Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
January 1893

Sun 1 Had turkey dinner today, Father, Mother, Winfield and Mother Cowan was here. Expected more vivitors but was dissapointed.

No entries for 2 & 3

Wed 4 Went to Mane Bairds to an aniversary wedding tonight, had a very nice time.

No entries 5th to 17th.

Wed 18 Mate is cross as the davil and Art is good natured.

Thu 19 Mabel had a birthday party tonight. Mr Minor came this afternoon.

Fri 20 Lula Crapser is here today.

No entries for rest of month.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
February 1893

Wed 1 No entry
Thu 2 Went to West Fulton to a law suit with Dave Baird. Took dinner to Alfred Crapser.
Fri 3 Mabel has been real sick all day. Have worked real hard to get ready to go to Norton Hill. Myself and Maggie made a tack today.
Sat 4 Wanted to start for Norton Hill today, but it is to cold.
Sun 5 Scott, Mabel, Maggie, myself and Arthur all came down his fathers (Arthur father) today. Got here at five o'clock.
Mon 6 Have visited all day, have painted a little tonight. Arthur went to Norton Hill tonight and Mabel went to school with Fred.
Tue 7 Have painted and visited all day. Am enjoying myself very much. Arthur and Scott have been putting in ice today.
Wed 8 Went to an Episcopal donation tonight. They danced, got home 3 o'clock. Had a very nice time. Art bought him a pair of shoes.
Thu 9 Am feeling very sleepy today. Went to Norton Hill for a ride tonight. Scott bought Fred a pair of Skates at Norton Hill.
Fri 10 Have had a headache all day today. We all went to Greenville for a ride. Had a very nice time. Scott & Maggie, Charlie & Fred and Mabel have all gone to a partie tonight.
Sat 11 Painted all day, Art sawed wood untill two o'clock. Scott and Fred went to mill.
Sun 12 We all went to Shady Glen for a ride today. Had a very nice time. We are having a very nice visit.
Mon 13 Started for Emmince got as far as oak hill and it stormed so hard we came back. Got the surray fixed. Had a headache tonight. Charlie, Mabel & Fred went to Norton Hill after mail, and the horses ran away.
Tue 14 Painted all day and at night we all went for a ride to East Durham, Durham, Oak Hill, Hamburg and home. Had a lovely time, rained before we got home.
Wed 15 Started for home today, when we got to Oak Hill found the sleighing all gone. Stopped at Browns Hill and had dinner. Got home at 9 o'clock, found every thing all right. Am very very tired.
Thu 16 We are all very tired tonight from our long ride yesterday. Arthur Maggie and myself went up to the store, called at Mr Faces. Bought some cotton for tacks.
Fri 17 Maggie & myself have tied nearly two tacks today. Arthur has gone to set up with John L. Swart tonight.
Sat 18 Maggie & myself tied a tack today. Siddie is here.
Sun 19 Arthur, Maggie and myself went down to fathers today. Mabel went over to Brockways. Oscar Mattice and wife was visiting there today.
Mon 20 5 d below zero, cold so cold. Sewed all day and it is lonesome not a person on the street. Me and Arthur read untill 12 o'clock. Mercury at zero.
Tue 21 Arthur went to Summit to a town meeting today.
Wed 22 This has been a very very unpleasant day for me, Arthur has been so cross it makes me so miserable and unhappy. I have been reading a novel tonight entitled Doris Fortune.
Thu 23 Mrs Widoumen died tonight at 7 o'clock was with her all day untill the end. helped lay her out. She died with appoplexcy. Jerry came home tonight Allie also. Am very tired and nervous. Arthur went to Jefferson after George Hichcocks family.
Fri 24 Went down to Mr Widoumen today to help do up the work. Arthur and Charlie Beard are getting up wood today. Mabel is down to Widoumens. Jerry went home today. Arthur is cross as usual.
Sat 25 Worked hard all day. Arthur and Chance Baird clipped black horse. Went over to Widoumens toward night. Went up to Kingsleys to practice for singing.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
Feb 1893 cont.

Sun 26 Went to Mrs Widowmen funeral and sang. Went down there this morning and helped fix her in the coffin. Went down home after the funeral. We all went over to Mrs Fielters calling this evening

Mon 27 Ervin Crapser and family was here today, also Hwry? Miller and family. Arthur & myself went up to the store. Mabel went home with Ervin Crapser

Tue 28 Arthur and myself went to Andrew Lovelands this afternoon. Stormed very hard. Art went up to the store this evening, and Ibaked cookies all the evening. So ends the day.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
March 1893

Wed 1 Mrs Wat Hager came here this morning and staid untill night. Everet Larnard stayed all night with us. Siddie also. Rec a letter from scott tonight, answered the same tonight.

Thu 2 Mrs George Hichoock and family called today. Everet Larnard came here last night and stayed untill tonight. Art bought me a new dress tonight, finished makeing my homespun dress.

Fri 3 Arthur Maggie & myself went to Jefferson today, stopped at home a few minutes. Wrote three letters tonight.

Sat 4 Painted furniture nearly all day.

Sun 5 It is very cold and windy today. Stayed at home and read all day.

Mon 6 Painted furniture in forenoon. Went to Summit with Art this afternoon. Chancy Baird called this evening.

Tue 7 Went to Alfred Crapsers sale, was very sorry to part with them.

Wed 8 Worked all day getting ready for sale. Mame Baird, Oris Burnett, Dave Fancher called today. I went over to Mrs Faces calling today. Arthur and myself called on Mr Burnett tonight.

Thu 9 Maggie came today, Arthur and Father and Siddie went to Ervin Crapsers sale.

Fri 10 Am feeling very Lonesome and sad today. Am dreading to break up my little pleasant home, but such is life, I seem to be doomed to wander over this earth.

Sat 11 Worked hard all day getting ready for the sale. Myra Filter called today.

Sun 12 We had a house full of visitors today, Mrs Filter and Myra spent the afternoon with us. Arthur and myself read untill 12 o'clock tonight.

Mon 13 We are all tore up and ready for the sale. It makes me feel so sad, I am afraid it will be many a day before I have such a pleasant home again. We had a house full of callers tonight.

