

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

These are the notes that Paul Parker wrote as Tom Parker sat recalling event of long ago. They were written about 1957 when Tom was approximately 85 years old and his memory was fading.

Dad and Sadie Ewart lived on a farm at Grinell. Married 18 months and died of childbirth-Mary Stubblefield. Married just before Dad's 27th birthday. Then Aunt Julia and children, Ray, Marsh, Bart, Lena and Hazel moved in with him in a five room house. Lived with him until she married Ambrose Trumbo, about two years later. Then he moved into the Grinell Store but can't remember who he boarded with. John R. Jones owned the store, (Cigar Jones), this man was almost blind and Dad ran the store. Solomon Grace previously ran the store, before Dad took over, but only stayed about four months, Dad stayed in the store about 2 years. Quit the store in August and Dad and Tom Furguson bought the property of the old Hillerman store. Dad and Jones fell out. Tom Furguson had married an adopted girl of "Cigar Jones". There was at that time a store building and dwelling house. Mom had two weeks previously come to teach Gilliam School. Dad bought out Furguson after four or five months and boarded with Wm. Smith, who lived across the street, but lived in the dwelling with the store. Furguson was a rough guy and trade was poor. When school was out, Josie went home to stay a week and Dad went up there and came back by Metropolis and got married. Just before this, she was talking on the phone to her folks and one little pupil said, "Miss Josie, Do you have it at the store?" Chagrined she said, "I'm not the store keeper." Uncle Joe Ragsdale owned a smaller store across the street where we now live. He lived at the store and he boarded at the Smiths. Mr. Smith was then married to Mollie and they had one or two children. Dad handled dry goods, hardware, shoes, and bought chickens at 7 cents a pound. Sent out a wagon load of chickens at a time. Bought eggs and shipped them to New York. Would ship a wagon load at a time to Belknap. Ollie Jones did most of the hauling (he is the brother to Mrs. Riley). Married in 1903 and left the store in January 1907. Also, hauled purchases from the Hillerman river landing. I made lots of money.

Daddy's mother and father were named Albion Robert Parker and Mary Cornelia (Pope) Parker. Daddy was born in a farm across the field from Maple Grove School. The house was located about 100 yards east of the present family cemetery. The cemetery already had one grave, that of a man named Cochran. Then Viola Parker died at age 17 of measles. She was older than Aunt Rose. Then Grandmother Pope was buried there. She lived with Albion Parker for a number of years. Had a pension from the death of her son in the Civil War. Her husband had died earlier.

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Albion and Mary had previously lived as tenants on a farm where the Energy plant is now located. The land was owned by a Lowell Fletcher who was a steamboat captain. Albion made 15 trips to New Orleans, four or five times as a cub-pilot and others on a flatboat. Fletcher once owned practically all the land in Section 9 and some in Section 16. Had a lawsuit with another steamboat company and thought he was going to lose and deeded it all over to his brother-in-law, Huntington. The suit died soon after and the brother-in-law, Huntington, kept most of the land. Returned some where the Energy plant is now located to the heirs. It was all then called "Huntington Land." Albion Parker was born in this tenant house. Remembers his Pa and Ma telling that there was once a small town below the banks at Hillerman.

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Mary C. Parker-daughter of Slvina and Robert Pope, Husband is Albion Parker-Her diary

July the 17th 1895

Summer nearly half gone and nothing done have not even sent Emily a letter the wheat is up cut and sacked the corn laid by Fred Barbra¹ and the children were here yesterday Rose Julia Blanch and baby went berry picking to day Chloe² Hattie³ and hauty⁴ and all the rest were here. Mrs. Bristly is here and she is sick in bed with the flux she has quite a serious time of it I have told you all I can think of this time so I will go and play the piano a little.

1896 Oct the 3

October sounds like winter is near. We have had a long summer ever since the last of march is has been just summer weather no cold days most of the time verry warm this has been a verry pleastant day I went to Joppa this morning Blanch⁵ and Katie⁶ went with me high noon when we got home charley⁷ and Laneas⁸ were here rose was here a few minutes this evening so was fred⁹ lena¹⁰ mr wantland¹¹ hazel¹² are here to night

Sweet summer gone away
Ore the browning hills the spices
And the winds are up all day
The cricket now her chirp begins
It seems to sadly say
Sweet summers gone away.

When kind harts have witherd and loved ones have flown

Oh who would inhabit this bleak world alone.

¹ Barbara Hurt Parker (1864) Wife of Fred Parker

² Chloe Stewart (1835) Daughter of Rose and Charles Stewart

³ Hattie Wantland Daughter of John Wantland, Rose's step-daughter

⁴ Hauty Wantland Daughter of John Wantland, Rose's step-daughter

⁵ Blanche Stewart Siglor (1888) Daughter of Charles and Rose Stewart

⁶ Kate Parker Shelton Daughter of Fred Parker

⁷ Charles Parker (1865) Son of Albion and Mary C. Parker

⁸ Lannes Parker Sone of Charles Parker and Ella Brazillwood

⁹ Fed Parker Son of Albion and Mary C. parker

¹⁰ Lena Anderson 1888 Daughter of Julia Parker and Elmer Anderson

¹¹ John Wantland Husband of Rose parker

¹² Hazel Anderson (1892) Daughter of Julia Parker and Elmer Anderson

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Oct the 13 1896

The week so far has been pleasant Charley moved to fred's yesterday rose was here yesterday Mrs Turner and Julia¹³ were here today we put in Julia's carpet and have gotten one yard more she is very anxious to see it done and I am very anxious to see the potatoes dug Lena was here today she cleaned up the little door yard she has been sick and not able to go to school this week.

Nov the 1st 1896

We have such pleasant weather almost like summer every thing is political meetings a big rally every day speaking every night went out to see Tom yesterday he was sick but was able to come in today Fred brought him in this morning Kate came in home with me last night Goldie¹⁴ came with her papa today Rose¹⁵ and the children were all here today Lena and Harvey¹⁶.

Albion went to town yesterday to hear the speaking and see the grand parade only two more days until the election over when the current will once more slide on ward. Our potatoes are all dug and put away Tom is here in bed he is quite smart better this evening Mr. Terue Carson¹⁷ and his wife were here and staid awhile this evening.

November the 6 1896

Yesterday Mr. Breningmyer raised his barn they had a goodly company Rose went over. I did go staid at home with Tommy¹⁸ Fred and Willy Brazill were here to dinner Mrs Miller came to see me in the evening she brought me some news from mother Priestly she had ben to her daughter Annie in mound city a few days before dinner.

