So the Dr. said. Jas. Mc came down to sing anthems but my head pained so, I could not sing. Went to bed at dark during a rain storm.

May 23, 1887 – Monday

Rec'd the books in music but it looks very difficult. Bought Brown's Jubilee March & the song Old & only in the way. Katie came up at noon & got her books. I stopped at Mrs. Mc Conkey's and Kate & Jess say they will speak the last day. Went down to Mrs. Flood's & paid her for a month's washing. Miss Given came up at noon & we had quite a long talk. Dark, dreary day after the rain. The crops needed the rain badly.

May 24, 1887 – Tuesday

Got up early, practiced some & went up to Mrs. Nixon's before school time. Washed the windows at school. The girls all helped. I came home at 4:30 to take my music lesson. Next time am to take Peck's Bad Boy Polka and a song. Mrs. Packard is on her road home from Hot Springs and is now sick at Lincoln. Dr. Taylor went down. Mr. & Mrs. Kirker returned from Belleflower where they have been since Sat. Made my scrim apron & washed the dishes so she could hem it.

May 25, 1887 – Wednesday

Said Good-bye to Mrs. Nixon at the Depot this eve. She has gone to Kan.[Kansas] to spend the summer. Elmer will be so lonely without her or the baby. Saw Mrs. Ira there. Went to Mr. Lisenby's at noon to see if we might have the 30th for a holiday. He said "yes." Rec'd an order for \$51. Johnie Sullivan came up & spoke his piece for me. Mrs. Packard is better. Called at Chas. Lafferty's. Am going to make some stars for the lodge. Mrs. Robinson has gone to Indiana on a visit.

May 26, 1887 – Thursday

Emma Cavender is taking her music lesson. Allie drove out for her this eve. She got in just as I was getting home from sch.[school]. I played 2 pieces for her. Met Lettie W.[Widney] & Mollie Armstrong. Went on to the store and got a check for \$51. school order. Met Mrs. C. Coffman there. Guess pa sold Barney, for the buyer brought him in. He is a fine horse. Made 3 Eastern Stars of Arasene. Mr. S. says to take Decoration Day out of school. Talked with Miss Given quite a while at noon. 8:30 P.M.

May 27, 1887 – Friday

Laura M. is going to sweep for me now. She was sick today. Miss Given was up in my room after sch.[school]. We spoke our pieces after recess. Some did very well. School little. Lodge night, but I did not go. Am not going out home till morning. Then I am not coming back till Mon. eve. We had some excellent strawberries for sup.[supper]. This is a good place to board but I have never had any but good places. They are so good to each other. I never hear an unpleasant word from either of them.

May 28, 1887 – Saturday

Went early over to Mrs. Lafferty's to see about the Eastern Stars. Then went to Dr. Drews to see about riding out with Hodges' boys which I did. Got home at 9 o'clock. Worked 3 stars, then after dinner went to Jim Coffman's to seek employment for next year. Saw in the Public that they want an Assistant Supt. At Farmer City. Pa's new \$175.00 horse is real nice. Guess we will get the side saddle home now. Sent up for my dress but did not get it.

May 29, 1887 – Sunday

Have the headache today as usual. The folks at DeWitt are going to decorate. Kate and Clint came around for Bettie. She wore her white dress. I laid down at 10 A.M. and did not get up till 12:30. Am glad I do not have to go back to town tonight nor teach tomorrow. Grant Merreill was here a while. He and the hand went to Lane so as to go to Springfield tomorrow. He used to be my pupil at Wantwood. He has lost his mother, 3 sisters & a brother.

May 30, 1887 – Monday

Decoration Day. Big excursion to Springfield. 300 tickets from Weldon. Pa brought me up early. Did some trading then came to Miss Stults. Remodeled my sateen. Johnie called here for me before I came back. Called on old lady Bosserman who was left alone. Mrs. Hodge came in to stay till train time. Am wearing my blue gingham for the first. Like it real well. Mary made it. Train came in at 10:20. Mr. Stults' folks came here a while. 3 folks killed at S. but most all were not injured.

May 31, 1887 – Tuesday

When I woke it was raining and kept it up till school time. Had no fuel so my scholars & I were very cold. Wore wraps after noon. The fewest scholars I ever had here. That will make me glad when school is out (2 weeks yet). Yesterday and today were very long. Pa brought \$5 in for me. Had strawberry shortcake for supper. Took my music lesson, the Jubilee March id delightful. Hope I can play it well. I want to be a good musician some day. Cloudy yet and cool.

JUNE

June 1, 1887 – Wednesday

Can it be that this is the 1st of June. Rather a cool day for the season. Had fire all day, as the board sent me some cobs last eve. Emma H. came to take her music lesson. Mrs. S. came in and helped me practice some. She is not well. We went up to Mrs. Kirker's a while, but she had no fire & we came home to warm. Too cold to wear my new gingham. Have the headache severely, but it begun since school was out. Rained some at noon, to help the small fruit. Strawberries for sup.[supper].

June 2, 1887 – Thursday

Troubles never come singly, so says one, and I believe it. Have never wished till today for school to close, but so many are getting tired. Called at Dr. Drew's this eve. Allie Lisenby was there. Jennie & Lillie were not at school P.M. Young Dock took a whipping this morn for being drunk yesterday, though of late that is frequent for him to drink. Poor boy! Have not been well today. Neither has Mrs. S. She is giving E. Cavender a music lesson now. I am going to bed early & calm my troubled spirit. 8:45.

June 3, 1887 – Friday

Jennie & Lillie were at school again & O.K. Miss Given & I went up to the cemetery at M, and stayed till time for school. The grass on Tom's grave is dead. We had literary exercises after recess. Did better than last week. Came home very tired with slight headache. Weather much warmer. Wore my blue gingham. Went down to the shop. Allie Lisenby was there. We had quite a talk. Mr. Pachard's property is for sale. Guess Mr. Stults will purchase. We had peas, strawberries and beef steak for supper. Practiced some then & retired with headache.

June 4, 1887 – Saturday

Headache! Did not sleep at all well & Mrs. S. says they did not. Did some choers (sic), then stemmed strawberries for Mrs. S. & then prepared to go home, if I had a chance. About 4 o'clock pa, Bettie & Mary came in. I went down to the store & Bettie came up home with me. Then I went out home when they did. Bettie bought a cream India linen dress & cream embroidery. It will make a handsome suit. It sprinkles rain a little. Pa ate his supper & returned to the Masonic Lodge. Headache! Headache!

June 5, 1887 – Sunday

Raining when we got up, but cleared off. Geo. & Lillie went to Eddie's. Lewis has gone with them. I had the headache & did not feel like sitting up. Charlie Cain preached at the Twist school house but we did not go. Bettie went to S. S. at 3, but it rained very hard and she went down to Nixon's so Nellie could bring her home. Arch made some ice cream & brought us some. Geo. & Lillie came after dark & stopped to stay all night. I am having a splendid visit at home except the headache.

June 6, 1887 – Monday

Clyde woke me up early, but the folks were up. Pa brought me to town in the wagon before 8 o'clock. Rec'd an invitation to commencement at the Eureka College. I went last year, but can not go now. This would have been my year, had I not stopped to teach. Alas! Chill Penury repressed my noble rage, but it did not freeze the genial current of the soul. I still long to be educated. The summer school at Champaign begins today. A winter scholar was hired to go to DeLand to get a quart of whiskey today. He is getting very blind.

June 7, 1887 – Tuesday

Just got home from Temperance lecture—but—no—there wasn't any. Guess there will be tomorrow eve. It was dreadful warm at noon. I went to Mrs. Robinson's & got some evergreens. There was a black cloud rose after which the air was cooler. Took my music lesson but was very tired. Went to the store & then to Taylor's office & paid my Dr.'s bill, \$2.50. Taylor may be a bad man, but he is like a father to me. Maud L. brought me a boquet (sic). School smallest P.M. than yet. It will close one week from today. Am I glad, well no, only in one sense of the word.

June 8, 1887 – Wednesday

Wore my white dress for the first [time] and it rained & spoiled it for the wash. There was a baby visitor in my room. Of course it was fun. Small school but pleasant. Quite warm all day. The Band of Hope did not meet as was announced. L. & J. Drew brought some evergreens to me & Maud brought a boquet (sic). Had new cherry pie, peas, strawberries & beef steak for supper. We went to hear Mrs. Potter of the W. C. T. U. lecture. Good audience, well entertained. Go to bed at 10:30. Feel right mean, but am not sick as I was last week.

June 9, 1887 – Thursday

Sultry morning but very cool this eve. Came home at noon to get a key. Went at 4 o'clock to the children's temperance meeting. Mrs. Hand is President of the Loyal Legion. I was elected Vice President of the W. C. T. U. but I will not be here to attend very often. Am afraid that it will be a failure in this little intemperate town but it would not if the women here had any grit. Am sad to see our boys so sorely tempted, but all things may come out all right yet.

June 10, 1887 – Friday

Went early to school to do some work. Worked all the noon hour. Miss Given & I made some arrangements for Commencement. She wanted me to go out home with her but I could not. When I got home Mrs. S. told me that pa would be in for me this eve & he intends to go to Clinton tomorrow. So I have to dress all over. This is lodge night but I can not go & will probably not get to go again for months, for my school closes Tues. and then I leave the town where I have stayed for 9 months.

June 11, 1887 – Saturday

Got up early and Pa, Bettie & I went to Clinton. Went first to the bank, then to the shoe store, then to see the panorama, the Battle of Gettysburg. Some parts of it was life-like. I thought it was battle sure. Went then to the Artist's room, but did not get Bettie's picture. Went to the Magill house for dinner. Saw Lucy Rennick, an old school teach. It did me good to see her. Saw Mrs. Edmiston. Bought a cream & brown batiste dress. Mary is going to make it. Ada Young rode home with us. She was dressed in costly black silk. Home at 7.

June 12, 1887 – Sunday

Had rather promised to go to S. S. and go home with Miss Given but pa is not going, so I will not walk. Bettie went to S. S. at the school house. Gene was here for dinner & Farmer came soon after with Hodge's boys. The

Band of Hope meets at Weldon this P.M. I am at home and rather lonely. Will stay here all night, but have lots to do in the morn. Intend to go to Champaign Friday if all is well to go to school a month. So next Sun. I can not be at home. Want to go & see Emma before I go away. Sang some with Bettie today.

June 13, 1887 – Monday

Did not eat much breakfast & came up to town in the hack. Went around by Capron's to see him on business. He told me to remember that theirs is a democratic district. Brought a package from Butler to Widney. Went with my washing to Flood's then went to school with Nellie Taylor. Got home at 6 with supper nearly ready and company here. Had peas for sup [supper]. Went to the depot to see what about going to Champaign Sat. up and talked till 10, now it is 10:30 and I must get some sleep, for the work of tomorrow is hard.

June 14, 1887 – Tuesday

Last day of school! I am at home and free of the responsibility of the Weldon Schools. Had a crowd this P.M. Miss Given and I had our exercises together. The children did well. We had some splendid recitations. Bettie & Mary were there. The monument was put by Tom's* grave this morn. I went up there before school. Bettie went home with me at noon for dinner. I wore my black dress, but it was very warm. I was so tired, but I am rested now. Have felt real well today. Want to sew tomorrow. A day to remember.

*Tom may have been Thomas C. Cowen, the husband of Rebecca's sister Mary. He died September 21, 1886, and was buried in Nixon Cemetery in Weldon.

June 15, 1887 – Wednesday

Have been tuckering around all day and will be busy tomorrow. My batiste dress is done. Have not been lonesome as I usually am after school is out. Have not shed any tears yet. Mother did most of the housework. Retrimmed my black hat, patched some & put away my books. Would like to see Eddie and all the rest of the children before I go away. Lewis is taking a little tantrum. Saw Jim C. today. He thinks we have a democratic district. Well, I shall not work for nothing & walk a mile to get to do it. 9:15 P.M.

June 16, 1887 – Thursday

Mary made a corset cover for me and I washed some A.M. & worked on my red basque. Then after dinner we made the basque. I told Mary I could put that on to wear to Champaign & would not have to tell people I am from the country because it fit very ugly. Wish I could stay at home longer but I must go away in the morning. Bettie & Lewis went to school. Mother ironed some for me and I did the rest. Packed my trunk for I have some work to do in the morn, before train.

June 17, 1887 – Friday

Pa took me to the train to go to Champaign. Went to the furniture store first. Lettie went to the depot with me. Got to C.[Champaign] at 11 A.M. And didn't I have a time? Walked & walked till nearly 12 to find McMinn's. They were kind enough to give me my dinner & then he went with me another long walk to Daugherty's & to find a boarding place which is at the student's home. Too tired to tell. Laid down & rested before supper, then Prof. D. & wife came over & took me up to school to see the coming work. Go to bed at 10, unsettled.

[Written upside down at the top of the page: Sun shone from the north all P.M.(?).]

June 18, 1887 – Saturday

Champaign, boarding at Dr. Higgins'. Felt very weary this morn. Studied a while, then took a nap. Studied a while & then went to Mr. Daugherty's, where he & wife helped me get started to analyzing plants. It has been 2 years since I studied Botany much, but it comes back to my mind readily. Quite a wind storm tonight, 9 to 9:30. Sun seemed to shine from the west at noon. The school building is not far off. The University building is beautiful. Not so tired this eve as last.

June 19, 1887 – Sunday

Am writing a letter home. Dr. Higgins has gone away & she [who?] & I are going to stay alone in this house of 19 rooms, but I am not afraid. Went to the Christian Church but did not stay till S. S. as that was from 12 to 1. Sermon tolerable. His name is Anderson. Did not know anybody & nobody knew me. Came back & ate dinner about 1 o'clock. A long afternoon. Seemed than [that?] nearly every body was driving for health. The rest were walking. Went to church at night. Spoke to no one. Very good sermon. Looks very much like storm.

