

The
Diary of:
SUSAN OPHELIA CARTER
1887

Copied and Printed

1965

By Colleen Switzer

FORWARD

This Diary was in the possession of my maternal grandmother, Zora Lavir (Carter) Raish at the time of her death in 1963. Since I am interested in family records the diary was passed on to me. Zora Raish was a niece of Susan Ophelia Carter, being a daughter of Susan's brother, Albey Carter. (See entry of Friday January 28th).

I have copied the diary as accurately as possible. Since it is old and the writing badly faded in places it is difficult to read. Most of it is readable if considerable time is taken. I read and re-read the diary and studied it very well, although I do not claim all facts to be as I stated them, they are, to the best of knowledge, correct.

INTRODUCTION

Susan Ophelia Carter was born July 2, 1860 in Gardner, Grundy County, Illinois, the third of six children born to Lewis Wood and Rachel (Wheeler) Carter.

In the year 1869, when Susan was nine years of age, she moved with her parents to Odebolt, Sac County, Iowa, where she received her formal education. (She was baptized by Rev. Brown of the M. E. Church at Wall Lake, Iowa.

The family later migrated to Nebraska, settling on a farm near the Custer-Loup County Line. As a young lady Susan taught school. In the year 1886-87 she taught in Valley County, near North Loup, in what was then and still is known as the Myria Valley Community.

It was the Christmas of 1886 that Susan received the diary as a gift from Doctor R. Palmer, an Ord Physician. The contents of that diary are printed herein, just as it was written by Susan in 1887.

The Following is a list of some of the names mentioned in the diary of Susan O. Carter.

Will Payne ---- Husband of Susan Carter

Payne (Mr. & Mrs.) Parents of Will Payne

Warren Prentice Brother-in-law of Susan Carter

Mary – Sister of Susan and Wife of Warren Prentice

Lell (Eulella) – sister of Susan and wife of Harlen Prentice

Ida – Sister of Susan

Albey's (Carter) – Brother of Susan

Charlie (Carter) – Brother of Susan

Dr. R. Palmer – M.D. in Ord – gave diary to Susan as a Christmas gift in 1886

D.A (Dan) Fossey – People Susan Boarded with later; later moved to Blaine County

Vin Fossey – Dan's Wife

Less or Leslie – son of Dan & Vin Fossey

Ella – younger daughter of the Fossey's

Melva – must have been another daughter of the Fossey's

Weed (Mr. & Mrs.) – neighbors of the Fossey Family; also moved to Blaine County

Myra Weed - daughter of the Weeds

Hubert Weed – son of the Weeds (see post script at the end of this diary)

McIntire (Mrs.) must have been a widow and either a relative or close friend of the Paynes.

Harve McIntire – son of Mrs. McIntire; later homesteaded in Box Butte County.

Milton McIntire - son of Mrs. McIntire; later homesteaded in Box Butte County.

Rob McIntire - son of Mrs. McIntire; later homesteaded in Box Butte County.

Amos McIntire - son of Mrs. McIntire; later homesteaded in Box Butte County.

Elder Collins – married Will Payne and Susan Carter

Cottrell (Mrs.) – lady where Susan boarded after Fosseys moved to Blain CO.

Clark Cottrell – must have been a son of Mrs. Cottrell (possibly Husband?)

Dick Preston – must have been a neighbor; Will went to Box Butte Co. with him

Lou Preston – have not established identity

Sarah Preston (Miss) – have not established identity

Mamie Preston – accompanied Susan to Box Butte Co.

Cella Redlon - accompanied Susan to Box Butte Co.

Elsworth Payne – have not established identity; could be a relative of Will's

Larkins (Mr. & Mrs.) homesteaded near Susan in Box Butte Co.

Leal Larkin – Son of Larkins

January 1887 Memoranda

Commenced boarding at D.A. Fossey's November 10, 1886 at \$1.50 per week. Susan paid \$10.00 on board. Susan borrowed of D.A. Fossey \$10.00 December 24, 1886. She paid D.A. Fossey \$10.00 January 1, 1887. Harlan W. Prentice and Eulella E. Carter married December 22, 1886 by Rev. W.K. Kaeting at Odebolt, Iowa.

Saturday January 1, 1887 – Ord.

Left Warrens at 12:30 PM. Took the train for North Loup where Will Payne met me. Went out to his fathers to spend the last week of my vacation.

Sunday January 2, 1887

Will and I went up to Fosseys in the AM. To SS & Church in the PM. Back to Fosseys in the evening. Less had shot his foot the day before. Home with Mr. & Mrs. Payne.

Monday January 3, 1887

Mr. & Mrs. Payne & I spent the day at Mr. Weeds. Will went to North Loup

Tuesday January 4, 1887

Helped Mrs. Payne wash today. Elder Randolph took dinner here. Will is about sick with a severe cold.

Wednesday January 5, 1887

Went to old Mrs. Davis funeral at North Loup with Mr. and Mrs. Payne. Will went to the Loup with Preston.

Thursday January 6, 1887

Mrs. Weed and Myra were here. I cut a pattern for each of them. We had chicken pie for dinner.

Friday January 7, 1887

Mrs. Payne has sick headache today. Will made pegs abd last and fixed my shoe. I met Dick Preston today.

Saturday January 8, 1887

I met Dick Preston's wife today. I cut out my dress today and Myra got the velvet to fix the waist with.

Sunday January 9, 1887

Mrs. McIntire & Harve & all of Dan's folks came down to Mr. Payne's to dinner today. The colt kicked will and hurt him quite bad.

Monday January 10, 1887

Commence school again this morning. I have 18 weeks to teach yet. Will is up here to Dan's.

Tuesday January 11, 1887

Nothing occurred today. There is a donation at Mrs. McIntire's tonight for Elder Randolph.

Wednesday January 12, 1887

I went to the donation last night and I feel like a boiled owl. My eyes feel like to burnt holes in a blanket.

Thursday January 13, 1887

I got two letters today. One from Pa and one from Lella. It is the first I have heard from Lella since she was married. We all went out to Mr. Weeds this evening.

Friday January 14, 1887

The last day of school this week. I have four months and one week longer yet. Dan and Vin went to the Loup to church tonight. Hubert Weed came up here to spend the evening.

Saturday January 15, 1887

Mrs. Fossey went visiting. Will mended her harness and fixed my shoe. I wrote two letters. Will leach came here and stayed all night.

Sunday January 16, 1887

Will went home this morning. He has been here just a week. We all went to church but Leslie. His foot was not well enough. There was no church it was so cold.

Monday January 17, 1887

Had a sleigh ride to school this morning, and home again tonight.

Tuesday January 18, 1887

We walked to school this morning. Mr. & Mrs. Payne came up to Dan's and Mr. P came after us tonight. Will came up this evening.

Wednesday January 19, 1887

Mr. and Mrs. Payne & Will were here and are going to stay all night.

Thursday January 20, 1887

Don & Vin, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, Myra Thresher, Will & I went down to North Loup for church. Will did not go to church on account of the headache.

Friday January 21, 1887

My school is just half out. I got a letter from Charlie last night. Pas has the erysipelas again. I'm afraid he won't get well.

Saturday January 22, 1887

I came down to Mr. Payne's last night. I got a letter from home. Pa is better. I am so glad. I finished my dress skirt today that Dan and Vin gave me for Christmas present.

Sunday January 23, 1887

Mr. Payne's folks had company today so none of us went to Sunday School. But Dan's folks and Mr. Payne's and I all went to the Loup for church.

Monday January 24, 1887

Will came up and stayed with me and the children and Dan's went to church to North Loup. I pulled a tooth for will. I have got it among my treasures.

Tuesday January 25, 1887

Mr. & Mrs. Weed, Mr. & Mrs. Payne, Mr. & Mrs. Fossey, Will and I went to North Loup to church tonight.

