

Thoughts From My Grandmother's Diary

The following are excerpts taken from the diary of Mrs. Mary Steele McCormick Rowan in the early 1900s. It tells of the simpler life that people led back then even though they remained busy. The diary was handmade and tied with ribbons and was written in pencil. It was not dated with each entry but started out in January of 1912.

*“May the years so quickly dawning,
Though it be an untried way,
Bring to you with each new morning,
Some new blessing for the day”*

January 4, 1912:

Cold – all night the wind blew.

**It's snowing. I sit by the fireplace knitting socks. Nine fine little pigs
Were born last night. They have a good warm straw bed.**

Gathered three eggs today. A neighbor walked over to spend the day.

Sallie and I went to Carrie's. We are learning to knit bedspreads.

Boiled clothes in a black pot in the backyard.

Mary came up to our house with her lantern... the first time after dark.

**Mending today. Sallie is painting the cherry picture today.
We had turnips for dinner. The first ones we dug.**

Rain all day. Mud, Mud, Mud! Deep ruts.

Mr. Arehart making me chicken coops for spring. I set two hens.

Pearly hatched 15 Rowan chickens.

**Warren went to the mill to have some wheat ground.
Drove the wagon and took his babies along.**

I took my first automobile ride to Raphine with Frank Carson

**Lost only one little chick in the rain. Gathered them up in my apron
and dried them in the oven. Rain didn't hurt the baby ducks.**

Cleaned and white-washed the hen house. Put manure on garden.

Worked the garden.

**Missionary meeting from church held at Sam Williams house.
Served ham, biscuits, cake and strawberries. Took in \$15.00**

Knitting sixth strip for baby's crib spread.

**Put scrub rags in black pot to boil awhile in the backyard.
Hung them on the fence to dry.**

Close of a lovely day.

Strawberries are ripening.

**My baby ducks are having a good time swimming
in the washtub.**

**Walked to village with a basket of eggs and five
pounds of butter to trade.**

Picked cherries and seeded and canned them.

**Churned and baked 8 loaves bread. Killed chickens
for the Sabbath Day. Made pies.**

**Went to church in the surrey. Splendid sermon:
"My Cup Runneth Over."**