

ETTA'S JOURNAL

January 2, 1874-July 25, 1875

Edited by ELLEN PAYNE PAULLIN
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[The first installment of this article appeared in the Autumn, 1980, issue.]

[SEPT.] WEDNESDAY 2ND. Uncle Isaac and aunt Ellen started for home this afternoon. they enjoyed their visit very much. I guess they didn't hear anything about me that troubled them. they didn't seem to be at all troubled. Uncle Isaac gave me \$.50 this morning. We were blessed with a good rain this morning, but I don't believe we any of us felt thankful enough for it. why is it we are such ungrateful creatures? I have been feeling very ungrateful this afternoon. in fact I have had the blues and have them yet. This morning I felt pretty well and thought to myself—I *must* marry A. he would be *so* kind to me; and I should be *so* happy. I should enjoy making home pleasant for him *so much* and then I shouldn't have to drudge *all* the time as I do here. this afternoon Mrs. Adams came in and sat awhile. she got to talking about women and their troubles and then I got to thinking blue thoughts, thinking that it is impossible for me to ever marry, that it would certainly cause my death if I couldn't live so without having children I am sure it would *not do*. and if I can't marry I don't see but that I have got to drudge, drudge, *drudge* all my life. that seems to be the lot of some folks in this life and I believe it is mine. And here I sit grumbling. *Anything* is *too good* for me and yet I murmur and complain because I can't have everything I want. I have—Oh! *so much* to be thankful for, and yet I complain. Lord, help me; help me to do right. It has been cold and cloudy today; with some rain. Kittie Toad lies in my lap,⁹³ and has ever since I commenced writing. Genie Parish and Albert Page are supposed to be married and they certainly ought to be. they are a good match.⁹⁴ Mrs. Adams asked me this afternoon if I

thought Mr. Reynolds would ever get married. I told her I didn't know. she said she knew I didn't know, but she asked me if I *thought* he ever would. I told her I hadn't any idea, any thing about it. The inquisitive thing. I don't see how she can be so bold. If Alvin comes here she sends her husband out to talk with him, or else she comes herself so as not to leave us by ourselves any more than cannot be avoided. I suppose she thinks I am too thick headed to see through it all, or perhaps she thinks by so doing she is favoring me. I scarcely know what *to* think of her.

[SEPT.] THURSDAY 3RD. Cloudy, cold and rainy, ever since yesterday morning. Kittie Toad slept with me last night and is with me now. she is a dear little Puss and is always good only when she is naughty. I made some very nice grape jelly and marmalade yesterday. Alvin came in this afternoon and tasted of them. he is longing for a home of his own. I should think Mr. Caudwell and Mr. Potter would come home. they can't do anything at haying now, every thing is so wet. Father called on me this afternoon. he thinks he will do well up country. his house is sold for taxes. he is too poor to pay his taxes. I told him if he would get me a school I would redeem his house for him. it will take \$25.00.

SUNDAY SEPT. 6. Friday, uncle went over to Mrs. Flagg's and traded her for her two-seated buggy. it is *very* easy. we all rode to church in it today. it will hold six very easily. the seats are long and roomy. When uncle came home Friday evening, he said Father had gone, and taken his family and goods with him. I was very much surprised, for I supposed he wouldn't move for several weeks yet. he didn't even bid me good-bye. Mrs. Flagg, Mrs. Hoar,⁹⁵

93. Etta's kitten.

94. Evidently Genie (see footnote 33) and Albert didn't marry as Albert, the stonemason who helped Alvin Reynolds, married someone named Robin. They had three children, Bertie, Charles, and Fred. Bertie lived until 1930.

95. Mrs. E. J. Hoar, 51, a native of Maine, lived in Zeandale with her two sons.

This morning, stopped at - Lehar's until towards
 night, when we went down town & over - mile S.
 & wife, at - P. H. Whitford & Perry's store; so I got in
 and rode home with them. (Then was the first
 to meet me, he was overjoyed to see me. Mrs. A.
 thought it time for me to come back. I went up to
 proper meeting tonight; it was a great one. I was
 at the stable & sister came while I was gone.
 I suppose they are domesticated at - Mrs. Sitewat
 now. At grand concert was held at - the Fair
 grounds this afternoon by four or five bands.
 I heard them play as they marched to - the
 grounds. There is a grand ball in Manhattan
 this evening. I heard that - Dan Phelps
 wife had left him, that - it was her daughter's
 things, & that - Dan Miller is keeping house
 for him. An accident happened to one of the
 trains last Sunday night - about four miles
 below here. The fireman was killed, mine cars
 demolished, and the engine injured. Mrs. Adams
 informs me that - Alvin has moved into his house
 moved in last - Yesterday. She and her husband
 called on him yesterday evening. She said she looks
 as well as a fine man. I want to see him.

Etta Parkerson kept a "Journal" from January 2,
 1874, to July 25, 1875. During the time of the writing
 she worked as housekeeper for her Uncle William
 Goodnow, Manhattan storekeeper and builder.
 They lived in the back part of her Uncle Isaac
 Goodnow's large stone house during the time Isaac,
 his wife, and adopted daughter, Harriet, lived in
 Neosho Falls while Isaac served as land commis-
 sioner for the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad.
 Etta's diary, beautifully and legibly written in pencil,
 included her comments about community and fam-
 ily life, her religious faith, and her relationships with
 those around her, particularly her courtship by the
 man she was to marry. Photograph courtesy Ellen
 Paulin.

Mrs. Lee⁹⁶ and perhaps Hattie Flagg are coming to visit us next Thursday. uncle will go after them, in his new buggy. Ella Hougham came over Friday evening; she staid to tea, and a part of the evening. I worked hard all day yesterday, and half the night. did a large, two weeks washing Friday. This morning we *all* went to church. Mrs. Adams thought she would stay down at Darius' till night. I went to the Cong. church today; they observed the Lord's Supper. I partook. My head ached, and so I went with Mrs. Adams over to Clara's, to stay till S.S. was over, but I staid too long, and the men went home and left me, so I staid there till evening, when Mr. Adams and Mr. C. came down.

I wanted dreadfully to attend the Adventist's meeting (they have pitched their tent in front of the Christian church, and have been preaching every day for nearly two weeks) but Mr. and Mrs. Adams wanted to attend the Missionary Concert at their church and I didn't want to go alone to the tent, so I went along with them. There was a Rev. Mr. Pickett there from Des Moines, Iowa. He made a few remarks, they were very good. after the meeting closed, he went around and shook hands and spoke to every body. After he had spoken to Mr. Adams, he came to me, and shook hands, and said, "And this lady,—I never wait for an introduction; if I did I never should speak to any body." He forgot (or rather) over-looked Mrs. Adams till he got to the outside door, when he said "I believe I have shaken hands with you." she told him no he hadn't. "Why, he said, it would have been an *awful* thing if I had forgotten you." After that was over we walked over to the tent. it was crowded, and a number of outside listeners. We joined the latter class of course. the preaching was nearly done, but the Sacrament was afterwards administered. about fourteen partook. Mr. Caudwell has a young man by the name Davis staying with him tonight. I let them sleep in the parlor chamber.

[SEPT.] MONDAY 7. Mrssrs. Potter and Caudwell went back to Deep Creek⁹⁷ today, to try to finish haying. I felt real lonesome this

afternoon. I don't see why I should either, unless Mr. C. takes our cheerfulness with him, when he goes away. I shall be *so* lonesome when he and Mr. and Mrs. Adams go away; as I suppose they will. It is only a little over three months since Alvin buried his tobacco; but he sent for some more today. uncle did not go to town today, so it is not purchased yet. I want to talk to him about it in the morning. I had a very sad time tonight. *Oh!* I wish he wouldn't use it. he is looking so well now and is doing *well* too, and I have learned to love him *more* than life. it seems hard for him to turn back to tobacco. *Oh! so hard.* I have had a real hard cry over it, and if ever I *prayed*, I prayed tonight. I prayed for him and for myself. *Oh!* Heavenly Father help him. Help me. I am afraid if he yields to tobacco he will sooner or later do the same to whiskey. O Father—*Jesus* help him.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 8. I have been half sick today; in consequence of my cry last night I think. Alvin was in this morning, but he didn't stay but a minute, and I didn't have the courage to bring in the subject abruptly, so nothing was said about the tobacco. I think I shall have more courage next time I see him. I don't think he has got the stuff yet, for uncle has not been to town today. he went to mill this forenoon. I have felt sad about Alvin all day. Poor man! I know he feels lonely, and bad. Today has been stormy. we have had considerable rain. I had an introduction to Miss Russell⁹⁸ this evening; she came down with Allie on some errands. Mr. Denison went to Baldwin yesterday.

SEPT. 9. [WED.] It has been cloudy today, but I believe we have had no rain. I have been cooking all day, for those folks who are coming tomorrow. It is a remarkably clear night. Alvin was here this morning, and again this evening. I gave him some of my goodies that I have been cooking. I didn't get a chance to speak with him alone. he seems rather shy of me. I think he feels just a little ashamed of himself. his tobacco came tonight. uncle brought it. I have just written on the inner side of the paper, a couple of verses from I. Cor. 3, 16 and 17.⁹⁹ he can't help seeing the writing when he unrolls the paper. with that Divine injunction before

96. Mrs. S. V. Lee was a popular Manhattan resident. When she died the following February, the Manhattan *Nationalist*, February 12, reported "Perhaps no woman in this community would be more universally missed than Mrs. Lee will be. Her heart and hand were always ready for every good deed, and her pleasant face and kind voice ever welcomed in the homes of her many friends."

97. Deep creek was in Clay county, near Bala.

98. Effie Russell was a K.S.A.C. student from Wakefield.

99. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

him, I don't see how he can ever taste the stuff again. Dear Savior, *help him.*

FRIDAY SEPT. 11. Our company came yesterday, as expected, only two little girls instead of Hattie. she is working for Mrs. Coe, and couldn't leave. They all said they had enjoyed their visit very much. they praised my victuals, and said they ate too much. Auntie Lee and Mrs. Flagg washed the most of my dinner dishes. they all seemed very anxious to have me come and visit them. Uncle and I invited Mr. and Mrs. Adams to come in and spend the afternoon, and take tea with us, but Mrs. Adams felt offended because I hadn't told her they were coming and said she couldn't come; she had planned to wash, and thought she must. Mrs. Lee went in to see her a little while, and she didn't wash at all. I think she might have come in just as well as not, but I ought not to judge. I did not tell her they were coming for the very reason that she is so very inquisitive. I supposed she would ask who I was expecting for company, and then of course I should have told her. I gave her what cake I had left from supper, and a whole loaf of nice bread, after supper. she seemed to appreciate it. Hattie Whitney started to Mayday yesterday morning to teach. Alvin came in to see me this evening. drank a cup of tea. he says he gets real lonesome every day. I should think he would. Poor man! He has his discouragements too, to battle with. I went up to prayer meeting this evening. The President preached a half or three quarters of an hour. *after that* we had quite an interesting meeting.

[SEPT] SUNDAY 13. Yesterday was rainy. Alvin came in the afternoon and staid awhile with me. Mr. Caudwell and Mr. Potter came towards night. Yesterday was the easiest Saturday for me, that I have had for a long time. It has rained and misted all day today. Mr. C. and Mr. A. went to church this morning. The rain is dripping, dripping, dripping, and dropping, dropping, dropping. Mr. Caudwell gave my hand the hardest squeeze last night that I ever had when shaking hands with any body. he is a good man. I *like* him. This has been just about such a day as the 15th of June was, the day Mrs. Potter arrived. only I think we have had more rain today.

