

EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF A FARMER'S WIFE, MRS. WILSON E. CREASY, 1905-06

We are privileged to peek into the happy life of a contented, hardworking wife and mother, Mrs. Wilson E. Creasy, who recorded the weather, events, and major activities of her life in her "A Line a Day" diary kept in 1905 and 1906. The diary is part of the Columbia County Historical & Genealogical Society's holdings.

(Note: Because of the brevity of the entries, punctuation was often omitted. For clarity, some commas have been inserted. The entries were transcribed as written including some words misspelled.)

1905

Jan. 1: W.E.C. (*her husband?*) & Mary went to S.S. This afternoon we was to church. Martha & Mary took their first lesson in the catechical class, Rev. L.H.W. Kline, Pastor

Jan. 2: Today I churned and fixed for butchering.

Jan. 13: Today I sowed, helped Grandmother with her dress. Mrs. Kelchner was here in the afternoon. Mary had speaking at school, she spoke "Pussy to Tea."

Jan. 27: Baked bread and fixed a comfort. Cold.

Feb. 10: Baked bread and doughnuts this forenoon, this afternoon Mother & I finished piecing our goose chase quilt.

Feb. 13: I did my morning work and then did a big churning . . . cleaned the privy.

Mar. 7: Baked bread and pies. Anna and Martha, baby, was hear, helped me quilt all

day. Mrs. Kelchner helped a while this afternoon, John Dieterich came this evening to work for us till April first. Hung up our first meat to smoke.

Mar. 17: Baked bread, cookies, pies, kept fire in smoke house, cut carpet rags this afternoon, W.E.C., Jim Williams was to Bloom.

Mar. 18: Churned, did Saturday's work, took bath this afternoon. W.E.C. went to George Conners sale, nice warm day. John Diet. got Jim and Blind Charley shod this forenoon, this afternoon he took the two grays to Light Street to get them shod. Stella Eck was here.

Mar. 20: Cloudy all day, I did not wash I cut carpet rags. Mary & Grandmother sewed this afternoon. Antie Kelchner came over to help us sow rags. W.E.C. was to Berwick, grandmother Creasy sent me some carpet rags down all cut and sowed 14 lbs. in sack.

Apr. 4: Mary stayed home from school, finished cleaning yard. I cut me out a pair of trousers and sewed some at them. I am not feeling well, put out hen with twenty two little chickens.

Apr. 17: Wind blowed very cold & snow blusters all day. I made my soap, three batches of cold, one kettle of hot. All got nice. Sadie V. came out to tell us Sarah Snyder had a stroke of paralysis Sunday morning at two o'clock. Mary went along over with Sadie.

May 17: Today I cleaned the sitting room, took every thing out, took up the carpet and turned it & blackened stove, took all day. This eve we started to go to Freds, got as far as McCarty's, turned, came home, cool but a hard shower we had.

May 31: I did not feel very good, churned, then worked in the garden till noon. This afternoon it rained a little. I sowed at Mary's night dress. Mary & I made a duck pen, she put out nine little ducks.

June 20: I churned this morning, then Mary and I cut the sod away from along the walks and trimmed up the yard a little, I sewed a little this afternoon. This evening I howed in the garden.

June 25: W.E.C. & Mary was to S.S. and Christian Endeavor society, Frank Michael was hear for dinner to night, W.E.C. & Mary went to childrens day at the Methodist Church at Fowlersville.

July 29: Mary churned, I baked pies, cleaned chicken for dinner, it is rainy, the men are thrashing, the thrash men was hear for dinner and supper.

Aug. 29: Churned, W.E.C. & Mother was to Kirkendalls for peaches, didn't get any. I canned tomatoes, we we'd the celery. Canned and dried sweet corn. W.E.C. & Mary went to Joes to pay tax, came home, Joe came hear then W.E.C. payed them.

Sept. 12: The men are thrashing, I baked ginger cake, pies, cleaned two chickens, picked beans, swept the kitchen, wiped the oarcloth, got dinner for thrashers. Kirkendalls brought us peaches.

Sept 13: I baked bread and churned and canned peaches. The baby was born in the afternoon about a quarter to six.

Oct. 4: The men are finishing cutting corn with the cutters, baked nine pies. Anna & Clara was out. Mary Aikman called to see the baby.

Oct. 10: We ironed a big ironing and baked a cake for the fair dinner.

Oct. 21: Churned, cleaned chicken. Alice Creasy & Fred R___ was hear for dinner. The men are hauling the old corn to Crisman, 63 cts. bushel. Frank Harris was hear and got two bushel shelled corn.

Oct. 24: I baked bread & pies, killed a hog for our own use.

Oct. 27: W.E.C. went to Romona Grange at Bendertown.

Nov. 25: I baked a chocolate cake, pies, cleaned chicken, cracked hickory nuts, did the scrubbing, cleaned up kitchen & room, sowed lace on drawers for Martha _____.
caught chickens to sell.

Dec. 23: I cleaned up the kitchen. Anna Clara & Elisha came out, was hear for dinner. I cleaned chicken for dinner, it was rainy, Mary went to the church to practice, stayed over for entertainment, Mother went over with Anna, they stayed all night ____ I did not go over.

Dec. 24: Mary came home, brought Sadie, they trimmed the Christmas tree this afternoon.

1906

Jan. 6: Saturday, very windy, baked a ginger cake, washed the lamps, ironed baby's clothes this afternoon . . . tonight I am up with baby, he is not well, taken cold.

