

Vashti Speer Diary
January 1907

Tue, Jan 1, 1907

Well, I wish everyone a "happy New Year" (and as I have rec'd this little diary as a present, I will do my best to keep a faithful record of events that transpire each day.) I did not sit up last night to watch the old year out and the new one in but the change seems to have taken place just as well without me. I have stayed indoors all day, as it has been too cloudy and damp for one to enjoy one's self outdoors.

Monday, Jan 7, 1907

Still cloudy and warm. Lawrence and I picked cotton today. Another good days work will finish our cotton, and in another week we will have forgotten about spending the money – well, to tell the plain truth it is already spent – for this last load will help pay taxes I guess. Lawrence is reading and "Girlie" is playing with her blocks while I write.

Thur. Jan 10, 1907

Today was not very chilly, tho' cloudy and most of the sleet went off – but it did some damage to trees and a great deal of damage to the telephone lines. Judith was here today and Arthur went for a load of wood. Judith and Girlie have a great time together. I worked on my rug today. I will soon have it done and it will be serviceable if not very pretty.

Wed. Jan 16, 1907

A rainy day. Lawrence Osborne and Jake Crawford came today and we played cards in the afternoon. We rec'd an invitation to an oyster supper over to Mr. Hardings tonight but it is raining so we have decided it is a little to damp to go.

Saturday, Jan 26, 1907

Cloudy & cold. I have been sick all day, in bed about half the time and trying to "boss" the other half. Lawrence & Jim butchered a hog today and Lawrence rendered the lard for me. He's a pretty good "hubby" after all and I appreciate his help, but it wont do to brag on him to his face, because it would make him feel too much like he was it.

Tues. Jan 29, 1907

We are having fine weather now, too nice to last. We intend to go to literary tonight at the Oak Grove school house. This will be the first night – just going to organize. Fine moonlight nights now for literary, but like sunshine, they cant last long.

Vashti Speer Diary
February 1907

Monday, Feb. 4, 1907

Still cold and cloudy. Lawrence went to Morrison today and I – well, it would be hard to tell what I have done today. I worked some on a new rug, and a greater part of the day was spent in general house work. Fred came over this evening and we spent the entire evening in a game of "Board of Trade"

Friday, February 15, 1907

Cool and clear. I did the ironing this morning and after noon Girlie and I went over to stay with Judith while Lawrence went to Sumner with a load of corn. Will and Lawrence have gone to the "Farmer's Union Lodge."

Monday, Feb 18, 1907

The wind blew from the northwest today and was a little chilly but clear. I was picking cotton for Will this afternoon and Arthur came over while I was gone and said Judith was sick with Lagrippe. (I aim to go over and see her tomorrow if I can)

Thursday, Feb. 21, 1907

Cold and a little bit cloudy. I put in most of the day sewing. Lawrence and Mr. Kircher butchered three hogs today two for Mr Kircher and one for ourselves.

Friday, Feb. 22, 1907

Still cold and cloudy. I am alone again tonight. I rendered lard today, and made sausage and pickled the pig feet, and I am so tired tonight I can hardly write and too sleepy to write, so good-night.

Thursday, Feb. 28, 1907

A very rainy day which we were thankful for. Lawrence fanned his seed oats today and I put in most of the day sewing. Gertrude can hardly bear the thought of having to stay indoors all day. Jim went to Mr. Clarks tonight to an entertainment of some sort I think.

Vashti Speer Diary

March 1907

Sunday, March 3, 1907

Warm and pleasant. John and Letha were over today, also Lewis and Frank Osten and Fred Kircher and Mr. Kircher a little while this afternoon and Will Turner and Peter Hornberger this evening.

Monday, March 4, 1907

Warm and pleasant. I patched my old incubator up today. I mean the one I set hens in and I set 3 hens in it and there is room for 7 more. Girlie tries to help me with all my work and especially when I get the hammer and nails.

