

June

SATURDAY 3

1911

the commissioners invited the missionaries to a fourth with them. There were to be singing, speaking and eating. We anticipated a glorious time. Alas! it proved a sad day indeed. Early in the morning while Father was milking Mr. Hopkins passed by saying he was going to have a cool dip in the river. There was a large back water with almost no current. We girls had bathed there not long before and no one thought of it being dangerous. While we were at breakfast Cousin Agness came in and said have you seen Robert? I thought he was in his study but he was not. Father hurried to the river

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and found his clothes. All day and more or less, three days they searched and then they found the body. The chief Red Ben was one of the sincerest mourners. He loved Mr. Hopkins and often engaged him in religious conversation. He said "If he had lived I would have learned to pray." Noble red man. I heard long afterward that in his old age Red Ben made a confession of his faith and was baptised.

Mrs. Hopkins went east and our family was all alone the only real white-folks for 60 miles. Mr. S. Ponds station being the nearest. Annet and Jane

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that fall went to Galesburg to school. Armas stayed two years. Jane only one.

Another half breed girl Sophia Longee was added to family that winter.

One former Missionary said she thought that for want of proper food none of the mission children were as large as they should have been. I do not think so.

We bought mutton, buffalo, ducks, wild rice ect from the Indians with potatoes and turnips. We kept a cow or two and with a box of groceries from the east we fared quite well.

All except this winter.

In coming up the river in flat-boats our supplies

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got wet. The flour in barrels was caked and soured.

There was nothing to do but use what we had and we youngsters took turns pounding the flour out of the barrels. There was no soda I cant say why and in the midst of all this privation we were about all taken down with a severe cold that we would be called Lagripp. The Indians had it and some died.

Several of us at once lay near the stove on Buffalo robes.

We could endure neither food or water. Mother produced from her stores a bottle of Lamon Syrup, such as I have not seen since.

It was the greatest comfort.

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Mother said no one put anything in the stove except clean bricky wood and of the ashes she made lye to sweeten the sour flour. I do not think the hard time lasted very long but is long remembered.

Mr. Laframboise always took Julia home for a few weeks about twice a year.

I remember her setting out a very cold day in a sledge just like the pictures of dog sledges. These French men had money and paid 75¢ a week for their children.

Part of the time this winter

Father built a fire in the empty Hopkins house.

and we went over there for school. Two half breed boys

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came and learned some.

I think this was all the school we had that whole year. We read a book that told of the doings of a certain large family. Among other things they had a family

Post-Office, so we had a black silk bag hung up and wrote each other little notes. At first daily then weekly.

Now that the treaty was made and the Indians would soon be removed several missionaries decided to leave the mission. Lay missionaries would not be so necessary as at first as it would be possible to hire help. Both the Ponds, Father and Uncle Jonas, sent in resignations. As the missionaries only had a bare living and

Father now eight children he wished to secure a home. Early in the spring Uncle Jonas and Aunt Fannie came down from Lacquiparle. How glad we were to see them. White-people began to come and were often glad to board a while with us.

A Post-office was opened with Father for post-master and on Sunday young men would come in and he would hold a little service of Bible reading song and prayer. In June William T Pettijohn was born and soon after we thought Aunt Fannie would die but she recovered to see her sons children. Mother must have worked very hard that summer.

We had several boarders most of the time.

I must now go back to tell some experiences of the later part of the year 1850 & first of 1851. It is hard without dates to remember the year but I am now quite sure it was in March 1851 as Eliza

afterward told me she was much concerned to know if she were truly a Christian.

Probably the loneliness induced serious thought. That winter I read several books Nathan Dickerman, Adison Pineo, Early piety ect.

Eliza had joined the church in Ohio but up to this time had seemed a care free child. She was 14 years in March and the night of her birthday.

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she left me quietly sleeping
arose and knelt by the
bed resolved to remain there
until she felt she had made
a full surrender and been
accepted. Soon she proposed
we say our prayers together
night and morning.

After while she said we had
a responsibility to Victoria
and Julia so we took them
into our prayers.

Although there were but
four of us we had that
winter what those days
was called a great work
of grace. First one then
another found joy in
believing. We had little
prayer meetings every
Sunday after noon and
I think I can speak for all

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that at times we felt great
spiritual exaltation.

There were times when much
stress was laid on feelings.
Not so much in our church
as in some others.

Some time in the summer
of 1852 Julia and I and cousin
Olive ~~Pettigrew~~ Huggins
daughter of Father's brother
John who had come out from
Ohio joined the church.

Mr. LaFroboise gave his consent
although himself a Catholic.

Mr. Angee refused Victoria
which grieved her very much.
About 3 years later he gave
consent. Mr. Riggs and Dr. W.
were there for an annual meeting.
There were now a few white-
folks moving in expecting
the soon removal of the Indians.