Tue 14 Our sale was today and oh how discouraged I am, every thing gone at last. And I dont own any thing, I wonder if I have done a wise thing. Feel sad & downhearted

Wed 15 It is a very cold day, and every thing looks so discourageing. God in heaven only knows if the step I have taken will be for the best.

Thu 16 Am sewing today, my things are nearly all gone. George Wilday & Freeman Filter has been here today. Maggie went home with George. Scott & Fred came home tonight

Fri 17 Arthur and Scott went down to fathers and to Jefferson today, brought Maggie home.

Sat 18 Arthur Myself and Scott and Maggie went to Cobbleskill today.

Sun 19 We all went down home today. Sine Millus was there.

Mon 20 Made Arthurs shirts today. Arthur went over to Mane Beards.

Tue 21 Began packing our trunks today. Am very very tiard tonight, oh if I ever have a home of my own.

Wed 22 Have worked hard all day packing. Arthur took Maggie, Mabel & Fred down home tonight. John L. Swart was married tonight.

Thu 23 Came down to Arthurs Fathers, Arthur myself Siddie & Scott. Had a very nice ride. stopped at Middleburgh for dinner, got here just dark.

Fri 24 Am making shirts for Sid & Fred, Arthur & Scott has gone to Oak Hill.

Sat 25 Am makeing Flannel shirts today, Arthur and all the boys have gone to Greenville and Norton Hill to a sale.

Sun 26 We are at Arthurs fathers yet today, I suppose this will be the last sunday we shal spend here in a long time. Am feeling downhearted tonight.

Mon 27 We started for home this morning, stoped at Bleinham for dinner, was very sick with sick headache all day. Arthur took me up home tonight.

Tue 28 Finished packing today and have left the happiest little home I ever had of my own. Am going down home, have said goodby toall my friends, it makes me sad.

Wed 29 Went to Summit today Art was cross, and I am almost discouraged. Me and Art will spend our last night in our little home tonight. We have read all evening.

Thu 30 Am packing up to leave today.Am going down to fathers. I have said goodby to all my neighbors. It makes me sad.

Fri 31 Am home today, am feeling very tired and nearly worn out. Arthur is moving our last load. Scott went home this morning. Am working hard to get ready to go west.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
April 1893

Sat 1 Arthur, Mabel, Maggie & Father went to Jefferson today. Arthur went up to Emmience this morning to see about our trunks. I have every thing ready to start Monday.

Sun 2 It has been a sad day for this is the last sunday I shall spend in my dear old home in a long time. Chancy Beard & Will Face have been here today.

Mon 3 Started from home six o'clock..Left Richmondville 10:53, got in Albany 1 o'clock. Stayed untill 8:40 there started for the west for shure. Got in Buffalo 7:oo o'clock stayed untill 1:o80 O'clock then started for Chicago, rode all night untill next morning 8:00 o'clock. Will wait here in Chicago untill 6:00 tonight.

Tue 4 Started for Chicago rode all night.

Wed 5 Got here in Chicago little past 8 o'clock. Will wait untill 6 this afternoon. Started for St Paul 6 O'clock, rode all night.

Thu 6 Reached StPaul between 7 & 8 this morning. Will have to wait untill 7 tonight. Today is my birthday. Left for Montana tonight 7:40 , rode all night through the prarie covered with snow. And it rains, Adreary looking country.

Fri 7 Rode all night through Minnesota , today we are passing through the Dakotas. Still the plains ar covered with snow. Wind blowing 40 miles an hour.

Sat 8 Woke up this morning in Montana. Reached Malta this morning about 5 O8clock. Like the looks of this country. Found George here this morning at the hotel,am so tiard. The boys are up at the Indian camp they have gone wild over this country.

Sun 9 This has been a great day for us, we all went up to the Indian camp. People here do not observe the Sabbath. I feel like a stranger here in a strange land.

Mon 10 Worked hard all day getting ready to go to housekeeping, got our beds up and Art myself George and Minn stayed here all night for the first. Feel very lonely, Art is going away in the morning.

Tue 11 Art slept out doors all night in the snow, Arthur, Scott, George and Minn, went away this morning at three o'clock, wont be back in a week ar two. Oh I am so lonely and a little homesick. It snows hard and is so cold and dreary and I am sick.

Wed 12 Am feeling a great deal better today am getting quite a little settled. Mrs Dennis called today and she and her little girl are spending the evening here, am not quite so homesick.

Thu 13 Arthur and the boys came home last night just after we got to bed, I was never quite glad to see him. They all came back on account of the storm.

Fri 14 The boys are all here today and it seems like home again. Have got the house quite well cleaned up. There is so many strange sights here. Mabel went to her work.

Sat 15 Art Scott and Mr Dennis went hunting, got one jackrabbit. Worked hard all day washing. Am invited out to a party tonight, had a very pleasant time. At Mr Dennis.

Sun 16 This has been another strange Sabbath. Mr Trafton & wife and Mrs Dennis called today. Scott is with us tonight.

Mon 17 This has been an unpleasant, Mrs Dennis has been here sewing, Art and George went hunting, Sid got one rabbit. Mabel and Katie was here this afternoon.

Tue 18 Scott stayed here this forenoon. Begon makeing my blue calico skirt. This is such a strange country.

Wed 19 Mabel came home today with the measels. Mrs Trafton, Mrs Dennis,her cook Katie Mr trafton called today to see Mabel. Scott went away today to buy horses. George worked at carpenter work today.

Thu 20 Mabel is real sick yet. Art and George set up last night. There has been quite a number of callers here today.

Fri 21 Mr Ellis called on us this forenoon again in afternoon. Had preaching in the evening. Organized a Sabbath school, and a religions srvely? Mabel is nearly well.

Sat 22 Worked hard in forenoon. Art and myself went to the store and then went calling to Mrs Dennis. Mr and Mrs Trafton called this evening.

Sun 23 Mrs Dennis Maggie and ~~Minn~~ Katie called. Minn was over today. Scott came home today. Me and Art went over the railroad bridge to see Scotts ~~team~~/ team. Art and myself called at Traftons.

Mon 24 Mrs Dennis sewed on my machine this afternoon, and Maggie was here. Begun my black dress today.

