Mary Magdalene Bellport journal

This journal was written by Mary Madgalene (Bower) Bellport, who was born in 1849 in Germany. After her family moved to Ohio, Mary met and married Augustine Bellport in 1877, the same year that she began this journal. Augustine had changed his last name, from Brulport to Bellport, when he moved to Kansas in 1865. Most of the entries in the journal deal with her travels through Kansas and Colorado. She also relates valuable information about frontier life in Kansas, including the near-fatal injury suffered by her brother-in-law, Steve, harsh summer heat, and a prairie fire that threatened to destroy their homestead.

Creator: Bellport, Mary Magdalene Bower, 1849-1935

Date: Between 1877 and 1879

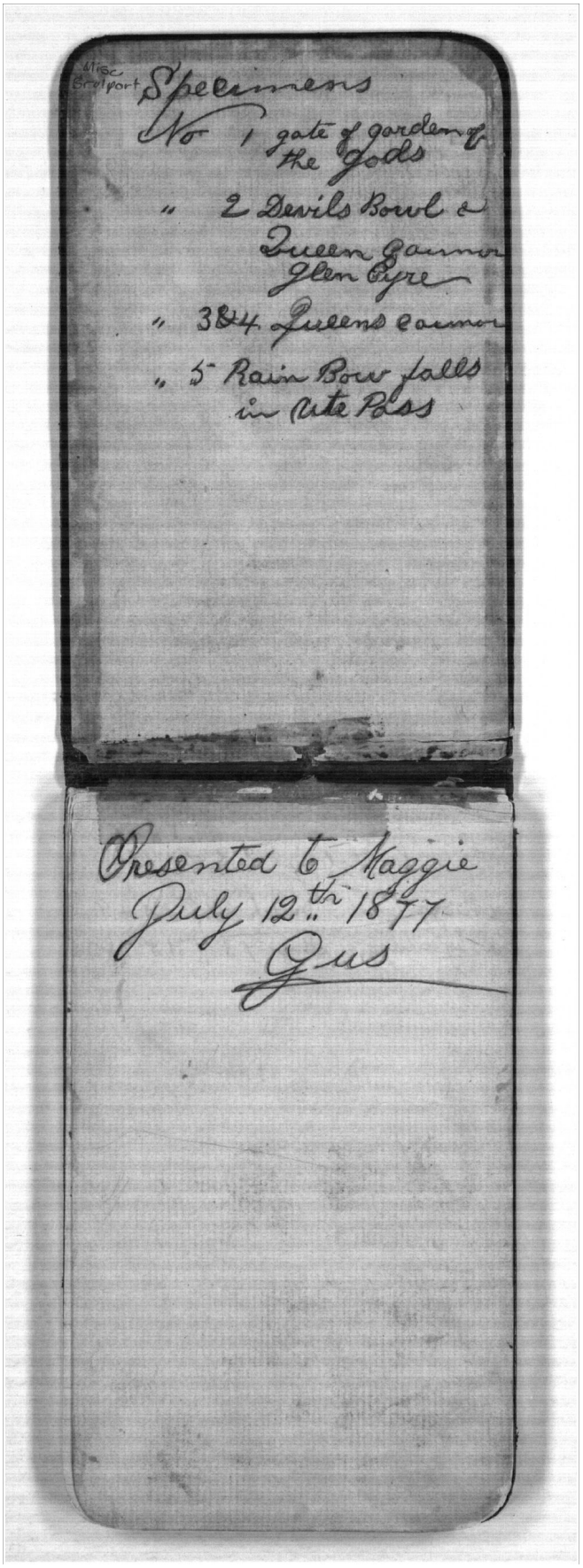
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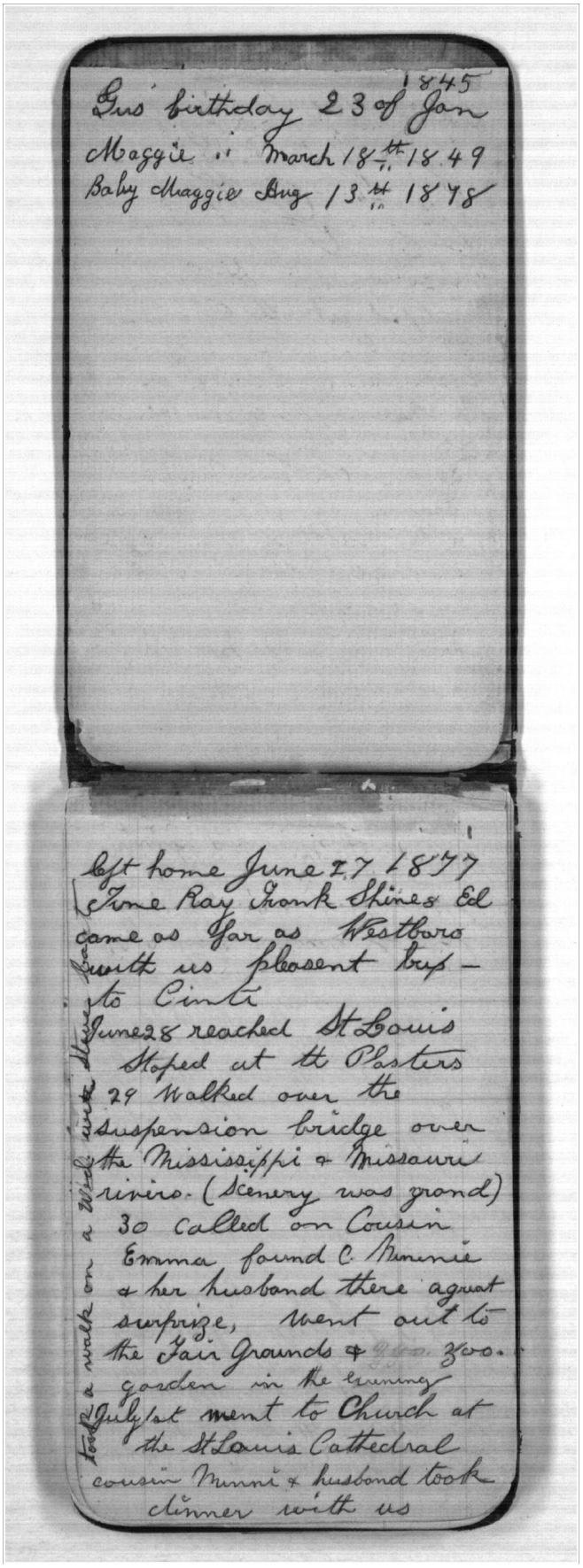
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Mary Magdalene Bellport journal



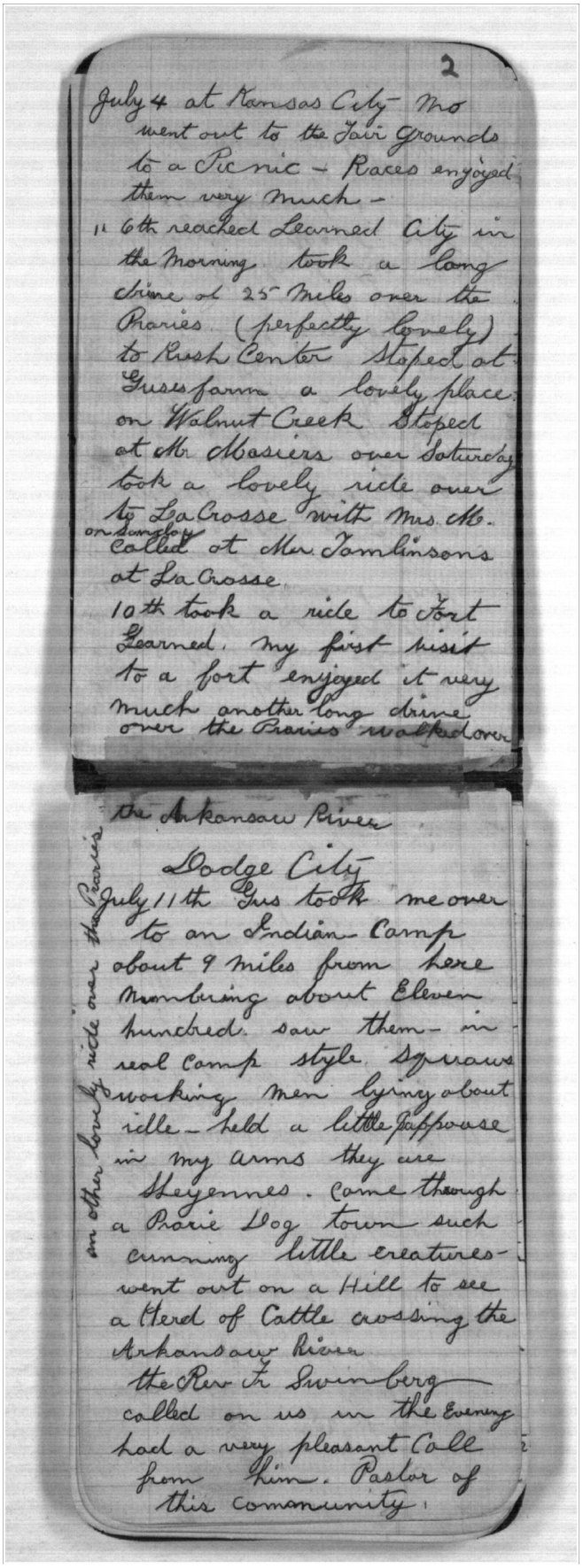
Mary Magdalene Bellport journal



Gus birthday 23 of Jan 1845
Maggie " March 18th " 1849
Baby Maggie Aug 13th " 1878