Jan. 20: Rainy, W.E.C. went to Bloom early on the trolley with Jim W. business about the farm. Agriculture meeting this afternoon. I was alone with the work at the barn. In the morning I cleaned chicken, baked a cake,

did my Saturday work. Mary was up to see Mary Kelchner in the afternoon.

Jan. 23: Mary did not go to school. I am not feeling well. I baked some pies, had sour-kROUT for dinner. W.E.C. got a quarter of beef off Artman, 92 lbs. I fixed to bake bread.

Jan. 31: Wednesday. Rainy this afternoon. W.E.C. went to Berwick after oysters and crackers for the grange. Friday night I baked pies four pumpkin & three apple. Finished babys dress this afternoon. Aunt Emma Hagenbuch died this morning with cancer.

Feb. 10: Saturday. Nice day to sleigh ride . . . today John Remleys buried their little baby.

Feb. 26: Monday. Pretty nice day, a little cooler. I did not wash was not feeling well enough. I put a new yoke and sleeves in one of baby's dresses & cut out Mary a waist. Stella Shafer came with Mary all night. Dellmer was out and got some more windows for his hot bed. W.E.C. commenced the roof on the smoke house.

Feb. 27: Cold. I sewed some, W.E.C. & I went out to Hervey's a little. W.E.C. went to Will Hesses to settle his road tax. Last night something killed Mary's drake & white duck. Delmer was hear for eggs. I gave him five dozen, 20 cts. He got the autoharp also.

Mar. 2: W.E.C. & Charley Shaffer put away two more loads of ice off the pond. . . . The teacher and scholars cleaned the schoolhouse.

Mar. 8: Mr. Jones started with the mules and two horses this morning. W.E.C. went to the mill then went on up to the saw-mill, got a load of saw-dust for the ice. . . .

Mar. 31: Real nice day. I baked bread and cinnamon rolls and we did a big ironing and the Saturday's work. W.E.C. went to Bloom, got Mary's and LeRoy's pictures. Mrs. Albertson was down for lard, 3 1/2 lbs.

Apr. 7: Cleaned up the sitting room and kitchen good. Mary Kelchner was hear in the afternoon. Mary gave her one of her pictures. We put wire around flower bed to keep chickens out. W.E.C. was to the blacksmith shop with Jim's shalves.

Apr. 12: Today is the last day of Mary's school.

Apr. 14: I baked ginger cake and pies, cleaned up kitchen, cleaned two chickens, colored easter eggs. . . .

Apr. 28: Baked a cake & pies, cleaned chicken for dinner, did the Saturday work, ironed, planted in garden. Mr. Kline & wife came for supper, stayed all night, Cora H. was hear for supper. Mary took Oscar home a ways W.E.C. was to mill. Mother was out to see Jim. We got some butter up at Bowers Store, sent Mrs. Albertson some onions to plant.

May 3: Nice day, I did the morning work, then commenced to clean the summer kitchen, worked at it all day.

May 14: Cleaned the sitting room and put down the new carpet and the step carpet and the carpet in Marys room.

June 6: Today I washed, we poled the beans, fixsed the vinegar. This evening I planted tomatoes in truck patch

July 18: Baked bread, cinnamon rolls, pies & churned. W.E.C., Mary was to Berwick, had baby along . . . I picked peas, Rey and another fellow from Berwick was hear. I

baked a cake & made some fudge.
Grandmother Creasy gave us her hanging
lamp.

Aug. 29: Cleaned up the kitchen, canned
tomatoes, pulled weeds. Was over to Arthur
Creasy to party . . . W.E.C. took Hurley to
Orangeville, Uncle Herveys went to
Williamsgrove today.

Sept. 13: Cleaned chicken for dinner and
ironed baby's birthday. Aunt Anna gave
him a light calico dress for a present. W.E.C.
was over to Herveys helping with the corn.
Mrs. Williams was out for butter. I cleaned
the parlor and put the lace curtains up. Chas
Shaffer was out to fone, he has a sick horse.

Oct. 17: Did the morning work, went out to
spend the day with mother, she was going to
a party for Harvey Creveling. I came home
helped W.E.C. stretch wire a while, then cut
the corn in the garden and cleaned my
cucumber seed. . . .

Nov. 6: I baked bread & pies and sewed a
little. W.E.C. took the old pig out to Chas
Shaffers, hauled in a load of corn shocks
that was down. Went over to vote, came
home, went up to Hildebrandts to see some
sows.

Nov. 21: The men are husting corn. This
evening Maniel Whit. got his hand in huster
and tore all his fingers off. Dr. Wolf & John
dressed his hand. Alice Sharretts got 7 lbs.
side meat and 5 lbs. spair ribs.

Dec. 22: Today the aid society met hear had
a nice time, the preacher was hear, took
dinner with us. Those present were Ida Hag.,
Mother, Anna & Martha, Mrs Isaac Creasy,
Mrs. Wm. Stahl, Mary Kelchner, Minnie
Townsend, took in cash \$1.45. The day was
snowey hear all day. Martha, Mary went to
the church to practice for Christmas Ent.

Dec. 24: I washed for baby, made popcorn balls, made fudge, Sam got a Christmas tree for Leroy, to Bloom, got Pet shod, fetched some of our things from Arthurs. Sam & Mary was over to the Christmas Entertainment. I did not go, it was to cold. W.E.C. did not go.

Dec. 25: Nice day, we was all up to Adeline Harmans for dinner, mother was along. I took her a dish. Mary took her apron. Mr Harmon a paper of tobacco. Adeline gave me a dish, Mary a lamp.