

Winifred Lydon Diary

Attached is a transcript of the diary of Winifred Lydon, which was given to the Minnesota Historical Society on February 5, 1999, by her grandson Dennis Grogan, 1946 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, 55104-5930, 651-644-6202. Winifred was born in Ireland in 1889 and immigrated to the United States in 1907. She worked as a servant and nanny for the Louis Hill family at 260 Summit Avenue and at their North Oaks home. Winifred and the gardener married at North Oaks and were given a set of china by Mrs. Louis (Maud) Hill. Mr. Grogan's sister, Ann Gigrich, has letters to Winifred from her father in Ireland, a photograph of Winifred sledding with the Louis Hill children at 260 Summit, and other documents. A selection from this diary was published in the MHS book *Irish in Minnesota* by Ann Regan.

Craig Johnson
Hill House Site Manager
September 1999

Winifred Lydon Diary
Minnesota Historical Society

Description

The diary is actually a 4" x 7" gray cloth volume marked *Ledger* on the cover with 200 pages including several tabbed pages for addresses at the beginning. Winifred apparently began the diary on June 27, 1909, and summarized her life from May 1907-1909. She continued in this manner, noting a few events per year until 1913 when the journal breaks off on page 65. A few pages at the back are written on. Winifred's wrote in pencil or black ink, both of which are faded, making the writing somewhat difficult to read. At times she uses Gaelic words and phrases.

Inside cover

Winifred Lydon
99 West Cook St.
St. Paul, Minn.

27th June 1909

Winifred Lydon
99 West Cook St.
St. Paul

Una Niluidaen [Gaelic name and address in Ireland, spelling uncertain]
Cappaqhduff
Tourvacradf

Address Section [5 pages]

Iriss [Miss?] Cooke
20 High St. Swanly
Kent

Master Harry Cooke
c/o Mr. Whiting
Cornmeadow
Claire
Worcester
England

Annie Connelly
Sharpsville
Mercer Co. Pa.

Miss K. Daly
Church St. Rathdowney
Queens County

Miss Annie Daly

Carysfort Road
Dalkey Co. Dublin

The
Rev. Osmund Cooke
Boxeylute Sta
Paris. France

Silina Delphi
1030 Matilda Ave St. Paul

Miss Violet Edwards
Tra Duggan Towyne Wales

Miss B Foley [crossed out]
691 Mississippi St.
St. Paul

Mary Heneghan
401 Washington St.
Youngstown, Ohio

Julia Heneghan, 1742 Stillwater Ave.
Hazelpark
c/o Mrs. P. L. Burke
twin [?] City 20559

Grace
John Lydon 250 Kingsland Ave.
Brooklyn New York

Mary J. Lowry
2104 Bayard Ave.
Wilmington Delaware
N.Y.

J. Lynch 404 Rice Street [255 crossed out]
Sharpsville Kerrigan [849 Albermarle crossed out]
Mercer Co.
Pa.

Alice Lavelle
944 Gaultier

Miss B. Loughlin
10 Waltham Terrace
Blackrock
Co. Dublin

Mrs. Keeley
Stafford House, Strand Dublin [crossed out]

486 South Madison Avenue [crossed out]

Pasadena

California

Keeley

St. Margaret's

Strand Road Merrion

Co. Dublin Ireland

A

McGing 924 WoodBridge St.

Mrs. J. N. Noel 876 Otowa Ave.

Charlotte Napier

1936 Iglehart Merriam Park

Fred Paulson

St. Cloud, Route #5, Box 38

Mrs. John Philben

1685 Laurel Ave.

K. Spelman Carrowkeel Clonbur

Mamie Shiller 318 Upper Levee City

W. D. Philbin 76 Fruit St.

Youngstown

Montgomery Avenue [crossed out]

Youngstown Ohio [crossed out]

Box 86 Sta. [crossed out]

Annie Rehbein

c/o Cambell Dakota Ave.

Huron, S.D.

Mrs. Taylor

Kilsharon

Droghida Co. North [?] Ireland

[loose page: text on front, expense list on back]

Honor Connelly left Coppaduff for America 16th July 1905. "Sad and Sore" poor old Peggy died 1st May 1907. Rev. J. Peace went along with Annie Daly to the I. I. Exhibition June 6th 07. Spent 19th June out at Kingstown Harbour along with Mr. Irin reading Open Doors for Irish Women. Afterwards visited St. John the Baptist Church Blackrock.

June 10th went to Kingstown along with A. D. & seen their Majesties the King & Queen. 2nd visit to Exhibition 24th Aug. Joggled the hobby horses. Hats flying. Seen baby incubator & Flick. Met Mr. Marbof? & Mr. Lank (French) (sea-walk). Oct. 6 met Mr. Nyo & Jackson lost trim chapple yard.

