

DIARY OF LOUISE TRASK

1892

Transcription Note: Louise (b. 1846 and d. 1916) is the sister of Oscar Trask. She never married and she lived with her brother, John.

JANUARY		
FRI	JAN 1	12° Cloudy and seems like snow. Called to Sophia's – found her getting up from grip. Also called to Aunt Lucy's and Aunt Susan's – Aunt Ruth. Spent the day with Sue making a patchwork.
SAT	JAN 2	26° Rain in PM. Very slippery – went across the field to the mill – called to Mrs. Griffiths, found her and Lolan (?) well and enjoying themselves.
SUN	JAN 3	44° Has been above 40 all day. Has seemed like a spring day. Rained very hard all night – rivers very high. No company today. Finished reading Daughter of Walk by Black. Character – coquette. _____, A Lord Earl, I hope.
MON	JAN 4	30° Cloudy and a little snow – not enough to cover the ground. Have been at home all day. Sue here this eve.
TUES	JAN 5	10° Worked in mill this a.m. Ironed this p.m.
WED	JAN 6	8° Went to mill but no work for today.
THURS	JAN 7	26° Worked this forenoon but none for this afternoon or tomorrow. Wonder if this is the way we will be all winter.
FRI	JAN 8	0° A very pleasant day. Baked this a.m. and this p.m. Delphine came up and said George was not as well so I went down to Sue and found that she was not. Called to Edith Edwards. Fred came last night.
SAT	JAN 9	4 below. A work all day.
SUN	JAN 10	6 below. At home all day. Have callers.
MON	JAN 11	2 below. Cold all day. Work this a.m. in mill. Called to see Mrs. Newman on my way home from work.
TUES	JAN 12	22° Snow. Has been growing warm and tonight it rains. The same as all our storms end. Work this a.m. Freeman at Strong.
WED	JAN 13	34° At home all day sick with headache. Guess I shall be crazy if it does not stop aching soon, has been at it since Sat.
THURS	JAN 14	34° Rained all day. The walking horrible. Work this a.m. Churned and baked this p.m.
FRI	JAN 15	30° Ice went out above here as far as ferry. River very high. At home today.
SAT	JAN 16	6° Fair
SUN	JAN 17	14 below. Fair.
MON	JAN 18	6° Fair.
TUES	JAN 19	32° Rain.
WED	JAN 20	4 below. Fair. Have been trying to learn to do Mexican work of Aunt Ruth. Never tried to do anything so hard. Guess I am half fool.
THURS	JAN 21	10 below. Fair. Have been at work on Mexican work all day.
FRI	JAN 22	0° Fair. Have made several calls today to Luce – Aunt Lucy – Aunt Susan – Mrs. Putman – Mary Stanley and Sybil. I think I have done well.
SAT	JAN 23	6° Cloudy. A very fine day. John carried Aunt Ruth to Andover. Fred called – the first time since he came. Commenced ironing clothes for Sue.
SUN	JAN 24	0° Fair. At home all day. Cy and Ella called. Wrote to Abbie.

