Mothers of Commerce: Antebellum Missouri Women and the Family Farm

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Comments
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White farm women in the antebellum United States operated as economic producers in their households, often taking part in the growing formal market economy and earning income for their work, as well as completing a wide range of traditional household duties. Women provided crucial domestic labor that helped to support their families in both subsistence and, less often, commercial agriculture. Not only did they cook, clean, and provide child care, they also produced, preserved, and gathered foodstuffs, including vegetables and poultry and milk products. In fact, female labor usually provided from one-third to one-half of a family’s food supply. Some women also helped to earn money or barter credit through the sale of goods they produced, which included poultry, eggs, cloth, butter, and cheese. This income helped obtain goods that families could not, or chose not to, produce and allowed them to purchase items such as shoes, utensils, or manufactured clothing that improved their families’ standard of living. In the past several decades, historians have detailed greater female involvement in the formal cash economy, finding that women have often helped to support their families through paid work.1

The contribution of women to antebellum farm life has been little explored in the history of Missouri.2 This is mostly due to the lack of available sources. Women in antebellum Missouri played substantial roles in the family economy, completing important tasks through paid and unpaid labor. Some women contributed to their households with involvement in the market economy that existed outside their homes. There is not enough evidence from existing sources to prove that most, or even a majority of, antebellum

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farm women participated in this cash and barter system; those most likely to have been involved in such transactions lived near towns or close to the Missouri or Mississippi rivers, the areas with the most demand for items the women produced. The opportunity to make money through the sale of female-produced goods increased greatly after the 1820s as steamboats allowed the wider distribution of goods throughout Missouri and an expanding population supported general stores in growing towns across the state. It can be argued, however, that many Missouri women chose to engage in such activity and to take advantage of the opportunity to earn additional income for their families. Women also completed a complex variety of work to support their households at home.3

Nineteenth-century farming, according to historian Susan Sessions Rugh, would have been unprofitable and unsustainable if families had not had the unpaid work of farmwives and mothers. Families cobbled together their livelihoods by combining unpaid female domestic labor with the subsistence and commercial farmwork of men, as well as using neighborhood exchange and barter. Very few antebellum farmwives escaped a life of hard physical labor, wrote historian Jeanne Boydston, for “family life depended on the smooth performance of an extensive array of unpaid occupations in the household.” Such labor has been termed an “invisible contribution” to farm production, for female labor on the family farm was taken for granted by men. Women suffered from the burden of a “double day,” supervising and training children, as well as completing all their expected household tasks. Melinda Napton, wife of a judge and lawyer in Saline County, Missouri, bore eleven children and managed the family farm during her husband’s frequent absences from home for two decades. Her husband, William, complimented Melinda on her daily work, including skilled and tireless sewing, knitting, cooking, and providing health care for their family. Women often operated as economic partners in the families, and their labor sometimes helped keep the family farm business from failing during tough times. While many sources are unable to demonstrate that women earned income for the family economy, their labor usually allowed their husbands to earn money from female work.4

The diary of Mary Ann Kitzmillen, a farmwife who lived in Lewis County in northeastern Missouri, illustrates the laborious tasks of antebellum women. In one week in late May 1855, she worked in her garden, planting corn, beans, beets, and cabbage, and spent at least one day making soap. She also planted potatoes in rows in the family’s orchard and hosted her sister and her young niece. Kitzmillen did all of this while “very sick” for at least one day. In addition, she completed all of the other usual chores of farm women, ranging from cooking to washing. Over the next two months (June and July), she recorded that she planted beans, cabbage, and potatoes in her garden, collected cherries and raspberries, and spent at least one day doing the “girls washing” and another day baking. At the same time, she kept track of her husband’s work—noted as “Z,” short for Zebulon—in the fields, mowing hay, plowing corn, and cutting grain. He was aided by his sons and the occasional neighbor.5

