



Nebraska History posts materials online for your personal use. Please remember that the contents of *Nebraska History* are copyrighted by the Nebraska State Historical Society (except for materials credited to other institutions). The NSHS retains its copyrights even to materials it posts on the web.

For permission to re-use materials or for photo ordering information, please see:

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/magazine/permission.htm>

Nebraska State Historical Society members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* and four issues of *Nebraska History News* annually. For membership information, see:

<http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/members/index.htm>

Article Title: Diary of Dr. Joseph A Paxson, Physician to the Winnebago Indians, 1869-1870
(Part I)

Full Citation: James L Sellers, ed., "Diary of Dr. Joseph A Paxson, Physician to the Winnebago Indians, 1869-1870 (Part I), *Nebraska History* 27 (1946): 143-204

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1946JAPaxsonONE.pdf>

Date: 6/15/2017

Article Summary: Dr. Paxson's diary records his work at the Winnebago Agency and on Omaha reservations. He describes the beauty of the scenery and comments on his social life in northeast Nebraska. The article includes an introductory note by Frederick L Paxson, the diarist's son.

Editor's Note: Wartime paper shortages led the Society to publish this issue on paper of inferior quality that has since darkened. The scan below accurately shows the color of that paper.

See also Part II of Paxson's diary:

<http://nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1946JAPaxsonTWO.pdf>

Scroll Down for complete article.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Joseph A Paxson, Howard White, George Wilkinson, E S Shortledge, Miss E G Hancock, Bradfield Porter, Sidney Averill, Joshua Gilpin, Mrs Cheney, Benjamin Hallowell, Benjamin Grosvenor, Dr Savery, S M Janney, Edward Painter, Finn & Slicer [beef contractors]

Nebraska Place Names: Winnebago Agency, Omaha Agency, Dakota City

Keywords: census, the issue [distribution of food], war dance, medicine dance, Friends [Quakers], eclipse, St Elmo Hotel, mosquitoes, fire

Diary of Dr. Joseph A. Paxson, Physician to the Winnebago Indians, 1869-1870¹

Edited by JAMES L. SELLERS,

With an introductory note by Frederic L. Paxson

(Part I — 1869)

One of the constant themes of American history is the relation between the white men and the Indians. This relation cannot be described by generalization. The relation has consisted in the numerous contacts between the individuals of the two races. The government, with varying degrees of success, has tried to regulate the relation of its white citizens with its Indian wards. An appreciation of this problem can be had only by an examination of much evidence on the subject.

The Diary of Dr. Joseph A. Paxson kept at the Winnebago Agency in the new state of Nebraska, 1869-70, is a most illuminating record of the life of both Indians and whites upon a reservation. Dr. Paxson was young, tireless, honest in his purpose to serve the Indians and the government, a keen observer, a lover of nature and enthusiastic about the beauties of the new country. Dr. Paxson's diary describes his work with the Indians on the Winnebago and, in slight measure, on the Omaha reservations. Many of the activities and problems of the agency staff would be similar on the other Indian reservations. The appreciative descriptions of northeast Nebraska along

¹ To be published in two parts, the second of which will appear in Volume XXVII, Number 4, October-December, 1946.

with the atmospheric and climatic observations are especially interesting to Nebraska readers.

The original Diary of Dr. Paxson is the property of the Wisconsin Historical Society, a gift of Dr. Paxson's son, Professor Frederic Logan Paxson. With the approval of Professor Paxson, a film copy of the Diary was secured for the Nebraska Historical Society. The present printing includes roughly three-fourths of the entire Diary.

Professor Paxson has supplied the following note regarding his father:

"Joseph Armitage Paxson (1842-1888), author of this diary, was born in Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on a farm which had been in the family name since the first arrival of Paxsons in 1682-3. The colonial progenitors, English Quakers, had brought letters of certification from the Upperside Monthly Meeting in England, presenting them to the Monthly Meeting at Middletown (Langhorne) in the province. Many of the descendants who remained in the township kept up their membership in the Society of Friends. The author, rejected for military service in the Civil War, taught country school, and studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania while teaching in the Friends schools in Philadelphia. Receiving his medical degree in 1869, he was available for appointment to the post on the Winnebago Reservation, where he kept the diary. The assignment was in the area which had been allocated to the Society of Friends in President Grant's short-lived Indian policy. After a year on the reservation the author returned to Pennsylvania, took over a country medical practice, moved his family to Philadelphia in 1876, and engaged in business until his death. He took a mild part in Republican politics, joined the Union League and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, had a hand in the liquidation of the Centennial Exposition, and indulged himself in agricultural experiment on a part of the family homestead. His silo was among the earliest in the region, his chicken hatchery aroused his interest, and his apple orchard became a profitable investment for the brother who operated it."

Diary Commencing, July 1st, 1869.

We left Phila.[delphia] on the evening of 7-1-69 in company with Major White,² to assume the duties of Physician, to the Winnebago Indians, in the state of Nebraska. . . .

7-2-69

The morning being very foggy we could not see, the beauties of the mountains. Occasionally we could get a glimpse as the morning sun, broke through the thick fog. Took breakfast in the morning at Pittsburg. Left Pittsburg on the "Pittsburg Fort Wayne & Chicago R.R." Did not stop at many of the stations. The day was quite pleasant, and those towns, that we knew of were particularly noted. Among them "Salem," "New Briton." These town[s] were former homes of some of our Phila.[delphia] friends. But little to note along the country. No mowing or harvesting done yet. Corn not looking as well as at home. Turned to the Bunk about 9 P.M. this evening.

7-3-69

. . . . Took the train on the Chicago & Northwestern R. R. for Omaha at 10:15 A.M. Most beautiful trip across the Prairie of Illinois. Most of the country from Chicago to the Mississippi River is one vast Plain with great Herds of cattle roaming over it. Obtained my first Sight of the great Mississippi about 3 P.M. just as we came to Fulton situated on the east side. The river at this point is very wide covering at this time a great extent of country. The river at this point is spanned with an extension bridge which connects Fulton on the East with Clinton on the West side. At Clinton the wife and some female friends of the Conductor came on the train and formed

² Major Howard White, who took over the duties of agent to the Winnebago Indians at the same time Dr. Paxson became their physician.

quit[e] an addition to our party. Quite a friendship was cultivated, when they found that we were from the East, and bound for the Indian country. They asked many questions about the East, particularly Phil.[adelphia] This party left the train at Cedar Rapids. Quite a heavy fall of rain during the night. At many of the towns along the road, we found the people celebrating the 4th of July. The country through a portion of Iowa seemes [sic] more like a farming district. The farms seem smaller and the country less flat. At the usual time we turned in for the night.

7-4-69

As day light came upon us this morning, we were just entering the country known as the "Bluffs" which separates the Missouri Bottom from the main land. Arrived at Council Bluffs, at 6:15 A.M. this morning. This town is situated on the Western edge of the Bluff and Eastern edge of the Bottom, about 2 miles from the Missouri River. The R.R. extends about one mile across the Bottom, being elevated above the level of the Plain. From the termination of the R.R. to the river we were taken in the Omnibus, to the river when the coach was driven on a genuine Missouri River, Ferry Boat, and taken to the other side. Omaha, like Council Bluffs, is situated some distance from the river. In this country the "Coach" from the depot will take you to any place in town. We being "strangers" hunting shelter selected the best Hotel, the Metropolitan situated Cor. Douglas and 12th, St. After a *little wash* and a *big breakfast*, we started out to see Omaha, and to find S. M. Janney, the Superintendent of Indian affairs. The Superintendent, we found at his office, on Douglas St. above 12th, in the 2nd story of the Academy of Music building. We spent some hours with him, talking about the affairs at the Winnebago Agency, and topics of interest in general. Dined at the Hotel, & then took a walk around the town. By going up Douglas St. (as we did) to a high Bluff, near the "Court House"

formerly the State Capitol, we had a good view of the town. On the South & South west, it is surrounded with high Bluffs, that were formerly covered with timber, but now with bushes. These Bluffs are Separated with deep ravines. On the North & North west is a beautiful open Plain of some miles in extent. In this direction the town must extend, if it ever does, as the Bluffs are too steep, for general building purposes.³ . . . This being the 4th, it was celebrated by the Germans with "Picnic" at their Beer Gardens. Many of the small shops open during the day. It being First-day⁴ we could not see much of the general business of the place. I do not see that great & prosperous future for the city of Omaha, that most Western people do. . . .

7-5-69

Omnibus came in good time to take me to the train. It is the custom in this city for the Omnibus Company to send their coach to all the Hotels, in the morning. Came East from Council Bluffs, to the "Mo. Valley junction" at St John's, where we took the Sioux City & Pacific R.R. for Sioux City, distance 45 miles. The south of this road is directly across an open "Prairie." Now we miss the smiling faces of our Eastern ladies, as there is not a female on the train. Arrived at Sioux City at 11:15 A.M. Took quarters at the St. Elmo Hotel. We soon found that we must remain until morning before continuing our journey, as they were celebrating the 4th. Just above the town, in a grove along the river, the people of the town & surrounding country were assembled, with music & dancing to do honor to the 4th. In company with Major White, I attended this "Picnic" as a curious spectator. It was as "Picnics" usually are, a "mixed thing," but this was a little more mixed. We remained but a short time,

³ Despite the bluffs which the Doctor described, that region has become important for both business and residential development.

⁴ Dr. Paxson, being a Quaker, regularly speaks of the Sabbath as the "First Day," and of the other days as "Second," etc.

and then. Sioux City is Situated on the Missouri River, surrounded on the N. & N.W. & S. S.E by high Bluffs. From one of the Bluffs on the N.W. we could obtain an excellent view of the town, surrounding country & the river. On the N & N.E. the Bluffs separate & form an extensive and fertile plain. To the S. on the Iowa side the vast Plain is bounded by Seargants Bluffs so named because a "Seargent" in the expedition of Lewis & Clark, died and was buried, on its highest point. This expedition visited the country about the year 1806. The town is said to contain 3000 people. We engaged a Mr. Fisher, to drive us on the following morning to the Winnebago Agency, a distance of 22 miles, for the moderate sum of \$12. After tea we visited a few more places about the town, and then mad[e] arrangements for an early start to the agency in the morning.

7-6-69

Late in our start this morning. Did not start until near 8 oclock. Team consisted of two small Indian ponies harnessed to a light Democrat wagon. Crossed the river in a ferry boat, to Covington on the Nebraska side. The ferry boats can make a warf or landing at almost any point, as the bank of the river is cut perpendicular. From Covington our course lay down the Missouri R. over the land known as the Missouri bottom. About 5 miles from Covington we came to the town of "Dakota." This town contains about 300 inhabitants. From here our course lay S.W. across the Plain for 7 miles, when we came to the limit of the bottom, or the Bluffs. From the edge of the Bluffs to the agency a distance of 10 miles, is over the most beautiful & rolling country I have ever seen. We arrived at the agency about 2:30 P.M. and were kindly received by the acting agent Geo. Wilkinson M.D. A good dinner was soon prepared to which we did ample justice. Our first view of the "Indians" was at the corn field. Here I saw for the first time that which I had so often read and seen pictured, the squaw hoeing the corn,

with the "papposse [*sic*] lashed on her back." We saw many of the Indians between the corn field & the agency buildings. After dinner Dr Wilkinson took Major White in his buggy to see some of the doings, of the agency & after their return Capt. C. F Porter, one of the traders, & the subscriber took a little drive, and saw the "breaking" and some of the Indian huts or as their hut or tent is called a "Tepee." At tea we were treated to some wild Nebraska *strawberries* the last of the season. Evening spent in general conversation with those about us.

7-7-69

This morning the Indians came about in numbers to see the New Agent & Medicine Man. We spent the day about the buildings talking to those who came about, & trying to see what was to be done. We are now staying at the farm house. It is a building intended for two families. Quite a heavy shower during the afternoon. Remained indoors and wrote some letters.