[SEPT.] MONDAY 14. Today has been cold and very rainy, and wind too. this afternoon the clouds dispersed and left a clear shining

blue sky. the new moon appeared tonight with a large bright star just beneath it. it was a *lovely* sight. Alvin came in this afternoon to see me. he feels uneasy when he can't work. he is quite anxious about his house. he is in a hurry to get into it. he brought me some letters to read. they were written by his deceased brother's wife to another brother. I read them this evening. they are all about her husband. Poor woman, how she loved him! his loss is a great cross for her to bear. her whole heart—her very *life* was bound up in him. If I could only see her. I would like to put my arms around her neck and weep with her. She doesn't know how I have wept and prayed over one of her husband's *brothers*. Ah! there are many other just such broken hearts in this world, as hers, and there will be many more. I can't help mixing thoughts of Alvin into *everything*. he seems to have become a part of my *life*. I believe he has all the true nobility in him that his brother John had, if he would only let it show itself. Oh! why must friends conspire against us! Why should his light have been hid! Why can't people know him as he really is! Oh! they don't *know* how *much* we love each other. If they did, I don't believe they *could* make such strong efforts to keep us separate. Dear Lord help us to fully, *wholly* trust Thee to bring all right.

SEPT. 15. [TUES.] A lovely day. Alvin's birthday.¹⁰⁰ he came down a few minutes this afternoon, on his way to feed his pigs. Mrs. Adams presented him with two bright silver-plated teaspoons. Mr. Caudwell took Mr. and Mrs. Adams and me to town this evening. I bought Alvin a little writing desk, and a linen handkerchief for birthday presents. We had frost last night, and I think we will have again tonight. Alvin has felt very much discouraged today, because he was hindered so about working on his house last week. he couldn't get some things from town that he needed to work with, and it was stormy a part of the time. I am sorry he has had such a gloomy day of it.

[SEPT.] WEDNESDAY 16. A pleasant day. Mrs. Adams' birthday. I wish I had something to give her, but I haven't. Uncle went to St. George this afternoon to be gone all night. Mrssrs Caudwell and Potter went back to Deep Creek towards night. As I was alone this evening Mrs. A. came in and sat with me. I told her three white lies. *How could I help it?*

100. This was Alvin's 50th birthday.

[SEPT.] THURSDAY 17. Another very pleasant day. I did a very large washing today. had 52 pieces. Finished my white dress today and washed it. Had a call from Mrs. Jaquith this evening. Uncle has not returned yet. Alvin came in a few minutes this morning. I gave him his handkerchief. he seemed very thankful for it. I told him I had something else for him, and would show it to him sometime. I was afraid Mrs. Adams would come in find out all about it, if I let him see it then.

FRIDAY SEP. 18. I sat up real late last night, mending. Consequently slept rather late this morning. Allie came and found me in bed. she said she was ashamed of me to say the least. I was up by seven o'clock. Uncle came home a little before noon. said the Kansas River had risen three feet since yesterday morning. they have been having heavy rains west of us. Alvin came in this afternoon, after some money. I showed him his desk. he seemed very well pleased with it. thought I was very thoughtful of him. Mrs. Adams says she is jealous of Mr. Reynolds and me and thinks there is a bargain brewing. I told her I didn't think she needed too. O she said she wouldn't make any trouble, but she thought things looked very suspicious and he looked very happy, and he knew where to go to get happy. I wish she would keep still about him. Today has been mostly cloudy, and it is quite cold tonight. Harry came in this evening, and while here, helped uncle move the stove into the dining room, so I guess we can keep warm now. And *Mr. Caudwell can come and sit with me*, as he spoke of. Perhaps he thought I couldn't see his double object in that. he can save both fuel and lamp oil.

[SEPT.] SAT. 18. Today has been very pleasant. Coburn Page is down from the Solomon. he, Mrs. Potter, and Cora made me a visit this afternoon. Alvin was in a few minutes. Mr. Caudwell came home tonight. Mr. Potter is not well. I did up my white dress this afternoon. hope I can wear it tomorrow.

[SEPT.] WED. 23. I wore my white dress Sunday for the first time. Alice rode down with me. she talked so much about my dress and how nice I looked, I told her I should almost be afraid to wear it again, it had such a bad effect on her. I went up to College in the afternoon and heard the Pres. preach. I didn't like his sermon very well, but Mr. Adams liked [it]. I came home, went right in to Mrs. Adams and

found Mr. R. and Mrs. Powell there. John Morgan came in after a while, and we all bade them Good-Bye. I suppose they started for England Monday morning.¹⁰¹ Alvin stopped Sunday with me; we had a long talk together, since which I have felt nearer than ever to him. Mrs. Adams thinks we will be married sometime. I hope we shall. I long for it now. I want to be with him, to cheer his lonely hours, and be a comfort to him. Mr. Adams had his threshing done Monday afternoon. Alvin and Mr. Caudwell helped. they were in our part a little while in the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Potter and Cora were here all day, picking plums and peaches. they ate dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Adams. that is, Mr. Page, Mrs. Potter and Cora did. Cora is dreadful rough and boisterous. Miss Russell has been expecting to go home for the last two weeks, but hasn't gone yet. Mrs. Lionhardt took dinner with us yesterday. she came with Mr. C. last Saturday, and went back with him yesterday. he and Albert came back last night. they were dissappointed [*sic*] in their hay, and left it, gave it up. I washed today. Mr. Caudwell is going to his farm tomorrow. Mrs. A. and I have been talking to Mr. Reynolds this afternoon about not looking out for number one (1).

[SEPT.] THURSDAY 24. Mr. Caudwell is gone. I got up this a.m. in time to bid him "Good Morning." Alvin was in a few minutes this afternoon. he doesn't like to stay with Mr. Potter. thinks he will get into his own house next week. Poor lonely man! I am sorry for him, but I can't help him *yet*. I received a postal card from Mr. Jones this evening, stating that he had received the money I sent him all right. he wanted me to come down and spend a week or two with Carrie. Uncle said he would take me down tomorrow if I wanted to go; but I am not prepared to go just now. If it would only rain tomorrow, so as to retard uncle's going that way quite so soon, perhaps I might contrive to go. Uncle says he shall be gone next week, so it would be a good chance for me to visit a little. Mr. Burrough's folks are living in Mr. Pierce's house instead of Mr. Knipe's as I

101. On Sunday, February 8, Etta noted that Powell had taken tea with them. In *The Nationalist*, September 18, 1874: "Mr. Powell, who has been in the employ of G. W. Higinbotham & Co. starts next Tuesday for his native land, England, expecting to sail on Saturday following."

Later it was reported "Mr. Powell . . . has fallen heir to \$50,000 by the death of a brother in England . . . If he comes back to this neighborhood he will be quite a nabob, for he already owned considerable property."—*Ibid.*, January 29, 1875.

thought. Mrs. Burnham is here yet. the Pres. called on her two or three times, and she altered her mind and sent Willie back to school. Sebia Mudge has entered the Segnior class at the Lawrence University, and will graduate next June. Prof. Mudge is home now. came home sick from his geologizing tour. Mr. and Mrs. Stillman were divorced last week, also Dr. Patee and wife. Maj. Miller is to take Mr. Denison's place the coming year and moves in with his mother-in-law soon.¹⁰² Albert Page will take Mr. Denison's farm next year. The Manhattan and Northern Railroad is begun, the irons are being laid.¹⁰³

FRIDAY OCT. 2ND. Here I am on College Hill once more! Last Friday morning Alvin was here a few minutes. While he was here uncle told me if I would cook up some things for him, and would like to go, he would take me down to Waubaunsee, to Mr. Jones' in the afternoon. I thought over it some, and finally I concluded to go, as uncle expected to be gone this week, and perhaps I would never have such a good chance again. So I hurried with all my might to get ready. Alvin came again at noon to bid me good bye. he said he should be *lonesome*. Well, I went. we arrived at Mr. Jones' about dark (we didn't get started till late). Carrie seemed glad to see me. A cousin of hers from Burlingame was there. she has been there nine or ten weeks and will stay two weeks longer. she is taking lessons of Carrie. she is almost sixteen years old. she is a good girl and I like her. she wants me to write to her, and I think I shall. Well, Mr. Jones was not at home Friday evening (he had gone to Alma) but as it was so late, uncle staid all night.

They were drying and canning fruit all the time I was there. Nevertheless I had a very pleasant visit. I saw Amelia Noyes at church Sunday. she didn't see me until services were all over, and we were about to go home. I never saw any one more astonished than she was to see me there. I didn't get a chance to go out to see her. Katie Griswold made us a visit one day while I was at Carrie's and Fanny sent word by her for me and the other girls to come and visit her. we were to go today if I had stayed. We visited Ella Weaver yesterday afternoon. had a

very pleasant visit with her. went from there to prayer-meeting. had an introduction to Mr. Christopher. Mrs. Keyes invited me to make her a visit. I was invited this morning to their sewing circle at Mr. Gilmore's this afternoon, but I had a good chance to ride home this morning with George Weaver in a buggy, so I came, as I was afraid I wouldn't get another such good chance very soon. They all hated to have me come away so soon. they protested against it at first. Ella Weaver wanted me to spend a few days with her. Oh! I rode home from prayer-meeting last night on a load of hay. It was "*jolly*." I was busy all the time I was there, helping them, and doing a little for myself. Ella Weaver has a nice fat little boy.

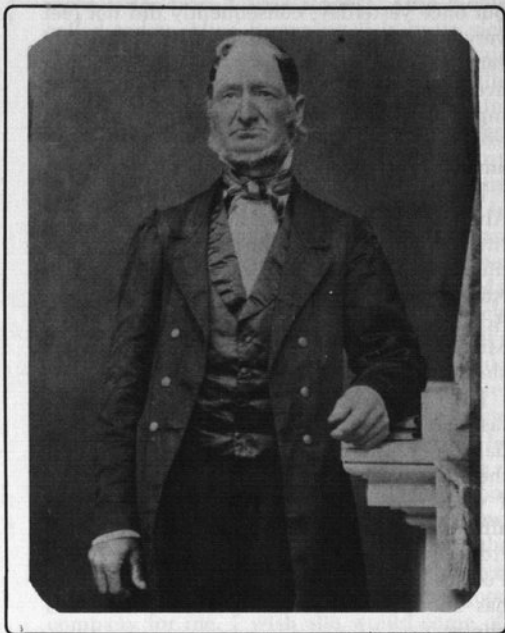
I had a nice ride with George Weaver this morning. stopped at Clara's until towards night, when we went down town and met Uncle S. and wife, at Whitford and Perry's store: so I got in and rode home with them. Trim was the first to meet me, he was overjoyed to see me. Mrs. A. thought it time for me to come back. I went up to prayer-meeting tonight. it wasn't much. Allie Noble and sister came while I was gone. I suppose they are *domesticated* at Mrs. Stewart's now. A *grand* concert was held at the Fair grounds this afternoon by four or five *bands*. I heard them play as they marched to the grounds. There is to be a *grand ball* in Manhattan this evening. I heard today that Dr. Phelps' wife had left him, that it was her daughter's doings, and that Lena Miller is keeping house for him. An accident happened to one of the trains last Sunday night about four miles below here. the fireman was killed, nine cars demolished, and the engine injured.

