

Accession #1997-23
Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

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KMO attempted to copy the typescript as closely as possible. EX: The word Wednesday is often spelled Wednsday, and I copied it as such to try to maintain the same structure as the original I read from. There are many sentence fragments, missing periods and capital letters.

January 1, 1852

Eighteen Hundred and fifty-two—is it possible! It is true another year has passed by—leaving its events among the things of the past—those that were and will never be again. And I cannot but feel that this has been an eventful year in my life—although to look back it seems so much like a dream. I will look back--- One year ago today I was in Farmington with a fair prospect of spending many years of my life on our old farm. I well remember how many times I have wished that we could sell out that I might go and seek my fortune in the world and now that wish is gratified—and I find myself at a loss what to do. At one time I will go to New York and try to engage in some business there—but after staying there one week and seeing their customs, tastes in life etc. I was completely disgusted with the idea of passing my life there—where all live by rule to make money and display it. I came away perfectly cured of all desire to live in a city. I next made an effort to obtain a situation in a good Law Office which failed. Then thought some of buying a farm and of course running in debt for it—gave that up and as a last resort went to teaching a District school in hopes something would “turn up” as Micawber says_ in the course of the winter.

In the mean time Jo had gone to Illinois with Lou Glenn. They drove a flock of sheep out for Mr. Pitts whose farm they were going to work. They got out there after a long time—when they found they had been deceived by Mr. Pitts in regard to the farm and after robbing them of part of their money Mr. Pitts made some excuse to turn them off with but little money and more than a thousand miles from home. They went from there to St. Louis in hopes of finding employment but failed to obtain any and went from there to Cincinnati in Ohio where they will probably stay the winter. They have written to me from there to come out and go west with them and go to raising stock. I am waiting now to hear if I can get my money—=if I can I intend to go.

[B. F. Gue “started for Iowa” on February 2, 1852.]

Monday February 23rd took the cars for Shelby from there to Monroeville and stage to Bellevue got there at 6 o'clock and found Jo and Lou Glenn it was the first time I had seen them for most seven months and we passed the evening telling our adventures—the news etc and talking of old times.

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Tuesday the 24th Staid over one day at Bellevue to visit with Lou before going on. Took a look at the City through mud ankle deep. It is like all other western Cities “extensively laid out and thinly settled.” It is situated on the Lake Erie & Mad Rive R.R. 15 miles south of Sandusky City.

Wednesday the 25th Jo and I started west and Lou left for New York. We hired a livery team to Toledo. Started from “Bellevue” at 8 [a.m.?p.m.] passed through “Lower Sandusky” “Perrysburg” and “Woodville” crossed the “Sandusky and Maumee Rivers” and got into Toledo at 6 ½ p.m. Put up at the Kingsbury House and found Bill Harvey and had a good visit with him. Toledo is quite a town and is growing very fast—is situated on the Maumee River 10 miles from its mouth.

Thursday the 26th started from Toledo on the Erie & Kalamazoo R.R. at 8 ½ a.m. passed through Adrian-Hillsdale took dinner-at Cold Water saw Robert Phetteplace. Got to Laport, Ind. At 7 and took the stage for Michigan City and got there at 9 ½ p.m. and staid over night. This is another regular western city—surrounded by sand hills and situated on Lake Mich.

Friday the 27th Took the cars for Chicago at 8 ½ p.m. and traveled along the shores of lake Mich. Through marshes and sand banks and at last got out on the first great prairie in its wild state I had seen. It was almost perfectly level and extended beyond Chicago. The city is built on the prairie near the mouth of the Chicago River and on Lake Michigan. The land around Chicago is perfectly level as far as the eye can reach. Although some parts of Chicago have a new look like all of the western cities- a portion of it is compact and has quite an eastern look about it. Some of the book stores would compare well with Albany and New York in the richness and variety of their goods. This city is superior in one point to any western city I have passed through—that is in the “noise and confusion”

of the Hotel Porters and Cabmen it is almost impossible to keep “body and soul” and baggage together on leaving the cars I would advise travelers visiting the city to cary a good can to “clear the track”. We put up at the Mattison House kept by Pierce formerly of Geneva N.Y. and found every thing as it should be waiter attentive Landlord obliging and fare of the best kind. We got in at about 10 o’clock a.m. and took a look at the city until dinner. Here we made out last purchases for western outfit-consisting of two “bowie knives”-a “Pocket Compass” and a “Western Guide” We took the crs at 3 o’clock and rod on a level prairie for 30 miles to Aurora and got there at 6 ½ and put up at the Empire Hotel an found it to be a miserable place. The fare poor and Landlord crusty.

Saturday the 28th was cold and stormy-hired a livery team to take us to Dixon-sixty-five miles for \$8.00. At 2 o’clock p.m. we found our stage ready for a start. It was a large lumber wagon covered with canvass with springs under it and a pretty Ohio girl in it who proved to be the drivers wife. The day was cold and I had the pleasure of sitting close to our lady passenger to keep the buffalo robe round her. Found it to be quite a comfortable place especially going through pitch holes. We rode twenty miles and put up at a regular Dutch western tavern cold as a barn and dirty as it was cold. We managed to live through the night notwithstanding the temperature in bed was below the freezing point and started as early next morning as we could get away.

Sunday the 29th was very cold started at 8 o'clock and rode 22 miles and stopped at a tavern and took dinner which was pretty good for the country. Started again at 2 o'clock and rode into Dixon 23 miles and put up at the best tavern in the place which was a poor apology for a hog farm. Sat in the evening and thought how different this was from Sunday in Farmington.

Monday the first day of March, 1852 started from Dixon at ½ past 8 p.m. [a.m.?] crossed Rock River and rode through 17 miles of splendid prairie country and took dinner at Como a first rate dinner in one of the dirtiest taverns I ever saw. Went on from here to "Erie" which is a famous western village consisting of three houses. Staid over night at a tavern where all slept in one room divided by curtains there were seven beds filled with men women and children.

Tuesday the 2nd Started for "Rock Island" at 8 ½ O'clock and got to Port Byron at 11 ½ and took dinner; here I got the first view of the great Mississippi.

[Feb. 18th to March 3rd got to Rock Island before night and put up at the Rock Island House. This written in pencil in an unsteady hand.]

Wednesday March 3rd In the morning we looked round the town wrote letters and made preparations to cross the river. We overhauled our things filled out carpet bags left our trunks at the Rock Island House and started on our trip across the River. We got down to the shore and found that people had been crossing all the morning on the ice and that it was not considered very dangerous. A boatman pointed out the course for us to take—we got some staffs and started out on the sea of ice for the "Iowa" shore. We traveled for some distance without any difficulty until we got out over the current where we found the ice piled up in great ledges wedged in all shapes some piled up ten feet high—some immense cakes standing on the edge with deep chasms between with a swift current of water running at the bottom—we went on in this way for a long distance sometimes going a long distance up stream to avoid air holes—sometimes leaping from one huge cake of ice to another slipping and stumbling every minute until it got so bad that it was almost impossible to proceed. We looked back and it seemed as far to either shore as it did from one to the other when we started—the prospect looked dark and we could not help thinking how impossible it would be to escape if the ice should break up. We started on again thinking we must have gone over the worst of it and after a slow difficult journey of climbing—walking—sliding and jumping we at last reached the smooth ice and soon landed in Iowa as completely tired out as I ever was in my life. But the "Rubicon" was passed—we were in "Iowa" the "long wished for land of promise" and we walked on with renewed energy went up to the land office to make inquiries before starting out. As we sat there talking we heard a heavy rumbling noise the Agent stepped to the door and looked towards the river and exclaimed "the ice is moving." I never was more startled in my life. I got up and looked out and could hardly believe my eyes as I saw the huge body of ice which we had crossed fifteen minutes before rolling, tumbling and foaming in a confused mass as it went thundering by. It was a grand sight—but I could not help thinking what a grand and awful ride our first and last would have been on the great Mississippi if we had started ten minutes later.

