

[Diary of]

**Lucy Johnston Griffin  
January 1, 1916  
Leominster, Mass.**

**1916**

**Griffin family – father Stephen O., grocer with store at 2 Cottage St., home at 42 Cottage; wife Lucy; children Oscar, born 1902, and Ruth, born 1906.**

**According to the Leominster City Directories, the first mention of Stephen is in 1915, with the above information. In 1924, it lists Stephen and wife Lucy as "rem[oved] to California".**

**The family probably left by late 1923 or early 1924. Dates can vary a little bit depending on when the information for the directory was compiled and when it was published.**

**Tenants: Maynards, among others**

**January 1:** The new year begins dull and stormy[.] It finds us comfortable, happy and progressing. What more could we ask? Bert Peckens [not in directory, 1915-16] happens in to take dinner with us.

**January 2:** Sunday. Dull and stormy all day. Oscar & Ruth attend Sunday school. The rest of the day we spend at home quiet & cozy – just our own four selves.

**January 3:** School opens again after the Christmas holidays. Will I ever get my left over work caught up again?

**January 4:** Poor Mr. Golden [neighbor Patrick Golden, at 49 Cottage St.] had a bad fall today. It seemed like a shock. Splendid coasting; children are enjoying it.

**January 5:** Mr. Golden suffered another shock today. No hopes of his recovery – I am staying in pretty close this week to even up with the last two or three.

**January 6:** Mr. Golden has passed away. How lonely it will be for his dear wife. Coasting continues fine. Let me whisper. I went out with the children and had a few slides it was dark.

**January 7:** Ideal winter day. A little necessary shopping takes me up town in the P.M. New shoes and new gloves all in one day –

**January 8:** I attend Mr. Golden's funeral at the [St.Leo's] Catholic Church. Zero weather. The beautiful flowers froze the minute they were placed at the grave.

**January 9:** Sunday – and such a lovely day. To Church with the children. Fred & Nellie - Gladys & Arthur spend the lunch time and evening with us. And we all enjoy a good laugh[.]

[Gladys (Small) and Arthur Griffin, sister-in-law and brother of Stephen Griffin, wed in Nova Scotia 1912, now of Leominster]

**January 10:** A little snow & a little rain. I started the week by going out. I wonder if I will go every day? Oscar went to a little social at the home of his Sunday School teacher tonight.

**January 11:** Went to see "The Blindness of Virtue" with Mrs. Hugh Crain [home 40 Cottage, husband plumber] in the evening. It was real good.

**January 12:** Attended the Parent-Teacher meeting at the Field School and enjoyed a stereoptican lecture on school gardens by Prof. Morton of Amherst College.

**January 13:** Oscar isn't feeling real good so stays home from school. George, Marian and her mother spend the evening with us. [George and Marion (Stickney) Griffin, brother and sister-

in-law of Stephen Griffin, married Leominster 1908; her mother Dollie (Woods) Stickney, all now of Leominster].

**January 14:** Oscar at home feeling about the same. It grows cold all day and at night is about zero.

**January 15:** I am staying in the store quite a little these days. Such a harsh broncial [sic] cough. I steam Oscar well with Eucalyptus oil.

**January 16:** Oscar isn't dressed at all today[.] Ruth goes to Sunday School. A very quiet day, nobody comes.

**January 17:** Bitter cold and disagreeable — I wash and go up town in the P.M. It is awful on the hands & ears.

**January 18:** Today is the sixteenth anniversary of our marriage, and a dear good hubby he has been, and if I wasn't married, I would marry him today (that is if I had the oppotunity[sic]).

**January 19:** Oscar goes back to school. I am busy around the house and making Ruth a dress. Mrs. Clary [likely Mary Cleary, widow James, 38 Cottage St.] runs in a few minutes.

**January 20:** Gladys spends the day with us and Arthur comes to supper.

The weather is much more comfortable. A letter from Mother [Lydia (Hodgkins) Johnston of Marlboro] says Effie [sister?] has the grippe.

**January 21:** I am not feeling very well today so am taking things kind of easy. Oscar goes to the Pictures.

**January 22:** Very warm & muddy. Ruth & I attend the art Exhibit [sic] in the City Hall and do a little shopping in the evening. Oscar goes to a Basket ball game.

**January 23:** Oscar & Ruth go to Sunday school. I spend the day resting. No company. Ruth & Pa do up the work.

**January 24:** Mr. Morse [she annotated in blue ink: "owner of store bldg. Dad wants to buy"] came back from Maynard today after a week's stay. Jen & Bert [Peck??] walk in on us in the afternoon for a little visit. They stay all night.

**January 25:** And go back this P.M. I went to a Parent Teacher meeting in the Public Library & was appointed one of a commitee [sic] to visit mothers in this section.

**January 26:** I attended the Mothers Association meeting in the [Orthodox?] Congregational Church. Paid 25 cents and became a member. Mr. [Joseph B.] Kettle [pastor, Orthodox Congregational Church,] spoke very interestingly to the Mothers.

**January 27:** Doors and windows all open, unusually warm and unseasonable. I must go to Marlboro while the good weather lasts.

**January 28:** I went to Marlboro today – and found most every body ill; it seemed as though the whole city was ill. Grippe & pneumonia shaking hands with nearly everybody.

**January 29:** Another nice day. Ruth & I go up town for a little shopping and call on [sister-in-law?] Gladys for a few minutes.

**January 30:** The children & I go to Church & Sunday school. Pa has a headache so we stay at home and rest the remainder of the day.

**January 31:** The warm damp weather continues. Mrs. Crain & I attend a committee meeting, in regards to the Mothers' ass. sale in which we are to have charge of a valentine table.

**Memoranda <empty day>:** Such a lot of sickness through the whole month. Grippe, pneumonia, scarlet fever & diphtheria (sic), and that awful, new disease, acidosis [ ], which is frightful.

## February 1916

**February 1:** I made a beginning on the long list of soliciting that I have to do. It is slow work. I wish I might hear from Marlboro again.

**February 2:** If the old saying is true about the ground hog, we won't have much more winter weather. It snows all day. Bradford Cutler comes for a little visit. Effie is some better.

**February 3:** It has stopped snowing and there is 10 inches of snow; it looks so white and pretty. The boys go to the pictures in the evening.

**February 4:** Gladys spends the day with us and we go to the pictures in the P.M. Arthur comes to supper. Ruth spends the night with Pauline.

**February 5:** A lovely winter day. Good coasting again. Children all go to a basket-ball game in the evening and have a very exciting time. Home team won.

**February 6:** Oscar, Bradford & Ruth go to Sunday school. We all go over to Uncle George's in the P.M. Marian is sick with a head ache. Bradford goes home. very warm.

**February 7:** Warm & sunny – cloudy and squalls and by night extremely cold and windy is the variety of weather for today. Another committee meeting. I much rather be at home.

**February 8:** A trip up town to do errands. Arthur & Gladys start housekeeping again, where the fire drove them from several weeks ago –

**February 9:** A committee meeting at Mrs. Dukeshires takes most of the P.M. and I miss seeing two callers. Oscar goes to a Church social in the evening. Sunday school juniors.

**February 10:** I tend store for a little while and go up town on errands. The one cent sale at Nixon's looks very attractive & I make quite a few purchases.

**February 11:** It takes about all the P.M. fixing up the room and trimming tables for the sale tomorrow. I telephone to Marlboro. Mother sick abed.

**February 12:** A snowy day prevents many coming to the Mothers sale & afternoon tea. So it wasn't as much of a success as we would wish for but those who came enjoyed it.

**February 13:** Still snowing and we stay in all day not many out for pleasure on a day like this. The janitor and the Minister are all who show up at one church.

**February 14:** Such a pretty morning after two days & nights of snowing. a soft white blanket a foot deep spread so evenly over everything – very cold at night.

**February 15:** I went to Marlboro today. Mother is gaining & hopes to be up soon. Effie is having a hard time with her stomach – A perfectly lovely winter day & I enjoy the trip.

**February 16:** George & Marian both were over for a while last evening. Steve & Ruth both have colds coming on. I hope they won't be sick.

**February 17:** I aught [ought] to do some necessary calling to-day, but I think I feel more like staying – at home – so I guess I will.

**February 18:** I don't feel one bit good, so I lie on the couch all day and Ruth waits on me. She doesn't have to go to school today. Colds seem to be better.

**February 19:** I feel better today, so do my regular Saturdays work. Mr. Morse is away for a few days. Terribly cold and windy.

**February 20:** Went to Church this morning with the children and it was awfully cold. We all went over to Arthurs [156 Water St.] in the P.M. and took lunch with them.

**February 21:** A very cold day, but I went up street & did a few errands. We begin to doubt the truth of the ground hog adage; for we have had quite a winter.

**February 22:** Steve closes the store for the afternoon and we celebrate the holiday by all going to the moving pictures. It is such a treat to have pa home a little while.

**February 23:** The Mothers Association met in the Unitarian vestry. Not very well attended on account of the weather. Oscar not feeling real well so I help in the store.

**February 24:** Mrs. James Smith a prominent member of Mrs. Reed's Sunday school class, was buried today. After the funeral I went over to Marian's [... St.]for a little while.

**February 25:** Rained hard all day. The schools closed today for a week's vacation. Mr. Morse came back last night.

**February 26:** Stormy all day, but I guess I am like the little boy who "just loved weather" & when asked what kind of weather, said "Oh! any old kind of weather."

**February 27:** The children & I go to Church and Sunday school. George came over in the P.M. and took lunch with us. Marion wasn't feeling well enough to come with him.

**February 28:** A bitter cold day. I tend store in the afternoon while Steve goes to the pictures, "Madame X," considered a masterpiece. He enjoyed it. Mr. Morse went to Charence's yesterday.

**February 29:** Today I went to see "Madame X," with Molly. It is a good strong picture, but leaves you with sort of an uncomfortable feeling; something like a bad dream.

**Memoranda:** There has been a great deal of snow and cold weather this month, more than we have had for years.

## March 1916

**March 1:** Ruth & I attended the Ladies Social Circle at the church. It was a treat to her, we both enjoy it. March came in not like a lion or a lamb; more like a polar bear.

**March 2:** I walked a long long ways this P.M. hunting up mothers for the Parent Teacher Association. My muscles are as lame as though I had been running a tread mill.

**March 3:** Steve hasn't felt very well today, so he stayed at home and doctored up this P.M. and I stayed in the store. afternoon & evening.

**March 4:** Ruth & I were going to Fitchburg to day on a little lark, but it was so cold & blustery that we postpone it till a better day, and went to the pictures instead.

**March 5:** We went to Sunday school to-day. Fred & Nellie invited us to visit them in thier (sic) nice new tenement. Such a pretty little home. We had a very pleasant time.

**March 6:** I did a few errands this P.M., & in the evening I attended the first of a series of talks on home nursing by Mrs. H. Parker, a graduate nurse.

**March 7:** Quite a few new parents came to the P.T. Association to day so our soliciting has not all been in vain. It was an interesting meeting and refreshments were served.

**March 8:** It snowed all day. I should have gone to Marlboro but for the storm. New dining-room chairs & bookcase section came today, & I had a lovely time placing them & doing up odds & ends.

**March 9:** I forgot to say my hyacinths began to blossom more than a week ago. They are lovely. Mr. Morse is home but has his meals sent to his room.

**March 10:** Another snow storm keeps me home, and they don't write. I couldn't begin to name all the things I did to-day, such fun. Oscar went to the pictures.

**March 11:** Ruth and I went to Fitchburg this P.M. but we didn't stay very long, it was so cold standing around looking in the windows.

**March 12:** A lovely winter day. We go to church & Sunday school. Arthur & Gladys spend the rest of the day with us. George & Marian attended the auto (sic) show & are at Pearl's to-day.

**March 13:** Oscar brought home the dearest little mission plant stand that he made at school. I am so proud of it. It is a splendid work to teach children.

**March 14:** I'm lazy to day and don't get much done. I should have gone to the Lecture course on nursing but didn't feel equal to it--

**March 15:** It snows almost every day now, and we have got three feet on a level.

Mother is gaining slowly, but Effie has got to go to the hospital for examination.

**March 16:** Well Mr. Morse decided to day that he would sell the store building to Steve for what he offered him some time ago. So I suppose we will buy.

**March 17:** I went to Marlboro to-day, and found the folks more comfortable that I expected. Am thankful for that but I wish they might be better still.

**March 18:** I met several acquaintances yesterday, and it gives me something to think about. Such a cold day for this time of the year.

**March 19:** Church & Sunday school today. Arthur's folks are trying out a new graphophone and we went over to hear some of the records. It will give them much pleasure.

**March 20:** I suppose this is the beginning of spring, but the low temperature and great amount of snow every where you look might suggest the beginning of winter.

**March 21:** The nurses lecture was interesting this P.M. Carried a hyacinth to a sick neighbor and made a bright spot in the lives of two old ladies, by spending a little while with them.

**March 22:** Snowed hard all day. Oscar's Sunday school class had a very enjoyable time on a sleigh ride night before last with an oyster supper at his teachers.

**March 23:** Steve went to Marlboro to day and I stayed at the store all day. We had our meals there and all. Seems like camping out. Mr. [James E.] Bradley [38 Cottage St.] died to-day.

**March 24:** I cannot record all the little kindnesses shown to and by the neighbors here. This book would hardly hold them. They are all good. The feeling shown is splendid.

**March 25:** Lovely warm day snow is melting fast, and the walking is awful. Things are drawing to a close in this real estate transaction.

**March 26:** Very spring like. We go to church & the children stay to Sunday school. Oscar has decided to join the church and I am very happy. George & Marian spend the after noon and evening with us.

**March 27:** We hear a robin and Ruth sees a bluebird, very warm and the snow is going fast. My bulbs are just in their prime. I send several away to the sick & afflicted.

**March 28:** Oh how lovely these warm spring days seem. attended (sic) the nurses lecture and did a few errands. Went in to one of the millinery (sic) openings—

**March 29:** A card from Effie tells of such a lovely chance for Mother to go to California. I wonder if she will go. Spend the P.M. helping Mrs. Crain make trousers for Frank [?Crain, boards 44 Cottage St.?].

**March 30:** Mr. Morse & Steve & I went to Fitchburg today and signed the papers, which transfer the store building to us. Here's hoping for health and success.

**March 31:** Up town to a meeting to make plans for a rummage sale to be held for the benefit of the Mothers Association. Oscar takes supper with Aunt Marian.

**Memoranda:** The immense body of snow has almost entirely disappeared in a week, & a conductor who was driving a snow plow through the drifts the first of the week, was on an open car in one week.

## **April 1916**

**April 1:** Ruth & I went shopping & purchased a new Easter bonnet for her which she thinks is pretty nice, & a new nightie with pink ribbons. A flock of wild geese passed over this morning.

**April 2:** We went to Sunday school, and after dinner went over to Arthurs & Georges & was intending to go to church but couldn't seem to get away.

**April 3:** Nurses lecture, and Ruth was the subject while Mrs. Parker demonstrated bathing a patient in bed & very sweet she looked.