Left home June 27 1877
Tone Ray Frank Shines Ed
came as far as Westboro
with us pleasent trip -
to Cinti
June 28 reached St Louis
Stoped at the Plasters
29 Walked over the
suspension bridge over
the Mississippi & Missouri
rivers. (Scenery was grand)
30 Called on Cousin
Emma found C Minnie
& her husband there a great
surprize, went out to
the Fair Grounds & Zoo.
garden in the evening
July 1st went to Church at
the St Louis Cathedral
cousin Minnie & husband took
dinner with us

Took a walk on a Wide street



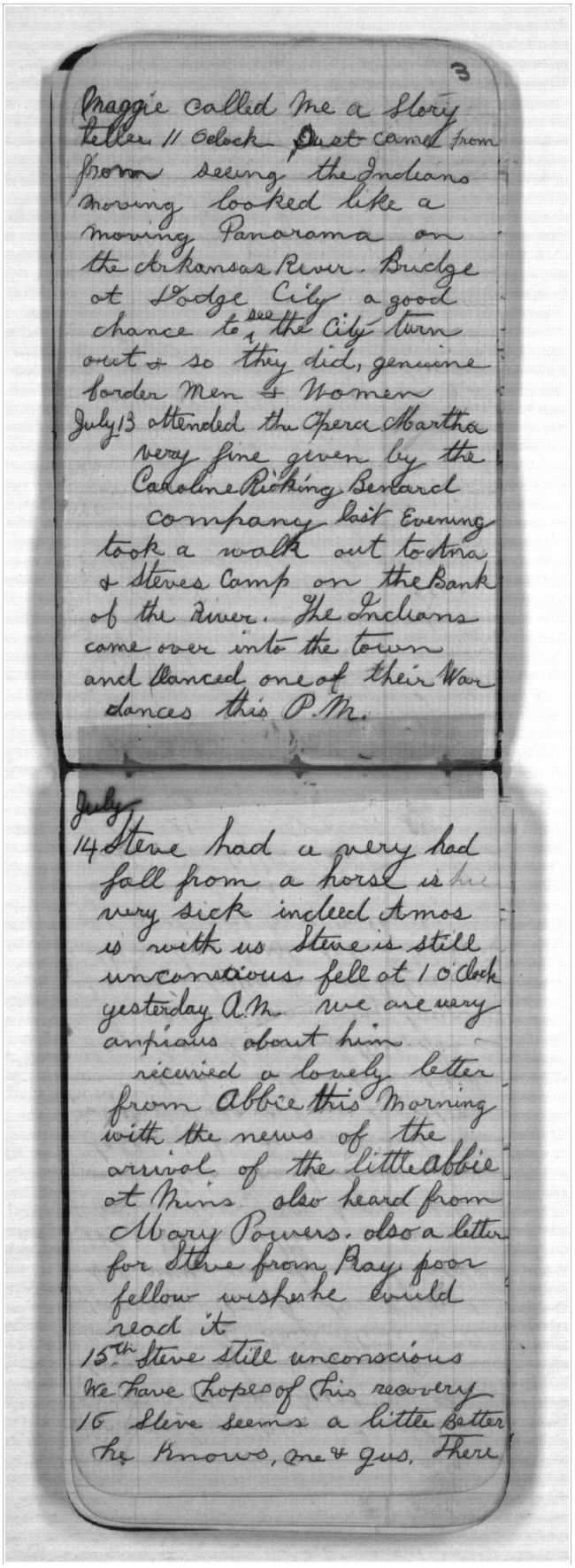
2

July 4 at Kansas City Mo
went out to the Fair Grounds
to a Picnic – Races enjoyed
them very much –
11 6th reached Learned Aty in
the morning took a long
drive of 25 Miles over the
Prairies (perfectly lovely)
to Rush Center Stoped at
Guses farm a lovely place
on Walnut Creek Stoped
at Mr Masiers over Saturday
took a lovely ride over
to LaCrosse with Mrs Mc.
on Sunday called at Mr Tamlinsons
at LaCrosse
10th took a ride to Fort
Learned. my first visit
to a fort enjoyed it very
much another long drive
over the Prairies walked over
the Arkansaw River

Dodge City

July 11th Gus took me over
to an Indian Camp
about 9 miles from here
numbering about Eleven
hundred. saw them – in
real camp style Squaws
working men lying about
idle – held a little Papoose
in my arms they are
Sheyennes. Came through
a Prarie Dog town such
cunning little creatures –
went out on a Hill to see
a Herd of Cattle crossing the
Arkansaw River
the Rev Mr Swinberg
called on us in the Evening
had a very pleasant Call
from him. Pastor of
this Comanunity.

on other lovely ride over the Prairies



3

Maggie called me a Story teller 11 Oclock Dust came from from seeing the Indians moving looked like a moving Panorama on the Arkansas River. Bridge at Dodge City a good chance to see the City turn out & so they did, genuine border Men & Women

July 13 attended the Opera Martha very fine given by the Caroline Riching Bernard company last Evening took a walk out to Ina & Steves Camp on the Bank of the River. The Indians came over into the town and danced one of their War dances this P.M.

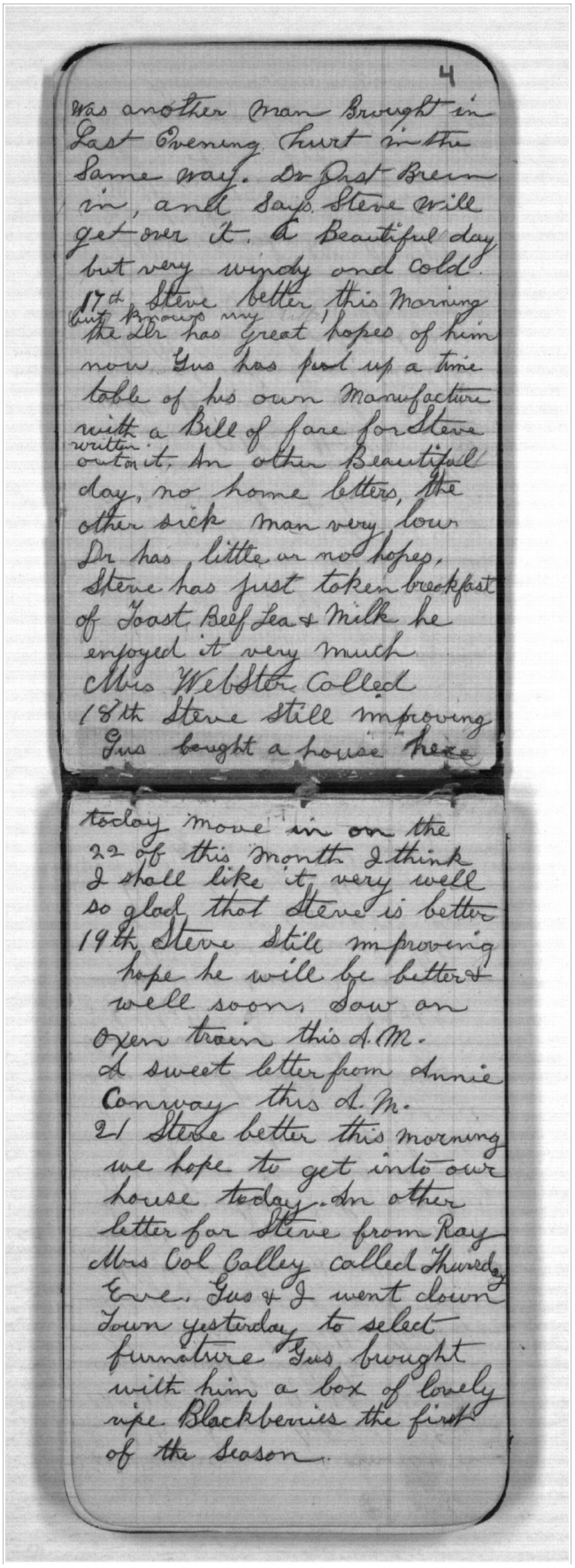
July

14 Steve had a very bad fall from a horse is he very sick indeed Amos is with us Steve is still unconscious fell at 10 Oclock yesterday A.M. we are very anxious about him

received a lovely letter from Abbie this Morning with the news of the arrival of the little abbie at Mins also heard from Mary Powers. also a letter for Steve from Ray poor fellow wishes he could read it