Friday, March 8, 1907

Sunshine fore noon, cloudy afternoon with a misty rain tonight. I ironed today and baked and churned too. Lawrence went to Sumner this fore-noon. I sent 16 ½ doz. of eggs. they are only worth 11¢ per doz. now. A short time ago they were worth from 15 to 20 cents per doz. I am getting from 35 to 50 eggs a day now.

Thursday, March 14, 1907

There was quite a freeze last night and cool and clear this morning and warm afternoon. Lawrence finished drilling oats today and Jim run the stalk cutter preparatory to plowing for corn. It was so warm and pleasant this after-noon. I felt like I ought to be making garden.

Monday, March 18, 1907

Another very warm day. The sun shines down as warm as it does on a June day. We finished planting our potatoes today (at least I don't suppose we will plant any more.)

Friday, March 22, 1907

Today has been quite warm but not so windy I believe as yesterday, yet it has been windy enough. I would like so well to finish my garden if the wind would give way to a shower. I sent 58 chickens to Morrison today, sold for \$18.75. Lawrence attended the Farmers Union and Jim went home this evening so Girlie and I are alone.

Sunday, March 24, 1907

Warm and enough wind to satisfy anyone. Girlie and I went with a fishing party today. We went over to the "Black Bear" but there wasn't many fish lost their lives on our account, they didn't bite good, this was "Sunday" you see. Lawrence said he found a patch of greenbugs in his wheat today. Good bye wheat!

Monday, March 25, 1907

This has been quite a windy day. The field of oats and wheat are covered with the little "green bugs." If the weather still continues favorable for the Green Bugs to put in his work there will not be wheat enough left on this farm to make a biscuit, unless one would mix in the bugs too.

Vashti Speer Diary
April 2007

Tuesday, April 2, 1907

Very windy and warm. I ironed this fore-noon, and after-noon I did a little washing for Wm and worked a little on Girlie's new dress. I have about 75 young chickens doing fine, if they will only continue to do so, we will have some-thing to live on after while.

Sunday, April 7, 1907

A cool, bright and beautiful day. Lawrence and I (with Girlie) went out this morning to kiss his oats and wheat goodbye, but we didn't kiss the green bugs a farewell because we thought that they might not be aiming to leave for a few years yet, and besides there are so many of them, we might wear our kissers threadbare.

Tuesday, April 9, 1907

Sunshine, windy and cool. I did my ironing today. Will and Jim think they ought to be given a dance if I take my carpet up this week, and I would rather talk to a circle-saw than try to talk them out of the notion.

Saturday, April 13, 1907

I have been pretty busy all day getting ready for that "little old dance." I wouldn't care if it were over with, for of course there will be another cleaning up after the dance is over. Ma and pa were over awhile this afternoon.

Wednesday, April 17, 1907

This was a real pleasant day. I washed, scrubbed and churned and then I and Girlie cleaned some weeds out of the black-berry patch and made a bonfire out of some of Lawrence's fine oats that the green bugs have visited. The farmers are feeling pretty blue about their crops. The fact is some of them are longing for death (to visit the green bugs)

Saturday, April 20, 1907

Cloudy this morning and clear after noon. Lawrence went to Morrison this morning. I sent nine lbs. of butter to town and it brought seventeen cents per lb. Eggs are 12 cents per doz.

Wednesday, April 24, 1907

It has been a very beautiful day, but a little too windy to be perfect. I churned, washed, scrubbed and made a chicken-coop, so you see I haven't been lazy today. Lawrence is working his new horse (Wind-splitter) to the harrow this afternoon. She tried to be a bucking bronco the first round, and then commenced pulling to beat the mischief.

Saturday, April 27, 1907

This has been a warm pleasant day. Ma and pa were over today and stayed a little while and the rest of the day I worked in the potato patch cleaning weeds out, and Lawrence plowed a little patch of ground for me to raise a cotton crop for myself – an acre and half.

Vashti Speer Diary
May 1907

Wednesday, May 1, 1907

Well, as I didn't do very much yesterday I thought I would pay up for lost time today. I did the washing before noon and afternoon I scrubbed, churned, ironed and set out some cabbage plants and of course I am a little tired tonight. Judith came over this afternoon and we decided to go to Perkins visiting in a few days. Sunshine today.

