

## The Diary of Mrs. Ella A. Douglass McMichael

*This is a diary that Ella kept after she married John Calhoun McMichael and was living at the Beechmont Coal Mine. Ella began her diary on January 1, 1894, nearly one and a half years after her marriage to John Calhoun McMichael. Her husband was then a supervisor at the Beechmont Mine at Beechmont, Pa. near present day Oakdale. The mine was on the Pittsburgh, Chartiers and Youghoheny Railroad, and had originally been opened in 1882. It had been poorly run up until the time John and his brother-in-law, William McConnell Sturgeon, took over its operation. However, shortly after taking over, William Sturgeon died and John carried on its operation alone.*

*After taking over this operation, John frequently attended a local literary group that met at the Hickman School nearby. It was there that he met his future wife, Eleanor Agnes Douglass, a teacher at the school. They were married on June 9, 1892. Their first child, John Clive, was born July 23, 1895, and two more children, Lawrence Douglass and Elizabeth Charlotte, were born to them while they lived near the mine. The remainder of their children, Robert Neale, Paul Littell, Mary Florence, James Maxwell and Maud Barr were born after they moved back to his Father's farm, between 1898 and 1900. The diary was written by Ella in the nearly three year interim after her marriage and before the birth of her first child.*

*Of interest is that William Vogel told me that the mine never experienced a labor strike while John was running it. He also told me that Ella ran the company store. We also know that John became the postmaster at Hickman on 21 February 1874 and we still have his postmaster certificate.*

*On the very first page of her diary is an admonition not to use, read, or take it. It is hard to imagine what she would think about all her descendants and others reading it now, but here it is.*

*Transcribed by her grandson, John Calhoun McMichael*

"Herein is recorded my doings, my goings and comings during the year 1894. This book is my private property. Do not use it. Do not read it. Do not take it."

Mrs. Ella A. McMichael

Jan. 15, 1894.

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Jan 1. We were at home (Castle Shannon) (1). Spent a pleasant day. The coming home on the 12 o'clock train was not the most pleasant part of the day. I met Uncle Thompson and Aunt Maggie Mc (2) for the first time since we were married.

I enjoyed seeing them all, but some of them gave me a gentle hint that I was not dressed well enough to suit their fancy. However, that did not trouble me much as I have the satisfaction of knowing that "It's not fine feathers that makes fine birds."

Jan. 2,3,4,5. The trip home made me very tired, so aside from my house work, did not get much accomplished. I hope I will not have to make many records of the kind in this book.

Jan. 6th. The day opened bright and clear and we could not resist the temptation to go to the city for the two fold purpose of doing some business and finding whatever pleasure we could. John gave me ten dollars and got us some dinner and then left me to meet again at the Grand Opera House at 2 P.M.

After making use of the money he gave me in the purchase of patterns, wearing dresses, muslin for nightclothes, and bed clothes and other little things too numerous to mention, I wended my way to the Opera House where I met John according to arrangement.

We were highly entertained by a band of Minstrels. One of them had a Lady Love to whom he had but one objection namely--She expected him to kiss her every time a star shot. He undertook to take her out on a dark night when Lo! She sprang the Fire-bug joke on him.

We arrived at the P.L.E (3) depot about three minutes before train time. The trip home was very quiet, so we got home in good time, tired and hungry.

Jan 7. The day dawned bright and clear, as beautiful a Sabbath as was ever enjoyed in the month of Jan. As I had been in the city the 6<sup>th</sup> and seemed to be able to walk over a large portion of the town, came to the conclusion I was able to walk to Church (4). Rev. J.M. McJunkin preached from the book of Acts. The walk made me tired but neither the walk nor the sermon did me any harm.

Jan 8. Did the washing and intended to do the ironing and clean the house, but Mr. Mc came in about ten o'clock and asked me to go to the Post Office. Remembering that I must "Serve, Honor and Obey," I immediately dropped everything and went. Came back and got the dinner, cleaned the spare room, and ironed the fine shirts. Received a letter in the evening stating that cousins Belle and Alice would be here the latter part of the week.

Jan 9. Finished the ironing, baked some doughnuts, and the worst bread I ever saw.

Jan 10. Did up the morning work and cut my red dress. I know it is cut but it will take wiser than me to say when it will be done.

Jan 11. Did the morning work and sewed the remainder of the day. Came no speed whatever. Worried all day about that wretched bread and ended by sending for a sack of flour and some corn meal. The store keeper not knowing the difference between corn meal and potatoes brought potatoes.

