

WHEN THE TRAINS RAN:
THE DIARY OF A DELAWARE COUNTY WOMAN, 1877-1928

© Mary Robinson Sive

A CD containing exact date references and over 70 illustrations from archives of the Delaware County Historical Association and reproductions of other documents is available from the Association. Permission to quote text in excess of 25 words must be obtained from DCHA, 46549 Route 10, Delhi, NY 13753, <dcha@delhi.net>

Table of Contents

<i>Preface</i>	3
<i>Introduction</i>	4
<i>The Immediate Family</i>	6
Jennie McKenzie Hewitt Doland	7
Will Hewitt	9
David Doland	11
Isabel Hull Scudder	12
Burroughs Connection	12
<i>The Home</i>	13
Family Life	13
Visiting	14
Housework	15
Food	17
Needlework	19
Finances	19
Leisuretime	20
Outdoor Fun	21
<i>Employment</i>	22
Women	22
Men	25
Vacations	27
<i>Life Passages</i>	28
Marriage	28
Birth	28
Birthdays and Anniversaries	29
Death	29
Funerals	30
<i>Health and Illness</i>	30
Care of the Sick	30
Accidents	34
<i>The Community</i>	35
Agriculture	35
Commerce	36
Neighborliness and Mutual Help	37
Schools	38
A Teacher's Life	41
Churches	43
Church Socials	45
Social Life	46
Organizations	47
Entertainment	48
Holidays	49
Civic and Political Affairs	52
Legal Matters	53

<i>Transportation</i>	54
Walking	54
Horse and Wagon	54
Bicycling	55
Railroad	55
Travel within NY and Nearby States	57
Distant Travel	58
Bus and Trolley Car	60
Automobile	60
<i>Communications</i>	62
<i>Summing up</i>	63
<i>Appendix</i>	64
Recipes	64
Home remedies	67
Dyeing instructions	68

Preface

The Delaware County Historical Association is fortunate enough to have in its collection the nearly complete 50-year run of a Halcottsville woman's diary. Few archives can boast of such an extensive narrative, and none is known to illustrate life in not a city nor on a farm, but in a small rural town. The diary author's life, while closely connected to that of neighboring farmers, necessarily differed from theirs. Penned in a clear teacher's hand - at least in the author's younger days - the little books provide glimpses into the life and times of a Delaware County woman in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. What we already know comes alive in Jennie McKenzie Hewitt Doland's diaries. And what we think we know sometimes turns out not to be so.

With only 1896 and 1907 missing, the volumes - as the title of this essay suggests - cover almost exactly the years when railroads provided frequent service to Delaware County communities, changing life there in fundamental ways. Those changes are well-illustrated in the diaries' daily accounts, but so are family relationships, holiday observances, health care, and many other topics.

The pages that follow offer an overview of what can be learned from Jennie's diary about life in the home and in the community, about men's and women's employment and their leisure time, about schools, churches, and political institutions. Some additional data gathered from public records, contemporary newspapers, Diane Galusha's history of Halcottsville *As the River Runs* (1990), and other references as well as conversations with informants clarify certain points.

Exact dates are provided in many cases; in others, only the relevant year or month is indicated. Both should aid researchers who wish to use this source in greater detail. No attempt has been made to assemble the genealogical data for which this diary is a gold mine. That task is a separate - and major - task for a qualified genealogist.

Jennie's diary may be one woman's perspective only, but it does afford today's reader a glimpse into rural New York one hundred years ago.

Introduction

Jennie McKenzie Hewitt Doland grew up near Hobart, taught in the Halcottsville/Kelly Corners area, and remained there for the rest of her long life. She rarely missed a day of writing in her diary. Almost each entry is filled with accounts of her activities and those of her family and friends. The entries tell about happenings Jennie perceived as important in her community - or at least among those residents to whom she was close or with whom she had a familial or other connection - without always making clear whether she participates in a particular event or not. Jennie was a faithful chronicler of events in Halcottsville and Kelly Corners (she calls it "Kelly's Corner," the railroad station was "Kelly's Corners"), and we have no reason to doubt her statements of fact.

One person's daily jottings clearly are only one element in building our knowledge of the past. Unlike retrospective oral history, the entries are fresh and not distorted by the failings of human memory. A diary is anecdotal, to be sure, but its anecdotes are so much more plentiful than the handful that may be remembered many years later. Seemingly humdrum details in daily accounts, when put together, can reveal patterns not otherwise discernible and not remembered. And what is implied - not stated or commented on - or omitted carries its own significance.

There are, of course, limitations: Diaries are spotty and selective. An activity may be mentioned several times, but there certainly may have been many additional occasions when the same occurred. E.g., it would be too optimistic to assume that the few times Jennie mentions the water supply freezing were the only times this occurred. Again, she may mention making sausage without having said anything about having bought a pig though at other times such an acquisition is recorded. She records church attendance by herself and members of her family, but all probably attended on other occasions as well. Some activities may have been so self-evident as not to warrant recording. That may be the reason we read more frequently of her husband's than her own berrypicking. Not surprisingly, the diaries emphasize different topics in different years. And some facts surely are deliberately kept out because they may be embarrassing or for other, unknown reasons.

Keeping a daily journal was a popular activity in the 19th century, something for which historians must be thankful. In most years Jennie availed herself of printed calendars that also furnished almanac-type information. Typically, one-half page was allotted for each day, limiting the amount she could write and imposing the need to be selective.

Her family and friends certainly knew of Jennie's faithful habit of diary-keeping since she received diaries as a Christmas present more than once.

It was not unusual for the printed diary page to prompt the user to record the day's weather and temperature reading. With or without a separate line for this information, Jennie, as other diarists of her time, typically noted each day's weather conditions - a quite understandable activity in a farming

economy. In the winter months she comments on whether the roads are passable for wagons or sleds. In the summer she comments on the amount of rain ("Dry as ever yet and smoky") and occasionally complains about excessive heat. When in her 50s and 60s she frequently notes "The sun shines bright" in the winter and spring months, she may be expressing a yearning for the end of winter.

During her teaching years the diaries served as a book of remembrance also, with inscriptions by students and others.

What is absent from the diary - with very few exceptions - are expressions of her own thoughts and feelings. Her first husband's death calls forth a rare expression of emotion of "I am alone in the world," and there is some self-pity at other times. In 1886, she mentions having trouble sleeping due to fatigue from having worked hard. At age 76 she contentedly comments that she and her 79-year-old husband are "getting along good." The diaries are recitals of happenings only, hardly ever her reactions to them.

It is clear that Jennie frequently referred to previous volumes of her diary. She notes the anniversary of significant events such as her serious accident, her hospitalization, the last time she saw her deceased step-granddaughter, the child's funeral, her and her first husband's trip to Michigan, among others. (The volume for that year (1896) is missing). But on the first anniversary of her first husband's death, it is only "has been a very nice day," her usual reference to the weather.

Jennie's diary faithfully records births, marriages, and deaths among neighbors as well as in her family. These records are found in daily entries and in back-of-the-book listings - an extensive record of vital statistics for many of these years. (The large book that contains Jennie's 1917-1920 diary entries also on seven pages lists deaths from 1918 through 1929 and additional jottings of deaths through June 1933, a few months before Jennie's own demise). The names that occur in the present account are for purposes of illustration only and are chosen entirely at random. It may be noted that by the 1880s Roxbury and nearby areas had many residents of German descent. Few such names appear in the diary.

In the back of various volumes Jennie records expenditures, some income, recipes and household hints, and keeps registers of letters received and written. A dollar in 1900 obviously bought vastly more than it does in 2005. When a dollar amount is cited in the pages that follow, it is in order to point out *relative* prices. Some items were remarkably expensive in relation to the general level of wages and prices - nearly the same cost when ten cents was an hourly wage as they are at present. Other prices are in a similar proportion as that 10¢/hour wage to today's wage levels. Yet others are even lower in proportion than would be accounted for by inflation.

The Immediate Family

Jennie McKenzie Hewitt Doland

The diary begins with an entry for April 15, 1877, two days before Jennie's 27th birthday, and two weeks before she sets off from her father's home at the head of Township Valley near Hobart for her teaching job near Halcottsville. Those two weeks are filled with her own comings and goings and those of others. She "went to Stamford afoot this morning got a new sack". (The distance from her father's farm to Stamford was about five miles). Almost each day she recites what work she did: "sewed all day and helped Emma put down a carpet," "took a trot on the mountain after a sheep got back at 8". We learn more about life on her parents' farm in the following year's diary, when she spends two months there between school terms, from March till May. (The school year in those days did not follow the pattern we are familiar with, as is explained below).

Diary entries for the period spent at her childhood home tell about butter and wood as cash products, and about maple sugar production yielding 301 lbs. of sugar one year. According to public records, John McKenzie bought 100 steep acres at well over 2000 feet elevation from Alexander Stewart in 1874. Located at some distance from the railroad, the family farm probably was primarily a subsistence operation, with limited cash income. Jennie's brothers may have done most of the work on the home place, but the mother boiled the sugar. Jennie mentions her own baking as well as sewing and knitting, cleaning and washing, though not cooking (as a three-times-daily chore it perhaps goes without saying). "Father and the boys are cutting and burning brush. Charley (a brother) is to work to A. Gillespie's went last Monday. I have been ironing." On an evening when her father and brothers are gone she does the milking.

The family included six sisters and three brothers. Four of them moved from the area, to Florida, Illinois, and Montana. Her father, in addition to farming, did odd jobs such as plowing for someone in Hobart, going to Stamford "to move a fellow that has been selling clothing here," drawing lumber from Grand Gorge, traveling as far as Masonville "to get a load for Wilber Banker," also working in Margaretville and Hunter (she does not specify at what). (Wilbur Banker carried general merchandise including dry goods, groceries, and crockery according to an 1890 business directory issued by the Ulster & Delaware Railroad).

Jennie receives her first certificate to teach in 1876 and attended the Teachers Institute in September 1876, one of "190 ladies and 148 gentlemen". She begins her teaching career in November 1876 and continues until 1886, with assignments at various schools in the Halcottsville/Kelly Corners/Roxbury area, including Bragg Hollow and Pink Street (Middletown Districts No. 1 and 9) and Roxbury District No. 9. (Pink Street was the name for present County Route 36).

To visit her parental home, she has to walk from Roxbury, sometimes riding horseback or getting a

ride on a wagon at least part of the way. To get home when her mother first becomes ill in 1879 "William Henry took me to the cars (the train) and I went to Stamford," where her father and a sister pick her up, presumably with a wagon. She made several more trips during her mother's year-long illness, on occasion staying for over a month. Her mother dies March 16, 1880.

One sister, Maggie (Margaret), is still living at home and never marries. In October 1883, Jennie reports that her father cannot walk without crutches, and a few months later she receives "a postal from Maggie that they were going to break up housekeeping." During the remaining three decades of his life the father hires out to work at various farms, helping with haying, digging ditches, husking corn, laying stone and pipe, plowing, sometimes working back in Township. At times he stays with Jennie or others of his children and often near her. He dies in early 1913, having been sick since before Christmas.

The 1879 diary gives Jennie's address as Stamford, the one for 1881 as Roxbury, 1883 as Kellys Corner.

Will Hewitt, Jennie's first husband, appears in the diary shortly after it begins. They are married March 1, 1883, an event that is recorded in her diary in its entirety as follows:

"Start from William Henrys a little after 9 stopped to Elder Hewitts and we were married took dinner there went over in township to Will Grants got there at 5 Julia and Nett were there in the evening. It has been a good day."

(William Henry probably is William H. Woolheater, where Jennie had gone the night before. Julia and Nett (Jeannette) are sisters and Will Grant a brother-in-law. The last sentence was Jennie's usual way of referring to the weather).

On the next day Jennie and her new husband visit her former neighbors and on Saturday travel to Stamford to have their picture taken and "took dinner" there. On Sunday they attend church in Roxbury. But the next day "Will took me up to school I went to Harry Jenkins tonight." She does so again the remainder of the week and "kept school" that Saturday to make up for the day she had missed to get married the previous week.

The pattern of spending each night at a different home continues until June, and Will is not always there with her as he travels the countryside as a peddler. At various times both stay with Harvey Hubbell, G. Davis, James Avery, Warren Keator, among others. In July she refers to "(staying) home all day," and in August both stay with Jennie's father and her brother Charley in Roxbury, moving in December to the home of Will's aunt and uncle Mary Ann and Wheeler Hewitt "for the winter." It is to be for over a year.

A few dry remarks in the diary may hint at relationships. On Christmas Day 1884 Jennie observes that she has "done housework most all day." Three years later, while returning to spend many months caring for another aunt of her husband's, she permits herself a meek "I am cleaning all the time."

Jennie does not teach winter school in 1883/84 but notes - perhaps wistfully - the date in November when the Bragg Hollow school starts with Vickie Redmond as the teacher.

In February 1885 Will and Jennie buy a stove in Margaretville for \$30, and a few days later get Jennie's household goods that had been stored and take them to where they "intend keeping house." These may be family belongings that Jennie and Will had helped her father clear out when the father gave up his farm and home a year earlier. They move to Kellys Corner on February 25, 1885 as "Gorse brought my furniture." On August 2d she notes \$4.90 "paid for help to move." The previous day she and her husband bought dishes and other household goods in Margaretville, spending \$54.40 on "furniture." (Charles Gorsch advertised in the 1890 directory of the Ulster & Delaware Railroad).

It may be that the Hewitts rent the second floor of a home since Jennie mentions Mrs. Miller and Sue "visiting downstairs." They move to Halcottsville a year later. The rent is \$2 a month in 1888 and 1889, doubling to \$4 a month in 1891. In January 1894 "we went today to live in the house with Aunt Mariah". (Mariah was the middle name of Julia Hewitt, the widow of Elder Hewitt who had died in 1892. Since Will later inherits their house, it seems likely that this is who is meant. The 1880 Census of the Town of Middletown also shows a Maria Hewitt, age 48, wife of Elijah).

Public records show that in 1895 Will inherits from his Aunt Julia, who died of "apoplexy" (cerebral hemorrhage) at age 88 on February 15, 1895 according to her death certificate, the "house and lot now owned and occupied by me in the village of Halcottsville," a property of about one-half acre. The 1899 tax roll shows it assessed at \$250. It presumably is the one shown on the photo of "Mrs. Jennie Hewitt, Halcottsville" (probably 1905) and is still standing.

Jennie continues teaching on and off until 1886 but also does a good deal of sewing for others, as she had begun to do years earlier. There is more sewing after she stops teaching, along with helping other women with their sewing tasks. In March 1888 she has an accident in her home and sprains her ankle falling off a chair, suffering disability the remainder of her life.

Jennie and Will have no children, but in 1897 take in Jennie's 11-year-old niece Isabel Hull when the girl's mother dies. Belle McKenzie Hull, the mother, was married to J.R. ("Root") Hull. Jennie was close to the couple, who visit frequently and are often mentioned in the diary, as in "Root and Bell and baby came down on the milk train - we carried them home at night." Isabel's father spends holidays and occasionally stays with the Hewitts until after Will Hewitt's death. (The 1869 Beers Delaware County Atlas shows "J. Hull" on Hubbell Hill; the 1890 U&D business directory lists John Hull, farmer, in Bataviakill, and others with the same last name in Halcottsville, Kelly Corners, Hubbell Hill, and Margaretville).

In 1899 Will Hewitt dies, and Jennie remains single for the next seven years, supporting herself and Isabel by taking in boarders and continuing her needlework. She earlier took in a teacher as boarder. She inherits the house and records paying taxes totaling \$9.42 in 1899 (the school tax is \$2.44). Mr. and Mrs. William Bush become her tenants in May 1900. They stay until a few months after she remarries, moving out April 1, 1907. In 1905 Jennie has her house photographed (for \$2.10), and those pictures are her Christmas presents that year. She records insurance payments of \$8.25 in 1899, \$9 in 1902 and

1905.

Isabel attends high school in Roxbury and makes friends with two sisters, Grace and Elsie Doland, one of them her schoolmate there. Their father, David Doland, begins appearing in the diary in 1901, but he and Jennie do not marry until 1906, two years after Grace's marriage and a few months after Isabel's. Doland, like Hewitt, is three years Jennie's senior, having been born July 2, 1847.

Jennie dies in October 1933 of chronic heart disease and goiter, nine days after her husband. According to the death certificate she was born in Scotland and brought here at the age of three months.

Will Hewitt

William Hewitt, Jennie's first husband, begins calling on her at school soon after she arrives in April 1877. In May "Will Hewitt called on me at noon" and did so again an afternoon later that month. On a school night in September she visits his home in the evening, in November "rode with A. Ballard from school up William Hewitt's," and the following month she has "supper at William Hewitt's." In January 1878 she reports that "Will Hewitt start for Michigan this morning." (Since William was a frequently used name in the Hewitt family, it is not always clear which one her notes refer to, for instance the June 1881 report that "Will Hewitt was married to Miss Deuce yesterday"). References to many more dinners, attendance at meeting, and other visits in 1878 may indicate that he delayed his departure. He reappears in February 1880, and soon the courtship is in full swing. She spends the night at Bill Hewitt's (probably Will's uncle), "Sarah went with me." Over the next three years, Will is again calling on her at school at noon, and in 1880 she also refers to "Michigan Will" visiting at Bill Hewitt's (Will was born in Michigan). He calls on her weekends, they take a trip to Lumberville (Arena), they travel to Margaretville to have supper at the Ackerley House. They see each other frequently for dinner, or to go to a dance (on a Wednesday night she "had a good time got home at 4"). Other times he gives her rides, they attend meetings together, or go to parties. In March 1882 she writes in his autograph book

May the white hand of an angel
Guide thee where the light
Of the far off lands
Is never dim with night.
Yours in friendship, Jennie McKenzie

The day after Christmas 1882 they are at a party till 2:30 a.m., and the next morning he takes her to Halcottsville and "I went to school on the cars." They marry, as previously described, March 1, 1883.

Will works at the creamery in November 1881, but at the time of their marriage had begun his peddling business. At first Jennie continues to stay with various families nightly. Will joins her the week after their wedding. One Sunday they both spend the night at the home of G. Davis. On a rainy July 4th, school being in session, he "came and met me with his rubber coat." On another day he picks berries for her. (As mentioned, he either goes berrying more often than she does or she does not consider her own expeditions worth recording).

Once in their own home, Will makes a cupboard and cuts wood with other men.

Will's peddling trips take him to Arena (used interchangeably with Lumberville), Arkville (used interchangeably with Deans Corners), Batavia, Big Indian, Bovina, Bragg Hollow, Clovesville, Dry Brook, East Davenport, Foot Hollow, Grand Gorge, Griffin Corners, Halcott Center, Half Acre (near the present intersection of Route 30 and County Route 38), Harpersfield, Hobart, Hog Mt., Hubbell Hill, Huckleberry Brook, Jefferson, Kittle Hill, Margaretville, Meeker Hollow, Meredith, Millbrook, Perch Lake, Pine Hill, Plattekill, Prattsville, Red Kill, Roses Brook, Roxbury, Shokan, Stamford, Township, West Settlement, and Westkill.

Will purchases a horse and cutter in Margaretville. He also travels on foot and by train and occasionally with another peddler. He may take his wife to school as he leaves or pick her up on his return. Sometimes it is too cold to go out. On the days that he is away Jennie frequently visits and spends the night with relatives or neighbors. In 1885 Jennie records more than 50 trips by Will, many of them of two or more days' duration. She records his earnings in her diary. In 1888, Will is gone for three weeks to Township, Davenport and Meredith in June while Jennie, incapacitated by her accident, stays with Belle Hull and then joins him. That year there are only 25 trips, but some are of longer duration, and she stays with people or has people staying and helping her.

In February 1886 Will is "elected Collector by a majority of 128" at that year's town meeting (The Town of Middletown did not change to electing its town officials for terms of two years at a general election in November until after 1900). His duties involve going to each community to collect the taxes due, as he does with George Davis in Plattekill in late December. On New Year's Eve "Will sat to Kellys Cor today to take taxes." Will "took in most 5 hundred dollars at Arena," reports Jennie in January 1887, but still travels there two weeks later, after having also been to Griffin Corners. People also come to the collector's home to pay their taxes, and at the end of the month he goes to Margaretville "and settled with Reed." He is still "looking after taxes" in Millbrook in mid-February and in Margaretville and Griffin Corners in March. To deliver the county's portion, both Will and Jennie travel to Delhi in March, staying overnight at the hotel. A trip to Delhi overnight in February probably also serves to settle accounts with the County Tax Collector. He "settled with Stilson County Treasurer" on March 15th. His income as Tax Collector is not known. Will is not reelected at the next town meeting when he tries to regain the office in February 1888 but loses by 21 votes. Almost 10 years later, in February 1897, "they have him on the ticket for Justice of the Peace," but he fails to be elected and "is very glad."