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moved in The Ladies Aid made heroic efforts and purchased jeans. Mostly the country members made sacrifices and paid off the debts. Finally the Church joined at St. Peter a new town about two miles above started by people who had a little more enterprise than those of Traverse. Not enough to forestall Mankato who later took first rank on the river above.

The old church on some precious memories stood empty for years and I heard was finally sold for \$75. for a few hours.

Our folks paid taxes on our lots for years and then let them all go for taxes.

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Part Second

It is now 1921. This book begun in 1914 has been lying by for some years but I feel that I should not leave it in such an unfinished condition.

Last July 12th I fell down stairs and was unconscious for about an hour. Since then my eye sight has been very poor and I have failed much. I must jist down the things I wish to tell in such fashion as I can. Next September 18th I shall be 82 and very thankful to be able to enjoy life and be of some little use in my place in life.

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I think eight or ten sat down to a table spread with a cloth as was the old custom

Julia lived a short but useful life Graduated at Rockford Seminary and went as a missionary among her own people Victoria married a Frenchman had no children of her own but helped others care for theirs She and her sister held services and kept up Sunday school in a Godless place for years She lived to be quite old a shining light in a dark place

Part Second

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1920 April 9th

I am now in my 81st year and have not opened this book for about five years Have been thinking I have failed so much both bodily and mentally I will never try to add any thing more. To day looking up the record I realized as never before how confused in statement and how poor in execution the whole thing was I thought I surely could do no worse now and as I have time on my hands I may as well make some more pages

The Payment

Late in the fall of 1852 Commissioners from Washington came on from Wash D.C. to make a payment to the Indians for their land according to the Treaty? As there ^{were} ~~was~~ no houses, but the Mission houses consisting of two small frame and still smaller

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Church the principle men found
board with us I was then 13 years
old and was much impressed by
the fact the Mr. Fillmore Brother
of the President was one of them
also Mr. Ramsey Gov of the ^{territory}
Strong boxes filled with gold coin
were carried up stairs. Indians
from all the country ceded came
in and set up tents. Our front-
room was given up for a council
chamber and the principal Chiefs
gathered there to vote.

One Chief the one who lived at
this Mission Station was greatly
opposed to the sale of the land.

He had refused to sign at
the Treaty and always claimed
his name was secured by fraud
said he touched the pen when he
understood it was for something
else. Now he determined to make

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one more stand for the old hunting
grounds and the graves of his children.

He refused to sign certain papers
when he made an impassioned plea
I ran up stairs and bent my ear to
the stove pipe that ran through the
floor below and heard part of it
and wished much that I could have
seen and heard the "Old Roman"
all through. As he would not
yield they locked him up in a
room in the old Church in jail
as they called it.

It was part of my work to wait
on the table and I knew my face
burned as I heard those big brave
men talking how best to bring
the old Patriot to terms. One said
string up some of the principal men.
Another said string up Red Cloud
his Brother that will bring him.
Mother was called on to furnish

food for the jail and saying "Mazara shall have of the best" she gave a liberal slice of steak coffee ect. As a man was carrying it another cried out "What are you taking the old fellow?" "Bread and water," he said. I don't know on what terms Red Iron was released I suppose he was forced to sign.

Others did not wish to move away but felt that they would soon be forced to do so.

Father living on the land was supposed to have some rights and a Mr. Rice I believe they called him Senator Rice was charmed with the location of the Mission and wished to lay out a town there. As Mr. Riggs and Mr. Hopkins had both lived there some years ago Mr. Riggs thought they should have

a share. So Mr. Rice gave Father a ^{pair} of Gold Spectacles a book apiece for the children and \$75. Mother seemed not to have known of the bargain before and thought Father sold out for a mess of pottage. I have no doubt had Father been a business man he could have made a little fortune there. Mr. Rice also gave in his new town 100 lots to Father and 100 to be divided between Mr. Riggs and Mrs. Hopkins.

Had Mr. Rice lived our hopes of wealth might have been partly realized but it fell into other hands and only one big store and a few houses were ever built. Father gave away a few lots also three for a church. A concrete building was commenced and the little congregation

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after the Indian payment the white men began to come in, and Indians to move away. Father had some time before resigned from the Mission. As the Missionaries never received any salaries Father would have been pennyless but for the years hard work keeping boarders. Men ^{now} ~~last~~ began surveying, taking up claims, preemptions. Father went west about three miles to a ridge of partly wooded hills and took up a claim. James Holtzman was with us that year also Brother Arnos. and they cleared away a spot in the dense brush and built a log cabin about 14 x 20 ft.

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THURSDAY 22

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A new home

April 2nd 1853 we all started for our new home in a big ox wagon. I had not been able to see it before. As we drove up a winding road and came out on a little clearing where on a southern slope stood the log cabin I thought it the most beautiful spot I had ever seen. On the south tall trees threw their shadows over the garden, all else wet thick brush almost every kind of brush and young trees that were found in that part of that state were to be found on that quarter section.