Jan 12. Baked bread, pies and a cake. Swept and cleaned the house all over. Being up early, I expected to get through in time to finish my dress when, Oh My! An insurance agent, Mr. Sloan by name, made us a call. The call was extended until after dinner and the time of my getting through with my work remains to be told. My temper will not stand insurance agents.

Jan 13. The girls (Belle and Alice) were here all day. We spent a very pleasant day. To see them reminds me of old times, but after all I find myself gradually growing to like my

place in life and in just one respect have I any desire to look back. What is that? It remains to be told.

Jan 14. We walked to Church, and on a pressing invitation went to Mr. J.R. McMichaels for dinner and came home in the evening. The Sabbath is to be kept Holy and I must say that I cannot, nor do I think anyone else can keep it so away from home. So it follows that home is the place of everyone on the Sabbath. Mr. McJunkin preached a sermon on the preparation for the coming of Christ. We received the sad news of Miss Eva Gibson's death in Florida whither she had gone for health.

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep from which none ever wake to weep."

Jan 15,16,17. I felt rather tired after walking to Oakdale and can't say that I accomplished much the next few days. Finished my red dress and did the mending and went to see Mrs. Hickman.

One good thing, I kept John from going to a Thom's run serenade, if I did have to do it by playing Whist.

Mr. McCowan and Mrs. Ella Souery are married. "May peace and joy go with them."

Jan 18. Did quite a large washing and worried my brain over John's being sick.

Jan 19. Ironed, sewed a little, and prepared for baking the next day.

Jan 20. Baked and swept the house and prepared for sabbath (5).

Jan 21. The morning opened dark and raining, but we walked to Oakdale. Had a bad trip in the morning, but not so bad a one home. Mrs. Mac. did not invite us to dinner. I think she will not attempt to satisfy our appetites after a long walk very often. We had no service today, it being communion. Just a number united with the Church, both on Certificate and Profession. I never saw so many adults baptized. Among the baptized was Helen McFarland.

Jan 22. Washed and ironed a little. Went to see Mrs. Hickman and helped Mrs. Brown bake some doughnuts for her.

Jan 23. Did the weeks mending and intended to sew in the afternoon, but John tempted me to play Whist, and I am very sorry to say that I yielded. Rob was here all night and Mr. Steward spent the evening with us.

Jan 24. Cut a wrapper in the forenoon and sewed on it in the afternoon.

Jan 25. Finished one wrapper, all but the buttons and button-holes, and cut another one.

Jan 26. Made the wrapper I cut last evening, all but the buttons and putting on the Bretelles. I had less trouble with it than any thing I ever made before and think it looks about as well as though I fussed a week with it.

Jan 27. Slept late as usual. Baked and made some doughnuts and a cake.

The mob made us a call today, and considering that this is pay day, and that we paid as usual, it is a wonder they did not do more damage than they did. As it was, they battered our milk can all to pieces, pulled the bell rope down, and worst of all destroyed the men's tools. We are unable to say just what they have done elsewhere, but have reason to think that if they do not come here again we may be very thankful we fared no worse.

The mob has burned several tipples and is coming back this way. Our tipple is guarded by ten men. Did ever such a state of affairs exist before?

Jan 28. Everything is quiet, but, Oh my! such a state of unrest as the existing state of affairs causes. John went to Oakdale to Church, but I thought it was more than I was equal to, but went to the school-house and heard Mr. Duncan preach. He is not a first class preacher, but his sermon today had a somewhat quieting effect on my nerves. Altogether it has been a very unpeaceful Sabbath.

The man who was shot at Beadlings died this morning.

Jan 29. The day has passed about the same as the two days before. One feels as though they were a dynamite bomb which indeed they may be. Quite a number of arrests have been made and I think things will quiet down presently. Hope so at least as I think I will be worried to death pretty soon if they don't. So far as my work is concerned, I have to say that it is not getting along very fast.

Jan 30. Am here by myself and just wander from room to room and cannot content myself to sit down and sew. Went to see Mrs. Hickman in the afternoon. Found her as usual. Called at Mrs. Wilhelm's on my way home. Got home about six o'clock and got supper, washed up the dishes and read awhile. When John and two of the deputies came in and stayed until bedtime. The rioters are quiet, but they give evidence of the spirit of riot and no doubt will break out again if they get half a chance or have the least provocation. I wish things would quiet down that so a person could take up their work as they ought to do. John is going to run tomorrow.