Wednesday January 26, 1887

Harve and Rob McIntire and Will came up this evening. We practiced our dialogue. Will stayed all night.

Thursday January 27, 1887

Dan's shelled corn today. Will was up and helped. Mr. & Mrs. Payne were up too.

Friday January 28, 1887

I got a letter from Albey's today. They sent me little Zora's pictures. I had the pleasure of meeting the wonderful Mrs. Vankirk.

Saturday January 29, 1887

At Mr. Payne's. In bed part of the day. Mr. & Mrs. Payne, Will and I and Mr. Fossey went to town. Less had his foot lanced. I received a letter from Pa, and one from Rev. W. Brown.

MEMORANDA

30th, Leslie's foot has been very bad. He was shot New Years. They saw the Dr. the first time yesterday. He lanced it.

Sunday January 30, 1887

I wrote three letters today. Didn't go to church today. Harve McIntire and Will brought Mabel and I home from Mr. Payne's. Mr. Weed's folks came up too.

Monday January 31, 1887

Very cold all day. Dan went to town, brought me a letter from Ida and one from Lella. Mr. Weed and Dan will start in the morning for Blaine County.

Tuesday February 1, 1887

Mr. Weed and Dan started for Blaine County this morning. It was very cold. Will is going to stay and do chores while Dan is gone.

Wednesday February 2, 1887

Still very cold. Will has neuralgia so Harve McIntire is going to stay too and help do chores. Alfred Praudt fell out of the wagon and hurt himself bad. The groundhog could see his shadow.

Thursday February 3, 1887

Will was sick with neuralgia last night, and Vin, with sick headache. Harve & I was up with Will part of the night.

Friday February 4, 1887

Some of the boys at school got horns on their heads and skinned lips today playing brush fighting. The last day of school today. I got a letter from home. "Yum Yum!"

Saturday February 5, 1887

I was nearly sick last night. But was alright this morning. Vin went to town and Mabel and I washed. I got a letter from Santa Dikeman.

Sunday February 6, 1887

Mother's birthday, she is 52. Everything has been covered with frost half and inch thick. Vin acted as Supt. at S.S. there was but 12 present.

Monday February 7, 1887

Everything still was loaded with frost this morning but melted off before night. Mr. & Mrs. Payne were up to supper and spent the evening.

Tuesday February 8, 1887

Dan got home tonight from Blaine Co., Mr. Weeds were here to spend the evenings. Will went home tonight.

Wednesday February 9, 1887

I received two letters tonight. One from home and one from Mamie Fisk. Harve went home today.

Thursday February 10, 1887

It has been very cold all day. There was to be a surprise party at Mr. Weed's tonight. Mr. & Mrs. Fossey, Leslie and Mabel went out a foot. I remained at home with my sore toe and the children.

Friday February 11, 1887

I went over to Mr. Marks to try and get board for the remainder of the term, but I could not. Will came home with Dan and stayed all night.

Saturday February 12, 1887

Will went home early. I went a piece with him. Dan & Vin went over to Davis Creek. Will came up after me to go down to his fathers. I went, took Melva with me. Mrs. Payne had a sick headache. Will went to town in the afternoon.

Sunday February 13, 1887

At Mr. Payne's, Mrs. F is better. Dan's folks came down. Went to SS and church in the PM. Dan and Vin went over to VanKirks and stayed all night.

Monday February 14, 1887

I had a sick headache in the night, Leslie & Mabel got up and doctored me. Mr. & Mrs. F. were up and spent the evening. Will stayed all night.

Tuesday February 15, 1887

Rode old Kit to school today. Will came up, brought me two letters and a Valentine. He stayed all night.

Wednesday February 16, 1887

Old Kit had a happenstance last night. She lost her baby's, two of them. It's too bad. Harve McIntire came up this evening. Told me there would be a surprise here Friday night.

Thursday February 17, 1887

A cold windy day. Dan's went down to Mr. Payne's and up to Mrs. McIntires. Will came after Ella and I tonight.

Friday February 18, 1887

Pleasanter today. Tonight is the party. Dan brought down Will's trunk. He will start in the morning.

Saturday February 19, 1887

There was over 40 here last night. Will has gone. When and where will I see him again. Dan took him to Ord today. He is going with D. Preston.

Sunday February 20, 1887

At Mrs. Payne's for dinner. Went to SS in the pm. Mr. Weed's folks, Bert Hall, and Mr. Collins children were here to spend the night.

Monday February 21, 1887

Cold and snowing. I wonder if Will will start today. I went to the party at Mr. Weed's.

Tuesday February 22, 1887

There was 37 at the party last night. I am through going to these parties. Hubert Weed visited my school today.

Wednesday February 23, 1887

Cold and snowy this am pleasant but cold this pm. Ella is quite sick with that distemper. Dan & Vin are nearly sick too.

Thursday February 24, 1887

Pleasant today. Mr. & Mrs. Payne were here all day. Leslie went home with them to stay all night.

Friday February 25, 1887

Mr. Payne came up after me. I worked on my dress tonight. I got a letter from Albey's folks.

Saturday February 26, 1887

Mr. & Mrs. Payne and I went to the McIntires' Mrs. Payne made a shirt for Harve and I made one for Milton

Sunday February 27, 1887

Mr. Payne's and McIntires were here all at Dan's to dinner. Mabel's 13th Birthday. Weeds here in the evening. I met Miss Sarah Preston.

Monday February 28, 1887

Pleasant and warm. Meetings commence at the Payne School house tonight. Dan's are packing up now

Tuesday March 1, 1887

We all went to church. The children are staying at their grandpa's now. Prairie fire is raging, 100's of acres are being burned.

Wednesday March 2, 1887

The fire has ceased. Dan's will stay at Mr. Payne's now until they are ready to go. Mrs. Redlon is down.

Thursday March 3, 1887

I will be here at Mr. Payne's the remainder of the week. I will ride old Kit to school. Turning considerable colder this evening.

Friday March 4, 1887

The meetings still continue. There was none last night on account of the storm. I am making a comfortable tonight to send to Will.

Saturday March 5, 1887

Made my first comfortable. I am going to send it to Will. How I wish I could see him tonight.

Sunday March 6, 1887

I took charge of my class of young ladies today at SS. Went over to Lybargers too, with Mrs. Payne's Folks.

Monday March 7, 1887

Mr. Payne brought me up to school this morning. I commenced boarding at Mrs. Cottrells.

Tuesday March 8, 1887

Grace Petty went down to Mr. Honnolds with me at noon to get my order signed.

Wednesday March 9, 1887

Very warm and pleasant. At school as usual. I am not feeling very well.

Thursday March 10, 1887

Another beautiful day. The farmers are all busy seeding.

Friday March 11, 1887

Very warm Thursday up to 80 degrees. Dan came after me tonight. Went over to Petty's to turn over his books. Didn't get home till half past 10.

Saturday March 12, 1887

Went to the Loup. Took dinner at Dr. Palmers, had a good visit. Bought somethings today. My ankle is sore. Windy Saturday.

Sunday March 13, 1887

At church and SS. Dans will start in the morning.

Monday March 14, 1887

Dans and Mr. Weeds went today. I sewed up my calico dress at noon. Sewing on my under clothes this evening.

Tuesday March 15, 1887

Grance and Loveday Petty and I called on Mr. Krause after school this evening. Mrs. Honnold visited my school today.

Wednesday March 16, 1887

Woody Hunting, Jim Haverline & Son & Henry Marks were here (at Cottrells) this evening. I wonder where Will is tonight.

Thursday March 17, 1887

I have a pain in my left side tonight. I have been wiring off some of Mrs. Cottrells recipes.

