

Diary of Louisiana Moore Ricker – 1892

Transcribed by Felicia Wetzig, 2018

Friday, January 1st, 1892

Weather mild and pleasant with a light sprinkle in the afternoon and threatening rain in the evening. All well at our house. Father not very well, Mother, Lizzie, Rich, William and baby Richard in Knoxville. Macy took dinner with us but Father did not feel well enough. Will worked at the shop and the rest of us worked at home as Janie is still away sick. The Grippe is prevailing and serious in character. Lizzie has begun a diary again. Margaret was home all day. Carl took a long drive into the country with Arthur Titus. Bessie Hall is in Cin.

Saturday, January 2nd, 1892

Bright and quite cold. Had a very busy day and in the afternoon before we were done with the dishes, Alice Conius came to bring the books of the S.S. secretary to J.W. Geo Dennis came to call after tea and before he left Bert Chapman called. An accident befell the wash bowl in the stationary stand and we had to have a new one.

Sunday, January 3rd, 1892

This morning we arose earlier than we usually do Sabbath morning and were ready in good measure for S.S. every member of our family now goes as J.W. took charge of the books this morning. Margaret Peebles went with us but Elizabeth Peebles hurt her foot in the wash stand yesterday and could not go out today. I did not go in the evening.

Weather cold.

Monday, January 4th, 1892

Cold and dry. Went out this morning to see what had become of the wash woman I had engaged. Stopped to ask Raymond Lewis to come and see me this week. Went to the Relief Corps in the afternoon. Took all the time until about 4 o'clock.

School did not open today as the Board wants to have the lower rooms of the 4th st building furnished for use when they begin again. The fire has proved a great disaster to the schools in several ways.

Week of Prayer.

Tuesday, January 5th, 1892

Weather bright and rather cold. Was busy as usual. In the afternoon Raymond Lewis, formerly of Yazoo City called to see me, upon my invitation. He is the son of a school-mate of mine in my young days and we had an interesting visit talking of the old citizens, some of whom are still living there. Father is anxious to learn something of the old home and friends. Did ~~not~~ go to church after all.

Wednesday, January 6th, 1892

Cold and windy with some snow. The washing has been delayed until today when I get a colored woman to come. She put out some of the clothes which froze as fast as hung. I dried some by the fire and got along very well. Went to church in the evening and Margaret and I remained to S.S. teachers' meeting. Not many out. Bessie returned from Cin. on the F.F.V. train.

Thursday, January 7th, 1891

Clear and cold. Was very busy all forenoon and was not yet dressed when Mrs. Richardson came to attend a meeting of W.R.C. ladies.¹ Had ironed all forenoon so was glad to sit and rest. Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Silcox, Mrs. Ewing and Mrs. Whitney were here. Before they left Janie returned to the great relief of myself and the family. Maggie Peebles called before tea. Men are working on the slate roof of the 4th St. S. House, sweeping away the snow to put on the slate. It is a cold day for such work.

Friday, January 8th, 1892

Very cold and clear. Decided to entertain our two S.S. classes of girls this afternoon so L. and M. went to invite while M. and I went to prepare. They came at 2 P.M. Lucy and Edith Moore, Myra and Winnie Webb, Carrie and Irene Hadley, Louise Greene, Gussie Miller, Emma Kehrer, Clay Graham, Mabel Funk, and Virginia Jones. They had a nice time and so should I only I scalded my right hand (or three fingers) in taking the chocolate from the stove. It was very painful. Bessie Hall did it up in cotton and linseed oil for me. Am thankful Janie is here.

¹ Woman's Relief Corps, recognized in 1883 as the official women's auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic.

Saturday, January 9th, 1892

Weather very fair, and cold. Work on the Fourth st. S. House is being pushed rapidly. ² The roof was finished today, the last of the slate put on. Two days I have made coffee in the forenoon and sent it to the roofers who seemed glad to get it. We are so thankful Janie is back. Bessie is sick and I sent for Dr. Titus for her today. She has not been well since her return. I went to bed and slept awhile this forenoon as I could do nothing. The burns are more comfortable but still done up in cotton.

Sunday, January 10th, 1892

Dry and cold. All went to s.s. except Bessie. Went to church and heard Dr. Marshall, Sec'y of Board of Foreign Mis., in the A.M. Had no service in the evening. Dr. Tappan ran a nail into his foot yesterday and took some risk coming to church but was anxious to be present. Think Dr. Marshall presented the cause of Foreign Min. in such a way as to insure a good collecting. Margaret, Will and I went to 2nd Ch. in the evening and heard him again. J.W. has had a bad headache all day.

Monday, January 11th, 1892

Bright and cold. Ground frozen hard. Went out in the morning to see after the wash-woman then to see Mrs. Silcox on business and lastly to say good-bye to Julia Johnson who expects to leave this week for their new house at Freeport, Ill.

Carl had a bad accident just after dinner today and cut off the end of his middle finger of right hand with the knife of the food cutter. We were very much frightened, fortunately his father and Will were still here and as soon as possible Dr. Titus and Kline came and dressed it with a view to saving it if possible. There is a slight hope that it may be done. Bessie was still unable to go to school and Carl's accident quite upset the whole family. Barton and Mary Greene came to Father's this evening. Of course I did not go to the Missionary meeting to hear Dr. Marshall.

4th st school house occupied again today.

² Louisiana wrote on November 3rd, 1891 regarding The Fourth Street School burning down. The Fourth Street School began as a ten room school building built in 1838 on the northwest corner of Fourth and Court Streets. The founder of Portsmouth, Henry Massie, donated the lots for the school to be built. The original structure was razed and replaced in 1872, and in 1930, the Fourth Street School was replaced by the George D. Scudder School. According to the November 7th, 1891 article in the Portsmouth Times, the fire began with five burning stables on the north side of the alley between Fourth and Fifth streets at the rear of the school which spread to the attic of the school building.

Tuesday, January 12th, 1892

Rainy and cold. Began to freeze on the pavements in the morning. Carl has been doing as well as could be expected but does not rest much. Slept very little last night. Dr. Titus called to see him this morning and expressed himself as encouraged by the symptoms. Mary Greene spent the day here with E. and M. Peebles. Bessie was at home sick but managed to go to school all day. In the evening Carl went to bed early and five of us went to hear Mr. Greene's lecture on Inland. Will took Mary and Lizzie went with us on Miss Bessie's ticket.

Wednesday, January 13th, 1892

Icy and raining. Everything is coated with ice and a light rain is falling. Carl slept some last night. Margaret is somewhat better and went to school but Bessie is still at home. Dr. Titus says he still feels encouraged about Carl's finger but will not know until tomorrow whether it can be saved. Mary Greene is here today. Wrote to Helen Ricker. Rained hard this evening and no one went to prayer meeting except J.W. Will coughs and Margaret was sick, went to school but stayed in bed out of school hours.

Thursday, January 14th, 1892

Everything coated with ice. The trees are loaded and while great destruction has been wrought the scenery is marvelously beautiful. The two doctors were in to see Carl, though not together, and both speak encouragingly about saving his finger. Dr. Titus dressed it. Have not been out but can scarcely keep my eyes on work indoors because of the wonderful crystal beauty outside. Cloudy except for about ten minutes.

Friday, January 15th, 1892

Cold, bright and clear. I made a mistake and wrote at 2.30 A.M. dressed and came downstairs. Saw the icy trees in the bright morn light and they were wonderfully beautiful. The bright sunlight glistened like gems all over everything. The city is having the broken trees removed from the side walks. Carl seems to be improving nicely and the Dr. took out two of the stitches today. He was out for a walk two or three times. Had a letter and Organ book from Helen Ricker today.

Saturday, January 16th, 1892

Ther 14° and clear. Ice still on trees, shrubs, and grass. Everything coated heavily. Carl still improves and Dr.s are encouraged. Have had a busy day. Cleaned up in forenoon and did some mending, did not finish the latter until bedtime. Gussie Halderman called in afternoon. Bessie and the two little girls went over home to stay all night. Letters from Knoxville tell of some improvement but the folks are homesick.

Sunday, January 17th, 1892

Cold and icy. Trees loaded with ice which melted a little in the sun at noon. Had no service at our church owing to Dr. Tappan's injury. After Sabbath school we came home and went to other churches. J.W., Lizzy, Elizabeth P. and I went to the Baptist. I did not go out in the evening.

Monday, January 18th, 1892

Rain on the ice and during the day it thawed some. The trees still have some ice on them. I never saw the ice remain on so long. May was not able to go to school owing to a very bad cough. Carl went to the Dr. to have his hand dressed. Is doing well. Went to W.R.C. meeting and did a few errands besides.

Margaret took possession of her school again. Elizabeth and Margaret starting in with her.

Miss Phoebe Gould died this morning.

Tuesday, January 19th, 1892

Everything covered with snow which fell on the slushy ice but it has not thawed any today. May coughed all day and I have taken cold. Carl is doing very well and goes out now. Miss Phoebe Gould was to be buried today. I could not go to the funeral. Only went to get medication for May and see about Ruth doing the washing. Growing colder this evening.

Wednesday, January 20th, 1892

Bright and cold. Everything laden with snow and ice. Ruth came and washed. I was sick with my cold but kept up and around. Was surprised by a call from Mattie Ward this afternoon. Has been in town two days but has not been out and I had not heard of her being here. The sleighing was good today so J.W. and Will hired a sleigh for a couple of hours, put Andy in and all had rides except Carl, May and I, none of us being in condition for it.

Thursday, January 21st, 1892

Cold, icy and snowy. I went as far as the Dr's this morning after medication then stopped to pay Ruth. Have been busy as usual, tried to sleep a little this forenoon but did not succeed. Elizabeth and Margaret Peebles went to visit Robert after school and remained to tea. Do not go often and enjoy it very much.

Oella Tappan was here awhile.

Friday, January 22nd, 1892

Very fair but thawing a little and disagreeable. Had our trees trimmed, the broken limbs taken off. I went with Carl to see his finger dressed. It looks very badly and Dr. says it is a fight to save it. Called to see Mattie Ward and Mrs. Lowes and Mary Ellen. Mattie Ward came to take tea with us and made a little visit before and after. My cold is somewhat better.

Saturday, January 23rd, 1892

Thawing and sloppy though the ice is still on trees that stand in shady places. Skating in the bottoms but not good. Carl's finger is better. Did some errands this morning then some house work and mending. Coughed most of last night and do not feel very well after int. Had a letter from Mary. W. Moore, also the photos of Warner and Marianne. Robert P. spent the afternoon with the children. Will began taking French lessons of Miss Ross.

Sunday, January 24th, 1892

Beautiful and bright but I did not go out anywhere. Have coughed so much with my cold. Dr. Tappan preached resting one knee upon a chair as he could not yet put his foot on the floor. Took up the foreign Mission Collective. All went to S.S. except myself. Mr. Carswell gave a Temperance lecture at our church in the evening and the house was crowded.

Monday, January 25th, 1892

Bright and clear. Mrs. Swagler washed for us and dried the clothes out of doors. I went and bought muslin to make night dresses for the little girls but did not get anything more done.

Have such a bad cold that I am hardly fit to do anything. I went up to Dr. Tappan's this afternoon he is still confined to the house.

Tuesday, January 26th, 1892

Bright and pleasant looking but muddy. The Missionary meeting was held here this afternoon, ten ladies being present and the program was unusually interesting, being items from the entire circle of topics.

Aunt Maria McCall took tea and spent a part of the evening with us. We gave her a copy of the family group.

Wednesday, January 27th, 1892

Cold and clear.

Wrote to Mother and Ira Ricker this morning also to Enos. Spent most of the forenoon writing.

Laura Gilbert and Frank Kendall were married at All Saints' Church at noon. We had a family card the three girls went but none of the rest of us could make it convenient.

Thursday, January 28th, 1892

Pretty cold in the morning. Thawed during the day. Elizabeth Peebles was taken sick today and after talking with Mary and Maggie Peebles got Mrs. Ross to take care of her over home as there is some danger of scarlet fever.

Have not done much today except a few stitches on some unbleached night dresses.

Wrote to Mother R. yesterday but did not get the letter off.

Friday, January 29th, 1892

Moderating and consequently very sloppy where the sun shines. (Elizabeth Peebles was not well this morning so I took her to the Dr. and later had the Dr. come to see her again. Took her over home and went to consult Maggie Peebles who ordered the carriage and sent me out to get Mrs. Ross to take care of Elizabeth as we feared she is taking Scarlet Fever) Mrs. Cross was buried this afternoon she was a christian lady and much loved and respected. J.W., Margaret, Lizzie, Bessie went to hear Mr. Causwell in "Laughing."

Saturday, January 30th, 1892

Still sloppy and bad for walking or driving. Elizabeth has scarlet fever and that will deprive Robert of his usual visits for awhile as we do not want it to spread any farther.

Lizzie slept with E. before she was taken sick but I hope she has had it, have forgotten whether she has or not.

Sunday, January 31st, 1892

Weather cold and the ice not yet all gone. All went to s.s. and church as usual. Dr. Tappan preached standing on one foot and resting the other knee on a chair.

Monday, February 1st, 1892

Weather fair.

Margaret began reciting Greek to Professor Lewis. Goes after school to him and from him to Mrs. Coates to recite Latin. These studies with her school makes a busy time for her. Spent the afternoon at the Relief Corps meeting or rather a part of it.

Mrs. Johnson was about and Mrs. Whitney filled her plan. About the time church was to be dismissed a fire broke out on 2nd street and we left hurriedly. Only burned one cigar shop.

Tuesday, February 2nd, 1892

Gloomy in the morning and if there is any truth in the Ground Hog theory we wish it had remained so but there were times in the day when he might have seen his shadow if he had looked for it.

Wednesday, February 3rd, 1892

Weather rather fair.

We were much surprised by Mother coming home today noon. No one was looking for her. She is some better but not very strong. Lizzie will remain at Knoxville sometime yet. Went to church in the evening. We are having a few extra services preparatory to communion. Will came after his French lesson.

Mrs. Wm. G. Brownlow sent me a copy of "Parson Brownlow's Book. The last one she had left so she told Mother.³

Thursday, February 4th, 1892

Weather wet and unpleasant. Was at home most of the day and sewed a little. In the evening we went to church, and afterwards made a call at Uncle Enos' as Mrs. Gould was there to stay a few days. Elizabeth Peebles is doing nicely, is up and dressed and the nurse, Mrs. Ross went home this forenoon.

Friday, February 5th, 1892

Rather bright and fair. All my mornings are spent in much the same way, a little house work and then Carl's lessons.

Had a letter from Effie Ellis of S. Carolina in which was a small bunch of sweet violets.

Went to prayer meeting in the evening.

About three or four inches of wet snow was on everything this A.M.

³ William Gannaway "Parson" Brownlow (August 29, 1805 – April 29, 1877) was an American newspaper publisher, Methodist minister, book author, prisoner of war, lecturer, and politician. He served as Governor of Tennessee from 1865 to 1869 and as a United States Senator from Tennessee from 1869 to 1875. Brownlow was a divisive figure who opposed the policies of Andrew Johnson, and after the Civil War, he helped Tennessee to become the first Confederate state to be readmitted into the Union. While Louisiana was in Knoxville, Tenn in 1891, she visited Mrs. Brownlow's home and had borrowed a copy of the book.

Saturday, February 6th, 1892

Cloudy and cold. Was busy with the usual work in the forenoon and attended preparatory lecture in the afternoon. Before service I called at Mrs. Barr's, Mrs. Drake's, and Mrs. Spry's. Did a few errands after church and hurried home. The little girls and I went to the Baptist church tonight and saw six persons immersed, among them Emma Hadley Lodwick and Edith Lynn. Laur and Ruby Bryant.

Sunday, February 7th, 1892

Margaret had such a cold that she remained at home all day. the weather was very uncertain and in the evening it rained. Dr. Tappan preached twice, still needs to be careful of his foot and does not stand long on it. Had communion today and the two new elders, Uncle Enos and Mr. Mitchell served.

Dr. Kline and family united with our church by letter. Mr. L.C. Robinson was buried today.

Monday, February 8th, 1892

Bright over head, muddy under foot. I went with Carl and watched Dr. Titus dress his finger then after stopping to see Maggie Peebles and paying Mr. Lloyd for my bonnet (.35) I spent the rest of the forenoon on Carl's Algebra. Sewed a little in the afternoon but not much as Carl was home and we had a little Geometry. Wrote to Mrs. Wm G. Brownlow to thank her for the book she sent me. Also wrote to Maggie Bell and Effie Ellis.

Tuesday, February 9th, 1892

Rather cloudy and chilly. Small patches of snow still remain in shaded places. L was not well and did not go to school in the forenoon. I went to Mrs. Silcox's and Mrs. McC for her then spent what was left of the forenoon on Carl's lessons. I dressed his finger for the first time this morning. Dr. Titus has had to take care of it since Jan 11th. Went to Foreign Missionary Society and was re-elected president, had hoped some one else would take it this year.

Wednesday, February 10th, 1892

Bright and pleasant this afternoon, especially. I helped Carl dress his finger before his lessons. Mother was here, Enos came last night and was here before tea. Barton came this P.M. I was going up to inquire about little Edwin Tappan and learned on the way that she died just after noon.

J.W., Lizzie and I went to prayer meeting where there were very few in attendance. Wrote to Lizzie.

Thursday, February 11th, 1892

Blustery. A little snow fell but melted in the mud. Had the usual occupations for the forenoon and then went up to see Mrs. Tappan returning about 4 o'clock. J.W., Miss Bessie, Will and I attended the lecture in the evening. Henry Watterson of Louisville being the speaker.⁴

Friday, February 12th, 1892

Fair and cold, bitter cold. Was busy at home all forenoon and at 1.30 I started to walk up to Dr. Tappan's to the funeral. Mr. Porter of the 2nd Pres. ch. officiated and Mr. Badger of All Saint's assisted. I did not go to cemetery. Maggie Peebles took me up in their carriage and I walked back, stopping at Miss Hall's school room to see Prof Nickers about Carl.

Saturday, February 13th, 1892

Cool in the morning but moderating later. The Aurora Borealis was very plain this evening. Have been home all day until supper time when I went over home. they were at tea and I sat down with them. The children have had a fine time with valentines today. They got a great deal of pleasure out of the announcements. Elizabeth Peebles can not be with them but she has had a happy time receiving what was sent her.

Sunday, February 14th, 1892

Not very cold.