Tue 25 Went down to the river to see the horses swim across. Maggie Mrs Dennis and daught[illegible] was here ...

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
April cont.

Tue 25 The boys went for posts today.
Wed 26 Snow this morning. Art Scott and George went to look for horses, did not get back untill dark. Maggie was here this afternoon. Maggie & Katie & Scott are here this evening.
Thu 27 Mr Garland came here this morning and hired me to teach the Malta school this summer. Art and myself called at Mr Dennis es this evening. The two Mrs Garlands called this evening.
FEi 28 Arthur,Scott and George have gone to look after some horses. I have sewed today. Mabel called on Mrs Trafton this afternoon.
Sat 29 Went rideing with Mr Dennis and wife. Went up on Mr Traftons ranch, saw a lot horses on the range. Mr Ellis came tonight. Me and Art went for a long walk.
Sun 30 Went to service at 10 this morning. Went down on Greens horse ranch, saw over a 100 horses in a correll. Art and I bought a span of horses.
Mon 31 Done a big washing. Art and George are ploughing for potatoes. Mabel begun work again today. The Indians are on a big drunk today, are howling at a great rate tonight.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
May 1893

Mon 1 Done a big washing. Art and George ploughing for potatoes. Mabel begun work again today. The Indians are on a big drunk today, are howling at a great rate tonight.

Tue 2 The boys went after the bronkoes today, brought home the brown one, are going after the other tomorrow.

Wed 3 Brought home the bay one today. I went up to the barn and saw them hitch up the brown one today. Had lots af callers this evening, Mrs Hedges among the rest. Fred went to work today.

Thu 4 Rainey today. Maggie was here in afternoon. Have sewed nearly all day, am about sick, this climate does not agree with me yet.

Fri 5 Lonesome rainy day, I have been alone nearly all day. Called on Mrs Trafton this afternoon. The girls came home tonight and stayed all night. Sid went over to see Fred today.

Sat 6 The boys drove their new horses this afternoon. Mrs Dennis was here sewing this afternoon. Went to the store and called at the Hotel.

Sun 7 Spent a very plesant sabbath. Arthur and myself went up and saw Mr Trafton rope horses. Had lots of callers today.

Mon 8 Begun my school today, had 7 scholars. Am well pleased with the school.

Tue 9 The boys started for the ranch again today. Feel very lonly tonight without Arthur. Mabel & Maggie came down and stayed all night. Rains hard tonight I think of the boys sleeping out tonight.

Wed 10 It has been a cold windy disagreeable day. Mr & Mrs Trafton called this evening. Send some pictures home today. I suppose the boys reached the ranch today. Am tired and sleepy.

Thu 11 How does poor old Art get along today, I think of him every hour of the day. Had to Ministers as visitors at my school today, also Mrs Dennis and Mabel. There was preaching in the school house by Rev Vannersdale.

Fri 12 Taught school today. Minn came over tonight and Fred went over to Davisons with him. Mrs Dennis & Maggie was down this

Sat 13 Washed and worked very hard all day. Oh how I wish Art was here tonight I feel so lonely, like a stranger in a stranger land. Siddie bought me a nice pair of horses of the Indians.

Sun 14 Had our first Sabbath today. I miss Art so. Minn and Fred came home tonight from Davisons. Tonight was invited to take supper at the hotel. Tonight Mrs Dennis went up the country for a little walk. Was a little gathering at the Hotel.

Mon 15 Had a new scholar today. Called on Mrs Trafton tonight. Am feeling very tired and altogether miserable, wish Arthur was here tonight.

Tue 16 Taught school today as usual. Went up to the store to see about school matters. Had a little shower tonight. The boys bought some lovely horns today.

Wed 17 Had three breed children at dchool today. Scott came today. Had a hail storm tonight, am very tired went over the bridge tonight to see Georges cart horse.

Thu 18 Scott went back to the ranch. Minn is here yet. Mr & Mrs Trafton got very badly hurt tonight, their horse ran away, I stayed in there untill 11 o'clock.

Fri 19 Arthur & George came home tonight. Taught school 1/2 day. Went to see Georges new horse, went with Art & George to see them swim the horse across the river.

Sat 20 Taught school 1/2 day. Things goes very unpleasant today. Arthur and myself went horse back riding, the first ride I have had since I came to Montana.

Sun 21 Had Sabbath school today. Me and Art went horse back riding today, had a lovely ride. We all went walking tonight over on the pargrie? to see the horses.

Mon 22 Arthur, George, Minn went away to the ranch this morning. Maggie went aways across the prarie. Felt very lonesome all day since Art went away, Taught school.

Tue 23 Very cold again today. Has been very unpleasant teaching today. The assesor called tonight. When night comes I wish for Art to be here with me, for I always feel lonely.

Wed 24 Cold and cheerless all day in the school house. Feel lonesome and miserable, sewed tonight after school.

Thu 25 Saw an old stage coach that robbers had held up, go past on the train. Boys are trading with the Indians.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
May 1893 Cont.

Fri 26 Had callers at school today, Mrs Dennis, Mrs Philbrook, Mabel and Maggie. Am very glad my weeks work is done.

Sat 27 Washed in forenoon, went calling over the river to Mrs Garlands. Arthur & Scott came about 8 o'clock, was so very glad to see him.

Sun 28 Had a headache all day, went to Sabbath. Mrs Lewis was there. Mabel went riding and Art and myself went out on the prarie to meet her. Some very unpleasant things have happend today.

Mon 29 Spent a very unpleasant day, had headache all day. Maggie and Scott went horse back riding and Art and myself went over to see the irrigating works.

Tue 30 The boys have gone back to the ranche today and it makes me feel so lonely, it seems very lonely here in our strange wild western home without Art.

Wed 31 Saw a roundup of horses this morning. Maggie got a letter frome home tonight with our church letters in it. I am very thankful to get them. I am sick tonight.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
June 1893

Thu 1 Mr Ellis came tonight and preached a grand sermon, we gave in our church letters tonight. Maggie went up to get her money of Mr Dennis but failed to get it.