Money Spent 1907	L.	S.	d.
Dress maker February		8"	0
dye		1"	7
living dining 3" 4		4"	1
Braid		1"	7
gloves belt do.		1"	6
without speaking of stamps [??]		6"	9
sent father 19 th March	1"	10"	0
1 st April			
train from B. rock return to Queens St.			6
do from Queens St. to Droghedan return			4"
Ap. 6 th stamps			4
note paper & ointment			4
Tairgon n. paper			3
P. order for dress cotton	4"		5 ½
Stamps			6
calico lining for dress			10
undershirt & gloves	3"		6
calico			7 ½
Brushes		1"	1
	3	13"	2

[diary summary begins page 13 and continues to page 65]

27th June 1909, Sunday on porch

Left Cappaduff on Wednesday morning 29th April 1908 at 11:30 a.m. arrived at Queenstown at 10 p.m. wet & drowsy. Wrote & sent 8 postals.

Up at 6 a.m. Thursday 30th April got ready for Tender to sail on Caronia but too foggy tried 3 times but all in vain. Sad & sore, sick & tired.

Detained at Queenstown until Sunday 3rd May which was bright & clear. Got up at 5 a.m. & got ready for Tender to sail on Mauretania at 11 a.m. got on Board felt sickly but not too bad.

Mike rather poorly. Mrs. Bourke helped us so much. Arrived following Saturday in New York at noon. Took 6:30 train for St. Paul. Arrived in St. Paul Tuesday 8:15 a.m. 12th May 1908 met Aunt Mary & Uncle Michael Cumsy & Jim Collins at Depot. How glad I felt, how happy.

Spent a good time till May 19th Mike went to work to Hamline. I went to work in the factory 29th May 1908. (how I hated it). Stayed to McKeeley's 26th June went to see Mrs. Sullivan, Kate Maggie & I went to Como. Road home on car.

Sunday Kate & I went to St. Vincent Church afterwards had dinner & then I came home & went with Aunt & Uncle to house of Good Shepherd. On the 4th of July Mike M. Cumsy Annie & I went to St. Patrick's Church Picnic had ice cream & candy then went along down to see Uncle & rode home in a Gipsy Wagon.

Went to Blackrock on the 31st August 1905. Left Mrs. Kelly on the 2nd December 1907 sad & sore. Postal from little Harry & letter from Mrs. Kelly 5th Dec. 1907. Went to Philbin's to see Dominic nob[?] Sunday 8th Dec. On 1st Dec. 07 took Trim for his last walk around Linden, went to see Miss Byrne & back & had tea, talked to Mrs. Keely till 12 p.m. which was my last night in 8 Waltham Terrace.

Next morning up at 5:30 & took train for Queens St. at 8:35 Mr. K. good wishes & kind blessings of God Bless You. Annie made her first Communion Sunday 20th June 1909 at St. Bernard's Church. Got up at 5:30 a.m. went with Annie to Church & then came back & was with Aunt Mary to Church (how depressed I) After Church had breakfast & then went with Annie to get her pictures taken. Came home & had dinner & lounged around all evening. Anniw & C. McGing came along & we had a pinching[?] match on porch. Catherine McGing arrived in St. Paul Sunday 30th May 1909, went to work 11th June didn't like it.

Went to B. Flaherty wedding Tuesday 22nd June 1909, had a swell time. Poor topsy turvy Pat deproved[?]. Took pictures along Tuesday morning at 7 a.m. Annie and I went to Cathedral Sunday 27th June had ice cream and water on Rice St. 4th Sept. got one week's vacation (fair week) went over to Mae Wallace stayed there all night Saturday. Mandie Olsen started school on 21st Sept 1909 & celebrated Father Ogilvie's Silver Jubilee same day.

On Saturday 25th Sept. we all celebrated Mr. & Mrs. Drexler's wooden wedding. My how I felt - got my red dress same date. Home sick 1 week 7th Dec. 1909. Had a pleasant time & lots of fun with Santa Claus. Kerrigan took Aunt M the Infant Jesus, I the Rosary & Annie the Locket on Thursday eve Dec. 23rd '09. Got Harrie Connelly's pins 29th Dec. '09 home with sore on my hand

In the flicker of a candle
Loving faces around me came
As I think of home and dear ones
Of the future when duty's done.

Sent for wild fire char[?] on 29th Dec. '09. Got Mrs. Billington's letter 28th Dec. Annie's first letter from K—8th March 1909.