7-8-69

Took a ride this morning to see just how the place was situated. All the buildings except the agents house are situated in the valley, along the stage road. The buildings are new, and good, but built of frame. The agents house is situated in a grove on a Bluff out-of-sight of the other buildings. It is a good building, but not well planned, or located, but said to have cost \$14,000. Went down to the Omaha, agency this afternoon to see Major Painter. The distance is about 12 miles. Spent the afternoon & remained all night with his family. He is well fixed, nice house, painted white & looks much like an Eastern home.

7-9-69

Came back from the Omaha agency this morning. Spent the remainder of the day with Dr. Wilkinson, looking about the premises in a general way. We have a daily

"mail" from Omaha to Sioux City. It is carried on a little wagon known in this country as a "Buck Board"

7-10-69

By a notice previously given the tribe the "Census" was taken today. At an early hour this morning, we could see the Indians coming from all directions. The men came riding their ponies and the "squaws" would carry the "pappoose." [*sic*] They would be carried in a basket lashed to the back of a pony. Each would bring all the Indians they would find, so as to have their family large. The larger the family the more they would get on "Issueday." After much delay we commenced then the taking of the "Census" at the mill. We had a large table just inside the mill, and then they were called a chief at a time. The different families of his band would come up & give the name of the head of the family, and the number and sex of those included in Said family. There was much changing from one family to another, and also from Band to Band. They would leave a family or Band for some trifling cause. At last it was fixed in the following way

Chiefs	Band
Little De Corii	163
Samuel King	104
Big Bear	182
Cono-Nutta-Kaw	75
Good Thunder	101
One Horn	86
Little Thunder	76
Grey Wolf	105
Young Prophet	122
Young French	84
Old Laughter	79
Whirling Thunder	100
White Breast	32
Young Rogue	26
Total	<hr/> 1335

Finished the "Census" about 6 P.M. The entire valley Seemed covered with Indians, squaws, Ponies and Red Blankets. They seemed to start for the hills by every road & trail that led from the valley. In an hour they were all gone.

7-11-69 First-day

This has been a very quiet day. Spent almost all the time in writing letters & reading. The Indians remained at their homes all day everything seemed quiet. Been cool all day.

7-12-69

Owing to some change the "Issue" of Beef & Flour which is usually made on 7th day, was postponed until today. The government issues to them 7000 lbs. of beef & 7000 lbs. of Flour, every week. Early in the morning you could see them coming with their bag and pony, by every trail. The cattle some 30 in number were driven in from the "Prairie" and placed in an enclosure. An Indian then takes his place, and shoots them all down. After this they are dragged on the scales and weighed, and then given to the different bands to dress, "that is to skin & chop up." The meat so skinned is thrown in a pile & then weighed out to the different families. The "squaws" usually carry the beef and flour to the "Tepee" packed on their backs, while the men ride along on the pony. While the "Issue" was going on Major Painter, Dr Shortledge and Jos. Painter came from the Omaha agency. Dr Shortledge & Jos. Painter arrived from the East, on the 7th day, Eve. before. They remained until near the middle of the afternoon. After they had gone Major White & I took a ride off to the West a few miles to see the country.

7-13-69

Visited for the first time some sick Indians in their village. Went to the village of Little De Corii, and was

gone all the morning. It is no wonder that they are sick. They are a most filthy, dirty set of people. If left to themselves they will soon become extinct, as the result of natural causes. Attended to a few of them at the office during the afternoon.

7-14-69

Wrote to H. T. Darlington to send me the Buck[s] Co. Intelligencer. Capt. C. T. Porter, took Major White & the subscriber, down to the Omaha agency. Did not return until late in the evening. Went to mud village with Dr. Painter, to see "Yellow Smoke" a chief, who is suffering with a severe & dangerous carbuncle.

7-15-69

This is a most beautiful morning. Quite cool for the time of year. At the suggestion of Dr. Wilkinson, he, Capt. Porter & myself, started for "Dakota." Arrived at the town about 5 P.M. After a good supper we visited the Post Office, Hotel & some of the stores. Was introduced by the Capt. & the Doctor to all their friends, which included almost all the people of Dakota. A "Circus" was just stopping in the place & we all went. Was introduced to some of the female friends during the evening. Met Dr Grant and companion Miss Nellie Bates. This was a gay evening, the circus a grand Hum Bug. All the people from the country for many miles, were in town to see the "show", & eat "Ginger Bread." This was a good example of a Western Audience. They brought with them all the children & dogs which were not a few. Heavy rain during the evening.

7-16-69

Instead of returning to Winnebago this morning, we went to Sioux City. The Doct. remained to see some friends, and in his stead we took Rev. Mr. Hoyt, from Yankton, Dakota Territory. He proved to be an interest-

ing companion. From him we learned much of the Yankton Country. Had the pleasure of seeing, and making the acquaintance of quite a number of persons in Sioux City, who were friends of Capt. Porter's or Mr. Hoyt's. Met some friends of Mr Hoyt's from Yankton. Returning we called for the Doctor at Dakota, and arrived at Winnebago in time for tea.

7-17-69

A dull morning. Remained in the house all the morning, reading, etc. Cleared about noon, and then I went to Big Bear's Camp to see some sick. Spent the remainder of the day, looking at objects of interest in and around the camp. Wrote a letter to W. G. Foulke during the evening.

7-18-69 First-day

Wrote some letters this morning. Attended to some Indians, who came after Medicine. Church was held at 5 P.M. in the Council House, the Rev. Mr. Wilsen, the resident missionary officiating. I attended with Major White and we found almost all the whites of the agency present and one Indian known as Thomas Jefferson. After church we took a walk off to a neighboring Bluff, to see the country from that point. Most beautiful evening, wish that the folks at home could enjoy the beauties of this new country.

7-19-69

This morning we moved from the farm house, in the valley, to the agency building, on the hill. The carpenter Mr. Calkins, is to live in the house and board us. We have plenty of sun now. About 3 P.M. a band of Omaha Indians, with some Winnebagos all dressed in paint & Feathers, came to the buildings to serenade the new Major and Doctor. They assembled on the grass in front of the house, and with music and dancing, entertained us

for about three hours. It was a dance in true Indian style. It was the first that I had ever seen, & one that brought to mind, the many pictures that I have seen of the Indian war dance. This was not a genuine war dance. When they had finished, they had to have a "Beef" issued to them for a "Feast."

7-20-69

This morning, I went to see the Capt. of Police, John St Cery, who, in the discharge of his duties was stabbed by a "Squaw" in the knee. Spent the morning at the camp attending to the sick. Attended a trial during the afternoon. A number of the young men had been drinking to an excess. They have a "Code of laws" among them, which makes drinking a great crime, and one that must be punished. The "Chiefs" act as a jury and sometimes as the judges. Nine out of the 14teen chiefs are required to constitute a quorum. The trials are usually held in a building known as the "Council House," but the day being pleasant it was held out under a tree. The "Chiefs" seat themselves on the ground in the form of a circle, with the prisoner in the center. After an examination of the witnesses, by the agent, through the interpreter, or some one for him, a chief will make a speech, as prosecuting attorney. The "Chief of Police" or someone for him will act as district attorney. Sometimes the "Chiefs" will act as a jury and select someone for the judge, in this case the subscriber acted as such. An examination of the witnesses found that whiskey had been bought, from the mate of a steamboat which was returning from up the river, and had stopped at the wood-yard, for wood.

The Indians claimed that the law had [not?] been enforced on them before, hence they thought it would not now. Another said that he drank to test the law. Feeling that as this might now be a lesson to them, they were all discharged, with an earnest request to "sin no more." After this Little De Corii made a long speech, promising that each chief would look after his Band, and he then

cautioned their young men that they must not drink, but be good men and not offend the great Father, meaning the President.

During the trial Dr Shortledge & Joe. Painter, came from the Omaha agency, and were present for the trial. They came to see if the visiting Friends from the East had arrived. We heard that they arrived in Omaha on the 16th.

Having but little to do, during the remainder of the day, we saddled two ponies and rode, back to the agency with them. After spending an hour with Dr. Painter & wife, we started back, on the upper road. This road was formerly the mail line, but is not used as such now. It leads up through an Omaha Village known as Joe's Village. It is named after a former chief of the tribe named Joel Fletcher. The houses are built of frame, and the village looks not unlike some of those seen through Virginia during the late war. A little further up the river we came to the "Mission" building saw & grist mill, & some other buildings belonging to the agency. For about 4 miles the road leads, over the "Bluffs" along the river. From the top of some of these "Bluffs" we could see the country for miles. See the River far to the South, as it seems to be lost in the low lands, of the border states. The Plains of Iowa could be seen for miles in extent, with the white farm houses of the settlers, in the far distance, as little specks of sand on a great canvass. We saw a Western sun set, from one of the highest points. I have seen a sunset in the East, in the South, and on the Western Lakes, but this was as Grand, as the Grandest. We arrived home, about 9 oclock, in the evening, very tired, but feeling well paid for a long ride of about 25 miles. Found some journals from Phila. waiting my return. A most beautiful evening the moon almost full, and light as day. Quite cool, could wear an over coat with comfort. Has been a day of interest, and one long to be remembered.

7-21-69

The Carpenter brought up the desk which he made for our use. Had the Medicine, moved up this morning. But little to move. Saw a young man with Typhoid Fever this morning. After attending to the wants of the Indians, I spent the remainder of the time in writing until tea. After tea we walked down to the Valley, saw the Beef Contractor on his way to Omaha agency, and a Major Grimes, of the army, who was just returning from the upper regions of the Missouri River, where he had been to settle some affairs for the Government. Heard him tell some extensive Western stories, of his hunting exploits, and Elk, shooting times.

Major Mathewson, returned this evening from the Elk Horn, where his father is building a mill, & improving some property. Most beautiful moonlight night, but the moon, seems to be in the wrong direction. The points of the compass seem changed. Returned from the valley and retired at an early hour.

7-22-69

Attended to some calls this morning. Sent for a Pony, and secured a "fine bay horse" that came to the Reservation, some days ago, & has not been claimed. While I was getting ready to start on my morning visit, he slipped the bridle off, and ran across the Prairie, in the direction of the Omaha agency. Got an Indian boy to go after him on his pony. He chased him about 6 miles, and this drove him down into a ravine, and caught him. This trick made me late in starting. Went to "Grey Wolf's" camp to see a man who is dying with Consumption. He commenced with a slight cold, and in a short time was down sick with genuine Consumption. He seemed to fail rapidly, and loose [*sic*] strength. He will live but a short time longer. It seems that Consumption is a very fatal disease with the tribe. It runs its course rapidly. Stimulants seem to do little or no good. Saw some sick Children in Cono Nutta

Kaw's Camp. Returned in time to send a note to Dr. Shortledge, at Omaha agency, asking him to accompany Major Mathewson and myself to Sioux City in the morning. . . . Sent a note to Dr. Shortledge to come up and accompany me. Major Mathewson spent some time up at the agency this afternoon. Doctor S. came up with Capt. Porter. Spent the evening at the farm house. Met the Contractor, for Beef, from St. Louis, Also a Major Grimes, of U.S. army, now stationed at Sioux City.