Fri 2 I have taught school just one month today. Mrs Green met with an accident tonight. Mrs Trafton called tonight. Sid & Fred killed their first rattle snake tonight.

Sat 3 Worked hard all day, went with Mr and Mrs Trafton up to their ranch took supper and h a very nice time. Rec, a good letter from Mrs Fitter today.

Sun 4 Spent a very lonesome sundy, every thing seemes to go rong the child.

Mon 5 This week has begun very miserable so far. Gave a tramp his dinner and went without my own.

Tue 6 Am feeling very bad today have got sick headache tonight. Wish Art was here tonight, am feeling lonesome and discouraged.

Wed 7 Am feeling better today, there is just simply nothing to write in my diary, only the petty anoincences of every day life. This is a strange country and a stranger life.

Thu 8 This day has gone very much as yedterday, work nothing worth recording. I thought I would have nothing to write in my diary but the boys came home tonight and I am gl

Fri 9 Arthur went to school with me this forenoon. This he went up to the shearing pen, tonight after supper, Arthur Myself, Scott & Maggie went for a horse back ride, had a lovely time.

Sat 10 Feel very old today, rode to far last night. We all went up to the shearing paus today to see them shear the sheep. Went up to see Mrs Dennis tonight. Scott went back todey after dinner.

Sun 11 Arthur & George started for the ranch this morning at half past 3 and I feel lonely again. I cant understand why it is we have so much discord when the boys are home.

Mon 12 I have been feeling discouraged all day, I am finding out more and more how impossible it is to be really happy on this earth, what ever we enjoy there is some thing to annoy. We are always looking ahead for happier days that seldome come, we anticipate more than we realise

Tue 13 Very cold and unpleasant todey. Cold enough for a frost.

Wed 14 Went to the store this morning, had quite a talk with Mrs Garland paid me 50 dollars

thu 15 Nothing but work ahead and worry the same thing over and over again but every night I know I have 2.50 ahead and that encourages me

Fri 16 Tonight my school is one half over, went down to Dennis tonight had a talk with Mrs D. begin to think she is a friend.

Sat 17 Washed and worked very hard untill 4 o'clock. The boys came near buying a pony tonight went with Mr and Mrs Trafton to the store tonight.

Sun 18 This has been a very unpleasant two men came here with a search warrent today. The boys got their pony today. Had quite a number at sabbath school.

Mon 19 Taught school have felt very nervous and out of sorts all day, I have so much on my mind I am nearly wild.

Tue 20 Mabel quit Dennises today. Minn went after Scott after dinner. Mrs Trafton called.

Wed 21 Feel tired and my head is over worked and I have every thing to look after at home I am almost wild.

Thu 22 Scott came about noon today. Mabel has acted as if the very old evil one possed her today, she is nothing but a trouble to me and no comfort.

Fri23 Taught school untill noon. Scott took possession of the hotel today. The boys had a fight with J Casity. Went to the hotel awhile this afternoon.

Sat 24 Washed untill 4 o'clock and then went with the boys after coal. Had a lawsuit this forenoon over Minn and George, had Casity arested this afternoon. Law suit was tonight. Art and me stayed all night at the hotel.

Sun 25 Went down to the river and saw 8 thousand sheep drove across the river. Came home and had sabbath school.

Mon 26 Tonight school today the boys did not go back to the ranch today, Arthur went down to the river and helped put some sheep across

Tue 27 The boys are going home this afternoon. I taught school untill 4 o'clock and then started for the ranch with the boys, rode 20 miles to the cottonwood creek and camped, lay on the ground all night for the first.

Wed 28 Started for the ranch about 7 o'clock an a load of hay. Got to the ranch about

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Thu 29 Looked around and rested today, I think I shall Like it here when our house is built, away from all vanities and wickedness of earth alone with nature.

Fri 30 Have lay around here in the tent so fearful sick. With not a bit of medicine to help relieve one, and the misquetoes so thick and I am so sick I can hardly keep them off.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan

July 1893

Sat 1 Am feeling some better today, Arthur, Freddie and myself have been up to the upper ranch for a walk. George is sick today.

Sun 2 Started for home today. 8 o'clock drove as far as cottonwood and stopped to rest a couple hours. Started for Malta 3 o'clock. Fred came near being lost reached Malta half past 7 so tired so tired.

Mon 3 Am feeling very old and tired today. Arthur started for the ranch today about one o'clock and I feel lonesome again. I shall be glad when we dont have to be parted.

Tue 4 There was a women murdered this morning. I went to see her and it was a gastly sight, her head was all smashed in with an axe. This has been an strange fourth. I have been alone nearly all day.

Wed 5 Today has been very lonesome and dull with its anoyances as usaal. There is but very little happiness in this world.

Thu 6 Feel very lonesome and tired and almost sick of living tonight I feel as though my true friends are very few.

Fri 7 Am nearly down sick. Teaching has been very hard for me today. Feel as though I hadn't a friend in the world. Wish Arthur was here.

Sat 8 Have taught school today all. Am nearly sick, bought a bottle of medicine tonight and hope it will help me.

Sun 9 This has been a long lonesome day, I have been alone nearly all day. Scott and Maggie came down tonight the first they have been here in over a week.

Mon 10 It has been a very hot day. Had a talk with Mr C. about teaching longer. Took supper at the hotel tonight. Sent my orders for sabbath school book tonight.

Tue 11 Am feeling discouraged tonight I think my friends on this earth is few. Mr Garland wants me to teach longer shall be glad to do so. Had a fearful storm tonight, and it blew the front off of Scotts hotel.

Wed 12 Took supper at the hotel tonight Scott is away to buy horses will be back tonight Look for Arthur the last of the week. Mark Spellman got back last night from looking for his horse hes sick tonight.

Thu 13 Bought a pony this morning for 15 dollars am quite pleased with my bargain Maggie was down a little while this afternoon. The boys came home tonight was pretty pleased to see the old man.

Fri 14 Arthur was up to school a little while today.

Sat 15 Am having a rest today from teaching. Arthur and myself took supper at the hotel tonight. George went to buy some sheep today.

Sun 16 Arthur and myself have been alone nearly all day, went to sabbath school and stopped at the hotel and had some ice cream. Scott and Maggie was down this evening.

