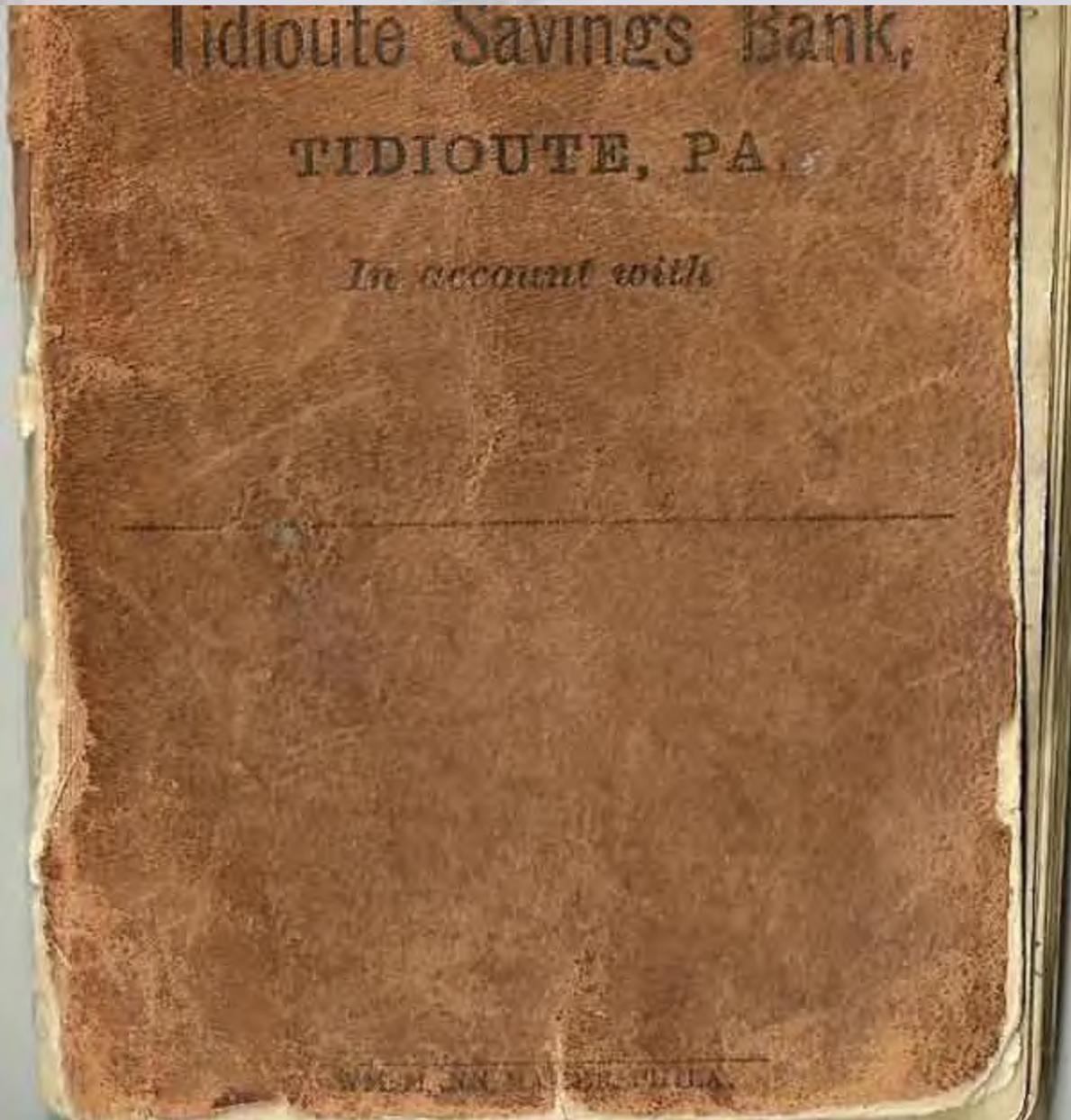


**Jessie D. Carr, diary written 1887-1888**

Following is the diary of Jesse Carr written in her father's leather bound bank book from the Tidioute Savings Bank, Tidioute, PA.

