

## The Diaries of James Armistead Otey

James Otey Hoge, Jr.

What follows is the second volume of the diaries, that for 1909. The last issue of *The Smithfield Review* ran most of the first volume, which contains Otey's entries for 1889–1891. Taken together, these four years offer an accurate representation of the diaries as a whole. As with the first volume, I occasionally delete an entry or entries that I find particularly trivial or redundant, and insert a row of ellipsis points to mark the deletion. Identifications made in the notes to volume one are not repeated here. Like all the other volumes of the diaries, except the first, the second volume was given to me by my cousin Louisa Gillet Dekker. I am deeply grateful both to her and to Roy D. Montgomery, who assisted me with a number of difficult identifications.

### Errata for Part I of the Otey Diaries as Found in Volume 6 of *The Smithfield Review*

- Page 75, 2nd paragraph, 1st line. Replace “Carolee Pleasants Otey” with “Carolee Otey Pleasants”.
- Page 76, 2nd paragraph, 9th line. Replace the word “stoats” with “shoats”.
- Page 81, Footnote 18, 1st line. Replace the word “youngest” with the word “eldest” (Dr. Kent Black was the eldest child of Dr. Harvey Black).
- Page 84, Footnote 31, 1st line should read: “Alexander (Alex) Black (1857–1935) was the son of Dr. Harvey Black and . . .” (He was not the eldest of the four children.).
- Page 84, Footnote 31, 3rd line: Death year of Elizabeth Kent Otey should be 1926 (not 1925).
- Page 88, Footnote 49, 4th line. Replace “(b. 1903)” with “(d. 1903)”. (In other words, Kyle Robinson died in 1903).
- Page 89, Footnote 56, 1st line. Replace the date “1892” with “1898”.

- (The Alexander Black house was built in 1898, not 1892. According to the Croy-Dawson diaries, the earlier house burned in 1897).
- Page 95, Footnote 3, 5th line. Replace comma with the word “and” (It should read: “to Rockwood in the late 1890s and lived there . . .”).
- Page 95, Footnote 6, 1st line. Replace “(1854-1922)” with “(1854-1921)” (In other words, John L. Long died in 1921 — not 1922).
- Page 97, Footnote 14. Delete the existing footnote and replace with: “John Alexander McDonald (b. 1816), the son of Jonas McDonald and Elizabeth Foster and the grandson of Joseph McDonald and Elizabeth Ogle. John McDonald married Harriet McDonald (b. 1827), the daughter of Joseph McDonald and Nancy Chapman of Tazewell County, Virginia. John and Harriet McDonald had no children; they lived in the house on present Glade Road later occupied by Charles Black McDonald and later still by Charles Gordon McDonald.”
- Page 105, Footnote 43, 2nd line of the table. Replace the name “Shell” with “Shutt”.
- Page 109, Footnote 62, 2nd line. Replace the date “(1820–1912)” with “(1820–1913)”.
- Page 112, Footnote 71, 4th line. Space needed after first word.
- Page 118, Footnote 92, 4th line. Omit the word “New” just prior to the words “St. Peter’s Lutheran Church”.
- Page 119, July 27, August 4, and August 6 entries. Footnote reference numbers should be 97, 98, and 99 (not 95, 96, and 97, respectively).
- Page 122, September 7 entry. Footnote reference number should be 112 (not 110).
- Page 150, Index entry for William Ballard Preston: Replace existing entry with:
- Preston  
    William ..... 27, 30, 71-3  
    William Ballard ..... 86

## 1909

There are no extant volumes of the diaries for the years between 1891 and 1909. I have no explanation for this long period of silence, though I think it likely Otey kept his diaries during much, if not all, of that time and that those volumes have simply been lost. In any case, those eighteen years saw drastic changes in his life, many of them fraught with loss. In 1891 Otey was a twenty-nine-year-old bachelor living with his mother and father in the family home. By 1909 he had been married twice, both times happily by all accounts, but he had lost his first wife, his mother and father, and seven infant children during that eighteen-year span.

In 1892 Otey's mother died at the age of sixty-five. In June 1893, he married Carolee Otey Pleasants, a distant cousin, the daughter of James J. Pleasants, Jr. and Laura Kathleen (Robinson) Pleasants, of Huntsville, Alabama, to whom he had been engaged since 1891. Carolee moved into Walnut Spring, of course, but she lived less than three years after her marriage, until February 1896, and during that time she and Otey lost two sets of twins. All four infants were born prematurely and were dead at birth or died soon thereafter. Then, as if to punctuate the sadness of the *fin de siècle* for Otey, Dr. Otey died in 1896, while visiting his daughter Mamie Patterson and her family in Philadelphia.

The new century brought new life to Otey and to Walnut Spring, in more ways than one, but it also brought additional sadness. In 1903 John Hampton Hoge's sudden death, at the age of forty-seven, made Otey's sister Louisa a thirty-one-year-old widow with six minor children. Soon after her husband's death, Louisa Hoge and her children moved in with Otey. The next year Otey was appointed legal guardian of his Hoge nieces and nephews, and, having no children of his own (either then or later), he became something of a father to Louise, Hampton, Liz Otey, Dan, Jim (his namesake), and Alice. Although they and their mother later moved to town, where they lived in the house Dr. Kent Black built on the corner of present Draper Road and Clay Street, the Hoge children were extremely close to their Uncle Jim, and, as often as not, they could be found at their second home Walnut Spring.

Also in 1903, Otey met Julia Magruder Tyler, the half sister of James Hoge Tyler, who became a Virginia state senator in 1878, lieutenant governor in 1890, and Governor of Virginia in 1898. (Governor Tyler's mother Eliza Hoge [1815–1846] was the second wife of George Tyler [1817–1889], the son of Henry Tyler and Lucinda Coleman and for many years a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. Julia Virginia Magruder, Julia Magruder Tyler's mother, whom George Tyler married in 1862, was his fourth wife.) An experienced teacher of children with impaired hearing, Julia Tyler came to Blacksburg in the spring of 1903, expecting to stay only a few months while she worked with Otey's niece "Tick" Hoge. She never left, however, as she and Otey fell in love, became engaged that autumn, and married the following April. Unfortunately their happiness was not unalloyed for long. By the time the diaries that we have resume five years later, Jim and Julia Otey had lost three children, each of whom, like the four Otey lost with his first wife, was either born dead or died shortly after birth. The sorrow of the loss of all those children is palpable in the poignant prayer Julia Otey set down the day before the birth of the second of her three, and in her terse comment on the following day:

Lord, grant to my surgeon courage and skill, to me patience and endurance, and above all grant life & strength of body to our child about to be born. I ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Advocate and Savior — Amen —

Jan. 9, 1906

Our child was born dead.

Jan. 10, 1906

Julia Tyler Otey

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**Friday, January 1** (1) What you can't keep in your head get with your heels.

(2) A patch by a patch is neighborly. A patch on a patch is beggarly.

**Saturday, January 2** (3) A third campaign for the same office is like champagne with the sparkles out.

(4) The people's love is a ruler's lifeguard.

(5) Janus looks back on the old year, forward to the new — Hence his double face.<sup>1</sup>

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1. I am unable to say why Otey opens his 1909 diary with these five aphorisms or why he sprinkles others through his entries for the next few days. (Actually for five days in early January, the aphorisms *are* his entries.)

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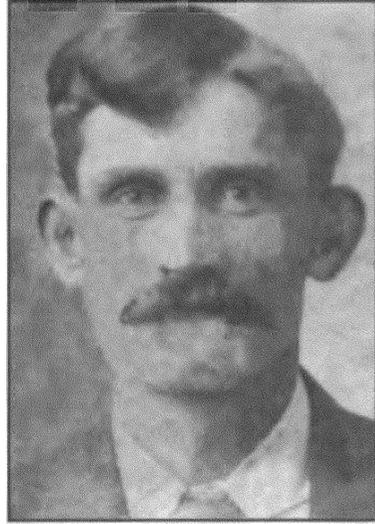
**Sunday, January 3** Sam Wray the Irishman came back. But I did not keep him. He is a good workman, but drinks. You'll get a letter if a spark comes towards you.

**Monday, January 4** John Harkness (the grist mill boy) is doing well with cows. Mrs. John Price & John<sup>2</sup> do the milking. Harve and Hub Snider<sup>3</sup> working on the farm. Cows running in graveyard field.<sup>4</sup>

**Tuesday, January 5** If a dog lay on his back, he is measuring a grave. Drop a dish rag, company is coming hungry.

**Wednesday, January 6** If a cock crows in bed he will rise with a wet head. Stars in a muddle (many) the earth will be a puddle.

**Thursday, January 7** Put your secrets in the back of your head where there is no mouth.



Harvey Jackson "Harve" Snider. (Photograph courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Roy D. Montgomery).

[No entries for January 8 – January 25]

**Tuesday, January 26** Hitched Buster Brown — did well. Mr. Jim Surface<sup>5</sup> broke him.

2. John Preston "Turkey John" Price, the son of Michael Miller Price and Catherine "Casy" Keister, and his wife Eliza Ellen Cook, the daughter of David Cook. The John Prices' children included Mary Pearl Price, who married Zachariah "Zach" Sheppard; Myrtle B. Price, who married George Ben Vyule, from Athens, Greece; Lillie Catherine Price, who married James Preston Kanode and later James Arthur Pascoe; and George M. Price, who married Margie Ann Long, "Jim Tucker" Long's daughter.
3. Harvey Jackson "Harve" Snider (1873–1930) and Ira Hubbard "Hub" Snider (1879–1956) were the sons of Louise Talitha Scott (b. 1841) and Samuel Enos Snider (b. 1841). Harve Snider married Ressie Elizabeth Price (1893–1967), the daughter of John Wesley Price (1847–1920) and Mary Josephine Rock (1859–1943); Hub Snider never married.
4. The graveyard field abuts part of the farm's southwestern boundary and, at its northern edge, includes the old McDonald burying ground, dating from the eighteenth century, when the McDonalds owned that part of what later became Walnut Spring.
5. James Otey Surface (1856–1925), the son of Andrew J. "Andy" Surface and Sarah Margaret Snider. He married Victoria Jane Price (1855–1940), the daughter of Enos Elias Price and Sarah Elizabeth Cromer. Jim and Victoria Surface's home was located on Brush Mountain adjacent to Walnut Spring.

**Wednesday, January 27** Cut willows in upper meadow. Hauled straw and old hay out of front field with Buster Brown and Belle. Weather is beautiful for time of year. First lamb yesterday.

**Thursday, January 28** Harve and Hub Snider are working for me.

[No entry for January 29]

**Saturday, January 30** Have 4 lambs. Temperature 2 degrees above zero at 8 AM — south porch. Did not send milk as it was so cold. Had all stock except Sheep in barn tonight.

**Sunday, January 31** Still cold, no snow, no lambs. Mrs. John Price & John Harkness milked. 12 cows giving milk now. One lamb dead.

**Monday, February 1** Getting first ice. One new lamb. Sent off milk. Buster Brown is hauling up ice like an old horse. Jim Surface driving the colt.

**Tuesday, February 2** Fine day. Finished filling ice house. Went to Mr. Walter Linkous' burial. Flora had fine heifer calf "Blanche." Laura Price in trap<sup>6</sup> with us to burial. Hattie Wall came back with us.

**Wednesday, February 3** Too frozen to plow. Sent load of corn to mill to be crushed for cows. The 6th lamb today. Jim B. Price & I altered colts and pigs.<sup>7</sup> He took dinner with us. Corn is 75c a bushel. Cows doing well and we got 290 lbs. of milk.

**Thursday, February 4** Salted & counted up stock. Had fodder & hay put in for cows. Sold Cow (Katie) to McKonkley @ 3 ct.<sup>8</sup> Lambs (6).

**Friday, February 5** I fed sheep & cows. Drove up horses and Julia & I drove up to Blacksburg. Found old Mr. Robert Patterson<sup>9</sup> ill. Lulu Hoge was not well. We brought Jim & Alice Hoge<sup>10</sup> home with us. Roads good & we enjoyed the drive.

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6. The daughter of Hughey Price and Mary Henrietta Stanger, Laura Price (1878–1962) married Charles Bernard "Bernie" Kanode.

A trap is a light, two-wheeled carriage with springs.

7. James Brown "Jim" or "Jim Saddler" Price (1874–1943) was the son of Zachariah "Zach" and Arminta (Price) Price. He married Sarah Elizabeth Snider (1870–1953), the daughter of William Patterson "Pat" Snider and Zipporah Harless.

Price and Otey castrated the colts and pigs.

8. Three cents a pound.

9. Robert Masquel Patterson's father.

10. James Otey "Jim" Hoge and Alice Dunbar Hoge (1901–1930) were the two youngest children of John Hampton Hoge and Louisa Virginia Otey. Alice Hoge married Norman Drysdale Gillet (1896–1986), in 1924, and had one child, Louisa Kent Otey (Gillet) Dekker (b. 1925), who currently lives in Blacksburg with her hus-

**Saturday, February 6** Too frozen to plow. Hauled Manure.<sup>11</sup> Jim Hoge rode Gyp (pony) to Charlie McDonald's.<sup>12</sup> Alice rode for mail & lost a letter. We found it. Work is going on nicely although I have not a hand in the Farm house.

**Sunday, February 7** Up early and looked after stock and Julia, Alice, Jim, and I started to church in Blacksburg. When we got on hill, we found three young lambs, and the Snow was falling so fast we turned back and got up the sheep. Lambs (11).

**Monday, February 8** Fine day, snow going fast. Eggs 15c.<sup>13</sup> Three new lambs. Julia planted 80 strawberry plants & renewed the asparagus bed. Jim and Alice here. Lulu sick, scarlet fever. Classes, etc. at school to close for a week.

**Tuesday, February 9** Six lambs today. Cold, snowy rain, but it stopped by night. Eggs 15c. Picked out 11 bushels of Irish potatoes. Sold 6 bushels before at 75c. Lambs (20).

**Wednesday, February 10** Windy and cool. Julia did not go to town to church supper as it was so rough. Men only fed & looked after stock. Jim & Alice played indoors most of the day. I bought 3 willow Baskets from a Negro man. Lambs (22).

**Thursday, February 11** Heard the Cowans have refused \$200 an acre for farm. Sheep ate sliced Irish potatoes. Cows gave 12 gallons milk at night — 15 cows, 4 are [    ]. Two cows feed 3 heifer calves.

**Friday, February 12** I took milk to town. Jim Hoge went and came back. I remained in town with Butterfly for Dr. Spencer<sup>14</sup> to see. Old Mr. Patterson is no better. I paid for wagon. Got home about 6 PM. Lambs (24).

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band Henry J. Dekker (b. 1920), a former rector of the Virginia Tech board of visitors and recipient of the William H. Ruffner Award, the university's highest honor. James O. Hoge married Marian Amelia Barrett (1904 –1984), in 1926, and had one child, the editor of this article. Otey left his home and the land surrounding it to James O. Hoge and the rest of his farm, in five equal shares, to his other four surviving Hoge nieces and nephews and his great-niece Louisa Gillet. Jim Hoge bought those five shares in 1944, two years after Otey's death.

11. Manure is routinely hauled away from both cattle barns and horse stables, where it accumulates, gets in the way, and attracts flies. Usually the manure is then spread over hay fields, grain fields, or pasture land, where it acts as a fertilizer.
12. Charles Black McDonald (1860 –1934) was the son of Floyd Fechtig McDonald and Jane Black. He married Katherine Lelia "Kate" McDonald (b. 1869).
13. Otey means eggs were selling for 15 cents a dozen.
14. Dr. John Spencer, originally of Ontario, Canada, an assistant professor of veterinary medicine and state veterinarian at V.P.I. since 1900.

**Saturday, February 13** Butterfly's medicine that Dr. Spencer gave her seems to do her good. We finished hauling all lumber from the saw mill place in woods. Has been a beautiful warm day. All got Valentines in mail. Lambs (26).

**Sunday, February 14** Rainy. Did not go to church. Both Julia and I feel badly. Hen hatched [     ]. Will try & raise them in house. Began to weigh & test Beauty's milk. Lambs (32).

**Monday, February 15** [Mr. Otey went to Roanoke on a private car with old Mr. Patterson's remains and expected to meet Rev. Mr. Kirkus in Roanoke. Mr. Kirkus did not come.]<sup>15</sup>

**Tuesday, February 16** [Mr. Otey still gone. I sat up until 12 PM expecting him. Hampton<sup>16</sup> brought down old cow Liz & took Jim Price's cow for his mother & old Keister to butcher. It weighed 928 lbs. at 3c. Little Jim Hoge rode Gyp home. Lambs (38).]

**Wednesday, February 17** [Lost a fine ewe — been on frozen wheat & one ear of corn a day. Have lamb turned in flock. Jim Otey returned from Roanoke. Got a fine bargain in a suit and overcoat. Gave me a fountain pen. Jim and Dan Hoge<sup>17</sup> came out with him. Lambs (39).]

**Thursday, February 18** [Another fat sheep dead from wheat field, left a fine lamb. Sheep dead. Had  $62 - 4 = 58$ . Still frozen. Sowing grass seed. Hauling hay to cow barn. Set two hens.<sup>18</sup> Got 38 eggs today. Hattie Wall came down. We started to clean up in the garden. Jim Otey fencing & plowing.]

**Friday, February 19** [Raining. Cut down big oak tree above bridge and burned a lot of brush on that hill. Mr. Hale came in on a fine horse. Ione<sup>19</sup> came to stay till Monday.]

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15. Julia Otey wrote the entries for February 15– February 22. Therefore, I place each of those entries in square brackets.

16. John Hampton "Rusty" Hoge, Jr., the eldest son of the John Hampton Hoges. He married Katherine Eva Estes (1903–1995) in 1927 and spent most of his life in Blacksburg, where he managed the Otey/Hoge coal mines (with brothers Dan and Jim), farmed, and speculated in real estate.

17. Daniel Howe Hoge was the John Hampton Hoges' fourth child. He married Cornelia Frances Womble (1897–1977) in 1917 and spent all his adult life in the Army, rising to the rank of colonel.

18. Normally all the eggs in all the nests in a henhouse are collected each day for sale or use. One "sets" a hen by putting approximately seven to ten eggs in her nest, thus, in most cases, providing sufficient incentive for her to sit on the eggs. If the eggs have been fertilized, chicks will hatch in twenty-one days.