MON	JAN 25	2° At work on ironing clothes.
TUES	JAN 26	12° Cloudy
WED	JAN 27	6 below. Fair.
THURS	JAN 28	2° Cloudy.
FRI	JAN 29	18° Cloudy
SAT	JAN 30	16° Cloudy. Snowed very little.
SUN	JAN 31	10 below. Fair. Average temperature for month. 17 fair days; 11 days morning below 0; coldest 14; warmest 44; taken at 7 am; snowed 3 days; rained 4
FEBRUARY		
MON	FEB 1	16° Fair.
TUES	FEB 2	24° Fair,
WED	FEB 3	26° Snow
THURS	FEB 4	22° Snow. Called to Mrs. Griffith's and Mrs. Yeatton's this p.m. Found them as lame as ever but in good spirits. Also got paint for Aunt Ruth's room but shall not use it at present as I go in the mill tomorrow.
FRI	FEB 5	4° Fair. Went to work at mill this morning after waiting a long time expecting every day to be sent for. Sue and Ella here this eve.
SAT	FEB 6	0° Fair. At work in mill.
SUN	FEB 7	6° Fair. Have been very busy all day getting ready to work in mill. Mary Dexter, Mr. & Mrs. Edwards called this p.m. and Cy and Ella this evening.
MON	FEB 8	20° Cloudy and snowed a little. John gone to Paris. I worked in mill all day.
TUES	FEB 9	10° Snow. Snowed all day but has not mounted to much. Bill stayed with me last night and I found him good company. Cy and Ella here this evening.
WED	FEB 10	10 below. Fair. Cold all day. John home from Paris and had a hard ride as Peggy was very lame. Had work only this a.m. Had the good luck to burn my hand tonight.
THURS	FEB 11	6° Snow. 1 foot snow. Set work all day. Wanted to go to the D. entertainment but thought it too stormy.
FRI	FEB 12	20° Fair. The breaking out team out today for the first time. Lydia came after me and I carried my dinner to mill – has been a long day.
SAT	FEB 13	0° Fair. Windy. Northern light very bright. Very bad walking but I braved it out and walked to mill. A letter from Aunt Ruth tonight and she is sick.
SUN	FEB 14	4° Fair. Worked about the house until after dinner. Then went down to Luce and found Cy sick with grippe. Hope we may escape for there are hardly well ones enough to care for sick.
MON	FEB 15	18° Fair. A very fine day. Has snowed enough and the snow begins to head down. At work all day.
TUES	FEB 16	6° Fair. A cold day in mill. Went down to Luce and found her sick in bed. Am afraid of fever but she thinks not. Cy better.
WED	FEB 17	4 below. Fair. A very cold and uncomfortable day. Have been almost frozen in mill. Went down to Cy this morn and found them much better. Heard Belinda was sick and went in and found her pretty sick but better than yesterday.
THURS	FEB 18	6° Fair. Warm and pleasant. Called to Belinda this morn and found her a little better. Was glad to know the Marble girl is coming to stay with her a day or two.

		Aunt Ruth's trunk went tonight.
FRI	FEB 19	18° Fair. At work all day.
SAT	FEB 20	24° Cloudy. A real spring day. After I got out of mill called to Mrs. Griffith's and found her not so well. They are alarmed about her. Jack sick in bed with grip. Went down to Luce and found Cy not as well.
SUN	FEB 21	32° Cloudy. Very warm and pleasant. After I got my work done, called to see Jane and Mrs. __, Found them a little better. Also called to Almens (?) and Mrs. Yeatton.
MON	FEB 22	40° Cloudy. Stayed with Mrs. Griffith last night and I call her a very sick woman, a long long night.
TUES	FEB 23	32° Cloudy.
WED	FEB 24	28° Cloudy.
THURS	FEB 25	30° Fair.
FRI	FEB 26	26° Fair. Was shocked this morning to hear of Mrs. Griffith's death as I did not think of it so soon.
SAT	FEB 27	4° Fair. Could not go to mill, so went down and helped a little to Mrs. Griffith's this p.m. Went down to Sue's but they do not gain as they ought.
SUN	FEB 28	0° Fair. A fine day. Went down to Mrs. Griffith's this forenoon and helped some this p.m. Went down to see Sue and Cy and found them much better but Delphine sick. Am afraid sicker than she tells.
MON	FEB 29	0° Cloudy. Average temp 14° Lowest 10° below; highest 40°; 18 days fair; 5 days snow. Taken 7 a.m. Went to mill this morn. Wilder came for me to go and take care of Delphine. Found her very sick. John went to Farmingham.
		MARCH
TUES	MAR 1	Cloudy. Have taken care of Delphine today. Think she is very sick but guess not dangerously. Em came tonight and I am glad.
WED	MAR 2	10° Cloudy. In the mill today as I was not much to take care of Delphine.
THURS	MAR 3	18° Cloudy. Worked this a.m. in mill.
FRI	MAR 4	28° Fair. Freeman has got in help so we shall only have work as small part of the time now when I can work as well as not. Painted chairs a.m. today but am not satisfied with them.
SAT	MAR 5	20° Fair. Windy. Worked this a.m. Called on the sick this a.m. Found them a little better.
SUN	MAR 6	26° Fair. A real march day. Windy but not cold. At home all day and no company.
MON	MAR 7	30° Fair. Windy. Work this a.m. on good pichs (?) and this pm. very poor. Only did seventy-five verses.
TUES	MAR 8	28° Rain and snow. Work this a.m. and the p.m. finished a pair of tray clothes for Sue that I com. for last Xmas.
WED	MAR 9	34° Cloudy. About 4 inches of deep snow. The snow nearly gone that came last night. Slosy walking, worked all day. Called to see Mrs. Yeatton and found her very sick.
THURS	MAR 10	36° Fair. Rain and snow in eve.
FRI	MAR 11	34° Cloudy. Windy.