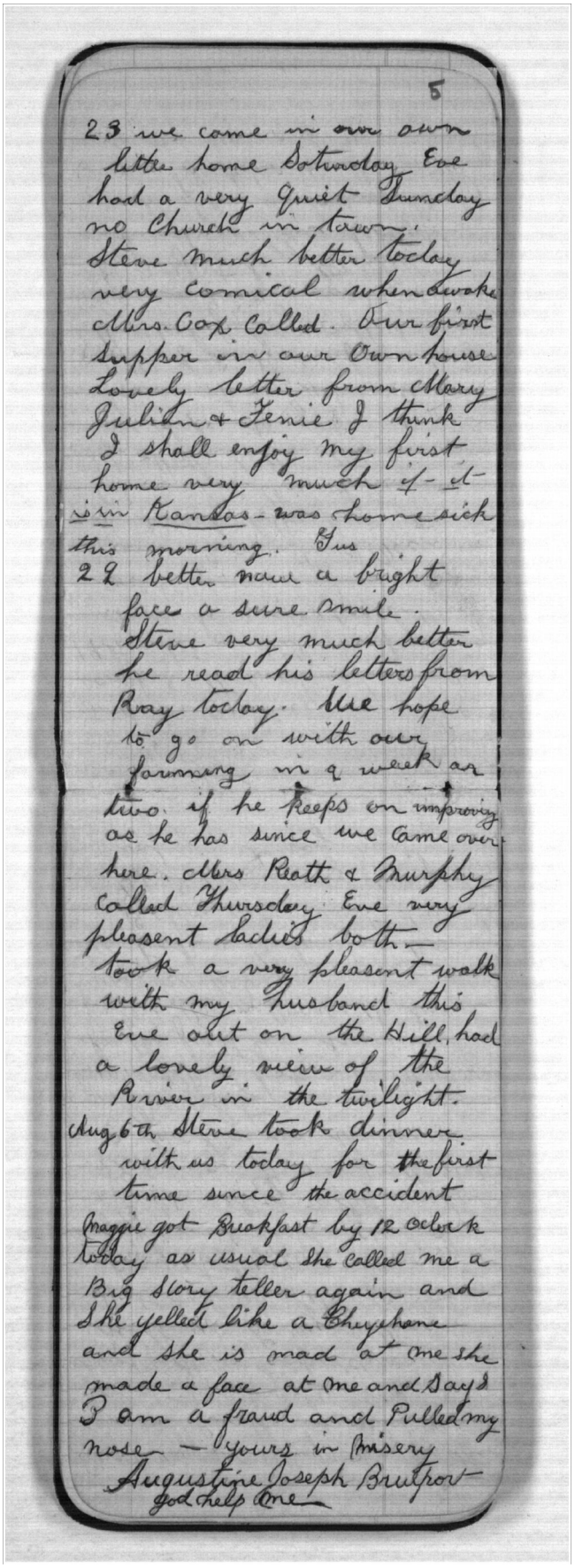
15th Steve still unconscious We have hopes of his recovery

16 Steve seems a little better he knows, me & Gus. There



4

was another man Brought in
Last Evening Shot in the
Same way. Dr Post Brem
in, and Says Steve will
get over it. A Beautiful day
but very windy and cold.
17th Steve better this Morning
but Groans very
the Dr has Great hopes of him
now Gus has fixed up a time
table of his own Manufacture
with a Bill of fare for Steve
written out on it. An other Beautiful
day, no home letters, the
other sick man very low
Dr has little or no hopes,
Steve has just taken breakfast
of Toast Beef Tea & Milk he
enjoyed it very much
Mrs Webster Called
18th Steve Still improving
Gus bought a house here
today move in on the
22 of this month I think
I shall like it very well
so glad that Steve is better
19th Steve Still improving
hope he will be better &
well soons Saw an
Oxen train this A. M.
A sweet letter from Annie
Conway this A. M.
21 Steve better this morning
we hope to get into our
house today. An other
letter for Steve from Ray
Mrs Col Calley called Thursday
Eve. Gus & I went down
Town yesterday to select
furniture Gus brought
with him a box of lovely
ripe Blackberries the first
of the season.

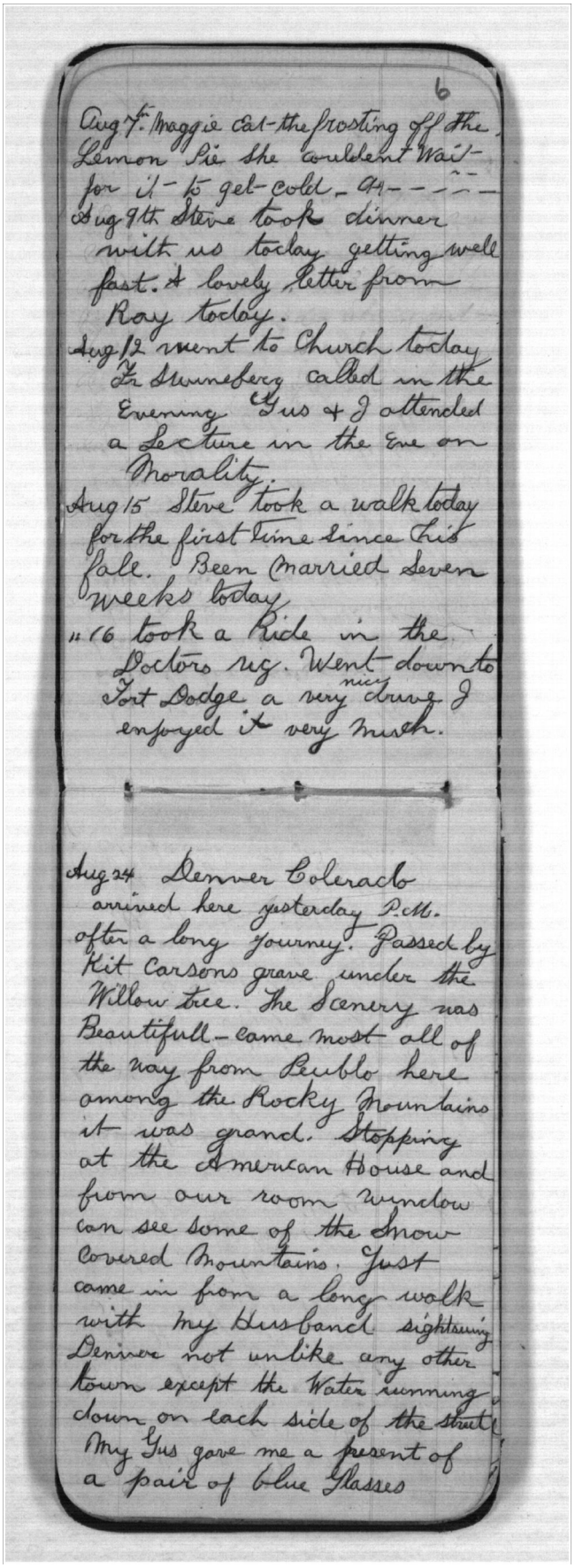


5

23 we came in our own little home Saturday Eve had a very Quiet Sunday no Church in town. Steve much better today very comical when awake Mrs. Cox called. Our first Supper in our Own house Lovely letter from Mary Julia + Jenie I think I shall enjoy my first home very much of it is in Kansas - was homesick this morning. Yes

22 better mail a bright face a sure smile. Steve very much better he read his letters from Ray today. We hope to go on with our farming in a week or two if he keeps on improving as he has since we came over here. Mrs Reath & Murphy called Thursday Eve very pleasent ladies both — took a very pleasent walk with my husband this Eve out on the Hill had a lovely view of the River in the twilight.

Aug 6th Steve took dinner with us today for the first time since the accident Maggie got Breakfast by 12 oclock today as usual She called me a Big Story teller again and She yelled like a Cheyenne and she is mad at me she made a face at me and Says I am a fraud and Pulled my nose — yours in misery Augustine Joseph Bruffey God help me



6

Aug 7th Maggie eat the frosting off the Lemon Pie She couldent wait for it to get cold. 4 - - - - -

