

Report of the Courtship, Marriage
and Honeymoon of

Isaac Pollard and
Viola Welch



1861

Isaac Pollard, born in Plymouth, Vermont, July 11, 1830.

On March 11, 1861, he married Viola Lydia Welch, born in
Potsdam, New York, February 20, 1841.

Children:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| ^{Hattie} Lottie Adaline | Dec. 30, 1861 |
| Lottie Maria | June 21, 1864 |
| Emma Angela | Dec. 10, 1866 |
| Ernest M. | April 15, 1869 |
| Herbert Isaac | April 4, 1873 |
| Mary Ann Brown | Feb. 3, 1876 |
| Raymond Clark | Dec. 10, 1878 |

Golden Wedding March 11, 1911

Merry Christmas

1962

RAYMOND AND CAROLINE POLLARD

THE DIARY OF ISAAC POLLARD, JR.

(An exact copy of a typed copy of the diary loaned by
Mr. R. C. Pollard, son of the diarist, Nehawka, Nebraska,
January, 1952. Mr. Pollard has in his possession the
original from which the typed copy was made.)

THE DIARY OF
ISAAC POLLARD JR.

1861

- Jan. 1 - Stayed last night with Dr. Bowen. He is expecting to cut Ellison's feet off today. Left Nebraska City this morn at 8 o'clock A. M. for Vt. Bought a through ticket to Rutland for \$47.15.
- Jan. 6 - (Sunday) Arrived at Buffalo this morn at 5 o'clock & laid over till 6 O'clock P. M. when I started again. Arrived at Rutland about 1 o'clock Monday Jan. 7. Boston train was gone so I had to lay over. In the eve I found John P. Brown at the Bordwell House & he offered to go & carry me home tomorrow which I accepted.
- Tuesday Jan. 8 - Mr. Brown went & carried me home, very comfortable day & good sleighing. Got home about 3 o'clock. Found the folks all well at home. Snow about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep.
- Sunday Jan 13 - Went to meeting at the Kingdom - terrible cold but pleasant.
- Jan 26 - Went to Chester on the cars,
- Jan. 29 - Got home from Chester to Ludlow.
- Jan. 30 - Went from Ludlow home.
- Wednesday Feb. 6 - Went to Timothy's great party. Very pleasant and good going. About 32 at the party - good time.
- Feb. 7 - Very snowy & blustering - could not get home from Tim's.
- Feb. 8 - Terrible cold and blustering
- Feb. 9 - Cold but pleasant. Went home from Tim's.
- Thursday Feb. 14 - Carried Matilda Josselyn to visit Miss Shedd's school at the Furnace & also to Miss Barne's school in Uncle Amos' district. (Very pleasant)
- Feb. 13 - Wednesday. Went out to Reading to Mr. Burnham's to see Mr. Ellison & find out what he wants to do for his son who has got his feet frozen in Nebraska. He says he will send some money to him by me, when I go home. (Very windy but not cold)
- March 10, Sunday - Mr. Ellison came over to father's and gave me \$60 to carry to his son James Ellison in Nebraska. I gave him a receipt for the money & agreed to pay it over to him on my arrival home.
- Feb. 13 (Wednesday) - Stopped at Riland's & he told me of a girl at Put Brown's that he wished me to go and see. I promised him to do so (Her name is Viola Welch.)

Sat. Feb. 16 - Went up to Winslow Sawyer's & had an introduction to Miss Welch. Stopped 2 or 3 hours with her & then went to Ludlow & stayed over night with Uncle Jo - Miss W appeared well & treated me kindly.

Thursday Feb. 21 - Went up to Mr. Sawyer's again to see Miss W. Got there just at night, stayed there till about midnight & went home. Was well received & liked her appearance so well I asked her to ride to Ludlow to meeting with me next Sunday. She accepted the invitation. Very snowy and blustering. Roads badly drifted going home.

Feb. 24 (Sunday) - Went up to Winslow Sawyer's & carried Miss W. to Ludlow to Meeting. (cold & windy). Went to Uncle Jo's & took dinner. Stayed at Mr. Sawyer's with Miss W. all night & had a long talk with her about matrimony & we compared notes considerably & found no discord. Was well pleased with her & she appeared satisfied with me.