19. Ione Cary, the daughter of Wiltshire and Emma Cary.

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**Saturday, February 20** [Mr. Otey in town. Lulu sick, so spent the day. Harve Snider driving loads of rotten rails back & forth. Dan & Alice went up in milk wagon. Ione Cary with me.]

**Sunday, February 21** [Mr. Otey in town. Five days of this week he has been away. Lulu has rheumatism. Dan went home on Saturday. Jim Otey was to stay if Lulu needed him. I miss him so. He spent the night in town as Lulu is no better.]

**Monday, February 22** [Mr. Otey got home to dinner, but is going back. Lulu nervous. I took Ione Cary back to Forks. She had been with us since Friday. She is a quick teacher. Harve still driving loads of old rails.]

**Tuesday, February 23** Mardi Gras. Julia & I drove up to Blacksburg. Found Lulu better. Julia remained with Lulu and I came home. It was a rainy day. Not much work on farm. I miss my sweet wife so much and I will go after her soon. In house all alone tonight.

**Wednesday, February 24** Ash Wednesday. Raining yet. Three new lambs this AM. I read book "The Voice of the People." Then rode to Forks. Took old Mr. Mike Price some bread & meat & Apples. Old Mrs. Andy Surface<sup>20</sup> was buried there today. David Cloyd, Jr. wanted us to go home with him.<sup>21</sup>

**Thursday, February 25** Cold, windy & snow. I will go to Town but do not expect Julia to come in this weather. Yes she did come. It was a cold, windy drive. Lulu better. Charlie Walker spent the night with us. I bought some patten hame<sup>22</sup> buckles from him.

**Friday, February 26** Bright & cool, plows going. 3 men cleaning hillside above bridge. 46 lambs. Cook Mrs. Price gone on a day visit to Newport.

**Saturday, February 27** Bright day. Jim Long<sup>23</sup> & P. P. Price fixed Plank fence between gate & Bridge. Plowed around land on top of hill.

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20. The daughter of Christian B. Price and Hannah Kipps, Cyrena (Price) Surface (1824–1909) was the second wife of Andrew J. Surface (b. 1816), the son of Adam Surface and Agnes Price, whom he married in 1861.

21. The son of David McNutt Cloyd and Mary Buford Langhorne and a member of the V.P.I. class of 1904, David McNutt Cloyd, Jr. (1883–1964) and his wife Manie (Guthrie) Cloyd (1884–1971) were living at Riverside, their farm west of Price's Fork, just beyond the Cowan estate and about five miles from Walnut Spring. (Riverside was originally part of Gen. Gordon Cloyd's extensive holdings in Buchanan's Bottom.)

22. A hame is either of the two rigid pieces along the side of a horse's collar to which the traces are attached.

Telegraphed Mr. Coyner to send man on. Julia & I put sheep in rye on the hill.

**Sunday, February 28** I drove to church in town. Spent day and expected to meet a farm hand at the train at 7:30 PM. But got a phone message from Mr. Coyner that the hand would not arrive until tomorrow PM. Cool & some snow in air. Alex and I went all over his farm.<sup>24</sup> Lulu not so well today.

**Monday, March 1** Men cutting posts & got hay in. P. P. Price fixed up fence up the draft.<sup>25</sup> I drove in to town & met the Two men, Alex Ramsey & Jim Poston, an Irishman and a Scotsman. Both will work for me until I can get a place for one. We got home about 9 PM. Beautiful moonlight night.

**Tuesday, March 2** Plows going. P. P. Price got a load of hay. New men not working. They walked to Town, back to Supper. Had manure put on garden. A clear day. Had stables cleaned out and wrote to Mary Cowan. The new men talk bright and amuse us very much.

**Wednesday, March 3** We got the milk off and the rain commenced just as the new men went to work on the yard fence. They picked out seed potatoes.<sup>26</sup> I rode in to town on business at 3 PM. It was cold and windy. Got home at 6 PM. The new men did sing some songs for us tonight.

**Thursday, March 4** Very cold, snow & wind. Men feeding sheep. John Cromer, a young man about 21 or 22, to be buried at Fair View.<sup>27</sup> He died in

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23. James Richard "Jim Tucker" Long (1870–1952) was the son of William Henry Long and Rebecca Tolbert and the husband of Nannie Lou Surface (1873–1949), the daughter of Henry Raburn Surface and Virginia Ann Robinson. He owned a farm on the south side of Brush Mountain, north of present Old Creek Road, which adjoined the Helvey Place.

24. Originally encompassing the entire 212-acre tract that the Alex Blacks purchased from Arthur B. Dundas in 1896, the Black farm was located on both sides of present Harding Avenue in north Blacksburg. Kent Apperson (1892–1945) purchased the farm in the 1930s and developed an orchard there, which he called the Black Land Fruit Farm. The Apperson Park residential development is now located on that site.

25. The "draft" between North Hill and the graveyard field. Otey mentions this part of his farm a number of times, sometimes calling it the "draft," or (more often) the "draught," and sometimes referring to it as the "Beaver Dam."

26. Like seed corn, seed wheat, etc., seed potatoes are potatoes set aside for planting a new crop.

27. John Cromer (1887–1909) was the son of William Thomas "Tom" Cromer (1858–1922) and Virginia Ellen Shell (1861–1949). Fair View is now the New Mt. Zion Lutheran Church cemetery, located on the corner of present Mt. Zion and Poverty Creek Roads, in the Sunnyside community.

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Roanoke City after an operation. Taft is to be inaugurated today.<sup>28</sup>

**Friday, March 5** Cold, bright day. Ramsey went with milk wagon and brought their trunks. He & Poston drove post holes for yard fence. Harve plowed. Julia and I drove up to her church<sup>29</sup> and a play. We enjoyed both and spent the night with Lou & Liz.

**Saturday, March 6** Turning a hard wet snow. We drove home and the sheep & lambs had not been put up. I took men & put them in the shed. Too bad for work on farm. Capt. John T. Howe<sup>30</sup> was buried in Radford today.

**Sunday, March 7** We did not go to church, as roads are so muddy. I wrote Mamie Patterson a long letter. Julia gave new men dinner. She & I took a walk and put sheep back in the hill field. Warmer & bright this afternoon. We are all well and happy. Lambs (50).

**Monday, March 8** Men worked Plowing 1/2.<sup>31</sup> Rained in afternoon. Julia sick in bed all day. I had post holes dug for Potato Patch.

**Tuesday, March 9** Two men put hay in Barn, one digging post holes. I trimmed apple trees, smoked meat, and made potato patch larger.

**Wednesday, March 10** Plowing. James B. Price & I dehorned a lot of young cattle.<sup>32</sup> Some for him and some for me. Belle & George (horses) ran off from John Harkness at Price's Fork but did not break the wagon.

**Thursday, March 11** Mr. Kessinger & Testerman's Store<sup>33</sup> was burned at Price's Fork last night. Julia & I drove to Blacksburg. Cool & bright. Finished plowing Sod today. The men are putting in posts & manuring the garden, and Julia is mating the chickens.

28. On March 4, 1909, William Howard Taft (1857–1930) became the twenty-seventh President of the United States, beginning his one term in office, from 1909 until 1913.

29. An Episcopalian, Julia Otey usually attended Christ Episcopal Church in Blacksburg on Sunday mornings. Jim Otey sometimes accompanied her there, but, more often than not, attended the Blacksburg Baptist Church, where he was a deacon.

30. John Thomas Howe (1842–1909), a captain in the Confederate army during the Civil War and a cousin of the Hoges. He was wounded and captured at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, and spent eighteen months at Johnson's Island Prison in Ohio. In 1866 Howe married Sallie Lewis DeJarnette (1848–1933).

31. Otey means the men plowed half the day.

32. In Otey's day both beef and dairy cattle were dehorned (typically with a dehorning saw) to prevent horn injuries. Today most beef cattle are polled (hornless), but most dairy cattle still have to be dehorned.

33. Once owned by James Bane Price and leased to Kessinger and Testerman, the store that burned was located in Price's Fork on a site adjacent to that presently occupied by Snuffy's General Store.

**Friday, March 12** Got 2 hens. Nine chicks hatched. We mated 2 hens to see how they will turn out. Men plowed for oats & cut posts & dug holes. John Harkness & Julia began to clean yard. Sheep (57). Lambs (54).

**Saturday, March 13** Rained in the AM. Men dug post holes on bridge hill. Sue & Vick cows came in with two bull calves. Kent Buford<sup>34</sup> came to visit.

**Sunday, March 14** Cool & windy. Kent Buford, Julia & myself rode horseback to Aunt Margie's. Kent stopped with Jim & Maud.<sup>35</sup> We found Mary Cowan very sick. Cousin Liz Adams is there on a visit. Came home late. Stopped a few minutes with Jim & Maud.

**Monday, March 15** Very cool. Two plows in oat field. The two new men & I put wire fence between orchard and yard. I found another sheep dead. Had a time with young Ewe & lamb. Got a mail bag full of mail today. Uncle Calvin came and played his graphophone.<sup>36</sup>

**Tuesday, March 16** Alex Ramsey & Jim Poston finished digging holes in upper field. Put in posts around Potato patch. Harve and Hub are plowing oat land. I told the new men I did not need them any longer.

**Wednesday, March 17** The new men left today for Richmond. I rode to Vicker & took train for Dublin & to Kent Buford's. Got a Mr. McDaniel for farm hand. Visited all the Bufords and spent night with Frank Bell. Enjoyed it all very much.

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34. Paschal Kent Buford (b. 1874), the son of Ike and Sallie Buford.

35. In 1909 Maj. Cowan, his wife Margie, and their unmarried daughter Mary lived in the old Kent/Cowan homeplace, and Jim Cowan, his wife, and children lived in a two-story white clapboard house (actually a log house underneath), east of the homeplace, on Tom's Creek, not far from where it empties into the New River. Located near Maj. Kent's old grist mill, which Maj. Cowan restored, that house had formerly served as the miller's residence. (Kent's Mill, later known as Cowan's Mill, is thought to have been the oldest mill in Montgomery County.)

In December 1915, the two Cowan households traded places. The senior Cowans and Mary at that time moved into the clapboard "Cowan House," and the Jim Cowans moved into the homeplace. Maj. Cowan, however, kept a room in his old home and spent much of his time there for the remainder of his life. After Maj. Cowan, Margie, and Mary died, the John Putnam Adams family moved into Cowan House. Subsequently, the house was occupied by their descendants until 1986, when Virginia Tech acquired it, along with the surrounding 1,750 acres, which included both the Adams property (Upper Kentland Farm) and all the rest of the former Kent/Cowan estate. The house burned down a few years later.

36. An early type of phonograph.

**Thursday, March 18** Frank Bell, Francis<sup>37</sup> & I took the train for Radford. We took dinner at Hotel,<sup>38</sup> and were at the horse sale all afternoon. Mary Cowan was on train for Richmond when I got on at 5:30 PM. Jim Bell came to Blacksburg. I reached home at 7:30 PM from Vicker riding Russet.<sup>39</sup>

**Friday, March 19** Julia & I drove up to Dr. Black's to see Lucy, Bessie & Nellie Bell.<sup>40</sup> Mary Lou was having a tea so we remained. We were at Charlie Black's that evening. We spent the night with Lulu and took breakfast at Lizzie & Alex's. We enjoyed seeing the kin folks.

**Saturday, March 20** Lizzie & Lulu left for a week in Roanoke. We drove home, Alice Hoge with us. Were very busy as we expected Mary Lou & Bessie to come spend the night on their way back from a visit to Aunt Margie. They did not come.

**Sunday, March 21** Raining & snowing. I rode in on Russet to hear Mr. McCrea from China preach. Enjoyed his talk very much & got home for dinner. Julia & Alice indoors as the Snow is falling. Julia is reading a book on India.

**Monday, March 22** Alice has mumps. Julia has a headache. I rode to Price's Fork. Paid Mr. Kessinger and Testerman their store account in full to date. Two more young lambs.

**Tuesday, March 23** I rode to Charlie McDonald's to see if he had seed oats; did not have any. Got in a lot of bran & chop for cows. I am feeding 6 young calves, 3 heifers, 3 bulls. Cows are doing well.

**Wednesday, March 24** Sent milk to creamery<sup>41</sup> by Harve Snider

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37. The fourth child of Frank and Nellie Bell, Francis Bell, Jr. (1894–1963) married Stella Hogan Currie (1896–1969) in 1918. Before "old" Francis Bell died in 1898, Otey sometimes referred to Frank Bell as "Frank Bell, Jr.," but after that time he always called that Frank "Frank Bell" or "Frank Bell, Sr." and his son "Francis" or "Frank Bell, Jr."

38. Possibly Otey and the Bells dined at Delp's Hotel on First Street, about two blocks from the old 1889 toll bridge across the New River. Or they could have eaten at either the Dixie Hotel or the Alleghany Hotel, among others.

39. Before he owned an automobile, Otey often rode horseback or drove his buggy to Vicker, left his horse or horse and buggy there, took the train, then came home horseback or in his buggy after he returned to the depot.

40. "Lucy" is Lucy Gaines (Bentley) Hart, "Bessie" is Elizabeth (Arbuthnot) Bell, and "Nellie" is Ellen Gordon (Kent) Bell.

41. Each morning Otey and his farmhands milked the cows, ran the milk through a separator (a device that separated milk and cream), and, when school was in session, drove the milk and cream to the V.P.I. creamery in the basement of Price Hall. From September through May — until 1914, when he sold most of his dairy herd — V.P.I. got milk and cream from Otey on a daily basis.

and got a ton of fertilizer for oats. The Harrows are almost over oat field. John Harkness is cleaning the yard. One turkey hen missing this evening.

**Thursday, March 25** Cold & windy and blowing snow all day. Did very little but feed & milk. Found turkey at Mr. Wall's. Had a good mail and enjoyed reading. Julia & Alice both up and very frisky. Cold tonight.

**Friday, March 26** Alice's mumps came out on left side and she is right sick with it. Hub putting in posts around Potato patch.

**Saturday, March 27** I rode down to Jim Cowan's to see if he had any good oats for seed. He & family were on a visit to Frank Bell. I got back early and nursed Alice while Julia slept.

**Sunday, March 28** Cold & wet. We did not go to church. Alice much better. But has to stay indoors.

**Monday, March 29** Julia & I, with Pet Price & Harve, put in the concrete block for separator and washed up the new separator. Had some logs taken to mill for gate slats.

**Tuesday, March 30** Five hens. Seventeen turkey eggs. Set 2 hens on brown leghorn eggs, 2 on turkey eggs, and one on odd eggs.<sup>42</sup> I fixed the slides on barn doors.

**Wednesday, March 31** I took Alice Hoge to Blacksburg and got oats, 20 bu., from Clait Linkous. Tested two cows. The wind is cold today. Hands cleaned up the hay lot in front field & fixed fences.

**Saturday, April 3** Paid Mr. Smith \$3.00 for two pea hens.<sup>43</sup> Snowing & blustery day. Milk rate 4.03%. I can't imagine this wrong.<sup>44</sup>

**Sunday, April 4** We drove to church. Bishop Tucker<sup>45</sup> preached.

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42. Jim and Julia Otey frequently set turkeys as well as chickens, sometimes collecting turkey eggs from disparate (and often inconvenient) locations to put them together under a turkey, or sometimes a chicken, in a nest (at times the turkey's own nest, but more typically not). Raised exclusively for meat, turkeys were not confined, as were chickens, so they made their nests and laid their eggs wherever they chose. But turkey eggs, although neither sold nor consumed, were, of course, vital to the Oteys' poultry operation, so they monitored their turkeys closely, tracking them to their nests, keeping tabs on their eggs, and encouraging them to set.

43. The female or hen of the peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*).

44. Otey means that the butterfat content of his milk measured 4½%, a percentage so high that he wonders if the calculation is correct. The standard butterfat content for whole milk is 3½%; dairy farmers are paid more for milk with a higher percentage of butterfat.

45. The Rt. Rev. Beverley D. Tucker, Episcopal Bishop of Southern Virginia. Bishop Tucker delivered the baccalaureate sermon at V.P.I. on June 2, 1907.

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Julia took dinner at Prof. Davidson's.<sup>46</sup> Jim Cowan was in town so he & I took dinner at Liz & Lou's. He came back to our gate with us, then went on home.

**Monday, April 5** I sowed orchard grass on field back of Mrs. Hugh Price's. Mr. Henry Barnett<sup>47</sup> came to see me. Made Garden today. Put up new separator and it runs steady & true. Had new Gate made.

**Tuesday, April 6** Anniversary of our marriage of 1904. We are both well & happy. Planted a big Potato patch back of barn. Julia cleaned the yard with three children. The weather is fine for gardening.

**Wednesday, April 7** Started disking corn field. Hub Snider not here. I fixed calf trough, then rode to Forks & phoned Dr. Spencer about Belle horse. It is windy and dry today.

**Thursday, April 8** I sold J. B. Price 15 bushels of corn at 75c and Seymour Price<sup>48</sup> 2 bushels of oats at 60c. Sold Sheridan Price<sup>49</sup> clover seed, 12 1/2c per lb. Sold Sam Oliver clover seed. Got 25 bushels of coal from Graham's bank in Poverty.<sup>50</sup> Set white turkey on 18 eggs.

**Friday, April 9** I took milk and cream to creamery and attended to lots of business. Jim Evans asked me about getting a road through my

46. Robert James Davidson (1862–1915) was a professor of chemistry and later dean of the scientific department at V.P.I. He married Anna McBryde (1868–1948), the daughter of John McLaren McBryde (1841–1923), who was V.P.I. president from 1891 until 1907, and Cora Bolton (1863–1920).

47. Henry C. Barnett (d. 1911) from the Barnett farm in the Horseshoe of the New River.

48. The son of Hughey Price and Mary Henrietta Stanger, Gilbert Seymour "Sey" Price (1874–1956) married Louisa Katherine "Kate" Saville (1890–1988), the daughter of Walter H. Saville and Henrietta J. "Ett" Cromer, owned a general store (later "Nutter's Store") on Tom's Creek, hauled and sold coal, and operated a farm adjacent to the southwest end of Walnut Spring. His house was located on a hill immediately south of and overlooking Tom's Creek.