Friday, May 10, 1907

This morning was very cloudy but as it did not rain we decided to go to father Speer's today and about noon the sun came out and was quite a nice day after all. We got to pa's place about 4 o'clock. Found all well except the old folks are bothered with rheumatism.

Tuesday, May 14, 1907

There came a heavy rain last night and the wind turned to the north and was cold all day today. We had an enjoyable time while we were gone but five days seemed so long to be gone from home. We came home even if the roads were muddy and found our "hubbies" all right, having a jolly game of pitch.

Thursday, May 23, 1907

Lawrence finished planting cotton today and is plowing corn this evening. I finished making my dress and made a dress for Girlie this evening. This has been a nice day.

Saturday, May 25, 1907

Clouds and Sunshine intermingled. Wm was over a little while today. Girlie helps me hoe weeds in the corn. She got a stick-gun and shot a rabbit and she said the dogs eat it up. Then she got a long dead weed and went a fishing in a mud-hole.

Monday, May 27, 1907

I have been carpentering today, trying to make a little chicken house for my young chickens. Lawrence has been cultivating corn. He will have about another days work and then he will be through the corn once. All crops are so late this year. A bright day.

Wednesday, May 29, 1907

Rain! Rain! And I set out cabbage and tomato plants between showers. Lawrence went to Morrison this morning with a fat hog. She brought him \$18.35. weighted 350 lbs. Arthur and Judith were here this after-noon. My chickens are trying to eat my cabbage up so I have been moving my garden.

Thursday, May 30, 1907

Cloudy all day but not much rain. Lawrence has been hoeing corn today and Girlie and I have been finishing our new chicken house and Lawrence came in this evening and he helped some to. I think it will hold about 200 young chickens. I am so tired tonight I could hardly finish my evenings work.

Vashti Speer Diary
June 1907

Saturday, June 1, 1907

I ironed and baked today and Lawrence hoed weeds in the corn. I hope it will not rain until he can finish plowing corn and get his kaffir corn planted. It is getting so late for crops to be planted and the weeds are so thick but we are not all the ones that have a good crop of weeds. "Misery likes company."

Tuesday, June 4, 1907

Well, my garden is almost clean at last. Lawrence is listing Kaffir corn and Girlie has been taking him water to drink. She started to come back to the house and got frightened at a rabbit. That girl of mine is a brave specimen of humanity, "just like her mama."

Thursday, June 6, 1907

Another day spent in the field with the weeds. Girlie takes her doll, kitty and hoe and also a stick horse and I take a jug of water, a file and my hoe and we start out for our health and the health of the corn.

Saturday, June 8, 1907

Cloudy and windy. Girlie and I went to Morrison this morning. We borrowed Pa's buggy and took a nice buggy ride. There was a primary election held in our old house today and I got dinner for "Polly-tish-uns"

Friday, June 14, 1907

Girlie was sick today. I am afraid so much hot, wet weather will cause malaria.

Monday, June 24, 1907

This has been a beautiful day, but of course we still have plenty of mud. Lawrence and I chopped cotton today. Girlie took her doll and kitty, also her little hoe so she wouldn't get lonesome while we were at work but she comes in awful tired at night.

Wednesday, June 26, 1907

A very heavy rain from the north-west this morning. I washed the weeks washing after dinner today. That seems like an odd time to wash, but you see I have to wash between showers. Lawrence gathered our apple crop this evening (Three apples) First fruit from young trees.

Thursday, June 27, 1907

Lawrence has a valuable farm. He has a small Canal (which "Uncle Sam" did not appropriate a few million \$ to make) running through his farm, especially running after a rain. After milk time this morning this Canal flowed "Milk & Honey" but the "honey" soon crawled out on the bank.

Vashti Speer Diary

July 1907

Monday, July 1, 1907

I chopped cotton today. Two or three more days work will finish the west field (16 acres) and we will be hardly half done then. This is a very busy little world of ours and a very beautiful and happy place, or should be so those who have health.