Feb. 25 - Very pleasant. Went up to the Notch & carried Miss W. to Galusha Coolidge's to do some work. I agreed to carry her home to Proctorsville next Friday.

Feb. 26 (Tuesday) - Went to Mt. Holly with Mother to Uncle Dodge's. (very pleasant)

Feb. 27 - Went from Uncle Dodge's to Rutland with Warren. Very pleasant and warm, snow most all gone in Rutland.

Thursday Feb. 28 - Pleasant & warm, went home from Mt. Holly by Timothy's & stopped on the way at Elder Packer's to dinner and got home about dark. Snow very shimpy & bad traveling.

Friday March 1st - Warm & pleasant. Went up to Winslow Sawyer's & took Miss Welch down to Proctorsville to Add. Brown's to ask his advice upon our business. Got to Mr. Brown's about middle of the P. M. Was well received by Mr. Brown's folks. Talked the subject over with Add. & he expressed himself well pleased with our Union, & the same evening Miss Welch and myself talked the subject over again, & made our contract of marriage - Stayed all night. Miss W. appeared firm & decided & accepted my offer without any hesitancy or reserve.

Sat. March 2 - Mr. Brown & I went up to Ludlow & he bought a riding dress for Viola & a few other things. (warm) Stayed at Mr. B. Again all night.

Sun. March 3 - (very warm) Viola very serious & sad. Had a long talk with her in the morn, & we exchanged opinions freely & she appeared better & well satisfied, & I was also much better pleased than before, in fact I was a little way from being happy before this mornings talk. I offered her the privilege of cancelling our engagement any time before the wedding that she wished to - but she said she had no desire to do it. So we made our arrangements to be married next week or as soon as we can get ready - I went home about 10 o'clock & left Viola at Mr. B's.

Tuesday March 5 - Cold & windy. Went down to Proctorsville to see Miss Welch again & towards evening took her & went up to Mr. McIntyre's visiting & spent the evening. Mrs. McIntyre is Viola's aunt. Talked over our business some more & agreed to be married next Mon. March 11th & start the same day for Nebraska.

March 6 - Carried Viola up to Father's to visit my folks before we go away.

Thursday March 7 - Very cold & windy. Father & I went out to Woodstock to buy me some clothing, trunk etc. Got our wedding cards, kerosene lamp, clock & many other small things. Father bought Viola 3 tea spoons & 2 dessert spoons & 2 bed spreads. Viola stayed at Father's today & Riland & wife came down to see her.

Wednesday March 6 - Went up to Ludlow with Viola & Mr. Brown to buy her some things. While she was doing her trading I went into Mr. Robert's office & had my teeth filled - paid him 3.50 for filling 2 teeth. Went back to Proctorsville to dinner & in the P.M. carried Viola up to Father's in Plymouth.

Friday March 8 - (Pleasant but rather cold) Took Viola this morn & started on a visiting tour, called at Uncle Amos' and Uncle Norman's - Winslow Sawyer's & Put Brown's & went over to Timothy's & spent the P. M. & went down to Proctorsville just at night, got there about dark & stayed over night. Riland, Emily & Isadore went up to Tim's to visit with us. Adaline or Time had never seen Viola before.

Sat. March 9 - Took Viola & went up to Ludlow to do a little trading & have our pictures taken. Had one of myself & Viola taken in a double case for Mother & 3 of Viola alone, one for myself & two for her & a group of her shop mates, paid for all 5.75. Viola had her teeth filled & fixed up ~~for the western trip, she went~~ back to Proctorsville with Mr. Brown & I went home. Very rainy all the afternoon. I got home about 2 o'clock P. M. & Father then went to Ludlow to buy Viola some more things, bought her 1 doz. knives & forks, preserve dish, spoonhilder & castor. Got home just after dark, rained very hard all the time he was gone. I packed up one of my trunks & marked it ready to start. Riland & Emily & Jo & his wife (Cousin Jo) were here. Riland helped me bind my trunk.

Sheldon(?)

Sunday March 10 - Pleasant & cool, went up to Mr. Shildon's & made them a short visit. Stopped on the way to Mr. Pierce's & to Riland's, got home again about 1 o'clock & packed up my things & started about 4 o'clock P. M. to go to Proctorsville to stay all night & be there to start on the morning train for Nebraska. Moses went down with me found Viola in good spirits & all ready for a wedding in the morning. Packed up all our things & got our trunks ready, bought my tickets & everything in or for tomorrow. Mr. Brown & I worked till quite late in the eve before we got everything ready.