Nov 6

¹³ Julia Parker Anderson Trumbo (1868) Daughter of Albion and Mary C. Parker

¹⁴ Goldie Parker Comer Daughter of Fred Parker

¹⁵ Rose Parker Stewart Wantland (1864) daughter of Fred Parker

¹⁶ Harvey Wood, son of Ella Brazill Wood Half brother of Lannie Parker, step-son of Charles Parker

¹⁷ Mr and Mrs. T????? Carson neighbors with large family

¹⁸ Tom Parker (1870) son of Albion and Mary C. Parker

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To day Albion¹⁹ and I went over to Mr Sextons to dinner it was the anaversary of their fiftyh wedding day they got some nice presents had all their children there to see them their children had brought the dinner with them and the presents to the old folds new nothing about it untill the company came they all had quite a nice time to morow is ratification day it looks like rain to night.

Nov 14 96

Last Saturday Albion and I went to town it was ratification day to much crowing over a whiped rooster staid all night t ere was a torch light prosesion great fun for the young folks it was pretty cool, came home sunday morning found Freds folks here Tom went back tuesday I think some of them might have come in this evening I have not seen Julia for two week.

Got a letter from mother Priestly real glad to hear from her I how she feels disapointed not getting to go and see her sister she so longed to see her old home once more.

And last evening rose brought me a letter from sister emily how glad I was tohear from her once more. rose Chloe and blanch were here this evening. Hattie and Haughty have gone to their aunt Tennies today so good night my darlings.

Nov 19 1896

Went over to Julias last sunday evening Julia had her new carpet down and the house al fixed up nice the were all well This week has been lovely weather just like summer I washed yesterday rose came over in the evening helped me put out the cloths last night it turned cooler and has been right cool all day Albion and I set out some straw berry to day he has been helping Mr. braningmyer on his barn this week three days.

From every stormy wind that blows,
From every swelling tide of woes
There is a calm a sure retreat
Tis found beneath the mercy seat.

The 25

¹⁹ Albion Parker (1827) Husband of Mary C. Parker Head of family

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Tomorrow is thanks giving day we should all give thanks every day for the many comforts we not enjoy some seem to thing of nothing but the good dinner they are going to get and do not think it hardly good enough with out the thanks, how many never know their blessings when they have them, no let us try and be truely thank ful for what we have.

Oh where shall we rest be found
Rest for the weary soul
Twere vain the ocean depth to soon found
Or peace from pole to pole.

Novem 27

Yesterday how warm and how the wind did blow from the southe it kept the dinner bell ringing all day it has been verry warm for mor than a week then last night how it rained and blowed this morning after daylight it was calm when the wind commenced blowing fromt he north misting rain most of the day Fred and barbra Tom and the children all came in this morning to kill the hogs Freds hog weighed 395 lbs to night it is snowing

O mother will you go with me now
For the way is dark and dim.

Lena and Ray²⁰ came up from school last night and staid all night and Freds folks Mr wantland and blanch every one gone home to night no one here but Albion and my self maks it seem verry lonesome here by ourselves how cold it getting we are going to have some cold weather so good night my darlings.

/s/ Mary C. Parker

December the 7 1896

Here it is nearly christmas and i am not half ready yet set up down to charleys last night maggie²¹ was a little sick tom came in and staid all night we were looking for him back to night

²⁰ Ray Andreson (1890) Son of Julia Parker and Elmer Andreson

²¹ Margaret Kratzinger Parker (1873) 3rd wife of Charles V. Parker

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but he did not come I expect rose over tomorrow it is Albions birthday Julia and the children were here yesterday Elmer²² has gone to misouri hunting it is raining to night so good night.

Decem 16 1896

Went over to Julias last sunday to dinner Albion and I Mrs Logen Anderson and Mrs Thom Roberts²³ were both there it was both of their birth days they both fifty seven years old Elmer was in misouri hunting but he came home the next night did not get much game went down to magees this morning pa gathered corn this evening Mrs turner huey was here this evening.

Decem 27

Sunday evening Christmas is over weather verry pleasant went over to wantlands for dinner christmas they all staid here christmas eve children all had a good time had the orange tree for christmas Lena Ray and Hazell al came over in the morning to see it i went to go over to see Julia to morrow if i can oh such a pen as this cant write at tall.

Jan the 1 1897

New years day cloudy and rainy nobody been here to day but cherley I am washing Albion has gone to joppa been looked for rose all day guess she has gone some where else looks like it going to clear of. Hope it will Fred barbra and the children were here to dinner yesterday barbra had been to see her mother her mother is in verry poor health now i must go to my work i shall look for some of the girls as soon as school is out.

M C P

Let us gather up the sunbeams
Lying all around our pathe
Let keep the wheat and roses
Casting out the thorns and chaff
Let find the sweetest comfort

²² Elmer Anderson (1865) First husband of Julia Parker

²³ Mrs. Tom Roberts, mother of Dr. Roberts.

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In the blessings of to day
Wish a patient hand removing
All the briars from the way.

Jan the 8 1897

What a lovely day this has been rose came over this evening Albion and I went to Joppa this evening i bought me some new plates new tin pan and little pail Charleys found their nice baby last saturday night a little girl Tommy has been here three nights this week blanche three lena two and Ray one to night Albion and i are by ourselves pa is going to town in the morning i would like verry much to go to Julias if I could.

There is a beautiful land of light
Where sorrow shal be no more
Tis a beautiful land of light
On jordans golden shore.

A weary lot is thine fair maid
A weary lot is thine.

Jan the 17 1897

We have had verry pleasant weather most of the time this winter verry warm last night and how it did rain went down to charleys and staid all day yesterday margarit was sick Lena and ray came over int he evening to tell me they had a new boy baby at their house so albion and i went over to see them this evening Julia was looking pail her baby weights ten pounds while we were there rose Mr wantland and the children all came over to see the baby Elmer has a new pailing fence on frount of his house.

Tom staid here last night him and charly have been helping mr wantland to tear down the old store house and move it out to make them a new house rose is thinking much about her new house Chloe hattie and Hautie al came over and staid all night last night they had a finee time The wind is blowing verry hard and it is turning cold i expect we will have some winter yet so good night.

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This is Jan the 29 1897

Morning

Last sunday it blowed up verry cold and has been verry cold ever since every thing is froze up as cold a spell as i ever saw unless there was snow on the ground it has snowed one night this week but there is hardly an inch in depth to it here i have sick and laid in bed one whole day an am not so verry well now went over to Julias one of these cold days most to much of a jaunt for me Chloe and Blanche have staid with us three nights this week.

Be kind to they father who is feeble and old

For loving and kind has he been

Be kind to thy father and dont treat him cold

For surely twould a greet sin.

The weather has been so cold it takes pa pretty nigh all the cutting wood and building fires and he is so extravigant with wood while it gets scarcer ever day he loves to sit by a roaring fire and smoke. Charleys wife and baby went to joppa and until yesterday before they got home an Laneas has been over to his grand ma andersons just came back this morning been looking over some old to day must try and write to sister Emily to morrow.