Friday March 18, 1887

Mr. & Mrs. Payne and Leslie came up after me tonight. After we got home we all went up to Mrs. McIntires and spent the evening. I got three letters.

Saturday March 19, 1887

I done lots of sewing today. Amos McIntire, his mother, Mrs. Payne and I went to town this PM. I got my box of things from home.

Sunday March 20, 1887

Cold & Blustery. Didn't go to SS wrote several letters.

Monday March 21, 1887

Mr. Payne brought me up this morning. Cold this morning but pleasant this evening.

Tuesday March 22, 1887

Have got my sewing done nearly. Don't know what I will do all week.

Wednesday March 23, 1887

Someone shut a dog in the school house last night, it broke 8 window lights and gnawed on the window sash & casings in a terrible way.

Thursday March 24, 1887

I am not very well. The weather still continues to be pleasant. I am going over to Chas. Thresers tomorrow night.

Friday March 25, 1887

I am at Charley's tonight. Hubert, Chas, Myra, and I all played dominoes. Had a pleasant time.

Saturday March 26, 1887

Sewed hard all day. Getting along nicely with my sewing.

Sunday March 27, 1887

After SS Chas, Myra, Hubert and I went down to Mr. Payne's. I got a letter from Mary and one from Mamie Fisk.

Monday March 28, 1887

Charley brought me up and Clark took me to school. If my ankle is not better by Saturday I am going to see the doctor.

Tuesday March 29, 1887

Susie McDermit and Jennie Collins visited my school today. My ankle pains me all the time.

Wednesday March 30, 1887

Grace Petty & I knit lace at recess & noon. My ankle is about the same. Mr. Mulligan's team ran away with him, threw him out, and hurt him seriously Monday. He was drunk.

Thursday March 31, 1887

Mr. & Mrs. Krause came over this evening. Mr. Mulligan died yesterday. My eyes are swelled quite bad. I guess my itch has got in them.

Friday April 1, 1887

Mr. Mulligan was buried today. Prairies fires still rage. April came in like a lamb. (A false report. Mr. Mulligan lives. Mrs. Hues was buried today)

Saturday April 2, 1887

Mr. and Mrs. Payne went over to see Mr. Mulligan. We went up to Mrs. McIntires and spent the evening. I have worked hard all day & am tired.

Sunday April 3, 1887

Mr. and Mrs. Payne and I went up to Ord today. Cold & Stormy. Snowed a little.

Monday April 4, 1887

At school as usual. I had the nervous headache tonight. Mrs. Cottrell gave me some catnip tea and it cured it.

Tuesday April 5, 1887

Took supper at Mr. Krause's. I had a good visit. The wind blew hard all day.

Wednesday April 6, 1887

Clark Cottrell went to town but I didn't get any letters.

Thursday April 7, 1887

At T.C. Honnolds tonight. I am having a splendid visit. Have done some sewing on her machine.

Friday April 8, 1887

The wind blew very hard all day. It has been very warm. We need rain very badly. Mr. & Mrs. Payne came after me. They made a visit at D. Stewarts.

Saturday April 9, 1887

Very windy and dusty. I made the waist to my wedding dress. Also 2 sheets, 2 ticks and 1 pair of pillow cases and sewed up two pair more that I didn't hem.

Sunday April 10, 1887

Easter Sunday. Mrs. McIntire and Rob were here to dinner. I went home with the Preston girls. Wrote in their albums. Got Jennie and Susie's pictures.

Monday April 11, 1887

We had a pleasant shower this morning but not half enough. Mr. Payne brought me up to my school.

Tuesday April 12, 1887

Mrs. Hannold called at the school house this morning. I cut out my percale dress this evening. Rained nearly all the pm.

Wednesday April 13, 1887

At Mr. Krause tonight to sew on her machine. Will stay all night. It rained some this morning.

Thursday April 14, 1887

Went to school through the rain. Krause little Englishman took me. The wind has changed & it is colder this evening.

Friday April 15, 1887

Mr. Payne came after me. I sewed on my white dress and wrote a letter to Will,

Saturday April 16, 1887

Went to town. Hattie Mells came home with us. It snowed some today but melted as fast as it came.

Sunday April 17, 1887

Hubert Weed came down last night and stayed all night with Leslie. We young folks walked up to SS.

Monday April 18, 1887

Mr. Payne brought me up to my school this morning. It is still cloudy but has not rained today.

Tuesday April 19, 1887

It rained again today. I had 9 schoolers today.

Wednesday April 20, 1887

It was a nice day today the sun shone all day.

Thursday April 21, 1887

It rained again today. Mr. Grays got hurt by running the horses.

Friday April 22, 1887

It rained and snowed today and the wind blew hard all day. Mr. Payne came after me as usual tonight.

Saturday April 23, 1887

Mrs. Payne is real poorly. I washed, ironed & mopped today.

Sunday April 24, 1887

Mr. & Mrs. Payne and I went up to the McIntires. I met Mr. & Mrs. Schaffer. Rob & I went to church.

Monday April 25, 1887

A pleasant day. I hope over rain is over for the present.

Tuesday April 26, 1887

Went over to Baettgers for money for teaching. Stayed all night at T.C. Honnolds. She gave me a lot of garden seed.

Wednesday April 27, 1887

Dan and Mr. Weed came down after their cattle and hogs. I went down to MR. Payne's too. Dan & MR. Payne burned off between them & W. Greens.

Thursday April 28, 1887

Dan & Mr. Payne went over to Vankirks this morning. I rode over to school with them. Pettys sent Mrs. Cottrell some rhubarb.

Friday April 29, 1887

Mr. & Mrs. Payne came up after me tonight. Dan & Mr. Weed took their cattle and hogs today. The poor things suffered in the heat.

Saturday April 30, 1887

I washed and went to town. Mrs. McIntire came down and helped me tie my comforter that ma sent to me.

MEMORANDA

I got my church letter from Mira Valley (Rev. R. Reynolds) Saturday April 30, 1887)

Sunday May 1, 1887

Mr. & Mrs. Payne & I went to the Loup to Dr. Palmers today. IT is cooler today.

Monday May 2, 1887

It has been quite cold today. Quite a change from last week.

Tuesday May 3, 1887

Mrs. Cottrell was sick last night. She had Cholera Morbus. Clark and I was up with her from 1 till 2.

Wednesday May 4, 1887

Vin, Leslie & Melva came down after a load of goods. I went down to Mr. Payne's with them.

Thursday May 5, 1887

I walked down to MR. Payne after school tonight. I find five miles to be quite a walk after school.

Friday May 6, 1887

I dismissed school before three today. Went over to Mr. Pettys and to Ord with Vin.

Saturday May 7, 1887

Made several calls today took dinner at Mr. Barnes, done some trading and then went home with Mamie Fisk and stayed all night.

Sunday May 8, 1887

I met Cella Redlon today. I attended church in Ord this morning. It seems good to meet old Christian friends. Took dinner at Redlons, supper at Marys.

Monday May 9, 1887

It has been very warm today. This is my last week of school and I am very glad it is.

Tuesday May 10, 1887

Not quite so warm today. Only three more days of school. I am glad.

Wednesday May 11

Mr. & Mrs. Payne came up this morning and brought me a letter from Will. I shall start Monday with Mamie Preston & Cella Redlon.

Thursday May 12, 1887

I went over to Mr. Krauses & took supper. It rained and I wore his gun coat home. IT looks as though it is going to rain hard.

Friday May 13, 1887

This is my last day of school in Valley County, NE and I am glad of it. MR. & Mrs. Payne came after me.

Saturday May 14, 1887

Mr. & Mrs. Payne and I went to the Loup and took my things. Mrs. Payne and Josie are going to stay with Mrs. Payne while Mr. Payne takes us to Ainsworth.

MEMORANDA

Mimie Preston, Cella Redlon and I will start for Box Butte Co, Monday. No preventing providence. Mr. Payne will take us to Ainsworth.

