

## Diary of Jessie Babcock Littleton, Colorado

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Transcribed by Jenny Hankinson, Littleton Museum staff, February 2014

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Inside front cover:

“Jessie Babcock Littleton Colo” and “Jessie Pollock Greenland, Colo” handwritten in ink

On second page:

“Jessie Babcock Littleton, Col.” and “Jennie Moor Babcock Littleton Col” handwritten in pencil

Littleton, December 10, 18\_\_

Saturday

It was foggy this morning. I baked a cake this morning and scrubed [sic] and \_\_\_\_\_ meat. Eugene is driving the cattle out of the field. Charles is getting his reading lesson in the third reader. Mr. Frederick? hollid [sic] some logs from the old house up on the hill for Mr. Berk. The noon train is just going down to Denver. There was a dance in Littleton last night. It was very rainy last night. The railroad men are working on the railroad today. Emmet and his brother came down this afternoon.

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> 1878?

It is bright and nice this morning. Eugene and Papa drove in twenty nine head of calves in to the field.

Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup>, 1878?

Pet and I was down to the river this afternoon. Papa and Eugene have gone on the prairie [sic].

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup>, 1878?

Grandma was up this morning and brought two pounds of butter. Mr. Berk was down this afternoon. I started a rug.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>

I was down to Grandmas today. Mr. Pollock was down today.

Lonsdale? June 4 '83

It is a lovely day. Papa and Lillie have gone to town, will not be home tonight. We went to school. Eugene and Jennie went on the prairie. Here they come both on one horse!

October 26, 1881

The boys went hunting. Grandma and Lillie are sewing. Papa is not at home. The sun is shining bright in spite of the clouds which try to stop its way.

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, '83

Gene plowed. Fred went to Denver with Mr. Fox to help drive cattle. Mrs. Marcy was over and spent the afternoon. Mr. P. came after her. He was in a dreadful hurry. I don't know what for. Mr. Letner was here, and said school was in session. Papa was up to Mr. Fox's. Mrs. F. lost her baby. Joe Bannon was here. Lillie served. I lined a fiddle-box, baked bread, practiced, and fussed around as I generally do. I am very lonesome tonight and my headache so I guess I will go to bed. Though it is only a little after eight.

November 1<sup>st</sup>, '83

Mr. Pollock and Mr. Fox were here this morning. Mr. P went to Sedalia. Mr. Stoner and Mr. Jones were here this fore-noon. This afternoon I went up to Mr. Howarths. Papa went up to Fox's to brand cattle. Branded sixteen head. This evening the gentleman Taylor Morse Roth and a dutch man (I can't pronounce his name) were here. Uncle Al was here.

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>

It rained last night. It was cloudy this morning but cleared of [sic], and we had a lovely day. Jennie went to Littleton. Mr. Clay was here. Gene and Mr. P went a hunting but didn't get an y game. Lillie had the headache very bad. Hope she will be better tomorrow. The boys hauled wood. Frank is a little better. The cats produced a great confusion by getting in again tonight. I had the pantry door shut though. They ran under Lillie's bed and Papa nearly knocked the bed down trying to get them out.

Washday, 6<sup>th</sup>

I got up this morning between seven and eight but I thought it was about noon. Had breakfast about nine. I then helped Papa and Mr. Pollock get ready for election. After they started off I had Fred fill the boiler then \_\_\_\_\_ up the boys a lunch for they were going to chop wood. Then I swept the sitting room. Then set the plans outside on the window washed the bottom of the sills off. Then I washed the dishes, then made my bed and swept the kitchen. At half past eleven commenced the washing. At half past twelve got Lillie and Frank their dinner. At half past three had the washing out and a little after four had the scrubbing done and Lillie's bed made. Had just combed my hair and was just getting ready to change my dress when in came Papa hungry as a bear; had not had a thing to eat since morning and in a dreadful hurry to get back. Well in about fifteen minutes I had his supper ready. After he had eaten it he gave the boys instructions to get up to Fox's after supper. He then rushed of [sic] to the polls with Mr. P. I then changed my dress washed the lamp and cleared up the table and got our supper. Washed the dishes sat down and played cards with Gene (in the meantime made the bed for the boys. Retired about nine. Got up about ten to see Papa.

Ironing day, 7<sup>th</sup>

Had breakfast about the same time we had it yesterday morning. I then swept the sitting-room while Lillie cleared up the dishes and packed five dozen eggs. Then I washed the dishes sprinkled the clothes made the beds, swept the floor, ironed three aprons and three ties, and then got dinner. I had it ready by half past twelve. Washed the dishes, and commenced ironing at half past one. Finished at half past three. Ironed over five dozen pieces. Then Mr. Frindendall came and a few minutes after Mrs. Fox. After they came I starched a dress and hung it on the line, then cut out some embroidery and baked sponge cake and mended Pets [sic] coat then got supper and washed the dishes and mended Gene coat made the boys bed then went to bed.