SAT	MAR 12	10° Fair. Windy
SUN	MAR 13	6° Fair. Windy.
MON	MAR 14	4° Fair. Windy. John went to Paris this morning.
TUES	MAR 15	8° Fair. Work only this forenoon. John home from Paris tonight.
WED	MAR 16	4° Fair. At work all day. Called down to see Delphine this eve and I feel discouraged for her. I cannot see that she gains at all. Sue and Ella here this eve.
THURS	MAR 17	6° Fair. Have worked all day packing the small boxes and it seems like her small business. Called down to Sue's tonight. She goes to Auburn tomorrow.
FRI	MAR 18	18° Snow. Worked in mill all day. Cannot realize that I am forty-six years old today but such is the case. Spent last evening at the hall to celebrate. May Dexter's birthday. It was also John Thompson's – Charles Stanley.
SAT	MAR 19	30° Cloudy. Snowed all day but has not gained very fast. Working this a.m. in mill. This p.m. baked, swept and cut up cranberries.
SUN	MAR 20	14° Windy. Fair. A rough day but not cold. Grace came up and brought me corn balls.
MON	MAR 21	18° Fair.
TUES	MAR 22	6° Fair.
WED	MAR 23	26° Snow. 3 inches of snow.
THURS	MAR 24	34° Fair.
FRI	MAR 25	28° Fair.
SAT	MAR 26	28° Fair.
SUN	MAR 27	32° Fair. Have worked about the house nearly all day. Think I shall not work another Sat. in mill and let my work go. Cy, Ella and Grace called this eve.
MON	MAR 28	16° Fair. Work.
TUES	MAR 29	26° Fair.
WED	MAR 30	28° Fair. Pleasant. Snow gone very fast. Have a very bad cold but does not make me sick. Em called tonight. Florentine there to dinner.
THURS	MAR 31	28° Fair. A very fine day. Cold no better. Called to Mandamis to bid Florentine goodbye. Worked all day but has not amounted to much.
		APRIL
FRI	APR 1	26° Fair. Work all day.
SAT	APR 2	Have not been to mill but did the baking and housekeeping and this afternoon did not feel like work. A very bad cold.
SUN	APR 3	At home all day and not a body in the house but myself and John has been in very long and lonesome soundly.
MON	APR 4	Washed this a.m. and worked in mill this p.m. and tonight have a very bad cold.
TUES	APR 5	Find myself with a very bad cold and have had all I could to attend to it today.
WED	APR 6	Warm but a very strong wind. The ice went out today and left the river clear. Have coughed myself half to death. Am taking medicine enough to kill or cure. Em called tonight and prescribed for me.
THURS	APR 7	A very fine day. Feel better but not like work.
FRI	APR 8	Have worked at mill all day. Tonight baked for John to carry to Weld Pond. Mary Dexter and Edith spent the eve here.
SAT	APR 9	Worked today. John did not go to the pond as it had rained. Went down to see