Dr. Tappan's brother-in-law preached for him both morning and evening. We had an unusual experience in the morning, no organist being present, there was no music. The members of the choir sat with the congregation and led the singing. The united revival meetings in the two M.E. churches probably took some from our church.

⁴ Henry Watterson (February 16, 1840 – December 22, 1921), the son of a U.S. Congressman from Tennessee, became a prominent journalist in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as a Confederate soldier, author and partial term U.S. Congressman. After moving to Louisville, Watterson began editing the Louisville Journal which merged with the Louisville Courier in 1868, forming the Courier-Journal. Watterson was a leader of the Liberal Republican movement in 1872 and by 1876 he was a Democrat. During his tenure as editor, Watterson was a Democratic representative in Congress from 1876 to 1877. He was also a five-time delegate to the National Democratic Convention, where, in 1892, Watterson received a smattering of votes for the vice presidential nomination. He became widely known as a lecturer and orator. His publications include History of the Spanish–American War (1899) and The Compromises of Life (1902).

Monday, February 15th, 1892

Weather not particularly bright but it did not rain. Was busy at home all the forenoon and spent the afternoon at the Relief Corps meeting. From there Mrs. Silcox, Mrs. Richardson and I called upon Mrs. Snodgrass who was not at home, so Mrs. Silcox and I called to see Retta Reed Truly and her young son. I then went to the High School to see Miss Ball about Carl's lessons. He promises to return to school next week whether he can write or not. Jake and Mary Ricker Jr's home burned down early this morning at Kirkwood Mis.

Tuesday, February 16th, 1892

Weather very fair.

My forenoons are all taken up with Carl's lessons, we spend more than two hours usually on his Algebra, but not much time on anything else. He just reads History, Geology and English. The days just glide by and seem to leave little behind to make a difference between them.

Gussie Haldeman was here today.

Wednesday, February 17th, 1892

The usual lessons, mending and ordinary occupations filled the hours of this day. I went to see Miss Ross about Will's French lessons, and after dinner I went a second time, then called on Mrs. E. Miller but did not get in. Called to see Mary Y. who is sick, then went to see Miss Ball and Miss Hall about Carl. Went to prayer meeting in the evening.

Thursday, February 18th, 1892

Rained most of the day and evening. Was at home and busy all day. In the evening Father, J.W. and I attended the party given by Mr. and Mrs. Geo Davis and Mrs. Emma Connolley. There were a great many present and the weather did not seem to interfere in the least with the enjoyment of the occasion. The home being so large it was not uncomfortably crowded.

Friday, February 19th, 1892

Rather pleasant but not very bright. I accepted an invitation from Maggie Peebles to meet ten other ladies at lunch with her today. There were present Mrs. Dawes, Clay, Kate, and Era Newman, the party being in honor of the latter. Mrs. Ferrell, Mrs. Tremper, Mrs. J.G. Reed. Misses Mary Damarin, Hattie Glover, Alice Ross and myself. It was a very delightful occasion. Ruth assisted Janie in a general cleaning upstairs.

Saturday, February 20th, 1892

Weather mild.

Was busy all forenoon in the boys' room, put up new shades, rearranged their closet, and drawers and made things more convenient. Was very tired afterward and tried to take a little rest but it did not last long. Margaret was out part of the afternoon after studying awhile.

Sunday, February 21st, 1892

Light rain, cloudy all day. Attended s.s. and ch. as usual as did all the other members of the family.

Dr. Tappan preached two good services. Jimmie was pall-bearer at the funeral of Mrs. Lynn's mother this afternoon.

Mr. Clough brought Shirley Morgain to see Bessie.

Jimmie slightly strained his ankle and could not walk to church in the evening. The two boys, Lizzie and I sat together while Margaret sat with Oella. Dr. Tappan used his new horse and carriage today for the first time on Sunday.

Monday, February 22nd, 1892

A beautiful day, not cold. No school as this is a legal holiday. The four little girls went to spend the day with M. but went later to spend the afternoon with Maggie Peebles. We hurriedly planned a Washington's Birthday party. Bessie, Margaret, and I and asked Father, Mother, and Mary, Maggie, John, and Robert Peebles. Mr. and Mrs. Titus and Arthur. Bessie and I made a patriotic program of music and literary selections and she ordered cake and ice cream while Jimmy bought fruit and candy. We had a nice time.

Tuesday, February 23rd, 1892

Bright and much warmer. Was busy most of the forenoon putting the house in order. Made a little visit over home and then prepared for the Missionary meeting in the afternoon. Nine members present. Mrs. Tewksbury's Topic choice was well-presented. Maggie and John Peebles were here a few minutes after supper. Wrote to Lizzie Peebles and Mother Ricker.

Margaret is over home this evening showing the library to Capt. Selleu. Carl went back to school today after an absence of six weeks. Mr. Jns C McGinley died this evening of pneumonia.

Wednesday, February 24th, 1892

Beautiful day, mild and spring-like. The maples are budding. Was at home most of the day mending. Went over home a little while with my work and Mary gave me 10.00 to give to Will toward his French lessons. She is always doing some such kindness to some one. Went to prayer-meeting in the evening. Wrote to Mother R. and sent the letter this A.M.

Thursday, February 25th, 1892

Cloudy but did not rain. Was occupied with little things all day except when I went to the W.C.T.U. meeting at the Reading Rooms.⁵ A few ladies, Maggie P, Dell R, Mrs. Snodgrass and I went Aunt Mary at Mrs. Currie's to finish the prayer-meeting at Mrs. C.'s request. She has been absent some time and missed the meetings very much.

Friday, February 26th, 1892

Cloudy but did not rain. Was at home all forenoon. Went to Mr. McGinley's funeral at 3 P.M. The funeral of Mrs. Jms Wisman was being held at the same hour at her late home on 4th st. From the church I went to the house of Mr. and Mrs. Willword to attend the funeral of their little girl but the small room was crowded so I went to Prof. Lewis' and waited for Margaret there we went to Mrs. J. G. Reed's reception. There was a crowd present and it was late when we got home.

Saturday, February 27th, 1892

Bright and lovely

Have been home all day except a short time spent over home with Mother who has a bad cold. The children are playing out a little while this afternoon on the walks and porch. The ground is very wet and cold. Lizzie and May each have put some seeds in boxes. Nasturtiums and Mignonette. If I felt well enough should like to make calls today but do not feel able.

⁵ Woman's Christian Temperance Union: one of the first organizations of women devoted to social reform. Originally organized on December 23, 1873 in Hillsboro, Ohio the group influenced the temperance movement and supported the 18th Amendment.

The Reading room was located at 64 West Second Street, created by Mrs. Rachel Hamilton's will to be set up as a free reading room for the men and boys of the city as long as expenses were provided by the citizens of Portsmouth.

Sunday, February 28th, 1892

Carried umbrellas but did not need them after all. We all attended the usual s.s. and ch. services. Rev. R.K. Porter preached his farewell sermon to the 2nd Pres. ch. this A.M. Will went to hear him as did a few others from our church. Had it been the evening sermon Dr. Tappan would have omitted some that we all might attend.

Monday, February 29th, 1892

Rainy and disagreeable. Mother is sick in bed and I am not well but have gone over to see her several times. Have done little else except write to Lizzie Peebles. Talked to the Band of Hope for Mrs. Ramsey this evening after school.⁶ Sold Buttercup and her week old calf to Mrs. Williams.

Tuesday, March 1st, 1892

Rainy and unpleasant. After searching the house three times for my French Dictionary I found it today in Father's bookcase. Wanted it for Will.

Robert Peebles is five years old today. Margaret went to see him and took him some little presents.

Wednesday, March 2nd, 1892

The usual occupation following the weekly wash, engaged my attention today.

The time all goes and I can not see what has been accomplished beyond the work which has to be done over from day to day. Of course much of it goes in attention to the various wants of the numerous house hold and that is what comforts me when I think of it.

Thursday, March 3rd, 1892

Somewhat cloudy but did not rain. Was busy at home in the forenoon and went to W.C.T.U. in the afternoon.

Had gone to see the new teacher at 4th st. Building in the forenoon, about temperance instruction. Gussie Halderman called while I was out as I afterwards learned. No letter yet from Mother Ricker, in fear she is sick.

Mrs. G.F. Moore died this morning after an illness of many years.

⁶ The Band of Hope, founded 1847 in Leeds, UK, was a music program aimed at teaching children the principles of sobriety and teetotalism at an early age in hopes they would grow into adult abstainers. The program was tightly linked with Sunday School programs and encouraged regular church attendance.

Friday, March 4th, 1892

Beautiful day but indications point to rain very soon Mary Moore and I called on several persons this afternoon. Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Tremper, Mrs. J.G. Reed and daughter, Mrs. Turley, Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Wall, Mrs. Connolley, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Lloyd, and Mrs. Nichols. Mrs. Jane Miller and I then went alone to see Mrs. E. Miller. have had these calls on my mind for sometime.

Saturday, March 5th, 1892

Cloudy with some rain. Carl and Arthur Titus were gone all forenoon hunting for fossils. I was busy as I could be mending old things and sewing a little on some new work. Went at dusk to inquire about Mark Wells, Jr. who is sick. Ruth was here most of the day house cleaning. Was very tired in the evening but Bessie and I played awhile on the piano. Have had no letter from Kirkwood this week.

Sunday, March 6th, 1892

Weather beautiful but cool. Ten of us went to Sabbath school this morning and all were there in time. Dr. Tappan preached twice and the evening sermon was particularly good. From Samuel 12-24. "Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart for consider how great things he hath done for you." Dr. Dennis and Father were here in the afternoon.

Monday, March 7th, 1892

Weather beautiful. The yard has been cleaned up and the grape vines removed from across the front yard.

Bessie expects Grace today.

After she came at 4 P.M. Carl took Marry M, Bessie, and grace to drive. It was pleasant then but will rain some if there is anything in signs.

We found a little black calf in the saw dust bin this afternoon, as lively as a cricket. Thyrza Spry made me a call after tea. She was wanting milk for Mr. Helfenstein who is sick.

Tuesday, March 8th, 1892

Rainy but not cold. The kind of weather to start vegetation. Was over home with Mother awhile.

Went to the store to get more unbleached muslin and bought also 1 ½ dozen napkins for general use. Paid my bill to date 9.11. Came home and finished cutting out Margaret's second night dress.

Wednesday, March 9th, 1892

Rainy but when we came home from teachers' meeting after the other service, it was clear and much colder. I was busy with the mending most of the day.

It is nearly a day's work each week.

Lizzie had her hair cut this evening.

Will remained to Teachers' meeting with me and I was much pleased to have him do so.

Thursday, March 10th, 1892

Cloudy and cold, with rain, wind and a little snow. Was out several times however. Mary sent for me in the morning and said she wanted to make me a present of a new dining table, which we greatly need. I decided to get it in for a surprise at supper and with Grace's co-operation it was done. She and I went to Mr. Fuller's and I told him which one of the two Mary had mentioned, I'd take. It is strong and handsome and we enjoyed it greatly. Letter from Jennie Greene.

Friday, March 11th, 1892

Clear and very cold. A few strong snow flakes indicate what we would have of it were not as cold. Bessie has been sick in bed all day but Grace is with her so I spent most of the A.M. with Mother who is also in bed. Wrote a long letter to Jennie in the afternoon. Papers tell of stormy times all over the country. It is a regular blizzard. Finished M's night dress which makes eight I have made this winter.

Saturday, March 12th, 1892

bright and pleasant, a great change since yesterday evening. The late cold spell extended far and wide and great suffering was felt in Europe as well as America. Was over home long enough to sew the seam in a shirt which needed turning. Twenty-seven years today since sister Anna died. Carl and Arthur drove out towards Henley today. Bessie is better but not able to sit up long at a time.

Sunday, March 13th, 1892

Bright and pleasant though cold. Attended the usual Sabbath services and spent the rest of the day as usual with lessons and reading. In the evening Bessie went to the Endeavor meeting as the 2nd ch. society met with our young people but she came home after that as she is not well.⁷ Margaret sat with Oella while the two boys sat with their father and me.

Monday, March 14th, 1892

Bright and pleasant. Lizzie, William and the baby returned today noon from Knoxville having been in Cin since Friday morning with Ella Wright. The two little girls went to take dinner with their aunt Maggie and were surprised when their mother appeared. They have been with us since Dec 21st and have been very patient little girls.

Tuesday, March 15th, 1892

Rain which turned to snow by night. Was cold windy and wintery. Lizzie and all her children were over home to spend the day and went there to see them. L. is not at all well. Had a letter from Helen Ellis enclosing receipt for the last payment on my bill. Letter from Mother Ricker telling me of the engagement of Will Ricker and Bessie Borrow of Kirkwood.

Wednesday, March 16th, 1892

Beautiful day, everything was white with snow, not deep, and by afternoon the north side of the street was dry and pleasant. Mrs. Jms Miller and I went to make a few calls that we had long intended making. Called at Maggie Peebles', Mrs. Tewksbury's, Mrs. Bates', Mrs. Gilliam's, Mrs. Mitchell's, and Mrs. Tappan's. Only saw four of the ladies. Went to Anderson's opening then came home.⁸

Thursday, March 17th, 1892

Several inches of snow was on the ground when we arose this morning and it continued to fall almost without interruption up to dark this evening. It is the heaviest fall of the season we thing. Have been at home all day sewing and keeping up fires. Grace has remained in all day also. Bessie did not come home to dinner.

⁷ The Christian Endeavor Society is a nondenominational evangelical society founded in Portland, Maine, in 1881 by Francis Edward Clark "to promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintanceship, and to make them more useful in the service of God."

⁸ G.W. Anderson & Son, opened at 134 W. Second Street on March 16th, 1892 and sold dress goods, trimmings, and shoes.

Friday, March 18th, 1892

Snow continued to fall most of the day and is deep but soft and unfit for sleighing. Was at home all day except when I took my thimble and went over home to sit with mother and hem a couple of napkins. In the evening Miss Bessie, Margaret, Will, J.W. and I attended the fifth entertainment given by the Lecture course being John DeWitt Miller on Love, Courtship, and Marriage. A good lecture full of good advice and humor.

Saturday, March 19th, 1892

Clearer and colder. Snow melted in the sun but is heaped high and solid in the shade. Was very windy all day and I only went over home a while in the afternoon.

Finished a night shirt for Will and hemmed the last of a half dozen new napkins.

Stormy tonight.

Sunday, March 20th, 1892

Weather moderating and the snow turned to slush in the sunshine.

All went to Sabbath school and church as usual. Dr. Tappan preached an unusually good sermon on the Bible from 1st Cor. 2. 10th and 13th verses.⁹

Tuesday, March 22nd, 1892

Balmy and spring like in the morning though there is plenty of snow in shady places yet. Cloudy in the after noon. Jennie Barton and their three youngest children, Mary, Dwight, and Willard came to visit Mother for a few days. I was over there most of the afternoon to be ready to receive them when they came. In the evening it rained hard but we all (8) went to the Entertainment for the "Home."

Wednesday, March 23rd, 1892

Beautiful after the rain and hope it will remain so while Jennie is here.

Lizzie came down this morning and all four of us girls were over home together. It will soon be a year since Jennie left and we've not all met since. Went to church in the evening and had the pleasure of the company of Barton and Jennie. I remained to Teachers' meeting as did Margaret and Will.

Thursday, March 24th, 1892

Beautiful day. Went to sit awhile with Jennie before she went to Uncle Enos' for dinner.

⁹ "For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God... which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words." New America Standard Bible.

Sewed all the afternoon on Will's night shirt. It is the last of a dozen night robes I've made. Sent off the letter which I partly wrote to Mother R. yesterday.

Friday, March 25th, 1892

Beautiful day. Barton, Jennie, Mary, Dwight and Willard were here to dinner, at 2 P.M. Barton brought a carriage and took Mother and Jennie up to see Lizzie's baby at Mr. Peebles. After taking Mother home, or rather to our house, they took me for a drive with them. Margaret left on the 4 P.M. train for Ironton with a number of teachers who go to attend an Institute and banquet given by Ironton teachers.

Saturday, March 26th, 1892

Weather threatening, rained a little late in the day. Was not well and did nothing except sew a little while visiting with Jennie until time for them to leave for the 11 o'clock train for home. Have had a pleasant visit from them. Margaret got home from Ironton about dark and said the teachers had a delightful time, she enjoyed her visit at Aunt Ad's very much.

Sunday, March 27th, 1892

Quite sharp but pleasant.¹⁰ Attended the usual services both morning and evening. Nothing unusual marked the day.

Monday, March 28th, 1892

Quite a fair day until the clothes were all dry. Spring examinations begin this week and the children will be home in the afternoons. Was up to see Lizzie and the baby. He is not so well again and she gets quite discouraged. Wrote to Helen Ricker about coming to spend an evening with us soon.

Tuesday, March 29th, 1892

Quite cold but fair. Mother was over awhile. I went to assist Maggie Peebles arrange her Mexican curios at the church in the A.M. for the meeting of the Missionary Society in the afternoon. Spent awhile with Lizzie, the baby seems better. Had a good meeting in the afternoon, some thirty ladies were present to hear Maggie tell what she knew of Mexican Missions and hear the letters she had to read.

Letter from Mother R.

¹⁰ Sharp: keenly cold.

Wednesday, March 30th, 1892

Rainy in the morning. Clear and pleasant in the afternoon, during which time J.W., Mother, Mary and I took a drive. Began to rain before supper time and when the little girls returned from Lizzie's they said baby was worse and Aunt wanted help so I went and saw her, did an errand for her, came and got my supper then went back and stayed until bed time. J.W. called for me after church.

Wrote to Mother Ricker.

Thursday, March 31st, 1892

Beautiful spring day. Spent the forenoon with Lizzie's baby while she rested and slept. He seems better this evening. Was home until nearly supper time, sewing on pillow slips, have five pairs partly done.

Went to see Dell Ramey and took her some cream Margaret and Bessie have gone to the High School this evening and Will has gone to see Charlie Murphy.

Friday, April 1st, 1892

Weather pleasant. The last day of school previous to the vacation. I sewed most of the day on pillow slips. Have made four pairs for one bed and nearly finished the second pair for the children's bed.

Saturday, April 2nd, 1892

The girls and I began taking off the old paper in the dining room. Worked at it all day and did not finish. None has been taken off since we first begun papering the room.

Sunday, April 3rd, 1892

Rather mild so the little girls wore their jackets. We all went to Sabbath school and church as usual.