Feb the first 1897

It has rained a little all day and is verry chilly Albion is quite unwell to day and has gone to bed i hope he will be some better by morning Fred barbra Mrs Jones Kate and Goldie all came in saturday evening staid till sunday evening yesterday was verry pleasant day Mr. Wantland rose and all the children come over to Mrs Alexander come up in the evening Charley Maggie the baby and Lanneas came after dark lanes staid all night we all had quite a nice time I looked for Chloe and blanche to night but they did not come i expect they all went home in the wagon after school and mother priestly has gone to mississippi to see her sister well i am glad she got to go hope she will find some of her friends she knew in her young days but i don't expect there is many of them left by this time for she is in her 78 year pretty old to bee traveling around Now Cornie i do think you might comet o see us some time try and do the best.

The dear old freinds we used to know

In the days of long ago

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For sure they are fresh in my memory yet
And their kindness to me i will nearr forget.

1897 Feb the 14th

Its valentines day and sunday it has been a bright sunshiney day no one but charley has been here to day Tom went out to Freds this morning and chloe she went home after breakfast she staid here last night I was down to Charleys al day yesterday maggie has ben sick for over a week Lennas is over to his grand mother andersons Julia was here last sunday it rained all dlay so she staid all night Lona staid until thursday Tom was here all last week sick but he has got better Albion is not verry well and i am nothing extra blanch staid two nights We have a few perty sunshiney days wich look like spring birds have been singing all day. I expect it will be winter to morrow it is hardly time for gardent yet Mr Wantland comenced his new house yesterday pa was over and helped him some Mrs brenningmeyer has been sick the last week she is better to day Now cornie I do wish you would come down to see us it would bee such a treath and we would like to hear from the children your old mother.

Sunday the 21 1897

Albion has been down withe rheumatism in his foot all this last week perhaps he will get better whent he weather clears up I went to joppa yesterday with mrs breningmyer to sell my eggs The people of our neighborhood for the last week have ben verry much excited about some of the folks wanting a saloon at joppa I hope they willbe able to keep it out we can do without it verry well Julia and children were here last night they went home this evening.

Safly through another week God has brought us on our way
Let us now a blessing seek
Waiting in his courts today
Day of all the week the best
Emblem of eternal rest
From our worldly cares set free
May we rest this day in the.

March the 3 1897

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Here it is spring but it is cold and cloudy and we have had lots of rain yesterday was road election day so many candidates most of them will have to go up salt river sure Charley has gone after maggie and the baby. They are down to Mrs hambys Albion has gone to the mill for meal Tom has gone over to wantlands to work on the new house, Lena has been here since sunday going to school.

I have been making Albion some new rants this week has not made any in so long a time had almost forgotten how Here I can look out of my window and see the ohio river it is high they are looking for an over flow this time nothing of importance to write this time but plenty of work to do so I must get at it.

To work to work do not loiter on the way,

To work to work and do not stop to play.

March the 14 1897

Once more I pen you a few lines it has been a pleasant day but cool Elmer was here to dinner to day Tom and him went to singing have not come back yet Julia did not come down to day Morris²⁴ was sick Charley and magie were here this evening a little while and so was Mr Wantland rose and the children they had all been up to Mr kerns²⁵. We have had so much rain the ground is to wet to work and the roads are verry bad some places. The river is verry high we can stand on our porch an see it for a long distance sometimes it gets to low for the steam boats to run but not it is to hight not many places to land it very much feared it will come over joppa i was down there the other day and it did like much of being level withe the bank and the mississippi is reported verry high to great rivers what great damage they can do when the flood comes.

I am not much account to work lately get tired to soon I have washed and got ironing done last week and been sick for to days Blanch helped me iron. Some would like to have some garden made to morrow if it does not rain. Tom has gone to singin I am looking for him every minute I wish i could hear from Cornie and the children think she might run down to see me for a night would be glad to see her would like to go and Julia one day this week.

²⁴ Morris Anderson (1894) Son of Julia Parker and Elmer Anderson

²⁵ Mr. Kerns (storekeeper, Joppa, Ill.)

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March the 28 97

The month is almost gone and the waters stil high the ohio is falling plowing has been imposible tres are blsoming some, Mrs hurt²⁶ is quite sick and barbra has been there for almost two weeks fred and the children have been here part of this week they went hom to day the children have not been verry well they have chills Lena and Hazeal came down and staid all night Blanche was here Harvy and Lanneas was here to day Chloe and hattie came to see me this evening.

April the 6th 1897

We went to mrs. Harts funeral this morning there was a good many people there Mr alexander conducted the burial servis mrs hurt was over seventy years old her children have tended to her good while she was sick.

Rose came over this evening and staid until school was out Tom and Charley have been plowing this evening pa has been spliting stove wood tom has gone over to mr braningmyers to a singing to night Albion has gone to sleep long ago.

God moves in a misterious way
His wonders to preform
He plants his footsteps onthe sea
And rides upon the storm
Deep in unfathomable miines
Of never failing skill
He treasurs up his bright designs
And works his sovereign will.

April 20 1897

Weather quite cool we have had a few dry days so every body is very busy plowying to get their crops in for it has rained so much they could not work I have been busy working in my garden i have it all most planted Charly is tending courst last weet and this Julia and family came

²⁶ Mrs. Hurt, Mother of Barbra Hurt Parker

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over saturday evening and staiyed all night Cornie and Mr Morris²⁷ came down to see us sunday they brought oscars²⁸ cols with them Fred was here this morning

Lannas came up this morning to see me thought kate was here sliped of and went over to his grand mother Andersons I had to get tom to go over to night and see if he was there yes there sure enouf the naughty boy don't you think so? I hope he wont do so any more grand mother was afraid he might fall in the pond

Chloe is here with us tonight.

1897 May the 2

Went out to Mrs Jones yesterday stayed all night had quite a nice visit Mrs Jones was verry busy in store when we went Saida²⁹ got super after supper she went tot he singing we had an old friendship talk till late bed time went over to Freds to dinner Mrs Jones went with us they were all wel at freds children both went to sleep before we came away. Stopt at Victors to se them a few minutes he was not wel and his wife has just got up from the measles she looked prety then they had some company.

Fryday saturday and sunday have been prety coll saw Mrs david³⁰ aunt and Fannie turner when come home had a friendly chat with them found tom sitting there talking to Mr David good night

May the 31 1897

Spring is gone, and summer is here. Yesterday was my birthday sisety 8 years old death at the farthest cant be far the children were here yesterday all but cornie they brought a surprise dinner with them we all had quite a nice time Mr. and Mrs. Cole³¹ came in the afternoon Laura Furgason and her children were her to the day was quite cool but sunny. I would liked for Cornie to have been here to everybody has gone to sleep so good night.