7-23-69

Got up at 4 A.M. this morning. Major Mathewson, too sick to go with us. Will remain and go up with Porter, if well enough, a little later in the day. Doctor S. and I started at 6 A.M. and arrived at Dakota, at 9 A.M. Called at the Post Office, a few minutes. Saw Col. Bates & wife. Am to get some "Sewing Machine" needles in the city for Mrs. Bates. Called a few minutes on Doctor Wilkinson. Arrived Covington about 10 A.M. Had to wait for the boat, it being on the Sioux City side of the river. Some trouble to get the horses on the boat. In driving off the Boat, at Sioux City, the horses jumped, and took both "guide poles" of Capt. Porter's wagon. Had to walk in to town, and take the "Machine" to the "Shop." Called on Mr. Charles of the firm of Tootle & Charles. Mr. C. went and introduced me to the firm of Howard & Stites, druggists, where I purchased a bill of drugs for the use of the Winnebago Indians. Bought a "looking glass" and some few notions. Just as we were about to start away we met Capt. Porter, Major Mathewson & Dr. Wilkinson, all of whom had just arrived in town. Came over the river "all right" and stopped at "Dakota" Post Office, to leave the needles, and introduce Dr. S. to Miss Bates, the young Post Mistress. Spent a few minutes pleasantly, and arrived at the agency about 7 P.M. Found four letters waiting for me. So ends this day.

7-24-69

Examined the medicine this morning, which was purchased yesterday at Sioux City. Carpenter brought up the Medicine Shelves, which he made for me. . . . and then in company with Dr. S. & Major M. went down to see the "Issue". . . . Called on Capt. Porter, to settle about the broken wagon. Ed Bates, came in from Dakota, with his family. Dr. S. returned to Omaha agency on the "Buck Board," on which the mail is carried. After dinner arranged the medicines on the shelves. Met the Indians in "Council" to finish some business relating to a pony & squaw. At the close of the trial speeches were made by Little De Corii & Big Bear. A few days ago some "Sioux Indians" came to visit the Winnebagos, They had a "dog feast" the first since we came. After tea went down to the farm house, and had some "ice cream." Seems to be clouding over, The atmosphere, is smoky, and presents a condition unknown to an Eastern Climate. Quite cool this evening, but the day was the warmest, since we have been in the state. Raining a little at bed time.

7-25-69 First Day

Morning dull and cloudy. Rained a little during the morning. Spent all the morning writing letters, and reading. After dinner took a nap. The Indians seem to observe the Sabbath day, as but one has been about the office all day. Thomas Jefferson, stopped to see what time church met. He would like to be a white man. On this day we lunch, at 12 noon, and dine at 4 P.M. After we dined we went to the "Council House" to attend Church. Almost all the "Whites" about the agency attended. Some "Sioux Indians" are visiting the tribe at this time. The Winnebago Indians, caught, some wild "Sioux Indians" in a canoe, going down the Missouri River on the 7th day evening, and cut all the hair from their heads. They are now having a "War dance" over this captured hair. They hold the dance at the "Teppee" of Lieut. Uptail, of the Police force. The dance is to continue four days & nights.

7-26-69

Had the Pony, brought up, and went to visit some sick, in the camp of Little De Corii, on the Bottom. Saw 15teen that are complaining. Some with "Sore eyes" some "Rheumatism" "Gout," "Scrofula," and one case of "Cox-algia" in its first stage. Did not return until 1.30 P.M. At 2 P.M. Major White, started with his teams to Sioux City to bring down the annuity good[s] for the tribe. He will be gone until tomorrow evening. . . . Saw two cases of "Cataract" one of which is suitable for an operation. Major Mathewson came up during the afternoon. Has been a most pleasant day. Farmers have commenced their wheat Harvest.⁵ Grass not yet fit. All alone during the afternoon & evening. Josephine came in during the afternoon to give me an account of an accident that had happened to her. A letter from S. M. Janney says that the Friends will be here or at the Omaha agency on next First day. . . . Pulled three teeth this evening.

7-27-69

A most beautiful morning. Quite a number of Indians, about the Office this morning. Some cases that are quite interesting. Examined with much care that case of incipient coxalgia. It could be cured, if you had charge of the Patient. A good case for a "Davis Splint." A heavy shower of rain and hail during the afternoon. The first heavy rain since we arrived. . . . Major White, and his team did not return from Sioux City. I shall expect them during the morning. Remained in the office, reading during the afternoon & evening.

7-28-69

A most beautiful morning, after the shower of yesterday. Major W. returned this morning from Sioux City.

⁵ The farmers were growing spring wheat which matures later than the winter wheat, and which came to be generally grown in Nebraska about 1880.

Received the first number of the *Intelligencer*, by today's mail. After dinner we went out to see a Pony race and a game of Ball, in honor of a man who had just died. Some 28 ponies entered the race for the prizes, the first being \$2.50, and the other shirts, that had been purchased a[nd] hung over the grave. Seven premiums were distributed. The ponies were stripped of their saddles & blankets and the riders were almost naked, for the race. They went off over the Bluffs, about 3 miles, and then started even, on a full run, the best pony at the grave first. But 13teen of the Ponies, came in the remainder tired out, of them a little "Yellow" Pony, took the lead, and came in like an arrow. It was a wild scene to see such a band of naked in [*sic*] Indians, galloping at full speed over the country. When they arrived at the grave, each took the prize, in the order of his coming in. After this a game of Ball, was played to please the spirit of the dead man. They planted two arches, about 200 yds. apart, and then divided in two companies of 13teen each. There being 13teen prizes, and the point of the game was to see which party could drive the Ball, under the arch 7 times the first. This was an amusing game. The players were almost naked. They would at times get much excited over the game, and in their wild shouts, you would think of the Indian war cry. We did not remain to see this game finished. Something must be done to improve their minds and break up those superstitious Ideas, which they have. Much of the genuine Indian character could have been seen, in their Race & Game today.

7-29-69

A nice day, and but little of particular note occurring.

...

7-30-69

Started this morning for a trip to the Logan Creek.⁶

⁶ Logan Creek is the east tributary of the Elkhorn, and approximately twenty miles from Winnebago.

We started at 5.30 A.M. this morning. Our party consisted of Major White, Mr. Grosvenor, myself & a guide. We were mounted on good ponies. Our direction after crossing the Omaha creek, lay almost South West. But little change in the character of the country, from what it is about the agency, until we get about 6 miles out. We now find a table land, and one that could be cultivated with but little difficulty. About 10 miles out we crossed the "Mormon trail" which was made by these people when they moved from Omaha, to Utah, some years ago. In some places, there was but a single track, in others two well beaten paths. It is now used by the Indians, at times when they pass across this country. We had several streams to cross, which were branches, of the Logan or Omaha Creeks. Sometimes the banks were quite high, and it was necessary to dismount, and jump the ponies across, and then climb & wade as best we could. We arrived at the Logan about 10.30 A.M. Found that almost any amount of hay might be cut from that immense bottom. A most splendid farming country. There is but little wood & no stones. The Cattle were wintered at that place during last winter. The "correll" in which they were kept, and the shed in which the Herders, lived are still standing. After examining the bottom with a view of cutting the hay there this year, and becoming satisfied that enough can be had, we came back about 2 miles, to a spring, unsaddled the Ponies, and sat on the grass to eat our first dinner out on a Western Prairie. We remained at this place about two hours, eating, resting the ponies, &c. During the trip we saw but little game, although they told us that "Deer" and "Antelope" are frequently seen on the route. Saw quite a number of "Prairie Chickens." Arrived back at the "Agency" about 6 P.M. in the evening. Feel very tired, the Major, is complaining of being "Sore." Those who have been over the road say that it will make 50 miles, in the "round trip." *"I feel so."*

7-31-69

Not out very early this morning. Feel a little stiff. A big number of patients at the Office this morning. Went

to the Post Office, no letters, called at Mr McClure and got the stuff for the window Curtains. After dinner attended the trial of a "Brave" for drinking. He was found guilty, and sentenced him to three months in the "lock up." Heard from Capt. Porter, that the Friends, would be at the Omaha agency, in the morning. Spent the evening in fixing up the window curtains. So ends the month of July. A very pleasant month, with a fair quantity of rain. Did not receive a *letter* today that I thought should have come.

AUGUST 8-1-69 First day.

A bright clear morning. Wrote some letters, and then made arrangements to go to the Omaha Agency, to meet the visiting Friends. Started at 12.45 P.M. Arrived at the Agency about 3 P.M. The warmest day that I have experienced. Sun warm, but a good breeze during the trip. We did not find the "Friends" there nor did they come while we remained. Spent the afternoon, pleasantly, with the family. In company with S. M. Janney, the "Friends" expected to drive up from Omaha. The appearance of a shower started us home early. Started at 7 P.M. During the drive up, there was much heavy thunder, and lightning. It was a "Prairie" storm, without rain. Arrived at home at 8.20 P.M. . . . Mosquitoes attacked us in droves as we drove up. They seem very thick and hungry. A heavy fall of rain soon after we arrived at home. A warm sultry evening.

8-2-69

Just passed through a warm close night. Mosquitoes very numerous. Dull this morning with a slight fall of rain at times. Prepared some "Cough Mixture" and "Liniment" to dispense to the "Indians" during the week. The flour being issued today, made a great run for Medicine. Visited the sick in the Band of "Young Prophet." Opened a number of abscesses at the camp. The man who was sentenced to imprisonment on the 7th-day, escaped from

the Police, and now defies anyone to take him. The "Chiefs" say they will bring him in less than two days. They are going to hold a council about him this evening, and want a sack of flour for a feast at the time. Mr Fuller, the Contractor for to furnish wheat was up today. Received the Bucks Co. Intelligence[r] this morning. A warm day compared with last month.

8-3-69

A most beautiful morning, cool & pleasant. Took an early start this morning, and went to the Camp of "Big Bear" to see the sick. Saw great numbers of them, that were in a most distressed condition. Almost all the children are suffering from "Purulent Ophthalmia" in its worst forms. This camp is the most sickly of any that I have seen. I think the great cause is the filthy condition in which this Band, lives on the River bottom. Spent all the morning down there. Did not return until 2 P.M. Has been the warmest day that I have experienced in this country. Not very well during the afternoon and evening.

8-4-69

Not much better this morning. Yesterday was almost to[o] much for me. Our Eastern Friends arrived at 10.15 A.M. this morning. The party consisted of the following named persons. Benj. Hallowell of Maryland, John Dudley of New York, Joseph Powell & Wife of Penna., Franklin Haines of New York City. They were accompanied from the Omaha agency by Dr. Shortledge. They remained but a few minutes as they were on their way to Santee Agency. Intend returning on the 13th. Major White went with them as far as Dakota to meet Superintendent Janney. Dr. S. remained until evening. The "Chiefs" brought the prisoner to jail, during the afternoon. Capt. C. F. Porter, came up during the evening. The warmest day of the season.

8-5-69

A very warm morning. In the Office all the morning. Wrote a letter to Bucks Co. Paper. Major White, returned by the Buck Board. The farmers measured the land just broken for wheat in the spring, and found $287\frac{1}{10}$ acres. Received a letter from Mr. McIntire, Phila. Pulled 3 teeth during the afternoon. Down at Grosvenors to get "ice cream" during the evening.

8-6-69

A dull rainy morning. A heavy fog all over the Prairie. But few Indians, about during the day. Remained all day in the Office writing, reading &c. "Eclipse"

8-7-69

Took an early start this morning for Sioux City, to see the "Eclipse" and transact a little business. Stopped a few minutes at Dakota, and arrived at the city at noon. Saw quite a number of Friends in the city. Concluded not to remain all night, as we had thought, but return and see the "Eclipse" on the "Prairie." We had gone but a short distance when we noticed a peculiar change in the Atmosphere around us. Having no smoked glass, I took the lining out of my hat, and punched a hole in the crown to look through. Got a good view of it in this way. We stopped about half way between "Sioux City and Dakota" on the open Prairie, and witnessed the phenomena. It seemed "Total" for about two minutes. Quite a number of stars shone out, during the time Mercury was visible to the naked eye. (I think). When we arrived at Dakota all seemed to be as usual. Home about 8 oclock.