Mrs. Adams informs me that Alvin has moved into his house. moved in last Tuesday. she and her husband called on him Tuesday evening. she said he looked as neat as a pin. How I would like to see him. I hope he will come down tomorrow. I hope Mr. Caudwell will come tomorrow too. I do believe uncle Solomon is afraid I will get married soon for he wanted to know what I was going to do *now*, if I was going to stay here, but as Carrie says, "he needn't trouble his little heart." Uncle William has been at home all the time I was gone. I wouldn't have gone away if I hadn't thought he would be away. I shall have a time tomorrow cleaning up after him.

102. Major Miller's wife was Emma Denison. Her father had gone to Baldwin to begin his presidency at Baker University.

103. The Manhattan and Northern Railroad went up the Blue river through Marysville to Nebraska. Isaac Goodnow was on its board of directors.

William E. Goodnow (1807-1876), Etta's uncle for whom she kept house at the time the "Journal" was written. Storekeeper, builder, and farmer, William Goodnow came to Kansas from Maine in 1855. His wife, Harriet Paddleford Goodnow, feared Indians and the uncomfortable Kansas climate and remained in Maine until her death in 1870.



[OCT.] SATURDAY 3. Alvin came down this morning before I got my hair combed, before we ate breakfast. he was very much surprised. we shook hands I think for the first time. Allie Noble was here a while this afternoon. she, her sister, and another girl are together at Mrs. Stewart's. she and I are going to visit each other when we've nowhere else to go. Alvin dressed up and came down to see me this evening. Mrs. Adams would have me get supper for him, and eat with him. We had a pleasant time. he staid till about twelve o'clock. Mr. Caudwell came about that time. it is Sunday morning I suppose; and I must stop writing and go to bed. Uncle went away this afternoon, to be gone four or five days.

MONDAY OCT. 5. Mr. Caudwell traveled so far Saturday, he thought it would be cruel to take his team out yesterday, so we none of us went to town to church yesterday, except Mr. Caudwell, who walked down in the evening. he did not arrive until about midnight Saturday. Mr. Adams and wife and I went to the Chapel yesterday afternoon, and heard Mr.

Pillsbury preach.¹⁰⁴ Alvin came down towards night and staid until about nine o'clock. He feels *very very* lonesome; he is longing for my company and finds it a weary waiting. Poor man! How *can* I ever refuse him, and yet, *is it safe to accept? Lord Jesus guide me. Show me what I must do.* Mr. Caudwell seems to think me perfection. I think he and Alvin are *both* in love with me, for it is said "Love is blind" and they can neither of them see my faults and I don't see how they can help it.

I sent a letter to Mariette Barker this morning.¹⁰⁵ I sent it to town by Mr. Caudwell. he thought my writing very pretty. Alvin was in a few minutes this afternoon and was feeling very *lonesome*. Mr. Caudwell is feeling discouraged. he has been so unfortunate since he came to America. he thinks of teaching school this winter. I have been gathering and preparing peaches to preserve and pickle today. I ate

¹⁰⁴ Rev. S. Pillsbury was minister of the Manhattan Baptist church.

¹⁰⁵ Mrs. C. E. Barker ran a millinery store in Manhattan with the help of her daughter, Anna. An older daughter, Marietta, was a teacher who corresponded with Etta.

but once yesterday, consequently did not feel very strong this morning. I did not feel like eating, had the head-ache in the afternoon and evening. I have taken up the practice of learning a verse from the Bible daily. I think it an excellent plan. I wish I had a better memory. I am so apt to forget.

[OCT.] TUESDAY 6. Just one week ago today Alvin moved into his own house. he was here a little while this forenoon and again this evening. he called on all of us this evening: Mr. Adams and wife, Mr. Caudwell, and me. Mrs. Adams quizzed me again today, to find out if Mr. Reynolds and I had any serious intentions. she did not find out very much. It rained today.

[OCT.] WEDNESDAY 7. A clear pleasant day. I fast part of the time when Uncle is gone. Victuals don't taste good to me when I have to eat them alone. Alvin was in a few minutes today. I went over to Ella H.'s a little while this afternoon. Gave Mr. Caudwell some instruction in pronunciation this evening. Ella Powers has a little girl. I guess Mr. Caudwell has about decided not to teach school this winter.

THURSDAY OCT. 8. I washed today without the aid of the crystal,¹⁰⁶ or anything else except my own hands, the wash-board, soap and water. it was very hard work, but I did it. I think I shall do so every time, and not use the crystal any more. it does not make the clothes clean. Alvin washed an army blanket here this afternoon. he spent the evening with us. (Mr. Caudwell and me). I clipped a lock of his hair tonight.

[OCT.] FRIDAY 9. A lovely day. Mr. and Mrs. Adams visited Mr. and Mrs. Wells¹⁰⁷ today. I mopped the floor today. it never was so hard for me before. I had to stop every few minutes and cry out. *Oh dear!* it did tire me dreadfully. I suppose it was because I have not been eating much lately, and I worked very hard washing, yesterday. I have to work altogether too hard here. I don't see what I am going to do about it. Alvin had his hair cut today. he looks much better after it. he was here again this evening. he staid in at Mr. Adams' awhile. he said he came after his blanket. Poor man! he has to go home to his dark lonely garret. he says he never

lived where he was so lonesome as he is there. Poor man! I pity him so! his clothes are all out of repair. He needs "some one to take care of him" as he says. I wish I could do it. I don't believe any body else would do it as well as I would. and there is Mr. Caudwell. he was patching his shirt tonight. he seemed very cheerful too, but I couldn't help but pity him. I pity all these good bachelors, but I can't help them all. I wish I knew how father is getting along.

[OCT.] SATURDAY 10. Another lovely day. I made my first sweet pickles of peaches today. washed some, ironed some, cooked some, mended some, and washed dishes some. I am tired tonight. I have worked hard all the week. Alvin was in a few minutes this afternoon. I lent him some papers to read. Harry and Ella came in this evening. Uncle Solomon came in and found A.R. sitting on a box and talking to me this afternoon. he did not seem to think much of it. he seemed quite cheerful. he will continue teaching and Miss Kate can't hinder him. I should think she would feel rather cheap. Mr. and Mrs. Adams rode to town this evening with Brother Caudwell. Uncle W. came home tonight, cross, too, as usual. Received a letter from sweet Millie tonight. I have had the blues a part of the day. There is quarterly meeting tomorrow, and we are going earlier than usual. Mrs. Adams and I had a little spat today, about a wash-board. she imagined herself imposed upon, when no such thing was thought of by me.

[OCT.] SUNDAY 11. Some animal killed three of our little chickens last night and I had to dress them this morning. I left my dishes, and went to church. we all went but uncle. we staid down to Mr. Horton's funeral.¹⁰⁸ Clara and Horace went too. they had the Masonic ceremonies. Poor Emma! she is left a very young widow, and mother. they have been married only about a year and he was a good man. He was sick only a week. Had the erysipelas in his head. I had to battle very hard to keep back the tears, after seeing her come in grief stricken, and when I thought what she had lost. *Oh!* I hope I shall never have to pass through that

106. Perhaps Etta is referring to soda crystals, sodium carbonate, or washing crystals, used to soften water.

107. Thomas C. Wells, 43, and wife Eleanor, 41, had a fruit and dairy farm three miles northwest of Manhattan.

108. N. D. Horton, one of Manhattan's earliest settlers, died of erysipelas on October 9. "The funeral procession that followed to the last resting place all that remained of this good man, public spirited citizen, trusted friend and affectionate husband, was by far the largest ever seen in Manhattan."—*The Nationalist*, October 16, 1874.

ordeal. I believe it would *kill* me. *Oh! Heavenly Father! what shall I do??* What *shall* I do? Mrs. Denison was down to church today. Mr. Sullivan¹⁰⁹ presided at the qua[r]terly meeting. he shook hands with me. Alvin was here again this evening of course. I am all fidgety, and, fluttika flutica. that is very foolish language I know; but it expresses my feelings, just about. I wonder what is going to become of me.

[OCT.] MONDAY 12. A pleasant but chilly day. I went up to College this morning and engaged Jenny Whitney¹¹⁰ to come to stay with me while the folks are gone to the association. there will be two men here to sleep tonight. Mr. Noble and another man. I have just made their bed. I have the blues somewhat this evening. Alvin was in a few minutes this evening. Said he had the headache. Poor man! *I do* pity him so. I wish I could be with him and able to comfort him, but I fear that *never* will be my lot. Mr. Potter got a telegram this morning stating that his daughter Mrs. Page was dead. He and his wife, Albert Page, and Cora, started up there [Solomon] this afternoon. Mrs. Stewart has offered to take Minnie and take care of her. Three little motherless children left; Ah! I know how to pity them. There is no one like a mother. That cruel monster Death, brings a great deal of sadness into the world. I almost wish he would take me soon, perhaps he will. It may be sooner than I wish.

THURSDAY 15 OCT. It has been very smoky today. I think Indian Summer has commenced. I wonder why it is called that. Mr. and Mrs. Adams started for W. Tuesday afternoon.¹¹¹ Uncle William could not get matters and things arranged so as to start until Wednesday forenoon. Jennie and I visited uncle S.'s school yesterday afternoon. Alvin came down yesterday evening, and the eve before, after milk. he had a part from Mr. Adams' cow while they were gone. Mr. Noble and that other man ate dinner here Tuesday; and just as Genevieve and I had set down to eat our dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Lionhardt came. they did not stay long however. Genevieve's mother sent for her to come home today, and help her sew. Mr. and Mrs. Adams came home this forenoon. brought

me a letter from Carrie J[ones]. Allie Noble called today. Alice Browning¹¹² is quite sick with Bilious Pneumonia. Mr. Caudwell made some pudding on the stove today, when Allie was in, and Mrs. Adams sat and talked to him about it. I know he was very much embarrassed, and he looked so funny stepping around so fast, and busy cooking. I do pity him so. How many poor pitiable ones there *are* in the world. Uncle came home tonight, as cross as he could be. he had an owl in the barn that he was saving for Prof. Whitman,¹¹³ and Mr. Caudwell happened to let it out, and uncle actually *swore* about it, not in Mr. Caudwell's hearing though. I didn't know uncle would ever swear. Alvin was here and he said (after uncle had gone out) he had a notion to swear by the *heathen* gods. I asked him what he wanted to swear for, and he said "*Have I always got to live in that house alone?*" Poor man! I wish I could go and stay with him now. Misery, misery! how much of it there is in the world. I went over to Mrs. Denison's this evening after some butter. Genevieve is real good company for me. I wish she would come oftener. I think she is a real good girl.

[OCT.] MONDAY 19. I have been too tired and sleepy for several evenings to write, but I feel just like it this evening. I suppose I ought not to do it either, for it is late and I need the rest. Mrs. Stewart has been quite sick with lung fever. Allie was about sick yesterday. We all went to church yesterday morning. Alvin came down towards night, and staid until after ten. Mr. Caudwell came in a little while. Alvin's head has pained him some time. I can't see what is the cause of it. He seems very hopeful as to the future, more so than I dare to be. I washed today, and patched an old worn out dress this evening. Alvin came down this eve, after some sour milk. he thinks he would like to be a farmer. What a strange girl I am! Tonight I feel just as if I *should* marry Alvin sometime; as if I can't do any other way, it *must* be. and some other time I shall feel as if it must *never* be. Why is it that I must be so unsettled in my mind? I can't think any one way long. Well, time will tell, I suppose, what I *shall* do, whether I *ought* to do it or not. I don't see how I can ever refuse him and yet, sometimes it

109. Rev. John M. Sullivan, 36, minister of the Methodist church.

110. "Jenny" was Genevieve Whitney, 15-year-old daughter of Uncle Solomon and Aunt Sarah Whitney.

