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[Diary written for Lona Elizabeth Voelker by her mother, November 15, 1896-April 8, 1897]. Vol. I 1896-1897

Voelker, Lillie, 1867-1908; Soule, Belle M.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1896-1897

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Vol. I.
1896

LONA ELIZABETH VOELKER.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Voelker,
Sunday noon, a 9 pound daughter.

-Diary-

Loua Elizabeth Volker-

Rom. Nov. 15th 1896 Sunday 12¹⁵ P.M.

Dr. T. R. Allen - Physician

Mrs Belle M. Soule - Nurse.

Mrs Volker having asked me to start this diary for little Loua, I do so with much pleasure. The Fifteenth of Nov. was a beautiful Sunshine day. almost as warm as summer. It seemed to me that the good old "mother nature" rejoiced with us - after our little black eyed black haired maiden was ushered into the world. May her life be as bright & sunny as was the day.

She is truly welcome. I washed, dressed and tucked her into her little nest of a cradle at (One thirty) P.M. - Towards eve.

Diary

-ring her grandpa Cutler called
and looked at the mama & his
first grand-daughter. He was de-
lighted - Happy Grandfather - And
so it is - The old ~~men~~ their youth
in their children's children.

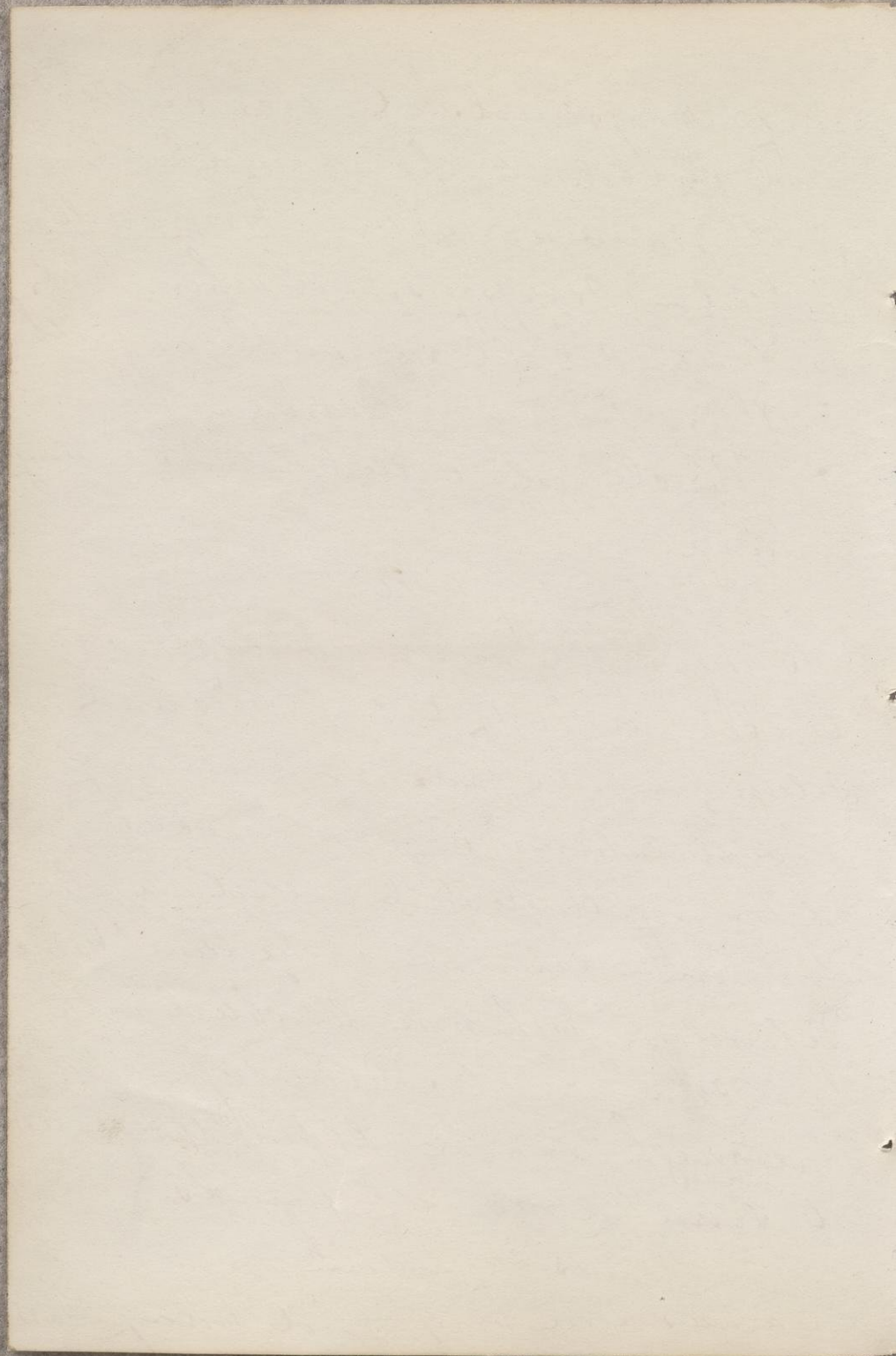
"Uncle Fred" called later Sunday
evening.

Monday - 16th

Baty's papa wired her uncle Geo.
Cutler in N.Y. City - Received
telegram in answer containing
congratulations from both Uncles Geo.
& Henry. Uncle Fred called in the
forenoon - Later we came Aunt Carrie
Defendorf. Both were delighted with
the child - Mrs Defendorf helped
me weigh her - she tipped the scales
at seven and one half pounds.

Tuesday - 17th

Lona has been very good today - has



Had plenty of nourishment. Uncle
Fred & Aunt Carrie called - They tell
each time they come about how
happy the grand-ma. is & how
much she wishes to see the child - She has
been unable to come. Being ill at
Dr Dufendorfs -

Wed- 18th

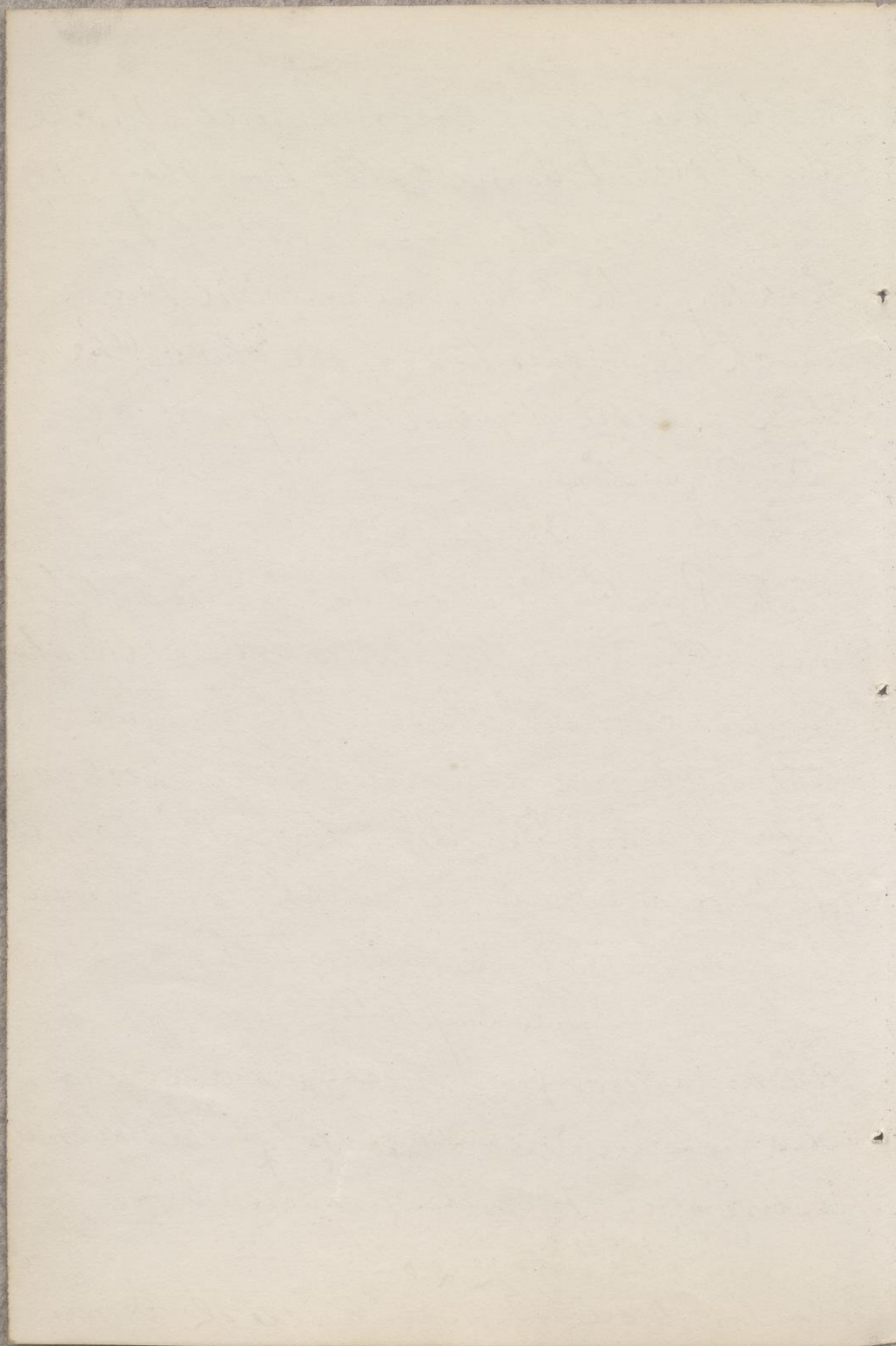
Mrs Ray B. Miller sent a beautiful
bouquet of Erysanthemums - Ida & Bertha
(Aunties) came. Both seemed to think
the little one a wonderfully construc-
ted affair. They held her - Bertha want-
ed to know when she would "Take the bottle"
& wondered what she "had no teeth"