June 20, 1887 – Monday

I saw a blind man walking with a cane. He walked upright and quite rapidly. When he came to his own sidewalk he turned & went to his own gate. Looked very neat. Sent a letter home. Recited 4 lessons before noon, and have the P. M. to study. It is thundering & we do wish it would rain. Vegetation is drying up. Mr. & Mrs. Daugherty are very good to me. Invited me there this eve to use his library. Had peas cooked without cream for dinner. Saw a letter today written by Robert Ingersoll. Very poor writing indeed. Do not feel well now. 9 o'clock.

June 21, 1887 – Tuesday

A cool breeze struck us in the night & kept so all day. Have felt bad today. Studied between spells of resting. Took a nap which made me feel worse. My right lung pained me, but I do not know the cause. If Dr. Taylor were here I would get some medicine. My neck aches now. Did not have my lessons very well this morn but the teachers were very kind. I compare myself with a nun, off here alone from the world, while others are free & happy. But this is best for me I suppose. "Be content."

[Written on the side and upside down at the top of the page: What happened 6 years ago today makes me sad, instead of happy.]

June 22, 1887 – Wednesday

I closed my school at Weldon a week ago yesterday. What a long, long week! Lessons hard today. I do not like Protozoa or any low form of animal life. At 3 o'clock I went to the University where Mr. Daugherty let me see specimens till I was tired. Then we went up to the Museum, which surpassed any I ever saw. Saw a life-sized buffalo, and pair of moose & elk. Saw a mastodon formed of Plaster Paris. Thas[This?] spacious room was full of beautiful birds & beasts. Of course I was delighted. The building is a wonder. Saw lovely flower beds. Saw one century plant, which pleased me.

[Written upside down at the top of the page: Very cool, with high wind.]

June 23, 1887 – Thursday

Very cool! Have worn a heavy dress, my jersey over it, and part of the time a shawl. Am feeling much better today. Analyzed some flowers. Miss Staley of Farmer City wants me to room with her & I want to go. She looks nice & appears well. This is not my idea of life exactly. Mr. Higgins is sick today. Have just been up in

the garrett to get some blotting paper. Would like to hear from home. Went in to the history class at M. Prof. Daugherty is a good teacher. Prof. McMinn is away. Sun still sets in the N.E. Too bad!

June 24, 1887 – Friday

Have nearly decided to go to Mrs. Hill's to room with Miss Staley. Mrs. Higgins says she does not want to give me up. Saw the room at noon. It is nice. Had to work problems in Philosophy this morn, but Prof. D. helped me. My lungs pain me at intervals this week. Guess I must do something for that. The neighbor opposite died today & is to be buried today. That is too much of a hurry. I analyze by myself now. Am uneasy today from some cause. Band is playing tonight.

June 25, 1887 – Saturday

Went to town this morn. Called on Dr. Wilcox to get some medicine for lung trouble. Miss Staley went with me. She appears well. Wrote to mother today but did not send it till late. Have not felt well & was lying down a good deal. We had new raspberries for supper. They were excellent. Have not heard from home yet. Could not study well today. Have decided to still board here. I miss having an organ. Wish mine could be here. Want to go to church with Miss Staley tomorrow.

June 26, 1887 – Sunday

Went up to Mr. Hill's & went to the Presbyterian church with Miss S. Then we went to the P.O. & I got Bettie's letter. We went back to S. S. which lasted till 1:45. The singing, sermon & prayer were good, but I did not like the S. S. We stopped at the boarding place where we had a splendid dinner. Heard some music. There is a temperance lecture at the Armory tonight but I stayed at home. Some Gypsies camping near here who are profaning the Sabbath. Am tired and about sick. 9 P.M.

June 27, 1887 – Monday

Broke the crystal of my watch into 6 pieces. Went to the University greenhouse with Mrs. Daugherty. Saw the pitcher plant, Screw pine, century plant & castor bean & scores of others, very beautiful. Then I went home with her where he gave me a leech to look at, then some live muscles. The band went by here today playing delightful music. Tonight they have a concert. Have studied hard & have not looked yet at the Zoology lesson. Will get it in the morn, before 8 o'clock. It is 10 now & I must retire.

June 28, 1887 – Tuesday

"I'm standing tonight on the shining sands of memory's golden shore." Thinking of life's summer days. I can never forget the past till that long sleep of forgetfulness, which to me may come soon. The "Ocean of Eternity" looks silvery bright, compared with a "Sea of Trouble." My aspirations for things grand & noble, bid me come up higher, but "Heaven is not gained by a single bound." I went to Mr. D.'s today & he helped me dissect some clams or muscles. I brought the shells home. Mrs. Higgins let me wash some with her. 9:45. Not very well.

June 29, 1887 – Wednesday

Feel better today. Went up to the University building, in the museum, I saw a centipede, a squid and some barnacles. Also a piece of bone, cartilage, lung & nerve center under a powerful microscope. Was up there an hour. The flowers there are pretty as care can make them. A band of gypsies out here do not get still till midnight. It is nearly 11 now. Have been writing home after my studies were about ready for tomorrow. Get up at 6 & usually go to bed at 10.

June 30, 1887 – Thursday

This is brother Frank's birthday, the second one since he was married. My lesson in Physiology this morn was nerves but Prof. Daugherty deviated from that. He says he will hear my recitations the 4th if I stay, so I think I will. How I do wish for an organ when I get lonesome. Would like to go to town tomorrow to get some things. It is a mile. Mr. O'donald came into my Phil. class & helped me some. Must write to Miss Given soon. Miss Staley wants me to come up & stay all night with her. 9:45.

JULY

July 1, 1887 - Friday

Had a glorious good rain today. Champaign is happy, for rain was so badly needed. Had a letter from John Swisher, offering me the school that I taught 2 years ago. Went to Prof. D.'s and studied insects. He has 60 boxes of bugs and butterflies. They invited me to come and go to Urbana to church with them next Sunday. Received a letter from Mary today. Lewis had learned his piece. Johnie was at home last Sunday. I want to stay here to Institute real bad. Would like to see they home folks. 9:30 o'clock.

July 2, 1887 – Saturday

Six years ago today Lottie Samms was at our house. Eddie and W. [Edna and Wilber?] came from Clinton and told us of Garfield's death. Other events make me remember the day. I wrote to Miss Welch and Miss Given today. Went to town A.M. Cloudy and rained some. Cooler this eve. Ironed my tucked skirt and my embroidered one. Ola is out of humor. The Dr. and wife took a ride. We had raspberries for supper. Bought some black silk gloves of a modest lady clerk, on the west side. I think I hear the blind musician playing. What a comfort it must be to the poor blind.

July 3, 1887 – Sunday

Miss Staley and I went down to Prof. Daugherty's and with them to Urbana to hear a patriotic sermon by Rev. McIntire. He is young but his oratory is fine. This was also a farewell sermon, as he starts soon to Europe and the "Holy Land" to spend the summer. He is just in the hearts of his people. He was born in Scotland. We stopped at the Professor's for dinner. Mr. Terrel is a queer fellow but he is highly educated. Had another rain after we got home. Have a slight headache. Went over to the Christian church, only a few there. Singing quite poor. Folks in bed when I got home.

July 4, 1887 – Monday

I did not celebrate and it has been a very long day. Rained in the night which made it nice and cool. Quite a crowd went to Urbana. Fireworks in Champaign tonight. I am not well. One year ago now I was at Uncle Mark's with sick headache. Would like to know how the home folks spent the day. I wrote a letter to Mary while I was alone and analyzed the trumpet creeper and studied a little. Lots of boys out with his cousin. Hope if I live till next 4th I will not be so lonely. I recited this forenoon. 9 o'clock.

July 5, 1887 – Tuesday

Got up at 6 o'clock. Had not slept well. Went to school till noon. Came home with a headache that grew worse. Did not eat any dinner and did not get up till 7 P.M. Feel a little better but could not study. Had intended to go with Professor D. to the University museum but could not. Received a letter from Miss Welch. Our Instruction begins the 18th. Ola went away today for good, I suppose, for she packed her trunk. The Dr. gave me some good advice. White dress is dirty now.

July 6, 1887 – Wednesday

Wrote a postal to ma today. Think I shall go home Friday evening. Feel much better than yesterday. No, the Professor did not scold me for not having my lessons. Have studied very well today. Woke early this morning but did not get up till 6. Example today. This & that plus $\frac{1}{2}$ of this & that = 7. What is this & that? Answer is 2 and 2. Mrs. D. gave me a bouquet. Miss Staley is about ready to go home. I am about homesick. It is very lonely here. Every body most is strange and yet I have been here 3 weeks. But study is my object here.

July 7, 1887 – Thursday

Bosworth, a Professor of inst work 4 years ago met us on the street today. We went and took some ice cream. He is as talkative as ever. His wife is coming tomorrow. The train starts home at 4:40 tomorrow. I studied till 3:30 then went to town then came back and took supper with Miss Staley. Had blackberries. When I came the Dr. told me to have a dish of raspberries. So my supper was very nice. Did not get any letters. Had the headache a little but it stopped. Learned a little surgery.

July 8, 1887 – Friday

1:45 P.M. I am preparing to go home now. Have been here 3 weeks today. Miss S. has decided to stay next week. I went into the History class. Recitation real interesting. Must do some reviewing in the common branches now. Mr. Higgins is sick. My books are scattered everywhere and my room has been neglected. Was sick in the night but all right now. Will be uneasy till I get home, but I guess it will not make me sick. Expect a letter from Mr. Swisher today. The mail is very uncertain under the new system. I see I can not write well.

July 9, 1887 – Saturday

Jim Danizon [Danison] was run over by a team yesterday and died last eve at 6. Pa went to the funeral at DeWitt with the Masons. I expected to go back to Champaign today but postponed going till Monday. I refused the Twist school today. I may be sorry of it some time but I hope not. Have worked less today than any day this year. I studied a little, practiced a little, made 3 beds and talked lots. Mary is at Manlove's. An invitation to come home next Sabbath and take part in a Sabbath School convention. Pa got home at 7. Came around by Weldon.

July 10, 1887 – Sunday

No one has been here but Farmer. He stopped and said they have a new baby there. Bettie and I went to Twist to Sabbath School. I taught the children's class. C. Cain talked. Johnie was there. I rode home with Bettie and Ike. Mr. Capron says he is mad at me for not taking their school. I have had a good visit but must go back to Champaign in the morning. Pa is going to take me to Wantwood first. Must answer Mr. Swisher tomorrow. Johnie came home after church to stay all night.

July 11, 1887 – Monday

Johnie paid me \$10. Owes me \$7 yet. D. C. has the Wantwood school. Stephen has the Reed. Saw Dr. T. and got some medicine of him. Saw Mrs. Moody and Mr. Rennick on the train. Saw Katie, Lou, Nellie, Johnie and Horrace and Amanda S. of my scholars. Yes and Brenton and Clarence. Saw Miss Given too. Stopped at the school here and recited Philosophy. Miss Staley has gone home to stay. I heard of a \$50 school but it is very unhandy. Have about decided to stay here to institute. Will board where I am if I am not crowded out.

July 12, 1887 – Tuesday

Mrs. Daugherty went to see about a school so I did not recite in Botany. Omitted Zoology, too, but recited in history. Went down to Prof. D. and analyzed plants and went to the University and studied birds. Saw an eagle, a toucan, a swan, a pheasant and a pelican, etc., etc. After 5 when I got home. Sent a postal to Mr. Swisher and Cora Summers. Have felt wonderful lazy today. The sun is very hot. A game of baseball going on but I do not see how they stand the weather. Supper at 7 o'clock. Go to bed at 9, tired and weary.

July 13, 1887 – Wednesday

My room was sultry warm when I awoke, although the windows were open. Had a cool rain at noon. Saw a snapping turtle dissected that was as large as a duck. Each lung inflated is as large as my hand. Mrs. D. has engaged a school at Urbana. Ola and I washed P.M. Had a big wash and I got very warm. The Dr. made some ice cream after supper. It was very good at 9 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap were here. I studied after night. Ola has a felon on her finger which bothers dreadfully. She says she will put out the clothes.

July 14, 1887 – Thursday

Just one month ago I closed school at Weldon. It does not seem so long. Mr. Bosworth was up to school this morning. They are preparing now for institute. Hope I will be benefited by that. Wrote a postal to Bettie to send out on the train. Very warm today. I have all the P.M. to study in. Had sausage, cake, new blackberries and lemonade for supper. It has been so warm. I could not study well, but I read up several subjects. Every day's work here is so near the same. I have no special note to make. Average bed time 9:30.

July 15, 1887 – Friday

Today I made an agreement with E. D. Bosworth to buy Johnson's Encyclopedia, provided that I do not need my money to go away to school. Received Vol. I today and paid for it. They seem very dear for a poor girl to own but any educated person would be proud to own it. One month's work (last winter) will pay my board and buy the 8 volumes. I can give one month's work for such a library. Last day of the Normal school. Institute begins Monday. Have not heard from home this week. Had headache at noon but it is well now.

July 16, 1887 – Saturday

Ironed this A.M. Saved nearly 75 cents thereby. Bathed after dinner and then took Mr. D.'s borrowed books home. A Miss Holland from Tolona came here to board. Two gentlemen called to see about board during inst [Institute]. Went to young folks' meeting at the Christian church. Got some new ideas of conducting such a meeting. Today has seemed so long. Next week I will have to work hard to keep up with such smart classmates. If I can not keep ahead, I can keep behind. Try!

