TIMNATH HISTORY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I.

I. TITLE PAGE
II. PREFACE
III. DEDICATION
IV. INTRODUCTION
V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
VI. TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION II.

THE PEOPLE

VII. EXPLORERS * FUR TRAPPERS
VIII. INDIANS
IX. PIONEERS * SETTLERS
    1859-1870 * 1870-1895
X. THE JOURNEY WEST
XI. BUILDERS
    1895-1920

SECTION III.

THE TOWN

and

GOVERNMENT

XII. THE BEGINNING YEARS
    1859-1920
XIII. THE TURBULENT YEARS
    1920-1960
XIV. THE RECENT YEARS
    1960-1990
XV. THE MAYORS

XVI AGENCIES * UTILITIES * TRANSPORTATION
(POST OFFICE/WATER/FIRE DEPARTMENT)
SECTION IV.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

XVII. THE CHURCH
XVIII. THE SCHOOL
XIX. THE ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION V.

HOME AND WORK

XX. AGRICULTURE
XXI. HOME LIFE
XXII. SOCIAL LIFE
XXIII. BUSINESSES
XXIV. CHARACTERS * CUSTOMS * TIDBITS

SECTION VI.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS

XXV. CITIZEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS
XXVI. WOMEN OF TIMNATH

SECTION VII.

XXVII. SUMMARY
XXVIII. TRIBUTE
XXIX. BIBLIOGRAPHY
XXX. PATRONS
The pioneers and settlers carried with them as much of their furnishings and household goods as they could, some of which did not survive the journey across the plains. Often, furniture and other basic items had to be purchased or made after they arrived at their destination, as we learn from Amelia:

...G. has taken one of our good boxes today & made me a small cubbord for my dishes but there is no door to it.

...This evening G. made a little shelf & put up our clock & it made this dismal room look a little more cheerful & home like & now I can tell the time of day any where in the room.

Well I have something good to tell this time. G. has finished our bed sted to day & we are to sleep on it to night for 16 weeks I have had to put my bed down every night & take it up every morning & it has been a very hard thing to do. Then it adds so much to the looks of the room no costly furniture ever looked as well to me as my homely bed sted with a good bed on it. & on the outside sister Ann coveled I have looked at it ever so many times & it all ways remindes me of her. it nearly looks to good to mus. I have a tent cover a gainst the wall all a round it. & my mat in front is a gray wolf skin it will be soft & warm to our feet this winter.

G. thought he would make a new table out of an old one & comenced it yesterday but did not get it don till 3 PM today we took our breakfast on the stone harth this morning & then fasted till the table was finished our folks would think it only fit for a sink room now but I have to put up with it if there is no leaves or paint on it.

...I have been covering a box for a chair or stool. we now have two old camp chairs one board chair & this new stool....
LAUNDRY

It has been estimated that it took about 50 gallons of water, weighing approximately 400 pounds, which had to carried from the river, pump, or well to the stove for heating, to do one wash, one boiling, and one rinse. Amelia mentions washing clothes frequently in her diary:

I have don two weeks washing today & am very tired...my hands are cracked and chapped....

I have been doing some very hard washing & am very tired Geo was away & I had to bring my water & the wind blew so strong it would take out a good deal from the pail. I was so tird I could hardly eat my supper & that did not relish. A little butter on my bread would have been a feast to me. & a good chair a great luxury. but soon I shall camp down on the floor & try to rest my tired bones

...Monday I don my washing but it was late & I did not hang out my white clothes & they have been in the tub till this morning I had to put several pails of boiling water to thaw them out....

Amelia wrote of one especially unpleasant experience with her clothes line:

I have been washing & had two weeks washing just as I got my white clothes on the line then came up a gale of wind & lifted the midle post out of the ground & my clothes all came down in the dirt & there was not one spear of grass for them to fall on & by the time I got them off the line they wer as black as the ground it self. I then put them in the tub & rubbed them on the board & then put them a soke till an other day by this time I felt very tired & I thought of those that had grass clothes yards

Ironing was done by alternating the use of flat irons heated on the wood stove. One would be getting hot while another one was being used.
PERSONAL CARE

Before the advent of indoor plumbing, each home had an outhouse; sometimes referred to as a 'necessary house' or 'privy'. Amelia describes her privy:

...this morning he finished our privy I have not been in to one since the 22nd of last August & I can't tell you how pleased I fell with it if it is built of logs & has a dirt roof the seat is good & so is the door.