When old age steals on me and youth is more

And the moralist time shakes his glass at my door

Well and faithfly done enter into my joy and sit down on my throne

²⁷ James Morris Husband of Cornelia Parker Morris Son of Lucinda Little Morris

²⁸ Oscar Morris Son of Cornelia Parker and James Morris

²⁹ Sadie Ewart Parker (1876) First wife of Tom Parker Mother of Mary Parker Stubblefield

³⁰ Mr. and Mrs David Parents of Clyde Searles wife, Pearl

³¹ Mr and Mrs. Cole Storekeeper, Joppa Mr Coles last wife was Betty Rew Benton Thelma rush's aunt.

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Oh that each in the day of his coming might say
I have fought my way through, I have finished the work
Thou didst give me to do.

May the 13th 1897

Yesterday pleasant but cool most done making soap strawberries are ripe Charley is busy picking theirs. Chloe Blanch and katty are making their fortune helping. I should be very with ours next week if I don't get to lame to do anything I have a very lame knee to night hope it will get better by monday Albion has been setting out a new strawberry patch to day they are fine ones some Mr. kraztsinger gave him Tom has gone to Joppa for paper. Heard mother Priestly is coming back home she is well shall be glad to see her.

Teach my to feel another's woe
To hide the faults I see
That mercy I to others show
That mercy show to me.

June the 5 1897

To day is roses birth day Albion and I went to Joppa this morning. Everything was lovely the river was like a looking glass and the air was just cool enough to be pleasant Lena and blanch got dinner while we were gone rose and the girls came over this evening rose has a swelled jaw which seemed to be very painful Albion and frank have gone to bed Tom as gone to Canada to spend the evening.

June the 6th 97

Too sleepy to night even to write Albion and I went to Mr. Colen to day had a very nice visit their daughter Florence and her little boy was there her husband Mr Cockereel came to dinner Albion and Mr. cole went to Joppa to hear the singing but they did not hear any came home say Julia and her children at Charleys Lena came out to show me her new hat. Good night good my dear ones to all a kind good night.

June the 13th 97

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Yesterday and to day have been verry warm, Albion and I went over to wantlands to day came home after dinner they all came home with us rose and Mr. Wantland went over to Mr. Olivers to look at his cows Fed and barbra and the children has been up to Mrs hurts they stopet here ast hey comes back staid after supper goldie was very proud of her new hat Tom has made a day of it this time wheat cuting will comence to morrow how busy and how hot barbra and the children were looking quite well and so was fred. Now I wonder if sister emily going to write me any more, now I would like to get out and see how the world going once more Blanch Moris has come home I thing she might come down and see us Oscar will certainly come home soon time to go to bed so good night.

June the 28th 1897

How time rools away here it has been two wiks since I have written a line, all the wheat is cut or nearly all but there is lots of work yet I went over to roses ysterday rose and i went over to see old mrs Jones and her parot polly would not say one word. Lena ray and Jazell were all here this evening I must try and go over to Julias one day this week Tom is at home to night every one is asleep so good night.

They are gone to rest upon their beds to sleep
They are gone to rest to slumber oh how sweet
When wearied with toll of day in sweet oblivion
To forget the cares of life and find mew life for another day.

July the 2 97

To day has been very warm we are all well Tom is going to Celdonia to morrow if nothing hapens and I am going with him Chloe and Blanche are going to if the lord is willing it will be lonesome pa here by himself rose said may be she would come over and stay al night with him now I must fix and go to bed for we want to start very early in the morning so good night

July the 8th 97

Went to Caledonia last saturday found the folks all well had quite a pleasant trip I enjoyed my ride verry much Chloe and Blanche went over to Emmas house it is lonesome her and her two little children by their selves come home sunday after dinner. Rose and Mr.

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Wantland were here when we come home, Albion and the boys are stacking wheat they will get done in the morning if nothing happens the thermomter runs to 90 every day. The men are all sitting on the porch talking before going to bed we have to get out prety early in the morning so good night.

MCP

We lay our garments by
Upon our beds to rest
So death will soon disrobe us all
Of what we here posses.

July the 16 97

Friday night will threshing the wheat is over and every body has gone home how still and lovely the house seems. The crowd was hardly so large as it was last year the thresher staid all night our wheat crop was very good 300 and 50 bushels and corn is looking very nice Julia and her children were here so was rose and hers there is no one here to night but Albion myself and Tommy so good night.

Monday the 26 of July 97

Went over to wantlands yesterday Fred and barbra were there to it was very warm and showered some kate staid here three days last week dear little girl she had a chill while she was here and barbra had one when she started home it rained awful hard last night and blowed very hard this morning was very sultry but we have had a nice breeze and ht has quite pleasant this eveng so good night.

July the 31 97

There is another week gone and what have i done i can hardly see what but sure it is accounted in with the rest of my work went out to Mrs Jones one day done my hoeing this week got the sraw bed renervated albion has gone to bed to settle it caned my prunes this week had all the way to four cans I like to have went tot the picnic but it was to hot. Tom has gone down to charleys to eat ice cream

August the 8 1897

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Another is past and gone yesterday evening Albion and I started to go down to the picknic got over to the corner and found there was a funeral at the new grave yard found it was Elen Norwood barbra sister had died so sudely what a chock and so young to. This morning Cornie and mr. Morris came down to see us there Mr. wantlands rose and the children the Elmer Julia and the children we had jolly time glad to have the girls al together onece more it reminds me of when we were all at mothers years ago will we ever meet again will will we ever meet again who but time can tell Fred and barbra and the little ones were here yesterday evening a little while they were all well so good night

August the 15 97

Sunday evening Albion myself and tom and the children Lena Ray Hazel and Kate Parker Mr Wantland was over here a little whiler it has been thunding some but it dont look much like rain Julia and Elmer started for Missouri last thursday they have not got home yet I shall be looking for them tomorow Charleys have had company today Mr hambys saturday evening went out to Freds monday barbra was sick miss Annie Wesman came down to see us everyday went home this morning was right glad to see her she is good company to day we threshed the clover pa had 10 bushels of seed chloe and hattie came over and helped me get dinner ruby sexton was here to they had a gay time Julia and the children are here to night it is very warm to night.

September the 8 97

How many things have transformed since I wrote you last saturday morning roses new daughter made her arrival her name is Mary emily Wantland when I came home i found a letter from sister emily sed was all well i was very glad hear fromher i have been very busy this week canning and drying peaches Fred Barbra and the children were here this evening so was hattie and blanch school has commenced and the children are all going to school the school teacher is boarding here his name is Mr. Otis

Sept. the 12 97

To day has been warm and everything is very dry the thermometer rose to 93 I wanted to go over to see rose to day but did not have any way and it was to hot walk it was almost to warm

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to read Fred and barbra came in this evening Chloe Hattie Blanch and Haughty came over for a little while Tom went out to Mr Jones³² this evening and he is going to night to take miss Sadie to town tomorrow She is giong home to new Jersey I hear tom and Charley talking at the think they are comming to the house it is time to go to bed.