Thursday 19th

Received letter from Uncle Geo. containing
check for - Ten Dollars) "for Faby" The "Richters
Sisters" sent bouquet of carnations

Friday 20th

Today her Uncle Herman called & was



not in - The mauna says "He just
yelled with wonderful delight"

Sat. 21 -

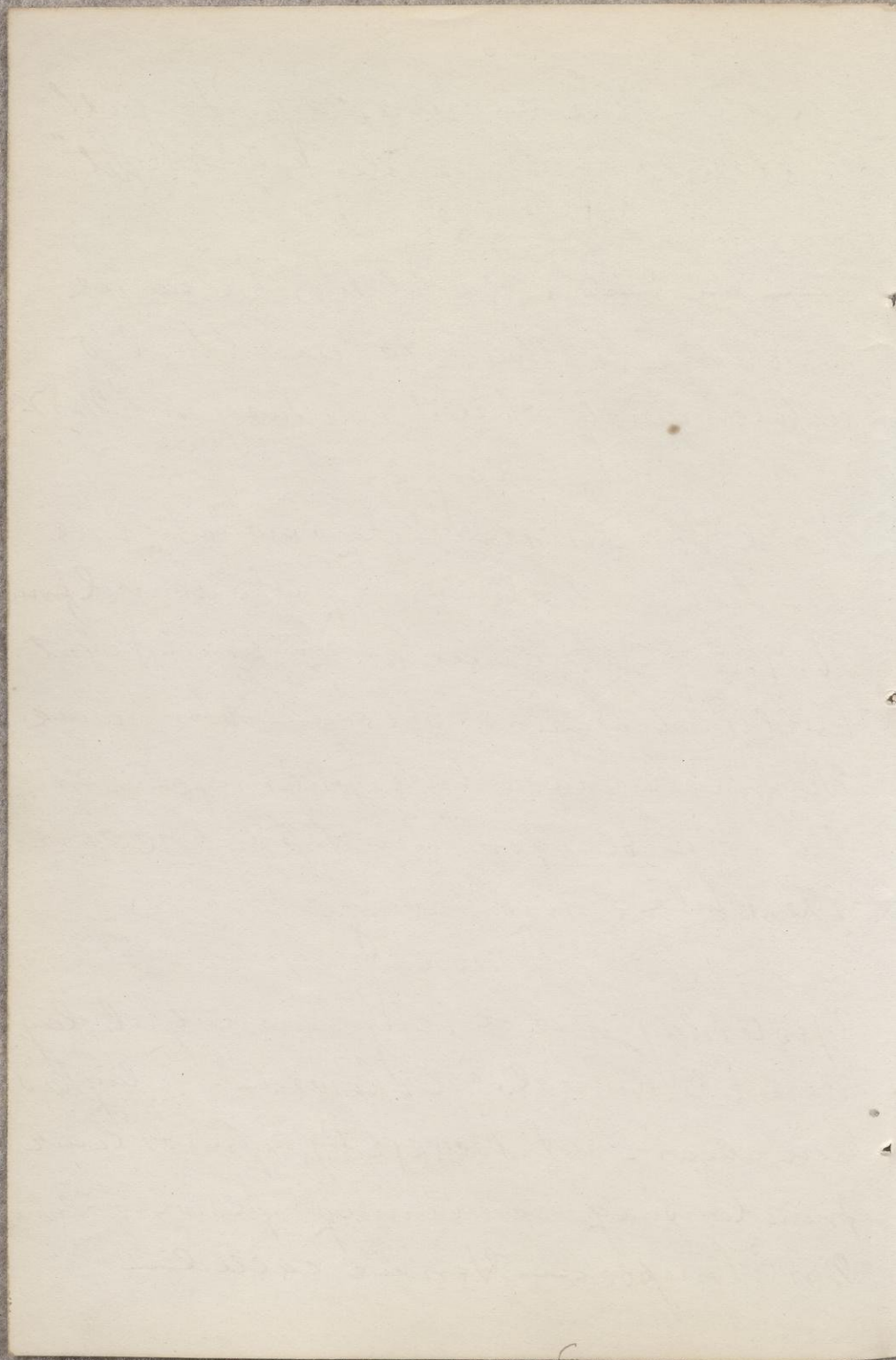
Mr Ed Mrs Ida Ed Bertha came -
took Loua to the kitchen Ed tried to
keep her quiet while I was busy with Mrs V.

Sunday 22 -

Mr Ed Mrs Volker today saw baby twice
her father: Uncle Henry who arrived from
N. Y. City Sat' came with grandpa cut-
ler Ed Aunt Ida - to see Loua & her name.
He brought Loua a little gold ring - says -
"she is a blinger" her papa took care
of her while I was away.

Tuesday 23 -

Yesterday was a very uneventful day.
Rained, Rained, Ed thawed. Today has
been clear. A package by express came
from Lansing containing flowers - from
Mrs Thompson - Hennie called



Thursday - 26 -

Thanksgiving Day - Mrs Deffen-
dorz. brought baby a set of gold pins
and a little jewel case - Birth Ed Ma-
fred and Harry - and the Grandpa. called
Report that Grandma Cutler is feeling
better - - - Friday - 27 -