**April 4:** Mr. Morse [? Walter J., real estate, rooms 101 Pleasant] & Mrs. Harrington [Louise A, wid Augustus, h 101 Pleasant] give up their tenement to day & we begin work at once to clean it up for repairing, which it needs badly.

**April 5:** I stay in the store all day while Steve works up in the house. The children are anxious to move (sic) down there and I guess we are ourselves.

**April 6:** Another day of hard house cleaning and it is beginning to look a little better and the worst of it is done.

**April 7:** I made a few purchases today of repairing material and went to a whist party at Mrs. Marshall's home. A very sociable time.

**April 8:** I was obliged to stay at home today and catch up with the work here. So there wasn't much done at the other house. Snowed all the afternoon.

**April 9:** And is still snowing, but we go to church & the children stay to Sunday school. Oscar went over to Georges on an errand later.

**April 10:** I work at the store all day while Steve works in the house repairing. So many things to do it takes lots of time. Oscar goes up to church.

**April 11:** I am giving up a number of appointments that I am sorry to loose (sic) this week. A parent teacher meeting this P.M. which was very instructive.

**April 12:** A class social at Miss Philips where they decided to do all sorts of generous and sacrificing things to raise money for the church debt.

**April 13:** I am tired tonight, but it will soon blow over and how fresh and nice it will be. I am sure we will enjoy our new house.

**April 14:** The days are pretty much the same now no time lost or spent on pleasures. And the house is beginning to look very good with some new paint and varnish.

**April 15:** It snowed all day yesterday but it all disappeared today. This house is beginning to show the effects of time spent at the other one.

**April 16:** Church and Sunday school. In the P.M. such a lovely auto ride with George and Marion to Fitchburg and then Worcester back through Elm Park. It was the first warm Sunday.

**April 17:** I went to Fitchburg this P.M. selecting wall paper and looking up electric light fixtures. It was a warm damp day and I was car sick.

**April 18:** I worked in the store all day while Steve did things I couldn't do in the house.

**April 19:** We worked in the morning & Steve closed the store at noon. We went out to see the parade of Odd Fellows which was very nice. Oscar went to Marlboro.

**April 20:** Whenever I have a little while I pick up and pack away things ready for the move. Am not having anything new for Easter.

**April 21:** Went uptown in the P.M. Got Oscar a new suit for Easter and a few little things for the house.

**April 22:** Got most of windows cleaned today and it began to look quite livable. A nice warm day.

**April 23:** Easter Sunday Raining. The decorations were beautiful. Oscar was baptized today. We all went to the Easter concert.

**April 24:** Ralph Johnston is up this way on a visit and is at Effie's. He has lived in Vaginna (sic) most of the time since he was eight years old.

**April 25:** The repairing is mostly done and it looks fresh and clean. I will be glad when we get settled. Trying to keep two houses is hard.

**April 26:** A card from Effie today saying that mother is seriously ill with anemia & that the doctor has grave doubts of her recovering.

**April 27:** I must go to Marlboro right away and they are coming to move our goods tomorrow. I shall have to wait until the goods are moved.

**April 28:** Raining hard so they don't come to move us. Mr. Crane carried down a lot of things for us last night so I go down to the house & do what I can.

**April 29:** The goods came to day & plumbers connect the store for hot water, so everything is confusion. George and Marion come over occasionally.

**April 30:** The children go to Sunday school. I worked all day to get things ready to leave and started for Marlboro at five o'clock.

## May 1916

[May 1 starts at memoranda, dates off by one day May 31 ends in memoranda]

: Mother is quite weak this morning from seeing so many people yesterday, Uncle Leve & Aunt Jennie and Greelay & Emma. They had gone before I arrived.

**May 1:** Mother is quite comfortable all today. Ruth is staying with Aunt Marion while I am gone.

**May 2:** Lovely warm Spring day and mother is longing to be able to go out in the sunshine. I hope she may.

**May 3:** I feel as though I must go back home today, but I hate to leave Ma. Her life now so uncertain and she doesn't realize the seriousness of it.

**May 4:** Ralph came up with me yesterday. I got them all a good hot supper and it was a treat after living out of the store for four days.

**May 5:** I went to the Crane's house to see if everything was left as it should be. This seems to be moving under difficulties.

**May 6:** Worked hard trying to get the house straightened out for Sunday and Ruth and I went to town to do a few errands in the evening.

**May 7:** Oscar received the Right hand of fellowship today. I meant to have gotten my letter from Marlboro for today but have been so busy that I forgot it.

**May 8:** Awful weather for a cold. Most everybody has one myself included.

**May 9:** The Mother's Association will hold a lawn party tomorrow on the Congregational Church lawn. I been asked to help so I suppose I must help.

**May 10:** The day seemed to be made for the party, warm & pleasant. The winding of the May pole was very pretty. I dished ice cream.

**May 11:** Have got things about settled and it seems quite like keeping house again. Am not feeling very well.

**May 12:** Mr. Meyer called today. I shall try to go to Marlboro tomorrow if I feel able.

**May 13:** Hurried through with the necessary work and went to Marlboro at 10-40. Mother seems to be failing day by day.

**May 14:** George & Marian bring the rest of the family to Marlboro also Ralph, who stays. On the way home we call at the Browns and see all the peach orchards in bloom.

**May 15:** It began to rain a little before we got home last night and is raining today.

**May 16:** More rain and so cold we have to keep a fire for comfort. Aunt Jane is staying with Effie for a little while so I shall inly go for a day this week.

**May 17:** We are certainly having a cold backward spring, and the ground is too wet to work in most places spring.

**May 18:** I stayed in the store most all day today. Steve had to fix the roof in the forerom and went to Fitchburg after dinner.

**May 19:** I went to see mother again today. She is so white and thin and still longing to get up and go out doors.

**May 20:** Steve began the grading of our extensive lawn today, and it will be a great improvement when finished. Ruth & I went uptown in the evening.

**May 21:** The children go to Sunday school. Steve does not open the store all today, the first time since he began in Leominster.

**May 22:** There are so many little things to do, that keep me so busy here and in the store that I have forgotten everything else.

**May 23:** I wish I might get time to sew a little and I wish I might see mother more often, but it takes quite a little time to get there.

**May 24:** This is the day of the lawn party that I spoke of but I recorded it in the wrong place.

**May 25:** We are so anxious about mother all the time and wish I might be in both places at once. I intend to go down tomorrow.

**May 26:** Oscar is not feeling just right today and stays in bed, So of course I stay at home. He seems to be thoroughly tired out.

**May 27:** We get the flower boxes up today Oscar feels some better but not much like work, so I help in the store some.

**May 28:** Tony and his daughter from Marlboro spend this Sunday with us. The children go to Sunday school. I'm getting bad, don't go at all.

**May 29:** I went to Marlboro today. Mother is very weak, much worse and the Dr. thinks I better stay. I went to the cemetery with mother's flowers.

**May 30:** We have sent word to all of the folks how low she is and all who could come to see her today and it made her so happy.

**May 31:** Everything is about the same today. We have a trained nurse now so be sure she has the best of care.

**Memoranda:** The doctor said this morning that it was a matter of hours now, so we stay as close as we can & she is still longing to get up.

## **June 1916**

**June 1:** She can only suck a little nourishment and that distresses her so. It is so hard to see her suffer so & not be able to help her.

**June 2:** She wants to see Uncle Sam so bad. I hope he may get here in time. She seems about the same but she has lost track of the days.

**June 3:** She seems about the same, more comfortable if anything, so I feel as if I must go back to my family for a day or two anyway.

**June 4:** A lovely day and we try to get the work done up in case I have to go right back. Gladys & Fred & Nellie call in the evening.

**June 5:** At noon we had the hardest shower we ever remember of. Hail stones like marbles cover the ground. Mother is about the same.

**June 6:** Effie says mother is apparently not much worse so I stay at home one more day because there is plenty for me to do here.



**June 7:** I feel as though I must go back to mother again she is asking for me. Her endurance is wonderful. Still planning to get well.

**June 8:** She is in much worse condition this morning vomits continually and suffers from pain and exhaustion. At night we are obliged to give hypodermics.

**June 9:** She is unconscious now, and it takes stronger hypodermics to keep her quiet. It is awful to see her groaning so and we can do nothing.

**June 10:** She lays all day under the influence of morphine still breathing and that is all. At nine o'clock she passes into the great beyond quietly and peacefully.

**June 11:** Her suffering is now over and knowing that she could never be well, it is in a way a relief, but life meant a lot to her and she hated to give it up.

**June 12:** The arrangements have all been made for the funeral so I will go home with Steve to night for a day or two. Aunt Jennie will stay with Effie.

**June 13:** Jen and Bert came over and I went to Fitchburg with them to do a little necessary shopping.

**June 14:** We laid all that was mortal of our mother away today by the side of her beloved ones in Northboro. Oh how hard to know she is gone.

**June 15:** Such lovely flowers & how she loved them. We couldn't help but wish she might see them or know they were there. And such a perfect day.

**June 16:** I am staying a few days with Effie, to help her get used to the loneliness. Ruth is with me. It rains a great deal of the time.

**June 17:** I stayed as long as I thought I could and came home tonight. Aunt Jennie will stay a while longer. They are good and glad to have me home again to stay.

**June 18:** We stay at home and visit together. Some of the folks run over. Fred is papa now and feels quite proud.

**June 19:** It seems so good to be home again and doing the things that need doing so badly.

**June 20:** Was obliged to go to Fitchburg today. Also called at Oscar's school. Mty Meyer called. Such a splendid minister.

**June 21:** I stayed in the store while Steve went to Fitchburg with George. He has had to stay pretty close while I have been away.

**June 22:** It seems so good to be at home. And know that I am going to stay. I can't seem to realize that Mother is gone. Mrs. Howard called.

**June 23:** Ruth's school closed today for summer vacation. I hope she will have a good rest and get plump.

**June 24:** The Sunday school picnic was at Fort Pond. Oscar went. Ruth & I went up to the hospital to see the new baby Fred Sinall Jr.

**June 25:** It rained but we went to church in the morning, slept in the P.M. George & Mariann & Mrs. Stickney came over in the evening.

**June 26:** We don't seem to have many of those lovely June days this year. Cool and rainy most of the time.

**June 27:** Got up real early and ironed and for the first time in a long while my washing & ironing is done on Tuesday. Ruth & I went up to town.

**June 28:** Have got quite a little sewing done since I came home but there is still a lot more to do.

**June 29:** Oscar graduated from the grammar school today. I attended the exercises. Jen & Bert came over to dinner with us.

**June 30:** Oscar & Ruth & I went for a little ride with George and Marian then to the band concert. Hadn't been in a long time, enjoyed it fine.

**Memoranda:** June has been a very cool rainy month. All vegetation is late. I don't believe brooks and wells will go dry this year.

## **July 1916**

**July 1:** Things didn't run along very smooth today. I seemed as if I was all day doing nothing. Ruth & I went up town.

**July 2:** This was a day long to be remembered. George & M took us for a trip up Wachusett MT: lunch in the grove, and then to Uncle Leves in Ashby where we gathered laurel.

**July 3:** I tore the paper off our bedroom walls today. It is a hard tedious job. George, Marian & Pearl also Gladys & Arthur came after supper.

**July 4:** A rainy day and we paper our bedroom. It looks quite good & we are proud of our work. Arthur & Gladys came to supper.

**July 5:** We varnish the bedroom set and paint the floor and so on – and will look spic & span when we get all done.

**July 6:** It will take nearly all week to get our room finished up and ready to use again but I won't be ashamed to show it up now.

**July 7:** Ruth went up to the band concert with Ruth Lyon. I was too tired to go.

**July 8:** A very warm day I don't feel real well so I don't do much work. Ruth and I went up town shopping preparing for a lot of serving next week.

**July 9:** The children went to Sunday school. We all walked over to Fred's in the P.M. to see how he and the new baby was getting along.

**July 10:** Oscar went to Marlboro today to spend a week with William Cutler. Mrs. Lyon called on me for the first time.

**July 11:** We are having a terrible hot spell. It seems as though it is an awful effort to move.

**July 12:** I am sewing hard and fast. My summer work is way behind. News came of the arrival of the new baby born to Ethel, such a surprise.

**July 13:** A little auto ride after ironing is quite a treat with George & Marian. Quite a thunder shower this afternoon.

**July 14:** Ruth & I went up to the band concert, but it had grown quite cool, too chilly to sit around so we came home early.

**July 15:** A lovely day to work, cool and comfortable. Uptown doing errands in the P.M. and again at night.

**July 16:** Steve went to Church with us this morning. We stayed home all the rest of the day.

**July 17:** We seem to be having dog days before it is time for them. I do my own washing today.

**July 18:** Close and muggy; too hot to work. Am trying to make Ruth a dress. Gladys came over in the P.M. Mrs. Hills & Mrs. Clarey called.

**July 19:** Had to go to Fitchburg so went in the morning, but it was melting hot & just about used me up. Ruth went too.

**July 20:** Ruth & I went to Marlboro with George and Marian in the evening. Grand ride but I wasn't feeling real well.

**July 21:** Have been helping in the store a lot since Oscar has been away. Lots of rain this week Steve's birthday but we were too busy to celebrate.

**July 22:** And still it is hot. Steve cut his ankle with a sickle today which makes him feel kind of sickle [sic] for a little while. A very hard shower in the P.M.

**July 23:** Ruth went to Sunday school today. Oscar came home from Marlboro & William Cutler came home with him. We all went over to Arthurs about 6-30.

**July 24:** Steve went to Marlboro today. The boys and I took care of the business and closed up at night.

**July 25:** It is very, very hot and muggy. Nothing seems to taste any better than ice cream.

**July 26:** The boys go to Whalom and have a good time bathing. George & Marian were over in the evening.

**July 27:** I hope this week to finish up the biggest part of the sewing, and I hope next year I won't be so late with it.

**July 28:** This hot weather keeps one washing and ironing most every day. The boys seem to be having a good time.

**July 29:** A little cooler today so I cook up a little. We have been living on store stuff a good deal through the hot weather.

**July 30:** Oscar & William go to church. A very peculiar day. It seems every minute as though there would be rain. George & Marian start off for vacation.

**July 31:** It just seems as if today is the very limit of heat. I went up to the library with Mrs. Maynard.

**Memoranda:** July has been a very hot muggy month with lots of rain.

## **August 1916**

**August 1:** Somewhat cooler today. Did a few errands in the P.M. and went up town with Mrs. Lyon in the evening.

**August 2:** A perfectly lovely day. We went for a little picnic in the woods with Mrs. Maynard. Effie came up and joined us. Ruth went back with her for a vacation

**August 3:** The picnic or the hot weather was a little too much for me and I am all in today, would rather lie down than work.

**August 4:** I miss Ruth so much, it seems as though half the house is gone.

**August 5:** Hot. William went home today, I guess both boys have had a pretty good time. Have been together four weeks.

