

Tommy Miller Diary
1936

January 1, Wednesday. Elinor and girls and myself went to Bertha's today. We took them a quarter of beef and a cwt. of flour. Bertha came home with us and we stopped at Mr. Henry Nation's home on the way.

January 2, Thursday. Elinor, Bertha and I went to Springfield today.

January 3 and January 4.

January 5, Sunday. We all went to Loami this afternoon taking Bertha with us. Called at Uncle Will's, Uncle Tom's and Aunt Kit's.

January 6- January 10.

January 11, Saturday. Bertha went away today. Erv and a Mr. and Mrs. Gardner came by for her. They went on to Springfield.

January 12 - January 14.

January 15, Wednesday. Kenneth Lee Barnes born today.

January 16 - January 20.

January 21, Tuesday. We butchered at Mr. Dickey's today. Had two hogs cut up when a deputy came and gave Mr. D. summons to appear on jury at 1-30. So I took him in and stayed for him until five but he could not come home.

January 22, Wednesday. 16 degrees below 0. A real blizzard on today. Very cold and snowed and blew all day. Really a worse day than last X-mas day was. Children home today.

January 23 - January 26.

January 27, Monday. 10 degrees below 0.

January 28, Tuesday. 10 degrees below 0. I helped Elinor wash today. Was not so cold today as usual. I took children to school and went for them.

January 29, Wednesday. 12 degrees above 0 A.M. More snow. Took children to school. Elinor and I then went to Springfield. Mr. Dickey went with us. We called at Cora's a while. Took them two rabbits. Lorene and Judy are still there. Streets were quite icy after it thawed some. Mr. Black and Freeman here this evening to look at cows.

January 30, Thursday. Heavy wind. 4 degrees below 0 A.M. Elinor and I went to Springfield. I first went to Chatham for 5 gals. of gas and five gals. of kerosene. Started blowing about two o'clock. Roads were drifting badly by the time we brought the children from school. Now at 7-P.M. its like a northern blizzard outside.

January 31, Friday. 8 degrees below 0 at 7-A.M. Colder this morning. Children did not attend school. We were at home the entire day. Boys went skating. I helped them clear some snow from the ice. I also cleaned the stable.

February 1, Saturday. Somewhat warmer today. I went to Chatham this morning for coal. Was able to get ten bushels. Afternoon Elinor and I attended Mr. John Neal's funeral, also towed Mr. Dickey's car to Chatham on the way. We went to Sulphur Springs cemetery to the burial. Stopped at Uncle Will's a few minutes. Warmer this evening, threatening snow.

February 2, Sunday. 10 degrees above 0 7 A.M. Cloudy and warmer. Elinor and the girls and myself went to Sunday school & church services at the Chatham M.E. Church this morning. Became stalled in the snow on the way home. Lewis Barnes came for three cows today. The ground hog made no shadow today. Looks like more snow.

February 3, Monday. Warmer. Very cloudy, snow, sleet and rain. Elinor and I started to Waverly to see a Mr. Burnett, but so much ice on the windshield we stopped at Lanterman's and went to Springfield with them. They brought out 584 chicks. Streets very icy in town. Children all in school today. Mercury slightly above 32 degrees this evening.

February 4, Tuesday. 5 degrees above at 6 A.M. Very icy this morning. Really dangerous to drive a car. I took the children to school and the boys to high school. A very cold wind today. The pavement was a solid coat of ice. Barnes boys took the red calf to Goreys today.

February 5, Wednesday. 7 degrees below 0. I took the children to both schools and went for them this evening. Roads are very icy. I stopped at Lanterman's a few minutes. Slightly warmer today.

February 6, Thursday. 10 degrees above 0. A bit warmer today. I took the children to school and skidded into a ditch south of Dickey's. Pulled the car out by using Louie's wire stretchers. Went to Chatham after dinner. Brought the children home on the way. Put chains on the car today which helped to keep it in the road. Looks like snow tonight.

February 7, Friday. Mild today. Elinor and I went to Springfield to Cora's. She and Henry went with us to Ashland to see a Miss Murray, then back by Chatham. Stopped at Mr. C.C. Jones', then at Lanterman's. Mr. Drennan butchered today. The ice melted off the pavements today. I deposited \$800.00 M.F.M. today.

February 8, Saturday. Much colder today. The boys, twins, Elinor and I went to Springfield today. We got the girls each a cloak, the boys each dress shirts and also a couple for myself. Ruth and Dorothy stayed at the Lanterman's. I drove the old Ford to Chatham this morning for 9 bushels of coal. A cold northwester came on us today. Below 0 and a heavy wind tonight.

February 9, Sunday. 2 below 0. Very cold and windy. At home all day. I went to Dickey's a while in the afternoon. A miserable day.

February 10, Monday. 4 below 0. I took the children to school, then helped Elinor wash. Will Trimble and Ellis Willowby were here. I went by Lanterman's on the way after the children. Six above zero at 7-30 P.M. No thawing today. William Dickey here this evening.