On Sunday 18th Dec. 1909, I went along to see Dr. Meade with my hand directed me to Dr. Foster "skin spct" who treated it with Electricity, oh the pain. Wore my dress & furs for the first time on Christmas eve went to Confession to St. Bernard's Church & went to Mass 7:30 & 8 o'clock on Xmas day. How depressed and lonely I felt, but still I kept up on the following Sunday morning. 26th Dec. Mike & I went to 10:30 Mass to Cathedral, heard a fine sermon preached by Bishop Ireland. Holmes & Harmon & old man McNeely at door.

Afterwards we went to see Foster who was gone home from office, felt sour a little. Met Catherine Moran at car. Came home had dinner & lounged around till supper time.

After supper Mike & I went out to see Auntie Katie, first Mae Wallace who was out. Came home at 10:30 & on Monday went down to see Foster, thought nothing of my face, went to work in the afternoon & Tuesday. On Wednesday morning I was all a rash. Stayed home & went to see Dr. Benz who thought nothing of my trouble either. Foster being out was obliged to come home as I went. Aunt M. & I had chicken boullion at Schwann & Evans. We both came home & I treated my hands and face with the ointment. On Thursday my face and hands were worse, had some breakfast, came up stairs & read until 12 o'clock. Aunt B. came, how I did feel God only knows. I could or I dont now think I would be doing right to appear where she would be present. May the Infant of Bethelham forgive her as I do for God's sake. I did have no dinner or supper & I did not feel hungry. Did God feed me. How I wished then I was with my dear parents, but I was very far away. On Friday morning I got up at 9 o'clock with a very swollen face, went along to see Foster again, said it was pretty bad but not catching, treated my hands and gave me a prescription for touce[?] & Lotion. I got some and tried as far as possible to follow his directions. Couldn't eat very much & C. mailed package to P. J. K. which was acknowledged by phone same night.

On New year's day, which was a very sad & weary one for me, I got up at 9 & took care of the house while Aunt M. & Annie went to Children's Mass. J. W. Sweeny called up & wished me a Happy New Year. Treated my ailments & eat a little. Could not even go to Mass, hoping every day to get better, but no sign.

On New year's night P. K. came along with his scatchel unexpected & gave Harry his first instructions on violin, how did I feel. Everything going on so smoothly until J. McNeely & Annie came which of course put a halt to P.K.'s visit, where is my hat.

On Sunday 2nd Jan. the boys & girls came along & we had a dance, yes a good time.

Went to do housework to Mrs. Partridge Sunday 23rd Jan. 1910 felt most unhappy all along but always shaded the clouds.

On Monday 31st Feb. [date?] I got sick & felt very poorly all week. Thursday I had to go to bed, I was all a rash of measels. Partridge's house up side down, everybody sick. Was taken in the ambulance to the City Hospital by Dr. Walker on Saturday 5 March 1910. How I felt when I discovered the soiled linen, was there only 4 days when I got an earache, had an ice bag on which was a little relief. About the 9th day I got dyptheria, & never was aware of it until it was all over. Transferred to private room with Lizzie, & our horrible nurse Mrs. Laylor. Oh did I feel. But I had God's assistance all along. How glad I was when removed from the room upstairs to Dyptheria Ward, where I had a dear Miss Corn[?] & Miss Grant to nurse me, and Drs. Walker & Sunt, whom I can never forget. My ear still ached & discharged the more each day. Dr. Burch ear "spct" trated and cleaned it, such a cranky doctor but a good man.

Got double Negative Cultures on Easter Sunday 27th March. Got 2 baths, my hair washed, &c & went through the tunnel with Miss Legard to Main Building where I was supposed to stay until my ear got well. Met Miss Gossman first one I knew.

How depressed & lonely & far away. My ear still on the bumb, came home on the 10th April, but not at all well, couldn't get well. In 2 weeks it started to get worse & worse each day. Went to see Foster who took me in to see Bettingen, who could do nothing beyond an operation. How that impressed on me, I can't express, decided to see Heath before I'd operate. On Tuesday 3rd May Heath seen to it & gave it until Wednesday morning to get better or worse. How it ached Tuesday night. Wday morning I went again to see Dr. Heath, at once said I should go to St. Joseph Hospital & have ice put to back of ear all day. Came along & arranged about my room with Sister. Came home & got some things necessary for the Hospital, had my dinner with Aunt Mary & tried hard to keep up, which I did pretty good. Annie came along with me to the Hospital, had a bath & went to bed with ice on ear, which indeed did not relieve very much, had my hair cut & shaved by Miss Egan & Doctor—How depressed I felt, first time I realized death was near, cried all night with pain & disturbed all the patients.