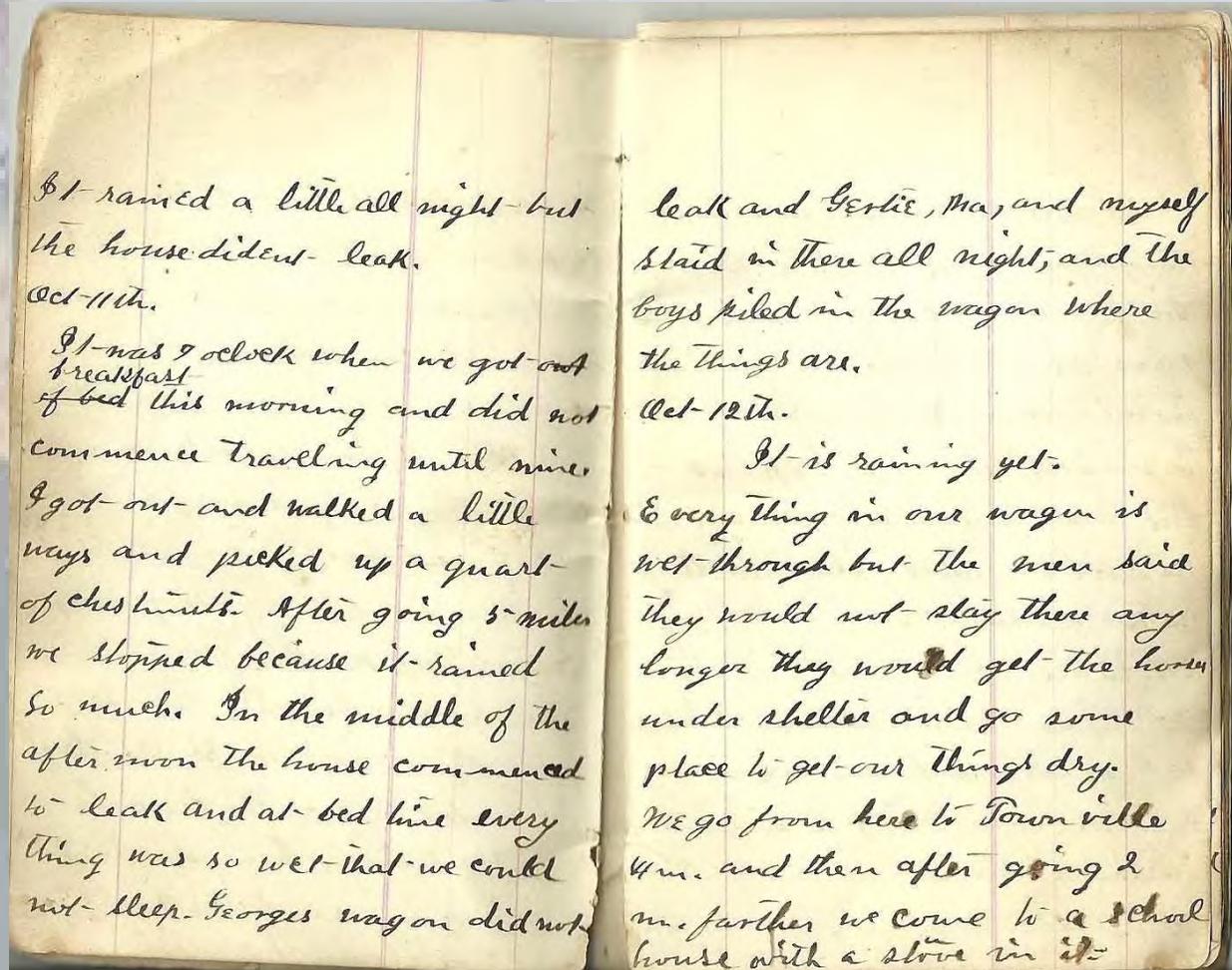
This is her record of a family trip taken in covered wagon beginning in Oct. 1877 when she is around 14 yrs. old. It is copied exactly as recorded in her own handwriting.



