Kansas Memory

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Samuel Reader's diary, volume 6

Section 23, Pages 661 - 676

This volume of Samuel Reader's diary covers April 1864-July 1869. Reader also referred to this work as his private journal and day book. Reader lived in Indianola, Kansas, in Shawnee County. In addition to English, Reader writes the diary in French and in shorthand.

Creator: Reader, Samuel James, 1836-1914

Date: April 30, 1864-July 21, 1869

Callnumber: Samuel Reader Coll. #483 Oversize, Volume 6

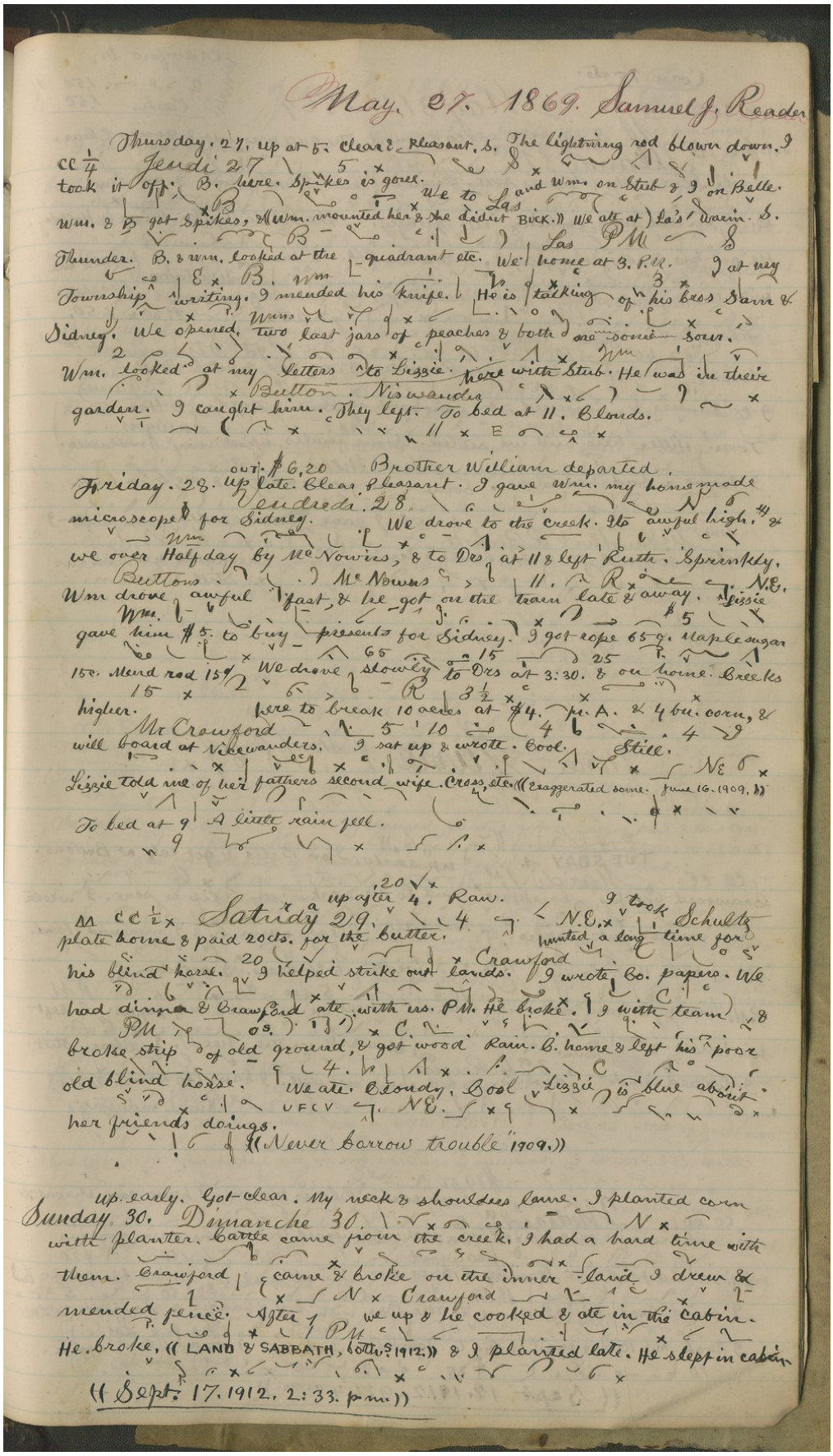
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KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Samuel Reader's diary, volume 6



May. 27. 1869. Samuel J. Reader

Thursday. 27. up at 5. Clear & pleasant. S. The lightning rod blown down. I took it off. B. here. Spikes is gone. We to Las and Wm. on Stub & I on Belle. Wm. & B got Spikes, & (Wm. mounted her & she didn't buck.) We all at La's. Warm. S. Thunder. B. & Wm. looked at the quadrant etc. We home at 3. P.M. I at my Township writing. I mended his knife. He is talking of his boss Dann & Sidney. We opened two last jars of peaches & both one sour. Wm. looked at my letters to Lizzie. here with Stub. He was in their garden. I caught him. They left. To bed at 11. Clouds.

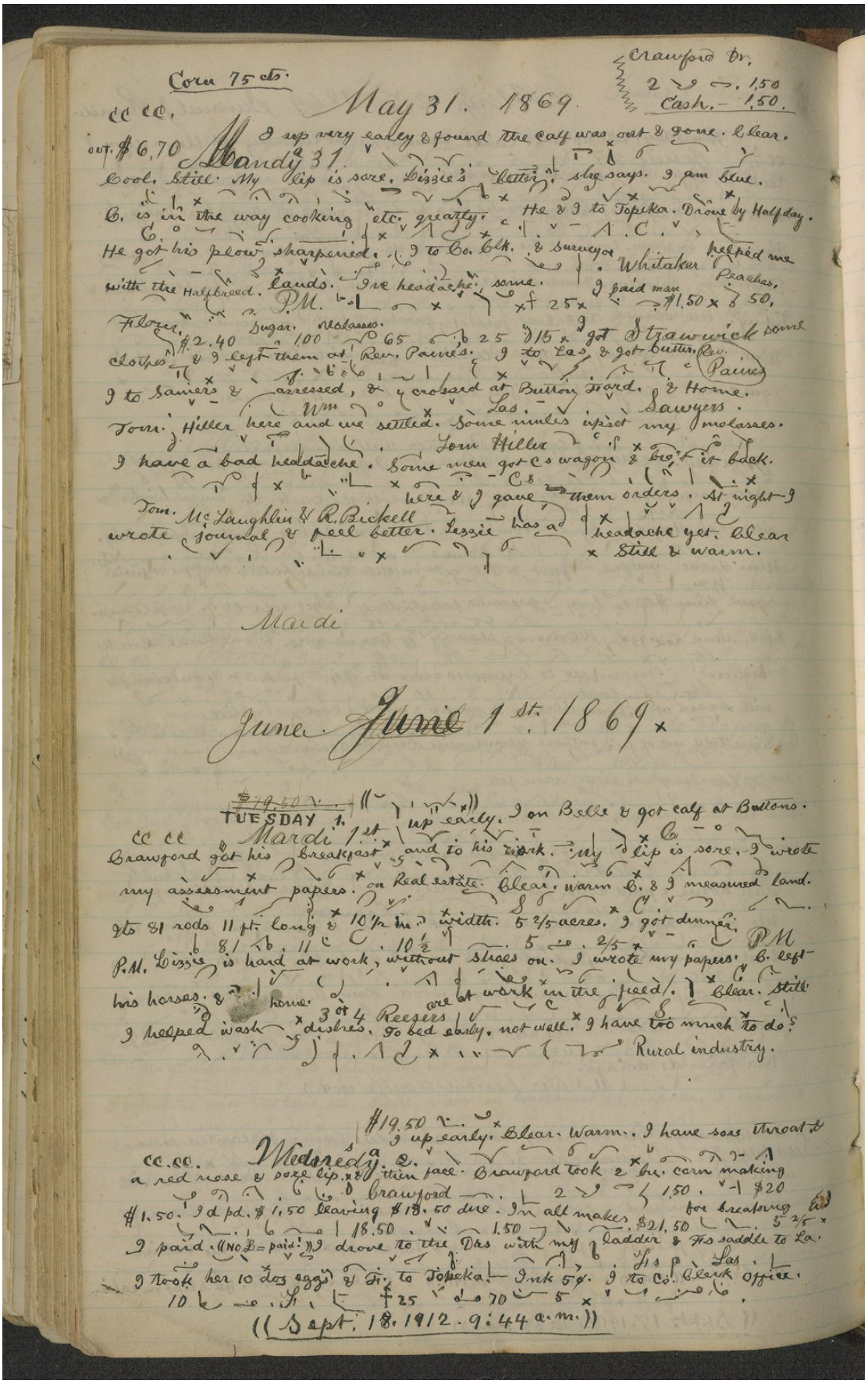
Friday. 28. out. $6.20 Brother William departed. up late. Clear & pleasant. I gave Wm. my home made microscope for Sidney. We drove to the creek. Its awful high. Wm & we over Half day by McNowins, & to Drs at 11 & left Rutte. Sprinkly. Buttons. McNowins 11. R N.E. Wm drove awful fast & he got on the train late & away. Lizzie Wm. gave him $5. to buy presents for Sidney. I got rope 65 c. Maple sugar 15c. Mend rod 15c. We drove slowly to Drs at 3:30. & on home. Breaks higher. here to break 10 acres at $4. pr. A. & 4 bu. corn, & Mr Crawford will board at Nibewanders. I sat up & wrote. Cool. Still. Lizzie told me of her fathers second wife. Cross etc. ((exaggerated some. June 16. 1909.)) To bed at 9. A little rain fell.

Satrdy 29. up after 4. Raw. took Schultz plate home & paid 20cts. for the butter. N.E. wanted a long time for his blind horse. I helped strike out lands. Crawford I wrote Bo. papers. We had dinner & Crawford ate with us. P.M. He broke. I with team broke strip of old ground, & got wood. Rain. B. home & left his poor old blind horse. We ate. Cloudy. Cool. Lizzie is blue about her friends doings. ((Never borrow trouble" 1909.))

Sunday. 30. Dimanche 30. up early. Got clear. My neck & shoulders lame. I planted corn with planter. Carrs came from the creek. I had a hard time with them. Crawford came & broke on the inner lands. I drew & mended fence. After P.M. we up & he cooked & ate in the cabin. He broke. ((LAND & SABBATH, 30th. 1912.)) & I planted late. He slept in cabin

((Sept. 17. 1912. 2:33. p.m.))

Samuel Reader's diary, volume 6



Corn 75 cts.

Crawford Dr.
2 ½ bu. .1,50
Cash. 1,50.

CC CC.