Dr. Tappan preached two excellent sermons today, he seldom gives us anything but the best.

Margaret is doing nicely with the infant class!

Monday, April 4th, 1892

Cloudy with some rain. Janie went home with her sister and family on the A.M. train to be gone until Wed. Mrs. Swagler came to wash. Margaret, the children and I worked at the old paper in the dining room there being five thicknesses to remove. It was hard work but we finished it except a little on the ceiling. Took up the carpet in our room so everything is upside down.

Tuesday, April 5th, 1892

Weather pleasant but cool. Mrs. Ross could not come so her Mary came and helped take the old paper off the sitting room. We did the work in less time than in the dining room but it was tiresome enough. We have depended mainly upon May and Lizzie for our dinners and suppers in Janie's absence. Miss Bessie went to make Mrs. Titus a visit. Will and I took a little drive this evening.

Wednesday, April 6th, 1892

Pleasant. To my great relief Janie returned this evening in time to get supper. The past three days have been very hard ones. Mrs. Ross was sick and unable to come to paper today as she had promised so I kept Mary Ross and we began work on my closet. Margaret was painting the china closet and bath room. I went to ride in the afternoon awhile and they went to church in the evening.

Thursday, April 7th, 1892

Bright and pleasant but rather cold.

Carl took his Aunt Mary and Margaret and Oella Tappan up to Lucasville on the first ride then crossed and came down by the Chillicothe pike. I wanted M. to take the ride as she has had no rest since school closed. I was busy with my closet all day. Have prepared it newly and put the contents in order. Church in the evening.

Friday, April 8th, 1892

Bright and pleasant A.M. Carl went out on the horse and found a to do over papering then he made his preparations to go fishing with Arthur Titus. Left some after dinner for Brush Creek to be gone all night. It began raining some after they left and rained very hard in the night. Will, J.W., and I went to church in the evening.

Margaret was sick all day. I went in the rain to excuse her to Miss Coates.

Saturday, April 9th, 1892

Snowed briskly in the forenoon. Clear and pleasant late in the day. The paper-hanger, Jas. Noel came this morning with a helper and managed to put both sides and ceilings on the sitting and dining rooms for which I paid him 6.37. The rooms are very pretty. I left the work at 3 o'clock and went to preparatory lecture. Mary Ross helped us since last Tuesday. Carl and Arthur came home about noon.

Sunday, April 10th, 1892

Beautiful day. Went to Sabbath school as usual as did the rest of the family. It was communion day and six new members were received. The two Mitchell girls and their brother and Rob Knowles. Two others by letter.

Went again in the evening.

Quite cold, fires needed just as much as any time the past winter.

Monday, April 11th, 1892

Beautiful but quite cold. White frost and thin ice which looks as though the fruit might suffer. Peaches, apricots and some plums or pears are in bloom. I busied myself getting ready for the carpet tomorrow, was just dressed when Carl came and asked me if I would go with him to ride. Mary and Miss Bessie went also. Wrote to Jennie and had a letter from Helen Ellis.

Tuesday, April 12th, 1892

Fair and pleasant tho' rather cold as it has been most of the month. Mr. Eppler came this morning and put the new Brussels carpet in our sitting room.¹¹ It is of excellent quality, and pretty colors and design. Cost 1.10 per yard on the floor. It seems pleasant to have the floor covered again. Letter from Mother Ricker. I went to ride awhile with Carl. Lizzy is not well and has been in bed.

Wednesday, April 13th, 1892

Beautiful day but quite cold. Was busy with the weekly mending nearly all day. Carl asked me to go ride with him after school. Miss Bessie and Arthur Titus went also. We were late getting back. Went to prayer meeting. Dr. Tappan is at Manchester attending Presbytery.

Thursday, April 14th, 1892

Rainy and cold. The house-cleaning goes on slowly. Carl came home at noon whistling and cheerful. Says he is now going to work to do what he can. All this week he has been out of humor and protesting that he did not want to go to school any more. Had a letter from Cousin Eliza.

¹¹ Brussels carpet are made with the loops of the pile left uncut and became fashionable in the first half of the 19th century.

Friday, April 15th, 1892

Fair and pleasant though cool, it rained in the night. I went early to see Miss Ball about Carl who seems to have made up his mind to do his best the rest of the school year. After that I went to Reilly's then up to Martings' on errands for the house. Got the dining room carpet down again and have put up some of the pictures again. Carl and Sam Moore went fishing to be gone until tomorrow. Lizzie went to school this afternoon. Letter from Jennie.

Saturday, April 16th, 1892

Very fair. Was busy with the finishing up and did not get through after all but have the two rooms in good order and will not try to finish until Ruth can help. Carl and Sam Moore returned from their fishing excursion. Did not get their pay in fish.

Sunday, April 17th, 1892

Beautiful day with indications of rain which were realized before bed time, so we may expect rain for some time to come. We all attended the usual services at s.s. and church, except that in the evening J.W. had a bad head ache and had to go to bed.

Monday, April 18th, 1892

Rainy all forenoon and cloudy all afternoon. Was busy at home in the morning and went to Corps meeting in the afternoon. Got samples for Janie and did a few other errands.

Tuesday, April 19th, 1892

Rained, and was bright by turns. Was chilly enough to require fires. In the evening J.W. and I went with our little girls and Lucy and Edith Moore to a "Y" entertainment which was very amusing and all the more so because of the small room and poor accommodations. There was such a crowd that fully half the people could not get in so it will be repeated for the ticket holders. Letter from Mother Ricker.

Richard returned from Sandwich Islands.¹²

Wednesday, April 20th, 1892

Very rainy all day. Went over to see Mother in the morning, then to Mrs. Barn's to see about a picture.

Did the usual mending but did not touch the work on the Connemara.¹³

¹² The Hawaiian Islands were formerly known to Europeans and Americans as the "Sandwich Islands", a name chosen by James Cook in honor of the then First Lord of the Admiralty John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich.

Miss Alice Ross was home to tea and afterwards gave Will his French Lesson. May came home from school sick with something like a bilious attack.¹⁴ Wrote to Mother R. Could not leave May to go to church.

May came home from school sick, something like biliousness.

Thursday, April 21st, 1892

Rainy. Have not sewed much as May felt so badly I sat by her and waited upon her. She has been sick at her stomach all day. Have begun making over Lizzie's Connemara for May but did not do much today. Rained this evening.

All the folks except May and I went to the concert, the last of the Lecture Courses series for the season. Rich who just returned Tuesday came and took Margaret with him. Will took his father and Bessie, Carl and Lizzie.

Friday, April 22nd, 1892

Beautiful day with a slight shower. Ruth came and helped Janie clean the two bed rooms over ours. Put the carpet from our room on the two floors where it will last a long time.

May is better in some respects but still not well and we decided to take her over home lest her illness should shut the others out of school.

Saturday, April 23rd, 1892

Beautiful day. I took a good long sleep this A.M. and had breakfast after the others were done. May is decidedly better but the Dr. think her case very light Scarlet Fever. I was with her most of the day. Took a ride in the afternoon. At night decided to return home as Janie had to leave this afternoon, her mother being very sick. Told the Dr. to report May's case to be on the safe side. He has discontinued his visits to her.

Sunday, April 24th, 1892

Beautiful day and the old sign failed in this forecast at least. It did not rain during the day, but may have done so later. I did not go to s.s. or church having the work to do and wishing to look after May a little as none of the others could go about her. She is so much better that it seems foolish to report such a case as being Scarlet Fever. In the evening I went with Mother to hear Mr. McElroy at the Opera House where the Bigelow Congregation now meet.

¹³ A Connemara cloak resembled those worn by Irish and Belgian peasantry. Based on the old circular form for cloaks, they had double fronts and were full around the neck, either laid in pleats, smocked, or shirred.

¹⁴ Bilious attack: a group of symptoms consisting of headache, abdominal pain, and constipation.

Monday, April 25th, 1892

Beautiful weather. Janie did not return today. I have had a very busy day. Was a little anxious lest our teacher and pupils would be excluded from school on May's account but they were not. Had a short ride in the evening. Margaret, Will, Carl, and May each wrote a birthday letter to be sent tomorrow to their grandpa, J.W., Lizzie and I will write tomorrow.

Mrs. McClain was here.

Tuesday, April 26th, 1892

Beautiful weather. The Foreign Missionary Soc. Met at the church today and I could not go. Have seldom missed a meeting since I went into the society. Mrs. Jm E. Miller called after the meeting to see why I was not out. She is very kind to look after me when she thinks I am not well.

Elizabeth, Margaret, and Robert Peebles were here and brought me some wild flowers which Lizzie brought from Henley last night.

Wednesday, April 27th, 1892

Bright and pleasant. This is Father Ricker's 77th birthday and I should like to see him with his seven letters from Portsmouth. He has a birthday dinner at Uncle Drew's.

Mr. Tewksbury is 84 years old today. I wanted to do everything to show that I remembered the day but could not do it. Could not go to prayer meeting. Had a card from Janie who can not come back this week.

Thursday, April 28th, 1892

Rained in the morning and again in the evening. Robinson's circus was in town but I did not see the parade. May couldn't see it so I did not care to do so. In the evening we started to take a little ride but the rain drove us home. Mrs. Clara Hoffman was here in the interest of the W.C.T.U. Spoke at 6th, st. ch. but I was not able to go. The work is too much for me without any outside duties or pleasures.

Friday, April 29th, 1892

Weather pleasant.

Busy as I could be all day. Ruth came to do the weekly sweeping for me. Had a long ride in the evening and it got pretty cool before we came home.

Sister was with us and added some to the cold she already had. It is wonderful to see the new houses that are in the northern and eastern part of town.

Saturday, April 30th, 1892

Warmer. Had a busy day but did all that was necessary. Carl took Mother, Mary and Lizzie for a ride then came and got Margaret and Bessie who went to the train to meet Miss Doner a friend of Grace who comes to take a position as type writer with the Lumber co. and Bessie has made the arrangements for her to board at Mrs. Smith's. Went over home late in the afternoon and finished off Lizzie's Conamara cloak.

Sunday, May 1st, 1892

Beautiful day and quite warmer. I did not attempt going to Sabbath school or church. Went over to see May a little while in the afternoon. Did not sleep much last night and have felt the effects of it all day.

Went to bed while the others went to church.

Monday, May 2nd, 1892

Rainy, with some gleams of sunshine. Mary came home this morning while we were at breakfast. Her Scarlet Fever exile being about ended. She will sleep over home awhile yet. John Peebles is quite sick took cold after the measles and Margaret P. has measles now. I did a little sewing today and took a nap. Janie returned on the evening train for which we were thankful. Will and Carl got new suits from Wanamaker's today and J.W. got new pants.¹⁵

Miss Ross came to give Will his French lesson.

Tuesday, May 3rd, 1892

Weather pleasant.

Wrote to Enos this morning also to Mother Ricker hoping she would get the letter by her anniversary.

Pearl Selby called a meeting of the Ex. Com of the Alumnus for this evening but no one came except himself and Miss Caden who came from Buena Vista in response to her call. She represents the class of '91.

¹⁵ Wanamaker's: John Wanamaker Department Store was the first department store in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and one of the first department stores in the United States. The Wanamaker's Grand Depot opened in time to service the public visiting Philadelphia for the American Centennial Exposition of 1876, and in fact resembled one of the many pavilions at that world's fair because of its fanciful new Moorish facade. In 1877 the interior of Wanamaker's was refurbished and expanded to include not only men's clothing, but women's clothing and dry goods as well. This was Philadelphia's first modern-day department store, and one of the earliest founded in America. A circular counter was placed at the center of the building, and concentric circles radiated around it with 129 counters of goods. The store also accepted mail orders, though it was not a large business until the early twentieth century.

Wednesday, May 4th, 1892

Weather pleasant. Was busy all day. Went to see Jennie Gharky before prayer meeting then came home and went with the rest to church. Remained to Teachers' meeting though I was too tired to do so.

Thursday, May 5th, 1892

This is the wedding anniversary of Father and Mother Ricker, they have been married fifty-two years and are still well and able to enjoy life as much as ever.

Beautiful day. Mrs. Silcox called on her way to W.C.T.U. but I was helping Janie put down the carpet in her room and cared not go there. Later I went to ride, once with Carl and later with Jimmie. Margaret went to see Oella who leaves next week for Iowa.

Friday, May 6th, 1892

Weather pleasant. Rained. Sewed on Lizzie's dress in the forenoon. At 3 o'clock the P.H.S.A.A. Executive Con. Met here to begin arrangements for the coming alumni reunion June 17th.

Pearl Selby Chairman

Oscar Newman

Chas. Molster, Sec'y.

Alwina Caden

Mrs. Ruth Ferguson and I were present. Mrs. Clarks and Miss Gates, substitute for Mrs. Retta Turley were absent. Will went driving this evening with Alwina C.

Saturday, May 7th, 1892

We are all up early and prepared for an early start to Brush Creek for a day's fishing. Carl had trouble with his team which ran away with him and he had to make a change. No serious damage was done but he had a narrow escape. Got off at 6 A.M. and returned at 6 P.M. having had a pleasant day but got only two fish. One of which May caught. The day was lovely. It was Carl's first experience in driving a team. Jimmie and Will were the only ones left at home. Miss Bessie was with us. 2 letters from Enos.

Sunday, May 8th, 1892

Beautiful day. We were all at Sabbath school and church again today. May and I were out two Sabbaths on account of her case of Scarlet Fever.

Dr. Tappan preached good sermons both morning and evening. Two fire alarms today but no serious damage.

Monday, May 9th, 1892

Beautiful all day but rained in the evening. Was at home and spent most of the time on Lizzie's brown gingham dress which Margaret gave her.

The three older children are studying tonight. Lizzie went over home to sleep as she has a slight sore throat. Wrote to Enos again today. Mother was over two or three times.

The first roses (two) bloomed on the Safrano bush today.¹⁶ The same which bloomed until the 13th of Dec, 1890.

Lizzie went over home to sleep.

Tuesday, May 10th, 1892

Showery with some pretty hard showers but much of the day was bright. Lizzie did not go to school as she was not feeling well.

May and I went out in the afternoon and I paid several bills. 10.00 to Marting's on the carpet, 4.75 to Dr. V.T., and \$6.42 to Reilly and 4.00 to Carl for Livery hire for last Saturday.

Wednesday, May 11th, 1892

So cold that the sitting room grate was opened up and a fire started.

Lizzie came home and returned to school this morning having missed one day.

J.W., May, Margaret and I went to prayer meeting and we (M. and I) remained to teacher's meeting. I was very tired and sleepy. May and I went shopping this morning. I bought a handsome black lace dress for Miss Bessie because she has helped Carl so much.

Thursday, May 12th, 1892

Still cool enough for fires and wraps, though it is bright with occasional showers. Was busy sewing all day. Lengthened a cashmere dress for Lizzie. She is growing fast. Did not go out to ride after tea. J.W. and I walked up to see Mrs. J.G. Reed in regard to the Alumni supper. Then called at Miss Ella Edward's for Margaret but she had come home.

¹⁶ Safrano is an old heirloom garden rose with scrolled, classic pointed tea buds that open to large multi-layered blooms in shades of saffron, apricot, yellow, gold and blush pink.

Friday, May 13th, 1892

Still cool enough for fires and overcoats but no damage has been done to vegetations, I think. Father is sick but not seriously. Wrote to Mother R. and Ira. Finished May's wrap so both are done. Oscar Newman, Arthur Moore and Chas. Molster were her to the Alumni Com. Meeting but Pearl and the ladies failed to appear. Had a pleasant drive in the evening and were caught in a shower coming home.

Saturday, May 14th, 1892

Lovely day, just cloudy enough to be pleasant. Windy in the evening. Carl took sister Mary, the two little girls, and myself up the pike to Lucasville where we crossed the Scioto on the bridge and came down on the west side. It was delightful. We reached home at supper time. Will and Carl went up the river on the Bostona on the Excursion gotten up by the Military Co.¹⁷ Came home at 11.30. It rained when the boat was starting.

Sunday, May 15th, 1892

Stormy and pleasant by turns. We all went to Sabbath school and church as usual.

During Sabbath school a hard storm struck the city in the vicinity of 4th to 7th streets and broke trees, blew down chimneys, tore the slate off 4th st. school House in places. Some of the slate scratched our home but broke no windows. Mr. Peebles and Mary were at S.S. again.

Monday, May 16th, 1892

Beautiful day after the rains of yesterday. The streets and yards are strewn with branches and twigs from the trees, blown off yesterday. Mrs. Swagler could not wash because her baby is sick. After dinner I went to see how Mr. Helfenstein is and was told that he is very poorly. Went to Relief Corps meeting. Had a busy day with little things.

Took some buttermilk to Mr. H. after supper. Did not go to ride except for a few squares with Ma.

Tuesday, May 17th, 1892

Beautiful day, but rained in the evening. Was out most of the forenoon seeing after alumni and Relief Corps business.

¹⁷ According to the front page of the May 21, 1892 Portsmouth Times, more than seven hundred people went on the moonlight excursion of Company H on the Bostona. On June 5, 1965, the Portsmouth Times also ran an article about Portsmouth's tie to boats including the Bostona, which was actually a name given to a series of boats that served in Portsmouth trade for many years. The final boat carrying this name was dismantled in 1899.

Was at Mrs. Silcox's, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Pursell's and Mrs. Lake's.

After dinner I looked after some outside work in the yard and sewed on a dress for May, one which needed altering. Letter from Mother Ricker.

Wednesday, May 18th, 1892

Showery with some hard rain. Went to Mrs. McConnells in the morning to attend the funeral of Will Bolles who died at Hot Springs, Ark. Last Friday (13th). Jessie is left with two little boys. Stopped to inquire about Mr. Tewksbury, also to see Mrs. Peebles who has been sick in bed most of the time since their return last Friday. Went to church in the evening and remained to teachers' meeting. Had a letter from Ira. Sewed in the afternoon.

Thursday, May 19th, 1892

Very changeable. Hard showers and bright sunshine. Had a letter from Aunt Maria. Wrote to Jennie Greene, Mother Ricker and a business letter for Mother. Was rainy all the afternoon and I stayed at home and sewed. Had thought of going to W.C.T.U. but did not do so.

Margaret, Bessie and Carl, Will, and Cora S. went to Kate Newman's benefit recital at the Opera House.