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Wed. Oct. 10, 1877

11 a.m. We start from Montford. We take our dinner about 2 miles from T.V. Grocery. We then went to Centerville, 8 1/2 miles from the spring creek road. Then after going 2 miles farther we stopped for the night. Made a fire on the ground to cook our potatoes over. After the supper the first thing to think of was where we should sleep. We made 2 beds on the floor and hung a quilt between: Don, Burd and G. sleeping in one and Mother, Tony and myself in the other. It rained a little all night but the house didn't leak.



Pages from the original diary

Thurs. Oct. 11

It was 7 o'clock when we got breakfast this morning and we did not commence traveling until 9 o'clock. I got out and walked a little ways and picked up a quart of chestnuts. After going 5 miles we stopped because it rained so much. In the middle of the afternoon the house commenced to leak. At bed time everything was so wet that

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*we could not sleep. George's wagon did not leak and Gertie, Ma and myself stayed in there all night. The boys poled in the wagon where the things are.*

*Fri. Oct. 12*

*It is raining yet. Everything in our wagon is wet through. The men said they would not stay there any longer. They would get the house under shelter and go someplace to get our things dry. We go from here to Townville 14 miles and then after going 2 miles farther we come to a school house with a stove in it. We stopped here and dried our things and cooked. While we was there a man came to see who gave us permission to go in there (he owned the house). He thought we were Gypsies but when he saw we wasn't he said we might stay as long as we wanted to.*

*Oct. 13*

*We went from the school house to Guys Corner from here to Meadville after going 6 miles farther camped.*

*Oct 14*

*Very pleasant. This morning the men oiled the wagons so they would not leak any more. We did not start today until 11:30. We went to Harmonsburg then to Lewisville, then from Leine to Padan Aram a small place in Ohio 2 miles from the state line. We could have got in Ohio sooner if it had not rained so much. In half an hour about 40 people had gathered around the wagon to see who we were. They think we are Gypsies at first but they are all very clever. When we stopped one night a man living in a house close by wanted to know if we would go on a ways farther but when he found we were not Gyps he fetched some wood to pay for saying it.*

*Oct 15*

*We went from Padan Aram to Leion from L. to West Williamsfield to Colebrook and here camped. Went 25 miles. We stopped close by a house and the woman let us bake biscuits in her oven. We had used pancakes before.*

*Oct 16*

*Got up at 5 o'clock, started at 7 and went to Arnell from here to Windsor from W. to Huntsburg from H. to East Claridon then 6 miles further and camped. Went 23 miles today. Some people gave us 2 pails of apples the other day. I think I will like going west if we don't get wet again. Riding, walking, finding chestnuts, doing most everything.*

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Oct 17

*Commenced traveling at 7 o'clock went from camping place to Auburn C. to Auburn Center from here to Troy and then to Bainbridge and here camped. Went about 11 miles today.*

Oct 18

*Rained a little in the night but the house did not leak and it cleared and it was pleasant the rest of the day. Went from B. to Bedford from B. to Independence. Saw a Canal at I. Went past a saloon full of drunken men: all yelled at us, frightened us. While going past a house not far from I. a drunken man with a shotgun came out and stood in the middle of the road. I thought he wasn't going to let us past and didn't know but he would shoot. But when we got up to him (I suppose he saw we were not Gypsies) and he stepped out of the road. Burd spoke to him and asked him the way to I. He said he would direct us, went as far as the next turn, showed us which way to go and that was the last we saw of him. The roads from Auburn Center Independence are very rough and hilly, more so than any since we left Penn. We went 3 miles from Indep.; and then stopped for the night. Went 22 miles today.*