**August 6:** We were intending to go to Sudbury today but I didn't feel equal to it, and it turned out to be terribly hot.

**August 7:** The man came to do the preliminaries toward fixing the roof so I didn't hang out the washing today. Still very warm.

**August 8:** It seemed to me at noon time that the heat was beyond anything I ever experienced, but a shower came up soon after, & cooled it off a little.

**August 9:** Quite comfortable today so we are able to do a little work. I am lonely this evening so making a few calls.

**August 10:** Called on Mrs. Lyon tonight. Have been a long time starting and I am most ashamed but I am a poor hand to call.

**August 11:** went up to see Mrs. H. Crain and we played whist all the evening had a very pleasant time. Called Gladys & Nellie in afternoon.

**August 12:** Lovely day. Such a pleasant call in the P.M. from Mr. & Mrs. Beem from Marlboro.

**August 13:** We were going to Sudbury but it rained until it was too late, so we went to Hudson and walked over to Charlies and saw the new baby. Ruth came home with us.

**August 14:** A lovely day. I sent the wash to the laundry and hung out all unused bedding. We have had so much damp weather.

**August 15:** I went to Fitchburg today. Ruth thought she would rather stay at home and play. I bought some white wool blankets I have wanted so long.

**August 16:** Steve took a little time off today and we went to Whalom to the theatre while Oscar kept the store. It was so nice to be out together.

**August 17:** George's folks have gotten back from their vacation and were over last night. Had a splendid time in a cottage in Paxton.

**August 18:** Ruth and I went over to Marian's this afternoon.

**August 19:** Eva & Glenola came to see us for the first time since we lived in this house. They began to tar and gravel the roof today.

**August 20:** We went to church and came hustling home to get ready for the folks from Marlboro but they didn't come. A very warm day.

**August 21:** Extremely hot. The men were obliged to stop work on the roof on account of the heat.

**August 22:** Such a long spell of heat. It seems as though one can't stand it but I supposed we can.

**August 23:** They finished up the roof tonight just before a heavy shower of wind and rain struck us.

**August 24:** Somewhat cooler and it seems kind of good to sit in the home in the evenings and sew. It has been too hot to stay in for some time.

**August 25:** Nellie & the family came over. Freddie is getting to be a lovely baby big and fat. We had Mrs. Maynard to supper.

**August 26:** Ruth & I went up town shopping in the evening. Very pleasant. Lots of people out.

**August 27:** A beautiful day. Effie's folks called in the morning on their way to Whalom. We stay home all day.

**August 28:** Bradford Cutler walked in and surprised us. Cool and rainy all day.

**August 29:** A beautiful day. Ruth goes over to Whalom for the afternoon & evening with the Crain's girls and had a delightful time.

**August 30:** Mrs. Maynard, Miss Seaver, Ruth, & I spent the day at the Sterling camp grounds. A perfect day & most enjoyable time.

**August 31:** Pat & I went over to Whalom to the play "Hearts of the Blue Ridge". We enjoyed it very much. Bradford went home today.

**Memoranda:** The children have both had a glorious vacation this year, whether they realize it or not.

## September 1916

**September 1:** I went up town shopping. Ruth prefers playing to shopping so stays home.

**September 2:** Oh! how I love these lovely late summer days. The sky is so blue & the air so clear it seems to put new life in me.

**September 3:** George's folks took us down to Concord Junction in the auto a beautiful ride & lunch with Pearl, and such a typical September day.

**September 4:** My but we are getting sporty, Steve & Oscar & I went to the Worcester Fair. Oscar wasn't feeling well so I came home with him at 3 O'clock. Ruth staid at Marians.

**September 5:** The children start in school today. Oscar is very proud to be entering high school and thinks it is great. Ruth is delighted with her teacher.

**September 6:** Those who didn't wash on Monday are having a hard time getting their clothes dry this week.

**September 7:** Cousin Ed Bishop spent the day with us today. He walked in and surprised us. He had never been here before.

**September 8:** It was today Ed came instead of yesterday. The first sunny day since Monday. The morning is stifling hot but cools off for a little while.

**September 9:** A beautiful day. Busy about the house all day.

**September 10:** We all went to church & then for a walk in the P.M. and found Arthur & Gladys & Fred & Nellie here when we got back.

**September 11:** A splendid wash day and I make the most of it. A lot of things have collected that can't be sent to the laundry.

**September 12:** I took a long walk with Mrs. Conway today. We must have gone six miles. I enjoyed it but of course it made me tired.

**September 13:** Steven & I went over to George's this P.M. to see all the alterations in his store. I am pretty lame from my walk yesterday.

**September 14:** Oscar came home from school not feeling very well. Ruth joined the L. H. L.'s & is looking forward to some good times.

**September 15:** Oscar didn't go to school today he seems all tired out.

**September 16:** Oscar is having boils on the back of his head. They are in a hard place to take care of.

**September 17:** We went to walk up Gardner Hill in the afternoon. Ruth had a headache and Oscar with his boils kept us home from church.

**September 18:** Mrs. Maynard & I went to Fitchburg shopping today. I got home just before a hard shower struck.

**September 19:** Ruth & I went up town doing errands. A lovely full day.

**September 20:** I began to knit me a sweater today. It seems like a big undertaking and I wonder if I will ever finish it.

**September 21:** George & Marian were over a little while. Another lovely day. It seems I wish all days were fall days.

**September 22:** Oscar has been out of school all the week with boils on his neck. He & I kept store today while Steve went to Marlboro.

**September 23:** The schools are holding an exhibition today. Ruth got second prize on a piolon [sic]top.

**September 24:** We all went to church and Sunday school. Effie's folks came in the P.M. with Lena & Forrest. Later we went to walk & made calls.

**September 25:** It begins to feel a little like fall. We set up a stove in the dining room room & it is real cozy.

**September 26:** I got quite a lot done on my sweater and find it is going to be too small, so will have to pull it out & start again. Oh dear.

**September 27:** Steve & I went to the pictures and in the evening we had supper at Mr. Lyons. A bit of a birthday garden party for several whose birthday were near.

**September 28:** Oscar is still having boils. Some days he goes to school and some days he can't.

**September 29:** Just an ordinary day with nothing of much interest.

**September 30:** Picalilli & chili sauces this week make the house smell as though we are preparing for winter.

**Memoranda:** September has been a beautiful month, lovely warm clear days.

## October 1916

**October 1:** We went to walk in the P.M. & came home feeling fresh and invigorated after being out in the nice clean air.

**October 2:** We went to Fitchburg today.

**October 3:** Went up town to look for a hat. How I hate it.

**October 4:** Sewed most of the day. Didn't feel very well so didn't accomplish a great deal.

**October 5:** A beautiful day. Real warm for this time of year. I am getting along splendidly on my sweater & feel it is going to be OK.

**October 6:** I finished my dress today and I think it is about time. I have been at it for some time.

**October 7:** Ruth & I went up town just before supper.

**October 8:** We went to church twice today. Most of the people have on their winter hats but they would look much better in summer.

**October 9:** It is as warm today as it is in August and muggy too.

**October 10:** It has grown much cooler today and is more like October weather.

**October 11:** George's folks were over a little while this evening. Quite cool.

**October 12:** Columbus day. We all went to Marlboro in the auto with George's folks. An ideal holiday.

**October 13:** Ruth & I went to Fitchburg today hat hunting for her and came home and purchased one here.

**October 14:** William Cutler came up from Marlboro yesterday on his bicycle for the weekend.

**October 15:** A beautiful day for William to go back to Marlboro.

**October 16:** Ruth's tenth birthday. She had a cake and a few little gifts. She started on her music lessons today.

**October 17:** I started cleaning in our front room today. Tore the paper off the walls & made it look worse than it did before. The wind blew a gale.

**October 18:** If this terrible war does not end pretty soon I don't know what will become of us all. The poor will have a hard time this winter everything is so high.

**October 19:** Oscar started on his music lessons today and I hope he will accomplish a lot this winter.

**October 20:** Boils are back and he is tired of them and I think he has had pretty good patience. He has hardly been without one coming or going for 6 weeks.

**October 21:** We papered a room in one of the tenements today and we feel quite proud of our work.

**October 22:** Charles & Ethel came today quite a surprise. We all went over to Gladys in the P.M. to see her father & mother who are there.

**October 23:** We are certainly having a beautiful autumn, lovely warm days which make up for the cold disagreeable Spring this year.

**October 24:** The price of necessities is alarming potatoes 55 cents a peck, sugar 8 cents a pound, flour \$1.45 a bag. Nobody feels rich enough to buy a barrel.

**October 25:** I went to the Mother's association this P.M. There has been one other meeting but I didn't go. I always feel glad that I went

**October 26:** I spend the whole day sewing for three poor little children and accomplish quite a lot.

**October 27:** We had a man come today and paper our sitting room. It looks very pretty and now all our rooms are done & aught [sic] to last for years.

**October 28:** And comparing our work with his we decide we can do our own papering from here after. Ruth went to a Halloween party.

**October 29:** We had Gladys & Arthur & her father & mother over to lunch also Fred & Nellie and the baby. Had a very pleasant time.

**October 30:** Steve is having trouble with his teeth. In trying to mend them the dentist spoiled the plate so had to make a new one.

**October 31:** I stay in the store all day while Steve goes to Marlboro. Mrs. Maynard helps me at noon.

**Memoranda:** No one could ask for a more beautiful month than we have just had. Not more than two or three stormy days all through the month.

## November 1916

**November 1:** With coal 18 cents a bag and eggs 60 cents a doz, beans at 22 cents a quart, lard 22 cents a pound, I don't know how the poor people are going to live through the winter.

**November 2:** Somewhat colder and some folks saw the first little snow flurry today.

**November 3:** We went to the first one of the Men's League Lecture Cause – Hawaiians singers and players. It was splendid.

**November 4:** Ruth is a little bit sick today, something she has eaten I guess.

**November 5:** Dull day. I have a cold and we lounge around the house all day. George & Marian go to Boston to meet Johnnie and Ruby.

**November 6:** The "Mothers" are getting ready the Xmas tree for the poor. The committee met this P.M. to talk it over.

**November 7:** The "Griffins" were all over this evening six of them and we had a very jolly time.

**November 8:** Rev. Mr. Saunders spoke to the "Mother's" today most interestingly. Subject "Know thy child". It was very helpful and instructive.

**November 9:** Great excitement over presidential election and Wilson is elected for another four years to the surprise of a great many.

**November 10:** Oscar went to Marlboro today for a weekend visit with William.

**November 11:** One more lovely day. I still have my cold which I can't seem to shake & it makes me feel dull a good deal of the time.

**November 12:** Oscar's birthday, 14 years old and he feels pretty big because his nose comes above mine when he kisses me & he realizes that he is taller than me.

**November 13:** Now we are beginning to get some Nov. weather. Steve & I went to Marlboro today with George & Marian in the auto. A pretty cold ride.

**November 14:** The Griffins were all over and we played cards. Such fun. Quite a cold night. It snowed some during the day.

**November 15:** Prices are still soaring, and I don't see what we are coming to. Wages have been raised in some factories to even up high living prices.

**November 16:** The suffering abroad is intense as cold weather comes on. I had hoped that the horrid war would be ended before another winter.

**November 17:** Quite a little snowstorm. I love to see it falling and the children get out their sleds, but there isn't snow enough for such fun.

**November 18:** Ruth and I went up to town this afternoon doing errands.

**November 19:** I am half sick with my cold but we went over to Arthurs's this afternoon. I don't know but I feel better out in the air.

**November 20:** Steve & I went to Fitchburg today looking for electric fixtures for the house but we didn't decide in anything.

**November 21:** The folks were all over tonight and we played cards as usual.

And we had Oscar's birthday cake better late than never.

**November 22:** Ruth has been home today sick with a cold. She is inclined to the croup with her colds so I have to dose her quite thoroughly.

**November 23:** Almost Thanksgiving Day. How we will miss mother. She did enjoy the holidays when as many of her children as could be were together.

**November 24:** Ruth feels better today and goes outdoors for a little while. It is cold today only 12° above this morning.

**November 25:** I peg around all day not feeling very well. The children do my errands up town.

**November 26:** The children go to Sunday school. My cold is just as bad as it has been for some time. I take it easy today and Steve does most of the work.

**November 27:** Ruth went to school again this morning.

**November 28:** A committee meeting tonight in regard to the Christmas tree for the poor & I have got twenty cakes to solicit. I almost as soon make them.

**November 29:** It would be pretty hard for our family to meet for the holidays without mother, so Effie stays in her home and we stay in our home.

**November 30:** Such a warm day for Thanksgiving day & it rains hard all day. Arthur & Gladys, Ruby & Johnnie spend the day with us.

**Memoranda:** I find that a great many people have got these awful colds which are so hard to get rid of. Probably caused by the sudden extreme changes in temperature.

## December 1916

**December 1:** Steve & I went to Fitchburg today and selected lighting fixtures. A lovely warm day for the first day of December.

**December 2:** Ruth & I went shopping and called on Marian for a while. The stores are starting to look a little Christmas.

**December 3:** A beautiful day but we don't go out at all. George's folks go to Boston to hear Billy Sunday.

**December 4:** Warm, rainy day. I sewed all day making Ruth some new dresses. If I wait to get the housework done I will never get at the sewing.

**December 5:** Ruth & I went to Fitchburg after school. How pretty the stores look.

**December 6:** A meeting of the Christmas tree committee. Everything is coming along splendidly. Everything has been donated.

**December 7:** We are expecting the man to come and put in the electric fixtures any day. There seems to be a lot of red tape to everything.

**December 8:** Marian was over a while this morning.

**December 9:** We are planning to go down to Charlie Griffins tomorrow so I work all day making Ruth some extra warm clothes. It will be a cold ride. At night it is raining hard.

**December 10:** A lovely, bright day. We start at 3 o'clock for Hudson and find nobody home. We enter, build a fire, telephone & call the folks home. Have lunch then come home, beautiful ride.

**December 11:** Ruth stays home today with a cold. Coughed all night. So, she & I did not get much sleep.

**December 12:** Today it snows and rains and hails and turns real cold and freezes so it is quite slippery.

**December 13:** The ground has a covering of ice & snow. The children get out their sleds and have great sport.



**December 14:** Ruth goes to school again and now it is Oscar's turn. He comes home sick with a cold.

**December 15:** It begins to snow and keeps it up till most morning. Do up and send away the first Christmas parcels. Oscar is better.

**December 16:** Shopping this P.M. with Oscar and we nearly finished our buying. A little earlier than usual.

**December 17:** The folks all happen over and we have lunch together. I had a bad headache in the early half of the day. Steve trimmed his windows.

**December 18:** I am just about sick abed, burning up and shivering. Have taken more cold some way, but I manage to keep around but it is hard.

**December 19:** At last our electric fixtures are installed and they look quite good, but we will have another wait for the meter, so much red tape. Am feeling a little bit better.

**December 20:** Oscar has neuralgia in his face today which keeps him home from school.

**December 21:** We get the last of our bundles sent off. Over 250 children were given a good time today by the Mothers association. I am glad it is over.