After crossing the river we went up to the Land Office and took notes of several pieces of land and started for Littles Grove. We took our carpet bag towards night and started on a tramp across the prairie in search of a farm. We walked four or five miles and night overtaking us we tried to find a place to put up-but we were in aa Dutch settlement and they were all, afraid to to keep us and we had to go on until 7 o'clock tired and hungry when we came to a "white mans" house Mr. Little from Ohio. We did not regret that the Dutch had refused us lodging for this was a first rate place and first rate people.

Thursday the 4th was rainy went out to Hickory Grove and looked at the prairie around and put up at Mr. Porters-and he was a regular Iowa man we had coffee without sugar bread without butter and fried cakes without sweetening and other things in proportion. [Written in many years after: Here I met the girl who was to be my wife-Lizzie Parker and Jo first met Mary Willey who became his wife. Little did any of us think that evening what our accidental meeting and acquaintance would lead to."]

Friday the 5th was cold, wet, and unpleasant. We went out on the prairie and tramped all day long in search of land to suit us. Found the bridges all gone and the roads overflowed. We came back to Porters and found some boarders there and I got acquainted with a class-mate of William H. Seward.

Saturday the 5th was cool, left Porters and went up to Postens Grove. We went up with a Mr. Wells to look at a quarter section of timber land which belonged to him. We got up there and looked at his timber and found enough on 160 acres to cover about 10. Went down to George Godards to look at a pair of horse. Staid at Well's over night and saw Miss Willey and Miss Parker. [Written in later: who spent the evening with the family and we got acquainted with them.] Sunday the 7th went over to Mr. Godards to look at his horses and try them but we did not make a trade with him. Went from there to Mr. Porters to look at his farm. It consisted of 200 acres—160 of prairie and 40 of timber-75 acres broke 50 fenced and two log houses on it. Price \$800. We went from there to Mr. Hoskins to look at a pair of horses he had gone from home and we staid all night. There was ten in the family besides us, and all slept in one room; men, women and children, cats and dogs.

Monday the 8th Went to look at Mr. Parrs claim of 160 acres-25 acres improvement and fenced, with a log house. We liked the place very well-and found his price was \$250 but before we left he offered it for \$150. His land laid on aa western decent and was in the edge of the Barrens. We went back to Mr. Hoskins and offered him his price for his horses and he backed out. We then made him an offer for another horse and after a long study on the subject he concluded to let us take them .He could not read or write, so that he did not take paper money, so that we must go to Davenport and get it changed. He at first was unwilling to go with us or let one of us have a horse to ride unless he would have the value of the horse in money. We offered him the money as security but he was afraid it was not good, and at last concluded to go with us. So we got ready and started—went as far as Allens Grove and staid all night.

Tuesday the 9th Started at 8 o'clock for Davenport and got there at 12M Went to Cook & Sergent and got \$300 of our money changed for gold-paid 1 per cent. Started from there at 4 and got back to Porter's of Hickory Grove at 8 and staid over night.

Wednesday (sic) the 10th Started from Porters at 6 and went on to Round Grove stopped at Keyzers and got breakfast. Bought two saddles for \$9.00 and came on to Mr. Haskins. After dinner fixed up our saddles and bridles and prepared for a tramp southwest. ["never expecting to return" written in much later in pencil and unsteady hand]

Thursday the 11th was pleasant in the morning – we paid Mr. Haskins \$165.00 and started for Tipton. We soon got out of the grove and came on an immense prairie which stretched on every side as far as the eye could reach. Toward the middle of the forenoon as we were in the middle of the prairie a storm of wind and rain burst upon us and as there was no house tree or object of any kind to shelter us for a mile so we had to take it cool and let it come. We got a complete soaking-but the storm soon passed and the sun came out to dry us. We got in to Tipton at noon and took dinner put some letters in the office-inquired for land to suit us but found none and started on toward Rochester. Tipton is a fine little village situated on a large level prairie and is doing some business for an inland town. We went to Rochester on the Cedar River and crossed the free Ferry which is kept running her to call travelers through. Rochester is a small town and has the appearance of having seen better days. It is going in a decline. Went on to the Quaker settlement and staid over night at an Ohio Quaker named Mathew. Found them to be very fine people. When we came away they refused to make any charge.

Friday the 12th Looked round the settlemnt for land and took dinner at an old Bachelors. In the afternoon went on towards Iowa City—when within 3 miles of it a heavy shower came on and we had to put up for the night. We had cold hard bread and molasses, and col water for supper and a bed of prairie hay to sleep on.

Saturday the 13th Was rainy and went on to the City and got in at about 10 o'clock put up at Swens? Hotel. Took a survey of the city. It is situated on the Iowa River on considerable of an elevation-contains a number of public buildings, churches and a large number of Log Houses. There are but very few good dwellings of the first class. The City is scattered over a large tract of land, and appears to have been quite a village for many years as it is intersperced [sic] with old log houses fast going to decay. We left at 3 o'clock and rode until night put up at a New Yorkers just after a severe thunder storm during which we took refuge in an old log Blacksmith shop.

Sunday the 14th was windy went up 18 miles north of the City to look at a farm in the Henderson Settlement to look at 120 acres-40 of timer-25 broke but no fence price \$250.00 Went from there towards Tipton and put up at a Dutch Tavern over night situated in a most splendid tract of country.

Monday the 15th Started for Tipton-crossed the Cedar River at Washington Ferry and passed through the village of Solon which promises to be a flourishing place as soon as they commence building houses.

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The village is all there excepting the buildings, which will undoubtedly be put up before it gets to be much of a place. We got to Tipton at noon and took dinner and then came back to Postains Grove—got there at ½ past 5 and put up at Mr. Wellses for the night. In the evening Miss Willey & Miss Parker came over and we had a good game of Euchre and spent a pleasant evening with them.

Tuesday the 16th Went over to look at Mr. Porters place and found that he offered it for \$700.00. Went from there to Mr. Parr's and took dinner. He had given up selling his place. Went back to Porter and talked over matters in regard to making a bargain-staid at Mr. Mastens over night.

Wednesday the 17th Was very cold and windy looked over the farm again and concluded a bargain-paid \$700.00 for the place 160 acres of prarie (sic) and 40 of timber. Two log houses on it – 50 acres fenced and 20 acres broke not fenced. One slab stable 1 corn crib-log-two log hay pens. We pay \$222.00 down and the remainder the first of July.

Thursday the 18th Was a very cold rainy day—we went down to Davenport to draw up writings. Did our business with Cook & Sargent-paid Porter \$222 and gave a mortgage & notes for the rest. We put up at the Penn. House at night.

Saturday the 20th The cold weather still continued and towards night a steamer came up and we got on and crossed over to Rock Island—we put up at the Graham House and found miserable fare.

Sunday the 21st It began to thaw and we went down to the river towards night and induced the Ferryman to carry us over by paying him four times the usual fare. The river was frozen between the Illinois shore and Rock Island about two inches thick and we had to take poles to support ourselves and walk farr [sic] enough apart to prevent breaking in. The boatman took our trunks on a hand sleigh and we all started for Rock Island and got there safely—we went up the Island about a mile and loaded up the boat and started. The river was running swiftly and so full of floating ice that the oars could not be used and they had to navigate by pushing on the cakes of ice & at last we got across in safety which was my second perilous voyage across the Mississippi. Staid over night at the Penn House.

Monday the 22nd Went out in the morning and bought a wagon-plough-harness stove and all kinds of utensils for farming & housekeeping—started out at 1 o'clock for our new home and got as far as Allens Grove and staid over night.