49. Sheridan W. Price (1866–1930), the son of Enos Elias Price and Sarah Elizabeth Cromer. Sheridan Price inherited his parents' homeplace on present Old Creek Road, worked as a store clerk for Seymour Price, later operated his own general store on present Old Creek Road, and owned an interest in both the Brush Mountain millstone quarry and several local coal mines.

50. Otey refers to coal mined in Poverty Hollow, northwest of Sunnyside, by Hubert Bryant Graham (1888–1954), a Brush Mountain coal miner who married Minnie Mae Cooper (1895–1976). The Hubert Grahams were the parents of William Thomas "Tom" Graham (1911–1997), who owned the property at the west end of Walnut Spring now owned by his son William Hubert "Billy" Graham.

farm. Dr. Quick<sup>51</sup> drove into town with me. Mrs. Charles McDonald & her two Boys<sup>52</sup> here tonight with Jim Hoge.

**Saturday, April 10** Sold Bob Olinger<sup>53</sup> 15 bu. of corn. Hay & corn to Martin Price.<sup>54</sup> Hay to Bob Reid. Alex, Liz, Lulu & family, Mrs. Mary Irby Black and Mrs. C. W. Black, Jim & Maud Cowan, Mrs. C. B. McDonald & children all took dinner here today.

**Sunday, April 11** We drove Mrs. McDonald by her home & went on to Church in Town. Francis & Gordon Bell<sup>55</sup> are with us tonight. It is cold but Clear & Bright.

**Monday, April 12** Put hay stack in cow barn. Cleaned meadows. Sarah Bell cow<sup>56</sup> had a bull calf. Gordon & Francis Bell went home today. Julia had a bad headache all day. Easter cards from Mamie & Zelle. Good mail.

**Tuesday, April 13** Men cleaned meadows until 12 o'clock when rain stopped them. I fixed milk wagon and did odd jobs. I am so disappointed that I did not go to the V.P.I. German tonight.<sup>57</sup> Little boys caught a lot of nice fish and we enjoyed them at supper. Poky has a calf.

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51. Dr. Walter Jacob Quick, who in 1907 became dean of the agriculture department at V.P.I.

52. James Richard McDonald (1901–1993) and Charles Gordon McDonald (1908–1972). Richard McDonald married Ruth Anna Reynolds (1895–1983) and lived much of his adult life at Green Hill, the original McDonald homeplace, built by Joseph McDonald in the mid-eighteenth century and now owned and occupied by the Richard McDonalds' son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James Lewyn McDonald. Gordon McDonald married Mary Farmer and inherited his parents' home between Green Hill and what is now Glade Road.

53. Robert L. "Bob" Olinger (b. 1868) was the son of Christian Phillip Olinger and Susannah Elizabeth Price. He married first Mary Gordon Dudley (b. 1876) and second Alice Hands, operated a general store in Price's Fork, and sold Brush Mountain millstones for grist mills.

54. Taylor Martin Price (b. 1875) was the son of Jonas Henry Price and Louisa Ann Snider. His family owned a farm and mountain land in the Sunnyside community, on present Old Creek and Mt. Zion Roads.

55. Gordon Cloyd Bell (1892–1963) was the Frank Bells' second child. He married first Mary Withrow (1892–1938), in 1918, and second Lucy King (1901–1990), in 1942.

56. Otey frequently named cows and horses for people, often family members and neighbors.

57. According to Henry Temple, the V.P.I. German Club's 1909 Easter German was actually held in German Hall on the evening of April 12 (see Henry Downing Temple, *The Bugle's Echo: A Chronology of Cadet Life at the Military College at Blacksburg, Virginia, The Virginia Polytechnic Institute*, 6 vols. [Blacksburg, Va.: The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, Inc., 1996–2001], 3: 1304). John Porter Jones ('09), of Culpeper, and Isabelle Ruther-



*Otey, Elizabeth Kent Otey Black, Louisa Virginia Otey Hoge's children, and Mary Gordon Otey Patterson's children in the family carriage, 1904. Otey rode to White Sulphur Springs in this carriage in 1866, when he was four years old.*

**Wednesday, April 14** Sold Link Sheppard<sup>58</sup> a load of hay for \$6.00. Good rain last night. Creek full. Have lost my pocketbook. I rode to Blacksburg, looked in church for pocketbook, but could not find it. Got home about 6 PM. Separated milk and fed calves.

**Thursday, April 15** Sold corn to P. P. Price & 6 bushels to Martin Price @ 75c. Put hay in barn. Cleaned up stack lots<sup>59</sup> off of meadows.

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ford led the opening figure, as cadets and their dates danced to the music of Blackburn's Orchestra. A dance club founded in 1893 and still active today, the German Club (together with its rival, the Cotillion Club) provided much of the social life for V.P.I. students during the school's early years. Although Otey usually "danced German" (i.e., attended the German Club dances), he was in fact an honorary member of both the German Club and the Cotillion Club.

58. Taylor Lincoln "Linc" Shepherd (1872–1925) was the son of Phillip Christian Shepherd, Jr. and Mary Catherine Cromer.

59. Stack lots or stack yards were fenced-off areas where haystacks and wheatstacks were kept.

I got Turkey hen, our own stock, & sheep from Mr. Wall's. Borrowed Wall's hog for a while.<sup>60</sup> Put sheep in mountain field. Sold Jack Long<sup>61</sup> 1½ bu. of corn.

**Friday, April 16** Sold 6 bu. of corn to Harvey Olinger.<sup>62</sup> Disking corn land, finished it. I rode to Forks. Looked over farm. Julia found her turkey nest on top of Walls' hay stack. Boys caught more fish. Milking 18 cows & feeding 10 calves. Warm & bright today.

**Saturday, April 17** Warm & bright. Harrows going and I am pushing work on the corn land. I cut up old apple tree in Garden. Milked & separated about 10 gallons of milk. John Harkness & Mrs. John Price do the milking.

**Sunday, April 18** We attended the Baptist church in Blacksburg. Took dinner with Alex & Lizzie and spent the day. Had a pleasant drive home after a shower that freshened up everything. Got home around 6 PM.

**Monday, April 19** Harrows going. Guy Shealor,<sup>63</sup> John Harkness, & I put up wire fence in upper meadow & front field. A pretty day and got lots of work done. I put back our woods gate.

**Tuesday, April 20** Worked on wire fence until rain ran us in. I got so wet, had to change clothes. Read a story this afternoon. Sold Matt Price 7 bu. of corn. Cows coming up in milk.

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60. The Mr. Wall to whom Otey refers is possibly Pharis Wall, but more likely his son James Lee Wall (1864–1947), who, in 1910, inherited much of his father's farm and lived in the family home. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Wall, James Lee Wall's son- and daughter-in-law, presently live on Walnut Spring Road in Blacksburg, on part of the original Willow Springs Farm.

Otey undoubtedly borrowed Wall's boar to breed one or more of his sows.

61. The son of Sarah Long and a former slave named Burk, Jackson "Jack" Long (1870–1954) married Mary Jackson (1871–1948), Polly Jackson's daughter and Christina Kyle's niece. The parents of twelve children, Jack and Mary Long built a two-room log house near the Otey coal mines, but their neighbors ultimately forced them to leave. (Malissia Surface later used the house the Longs abandoned as a schoolhouse.) Subsequently, in 1912, Cloyd Otey gave the Longs a piece of land on Tom's Creek, where Jack Long built a larger log house he and his wife occupied the rest of their lives. Otey sometimes refers collectively to the Longs' male children, several of whom worked at Walnut Spring, as the "Jack Long boys."

62. Harvey Black "Harve" Olinger (1877–1967) was the son of the Christian P. Olingers. In 1913 he married Sarah Mae Fisher (1890–1963), the daughter of Radford P. "Rad" Fisher and Armintha Frances Price. Harve Olinger lived on top of "Sign Board Hill," adjacent to what is now Olinger Road, off present Brookfield Road, south of the Tom's Creek community.

63. Guy French Shealor (1891–1930) was the son of David Daniel Shealor (1857–1925) and Lewiza Charlotte Price (1862–1916). He married Carrie B. Graves (1897–1967).



*James Lee Wall and Dora Myrtle (Price) Wall. (Photograph courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Wall.)*

**Wednesday, April 21** Threatening rain. I drove to Vicker and took the train for Radford. Took dinner at Gov. Tyler's,<sup>64</sup> and he and I drove

64. The son of George Tyler and Eliza Hoge, James Hoge Tyler (1846–1925) was Governor of Virginia from 1898 until 1902. Reared by his grandparents, Gen. James Hoge (1783– 1861) and Eleanor (Howe) Hoge (1792–1856), Hoge Tyler was Julia (Tyler) Otey's half brother and John Hampton Hoge's first cousin. In 1868 he married Sue Montgomery Hammet (1845–1927), the daughter of Col. Edward Hammet and Clementine Venable Craig. Otey visited Tyler in Radford at his home "Halwick" (located at the end of Tyler Avenue, formerly Commerce Street), to which he retired after leaving the governor's mansion.

When Jim Otey and the former governor's sister became engaged, in 1903, Tyler remarked that he would not believe her married until he saw it with his own eyes. Apparently Julia had disappointed a number of suitors in the past, but her brother did indeed see her wed this time, when he gave her to Otey in marriage the following April. Tyler and Otey liked each other from first acquaintance, and they became good friends. On February 17, 1904, Tyler wrote to his sister about Otey and her impending nuptials, teasing her a bit but also firmly stamping her prospective bridegroom with his approval: "I saw Jim a few days ago in Roanoke.... I think you have made a good choice. Certainly none of your [other] beaux are comparable to him as a first-rate, high-minded, honorable & polished gentleman, & with your bossy & stimulating powers to direct & help things along, you will both do well."

Julia Otey was always inordinately proud of both her famous brother and

to Judge Cassell's<sup>65</sup> and bought seed corn. We drove to Depot and I took train at 5 PM. Got home at 8 PM. Deaf man called to see us.

**Thursday, April 22** I have 4 plows laying off the corn field. I put the cows in Mountain field. Salted sheep. Sold cow Alexis to Mr. L. D. Keadle of Radford. Hattie Wall milked a cow for me this evening. She is a splendid milker. John Harkness is sick.

**Friday, April 23** Rained hard last night. Too wet to plant corn. Sent Harve to Vicker for seed corn.<sup>66</sup> I fixed fences. Drove to town & brought Mary Bell & Frank Abbott<sup>67</sup> out here. Julia had a good supper. Frank sang.

**Saturday, April 24** All four of us drove to Jim Cowan's. They were not home. We got home about 2 PM. Enjoyed a good dinner. I took Frank Abbott to Town in the buggy. Mary Bell drove back with a Stewart. Jeff Wolf & family<sup>68</sup> are coming. I paid for my phone to be put in.

**Sunday, April 25** I did not go to church but had a quiet day's rest at home. Rather cool and we have a fire in our room.

**Monday, April 26** I had 12 men planting corn today in the graveyard.<sup>69</sup> We finished at 4 PM. then got old apple tree out of garden, then milked 19 cows and separated the milk. Got about 6 gal. of nice cream.

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their father. It must have pleased her greatly, then, when her cousin Alice M. Finch, in an April 10, 1907 letter, compared the two in language highly flattering to each. "I saw something of Cousin Hoge [Tyler] and family when they were in Richmond," she wrote. "He is like your father. The same genial, old fashioned Virginia gentleman — a type that, sadly, is fast dying out."

65. Previously an attorney in Pulaski County, George E. Cassell was a prominent judge in Radford, where he lived with his wife Kate. (In 1889, in the case of Hicks versus Commonwealth, Cassell and John Hampton Hoge argued for the defense before the Supreme Court of Virginia.)

66. Otey sent Harve Snider to the Vicker Mill, located not far from the Vicker's Switch railroad depot.

67. Mary Bell is Mary Peck Bell.

Francis Harris "Frank" Abbott was an associate professor of rhetoric at V.P.I. An accomplished and active musician, Abbott directed the V.P.I. Glee Club and was in demand wherever theatricals or other entertainments were gotten up, either in town or on campus. In 1910 he left Blacksburg to teach at a boys' preparatory school just outside Baltimore.

68. Jeff Wolf, his wife Nannie, and his brother Roy, who were apparently not natives of Montgomery County, came to Walnut Spring to work for Otey in April 1909. The Wolfs left Otey's employ in less than a year, and they disappear entirely from the diaries until November 1926, when Nannie Wolf reappears in Blacksburg.

69. The graveyard field.

**Tuesday, April 27** Two hens on turkey eggs to hatch. 17 eggs, hatched 15, raised 13. Plowed Nannie Wolf's garden. Had two men & team<sup>70</sup> all day putting manure on corn patch in garden. Jeff Wolf & Roy came and worked on their house all day.

**Wednesday, April 28** Planted government corn<sup>71</sup> in garden. Harve & Hub plowing new ground. Roy Wolf took milk to Town and brought back roofing, a sack of salt, and some of their things. Put sheep in field back of orchard. Guy Shealor & I staked the wheat field fence. Julia went fishing.

**Thursday, April 29** I had fence fixed around corn field. Jeff & Nannie Wolf came late this afternoon. I bought 1/2 nice lamb from James B. Price. Had fish for supper.

**Friday, April 30** Raining a beautiful summer rain. Roy Wolf let George horse break shaves<sup>72</sup> to the milk wagon. Nannie Wolf is getting fixed in her house. The creek is high.

**Saturday, May 1** Rained hard this AM and has turned very cool. Jeff & Roy Wolf took both farm wagons to town after their household goods. Dan Hoge brought the white cow home.

**Sunday, May 2** Bright & cool. Roads are muddy. We did not drive in to church. Dan is with us today. Beverley Lamb, a Mr. Berkeley, and a Mr. Anderson called. They are students at V.P.I.<sup>73</sup> Milking done quietly this afternoon.

**Monday, May 3** John Harkness left today for Philadelphia. Dan Hoge took his Mamma's cow home. Jeff Wolf and Harve Snider put roofing on Jeff's home and also put up a flue. Julia & I called in town and attended to a lot of business. She got a Hat.

**Tuesday, May 4** Up early and milking over soon. Jeff & Nannie gone to housekeeping today. Roy & I put three loads of wood at their house. One at Mrs. Price's. John Price cut a big load of stove wood at my house. Rained some this PM. Not as cool as has been.

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70. A team of horses, two (or sometimes more) horses harnessed to the same vehicle, plow, etc.

71. Probably an improved corn variety distributed to farmers by the federal government.

72. Shafts that attached to the wagon on either side and also to the horse's collar. These slender, shaped pieces of wood served as a brake to hold the wagon back from the horse when going downhill.

73. Frank Beverley Lamb was a member of the V.P.I. class of 1910.

Mr. Berkeley was either John Campbell Berkeley or George Iverson Berkeley, both members of the class of 1911.

There were three Andersons at V.P.I. in the spring of 1909, Joseph Mason Anderson ('09), Edward Randolph Anderson ('12), and Frank McDaniel Anderson ('12).

**Wednesday, May 5** Found sheep dead with a lamb about one month old. I salted all stock. Found my pocketbook and all in it just as I lost it. \$25.00 was in it. I planted 8 hills of cantaloupes in potato patch on branch back of Barn.

**Thursday, May 6** 8 turkey eggs, hatched 14, raised 9. White turkey hen due to hatch. Commenced scraping walls in Dining room. Dr. & Mrs. Hudnall<sup>74</sup> called. I rode to Forks and worked the garden. Harve planted corn in field near road at Sheppards'. Hatched 14 turkeys.

**Friday, May 7** I had Pumpkin seed planted in new ground, fixed the pig pen, put up curtains, and got hogs in out of the rain. It did not rain much. Jeff & Nannie making garden.

**Saturday, May 8** Old Granny Wall cow had a heifer calf. We all worked hard on dining room walls and painted the washboard.<sup>75</sup> Cows falling off some in milk. Sold Martin Price \$9.00 in meat. The men are working hard to get new ground corn in.

**Sunday, May 9** Roy & I rode horseback to church in Town. Mr. Jackson<sup>76</sup> preached such a good Sermon. I spent the day at Alex's and rode home after 5 PM. It is a beautiful day. Julia has watched her young Turkeys all day.

**Monday, May 10** Rained hard last night and we lost 4 gals. of nice cream by water overflowing in spring house.<sup>77</sup> Put matting down in dining room, painted and nearly finished walls. Lost another old Sheep today. Tried to feed young calf.

**Tuesday, May 11** After doing lots of odd jobs around house, I got into the Trap, drove to Christiansburg and left Trap to be painted. Bought

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74. Richard Henry Hudnall was a professor of English at V.P.I., where he joined the faculty in 1898. Dr. Hudnall held a master's degree from the University of Virginia and a doctorate from the University of Leipzig and had previously taught at Mississippi College (now the University of Mississippi).

75. The baseboard.

76. Dr. Eugene B. Jackson was a chaplain at V.P.I. and pastor of the Blacksburg Baptist Church from 1905 until 1912. In 1916 Jackson became a trustee of the University of Richmond, a position he held for thirty-five years. At one time he was also chaplain of the United States Senate.

77. To prevent spoiling, the Oteys kept the milk and cream they reserved for their own use in the springhouse. Located northwest of the house and directly west of the icehouse, the springhouse straddled a branch that flows south from its point of origin about seventy-five yards from the springhouse. Since the milk and cream were stored in crocks partially submerged in the branch, those crocks had to be moved to a concrete slab above the water during hard rains. Otherwise, the rising water would overflow the crocks and ruin the milk and cream.

new buggy. Drove home by 7 PM. Julia finished the dining room and had the back hall and kitchen whitewashed.

**Wednesday, May 12** Jeff Wolf and I finished wire fence & put on gate to his yard. Julia had kitchen whitewashed & back pantry cleaned & paper taken off wall. Pulled the feathers out of two Peacock tails. Nannie set 3 hens. I looked over corn field.

**Thursday, May 13** I put a window pane in the dining room. Planted beans, corn, peas, cucumbers, butter beans, cushaw;<sup>78</sup> worked the ground well. I am very tired tonight. Harve has most of new ground planted. Julia had a lot of house cleaning done.

**Friday, May 14** I took milk to creamery, had Butterfly shod. Aunt Margie, Lizzie & Putnam Adams family came to visit us. Jeff Wolf is harrowing corn in graveyard field. Harve Snider finished planting corn in new ground.

