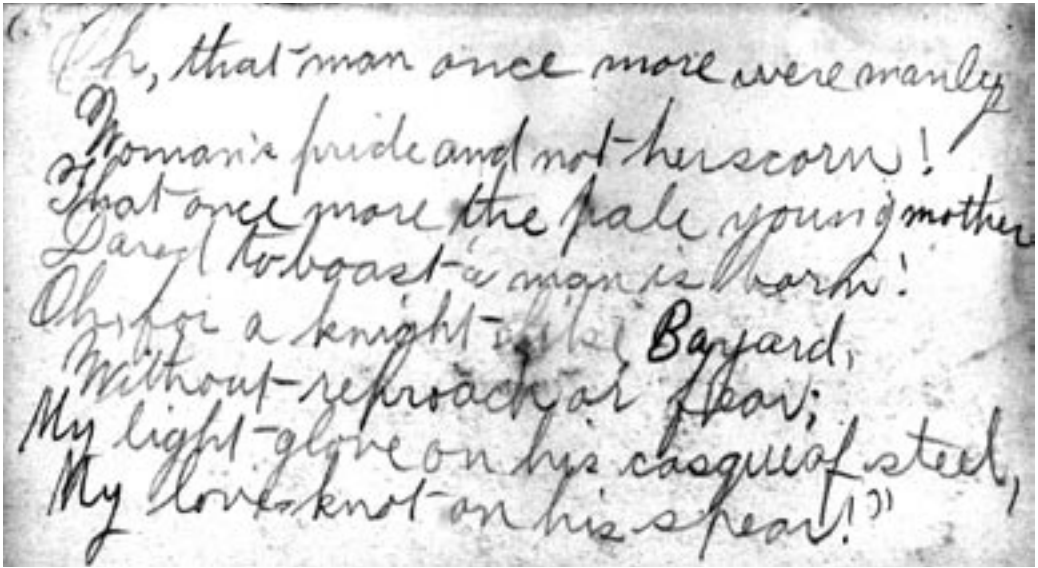


# EXCELSIOR DIARY



for  
1881.



*Inside front cover of original diary.*

“Oh that man once more were only  
Woman’s pride and not her scorn!  
That once more the pale young mother  
Dared to boast a man is born.  
Oh, for a knight like Bayard,  
Without reproach or fear;  
My light glove on his casque of steel,  
My love knot on his spear.”

---

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# *Aida Austin's 1881 Diary*

*Transcribed & Edited by*

Louise (Austin) Smith

---



*Aida Austin traveling by ship on her way to or from France.*

## INTRODUCTION

In looking through family photos and information of my mom, Mary Briggs Austin, I found my great Aunt Aida Austin's 1881 Diary.

It is quite small, almost 2.75 inches wide and 4 inches long. I have scanned each page and typed up what I could read. I have added punctuation and capital letters.

Great Aunt Aida was 19 years old when she started writing the diary. She turned 20 on November 28, 1881.

Aida was about four years older than her brother, my grandpa, Charles Mortimer Austin.

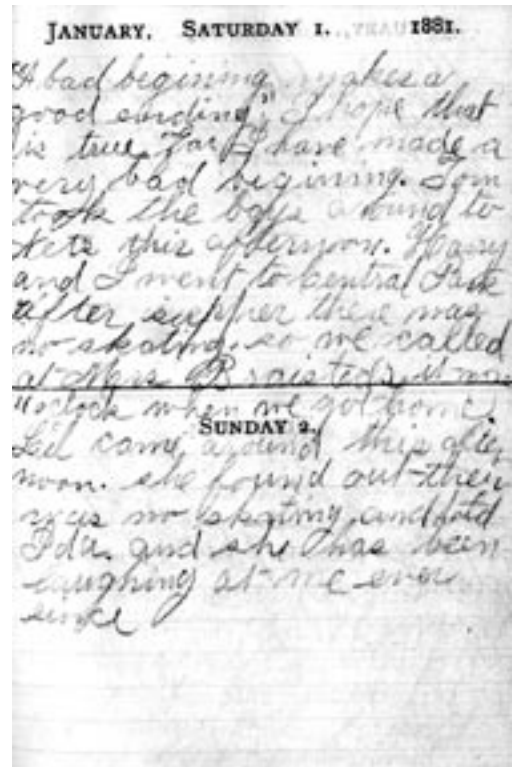
There are quite a few names mentioned in this little diary. I have included names of relatives at the end of the book.

Special thanks to my husband, Gary Smith, for laying the book out and getting it ready to print.

I hope you enjoy reading this diary as much as I have enjoyed putting the book together.

*Louise Elizabeth (Austin) Smith*

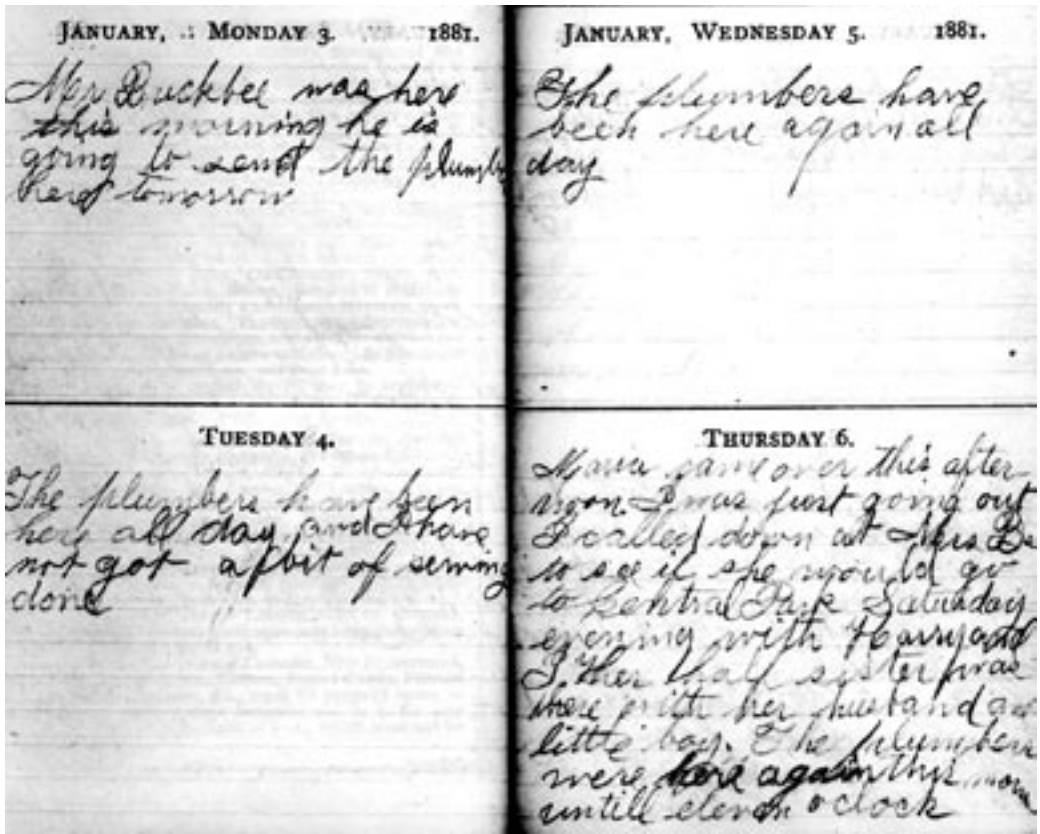
*Aida A. Austin  
290 East Broadway  
New York*



## JANUARY

### Saturday 1, Sunday 2

"A bad beginning makes a good ending?" I hope that is true for I have made a very bad beginning. Tom took the boys around to Net's this afternoon. Harry and I went to Central Park after supper. There was no skating, so we called at Mrs. Braisted's. It was 11 o'clock when we got home. Lil came around this afternoon. She found out there was no skating and told Ida, and she has been laughing at me ever since.



## JANUARY

### Monday 3

Mr. Buckbee was here this morning. He is going to send the plumber here tomorrow.

### Wednesday 5

The plumbers have been here again all day.

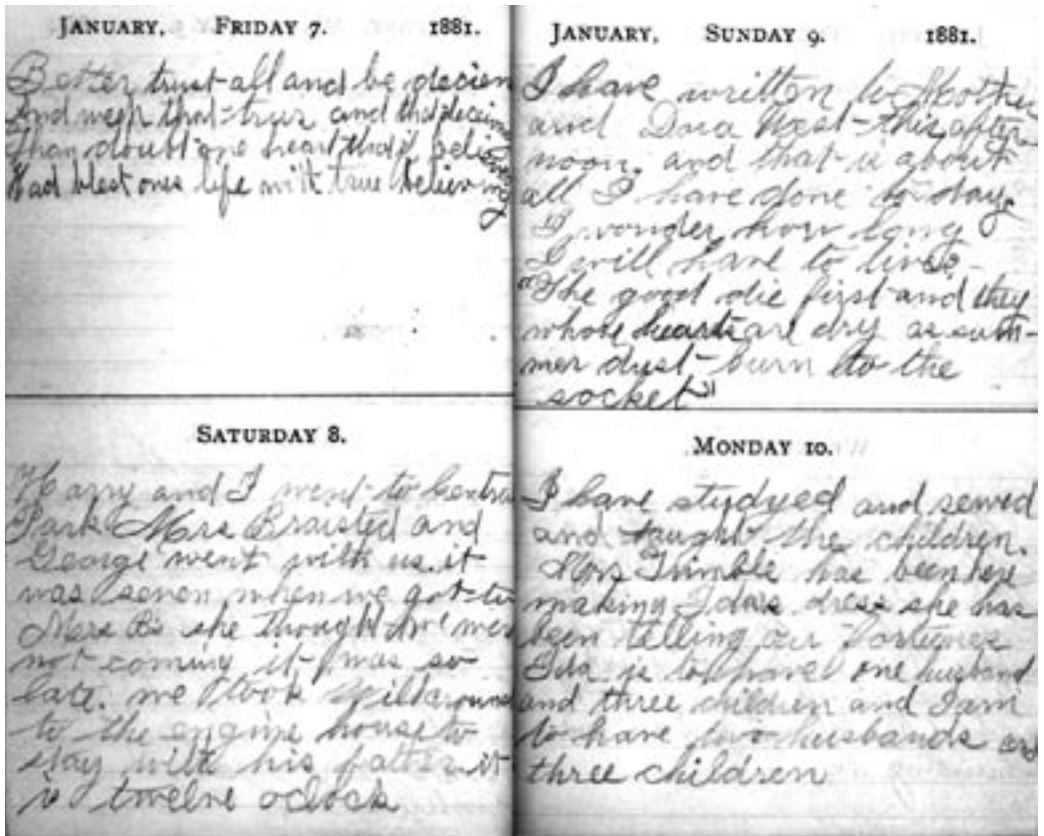
### Tuesday 4

The plumbers have been here all day and I have not got a bit of sewing done.

### Thursday 6

Maria came over this afternoon. I was just going out. I called down at Mrs. B.'s to see if she would go to Central Park Saturday evening with Harry and I. Her half sister was there with her husband and little boy. The plumbers were here again this morning until eleven o'clock.





## JANUARY

### Friday 7

Better trust all and be deceived  
And win that trust and that deceiving  
Than doubt one heart that is believing  
Had blest ones life with true believing.

### Saturday 8

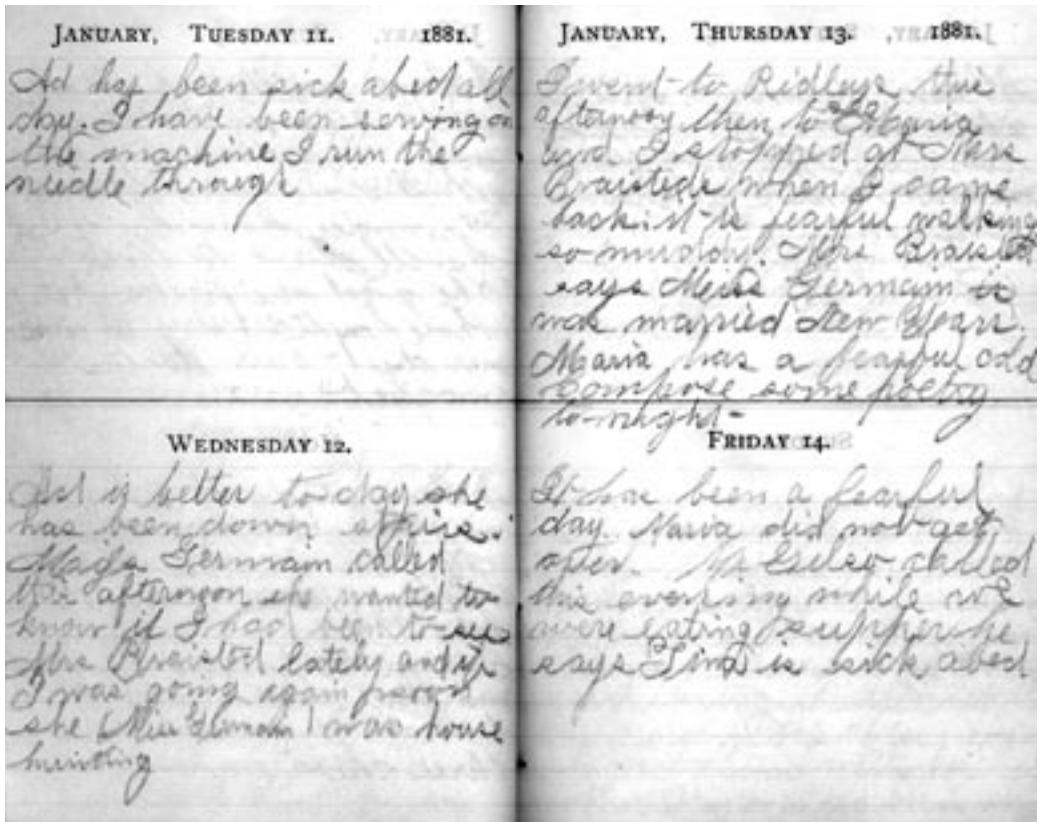
Harry and I went to Central Park. Mrs. Braisted and George went with us. It was seven when we got to Mrs. B's. She thought we were not coming, it was so late. We took Will around to the engine house to stay with his father. It is twelve o'clock.

### Sunday 9

I have written to Mother and Dora West this afternoon and that is about all I have done today. I wonder how long I will have to live. "The good die first and they whose hearts are dry as summer dust burn to the socket."

### Monday 10

I have studied and sewed and taught the children. Mrs. Trimble has been here making Ida's dress. She has been telling our fortunes. Ida is to have one husband and three children and I am to have two husbands and three children.



## JANUARY

### Tuesday 11

Ad has been sick abed all day. I have been sewing on the machine. I run the needle through.

### Wednesday 12

Ad is better today. She has been down stairs. Madge Germain called this afternoon. She wanted to know if I had been to see Mrs. Braisted lately and if I was going again soon. She (Miss Germain) was house hunting.

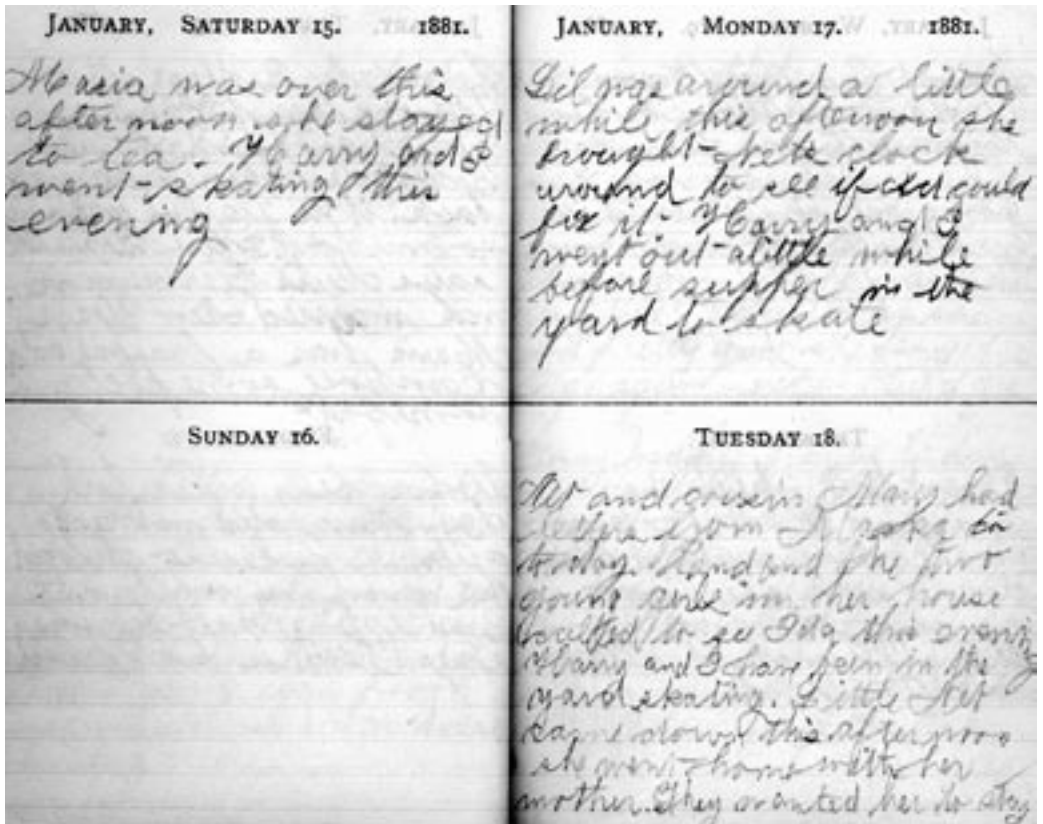
### Thursday 13

I went to Ridley's this afternoon then to see Maria and I stopped at Mrs. Braisted's when I came back. It is fearful walking so muddy. Mrs. Braisted says Miss Germain was married New Years. Maria has a fearful cold. Composed some poetry tonight.

### Friday 14

It has been a fearful day. Maria did not get over. Mr. Gilso called this evening while we were eating supper. He says Tina is sick abed.





## JANUARY

### Saturday 15

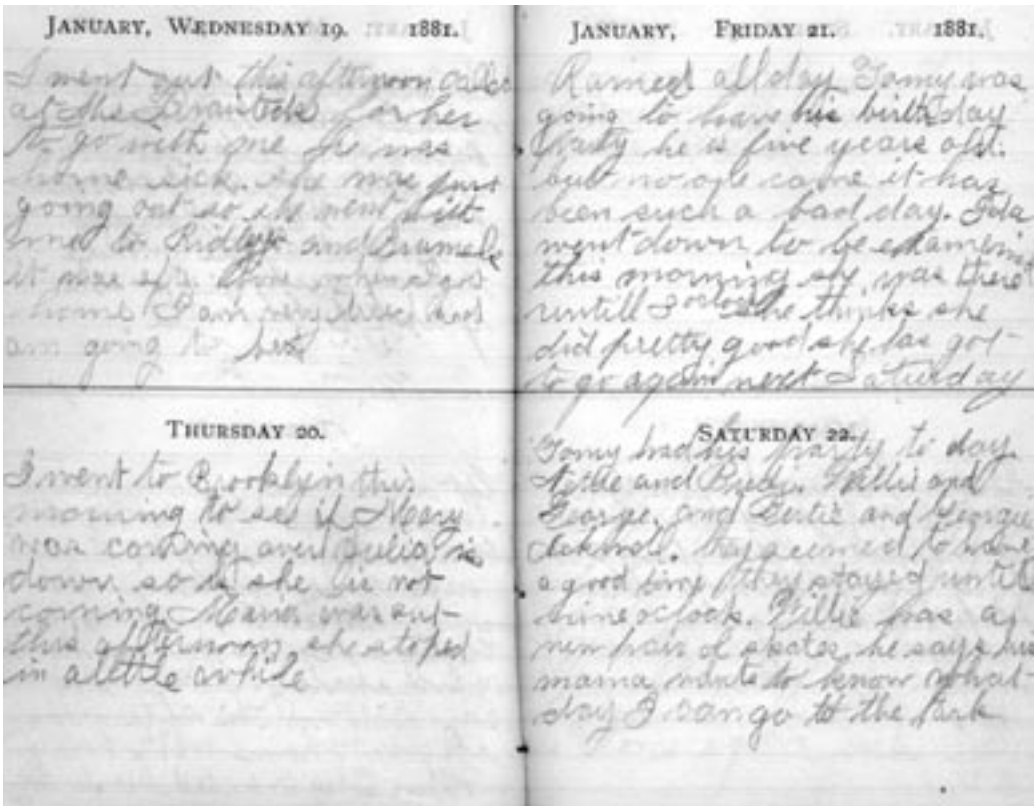
Maria was over this afternoon. She stayed to tea. Harry and I went skating this evening.