111. The church association meetings were being held in Waunsee.

112. Mary Alice Browning, a K.S.A.C. student from Manhattan, signed her name in Etta's autograph album on March 18, 1874.

113. Prof. J. S. Whitman was professor of botany, entomology, and geology at K.S.A.C., 1874-1876.

seems as if I *must* refuse. Uncle S. has had to give up teaching, as it is found to be unlawful for one of a district board to teach in that district. Mr. Campbell has taken the school. he will teach three months for \$100. Mr. and Mrs. Adams will move to town Thursday.

[OCT.] TUESDAY 27. Last Wednesday, uncle got Harry's buggy and went to town, and brought up Hattie Flagg, in the afternoon. I ironed for Mrs. Adams Wedns. afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. A. moved Thursday. Mr. Cox was here Thursday night. A little boy named Nathan Sweany came here Tuesday night, to go up to Mr. Noble's with uncle but Mr. Potter didn't come with the wagon so uncle didn't go Wednesday morning, as he had planned to do. He received a letter from uncle Isaac Friday with a ticket from Junction to Neosho Falls. also a letter from Mr. Potter, stating that he and his wife had both been sick, and that he intended to start home Monday (yesterday) morning and bring all the children with him. he hasn't arrived yet. Hattie and I went to Mr. Parishes ¹¹⁴ Friday afternoon. she got a ride home with Mrs. Colburn. Lamoile and family were there. I staid until about prayer-meeting time, and then Genie, Ella and I went up to College. Mr. Blair went too. We had a good prayer-meeting that evening. Arthur Stewart ¹¹⁵ and wife were there. Alvin came in a number of times while Hattie [Flagg] was here. she thinks he is nice looking. she took quite a liking to him. We had a pleasant visit together. I was sorry she couldn't have staid longer. Her mother is in poor health now.

John and Susan have moved into their own house. Allie Noble came in last Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning, Sunday afternoon, last night, and this evening. her sister and Miss Reser were here this evening also. Thursday evening Hattie and I called on Mrs. Stewart. Sunday afternoon and evening Mr. Caudwell and Alvin were with me. The two *Old Bachelors* got so *dreadful* lonesome, they came to see the *Old Maid*, as they had no where else to go. Alvin gets nearly crazy, he gets so lonesome. I don't wonder at it either. I wonder that he stands it as well as he does. I don't tell him so though. I try to cheer him and make him forget

his loneliness. he don't mind though. He has made up his mind to be lonesome till he gets a wife. He has set his heart on having *me* there sometime. I don't know what would become of him if I shouldn't go.

Alice Stewart staid with me Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday nights. she came in Sunday evening, and found Mr. Caudwell with me. she made fun of him and last night she and the other three girls came in, and found him sitting with me again. Alice made fun of him again. they frightened the poor man away. I don't think Alice is very lady-like. Father came to see me this afternoon. he came down Saturday night, and brought all his family. he has not moved up there yet. I heard he had, but he hasn't, and will not for three or four weeks yet. he is quite hopeful for the coming year. He has located in a community of spiritualists.¹¹⁶ Alvin called in a few minutes this afternoon. I have been pretty much alone today. Mr. Caudwell went up to see Mr. Reynolds this evening, and left me with my dog and cat for company. We had quite a smart shower today. Miss Rollins was married Thursday evening to Mr. Kenyon, a widower with two children.

WEDNESDAY OCT. 28. This month will soon be gone, the quicker the better for me. I have mended nearly all day. Alvin came in this morning, and told me a dream he had last night, about himself, George Morgan and me. It was [erased] ¹¹⁷ stuff. I think he ought to be ashamed of himself. he ought to be ashamed to talk so to *any* girl. I never said a word to him, nor even looked at him after he had told it, and I looked as mad as I felt. How *could* he? I believe the men have no modesty at all, or else it all leaves them after they think they are pretty sure of a girl. I would like to know his thoughts tonight. he came through the yard this afternoon. I don't know whether he wanted to come in or not, the doors were locked, and I was up stairs changing my dress preparatory to going up to Mrs. Stewart's. I called on her and Alice, and visited with the other girls. took tea with them. Allie N[oble].

116. Enoch Cummings, a stage coach driver in the late 1870's and early 1880's, held seances in his cabin in Clay county. It is reported that "the pictures would fall off the wall and the tables would take off." The cabin is now in the park in Clay Center, on Route 24. Perhaps Etta's father attended some of these seances after he moved to Clay county in 1874.

117. The word "vulgar" has been erased.

114. See footnote 33.

115. A. A. Stewart was the college printer.

Etta Parkerson married her suitor who was 30 years her senior in February, 1876. Alvin Reynolds (1824-1897) was a stonemason in Manhattan. They moved to Keats in 1886 where he established a grocery store and became the town's postmaster. Etta was, at last, appointed teacher of the Keats school after all her disappointing rejections from other schools in previous years. From 1888 until her death in 1889, she wrote Keats correspondence for the *Manhattan Nationalist*, and her columns continued some of the style and flavor of her "Journal." Alvin and Etta's first son, William, pictured here, was born in 1879.



and Mr. Wake¹¹⁸ came home with me. Uncle came home tonight, he will not go to the Falls till next week. I am sorry Alvin had to tell me that dream, it has just spoiled everything. I have been mad nearly all day about it. I dread to see him again. I suppose I shall have to forgive him, but it will be pretty hard.

[OCT.] THURSDAY 29. Alvin came in this morning a few minutes, but he couldn't say much. I guess he feels ashamed. I have concluded to forgive him of course, but I believe I can't feel as free with him, for a while at least, for fear of too much familiarity on his part. he is now working on a gate post here, so I suppose he will be around here, about all day tomorrow. I don't see why the men can't be as modest as the women. To be sure, there are

some very immodest women, but it is equally as great a wonder to me why *they* can't be modest. Harry came in and chatted with me a while this morning. Mr. Potter came over this forenoon. he got home last night. *he* staid and talked with me a while. said his daughter was sick only twelve hours. It has been cold today.

SUNDAY, NOV. 22. Well well! what a long time it is to be sure since I wrote in this little book. I haven't felt like it lately. It rained last Monday about all day and some Tuesday. Wednesday it snowed all day, and same Thursday. Friday was very pleasant, yesterday was cloudy, and today, it is raining again. Alice Stewart had a very severe conjestive chill a week ago last Thursday, and another one last Thursday. I called on her last Sunday evening. I called at Mr. Denison's Sunday afternoon. Uncle W. went to Neosho Falls two weeks ago last Thursday. was gone just one week. he

118. Richard Wake, 43, a native of England, was a Methodist minister in Manhattan. He had been active in founding Wakefield in Clay county.

brought me a letter from Hattie. I sent her one when he went down. Hattie thinks she may come up when Ellen [Denison] comes home. I have answered her letter. I received a letter from Angie Mitchell ¹¹⁹ a short time ago, wanting to know why I didn't write, and if I wished to close our correspondence. I have answered it. I also wrote to Carrie Jones, Millie Noyes, and Lou Rust last week, or rather week before last, and I wrote to a Mr. Avery to find out about a school in Mr. Gifford's district. Mrs. Jaquith advised me to apply for it.

Allie Noble was here twice last week. she took tea here Friday night. Ella Hougham is over to her father's. has been there about two weeks, she is awaiting the coming visitor.¹²⁰ Harry is batching. he was here every day last week. staid to dinner four days. Uncle and I are invited over to uncle Solomon's to dinner Thanksgiving day, but I fear I cannot go, for uncle is expecting Mr. Judd to come tomorrow, to work for him all the week, and I shall have to be here to get his meals for him, and I shouldn't wonder too if Ella would be sick about that time. then it isn't likely they will want any one there. Elisha and Maria [Webber] are invited. Uncle S. was here last Monday.

Alvin had his cow killed Friday; Mr. Caudwell helped him. Newton is going to board with Alvin this winter. Ellen Denison is visiting at Neosho Falls. Father called on me a short time ago. he feels very sad over the past week ago Friday was fast day.

DEC. 21. [MON.] How very negligent I have been! Here it is about a month since I last wrote in my diary. Uncle and I went over to uncle S.'s Thanksgiving day. Uncle went down and heard Mr. Lloyd preach in the morning. we spent the evening at uncle S.'s. uncle played the violin, and the girls the piano, and we sang some. Ella looked real pretty. I went over to Mrs. Flagg's two weeks ago tomorrow. had a real pleasant visit. Hattie [Flagg] and I visited Elsie's [Thorpe] school one afternoon. she went home with us and staid all night. they had an organ there, so we had some music. Mr. Hoar and family came up to hear it. Mrs. Hoar,

Mrs. Flagg, Hattie and I, visited with Auntie Lee one afternoon. I paid Elsie a short visit at her Aunt's a week ago Saturday. I have received two letters from Hattie [Parkerson] since I wrote in this before, and answered one of them. Sent a postal card to Lou Rust. Mr. Avery wrote me, they had a teacher engaged. Father, I suppose, has gone to his farm. it belongs to him now.

Mr. Caudwell has gone up to his claim, to see about a school. Uncle William talks of taking a tour, and dismissing me. I don't know what I shall do. I wish I could teach. Harry's folks will move in here this week I suppose. they have a little boy now. Uncle has got a kitten to catch mice. it is yellow and white.

School closed at the College last Wednesday night for a vacation of three weeks. I visited Mrs. Potter last week.

Mrs. Jaquith has moved in where Mrs. Stewart was; and Mrs. Stewart and Alice now occupy the room over Prof. Kedzie's. Charlie Streeter and Mr. Procter have moved into the house Mrs. Jaquith formerly occupied. The Noble girls have gone home. We are having a snow storm today and I am lazy and must go to work.

1875. JAN. 1ST. [FRI.] Harry's folks moved in here the 24th. They have quite a nice little boy. They boarded with us till Tuesday the twenty-ninth. Ella was not able at first to do much of any thing. Having them to cook for, I spent Christmas at home, worked as hard as I knew how all day. Uncle W. went to the Christmas dinner [at] the Cong. Church. The last two days of the year I was about half sick with a cold. Day before yesterday I had a hard time mopping this floor. We moved the things out of my room today, for Ella. I shall hereafter sleep in the parlor on the sofa. A Mr. Jones from Bala will come here to work next Monday morning. will stay some time I presume. Mr. Caudwell asked me this evening to go to the institute with him next Tuesday evening. Albert Paige has been here yesterday and today fixing clocks, scissors etc. Last night the last night of the year, Alvin came down to see me. after the rest had retired we had a chat by ourselves. The dreaded time came. after considerable hesitation and dreading I finally made my decision. and now I suppose we are two happy people. I am glad it is decided. for now I shall worry about it no more. May God's blessing rest upon

¹¹⁹ Angie Mitchell, Junction City, had been a student at K.S.A.C. in the fall term, 1873.

¹²⁰ Ella awaited her first baby at the home of her parents, the Solomon Whitneys. In December, after the baby's birth, she and her husband, Harry Hougham, moved into the front part of the Isaac Goodnow house on College Hill.

us both, and make *each* fully worthy of the other. This time next year I shall be _____ and I shall not be _____ if all is well.