Mon. morn. March 11 - Very pleasant but cold. Everything was ready & we were married at about half past seven o'clock A. M. by Rev. Mr. Pier a Methodist minister from Ludlow. We made no wedding preparation at all but invited in a few of our friends to witness the final departure of a single blessedness. The following is a list of all that were present: Addison Brown & wife & 2 children, Riland Dudley & wife, Winslow Sawyer & wife, Mr. McIntyre & wife & child, John Leaver & the Minister, Elder Pier. Every thing passed off pleasantly & as soon as the marriage ceremony was over we got on the Cars and started for Nebraska via Minnesota to

see Viola's relatives. Add Brown & wife went up as far as Rutland with us. At Ludlow we saw Moses & Isadore & Uncle Jo. Viola very sober all day, which caused me to feel rather bad & not in a very sociable mood.

Addison Weston & wife started from Proctorsville with us to go to their home in Wis. We expect to travel together as far as Milwaukie. Went to Troy & stayed with Uncle Stewart over night. I got some brass boxes made for our mill at Troy & it is for them that we stop here overnight. Found Uncle Stewart's folks all well & apparently glad to see us. Mary was also there & in fine spirits, had a very pleasant time & Viola seemed quite cheerful in the evening.

Ship
Tuesday March 12 - Left Troy about 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock P. M. via Suspension Bridge; crossed the bridge in the night arrived at Detroit about 10 o'clock A. M. 13th No snow at Detroit but just enough to whiten the ground through N. Y. & Canada.

Wednesday 13th - Very pleasant & springlike - Passed through Mich. today - No snow, but some muddy. Arrived at Chicago at 11 o'clock P. M. stopped at the Briggs House

Thursday 14th - Left Chicago at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock P. M. for La Crosse, very pleasant & beautiful. Arrived at Milwaukie about 4 o'clock P. M. Mr. Weston & wife left us here & we went on. Took sleeping car from Milwaukie to La Crosse which was very comfortable.

✓ Friday March 15 - Arrived at La Crosse at 4 o'clock this morn. Took breakfast at the Augusta House & then crossed the Mississippi on the ice to La Crescent in a boat mounted on runners like a sled & pushed over the ice by hand. The ice is very poor, & not safe for teams to cross. Paid 50¢ each to be taken over & I walked all the way & helped push the boat.

slow
When we got to La Crescent we found the roads very bad. The great freshet had taken off the ferrys & bridges (bridges?) so that there is no stage that runs to Belleville where we wish to go. So I had to hire a team to take us to Root River 4 miles & then get taken over in a skiff, & then get a team on the other side to take us on. At the crossing of Root River we found no one living on the south side nearer than Hokah 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles off & roads very muddy. So I had to leave Viola at the river with a Dutch family & go over to Hokah & get a team & come back for her, was gone 2 hours. At Hokah I hired a man to take us out to Belleville 30 miles for 6 dollars. Started about 4 o'clock P. M. Viola very tired after riding from La Crescent in an old 2 horse lumber wagon. From Hokah we had a 2 horse spring buggy, which was quite easy compared to our first carriage in Minn. Very pleasant and warm all day. Arrived at Belleville, Fillmore Co., Minn. about 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock P. M. & went first to Viola's brother in law, Mr. Reynolds & put up - Found them all abed, but they were soon up & appeared glad to see us. Viola was very tired & nearly sick, the first introduction to the western fashions & lumber wagon way of riding that we have had today, has been most too much for her, but her courage is still good. Found Viola's folks not expecting so soon by about a week. They only received the news last night that we were coming.

Saturday March 16 - Cold, windy & cloudy. Saw all of Viola's sisters (4), father & brother & lots of her old acquaintances that she used to know in N. Y.

who are now living near here. Her father & sisters & acquaintances all live within the same neighborhood which makes it very pleasant for them & seems more homelike. Found the snow all gone but the drifts but no farm work done yet. The frost is still in the ground & muddy.

Sunday March 17 - Clear & cold. Went to meeting in the forenoon & in P. M. went to a funeral of a widow lady (Mrs. Aiken) who lived near Belleville. Viola went to the meeting in the forenoon but did not feel able to go out in the P. M. & stayed at Mr. Reynolds & went to bed. She took cold riding out here from La Crosse & with the fatigue of our journey has made her about down sick.