Oct 19

*Commenced raining that forenoon. Rained the rest of the day. We went through only one place that is Berea, all the way roads were rough and hilly (one hill was nearly straight up and down.) Went through the woods most of the way (guess we got off the main road on a log road or something else). After we left Berea we commenced to look for a camping place but didn't find any for 2 miles at 8 o'clock and that wasn't a good place either no water). The house leaked and the men were all wet by getting out at the hills. We soon went to bed after getting a little supper.*

Oct 20

*Rained all night, the house leaked but only enough to make it a little damp. Went from camp to Columbia Center to North Eaton then to Eaton Center then Graffin, Then after 3 miles farther camped.*

Oct 21

*Rained a little last night but nothing got wet. Is raining a little this morning. Commenced traveling at 11 o'clock 20 min. Went 13 miles from Graffin and camped at 4 o'clock on account of rain.*

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Oct 22

*Rained a little in forenoon. Did not start until 11 1/2 o'clock when it stopped raining. Soon commenced raining again and rained the rest of the day. Camped 2 miles from Wellington.*

Oct 23

*Pleasant day, went through Wellington and Burton Center; camped 13 miles from B.C. (At Wellington I saw a woman whose head just came even with the fence). Very pleasant all day. Went through Fairfield and Greenfield. Went 18 miles camped at 7 o'clock.*

Oct 24

*Very pleasant all day. Went through Melmore camped 4 miles from M. at 6 1/2 o'clock. Went 18 miles.*

Oct 25

*Commenced traveling 7 1/2 o'clock. Very pleasant forenoon. Went from camp at Mexico 1 mile from M. to McCutchenville from there to Carey. Camped 3 miles at 3 1/2 o'clock on account of rain. Went 17 miles.*

Oct 26

*Rained in the night but the house did not leak. Went from Carey to Mt. Blanchard then to Arlington from here to Williamstown camped from W. Went 18 miles. Rained a little all day. Baked some biscuits in a woman's oven after camping.*

Oct 27

*Pleasant all day through Dunkirk and north Washington. Went 18 miles.*

Oct 28

*Commenced traveling at 8 o'clock went from camp to Maysville camped 3 miles before coming to Leima camped at noon and got breakfast and dinner. Didn't travel in afternoon. Went 13 miles.*

Oct 29

*Very pleasant. West through Leima and Spencerville. Went 18 miles.*

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Oct 30

*Pleasant. Went through Mendon and Celina. Camped 2 miles from Celina.*

Oct 31

*Sprinkled a little in the morning but cleared off and was pleasant rest of the day. Through New Corydon went 20 miles. New C. is in Indiana 1 miles from state line. Got there 3 weeks from the time we started from home.*

Nov 1

*Went from camp to Bryant Station from B. S. to Blumfield. In the afternoon went through Portland and Mt. Pleasant. Commenced raining in the middle of the day. Rained the rest of the day and all night.*

Nov 2

*Went through Ridgeville rained all day.*

Nov 3

*Froze last night. Quite cool today, went through Windsor, Muncie, and Yorktown and stayed until Monday morning.*

Nov 4 (Sunday)

*Very pleasant, washed today. Didn't travel any.*

Nov 5

*Froze last night, quite cool today. Went through Chesterfield and Anderson.*

Nov 6

*Pleasant all day. Went through McCordsville. Camped 6 mi. from McC.*

Nov 7

*Froze last night. Pleasant today. Went through Bridgeport and camped 1 1/2 miles from there. Went 20 miles. Went through Indianapolis, the capitol of Indiana. Upon going through Bridgeport I saw an Insane Asylum. Independence is the largest place we have went through yet.*

Nov 8

*Went through Plainfield. Commenced raining last night. Rained all day today.*

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Nov 9

*Rained last night. Pleasant today. Went through Putnam Station and Manhattan. Camped 1/4 mi. from M. Roads are very rough from Plainfield to Mon.*