Thursday, July 4, 1907

Well, we worked all day, hardly knew it was celebration day but we went over to Judith's this evening and had our little celebration in the shape of ice-cream and cake. Also a good supper and a fire cracker.

Saturday, July 6, 1907

Well, I haven't much time to write as the boys are aiming to have a little party of friends in to dance here tonight.

Sunday, July 7, 1907

The dance was "Short and Sweet" last night, not a large crowd but an enjoyable time. Orpha is going home today. We were sleepy, tired and completely worn out today and enjoyed a good rest.

Thursday, July 11, 1907

Lawrence went to Morrison this morning and I sent 30 young chickens (friers) to town. They sold for \$5.60. Girlie and I chopped cotton today, finished my little field and hoed a little on an 18 acre field. Just about half done hoeing now.

Saturday, July 13, 1907

My chicken house looked like a Slaughter Pen this morning with dead and dying chickens. I do not know what ailed them but I called it limber-neck for the want of a better name. Pa and ma came over this evening and we doctored chickens with good results with coal-oil.

Sunday, July 14, 1907

No more chickens dead this evening. I guess coal-oil is good medicine, if Pa and Ma had only of come over a day earlier they might have saved me 15 chickens, four or five old ones and the rest large enough to fry but I guess the wolves were glad to get them.

Monday, July 15, 1907

Today has been a very beautiful day. I did my washing today and I hoed weeds a little while in the evening. Girlie goes with me all the time and is so much company to me. I do not know I could live without her.

Thursday, July 25, 1907

Father Speer and Jake Crawford came up to visit us. Got here about noon and went over to Uncle John Osborn's. They said they would be back sometime tomorrow. There were three little boys from Morrison came to help in the cotton this evening so Lawrence will have plenty of help.

Vashti Speer Diary
August 1907

Friday, August 2, 1907

Thurman and Ida came over this morning also Judith & Arthur. They brought some ice and we had ice cream. The men went seining afternoon and caught a nice lot of fish and pa's folks were over here to help sein. There were eleven of us for to eat supper. Quite a large family. Ida and Thurman went home with Pa & Ma.

Saturday, Aug 3, 1907

Well Lawrence and I finished our cotton chopping this fore-noon and after noon I have been cleaning up a little of the dirt which has been accumulating ever since I commenced working in the cotton. I am expecting Thurman & Ida back here to-night.

Monday, August 5, 1907

I have been working all day – caning peaches. I caned 42 qt. Lawrence is plowing kaffir-corn.

Monday, August 12, 1907

Oh! What do you think – Lawrence rec'd a letter from Grandpa Hill today and he wrote for Lawrence to meet him and Uncle David at Morrison next Wed. They are coming from Harris Mo. and they intend to surprise pa and ma for they don't know they are coming.

Wednesday, August 14, 1907

Well, as Sut is busy making hay, I of course drove over to Morrison to meet Grandpa and uncle David. Ma did not recognize Uncle David at all but pa did and it had been about 30 yrs. since pa last saw him and only 8 or 10 yrs. since ma saw him. Lawrence commenced making hay at home today.

Thursday, August 15, 1907

Well I am cooking for "hands" now. I had five extra men here for dinner. I can't do very much work out-side the house work until the hay is finished. Lawrence sold 8 head of cattle this afternoon. They brought \$122.00. The man that bought them didn't take them away this evening.

Monday, August 19, 1907

I washed and scrubbed and baked bread today. Lawrence is mowing what ought to be alfalfa but "crab-grass" would be a better name I think.

Friday, August 30, 1907

Lawrence went to Morrison this afternoon and Girlie and I went over to Pa's to take Ma's sewing. Lawrence said this evening that John Speer had rented his farm and he intends sending Letha to her grandmas to go to school. Her grandma lives in Kan.

Vashti Speer Diary September 1907

Monday, September 9, 1907

I was busy with fruit again today. Grandpa came over to spend the afternoon. Lawrence and Wm were working the roads this after-noon.