Another year is past and gone. A year of perplexity and hard toil it has been for me, but the perplexity ended with the year. the hard toil will continue for a while at least, but I don't mind it so much as I used to. I am much stronger than I used to be in some respects. in others hard work has weakened me. This has been a hard year for many. First the drouth and chinch-bugs, then the grasshoppers, and then the second growth and frost will probably have lessened the fruit crop for the coming year very much, but all are hoping for a good year for grain and vegetables. Much is being done for the relief of the sufferers. Corn meal is about \$1.25 per bushel now, quite a rarity with many. quite a contrast to the condition of the country last year, when corn was so plenty, many were using it for fuel.

Uncle has a very bad sore finger which I think will keep him at home this winter; and as he thinks of keeping Mr. Jones this winter, I think I shall stay and earn a dollar a week. I had decided that if he didn't I would stay here and keep "Old Maid's Hall." I *did* feel badly when I thought I *must* go. I *hated* to work out, I hated to leave my pets, and my liberty, and most of all I hated to go where I couldn't see "him" real often. I suppose he thinks I would like to teach school and not see him. I would love dearly to teach school, but I should be thinking of him all the time, and wishing to see him. I presume if I should go away to teach, a good deal of the time I should be wondering and worrying about him. I know I should. He is a *good man*. if he will always let liquor and tobacco alone, he will be a *good, true, noble man*. I am not half worthy of him, and yet he says I have made him what he is. No, it is *God's* work! Let all praise be unto Him. that is where it belongs. If I have been but an humble instrument in His hands I am exceedingly thankful, but oh! I wish I could do better. I am so sinful, always doing something wrong.

I should think Mr. C. would dislike me, but instead of that he about half proposed to me New Year's eve. Coburn Paige was in New Year's day, and asked me if I wanted to take a sleigh-ride. I think he is beginning rather early.¹²¹ his little Emma has been quite sick.

121. Etta thinks this is too soon after his wife's death in October.

Ida Parish is home again. I received a letter from Angie Mitchell this week; also one from Lou Rust. I wrote one to Hattie. as good as told her I was engaged to Mr. C by way of a good joke. I wonder what she will think of it. Uncle Stephen is here again [from Massachusetts]. Mr. Rollins is going in with A.R. this winter, Hattie W[hitney]. has taught three months, and had some trouble, got discouraged, and is coming home. Prof. Shelton is married.¹²²

JAN. 3. [SUN.] Another year has come. What will it bring to me. A *happy home* I hope. I hope father will be prospered this year.

JAN. 8. [FRI.] This is the worst weather for the unprotected that I ever saw. the cold is awful; it searches right through one's clothes in almost no time. it is exceedingly severe. Thermometer stood 12° below zero at four o'clock and the wind blowing very hard. The men have staid in the house all day. Mr. C. has been mending. and Mr. J[ones]. has been plaguing him for living a bachelor. I received a letter from Hattie last night, also a short one from uncle I. they took it for granted that I was engaged to Mr. C. I have written an explanation, but fear it will not reach them before uncle will come up. I hope I shall not have any trouble about it.

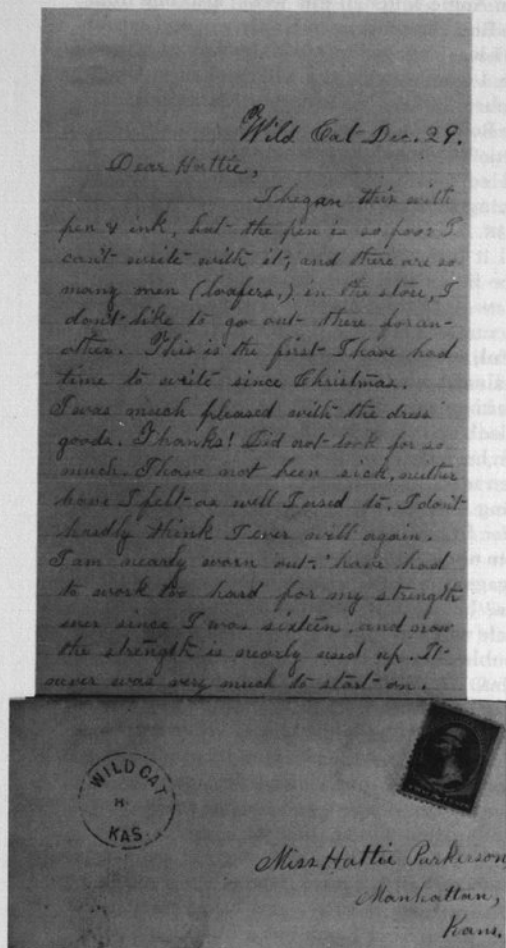
JAN. 27. [WED.] Uncle Stephen has called on us once. Mr. Sawyer also. I rode to town last Friday evening with Mr. C. called at Mr. Adams, had a very pleasant little visit. they appeared *very* much pleased to see me. We have had the coldest, and longest spell of cold weather this winter, that we ever had here I think. I have had quite a siege of cold, was nearly sick all last week. Had a severe attack of sick-headache Sunday, and haven't felt very well since. Aunt Sarah has a little baby girl.¹²³ Mrs. Woodward is very sick. Anna Barker is sick. I answered Lou's letter Monday, and Angie's this evening. Spent the evening with Ella, she and Harry have been sick with colds.

JAN. 29. [FRI.] Hattie's [Parkerson] birthday. she is twenty today. It rained Wed. and snowed a little yesterday. this morning the ground was covered with ice.

I *do wish* A.R. would do without tobacco. I went to town yesterday with uncle S. Called on

122. Prof. E. M. Shelton was professor of practical agriculture at K.S.A.C., 1874-1889.

123. Jessie, the baby of Sarah Whitney, 45, and her husband, Solomon, would have been the youngest sister of Ella Hougham, 21, who shared the house with Etta and her Uncle William. Sarah Whitney died in 1879.



This letter was written by Etta to her sister, Harriet, December 29, 1888. Harriet, two years younger than Etta, had been adopted by the Isaac Goodnows after the death of the girls' mother, Lucinda Goodnow Parkerson. Etta, born with a deformity, possibly a hunchback, was always considered frail by her family. In this letter she comments on her years of hard work and wonders if her "strength is nearly used up." Photograph courtesy Ellen Paullin.

Mrs. Adams. Asked Mr. Billings to help me get a school. he said he would help me all he could. Received a letter from Hattie yesterday. answered it last evening. she don't like my joke at all. thinks somebody put me up to it. Ella has gone over to see her baby sister.

FEB. 2ND. [TUES.] Today has been very rough. We had a little rain last night which froze as it fell. Today it has been snowing all day. the trees are heavily laden with ice and snow. this is a severe night. Mr. Jones has been prophesying an early Spring. I hope it will be so. Received a letter from Angie yesterday.

I have had the blues some today. I went over to see Mrs. Potter Sunday. Called on Mrs. Jaquith yesterday.

I was real impudent to Uncle a few days ago. got mad at him when I ought not to, though I did have some cause to. Uncle scolded me at the supper table tonight when I thought he'd no business to, and I was feeling badly any way, and I went out in the back room and cried about it. I know it was foolish, but I am always doing something foolish. I am so wicked, always doing something wrong. I felt discouraged last night in trying to do right. I thought all my perplexity and doubt had gone with 1874, but I find it with me yet. I wonder if it will ever leave me. I am afraid I am like Angie. Newton Blake expects to be married next month. he will work for Mr. Rollins then, and live at Mr. Denison's.

Maj. Miller and family expect to leave us soon. Mr. Caudwell will leave us next month. Poor Alvin! I pity him. Mr. Jones and Mr. Caudwell are both asleep in their chairs. I have headache nearly all day today. my head has troubled me more or less every day, for over a week. I suppose it is owing to a cold.

FEB. 4. [THURS.] The ice has not left the trees yet. Alvin was here a long time this afternoon, waiting for Harry to return from town, for he had sent by him. he feels very lonely, poor man; he thinks he will be very much relieved when N[ewton]. B[lake]. leaves him. I hope he will be. I pity him so. he thinks so much of a pleasant home, and he has suffered so much, and waited so long already. his wife will be cruel if she doesn't do all in her power to make home pleasant for him. I received a letter from Carrie J. this evening; also one from Mariette Barker.

FEB. 10. [WED.] A snow-storm. First rain which immediately froze, and then snow.

FEB. 18. [THURS.] Snow again, about 1½ inches. I wish it might be the last, but presume we shall have more yet.

FEB. 22. [MON.] The snow has all disappeared today. Newton's girl has given him the mitten. poor fellow. he feels very sad about it. Mr. and Mrs. Adams will not come back here to live. Maj. Miller's family will move here in about a week, in their place. I called on Belle Pound yesterday afternoon. Had an invitation to ride out with Major and family in the evening, but was so busy I could not go. Mrs. Weeks¹²⁴ is coming to Kansas in the Spring. I expect she and *my relatives* will try to persuade me to go and live with her. They will find me incorrigible if they undertake it.

MARCH 10. [WED.] We had snow last Thursday the 4th. Johnnie Jones came back last Saturday. he wasn't needed any more at Mr. Bisbey's. Sunday he went in with Mr. Reynolds. Will stay with him till he can do better I guess. he likes to stay there.

Mrs. Weeks and aunt Ellen arrived yesterday morning. took dinner with us. Aunt Ellen looked at the babies, and in the afternoon we all called at Mr. Whitney's and Mr. Denison's. only Aunt E. staid at Mr. D.'s, and Mrs. Weeks staid with me. this afternoon we went over to Mr. Denison's to tea. A couple of the Clergy were there, both Germans. A Mr. Miller from Topeka and Mr. Akenberg from Salina. Uncle Isaac arrived on this afternoon's train. I like Mrs. Weeks very much. she has a good deal to say about Mother. This is Conference week.¹²⁵ I did want very much to go down to church tonight but didn't get home early enough. Mrs. Werden¹²⁶ and class resolved Sunday, to keep an account of the number of times we speak ill of any one this week and report to each other when we meet again. I am afraid I am very bad at it. Mrs. Weeks wants to come to Kansas to live, and then she wants me to come and live

with her.¹²⁷ She doesn't blame me for my independence. She thinks Hattie resembles mother very strongly. I wonder what frame of mind Alvin is in tonight.

MONDAY MARCH 15. We had a snow-squall this morning. Uncle went up to Mill Creek and back today. It has been quite cold yesterday and today. Mr. Potter and Albert Paige have come back and gone in with Mr. R. Mrs. Weeks brought in a little maimed snow-bird last Wednesday. I have fed it bread crumbs and given it water, and it seems quite bright and contented. I keep it in the parlor. I attended Conference Friday afternoon and evening, and yesterday morning when the Bishop (Merrill) preached. Attended teacher's examination Saturday. the grade of certificates has been raised and History is included in examination now. Saturday was a warm and lovely day.

SUNDAY MAR. 21ST. My little snow-bird died last Tuesday morning. We have had some quite cold days the past week. I went to town to church today, and heard our new preacher, Mr. Wake from Wakefield. he preached well, and seems a very pleasant man. Mr. Lloyd has gone to Lawrence this year. Mr. Dearborn back to Atchison, Mr. Sullivan to Holton, and Mr. Green is on his farm on Mill Creek. I shook hands with Mr. and Mrs. Dearborn, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Green, and Mrs. Sweet at Conference. Albert Paige has gone to Dr. Stillman's to stay till he gets either killed or cured.¹²⁸ he is complaining. he staid here with me all day Wednesday, when I was washing. he felt so week [*sic*] he didn't like to go away. Mr. Potter has come here to board till he gets uncle's harrows made.