Tuesday the 23rd Went on home and found the surveyor there. Fixed up our house and cooked our first meal. It consisted of Indian cakes and ham served up on a shelf with our trunks for seats. Thus began our life in Iowa. We went on a and made a table some benches & put up shelves drew some wood and got fairly to keeping house. We bought a pair of oxen another plow made a drag and cultivator and split about 300 rails and 250 stakes fenced in 15 acres more and put in 3 acres of spring wheat 15 acres of oats 25 of corn. The spring was cold & backward so that most of our corn rotted in the ground and most ruined our crop. We planted the last over about the 15th of June and left about 6 acres where it was

nearly all gone. Jo started for the East on the 13th of June to get his money. I heard that day of the Loco Nomination for the Presidency Pierce and King Friday the 25th heard that Gen. Scott had got the nomination at the Whig Convention for President.

**Nothing more written for 1852.

Saturday, Jan. 1st, 1853. How short the last year & yet it is a whole year since I sat in our room in Greene Co. & dated for the first time 1852. Now I sit here in the Far West in Iowa in a little cold log cabin beginning the year 1853. And it has been a very important year to me for I am just making my start in the world. I will briefly review the events of the past year.

I at last concluded to go West & try the sheep business. I closed my school & started the first of Feb. I stopped in Farmington two weeks to settle up our business & see my old friends then took the cars for the West. I found Jo & Lou at Belleview in Ohio. Jo & I went on West & Lou went East. We got in Iowa about the 1st of March & after travelling about for two or three weeks we bought a farm of 200 acres on Spring Rock Creek in Scott County It is 40 acres timber 80 acres prairie & 80 cultivated. Two log houses are all the buildings. It is 25 miles from Davenport on the Miss. River. We paid \$700 for it. We went down to town and bought our setting out & went to "Keeping Bach" & found it to be most miserable business. In June Jo went down east and got his money was gone about 5 weeks. We got \$500 of Mother & in August went over into Ill. & bought 800 sheep at about \$1.40 per head. I have been sick with fever & Ague between 3 & four months. We have raised about 500 bu of oats about 200 bu of corn 120 of wheat 7 w20 of buckwheat & cut about 25 tons of hay. We have 2 good horses 1 cow 1 hog and about 275 sheep. Mother & the children are in Greene Co. & Jerry is teaching School there. In political events, Gen. Pierce was elected over Gen. Scot by a great Maj. Louis Napoleon is Emperor of France. Henry Clay & Daniel Webster have both died within the year.

Sunday January 2nd was stormy Cleaned up thirty one bu. Of wheat. It made some of the meeting folks look cross who were passing.

Monday the 3rd was cold & windy Jo went down to Davenport with the wheat & got 40 cents per bu. In the evening wrote to "Del".

Tuesday the 4th was cold cut the Sausage Meets. Jo got home about 5 o'clock

Wednesday [sic] the 5th was cold went down Mc Kins & ground the axes & got a load of lumber

Thursday the 6th was warm went up in the woods and cut saw logs. Jo went over to Rasps & got the hay [or hog].

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Friday the 7th was warm drew logs into mill. Jo cut logs.

Saturday the 8th was warm. Cut & drew logs. For the next week finished up picking corn cut some logs & fenced the stacks and went to mill.

Sunday the 16th finished a letter to Del & took it up to the post office

Monday the 17th was cold Jo cut logs.

Tuesday the 18th was cold went up to Parkers and got his Fanning Mill & cleaned up a load of wheat. In the evening James and his brother came up & we played Euchre.

Wednesday [sic] the 19th was cold Jo went down and helped Mc Kim fix his dam.

Thursday cleaned up a load of wheat.

Friday the 21st was pleasant Jo took a load of wheat down to Dixons and sold it for 50 cents.

Saturday took down a load of wheat and sold it for 50 cents.

Sunday was pleasant staid at home.

Monday was pleasant, the Jameses and Jo & I went up in the woods and cut logs for stakes.

Tuesday the 25th was cold

Thursday the 27th was cold. Let Mc Kim have two dollars.

Friday the 28th was warm fixed the sheep shed. Got letters from Mother & Lindley Smith

Saturday the 29th was pleasant went up in the woods and cut rail timber. Jo went down and helped Mc Kim fix his dam.

Sunday the 30th was warm and pleasant went down to Goddards to Meeting. Mr. Cobb preached.

Monday the 31st was pleasant sawed stuff for stakes.

Tuesday the First Day of February was pleasant. Sawed stakes.

Wednesday the 2nd was cold.

Thursday the 3rd was cold drew wood.

Friday the 4th was very cold.

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Saturday the 5th was very cold.

Sunday was more moderate Mr. Brow of Davenport came to trade horses but did not do it.

This week was cold.

Wednesday the 9th was taken with the ague. O'Neil was brought home from Dewitt murdered.

Friday got a letter from John Sheldon.

I was sick with the ague all through Feb and my journal was consequently neglected.

March 5th I began to get better and took a walk out for the first time.

Sunday the 6th of March was pleasant Staid at home.

Monday the 7th Was warm & pleasant Jo drew stakes

Tuesday the 8th was cold. Had a little snow storm.

Wednesday the 9th was warm & pleasant a company came up from the river surveying the Camanche Rail Road. Mr. Parker called in. I sent a letter to the editor of the "Times" and a paper to Tom & one to Ananias.

Thursday the 10th was cold and stormy Jo drew stakes.

Friday the 11th was pleasant with sleighing. Jo drew stakes.

Saturday the 12th was cold.

Sunday the 13th was cold.

Monday the 14th was cold. Jo drew stakes. Dr. Wainright called.

Tuesday the 15th was warm. Jo split stakes.

Wednesday the 16th was cold Jo drew stakes

Thursday 17 was pleasant wrote a letter to Del. Jo split stakes.

Friday the 18th Got a letter from Del. Lindley Smith & Tom.

Saturday the 19th went down to Mc Kims Frisbees & Dixons.

Sunday 20 wrote letters.

Monday the 21st was warm & pleasant Went up to the office to Willeys & Puts Had a hard chill.

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Tuesday 22 was colder. Jo split stakes.

Wednesday 23rd was cool with a hard wind. We went out on the prairie to look at some land that we talked of entering. I was taken with a very severe chill while gone which lasted me until next morning.

Thursday 24th Jo and Si went to Davenport. I bought 2 hogs and a pig of James for \$9.50.

Friday 25th was pleasant. Commenced digging our well. Got letters from Lou & Jerry. Jo got home. I had a hard chill.

Saturday the men left our well & went to work on Parsons. Jo drew some wood. Dr. Martin came along and sold me some Medicine.

Sunday was pleasant had a very hard chill. Jo went to hear Mr. Cobb preach.

Monday 28 was pleasant the men dug on our well got down to 15 feet Jo drew stone. I wrote to Glen & Jerry.

Tuesday I escaped the chill

Wednesday 30 was warm & pleasant the men finished digging our well—went 25 feet deep.

Thursday the last of March they finished walling up the well. Was warm & pleasant. Friday the First of April was warm & pleasant. Wrote to Peck. Got the Tribune & a paper from Tom. Frank & the well digger came over & played Whist.

Saturday the 2nd day of April was warm & pleasant Jo split stakes.

Sunday the 3rd was pleasant.

Monday 4 was pleasant went to Town election.

Tuesday 5 was pleasant Jo ploughed for wheat. I worked on our drag.

Wednesday 6 was pleasant ploughed.

Thursday 7 was pleasant ploughed

Friday 8 was pleasant. Got two letters from Tom one from Lydia one from Lindley

Saturday 9 went down to Wallravens to a horse race.

Sunday the 10th wrote to Tom, Kate, Del and Lydia

Monday 11 was wet and rainy

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Tuesday the 12th sharpened stakes

Wednesday 13 was cool sharpened stakes

Thursday 14th was cool, went with Parsons over to Sugar Creek to get some fruit trees. Stayed over night at Mr. Culvers.