**Saturday, May 15** I had plow run in corn field to stop it washing. Lizzie Black, Lulu Hoge & Dan, Liz,<sup>79</sup> & Jim came out and spent the day. We have had a happy, pleasant day. Dan & Jim stayed. Put, the boys, & I went fishing. I got thermal underwear today.

**Sunday, May 16** Aunt Margie drove to church with me in my new buggy. Putnam & family drove up in their carriage. Mr. Jackson preached and I got home about 1 PM. Julia's head is feeling better. Pretty day.

**Monday, May 17** The men sheared 54 sheep (Jeff Wolf & Staples Price). I sent Mr. Nelson<sup>80</sup> 4 old hams at 25c per lb. They weighed 58 lbs. He asked if I had more. I have them and they are going fast at 25c per lb.

**Tuesday, May 18** Sent wool to Town to William Lybrook.<sup>81</sup> Julia &

78. A variety of crookneck squash (*Cucurbita moschata*) of the gourd family.

79. Elizabeth Otey "Liz Otey" Hoge (1895–1980), the John Hampton Hoges' "middle" daughter. In 1920 she married Walter Stephenson Newman (1895–1978), of Woodstock, Virginia, who became the tenth president of V.P.I. in 1947, and held that position until 1962.

80. Originally from Newport, Kentucky, and a good friend of the Oteys, Rev. Robert B. Nelson was rector of Christ Episcopal Church from January 1, 1908, when he succeeded Rev. Dr. A.J. Nock, until 1919. In the early 1890s, Rev. Nelson was captain of the football team at the University of Virginia, where he also starred in baseball and track, and in 1908 he coached the V.P.I. track squad. According to the Virginia census, he was 38 years old in 1910.

81. William Murray Lybrook (1862–1925) owned a general store in Blacksburg, on Main Street, in the approximate location now occupied by the building that houses the Underground Pub. A longtime deacon of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, Lybrook married Ida Chapman, from Giles County. Their son William M. Lybrook,

I drove up to the play "As You Like It" on V.P.I. campus.<sup>82</sup> Gov. Tyler & Lily<sup>83</sup> came home with us. We all enjoyed the play. Julia had a good Supper.

**Wednesday, May 19** Jeff Wolf plowed corn & potatoes with the new cultivator I got from Anderson and Borden yesterday. Ex-Gov. J. Hoge Tyler & Lily left for home this afternoon. We enjoyed their visit. I worked hard in garden all evening.

**Thursday, May 20** Raining and we all got a lot of indoor work done. I looked up tools and put them in office. Julia has had a wet day with little chicks and Turkeys. Dan & Jim Hoge helped her some.

**Friday, May 21** Raining yet. Creek high but not over meadows. I worked indoors most all day. Roy took cream to town. We all took dinner with Nannie Wolf at 7 PM. It was a good dinner. She had the house so clean and nice looking. We came home about 9 PM. Roy was 17 today.

**Saturday, May 22** After getting the cream off to V.P.I., I put up a stove in the Separating house and Scrubbed and cleaned everything good. Cleaned the Separator with gasoline. Julia in bed all day.<sup>84</sup> Attended to chickens & Turkeys for her. Set out 100 Sweet potato plants.

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Jr. was a member of the V.P.I. class of 1918, though he actually graduated in 1921. In 1916 William Lybrook's brother John B. Lybrook, Jr., previously in the newspaper business in Washington, D.C., founded the *Home News*, an eight-page Blacksburg weekly. (Apparently John Lybrook, Jr. was also involved to some extent in William Lybrook's general store business, as was Samuel M. Lybrook, another brother.) John B. Lybrook, Sr. (1820–1892), Mayor of Blacksburg on three occasions, owned Lybrook Row, a single-storied, many-roomed frame building, which stood on the north side of Church Street, between Roanoke Street and the present site of Christ Episcopal Church. Also dubbed "Buzzards' Roost" and "Hell Row," Lybrook's building provided lodging for many V.P.I. students during the school's early days. William M. Lybrook's Cheap Cash Store stood at the end of Lybrook Row, facing Roanoke Street.

82. Brought to V.P.I. by the Civic Improvement League of Blacksburg, the Ben Greet Shakespearean Players performed *As You Like It* on the afternoon of May 18 and *The Taming of the Shrew* the same evening.

83. Named for her mother Eliza Hoge, Eliza "Lily" Tyler (b. 1882) was the James Hoge Tylers' youngest child. In 1915 she married Henry Harrison Wilson (1885-1933).

84. Julia Otey had a weak heart, as well as high blood pressure, and was often confined to her bed. She actually had a number of heart attacks, the last of which, in May 1921, proved fatal. All the same, though one makes allowances for her heart condition and her high blood pressure, Mrs. Otey appears to have been unwell more than one would expect. Perhaps her chronic indisposition owed something to the frailty almost expected of Victorian ladies. She worked hard when up and about, however, and was never shy about tackling farm and household chores of almost any description.

**Sunday, May 23** Bright pretty day. We did not drive in to church as it was very muddy. I got on Russet and started to church at Price's Fork but heard there was no preacher so came back. Julia gave Dan, Jim, & myself a good luncheon.

**Monday, May 24** Got in more coal from Poverty bank. Stocked peas and did other work in garden. Julia & I drove to Town. She attended a meeting of the D.C.<sup>85</sup> and I to business. Lizzie Black & the children drove part of the way home with us.

**Tuesday, May 25** Raining all day. We commenced fixing walls in front hall. Jim Price & I fixed up an old book case. Cows gave a lot of good milk. Bonnie took Hale's horse.<sup>86</sup> Turkeys and Ducks standing in rain. We had a good spring dinner, strawberries and fried chicken.

**Wednesday, May 26** Salted sheep & counted Lambs, 60. I went to see Jim Lee Wall to get him to take a Phone. He did not take it. I rode to Forks & attended to business. Hard rain this afternoon. I read a book while it rained.

**Saturday, May 29** I worked the garden, put up a screen door, and had fence fixed around corn field. We want to drive to Radford this afternoon. We left home at 3:30 PM & got to Gov. Tyler's for Supper at 7 PM. Big-tit had a heifer calf.

**Sunday, May 30** We are at Gov. Tyler's. Julia drove to Sunday school with the family. We all attended service at 8 PM. Enjoyed it. Rev. Erwin preached.<sup>87</sup> We all enjoyed talking on porch until bed time. They are a lovely family.

**Monday, May 31** We called at Judge Cassell's. Did some shopping, and drove to Mrs. Mc Ingles to dinner. John Ingles & wife were there.<sup>88</sup>

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85. Otey means the U. D. C. Julia Otey belonged to the Dr. Harvey Black Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

86. Bonnie was one of Otey's mares. When Otey says a mare "took" a horse, he means that he had the mare bred.

87. The Tylers attended the Central Presbyterian Church, later the Tyler Memorial Presbyterian Church, located near Halwick on what is now the Radford University campus. Rev. L.W. Irwin was minister there from 1897 until 1909.

88. "Mrs. Mc Ingles" (sometimes Otey calls her "Mrs. Mack Ingles") is Angeline (Harvey) Ingles (1856–1934), the widow of McClanahan Ingles (1842–1907). Mrs. McClanahan Ingles lived at Ingleside, the historic Ingles home now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ingles Jeffries.

John Ingles (1874–1947) was the eldest child of McClanahan and Angeline Ingles; his wife was the former Elizabeth "Betty" Robinson from Wythe County.

Two parties in two Automobiles stopped & spent the afternoon. They left at 5:30 PM for Graham's Forge 30 miles west of there.

**Tuesday, June 1** I drove to Aunt Margie Cowan's. Spent the day with them and got home about 6 PM. Found all going on well. Nannie and Jeff Wolf & Mrs. Price had taken good care of things. I found all my lambs, 60 in all. Dolly had a heifer calf today.

**Wednesday, June 2** I salted stock & counted sheep & lambs. Two men came and inspected my dairy.<sup>89</sup> Julia has Roy & Nannie cleaning up the spring house good fashion. Dan Hoge came out in milk wagon.

**Thursday, June 3** Raining all day long. I cut grass and weeds along path to spring house. Julia cleaned spring house and put stove outside.

**Friday, June 4** Jeff Wolf & Harve Snider put up fence around the Spring in graveyard field. I rode Russet to Town and had her shod all around. I took Supper at Otley<sup>90</sup> with Mamie and Mary Patterson and rode home by moonlight.

**Saturday, June 5** I moved sheep back in the field and thinned corn in the garden. Dr. Spencer came to see me. Put out more Tomato plants.

**Sunday, June 6** Julia, Dan & I drove to Church in Town. Took dinner with Lulu Hoge. Jim Cowan and his Pa were there too. We all drove up to Otley and spent the afternoon. We got home at 7 PM.

**Monday, June 7** I shipped 87 Lambs to William H. Trollinger.<sup>91</sup> Dan & Jim Hoge helped me take them to Price's Fork. Got over corn Second time and turned back on it. Worked in garden. It has been a beautiful day.

**Tuesday, June 8** Turkey in orchard due to hatch. Julia & I got off to Roanoke early. Had to wait for train at Vicker 1 1/2 hours. Were very hurried in the city and stopped by hail storm between Shawsville & Mont-

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89. The examination of dairies by state inspectors was quite new in 1909. Barns were inspected for cleanliness and dairy herds were tested for tuberculosis and other health risks.

90. Otley was the summer home Robert and Mamie Patterson built in Blacksburg, near the end of what is presently Washington Street. ("Otey" was originally "Otley"; the name changed some time after family members emigrated from England.) The Pattersons lived in Philadelphia from September through May, but Mamie Patterson and the children visited Blacksburg whenever they could and were always there during June, July, and August. Robert Patterson's position with the Pennsylvania Railway required him to be in Philadelphia most of the time, but he too came to Blacksburg for much of each summer.

91. William Hoge Trollinger (b. 1871) was the son of Henry C. Trollinger and Henrietta M. Miller. In 1892 he married Ann M. Price.

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gomery. Drove home in the rain & storm all the way from Vicker and got home at 8 3/4 PM. We enjoyed our supper.

**Wednesday, June 9** Turkey in the garden hatched 9. Rain made us do indoor work, window screens and so on. Killed a nice lamb. Julia walked up to Mr. Wall's. Dan & Jim missed her on way home.

**Thursday, June 10** Dan & Harve Snider went to Christiansburg to get the Trap, but it was not finished. Jim Hoge & Roy Wolf took cream to Town. Louise Hoge got home from school today.<sup>92</sup> Had several showers, too wet to work ground. Cut weeds & thinned corn. Screen door off back hall.

**Friday, June 11** We are plowing corn the second time. Julia & I called on McBrydes.<sup>93</sup> I attended the German<sup>94</sup> and we drove home after 12 o'clock at night. Lots of pretty girls at German.

**Saturday, June 12** Men thinned corn, then mowed yard and driveway. Dan & I put up some of the Hay late in evening. Mr. McConkley came to see about the Miller cows. My new hat Put ordered came.

**Sunday, June 13** We drove to hear Sermon at the college.<sup>95</sup> Took dinner at Dr. Spencer's. Stayed at Lulu & Lizzie's a while. Brought Dan Hoge and Robert Patterson<sup>96</sup> home with us. We got home around 7 PM.

**Monday, June 14** Men thinning corn. I sent Put his hat. I rode to Forks. Liked to have been caught in a hard rain. Julia & I drove to Ger-

92. The eldest of the six Hoge children, Louise Kent "Tick" Hoge (1891–1962) attended a school for the deaf and blind. Apparently a blow to the head suffered as a baby, when she fell to the floor from a four-poster bed at Walnut Spring, left her deaf. Her nickname was occasioned by her first word, "tick," apparently spoken in response to or imitation of the ticking sound made by the pendulum of a grandfather clock. In 1930 she married William E. V. Brogan (1892–1959).

93. A native of South Carolina, where he held the presidency of South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina), and often called "the father of V.P.I.," John M. McBryde was the fifth president of V.A.M.C. and was largely responsible for reorganizing that school and transforming it into V.P.I. After Dr. McBryde left the V.P.I. presidency, the McBrydes bought and moved into a large, two-story frame home, now known as the McBryde House, across Price's Fork Road from campus, just east of the present site of the Four Points by Sheraton.

94. The commencement Junior-Senior German, a dance given annually by the junior class to honor the graduating seniors.

95. Rev. Dr. Collins Denny of Vanderbilt University delivered the 1909 baccalaureate sermon.

96. Robert Masquel Patterson, Jr. (b. 1895) was the youngest of Robert and Mamie Patterson's children.

man at college.<sup>97</sup> She spent the rest of night at Lulu's. Hampton Hoge & I drove home, got to bed around 3 AM.

**Tuesday, June 15** Cow Margie has a heifer calf. Everybody on farm up early to get work done up and off to Sham Battle at the college.<sup>98</sup> Hampton, Dan & Robert Patterson with us. I met lots of old boys at the Alumni meetings. Big crowd out all day long.

**Wednesday, June 16** Finished thinning corn. Milked sheep again.<sup>99</sup> Had some manure hauled out, fed baby calf. Jeff & I washed Belle mare's head. Had ford log put back. Had gate fixed that Sam Jones<sup>100</sup> broke.

**Thursday, June 17** Jim Lee Wall's baby died last night<sup>101</sup> and was buried today at 4. I helped to dig the grave. Men plowing corn in new ground. Jeff made more window screens. Julia in bed all day. Rained.

**Friday, June 18** [I advised Jim earnestly to sow grass & clover when he puts in wheat to secure a straw, J.T.O.]<sup>102</sup> Plowed corn in garden. Salted all the stock. And I helped milk and the cream went up much in weight. Roy drove Butterfly in milk buggy with the cream.

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97. Commencing at 9:00 a.m., this was a Monday morning dance sponsored by the V.P.I. German Club.

98. For many years commencement ceremonies at V.P.I. included a sham battle, a mock military engagement staged by the cadet corps. Much appreciated by the people of Blacksburg and surrounding communities, sham battles, as Harry Temple describes them, always featured "the rattle of musketry" and "the roar of cannon," and often excited dogs and children running around the "battlefield" as well. The cadets used up more powder and supplies than usual during the 1909 sham battle, necessitating a petition to the board of visitors for an additional \$250 to cover costs (Temple, 2: 764, 1317).

99. Since Otey had recently sold his lambs, his ewes, no longer nursing, had udders swollen with milk. At such times Otey milked his sheep to relieve the pressure and reduce the edema.

100. Sam Jones was a notoriously obstreperous bull.

101. The baby was Jamie Lee Wall, who was born on February 3, 1909, and died on June 16 the same year.

102. Julia Otey wrote this sentence, which I place in square brackets, beside her husband's June 18 entry. Her advice to Otey to mix in grass (orchard grass) and clover when he sows winter wheat later in the summer, most likely in August, is sound on two counts. First, clover produces nitrogen, which would boost the wheat during the winter and spring and thus promote a better wheat crop the following June or July. And, second, orchard grass cures better than clover and would promote a hay crop more likely to dry quickly (thus, perhaps, avoiding a problem with mildew) the following August or September. A field sown in wheat, orchard grass, and clover would yield two separate crops, wheat in mid-summer and hay a couple of months thereafter. Furthermore, like other farmers, Otey fed straw as well as hay



*Otey, Hoge children, Alexander and Elizabeth Black, and others at the Blacks' house in Blacksburg, circa 1903. Beginning at the extreme left: unidentified woman; James Armistead Otey, sitting on the railing; Alice Dunbar Hoge, child on railing; nursemaid; John Hampton Hoge, Jr., standing in front of porch by the railing; James Otey Hoge, child on railing at right; unidentified girl and child on railing; Louise Kent Hoge, in front, standing by the fence; Liz Otey Hoge, standing behind Louise Kent Hoge; Elizabeth Kent Otey Black; Alexander Black.*

**Saturday, June 19** Sent cream today. Worked garden good. Had some raspberries. Harve & I put the millet in mountain field. I sold 2 year old colt (Bumblebee) to Bill Price<sup>103</sup> for \$150.00. I did not like to see her go.

**Sunday, June 20** Julia & I drove up to church in Blbg. and heard Mr. Jackson. Took dinner & spent rest of day at Alex Black's. It is a beautiful day, clear & cool. Nelson Conrad & wife<sup>104</sup> in town yet.

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to his livestock, so Julia Otey's desire to "secure a straw" suggests that the straw left after thrashing was regarded as something of a crop in its own right.

103. William Harvey Black "Bill" Price (1873–1960), the son of John Floyd Price and Carrie Shelor. Bill Price married first Rosa E. Price (1883–1915), in 1899, and second Ella Linkous, in 1908, and helped operate his father's farm, south of the present Sunnyside Holiness Church on Long Shop Road.

104. Kathryn (Hammett) Conrad.

**Monday, June 21** I had such a deep cold that I did not get up until after 11 AM. James B. Price came in to see me and paid pasture<sup>105</sup> on stock up to 20th. Mr. W. R. Cary called to me. Men nearly over corn the second time.

**Tuesday, June 22** Dr. Black and Mary Lou, Ellen, Sarah, Elizabeth & Bessie Bell took dinner & spent the day with us. We enjoyed them so much. (Two were Sam Bell's daughters, one Frank's, and one Jim Bell's.<sup>106</sup>) It has been a beautiful day.

**Wednesday, June 23** Over corn third time. Put binder in wheat field, cut some wheat with cradle.<sup>107</sup> Got some cherries for Julia's Tea. Tried everywhere to get some snaps,<sup>108</sup> Tomatoes, & strawberries. Rained a little tonight.

**Thursday, June 24** Dr. P. B. Barringer<sup>109</sup> and his household of 12 came and spent the day with us. Alex, Liz, Mamie, Mary & Kent Patterson, and Louise Black.<sup>110</sup> Also Louise & Lizzie Hoge,<sup>111</sup> Robert Patterson, Jane & Zelle Minor took Tea & drove home by moonlight. Belle mare had a mare colt, Mary Jane. [I sold her to N. C. Morgan of Pulaski Co., Va., Feb 26, 1913.]<sup>112</sup>

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105. A number of people in the neighborhood periodically rented pasture land from Otey, typically by the month.