Friday, May 20th, 1892

Rainy all day and so cold we have had fire all day. Had planned to go to Buena Vista tomorrow but the weather is too threatening, unless it changes. Had a letter from Cousin Eliza Boyle enclosing a package of cultivated Golden Rod seed. I wrote her this afternoon. Pearl Selby and Chas Molster called in the evening on Alumni business. Pearl only came to resign as he couldn't do anything, having too much other business on hand.

Saturday, May 21st, 1892

Still cloudy and cold but did not rain much. We gave up the trip to Buena Vista as none of us were well enough to stand much cold. I wrote to Aunt Maria. Carl and Arthur took a long drive up the canal and pike. I was out to see Mrs. Ferguson and called to see Gussie Halderman before dinner. Gussie had not come home yet. After dinner I called to see Mary Y. Moore. Mrs. J.G. Reed, Mrs. Dan McGarland, Mrs. McConnell, Mrs. Young and Mrs. Johnson.

Sunday, May 22nd, 1892

Cool and showery with some hard rains before night. All went to s.s. and church as usual. Most of the teachers remained to the prayer meeting at the request of D. Dennis who wanted to speak about delegates to the s.s. convention at Lima. Was at home all the after noon.

Monday, May 23rd, 1892

Very cloudy and quite cool. Have kept a good fire all day. Took some cold sitting in the parlor after supper when Mrs. Smith called. Mrs. Silcox was here in the forenoon. I was out doing errands early, and later went again stopping at Mr. Peebles', Dr. Dennis, the photo gallery, etc. Sewed all the afternoon, made a dark skirt for each of the little girls.

Tuesday, May 24th, 1892

Weather pleasant for me but not for farmers.

Was busy all day and entertained a committee meeting in the evening. Mrs. Ferguson came and went before the arrival of the others but enough came to dispose of several matters relating to the alumni reunion.

Letter from Mother Ricker as usual, she has returned to her old habit of writing Monday.

Wednesday, May 25th, 1892

Weather changeable. Was busy with the usual Wednesday work. The warm weather has come and with it a need for some lighter clothing. After supper Carl took Mother and Mary over on the West side for a drive. They returned just at church time but the ride was too long for Mother. Dr. Tappan was at Ripley helping install a new minister. WE had a very good meeting under the leadership of Mr. Hadley

Thursday, May 26th, 1892

Cloudy most of the day with hard rain after dinner. Intended going to W.C.T.U. but gave it up and kept on with my work at home. Sent the usual letter to Mother Ricker this week. Look for Helen some to spend a few days on her way east to attend her brother Dick's marriage. Ruth came and put down the hall carpet and new stair liner which Mary gave me years ago. We put up the lace curtains also. Did some alumni work also.

Friday, May 27th, 1892

Bright and warm. Was very busy up to the time Mrs. Gates called for me to go with her to meet the Com. of ladies and decide about the Alumni supper. They decided not to try it so we will depend upon Mr. K. We waited to see him but he did not come so we left the matter unsettled.

Took a drive in the evening with Jimmie and our three girls.

Saturday, May 28th, 1892

Still cloudy with some showers. We did will not go on our Buna Vista trip today. The sun came out very hot in the afternoon.

Mary, Mrs. Halderman, Bessie and Carl drove to Lucasville bridge on the West side.

The season has been exceptional and vegetation thrives on it. Strawberries are very fine and flowers seem to be abundant though we feared the cool weather would make them scarce.

Sunday, May 29th, 1892

A lovely day, but there are clouds and threats of storms every day. Went to the usual Sabbath services at s.s. and church and in the afternoon attended Memorial services at the Opera House where Rev. Mr. Snodgrass made a good address.

Monday, May 30th, 1892

An unusually beautiful Decoration Day.¹⁸ Was at the Hall in the forenoon helping with the flowers and after dinner Carl took Mrs. Whitney, Mrs. Milstead, Mrs. Hattie Johnson and we went out to the cemetery where there was a great crowd to witness the Memorial Services. Mr. Huber was the orator of the day and his brief address was good. Co. H. fired the salute and the graves were decorated by the veterans. Went to an Organ meeting after supper to discuss the new organ.

Tuesday, May 31st, 1891

Very warm, hot in fact. Went to see Dr. McClure in the morning for Mother and then sat with her until time to come home for dinner. In the afternoon, went to Dr. Tappan's to attend the Foreign Mis. Society. A dozen ladies were present and after a very interesting program on Siam and the Laos, we presented the call from Mrs. Johns for the parsonage near Asheville.

¹⁸ Decoration Day was an early name for Memorial Day. The holiday was first celebrated nationally on May 30, 1868.

Wednesday, June 1st, 1892

Very warm, clouds indicated a storm which did not come. Lizzy Peebles is over home today sewing. Wrote a couple of letters. Put away winter underwear and got out the summer things which were greatly needed. Helen came on the 6.30 train this evening. This is Miss Bessie's birthday, twenty eight, I think. Went to church and stayed to Teachers' meeting. Will, Julia Tappan, and Will Richardson represented the young people. Maggie and Mary P., Venitia Ramsey, and I the older ones. Helen came.

Thursday, June 2nd, 1892

Not quite so warm as yesterday. I was out most of the forenoon driving for Lizzie and Helen to do errands. Went to W.C.T.U. meeting in the afternoon just in time for adjournment. Went to see Mrs. Jones for a while then met Miss Gates at Knittel's and arranged for the Alumni supper.

Had a long letter from Helen Ellis. Wrote Mother R. yesterday and sent it today. William Peebles is twelve years old today. Helen came yesterday.

Friday, June 3rd, 1892

Pleasant. Helen had some errands to do and Carl got out the horse and carriage and took her and Lizzie to do their errands, also took four of Lizzie's children until they were ready to get out. Mr. Tewksbury and Mr. Helfenstein are both very low, so they are not expected to recover. Miss Gates and I gave Mr. Knittel the contract for the supper. The cards of invitation are out and are very nice. Oscar Newman attended to them. Margaret went to Cin. this A.M. to take the Vassar examinations.¹⁹

Saturday, June 4th, 1892

Very changeable. Carl went with the High School teachers and the graduating class to a picnic at Brush Creek and we have had some severe hard rains this afternoon. Will has gone up the river in the excursion given by Bigelow Church and Margaret will not be home until the Ports train on the C&O.R.R.

Miss Bessie was up street and did not return until dark. It just poured rain after supper. All got home safely before midnight for which I was duly thankful.

¹⁹ Entrance exams for Vassar College. Vassar College. Vassar College, founded 1861 by Matthew Vassar, is a private, coeducational, liberal arts college in the town of Poughkeepsie, New York, in the United States. Upon its founding, it was the first degree-granting institution of higher education for women in the United States and one of the historic Seven Sisters, the first elite female colleges in the U.S.

Sunday, June 5th, 1892

All went to Sabbath school and church as usual. Mr. Helfenstein died this A.M. early after more than two years of suffering. Has not been in Sabbath school for many months. Had a large attendance at Teachers' prayer meeting to take suitable action upon his death and to decide more fully about the s.s. Convention to be held at Lima this week.

Went to church in the evening.

Monday, June 6th, 1892

Went up street early to have my silk waist cut and planned that I may have it for Alumni. Took it to Miss Ryan.²⁰ Stopped to see Sallie Knowles about going to Lima, also Miss Bell and to ask after Mr. Tewksbury who is still very sick. Heard of the dreadful accident of Mrs. Eberhardt who fell into an old ice-cellar under their wash house and died before noon of her injuries.²¹ It was shocking, and Minnie her daughter being almost and invalid is nearly wild with grief. Oscar Purcell is very sick.

Wednesday, June 8th, 1892

Went early to the Trinity M.E. church where the Convention was held. Met Will and we attended the morning session together. Lunch was served in four churches, plain but excellent and abundant. Every moment is needed for the fall program which is planned. Weather was stormy at times have had hard rains every day this week. Have met several acquaintances from other places and think this one of the grandest meetings I was ever in.

Thursday, June 9th, 1892

Weather dry for one day. The lightning yesterday killed a woman near Lima and did considerable other damage. The program today has been splendid. Will, Sallie, and I took our dinner and supper near the church and remained until the close of the exercises. Thane Miller's talk was one of the main features of the evening. Prof Excell's singing and leading are just wonderful. Will and I will never forget what we have enjoyed here.

²⁰ Waist was a common term in the United States for the bodice of a dress or a blouse or woman's shirt from the early 19th century until around 1910.

²¹ News of Margaret Eberhardt's death was published in the June 11th, 1892 issue of The Portsmouth Times. The Eberhardt's resided in the old Gilbert homestead on West Second Street which had a thirty-foot-deep cellar in the back yard which M.B. Gilbert used for storing ice. After Gilbert's death, the ice house was used as a stable or summer kitchen, but the trap door was left in place and the cellar below was used for drain water. It was reported that Mrs. Eberhardt ordered the trap door to be left open on wash days for ease of disposing of waste water.

Friday, June 10th, 1892

Sallie and I arose very early and went down street where Will met according to plan. Quite a number were on the train coming home, Jennie Ramsey of Springfield among others. Rained some during the day but not on us. At Piqua Will, Hattie Gates, Mrs. Rarden and I took a long street car ride while waiting for the train. Went to the Cemetery. Reached home about 4 o'clock and found all as we had left them at our house. Mr. Helfenstein, Mrs. Eberhardt, and Oscar Pursell had been buried during our absence. Elizabeth, Virginia and Helen Greene were here when we came.

Alumni Com. met this evening.

Saturday, June 11th, 1892

Weather hot. Barton went home this forenoon and took Virginia and Helen, they were not quite satisfied to stay, but Elizabeth had no thought of going.

After tea Jimmie, at Mary's request took Mrs. Lodwick, Miss Maggie O'Connor and me out for a drive to see the improvements about town. Mrs. Lodwick expects to leave for Denver soon. Has rented her home.

Sunday, June 12th, 1892

Fair and warm.

All attended Sabbath school and church as usual.

Two of our neighbors, Mr. E. Gates and Mrs. Vincent are very sick probably can not recover.

Dr. Dennis came this afternoon to ask about the Convention and the reports of the delegates.

Monday, June 13th, 1892

Hot and dry. Mr. Gates died early this morning and Mrs. Vincent died after 9 P.M. last night. She had been taken to Ida's a few days ago at her own request but she failed to find any relief from the change. The schools are finishing up their examinations and it is well for the weather is getting hot. Mrs. Young and Mrs. Tewksbury were here to bring some contributions for the Asheville Missionary Parsonage in N.C.

Mr. T. is no better.

Tuesday, June 14th, 1892

Hot and dry. Have done a little sewing but not much. Mr. Gates funeral was held at their home this afternoon and I was there. Remained while they went to the cemetery and assisted Mrs. Kehoe and Mr. Fulton in rearranging the furniture. Spent part of the day at Mr. Vincent's. Went to find a dress maker to make a robe for Mrs. V. Mary O'Connell made it of dove colored cashmere and it is beautiful for the purpose. Mrs. Vincent's five children are all at home.

Wednesday, June 15th, 1892

Hot and dry. Have been at Mr. Vincent's nearly all day assisting them as best I could. Funeral from the house at 4 P.M. J.W. was one of the pall-bearers.

This is Carl's birthday. He has enjoyed it very much. Margaret gave him a clock, J.W. and I a saddle and Bessie a silver watch box. Arthur Titus gave him a "picnic" cup. Will and I made our first reports after prayer meeting to quite a little audience. Mrs. Spry and I packed the barrel for Asheville this A.M.

Thursday, June 16th, 1892

Hot and dry. A storm must be brewing. A dreadful accident occurred at Newport Ky. yesterday, a bridge over the Licking fell and killed nearly a hundred workmen it is thought.²² Have been trying to rest up today but have not succeeded very well.

Mother is not at all well. The children are practically out of school and are very tired. Wrote to Mother R. and Miss Johns. Letter from Lena Kline. Hattie Gates was here.

Friday, June 17th, 1892

Warm all day but cooler in the evening. Was busy at the hall most of the day. The Alumni meeting in the evening was a success from what we saw and heard. I wore my new silk waist which Margaret gave me and it was much admired. Was put in as Chairman of the Execution Com. for next year.

²² According to the Marysville's Union County Journal, June 23, 1892, forty-five men who were at work on the bridge connecting Covington and Newport, Ky, fell approximately fifty feet into the river below when the false work supporting the middle of the structure gave way. The false work was a temporary wooden structure meant to support the bridge until the final braces could be installed. The Hamilton Daily Democrat reported on June 16, 1892 that thirty-nine men were killed, four seriously injured, and only two escaped without injury. Among those dead were the Baird brothers of Pittsburg, the contractors who were directing the work.

Saturday, June 18th, 1892

Very warm. Have done as little as I conveniently could today. Margaret and the three little girls went over in Ky. with a party after daisies for the church. M. spent the afternoon at the church arranging them. I went to the hall in the morning to get the flags and finish up after the Alumni meeting. Slept twice today. Had no letter from Lizzie.

Sunday, June 19th, 1892

Very warm.

Attended Sabbath school and church as usual.

Dr. Dennis is away and Dr. Tappan had charge of the school. Capt. Gillilan, Miss Peebles and Miss Bell reported to the resolutions in regard to Mr. Helfenstein's death.

Enos and his friend Mr. Gerham called to say good-bye as they leave in the morning. Had a fine sermon on Sabbath observance.

Monday, June 20th, 1892

Rained several times today. Was busy at home all forenoon and went to the Relief Corps meeting in the afternoon.

Wrote to Helen Ellis. Carl began work at the Portsmouth Nat'l Bank for the summer vacation. Mr. Silcox said about six weeks ago that they would probably want him when he was out of school. We hope he will like it and that it will benefit him. Letter from L.

Tuesday, June 21st, 1892

Very hot and in the evening one of the most threatening clouds I ever saw passed over the city but the fury of the storm was spent else where.

Miss O'Connor came to help with the sewing for a couple of weeks. Miss Bessie visited seventeen dress makers before she found one to make her new suit.

Wednesday, June 22nd, 1892

Very hot, fairly scorching. Cloudy all forenoon but did not rain as it threatened. Two notable society events occurred today, the marriages of Capt. Dickey and Mary Evans at our church and of Rabbi Schapiro and Miss Celia Schloss at the synagogue. Miss Bessie attended both ceremonies but neither reception.

Thursday, June 23rd, 1892

Very hot, 96° in the shade. Was not feeling well and took two naps during the day. Worked on the girls' gingham dresses which were ready for the finishing stitches. May has one, Lizzie two and a calico wrapper.²³

Did not go out any where until after tea when I took a short ride with J.W. and the children. Wrote to Mother Ricker.

Friday, June 24th, 1892

Not quite so hot as yesterday but still hot enough.

Clouds and a slight sprinkle in the evening. Rev. Mr. Groves, pastor of the Christian Church died this morning after a brief illness of a week. Has been living on 6th St. where Mr. Blackburn lived.

Have been sewing on flannelette shirts for J.W. today.²⁴ Bessie spent the day with Mrs. Titus, she is busy preparing to leave next week.

Saturday, June 25th, 1892

Very warm. Lena Kline and her friends Miss Kate Gaston of Montgomery Ala. called to see Margaret this morning but as M. was up at Miss Edward's I entertained them. Miss E. is to be married soon.

Sunday, June 26th, 1892

Good weather. Attended the usual services and spent the day much the same as usual.

Arthur was here for the last time on Sunday for months to come, Perhaps years.

Dr. Dennis came to talk over the S.S. Committee meeting to be held at our church Tuesday evening. We want to have a good successful convention to stir up more interest in the work.

Monday, June 27th, 1892

Weather pleasant for the time of year.

Janie told me today that she intends leaving next week is going to be married at last to the man who has been coming here to see her for years! I have no idea what I shall or can do to fill her place. She has been with us most of the time for nine years past.

Mrs. McCall and Mrs. Duduit have both been here on S.S. work.

²³ Wrapper: a loose robe or gown, a sort of Victorian version of a housedress.

²⁴ Flannelette: a napped cotton fabric resembling flannel.

Tuesday, June 28th, 1892

Quite warm. It has been a busy day with us all. Miss Bessie preparing to leave, Miss O'Connor sewing and I here and there doing what I can. We are making Will some cool shirts that are both pretty and comfortable. Miss Bessie put on her new black lace dress that we might see it and it certainly is beautiful. I am glad I gave it to her, she seems to enjoy it so much. Eight years ago today, Enos and I sailed for Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. Titus and Arthur were here this P.M.

Wednesday, June 29th, 1892

Weather pleasant as can be for a trip and Miss Bessie left on the C&O just before noon for Brooklyn, going via Washington where she will stop a day. Miss Drew and Mabel went at the same time. We shall miss her not a little. Went to church in the evening as usual. Arthur Titus left on the early morning train for New Hampshire to visit his grandmother. Will then study in Boston and expects to be gone a year.

Miss Ella Edward and Mr. Will Jackson were married today.

Thursday, June 30th, 1892

A good hard rain today did much to cool the atmosphere, lay the dust, and make a pleasant evening for Mr. and Mrs. Overturf's reception which J.W., Margaret, Will, and I attended along with crowds of others. Father went but did not remain long. I wore my new changeable pink silk waist with a black skirt.

Friday, July 1st, 1892

Weather delightful.

A good hard rain yesterday was rather dampening on the preparations for the Overturf reception but it made a delightful evening for the Selby reception this evening. Jimmie and I went early and left just after Margaret and Will arrived. Pearl and Blanche looked very well and very happy as they stood to receive the congratulations of their friends upon their marriage. They have been engaged several years.

Saturday, July 2nd, 1892

Pleasant.

Elizabeth Greene took her departure on the early train for home. The little girls had hoped to go with her but they can not be spared from here and Jennie's house is already full enough.

We had a drive in the evening.

Sunday, July 3rd, 1892

Weather warm but pleasant. All attended the usual services and had the usual lessons. Dr. Dennis came out in the afternoon to talk over s.s. matters a little. He is an earnest, energetic S.S. supt. and does all he can for the school.

Monday, July 4th, 1892

The glorious Fourth has been one of the most delightful in point of weather that I ever saw. Janie left us for good this morning. Will be married soon. We went to see the big balloon ascension which proved a failure, but the fire works in the evening were very fine. Altogether the day has been rather pleasant but tiresome as all such days are.