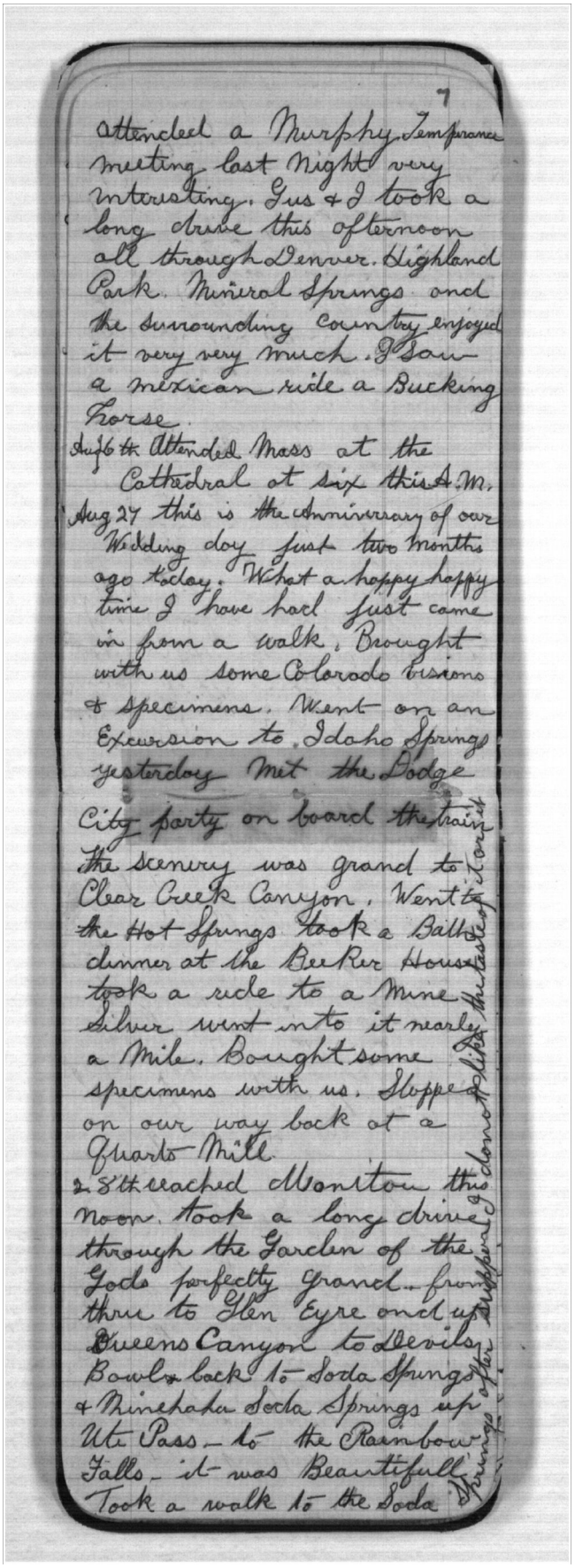
Aug 9th Steve took dinner with us today getting well fast. A lovely Letter from Ray today.

Aug 12 went to Church today Dr Stunneberg called in the Evening Gus & I attended a Lecture in the Eve on Morality.

Aug 15 Steve took a walk today for the first time since his fall. Been married seven weeks today

" 16 took a Ride in the Doctors rig. Went down to Fort Dodge a very nice drive I enjoyed it very much.

Aug 24 Denver Colerado arrived here yesterday P.M. after a long journey. Passed by Kit Carsons grave under the Willow tree. The Scenery was Beautifull - came most all of the way from Pueblo here among the Rocky Mountains it was grand. Stopping at the American House and from our room window can see some of the Snow Covered Mountains. Just came in from a long walk with my Husband sightseeing Denver not unlike any other town except the Water running down on each side of the street My Gus gave me a present of a pair of blue Glasses



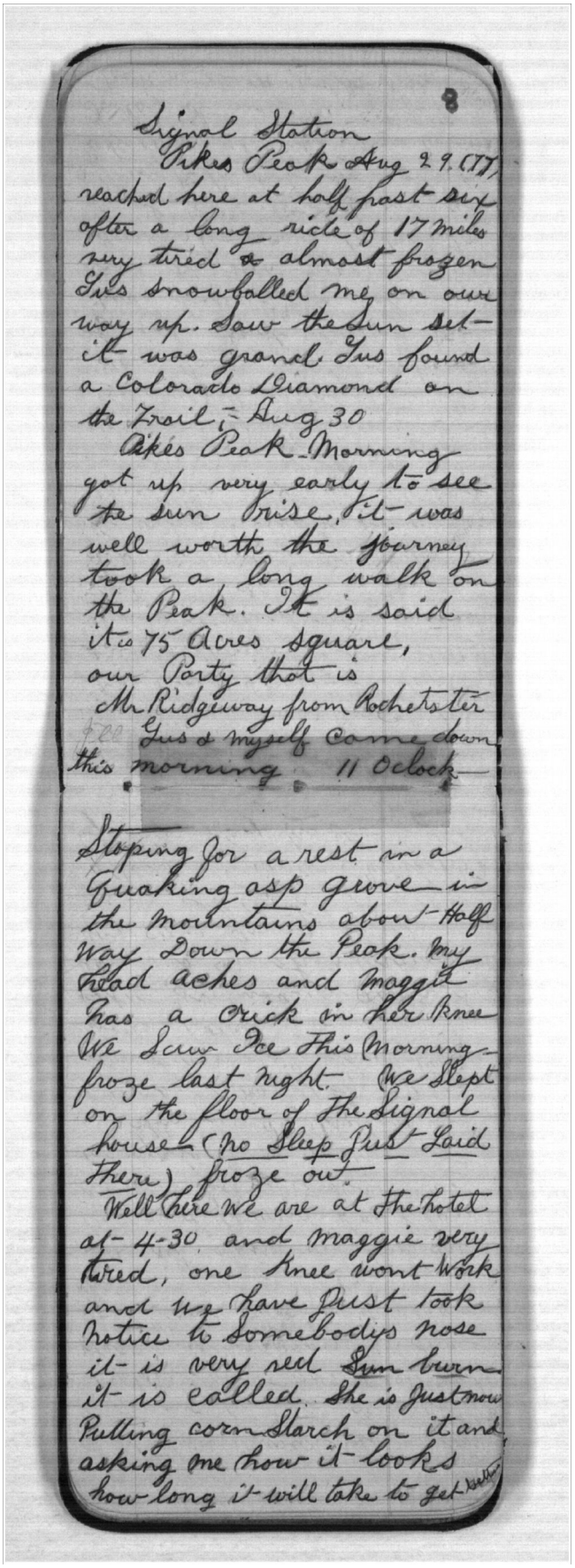
7

Attended a Murphy Temperance meeting last Night very interesting. Gus & I took a long drive this afternoon all through Denver. Highland Park. Mineral Springs and the surrounding country enjoyed it very very much. I saw a mexican ride a Bucking Horse.

Aug 26th Attended Mass at the Cathedral at six this A.M.

Aug 27 this is the Anniversary of our Wedding day just two months ago today. What a happy happy time I have had just came in from a walk. Brought with us some Colorado Visions & Specimens. Went on an Excursion to Idaho Springs yesterday Met the Dodge City party on board the train the scenery was grand to Clear Creek Canyon. Went to the Hot Springs took a Bath dinner at the Beer Rer House took a ride to a Mine Silver went into it nearly a Mile. Bought some specimens with us. Stopped on our way back at a Quarts Mill.

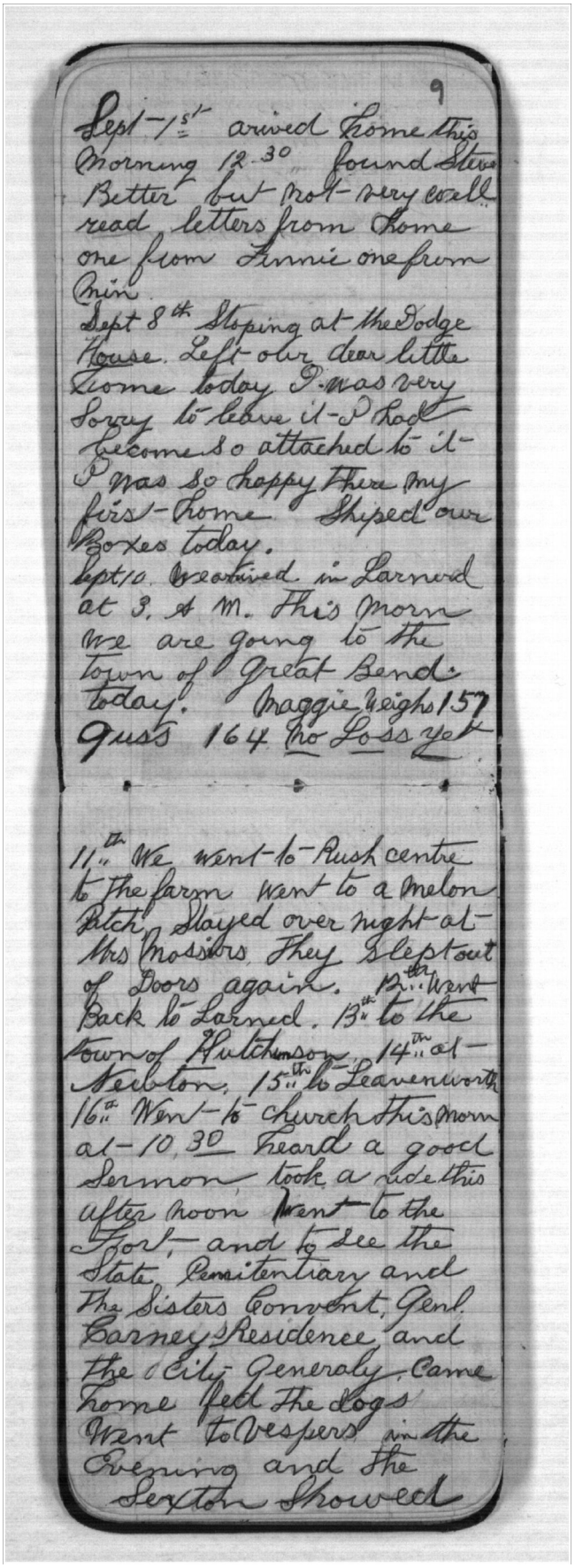
28th reached Manitou this noon. took a long drive through the Garden of the Gods perfectly Grand. from there to Glen Eyre and up Queens Canyon to Devils Bowl back to Soda Springs & Minehaha Soda Springs up Ute Pass - to the Rainbow Falls - it was Beautifull Took a walk to the Soda Springs after supper & closed the last of Aug