February 11, Tuesday. Mercury at 0. Elinor spent the day with Pearl Lanterman. Howard Lanterman, Mr. Hubbard and myself went to Springfield. Then went to John Bomke's. then north to sale near Carpenter Park. Cold today, especially at the sale.

February 12, Wednesday. Warmer. Elinor and I took the children to school and took Howard Lanterman and went to Mr. Able's sale S.E. of Pawnee. Vern Dragoo Auction. I bought a wagon @ 10.00 and a rotary hoe @ 50.00, a library table and some dishes. Looks very much like snow tonight.

February 13, Thursday. Rained most of last night. Very icy this morning. Really dangerous to walk. I put on chains to take the children to school. I also walked across the lake to see Chris Jacobs. I walked to Dickey's this evening. Mr. Dickey is sick with a cold. I also have a bad cold in head.

February 14, Friday. I took the children to school and Louie Wallner went with me to Mr. Abel's farm S.E. of Pawnee for the rotary hoe and wagon. Mr. Bill Smidt brought us 30 bushels of coal. Roads very icy.

February 15, Saturday. 2 degrees below 0. The boys and I went to Ashland today and rented a farm of Miss Alice Murray. We stopped at Clarence Rhodes little farm and brought Tiny home with us. Cold north wind this evening.

February 16, Sunday. We all went to Chatham to Sunday school and church. Rev. Dubois is the preacher. We spent the afternoon at home. Stanley L. and William Dickey here.

February 17, Monday. Colder and snow. Much colder today. Dry snow has fallen all day. I took the children to school and went for them. Mr. Jones here today.

February 18, Tuesday. 8 degrees below 0. I took the children to school. Stopped at Lanterman's and arranged to go to Griene's tractor show north of Springfield. Had a good show. Was very interesting. Stopped at Chas. Pyle's on the way to town. Bought two bushels of apples at Colvins on the way home. 1 bushel @ 1.75, 1 bushel \$1.00

February 19, Wednesday. 4 degrees below 0. A bit milder today. I took the children to school and slid into a ditch near I.C. tracks. Cinder truck pulled me out. Howard Lanterman and I attended Mr. Hopwoods sale north of Athens (old Rankin farm). I purchased a black mare \$188.00.

February 20, Thursday. After taking the children to school, Elinor and I went to Sid's and Cora's. They were butchering. The boys and I brought the black mare home from Lanterman's this evening.

February 21, Friday. Milder. I took the children to school then to Chatham a few minutes. Then helped Elinor wash. Then to Springfield, got a trailer hitch @ 7.55, license \$6.50. I stopped at Mr. Pingo on my way home. Threatening snow this evening. Charles went to Wagoner this evening to play B.B. Elinor's birthday.

February 22, Saturday. Warmer today. The girls and I went to Chatham for the mail this A.M. Afterwards the boys and I dismantled the Ford into a trailer. Louie Wallner hauled two loads of straw from our stack. Thawed quite a bit today. Mercury at 34 degrees at 8 P.M.

February 23, Sunday. Mercury at 34 degrees at sunrise. Weighed Bird and Barney. Bird 1800. Barney 1700.

February 24, Monday. Very good day. Muddy. We baled the timothy hay, beans and some wheat straw. Mr. Trimble, Albert and Ellis Willowby operated the baler. Mr. Wallner, Skaggs, Lanterman and Dickey helped. Mrs. Wallner and Lanterman helped Elinor prepare the dinner.

February 25, Tuesday. I went to Lanterman's to go to a sale near Williamsville with Howard but as Frank Poor had decided to butcher, I helped him instead. Roads very muddy, oil roads becoming soft.

February 26, Wednesday. I took the children to school and then went to Asa Moore's farm to buy seed corn. I bought five bushels of second grade corn at \$2.00 per bushel. He had sold all of his best corn @ 4.00 per bushel. Roads very bad out there from Chatham. Moved two loads of lumber to Dickey's.

February 27, Thursday. Elinor and I went to Springfield. I got the boys and myself each a pair of rubber boots. George 9, Charles 10, myself 8.

February 28, Friday. Ground frozen this A.M. I took 40 bales and Trimble's 86 bales to Murray farm. Willowbys moved in two loads of implements. I also made bolsters for the trailer.

February 29, Saturday. Boys and I moved two loads to Murray farm. Sid Barnes came as far as our mail box. After dinner the boys and I called at Mrs. Helginberg,s near Waverly. Also took old Ford motor to Sid's and brought a stove home. Attended oyster supper at New. Col.

March 1, Sunday. A fine day. Went to Sunday school and church this A.M. Our road impassible north of the house. I intended to go to Thos. Cummings but as black mare Bird slid into a ditch it took most of the afternoon to locate her and remove her.

March 2, Monday. Mild. Charles, Elinor and I went to Springfield today. Charles and I went to the stock yards and bought two Hampshire sows, 430 lbs. each @ 8.90 and 9.00. We used the Ford trailer. After dinner we went to Dickey's, Wallner's and Lanterman's and got the butchering tools together. Will butcher tomorrow if the weather is favorable. Looks a bit stormy this evening.

