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The Case of Charity Lamb (2015)

Arts and Humanities in Action


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## Charity Lamb's Diary

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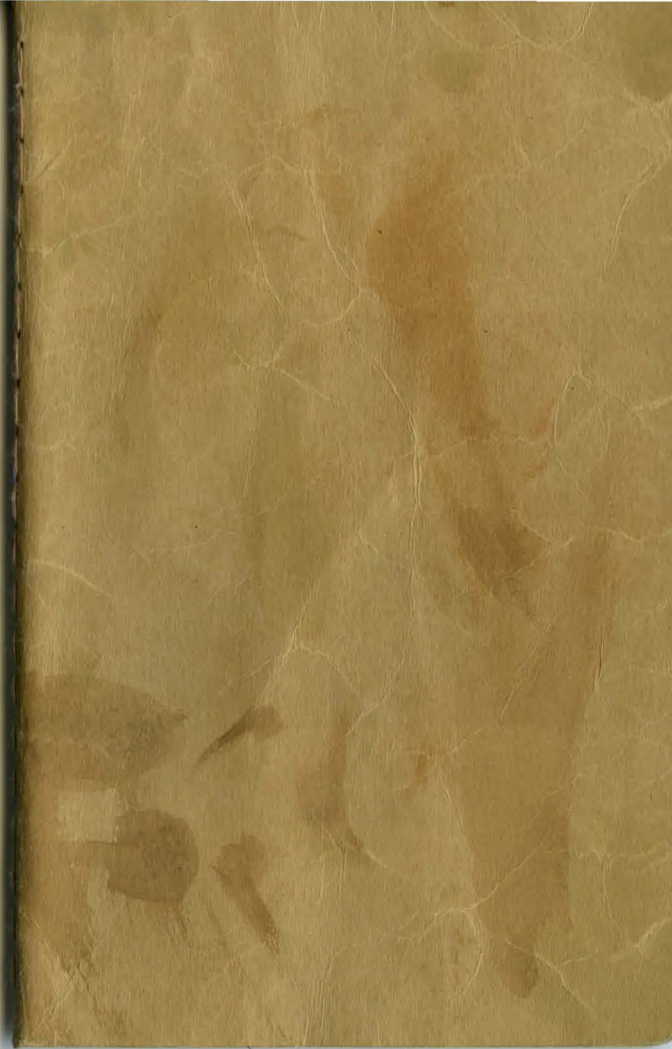
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February 18, 1834

Today was my 16 birthday.  
I received this Journal  
to keep a written record  
of my personal journey  
as I prepare to depart  
from my family home and  
make a life for myself  
here in North Carolina.  
I look forward to the  
adventures to come.

Sincerely,  
Charity Robinson

December 27, 1834

Today I met a  
kind man who goes by  
the name Nathaniel  
Lamb. I do not  
yet know enough about  
him to say for  
sure, but I believe  
this is the man that  
I shall marry.

Sincerely,  
Charity Robbins

July 14, 1836

I am now a married  
woman. I do not yet  
know which direction Nathaniel  
will lead me, but I do  
know that I will follow  
him to the end of  
the earth.

It could quite the  
scandal were Mary Ann  
was born but things have  
quieted down now that we  
are married before the Lord.  
Her first birthday will be  
in September, and I have

April 4, 1841

Our second child  
was born today in good  
Health. His name will  
be Abraham, for that  
was the name of my  
father's father. Mary  
Ann is almost 6, and  
I am reminded of just  
how quick time passes.  
Our home is lovely, I  
couldn't be happier.

Sincerely, Charley Lamb

Been working on making  
her a blanket. I am  
sure it will be done  
by that time.

Sincerely,

Charley Lamb

March 15, 1943

I visited my family today. Mother sent word that Father had fallen ill, and I had to see him and say goodbye. What a short life we live! I pray that he will be given more time, I can't bear the thought of Mother living alone. After he is gone, she

Must come and be with  
Nathaniel and I

Sincerely  
Charity Lamb

March 22  
1843

Father passed on.  
I can say no  
more.

Sincerely  
Charity Lamb



January 7, 1945

Our second son Thomas was born today, strong and healthy just like his brother. Three children in the house is very tiring, and with Nathan away all day it is even harder. My Mother comes about three times per week, which does help, but it is still

very hard. Our house  
is not large enough  
to support more than  
five, so we may be  
looking for another house  
close to my mother soon  
when it is time for  
another child.

Sincerely

Charity Lamb

October 13, 1847

My mother is gone now  
as well and I have  
no one left, like Nathaniel.  
I think I would like  
to leave this place.

They tell stories of  
the West. I think  
that there we will  
find a fresh start.