### Monday 17

Lil was around a little while this afternoon. She brought Net's clock around to see if Ad could fix it. Harry and I went out a little while before supper in the yard to skate.

### Tuesday 18

Net and cousin Mary had letters from Alaska today. Rand and the two young girls in her house called to see Ida this evening. Harry and I have been in the yard skating. Little Net came down this afternoon. She went home with her mother. They wanted her to stay.



## JANUARY

### Wednesday 19

I went out this afternoon. Called at Mrs. Braisted for her to go with me. She was home sick. She was just going out so she went with me to Ridley's and Brumel's. It was after five when I got home. I am very tired and am going to bed.

### Thursday 20

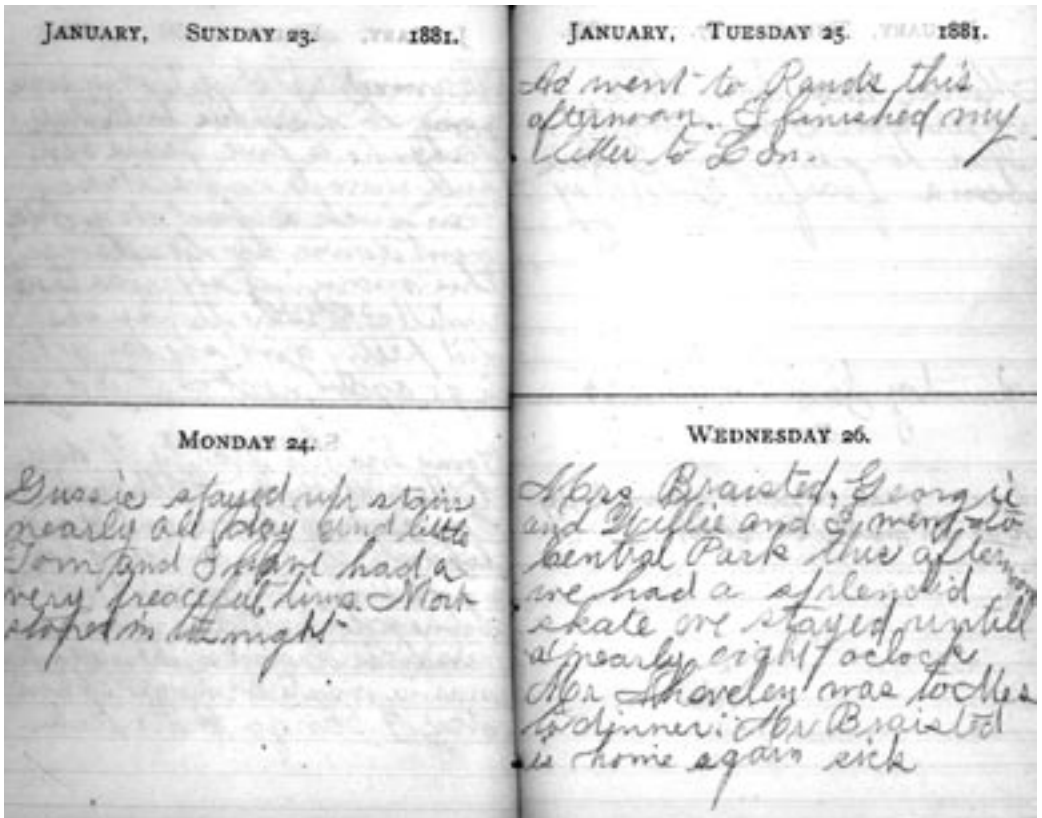
I went to Brooklyn this morning to see if Mary was coming over, and Julia is down, so (is) she is not coming. Maria was out this afternoon, she stopped in a little while.

### Friday 21

Rained all day. Tommy was going to have his birthday party. He is five years old. But no one came. It has been such a bad day. Ida went down to be examined this morning. She was there until 3 o'clock. She thinks she did pretty good. She has got to go again next Saturday.

### Saturday 22

Tommy had his party today: Nettie and Buddie, Willie and George, and Bertie and Georgie Ackwell. They seemed to have a good time until nine o'clock. Willie has a new pair of skates. He says his mama wants to know what day I can go to the Park.



## JANUARY

### Sunday 23

Ad went to Rand's this afternoon.  
I finished my letter to Lon.

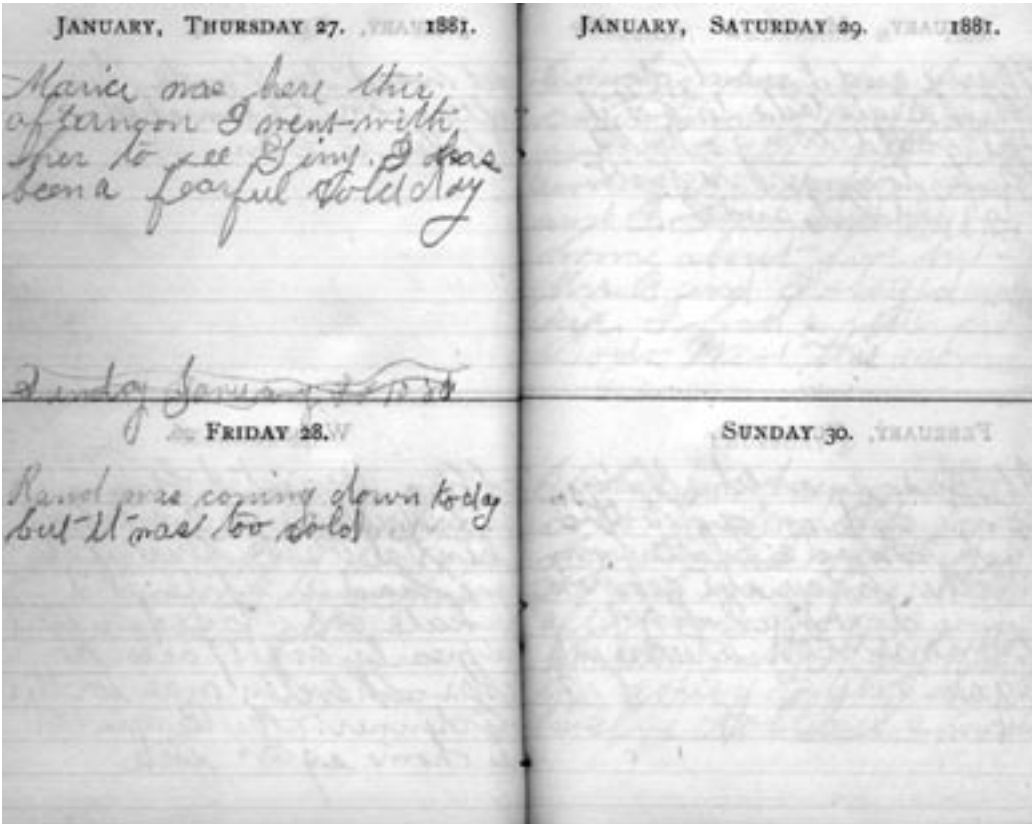
### Tuesday 25

### Monday 24

Gussie stayed upstairs nearly all day and little Tom and I have had a very peaceful time. Mort stopped in tonight.

### Wednesday 26

Mrs. Braisted, Georgie, and Willie and I went to Central Park this afternoon. We had a splendid skate. We stayed until nearly eight o'clock. Mr. Shevelen was to Mrs. to dinner. Mr. Braisted is home again sick.



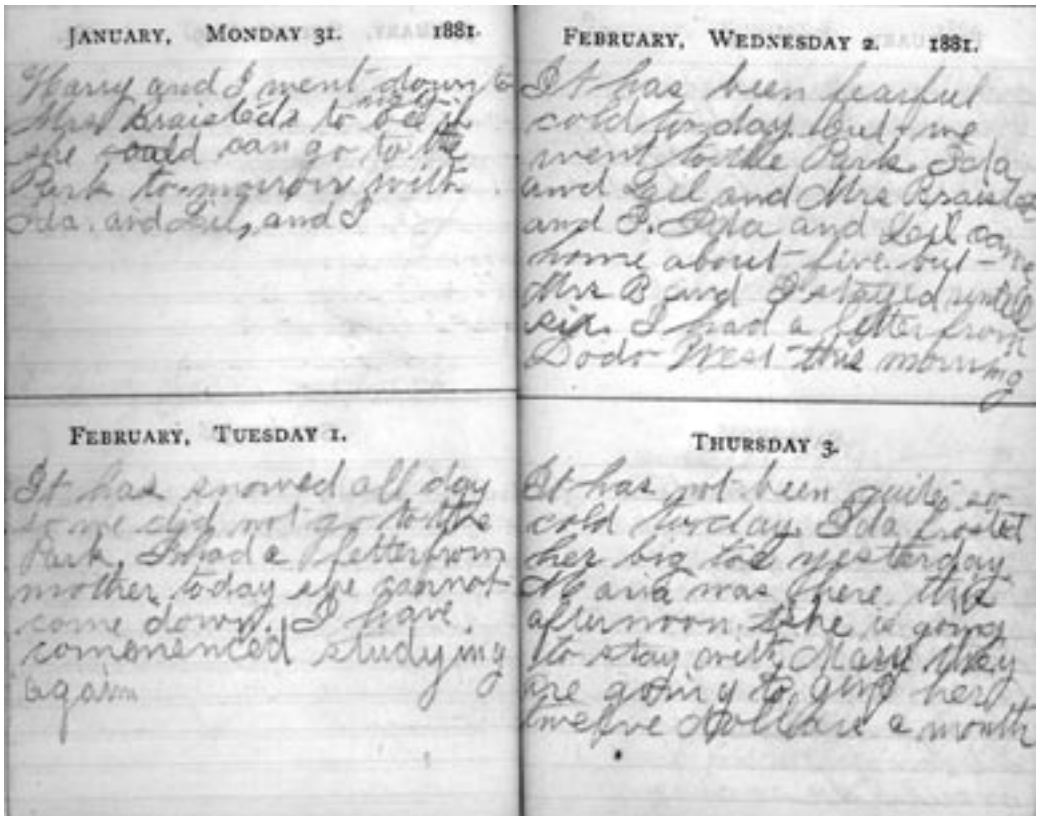
## JANUARY

### Thursday 27

Maria was here this afternoon.  
I went with her to see Tiny. It  
has been a fearful cold day.

### Friday 28

Rand was coming down today,  
but it was too cold.



## JANUARY

### Monday 31

Harry and I went down to Mrs. Braisted tonight to see if she can go to the Park tomorrow with Ida, and Lil and I.

### Wednesday 2

It has been fearful cold today. But we went to the Park. Ida and Lil and Mrs. Braisted and I. Ida and Lil came home about five. But Mrs. B. and I stayed until six. I had a letter from Dodo West this morning.

## FEBRUARY

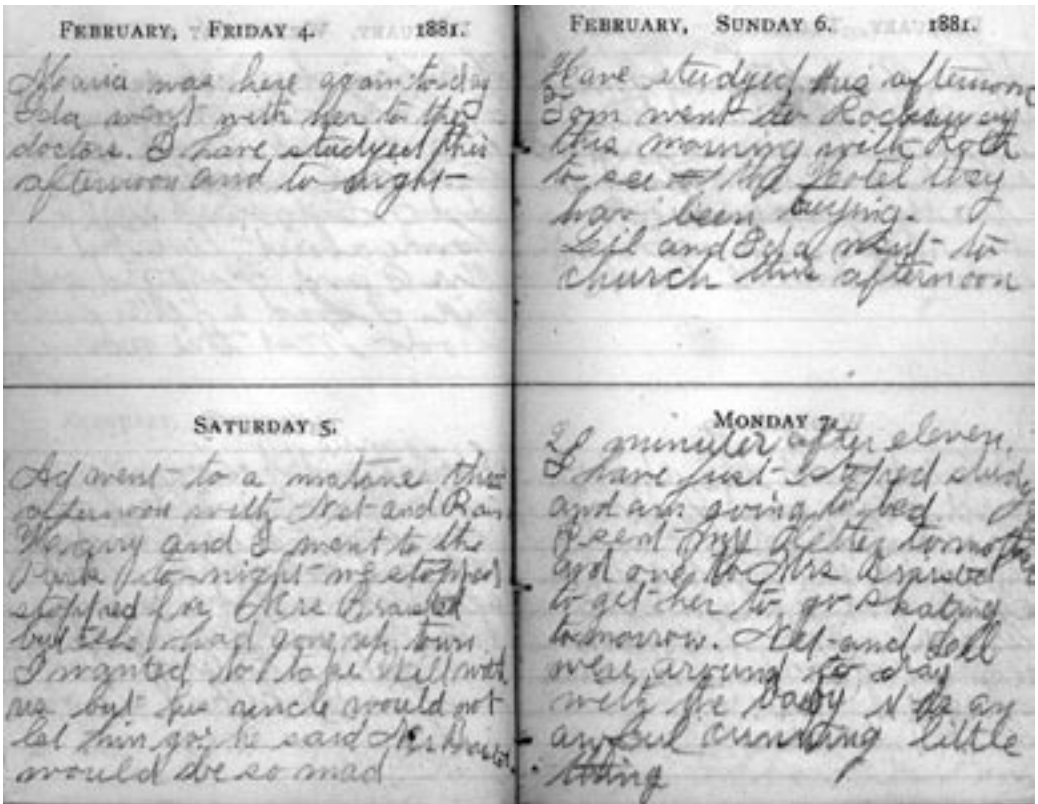
### Tuesday 1

It has snowed all day so we did not go to the Park. I had a letter from mother today. She cannot come down. I have commenced studying again.

### Thursday 3

It has not been quite so cold today. Ida frosted her big toe yesterday. Maria was here this afternoon. She is going to stay with Mary. They are going to give her twelve dollars a month.





## FEBRUARY

### Friday 4

Maria was here again today. Ida went with her to the doctors. I have studied this afternoon and tonight.

### Saturday 5

Ad went to a matinee this afternoon with Net and Rand. Harry and I went to the Park tonight. We stopped for Mrs. Braisted, but she had gone up town. I wanted to take Will with us, but his uncle would not let him go. He said Mr. Braisted would be so mad.

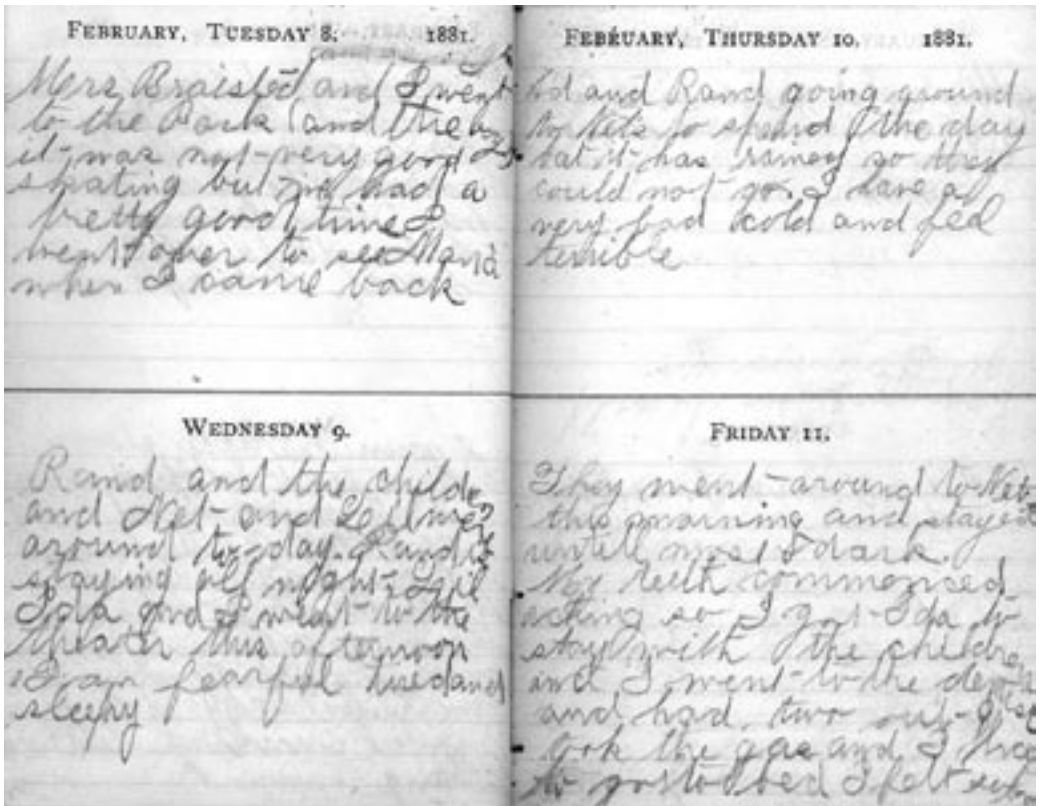
### Sunday 6

Have studied this afternoon. Tom went to Rockaway this morning with Roth to see the Hotel they have been buying. Lil and Ida went to church this afternoon.

### Monday 7

20 minutes after eleven. I have just stopped studying and am going to bed. I sent my letter to mother and one to Mrs. Braisted to get her to go skating tomorrow. Net and Lil were around today with the baby. It is an awful cunning thing.





## FEBRUARY

### Tuesday 8

Mrs. Braisted and I went to the Park (and the boys). It was not very good skating but we had a pretty good time. I went over to see Maria when I came back.

### Wednesday 9

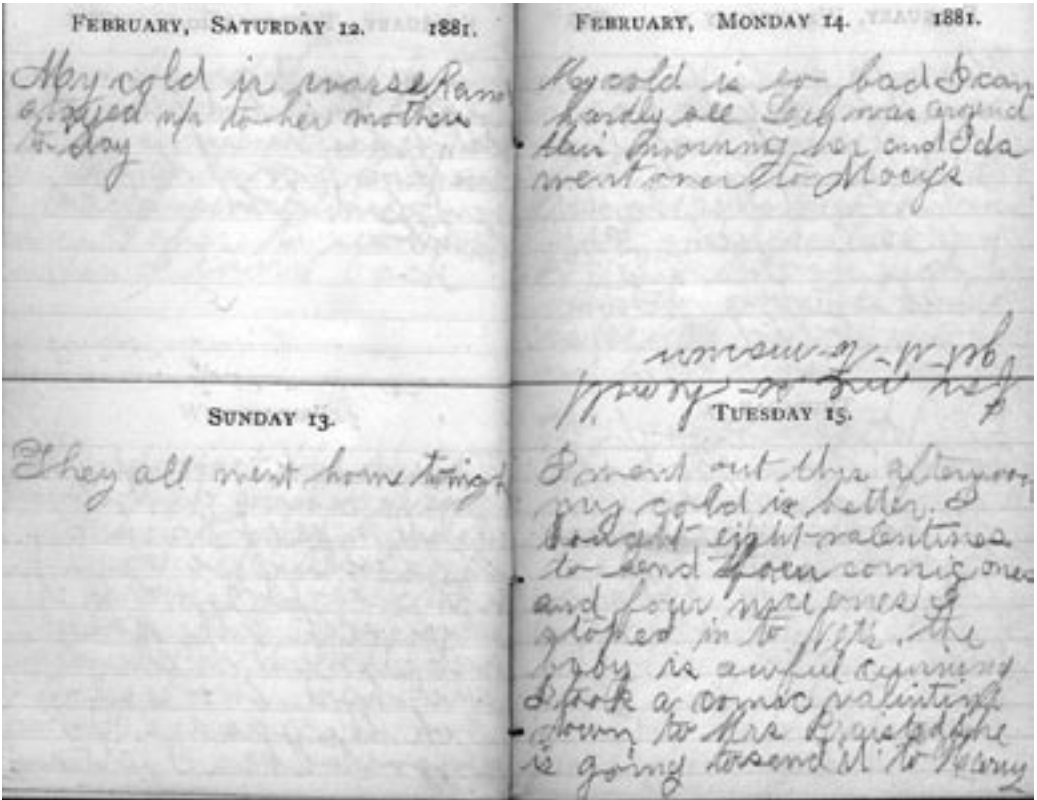
Rand and the children and Net and Lil were around today. Rand is staying all night. Lil, Ida, and I went to the theater this afternoon. I am fearful tired and sleepy.

### Thursday 10

Ad and Rand going around to Net's to spend the day but it has rained so they could not go. I have a very bad cold and feel terrible.

### Friday 11

They went around to Net's this morning and stayed until most dark. My teeth commenced aching so I got Ida to stay with the children and I went to the dentist and had two out. I took the gas and I had to go to bed I felt so bad.



## FEBRUARY

### Saturday 12

My cold is worse. Rand stayed up to her mother's today.

### Sunday 13

They all went home tonight.