March 3, Tuesday. We butchered two sows today. Howard Lanterman and I took the eight joints to a cold storage plant in Springfield.

March 4, Wednesday. I brought over a load of outside stuff today.

March 5, Thursday. We moved the household goods today. Howard Lanterman and wife, Louie Wallner and wife, Wm. Dickey and wife and Mrs. Matthews helped us. I ran to Springfield for stovepipe and nails. Mr. Matthews went with me. Nails 24¢. Mr. Will Trimble and Albert brought over three truckloads.

March 6, Friday. Elinor, the boys and I went back to Meg. farm today and cleaned around the place and brought home a trailer load and other loads.

March 7, Saturday. Warm. The girls and I went to Miss Murray's at Ashland. Afternoon Charles and I went back to Meg. farm for the binder, planter, gauge, sulky, wagon and spring wagon. Arrived back home at dark. Aunt Kit and Lloyd came this afternoon. One white sow went to Mr. Odiorul's this A.M.

March 8, Sunday. We attended church services at Chatham M.E. church and then had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones. We called at the Lanterman's this evening for school key to get the girls books.

March 9, Monday. Warm. The girls started to a new school this A.M. I went back to the Meg. farm today and brought home the hayrake and mower. Mr. Dickey helped me load the rake. Elinor and I went to Chatham this afternoon to have them hold our mail. I went to Will Trimble's this evening to phone Mr. Moore about seed corn. Boys rode home the first time with Sexton.

March 10, Tuesday. Quite warm today. Elinor and I went to Springfield. I bought a bbl. and took it to Cora's to clean it and then went to storage plant and salted the meat. Had the Journal changed from Chatham to R.#4 Springfield. I dragged the lane this evening.

March 11, Wednesday. I spent the day hauling and scattering manure from the south side of the barn. Also helped Elinor in the house such as beating the rug and nailing tin over mouse holes. We also moved the piano from the south room to the west room.

March 12, Thursday. Colder. Very windy during the night. And more wind today than in a year. Elinor and I went to Mr. Pinkova's, bought an ewe and two lambs for George's project work. I later went to the mine for 22 bushels of coal in the trailer. Then to John Stout's to phone Lanterman. We stopped at Cora's awhile.

March 13, Friday. Ground frozen. I helped Elinor take paper off the dining room until noon and went with Howard Lanterman to Elkhart afternoon. The farmers near Elkhart had a much better corn crop than we had.

March 14, Saturday. Aunt Kit and Duffy came today. Aunt Kit helped Elinor paper the dining room and kitchen. Lloyd took a calf to the stockyards. Boys and I took four plow shares and planter runners to Mr. Archer at Chatham this afternoon.

March 15, Sunday. Rather cool. We were at home entire day. Cora, Henry, Malford and Mary were here awhile this afternoon. Looks a bit rainy this evening.

March 16, Monday. Cool, cloudy. I hauled manure in the forenoon and one load after noon then went with Howard Lanterman S.E. of Mechanicsburg to get corn. He took my trailer and bought 28 bushels and 60 lbs. @ \$1.00. Saw several tractors at work on land. Elinor washed.

March 17, Tuesday. Warmer but cool. Elinor and I went to Springfield in the forenoon. She got paint for her woodwork. I also took George to Chatham to see Dr. McLaughlin. He pronounced his case mumps. After noon Elinor, George and I went to Waverly to see F. Wemple. White sow had twelve pigs today.

March 18, Wednesday. Ground frozen this morning. George helped me jack the loft floor up in the barn. I put in some partitions in stalls. Also cleaned out some manure and scattered it. George and I helped Mr. Ping load some implements on the hay rack. I worked in the south side of the barn during the afternoon. Elinor and George painted and papered in the north kitchen.

March 19, Thursday. Cloudy. I tried to harrow stalks but too damp. I then built stalls in the south side of the barn and put on kick boards. Afternoon George and I put the disc together and repaired it. We then put the binder in the crib and sowed timothy seed on the pasture. George not in school on account of heavy mumps.

March 20, Friday. Elinor, twins and I went to Springfield about noon. I attended a horse sale at the canning factory. Horses are selling very high. Met Cora in town. Took her home on our way out. Stopped at 211 Walnut for Charles' watch. Elinor got the twins some shoes. Charles' birthday today.

March 21, Saturday. Charles and I made two trips to Meg. farm today and brought home the balance of hay and straw. Also dug some of the parsnips in the garden. Borrowed Will Trimble's wagon and the tongue broke out in crossing the track. Rather cool and windy day. Aunt Kit, Lloyd and Art Patterson were here.

March 22, Sunday. Cold, S.E. wind, cloudy. The girls and I went to Sunday school and church at Chatham. Home by way of Louis Wallner's to find how he was. Mr. and Mrs. Lanterman and family came for awhile. Brought the trailer home, but did not come in the house owing to George having the mumps.