Mary Kitzmillen detailed her work during the summer and the fall harvest. She labored in her home and garden, washing, cleaning, gathering grapes and chestnuts, helping with corn husking, and caring for the crops
in her garden. Kitzmillen did “laundry all day,” churned butter, boiled maple syrup, and “went to the shoemakers” several times, at least once to get shoes for the men. On several occasions she mentioned chores such as “hauling corn” and “sowing wheat,” but did not tell who was completing these actions. It is possible that she assisted with them. Her contributions to the family economy also included profitable labor. Although she sold a turkey and twenty-four little chickens on December 8, she did not report how much she made from the exchange. 6

Most settlers in antebellum Missouri, as in other newly settled areas, initially survived by hunting and by growing corn and garden vegetables. Each family usually set aside about an acre of land near the house for a kitchen garden. After the husband, father, or son plowed the land, the cultivation and care of the garden plot fell to the women of the household. Farm women raised everything from cucumbers and potatoes to carrots, pumpkins, and kitchen and medicinal herbs. Men spent their time in plowing, harvesting, construction, hunting, and woodcutting, usually away from the house and garden. Women and girls were usually responsible for caring for poultry and cows. They tended flocks of geese and chickens, fed and milked cows, and churned butter and made cheese. Henriette Bruns, a German farmwife living in the village of Westphalia in central Missouri, cared for her garden; stayed busy with washing, sewing, and making soap; and managed one hundred chickens, sixty to seventy pigs, two cows, as well as geese. She wrote, “It is no fun to represent cook, nursemaid, and housewife in one person.” Female work provided important foodstuffs for the households, which helped to diversify farm families’ diets and sometimes provided income from goods sold to merchants or necessities from exchanges with neighbors. Here the gender division of labor is clear—women and girls focused their work in the home, the garden, and the barn. 7

Women’s work was never ending. In addition to a grueling routine of daily tasks, farmwives and their daughters often spent evenings working at spinning wheels, weaving, and making clothing for their families. 8 J. A. Ward, who lived near Troy, thirty-five miles northwest of St. Louis, reported that his “mother made all the cloth that clothed her family” and headed the family as a single parent for forty years. Females preserved and pickled foods and made candles and soap, as well as blankets and quilts. Farmwives also bore and cared for many children, prepared three meals per day, cleaned, and washed, ironed, and mended clothing on a daily basis. Beatrice Fink described her daily work in Missouri to relatives in Germany in a letter mentioned in the book German Settlement in Missouri. She wrote, “Besides attending to the things my dear mother taught me, such as cooking, baking, washing, ironing, sewing, knitting, mending, etc. . . . I can milk a cow, which gives me great pleasure; also I can make trousers and vests and coats. There is no work I
dodge and I am not ashamed to perform the humblest tasks.” In Missouri, farm women did all of these tasks and more because a shortage of labor on frontier farms often led to women and children being drafted into completing tasks normally seen as masculine. When necessary, they assisted men with labor in the fields, barns, and forests—hunting, picking apples, plowing, digging potatoes, harvesting crops, and slaughtering larger animals.⁹

Martha Tyler Overall was born in 1840 near Fulton, Missouri, on a plantation owned by her father. Both of her parents died when she was four years old, and her oldest sister and brother took charge of the estate. Her siblings took in boarders in the 1840s to help meet expenses, as did another sister and her husband who lived in Jefferson City. Since the capital city was small in the 1840s and usually crowded with visitors, “every family took in boarders.” Women, being responsible for housekeeping, completed all of the cooking, cleaning, and other work that maintained the household and provided services to boarders. In this way they helped their families through cash earnings.¹⁰