106. Sarah James Bell (1894–1976) and Elizabeth “Bessie” Bell (1895–1970) were Samuel Hays Bell's daughters, Elizabeth Kent Bell (1893–1968) James Randal Kent Bell's daughter, and Ellen Howe Bell (1893–1969) Francis Bell's daughter. Sarah James Bell married Col. Robert E. Wysor (1892–1959), a 1915 graduate of V.M.I.; Elizabeth Bell married John Baxter Ricketts (d. 1980), an attorney from Greenville, South Carolina; Elizabeth Kent Bell married James Randall Crockett (1894–1969); and Ellen Howe Bell married Orrin Rankin Magill (1887–1972).

107. A binder was a machine that both reaped and bound wheat and other hays and grains. A cradle scythe consisted of a frame fastened to a scythe that enabled grain to be laid evenly as it was cut. Otey and his farmhands used both binders and cradle scythes to cut wheat, hay, oats, rye, etc.

108. Snap beans, any of various green or wax beans.

109. Paul Brandon Barringer (1857–1941) was the president of V.P.I. from 1907 until 1913. Dr. Barringer had medical degrees from the University of Virginia and New York University and law degrees from Davidson College and the University of South Carolina. Before coming to V.P.I., he had been chairman of the faculty at the University of Virginia and president of the Medical Society of Virginia.

110 Mary Louise Black (1890–1918), the Alexander Blacks' adopted daughter. In 1916 she married J. Horace Luster (b. 1891), the son of James O. and Bettie Luster.

111. Liz Otey Hoge.

112. Obviously Otey added this last sentence, which I place in square brackets, long after June 24, 1909.

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**Friday, June 25** Cut wheat yesterday & today. Beautiful wheat in mountain field next to Seymour Price. Jeff Wolf, Harve & Hub Snider, and others in field. I was on the binder all day.

**Saturday, June 26** We got the binder over to field on top of hill next to woods, but the rye & wheat were too green to cut. Men plowed corn in new ground. Jeff cut window in separator house. Mrs. Price the cook went to Newport.

**Sunday, June 27** My birthday and a beautiful day. Nannie Wolf asked us over to breakfast as our cook was away. Had a good breakfast. We did not go to Church as it was so hot. Had nice raspberries today.

**Monday, June 28** Cut wheat until 6 PM when rain stopped us. We milked the cows well. Sold lambs to Grant Flanagan — 6 ¼, first to 10<sup>th</sup> June; 5 ½, July.<sup>113</sup>

**Tuesday, June 29** Cut wheat until 4 PM rain stopped us. We broke reel on binder too. Cows did better this evening.

**Wednesday, June 30** Julia's birthday. I caught her a young rabbit in wheat field. I finished cutting wheat today. It rained about 3 PM but we cut some wheat afterwards. Also cut Rye. Creamery check for this month \$130.00.

**Thursday, July 1** Julia took Nannie Wolf to town in the buggy with her so Nannie could see the doctor. I took a good bath and shaved. Salted Stock and looked over farm. Rode to Forks. Called on Jim Evans, got some cherries.

**Friday, July 2** The men are hauling rails for wheat stacks.<sup>114</sup> I worked the garden. Sold K. B. Long a jersey calf for \$5.00, sowed more millet, and had my wagon fixed by Rad Fisher. Had wagon ladders<sup>115</sup> fixed. Made hay ladders.<sup>116</sup> Mr. Wolf helped Julia a little in the garden.

**Saturday, July 3** Julia & I drove to Blacksburg and took the train for Christiansburg. The corner stone to new court house was laid. Judge

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113. Grant Flanagan, from the Flanagan farm on the New River, agreed to pay Otey 6 1/4c/lb. for the lambs he had gotten in early June and 5 1/2c/lb. for those he was to get in July.

114. Fence rails were used to make a foundation under stacks and ricks to level them and keep them off the ground. Wheat, hay, and other grasses and grains are more likely to mildew or rot if allowed to come into direct contact with the earth.

115. A wagon ladder was a device used in a wagon bed to confine or cradle bundles of hay or wheat for hauling.

116. A hay ladder was a ladder used to climb near the top of a haystack either to put more hay on the stack, when the stack was built, or to take hay off the stack, when it was fed to livestock.

Duke spoke.<sup>117</sup> We had a very pleasant day, saw many friends, & came home in the trap that I had painted new. The jail Bird played beautifully for us at Mrs. Tallant's.

**Sunday, July 4** Julia did not drive to church with me so Roy Wolf drove me in my double buggy. I took dinner at Alex's. Harve Hall & wife and Mr. Davenport of Roanoke were there too. I came home at 3 PM. Jim Hoge came back with me. Julia was asleep.

**Monday, July 5** I cut down a lot of hay and a stack of wheat is nearly up. It is raining tonight. Had only 125 lbs. of cream this AM. Belle's colt is not well. Mr. Cary was here today. A bee stung Jim Hoge & he has a swollen foot.

**Tuesday, July 6** Hard rain. Wheat & hay catching it good fashion. Too wet to send to Christiansburg after refrigerator<sup>118</sup> and other things. I washed Belle's colt up and put some powder boric acid & [ ] talcum on the sore. It has rained steadily all day. Stopped about 6 PM. [Jim Hoge let all of the cows out but one.]<sup>119</sup>

**Wednesday, July 7** Sent cream to V.PI and got binder in. Too wet for work on farm. Oiled harness. Got long letter from cousin Laura Pleasants Moore<sup>120</sup> and answered it at once. Julia had a good supper. Cook has gone to Newport.

**Thursday, July 8** I sent Roy Wolf to Christiansburg after the refrig-

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117. The Montgomery County Courthouse dedicated in 1909 remained in use until 1976, when it was razed to make way for the present courthouse on the same spot.

Judge R. T. W. Duke of Charlottesville was a prominent leader in Albemarle County. In 1887 and 1888, he was a prime mover in an attempt to have the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station moved from Blacksburg to Charlottesville. However, when the state legislature established the station permanently in Blacksburg, under the control of the V.P.I. Board of Visitors, Duke appealed to all Virginians to support that decision.

118. An early refrigerator was essentially just a box or cabinet with a compartment designed to hold a block of ice.

119. This sentence, which I place in square brackets, is in a child's hand, probably Jim Hoge's. It appears at the end of Otey's July 6 entry.

120. The wife of Dr. E. Overton Moore, Laura Kathleen (Pleasants) Moore (b. 1876) was the daughter of James J. Pleasants, Jr. (b. 1831) and Laura Kathleen Robinson (b. 1841) and the younger sister of Otey's first wife Carolee Otey Pleasants. (James J. Pleasants, Jr. was the son of James J. Pleasants and Emily Julia Bibb, who was the daughter of Thomas and Pamela Bibb. Thomas Bibb became Governor of Alabama in 1820, succeeding his brother William Wyatt Bibb, Alabama's first governor.). The Overton Moores lived in Memphis, Tennessee.

erator. He got home about 6 PM. Shocked some hay<sup>121</sup> late this afternoon. Julia & Nannie drove to see Mrs. Pascoe<sup>122</sup> for raspberries. Cows did not do so well this evening.

**Friday, July 9** Sent off 18 more lambs which weighed 68 lbs. @ 5c. We took the wet wheat off of stack and stacked it over and got the hay in front field up in shocks. Weather very threatening. Got a card from Jim Cowan saying he had Quinsy.

**Saturday, July 10** Stacked wheat, salted, & looked over farm, then drove to Blacksburg & brought Ben Hart<sup>123</sup> home with me. Julia & cook had a good Supper and Ben seemed to enjoy his visit. Aunt Margie is at the Yellow Sulphur.

**Sunday, July 11** Ben & myself drove down to see Jim Cowan. He was better. Ben took train to Belspring at 2:40 PM. I stayed with Jim, Maud & children until 7 PM. Mr. & Mrs. Nelson came to see Julia. I got home at 8:15 PM.

**Monday, July 12** Bright & clear. Hope to stack much wheat. We got up two stacks of wheat & one of hay. The weather fine for the work. I drove Belle's colt. She hurt one of Julia's turkeys. I helped milk.

**Tuesday, July 13** Men came to stack wheat but it rained more & we had to come in. Pulled weeds in garden. Bonnie took Cary's horse. Cows did a little better this evening. Too wet to get up my 2nd stack of hay.

**Wednesday, July 14** Finished stacking wheat. Julia & I drove to Otey and took tea with Mamie Patterson & family. Called at Lizzie's & deposited \$350.00 in bank. A party of 30 wanted us to go to Mountain Lake with them but we could not go.

**Thursday, July 15** Mowing more hay, putting up one stack, and got a lot in shocks. Robert Patterson, Dan & Jim Hoge are having a good time fishing, bathing & gathering berries.

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121. Like wheat, oats, rye, and other grains and grasses, hay, when cut, was tied in small bundles, sometimes by hand and sometimes by a binder, a number of which (roughly, ten or twelve) were then bound together and stood on end to form a shock. Shocks were left in the field for some time to dry, then hauled to a stack yard, or other central location, to be stacked or ricked.

122. Martha Jane (Whittaker) Pascoe (1842–1932), the wife of Thomas Pascoe (1825–1901), who was born and reared in England. The Thomas Pascoe homeplace was located on what is now Old Mill Road, southeast of Walnut Spring.

123. The son of William T. Hart and Lucy Gaines Bentley and the grandson of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Moss Bentley, Henry Bentley "Ben" Hart (b. 1868) was Otey's first cousin once removed. In 1902 he married Mary Frazier.

**Friday, July 16** We got up another hay stack before the rain ran us in. Fixed up binder & took it to the oat field. Did a lot of indoor jobs as hay was too wet. Robert caught a terrapin.

**Saturday, July 17** Cut oats with binder all day. Got up a hay stack & a lot in shocks. Had 7 men at work all day. Cows did better, and if I could only get the flies stopped, they would do fine.

**Sunday, July 18** Julia did not go to church with me. Jim Hoge stayed here with her. Mr. Jackson preached a good Sermon. I took dinner at Alex's and saw Lou & family.

**Monday, July 19** We cut oats, put up a hay stack, and got ready to Thrash tomorrow. I rode to Forks, saw David Cloyd, Jr., Dr. Spencer & others. It has been a beautiful day, cool & clean. Put bull in his lot, as he got in corn.

**Tuesday, July 20** Mr. Zach Price thrashed one stack and made 220 bushels of wheat, 30 bushels of Rye. A nice day for the work and I had more men than I needed. Jack Long bought my old white cow at \$26.00.

**Wednesday, July 21** I mowed hay all day myself. Planted buckwheat. Had a lot of oats cut and shocked a lot of hay. Julia called on Mrs. Taylor<sup>124</sup> at Dr. McBryde's.

**Thursday, July 22** Julia called on Mrs. David Cloyd.<sup>125</sup> I mowed more hay. Got up one more stack, making 7. It rained in afternoon. Finished cutting oats. Trilby cow was served yesterday. Jim Otey Hoge brought up cows and did many other things on the farm for us.

**Friday, July 23** Rained, too wet to work. I sent 6 bushels of Rye to Kanode's Mill, salted stock, & looked over farm. Put up some hay in stack late in afternoon. Big Brown cow had a calf. I helped milk as we were so late getting at it.

**Saturday, July 24** Bright & cool. Men working in hay. Amps Rollins<sup>126</sup> died yesterday. I went to Price's Fork and got a Receipt for wheat put in the mill. Rode to Mr. W. N. Cary's to look at a cow; did not buy her.

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124. A native of Richmond, Lucy Taylor (Mrs. Henry) was frequently a guest of the John M. McBrydes. She was the mother of Franklin Minor Taylor ('15), who played left end on the V.P.I. football team and was class sergeant-at-arms. The Taylors were related to the Benjamin Blake Minors.

125. Possibly Mary Buford (Langhorne) Cloyd (Mrs. David M., Sr.), but more likely Manie (Guthrie) Cloyd (Mrs. David M., Jr.).

126. Amps Rollins lived on Brush Mountain, north of present Meadowbrook Drive, in the hollow above the old George Wall graveyard. He was related to Calvin Rollins, who owned property bordering the Cowan estate.

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*Hoges, Oteys, Blacks, and others at Walnut Spring, probably July 4, 1911. Beginning on the bottom step and going up: John Hampton Hoge, Jr. (12), young man at bottom right standing on first step; unidentified young man (13) behind Hampton Hoge; Alice Dunbar Hoge (4), girl at bottom left; James Otey Hoge (9), boy in center, sitting; Liz Otey Hoge (10); James Otey Goodwin (11); Louisa Virginia Otey Hoge (5); Louise Kent Hoge (6), young woman holding box; Daniel Howe Hoge (1), young man at top left; Julia Magruder Tyler Otey (7), woman in front of column at far right; James Armistead Otey (8); Elizabeth Kent Otey Black (2); Alexander Black (3).*

**Sunday, July 25** Beautiful day. We drove to church, heard Rev. Nelson. Took dinner with Dr. Black & Mary Lou. Frank Bell & three daughters and Aunt Margie were there. Louise & Alice came home with us. We got home at 7:30 PM.

**Monday, July 26** Thrashed wheat & oats out of mountain field at Sheep shed – 152 bushels of wheat, oats 112. Mr. Word<sup>127</sup> of Christiansburg

127. Harry McClanahan Word (1865–1942) owned a large farm about four and a half miles east of Christiansburg, on the south side of state Route 8. Word also operated a feed and seed store in Christiansburg and was chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Party for a number of years. His granddaughter Mary Ann (Word) Hinshelwood presently lives in Christiansburg.

came to buy cows. Would not pay enough. Wants to buy sheep later.

**Tuesday, July 27** We got a lot of hay cut and one more stack up, making 9. Julia, Louise, Alice & I drove to Blacksburg calling & on business. Pretty day and we enjoyed it. Poor Kiz Long<sup>128</sup> died at 2 PM.

**Wednesday, July 28** Planted Turnips and got a lamb on ice. Men working in the hay. Kiz Long was buried in a \$40 coffin today. Rose Stockard<sup>129</sup> called. So did R. M. Patterson, Robert Patterson, Jr. & Dan Hoge. It is raining a good rain tonight.

**Thursday, July 29** Mr. & Mrs. Dunlap, Mrs. Henry & daughter Dicy,<sup>130</sup> Mary Lou Black, Sarah & Mary Lou Bell,<sup>131</sup> Mrs. David Cloyd, Jr., Mrs. Ligon & son Leslie, Louise & Liz Hoge, Jim & Alice Hoge all spent day with us. We all enjoyed the day.

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128. Kizrah "Kiz" Long (1852–1909) was the daughter of James Long, Sr. and his second wife Nancy Sarver. She never married and lived her entire life at her parents' home on present Brookfield Road.

129. The daughter of Ella Hyde Fowlkes (1859–1934) and Dr. Richard Rupert Stockard (1849–1934), Rosilie Otey "Rose" Stockard (1889–1978) married Thomas Barksdale Hutcheson, Sr. (1882–1950), a member of the V.P.I. class of 1906 and later a professor of agronomy, head of the Department of Agronomy, and dean of agriculture there. Thomas Barksdale Hutcheson, Jr. (1926–1985), their son, also taught in the Department of Agronomy and served as department head. John Redd "Jack" Hutcheson (1886–1962), V.P.I. class of 1907 and the brother of Thomas B. Hutcheson, Sr., was president of V.P.I. from 1945 until 1947, and later president of the Virginia Tech Educational Foundation. Like her parents and brother Dr. Charles Rupert Stockard (1879–1939), Rose Stockard periodically came to Blacksburg to visit her sister May (Stockard) Wilson, the wife of Francis Daniel Wilson, a professor of chemistry at V.P.I. since 1904. The Stockards were related to the Oteys and often visited both the Oteys and the Blacks.

130. Wirt Dunlap (1859–1933) was an attorney who was twice Blacksburg mayor, from 1896 until 1899, and from 1902 until 1904. His wife, Ida (Brittain) Dunlap (1867–1960), played the piano and gave piano lessons to generations of Blacksburg children.

Mrs. Henry was Ida Dunlap's sister. Her daughter Dicy Henry (1897–1990), later the wife of James Henry Boyd Fogleman (1881–1964), became an accomplished violinist and was a mainstay of Blacksburg society for more than half a century. J.H.B. Fogleman worked at the Agricultural Experiment Station and was a renowned tenor; he sang in the college glee club and performed in numerous musical productions in Blacksburg and at V.P.I.

131. Either Sam Bell's daughters Sarah James Bell and Mary Lou Bell (1898–1954), or Frank Bell's daughters Sarah Kent Bell and Mary Lou Bell (1896–1981). Or, conceivably, Sam Bell's Sarah and Frank's Mary Lou or Sam Bell's Mary Lou and Frank's Sarah. Frank Bell's Mary Lou married John Augustus Blakemore (1894–1986); Sam Bell's Mary Lou never married.

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**Friday, July 30** Rained last night. Mary Lou Bell & I drove to Vicker to meet Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Tyler, Jr., & Mrs. Frank McConnell.<sup>132</sup> We had a pleasant drive home and we have enjoyed having them so much.

**Saturday, July 31** Bright, warm & I am pushing hay for all I can. Mary Lou Bell is going home today. Alice drove up to Town with her. Jim Tyler, Belle McConnell & I drove to Blacksburg. Called at Dr. Black's and I drove them all over V.P.I. grounds.

**Sunday, August 1** Belle McConnell & I drove in to the Baptist Church. Mr. Jackson preached a good sermon. We stopped at Alex Black's awhile. Called at Dr. McBryde's. Alice & Jim Hoge came home with us.

**Monday, August 2** I took J. H. Tyler, Jr. & wife & Belle to Vicker for N&W Railroad. They took Train for Radford. Had some grass cut this afternoon. It rained all last night and until noon today, cool east rain.

**Tuesday, August 3** Rained. Russet, my riding mare, sprained her hind leg. James B. Price bought cow (Sarah) & Belle's<sup>133</sup> bull calf at \$55.00. He wants sheep and a hog. Started plowing for wheat. The creamery check for June 20 to July 20 was \$167.88.

**Wednesday, August 4** I drove up in the milk wagon with Roy Wolf to take the Train for Salem. Mr. C. L. Miller drove me all over the Town in his buggy; looked at all of his cows. I bought 9 cows, took dinner at Hotel, and spent the night with Mr. Miller.

**Thursday, August 5** After getting Mr. Miller started with the cows, I took the street car for Roanoke. Did lots of shopping and called on Mrs. Battle.<sup>134</sup> Took Train for Blacksburg. Mrs. William Newton & daughter<sup>135</sup> came on to Blacksburg. I took supper at Alex's and rode Dandy his horse home. Got here at 9:30 PM. Storm scared me.