March 23, Monday. Cloudy, rain. George and I loaded a large load of junk this morning and took it to the Meg. farm and dumped it in ditches. Also took Will Trimble's wagon home. Some farmers were working at sowing oats

today. Has been quite windy all day and looked rainy. And it began raining about 4.30 or 5 and fairly poured. This old house leaks in many places. Paid Trimble \$20.00 today. Balance of .70 due him.

March 24, Tuesday. Cooler. I worked in the shop until noon. Elinor and I went to Springfield after dinner. I talked with some corn truckers about some corn. Also went to see Trimble in regard to getting it trucked.

March 25, Wednesday. Elinor and I and Myrtle Coble went to Lincoln today then on to Emden and San Jose to buy corn. Nice country up that way. Better quality of corn grown. Bought 125 bushels off a Mr. Manns @ 50¢ per bushel.

March 26, Thursday. I was out at 3-45 A.M. waiting for Al Trimble. He came at 5-20. We went north of Lincoln to Emden and brought home 136 bushels @ 50¢ plus 1¢ weighing and 7¢ trucking. Got corn of Carl Manus. I worked in shop after getting corn unloaded. Very cloudy and windy, looks rainy.

March 27 - 28.

March 29, Sunday. Fair. We went to church at Chatham in forenoon. After dinner Mr. Dickey family, the Pinkova family and Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Cummings came.

March 30, Monday. Windy and cold. Charles and I went to Mr. Pinkova's farm and exchanged wire fence for an ewe and two lambs. Had to have the carburetor cleaned on the car. Also had puralator changed. After dinner Charles harrowed stalks. I dug posts holes on the north side garden. Sid and Clara came.

March 31, Tuesday. Cold today (ice ½ in) I worked on the garden fence. I also fixed a lead pipe at stock well and filled the horse tank. Charles harrowed stalks all day. Elinor washed bedding.

April 1, Wednesday.

April 2, Thursday. Cold and windy. I worked in the hen house all day. It was a cold job but the building was in bad shape, repairs very much needed. We went to Father and Son Banquet at Ball T. H. this evening. Plenty to eat and large crowd. Left the girls at Lanterman's. Charles stayed all night with the Lantermans.

April 3, Friday. Very cold. About 18 degrees above. I cut the hedge before noon. Afternoon we went to Auburn to Community sale. I bought 3 bags of potatoes at \$1.20 per bag. We then drove on to Sid's awhile and stopped at Otto Millers on the way home. A bit warmer this evening.

April 4, Saturday. Cold. Very cloudy with snow. Charles raked stalks early but snow stopped him. I dug post holes northwest of the house. Boys cleaned stable and fixed sheep pens more comfortable. I took Mildred to see Dr. McLaughlin at Chatham. He thought that her trouble was more a cold than anything else.

April 5, Sunday. Rainy. At home all day. Rained most all day. Snow and sleet in the evening. Charles has the mumps this morning. Elinor caught everything full soft water. I planted seed corn in jar.

April 6, Monday. I hauled manure all fore noon. Stretched garden fence and swung garden gate after noon. Charles' jaws very much swollen today. Warmer this evening. Elinor washed.

April 7, Tuesday. This has been a very nasty day. Heavy cold N.W. wind. Hard to keep house warm. I did no work in the forenoon other than chores and built a shelf for Elinor in bedroom during the afternoon. Arabelle thinks she is taking mumps this evening.

April 8, Wednesday. Bird's colt was born this morning. I cut hedge until noon. We went to town after dinner. Elinor got some curtain material. We got some groceries and 100 lbs. sugar @ \$4.85.

April 9, Thursday. We started to Bertha's this A.M. but ran into rain at Girard so was afraid to venture out on dirt roads. On returning home found no rain. After dinner I plowed the garden. Charles raked stalks. We burned stalks after supper. Henry, Cora, Myra, Sandy and Malford came out awhile. Tiny's kids were born this evening.

April 10, Friday. Aunt Kit and Lloyd stopped on their way from Springfield. I planted potatoes today.

April 11, Saturday. The boys and I worked about the buildings. Tore old hog shed down. Also, some old fence. Charles then drove the sulky plow. George and I built a fence and put a roof on the hen house.

April 12, Sunday. The children and I went to Sunday school and church. After dinner we drove to DeLong's but they were away. We then drove into lower muddy and west to Franklin, then to Jacksonville and around the state hospital then to Meridosia, got some fish and home via route 36 at 8-P.M.

April 13, Monday. Fine day. Elinor washed this morning. I worked on fences also washed and sunned the meat. Charles disced and dragged the garden and patch north of the house. M.J. Murray and sons were here today. We burned stalks this evening.

April 14, Tuesday. Fine warm spring day. Charles and I built a fence and helped Elinor plant the garden. After noon went to Springfield, got garden seed, roller skates, 3 lbs. staples, and each a straw hat. Also some cat. and tom. plants. After supper we drove to Hubbard's at Curran. Nelly's colt born when we came home this evening.