Martha grew up quickly. After her sister died in 1851, she wrote that her “heart almost stood still at the calamity.” She was then sent to school in Louisville, Kentucky, for three years before she married at age eighteen. After Martha married, she lived with her husband and a slave couple on a small farm west of the town of St. Charles. Though Overall provides relatively little information on this phase of her life, she did have two daughters and boarded in St. Charles or St. Louis during much of the Civil War. When the family lived on their small farm, she helped harvest apples from their five-acre orchard. Overall noted in her memoirs, “The fruit was gathered and piled under each tree, and then carefully packed in barrels and shipped to St. Louis. We bought a hand ‘Cider Mill,’ and the refuse apples were made into cider.” She had earlier stated that her husband was a merchant who was often absent from home on business, which would have left her to run the family farm. Though she does not explicitly acknowledge harvesting, packing, or shipping apples, it is possible that she took part in this work, thus earning money for her family.¹¹

Margaret Blauff Hillenkamp was a German immigrant who came to live near St. Charles in 1835. She brought vital income to her family through sales of eggs and wool clothing and also helped her husband with hard physical labor. While no documents written by Margaret survive, we know about her life from one of her husband’s surviving letters, penned in May 1843. He wrote that his wife had assisted him in clearing and cultivating about twenty acres of their farm. They had also planted an orchard, and he took the fruit to sell in nearby St. Louis. He wrote that they had taken several hundred eggs from her chickens to sell as well. The cash they earned from these sales allowed them to purchase “all their necessary household goods.” In a January 1846 letter, Hillenkamp noted that his wife had helped him “in every kind of work where her circumstances allowed’ (that is, when she was not pregnant).” The family also kept sheep for their use, probably using their wool for weaving. Historian Linda Pickle argues that Margaret’s weaving was possibly sold at market and that her contributions to the household were “vital to the economic success that she and her family attained in Missouri.”¹²
Another woman whose work proved crucial to her family was Sally Dodge Morris. She lived in Missouri for decades, helping to support her family—and substituting for an ill husband on a regular basis—by sewing coats for market sale, gathering bushels of nuts, and hunting for meat. Sally, the daughter of a missionary from Vermont, moved with her family to Bates City in western Missouri in 1821 to work amongst the Osage. She was ten years old at the time and would spend most of her life in the state. In 1893, for a writing contest, she wrote a thirteen-page autobiography that described her life in Missouri as a young woman. After marrying Milton Morris in 1831, she often found herself alone on their farm with their two children when he went to a mill forty or fifty miles away. In his absence, she managed the farm and household. If travelers needed to cross the nearby river, she took them across in a canoe and helped “swim the horses and ferry the men. Mr. Morris sick half the time, we would take the two children in the canoe and hunt, and cut bee trees and gather nuts.” She also earned income for the family. “I made forty coats by hand, besides pants and vests, and took the pay in corn, pork, potatoes, beans, home made cotton cloth &c.” In the 1840s she continued to make money for her family. She wrote that sometimes neither she nor her husband saw but one silver dollar an “entire year, and I got that for making a coat.” One year—“having no money”—they camped out on the Big Osage River and cut down pecan trees to gather the nuts. After collecting sixty bushels, they sent the nuts to St. Louis and earned one dollar per bushel. She wrote that this was the “entire amount we had for our store bill for one year when there was nine in [the] family.” Even at the age of eighty-two she was “doing the housework for four in [the] family,” washing, mending, and cooking for everyone.  

Elise Dubach Isley was the daughter of Swiss immigrants who came to live near St. Joseph after they arrived in the United States in 1855. Shortly after the family arrived in northwestern Missouri, Elise’s mother died, and the girl had to take over her mother’s household duties. She recalled that it was good that she had given her doll to a friend, “for in the same grave with my mother I buried my childhood. Although I lacked a month of being thirteen years old, I had no more time for dolls. I had to be mother to my two younger brothers and soon was to be housekeeper for my father.” She told her son that her father had known that “after I assumed the duties of a home, I would be so busy with my housework that I could no longer attend school.”