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132. James Hoge Tyler, Jr. (1871–1937), his wife Evelyn Gray (Bell) Tyler, whom he married in 1908, and his sister Belle Norwood (Tyler) McConnell (1876–1955), the wife of Col. Frank Percy McConnell (1870–1941), whom she also married in 1908. The McConnells lived in Richmond at 2219 Monument Avenue.

133. Otey had both a mare and a cow named "Belle."

134. Josephine John Anna (Somerville) Battle (1851–1915), who lived in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, was the widow of James Smith Battle (1846–1894) and the mother of Maud Cowan and William Smith Battle (1870–1947), whom she periodically visited in Roanoke. William Smith Battle, who never married, was vice-president of the Norfolk and Western Railway Company. He lived in Roanoke and owned a farm in Vinton.

135. Mandy and Ann Newton were the wife and daughter of William L. Newton (d. 1914), a native of Norfolk, who graduated from V.A.M.C. in 1876. The Newtons were old friends of both the Oteys and the Blacks.

**Friday, August 6** Up early, got up 40 old sheep & took them to meet Miller in Blacksburg with cows. He did not get there until 4 PM. I brought them on home. He took one of the 10 cows back. I was tired when I got home.

**Saturday, August 7** I took Alice Hoge home in milk buggy. Got one cow and calf. I had to leave & come home. Dan Hoge & Robert Patterson went home. Jim Cowan came about 3 PM and on home about 6 PM.

**Sunday, August 8** We did not go to church. Spent a quiet happy day here at home. Hampton Hoge & Robert Patterson came down on wheels<sup>136</sup> and spent the afternoon. We walked up to see Kouch.<sup>137</sup>

**Monday, August 9** We dug potatoes. The men put hay in upper meadow and I looked over farm and salted stock.

**Tuesday, August 10** Have finished digging potatoes and then we all went to help with hay. Finished that. Got everything in shape to start on our trip to Washington, Va. to visit the J. J. Millers.<sup>138</sup>

**Wednesday, August 11** Went to Mr. J. J. Miller's, near Little Washington, Va. Up early and off for Train in Blacksburg at 9:15 AM. Dr. Black & Mary Lou told us goodbye at the train. Got to Front Royal at 7 PM. Had pleasant trip.

**Thursday, August 12** Had good night's rest at Weaver's home. Afton Inn full. Will Keyser & Callie<sup>139</sup> came to see us and we went to a horse show. Col. & Mrs. William Stewart<sup>140</sup> were there. Mr. J. J. Miller & wife came and took me home with them that night at 9:30 PM.

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136. Bicycles.

137. Louise Talitha Scott, who married Samuel Enos Snider and was the mother of Harvey Jackson "Harve" Snider, Ira Hubbard "Hub" Snider, Robert James Snider, George D. Snider, and John William Snyder (his preferred spelling), all of whom worked for Otey, as well as Berdie May (Snider) Fisher (1885–1968), who married John Adam Fisher (1878–1939) and worked for the Hoges at Walnut Spring in later years. Reputed to be a loquacious and colorful character, "Kouch" Snider, later "Granny Kouch," lived with her family on Brush Mountain, near Otey's coal mines.

138. John J. Miller and Evelyn "Evie" (Tyler) Miller owned a farm near Washington, Virginia. Evie Miller was Julia Otey's sister.

139. William L. "Willie" Keyser (1864–1915) and Caroline Hampton "Callie" (DeJarnette) Keyser (1864–1959), who lived near the John J. Millers and had four children, Edward Hampton (1893–1956), Joseph DeJarnette (b. 1894), Elliott (1896–1907), and Henry Magruder (b. 1901). Julia Otey was related to Callie Keyser through the Magruders, and her father's first wife was Jane Coleman DeJarnette (1820–1841), the daughter of Daniel and Hulda DeJarnette of Spring Grove, the DeJarnette homeplace in Caroline County. (Jane [DeJarnette] Tyler's sister, Nicey Ann Hawes [DeJarnette] Hoge, was the mother of Otey's brother-in-law John Hamp-

**Friday, August 13** At Mr. John J. Miller's. The children have grown so much. Mrs. William Keyser called. We took the children fishing. Mr. & Mrs. Miller & I drove to church to hear Rev. Wharton. Big crowd in church, good preaching. Took Julia Magruder & Miss Eva<sup>141</sup> to dancing school.

**Saturday, August 14** Went down early & spent morning at Mrs. William Keyser's. The children & I had a fine time. Ephrom the little colored boy is very funny & good at his work.

**Sunday, August 15** We spent the morning quietly at home; poured down rain and we saw no company. Read of Dr. Kent Black's sudden death on Thursday & am so shocked.

**Monday, August 16** Invited to Mrs. Keyser's. Julia has a headache & we didn't go. All went to see 24 people baptized in the river. Evelyn & Jim<sup>142</sup> went to hear Dr. Wharton lecture on Palestine & got a polecat on buggy wheels — Smell!!

**Tuesday, August 17** Sallie Miller<sup>143</sup> came home — a beauty. Mr. & Mrs. John Miller rode to salt cattle. Callers: Mrs. Anna Keyser<sup>144</sup> & John. Miss Eva & Julia Magruder went to dancing school.

**Wednesday, August 18** All the William Keyser's to spend the day. Mrs. Stewart stayed. Belle Shorter & Mrs. Slaughter called in afternoon. Jim got scared at a "mad dog."

**Thursday, August 19** Col. & Mr. Miller & Jim rode on top of mountain — very dry — Mrs. Dudley & [ ] called. Col. tired but rallied quickly & all enjoyed the day.

**Friday, August 20** Miss Evelyn & Julia went to dancing school & it

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ton Hoge and the wife of Daniel Howe Hoge, the brother of Tyler's second wife Eliza Hoge.)

140. Although originally from Albemarle County, Col. William Henry Stewart (d. 1912) and his wife Sarah (Magruder) Stewart, Julia's aunt, lived in Portsmouth. After Julia's mother and father died, she came to regard the Stewarts almost as substitute parents. They presided over her wedding at Trinity Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, and the wedding invitation bears their names as hosts. (Their son Dr. Robert Armistead Stewart was one of the groom's attendants.) Although she usually went by the nickname "Sadie," Mrs. Stewart was also called "Sallie." Col. Stewart served in the Virginia House of Delegates, where he was a strong proponent of increased public assistance for Confederate veterans.

141. Julia Magruder Miller and Evelyn "Eva" Miller, two of the John Millers' daughters.

142. James "Jim" Miller, the John Millers' son.

143. The John Millers' daughter Sarah. Like Sarah Stewart, Sarah Miller was called both "Sadie" and "Sallie."

144. Anna Keyser is probably Anne E. Keyser of Flint Hill, Virginia.

rained hard. Jim rode into Washington in morning. John Miller<sup>145</sup> came back home at night.

**Saturday, August 21** We returned calls. Spent morning on big porch at Mt. [ ].

**Sunday, August 22** Col. & Sadie returned to William Keyser's. Julia went over to Frank Jones' new house & saw Ida Wood.<sup>146</sup> In the evening she, Jim & Evelyn drove to Mrs. Keyser's.

**Monday, August 23** Julia has headache so we spent the day at William Keyser's without her. Came home early & packed to return.

**Tuesday, August 24** I got up at 4 AM. We had breakfast and were in the carriage by 5, and Mr. Miller drove us to Front Royal, 22 miles, by 10 AM. Took train for home. Arrived in Blacksburg at 7 PM and spent the night at Mary Lou Black's.<sup>147</sup>

**Wednesday, August 25** Frank Bell & I slept together last night. He went with Alex to Dr. Black's farm on Roanoke River.<sup>148</sup> Julia & I came home in milk wagon. Roy Wolf could not be found so left him to walk. Found all here.

**Thursday, August 26** I looked over farm. Found stock doing very well, although it is very dry. Cows going down in milk some.

**Friday, August 27** I had water pipes taken up and fixed and the water gap fixed between Wall's & myself to keep his hogs out of my corn. Julia & I drove into town after 7 PM. Rebecca Patterson<sup>149</sup> came home with us.

**Saturday, August 28** Kent Patterson and Victor Barringer<sup>150</sup> came. Rebecca, Hampton Hoge & the other two boys & myself drove to Lovers' Leap<sup>151</sup> and David Cloyd, Jr.'s. Mary Patterson & John Davis<sup>152</sup> came, took tea. Drove back by moonlight.

**Sunday, August 29** Rebecca, Kent, Victor & I drove in to church

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145. John J. Miller, Jr. (d. 1918).

146. Frank and Ida (Wood) Jones were related to the DeJarnettes.

147. When Dr. Black died, the Kent Blacks were living in a large, two-story brick house they had built on the corner of present Clay Street and Draper Road. In 1910 Louisa Hoge bought that house and subsequently lived there with her children until 1920. Between 1915 and 1920, her second husband, John James Davis, also lived there.

148. Like Alex Black, Dr. Kent Black owned a farm on the north fork of the Roanoke River.

149. Rebecca Patterson (1892–1920) was the Robert Pattersons' younger daughter. In 1918 she married Joseph McGavock Crockett (b. 1884), the son of Samuel Rush Crockett and Nannie Ellen Cox. Related to the Oteys through the McGavocks, Sam Crockett owned a large farm in Giles County.

150. Victor Clay Barringer was the Paul Brandon Barringers' son and a member of the V.P.I. class of 1911.

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& spent day. Dinner at Alex Black's. Julia had a headache. Jim Hoge came home with me. Hampton went back on his wheel about 6 PM. Julia is better this evening.

**Monday, August 30** Jim Hoge went home in the milk wagon. Jeff Wolf, Harve Snider & I worked on water pipes & digging reservoir at the Spring near Mountain. Maj. J. T. Cowan, Mary, & Richard Adams came. Julia drove up to Blacksburg in the buggy today to tell old Mrs. Patterson (Mr. Robert Patterson's mother) goodbye.

**Tuesday, August 31** Major, Richard & I drove over to see Mr. John Kipps on business. After we got back Mary & they drove home. Julia & I enjoyed their visit. Digging at spring yet.

**Wednesday, September 1** Roy Wolf left today for Marion. Julia's lost trunk came today. The apples had not mashed much in Trunk. I rode to coal bank to get some pipes.

**Thursday, September 2** Got a telegram that Dr. E. W. Magruder<sup>153</sup> and Ann (Mr[s]. T. Allen) would be here on noon train. They came & we enjoyed them. Julia had such a good Supper.

**Friday, September 3** Julia took the two men to Depot in Blacksburg. She drove up in the Trap and was back to dinner. It is very dry. Sprinkling rain tonight. Got concrete box in at Spring.

**Saturday, September 4** Rained a little all night & good rain until 10 AM. I rode Russet to Blacksburg meeting. They voted for Dr. Ribble to represent the county. I spent the day in town and had dinner with Lou & children. Louise is better.

**Sunday, September 5** Julia & I drove in to church. She attended her church & I mine. We came home from church and both rode horse-

151. Lovers' Leap is located off present McCoy Road and overlooks the New River. Like similarly named sites in other parts of the world, Lovers' Leap is supposedly the spot from which two star-crossed lovers (in this case, Native Americans of tribes hostile to each other) leaped to their deaths. It was at Lovers' Leap that Confederate soldiers summarily tried and executed George P. Price (b. 1842) for the murder of a Confederate spy named Craft. The murder occurred in what is now known as Craft Hollow, just west of Otey's mountain land.

152. Originally from Norfolk, John James Davis was a 1904 graduate of V.P.I., where he subsequently became a professor of modern languages, and Louisa Hoge's second husband.

153. Dr. Egbert W. Magruder, Julia Otey's uncle, was State Chemist for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Immigration. He and his wife Byrd lived in Richmond in 1909, and later moved to Norfolk, where they resided at 721 Raleigh Street. Egbert Magruder was a groomsman in the Otey's wedding.

back to call on Mr. & Mrs. Charlie McDonald & the Misses McDonald.<sup>154</sup> We enjoyed the ride and had a nice Supper together.

**Monday, September 6** I fed hogs corn out of field, helped men with the Spring. Julia & I drove in to town after dinner. Took some corn to V.P.I. to sell. Called at Prof. Davidson's and brought Mrs. Dr. Spencer home with us. It is too cool to sit on porches.

**Tuesday, September 7** The first day of Radford Fair. We took Mrs. John Spencer back to Town, called on Capt. Dashiell<sup>155</sup> & family, and took supper at Alex Black's. Went to musical at Mr. & Mrs. Dunlap's. Came home at midnight.

**Wednesday September 8** I rode Russet to Radford Fair. Had a pleasant day and spent the night at Gov. Tyler's. They had a house full of his children & daughters-in-law. Mr. Goldsborough Serpell<sup>156</sup> was there and I had many invitations to spend the night.

**Thursday, September 9** Rained "to beat the Band." We spent the morning indoors. I rode over to Jim Cowan's about 3 PM. Hampton Hoge was there. Maud & the children are well.

**Friday, September 10** Maud & Hampton drove to Radford. I rode down to see Aunt Margie & spent the day. Mr. Robert Patterson & Otey came too. Mr. Patterson, Otey & myself came away about 5 PM. I home. They to Blacksburg.

**Saturday, September 11** Julia & I were busy all day. I salted stock & looked over farm. I wrote some letters and got a good mail.

**Sunday, September 12** We spent the morning at home. I drove to hear Mr. Nelson preach at the old brick church<sup>157</sup> at 8 PM. Good many neighbors out to hear him. Put Adams came & spent night.

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154. Ellen Taylor "Ella" McDonald (1855–1927) and Mary Edward McDonald (1872–1931), who lived at Green Hill, were the daughters of the Floyd Fechtig McDonalds and Charles Black McDonald's sisters. Neither ever married. A third daughter, Virginia McDonald (1863–1943), married Rufus H. Wilson in 1907.

155. Capt. William Robert Dashiell, of the 24th United States Infantry, replaced George Hairston Jamerson as V.P.I. commandant of cadets in September 1909. In July 1911, Dashiell was promoted to the grade of major and transferred to Fort Sheridan, Illinois. Joseph F. Ware succeeded him as commandant.

156. Goldsborough Serpell was the father of Nelle Louise Serpell (b. 1878), who in 1904 married Stockton Heth Tyler (1874–1943), the James Hoge Tylers' son.

157. The "old brick church" is St. Peter's Lutheran Church. First called Price's Church and then St. Michael's, St. Peter's originated around 1745 and is the oldest Lutheran church west of the Alleghenies and the third oldest in Virginia. St. Peter's "old brick church" building, located on Merrimac Road, about a quarter-mile south of



*From left, Virginia McDonald (Mrs. Rufus H. Wilson), Ellen Taylor McDonald, Mary Edward McDonald  
(Photograph courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. James L. McDonald.)*

**Monday, September 13** Put went to Slusser sale. Mr. John McConkley & Mr. Charles Miller came to see cows. Mr. & Mrs. R. M.

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where it intersects Price's Fork Road, was actually torn down in 1885. Subsequently many St. Peter's parishioners began attending St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Price's Fork, Shiloh Lutheran Church in Long Shop, and Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg. Nonetheless, St. Peter's continued to serve its remaining parishioners, conducting services in the schoolhouse that stood next to the site of the former church building, in the east corner of the church property — the right rear corner as one faces the property from Merrimac Road. (On week days that schoolhouse was occupied by a public elementary school, Matamoros School Number 9.)

For a number of years ministers of other denominations also used the schoolhouse, conducting church services and Sunday school classes there at various times on Sunday and sometimes other days as well. Occasionally accompanied by Julia, Otey frequently attended Sunday school and church at the Matamoros schoolhouse, most often on Sunday afternoons. (When he speaks of the "old brick church," he means the schoolhouse that had replaced the "old brick church" as a place of worship.) The remnant of the old St. Peter's congregation gradually migrated to New St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the Glade community, but Lutheran services were still sometimes held on the old property as late as 1920. The New St. Peter's and St. Mark's congregations built the present St. Michael's Lutheran Church building on the same site in 1971.

Patterson & sons took dinner and spent the day. Eddie Tyler is with us tonight. The men are plowing Field on North Hill.<sup>158</sup>

**Tuesday, September 14** Ed & I rode horseback to Dr. Black's sale.<sup>159</sup> Big crowd there & things went high. Put, Ed, & I came back together. Put went home; Ed is with us tonight. Frank & Jim Bell were at the sale.

**Wednesday, September 15** Ed left for home. I fixed some fences, went to where men were plowing, cut briars and burned stumps. Julia is not so well. Raining tonight. We had such a good Supper.

**Thursday, September 16** Raining all day. Julia put up lots of cans of fruit. I wrote letters, read, and helped milk this evening. W. R. Cary came to see me. I gave Alex Long a jersey calf. Harve Snider rode George to Town.

**Friday, September 17** I rode to Vicker to Norfolk & Western and took the train to Radford. Saw Fred Whaling's<sup>160</sup> sheep. Put Adams & I in buggy. Took train at 8 PM. Frank Bell was on the train and we had a talk. Julia drove to Blacksburg and fixed church robes at Prof. Davidson's.

**Saturday, September 18** Too wet to plow. Men got potatoes in bags out of crib. Julia & I rode horseback to mill & and on to call on Mrs. Charles McDonald. We enjoyed the ride as the [ ] looking so pretty.

**Sunday, September 19** We got up early and took the Virginian train at Price<sup>161</sup> & on to Princeton, West Va. We found Rashe DeJarnette, Wirt [ ], Mr. Lewis Taylor, and Frank Wall there.<sup>162</sup> We had a pleasant day and got home by 6:30 PM.

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158. North Hill is the hill directly south of the Otey homeplace, just beyond Tom's Creek. The hill "faces" north toward Brush Mountain.

159. The sale of part of Dr. Kent Black's estate.

160. Fred Whaling was undoubtedly a relative, perhaps a brother of Mary Lewis Whaling (b. 1877), the daughter of John T. Whaling and Mary Ingraham, who married John Buford (b. 1871), the Ike Bufords' son, in 1898.

161. Price Station was a small depot just on the Price's Fork side of present Price Tunnel. There were two tracks at Price, one used by the Norfolk and Western Railway and the other by the Virginian Railway. Completed in 1907, the Virginian Railroad ran through the New River Valley, north of the Norfolk and Western line, and connected the coal mines at Merrimac and McCoy with the port at Norfolk.