Friday 15 was cool. In the morning went over to Hendersons. Went out to Tipton & made some purchases and from there to Humphreys Nursery and selected 130 Apple trees dug and tied them and staid over night

Saturday loaded up and came home

Sunday 17 was pleasant Frank & Wm came over & played whist.

Monday 18 was pleasant part of the day sowed wheat and dug holes for apple trees.

Tuesday the 19th was wet dug holes for trees & took Puts oats home.

The remainder of the week was rainy most of the time. Finished setting out apple trees.

Sunday was pleasant. Went over to Parsons in the afternoon.

Tuesday the 26th ploughed for Parsons

Wednesday the 27th was pleasant Jo went over to Mill I sowed wheat for Parsons ½ day.

Thursday 28 was rainy. Drew stones to lay fence on. George Parker came down and brought me three letters. One from Del one from Glen and one from Welk.

Friday the 29th was pleasant commenced building our stake fence.

Saturday the 30th was pleasant worked at the fence.

Sunday the first of May was pleasant. Wrote to Del. Had a slight chill.

Monday the 2nd built fence.

Tuesday the 3rd planted potatoes

Wednesday the 4th was rainy

Thursday the 5th was rainy

Friday was rainy part of the day drew rails. Mr. Buller called.

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Sunday the 8th was pleasant Jo & I & Frank & his wife went over to Nouvo to meeting Mr. Butler Preached the best sermon I have heard since I came west. We went to Hoskins & took dinner.

Monday the 9th was rainy part of the day.

Tuesday the 10th was pleasant sowed oats.

Wednesday the 11th was pleasant sowed hay seed.

Thursday the 12th was pleasant sowed hay seed and oats

Friday the 13th was pleasant planted beans. Got a letter from Mother and one from Kate.

Saturday the 14th was pleasant planted watermelons.

Sunday the 15th was cold wrote letters to Glen and Kate

Monday the 16th was cold ploughed corn ground

Tuesday the 17 was pleasant sowed oats for Frisbe

Wednesday the 18 was pleasant.

Thursday the 19 finished ploughing corn ground

Friday the 20th was pleasant Sowed oats and ploughed. In the evening Jo & I & Frank Follet & Wm Parks went up to Mart Goddards to a "shin dig" Had a good time and a good visit with Miss Willey & Parker Got home about 3 o'clock

Saturday was pleasant ploughed for Frisbe.

Sunday Went up to Willeys to meeting in the forenoon. In the afternoon went down to Goddards to meeting. Went up to Parkers & Owens and saw Mrs. Pearsall.

Monday 23rd was warm planted 12 acres of corn & finished fence.

Tuesday the 24th was warm ploughed for Follet

Wednesday the 25 was warm & pleasant went out on the prairie to look for land to enter. In the forenoon went up to Kelsos in the Afternoon went over to Willeys and out on the Tipton road & found a qr section which we concluded to enter viz. the N.E. qur of Sec No. 9 Range 1 of 5th P.M.

Thursday the 26th I went down to Davenport & entered the land "on time" giving a note for \$240 at the end of a year.

Friday crossed the river to Rock Island also went up to Moline & crossed Got my Buggy & came home.

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Saturday the 28th was hot. Went up to Goddards and got the bucket fixed

Sunday 29 we went down to Methodist Quarterly meeting at Walnut Grove took Frank & his wife and Follet. Had a good sermon.

Monday the 30th Was cool & pleasant in the afternoon washed sheep.

Tuesday the 31st Was pleasant in the afternoon washed sheep.

Wednesday the 1st of June was pleasant went up in the timber and cut & drew logs for our house.

Thursday the 2nd was pleasant with showers drew some logs and went to Davisons raising and got a good soaking.

Friday the 3rd drew logs. Got letter from Islen [?] Cook & Sargent and Renwick and a paper from Amanda Smith.

Saturday the 4th was pleasant withed our stake fence

Sunday the 5th was pleasant Went up in Cedar County to look for land found a piece to suit us and wrote to Cook & Sargent to enter for us the North West qr of the S.E. qr. Of Sec.9 as the North East qr of the N.E. was entered by Ditz.

Monday the 6th was pleasant took off the roof of our lower house and drew it up on the hill. In the evening went down to Petes to a Meeting called to send in a new petition for a P.O. at Big Rock with Hall for P.M.

Tuesday the 7th was pleasant commenced planting our corn over 2nd time.

Wednesday the 8th was pleasant planted corn in the forenoon. In the afternoon drew logs from our old house.

Thursday the 9th was pleasant drew logs in the forenoon, in the afternoon went down to Vans raising.

Friday the 10th was pleasant drew logs for our house. Got letters from Del and Glen.

Saturday the 11th was pleasant raised our house. Had 17 men. In the evening went down to Goddards to the Fourth of July Meeting. A committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

Sunday the 12th Wrote a letter to Del & went up to the Willeys to a Sabbath School.

Monday the 13th was pleasant began to sheer our sheep.

Tuesday the 14th was pleasant Sheared sheep.

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Wednesday the 15th was rainy part of the day. Got Follet to help shear the sheep.

Thursday the 16th was pleasant Worked at the house.

Friday the 17th was pleasant Sheared sheep.

Saturday the 18th was pleasant finished sheering sheep.

Sunday the 19th Was pleasant went up to Postains Grove to church in the forenoon. In the afternoon and evening went down to Goddards and the Grove to church. Saw Mrs. Scott married.

Monday the 20th was pleasant ploughed out beans and commenced hoeing

Tuesday the 21st was pleasant hoed beans

Wednesday was rainy

Thursday the 23rd finished hoeing beans.

Friday the 24th was pleasant worked in our potatoes beans and corn

Saturday the 25th was pleasant ploughed corn for Davison the committee met up to George Willeys to make arrangements for the fourth.

Sunday the 26th was pleasant staid at home.

Monday the 27th was hot worked in the potatoes

Tuesday the 28th was rainy

Wednesday the 29th was warm worked in the corn.

Thursday the 30th was pleasant worked at the house.

Friday the 1st day of July was pleasant worked at the house.

Saturday the 2nd was pleasant worked at the house

Sunday the 3rd was pleasant went down to Goddards to hear Mr. Hallock try to preach. In the afternoon went up to Willeys.

Monday the 4th of July, was bright and pleasant. Follet and I started for Walnut Grove at about 8 o'clock and found the preparations for the celebration mostly made. We finished them up and at about ½ past 9 people began to come with four-horse teams flags and music. By 11 o'clock about 400 were assembled at the school house. I then began to form the procession Dr. Witter and Mr. Dillon leading followed by thirteen young ladies dressed in white carrying each a flag representing the thirteen original states. Then

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came the ladies and gentlemen 2 and 2 with the company of riflemen bringing up the rear making in all about 400 people. I marched them down to the flag pole where they formed a large semicircle facing the west at a given signal the flag was hoisted as it reached the top the guns were all discharged together and whole assembly gave three tremendous cheers for the American flag. Mr. Dillon made a short & appropriate speech & the procession was again formed and marched to the seats near the stand. I called the meeting to order and we opened with prayer by Mr. Goddard next came the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Dr. Wainright at the close of which Dr. Witter delivered the oration & was followed by Dr. Dillon who spoke for an hour. His speech was eloquent and well delivered and received with loud cheers. We then adjourned to the tables where a splendid dinner was prepared. Returning to the stand the toast were read and responded to in good style. This closed the exercises. In the evening we all went up to a public dance at Owens had a crowded house and miserable affair. Horses balked coming home in the creek and we had a fine time getting out. Got home about 3 or 2 oclock.

Tuesday the 5th was pleasant Jo and Cy started for Davenport

Wednesday the 6th Worked at the house. Jo got home about 10 oclock p.m.

Thursday the 7th was pleasant Scoured our corn plough and began to work in our corn.