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup>

It was cloudy this morning. Tried very hard to storm but did not succeed. The two Mr. Fox's were here. Our patients are getting well very fast. Gene plowed and Fred chopped [sic] wood and thrashed. I guess he thrashed a great deal of grain, for I heard his whistle all over the ranch. I wonder if I can read this a week from now. I hardly think I can. I wrote it in bed. It looks as if I had the ague.

February 26, '84

The last day of school. It stormed. Last night between ten and eleven o'clock the roosters were crowing.

March 11

And my birthday. Nineteen! I can hardly believe it, I don't believe I am as old as I was when I was twelve. The sun shone bright but the wind blew a gale. Lillie wished me a happy new year and Papa presented me with a five dollar bill. The boys have not thought of it being my birthday (fortunate for me). They will be quite dissipated [sic] tomorrow when I tell them. Papa Lillie and I went up to Fox's this afternoon. I also sewed. I received a thrashing from Mr. Fox. This is horrible writing and I hope no one will try to read it.

March 21

Snowed again. I wonder if summer is never coming. Papa shot a cow yesterday, I am afraid we will lose some cattle.

March 27

The wind has blown a gale all day. Mrs. Stoner and Emmet were here. Eugene went on the prairie. Pet went down to Aunt Katies. The meadow-lark's tried very hard to sing this morning in spite of the wind and cloudy weather. I can hardly realize that it is so late in the year. Papa has not sown an acre [sic] of land yet. The grass is growing a little. Lillie brought in some flowers yesterday.

[No date]

It has been a long winter. Have had a great deal of snow. The thermometer has been as low as 26-.

Monday, Oct 6, 1890

John went to Monument to see some men about trading the ranch off. Came back this eve and said he signed a contract to trade as soon as the houses were finished. They commenced to dig the potatoes. There are 12 acres. Are very large but few small ones.

Tuesday, 7 Oct 1890

It has been a nice day. Went down to Mrs. Knowles to see if I could hire a man.

~~Friday~~ Wed 8 Oct 1890

It has been misty all day. John went to Greenland with a load of potatoes. Sold for \$1.25 per hundred. They brought \$30. I washed and had to dry the clothes by the stove. I got a letter from Mattie and Katie.

Thursday October 9, 1890

The weather had been cold and rain and snow fell most of the day. John and the two men dug two loads of potatoes. They are fine and large. I cleaned out four hen houses and the turkey's house. It was quite a job as there are two hundred and fifty of them.

March 27 '84

Is [sic] was very cloudy and windy. However the meadow-lark's favored us with songs. Mrs. Stoner and Emmet were here. Eugene went on the prairie. Pet went down to Aunt Kits. Lillie cut out part of a dress and drew part of a picture. I fussed around like I generally do. I can hardly realize it is so late in the year. Papa has not sown an acre of land. Lillie brought in some flowers yesterday.

March 28

It was a lovely day. Mrs. Marcy and here [sic] attendant were here and spent the day. He was not in quite such a hurry as he was before. Although I do believe his mind was upset a little. Lillie and I went up to Fox's. Jennie came home. I went to bed with the headache.

Sat 29

It was cloudy and blew very hard in the afternoon. Lillie washed and sewed on Jennie's dress.

[No date]

It was a nice day. Mr. Fox was down. Papa had the blue's [sic] awfully. Jennie and I were up to Fox's in the afternoon.

31

A lovely morning but it is snowing very hard tonight. Papa took Jennie to Littleton. Lillie went a fishing. Eugene went on the prairie. Emmet and Verne were down. Mr. Kelsey was down twice. Our new neighbor called. Lillie has the headache tonight.

Tuesday April 1

\_\_\_\_\_ of the day until evening was quite pleasant. Fred arrived on time. Mrs. Tylers brought the wheat. Mr. Fox called. Eugene took his daily ride. I guess I will say bon jour to this and retire. I have been studying Latin and French today. E Pluribus unum

April 2

The morning was cloudy but was quite pleasant in the afternoon. Papa commenced farming. Mr. Fox & Mrs. Fox were here. Lillian served.

Mon April 7

It was a nice day. Cloudy in the evening. Jennie went to Littleton. Mr. P came. Eugene drilled wheat. Mr. Fox was here. Had one storm since I wrote in this last.

April 8

It is a lovely morning but the ground is covered with snow.

9

Was a pleasant day. Papa had a great deal of trouble with the drill but finally got Mr. Fox to fix it. Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Hill called.

Friday 11

Papa finished sowing grain.

Sat April 12

It has been cloudy as usual. Papa went to Littleton. Eugene went on the prairie. Jennie did not come home. Mr. P went home.

