

1875

February 5, 1875

This is my Silver Wedding Day. Twenty-five years with their lights and shadows have come and gone since we were married. Twenty-five years! What changes during that time. Then, Father and Mother (Truman Wheeler and Hannah Carr Wheeler) were young enough and well enough to be independent and happy. Now Father has been in the spirit world almost seven years and Mother is in her ninety second year, very feeble and in the enjoyment of her mental facilities in an extraordinary degree. She is with us, thank God, where Rhoba (Emily's widowed sister) and I can take care of her night and day. Then, Mary and Charles (Emily's siblings) were in the prime of life, now they are Citizens of another World. Then Adaline (Emily's sibling) had her sight. Now, she tries to comfort herself in the thought that her eyes will open to the beauties of a better world than this. Then, Rhoba had just taken upon herself the responsibility of bringing up Lydia's (Emily and Rhoba's deceased sister) children in addition to all the others of married life. Now she has known twenty-five years of widowhood. And the rest of us, Ah me! We are twenty –five years older than we were then. Edward (Spencer) (Emily's husband) I see, begins to look like an old man. His hair is grey and his form a little bent. And I, well, I feel that I have kept pace with him.

Mrs. Page, healing medium<sup>1</sup>, has just come. She will stay with us tonight. Weather very cold. Two inches of snow.

Feb. 6

Mrs. Page has just gone. She proved to be a very pleasant, companionable lady. Rhoba has gone to Alice's. Mother pretty well. I am reading Mrs. Stowe's Dred. Think it falls far short of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Feb. 12

Alice (Mumford) Hooper (Emily's 30 year old niece and Rhoba's step-daughter/niece) is visiting here. What would we do without her? We have so few Neighbors. Mother has been quite unwell, but is better now.

Feb. 28

*Sunday.*

Am reading Seers of the Ages- Past and Present by J.M. Peebles. Like it.

Mar. 9

Have just come from Mr. Acker's. Found them in big trouble. Mr. Acker having been accused of taking a set of furs from a store in Kendallville. Of course, he declares himself innocent but left home last night. It is evident he dares not stay and face the thing. I'm very sorry for the Family. We had never suspected such a thing of him.

Mar. 14

This morning I see bills posted advertising the sale of Acker's property to take place next Friday. The Family are going to leave this place. Surely the way of the transgressor is hard.

Mar. 16

Snowing. Wind blowing at a terrible rate. Unable to hang clothes out which were washed yesterday.

Mar. 22

I am forty-nine years old today. Forty nine. How time flies. Went to Mr. Acker's this morning. Found the Family are going to turn the old people adrift. Yes adrift, after taking Acker when he was only nine months old and doing all for him that they could have done for an own child even to letting all of their property slide into his hands. Now in their old age they are going off to leave them. I never saw folks appear to feel as badly as they are feeling. How I pity them! Asked them to come here and stay a few days.

F. Baker came this morning to commence painting. Have taken up all the carpets and turned things upside down all over the house. At present confusion reigns. Old Mr. and Mrs. Acker have just come.

Mar 23

Mr. Acker's Family were all here to dinner and a sorrowful company they were. I suppose a dozen indictments could be made against Acker. No wonder he ran away. His Family have just started away. The old people are with us. We must comfort them what we can.

Mar. 25

Mother a little better. Old Mr. and Mrs. Acker started today to their sister's in Michigan. We helped the old lady to some clothes as we found she was in great need. They left, both crying like children. I hope that adopted son of theirs will receive his just punishment and sometime, somewhere, I believe he will. I should think he must feel as though it is already coming pretty fast. His property has been sold for one third its value. His Family gone to his brother's for a home and he hiding from justice.

Mar. 26

Have been washing carpets. Mrs. Page came today to stay a day or two.

Apr. 14

Yesterday Edward and the paper hanger went to Ft. Wayne for wallpaper. They got home this morning. I think they made a nice selection. It will take 130 rolls. We paper nine rooms.