In later years Jennie notes when the tax collector comes to collect her taxes or she "went to the store and paid my taxes."

In 1890 and earlier there are often references to "Will is sick" and "Will is home." From 1891 on Jennie reports on quite a few days that Will is "feeling dreadful," is "very sick with what they call the grip," or having severe headaches. In June 1892 he works two days on the road, but his peddling trips become fewer. But when she has "inflammation of the lungs" in April 1894 he "gets the meals" after the

women who have been helping her leave.

The same month there is the remark that "Will is home all the while now," but he travels with others to Middleburg for a week that summer, purpose unknown. He apparently still does some peddling in June 1897, but the next day she reports him tending bar at the hotel. He is working there in August and September and in March 1898, and they occasionally stay there. On January 8, 1899 he falls on the ice. Though he is able to take the train to see a doctor in Arkville 11 days later, his health keeps declining, and he dies on April 24th. The cause of death, according to the death certificate signed by Dr. Gaul, is cirrhosis of the liver. Will Hewitt's February 6th will is on record. It leaves to Jennie the house he inherited in 1895 from his aunt Julia Hewitt, the widow of Elder Isaac Hewitt. He is buried in Kellys Corner cemetery.

David Doland

Jennie's second husband is the father of two girls who are friends of Jennie's teenage niece Isabel Hull. Doland first appears in the diary in July 1901, when he returns from a brief trip. Soon thereafter he calls on Jennie and does so frequently for the next several years, sometimes with one or both of his daughters. Grace Doland is a schoolmate of Isabel's at Roxbury School, graduating in 1905. Elsie Doland attends school in Norwich, where her father has connections and apparently owns property. The diary recounts many trips there by her, her sister and their father as well as visitors from there.

In 1903 Jennie records 19 visits by "Doland," "DD," "David" or "Dave," and goes for ice cream with him. She corresponds with him while in New York for surgery that fall, and he travels there to bring her home. He and his daughters come to Christmas dinner. Dinner visits and calls in the evening continue in 1904, 25 of them recorded in the diary, including again Christmas dinner. The number of visits for 1905 is similar, and that year she and Doland begin socializing with the Gauls and visit Dr. & Mrs. Gaul the evening of Christmas Day. Doland's calls on Jennie continue, references sometimes are to visits by "Grace and her father," or she has dinner at his home. Grace Doland marries in December 1904. In 1906 Dave helps her plant a garden, digs potatoes, brings her ice cream, brings in wood, and helps with other household chores.

They are married on October 18, 1906, on a Thursday evening, with 15 guests in attendance. It is three months after Isabel's wedding, making it seem likely that Jennie wanted to wait until Isabel was settled. Jennie's handwriting improves quite dramatically the next several weeks. She gained 15 lbs. between May 1904 and August 1905.

David Doland has relatives in New Jersey (he was born in Hamburg, NJ, states his death certificate) and several summers spends two weeks there with both daughters. In 1910 both young women live there, Elsie working in a drug store in Newark, and Grace in Bayonne, and their father visits them. Other visits by the New Jersey Dolands to Halcottsville and Jennie and David to New Jersey take place over the years. Evenings with the Gauls become a pattern in 1907, with the two couples frequently playing cards.

David Doland works in the Halcottsville creamery at various times, with the last dates in 1916.

In July 1902 Doland has an accident when he drops a cake of ice on his foot. He works sometimes on Sundays or all night, coming home at 8 a.m. "David Doland began work this morning for the Sheffield Slawson Decker Co.," states Jennie on January 1, 1912, but at the end of the month it is "Doland will not be in the creamery this year." He does however, work there various days that spring, and once "did not come home tonight." Beginning in 1914 Jennie reports him working at various odd jobs as well as filling in at the creamery as needed. In the fall of 1915 the 68-year-old man gets hurt helping someone move a piano and is unable to return to work at the creamery for four months but is soon shoveling people's walks. The next year he contracts shingles but within three weeks is building an addition to their hen house. His indefatigable work schedule continues into his 80s. He dies in October 1933 at age 86 of chronic heart disease.

Isabel Hull Scudder

It is through Isabel's descendants that the diary was preserved and donated to the Delaware County Historical Association. She was born April 9, 1886, and at age 11 lost her mother, Belle McKenzie Hull, Jennie's sister. She then lives with Jennie, beginning in November 1897, until her marriage to Hewitt Scudder on July 15, 1906 after her graduation from Roxbury High School.

Scudder begins bringing Isabel home from school in Roxbury in his wagon (normally she takes the train). A month after their wedding Hewitt and Isabel travel to Hunter via Prattsville for a few days and return via Phoenicia. She gives birth to a daughter, Elsie, in 1907 while they are still living with his parents. A son, Donald, is born in April 1916 (her father, Root Hull, dies the next day), and another daughter, Dorothy, in June 1919. Isabel remains close to her aunt even after she and her husband move to a farm in Otsego County in February 1925. That year they are "fixing a piece for cauliflower" and set out more than 3000 plants. One of his trips to get plants gives Hewitt an opportunity to bring Jennie and David back for a visit. They spend extended periods there in the following years. Notations and comments in "Aunt Jen's" diary appear to have been made by Elsie Scudder.

Burroughs Connection

The name John Burroughs that occurs several times in the diaries does not refer to the well-known naturalist and writer but to a nephew, a son of Curtis Burroughs (1871-1942). The exception is Jennie's noting the death of the writer in 1921.

The Home

Family life

It is a rare occasion in Jennie's diary for her to have a meal alone or even for husband and wife to have a meal without a visitor. Hardly a day goes by that Jennie does not report one or more visits, including accounts of who else is at the home where she spends each night during her teaching years. Small self-contained nuclear family units are not much in evidence in the diary.

Alone at her parents' home, Jennie goes to visit a neighbor. A few years later she gets a ride home to Township because her younger sister, Maggie, still living with her father, is all alone. "Maggie and I are all alone went up to Adam Henderson's this forenoon and stayed till the next night" is a comment during that period.

If there are workmen in the house, whether for haying or other farm chores or for home improvements, they join the family for dinner. When three men paint Will's & Jennie's house in July 1894, they board with her. Following that job there is painting and carpentry work at the church, and Jennie feeds all those workmen. "I am busy all the time," she remarks on August 3rd. Not till November 26th, does she give a sigh of relief that she "will not have the boarders any more after this week." When she is married to David Doland, then working at the creamery, and men unload "a car of coal" for the creamery, she feeds the men dinner. When the Scudder family are all ill, their hired man goes to Jennie's for his dinner for many weeks. When the Dolands are in their 70s and have four men sawing their wood, the men have dinner at Jennie's table.

Being alone is an occasion worthy of note. "I'm all alone" is a frequently encountered remark during Jennie's first marriage though she typically spends the night with a neighbor or a relative, or other women stay with her during Will's absences on business. During the years she is widowed there are many days and nights of being alone once her niece is in her teens and old enough to go visiting on her own. Jennie reports on her tenants' comings and goings and on their visitors on a regular basis. They share meals and generally socialize, but the Bushes also are away a fair amount. Her tenants may keep her company, but it is still "Mrs. Bush and I are alone tonight." On occasion Jennie and the teacher who boards with her in 1905 attend church together. After Isabel's marriage and in the months leading up to it such remarks ("alone to dinner") become more frequent, even on a day when Jennie has visitors. Yet she also writes that she cannot do much sewing one day because of "so many callers." After Isabel's marriage, Grace Doland comes to Jennie's each evening at bedtime during a two-week period in September, yet there is still that sense of being alone, and at least two more such remarks before Jennie's marriage to David Doland, Grace's father.

Some of the "being alone" remarks may refer to the absence of Jennie's husband or even Mrs. Bush's husband in earlier years. In Jennie's second marriage her husband is absent on only a few occasions, but being alone with only her husband, too, is unusual enough to warrant noting "we are alone" or "noone been in today" or "were alone for dinner the first time in four weeks" (though someone

does come to supper).

Jennie is not the only one who does not like being alone in her home, and other women, too, invite company while their husbands are away: Jennie stays with her sister Belle when she is alone and with her husband's aunt while Elder Hewitt is away overnight. Isabel helps a woman and stays overnight while that woman's husband is away, and when Dr. Gaul is called out, Grace Doland goes to keep Mrs. Gaul company.

Visiting

Visiting, whether for a meal, an afternoon, an evening, several days, or several weeks, is a way of life - so much so that when weather keeps Jennie indoors in March 1901 she comments on paying her first visit to a neighbor in three weeks. "Went a-visiting" is an oft-repeated notation.

A weekend during Jennie's teaching years may consist of traveling on the milk wagon to Kellys Corner, visiting four different families, spending the night, and on Sunday making five more visits. Two weeks later she spends a similar weekend in Margaretville. Another Sunday "Mary and I went to the mountain house, went to Coles over Pine Hill to dinner. There was 9 couple took dinner there from this place got home at dark." There was also afternoon visiting to "take tea" after school. While school is not in session she typically divides her time among several homes.

Visits are not always prearranged, as on one Saturday when she "started for Brag Hollow (after an evening meeting at Hubbell Hill) but came across Fannie Vermilya and went home with her and stayed all night" or "Went to Willards they were all gone Sarah Sanford was there we done the milking." Jennie recounts an incident on a Saturday when she and her husband start out but meet the folks they had planned to visit on their way to meeting, so went back home. Another time they don't find their intended hosts at home, so they visit someone else. They do make that visit (overnight) a few days later.

When travel is on foot or at the speed of a horse, visits often mean overnight stays. In 1884, when Jennie is married, there is less visiting while the couple is living with the husband's aunt and uncle, but later the two of them get around a good deal overnight. On a stormy winter night they are forced to spend the night where they went to visit for the evening, and do not get home till three days later. Weather conditions could delay return from an extended visit, as when Jennie is kept for an extra several days in Township.

Visiting, whether for a day or many days, means participating in barn and household chores, whether it be hulling strawberries or serving dinner to "the men come to meals, including a boarder who works at the creamery."

When Will is off on overnight peddling trips, Jennie typically does not stay home by herself. She may take the opportunity to travel part way with him, e.g. visiting at Deans Corners while he continues to Kingston or elsewhere or visiting locally. Possibly being by herself would have been considered improper.

After she is widowed, different women may come to spend the night with her while Isabel is away

visiting. Her second husband works locally, but on the few occasions when he is away, she at least has dinner with others.

Extended visits to family and friends are common and include visits at considerable distance, as detailed under "Travel." By the 1910s some extended visits are for vacations from school or from work.

Housework

After the weather, housework is the most frequently mentioned topic among the entries in Jennie's diary. Cooking, cleaning, washing, ironing, recur with few changes over the 50-year span. When she is teaching she often "Got up and rinsed my clothes before breakfast, ironed 3 aprons and then went to school." Housework and washing were occasionally done on a Sunday.

Monday is wash day year in and year out, though Jennie washes on other days as well, certainly on Saturdays during her years as a teacher. In her 70s Jennie still notes on several Mondays that she did not wash. In earlier years there would be the explanation that the weather is bad, that other tasks intervened, or that the well gave out. Sometimes washing cannot be done because it is too hot or too cold. "Our water froze up last night. That means carry water from somewhere for the rest of the winter." In 1902 it was early May before Jennie's spring thawed. Hanging washing out on a line outside or spreading it on the grass was the only way to dry it, so dry weather was essential, and there are many comments about whether clothes got dry or froze on the line. Other times it was a "beautiful day for drying cloths."

Washday chores are lightened considerably once women no longer have to carry innumerable pails of water to the wash tub - and carry the dirty water out again to dispose of it. (It has been estimated that 25 pails of water were required for each load of laundry, each pail weighing 21 lbs). The Dolands are early customers of the Halcottsville Waterworks, founded in 1908 and operational the following year. That year the Dolands have a ditch dug and water running in the house. (In 1908 Jennie commented in her diary that "John More (is) building a house in Roxbury with a heater and bathroom. They have everything done"). Fixtures are installed and a cesspool is dug. Indoor plumbing in the Doland home is completed in 1912, when Jennie notes costs of \$198 for the year. The work takes most of the fall of 1912 and is meticulously recorded in the diary, from digging of a cellar by Henry Sanford and of a cesspool with the help of several men, laying of pipes by Earl, putting up plaster-board, and painting and hanging windowshades. J. Serven, E.B. Beardslee, Earl Slauson, N. Harrington are among those doing the work, the materials coming from Hubbell Bros.

The Dolands' annual charge for water is \$16, which may be compared with the rent paid by Jennie's tenants a few years earlier of \$48 a year. It remains at that amount when "the man came to collect the water rent" until 1928, the last available year of the diary. Indoor plumbing is considered essential, as can be gathered from Jennie's matter-of-fact comment in 1916 that after painting "next is the plumbers" when she visits nephew HDH(Hewitt) in a new house.

Jennie gets a washing machine in 1887 at the time her husband begins selling them. Two months

earlier someone else began selling steam washing machines locally, and Jennie and Mrs. Nelson Beardsley “went to Agnes’ to try it,” and Jennie and Agnes do their washing together. Jennie washes with a machine from then on and lets other women use it to wash bedspreads.

Household hints and recipes for various helpful preparations are recorded at the back of Jennie’s diaries (see Appendix).

The soot from fires and kerosene or oil lamps made an annual thorough cleaning in the spring a necessity, and for several years Jennie carefully records the annual spring cleaning. She notes the days devoted to doing each room, including pantry, kitchen, parlor, bedroom, upstairs, living room, and hall, and the days for picking up carpets (probably to be hung outside and beaten with a carpet beater). Painting and papering frequently are a part of this process at apparent intervals of several years, sometimes with outside help. Jennie’s second husband helps, and when both are in their 70s, she frequently recounts that “we” cleaned the pantry, washed the paint in the kitchen, or performed other tasks. In 1926 it takes them ten days in June to complete spring cleaning. Less intensive fall cleaning is mentioned occasionally.

Carpets are homemade and require frequent cleaning and maintenance. Rag rugs wear out quickly, so sewing carpet rags is a life-long occupation for Jennie and includes sewing carpet rags for Isabel in later years. After sewing carpet rags several days with Will’s aunt in the 1880s Jennie weaves 38-1/2 yards of carpet over the course of two weeks, using warp bought at Tways. She again colors and sews carpet rags the next year but does the weaving at the home of Gusta Kelly’s and also helps Gussie put in a carpet. The 1890 diary records 37.7 lbs of carpet rags (backmatter). When she finishes a new carpet “David took up the carpet in sitting room cleaned them and put them down again, put the under one on top, so I won’t put my new rag carpet down this winter.” (Dyeing instructions from the 1911 diary are in the Appendix).

A vacuum cleaner mentioned in the diary in 1910 and 1911 clearly refers to a non-electric unit since electricity did not come to Halcottsville until the following decade, an event that Jennie incidentally does not record in her diary. She may have used the “apparatus for removing dust” that was patented in 1907 and manually operated by moving a handle back and forth.

Jennie frequently has help with housework, beginning after the fall that disables her, and pays for some of it. She records sending washing out at least once. (More on this in the section on Employment).

In the early years of the diary there is mention of soap making by Aunt Mary Ann and by Jennie herself, but buying commercially produced soap soon became a social occasion for the women through the Larkin club (see section on Organizations).

Wood is the chief fuel used, but in 1898 Jennie begins to buy coal. Three tons cost \$18.35, and she also pays Milt Blythe \$7.50. The next year it is \$17.50 for coal plus \$21.50 to Henry Blythe for 13 cords. Men bring her wood and split it for her after her husband’s death. She spends \$21.75 for wood in

1902, \$22.50 for 15 cords of wood and a similar amount for 3-1/2 tons of coal in 1903. In July 1904 it is \$19.11 for 3 tons of coal. With her second husband working at the creamery, she sometimes gets coal from deliveries to it. The diary frequently mentions the first day in the fall or the last day in spring that she keeps a fire going, and she even compiles a chart showing the beginning dates of the heating season for 1896 to 1911 - dates anywhere between October 8th and November 11th. In 1912 it is nearly the end of May before Jennie lets the coal fire go out and "we have put on our summer underwear." When she and her husband are in their 70s "the first day without a coal fire in the sitting room" is mid-June. It took a lot of fuel to heat a probably uninsulated house, as indicated by the remark that it was "14 below zero and one of those days that it takes till noon to get the house warm." In 1928 when the schoolhouse receives a new addition and a new heating system, the Dolands purchase the school's old stove.

Kerosene purchased in 1899 (55 cents for 5 gallons) probably was used for lighting.

Food

Jennie has an extensive garden into old age but supplements the family's own produce with purchased fruits and vegetables, including tomatoes, probably canned (March 1904). Purchases of strawberries and cucumbers in May 1898 indicates availability of out-of-season produce. Typically, someone comes to plow her garden (in 1902 the cost is 25¢, in 1905 50¢) and the Hewitts also have help with trimming their apple tree. David Doland continues to "make our garden" into old age. The diary frequently mentions the family's first meal of peas from the garden or of fresh raspberries. Berrying takes up many a summer day, though some are also bought. In the fall there is gathering of walnuts.

1888 is the first year Jennie records expenditures for groceries. In 1898 the year's total expenditures for "provisions" was \$137.83. Bulk purchases made in the fall include potatoes, cabbage, apples, and onions as well as butter - \$88 worth in 1910 and 90 lbs in 1911. Flour needed for the constant baking is also bought by the barrel. One year she and her first husband gather 15 bushels of apples for cider and have five or six barrels in the cellar, as she reports a few days after attending a temperance lecture.

Food prices increase in some cases over the years that Jennie reports them, e.g. a bushel of potatoes going from 50¢ in 1891 to 67¢ in 1912, sugar from 5¢ a pound in 1891 to 8¢ in 1911, then 7¢ in 1912, beef from 6¢ a pound to 7¢ in 1912. Others fluctuate up and down without much overall change, except for butter, which cost 18¢ per lb in 1898, 21¢ in October 1900, 20¢ a lb in April 1904, 30¢ in March 1912. Jennie pays \$1.50 for a barrel of apples in fall 1911. Prices rose during World War I, but by that time Jennie is no longer keeping close track of those expenditures.

Tuesdays are for baking, and what a lot of baking there is. Other times she refers to "done my Saturday baking" or that she had "done my Saturday work." Several pies and cakes a week are not unusual. A total of 43 loaves can be baked from 50 lb. of flour, Jennie states. But she also buys bread and cake on many occasions.

Along with her garden Jennie keeps chickens for many years and often records income from eggs

and the number of eggs used by her own household as well as the amounts spent on feed. The records indicate that this may not have been a very remunerative enterprise.

Many a fall the purchase of a pig is followed by having it killed and by many days of making sausage and headcheese, smoking hams, and trying out lard. Occasionally, the pig is kept for several days or weeks, and Jennie records the cost of feeding it. For a few years she and her husband apparently raise pigs themselves since she reports killing pigs and selling them from 1907 (she sells a 216-lb. one to Hulbert for \$21.60) in 1910. Their cost for pig feed is \$12.60 in 1909, \$5.14 in 1910. On occasion, she sends a home-cured ham to her husband's daughters working in New Jersey or brings them a chicken. She buys beef, paying \$4.50 for a quarter in 1906 and also pork (\$19.05 worth "put in" in 1911). Neighbors and relatives sometimes bring over gifts of veal, fresh-caught fish, or maple syrup or a cake of sugar.

Exotic foods show up on Jennie's dining table. She reports oyster suppers in February 1883 and in subsequent years, and her diary records purchases of oranges, grapefruit, and pineapple. Purchases of oysters and crackers occur frequently, and sweet potatoes are an apparent favorite. Purchases of salmon and mackerel may refer to canned products. The list of "provisions" purchased becomes more varied over the years. Rice, oatmeal, and honey appear in 1911, condensed milk, Crisco, musk melon, oleo (margarine) in 1915, sausage, vinegar, and corn flakes in 1916. The family enjoys seasonal foods such as shad, which in pre-reservoir days swam up the Delaware River as far as Margaretville.

Ice cream was a novelty in the 1880s, and going "to the hall" for ice cream or having ice cream "at the bridge" were occasions to be noted in the diary. Elsie Doland brings Jennie ice cream when she is laid up after a fall. Ice cream socials serve as fundraisers. Not many years later Jennie makes ice cream herself and hosts an ice cream social on the lawn.

That coal is delivered in the summer months may indicate its use for cooking and baking, but on a day in fall 1914 Jennie reports that "I got dinner and supper on oil stove." (The 1911 diary records monthly purchases of 2 gallons of oil (at 10¢ and later 12¢ per gallon), perhaps for lamps as well. In August 1918 Jennie comments "I have not had a fire in my cook stove in 4 weeks.")

