

Gertrude Tallman - Life on a Farm

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Gertrude
Tallman
1873-1905
Photograph by
John K. Nagle,

The Gertrude Tallman unit was initially developed as part of a unit titled "A Portrait of Nineteenth Century Women in Oswego County"; ©1986 Oswego County Historical Society; Developed by Gretchen Sullivan Sorin, Dr. Judith Wellman, and the OCHS staff. Funded by the NY State Council on the Arts, Price Chopper Supermarkets and the OCHS.



Residence of E.S. Tallman, Hannibal, Oswego County, NY

1. This image shows an Oswego County farmstead over 100 years ago. What does it tell you about life on a farm when Gertrude Tallman was a girl?
2. Take a close look at all the buildings. What do you think they were used for?
3. Why does the road lead to the barn?
4. What manner of transportation would be used to take eggs and butter to market?
5. Imagine you lived and worked on a farm like Gertrude Tallman. What does your farm look like? Draw a picture showing some activities you do each day.

Barn Burned.

The large barn of Ex-Supervisor E. S. Tallman of Hannibal, was struck by lightning Tuesday and with all its contents destroyed. It contained about ninety tons of hay, nearly five hundred bushels of oats, one hundred bushels of wheat. Some wagons and harness were also destroyed; insured for about two thousand dollars. His valuable horses were saved. Mr. Tallman is a brother-in-law of Mr. C. W. Colony of this village.

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A Burned Barn & Insurance

Questions for Further Research and Discussion:

1. Why would lightning strike a barn? How often does it happen? Is there a way to prevent lightning from hitting a barn or other structure?
2. How many bales of hay is ninety tons?
3. How much money could Mr. Tallman sell 500 bushels of oats for in 1890? How much would that be in today's dollars?
4. How much did a wagon cost in 1890?
5. How much would it cost to re-build the barn in 1890? How much would it cost today?
6. What is insurance?
7. Why would someone get insurance?
8. Did \$2,000 cover Mr. Tallman's loss?
9. Who was Mr. C. W. Colony?
10. Why were horses considered so valuable in 1890?
11. What would you want to insure?

Page from Gertrude Tallman's Diary

Diary of Events, &c.,

Eggs	Day of Month	Day of the Week	WEATHER			Principal Occupations of the Day	Sales	Purchases	Contracts and Bargains Made and with whom.
			Ther.	Butter	Asp'cts				
31	1	Sun.			Foggy Clear	B. and I went to Aunt Sarah's at Fair Haven started about 11			
31	2	Mon.	Warm		Clear	I washed and put <u>screens</u> in my windows &c.	8 ½ doz. eggs @ .16	¼ lb. pepper .10 5 ¼ lb. meat .50	2 + lb. cheese .33
24	3	Tues.	Warm	2 1/2 #	Clear	I ironed. Raked yard P.M. churned 2 ½# butter			
32	4	Wed.	Warm		Clear	I finished ironing.			
25	5	Thur.	Warm		Clear	Filled 2 ticks helped weigh oats Mr. Kipp. Swept my room baked bread went up to Si. P.M.			
28	6	Fri.	Warm		Clear	I baked cake put 2 window lights in barn &c.			
21	7	Sat.	Hot		Clear	Swept dining room, &c. went to see Carrie Myers P.M.	5 ½ doz. eggs @ .16		
23	8	Sun.		2#	Clear	Churned <u>2lb.</u> butter			
22	9	Mon.	Warm Cool		Clear Rain	I washed and c.			
24	10	Tues.	Cool		Clear	I ironed &c. Ma and I went to Silas P.M.			
25	11	Wed.	Cold		Clear	I finished ironing went up to Silas P.M.	3 doz. Eggs @ .17	4 lb. rolled oats .20 2 ¼ lb. cheese	1 lb. coffee .25
26	12	Thur.	Cool	3 ¼#	Clear	Made cake churned 3 ¼ lbs. &c.	5 doz. Eggs @ .17	2 pk. Force .25 4 <u>qrt.</u> Beans .85	1 lb. cocoanut .20