Miss Ryan got me on Thursday morning 5th May 1911 ready for operating room. Got on the stretchers but I don't know how I got there. I went on the operating table, just looked at Doctor who was very nice to me. Closed my eyes, & looked in real earnestness for God's help. How did I hate to take the Ether, last remembrance is Sister at my head, when I seen her I repeated Jesus, Mary, & Joseph, & that is all I remember until I awoke in the ward from effects of ether & I wanted Annie & Mother so bad. My dear Mother was out of the question then, had she been near, I wouldn't have to call for her, poor Annie was by me, I well remember she made me happy & content, for the remainder of the day, Got along nicely but having dreadful headaches for 2 or 3 days.

Got up following Saturday & went on the porch Sunday for a short time. Got a letter from Father Sunday 8th May & a cheque for 25 dollars. Had visitors all along my best friend Aunty B. how I did feel at her appearance. Went to Assumption Church Sunday pentacost 15th May with Mrs. Cain, came back & had dinner to hospital. Telephoned to Aunt Mary. Annie came & took me home in the afternoon, accompanied by Kate Lydon, seem to get along alright but still kind of weak & no ambition. On Sunday 15th May Manbie[?] got pnuemonia, couldn't sleep, feeling very sick all day Monday.

June 1st came out to the farm with Julies to work for Mrs. Hill, felt very confused for the first week but soon began to like it. Got acquainted with the 1st Japanese boys I ever seen Henry Yosheda & Charley Yomada.

How I liked the beautiful boat rides. About 20th June Mrs. took all to town but Charlotte & I, & how glad & happy we were. On Sunday 27th I went to Church to Little Canada in a rig with Mr. Roe & the french sermon I enjoyed. Ida & Charlotte surprised me with all the dainties for dinner & the lovely salad dressing. On Monday 28 I went to town on train & got Mae Wallace her wedding present. Came up to Aunt Mary's & we went down town. Met Annie at Union depot & came on train to Farm, had a dandy time all evening. John Olsen took us boat riding & afterwards played on piano (12 oclock). On Tuesday morning Ida & Charlotte went to town & we had some snap shots taken at front door.

Annie stayed till 10th July, oh but we had a fine time. Killed the 1st snake I ever seen on Sunday 8th July & Annie stepped on it. Went round the lake 5 miles walk on Monday 9th accompanied by little Harry. How tired Annie felt.

Went to Mae Wallace's wedding 10th July enjoyed it fine, came home around 1 oclock & Annie & I slept on Carpet front room. Got up & had breakfast & took the train for the dear old farm. Rode up with Andrew first news I heard from Charlotte that Minnie, Catherine & Harry were to be home for lunch. Changed my dress & cleaned up, & started lunch. Got the two big pans & iron spoons, flag on my shoulder & Louie's

red can for a hat & Charlotte with the green hat & we made up a band for the arrival. We laughed & watched out so much, came at last, how we enjoyed the joke & how glad we deserted girls were at their arrival. Had lunch & started housekeeping once more.

On Sunday 24th July Julies took Harry and Charly, Charlotte & I around the lake twice. Took up Minnie & Catherine & Haryy went home. Went up to J. J.'s had a ride in the wheelbarrow, had lemonade & cake, & afterwards Joe took us all around the lake again. Joe seen Charlotte & I home.

On Thursday morning Harry took all us girls boatridding. Catherine got in one boat alone & we tied it to our boat & we had a fine time, cracked my collar in boat.

On Saturday 20th July Charlotte & I went on lake all alone. I rowed first time with 2 oars, got along fine, came back about 9 oclock, had some cherries & candy, & Harry & we girls went for a walk up towards the office, smelt something so bad, went along till we met Mr. Webb, who advised us to turn back, as there was a skunk around. Gee how it smelt.

Came back accompanied by Webb who talked all the way about Miss Murphy & her brightness.

Got rid of him & came in & had some cake & came over to the Annex[?], read some & went to bed. On Sunday morning 31st July I got up & got breakfast, had some lovely cherries for same. Minnie went to church.

On Sunday, early in August, I went down Rice met Kate Lydon at University slipped in to see the haunted castle, everything looked fine indeed. Patrick came & seen us in the car. We had supper with Aunt Mary & Mike [name illegible]. Kate & I went to Como, had a dandy time on the lake, ran into Herbert Gardner, came home about 10 o'clock. Up on Monday morning 7 a.m. & went down town, & got Annie & Jack McNeely a cut glass bowl. Afterwards went to the depot & took 9:15 train to Cardigan Junction .

On Tuesday August 10th 1910 I went into town to Jack McNeely wedding, rode in machine to Cook St. Got bad news from Aunt Mary. It being the day Uncle dis'd. What an anxious day we had, until 6 o'clock when the man came with a word of consolation. And poor Uncle arrived soon after supper. How we all felt & could I do anything "no." Annie & I got ready for wedding Kate Lydon & M. King came along & we all went together, had a fine time. The fat man & C. came home about 2 o'clock. J. McNeely seen Annie & I home & we had a circus.