**December 22:** We have a little Christmas tree and put on the gifts that are sent in, but save our own for the tree at Arthur's.

**December 23:** Oscar and I finished up the Christmas shopping. Very cold. Our lights are on and we enjoy them.

**December 24:** Everyone lies in bed just as long as they please and we have breakfast at 11 o'clock. We open the packages that have come by mail.

**December 25:** We spend Christmas with Arthur's folks, ten in all and we have a very pleasant time. This is the first year than Ruth has not brought her stocking.

**December 26:** My cold seems no better so I went to the Dr. today. I hope now to see some change.

**December 27:** Our Christmas lasts quite a while. Delayed packages arrive occasionally.

**December 28:** Steve & I went to see "Gods Own country and the Woman" today it was splendid.

**December 29:** Went over to see Mrs. Lyon for a little while. Ruth stayed away all night with a little friend.

**December 30:** The coasting is the finest ever and all the young folks are taking advantage of it. I don't blame them.

**December 31:** We have the Dr. call at the house to see me, my cold is awful and I have had it for two months.

## 1917

### January 1917

**January 1:** This is the first year that New Years day has been a legal holiday. We celebrate by all going to the pictures in the P.M. Caller in the evening.

**January 2:** The Dr. thinks that by going out everyday I will have greater resistance to this cold so I go uptown this P.M. and do a few errands.

**January 3:** It begins to snow about noon and we have quite a snow storm, so I do not go out. About six inches of snow fell so we have quit splendid sleighing.

**January 4:** Marian spent the afternoon with me. Also two callers. Called at the Dr.'s office. He changed some of the medicine.

**January 5:** One of our tenants, an old lady Mrs. Garlock is very ill and they were cramped for room, so we have given the use of one of our bedrooms.

**January 6:** Of course it makes a lot of confusion and cramped quarters for us, but we are glad to be able to do it when anyone is sick.

**January 7:** Mrs. Garlock passed away early this morning and the body has been taken to the undertaking rooms. We went over to George's in the afternoon.

**January 8:** A card from Effie says that Uncle Sam passed away the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. Just six months from the time Mother's death and he seemed so strong & well.

**January 9:** I can't see from day to day that my cold is any better, but maybe it is better than it was a week ago. It is discouraging.

**January 10:** I spend most of the day cleaning and getting our bedroom ready to use again. Lots of sickness among the neighbors.

**January 11:** Steve & I went to the movies today. "A Fools Paradise". Rather silly but quite amusing. It turned so cold we almost freeze coming home.

**January 12:** It is about 5° below zero this morning the coldest we have had all winter. Just the day for mending and patching and a do quite a lot.

**January 13:** Ruth & I went up to the hospital to see the little Randall boy who broke his leg coasting and carried a few things to amuse himself with.

**January 14:** Sunday. Rained hard all the forenoon. Arthur & Gladys, Ruby & John come over after dinner & George & Marian came just in time to have a jolly lunch altogether.

**January 15:** Went to the hospital and read a while to the little boy with a broken leg and did some shopping on the way home.

**January 16:** A good stock company is in town and Steve & I go to see one of the plays "Are Women Safe". It was much better than it sounds. We enjoyed it.

**January 17:** Spent the afternoon with Marian and stayed to supper. Ruth came after school & Oscar came after supper to come home with us.

**January 18:** We celebrate our anniversary by going to the movies. Bert Peckens comes over today. Jen is not well I feel so worried about her.

**January 19:** Wet and cold to disagreeable for me to go out anywhere. Mrs. Maynard is sick upstairs.

**January 20:** Ruth goes to the play this P.M. "The Whole Pam Family" and does my errands up town and I don't have to go out at all. It snows about 3 inches.

**January 21:** Sunday. The children go to Sunday school. We were invited over to Arthur's, but Steve has a Sunday headache & I don't feel well, so we stay home.

**January 22:** Nearly all of our snowstorms are followed by rain, and it is so sloppy it would be unfit to go out for pleasure.

**January 23:** Went to see a different Dr. today about my cold & I hope now to see some change in it. I never felt half sick so long before with a cold.

**January 24:** We are having a lot of sunless days this month and it makes it seem so damp and chilly about the house.

**January 25:** Went to Fitchburg today and did some shopping for the house, mostly bedding, my supply is getting low.

**January 26:** Ruth & I attend one of the lecture course entertainments. The reading of the play the "Fortune Hunter" by Ed Whitney. Wonderful impersonations.

**January 27:** Ruth dose my errands uptown so I don't have to go out at all. I want to do a whole lot of sewing next week & I will tell you how much I accomplish.

**January 28:** Cloudy & dull day. We go over to Arthur's in the afternoon and stay to lunch. Marian is sick with a cold. There is a lot of sickness.

**January 29:** Clear & cold Mrs. Cram came over for a few minutes. I do enjoy her so much. She is a jolly good friend.

**January 30:** It takes time to go over to the shirt shop for material for nightgowns and to do a few errands. Ruth's new Christmas rubbers are gone and they cost a dollar.

**January 31:** I have a lovely time sewing all day. It seems as though my cold is beginning to get better, but I must rap over wood for saying so.

**Memoranda:** Just about the same as last year for sickness These awful colds seem more prevalent this year than anything & seem to last forever.

## **February 1917**

**February 1:** We haven't much snow but there is ice enough for good sliding. Ruth stays out nearly all the time and is looking quite rosy.

**February 2:** Tonight I finished up the work I had scheduled for the week, a petticoat and two outing flannel dresses for myself., one for Ruth embroidered, two sets of bedding & finished Ruth's new dress.

**February 3:** The thermometer registered from five t fifteen degrees below zero this morning. our water pipes were stuck all about the house and it took Steve nearly all day to thaw out.

**February 4:** Sunday Steve is getting one of the prevailing colds, some stay in all day and try to take care of it. Just our own family all day.

**February 5:** It began to snow in the A.M. A real old fashion storm and it came thick & fast & the wind blew hard, so the whistle sounded for no school in the P.M.

**February 6:** It has stopped snowing but there is such a depth of it that it is hard to get around and there is no sessions in the school this A.M.

**February 7:** I am feeling very ambitious again and I do a little cleaning about the house that I have neglected so long.

**February 8:** A nice warm day, so I give the bedrooms a thorough cleaning. George & Mariann came over in the evening.

**February 9:** Snowing again, I finished my sweater today that I began last Sep. It has been quite a task., but I am quite pleased with it.

**February 10:** This is the most discouragingly cold winter I ever remember. We have a comfortable day once in a while, but today is awful. Mr. Meyer called.

**February 11:** Another cold day and Steven has his customary headache. The children go to Sunday school, but we stay in all day.

**February 12:** Fifteen degrees below zero this morning. Oscar began to day to have some work done on his teeth, which will probably last all the week.

**February 13:** Went uptown for worsted to make Ruth a scarf, which are so popular right now. & I believe I got a little more cold. George & Mariann were over at night.

**February 14:** Oscar is tending store this P.M. & Steve tinkers about the house, doing up odd jobs for me. Ruth is having an interesting time with valentines.

**February 15:** Such a cold cold winter, and lots of snow on the ground. But the difference in the length of the days is quite noticeable.

**February 16:** I took Mrs. Maynard to the fourth of the lecture course tonight. James Burns of the Kentucky Mts. Pres of Oneida College, very interesting.

**February 17:** I finished Ruth's scarf today so she can have it for Sunday. I had to work every minute I could in order to get it done.

**February 18:** Oscar & Ruth go to church, Ruby & Johnny come over in the P.M. & George & Marian come later. Fred & family left town today to start on their new work in Hopedale.

**February 19:** Gladys & I went to Fitchburg today. Advance Spring styles are shown, rather queer colors too. Mrs. Lyons sent me a lovely begonia.

**February 20:** Dull day. I do up odd small jobs, to sort of rest up from more strenuous ones I have been doing for several weeks.

**February 21:** I felt obliged to wash my hair today & although it was warm and nice around the house, I seemed get more cold. It seems so easy now to get more.

**February 22:** We went to the pictures this P. M. Ruth did not care to go, so she stayed with Ruth Maynard. I've spent the evening reading aloud.

**February 23:** A nice pleasant day, thawing quite a lot. Clouds up and rains in the evening. All schools closed today for a weeks vacation.

**February 24:** Quite a comfortable day. Ruth helps me do up the regular Saturday work.

**February 25:** I went to church today with the children the first time in four months. Arthur & Gladys were over in the P.M. and took lunch with us.

**February 26:** Rained all day. & I don't seem to feel a bit good, my head is behaving very badly.

**February 27:** Ruth gets up and gets the breakfast this morning, while I rest up a bit & then she spends the day with Aunt Gladys.

**February 28:** I feel somewhat better today but there is room for improvement yet. Ruth went to a birthday party at Ruth McKenny's & had a delightful time.

## **March 1917**

**March 1:** Very quiet & comfortable for the beginning of March. Ruth is making the most of her vacation and spent the day with Aunt Marian.

**March 2:** For a few days while the small tenements are empty, Steve spends what time he can fixing them up a little.

**March 3:** Dull day, and begins to storm rain and snow. If I ever do get over this cold I will know how to appreciate feeling well.

**March 4:** Children go to Sunday school. Aunt Nina came up today for a visit while she is up resting after her serious operation of Dec. 19.

**March 5:** Stormed all day and quite a little snow fell. It doesn't look as much like Spring & it did last week. The children start school again today.

**March 6:** Gladys & Ruby spend the P.M. with us, so as to visit with Aunt Nina who isn't able to go out much. A real cold day.

**March 7:** The sunshine on the piazza looks very inviting, so we both sit out for a little while. If we could have nice warm days we would both feel better.

**March 8:** Steve is having some work done in one of the small tenements while it is vacant for a few days.

**March 9:** We went up town this afternoon. Aunt Nina went up on the car so as not get to tired.

**March 10:** The snow melts some today but not to fast. Aunt Nina seems to feel a little stronger today. I am beginning to make plans for my extensive garden.

**March 11:** Stormy day but not very cold. Children go to Sunday school. We are alone all day.

**March 12:** Work began today remodeling our front piazza. There is a lot to be done and on the back one too. But it was quite necessary.

**March 13:** A lovely day. Aunt Nina went over to spend the day with Gladys and I went for a little while in the afternoon.

**March 14:** George & Marian came over tonight. He closes the store on Wednesday nights now so he has a little more time.

**March 15:** Bert Peckens was here for a little while today. Johnny came over for supper. Arthur, Gladys & Ruby came and spent the evening.

**March 16:** I am helping in the store all I can so Steve can help on the piazza. It seems strange to me because I haven't been down there since Nov.

**March 17:** A cold sleet storm. The children do my errands for me. I seem to depend more and more on them. I guess I am getting old sure enough.

**March 18:** The children went to Sunday school. Arthur's folks were all over in the afternoon and took lunch with us.

**March 19:** This was one of the bitterest days we have had this winter. The wind blew hard and the thermometer way way down. Very hard to bear.

**March 20:** I had to go to Fitchburg today, but it was pretty cold. Spring goods look pretty but would look better if it were warmer.

**March 21:** I thought I was quite smart today and papered a room in one of the small tenements. It looks quite fresh and good but-----

**March 22:** Today I am paying for it with an attack of pleurisy and more cold. George & Marian were over in the evening.

**March 23:** Am feeling better today. I planted several kinds of seeds in boxes. Molly came to see how I was.

**March 24:** Aunt Nina went back to Hudson today quite a little stronger than when she came but with plenty of room for improvement.

**March 25:** Sunday school and in the P.M. we went for a walk and found everybody out. The first nice Sunday we have had. Everybody takes advantage.

**March 26:** Such a lovely day such a weather breeder. Some of my seeds planted Friday are up. I expect to have a regular farm on the piazzas. Gladys called.

**March 27:** Cold windy day and rained. I am working in the store most of the time now while Steve works outside.

**March 28:** The repairing of the piazzas was finished today and they certainly are splendid. I know we will enjoy them very much.

**March 29:** George & Marian came over in the evening.

**March 30:** I go down to the store at noon now and help Steve with the trade. Something I haven't been able to do all winter.

**March 31:** I went uptown this P.M. After putting it off for 2 weeks and then didn't feel in the mood for shopping when I got there.

## **April 1917**

**April 1:** A nice pleasant Sunday and we all go over to Arthur's in the P.M. He is talking of buying a farm.

**April 2:** I am not satisfied with the way my washing has been done, so did it myself today but I guess I won't try it again. I don't see why I can't wash I am no good.

**April 3:** Men are enlisting in the army from all around us and we expect any day this country may be in active war with Germany.

**April 4:** Went uptown and did a little shopping g. The flower shops look so pretty.

**April 5:** It has been formally declared that we are at a war with Germany. It is well for us that we do not know what there is ahead of us.

**April 6:** Ruth has not been to school since Tuesday. A little bunch in her neck is sore and hurts to move. I don't know what it is.

**April 7:** A man demonstrating a vacuum carpet cleaner came today and cleaned three rugs for me. It looked good to me so I ordered one.

**April 8:** Easter Sunday a nice sunny day but not very warm. We went to church in the morning a splendid service and baptism.

**April 9:** Cold raw day, not very spring like. Well, Arthur has bought a farm down East, but will probably not go down there for a year.

**April 10:** Well, I do believe we will have a vegetable garden this year. It will be quite a little ways from home but we will enjoy it so much.

**April 11:** A few bulbs in a sunny spot are beginning to show up, but aside from that, vegetation hasn't started at all.

**April 12:** George & Marian & Johnny spent the evening with us.

**April 13:** Johnny came over to say goodbye to us for a little while. He starts back to Nova Scotia tomorrow. So as to be ready if he is called to fight for his colors.

**April 14:** Steve finished spading up the loam today. We are anxious to see it graded and seeded, and the shrubs in place.

**April 15:** We took a long walk to day way out in the country; not a green sprout on anything & we thought we would have an early spring! Arthur & Gladys & Ruby went with us.

**April 16:** Dull cold day, Am quite lame from our walk yesterday. But I do think my cold is somewhat better.

**April 17:** Steve got my flower boxes up today and now I am quite anxious to get them filled. I stayed out. in the sunshine all afternoon. It seemed quite good.

**April 18:** Cloudy day & Ruth is so afraid it will not be pleasant for our trip to Marlboro tomorrow. We haven' had much suitable weather for housecleaning.

**April 19:** A nice warm day. We left home at 2 o'clock with G. & M. in the auto and went to Marlboro. Called at Effies and then at Charlie Griffins, arriving home at 7. Delightful trip.

**April 20:** I had to go to Fitchburg today and it rained hard all the time I was out, so I didn't stop for unnecessaries.

**April 21:** We had a thunder shower last night and another one this evening. We got most of our shrubs planted today & the lawn is beginning to look good.

**April 22:** We went and selected a spot for our garden. A lovely warm day. Arthur & Gladys & Ruby were over in the evening.