May 31. 1869.

out. $6,70

Monday 31. I up very early & found the calf was out & gone. Clear. Cool. Still. My lip is sore. Lizzie's "kettle" sleeve says. I am blue. C. is in the way cooking etc. greatly. He & I to Topeka. Drove by Halfday. He got his plow sharpened. I to Co. Clk. & Surveyor Whitaker helped me with the Halfbreed. Lands. I've headache, some. I paid man P.M. Preacher, $1.50 x 8 50, 25 x Flour, $2.40 Sugar. Molasses. 1,00 65 25 15 x I got Strawwick some clothes & I left them at Rev. Paines. I to Las & got butter. Rev. Paines I to Sawyers & crossed at Burton ford. & Home. Las. Sawyers. Tom. Hiller here and we settled. Some mules upset my molasses. Tom Hiller I have a bad headdache. Some men got Cs wagon & brot it back. Cs here & I gave them orders. At night I Tom. McLaughlin & R. Bickell wrote journal & feel better. Lizzie has a headache yet. Clear x Still & warm.

Mardi

June ~~June~~ 1st. 1869 x

~~$19,50~~

TUESDAY 1. I up early. I on Belle & got calf at Burtons. Cs

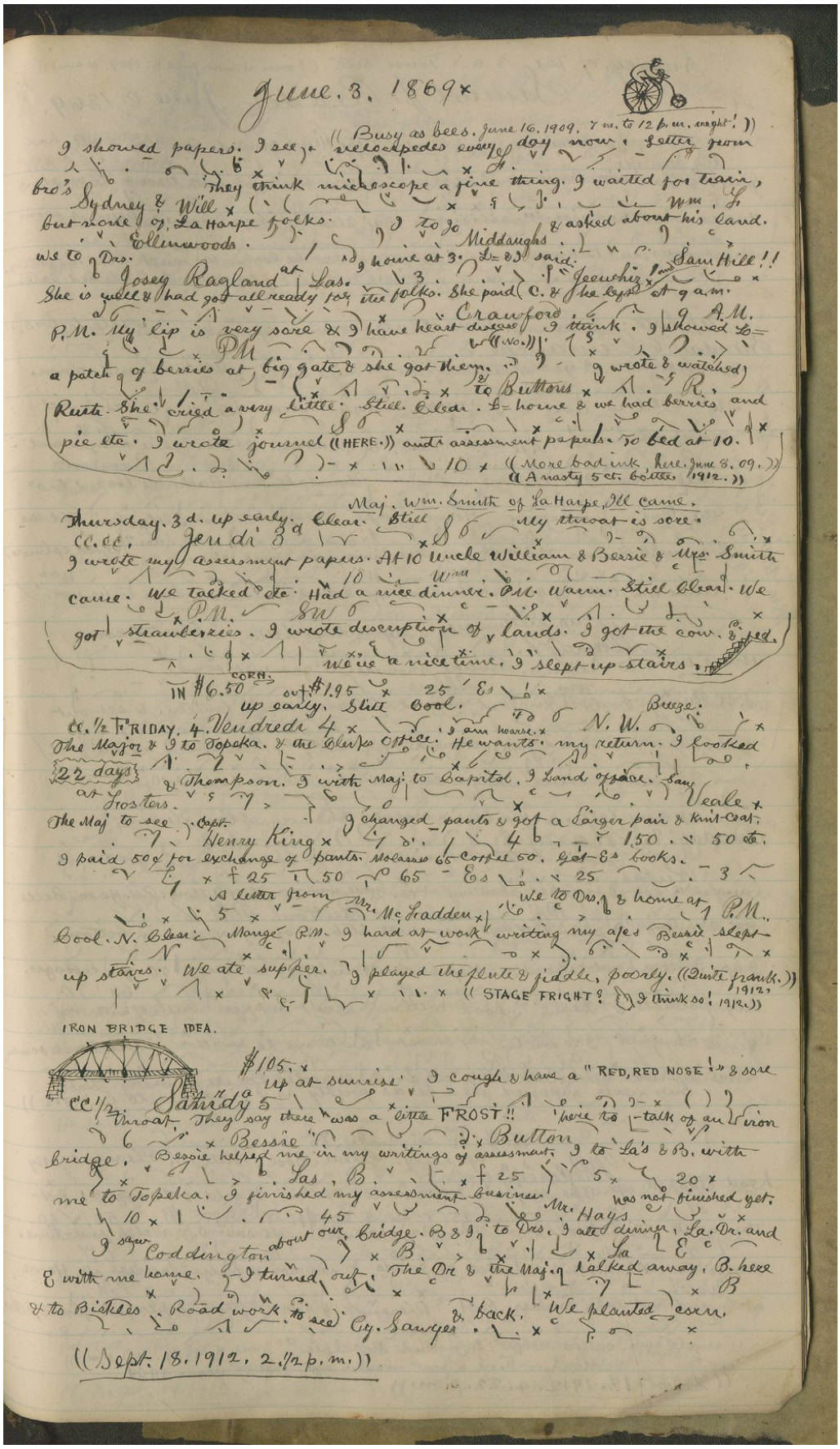
CC CC Mardi 1st. Crawford got his breakfast & to his work. My lip is sore. I wrote my assessment papers. on Real estate. Clear. warm C. & I measured land. 2 to 81 rods 11 ft. long & 10½ in width. 5 2/5 acres. I got dinner. P.M. Lizzie is hard at work, without shoes on. I wrote my papers. C. left his horses. & home. I helped wash dishes. 3 or 4 Reapers are at work in the feed. Clear. Still. Go bed early. not well. I have too much to do. Rural industry.

$19,50 I up early. Clear. Warm. I have sore throat & a red nose & sore lip. & thin face. Crawford took 2 bu. corn making

CC. CC. Wednesday 2. 2 Crawford 2 1,50. 1 $20 for breakfast $1,50. I d pd. $1,50 leaving $18,50 due. In all makes $21,50 18,50 1,50 5 2/5 x I paid ((No B = paid)) I drove to the Das with my Dadder & Hs saddle to La. I took her 10 doz eggs & 2 lb. to Topeka. Ink 5 ct. I to Co. Clerks Office. 10 Las. Hs $25 70 5 x

((Sept. 18. 1912. 9:44 a.m.))

Samuel Reader's diary, volume 6



June. 3. 1869×

((Busy as bees. June 16. 1909. 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. night!))

I showed papers. I see velocipedes every day now. Letter from bro's Sydney & Will × they think microscope a fine thing. I waited for train, but none of La Harpe folks. I went to Middaughs & asked about his land. We to Ellenwoods. Dro. I home at 3. L=83 said: Jeewhiz! Sam Hill!! Josey Ragland at Las. She is well & had got all ready for the folks. She paid C. & he left at 9 a.m. P.M. My lip is very sore & I have heart disease I think. I showed L= a patch of berries at big gate & she got them. I wrote & watched Crawford A.M. PM ((No.)) Rusta. She cried a very little. Still Clear. L= home & we had berries and pie etc. I wrote journal ((HERE.)) and assessment papers. To bed at 10. ((More bad ink, here. June 8. 09.)) ((A nasty 5 ct. bottle. 1912.))

Thursday. 3 d. up early. Clear. Still Maj. Wm. Smith of La Harpe, Ill came. My throat is sore. CC. CC. Jeudi 3 d Cool. I wrote my assessment papers. At 10 Uncle William & Bessie & Mrs. Smith came. We talked &c. Had a nice dinner. P.M. Warm. Still Clear. We got strawberries. I wrote description of lands. I got the cow. Fed. We had a nice time. I slept up stairs. PM SW 10 Wm

IN #6.50 CORN. out #1.95 25 Es

up early. Still Cool. Breeze.

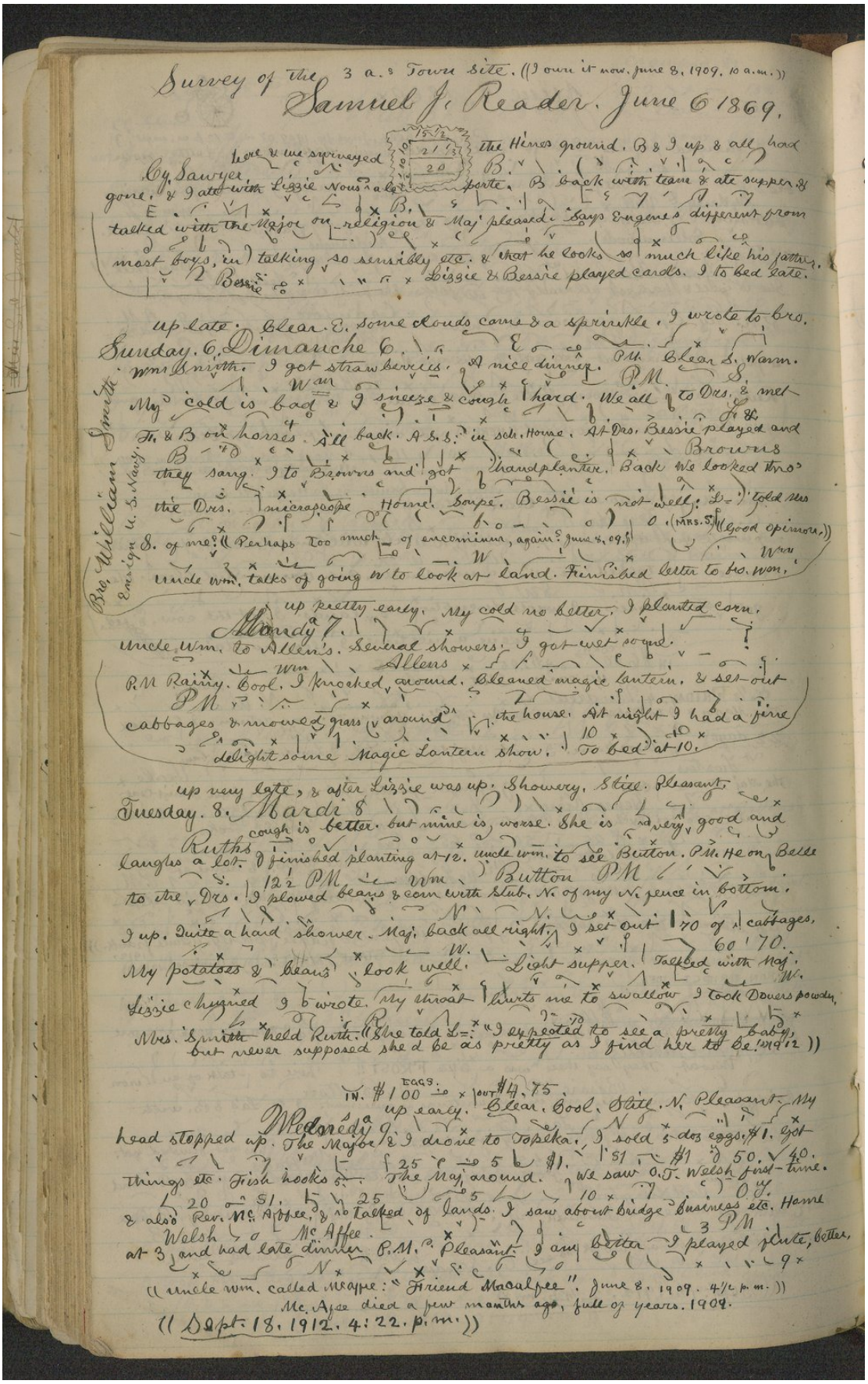
CC. ½ F. RIDAY. 4. Vendredi 4 N. W. I am hoarse. The Major & I to Topeka. & the Clerks office. He wants my return. I looked 22 days & Thompson. I with Maj. to Capitol. I Land office. Saw at Frosters. Veale × The Maj. to see Capt. Henry King × I changed pants & got a larger pair & knit coat. I paid 50¢ for exchange of pants. Molasses 65 Coffee 50. Got 8s books. 4 1.50 50 f 25 1.50 65 Es 25 3

A letter from Mr. McFadden × We to Drs. & home at 1 P.M. Cool. N. Clear. Monge P.M. I hard at work writing my ages Bessie slept up stairs. We ate supper. I played the flute & fiddle, poorly. ((Quite frank. 1912.)) ((STAGE FRIGHT? I think so! 1912.))