Tuesday, July 5th, 1892

Arose early to set out a bit of breakfast for Margaret and Will who left on the Norfolk & Western train for Col. Cleveland, Buffalo, Albany and New York with thousands of other Christian Endeavors from all over the land.²⁵ It was so foggy and cool that Will ran back after his overcoat, having thought he would not need it. Our family is gradually thinning out. When Miss Maggie goes on we shall be very few and far between at our long table.

Wednesday, July 6th, 1892

Beautiful weather. The children could not have a more delightful time for their trip. Today they are going down the Hudson on the New York together with several hundreds of other Christian Endeavors. Will reach New York this evening and go out to Elizabeth to stop with Cousin Emily Folger. Went to prayer meeting as usual. Next Sabbath is the regular Communion Day.

Thursday, July 7th, 1892

Weather warm.

The great International Christian Endeavor Convention meets in New York City this afternoon and I am thankful to know that Margaret and Will are there to enjoy the privileges of it.

We sewed away quietly at home and thought of them.

I can not sew much because of the kitchen work but I do what I can to help Miss Maggie. We are making over a summer silk of Mother Ricker's which Margaret has outgrown with one for Lizzie.

²⁵ The eleventh international Christian Endeavor Convention was held in Madison Square Garden with nearly twenty thousand delegates present from around the world.

Friday, July 8th, 1892

This is the last day of Miss Maggie's sewing here and we have done very well considering that Margaret has been gone a part of the time and Janie left Monday so the children and I have had all the work to do. We made and finished off nearly thirty garments including shirts, dresses, and things that took considerable time.

Saturday, July 9th, 1892

Pleasant though warm.

Maggie O'Connor went over home to do a few days' sewing. I am glad we are through here as we have no help and I can't sew much. Went this evening to see about a girl Carrie Greene has had, but the girl is doing other work. We shall probably be a long time filling Janie's place. Mr. Ransom was here to dinner, is on his way to Henley and stopped to speak about our coming s.s. convention. Went to preparatory lecture and afterwards to Carrie Byers'.

Sunday, July 10th, 1892

Warm. We all went to Sabbath school and the usual church sermons having arisen in time to get through with the work and be arriving the first at S.S. There was a little better attendance than on last Sabbath. Was over home to see Mother a few minutes in the evening after lessons. She felt better than usual, dressed, went down stairs and rested a while in the cool parlor where I think she took cold.

Communion Services today, six united with the church.

Monday, July 11th, 1892

Warm and dry. Was busy as could be having no girl but went back and forth to see Mother who is not well. Maggie O'Connor is sewing there and I am trying to finish up a dress left unfinished here for Lizzie. After tea I went to sit awhile with Mother and could not leave again so sat up all night. I had stopped at Gussie H's on my way over with a bunch of sweet peas, had not thought of staying all night.

Tuesday, July 12th, 1892

Weather hot. was with Mother all day and she seemed to get no better though. Dr. McClure did all he could for her. I was up all night with her. Mary was up also but did not come in the room, did what she could outside and absolutely refused to go to bed though she might as well have done so as I could call Mrs. B. when necessary.

Had a good letter from Margaret who reports a grand time at the convention.

Helen came tonight from Newton.

Wednesday, July 13th, 1892

Mother very sick still today; was up with her last night again besides being with her in the day time. Got Mrs. Ross today who will stay with her tonight with Mrs. Behrens within call and I shall try to sleep within call if they need one.

The trouble since Monday has been with her stomach. Today it was changing to her bowels. Catarrh of the bowels is the disease.²⁶ She must have taken cold Sabbath afternoon lying in the parlor a few minutes. Lizzie was in and out again today.

Gussie Halderman began taking the day time with Mother. She is an excellent nurse and Mother likes to have her.

Thursday, July 14th, 1892

Mother still very, very sick. Lizzie came in again today to stay awhile, brought the children and will stop at Mr. P's. Maggi Silcox was here this afternoon to pay a bill, see about Mother matter and offer her services if needed in caring for Mother. When Enos came Mother said she would wait until the next day before seeing him.

Rev. B.W. Chidlaw died today in Wales, where he expected to celebrate his birthday (81 years old) at his birth place today.²⁷ He did not reach his old house. Died at Bala where he had made an address last night.

Friday, July 15th, 1892

Warm and dry. This is J.W.'s birthday but I've not even time to sit and talk with him. Came home to eat dinner with the family but hurried right back as Mother is so very sick. Jimmie wrote the children today about it and this evening I wanted him to telegraph for them but he did not think best to do so. Lizzy Peebles is with us and Jennie will probably come soon. Lizzie and May have done all the cooking and other work all this week and are doing nicely but it is too hard for them.

²⁶ Catarrh: inflammation of the mucous membranes in one of the airways or cavities of the body, usually associated with colds, pharyngitis, sinusitis, and similar conditions, but it was also associated with stomach conditions like gastritis. The word is no longer commonly used in American medical practice.

²⁷ Rev. B.W. Chidlaw, D.D. was a prominent pioneer of the Presbyterian church born in Bala in North Wales. After graduating from Miami University at Oxford, he began working as a pastor and over the course of his life he established hundreds of Sunday schools and preached in numerous locations. During the civil war, he was chaplain of the Thirty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Saturday, July 16th, 1892

In writing up the record of Mother's illness this seems to be the critical time. This morning Dr. Mc again expressed a willingness to have any one else called in when we wished and we sent for Dr. Van Tine who now takes charge with Dr. Mc to assist. We were utterly discouraged this evening. Jennie came on the late train with B and two children they will stay at our house. Lizzie stays as much as she can but she is disabled and has her baby besides.

Sunday, July 17th, 1892

For two days and nights now we have not thought mother would live more than a few hours. Drs Van Tine and McClure are coming five or six times daily and doing all they can while the family and friends and nursing are nursing assiduously day and night. We did not expect her to survive the past night but as she still holds out there is a little room for encouragement. Gussie was with us all day and her strong hope helps keep up our courage.

Monday, July 18th, 1892

Warm and dry. Mother still very low and little grounds for encouragement. Was up all night, three of us and felt this afternoon that she could not get well.

Margaret and Will came on the train before noon and I was thankful to see them. Sorry they had to be sent for to come as they did but feared they would be too late even now.

They were gone two weeks and but one day. Maggie Silcox and Maggie O'Connor helped with Mother today.

Tuesday, July 19th, 1892

Weather much the same. Mother's condition shows little change but if any it is on the side of improvement. Mrs. Duduit has sat up with us several nights but I have lost the run of the days. Both she and Mrs. Halderman and Mrs. Swartz have done all they possibly could for us.

Margaret got a young colored girl today to help with the kitchen work at our house, for which I am thankful.

Wednesday, July 20th, 1892

Weather still warm and dry and little being done aside from caring for mother who keeps her strength wonderfully considering the drain upon it. The Doctors feel quite encouraged in view of that fact. Gussie Halderman has been a faithful and efficient friend and nurse, coming every day as soon as breakfast is over and spending most of the day with us. We can never repay her for her kindness.

Thursday, July 21st, 1892

Weather hot and dry. Exceedingly so Mother improves slightly each day. Mrs. Swartz will stay up tonight with Mrs. Ross so I shall try to sleep. I sat up last night with Mrs. Ross, and got very little rest through the day though Helen and since one else to help her tries to give me a chance. Mrs. Tappan was here this evening after Temperance meeting. Julia had been here before. The disturbances in Tenn are matched this year by the labor riots at the Carnegie Works in Penn.²⁸ Janie Bussler was married today to Henry Gyer. She had lived with us most of the time for visits years apart.

Friday, July 22nd, 1892

Weather very hot and dry. Mother seems a very little better from day to day but the improvement is so slow that it seems little more than holding her own. Mrs. Ross is giving out, not having come in the best condition and we must have other help. Jennie was to have gone home today but waited to help what she could today. I slept at home part to last night. Oella Tappan came home from Iowa.

Saturday, July 23rd, 1892

Weather very hot. Sat up last night as Mrs. Ross was unable to do so and this morning she went home. Mrs. Lambert came to take her place until Monday when we expect another whom we hope will be able to stay as long as needed. Mother is more quiet and better in every way than yesterday. I took a little sleep today. Have also helped a little on the Friends' Calendar which Jennie Ricker is preparing for her father's birthday the 10th, of August. Barton, Jennie and the two babies Dwight and Willard went home at noon. Lizzie P. called to see Mother. Henry Hosman was here.

Sunday, July 24th, 1892

Weather hot and dry. Said to be the hottest time we have ever had here. I slept at home but went early to stay with Mother and give the nurse a chance to rest. J.W. and all the children but Carl went to S.S. and church. Carl did not want to go because his teacher has been absent several times. Came home to hear the childrens' lessons and then returned to Mother. She is much better than yesterday but still quite weak and sick.

²⁸ On June 18, 1892, the Portsmouth Times briefly mentioned Andrew Carnegie's intent to cut the wages of his hundreds of employees. The resulting friction between the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers and the Carnegie Steel Company led to the Homestead strike, also known as the Homestead Steel strike, Pinkerton rebellion, or Homestead massacre. The event began as an industrial lockout and strike on June 30, 1892, culminating in a battle between strikers and private security agents on July 6, 1892. The battle was one of the most violent disputes in U.S. labor history, and resulted in a major defeat for the union. The disturbances in Tennessee that Louisiana refers to were mentioned in her 1891 diary, July 20-25, when the Briceville Miners went on strike to protest the use of convicts in the mines.

Monday, July 25th, 1892

Extremely hot until late in the afternoon when a good rain culled us off a little. After breakfast I went over home and found Mother still improving. Mrs. Lambert the nurse for the past two days left to fulfil another engagement and Mrs. Krick came before noon. Mother is so much better that I felt safe leaving her with the nurse and Helen while I came home to look after my family a little. Have not written up my diary for an even month so shall try to do that today. Mary E. Green is five years old today.

Tuesday, July 26th, 1892

Cloudy most of the day but the hard rains went by in other directions. Mother is so much better that I have been at home most of the day and have written up my book for a whole month past with very little trouble. The new nurse, Mrs. Krick gives good satisfaction. Letter from Mother Ricker, Mrs. Brent, and Imogene, her step daughters were here this evening.

Wednesday, July 27th, 1892

Cloudy all day with much thunder and some rain. I went down street in the forenoon, the first time for two weeks or more. Got a calendar for Jennie's birthday and a spoon for Lizzie Ricker. In the afternoon I put together the blocks of a quilt which our little girls and Elizabeth Greene had pieced and I sent it to Jennie. Mother continues to improve and today I have been at home most of the time, going back and forth often. Went to prayer-meeting in the evening and afterwards J.W. and I went to ask about Mr. Tewksbury who seems to be failing fast. The street (2nd) is all ploughed up for paving.

Thursday, July 28th, 1892

Damp and hot. Fleas bad but no mosquitoes yet for which I am thankful. Wrote to Jennie Greene and Mother R. Helen has finished the stitching on the new black silk waist Mother gave me. It has purple flowers on it and it is pretty and comfortable.

Mother improves very slowly still needs a nurse day and night, much of my time is spent there or on the way. Lizzie P. came in on a flying trip this noon and took Lizzie and May home with her for a few days.²⁹ Jennie sent L. a dress for her birthday.

Friday, July 29th, 1892

Weather hot as ever. The heat in the cities is proving very fatal. We miss the little girls. The house work and mother take about all my time except that occasionally I get in a little mending as I did today on underwear and overalls.

²⁹ Flying trip: hasty and brief.

Margaret sent off twenty-seven of the leaves for Uncle Drew's calendar, three slips not having been returned though we made several requests for them. I got three filled today by Mr. Ewing, Will Purcell, and Dell Ramsey.

Saturday, July 30th, 1892

Somewhat cloudy part of the day and yet it is very warm.

We let Nancy go after dinner and will try to do what is to be done ourselves until we get one girl who can do it all. I went this morning to see about one who lives near Lucasville. Did a few other errands while out. Helen went to take tea with Mrs. Davis.

Sunday, July 31st, 1892

Beautiful day but still quite warm. Rained before the day was over.

All of us except Lizzie and May went to S.S. and church. This is the last day before Dr. Tappan's vacation. He will be absent from the pulpit four Sabbaths. Mother seems better but is still unable to sit up. I spent the afternoon with her.

Monday, August 1st, 1892

Cloudy and showering all day, still warm.

Mother about the same in some respects.

Mrs. Krick goes home this evening, for a rest, and we have engaged Mrs. Coleman to take her place for awhile.

Letter from Grandma to Lizzie which I forwarded with one from myself.

Mrs. Coleman came before tea and mother is glad to have her as she has been in the family before.

Tuesday, August 2nd, 1892

Weather hot and dry.

Margaret and I are hot and tired, she is not well and I went out again this forenoon to see about help but did not have very flattering success. It takes almost as much strength to hunt help as to do what we do of the work. Found us one today. The factories, shops, etc. take most of the girls and women.

Wednesday, August 3rd, 1892

Very hot. Jimmie was up to Mr. Tewksbury's two or three times today and left about 4 P.M. the last time. Mr. Tewksbury died about 5 o'clock.³⁰ Has been in very feeble health for four years. His death closes the record for a remarkable man. One who has won the esteem and respect of all by his exemplary, consistent christian life. One who has always been kind to me and whose memory I shall cherish.

Eva Black came to help a few days.

Thursday, August 4th, 1892

Cloudy in the morning with a hard rain before noon. As early as possible I started up to Mrs. Tewksbury's but only went as far Chillicothe St. when a dark cloud worried me home and I just escaped a hard rain. Went after supper. Carl had Mary, Margaret and me out driving and left Mary and me at the corner of Chil. and 2nd and we walked up. The street above Chil is all ploughed up for paving. saw Mrs. T. Julia, Margaret, Russell and Al up stairs. Uncle Drew came on the C&O and Lizzy and May on the CP&V about bedtime.

Friday, August 5th, 1892

Hot and dry. Margaret looked for May Evans today but she sent word she could not come until tomorrow. Mr. M.R. Tewksbury's funeral services were held at the house this afternoon. Uncle Drew, Barton, J.W. and I went up together. B. and J. served as pall bearers in addition to Mr. Cotton, Mr. Hadley (elders) Sam Johnson and Ed Carson. Dr. Tappan's remarks were excellent, as they always are the words which served as a kind of text were from 2nd Kings. "Thy servant will go a little way over Jordan with the king." Barton and Ed'nd went over home today.

Saturday, August 6th, 1892

Slightly cloudy. At the urgent request of the family, I went with Uncle Drew to spend the forenoon at Mrs. Gould's at Franklin F'ce and the afternoon with Aunt Add Ricker in Ironton. Had a pleasant day, met Winnie's husband Dr. McBride. Came home on the evening train and found May Evans here and the little girls gone home with Barton and Edward Greene. This is Margaret's birth day and my present for her has not come. A set of gold studs, two of which I bought for Ma when I was a child.

³⁰ Moor Russell Tewksbury's obituary appeared on the front page of the August 6, 1892 Portsmouth Times. He had been born in Bath, NH on April 27, 1808 and was regarded as one of Portsmouth's "Oldest Business Men". Mr. Tewksbury was one of a group of capitalists who built Madison Furnace and Jacob Ricker, father of J.W. Ricker subsequently purchased an interest in the company.

Sunday, August 7th, 1892

Hot and dusty. Went to Sabbath school as did our guests, Uncle Drew and May. Missed the little girls very much, had only Carrie and Lucy in class. Having no service I remained at home to see to dinner, the others went to the 2nd Pres and heard Rev. Gabriel. I went in the evening. Dr. Dennis was here in the afternoon to talk over S.S. matters.

This is Julia Tappan's birthday, seventeen and a sweet girl.

Monday, August 8th, 1892

Very hot. Jimmie took Uncle Drew and the girls out to Mr. Bannon's and the Drew Selby Shoe Factory this forenoon then they returned and the girls went down street a little while. Did their packing and left on the 3 P.M. train for St. Louis. Margaret will visit her Grandparents. Uncle Drew wants to stop in Cin so will go in the morning. He and I called at Mr. Peebles' and Mrs. Tewksbury's after tea. Jimmie was sick with his cold and could not go. It rained quite hard about tea time. Lena and Mabel called after the girls were gone.

Tuesday, August 9th, 1892

Beautiful morning after the rain. Arose early and had breakfast for Uncle Drew who left on the C.P.U. R.R. at 5.55 A.M. Carl drove out and J.W. went for company. After breakfast J.W. took Mary and me for a morning ride. In the evening we had Gussie with us and went on the West Side.

Mother continues to improve slowly, but we hope surely. Attended the funeral of Mrs. S. H. Holmes at her late residence.

Wednesday, August 10th, 1892

Very warm, 92° in the shade after dinner.

Uncle Drew's birthday. Mother had a letter from Margaret. Was busy all day and not very well. Wrote to Lizzie Ricker and Effie Ellis whose adopted mother died recently at her home in Florence, S.C. Did not go to prayer-meeting as Carl was sick, had bad cold and fever and headache. Dwight Greene came home from church with Will and remained until 10 o'clock. J.W. went to a camp fire.

Thursday, August 11th, 1892

Cloudy with showers all day. Our neighbor Mr. Carruthers had his roof off which seems to be unfortunate but perhaps is better than those hot days. This is Father and Mother's 45th anniversary. Had letters from Margaret and May Evans. Carl was feverish all night and arose late today but went to his work as usual. Wrote to Bessie Hall. Henry was here. Julia Tappan called at my request.

Rode out in the evening. Went to see Miss Ball who is sick with fever.

Friday, August 12th, 1892

Beautiful day, delightful weather. Did some sweeping upstairs and general puttin' to rights. Wrote to Margaret. Was over home several times. Went to see Miss Ball again and got a paper for Will which I took up to Prof Vickers to fill out. Went out driving in the evening with Mary and Gussie Halderman having Will for driver. Carl is better, was sick for a couple of days, is not yet well.

Mother improves daily.

Saturday, August 13th, 1892

Beautiful day, so cool that I feel a little chilly haven't taken some cold. Have been busy as usual with various duties. Finished letter to Margaret and sent it.

This is Mary Y. Moore's birthday, thirty years old.

Felt miserably all day.

Sunday, August 14th, 1892

Beautiful day.

Went to S.S. as usual and afterwards I came home and spent awhile with Mother then helped get the dinner. Dwight came from church at noon and remained until time to go to church in the evening. J.W. and I went to the 2nd Pres in the evening and heard Rev. Mr. Gobeit, their new pastor.

Mother sent Dr. Van Tine to give me medications for my cold which is bad.