April 15, Wednesday. Charles and I spent the day building fences. We built the hog pen on each side of the barn.

April 16, Thursday. Elinor and I went over west of Loami this morning. Stopped at Uncle Will's for dinner but Uncle Will did not come home for dinner. After coming home, I built a chicken proof gate near the barn. Charles and Arabelle started back to school today after having mumps.

April 17, Friday. I rigged up the gang plow and started plowing today.

April 18, Saturday. 28 degrees Charles drove the plow most of the day. George and the girls and I picked up corn on the field most of the day. Used Nelly on the trailer. George and I built and swung a gate on the east side of the barnyard. Elinor and I drove to the store a few minutes after dinner. Mercury below freezing this A.M.

April 19, Sunday. Fine day. We were at home until 3-30 then drove down to Bertha's. Stopped a few minutes at the Beasleys on the way home.

April 20, Monday. Quite warm today. I spent the day on the gang plow except a couple of hours at noon. Elinor and I took the gas stove in to Sikking's to be repaired. George went home with Stanley this evening.

April 21, Tuesday. Rain. Elinor and I went to Mr. A. B. Moore's for seed corn. Stopped at Dr. Southwick's awhile. I plowed after dinner. Had a light rain this morning.

April 22, Wednesday. Calf. 26 degrees. Very cold today. Ice. I spent the day on the gang plow. Mr. Ordiorne & Ostermeier stopped at the field where I was plowing. Dolly freshened today. Large red roan calf. Frank Otte stopped this evening. I paid him for five gallons of kerosene, 5 gallons of lamp gas and 4½ gallons of cylinder oil. Check \$4.80.

April 23, Thursday. I plowed before noon. Elinor started washing but the Maytag broke down about noon. We took it to town and brought the cook stove (Coleman gas) home. I did some harrowing this evening.

April 24, Friday. George drove the harrow on the plowed ground east of the barn and also did some plowing with the sulky. Charles and I cut the cross 80 rds. of hedge. Boys did not have to go to school today.

April 25, Saturday. Warm today and looks rainy. The boys and I piled the hedge brush this morning. Charles then plowed the balance of the day. Elinor and I went to town this morning. I got a pair of plow shares @ \$3.10 each.

April 26, Sunday. We loaded the calf (King) in the trailer and took him to Erus today. Came back by Clara's and got 48 lbs. of timothy seed.

April 27, Monday. Spent the day on the plow until 3-P.M. and was forced to quit on account of a rain storm.

April 28, Tuesday. I plowed north of the house today. Was a bit wet early but I worked very well toward noon. Sid and Clara stopped awhile afternoon on the way to town. I went to Lanterman's this evening. Also took the battery to Blakleys.

April 29, Wednesday. Elinor and I went to Springfield. I bought a section of harrow. After dinner I went to Mrs. Alexander's sale west of Edinburg and bought a 10-20 M.D. tractor. A Mr. Prater trucked it home for me.

April 30, Thursday. I made the two section harrow into a 3 section and we then went to Waverly, stopping at Eva Weinheimers on the way. Upon returning home I went to Sikking's to get the washing machine motor but it was not finished. Mr. Krebaum rode to town with me.

May 1, Friday. George stayed home today and harrowed until noon. I plowed with the tractor until noon. Stopped awhile and took the children over to the lake to have their school picnic. After that I took clothes to the laundry. After dinner George harrowed with the tractor about an hour. A heavy thunder storm drove us in.

May 2, Saturday. Too wet to farm today. Aunt Kit and Duffy here for dinner. Children and I went to Chatham to take shares. Duffy's dog Lindy escaped. I went to Springfield for the washing and Maytag motor.

May 3, Sunday. Aunt Kit and Duffy came looking for their dog. They stayed for dinner and we went over there after noon. Stopped at Uncle Will's a few minutes.

May 4, Monday. George helped me today on the tractor. I went to Virden after dinner and bought a tractor disc. Aunt Kit, Duffy and Bess stopped awhile on their way home from Springfield. They were searching for the dog.

May 5, Tuesday. George disced all day with the tractor. Charles harrowed with the horses. I started planter after noon.

May 6, Wednesday. I planted all day east of the barn. Murray moved corn today.

May 7, Thursday. Warm. I finished planting north of the house today. Sid and Clara came this evening. Brought ice cream and cake. Looked rainy all day.

May 8, Friday. Fair and warm. Charles and I plowed today, he with the tractor, I used gang and horses. We started on the east 40 acres. I harrowed after 3 o'clock. We all went to Ball High this evening to the Seniors Play "Where's Grandma". Ilene came home with us.

May 9, Saturday. The girls and Ilene and self went to Waverly this morning. After noon Elinor and I went to Springfield. The boys kept the tractor and horses going today. Threatened rain.

May 10, Sunday. We were at home all day. Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Rhoades came during the afternoon. Also Henry and Cora, Malford and Mary. Bertha and Ern and the girls also Alma and Ivan and Mary. Today was a big day at the airport. There were numerous planes flying about. Rained a light shower late in the afternoon.