Jan 31. As usual am here alone, have been since early morning and it is now after seven o'clock P.M. I have not felt well all day and must say that I feel intensely home-sick, but get no encouragement whatever to go home.

I think the guards have been withdrawn and all is quiet for the present. How long it will last we do not know. Thus closes the first month of the year. If the next eleven are anything like this, I am afraid we will all be tired living when the year ends.

Feb 1st. Am worn out with the fuss and turmoil around me, but as I am going to be alone all day and all night, will try to put in my time washing and prepare to sew next week.

Feb 2. Got the clothes all dry and ironed. Am feeling decidedly better. Think the riot is all over as the deputies were all called off this morning. I do not want to put in another week of the kind in my life again.

Feb 3. Baked and thoroughly cleaned the house and went to the post office in the evening. The bread is good and the house looks nice. It naturally follows that I feel good and in addition had a letter from home.

Feb 4. Sabbath morning opened peacefully and quiet compared with the sabbath before. Bess is over at the other place and considerable snow having fallen in the night, I persuaded John to stay at home with me. (He was not hard to persuade.) Alex (6) was over. Came from Church and having nothing else I fed them on onions. Altogether the day has been very refreshing. We read The Herald and "From Manger to Throne."

Feb 5. Got up with the intention of cutting another wrapper, but from some cause or another, did not do it. An indescribable something comes over one sometimes that they are no use whatever. Mr. Close came in this afternoon and stayed quite a while. Something about him reminds me of Pappa. I hope I will see him this week. It is five o'clock and I have not done much but what is the difference. I consider the day well spent if I succeed in keeping my temper. I must go and get supper and expect to play Whist afterwards. Oh if I can only beat John badly enough to disgust him at it, I will have some peace.

Feb 6. Cut my light wrapper and put it together.

Feb 7. Arose late, got breakfast over and the house cleaned up. I sat down to sew first. Got my sleeves made when Maud (7) and Alex came, so I quit and got them some dinner. It was the first time I have seen either of them since Thanksgiving day. Have looked for Pappa all day, but he has not come yet. John brought me a nice little dog today.

Feb 8. Finished my wrapper and got dinner for another insurance agent. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Herriot came in the evening and we played until late.

Feb 9. It is strange, but fact, that I cannot endure the loss of sleep under any circumstances. It makes me perfectly useless, so last evenings proceedings discounts today's work. Katie Wilhelm came in this afternoon. I was glad to see the child come in. Hope all my scholars think as much of me as she and Miss Mabel seem to do. I often wonder if I left one single impression upon any of their minds that will remain with them all through life. Very few such impressions for good will repay me for six years hard work.

Feb 10. Saturday, and amid all the work belong to the day, I feel about as wretched as I have for a long time. I baked bread and some doughnuts. The latter were good, but am afraid so much cannot be said of the bread. Had a good corn bread for supper. I failed to get any house thoroughly cleaned up today. I think my wretchedness is due to the want of sleep caused by John's bringing a couple of rifles upstairs at bed time and loading them on account of the money being in the house. What is the use of talking about having faith in a Higher Power and sleeping with rifles and pistols? It is well that things are right or I am afraid I would "take the wings of the morning and fly away" from this place and let divorce suits of what would follow.

Feb 11. Sabbath morning opened clear and cool. A pretty day overhead, but the walking was so bad that I did not undertake to go to Church. John went and lost his rubbers or rather exchanged them for a worse pair than his own. Mr. McJunkin preached a good sermon bearing on some of the evils of the town. We read all afternoon. John was called on in the evening to go as a witness in the trial of the Mansfield (8) rioters.

Feb 12. Contrary to all my expectations and arrangements I got ready for the morning train and went home today. Found them all well except Mother. She was feeling poorly. I think it is more overwork than anything else. Came home on the evening train. The going is all very nice, but the coming home to a house with neither fire nor supper on a cold stormy night is not so pleasant. Nevertheless, the trip did me good.

Feb 13. It began to snow about nine o'clock yesterday morning and since then one of the most severe storms of the season has raged. I washed and ironed a little today, also baked two berry pies and cleaned up the house after being away. This and getting the coal and water and tending Bess, kept me busy all day. John is in town on the trial and will be tomorrow. He is tired of it and not much wonder.