September 23 97

How time flys we all went to town yesterday to the show did not enjoy the trip it was to dusty saw some animals i had never seen before the circus was very good if one of the actors had not fell and got hurt did not see Cornie she was at school eat dinner at the boarding house went to see Mrs house and grand mother Stewart she was not verry well they day was cool and peasant but dusty

October 15

Nearly a month has past and gone and i have not fond time time to write a line and I could not write with ones of these pens if i wanted to. The weeks come and the weeks go and do not keep up with them last saturday I went to cornies she was verry busy cleaning the house and polishing the stove it was nearly a year since I was there last it was after dark when we came home.

Oh give me the little girl, the little girl of yore
Oh whers has she gone my little girl shall I never fine her more
I look in vain for the bright smile and kindly welcome of yore
Come back my darling one they mothers heart is sore
And aches for the love of yore, oh give me that love once more.

Sunday night

Tom and Mr. otey gone to meting Albion gone to bed Charley Magie harvey Laneas and the baby came up and staid a little while since dark. Fred Barbra the children and Alice Oaks were here this evening a little while they had to old man hurts barbra is looking much better than

³² Mr. "Cigar" Jones Owner of Grinell store Uncle of Sadie Ewart Parker

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

she did when she was here last Non of roses have ben here for several days I thought some of them would come to day perhaps they had company

God moves in a misterious way
His wonders to perform
He plants his footsteps in the seas
And ride upon the storm

Deep in unfathomed of never failing skill
He tresured up his bright designs
And work his soverign will.

November the 7 1897

Cornie I hav been so busy I have almost forgotin to write and perhaps i shal for get what i want to tell you let me see this last week i done the house work washing and ironing went to mrs anderson one day stoped miss Annies and mother, mother Starks came to see me one day this week.

Yesterday evening lena and Hazell came to see us and staid all night lena looks verry pale she has been sick for a long time to day Julia and the rest all came over Fred barbra and all the children came in this morning they were all well, every body went home this evening Tommy has gone to church and I am looking fo him and mis

November the last 1897

Just a few lines nobody here to night but albion and I and he is sound asleep Mr Otey has gone over to Mrs Morgans to stay all night on a visit Tommy has gone to elmers to set up with him he is very sick Albion and i were over there sunday evening tom had been working very hard today and he was verry tired and he sat up night before last i hope elmer will be some better by morning ray is sick to

December the 9 1897

How many things hapen in a week or two and is it possible Elmer is dead and Julia is left alone with her little children to take care of and watch over but god wil hepp to take care of the fatherless ruby i to have went up there to day I know she is so lonesom Albion has gone to town

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

to day yesterday and to day have been very warm and pleasant but it looks now like it was going to rain i hope Albion will home. Albion was 70 years old yesterday our race is nearly run only think how time flys.

Decemt the 12 1897

Sunday evening cool and cloudy went over to roses this afternoon she was not at home had gone out to Mrs Jones the girls were at home gerties beau was there he had come to see Mr Wantland. The wolf is holding a protracted meeting at the christian church they had one convey to day tom and Mr Otey have gone to chruch. Fred was here to dinner barbra and the children were up to Julias.

Mary Frances³³ is not very well she has scarlet rash and is very cross there the clock is sticking time for me to go to bed and all has had his first knapout how dismal the wind blows and my poor dear Julia how lonely you must be only two weeks till christmas so many things I wish to do but i will never get them all done so good night

/s/ Mary C Parker

Christmas night

Come and gone Julia and the children came over and staid last night rose Mr Wantland and their children come over to day we all had a nice time it snowed this afternoon Julia went over home with rose to night Chloe and Lena are here with us to night Tom has gone to the christmas supper at the church and Mr otey has gone home for christmas Albion is taking his first nap.

Our dearest friends alas how soon
From us they are gone away
Cut down in their youth and bloom
And them so young and gay.

And us alas how short our time
Our stay on earth may be
Though long for earth we are inclined
The end we cannot see.

³³ Mary Frances "Fannie" Parker daughter of Charles and Mary Kratzinger parker

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

1898 January the 2

A new year has come in the old has past and with it many of our friends. The new year came in verry cold and blustry today the wind has blowed from the south but very cold, nobody has been here to day buy charley i dont see why some of the girls did not come over. Oscar and Blanch are home for the holidays. Oscar came down to see us Cornie sent us a christmas card oscar and Blanch goes back to morrow I should haveben very to have seen them both Tom has gone to meeting it is nearly time for him to come back and time for mr Otey to come to if al is well. I wrote to emily before christmas time i was getting an answer from her How the wind blows but the moon shins bright and clear

Good night my dear ones how fast the moments fly

Good night and may god bless you all good night

/s/ Mary C Parker

1898 January the 9

Sunday evening. Another week is past and gone another past is roving on received a letter from sister Emily and very glad I was to hear from her dear Em will i ever see you again who can tell, time only the same mail brought me one from Laura Humphrey which brought me great pleasure and I must write to her right away i was glad to hear my dear old aunt is still living and well. Yesterday Chloe and blanch came over and helped me to do up Saturdays work and very glad i was to have them come the day before rose came over any got dinner for me and done our the work and the day before that Julia came over and washed for me dont you know i am getting rather slow went to Joppa one day this last bought me a new dress when do you think I will get it made and pa some new over hauls and they are to make to there pas first nape is out so good night.

1898 January the 10th

Tom and Mr. Otey gone to meeting Albion gone to bed Fred was here this evening he has a lame knee hurt it with the saw tooth he said goldie was not verry well Julia was here to poor

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

girl she feels very lonely lena eye has not got well yet I must try and go up there tomorrow it is too bad to think of her corn being stolen. Now I must write to sister Emily Cousin and Cousin Annie.

Feb the 15th 1898

Sunday night here it has been a whole month since I written to you how negligent I have been, Julia is living at Fred's place with her little children she comes up every day. The children go to school To day Corrie and Mr Morris come to see us they were well it was late when they got here only just to dinner and then away Fred Barbra and the children were all here a little while this evening so was Anna Roberts and Alice Oaks yes and Mr Bill Oaks was here to dinner it has been a long time since he eat dinner here last here Mr Wantland rose and all the came and Julia and her children Tom and Mr Otey have just got back from the endeavor and eating their nine o'clock supper.

March the 10th 1898

Here it is nearly a month since I have written a word just think of the things that transpired and I have forgotten them then Albion has had a bad spell of sickness and I have not been very well and a great deal of work to do for an old forgetful woman to do. We have got our potatoes planted and some garden made the ground works very nice but we are needing some rain at this time.