IRON BRIDGE IDEA.

#105. up at sunrise. I cough & have a "RED, RED NOSE!" & sore throat. They say there was a little FROST!! Saturday 5 CC ½ I wrote to talk of an iron bridge. Bessie " Button Bessie helped me in my writings of assessment. I to La's & B. with me to Topeka. I finished my assessment business Las. B. f 25 5 20 10 1 45 has not finished yet. Mr. Hays about our bridge. B & I to Drs. I ate dinner. La. Dr. and I saw Coddington B E with me home. I turned out. The Dr & the Maj. talked away. B. here & to Bicycles. Road work to see Cy. Sawyer & back. We planted corn.

((Sept. 18. 1912. 2.½ p.m.))



Survey of the 3 a.s Town site. ((I own it now, June 8, 1909, 10 a.m.))
Samuel J. Reader. June 6 1869.

here & we surveyed the Hines ground. B & I up & all had
Cy. Sawyer gone, & I ate with Lizzie Nous a la carte. B back with team & ate supper &
talked with the Major on religion & Maj pleased. Says Eugene's different from
most boys, in talking so sensibly etc. & that he looks so much like his father.
Bessie Lizzie & Bessie played cards. I to bed late.

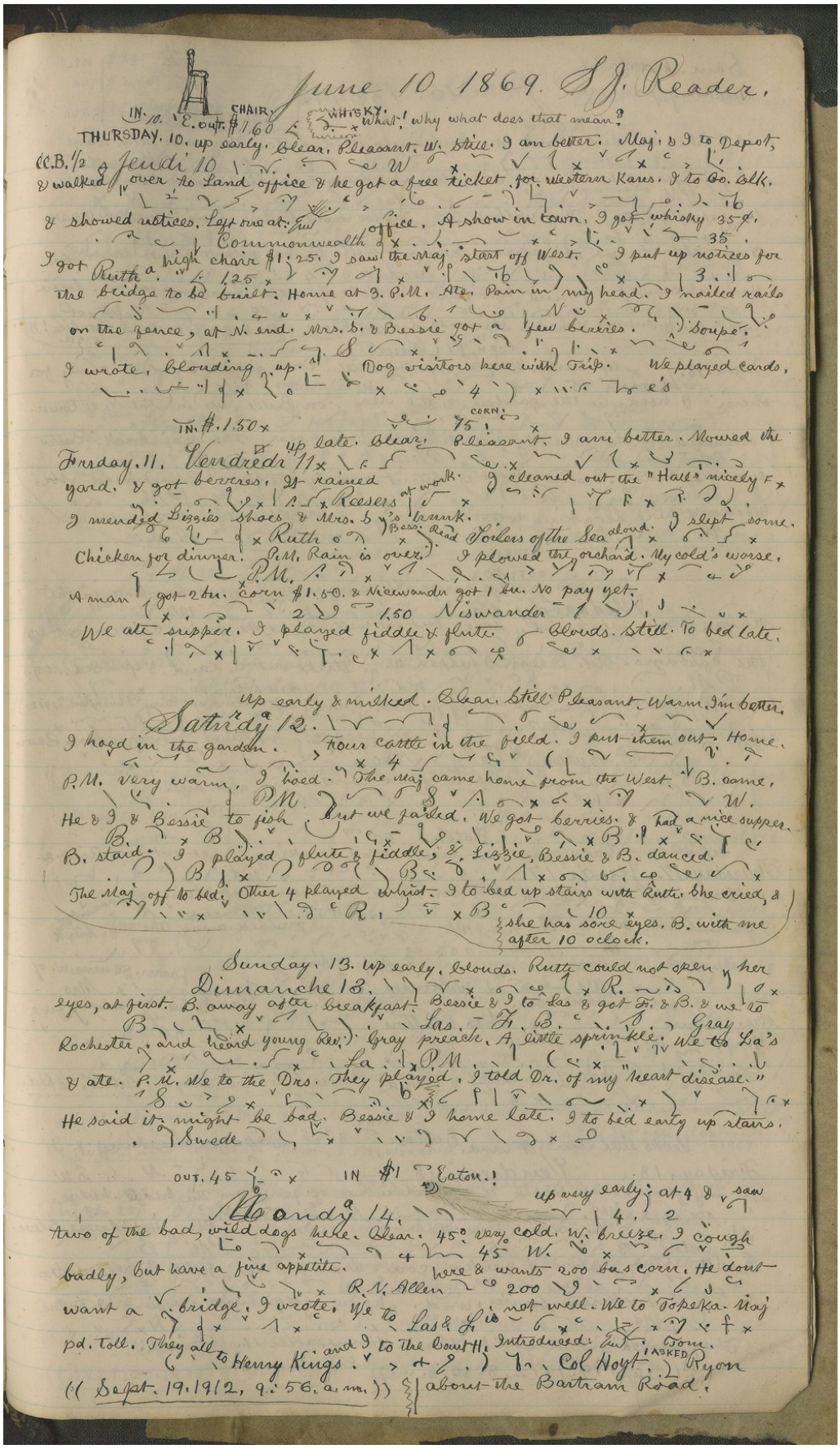
Bro William Smith

up late. Clear. E. some clouds came & a sprinkle. I wrote to bro.
Sunday. 6. Dimanche 6. E. P.M. Clear & Warm.
Wm Smith. I got strawberries. A nice dinner. P.M. S.
My cold is bad & I sneeze & cough hard. We all to Drs. & met
Fr. & B on horses. All back. A.S.S. in sch. House. At Drs. Bessie played and
B they sang. I to Browns and got Handplanter. Back We looked thro
U.S. Navy the Drs. microscope. Home. Supe. Bessie is not well. D. told Mrs
S. of me. ((Perhaps too much of encomium, again. June 8, 09.)) (Mrs. S.) (Good opinion.))
Uncle Wm. talks of going W to look at land. Finished letter to bro. Wm.

up pretty early. My cold no better. I planted corn.
Monday 7.
Uncle Wm. to Allen's. Several showers. I got wet so pd.
P.M. Rainy. Cool. I knocked around. Cleaned magic lantern. & set out
P.M. cabbages & mowed grass around the house. At night I had a fine
delight some Magic Lantern show. To bed at 10.

up very late, & after Lizzie was up. Showery. Stiff. Pleasant.
Tuesday. 8. Mardi 8
cough is better. but mine is, worse. She is very good and
laughs a lot. I finished planting at 12. uncle Wm. to see Button. P.M. He on Belle
to the Drs. 12½ P.M. Wm Button P.M.
I plowed beans & corn with Stub. N. of my N. fence in bottom.
I up. Quite a hard shower. Maj. back all right. I set out 170 of cabbages.
60 170.
My potatoes & beans look well. Light supper. Talked with Maj.
Lizzie chipped & I wrote. My throat hurts me to swallow I took Dovers powder.
Mrs. Smith held Ruth. (She told L.: "I expected to see a pretty baby,
but never supposed she'd be as pretty as I find her to be." 1912))

IN. #100 EGGS. OUT #4.75
up early. Clear. Cool. Stiff. N. Pleasant. My
Wednesday 9
head stopped up. The Major & I drove to Topeka. I sold 5 doz eggs. #1. Got
things etc. Fish hooks 25 5 #1. 51 #1 50. 40.
The Maj around. We saw O.T. Welsh first-time.
20 51 5 25 5 10 O.T.
& also Rev. Mc Affee, & we talked of lands. I saw about Bridge business etc. Home
Welsh Mc Affee 3 PM
at 3 and had late dinner. P.M. Pleasant. I am better I played flute, better,
((Uncle Wm. called Mcaffee: "Friend Macalpee". June 8. 1909. 4½ p.m.))
Mc Afee died a few months ago, full of years. 1909.
((Sept. 18. 1912. 4:22. p.m.))



June 10 1869. S.J. Reader.

IN. 10. CHAIR. E. out. $1.60 WHISKY. What! Why what does that mean?

THURSDAY. 10. up early. Clear. Pleasant. W. Still. I am better. Maj. & I to Depot, (C.B. 1/2 & walked over to Land office & he got a free ticket for Western Kans. I to Go. Silk. & showed notices. Left one at Law office. A show in town. I got whisky 35¢. Commonwealth 35. I got Ruth a high chair $1.25. I saw the Maj. start off West. I put up notices for the bridge to be built. Home at 3. P.M. Ate. Pain in my head. I nailed rails on the fence, at N. end. Mrs. B. & Bessie got a few berries. I wrote, blouding up. Dog visitors here with Trip. We played cards,

IN. $1.50 CORN 75!

Friday. 11. Vendredi 11 up late. Clear. Pleasant. I am better. Mowed the yard. & got berries. It rained. I cleaned out the "Hall" nicely. I mended Lizzies shoes & Mrs. B's trunk. Reesers at work. Read Voices of the Sea aloud. I slept some. Chicken for dinner. P.M. Rain is over. I plowed the orchard. My cold's worse. P.M. A man got 2 bu. corn $1.50. & Niswander got 1 bu. No pay yet. 2 1.50 Niswander We ate supper. I played fiddle & flute. Clouds. Still. To bed late.

Saturday 12. up early & milked. Clear. Still. Pleasant. Warm. I'm better. I hoed in the garden. Four cattle in the field. I put them out. Home. P.M. very warm. I hoed. The Maj. came home from the West. B. came. He & I & Bessie to fish. But we failed. We got berries. & had a nice supper. B. staid. I played flute & fiddle, & Lizzie, Bessie & B. danced. The Maj. off to bed. Other 4 played whist. I to bed up stairs with Ruth. She cried, & she has sore eyes. B. with me after 10 oclock.

Sunday. 13. up early. Clouds. Ruth could not open her eyes, at first. B. away after breakfast. Bessie & I to Las & got F. & B. & we to Rochester, and heard young Rev. Gray preach. A little sprinkle. We to La's & ate. P.M. We to the Drs. They playyed. I told Dr. of my "heart disease." He said it might be bad. Bessie & I home late. I to bed early up stairs.