Friday the 8th was pleasant Worked in our corn.

Saturday the 9th was wet drew up some lumber from Mc Kims & settled up with him and paid him up.

Sunday the 10th was pleasant Staid at home and wrote a letter to Jerry & read "Festus."

Monday the 11th was pleasant old Jenks came up and surveyed out our forty in Cedar County that we want set out hedge on.

Tuesday the 12th was pleasant ploughed corn & beans and hoed out the melons. In the evening Owens came down and gave us an invitation to a party given by Misses Celinda & Elizabeth Parker & Mrs. Pearsall.

Wednesday the 13th was rainy part of the day towards night cleared off Jo and Frank & His wife & Follet and I went up to the party. Had a good time about 12 oclock it began to rain and rained until morning so that it was a deluge before we started for home.

I have neglected my journal for a long time as I have been so busy. We have got our house finished and are moved up in it have got out wheat and most of our oats cut. Mr. Westfall & Mr. Butler have both held meetings at the School house near Hoskins and had large meetings. Mr. Butler called on us Tuesday August 1st and we had a good visit. Wednesday the 10th was hot.

Accession #1997-23
Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Thursday the 11th of August was hot went a blackberrying & broke our buggy. Put on four horses to Follets buggy and came home.

Friday the 12th Was hot drew in oats.

Saturday the 13th was hot drew in oats.

Sunday the 14th was hot rigged up a four horse team and went up to Camp Meeting. There was a very large gathering and pretty good preaching. Went up again in the evening and had a great time 3 or 4 of the brethren & sisters got the Power and had a loud time of it. Saw Lib & Celinda Parker Miss Whitney & Willey.

Monday the 15th Was hot went up to Camp Meeting in the evening & had a dull time.

Tuesday the 16th Was warm stacked wheat for Parsons had some oats cut with the reaper.

Wednesday the 17th was warm bought 19 hogs of Follet & Parsons for \$48 and made pens for them.

Thursday the 18th Was warm got our hogs up & shut up went blackberrying

Friday the 19th was warm & pleasant Davison came up and help us bind oats.

Saturday the 10th was pleasant commenced mowing.

Sunday the 21st was hot went down to meeting and hear Cobb expound—rather slim performance.

Monday the 22nd was warm Mowed part of the day.

Tuesday the 23rd was cool mowed over in the Big Slough

Wednesday the 24th was cool put up hay

Thursday the 25th was warm finished drawing in oats

Friday the 26 was cold Jo went up and got the buggy fixed I mowed. Got a letter from Ananias.

Saturday was cold Mowed and put up hay

Sunday the 28th Was pleasant. Stayed at home & wrote & read.

Monday the 29th was pleasant. Mowed part of the day down on the flat.

Tuesday the 30th Was pleasant Mowed part of the day.

Wednesday Was cool & foggy Mowed on the flat.

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Thursday the 1st of September Was warm & pleasant. Mowed on the flat. Sent a draft of \$99.50 down to Davenport by Mr. Parsons to draw money for me.

Sunday the 4th was rainy Postains & Kelso came up and eat melons

Monday the 5th was cool worked at hay

Tuesday the 6th was pleasant fixed for threshing

Wednesday worked on the road

Thursday worked on the road

Friday the 10th commenced threshing

Saturday finished threshing

Sunday Jackson Parker ccame up & eat melons.

Monday the 13th Went down to vote on the R.R. Tax.

Tuesday the 14th Mowed part of the day.

Wednesday the 13 [sic – 15th] was pleasant drew hay from the bitg slough

Thursday the 16th drew hay

Friday the 17th drew hay from the flat. Got letters from Tom, Del, Welk Lou Hale & Peck. Received the sorrowful news of John P. Sheldons death.

Saturday the 18th drew hay

Sunday the 19th Was windy sent a letter to Del.

Monday the 20th was unpleasant Mowed part of the day.

Tuesday the 21st Mowed. Had a hard frost for the first.

Wednesday the 22nd Was cold drew in hay from the flat

Thursday the 23rd was pleasant Mowed & put up hay

Friday was pleasant Mowed.

Saturday the 25th worked in haying

Sunday the 26th Was pleasant rode up the creek.

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Monday the 27th Went down to the Grove to Dr. Wainwrights wifes funeral . In the afternoon went up to Jackson Parkers and had a visit with Lib Parker.

Tuesday the 28th was foggy mowed

Wednesday the 29th Was foggy & unpleasant worked in haying.

Thursday the 30th of September, was cloudy mowed.

***OFF ON DATES/DAYS**

October 1853

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Friday the 1st of October was pleasant dug on our cellar In the afternoon had help from the Supervisor. In the evening our folks came.

Saturday went down to Davenport and got their trunks & other things

Sunday came home.

Monday the 4th Drew in hay

Tuesday the 5th was windy drew in hay

Wednesday the 6th was pleasant drew in hay

Thursday took the plough up to be fixed pulled beans and settled with Davison about the corn. He took half of the piece & I have half. He is to pick mine first.

Friday the 8th finished pulling beans & dug potatoes Jo & Jerry went to Tipton.

Saturday the 9th was pleasant finished digging potatoes.

Sunday the 10th was pleasant.

Monday the 11th was pleasant drew wood & picked some corn.

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Tuesday the 12th was pleasant drew a load of sand from the river. Had a hard chill.

Wednesday the 11th [sic] was pleasant broke around the house and got Goddards plough.

Thursday the 12th [sic] picked some seed corn & commenced picking corn – ploughing

Friday the 13th [sic] was pleasant. Went over to Sugar Creek to look for a school for Jerry. Engaged on in John T. Kellys Dist. at \$20 per month. In the evening stopped at Willeys at the Spring. Had a good time. Took lib & Celinda Parker home.

Sunday the 15th [sic] was pleasant came home & sold 50 sheep to Holmes for \$120

Monday the 16th [sic] was pleasant Went over to Dakins & bought two pairs of cattle for \$120.00

Tuesday the 17th [sic] was pleasant commenced ploughing with the cattle. Drew some wood. Finished threshing the beans.

Wednesday the 18th was pleasant went up to Goddards & got the whippetree fixed. In the afternoon Jo started for Peru.

Thursday the 19th was pleasant drew the oats stack down to the lower house

Friday the 20th started for Sugar Creek to attend an auction. Got over about 12 took dinner at Carls and bought two pair of cattle at \$59 & 69 dollars a pair. Bought 12 hogs & pigs at \$1.50 per head. Went down to Kellys & staid over night. Gave my note for the hogs & jos for the cattle due in one year without interest.

Saturday the 21st was cold and unpleasant got Kelly & Henderson to help me take my things home. Got home about 9 oclock.

Sunday the 22nd was very cold. Went up to Owens & saw Cylinda & Lib Parker & had a very good visit with them. Went up to George Goddards & got a pair of cattle that I bought Friday for \$70.

Monday, the 23rd was cold built a yard fence.

Sunday the 30th was pleasant went over to the log school house & heard Mr. Westfall preach. He spoke on the sins of intemperance profanity & tattling and delivered a first rate sermon.

Monday the 31st was pleasant worked on the addition.

Tuesday the 1st of November was cool & stormey. Worked on the house.

Wednesday the 2nd was stormy drew up the log stable.

Thursday the 3rd was pleasant worked on the house & ploughed.

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Friday the 4th was cold went up to Owens to a party had a good time. Got acquainted with Miss Follet. Got a letter from Del.

Saturday the 5th was cold built the log stable.

Sunday the 6th Was cold. Sent a letter to Del. Worked on the addition most of the week.

Saturday the 12th was cold went down to Dixon and from there to Mr. Ammons & got some leather. 6 bunches for \$1.25 Brought up the singing school paper which I had drawn up & sent down for subscribers there was \$12.00 on it. Drew a load of wood.