8

Signal Station
Pikes Peak Aug 29. (77)
reached here at half past six
after a long ride of 17 miles
very tired & almost frozen
Gus snowballed me on our
way up. Saw the Sun set-
it was grand. Gus found
a Colorado Diamond on
the Trail. Aug 30
Pikes Peak Morning
got up very early to see
the sun rise, it was
well worth the journey
took a long walk on
the Peak. It is said
it is 75 Acres square,
our Party that is
Mr Ridgeway from Rochester
Gus & myself came down
this morning 11 Oclock

Stoping for a rest in a
Quaking asp grove in
the mountains about Half
way Down the Peak. My
Head aches and Maggie
has a Crick in her Knee
We Saw Ice This Morning
froze last night. We Slept
on the floor of the Signal
house (no Sleep Just Laid
there) froze out.
Well here we are at the hotel
at 4-30 and Maggie very
tired, one knee wont work
and we have just took
notice to Somebodys nose
it is very red Sun burn
it is called. She is Just now
Putting corn Starch on it and
asking me how it looks
how long it will take to get well



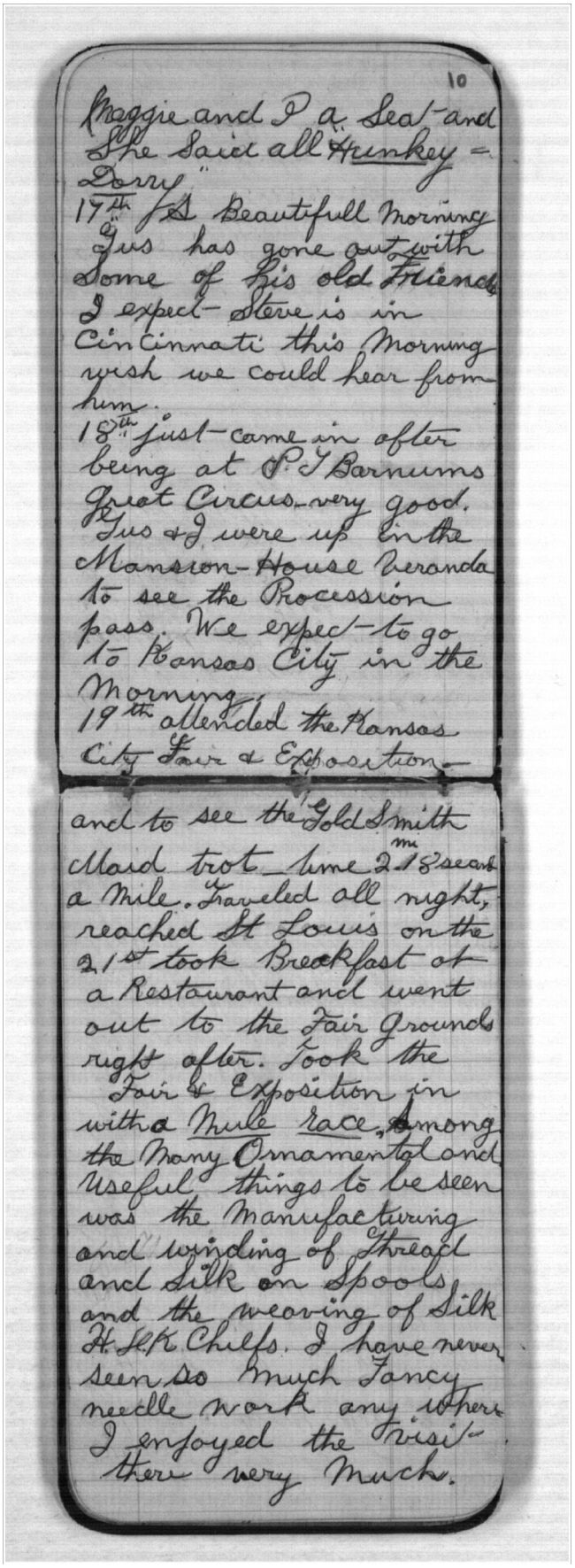
9

Sept - 1st arrived home this morning 12.30 found Steve Better but not very well read letters from home one from Annie one from Orin

Sept 8th Stoping at the Dodge House. Left our dear little home today I was very sorry to leave it - I had become so attached to it - I was so happy there my first - home Shiped our Boxes today.

Sept 10 Arrived in Larned at 3. P. M. This morn we are going to the town of Great Bend today. Maggie weighs 157 Gus 164 No Loss yet

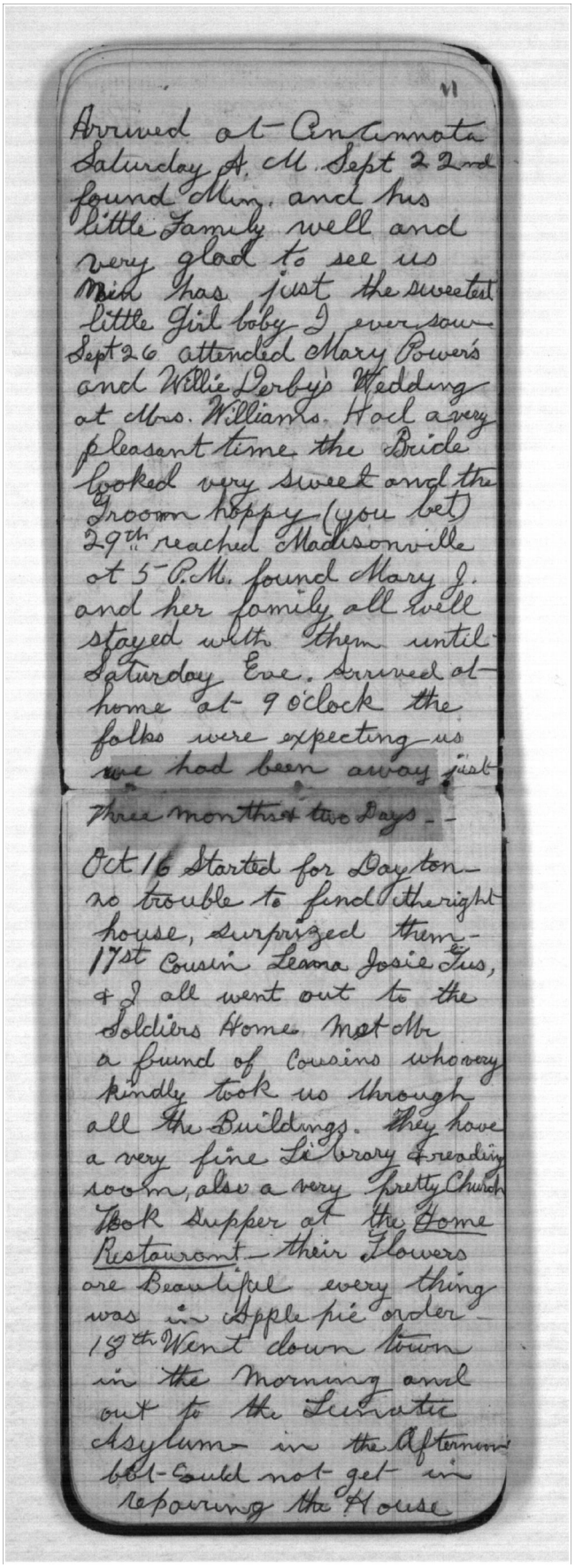
11th We went to Rush centre to the farm went to a Melon Patch Stayed over night at Mrs Mossiers They Slept out of Doors again. 12th Went Back to Larned. 13th to the town of Hutchenson 14th at - Sterton 15th to Leavenworth 16th Went to church this morn at - 10.30 heard a good Sermon took a ride this after noon went to the Fort and to see the State Penitentiary and the Sisters Convent, Genl Barneys Residence and the City Generaly Came home fed the dogs Went to Vespers in the Evening and the Sexton Showed



10

Maggie and P a. Sea- and
She Said all Hunkey =
Dorry
17th A Beautifull Morning
Gus has gone out with
Some of his old Friends
I expect- Steve is in
Cincinnati this Morning
wish we could hear from
him.
18th just- came in after
being at P. T Barnums
Great Circus- very good.
Gus & I were up in the
Mansion-House Veranda
to see the Procession
pass. We expect- to go
to Kansas City in the
Morning
19th attended the Kansas
City Fair & Exposition-