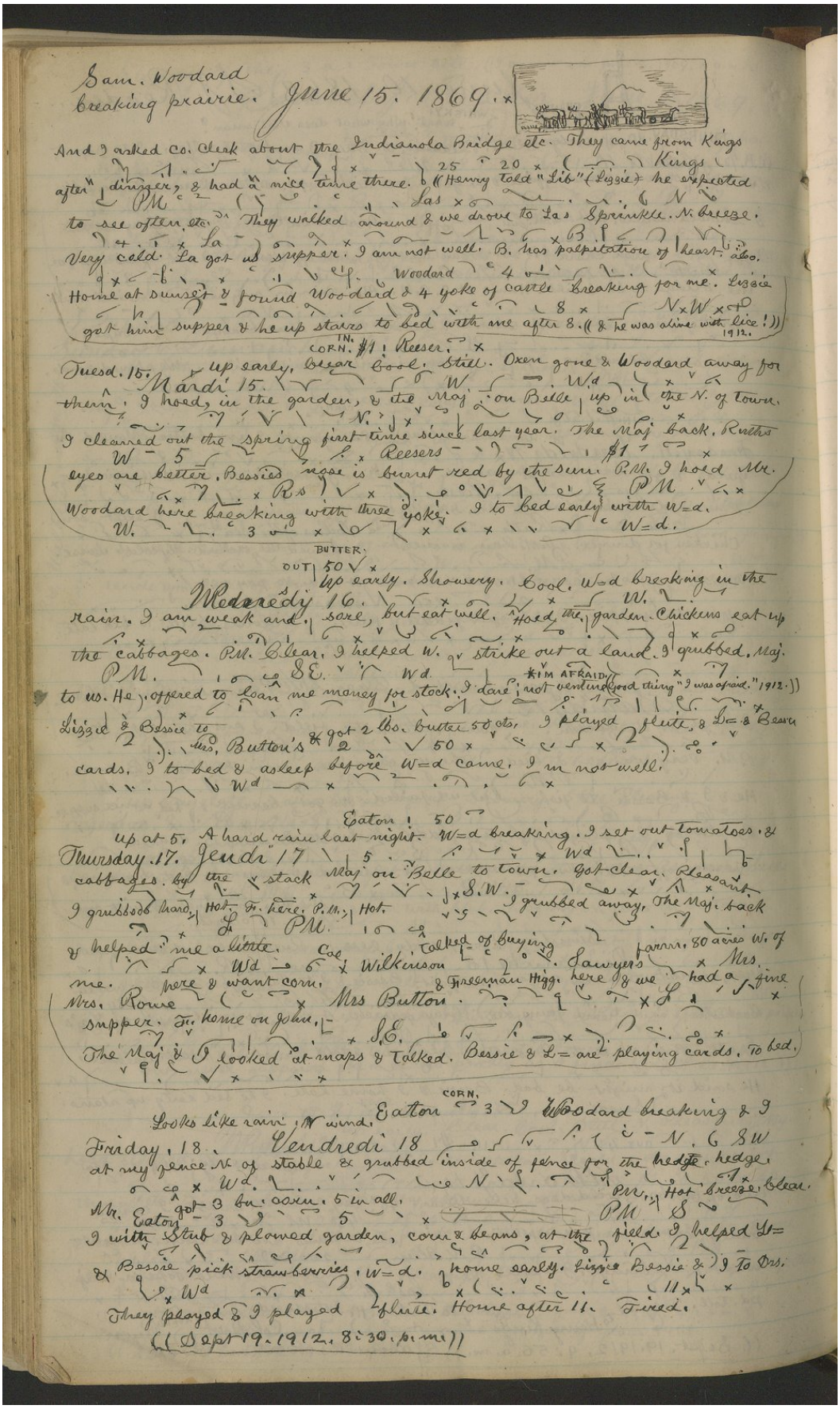
Dimanche 13. Swede

OUT. 45 IN $1 Eaton.!

Monday 14. up very early; at 4 & saw two of the bad, wild dogs here. Clear. 45° very cold. W. breeze. I cough badly, but have a fine appetite. R.N. Allen here & wants 200 bus corn. He dont want a bridge. I wrote. We to Las & Lis not well. We to Topeka. Maj. pd. toll. They all to Henry Kings. and I to the Court H. Introduced Tom. Col Hoyt. ASKED Ryon about the Bartram Road.

((Sept. 19. 1912, 9:56. a. m.))

Samuel Reader's diary, volume 6



Sam. Woodard breaking prairie. June 15. 1869.

And I asked Co. Clerk about the Indianola Bridge etc. They came from Kings after dinner, & had a nice time there. ((Henry told "Lib" (Lizzie) he expected to see often, etc.)) They walked around & we drove to Las Sprinkle. N. Breeze. Very cold. La got us supper. I am not well. B. has palpitation of heart. also. Home at sunset & found Woodard & 4 yoke of cattle breaking for me. Lizzie got him supper & he up stairs to bed with me after 8. ((& he was alive with lice!)) 1912.

Tuesd. 15. Mardi 15. up early, bear cool. Still. Oxen gone & Woodard away for them. I hoed in the garden, & the Maj. on Belle up in the N. of town. I cleaned out the spring first time since last year. The Maj. back. Rustus eyes are better. Bessies nose is burnt red by the sun. P.M. I hoed Mr. Woodard here breaking with three yoke. I to bed early with W=d.

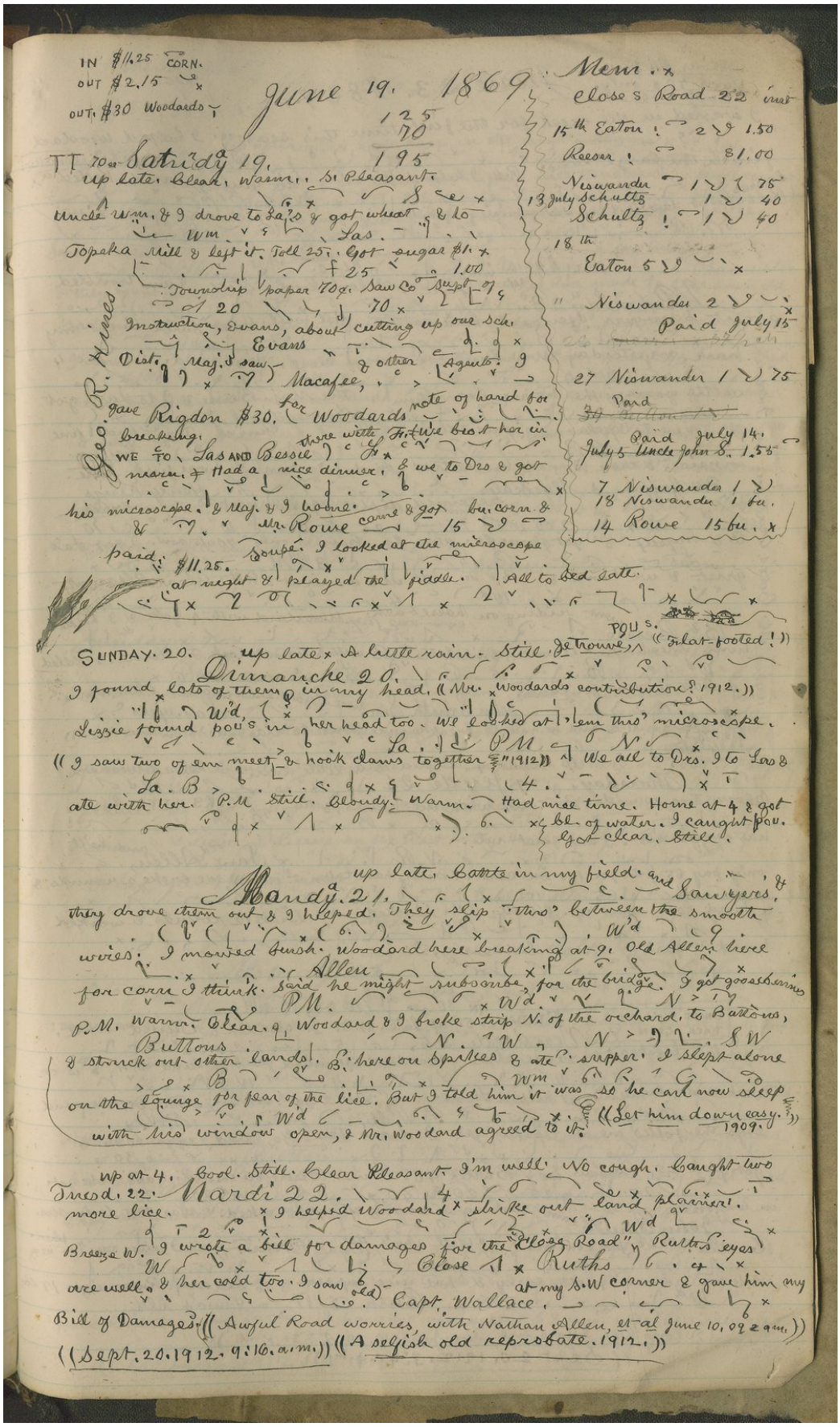
Wednesday 16. Mercredi 16. up early. Showery. Cool. W=d breaking in the rain. I am weak and sore, but eat well. Hoed the garden. Chickens eat up the cabbages. P.M. Clear. I helped W. strike out a land. I grubbed. Maj. to us. He offered to loan me money for stock. I dare not venture. ((Good thing "I was afraid." 1912.)) Lizzie & Bessie to Mrs. Button's & got 2 lbs. butter 50 cts. I played flute, & L= & Bessie cards. I to bed & asleep before W=d came. I'm not well.

Thursday 17. Jeudi 17. up at 5. A hard rain last night. W=d breaking. I set out tomatoes & cabbages. By the stack Maj. on Belle to town. Got clear. Pleasant. I grubbed hard. Hot. P.M. Hot. I grubbed away. The Maj. back & helped me a little. Col. Wilkerson talked of buying farm. 80 acres W. of me. here & want corn. Lawyers & Freeman Higg. here & we had a fine supper. To home on foot. Mrs. Rowe Mrs Button. The Maj. & I looked at maps & talked. Bessie & L= are playing cards. To bed.

Friday 18. Vendredi 18. Looks like rain. wind. Eaton 3 Woodard breaking & I at my fence N of stable & grubbed inside of fence for the hedge. hedge. Mr. Eaton got 3 bu. corn. 5 in all. I with Stub & plowed garden, corn & beans, at the field. I helped L= & Bessie pick strawberries. W=d. home early. Lizzie Bessie & I to Drs. They played & I played flute. Home after 11. Fixed.

((Sept 19. 1912. 8:30. p.m.))