We had a slight snow-squall this afternoon. I went up to College this afternoon, and heard the Pres. preach. came very near falling asleep. Lettie Burroughs¹²⁹ has obtained a third grade certificate, and I suppose will teach this Spring. Alvin came in a little while this evening. Why is it I love him so? I am afraid he is

124. In his diary entry for May 23, 1857, Isaac Goodnow reported that he stayed overnight in Galesburg, Ill., with "H. B. Weeks who married M. A. Daniels." Mrs. Weeks (1830-1903) visited in Manhattan in the spring of 1875 and later settled in White City where she is buried.

125. The annual conference of the Methodist church.

126. Hattie V. Werden was the teacher of instrumental music at K.S.A.C.

127. Mrs. Weeks did come to Kansas in 1875, settling in White City, south of Junction City, but there is no more mention of the possibility of Etta's living with her.

128. Editor Griffin of *The Nationalist* lists Manhattan doctors, including Dr. Stillman, who are "able and willing to kill or cure all who need their service and from the small number of tenants in the graveyard we infer they prefer to do the latter, or that nature is too strong for them."

129. Arlettie Burroughs, Riley, was a student at K.S.A.C. in the fall term, 1873, and the winter term, 1875.

not a christian. I had thought all along that he was, or at least that he was trying to be. I hope he is trying. I am *so* anxious that he should be. Poor Man! How anxious I have been for him, and how I have prayed for him! *Heavenly Father! Oh! Wilt Thou work upon his heart, purify it, and make it Christ-like; and also mine. Lord make us like unto Thyself.* I gave him my Bible tonight.

APRIL 6. [TUES.] The last two days of March we had our first thunder storm this Spring. we haven't had rain before I think since last June. We also had a little sleet and snow. Eva Leicester has a little baby girl.¹³⁰ Elsie Thorpe is teaching where she was in the winter, and boarding at Mr. Flagg's, and giving the girls music lessons. I have the chance of teaching on Deep Creek in Clay County near Bala. shall go next Friday if all is well. Mr. Jones left us this afternoon. he will work for Mr. Parker a while. it is *dreadful* lonesome here without him. Mr. Caudwell left the Monday after Conference. I didn't miss him at all.

TUESDAY APRIL 13. I worked very hard last week to get ready to teach. Thursday evening I snatched a few minutes from work and ran over to Belle's and got her photograph and autograph, and bade her GoodBye. Alvin came down in the evening, brought his watch for me, and bade me good bye. The next morning when I was most ready to start I received a letter from Deep Creek stating that they had not received my letter, and had hired another teacher, but I thought the school belonged to me, so I went any how, but I had to come back. It was a great disappointment to me but perhaps it is for the best. There may be an unseen Providence behind it all.

A card from Mr. Caudwell was awaiting my return. it stated that there was no chance for me either in his District or Mr. Ryan's, but that Miss Ryan would try to get me the school next to her, but it is so late in the season, I don't think there is much hope for me. I found out Father's address today, and wrote to him this evening. We had rain yesterday. Today has been lovely. Visited at Mrs. Denison's Saturday afternoon. Wrote to Hattie and Mr. Caudwell Saturday evening.

SATURDAY EVENING APRIL 24. We have had rain nearly all day, and there is prospect of a continuation of rain through the night. Major Miller started for Kansas City Thursday morning. Harry's folks moved yesterday. I have moved back into my favorite chamber. I visited at uncle S.'s last week. The Noyes girls called on me the week before but I wasn't at home.

Alvin has had his lot plowed, and has set out quite a number of trees, and planted garden seeds. Our iris is in bloom, and the prairie is covered with green grass and anemones. I received a letter from Carrie Jones a short time ago.

TUESDAY EVENING APRIL 27. Our rain continued over Sunday; and yesterday was stormy. Alvin was down last evening after the witness.¹³¹ he looked very tired. Poor man! he has a hard time and has to bear it all *alone* too. I hope the Lord will prosper him this year.

I received a letter from Hattie yesterday. She wrote that Uncle I. and Aunt E. had an elegant trip to Texas with the Editors. Ella Gale¹³² went. Mrs. Weeks has really settled in Kansas a few miles S.E. of Junction. I wrote a letter to Amelia Noyes Sunday. Ella Dennis was here this afternoon. The Congregational Church Association meet in M. this week. it commenced this evening. Mr. and Mrs. Sykes and Mrs. Landon of Vienna¹³³ are to stop with us. I don't like it one bit. they are strangers, and I haven't much to do with, and it makes me a great deal more work. I don't know how to entertain them.

"I'm tired now and sleepy too." I shall draw a long long sigh of relief, yes, several of them, when I get out of this embarrassing situation, and into a home of my own. *I will try and have things a little more to my mind then. Then. Ah, when, and where, will it be!*

THURSDAY 29. [THURS.] We had a real hard shower last evening. Today has been pleasant. Mrs. Landon stopped at the boarding house night before last. they all dined at the boarding-house yesterday, and took tea at Mr. Baga-

131. *The Witness* was a monthly paper edited by James Inglis in New York.

132. Ella Gale, K.S.A.C. student, was the daughter of Rev. Mr. Gale, professor of horticulture and superintendent of the college nursery.

133. Mrs. Landon and Mr. and Mrs. Sikes visited the College this week. "*The Industrialist*, May 1, 1875. Sikes was the minister of the Congregational church in Leonardville.

130. Eva Leister, 21, was the wife of Wm. B. Leister, tailor. Their baby was named Antoinett.

ley's. the[y] went home today, so I didn't have them much after all.

I received a real good and long letter from Mariette Barker last evening, and a short one from Lizzie Goodnow¹³⁴ today. I have been doubting some today, about the probabilities as to the future. I hope I may be guided aright, be what it may.

SUNDAY MAY 2ND. Today has been cold and cloudy. We had a little snow squall this morning, and a slight rain. I attended the Baptist Church this morning and heard Mr. Limbocker preach a very good sermon. Prof. Ward taught the class I was in, in Sunday School. Albert Page has had the misfortune to get thrown from a horse, and break his collar bone; he stopped with Mr. Reynolds two or three days. I suppose he will make his home with Mr. Eells for a while. I received a card from Mr. Caudwell last evening. I commenced my new calico dress yesterday afternoon. Alvin came down to see me this afternoon. I had been wishing he would. He comes almost every Sunday. I am always glad to see him; but I do wish he would give up tobacco. I am afraid I did not say all I ought to, to him about it tonight. I wish I could be good and noble, but it is very very hard in this world.

Water froze to ice a quarter of an inch thick last night. Maj. [Miller] has been having some success since he went away. I hope he will meet his expectations soon. Emma is feeling very lonely without him. I should too if I was in similar circumstances.

THURSDAY MAY 6. Today has been very warm. We have had a very warm South wind blowing against us all day; yesterday was rather warm. Mrs. Adams and Clara walked up here yesterday afternoon. Clara walked back, and wheeled the baby in her carriage. Mrs. Adams rode down with Prof. Platt. Mildred Parsons¹³⁵ is staying with Emma tonight. I called on Ella last evening. Alvin was down this evening. He sent and got some more of that horrid tobacco. Lord help him to overcome his appetite; help him to do without it.

SUNDAY MORNING MAY 9. We have had a real nice rain last night and this morning. it was really needed and came just in time. it prevented us from going to church however. Mildred stayed with Emma last night. Alvin has been most sick the last two days. Albert has gone back to worry him. he is expecting Coburn down and Albert expects to go home with him. Mrs. Potter will have another to do for. I don't see how she stands it all. Emma has a hard time with Edie. I never saw a child of her age so bad.

Ellen Denison is teaching in Mr. Leach's district and boarding at Mr. Leach's. George is herding cattle for Mr. Leach.¹³⁶ Big Wichita has made great improvement in the flower bed for which I am very grateful, but the hens have been pecking at the plants for which I am *not* very thankful.

SUNDAY MORNING MAY 16. We had rain again last night; in fact it rained nearly all day yesterday; and it is cold and stormy today.

I went over to Mrs. Flagg's Monday afternoon a little while. We had quite a rain that night. I went over again Friday morning, and staid till after four o'clock in the afternoon. Frank Goodnow called on me Tuesday afternoon. he came up that morning to purchase a horse of uncle Solomon, for their land business, and was then on his way back; said the folks were all well except Aunt Ellen.

I sent a letter to Hattie Monday. Mrs. Jacquith visited us Thursday afternoon. Albert Page has gone to stop with his brother George till he recovers from his injury. Mrs. Flagg has been quite sick, but is much better now. Gone now never to return.¹³⁷

MONDAY EVENING MAY 29. We are having April weather this month. Showers come upon us at any and all times. A week ago Sunday Uncle took a notion to wear his linen pants, and wear them he would in spite of all I could say. *although* they were unironed. I felt dreadfully mortified. I had planned to go to church that day, and was very anxious to go, as I had not been down for a few weeks; but I would not go with those pants, so I staid at home. Tuesday evening Uncle took me down to the

134. Lizzie Goodnow, sister of Frank Goodnow (see footnote 49), daughter of Jotham Goodnow, deceased brother of Isaac and William.

135. Mildred Parsons was a K.S.A.C. student from Kansas City, Mo.

136. James Leach, 39, a native of Canada, farmed on Swede creek.

137. "Gone now never to return" is written in ink, in different handwriting, obviously at a later date.

March 13th 1889

Dear aunt, Uncle, & Hattie,
 Mamma is very sick, with a
 severe attack of bronchitis.
 She can't hold her voice ^{any} more.
 She would like to see you.
 If you can conveniently
 come, you said she would
 be very glad if you will
 send a package of boneset
 by mail.
 as she is very bilious also.
 She can't eat any thing.
 We have no good physic
 and so she thinks boneset
 will help her.
 Dr. Ross was up Sunday
 afternoon.
 Mamma is much worse
~~to~~ this afternoon. She thinks
 She took a little cold to day.

This letter was written by Etta's son, 10-year-old Willie, on March 13, 1889, to his uncle and aunt, Isaac and Ellen Goodnow, and Hattie, his mother's sister. A postscript was added by Etta's husband, Alvin, expressing his concern about her illness and his fear that "she may not pull through." Photograph courtesy Ellen Paullin.

We have a good home
 girl. She takes extra good care
 of Mamma.
 Papa is awfully worried
 about Mamma.
 I think though you would
 like to know of it. When she
 is very sick.
 A cold hand says so.
 From Willie
 Etta put Willie to write
 this above. I will add
 that she is very sick
 and weak, and I am
 afraid she may not pull
 through. I think from the
 above she wants to see her
 good aunt and sister, and uncle
 Please do pray the good
 Lord to help us in our
 affliction. She is a poor
 sick woman, and her
 weakness is strongly against
 her. Come and see her,
 if you can; it will do
 her good to see her, and
 I feel it will do me good
 too. I think it is diph-
 theria, and she is weak
 I greatly fear for her
 God bless you
 is the prayer
 of your friend
 Alvin

under-graduate's exhibition.¹³⁸ I sent a letter to Lizzie Goodnow, and one to Mariette Barker Tuesday. Wednesday afternoon Uncle started for Blue Rapids. staid until Friday afternoon.

