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Mormon Midwife

Donna Smart

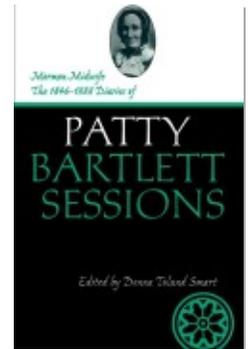
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APPENDIX ONE: Account Book

Soiled from age and handling, a well-preserved tan leather-bound book contains a detailed record of Patty's financial dealings. On the upper left corner of the cover is written in her handwriting:

1864
1862
Patty Sessions

On the bottom of the page, upside down, is written Sept 74, and on the back, upside down, are the words:

Jan 1864
Patty Sessions
Her Book

April 29—1864

I gave one hundred & thirty Dollars to the Bishop F Kesler to send back to bye a yoke of oxen to bring up the poor from the frontiers he bought the oxen here and will send them back they are well matched both red. The off one has a small white spot between the horns another over the left eye and one on the right jaw very small spots an underbit under the left ear. Crop off the right ear left horn a littly stuby flesh brand on left hip Illegible [*this is Patty's word*] nigh ox all red flesh brand on left hip Illegible both oxen branded on the left horns G. Gibs with Gideon Gibs brand. Done by Samuel Russell for me
Patty Sessions

The remaining pages of Patty's account book contain financial records between the years 1862 and 1877. Many of the figures deal with loans to her immediate family, but she also itemized transactions with others in the community. When accounts were settled, she crossed out the entries. Most individual transactions were separated by a line. These accounts would be interesting to someone researching costs in those days. For example, an entry of special interest in the diaries is one made on 13 May 1864 concerning J[oshua] Williams, who is mentioned very frequently in connection with Sylvia. Mr. Williams rented a house from Patty for \$6.00 a month. He was to build a corral and pigpen to leave and "keep the fence up—" Williams paid with a \$4.00 order, worked two days for \$4.50, stacked hay for a part of a day for 50 cents, and paid \$15.00 with wood and \$1.00 by threshing.

On 10 May 1869 Patty began keeping a cooperative store. What she sold and for what amount are recorded until the end of December 1869. The figures are, of course, very revealing of the times.

Patty also recorded her tithing settlements. On 9 January 1868 she "found Due me" \$30.00. On 26 January 1869 the amount due was \$25.00. On 20 January 1871 it was \$33.00. On 5 February 1872, "Settled my tithing for 1871 found due me \$33-00 the Bishop Balanced the Book would not allow me anything—" And on 10 January 1873, "Setled my tithing for 1872 found Due me thirty dollars and 13 bushels Aples 13 got a certifacate to Bishop Stoker from Bishop F Kesler—"

The archive box of Patty Sessions's diaries held by the Historical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints contains another small handmade book, approximately three inches by five inches. The paper is blue and lined. The book contains for the most part more than ninety midwife accounts and payments from 1858 to 1866, although there are a few other records of medical dealings. The actual deliveries were also noted in her daily diaries.

Several scraps of paper detail other business dealings, including various payments totaling \$270.00 to John Parry for his building Patty's house in Bountiful in 1872.