Jennie recounts almost each and every winter for more than 25 years the days when "the men were busy on the ice." These are ice harvests for the creamery and the railroad and for a community ice house at Lake Wawaka. But smoking of meats, cold storage of potatoes, onions, cabbage, and apples, and canning and pickling of other vegetables and of fruit are essential to preserve those foods. Canning is a major activity each summer and early fall. Many years Jennie records the number of jars put up, e.g. 39 in 1890, 18 in 1891, 64 in 1904 as well as her expenses for jars and rubbers (\$2.43 in 1902). Besides vegetables from the garden and berries she cans pineapple and also beef. Twelve-year-old Isabel helps out and sells the jars she put up. Jennie also "fixed vinegar" to make pickles.

Some recipes from the back of several diaries may be found in the Appendix.

Needlework

Over her long life Jennie undoubtedly sees a considerable increase in the amount of women's ready-to-wear clothing for sale, but home sewing remains a constant in her life. She helps other women with their sewing, but in her 70s has someone finish a dress for her. Evenings of school days are often spent sewing and sometimes mornings before school as well. She makes dresses and aprons for herself and others. Before her wedding she has a dress made by Miss Rutherford in Margaretville, paying a seemingly exorbitant \$17.29.

In addition to dresses, Jennie also makes items for the home such as a pillow sham for Ella Beichler or a cushion. She makes shirts for her husband and other male relatives and others, as well as overalls and men's pants. Other sewing is for gifts, e.g. an apron for her stepdaughter Elsie Doland, and sewing her own household linens, such as sheets and pillow cases.

When she states that "she got a dress for Maggie and made the skirt," "dress" refers to a dress-length of material, as does "waist" to material for a blouse (a gift she received in 1905) or "buy a dress." The meaning of purchases labeled "factory" in the accounts in the diary in later years is not clear since a woolen factory is reported not to have survived the 1870s.

Jennie buys a New Home sewing machine in 1885 after much deliberation over a period of several months. In July 1883 she had gone to Slyter's to sew on a machine. Many years later Mrs. Keator visits her and uses the machine on numerous occasions, and others do so less frequently. Eventually she buys a new machine and gives one of them to her niece, who previously returned to Aunt Jen's home to do some of her sewing. Sewing is her occupation, but it also is a social activity for women, as it remained into much later times.

Jennie's sewing for the milliner in town is described in the "Employment" section.

Jennie also knits for others: "I am busy knitting socks" a few months after her marriage, making stockings for her sister Belle and Mrs. Vermilyea. She knits a scarf and helps someone else knit one.

Quilting is a lifelong activity. Jennie participates at a home where she stays as a teacher. Other times she "cut blocks all the afternoon for my curiosity quilt," and later "peaced" it. (This may have been a children's quilt with flaps that could be opened to reveal an object or design, a forerunner of today's commercial activity mat). At her parents' home she helps her sister cut blocks for quilting. She finishes a quilt in her first year of marriage in less than three months. Another time she helps with a quilt as a Christmas present and as an older woman quilts with the ladies aid. She and the Doland girls attend a quilting party, and a few years later she helps Grace Doland with a quilt over a period of many days.

Dyeing of fabric is a home activity, and when Jennie mentions "I colored blue, green and yellow today" (perhaps strips for rag rugs), she probably followed recipes such as the ones reprinted in the Appendix.

Finances

Diary entries over the years make it clear that Jennie handles the money in the family and has

disposable income. In 1880 she “let Maggie (her unmarried sister) have \$6.00” and in 1902 she “gave Maggie \$10.” She keeps track of each of her husbands’ earnings, though a diary kept by Will Hewitt in the 1890s also contains his accounts with several individuals. A few months after his death she records that she “solde A.L. Hulbert my two-seated wagon for \$40 and cutter for \$5.” That money was not paid in full until three years later, in June 1902.

Jennie lends money at interest before her marriage, recording interest payments of from \$3 to \$13 in the years 1877 and 1881 to 1883. When she makes a loan in 1905 (“Lent Hattie Samboe ten dollars for herself and twenty Dollars for her mother Oliva Hewitt”) it is interest-free. The money was repaid in installments over the next year. She again “let Hattie Storm have \$15” in 1907.

She “let D have” from \$1 to \$20 on various occasions, totaling \$90 in 1915. She also keeps the accounting related to his church responsibilities such as salary payments to the minister (e.g. 1912).

Jennie is executrix of her first husband’s will. The house she inherits remains in her sole name until her death even after she remarries, though when it comes to writing her own will, it is her niece’s husband, not the niece, whom she names executor.

Leisuretime

When Jennie is single or widowed she sometimes reads, especially in the months after her bad fall, when she has “done nothing but read.” In her second marriage, on a day when she and her husband are alone, she reads a new book, *St. Elmo*, one of the best-selling novels of the century, with a heroine who is an unusually strong woman. The 1912 diary contains a list of books read by various members of a book club, including *Under Two Flags*, *Girl of the Limberlost*, *The Man on the Box*, and *Brewster’s Millions*. She is an early subscriber to the Catskill Mountain News, recording expenditures of \$2.05 in May 1904, \$1.65 in 1905. Earlier, there are records of purchases of various newspapers.

Jennie and her neighbors play many different games. Early on it is dominoes, card games, and “Fox and Geese,” a “mixer”-type of game. Folks also “tell stories and write verses.” Few such entertainments are mentioned during the period of her marriage to Will Hewitt, but she again reports playing dominoes and Euchre, a popular card game for four players, during her period as a widow. When “Mr. D” visits, they frequently play Flinch almost each time he calls on her, and she also plays Flinch with her tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Bush. Jennie buys a pack of Flinch cards in June 1904 for 39¢.

In later years the Dolands continue to play Flinch and Euchre. The game “500,” a card game for three players, appears popular in 1915-17.

Some of the party games mentioned require explanation: Conundrum was a term used for riddles and word plays but may also have referred to a meal with a perplexing number of dishes offered or other whimsical activity. A “conundrum social” is described in a contemporary Illinois newspaper as an occasion when “the conundrums will be able to choose from the bill of fare what you wish for supper. The charge... will not be over 30 cents, but each person can select what they wish.” Two correspondents describe a “clothespin party,” where each guest receives a clothespin and clips it on their clothing. A

certain behavior is designated as something to catch people at ... for example, crossing their legs. If you catch someone crossing their legs, you get their clothespin. The person with the most pins wins." "Variety wedding" is identified by two other correspondents as a fifth wedding anniversary party at which the couple receives a variety of useful gifts such as a chair or clothing.

Many homes have pianos and other musical instruments, and Jennie tells of girls traveling to Halcottsville to take lessons and others having lessons at various homes she visits. One Saturday in her first year of teaching Jennie "went to Kellys Corner with Ella (a student) to give her music lessons." There is no further mention of these lessons. Folks sing and play instruments when they visit of an evening. Will and his uncle buy an organett for Will's cousin Stella in 1884, perhaps a small organ ("Organetto" is defined in an 1876 dictionary as "a little organ") such as one that the 1895 Montgomery Ward catalog shows for \$37.

Outdoor Fun

Right conditions for sleigh-riding are an occasion for comment in Jennie's diary. "We went up to Root Hulls this afternoon just for a sleigh ride. It is beautiful sleighing" is the entire entry a few days before Christmas 1887. "Splendid sleighing," "the first nice sleighing this winter," or "good sleighing ever since Christmas" are frequent comments. In her 70s she still reports "good sleighing." Young people went out at night for a "ride downhill," and the ladies aid and other clubs might travel to Margaretville, Pine Hill, Dunraven, or Griffin Corners to enjoy the sport.

Before her marriage Jennie plays croquet or goes riding in the summer months. In later years she or her neighbors travel to Perch Lake for picnics or attend a picnic in Hubbell's lot or enjoy boat rides on the lake.

While in Stamford in 1887 Jennie and her husband travel partway up Mt. Utsayantha. A few days later they stop at the horse trot on the Lasher ground in Margaretville.

Jennie and a friend walk to a quarry after supper more than once before her serious fall in 1888, but she also takes a walk after supper many years later.

Employment

Women

Jennie's recorded income as a teacher adds up to \$121 in 1881, \$126 in 1882, and \$99 in 1883, when she taught one term only. Her annual expenditures during those years never exceed \$60.

While still living with her parents Jennie sews at someone else's home. Her income from needlework most years is a good deal less than that from other sources, at least in the years when she records this income. After she begins teaching, she spends part of a Saturday cutting a dress for someone and also knits for others. Sewing is done at either the customer's home or at her own.

Staying with her husband's aunt and uncle in the first year of her marriage, Jennie sews for the aunt as well as for others. In 1887, the year after she stops teaching, she records more days sewing than any other year, about 30 days total for an income for the year of \$12 (in 1882 it was 50¢). "I am busy sewing these days" is her ending remark for the year 1891, when she earns \$31 from 23 customers. The work continues the following month. She only records 75 cents from two customers in 1902, \$4.71 in 1903, \$1.45 for 29 hours in 1906. One time she receives eight quarts of blackberries when she delivers a finished dress.

In 1885 Jennie on several occasions mentions sewing a "polinaze" for Mary Ann and cutting one for herself. ("Polonaise" referred to a full-skirted overdress or the material, often a silk and cotton mixture, used to make it, according to the OED and the 1890 Century Dictionary)). Before and after she quits teaching, she helps other women - Henry Sanford's wife and many others - with her expertise, sometimes taking on more difficult tasks such as making buttonholes for Mrs. Brink, who trims her hat. She finishes Mrs. Hewitt's dress, or helps with alterations of a Sears Roebuck coat, or helps a woman draft a pattern.

Some of the sewing is against a deadline, as when she reports a woman picking up a dress to wear to a dance the same evening. After a while Jennie seemingly has enough work to have Julia Vermilyea, and, in 1909, Anna, and Orra Keator sewing for her.

Jennie's sister Maggie also sews at others' homes, at least when she is young, and Jennie also introduces her niece Isabel to this occupation. A summer during her high school years she sews at someone's home. The same year she begins working for Mrs. Brink alongside her aunt, and sews for others.

Jennie sews for Tina Brink and later works for Amy Sperling Brink in her millinery business. Jennie reports Mrs. Brink returning from a trip "getting her milliner goods." Such a trip of several days to New York is a twice-annual aspect of the millinery business, which takes Brink to Margaretville, New Kingston, and South Kortright, in addition to her store in Halcottsville. In 1903 Jennie has a job helping her sew many days, as does Jennie's tenant. Jennie again sews for Mrs. Brink several days in March and April 1905, prior to her "spring opening." That fall Jennie and Amy Brink share many a meal while Isabel is away. Brink moves to Pennsylvania in March 1906 but visits in September and brings her hats

to sell in October 1906, when Jennie gets a new hat. Other milliners work the area in subsequent years: Mary Mead is "here this spring with hats" in 1909, Amy Hewitt sells hats in South Kortright in 1911 and 1912, and Mrs Hubbell does so locally in 1918. At a time when a woman was rarely seen outside her home without a hat, making and selling hats was a good business.

Working for the milliner Mrs. Brink, Jennie's receipts, apparently for five days, are \$7.50. A March 1900 entry in her accounts notes "brought to brinks 2 hats one new and one trimmed" for a total of \$5.62

A woman also was not fully dressed unless she wore a corset, so being a "corset agent" such as the one who came by in 1904 is another obvious occupation for women. Expenditures of \$1 for a corset occur with regularity in Jennie's diaries.

Women help each other out in neighborly fashion, but there are also instances when they are paid, as Jennie is when she helps her husband's aunt for several months. It may be that these are occasions when the amount of work involved is more than can be expected on a mutual-aid basis. Jennie is paid for sewing, though she is also generous with helping others or letting a friend use her sewing machine. Jennie herself occasionally pays household helpers, paying \$3.30 "for work" in 1888, the year she is laid up for a long time after an accident. In 1899, during her husband's terminal illness, she pays Libbie Shutts \$4 "for work," Mary Miller 75¢, and someone else \$1.60. In 1902 she pays "Mary for work \$1.75," in 1904 pays \$2.25 for housecleaning. In 1911 "Mrs. Morse helped me" on six consecutive days for a total of 25 hours, for which Jennie paid her \$2.50. Evidently, women's wages had doubled from the 5¢ an hour only a few years earlier. In 1904 and again in 1912 she has someone else weave a carpet from rags she has been saving, paying \$3.30 for weaving. In her later years Jennie hires a woman to paper her kitchen.

Taking in boarders on a daily or monthly basis is Jennie's main source of income during the years she is widowed and before she remarries. Mr. and Mrs. Bush pay her \$4, later \$3.50 (1902 diary) per month during the seven years they stay with her. They plow her garden and help her clean. They are paid for this work, the amounts deducted from the rent or noted as expenses in Jennie's diaries (e.g. Mrs. Bush \$1.00 in 1900 or 1901, Bush \$1 in 1904).

Mary Dixon, the teacher who boards with Jennie and whose home is in Margaretville, pays her \$21.55 for 1902 and \$76.54 the following year. A teacher "engaged board" in 1905. More than two decades later, Isabel also takes in a teacher as boarder.

Charles O'Connor, an attorney from Hobart, eats his his midday meal at Jennie's every Wednesday with few interruptions beginning May 1901 until shortly before her marriage in October 1906, occasionally having both dinner and supper or staying overnight. (He was the brother of Lindsay O'Connor, who served as surrogate for Delaware County and founded the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation). At one time she mentions that he eats at the hotel or elsewhere "as I am not able to get his meal." His stays become so regular that in 1902 the diary only observes the Wednesdays when he does not come. She refers to him as "Charley" or "CRO" and one Sunday went to church with "his folks." He

pays her \$15.50 in 1902 for nine recorded meals, \$16.25 in 1903 for 35 meals and five nights, \$14.15 in 1904, \$7.75 in 1905 for 20 meals. Her income for the 20 times she serves him in 1906 is not recorded.

O'Connor has relatives in Halcottsville, and his weekly trips here may be to visit them. One day he is "here all day. He went to Margaretville to a dance at the Hill house tonight" and returns home by train the next day. He is the speaker at the farmers' picnic in September 1903, when he comes to supper, and calls on Jennie after her return from her hospital stay in New York the same month. Her 1906 diary is a gift to "Aunt Jen" from Charles O'Connor. Twenty years later, Jennie has a visit from him while he is in Halcottsville for a funeral.

Selling eggs and chickens is another source of income for Jennie when she and Will first set up housekeeping, though she still teaches, and later in her widowhood. In 1903 her receipts for eggs add up to \$6.54 against expenses of \$3.70. In November 1906 she gets hens and a rooster, paying \$5.75 for the hens and feed. Between 1908 and 1916 this activity expands, the highest net income recorded at \$26.46 worth of eggs sold in 1916 when expenses for feed were \$19.10. The prior year it was only \$15 versus expenses of \$13. She gives up keeping poultry in 1918.

Women and girls, including Jennie's sisters, hire out to do housework, either staying with a family or going out by the day. A woman keeps house for a man whose wife is "gone avisiting," a woman comes to work for Talls for the summer, a girl is hired when someone has a "lame back," another goes to Meredith to work for an aunt, a woman goes to work in a boarding house, and a widow to Kingston to work. "George Keator's widow came to work for All today" (a creamery employee). Isabel and Hewitt Scudder employ a 17-year-old girl, a former neighbor, to help out for several months after Isabel's surgery in 1919 and 1920 and hire another girl a few months later. (They also employ a hired man at the same time). An African-American woman works at Kellys in 1906, we learn from Jennie's note that Callie, "the colored girl to Kelly's called tonight to bid me goodbye she and her sister start for Virginia tomorrow."

Two women even work a farm on shares.

Jennie's niece Isabel, though a high school graduate, does the same work as other, less educated women. She works on a farm during haying and has various shortlived housekeeping and sewing jobs until her marriage to a farmer.

David Doland's daughters illustrate the increase in numbers of women in the paid work force in the early decades of the 20th century. They perform office and retail work, often in New Jersey, where they have relatives. Grace, the older one, is working at Bamberger's department store in Newark in 1909, and five years later lives in Bayonne, NJ. In the 1920s, when she is married and living in Oneonta, we hear nothing further about her work.

Elsie, who does not marry, also finds work in New Jersey as well as elsewhere. In September 1915 she is home for vacation from Franklin, NJ. She travels to Detroit the following February, having been offered a job at \$75 a month, and stays for four months. Back home, she does some housework as

well as office work in Fleischmanns, where she is paid \$7 a week. She begins work at Delhi in May 1917. After working there for some time "she is not going back to Russell Archibalds. Will have a few weeks vacation" in September 1918. The next month she returns to Delhi to work for Dan Franklin.

Jennie's unmarried sister Margaret (Maggie) appears to divide her time among various family members in what tradition tells us was "maiden aunt" fashion. The 1880 Census shows her in Roxbury. At other times she stays with Jennie, and beginning about 1903 she spends half the year or more in Florida, where her younger brother John lives. She is available to be with her sister Jennie during illness or recovery, but also to accompany an ailing woman on her return from Florida. Jennie's diary records an address for McKenzie's grocery in Miami in 1926, so it may be that Maggie helped out in her brother's business. Two other people are reported traveling to Florida for the winter to work there.

Vertie Hubbell works in the glove factory in Delhi in 1920, she and her husband Loren having moved there some months earlier.

Men

The work histories of Jennie's two husbands illustrate the range of work available to men who were not farmers with one major exception: neither worked for the railroad. Doland's primary work is in the creamery, an adjunct of the dominant dairy industry, Hewitt's in retail. In addition, each performs various jobs in construction or farming.

Will's merchandise is "Oil of Gladness" (Isaiah 61:3: "oil of gladness instead of mourning"). He bottles the medicine from ingredients, including oil and peppermint, which cost \$77.25 in 1884. Bottling medicine is a frequent task at home, and Jennie helps him put up Hot Drops and make a batch of salve. "Ready Remedy" is another preparation or possibly an ingredient in "Oil of Gladness." References to these products occur with frequency in the diaries for 1884 to 1887. Six years after Will's death Jennie still has some Oil of Gladness and sells two bottles. These years are the same ones during which popular periodicals published exposes of the patent medicine business, which led to the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act and tighter regulations.

Will also sells seafood, getting oysters in Margaretville, selling shad in May as well as clams and herring. Other foods he handles over the years include pineapples, onions, lemons, cabbage, peaches, and potatoes, mackerel and other fish. He sells shad at home. In the mid-1880s Will Hewitt's business expands to household appliances such as carpet sweepers, obtained at Margaretville, carpet stretchers, bed springs, and in 1887 washing machines and sewing machines. He sells whatever he can. His 1889 sales total is \$150, his expenses for horse feed and wagon repair the previous year were \$74. For his occasional work at Ganoung's hotel he records (in his own diary) receipt of \$3.50 for 3-1/2 days' work in September 1897. Doland's work at the creamery is seasonal, and he supplements it with odd jobs. Jennie records his working 90-1/4 hours for Sanford Morse and Charles Griffin in 1911. In 1914 he is "working in hay" for Dimmicks, 15 days in all (he received \$30), and in the fall drawing wood, helping Hewitt Scudder (Isabel's husband) thrash oats several days, and cutting corn for Arthur Miller another

week. He also works for Bennett & Butts, Ed Griffin, J.B. Hinkley, Mrs. Misner, Wes Scudder, and G.L. Hewitt, and did painting for Mrs. Griffin and D. Humphrey. Various other jobs include filling a ditch before he again works for the creamery in November, substituting for E. Eckert and for Howard Sanford ("off on a visit") in December. Working on the ice for the creamery finishes his year's work, for which his total earnings are \$161.91.

Doland's 1915 work at the creamery consists of substituting for someone who has to be away. He unloads coal and loads ice. He is also doing other work, including several weeks painting someone's house (receiving \$32 for 160 hours or 20¢/hr), painting the school house (\$24 for 121 hours), building a sidewalk for the church, helping five days with haying, cutting corn, mowing the lawn at the hotel, and painting in the afternoon after working in the creamery in the morning.

In 1916 Doland's income is \$140, \$116 of it from the creamery. He is back there in March and works - by Jennie's account - some 33 days between then and August, called in when they "needed extra help." He has another accident in July, getting his face burned with steam but is able to continue working, even taking on the usual odd jobs such as cutting oats. He works there in September 1918 as a substitute for All, who attends the Oneonta fair, and several other days that fall, including loading ice.

In 1917 he "is on the ice" for Will Vermilya (for the railroad), Ed Dimmick, and others (January) and going to Arkville with Dimmick for sawdust. He milks for Dimmicks and works there on many other occasions the rest of the year and also for Chester Mead. In 1918 Jennie reports him working also for Wesley Scudder and for Lettie Chapman, painting at Kelly's, planting a garden for VanAkens, "putting in wood" for Clark, and sawing wood for Hewitt Scudder. Chester Mead seems to be his main employer in 1917 and 1918. He is "working on ice" in the winter of 1918-19 and "got in the water" in February and again in January 1920. He is paid 40¢ an hour by the creamery, 35-3/4¢ by the railroad, each requiring 9 hours of work per day. It will be recalled that women's wages had only a few years earlier gone up to 10¢ per hour.