1898 March the 29th

Here it is spring and we have had plenty of rain since I last wrote just got our garden and potatoes in the right time it has come so much rain it brought the river right up and the Mississippi is high to Albion and Tom are building a wire fence from here to the pond it is woe wrier school is out and Mr Otey has gone back to town to live, I went over to Aunt Matty Carson's last Friday to see Mother Stewart but she was just gone on her way to Kentucky to see her son Robert who was sick.

Barbra Fred and little Goldie were here to dinner today Julia went over to roses today to make her new dress Lenna and Ray staid with me the day has been very pleasant but cool the

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

peach trees are in fool bloom and the wheat looks lovely so green wonder what has become of charley and have not seen them for a long time I must try and go to see them and find out what is the matter Blanch Lena Ray Hazell and Morris are all here to to night they are all asleep. So good night

May the third

Is it possible April has past with out one word to you and may has come let me see in april I went to town and staid two nights one with mother Priestly and one with cornie, pa and tom have been planting corn to day I have been washing to day the weather is nice plenty of rain to keep things growing and her strawberys will soon be ripe and then how busy we all will be so good night my darlings

August the 2? 1898

What a vast amount of things have transpired since my last writing here Emily³⁴ has sent me two letters in that time Mrs. James is very sick and has been for a long time Tom has gone to new jersey to get married and we shall expecting Saturday to see him and his bride he will be gone two weeks next Monday what a long trip Pa Julia and Lena have gone to town to day Nate and Goldie and ??? children are here having a Jubbles I must go and get dinner.

September the 4th 1898

Here it is Sunday evening. Tom has cam home with his bride he came last Wednesday evening and now they have gone out to have a ride. It is very ??? this evening and I feel very sleepy to sleepy to write

November 17

³⁴ Emily Pope Wells Sister of Mary E. Parker, moved to California

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

Is it possible I have not written any in long ????? I thought ??? had opt more count than this seems like I certainly put down Mrs. Jones³⁵ death but maybe I did not and hear mother Priestly is dead died last Monday all my old friends dropping of yes too soon they all are ?ore a few short years and we will all be forgotten. Went to see cardia last week they were all well.

Our friends how we miss them

As they pas from earth away

Our friends shall we met them

In the great eventful day.

Teach us lord they wil divine

Though our hart may almost break

Teach us not to repine

For our friend again will ???

Sleep gentle ones thy work is done thy mission here has ended thy though have flown to brighter realms beyond the realms of light. We are pasing from the earth away

As mist before the sun

Our eyes scarce open in the day

Before our race is run.

December the 4th 1898

To night I have been reading my book and trying to thing is it all true and is it posible another one of my old friends gone. Mrs. Margaret Roberts dead how fast they are pasing away. Tes the dear ones will soon al be gone. Yesterday Tom and Dadie went up to Cornies it was very pleasant when they went but was very cold and windy comeing home this evening, they were very cold when they got home. We had company to day Lena Hazell and Blanch rose Julia were here this evening Mary Sexton was here to night said his mother was some better, Mr. Austin with him, no more so good night.

December the 18 1898

Sunday evening it is raining Albion and I went out to Feds yesterday staid all night just got home this evening in the sprinkle they were all well Fred is looking some better than he did

³⁵ Mrs Jones, wife of "Cigar" Jones, Aunt of Sadie Ewart Parker

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

he went after the doctor last night in the night for Laura Furgeson she was some better to day
Kate and Goldie has a find time they had some new pencils painting pictures in a book little
Lottie³⁶ can laugh some, to night Julia and her children are here they are all in bed asleep so good
night for i must go to.

1899 January the first

Sunday morning New years day how many changes transpire in a few days Christmas
have come and gone Tom and Sadie ben out to Mr. Jones and now they are going to move out
Freds are comeing home and Julia is going to live with us al these things for this week. Cornelia
sent me her photograph and a christmas card yesterday we are all well.

Jan the 8 1899

Sunday evening all well every body has moved Freds to their own home Tom and Sadie
out in the country Julia and the children here with us Tom and Sadie came in last night to see us
they have just gone home. Ruby and Aloy Sexton have been here to day so have Agness and
Luther reed the day has thawing but cold looks like falling weather Blanche was here yesterday
think rose might come over.

Jan 22 1899

Yesterday how nice and warm Albion had half of the house covered Rose and barbra
Charley Fred and Mr Wantland were helping they intended to finish to day but mens plans go oft
agley for here is a regular blizzard wind blowing and how it is snowing look at the little birds
hunting for their breakfast the children have just gone to school pretty cool for them this morning
but they are there by this time Julia is making hominy. Albion is setting by the stove.

MCP

The fog is past and gone
The evening shades appear
O my we all remember well
The night of death draws near

³⁶ Lottie Parker Whitelock Daughter of Fred and Barbra Hurt Parker

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

We lay our garments by
Upon our beds to rest
So death will soon dissolve us all
Of what we here posses.

Feb the 6 1899

To night it is very cold and has ben for more than a week every thing is frozen up Tom and Sadie came in this morning. Mr Jones came with them they went back home this evening Mr Jones is here Fred barbra and the children were here to day all of the children have the whooping cough and Julias children have it to Blanch Stewart staid with us last night rose was here yesterday she was well

Feb the 10 1899

The weather very cold to cold to do much work takes pa and fred a good deal of the time to get wood prety cold for the children to go to school Julia went to joppa this afternoon to do some traiding sugar fafie and coal oil have not see Rose this week to cold for her to git out to cold for tom and Sadie to leave home ten degrees below zero two nights wind still blowing from the north to cold to write so good night.

March the 5 1899

Here it has been nearly a month since I have written a line for Fred has been verry sick for nearly three weeks he is some bitter now I have not been to see him for two days yesterday it rained all day and Julia has been gone to charleys to day she is staying to night Maggie is sick Tom was here to day Saddie did not come in with him this time True Priestily and maud were here today Charley was here this evening it keeps pa very busy to do the work the children are al some better with their whoopping cough they are al asleep in bed.

March 19 1899

If i dont mind I shall forget to write any more at al Fred is some better at this writing but not well enough to come up and se us Julia has gone over to se Mrs Farris who is verry sick but here she comes now. Kate and goldie to I have not seen rose coming over to day they surely have

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

company to day or she would have been over as it is sunday she has her new carpet in the loom and so busy she will not com through the week here it is time to feed the chickens.

March the 23 99

Yesterday Julia and Barbra went to Joppa to trade their eggs for store goods Fred and the children come up to stay with me so they all staid all night first time Fed had been away from home in six long weeks they went home this evening Julia and barbra washed to day. Blanch Stewart and Ines Mosely came home with the children from school to night Mrs Alexander came after inez so she had to go home Albion was verry tired to night so he has gone to bed.