Sunday the 13th was cold took Jerry over to Nesselrodes & took the singing school up to Jackson Parkers & left it had a cold ride & got home about 8 o'clock

Monday the 14th Was cool. I was quite unwell. David ploughed. Jo went down to Dixon to work.

Tuesday the 15th was pleasant worked on the house. David ploughed. Jerry got back.

Wednesday the 16th was pleasant went over to Thorns Mill and got 22 bu of wheat ground 130 lbs of buckwheat 1 bu. Indian meal 9 lbs butter got home about 8 oclock.

Thursday the 17th was pleasant drew in the potatoes 7 ploughed.

Friday the 18th was pleasant ploughed with two teams. Mr. Courtright came over and wanted to trade some colts for sheep.

Saturday the 19th was rainy all day went over to Courtright's and traded some sheep for a colt.

Sunday the 20th was cold & rainy

Monday the 21st was stormy drew wood etc.

Tuesday the 22nd was pleasant Jo made a stable & corn pen. I invited people to the corn picking.

Wednesday the 23rd of November was unpleasant had a corn picking. In the forenoon the Follets came In the afternoon Owens, Postens Kelso Coits, Willey came In the evening Abe, Elenor, Lib P. another Trucks Hixon, Wallace, Arthur & Mary Willey came Miss Mathews Follet two Goddards Miss Frisbee Frank Parsons & his wife came. I went over to Mc Cullough and got Lib Parker. We had a good time broke up about 2 o'clock. Had about sixteen bu. of corn picked.

Thursday the 24th was pleasant finished picking corn.

Friday the 25th was pleasant drew rails & fenced the bin & stacks. Got a letter from Glen

Saturday was the 26th. Commenced cutting off stalks & ploughing Nursery ground.

Accession #1997-23
Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Sunday the 27th was cool went up to hear Westfall preach. Saw Celinda and Lib Parker. In the evening went down to McKims to a funeral.

Monday the 28th was cold. Took Jerry out to Sugar Creek got home about 2 oclock. Went down to Dixon & got some black Walnut lumber 100 feet at \$1.75 per hundred.

Tuesday the 29th was cold Worked on the house & fixed the oats bin

Wednesday the 30th was cold in the afternoon beagan to thresh

Thursday finished threshing Was the first day of December

Friday the 2nd was cold Worked on the addition.

Saturday the 3rd was cold drew a load of wood & stacked the oats straw.

Sunday staid at hom

Monday the 5th was pleasant drew sand.

Tuesday the 6th was pleasant worked on the addition

Wednesday the 7th was pleasant Randall came & plastered the addition.

Thursday the 8th was pleasant finished plastering.

Friday the 9th was pleasant worked at the house. In the evening went up & met to do the business for singing school. Jackson Parker Jo & Isaac Follet were appointed a committee to do the necessary business

Saturday the 10th was pleasant husked corn, fixed the hog pen & finished plastering up the house.

Sunday the 11th was pleasant went down to Follets to meeting hear a Mr. Upton make a fool of himself trying to preach.

Monday the 12th was pleasant Shelled some corn & took it to mill.

Tuesday the 13th was cool & misty ploughed.

Wednesday the 14th was cool & misty. Ploughed & went to mill. Had an invitation to a candy party at Randalls

Thursday the 15th was cold ploughed most of the day. In the evening went over and got Lib Parker & took her down to the party at Randalls. Had a pretty good time.

Friday the 16 of December was cool. Ploughed.

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Saturday the 17th Was cold & snowy—Jerry came home with Jo. We drew a load of wood.

Sunday the 18th was cold & snowy Went to singing school at Owens saw Lib Parker.

Monday the 19th Was very cold took Jerry out to his school

Tuesday the 20th was cold drew some logs into mill for fence posts

Wednesday the 21st was cold Worked in the house.

Thursday the 22nd Was cold Jo got the horses shod down at Shackleville.

Friday the 23rd was very cold went down to Hickory Grove to an Auction. Bought a cow & calf for \$32.00 a stove for 6.05 a doz hens for \$1.40 a lamp for .65 a cradle for .65 Started for home about 3 oclock came by Keyes & from there across the prairie – took the North Star for our guide & came six miles on a straight line after dark & came out right.

Saturday the 24th Was cold built a stable. In the evening went up to Owens & hears Mr. Westfall preach. Saw Mrs. Pearsall & Lib Parker Got a letter from Tom

Sunday the 25th was Christmas Went up to Hoskins School house & heard Westfall preach. In the evening went to Owens & heard Westfall preach his best sermon. Took Lib & Mrs. Pearsall over to singing school. Had a good talk with Westfall. I was twenty-five years old today.

Monday the 26th Was cold worked on the house. In the evening Lib & Elenor Trucks Miss Frisbee & McCullyo came & staid the evening.

Tuesday the 27th was cold worked at the house. In the evening went to singing school. Saw Sarah Randall & Miss Follet

Wednesday the 27th was cold [CALENDAR DATE CORRECTED IN THIS ENTRY-KMO]

Friday the 30th went out hunting.

Saturday was cold & stormy drew wood

Sunday the First of January 1854 was cold went up to singing school

Sunday the First of January 1854 was cold went up to Singing school

Monday the 2nd Was cold took Jerry out to school & went to Tipton

Tuesday the 3rd Was cold drew wood. Jo went to Walnut Grove.

Wedmsdau the 4th Was cold. Husked corn Commenced practicing.

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Thursday the 5th Was very cold. Husked corn

Friday was very cold. Husked corn

Saturday the 7th was col went over to Davissons

Sunday the 8th was cold & pleasant went down to Follets to church Upton preached In the afternoon went down to the Grove to meeting. In the evening went to singing school Got up a ride for Monday night

Monday the 9th Was cool & pleasant. Got O'neils sleigh. Started on our ride. I went down to the city & helped rig up the four horse team. Got started from our house at ½ past 5. There were Isaac Follet & his sister Ann Frank Follet & Miss Frisbee Frank Parsons & his wife David & Mary, Brewster & Angelina. Lib Parker & I. We started from Mc Culloughs about ½ past six and went up to Mr. Clarks got there at ½ past 7 staid until about 11 played cards & had a good time Started for home at 11 & got off the road and came down to Parsons & left Frank & his wife & started up creek went on up to Willeys gave Rasp & Jackson Parker & the Postens three Cheers & raised the deuce generally. Got over to McOlloughs at ½ past two. Got home at 4.

Tuesday the 10th was warm our snow left. Went to Mill & drew wood. Jackson Parker & Mathew came to our house

Wednesday the 11th was cold went down to the city & gave notice of a road meeting to be held at Mathews Thursday night. Went up to Goddards & Parkers

Thursday the 13th was cold & stormy went down & saw Richard and agreed to draw logs for him at \$3.00 per thousand In the evening went up to a road meeting. Cyrus Parsons was appointed Chairman and I was Secretary. After a long discussion we voted to run the road from the County line down by Mathews around the South side of Rasps east on the half section line to my east line then south ½ mile then east to intersect Davenport & Annamosa road. Peter Goddard opposed it the best he knew. George Parker H.D. Davison & Jackson Parker were appointed a Committee to do the necessary business.

Friday the 13th was the coldest day we have had there was a strong North wind. I stayed in the house all day.

Saturday the 13th was cold drew logs for Richard. I drew 8 and Jo drew 3.

Sunday the 14th was cold went over to Mc Olloughs to a meeting-but the meeting wasn't there. In the evening went up to singing school

Monday the 15th was cold drew a load of wood. In the evening went over & got Lib Parker & we all went down to Follets & rigged up a four horse team I went down to Frances There was Brewster & Ike & Frank Follet & Jo & I & David—the ladies were Ann Follet Francis Frisbe Angelina Goddard Mary & Lib Parker.

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

We had a good time & got back to our house at about 4 o'clock took Lib home & had a first rate ride got back at 6 ½ o'clock.