Transcription

DIARY OF EVENTS, &C.,

Day of Month.	Day of Week.	WEATHER.		Principal Occupations of the Day.	Sales.	Purchases.	Contracts and Bargains Made and with whom.
		Ther.	Asps's.				
31	Sun			Log & Deal we t. t. Am t. t. v			
31	2 Mon	warm		clear & wash + t. t. season	3 doz eggs @ 10	7 lb - fat. 20.10	2 lb cheese .33
24	3 Tues	warm		clear & ironed. raked yard		5 1/4 lb meat .50	
				2 1/2 # butter			
32	5 Tues	warm		filled stacks helped with			
25				clear & ate milk. swept milk room			
25	6 Wed	warm		clear & to coal - milk			
26	7 Sat	not		clear & to coal - milk	5 1/2 doz eggs @ 16		
23	8 Sun			2 # clear & churned 2 lb. butter.			
22	9 Mon	warm		clear & iron			
27	10 Tues	cool		clear & ironed. r. M. r. r.			
21	11 Wed	cold		clear & finished ironing	2 doz eggs @ 17	2 1/4 lb - chev.	1 lb rolled oats @ 20

4	Kent William H	Head	W	M	41	United States	cit	Farmer	emp
5	— Minnie B.	Wife	W	F	39	United States	cit	Housework	x
6	— Fred W	Son	W	M	14	United States	cit	at school (8)	x
7	Moore Burnham	Head	W	M	33	Canada	cit	Farmer	emp
8	— Gertrude	Wife	W	F	30	United States	cit	Housework	x
9	Tallman Ida	Boarder	W	F	37	United States	cit	Housework	W
10	— Sophie G	Boarder	W	F	70	United States	cit	Housework	W
11	Washington George	Boarder	B	M	50	United States	cit	Farm Laborer	W
12	Miltra Mercie	Head	W	F	24	United States	cit	Housework	x
13	— Lida E.	Daughter	W	F	41	United States	cit	Housework	x

Enumeration of the Inhabitants Living in ...
 Census of ...
 ...
 ...

NAME	RELATION	AGE	SEX	RACE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	PROPERTY	VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE	PROPERTY VALUE
Robert A	Son	15	M	W	11	United States	cit	...	...	...
Walter B	Son	11	M	W	11	United States	cit	...	...	...
Kent William H	Head	41	M	W	11	United States	cit	...	...	...
Minnie B	Wife	39	F	W	11	United States	cit	...	...	...
Fred W	Son	14	M	W	11	United States	cit	...	...	...
Moore Burnham	Head	33	M	W	11	Canada	cit	...	...	...
Gertrude	Wife	30	F	W	11	United States	cit	...	...	...
Tallman Ida	Boarder	37	F	W	11	United States	cit	...	...	...
Sophie G	Boarder	70	F	W	11	United States	cit	...	...	...
Washington George	Boarder	50	M	B	11	United States	cit	...	...	...
Miltra Mercie	Head	24	F	W	11	United States	cit	...	...	...
Lida E	Daughter	41	F	W	11	United States	cit	...	...	...

Name	Residence Place	Age	Birth Year (Estim...)	Birthplace	Relationship to H...	Race	Gender
Burnham Moore	Hannibal, Oswego, New York	33	1872	Canada	Head	W	Male
Gertrude Moore	Hannibal, Oswego, New York	30	1875	United States	Wife	W	Female
Ida Tallman	Hannibal, Oswego, New York	37	1868	United States	Boarder	W	Female
Sophie G Tallman	Hannibal, Oswego, New York	70	1835	United States	Boarder	W	Female
George Washington	Hannibal, Oswego, New York	50	1855	United States	Boarder	B	Male

1905 Census

"New York State Census, 1905," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9Q97-YSR9-S74?cc=1463113&wc=WH5F-J1K%3A42719701%2C42800901%2C1590032537>) : 22 September 2016), Oswego > Hannibal > E.D. 1 > image 4 of 10; county offices, New York.

Tallman Census Questions (1900)

1. Who do you think Ezra Tallman was? When was he born? How old was he in 1900?
2. What was his wife's name? When was she born?
3. Who else lived with Ezra and his wife in 1900? What was the relationship of each to Ezra and his wife?
4. When was Gertrude born? How old was she in 1900 when this census was taken? How old would she have been when she wrote in her journal in 1904?
5. Who do you think Burnham Moore was? Where was he from?

Tallman - Moore Census Questions (1905)

1. Compared to the 1900 census, who is missing?
2. Compared to the 1900 census, who is added to the Tallman residence?
3. Who is now the head of the household? What is his occupation?
4. Who is listed as his wife?
5. Who are the boarders and what are their relationship to Burnham and Gertrude Moore?
6. What life events may have happened from 1900 to 1905?