**April 23:** Another warm day & I have been house cleaning & chasing he sun with my boxes of seedlings. They are doing finely.

**April 24:** Marian & her mother were over tonight. Ruth is busy making May baskets.

**April 25:** I went to the mothers meeting today. Haven't been in a long time.

**April 26:** A snowstorm makes one wonder if Spring is ever going to come. Of course it does not last long, but it is so cold.

**April 27:** Tonight, I went to our class social at the church and had a very pleasant time, haven't been to anything like that all Winter.

**April 28:** Went up town this evening and did a few errands after cleaning the back room of all its Winter's accumulations.

**April 29:** We all went to church. In the P.M. Gladys & Arthur came over and we all went to walk way out in the country and gathered trailing arbutus.

**April 30:** Steve went to Marlboro today. Oscar & I kept store. This is the last day of license in this city and I hope they never have it again.

**Memoranda:**The draft law has been passed so now our young men between the ages of 21 and thirty must register and be subject to the draft. It seems hard,

## **May 1917**

**May 1:** A rainy night for the children to have their May baskets, but they can't wait and they seem to have such a good time as though it were fine.

**May 2:** The children are having a vacation this week. Oscar has gone to Marlboro for the rest of the week.

**May 3:** It snows or rains every day now and we have gotten quite used to it so we don't expect anything different.

**May 4:** I went over to Marian's a little while this afternoon. It has been the first pleasant day we have had for some time.

**May 5:** Ruth has stayed in all day today. She took cold May night and is a bit croupy, and the day is cold & rainy.

**May 6:** Cold & dull. We layed abed most of the day and Ruby spent the rest of the day with us.

**May 7:** The sun shone a little bit today but it rained too. It rains everyday now.

**May 8:** So cold we need as much fire as we did in the Winter to keep warm. It doesn't look as though planting time would ever come.

**May 9:** Steve has bought a new cash register for the store, he needed it very much, the old one was a disgrace.

**May 10:** My seedlings don't do vey well with so much cloudy weather. It is a long time to have to keep them in the house.

**May 11:** Went up to the High School to see the school cadets on their prize drill. It was very interesting, and Oscar was delighted because his company won the prize.

**May 12:** The shrubs have all arrived and Steve starts setting out the barberry hedge today. It is going to look fine.

**May 13:** Ruth & I went to church and we all went over to Arthur's in the P.M. and had supper with them.

**May 14:** A nice sunny day for a change. I had to go uptown in the morning and tend store in the P.M.so I didn't accomplish much in the house.

**May 15:** Attended a food demonstration in city building, cooking many things at once in a gas range. It was very instructive.

**May 16:** Went up to the High School today to see about Oscar's course of study for the next year.

**May 17:** Steve & I went up to our new garden and planted our sweet peas. A little late but, the season is so backward that maybe they will be all right.

**May 18:** Went with Mrs. Maynard over to her cousins. Bought some plants and filled up some of our flower boxes.

**May 19:** Nice warm day. Ruth went to a May party at the church and we went uptown after dinner.

**May 20:** We took a trip to Ashburnham today walking from south Ashburnham up. Found no one home so we had to walk back to the train when it was time. We were sure enough tired.

**May 21:** I hurried through my work and went to Fitchburg after dinner and came right back. My feet were so sore to travel around much.

**May 22:** Ruth is home from school today not feeling very well with a cold.

**May 23:** Poor little Christy Conway in the house where we moved from is in a most critical condition with a stone cancer in her neck. Her life has been despaired of.

**May 24:** Went to a Whist party with Mrs. Maynard and had a very enjoyable afternoon. Marian and her mother came over a little while in the evening.

**May 25:** I cleaned the living room today and it was more of a job than I thought it would be and went up town after dinner to get my last years hat fixed.

**May 26:** A lovely day – they are very scarce lately walked up to the garden to see if the sweet peas were up, but they were not. Ruth & I went up town in the evening.

**May 27:** We were going to Northboro today but it rained so we all went to church. We had a nice nap in the afternoon and then Arthur & Gladys & Ruby came to lunch with us.

**May 28:** Gladys & I went to Fitchburg today cold and raining. Ruby came over to supper and brought me some pretty flowers to take to the cemetery.

**May 29:** Went to Northboro today with what flowers I had for the cemetery & in the evening Oscar & I went to Fitchburg with Ginger M. to get his first long pants.

**May 30:** Oscar marched in the parade today. The exercises at the Monument and the fountain were very pretty, and interesting. Over to Arthur's to supper. All went to the movies.

**May 31:** Lovely days are rare now but this is one surely. Mrs. Maynard, four little girls & myself walked up to the garden, Sweet peas are up.

**Memoranda:** We thought prices were awful last fall but now are worse, flour 2.10 a bag, potatoes 1.00 a pk, beans 35c¢ a quart, sugar 10¢.

## **June 1917**

**June 1:** Water pipes spring a leak in Mrs.'s Maynard stove today and we learned the stove belongs to us. Plumber had to fix it.

**June 2:** Went to see Douglas Fairbanks in "In Again Out Again" with Mrs. Maynard and then went shopping for new shoes for Ruth.

**June 3:** The first real warm day we have had. Attended church in the afternoon. We went to walk with Arthur, Gladys & Ruby. Church visiting day.

**June 4:** It looks like warm weather is really coming and I must do quite a little sewing this week for Ruth and myself.

**June 5:** One more nice day. The plants and shrubs show the benefit of a few days sunshine, and the grass is coming up splendidly.

**June 6:** Attended a canning demonstration at the Universalist Church. The cold pack method was used and it looked reasonable to me. I shall try it. Band concert tonight.

**June 7:** Am doing quite a lot of sewing this week. Fixing over and making new for Ruth & myself.

**June 8:** A lovely day, and I gave all the rooms a cleaning.

**June 9:** Went to Fitchburg today and got me a new summer coat. I couldn't put it off any longer. The folks liked it but were disappointed because I didn't get a light one.

**June 10:** A whole year has rolled around since mother passed away, but something comes up almost daily to remind us of her and we love the memories.

**June 11:** Rained hard all day. Went up town in the morning. Trimmed my white hat over and made me a shirtwaist.



**June 12:** Steve & I went to the pictures and then I went to call on Mrs. Conway and her little sick daughter.

**June 13:** I have been all the year getting around to call on Ruth's school. She said the yearly tests begin tomorrow so I make a special effort and go today.

**June 14:** I got an early start this morning & went to Worcester and did a little shopping. Then to Marlboro to Effie's. They brought me up to mother's grave and I came from there by train.

**June 15:** Steven & I went up to the garden this P.M. there didn't seem to be much I could do. So I just basked in the sunshine. It was lovely.

**June 16:** Went to see Mary Pickford in "A Roman of the Redwood" it was good but I didn't care for it as I do some of her pictures.

**June 17:** Such an awfully rainy day nobody goes to church, Ruby came over in the afternoon and had lunch with us. Soon she will be going back to N.S.

**June 18:** Steven and I worked up in the garden this P.M. so much witch grass it makes it hard to work. Gladys, Arthur, & Ruby were over in the evening.

**June 19:** A beautiful day. Our little lawn and garden is looking real good. And quite a few "boquets" [sic] come our way and on account of the improved appearances.

**June 20:** Fitchburg in the morning. Steven closed the store for the first time on Wednesday P.M. and we all went to the garden and had lunch up there.

**June 21:** Am sleepy all day from being out so much yesterday. Attended the funeral of the little Ray girl 5 years old. It seemed so hard.

**June 22:** Ruth's school closed today for the Summer vacation and she doesn't know what to do with herself.

**June 23:** Aunt Nina came today for a short stay & help me with a new dress. We went to Fitchburg in the afternoon. Ruby is getting ready to go back to N. S.

**June 24:** Ruby spent the day with us. Arthur & Gladys came over later. The Brooms & Mrs. Harris from Marlboro called.

**June 25:** Jen & Bert were over today and Aunt Nina & I went to Fitchburg shopping with them and some way got separated, very unceremonious day.

**June 26:** We sewed today and got along pretty well with my dress. Am planning to go to the high school reception. Helen Grain is graduating.

**June 27:** We finished up the dress. Marian came over for a little while. Ruth & Ruth Maynard take their lunch up to the garden.

**June 28:** An unexpected auto trip with Mr. & Mrs. to Ayer, Groton, Westford, etc. with ice cream & lunch by the road, on to Marlboro to stay all night with them, charming trip.

**June 29:** It rained today so they could not bring us home., but we went out the movies in the evening. The gardens were so pretty all in bloom,

**June 30:** They brought Ruth & I home this morning early and then we went to S.S. Pickering at Fort Pond & I did my Saturday baking in the evening.

**Memoranda:** There has been so much happen this last week that it seems like I had had quite a vacation.

## July 1917

**July 1:** I went to church and received the hand of fellowship this morning. Nina went back to Hudson today.

**July 2:** I began the week in earnest, intending to do up work that was neglected last week but before I finished my days work Mrs. Myers & Mrs. Reed called.

- July 3:** Jen & Bert came over today and Steve and I went back to Fitchburg with them. Oscar is going to stay up all night tonight, pity us.
- July 4:** We stay around home all day and make up a little lost sleep, didn't get much sleep last night. All went to the pictures at night.
- July 5:** We are having some lovely days this summer and no excessive heat (sic) so far and I have been very comfortable.
- July 6:** The war outlook grows more serious and the draft law is causing lots of uneasiness, and well might it.
- July 7:** Went to Fitchburg with Steve to get him a new suit. He put off buying so long that he had to have a whole outfit from top to toe.
- July 8:** The grandest ride with George & Marian down along the shore to Marblehead where we had a fish dinner at the Adams House. We all had a perfectly lovely time.
- July 9:** We are all awfully sunburnt from our trip yesterday, our faces are so red and sore. Went up to the dentist with Ruth. She had a tooth pulled out.
- July 10:** Dull cool day. Mrs. Lyon the two Ruths and I went to Fitchburg shopping in the P.M. Call to see Christie on way, poor little dear.
- July 11:** It rained all afternoon and Steve's half holiday didn't amount to much this week. Ruth was invited up to Grain's to stay all night.
- July 12:** Effie has invited Ruth down for vacation, so I guess so I guess I will go down with her on Sunday and stop at Charlie Griffins in Hudson.
- July 13:** A little party at Mrs. Tisdale's this P.M. We take our sewing and have a pleasant time. We are supposed to meet once a week, seems most to much to me.
- July 14:** Hurried all day to get Ruth ready for vacation she is ready but gets a bit home sick last thing.
- July 15:** We all went to Marlboro. Steve, Ruth and I stopped to dinner with Charlies folks at their house in Hudson. Oscar stayed with William G & Tom brought us all home.
- July 16:** But Ruth went back with them and today seems so quiet and lonesome with neither of the children at home.
- July 17:** Ironed all afternoon and potted around the garden some. Stayed down in the store with Steve all the evening.
- July 18:** The boys went to Whalom in the afternoon and we went up to the garden and all went to the pictures in the evening. The "Mask of Life" splendid.
- July 19:** Six ladies took our lunch and went to Whalom about 5 o'clock and from there a car ride to Cleghorn and back.
- July 20:** Now we are getting some hot weather I went to Fitchburg and went over to Marian's for supper. They are going on a trip to the White Mountains Sunday.
- July 21:** We were invited to Mr. & Mrs. Grains to supper. Mr. Grain & Steve are twins. We ate out of doors and had a splendid time. Arthur and Gladys called.
- July 22:** We all went to church and most melted. Toward evening we went over to Arthur's to supper.
- July 23:** Extremely hot great day for ice creams tonic. They cleaned us pretty nearly out. The boys slept in an empty room downstairs & think it great sport.
- July 24:** Hot & quite a hard shower. After dinner the boys went to Whalom. I went to the pictures with Mrs. Lyons.
- July 25:** Bradford went home today and Oscar, Steve, & I went to Effie's camp in Northboro through Worcester. Effie is happy & having a good time.

**July 26:** And still it is hot. That bunch of ladies met at Mrs. Grain's house today and I told them I couldn't come anymore, it is too much for me.

**July 27:** Too hot to do much house cleaning but out a little sewing. Went up street doing errands in the evening and stopped a few minutes to band concert.

**July 28:** A lovely cool day. Went shopping this afternoon, but could not seem to find anything that I wanted, so didn't accomplish much.

**July 29:** Steve & I succeeded in getting to Sudbury today. The first time since we came to Leominster to live. How Leona has grown.

**July 30:** Hot and not feeling very good. Undress and go to bed in the afternoon and am hotter than would be up sewing. Never again.

**July 31:** The thermometer registered 98° in the shade today. It was most to much for me, but I had to can some cherries that came this morning.

**Memoranda:** The gardens are drying up some but it has been a very pleasant month.

## **August 1917**

**August 1:** Another hot day. We took our lunch to Whalom. Gladys went with us and Arthur came over after work and we went to the theater and most melted.

**August 2:** Hottest day been known for years most of the shops shut down, a shower about six o'clock, not as hard as we looked for, mostly wind cooled off nicely.

**August 3:** Comfortable day we are able to catch up our left over work. Went over to Marian's in the evening.

**August 4:** Aunt Ethel has invited Ruth to stay another week, and she wants to so I suppose she stays. We hear from her everyday. William came.

**August 5:** We have been going so much lately that we are glad to stay home today. We picked quite a variety of vegetables from the garden, such a treat.

**August 6:** We had Arthur & Gladys over to supper of vegetables from our garden. We all enjoyed it immensely.

**August 7:** The boys are having a good time and it seems us as if Ruth had been away long enough this is the fourth week.

**August 8:** Steve did some painting in the store after he closed up to day, and then we went over to Arthur's for supper. Pictures and a ride with George.

**August 9:** Oh this dreadful war. Arthur has been called in the draft and passed examination. He thinks he will not have to go because he is an alien.

**August 10:** But I feel before long he will have to go or go back to his own country and I hate to have him driven away like that.

**August 11:** Ruth came home today and Charles, Ethel and the baby came for a little visit. Ruth seems glad to be home and we are glad to have her. William went home.

**August 12:** Charles and Ethel were invited over to George's today and we take care of the baby and get along very nicely. She thinks a lot of Ruth.

**August 13:** Today the folks go over to Arthur's and take the baby with them. I try to do up what work I can to have more time with them tomorrow.

**August 14:** A lovely day, we visit together and in the afternoon the boys go up to the garden and we have a nap. We have been sitting up so late nights we needed some sleep.

**August 15:** The folks went home today and we celebrated my birthday with Paul Lyon at a little picnic party at Whalom. going over in Mr. Lyon's truck & we had a splendid time.

**August 16:** I miss the baby today it doesn't take long to become attached to the little ones. The children got a nice lot of vegetables from the garden today.

**August 17:** We have decided to send Oscar to the Fitchburg Business College. I do hope he will take an interest in it and do well.

**August 18:** A beautiful day and it begins to show signs of Fall, golden rod and everlasting in bloom and crickets singing. Ruth & I went uptown in the evening.