### Monday 14

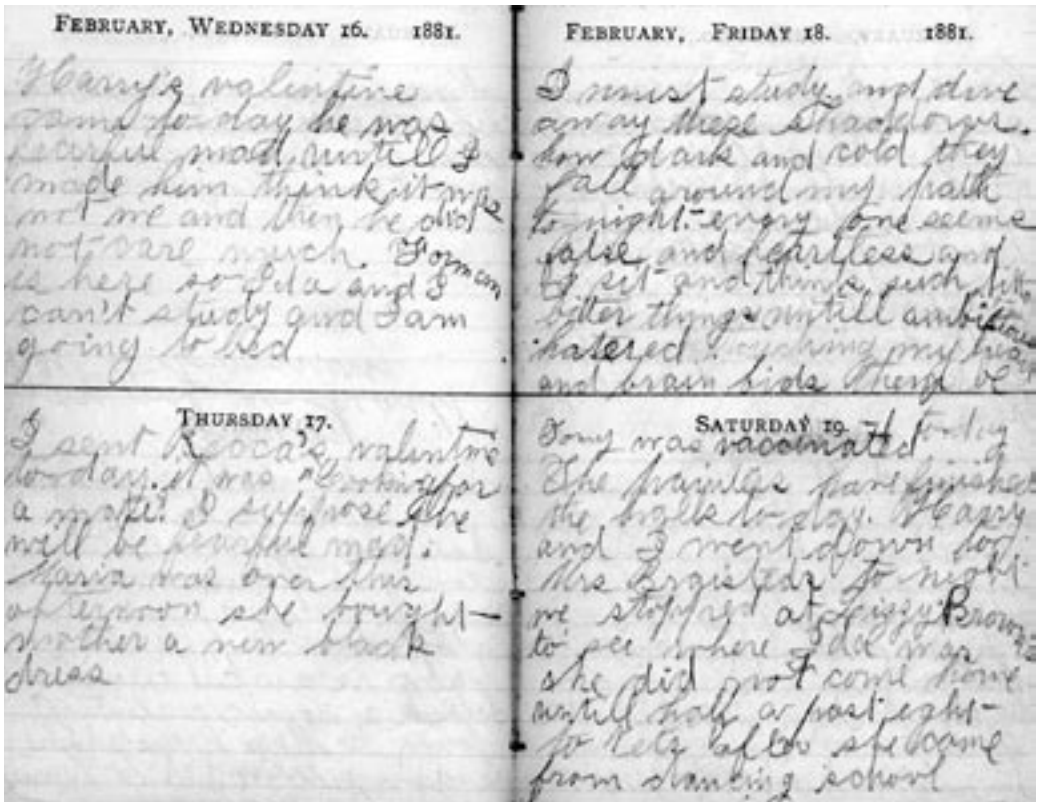
My cold is so bad I can hardly see. Lil was around this morning. Her and Ida went over to Macy's.

*Upside down:* for me so he will get it tomorrow.

### Tuesday 15

I went out this afternoon. My cold is better. I bought eight valentines to send—four comic ones and four nice ones. I stopped into Net's. The baby is awful cunning. I took a comic valentine down to Mrs. Braisted. She is going to send it to Harry.

*See February, Monday 14, Upside down.*



## FEBRUARY

### Wednesday 16

Harry's valentine came today. He was fearful mad until I made him think it was not me and then he did not care much. Foreman is here so Ida and I can't study and I am going to bed.

### Thursday 17

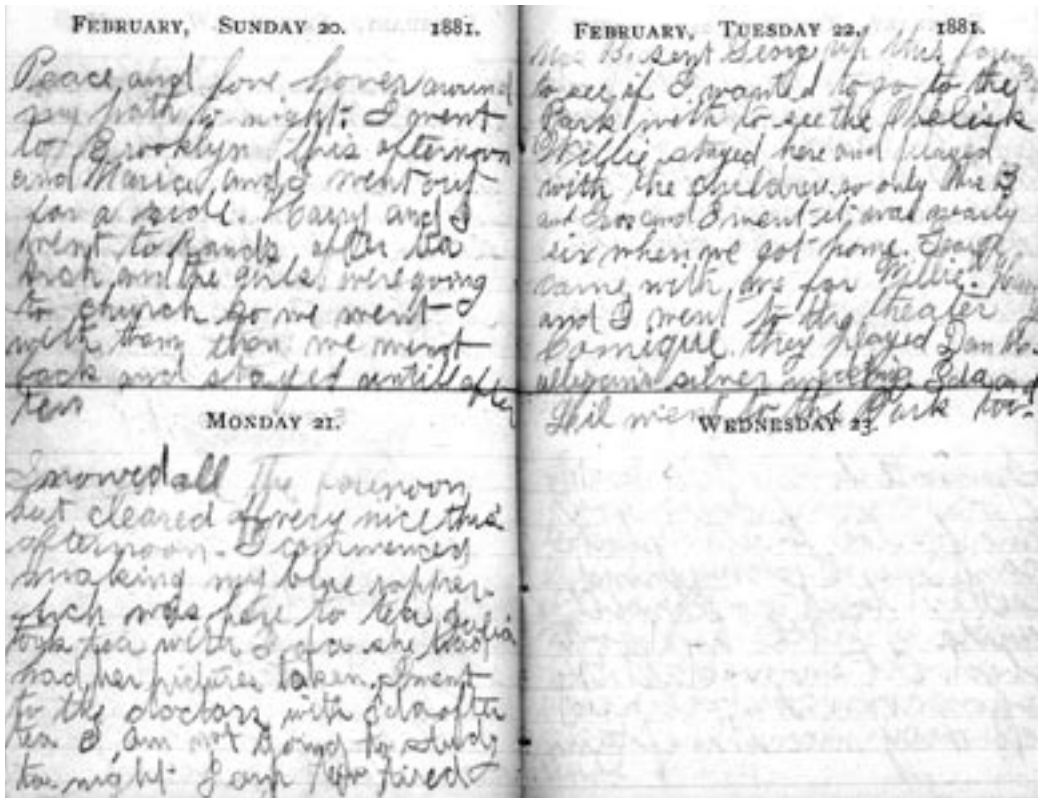
I sent Becca's valentine today. It was "Looking for a mate." I suppose she will be fearful mad. Maria was over this afternoon. She bought mother a new black dress.

### Friday 18

I must study and drive away these shadows. How dark and cold they fall around my path tonight. Every one seems false and heartless and I sit and think such bitter things until ambitious hatred touching my heart and brain bids them be.

### Saturday 19

Tommy was vaccinated today. The painters have finished the halls today. Harry and I went down for Mrs. Braisted's tonight. We stopped at Lizzy Brown's to see where Ida was. She did not come home until half a past eight to Net's, after she came from dancing school.



## FEBRUARY

### Sunday 20

Peace and love hover around my path tonight. I went to Brooklyn this afternoon and Maria and I went out for a ride. Harry and I went to Rand's after tea. Arch and the girls were going to church so we went with them. Then we went back and stayed until after ten.

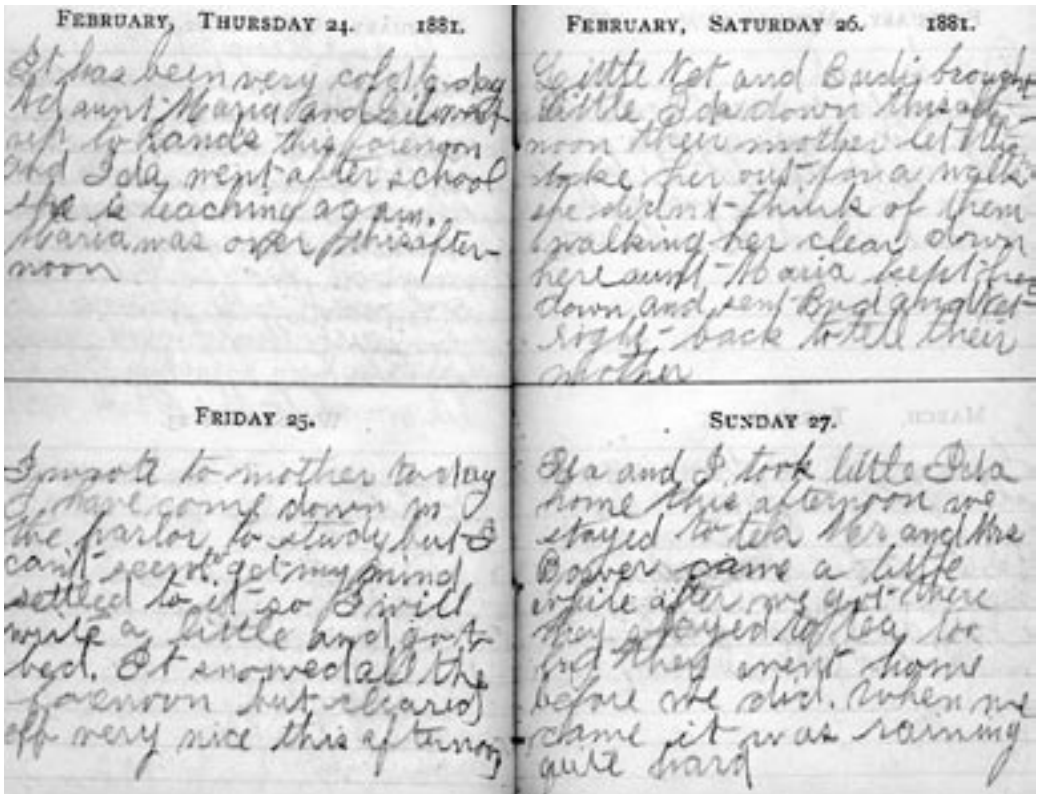
### Monday 21

Snowed all the forenoon but cleared off very nice this afternoon. I commenced making my blue wrapper. Arch was here to tea. Julia took tea with Ida. She had had her pictures taken. I went to the doctors with Ida after tea. I am not going to study tonight. I am too tired.

### Tuesday 22

Mrs B. sent George up this forenoon to see if I wanted to go to the Park (with) to see the obelisk. Willie stayed here and played with the children so only Mrs B. and George and I went. It was nearly six when we got home. George came with me for Willie. Harry and I went to the Theater Comique. They played Dan Mulligan's silver wedding. Ida and Lil went to the Park too.





## FEBRUARY

### Thursday 24

It has been very cold today. Ad, Aunt Maria, and Lil went up to Rand's this forenoon and Ida went after school. She is teaching again. Maria was over this afternoon.

### Friday 25

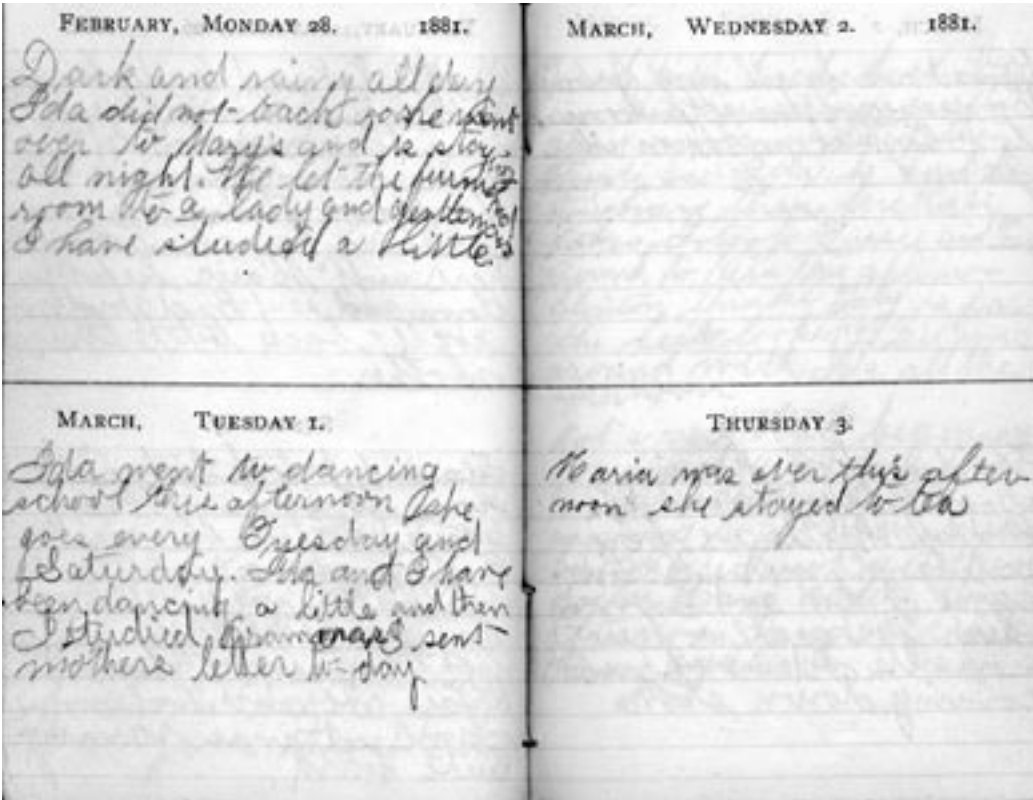
I wrote to mother today. I have come down in the parlor to study, but I can't seem to get my mind settled to it, so I will write a little and go to bed. It snowed all the forenoon but cleared off very nice this afternoon.

### Saturday 26

Little Net and Buddie brought little Ida down this afternoon. Their mother let them take her out for a walk. She didn't think of them walking her clear down here. Aunt Maria kept her down and sent Bud and Net right back to tell their mother.

### Sunday 27

Ida and I took little Ida home this afternoon. We stayed to tea. Mr. and Mrs. Bower came a little while after we got there. They stayed to tea, too, but they went home before we did. When we came it was raining quite hard.



FEBRUARY

Monday 28

Dark and rainy all day. Ida did not teach so she went over to Mary's and is staying all night. We let the furnished room to a lady and gentleman. I have studied a little.

MARCH

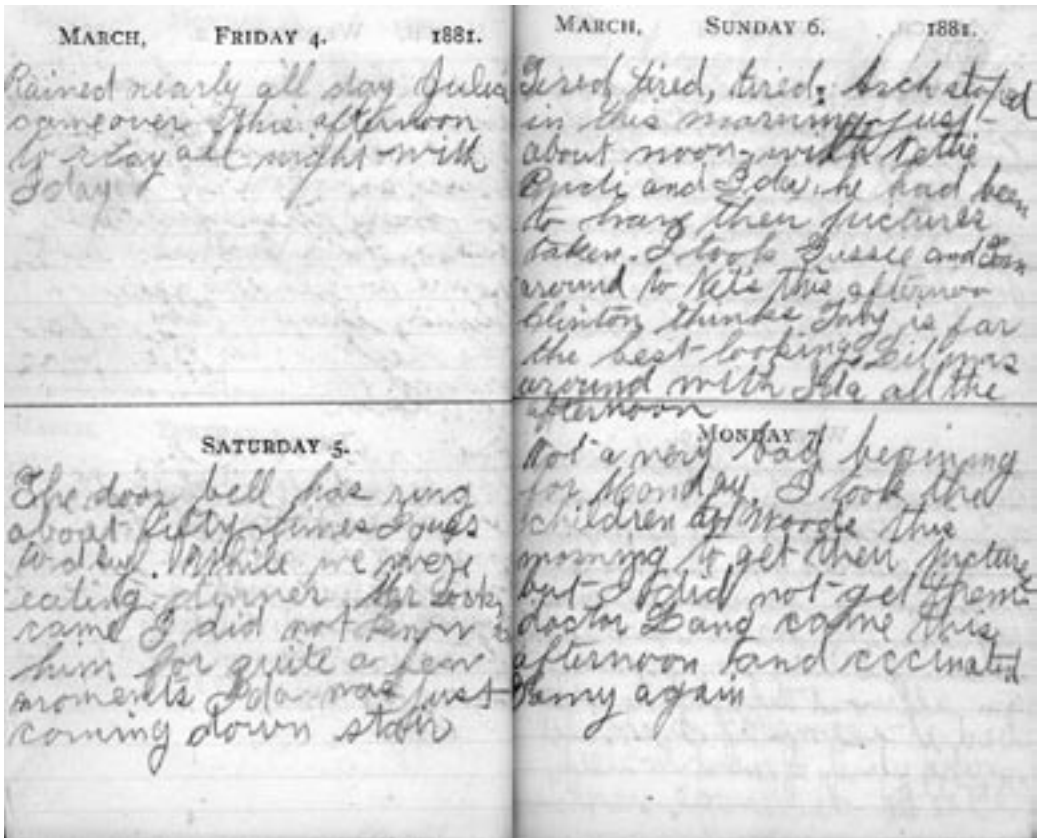
Tuesday 1

Ida went to dancing school this afternoon. She goes every Tuesday and Saturday. Ida and I have been dancing a little and then I studied grammar. I sent mother's letter today.

Thursday 3

Maria was over this afternoon. She stayed to tea.





## MARCH

### Friday 4

Rained nearly all day. Julia came over this afternoon to stay all night with Ida.

### Saturday 5

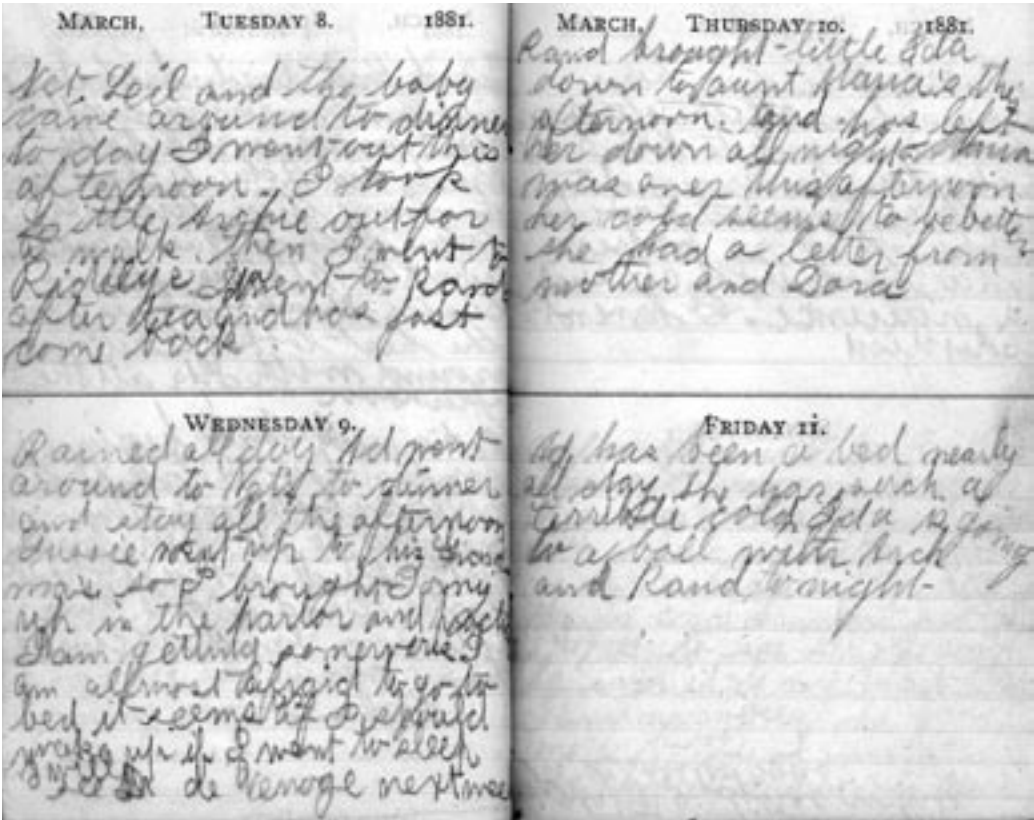
The door bell has rung about fifty times I guess today. While we were eating dinner Mr. Lockman came. I did not know him for quite a few moments. Ida was just coming downstairs.

### Sunday 6

Tired, tired, tired. Arch stopped in this morning just about noon with Nettie, Buddie and Ida. He had been to have their pictures taken. I took Gussie and Tom around to Net's this afternoon. Clinton thinks Tony is far the best looking. Lil was around with Ida all the afternoon.

### Monday 7

Not a very bad beginning for Monday. I took the children to Wood's this morning to get their pictures, but I did not get them. Doctor Lang came this afternoon and vaccinated Harry again.



MARCH

Tuesday 8

Net, Lil, and the baby came around to dinner today. I went out this afternoon. I took Little Archie out for a walk. Then I went to Ridley's. Ida went to Rand's after tea and has just come back.