About 20th August Minnie surprised us all by leaving unexpected, I all alone for a week. How I did miss dear old Minnie & felt very sorry indeed at her departure. On Saturday August 26th Annie Rachbin came to help me out. I was glad to have her, but not at all like Minnie. On Friday following we went down to Racbin's to a dance Edd, Paulson & Ashland came along. Charlotte's first dance. We had a dandy time, Catherine played on the organ & we all sang. Came home about 11 o'clock.

On Sunday 27th Aug. I went into church, rode up to Cook St. first. Annie & I went to St. Bernard's children mass, long service & sermon. Came back & on Magnolia we met Mrs. Carter, & Tom Churchill, who (the latter) wanted me to go to the fair. P. J. K. on the other side of St. waited at end of Cook St. He & I talked a while & then went up & sat on porch till Julies came. Introduced P. [T.?] to Charlotte & Fraulein. Came home in machine got dinner with Annie & afterwards supper all alone. When I got through I went with Charlotte to Mr. Pennow where Charlotte & Paulson were already guests. We had ice cream & cake, Charlotte smoked a cigar & played games.

In a while Harry came & J. J.'s girls, (Harry & Mabel) & we played games until 11 o'clock we all 13 of us started for home.

On Wednesday Aug. 31st all of us girls went down again to Ruibus[?] accompanied by John, Paulson, Ashland & Edd & we had a nice crowd, danced & sang &c. About 12:30 we got home, & was glad to return.

On Thursday morning I went over to Mr. Pennow to the green house for some vegetables, stepped in to see Mabel & Sophia, who were all alone, arranged to go for a boat ride in the evening. We had company, & were late but Mabel & Sophia came, & so we could & resist the temptation. We started out about 8 accompanied by Harry, (who was so happy to be with Mabel.) & we went across to the bath house. Mabel & Harry rowing all the time, water rough & rocky but pleasant. They seen me to the Annex & Harry seen the girls home.

On Friday morning Aug. 2nd [Sep. 2?] I slept in had breakfast in kitchen & C. We are having a storm now, & I am all alone in the Annex.

In Oct. got acquainted with the Lundberg boys, always met them in Rihbiens, went to the pavilion at Snail Lake & danced, accompanied home by Ashland. Charlotte & I had lots of fun on Carrol Mulleen. About the middle of Oct. had a surprise on Mr. & Mrs. Rohr who were in bed when we got there. There was a large crowd but lots of room & we had a fine time, got home early in the morning, dogs barking & C. Albin[?] & I waited for Annie who was so slow! I went to church & when I came home had dinner & slept afternoon. The boys came up & we went to Rehbiens Sunday eve. On Thursday about 20th Nov. all went to the basket social to school. Met the boys who were in town seeing August away to Canada. Catherine & I were very anxious to see what the thing looked like, but we were disappointed it being quite different to what we thought. Charley got Annie's & my basket both! How mad I was, had to eat with Charley & Annie with Nolander, had a great time to get away from him, but succeeded & came with Slim. Next Saturday night we went out to see Mrs. Victor Lundberg, danced of course.

On Thanksgiving we went over to Rehbiens, had a scrap with Slim, he was not there, but soon arrived with Arthur & Edd, had been to the Auction to Tomson's. I couldn't look at Albin, so we started out & I didn't want to wait for the boys but Albin came running up after us. So we made up, so crazy the door steps.

On Sunday 3rd Dec. we had a farewell meeting in the house Mrs. Rohr, Carrol, & Edd came & the boys. We had a good time, & a sorrowful parting. Arthur had a scrap with Annie but father & Sunnie[?] had a good time. Mrs. Rehbiens invited us all to her house Sunday eve, had coffee & c. played games so foolish I thought & we had a very pleasant evening, came home & said good Bye for last time to Albin, thought I was not coming to town next day but I did. Called up the boys Monday night & said Good Bye. On Monday we all worked very hard & when I got through I dressed & Harry, Charley & I went down to skate a little & say Good Bye to the dear old Pleasant Lake where I had so much fun all summer!

So here I am again in town, didn't like it at all first week, but now I like it much better. Aunt Mary got a baby boy Bytwell[Both well?] 1st Nov. is quite big now. Had a postal from A. Thursday, house cleaned Mothers room Saturday helped by Catherine & Lawrence, very busy during Xmas enjoyed the time well but was glad when it was all over. On Xmas day I went to Aunt Mary's had dinner & stayed till 3:30 when Kate & Mary Burns called for me. On New Years I went to Aunt's again had supper with Mike & the children, stayed there over night & came home Monday about 11 o'clock. Then Catherine went out had a surprise party on Aunt Mary 25th Feb. 1911. She resting when we got there, had a good time till 5 o'clock, walked quite awhile for car, accompanied by Lawrence, walked home from 4 & Wabasha.