Sincerely

Charity Lamb

May 29, 1849

Today was the most  
frightening day of  
my life. William was born,  
but it wasn't like any  
other birth. He almost  
did not receive the  
birth. It is a  
miracle that he  
is even alive. I  
have never been more  
thankful.

Sincerely,  
Charity Lamb

January 1, 1850

It has been decided,  
we will be heading  
West come April. The  
journey will be long  
and I worry about  
my youngest son, William.  
He is not growing  
the same way his brother  
did. I fear for the  
worst. Nevertheless, it is  
time for us to leave.

Sincerely,  
Charity Lamb

April 2, 1850

Today marks our  
first day on the  
trail. Our wagon is  
well supplied and  
prepared for the long  
journey ahead  
of us. I pray for  
our safe arrival.

Sincerely  
Charity Lamb

July 15, 1850,

we have been on the trail  
for over 3 months now  
and things couldn't be  
worse. William continues  
to get in worse health  
I fear for his life.

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I know it is not  
uncommon, but I  
never expected ~~my~~  
it in my lifetime  
to have to watch  
my children suffer.

I pray that we  
will arrive soon

Sincerely

Charity Lamb

August 1, 1850

I buried my son  
today

They warned us of  
the perils of the  
trial.

They spoke of  
sacrifices.

Was it worth it?

Something's changed  
now.

I fear I will  
never be the same

Sincerely

Charity Lamb

October 2<sup>d</sup>, 1850,

We have finally arrived  
after six months on  
the trail. William's death  
still haunts me as I  
try to sleep at  
night. I wish we  
had never left.

Something has changed  
in Nathaniel as  
well, but I imagine  
it is simply the



stress of our journey

Sincerely

Charity

Lamb

January 2, 1852

We are finally settled  
in our new home in  
the Oregon Territory.  
Our home is lovely, with  
the forest all around  
us. We just returned from  
visiting our nearest  
neighbors, the Smiths.  
They seem to be anxious  
about our arrival, but  
why I do not know.  
Sincerely Charity Lamb

November 10, 1954

He hit me today, my  
worst fears have  
come true. I told  
Sally Smith about  
the incident but she  
~~refused~~ refused to offer  
me anything more than  
a place to stay  
if things became  
any worse. I fear  
for my children's well.  
I have another on

the way and after  
what happened to  
William I could not  
bear the thought of  
losing any of them

Sincerely

Scarlet

Lamb

March 19, 1854

Presley was born strong  
and healthy; a miracle  
given the abuse I  
endured throughout  
these past few months  
I grow more and  
more afraid as time  
passes. I am looking  
for an escape. There  
is a man by the  
name Mr. Collins  
that is interested in

my daughter Mary Ann, and  
I believe that he can  
keep us. I pray that  
we will be safe until  
his letter arrives.

Sincerely

Charity  
Lamb

May 6, 1854.

I cannot wait  
any longer. I fear  
for my life. He  
threatened me today.  
I was so afraid  
looking into the  
barrel of his gun.  
He knew about  
Mr Collins as well.

It is only a matter  
of time before  
he kills us all.

Sincerely

Charity

Lamb

May 13, 1954

I did it, I killed him  
I didnt mean for  
it to happen the way  
that it did. I was so  
afraid. I'm at the  
Smiths mow but my  
poor Presley is still  
at that house.

I will not sleep  
until my baby is  
safe in my arms.  
Sincerely, Charity Lamb

May 20, 1854

I saw him today  
for the last time.  
He asked why I killed  
him. What a question!

I love my children  
more than life itself  
knowing that he will  
never again be able  
to hurt them is  
enough to put me  
at peace.

Sincerely  
Charlotte Lamb

July 11, 1854

I am glad that I  
still believe in  
miracles.

Mary Ann was able  
to go free today.

It gives me hope  
that I, too, will  
be free. It does not  
matter in the end.

Sincerely, Charity Lamb

July 13, 1854

I am going to court  
today.

I am not guilty,  
though they believe that  
I am. I will stay  
silent. It doesn't

matter anymore, my  
children are safe and  
they will live good,  
happy lives. Whatever  
happens to me now



Does not matter in the  
end

Sincerely,  
Charity Lamb

August 20, 1854

I wait anxiously for  
my second trial. I  
wish they would believe  
me that I am not  
guilty.

I miss my  
children

Sincerely,  
Charity Lamb

September 11, 1854

Today is the end. My trial  
begins soon, but I know  
there is no chance I  
will ever be free again.

I can still remember  
when I was young.

How foolish I was!

I wanted my life to  
be an adventure and  
look what has become  
of me now.

If only I could turn

back time. But for now  
I must live with the  
choices I have made.

Goodbye.

Charity Lamb