Wednesday 9

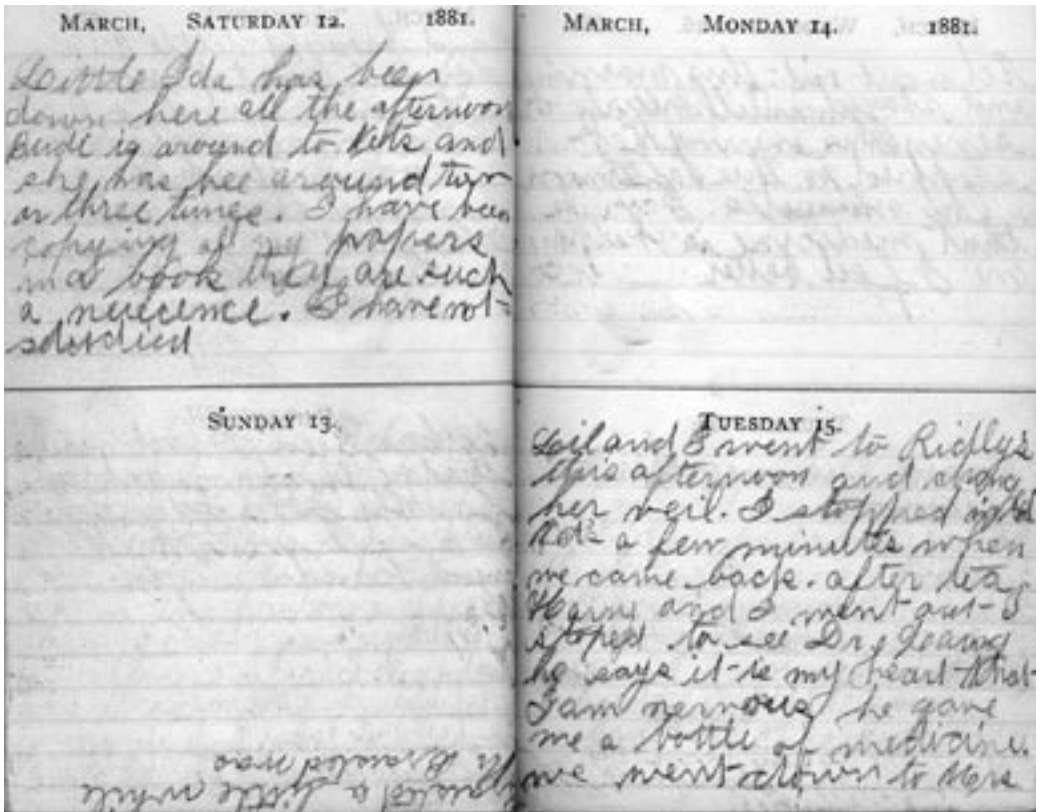
Rained all day. Ad went around to Net's to dinner and stayed all the afternoon. Gussie went up to his Grandma's, so I brought Tommy up in the parlor and practiced. I am getting so nervous I am almost afraid to go to bed. It seems if I should wake up if I went to sleep. I will see Dr. de Venoge next week.

Thursday 10

Rand brought little Ida down to Aunt Maria's this afternoon and has left her down all night. Maria was over this afternoon. Her cold seems to be better. She had a letter from mother and Dora.

Friday 11

Ad has been a bed nearly all day. She has such a terrible cold. Ida is going to a ball with Arch and Rand tonight.



## MARCH

### Saturday 12

Little Ida has been down here all the afternoon. Buddie is around to Net's and she has been around two or three times. I have been copying all my papers in a book. They are such a nuisance. I have not studied.

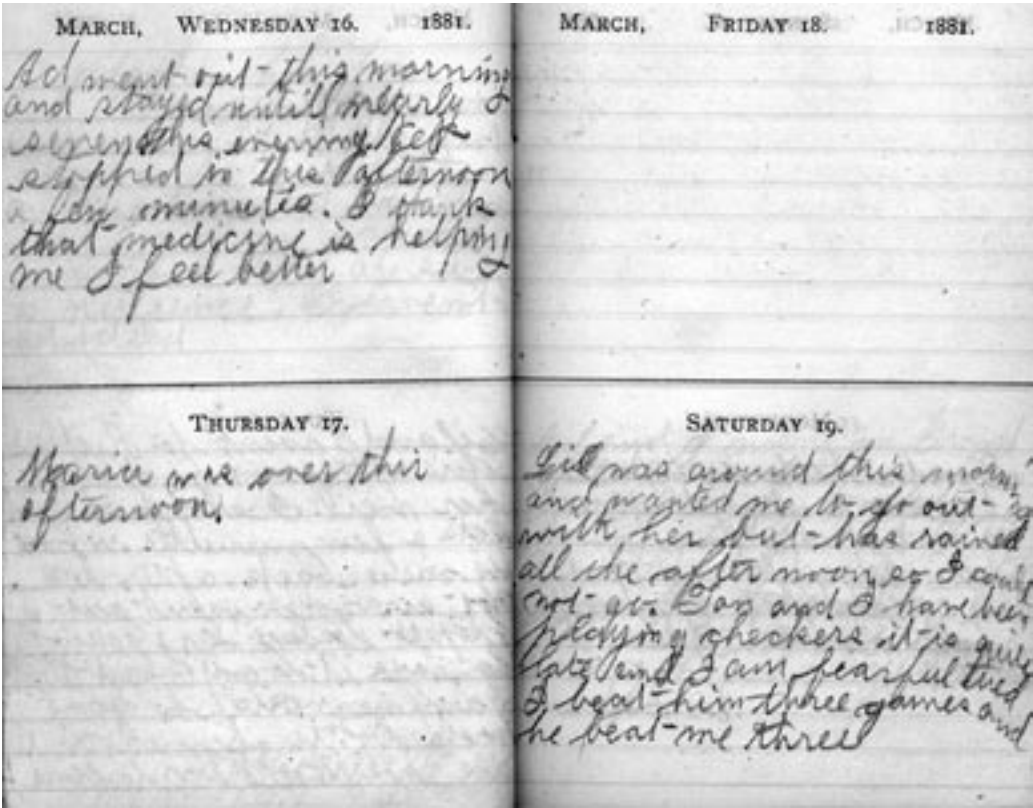
### Sunday 13

Upside down: Braisted a little while. Mr. Braisted was

### Tuesday 15

Lil and I went to Ridley's this afternoon and changed her veil. I stopped in to Net's a few minutes when we came back. After tea, Harry and I went out. I stopped to see Dr. Lang. He says it is my heart, that I am nervous. He gave me a bottle of medicine. We went down to Mrs.

See March, Sunday 13th, Upside down.



MARCH

Wednesday 16

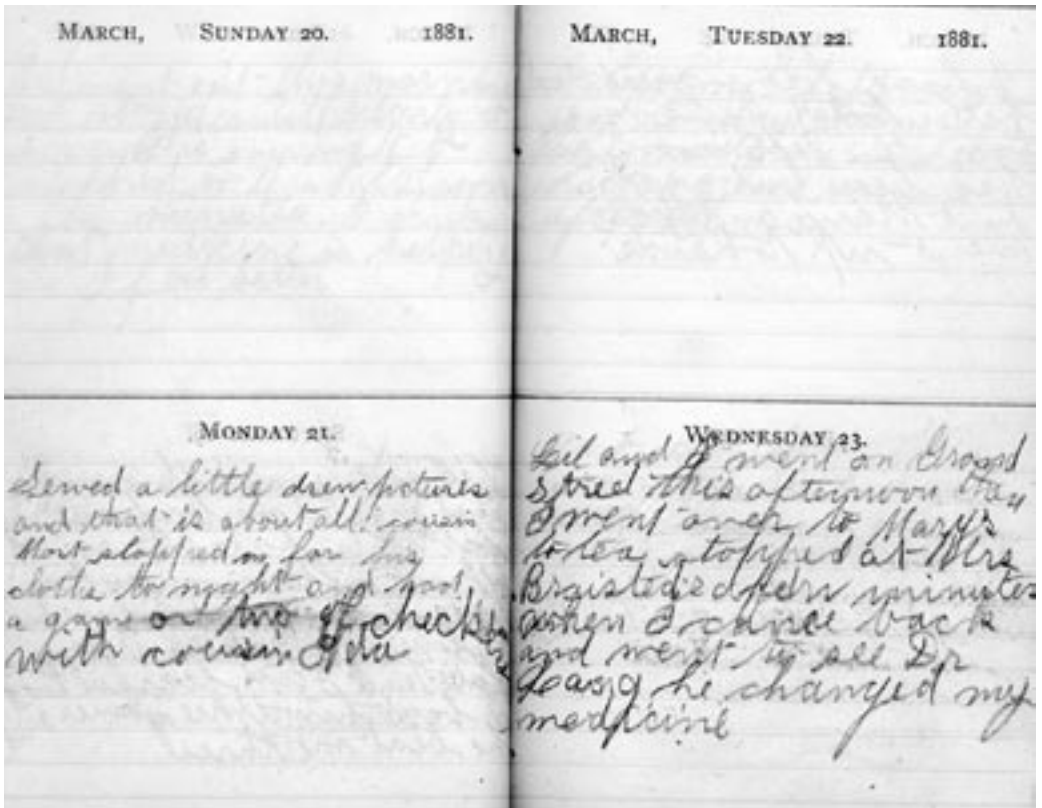
Ad went out this morning and stayed until nearly seven this evening. Net stopped in this afternoon a few minutes. I think that medicine is helping me. I feel better.

Thursday 17

Maria was over this afternoon.

Saturday 19

Lil was around this morning and wanted me to go out with her, but has rained all the afternoon so I could not go. Tom and I have been playing checkers. Is quite late and I am fearful tired. I beat him three games and he beat me three.



## MARCH

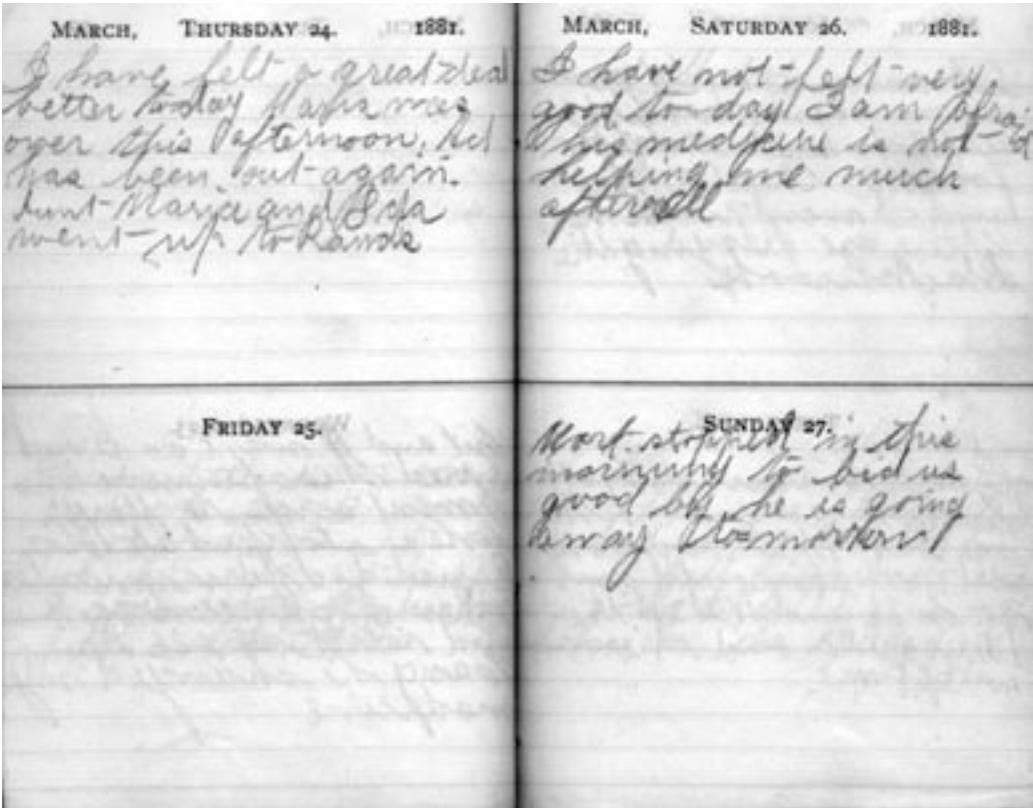
### Monday 21

Sewed a little, drew pictures and that is about all. Cousin Mort stopped in for his clothes tonight and had a game or two of checkers with cousin Ida.

### Wednesday 23

Lil and I went on Grand Street this afternoon. I went over to Mary's to tea. Stopped at Mrs. Braisted's a few minutes. When I came back and went to see Dr. Lang. He changed my medicine.





MARCH

Mar 24

I have felt a great deal better today. Maria was over this afternoon. Ad has been out again. Aunt Maria and Ida went up to Rand's.

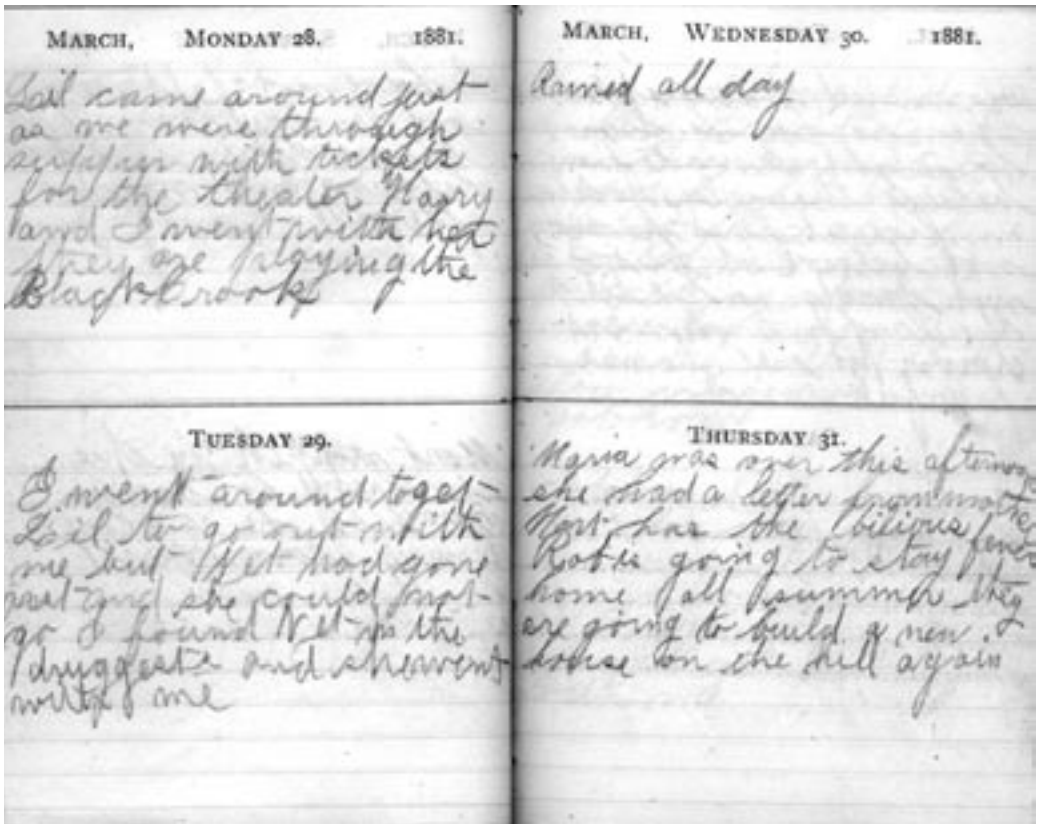
Saturday 26

I have not felt very good today. I am afraid his medicine is not helping me much after all.

Sunday 27

Mort stopped in this morning to bid us good bye. He is going away tomorrow.





## MARCH

### Monday 28

Lil came around just as we were through supper with tickets for the theater. Harry and I went with her. They are playing the *Black Crook*.

### Tuesday 29

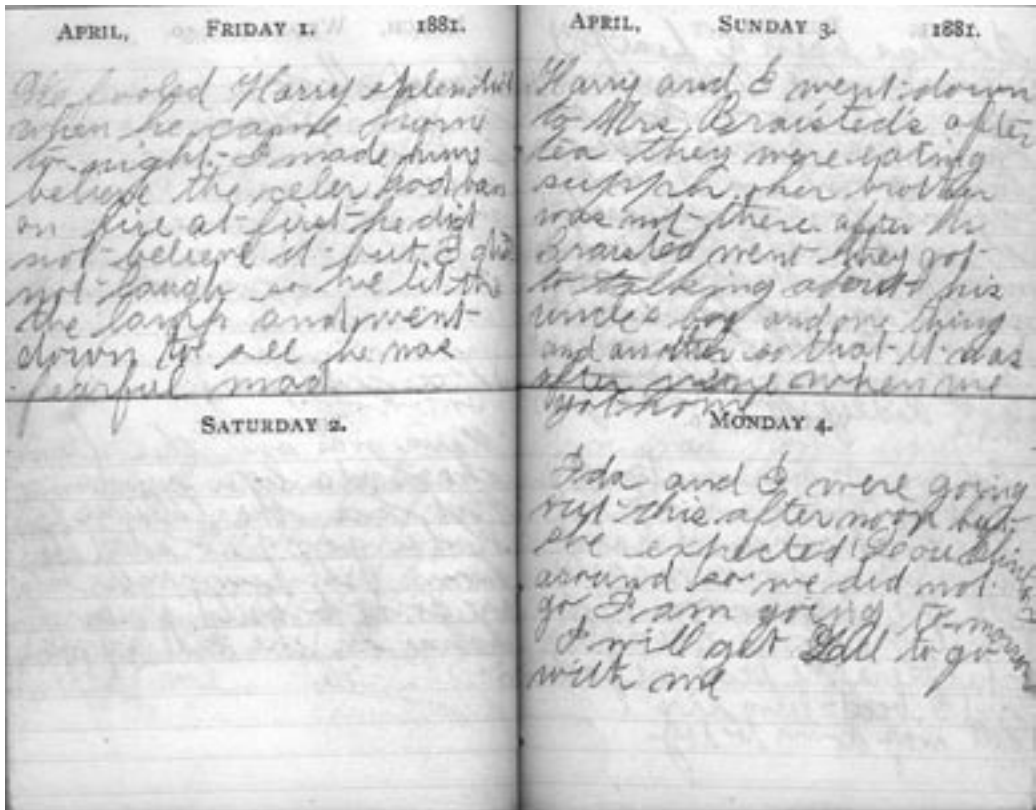
I went around to get Lil to go out with me but Net had gone out and she could not go. I found Net in the druggists and she went with me.

### Wednesday 30

Rained all day.

### Thursday 31

Maria was over this afternoon. She had a letter from mother. Mort has the bilious fever. Rob is going to stay home all summer. They are going to build a new house on the hill again.



## APRIL

### Friday 1

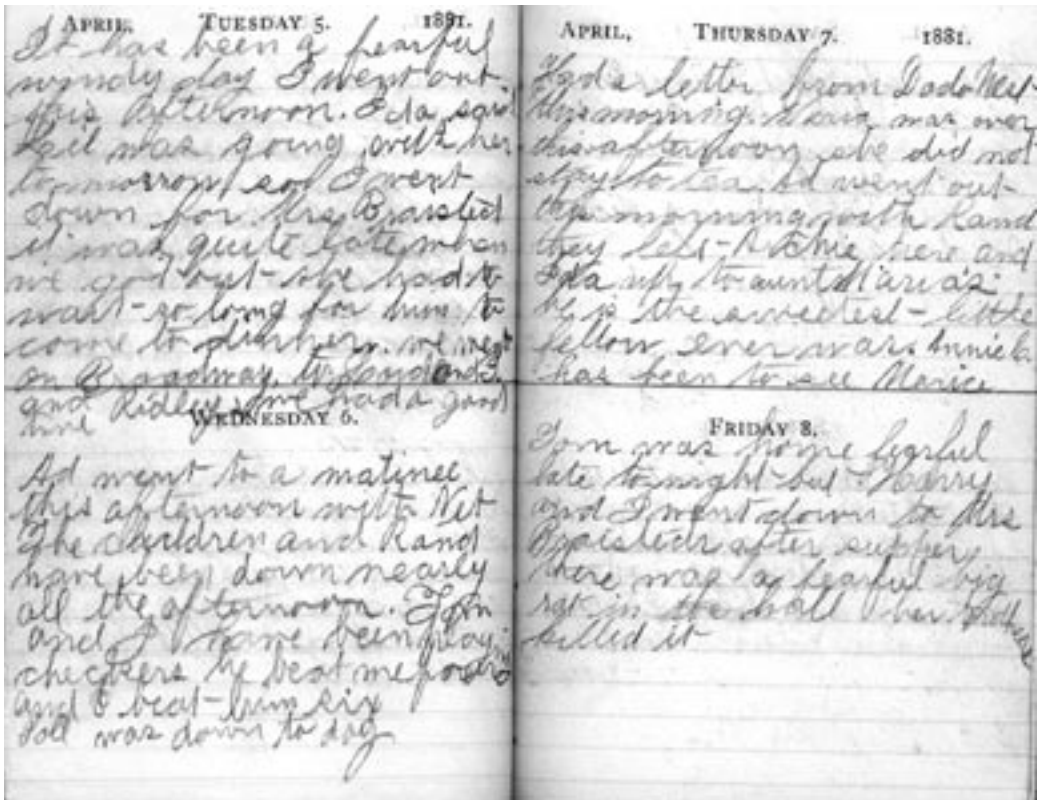
We fooled Harry splendid when he came home tonight. I made him believe the cellar had been on fire. At first he did not believe it, but I did not laugh so we lit the lamp and went down to see. He was fearful mad.