Saturday March 23 - Very cold & windy. Stayed at Mr. Geo. Dibbles & in the eve we all went down to Mr. Reynolds. I stayed in the eve with him & all the girls went to the singing school. Geo. Dibble & I called on Norman Stafford in the forenoon. Stayed about 2 hours.

Sun. 24th - Very comfortable & pleasant. Went to a Quaker meeting at 3 o'clock P. M. In the eve Viola & I went up to Mr. Dibble's again to be ready to start for home again in the morn. He is going to La Crosse with us,

Mon. 25 - Very pleasant in the morn. Mr. Dibble & wife started to carry us to La Crosse this morn. Got away about sunrise, had a very comfortable wagon of 2 seats. Went via Caledonia, Sheldon & crossed Root River at Houston. Took dinner & fed our horses at Houston. Crossed Root River here on a ferry.

Clouded up in the afternoon & looked very much like rain & did sprinkle a little for about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour & then cleared off again in the eve. Arrived at La Crosse about 9 o'clock P. M. & found the ice in the river just ready to break up & no chance to get over tonight. So we put up at a house close to the bank of the river.

Tuesday March 26 - Got up as soon as I could see & the ice was just breaking up & about 11 o'clock it got all out so we took a skiff & went across to La Crosse. Just before we left La Crescent a steamboat (the Northern Light) came up from St. Louis, & went on up the river. This is the first boat up the river above La Crosse this spring. Got over to La Crosse about noon, put up at the Gardner House, & then I went down to the Depot to see about getting a ticket home (to Neb. City) Found that it would cost me about \$20 more to go by R. R. than to go down the river on a boat to Hannibal, so I concluded to wait till the steamer Northern Light comes back & go down on her. She is expected back tomorrow as she cannot go any further up than Lake Pippin as the lake is still covered with ice. Mr. Dibble & wife stayed with us till about 3 o'clock & then went back across the river to start home this eve. Damp & chilly all the morn & snowed slowly most of the afternoon. Snow very damp. Ground got white in the evening.

Wednesday March 27 - Cold this morn but very pleasant, ground white with snow. The Steamer Northern Light came down about middle of the P. M. & we went aboard to go down the river. Fare \$9 each to Hannibal. Found few passengers on the boat & no other passengers at all in the ladies cabin but Viola & myself, so we had the whole cabin to ourselves.

Friday 29th - Very rainy all the forenoon but stopped about noon but did not clear off - Got to Le Claire a little after noon, at the head of the Rock Island rapids, but the wind was rather high to go through the bridge safely, so we layed at this place till morning. This is 18 miles above Davenport.

Saturday March 30th - Very pleasant & beautiful this morning. Started about daylight down the rapids, went through the bridge a little before 8 o'clock A. M. & landed first at Davenport. Captain told us he would stop an hour so we went ashore & Viola bought a Guitar & instruction book. Paid \$10.50 for them. Was gone from the boat not quite an hour & went back to the landing & found that the boat had gone across the river to Rock Island & left us. I hired a boatman to take us over in a skiff to the steamer, got to the boat just as she was starting back to Davenport for us. Paid the boatman 25¢ for carrying us to the steamboat.

Wrote to R. F. Pollard & told him what I thought of his sending Josselyn & Stickny to collect my taxes on the morn. before I left Proctorsville for Nebraska.

Got to Muscatine about noon & stopped to take a lot of freight on & also took two more barge loads of grain in tow & when we got ready to go we were so hard aground that it took till most night before we got off. Here we took on 2 lady passengers, for Ognaka, Ill. They were the first company we have had in the ladies cabin since we left La Crosse.

March 31 (Sunday) - Left our two lady passengers last night & took on another at Burlington for Hannibal. Cloudy & very chilly in the morn & began to rain about 9 1'clock & rained hard till most night (Very cold rain). Got to Montrose at the head of the Keokuk rapids about 7 o'clock A. M. & the wind was so high we could not go over the rapids & we had to lay up over Sunday. Commenced raining again about sunset & rained hard all the eve. Thundered & lightened for some time & made out a real thunder shower to finish off on.