162. Rashe DeJarnette was Julia Otey's cousin. Her grandmother Lucinda Coleman, who married Henry Tyler, was the sister of Rashe DeJarnette's grandmother Huldah Coleman, who was Nicey Ann Hawes (DeJarnette) Hoge's mother.

The Alexander Floyd Walls' eldest son, William Franklin "Frank" Wall (1862-1946) and his wife LaDonna (Kipps) Wall owned a farm off Glade Road, near what is now Linwood Lane. Like his brother Guy Floyd Wall, Frank Wall was both a civil engineer and a farmer.

**Monday, September 20** Men plowing and finished the field on top of North Hill. Had some corn cut. The cows are only doing tolerably well in milk.

**Tuesday, September 21** I took James B. Price with me after some sheep Fred Whaling had. The sheep did not suit me so I did not buy them. They were on the other side of Pepper's Ferry. I got home at 6 PM.

**Wednesday, September 22** Men harrowing for wheat. I cut in the corn field with three other hands until Dr. Charlie Stockard<sup>163</sup> & Alice Hoge came. I came to the house with them. Nannie Wolf gave us a large fish.

**Thursday, September 23** I sent a load of wheat to Price's Fork Mill to be cleaned to sow,<sup>164</sup> then rode to Bob Price's (up the creek) and bought 22 sheep. I took dinner with him. It rained so men stopped cutting corn & put some fence around hay stacks in the front field. Raining tonight.

**Friday, September 24** Some men are Harrowing wheat land, others cutting corn. I had hogs fed corn out of field for the first time today. Belle's (horse) head is worse. Jim B. Price came to see about buying some sheep. Cool & clear tonight.

**Saturday, September 25** Harve Snider took his wife Ressie to a Show at Christiansburg. Julia & I drove down to spend day with Aunt Margie & Mary Cowan. Stayed at Jim Cowan's and saw Maud & children. Maud entertained a party of Ladies. We got home about 7 PM.

**Sunday, September 26** Julia & I drove to church in Blacksburg. She took dinner with Mary Lou Black, I with Lulu Hoge. We drove to hear Mr. Nelson preach at the old brick church (at Matamoros)<sup>165</sup> at 8 PM. About 50 people out to hear him.

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163. The Richard Rupert Stockards' son, Dr. Charles Rupert Stockard was on the faculty of the medical school at Cornell University; he had a laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and was widely recognized for pioneering work in the treatment of cancer.

164. Otey sent his seed wheat to the mill to be run through a seed-cleaning machine that removed chaff and other impurities to improve the quality of the wheat and make it better for sowing.

165. "Matamoros" is the name John Michael Kipps (b. 1825), John Taylor Kipps's father, gave the neighborhood around St. Peter's Lutheran Church, including his own farm, on Merrimac Road. Along with Benjamin Linkous, who later became a colonel in the Confederate army, Cal Linkous, and Crockett Linkous, Kipps enlisted in a company of volunteers from the Blacksburg area and served during the Mexican War, 1846–1848; he stopped off for a time at the border town of Matamoros, just across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, Texas, and brought the name home with him when he returned.

**Monday, September 27** I started drilling wheat. Men cut corn. After dinner I took Will Snyder<sup>166</sup> and brought my sheep home from R. H. Price's — 21 Ewes, 1 Buck. Julia busy getting ready for company tomorrow. She has about 30 little chickens just out.

**Tuesday, September 28** My Buck killed the one I got from Bob Price yesterday. Drilling wheat (Harve & Wolf). The other men are cutting corn. Maud Cowan & children, Miss Winn, Rev. Nelson & wife took dinner. Mrs. Preston Means & Mrs. Mary Means<sup>167</sup> called. Maud & family spent the night. We have enjoyed them so much.

**Wednesday, September 29** Maud, Miss Winn & children here. Julia & I expect to dine with the Misses McDonald today. We did. Also Rev. Hamil,<sup>168</sup> his wife, & two other ladies. We had a pleasant day. Cutting corn as fast as we can. Frost tonight.

**Thursday, September 30** Harve Snider & I drilled wheat all day and finished field on top of North Hill. John Price cut Julia's corn in Garden. Wolf, Leonard Price,<sup>169</sup> & Calvin Kyle cut my corn. The cows are doing very well. Is a beautiful day; rather dry but the work is going on nicely.

**Friday, October 1** I got my sheep out of George Wall's field. Lizzie & Louise Black, Mamie Patterson, & Louise Hoge called. Mrs. Dr. Francis D. Wilson, William Lybrook, Mrs. Tutwiler,<sup>170</sup> & Dr. Stockard called. The men are cutting corn & sowing wheat.

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166. The John William Snyders' son, William Ernest "Will" or "Willie" Snyder (1897–1966) married Carolee Price (1896–1994), the Ballard Staples Prices' daughter. He operated a general store on Tom's Creek, and later one in the Sunnyside area, and worked in the Brush Mountain coal mines.

167. The Means were related to both the Oteys and the Prestons of Smithfield. Although originally from Blacksburg, by 1900 various members of the Means family, including Robert Preston Means, Virginia Preston Means, Sallie Palmer Means, and John H. Means, were living in Birmingham, Alabama. John H. Means later moved to Wisconsin.

168. Dr. H. P. Hamil preached at several local churches and was also a V.P.I. chaplain.

169. The Ballard Staples Prices' son, Leonard Law Price (1893–1966) married Bethel Irene Hutchinson (1908–1986), the daughter of Dallas Trace Hutchinson and Elsie A. Ratcliff, and worked as a farmhand at Walnut Spring and elsewhere in the Tom's Creek community.

170. Originally from near Lewisburg, West Virginia, J. B. and Meta Tutwiler arrived in Blacksburg shortly after 1905, and over the years operated hotels at three locations. The Tutwilers' first hotel was on the corner of Jackson and Main Streets, where the First Union Bank office now stands, at a site previously occupied by at least three other hotels. (In the mid-nineteenth century a Mr. Pugh operated an inn and tavern there in a building later enlarged by George Keister, who had a hotel and board-

**Saturday, October 2** I cut corn until dinner myself. We finished cutting corn. I picked some apples and helped milk as the cook had gone on a visit to Newport. Julia & I are too tired to drive to Football game at V.P.I.<sup>171</sup>

**Sunday, October 3** Belle cow went to Bull. Julia & I drove to church at Blacksburg. Jim Cowan & family were at church. We took dinner with Mr. & Mrs. William Lybrook. Had a pleasant day and enjoyed seeing their new house. We called at Lulu Hoge's & got home after 6 PM.

**Monday, October 4** Drilling wheat in graveyard field. Disk harrow running too. Picked more apples this afternoon. Julia was in bed all day with a bad headache but is better tonight. Not as cool as it was.

**Tuesday, October 5** We got millet & buckwheat in Barn and swept walls and ceilings of cow barn. Julia not well, in bed all day. I sold Tom Graham<sup>172</sup> 16 bu. of wheat at \$1.15. Drilling wheat in afternoon.

**Wednesday, October 6** I had some corn shucked for hogs, drilled wheat, hilled up the celery, put up a stove in the dining room, & rode over to Linkous' Store & settled bill. Helped milk after I got back. Warm & clear this afternoon.

**Thursday, October 7** I drove to Blacksburg, settled up all my bills, and bought another Ton of Fertilizer at B.P. & S. Co.,<sup>173</sup> also another ton of Timothy seed. I took dinner with Alex Black and brought oysters & beef home with me.

**Friday, October 8** I picked apples. Salted stock. Julia & I shucked a

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ing house in the same building when V.A.M.C. opened in 1872. John Lewis Eakin operated Eakin's Hotel there at the turn of the century.) Later the Tutwilers ran a hotel on the site of the old nineteenth-century Amiss Hotel, at the corner of Main and Washington Streets, across from the present Blacksburg Municipal Building. After that hotel burned to the ground in 1927, they opened a hotel/boarding house on Main Street, in the building now occupied by Reynolds Architects, Inc., which remained open until the late 1960s.

171. Under new coach and athletic director Branch B. Bocock, V.P.I. opened the 1909 football season at home with a 6-0 victory over Clemson College (now University). The "Gobblers" (the nickname first appeared in print in 1909) won six games that year and suffered only one defeat, to Princeton University by a score of 8-6.

172. Probably David Thomas Graham (1863-1948), the son of Bryant Graham and Nancy Elkins, who married Perlina Frances Caldwell (1872-1931).

173. Earlier the Blacksburg Milling and Supply Company, the Blacksburg Power and Supply Company was a "power" and ice plant, as well as a mill and feed and seed store. In addition to feed, seed, fertilizer, and other farm supplies and implements, the store carried ice, as well as batteries and rudimentary generators or generating systems.

shock of her new corn<sup>174</sup> in garden. I rode to Price's Fork and chatted with neighbors. Julia packed butter for Winter. The black jersey had a heifer calf today.

**Saturday, October 9** Planted onions & flowers in the garden. Julia drove up to town to "Church Market." Miss Ella & Miss Mary McDonald called. J.B. Price bought two cows of me. Bright, warm, & very dry.

**Sunday, October 10** We did not drive up to Blacksburg to church but attended Service at Matamoros, 3 PM. The school house was full. The collection \$2.27. We called at Jim Evans' on the way home. It was a beautiful day. Warm & clear, very dry.

**Monday, October 11** Raining. Cows were hard to find but we got them milked. Jack Long took cream to town. I sold Poky & Vick (cows) to J. B. Price. Only got \$48.20 for the two. It rained hard until about 1 PM. Jeff Wolf stopped work today.

**Tuesday, October 12** Harve & I put potatoes in cellar today, fixed water pipes at spring, and fixed stalls in cow stable. Leonard Price got his arm broken twice and leg also. I rode down & helped Dr. Linkous<sup>175</sup> fix him up. Dr. Holly<sup>176</sup> commenced doctoring on Belle horse.

**Wednesday, October 13** We got the milking done in good time. Harve shucked corn for hogs. Then fixed some boxes in cow shed. Julia & I walked down to see Leonard Price. James B. Price brought my sow shoat to me. I let him have two shoats.

**Thursday, October 14** We marked 8 Bull calves and sowed grass seed on wheat land where we did not drill. Mrs. Jas Lee Wall & Miss Hattie Wall<sup>177</sup> spent the day. I took Leonard a basket of dinner. He is feeling better today.

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174. A shock of corn is a number of corn sheaves stacked together on end to cure and dry.

175. The son of Bird and Mary Linkous, Dr. Maury Burgess Linkous (1874–1933) was a local physician. He lived on Price's Fork Road, near his family's store building, which actually housed his medical office at the east end of its first floor, and, in 1918, married Mary Virginia Kirk (1885–1969), a school teacher originally from Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Maury Burgess Linkous, Jr. currently reside in Blacksburg at Warm Hearth Village.

176. A local veterinarian, Dr. Holly was probably a descendant of Thomas Holly, the North Carolina shoemaker whom James Randal Kent brought to his estate to make shoes for both the Kents and their slaves.

177. Mrs. James Lee Wall is Dora Myrtle (Price) Wall (1885–1959), the daughter of Henry Davidson Price and Melvinia Jane Price.

"Miss Hattie Wall" is possibly Harriet "Hattie" Wall (1906–1999), the Jim Walls' daughter, who married Fred Anderson Guynn, but more likely Jim Wall's sister Hattie.

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**Friday, October 15** Cold & windy today. Had a hay stack put in horse barn. Had 7 calves branded and watched cows out of corn field. Julia has suffered with cramps in her stomach all day and is not feeling well yet. Cows did better tonight.

**Saturday, October 16** I stripped cow barn. Harve got a load of coal from Shaffer Price<sup>178</sup> for me. He went after a load of Bran, but they did not have any. Got 28 lbs. of 20 percent cream from cows this PM.

**Sunday, October 17** Julia was not feeling well enough to drive to church, so I rode Russet there. Jim Cowan & wife joined me at the gate and we went out & returned together. We all took dinner at Alex's.

**Monday, October 18** I rode to town on business and got windows for the cow barn. Fixed up stove in separator house. Got some chop & bran from Mill for cows. Clear & cool. I fixed separator. J.B. & W. A. Price<sup>179</sup> came by and told me where we could get some more sheep.

**Thursday, October 21** I rode to John Flanagan's & spent the day waiting for Will Trollinger to bring my sheep. I bought 15 Ewes at \$6.50.<sup>180</sup> Brought them home this Evening, got here at 7 PM. I had a good dinner there and enjoyed the day.

**Friday, October 22** Harve & Hub Snider finished drilling their wheat in new ground. Had harrows & plows brought in. Got some stock in place & salted. Julia & I drove to Town and called at Dr. Wilson's & Dr. Barringer's. Took oyster supper at restaurant. Hampton Hoge took dinner with us. Got home at 8 PM.

**Saturday, October 23** I had 12 cows & yearlings dehorned at Price's Fork. Mary Lou Black & Dan Hoge spent the day with us. Rained this afternoon. They drove home in our buggy as it had a top. We enjoyed having them.

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178. Solomon Shaffer Price (1880–1936) was the son of Jonas Henry Price and Louisa Ann Snider. He never married. Shaffer Price worked in the Brush Mountain coal mines and also as a farmhand and general laborer.

179. Walter Alexander Price (b. 1880) was the Henry Davidson Prices' son. In 1910 he married Melissa Alice Olinger (1888–1961), the daughter of Hugh Otey "Ote" Olinger and Charlotte Virginia Shepherd. Walter Price operated the Price's Fork Mill and financed several coal mining operations undertaken by his brothers at Stroubles Creek on Price Mountain. In 1919 he succeeded Daniel Oliver Matthews as superintendent of grounds and buildings at V.P.I.

180. Otey means \$6.50 each.

**Sunday, October 24** We did not Drive to Blacksburg to church. Went to Matamoros and heard Rev. R. B. Nelson. Commenced the Sunday school there. Had a good school and we all enjoyed the Sermon.

**Monday, October 25** I fixed more cow stalls in barn. Harve did a lot of odd jobs. Julia drove to Town on business; she had nice meals today.

**Tuesday, October 26** Disked Julia's corn patch in garden and harrowed it good to put in wheat. Sam Jones (the Bull) worried me by throwing fence to hog pen and eating up the corn.

**Wednesday, October 27** I had wheat drilled in the garden. Took old Coal house down to make a calf shed. Julia drove to town and met Mrs. Mack Ingles & daughter Miss Laura Ingles.<sup>181</sup> They came & we are enjoying their visit so much.

**Thursday, October 28** Had three logs taken to mill to saw into strips for horse barn. Mrs. Ingles, Miss Ingles, Julia, & myself drove to Lovers' Leap before dinner. A Mr. Cornell took some pictures for Postal cards of this farm. Beautiful day, not cool.

**Friday, October 29** I took Mrs. Ingles & Miss Laura to railroad at Vicker. Got there at 12 o'clock. John Hoge of Giles County, wife and Isabelle, their youngest child,<sup>182</sup> William Lybrook & wife, and Alice Hoge came and spent the day with us. My cows are doing splendid. Got 174 lbs. only milking 25.

**Saturday, October 30** Worked on calf shed. Harve Snider got my fodder cutter from Vicker on N&W railroad. The mountain is on fire & I went to drive it back from my fences. Had a good mail. Julia had headache today.

**Sunday, October 31** Julia did not go to church in Town. I rode horseback and met Julia at 2:30 PM at Sunday school at old brick church near Matamoros. Mr. Nelson was there and we had a nice Sermon by him. I heard such a good sermon by Rev. Mr. Jack<sup>183</sup> at Baptist church in

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181. Laura Ingles (1881–1971), the McClanahan Ingles's daughter, married David Cloyd Barton (b. 1877), the son of Robert Barton and Lucy Thomas Cloyd.

182. John Thompson Sayers Hoge (1861–1938), his wife Florence Eliza (Snidow) Hoge (1872–1971), whom he married in 1891, and their daughter Isabelle Hume Hoge (b. 1904), who married Boyd Harshbarger (1906–1998), founder and longtime head of the Virginia Tech Department of Statistics. John T. S. Hoge was the youngest of the ten children of Joseph Haven Hoge (1820–1898) and Susan Crockett Sayers (1825–1883). Florence Eliza Snidow was the daughter of Ann Eliza Hoge (1841–1888) and John Chapman Snidow. Isabelle (Hoge) Harshbarger presently lives in Blacksburg on Country Club Drive.

183. Rev. E. B. Jackson.

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Town. I took dinner with Mary Lou Black. Dan & Louise Hoge there too. A beautiful, warm day.

**Monday, November 1** Had 36 shocks of corn shucked. I salted sheep & stock in mountain field, rode to Forks and arranged for place to vote in. Calf shed ready for roof. Clear, bright day. Cows did well today.

**Tuesday, November 2** Election day. I was Judge all day. Did not get home until after 9 PM. James Evans, Wade Helvey, Homer Linkous<sup>184</sup> & J. Matt Price other clerks & judges. A very quite pleasant day.

**Wednesday, November 3** I had cabbage buried<sup>185</sup> and more potatoes put away. Julia & I drove to Christiansburg and delivered the poll vote. Took dinner with Callie Hoge Tallant, drove back to Blacksburg, and spent night at Alex & Lizzie's. Beautiful day & we enjoyed it.

**Thursday, November 4** Julia took train in Blacksburg for Roanoke. I attended to a lot of business and drove home. Found all well. Read lots of Election news. Saw that cream was put away. Am all alone tonight.

**Friday, November 5** Had telephone poles hauled today. George Snider<sup>186</sup> stripped horse barn. I tried to get Vick Davis to go cook for Lulu Hoge. Julia did not come home today, and I do miss her so so much.

**Saturday, November 6** Salted and put stock in place. Had a lot of bran and chop gotten from mill for cows. Dr. P. B. Barringer & Miss Belle Buford<sup>187</sup> called. I drove to Blacksburg to meet Julia. We spent the night at Lulu Hoge's.

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184. John Wade Helvey (1860–1918) was the son of John J. Helvey (1824–1881) and Amanda M. “Mandy” Price (1829–1881) and the grandson of Adam Price, Sr. and Nancy Collins. Wade Helvey operated a general store in Price's Fork, on the corner of present Tucker and Price's Fork Roads, and financed numerous coal mining operations.