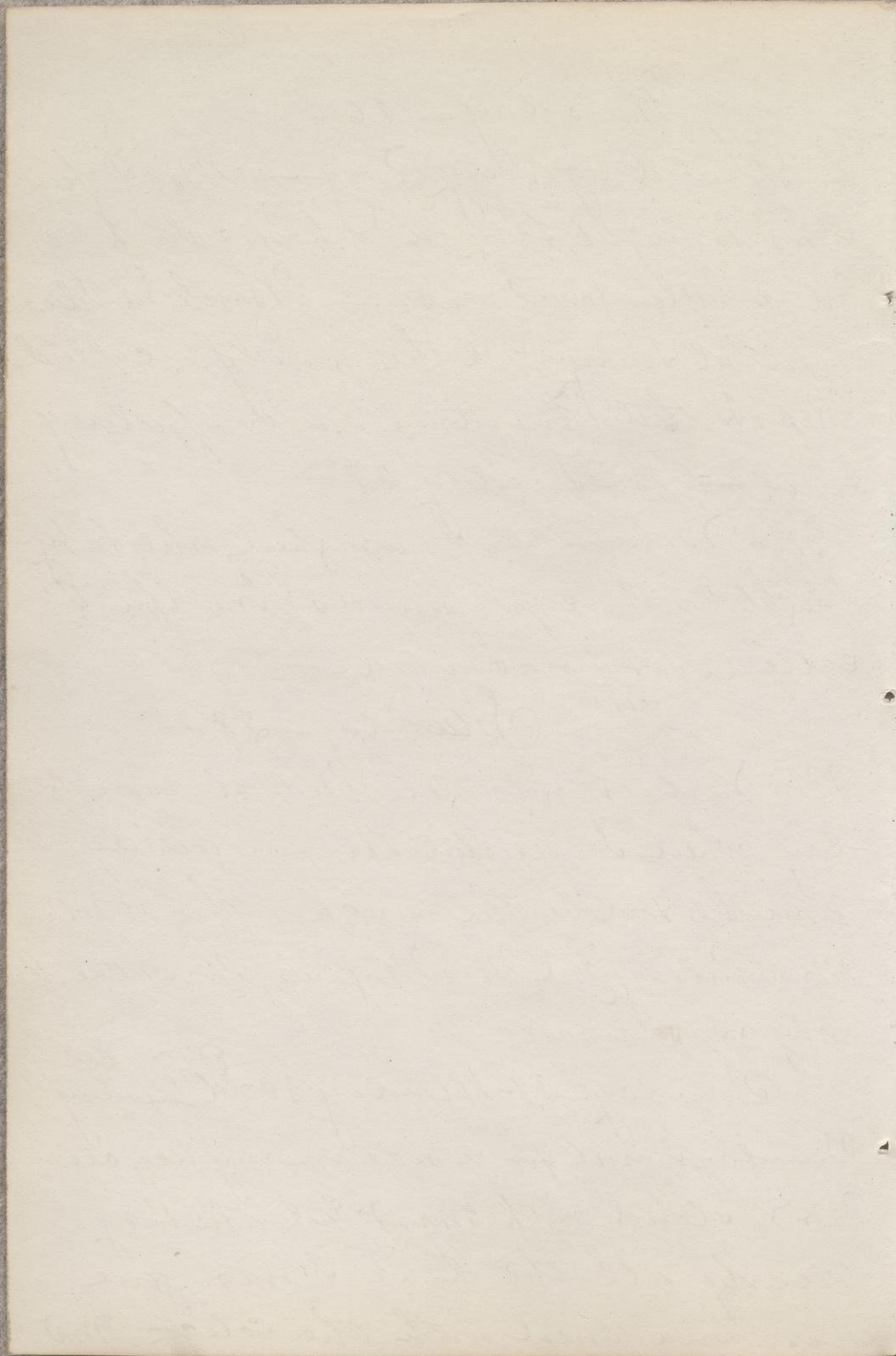
Mr Volker and T. wished the baby
(eight Ed three good pounds) Grandpa C-
called. baby was awake -

Saturday - 28 -

Mrs Volker was delighted at noon to-
day when I assisted her in getting
from the bed to the couch. This P.M.
Mrs Putney and Mrs Morgantaylor. called
baby was awake -

Sunday - 29 - Monday 30th - Tuesday ^{Oct 1 -}

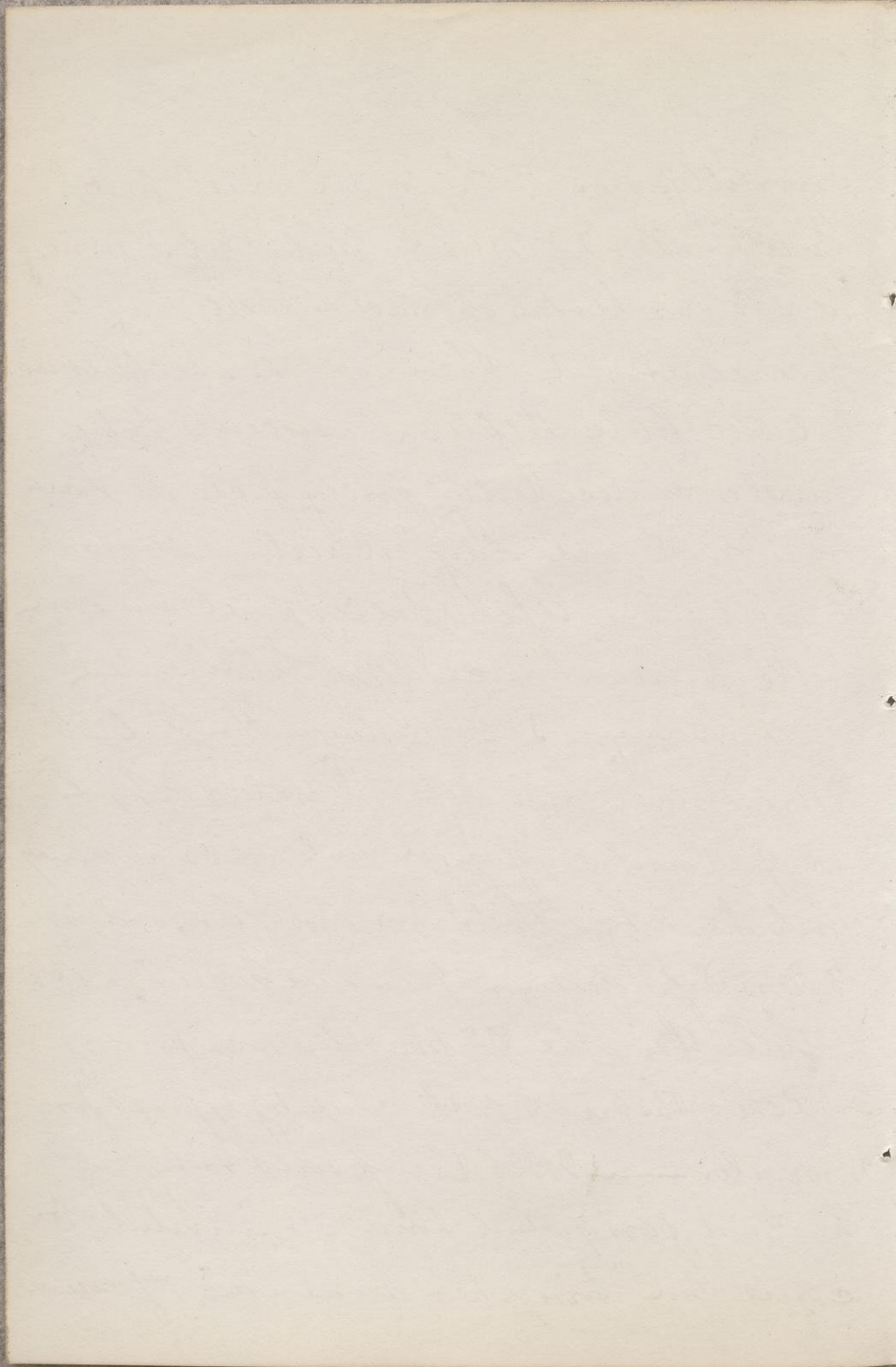
Sunday I went for a ride on my bicycle.
Mr V. staid with Mrs V and the baby.
Nearly all the time I was gone
Miss Loua cried with the colic - Mrs



Fischer Ed Florence Cornell called -
Monday. Mrs V. sat up and held little Lou -
Mrs Lewis called - Tuesday - Aunt
Carrie D. called just when I had Lou
in the tub bathing her. - In the P.M.
I dressed her in her prettiest little
duds - Mr V. sent the bus down
Fred Cutler and I took the baby to "Merrell's"
where Mr V. met us - He and baby had
three sittings for photographs - I sat
with her once - Then we took her to
Dr. DeFendorf's to see her grandmamma Cut-
ler - The dear woman was sitting up
and the look of pure delight and motherly
love that crept into her face as she took
her first grandchild in her arms -
praising her beauty - (for she is indeed
a fair child) calling her by many endear-
ing names: so quickly, so earnestly and

generally was worthy of an artists brush.
Fred C. Mr V. Mrs Sunders & I were
there to see her. Ed. it was a sight long to
be remembered. She in her helplessness
and the little helpless, innocent baby,
made a decidedly pretty picture. Loua
was good all day Ed. rests well now
at night. — Ethel Tuller sent Loua a
little memento & Mrs. Tubor called.