April the 9 99

How neglect my writing this last week Julia has been bad sick but she is up again Sadi Toms wife has been here since thursday she went over to roses yesterday evening with blanch, Tom came in to day and has gone over there to, Blanch Morris and Mr otey came down thursday and staid to dinner, Julia was sick barbra was washing and it rained all day. Fred and Barbra and the children have all gone out in the country to day I have not planted a bit of garden yet it has rained so.

April the 26 1899

How changeable is life so many varied seemns yesterday went to town and so full of life to day Albion has been on the feeble list he was taken with nealgia of the hart and had to have the doctor, he is some better to night I hape he will be well by morning he is sleeping now. Rose and barbra werehere this eveining Mrs Ed Prestly sent me mothers shopping back this week Oscar Morris was down to see us last week he was looking very well.

June the 19 1899

I will soon forgit how to write nearly two months have past since I have written a word I must try and do better in the future for my time will soon all be gone I do wonder is em is ever going to send me a letter it is most time it was comeing Cornie³⁷ and Blanche³⁸ migh come down ???? now Blanch has come ??me I have been very busy all summer with the house work and garden no time to spend or go see your best friend

³⁷ Cornelia Parker Morris (1853) Daughter of Albion and Mary E. Parker

³⁸ Blanche Morris Daughter of Cornelia and James Morris

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

July the 2 1899

Is it possible two months have gone by since I have written and how many things have hapened of which i have kept no account last sunday I went to a sunday school convention expecting to see some old acquaintance but I found verry few Lyda Peck and her grand daughtors and a few latter day friends lena and kate went with me we eat supper with Sadie and Tom. Was dark when we got home. This last week was nice and cool Julia got all ready to go out to toms but did not Tom and Sadie both came in this eveining. Lena and Bart³⁹ have gone home with them. To day is monday Tom is stacking wheat to day heare the sun is pretty to day tomorrow is fourth of July 99 Julia is helping barbra to cook for the wheat stackers to day Albion has gone to help Mr David with his threshing this after noon nobody here but me I wonder if cornie will ever think of coming to us any more I know we are old and out of date stil we are Father and Mother. And we are passing away.

July 5 1899

Yesterday was fourth of july Mr Wantlands folks went to the fish lake and I went with them and oh what a jolty ride there was plenty of others there went up to Mr Kerns found nobody at home so we came home none to soon for we had quite a nice shower blanch staid all night with us she is in the parlor paying the piano hazell is helping it is cloudy this morning the rain has helped the garden from your mother nice.

July the 14 1899

Monday Cornelia came down to see us. Melvill Stewart come withe her Albion was sick all the first part of the week but now he is working same as ever. The thresher is here to thresh the wheat just come since dinner. They do their own cooking I think they will stay here all night they have just come from Mr Wantlands Tom isnot here pa is wondering why he does not come the wheat is his.

July 20 99

³⁹ Bart Anderson (1897) Son of Julia and Elmer Anderson

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

Went out to toms tuesday fred threshed there Barbra and the children were there to, to day Julia went out there took bart and he had a chill so they came home this evening little mary wantland is sick so rose sent for me to come over to day so i have been over there all day come home this evening she was some better pa and fred have been hauling in freds wheat, it is verry warm this evening looks like rain every body gone to bed.

August the 7 1899

Well i am getting almost to lazy to write any more Julia has been at Toms all last week. Sadie is sick most of the time Lena has gone to stay with them awhile Rose, fred the children were over here yester evening Nanny Stewart was with them how tall she is taller than Hatty or chloe they are almost women. Albion has gone to belknapp to day to haul a load of rock for Mr Alexander he is going to build a new barn and have every thing nice. Mother you better go to work.

August the 10 1899

Weather verry warm just time to cut some apples to day. Albion has gone to cut some clover for Mrs turner julia is fixing to churn and here is the grapes to shell for canning tome was here yesterday Sadie was up lena is there to her her. It is going to be verry hot to day and there is lots of work to do so get out Mary and see what you can do.

August the 12 99

Fred and Tom went to town to day with a load of wheat Albion and Julia wont to Belknap with a load of apples it has been verry warm and is warm yet Julia and the children have gone over to Mr Breningmyers to eat ice cream, Blanch was over here this evening she said Chloe was sick we are all well to night we are needing a rain verry much.

August 17 99

Went over to see chloe tuesday she was in bed but able to get up some. There was plenty of company in Ablie James round making up for her church, then Aunt Jemima Woods was there she staid all night. Allie Alexander and Barbra and the children Myrtel Migrand Nannie Stewart and Girtie Anderson and a pedlar you would say that will do for one day. Charley has just been

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here said the baby was sick he has been working for Mr Sexton Winnie Sexton he said is verry sick and I am on the puny list Blanch was over here yesterday said she was someing over to see me to day has not come yet I fear she is not wel Lena has been out to Toms nearly two weeks i know she wants to se hom efolks bad by this time.

August the 27 99

Sunday eveining verry warm and dry we are needing a rain badly pastuers are short and dry twas to warm to go any place to day Tom and Fred have both been here to day fred is not verry well Julia and Barbra went to joppa this afternoon Julia and ray have gone to the endeavor to night it is verry time for them to come home Winniw Sexton is verry sick we are all well to warm to write any more.

September 12 99

Tom Sadie and Mr Jones come in saturday night staid till sunday evening Sadie and I went down to freds for dinner they were al here for supper ray fell of the Jenny hurt his arm pretty bad looked for rose over sunday but she did not come have not seen Charley for a week we had some more rain Sunday Albion intends to plow tomorrow time to go to bed so good night.

Sept 26 1899

Tuesday night went to town last Saturday came home monday evening staid one night with Cornie and one with old aunt Lucinda Morris⁴⁰ they were all well said Annie Weseman she was looking rather thin she was in a store sales lady when I came out how the wind did blow and the dirt fly Albion sold bem and bought a buggy we went over to Mr wantlands before we came home he has not got well yet Girtie and her man was there Mr Jones is here to night he is complaining of not vering well attall. I have been fixing up the little closset to day and we moved the stove in the kitchen this evening it has been very cool yesterday and to day.

October the 9 1899

Here it is another two weeks gone and Mr wantland is not well yet Albion and I went over there yesterrday I staid all night he did not feel so wel to day as he did yesterday I think he

⁴⁰ Lucinda Little Morris Daughter of Robert and Sarah Little Mother of James Morris

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

has a regular chill every other day the baby was not well to day. Julia and barbra have gone over there to night. The weather is verry dry and dusty I think health would be better for a good rain everything is so dry.