Mon 17 Arthur is here yet wish it wasn't necessary for him to go away again, George came back today has bought 9 hundred sheep.

Tue 18 It is a terible hot day. Arthur, George and Siddie went back to the ranch today. I am afraid they will nearly perish with the heat.

Wed 19 Very hot again today. Took dinner at the hotel. Maggie had her teeth pulled today.

Thu 20 Another hot day mercury 103 in the shade. Took dinner at the hotel today. Myself and Mrs Trafton called at the hotel this evening.

Fri21 A very very hot day again, was up at the hotel a little while tonight, dont know how to endure this terible heat.

Sat 22 Hav worked very hard today, washed scrubbed and ironed and baked. Am so tired tonight. Maggie was down a little while tonight. Arthurs glasses came today.

Sun 23 This has been a very long lonesome day. How I have wished for Arthur today. I have been alone all day untill night, then Scott & Maggie came down a little while. Mr and Mrs Hedges was at the hotel today.

Mon 24 Had a head ache today found it very hard to teach, took dinner at the hotel. Cut out my white waist tonight. Mabel was down a little while tonight.

Tue 25 It is a nice cool day, Park Spelman came home with his horse, took dinner at the hotel. Mr and Mrs George Jones was there. I am feeling lonesome and homesick.

Wed 26 Has been a very hot day, took dinner at the hotel today had a nice little shower tonight. Have felt lonesome tonight, wish Art was here.

Thu 27 Had a bad headache today. Francis Maggie and Mabel were here tonight. I am disapointed for I had it in my mind that Arthur was coming tonight.

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Fri 28 A man came in from the ranch and told us they were having heavy prarie fires out on the ranch and Scott started this afternoon to go out there. I am staying at the hotel.

Sat 29 Boys are here today. Have worked very hard today. Arthur and myself went up to the hotel a little while.

Sun 30 Arthur wants me to go back with him to the ranch and I hope it can be aranged. Had sabbath school, Arthur had aranged for me to go with him to the ranch, it is nearly dark and we are just going to start for the ranch.

Mon 31 Drove till about one o'clock and then camped for the night. Slept untill late this morning, stayed untill about 4 o'clock this afternoon, then started for the ranch Got to the ranch about 9 o'clock. Very hot today.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
August 1893

Tue 1 Went down on the hay ranch this morning stayed until dark. Found Mr Murry and Fred there when we got there.

Wed 2 See a fire on the range at noon and all went to fight it, got it put out about 7 o'clock, it was a grand and terilie sight. Got home late though was lost but we got here alright.

Thu 3 Worked hard this forenoon so I could go down to the hay ranch with the boys. Went with the boys and stayed untill night, read all afternoon and had a grand rest.

Fri 4 Mr Murry came this forenoon stayed untill this afternoon then took his burnt? horses home. I went with the boys to the hay ranch this afternoon, lay by the hay stack and read untill dark.

Sat 5 Nice cool day, the boys mowed all day. I went down to the hay ranch with the boys and stayed untill dark. Arthur is a little cross tonight, the boys have been hunting shot 9 ducks.

Sun 6 This is a terible hot day. Scott came here today about noon, had a nice duck pie for dinner. Feel downhearted tonight wish my children were all capable of taking care of themselves.

Mon 7 Scott started for home today about 5 o'clock. Arthur & Scott found the old hog today with three little pigs. The fleas have bit me so today I am nearly wild.

Tue 8 Very nice and cool this morning, the boys worked in the hay this morning and this afternoon I went with them and stayed untill dark, petched and read.

Wed 9 The boys worked at the hay this forenoon, I went with them this afternoon and it rained and we came home about 5 o'clock.

Thu 10 Mr Murry came here this afternoon. Very windy today could not work in hay much, boys went hunting shot ducks enough for dinner.

Fri 11 Siddie and Mr Murry started for town this morning, will look for them back sunday night

Sat 12 The boys are working hard today trying to get their haystacks done this week. Have a headache today. Night again and the haystacks are done. The men did not get here until dark.

Sun 13 Quite cool this forenoon, Fred and Minn got up real early and went hunting this morning, got 12 ducks and we had a nice dinner of them. Arthur and George had a fuss today and it makes me discouraged.

Mon 14 It rains this morning and the wind blows terible. Look for Siddie back today. The boys made a fence around their haystack this afternoon.

Tue 15 A nice cool day today. Arthur and Fred have just been to drive a band of cattle away. Mr Murry and Siddie came tonight.

Wed 16 Arthur broke the horse rake this forenoon and George and Fred went to town this afternoon. Minn went home with Mr Murry and brought back Murry s team.

Thu 17 Arthur fixed the horse rake and raked until dark. He worked at the house chinking. Minn dug post holes. I sewed this afternoon on my dress.

Fri 18 Very hot this morning. Are looking for George and Fred today, Arthur mowed untill nearly dark. George & Fred did not come untill about eleven o'clock tonight.

Sat 19 The boys drawed hay all day, I went with them this afternoon and walked up to the happy Jack place and stayed there and read nearly the whole afternoon. Came home with sick head ache.

Sun 20 Oh what a long long day this has been, have a sick headache all day it seems so still and strange here away from all human habitation.

Mon 21 Worked at the hay in forenoon mud muded some of the new house in the afternoon. The men stayed on the hay ranch untill nearly dark.

Tue 22 The boys worked at the hay this forenoon, had a shower so they cant work this afternoon The range cattle tore up the boys haystack. Fred and George went to drive the cattle down the creek.

Wed 23 The boys have worked at the hay today, Fred came home from the hay ranch sick. Arthur met a man from Glasgow today.

Thu 24 A cow outfit from Canada was up here this morning.

Fri 25 The boys worked at the hay in forencon, rained in afternoon and they worked at the house some this afternoon. It seems very lonesome here in rainy weather.

over

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Sat 26 Rains a little this morning. Fred is sick this morning, the wind blows hard, the boys cant work the hay, are working at rhe house. The boys started after supper and drew hay untill eleven o'clock.

Sun 27 It is a very nice day scarcely any wind stiring. I am very sorry to write what the boys are doing on sunday, they are drawing hay. Went toward evening with the boys to fix the hay correl, got back dark.