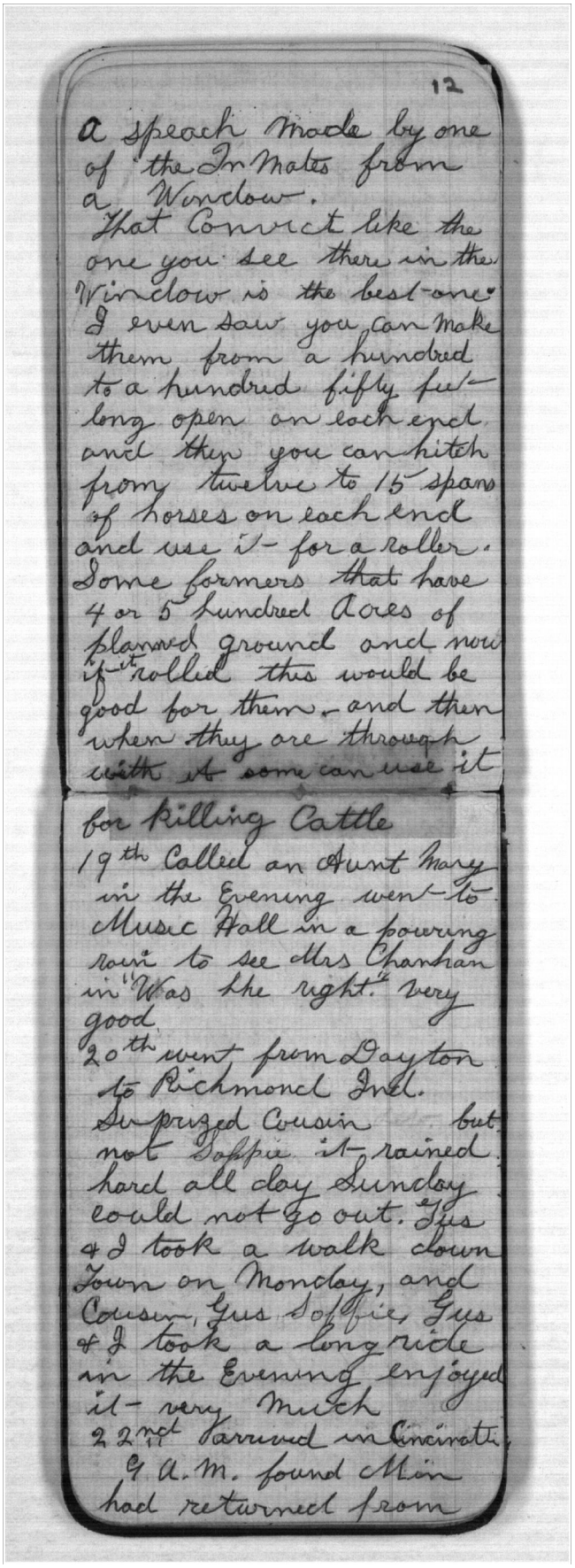
and to see the Gold Smith
Maid trot time 2.18 seconds
a Mile. Traveled all night,
reached St Louis on the
21st took Breakfast at
a Restaurant and went
out to the Fair Grounds
right after. Took the
Fair & Exposition in
with a Mule race, among
the Many Ornamental and
Useful things to be seen
was the Manufacturing
and winding of Thread
and Silk on Spools
and the weaving of Silk
H. Sfk Chiefs. I have never
seen So much Fancy
needle work any where
I enjoyed the visit-
there very much.



11

Arrived at Centennata Saturday A. M. Sept 22nd found Mun. and his little Family well and very glad to see us Mich has just the sweetest little Girl baby I ever saw Sept 26 attended Mary Powers and Willie Derby's Wedding at Mrs. Williams. Had a very pleasant time the Bride looked very sweet and the Groom happy (you bet) 29th " reached Madisonville at 5 P.M. found Mary J. and her family all well stayed with them until Saturday Eve. Arrived at home at 9 o'clock the folks were expecting us we had been away just three months & two Days - -

Oct 16 Started for Dayton no trouble to find the right house, surprized them - 17st Cousin Leona Josie Gus, & I all went out to the Soldiers Home. Met Mr a found of Cousins who very kindly took us through all the Buildings. They have a very fine Library & reading room, also a very pretty Church Took Supper at the Home Restaurant - their Flowers are Beautiful every thing was in Apple pie order - 19th Went down town in the morning and out to the Lunatic Asylum in the Afternoon bot - could not get in repairing the House



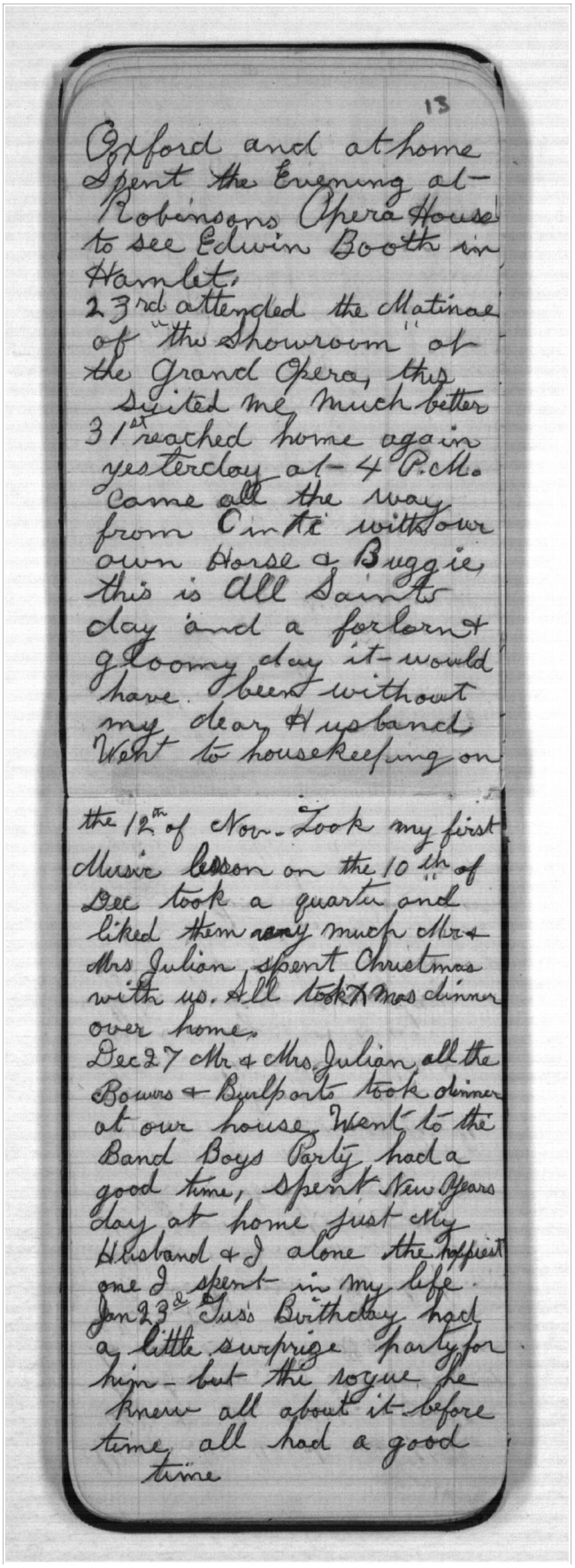
12

a speach made by one of the In Mates from a Window.
That Convict like the one you see there in the Window is the best one I even saw you can make them from a hundred to a hundred fifty fur- long open on each end and then you can hitch from twelve to 15 spans of horses on each end and use it- for a roller. Some farmers that have 4 or 5 hundred Acres of plawed ground and now if rolled this would be good for them- and then when they are through with it some can use it for killing Cattle

19th Called on Aunt Mary in the Evening went to Music Hall in a powring rain to see Mrs Chanhan in "Was the right" very good