The family settled in a log cabin north of St. Joseph near Amazonia. Her father wanted to live near St. Joseph “because of the market it afforded” and because his brother lived nearby. Elise completed all of the housework, although she was not yet fourteen when they moved in. “I not only cooked, swept and washed, but made butter and cheese, cut out and fashioned clothing, and at certain seasons manufactured soap and candles.”
Elise and her family began to take part in the expanding commerce of the region as soon as they arrived at their new home. Her father purchased a wagon, plow, furniture, stove, utensils, and livestock once they had bought their land. She wrote that her family had never heard of “diversified farming,” but that they practiced it nonetheless. They earned income in a number of ways—from field crops, livestock, and the sale of butter, eggs, timber, and oxen.

Elise’s responsibilities included making butter and cheese and taking care of the chickens and their eggs. The family took its farm produce across the river for sale on a regular basis. Elise, who referred to these trips as her “trading excursions,” rode horseback to take her butter and eggs to market, returning with dry goods and groceries. She sometimes crossed the frozen Missouri River on the way south to St. Joseph. She was responsible for both the production of market items and their sale. Thus, she helped her family not only through her domestic labor and subsistence production, but also through cash income or credit earned by the sales of market goods.15

Similarly, James Williams recalled taking his mother’s chickens and eggs to market in the 1850s to earn money for the family. Williams was born in May 1834 on his parents’ farm in Cass County; the family later moved north to reside in the Clinton County area. Williams’s father died when the boy was fourteen, “leaving us in the wilderness in a double log cabin, two brothers, two sisters, and a weakly mother, with little to live on after the doctor bills and burial expenses were paid.” Williams and his brother helped their mother run the farm, but he provides little information about her. In 1855, after his “mother had raised a fine lot of nice chickens,” he took them to sell to the soldiers at Fort Leavenworth. Two towns to the east, Plattsburg and Haynesville, were too small to absorb the sale of the 150 or so chickens. A neighbor had told him that a “good spring chicken” could be sold at Fort Leavenworth for twenty-five cents. “So we decided to market our chickens,” Williams noted. He built a chicken coop eight feet long and three stories tall, divided it into three compartments, attached it to a wagon, and headed for the fort. It took two days to reach his destination, and he sold all the chickens to the hungry soldiers. He earned three dollars a dozen and recalled that he had twelve to fifteen dozen chickens. Thus, he earned from $36 to $45 from his mother’s work at home. Williams reported that he had “some goods to buy,” including a sack of salt (which was almost ruined by a thunderstorm), and returned home.16

The diary of Pauline Stratton, a farmwife in her forties who lived near Syracuse, Missouri, details her household management and domestic duties, as well as how her work helped to bring in much-needed income and store credit.17 The family lived about twenty-five miles south of Boonville and had moved to central Missouri from Virginia in 1855. Pauline and her husband, Thomas, had five children. They owned 11 slaves, more than double the Missouri average of 4.8 slaves per owner and the Cooper County average slaveholding of 5.2. Eighteen people lived on the Stratton farm, with eight slaves and three children thirteen years or older. The slaves and the children helped with work in the fields and assisted Pauline with gardening, cooking,
spinning, child care, food production, and butter churning. The large labor force available helps to explain the productivity of the household. Even with all the help, Pauline stayed almost constantly busy, helping to manage her household and its production of farm goods. She completed all of the usual jobs of an antebellum farmwife, including cutting out pants for her husband, making soap, planting and caring for the garden, and mending or fixing clothing.18

Like other farm women, Stratton often had to step outside the gender boundaries of her time and do work that normally fell only to men. In early July 1856 she recorded in her diary that she had been hauling wheat and harvesting oats. Here the flexibility of female labor allowed her to complete both domestic, gender-appropriate tasks, as well as more masculine and physical labor. On occasion, men sometimes completed the work of women. During the spring of 1859, Stratton wrote that her thirteen-year-old son, John, was “making a little butter now.”19