Samuel Reader's diary, volume 6



June 19. 1869

IN $11.25 CORN.
OUT $2.15
OUT $30 Woodards

Mem. x
Close's Road 22 inst
15th Eaton ! 2 ✓ 1.50
Reeser ! $1.00
Niswander ✓ 1 ✓ 75
13 July Schultz 1 ✓ 40
Schultz ! 1 ✓ 40
18th
Eaton 5 ✓
" Niswander 2 ✓
Paid July 15
27 Niswander 1 ✓ 75
Paid
Paid July 14.
July 5 Uncle John S. 1.50
7 Niswander 1 ✓
18 Niswander 1 bu.
14 Rowe 15 bu. x

TT 70 Saturdy 19. 195
up late. Bleak. Warm. St Pleasant.
Uncle Wm. & I drove to Za 20 & got wheat & to Topeka Mill & left it. Toll 25. Got sugar $1. x
Wm Las.
f 25 1.00
Township paper 70¢. Saw Co Supt 70
d 20 70 x
Instruction, Evans, about cutting up our sch.
Dist. Maj. & saw Evans & other Agents. I
Macafee,
gave Rigdon $30. for Woodards note of hand for
breaking.
WE to Las AND Bessie wore with Fitwe bro her in
warm. & Had a nice dinner. & we to Drs & got
his microscope. & Maj. & I home.
Mr. Rowe came & got bu corn &
paid $11.25. Soupé. I looked at the microscope
at night & played the fiddle. All to bed late.

SUNDAY. 20. up late x A little rain. Still. Le trouve, ((flat-footed!))
Dimanche 20.
I found lots of them in my head. ((Mr. Woodards contribution? 1912.))
Wd
Lizzie found pou's in her head too. We looked at them thro' microscope.
((I saw two of em meet & hook claws together "1912)) We all to Drs. I to Las &
La. PM
ate with her. La. B PM. Still. Cloudy. Warm. Had nice time. Home at 4 & got
bl of water. I caught pou.
Got clear. Still.

Mardy. 21. up late. Cattle in my field. and Sawyers. &
they drove them out & I helped. They slip thro' between the smooth
wires. I mowed Bush. Woodard here breaking at 9. Old Allen here
for corn I think. Said he might subscribe for the bridge. I got gooseberries
PM. Wd
P.M. Warm. Clear. Woodard & I broke strip N. of the orchard. to Buttons,
N W N W SW
Buttons & struck out other lands. B. here on Spikes & ate. supper. I slept alone
on the lounge for fear of the lice. But I told him it was so he can't now sleep
with his window open, & Mr. Woodard agreed to it. ((Let him down easy. 1909.))

Tuesd. 22. Mardi 22. up at 4. Cool. Still. Clear Pleasant. I'm well. No cough. Caught two
more lice. I helped Woodard x strike out land planner.
Breeze W. I wrote a bill for damages for the "Close Road" y Ruths eyes
are well & her cold too. I saw Close 1 x Ruths
Capt. Wallace. at my S.W corner & gave him my
Bill of Damages. ((Awful Road worries, with Nathan Allen, et al June 10, 09 2 a.m.))
((Sept. 20. 1912. 9:16. a.m.)) ((A selfish old reprobate. 1912.))

Flour $4 pr. H.
Corn 70 ¢ only.
Butter 40.

June 23. 1869.

I washed in the creek for the first time this season. I helped Woodard finish the large land. P.M. I helped him in the grubby land. Killed a snake. R. looked at Lantern. ((She was generally afraid of it. June 10 1909 2. a. m. !)). Au Lit. Sawyers

OUT. $9.10 WIRE. IN $1.50. CORN.

Wednesday 23. up before 4 o'clock. Cool. Still I am troubled about Sawyers fence. & had cattle. All well. Last Sund. B cut my hair, & yesterday Mrs Smith cut it off close. I shaved. Wd 4 cattle gone. He home for them. The Maj. Bessie & I to Las & got F. & we to Topeka. Maj. paid toll 25. we to Congregational Church. They had fine music; & then B. made an oration on the Indian. It was first rate. Griffin from P.M. Griffin and Miss Scales received diplomas. All went to Henry Kings except B & myself. I got flour $2. Wire $6. Corn is only 70 cts now. I got Las grist & we home & B & F. with us & dinner at 3. P.M. Clear. Pleasant. Bessie went riding on horseback. Woodard with 4 yoke & I helped him break. B. & Bessie home late. & B with team & took F. home. I killed a little chicken for lunch. John Smith Sen. here & got 2 bu. corn. Clear. Warm. Sawyers



((B. said he had to break a wire fence to ride thro' this one. 1912.))

Thursday. 24. Junde 24. Up about 4. Clouds & a little rain. I helped Woodard plow two rounds. B. came with the horses, & the FOLKS LEFT. Lizzie has sore throat. I am first rate. Old Allen, and he'll only pay 65 cts. for 100 bu. corn. ((Better have taken it! 1912.)) We broke 2 rounds. a hard rain came up. We ate. P.M. slacked. We broke 12 rounds & worked hard & fast. To bed early.

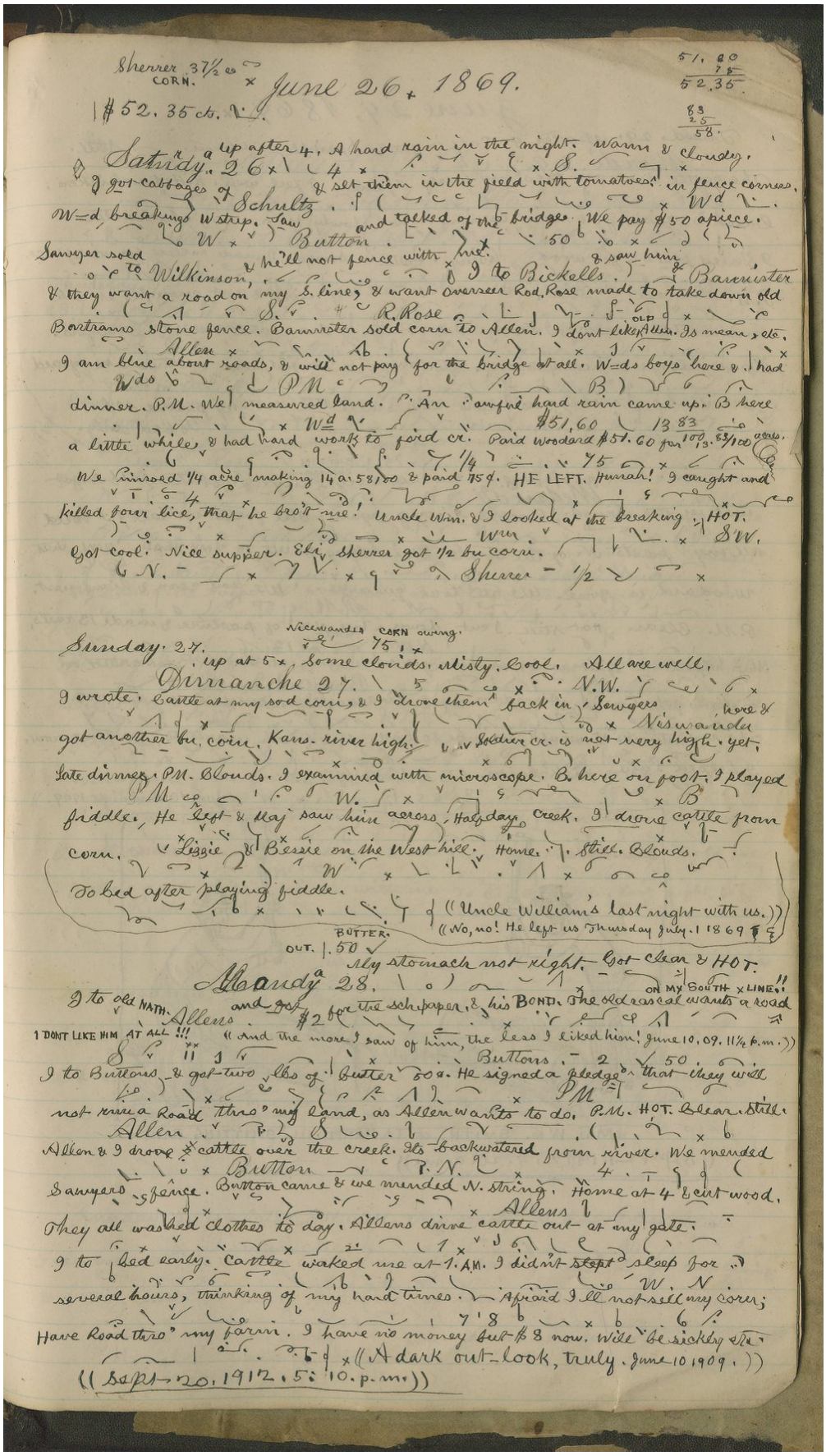
EGGS. IN. 30 OUT $1.70 30 Wd

UNCLE WILLIAM'S BACK AGAIN.

FRIDAY. 25. up late. at 5. It clouded & rained some. Vendredi 25. I got late breakfast & Lizzie slept. Woodard finished grub up land at 11. & is on west side, breaking. I helped Lizzie. P.M. Clear. Warm. The Dr. here and says the folks are at Topeka yet. I drove there, & S.W. sold eggs 30 cts. & got pink 25. Raisins 20 Butter 40. I met Bessie on the R.R. track & she got in wagon & came riding along. & afterwards asked: "Was that lady Mrs. John Smith Reader?" "No her cousin." "Well she's the prettiest girl I ever saw," he replied. We on, home pretty early & had nice supper. To Bed early. Ruth weighs 17 lbs. Ruth 17 mo's old.

((A long life before me, Now June. 10. 1909. 3+ p. m.))
((Sept. 20. 1912. 3:40 p. m.))

Samuel Reader's diary, volume 6



Sherrer 37½ cs CORN. × June 26, 1869.

$52.35 cts.

Saturday 26 × up after 4. A hard rain in the night. warm & cloudy. I got cabbages of Schultz. & set them in the field with tomatoes. in fence corners. W=d breaking W strip. saw and talked of the bridge. We pay $50 apiece. Sawyer sold Button. & he'll not fence with him. & saw him & they want a road on my S. line, & want overseer Rod. Rose made to take down old Bartrams stone fence. Bannister sold corn to Allen. I dont like Allen. Is mean, etc. I am blue about roads, & will not pay for the bridge at all. W=ds boys here & had dinner. P.M. We measured land. An awful hard rain came up. B here a little while, & had hard work to ford cr. Paid woodard $51.60 for 100 acres. We surveyed ¼ acre making 14 a. 58/100 & paid 75¢. HE LEFT. Hurrah! I caught and killed four lice, that he gave me! Uncle Wm. & I looked at the breaking. Got cool. Nice supper. Eli Sherrer got ½ bu corn.

Sherrer - ½

Sunday. 27. Niswanda CORN owing. 75

up at 5 ×, Some clouds. misty. Cool. All are well.

Dimanche 27. N.W.

I wrote. Cattle at my sod corn, & I drove them back in. Sawyers here & got another bu. corn. Kans. river high. Soldier cr. is not very high yet. Late dinner. P.M. Clouds. I examined with microscope. B. here our boys. I played fiddle. He left & I saw him across Halfday Creek. I drove cattle from corn. Lizzie & Bessie on the West hill. Home. Stiff. Clouds. To bed after playing fiddle.