Feb 14. The storm has abated, but it is pretty cold. I pity the poor this weather. It is bad enough to be starved and frozen at the same time is rather more than human nature can bear. I was wakened last night by a thumpety bump all the way down the stairs. I guess Mr. Mac must have been walking in his sleep. However, he was not when he got back upstairs. I have finished my wrapper, fixing it, and done the mending today. I also cleaned the lace in my wedding dress. Must say it makes me feel strange to work with that dress. I brushed Mac's suit and put it away along with mine. If we need them for the fiftieth anniversary of our marriage, they will be ready. If not, they will be ready for anything else they may be needed for.

Feb 15. There is more snow on the ground now than has been all winter and it is still snowing. Mr. Mac got off in some way, so he is at home today. That means three meals instead of two. I cut my red calico suit today and, being rather short of goods, it was some- what troublesome. But I got it all cut but the facing so I think; as it is calico, I will not worry over that part of it.

Feb 16. I got in about ten bushel of coal the first thing this morning, so I would be sure not to trouble other people about it. After cleaning the house, I made the button-holes in my dress and then prepared the dinner. We had baked potatoes and fish. After dinner I finished my waist. Expected to have had more done, but have the satisfaction of knowing that I did not waste any time. Tomorrow is baking day and a cold one it is going to be. It takes a good share of my time keeping up the fires this kind of weather. The children are having a good-time sled-riding. I would freeze at that sport if I had no more clothes on me than some of them have. I pity them, and yet I know that not more than one out of twenty would thank me for my pity and I like them for their independence.

Feb 17. Thoroughly cleaned the house and baked. The bread was good and that says a great deal. Went over to McJuard's in the evening and got a chicken for John's dinner on election day.

Feb 18. Spent a quiet Sabbath day but having head ache and very sorry to say that I was not in just the spirit of the day.

Feb 19. Washed and got all the clothes dry and I ironed five fine shirts and the cuffs and collars. Hemmed the blanket we use for sleeping on.

Feb 20. Election day and the men are in a wave of excitement. I prepared Mr. Mc's dinner and took it to him. Finished my ironing, cleaned up the house and went to see Mrs. Hickman in the evening. She has another fine large baby girl. May she continue the good work and not call it as some have suggested Omega. It was born on Sabbath Feb. 11. I did the weeks mending in the evening.

Feb 21. Made the button holes in a wrapper and put the buttons on it and took the ruffles off my lawn, and not feeling extra good, did accomplish much else.

Feb 22. Washington's birthday so not much but patriotism can be expected of me today. I think that it must have been just such a day as this that so true and so noble a man as Washington was born. How many Washington's have we today among our politicians?

Feb 23. I have not felt just as well as is desirable. Cannot account for the trouble but know that it greatly hinders my work. I have made out some statements and backed the envelops today and partly made out my order for seeds. The pup tore the paper basket all to pieces today.

Feb 24. This is pay day and John wants to pay early. So I have to clean the room early and while he is paying, I have the baking to do and it is cold and between baking, cleaning and general miserableness, I am cross as--

Feb 25. Sabbath day. John went to Church and reported a good sermon on Abraham's faith. We sat up late reading and so rose late. Read the Herald and Banner and in the evening we read the first twelve Chapters of Deuteronomy. Altogether the day was a pleasant quiet one. In a manner, a quiet Sabbath strengthens one for the week and contrawise one spent in spirit not suitable to the day weakens. I speak from personal experience.

Feb 26. The ground is covered with snow which fell in the night. I straightened up the house after Sabbath this morning and brought in the coal and water. Owing to the fact that we arose late, when this was done, it was time to get dinner. After dinner, we read awhile and I put away the statements of Saturday's pay. I hope to finish making out my order for seeds today and may go away awhile this evening. I hope I will get the means to send the order away. Why is it that a woman's life is such that she must coax for everything she wants? It goes altogether against my spirit, and if it were not for what

other people would say, my askings would be few and far between. I did not use to have to do it.

Feb 27. The day has passed about as usual. Not much accomplished. And nothing to relate except the receiving of a letter from Mrs. Double in N.J.

Feb 28. Finished my red calico dress and fixed my lawn.

March 1. March has "come in like a lamb." I wonder if it will go out like a lion. I made an apron today and did the house work.

March 2. Made four aprons today. think if I persevere, things will soon be all sewed and mended.

March 3. The house got a through cleaning today. That with baking and other work belonging to Saturday, it is a busy day.

March 4. Sabbath day and a bright and pretty day it is. Was not at Church and my reading did not seem to do me the good it ought to do one.

March 5. Arose at six. Got breakfast and straightened up the house, after which I did two weeks washing and ironing.