Thursday — 3 — Friday — 4 — Sat — 5
Mrs. Doliver sits up. Ed. walks about
is feeling very good and is so happy
with the baby. This I took those proofs down
to Mrs. Sunders for "Grandma Tuller" to see
— while there the Dr. brought in a pair of
crutches that had just come by express for
Mrs. Tuller — Mrs. Simpsons baby is to
have a party and Loua is invited to
come and "bring her mamma" of course.



they cannot go - Today. Sal - Maud
feels so well and my three weeks
are up. so she is going to try and
get along without - me. So I will go
home this evening. Batsy's uncle and
intends starting for N.Y. City today.

(So ends the first three weeks of
Louisa's existence. - (written by
Louisa's Nurse. Belle M. Soule -

of - Louisa - Michigan -

Sunday - Dec - 8 -

I Louisa Mamma takes up the
Diary this morning with a
 fervent prayer that nothing
unnecessary may occur to
prevent my keeping up this
pleasant-duty for my little
daughter untill she herself
can hold a pen - I have
always wished I had a Diary
myself and long before
baby came I had planned she

should have our begun for her.
This is the first day her Papa
and I have cared for the dear
little baby alone as Mrs. Soule
as Mrs. Soule returned to her home,
last evening, after spending three
weeks with us. She leaves
a warm place in all our
hearts for her. I gave the baby
a bath for the first time this
morning and she seemed to
enjoy it as much as ever.

The proud and happy feeling
that came over me as I put
her in her little so clean and
fresh and fast asleep I can
never tell.

Monday - 7 -

The baby did not sleep well
during the night - consequently
she and I are not feeling as
well today. This evening Miss
Maud Underwood from Chicago
called. She thought the baby
very sweet and wishes me

to make not-of-it in the babies
diary that Sona might never
forget that she had held her
in her arms - Miss Hazel
Colton also held the baby for
the first-time today -

Thursday Dec - 8 -

Baby has not felt very well
this morning. For the first-time
Sona's and our Auntie and Uncle
Scheuler saw her. Auntie held
our dear baby long and lovingly
and with tears in her eyes
hoped our Sona might grow
up to be a devoted useful
christian girl, and that her
Papa and I might see many
happy years with our little
daisy later. They drove eighteen
miles in the cold winter
weather to see the baby and
Grandma Cutter.

Christine Weterling called and
said we ought to be the
happiest-parents with such a

direct-plump baby, and with so many lovely things for the baby.

Wednesday - Dec - 9 -

Grandpa Cutter happened to be here this morning just as I was giving baby her bath. He laughed aloud and clapped his hands while Elizabeth almost-smiled.

She has as yet never cried while bathing. She seems to love the water.

Mrs. Cotton (the Grandmother) called this afternoon for the first time. Louisa was asleep but Grandmother loved and kissed her just the same.

Thursday Dec - 10 -

Dr. Barnes, M. E. Pastor called on Louisa and myself this morning. Found me giving the baby her bath. He thought he knew she would make our more good methodist. Aunt Carrie came and spent most of the forenoon and brought baby a

pair of little booties that she had knit all herself.

Uncle Fred did not go east last Saturday as he expected, and he took his last dinner before going with us today.

The baby has been so good and quiet today while I am suffering terribly. Since the day that Grandma Cutter had her limb removed she has been at Aunt Carrie's until this afternoon she was taken home.

Friday Dec-11-

The baby's first pictures were brought home by her Papa today.

They were taken when she was just two weeks and two days old with her Papa. Willie Pierce saw the baby for the first time today. He exclaimed "My what a fleshy little girl." He seemed fairly delighted.

Dec. 14 - Monday.

I appeared on the scene again last Friday P. M. was in Simpsons and Berr's store selling dry goods, (for a change) when a messenger came to me over the phone for me to come to Voelkers at once. I came and found Mrs. V. quite ill, had had a very hard chill - have concluded that it is an attack of bilious fever. Fred Cetter came shortly after I came to say good bye as he was to start for N. Y. City that night. Mrs. Gair, Mrs. Snell and Miss Whipple called but I did not let them see her because of Mrs. V. fever. Grandma Cetter and Aunt Carrie came this afternoon. Mrs. Duffendore, Emma and I carried her in from the carriage. She and Mrs. Voelker were so delighted to see one another. Mrs. V. gave a Photo of Lou and her Papa to Dr. Allen.

Sunday Mrs. V. was better.
Grandpa Cutter called also Harry
and Ida. Lona had quite a
crying spell. I thought - I never
was going to get her quiet - but -
after she settled down she slept -
the balance of the night - only
making once to be nursed.
Today finds Mrs. V. better and
Lona good.

Tuesday Dec - 15 -

Mrs. Soule has again given
the Diary over to her. Lona
is a month old today and is
a good girl for her Ma and being
as sick as she has been -

Wednesday - 16 -

Dr. Allen says I can sit up
tomorrow for the first-time
since Friday afternoon. Josie
Kelsey called seemed very surprised
to find me in bed again. Stayed
to see the baby have her bath.
It was the first-time she had

seem any baby as young as Louisa
put right into the water and
was very much pleased.

Mrs Turnison, Mrs Lou Cutter
and Miss Phebe Yeomans called
on the baby and myself. Phebe
gave the baby a very handsome
wrist-chain and ring and thought
the baby such a dear little thing.

Thursday Dec. - 16 -

Dr Allen seemed very pleased
to find me sitting up this morning.
I am very much delighted over it
myself. Mrs Herb Bailey and Mrs
Ray B Miller and the baby called.
Jessie's baby is now three months
old.

Friday Dec. - 17 -

Mrs Louie had a friend visit
her from Grand Rapids and
it left me alone today to test
my strength. I took care of the
baby and feel quite strong tonight.
Baby has been very good too.

Miss Kate Eckart was here to see baby and I. She seemed so pleased to hold our Louie and hoped I might soon be stronger to enjoy her more. Wanted me to promise I would bring the baby and stay a long time when I could.

Saturday Dec - 18 -

This has been rather a quiet day. It is our wedding day.

Fanny gave me a set of nut-pickers as a little remembrance of the happy two years. Louie has been well all day. Mrs. Correll and baby Helen came to call on the baby and myself. I am feeling quite a little better.

Sunday, Dec. 20 -

Grandpa called this morning and held Louie for a long time. He saw her smile for the first time today. He kissed her often and fatherly too.

Mrs. Soule left this afternoon

again to let me try my strength
and cure for myself if possible.
I am feeling so much better
than I did when she left before
and hope I may gain strength
daily. Monday Dec-21-

S. Elizabeth was sick all last
night and cried most of the day.
Tuesday - Dec-22 -

The baby is some better today.
She is feeling sick because I took
too strong a dose of medicine
Sunday. Dr Allen gave her
some medicine last night to
make her happy as he said.

Wednesday - Dec-23 -

This has been a quiet-day &
have kept Sona as much so as
possible. She is feeling much
better. Her picture taken with
the nurse came. She was just
four weeks old when taken.

Thursday - Dec-24 -

The babies Gracie Noah and
Aunt-Lda sent-the baby our
dollar for her Xmas today.

Hazel and Solo Cotton gave the
baby a glass cup for her Xmas.
Roy Miller saw the baby take
her first-bath for the first-
time today. He enjoyed it ever
so much. This is the babies
first-Xmas eve. She feels
much better than she has
for a whole week before-

Her Papa bought her her first-
bath tub tonight.