Sunday May 15, 1887

Went to church in Myra Valley for the last time. I will start for Box Butte Co. tomorrow.

Monday May 16, 1887

Rained, but Mr. Payne took us. We went to Mr. Redlons sister and stayed all night.

Tuesday May 17, 1887

We traveled a terrible road and got lost. Had to stay out on the prairie last night.

Wednesday May 18, 1887

Arrived at Ainsworth in time for dinner. Started on the 8:20 train for Hay Springs.

Thursday May 19, 1887

Arrived at Hay Springs at 2:40. Cell and I went to bed and had a short nap, then got up and worked hard all day. I will go in the AM.

Friday May 20, 1887

I arrived at Nonpareil this evening. How glad I was to see Will, now I am contented. There is dance in the Preston and Payne barn tonight.

Saturday May 21, 1887

It has been a cloudy, rainy day & Will and I could not go out to the claim. I hope it will be pleasant tomorrow.

Sunday May 22, 1887

Lou Preston, Will and I went out to Will's claim today. It's just grand. One of the land ladies is sick and I am going to take her place.

Monday May 23, 1887

Once in my life I am at work in a hotel. I am very tired tonight.

Tuesday May 24, 1887

I am tireder tonight then I was last night but the girl has come and I want have to work here anymore.

Wednesday May 25, 1887

Will brought me out to the claim today. He stayed here quite a while. I am afraid he is going to be sick. Harve broke some for me.

Thursday May 26, 1887

I am alone on the claim. I have my little garden patch all planted. Harve will have to break some more for me. How good Will is, Bless him.

Friday May 27, 1887

I went over to the Hart ranch with the boys after a water 8 miles. Had a splendid time, gathered flowers and got caught in the rain before we got home.

Saturday May 28, 1887

Went to Nonpareil with Harve. After dinner went to Hemmingford with Miss Pease, had a good time. Was introduced to Elsworth Payne. Harve and I didn't get home till quite late. I came home with a sick headache.

MEMORANDA

I commenced the claim on 22 of May 1887, by planting a few hills of corn. Took up residence on the 25th of May.

Sunday May 29, 1887

Will came out and took dinner with me on the claim. I have no table yet and we ate off from the bed. Great times at our little old sod shanty on the claim.

Monday May 30, 1887

I fixed up one suit for Will. Harve's mule broke loose last night and ran away. They went to Nonpareil. Will caught them. Larkin's folks came this evening. McCanolis came to locate them. All took supper with me.

Tuesday May 31, 1887

I washed today. Harve plowed a little chunk for me & Milton planted it to corn for me. Larkins are undecided whether to locate here or not. I washed today.

Wednesday June 1, 1887

The First of June and cold enough to have a fire to sit by tonight. There was a heavy frost night before that.

Thursday June 2, 1887

Harve and young Larkins went to the saw mill today. Mrs. Larkin washed. The buffalo gnats are very bad. Larkins have decided to stay.

Friday June 3, 1887

The boys got back from the saw mill just before sundown. I planted beams around in the gopher knolls.

Saturday June 4, 1887

It has been very cold today. More like October then June. It rained a little this PM. We need rain very bad.

Sunday June 5, 1887

Will did not come out to dinner today. Mr. Preston is in Iowa and he could not leave the barn. Harve and Milton went to Nonpareil this PM.

Monday June 6, 1887

I got my goods last night. I worked hard all day today straightening things around. My cake stand was broken and I cut one of my fingers on it.

Tuesday June 7, 1887

Milton washed the dishes for me all day because I had sore fingers. Harve went to town and expects to go to the Springs for Will.

Wednesday June 8, 1887

Mrs. Richards and Miss Jones called. It rained very hard at Nonpareil last night and Harve came home this noon. It did not rain hard here. Harve plowed for Milton this PM.

Thursday June 9, 1887

Harve's mules got in the night & went to Nonpareil again.

Friday June 10, 1887

Harve got back with his mules this pm. I washed today. Will came out and caught me all in a mess. We shot gophers or rather he did. Harve went to the Springs.

Saturday June 11, 1887

I sewed some lettuce, onions, and radishes. I ironed today. I am very tired tonight. Milton has his stove and bed up in his house. I let him take one of my straw ticks.

Sunday June 12, 1887

I wrote five letters today and finished my novel, so the day passed. I was sick all night last night. Took a dose of brandy this morning.

Monday June 13, 1887

I sewed Will's shirt today, didn't get it done. Mrs. Larkin washed.

Tuesday June 14, 1887

Mrs. Larkin is making sheets for me. Milton went hunting today. No game

Wednesday June 15, 1887

Finished and done up Will's shirt today. Mr. Larkin went hunting today. No game. I washed today. Wrote to Will. Harve went to the Barnes.

Thursday June 16, 1887

Mr. Larking went hunting today. He got an antelope. Milton went to town. Leel got back from freighting.

Friday June 17, 1887

Will came out to see me today. I had a splendid visit with him. He brought me a pair of shoes. The boys went after water this PM.

Saturday June 18, 1887

I was about sick all day. Did not do any more then I was obliged to.

Sunday June 19, 1887

Will came out to see me again today. We had another good visit. Mr. Larkin took dinner with us. Milton and they went to look at a school section.

Monday June 20, 1887

The boys went to town with Will last night and will start for the Springs this morning.

Tuesday June 21, 1887

Mrs. Larkin and I returned Miss Jones call but she was not at home, so we called on Mrs. Butter. I got very tired.

Wednesday June 22, 1887

I guess my walk yesterday was too much for me. I have been sick or nearly so all day. The boys got home from the Springs tonight.

Thursday June 23, 1887

Mr. & Mrs. Larkin, Harve and I went to town today. I came home with the sick headache. The well digger commenced the well this morning.

Friday June 24, 1887

Will came out and took dinner with me. I do so enjoy giving him come see me.

Saturday June 25, 1887

I washed, ironed and mended today. I am very tired tonight.

Sunday June 26, 1887

Mrs. Larkin and I went with them after water this AM. We saw seven antelope, one coyote and three wild horses.

Monday June 27, 1887

Leel and Harve and I went to Nonpareil today. I took my etc. I am going to try and get up a class in embroidery.

Tuesday June 28, 1887

Our well is 33 feet deep now. I finished my foot stool, baked and ironed and did some mending today. Mr. Larkins commenced residing on their claim.

Wednesday June 29, 1887

I went up to see Mr. Larkin. It is quite a walk up there.

Thursday June 30, 1887

Harve and Leel went to the timber after wood this morning.

Friday July 1, 1887

It rained last night. The boys got home in time for dinner. I finished the cigar box for Preston and Payne today.

Saturday July 2, 1887

I am twenty seven years old today. I thought Will would be out but he did not come. Harve gave me a pair of buffalo horns. I made Mrs. L a pin cushion.

Sunday July 3, 1887

Milton, Harve and I went to town. Will and I went to church. I gave in my church letter. I will remain until after the Fourth.

Monday July 4, 1887

The celebration is over. I rode in the car of state. The first time I ever rode in a procession. I had a splendid time.

Tuesday July 5, 1887

Mrs. Gilmon and Maude Pullock came out home with me today. Will brought us. He gave me a rifle. It is raining.

Wednesday July 6, 1887

Elsworth Payne and Cella Redlon came today. Cella will stay with me for awhile.

Thursday July 7, 1887

Cella commenced to learn work today. I have had a good visit with her. Mr. & Mrs. Larking went after water.

Friday July 8, 1887

They struck water at 80 feet in the well today. Hagerty has to go and prove up on his place before he can finish the well. Cella & I watched today.

Saturday July 9, 1887

Cella ironed and I baked today. We were very tired tonight. Will came out to stay all night for the first time.