On 17th March, Kate & I went down town in the afternoon decorated with the dear old Irish Shamrock, stepped into C. o. C. & afterwards went in to see the girls at the Ryan. Mary O'Dowd was out, but Winnie was home, arranged to go to Hastings that night. After supper Kate & I got ready & went down to 7 & Wabasha but no Winnie. Met the crowd at Robert St. walked again up to Wabasha but couldn't see Winnie.

Met Mr. Gordley, who was on for the Armory. We all took the Hamline car at Ninth & Wabasha had a fine time all the way out. When I entered Hastings the first one I seen was P. J. K. looked very depressed, and very musical all night. Came up & shook hands with me & was too attentive, for I didn't accept it at all.

Came home at 5:30 and we all had a good time. Annie O'Keefe slipped on car all bleeding. I went to bed for an hour, felt very tired all day Saturday, also Kate. Catherine moved into Annie Monaghan about the 7th March & Kate came in with me. Catherine enjoys being all alone as I was always chewing candy. She expects to go home in June 1911. This is Saturday 1st April 1911. Am going up to Aunt Mary's & going to stay with Annie over night, Annie to be confined Sunday 2nd at 2:30p.m. Sunday 5p.m.

Got up to Aunt Mary's last night at 8p.m. Sat around and talked till 10:35 when Annie & I went up to bed. Didn't sleep very much Annie & I talked a lot. Next morning Uncle called us at 5:30. I got up & got ready for Mass at 6:30. Both Annie & I received at St. Bernard's came home "all snow" had breakfast with John & Aunt Mary & Bernoll[sp?]. I read the paper & played with the kids. Aunt Mary went to church & I held the baby till she came back. I called Mike for church, came down stairs & made a cake & helped Aunt Mary get dinner. After dinner Uncle Mike & I went up to see Annie confirmed. Heard Bishop Ireland preach a sermon & seen the boys confirmed, but couldn't stay any longer as I had to be back to 260 Summit at 4:15p.m.

When I came up to pantry seen Harry's Japanese friend & was much surprised when I entered my room to see a false man in Kate's bed. At first I thought Kate must be sick, but soon discovered my mistake. Johanna left 15th April, we girls all missed her lovable manner. On 17th April Catherine Moran arrived to do chamber work in my place. It being evening I escorted her to her room from the kitchen I being anxious to find out for myself *[note: page number goes from 46 to 51 at this point; 47-50 ripped out; text seems to flow uninterrupted]* if she was the girl I had heard so much about. She talked to me about an hour in her room & I was aware of her manner and disposition.

On Saturday 8th April Catherine Hendry[sp?] & Fraulein suggested I should do the laundry for Mrs. Hill. So brave & gay, I started Monday 10th April. Didn't like it very well to begin with, as I had a bad cold & a sore throat. Continued on the following week & Mrs. wasn't getting anybody & I was discouraged, as I didn't have my mind on my work. So on Tuesday April 25th Mrs. came down & asked Kate to stay in the town house & sent for me to do the laundry work. We both have arranged to stay in town for the summer. I wonder how I'll like it but my later pages will tell.

On Thursday April 27th Elizabeth took me to Minneapolis first time, we rode on Selby line, & around by Henipin, we visited all the large stores, I wrote some postals, while Elizabeth wrote a letter, we had supper, & started home at 6:15p.m. got home at 7:30 & Fraulein had the children in bed.

Catherine & Harry made their first communion 23rd April at St. Bernard's church. I got up at 6a.m. & rode to church. It was very nice to see all the children. After dinner Selina & Kate came. I came down to the house with Selina & afterwards Catherine, Selina & I came back to Olsen's again where Mike & John Heneghan[sp?] were before us & Aunt Kate & Flora came accompanied by Harry. We all rode home it being the day Mike was on the bumb[?]. How I felt that night. Kate and Lawrence had scrap Sunday night 30th April & all day Monday they didn't talk. Gee but I felt funny. Harry went to the hospital Saturday 29th April.

Mrs. Hill, C. Hendry[sp?] & 2 other women went out to clean the farm house Monday 1st May. On Saturday 8th Kate, Mrs. & the children went out to the farm. Afterwards Elizabeth & Catherine Moran. How depressed & lonely I felt. All alone with Lawrence. Went to Jack Neville's party that night. Walked home to Olsen's with the 2 Mikes. Came home to 260 Summit at 2 o'clock Sunday May 9th accompanied by Catherine who stayed all night with me & went home with Julie & Lawrence in the Auto on Monday

morning. Flora came to help me Monday 10th we both went to Rielly's party Sat 13th, had a good time, slept Sunday morning till 8:15. Kate called up. I went to church 9 & met Kate on Laurell Ave. going to 10:30.