((Uncle William's last night with us.))
((No, no! He left us Thursday July. 1 1869 ? ?))

BUTTER. OUT. 1.50

My stomach not right. Got clear & HOT.

Monday 28. ON MY SOUTH × LINE!!

I to old NATH. Allens and got $2 for the schpaper, & his BOND. The old rascal wants a road I DONT LIKE HIM AT ALL !!! ((and the more I saw of him, the less I liked him! June 10, 09. 11¼ P.M.))

I to Buttons & got two lbs of Butter 50 c. He signed a pledge that they will not give a Road thro' my land, as Allen wants to do. P.M. HOT. Clear. Still. Allen. Allen & I drove cattle over the creek. Its backwatered from river. We mended Sawyers fence. Button came & we mended N. string. Home at 4 & cut wood. They all washed clothes to day. Allens drive cattle out at my gate. I to bed early. Cattle waked me at 1. A.M. I didn't sleep for several hours, thinking of my hard times. Afraid I'll not sell my corn; Have Road thro' my farm. I have no money but $8 now. Will be sickly etc.

((A dark out-look, truly. June 10 1909.))
((Sept 20. 1912. 5: 10. p.m.))

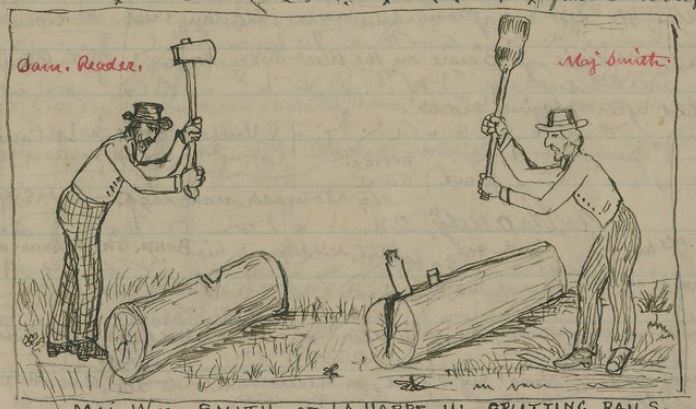
Samuel Reader's diary, volume 6

June 29, 1869.

Tuesd. 29. up after 4. Calf is gone. Sprinkle. Warm. Still.
Mardi 29. The cattle dont get thro' my wire fence. I feel well. Killed a chicken.
Creek's rising, & now coming down slowly from river backwater.
I bored posts & got wood. Rainy. Cattle in Sawyers. I made rollers for wire fence.
P.M. Thunder. Still. I used up all my wire & not enough. It will
make a tight fence, I know. I on Belle & drove cattle out of Sawyers.
Sprinkling, & heavy shower after supper. Awful bad weather. I'm afraid
it will be sickly: as I can now smell the rotting prairie sod.
To bed early.

CORN. 75. BUTTON owning.
up very early. & got the calf & got
wet in the brush. Creek's rising again. The folks up late. I bored
all my posts N. of the stable. Sprinkling. NO LICE IN MY HEAD NOW, that
woodard is gone. We all took quinine. We had corn & beans first.
P.M. Clear. not still. I cut down a tree N.W. of pasture & made 13 rails,
Maj. helped me split rails. Button got 1 bu. corn at noon. Bessie three on
Belle & got cherries. A road on my S. line maybe? But it would be dreadful. 1909.))
She Maj thinks it would not be so bad. Mrs Smith wants to go tomorrow.
I helped Lizzie pick beans. To bed early.

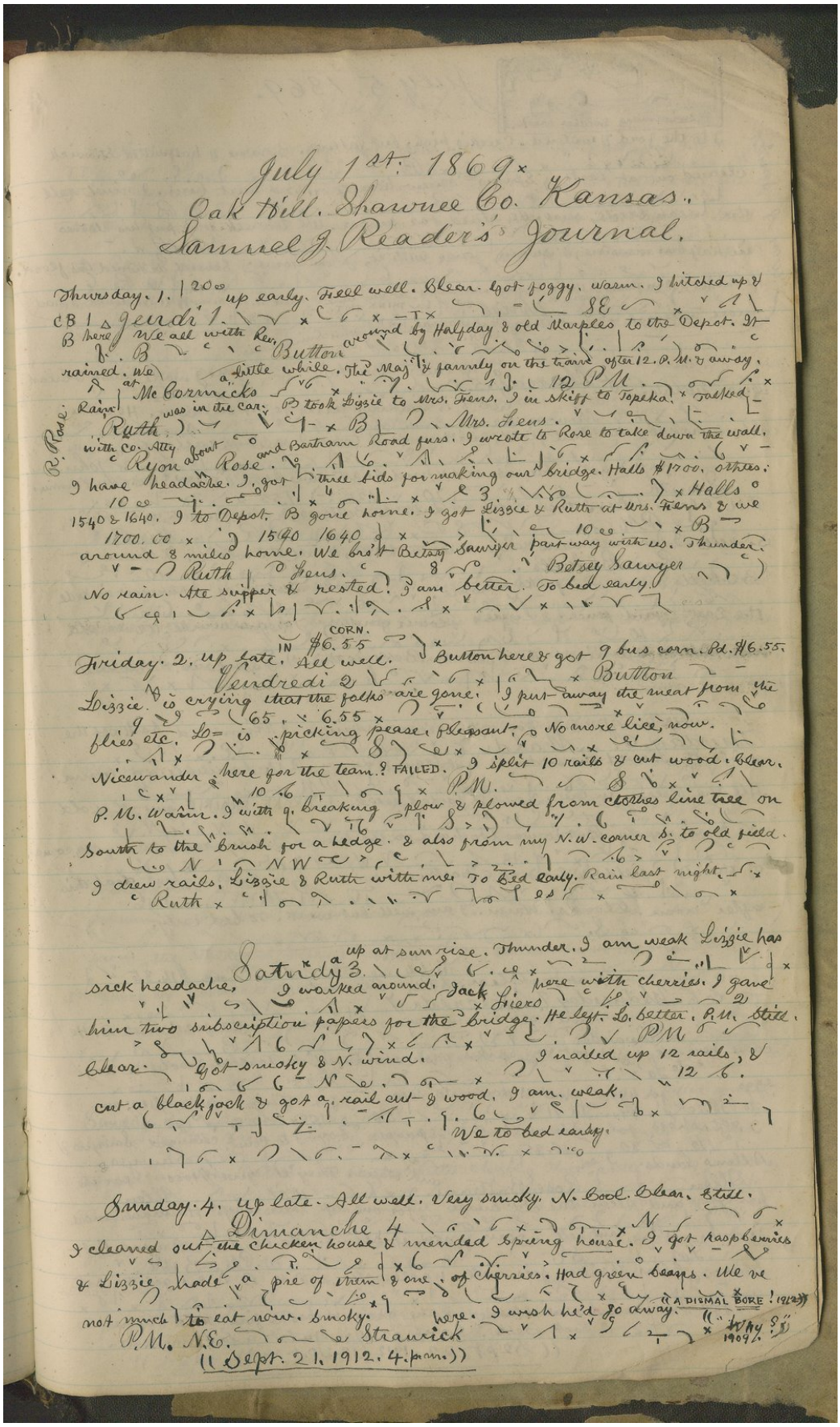
((June 10 midnight 1909.))



MAJ WM. SMITH. OF LA HARPE ILL. SPLITTING RAILS.

((Sept 21. 1912. 9:20. a.m.))

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July 1st. 1869
Oak Hill. Shawnee Co. Kansas.
Samuel J. Reader's Journal.

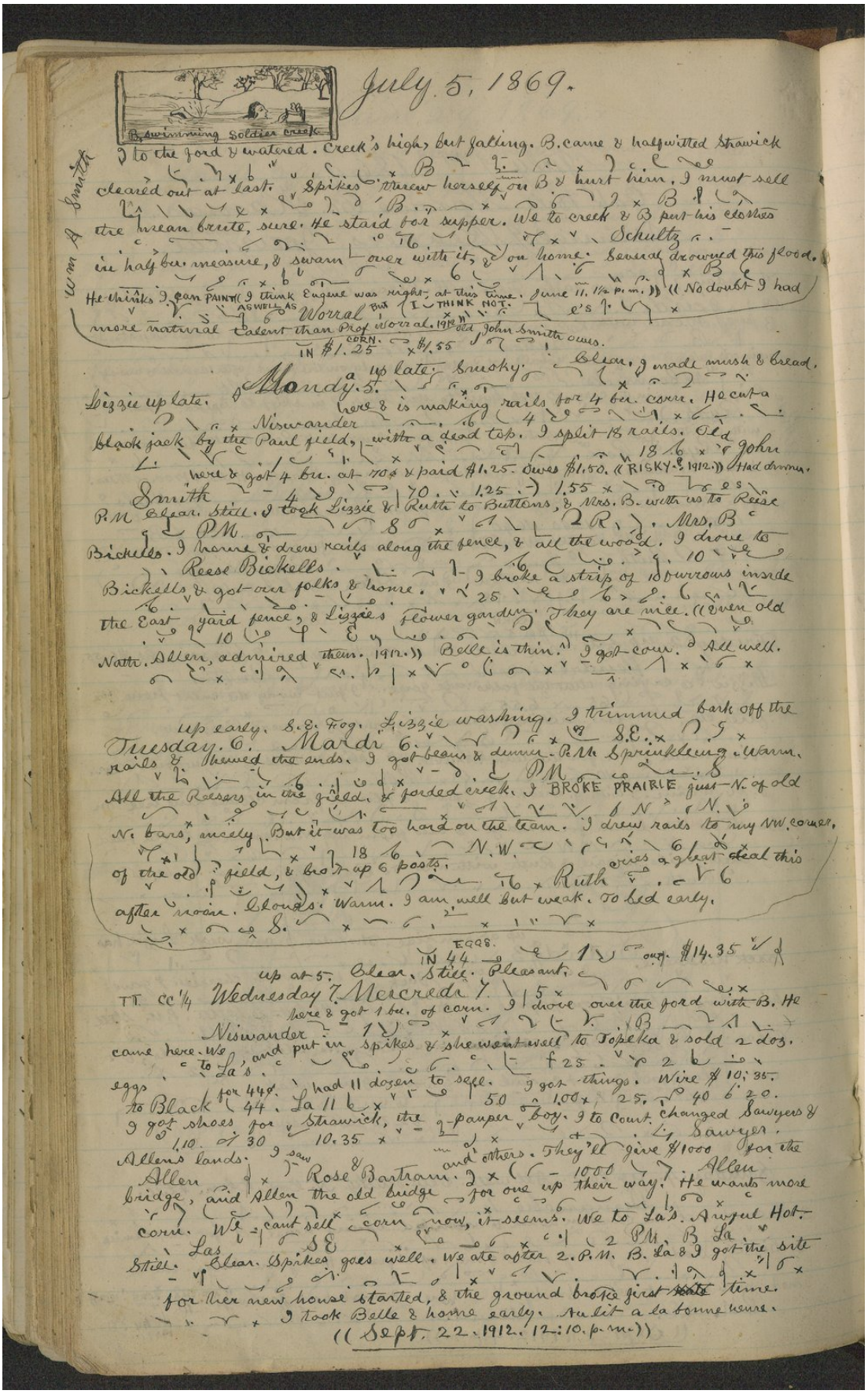
Thursday. 1. 120 up early. Feel well. Clear. Got foggy. warm. I hitched up & CB 1 Jeudi 1. B here We all with Rev Button around by Halfday & old Marples to the Depot. It rained. We at McCormicks a little while. The Maj & family on the train after 12. P.M. & away. Rain Ruth was in the car. B took Lizzie to Mrs. Fiens. I in skiff to Topeka. talked with Co. Atty Ryon about R. Rose. and Bartram Road furs. I wrote to Rose to take down the wall. I have headache. I got three bids for making our bridge. Halls $1700. others: 1540 & 1640. I to Depot. B gone home. I got Lizzie & Ruth at Mrs. Fiens & we around 8 miles home. We brot Betsey Sawyer part-way with us. Thunder. Ruth Betsey Sawyer No rain. Ate supper & rested. I am better. To bed early.