Sunday July 10, 1887

Harve went to the Springs. Harve, Milton and Will started for town about 5 o'clock and met Elsworth coming out and Will came back with him. They stayed until 8 o'clock.

Monday July 11, 1887

Cella was sick today and I didn't have half blackberry enough for her until Milton got home from town. Mr. Larkin and Leel went to the timber.

Tuesday July 12, 1887

Cella and I washed today. We took dinner at the Miltons.

Wednesday July 13, 1887

Cella and I did not iron today, it was so warm. They will finish the well tomorrow. Mr. Hope will help them.

Thursday July 14, 1887

Harve got home from his trip to the Springs. Leel and his father got home too about half past ten. The well is done. It is 85 feet deep.

Friday July 15, 1887

Harve, Cella and I went to town this morning. It rained so we had to stay all night.

Saturday July 16, 1887

Cella and I passed our examination today.

Sunday July 17, 1887

Will and Elsworth brought us out here this morning. They stayed all day. I had a splendid visit with Will.

Monday July 18, 1887

Cella and I washed today. Everything in the house was dirty. We did not get through until 3 o'clock. We were very tired. I baked for the boys to go to the timber.

Tuesday July 19, 1887

Mr. Larkin, Leel, Milton and Harve all went to the timber today to remain until Friday. Cella did her ironing. It rained today.

Wednesday July 20, 1887

I ironed my starched clothes this morning. I killed a gopher with my rifle. It rained today.

Thursday July 21, 1887

Mrs. Larking washed this AM. She is about sick with rheumatism. Elsworth came after Cella this PM. It rained today.

Friday July 22, 1887

Mrs. Larkin has been in bed all day with rheumatism. I hope she is not going to be sick. The mend did not get home from the timber. It rained and hailed.

Saturday July 23, 1887

Mrs. Larkin is quite sick. Mr. Larking and Leel got home from the timber at 1 o'clock. Harve and Milton got home at 5 o'clock. They had company this evening. Two gentleman.

Sunday July 24, 1887

I looked for Will and Mr. Preston out to dinner today but they did not come. Milton and I went to see Mrs., Larkin this evening. She is better.

Monday July 25, 1887

Young Davis and his sister called. I washed, patched stockings, and baked cookies. Took dinner at Harve's and supper at Milton's.

Tuesday July 26, 1887

I ironed this forenoon and went up to Mrs. Larkins, she is not so well today. Harve and Milton went to town. Mr. Myer came up with them.

Wednesday July 27, 1887

Harve, Milton, and Mr. Myers started on a hunt this evening. It rained this PM.

Thursday July 28, 1887

The men got home from their hunt about 4 pm. They did not get a thing.

Friday July 29, 1887

Mr. Larking went to town. Mr. Myer went with him. The boys commenced to plaster my house today.

Saturday July 30, 1887

Harve's mule took a ramble this AM. The boys finished plastering my house.

Sunday July 31, 1887

Lou and Will came out today. Will has strained his back. He can hardly move.

Monday August 1, 1887

I went to Nonpareil to stay a week. Harve went to Hay Springs and Milton is left alone.

Tuesday August 2, 1886

I bought calico for shirts for Lou and Will today. Mrs. Lowdell kindly offered me the use of her medicine.

Wednesday August 3, 1887

We had a hard rain and hail storm today. I was not very well this AM. Will's back is better. Preston and Payne are erecting a buggy shed.

Thursday August 4, 1887

I sewed some on the shirts and some on the white dress for Mrs. Gilmon.

Friday August 5, 1887

I called on Mrs. Gilmon. Shower her how to do up white shirts.

Saturday August 6, 1887

I called on Mrs. Wicker. Took tea at Mr. Gilmons. Will couldn't leave for tea but came up afterward. I called on Mrs. Knight.

Sunday August 7, 1887

I was in bed at the hotel until four o'clock with sick headache. Will had to go to Mud Springs.

Monday August 8, 1887

Milton, Harve and I came out home this morning. They had to plaster the south side of my house over again.

Tuesday August 9, 1887

It rained a nice shower today. An old man by the name of Straton stayed all night with us last night.

Wednesday August 10, 1887

I washed today. Had a big washing. Milton helped me. Harve broke today.

Thursday August 11, 1887

I ironed all day and then did not get through. Miss Jones called.

Friday August 12, 1887

I finished my ironing and moved into my house but slept at Miltons.

Saturday August 13, 1887

I baked and straightened around in general. Harve and I went up to Mrs. Larkins, Leel came home with us and took supper.

MEMORANDA

13th, the boys caught Butters colts & tied tin can to their tails. How they did run.

Sunday August 14, 1887

Will, Mr. and Mrs. Gilmon came out today. I went to town with them.

Monday August 15, 1887

I am at the Farmers home, am doing some sewing. I drafted a pattern and cut a dress for Mrs. Shindler.

Tuesday August 16, 1887

Will and I took dinner at Mrs. Prowns. Harve came in. He took dinner there too.

Wednesday August 17, 1887

I finished my sewing today.

Thursday August 18, 1887

Harve and Milton came to town today. Preston sold his thresher. It rained and hailed this evening. Lou, Laura, Will and I took a buggy ride this evening.

Friday August 19, 1887

Will came home with me to do some breaking for me. I washed this afternoon. Miss Jones came over to see me.

Saturday August 20, 1887

I ironed and baked, not quite tired. Will is making quite a black streak.

Sunday August 21, 1887

Lou and Mrs. Shindler came out to dinner. Harve, Milton, Will and I went up to Larkins after they went home.

Monday August 22, 1887

A drizzling rain all day. I washed but could not hang out my clothes. Mr. Larkin went to town.

Tuesday August 23, 1887

Rainy and cloudy all day so I could not hang out my clothes. The boys broke this afternoon.

Wednesday August 24, 1887

Three days of cold rainy weather. A few flakes of snow fell today. My washing is still in the tub.

Thursday August 25, 1887

It cleared off and I got my clothes dry. Wills donkey got loose last night and I did not get up and tell him & he and Milton had to foot it to town. I never saw will look so tired. I get up and tell him next time.

Friday August 26, 1887

Not a very pleasant day. Will had to go to town to help Lou with the dance.

Saturday August 27, 1887

It has been quite pleasant day. Mr. Larkins folks were all down. Milton cut Leels and Mrs. Larkins hair. Will has not got back from the dance.

Sunday August 28, 1887

Will came after me to go to town and teach my class in embroidery.

Monday August 29, 1887

Did not commence my class today. Helped Mrs. Lowdell sew.

Tuesday August 30, 1887

Commenced my class today. Had three scholars. We had lots of fun.

Wednesday August 31, 1887

Sewed for myself this AM. Came home this PM with larkins. They got a new stove.

Thursday September 1, 1887

Will commenced to lay sod today. He got pretty tired and dirty. I washed and baked. Mr. Larkin and Leel went to the timber.

Friday September 2, 1887

Harve and Milton went to the timber. Will was sick and could not go. Mr. Larkins and Leel got home from the timber today. Leel is here to stay with Will.

Saturday September 3, 1887

Will plastered my doorway. We went to Mr. Larkins to dinner. Milton and Harve got home from the timber this afternoon.

Sunday September 4, 1887

Mr. Larkin and Leel went to the timber. Mrs. L is here. I killed a butcher bird.

Monday September 5, 1887

Will and Milton went to town. Mrs. Larking and I returned Mrs. Richardson's visit.

Tuesday September 6, 1887

Will, Harve, and Milton started this morning for Sioux county to look for timber claims. I went up to Mr. Larkins to stay all night.

Wednesday September 7, 1887

Mr. Larkin came down and washed yesterday. It has been quite cold all day today. Mr. Larkins commenced their well.