**August 19:** Ruth & I went to church. Toward night we walked up to the garden and away back in the field and pastures. So quite and lovely I love it.

**August 20:** Ruth & I went blueberrying with the Lyon's party and got quite a few. Arthur thinks it would be best to down home & take possession of his farm.

**August 21:** Things are becoming pretty serious but I hate to have them go. We started papering a room for Mrs. Maynard & our paper gave out.

**August 22:** Oscar went to Maynard for a little vacation. George & Marian were over for supper and we all went to Whalom to the Theater in the evening. "The Parish Priest" it was splendid.

**August 23:** A rainy day and it was badly needed the gardens were suffering. Finished papering Mrs. Maynard's room and was awfully tired,

**August 24:** A lovely afternoon and I went up town on a few errands. Ruth & I went to the band concert in the evening.

**August 25:** Ruth & I went to the garden this afternoon and got a big basket of vegetables. A few tomatoes were ripe, the first we have had. Things are late but good just the same.

**August 26:** Sunday & a perfect day. George & Marian took up down to Charlie's in the morning, back here to dinner, later down to Ayer, where the sixth regiment is leaving. Gladys & Arthur & Fred, Nellie, & the baby called.

August 27: Had an invitation to berrying with Mrs. Lyons' party, but I didn't feel able to go. So disappointing, I wanted the berries so badly.

**August 28:** Went to see Gladys they are packing up to move to N.S. It may be jumping from the frying pan into the fire. Effie's folks came up in the evening and brought Oscar home.

**August 29:** We went to the business college where Oscar is going this P.M. It is very attractive. Then over to Ginger to supper and to Whalom to see "Roanoke" in the pouring rain, who cared.

**August 30:** Ruth had a trip to Worcester with Mr. Lyon & a party of children and was invited to supper with them. She is having earache & toothache between times.

**August 31:** I made up a box lunch for Arthur & Gladys to take on their trip, and we all go over in the evening and bid them goodbye. They leave at 5 o'clock in the morning.

**Memoranda:** They had a most beautiful day and I hope they will have good luck when they get there, but I suppose it will take them some time to get on their feet again.

## September 1917

**September 1:** Quite cool, velvet hats are all the thing, just a little earlier each year. We had Mrs. Maynard down to supper.

**September 2:** Oscar & I went to Church. We stayed around home the rest of the day, napped and rested so the children would be fresh to school.

**September 3:** Oscar starts in Business College this morning & Ruth in the sixth grade. It seems lonesome with them both away. [arrows indicate reverse with 9/4]

**September 4:** Labor Day. Steve closed the store at eleven and we went to the Music Hall in the P.M. and then walked up to the garden after vegetables lovely day. [Reverse with 9/3]

**September 5:** This is the last day that Steve closes the store at in the P. M. and we went to the Fair at Worcester and had a fine time. We have had a lovely summer.

**September 6:** Started for Northboro today but it started to rain a little so I came back & will try again next week.

**September 7:** Went shopping & got me a new Fall hat, and went to see the little Conway girl. She looks awfully bad to me.

**September 8:** I did my baking with a coal fire today the first fire I have had this summer and it felt good. The two Ruths went to the pictures.

**September 9:** We all went to church this morning and took a little walk in the afternoon. Very cool for this time of the year.

**September 10:** A hard frost last night, It seem too bad for the vegetables to be cut down so early. George & Marian were over also Mrs. Grain & Miss Hunter.

**September 11:** Another frost. I went to Worcester today and then to Northboro to meet Effie at the cemetery and came home from there on the train.

**September 12:** Lovely weather now after all the frost although one needs fire in the house. George & Marian were over in the evening. Steve closed at 7 o'clock.

**September 13:** We brought home such a load of vegetables from the garden yesterday that I am all caned up. Went to the pictures with Mrs. Lyon in the evening.

**September 14:** Went over to Marian's this afternoon. Such a lovely day too good to stay in. The last band concert of the season, so Ruth & I up. Not a very big crowd.

**September 15:** Oscar went to Whalom today with a party of young people and chaperone. It was the closing day. I went uptown in the evening.

**September 16:** We all went to church in the morning. Steve & Ruth & I all went to walk up to the garden towards night. We were alone all day.

**September 17:** A nice cool day. Am busy around the house nearly all day. Mrs. Lyon was over for a few minutes and brought me a little jar of consume.

**September 18:** Beautiful weather now. I went uptown on some errands, real warm. Mr. Grain is very poorly and I am afraid he hasn't much longer to stay.

**September 19:** Made three calls today on the old and sick people. Mr. & Mrs. Brown called in the evening and we went to the "Little American" with them. Oscar & Ruth went to ride with Georgette.

**September 20:** Jen & Bert came over today and I went back to Fitchburg with them and we all got caught in the rain. Canned eight jars of pears.

**September 21:** If everyone had an automobile how we could enjoy these lovely days, and it seems as though nearly every one has one.

**September 22:** I hurried though the mornings work and to the garden and picked everything that frost would injure. Ruth & I went uptown in the evening.

**September 23:** The children & I went to church and Sunday school and we all stayed at home all the rest of the day. Quiet and dull all day, quite cool.

**September 24:** Frost came close to the house last night and spoiled my Dahlias and tuberose. Yesterday I pick one beautiful rose. The last rose of summer.

**September 25:** Had a few errands to do uptown this morning but I didn't stay long.

**September 26:** Mr. Grain passed away last night and poor little Christie seems awfully bad to me. I don't see how she can stand it much more.

**September 27:** We started to the pictures last night but met George & Marian and went to ride with them.

**September 28:** A rainy morning. I am making picalilli & am doing more canning of all kinds than usual because thing point to a shortage this winter.

**September 29:** Ruth & I went to Fitchburg to day and we got her a new pair of shoes. Four dollars is quite a price. George bought another house.

**September 30:** This was Rally day and we all went to church and stayed to Sunday school. Steve had a headache so he had to lie down all the rest of the day.

**Memoranda:** If the early frosts hadn't come we would had had vegetables now, for we have had a beautiful month since then.

## **October 1917**

**October 1:** Word came this morning that little Christie Conway passed away last evening. So I left my work and stayed most of the day with them, until their relatives arrived.

**October 2:** Errands in the morning and Oscar & I went to the funeral. He with three other boys were bearers. Very very sad, only 14 years old and only child.

**October 3:** Steve went to Marlboro at noon collecting old bills, but was unsuccessful. I tended the store and closed for the evening as usual.

**October 4:** Jen & Bert were over today for peaches. I have got quite a lot of canning done and am doing peaches this week.

**October 5:** A dark rainy day. I know it must be so hard for Mrs. Conway so I spent a long afternoon with her and carried knitting for her to do. Red Cross work.

**October 6:** Steve went to Fitchburg to do some shopping for himself. Ruth went to the pictures with Pauline. She went uptown with me after supper, cool.

**October 7:** The last of our selected Army left for Ayer today. Mr. Hayden from Marlboro came and stayed to supper with us.

**October 8:** We are cleaning up one of the rooms downstairs next to the store and fixing it so we can get our lunch down there instead.

**October 9:** (cont.) of coming up one at a time as we do now. We can eat together even if we are interrupted. Ruth will enjoy it and Oscar doesn't come to dinner.

**October 10:** George has bought a single house and they are preparing to move into it right away.

**October 11:** Steve worked downstairs after he closed up. He doesn't have much time in the day for extra work. George came over.

**October 12:** Steve & Oscar dug their potatoes today. George came over and brought them home We all went over to George's in the evening and it rained hard.

**October 13:** Went shopping for a few things for the room downstairs. Everything is so high in all branches of business.

**October 14:** We all went to church and it was a beautiful day. Effie's folks came up from Marlboro in the afternoon and had supper with us.

**October 15:** I worked downstairs quite a while and am awfully lamed up to pay for it.

**October 16:** Ruth had a few of her little friends here after school, but on Saturday her Sunday school class are coming for a little party.

**October 17:** Steve & I went to Worcester with George's folks selecting papers for their new home. Oscar tended store and closed up. We had two blow outs which made us late.

**October 18:** I try to spend as much time as I can with Mrs. Conway. Her sorrow is so hard to bear and only her beautiful Christian spirit make life worth living.

**October 19:** We ate our dinner downstairs together today. It is quite cozy and saves time and many steps. Ruth thinks its great fun.

**October 20:** Nine little girls came today and enjoyed a little party with Ruth and left many pretty little gifts.

**October 21:** Oscar went to church. I didn't feel like it. Then we all went over to George's new home and helped them get ready for the paper hangers.

**October 22:** Getting ready to clean house washing curtains and so on. Took back this sweater that Mrs. Conway & I have knitted for the Red Cross.

**October 23:** Rained hard all day Mrs. Conway came and helped me tie a comforter in the back store, just the day for it and we got it all done.

**October 24:** I cleaned the parlor today and in the evening pieced up one side to a comforter, large square and the machine made quick work.

**October 25:** "Count that day lost whose low descending sun, views from thy hand no worthy action done". How much better we feel when we can do something for somebody.

**October 26:** Helped make sandwiches this P.M. at the church and Ruth and I went to a social there at night, had a very pleasant time.

**October 27:** Mrs. Maynard and I went to Mrs. Harrington's funeral and in the evening the children and I went to see "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm". Mr. & Mrs. Brown called.

**October 28:** The children & I went to church & Sunday school and after dinner went over to George's and Steve helped paint a little. Mr. Brown & Lois called.

**October 29:** Showery all day. A letter from Bert in California talks of going in bathing. We can hardly realize it is warm enough for that anywhere.

**October 30:** Such a rainy day all day long and at times it came in sheets. After dinner I took my patchwork and went down with Steve in the store.

**October 31:** The children run wild and cut up all kinds of mischief. They think it quite necessary to do so. Steve and I went to the pictures.

**Memoranda:** We have had a glorious month and I wish we might have just such weather all the year round.

## **November 1917**

**November 1:** We are having a scarcity of sugar and we do not know how long it will last, so we are eating the things not requiring sugar.

**November 2:** The days are lovely for house cleaning and I am getting along splendidly. Cleaning house days and fixing comforters evenings.

**November 3:** I have got a hard cold again to add the one I got last year and never got rid of.

**November 4:** The folks went over to George's for a little while. I didn't feel like going. I cough to much. They are all moved into their new home.

**November 5:** No sugar to cook with so I have a lot of time to clean. It is quite cool now, hardly comfortable without two fires.

**November 6:** Some sugar came today so I went right away and made a cup of coffee as sweet as I wanted it & baked many things we have missed.

**November 7:** Just about finished house cleaning today. Steve & I went to the first of the Lecture course entertainment.

**November 8:** Many people have no sugar at all and when they can get any it is only two pounds. And it makes it pretty hard.

**November 9:** We went uptown tonight to see the "Human fly" he calls himself, who can crawl up the side of any building.

**November 10:** Baking day, but you cannot bake much with only a little sugar and not know when you will get anymore.

**November 11:** The children and I went to church and the rest of the day we just stayed around and did nothing

**November 12:** I could not make Oscar a cake because I had no sugar to frost it with. We got him a thermos bottle for his lunch.

**November 13:** Tomorrow I will have to help with the refreshments at the Mother's association. It seems to bad to waste food in lunches.

**November 14:** We all went to see the "Barrier" tonight...and it was good.

**November 15:** Ruth and I spent the evening with Grandma Grain. A little bit cold but we can't complain for.

**November 16:** We have had a beautiful autumn and the lovely days continue.

**November 17:** Ruth & I went up town and I bought a few things at the one cent sale.

**November 18:** We stayed around home all day and in the evening walked over to George's for a few minutes.

**November 19:** I am making a dress for Ruth Maynard. Hope to finish it tomorrow.

**November 20:** I went to Fitchburg today and got me a new pair of shoes. Six dollars, whew! and I did quite a few errands. first snow.

**November 21:** George & Marian were over in the evening. We started to play cards, but had so much to talk about, we gave up the game.

**November 22:** Worked hard all day getting ready to go away, but it looks like a storm.

**November 23:** Ruth & I were planning to go Marlboro for the weekend, but it storms so we don't go. Went up town A.M. Had callers P.M.

**November 24:** Ruth had another new pair of shoes today \$5. I escorted her to and from a party this evening.

**November 25:** Steve had a headache and Oscar a sore throat, so it was a pretty dull day, and very cold.

**November 26:** It grows colder and is almost down to zero. We have invited Effie's folks for Thanksgiving, but don't know if they will come.

**November 27:** Cold all day and at night it looks like snow.

**November 28:** Ruth does my errands up town and Steve doesn't close for the evening tomorrow being a holiday.

**November 29:** A beautiful day. The folks come up from Marlboro and Ruth & I went back with them in the machine. Bright moonlight & we enjoyed it greatly.

**November 30:** Today we made a few calls and met a few old friends. We all went to the pictures in the evening.

## **December 1917**

**December 1:** Stormed all day. Effie had her thanksgiving dinner today. Mr. Brown came up for us and we had supper at Ferncroft & brought us home after. Young people grow up and grown ups get older and a few years makes a great many changes in a place.

**December 2:** Tom took Ruth & I over to Charlie's & Steve & Oscar were already there. We spent a pleasant day with them & all came home together at night.

**December 3:** Mrs. Conway & I did a little shopping together. George & Marian spent the evening with us.



**December 4:** Christmas is drawing near. But I think so much is needed for the soldiers that people won't do quite so much as usual.

**December 5:** We spent quite a pleasant evening at George's. Quite cool but just right for walking.

**December 6:** Went up to Mrs. Conway's for a while to learn how to start knitting on four needles.

**December 7:** There has been a whole week of splendid coasting with just a little bit of snow, but it keeps cold.

**December 8:** It starts in snowing and by night is a hard cold storm. A very busy day at the store.

**December 9:** Steve & Ruth shovel paths this morning and we stay at home all day. It is awfully cold.

**December 10:** I am afraid the winter will seem pretty long this year. It has been winter weather since the middle of November.

**December 11:** We can hardly get coal enough to keep warm with, and many people haven't any only what they can get in the bags.

**December 12:** It was 5° below zero this morning. We all went to the pictures in the evening. I dreaded to go out, but didn't mind it.

**December 13:** It began to snow late tonight and by morning over a foot had fallen. No school this morning on account of it. An old fashioned winter.

**December 14:** Mary Pickford was in "The Little Princess" so Ruth & I had to go and see the pictures. It was fun.

**December 15:** Ruth & I went to Fitchburg today to look around for Santa Claus but didn't do much buying, bitter cold & we did a few more errands at night.

**December 16:** Thawed out water pipes in the morning and went over to George's in the afternoon.

**December 17:** Sugar continues very scarce and syrups are hard to get and coal is so scarce that factories and schools are closing & cars are unheated.

**December 18:** Did a little shopping but I can't seem to get into the spirit of it as usual, but I guess the dreadful war &

**December 19:** Unusual conditions in general have the same effect on many. The call for help from many sources & causes is great.

**December 20:** Mrs. Maynard & I went to Fitchburg today, but didn't do much shopping. I suppose this is our shortest day.