8-8-69 First-day

We were told this morning that the Indians, had quite a time looking at the "Eclipse" yesterday. As it was passing off they fired their pistols, and shouted, to

"drive it off" as they said. Some of them said "Sun him sick," when "him get well again?" It being issue day they were all at the Agency, and as it commenced to become dark they started their ponies for home, thinking that the "Great Spirit" was angry, and was about to hurt them.

About 10 oclock this morning Dr Shortledge, Joshua Gilphin & Jos. Painter came up from the Omaha Agency to spend the day. Dr S. & Jos. will return to Pennsylvania, next week. Said they came for two "Cat-fish" that Capt. C. G. Porter, gave Mrs. Painter. At evening they started back, all Dr S. and the "Cat fish" Dr S. is going to remain a few days with us, before he goes back to Penna. No meeting this afternoon because of the absence of our minister Mr. Wilson. Blew quite cool towards evening.

8-9-69

Dr. Shortledge is with us this morning. Attended to the Patients, that came to the Office. Went to the Post Office, about noon. No mail. Spent the remainder of the day about the house, talking, reading &c.

8-10-69

Do not feel well this morning. The "mosquitoes" almost carried us out this last night. Did not sleep one hour all night. Dr S. came down and slept on the "table." The night was warm and close, and the morning dull and rainy. Sun came out about 9 oclock. Took Dr S. to see some Patients, Went to the camp of Young Prophet & Little Hill. Saw a few cases of "Scrofulous" ulcers of the neck and groin. Returned about noon. After dinner we made a raid on the "mosquitoes" that annoyed us last night. Took a short nap. Dr S. slept until suppertime. The remainder of the day was spent reading. Dull again this evening. No letter today.

8-11-69

Down at the camp of "Little Prophet," this morning. Came back and went with Dr. S. to see the killing of the

Beef Cattle. Dr. S. returned to Omaha agency at noon, on the "Buck Board." During the afternoon Major White, and I went out to some of the camps, to see a "Dance" but could not find it.

8-12-69

Wrote some letters this morning, and then went down for the mail. No letters. After dinner drove up to Dakota, to meet the Friends on their return from the Santee Agency. Arrived at Dakota about 3.30 P.M., found them there. A meeting was called in the Church at 7 this evening. We all stopped at Dr Pinkerton's in Dakota. Quite a large and interesting meeting composed of the people of the town and surrounding country. Met quite a number of interesting persons in the town. S. M. Janney & Benj. Hall-owell, spoke during the meeting. S. M. J. of appearance in supplication. Some friends met us at the Doctor's after the meeting. Spent a pleasant evening, and retire with a view of starting with the superintendent, to the agency at 5 A.M. in the morning.

8-13-69

Started from Dakota this morning about 5 A.M. Morning quite cool and foggy. Came along quite lively, and arrived at the Agency building, at 7.05 A.M. After breakfast went to work, on the "Bills" of the Annuity goods. The examination of the "Bills" for the goods, took almost all day. Everything came out right. Their goods consisted of Blankets, Cloth Hats, Socks, Hoes, Scythes Shirts &c. After the examination of goods a "Council" was held, but little work was done. E. Painter, from the Omaha Agency, came up with some back claims. The Indians want another day to hold a general council, but S. M. Janney is not willing to grant it to them at this time. A Mr. Willis from New York, came to the Agency this morning. He is traveling just to see this country. In the evening a load of us went over to the School House to at-

tend an Exhibition, given by Miss E.G. Hancock, to her Indian pupils. It being a rainy evening the pupils did not come. Had a good time going and coming. Dr Shortledge came up with E. Painter, and went to the School House with us. He will remain until First-day, when we all go to the Omaha agency.

8-14-69

A dull morning, but seemes [*sic*] a little as though it would clear. The Indians, commenced to come for their goods, at an early hour this morning. About 7 oclock we were all at the mill, and were at the goods. The goods consisted of Blankets, Satinetts, Jeans, Blue Cloth, Sheeting, Hats, Hoes & Buckets &c. The goods were all arranged in separate piles, and as the names were called out, the proper goods were thrown into the pile. When the pile containing the goods of a family was completed, it was passed out of the mill door into the hands of the family. This distribution was completed about 4 P.M. The few remaining Blankets, Socks, Wrappers, Cards &c. we put in a wagon and Howard & I got into it to throw them around to get rid of them. We had thrown but few things, when the Indians made a general rush, and an awful howl, and soon took every thing from the wagon.

As soon as the goods were all gone, they commenced to separate for their homes. The Friends, being anxious to take a short ride, I got a team, and took them, out on the Bluffs, in the direction of the River, to see the Indians, trailing, with their Packs of good[s] to their homes. It was most certainly a beautiful sight. After tea we had the ponies brought, and took a ride. We put John H. Dudley on "butter milk"⁷ but he soon got off. Went to Grosvenors in the evening of this day to eat some ice cream. Major & I remained all night.

8-15-69 "First-day"

Came to the house early this morning. Found the people stirring. After breakfast I took a load over to Miss

⁷ "Butter Milk" was the Doctor's own pony.

Hancock's to visit her Sunday School .It was a pleasant morning, and the visit was enjoyed by all. The little Indian children seemed to acquit themselves with much credit. They read the Fifth Chapter of Matthew. After this they sang a verse of this quite well. During the morning, we visited a few of the "Teppees." In one we found a "Pappoose" which we named Benj. Hallowell.⁸ At 10 oclock our Friends held a very acceptable meeting in the "Council House." It was attended by all the whites and number of "Indians." After dinner our "Friends" were ready to go, as they had an appointed meeting at the Omaha Agency. Howard⁹ & I went with them, also Dr. S. & William Willetts. The meeting at the Omaha Agency was held at 4 P.M. All the whites from the Mission attended. Many of the Indians were present. After tea we started back, This is the last we will see of Dr. S. & Joe Painter, as they Go East. in the morning. J. H. Dudley will go with them. We expect to see the other Friends to morrow, as we want to go down. Mosquitoes thick up the valley this evening.

8-16-69

A most beautiful morning. Wrote up my diary & finished some letters, before starting for the Omaha Agency. Started about 9 A.M. Rode the Ponies. A splendid ride to the Agency, at which place we found the Friends in Council with the "Chiefs" of the Omaha tribe. The Council continued until near 2 P.M. Much business was talked about, and speeches made by the principal Chiefs of the tribes viz. "Fire Chief" "Yellow Smoke" "No Knife" "Thunder" &c. After dinner we all went over to the Mission to visit the school. We found it in session with 37 pupils including both sexes. The Missionary Mr. Hamilton, seemed glad to see us and did everything in his power to make us a pleasant visit. We saw some of the usual

⁸ Benjamin Hallowell was one of the party of visitors.

⁹ "Howard" refers to Major Howard White, the agent at Winnebago.

exercises of the school, and had some good singing. The Friends all seemed much pleased with what they saw, and anxious to forward the good work. Some trouble has been caused by the withdrawal of the Government appropriation, from the support of the school, which withdrawal was due to suggestion of Agent Painter. They were made at a time when he knew nothing of its workings, and would learn nothing. At 5.40 P.M. we started for Winnebago, leaving our Friends, to sup with the family of Mr Hamilton. At this place we bid a final adieu to our Friends, they expecting to leave the Indian Country in the morning.

Dr Shortledge & J. Painter started for the East this morning. Howard & I had a pleasant ride over the "Bluffs" on our return. Found some letters and papers waiting me.

8-17-69

A cool morning. Howard went to Sioux City this morning, for some goods. He will not return until tomorrow morning. Visited a few Patients this morning. A heavy cold rain fell during the afternoon.

8-18-69

A beautiful morning after so heavy a rain. Wrote a number of letters during the morning. A few Indians in the office for medicine. Howard returned at noon. He got wet yesterday & is quite unwell. Had council in the afternoon, about the "census" which are to be taken tomorrow. Visited the Interpreter Bradford Porter, who is quite sick. Called at the school house to see Miss Hancock. After the "Council" two men were tried for drinking and sent to jail for 10 days, each. Took a ramble out on the "Bluffs" after tea, to see the beauties of a[n] almost full moon.

8-19-69

A beautiful morning. Howard still quite unwell. The [Indians] are comming [sic] from all quarters this morn-

ing, bringing all their families to have the "Census" taken. Arranged for taking them this time at the "Council" house. Commenced to take the "Census" about 9 A.M. and worked until dark, but did not finish. Found quite a number without names, and gave them such as I could think of, and in many cases those of Eastern friends, such as would come to my mind.¹⁰ Cold and dull all the afternoon, and commenced to rain towards evening. At dark commenced to rain heavily.

8-20-69

Just after going to bed last evening W. W. Davis, from Omaha came to the house, and remained all night with us. He [is] selling goods in this country. At midnight I was called up to get some medicine to send out to a man who is Herding Cattle, for the beef Contractor, Mr. Finn, of St. Louis. Was raining very fast at this time. In the morning Geo. Strong, Mr. Davis' companion called at the house. Just before noon Sidney Averill, the teacher arrived. Was engaged in continuing the "Census" during the afternoon. Named an Indian after each of the Eastern friends who just left.¹¹ Howard & Sidney went over to the school house. Dull and cold all day. Had a fire in the office this afternoon, for the first time since we came in the state. Howard & Sidney went over to the school house this evening to see the "Lantern."

8-21-69

Went to some Patients this morning in the camp of "Young Prophet." Came back and went to work at the "Census" which I finished at noon. We found the following to be the correct list at this time.

¹⁰ This explanation of Indian names accounts for the frequency of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, etc., among the aborigines.

¹¹ A further explanation of Indian names.

"Chiefs."	Families	Men.	Women.	Children
Little De Corii	80	56	61	63
Samuel King.	48	36	37	36
Big Bear.	83	56	60	76
Coo Noo Nutta Kaw	38	25	28	27
Good Thunder	44	31	32	32
One Horn.	33	25	27	29
Little Thunder.	31	23	27	30
Grey Wolf.	42	30	27	41
Young Prophet.	55	35	40	47
Young French.	37	22	31	24
Old Laughter	30	22	24	29
Whirling Thunder	40	26	35	31
White Breast	16	13	9	11
Young Rogue	12	8	10	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	589	408	448	487

Whole number in tribe 1343. From this "Roll" the allotment of land is to be made. Had the mail brought up on the Hill, today for the first time. Wrote out some notes during the afternoon. Is still quite dull with a prospect of heavy rain. In the office until after tea, when we went to the store. Raining at bed time.

8-22-69 First-day.

Rained very hard during the entire night. Wrote some letters during the morning. A bright clear morning. In and about the house during the entire day.

8-23-69

Spent the morning visiting the camp of "Young French." A very warm morning. Howard started for Omaha, at noon. He rode the Pony to Decatur, and will send him back by the Buck Board driver, in the morning. Was about the office during the rest of the day.

8-24-69

Went down to see the teams off to the hay field on the Logan, and found but little done ready to start. Went to work to get things in shape, and got them all started at noon. The "Caravan" consisted of Twenty-Eight Yoke of oxen, seven large hay racks six mowing machines, and four pair of horses with wagons loaded with provisions; and twenty men. On 5th day morning thirty men more are to go. . . . Spent the remainder of the day in looking after some patients.

8-25-69

Attended to some business of the Agency during the morning. Let a man who came along going to the Logan, buy some Bran from Gus St. Cyr. Spent the afternoon in the office writing &c.

8-26-69

Went to Sioux City this morning to meet Howard. Stopped at Dakota a few minutes. Saw Dr. Wilkinson, and had some talk with him about joining a society of which he is a member. Found Howard, waiting at Sioux City. Dined at the St. Elmo Hotel. Bought a bridle for \$3.00 for "Butter Milk" Stopped at Dakota on our return and executed a Bond. Arrived at home about 9 in the evening tired & hungry.