Friday Dec-25--

Christmas Day

Sona Elizabeth woke up early
this morning for her about-
seven o'clock, as happy as any
little bird chirped and croued
and then went-back to sleep.

I gave her her first-bath in
her new tub. She enjoyed
it very much. Grandma

and Grandpa came down to see the baby as we could not be at home on account of my not being stronger. Her Uncle Fred sent her from N. Y. City a gold necklace for her Xmas. Her Uncle George gave her her first rubber doll (just for fun) he wrote.

Her Uncle Herman sent her a candy can. Emma Crittenden sent her a little rattle for her Xmas. Emma Johnson our girl loves our Son so much and to show her love gave her a pair of white silk mittens. Grandma and Grandpa gave the baby a dollar for her Xmas. In the afternoon Aunt Carrie came down to see Son and to show us her Xmas presents. In the evening Aunt Ida and Bertha called and so ends our first Xmas with baby among us.
Saturday Dec - 26 -

Sora has felt good today.
Has been much quieter since
her Grandma called xmas
day and suggested giving her
soothing syrup once in awhile

Sora Winchel called and was
surprised at my being able to
welcome her at the door -

She thought the baby a very
sweet little girl.

Sunday Dec. 27 -

S. Elizabeth's Grandpa called
this morning to see the baby. He
has been here every Sunday regularly
since the baby came - He seems
so much delighted and taken
up with the baby. Mr and Mrs.
Frank Fuller called this afternoon
to see the baby. They thought her
so much sweeter and larger
than they had even expected
to find her. Mr Fuller wrote
me to make note of it in her
Diary that he had for the first
time seen her eat her dinner.
He thought it would be

quite a job on little Louisa when she could once read her diary. I promised him I would.

Monday Dec - 28 -

Her Aunt-Carrie was here this afternoon for a long time and held the baby. The baby and I made our first-call this afternoon on Mrs. Cotton. We only stayed a few moments.

Tuesday Dec - 29 -

The baby has been unusually good today. Mrs. Morgenthau called and says she loves our little Louisa more every time she comes.

She pronounced her a very pretty baby, to my great-surprise and delight.

Wednesday Dec - 30 -

Louisa has slept-nearly all day, a sure sign that she feels better. Mrs. Graff and Dr Barnes were here to see her.

Thursday - Dec - 31 -

Aunt-Carrie and Mrs Defendore

were here this afternoon

Miss Defenders enjoyed the baby
and all its things so much.

Friday Jan 1 - 1897.

This is New Years morning. Louisa
is sleeping so soundly this
morning, has slept well all
night after her hard day
yesterday. We are getting ready
this morning to spend our first-
day at Grandmas after several
months absence. It will be
the first Louisa has ever been
at her Grandmas home -

We have spent our first New
Years day at Grandpas home.
Louisa was very good all day.
The day passed altogether too
rapidly. Grandma enjoyed
it so much that she was in
tears most of the time. The
roads were very muddy and
Louisa slept both going and
coming. It was the first
time her Uncle John Defenders
saw the baby and he pronounced

her a very nice baby.

Saturday - Jan - 2 -

We received a very nice New Year letter from Uncle Fred from N. Y. C. in which he especially remembered Louie as he always does. Also from Louie's Aunt Bertha and Uncles Willie and Stud.

Her Grandmother Volker made the baby a very nice white dress all herself and sent it for Louie's New Year present with an invitation to come and visit them as soon as Mamma and baby could.

Sunday Jan - 3 -

This is a very rainy Sunday. Uncle Henry wanted us to take the baby and come over to Grandpa's again today but we could not so soon again.

Elizabeth is seven weeks old today. She seems bright and happy today. We have started a little bank for Louie today into which we are going to try

and put ten cents each day.
The weather has been so rainy
and the roads so muddy that
for the first time since Louisa
came her Grandpa could not
call on her today. She has been
so good all day.

Monday - Jan - 4 -

The weather has grown colder
and we have had some snow.
Louisa has been quite good today.
Phebe Yarnum, Belle Yates, Mrs.
Putney, and Florence Putney
have been here today to see
the baby.

Tuesday Jan - 5 - -

In some my little Louisa
looks a terrible cold, yesterday
and her first one too. She has
been quite sick all day. But
she seems better again tonight.

Wednesday Jan - 6 - -

The baby's cold is much better
and it is a cold dreary morning
day. Took my second small
walk over to Mrs. Black and

back today.

Thursday - Jan - 7 -

Was taken in bed again today with what the Dr calls grip. But Louie is much better. Mrs. Cotton kindly came over and gave the baby her bath this morning and also got her ready for bed tonight. Miss Hattie McMillen called on baby and myself today.

Friday Jan - 8 -

Louie's cold is much better today and I think she is going much better all the time. Mrs. Cotton and the children were here this evening.

Friday - 9 -

Louie woke up feeling very good this morning. Aunt Carrie and Mrs Bull called this morning and also Mrs. Lovel.

This afternoon Mrs. King, Mrs. Haight, Mrs Kulenbrock, Mrs. Cotton called and also Mrs.

Allie Cutter. I have been so
poorly that - Mrs Soule came
back tonight - to undress the
baby, she is also coming in the
morning to give the baby her bath.

Saturday - Jan - 10

Little Sona slept - well all
night - after Mrs Soule dressed
her for the night. Her Grandma
Cutter had a very bad fall yesterday

She had a sort of fainting
spell, fell and cut her cheeks
just under her eye quite badly
and also struck her sore hip.

The dear good soul seems to
have no end to misfortune and
yet seems so patient and
cheerful. Mrs. Morganthalen
made weekly Saturday afternoon
call on Sona and myself. Mrs
Fuller also called on Sona and
myself. Mrs Soule dressed baby
for the night - again on account
of my weak condition.

Sunday - Jan - 10

Baby Elizabeth has been especially good today. Slept on her Papa's arm from half past-ten this morning untill after two o'clock and then untill after four on the bed. Her Uncle George wrote me a very lovely letter yesterday from N. Y. City, in which he so kindly remembered the baby soon and he always does. Her Papa and I gave her her bath this morning the first I have been able to even help give for our whole week.

I walked to the barn this afternoon for the first-time since I have been sick, and Papa W. weighed me I was much surprised to find I weighed just-over hundred and thirteen pounds.

Baby is eight-weeks old this noon. Mrs. Cull and Miss Bevil, called on baby and myself this morning.

Monday Jan-11 -

An old Soldier, a friend of

Sonia's Papa heard that she
had come and wanted to
remember her in some little
way so he in his poor circumstances
sent her a pound of candy and
an orange. Of course the Mama
ate it for her little daughter
this time. Grandma Cutler
feels some better but not much
her hip pains her very much.

Mrs. F. Henrich came to call
on Sonia and myself, and
Aunt Carrie spent the afternoon
and stayed to tea. She loved
the dear little baby so much
and so often. Said she could not
love her own baby any more. But
she does not as yet know the
love of a mother's heart.

Tuesday - Jan. 12 -

This has been rather a quiet
day, while I am feeling quite
a little better. Little Sonia feels
very poorly, caused from an
over dose of Cascara. Mildred
Menschel called this evening. How

she did love our baby and said she should think she would love her almost-to death. She loved her in her quiet-way so much. Aunt-Bertha and Christa Wetzling called to see the baby but-found her fast-asleep-

Wednesday - Jan - 13 -

Little Louisa has been so good all day and feels much better. I took my first ride since my last sickness with Papa just-after dinner. It-has made me feel like a new person. Papa's Aunts Jennie and Sophia called this afternoon to see little Louisa - Their first-exclamation was that-she is a little Voelker. Her Aunt Jennie loved her most-it seemed to me while they both thought-her lovely. Her little cousin Grace loved her often and hard and begged to hold her just-for a moment.