July 17, 1887 – Sunday

Wrote to Cousin Ell this morning. Sent grandma T. one dollar. Went alone to the C.[Christian] church and heard Brother York preach. Stayed to Sabbath School. A boy taught my class and did it well. Today is the Tp. Sabbath School Convention at Weldon and I wanted to be there. Went to church this eve. Miss Holland went with me. Text, "The 2 roads and the 2 trains." Sermon good. I was introduced to about a dozen by a school teacher but I do not remember but 2 names. Saw the County Superintendent. No, I [am] not afraid of him. He is Superintendent of Sabbath School over here.

July 18, 1887 – Monday

Tired and sleepy now. First day of inst. There were about 150 teachers there, 5 of whom I knew. Fun, of course, but hard work. I took all A grade but Phil. Saw Mr. Hill of DeWitt. He has a good position now at Rantoul. He was very kind to me. His wife is in Clinton yet. The Superintendent gave us a good talk. Cora Summers was not there. If I write every eve in my diary with this much work to do I will do well. Have not heard from home since a week ago this morn. Expect a letter in the morn. 3 gentlemen boarders here.

July 19, 1887 – Tuesday

200 teachers there today. They opened with music, after which Supt. S. gave us a talk. I took the A Phil. Had my feelings wonderfully wounded but the Prof. did not understand me nor I him. All will be right tomorrow. Had a letter from Miss Given, telling me of the death of Mr. Chenoweth. He was buried at W. but his wife and children stayed in Kansas. I pity them. How sad! for her. Went to Mr. D.'s and studied a while. He gave me 2 books to study. Mr. Little(?) boards there. He came out and gave us a little information. It is past 10 now and I'm very tired.

July 20, 1887 – Wednesday

10:30 P.M. Wrote a postal this eve to ma. Did hard work. Learned something about galvanic batteries. Can attend the term of Institute for one dollar. Must pay my tuition in the morning. Filled out the blank for teachers. Our singing was good. Sang 3 songs. Dr. H. has nine boarders now. I'm very tired tonight. Have not heard from home yet. Mr. Star thinks he will teach us lots about Arithmetic. Analysis come in, which is good.

July 21, 1887 – Thursday

Did not recite so well today as yesterday. Am not well tonight. Supt. Shawan said to me if I want a school in his county he would direct me to a \$50 school or if I would take less in an intermediate grade, he would get a town school for me. How does he know that I am capable of taking a \$50 school? He has heard me recite only a few times and knew nothing of me before. Paid my tuition \$1. Had ice cream for supper, blackberries and cake, also. It rained this morning early and is raining now a little at near 11 o'clock P.M.

July 22, 1887 – Friday

Had a letter from Bettie today. She says one of George's horses is quarantined. Dell has been sick. I have had a headache all day. Hope to do better work next week. Much write home tomorrow. Felt a little homesick when the other teachers went home to spend Sunday. Must iron some in the morning. Guess I'll go to Mr. Daugherty's to study for they have good books. Stopped after school for the class in Pedagogy. It was too deep for a girl with the headache to consider. Walked home with Mr. Bill. He is an odd man, but acts well. Tired, as usual. 9:45.

July 23, 1887 – Saturday

Wrote a letter home this morning. Ironed some after dinner. Studied some here then went [to] Mr. Daugherty's and studied the Phys. Lesson because I have no good books. Mrs. D. would take me to board but I guess I better stay here. Had a roommate sent to me this eve which is against my will. Maybe she will stay only till Monday. Miss Holland would like to room with me. Must study my Sabbath School lesson some, for I will go to the Christian church tomorrow if nothing prevents. Took a nap before dinner. Felt better than I did last eve. It is cool and nice now.

July 24, 1887 – Sunday

Cooms, our Professor in Rhetoric at Eureka College, preached at the Christian Church here in Champaign. Oh! but was I not surprised and pleased to see him step into the pulpit. He remembered me but could not tell my name. The house was full. Subject "Selling of the birthright." Stayed for Sabbath School this morning. Wrote a letter to Miss Given and a postal to Miss Staley. My roommate has retired. I have the headache. Am afraid I will be sick tomorrow. Wore my black dress. It is still quite cool. 9:30 o'clock.

July 25, 1887 – Monday

I recited much better today than Friday. Because I feel better I copied some for Prof. Little today. Prof. Cooms gave us a talk. He lectured at the church tonight, but I did not go. We dissected some clams in class with Prof. Little's help. Some new teachers in. Mr. Hill came back. My roommate has moved. Mrs. D. says I could have boarded with her. Supt. Shawan gave us some good work in pedagogy. Only 4 of the class are ladies. Must get up early in the morn. Ten o'clock past.

July 26, 1887 – Tuesday

Did not have a good lesson in Botany but I told them something new about Indian corn. Prof Little promised me that he would not call on me to prove the rule of S. G. State Supt. Edwards arrived at the institute at 3 o'clock when all recitations were suspended. He gave some good information. Tonight he lectured on "Moral Culture," to a crowded church. I saw many familiar faces whose names I do not know yet. They have been real kind to me. Wrote a postal home. A little less than 2 weeks now and I will be there. Got up early and now it is 9:30. Must study a little.

July 27, 1887 – Wednesday

Had to entertain a book agent today but did not buy the book. Mr. and Mrs. D. came a piece with me after we studied together till 8:30. He says Mr. Ennefer was here this week but I did not get to see him. Would have been glad to see a friend from Eureka. I recited well in arithmetic, it being the 1st opportunity I have had in a class of 88 or 90. Miss Holland came in today to room with me. She has gone to bed and I am so tired to write. Want to go to Farmer City tomorrow and that means business. 10:20 P.M.

July 28, 1887 – Thursday

This will be the first night I ever spent in this town. I started from Champaign at 4:40. Miss Staley met me and sent me to Mr. French's to board. Miss Given, E. Cavender, Adda Moore and C. Glasgow room here, so I feel at home among the home crowd. Talked with Supt. Shawan and he urged me to take the Wesley Chapel school at \$50. Went after dinner to see Miss Kile, a former teacher, about it. Ola went with me to the train and helped carry my valise. We went on the street car to the Doane house and then walked the rest of the way. Train started for Farmer City.

July 29, 1887 – Friday

Farmer City. I went up to the school building but Miss Welch said I might take the examination only in the sciences. They were easy but quite long. About 100 there. I got done in good season. Then we had a few little speeches and went home to our boarding places. Mr. Ransdell lectured on Lincoln but Mill Given and I stayed at home to visit, not feeling well. I rained a nice little shower while the other girls were gone. Mr. French took wraps for them to wear home. Miss Welch wants me to teach at home. Says she can't spare me to go to Champaign.

July 30, 1887 – Saturday

I awoke before day with the girls preparing to go home. Got up but went back to bed and did not get up till 6:30. Slept with Miss Given. She is not well. Her father came after her by noon. Soon after dinner Mr. French took me to the train with a phaeton. Anise Glasgow took dinner there. Came for Cora but she had gone. Miss Staley and Clyde came to the train to see me off. I got to Champaign before 3. Rode up on the street car with Miss Kile, who looks like Ell Tozer. I like her. Saw Mr. Terrell tonight. He is a funny boy. 9 o'clock.

July 31, 1887 – Sunday

Arose to take 7 o'clock breakfast. Went to the Christian church to hear Brother Anderson. Four from Rantoul came in by letter. I stayed for Sabbath School which was well conducted by Supt. Shawan. He gave us a good talk after Sabbath School. Went to church with Mr. B. but he is far from my ideal, but he is a Christian man. I have not heard from home lately. Wish I could do more work next week so I could make a good examination in this county but I'll just do the best I can. Shadrack(?) went to song service with Miss Holland. He told us how to save a drowned person.

AUGUST

August 1, 1887 – Monday

Prof. Little asked me how I came out in ex.[examinations] at F. C. [Farmer City?]. He helped us dissect the grass hopper. He told me to write up a thesis of 500 words on that and on the fish, but I have only a little time for it. The primary teacher was there. I got a good outline of fruits in Bot.[Botany]. Am going to buy some drawing specimens. Miss Dunlap came in & talked with me for a while. She is in the grammar department. Made the acquaintance of Miss Wiggins this eve. Have been tracing Grant in his battles. We need to study the Rebellion more instead of colonization. 9:40. Work!

August 2, 1887 – Tuesday

Finished our class work today & must take ex.[examinations] in the sciences tomorrow. Then 2 days for the other branches. Have an invitation for all to go to the Univ.[University] building Fri. P.M. Looked for a letter from Miss Welch & one from home but did not get either. Disappointment. Supt. Shawan is urging me a little to answer about that sch.[school]. I would hate to go so far from home, but they will pay me well. I like the Champaign teachers. Mr. Holiday taught the Pedagogy class in the absence of Prof. Hayes and Shawan. 9:30.

August 3, 1887 – Wednesday

The girls are having a high low (?) tonight. They say they can't settle down as I do. They brought us some lemonade. Miss Holland came home sick and is now in bed. In Zoology we had to give anatomy of the grass hopper's ear and other such fine points. Prof. Little is very precise. The Phil. was quite severe, but the Botany was nice. Talked some with Miss Powers, the primary teacher. She is doing good work. I am a little homesick. I admire some of the teachers though many I do not know. Soon I must say "Good bye" to those whom I do know.

August 4, 1887 – Thursday

My grade in Botany is 100%, So Mr. Osborn told me, and it was the only 100. He made 97%. Others made good grades. I bought some drawing cards of Miss Hall. Our grammar ex.[examination] was wonderful, but good. I did tolerable in Orthog., Hist. and Geog. Dissected a catfish with Mrs. D., Mr. Hill and Prof. Little. Have to write a thesis tonight. Wrote the grasshopper thesis last night, but it came near taking midnight oil. I heard the clock strike 12. Wrote a postal to mother before breakfast. Saw two girls cheating today. So did Shawan.

August 5, 1887 – Friday

Finished my thesis last night at 10:30. Hard work but I expect to get a good grade. Took the ex.[examination] In Arith, Pen. and Orthog. in which I did poorly. Had the headache till I came home at noon. Doctored up some, took a nap and then Miss Holland & I went up the University where we met a number of our teachers taking a little holiday. Saw Miss Stewart and Mr. Largent. He is a deep talker and I had some fun with him. Miss H. did not come back with me, but went to the Indian Show in Urbana. I got up and let her in at about 11 p.m. Loaned some books to Mr. Bills to copy from.

August 6, 1887 – Saturday

Mr. Hill wrote saying their school is taken. Miss Welch did all she could to keep me as a teacher in Dewitt Co. Rested in earnest last night. Did not get up till 7 A.M. All the boarders are going home now. I went with Miss H. to the train then took the street car and went to Urbana to Shawan's office. He wrote a good recommendation for me. I walked home at 5. Called at Miss Kyle's. She said she will go on Mon. with me to see about the Wesley Chapel school. My grade on thesis was 90% but some of my grades were much lower, but so with many of the best teachers here. I talked with a telephone tonight.

August 7, 1887 – Sunday

Went to S. S. and church. Bro. Reed of Mo. preached. Text, "Lay not up treasures on earth" etc. The S. S. lesson was very interesting. Subject: Jesus in Galilee. Question: Did Jesus ever use medicine in any of his healing? Clay was no medicine for the eyes. Ola's fellow was here for dinner. Must get up early to take my drive. Livery rig \$2.00. First I ever hired. At 6 P.M. I went to Mr. Daugherty's. They are both nearly sick. He showed me on the map Mt. Erebus and Terror in the Antarctic regions. Came home after dark. Did not go to church. Must get up early to take a 30-mile drive.

August 8, 1887 - Monday

Today I engaged 8 months teaching at \$51 per mo. at Wesley Chapel, Champaign Co. Guess I will have some work to do, for they have all grades & study Phys., Algebra & Higher Arith. Miss Kyle went with me. We at[e] dinner at Mr. Banner's but he did not charge us for it. Must write to Mr. Shawan about my success. Through his kindness it came, and only by the grace of God can I do the work well. Tomorrow I go home and I am so glad. Wish I could stay at home all the time. Such great responsibility will kill me finally, but then comes sweet rest.

August 9, 1887 – Tuesday

Did not feel well and got up 20 min. before 8. Went to Mrs. Daugherty's to take some books & tell her "good bye." The hackman drove up before I ate dinner but he waited for me. When on the train Mrs. Edmiston sat with me. Pa met me at W.[Weldon]. I saw Mary Coffman, Will Gray, Dr. Taylor, Rev. Widney & others. Am very glad to get home. Folks not very well. Every thing suffering for want of rain. Corn fields drying up. Gardens of but little use. Water very scarce. Am tired but not sick. Dried beef for supper. Very warm.

August 10, 1887 – Wednesday

Took care of my clothes & books, wrote 2 letters & one postal, washed the dinner dishes alone after helping to get dinner. Mary served. Have been gone long enough to forget my March & Waltz. My lame arm does not work well. We are to wash tomorrow. Mary & Lewis are going to sleep down stairs on the floor because it is so

warm. There is quite a breeze blowing though. I look for Florence Walters to visit me soon. Lida Nixon has got home from Kan.[Kansas]. She went May 25 '87.

August 11, 1887 – Thursday

We have all been nearly sick today. Mary has a sore throat. Johnie was at home a while. He says his wedding day is approaching. Frank & Dell stopped on the road to W.[Weldon] to see the Dr. They are both sick. Baby looks very nice. We tried to wash and among us got it out at 10:30 A.M. Then got dinner & took a nap. Did not sleep well last night. It got to raining and awoke us all. Glad were we of the rain but it was very sultry. Are going to sleep down stairs now. My watch has stopped.