**December 21:** There is such a shortage of coal that people are saving it wherever they can & electric cars are unheated. It is quite serious.

**December 22:** I had to go to Fitchburg today to finish up my shopping of things I couldn't get here. Spent all afternoon & made one purchase.

**December 23:** We went to the Christmas concert which was very interesting. A good sum of money was raised for suffering American children.

**December 24:** Ruth & I went to Marlboro at 5 o'clock to spend Christmas at Effie's. Steve & Oscar will come in the morning.

**December 25:** We had a very pleasant Christmas day, but got mixed up in the train time, so I stayed overnight again, Steve came on the electric.

**December 26:** Ruth & Oscar came home tonight. Very cold - seven below zero this morning thawing pipes was in order.

**December 27:** I came up this morning on the train. Tom called around on his way to Fitchburg.

**December 28:** Ruth & I went to Fitchburg to exchange the sweater papa gave her for a larger one. - and still it is cold.

**December 29:** It grows rapidly colder and at night it is fifteen below zero, and pipes are freezing up. It is all one can do to keep warm.

**December 30:** Twenty below zero this morning and Steve works on the water pipes all day and until 11-30 at night.

**December 31:** Steve continues thawing and replacing pipes that have burst. 18° below this morning. About all one can talk about is the weather.

## 1918

### January 1918

**January 1:** There is an old saying that after the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan. “the days begin to lengthen and the cold begins to strengthen”, but I don’t see how we can stand it much colder.

**January 2:** Ruth is having an extra weeks’ vacation on account of the coal shortage. Oscar is staying out so Steve can do the plumbing work.

**January 3:** Oscar has begun to go to dancing school & is delighted with it. Ruth is away over night a little friend.

**January 4:** The big lamp we had in the bathroom last night behaved disgracefully and it took nearly all day to clean up, discouraging.

**January 5:** Ruth & I went up town and did a little shopping in the evening but it was too cold to enjoy it.

**January 6:** This is the first comfortable day we have had for nearly two weeks. We were all over to George’s in the evening. Steve has about finished mending frozen pipes.

**January 7:** Schools are ordered closed until relief comes to the coal situation. Ruth starts her music lessons again today.

**January 8:** We have been able to get a cord and half of wood so maybe we can keep warm if we can’t get coal.

**January 9:** All stores have been requested to close all day on Wednesday to save coal, so we close – and Steve does up odd jobs and saws some wood.

**January 10:** The coal situation is very serious. The state has taken control of the coal in Leominster and you cannot buy coal unless you are entirely out and

**January 11:** then have to sign a card at the police station, present it at the coal office after paying and get no more than ¼ ton sometimes only 100 lbs.

**January 12:** Bradford Cutler came up today to spend the weekend with Oscar. It has rained hard all night, & the roof leaked a little to add to all the rest.

**January 13:** Charles & Ethel walked in on us this morning. It was awfully cold so we did not go out with them at all.

**January 14:** I didn’t send my washing away today but did it myself and helped in the store in the afternoon. I am invited for a whist party on Wednesday.

**January 15:** It snowed nearly all day and I spent most of the day ironing and got caught up. We all went to the pictures.

**January 16:** All grocery & meat stores have been ordered closed every night at 6 o’clock, every night but Saturday when they may remain open until ten and not to reopen

**January 17:** before seven in the morning and all other stores are restricted accordingly to save light and fuel.

**January 18:** A lovely day and I went over to Marian's in the afternoon. I hadn't been out in the daytime for some time it has been so cold.

**January 19:** I was very extravagant today and used sugar enough to make two lemon pies and some doughnuts. Many people haven't baked any for months.

**January 20:** We all go to church and hear the boy Evangelist Charlie Taylor eighteen years old, and he is a wonder. Cold & muddy.

**January 21:** We have spent much time thinking where we could have an inside stairway down to the store. At last we have decided and it began today.

**January 22:** I worked in the store nearly all day so Steve could help the carpenter, and the stairs are progressing rapidly, very cold.

**January 23:** We were aroused in the night with the word Uncle George's store was on fire, families driven out and destruction reigned supreme.

**January 24:** Aunt Nina walked in on us today, quite a surprise. I can't think of much else but the fire now. It will take a long time to repair.

**January 25:** And along came little George Jr. today on their tenth anniversary. Everyone is delighted and everything is going along splendidly considering.

**January 26:** And of course we all had to go and see the new baby yesterday. It is quite a novelty to Oscar & Ruth & Steve & I can help George about the ruins.

**January 27:** We went again today to see the baby, and it was very cold. We certainly have had cold weather enough this year.

**January 28:** Aunt Nina went to Clinton today to do a few days work for a friend. It was bitter cold. The store has to be closed Mon P.M. as Steve & Oscar help George.

**January 29:** Oscar has Monday at home because his school is in a building with stores and Ruth has Saturdays. Yesterday I got things mixed & forgot to call her.

**January 30:** We do enjoy our new stair way so much. I feel like padding them every time I go over them. Nice day, I went over to Marian's.

**January 31:** The neighbors too find them pretty handy and use them as a short cut to the store.

**Memoranda:** We have had no January thaw than this year. The oldest people never saw anything quite like the continued severe cold weather.

## **February 1918**

**February 1:** Aunt Nina came back tonight. Ruth & Oscar went to one of the lecture courses. Very interesting about the war inventions.

**February 2:** She keeps busy all the time sewing for herself and Ruth & I. We hope to accomplish a lot.

**February 3:** It stormed a little all day but we all went over to George's. Marian is looking fine and George Jr. is gaining every day.

**February 4:** And now with all the other inconveniences people are obliged to buy coarse flour products such as graham, rye, [continued]

**February 5:** corn meal, oatmeal etc – as they do of white flour and many people can't use so much. It is a nuisance.

**February 6:** Aunt Nina & I went to Fitchburg today. I bought me a me plush coat, a much better one than I had intended to get. It ought to last years.

**February 7:** Steve & I went to the pictures and I christened my new coat. It is very warm and comfortable. The folks are all quite proud of it.

- February 8:** One of our transports has been torpedoed and sunk, with a loss of 112 of our boys going across for service. It is deplorable.
- February 9:** Oscar has been invited to spend the weekend with one of his instructors at school at his home in Haverhill. Started today.
- February 10:** We all go over to see the new baby again today. Storms a little all day.
- February 11:** A telegram from Oscar says he will not be home until tomorrow night.
- February 12:** Oscar came home tonight having had a very pleasant time. And it was quite an experience for him as he had to come alone.
- February 13:** It turned warmer in the night and it is actually thawing. The first bit of snow that fell is still on the ground and much more.
- February 14:** It keeps on melting and quite a lot of the immense body of snow disappears and it seems so good to have a comfortable day.
- February 15:** We are getting a lot of sewing done but that is about all that does get done, everything else is neglected.
- February 16:** We got news today that Ethel and the baby both are sick with diphtheria, so Nina leaves at once to help.
- February 17:** Steve helps George all day. He hopes to open his store tomorrow, so they are putting in the finishing touches.
- February 18:** Steve brought up a barrel of flour for me today. I haven't had a barrel for a long time, couldn't seem to get one. I wonder how long it will last.
- February 19:** Quite warm and rains most of the day & is taking the snow and ice off splendidly.
- February 20:** The wind blew a gale today, Mrs, Lyon & I went to a lecture on child welfare. It grew exceedingly cold toward night – and
- February 21:** This morning it is zero again. I went to see “The Conqueror” and it was good.
- February 22:** The heatless Mondays have been called off so Oscar won't have to go to school anymore Saturdays & I will be glad not to have to work in the store today.
- February 23:** I haven't seen the baby for ten days. I expect he has gained a lot. Ethel & baby are doing splendidly & the worst is over.
- February 24:** The children and I went to church and Sunday school I and stayed around home the rest of the day.
- February 25:** A lovely warm day Ruth & I went shopping after school & we all went to the pictures in the evening a regular weather breeder.
- February 26:** The wind blew a gale all day and made life miserable for people on the street. & did quite a little damage round about.
- February 27:** Am getting quite a lot of sewing done, finished up a dress for Ruth and one for myself today. Quite a nice day.
- February 28:** Steve went over to George's to look around the repaired and remodeled store and house.
- February 29:** Some of our American soldiers have been killed in France. Not many yet, but somebody's heart is aching for lost loved ones. It is pitiful.
- Memoranda:** More boys are going over all the time, many will never come back, but they go very courageously, and it is well they can.

## March 1918

**March 1:** Rather cool but we know that Spring isn't far away and we have that to look forward to.

**March 2:** A very nice day and I went over to Marian's a little while late this afternoon. How the baby gains.

**March 3:** Church & Sunday school and the wind blew a gale. Edgar & his friend spent the afternoon with us.

**March 4:** Another little snowstorm. Winter hates to leave.

**March 5:** Marian & the baby came over this P.M. it was Jr's first outing and he was a very nice boy.

**March 6:** Didn't feel very good today so don't do much of anything.

**March 7:** To conserve heat the Ladies Circle met today instead of Wed. I went & helped with cutting children's clothes.

**March 8:** The store is being fixed up some, new cases and a few changes which are a great improvement.

**March 9:** Steve & I went to Fitchburg and he got a new suit. I thought it was a good opportunity to have a tooth out while he was with me.

**March 10:** Stayed in all day long for fear of taking cold in my face, it is quite sore. It was a hard tooth to pull.

**March 11:** My face is swollen some so I baby myself as much as I can.

**March 12:** Steve has enjoyed his evenings so much that he is going to close the store Mon. Wed. & Thursday evenings at six thirty.

**March 13:** Went and helped the ladies do some more cutting at Mrs. Telfir's house, a lovely spring day water is running everywhere.

**March 14:** Greeley has had a serious accident, fell twenty five feet from a tree, cut his scalp and broke his elbow, generally shaken.

**March 15:** Blue birds & robins have arrived so they think Spring us coming anyway.

**March 16:** Ruth & I went to Fitchburg but we didn't do much shopping we didn't see any hats we liked.

**March 17:** George & Marian & the baby spent the day with us.- [sic] a lovely day warm & sunny.

**March 18:** By moving the stairway that goes up the back way and using part of my back room & part of the big bedroom, we can have another

**March 19:** sleeping room, so Steve has begun to tear things down to make a beginning, but it may be sometime before it is finished.

**March 20:** It seems more like Spring today than it has at this time for two or three years. Went to the pictures in the evening.

**March 21:** We all went over to George's – baby is still gaining.

**March 22:** Went to a Red Cross meeting and tied quilts for the soldiers under directions of the Mother's Association. Ruth has a cold.

**March 23:** Word came today that Greeley has been taken to the hospital with lockjaw. We are awfully worried.

**March 24:** Quite a number were baptized in our church today Ruth doesn't seem to be feeling very well, cold I suppose, but she has a temperature.

**March 25:** Greeley is taking a little nourishment and we hope with his great strength he can pull through.

**March 26:** I went to Sudbury today to stay with Emma for a few days during the awful suspense while Greeley is in the hospital in Concord.

**March 27:** He was about the same. He is under powerful drugs, that he isn't conscious at all and he looks awful.

**March 28:** I waited for the report from the hospital this P.M. and they thought he seemed a bit better, and then I came home. Ruth is staying with neighbors.

**March 29:** At noon the message came that Greeley had passed away. I can't believe it is possible- So I go back again. It seems so hard.

**March 30:** Not two years since death came and took mother & little we thought big strong rugged Greeley would be the next one.

**March 31:** Easter Sunday and we laid all that was mortal of our brother away today in the little lot in Sudbury with Emma's people.

**Memoranda:** What a sad anniversary Easter will be in his family where usually it is such a bright cheerful day.

## **April 1918**

**April 1:** Dear little Leona but at ten one hardly grasps the seriousness of their losses and perhaps it is just as well.

**April 2:** They want me to teach a class of little girls in Sunday school and I suppose I will have to try but don't feel competent at all.

**April 3:** Am having quite a few callers this week expressing their love and sympathy.

**April 4:** It seems I am starting to realize the sense of loneliness since Greeley's death, I do feel so awfully dull & blue.

**April 5:** A red cross meeting at Mrs. Smith's we did quite a lot of work and I bought some home to do. Cold and raw as can be.

**April 6:** Ruth & I both have new hats., we are not quite satisfied with hers so we are going to change it. So she won't be able to wear hers tomorrow.

**April 7:** A nice day but cool, I went to church. Oscar had too much cold to go. We were all home the rest of the day.

**April 8:** I made two trips up town today and over to George's in the evening, hadn't seen the baby for a long time and I was some tired.

**April 9:** My face is still bothering me some, where I had my tooth out. Maybe I have gotten a cold in it. My jaw seems quite lame.

**April 10:** I went out calling with Mrs. Reed and we called at seven places. It was the first of my returning calls.

**April 11:** Have seen the doctor about my face. He thinks it is no permanent injury, but it is very disagreeable. Can't open my mouth.

**April 12:** It snowed quite hard all day and about six inches fell. Now I hope we will have some nice weather.

**April 13:** Rained and took most of the snow away but made awful nasty traveling.

**April 14:** We all went to church and I started in with my class of little girls.

**April 15:** The first lovely warm day we have had without the chill of Winter in the air.

**April 16:** I am rather grippy today spend most of the time doctoring up.

**April 17 to April 27: blank**

**April 28:** Started painting the house today, it is a big building and will take some time to do it.

**April 29 to May 8: blank**

## May 1918

**May 9:** Jen & Bert came over today in their new automobile. They looked pretty fine and they surely enjoyed it.

**May 10:** I am ashamed that I have neglected my writing so, but if there had been much importance I would have written.

**May 11:** Bradford Cutler came up for the weekend.

**May 12:** The house is all up in arms on account of varnishing the dining room floor, but the boys have a good time, rained all day.

**May 13 to May 14: blank**

**May 15:** We haven't done much to the flower beds on account of painting, will have to wait until that is done.

**May 16:** We are having our garden over to George's so Steve spends all this spare time over there getting things started.

**May 17:** Ruth has been having a siege of boils, she has had five on one eye, two at one time. I meant to Stys.

**May 18:** We are having the loveliest days so bright and clear, I don't think California weather can compare with it.

**May 19:** Aunt Nina is with us today. We just went to Sunday school and back.

**May 20:** Bernice Rackliffe and her baby came and took dinner with us today.

**May 21:** Ruth came home from school today covered with a red rash, but not sick. I suppose it is Liberty measles (German)

May 22: The house painting is about done now and it looks so much better, grey with green trimmings and blinds.

**May 23:** And with our pretty little lawn and trimmed driveway we certainly have made a great improvement on this corner.

**May 24:** Ruth has very uncomfortable itching spells but other wise is very comfortable but will have to stay out of school for a week.

**May 25:** The Junior Department of our Sunday school have a picnic up on Gardner Hill today, but Ruth has to stay at home.