May 11, Monday. Fair, partly cloudy. I went to the city early for repairs for tractor plow. Dorothy and Eilene went also. I repaired the plow and did some work before noon. Charles ran the tractor after noon. I harrowed with horses. Mrs. Lanterman and her father called for Eilene. Elinor put out a large washing.

May 12, Tuesday. Warm. Charles worked on the tractor. I harrowed with the horses.

May 13, Wednesday. Cool, cloudy. George disced before noon with the tractor. Elinor harrowed with four horses. I started planter on the east 40 and planted all day. Turned quite cool this morning and very foggy and misty. George harrowed afternoon. Charles went to school.

May 14, Thursday. Cool. I planted corn today. Elinor drove four horses on the harrow. We all went to the city for a drum of gas and distillate for the tractor in the evening. Stopped at Cora's for a few minutes. Then went to Ball for Charles.

May 15, Friday. I planted corn and finished at noon. Elinor rolled awhile and Arabelle later took the roller. I took the Maytag motor to town this afternoon. Then got rot hoe ready to use. We also serviced the tractor and plowed one round.

May 16, Saturday. Charles plowed with the tractor from 5 A.M. until dark. George ran Rt. hoe. Arabelle ran roller. I replanted two rows of corn on the east side of west 40 acres. Uncle Will and Aunt Nora came this evening and had supper with us. Mr. and Mrs. Lanterman and the children came this evening. Paul stayed.

May 17, Sunday. We were at home until evening. Henry, Cora, Malford and Mary came out this afternoon and brought Ruth home. We all went to Sid's and Clara's and took the tractor plow home. Looks rainy this evening. Lightening in the south and north.

May 18, Monday. Elinor, girls and I went to Lanterman's for 26 bushels and 50 lbs. of beans. Stopped in Chatham for cultivator shovels. After noon we went to the soy bean mill near the stock yards and purchased 200 lbs. of bean cake meal @ 1.35 per ewh for the pigs.

May 19, Tuesday. I plowed and sprayed the potatoes this morning. Arabelle rolled on the east 40. I plowed after dinner near the pavement. Sid and Clara came awhile. The girls and I ran to town a few minutes to get the Maytag motor.

May 20, Wednesday. I finished plowing the bean ground today and harrowed it. I also ran to the city and got sudan grass seed and took the lamb in for the vet to see.

May 21, Thursday. Hot and dry. I plowed corn all day. It is the first plowing. Corn needs rain badly. Cora, Henry, and Malford came out this evening. They had a horned toad that Fred had sent Hazel.

May 22, Friday. Very hot. Charles and I plowed corn today. It was very hot. We need rain very badly. We all went to Dickey's this evening.

May 23, Saturday. Charles and I plowed corn until about 9-30 and then took the two sows to Dickey's. George rolled until noon. After noon the boys went fishing. Elinor, girls and I went to the city. Cora gave us their old ice box as they have a new one.

May 24, Sunday. Rain. Myrtle, Frank and son came out after noon and had supper with us. The girls and I went to Sunday school this morning. Had a nice rain during the night.

May 25, Monday. Rain. Had 3 or 4 nice rains during the night. I worked on the screen doors most of the day. The corn will grow now as its been needing rain badly.

May 26, Tuesday.

May 27, Wednesday. George at home at noon and drove the tractor after dinner. I plowed the piece across the pavement.

May 28, Thursday. I finished the discing with the tractor this morning. Then used the horse disc to disc piece across the pavement and little piece near the house. Then harrowed the balance of the day. I also ran Elinor and the girls to S.H.S. and we all went to Commencement Exercises at Ball T. H.

May 29, Friday.

May 30, Saturday. Fair. I planted the soy beans today. The boys rolled and replanted some missing hills of corn. Aunt Kit and Duffy stopped awhile on their way from town.

May 31, Sunday. Fair. Howard L. and sons came for the hay rake and also took the tractor to do some grinding as they have the cultivators on theirs. We all went to Uncle Will's today for dinner. Carson and Frances & Yaller Sam were there.

June 1, Monday. Very windy. I went to Springfield this morning. Took beans 450 lbs. to the stock yards for bean meal. George rolled. Charles cultivated. I ran a cultivator after dinner. We went to Lanterman's this evening for a surface cultivator. Need rain very much.

June 2, Tuesday.

June 3, Wednesday. Boys finished plowing on west 40 for second time this morning. I started the 3rd cultivator on the east 40. Sid and Clara here for dinner. Elinor and the girls went home with them. We cut the big locust tree in the yard this morning.

June 4, Thursday. The boys and I plowed corn on the east field all day, finishing about 5 o'clock. Elinor and the girls are at Clara's. Very hot and dry. Frank Otte left 5 lbs. axle grease.