### Sunday 3

Harry and I went down to Mrs. Braisted's after tea. They were eating supper. Her brother was not there. After Mr. Braisted went, they got to talking about his uncle's boy and one thing and another so that it was after nine when we got home.

### Monday 4

Ida and I were going out this after noon but she expected Lou Clinton around so we did not go. I am going tomorrow. I will get Lil to go with me.



## APRIL

### Tuesday 5

It has been a fearful windy day. I went out this afternoon. Ida said Lil was going with her tomorrow so I went down for Mrs. Braisted. It was quite late when we got out. She had to wait so long for him to come to dinner. We went on Broadway to Lord and I, and Ridley. We had a good time.

### Wednesday 6

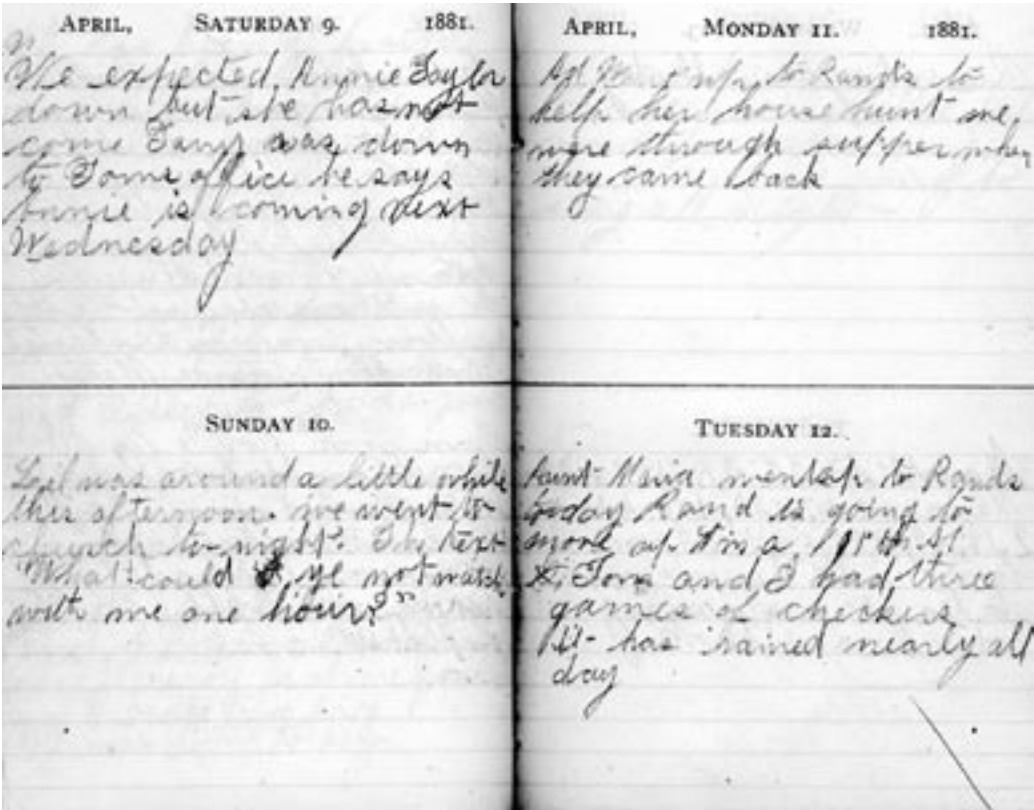
Ad went to a matinee this afternoon with Net. The children and Rand have been down nearly all the afternoon. Tom and I have been playing checkers. He beat me four and I beat him six. Lil was down today.

### Thursday 7

Had a letter from Dodo West this morning. Maria was over this afternoon. She did not stay to tea. Ad went out this morning with Rand. They left Archie here and Ida up to aunt Maria's. He is the sweetest little fellow ever was. Annie C. has been to see Maria.

### Friday 8

Tom was home fearful late tonight but Harry and I went down to Mrs. Braisted's after supper. There was a fearful big rat in the hall. Her brothers killed it.



APRIL

Saturday 9

We expected Annie Taylor down but she has not come. Harry was down to Tom's office. He says Annie is coming next Wednesday.

Sunday 10

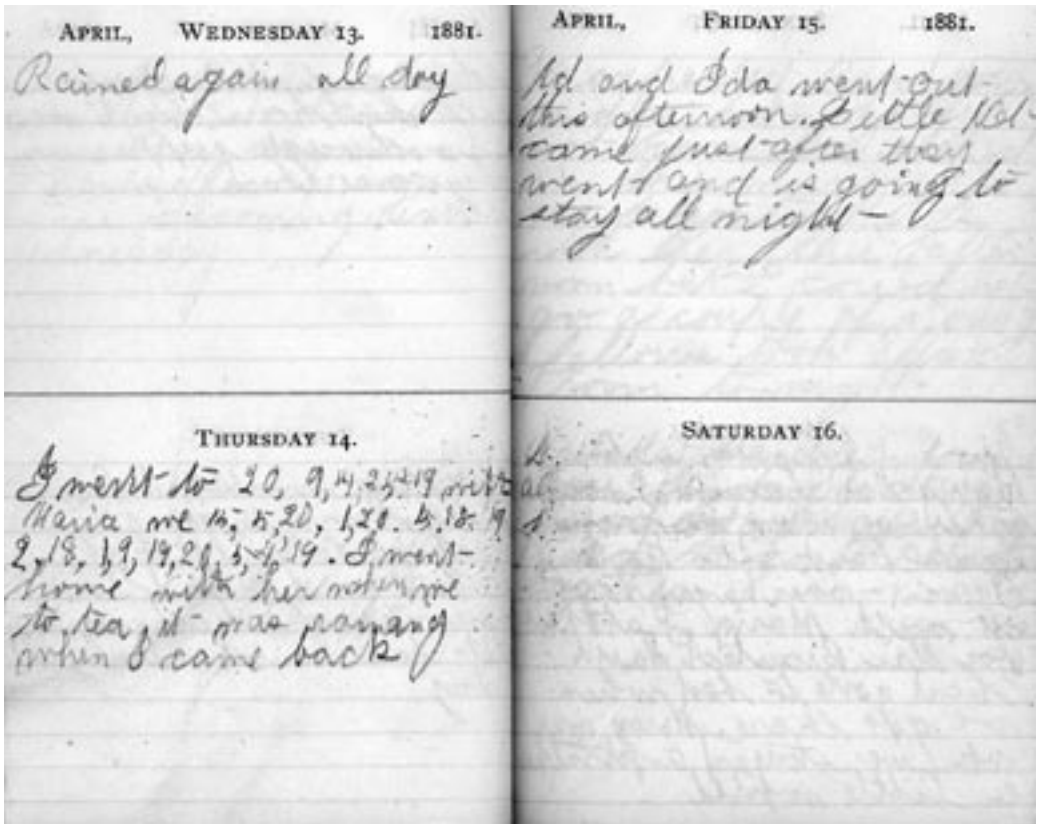
Lil was around a little while this afternoon. We went to church tonight. The text "What could ye not watch with me one hour?"

Monday 11

Ad went up to Rand's to help her house hunt. We were through supper when they came back.

Tuesday 12

Aunt Maria went up to Rand's today. Rand is going to move [to] 111th St. Tom and I had three games of checkers. It has rained nearly all day.



## APRIL

### Wednesday 13

Rained again all day.

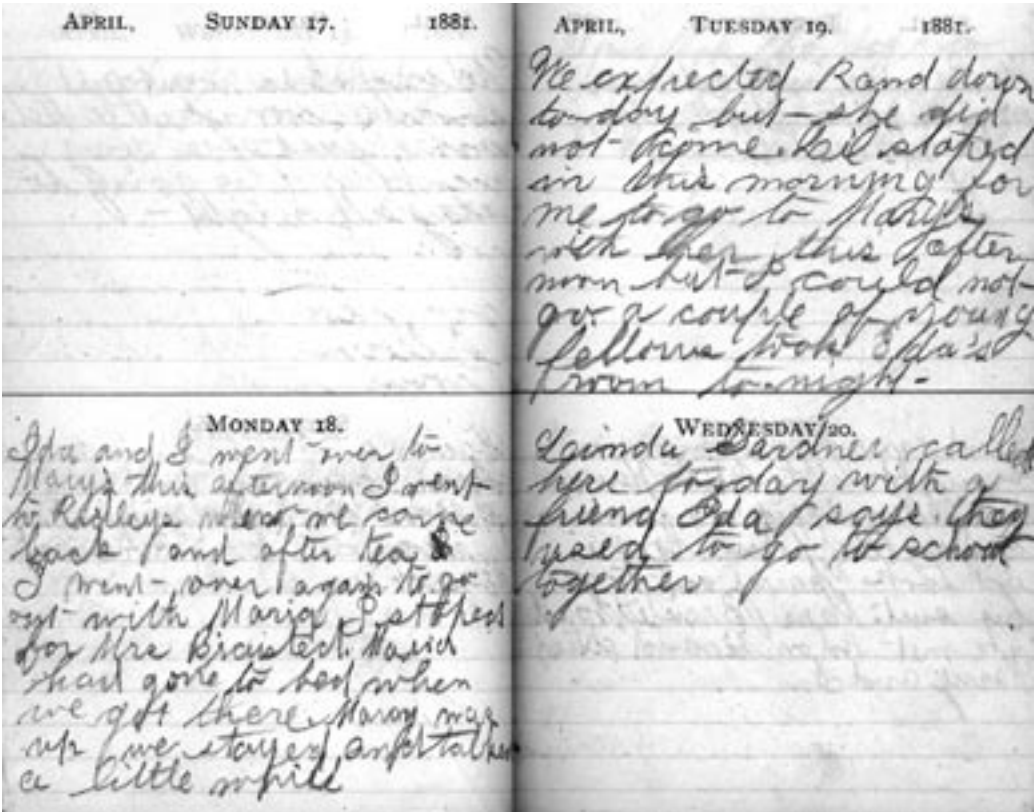
### Friday 15

Ad and Ida went out this afternoon. Little Net came just after they went and is going to stay all night.

### Thursday 14

I went to 20, 9, 14, 25, [2]19 with Maria. We 15, 5, 20, 1, 20. 15. 18. 19. 2. 18, 1, 9, 19, 20, 5, 4, 19. I went home with her when we [went] to tea. It was raining when I came back.





APRIL

Monday 18

Ida and I went over to Mary's this afternoon. I went to Ridley's when we came back and after tea I went over again to go out with Maria. I stopped for Mrs. Braisted. Maria had gone to bed when we got there. Mary was up. We stayed and talked a little while.

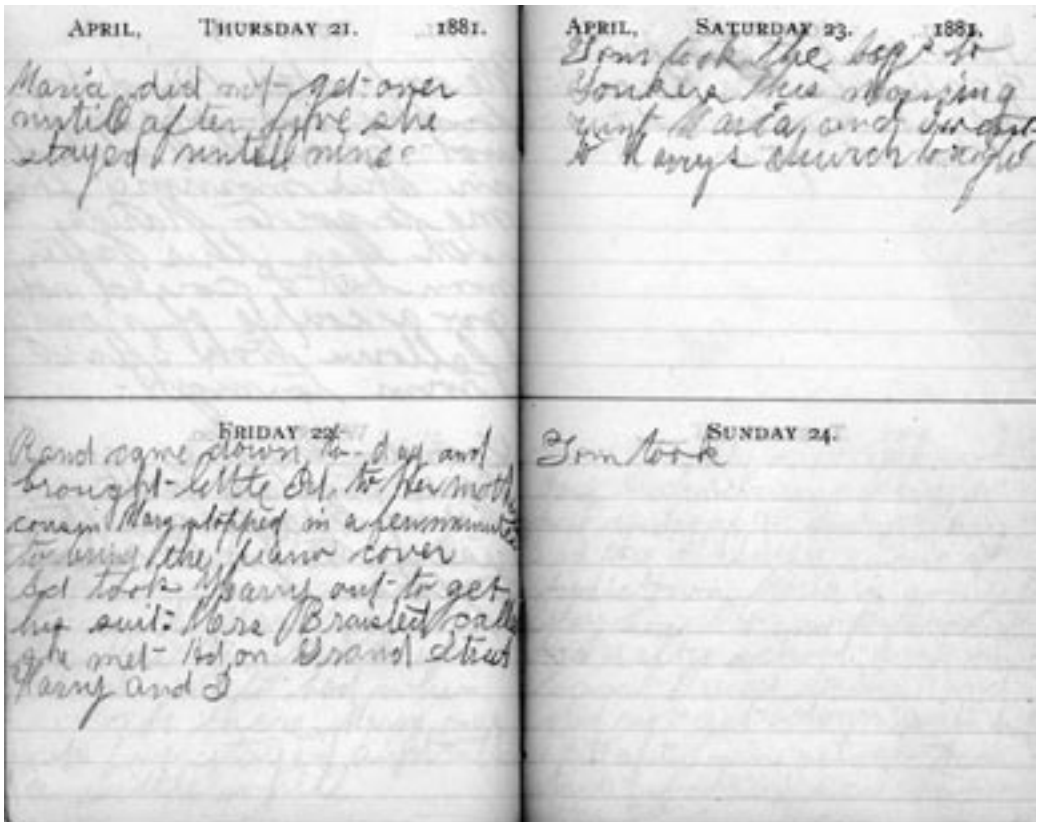
Tuesday 19

We expected Rand down today but she did not come. Lil stopped in this morning for me to go to Mary's with her this afternoon but I could not go. A couple of young fellows took Ida's room tonight.

Wednesday 20

Linda Gardner called here today with a friend. Ida says they used to go to school together.





## APRIL

### Thursday 21

Maria did not get over until after five. She stayed until nine.

### Saturday 23

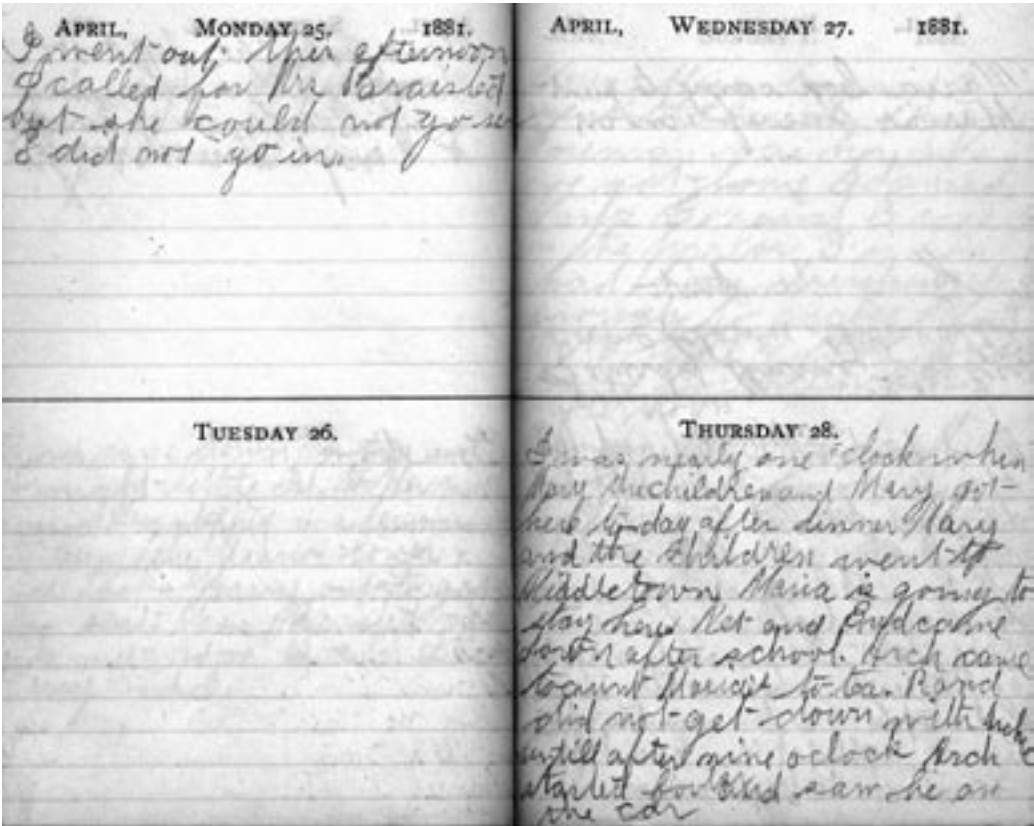
Tom took the boys to Yonkers this morning. Aunt Maria and I went to Harry's church tonight.

### Friday 22

Rand came down today and brought little Ida to her mother. Cousin Mary stopped in a few minutes to bring the piano cover. Ad took Harry out to get his suit. Mrs. Braisted called. She met Ad on Grand Street. Harry and I

### Sunday 24

Tom took



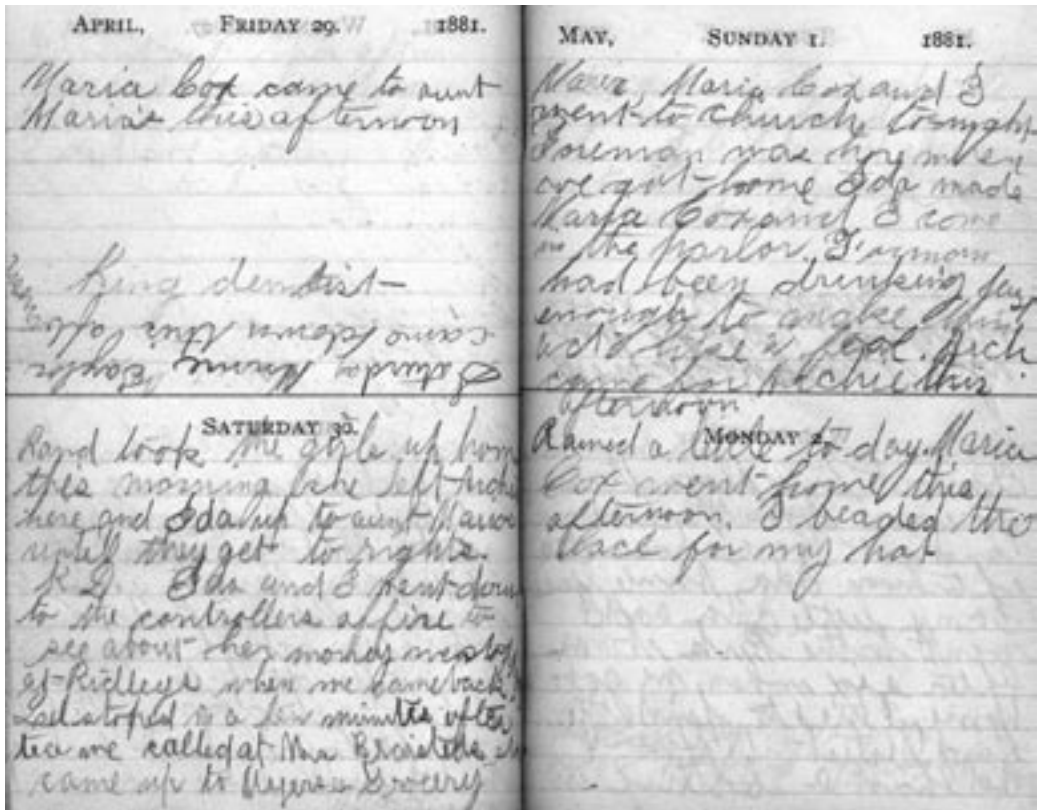
APRIL

Monday 25

I went out this afternoon. I called for Mrs. Braisted but she could not go so I did not go in.

Thursday 28

It was nearly one o'clock when Mary, the children and Mary got here today. After dinner Mary and the children went to Middletown. Maria is going to stay here. Net and Bud came down after school. Arch came to Aunt Maria's to tea. Rand did not get down with Archie until after nine o'clock. Arch started for her and saw her on the car.



## APRIL

### Friday 29

Maria Cox came to Aunt Maria's this afternoon.

King dentist.

*Upside down:* Saturday Annie Taylor came down this afternoon.

### Saturday 30

Rand took the girls up home this morning. She left Archie here and Ida up to Aunt Maria's until they get to rights. K. D. Ida and I went down to the controllers office to see about her money. We stopped at Ridley's when we came back. Lil stopped in a few minutes. After tea we called at Mrs. Braisted's. She came up to Myers Grocery.