Wednesday afternoon I walked to town, and on my way called on Ella Hougham, Mrs. Shannon, Mrs. Bagaly, and the Adamses. Mrs. Shannon was not at home, but Willie J. told me Emma lives in town where her mother used to live. I mean to go and visit her. Reuben and Alice graduated Wednesday evening.¹³⁹ had the Manhattan brass band for music. I waited for Clara and so missed hearing most of it. Alice was dressed in white swiss, with a long train. People said she did splendidly. Mr. Sykes came here Wednesday night and staid until Friday morning. I invited A.R. to stay to supper Thursday evening and keep Mr. S. company. they had a real social chat after tea. Alvin does our milking now. Poor man, he is very lonely and rather discouraged. he is working altogether too hard. he is killing himself. The young grasshoppers are doing considerable damage around.¹⁴⁰ I went to church yesterday. Mr. Wake preached a sermon that did my heart

138. The annual presentation of essays by K.S.A.C. students included W. W. Maltby's "A Winter Dairy for Kansas"; "Decorative Art" by Ella Childs; M. F. Leasure's on "Pruning"; "The Successful Mechanic" by W. Ulrich; and Ella Gale's "Work for Women." Of Miss Childs' oration, Editor Griffin writes "... the oration ... she delivered in a very fine manner. But we wish to give our private opinion, here publicly expressed, that orations interest us much more when delivered by gentlemen, than a lady. We are growing old, and, perhaps, are conservative, but we do not like anything that savors of 'Women's Rights' in a College or school entertainment."—*The Nationalist*, May 28, 1875. He continues: "The essays and orations were all of a higher tone than we have been accustomed to hear from students of the age of the writers. The secret of this is, each wrote of what he had studied and thought about, instead of striving for something after the style of Emerson and Carlyle."

"Indeed, all the exercises showed *thoroughness*, which we were pleased to notice ... we wish to commend, the simple and becoming dress of the students and the absence of cheap jewelry. We want everything about this State institution to be *genuine*."

139. Reuben Lofinck, Nevada, Mo., and Alice E. Stewart, Oberlin, Ohio, were the only two graduates of K.S.A.C. in 1875. Alice married a Mr. Points and in 1914 was a teacher in the city schools of Jersey City, N. J. Reuben became a merchant.

140. From J. S. Whitman, K.S.A.C.'s entomology professor, in *The Industrialist*, May 1, 1875: "In my opinion the people of Kansas are unduly alarmed at the appearance of young grasshoppers in various parts of the State. The same gregarious habit that caused the females to deposit their eggs close together in isolated places, where they are hatching in large numbers, will cause the young to keep very close together till they have attained their full size and take their flight. When these are met in large numbers upon their hatching ground, or are gradually leaving it in a rather formidable column, it should not be inferred that the whole State is covered by them in the same way. Their wingless condition, and the abundance of delicate spring vegetation, will save the crops from most of those that are born on the unbroken prairie. The most serious damage will occur in a narrow belt of country extending through the eastern part of the State, where the main swarm finally settled and remained. This grasshopper belt is not continuous and is quite irregular in outline. The hateful hopper will attain his full size and development of wings by the latter part of June or first of July, when he will take his flight. The amount of damage done anywhere will greatly depend upon the season. The present cold rains are unfavorable to his development."



This weather-beaten gravestone marks the graves of Etta and Alvin Reynolds in Sunset cemetery, Manhattan. Etta died March 13, 1889, the same day the letter (opposite page) was written. Cemetery records indicate her death was caused by "lung congestion." Alvin died in 1897, age 72, of Bright's disease. Photograph courtesy Ellen Paulin.

good. it was about the love of God. I had a hard sick headache yesterday and a week ago. I have had two radishes. Mrs. Jaquith sent me nearly two yards of real pretty lace this morning.

JUNE 6 SUNDAY. The grasshoppers are upon us, and doing as much damage as they know how to. We had a real good rain yesterday; it rained nearly all day. Last Tuesday evening I went over to Mrs. Pound's and got a little kitten. it is just as cunning as it can be. I like Emma [Miller] ever so much. we have had many good talks together. I shall miss her very much when she goes away. Albert Paige will stop with Alvin a while. I haven't had time to sew at all this week. I had the head-ache yesterday afternoon.

JULY 4 SUNDAY. Albert is at work on a new College building getting \$2.00 a day cash. The grasshoppers left us sometime ago. We had a

nice rain last night. it has been raining some today; there is a prospect of more yet.

The new College Barn is being fixed over for a recitation building; school will be held in it hereafter.¹⁴¹ Crops are looking nicely. many were afraid the dry weather would kill everything this year, but rain has come just in time to save. The past week I have been attending a teacher's institute.¹⁴² Gained many new ideas. It commenced Tuesday morning, and closed Friday afternoon. Alice Stewart and Belle Pound rode back and forth with me. Uncle let me take Dick and the express wagon and I went every day. missed Tuesday evening and Friday afternoon. Clara and her baby came home with me Tuesday afternoon, and staid all night. we called on Mrs. Wells that evening. Wednesday evening Alice and I attended a teacher's social gathering at the Adams House. had quite pleasant time staid into the small hours of night, and came home in the darkness. it was so dark we could not see the road, but we got home safely, and with but little trouble. Alice staid with me Wednesday and Thursday nights. She is all worn out and so am I. I had to work hard all day yesterday, and I feel almost strengthless now. I think some of leaving Uncle W. and starting out to work for my board. I have to work *too* hard here. We have a little spotted kitten for company for Mischief (the black and white one). I call it Spottie.

Uncle S. and family called here yesterday. Hattie returned Friday. she is to spend a few weeks with Ella. Uncle I., Aunt E., and Hattie are all in Illinois visiting their friends there. It is expected that uncle I. will keep his office. Maj. is earning money in Kansas City. I wish I could *get* some.

SUNDAY EVENING JULY 11. We are having rains all along now, just as we need them.

141. In the spring of 1875, the college possessed two tracts: 100 acres at the former Bluemont College site on College Hill, three miles northwest of the town of Manhattan, and 160 acres of fine farm land which the college had acquired midway between "the Hill" and the town. College classes were held on "the Hill; the barn, livestock, nursery, and other facilities for teaching agriculture were on "the Farm." Boarding accommodations were limited to 125 students on and near the "Hill." If the capacity of the college were ever to be greater than that number, the campus needed to be nearer the residences, hotels, and stores of Manhattan. The regents, realizing that the barn used as a stable on the "Farm" offered better quarters for the quadrupeds than were available for the bipeds, decided in 1875 to remodel the barn into classrooms for the students. The college classes then, in the fall of 1875, moved from "the Hill" to "the Farm." The old Bluemont College building on "the Hill" was used as a library.

The "new College building" which Albert Page was working on was the north wing of the present Anderson Hall.

142. The institute offered detailed instruction and drill in music, geography, industrial drawing, and the English language. A complete program is given in *The Nationalist*, July 2, 1875.

Monday we had rain. A man came around that day with a little washer, and Albert P[age]. I guess will take the County right for it. it is quite a help. Tuesday I used it. We had ever so many callers that day. Wednesday Elisha Webber and Tenie took dinner with us. Thursday Emma and her children went to Kansas City to see her husband [Major Miller]. Uncle took her down to the depot and I went down, after which Uncle took me over to Moelhman Bottom, where I applied for the school. I am the first applicant, perhaps I will get it. I hope I will; then we went up to Ogden. Alice had been there and applied for that school, and she is the first applicant. She is going to study, and wants me to, and I want to but don't see how I am going to get the time. I have to work so here.

Yesterday Uncle got dreadfully put out at me because I let about two spoonfuls of cherry juice boil over onto the stove. he doesn't want me to stay here and I will be only too glad to go as soon as the proper time comes.

Monday I rode down to Mr. Adams to see if they knew of any body who wanted a girl to work. Clara spoke of Miss Moses as wanting a girl to stay with her, and of Mrs. Billings as wanting a girl to work. I took tea at Uncle Solomon's Thursday. Belle is pretty sure of the school Lettie B[urroughs]. taught. I got some K____s tonight from A.

MONDAY JULY 19. A.R. has been ailing some the past week. I had a hard headache Sat. night; had been working hard all day, and had to sit up late to mend. I could not go to church yesterday and the week before, because I had no suitable shoes to wear and my clothes were not done up. I had not had time. We had a little rain last night and this morning. Uncle took me down to Pavilion today to apply for the school there. We took dinner there with Mr. Lionhardt's family, it was excellent. I am the first applicant for that school. Don't know whether I shall want it or not. We took tea with Carrie Jones. She was alone. I saw Mrs. Rasmussen and her baby this evening. Our kitties were glad to see us tonight. I have not seen Alvin since Saturday night. He has been here today for he left the "Witness" sticking in the door. I subscribed for the "Life of Livingstone" ¹⁴³ last Friday. Uncle bought me a pair of shoes today.

143. After David Livingstone's death in 1873, several biographies were published. Perhaps Etta refers here to the one by J. E. Chambliss, published by Hubbard Brothers, Philadelphia, in 1875.

SUNDAY JULY 25. Uncle started off at about four o'clock yesterday morning; said he was going up on the Republican, and expected to be back Monday noon. I thought I should have a little rest while he was gone, but, lo and behold, about eight o'clock this morning, he came back. I staid with Ella H. last night.

[July 25, 1875, was the date of the last entry in Etta Parkerson's "Journal." The last two pages of the little book were devoted to Etta's financial affairs: receipts and expenses. They are as follows:]

RECEIVED

[1874]

March 11.	from Mr. Grover, for Entomology	\$1.25
April 3.	from uncle W. for one week's work	1.00
Apr. 22.	from uncle I. for pasting papers	3.30
May 20	uncle W. for four week's work in the shape of a hat with trimmings	4.00
June 29	for making bread for Mr. Graves	.10
July 1st.	" " " " 3 young men	.30
July 7.	" " " " Mr. Graves	.10
July 11.	" " " " "	.10
July 9.	from Mrs. A. for carrying things into subcellar [crossed out]	.05
July 13.	bread four young men	.15
July 15.	" " " "	.20
July 14.	found in uncle's vest pocket	.05
July 17	bread for Mr. Graves	.30
July 16.	from Mrs. Adams for transfers into and from subcellar [crossed out]	.03
July 21.	from uncle W., in goods, for 8½ weeks work	8.50
Sept. 2nd	from uncle Isaac. A gift	.50
Aug. 26	" " W. in the shape of shoes	3.00
Nov. 3	" " " 1 pair of shoes	1.75

CASH ACCOUNT FOR 1874

Jan. 3.	Bought a Natural Philosophy	\$1.75
Jan. 3.	1 roll hair pins	.05
" 8.	1 bottle of ink	.10
" "	1 spool of brown thread	.10
" "	paid for repairing shoes	.50
" 19.	bought two quarts of lamp oil	.20
" "	2 yds. of brown cambric	.45
" "	2 spools garnet silk	.20
" "	2 sheets legalcap paper	.05
" "	1 blank book	.08
" "	A colored engraving	.25
Jan. 31	2 qts. of lamp oil	.20
" 17	5/6 of a cord of wood	5.00
Feb. 4	2 spools of black silk	.30
Jan. 20	Entomology	1.50
Jan. 30	paid to Carrie on board	.50
Feb. 6	one stick of black dress braid	.10
" "	one yard of lace edging	.25
" 17	.15 cts. worth of stamps	.15
" "	1 pound of butter	.25
March 2	1 pair of shoes	2.25
" "	1 card of hooks and eyes	.05
" 4	2 quarts of coal oil	.20

