

# HANNAH'S DIARY

## A Tale Of The Pony Express

### Chapter Six – by Kay Hively

As Christmas neared, Hannah began to plan gifts for her family. Her grandparents were coming to visit so there would be gifts for them. Hannah asked her parents for extra chores. She swept her father's office one Saturday morning and he gave her a dollar. Hannah had never had a dollar before.

One Saturday, Hannah's mother let her take all the feather beds outside and beat them with a rug beater. It was a sunny November day and Hannah had fun taking whacks at the bedding. While she was outside, she saw two big flocks of geese. Hannah thought it was funny that while she was beating the feather beds, the birds were taking their feathers to a warm place for the winter.

Hannah got another dollar from her mother. She was now ready to shop for Christmas.

When Hannah asked if she could go Christmas shopping, her mother agreed to take her the very next Saturday morning. Then her mother asked Hannah what she would like for Christmas.

Hannah said she wanted five dollars for Christmas. If she could have five dollars, Hannah said she would not ask for anything for her next birthday, and she wouldn't ask for a candy stick on Saturday for a whole year.

Mrs. Evans asked her daughter why she wanted five dollars. Hannah said that Mr. Cole had told her the Pony Express would be starting soon after Christmas. He said it would cost five dollars to send a letter. Hannah said she was already writing a letter to Betsy. She also said she would just die if she couldn't send it with the first Pony Express rider to leave St. Joseph.

On Christmas morning, Hannah found a five dollar gold piece in her stocking. Under the tree, she found a doll from her father. He had bought it from one of the riverboat captains. Her mother gave her a new diary because the one from last Christmas was

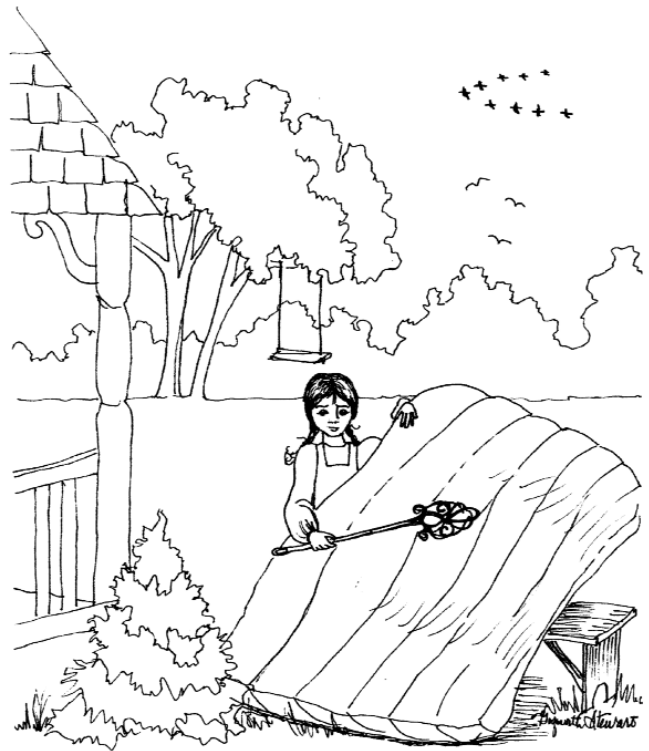


nearly full. And Hannah's grandparents gave her a fur muff to match her new coat.

That night Hannah put her five dollar gold piece in a little sack and laid it in the trunk beside her new diary.

Then Hannah wrote in the last page of her old diary:

"Dear Diary, It was a wonderful Christmas. We went to an extra church service tonight. We had a goose and a turkey. Grandpa shot them for our dinner. We had fruit cake, too. I hope Betsy had a merry Christmas."



## Classroom Extensions

### Things to Think About and Do –

- What kind of bed did Hannah sleep in? In the story, how did Hannah clean her bed?
- What did Hannah's father give her for Christmas? And where did he get it? Draw a picture of all the things Hannah got for Christmas.

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**Next Week: Chapter Seven – A mystery in the old trunk.**