8-27-69

Spent the morning visiting some patients. Was caught in a shower, and went in a "Tepee" for shelter. Found 6 men yet a bed and the women making "Sweet Corn." Had some interesting talk with them. They found me a seat and tried to be polite. The men I found were suffering from disease. Sidney Averill, moved over to the teacher's house this morning. He and Bradford Porter, the Interpreter will live in the house until Sidney's family comes. Spent

the afternoon in reading Jane Eyre. Rained almost all the afternoon.

8-28-69

A bright clear morning. Went out on the Prairie about 7 miles during the afternoon. The morning spent about office, being "issue" day the number of Patients was increased as usual. . . .

8-29-69 *First day*

This has been a most pleasant day. I think the most beautiful one spent in the state. Wrote some letters & read during the most of the day. At the farm house during the evening and heard some music.

8-30-69

Howard went to the Hay field on the Logan this morning.

Went out to see some Patients at the camp of "Young Prophet" and stopped at the school to see Sidney a few minutes. He thinks them all a hard party and does not know what to do with them. Received a letter from Walter stating that he would accept the situation of Carpenter and come at once. Met the Rev. Mr. White at dinner.

The remainder of the day spent in the office reading.

8-31-69

Visited a few patients during the morning. Sent some teams for oats up to Mr. Potter's. Howard returned from the hay field after dinner. Salt arrived during the day.

Has been quite cool for a few days, and quite unlike the last day of August.

The two past months have [been] unusually cool for those two months to be. Enough rain has fallen to make it quite pleasant. A great contrast between this country now, and the condition of the East, at this time. Many places are

suffering for the want of rain. Phila. was never in want of rain more than at this time. So ends the summer of 1869. J. A. P.

Was called to see Bradford Porter later this evening.

September 9-1-69

A most beautiful morning. Went down to the camp of Little De Corii, to vaccinate the children of his Band.

Had them all collected at his house and vaccinated 31.

There was two that I did not vaccinate because of the Scrofula. I have some doubts of the propriety of some of the others, but think that it may be best to do as I have done. After I was through, I went to the top of a "Bluff" near by, and had a good view of the Bottom, and the settlements. Arrived home late in the afternoon. . . . Spent the remainder of the day writing.

I find that of the 31 vaccinated, in this Band 29 have been successful. The 30 of the other two, one died, and with the other it did not take.¹²

9-2-69

Intended to go to the Camp of "Big Bear" this morning, but got as far as Bradford Porter's and it commenced to rain. Returned home, and found E.G.H. still wanting something. Commenced to rain steadily about noon and continued during the afternoon and evening. Spent the most of the time reading and writing. Want to go to Sioux City in the morning.

9-3-69

A very rainy morning. During all of last night it thundered & lighteninged [*sic*] to a fearful extent. The heaviest rain since we came into the state. Had intended to have gone to Sioux City this morning, but the rain

¹² This last paragraph was inserted in the margin, probably at a later writing.

will prevent. After writing the above the clouds broke, and the rain ceased. Sent for the horses & started for Sioux City. It commenced to rain some, and continued all the way up. Mosquitoes so thick that I was almost devoured. Found Mr. Chas. Grosvenor, at Covington, having engaged Leach's team to bring him to the agency. Took him over the river with me. Went to St. Elmo Hotel, and found that Walter, had arrived. It being late in the afternoon, we concluded to come as far home as Dakota, & then remain all night. From Covington to Dakota, it rained a little & the mosquitoes were so thick that we could scarcely breathe. Arrived at Dakota, about 7 P.M. Here we found the mosquitoes so thick that the mosquitoes were being enticed out of the houses by having fires built at the front doors. At supper we were almost devoured by them. After tea we tried to go out to the store, but found the mud & mosquitoes so thick that we had to turn back and seek the house. After fighting mosquitoes sometime, we retired hoping to find relief.

9-4-69

Language has failed to describe our suffering last night. Mosquitoes by the "millions" were in our rooms. Sleep was out of the question. Walter & Grosvenor got up about 11 o'clock, and went down stairs to fight them. I did not sleep a "wink" all night. Things no better in the morning. Mosquitoes thick and it was still raining. Got the horses harnessed soon and drove around by the store of Chas. Eckhart, and bought some netting and bound it around our head & necks to keep them away. During the trip down they seemed to come at us in droves of "ten-millions." Found a bridge washed away at the Creek near the Agency, and had to go around by the camp of Coonoo Nutta Kaw, to cross. Arrived at the Agency about noon, tired muddy, and generally out of sorts. Took a "bath" at once. Spent the afternoon looking around with Walter. At evening attended a "Council" of the Chiefs on the trial of a "horse-stealing" affair. Not decided.

During the evening read a story loaned me by E. G. P. entitled "Red and White." Still raining.

9-5-69 First-day

9-6-69

The coolest morning of the Season. Rode "Butter Milk" this morning the first time for two weeks. Saw some patients in "Young French's" camp. Was out almost all the morning, it being a most pleasant morning to ride. . . .

Walter made a "chess board" and we had our first game this evening. Think I shall like "chess."

9-7-69

Remained in the office until about 10 A.M. Went down to see about the Pony. Did not return until near noon. Got the Ponies, and went with Walter, out to the camp of "Young Prophet" to fix a lock on his house door. Read during the evening.

9-8-69

Spent the morning in the office and getting ready to go to the Logan hay field, in the afternoon. Chas. Grosvenor, Walter & I all started for the Logan about 1.50 P.M. A splendid ride, it being a most beautiful afternoon. Met, about 12 miles out, Col. Chas. Mathewson, the former agent, at this place, coming in on some business. He told us that B. G. was coming in from the hay field that evening, so we turned back. I rode with Col. Mathewson, and gave my pony to his son-in-law. When we arrived at the Agency we found that the Surveyor Mr. Aughey of Dakota, was there, ready to go to work in the morning. After tea Col. Mathewson & his son-in-law, came up to the house. Received by the mail this morning the September number of the "Atlantic Monthly" containing the true

story of Lady Byron's Life, by Mrs. Stowe. Came by the kindness of Miss H. Bates of Dakota.

9-9-69

Spent the most of the morning in the office, as Chas. Grosvenor and Col. Mathewson & his son-in-law, came up and remained with us until near noon. After dinner went down to Capt. G. F. Porter's store, to see about some things. Col. Mathewson held a council with the Chiefs, and got them to sign his quarterly returns. Late on in the afternoon we took a ride over the "Bluffs" for about five miles, returning with a good appetite for supper. Spent the evening playing Chess.

9-10-69

Capt. St. Cyr. of the Police came in late last evening and stated that the mill was open. Some Indian it seemes [sic] had got into the mill, and taken some flour and gone out by the lower door. Hard to tell who did it. Sent for the Ponies, and went with Howard out to look for some wood, for the engine. Saw a few patients during the trip. After dinner we went to look at a bridge, that was washed away by the late freshet, but found that it was on the Omaha Reserve. Crossed a deep creek & saw a most curious sight. viz. The pony, "Butter Milk" got down on his knees at bidding, to drink from the creek. He is a noble fellow. Visited the saw mill. Spent the evening reading. Quite cool, with some prospects of a storm.

9-11-69

Was out all the morning with Howard, looking for corners.¹³ Stopped at Old Man Amells to see his Child. Wrote letters for the Indians during the afternoon. Read during the evening. Cool day.

¹³ They were locating the markers for the land survey.

9-12-69 "First-day." . . .

9-13-69

A dull rainy night, and still raining this morning. The most disagreeable morning we have seen in the country. Remained in doors during the morning and prepared a roll on which to pay the annuity money. As it continued to rain during the entire day, I remained in the house, and spent the time reading, writing &c. During the evening had a game of "Chess." Am growing to like "Chess" very much. . . .

9-14-69

Still raining. Took an early start, and went with Howard, up to Sioux City, to meet Superintendent S. M. Janney & his clerk Eliza Janney. Met them at the St. Elmo Hotel. Met Dr. Graff of Omaha for the first time. Rained most of the way down. Arrived at the agency about 7 oclock. The Superintendent, has with him the sum of \$28000 which is to be paid to the Winnebago & Omaha Indians, as their annuity. Of this sum \$13000 is for the Winnebagos, and \$15000 for the Omahas. This sum he carried with him. Spent a part of the evening making a "Pay-roll."

9-15-69

The morning was spent making some arrangements for the payment. S. M. Janney went out to look at the timber. During the morning, I wrote my annual report, of the sanitary condition of this tribe. A general Council was held by the Superintendent during the afternoon, & until late in the evening. The allottment of land was much talked about. Many subjects were introduced, but few were disposed of. During the evening a number of them came to the office, each with some special claim. Dr. Graff and party came up.

9-16-69

At an early hour the Indians commenced coming in from the timber to the payment. They were paid in the Council house. As the names were called out, with the number in the family, the head of the family would march in a[nd] touch the pen and receive the sum of \$9. for each member of his family. I made the marks during the day. Supt. & Clerk counted the money & Howard looked after business generally. The traders Porter & McCallem were present and collected their debts as well as they could. Some of the Indians paid up well some did not. The payment was completed about 5 P.M. after which they wanted a council. It being near supper time, it was concluded to hold it during the evening. After tea we all went to the Council house and found the Chiefs all present. The evening was consumed in talk about land, whipping, money &c. During the evening two of the best Chiefs Grey Wolf & Young Prophet resigned. They said they did not want to be Chiefs, but would like to be farmers. This has been a very interesting day.

9-17-69

The "Pay Roll" was signed this morning. The men who Broke Prairie this summer were paid during the morning. Arrangements were made to take S. M. J. to the Omaha Agency. At the request of Supt. I had a long talk with him about Dr Shortledge and his connection with Painter at the Omaha Agency. I told him the facts from beginning to end. Supt. had not the least idea of anything of the kind. He said he would have a talk with Painter on the subject. Everything being now ready we drove to the Omaha Agency. When we arrived there a council was held with them to consider the Winnebagos claim for whipping. Young Prophet conducted the suit for the Winnebagos, which resulted in getting damages to the amount of \$60. When we were about to start S. M. J. asked Painter, the meaning of that remark of Dr.

Shortledge when he left. Painter said he did not know. We had a long, but unsatisfactory talk on the subject. Painter claiming that he was too much of a gentleman to do such and such things, which there is proof that he did do. The affair is not yet settled. Painter will get his dues. I would not trust his professions. It being moonlight we had a pleasant ride home.

9-18-69

Visited some patients this morning. Had some boxes opened and the [?] washed. Was out during the greater part of the morning. During the afternoon, finished my report, and wrote out the notes of the Council which was held by S. M. Janney on the afternoon of the 16th. Wrote them for the Bucks Co. Intelligencer. A note came up from S.M.J. stating that a meeting would be held at the Omaha Agency in the morning to which we were all invited. Walter commenced the desks in the school house this afternoon. Wrote a letter to Dr. S. telling him of the interview of yesterday and requesting him to write to S.M. Janney.

9-19-69 "First-day"

A dull morning. Wrote some letters and got ready to go to the Omaha Agency. Went down in the Ambulance. Caught in a shower of rain and wind. Had quite an acceptable meeting. S. M. Janney pointed his remarks for the occasion. Sidney spoke quite well. After meeting S.M.J. took Edward P.[ainter] and had a plain talk, in the presence of Gilpin and Eliza, about the wheat transaction. Painter seemed surprised that it was "all out." I wish Shortledge could have been present. I think the only way now left for Painter, is to resign. We waited down there until 9:30 P.M. as S.M.J. & Eliza wanted to come up with us but could not do so until Louis, the U.S. Interpreter, came to sign some papers. The ride up was quite cool. Got along quite well until near home, when we stuck in

a mud hole and broke down. Had to get out and carry the things and walk home. Mud about 3 ft. deep, more or less. So ends a dull but eventful day.