HOUSEKEEPING

After a long, arduous journey the Buss family finally arrived at their destination and Amelia writes of her feelings about the beginning of her new life in their home in 1866, "... but here I am & now must clean & work & all ways be over run with bugs & dirt". Her work seemed futile as she further explains, "... every Sunday in this month we have had 2 or 3 hours of hard wind filling our house with dust & dirt." Bugs were another constant irritation for her but she does have a solution,..."have been papering some of our kitchen with news papeers to stop out some of the bugs". (5-4)

SHOPPING AND TRADING

Some peddlers would take eggs, butter or chickens in trade as we learn from Amelia:

This has been an eventful day. I have bee trying tallow. A pedlar came here & we sold him five dozen of eggs for as many dollars. took our pay in traid coffee soda & an apron for myself....
Another entry reads:

A pedlar came along today & I sold him 6 1/2 dozen eggs for 45 cts per dozen & bought Vatie some every day shoes & paid $2.75 for them. (5-7)

Nor were there any fast food restaurants such as Buger King or Pizza Hut. In comparison, Amelia Buss noted that: "G. shot two rabbits this morning & we had them for dinner." Some settlers had chickens and a milk cow and occasionally they would share or exchange food with each other. Amelia mentions making pumpkin pies from milk given her by Mrs. Ranger Jones.

They added to their food supply by growing vegetables and fruits. Amelia mentions in her diary of planting garden seeds and having tomato plants to sell or trade. Ellen Jane Scott (Mrs. H.H.) planted the first rhubarb grown in the Timnath area.
Many of the events mentioned above were experienced by Amelia Buss, as she writes in her unpublished diary:

Aug. 29 This has been a very windy day the dust blew very much but the most of the time it blew at our side & took the dust away at noon we had four more Indians to see us they wanted dinner & matches. one of them was a squaw. one of the men wanted Vatie for his squaw.....this is a terrible night & I feel tired & sick of such fusions. I fail to see anything desireable in such traveling it is hurry up in the morning & get a hasty breakfast & have a cold lunch for dinner & at night get supper & bake bread & not get through till 9. Am I ungrateful if I do complain some times.

Sept. 9 This is the sabbath we are traveling it is much quieter for me but very different from former sabbaths the wind blew all night a perfect gale & made me long for the morning but the wind & sand are terrible to endure today. it seemed to me my eyes would be put out when I was getting our dinner my bread was well peppered with grit. I am all the woman there is in this big train.

Sept. 14 The wind commenced blowing a bout 8 oclock this morning & it was so strong I could not go near the fire the flames spread out so far there was danger of getting on fire. G. fixed the meat for breakfast. We have had hard sandy roads for 2 or 3 days we are now traveling where there is no trees but it is not so dreary to me as it was in Nebraska there we could see so far & nothing but sky and grass.

Other comments in her diary give us insight into more of her experiences on the trail: "plenty of misquetoes to night as usual.", and on a sabbath, "we have been obliged to hear all sorts of talk & swearing". When they pass a train going east she says: "a big train of returning people going to the states this afternoon."

Indians were yet another consideration as she writes: "this
is my 32nd birthday we past by just at night the graves of eleven men that were killed by the indians 2 or three years ago".

When they left the relative safety of the train for the final leg of their journey alone she writes: "I am so a fraid of indians I can not bear to go".

Sept. 18 23 miles west of Ft. Morgan we left the train at 7 oclock this morning & have been traveling alone & nothing has harmed us but I have suffered very much from fear. we have not passed but two houses since we left tahe train & the road has been a very lonely one. many places we could not see far on account of the high bluffs. one especially called Fremont's orchard they were very high & but a narrow strip of land between them and the river. there is now some dozen cotton wood trees standing in the place & it is an awful place in case of an atackt from indians or any one....This is a terible night to me we are out all a lone & it rains. G. is guarding his horses close by the wagon....

Despite the hardships of the journey, she noted her first glimpse of the mountains, "we saw the mountains this morning for the first time they were covered with snow & to me it was a grand sight."

They finally reached their destination September 21, 1866 after leaving Utica, New York August 15, 1866.
Amelia Buss occasionally rode horseback to go visiting as she noted in her diary, "This afternoon I visited Mrs. Davis for the first time I went in western stile that is on horse back..."

Later she wrote "I went down to Mrs. Arthurs this morning on horse back."