Last night Mother says two men stood by her bed trying to attract her attention. At first she did not know them but noticed they both looked like Maltby Carr. After looking at them sometime, she thought of her half brothers William and Charles. On asking if it were them the appearance immediately dissolved as is always the case as soon as she understands their purpose. Now William died some years since. If Charles's Death has occurred, she knows nothing of it, but this she feels sure now that he has died recently and that was what her Father was trying a few days ago to tell her. Now if we should ever learn that Uncle Charles died about this time, it would be something of a test. That is why I make a note of it. If I but knew where he lived of course I should ascertain. Mother is poorly. Thinks she will never go downstairs, but I think she will. Her room will soon be done.

Apr. 18

We have just helped Mother downstairs. She is quite comfortable. I'm so glad she is established in her room again. She says everything looks so strange. The woodwork has been changed from white to ash and walnut and the paper is so different, but she likes it.

Seven years ago today, Father died. Then we did not think Mother would live seven months. She said this morning, "Here I am, but for what purpose I'm sure I do not know." We tell her she lives to make us, her children better. How much she has suffered in the last seven years but she says she has enjoyed a great deal too. She told Rhoba and I today to look for her in her chair after she is gone. For said she, "I shall surely sit there. Now girls remember and look for me there."

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June 7

Washing Day

June 8

At three o'clock this P.M. Edward and I left home to visit Edward's relatives in Huron County, Ohio and now at 9 P.M. we find ourselves at Chicago Junction, five miles from Greenfield Center which is our destination.

Here we stay tonight at what its keeper informs us in the "leading hotel in the place." And surely I think it does lead in some things. We were conducted to the sitting room through a billiard room full of the fumes of tobacco smoke and whiskey. I held my skirts clear of the filth as I passed along. Our host dumped us down in a couple of cane seated chairs saying he would go for a light which took a few minutes to raise and then he seemed to consider us comfortable. Supper over, We are assigned an eight by ten room with one window which we cannot raise this warm night, an uncarpeted floor and one chair, but then I'm so tired and sleepy. I shall soon forget all about it.

June 11

Called at a number of places in the forenoon. Took dinner at Mr. Ashley's and in the afternoon went to Plymouth with Vine and visited at her Father's. Saw her "big brother" who weighs three hundred lbs. When standing side by side there is something of a contrast. She weighing ninety lbs.

June 12

Came home today feeling that we have had quite an enjoyable time. Found Mother pretty well.

June 20

*Sunday.*

Mother pretty well. Rhoba, Sarah and I have just drawn her down to the new school house. The brick walls of which were finished yesterday. From there we went to the barn and weighed ourselves. Mother weighed 138 lbs. Mother felt when we got to the house as though she had had quite a ride. I wish she was able to be taken out every day.

July 4

"The day we celebrate." We had the heaviest rain last night and yesterday that we have had this season. Five inches of water fell in as many hours. Of course

the ground is very wet but I think we need the rain. It has been dry so long that with all we have had this season, the deep wells are not affected. Today it is pleasant but very warm.

Mother says she saw every one of her Father's Family last night. They were in her room sometime appearing happy and contented. Most conspicuous among them appeared her invalid brother Robert sitting by the table asking a blessing on a meal which he was about to eat, a think which he often did when in this life. The impression was so vivid that she seems unable to throw it off, but wants to talk of it all the time.

July 5

Washing Day.

July 11

*Sunday*

Between services today, we rode down to King's Cemetery to visit France's grave. I wish our graves were all together and nearer home so that we could keep them in better order.

July 13

Have been visiting at Mr. VanPhersen's today. Saw a young woman there who is almost gone with hemorrhage of the lungs<sup>4</sup>. She has two little children with no one whom they may call Father. Poor girl! Poor girl! She has nothing to do now but sit and think, I think. And the Father of these children going his way with character hardly blackened. I want to see the brand of infamy just as deep on one as on the other.

July 18

Pleasant weather again. We have just taken Mother up to the Railroad. She enjoyed the ride and saw three trains pass. Only think, she was forty years old when the first railroad in the United States was built.<sup>5</sup> Should this country advance as much during the next fifty years, what improvements may we expect to see. But as mother says, "we shall not be here to know." And yet I sometimes think we may be permitted to look on. Who can tell?