March 6. Having worked hard yesterday, I do not feel worth much today. Went to see Anne Close this afternoon and on my way home called to see Mrs. Nelson.

March 7. Simply nothing accomplished and all through an old book.

March 8. Cut a fine nightdress and partly made using the tucker of the machine for the first time. Had no trouble whatever with it.

March 9. Arose late as usual, but nevertheless have the morning work done up and the statements made out and the envelops backed by eleven o'clock. I want to write a letter and go to the post office by noon and finish the sewing I cut yesterday.

March 10. This is pay day. The men are nearly all paid and the statements put away. My baking is done and is pretty good, but I have not done any sewing. Why did I not stay where I would have been able to get it done?

March 11. At home all day and somehow one does not spend Sabbath as they should at home.

March 12. Washed and ironed and did the work of the house.

March 13. Sent away my order for seeds and cut quite a lot of carpet rags for Mother.

14, 15, 16 March. Sewed and attended to the work in general. Also prepared the ground for some onions and peas.

March 18. Sabbath day spent at home again. What is the matter with me now-days any way.

March 20. I cannot say just what I did, but know that Papa was here. Came on the evening train and stayed all night. Annie and John Close were here in the evening.

March 21. Just slipped around until Papa went home on the noon train and then sewed a little and planted the peas and onions in the evening.

March 22. Did not do much all day, but went to Miss Hardgrove's entertainment in the evening. It was good, and made me think of old times.

March 23. Went to town and it rained all day. I got some things for the house such as towels, muslin for bed-clothes and night clothes, and many other little things among which was paper for the room. Got myself a sateen dress and a cheap hat. The above mentioned along with the groceries came to \$13. I do wish I could get along without spending any more. Oh, if I could only make just \$20 a month myself. I would not have to ask anybody for my clothes and might look like somebody else which it seems I do not.

March 24. Am too tired for anything. Covered the rings for a pin-cushion and went to Mr. Campbell's in the evening to bid adieu to Annie Close.

March 25. Accomplished simply nothing. Tried to trim my hat but do not like it.

March 25 (separate page). Sabbath day and down to freezing outside as well as in. Must confess that we had a breeze today. Some people are inclined to make other people do just as they say, but this is a free country yet and I am inclined to live it as such. Further, I propose to shoulder my own misdeeds and expect other people to do the same.

March 26. Made quite a handsome pin-cushion, which altogether took all day.

March 27. Arose and had to bake biscuits for breakfast. Made three pies and baked five loaves of bread. It is good aside from this. I cleaned up the house carefully.

March 28. Sewed all day.

March 29. Sewed all day.

March 30. Washed and, not feeling very well, it was about all I got done.

March 31. Ironed and thoroughly cleaned my house and did other work belonging to Saturday. My seeds came today and are all satisfactory.

We went down to Mr. Hickman's in the evening. About the last time we will visit that old place, I am sorry to say. I hope they will all be happy where they are going. That, however, is scarcely to be expected.

April 1. Sabbath day spent all alone and am very much afraid in not exactly the spirit of the day, but the way and in the spirit I am likely to spend many a Sabbath.

April 2. Sewed all day.

April 3. Sewed all forenoon and went with John over to the other place (9) in the cart. Mrs. McKowan was here in the afternoon awhile.

April 4. Sewed all day.

April 5. Baked and washed a little. We had a duck for dinner. Alex was here.

April 6. Sewed all forenoon and went to the city in the afternoon to see Uncle Tom's Cabin played. It was very good.

April 7. Sewed nearly all day. It being Saturday there was some work that had to be done. We had quite a storm in the evening. It thundered for the first this season.

April 8. Sabbath morning opened lovely and after some coaxing, I got ready and went to Church. As we walked I was pretty tired in the afternoon.

April 9. I washed a little in the morning and got ready and went over to the farm in the afternoon. Maude came home with us.

April 10. This is Tuesday morning and the rain is pouring down. John started for Cleveland this A.M. and Maud and I have it all to ourselves. Sewed some in the afternoon.

April 11. John is not home yet and it still rains or rather snows. Quite a good deal of snow fell in the night. I ironed this morning and went to the store in the afternoon and cut the waist of my Sateen dress in the evening.