Mon 28 Feel very dull today did not sleep much last night.

Tue 29 Washed in the forenoon and baked bread in afternoon. I took the boys pony and went riding, chased a kiote and went and run the range cattle off, then came home and got supper.

Wed 30 Woke up this morning very sick with sick headache and lay in bed sick all day. The boys and Maloney had a quarrel today over hand.

Thu 31 The boys went down on the lower ranch this morning and put up the tent. Started today for Malta about three o'clock, stayed at cottonwood allnight.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
September 1893

Fri 1 Started for Malta this morning, reached Malta toward night, found Maggie sick. Oh I feel a terible weight of trouble hanging over me God help us.

Sat 2 Went for a horseback ride this afternoon but it was a failure, I did not enjoy it at all. Scott was cranky because we stayed so long.

Sun 3 Oh this miserable wretched day I wish it had never been. From this day I am a ------miserable woman.

Mon 4 Oh my God what a cursed day this has been to me I am trying to bury all my hopes of happiness in this world, I cant half realize it yet.

Tue 5 Oh what a wretched day. My foot is poisend and is getting worse and pains me teribly but the pain at my heart is a thousand times worse.

Wed 6 This day has been so long, my foot is very bad today cant walk without a crutch.

Thu 7 Another day is here and I have nothing to write. Only that I am carring a load of trouble that I am afraid will prove to heavy for me to carry. I ~~~~ thought I had see trouble enough that the rest of my life might be happy and peaceful, but I know now I shall never know what it is to be happy again.

Fri 8 This has been a bad day for me my foot is very bad and pains me terible I begin to think I am going to have a servier time with it. I believe in the old saying that trouble never comes single, which ever way I look I see trouble ahead and when I look back there is nothing but trouble. God only knows which way I turn or what I shall do.

Sat 9 My foot is some easier today am in hopes it may get better now, oh if I could lift this weight of trouble that is hanging over me. Scott and Maggie are going up to Mr Traftons ranch for a ride and Scott is going to take me down home and I am going to stay there while they are gone.

Sun 10 Another sabbath is here and what a long sad wretched week it has been, here I have ha to sit with my foot paining me so I could hardly endure it, and the painat my heart a thousand times worse. I started out less than two years ago with hopes of spending the rest of my life in peace and I can see today there is nothing but misery and trouble ahead, and to have had so much trouble already I feall had rather die than go on.

Mon 11 Night is here again and I have one day less to suffer, my foot has been very bad today, oh how I have sat here day after day and thought of my past miserable unhappy? life and when I look ahead to the future I can see nothing to cheer me, it all looks dark and discouraging. I think my married life will be finished as it began under a cloud and lifes lonly problems is how to endure.

Tue 12 Think my foot is a little better today. Scott started for the ranch today about eleven o'clock. Had a hard rain this afternoon, think Scott must have got a good soaking. This has been a very long day. Mr Hedges wants me to teach school and I am going to teach as long as I can.

Wed 13 It is nearly dark again and I think I never saw such long days, my foot has pained me very bad today, how thankful I will be when I can get about again. If my foot had not been sore I would not have been here today, I am heartly sick of this country and everything in it.

Thu 14 This a cold windy lonesome day and it makes me feel homesick, I am thinking of my poor old Father and Mother so much today and I know they are the truest friends I shall ever have on this earth. How soon all the hopes I cherished for years have been blasted. I am tired and sick of trouble and of life here there is nothing in it.

Fri 15 I have thought my foot was a little better today it has pained me less. I have been trying to sew a little today, Mrs Allen called today also Mrs Carson. I have been trying so hard to give up every thing that stands in the way of duty and do just what I see is right and for the best.

Sat 16 Think my foot is a little better today, we are looking for the boys today. Mabel has gone up to Traftons dan this afternoon. Scott arthur & Fred came tonight 6 o'clock.

Sun 17 Very cold and lonesome today. Mabel Sid & Fred went horse back riding today. I am in hopes my foot is a little better today

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Diery of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
October 1893

Sun 1 Arthur is here today, him and myself went out walking this afternoon. Mr Morton and Mabel went out walking this afternoon.

Mon 2 Arthur and Scott started for the ranch with the bucks today. A dance at the Cowan house this evening. Mabel went horse back riding this afternoon.

Tue 3 I have been sewing today, it is very dark and gloomy today, it gives me the blues and makes me think of old YORK STATE. Arthur came back from cottonwood tonight.

Wed 4 Arthur started back for the ranch this morning, Art and myself went to the store last night and bought our underclothing, but oh how things cost here in this countr

Thu 5 Dark and gloomy again today, Mabel went horse back riding this afternoon. Fred went up to Mr Traftons ranch today. I wrote to the Minister at Havre tonight.

Fri 6 Very dark gloomy day again. Things have gone very unpleasant today, and gloomy out doors and in.

Sat 7 Dark and gloomy again today. Went up to the school and picked up my books. Made a call at Mrs Bansauters. Went to the store and done some trading. Wrote some letters, Mabel went horse back riding. I have sewed some this afternoon, dark and rainy tonight.

Sun 8 This has been a very dull and lonesome day, dark and gloomy, went up to the river for a walk. Mr Morton was here this afternoon. Have been writing letters this evening. Mabel and Mr Morton was invited over to Mr Garlands to spend the evening. Thus ends the day.

Mon 9 Went up to the store, went up to the hotel and stamped the linen. Had a talk with Mr Garland about the school. Sewed in the evening. Got a letter from the Havre Minister.

Tue 10 Finished the boys shirts and done some packing today, wrote some letters this evening, am nearly down sick with a cold.

Wed 11 Heavy white frost last night, I shall expect warmer weather. Myself and Mabel and Freddie went horse back riding this afternoon. Mrs Trafton called this evening.

Thu 12 Two years today Etta died, oh what changes in less than three years. Still we have a great deal to be thankful for, I feel that I have, this has been a sad day.

Fri 13 Have had a headache today, Mr Morton called this afternoon, Mabel went up to the hotel and took supper tonight.