9-20-69

A beautiful clear morning. Howard took an early start to Sioux City with the friends. Wrote some letters & fixed up things about the office. Remained in the office until dinner time. After dinner sent for the pony, and went out to "Young Prophet's" camp. Stopped at the school house, & remained with Walter some time, as he fixed the desks. Howard, returned about 7 P.M. They were just in time for the train.

9-21-69

. . . . Visited some Patients during the afternoon, and returning saw the "Medicine Lodge" at the camp of old Coo-Noo-Nutta-Kaw. The dance will begin this evening. The "Lodge" is about 100 feet long, built of poles and covered with mats, canvas &c. After tea we all started over to see the "Dance" it being something new. When we arrived there, it had just commenced. Each "lodge" coming in in turn & going through a certain ceremony before taking its place in the "grand lodge." Eight lodges united in this dance. After this the "Great Chief" of the Medicine Society, Old Laughter by name, lead the person around the lodge, followed by a few chosen ones. In their march around the lodge, they all keep time to the music of the drums. Remained until about Ten oclock. A most beautiful moonlight night.

9-22-69

A beautiful morning. Went down the hill for the pony, but found him unfit for use. Went and scouted the Indian out who pretends to be in charge of them at this time. He was out all night to the dance. Returned from down the hill just in time to attend to the mail. After dinner

we all went over to see the dance out. Their doings were now most peculiar. There was about 200 Indians dressed in the gayest colors they could find, and trimmed with beads & ribbon & bells. Each member carries a "medicine bag." Some of their bags are most beautiful, being the skin of some animal, as the rat, beaver, otter, skunk, opossum, muskrat, or something of the kind. These "bags" were trimmed in the most gaudy style with beads, ribbon & bells. While to see this dance was quite interesting I do not think it is best for the Indian to encourage such things. One or two of the Indians, were quite drunk, but the Police force could not capture them. Remained until near sunset.

9-23-69

A most beautiful morning this. Took a long ride out back of the school house with Howard to see some wood. Was out during the entire morning. Spent a part of the afternoon in the office. Went to the mill. Note from E. Painter, asking me to come down there tomorrow afternoon. Bought a set of harness of Mr. McClure, for the sum of \$30. A double set almost new. Dull and rainy during the evening.

9-24-69

A very heavy shower during the night. Much thunder & lightening during the time. The morning quite cool. Wrote some letters during the morning. Read some in "Gold Toil." Like to read it a little at a time as it contains much for reflection. After dinner Howard & I went down to Omaha Agency, in response to E. Painter's note of yesterday. Found him very low spirited. His troubles seem to way [*sic*] heavily upon him. I do now pity him. Retribution always comes in some way. He feels himself a ruined man. He will resign in a few days. Spent the afternoon with him & Gilpin. I rode home in 1 hr. 10 min.¹⁴ Quite cool.

¹⁴ This was a twelve mile ride.

9-25-69

The first "*Frost*" of the season this morning. A very cool but pleasant morning. Went to "Big Bear's" camp and vaccinated 76 small children. These children belonged to his and the adjacent camp. Bottom very wet & muddy. Returned about 1 P.M. tired and hungry. Spent some time now in the office writing. Sent a letter to Dr. E.G.S. requesting him not to write the letter. I think that Painter now has trouble enough for one man. Was called during the afternoon to go to the camp of "Coo Noo Nutta Kaw," returning I saw a "Pony Race." Saw the ponies fall rolling over their riders, who get up without injury. Joshua Gilpin, came up during the afternoon. Started to a "Medicine dance," during the evening but found that it was not coming off.

Of the number vaccinated 70 took well, two broke out in ulcers, and four were in no way effective.¹⁵

9-26-69 "First-day"

A most beautiful morning. Had a long talk with Gilpin on the Painter question. I do think that Painter must be a crazy man. . . .

9-27-69

A heavy "frost" this morning again. A very healthy morning. . . .

Went with a party out to a "Great medicine dance" at the camp of "Good Thunder." This was a bigger thing than the one held at Coo-Noo's a few days ago. Remained at the "dance" until almost dusk. Spent the evening writing "vouchers" for the pay of Employees during the 3rd quarter of 1869, which will end on 5th day. The quarterly Report is a long job. . . .

¹⁵ This is a later marginal notation.

9-28-69

A most beautiful morning. Went up to Sioux City, with Howard & took Chas. Grosvenor, to the train. He is returning East. Spent most of the day in the city, purchasing articles for the agency. Bought a Buffalo robe of H. I. Broge & Co. for \$5. Sent a registered letter from Sioux City to W. G. Foulke, Phila. Saw Dr. Wilkinson in Dakota. Returned to the agency at 7½ P.M. Met quite a number of friends in Sioux City.

9-29-69

Spent the morning in the office writing up the Quarterly Reports. During the afternoon went to see "Young Prophet" who is quite sick. Spent the evening writing, &c.

9-30-69

Went out on the Logan to the hay field. Walter went along. Found a very fine lot of hay put up. There is almost 800 tons, When the stack which is now being built is completed, they will fence 800 tons. B.¹⁶ wants to finish on 7th day. Dined on junk, [sic] coffee & wild duck. Returned about tea time. Got a letter from Dr. S. Has been a most beautiful day, and the month which now is closed a pleasant one.

October 10-1-69

A damp wet morning. A heavy rain during the night. Chiefs signed the Receipts, for the beef & flour of last quarter this morning. Wrote up some more Reports this morning. Spent most of the day in the office. Spent a few minutes in the store of C. F. Porter. Wrote at the reports during the evening.

¹⁶ Benjamin Grosvenor, the farmer in charge of the haying operations.

10-2-69

Went down to the road this morning to help fix a crossing. Returned and spent the remainder of the morning at the office writing.

During the afternoon I finished vaccinating the children. Met them at the "Camp of Little Hill" Vaccinated 64 small ones at this time. This is all that I now know who are unprotected. The Chiefs finished signing provision receipts. Has been a most beautiful day. Of the 64 vaccinated at the above time 60 took well, 1 died, and three not affected.

"Summary"

During the fall 171 children were vaccinated, of which number 159 took well, 2 died, 2 broke out with ulcers, being very scrofulous, and 8 were unaffected.

This includes the small children up to 10th mo. 24th, 1869.¹⁷

10-3-69 "First-day"

Went with Howard down to the Omaha Agency this morning. Returned about 2 P.M. Found E. Painter, in quite good spirits. Did not see Gilpin, he and Emily having gone to Decatur to Church. Spent a portion of the afternoon at Mr. McClure's. Ben up during the evening, and we wrote the names of the hay men on the "Pay Roll."

10-4-69

A most beautiful morning. Went up to Sioux City this morning. Had a most pleasant ride. Drew from the Bank of Theo. T. Stone the sum of \$2500, to pay the hay men with. Had long talk at Dakota with Dr. Wilkinson. He is posted about "Omaha Agency" affairs &c. something must

¹⁷ This summary of the Doctor's experience with vaccination is interesting evidence of his scientific interests and habits.

soon be done. I fear that Howard can not remain. He will not "be confirmed." Arrived at home about 8 P.M.

10-5-69

Went out this morning to visit some patients. Spent the remainder of the day in the office writing the Reports. Joshua Gilpin & Emily Painter came up during the afternoon for a ride. . . .

10-6-69

Spent all the morning in the office writing, and getting the "hay roll" ready. Payed [*sic*] the hay men during the afternoon. At evening Mr. William Brown & sister, son & daughter of Asa Janney, agent Saunttee Sioux Indian called on their way from Omaha City. They remained all night with us. Mr. Brown gave me the first intimation of what was going on with Friends. He told me that my name would be sent in as Omaha Agent. If so I think I will accept.¹⁸

10-7-69

. . . Howard¹⁹ started for the East this afternoon, went as far as Dakota and remained all night. Saw a small portion of Prairie on fire.

10-8-69

A dull rainy morning. Started for Sioux City early. Got hay loaded up and then purchased some things including a "Gum Coat." Started for home about 1½ P.M. through the rain. Arrived at home and found that my services were much needed as Mrs. Cheney had been confined in the morning, and no one with her. Finding that I did

¹⁸ On more mature refection, Dr. Paxson changed his mind.

¹⁹ Major Howard White's departure left Dr. Paxson in charge of the agency.

not come at noon, they sent for E. Painter M.D. who arrived about one hour before me. He had done nothing. Soon placed her in a good condition, and left her for the night.

10-9-69

E. Painter remained all night with us. We both called on Mrs. Cheney this morning and found her doing well. Attended to a number of Patients during the morning. After dinner payed [*sic*] some of the men who were absent at the regular payment of payments. Hired Samuel Richie to assist on the herd. In the evening Walter & Calkins figured on the Barn bill. We will go to work at it at once.

10-10-69 "First-day"

A most beautiful morning this. Called on Mrs. Cheney. Bought a lamp of Mrs. McClure, who is just going to Omaha to live. They started this morning. Had to loan Mr. McClure a team, as his man did not come. Spent the remainder of the morning in the office writing &c. Took a walk with Walt. during the afternoon, out across the Bluffs. The entire day was a most pleasant one. Returned and wrote another letter, and at an early hour retired.

10-11-69

A little dull this morning. At an early hour the men commenced gathering up the calves to take them to the herd. Called to see Mrs. Cheney, and sprained my ankle getting off the pony. Hired a man from Dakota named Benjamin Rogers, to take charge of the herd. Went to the herd with Ben. and got everything started. Counted it with the following result—159 cows, 52 oxen, 40 steers, 70 calves & 9 bulls. We started for the Logan about 11 A.M. Rained a little during the morning. After I came home I found my ankle was badly sprained. Soaked it in hot water for an hour or so, and then rubbed it with Tinct. Opia.

Was not out during the afternoon. Returned early, but was called out by Ben. to pay the men who came from the hay field with him.

10-12-69

Sprained ankle much better this morning. Spent a part of the morning looking after the teams that were given to the Indians. Paid Cory the remainder of his expenses. Albert Harrington, brought down 25 bushels of wheat for which I paid him \$1 a bu. = \$25. Called to see Mrs. Cheney. She is doing well. The "Magazine" came at noon. Read a little during the afternoon and then went with Ben. to get some logs for the Barn. Found quite a number that will do. Read during the evening.

10-13-69

A most beautiful morning. Wrote a note to Howard. The teams commenced drawing the logs, for the stakes, to the mill. Ben. his wife & Mrs. Calkins, went to Sioux City. Return tomorrow. Teams drew some logs during the afternoon. Walter planted the posts for the new stake. Was around the premises most of the afternoon. Read during the evening "Beyond the Breakers."

10-14-69

A dull disagreeable morning. Took an early start and sent the teams for some wood for the mill. Mrs. Cheney doing quite well. Was out during the entire morning. At noon U.S. Marshal Hoile, from Omaha, came with a warrant after Ben. G. [rosvenor] on the complaint that he was keeping a "Public House" without a license. It is supposed that McClure was the cause. Ben. being at Sioux City they had to remain. During the afternoon we took a ride out towards the Bluffs, and talked it all over. They, Hoile and his friend Stewart from Wisconsin, said it was all right. They thought it was a piece of spite work, which there is no doubt it is. Spent the evening in a social way.

10-15-69

After breakfast we all went down to Ben's, and in the presence of Stewart and myself Marshal Hoile signed the warrant. It was arranged that Ben. should go to Omaha on Second-day morning. The matter was all talked over and they were well satisfied that there was no cause for any complaint. They went away about 9 A.M. for West Point. Spent the remainder of the day looking after things generally.

10-16-69

A beautiful morning. A heavy smoke around showing that the Prairie had been burning during the night. Went down to see about the "Lodge" which was building near the stable, for a "Medicine dance." Had the usual issues today. Met the Indians in council during the afternoon. Tried two men for being drunk. The one conv. who was drunk about 3 weeks ago. Had some talk with them about the land. I think they all know now what is required of them, and will try and do it. Not from choice, but because they see that the land will be divided whether they want it done or not. Ben. went to Dakota during the afternoon.