Thursday - Jan 14 -

Our baby has been very good

again today she is getting over her cold very nicely. This time Aunt-Carrie gave me a ride the first time since I am up again. We had a very lovely time and drive.

Aunt-Cutter, Mrs Dophman and Mrs. Maxwell, were here this afternoon to see the baby. They all thought-her a most-remarkable fleshy baby. Little Kate's Burke almost a baby herself enjoyed the baby so much this afternoon. They tell me Grandma Cutter is not quite so well this afternoon.

Friday - Jan 15 -

Today our little Sona is just two months old. She has been so good and slept so much that Aunt-Ida, who has come to spend the day, said "She won't sleep all day will she" Mrs. Just came this afternoon to see how we liked our baby she said. She thought-if we did not like her she could take her and love her as her own. She kissed her very tenderly. She also said she did not care to kiss babies generally but she did love

to kiss Lona as she looked so fresh and sweet. Mrs. Black also can't over she thinks Lona is growing so fast and fleshy.

Saturday Jan. - 16 -

This noon Papa came home with his mustache removed. He thinks he can kiss his little daughter oftener and with much more pleasure to himself and her. Lona has been a little noisier than yesterday. Sunday Jan 17 -

Baby is nine weeks old today. This is our very disagreeable day. We had planned to take little Lona over home to see Grandpa and Grandma but the day turned out so bad we had to stay at home quietly.

Monday Jan - 18 -

Had a lovely letter from Uncle George in which he tells of his engagement to Miss Grace Heidebrant and of his coming home in July and also sends

lots of love to our Sonu - I
walked for the first-time since
Sonu came down to the shop
to meet her Papa tonight:

Tuesday Jan - 19 -

Little Sonu has been very good today
has not slept much but been very
quiet. Aunt Carrie came this
afternoon and held her most of the
time. I walked down to Aunt-
Carrie's tonight, and surprised her
for the first-time.

Wednesday Jan - 20 -

Thursday Jan - 21 -

Both rather quiet days for Sonu
and I as they were rather stormy
outside. Friday Jan - 22 -

Grandpa Cutter came down this
afternoon for the purpose of seeing
Sonu. Said he could not wait
another day and came right-
along. He seemed just-delighted
to see the dear little thing.

Mrs. S. P. Brock was also in. She
thought her such a big baby
for her age. Papa and I were here

the baby tonight. She weighed
just fourteen pounds exactly.

Saturday - 23 -

Aunt Carrie came down to spend
the afternoon with Lou and I. She
did enjoy it so much and so did we.

She loves the baby so much, every
time she comes. Grandpa was I
down again today to see the baby.
We are preparing to take the baby
over to Grandpa's tomorrow.

Sunday - Jan 24 -

We were all prepared to go with
Grandpa when he called for us
this morning. He told us to wrap
little Lou in very warm for it
was a very cold day. We never
dreamed of it being as cold as it
was for it was below zero. But
it took us a very short time and
Lou was as warm and
comfortable when we reached
our other home. She simply was
delighted all day, she never cried
to sleep, eat, or cry. She seemed
so contented. I think she cheered
Grandma quite a little too.

Poor Grandma could only
sit up part of the time.

But she loved to watch her little
Granddaughter as much as any
one could imagine.

Monday Jun - 25 -

Little Louie used her nursery
chair the second time today.
She does not dread to use it.
nor does she seem at all frightened.

Allie Cutler called and held the
baby for some little time in her
arms. Tuesday Jun - 26 -

Grandma Voelker sent the
baby a pair of little black
stockings that she had knit-
herself. Grandma Voelker must
love the baby and think of her
more than we know any
thing about - to make her such
lovely things from time to
time. Wednesday Jun 27

I have taken several sleigh
rides in the afternoon and
they seem to do Louie as
much good as they do me.

Uncle Frank Voelker came
and rocked the baby to sleep
tonight.

Thursday - Jun - 28 -

Sona slept all the whole night without-making once. She slept until her Papa got up to breakfast this morning. Mrs. Woyantaber came to love Sona this afternoon.

She says the baby has grown most-wonderfully since she saw her last.

Friday Jun 29 -

Baby Sona does not feel very well today. Aunt-Carrie was down this morning and brought Aunt-Bertha to spend the day with baby and I. Mrs C. W.

Parsons called this morning to see baby and I. Mrs. Georgy & Gundrum called this afternoon to see baby and I. She thought the baby lovely and bright.

Saturday Jun - 30 -

Last-night-was the first-night Sona ever slept-up stairs and in fact the first-time she was ever up there. She seemed a little frightened but slept very well. Georgy & Scott and cousin

Charley Sauster took dinner
with us and saw Sona for the
first-time. They seemed to enjoy
her very much. In the
afternoon Uncle Henry took Sona
and I over to Grandma's to see
her. She slept-both going and
coming. The second time Sona
has been at-Grandma's

Saturday Jan - 30 -

For the first-time I have left
little Elizabeth all the afternoon.
She was very good all the time
I was gone. I spent-the afternoon
at-Mrs. W. H. Clutter. George Scott
kindly sent-the baby a pair of
white satin boots for a gift.

It was certainly very thoughtful
and kind of him to do such a
thing. Sunday Jan - 31 - 1897 -

We took dinner the first-
time since baby came. Little
Sona stayed at-home in charge
of our Emma. This afternoon
we drove home and surprised
Grandma-, Grandma had to

has her limb lanced again.
Baby does not feel very well, Has
quite a hard cold.

(Monday was the first time)

Monday Feb. 1-

Soma weighs just-fifteen pounds.
Mrs. Frank Fuller and Miss West
called to see little Soma and myself.

Tuesday - Feb-2-

I take a drive nearly every afternoon
for the good of Soma and myself.
Today the baby and I spent the
afternoon at Aunt Carrie's. Jessie
Miller had her baby there also.
The two babies seemed to enjoy
themselves so much together.

Wednesday Feb-3-

Baby Soma is terribly sick with
a cold and cough. I am doing
all I can for her.

Belle Galer and Laura Cooper
called to see Baby and myself today.

I took my ride as usual.

Baby Soma for the first-time
that I have noticed has found
out that she has two little
hands. She will look first-

at one and then at the other.
She has also for the first-time
laughed aloud.

Thursday and Friday -
Feb - 4 - 5 -

They were both rather stormy
quiet-days - Some cold is very
much better.

Saturday Feb - 6 -

Grandpa called this morning
to see and kiss little Sona.

Aunt Carrie came and took me
out for a lovely drive. Little
Sona was real good while I
was out. Sunday Feb - 7 -

Sona slept quite well last night.
Her cold seems to be some better.
We are going to spend this day
at Grandpa's. We have spent
another very pleasant day at
Grandma's. Aunt Carrie and
Uncle John D. were there and it
was pleasant all around. But
Sona took more cold however.
She coughs quite a little tonight.
Monday Feb - 8 -

Elizabeth has been quite sick all day but - feels much better toge-
Mrs. Ellis, Jign Nichols, Mr Putney
Mrs Putney, Mrs Reynolds, Aunt
Dophman and Mrs Hemwood were
here this afternoon to call on the
baby and myself. Mrs. Ellis
thought I had a very lovely
baby and ought to feel very proud
of her and she thought I looked
as though I did. Mr Putney
thought she looked like a lovely
and most perfect child.

Sarah smiled for him. I think
she takes more to men than women
anyway. They all thought her
such a fleshy healthy looking
baby. Tuesday, Feb-9-

Grandma Cutter came to spend
the day with us for the first
time since her limb has been
reunited and such a good time
as we did have - She seemed so
happy and simply delighted
with the baby all day. It seemed
so good to have her here -

Mrs. Cotton, Mrs. Kulebrock,
Mrs. Will Burleton and little
Fiedie came to call on us this
afternoon. Uncle Noah Seader
took dinner with us today for
the first time since the baby
came. He thought her a very
nice good baby. Seemed very
much surprised at the way
she handled her rattle. She has
rattled it very nicely for a
whole week.