*See Upside down portion April, Friday, 29.*

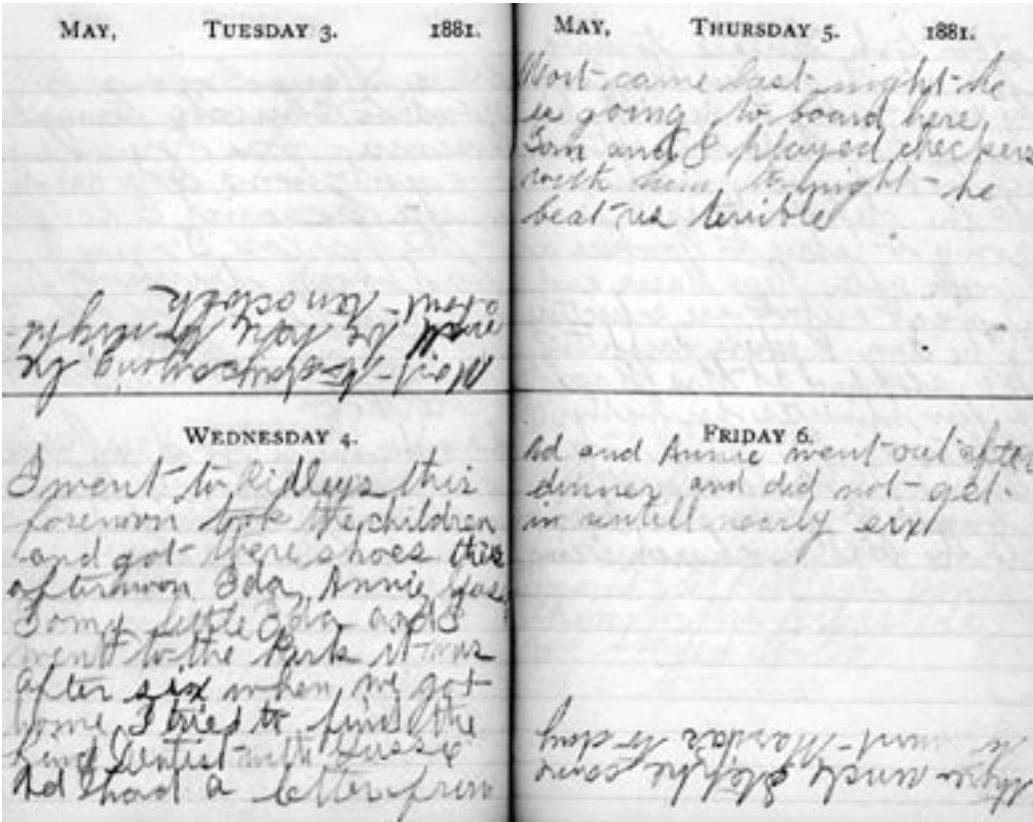
## MAY

### Sunday 1

Maria, Maria Cox, and I went to church tonight. Foreman was here when we got home. Ida made Maria Cox and I come in the parlor. Foreman had been drinking just enough to make him act like a fool. Arch came for Archie this afternoon.

### Monday 2

Rained a little today. Maria Cox went home this afternoon. I beaded the lace for my hat.



MAY

Tuesday 3

Upside down: Mort today, saying he will be here tonight about ten o'clock.

Thursday 5

Mort came last night. He is going to board here. Tom and I played checkers with him tonight. He beat us terrible.

Wednesday 4

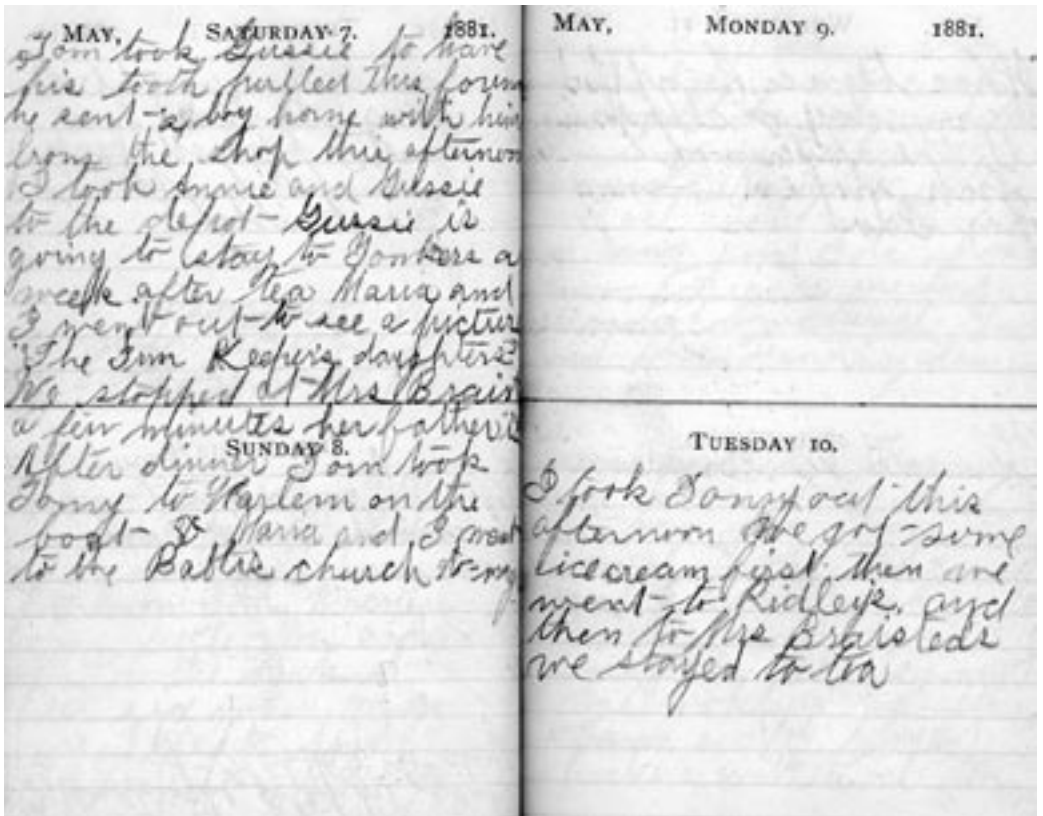
I went to Ridley's this forenoon. Took the children and got their shoes. This afternoon Ida, Annie, Gus, Tommy, little Ida, and I went to the Park. It was after six when we got home. I tried to find the kind dentist with Gussie. Ad had a letter from

Friday 6

Ad and Annie went out after dinner and did not get in until nearly six.

Upside down: Their uncle Stephen came to Aunt Maria's today.

See May, Tuesday 3, Upside down.



## MAY

### Saturday 7

Tom took Gussie to have his tooth hulled this forenoon. He sent a boy home with him from the shop. This afternoon I took Annie and Gussie to the depot. Gussie is going to stay to Yonkers a week. After tea Maria and I went out to see a picture, "The Inn Keeper's daughters." We stopped at Mrs. Braisted a few minutes her father's.

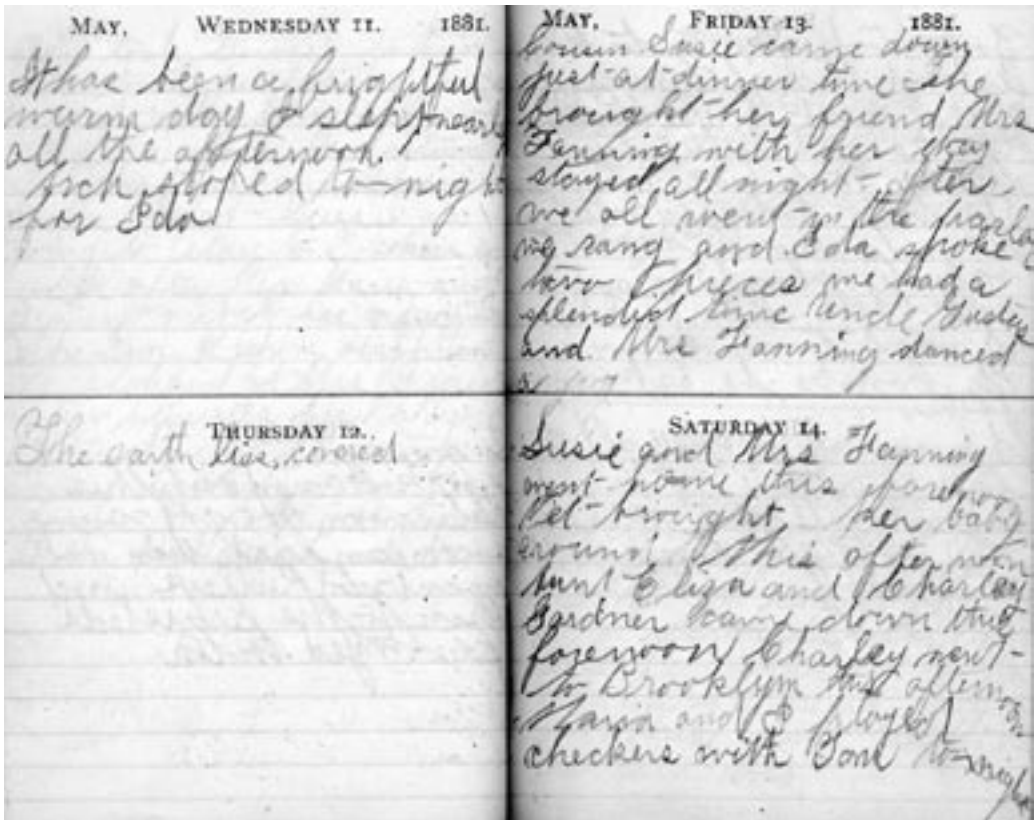
### Sunday 8

After dinner Tom took Tommy to Harlem on the boat to Maria and I went to the Baptist church tonight.

### Tuesday 10

I took Tommy out this afternoon. We got some ice cream first then we went to Ridley's and then to Mrs. Braisted's. We stayed to tea.





MAY

Wednesday 11

It has been a frightful warm day I slept nearly all the afternoon. Arch stopped tonight for Ida.

Thursday 12

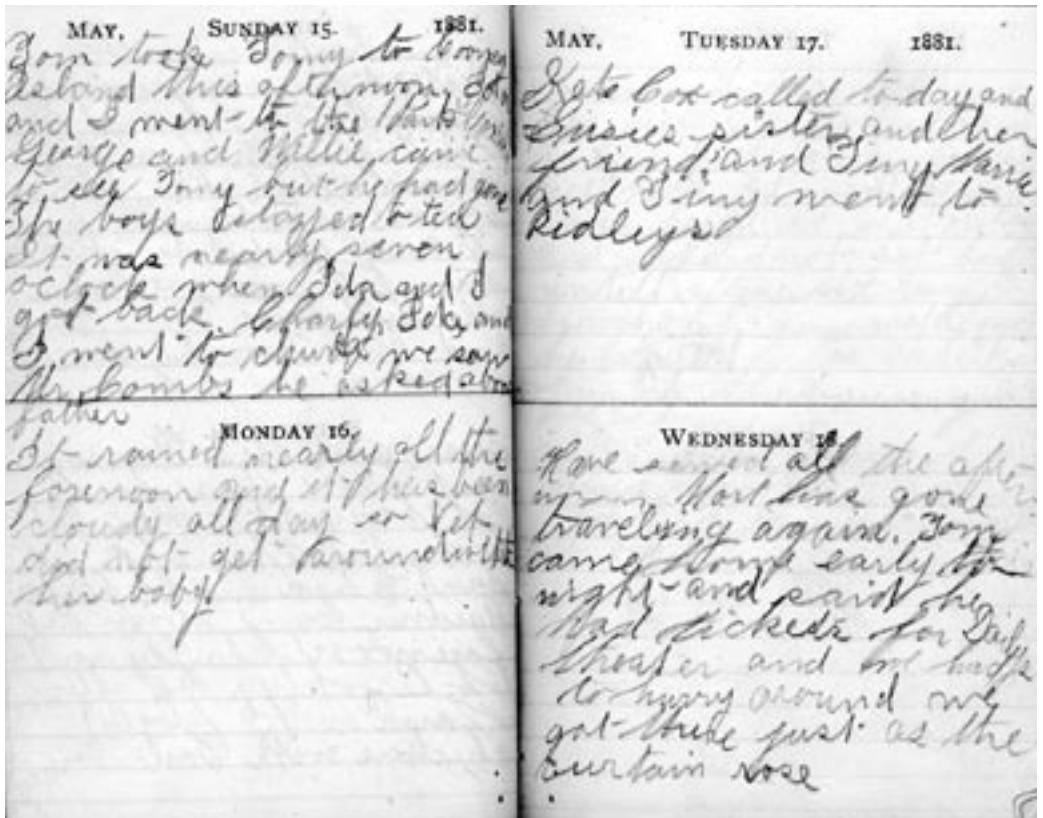
The earth lies covered.

Friday 13

Cousin Susie came down just at dinner time. She brought her friend Mrs. Fanning with her. They stayed all night. After we all went in the parlor we sang and Ida spoke two pieces. We had a splendid time. Uncle Gustus and Mrs. Fanning danced a jig.

Saturday 14

Susie and Mrs. Fanning went home this forenoon. Net brought her baby around this afternoon fun! Eliza and Charley Gardner came down this forenoon. Charley went to Brooklyn this afternoon. Maria and I played checkers with Tom tonight.



## MAY

### Sunday 15

Tom took Tommy to Coney Island this afternoon. Ida and I went to the Park and George and Willie came to see Tommy but he had gone. The boys stayed to tea. It was nearly seven o'clock when Ida and I got back. Charley, Ida, and I went to church. We saw Mr. Combs. He asked about father.

### Monday 16

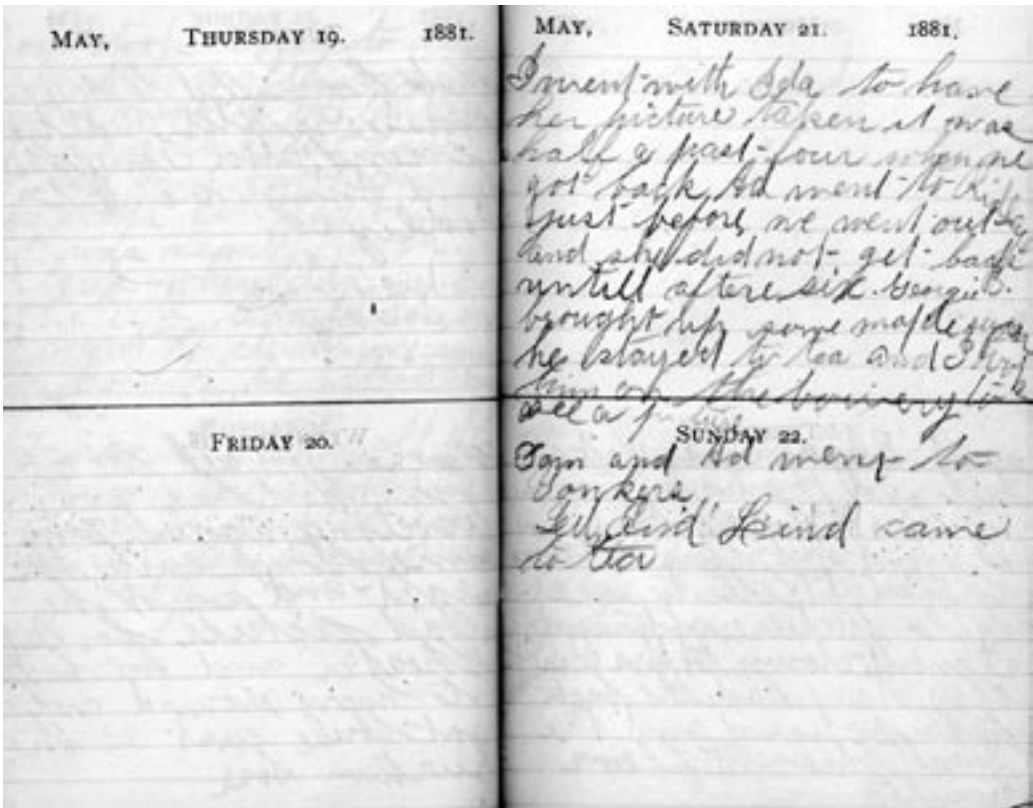
It rained nearly all the forenoon and it has been cloudy all day so Net did not get around with her baby.

### Tuesday 17

Kate Cox called today and Susie's sister and her friend and Tiny. Maria and Tiny went to Ridley's.

### Wednesday 18

Have sewed all the afternoon. Mort has gone traveling again. Tom came home early tonight and said he had tickets for Daily's theater and we had to hurry around. We got there just as the curtain rose.



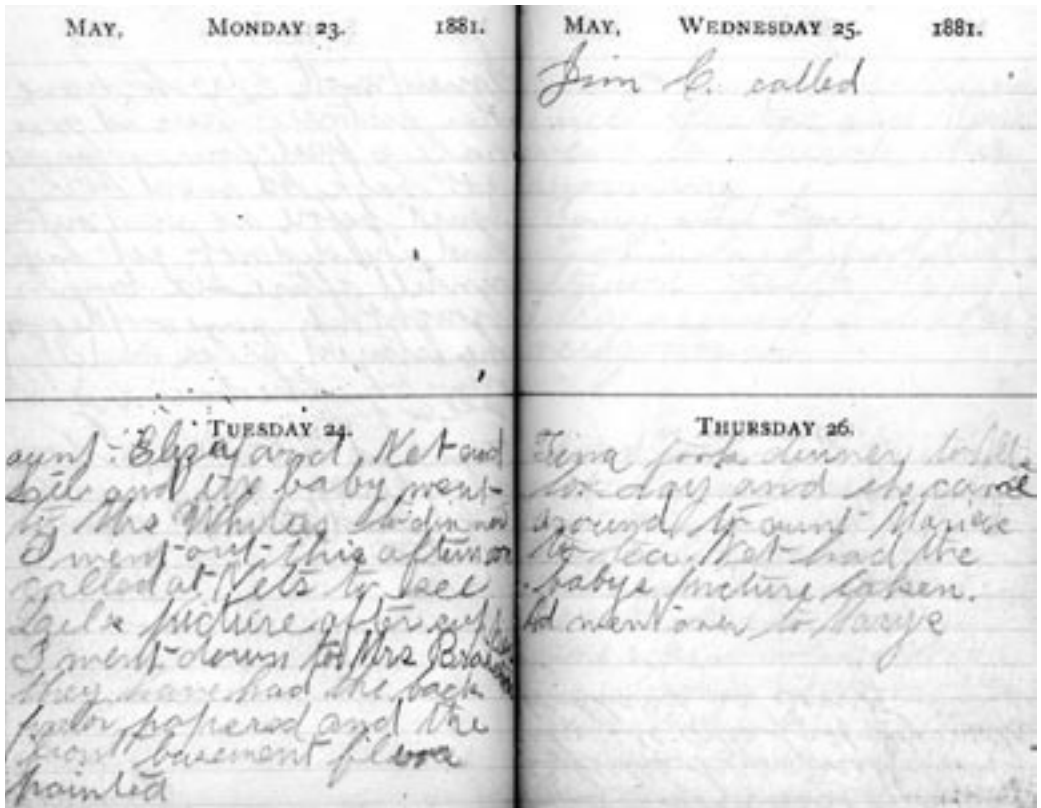
MAY

Saturday 21

I went with Ida to have her picture taken. It was half past four when we got back. Ad went to Ridley's just before we went out and she did not get back until after six. Georgie O. brought up some maple sugar. He stayed to tea and I took him on the bowery to see a picture.

Sunday 22

Tom and Ad went to Yonkers. Lil and Lind came to tea.



## MAY

### Wednesday 25

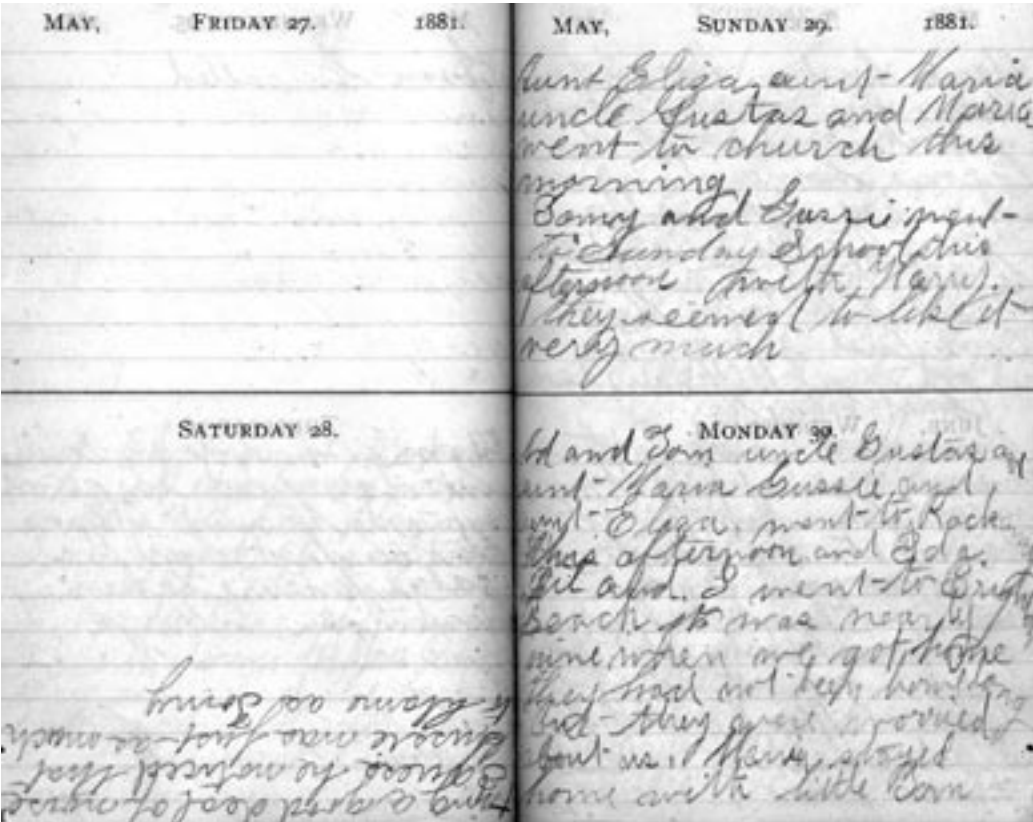
Jim C. called.