10-17-69 "First-day"

A most beautiful morning this. Walt. and I went to the Omaha Agency to see about some money. Did not get it. . . .

10-18-69

A dull morning this. Quite cold and chilly. Some Indians came in to see about their corn. During the morning Capt. Lemming came up. He came from Decatur last evening. We sent for the team, and took a trip out to look for some corner stones. During the afternoon he fixed up his paper. The men who help him are Thomas Jefferson, Lewis Buchanan, & Clark Thompson. At evening

they came up and we talked about the work in their presence. Capt. Porter & Mr. Hay came up with Capt. Lemming.

10-19-69

The surveyors were all out in good time. During the forenoon the 640 acres which belong to the Agency were lain out. The strip is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide & 2 miles long. Planted stones every $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. During the afternoon the men all went with Abraham, the team, to dig stone, for corners. Spent the evening in the office reading as usual.

10-20-69

Went to the woods to get some logs Out all the morning. During the afternoon Mr Davis from Omaha called at the office. Spent a pleasant time with him. Had an early supper, and went with the men to burn around the hay stacks to protect them from the Prairie fires. Got home about 10:30 P.M. evening.

10-21-69

A dull morning, but no rain. Walt went with the boys to see more about the stacks. Spent the entire day looking after the logs, and business generally.

10-22-69

Went to the Logan this morning. Walt went along. When within about 6 miles of the creek we found the Prairie on fire. It was burning along a front from the north west, that was about 10 miles long. We had to drive through the flames on to the burned ground. In all directions the prairie was one black waiste. [sic] When we arrived at the Logan we found the fire was in on them, and the boys were at work, trying to put out the flames. We turned in and worked with them until near 4 P.M. when we succeeded in driving the flames past the hay

stacks, and saving all the hay. The herders worked most faithfully. On our return we had to cross the line of the fire three times. At one time the flame was as high as the horses back. The fire extended as far East as the Omaha, and as far west as the Elk Horn Creek, a distance of about 90 miles. During our drive home, a distance of 25 miles we were not out of sight of fire once. We could see it blazing up from every hill top. In some positions the sight was truly grand.

10-23-69

Went to the woods with Ben. Saw a number of Patients. Sent a "Young Injun" to jail for burning hay. Had short council with the Indians, spoke to them about sending their children to school &c. Ben. returned from Omaha last evening. All is right. He settled the affair without trouble. Received a letter from Howard White. He will marry [*sic*] Miss Annie P. Ellis on the 28th of this month. Wrote during the evening.

10-24-69 "First-day"

A most beautiful morning, remained in the office reading, writing &c. until almost night. Then went down the hill to the "Medicine dance," near the stable. Just at the bottom of the hill met Capt. Porter & Miss Painter. Porter went down and brought her up to see the dance. She remained at Grosvenor all night. Spent part of the evening there.

10-25-69

. . . The surveyor could not work on account of the wind. On 7th-day, I sent a little Indian to jail for burning hay stacks. Today I put him in the pit at the mill to wheel saw dust. During the evening Sidney & Capt. Lemming came up and we selected a lot for a school house & 400 acres, to build, a boarding school on. In the other lot there was 40 acres. In leaving the 400 Acres it was in

order to accomodate such a school of manuel [*sic*] labor, if it thought best at any time to build one. I think the time will come when such a school will be much needed.

10-26-69

A much warm morning this. Down the hill most of the morning. Had the Blacksmith shoe "Butter Milk." Wrote a few passes. During the afternoon went out to see the surveying party. They seem to be doing well. Spent the evening in the office reading as usual.

10-27-69

Has been a most beautiful day. Sidney went to Sioux City, for his goods. Was down the hill all the morning. The first portions of the frame for the barn were hauled up the hill today. As it was a splendid day I spent most of it out in the air. Down at the mill until late during the evening. Rec. invitation to the wedding of Anna P. Ellis and Howard White, will take place on the (28th) tomorrow.

10-28-69

A beautiful morning this. Indian summer seems to have commenced. J. B. Walker, came in last night and will start with a load of lumber to the Logan this morning. Sent some medicine out to the Herders. Spent a part of the afternoon out with the surveyors. . . . Sidney came back, and brought his son with him.

10-29-69

A chilly day this has been. Spent most of the morning in the office. A number of Indians in for medicine &c. Was down the hill during the afternoon. Late in the afternoon I went out to see some who are sick. Spent the remainder of the day and evening as usual.

10-30-69

A very beautiful morning this. All signs of storm have disappeared. A heavy frost last night. At a council with the Chiefs, I sent the young men to jail. They were both old offenders, and the Chiefs told me to send them to jail as long as I thought right. They stole a horse from Gus. St. Cyr. One of the boys was James White Breast. Spent the evening as usual.

10-31-69 "First-day"

A nice morning this. Spent the day in the office writing &c. Had the headache all day. Wrote a letter for the Bucks Co. Intelligencer, sub. "Medicine dance." Late in the evening I was sent for to go to Ben. G.[ilpin] to take a seed from the eye of Capt. Leaming. He got it in driving up from Decatur. The day has been quite warm. So ends the month of October. J.A.P.

"November" 11-1-69 (M. 37 deg. a.; E. 42 D. A.)²⁰

During the coming four months I desire to note the temperature of the weather. I shall do it both morning and evening. Will mark the degrees on the margin of each day's transaction. This has been a most beautiful day, quite warm for the season. Raised the frame of the stable today. Attended to quite an amount of Indian business. Visited a few patients. Spent the evening as usual, except that Capt. Leaming, was up a part of the time.

11-2-69 (M. 52 D.A.; E. 48 D.A.)

A pleasant morning this. Started for Sioux City to meet Howard & wife. Went all the way to the city. Stop-

²⁰ In accordance with the intentions indicated in the text, Dr. Paxson recorded the temperature each day in the margin of his diary. To conserve space these marginal notes have been placed in parentheses beside the date. Dr. Paxson's punctuation and abbreviations are followed exactly, except that morning and evening, arranged vertically in the manuscript, are separated by a semicolon.

ped at St. Elmo. Spent the evening in general conversation with different parties. Supped with a Col. Johnson of U.S. army.

11-3-69 (M. 49 D.A.; E. 45 D.A.)

Did some business around town this morning. Train came in at 11.10 A.M. & with it came Howard & wife. Started direct for Winnebago after dinner. Arrived at home 6½ P.M. Had a pleasant ride. Has been most pleasant for the last few days.

11-4-69 (M. 42 D.A.; E. 37 D.A.)

A most beautiful morning this. Quite warm for this time of year. Spent a part of the morning in the office with Howard, looking over some papers. Went down and invited the Employees up to dinner.²¹ They all came up at two P.M. and we had a good time generally. The afternoon was spent in a very social way. The evening was spent as best we could.

11-5-69 (M. 35 D.A.; E. 30 D.A.)

Spent the morning out seeing after the survey. Returned in time to change the mail. Hearing that E. Painter had got home we all went down to see him. He met with quite an accident on his way to Omaha. His horse was taken sick at "Fort Calhoun" and fell on him. He is almost well at this time. Remained but a short time. During the evening Capts. Porter & Leaming came up. Spent the remainder of the evening reading "Lippincott's Magazines."

11-5-69 (M. 34 D.A.; E. 37 D.A.)

11-7-69 "First-day" (M. 31 D.A.; E. 33 D.A.)

Large prairie fire at the South. . . .

²¹ This was apparently a dinner for the new wife.

11-8-69 (M. 36 D.A.; E. 40 D.A.)

The ground white with snow this morning. The first of the season. . . .

11-9-69 (M. 34 D.A.; E. 37 D.A.)

11-10-69 (M. 28 D.A.; E. 27 D.A.)

. . . . Wrote a letter to Benj. Hallowell, for some copies of the Report of Ind. Committees. Decline to accept the position of Agent for the Omaha Indians. Painter would think it was a plan to get him out between Dr. Shortledge and myself. I do not wish him to think so. . . .

11-11-69 (M. 20 D.A.; E. 26 D.A.)

A bright morning but the coldest of the season. Answered the letter from the Dakota Co. Literary Society, requesting me to address them on the evening of the 16th. I accepted this kind invitation. Wrote some other letters during the morning. Commenced to snow about the middle of the afternoon. Received a "Cake of Soap" from Mrs. White as a birthday present. Spent the most of the time in the office. Weight today 168 lbs.

11-12-69 (M. 24 D.A.; E. 26 D.A.)

More snow this morning, blowing from the S. East. Wrote a letter to W. G. Foulke, to be read before the "Friends' Social Lyceum" of Phila. on the evening of the 23rd. Sent it this noon. . . .

11-13-69 (M. 12 D.A.; E. 20 D.A.)

Snowing again this morning. It quit about 9 A.M. Went down the hill and had the horses put to the sleigh, and took the Mr. Grosvenor, Leaming, White & Calkin out for a ride. Went over as far as "Young Prophet's" camp. Came back and saw the cattle weighed. Leaming quit his survey today. Sent H. H. Brown, an introduction to Asa M. Janney. Also wrote to S.M.J.

11-14-69 "First-day" (M 32 D.A.; E. 36 D.A.) . . .

11-15-69 (M. 28 DA.; E. 32 D.A.) . . .

11-16-69 (M. 29 D.A.; E. 33 deg. A.)

Went up to Sioux this morning with Howard & wife. Had to cross the river in a little canoe. Found Grosvenor & Cheney on this side of the river getting the apples. Went on and did what business we had and came to the river to cross, and found the tide was to[o] strong and the river so rough that we could not cross. Had to remain at the St. Elmo all night. Had engaged to lecture at Dakota, but it must be postponed. Spent the evening as best we could under the circumstances.

11-17-69 (M. 27 deg. A.; E. 30 deg. A.)

As soon after breakfast as we could, we came to the river to cross. The river was quite full of floating ice, and the wind high. The crossing was dangerous, but was accomplished. Came down to Dakota, and dined. Met quite a number of friends at Dr. Pinkerton's. The officers of the literary society called to see me, and we arranged for the lecture to come on the evening of the 30th. Saw Dr. Wilkins at his room in the hotel. Howard called to see him on the subject of his confirmation. I wish that it would be so settled, and he be confirmed all right. Arrived in home in time for tea, and found the officers all waiting for us. Paid \$5.75 for m[edicine].

11-18-69 Thanksgiving Day. (M. 26 d. A.; E. 25 deg. A.)

A dull morning this, Seems inclined to rain and hail. Benj. G.[rosvenor] came up this morning and invited us all down to dine with him. About the middle of the forenoon it commenced to snow. We all went down to Grosvenor's to dine at One P.M. Spent most of the afternoon quite pleasantly with him and wife. Continuing to snow we had a team brought round and we all rode up.

During the evening the storm continued unabated. The wind howled in true winter style. Spent the evening, until quite late studying the life of "Robert Burns."

11-19-69 (M. 16 deg. A.; E. 32 d. A.)

Spent the morning in the office, reading & writing. After the mail came up we went down to the valley and made arrangements to go out after Prairie chicken in the morning. I got the loan of McClure's team. Got every thing ready. . . .

11-20-69 (M. 33 d.A.; E. 28 d.a.)

Went with Howard this morning to the corn field to hunt Chickens. Saw a great number but could not get near enough to shoot them. . . . A very windy day.

11-21-69 "First-day" (M. 28 deg. A.; E. 33 deg. A.) . . .

11-22-69 (M. 30 deg. A.; E. 28 deg. A.)