Thursday September 8, 1887

Mr. Larking and Leel went to the timber. We had quite a hard shower this PM. Mrs. L came down to stay with me. The boys have not come home.

Friday September 9, 1887

The boy s got home in time for their dinner today. They have been clear in Wyoming. They brought home a lot of Texas horns. Larkins have not got home.

Saturday September 10, 1887

Harve and Will went to town. Milton cut and shucked corn. I washed, ironed and baked. Milton and I had a muskmelon that grew on this farm.

Sunday September 11, 1887

Harve and Will worked a good share of the day on their horns. We all went up to Larkins and took supper.

Monday September 12, 1887

I was sick and did not try to wash. The wind blew very hard from the northwest all day. Harve plowed, Will layed sod and Milton cut corn.

Tuesday September 13, 1887

There was a heavy frost last night and it froze ice in the tub. Harve, Will, Mr. Larkin and Leel all went to the timber. I washed. Shonquist and Blade took dinner.

Wednesday September 14, 1887

Mrs. Larkin ironed some for me this morning. Harve and Will got home from the timber this afternoon. They brought home a teal.

Thursday September 15, 1887

Mr. Larking and Leel got home from the timber this PM. A chinless man took dinner here. I ironed all day. The boys took a ramble to look at land this PM.

Friday September 16, 1887

Will walked to town today. I mended the boys clothes today.

Saturday September 17, 1887

I have not felt very well today. Leel came down this afternoon. Albey is 30 years old today.

Sunday September 18, 1887

The two Miss Davises called this afternoon. I had a bad headache this forenoon. Mrs. Larkin borrowed my tub and things.

Monday September 19, 1887

I got up with a bad headache but I washed anyway. The boys all went hunting this afternoon & as usual came home without any game.

Tuesday September 20, 1887

Harve and Will went to town, did not get home until late. I was sick all day.

Wednesday September 21, 1887

I did my ironing and made pies and browned coffee this forenoon. Did not do anything this afternoon. Harve oiled his harnesses.

Thursday September 22, 1887

A cold damp day. Milton tied up old Carret Snouts horse and then turned it loose again. I sewed some today.

Friday September 23, 1887

Cool but not damp today. I had sick headache all day. Will and Milton killed some little birds for me to make broth of. Harve and Will washed up the dishes.

Saturday September 24, 1887

Will walked to town, today is election for county officers. I shot 5 little birds to make broth of. I shot them all in the head.

Sunday September 25, 1887

It rained and spoiled my visit. Will got back from town by noon. Harve and Milton went over to Hopes this PM. Will and I went to Larkins.

Monday September 26, 1887

Mr. Larkin went to town, took a load of wood in. I washed.

Tuesday September 27, 1887

I ironed some and mended some overalls for Harve and Milton.

Wednesday September 28, 1887

The boys plowed my fire guard today for their road work. Will worked his road tax too. Mrs. Larkin came down and spent the afternoon. I guess I am destined not to go and see Maggie.

Thursday September 29, 1887

Harve took me over to see Maggie Jones but she was not at home. Milton is helping Larkins on their well. Harve, Will and I went up there this afternoon a little while.

Friday September 30, 1887

Milton helped on Larkins well again today, they are at 93 feet. I made Milton a combination shirt this afternoon.

Saturday October 1, 1887

Will and Milton walked to town. Elder Collins is stationed at Nonpareil for the coming year. Will says he will go to church now.

Sunday October 2, 1887

A quiet, pleasant day. Will and I went up to Mr. Larkins to spend the evening.

Monday October 3, 1887

Harve went over to Jones for me. Maggie was not at home but she came this PM and brought over Mrs. Shindlers dress ruffle. She stayed to supper. Larkins finished their well.

Tuesday October 4, 1887

Larkins well is 107 or 108 feet. Will done my washing for me and it was a big one.

Wednesday October 5, 1887

Harve and Will walked to town and attended the fair, they did not get home until quite late. Leel and his pa went to the timber.

Thursday October 6, 1887

Leel and his pa got home quite early today, they had a big load. I finished mother Shindlers dress this forenoon.

Friday October 7, 1887

Mr. Larkin took in a load of wood today. Will went with him. It turned out to be a cold rainy day. Will was nearly froze when he got home.

Saturday October 8, 1887

Harve and Milton husked corn today. Will dug my potatoes and I did not do much of anything. It was cold all day.

Sunday October 9, 1887

Will walked to town today, Lou has not got back yet. Harve tied up two of Butters horses. Got \$2.00 for it.

Monday October 10, 1887

Will and Harve gone to the timber. Mr. Larkin shot two antelope today, brought me down a quarter. Milton and I stopped eating our supper and cooked some antelope.

Tuesday October 11, 1887

Mr. Larkin and I went to town and got home before Harve and Will did. They got a nice load.

Wednesday October 12, 1887

Mrs. Larkin and Leel were here all the AM. Mr. Larkin went out hunting, got another antelope. I had sick headache. The Davis boy came over this eve.

Thursday October 13, 1887

Harve and Milton went to the timber this morning. Will helped me get my washing out this AM and we went up to the Larkins this PM.

Friday October 14, 1887

Milton and Harve got home half past 3 this afternoon. Mr. Larkin and Leel were down and of course L had to stay to play high five this evening.

Saturday October 15, 1887

Will and Milton went to town. Harve and I walked over to Davis and back.

Sunday October 16, 1887

A load of us, 11 in all went to Nonpareil to church this evening and the minister did not come. Next time we won't go.

Monday October 17, 1887

Will walked to town. Lou got back this PM. Will came home horse back. Harve helped me do my washing.

Tuesday October 18, 1887

Milton and Harve husked corn this forenoon, went hunting this afternoon. Will and I stayed home and shot at a mark.

Wednesday October 19, 1887

Will went to town this morning, he will know today whether Lou will give him work or not. Harve and Milton went up to Larkins this AM. The mules broke loose and they had quite a chase.

Thursday October 20, 1887

Harve and I went to town. Milton worked for Davis and Will walked home from town and carried a great budget of things.

Friday October 21, 1887

Harve and Milton worked for Davis. Will was sick all day over his tramp last night. An old man and his cow got lost and stayed all night with us.

Saturday October 22, 1887

Harve and Milton worked at Davis. Will and I went to Larkins for dinner. It was a cold rainy day.

Sunday October 23, 1887

Our rain turned into a snow storm. The boys all have bad colds. Did not go to town as they intended.

Monday October 24, 1887

Cold and angry most of the day. Milton killed an antelope. Davis got two. Harve and Will went to town. I washed.

Tuesday October 25, 1887

Mrs. Larkin came down and helped me bake. Our first cake was a failure.

Wednesday October 26, 1887

Will's birthday. He is 33 today. Amos and Rob McIntire and Mrs. Payne arrived this PM. About 3 o'clock. Milton was at Davises. Harve and Will were to town. Mrs. Larkin helped me today.

Thursday October 27, 1887

All the men went hunting. Mrs. Larking was down a little while. The six men brought one little duck.

Friday October 28, 1887

Mrs. Larkin helped me again today. Brought down the three ducks her men folks killed yesterday. Harve and Amos went to look for land. Milton and Rob went hunting. No game.

Saturday October 29, 1887

They all went to town and left me alone all day. I got a letter from Mamie and one from Albey. We were surprised at supper by the appearance of Elder Collin, he told Will and I we would be married this eve.

MEMORANDA

William A Payne and Susan O. Carter were married in their little sod shanty on the claim Saturday evening October 29th, 1887 by Reverend A. Collins.

Sunday October 30, 1887

Elsworth and S. Preston came up from Grand Lake and took dinner with us. Pa went home with them.

Monday October 31, 1887

Amos, Harve and Rob went up to Chadron to take out homestead papers. Will is not very well but he helped me wash. We, Milton and Leel spent the eve at Davises.