Monday, August 15th, 1892

Weather pleasant. My cold seems to be yielding to the medications but it still makes me feel miserable.

Matters moved on about as usual today.

Am busy as I can be all the time and no definite promise of help as yet.

Went to the Relief Corps meeting and afterward called, with Mrs. Silcox to see Miss Ball who is sick.

Tuesday, August 16th, 1892

Pleasant.

This is Mary Evans' birthday, twenty-one, Margaret gave her a silver spoon.

Wednesday, August 17th, 1892

Delightful weather for me. This was Eva's last day with me for which I am sorry. She had been very helpful.

The Knoxville troubles of last year still exist and are growing worse. The miners and their employers are at war over convict labor and a regular battle is imminent.

Went to prayer meeting this evening, am much better of my cold.

Dwight was at church.

Thursday, August 18th, 1892

Am again alone queen of the kitchen and monarch of all I survey. Had a letter from Frank Ricker telling me some very interesting news where upon I replied at once with hearty congratulations. Wrote to Mary Evans also in answer to a letter I had soon after she left.

Friday, August 19th, 1892

The day was cloudy with light sprinkling rains. The excursion to Serpent Mound would be more pleasant thou if the sun were hot providing it did not rain hard. I went to see Mr. Fagan about the music for the Convention. Pearl Selby about the alumni bills and Pry Vickers about Will's certificate. Oella was here this morning just a moment.

Saturday, August 20th, 1892

Beautiful day but quite dry and dusty.

Was busy with the work until about 3 P.M. Went to see Mother awhile then at 4 o'clock Mary and I drove down to the office and got Father and Uncle Enos and went to the little cemetery on the west side where Mother's relatives are buried.

This is Enos' birthday. Missed Mrs. Richardson while I was out.

Sunday, August 21, 1892

Delightful day. Rained hard just at church time and we went to the Sixth st. M.E. ch. instead of the 2nd Pres as we had planned. Went to 2nd in the evening and heard enough sing service to last a long time. Occupied about two hours. We went to Sabbath school as usual.

We miss the children very much. Had a letter from Margaret, Jas visit the P.O. hoping to get one.

Monday, August 22nd, 1892

Beautiful day. Will began his recitation to Prof Lewis as a preparation for examinations. While I went him to go on with his studies, I feel some regret that his boyhood years are so near an end and he will so soon leave home. Margaret sent him 5.00, his father and Carl each gave him a good hat, one swift, one soft. My gift has not yet come. Mother is better but not yet up. Have been busy all day. the Expected girl did not come. Box of flowers from Effie Ellis for Mother.

Tuesday, August 23rd, 1892

Warm and dry. Eva came this forenoon and swept for me in preparation for expected company during the State S.S. Convention tomorrow. Mr. J.W. Ransom called this evening just at tea time and accepted our invitation to stop with us. I have every thing in readiness to entertain half a dozen if need be. It was rather late when I retired as I did some writing.

Wednesday, August 24th, 1892

Somewhat cloudy but no rain until late, about time for the opening of the evening session of the Con. Went to the church about 9 o'clock and was ready to assist in any way needed. The Convention was opened by Mr. Ewing the county Pres., Mrs. Marian Laurance was the leader and Mr. Robt. Bonsall gave us two good Blackbeard lessons. One in the afternoon and one in the evening. Attendance was fairly good, program good, and I hope good will be done. Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Blair of Buena Vista were here to dinner and tea.

Gussie Haldeman's birthday.

Thursday, August 25th, 1892

Rainy and delightful in the forenoon. Cleared off beautifully later and in the evening, Mary, gussie, Jimmie and I took a drive on the West Side.

Wrote to Effie Ellis to thank her for the flowers she so kindly sent Mother. The ordinary work takes about all the time I have and letters, calls upon Mother and other outside matters are just squeezed in occasionally.

Friday, August 26th, 1892

Beautiful day. Was busy at home as usual and feeling thankful that I am able to be busy. Wrote twice to Margaret today, the second time being a reply to her letter asking what she should do about going to grand Rivers upon the invitation of her Uncle Enos. Was down street with the letter and did one of the other errands.

Dwight called this evening to say good-bye as he goes home in the morning. Barton will probably be here next week and bring the girls.

Saturday, August 27th, 1892

Beautiful weather. Have had an unusually busy day as Sarah Warner came about 5.20 to wash some bedding, and I made it convenient to do considerable cleaning up. Mother still improves slowly. Had a letter from Helen Ellis and circular from Prof. E. O. Excell. Jimmie went to drive for Father, Uncle Enos and Mary. The papers tell of one or ten cases of Asiatic Cholera in this country.³¹ It is bad in Antwerp and Hamburg Ger.

Sunday, August 28th, 1892

Beautiful weather.

J.W. the two boys and I went to Sabbath school as usual after which Carl went to bed and to sleep and we three went out to the 2nd church. Heard a very good sermon in the morning and came home quite tired, got dinner, sat with Mother awhile and then went to church again in the evening with J.W. and Will. Enjoyed the walk and very good company, shall be glad when our own services are resumed.

Monday, August 29th, 1892

Beautiful day.

Mrs. Schwegler told me she thought her sister-in-law had a daughter who would come to stay with us, so I went out to see her and engaged her in less than ten minutes. Her name is Eva Therman, and she will come tomorrow.

³¹ Asiatic Cholera is an infectious disease caused by a bacterium which usually results in painless, watery diarrhea in humans, but some affected individuals may develop severe dehydration due to infection. Newspapers throughout the state of Ohio reported cases of Cholera in Europe, namely Antwerp where it was believed that the disease had come through and the authorities did not enforce the quarantine regulations until after the disease was apparent in the city. The U.S. State Department received a cable on August 25, stating that Asiatic cholera had "been in Hamburg since August 18" and that 279 cases had been reported with seventy-five deaths.

Spent some time with Mother who improves very slowly.

Tuesday, August 30th, 1892

Warm and pleasant. Eva came this morning and took hold of the work nicely. I am thankful for her help. The Foreign Mis. Soc. met this afternoon at the church parlor, the topic Korea being in charge of Mrs. Young. Mrs. Lewis sent in her resignation as Sec'y as she has accepted a position in the Public schools. We expected the children home today but they did not come.

Wednesday, August 31st, 1892

Quite warm. This is Rich and Lizzie's 6th Anniversary and Mr. Peebles' family went out to take tea with them. I spent the forenoon trying to get some flowers to send out with Mary Peebles. Gathered a basket of lovely roses at home then went up to Mrs. Fulton's and bought another basketful for 25^{ct}. Went to prayer meeting in the evening and found Dr. Tappan had returned from his summer vacation.

Thursday, September 1st, 1892

Cloudy and very cool. Rain or hail in the vicinity and decided change here.

Was very busy all day helping Eva get a good start with the work and making preparations for the picnic tomorrow. Went to the W.C.T.U. or rather started there and learned that the hour had been changed and it was all over. Lizzie and May have not yet come neither have we heard from them.

Friday, September 2nd, 1892

Beautiful day, neither too hot nor too cool for our S.S. picnic. Took the train soon after 9 o'clock and went to Scioto Furnace where we spent a delightful day. J.W. Will and I had to represent the family as Carl did not care to go and our three girls were away from home. All of my class except Lizzie were present. Had a letter from Margaret.

Saturday, September 3rd, 1892

A beautiful bright day with a nice breeze. About 7.30 A.M. Carl, Miss Bessie and I started to Buena Vista for the day. Carl had hired a barouche and team of black horses.³² Found Aunt at home but she hadn't rec'd my letter so was not expecting us. When we returned in the evening we found Lizzie and May at home from Zanesville where they have been for just four weeks past. Aunt Maria gave me the last letter Father wrote to Grandma, one I prize highly.

³² Barouche: a four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage with a collapsible hood over the rear half, a seat in front for the driver, and seats facing each other for the passengers, used especially in the 19th century.

Sunday, September 4th, 1892

Bright and warm.

All of us except Margaret were present at S.S. and ch. After the summer vacation, Dr. Tappan preached two excellent sermons. We are glad to be in our own church again, and the S.S. showed some reinforcement in members but is still below what it should be.

Monday, September 5th, 1892

Rainy and unfavorable for Labor Day parade which was postponed until after noon and then took place between showers, part of it was probably caught in the rain.

Bessie Martin and three of the Peebles children were here after the parade. Wrote to Jennie, Helen, and Aunt Maria.

Margaret returned from a month's visit at Kirkwood. Came in the late train this evening on the C&O. Is well and left the K. friends all well. Prof. Smith took tea with us.

Tuesday, September 6th, 1892

Fair and pleasant. The schools opened again today, Margaret has her same room at 4th St. Lizzie goes to the High S. and May to the B. Grammar at 2nd st. Carl decided to go to Mr. Draper's office and work. Lizzie came home and reported that his name was read out with the C. class and I wrote him a note asking him to reconsider his decision, am very anxious he should.

Saw the flag raised on the H.S. this afternoon.

Wednesday, September 7th, 1892

Pleasant. Am busy with work and perplexed about Carl who is evidently dis-satisfied himself. Mr. Draper called to see me this morning to talk about him and will release him if he wants to go to school. He decided tonight that he would go back to school and I am very glad. I went about 3 ½ o'clock P.M. the fire alarm rang and at tea time we learned that it was the Kanawha Lumber Yard that had been burning all the time. The two little girls and I went to prayer meeting. Jimmie, Will, M and Mary rode up to the fire and Bessie and Carl walked part of the way.

Gus Edwards and Noble Evans were married in Kirkwood, Mo.

Thursday, September 8th, 1892

Pleasant. Jimmie gave me a rocking chair for my birthday. Was over home in the forenoon and then went to the annual meeting of the W.C.T.U. in the afternoon then again in the evening when the public meeting was held at the Christian Church.

Mrs. Snodgrass has been elected President for the ensuing year. I was up to see Prof. Vickers about Carl's course of study and to see Miss Ball who is still sick.

Friday, September 9th, 1892

Weather delightful. Got two bushels of peaches today and have been busy with them since aa A.M. They are very small and troublesome but peaches are scarce this year and I am glad to get even these. Went to S.S. Teachers' meeting in the evening at Dr. Dennis', seventeen present and a good meeting.

Mrs. Frank Johnson called.

Saturday, September 10th, 1892

Pleasant.

Was busy with the peaches until noon, Eva finished them while we were at dinner. I went up street in the afternoon to try to find something for dinner tomorrow.

Was very tired at night. Mother about the same. Carl is ready to go into school Monday. The diphtheria is so alarming that there is some talk of closing the schools but that would do no good.

Mother's nurse went home.

Sunday, September 11th, 1892

Delightful weather. We all went to s.s. and church as we did before vacation and it seemed good to all be there together again. Went to church both morning and evening. Had lessons with the girls in the afternoon as usual.

Monday, September 12th, 1892

Rained some both before and after dinner.

Carl went to school today. Just after dinner Will and I were sitting in my room when Eva came to say that Mr. Chas. Russell had been killed. We both went over to Mr. Vincent's to find it was true. He had fallen down the elevator shaft from the 4th story in his building on 2nd st where he had gone to see about having some change made in the elevator. It was a dreadful shock to his friends. His neck was broken by the fall.³³

Began Will's preparations for Col.

³³ According to a front page article in the September 17, 1892 issue of the Portsmouth Times, Charles F. Russell went to the forth story of one of his business houses on Second Street, R.P. Myers & Co., to examine the elevator after a report that the elevator brake was not working properly. Soon after, Mr. Russell was found lying at the bottom of the elevator shaft and his body was moved to the home of his father-in-law, Henry Vincent.

Tuesday, September 13th, 1892

Cloudy with some rain. Was over to Mr. Vincent's twice but there was nothing for me to do so I spent most of my time with Mother. Have been working on Will's underwear.

Wednesday, September 14th, 1892

Cloudy and chilly. The sun shone a little while in the afternoon but it was a gloomy day for a funeral. was over to Mr. Vincent's before dinner and then went early to the funeral, or rather to the house, Mary and I remained there while the others went to the church, Mr. Badger being sick, Mr. Taylor of the Upper ch. officiated. Hattie Russell has the sympathy of many friends. I am sorry for Charlie's mother. This is Helen and Enos' anniversary.

Thursday, September 15th, 1892

Have been busy with little things and made many trips over home today. Lizzie P. came in to spend the afternoon with Mother and Mary as it is their birthday. Mattie Wood came to call but we were just starting to the gallery to try to have a family picture taken so she did not stay but will come tomorrow.

Friday, September 16th, 1892

Weather pleasant. Eva came downstairs sick this A.M. and went home before dinner so I was left to prepare for our guests, Mattie Wood and Tom Martin who were here to dinner. Will and the little girls cleaned the table while I visited with Mattie. in the evening I went to Teachers' meeting at Dr. Tappan's where we had seventeen present I think. I was on Com for Rallying Day exercises and went early.

Saturday, September 17th, 1892

Weather still lovely.

Eva did not come back so I sent out to inquire about her and she is still sick. Have been busy with Will's things this week getting them in order for packing. I can not realize that he is so nearly gone and for so long. He has been in the house most of the time the past month studying and I shall miss him greatly. Lizzie began taking music lessons of Julia Tappan.

Sunday, September 18th, 1892

Weather delightful. Will and I walked down to s.s. together and at the teacher's prayer meeting which followed Maggie Peebles spoke very freely of the one who was soon to leave us. We attended the usual Sabbath services and spent the day as we always do. Prof. Smith called to give Will a letter. He went to see Mother awhile in the afternoon and would have sat with us but Charlie Murphy wen to ch. with him.

Monday, September 19th, 1892

Beautiful day. Will and I did his packing in a very short time this morning, he then did a few errands and I prepared lunch for him which he had ample time to eat. Dr. Dennis called and visited with him while he ate and soon we bade him good-bye and he left on the 11 o'clock train for Columbus, and thence to Ithaca, N.Y. where he expects to enter Cornell College.³⁴ May God keep and guide him.

Tuesday, September 20th, 1892

Beautiful weather.

Dr. Connor of Cin. came up to see Mother and with the assistance of Dr. Cotton and Kline performed an operation which we hope will give her permanent relief. I was over home all the afternoon but not in the room as Mrs. Swartz and Mrs. Coleman were all that were needed. Dr. Connor returned to the city this evening. May's birthday was remembered by several.

Wednesday, September 21st, 1892

Another pleasant day. I went to Miss Ryan's room on my new gray dress and then to Mrs. Tappan's to wait for Carl who was to call there for Wm. Mary and Bessie were with him. Had intended going to see Mabel Russell and her mother but Mrs. Jas. Miller came in just before I started and so I deferred the call until another time. Mother is doing well and Mrs. Coleman is with her all the time.

Thursday, September 22nd, 1892

Fine weather. Had a very busy day but as I had to go again to Mrs. Ryan's I went just to Mrs. Russell's. am very sorry for her, she feels the loss of her son very keenly. Took Mabel the photo which Will promised her in exchange for the Tennis Club group. His pictures were finished this week and they are as good as they can be.

Friday, September 23rd, 1892

Pleasant. Was busy as usual. In the afternoon Mrs. Richardson called to make out the W.R.C. quarterly report with me. In the evening I went to Teachers' meeting at Mrs. Evans'. J.W. had the carriage out and took Fannie Spry and me up then brought home Mary Peebles and Miss Coates with us. Aung Maria McCall came up to spend a few days with Mother, and attend Conference next week.

³⁴ Cornell University was founded April 27, 1865 on Senator Ezra Cornell's farm land in Ithaca, New York. The university was intended to teach in all fields of knowledge from classics to sciences with no restrictions on religion or race, and is now known as an Ivy League institution boasting more than 50 Nobel laureates.

Saturday, September 24th, 1892

Good weather and busy times. Had a bushel of tomatoes to put up today and got 8 qts out of the bus. The three girls being at home helped wonderfully with the work.

Uncle Sam and Aunt Maria made us a call in the evening and I talked and laughed until I was hoarse.

Sunday, September 25th, 1892

Beautiful day. This was what is known as Rallying Day in our S.S. and the exercises were a little different from ordinary. Lena Kline was present to take Will's class of boys. The sermon in the forenoon was on the relation of the S.S. to the church. In the evening Rev. Mr. Tenney preached. He is the Dept. Chaplain of the G.A.R. of Ohio.³⁵

Rained this evening and the electric wire set the tree at the corner of Court and 3rd on fire.

Monday, September 26th, 1892

Weather all that could be desired. Nothing out of the ordinary occurred to mark the day except that the woman did not come, nor help of any kind. Carl went to the Bank quite cheerfully but I feel somewhat sad to think of his school days being ended so soon.

Mrs. Emmanuel Miller called this afternoon. She has not been here in a long while.

Tuesday, September 27th, 1892

Fine weather for the Methodist Conference which meets here today in Bigelow Church which has been completely renewed in every way, inside and out. The Foreign Mission Society met here this afternoon about a dozen being present. The program was in charge of Mrs. John Miller and the meeting was pleasant. I regret not being able to entertain Conference guests but it is out of the question.

Wednesday, September 28th, 1892

Weather still fine. Mrs. S. did the ironing today and I had enough to keep me busy all day.

³⁵ Grand Army of the Republic was a fraternal organization composed of veterans who served in the American Civil War for the United States forces. G.A.R. became among the first organized advocacy groups in America, helping to make Memorial Day a national holiday, lobbying the United States Congress to establish regular veterans' pensions, and supporting Republican political candidates.

Had a letter from Will and both his father and I wrote him. Margaret has given me a new pen but I've not had time to give the points a fair trial to make my choice. Write under difficulties these days. Went to prayer meeting. Jimmie had headache and went to bed.

Thursday, September 29th, 1892

Beautiful weather.

Had a bushel of tomatoes to put up and other work beside which kept me busy so late that I was too tired to go to the Methodist Conference meeting as I had hoped to do.

Mother is improving steadily and as fast as we expect but she gets very much discouraged at times.

Friday, September 30th, 1892

Lovely weather. Was over to see Mother a few minutes early and then had no other chance during the busy day. In the forenoon, Gussie Halderman came to see me just as I was ready to scrub the kitchen and just after it was finished in the afternoon, Lizzie Cochran came to call. Both were old school mates. In the evening Lizzie and I went to Bigelow to attend Conference. The new church is very, very nice.

Saturday, October 1st, 1892

Beautiful weather. Had a long and interesting letter from Will today. The new Government P.O was opened for business this morning for the first time. The first letter I sent through it was to Will and the first I had from it was from him. After the delivery J.W. and I drove up past there and got a letter from Mother Ricker.