13

Easter Sunday. The morning was lovely but at two o'clock the ground was covered with snow. But it melted off before night. Mr. Jim Fox called. Eugene rode the colt on the prairie.

Mon April 14

Arrived in Denver today. Found all the folks well. Bought me a hat. Went to bed between nine and ten. Grandma and I were going to the rink but concluded we would wait until there was more going on.

April 15

A beautiful morning. Aunt Hattie and I went shopping [sic]. Bought a tie and honey-comb and some lace for the baby. We started down to see Grace but before we had gone far we met them. So came back. We were weighed Aunt Grace weighed 109 Aunt H 106 ½ myself 110 Was going to the theatre but the train was late

Wed April 16

The weather was cloudy. I was woke up [sic] out of a sound sleed by a dozen or more whistles I should think. Went down town to look at some silk. Went a riding in the afternoon. Received a present from my attendant. Went to the rink. Saw Miss Parks and her teacher perform some very nice skating. She also danced. The Fishers horn and fife [?]. When I brought my plants home I discovered that some of them were covered with ice. Took them out into the kitchen to have the waiter smoke on them but he thinking that I was trying to fool him would not. Miss Anna married tonight! Well I hope she will always be happy. But I think it is rather doubtful.

Thurs April 17

Had my picture taken. Was going to the Chorus C. but it rained.

Fri April 18

It snowed all day. I went out to find some music but could not find what I wanted. Grandma and I went to the rink but did not see much on account of the lights being out.

Sat April 19

Was snowing when I got up. Cleared off ~~about~~ a little after nine. Grandma and I went to the rink. I went a walking with the children.

20

Went to church

April 21

Went to see Mrs. Avery and went to Taylers Museum.

Tuesday 22

Went over to Sloans Lake.

Wednesday 23

Went over to Clarks. Papa and Mr. P came. I went to the rink and the theater.

23

Went to see Aunt Grace and a riding and to the rink.

24

Went a shopping [sic] with Aunt Hattie and set again for my picture. Was a lovely day but in the evening the rain just poured down.

29

Grandma and I went to a temperance meeting at the City Hall.

May 1

Came over to Mr. Clarks. Went to the rink.

Saturday 3

I landed at Ionsdale safe and sound just about sunset. I was asked about a thousand questions. Went to bed about ten o'clock. Did not go to sleep until one.

Sunday

Was cloudy. Hailed a little. Was the longest day that I have experienced for a good while. Jennie and I went over to Foxes in the evening. I wrote a letter when I came back.

May 5

Has been lovely day. Papa took Jennie to L. Went to a school meeting when he came back. Lillie washed. Uncle Al was here. Also Mr. Fox and Mr. Kelsey. The boys worked in the ditch all day.

Wednesday 7

Was a beautiful day. Eugene went on the prairie. I went down to Aunt Clitlie's [?] Mr. Fox was here. Mrs. Fox went to D. My Calla Lily opened. I wonder what the giver is doing tonight. How I wish I could see him. Two weeks ago this evening I promised – Which I shall never regret. How I wish I was good for something.

May 17

Was a nice day. Rained in the afternoon. Papa and I went to Sedalia. Mr. Fox was here. Told us about a [sic] insane man.

Sunday

It rained and hailed very hard for about twenty minutes. Papa and John went to Littleton. Papa did not get home until nearly twelve o'clock.

Monday 26

Papa and the boys went up to the ranch. Mr. Howarth and Mr. Fox were here. Jennie and Lillie washed. It hailed in the afternoon.

27

John and I took a long walk. Mr. Kurich [Kerrick?] was here.

May 29

Had a dreadful hail storm. Washed out all the flumes and bridges.

June 2

Received a letter from John. Papa went to Littleton. Mr. Howarth's girls were here. Did not rain

3

A very warm day. Papa and the boys went up to the ranch. We ironed. This afternoon Papa and Eugene went on the prairie.

4

A nice morning. Rained in the afternoon. Papa and the boys came home wet as they could be. Mr. Fox and Mr. Palmer were here. Lillie sewed on our dresses.

5

Was a very warm day. Lillie washed. Papa and the boys went up to Oak Glen. Jennie and I went a walking.

June 6

Rained in the afternoon. Mr. Fox was here. Jennie and Lillie cleaned the bedroom. Papa and the boys put up wire. Came home all scratched up.

June 13

Lillie finished making my dress. Mr. F took Miss Grace and Eva to Littleton. Papa and the boys plowed ditches.

June 14

Mr. Crotty was here. Lillie sewed. Rained.

17

Lillie finished J's dress and commenced her own. Jennie and I washed. Papa and the boys worked on the fence. It rained.

18

Was cloudy. Jennie and I each received a letter. John came.

19

Was a lovely day. We went a fishing. Mrs. Fox went to D.