Mon. April 1 - Very pleasant & beautiful. Went over the rapids this morn & got to Keokuk about 11 o'clock & stayed till about sunset & then started on again. Arrived at Hannibal about 2 o'clock at night & put up at the Railroad House.

Tues. Apr. 2 - Started from Hannibal this morn at 8 o'clock for St. Joseph. Very pleasant & beautiful all day. Country around Hannibal beginning to look quite green. Arrived at St. Jo. at 9 o'clock. Put up at the Patie House to wait for a boat up the river.

Wednesday 3 - Steamer Omaha landed today about noon from the upper river (a railroad boat) Advertises to start for the upper river tomorrow. Went aboard just at night. Very rainy all day.

Thursday 4 - Laid off at St. Jo all day taking on freight etc. Pleasant but terrible windy. Very muddy in the city. Expect to start in the morn.

Friday April 5 - Left St. Jo this morn about daylight for home on the Omaha. Very pleasant.

Sat. 6 - Pleasant. Arrived at Neb. City about 3 o'clock P. M. safe & sound, bag & baggage. Went up to Dr. Bowen's & got his team & Forbes went out home with us. Got home about sunset, found all well & glad to see us. We were tired nearly out, and glad enough to get home again. We have been 4 weeks

on the way from Vt. & Viola is very much relieved to get a chance to stop.

Viola likes the appearance of things very well for the first look & thinks she can be contented here. The country never looked so well to me as now. All the eastern states that I have seen during my absence do not look as well as Nebraska & only strengthen my attachment for my prairie home in fact. I think our country the prettiest I have seen since I left.

April 9 - Sowed wheat.

April 10 - Sowed Scotch wheat. Viola & I went to Plattsmouth to buy us a few groceries & things to set up housekeeping.

April 12 - Sowed Big Mule Wheat.

April 13 - White frost this morn.

April 14 - Settled up with Lees (my hired man) owed him 97.94 for his last years work.

April 15 - Election to move County Seat. Resulted in keeping it at Plattsmouth. White frost this morn.

April 16 - Went to the City with Viola. Sent some Apple Pie Melon seeds to Mr. Dibble, Minn. Rec'd a letter from Uncle Parker Pollard in relation to my tax business & the officers he sent to Mr. Brown's on the morn we left Vt. He thought he was justified in the course he took.

April 19 - Wrote to Father & Geo. W. Bryant. Commenced planting sugar cane. Went to Neb. City with a load of wheat.

Sunday, April 21 - Went to Neb. City to get a painter to paint my house, got James Barr & agree to pay him \$2 per day. Found that my trees from Vt. had come (evergreen trees).

April 22 - Sent to the City & got my trees, found them in excellent order. Freight & charges on them was \$6.75 - weight 230 lbs.

May 4 (Saturday eve) - Aldana Fonts came to Work (\$1.50 per week)

May 7 - Began to plant corn.

May 11 - Moved (Saturday).

May 15 - Very light frost this morn, but not enough to do any hurt. Finished planting corn. Planted the garden.

May 23 - Went to the City with Viola, took dinner at Dr. Bowen's & called on Mr. Tuxbury's folks at the Morton House.

May 25 - Commenced planting potatoes. Sent the money that I brought from Vt. for Jim Ellison to go therewith back to father to have him pay it over to Mr. Ellison & as Jim did not think it best to go home I concluded not to let him have the money, but send it back.

May 31 - Planted corn over.