Sat 14 Have made quite a number of calls today, called at Mrs Wheerys, Mrs Phil--- and the two Mrs Garlands, Mr Morton called this evening. Looked for Arthur and Scott tonight but they didnot come.

Sun 15 A very nice warm day and very quite peaceful one, went for a walk Mr Martin game us some game. Tonight Fred went with Mr Trafton hunting for dear.

Mon 16 Have been very busy packing today. Maggie & Mabel went horse back riding this afternoon. Looked for the boys tonight but they dont come, and I feel disapointed but such is life.

Tue 17 Storms hard this morning, the boys came today about 1 o'clock, brought both saddle prints with them. Mr Morton called this evening.

Wed 18 Maggie and Scott were married tonight. I like Mr Gevir well----- . There was services at the school house tonight. Mrs Allen had a very nice supper for us tonight. Went horse back riding this morning, had a bad headache today.

Thu 19 Have been working hard packing today, went over on the other side this after noon for the first since I came here. Called at Traftons store.

Fri 20 The men killed three of their hogge today. I have been packing and working very hard today. Expect to start for the ranch tomorrow, am very tired and nearly sick tonight.

Sat 21 The boys killed the other pig this forenoon, have packed nearly all day, snowing tonight. Mabel and Fred have gone to Mrs Allens to a party.

Sun 22 It has snowed quite hard all day. We intended to go to the ranch today but could not on account of the storm.

Mon 23 Cold yet today and the snow is on the ground have worked very hard today, think we will start for the ranch tomorrow.

Tue 24 Started for our ranch this morning got to cottonwood about dark, it was very cold an disagreeable, camped at cottonwood, the little boys came there with the cows when we got there.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
October 1893 cont.

Wed 25 Start for the ranch again this morning cold again today. Rodeall day got to the ranch about dark, was very tired was never so glad to get any where, the new house looked good to me.

Thu 26 Worked hard all day fixing the meat and cleaning things up, think I shall like it here very much when we get things fixed up..

Fri 27 The men made besteads and I cleaned all day. George and Sid went after wood, Fred and Sid went up to the sheep camp and stayed all night,

Sat 28 The boys are making besteads and building a water closet today. I am unpacking and cleaning house.

Sun 29 The boys are making a bestead this forenoon and this after started for Malta. they will go as far as cottonwood and camp for the night. George and Mabel went up to the sheep camp.

Mon 30 Have cleaned the boys bedroom this forenoon and Mabel washed this afternoon have been trying to fix up and get settled in, Siddie has gone up to the sheep camp.

Tue 31 Cleaned house nearly all day, Minn came down tonight and stayed all night. Feel a little lonesome tonight without Arthur. It is snowing tonight.

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Diary of Mary Dane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
November 1893

Wed 1 Cleaned house this forenoon looked for the boys tonight. The boys did not come untill late was in an unpleasant condition, I am nervous and upset tonight.

Thu 2 Have been arranging the house this forenoon. Arthur and myself went up to the sheep camp horse back, had a very nice time got home after dark.

Fri 3 Have worked hard Arthur and mysaelf fixing up our room and the house, Art has been cross and I got a little cranky. The children went skating today for the first. Siddie has gone up to the sheep camp.

Sat 4 Rode 10 or 12 miles to the timber horse back today. Got back about dark, am pretty tired, Fred went up to the sheep camp tonight with the little jip? Minn was down after flour.

Sun 5 Worked this forenoon and this afternoon we all went up to the sheep camp. George went up to herd sheep. We did not get home untill long after dark. Wrote the writings for the company today, thus ends the day.

Mon 6 Arthur, Scott,Minn & Fred started after coal this morning, have worked very hard today cleaning the door yard, painting the dook? the men is all gone and I feel lonesome.

Tue 7 Nice Warm day the men are away yet after coal. Mabel and ~~Y~~ Siddie have gone up to the sheep camp to take some bread to George.

Wed 8 The boys came home tonight from looking after coal got a little of very poor quality, they brought a very large load of wood.

Thu 9 The boys Art and Scott have been tinkering about the house all day, put up 2 shelves, fixed the cellar steps and door, made a bench and towel rack, put up the elks head.

Fri 10 Art and Scott started for cottonwood today, if it does not storm Scott will go to Malta tomorrow. Have spent this afternoon on my shirt waist feel lonesome tonig without Art.

Sat 11 Made over my dress skirt done a big wash, a big baking of bread and worked hard all It has been a lonely day but it seems lonesome with Arthur.

Sun 12 This has been a happy quiet peaceful day and a lovely sabbath day but lonely, took a walk over the hills. Mabel and Siddie went up to the sheep camp with provisions for George.

Mon 13 Myself and Mabel did a big washing today, looked for the boys tonight but they did not come, it has been a cold day this seems so quiet and still it almost seems as i I was out of the world entirely.

Tue 14 The boys came home from cottonwood tonight a little after dark, they got a nice loa of provisions, got a lot of letters, one from Mrs Face and others.

Wed 15 Had a hard headache all day, and didnt do any thing. Arthur and Scott has been tinkering all day fixed the cellar stairs and other jobs.

Thu 16 Have a headache yet today but feel a little better than I did yesterday, it is quite cold today they brought the band of sheep home tonight for the first.

Fri 17 The men are drawing hay today. Arthur, George, Fred, Sid all went to Malonies toni What ever we enjoy there is something to annoy.

Sat 18 The boys have drawed hay all day, had a school tonight and spent a very profitable day. Some of Malonies sheep got mixed in with ours today.

Sun 19 After dinner went up to the sheep camp with the boys got back after dark, the children went skateing this afternoon. Am having a very easy time now days, hope I never have to work any harder.

Mon 20 Snows today the boys drew hay this forenoon worked at the shed in the afternoon.

Tue 21 Art and Scott worked at the shed in the forenoon and went hunting in the afternoon. Mr Brown and Mr Maynard called this evening.

Wed 22 Cold today George started for the missouri river today about ten o'clock, the men are working home on the ranch today.

Thu 23 Very cold for the time of year 12 degrees below zero. The men fixed the front door with canvas today. Cut out Mr Browns under clothing, men made storm door toda

Fri 24 Very cold yet this morning Art and myself put down the carpet this forenoon, sewed in the afternoon and evening.