Thursday, Sept 12, 1907

This has been another beautiful day. Maybe because it is my birthday. I am thirty years old today. Oh! That seems so very old for me to be but I do not mind the years that are to come if they are to be as cheerful as the last thirty years has been to me.

Sunday, September 15, 1907

Lawrence Osborn was here today and he and Sut had a good time arguing politics, prohibition and weather, the constitution, which is now placed before the people for consideration, is to be accepted or rejected, were the issues discussed.

Monday, September 16, 1907

Fourteen years ago today the Cherokee Strip was opened for settlement but the 16th of Sept. in 1893 came on Sat. and such a dusty, tiresome time as it was. I remember it just as well as if it were but yesterday. What may happen in the next fourteen yrs?

Tuesday, September 17, 1907

Today was election day and there were so many people coming and going all day. The men serving on the election board came down to the house and took dinner with us, also Supper. They made Girlie a present of three dollars and twenty-five cents and she doesn't know which she thinks the most of, the money or some cigar boxes they gave her.

Wednesday, September 18, 1907

Well, the men were up all night – last night counting votes, finished checking them over this morning about nine o'clock. Lawrence and Mr. Kircher went over to Morrison this afternoon to hear of the election. Lawrence brought a new leather for the pump, he intends to remodle the pump in case the prohibition wins the day.

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1907

We had got into the field this morning with our cotton sacks, when Pa came along and asked us to go to Morrison with him and we just couldn't resist the temptation. We didn't want to pick cotton any-way.

Thursday, Sept 26, 1907

Judith came over today to help pick cotton and Lawrence helped so I had lots of help. Lawrence intends to get some negroes to pick most of his cotton this fall if he can.

Monday, Sept. 30, 1907

A little shower came last night. Lawrence hauled his first load of cotton to market today or part load I should have said, just 730 lbs \$3.75 per hundred. Mr. Kircher was here a short time this evening.

Vashti Speer Diary **October 1907**

Monday, Oct. 7, 1907

This has been a very cold day. Lawrence went to Perry today. He thought maybe he could get cotton pickers from Oklahoma City through the influence of Mr. Murry – a Farmers Union man and Mr. Murry promised to get them.

Sunday, October 13, 1907

Well, Fred Osten and Lawrence decided to go to Oklahoma City today and see if they could secure some hands. Mr. Murry hasn't brought any men up to Perry for hire yet. I have been so lonesome today, but Will came over this evening to stay with Gertrude and me tonight.

Tuesday, Oct 17, 1907

The weather has cleared again. I do wish it would stay nice weather a while now. Gertrude and I helped Lawrence gather corn today. Girlie did the driving.

Sunday, Oct 20, 1907

The cotton pickers came to Sumner this morning and phoned for Lawrence to come after them. We were so glad to have them come back and hope they will stay until the cotton is picked. Lawrence and Girlie and I went to Mr Kirchers to spend the evening.

Tuesday, October 22, 1907

Girlie and I picked cotton today and Lawrence raked cane. There is a money panic in the U.S. now. They are having quite a time in the Eastern States and it has began to effect our prices here.

Wednesday, Oct 23, 1907

Will came over today and helped Lawrence stack cane. Girlie thought she could help them so she got in the way and got one of her fingers pretty badly mashed in the hay frame, then she gave up haying as a bad job.

Monday, Oct. 28, 1907

I did a big washing today and I feel tired and old this evening. Lawrence was at Morrison today and he said the banks were all closed – effects of the money panic. The banks will be closed five days anyhow and maybe longer. Girlie and I intend to stay with Mrs. Kircher while the men go to Union Blowout.

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 1907

Lawrence helped me take the carpet up and clean it and put it down again. He is always so handy about helping me and I certainly know how to appreciate his help. This has been another cloudy day but no rain.

Vashti Speer Diary November 1907

Sunday, Nov. 3, 1907

Tomorrow is Grandpa's birthday and I have invited all the folks over for dinner and I have been quite busy all day preparing "goodies" for tomorrow's dinner and we expect Judith and Arthur to come over to and then a good jolly time you know.