August 12, 1887 – Friday

Mary has been sick with diphtheria. Throat looks very bad. We ironed this A.M. Bettie made a shirt for Johnie. I can not work well for my arm. Read this eve of the terrible wreck of an excursion at Chatsworth only a little north. Many lives were lost yesterday, more before daylight. It rained while the dead & dying were lying out in an oat field. It was caused by the burning of a culvert. The whole country is excited over it. Frank has not sent us word how he is.

August 13, 1887 – Saturday

Pa & Lewis and I went to George's after dinner. He was not there but she was. Our team acted very wild. Mary is worse then yesterday. A week ago now I was in Urbana. Am writing a letter to Nettie Swisher. Bettie is remodeling her summer hat. As we were ready to retire a heavy rain came. We were awake a good deal too with Mary. I am a little lonely maybe I have the "blues" (?) but no I will not permit that to be true. Everything needed rain or it would nearly dry up.

August 14, 1887 – Sunday

Did not dress up all day. Finished my letter to Nettie and wrote one to Uncle Dock for mother. Mary has been in bed nearly all day. She is real petulant and gave me an uncalled for scolding. Kate came over on horseback. Then Ike Brown came in a buggy and took Bettie away. I have not felt well. We did not go to church or S. s. and the day has seemed long. It is sultry this eve. Would like to see Eddie & Emma. "Fret not for tomorrow. Bid farewell to care & sorrow."

August 15, 1887 – Monday

Pa went to town for a Dr. for Mary. Drew came & was here for dinner. Left lots of medicine. She did not sleep but a little last night. Steve Barterson buried their baby yesterday. I have been ripping up my blue plaid for use in another dress. Washed the dye out of my brown dress. Have lots of sewing to do before I begin school. Ma & Bettie are making apple butter. I wrote a letter to Miss Welch about my school. Pa & Arch are threshing at Seymore Ayres. This is warm weather but not so dusty as it was.

August 16, 1887 – Tuesday

This A.M. we put out a washing. I washed my cream dress for the first [time] though I have had it over a year. Had a letter from Supt. Shawhan. My average for 1st grade is sufficient but some of my grades are low. Had a card from Florence Walters. She is coming to make me a visit after she visits at Clinton. Frank has gone to town for the Dr. for Dell. I am going to Emma's with him as he comes back. I have not been there for a year now. That is bad indeed. Mary is better today.

August 17, 1887 – Wednesday

It rained for several hours and left the roads muddy. I came home from Emma's with Frank. Rec'd some letters from some publ.[public] companies. Had new dry beans for dinner. Some people are planting turnips at this late date. I have been home from school over a week and have done almost nothing. Must soon do some sewing. Bettie is down stairs sewing now. Dell is better than yesterday. Pa has gone to town with Frank. I think Miranda Hay came to see Mrs. Gaines.

August 18, 1887 – Thursday

We heard this morning that Jim McConkey nearly died in the night. Is better now. Mr. Merreill is very sick. Willie Schenck took dinner here & insured our house in the Forest City Co. His wife is an old school mate of mine. Wrote to Mr. Shawan. Ironed this A.M. My boil came an understanding and is better now. Think I can rest better at night. Mr. Twist is threshing. Jim Long took sick and his boy was thrown from a mule but not badly hurt. Bettie says come to bed.

August 19, 1887 – Friday

Today I tried to color my green cashmere & Mary her brown. Were not very successful. Have decided to make a suit of my tan color & blue plaid dresses. Pa went to town with Will Hodges. Frank stopped here and took Lil to drive instead of Tom. I am undecided what to do or when to do it but all well end well I think, for it most always does with me. Every body has some source of trouble or care but most of my serious trouble[s] prove to be borrowed ones.

August 20, 1887 – Saturday

4:30 P.M. Bettie has gone up to Hodges. Mary is punishing Lewis for Breaking a chicken's leg. Pa is hauling oats for Frank. In the west it looks dark & stormy. Ironed my cream dress & draped it. Sent my letter to town by Parker. Mrs. Pearl was here to get Mary to sew for her. Wrote a little to Eddie & sent by pa. Studied some. Bettie got dinner & made pies & then I put away the dishes. Mother cooed some beats [beets]. Cowens are threshing.

[Written on the side of the page: Jim McConkey is dead. How sad!]

August 21, 1887 – Sunday

Indeed this has been a long dreary day. "All day the low hung clouds have dropped their garnered fullness down." Yet it has not rained hard. Jim McConkey was buried at Weldon. I was disappointed not to go for it was my duty. He has been a friend to me. So many people went through the rain that many could not enter the church. I have had the headache, but have been studying the Rebellion from Treasure Trove stories. Johnie was here for breakfast. Frank & Dell went to town last night and she had a tooth extracted.

August 22, 1887 – Monday

I went to town with Frank & Dell. She had another tooth pulled. McConkey's store seemed to say, "He is gone." Saw May Lafferty, Mr. Stults & the McIntosh Bros. When we got home Dell stayed & Frank went home. Rec'd a letter from cousin Ella. I think she is going to get married after she teaches this term. She is 21 yrs. Old. Johnie ate supper here. Is working at Nixon's. It rained a hard shower & then the sun shone.

August 23, 1887 – Tuesday

Pa is threshing. The cooks are Ma, Mary, Bettie, Dell, May Gray & myself but Dell is sick. Had the hands only for dinner. Sarah then borrowed our dishes. Frank stayed till 3 o'clock then started home but went to Kirt's. I remodeled some of my old garments & Mary complains of sore throat. Wesley Twist was here for dinner. He used to go to school with me, but now we never meet. Did not work very hard but sewing makes me tired.

August 24, 1887 – Wednesday

Mary went to John Pearl's to sew. We did a large washing. I felt more like hard work than I had for months. Johnie had his washing here. He came home this eve in a rage. He had a racket with J. N. Mother is now in a worry. Pa was at Eddie's with Lewis. Lewis is going to sleep with me now. Repaired my winter skirts this P.M. My mind is on my winter's work. "Will I live to see it through" is the question. 8:30 o'clock.

[Written at the top of the page: Eddie's birthday.]

August 25, 1887 – Thursday

I was very sick with flux till 10:30. Took Medicine faithfully & was much easier afternoon. Eddie was here an hour & a half. Had not seen her since the middle of June. She went on to town. Lewis went to town with pa without a coat & it is very cool. Bettie is nearly sick but she & ma did a very large ironing. Gene called at the door a little bit. The Good Templar lecture is at Weldon. I ought to go to lodge. I wonder who takes my place there. George & Johnie are threshing at Nixon's.

August 26, 1887 – Friday

Am better today but feel weak yet. Sewed on my combination suit. Pa came home sick. Went to bed before dark. Mary came home from Pearl's with [a] sore throat. Ike B. called to see Bettie. They are going to a party Sat. eve. She canned some pie plant this P.M. We had cabbage for supper. It was excellent but I dared not eat much. Geo. And Lillie went to Clinton on Jim's divorce trial. Cloudy tonight and cool. Go to bed early.

August 27, 1887 – Saturday

Pa has been sick in bed all day. I want the Dr. sent for if he is not better in the morning. Mary is a little better. I have been sewing. Bettie and ma did the housework. Bettie has gone to a party with Ike. Sarah H. is sick. Frank and Johnie were both here to dinner. Frank went home and J. went to town. No mail for me. Have been studying the Sabbath School lesson for tomorrow. Quarterly meeting at Weldon but we will probably stay at home if pa is sick. I am lonely tonight from some cause.

August 28, 1887 – Sunday

Dr. Zimmerman was here to see pa. He thinks he is real sick. Bettie & I went to quarterly meeting at Weldon. Not many out. Wilber's were here when we came home. George's came after dinner & stayed till dark. Ike Brown came this eve. Katie Mc said they would come out to see us. Rose Hall talks of coming. Johnie was here for dinner. I have not been well today but hope to be better soon, so I can go to Champaign. We sang some together. Taught Miss Given's class at S. S. She is sick nearly.

August 29, 1887 – Monday

School, not my sch.[school] begun at W.[Weldon] today. I want to visit it before I go away to school. My successor has my best wishes for I am interested in many of the children there. Finished my dress. Dr. Zimmerman was here. Pa is no better. Mary went to Mr. Coffman's to sew. I have a bad cold. George was

here late, Johnie, too. He says he is to be married the 13th Prox. if all are well. "Will he then do better?" is my inquiry. Charlie Troutman of Swisher died today.

August 30, 1887 – Tuesday

A wreck at Weldon in which 3 men were seriously hurt. Freit [Freight] train missed the switch. Pa has appeared a little better. The Dr. could not come today. George ate supper here. Had some splendid grape pie and stewed chicken. Dave Brighton stopped here and Lewis rode out to Bill's with him. Ma was up in the night & did not get up till Bettie & I had the washing partly done. Made over my seersucker dress. Bettie was nearly sick till eve.

August 31, 1887 – Wednesday

I went to town with Arch to trade. Pa sent for some dried beef. He is better now. Sat up this eve & ate supper with [who?]. Still Tozer came along with Gene & Farmer and all stayed till bed time. The Knights went to bury C. Troutman. I called at Mr. Stults' & waited for Arch. Rec'd a letter from S. A. E., saying he expects to come & visit me Friday. He has not been here since Jan. 5th, a very cold day. Wrote a letter for pa to Henry Gifford.

SEPTEMBER

September 1, 1887 – Thursday

Did a large ironing. Bettie went to Kate's & down to Nixon's on Kate's horse. I washed & ironed some muslin, slept a little, studied a bit, the[n] made some lemonade & dressed two chickens for supper. Stillie ate supper here. They had been to Manlove's sale. Mr. Flood & Fox are both sick. Pa has sat up. Went to the barn & to the grape patch. Johnie came home late this eve. He will thresh for Allen tomorrow. Bettie has gone [to] bed. Sang & played some. Go to bed early now.

September 2, 1887 – Friday

Am making a fine night dress. Swept & made beds for Bettie is sick. Pa and Stillie went to town & to George's but pa was not able to go. I was disappointed today. When people promise me a visit I expect them to come. Frank went to town at train time. Mrs. Bird called to see the sick. Mrs. Hodges brought some very nice butter to us. Bettie is up since noon & has been playing "Meet me there" a song. Johnie is here now.

September 3, 1887 – Saturday

Wrote a postal to Mrs. Daugherty. Sent it by C. Long. Bettie is better. Mary & Lewis came home. Johnie rode Lill to thresh. Ike B. took him away this P.M. Mary went to see Allie Lisenby who is very sick. Frank says he is going tomorrow to camp meeting at Monticello. This is a bright night, though it rained a little this morn early. I do not like No's Applied so I don't, but it will end well I trust. Am not well.

September 4, 1887 – Sunday

Mr. Bird is very sick. Our folks went out there. Reported to have had two congestive chills, but Taylor said No and changed Drew's medicine & dismissed the company. Gene came here to spend the day. Stillie went home. Bettie went to DeLand with kate & Ike. George & Lillie talked of going to Monticello. No, I mean Frank & Dell. George went home nearly night. We are invited to Ada Young's to spend the day. Guess we will go. This is a very long day to me.

September 5, 1887 – Monday

Mother went to Angie's to spend the day. Mary remodeled Bettie's brown dress. Then Chas. Coffman came & left some sewing for her. She wants to go to Melvin's soon. I have been studying all day. Am going to Champaign in the morn to stay over night. Pa went to see Mr. Bird who is much better & expects to get well. Bill Hanger has moved some where, guess he went to Hot Springs. Crang has moved to Weldon. Signed for "School Days."

September 6, 1887 – Tuesday

Pa took me to the train at 9:30. Went to Champaign. Ate dinner at Dr. Higgins. Then went to Urbana but did not see Shawhan till I got back to his house where I saw him & Mr. Daugherty who told me of his wife's illness at Paxton. Got back to the Dr.'s at dark tired and sleepy. Went to bed but not to sleep well for the wind blew terribly. Mr. McIntosh loaned a watch to me before I left W.[Weldon]. Four Clinton girls came to visit Mrs. I. Nixon.

September 7, 1887 – Wednesday

Finished breakfast at nearly eight. Left Urbana at 12:45. Traded in Champ.[Champaign] at Stoltey's store. Had 3 clerks waiting on me and one carried my valise of goods to the train. Cost of all \$7.74. Two drunk men on the train. Florence Walters was waiting in W.[Weldon] to see me. She is going to Texas tomorrow.* Had a letter from Bro. Ennefer and one from friend(?) Peck. Mr. Phares came around this way to bring me home. Ate my dinner at 5 P.M. Tired & blue.

*Clinton Public – Sept. 9, 1887 - Mrs. Thurston E. Walters [aka Florence (Phares) Walters], who has been spending the summer with her father, H. Clay Phares, left for her home in Texarkana, Ark., on Thursday morning last, carrying with her the good wishes of all her friends, and the Home Circle especially.

September 8, 1887 – Thursday

Pa & ma went to Clinton & then to Maroa to stay all night but surprised us by coming home at dark. Gave a beggar woman a half loaf of bread & some milk. Would like to have given her more but I pitied her. She was about my age and away from home & friends. A small boy was killed by a train in Clinton.* Heard that grandma's pension has come to Iola. Saw a fire at W. Bettie is playing history cards & is bothering me some, so good bye dear diary.

*Yesterday morning between eight and nine o'clock, Eddie Adkisson, son of Mr. Horace Adkisson, was killed on the track of the Springfield division at the West street crossing. [Obituary on DeWitt County website.]

September 9, 1887 – Friday

Heard that Miss Given is very poorly. So I went up there with Frank as he went to town. By the time I called on Mrs. Gray, it was raining, but I went on. Ollie A. & Gertie C. were there till eve. Miss G. & I slept together. The other girls went to a party. Bettie got my watch. Dell was here for dinner. Frank borrowed a quarter of me to pay May Gray. We ironed before noon and it was very sultry. Wore my white dress. Cool this eve. Pa gave a horse (Frank) today to Johnie.