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
November 1893 cont.

Sat 25 Art and Scott are going to the ten mile timber this morning, they got back late tonight. Had a bad headache today and did not do much, mercury at zero this morning.

Sun 26 Cold and blustering this morning, mercury ten de- below zero, Scott has gone out to help Minn bring in the sheep.

Mon 27 Mercury down 6 degrees below zero this morning, the men have been butchering today. Mr Brown came up this morning to settle with us.

Tue 28 Art and Scott went to the ten mile timber today, came back quite late. Art is very cross tonight, mercury down 18 degrees below zero this morning. Finished Mr Browns under suit tonight, and sent it home.

Wed 29 14 degrees below zero this morning have sewed all forenoon.

Thu 30 Very cold again, there is a dance at the Cowan house tonight. Thanksgiven X

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Diary of Mary Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
December 1893

Fri 1 Cold again today. Mr Brown and Maynard called here agis evening. I have been sick all day and am feeling miserable tonight.

Sat 2 Arthur and Scott went to ten mile timber came back at 7 o'clock cross as blixen. I have been sick in bed all day with sick headache. Mr Brown brought his dog up this morning for Minn. Warmer today.

Sun 3 Warmer today have felt quite miserable all day these are strange sabbaths, and a strang life we are leading none of us thankful for all we have.

Mon 4 Done a large washing today nice and warm today. The men have tinksred around all day making a corral and so on. Feel thankful tonight that we are all as well off as we are.

Tue 5 Arthur and Scott went away this morning to the 20 mile timber, every thing has gone unpleasant today and I feel dull and miserable tonight but I thank god we are all well.

Wed 6 The boys came home tonight every thing is very unpleasant here tonight and I am quite sick, this is a miserable unhappy world at the best.

Thu 7 Arthur and Scott went after their load they left 8 miles back last night got home 4 o'clock.

Fri 8 Was taken sick last night with kidney trouble, have been sick all day, but am feeling some better tonight. Art and Scott fixed the horse correll.

Sat 9 Am feeling some better again today, Arthur and Scott is fixing the horse corell today and tinkering about. Scott called on Mr Maloney to night, and we all sat up late. Arthur and myself read and the rest played cards.

Sun 10 Colder again today. Arthur is cross today and wants me to work all day sunday.

Mon 11 Mercury below zero, they did not go out to herd the sheep untill afternoon. Scott went with Minn to herd the sheep.

Tue 12 Mercury 10 degrees below zero this morning and 19 tonight. Art and Scott tinkered their sled today. I fixed Sids cap and done house work.

Wed 13 Mercury 25 degrees below this morning 19 deg tonight. Art and the little boys fixed the shed. Minn herded the sheep Scott looked after the horses untill nearly night. I sewed nearly all day.

Thu 14 Mercury 10 below zero, Scott brought the horses in tonight, Siddie herded the ivalid band, I went up on the hill to see him and then went over to the shed to look around, but it is so cold I dont enjoy being out.

Fri 15 Snowing and blowing hard this morning the went took the team and went with the sheep, and Maggie and Mabel rode along with them. Thus ends the day. George came home from Missouri.

Sat 16 Mercury 4 below zero this morning, took my first sleigh ride today, went with the boy to take the sheep out on the range. George came home tonight from the Missouri. Am sick today.

Sun 17 This has been a very nice day. The men branded the stock today and this afternoon Art and myself Scott and Maggie went up to the Happy Jack place for a sleigh ride. Art and Scott have gone to Maloneys calling.

Mon 18 Very nice warm day. Men drew hay tn the afternoon, me and Maggie went up where Siddie was herding the invalid band. Arthur has been cross and unpleasant tonight.

Tue 19 Very nice again today, the men have been drawing hey again. I feel downhearted and sad today. Freddie is herding today. Scott and George went down to Maloneys tonight. Arthur is mad today.

Wed 20 This is another very nice warm day, Mr Maloney took dinner here today, the men drew hay all day, Minn went down to Maloneys tonight to carry down some mail. I am feeling sad and discouraged today, there is so much disatisfaction here.

Thu 21 Warm again today, the men went to drew hay this forenoon and had a runaway. Arthur and Minn dug the cellar for the smokehouse and Scott fixed the wagon. The snow has gone off very fast today, there has been a Chinook wind today, I done a washing today.

Fri 22 The wind is blowing very hard today, the men are at work at the smoke house. Mabel and Siddie have gone to look at their traps. Fred is herding the invalid band. Mabel and Fred went skating today.

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Diary of Mery Jane Payne, Brockway, Cowan
December 1893 Cont.

Sat 23 This has been a beautiful day, the men have been drawing hay from the bottom all day. Mabel got a Coyote today. I have been making mince pies for Christmas and a strange Christmas it will be so far from civilization.

Sun 24 Arthur myself Scott & Maggie, Mabel, Minn and Fred all went skating up to the Happy Jack place, took lunch with us built a fire in the cabin and warmed. Had a good time but am tired.

Mon 25 Today is Christmas, and a strange Christmas it has been, but not an unhappy one, so very still and quiet, no Christmas bells ringing and no visitors, but pleanty to eat and a good comfortable home. A dear good kind husband and my children all with me, I have a great deal to thank the Lord for.

Tue 26 A beautiful day, Mr Maynard came up this morning to get Scotts cart for Maloney to go to Harlem. Minn went to Maloneys to work today Scott Art and George went hunting today, came back without any game.

Wed 27 Pleasant today as to the weather, but a little unpleasant as to the people, Art and Scott have lounged about today and have not done much of anything, and myself ditto.

Thu 28 Art Scott Fred and Sid went hunting today, got back after dark but did not get any game. But such is life in the far west. The old year is nearly gone and I wonder what the new year will bring forth.

Fri 29 The boys all went hunting this afternoon came home without any game. I have done a l little fancy work today and a little sewing.

Sat 30 Two years ago today I was married to Arthur and I have not had much reason to regret it as yet. I have a good home and every thing is comfortable. Arthur and Scott have gone after game.

Sun 31 This is the last day of the year and Arthur myself and Maggie & Scott are going to start for Malta this morning and stay all night at cottonwood.

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