Wednesday Feb - 10

Aunt Carrie came to spend the
day and we had a most-
pleasant time. Uncle John
& I came to take supper with us.
Sona seems to cough more
today. Thursday Feb - 11 -

Uncle Noah Seader took
dinner with us again today and
also Uncle Frank. They both enjoyed
the baby so much.

Friday Feb - 12 -

Rather a quiet day. Grandpa
called to see the baby a few
moments. Saturday - 13 -

Little Sona had a very hard night. Her cold seems so stubborn.

It will hang on. Aunt Carrie called to see her this afternoon.

Little Sona had a valentine hung on the front-door last night. I think by Hazel and Soda Cotton.

Sunday Feb - 14 -

I kept little Sona down by the stove all last night and cared for her very carefully and she is feeling much better this morning. Papa took her out for a long drive this morning and it makes her feel lots better.

Monday Feb - 15 -

Sona slept very well last night and feels much better this morning. Grandma called a moment and said she was coming tomorrow to spend the day with us.

Tuesday Feb - 16 -

Grandma came to spend the day and Aunt Carrie came to spend the afternoon. Allie

Cutter came in a few moments. She said she could not get little Louie by without stopping to see the baby. We spent a very pleasant day together. Grandpa also came in a little while this evening and called our little Louie an Angel many times.

Wednesday Feb. 17.

The baby is getting much better every day. Aunt Carrie spent the forenoon with us. We had a good time as usual. She loved Louie often and long. Mrs. Mrs. Chute called to see the baby. She thought her such a big baby.

It seems to me that her Papa loves her more and more every day of his life.

Thursday Feb. 18 -

Little Louie seems better today. Papa took me out for another lovely drive this morning. This afternoon I took the baby down to spend the afternoon at Aunt Carrie's as Grand ma is there.

We had a lovely time -
Friday Feb-19-

It did not hurt the baby one bit to take her out yesterday. Her cold is gradually getting better.

Sam Schuler and his sister Julia and Hannah came to spend the day. They saw the baby for the first time. Mrs. Durham called and thought the baby so large and bright for her age -

Saturday Feb-20-

Aunt Carrie spent the day with us. It has been very pleasant. The baby seems to feel very much better today. Uncle Frank and little Eva Kleinberg called to see the baby this afternoon. As usual she fell asleep in her Uncle's arms.

Sunday Feb-21-

For the first time since I have been sick we went to our church together and Grandpa was there and told us he had come down prepared to take us all home to spend the day.

We sent Sona and all and we
had a most delightful time.
I went to church again tonight.
Monday Feb. 22 -

Sona seems to feel as well
as ever. She did not take the
least cold yesterday. Papa has
been home with us all the
afternoon. It being Washington's
birthday he closed the shop this
afternoon. ^{of Tuesday - 23 -} Mr. Morganthaler
spent the afternoon with us and
bought little Sona another blue
dress already made. It was
certainly more than kind of her.

She seems always delighted to
see the baby and shows she
loves her dearly.

Wednesday Feb. 24 -

We were out looking for a carriage
for our little Sona this afternoon
and while out Mrs. Filater and Mrs.
Lucian Cornell called.

Thursday Feb. 25 -

Grandma came to spend the
day and we had a good time

as we always do. Grandpa came down in the morning and helped me give Sona a bath. He enjoyed it so much untill she began to cry hard and then he had an excuse to leave immediately. He dreads to hear her cry for he loves her so. Aunt-Carrie came down in the afternoon and we were all so happy together. Sona's cab came today. She sat in it the first-time this morning. She never laughed so long or hard as she did for Uncle Herman this afternoon as he drove her around in her cab. Mrs. Gadd called to see the baby. She seemed to enjoy the baby so much. She gave her a kiss before she went away.

Friday Feb. 26 -

Sona does not feel as well today as yesterday. Must have taken a little cold again. Mr. Will Wright called to see Sona this afternoon. She thinks Sona is as big as her baby and her baby is one year old. I weighed

Sona this afternoon and found
she weighed seventeen pounds.
Saturday Feb-27-

Aunt-Carrie and Aunt-Bertha
were down to spend the day. We
had a quiet-good time. Were not-
disturbed by callers and our little
Sona was good and well.
Sunday Feb. 28-

Papa and Sona and I were alone
all day. We did not go over to
Grandpa's. We all enjoyed the day
together so much. In the evening
I went to our church again and
met and saw quite a number of
my friends. Sona was more
than good all the day.
March-1-

March does not come in like
a lamb but rather like a lion.
Our baby seems so well since
her last cold. Miss Phebe Younger
was in again this afternoon to
see the baby. She thinks she is
getting so cute and playful.
Tuesday-March-2-

It is not a lovely day but I took
Sona down to Aunt Morgan's
to spend the afternoon. The first-
time the baby was ever out-
in her cot. Wednesday March-3-

I took little Sona over hour to
spend the day. We stayed until
eight-o'clock at night. She did
amuse her Grandparents and
Uncles and Aunts so much.
Thursday March-4-

Mrs Putney & Hattie Bates called
this morning to see the baby. They
were just-delighted with her. I
spent the afternoon with Mrs. Just
Mr Yeomans's sister. We had a
most-lovely visit- I enjoy being
with her so much. Her tastes
and mine are so much alike.

She loves the baby dearly. Mrs.
Frank Miller called after we
returned home. She kissed Sona's
hands and face and loved her
dearly. Friday March-5-

We stayed at-home all day
at-least- Sona did. We were

going to Grandpa's but - the weather was too stormy. It was rather a quiet-day for Sona.

Saturday March 5 -

Little Ethel Fuller came down to spend the day with Sona but - we are going out - Grandpa's as they have sent for us. She thought the baby so big and fat.

Sunday March - 6 -

We spent the day at Grandpa's and Grandma's. Such a lovely time we had. It was the first time Sona has ever been away from home all night. James and I slept with Aunt Carrie in the South front-bed room up stairs.

Monday March - 7 -

Sona and I have not felt - still well today. I ate something yesterday that made all the trouble. Grandma surprised us this afternoon. We had such a good but short visit.

Tuesday March - 8 -

Sona and I have been sick

all the afternoon. We took medicine
every half hour but we both feel
better tonight. Mrs Cotton very
kindly came over and told me
what to do and cared for the baby
some little time.

Wednesday March-10-

Sara is much better this
morning and so am I. For the
first-time we called on Dr Allen
this afternoon. Both he and Mrs
Allen were delighted with the
baby. We were at Jessie Millers too.

We stopped a few moments at
May Stelburgers and Mattie Ruthers.
They were both made happy
by the baby. This evening we
called at Mrs. Cotton a few
moments.

Thursday March-11-

Elizabeth had a long ride in
her cab this morning. For the
first-time she went to meet
her Papa as he was coming to
his dinner. He was very
much pleased to have her meet-

him. This afternoon I took her
in my arms and called on
several sick ladies. She seemed
to cheer the sick more than any-
thing I could possibly have taken.

This afternoon I left her and
went out to tea at Mrs Sweet-
in honor of Miss Sim's Beatie
Horton. We had a most lovely
time but Louisa was a little
sick but Emma brought her
out all right.

Friday March 12 -

It has been a very stormy day
and Louisa had to stay in and
be quiet. Had it been nice we
should have gone out calling.
Aunt Carrie came down to
spend the afternoon.

Saturday March 13 -

There has not been much going
on today that would be of
much interest to Louisa and I
today as it has been stormy.

Saturday March 14 -

I went to church with Emma

this morning and we left Papa
hour alone with Louisa - He cared
for all her little wants as well
as I could myself. She was very
good all the time. Grandpa
came in to see her for a few
moments -

Monday March - 13 -

I took Louisa up to Aunt Carrie's
to spend the day because Grandma
was there. Papa came home ^{up} to
dinner and we came home early
in the afternoon. I take Louisa
out every day. It does not seem
to hurt her in the least. After
evening hours I took her over to
Mrs Cotton for a few moments.