- June 1 - Planted corn over. Very hot. Viola & I went to Plattsmouth to get a few things. Went to Mr. D. H. Wheeler's to dinner. Had a terrible thunder shower just at night as we were coming home. Rained terrible. We got very wet.
- June 4 - Planted pumpkins & squashes on the strips beside the road.
- June 5 - Planted melons east of the house. Mrs. Bates & Mrs. McClure were here visiting in the P. M.
- June 6 - Commenced plowing corn the first time.
- June 8 - Viola & I went up to Kirkpatrick's in the P. M. to help make & raise a flag. Planted a few locust seeds north of the barn over the creek.
- June 12 - Finished planting potatoes. Planted beans.
- June 19 - Went to Plattsmouth with a load of potatoes. Lawson went with a load of corn and meal. Very hot. Lawson melted down one of his oxen so that he died in a few hours.
- June 15 - Went to Oreopolis & got 200 sweet potato plants. Paid 50¢ per hun. Very warm.
- June 18 - Tuesday - James Mounts began work for \$15 per month except one month in harvest when he is to have \$20 & pay 75¢ per month for washing.
- June 20 - Heavy thunder shower in the eve with terrible wind. Knocked down the wheat very badly in some places but I think it will straighten up mostly again. It is just headed out & very heavy growth.
- June 23 - Wrote to Uncle Add. Brown.
- July 13 - Commenced harvesting.
- July 27th - Finished harvesting wheat. Had a very heavy crop, the best I ever saw.
- Aug. 20 - Finished stacking wheat.
- Aug. 23 - Viola taken sick.
- Aug. 27 - Dr. Bowen came up to see Viola.
- Sept. 13 - Dr. Bowen came to see Viola again. Commenced making molasses.
- Sept. 28 - (Saturday) White frost this morn. It is the first of the season to do any damage & this did not kill all vegetation.
- Oct. 14 - Finished making molasses. Made in all for myself 7 barrels, but did not make up more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of my cane. The freeze spoilt it all that was not covered up.
- Oct. 18 - Commenced digging potatoes. (Friday) Levi got home from the Peak (well).
- Oct. 22 Cold & cloudy.

- Oct. 23 - Cold & pleasant. Ground froze about an inch deep last night. This is the first time the ground has froze this fall.
- Nov. 8 - Finished digging potatoes (raised 500 bushels). (Friday) Joel commenced threshing. Very pleasant.
- Nov. 18 - Went to the City to see Dr. Bowen to get some medicine for my throat. Cloudy & foggy, chilly.
- Nov. 22 - (Friday) Very cold & windy. This is the first of winter. (threshing for Joel)
- Nov. 23 - Very cold & windy, froze hard last night. Ground froze up. This is winter in earnest. No snow.
- Nov. 24 - Cold & windy, good winter weather. Ground froze up solid.
- Nov. 25 - Pleasant & warmer. Began to pick corn.
- Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving. Cloudy all day. Warm in the morn, wind in the south but changed in the P. M. to north & was cold as Greenland. Viola & I went to Dr. Bowen's at Neb. City to spend Thanksgiving - had a very good time & good dinner. Started home just at dark - had a very cold & windy time going home. Got home about 8 o'clock. Lawson & wife & Levi went with us. Mr. Chilson & wife, also Mr. Tuxbury & wife, 2 daughters & son, Dr. Everett & Dr. Bowen's sister were there, all Vermonters, a regular Yankee gathering.
- Nov. 30 - (Saturday) Commenced snowing about sunset & snowed most of the night - fell about over shoes. This is the first snow this fall.
- Nov. 29 (Friday) - Began threshing. Mr. Altdeorffer does the job. Cold and dry. Began to snow Saturday night just as we quit work. & Mr. Altdeorffer went home, did not come back till Wednesday when we went at it again. Finished Friday noon. Had 753 bushels of wheat and 122 bush. of oats. Paid 5¢ per bush. for threshing both oats & wheat, making the bill \$44.20. Had a very good machine & it did good work. Was 4 days doing the work. Had very good weather all the time they worked.
- Dec. 6 - Finished threshing (Friday)
- Tuesday Dec. 10 - Planted walnuts for a hedge on the east side of my field from the road south to the creek bank near the pasture. Not but very little frost in the ground so I plowed without difficulty.
- Sat. Dec. 14 - Lawson began threshing again (McMillan's machine). Pleasant & warm.
- Wed. Dec. 18 - Lawson finished threshing, had in all on Levi's place & his own 1126 bush. of wheat & 44 bush of oats. Very warm & pleasant.
- Dec. 19 - Growing cold fast. Went up to Knabe's & helped him thresh in the A. M. & in the P. M. set out some evergreen trees in the garden sent to me by Mr. Blinn from the Rocky Mountains. The prospect is good now for a cold spell.

Sat. Dec. 28 - Finished picking corn.

Mon. Dec. 30 - Very pleasant & warm. No snow. Ground dry & dusty as in June.
Hattie born today between 1 & 2 o'clock P. M. Dr. Bowen came up.

This diary would be something for
the State Historical Society
to review.

Looking Back—

Jane's Cautious; Susy's Seven; Diary Unusual

ALEXANDER POPE said a mouthful when he wrote, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast" in his "Essay on Man."