1919 sees Doland digging at the McKillip house "to put in the water," cleaning up the yard at the creamery, fixing fence for C. Mead, helping put in cement floor at the creamery, after which he comes home to mow the lawn & help his wife clean. He paints the ice house and paints at Griffins. While he and Jennie stay at Scudder's to help with the new baby, he helps with haying and harvesting while also going back to Halcottsville to mow the lawn and "see to things." One is glad to read that he "went downtown and treated himself to attend the movies" while visiting his daughter Grace in Oneonta. On his return he paints the porch roof for Mrs. Humphrey and helps with butchering at Herman Craw's.

Other jobs include "trimm(ing) out (Wes) Scudders berry patch" and "help(ing) Clark make Lockwoods garden."

He is working on the ice in 1921, for a total of at least 15 days. In the spring he helps someone put in a garden and does so again in 1923. There is also wood needing to be cut and split. At age 80 he has help painting his and Jennie's house and front porch but does the indoor painting and splits wood the

following winter.

Men hire out as farm hands. While at her parents' home during school vacations Jennie reports on where her brothers are working. Likewise, she mentions who is working at the various farms where she stays as a teacher. Jennie's father plows and supplies wood for others ("Father went up on Taylors Mountain to draw off wood;" "Father went to Hobart with a load of wood"). He "brought Johnnie home to help him a few days" (Johnnie was the youngest son). After giving up his own farm and home after his wife's death, he finds work haying, husking corn, laying stone, plowing, cutting oats, and other tasks. By their nature, these jobs are seasonal and temporary. When Will's uncle hires a man for a year, little more than a month later a new hired man arrives. Hop picking provides seasonal work in September.

Jennie frequently hires men to work for her, especially during the seven years of widowhood, paying Kenyon \$3 for work and paint and Ira \$2.70 for papering and \$4.50 for wall paper in 1900, J.R. Hull \$3 for shingling and Asil \$9.69 in 1902. There is another expense of \$2.15 for wall paper in 1903. Hull again paints her house in 1904, spending about 15 days; the total cost for "painting and work on house" is \$37. In 1905 she pays someone, possibly Hull, 8¢ an hour for 43 hours' work. Several men are engaged in the installation of a bathroom in the Doland home in 1912.

Jennie's tenant, William Bush, works for a period at Arkville, commuting there daily in 1901, and in New Kingston the following year. (We do not learn at what). In 1903 he is a partner with Will Vermilyea in a quarry. In 1905 he and his wife work at Merrickville, but later he is at Kelly's quarry. His frequent travels to Kingston and elsewhere may be job searches.

Just as women with their domestic tasks, men help each other out with caring for horses, repairing wagons, bringing in wood, (a neighbor "drew a load of wood across the crick for Will"), and with farm chores. In 1915 Doland pours a concrete walk, begun the previous fall with the help of Charles Bush, Jim Vermilyea, and DeWitt Keator, from the front door to the street. Repairing the roads is an annual springtime task and civic obligation. In 1901 Jennie pays Cyrus Slawson \$3.75 for work on the road. Isabel's husband Hewitt Scudder works on the road in May 1916.

The large hotels in the Hunter-Tannersville area offer employment opportunities: Jennie's brother-in-law J.R. Hull works at Kaaterskill, and the man who works on the excavation for the Dolands' new bathroom in 1912 takes a day off to work at the "Kaaterskill excursion."

Vacations

When Jennie describes Doland as being "on vacation" in September 1909, it may simply describe a period when there is no work for him at the creamery. Her stepdaughter Elsie's periods between jobs, too, are referred to as "vacations." When she does have time off from a job, she typically spends it with family - in Halcottsville while working in New Jersey, in New Jersey when working in Oneonta. By 1916 even the minister enjoys two-week vacations.

Life Passages

Marriage

Many, if not most, volumes of Jennie's diary contain either end-of-book lists of weddings or news of weddings as they take place, or both, in the same way as she records births and deaths. In some cases the bride is her student of the year before.

Getting married on a weekday is common, and weddings take place at the home of the bride or the groom. Among the many dozens of marriages reported, there is not one mention of an engagement, and of all the parties reported, none is an engagement party. On one occasion in 1893 we read of invitations being "out" for a wedding the following week. The sum of \$1.25 paid for a wedding present in 1902. In 1917 "Fannie Vermilyea and Pearl Dean gave Grace (Doland) a variety shower" a few weeks before her marriage to Arthur Butler. Other "variety showers" are reported for Virtie Hinkley three days before her marriage to Loren Hubbell, Florence Stahl in June 1921, Hazel Sanford in May 1923. In 1927 there is a shower for Mary Miller.

A week's trip to Utica, Syracuse, and Albany was one couple's honeymoon, but another went to Cuba in 1923.

Jennie refers to unmarried women by their first and last names, but married women, even apparently close friends, are as often called "Mrs." X or Y as by their first names.

Marriages break up: a man and women "went away today people think they have gone off together," or Zed Williams' wife "went away tonight with the intentions of not living any more with him." (Three lawyers help divide this couple's household goods). Another couple is said to have "parted." When the woman who has the store at Kellys Corner "had a fuss and Ward is gone" she has Christmas dinner with the Dolands in 1916, but the husband later returns.

Birth

Childbirth was a time when women looked to each other for support, especially needed when the outcome was tragic. Jennie cares for the two-months-old baby of a woman who became ill during or after the birth and never recovered and watches the baby during the funeral. Another time she takes the place of a woman who went to help with a new baby.

Childless herself, Jennie over many years records births occurring in the community. Babies who lost their mothers might be adopted as when in 1881 "Mary and Will (a sister and brother-in-law) have taken a little girl to keep. It is between 5 and 6 weeks old" (no reason is given). Interestingly, when Jennie reports on a birth she specifies whether it is a boy or a girl, but it is "baby" when she reports the death of a newborn.

By the 1910s paid professionals are replacing volunteer helpers. When Isabel has her third child, Jennie notes that "Edith Graw was with her, and the Dr. was Gaul." Four days later Mrs. Dean goes to take care of her "since Edith cant stay any longer." Later the grandmother and Jennie care for the baby.

Ms. Graw also helps care for Isabel in her subsequent illness and in September travels to Oneonta to stay with Doland's daughter Grace for her confinement, reporting that "Grace is smart." Edith Graw stays with her one week and is replaced by another woman, but the downstairs neighbor also helps out.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Many years Jennie notes her own birthday and those of family members in her diary.

Birthdays are celebrated for both children and adults, often with surprise parties. Guests of honor may be children, teenagers, or folks of middle age and older. Jennie gives a surprise 60th-birthday party for her younger sister Maggie with 16 women present, and even 80-year-old Polly A. O'Connor is surprised on her birthday. In 1922 Alvin Van Aken receives 78 cards for his 53rd birthday. Earlier, "birthday postals" were in use (see Communications).

Wedding anniversaries are similar occasions, whether 50th anniversaries or earlier ones such as a surprise 15th. The Dolands are surprised on their 10th by 38 guests, and a 45th anniversary is feted with 45 attending. Jennie keeps a record of 50th anniversaries occurring from 1910 to 1913, and many volumes of the diary contain lists of birthdays in the back, e.g. the list of 24 birthdays, with respective ages in the 1911 diary, or a similar list for 1905.

Death

From Jennie's faithful records of deaths both in the daily entries in her diaries and lists at the back of the little books, we can learn the ages and causes of death of the decedents. She tells of more than ten deaths of babies, young children, including Doland's granddaughter, and teenagers, but also of deaths of John Olmstead's over-100-year-old mother, 92-year-old Lizzie Larkins, and Jennie's 91-year-old grandmother. Jennie and David Doland both live into their 80s, as do many others. We learn of birthday parties for folks in their 80s and 90s. Life expectancy at birth was far less than it is today, but that does not mean that everyone died young.

Women aged 38 and 26 die also, however, and a new mother dies after a two-month struggle. Jennie first reports her having "a very poor spell," then being slightly better but with many women staying with her, and finally mainly unconscious in her last week of life.

Many deaths appear to occur in the winter months, the 1883 diary recording one almost daily in January. One man survives three wives. Someone else, when near death, returns home from California to die here.

As to causes of death, these include typhoid, cancer ("Mrs. Morse died in Oneonta hospital after cancer operation"), infantile paralysis (including a 36-year-old), appendicitis, measles, unspecified cause that may have been typhoid, "blood poison," tonsillectomy, "bowel trouble," diabetes, shock (electric?) (George Purshall in 1926), fatal automobile accident, and many kinds of respiratory illness such as pneumonia, "consumption of the lungs," or "sore throat." A man drops dead at his son's funeral and another in Griffin's store.

The reported suicides are equally divided between women and men. People commit suicide by

taking chloroform, laudanum, carbolic acid, or by hanging. The 1901 diary contains a newspaper clipping about a 42-year-old woman, Mary A. Murphy, committing suicide in August 1915 in Norwich, possibly someone known to David Doland. Dr. Harry M. Keator, suffering from consumption, shot himself in 1917.

Funerals

Funerals generally are held two days after death, but Andrew Tyler is buried on the next day because of fear that he had spotted fever. If someone dies while away, perhaps at a hospital or while on a trip, the railroad makes it possible to bring back the remains from New York, Chicago, Florida, California, or even Earl Dudley from France in 1921. The family of a child who dies “came up from Kingston” to have the funeral at the home of the mother’s family. Likewise “the corpse” can be shipped for burial elsewhere. A group of local people travel to New York for a funeral.

Funerals take place at home, (e.g. John Patterson’s in 1888), but a funeral is also held at the Kelly’s Corner schoolhouse in 1897. When a death occurs in winter, burial has to await the ground thawing. Thus, when David Doland’s granddaughter dies in January 1925, it is only in April that her body is removed from a vault for burial. Doland serves as a pallbearer for W.M. Griffin in 1925.

When Will Hewitt dies, Jennie spends \$130 on a monument (from a dealer in Margaretville) and has funeral expenses of \$58. She visits his grave later that year and next year. She does not attend her grandmother’s funeral in January 1900.

Jennie’s family members rest in a number of different cemeteries, including ones at Bloomville and Hobart, which she visits on the way back from the Oneonta fair in 1905, and at Stamford.

Health and Illness

Care of the Sick

Sitting up at night with an ill or dying person for many days was standard practice, as many entries over the years attest. Jennie’s mother dies March 16, 1880, and Jennie is with her during the final month. On February 6 she writes that “Mother is very bad off is entirely helpless” and that two people sit up with her each night. The mother was severely ill a year earlier, when Jennie “sat up with mother till 3 then Maggie got up” and day after day recorded who sits up with the patient each night. In the summer of 1878 it was “Grannie” and “Aunt Abbie,” in November 1897 Jennie’s sister Belle with whom women sit up for over a week. Even the doctor might stay all night, as Dr. Street does in 1878.

Home remedies are the first choice to treat any illness. (Recipes for such remedies, as recorded in the diary, are found in the Appendix). Liniment is a preparation kept in every home (Jessie records buying a bottle in 1881 as well as a bottle of “Kennedy discovery” and other medicines). When Jennie falls ill while staying with a family when she was teaching, “Mrs. Riley Sanford came up and doctored me up a little.” A few days later she takes a trip to Margaretville to get medicine. Prior to the Food and Drug Act of 1906 all drugs were “over the counter,” and many were sold by itinerant peddlers such as Will

Hewitt. Door-to-door sales of patent remedies did not end with the 1906 legislation, however. Jennie buys \$1 worth from a medicine peddler in 1909, and as late as 1921 reports that "Mrs. Robinson was to Roxbury for two days taking orders for extracts."

Jennie's accident at home on March 15, 1888 and its aftermath, recorded in her diary in considerable detail, well illustrate health care of the period. Home remedies are relied on initially when she falls off a chair and hurts her ankle, an accident "that put Aunt Jen on crutches for the rest of her life" according to a descendant's comment at this point in the diary. (In 1925 and 1927 Jennie still records expenses for "new rubbers" for her crutches). It is not until 12 days later that her husband gets someone in to help her for a few days, supplemented by help from her downstairs neighbor Agnes and others. Three weeks after the accident Will is "staying home all the time now" since she can "do nothing." Dr. Banker now comes to see her, and Dr. Street a few days later and at subsequent times. She soon goes out, using crutches and even visits overnight. In May Will resumes his peddling trips, and she resumes sewing for others, bakes bread, and takes up carpets. At the end of the month, she goes to stay with her sister Belle for three weeks, stating that she has "done nothing but read." In June and later she sends out her washing and has someone bake bread for her, but also does so herself with her husband's help. He goes out berrying and takes their washing to Mrs. Chamberlin. She again has a girl in to help her and when the girl leaves after five days, the neighbor women pitch in. She stays with Sliters and with Root Hull while Will is off on peddling trips. She gets out to a funeral and to take tea, but records no attendance at church for many months. There are visits to her sister Belle and to Wheeler Hewitt. She resumes helping Inez sew, sews for Henry Robinson, and knits stockings for one of the women helping her.

On November 15 Jennie expresses her misery that it is "eight months since I walked and cannot take a step yet." Five days later she and Will are on the train to Rondout and the boat to New York to consult a doctor in Milford, CT. They are met by Mrs. G. B. (Ella) Hooton of 470 Grand Street, Brooklyn, apparently someone met through church, perhaps at the previous September's annual meeting. The next day they "went to Milford (CT) and found the Dr. gone. We came back ... to Brooklyn." Jennie finally gets to see Dr. J. Leroi Sweet on the 27th. In a few days they are on their way home, stopping in Kingston for four days to visit folks who moved there from Arkville. Her sister Maggie comes to care for her.

The cost of this accident is \$40 for doctor's bills and the trip. This in a year when their rent for the entire year is \$24 and the year's grocery bill \$56. The following year's (1889) medical expenses are \$58.

Jennie chronicles her first husband's final illness and tells us everything about it except the fact that, according to his death certificate, he dies from cirrhosis of the liver. It begins with a fall on the ice in early January 1899, and he lingers until his death on April 24th. More than a week after the fall which hurt his head he takes the train to consult a doctor in Arkville, paying him \$10. A month later, Will being "very bad," Jennie asks Dr. Keator to come, not trusting "the new one," Dr. Gaul (with whom she and her

second husband frequently socialize just a few years later). For most of February and March she and various others sit with Will at night, and she occasionally reports him "feeling comfortable." With such a long illness, he apparently stays in a bed downstairs since she mentions sleeping upstairs after 12 nights of staying with him.

When Jennie has surgery in September 1903 - its nature not disclosed - she again has the care of her sister Maggie. Her medical expenses that year are \$88, including \$34.36 for Dr. Keator and \$38 for medicine. In 1905 she pays Dr. Gaul \$2 in March and 50¢ for medicine in May.

Jennie may be on crutches, but she gets around and is quite active the remaining 40 years of her life covered by her diary. Within a few years after her accident she churns butter for Hubbell, and canning, baking, and all kinds of housework make up her days despite her increasing weight, from 122-1/2 lbs at age 28 to 160 lbs at age 55. She takes another fall and hurts her knee in 1906. This accident keeps her in bed for a week, and it is not until the following month that she "walked out on crutches" and another two months before she can walk to the store. The doctor comes to see her several times.

Recovery from illness is slow because it depends heavily on bed rest and wrapping a patient to induce sweating to reduce fever. "I gave him a sweat," states Jennie when her first husband feels ill. When Jennie contracts pneumonia in 1893, it is six weeks before she is able to go out to the store and another two before she feels up to visiting. Jennie's father sprains his ankle; his recovery takes a long time, and no medical attention is recorded.

With any illness so long-drawn-out, the mutual help women extend to each other comes into play in very essential ways. Neighbors come to see a sick person, to bring food, to lend a helping hand, or just to visit. When Jennie and Will both are ill with "the grip" they have help for about three weeks until they could "get along alone." The same thing happens when Jennie has "inflammation of the lungs" in April 1893. When Jennie is in bed one day, 8 or 10 neighbors call after the doctor had been to see her. Elsie brings ice cream on another such occasion. When Jennie's husband is ill, men put hay in their barn. In later years, David Doland "is helping do chores" for someone who is ill until a hired man comes a few days later. When Doland is ill and awaiting surgery at home, ten neighbors come calling. When a baby becomes ill with "cholera infantum" Jennie and other women go to the home to help out. She helps out again at another home the following month, staying until the children are again "quite smart."

Before telephones were common, someone had to go fetch the doctor, even in the middle of the night. Doctors come to see their sick patients daily, sometimes more than once a day, or even stay all night as noted; they also provide medicines and accompany patients to hospitals, as Dr. Hubbell does in 1904, and bring them home. "Dr. Gaul took Charley Sanford tonight to have a leg taken off." (A broken leg may need to be amputated).

Illnesses that are specified in the diary include "the grip," "lung trouble," pneumonia, jaundice, neuralgia, neuritis, and hay fever. Infectious diseases caused much fear: Jennie mentions several cases of influenza in 1918. When there is "lots of sickness all around," especially in the winter months,

“the doctor is on the road all the time.” In February 1883 “the weather is cold, my school is small, so many sick with colds.” “The measles are so thick.” Measles is a reason for not going to church and for closing school. When school is not closed, Jennie keeps her 12-year-old niece home: “Isabel did not go to school this afternoon as some of the scholars have been exposed to measles.” Another time school is closed for two weeks because of scarlet fever in Meeker Hollow. Earlier that year many children are reported to have mumps, and some were vaccinated, presumably for smallpox. She reports both measles and “mock measles” in the early months of 1897.

People travel near and far to care for ill relatives or friends: Jennie travels to Oneonta when her sister Maggie is ill there in June 1900 and spends almost three weeks. The cost, including travel and the doctor’s fee, is \$25. Mary Ann Hewitt travels to Jefferson. Kingston is not too far to pay a visit to someone in the hospital in 1922. In 1915, Mrs. Humphrey goes to Washington to take care of her daughter-in-law, becomes ill herself on her return, and has to be hospitalized in New York. The same year Maggie travels to Miami to accompany a gravely ill woman on her return north, where she dies less than three weeks after her return.

For illness requiring surgery, such as an appendectomy, or a hospital stay, folks travel to New York or Albany and later Kingston in the 1910s and Oneonta in the 1920s. Jennie spends seven weeks in New York for her September 1903 surgery.

Someone suffering from diabetes seeks medical help in Philadelphia, remaining there over two weeks, and in 1926 Elmer Hewitt travels as far as Buffalo to seek month-long treatment for cancer after earlier weekly trips to Fox Hospital in Oneonta. (He dies five days after returning from Buffalo). In 1925 Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Morse spend two weeks in Schenectady seeking help from a doctor there.

Surgery may be performed at home. After Dr. Gaul has been to see David Doland seven times in three days in summer 1912, a surgeon comes from Kingston to operate on him at home. The Roxbury Times reported that this was an operation for 293 gallstones. Jennie and five others assist, and the surgeon remains overnight. The patient’s condition is considered serious enough for Jennie to telegraph his daughters in New Jersey. Afterwards, the doctor comes by daily to dress the wound, and a nurse from Kingston cares for the patient for about two weeks. It is over a month before he can sit up. Jennie itemizes the expenses: \$100 to Dr. Chandler, the surgeon, \$42 to Dr. Gaul, and \$25 to the nurse.

Use of specialists and of professional nurses becomes evident in the 1910s. In 1914 Jennie goes to sit with a dying woman, Ursula Hewitt, for two hours while the attending nurse is out. Isabel’s son Donald develops pneumonia after having measles, and a nurse attends him. When Jennie’s sister Mary Grant is ill with pneumonia, Jennie travels to be with her and notes that a trained nurse is in attendance. Several doctors may be called in, as happens when Earl Beardsley is ill for several weeks. Dr. Hillis from Kingston and Dr. Faulkner come to see him and later that evening another doctor from Kingston also. Mrs. Dean provides nursing service in the 1920s.

When Isabel is ill a month after the birth of her third child in 1919, “Dr. Gaul came here after

midnight and brought Dr. Chandler” to remove a bowel obstruction. Her husband brings two nurses from Bushnellsville, only one of whom remains after a few days and remains for another week and a half. Friends and neighbors visit and help with canning. In 1924 Isabel spends almost two weeks in the hospital in Oneonta after surgery for an internal hemorrhage. Many visitors and a “post card shower” are intended to help her recuperate. A “sunshine bag” is another gesture to cheer up the ill, though in the particular case reported by Jennie to no avail as the woman dies two weeks later.

Others, though, come to Delaware County for their health, such as a 22-year-old “city boy” in poor health, here to recuperate in 1905 or the “city woman... looking for rooms” in 1909. Martha Webber returns to New York in June 1902 after having “been up” for two weeks. (The 1902 Ulster & Delaware Railroad guidebook lists 12 hotels and boarding houses in Halcottsville and three farms that take in summer boarders in Kellys Corners).