Friday. 2. up late. All well. CORN. IN $6.55 Button here & got 9 bus corn. Pd. $6.55. Vendredi 2 Button Lizzie is crying that the folks are gone. I put away the meat from the flies etc. Lo- is picking pease. Pleasant. No more lice, now. Nicewander here for the team. FAILED. I split 10 rails & cut wood. Clear. P.M. Warm. I with 9. breaking plow & plowed from stables line tree on South to the brush for a hedge. & also from my N.W. corner S. to old field. I drew rails. Lizzie & Ruth with me. To Bed early. Rain last night.

Saturdy 3. up at sunrise. Thunder. I am weak Lizzie has sick headache. I worked around. Jack Fiero here with cherries. I gave him two subscription papers for the bridge. He left. Lo. better. P.M. still. Clear. Got smoky & N. wind. I nailed up 12 rails, & cut a black jack & got a rail cut & wood. I am weak. We to bed early.

Sunday. 4. up late. All well. Very smoky. N. Cool. Clear. Still. Dimanche 4 I cleaned out the chicken house & mended spring house. I got raspberries & Lizzie made a pie of them & one of cherries. Had green beans. We ate not much to eat now. Smoky. Stranick here. I wish he'd go away. ("A DISMAL BORE! 1912") P.M. N.E. ("Why 1909")

(Sept. 21, 1912. 4. p.m.))



July 5, 1869.

Wm A Smith

Swimming Soldier creek. I to the ford & watered. Creek's high, but falling. B. came & halfwitted Strawick cleared out at last. Spikes threw herself on B & hurt him. I must sell the mean brute, sure. He staid for supper. We to creek & B put his clothes in half bu. measure, & swam over with it, & on home. Several drowned this flood. He thinks I can PAINT (I think Eugene was right at this time. June 11. 1½ p. m.)) ((No doubt I had AS WELL AS BUT I THINK NOT. more natural talent than Prof Worral. 1912.)) old John Smith owes. Worral

IN $1.25 CORN. $1.55

Lizzie up late. Mondy. 5. a up late. Smoky. Clear. I made mush & bread. here & is making rails for 4 bu. corn. He cut a black jack by the Paul field, with a dead top. I split 18 rails. Old Niswander here & got 4 bu. at 170# & paid $1.25. Owes $1.50. ((RISKY. 9. 1912.)) Had dinner. Smith 4 1.70 1.25 1.55 PM Clear. Still. I took Lizzie & Ruth to Buttons, & Mrs. B. with us to Reese Bickells. PM 8 2 R. Mrs. B Reese Bickells. I home & drew rails along the fence, & all the wood. I drove to Bickells & got our folks & home. 10 I broke a strip of 3 furrows inside the East yard fence, & Lizzie's flower garden. They are nice. ((Even old Natt. Allen admired them. 1912.)) Belle is thin. I got corn. All well.

up early. S.E. Fog. Lizzie washing. I trimmed bark off the Tuesday. 6. Mardi 6. S.E. rails & shaved the ends. I got beans & dinner. P.M. Sprinkleing. Warm. All the Reeses in the field. & forded creek. I BROKE PRAIRIE just N. of old N. bars, nicely. But it was too hard on the team. I drew rails to my NW. corner. of the old field, & broke up 6 posts. N.W. 18 6 lies a great deal this after noon. Clouds. Warm. I am well but weak. To bed early. Ruth

EGGS. IN 44 1 out. $14.35

up at 5. Clear. Still. Pleasant. TT. CC 1/4 Wednesday 7. Mercredi 7. here & got 1 bu. of corn. I drove over the ford with B. He came here. We, and put in spikes & she went well to Topeka & sold 2 doz. Niswander 1 B 1 to La's. f 25 2 eggs. to Black for 44¢. I had 11 dozen to sell. I got things. Wire $ 10.35. 50 1.00 25. 40 6.20. I got shoes for Strawick, the pauper boy. I to Court. changed Sawyers & 1.10. of 30 10.35 Sawyer. Allens lands. I saw Rose & Bartram and others. They'll give $1000 for the Allen bridge, and Allen the old bridge for one up their way. He wants more corn. We can't sell corn now, it seems. We to La's. A great Hot. Still. Clear. Spikes goes well. We ate after 2. P.M. B. La & I got the site for her new house started, & the ground broke first time. I took Belle & home early. To bed a la bonne heure. ((Sept. 22. 1912. 12:10. p. m.))

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July 8. 1869.

Thursday. 8. Lizzie did not sleep after midnight & got up at 3. A.M.
TT/4 Judi 8. 3 4 8.
I got up at 4. Some clouds. Warm. B! here on Spikes & helped me string
B NE
all the wire on the N.E. fence, & some is left over. We with Spikes & Stud
Rowes
to Rowes quarry & got a load of rock. Home at 11. Heavy rain came up, &
NW B PM
hard N.W. wind. B. took dinner P.M. Slacked. Spikes goes too fast now.
Rev. Button 80 Badger
here. He got $80 in Topeka for our bridge. Wm here for me to change
a Road Dist. but I did not. B. away on Spikes. I mortised 2 posts, I am well
Cattle in Sawyers field. The boys left for Holton with oxteam. Lizzie tells me that Mrs.
Maj. Smith Holton says I am a "Model Husband." ((LET ME "BLOW MY OWN HORN," A LITTLE IN
MY OLD AGE? YES 1912. TOOT! TOOT!))

Mist & fog. Warm Creek is up some. All well.

Friday. 9. Vendredi 9. SE
I hewed & mortised 6 posts. Lots of cattle in Sawyers field & men are
5'6
driving them away. Got clear. P.M. Lizzie took Ruth to Buttons. I grubbed
PM 2R N
North of the orchard & broke it. Lizzie back. Soupé. I to Buttons & told
them we can go to town tomorrow. To bed early. Clear Pleasant. Horses are poor!

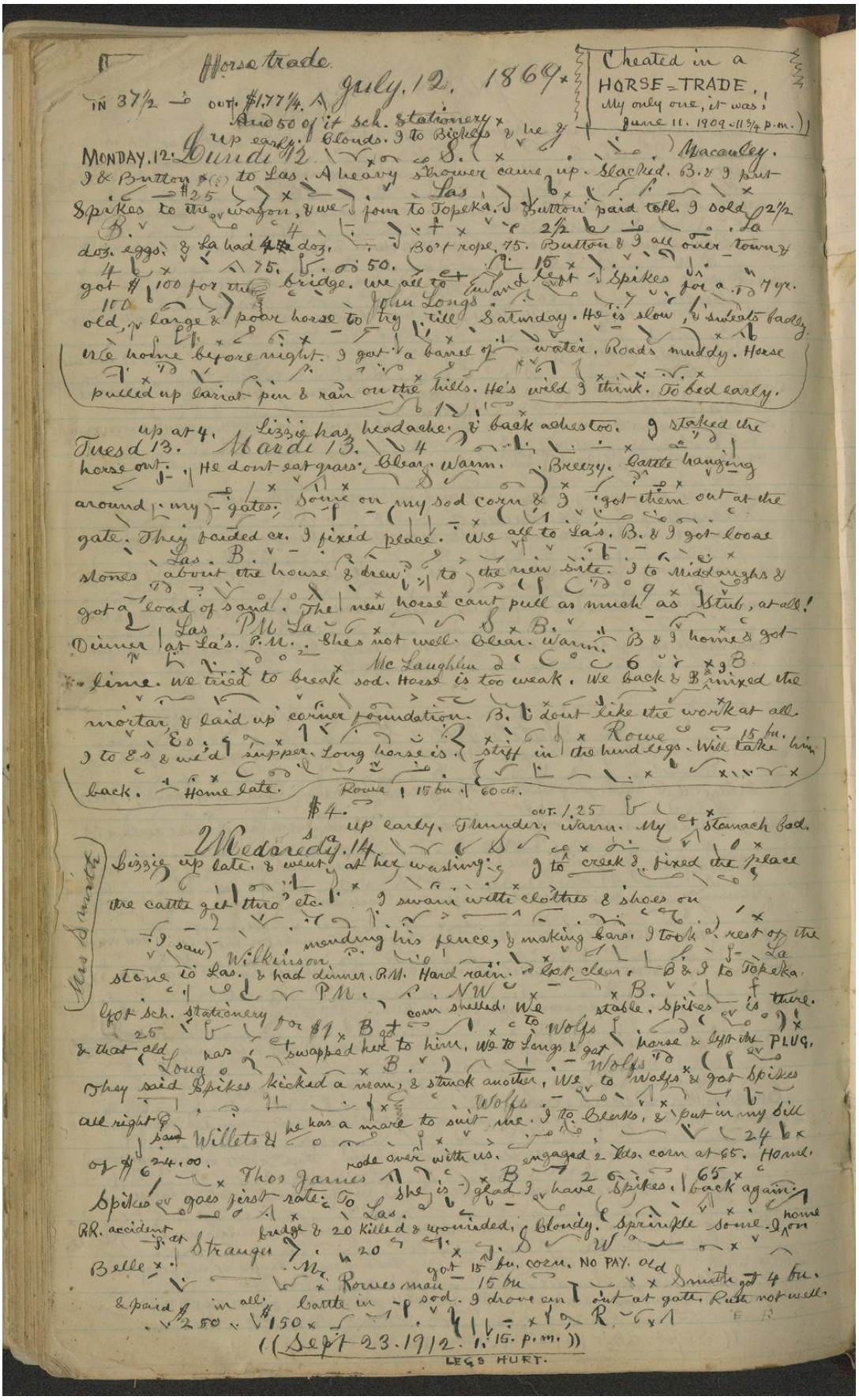


up early, after 4. All well. Breezy.