And because it does, man, reflecting on the passing of a year that was less than kind, is encouraged by the prospect of a fresh slate on which the diary of 1963 will be written.

Similarly, when the record of 1962 has been carved in silver, man's hopes kindle his dream that next year's accounting will be at least gold-studded.

* * *

'Goddess' Jane?

According to a recent issue of Newsweek, speculating on candidates to succeed the late Marilyn Monroe as "the next goddess, the All-American blonde", 1963 may prove to be set in diamonds for Jane Fonda.

But Jane, daughter of Omaha's Henry Fonda, is following a present strategy of caution with respect to her career, according to Newsweek:

"If you're Henry Fonda's daughter, they want to throw you into the big parts. I've deliberately kept my price down and I've been playing character parts and picking directors. If I were charging more money, I'd have to start playing it safe earlier.

"I want to do what I want to do. My whole upbringing is not going to lead me into a seven-year contract with a high-class flesh peddler. You do what they tell you. Your private life becomes public. They make an image out of you."

If Jane doesn't want to become an "image" she may not be disposed to compete with Sue Lynn or Lee Remick, two of the magazine's candidates for the "goddess" title.

But Omahans can be reasonably sure of one thing: There are stars in Jane's future.

* * *

Susy to Santa

News from Capt. and Mrs. William H. Bunstock, former Omahans now at Mather Air Force Base in California, provided a distinct shock.

Susy, their seven-year-old, whose first year provided the subject matter for the Biography of a Baby series of articles, no longer believes in Santa Claus.

Now a piano student, Susy has a long school day, writes Lucy Bunstock. "She leaves at 7:30 a. m. and is not home before 4 p. m. Brother Stanley, five, goes to kindergarten at the public school on the base.

"Stuart enjoys being an only child in the mornings and we often laugh at how little we demand of our 3½-year-old baby Stuart compared with our attitude towards our Susy at that age."

Captain Bunstock became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons at the group's convention in Atlantic City, N. J., in October. He and Lucy will leave January 15 to spend two or three weeks in Japan.

Writes Lucy: "Bill learned yesterday he's received his Air Force majority but not to be effective until July 15—two weeks after his resignation!"

* * *

Diary, 1861

One of the most unusual greeting cards to come this way was that of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Pollard of Nehawka, Neb.

The card titled, "Report of the Courtship, Marriage and Honeymoon of Isaac Pollard and Viola Welch, 1861," was taken from the diary of Isaac Pollard, Jr.,

father of Raymond C., and spans one year.

The diary begins with Isaac's departure from Nebraska City, Neb., on January 1, 1861, for Rutland, Vt. He "bought a through ticket to Rutland for \$47.15," arriving January 6 "at Buffalo this morn at five o'clock."

He first met the girl he was to marry on February 16 at a friend's home in Vermont.

Eight days later Isaac and "Miss W. had a long talk about matrimony & we compared notes considerably & found no discord. Was well pleased with her & she appeared satisfied with me."

By March 1, "Miss Welch and myself talked the subject over again & made our contract of marriage." The couple was married March 11 at Proctorsville at 7:30 a. m.

* * *

Steamer Trip

The Pollards started the last lap of their journey to Nebraska March 25. They boarded a river steamer in Wisconsin March 27 ("fare nine dollars each to Hannibal") and arrived in Hannibal April 1.

The trip from Hannibal to St. Joseph, Mo., consumed 13 hours. Then the couple waited for a boat (the steamer, Omaha) to take up

the river. The Omaha left about daylight April 5 and arrived at Nebraska City the following afternoon at three o'clock.

Wrote the bridegroom: "We have been four weeks on the way from Vermont and Viola is very much relieved to get a chance to stop.

* * *

'Contented'

"Viola likes the appearance of things very well... and thinks she can be contented here. The country never looked so well to me as now.

"All the eastern states that I have seen during my absence do not look as well as Nebraska & only strengthen my attachment for my prairie home in fact. I think our country the prettiest I have seen since I left."

By April 14 Isaac had "settled up with my hired man; owed him \$97.94 for his last year's work" and by December 28 of that eventful year had "finished picking corn."

December 30 was "very pleasant and warm. No snow, ground dry and dusty as in June. Hattie born today between 1 & 2 o'clock p. m."

Isaac could greet the new year—1862—as a father.

Evelyn Simpson,
Women's News Editor.