

## **Journal of John Gilman Sterling** **Born 01 Feb 1869, death 24 Feb 1930**

The following is a transcription of John Gilman Sterling's Journal, which was found in a box of photos and Family Group sheets gathered by his daughter, Avis Sterling Painter. The journal was located in May 1999 at the home of Beverly Ann Painter Jex, John Gilman Sterling's granddaughter.

The journal is handwritten in ink, in a small American Diary 1899. The cover is leather, a dark maroon. Inside, John kept notes on each day, his purchases, and many facts about the printing business and newspaper he ran in Tripoli, Iowa. He was also interested in the weather, recording many days the temperature for the day. If the temperature was above zero, he made a line "----" below the number. If it was below zero, he recorded the number with a "----" above the number.

One thing is obvious from the journal; his business was doing very well during this time. He kept careful track of his income in the back section of the journal. In January 1899 he made \$22.25, expenses were \$21.70 The rest of the year follows -

<b>February 1899</b>	<b>29.18</b>	<b>22.65</b>
<b>March 1899</b>	<b>24.23</b>	<b>11.20</b>
<b>April 1899</b>	<b>23.57</b>	<b>16.65</b>
<b>May 1899</b>	<b>43.95</b>	<b>23.33</b>
<b>June 1899</b>	<b>30.17</b>	<b>18.72</b>
<b>July 1899</b>	<b>42.17</b>	<b>25.68</b>
<b>August 1899</b>	<b>50.37</b>	<b>39.35</b>
<b>Sept 1899</b>	<b>25.02</b>	<b>16.10</b>

He stops recording his expenses after this time, about the time his mother, Caroline C. Robinson fell ill. She died on the

14th of November 1899.

From this list of income and expenses, we can see that John Gilman absolutely loved eating oysters. He ate them several times a week, sometimes every single day for several weeks running.

So here is the first entry in his journal.

Michael L. Jex 27 Jan 2002, Bloomington, Bear Lake, Idaho.

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### **Sunday January 1, 1899**

Temp - 10 below zero, Weather - clear

Strong south wind. Did Linnies chores in morning, went to depot at 12:30 to meet Archie Harris (his brother-in-law), but he did not come. Had oysters for dinner. Millie broke chimney to big laugh. Avis was good all day.

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### **Monday January 2, 1899**

Temperature 20 degrees. Weather - Cloudy

Worked for Lin in office all day. Went to lodge at night. Helped initiate ten candidates from Tripoli. Had an oyster supper after lodge. Ate so many oysters could hardly get home. Got home at 12:45 AM. Found Millie and Avis sleeping sweetly.

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**Tuesday January 3, 1899**

Temperature - 50 degrees Weather - cloudy  
Worked in office all day, felt rather sleepy. Louis L. went to Fayette. Got two rides to town. Millie washed and left Avis with Grandma. She was good as she could be. Millie ate so many raw oysters for dinner she was sick at stomach all evening.

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**Wednesday January 4, 1899**

Temperature 10 degrees below zero. Weather - Cloudy  
Worked in office. April job work. Wrote an ad for R&G and set it. Did statements for T.P. Emerson? and envelopes for Mufbly. Mother and Millie and Avis were at Glatby? to dinner. I ate dinner with Pa and Kittie. Played with Avis in evening. Went to bed at 9:30. Paid PO box rent 20 cents. (Note: Kittie is John's older sister Catherine Cornelia Sterling, who never married.)

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**Thursday January 5, 1899**

Temperature - 3 degrees below zero. Weather - Fair  
Worked in office all day. Printed Gazette in afternoon. Did 500 envelopes for Muffley. Millie baked salt ring bread. Bought 3 1/2 lbs butter of Sam Menenger for .70 cents. Mary and Bertha Slot and Millie and I were over to fathers in evening. I walked Avis to sleep; I went to bed at 10:20

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**Friday January 6, 1899**

Temperature - Zero Degrees. Weather - Fair  
Worked in office. Did 100 Litho for frames. Bought coffee, wurst .10, beef .10. Avis was good as a kitten until evening when she had the colic or something else. Walked the floor with her about an hour. Grandma came to see her. 10 o'clock all went to bed happy.

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**Saturday January 7, 1899**

Temperature 14 degrees, Weather Fair.  
Worked in office. Did 1000 Letterheads for JG. Early 200 Insertion bills for veirouer. 75 Wedding inserts, times for Fedelar. Paid S.E. Preston .10 for doing chores. Avis was good as could be. And so was Millie cause she mended my underclothes. Had the stove red hot all evening. All went to bed happy at 10:15

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**Sunday January 8, 1899**

Temperature 20 degrees. Weather Fair.

Arose at 8 am. Had breakfast at 9. Ate 27 pancakes, Millie ate 16. Sterling Preston did my chores at Leader (newspaper). Shaved before breakfast. Went to church. Heard a good sermon by Robinson. Went riding in afternoon with Millie and Avis. Avis was happy as a clam all day. Brought water for washing Monday. Went to bed at 9:15pm

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**Monday January 9, 1899**

Temperature 2 Weather Fair.  
Did 500 ??? (ink smudged) 500 for Ex C. 250 S.H.S SK, 500 Tapa A Egg letter. Bought Park Steak .10, Bologna 5, toothpicks 3. Millie washed. Grandpa bought Avis a rattle box. We ate supper at Father's, and he helped me clean out the stovepipe after supper. I rocked Avis to sleep. Went to bed at 10:15pm

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**Tuesday January 10, 1899**

Temperature 20, Weather Changeable  
Strong South wind. Worked in office. Did 500 Notes for Cardishhouse. Made up 1st page of Gazette and printed it. Reed did chores, got 1 ride home. Avis had a crying spell in evening. I got her to sleep. She also had one last night at 11 pm. Tore paper off from kitchen wall. Mill wrote to ma. Retired at 9:30pm

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**Wednesday January 11, 1899**

Temperature 20 Weather Cloudy  
Raw south wind. Worked in office. Made up form 2nd page. Avis was happy as a lark all day. Bought Tobacco 5, oil 15, honey 10. Millie and I papered ceiling of kitchen. I got paste all over everything. Got 1 ride home by town. Retired at 10:20pm

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**Thursday January 12, 1899**

Temperature 20 Weather Foggy and rain.  
Worked in office. Finished making up and printed Gazette. Fell down and hurt my hip, but not seriously. Ground icy and slippery. Avis was a little lady all day. Millie and I worked at papering kitchen until 11:30pm. Did not get done. Bought sugar 50, paper 5, calico 20, cotto 73, coffee 25, cheese 10, Tabacco 5. Retired at 11:45pm

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**Friday January 13, 1899**

Temperature 35. Weather Foggy and misty.  
Arose at 6:00am was 30 min late to office. Worked in office all day. Did 500 NH and 500 envelopes for Center Valley Creamery and Ms. Herrick of Bug, and Aunt for of Waterloom come. Mr. H went home after dinner. Bought mutton 10, wallpaper 24. Millie and I finished papering kitchen. Avis was good all day, cried a little in evening. Went to bed at 10:45pm

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**Saturday January 14, 1899**

Temp 35, Weather Very Fair.

Thawed in middle of day so the water ran. Worked outside all day at fixing up woodshed. Bought salt Peter 2t, paid S.E. Preston 10 for choring, Received of G.PL. for one weeks work \$5.00. Avis was happy as a lark all day. Millie, Avis and I went to bed at 8:30, Auntie (kitty) sat up and sewed till 11:00

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**Sunday January 15, 1899**

Temp 40, Weather very fair.  
Arose at 8:00 am.