Tuesday the 16th was cold went up to George Goddards & got my wagon fixed.

Wednesday the 17th was more moderate went up to Owens Goddards George & Jackson Parkers & got some kettles for butchering.

Thursday the 18th Killed 6 hogs. Was very cold. Owens helped

Friday the 19th Was very cold went to Davenport. Sold my pork for \$3.50 per hundred 700 pounds. Traded about \$35. Put up at the Penn.

Saturday the 20th was very cold came home.

Sunday was very cold. Wrote to Butler.

Monday the 22nd was very cold

Tuesday the 23rd was cold drew wood.

Thursday the 25th was very cold

Friday the 26 was cold went to Mill

Sunday the 27th [28th] Was cold went to singing school to Goddards. Sent in the road petition.

Tuesday the 29th Mr. Follet & Franks & Parsons people came up & staid the evening. I went over & got Lib Parker. Had a very good time.

Thursday the 31st went to Tipton & Sugar Creek & got Jerry

Friday got the horses shod

Saturday the 2nd of February took the road deed up to Parkers

Sunday the 3rd went over to Sugar Creek & took Jerry home. Stopped at Matthews to singing school.

Monday the 5th was cold drew logs.

Tuesday the 6th was cold drew a log into Mill. Went over & got Lib Parker and a load of us went down to Frisbes to a party. Got home about 5 o'clock.

Wednesday the 7th went up to a temperance lecture at Posten's school house in the evening. Had most a miserable lecture by Mr. Wharton.

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Thursday the 8th drew hay from the lower house

Friday the 9th was cold. Chopped.

Saturday the 10th Chopped drew a load of wood Went up to Bakers & got my boot.

Sunday the 11th was cold. Went up to Postens Grove to singing school.

Monday the 12th chopped.

Tuesday the 13th was cold & stormy part of the day. In the evening Miss Frisbee had a valentine party. I went over and got Lib Parker and went to the party. After the party I took her over to Mc Culloughs and we had a ride long to be remembered [The last sentence written in pencil long after]

Wednesday the 15th was cold Went to a Temperance meeting.

Thursday the 16th drew 6 logs for Rickard.

Friday drew 2 logs for Rickard and one for Mc Kim

Saturday the 18th was warm the snow all went off. Drew logs for Mc Kim & Rickard. In the evening went down to Mc Kims at a meeting of the committee to draw up a plan of organization for a Temperance Society.

Sunday the 19th Was pleasant. Went down to Follets to singing school.

Monday the 20th Went to Mill & measured the logs I drew for Rickard. Drew a load of wood. Went to Temperance meeting and organized a T. W. club.

Tuesday the 21st was pleasant. Went down to the blacksmiths and fixed the harness. In the evening went up & got Lib Parker & brought her down to our house.

Wednesday the 22nd was cold got up at 4 o'clock and started for Davenport. Jo & Mary & Lib & I. We got to town about 11:00. I put up at the Le Claire House. In the afternoon went and had Marys Daguerreotype taken. Towards night went over the river and sw the cars come in. The first train that ever came into Iowa came in at 5 o'clock—the engine was decorated with flags wreaths etc. & was received with roar of cannon and cheers. Two other trains came in soon after. We did not stay to hear the speeches the [sic] was such a crowd. Went back to the Le Claire and took supper & then went over to Mr. Walravens and saw Celinda & Mrs. Pearsall. The Hotel was so full that we had to lay on the parlor floor.

Thursday the 23rd Was pleasant Went over the river and saw the cars go out. Came back & went over to the Daguerrean Gallery & had Libs likeness taken. Went over to Walravens and staid a short time and

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

then started for home. Got home about 5 o'clock & found Kelly Henderson there. Took Lib home and got home about 9 o'clock.

Friday the 24th Was warm & pleasant sold Kelly 9 sheep at \$1.25 per head.

Saturday the 25th Was pleasant Jo went out to bring Jerry home from his school. I went up to the post Office & to Goddards.

Sunday the 26th was pleasant mended the saddle. For the next week split rails & stakes.

Tuesday the 28th Went over to Courtright's and got my colt. In the evening went up and got Lib Parker and took her down to a party at Follet's had a pretty good time. Got home about 4.

Sunday the 5th of March Was pleasant Jerry & I & Kean & Davison went down to Davenport. In the evening went to church at the Presbyterian.

Monday the 6th Was pleasant took our road petition to court & got a Commission appointed. Saw Celinda Parker.

Tuesday the 14th. The Commission came out and looked at the road.

Wednesday the 15th went to a party to Mathews had a miserable time.

Thursday the 16th began to sow wheat sowed about 6 acres.

Friday 17 sowed 4 acres of wheat

Sunday the 18th Went up to the P.O. stopped to Owens-Went to singing school. Took Lib Parker home from school.

Monday sowed wheat In the evening went down to the club meeting. Sowed and ploughed and dragged in about 25 acres of wheat through the week.

Thursday night went to the Caucus & made out a Temperance Ticket consisting of the following names Town Clerk William Kineen; Assessor R. Bennet; Justices Dr. A. Witter and V.F. Gue; Trustees Peter Goddard and James Hale and Mr. Hickson; Constables Isaac Follet Jr. and Abram Trucks

Sunday the 27th Was cold Went up to Owens and got Lib Parker and took her to singing school.

Monday the 28th Was cold. Moved fence.

Tuesday cold moved fence

Wednesday the 29th Started to go down to Hickory Grove to look for our cow when I got to Goddards they wanted me to go over the river with them and help take some thieves. Nine of us went a horseback

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

– surrounded old Willeys house and captured one of them-bound him and I took charge of him and brought him down to Petes and watched him through the night.

Thursday the 30th took him up to Kelsos and had him bound over to court. Friday was cold and stormy

Friday was cold and stormy

Saturday the 1st of April was cold. Found our cow and advertised a stray horse I had taken up.

Sunday the 2nd Went down to Follets to meeting.

Monday the 3rd Went down to Election—all of our ticket was elected with the exception of Kineen.

Tuesday the 4th was warm and pleasant sowed oats and hay seed

Wednesday the 5th was pleasant dug post holes and began to build a hog yard.

Thursday the 6th was pleasant the owner came for the stray horse. Went up to Kelso's and drew up a bond and got Jackson Parker to sign it

Friday the 7th was pleasant went to Davenport. Got there about 1 o'clock went over to the County Judge & took the oath of office and was qualified to the office of justice of the Peace.

Saturday the 8th Was warm went down to the nursery and bought ½ bu of Osage Orange seed for \$9.00 1000 root grafts for \$20.00 and 50 Apple & 5 peach trees for \$6.50. Got home about dark.

Sunday the 9th Was pleasant part of the day – went over to Mc Colloughs school house and to meeting and heard Mr. Spooner preach.

Monday the 10th was pleasant set out my fruit trees

Tuesday the 11th was cool went to Muscatine. Put up at the Muscatine House. In the evening took a look at the city-it is a business looking place.

Wednesday the 12th was pleasant started for home-came to Centre Grove and stopped and fed and took dinner Came across the prairie 13 miles without road or house. Got home about dark.

Thursday the 13th. Was warm drew rails

Friday the 14th was rainy Made a book case.

Saturday the 15th was cold and froze up.

Sunday the 16th was cool had singing at our house in the evening Saw Celinda Parker

January 1855

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Monday the 1st was warm and pleasant. We had a party in the evening. There were about 40 present. They danced until morning & had a very good time & everything went off pleasant. David Posten served the music.

Tuesday the 2nd was warm & pleasant. Went up in the timber & got a load of wood.

Wednesday the 3rd Was warm in the forenoon. In the afternoon it rained some and towards night it began to grow cold. We went up to Butlers to a party took Lib & Celinda Parker up there. Had a pretty good time. Got home about 3 o'clock it was very cold.