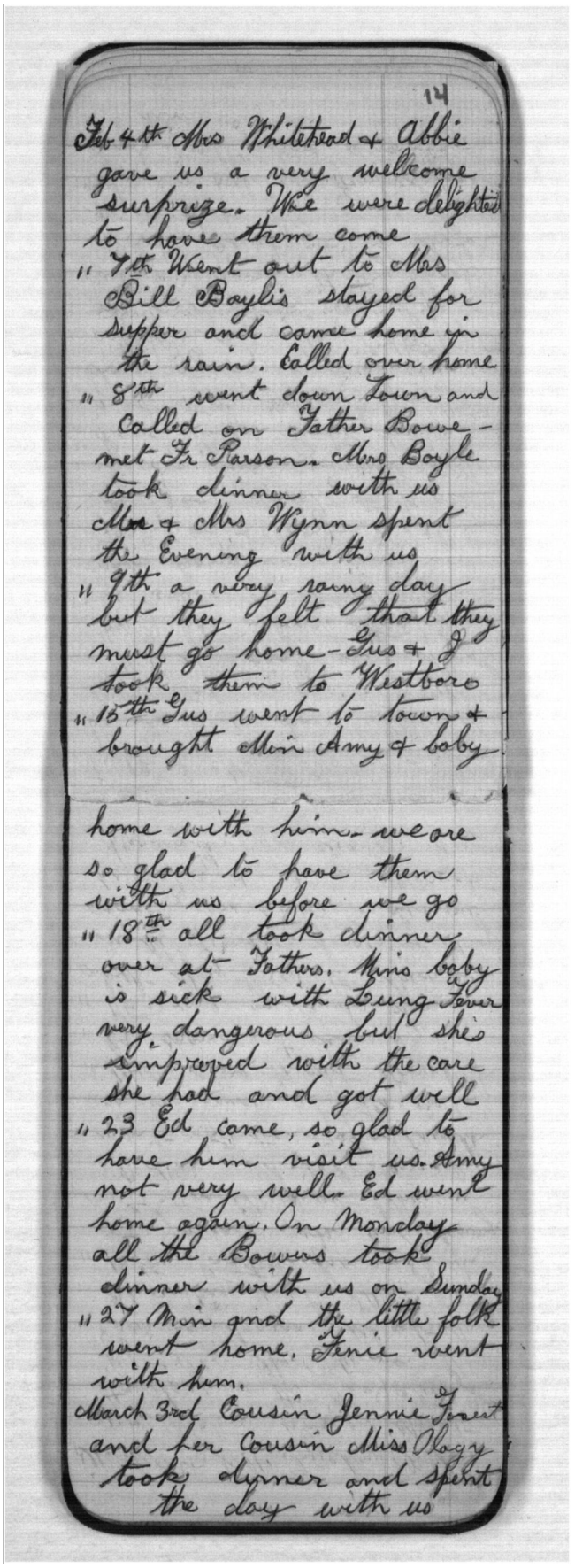
20th went from Dayton to Richmond Ind. Surprized Cousin but not Soffie it rained hard all day Sunday could not go out. Gus & I took a walk down Town on Monday, and Cousin, Gus Soffie, Gus & I took a long ride in the Evening enjoyed it- very much

22nd Arrived in Cincinnati 9 A.M. found Min had returned from



13

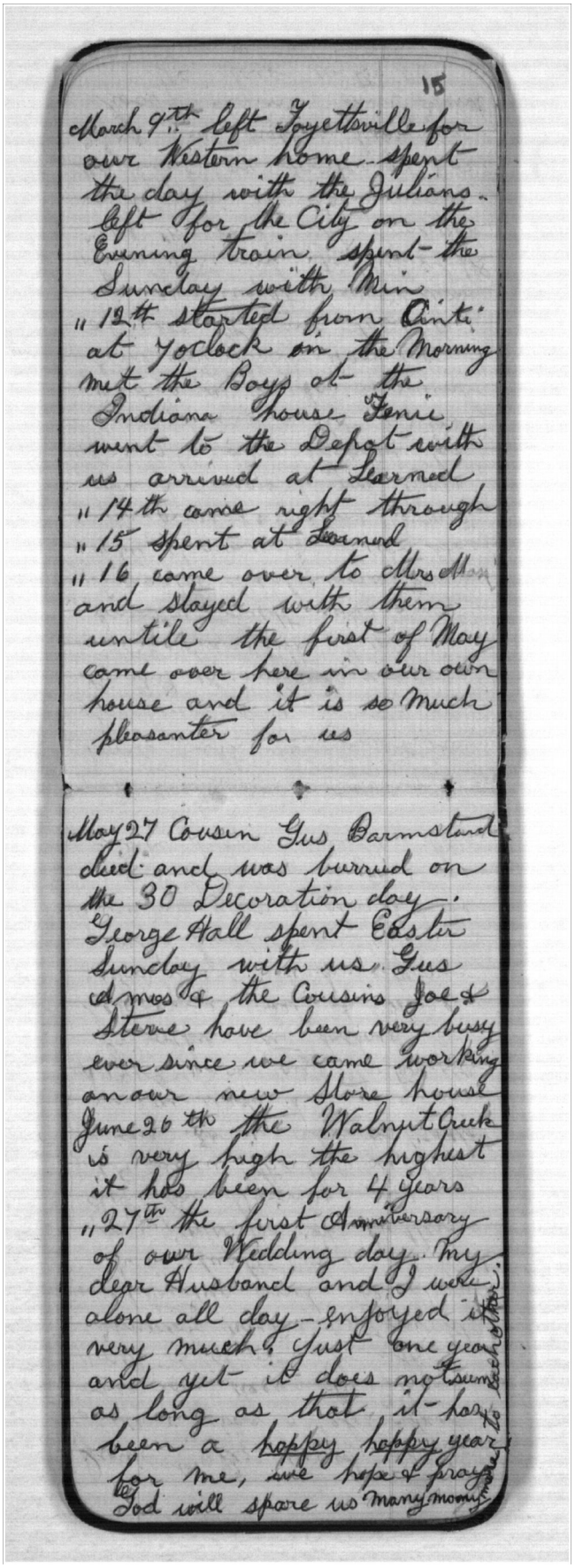
Oxford and at home
Spent the Evening at
Robinsons Opera House
to see Edwin Booth in
Hamlet.
23rd attended the Matinae
of "the Showroom" at
the Grand Opera, this
Suited me much better
31st reached home again
yesterday at 4 P.M.
Came all the way
from Cin'ti with our
own Horse & Buggie,
this is All Saints
day and a forlorn &
gloomy day it would
have been without
my dear Husband
Went to housekeeping on
the 12th of Nov. Took my first
Music lesson on the 10th of
Dec took a quarter and
liked them very much Mr &
Mrs Julian spent Christmas
with us. All took Xmas dinner
over home.
Dec 27 Mr & Mrs Julian all the
Bowers & Bellports took dinner
at our house. Went to the
Band Boys Party had a
good time, Spent New Years
day at home just My
Husband & I alone the happiest
one I spent in my life.
Jan 23d Gus's Birthday had
a little surprise Party for
him - but the rogue he
knew all about it before
time all had a good
time



14

Feb 4th Mrs Whitehead & Abbie gave us a very welcome surprize. We were delighted to have them come
" 7th Went out to Mrs Bill Boyle's stayed for supper and came home in the rain. Called over home
" 8th went down Town and called on Father Bowe - met Fr Parson. Mrs Boyle took dinner with us Mr & Mrs Wynn spent the Evening with us
" 9th a very rainy day but they felt that they must go home - Gus & I took them to Westboro
" 15th Gus went to town & brought Min Amy & baby

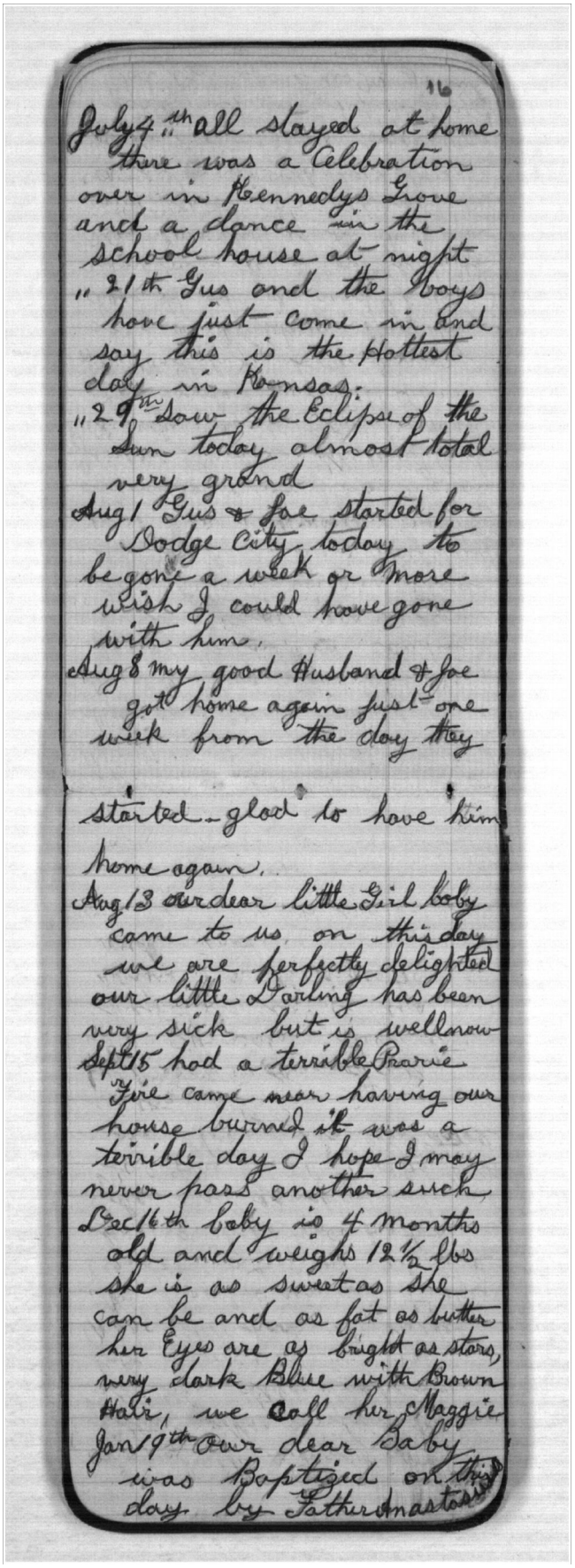
home with him. we are so glad to have them with us before we go
" 18th all took dinner over at Fathers. Mins baby is sick with Lung Fever very dangerous but she improved with the care she had and got well
" 23 Ed came, so glad to have him visit us. Amy not very well. Ed went home again. On Monday all the Bowers took dinner with us on Sunday
" 27 Min and the little folk went home. Jennie went with him.
March 3rd Cousin Jennie Jones and her Cousin Miss Clogg took dynner and spent the day with us