September 10, 1887 – Saturday

Very cool! Sat in the kitchen with Miss Given. How I wish that one year hence she might be there to visit with me. Who can tell that she will be spared if consumption is the cause. At 10:30 she came a short way with me towards town. Then said, "good bye" & went back. When I got to Mr. Stults' they were both at home & dinner

nearly ready. Had a good visit and would have stayed with Mrs. Nixon all night, but my white dress was too cool & I nearly sick. Rode home with Bill & Farmer.

September 11, 1887 – Sunday

Rained a little this morn. I wrote a letter to S. A. E. Then at 12:30 Eddie brought Mary home. She stayed to dinner. So did Clayton. They went to Maroa Sat. to see Uncle Mark. This has been such a long day to me. Bettie went to church this eve but I am going to bed early for I am never ready to get up. Am writing this in Mary's room and am talking to her at intervals. Mother & pa have gone to bed. Have thought so much about Miss Given today. Hope she can teach next week. My throat is sore.

September 12, 1887 – Monday

We did a large washing & some scrubbing. Johnie went P.M. with Jake to Clinton. Fred C. brought his fine shirt home to be ironed. Mary put his hat mark into his new hat. He got home in time for supper then went to Glasgow's. His horse was so tired. Poor Frank! Yes, Miss Given taught school today. Success to her! I am sad tonight. Not well I guess. The Melancholy days are come. The saddest of the year. Is it my fault that I am sometimes sad?

September 13, 1887 – Tuesday

Eventful day for Johnie. A wedding day means much when it comes to reality. But such a boy! Does he realize what he is doing? I hope & pray that it is for the best. Anise is the best girl he ever went with. Rec'd 1st grade certificate from Champaign Co. and I think I have earned it. We ironed & baked & scrubbed. I knit some red & black wool lace. Mother got up from supper with the headache. Pa has been to town twice.

[Note from Judy: How strange. It doesn't sound like the family went to the wedding ceremony or that there was a party afterwards. It was just business as usual.]

September 14, 1887 – Wednesday

Johnie & Anise came about 10 A.M. It had been sprinkling rain some. Eddie & the children came later. Had dinner at 12 then some music. Mary went home with Eddie to sew for Mrs. Melvin. When Anise got home she had the toothache and went to Dr. Taylor. It broke off in pulling. He came back here to bring the buggy. George ate supper here. He is going to the fair tomorrow & we talk of going too. Retire early now.

September 15, 1887 – Thursday

We went to Clinton Fair. Largest crowd I ever saw there. Saw Mr. Staymate, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. & Mrs. Swisher & family, Chas. Jones, Geo. & Willie Field, Edith Moore, Walter Nixon & wife, Fred Kegarice, Min Lisenby, Rose Hall, Emily & Charlie Gardner & Miss Welch, Hattie Porter and many other old friends. Would have had a most enjoyable time but I suffered with headache. Got home at dark and Frank & Dell stayed all night. We went to bed at 7 o'clock and Bettie at 9 P.M.

September 16, 1887 – Friday

My head is better but I feel tired. Brushed the dust from our clothes & rested then till 11. Bettie had a letter from Ada Younger asking us to come Sunday. She went to Capron's after dinner & I went to town. Got some dress lining & one gingham dress of Nixon's. Have to make it now with 2 others in 2 weeks. I do not like to get ready to go to Fisher for I feel sure that I will get home sick. Well if I have strength of mind & body for the work I'll come out victorious.

September 17, 1887 – Saturday

Worked almost constantly on my embroidered night dress and yet it is not finished. I joked with Bettie about its being my wedding gown but it will probably be my shroud instead. None of us know what the future will bring to us. Pa built a coal house & then went to town. John Marsh's baby will be buried tomorrow. Funeral sermon by Bro. Lemen. Ma is knitting some hose for me. How I wish she could see well yet. Sarah Hodges called this eve.

September 18, 1887 – Sunday

I think that I could not be more lonely than I am today. Went to the funeral but I did not want to go. Wanted to go to Ada Young's, but how could I? The rest went. Had I been able to walk, would have gone to George's to stay over night. I do not enjoy gay society or I could have a high time. I wait to bestow my time & affection on worthy people, hence among giddy young folks I am an odd one, but I ought not to be sad for am on the right side by God's grace.

September 19, 1887 – Monday

Finished my night dress & then cut out my wine colored gingham. Am trimming it in velvet. Sewed all day but did not feel well. Mary is still at Melvin's. Lewis was at Mrs. Cowen's all day. Pa sold his 2 cows to Rundle for \$80.00 and now wants to buy one. Bettie says that Ada & Joe talk of coming up next Sun. Got my green dress goods from express office. Ordered my Cyclopedias from Bosworth today. Folks all in bed.

September 20, 1887 – Tuesday

Spilled some glicerine [glycerin] on this page. Did a large washing & then Bettie helped me some one my dress. Pa went to see Sam Gaines. He is nearly at death's door. He came up from Lincoln on a visit. My throat is sore but I am not sick. Arch is reading the "Little Master." Am writing very poor, but will do better with a good pen. Heard that my school took premium at fair on penmanship.

September 21, 1887 – Wednesday

Mr. Marsh came to dig for water. I got ready at 10 and walked to George's. Lewis went a piece with me. Mary came home from Melvin's where she had been since last Wed. When I got to George's, Lillie was churning. She had chicken & sweet potatoes for dinner. Helped do up the dishes and then made the button holes in my dress. I have not visited at George's for over a year. Nellie, Ike & Lucy came over.

[Written upside down at the top of the page: One year since Tom died.]

September 22, 1887 – Thursday

It was misting rain when I got up and kept it up till noon. George was out in it. I made the button holes in my gown. After dinner Lillie & I went to Nixon's. I played & sang some but my throat was sore. She got an early supper & Geo. brought me home. They stayed till bedtime. Heard about Mr. Gaine's brother being taken to Lincoln to bury. Had a letter from Rose Hall. Bettie has gone home with Eddie.

September 23, 1887 – Friday

Cut and fit my snowflake dress. Mary ironed A.M. and then helped me to sew. At 5 o'clock I stopped to get supper but Frank came along & asked me to go home with him and stay all night. Dark when we got there &

Dell was getting supper. Bettie had come up from Eddies and stayed there too. Arch was thrown from a horse & hurt. Then I tried to Manage the horse & got a good shaking. Marsh gave up getting water.

September 24, 1887 – Saturday

Frank brought us home & Dell stayed till P.M. We saw Emma. Mary & I finished my dress. I am not well. Am lame from the shaking I got. Frost & ice this morn. Johnie ate supper here & took Frank home with him. Bettie & I went to Stevenson's party. Saw Ada & Joe and I did not have a good time. I do not like parties. Got home at 11:57. Widney will preach at Centenary next year. In a week I go away.

September 25, 1887 – Sunday

Did not get up early. It is real cloudy. Mother is nearly sick. I am better than yesterday. Some are going to Farmer City to camp meeting today. Bettie want & soon after that John & Anise came to spend the day. After dinner we went over to Capron's a while. Angie C. was here like "old times." I am sad to think this is the last Sun. to spend at home till I go to teaching. Alone! among strangers, my fate. I ought to be used to that, but I will get homesick.

September 26, 1887 – Monday

Drizzle, drizzle, but no rain in earnest. I could not go to town. Mary is making my green suit. I sewed some on it and some on my light gray. Have had fire in the sitting room all day. Had a game of history cards. They are real instructive. Had mush & milk for Supper, the first I have had for a year. I want to go to Eddies one day soon. Mary is knitting some mittens for Lewis. She wants to go to Kan.[Kansas] and stay a while. All the rest are in bed and I must go. Still it rains a little.

September 27, 1887 – Tuesday

Dark and dreary. It has rained harder than yesterday. This is probably our Equinorial. Every body glad to see the ground filling with water. When drear[y] autumn comes I am always sad, but I look through a ray of hope to the glad spring time. How much I must endure, I do not know. But by "hearing & doing I build on the rock." Had a card from Bosworth. My green suit nearly done. Jake called & asked me to help select some party folks for Thu. Eve.

September 28, 1887 – Wednesday

Misty weather yet. Trimmed my hat & Bettie's The orange looks well with green. Mary is sewing for Sarah Hodges. I filled out the Family Record in her bible last eve. We are up stairs, the rest in bed. Fed a tramp at dinner. "Look on him kindly. Turn not away the beggar who knocks at your door." I packed some of my clothes today. Sad business for me. I often long & hope for that home where "Good bye" is unknown. Mother has been helping me.

September 29, 1887 – Thursday

Rain, then shine. The mud reminds me of olden times. The drouth is a thing of the past, but it will be long remembered. Worked 19 button holes in my dress and put on the buttons & watch pocket. Packed my goods box. Pa expressed it. Gave up going to Capron's party for it rained on till after supper, but then it cleared off & we went. They were surprised to see us. We stayed till 10:30. I played and sang some. We went with Arch in the wagon. Soon after we came home it clouded over and rained.

September 30, 1887 – Friday

Raining when I awoke. Soon dressed to go to Fisher. Pa took me through the rain to the depot. On! But I did hate to leave home and it took great effort to keep from crying. Went to Nixon's & bought some rubbers & a toboggan. Got off at Lodge. Called on Flora W. Train Scarcely waited for me to get on. Long train of cars full of soldiers from the reunion. A rough set I tell you. Saw a wreck at Mansfield. Stopped at Howard and came to Mr. Howad's to wait till tomorrow 2:26. Good lodging for 75 cts.

OCTOBER

October 1, 1887 – Saturday

Howard, Ill.—Ate breakfast between 7 & 8. They visited with me some & then used their organ for an hour or so. Dark day but I guess the rain is over. Met a Canadian gentleman here, but he is too white. All of the town people of Howard are country folks. Had the pleasure of riding on the noted Narrow Gauge to Fisher which is a pretty little town. Mr. Banner came there to meet me & take out my goods. Found my boarding place very nice. Rec'd remaining vols. Of Cyclopedia at this express office. Nice country here.

October 2, 1887 – Sunday

Wesley Chapel. Did not come down from my room till the rest were at breakfast. Studied the S. S. lesson and after dinner went to the church. Had a good teacher. The new minister is a regular shouting Methodist. Saw a few nice looking people and was introduced to a dozen or more. Wore my green suit. Had to dress for strangers to criticize. Am not so lonely today as I thought last Sun. I would be. Was very lonely 2 weeks ago today.

October 3, 1887 – Monday

First day of school at Wesley Chapel. Sun bright but it is muddy. Directors met at sch.[school] and fixed the stove. Only 13 pupils. They were quite orderly. The house was neat and well supplied. I suppose that after while they will make me earn my \$50. The term before me seems long but time rolls rapidly by and life itself is only a short school. If I have success here and hear no bad news from home I will be happy. God only knows.

October 4, 1887 – Tuesday

Cool day. Kept fire hot at school. Same no.[number] of pupils. My mind is lasier (sic) on one score. Rec'd Sep. examination questions but shall not use them. Saw Miss Hewerdine at the pasture gate. Heard my landlady scold some. Poor Ernest! I am glad I like him. Have not been homesick yet. Wrote to mother yesterday & a card to Edna. Fixed up my school house some. Am going to wear my cloth (?) dress in the morn. Had a bid for fire-building at 10 cts per day. My side hurts from cold taken by sitting in a fireless room. 8:45.

October 5, 1887 – Wednesday

Beautiful bright day. Warmer than yesterday. Did not have hard work at school. Worked over 6 pages in Algebra. Came home after 5. The new Round Oak came. Will be put up in the morn. Sent my letters to Champaign by Mr. Sale. Ora Patron (my S.S. teacher) came up to consult me this morn. That was all right. Put on woolen hose. My school is real quiet and now to keep them so is the rest of it. Since order is "Heavens First Law," I ought to secure order in work. Learned some things in scripture this eve.

October 6, 1887 – Thursday

Sun arose & went under a cloud. Then it began to rain, and kept it up till 10 and cleared away. Directors met & put up the new stove. It is just right. Stayed after school a while. Warm tonight. Mrs. Banner has gone to sit

up with the sick. I do not like to stay here this way. It is after 9 P.M. My friend Byron advised me to always go to bed at 9, very good advice, and I wish I could follow it. Reviewed some in Algebra & examined my new Cyclopedias. They are splendid but they cost lots. Peck brought my mail.

October 7, 1887 – Friday

Supt. Shawhan drove by here but did not call at school. Too bad! This week's work has not been hard at all. I clear nearly \$10 per week and have good board. Quite warm and looks hazy. I am tired tonight. Took a nap before supper and then visited down stairs till 8:30. I am glad that tomorrow is Sat. for I can do just as I please. I wonder if I can go home Thanksgiving. Guess I can. Got to studying over mother's condition this eve and wept as I often have about her. I pray that she may not go blind. I will go crazy if she does. God forbid.

October 8, 1887 – Saturday

Very warm weather. I studied some, wrote some, trimmed a hat, made out my register and S. S. lesson, rec'd some of my time. The singers met at the church to practice but I did not go. Ella McDowell was up today but I was up stairs in my room all day. Ought to have taken a walk this eve for my head aches a little. Nellie Banner brought me a boquet (sic) to help decorate the school room. Swede Frank went to Champaign. I wanted to send for a money order of \$32.25 but he is a stranger & a foreigner and I did not trust him.

October 9, 1887 – Sunday

Did not sleep well. Guess I was sick. When I got up it was nearly 7 o'clock and was raining. Studied the S. S. lesson. After dinner it ceased raining and we went to the Chapel. About 2 dozen there. Wore my dregs of wine dress & school hat. Talked to Mrs. Sale. The children are guessing words by giving words by going the 1st & last letters. Earnest (sic) is going to read a little now. Mr. & Mrs. Banner & I are studying the bible together. I am happier tonight than usual for a gloomy day. Raining at 8:30.