June 26 Wed

John went home. Lillie went to Foxes. I sewed. Papa went to Littleton. Jennie scrubbed and slept. The boys irrigated. Mr. Howarth and Uncle Al and Mrs. Flemming were here.

June 28

Papa and Lillie went up to see John. Jennie and I ironed scrubbed baked bread. I went to Mr. Howarths. Mr. Fredendall's Mr. Foxes and also to JN Fox's.

Saturday, July 19

A lovely day. Only three more days until my wedding-day. How it astonishes me to stop and think of it. Jessie married. I wonder what he wants of me. And how can he care for such a simpleton as I am. Well I hope he will allways [sic] be happy.

August 12

A very warm day. John cut rye. I made bread and attended to a pullet which came off with six chickens. A gentleman stopped and inquired the road to D. Mr. Reynolds did not work. Im a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

13

A lovely day. Cloudy in the afternoon. John and Mr. Reynolds went to G. after lumber. I ironed and went over to R-s. Mr. Hobbs was here. Also churned. Mad about a pound of butter. Got a letter from Lillie.

14

Was very warm. Rained in the afternoon. John cut rye. Mr. Reynolds hauled it. I ironed baked bread and commenced two letters. A pedler [sic] was here. Mr. R built S a fence. John finished cutting the rye. Cut part of the meadow. Mr. R cleaned out the cellar. I wrote several letters. Homer raked.

16

John cut grass raked and bunched it up. Mr. R- hauled rye. I moped [sic] the floor baked bread and cake and washed a table cloth.

17

John made me a stand. We wandered about the place. John watched the road most of the day, but I did not for I had watched it until I was tired. Mr. Geiger was here.

18 Mon

I tried to write a letter but it was impossible. For it happened to be a day for pedlers [sic] and callers. John cut grass. Mr. Reynolds also cut grass. John raked in the afternoon.

T 19.

Mr. R – hauled hay in the forenoon. In the afternoon helped John with the machine. Mr and Mrs Pratt were here. Mr Greene was here.

W 20

John cut grass. Mr. Reynolds was absent on account of Homer's sickness. I washed. John took me for a ride in the evening. It tried to rain but in vain. The wind was blowing to [sic] hard.

T 21

Was very cloudy this morning. John went to Castle R. Mr. R hauled hay. I ironed.

T 22

John raked. Mr. Rs son hauled. I wrote three letters. 13 loads.

S 23

Rained. John \_\_\_\_\_ cacker?

Wednesday 27

Jennie and I went a fishing. John cut oats. Mr. R and son hauled oats and hay. Two loads of oats and four of hay.

Thursday 28

John raked and cut oats. Mr. R hauled 5 loads of hay. Jennie and I went up to an old bog house in the pasture.



Friday 29

John cut grass and raked. Jennie and I did not do much of anything. Went to the post office got a letter from Miss Avey. Mr. R hauled four loads of oats.

Saturday 30

Jennie went home. Mr. Rs hauled three loads. John raked.

Sunday 31

John slept most of the day. We went out riding in the afternoon. The day was very warm.

Monday Sept 1

John cut grass part of the day. Rained in the afternoon. I washed. Mr. Rs hauled 2 ½ loads. I received a present from Cal.

Sept 2

John raked in the forenoon on account of the weather being cloudy. Cut in the afternoon. I went to see Mrs. Geiger. Mr. Rs hauled nine loads.

3

John raked. Mr. R hauled. I ironed.

Fri 4

John cut. Mr. Rs hauled and raked. I ironed.

Sat 5

~~Mr. Rs hauled and Mr. Geiger helped. We went to Mr. Hobbs. The weather was very good [entry crossed out]~~

Friday 5

Mr. Rs hauled. John went up and worked on the spring. Miss P\_\_\_\_\_ was here.

Sat 6

Mr. Rs hauled. Mr. Geiger helped him. We went up to Mr. Hobbs.

Sunday

The wind blew a gale all day. John and I sat in the house and looked out of the window most of the day.

Monday

John rode on the prairie. Mr. Rs and son hauled hay. I went after cherries. The wind blew a little.

Monday 22

John and Mr. Rs built fence. I was in bed most of the day. Mrs. Hobbs came.

Tuesday 23

John and Mr. Rs worked on the ditch in the forenoon. In the afternoon Mr. Meeks and Mr. Hobbs were here.

Wednesday 24

John and Mr. Reynolds worked on the ditch. I washed.

Thursday, 25

John and Mr. Reynolds worked on the ditch. I moped [sic] the floor.

Friday 26

John went with Mr. Hobbs to Monument. I ironed and mailed a letter. Mr. Rs dug potatoes. It rained.

Saturday 27

John feels quite bad. Mr. Rs worked at the shed.

Monday 29

John feels better this morning.

Mr. Geiger and \_\_\_\_\_ commenced work Nov. 6.

[Several pages later are lists of groceries and supplies, along with prices]