In 1902 Jennie spends \$5 for spectacles but does not record the cost of a pair purchased from a peddler in 1908 or others bought in 1912 in Margaretville. Later she sees eye doctors in Oneonta and in Albany.

Tooth extraction is the main dental procedure reported in Jennie’s diary. She has several teeth pulled, and “the Milford dentist is at Hubbell’s today. Agnes Sanford had 8 teeth out.” (The cost for tooth extraction was 25¢ according to an ad by a Kingston dentist in the 1890 U&D business directory). Jennie reports dental visits to Roxbury in 1887, 1909, and 1916.

Mental illness is not unknown. Jennie reports the names of people “crazy this week and ... getting worse,” of others taken to an asylum, of a man “taken crazy,” and of the funeral of someone who had been in an insane asylum in Binghamton for 17 years. (The 1869 Beers Delaware County Atlas show an “insane retreat” near Arkville).

Accidents

Along with births, deaths, and marriages, accidents appear prominently in Jennie’s diary. Such new modes of transportation as trains and later automobiles are perceived as dangerous, and accidents caused by these newfangled inventions duly noted. Reports of emergencies, natural disasters, and similar unusual events supplement the daily weather observations.

Accidents involving horses or mechanical equipment can also be fatal or very disabling. A woman is thrown out of a wagon, or a horse runs away, throwing people from a wagon, killing one and injuring others. George Davis is overrun by a horse and wagon, and horses crash through ice. Men are killed in the woods. They lose fingers while sawing wood or are maimed when blasting stumps with dynamite. A threshing machine kills High Angle in 1899. In the creamery Doland drops a cake of ice on his foot, and an accident in 1915 in the creamery at Hobart proves fatal. Construction jobs have their own dangers: “George Walker was killed ... helping take down an old building on the Woolheater farm that John Walker had bought.”

With open fires in many homes, fires are frequent. Jennie notes Lorenzo Kelly’s house burning

down in May 1883, a house catching fire from lightning, or David Kelly's grist mill burning or a fire burning "half of Hobart." There are other mill, barn, and house fires, and a fire at Red Rose Hall in November 1915. In 1908 the Riverside Hotel in Margaretville burns when a lamp explodes. Lightning causes fires and kills stock. When smoking boxes used for smoking hams catch on fire no serious harm occurs, however.

Children suffer fatal accidents as when a Crosby boy attempts to ride the running board of a milk truck or Charles Scudder drowns in the rapids of the Schoharie River at Ashland.

Fatal railroad accidents occur when people walk on the track and in the performance of tasks such as unloading freight. Jennie records such accidents though they are not local and includes mishaps such as a train going into a pond. In 1908, she and her husband, returning from a visit to Norwich, have to spend a night at East Branch until the track is cleared of a wrecked milk train. She describes the serious collision nearby in 1911: "as we were eating supper the 6 o'clock flyer went by and shortly we heard a terrible whistling of the cars most everyone in the place started there was a collision. the pay car coming down and the flyer going up ran into each other one man killed the breakman on the pay car, the fireman and engineers jumped some were hurt." She preserves snapshots of the wreck.

In 1918 she describes in detail the collision that kills 19-year-old Lionel Baker at the Austin bridge as he drove his milk truck across and a passenger train hit it.

The first automobile accident Jennie mentions happens in 1912, in Connecticut. But many local ones follow: a car runs over someone's cat, killing it, a driver is killed when he overturns his car, a car and a wagon collide, a car turns over near Pine Hill, one of her husband's relatives in New Jersey is involved in a car accident at a railroad crossing, horses run off because frightened by a truck, someone is knocked down by car, and so on. In 1917 Dr. Allaben dies as the result of an accident.

The Community

Agriculture

Though Jennie and her husbands are not farmers, the daily and seasonal patterns of farming dominate the life of the community. Jennie typically notes when the weather is right for sugaring each spring or reports on its progress ("no good sugar weather this spring," "sap is running." Two weeks before she leaves for her teaching assignment, Jennie, home alone, "sugared off twice." While at her parents' home in 1879, she records the amounts of sugar produced. Three decades later, she and David Doland receive 100 quarts of sap that takes Jennie two weeks to boil down.

Sugaring is a social occasion as well. "Went to enjoy warm sugar" and "I sugared off some for warm sugar" and similar references are frequent. The Doland girls often come back from New Jersey for a weekend at sugaring time, and do so in 1911, when it conveniently coincides with Easter. When Jennie is widowed and before remarrying she has four trees tapped, and her niece Isabel boils the sap, producing five quarts of syrup.

The diary notes when “everybody busy getting hay,” when “the farmers are busy plowing,” when they are sowing oats, threshing buckwheat, or when it is a “beautiful day for getting wood.” During a heavy snowstorm in March 1920 “the folks in the upper end of B(ragg) Hollow did not get their milk out,” she commiserates.

Once Jennie begins teaching and spends nights with various families in her district, it is not unusual for her to milk several cows before setting off for school, sometimes noting that “she did not milk.” She is expected to pitch in wherever she spends her evenings or weekends. (“A Teacher’s Life” below tells more of this).

Living with her husband’s aunt and uncle after her marriage and no longer teaching, she may do the milking because someone had a “lame back” or may churn butter. When she and her second husband visit Isabel, they stay until chores are done and the niece’s husband is free to take them home. Many a holiday meal is interrupted by some of the participants having to do chores at the host’s home or at their own.

Milking machines begin to be used in 1912, and David helps Hewitt Scudder install a concrete floor in his horse stable in 1914. The Scudders sell their farm to Tommy Davis for \$8,000 the next year.

Butter pails find use for berrying. Young women collect wintergreen berries; Jennie and her tenant Mrs. Bush pick wildflowers.

Jennie for many years (she records eight occasions between 1899 and 1912) attends the annual Farmers’ Institute, held at the Grange Hall, generally in early December or November. Early September is the time for an annual farmers’ picnic at Denver.

Jennie and her family hardly ever miss a fair, at least in the earlier years of the diary, whether at Hobart, Margaretville (in 1916 she comments that there was “nothing there but horseracing”), Oneonta, Prattsville, or Stamford. She visits the fair at Delhi in 1877 while attending the Teachers Institute. To get to the Hobart fair in 1881, she takes the train to Stamford and a stage from there. By 1900, the railroad goes all the way to Oneonta, and the following year the Dolands make an overnight trip to the Oneonta fair.

Jennie mentions the Walton Fair in 1926 but does not attend it.

David Doland, Jennie’s second husband, works at the Halcottsville creamery, and we learn about its operations from Jennie’s diary. “They start the separator in the creamery today,” she notes in January 1909, and they are “putting in another separator” two months later. He has to work one Sunday because “they separate every other day and he helps.” He in addition performs occasional jobs of every variety on neighboring farms, as detailed in the section on Employment, as does Jennie’s father for many decades after giving up his own farm.

Commerce

While at her parents’ home in Township Jennie shops at Stamford or at Hobart, where she buys a bedstead and wallpaper.

Halcottsville has a number of business establishments during the years covered by Jennie's diary, but residents also travel to neighboring towns to shop. In 1904 "Martie Stevenson and his mother ... sold out their goods in the store at cost" when they moved away.

Jennie travels to Margaretville to buy hats or to "get me a dress." Hats are frequent purchases ("I got me a new hat"). In 1905, while in Oneonta for the fair, she "got me a coat for winter and a fur for my neck," paying \$8 and \$5, respectively. She does her 1909 Christmas shopping locally. In 1912, while in Albany for medical reasons, she takes the opportunity to go "down to the stores." In 1912 she "got me a coat" for \$6.98, but still travels to Margaretville in 1915 to purchase a coat and shoes as well as a cooking stove and oven. Her coat for 1922 is bought "downtown." In 1914 her sister Maggie offers to do Jennie's Christmas shopping in Oneonta. Jennie also shops in Roxbury.

Clothing prices show no particular pattern in the over 30 years that Jennie itemizes her expenses. Aside from the dress she apparently has made for her wedding, the highest amount shown for an item of clothing is \$8 for a coat in 1905. She pays \$3 for a hat in 1880, \$5 for a shawl in 1884, \$7.50 for a skirt in 1902. Shoes cost \$2.75 in 1880. Underwear ranges between \$2.50 in 1884 and \$1.40 in 1916. If there is a pattern here, it may simply be that as Jennie ages she becomes more frugal in her clothing expenditures than she was as a young unmarried woman.

As for household items, a bed spread is \$1.10 in 1902, tablecloths \$1.85 in 1905, 96¢ in 1911.

Though stores of all kinds exist in various towns, itinerant peddlers continue to serve the area well into the 20th century. They enjoy hospitality for meals and overnight where their business takes them. Jennie reports on several occasions that "Pinto the peddler stayed here (at Woolheater's) tonight" and is again in the area the following month. Michael Furst, the peddler, stays at Riley Sanford's where she spends the night, and there again is "a peddler at Woolheater's" a few months later. Wheeler Hewitt and his wife put up peddlers several times during the period that she and Will live with them, some for several nights. Jennie puts up two overnight at her home, and her father buys a suit on that occasion. Her first husband manages similarly on his peddling trips.

Peddlers sell a variety of goods including mens' and womens' hats, and Jennie buys yard goods, a hat, towels and thread from Jacob Myers. In 1908 she buys reading glasses. They sell patent medicines. Women travelers sell hats and corsets, as noted. In May 1917 "The Tea Man, Fred Bartholamew, was around." By the 1920s peddlers are often representatives of various companies, and she apparently deals with one from the Grand Union company since the 1921 diary carries a notation that she has "140 Grand Union tickets on hand December 11th and 163 on December 26th."

Neighborliness and Mutual Help

Nothing is as pervasive throughout Jennie's diary as the theme of community, of neighbors sharing their lives and their work. Much visiting among women is to help one another sew or to use a sewing machine owned by one of them. Each brings her own sewing, knitting, or darning, or they help each other sew carpet rags or work on a quilt. Women go berrying and join in canning. They sit up with

the sick and dying. They pitch in with cooking, baking, and cleaning during illness and after a death. They even watch one another's children so the parents can take a trip to Coney Island. Helping each other with whatever needs doing is a way of life.

The death of the mother or father of a young family is a catastrophe, and neighbors come to help. (Fortunately, this is not a frequent occurrence. As is shown elsewhere, the deaths Jennie records are more often of persons of quite old age). The year after she is married, Jennie stays with the Stilwell family while the father travels to Stamford to find permanent live-in help. Twenty years later, she takes care of a woman's baby so that the mother can go to the fair, and a week later so that she can go berrying. Jennie helps a family whose hired girl is ill and helps out at other times when someone is sick. When her niece is ill, Jennie - in her 70s - does her ironing. At age 76 she does the washing for Mrs. Robinson who is not well.

Yet Jennie's diary also records payment for such services, including payments among relatives, for various services. In 1887 Jennie spends three months at the home of her husband's aunt and is paid \$13.30. There is no record of payment when she helps another relative in January 1888 for a much shorter period. When she has help with household chores she sometimes pays women five or ten cents an hour, while at other times this help appears to be given without compensation. The distinction is not always clear, but it is perhaps understandable that Jennie pays her brother-in-law when he paints her entire house, and equally understandable that she keeps relations with her tenants on a businesslike basis by crediting work performed by them towards their rent payments. During her second marriage, she records various transactions with Hewitt Scudder, her niece's husband, typically involving payments of one or two dollars. David Doland does so much work for other farmers that it would be unfair not to pay him for work for a relative.

A woman's diary necessarily tells little about men helping each other simply as good neighbors though there is mention of a barn raising.

Giving each other rides is another aspect of being neighborly. Getting a ride on the milk wagon or milk sleigh is a common way to get around. In later years, owners of cars give others rides to and from work and shopping or take them out for a pleasure jaunt.

Schools

In contrast to her domestic tasks, Jennie has tantalizingly little - in fact, nothing - to say about her work as a teacher. Her diary is no help at all in learning about education in her day. We learn nothing about what she teaches her students, how she teaches them, what progress they make, or their behavior. All we learn is when she "kept school" and how many "scholars" she has on a given day. She tells a great deal more about the work done at the various homes where she boards.

We do learn that in 1877 her summer school term goes from May 1 to July 14, and again from August 6 to October 5. On that day she has 15 visitors. On the 9th "the men went to school meeting at night." "Winter school" starts November 12 and is in session on both Thanksgiving and Christmas, but

not New Year's Eve (a Monday). When school closes March 1, 1878, "i hired with John Keator to teach ... school next summer." It begins May 13, winter school on November 11. In 1879 summer school runs from April 28 to September 20th, and she is again teaching in November. After her mother's death in March 1880, Jennie returns to school in May. Visitors come on August 20, the last day of school. In October she "hired out to Sammy Jinkins to teach the winter school for \$15 per month," beginning November 1. She goes to her father's home New Year's Eve but is back in time to reopen school on January 4, 1881. The last day of school is on March 21. On May 9, 1881 she begins school in Bragg Hollow to September 28, and two weeks later "hired to Mr. Woolheater to teach the winter school at \$4 a week." She starts teaching in Pink Street October 31, 1881. In 1882 Jennie begins teaching at Kellys Corner on October 30. Four days after her wedding in March of the next year she returns to school. July 10, 1883 was the last day.

Jennie does not teach winter school in 1883-1884 but takes the teacher exam in Roxbury in February 1884. She and Stella (Will Hewitt's cousin) visit school on the last day, June 13. Andrew Jaquish hires her to teach again in September 1885 - in fact, to begin the very next day. That does not seem to require much preparation as she and Will still go visiting that evening. Christmas Eve is the last day of that term. The diary for that year notes the Delhi address of E.R. Harkness, County School Commissioner. Jennie's last term of teaching is summer school 1886.

Daily attendance is from six to 15 students, and Jennie is pleased when she "found all my scholars there" or "It is a nice day my scholars are most all to school." "All the scholars" may mean all the young people ages 5 to 21 living in the district. On the last day before a three-week summer recess in 1877 only six scholars show up, and the same number begins again on August 6. The largest number she reports is 25 on a day in September 1885. In 1881 she has up to 17 or 18 students and has 20 students in December. The 1883 diary contains some attendance records.

Jennie frequently mentions which students attend: "Peace was to school this afternoon. I went to her house at night" or "Dick Clum was in school this forenoon" (both 1881). She buys "school presents," recording expenditure of \$1.06 in 1877, "school cards" in 1880, books, and other supplies. Her students write remembrances in her diary:

"Do not be proud of your youth or your beauty
since both of them will wither and fade,
but gain a good name by doing your duty.
That will scent like a rose when your dead."

Peace Hubbell

"Round is the ring that hath no end
all my love to you my friend"

Sarah Hubbell

School is in session on Saturday if there was a holiday during the week such as the Fourth of July or if Jennie was absent to attend Teacher's Institute in Delhi or went home for a few days during her mother's illness. Other occasions for substituting school on Saturday for a weekday are a day that

provided good sleighing, Jennie going to Margaretville to buy a hat, or her taking two days off to get married. School hours may be to some extent at the teacher's discretion also, as she mentions on the eve of the Fourth of July holiday that she "let school out at 3 o'clock." The holiday fell on a Wednesday, so she "kept school" on the following Saturday. Typically she starts for school at 8 after two or so hours spent sewing, washing, ironing, milking, or at other work.

Jennie attends Teacher's Institutes all the years she teaches, as was required. (The institutes reviewed elementary school subjects and provided some guidance on classroom management and teaching methods). Typical cost is between \$4 and \$5, and getting there is not always easy. First Jennie "walked from Roxbury over home stopped to Colbys got home at 5." After a day with her family she "got up at six start for Delhi 1/2 past 7 went with George Simmons went to the institute in the afternoon went to the Fair in the evening attended a lecture." The next day was a full day at the Institute, and on the 15th she "left Delhi half past ten got to Hobart between one and 2 and got some dinner rode up with John Hull got home at 5." Finally, on Sunday the 16th her father takes her to Roxbury in the evening, where the next day she "took the train for Halcottsville and went up to school afoot."

The trip to the Teachers Institute in September 1879 involves first getting to her parents' home, then by stage from Hobart to Delhi and back by stage to Stamford and the train from there. In 1880 and 1881 she is able to get to Delhi by taking the noon train to Stamford and the stage from there to Delhi, returning the same way on Saturday. The trip from Delhi to Roxbury takes from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

In 1900 the Institute is held at Roxbury, and Jennie attends though no longer teaching. She does so again in April 1903. She is widowed and may be considering returning to teaching though requirements and standards have changed in the intervening decades.

Payment for her teaching jobs is not always very prompt. In 1881 it is not until November 21 that she receives her pay for the previous summer school. In 1886 she "got an order for school money from John Jaquish" more than two months after the term ended and in June "went to Roxbury after my school money."

Occasionally Jennie comments that "it's nice to be shut up in a school room" or that she "had no fire in the school house today one of my scholars came to school barefoot today."

The school committee may visit on the last day of the term, but visits to school by parents, relatives, or other residents are not uncommon: one day a couple visit in the morning and two women in the afternoon, her soon-to-be husband visits with Steve Andrews, and another time her brother Willie McKenzie.

By the time Jennie's niece comes to live with her in 1897 and her diary again has occasion to mention matters relating to school, much has changed. The school year now follows the calendar familiar to us, with a two-week vacation at Christmas and New Year's, classes resuming in early January, and ending for the summer in mid-to-late June. Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays are observed as school holidays in 1899 and following years, and school also is closed on Election Day 1902, on Arbor

Day, and for teachers' exams in 1904. (Arbor Day, designated by state law in 1888, was taken most seriously, and the County Superintendent reported the number of trees planted in the area under his supervision - typically one or two per district - in his annual report to the state).

Jennie takes in teachers as boarders during the years that Isabel is with her, some of them during the school week only if their homes are close enough for them to go home on weekends such as Miss Dixon (or Dickson) from Margaretville, her boarder in 1903.

At a time when not many young people attend high school, Isabel is admitted to high school at Roxbury in 1901 after taking an exam. She boards for the week in Roxbury, traveling there by train Monday mornings and returning Fridays after school.

One Monday "Isabel and Grace (Doland) do not go to school today the train did not get here from below till 12:30" due to a storm. Another time the girls stay over on a Friday to attend a debate. Isabel takes Regents exams in Margaretville after the first term of her freshman year, in January 1902, and again in January 1904 and 1905 and in March 1903 and 1904. In June 1905 she passes exams in physics, Caesar, and second-year French, needed for graduation. She keeps the proof of these achievements the rest of her life.

Jennie's interest in schools does not end when her niece graduates. Several years later she reports on the school picnic at Miss Franks' school (the teacher was a fellow member of the Larkin club) and on the last day of the Halcottsville school in 1914 she notes who is to teach at various area schools the following September. A snow day during the week still is made up on Saturday in 1915 though state law by this time prohibits school sessions on Saturdays. She notes graduations at Halcottsville and Margaretville schools.

Jennie reports on other young people from the area going away for education past the eighth grade. In 1881 Albert Hohnbeck leaves for Eastman's College in Poughkeepsie. Her niece Jessie in 1904 boards in Stamford to go to school, and a young man is at school in Delhi in 1916. Elsie Doland attends school in Norwich, and later business school in Bayonne, NJ, in 1910 to 1912.

A Teacher's Life

When Jennie "took the cars" from Roxbury to Halcottsville on April 30, 1877, to begin the school term, Warren Scudder meets her at the depot, and she spends the night with his family. (The 1869 Beers Atlas shows the W.W. Scudder residence not far from the Bragg Hollow school). The next three nights it was three other homes (the families of Ella Chapman, Fanny, and Willard Hubbell) until she returns to Scudders Friday evening. This is a not atypical week. Jennie might have dinner at one pupil's home, then go home with another to spend the night. On a Friday in June, e.g., she "went down to Sallys at noon went to Scudders at night stayed till after supper and came to Sallys and stayed all night." On a winter day she "Got up at 6 at More's went to Halcottsville on the cars walked from Depot to school stopped to R Sanfords and ate breakfast." It is not until nearly two months into the term that she men-

tions going home with the same child two days in a row.

The first week of the 1878 summer school Jennie spends nights or has meals with the Morse, John Redmond, Nathan Jenkins, Wesley Scudder, John Keator, C.W. Keator, and Daniel Keator families.

Spending the night at someone's home can mean sharing a bed with another woman or girl, as when she "slept with Kate," "slept with Fannie," "slept with Mate," "slept with Elda," or "slept with Carrie Chamberlain" while at Scudders. The girl with whom Jennie shares a bed may be one of her students.

A clue as to where Jennie keeps her belongings may be in the notation "went (at noon) to get a satchel to take my things" (to the family where she is to spend the three-week summer break). When the term ends, she packs her trunk at Scudders. Packing her trunk remains an end-of-term activity.

Four years later the pattern has not changed, and Jennie continues to eat her noon meal and spend the nights with a succession of different families. This continues after her marriage to Will Hewitt for several weeks more, though sometimes her husband is able to join her.