On Monday 15th April Lawrence surprised Flora & I at supptime. Came in from farm unexpected. Gee but we girls were glad to see him once again. It seemed like home to have Lawrence around but his visit with us was limited. Mrs. took him to the farm Thursday for good. I missed his presence in the Laundry very much.

Wednesday the dear Kate came in from the farm & Harry. Kate & I chewed the rag in the Laundry till 11 o'clock. She went down town. Harry also. He took Flora & I some candy. On Friday I went out in the afternoon. I opened Kate's letter to know if Bridgit was coming & she was. Mailed it on to Kate. In the morning I came down to Burn's[?] to see if she had telegraphed. Yes. I came home, wrote Kate a note to inform her of her sister's arrival. Flora told me she & Kate McGoom[sp?] were going out to the farm. Mr. Oaks stayed here all night. On Saturday morning I was up at 6:10, dressed & came down stairs & started my fire. Julies already outside waiting. He, Flora & Mr. Oaks started for depot at 5 of 7 & they got to the farm about 8 o'clock. He came right back with Kate to meet her sister who came in to depot 10 after 9 o'clock a.m. Saturday 20th May 1911. I was so glad when Kate could go & meet her as it was impossible for me being alone in the house. I washed all my flat work. Got Julies to hang the line & help me down in the garden with the clothes. We had lots of fun. Julies talking so silly & vulgar. About 10:30 Kate surprised me by coming around the back. I was glad to see the dear sweet thing, with her scatchel from North Oaks.

She & I had lunch together. Then she went down town to do some shopping for her sister. I got through my washing about 2 o'clock I cleared up. Made 2 pies for Sunday & then came upstairs washed & done a little sewing & dressed about 5:30. Had 2 eggs & a cup of tea for supper. How lonesome all alone (I don't really like it at all) but I guess I'll get used to it. I like the farm best. After I went out & got Lawrence's paper & came upstairs on Library porch & read for quite a while, telephone ringing & door bell also. About 7:45 I got my hat on & closed up for night & went down to see the green house who looked fine & dandy. I wasn't long there when the McGing[sp?] girls & Mary Connelly came there & afterwards Mike came & Mrs. Keating. We all had refreshments & about 10:15 we started for home. Mary Burns & I slept in my bed & Brigit in Kate's bed but she slept all alone as Kate occupied Flora's bed. I got up at 7:15 Sunday morning, dressed & came down got breakfast & we 4 girls went to 9 o'clock Mass to St. Joseph's church. It was quite wet and sloppy. Julies & Catherine Hendry came & we jossed in the hall for awhile. Julies left & we all came down stairs had some Irish tea & chewed the rag till 20 of 12. Catherine & Kate went upstairs to dress while Mary & I did the dishes. Then all the girls left me & here I am in the pantry all alone. Reading and writing is my only companion. Sunday May 21, 1911.

Catherine Hendry left St. Paul Wednesday 31st May evening. Kate & I & Jack Reid accompanied her to depot where she was surrounded by a large crowd of Scotch men & ladies.

One Thursday June 1st Bridjie Lydon went out to the farm to work for Mr. Hill. A week afterwards I went out with Julies for a ride, ran around out there, had lunch, Catherine Moran & I had a boat ride once again on the dear old Pleasant Lake. Bridjie called & said I should start, so I enjoyed the ride immensely.

About the 20th of July I rode out with Lawrence on Saturday afternoon. Ellen Crowe refused to speak to me. I seen all the dear girls & Harry had Kodack ready for picture taking but I refused. Seen the children & I had supper & everybody so silent, very depressing to me. Afterwards Catherine, Bridjie & I had a boat ride. I rowed all the time. We came back & took Lawrence to see Mrs. Rohr whom I was glad to see once again. We came home about 10 o'clock. Sat in kitchen. Nobody around. Gee but its different to last year. I went to bed on porch [word illegible] couldn't sleep. Had a storm. Up next morning at 6 a.m. had breakfast. I walked around while the others did up their work. We had creamed fish & coffee. Ellen refused to speak to Catherine, Bridjie & Lawrence. We all came in to church at about 9:30. Got to town at 10 & glad I was.

Bridjie & I went to High Mass at St. Joseph's. Came home had lunch. Bridjie went down to see Mrs. Burns while Kate & I retired for the afternoon.