Tuesday March - 14 -

I took Louisa in her carriage and
we met her Papa this noon. He
seemed very much pleased. This
afternoon I took her over to Mrs.
Mc Mullens to spend the afternoon.

Wednesday March - 17 -

Louisa came home with a
very bad cold last night and I

have stayed in all day with drawn
curtains and locked doors caring
for her. Thursday March-18-

Sona feels quite a little better
but she has had a very hard cold
this time. We have been very
quiet all day. Aunt-Bertie called
this afternoon a little while telling
us that- Grandma would be
down to spend the day with Sona
and I tomorrow.

Friday March-19-

Sona is much better, she does
not cough much today. We had
such lovely letters from both
Uncle George and Fred today and
they both send kisses to little
Sona and so does Aunt-Grace
to be. Grandma came down and
so did Aunt-Carrie. Grandma
is going to stay all night. Papa
never forgets to drop his little
gift to little Sona in her bank
every day. How she will appreciate
it when she gets older.

Saturday March-20-

Grandma stayed all night and
slept almost as well as she does
at home. It was certainly a
most delightful treat to have her
the first time since her operation.
She went home this morning.

Sunday March - 21 -

The baby feels much better. Papa
has had a big day again with
his little daughter. He has loved
her almost to death. Uncle Henry
and Grandma called to find out
how Mamma and Sora are feeling.

Monday March - 22 -

Mrs Soule called this afternoon
to see Sora. She thought she had
grown wonderfully since she
was held and dressed her for the
first time. Grandma Vocher
sent the baby another pair of
stockings that she made herself. It
is the second pair she has made
and given her.

Tuesday March - 23 -

The baby feels quite a little
better again this morning and

and I think I shall bath her in
her tub. Mrs Danforth and Mrs
John Dequack called this afternoon
and they were surprised to find
such a large fleshy baby.

Wednesday March 24-

We looked for Grandma down
to spend the day but - it was so
stormy she could not come - I took
little Lona over to Mrs. Cotters a
little while this evening. She seemed
delighted to think I took her out
again for the first time for a
whole week. Thursday March 25-

A fire broke out in the evening
this afternoon and burned ~~about~~
whok of the cold storage building
and ruined the most of the
other by water. We have telegraphed
to the fireless in New York and
are looking for one of them
most any time now. Frank
Frank came in to spend the
evening with us. He always rocks
the baby to sleep. Friday March 26-

Little Soud is much better and
we are in hopes to be able to take
her over to Grandpa's Sunday, Mrs.
Yeomans and her sister called
this afternoon. They were delighted
with the baby. They thought she
looked just like her father. I had
to tell him they had had a good
visit with him. For they thought
she was her father's own girl.

Saturday March 27 -

We have had word from the Grubs
and Uncle Fred is coming some
time today. We are all more than
delighted. I took little Soud in
her cab down to see Aunt Currie
this afternoon. We had a good
time and I think she took no
more cold. Uncle Fred came on
the eight-fifty five train tonight.
I went down to meet him with
Uncle Henry. He did not come
up to see Soud tonight and I asked
him to write until morning. We
are all so glad to have him back.

Sunday March 28 -

Uncle Fred came in this morning

to see little Sona - He says there
is a great change in the little
thing. He thinks she does not
look much as she did. He says
she has grown much prettier.

He seems to think so much of
her. He fondles and kisses her
so often. We took Sona over to
Grandma's. She seemed as delighted
as ever to be there - Cousin Fled
Cutter, Albie and Love came in
a few moments since we all
sack. Sona was quite sick with
cold and fever but - Mrs. Cotton
came and helped me out.

Monday March 27 -

Sona seemed down letter today
Aunt Carrie came down this
afternoon also Aunt Carr Mrs
Putney and Florence. Uncle
Frank came in to tea and
to stay all night. He loves
his little niece as much as we.

We think Sona says Papa and
we are quite sure too. She
seems so pleased over it herself
She almost laughs when she

says it; For the first time I
put cold water on Lomas lungs,
for her cold. She seemed frightened
almost to death & but I think it
helped her just the same.
Tuesday March - 80.

Loma seems brighter. Though
she coughs quite a little yet I
took her in her cab to meet her
Uncle Fred this noon. He pushed
the baby cab and the first cab
he ever pushed too. Aunt Carrie
came and took me out for a drive
this afternoon and I enjoyed it
so much and I am sure she
did too. Wednesday March 31 -

Our baby had a very hard night.
Her coughs troubled her very much.
We applied cold water and she
cried very hard and called Mama
for the first time. She seems
better this morning. Hazel Cotton
called and wanted to take Loma
out in her cab but I could not
let her go on account of her cold.
Mrs. Sewer was in to see the
baby. She thought her such a

good baby. (And the last time
she called before her death).

Grandpa ran in just-a-moment-
He never can get-by the house
without-running in to-see Louie
and giving her a good kiss.

Uncle Fred comes in every day
and loves the baby.

Thursday April 1 -

This is Grandmas birthday
and it is such a lovely day too.
How we hope and pray that
she may be spared to us many
more such lovely birthdays as
this has been. We children all
together gave her a set of dishes
and we know she will be
more than pleased. Our baby
had another hard night-last-
night-but I think she is better
today. She still calls her Papa
by name we are almost-sure.

She cannot-help but-love him
very dearly for he makes so
much of her. He plays with her
so much of the time when home.
He worries himself nearly sick

over her cold. How I hope when she grows old enough to appreciate all that has been for her she will show it by growing up to be a true and good woman. Miss Mary Wilson & Nellie Sibley called this afternoon but I did not happen to be in so they could not see the baby. Uncle Fred & Harry were here to dinner today. They enjoyed the baby as much as we.
Friday April 2 -

Our baby feels quite a little better today. It is a lovely day & I let Hazel Cotton take her out in her cub this afternoon. It is the first time anyone has ever had her out except Hazel. ^{My} Mama, Papa, Aunt Carrie came down and visited baby & I to go down to Mrs. Morgenthau with her. We went & had a most lovely time. Miss Bertha Freeman called to see the baby but I feared I was not in. Saturday April 3 -

Grandma called a few moments

this morning and spent the day
at Carrise. Mrs. Mc. Beck's called
to see the baby this afternoon. She
thought - but such a good baby.
She seemed to fall in love with
her big black eyes most of all.
Sunday April 4 -

We did not go over to Grandpa's
today as it rained and baby has
not fully recovered from her cold.
This morning as I gave her her
bath I let her play with her
feet - some little bits. She even
put one of her toes in her mouth.
It is very interesting to see her
cute little actions from day to day.

Yesterday I put a lock of her
first hair in her locket. She
is now four months and three
weeks old this noon. We took
her out in her cab this afternoon
and for the first time let her
drink in the pure air without
covering her face.

Monday April 4 -

Sonar cold is much better. Her

Grandma^E & Grandpa came down
to see her a few moments this
morning. Grandma took ten
cents from her pocket - Ed put
it into Sona's bank. She never
seldom comes without bringing
something for Sona's bank.

Could not take Sona out as it
rained all day.

Tuesday April - 5 - -

Grandma came down to spend
the day. It was a great day for
the baby. Mrs Henrich brought her
two babies in to see Sona. She
was just as good as she could
be and enjoyed the children
very much. Aunt Carrie came
down in the afternoon too.

Wednesday April - 6 -

Little Sona has been so good
all day. I have been able to do
quite a little housework.

Tonight at the supper table
our Cousin tried to kiss her
to her from me but she turned
her head and put her arms

around my neck. She begins
to let me know that she
loves her Papa and Mamma the
best after all -

Thursday April - 7 -

Sonny Papa was in Grand-
Rapids today. Last night when I
had the baby asleep in her crib I
put her parrot over her eyes to
shock them. She suddenly woke
up and saw it for the first
time. She began to talk & laugh
I named just happy over it.

Friday April - 8 -

Papa brought me from Grand
Rapids six cut glass sauce
dishes and a china cabinet. The
baby was so well & happy all day.

She put out her little arms
now when she wants to be held.

Continued in the
next volume -