Monday, Nov. 4, 1907

Grandpa is 91 yrs old today and he looks so well, hearty and happy that I believe and truly hope he will be with us many years yet. I am sure we have all spent a very enjoyable day. After dinner was over we went to Morrison and Grandpa Hill, Ma, Gertrude and I had our picture taken – representing four generations.

Wednesday, Nov 6, 1907

Lawrence took a load of cotton to Morrison today. Cotton down to 2.85 today. The black boys are getting the west field pretty well over now. May have two bales to pick yet. Lawrence sent to K.C. for a new range for me. Oh! He's a good old "hubby" Isn't he?

Tuesday, Nov 12, 1907

Another very cold day. I finished a Sofa Pillow today. I haven't a real sofa only a home-made affair made of a goods box with a cloth cover of "dolly Vardin Calico" – well padded with comforts and plenty of pillows to make it comfortable.

Friday, Nov 15, 1907

Financial trouble seems to be letting up just a little. We thought before it began that we had enough to contend with. Green-bugs in the Spring, drouth in the Summer and now money panic in the Fall. I can't help but just wonder what is on the program for Winter, but we can't tell until the curtains go up.

Saturday, Nov. 16, 1907

Hurrah for Statehood! President Roosevelt said so at the White house this morning between 9 and 10 o'clock, but we didn't feel the effects of it here at home. I think that at Morrison the effect will be felt stronger as prohibition commences tonight at 12 o'clock and of course some people will wish to take advantage of the remaining time.

Sunday, Nov 24, 1907

We were so busy today. It hardly seemed like Sunday. Fred Osten was here this morning just a little while and that was all the company we had today. Of course we do not have to work quite so much, but we have our choice, "Work or Starve."

Wednesday, November 27, 1907

Mother Speer and Jake Crawford came up to spend Thanksgiving with us, but where is the turkey? I think a good fat hen is better any-way. So here goes – nothing – for her chicken roost. Poor old hen! You have nothing to be thankful for I am sure.

Vashti Speer Diary December 1907

Tuesday, Dec. 3 1907

Today has been a little cold but clear and bright. Well, this year will soon be gone and this little book soon be finished. I think this will be my last attempt at keeping a diary. My life has not been an unhappy one but a very uneventful one. Too practical and not enough sentiment and romance to make good reading.

Wednesday, Dec 4, 1907

"Warm and Pleasant" as the weatherman says. I fear this little book will seem more like a book of weather fore-casts than a diary. I think our financial trouble isn't done yet as the First National Bank of Commerce in K.C. went "ker-plunck" today. Lawrence sent a draft (on this same bank) to Guthrie a few days ago.

Thursday, Dec. 5, 1907

Lawrence and I rec'd an invitation to Mr. Steinkie's dance tonight and have decided to attend. We are getting rather old to dance very much but we will surely enjoy a supper of oysters which will be served at the end of the dance or when the young folks just get so hungry they can't wait any longer.

Friday, December 6, 1907

An enjoyable time at the dance last evening and a sleepy day today. Lawrence went to Morrison today and brought a nice steel range home for me. We had it sent from a foundry in Cleveland Ohio and it cost (including freight) \$34.67 and now I am a proud cook, if not a good one.

Monday, Dec 9, 1907

It has been cold and rainy all day. Lawrence got a letter from the School-land department with his bank draft returned. I do not understand banking business so now I just wonder if he will be loser of \$65.00 the amount of the draft. He says he hardly thinks so but he has gone in to town to see about sending another draft.

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1907

I have been trying to act the part of 'good old Santa Claus' as Girlie has sent her order to old Santa for a big doll – one that can sleep when it lies down and she wants it to have real hair and eyes and teeth and as Santa don't feel able financially to make such a purchase, the head and hands are all that are bought and the rest must be home-made.

Wednesday, December 25, 1907

What a beautiful Xmas day. Girlie thinks old Santa has been so good. She has rec'd a doll large enough to wear her dresses and a little broom, a Mother Goose book, a pair of mittens and lots of candy. We went over to Pa's about noon and had a good time, but are so tired tonight.

December 25, 1907 was Vashti's last diary entry.