The 1876 Delhi Teacher's Institute (which Jennie attended) passed a resolution
"(t)hat the common practice of boarding around should be abolished
from the fact that it not only endangers the teacher's health, but
prohibits them from that preparation of the lessons which is
important for them to have in order to teach successfully."

The annual report required from each school district by the state continues to ask "Did your teacher board around the district?" and credits the district with \$3 per night towards the local contribution. The practice thus neatly spread the burden among the residents, providing little incentive for change, which did not occur until the 1890s. By the early 1900s, when Jennie takes in a teacher as boarder, teachers pay for their own housing and remain in one place.

What prohibited teachers of that earlier day from proper lesson preparation may also be the amount of work they performed at each home where they stay. When Jennie boards with various families during her teaching career, she not only shares their meals but household tasks as well. "Got up and rinsed my clothes up before breakfast, ironed 3 aprons and then went to school" refers to taking care of her own clothes. But she also "got up at 5 milked 10 cows and got breakfast went to school," "done Jane's churning this morning," "helped ... sew carpet rags in the evening," or helps wash, make beds or sweep before heading out or with milking at night. She paints the kitchen where she spends the night. On a Saturday she "helped milk, did not wash the water was stopped running to the dore." Helping out with whatever needs doing is common practice for visitors, and teacher is expected to do so wherever she finds herself.

It is up to Jennie to do what is needed whether the hosts are at home or not. "Went to Rileys after school scimed a pan of milk got supper and milked 6 cows ... Rileys folks were gone." Or "went to Roberts at night Mrs R was not at home."

Cleaning the schoolhouse is part of the teacher's job, and she may dismiss school early to do so. In the winter she builds a fire; on a summer Saturday she stops by the school to water the flowers.

Churches

Much of community life centers around the two congregations in Halcottsville, Old Style Baptist and Methodist Episcopal. When the diary mentions church, it is not always clear which of the two is referred to. On many a Sunday Jennie attends services twice. She even hears Elder Curry preach in the “forenoon, afternoon, and evening” on a Sunday in October 1901. Besides hearing a favorite preacher, the purpose could be to compare various preachers’ sermons, whether in style or in content, or to appreciate fine points of doctrine or of scriptural interpretation.

It is not until the 1890s that both denominations have buildings of their own in Halcottsville. Prior to that time meetings are generally held at a schoolhouse, separation of church and state being a somewhat looser concept in the 19th century than today.

In 1877 Jennie records attending Sunday services and weekday meetings in Roxbury, Plattekill, Bragg Hollow, Scrubville, Kellys Corner, and at unspecified school houses, sometimes going with a group. She takes the train to Moersville (Grand Gorge) at least once to attend a camp meeting the following year. She reports the first instance of attending meeting twice on Sunday, once in Bragg Hollow, later at Kellys Corner, in December 1879. Her church attendance, as reported in the diary, increases in 1881 to over 30 occasions with continuing Sunday and weekday meetings at the school house, but also once or twice at Batavia. Will Hewitt’s family connections may be a factor. She teaches at Pink Street that year, and “upper church” may be a reference to Batavia and “the corner” to Kellys Corner. There are occasions of attending Presbyterian services as well.

On the Sunday following their wedding Jennie and Will attend meeting at the Yellow meeting house in Roxbury. They attend meetings at Pink Street school, Kellys Corner, and Hubbell Hall, Bragg Hollow. Sometimes it is the Methodists in the morning and the Baptists in the afternoon. (Hubbell Hall is a multipurpose building that also saw many dances and parties).

One or both Hewitts generally attend the Baptist yearly meetings for at least one day. Jennie’s diary notes these in January of each year beginning in 1883 and continuing intermittently until 1909, and also the fall yearly meetings, generally in September but later in November, from 1883 to 1924. These are generally held at Batavia or at the Yellow Church.

April 19, 1886 sees the groundbreaking for the Baptist church in Halcottsville, the church of Will’s uncle, Elder Isaac Hewitt. Will helps with the masonry and plastering, while Jennie makes seat cushions. But the Hewitts still occasionally attend the competing Yellow Church in 1892, presided over by Elder Hubbell, and Jennie occasionally does so after Will’s death. Jennie notes Elder Hewitt’s frequent travels to Gilboa or Olive as well as to New York to preach. Church members also travel some distance for services, perhaps to hear a particular preacher. One day Jennie and Will intend going to Clovesville for a weekday meeting, but “then it rained and we stayed home.” Others travel to Olive to what may be a yearly meeting for two or more days. One Sunday Jennie remarks that “a load” went to Arkville.

It seems that both Jennie’s husbands are more faithful churchgoers than she. This is true of Will

Hewitt during the years 1892-94, when she frequently stays home while he goes off to church, though sometimes she does go to meeting with him or "went over to sabbath school this afternoon." She records attending church once a month or more in 1887, but the next year she is incapacitated and only gets there four times.

After Will's death Jennie sometimes attends both Baptist and Methodist services on the same Sunday, one in the morning, the other in the afternoon or evening, a pattern that continues for many years. But on May 1, 1904 she observes that it is the first time at church since the previous August (she had surgery in fall 1903 in New York). Her church contributions are \$1.90 between July and December that year. Reasons for non-attendance are stormy weather or "it rained too hard." On other occasions she expresses concern that the church will be too cold ("afraid they would not have a fire" and "The church always seems so cold in the forenoon"). More such explanations follow in subsequent years, e.g. "I did not go to church as it is wet."

Mention of Children's Day may indicate that Jennie's niece Isabel attends this function at the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1901 14-year-old Isabel on many Sundays goes to church or prayer meeting without her aunt, but Jennie also steps up her church attendance. Isabel later becomes a member of the Epworth League, attending sessions for an entire week in 1904. That Jennie's diary records the dates for the Sunday school picnic in 1902 and 1904 and Children's Day and Sunday school teachers meetings in 1903 may indicate her or teen-age Isabel's involvement in these activities. But she continues noting Children's Day, an "Easter entertainment by the children," and the "Annual Sunday school excursion to Kingston" long after Isabel marries and moves away.

Shortly after her marriage to David Doland Jennie is "alone this evening. D has gone to church," but she did go with him on two Sundays following their wedding. She attends more frequently in summer than winter and continues with the Baptist as well as her husband's Methodist congregation. She reports revival meetings at the Methodist Episcopal Church in January 1903 and again in 1906 and an Institute in 1910 at the same church.

Sunday services can be canceled for a variety of reasons. When the minister attends a conference (April of many years), takes an exam, conducts a funeral elsewhere, is ill, or on vacation (beginning in 1916), he apparently is not expected to provide a substitute. More often, bad weather, such as severe flooding, heavy rain, stormy weather, ice ("too icy to get in church"), or bad roads are reasons for cancellation. Sometimes no cause is cited.

Jennie reports David Doland "collecting church money" or "collecting salary for the minister" on many occasions between 1909 and 1928. A page in the 1909 diary lists what "D. Doland paid for church expenses and pastor's salary in 1908 and 1909." The \$23.65 total shows \$13 for salary over nearly a year's time, half the remainder going for interest on the parsonage (\$5), and the rest for ice cream, various parties and suppers, and superintendent's salary. Jennie's record of the amounts paid is sporadic at best, and undoubtedly incomplete. From small amounts such as the foregoing or \$19.50 in 1912, the

figures increase to \$40 in 1916, \$50 in 1923, \$100 in 1925. In March 1927 Doland paid Rev. G.F. Wells \$75 "which pays up in full," a new minister arriving a month later. But despite his office Doland also might attend the Methodist church in the morning, the Baptist service in the afternoon or both Dolands attend the Baptist meeting in the morning and the Methodist one in the afternoon. His duties included shoveling "some" on a snowy January morning.

In 1915 there is a Thanksgiving service, and the elder and his wife are guests of the Dolands afterwards. They entertain the minister at dinner earlier, and do so again despite the fact that there is many a Sunday, day or evening, in the 1920s when Jennie's husband attends church and she does not. On one occasion in 1925, in fact, there is "no one to church but David and the minister." With her husband so actively involved, she does, however, note church events, even those she does not attend, e.g. a guest sermon by the Presbyterian minister or by the district superintendent visiting for a quarterly conference.

With her first husband Jennie attends temperance lectures on more than one occasion ("We went to a temperance lecture to the church"), and Isabel later also attends with other young people. In 1903, as a widow, Jennie takes in a local performance of the temperance play "Ten Nights in a Barroom."

Church Socials

Raising money for church provides many occasions for the community to get together for a meal or an evening of entertainment. Jennie and Will attend an "entertainment at the school for the benefit of the church," but she tells of many more such occasions in her widowhood. These include a church social, a "salary party" for the Methodist Church, a turkey supper at a private home for the minister's salary, a chicken supper, and not long thereafter a surprise party at the home of the minister who is about to leave. Soon there is a party in the "new parsonage," an oyster supper, another church party, chicken supper, and dances. A church party ends that busy year. 1903 sees more church parties, often hosted in private homes as well as "an entertainment" at the Methodist church and an August church picnic. On the Fourth Isabel is "all day and night in the ice cream parlor they were selling for the church." Socials in 1904 include a rabbit supper at church, an ice cream social ("went down to the hall and had a dish of ice cream. The church people are selling it"), a church party at Arkville, a joint picnic of the Arkville and Halcottsville churches at George Gould's in Drybrook. November's chicken supper nets nearly \$10. The Junior League, a church organization for young men, holds a supper on a weekday night in 1906 at Hubbells Hall.

Jennie on occasion records her contributions to "sociables," e.g. \$2 for three occasions in 1900, \$1 "paid on salary" the same year and also in 1903, 50¢ for a church party in 1902, 25¢ each the same year for an oyster supper and a dinner, 35¢ in 1904 for a church supper.

A sugar party for the children one year, and a round of church suppers, ice cream socials, chicken suppers, parties at the parsonage and at various homes, rummage sales, and salary parties continue over the next several years, as Jennie records them. The generally monthly affairs on occasion are

visited by "a load from Margaretville" and yield up to \$20. 1915 fundraisers include a Sunday school oyster supper, "the proceeds to get singing books," and a New Year's Eve box social at a private home yielding \$26.65. The following year there are several parties for young people. For 1916 Jennie reports the funds realized at seven functions totaling \$140. A banquet in March 1917 clears only \$4.90 from a gross of \$62. A chicken pie supper the day after Thanksgiving 1918 takes in \$36.

The roster of suppers and sales continues as long as the diary.

In her later years the ladies aid society (presumably at the Methodist Church) becomes increasingly important in Jennie's life if we can judge from her diaries, which report sometimes weekly meetings and activities. In 1881 she noted the group's organization but it is only 20 years later that she begins to record its meetings, sewing get-togethers, quilting, suppers, fairs, picnics at Lake Switzerland), bake sales and ice cream socials, Christmas fairs, and sleigh rides at Pine Hill. In 1912 she mentions the ladies aid on 23 different occasions. She does not attend all and does not accompany "some of the ladies (who) went to Arena to Ladies Aid" on a day in September 1914. There are supper parties at Mrs. Gaul's and at Mrs. Geo. Kellys. Jennie hosts meetings approximately once a year, including a meeting to plan an oyster supper in 1922, and she lists what she contributes to bake sales. In 1921 the Meads host a "pink tea" ("a formal tea party of deliberately genteel nature," as a contemporary dictionary calls it) for the church. Ice cream and berries take in \$9.90 in 1903, a bake sale clears \$13.60 in 1912, another in 1914 only \$6.57. The ladies aid's functions also include cleaning the church for the new minister in April 1906, and serving lunch at the Farmers Institute in December 1911 which yields nearly \$9. Hosts for ladies aid meetings in 1909 include Mrs. Gaul, Mrs. J.C. Miller, and Mrs. Will Hubbell.

Social Life

Church socials are only one aspect of the community's social and cultural life. Dances, lectures, "entertainments," and parties take place frequently. Jennie's diary notes a great many, whether she attends or not.

Jennie leads an active social life in her years as a single teacher. The names of many different men appear in the diary, one or another visiting her almost daily in her early weeks at the school. A Saturday outing is to Bataviakill, where "the boys stayed till near one o'clock and we had a skipping time." On the last day of school, July 3, 1877, she "let out school at 3 ...went to Roxbury on the train went to a dance at night ... went to bed between 3 and 4 at the Hotel." That was only the beginning of a busy and exhausting social weekend for on the Fourth she "went to Clovesville to a dance with Jake Hasbrock" (the 1880 Census shows Jacob Hasbrouck living near Wheeler and Mary Ann Hewitt) and the next day "came from Griffin corners on the train ... went to bed at 6." During her three-week break from school that summer she goes to various events with several different men. That fall "Willard and I went to Margaretville at night got home at 9," and there are dances on week nights. Many of the parties last until the wee hours and even later: "had a good time got home between 4 and 6," "went ... to Scudders did not get home till 4 in the morning." She goes to other dances and returns from one at New Kingston

at 3 on a school night, and enjoys others on the day after Christmas and on New Year's Eve the same year.

There is more of the same the following year: "went to a party ... with Joseph Scudder got home half past 4," "Achsah Morse and I sat up went to bed half past 4 this morning" (on a school day), and there is correspondence with John Scott. On a Monday she "had gone to Margaretville DeWitt and George Walker were there and stayed all night." The next day "DeWitt and George ... called to school." While at her parents' home between school terms "we had a party tonight - had a good time they stayed till 4 and 5." The next day she "got up most 10 ... after dinner... went to bed and slept one hour and a half." More late parties take place during the following two weeks.

The pace of party-going falls off in subsequent years, with fewer late nights reported, though a few weeks before her wedding she attends "a party at Beardslee's and went to bed between 1 and 2."

In Jennie's early married life there are quite a few parties or "sociables" at private homes, even an occasional night of partying till the wee hours or of spending the night. Theron (Hewitt) travels to Moresville (Grand Gorge) to a dance. Jennie and her husband travel to Roxbury "to the drill. I did not join it." Jennie entertains several couples at dinner at least once during her first marriage.

Dances take place on Friday nights or weekday nights either at private homes or later at various halls. Willard Hubbell, George Hubbell, and Alice Williams are among the hosts. Hubbell's Hall is first mentioned in 1889, the Grange in 1893, Red Rose Hall in 1902, but many times it is simply "the hall" or "the hotel." In the decades after 1900 Golden Seal (an insurance company doubling as a social and fraternal organization) and Maccabees (a Methodist men's group) hold dances (one also a clambake), as do the Firemen and the Red Cross. During her widowhood Jennie records an expense of 75¢ for "dinner to hotel," and her dinner guests during this period on at least one occasion spend the night at Smith's hotel. Morse's hall is the site of a Grange dance in 1919, and two couples go to "one of John Morse's dances" the following year.

Parties at private homes are attended by as many as 30 or 100 people and last until 2 or 3 a.m. They sometimes include an "entertainment." The occasion for a party may be a birthday or anniversary, a surprise party, or farewell parties for folks moving away (in one case only to Grand Gorge) or for others off to Florida for the winter.

Jennie's entertaining when she is in her 60s includes ladies' dinner parties, card parties at Mrs. Gaul's, Mrs. H.D. Hewitt's, and Mrs. George Hubbell's, Red Cross teas, and a turkey supper at Mrs. H.D.'s.

Organizations

Many organizations in addition to those already mentioned serve the varied interests and needs of the community. A Waffle club meets frequently in 1916. Three of those meetings are at Jennie's home, one of those for supper, or they "played here" or "We the club met at Mrs. H.D. this eve." Most likely, the ladies got together to share a meal of perhaps creamed chicken on waffles.

The “young folks” organize a literary club at the schoolhouse” in 1903, and Jennie attends a meeting. Her 1912 diary contains a page recording the books taken out by various members of the book club for which she perhaps serves as librarian. (Women’s clubs, many devoted to self-improvement and later to civic improvement, sprang up by the thousands around the turn of the 20th century).

The Rebekah society, the women’s counterpart to the male Odd Fellows, has a party at a private home in April 1916. Except for mention of one meeting, the Grange appears in Jennie’s diary chiefly when the Grange Hall is the site of various community social occasions.

Singing school is one of the ways young people meet and socialize. Jennie goes to singing school weekly for a period, at least one time attending with Christopher Woolheater. During her first marriage Will frequently attends singing school at George Kelly’s, with Jennie accompanying him on occasion. On a night when Will is off on a peddling trip, the Ed Scudders, with whom she stays, go to singing school in Halcottsville. When the singing school needs funds, a “necktie party” is held to raise money. A 1899 Young Folks’ Encyclopedia of Games and Sports (by John D. Champlin) gives these directions:

“Necktie party, a young people’s entertainment, at which each girl wears a colored apron, and provides a necktie also of the same material. The neckties are placed in a room by themselves, and each boy, as he enters, must choose one and put it on. The girl who wears the corresponding apron is under his special charge for the evening. He must see that she enjoys herself, take her in to supper, and see that she reaches home in safety. Of course, the same number of boys and girls should be invited.”

Most frequently mentioned in the diary are Larkin soap clubs. Jennie reports meetings from 1906 on and continuing to the last year of her diary. Some years the club meets monthly or even more frequently. Besides giving women an opportunity to order various household items, including furniture, and to receive premiums, the club serves a social function as well. One day in February 1910 “we made out the Larkin’s order. Miss Franks has the Premium this time.” Two weeks later, on a Saturday, “The Larkins soap club went to Miss Franks house in Dunraven for a sleigh ride and took dinner with her.” (Franks was a teacher). A list of “premiums received” in the 1914 diary contains the names of J. Doland, B. Dimmick, Isabelle Scudder, and Mrs. Amos Sanford. In 1923 Jennie reports receiving her “Larkin stuff with premium which is two pair outing blankets.” Payments labeled “Larkins” are first noted in 1912 (65¢), where there is also an outlay of 25¢ for soap.

Entertainment

The various halls and the school serve as venues for visiting lecturers and performers. Halcottsville residents could hear a lecture about Russia by an immigrant from there in 1900, another by “a lady from the Oneonta normal,” a political speech, or a lecture on the Panama Canal. Pictures of the Panama exposition in 1915 are displayed at one of the churches.

The Margaretville band plays at Hubbell’s Hall in 1888. Performances by traveling troupes that

come to the area include a Kickapoo Indian and other medicine shows, glass blowers, "Black Heifer" entertainment (described by the Catskill Mountain News as a "rural farce comedy"), the Jubilee Singers (a group from Tuskegee that sang spirituals) at Roxbury, minstrels, a "niger" show, a performance of "Ten Nights in a Barroom." Additional performances are not further identified such as a show at Hubbell's, performers from Kingston at Brink's store, "entertainment at the hall" and another at the Grange, another "show at the hall," a show and dance.

Live music declines as recorded music becomes available in the 1890s. Later volumes of the diary tell of Graphophone and phonograph entertainments beginning in 1900. Sometimes Mr. Snyder from Kingston comes to perform, other times folks go to a performance at Griffin Corners. (The Graphophone was an early type of phonograph, associated with Alexander Graham Bell).

Movies ("picture show") are shown beginning in 1908 "at the opera house" and also at church. The circus, complete with parade, comes to town in 1909 (12 years earlier people traveled to Kingston to see the circus).

Fundraisers for unspecified organizations include a benefit concert in 1903, a "talent play" in Kelly's hall that yields \$162 in two nights in 1924, an oyster supper at the hall for the benefit of the Grange the same year, and a supper at Grange Hall for the ball team in 1927. In 1914 fire departments get together for a tournament at Griffin Corners. In 1916 Jennie bakes a cake for the firemen's supper. A community supper attended by over 200 is held at the Grange hall in February 1925, and there are other suppers at "the hall" and many ice cream and strawberry shortcake festivals.

The railroad makes it possible for people to attend shows in Margaretville or Stamford and further afield in Kingston and later Oneonta. Buffalo Bill Shows in Kingston or in Oneonta are a major attraction. In 1901 Jennie travels to Oneonta for the fair and attends the theater. "Excursions" take place frequently to Kingston, to Kaaterskill, to New York ("the New York excursion") and Coney Island, and to watch the building of the Ashokan Dam in the 1910s.