Have had a busy day as usual. Took a drive with Carl, Margaret, and Miss Bessie after tea.

Sunday, October 2nd, 1892

Beautiful day. Went to S.S. and church as usual. Louise Greene having gone to the 2nd Pres and Myra Wells to the Baptist SS. I only have three members of my class left. Rev. Dr. Arbuckle of Zanesville preached for us in the morning and Dr. Moore of the Western Christian Advocate filled the pulpit in the evening. Both were members of the Conference. Our church was filled at night.

Monday, October 3rd, 1892

Cloudy with light sprinkles but cleared off beautifully later. Aunt Maria went home. I had a bushel of tomatoes to put up and was busy and tried all day. Conference closed this evening at Bigelow M.E. church and three of us, J.W. Lizzie and I went to see the end of it. The church was well filled. Mr. Fagan of Sixth St. M.E. was appointed to Chillicothe. We shall miss him as he has been here five years and was always friendly and helpful.

Tuesday, October 4th, 1891

Indications of rain which passed off and the day was lovely. Was very busy all day put five hundred pickles in brine. Was over to see Mother who seems better and Mrs. Colman is to leave this evening. Mrs. Bannon and Mrs. Charlotte Smith called. Had a letter from Will who is not yet settled and says he has been rather homesick. Went to the Reading Rooms to assist Venitia Ramsey in auditing for Mrs. Silcox's book.

Margaret had the picture of Columbus which Miss Bessie gave me framed today.

Wednesday, October 5th, 1892

Quite cool, fire is needed mornings and evenings.

Went to prayer meeting in the evening but Jimmie had a bad cold and went to bed.

I and Mrs. Kline were at prayer meeting, the first time I've seen them there since they came to our church except one rainy night when the Dr. was there alone.

Thursday, October 6th, 1892

Beautiful weather.

Between times today I managed to finish off the drawers for the girls and cut out four more pairs. Thought of the Temperance meeting but could not go.

Mother is improving but gets discouraged often and keeps both doctors in attendance most of the time.

Friday, October 7th, 1892

Pleasant. Have had a full day as usual. Ruth came this afternoon to clean up a little. The dust is very heavy and annoying. While she was here I went out first to see Mrs. Helfenstein about Mr. H's picture for the S.S. and then with J.W. to see about a girl whom I did not get. Then to S.S. Teachers' meeting in the evening at Mrs. Comins'. Carl took me and my friends Misses Spry and Richardson and Mrs. Dudley. It rained as we started home.

Saturday, October 8th, 1892

Lovely weather. This is Father's birthday and Mary invited Uncles Enos and Sam to dine with him, also Bessie and Margaret. They had an abundance of flowers for the table and a nice dinner which pleased Father greatly. Had a letter from Will which gave me plenty to think about. He is short of funds. We decided to telegraph him what to do. I sent him a box of cakes which I baked today. Preparatory lecture. Went to see Ella McNeal and Maggie Massie, the latter was not in.

Sunday, October 9th, 1892

Beautiful day. Went to Sabbath school and church as usual. It was Communion day and Carrie Hadley, one of my S.S. class united with the church. there was also present in the congregation a member of my first S.S. class whom I had not seen for 23 years until yesterday, one who told me it was through my interest and efforts that she became a christian. Large congregation and good sermon on Methodist conference.

Monday, October 10th, 1892

Foggy and cool in the morning but beautiful and pleasant afterwards. Lizzie remained in to stay a while with Mother who wants her. I still fail to get help and the girls are busy as they can be with preparations for their Columbus Day exercises. The C.E.S. holds a business meeting here tonight. Oella is here. Wrote to Will but did not hear from him.

Tuesday, October 11th, 1892

Delightful weather. Was occupied much as usual today. Ruth washed for us which was rather unusual. In the evening J.W. and I accepted the offer of Margaret and Miss Bessie to use their lecture course tickets tonight and heard the six Smith sisters. Quite a remarkable and enjoyable concert. M. and B. were too tired with their Columbus preparations for tomorrow to think of enjoying a concert.

Wednesday, October 12th, 1892

This is Columbus Day according to the old time calendar so the Public Schools here observe it by a general flag raising at all the building except the H.S. where they already had a flag. There were decorations and appropriate exercises in all the buildings. I went to 2nd St and saw the exercises of May's school and Miss Hall's hoop drill. Would have liked to visit all the schools but could not. Missed Margaret's program but hope to see that some other time.

Thursday, October 13th, 1892

Pleasant. The event of this day occurred in the evening when Marie Pratt gave her Parlor Talk at Mr. Peebles' for the benefit of the Reading Rooms. I was the only representation of the family present for various reasons. Jimmie having gone to Ironton today to attend the dedication of the G.A.R. Memorial Hall. I enjoyed the talk very much. She told the story of her trip around the world in a very pleasant manner. There was a large audience.

Friday, October 14th, 1892

Beautiful day which was pleasant for Mrs. Stewart's reception this afternoon. Mother was not feeling so well and I sat with her all the afternoon until time to go to bed. Was sorry to miss the S.S. Teachers' meeting at Miss Knowles' but it could not be helped.

Jimmie came home from Ironton on the noon train.

Saturday, October 15th, 1892

Rained this afternoon but not enough to do much good. Had a busy day as usual. Margaret went up street this afternoon and May went to the Opera house to drill for the entertainment.

Helen and Miss Batch came on the afternoon train C&E Road. Margaret and I went over after supper to see them but they were late so we went to make a short call on Gussie Halderman and her cousin Mrs. Emma Halderman from Cleveland.

Sunday, October 16th, 1892

Beautiful day. We all went to S.S. and church as usual but I did not remain to Teacher's prayer meeting as I had not seen Mother before S.S.

Saw Miss Balch a few moments, she did not go out today because of her cough which troubles her very much.

Went to church in the evening.

Monday, October 17th, 1892

Weather pleasant but dry and dusty. Before breakfast Mrs. Miles' girl called to tell me she had a friend with her who would come to us if we wanted her. After breakfast she came in and we soon agreed to try a partnership. Amanda Harrison from Oak Hill certainly sounds well for I've known some excellent girls from that locality. Went to the Corps meeting in the afternoon and then to the High School to see Miss Hall on business for Mrs. Helfenstein. The town is much excited over the school trouble which is to be settled tomorrow by the Board.³⁶

Tuesday, October 18th, 1892

Dry and dusty and warm. Went to look at underwear for J.W. and Carl. Brought home some and kept Carl's part. Called to see Mrs. Van Tine and also Mrs. Kline and Lena who were full of the school excitement. In the afternoon I went with Enos, Helen, Miss Balch to drive up Munn's Run a little way. Was tired and went to bed early but not to sleep. Sent letter to Will.

School Board met this evening in special session and decided to sustain Supt and reinstate the pupils. A remarkable decision.

Wednesday, October 19th, 1892

Some signs of rain but nothing more. Still dry and dusty. Barton came on the late train last night but I did not see him until this morning. Have been busy as usual, but in a different way, showing Amanda where to find things and what to do. Spent some time with mother.

Went to prayer-meeting as usual and was glad there was no Teachers' meeting to follow. Dr. Tappan had a wedding in hands, and Dr. Dennis is away.

³⁶ V.L. Collins was hired as a substitute teacher in the high school, but his sudden discharge led the students to protest and rumors to spread. On October 8, 1892, the Portsmouth Times mentioned that many blamed Collins' foreign birth as he was born in China to American missionaries and others said it was because Collins never received a high school degree, instead going straight to Princeton. The October 22, 1892 issue of the Portsmouth Times mentions other alleged reasons for Mr. Collins dismissal; "Mr. Collins smoked a pipe on the street, dropped his 'Hs,' and wore English store clothes and parted his hair and name in the middle, was too young to grow hair on his teeth [i.e. not manly or self-assertive], sang in the wrong choir, and taught like a college professor instead of by rote and question like the birch-wielder at 'Possum Holler.'"

Rev. Dr. Tappan drafted an expression of regret over Collins dismissal which was signed by about sixty-nine of the students until superintendent Prof. Vickers told the students that if they did not remove their names they would be suspended. Nine students refused to remove their names and were suspended until the next board meeting. After a special committee examined the issue, the board submitted a report that effectively said "everybody was right, no harm meant, and the suspended scholars could return to their classes Wednesday."

Tuesday, October 20th, 1892

Dry and dusty. Had several errands to be done today. Went early in the morning with Mary to look for a cloak which she did not find. Took the family group to Mr. Hull's to be framed for Will and got it nicely done for 50^{cts}. After 4 o'clock went with Margaret and Miss Bessie to a very pleasant reception given by Mrs. Val Simmons. Spent a part of the evening over home hearing Miss Balch play. Oella Tappan was here.

Friday, October 21st, 1892

Still dry and dusty this is "Columbus Day" and the schools are busy preparing for the Columbus Entertainment at the Opera House this evening. This has been made a legal holiday and I was the only one left at home. stayed with Mother while Mary, Enos, Helen, Miss Balch, Mrs. and Miss. Halderman went to Henley. J.W. took our girls driving in the afternoon, Carl went in Ky in the A.M. and with Ora after persimmons in the afternoon. Drove about 40 miles in all. The H.S. exhibition was fine. Began letter to Will but did not finish. Barton went home.

Saturday, October 22nd, 1892

Weather pleasant for the season. A busy day full of little nothings.

Was over home often.

Helen was a little indisposed in the forenoon but got up later in the day and was as cheerful as ever. Oella came to see Margaret just before tea time but she was over home and missed the call.

Sunday, October 23rd, 1892

Beautiful day, cool enough for fire. Attended the usual Sabbath services.

Was home most of the afternoon, only made two short calls over home as Mother had plenty of other company. Dr. Arthur Tappan Rankin was at S.S. and preached in the forenoon in the interest of Lincoln University.

Monday, October 24th, 1892

Bright and pleasant but growing cool.

The event of this day was the downfall of the hall stove pipe just after Amanda had washed the paint and cleaned the hall. It took the whole afternoon to clean up the ashes. Mary had invited two out of four of us to take tea with her and Mrs. and Miss Haldeman, Uncle Enos, Helen, Miss B. Not one of us could go but I spent the evening there.

Tuesday, October 25th, 1892

Beautiful day but quite cool. Heard this morning that Venie Smith's father died during the night. She was at Wellesley and Fannin at Harcourt at school. Went to see Mrs. Smith before noon. Took lunch with Gussie and her cousin Emma H. Helen, Miss Balch, Mary and I being the guests. The Foreign Mis. Society met at our house in the afternoon, Mrs. Van Tine being in charge of the topic, Persia. Enos, Helen and Miss Balch spent part of the evening with us.

Mrs. President Harrison died.³⁷

Wednesday, October 26th, 1892

A cold gloomy day with a little sunshine and a very little rain. Spent the forenoon with Mother who missed Enos, Helen and Miss Balch who left on the morning train for Cin.

Wrote to Mrs. Bond, and Helen Ellis, came home and found a letter from Effie Ellis which I answered at once. Went to Mr. Dan Smith's funeral after dinner and walked home with Mrs. Russell, stopped to see Mable. Called to see Gussie and Mrs. Halderman who were out.

Thursday, October 27th, 1892

Rather cloudy and gloomy.

Hrs. Harrison's funeral services are to take place at the White House today and then the remains will be taken to Indianapolis for interment. I went to see Mrs. Smith, Venie and Fannie a few minutes this A.M. after taking the framed group of our family to the Ex. Office to send to Will. Have been over to sit with Mother with my work.

Friday, October 28th, 1892

Beautiful day. Have been putting things in order about the house. Gussie Halderman called in the afternoon she leaves for Cleveland soon. The S.S. Teachers' meeting met in our parlor this evening. was over home several times today and was glad to find Lizzie P. there after dinner.

³⁷ Caroline Lavinia Scott Harrison, wife of Benjamin Harrison was the First Lady of the United States from 1889 until her death on October 25, 1892.

Saturday, October 29th, 1892

Beautiful day but quite dusty. We were all engaged in various ways in some preparation for the Halloween Social to be held here next Monday. Miss Bessie cut leaves out of colored card board and I wrote literary conundrums on them, the names of authors to be guessed. They are to be used as souvenir. Lizzie left her baby here all the forenoon with the girl. Robert Peebles got his first pants today and a cap with a visor which pleases him greatly. They went home today.

Sunday, October 30th, 1892

Beautiful day but somewhat hazy. Leaves are burning on the hills. We all went to S.S. as usual and afterwards to the regular services. in the evening. Dr. Tappan preached on the death of Mrs. President Harrison.

We, of our household, including Miss Bessie, paid the 2st half of our subscription to the Organ fund, the amount was 30.00 altogether. Mr. Jms B. Nichols led the singing in the S.S. the first time in years.

Monday, October 31st, 1892

Clear and beautiful, except for the smoke from forest fires. Margaret and Bessie entertained the Christian Endeavor Social this evening and more than fifty young people were here. They had a merry time with games of various kinds.

Polished apples, candy, nuts, strung raisins and a ring cake helped the fun along. I missed Will all the evening as he was a prominent figure in the Halloween party two years ago. Carl can not be induced to join in with the others in such things.

Tuesday, November 1st, 1892

Cloudy with a little rain but not enough to do much good. Mother seems much better. Put on her wrapper again. I wrote to Will then took the letter to the P.O. after which I began on some sewing which has been cut out for weeks. Made four pairs of drawers, all but the button holes and trimming. Bessie is about sick and Margaret just getting better of a bad cold and headache. Received an invitation to the 25th anniversary of Emma and Al Voorheis.

Wednesday, November 2nd, 1892

Very smoky and uncomfortable on account of the forest fires. Wrote to Emma Voorheis in reply to the invitation which we would gladly accept if we could. Went to see Mrs. Miller to ask a little about the anniversary. Went to prayer meeting as usual.

Thursday, November 3rd, 1892

Beautiful day. We did not celebrate the anniversary except by a good dinner and Margaret gave her Father a copy of the family group which I had framed for him.³⁸ Carl wrote a long letter to Will and I received letters from Jennie, Lizzie and Mother Ricker. Wrote to Helen.

Friday, November 4th, 1892

Weather delightful. Was over home with Mother part of the day and busy in my own home a part of it. Wrote to Will this morning and enclosed a letter which Lizzie wrote to him. I also wrote to Jennie in answer to her letter to me yesterday, also to Mother Ricker. Went to Teachers' meeting at Miss Ramsey's in the evening with Margaret. It rained when we went but not as we returned.

Saturday, November 5th, 1892

Beautiful weather. Such a day as tempts one to be out and enjoy the pleasant sunshine which will sure be over for a season, but we took the entire day to look over our stock of clothing, winter and summer and put closets, drawers, and boxes in order. Found quite a quantity to give away and some fit only for carpet rags. Went to see Gussie a few minutes as she was to leave at 11 A.M. for Cleveland. Put out ten rose slips.

Answered Lizzie P.'s letter.

Sunday, November 6th, 1892

Beautiful day. Went to S.S. and church as usual. Sat awhile with Mother in the afternoon then had lessons and read with the girls.

We miss Will on Sabbath more than any other day. Was always at home except when at church and Sabbath School.

Monday, November 7th, 1892

Rained in the night and part of the day. There was some sunshine at times. Had a letter from Will which I answered at once. Miss Bessie and her school moved up to her new quarters, the new house in the Union Str. yard. Was over home with work before dinner. in the afternoon went to the store then called to see Mrs. Tewksbury who returned Saturday from Kirkwood. Called on Mrs. Chas. Stewart but she was not at home. Will have dinner in the evening here after.

³⁸ Louisiana Moore Ricker and James Wood Ricker were married on November 3, 1870.

Tuesday, November 8th, 1892

Beautiful day for the Presidential election. J.W. was one of the clerks of the election and consequently busy. Came home about 10 P.M. unusually early and reported that in his opinion the Democrats had elected Cleveland though our own ward and County went Republican as usual. Was over home making button holes for Mary all the afternoon. Received card to the Magazine Club 25th Anniversary. No letters from Will today.

Wednesday, November 9th, 1892

The first snow of the season began falling while we were at breakfast. Later it began to rain and the day was in harmony with the feelings of Republicans. Margaret, Carl, Jimmie, and Mary had letters from Will. Mary and I wrote to him by the evening mail. He does well about writing home. Slushy and sloppy in the evening and few went to prayer-meeting but we had three representations.

Thursday, November 10th, 1892

Still cold and cloudy but too cool to rain. Patches of snow give things a wintery look. Official returns are not all in but reports generally give the Democrats a sweeping victory. Went over home and made button holes for Mary in her waist. Went to see Mrs. Helfenstein before supper.

Friday, November 11th, 1892

A very damp, warm kind of day which threatened rain. The latter came just as we were leaving the S.S. teachers' meeting in the evening and no one had an umbrella. The stars were shining when we went. I was out this forenoon up street and down attending to errands for other people. Have done a good deal of walking today.

Saturday, November 12th, 1892

Beautiful day. Lizzie was not feeling well and could not go up to Julia's for her music lesson as she had promised. Went out a little while after dinner with Miss Bessie. Margaret and I were busy at home all day as we were last Saturday. She was fixing her blue Bedford cord dress skirt and I helped her on it besides doing a variety of other things.

Sunday, November 13th, 1892

Beautiful day and not very cold, still fires and heavy wraps are needed.

Went to Sabbath school and church as usual.

Had a visitor in my class, Mrs. Dodge's young sister who is here visiting.

The afternoon was spent as usual except that I spent a little more time with Father and Mother than I sometimes do.

Monday, November 14th, 1892

Began raining in the afternoon. Was over home most of the day with Mother who is still improving. Wrote to Will this morning and took the letter to the office. Went to Dr. Dennis' with Mary this afternoon but he had an engagement so she is to go again in the evening. In the evening it rained quite hard but Florence Richardson and I went to Dr. Dennis' to a S.S. Com meeting and we proved to be all that went so the three transacted the business, made partial arrangements for Christmas.

Tuesday, November 15th, 1892

Bright a part of the day and cloudy a while. Was with Mother in the forenoon and then went to Mrs. Cotton's at 1.30 to help Maggie Peebles, Maggie Silcox, Mrs. Cotton and Grace arrange the tables for the 25th Anniversary of the Portsmouth Magazine Club which was celebrated in the evening. Dr. and Mrs. Cotton, Mr. and Mrs. Evans and Maggie Peebles were the only charter members present. We have only been in two or three years. Margaret was with us. The Cochranes, Firestones, Maggie Silcox, Marie Reed, the Andersons and Rosses were present.

Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Voorheis 25th Anniversary.

Marianne Man is 5 today.

Wednesday, November 16th, 1892

Beautiful day, so mild that we allowed two fires to burn out. Washed and ironed Margaret's flannel for her school dress.

Was up street in the afternoon to take letters to the P.O. one to Mother R. and one for Clint Kimball. A letter from Mother R. and a paper told of the deaths of Clarence, Clint's twin brother, 22 ½ years old and I wanted to write him. Went to prayer meeting in the evening. The Democratic jubilee did not interfere as much as we feared it would.

Thursday, November 17th, 1892

Mild and beautiful until about 4 P.M. when it began to rain. Have been home most of the day sewing on a blue flannel dress which Mary got for May. Wrote to Will in reply to a letter from him acknowledging the receipt of his new ulster which pleased him well.³⁹ We are gathering up some other things which he needs. Wrote to Miss Mary Johns this evening for Mrs. Chris Young.

³⁹ Ulster: a man's long, loose overcoat of rough cloth, typically with a belt at the back.

Friday, November 18th, 1892

Quite cold. Sewed on Mary's blue flannel skirt. Went to see mother as usual, never miss a day or generally go more than once. Margaret and I went to Mrs. Spry's in the evening to teacher's meeting. Few out.

Saturday, November 19th, 1892

Cold. Lizzie missed her first music lesson as Julia had asked her to go up there and she was not well so I kept her at home. she and May began dressing paper dolls which Margaret want to give her pupils. Christmas, there are forty of them. I finished May's blue flannel sailor suit for school.

Sunday, November 20th, 1892

Comparatively pleasant. Went to Sabbath School and church services as usual. It was our last Sabbath with the old organ as Dr. Tappan announced that the new one would be here some time next week. I only hope we will like the new one as well as we do the old. It has done us good service for many, many years.

Monday, November 21st, 1892

Cold, damp and disagreeable. Wrote to Will early this morning. Went to Corp meeting in the afternoon. Mrs. Winters of Ironton inspected the Corps. After supper went to call on Mrs. Winters at Mrs. Johnson's. J.W. went to the Poet meeting. Margaret her school here after 4 P.M. to practice singing a Thanksgiving song. They were a sight to behold. Dr. Vickers boy died today of diphtheria.

Tuesday, November 22nd, 1892

Cold with some indication of snow. Lizzie and the four younger children came in this afternoon and the two girls came to stay with us, they will all go to Mr. Peebles for their annual Thanksgiving dinner and visit. I have been busy all day at various things. Bessie came home from school about used up with her eyes, sent for the doctor. Went after flowers for Leonard Vickers and sent them by Lizzie who gave them to the guard.

Wednesday, November 23rd, 1892

Growing colder, weather not pleasant to me. Bessie has suffered very much with her eyes. J.W. came home about sick and went to bed some. Lizzie is not well and still she and I represented the family at church this evening. Was up to see Uncle Enos who is sick again, having had a chill last night.

Thursday, November 24th, 1892

Cold and clear. Not one of us got out to church today as Miss Bessie is still in her room, J.W. and Margaret sick, Lizzie half sick and I hadn't time to go. Carl had to spend the forenoon in the Bank as the Bank Examiner is here. Will spent his first Thanksgiving away. We had Dr. and Mrs. Van Tine as guests and hope they enjoyed it, thought it was not as we had hoped to have it. Margaret got up in time to go over home for dinner.

Friday, November 25th, 1892

Cold and clear. went up street early in the morning and feared my feet would be frosted. Saw Dr. Pixley about school matters and did a few errands.

Mrs. O'Connor came to begin her usual two weeks sewing engagement.

Began on flannel shirts for Will. Went to S.S. Teachers' meeting at Uncle Enos' in the evening and was surprised to find it sleeting before we came home.

Saturday, November 26th, 1892

Milder and muddy. Very disagreeable out of doors. Was home until about 3 P.M. when I took Will's shirts over home to make the button-holes. Think he will like them. Miss Maggie began on waists for the girls' new suits.

Prof. Smith came according to agreement to set up the telescope and view the comet which will be nearest the earth tomorrow but the clouds completely obscured the skies and rendered observations useless.⁴⁰ He spent the evening with us, however.

Mother gave me a pair of new gold frame glasses. Julia gave L. a music lesson and I paid her the first \$15.00.

Sunday, November 27th, 1892

Rainy and unpleasant. Went to S.S. and church as usual. Services were held in the Lecture room as the new organ has come and the place is being prepared for it. Mother was down to dinner, the first time since sometime last spring I think. She was up and about a little in July but perhaps not down stairs to the table. The comet was not visible owing to clouds. In some places great fear was felt lest it should strike the earth.

⁴⁰ Comet Holmes (official designation: 17P/Holmes) is a periodic comet in the Solar System, discovered by the British amateur astronomer Edwin Holmes on November 6, 1892. Upon initial observation, some speculated that the comet might be the lost comet Biela, but further analysis of the orbit proved it to be a newly discovered comet. The comet is usually a very faint object which had passed closest to earth a month before the discovery and went unnoticed until an apparent outburst in brightness. It is still a mystery why Holmes undergoes these regular episodes of explosive brightening, but it was observed again in January of 1893 and October of 2007.

Monday, November 28th, 1892

Very raw and chilly.⁴¹ We all have more or less cold. Miss Bessie is better and so are all the others. Miss Maggie finished the flannel waists for Lizzie and May. I was out quite a while and have done very little sewing. Wrote to Will as usual, had a letter from him this morning.

Tuesday, November 29th, 1892

Quite cold and pleasant for the season. The Foreign Missionary Society met here this afternoon, Mary Peebles being leader or having the topic, South America in charge. Only nine ladies came but Mrs. Peebles was one of them.

Miss O'Connor was sewing but I could not help her any this afternoon. Had letter from will as we generally do either this evening or

Wednesday, November 30th, 1892

Rather cold and raw

Have tried to sew some and help Miss O'Connor with her work but have many interruptions.

Did not venture out to church this evening though I had a paper to read for the Home Missionary Society. Margaret read it for me.

I went to bed as soon as I could.

Thursday, December 1st, 1892

Bright a part of the day but the afternoon seemed very dark and short. Sewed until time to dress for the reception ant Mrs. A.C. Thompson's and after I was ready, sewed again until Margaret was ready. We went rather late hut had a pleasant time. Stopped with Alice Comins to see the new organ on our way home. it is partly don and looks handsome.

Friday, December 2nd, 1892

Bright and pleasant but cold. Was unable to attend the H.S. entertainment this evening and as Bessie was too tired, we sent our tickets to Mr. Miles and Katie who accepted them with thanks. Margaret and the two little girls went and reported a good audience and good entertainment as they always shave. Could not attend Teachers' meeting. Dr. Tappan and Oella were her this evening. Margaret had her school here to practice singing with the piano.

⁴¹ Raw: unpleasantly cold and damp weather.

Saturday, December 3rd, 1892

Cold. Julia came down this morning to give L. her music lesson and had to wait awhile as L. had gone to the High School after the things left there at the entertainment last evening. I paid her \$5.00 for the two lessons she has had. She is doing nicely. Finished off the girls' blue corduroy dresses and they are quite satisfactory. Are a Xmas present to them from Margaret.

Sunday, December 4th, 1892

Pleasant for the season. All attended the usual S.S. and church services excepting myself and I had such a cold that I remained at home all day, did little in the way of reading or teaching, being too hoarse for that kind of work.

Monday, December 5th, 1892

Beautiful day. After the young folks all got off for the forenoon I wrote my usual Monday letter to Wil and some others besides. Jimmie did not go to the Port meeting this evening and they elected officials, the first time they have held their election just since the Relief Corps was formed.

Prof Smith came down and set up the telescope over home for us. We saw Jupiter and the moon. J.W. Mary and he went down to see the new organ afterwards.

Tuesday, December 6th, 1892

Rainy and disagreeable. Had a new wash woman today, Mattie McConnell. In the afternoon I went out to attend to some errands. had a letter from Mr. John Thompson, Uncle Jimmie's old friend, enclosing a letter and donation of \$5.00 for the church Anniversary next Sabbath. He was a faithful member and still knows the old 1st church. Had letters from Will to Margaret, Carl and his father. All good letters.

Wednesday, December 7th, 1892

Cold but not wet.

J.W. went to Cin. today to attend a meeting of the Loyal Legion, his first time, though he has long been wanting to go and join the organization.⁴²

⁴² The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), or simply- the Loyal Legion is a United States patriotic order, organized April 15, 1865, by loyal union military officers in response to rumors from Washington of a conspiracy to destroy the Federal government by assassination of its leaders, in the immediate aftermath of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. They stated their purpose as the cherishing of the memories and associations of the war waged in defense of the unity and indivisibility of the Republic; the strengthening of the ties of fraternal fellowship and sympathy formed by companionship in arms; the relief of the widows and children of dead companions of the order; and the advancement of the general welfare of the soldiers and sailors of the United States.

Margaret, Carl, Bessie, Lizzie, May and I went to prayer meeting though it is probably that I should have been at home on account of my bad cold. Cards to Mrs. Draper's Musical for next Wed. afternoon.

Thursday, December 8th, 1892

Have been miserable all day with my cold.

Helen Ricker accepted our invitations and came down from Ironton this evening to attend the organ recital at our church. She and Margaret, Bessie and Carl went, M. took Lizzie with her also. Jimmie came home from Cin. on the late train, Had a letter from Will who does not yet know when he can come home for the holidays. May was out of school all day not feeling well.

Friday, December 9th, 1892

Weather very fair but I have too much cold to enjoy it. Received cards to a reception at Mrs. Gharky's in honor of Nettie G. Rice who is home for a visit. Went out with Helen Ricker this forenoon stopped to show her the new P.O. and then we made a call on Mrs. Tewksbury who expects to go to Freeport next week with Russell for a short visit. Was no Teachers' meeting. Venitia Ramsey was here this evening. Helen went home at 11 A.M.

Saturday, December 10th, 1892

Cold, clear and fair until afternoon when it clouded up and sprinkled some. Bessie took Miss Grace Farnum out for a drive and then brought her here to tea after which Carl and Bessie took her back to Mrs. Titus'. Have felt badly with my cold. Lizzie and her children were here and she recommended Beebe's Cure which Jimmie got for me and I hope to be able to get out tomorrow. Mrs. Richardson was here. Miss Sallie Young died.

Sunday, December 11th, 1892

A beautiful day and a red letter day in our church. The 75th Anniversary was today celebrated by appropriate exercises and the dedication of the new pipe organ. The real anniversary is May 24th. Margaret was sick in bed all day and Will is away at schools so only three of the children were with us but we attended the three services, a union communion service of the 1st, 2nd, and German Pres. chs was held at 3 P.M.

Monday, December 12th, 1892

Cold and bright until evening when it began to rain or sleet. Wrote to Will as usual and then did some pressing for Mary and some mending for Carl. Mrs. Silcox called just as I was getting ready to go out and do some errands so she went with me.

stopped to see Mother and found Mrs. Currie and Mrs. Eliza Lodwick there. The later has just returned from Denver. Mrs. Titus called after tea to inquire about magazines for Christmas presents for her boys. Mrs. Kirchbach called.

Tuesday, December 13th, 1892

Rainy, dark, dismal, colder at night. Have sewed all day and did not even go over home on account of my cold. Missed the Reception at Mrs. Gharky's and the Home Mis. Society at Mrs. John Miller's.

Miss Farnum left for her home in the East. Margaret is dressing dolls for Xmas. Wrote to Jennie Greene and Mr. John Thompson.

Wednesday, December 14th, 1892

Rainy and unpleasant. have been at home all day, did not go to prayer meeting this evening. Ripped and turned Margaret's plaid basque today. Sent papers to Will today. Missed Mrs. Draper's Musical today because I was not able to go out.

Nearly all the family have colds.

Thursday, December 15th, 1892

Not a gleam of sunshine but no rain. Cloudy all day. sewed all day steadily on Margaret's work while Miss Maggie started a school dress for Lizzie. Helped Margaret with her doll wraps, pink eider down stitched with white silk.⁴³ The Elks have a grand entertainment at their new hall tonight. Lizzie went to stay all night with Myra Wells.

Friday, December 16th, 1892

Rainy and disagreeable. Sewed all day. Teachers' meeting was to have been here but few came for various reasons and those who did wanted to go to the Lecture at the Opera house, the second of the course, John Temper Graves who is a very good talker and spoke on the Reign of the Demagogue. Bessie and Carl, J.W. and I and Lizzie went.

Saturday, December 17th, 1892

Weather cloudy as it is most of the time. This being Maggie O'Connor's last day with us we put it in industriously. Have accomplished quite a good deal after all.

Finished Lizzy's school dress, black and plaid, and got several of Margaret's almost done and in a satisfactory way.

⁴³ Eiderdown: small, soft feathers from the breast of the female eider duck.

Sunday, December 18th, 1892

Fair and rather cold.

Went to S.S. and church as usual. The seats are in place again and ours is now against the south wall with only one in front of it. The organ platform takes up so much space. Dr. Tappan's family have taken the front seat in the south block of pews and are nearly our neighbors. We had two exceptionally good sermons in the morning and evening.

Monday, December 19th, 1892

Rather cloudy and unpleasant. Was busy most of the forenoon straightening up the house and was surprised to see Will come at 11 o'clock, he had come as far as Columbus and spent the night and day then Sunday and came home this A.M. Looks well but not as he did when he left. Spent the afternoon at Relief Corps meeting it being election of officers and I have finished my year as Sec'y.

Tuesday, December 20th, 1892

Enough snow to nearly cover everything and make the walking very bad. Sun shone a little while. Went over and spent an hour or more with Mother in the forenoon. After dinner went out to do several errands. Called to see Mrs. Cavett but she had gone. Called to see Mrs. Silcox who was unable to go to the Bank today. Barton came from Zanesville this evening for a short stay. Dr. Dennis called on S.S. business.

Wednesday, December 21st, 1892

Wet and unpleasant. Was over to see Mother and then out to do some errands.

Called to inquire about Mr. Silcox who was not at the Bank today. Also stopped to see Mr. McElroy a few minutes about the organization of Bigelow M.E. Church. Went to prayer meeting and had the pleasure of Will's company, also Barton's as he is here for a day or two.

Thursday, December 22nd, 1892

Rather cold and cloudy. Was busy all day at various things and then Margaret brought her school up to practice singing for tomorrow. Charlie Murphy was here this afternoon to see Will. Charlie is now studying medicine in Cin. Maggie Bell sent me her picture taken with Willodean Chattus her niece. It is good.

Friday, December 23rd, 1892

Freezing cold with a good prospect for a white Christmas. Have been busy at home and doing errands and felt little like spending the evening at the church filling candy bags, still that was what had to be done. Will, the little girls and I went with J.W. who was one of the Com. who had the matter in charge. Went to Margaret's school.

Saturday, December 24th, 1892

Cold. Was busy all day keeping this or that we prepare for Christmas. In the evening our Sabbath school had their usual program and treat and I had to take charge of Margaret's class as she was unable to go out. She has had cold most of the winter so far.

Sunday, December 25th, 1892

Clear and cold. Went to Sabbath School as usual but did not stay to church as Margaret was sick with cold and we sent for Dr. Marshall to come and see her eyes. He made a brief call and engagement with her for tomorrow. I stayed with her. Aunt Marie McCall came up yesterday hoping to see Fanny who did not come as anticipated and Aunt must go home tomorrow. She gave me today a quilt which she made when a girl and Mother helped her quilt it. It is something I shall prize very much. I went to church in the evening. Will was the only one of the children present as the little girls stayed with Margaret and Carl sat with Bessie.

Monday, December 26th, 1892

A beautiful day to celebrate as Christmas. Cold, clear and a little snowy. Lizzie came down early and stayed until noon, we were fixing the tree which was ready by 3 o'clock. L. and her family were here all afternoon and remained to supper. Father and Mary were here also but of course Mother couldn't come. Fanny Geiger came on the 4 P.M. train and was here after tea. Had some presents which pleased her greatly.

Went with Margaret to see Dr. Marshall about her eyes this A.M.

Tuesday, December 27th, 1892

Cold and cloudy with light snow all day. Was over home in the morning a little while then came home to do some cleaning up. Went with Jennie to see Lizzie and her children at Mr. P.'s before noon as they were to leave at 2 P.M. Stopped to see Fannie and her children at Uncle Enos' then home. The Foreign Mis. Soc. was here in the afternoon. Only four ladies came. Maggie P, Del R. Mrs. Young and Mrs. Tappan. Jennie, Edmond and William came last night. Margaret's examinations began today.

Wednesday, December 28th, 1892

Cold and clear. Good ice for those who like it. Went down street on an errand and then over to see Mother. Fannie Gieger called while I was there. she is having a nice visit home. Had on a new fur wrap, a Christmas gift from her father and mother. Spent most of the afternoon with Jennie and Mother. Went to church in the evening. Margaret finished her examinations this noon and feels better. Kirkwood box came.

Thursday, December 29th, 1892

Clear and cold. The best skating for years and the river full of ice. Will has been skating most of the day. Bessie left on the early train for Springfield to see Grace.

Was over to see Mother in the evening and then spent the rest of the day mending old clothes and making new hdkfs. Wrote to Mother Ricker. J.W. was in bed until noon, when he went to the office. Capt Jack called before noon to see why he was not out.

~~Went with Margaret to Dr. M.'s again.~~

Friday, December 30th, 1892

Still very cold. Will skated most of the day. Went with Margaret to Dr. M's again this afternoon and he examined her eyes under homatropine, he has all the latest appliances for the work and understands his business thoroughly.⁴⁴

Teachers' meeting was held at Dr. Tappan's this evening but none of us could go. I was out twice today in the cold and was very tired.

Saturday, December 31st, 1892

The last day of this year is a cold one. The children have been preparing nuts for candy which Margaret used or at least part of them, late in the evening. Frank Reeves and Charlie Richardson took tea with Will this evening. The former has entertained Will at his house in Columbus twice as he was passing through. Will has enjoyed his vacation very much but will soon be gone again.

⁴⁴ Homatropine is a medication used before eye examinations, before and after certain eye surgeries, and to treat certain eye conditions. It works by dilating the pupil of the eye.