Nov 10

*Pleasant. Went through Reelsville, Harmony, Knightsville and Brazil. Camped 3 mi. from Brazil. Went only 12 miles on account of bad roads.*

Nov 11

*Pleasant. Went through Terre Haut and camped 4 mi. from there.*

Nov 12

*Pleasant. Went through Livingston, Marshall, and Auburn, and camped one mile from Auburn. Went 20 miles.*

Nov 13

*Very Pleasant, Went through Martinsville, Casey and Greenup. Camped 1 mi. from G. Went 23 Miles.*

Nov 14

*Rained. Went through Jewett, Montrose, Tentopolis and Effington. went 21 Miles. Camped 2 miles from E.*

Nov 15

*Pleasant. Went through Altamont and St. Elmo.*

Nov 16

*Went through Brownstown and camped 1/4 miles from Vandalia.*

Nov 17

*Pleasant. Didn't travel any. Packed the goods to send by freight but couldn't send them.*

Nov 18

*Pleasant. Went through Vidalia, Hagerstown, Mulberry Grove and Henderson. Camped 1 mi. from H.*

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Nov 19

*Pleasant. Went through Greenville and camped 3 miles from there. Went only 6 miles on account of trading horses and getting them shod.*

Nov 20

*Rained. Went through Stubble field and Pocahantas.*

Nov 21

*Rained all day. Road is very muddy. Went through Marine. Went only 16 miles.*

Nov 22

*Pleasant but cool. Went through Troy.*

Nov 23

*Pleasant. Went through Dublin and Collinsville. Roads very bad.*

Nov 24

*Pleasant. Went through St. Louis Mo. Crossed the Miss. River.*

Nov 25

*Rained. Went through Ballwin and camped 2 miles from there.*

Nov 26

*Pleasant. Didn't go through any towns.*

Nov 27

*Went to Grays Summit 1 1/2 mi. from camp. Stayed here until the next day. Packed some goods and sent by freight.*

Nov 28

*Very cold. Went from Grays to Union and camped.*

Nov 29

*Stopped at a house and will stay here for a while.*

Nov 30

*Cold. Washed some clothes.*

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*Dec 1*

*Washed some more clothes and Ironed some.*

*Dec 2 (Sunday)*

*Pleasant but quite cool. Nothing unusual happened.*

*Dec 3*

*Ironed. Baked.*

*Dec 4*

*Sewed. The men found work.*

*Dec 5*

*Washed. The men commenced working.*

*Dec 6*

*I went to town, B. traded one of his horses for another.*

*Dec 7*

*Very warm and pleasant, just like summer. Ironed a few clothes*

*Dec 8*

*Pleasant. Washed a few clothes, got some mail.*

*Dec 9*

*Did not go to church. Earney came in the evening.*

*Dec 10*

*Sewed, Knit, Cooked and nothing unusual happened.*

*Dec 11*

*Washed again in forenoon. Went to town in afternoon*

*Dec 12*

*Pleasant and very warm. Ironed.*

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Feb 16

*Pleasant. Start on at about 8 o'clock. Go 3 miles before noon, go on 3 more miles afternoon and camp near a creek to stay over Sunday. Very bad roads. Had to put 4 horses on one wagon, take it a little ways and then go back and get the other one.*

Feb 17

*Pleasant and warm as summer. Don't travel any. Washed a few clothes.*

Feb 18

*Pleasant. Make 15 mi. Pass Jefferson P.O. camped at 3 1/2 o'clock. Go over Douglas Prairie and pass Burbois and Owensville P.O.*

Feb 20

*Rained a little last night. Go 19 Mi. and camped at 5 o'clock.*

Feb 21

*Don't go till 9 o'clock and only till noon. Raining.*

Feb 22

*Pleasant. Start on at 8 o'clock. Go 11 mi before noon. Afternoon cross the Gaseonade River. Mr. Lee Favars wagon tips over but nothing is broken and no one is hurt. We crossed the river by Ferry Boat. (Paid 50 cents for 2 horses and 75 cents for three). Go six miles after noon and camp at 6 o'clock.*