### Tuesday 24

Aunt Eliza and Net and Sil and the baby went to Mrs. White's to dinner. I went out this afternoon. Called at Net's to see Lil's picture. After supper I went down to Mrs. Braisted's. They have had the back parlor papered and the front basement floor painted.

### Thursday 26

Tina took dinner to Net today and she came around to Aunt Maria's to tea. Net had the baby's picture taken. Ad went over to Mary's.



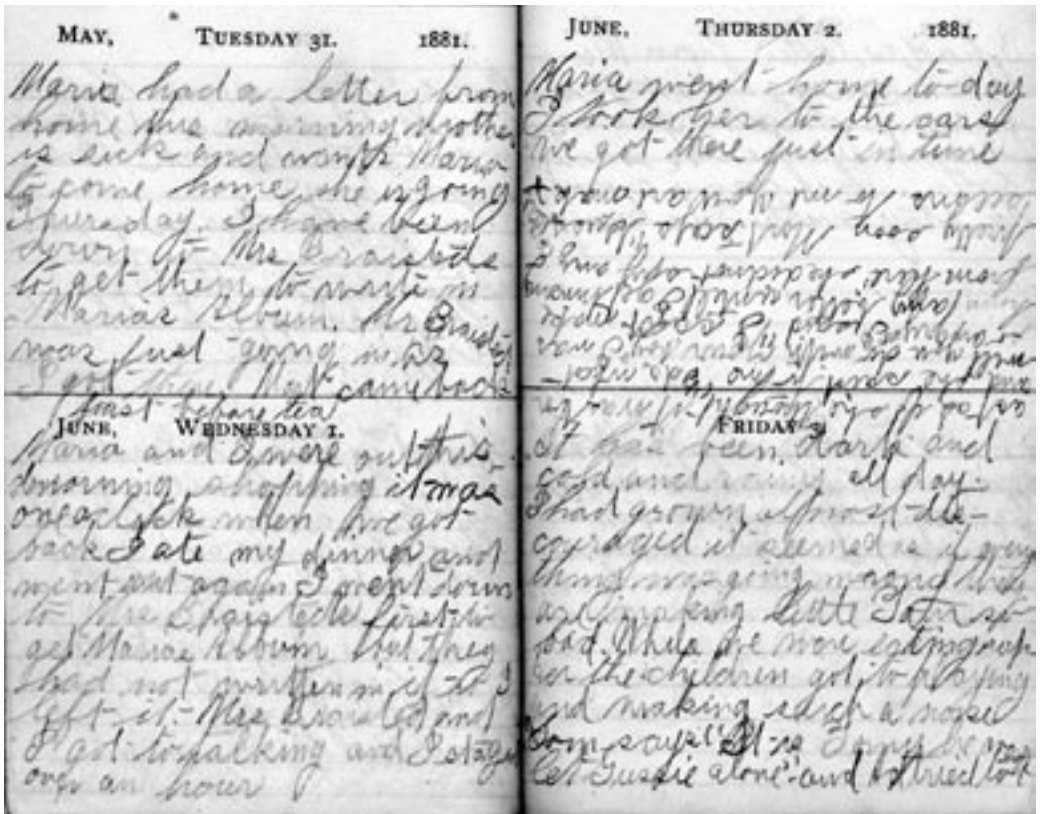
MAY

**Sunday 29**  
Aunt Eliza, Aunt Maria, Uncle Gustus, and Maria went to church this morning. Tommy and Gussie went to Sunday School this afternoon with Harry. They seemed to like it very much.

**Saturday 28**  
*Upside down:* a good deal of noise. I guess he noticed that Gussie was just as much to blame as Tommy.

**Monday 30**  
Ad and Tom, Uncle Gustus and Aunt Maria, Gussie and Aunt Eliza went to Rockaway this afternoon, and Ida, Lil and I went to Brighton Beach. It was nearly nine when we got home. They had not been home long and they were worried about us. Maria stayed home with little Tom.





## MAY

### Tuesday 31

Maria had a letter from home this morning. Mother is sick and wants Maria to come home. She is going Thursday. I have been down to Mrs. Braisted's to get them to write in Maria's album. Mr. Braisted was just going in as I got there. Mort came back just before tea.

## JUNE

### Wednesday 1

Maria and I were out this morning shopping. It was one o'clock when we got back. I ate my dinner and went out again. I went down to Mrs. Braisted's first to get Maria's album, but they had not written in it so I left it. Mrs. Braisted and I got to talking and I stayed over an hour.

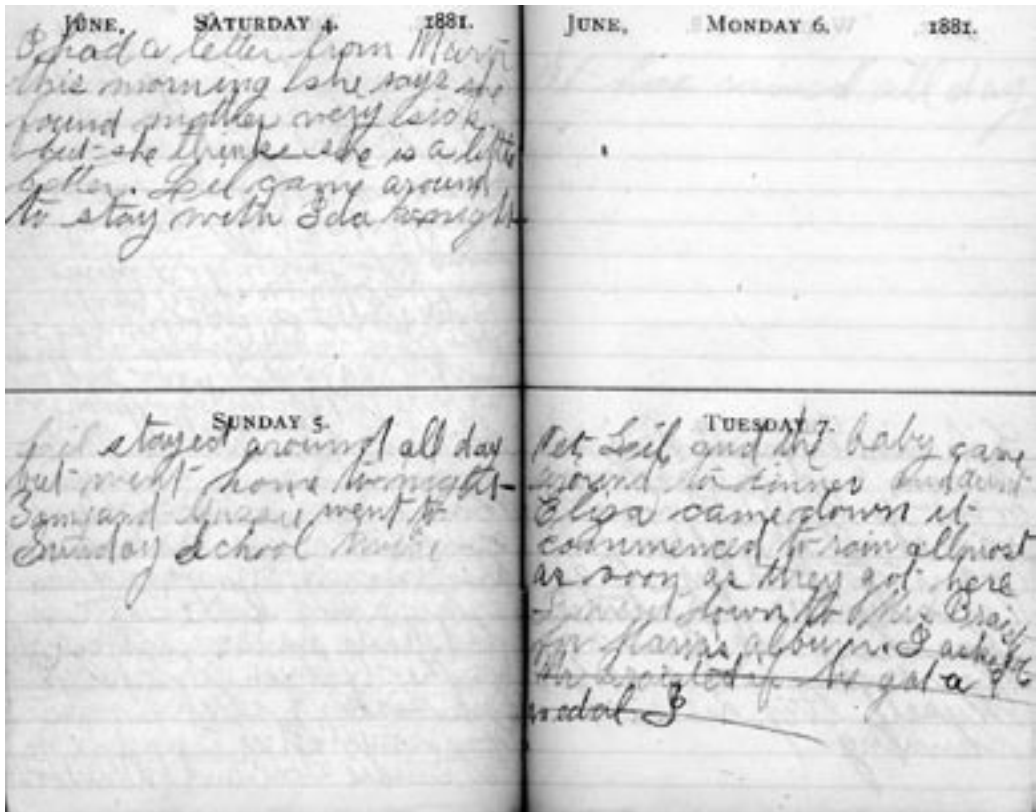
### Thursday 2.

Maria went home today. I took her to the cars. We got there just in time. *Upside down:* Act as if she thought it was Tom and she said to me, "Ida what will you do with your boy?" I was so angry I said "I can't make him any better until I get him away from here." She did not say any more. Pretty soon Mort says, "Gussie seems to me you are making

*See May, Saturday 28, Upside down.*

### Friday 3.

It has been dark and cold and rainy all day. I had grown almost discouraged. It seemed as if everything was going wrong. They are making little Tom so bad. While we were eating supper the children got to playing and making such a noise. Tom says, "It is Tommy, he won't let Gussie alone." And Ad tried lot.



## JUNE

### Saturday 4

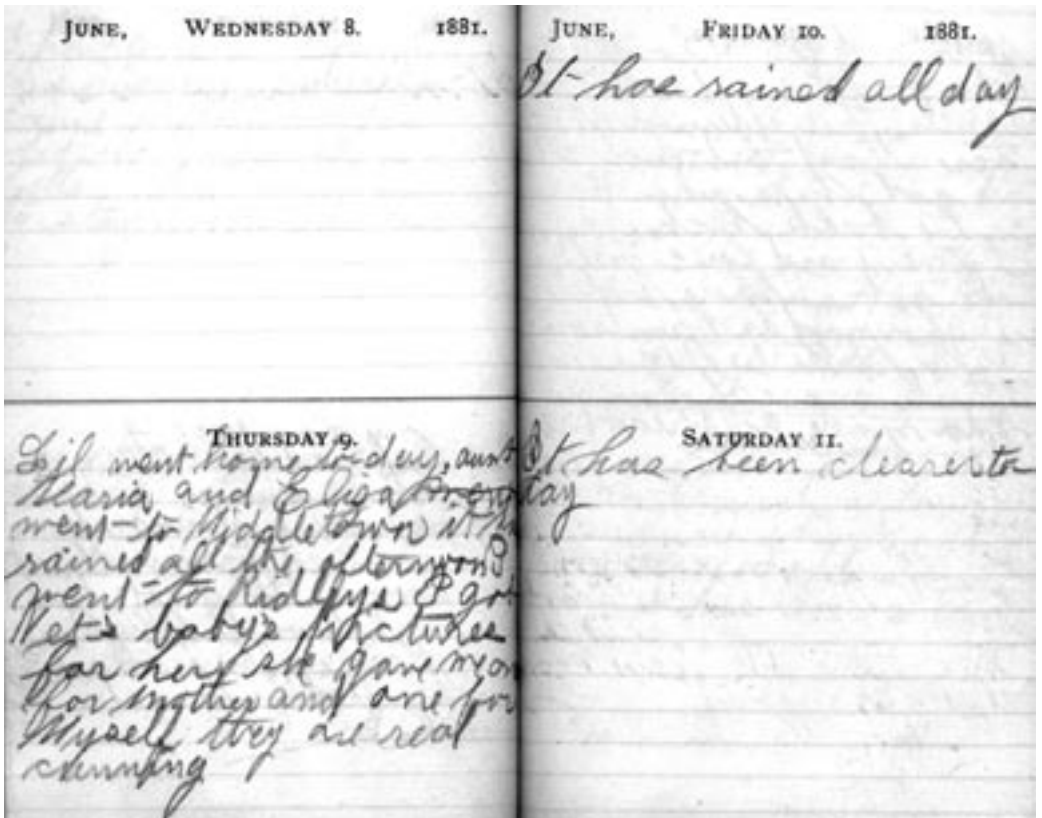
I had a letter from Maria this morning. She says she found mother very sick, but she thinks she is a little better. Lil came around to stay with Ida tonight.

### Sunday 5

Lil stayed around all day but went home tonight. Tommy and Gussie went to Sunday School twice.

### Tuesday 7

Net, Lil, and the baby came around to dinner and Aunt Eliza came down. It commenced to rain almost as soon as they got here. I went down to Mrs. Braisted's for Maria's album. *Crossed off:* I asked Mr. Braisted if he got a medal. I



## JUNE

### Thursday 9

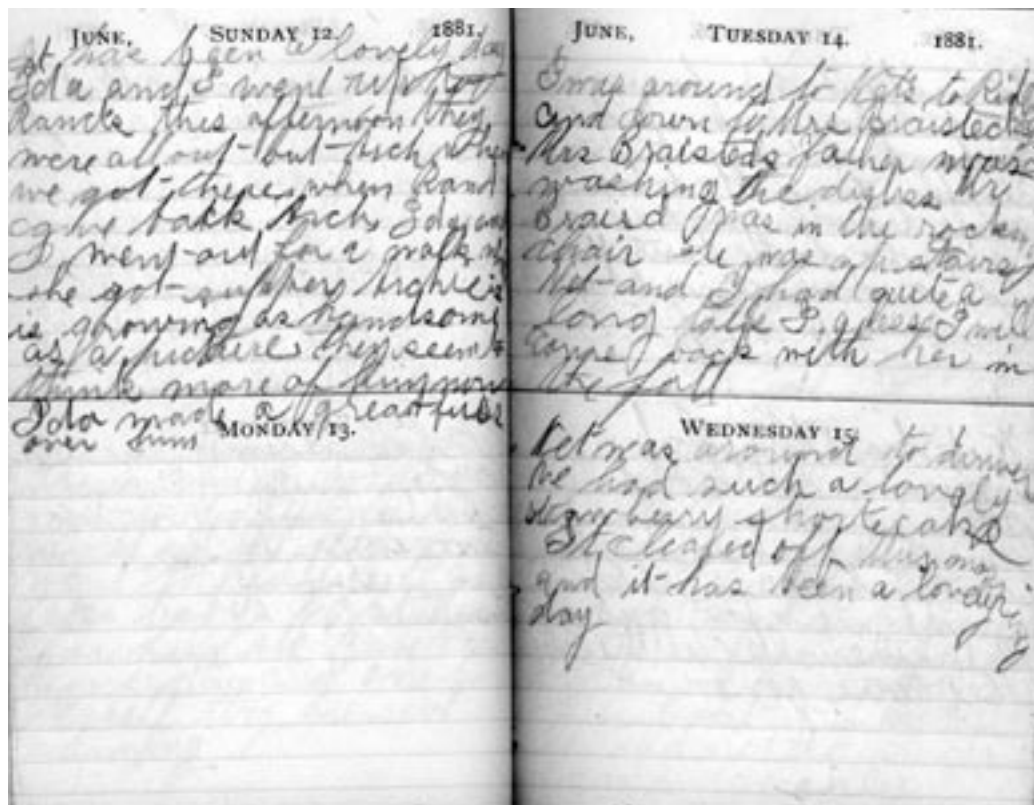
Lil went home today. Aunt Maria and Eliza went to Middletown. It has rained all the afternoon. I went to Ridley's. I got Net's baby's pictures for her. She gave me one for mother and one for myself. They are real cunning.

### Friday 10

It has rained all day.

### Saturday 11

It has been clearer today.



## JUNE

### Sunday 12

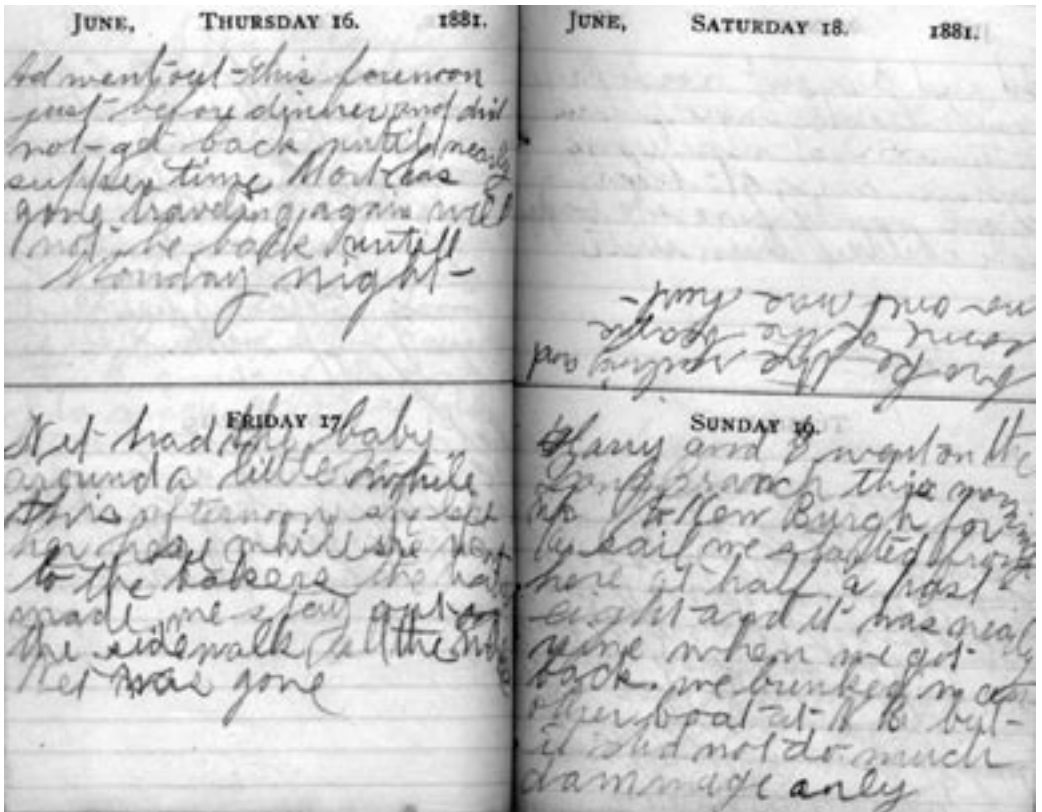
It has been a lovely day. Ida and I went to Rands this afternoon. They were all out but Arch when we got there. When Rand came back Arch, Ida, and I went out for a walk while she got supper. Archie is growing as handsome as a picture. They seem to think more of him now. Ida made a great fuss over him.

### Tuesday 14

I was around to Net's to Ridley's and down to Mrs. Braisted's. Mrs. Braisted's father was washing the dishes. Mr. Braisted was in the rocking chair. She was upstairs. Net and I had quite a long talk. I guess I will come back with her in the fall.

### Wednesday 15

Net was around to dinner. We had such a lovely strawberry shortcake. It cleared off this morning and it has been a lovely day.



## JUNE

### Thursday 16

Ad went out this forenoon just before dinner and did not get back until nearly supper time. Mort has gone traveling again, will not be back until Monday night.

### Friday 17

Net had the baby around a little while this afternoon. She left her here while she went to the bakers. The baby made me stay out on the sidewalk all the while Net was gone.

### Saturday 18

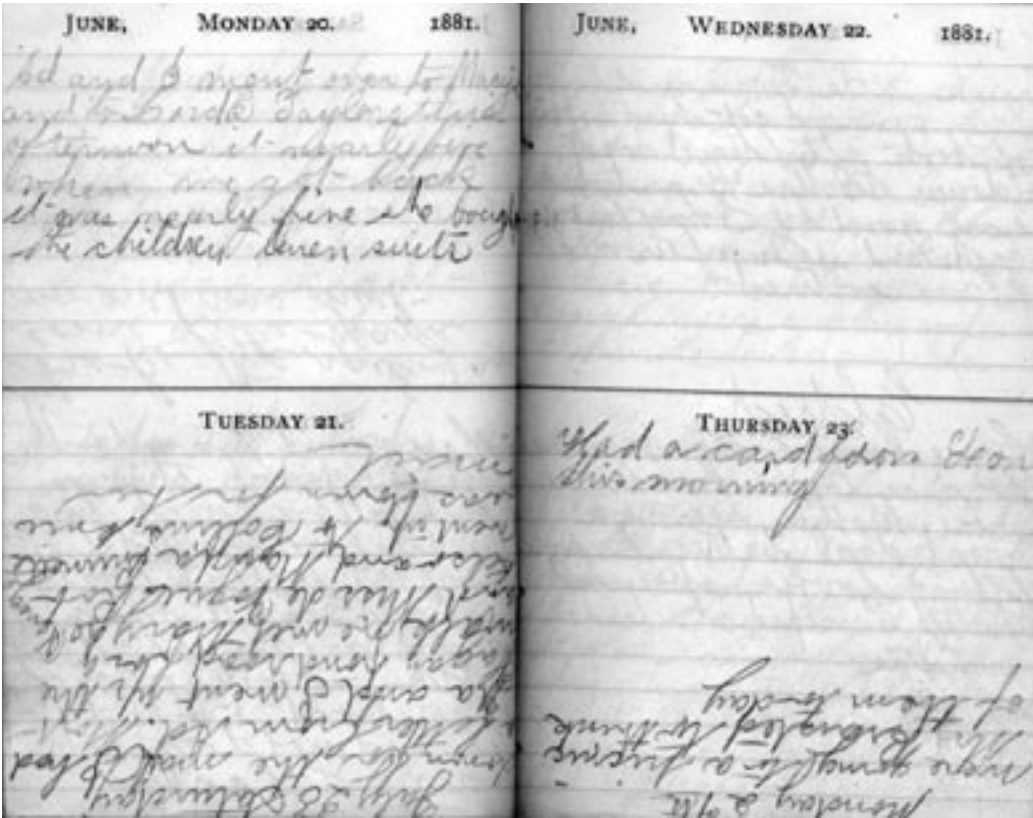
*Upside down:* broke the railing and some of the beams. No one was hurt.