Stratton’s diary, which covers the years between 1856 and 1862, details her regular sales of eggs, butter, and other products to merchants in nearby towns, as well as to the occasional traveler or party heading west. Income from these sales was used for a variety of goods to benefit her family. She purchased both luxuries and necessities, including sugar, linen, plates, cups, hats, coats, shoes, and clothing, on a regular basis. Her notes are not always complete, and the disorganized nature of her diary makes estimating Stratton’s exact economic contribution to her family difficult, but the cash and credit earned by female-produced goods in the household was significant. It was also often earned year-round, as opposed to the seasonal income brought in by male-dominated work during fall harvests and animal slaughtering.20

In 1856 Stratton sent a steady stream of products made by her household to nearby towns. On February 16 she sent thirty-nine pounds of butter to a merchant named Bell.21 In return she bought a set of plates, six tumblers, a set of cups, a pitcher, and a saucer. Two months later, she sent 27 1/2 pounds of butter to the same store. She was very busy during the summer and autumn, recording work in the fields, sewing, planting and harvesting her garden, making soap, patching clothing, and caring for her children. Stratton, her family, and her slaves produced 138 1/2 pounds of butter in 1856; however, due to a very low price of three cents per pound in April, she earned less than usual for the year—only $16.52.22

In the first four months of 1857, she sent 91 pounds of butter to market, receiving in return a coat for her son John and 21 yards of calico. As in the previous year, the butter production of the Stratton farm ceased during the late spring and summer. This was due to the inability to keep butter from spoiling in the mid-year heat and also possibly to the heightened demand for labor during the summer. Once temperatures decreased in the fall, the family renewed butter production. In late December, Pauline sold “60-odd lbs” in town. In 1857 she sold about 150 pounds of butter and earned an estimated $22 for her family. Three years later, between May 1860 and April 1861, she sold 290 pounds of butter in nearby towns.23

During these years, Pauline helped to earn a substantial portion of her family’s income, selling more than 600 pounds of butter. If we assume that the Stratton household produced 200 pounds of butter each year in the late
1850s, this can be compared to an estimated average household butter production in Cooper County of 77 pounds per year. (This number is calculated by figuring an average household size of five, based on the census returns from Lebanon Township and a sample of other sections of the county. The county produced 208,100 pounds of butter in 1860; dividing this sum by the number of households—2,705—provides an estimated average of 77 pounds of butter produced per household.) Thus, the Strattons seem to have produced at least two-and-a-half times more butter than the average Cooper County household.

Stratton did not confine her commercial activity to one item. Whenever possible, it seems, she took the opportunity to sell the products of her poultry and livestock. In November 1858 a peddler and an Irishman bought 36 pounds of butter; she used $5.40 in credit to buy cloth. In April 1859 Pauline sold 3 pounds of butter and four dozen eggs to cattle drovers heading for California. Her other sales that year earned $27.375 in cash and merchant credit. In 1860, a very active year for the family farm, Pauline reported selling cloth, chickens, eggs, butter, and bacon. This would have earned an estimated $69.35 for her family. In November 1860 the family also sold eight barrels of corn at two dollars each, for $16, and killed three hogs and sold the meat for at least $39, as well as selling one calf for $18.

The total income from the various farm operations managed by Pauline Stratton in 1860 proved substantial and was almost equal to the amount of money earned from the sale of corn and livestock—$73. So it is possible that the monthly income earned by Pauline may have exceeded the cash income of her husband on occasion. Despite its imperfect information, Stratton’s diary is an important record of the role women played in the family economy. Her work helped buy clothing, plates, food, and shoes for her family, improving their quality of life and making her children’s lives easier. In fact, depending on market prices and her husband’s work, she may have earned a majority of the family’s income in some seasons.