Feb 23

*Snowed a little last night. Start 7 o'clock. After going 3 miles come to Dixon, a small town and 3 miles farther is Hancock. go 6 mi. farther and camp at 5 1/2 o'clock.*

Feb 28

*Pleasant. Start at 8 o'clock. Go 4 miles and come to a lane where the mud is so deep we have to put 4 horses on the large wagon and they can't stir it. Then hitch 6 on and take it to the end of the land, then go back for the other wagons. A horse (same as the one that got down yesterday) gets down in the mud and it takes a long time to get him up. After he gets up another gets down, but soon gets up again. After going three miles farther come to Lebanon. In 2 miles farther and camp at 4 o'clock. Make only 9 miles.*

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*March 1*

*Pleasant. Start on at 6 1/2 o'clock. After noon it commenced to rain. Rains hard for an hour then clears off. Go 22 miles and camp at 5 1/2 o'clock.*

*March 2*

*Rained a little last night. Start at 8 o'clock. Came to Buffalo before noon. Rains a little all day. Go 11 miles.*

*March 3*

*Pleasant. Don't travel. One horse is lame and another hired out so we get things ready for G.B and E. to go on to Fort Scott and the rest of us to stay here till the two horses get rested.*

*March 4*

*Pleasant. G. B. & E. take the little wagon and three horses and start on at 8 o'clock. In the afternoon A. and G. go down the road to Mr. Brockus's and get some potatoes.*

*March 5*

*Pleasant and very warm. A. and G. go up the road to Mr. Hadlocks and get some corn.*

*March 6*

*Cloudy. Nothing unusual happened.*

*March 7*

*Rained last night but is pleasant the rest of the day.*

*March 8*

*Pleasant in forenoon. Afternoon Mrs. Duncan (our nearest neighbor) came over. Commenced raining about 5 o'clock.*

*March 9*

*Rained all night. Claud starts for the P.O. but the creek is raised so he can't get across. Rains all day.*

*Mar 10*

*Pleasant*

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Mar 11

*Pleasant. Move up in Mr. Duncan's yard. I go up to Mrs. Meyer's and help quilt.*

Mar 12

*Pleasant*

Mar 17

*Pleasant. Start at 7:00. From 2 miles east Halfway, go through H. and camp 4 mi. east of Bolivar and Fair Play. Camp at 7:00. Made 15 miles.*

Apr 19

*Pleasant. Start at 7:00. Arrive at Stock river at 2:30; stay until 4:00 waiting for the Ferry man. Takes one hour to cross the river on account of low water. Make 10 miles. Go down on steep hill and up another all day.*

April 20

*Pleasant. Start at 8:00 Get stalled 1 mile of Stockton and have to get help. Go through Stockton and camp 6 miles from there. Make 8 miles.*

Apr 21 (Sunday)

*Pleasant. Don't travel any.*

Apr 22

*Rained last night. Go as far as Horse Creek (4 miles) and stop on account of creeks being too high to ford. (afternoon) Creek keeps raising very fast. Water within 10 feet of the wagon. Move wagon back a piece.*

Apr 23

*The water is falling slowly.*

Apr 24

*The water is still falling; is fordable by 3:00. Burd comes with two horses after us.*

Apr 25

*Start on again. Go 13 miles. Went through Monterallo.*

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*Apr 26*

*Start at 7:00. Go through Nevada and Deerfield. Make 25 miles.*

*Apr 27*

*Go through Fort Scott and camp 3 miles west. Make 18 miles.*

So, here the diary ends as she runs out of pages in the small book. Why the trip was taken is a matter lost in history, but this does give us a glimpse into the life of a young girl on an adventure.

Photos and transcription contributed by Gail Johnson Richards, Great Granddaughter of  
Jessie D. Carr (1863-1924)