Saturdy 10. 4 8
Pleasant S. A beautiful morn. I think we'll have plenty of money for the
bridge. ((So said gassy Button & lying Rusk but they slid out of paying! 1912.))
I grubbed & then broke out another land 10 yards wide North of the orchard. I
10 N
worked hard & am tired. We had beans & first cucumbers.
PM 2 W.
P.M. Warm. Thunder, I plowed, drew posts & rails to my W. line & bro't posts
from the stackyard pile. I killed a large rattlesnake in the pile. ((HOW WELL
I REMEMBER MY SHUDDER AT HEARING HIS WHIZZING RATTLE AS I UNCOVERED HIM. !! WHIZ!!! 1912.))
I turned out & hoed peach, apple & cherry trees. Thunder. Mosquitoes.
I am well. Cattle up here by the house, but fence is all right. To bed early.



Sunday. 11. Dimanche 11 NE
Up early. A light rain. N.E. I to Buttons & got cal. I killed small
chicken in the rain. Lizzie got up & we had breakfast. I mended harness.
& fixed a false bottom to Rustis little chair. Three cattle on my sodcorn.
Rs 3
They crossed the creek. I put another wire in the water. Lots of cattle in
2
front of the house. P.M. Pleasant. Cool. I set up the microscope & looked etc.
PM NE
Lizzie wrote here & left. The two first lenses of my glass will
to Will x 3 Swedes
do for eyeglass of microscope. Cattle in Sawyers. I wrote. June. 11. 1909. 11 3/4 p.m.))
Bon soir.
((Sept. 22. 1912. 4. p.m.))



Horse trade. July. 12. 1869.

Cheated in a HORSE-TRADE, My only one, it was; June 11. 1909 - 11¾ p.m.)

IN 37½ — out. $1.77¼. And 50 of it sch. stationery

MONDAY. 12. Lundi 12. Macauley.

Up early. Clouds. I to Bickells & he & I & Button to Las. A heavy shower came up. Slacked. B. & I put Spikes to the wagon, & we all to Las. Button paid toll. I sold B. 2½ doz. eggs. & La had 4 doz. Bo't rope. 75. Button & I all over town & got $1.00 for the bridge. We all to Lawrence & left Spikes for a 75. 50. 75. 15 7 yr. old, large & poor horse to try till Saturday. He is slow, & sweats badly. We home before night. I got a barrel of water. Roads muddy. Horse pulled up lariat pin & ran on the hills. He's wild I think. To bed early.

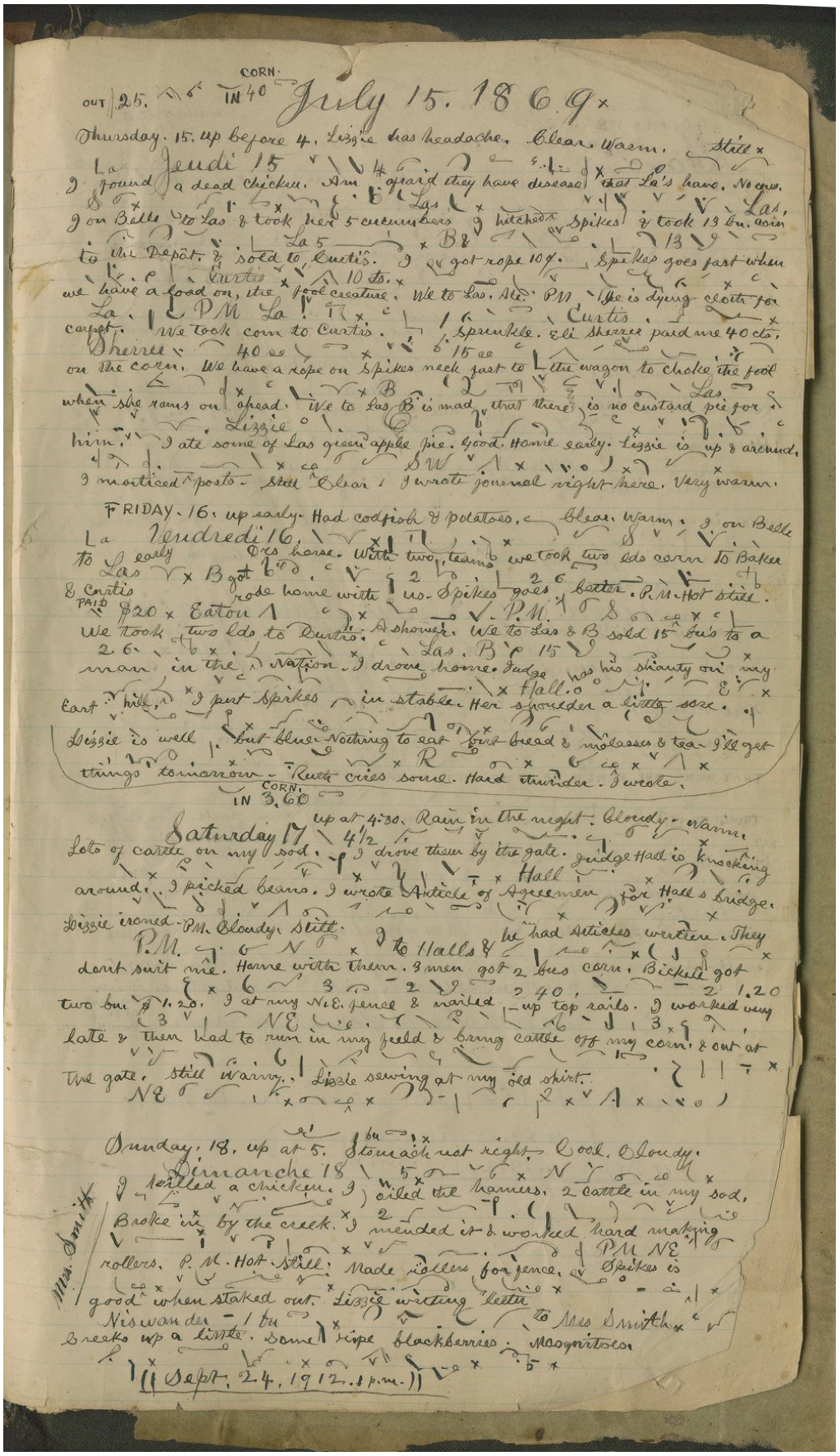
Tuesd 13. Mardi 13. up at 4. Lizzie has headache & back aches too. I staked the horse out. He dont eat grass. Clear. Warm. Breezy. Cattle hanging around my gates. Some on my sod corn & I got them out at the gate. They packed ex. I fixed picket. We all to Las. B. & I got loose stones about the house & drew to the new site. I to Middaughs & got a load of sand. The new horse cant pull as much as Stub, at all! Las. P.M. La Dinner at La's. P.M. She's not well. Clear. Warm. B & I home & got lime. We tried to break sod. Horse is too weak. We back & B mixed the mortar, & laid up corner foundation. B. dont like the work at all. I to Es & we'd supper. Long horse is stiff in the hind legs. Will take him back. Home late. McLaughlin 2 6 B Rowe 15 bu. him Rowe 15 bu 60 cts.

$4. out. 1.25

Wednesday. 14. up early. Thunder. Warm. My stomach bad. Lizzie up late, & went at her washing. I to creek & fixed the place the cattle get thro' etc. I swam with clothes & shoes on. I saw Wilkinson mending his fence, & making bars. I took a rest of the stone to Las. & had dinner. P.M. Hard rain. Lost clear. B & I to Topeka. Got sch. stationery for $1. P.M. NW corn shelled. We B. stable. Spikes is there. B got to Wolfs & that old Long has swapped here to him. We to Longs & got horse & left the PLUG. They said Spikes kicked a man, & struck another. We to Wolfs & got Spikes all right. Wolfs he has a mare to suit me. I to Banks, & put in my bill of $6 24.00. Willets & Thos James rode over with us. engaged 2 Tds. corn at 65. Home. Spikes goes first rate. To Las. she is glad I have Spikes. 65 back again. RR. accident Strange bridge & 20 Killed & wounded. Bloody. Sprinkle some. I home Belle Mr. Rowes man got 15 bu. cozn. NO PAY. old Smith got 4 bu. & paid in all. Cattle in sod. I drove cattle out at gate. Ruth not well. 2.50. 1.50

((Sept 23. 1912. 1.15. p.m.))

LEG HURT.



CORN.
OUT 25. IN 40 July 15. 1869

Thursday. 15. up before 4. Lizzie has headache. Clear. Warm. Still
La Jeudi 15
I found a dead chicken. Am afraid they have disease that La's have. No cow.
I on Belle to Las & took her 5 cucumbers I hitched Spikes & took 13 bu. corn
to the Depot. & sold to Curtis. I got rope 10¢. Spikes goes fast when
we have a load on, the fool creature. We to Las. Ate. PM. She is dying cloth for
carpet. We took corn to Curtis. Sprinkle. Eli Sherrer paid me 40 cts,
on the corn. We have a rope on Spikes neck fast to the wagon to choke the fool
when she runs on ahead. We to Las B is mad that there is no custard pie for
him. Lizzie I ate some of Las green apple pie. Good. Home early. Lizzie is up & around.
I mortised posts - Still Clear. I wrote journal right here. Very warm.

FRIDAY. 16. up early. Had codfish & potatoes. Clear. Warm. I on Belle
La Vendredi 16.
to Las early Drs horse. With two teams we took two lds corn to Baker
Las Bgot 6 d. 2 2 6 & Curtis rode home with us. Spikes goes better. P.M. Hot still.
PAID $20 Eaton 1 P.M.
We took two lds to Curtis. A shower. We to Las & B sold 15 bus to a
26 Las. B 15
man in the Nation. I drove home. Judge Hall has his shanty on my
East hill. I put Spikes in stable. Her shoulder a little sore.
Lizzie is well but blue. Nothing to eat but bread & molasses & tea. I'll get
things tomorrow. Ruth cries some. Hard thunder. I wrote.

CORN.
IN 3.60

Saturday 17 up at 4:30. Rain in the night. Cloudy. Warm.
Lots of cattle on my sod. I drove them by the gate. Judge Hall is knocking
around. I picked beans. I wrote Articles of Agreement for Hall & Bridge.
Lizzie ironed. PM. Cloudy. Still.
P.M. to Halls & We had Articles written. They
dont suit me. Home with them. 3 men got 2 bus corn. Bickell got
two bu $1.20. I at my NE. fence & nailed up top rails. I worked very
late & then had to run in my field & bring cattle off my corn. & out at
the gate. Still warm. Lizzie sewing at my old shirt.

Sunday. 18. up at 5. Stomach not right. Cool. Cloudy.
Dimanche 18
I killed a chicken. I oiled the harness. 2 cattle in my sod.
Broke in by the creek. I mended it & worked hard making
rollers. P. M. Hot. Still. Made rollers for fence. Spikes is
good when staked out. Lizzie writing letter to Mrs Smith
Niswander - 1 bu
Breaks up a little. Some ripe blackberries. Magnitoes.

((Sept. 24, 1912. 8 p.m.))

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