Tuesday November 1, 1887

Davises young folks came down and spent the eve. I ironed, baked and fixed up to go home.

Wednesday November 2, 1887

The boys got home from Chadron. Rob took one claim, Amos took two.

Thursday November 3, 1887

We got started for Valley County just after sunrise. Leel Larkin is going with us. We drove about 30 miles. Camped 2 miles east of Grand Lake.

Friday November 4, 1887

In the sand hills. Drove about 30 miles. Camped near a Railroad camp. Amos is about sick.

Saturday November 5, 1887

We pulled through some terrible sand hills today. Had company at our camp this eve, three men.

Sunday November 6, 1887

We took dinner at Whitman, they have commenced to lay track on Grand Lake. Camped in the sand hills tonight.

Monday November 7, 1887

Will Tobias joined us this AM. Will go with us to Sargent. We are still in the sand hills.

Tuesday November 8, 1887

Amos does not improve very fast, but we are getting nearer home everyday. We crossed the Middle Loup River this morning.

Wednesday November 9, 1887

Amos is a little better. He ate a little today. We stopped at a house for the first time we left our soddie.

Thursday November 10, 1887

We left our bread and potatoes at the Englishmans this morning. Camped at Woods Park. Took dinner at West Union.

Friday November 11, 1887

Got home the middle of this afternoon. Took supper with Mrs. McIntire.

Saturday November 12, 1887

Went down to the Loup to the Dr.'s, had a good visit. Aunt Mollie gave me a can of sorghum.

Sunday November 13, 1887

Mrs. McIntire and Rob & Amos came down and we all went to Sunday School. Pa, Ma, Will and I went over to Dan Stewarts this eve.

Monday November 14, 1887

We washed today. Pa and Will dug potatoes. We went over to Charley Threshers and spent the evening.

Tuesday November 15, 1887

We ironed today and ma baked some pies. We stayed at home this evening.

Wednesday November 16, 1887

There was a candy pull at McIntires this eve. Pa, Ma, Will and I went up. Everybody had a good time.

Thursday November 17, 1887

I washed and ma baked and ironed. Will went to town. We took ma's turkeys got 5 ½ cts per pound.

Friday November 18, 1887

We started for Dan's this morning. Stayed all night at Kent. The wind blew a perfect gale.

Saturday November 19, 1887

Arrived at Dan's at 4 pm. They all came running out and looked as natural as old shoes. \

Sunday November 20, 1887

We all went to Sunday school this afternoon. I have had a bad headache all day.

Monday November 21, 1887

Pa, Dan, Will and Leslie all went to Prewster this afternoon. They killed an antelope.

Tuesday November 22, 1887

Ma, Vin, the children, Pa and I went over to Joe Clarks, and remained until after dinner.

Wednesday November 23, 1887

It snowed last night. Mabel wore my overshoes.

Thursday November 24, 1887

Thanksgiving Day. Vin washed. Dan, Will and I took Ella to Prewster to have her teeth pulled. It was storming.

Friday November 25, 1887

We went over to MR. Weeds visiting. The men of the neighborhood worked on the school house. IT was storming.

Saturday November 26, 1887

A hard snow and wind storm, a regular blizzard. Nellie Clark came home with Mabel last night and had to remain all day today.

Sunday November 27, 1887

28 degree below zero this morning but clear and pleasant. Mr. Weeds and Mr. Clarks came over and spent the evening.

Monday November 28, 1887

Dan and Will went to town this AM. It was very cold, but pleasant this afternoon.

Tuesday November 29, 1887

We washed this AM. Went to MR. Moors this PM. Went over to Mr. Rittenhouses and spent the evening. The men went to the river after brunch.

Wednesday November 30, 1887

Dan and Will took Ella to town and she had a tooth pulled. We all took supper at Mr. Van Nests. They met at Dans and practiced singing this evening.

Thursday December 1, 1887

Snowed this morning but was a pleasant and thawed this afternoon. We took dinner at Mr. Scotts today.

Friday December 2, 1887

We spent the PM at Mr. Fletchers, stayed to ten. The young folks had a party at Mr. Scotts.

Saturday December 3, 1887

There was 29 here at Dans to supper and spend the evening. We had a pleasant time.

Sunday December 4, 1887

All went to SS this PM just after we back Harve came. He started from home two weeks ago Tuesday.

Monday December 5, 1887

Mr. Weeds, Havre and use started for Valley County this morning we stayed all night at the Farmers home. We slept on the floor on a blanket.

Tuesday December 6, 1887

We got to Ord before we ate our dinner. We took dinner at Warrens. Stayed all night at Mr. McIntires.

Wednesday December 7, 1887

Will and Harve went to the Loup today. I got a letter from Pa and one from Ida, she is teaching the Dr. School.

Thursday December 8, 1887

Will walked to town this PM. Mr. King called. Pa sold his straw to Mr. Reinhart.

Friday December 9, 1887

Will and I went to town, spent the PM at Dr. Palmers. Pa and MA had gone to church when we got home.

Saturday December 10, 1887

Will went to town with Mr. Krause. He stayed to dinner as they came back. He gave me a prairie chicken.

Sunday December 11, 1887

Pa, Ma, Will and I went up to Dan Stewarts to see their little girl. We spent a pleasant evening.

Monday December 12, 1887

Will walked to town today. I washed. Ma is about sick, Meetings commenced this evening, Will and I went.

Tuesday December 13, 1887

I ironed today. It stormed so there was not any meeting tonight.

Wednesday December 14, 1887

Mrs. McIntire and boys spent the day with us. Mr. Hill stayed here all night. He is canvassing for a family bible.

Friday December 16, 1887

Will walked to town. We got a letter from Pa today.

Saturday December 17, 1887

Will went to town with Bert Hall. He got the wagon to haul some coal.

Sunday December 18, 1887

We went up to Mr. McIntires. Found the chicken Will shot several days before.

Monday December 19, 1887

Lou Collins and Wife spent the day with us. Will went to town. Pa went up to McIntires. She sent us some buttermilk.

Tuesday December 20, 1887

Mr. Weed started home yesterday. It has turned very cold and the wind blows hard from the northwest.

Wednesday December 21, 1887

Very cold last night & all day. The wind has gone down this evening and it is warmer. King brought me a letter from Vin.

Thursday December 22, 1887

We washed this AM and Will and I went to town this PM. Ma had the ironing done when we got home.

Friday December 23, 1887

Pa and Ma spent the day at Chas. Threshers. They have a 10 pound boy born this morning. Will and I spent the day at Mr. Krauses.

Saturday December 24, 1887

Will went to town. There was a big wolf hunt today. They killed three. Are going again a week from today.

Sunday December 25, 1887

Christmas. Just a year ago I got this little book. Will and I went up Mrs. McIntires from SS.

Monday December 26, 1887

I earned \$.50 today. I cut and fit a dress for Jennie Collins.

Tuesday December 27, 1887

The young folks came in this evening and gave us a surprise. Had a nice time.

Wednesday December 28, 1887

Will went to town with Mr. Preston. Got a letter from Gooden offering him \$25.00 from his school land, which he accepted.

Thursday December 29, 1887

Mrs. Preston spent the day with us. We had a pleasant visit.

Friday December 30, 1887

Will walked to town, brought me a letter from Ida. Lella has a little boy.

Saturday December 31, 1887

One of the worst blizzards of the season sees the old year out and the New Year in. Harve came down and brought us a piece of fresh meat.

Remarks and Calculations

An interesting post-script to the diary of Susan Carter is the fact that in her accounts of events of the year 1887 she often mentioned the Weed family. Always she referred to them as Mr. & Mrs. Weed therefore I never established their given names. Susan also mentioned Hubert Weed, a son of the Weeds.