October 22 1899

Sunday evening Julia went out to John andersons yesterday evening came home this evening at dark Albion and I went down to charlies to day to dinner Mrs Berry and Mrs Craftzinger came over after dinner and we had quite a nice time Blanch Steward was there to Maggie had read nice dinner Rose and Mr Wantland and all the children were at mr Kerns it has been real nice day and everybody was out Julia brought hom two baskets of hickory nuts wont she have a fine time cracking them this winter Wednesday morning yesterday Pa Barbra Julia Charily Cobb and all the children went after hickory nuts again staid all day and I went down to Mr Alexander to see them and mother Starks staid until after supper.

November 2 1899

Tom and Sadie were in last sunday Julia and Wantlands folks all went hickory nut hunting took their dinner and staid all day rose was over one day this week her and Mary Albion has been to town twice this week the weather has been verry peasant untill yesterday there came up a squall and it has been verry cold to day and windy. Everybody has gone to bed but me it to cold to play the piano so i am writing you a few lines before retireing Tom was here to day he had been after a load of sand Charley is plantering their house i think it is pretty cool for such work.

November the 12 99

To day Julia and Lena went to church Mr Page preaches Chloe and Blanch came over to see us Agness Reed came with them Tom was here this evening I received a letter from sister Emily yesterday the first one since last march she was well just been over to Mr Breningmyers having a taffy pull and just came home Albion is so sound asleep he did not wake up.

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

Mr Jones is here to night Tuesday Albion and I went out to Toms yesterday i went over to roses she was weaving a carpet for sadie they were just eating dinner when I got there To day I want over to Mrs. Andersons I was going up to see Dick and Emma Summers but we went to see Mrs Polk wood her and two of her boys are sick in the bed with malareal fever Morris went with me to day sadie came up.

December 28 1899

Only think I have not written a word to you for over a month i did not think it was that long ago but I have been at Toms for nearly three weeks and it has been quite a pleasure to me and a great deal to them Sadie has a nice little baby girl born the morning after christmas she has had quite a serious time but I think she will get along all right came home this evening Rose and Mr Wantland were here The children were all glad to see me and tell me allabout christmass Old Mrs Anderson dide yesterday and was buried to day we met Mr David and Mr Tom Andersons comeing home from the funeral as we were comeing home this evening she was about my age she leaves a large family of growing family to mourn her loss it is getting late so i must go to bed for I have been up two nights.

December the 30 1899

Clear but verry cold the your is all most gone Last night I received a letter from sister Emily and one from copain laura Humphrey such a treat both wissing me a mery christmas.

There is some friends left yet how nice of them. Barbra was up here this evening Albion is not verry well to day.

January the 16 1900

Two weeks of the year gone already how fast the time flies and yet I hardly know what has happened in that time it seems almost like a dream Albion and I went out to sadies to day she gets along verry slowly seems like she ought to have been up by this time she has Sophy Shafer⁴¹ now to take care of her I do hope she will get along better Albion has gone to bed tired the rest are all well.

⁴¹ Sophy Schafer Alvena Brenningmeyer Houseman's Aunt

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

Feb the 21 1900

How can I write it all down how can i tell it Sadie dear girll is dead and Tom how desolate she has been a whole month and here it the dear little baby without a mothers tender care the rest of us are all well Julia is out to toms I am going out in the morning if nothing hapens to prevent to stay a wekk and Julia will come home. Now I must go to bed for baby is waiking.

March the 18 1900

Here it is a whole month since i have written a word the darling little babe is all right yet it has grown a good deal can laugh and coo and we love it dearly lena Hazell and Blanch went out to toms yesterday in the buggy made the trip all right come back this evening all safe Bart came with them Chloe and Kate staid with us last night. Rose came over yesterday and staid all day barbra was here to Tom came in to see the baby to day Charly Magfy and the children come out last saturday night and staid allnight we have had snow and verry cold weather this last week Everyone had gone to seep but me. Now I think Cornie or Blanch might come to see me or write me at least.

May the 19 1900

Is it possible two whole months have gone by since i have written a word. To day Albion and I went to town and took the baby. Went to Cornies to dinner had the baby some pictures taken Blanch Morris took two kodac pictures of the baby we got home safe this evening but it was verry cool comeing home this evening it has beed cloudy all day.

/s/ Mary C. Parker

September the 3 1900

Well I have very near forgotten how to write how many things left unsaid received a letter from Sister Emily last week first once since Christmas I was real gad to hear from her and to hear she is well. Julia and Tom and the children were here yesterday. Rose Mr Wantland the children came over in the evening Cornie and Blanche came down to see us last week we are all well to night.

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

November the 2 1900

Went to town last Saturday took the baby stayed untill Monday had quite a nice time Mr Morris was at home went to see Mollie Mathas took dinner with ther Foun my old friend Mrs Bowler well went in to see Mrs Farrar She was well Albion brought me home went to Joppa tuesday took dinner at Charleys we are all well.

June 2 1901

Only think how long it has been since I have written any i need try and do better so many things have hapened i could never tell them all it is sunday Tomes here to day i looked fro rose al the morning but she did not come Lena and hazell have gone to see their mama.

Feb the 1 1902

Once more a few lines to you all to day has been quite a sad day two weeks ago to morrow Charley maggie and their little children came out to see us they were all well but today they come out bury little Fanny for she is dead, killed by a mattel falling on her head caused her death

Freds little goldie is sick with the scarlet feever and has been for narly two weeks and I am quite ancious about her. The weather has been verry gloomy for the last week last Sunday it sleeted and it has sleeted ever since the ground is a heavy sheild of ice every where, and i never saw such heavy ice on the trees every thing broke down and the rest is bent to the grounand I am afrid to go out for fear i will get a fall.

Rose was here with the rest this evening I hope she got home safe for ice is verry slipery we have not heard from Julia since last sunday I hope they are all well so good night.

Your mother

/s/ Mary C. Parker

Feb the 9 1902

Another week has past and the ice is still here it has been verry this last week we are in the artic region now for every thing is ice sollid ice as far as you can see and has been for two weks. Lottie has had the scarlet feever and has got well poor little goldie she has had a serioud time with it but she is getting now Baby mine has not been verry for the last wek. She has been

Prop of Erin Ragsdale

croupy at night Julia and her were all here yesterday. Lena Morris and Inez went home with them and they have not come back yet. School will commence in the morning it has been stoped for two weeks on account of the teachers mother being sick. I have not seen rose for over a week it is to icy for her to get out much it is getting lone some here read until I have go tired no one to talk to. So cold to play the piannia wonder if Cornia ever thinks of us I would write to Oscar if i knew where to write so good night

March the 3 1902

March come in cold and blustering but we are all well Tommy came yesterday evening staid all night he went to town this morning complained of not feeling verry well the weather has been so bad i could not go any where and no one comes here and i am getting rather lonesome want to see somebody. Mother Starks fell on the ice last week and hurt her self badly i did not try to ice verry much. Oh rose do come over and stay all day.