October 10, 1887 – Monday

Mary was to start to Kansas today. Would like so well to know if she went. Mother will be so lonely now if Bettie goes to school. How I wish I could live at home instead of boarding away, to teach. However I am thankful to be able to teach. My side pains me today and there is a boil coming under my arm. I expected some new scholars, but none came. Had coal & matches to build my fire with. Wish I had my organ now. I am lonely.

October 11, 1887 – Tuesday

Kan.[Kansas] excursion. Kept fire all night. Sale's folks had a dinner on the 42 anniversary (sic) of their wedding day. Mrs. Jim Sale called here. So did preacher Wamsley. No, he did not intend to be impolite with me, but he was. This has been a funny day. Rained a few little showers, and now is colder. My room is too cold to write in. Had company at school, little folks. School is O.K. Ernest is nearly sick, poor child.

[Written on the side of the page: Lifted a rock at school.]

October 12, 1887 – Wednesday

We arose early so Mrs. Banner could go to take care of Rillie Shops while her ma went to town to doctor. I helped a little about the work, and went to school early. Lou Mc was late. School very good. They like drawing. Mrs. Sale came in and stayed an hour after supper. I came home nearly night, in time to eat chicken

for supper. Cold & frosty morning. The men are rushed with fall ploughing. Mr. Sale's old folks started on a visit to Ohio. I am content to work if I only can keep well.

October 13, 1887 – Thursday

Rec'd my first letter from home. Mary has gone to Kansas. Bettie goes to school. Mr. Peck brought my mail. A book from Lloyds is the wrong one. I am sick for sure. Have the headache yet. School seemed very dull but of course I was to blame. Sent \$33.25 by Mr. McDowell to buy order at Champaign to finish paying for my cyclopedias. He is a stranger to me. Sent my washing to Johns' to be done. Very few washers around here. Mrs. B. went to Hewerdines' to see the sick. My throat is sore.

October 14, 1887 – Friday

Throat very sore in the night. Am hoarse yet today. Did not eat much supper. Am doctoring with carbolized glicerine. Two weeks of sch.[school] gone and nothing serious yet. Saw Mr. Peck go by but he did not stop. None of my scholars have been absent yet. Nothing very interesting happens here. Mrs. B. offered to let me go to Champaign with them. Guess I will if they go on Sat. The folks have gone to bed and it is only 8 o'clock. October nearly half gone. Is it possible?

October 15, 1887 – Saturday

Very hoarse when I got up but it wore off as evening approached. Beautiful bright day. My room is warm & light from the warm sun. Sitting up in the room cold is what gave me this cold. Mrs. B. wanted to make me some tea for medicine. I cover my cyclopedias today. We all read in them tonight. They have all joked me today to keep up my spirits, forsooth. He went & purchased some apples to eat. Singing at the church. Annie Mc is sick now.

October 16, 1887 – Sunday

Was quite sick in the night. Ate a little breakfast. Studied S. S. lesson, then wrote to the home folks, and then went to bed. Took a nap & felt better. Had fresh meat for dinner. Went up to the church & heard a good sermon and a good S. S. lesson. Found a good old grandma there. Could not sing but we had an organist. Was introduced to several. The minister knows us all about. Wish I could be at home a while. A Mr. Smith was here at dinner time.

October 17, 1887 - Monday

Am very grateful today for refreshed health & strength. Went to bed at 6:30 last night & did not get up till after 5 this morn. Did not have any new pupils & now have 2 absent marks. Mrs. Johns sent my washing back. Not extra good work. Weather a little hazy. Have not been studying any today but this eve have been looking up some topics in the cyclopedia. They contain too much information for my feeble mind. However, I will digest a little at a time. Folks gone to bed. 8 P.M.

October 18, 1887 - Tuesday

Mr. Banner's team ran away & upset the wagon, but he jumped off. Came in late to supper. Ernest has gone to stay all nigh with his brother whom he has not seen for a year. Came home from school after sundown. Am teaching drawing. They like it so well. Friday is examination day. I think of going to Champaign next Sat. Helped churn a while. Looked for some mail, but rec'd none. Mr. Dailey is sick.

[Written on the side: Pencil work retraced.]

October 19, 1887 - Wednesday

Beautiful day but cool. Went to school early & came home late. Nothing of note took place. I took a walk in the warm sun before my scholars came. My cold is on my lungs now. I will be glad when it gets better. Have been reading up about Confucius & his country, China. Am studying Algebra. If I could go back to college next year it would pay me to finish Alg. at home. Heard that Ella Chenoweth is on her road back to Weldon. This writing is bad.

October 20, 1887 - Thursday

Feel better today. Rained some this morn & then turned cooler. One died of typhoid fever and another took sick today. It is becoming alarming now. We are to have a new slate blackboard to cost \$25. My stove was some bother to me, but it keeps fire well. Read some splendid writing this eve. I can not write well with my gold pen. If this part of my diary is ever read I'm sure it will be dry. No news or important facts. Easy school work for a while, thank heaven for that.

October 21, 1887 - Friday

Coldest day this fall. Wore my heavy wrap. Wind blew hard but has calmed now and the moon shines at 8:30. Mrs. Jackson came up to call on me & spent the evening. She is very pleasant. Had a card from Mary at Emporia, Kan.[Kansas]. She made the trip all right. The boys are well. Had a rec't from Bosworth for book. Think I ought to hear from home. Have been here 3 wks. Had examination at school. They did well. Must get up early to go to Champaign.

October 22, 1887 - Saturday

Went to Champaign with Banners in the hack. Sun shone a while & then it snowed some for the first this year. How beautiful it looked, autumn leaves & snow falling together. I enjoyed the trip, though coming home it rained on us. Bought a short light plaid wrap & bought a table spread for home. Am not very tired. Met Din's wife. She helped me some. Yes maybe I will rent an organ but it may not pay me. Met Willie Jackson. They say he is a good boy. Well he has a good father and mother. Cold in here. 9 o'clock.

October 23, 1887 - Sunday

Raining when we got up. Blustery day. Went to S. S. but there were only 19 there. Was invited to teach a class but went into Mrs. Deck's class. Did not like her instruction. Not much gospel in it. I like Mrs. Jim Sale. Have just written to mother and Bettie. Sang some with the children. Have been reading Talmage's sermons. He speaks of grantmen[?] & women who have been ruined by reading low literature. I am not doing enough reading. Next year I think I will not keep a diary and this time can be spent in reading but this work is not lost.

October 24, 1887 - Monday

A strange Mr. Moffet is here. He is a stock man. Corrected my ex.[examination] papers. Mr. Peck called at noon. Brighter day than yesterday. Have heard nothing but talk on hogs & cattle since supper. Guess I better wind my saxony yarn and begin my mittens. This is a greasy pencil. Sent my letter to ma by a black board man. Children have retired. I am worried about Minnie. She does not do just what her parents think. Go to bed early.

October 25, 1887 - Tuesday

Have borrowed a pen tonight. Talking of sleeping down stairs. Coolest day yet but not cold. Charlie & Lena were both real cold when they got to school. Studied some at school and came home at dark. Have been reading of the Sahara Desert. Mrs. Sale is sick. Folks are going to Fisher in the morn. Begun to crochet some mittens out of Saxony yarn. My cough still bothers some. I look for a letter from home. 2 months from today is Christmas. Yes, I'll go home then.

October 26, 1887 – Wednesday

Felt terribly out of fix all A.M. disheartened. At noon rec'd a letter from pa & Bettie, both of which had bad news. Poor Miss Given! Is consumption her fate? I must write to her. Mr. Swim was smothered by gas in a well near home and now his wife is nearly crazy. After hearing this I felt no better. Heard tonight that Mr. Dailey, the Fisher teacher, died this morn. Mrs. Sale is very sick. Had the fewest pupils that I have had. A deaf man was here today. Such pity. Better write a letter home now. Postal I mean. 9:10. Others in bed.

October 27, 1887 – Thursday

Wrote to Miss Given today and tonight helped Mrs. Banner tie a comfort. It took us an hour. She made one today. Did not feel well this morn. Suffered from nervousness, something unusual for me. I guess the bad news yesterday was the cause. This has been most a beautiful bright day but drear winter will soon be here. I will appreciate the nice days now while they last. Mr. Banner went to Champaign for coal. Did not get it. Things are not quiet on the Potomac. Too bad Family broils.

October 28, 1887 – Friday

At dark tonight Clara Sale came over to get Mrs. B. to sit up with her mother. The minister stopped to call on the sick. I went to bed after 9. Sat up to knit, but I spent the time mostly in thinking. Have thought so much of the White-Winged Messenger." No matter when he comes if I am prepared. Mr. Dailey was taken past the school-house to be laid away in the "silent city of rest." He died far from home. Came very near having to punish some for the first. (Bright night.)

October 29, 1887 – Saturday

Did little odd jobs till after eleven. Then Lloyd's agent brought out an organ which I expect to rent. Paid \$1.50 down. Agreed to rent at \$1.00 per mo. Practiced some but do not feel much like singing. Guess I am not well. The man took dinner here & we sat down to eat and Mr. Moffet came in to stay over Sun. So he is here tonight. Lena & her baby brother spent the day here, and oh! how noisy. It snowed some and is very chilly tonight. It seems like 2 wks. since last Sat. I hear some Slang.

October 30, 1887 – Sunday

Practiced some and enjoyed it. Sang some for the folks. Mr. Moffet says he knows Wilber. Went to S. S. Mr. Frazier taught my class. He is a good teacher. Saw a number of my future scholars. Had a very good sermon. When we got back we found another herder here. He is smart but he looks like a "cowboy." She got warm supper. I had the headache but I sang for the folks. The strangers said to consider them as "home folks." Sang one jolly song & they laughed so much that I then sang a sober one. Went to bed early but oh! the head ache.

October 31, 1887 – Monday

Howard & Hattie started to school. They are very attentive. (?) I have had a slight headache and I cannot write well. Beautiful day. Sorry when the bright autumn days are o'er. But I ought to rejoice to see winter come for I feel better in winter. Mrs. Sale is very sick. Poor Nellie got a whipping tonight because she would not sing.

Mr. M.[Moffet?] told us "Good bye" before he left. Wish I could roam over the country a while. For a long while I have been kept close at school work and will be for 7 months yet if well.

[Written upside down at the top of the page: Dave Coffman buried today.]

NOVEMBER

November 1, 1887 – Tuesday

Sat up till nearly 10 and wrote a letter home. Feel little better than yesterday, but I am lonely. I will not say homesick. I wish for someone to say a confidential word to sometimes. I would trust some one individual, but I find no one worthy of the love which I am capable of bestowing. I can not bear the idea of betrayed confidence or forfeited friendship. Alas! earthly angels sometimes deceive. No wonder I am such a critic in the presence of my friends and yet I ask "Is it right to be over cautious?"

[Written upside down at the top of the page: Began teaching school 7 years ago today.]

November 2, 1887 – Wednesday

Closed my first month of school but have no schedules. Had the headache till after noon. Hattie went up to Hewerdines and found that Sarah is very bad sick. Sent my letter home by Sales' folks to Osman. Do not know that they will get it from the P. O. but it will get to W.[Weldon] tonight. The rest have all gone to bed at 7:30. Has been a smoky looking day. Saw the minister out visiting the sick. Helped Nellie to play some cords on the organ. Mrs. Sale is better.

November 3, 1887 – Thursday

I have felt so well all day. This eve was so pleasant that I wanted to take a walk. So Warm & sunny. Now it is a little cloudy. Begun a new month. I never earned \$50 so easy in my life as I did the month just past. Thank Heaven! My whole life is not hardship. Miss Pusey was here when I came home. She came to sew. She being a stranger prevented my practicing. Anna McDowell was here all day. She is not well yet & had to lie down. School is O.K. All gone to bed here. Read of the wrecked Vermont (out loud).

November 4, 1887 – Friday

Wrote to Johnie & Anise and a postal home. Looked for a letter from home. Disappointed! Mrs. Banner has gone to sit up with Sarah H. She is low with typhoid fever. Six others around here have had it lately. Howard E. says he walks 2¾ miles to school and has been tardy once in 3 winters. He acts like Willie Hodge. Have been reading Tallmage. I have a sketch to send to pa, telling how the apostles were put to death. Only St. John had a natural death. Practiced a little. Miss Pusey is reading and the rest have retired. 8:35.

November 5, 1887 – Saturday

Did various jobs of work and practiced some. Had boiled dinner. Then studied Pedagogy a while. Looking up from the book I saw Ruth Hewerdine coming in a run for Mrs. B. Sarah, poor girl, is worse. Ruth's pleading look aroused my sympathy, when I knew I could do nothing to help her. Mrs. B. & Miss Pusey both went and I was left to get supper. With some help, I did first rate. Had splendid coffee. Am very thankful to know how to cook in an emergency. Had not cooked a morsel nor washed dishes for over a month.

November 6, 1887 - Sunday

Washed the breakfast dishes & cleaned up the upstairs for Mrs. Banner. Wrote a letter to Edna last night & this morn. After dinner, wore my gray dress to S. S. Had a good lesson. Then we had a prayer meeting. Every body prayed for the sick. I think more is wrought by prayer than this world dreams but it bothers me to pray in public. Have the headache a little. Practiced a song I heard at S. S. & can play it. Ernest wanted to be excused. Go to bed early, as Mrs. B. is gone.