Next day the young folks

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all walked down to Traverse where some on held some kind of service.

On the way home we found two kind of wild flowers yellow cress-like on the prairie and white bloodroot in the timber. We had a number of clear acre so there was no need of clearing that year.

There was no school house no school district. No school money in this new country. We had to depend as we had for the more than two years past on a little home study, and little indeed it was for some years more.

There were 13 of Father and Mother Eight children. from Arnes to little

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Hattie the pet of the family only 2 years old. James Holtclaw also was with us. We put up a tent and so all were accommodated. Julia and Victoria had gone to their own homes for a time.

The building of a house was the next thing. Father drew from the bank all the money he had left in bank when he started for the mission and at first of the timbers were cut and hewed on the place. There was an 8 roomed home ready to move into in October. Julia and Victoria came back and we were a truly happy family.

Brother Arnes remarks 3rd of April 1911 - flowers found

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It must have been about October 1854 when our Minister ~~for~~ came out and told Mother he had found an immigrant on the prairie with a very sick wife and child in a covered wagon no other shelter and would surely die if no one took them in. He well knew who he was telling. Nothing would do but a two horse team was at once started and the whole family at once brought to our house.

The sick Mother had had a fever and lived but a week. The man could speak English had been in California some years. We learned he had made

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a claim in Minnesota and gone back for his family to Norway expecting to build a shelter before winter. He went back with his three little boys giving up the baby.

They called the baby Katinka - we called her Kitty. She was sick all winter, never cut a tooth or walked until about two years old, grew up in our family as one of us. A good girl, an attractive young lady, married and became the mother of seven stalwart boys and one dainty pretty daughter.

We must have had an unbroken neighborhood. The ridge of hill extended about

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TUESDAY 27

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one and a half miles
all good Christian people
And took a claim that joined
us on the west and James
Holthclaw on the north we
were spoken of as The hill
people and were the back
bone of the Church. We
had prayer meetings from
house ^{to house} on Wednesday nights.
Winter nights we visited
nights and had many
pleasant occasions.

I think the great Intipaduta
Scare must have been in the
winter of 58 and 59 not sure.
Some Indians had killed
some white people and carried
two women captive.

Although this happened some
more than 100 miles from
us the story started and grew

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WEDNESDAY 28

1911

that the Indians had risen
up to exterminate the whites.

At our house was the
largest in the neighborhood.
a number of families crowded
to us hearing reports that
Indians were marching by
the hundred not many
miles away. My parents
only smiled. This was in
April a very late spring and
deep snow on the ground.
They knew no Indian
went on a war party in the
winter neither did they
march in companies.
Investigations were made
and no Indians were found.
to be near, so all went home.
Later, that month Ames
brought home from Illenide
where he had been teaching

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school, a beautiful bride
We had a reception for
relatives and friends to meet
them and Jane and James
Holtzclaw were married on
that occasion.

25th June 1890 marked the
anniversary of the Dakota
Mission and all former
members were invited to
the Mission for a celebration
Father Mother and others
of us went in a two horse
wagon Three nights on the
way It was good to meet
old friends although we quite
kept in touch with the
Missionaries as they made
our house headquarters
both going and coming the
young folks going east to
school and returning The

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FRIDAY 30

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older ones to and from Synod
It was on one such occasion
Mr. Riggs married Jane
After the removal of the
Indians the Missionaries
deserted the old Mission at
Lacquetteville and started
near the upper Indian
agency at the Indians
gathered about the agency
Dr. Riggs about three miles
from agency in a beautiful
spot they called Hazelwood
Dr. Williamson near the
Agency Each Mission had
a neat little Church and bell
I saw many familiar
faces and some who knew
me and called me by my
name Taterotawin
We had preaching in Dakota
and also in English

July

SATURDAY 1

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Oh it was good to sit down with so many Christian Indians. Some in blankets and quite a number of well dressed ladies from the agency. Together we sang the Dakota songs and together partook of the Lords supper.

When it came time to go home there was great need for help in the boarding school and I was prevailed upon to stay. Thus I was there when the yearly payment of Indian annuities came off. Some 2000 Indians at times from the north were there. You can tell them at once by a different pattern of moccasins and other clothes. There was a new agent (Callisraith) that year

July

SUNDAY 2

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and the chiefs each had to make a speech and tell the mistakes of former agents and the policy they thought would be just.

As I had home duties I did not get to but one day and heard no speeches. Indians were parading in their best outfits on horse back and foot while rows of tipis looked quite like a village. A day or two later people were saying, "Did you hear Standing Buffalo speak? Oh it was grand!"

I wish it might have been on my day for I would have had no need of an interpreter. I have an idea the fine appearing and



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