		how Cy and Ella are along. Found them nicely. Will be glad to see Sue home again.
SUN	APR 10	Cold and does not seem as much like summer as it has. John went to Weld Pond. I hate to have him go at all and especially Sunday.
MON	APR 11	
TUES	APR 12	
WED	APR 13	
THURS	APR 14	
FRI	APR 15	
SAT	APR 16	Have worked all the week and all the days have been alike.
SUN	APR 17	Cold and gloomy. At home until tonight. Went down to Sues and she came home with me. Have looked for Delphine all day but guess she doesn't care for me.
MON	APR 18	Pleasant but a cold air. Worked in mill all day. John gone to Pond and am left alone again.
TUES	APR 19	Worked in mill all day. John home from Paris tonight. Called down to Sue's this eve.
WED	APR 20	Worked at mill.
THURS	APR 21	Today is fast day and I have observed it by working as fast and hard as I could but see no other way to do it. Aunt Melissa and Delphine called this p.m.
FRI	APR 22	The much needed rain has come. Hope we may get a good lot. They commenced work on Lucy's home today.
SAT	APR 23	Churned. Nice and warm and grass looks very green. Found a calf this morning which we are very glad of. Called down to see Mrs. Putnam. Found her poorly and blue.
SUN	APR 24	Pleasant but windy.
MON	APR 25	
TUES	APR 26	
WED	APR 27	
THURS	APR 28	
FRI	APR 29	
SAT	APR 30	Have worked all the week until today. Have worked at home. Baked and cleaned cellar which is all the cleaning I have done.
		MAY
SUN	MAY 1	
MON	MAY 2	John went to Paris and I am left alone again.
TUES	MAY 3	Work.
WED	MAY 4	Work.
THURS	MAY 5	Cold and windy. Went around with magazines after work. Expected John but he has not come. Churned tonight for first time this spring.
FRI	MAY 6	Cold. John home from Paris and I was glad to see him. I have felt as though I should go crazy ever since he was gone. Sue stayed with me last night.
SAT	MAY 7	Cold and very windy. Worked all day in mill.
SAT	MAY 14	We were shocked this morning to hear of Hiram's death. I went down there and of course found them nearly crazy.

SUN	MAY 15	Rained all day. I have been about sick so have kept quiet.
MON	MAY 16	Cold.
TUES	MAY 17	John gone to Paris.
SAT	MAY 21	Rained nearly all day. At home and have cleaned the chambers partly. Sue up tonight in rain after magazines.
SUN	MAY 22	The ground covered with snow this morning. Hope we may have it warmer now.
		JUNE
SAT	JUN 11	Have been at home today and worked very hard. John went over after Abbie this p.m. He seemed good to see her once more.
SUN	JUN 12	Very warm. We called down to Melissa, Viola and Aunt Lucy's.
MON	JUN 13	Has been very hot. I have suffered the most I ever did in one day in my life. 98 in the mill. Abbie went this a.m.
TUES	JUN 14	The hottest day yet. Has been 98 in the mill. Went down to Sue's after dinner. Found her and Cy poorly. A shower and heavy wind this p.m.

DIARY ENDS

Addresses at the Back of the Book:

Portland Books Rumford	Sue Brooklyn, NY	Nellie M 21 Highgale St. Allston
Harriett 1506 Marlow Ave. Lakewood, OH	John Potter 19 E Holland St.	Cy Newman 80 Wood St.
Abbie Reynolds 19 Fenno St. Roxbury, MA	Lillan 807 Prospect Ave Buffalo, NY	Mrs. Barley 44 Fifth St. Wellington
Harriett Trask 840 Franklin Avenue Cleveland	George	Albert Root 48 Wenham St Jamaica Plains, MA
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