Holidays

Holiday observances evolve considerably over the 50-year span of Jennie's diary. Christmas goes from being a school day in 1877 to an occasion for shopping, presents, and sending and receiving cards by the mid-1920s. Thanksgiving, too, changes from occasional observance to an elaborate occasion, with turkey the mainstay of the meal. It becomes a school holiday here sometime between 1885, when Jennie teaches on Thursday, November 26th, and 1898, when Jennie's 12-year-old niece is home from school. 1887 is the first year that Jennie mentions special holiday foods - duck for Christmas dinner, turkey for Thanksgiving. Jennie does not always make note of the occurrence of Thanksgiving in the early years of her diary, and the holiday is not noted in the earlier printed diaries. (It became a national holiday in 1863). In 1887 and 1889 Jennie and her husband eat turkey. In 1888 they are in New York, and the day passes without mention. In 1892 it is "chicken for dinner and oysters for supper," and

chicken is again on the menu in 1898. The meal reverts to turkey for several years after that, but in 1909 the Dolands are alone and eat spare rib on Thanksgiving. The family eats alone other years as well, e.g. in 1903, when she and Isabel "took our Thanksgiving dinner alone." In 1905, Doland, her husband of about a month - but not Jennie - attends a Thanksgiving sermon. They have George, Loren and Monroe Hubbell to dinner in 1912, are alone in 1914, but in 1917 travel to Oneonta to spend the holiday with Doland's recently married daughter Grace Butler. "All went to the theater (in the) afternoon, (some) to the movies at night." These meals are the first that have a familiar ring for a present-day reader. Sharing a meal with relatives and friends was standard in previous decades, as has been noted. Thanksgiving dinner did not stand out in that regard as it does today, so perhaps there was no need for the emphasis we now place on being with a large crowd. In 1921 there is nothing but a weather report, but in 1924 four people eat at Mary Van Akin's house, and other times in the 1920s the Dolands take their holiday meal at the home of Isabel and Hewitt Scudder with a crowd of up to 16 feasting on a turkey dinner.

"Xmas" is a frequent usage in Jennie's diary ("X" is "Ch" in the Greek alphabet). In 1877, after dismissing school, she attends a celebration with several others and "spent a pleasant Christmas night." The next year school is in session in the morning only. Afterwards Jennie "went to Roberts after school" and is with five others "at Harvie Hubbell's ... spent a pleasant Christmas night got home at one o'clock." In 1881 she attends meeting with Will Hewitt. There is no school the next year, and she mentions a party at David Sanford's. Both Christmas and New Year's pass without notice in 1883. In 1884, while living with her husband's aunt and uncle, she and her husband attended church in Kellys Corner Christmas morning as well as an evening meeting, but Jennie states she is doing "housework most all day." In 1885 Christmas Eve is the last day of the school term, and there is "a show at the hall." In 1887, with Christmas Day falling on a Sunday, folks go sleighing after church and dinner. Jennie and her husband are alone for the holiday in 1893 and 1894. Chicken is the Christmas menu in 1893 and on several subsequent Christmas Days.

After her first husband's death Jennie's tenants Mr. and Mrs. Bush might join her for Christmas dinner, but she also goes visiting afterwards with David Doland or entertains him and his daughters and brother-in-law Root Hull at dinner. She and Doland sometimes spend the evening with Dr. and Mrs. Gaul. Isabel, Hewitt, and Root come to Christmas dinner in 1906. In 1912 Jennie's Christmas Eve visitors "went home to do chores and came back for the Xmas tree," but on Christmas Day there was "no one here." In subsequent years Jennie sometimes has a large group to dinner (in 1915 & 1925), other times only one of her stepdaughters, or she and her husband share the meal with her niece and her family (1917).

We first read of "Going to a Christmas tree" - evidently a community one - in 1881 in Batavia, presumably at the Old Style Baptist church. In 1885 Jennie and her husband go "to see the Christmas tree but there was such a crowd we could not get in." There is a "Christmas Tree and dance to Hubbells" Christmas Eve 1887, a Christmas tree in the hall in 1897. Almost each year Jennie and her husband or

niece “went to the Christmas tree,” at church or elsewhere, or are “getting ready for the Xmas tree.” Typically “they had the Christmas tree” on Christmas Eve, but occasionally on the day or several days before or even on the day after Christmas, as in 1918. Jennie’s niece Isabel goes “to the Xmas tree up in the district above” one year and to Kellys Corner to a Christmas tree in the schoolhouse another time. The day before the women are busy “popping corn and preparing for the Christmas tree.” The first mention of Santa Claus is when “Luther Hulbert was Santy” in 1908. After she marries David Doland, Jennie may trim a tree at home on Christmas Eve before attending church in the evening, and she tells of one in the home of Will Hubbell in 1911. In 1916 “Christmas tree doings” are at Bussy’s hall with the Margaretville orchestra playing, and Jennie worries about the snow and wind making for a “rough night.” The following year the Christmas tree is at the church.

Jennie’s remark, in 1901, that they “went to the Christmas tree tonight and got lots of presents” is the first mention of exchanging presents. Her expenses for Christmas presents (handkerchiefs, mittens, ties, a bracelet) that year are \$6..22. They are \$1.12 in 1904, \$6.35 in 1905. The presents generally are articles of clothing and other useful items. She lists both the presents she receives, sometimes gifts of material, and the ones she gives, sometimes aprons made by her. A flashlight, given the Dolands in 1918 by David’s daughter Elsie, is a novel gift in a year when the other gifts are an apron, glasses of jelly and grape conserve, a book, cigars, a calendar, and a silk handbag.

Christmas observance soon becomes more intense. Shopping becomes a concern in 1909, and “getting things ready” in 1915. In 1924 “I went to the stores this PM looking over the Xmas goods and buying some.”

Jennie sends out eight or ten Thanksgiving and Christmas postals in 1909, five years before Hallmark cards are marketed, and the numbers increase over the years. “Sending postals” was part of “getting things ready for Xmas.” She sends three Easter cards in 1919 and expresses satisfaction at getting “lots of cards,” including two from California and Miami, at Christmas 1927.

New Year’s Eve is not always an occasion for merriment. In 1878 school is closed, and there is a dance at Margaretville, where she “had a good time.” But the next year the diary simply reports “so ends the old year.” New Year’s Eve is just another day in 1883, and just another work day in 1884, when husband Will “went up the road peddling” overnight. It is the same two years later, when he “sat to Kellys Corner today to take taxes.” The following year the couple is at a party till 2 a.m. on the evening before, followed by a turkey dinner at Erony Hewitt’s. Jennie’s accident in 1888 makes party-going of little interest, and soon New Year’s Eve is just another day’s sewing for her. The entry for 1892 reads, in its entirety, “Weather milder.” Jennie goes to a “conundrum social” at Ed Griffin’s on New Year’s Eve 1902 (see explanation under “Leisuretime”). The young married couple, Isabel and Hewitt Scudder, host a large crowd on New Year’s Eve 1911, including the husband’s parents and the Dolands. There is a party New Year’s Day 1913, but a year later “we took our dinner alone had chicken.” A box social marks the end of the year 1915. “So ends the old year” is the refrain again in 1926, echoing remarks of almost 50

years earlier.

Halloween is first mentioned when “the young folks have a Halloween social at the hall” in 1915. A “Halloween social in Grange Hall for the benefit of the church” takes place in 1925.

As for patriotic holidays, the first mention of “Decoration Day” in Jennie’s diary occurs in 1921. In the 1880s it was a school day as usual. Washington’s Birthday is observed as a school holiday in 1901, but also not mentioned in earlier years. The Fourth of July is celebrated in style, with a celebration at Margaretville in 1886, fireworks and a dance in 1898, though in 1882 and 1883 school is in session. In 1915 Doland goes to Grand Gorge to celebrate.

Civic and Political Affairs

Jennie notes many national events, including when women’s suffrage “gained the day in this state” on November 6, 1917. (The Nineteenth Amendment was still wending its way through Congress). Whether she takes advantage of having the vote is not recorded, nor is passage of the amendment in August 1920 or of her voting in school elections (a right gained by New York women in 1880). Males-only participation in civic affairs is the norm, as is eminently clear from diary entries such as “the men went to school meeting at night,” “Father went to Hobart with Wesley to Town meeting,” or “the men all went to town meeting.” (Prior to 1903 Town of Middletown office holders were chosen each year at a Town Meeting of all qualified voters in early February. Biennial local elections at four polling places in November began that year).

Will Hewitt’s year-long term as town tax collector is described above, as is the method of tax collection.

More than once Jennie comments that it is “a beautiful day for election” and occasionally tells the local election results, such as Hume Grant’s election to the school committee in 1881 or the names of all town officials in 1909. Jennie is elected librarian at the school committee meeting in August 1903, along with Abner Morse, trustee, and George Kelly, Collector.

1916 is the first time Jennie tells of going with her husband to hear a political speech. Isabel attended a political lecture as a high school student at Roxbury over a decade earlier. Though Jennie mentions political speeches at “the hall” and at Red Rose Hall and notes a “Republican meeting to the Hall,” she makes no mention of Governor (and Vice-Presidential candidate) Theodore Roosevelt’s speech at Arkville on October 22, 1900. The stop was part of a train tour from Kingston to Oneonta which made a point of traveling at slow speed past stations - such as Halcottsville - where it did not stop.

“The papers say this morning that the United States have declaired war on Germany,” notes Jennie on April 6, 1917, and the rest of that year and the following she reports on several young men going into the service: “Loren Hubbell went to Delhi this P.M. to join the soldier boys in camp tomorrow. Monroe has to go for examination tomorrow.” “Registration day for all men from 18 to 45” is noted in September 1918. There are rumors of an armistice on November 7, but on the 11th “Everybody most is celebrating. I guess it is a sure thing this time the Germans have given up.”

The diary marks the assassinations of Presidents Garfield and McKinley, the deaths of the widow of President Grant, Woodrow Wilson's first wife, the philanthropist Russell Sage, and President Wilson as well as President Harding's funeral. President Theodore Roosevelt's 1919 death is noted among those of Jennie's Halcottsville neighbors. Jennie also includes a list of cabinet members in 1877, when she is teaching, and again in 1889, notes the election of Governor Charles Evans Hughes in 1906, and that Wilson's election in 1912 and 1916 was "a big democratic victory." She states that "Coolidge" is elected in 1924.

Legal Matters

Disputes that reach the courts find their way into Jennie's diary. She records men traveling to Delhi to attend court, and that "Scudder and Dimick had a lawsuit in town today" (in 1897). When another trial is held locally some years later she goes "down to the Hall and here the lawyers sum up."

Murders are of particular interest: "Harvey Montgomery shot his wife this morning he claims it was an accident," the diary records on March 30, 1901. The trial takes place in June 1902, with Charles O'Connor, an acquaintance of Jennie's, as the defendant's attorney. He visits her a few days after the trial concludes with a verdict of murder. In 1905 "Fritz's trial for the murder of Jonathan Gay" results in a sentence of 20 years. The following year "we read the Gillett trial in the newspapers, another murder conviction." In 1925 she records that "Mr. Shumaker of Prattsville was shot and killed" the previous day.

Closer to home, on July 28, 1914, "We are having an exciting time tonight. Lincoln Long was driving home near night and was shot by some Italians they fired five shots two of which struck him in the shoulder and it went through the foot it happened below Kellys Corner near the Elgin creamery." The next day "They caught one of the men but not the one that done the shooting they were together but one got away." The Dolands attend church when Long resumes his preaching in mid-September. A burglar takes \$44 cash and other items from Jennie's sister's house in Stamford while her father is staying there. And in 1912 the local hotel loses its liquor license, reported by Jennie without specifying the reason.

Deer were an endangered species in the 19th century. Munsell's 1880 History of Delaware County reported the rare sighting of one in Davenport in 1843. A 1886 Report to the State Forest Commission on the Catskill Preserve found that "Deer are rarely seen and much more rarely killed It is fair to suppose that there are not a dozen deer in this whole Catskill region." Taking one was a serious offense. In 1909 Jennie refers extensively to the "deer case," though without mentioning that her niece's husband, Hewitt Scudder, is one of three men convicted.

Transportation

The primary modes of travel until Jennie's later years are on foot or horseback, by wagon or sleigh, and by railroad. By whatever means, the people in her diaries get around a good deal.

Walking

Walking several miles is not out of the ordinary, and Jennie often walks to school and back or takes the train and walks from the depot. Will occasionally has to peddle on foot, even walking to Margaretville because road conditions are too bad to use his wagon. Young people walk to Kellys Corner and back for an overnight visit or for the day. A visitor in 1909 (Sam Doland from New Jersey) "started at 5, walked to Arkville and took the 6:54 for home." After her marriage Isabel on occasion walks from Bragg Hollow and later Kellys Corner to her aunt Jennie's in Halcottsville. In 1918 Isabel and her children "walked up to Mrs. Hubbells to get hats." (The distances in question are between two and five or more miles).

Places in other valleys and separated from Halcottsville by mountains are not considered hard to reach. To get to New Kingston, South Kortright or Township folks simply "walked over the mountain" or "went over across." (These mountains were once crossed by many roads; one hundred years later only one is in use year-round). Jennie does this many times getting to and from her parents' home in Township. Returning from there, she gets a ride "over the hill" to Roxbury, takes the train to Halcottsville, then continues "afoot to Keators." Two years later, to reach home, she walks from Roxbury to Ad More's for dinner, rides from there with Devoes "to the turn and walked home" (about one mile). Other times she got a ride to "KC" (Kellys Corner) and "took the cars to Roxbury then walked to Colby's and stayed the night" or "rode up to Jake Devoes and walked over the mountain to Zorns and stayed all night."

Horse and Wagon

Jennie's father's home is located a long way from the railroad, and he makes frequent trips to Hobart "with a tub of butter" or "with a load of wood" or to Stamford.

As a teacher Jennie is "carried to school", sometimes by her host of the previous night or by young men who perhaps are courting her. She "rode to school with DeWitt on a hay rigging," or John Scott comes after her in the afternoon after she trudged to school through knee-deep snow in the morning. She gets rides after school to go visiting. Hitching a ride on the milk wagon or sleigh is a way of getting around, and remains so for decades. In later years Isabel's husband Hewitt returns from delivering milk to the creamery and gives "Aunt Jen" a ride to visit her niece for the day.

Horses and wagons require much care and considerable expense. Will's and Jennie's expenses for hay and oats are \$33 in 1888, \$41 in 1889, more than they spend on food for themselves. References to Will buying and caring for his horse and "doctoring" it are frequent, and when he is not busy with the horse, the wagon may need frequent repairs, painting, and other maintenance. Getting a new horse is an occasion, and when Jennie's tenants, the Bushes, get a "new spotted horse" they take her "up the

road for a ride.”

When wagons and sleds are the means of transportation and roads only minimally hardened, road conditions are all-important. They determine whether a wagon or a sleigh should be used in the winter or whether it is too muddy to use either. It is not surprising that Jennie frequently reports in her diary that there is “fare wagoning” or “good sleighing” or that the roads are muddy (March-April 1894). Sometimes there is “snow enough for sledding but good wagoning too.” “Had a slippery time getting to school,” she states one February day in 1883. In 1921 she notes that the roads are clear enough for cars and wagons.

“Splendid” sleighing conditions may refer to sleighriding for fun, but may also have reference to travel by sleigh - or both: “Good sleighing on the hill but mud on the road.” Another time Jennie reports that “Vicky and Effie came over the hill with a sleigh,” but that the main roads are not suitable for sleighing. Sometimes sleighing is possible on icy roads even though there is not much snow.

Bicycling

Bicycling became popular in the 1890s, and a bicycle race is run on a Saturday in August 1894, where “Burt Hubbell came out best.” In 1899 the diary contains many references to cycling: the teacher uses her “wheel” to get to Roxbury, others bicycled to Kellys Corner, and Mary Miller “was down on her bicycle.” (Improved road maintenance and smoother roads were the result of demands made by bicyclists).

Railroad

The diary begins five years after the Ulster & Delaware Railroad reached Jennie’s part of Delaware County, affording its residents a degree of mobility never before experienced and helping to end rural isolation. “The cars” let people travel to work, to school, or to visit, in effect serving as public transport. Taking the train to travel one or a few local stops is a common practice.

Jennie arrives by train at Halcottsville for her 1877 summer school. Before starting winter school in the fall “James H took me to the Depot and I came to Roxbury,” where she spends the night, the next day getting a ride to “the top of the mountain.” After four days at home a neighbor takes her to Stamford, where the next morning she “took the seven o’clock train to Halcottsville, went up to R. Sanford’s and ate breakfast (and) began my winter school.”

On a Saturday Jennie “and Cynthia went to Margaretville on the morning train, had our picture taken, and came back on the night train.” She spends many Saturdays in Margaretville, even goes there on a school night with Willard, and later to a show with her husband, Will Hewitt. Stamford is another place to have a picture taken, to buy yard goods, or to see a show.

To spend a weekend in Roxbury, Jennie on a Friday “took the cars to Stratton Falls,” continuing the next day by milk wagon. Monday morning she takes the train to Kellys Corner and walks one-and-a-half miles to the Pink Street school.

The 1896 U&D schedule shows four trains traveling west from Halcottsville, five east to Rondout (Kingston). In 1908 there were eight westbound and nine eastbound and even a "local" traveling between Arkville and Oneonta (it took about two hours, with many stops). The ride from Halcottsville to Roxbury was 10 to 13 minutes, from Halcottsville to Kellys Corners three to four minutes. This makes possible an afternoon's trip to shop in Roxbury, to get a haircut or to visit, or an evening lecture or dance. One day in 1884, with her husband away on one of his peddling trips, Jennie takes the train to Roxbury, where her father is staying, to have dinner with him and her brother-in-law Root Hull.

Griffin Corners (Fleischmanns) is not too far to go to a dance or for a holiday excursion or for Sunday dinner (1926). Folks come for the day from Arkville, the name given by the railroad to Dean's Corners, or go there for the day or to a church social. It is another place where David Doland travels to get a haircut.

The first train of the day, at 6:05 am in 1896, is called the "milk train," an appellation that lasted well into the time that milk typically was transported by truck. In 1886 Root and Belle Hull come on the milk train to visit Jennie with their baby, and Will and Jennie take them back at night. Occasionally the milk train is delayed, as when there is a fire at the Hobart creamery in April 1916. With her second husband working at the creamery, the coming and going of this train is of obvious importance to Jennie.

The railroad only goes as far as Stamford in the 1870s and is not extended to Hobart until 1884 and completed to Oneonta in 1900. Halcottsville residents travel to Davenport or Cooperstown by wagon or stage coach from the nearest railroad station. In September 1881 Jennie gets to the Hobart Fair by taking the train to Stamford and the stage from there. Combining train with stage or wagon makes possible visits from Halcottsville to Halcott. It is possible to travel to South Kortright for a week's stay as soon as the tracks are extended that far or to take a day trip to Bloomville in 1909.

Will Hewitt uses the train for his business when he is off on a peddling trip of almost a week's duration to Stamford and Grand Gorge (Jennie still refers to it as Moresville) in the 1880s and 1890s.

When Jennie needs to take care of her sister Maggie McKenzie in Oneonta in June 1900, she takes the train to Stamford, where M.S. Wood takes her to East Davenport. There she can get a stage to Oneonta the next morning after spending the night at the hotel. The return trip three weeks later is accomplished in one day. Only a few weeks later her brother-in-law Root takes the first passenger train to Oneonta. The next year Isabel is able to travel to Oneonta on a weekday to see the Buffalo Bill show, returning at 8 pm. When it is time to visit the Oneonta Fair, Jennie previously took the train and spent the night, but in 1902 her visit to the Oneonta Fair is a day trip. Students at the Normal School at Oneonta (the forerunner of SUCO) can now take the train to come home for their Christmas vacation. In 1906 there was "a large crowd at the Oneonta fair today 47 from this station an excursion from Kingston 11 coaches jammed full." In the 1920s Jennie and her husband routinely spend a week or more in Oneonta, where David's older daughter and Jennie's sister live at various times. They take side trips to Norwich and elsewhere.

"The cars" become less and less of a novelty as the years go by, train lines are extended, and stages connect with trains to make many nearby points accessible by public transport. How ordinary train travel has become by the mid-1890s is shown by the fact that a woman comes by train to Jennie's for a fitting, and during the same period one of the men painting her house arrives by train, though apparently not daily.

Any news concerning rail travel is of absorbing interest. Jennie reports when the "cars has not got through ... the road is tore up by rain" and when a train is drifted in for two or more days (January 1888). The train is again stopped in March (during the "Blizzard of '88"). Going to Kellys Corner to see the high water that stopped the trains for two days is an outing for some women in December 1901. High water again rises over the Denver and Pink Street bridges in 1904. When Isabel attends high school in Roxbury she at least one time has to stay over because her train is delayed by snow.

By 1916 the number of trains out of Halcottsville is reduced to three in each direction, the private car beginning to replace "the cars."

Travel within New York and to Nearby States

In 1879 Jennie goes on an "excursion to New Burg," but Kingston is the place to go for entertainment and, less frequently, for work. Jennie repeatedly mentions day trips by various people to Kingston to visit, to a meeting, or to see Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

Jennie's boarder, Will Bush, takes a two-day trip to Kingston in 1901, perhaps to look for work. Later that year he and his wife make a trip of several days to Big Indian, then are off to Gilboa for about two weeks. They spend five weeks in Kingston in 1902. That year Jennie herself takes an overnight trip to Kingston with another woman. She tells of trips to Unadilla and Walton and of other men traveling to Oneonta and Kingston.