Thursday, 4th, was cold and windy staid at home

Friday, 5th, was cold and rainy. Went up to the office but the mail had not come in. Settled up with Jerry & found a balance in his favor of \$34.38 for which I gave him a due bill. Settled up with J. H. Gue and found a balance in his favor of \$4.58 Settled up with D. J. Gue & found a balance in his favor of \$4.50

Saturday, 6th, was rainy went up to the office but the mail had not come The ground was covered with water.

Sunday, 7th, was warm & pleasant went up to George Goddards to singing school

Monday, 8th, was cold went down to the blacksmiths and got 4 shoes sharpened & set.

Tuesday, 9th, was warm. Got one horse shod all round. Cleaned up a load of wheat

Wednesday, 10th was cold and foggy went to Davenport with a load of wheat. Started at 8 o'clock and got in about 4. Sold my wheat at the Moline Mill and took it up there. There was 46 bushels at 95 cts per bu. Got back to Rock Island and staid over night at the R.I. House.

Thursday, 11, was rather cold. Came over the river at about 8 o'clock. Saw Celinda and Laura Parker & Mary & Ward & William Willey. Paid my toll and went down to the Nursery and got 4000 seedling apple trees. Saw Mr. Hubbell & engaged him to come out to lecture before our society Came out as far as Allen's Grove and staid over night at O'Neils.

Friday the 12th was warm and pleasant. Started at about 8 o'clock & cam to Dixon & acknowledged a deed for Dickenson. Came on home got here about 11 In the evening went up to Clark Pounds & took our folks & Lib & Selinda Parker Had a good visit.

Saturday, 13th. The weather was very cold Jo & David & Clark went down to singing school

Sunday, 14th, Was cold staid at home

Monday, 15th, was cold worked around the house Went over to Sugar Creek & to Tipton Came back and eat supper at Owens

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Tuesday, 16th, Was cold cleaned up wheat In the evening went up to the prairie school house & took our folks & Lib & Selinda. We organized a Literary society, Mr. Upton President Mr. Pound Secretary William Willey Vice President B.F. Gue & Selinda Parker Editors. T. Curtis Treasurer.

Wednesday, 17th Was cold went down to Muscatine & got 15 Thousand cuttings of Mr. Negus. Staid over night with him Paid \$5.00 for the cuttings.

Thursday 18th, Was cold came home & got back about 7 o'clock in the evening

Friday, 19th, was warm & pleasant Drew a load of wood.

Saturday, 20th, Was warm & pleasant. Went up to Vandveers & got some boys and cleaned up and loaded up two loads of wheat. In the evening we had a very hard snow storm with driving wind.

Sunday was very cold staid at home

Monday, 22nd, was very cold commenced grafting

Tuesday, 23rd, Went to Davenport with a load of wheat was very cold. Broke a wagon wheel & had to borrow one to get to town. Sold my wheat to Benedict for 88 cents 41 bu. Settled up with him and paid him up.

Wednesday, 24th, was cold came home & got here about 3 o'clock. Went up to the society meeting & took our folks & Lib & Selinda. Had a good meeting & finished up the By Laws.

Thursday, 25, was cold made my sled.

Friday, 26th, was cold & stormy. Finished my sled In the evening got up a four horse team and went to singing school at the prairie school house. Got a load & took a ride.

Saturday, 27th, Was cold & stormy. Got the Georges & went up to Clark's timber & cut 18 logs & drew down a load.

Sunday the 28th was cold

Monday, 29th, Was cold and stormy went up to Willeys shop and got two shoes set on my horses. In the afternoon went up and drew down a log. It grew very cold toward night

Tuesday, 30th was cold went up and drew two loads of logs.

Wednesday, 31st, was cold went up and got load of logs. In the evening went up to the society and took our folks and Celinda 7 Lib Parker. Discussed the Question Has man a right under any circumstances to take human life. Mr. Clark took the Aff and I took the Negative. Decided in the Aff.

SKIPPED SEVERAL ENTRIES

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Accession #1997-23
Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

June 1855

Thursday, 28th, was warm. Wm. Willey & Mary and Lib and I went out to Tipton with Jo and Mary Willey who were married. We put up at the Birely house.

Friday, 29th was warm & pleasant. Started from Tipton at 10 o'clock and got to Willeys about ½ past 12. Had a fine company at dinner and a good time after dinner. In the evening Lib & I and Wm & Mary took a ride. Got home about 12. A ride that Lizzy and I remember as long as we will live.

SKIPPED SEVERAL ENTRIES

July 1855

Wednesday, the 4th of July we had a Pic Nic up at Postens Grove with the Tipton people and went from there down to Helers to the Ball. I was sick all night, and Lizzie staid with me and was very kind.

Thursday, 5th, was hot we came home I was quite sick.

Friday, 6th, was warm. I was sick. Jo & the Marys went down to Davenport

Saturday, 7th was warm. Rachel Bedell & her son came down from Fairview & staid I ---- was sick.

Sunday, the 8th, was warm & pleasant The Bedells went home I was sick

Monday, 9th, was warm with showers The boys ploughed corn

Tuesday, 10th, was warm. The boys ploughed corn.

Wednesday, 11th was hot. A little past noon a tremendous storm of rain & wind & hail came over us and did an immense amount of damage to wheat & corn & all kinds of crops.

SKIPPED SEVERAL ENTRIES

September 1855

Monday, 17th, Eg went back home. I went down to Davenport and had my likeness taken for him.

SKIPPED SEVERAL ENTRIES

October 14, 1855

Sunday Mary Levi Lib Parker & David & I went out to Tipton to the Universalists State convention. Had good preaching Put up at the Burile House.

Monday 15th was cool & pleasant raised my house Cy Parsons wife came down here.

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

Tuesday, 16th, worked on the house.

SKIPPED SEVERAL ENTRIES

Thursday, November 1st, David & Levi took a load of wheat to town with the oxen They sold the wheat and brought out some flooring

Friday, 2nd, was cool & unpleasant Jo had a party I took Lib up to it

Monday, 5th, was cold laid the floor in the kitchen Mother and Mary had gone to Jos & we had to keep Bach

Tuesday, 6th, was cold

Thursday, 8th, Ouf folks came back

Saturday, 10th, Hyatt laid the floor upstairs and I fixed the doors In the evening Humphrey came and staid over night.

Sunday, 11th, was rainy Went up and saw Lib. [It was the night before our marriage and we had a long good visit together.] Words within brackets written in pencil long after; probably in 1890.

Monday, 12th, David took a load of wheat to Davenport. I took Lib down & our folks went down on their way to the East [Mother and Mary] I took Lib over to Mr. Walravens & in the evening we all went over & we were married by Judge Burriss [My dear Lizzie and I to live together as long as life should last. We staid at Walravens until the next day] Words in brackets written much later.

Thursday [sic?] 13th, was pleasant. Our folks started for the East & Jo & Mary & Lib & I went with them to Peru. Got back at about dark & all staid at the Penn House. [Lizzie and I had our pictures taken for Cousin Lydia.]

Wednesday, 14th, was rainy all day & we came home. Stopped at Lathrops & got dinner. Got home about 3 oclock.

SKIPPED SEVERAL ENTRIES

December 1855

Tuesday, 25th [Was my birth day – I was 27 years old. Lizzie and I spent our first Christmas together and enjoyed it very much” Words in brackets written many years after.

Monday, 31st, This past year I raised about 840 bu. of wheat and about 500 of corn. I grafted and set out about 10,000 root grafts & fenced in 35 acres of my new ground and moved the fence on the north side of my farm. I had about 50 acres of wheat and about 25 of corn and it was all very much injured by the

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Benjamin Gue diary typescript – partial

hail storm. Wheat sold at from 95 cts to \$1.35. Mother and Mary & Jerry are in N. Y. Lib & I and David on the old place on Rock Creek & Jo up in Cedar County.