Women in antebellum America played substantial roles in the family economy, completing important tasks through paid and unpaid labor. Female labor did not just produce vegetables, milk, butter, eggs, cheese, fruits, and nuts for a family’s table. Women also often helped to produce a variety of farm goods that could be sold for cash or mercantile credit to purchase necessities or to improve their household’s standard of living. Market involvement helped farm families better their lives by providing access to items they could not manufacture themselves or by allowing them to buy relatively inexpensive, mass-produced items that they chose not to make. Women’s earnings also helped to diversify their family’s income and made surviving lean times easier. Missouri farm women who took part in the expanding market economy played an overlooked and underappreciated role in antebellum agriculture.
NOTES


The letters of German immigrant Frederick Steines, who lost his spouse and children to cholera in 1834, demonstrated the importance of a wife’s labor. The loss of his wife’s unpaid labor nearly bankrupted him, and he quickly remarried. Norma Steines Cunningham, The Letters of Frederick Steines, 1834-1840, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Columbia, MO (hereinafter cited as WHMC-Columbia).

5. Mary Ann Kitzmiller, diary, 22 May-July 1855, folder 17, Fannie Blair Long Papers, WHMC-Columbia.

6. Ibid., 4, 7, 13, 15-17, 19, 22, 23, 27, 30 October, 5, 7, 13, 16 November, 8, 20, 23 December 1855. See Rugh, Our Common Country, 16-20, for a summary of the productive work of farm women.


8. See Natalie Kuemmel, Notebook, WHMC-Columbia, for an example of the amount of sewing and mending completed by a woman. In eleven days at the start of January 1861, Kuemmel mended, sewed, or made twenty-six pieces of clothing, sheets, gloves, and neckerchiefs. There were fifty items on her “Make and Mend” list, including shirt collars, pants, gloves, dresses, stockings, shirts, and socks.

Country, 17-20; John Mack Faragher, Sugar Creek: Life
on the Illinois Prairie (New Haven, CT: Yale University
Press, 1986), 101-5; Osterud, Bonds of Community, 12,
147-50; Faragher, Women and Men on the Overland
Trail, 50-51; Robyn Burnett and Ken Luebbering,
German Settlement in Missouri. New Land, Old Ways

10. Martha Tyler Overall, Memoirs, 6-9, folder
440, Missouri Collection, WHMC-Columbia. Overall’s
reminiscences were written between 1922 and 1924.

11. Ibid., 16, 29, 32, 36, 48.

12. Linda Schelbitzki Pickle, “German-Speaking
Women in Nineteenth-Century Missouri: The Immigrant
Experience,” in Women in Missouri History: In Search
of Power and Influence, ed. LeeAnn Whites, Mary C.
Neth, and Gary R. Kremer (Columbia: University of

13. Sarah J. Gregory, “Pioneer Housewife: The
Autobiography of Sally Dodge Morris,” Gateway
Heritage 3 (Spring 1983): 25-27, 32-33. Morris died in
California in 1902 at the age of ninety-one.

14. Elise Dubach Isley, Surnoonet Days, by Elise
Dubach Isley, as told to her son, Bliss Isley (Caldwell,
60, 68-69.

15. Ibid., 65, 86, 94.

16. James Williams, Seventy-five Years on the
Border (Kansas City: Standard Printing Co., 1912), 2-3,
5, 59-61.

17. Diane Mutti Burke, an assistant professor of
history at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, is
editing Pauline Stratton’s diary for publication.

18. Pauline Stratton, diary, 12, 14, 20, 27 January,
10 March, 10 April, 1 May, 5 October 1856, Pauline
H. Stratton Papers, WHMC-Columbia; Population
Schedules of the Eighth Census of the United States,
1860, Missouri, Slave Schedules, “Cooper County,
Lebanon Township,” 4; U.S. Census Bureau, Eighth
Census of the United States, 1860, “Cooper County”; U.S.
Census Bureau, Agriculture of the United States in 1860,
lxxxii; Eighth Census . . . 1860, “Cooper County.”
Neither the 1850 nor the 1860 census recorded
information on egg production. Cooper County had
13,528 white residents in 1860. See U.S. Census
Bureau, The Seventh Census of the United States, 1850
(Washington, DC: Robert Armstrong, Public Printer,
1853), 644-91, for information on Missouri’s farm
production.