November 7, 1887 - Monday

Copied a song in a few minutes. They are going to wash my collars. I made my bed & washed the dishes. Mrs. B. sat up with Sarah H. from 6 P.M. till 4 this morn. & is washing today. The children came with no wraps today, and we had the windows open some but kept fire. Am writing to Bettie tonight. Minnie is sick tonight. My watch needs half soling[?], according to "Mark Twain." It gained 5 min. today. Howard whittled shavings today. Have studied West Point Academy & Dred Scott Case.

November 8, 1887 – Tuesday

This is mother's birthday. Though growing old in years, she can not get old to me. Finished a letter to Bettie. Mr. Banner is giving us some music. I just played Cedar Brook Waltz, which he likes. They have just been up to Hewerdines and Sarah is no better. Mr. & Mrs. Sale came home from Ohio where they have been visiting. Sent my watch by Jim Sale to Champaign to be expressed to McIntosh & son for repairs. He says "We are here to bear each other's burdens." He took my letter too.

November 9, 1887 – Wednesday

This is Nellie Banner's birthday. Lou McD. Took upper with her. Jim Sale & wife came in and spent the eve. He says he gave the jeweler \$1.00 to send my watch to Clinton. I am out of fix. Do not often get provoked with any one. I have just written to Shawhan. Played some for others to sing but do not like it. Have read of the Anarchists who are to be hanged at Chicago. Some think that Governor Oglesby will pardon them but I do not. Friday is the day. I want to hear from home.

November 10, 1887 – Thursday

I am alone now with the men and the children. Mrs. B. went to sit up with the sick. Rec'd a letter from Edna. She had been home that day. Tomorrow is the day to hang the Anarchists at Chicago. "Will they hang." Is the question now. The whole country is agitated, but "God reigns & the Government at Washington still lives." The foreigners are making threats. Small school yet. Hattie is nearly sick. Miss Pusey went home today. They have sold out.

November 11, 1887 – Friday

Rec'd some papers at noon and a letter from Bettie. Poor Miss Given must die.* She seems so young—so young—to die. Among my young lady associates, she is my favorite, and must I give her up? Yes, if God so wills. Try to forget her? No, though every recollection is a pang, I do not wish to forget so noble a woman. She's been a friend to me. Bettie says that Dave Coffman was buried a week ago Mon. He was my brother in the lodge & a strong healthy looking man. Today I wrote to the Maroa church to contribute \$5.00. They need my aid & the cause is just.

*Miss Given was Mary Given, daughter of Robert and Sarah Given of Nixon Township. She died February 6, 1888, from Consumption. Mary's younger sister, Minnie died in 1888, at age 19, probably from the same disease, and the youngest sister died in 1898 at age 27.

November 12, 1887 – Saturday

4 anarchists were hanged at Chicago at 12:2 yesterday. Two were sentenced [to] life imprisonment, one had already committed suicide. I see I have read too much about it, but the whole U. S. is interested. Knit some lace today for my sleeves & knit some on my mittens. Beautiful day & wished I could have been out. Read of destructive fires in Southern Ill. What prevents rain? The wells are about all to fail—springs & streams are going dry. Stock is suffering & folks are hauling water for miles. Some are buying it. But in some way or other The Lord will provide.

[Written upside down at the top of the page: Rec'd word from McIntosh.]

November 13, 1887 – Sunday

Had the headache till noon. Took quinine. Wrote to Mrs. Daugherty. After dinner we went to church & S. S. Mr. Sale was my teacher. Good sermon but I do not like to hear of future punishment, for all who are not “born again.” Most of my nearest & dearest friends are still unconverted. They think it is so hard to live a Christian life. Mr. Muns is taking Daley's [Dailey's] place in the school at Fisher. I expect some new scholars tomorrow. Warm today & windy. Had almost a dust storm. Learned to play 2 songs today. Nellie had another sulk.

November 14, 1887 – Monday

Night 10 o'clock. The folks are at Mr. Sale's. She is reported dying but we hope they were mistaken. I can see a light in her room from here. I have been reading of the funeral of the anarchists but I cannot believe that they were martyrs. Bold statements have been made that anarchy is not at an end. Foreigners are loud in their threats against U. S. laws. Made out a schedule since dark and read up the subject Louisiana and knit some. Emery & Clarence started to school today.

November 15, 1887 – Tuesday

Mrs. Sale appears to be better. Sarah H. is worse. Fannie Sayers is here to stay all night. She is real modest & good. First person up here that suits me both in looks & actions. But I am hard to please. She played a number of songs and we sang. This is the warmest day I ever saw for this time of the year. Kept fire but had windows & doors open. Am finishing up my Saxony mittens. Heard today that I am 35 or 40 yrs. old. Well that is not I. He made a mistake in the woman. 9 o'clock. Rest in bed.

November 16, 1887 – Wednesday

Had a letter from Bettie and one from Eddie & one from Shawhan. Florence Heskett is back on a visit. She used to be a fast friend of mine but when she got married that settled it. Eddie asks about my going to Cal.[California] next summer but while I have a home I guess I will stay near it. Pa is going to have a diamond drill well. They want me to come home Thanksgiving and I tell you I want to go, but I am working for the public & maybe cannot go. I will see tomorrow. My lungs seem choked with this mist of smoke which cleared off after M. Rest are in bed.

November 17, 1887 – Thursday

Sent to Peck to see if he would permit me to go home Thursday. If he don't he may have a “Peck” of trouble. Sick neighbors are still sick. Mr. Banner says he does not blame me for wanting to go home, for so much sickness makes it very lonely here. This has been a better day than yesterday. Have read a story of blighted hopes. Shall I ask anyone to tell me what that is? “Flitting, flitting away, All that we cherish most dear, There's nothing on earth that will stay, Roses must die with the year.”

November 18, 1887 – Friday

Hitch racks put up today at the church. My washing came today done up real nicely. Peck & Jackson says I may take Fri. out of school. So I expect to send word to the folks to meet me at Weldon Thu. and we will have a family reunion on Friday. It will soon be a year since we were all there and then it made me sick the next day. Warm today. I wore my silk basque & gray skirts. Kept three girls in to advise with them. Ate but little supper and go to bed early. Usually sit up later than the rest. Could not play well.

November 19, 1887 – Saturday

Remarkably blustery day. Snowed some & blowed all the rest of the day. Colder this eve. No one on the roads but the Dr. who came to Mr. Sale's. She is suffering all that mortal can bear but they seem a little encouraged now and think she possibly can live. Begun some black lace. Mrs. B. made a pair of mittens for Ernest. She has gone now to sit up with the sick. I told her I would get breakfast even if it is cold in the summer kitchen. We still live in the dining room, but it is any thing but pleasant today. Have been nearly sick. Dark at 5 P.M. 6 P.M. now.

November 20, 1887 – Sunday

We got up late and just had started breakfast when Mr. Sale hurried in, and said that Lizzie was dead. The folks had come home at 2 o'clock & thought her better and sure enough she was soon better, for she had lived a Christian life and her death was an entrance to Heaven. The day has seemed so long to me. Did not go to S. S. Have a sore throat. Oscar took dinner here. Mr. B. went to Mohomet [Mahomet]. Sarah H. is very low but there is a final home where sickness never enters. Am going to put a hot iron to my feet tonight for it is cold.

November 21, 1887 – Monday

Was requested to teach except during the funeral hour. Of course the school did but little good. Had 2 new pupils. Willie seems more polite than his chum. The other is an Oglesby. It was cold till noon, after which it moderated. My throat is so sore. I can not sing well. My eyes pain me so much. It is such smoky weather. I guess that is the cause. Saw Mrs. Peck & Mellie. Have heard nothing from my watch. My clock serves as time piece. My head aches. The Poet Preacher is to lecture here Wed. eve.

November 22, 1887 – Tuesday

Am about sick today. Throat still sore. Rec'd the ex.[examination] questions for the school & think I will take them Wed. Mrs. B. washed and put down carpet. Says she has not sat down today. I practiced some this eve but did not feel like it. Wish I could go home tomorrow instead of next day. Folks have gone to bed at 7:30. Lena & Howard were at school, poor mother less children! Lena wept in time of school. Though only 7 years old, she seems to know that her mother's death is a great loss to her. Ah! a mother lost in childhood grieves the soul from day to day.

[Written upside down at the top of the page: Charley E. started in school.]

November 23, 1887 – Wednesday

My diary will soon be filled and I will not get another I guess. It is a novelty but to fill it is a task which I have imposed upon myself. It takes 5 or 10 minutes every day. It has often been a pleasure, but so much of it has been written when I was tired or sick. Took the examination work at school but it was a very dark to write. I

had the headache. At night got ready to hear the Poet Preacher but he did not come. We then went to Mr. Jackson's to spend the eve. Ollie is sick. It was misting rain when we came home at 9.

November 24, 1887 - Thursday

At home tonight! Started from Mr. Banner's at 8:30 A.M. and got here about 4 P.M. Pa, Mary & Lewis met me at town. It seems, since I came, that I have been gone but two wks. instead of 8. Every thing is the same. Did not feel well on the road but thought I would find rest here. Rest at home is emblematic of "Sweet rest in Heaven," about which we sing. This is Thanksgiving and I wonder if every body finds something to be thankful for. Pa has heard some bad news but he takes it very deliberately for him. "All's well that ends well."

November 25, 1887 - Friday

Sent to McIntosh by Gene Lowe for my watch but he wrote back saying he had not rec'd it. What if it is lost? Had a reunion at home today, all of the children came but one, though some did not get here till after 12. I was glad to see all, and they seemed to enjoy it. Had a very nice dinner. Lillie baked the turkey. All went home before dark and then, having the sick headache, I went to lie down. "All pleasures have their drawbacks." Got up with the headache in the morning. Pa thought he could take me to see Miss Given but it was raining this morn. & this eve I was sick.

November 26, 1887 - Saturday

Raining when I got up and we went to the train in the rain. Katie McConkey came up to the train to see me. Saw Mrs. Widney, too. Waited at Lodge till train time and then found it was 1 hr. late but it got to Howard just in time to meet the train. Mr. B. met me at the depot. Came home in the rain but did not get wet. They have moved the cook stove & base-burner. The Banner cousins are here on a visit. Saw some Monticello ladies at Lodge. Feel much better now than yesterday and am back ready for work next Monday.

November 27, 1887 - Sunday

Cold and snowy. Wind blew very hard in the night. The organ has gone off into the parlor on a visit and it is cool in there. Did not go to church or S. S. and only a few others went. Heard that Lena & Ollie both have typhoid fever. My school was small enough already. Mrs. Banner is nearly sick and is very petulant. Today would not have been so dreary if I had gone to S. S. Played some this eve. Have written to J. Riley about my watch. The cousins did not go home today.

November 28, 1887 - Monday

Anna Mc & Asa S. and George C. started to school this morn. Got up late and went to school at 8, found things in a woeful plight. They had put up slate blackboard and left the pine and mortar on the floor, but I got a good fire and most of the dirt out before 9 A.M. Mr. Sale was here for supper. He is sad since she died. His children must be separated. Have just ordered the Practical Teach & Treasure Trove for 1 yr. Cold & bright now. Hattie is sick.

November 29, 1887 - Tuesday

Have a nice school now. They are so orderly. What a time I was having last year, compared with this. The scholars were very impolite at times. Did not get home till dark last night or tonight. Cold & bright now, since the rain. All the folks are in bed. It is 9:25 P.M. Talk of beginning a class in Algebra. Wish I could take phys. too. The new board is a benefit to the whole school but it cost over \$30.00. Altie Sale is sick. Typhoid is bad every where this year.

November 30, 1887 – Wednesday

I guess I am a little blue tonight, for I can not do anything to entertain myself. Thankful am I that I am well and my school is not hard to teach. Miss Ophelia Pusey called to see me about going to Rantoul Fri. to teachers' meeting. Sorry I cannot go. Mr. Muns is going with them from Fisher. But my work is in routine with but little change. Nothing of note to fill a diary. Have had no word from home. Must correct ex.[examination] papers Sat. The sick are no better.

DECEMBER

December 1, 1887 – Thursday

Only one more mo. to fill out in my diary. Any one who reads this book will know nearly my life history for a school teacher's life is almost a constant repetition. Tonight I am making out schedule for the second month. This says \$102.00 dollars is due. Have paid my board for 2 months. Mr. Sale was in this morn a while. An old man came to school at noon to ask about some books. I at first thought it was a tramp, but not so. Have not heard from home but want to. The rest are in bed at 9 o'clock P.M.

December 2, 1887 – Friday

Misting rain today and is much warmer & muddy. Mr. Shops offered to let me ride home but I was not ready. His girl was at school all day. I had an invitation to play ball but I have not played any here yet. I think well of my scholars here, and shall try to do all in my power for a good influence over them. Am homesick to go back to the college tonight. Rec'd a catalogue & card from Prof. Janhonn. He was good to me at school. I want to graduate there but the future is unknown.

December 3, 1887 – Saturday

Corrected my examination papers. With some other work it took till noon. Copious showers of rain have fallen today at short intervals. It is now pouring down. Cistern nearly full, and much water on the ground. People should not complain if it rains hard for a week. So long & severe drouth [drought] was never before known here. # Just before dark a strange man came. It proved to be Mrs. B.'s brother from Ohio who had just arrived for a visit. After noon I made a lining for my jersey. Sun sets 4:33.

December 4, 1887 – Sunday

Some colder & blustery. Ora Smith was here at dinner. Then Nellie & I went to S. S. Mr. Frazier taught my class. Had an interesting lesson. Parable of the Sower. Question? Once a Christian always a Christian. This has been a long day. Mrs. B. has gone to sit up with Lena. This is the only family near here that has escaped having typhoid fever. No telling how much longer we will keep up. Ollie is doing very well, but she is getting real weak. Mr. Parsons is very quiet. May be he is homesick.