Harry left here 27th July 1911 for Chicago. We were sorry to see him go being here so long & always so respectful to the girls. Ellen & him left same day.

Florence Rehbién was baptised 2nd April 1912 & made her 1st communion 14th April 1912, was confirmed 27th May 1912. Mr. & Mrs. the children, Cath., Mary & Betty went to Seattle 15th June & took Lawrence also.

Mary O'Dowd came 23rd May & stayed till 1st Oct. 1912. The people stayed away till 20th Sept. & we had a big summer. Breakfast at 9 o'clock, sat at table till phone would ring & sometimes talked so much about old country, that we both cried hard. Oh Gee but it was a great summer alright.

4th July Kate, Bridji & I & the boys went to Como Park, sat in a pavilion awhile & later on had lunch & Kate cut up in great style. Afterwards got in boats, stayed there till 8p.m. Then Mary & McLoughlin[sp?] came along & we stayed there till 9:30. Came home & Kate & Mike came up here & we had lemonade & cake, so we were glad to retire at 11p.m.

Mary left 1st Oct. & went back to the Ryan. Then Margaret came & stayed with me & she certainly is alright. She is just such a jolly good hearted girl, helped me as much. The people are moving in Monday 23rd Dec. 1912.

Xmas eve John & I spent in kitchen I felt for the first time since in America very homesick. Xmas day I spent up to Aunt Mary's. Had a pleasant time. John & I went to the show in the evening. New Year's in Auntie Katie's. Mike & I Had a big time, danced & cut up. In the evening Annie came & we hiked down town. Met John at 7th & Wabasha & went down to see Fiske O'Hara met Mike at 6 St. & Bridjie & Kate at Metropolitan, enjoyed the show real well. Put Annie on car & John & I came home.

About 15th Jan. 1913. John & I went out to see the state prison at Stillwater. Quite a cold day when we started, but turned out very mild in afternoon. Got to see the prisoners alright, which to me was very interesting, yet sad too.

Francis Olsen was born 2nd Feb. 1913 was baptised 16th. Mike & I had the pleasure of being sponsors. Kate Bridgie & I went out to see Mrs. Heneghan Sunday 22nd March 1913. Kate was quite anxious to see Mike & succeeded in same. They enjoyed seeing B. & I teased to death. In the evening we went out to Mrs. Wilters[sp?] where we joined the boys. Had quite a jolly evening. Margaret Reid went to South St. Paul for 2 weeks vacation Saturday 8th March.

[diary ends on page 65. A few notes are made on the following pages]

[Page 101]

July 5th 1923

Received of Mrs. John Silben 50.00 Fifty Dollars for one upright piano. Behr Bros.

M.C. Peterson

[Page 183]

Mrs. John Philben \$10.00

January 12, 1930

St. Paul, Minn

Miss Mary Philben 13
1685 Laurel Ave.
St. Paul, Minn
January 12, 1930

Miss Eileen Philben 12
January 12, 1930
St. Paul, Minn

[Page 191]

received yr letter can't arrange now some how I will spend time Sunday. I will surprise Mrs. Drexler forenoon. So perhaps I'd see you there. Cordially Una

[Page 192]

My Symbori[symphony?]

I try to live content with small means, to seek elegance rather than luxury & refinement rather than fashion. To be worthy not respectable, & wealthy not rich. To study hard, think quietly, talk gently, & act frankly.

To listen to stars & birds, babes & sages with open heart. To do all cheerfully, hear all patiently, await occasions, hurry never, in a word, to let the sudden unbidden & unconscious grow up through common.

This is my Symbong[?]

[Page 198-199]

Here's that the hinges of your hospitality may never grow rusty. Here's that the skin of a gooseberry may cover all your enemies. Here's to you as good as you are. Here's to me as bad as I am. As bad as I am & as good as you are, I am as good as you as Bad as I am.

Here's to the merry world, God bless it. We came into it naked & bare. We go through it with troubles & care. We leave it God knows where. If you are thorough-bred here, I will be thorough-bred there.

Here's to the cock that sits on the rail, hoist up its tail & cock-a-doodle-doo!

When your mind feels queer & your head swells up like foam on beer, your drunk my dad your drunk.

[Page 200 and inside back cover—various dollar amount relating to medical problems?]

Jan \$32.44c

Feb \$36.11c

March \$41.53c

April \$39.66c

May \$35.5c

June \$37.30c

July \$40.28c

August \$379.7c

September

October

November

December

Dr. Bettingen 5.0

St. Joseph Hospital 21.30

Dr. Heath 100.0

Dr. Meade

Foster

lotion

medicine

ointment

[other miscellaneous figures and illegible words. END]

Winifred Lydon Diary
Minnesota Historical Society