June 5 - June 8

June 9, Tuesday. The boys started crossing the west field this morning. Elinor, Arabelle, Ruth and I went to the city for an hour or so. I worked on the gate after noon. A very heavy wind and dust storm came from the northwest about 4-P.M. Blew the roof from the hen house, light rain.

June 10 - August 9. [NOTE: Charles Miller drowned in Lake Springfield Sunday, June 14]

August 10, Monday. George and I went to Auburn to see Mr. Harms. Stopped to see Thos. Cummings. He was walking so well. Went to Springfield to see Mr. J.A. Barber. George bought a pair of shoes. We also bought a three bottom plow of Mr. Kavanaugh @ \$40.00. Mr. Cooper came. Wants help filling silos.

August 11 - August 23.

August 24, Monday. Mr. England came for me to help Mr. Fergeson fill silo today. I drove their team.

August 25, Tuesday. George and I worked at Mr. Ferguson's today filling silo.

August 26, Wednesday. George and I worked at Mr. Ferguson's today filling silo. I worked Mr. Barker's team. Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Jones had supper with us this evening.

August 27, Thursday. George and I helped Mr. Barker fill the silo all day. Was very hot for such heavy work. I used my team and rack today.

August 28, Friday. Very hot today with some breeze became cloudy and cooler latter half of the afternoon. George and I helped Mr. Barker fill the silo all day. I used my team and rack.

August 29, Saturday. George and I helped Mr. Barker fill the silo today finishing toward evening.

August 30, Sunday. Mr. England came and paid George for his work. Uncle Will and Aunt Nora came but as we were expected to go to Tommy Cummings they did not stay. We then spent the day with Tom. Had a fine visit, fried chicken, ice cream and watermelon.

August 31, Monday. George and the girls started to school today. Mr. Turley came for George. I helped Mr. Louis Ostermeier fill the silo today. I ran up to the A & P store after coming home. George cut some shock corn.

September 1, Tuesday. I helped Mr. Louis Ostermeier with silo filling today. Had ten wagons and 6 or 7 men cutting corn. Started raining at 4-30. I was drenched on the way home. I ordered a bicycle for George over the phone from Mr. Ostermeier. Has been raining steady since starting. Now 8-P.M.

September 2, Wednesday. Heavy rain last night. I started to cut shock corn but as Mr. Ostermeier sent word I then went and helped finish silo. After noon helped Robert Ostermeier. Rain and machine trouble delayed us. Elinor drove George to and from High School. Ruth fell at school striking head on cement floor in the basement and had a bad day.

September 3, Thursday. Ruth felt better today. Elinor took the children to school. I cut some corn and we then went to the city. Helped Ostermeiers fill the silo after noon.

September 4 - October 17.

October 18, Sunday. We all spent the day at Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lanterman. Mr. L. Senior is yet in bed with a broken hip.

October 19, Monday. Black spotted sow has ten pigs this morning.

October 20 - November 9.

November 10. Elinor and I took the sheep to Mr. Pinkova's farm.

November 11 - November 18.

November 19, Thursday. I helped Mr. Chas shingle his house today. Upon arriving home found Chick & Maggie Colwell here. They were driving a new car (Hudson Terraplane) from Windsor, Ontario.

November 20, Friday. Chic and I went to Mr. Spaulding's for two gallons of cider and a bushel of apples. We then drove them around the lake then to Lincoln's tomb, had dinner at Thompson's restaurant then out to Moonlight gard. junction and then headed for St. Jo. about 12-30. 306 miles.

November 21 - November 25.

November 25, Thursday. George and I butchered a pig today and this evening we brought in two or three shocks of corn and put in about the hen house. Very cold today.

November 27, Friday. George and I hauled in a load of beans this morning. Afternoon we went to Springfield and through the Pillsbury Mill with the High School boys from Ball. Stopped at Cora's a bit. Malford, Lorene and Cora came out a few minutes. Elinor bought a coat of Lorene for \$20.00.

November 28, Saturday.

November 29, Sunday. At home all day. Aunt Kit and Duffy came after noon. They had supper with us. I gave her a pair of doors for the barn.

November 30, Monday. The two Sexton boys came to husk corn this morning. They did 44 rows today. I spent the day working on the crib in the barn. Quite chilly today - east wind.

December 1, Tuesday. Mr. Chas. Pyle hauled 8 head of fat hogs to the yards for me today. Weight 1650 price 9.95 Total 160.89. The Sexton boys both husked corn today. Mr. Metcalf called in forenoon. Paul Barker also called. Looks stormy tonight.

December 2, Wednesday. Arthur Sexton and I husked corn today. I ran to city during noon hour and paid Mr. Metcalf fifty dollars. Henry Sexton was sick today.

December 3, Thursday. Drizzly rain this A.M. early. I did some repair work on the hen house and went out to husk corn at 8 o'clock. Did 11 rows. Both Sexton boys came at noon. We all three husked afternoon.

December 4, Friday. The Sexton boys came and I husked corn all day finishing all but a small amount of the standing corn. I paid them \$14.00 for eight days work @ \$1.75 per day. Also paid Mr. Sexton 6.00. George came home this evening bringing Paul with him.