SCHOOLS

There were a few private schools held in some family homes throughout the county, but most of the teaching that took place was done by family members in the home. Amelia Buss writes in her diary:

Vatie has got her lessons & amused her self by spelling out words with big letters Grace sent her.

Dec 31
EARLY FARMERS

In the early days of the small family farms near Timnath, uncertain weather, and unforeseen catastrophes made farming difficult at best. For George and Amelia Buss, farming their first year was especially hard and not very profitable as we learn from her diary: "his farming this year has been 400 dollars out of pocket he says & everything has gon to rack & ruin."

DAIRY

This has been a warm day G. could not find our cows to night. having the whole prairie for a pastur is not always conveinant

The early settlers usually had a milk cow or two to provide milk and butter for their own needs and to trade for goods from peddlers who traveled the countryside. At that time, milking the family cow, done by hand, most often was a chore performed by the housewife. It was not always a simple job as Amelia Buss relates:

I went out to milk & one of the cows is a fraid of me. I have milked her several times but to night the wind blew very hard & she was a fraid of my dress it blew out just as I had commenced milking she kicked me over & hurt my leg so I could hardly get to the house & tore a big hole in my dress and drawers. she broke the skin & started blood.

WOMEN ON THE FARM

Farming has always been a family operation, and women have been major contributors. Amelia Buss reports:

It rained some this morning. I drove the teem several times across the land while G. held the plow it had never been plowed before

I have not picked berrys in the hot sun but have been pulling sunflowers out of the wheat every minute I could get for the last 14 days.....
SOCIAL LIFE

Neighbors were few and far between when the area was first being settled and loneliness was a common theme frequently expressed by several pioneer women who settled in the Timnath area. There was little opportunity to socialize except for a neighborly visit every now and then. Amelia Buss made note of a couple of visits in her 1866 diary:

Nov. 24th

I have been visiting this afternoon down to Mrs. Arthurs it was nine weeks yesterday since we landed here & this is the first visit I have made Mrs. A. don all she could to make it agreeable but after all there was not much satisfaction in it.

Dec. 19th

G. was going down to Mr. Arthurs on business & he asked me to ride down there for a call. Mrs. A. was getting supper & she urged us to stay as she had some fresh pork. Vatie was anxious to stay & Mr. A. began to unhitch the teem so we did not get away till 8 that is the first time I have been out in the evening.

In her diary, she also mentions the homesickness she feels:

Oct. 19th

....Mrs. Arthur came & spent the afternoon I found her social but some how I felt more home sick after she went a way than I did before she came she laughed at me for being home sick & said I had better go round & see my neighbors how they lived & I would come home satisfide. It is no comfort to me to be told I have things as good as any one around me & I wish I could feel contented.....

Jan 15th

Geo went to the mountains yesterday morning to be gon all the week. I did not feel very well & after he had gon gave vent to my feelings in a flood of tears. it may seem foolish to those that have neighbors & friends around them. I get a long very well through the day but the long evenings and nights are horrible I could not tell any one my feelings....
She also wrote that her homesickness was not helped when she was visited by Mrs. Sherwood who told her, "I really pity you in coming here."
It is interesting to note Colorado weather has not changed:

Dec. 7th "This has been such a funny day I must tell you all about it the sun rose brite & clear the weather was warm at 10 AM the wind comenced blowing & I never saw the snow fly any worse then the dirt did till noon then it began to snow & it kept it up till nearly 2 PM when it cleared off & the sun a gain shown & it was calm at sundown it began to snow a gain. all this weather we had in sunney Col. in one day...."

"The wind has blown very strong from the west all day & I never saw the snow melt a way so fast"
Amelia Buss also had an Indian encounter:

...this afternoon a great red Indian came in he was a Sioux I was very afraid of him & Vatie looked as though she would sink he opened the door & came in & put out his hand & said as all of them do how. I shook hands with him and said how in return. then he began to look a round the room & said in I did not know what he meant & told him so. he then took up my best butcher knife & that was what he meant & I said I can't spare that but he ask me twice more for it but of course did not get it. he looked at Vatie & said papoose I told him yes she was my papoose he laughted & shook his head and said no I insisted that she was & every time he said no. then he steped close to me & pated me under my chin I began to think our time had come. he then saw Vatie's doll in the cradle & said papoose & took it up & felt of it all over then laid it down & went off & we wer glad to see his back I assure you.