### Sunday 19

Harry and I went on the Long Branch this morning to New Burgh for a sail. We started from here at half a past eight and it was nearly nine when we got back. We bumped in an other boat at NB, but it did not do much damage only

*See June, Saturday 18 above.*





JUNE

Monday 20

Ad and I went to Macy's and to Lord & Taylors this afternoon. It was nearly five when we got back. It was nearly five. She brought the children linen suits.

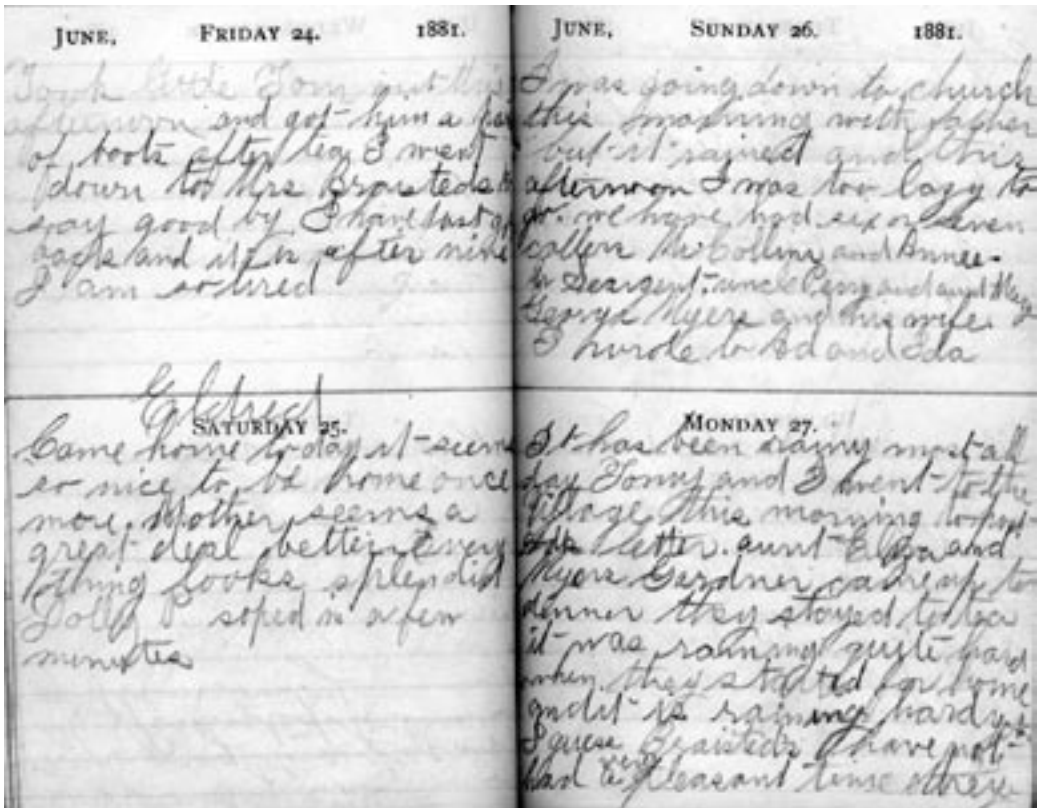
Tuesday 21

*Upside down:* July 23 Saturday, down for the mail. I had a letter from Ad. Mort, Ida and I went up the Hagan hand road for a walk. We met Mary de Venoge, Kelso and Miss de Vogue. Rob, Kelso, and Maurla Brunette. Went up to Collins. Annie was down for her mail.

Thursday 23

Had a card from Lon this morning.

*Upside down:* Monday 27th: we're going to a picnic. Mr. Braisted to think of them today.



## JUNE

### Friday 24

Took little Tom out this afternoon and got him a pair of boots. After tea I went down to Mrs. Braisted's to say good by. I have just got back and it is after nine. I am so tired.

### Saturday 25 Eldred

Came home today it seems so nice to be home once more. Mother seems a great deal better. Every thing looks splendid. Dolly P. stopped in a few minutes.

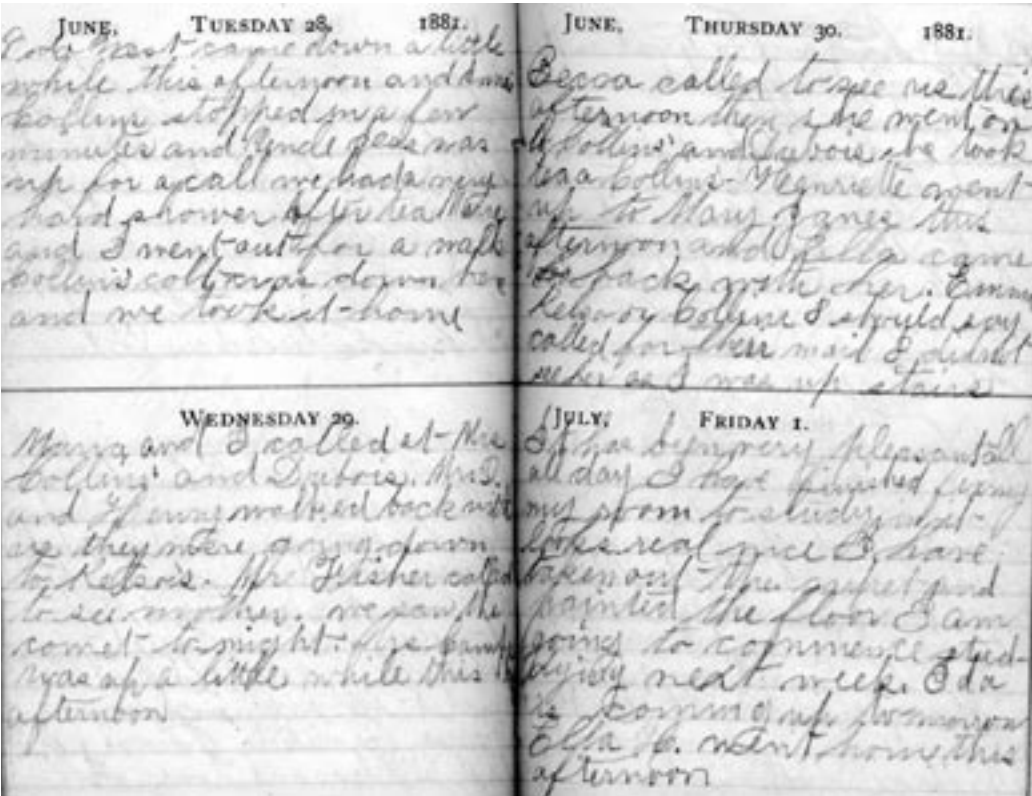
### Sunday 26

I was going down to church this morning with father but it rained, and this afternoon I was too lazy to go. We have had six or seven callers: Mr. Collins and Annie, Mr. Sergeant, Uncle Perry and Aunt Mary, George Myers and his wife. I wrote to Ad and Ida.

### Monday 27

It has been rainy most all day. Tommy and I went to the village this morning to post Ad's letter. Aunt Eliza and Myers Gardner came up to dinner. They stayed to tea. It was raining quite hard when they started for home and it is raining hard yet. I guess Braisted's have not had a very pleasant time they

*See June, Thursday 23, Upside down.*



JUNE

Friday 28

Dodo West came down a little while this afternoon and Annie Collins stopped in a few minutes and Uncle Jess was up for a call. We had a very hard shower. After tea Maria and I went out for a walk. Collins' colt was down here and we took it home.

Wednesday 29

Maria and I called at Mrs. Collins' and Dubois'. Mrs. D. and Henry walked back with us. They were going down to Kelso's. Mr. Fisher called to see mother. We saw the comet tonight. Mrs. Camping was up a little while this afternoon.

*The 1881 Great Comet appeared in late May to July. The tail was about 20 degrees. Also known as comet Tebbutt III, it could be seen in the Southern sky without a telescope.*

Thursday 30

Becca called to see us this afternoon. Then she went on to Collins' and Dubois'. She took tea at Collins'. Henrietta went up to Mary Jane's this afternoon and Ella came back with her. Emma, Kelso, or Collins I should say, called for their maid. I did not see her as I was upstairs.

JULY

Friday 1

It has been very pleasant all day. I have finished fixing my room to study in. It looks real nice. I have taken out the carpet and painted the floor. I am going to commence studying next week. Ida is coming up tomorrow. Ella C. went home this afternoon.



## JULY

### Monday 4

They had a festival in the Village today. Ida and I went down this morning. We came home about dinner time and had a cup of tea, something to eat, and a good rest. After the shower we went back again and did not come home until nearly eleven. We had a splendid time.

### Tuesday 5

It has been terrible warm. Mort and father had a quarrel at the dinner table. I was not there. Dora was telling us about it. Mort went up to Aunt Laura's. Maria, Ida, and I went down for the mail and to Myers' store. Elbert and Mort came up from the Village with us.

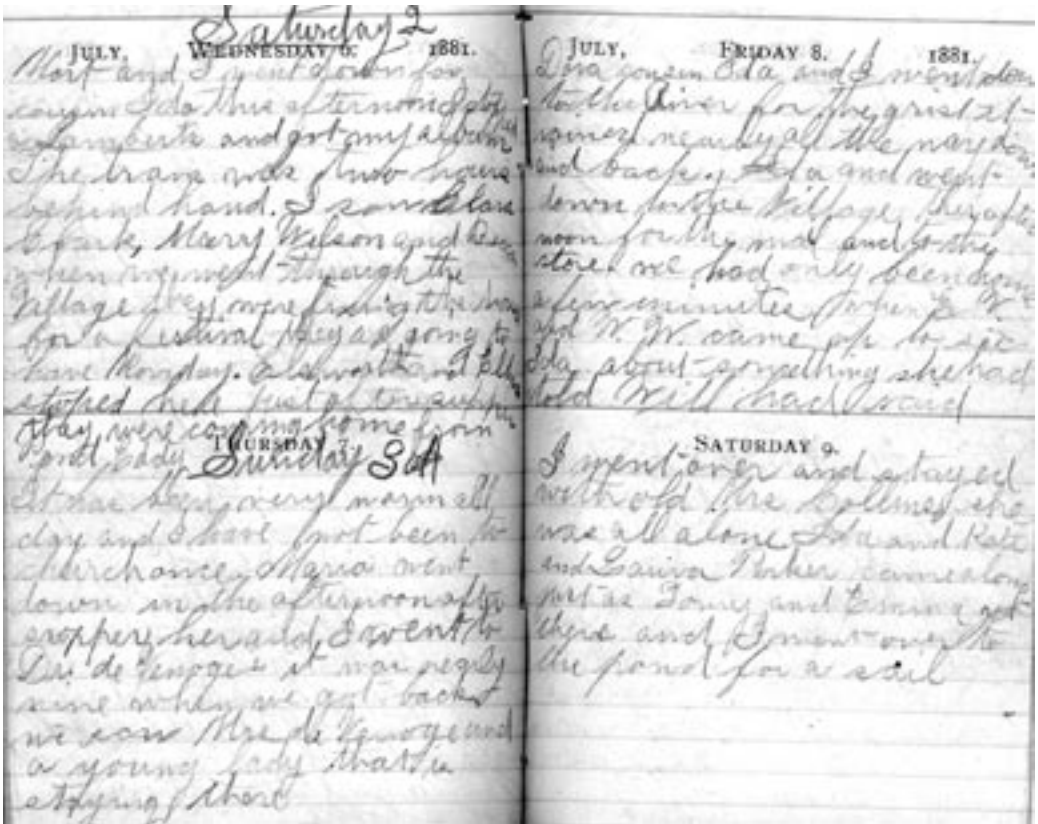
### Wednesday 6

Ida, little Tom, and I went up on the hill for berries this morning, but it was so warm we did not stay long. Annie Collins came down for the mail. It was after dark when she went home. I went up to their road with her. Maria and Ida was down to prayer meeting.

### Thursday 7

It has been rather cloudy today. Maria, Tommy, and I went up on the hill for berries. We got about four quarts all together. This afternoon Ida and I went out in the woods to read. She only stayed a few minutes, but it was nearly six when I got home. Met Minnie and Alice. They were going home.





## JULY

### Saturday 2

Mort and I went down for cousin Ida this afternoon. I stopped at Lambert's and got my album. The train was two hours behind hand. I saw Clara Clark, Mary Wilson, and Becca when we went through the Village. They were fixing the house for a festival they are going to have Monday. Elsworth\* and Elbert\* stopped here first after supper. They were coming home from Pond Eddy.

### Sunday 3

It has been very warm all day and I have not been to church once. Maria went down in the afternoon after supper. Her and I went to Dr. de Venoge's. It was nearly nine when we got back. We saw Mrs. de Venoge and a young lady that is staying there.

\*Son of Mahlon and Laura Austin Clark.

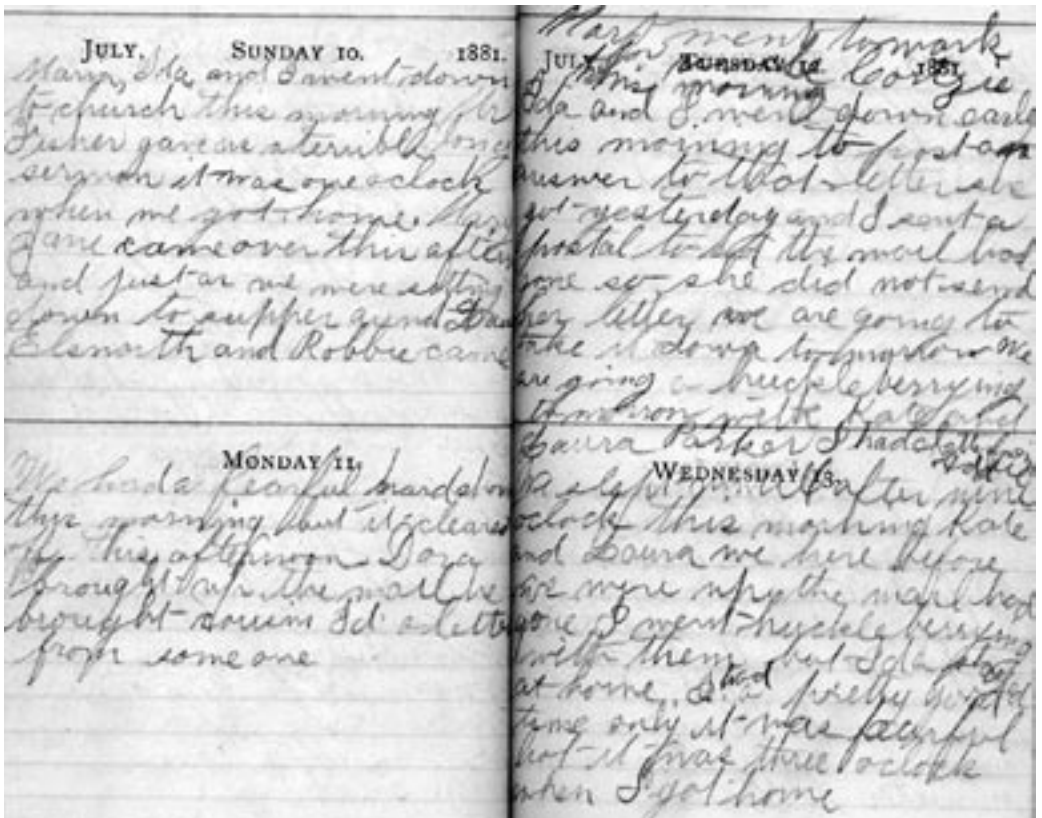
### Friday 8

Dora, cousin Ida, and I went down to the River for the grist. It rained nearly all the way down and back. Ida and [I] went down to the Village this afternoon for the mail and to the store. We had only been home a few minutes when E. V. and W. W. came up to see Ida about something she had told Will had said.

### Saturday 9

I went over and stayed with old Mrs. Collins. She was all alone. Ida and Kate and Laura Parker came along just as Tommy and Emma got there and I went over to the pond for a sail.





## JULY

### Sunday 10

Maria, Ida, and I went down to church this morning. Mr. Fisher gave us a terrible long sermon. It was one o'clock when we got home. Mary Jane came over this afternoon and just as we were sitting down to supper, Aunt Laura, Elsworth, and Robbie came.

### Monday 11

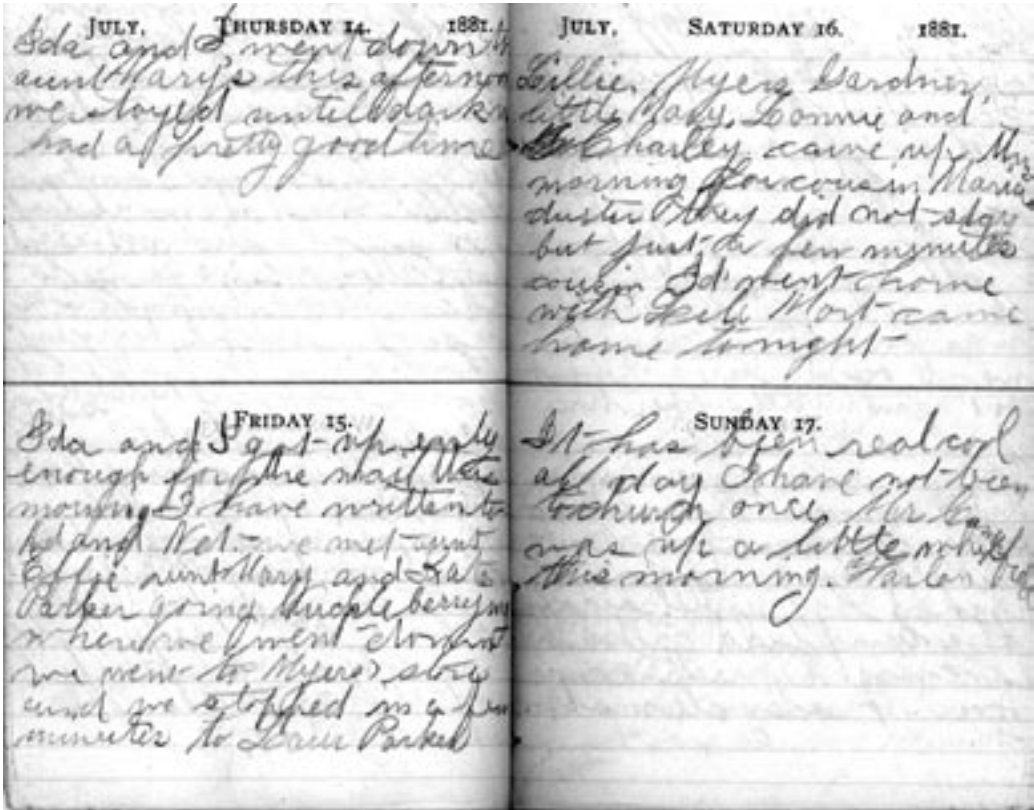
We had a fearful hard shower this morning but it cleared off this afternoon. Dora brought up the mail. He brought cousin Ida a letter from someone.

### Tuesday 12

Mort went to work for Cortzie. Ida and I went down early this morning to post an answer to that letter she got yesterday, and I sent a postal to Ad. The mail had gone so she did not send her letter. We are going to take it down tomorrow. We are going huckleberrying tomorrow with Kate and Laura Parker. I had a letter from Addie.

### Wednesday 13

We slept until after nine o'clock this morning. Kate and Laura were here before we were up. The mail had gone. I went huckleberrying with them but Ida stayed at home. I had a pretty good time only it was fearful hot. It was three o'clock when I got home.



JULY

Thursday 14

Ida and I went down to Aunt Mary's this afternoon. We stayed until dark. We had a pretty good time.

Friday 15

Ida and I got up early enough for the mail this morning. I have written to Ad and Net. We met Aunt Effie, Aunt Mary, and Kate Parker going huckleberrying when we went down. We went to Myers store and we stopped in a few minutes to Laura Parker.

Saturday 16

Lillie, Myers Gardner, little Mary, Lonnie, and Charley came up this morning for cousin Maria's duster. They did not stay, but just a few minutes. Ad went home with Lil. Mort came home tonight.

Sunday 17

It has been real cool all day. I have not been to church once. Mr. Campfield was up a little while this morning. Harlan is