December 5, Saturday. George and I hauled in the bean hay this forenoon. Stacked it in the east side of the corn crib. Sid and Clara stopped in awhile on their way to the city. I paid Sid 15.00 on seed wheat. Began snowing about 10-30 A.M. After dinner, George, Paul and I brought the colts home from Shuster's pasture. Heavy rain this evening.

December 6, Sunday. Cloudy this A.M. Snow all melted. Temperature above freezing. Turned colder toward noon and frozen up tight by night. Mrs. Lanterman came for Paul.

December 7, Monday. Temperature 6 degrees above. Very cold this morning. I dug some post holes (26). The sign builders put up the large sign in the field today.

December 8, Tuesday. Not so cold today. I drove Nick and Nelly to mine for 46 bushels of coal. The load cost 4.83. After noon I finished setting posts across the field north of the barn. Elinor washed after dinner.

December 9, Wednesday. I stopped at Lee Parks and left \$10.00 for him. Then I took Howard Lanterman to a sale northeast of Riverton. Wanted to buy some heifers but too high. 25.00 heifers sold for 33 to 35.00. Elinor went with Mrs. Pyle to Homer Pyle's to a lady's gathering.

December 10, Thursday. Colder. I fixed the fence along the north road in the forenoon. After noon I went to town also Elinor. We bought three dozen wash cloths. Also a bag of Idaho potatoes. Stopped at Cora's awhile. Lorene has gone to Oak Park to work. Elinor, George and the twins went with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pyle to a play at Ball High School this evening. Has grown colder since morning.

December 11, Friday. Quite cold this morning. I worked on the fence through the field most of the day but did not feel like doing anything. Mr. Charles Jones stopped awhile. Also a Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cox to see if this farm was rented. Black Mare (Bird) seems sick this evening.

December 12, Saturday. George and I husked nine rows of corn and put stock in the stalk field. Aunt Kit and Duffy stopped a few minutes telling us of Uncle Tom H. breaking his shoulder.

December 13, Sunday. Mild. A very nice day. We were at home all day. Claude Hodgen and family stopped a few minutes.

December 14, Monday. Very nice day. I husked 17 rows of corn. I helped Elinor start the Maytag and also with the water. Afternoon husked 8 rows and went with Mr. Jones to look at some heifers. Sent the LaFayette to town this morning to be repaired from Elinor driving it into a tree. Will cost about \$35.00.

December 15, Tuesday. Very mild. I husked corn in forenoon. Went with Mr. Jones in the afternoon. Elinor washed bed clothing today.

December 16, Wednesday. Very warm. I husked corn all day finishing all the standing corn. Mr. C.C. Jones and Edd Hendrick came this A.M. and sold me two heifers for \$65.00.

December 17, Thursday. Cooler. A northeast wind today rather disagreeable. I snapped corn off of several shocks this A.M. and had it put through a hammer mill this afternoon at the Schuster dairy. Stopped at Ostermeiers on the way home and picked up a Jersey- Holstein calf. Very damp today.

December 18, Friday. 1 inch of snow. I went to Schuster dairy and brought home the brown horse. Then rode to Springfield with Miss Murray and her nephew Kermit. I brought home the car which was repaired. We then drove up to Mr. C.C. Jones' for a few minutes.

December 19, Saturday. I took Elinor and the girls to the city. Then George and I went to Mr. Jones' farm for two heifers with the team and wagon. About 3 P.M. we went to the city for Elinor and the girls. We all went to X-mas tree at Woodside Community Club this evening. Some one left us some beef today. Guess it was Sid.

December 20, Sunday. We all went to Clara's this afternoon. We found much more snow down there than we had here. About 3 or 4 inches there, hardly an inch here. They think of butchering four hogs on Tuesday, if weather permits. We will go help them.

December 21, Monday. It's cold this morning but no wind.

December 22 - December 31.

Some Concluding Notes

Tom Miller's 1937 diary is sparse in January and February, however it is clear that by mid February, Tom & Elinor had arranged to move to the Mitchell farm, located near Waverly. The move itself took almost two months. On February 25, Tom had two loads of shale delivered to the farm since the drive was in terrible condition. Then, for the next month and a half, Tom Miller and his son George worked about the Mitchell farm getting it ready for farming. In mid March they began moving the livestock. Thereafter, Tom and George would often spend the night at the Mitchell farm, only to get up early and head back to the Murray farm for breakfast and chores there. The house itself was put in order last, linoleum being put down on May 1st. Finally, on May 5th, the move was completed.

May 5, Wednesday, 1937. We moved today. Uncle Will Baucom brought two loads in his truck. Mr. Charles Pyle brought one load in his truck and Paul Barker brought one load with his truck. Elinor and I came in our car with the rear seat piled full. We stopped in Auburn and got some groceries and overtook the trucks at Auburn junction of 4 and 104. Elinor had a dandy dinner considering the short time she had to work in.