The fifth son of Bird and Mary Linkous, Homer G. Linkous (b. 1884) married Cora Bell Price (b. 1889), the Henry Davidson Prices' daughter. They had nine children.

185. In Otey's day farmers buried vegetables in the fall to store them for use during the winter. A hole was dug, usually somewhere in the garden, and vegetables were stored in the hole between two layers of straw, which protected them from the soil and its moisture. Otey buried celery, brussels sprouts, turnips, and other vegetables, as well as cabbage.

186. George D. Snider (b. 1882) was the Samuel Enos Sniders' son, the brother of Harve, Hub, and Robert Snider, John Snyder, and Berdie (Snider) Fisher, and the husband of Bessie Sue Olinger (1888–1973), whom he married in 1918. George and Bessie Sue Snider were the parents of Stanley Richard Snider, who married Ester Marie Snider, and Bertha Virginia Snider, who married Richard Lee Price. In 1925, after George Snider's death, his widow married his brother Robert James Snider (1874–1944). Robert and Bessie Sue Snider were the parents of Nellie Snider and Kelly Kent Snider, who married Florence Jeanette Bryant.

187. Most likely the Ike Bufords' granddaughter.

**Sunday, November 7** Heard such a good sermon by Rev. Rhyland — subject, “Remove the stones of sin.” We took dinner at Lulu’s and drove home about 3 PM. I am glad to get my wife home. She got her eye-glasses.

**Monday, November 8** Calvin & I tied up corn fodder that the wind tore off. Harve & Claud<sup>188</sup> hauled Telephone posts. Put up stove in our room. Beauty had a calf Saturday AM. Rained a little tonight.

**Tuesday, November 9** I helped Harve get some telephone posts out of mountain and saw Frank Evans about putting them through his place. Julia drove out in the buggy to see a neighbor. A fruit agent tried to sell me trees. Rained this afternoon & tonight. Alex Long got Beauty’s Bull calf.

**Wednesday, November 10** Men shucking corn, putting hay stack tops on that wind blew off.<sup>189</sup> Had some hay put in the cow barn and lots of corn in the crib. I took Leonard Price some dinner. He is getting better. Splendid day for Shucking.

**Thursday, November 11** Julia sick, could not attend Tea at Dr. McBryde’s. I got in a nice lot of corn out of new ground. The weather is beautiful. Cows doing very well. Kept them up one or two nights.

**Friday, November 12** Julia up and doing about “muchly.” Got a load of coal, 37 bushels, in cellar. More corn in. We drove to Blacksburg in afternoon. Took supper with Lulu & heard Mr. Garland preach good sermon. We got home at 11:15 PM. No moon.

**Saturday, November 13** Another beautiful day. Finished shucking corn in new ground. Washed buggy and Harness, salted stock, and hauled manure. Got a barrel of nice apples from Mr. J. J. Miller. We were too lazy to drive to Church tonight.

**Sunday, November 14** Julia & myself drove down and had dinner and spent the day with David Cloyd & wife Manie, Lucy Cloyd, Sallie Harmon & husband, and Edward Harmon, their son.<sup>190</sup> We enjoyed the day. Got home about 6 PM.

**Monday, November 15** David Cloyd & household came and spent the day with us. Julia had a splendid dinner. About 300 bushels of corn

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188. Claud Harrison Olinger (1892–1950) was the son of John David Olinger and Ellen Magdalene Price. He married Ethel Virginia Surface (1898–1987), the daughter of James Crockett “Jim” Surface and Cornelia Beard. Claud and Ethel Olinger lived on present Olinger Road in the Tom’s Creek area.

189. Typically replaced with a pitchfork when it blew off, a haystack top protected the rest of the stack by shedding water.

190. “Edward” Harmon is actually Edwin Houston Harmon (b. 1891), the fourth child (and eldest son) of Charles W. and Sally (Cloyd) Harmon. The Oteys visited the Cloyds and the Harmons at the Cloyds’ farm, Riverside.

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shucked and put in crib today. Men & women shucking. Harve Snider went off for a few days holiday. Claud Olinger in his place. Wrote Mamie Patterson a long letter tonight.

**Tuesday, November 16** Men shucked 150 bushels of corn until 12 AM, got too dry. Is a beautiful, warm day. I fixed up the milk harness,<sup>191</sup> put up stove in the Parlor, and paid off a lot of men for shucking corn. Looks more like rain tonight.

**Wednesday, November 17** Buried Turnips. Got in one load of corn. I rode to John Wall's & C.B. McDonald's on business. On my way home my mare Russet stepped on glass & cut her foot. It is getting so much colder that I will kill some hogs.

**Thursday, November 18** I killed 6 nice hogs. Had 3 men besides myself and we killed & cleaned them in about 3 hours. At 2 PM they were in the Smoke house. Good & cold, blowing snow. Julia had a nice dinner at 1 o'clock.

**Friday, November 19** Cut up the 6 big hogs that would have weighed 275 lbs. Made up the lard<sup>192</sup> & sausage. Measured the phone line from Matamoros into my house, 1 mile & 2/3. It took 44 posts 60 yds. apart. Julia & I are both tired after the day's work.

**Saturday, November 20** Mrs. Price & Julia made two big pots of soap.<sup>193</sup> I stuffed sausage and put it away. Grant Eaves got offals & lots of other stuff.<sup>194</sup> Harvey Apperson,<sup>195</sup> a Mr. Dickerson, & Mr. Miller took supper with us.

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191. A milking harness is a harness farmers occasionally needed to put on a dairy cow to prevent the cow from nursing herself.

192. Lard is made from the fat of hogs, which is melted down and clarified to become a white, soft solid. Each time they butchered, the Oteys made lard, which they stored in cans for future use.

193. The Oteys made soap by mixing lard from the hogs, a lye solution made from wood ashes, cold water, and other ingredients in kettles over a wood fire. When it reached the desired consistency, the mixture was allowed to cool and set up into soap, which was then cut out of the kettles and broken up into pieces for use.

194. The son of Eliza Eaves, Grant Eaves, who periodically worked for Otey, lived in the Wake Forest community and married Amy Chandler of Franklin County. He was the great-uncle of Oscar Sherman, who presently lives in Wake Forest and serves on the executive committee of the Montgomery County Coal Miners' Heritage Association.

Offals are the waste parts, particularly the entrails, of a butchered animal. Such entrails can be made into chitlins or used as sausage sleeves.

195. The eldest child of Dr. John S. Apperson and "Lizzie" Black, Harvey Black Apperson

**Sunday, November 21** I rode horseback to church in Town. Took dinner with Lulu Hoge. Julia taught Sunday school at Matamoros. I got back too late to come home with her. It has been a beautiful day.

**Monday, November 22** I looked over farm and rode to Forks on business. Salted meat. Mr. C. L. Miller came for his Jersey bull & calf. I helped him out to road. Men hauled in Hay to barn, got in one load of corn. Warm & dry. Miller took stock away.

**Tuesday, November 23** Julia & I spent the day in town and took dinner with Alex & Lizzie at the new Hotel Tutwiler. Julia attended a guild meeting. We both attended a play by school children and did not reach home until 6 PM. Had 15 shocks of corn shucked.

**Wednesday, November 24** Julia had 3 big Kettles of Soap put away. We cut Mrs. Price's hog up. Had some Telephone poles put up. Creamery statement was not so good last month. We put up 17 Phone posts and came in & milked & Separated the cream.

**Thursday, November 25** I rode & took the 4 "Crows"<sup>196</sup> something for Thanksgiving dinner. Got home in time for my dinner with my sweet wife. Elmer Phillips hired to work. He is from Floyd County and 18 years old.

**Friday, November 26** Had 4 men putting up Phone posts all day. We got them all up. Julia sent our dinner to us on the road. I called to see Misses McDonald about their phone posts. I salted stock & counted sheep, 51. A beautiful day.

**Saturday, November 27** Harve & Elmer Phillips hauled manure & bedding for cows. Fed stock in Mountain field. Julia spent day in Town. I salted and put some stock in a different field. The weather is beautiful. Grass about given out for stock.

**Sunday, November 28** Julia & I drove to church in Town. She to the Episcopal & I to the Baptist. Saw Liz & Lou after church, then drove to Matamoros to Sunday school. Mr. Nelson preached. Schoolhouse full of people. Miss Bolton,<sup>197</sup> Nellie Robinson, & Mrs. Robert Nelson were there.

**Monday, November 29** Had rails hauled to build a fodder pen. I fed

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(1890–1948) enjoyed a long and successful career in Virginia politics. In 1947 he became Attorney General of Virginia, when Governor William M. Tuck appointed him to fill the unexpired term of Abram Penn Staples. Harvey Apperson died in office.

196. Probably a reference to some poor women in the neighborhood, perhaps the four Misses Long mentioned three weeks later in his December 15 entry. Otey was known for his generosity to the needy in the Tom's Creek community.

197. Maria Bolton (d. 1921) was probably Cora (Bolton) McBryde's sister. She frequently served as a chaperon at V.P.I. dances.

cows turnips and rode to Forks on business. Could not get a boar hog. Colder tonight. Still very dry.

**Tuesday, November 30** I took Claud Olinger & put Miss Ella McDonald's Phone posts in to her home. Harve Snider & Elmer Phillips put fodder in barn. Julia canned her sausage and got us a good dinner. Beautiful day. I let Zach Price have toll for cost of Thrashing wheat & Rye. 6 bushels wheat, 1 1/4 Rye.

**Wednesday, December 1** Men fed cows and hauled more fodder. I did a lot of odd jobs. Salted & counted Sheep and packed old portraits & sent them to Huntsville, Alabama.<sup>198</sup> Cold this AM but it got warmer during the day.

**Thursday, December 2** Julia & I drove to see Put & Lizzie Adams. Spent the day there & got home about 6 PM. I had the back fence to yard pulled down and wood & fodder hauled. Julia came near having croup before we reached home.

**Friday, December 3** Julia drove up to Blacksburg early in the day & I drove up late afternoon. Took supper at Hotel Tutwiler, attended the V.P.I. German. Spent the night with Alex & Liz. It was a pretty German & we met many friends there.<sup>199</sup>

**Saturday, December 4** After attending to business & doing some shopping, we came home. Found all going on quietly. I cleaned Separator with gasoline. Finished getting the stack of hay in barn. Warm & clear tonight. Cook not back from visit yet.

**Sunday, December 5** We drove to church in Blacksburg. Julia heard the Bishop. I heard Mr. Edwards from Salem. We came back to Sunday school at Matamoros. Has been a beautiful day. I taught Mr. Nelson's class at Sunday school. We had about 30 scholars.

**Monday, December 6** Harve & Elmer Phillips worked on back yard fence. Moved old privy. It was a hard job. Hampton Hoge spent day with us and I let him have George (horse) to drive on a Hunting trip tomorrow.

**Tuesday, December 7** Cold east rain. Men fed stock and beat out beans. I cleaned & fixed Separator. Old Mr. Chris Olinger<sup>200</sup> is quite ill. Ordered some springs for separator.

**Wednesday, December 8** Cold and I killed 6 nice hogs by 12 o'clock

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198. Otey was sending the portraits to Carolee (Pleasants) Otey's family.

199. Thirty couples, ten stags, and nine chaperones attended the 1909 Thanksgiving German in German Hall.

200. Christian Phillip "Chris" Olinger (1831-1911), the son of Michael Phillip Olinger and Elizabeth Kippes, who married Susannah Elizabeth Price (1836-1910), the daugh-

and had the men put up back yard fence after 12.

**Thursday, December 9** Cut up hogs. Cut up Sausage meat & Lard. Made up some of the lard. I rode over to Linkous' Store & phoned about old hams I sold to Dr. Barringer. Very cold.

**Friday, December 10** Made sausage, mixed & stuffed it, made pudding<sup>201</sup> & Lard too. Mrs. Price (our cook) left today. May move away tomorrow. Not as cold tonight as it was this AM.

**Saturday, December 11** We finished the back yard fence and worked on fence at the ice house. Got my boar hog home from Robert H. Price. He is 10 months old and cost me \$15.00. Got 3 Plymouth Rock roosters from James B. Price. Got some bran for cows. Mrs. Price helped milk. Cows have gone down in milk.

**Sunday, December 12** Cloudy & threatening rain. We did not drive to Town to church but drove to Matamoros. A good many there considering the weather. Mr. Nelson came but did not preach as he went to bury a man. Elmer Phillips & I did the milking.

**Monday, December 13** Sleet & raining. The John Price family moved away. Harve Snider gone too, so I am out of milkers & farm hands. I am doing the milking of about 26 cows with one boy, Elmer Phillips. Julia has no cook.

**Tuesday, December 14** After doing all the morning's work, Julia & I got in the buggy and drove to Dr. Black's farm on Roanoke River to get a woman to milk; did not get her. We took dinner at the Hotel in Blacksburg. It was a long, rough drive and we did not get home until 7 PM.

**Wednesday, December 15** Julia took the 4 Miss Longs Xmas things.<sup>202</sup> Elmer Phillips & I milked the 26 cows, fed & cleaned up stables. Claud Olinger came and they hauled manure until dinner. Mr. Broce<sup>203</sup> came & we all helped put up Phone. Got 1/2 way with the wire. I milked with 3 boys to help.

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ter of Henry D. Price and Polly Surface. Chris Olinger is the progenitor of all the Olingers in the Price's Fork, Tom's Creek, and Sunnyside communities.

201. Made from a hog's liver (and sometimes lungs) mixed with bread crumbs, lard, eggs, onions, etc., liver pudding is an old-time dish that was especially popular in the South. Like sausage, it was usually made up in large quantities and preserved for later use.

202. Probably Sarah, Debbie, and Delila Long (the unmarried daughters of James Long, Sr.) and Sarah's unmarried daughter Louvenia.

203. Apparently Memminger C. Broce. The son of Samuel R. Broce, Memminger Broce was part owner of a 2,963.96-acre tract between Gap Mountain and Brush Mountain, which H. C. Hower and Henry Shallenberger bought in 1923.

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**Thursday, December 16** Jim Cowan came at 9 PM last night and we enjoyed his visit. He & Jim Price helped me drive 4 cows to Forks where I sold them to John Flanagan.<sup>204</sup> I fixed Separator & did many odd jobs after I got back. I got 3 cents for 2 cows & 2 1/2 for the other two.<sup>205</sup>

**Friday, December 17** I sent the milk to creamery by Leonard Price and rode in myself on horseback. Broce phoned me to come home as he wanted to put up my Phone. We worked hard on it. I am very tired to-night.

**Saturday, December 18** Got the Phone up today and we are talking to our friends. Had lots of calls over it tonight. It is cold but we worked hard to get Phone finished. Had everything scalded well at Spring house. Sent milk again today. Phone up.

**Sunday, December 19** We did not go to church in Town, too cold. We attended Sunday school at Matamoros. The new organ has come. Elmer Phillips & I milked after we got back from Sunday school. Had a good school today.

**Monday, December 20** Julia killed 25 nice turkeys & 7 chickens and we put them in two barrels.<sup>206</sup> Mrs. Jim Kitts<sup>207</sup> & Minnie Snyder helped pick them. Claud Olinger & Elmer also helped. It was a very busy day for us all and we are so tired tonight.

**Tuesday, December 21** Sent turkeys to Vicker to N&W railroad by Claud Olinger. I rode to Pepper's Ferry and hired a man by name of Henry as farm hand. I took dinner with David Cloyd, Jr. & wife and got home about 6 PM.

**Wednesday, December 22** Cold & blowing snow. Men fed stock & put straw for bedding in barn & hog house. Leonard had a cold drive delivering milk. I doctored a cow & worked around cow barn. Stock are eating winter feed good this weather. My fodder going fast, hay too.

**Thursday, December 23** I sent farm wagon to Town after Bran & other cow feed, got 1 ton. I drove up in the double buggy. Did lot of Xmas shopping. Julia made fruit cake and worked much.

**Friday, December 24** Had several men getting out ice at the old mill pond of Zach Price's. Got 19 or 20 loads in ice house. I called to see

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204. Born and reared at the Flanagan place on the New River, John T. Flanagan and his wife Cynthia lived and farmed near Pepper's Ferry.

205. 3 cents and 2 1/2 cents per pound.

206. The Oteys raised many of their turkeys for sale to markets in the North. The turkeys were slaughtered, hung, plucked, packed in barrels, and shipped on the railroad.

207. The wife of James "Jim" Kitts, the natural son of John Wade Helvey.

old Mr. Chris Olinger who is sick. Grant Eaves helped Julia in Kitchen some today.

**Saturday, December 25** About 3 or 4 inches of snow — first time ground has been covered this winter. Julia & I are alone with one farm hand, Elmer Phillips. She had a mighty good dinner. We enjoyed talking to our friends over the phone. Colder tonight.

**Sunday, December 26** Wind blowing hard and much Snow flying. Too cold to think of driving to church. Took my time and fed and made the stock comfortable. I did not let the cows out, only long enough to get water. Elmer & Leonard helped me milk this PM.

**Monday, December 27** I pulled out some ice 6 to 8 inches thick at ford back of barn. Got in a lot of men after dinner and finished filling the house. Staples Price to milk. Elmer Phillips & Claud Olinger fed stock and hunted Rabbits.

**Tuesday, December 28** I feel very badly. After milking I came to the house and was lying on bed most of today. Dr. Spencer & J. B. Price were hunting here and came in & took dinner with us. They gave us six birds & a Rabbit. We had such a nice card from Aunt Margie today.

**Wednesday, December 29** Cold rough day. Leonard Price had a rough trip to creamery. I feel a little better. Helped Julia fix north Kitchen window and one upstairs. Colder than it was this AM, and the phone is a comfort today.

**Thursday, December 30** I am feeling fine. Work going on nice although it is down to zero weather. James Evans' little baby boy Paris is very ill this AM. Julia got returns from turkeys; they came to nearly \$90.00. Julia sent Lizzie Black & Mrs. R. B. Nelson some nice Birds. We have had birds and Rabbits all week.

**Friday, December 31** Little Paris Evans died about 3 PM yesterday. Julia & I drove to his burial today at 2 PM. The other Twin is better.<sup>208</sup> Not as cold and the Snow is going off. Stock have come through the rough weather in good shape. We thank God for all the blessings of the year.

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208. James Paris Evans (1908–1909) was the son of Jim and Mary Jane Evans; his twin was James F. "Jim" Evans, Jr.

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