December 5, 1887 – Monday

Wrote a short letter to mother. Could not write well in the room with so many. Ora S. spent the eve and such a talker! The folks went to Fisher. I studied some in the parlor, till the folks retired then in the sitting room. Read that the central examination will be Jan. 18 at Prairie College. 3 new scholars started today. Poor little ignorant things. They made some amusement. Had bank dis. in interest. Have good map work in history. War of Rebellion.

December 6, 1887 – Tuesday

Lena Sale is worse. Mr. Peck called at school before 9 A.M. Mr. Frazier called on business. Mr. B. has gone to Champaign to stay till Thu. He promised to see about my watch. Practiced some tonight. Did not sleep well last night till midnight but got along well today. Must go to bed early. Now 8:45. Roads muddy. Floor getting dirty. Wore my jersey & gray skirts. Can not think well tonight. Am lonely in the presence of company. Mary says that is the blues but I say “no.”

December 7, 1887 – Wednesday

Rec'd my watch at last, from Z. Riley, who says he did not know I wanted it sent to Clinton. Sent for a package of envelopes. It will be according to how often I write how long they last. Good history lesson & other good lessons. Lena is very bad. Studied some in the parlor. Took some quinine. Have not heard from home yet. My school work is easy. I still build my own fires and sweep. Get home at dark. Sun sets at 4:32.

December 8, 1887 – Thursday

Warm day. Mr. Parsons went to Champaign for Mr. B. They got home before I did. Sent for some printers paper which I like real well. One poor scholar cried today when I talked to him. Read story of Manassas Junction battle. Finished the ex.[examination] book with a binding and want to take it to school for the scholars. Anna Mc did not come today. Did not sleep well last night. Today is mother's birthday.

[*Judy's note:* She previously said her mother's birthday was November 8th! She doesn't know her own mother's birth date?]

December 9, 1887 – Friday

Was very near raining today. Roads getting bad. Stella brought my clothes but did not stay. Has been absent all wk. Only a few girls there & the boys not so good as usual. Georgie did not like the kerchief flirt. Mr. B. rec'd a scarf for birthday. Came home in the mud at dark. Had a letter from pa who had just got home from his trial trip. Mary wrote too. She says he was jubilant. Well, he has learned a lesson. Sent \$1.00 to Mary to be sent to grandma G. for a Christmas present. Had Partial Payments in Arith.[Arithmetic].

December 10, 1887 – Saturday

Am nearly sick, I believe. Did not rest well. Their stove smoked & she got her Irish up, trying to get breakfast. I lacked but little of hearing my funeral preached. It is bad indeed to mar the happiness of a whole day by a few unwise expressions. Some people find it very hard to control their temper and 'tis only by the grace of God that I can control mine. Sent a letter to pa & Mary. Mr. B. brought me some toilet soap. Finished my black lace & knit a small (?) tidy, after cleaning up the room up stairs. Misty muddy day. McDowell called.

December 11, 1887 – Sunday

First time I have eaten 8 o'clock breakfast for a long time. Did not feel hungry but soon took some quinine & then ate some more. Took a bath. Ate dinner & then went to S. S. Only a few out, but had an interesting lesson about the “wheat & the tares.” Lena is resting better. Saw the Dr. tonight. Has snowed a little, but we have not had any real winter weather. It is very muddy. I rode home with Mr. Jackson's. Am getting ready to write to Emma Goble. 6 P.M. Sun. eve.

[*Judy's note:* Who was Emma Goble?]

December 12, 1887 – Monday

Found the shutters open & one window open at school. Had a little good advice, which I did not need, tonight. It is so easy for some people to advise. Willie J. says he will build my fires & begin in the morning but I guess I'll try the sweeping a while longer. Rec'd a letter from Winnie & Emma. Dilbert Coffman is dead they say. Have felt better today than for a week but am a little out of fix just now, but anger does not come often to me nor stay long. Had a note from Miss Pusey.

December 13, 1887 – Tuesday

Mrs. H. is quite sick. Lena still very sick. Had a long pleasant twilight after a sunny day but I swept & then walked home through the mud but I enjoyed it anyway. Howard was late for school yesterday morn for the first. I feel for once like wishing I could cast off this weight of responsibility & go home to rest. There I could be a little more free than a caged bird, but not here. But I must have my mind employed to be happy, even though it brings care & worry. Finished my lace. Go to bed last as usual.

December 14, 1887 – Wednesday

Mrs. Banner is pleasant again tonight. Wonder why she is not always so. She has not spoken many kind words at home since last Sat. morn. "Each one of us owns to some failing, Though some may have more than the rest, But there's no good in needlessly railing, 'Gainst those who are striving their best." Then say a kind word when you can. Talk of going on horse-back to Teachers' meeting Sat. Have gained some victories in mathematics. Mr. Jackson's went to a Golden Wedding.

December 15, 1887 – Thursday

Wrote a card to ma before daylight. This our coldest morn but it was not bad. Willie was absent, being nearly sick. Some body spoke of making soup in the washpan at noon. Read two stories & several items & worked some examples, read up Gettysburg & ate some popcorn since supper. It is surprisingly near Christmas. How time flies! Especially when one is at work from daylight to dark. Mr. B. is at Champaign tonight. I want to put the lace on my skirt now. 8:25 and the rest in bed.

December 16, 1887 – Friday

Am glad this is Fri. eve for I do not feel first rate. My school was feeling too funny. Their minds were not all on study. Poor little Lena is very low. No one thinks she will live. She has not spoken for over a week, and now she can hardly move. I wish I could do something for her but dare not go to see her without running a risk. I felt so sad. I went off in the parlor by myself & learned to play a new piece of church music. I want to hear from home so bad. Am going to bed early 8:15.

December 17, 1887 – Saturday

This has been a very pretty day. Had a letter from Mrs. Daugherty. She want me to come over Christmas. Showed the folks a turtle's lung tonight. Wrote a letter to George this morn. Dreamed of him last night. Trimmed my jersey in plush and now I like it better. Mended some school clothes. Read Shawhan's letter in a paper that Willie Jackson brought for me. Singers are just going home from church. Very noisy for the sick neighbor's benefit. Have two week longer to fill in my diary. Then I will have a full yr's record of my actions.

December 18, 1887 – Sunday

I feel lonely today. Wish I could see some of my friends. "I'm thinking tonight of a Better Land, where shadows never come." The world seems dark & dreary when parted from those that we love. When I am at work I do not long so for the society of friends. It is well that I have to work. Our sick neighbor is worse. Little Lena can't recover, unless Jesus intercedes. She can not be restored by medicine the Dr. says. Clara S. is sick now. We had a good little S. School. Mr. Greenwalt sup't. I tried the tone of the church organ. My head aches a little. Go to bed at 7:40.

December 19, 1887 – Monday

Have felt better today than yesterday. Arose early for the family to wash. Am writing this while somebody is watching me from over in the corner. Well I'll bear watching. Mr. & Mrs. B. have gone to sit up with Lena. Had to chastise some in school. Do not like the business. Asa was absent for the first. Stella absent also. Have not heard from the home folk. Think they better write real quick. Clarence was nearly sick at school. Am expecting to take a vacation next week but I am not homesick yet. Warm day.

December 20, 1887 – Tuesday

The Death Angel came at 7 o'clock this morning and bore away little Lena as its victim. Now the poor little sufferer has found sweet rest which she has not known on earth for several weeks. Her mother died one month ago today at the same hr.[hour]. It rained all day till 4:30 then turned to snow. It is colder and the wind is high. It seems to be wailing for my lost pupil. "Wail on O wind, Sing me a coarse rough song, for there are other sounds tonight that I would fain not hear." Wrote home today saying that I'll be there Sat.

December 21, 1887 – Wednesday

Terrible blustery & cold. Got up later than usual. I ate breakfast & went to school. Wanted to see Lena once more, but could not. I have seen for the last time on earth. Mr. B. went to Fisher [and] brought me a letter from Bettie & one from Johnie. She has been having toothache. I feel some better now. He did not write much. Anise had the headache. It took most of my time today carrying coal. Mrs. Hewardine has typhoid fever. I repaired my clock. My watch stopped last night. Windows are frosted for the first this year. 8:55.

December 22, 1887 – Thursday

Learned something in Comp. Int. today. Had a new scholar, Charley E. He does not look like Howard. Had some good outline work in history map work I mean. Diagrammed some sentences in grammar. Am getting ready to go home Sat. Want to borrow a valise. Have been talking Masonry with Mr. Parsons & the rest. He is a droll fellow. It is clear and cold. The moon shines very bright tonight. I felt very tired at 5 but now I feel rested at 8:30. All gone to bed.

December 23, 1887 – Friday

I feel free tonight for a week holidays. Expect to be at home tomorrow eve this time. Took examinations. Some did well. Stella brought my clothes. Ernest went to Jackson's & got their valise for me. I packed my clothes tonight. Read that McAlister P.M. at Champaign has resigned. He has held that office 30 yrs. and missed only 8 das.[days]. Faithful servant he. Mr. Banner offered to cash my check for \$102. Have just rec'd \$80 of it. Weather a little warmer but the roads are rough. Am to go to Fisher in the morn. Practiced a little in the cold parlor.

December 24, 1887 - Saturday

Got up early and prepared to go home. Very rough ride to Fisher. Received \$22 from Mr. B. Went from Howard to Mansfield on a freight. Ate dinner at the latter place and then went on the passenger to Lodge. Train a little late and some drunkenness. Mr. Hill and wife were on the train and he carried my valise out of the train. Pa met me at the train. He received a cabinet from Johnathan G. Saw lots of friends in W.[Weldon]. Did not stay for the Christmas tree. Got home at sunset. Found a welcome, and a place for rest.

December 25, 1887 - Sunday

Quiet Christmas morn. "Peace on earth and good will to men." Pa, Ma, Bettie and I ate dinner alone, then Arch came. Bettie has a present of a scrapbook. Mary and Lewis went to Emma's. Roads are very rough. Only a little travel. Comparing my life with what it was last Christmas, I see but little change. I have a great deal to be thankful for, the same as then. I have never known but one real sorrow, but even in the brightness of May that cloud overshadows me. My hopes and my wishes are far far away but my lips are closed against complaint. God so willed.

[*Note from Judy:* Odd that Rebecca had so much money but said nothing of buying Christmas presents for her family. Was exchanging gifts not a tradition then? It sounds like Bettie may have gotten the scrapbook from Arch (her future husband), but no other gifts are mentioned.]

December 26, 1887 - Monday

Bettie is 19 years old today. She went to sch.[school]. Pa went to town and Mother and I were here alone. Mary and L. came home in the eve. I got supper. We looked for company to spend the eve but they did not come. I helped Bettie and Arch work some problems. My throat is sore and my cold makes my head feel bad. Could not sing well. Did not sleep well. Got up at 4 A.M. and built up the fire to doctor my throat. One year ago now I was at home making my green dress. Then I was boarding at Mr. Nixon's. Wish I could stay at home all the time but I have to earn \$50 every chance I get.

[*Note from Judy:* Arch and Bettie waited another eight years before they married. Seems strange.]

December 27, 1887 - Tuesday

Misting a little and is quite warm. I am thinking of buying some town lots. {?} Dolph Cobb and Willie and Charlie Hodge were here to spend the eve. Pa helped drive hogs to town. One 500 lb. hog died. Practiced some but can not sing much on account of sore throat. Tonight I got supper with some help. First day for months that I have felt that I was idle. Snowing and blowing some now. Pa talked of going to Clinton in the morning. Some are saying that those who have nothing else to do can keep a diary. This has been a very busy year for me and I have kept my diary.

December 28, 1887 - Wednesday

Very cold and windy. 7 degrees below zero. Lewis stayed from school. The rest wrapped and went. Bettie seems to be doing good school work. Mary is remodeling her old coat. Would like to hear from my sick pupils at Wesley Chapel. Hope to do good work when vacation is over. This is such a change for me. There I am under a weight of responsibility. Am enjoying this home visit. Mother is working on crazy patch-work. Am thankful she can yet see to work, even on coarse work. It is bright and clear moonlight tonight.

December 29, 1887 - Thursday

Did not rest very well as it was very cold. My throat is nearly well. Looked for Emma today but was disappointed. Have not seen any of the married children yet. Talk of going to see Miss Given tomorrow. Bettie

has gone to a rainbow festival with Kate and Jake. I have studied some, practiced some and worked some. Feel almost lost out of school. How thankful I am to have a useful occupation and for the health to do the work. Pa went to Clinton on the freight and got home at 4 o'clock. Sarah H. returned from Bloomington. Am warming my sleeping room.

December 30, 1887 - Friday

Have almost decided to go to College next year, and finish the course. I desire to be useful in this world and to do so takes thorough preparation, such as I have been unable to obtain. Would like to see more of my friends before I go back into school. Johnie came here for dinner. Wanted to go to see Miss Given but it is very snowy and is blowing and I reluctantly gave it up. This is emblematic of the "storms of life" but in that, Hope cheers us on. Behind the clouds the sun is still shining, and we have our share of sunshine. I still find consolation in little things. Jake, Kate and Miss H. came and spent the evening.

December 31, 1887 - Saturday

This is the last day of the dear old year 1887. I started from home at 8:15 and took the train for Fisher, where I must go on with my school work. Have had a rest and a good home visit. It is icy now and misty. Sent \$1.80 for 2 school papers, and on the train bought a book "The Wonders of Prayer," \$1.10. Now it has been a year since I began this diary. I have had lots of sunshine with a few shadows. Have been successful in my business. I can write on this page as on the 1st "I have good health, plenty of friends and God is on my side, so I am content." I regret nothing that I have done, but much that I might have done. If my life closes as peacefully as this year, I shall be satisfied. "All's well that ends well." Good bye, Diary.