Sometime after I copied this diary I was in Sargent with my husband and having time to spare I decided to visit the Library. While going through some old history books I found a "History of Nebraska" or it may have been "History of Western Nebraska". The book contained hundreds of names and I curiously looked for some of the names Susan had mentioned in the diary. I found the name of Hubert Weed, born May 1870 in Valley County, the third of four children born to Theodore and Sarah (green) Weed. It stated that when Hubert was a boy his parents left Valley County in the year 1887 and took a homestead in Blaine County where they lived for three years before returning to Valley County.

At the time the book was published, and I failed to note the date, Hubert Weed was considered a very prominent man in Myra Valley.

It is not clear as to whether it was Will Payne or Susan herself who had the homestead in Box Butte County. She first refers to it was Will's claim and later as "our claim". You will notice the entry of May 22 reads:

"Lou Preston, Will and I went out to Wills claim today, it is just grand."

However a few days following, Susan herself began living on the homestead alone.

In the diary are entries of expenses for each month of the year which I did not include when I copied the contents. For the month of May is this entry:

PAID

Stove and furniture = \$21.75
Flour, groceries, soap = \$5.10
Dishes, lamp = \$3.75
Cupboard & chairs = \$3.00
Thread and needles \$.35
Total on claim = \$33.95

Later in the entries for June is this"

PAID: "For homestead papers" = \$15.50

It could be that Susan bought the claim from Will. The entry of September 28th would indicate that Will must have had a claim on interest in it as it says:

“Will worked his road tax too.”

In time I hope to do more research on this and see if I can establish more definite facts.

Another interesting entry of expenses for each month is this entry in the month of October.

PAID: “For marriage license = \$1.25, marriage fees = \$5.00”

EPILOGUE

Will and Susan Payne moved to Lead, South Dakota early in 1888 where Mr. Payne was engaged in mining. During this time a son, Ansel, was born to them in 1888. A second son was born in 1891, living only ten days. Ansel also preceded his parents in death, dying in 1900 at the age of 12 years.

Later Will and Susan moved to Morrill, Nebraska. It was while they were residing here that Mr. Payne passed away in 1912. (or 1913?)

Susan then moved to Torrington, Wyoming where she operated a restaurant for a time. ON March 23, 1915 she was married to Joseph Nicklas at Scottsbluff, Nebraska. They lived for a time in Republic, Kansas (1916), and later in Brandon, Colorado, and in 1930 moved to Stonehelm, Colorado where they lived until 1944 at which time they made their home in Sterling, Colorado.

Susan passed away at their home in Sterling on May 3, 1946 at the age of 85 years. Funeral services were in charge of A.D. Jackson and son mortuary with burial at Riverside cemetery in Sterling. She was survived by several step-children and one adopted daughter.

I met Susan only once in 1939 while she and “Uncle Joe” were living at Stonehelm, Colorado. She was quite elderly and I remember her quite vividly. I recall her showing us many pieces of fancy embroidery work she had done. My grandmother later inherited many of those pieces and in turn my mother now has them. We still admire the many hours of work that Susan put into each piece.

A step-son of Susan’s, Frank Nicholas of Sterling, Colorado, relates that Susan was a kind, gentle and loving mother to him and his brothers and sisters. I remember her too as a sweet little old lady, which she truly was.

I believe that the Fosseys, McIntires, and Paynes were related somehow or were very close friends. Below are a few calculations I came to but have not proved.

Fossey

They Fosseys had several children; Leslie (See Jan 2nd & Feb 14th) & Mabel (See Feb 14th & Feb 27th). The entry of February 10th would indicated the Fosseys had more children other then Leslie and Mabel. See entry on Feb 12th. “I took Melva with me” Melva must have been a daughter of the Fosseys. The entries of February 17th and 23rd mention “Ella” who I assumed was another daughter of the Fosseys.

I wondered if it were possible that Vin (Mrs. Fossey) might have been a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Payne since in the entry of Feb 28th it states, "Dan's are packing up now." Entry of March 1st states: "The children are staying at their grandpa's now." Entry of March 2nd states: "Dan's will stay at Mr. Paynes now until they are ready to go." Entry of March 14th, "The Fosseys and Weeds "went today" (presumably Blaine co.). Entry of March 18th states that Leslie was with MR. and Mrs. Payne, also entry of April 17th indicates that Leslie was at the Paynes and since the diary earlier mentioned the children stayin at their grandpa I somehow got the impression that the Paynes were the grandparents of the Fossey children.

When Dan Fossey and Mr. Weed came after their livestock (April 27th and 29th) the children must have gone back to Blaine County with them as in the entry on May 4th it states that "Vin", Leslie and Melva came after a load of goods. So at least Leslie had somehow gotten to Blaine county.

McIntire

I assumed since Susan never mentioned a Mr. McIntire that Mrs. McIntire must have been a widow. (See entry of Jan 11th). She must have had 4 four sons: Harve and Rob (Jan 26th, 30th and Apr 10th), Milton (Feb 26th) and Amos (Mar 19th).

I have not established the day of when Harve and Milton McIntire left Valley Co. and took up homesteads in Box Butte Co. Must have been after, or about the same time Will went West, however we know that they did not go together. It must have not been too long prior to the time Susan arrived in Box Butte as the entry of June 11th states that: "Milton has his stove and bed up in his house." This would give the impression he was not completely settled. There is no mention of Harve or Milton after Feb 26th until Susan again encounters them after they arrived in Box Butte Co in May. (See May 25th & 26th)

WEED

I cannot account for any more then two children of Mr. and Mrs. Weed although I know they had four children (see post-script) of which Hubert was the third. I think Myra was a daughter of the Weeds. (See Jan 6th & 8th) There was also a Myra Thresher (See Jan 20th). In the entry of March 25th it states that "Hubert, Chas., Myra and I all played dominoes." The entry of March 27th also mentions Hubert and Myra. Is this the Hubert and Myra weed or is it Myra Thresher? And who is THIS Hubert? Were the children staying at the Threshers until their parents were settled in Blaine County?

Cottrell

I believe that Clark Cottrell was a son of Mrs. Cottrell since Susan always refers to Mrs. Cotrell as Mrs. And to Clark simply as Clark, never Mr. Cottrell. I believe that if he had been Mrs. Cottrell's husband she would have called him Mr. instead of Clark.

Preston

There seemed to be a number of Preston's. Dick Preston accompanied Will to Box Butte County. He was married however the diary does not give the name of his wife. (Jan 8th)

The name of Lou Preston does not appear until Susan arrived in Box Butte County (May 22nd). Will was either in Business with Lou Preston or worked for him. Seems Lou was the box, (see June 5th, Aug 25th and Oct 19th) yet the business was referred to as Preston & Payne. (see May 20th, July 1st & Aug 3rd).

Have not established the identity of Mrs. Sarah Preston. (Feb 27th, April 10th & Oct 30th) or of Mamie Preston or Cella Redlon who accompanied Susan to Box Butte County. (We can assume that Cella was fond of Elsworth Payne.)

Payne

A few days prior to the time Will and Susan were married, Amos and Rob McIntire and Mr. Payne (Will's father) arrived for what I took to be a business trip to look for and/or take out claims.

Up to the time of her marriage to Will, Susan always referred to Wills father as Mr. Payne. They very day after she and Will were married she started calling him 'pa'.

In the entry of October 30th, she states that Elsworth (Payne, I presumed) & S. Preston came up from Grand Lake and took dinner with us.

I wondered if S. Preston was Miss Sarah Preston? Also could Elsworth have been a brother or even a son to Mr. Payne? Susan says 'Pa' went home with them. They must have been fairly close relatives.

Elsworth Payne is not mentioned until the entry of May 28th. I have not yet established his identity (other then the fact he was rather fond of Cella Redlon) but do think he must have been a relative of Wills.