Addie White and Inez spend most of a week in Kingston on various occasions, and visits overnight or for several days by a family and individuals or on the way to New York City are also common. In June 1914 and 1915 Jennie refers to the "annual Sunday school excursion" to Kingston, possibly to Kingston Point Park, then a park at Rondout Landing. The Ashokan Dam is under construction in 1916 and a popular sightseeing destination. At least one outing there ends with dinner in Kingston. Trips to Hudson and Poughkeepsie are also reported. Even Hunter can be reached by train, when the line connecting the U&D Railroad at Phoenicia and Hunter is completed in 1897. Members of the local Baptist congregation travel repeatedly to Olive in the 1890s.

By 1905 the Delaware & Northern connects Arkville to East Branch, where a transfer to the Ontario & Western (O&W) provides service to Norwich. Jennie probably travels by train to spend a night in Union Grove in 1909. Walton is now more readily accessible by train and Jennie travels there, apparently continuing to Norwich three days later. The return from Walton is five hours. The Dolands make frequent trips to Norwich.

A round trip to Stamford costs \$1.26 in 1900. In 1904 Jennie spends \$10 for a mileage book, good for a given number of miles and for one year. She keeps track of how many miles are left in it when she lends the book out to various friends: "the milage was at 178 when Inez took it ... at 280 when Pall took it ...when Orra took the book at 378."

With the railroad bringing once distant places within reach, families move to Hobart, to Phoenicia, or to Oneonta. Traveling to Utica and Buffalo requires an overnight stay in Oneonta in 1901, which was still necessary ten years later.

1888 is the date of Jennie's first trip to New York City, to seek medical help. On November 20th Jennie and Will take the train to Rondout and the "Baldwin boat" from there overnight. For the return trip they embark at 3 p.m. and again spend the night on the boat, then return from Kingston by train. Ten years later there are one-day excursions - "a trip below" - to New York. People from "the city" begin to visit here. George and Inez spend a week in New York in 1902. Jennie again travels to New York for medical treatment in September 1903 for surgery, not returning until the end of October. In 1909 she mentions a "city woman... looking for rooms," and two years later someone from Kingston rents a house in Roxbury. Jennie's milliner friend routinely travels to New York to get her supplies. Young women travel on their own: "Sarah and Emily Scudder have ben below visiting for the last month ...". The back pages of Jennie's 1912 diary make note of the Hotel York ("a nice place to stop") and The St. George at 12th Street and Fifth Avenue ("this is where Mrs. Kelly and Amy stayed Sept. 1912").

The Dolands have New Jersey relatives, but they are not the only ones. "Mrs Corbin went to Newark this morning to spend the winter with her daughter," notes Jennie in September 1910 and does so again the following year. Others are reported spending two to three months in Washington, DC, and in Philadelphia in the 1910s and 1920s. Other local people travel to Asbury Park, Long Island, Massachusetts, and Mrs. Brink visits her parents in Middletown (Orange County) in 1901.

As Jennie gets to know the Dolands there are reports of many more trips to the New York area. In the early 1900s Grace and Elsie Doland spend three weeks with their New Jersey relatives. Their father spends a few days there, and in 1904 all three go for two or three weeks in the summer. An 11-year-old nephew returns to Paterson by himself after visiting the Dolands in Halcottsville. Jennie and her husband spend three weeks in New Jersey, going to the theater and movies and visiting various relations in fall 1909. This visit is repeated in 1911 and 1914 and perhaps other years, each time for three or more weeks. While in New Jersey, they travel by trolley and are taken around by automobile. When the New Jersey relatives come to visit they drive.

Jennie consults an eye specialist in Albany in June 1912, where travel for the day was already possible in 1898. (There is more about medical travel in the section on Health and Illness).

Distant Travel

The "cars" take people much further afield. Jennie's diaries carry addresses in various western

states, beginning with one in Arizona Territory in the 1881 diary and Montana and Florida addresses in 1887. She tells of "Frank Vermilya start(ing) for the West today" in 1877. Advertisements for "emigrant train ... for the West" and "Western lands for sale" had been a feature of Delaware County newspapers for some time.

Jennie's brother Charley moves to Illinois in 1879, returning during their mother's illness later that year. Her brother John moves to Florida in 1886, where the third brother, William, follows him. Her youngest sister, Julia, moves to Montana, but the other five sisters remain in New York, though one divides her time between New York and Florida and another dies young. Jennie is the only one who hardly ever leaves the state. She remains in correspondence with the absent siblings and records their visits.

Members of Jennie's family visit Montana and other western states at various times, and in 1910 there is mention that someone else "starts for Montana." Scott Clark, probably a nephew, lives in Detroit. A Halcottsville native, Victor Webb, became Superintendent of Schools in Little Rock, AR, and folks from his hometown visit there. In 1881 Mrs. Bookout and Mary come back from spending the winter in Michigan, and Burr Brockway travels to Kansas for a visit. There is cattle trading to Ohio by 1909.

Jennie's first husband was born in Michigan. Both correspond with his sister Mary Harris there and have Michigan visitors. They visit there for two-and-a-half months in the summer of 1896, as she notes in her diary a year later. It was Jennie's only trip out-of-state except for nearby Connecticut and New Jersey, and 21 years later she still marks its anniversary. As recorded by Will, they spend \$3 to travel to Kingston, \$29 from Kingston to Lansing, MI, plus \$3.50 for a sleeper and \$1 to stay in Lansing overnight. In addition to the sister, Will has two brothers and six nieces and nephews living in Michigan in 1899 according to the petition for probate of his will. Correspondence with the former in-laws and recording of deaths and addresses in Michigan continue for many years afterwards.

Others move west in the 20th century: "Floyd Humphrey and wife start for Los Angeles" in 1912, and another family moves to Oklahoma, having sold house and goods. A family moves to Virginia also after selling their household goods. Texas was the destination of four people leaving in 1926. But occasionally people also move back.

Others take pleasure trips. "Polly is going to take a western trip" in fall 1906, Elsie Doland in winter 1924 travels to Texas. The same year the Dolands entertain visitors from Akron. Weld and Angie Carroll return from California in March 1894. There are more trips to California in 1911 and 1912, and in 1921 the Dolands receive a card from H.D. Hewitt, who is spending the winter in California and returns via Michigan. By this time the automobile is the preferred means for travel.

Florida is a frequent destination. Jennie's brother John sends a crate of oranges one Christmastime and corresponds with his sister. In 1926 she records the address of McKenzie's Grocery in Miami and another address in Coral Gables. Family members visit the Florida brothers frequently.

Their unmarried sister Maggie begins to make annual winter visits there in the early 1900s, at first traveling by boat from New York to Jacksonville and from there by train to Miami. She often stays from November or late October to April or later. The trip takes four days in 1909, five days another year. In May 1915 she travels there again to bring back a gravely ill woman. In October 1915 "John, Maggie and the children" after a visit north take off for Kingston to take the night boat to New York and travel from there by sea, arriving in Miami after five days. Two years later John and William come from Miami by car, a trip of 13 days. Mary Grant, another sister, visits Miami in January 1918. Maggie sometimes travels by car with others from Cooperstown and Oneonta, taking six days to get to Daytona, where they stop for three days before continuing to Miami, or returns in late June, stopping in South Carolina on the way for a visit. A 1922 automobile trip to Florida, takes a week with stops in New Brunswick, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Jacksonville, and Daytona. The fall 1923 trip is made by car with Harvey & Margaret Andrus via Stroudsburg, Richmond, and Macon. They are on the road 9-1/2 days before getting "home." In 1925 Maggie comes back from Miami in three days, and her trip that fall also only takes two days from NY to Miami.

Two women from the Halcottsville area in 1919 "intend to go to Miami this fall for the winter are going to work for a Mrs. Rutherford."

The travel reports of people going to and coming back from Florida go on year after year with names, dates, travel plans, and intermediate stops. In 1916 Julia and Mrs. Davis even visit Cuba while there. On the return trip they plan stops in Washington, Philadelphia, and Boston. Theron and Leide (Hewitt) are "going south again this fall" in 1921. Jennie was the stay-at-home but kept relentless tabs on those who were able to travel.

Bus and Trolley Car

Jennie and her husband ride the trolley while in Oneonta for the 1905 fair. In 1923 the trolley is replaced by local bus service, and not much later bus transportation begins to replace trains in the mid-1920s. In 1926 Jennie reports Grace and her husband Arthur arriving from Oneonta by bus, and Maggie and Elsie and Isabel also take this new form of transportation there. The schedule printed in the Daily Star shows three buses in each direction between Oneonta and Kingston traveling by what is now Route 23 to Grand Gorge and from there via present routes 30 and 28. Passengers for Delhi have to change at Arkville since the Oneonta-to-Delhi route is still under construction. Icy roads could keep the buses from their runs, especially the route to Oneonta while the traffic to Kingston is able to get through.

Automobile

The first mention of this new form of transportation occurs in 1912, when Jennie reports that "folks went off on a trip with automobile" down the Hudson River valley. On their return three days later they take Jennie and David "for an Auto ride" to Margaretville and Arkville. It probably is their first. In June

she reports Earl B. purchasing a Buick. HD and Amy and Will Vermilyea go to a meeting in Gilboa by car, and "IMH is up from Margaretville with his Auto." In September 1914 "John Kelly and wife came to G.W. Kellys tonight in an auto. John lives in New York." By 1915 cars have become more commonplace, Jennie observing "lots of autos on the road" on a Sunday in February. There are at least five more occasions she recounts that year of herself, her family, or others getting rides to places like Hobart, Delhi, or closer by. When Jennie visits Isabel and her new baby in April 1916, she goes to Kellys Corner by train but gets a ride back. Though Jennie does not always mention the means of transportation, it seems likely that it is no longer necessary to specify that a "ride" means a car ride. When it is travel to a place along the railroad, such as Hobart, Margaretville, or Roxbury, Jennie does note whether it is by car or by train.

It is a one-day trip for Kellys to drive to Windham, Catskill and Kingston. Stamford and Margaretville are even more common destinations. Floyd Carkuff gets a new auto in 1916, and the New Jersey Dolands visit in their car. There is a lot of "going for a ride" in 1918 or the Jones family "driving down." The 1923 diary reports Andrew, Julia, and Charles and Ell back from a ride from Roxbury to Hunter and Phoenicia" and a few weeks later taking the Dolands "for a ride after supper."

It is news worth recording when visitors from Delhi return there by way of Andes in 1918. By train the way is through Stamford, and an alternate route is by way of New Kingston and Bovina.

In 1924 the Dolands have relatives come from Ohio in their Buick, stopping with them on their way to visit Midland Park, NJ. They take Jennie and David "for a ride ... most to Andes." Local people also give them rides, such as for a week's stay in Oneonta in 1924, where Julia and Sanford Morse go to bring Mrs. Morse home from the hospital. Hewitt and Isabel Scudder are able to travel from their home in Otsego County to Arena to spend a night with Elsie Doland in 1926.

Jennie and David even take a taxi when they visit his daughter Grace Butler in Oneonta in June 1920.

With more cars around, there are more accidents: In March 1915 Lew Gray is found dead, his car having gone over a bank near Grand Gorge, and in July that year a car turns over at Pine Hill. Other accidents Jennie reports that year are a collision with a wagon, and one of David's New Jersey relatives hurt in an accident at a railroad crossing.

Communications

Letters are the main means of communication for most of the period of Jennie's diary. For many years between 1903 and 1928 Jennie keeps a register of letters written and received in the volumes of her diary.

The Halcottsville post office moves from the Grange store to Griffin's store on November 30, 1897, and Jennie rents a post office box for 25¢ a month in 1905. Mail travels between Township and Halcottsville in one day, summoning Jennie there during her mother's illness. Sending a "postal" at the safe conclusion of a journey is expected once this new type of message is available in the early 1900s. 1918 is the first time we read of a "birthday postal," followed a few years later by a birth announcement card.

Telegraph lines follow the railroad and make for more immediate communication of news. Telegrams are used to notify relatives of the death of Burr Keeler in the Midwest the next or even the same day. Jennie receives a dispatch of a death in 1906 but also learns of deaths through the newspaper. Preacher Clark is summoned by telegraph to conduct a funeral at Shokan.

Jennie on several occasions notes expenditures for newspapers, and she is an early subscriber to the Catskill Mountain News in 1904 and 1905.

The telephone makes its first appearance when Ganoung "put up the telephone" in May 1898 and Burr Hubbell "put up the telephone wire" a few days later "so we can talk now." He has to put the "phone" (her term) in order a year and a half later and to install new batteries soon also. These early telephone lines are purely local but do enable Jennie to get news of the marriage of Leslie Dumond and to speak with 13-year-old Isabel visiting a friend for the evening. A family's getting a telephone is a news item worthy of recording in her diary, since the more families who have this service, the more use she has of hers. Soon the telephone becomes a means for visiting. It makes it possible to learn of local deaths and other events immediately and later also of distant ones. As the years go by, the novelty of such a rapid way of getting in touch wears off, no longer meriting recording each instance in her diary except for the minister to telephone to say "he would not be down on account of the roads."

Jennie's cost for telephone service is \$7 in 1905, the only year she records this item.

Summing Up

The life portrayed in the diary is neither a continuous and unrelieved round of work, nor is it isolated - both common perceptions of rural life. The diary, of course, primarily describes life in town, not on an outlying farm. Individuals are rarely alone. There is much socializing, and it is common practice to share a meal with relatives and friends. Railroad service, just five years old as the diary begins, extends such socializing beyond a few miles to the rest of the region, the state, and the nation.

It is noteworthy that over the 50-year span of the diary some aspects of Jennie's life change not at all and that some activities she describes are still familiar to today's reader. The diary demonstrates that holiday observances became more formalized over the 50-year period, diet more varied, and medical care more professionalized. And it offers surprises:

That teachers boarded with families whose children they taught is well known. What is not generally known is that they did not stay with one family for more than one, or at most a few, nights at a time. Nor were married women barred from teaching when Jennie was in that profession in the 1880s.

The existence of manually operated vacuum cleaners is not widely documented.

The matter-of-fact references to town meetings are perhaps the most surprising finding. That this practice existed in New York is widely unknown and cries out for further inquiry.

* * * * *

Appendix

Recipes

(Accurate level measurements of ingredients did not become common until the 1910s).

Dressing for Cabbage Salad (1904)

1 cup vinegar not very strong
1 heaping T flour
1 small t mustard
Piece of butter size of butternut
1/2 cup sugar
2 T cream

Put in after it is cold if you have cream.

Chili Sauce (Mrs. Theron Hewitt) (1900)

25 ripe tomatoes
5 onions
3 cups vinegar
1 cup sugar
2 small green peppers
2 T salt

Peel tomatoes and slice. Chop onions and peppers. Put in a kettle and cook 1-1/2 hours.

Chili Sauce (Mrs. Bush) (1900)

18 ripe tomatoes
6 onions
3 green peppers
1 cup sugar
2-1/2 cups vinegar
2 t salt
1 t cinnamon, allspice and nutmeg
1/2 t cloves

Peel the tomatoes and cook with onions and peppers until tender, then add sugar, vinegar and spices. Cook 10 minutes longer, then bottle.

Mixed pickles (Mrs. Bush) (1900)

1 large cauliflower
3 dozen small cucumbers and some sliced ones

Soak the cucumbers in brine 2 or 3 days, scald the cauliflower and 2 dozen small onions in salt water. Scald the following stirring constantly:

2-1/2 quarts vinegar
2-1/2 cups brown sugar
1/2 cup flour
5 T mustard
spice to suit the taste

Pour this over the pickles.

To Pickle Ham

1 T ginger
1 T saleratus
a small piece of alum

Cookies (1879)

1 cup sweet cream, " good and rich, Maggie says"
1 egg
1-1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup butter nuts
1 t cream of tartar
2/3 t soda

Mix soft.

Marble cake (1888)

1/2 cup butter	light part:
1/2 cup sugar	1 cup sugar
1/2 cup molasses	1/2 cup butter
1 T each chives, cinnamon, nutmeg	1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup sour cream	whites of 4 eggs
1-1/2 t soda	1 t soda
yolks of 4 eggs	2 t cream of tartar

Cake (1888)

Whites of 3 eggs beaten stiff
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup sweet milk
2 cups flour
1/2 t soda
1 t cream of tartar

Chocolate cake(1883)

1/2 cup chocklate
1/2 cup milk
yolk of one egg

Put in a basin and boil. When cooked and cooled add

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup milk
1/2 teaspoon soda
1-1/2 cups flour

Frosting (1883)

Whites of 2 eggs
1 cup sugar

Boil the sugar, then add the eggs beaten stiff.

Frosting (1888)(Maggie)

2 cups sugar
2/3 cup milk

Boil 10 minutes. Season with lemon and beat till cold. Do not boil more than 5 minutes after it comes to the boil.

Raspberry Frosting (1904)

White of one egg
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup berries

Beat well.

White cake (1903) (from Laura Miller)

1 cup of sugar
whites of two eggs
piece of butter size of an egg
1 heaping tea spoon of baking powder
1/2 cup of sweet milk
1-1/2 cups of flour

Beat the eggs to a stiff froth and put in the last thing before baking.
Bake in moderate oven.

Tapioca Pudding (1904)

1 cup tapioca
1 quart milks
4 eggs
1/2 cup sugar
salt

Flavor with vanilla.

Soft Ginger Cake (Maggie McKenzie) (1889)

1 cup molasses
3/4 cup boiling water
1 t soda
1/2 cup melted lard
1t each cinnamon, ginger
2 small cups flour
1 egg

Put them in as they come.

Home remedies

How to restore gray hair to its natural color (1888)

Take equal part of black tea and butternut bark and a few rusty nails. Steep and put on 2 times a week.

Salve (1889)

2 oz rosin
4 oz bear wax
8 oz butter

Makes good ointment.

Dr. Street's Cough Receipt (1894)

1 oz each of
Spikenard
Comfrey
Hoar Hound
Burdock
Elecampane

Pound it and put 4 quarts of water to it. Boil to a pint. Add 1/2 lb sugar and 1/2 pint Jamaica rum.

Sure Smallpox Cure (Clipping)

Sulphate of zinc, one grain
Foxglove (digitalis) one grain
One-half a teaspoon of sugar

Mix with two tablespoons of water. When thoroughly mixed, add four ounces of water.

Take a spoonful every hour. Smallpox or scarlet fever will disappear in twelve hours.

To Cure Weak Kidneys and Bladder

Fluid extract dandelion, one-half ounce
Compound kargon, one ounce
Compound syrup sarsaparilla, three ounces

Shake well in a bottle. Take a tablespoonful after each meal and at bedtime. This mixture has a peculiar healing and soothing effect upon the entire kidney and urinary struction. It is said to remove all blood disorders and cure the rheumatism by forcing the kidneys to filter and strain from the blood and system all uric acid and foul decomposed waste matter, which cause these afflictions.

Good for Stomach and Indigestion (1912)

2 oz. tincture of Rhubarb 2 t issins of peppermint
6 T baking soda 1 pint cold water

Shake well and take 1 teaspoon after each meal and at bedtime.

Remedy for Hives or any Kind of Breaking Out (1912) (Mrs. A.D. Wessels)

2 oz. cream of tartar 1 pint boiling water
1 oz. cream of (illegible) salts

Take a wine glass three times a day.

Dyeing instructions

Colors on Cotton Goods (from Dr. Chase Book) (1889)

Orange

For 2-1/2 lbs. cotton goods sugar of lead 2 oz) boil a few minutes and when a little cool put in goods up to 2 hours. Wring out. Make a new dye with bichromate of pot ash (4 oz), madder (1 oz), dip until it suits. If it should be too red, take a sample and dip in lime water when the choice can be made between the sample or the original color.

Blue

For 2-1/2 lbs. rags copperas (2 oz). Boil and dip 15 minutes then dip in strong suds, and back to the dye 2 or 3 times, then make a dye of prussiate of potash, 1/2 oz of oil of vitriol, 3 T. Boil 30 minutes and rinse and dry.

Green

Give the cotton a dip in the blue until is obtained to make the green as dark as required, and rinse and dry,. Then make a dye of fustic, 3/4 lbs logwood, 3 oz to each lb of goods by boiling the dye 1 hour. When cool so as to bear the hand put in the goods. Move briskly a few minutes and let lie 1 hour. Take out, then add to the dye for each lb of cotton blue vitriol 1/2 oz and dip another hour. Wring out and dry by adding or diminishing the logwood and fustic any shade of green can be obtained.

Yellow

For 5 lbs of goods sugar of lead (7 oz), dip the goods 2 hours. Make a new dye of bichromate of potash (4 oz), dip until the color suits. Wring out and dry. If not yellow enough repeat the operation.

Similar instructions with slightly different proportions of ingredients are repeated on slips filed in Jennie's 1911 diary. These suggest that orange be obtained by dipping yellow goods into hot lime water.