19. Stratton, diary, 6 July, 4 December 1856; 28
November 1857; 21 April, 8 May 1859.

20. Ibid., 16 February, 6 April, 20 July 1856; 18
January, 17, 22 February, 23 April 1857; 12 June,
27 August 1859.

21. The author has unsuccessfully searched
merchant ledgers to try and trace the flow of butter and
eggs and how much credit was earned by the sale of
female-produced goods. The price of butter and eggs
fluctuated greatly depending on season, demand, and
the buyer.

22. Stratton, diary, 12, 14 January, 16 February,
2, 14, 28 March, 6, 30 April, 2, 9 June, 20 July, 23
September, 5 October, 24 December 1856. Stratton
mentions the death of her prized “Shanghai chicken”
on January 16, and on April 27, 1857, she wrote, “My
chickens are hatching badly.”

23. Ibid., early February, 22 February, mid-March
(no date), 1, 23 April, 27 November, mid-December,
late December 1857. See the list following April 1861
entries (no exact date) for sales in 1860-61. The $22
income estimate is a conservative one based on a price
of fifteen cents per pound for butter, an average price
Stratton received.

24. U.S. Census Bureau, Agriculture of the United
States in 1860, lxxxii; Eighth Census . . . 1860, “Cooper
County.” Stratton’s diary entries are incomplete and often
undated; she sometimes skipped days or weeks. The
Stratton’s slaves included one ninety-five-year-old
woman, five of prime working age between sixteen
and thirty-eight, and five children who were fifteen
or younger, including a year-old infant. The Strattons’
human property provided them with a significant labor
force and made them one of the largest slave-owning
families in their township. Only eight families in
Lebanon Township owned more than eleven slaves, and
none owned more than seventeen. The family ranked in
the top 15 percent of slave owners in Cooper County.

25. Stratton, diary, 21 November 1858; 28 April,
12 June, 27 August 1859; 16 January, 27 February, 7
March, 22 April, 1 May, 1 June, 22 July, 14, 23 August,
27-28 October, 11, 17, 29 November 1860. A chart, “May
1860,” on pp. 11-12 in the diary lists sales of butter for
1860. The sale of 17 pounds of butter in August and 21
pounds of butter in November are replicated in the diary
and are not included in the author’s calculations. The
Strattons earned 6 1/2 cents per pound for a 200-pound
hog, or approximately $13 per hog. Pauline earned
$1.50 for selling a dozen chickens on July 22, 1860,
and the author has used this price when no amount is provided to estimate income for the year. Ten cents per dozen eggs is used, as this is a common price Pauline earned for this product. Fifteen cents per pound for butter is a common amount, used here when no other price is given. Ten cents per pound for bacon is assumed (no price given in diary), which seems to be low for Missouri about 1860. The price for bacon in Platte County, Missouri, in May 1857 was thirteen cents a pound, while the average wholesale price of bacon in New Orleans in 1859-60 was eleven cents. See Roger L. Ransom and Richard Sutch, One Kind of Freedom: The Economic Consequences of Emancipation (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1977), 218; William McClurg Paxton, Annals of Platte County, Missouri. From Its Exploration Down To June 1, 1897 (Kansas City, MO: Hudson-Kimberly, 1897), 236.


ERRATA

The following theses and dissertation completed in 2009 and relating to Missouri history were omitted from the list published in the April 2010 issue of the Missouri Historical Review.

University of Missouri-Columbia

Master's Theses

Joshua Burbridge, “The Veering Path of Progress: Politics, Race, and Consensus in the North St. Louis Mark Twain Expressway Fight, 1950-1956”

Greg Olson, “Ever Toward the Setting Sun They Push Us': American Indian Identity in the Writing of Mary Alicia Own”

Doctoral Dissertation

Mary Collins Barile, “Knickerbockers West: How Three American Playwrights Shaped the Image of the American West”