A dull unpleasant morning. Very windy. Howard went to the Logan. Spent the morning attending to patients in the office, and reading "Milton." Went to the shop and got a damper made for the stove pipe. Cleaned the pipe and put the damper in at noon. Remained in the office during the remainder of the day. Howard came home about 7 P.M. Received a letter from Father today.

11-23-69 (M. 20 D.A.; E. 22 deg. A.)

A most beautiful morning, still and clear. Sidney called and thinks we should hold a literary society at this place. I think it would be well. . . . A great number of patients at the office during the day.

11-24-69 (M. 26 D.A.; E. 26 D.A.)

A fine clear morning. Air cool and healthy. Spent the morning out in "Prophets Ravine" attending to a num-

ber of patients. Did not return until almost two P.M. Was down the hill during the remaining portion of the day. The December "Magazine" came this morning.

11-25-69 (M. 33 deg. A.; E. 29 deg. A.)

Much more mild this morning. Walter and I went up to the field to try and get some Chickens. We wanted to try the new gun. Remained all the morning, but did not get a single one. They are plenty but very wild. . .

11-26-69 (M. 30 deg. A.; E. 28 deg. A.)

Quite a pleasant day, and the most of it was spent in the office. The Cattle for tomorrow's issue were killed this afternoon. It was two issues.

11-27-69 (M. 32 deg. A.; E. 36 deg. A.) . . .

11-28-69 "First-day" (M. 38 deg. A.; E. 42 deg. A.) . . .

11-29-69 (M. 33 deg. A.; E. 16 deg. A.) . . .

11-30-69 (M. 12 deg. A.; E. 6 deg. ab.)

A very cold morning. Went to Dakota City, to lecture before the Literary Society this evening. Sent to E. & W. S. Paxson, the sum of \$175, in a registered letter from Dakota City. After a cold ride, we arrived at Dakota City, about 6½ P.M. The school room was well filled. Felt satisfied with the result. So ends the month of November. J. A. Paxson.

December 12-1-69 (M. 8 deg. A.; E. 10 deg. A.) . . .

12-2-69 (M. 17 deg. A.; E. 24 deg. A.)

. . . The mail from Sioux City did not arrive today. The river was so full of ice that they could not cross. The first time that it missed. Warmer this evening.

12-3-69 (M. 20 deg. A.; E. 24 deg. A.) . . .

12-4-69 (M. 24 deg. A.; E. 32 deg. A.)

Has been a very nice day. It now seems as though spring were coming instead of winter. Was out during the morning attending to the sick. At noon quite a number called at the office. Was down in the valley most of the afternoon. At evening Mr Cheney came in to get some medicine for his boy. Read "Milton" during the evening.

12-5-69 "First-day" (M. 28 deg. A.; E. 29 deg. A.) . . .

12-6-69 (M. 42 deg. A.; E. 39 deg. A.)

A warm morning. Finn & Slicer, the beef contractors came up and spent the morning. They said that S. M. Janney would be at Sioux City to-day. During the afternoon went out to see some patients.

12-7-69 (M. 44 deg. A.; E. 40 deg. A.) . . .

12-8-69 (M. 40 deg. A.; E. 37 deg. A.) . . .

12-9-69 (M. 38 deg. A.; E. 40 deg. A.)

A beautiful day this has been. Remained in the office during the morning. Took a short horse back ride with Miss Calkins. About 7½ P.M. the office door opened and in came Dr. Savery of Phila. He arrived in Sioux City yesterday and came down from there with Mr. Slicer. He is right from Phila. and it does seem good to see a familiar face in these Western wilds. The entire evening was most pleasantly spent. He gave me for my "Scrap book" an article from the Phila Press of Nov. 15th, '69 which was the proceedings of "Medical faculty" on the question of mixed clinics at the various Hospitals. It is a sound article, and sets forth the views of all sound medical men, in this or any other country.

12-10-69 (M. 37 deg. A.; E. 35 deg. A. dusk; 8 P.M. Thermometer 24 deg. A.)

A very mild morning this. It being the day on which the cattle for "Issue" are butchered we took Dr. Savery,

down the hill to see it. The entire morning was spent, with him, seeing the Indians, watching their doings, and visiting their "Teepees" &c. The Doctor seemed much pleased to see so much of them. The afternoon was spent in general conversation at the office. The first shingles were put on the stable today. About the middle of the afternoon it commenced to get cloudy, and at dusk the rain commenced to fall. During the afternoon I had a long talk with the Doctor on the subject of remaining in the country in the future. He seems much inclined to purchase land and remain.

12-11-69 (M. 27 deg. A.; E. 24 deg. A.)

It rained almost all night. Throughout the day the rain has been falling. and the day has been quite disagreeable. Went down the hill with the Doctor to see the regular "Issues" of "Beef" and "flour." As the day was quite stormy the Indians did not come in, in as large numbers as is the custom. The Doctor seemed to take great interest in all that was going on. Spent the remainder of the day and evening in the office in conversation.

12-12-69 "First-day" (M. 22 deg. A.; E. 26 deg. A.)

A dull morning, but seems disposed to clear. Howard, took the Doctor over to attend the "Sabbath School." When he returned he seemed to be much pleased. . . .

12-13-69 (M. 19 deg. A.; E. 22 deg. A.)

Had the team brought up this morning and took Dr. Savery out to visit the school. After remaining there for a time we went and visited a number of the "Teepees" in "Prophet's Ravine." Visited Andrew Hunter in his "Teepee" and named his little boy, about 7 yrs. of age, after Dr William Savery. The Doctor gave the boy three cents to close the bargain. During the afternoon the boy Jos. Lawrence, accused of taking \$25 more or less from E. A. McClure's store, was tried. They could prove noth-

ing against him. The store was being attended to by Sidney's son. . . .

12-14-69 (M. 23 deg. A.; E. 24 deg. A.)

. . . . Was sent for at noon to come to the Camp of "Little De Corii," to see a small boy who had been bitten by a dog. Went down and found a small boy about 7 yrs. of age with a severe bite in the thigh, and one in the arm. Bandaged him up and did the best that could be done for him. Found that it was the result of a "True fight" in which the dog came out "first-best." Did not return until after dark. The evening was spent in a social way. Two letters from home.

12-15-69 (M. 24 deg. A.; E. 30 deg. A.)

During the night a little snow fell. All the morning was spent in the office. Quite a number of patients came in, some of which were quite interesting to Doctor Savery. Went down the hill during the afternoon and remained almost until night. Walter made a little table for our room today, on which to place my books. Spent some time with C. F. Porter. The daughter of Mr. Calkins returned from school today. Had been at Grinnell Iowa. Ben went to Decatur, Neb.

12-16-69 (M. 24 deg. A.; E. 22 deg. A.)

Went down the hill and remained all the morning. Rode out to see some patients on the pony. Just before noon E. Painter M.D. came up. He started with his daughter, but breaking down, his daughter, returned home with Capt. C. G. Porter, whom they met, and the Doctor came on. He had an amount of business. There is something strange in his way of doing. As this was the last evening that Doctor Savery will be with us, it was spent in doing just as much talking as could be crowded into a limited space.

12-17-69 (M. 20 deg. A.; E. 18 deg. A.)

A most beautiful morning. Clear and cold. Howard and wife started for Omaha, and Doctor Savery went with them as far as Sioux City. From there he is going up in Northern Iowa to look for some land. Had a most pleasant visit from the Doctor. Howard & wife will return on next Fifth day. Ben took them to Sioux City. I spent the morning in the office attending to the wants of those who came. During the afternoon I was out in the ravines attending to some who are unable to come to the office. Had some wood drawn to the school house. Quite cold during the afternoon.

12-18-69 (M. 16 deg. A.; E. 10 deg. A.)

Went down the hill this morning to attend to a little business. The saw mill is running today, to get the remainder of the stuff to finish the stable. Two of the boys went over to fix the bridges. It seems quite lonely today. Remained down the hill until almost dusk. Ben returned from Sioux City about 4 P.M. During the evening it seemed to get cold rapidly. Commenced to snow about dark and continued to snow and blow at a fearful rate during the early part of the evening.

12-19-69 "First-day" (M. 4 deg. B.; E. 8 deg. A.)

This is the coldest day of the season so far. Did not snow but little during the night. The thermometer did not get higher than 10 Deg. A. zero during the day, yet the sun shone most of the time. . . . Not an Indian about during the day.

12-20-69 (M. 3 deg. B.; E. 8 deg. A.)...

12-21-69 (M. 4 deg. A.; E. 10 deg. A.)...

12-22-69 (M. 2 deg. B.; E. 6 deg. A.)

A clear cold morning. Walt and I went up to Sioux City in the sleigh to meet Howard & wife. Walt shot two

chickens at the corn field. Drove across the Missouri river on the ice. The first time. Found that Dr. Savery was yet in town. Bought a number of things. Bo't, some clothes of Wise & Co., in the evening. Spent most of the time in this, during the evening, in the parlor at the Hotel.

12-23-69 (M. 10 D. B.; E. 3 deg. B.)

Went out this morning & finished doing some business. Snowing a little, and very cold. Started for home about 10 A.M. Bought a muff, for the neck and ears. A cold but pleasant ride home. Stopped a few minutes at Dakota City.

12-24-69 (M. 6 deg. A.; E. 12 deg. A.)

Much warmer this morning. The cattle for the issue were killed today. Down the hill most of the morning. Sent six dollars to Henry C. Lea, to continue my subscription of his medical publications, also two dollars to Elliott to subscribe for "Lippincott's Magazine" for 1870 & "Good Words for the Young." The latter to be sent to Oscar Paxson. Sent to him for the 12 numbers of the "magazine" for 1868. Was in the office during the afternoon, writing &c.

12-25-69 "Christmas-day" (M. 20 deg. A.; E. 24 deg. A.)

A most beautiful day. Spent it quietly until near night when we went out "wolf hunting." Took tea with Ben. Grosvenor.

12-26-69 "First-day" (M. 32 deg. A.; E. 26 deg. A.) . . .

12-27-69 (M. 32 deg. A.; E. 28 deg. A.) . . .

12-28-69 (M. 26 deg. A.; E. 34 deg. A.)

Quite a warm morning. Went up to the field to try and shoot a "chicken" or a "prairie wolf." Saw quite a number of both, but could not get one. . . .

12-29-69 (M. 32 deg. A.; E. 29 deg. A.)

A warm morning. Spent a part of it out looking after "wolf tracks." Quite a number of patients after my return. Saw in the Omaha Republican of the 25th, that Howard was "confirmed." Paper stated that it was done on the 21st. I hope it is true, and things can now assume a more permanent shape. A note from E. S. Shortledge, stating that he had accepted the position of "Physician" to the Sauntée Sioux Indians, and would marry on the 6th of January, and start for the Agency about the 20th, 1870. This movement in favor of Dr. Shortledge I think well of, because of bad treatment by E. Painter of the Omaha Agency. The feeling of friends at this time is against Painter, and they are not willing that he shall be "confirmed." If they do their plain duty they will not allow such a man to remain.

12-30-69 (M. 28 deg. A.; E. 26 deg. A.)

. . . . During the day we opened the Box containing the clothes sent to the Winnebago Indians by the New York Friends. They are of a good and suitable quality.

12-31-69 (M. 30 deg. A.; E. 16 deg. A.)

A most beautiful morning for the last of the year. The entire day was spent in the payment of "Employees." Was a busy day. About noon William Cox, the new blacksmith arrived. A letter today from Cousin Annie Small, dated at "Emporia Kansas, stating that she was married to a Gentleman named St. John. With this we close the year 1869—while portions of it may have passed with less profit than it should, I feel to look back on the whole with satisfaction. May the next be an improvement on the past.

"Gone! gone forever! Like a sucking wave,
Another year has burst upon the shore
Of earthly being; and its last low tones,
Wandering in broken accents on the air,
Are dying to an echo."

Good Will to all, J. A. Paxson
[TO BE CONTINUED]