15

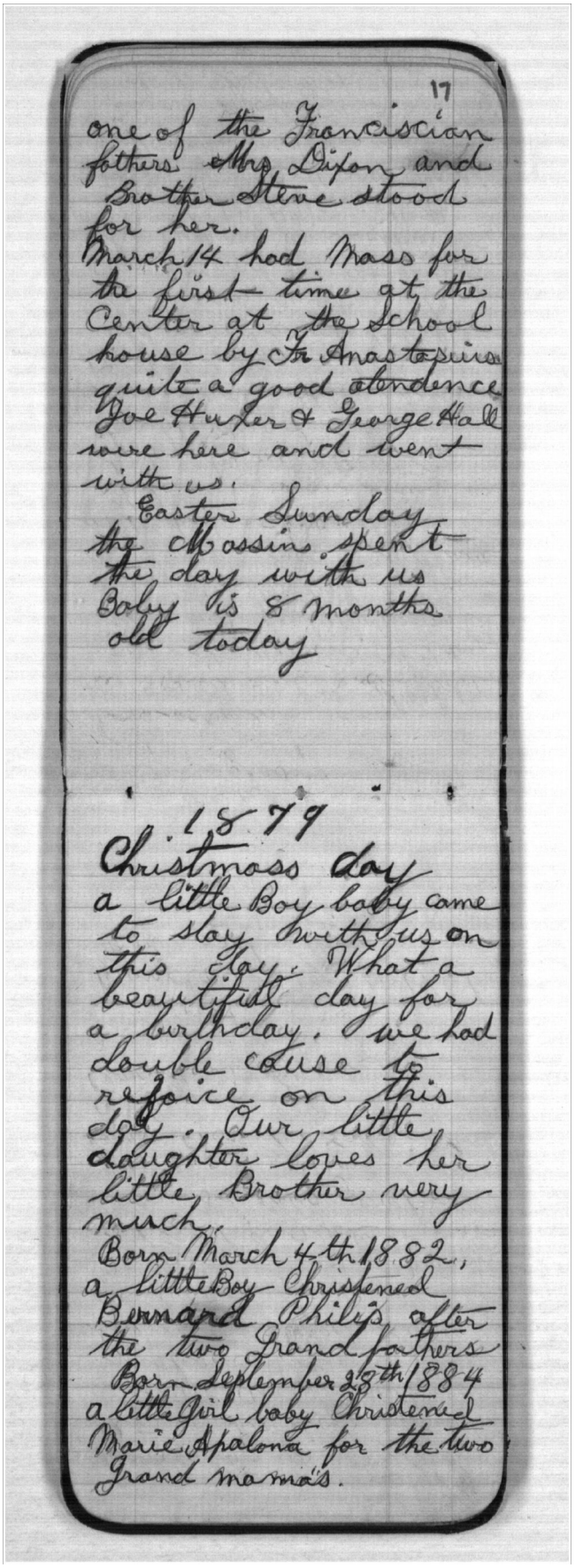
March 9th left Fayetteville for our Western home spent the day with the Julians. left for the City on the Evening train spent the Sunday with Min
" 12th started from Cinti at 7 o'clock in the Morning met the Boys at the Indiana House Jenie went to the Depot with us arrived at Leanard
" 14th came right through
" 15 spent at Leanard
" 16 came over to Mrs H and stayed with them untile the first of May came over here in our own house and it is so much pleasanter for us

May 27 Cousin Gus Barnstard died and was burried on the 30 Decoration day. George Hall spent Easter Sunday with us. Gus & Mrs & the Cousins Joe & Steve have been very busy ever since we came working on our new Store house June 26th the Walnut Creek is very high the highest it has been for 4 years
" 27th the first Anniversary of our Wedding day. My dear Husband and I were alone all day - enjoyed it very much. Just one year and yet it does not seem as long as that it has been a happy happy year for me, we hope & pray God will spare us many many



16

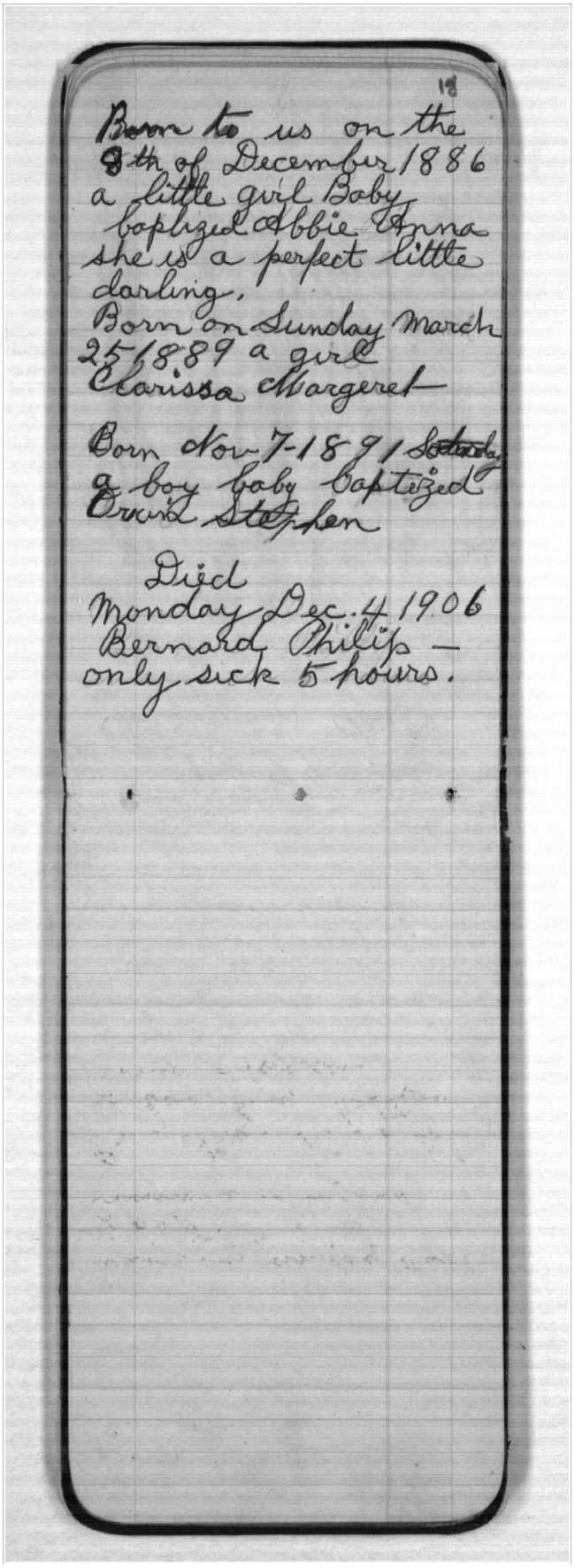
July 4th all stayed at home there was a Celebration over in Kennedys Grove and a dance in the school house at night
" 21st Gus and the boys have just come in and say this is the Hottest day in Kansas.
" 29th Saw the Eclipse of the Sun today almost total very grand
Aug 1 Gus & Joe started for Dodge City today to be gone a week or more wish I could have gone with him.
Aug 8 my good Husband & Joe got home again just one week from the day they started - glad to have him home again.
Aug 13 our dear little Girl baby came to us on this day we are perfectly delighted our little Darling has been very sick but is well now
Sept 15 had a terrible Prarie Fire came near having our house burned it was a terrible day I hope I may never pass another such
Dec 16th baby is 4 months old and weighs 12½ lbs she is as sweet as she can be and as fat as butter her Eyes are as bright as stars, very dark Blue with Brown Hair, we call her Maggie
Jan 19th our dear Baby was Baptized on this day by Father Anastasius



one of the Franciscian fathers Mr. Dixon and Brother Steve stood for her.
March 14 had Mass for the first time at the Center at the School house by Fr Anastasius quite a good attendence Joe Husler & George Hall were here and went with us.
Easter Sunday the Mossins spent the day with us Baby is 8 months old today

1879

Christmass day a little Boy baby came to stay with us on this day. What a beautiful day for a birthday. We had double cause to rejoice on this day. Our little daughter loves her little Brother very much.
Born March 4th 1882, a little Boy Christened Bernard Philip, after the two Grand fathers
Born September 28th 1884 a little Girl baby Christened Marie Apalona for the two Grand mama's.



18

Born to us on the
8th of December 1886
a little girl Baby
baptized Abbie Anna
she is a perfect little
darling.
Born on Sunday March
25 1889 a girl
Clarissa Margeret

Born Nov 7-1891 ~~Saturday~~
a boy baby baptized
Ervin Stephen

Died
Monday Dec. 4 1906
Bernard Philips —
only sick 5 hours.