April 12. John came home on the twelve o'clock train and walked from Oakdale. We (Maud and I) were snug in bed when he came, but up we had to get and let him in. He insisted that we should get ready and go to the city to see the Galley Slave played and do some shopping. I suppose he thought Maud's judgment was needed on the expectation and I hope the result is satisfactory to him. I would not care to spend the money if it was mine. Oh I wonder if I will ever have anything I can call my own, or if fate is against me in that line. I spent \$15.00 all together and got very little besides a dress. Now everything has to be had to match it. I am tempted to wish sometimes that something would happen that I would not have to spend it for I am afraid misspending is not satisfactory to the

one's to whom the money belongs. An old lady asked me for something yesterday and I did not give. Am afraid that is set down against me in The Better World.

April 13. Am tired this morning and with the fuss of this week my house is so tossed up around me that I cannot do anything. Baked in the A.M. and made out the statements in the P.M. Maud went home this P.M.

April 14. Baked and swept the house. Went out to do some work in the yard but on going out I heard someone say Old Miss Trenary was dead and did not do anything.

April 15. Sabbath day and also communion Sabbath. Was at church both morning and evening.

April 16. Was at Trenary's quite a large part of the day. We went over to the farm in the evening and brought home some plants.

April 17. Worked in the garden all day. Planted my parsley, the remainder of the onions, some more peas and part of the lettuce. I also planted the roots Flora gave me and some things in boxes in the house.

April 18, 19, 20. Did the work in the house and sewed a little in the mean time.

April 21. Did not feel very well so did not get very much of anything done except my baking.

April 22. Sabbath day. At home all day.

April 23. Tried to sew but did not come much speed. Hemmed my spread and did some mending.

April 24. Was in bed nearly all day. Do not know what ails me, but from all outward appearances am as well as I will be for some months to come.

April 25. Feel about as I did yesterday, but am trying to drag around to keep John from going for Maud. He either thinks I have no friends or else he does not want them here. Oh how will I get my house cleaned!?

April 26. In bed the most of the day.

April 27. I barely managed to sweep the two rooms today and do a little washing which was a case of actual necessity.

April 28. Baked a cake and two rhubarb pies. Of the latter the cat got a share and I felt so utterly wretched. I cried about it and the way John has tormented me all day. I managed to get the kitchen cleaned up. Look for Maud over, but she did not come.

April 29. Sabbath day and at home all day as I am liable to be many a day to come. I suppose I ought to be thankful for a place to stay in all the time. Maud came home from church with John. Do not know how long she will stay.

April 30. Maud was here all day and so I did not do much.

May 1. Washed today a very large washing and Oh joy! Mother came in the evening. Wasn't I glad to see her? For I feel utterly miserable.

May 2. Mother is here and although it worries me to have her working for me, yet I am glad to have her here. Poor Mother, she has done her share of work in this world. I baked today.

May 3. I worked in the garden along with John. Planted all the seeds in the garden.

May 4. I ironed all my clothes nicely today and stirred up my flower beds and planted nearly all my little seeds.

May 5. Ironed some and baked some, notwithstanding, I feel meaner than ever.

May 6. Sabbath day. I was not at church but was over at the school house to see about the opening of the sabbath school. Sadie Campbell had Mr. Mac as near angry as ever I saw him at any, and no wonder.

May 7. I did not work today although I should have. Mr Nelson was here in the afternoon. He does not look very strong. We went over to the other place this evening and did not come home.

May 8. Came home about nine o'clock and found the painters here. So will not do much in the way of work this day. Can make out the statements, back the envelopes and put away the statements for the last two pays. I think I will do some work in the yard in the evening.

May 9 and 28. Owing to the fact that I have been cleaning house since I last wrote in this book, I have not kept a daily diary. Sister Mary came out on the 14th of May. I had some work done and we finished on Saturday night. The house is newly painted on the outside.

Notes:

1. The home of her parents, Alexander Douglass and Elizabeth McConkey Douglass.
2. Uncle Thompson was Thompson Douglass, while Aunt Maggie Mc was probably her Uncle William McConkey's wife.
3. The Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad depot.
4. The Douglass' were Covenanters, a conservative branch of Presbyterians. Among their traditions was that one ought to walk to Church rather than ride. Frequently they would walk bare foot, carrying their shoes, in order to not wear them out.

5. Another Covenanter ritual was to prepare the meals the day before the Sabbath so as not to violate the stricture against working on Sunday.
6. Believe this to have been James Alexander Sturgeon, son of William McConnell Sturgeon.
7. Maud was her husband's sister.
8. Mansfield is now the town of Carnegie, Pa.
9. The McMichael farm was a little distance away and it was there that her husband was born and reared.