March 20	bought of uncle 1 lb. of salt pork	.10
" 21	" " " 1 bar of soap	.10
" 26	" stamps	.15
April 17	2 yds. of lace edging	.25
" "	1½ yds. of elastic cord	.05
" "	1½ dozen pearl buttons	.30
May 20	bought of Mrs. Barker a straw hat with trimmings	4.00
July 21	bought 9½ yds. of Dimity at .35	3.35
July 14	sent to Mr. J.[ones]. on board account	3.00
" 21	bought 6 yds. of Hamburg edging at .40 yd.	2.40
" "	" 1 pair of shoes	2.75
Aug. 26	" of Higinbotham's 1 yd. of beige brown	.65
" "	" 1 pair of cotton gloves	.40
" "	" " shoes	3.00
Sept. 15	" at Bazar. A writing desk	1.25
" "	" 1 linen handkerchief	.35
" "	" ½ yd. ruffing	.40
" "	" 1 collar	.20
Nov. 3	" at G. W. Higinbotham's 1 yd. black ribbon	.10
" "	" at G. W. Higinbotham's 2¼ yds. pressed flannel	1.63
" "	" at G. W. Higinbotham's 12 yds. calico @ .10	1.20
Nov. 9	bought 1 box initial note paper	\$0.30
" "	" stamps	.15
Dec. 8	rec'd. of uncle from Higin. 1 tooth brush	.40
" "	" " " " " 14 yds. calico	1.40
Dec. 12	bought at Bazar 1 pair kid gloves	1.25
" "	" " " 1 yd. lavender ribbon	.30
" "	" stamps	.40
" 20	put into contribution basket	.25
" 19	gave in at S.S.	.05

1875

Jan. 28	bought stamps	\$0.30
Mar. 12	" 1 pair of shoes at Myers'	1.75
Mar. 19	" 13½ yds. calico at Wareham's @ .09	1.25
" 29	paid Mr. Caudwell	2.00
Mar. 29	stamps	.30
April 6	bought at Bazar 3 yds. ribbon @ 5 cts.	.15
" "	1 box stationary	.25
" "	at Higinbotham's 3 bars soap	.25
" "	" 1 paper starch	.15
" "	at Fox's 2 blank books	.45
April 29.	stamps	.15

III. EPILOGUE

IN THE MANHATTAN *Nationalist*, February 25, 1876, this notice appeared:

Married:

Reynolds—Parkerson

on College Hill, Feb. 2nd, 1875 [sic] by Rev. J. S. Griffing, Mr. Albion [sic] Reynolds to Miss J. Etta Parkerson.

In William Goodnow's diary for Wednesday, February 2, 1876, he wrote: "Rode to M. and to

Mrs. Flag h. A. Reynolds and Etta and took them to Br. Griffin who married them—thence to his house and had a wedding d. after wh. gave the bride a pr. of sad Irons [flat irons]. . . .”

So in spite of her fears and anxieties, Etta, 22, married Alvin, 51, and three years later gave birth to a son, William E. (no doubt named for the father who came into her adult life so infrequently, and who one day to her great pleasure had had time to sign his name on the first page of her autograph album). In 1884 she had another son, Louis (perhaps named for Louis Parkerson, the half-brother she took care of when she lived with her father and his second wife, 1865-1873).

Alvin and Etta Reynolds lived in Wild Cat (also called Keats, and so renamed officially in 1889) about six miles west of Manhattan. There they operated the combination store-post office; Alvin was named postmaster in 1886. Etta was, at last, appointed to be a teacher in the Keats school after all her disappointing rejections from other schools in previous years. In addition to all her other duties, such as serving as secretary of the sewing circle of the Methodist church, she became, in 1888, the Keats correspondent for the Manhattan *Nationalist*. Her columns continue some of the style and flavor of her "Journal":

"Miss Carrie Denoyer spent a few days with Mrs. Reynolds last week."

"Miss Hattie Ladd is entertaining the whooping cough."

"T. E. Williams and family rusticated last week in the suburbs of Keats."

"The Keats Koral Klan will hold forth at Happy Hollow school house next Friday evening. Come all and hear."

And, ever the reformer: "Why do not the temperance people of Manhattan work? Have they fallen asleep? The tempter does not sleep. Liquor is sold there, and we hear of drunkenness in the streets, and Manhattan a prohibition town! Surely, it must be only in name. The young temperance people used to be actively engaged in the work; but we hear nothing of it now."

She signed her columns "R.E.J.," her initials reversed.

On December 29, 1888, Etta wrote her sister Hattie, on College Hill:

WILD CAT Dec. 29

DEAR HATTIE,

I began this with pen and ink, but the pen is so poor I can't write with it, and there are so many men (loafers) in the store, I don't like to go out there for another. This is the first I have had time to write since Christmas. I was much pleased with the dress goods. Thanks! Did not look for so much. I have not been sick, neither have I felt as well as I used to. I don't hardly think I ever will again. I am nearly worn out. have had to work too hard for my strength ever since I was sixteen, and now the strength is nearly used up. It never was very much to start on. I could scarcely get along at all now without help. Cora was away visiting three days this week, and I found it very hard getting along without her. It is hard work to walk up to the school-house.

Thanks for the coat and pants, also barberries. I made a quart of preserves of them. they are very nice.

Isn't Uncle going to let me have one of his Photo's? You said you would ask him; and when I got that Christmas package I hoped that Photo was in it; but was disappointed in that. You did not tell me what building that stereoscopic picture represented. I have not yet had time to look over the paper. I am trying to get some sewing done. We get up so late, don't accomplish much. Worked all last week making over a dress for Cora. Made a pair of pants for Lewis today and sewed some on a calico dress for myself. will send you a piece of it. I want to finish it early next week. Can't you tell me how to make my green dress? That question puzzles me more than any other. What shade of green do you call it.

The days are so short now. I can't afford to stop anywhere when I go to town. I guess if you care to see me any more you will have to come where I am.

What a beautifully long letter you wrote me! To be sure! Nevertheless—"Small favors are thankfully received" and I ought to be and am ashamed that I did not write sooner my thanks for those old clothes and the new berries, but it did seem as though I could not get time to write to any body.

There are two new dwelling houses in Keats. Three families now reside in that great town. Cora gave me a silver thimble Christmas.

Business is better than it was. it always is in the winter.

It is bed time and I can't think of any more, only—I want to ask if you have heard from Emma Miller lately? and what was the last you heard from her? I was glad to hear Lettie Burroughs married so well.

Write again. Regards to all.

Your sister,

ETTA

In the Keats column in the Manhattan *Daily Republic*, Thursday, March 7, 1889, "Vic" reports that "Miss Robbins of Stockdale is stopping with Mrs. Reynolds" and in her column of March 13, "Mrs. Reynolds has been quite



Louis Reynolds (1884-1960), *left*, was five years old when his mother, Etta Parkerson Reynolds, died. His maiden aunt, Harriet Parkerson (Hattie), adopted him, changed his name to Parkerson, and raised him as her son. Harriet Arms Parkerson (1855-1940), *right*, Etta's younger sister, had been adopted by the Isaac Goodnows and lived in the Goodnow home in Manhattan all her life except for six years when the family lived in Neosho Falls. She kept her father's name although she was legally adopted by the Goodnows. Etta's older son, William, survived his father by two years, dying of typhoid fever at age 20 in 1899. His funeral was arranged and paid for by Hattie Parkerson and he is buried in the Manhattan cemetery in the Goodnow lot. Louis, an electrical engineer, died in November, 1960, in Long Branch, N. J. Photographs courtesy Ellen Paullin.

sick with a severe attack of bronchitis but is a little better now."

"R. E. J.'s" March 8th column begins "There is considerable sickness about here." In that same column, an account of a freight train wreck in Keats is the last item "R. E. J." ever wrote.

Found among Hattie Parkerson's papers is the poignant letter, written on Wednesday, March 13, 1889, by Etta's 10-year-old Willie, to Isaac and Ellen Goodnow and Hattie Parkerson:

DEAR AUNT, UNCLE AND HATTIE,

Mamma is very sick, with a severe attack of boronchitis. She can't help herself scarcely at all. She would like to see you. If you can conveniently come. If you cant She would be very glad if you will send a package of boneset by mail. as she is very bilious also. She can't eat any thing. We have

no good physic and she thinks boneset will help her. Dr. Ross was up Sunday afternoon.

Mamma is much worse this afternoon. She thinks she took a little cold today.

We have a real good strong girl she takes extry good care of Mamma.

Pappa is awfully worried about Mamma.

She thought you would like to know of it when she is so very sick.

All send kind regards.

From

WILLIE

Alvin added a postscript:

Etta got Willie to write the above. I will add that she is very sick and weak. And I am afraid she may not pull through. I think from the above she wants to see her good aunt and sister and uncle. Please do pray the good Lord to help us in our affliction. She is a very sick woman, and her weakness is strongly against her. Come and see her, if you

can; it will do her good to see her aunt. And it will do me good too. I think it is lung fever, and she is so weak. I greatly fear for her.

God bless you is the prayer of your friend

ALVIN

The Manhattan cemetery records indicate that Etta died of "lung congestion" on March 13, 1889, the day the above letter was written. She is buried in the lot owned by her father where a weather-beaten stone, on which "Reynolds" is barely discernible, marks her grave and the grave of Alvin, who died in 1897, age 72, of Bright's disease.

In the *Nationalist*, March 22, 1889 (two weeks after Etta's last column appeared), the editor writes: "Among the many things we omitted last week for want of time was the notice of the death of Mrs. J. E. Reynolds, of Wild Cat. She has for some time been our correspondent at that place, and she filled a place on our staff that no one else can fill. Mrs. Reynolds was a faithful wife and mother, and her influence for good in her neighborhood was potent. She will be greatly missed by a sorrowing community, which deeply sympathizes with the husband and children."

And what of those children? Willie, who wrote the letter above, survived his father by two years, dying of typhoid fever at age 20 in 1899. His funeral was arranged and paid for by Hattie Parkerson and he is buried in the Manhattan cemetery in the Goodnow lot, though his name does not appear on the monument.

Louis, the boy who was only five at the time of his mother's death, was, by what can only be called some kind of strange justice, adopted by his maiden aunt, Harriet Parkerson, who changed his name to Parkerson, and raised him as her son. An electrical engineer, he died in November, 1960, in Long Branch, N.J.

Perhaps the poem, written by "True Friendship" for the Wild Cat column of March 18, 1889, in the *Manhattan Nationalist*, is an appropriate conclusion to "Etta's Journal":

It seems that spring has come once more and farmers go forth to seed their fields. Some oats are already sown. The rain has moistened the earth, making a good outlook for rich harvests. Though nature seems to smile upon the fields, yet some heavy hearts rest among us grieving over the departed soul of Sister Reynolds.

Though why should we grieve
When we can believe
The spirit that soared far away
Is resting above
With a Savior of love
In the realms of eternal bright day.

There is a vacant chair
Where she used to repair
To talk and to read of God's love.
But our loss was her gain
When God severed in twain
The thread and received her above. . . .

Though her body was broken,
Though her misery unspoken,
Though deformity changed her aspect,
Though earth's duties were hard,
She complained not a word,
For all these she would leave in the casket.

She was gentle and kind,
Always bearing in mind
That she had a work to perform
For her Father above;
And with meekness and love
All things were performed in their turn. . . .

To those children so dear
To their mother while here,
We would say in their anguish and sorrow,
Be Strong in the Lord.
Abide in his word,
Eternity is only tomorrow. . . .