**May 26:** We all went to Church today and walked over to George's in the late afternoon.

**May 27:** Another lot of our boys are about to go from the towns around, and it is pretty sad. When the first

**May 28:** ones went nine months ago a good many felt that the war might be over by now, but things look very discouraging.

**May 29:** I went to Northboro by way of Worcester which took all the afternoon and it rained. The train service is very poor.

**May 30:** We stayed in all day. There were many small jobs to do and Ruth was busy dressing a new doll. Pictures in the evening.

**May 31:** We are having Oscar home for the week because there is so much for Steve to do about the place.

**Memoranda:** We have no fault to find with the Spring season -it has been perfectly glorious all through.

## June 1918

**June 1:** Exceedingly hot for this season. But it makes things grow. My first roses are out.

**June 2:** A beautiful day. Mr. Hayden from Marlboro came to see us in the afternoon.

- June 3:** My first canning for the season strawberries and rhubarb.
- June 4:** The Germain submarines are over here in our waters blowing up everything they can. What will become of us.
- June 5:** Steve and Oscar go over and work in the garden and put up 92 bean poles.
- June 6:** Went to Fitchburg shopping with Mrs. Maynard. A lovely morning.
- June 7:** The first band concert and I went with the children almost too cool to stand around.
- June 8:** Florence Ruby is staying with us for a day or two while her mother is gone away.
- June 9:** Church and over to George's tonight.
- June 10:** I am getting my summer sewing pretty well done up and it is quite a relief.
- June 11:** I attended a Bible School Convention at our church today and heard some very interesting speaking.
- June 12:** Quite hard thunder shower in the P.M. which kept Steve from working on the garden but there were many odd jobs to do.
- June 13:** We went to the pictures and saw Mary Pickford in a funny little picture "Amarilly of Sunshine Alley".
- June 14:** A big patriotic parade and public speaking at night, but rain spoiled it and one of our state guards dropped dead.
- June 15:** I went to the garden and picked peas for tomorrow's dinner. Pretty early and we feel quite proud.
- June 16:** We all went to Church and walked over to see Mary Payson in the afternoon. A perfectly lovely day.
- June 17:** Oscar went to work this morning in a garage downtown for the Summer. Steve will hire a younger boy to work in the store.
- June 18:** The draft age has been changed and includes 18 to 45 so that takes Steve. Some don't know what is before us.
- June 19:** I am trying to work two days a week at the Red Cross and knitting at home. Steve & I went to the pictures.
- June 20:** Just about finished the sweater I brought home six days ago.
- June 21:** Rained nearly all day but we went to Church and we had a good time reading. Oscar brought a little girlfriend home for lunch.
- June 22:** Oscar's first payday & he went to Fitchburg and bought some new clothes he was needing white serge trousers if you please.
- June 23:** Went over to the garden and they finished putting in the corn. Things are looking pretty good.
- June 24:** Worked at the Red Cross rooms all afternoon. Some people lost their gardens last night. Quite a frost in low places.
- June 25:** Did Red Cross work and had Mrs. Maynard down to supper as they go away in the morning for all summer.
- June 26:** Am making three aprons to be done for the R. Cross lawn party sale the 28<sup>th</sup>. Went over to Georges after supper.
- June 27:** Marian and the baby came over here. He is getting so dear and cunning We all went to the High School reception.
- June 28:** The day of the big party at the Country Club for Red Cross but it was terribly cold and none of us went. One would freeze.
- June 29:** The Sunday School picnic at Cogshell park. rained in the morning, but later was very pleasant.



**June 30:** A beautiful Sunday We enjoy staying around home on the piazza this year more than we ever did before.

## **July 1918**

**July 1:** Hannah and her sister are keeping house upstairs and we have some quite jolly little times.

**July 2:** Ruth Lyon & Ruth G – went to Fitchburg today alone on an errand. They felt quite grown up.

**July 3:** Oscar went to Marlboro tonight to stay over the fourth. Ruth Lyon stays all night with Ruth.

**July 4:** A lovely day and on account of the existing dreadful conditions, there isn't the usual noisy & elaborate celebrations.

**July 5:** Oscar went to Marlboro for the 4<sup>th</sup> and is staying over today.

**July 6:** What they haven't had in sickness down to Effie's this Winter and Spring isn't worth mentioning. I don't think there is anything more.

**July 7:** We had a very hard shower this P.M. which washed our driveway badly. The rain came in sheets but was soon over.

**July 8:** Steve & Ruth & I went to see "The Seal of Silence" at the movies. It rains some part of every day now. Showers seem to come out of a clear sky.

**July 9:** Worked hard all day getting ready to go away and went uptown in the evening.

**July 10:** Went to Marlboro today for a couple of days & Tom took use to Sudbury in the evening. Ruth is staying with Aunt Marian.

**July 11:** Today I walked down the old farm road to Mrs. Brown's for a little while and Tom bought me back home in the evening.

**July 12:** While I was away yesterday Jen & Bert came, that is always the way, but suppose they were waiting for the first nice day as I was.

**July 13:** Ruth & I went shopping and bought her a little white middy hat like all the girls are wearing.

**July 14:** William Cutler and a boy friend came for a little while this afternoon, just out for a trolley ride.

**July 15:** Steve & Oscar worked over in the garden in the evening. Ruth & I didn't go.

**July 16:** Effie's folks came up after Ruth and they had a beautiful evening to ride back. She will have a nice little vacation.

**July 17:** Steve's half holiday and we went to Whalom with our lunches & was going to the theater when Oscar arrived, but it rained so we came back early.

**July 18:** Mended all day and went over to George's in the evening.

**July 19:** Oscar & I went to the garden and did some shopping on the way back.

**July 20:** Went to Fitchburg and incidentally bought me two more new sheets.

**July 21:** Charles Ethel & Hazel came up for the day, but it was so hot we kept pretty quiet all day.

**July 22:** We invited Mr. & Mrs. Grain over to the pictures with us and then had ice cream on the piazza for the birthday.

**July 23:** I went to Northboro today where Ruth is at camp with Aunt Effie. Exceedingly hot.

**July 24:** Steve came in the afternoon and they brought us home at night. Splendid ride and a good time.

**July 25:** I feel rather like the day after so don't do anything very important.

**July 26:** blank

**July 27:** Ruth had a lovely visit in Marlboro, Hudson and Sudbury.

**July 28:** Leona came up for a week with Ruth.

**July 29:** And they are having a lovely time. We make trips to Whalom, Cogshell Park, pictures, band concerts and they have the time of their lives.

**July 30 31:** blank

## **August 1918**

**August 1:** Ruth went from Aunt Effie's to Aunt Ethel's in Hudson where she will make a little visit and come home from there.

**August 2:** Blank

**August 3:** Aunt Nina came today also Bradford and Cutler to spend a short time with Oscar.

**August 4:** Oscar got through at the garage last night and will help his father the rest of vacation.

**August 5:** We need another bedroom & by moving the back stairs away and using part of the back room & a little of the big bedroom, we can

**August 6:** [cont.] get a nice bedroom. The carpenter began in it today. It will cost quite a lot with had wood flooring at \$75 a thousand and the rest according.

**August 7:** Aunt Nina went to New Hampshire for a little visit and it was the hottest day they had.

**August 8:** Bradford went back today and Oscar went with him for the rest of the week.

**August 9:** Bradford Cutler is up for a week and they have a splendid time.

**August 10:** Rained nearly all day. Arthur will go with us all down through Ayer tomorrow.

**August 11:** Oscar came home tonight and William came for a visit. George's folks took up to Ayer then down to Charlie's and we brought Ruth home.

**August 12:** We have our family all together again and it seems more like living.

**August 13:** The masons came today to do their part of the work, and I spent the whole day cleaning up after them.

**August 14:** It has been dreadfully hot for a week or more and, today we had a dreadful shower wind & rain in torrents.

**August 15:** and by morning it seemed to be the middle of September such a change in temperature. George & Marion came.

**August 16:** I am not doing a bit of red cross work now. I can't seem to get anytime. I will have to make up later.

**August 17:** Ruth & I went up town and selected new wall paper and electric light fixtures for the new rooms.

**August 18:** Mr. Rector preached today – a splendid sermon. Steve went to Marlboro today to stay over night [sic] trying to collect old bills.

**August 19:** Callers this afternoon but can use front room only to sleep in. I have our bed set up there.

**August 20:** Ruth is making a few last tricos before school opens. Such a difference from when I was her age.

**August 21:** The plaster is all dry in the new room and the started putting on the finish today.

**August 22:** We are having pretty hot muggy days but quite cool morning and evening.

**August 23:** About all I can do these days is clean up the dirt and clutter that the workman leave.

**August 24:** We are having glass doors put on our china closet which is a great improvement to the room.

**August 25:** Also a glass paneled door from the front bedrooms to the piazza in place of the window.

**August 26:** The papers are claiming great victories for our allied armies every day, but what will the end be??

**August 27:** The food authorities are allowing a little more freedom in buying flour now only ¼ substitute instead of 0-0 – 50.

**August 28:** Steve's Wednesday afternoons are spent working around the building there is so much to be done.

**August 29:** Oscar is having a little sick spell maybe on account of such hot weather or something he as eaten.

**August 30:** The carpenter got through tonight. It took longer than expected, but it always does.

**August 31:** And now the painting has got to be done and the floor varnished and the paper put on.

**Memoranda:** In some places they have had light frosts, and we have also had unbearably hot weather.

## September 1918

**September 21:** There is an epidemic spreading rapidly through the whole U. S. especially in training camps where hundreds are stricken daily.

**September 22:** Ruth is sick this morning and we send at once for the Dr. who says it is a mild case of this new disease Spanish Influenza.

**September 23:** Ruth is better today and we are so glad for it is a dangerous affair, the majority of cases develop pneumonia.

**September 24:** Ruth is up today and feels pretty good. I hope none of the rest of us will get it.

**September 25:** Mr. Morse was buried today Steve & I went to the funeral at the Chapel.

**September 26:** All public places such as theaters, schools, dance halls etc. have been ordered closed. Churches allowed one morning service.

**September 27:** Ruth & I went up town & got her a new pair of shoes[.] I also got yarn from Red Cross for a sweater.

**September 28:** We have had quite a few rainy days lately and I have had the time of my life darning and mending. Ruth is learning and enjoys it.

**September 29:** I went to church & Sunday school but didn't urge any one else to go. There was only a handful there. Billy & the Barret boy came.

**September 30:** We are wearing camphor bags where we can smell them constantly. It may prevent disease[;] it surely won't do any harm.

**Memoranda:** The number of cases of sickness is alarming – and so many deaths every day. As many as 80 in one day & Camp Devens.

## October 1918

**October 1:** One instance we know of where the husband wife and two children were all taken within 5 days.

**October 2:** The board of health decide to take better precaution and request all churches to remain closed & funerals private.

**October 3:** The school home has been taken for an emergency hospital and at noon had 18 cases there.

**October 4:** The Red Cross is doing a lot of serving for the emergency hospital and I spend quite a little time there helping.

**October 5:** Sent up a few things to the emergency hospital[,] they are so short of help, that most any thing is appreciated.

**October 6:** The Sundays are pretty quiet with no churchgoing and no automobiling(sic). Nothing like it was ever known around here.

**October 7:** Second emergency hospital opened and is filling fast. Oh where will this thing stop!

**October 8:** Every morning when I wake up I wonder if I am feeling all right and each night I feel thankful that I have been spared another day.

**October 9:** I try to keep the house tidied up in case a stranger should have to come in, in case of sickness although <continues to next day's entry>

**October 10:** there are no nurses to be had and that makes matters so much worse.

**October 11:** We can't take home any work from the Red Cross rooms during the epidemic so I am knitting Oscar a sweater.

**October 12:** Another Liberty Loan drive is on so I have been to Marlboro to get the children's money. They have both signed for a bond.

**October 13:** We went for a walk toward evening, a beautiful quiet day.

**October 14:** Ruth & I both have new hats. I hated to have to buy them this year when every thing is so high but it seemed quite necessary.

**October 15:** Ruth & I went to Fitchburg, bought kid gloves and new ribbons for her birthday and goods for a new coat.

**October 16:** Made a cake for Ruth and she had a little play mate in to supper with her.

**October 17:** The war news seems to be about the same every day. The Americans are chasing the Huns back all the time – and

**October 18:** It doesn't seem as though they could stand it much longer, but of course it means a big casualty list every day.

**October 19:** A letter from Bert tells of this epidemic raging out there on the Western coast. So it is all over the country.

**October 20:** Have finished Oscar's sweater and am making one for Steve.

**October 21:** Am cleaning house – on the pleasant days and have gotten nearly done.

**October 22:** I enjoy the new door leading onto the piazza. [I]t saves so many steps when airing bedding, & I think they get aired oftener.

**October 23:** Oscar has been driving automobiles lately with different people and is thinking of getting a license.

**October 24:** Oscar has gone to Marlboro for a few days while school is closed. They are not having influ. as badly as we are.

**October 25:** Prices have been steadily increasing since the war began sugar 11 [cents] flour \$2 a bag[,] lard & salt pork 86 [cents] lb. butter 68 & 70[,] eggs \$1.00 a doz.

**October 26:** Mr. Hayden came this P.M. & took supper with us. In the evening Aunt Nina walked in on us. double surprise.

**October 27:** Effies folks came up to day and brought Oscar home. Aunt Nina rode back with them[,] lovely day to ride.

**October 28:** Schools opened again to day although there are a few cases of influenza reported daily.

**October 29:** The epidemic is on the wane but it has left many saddened homes, and I don't suppose we will ever know how great

**October 30:** the mortality was at Camp Devens, it was too dreadful to be published.

**October 31:** Ruth is dressed up as a boy tonight to celebrate Halloween in fact nearly all the girls and it is hard to tell who they are

**Memorandum:** Lovely fall weather, but with the existing conditions people don't take much notice of such small matters.

## **November 1918**

**November 1:** Jen & Bert came today and he looks like I <sic> walking ghost he seems so weak and lifeless.

**November 2:** Marian has influenza[,] and will have to wean the baby. I do hope they will get along all right.

**November 3:** William is spending the weekend with Oscar. They have such good times.

**November 4:** We went up and had Steve's questionnaire <sic> filled out and sworn to, not so bad after all.

**November 5:** Oscar took Ruth & I to the pictures. Two splendid war stories one was Mary Pickford in Johanna enlists.

**November 6:** Attended the Social Circle at the church and did quite a little sewing.

**November 7:** News came that the war was ended, and the whole country made great celebrations which lasted well into the night, but it was fake news.

**November 8:** Fathers night at the Mother's Association. Entertained by a group of soldiers from Camp Devens. I helped with refreshments.

**November 9:** Ruth made several trips up town doing my errands. I didn't feel like going out at all.

**November 10:** Rally day at the church, but not as well attended as usual. Steve & I walked over to see how Marian was getting along.

**November 11:** Have made Ruth a new Winter coat from an army blanket and trimmed it with crushed plush and it is quite a success. It surely will be warm.

**November 12:** News of the signing of the armistice came yesterday and was sanctioned by the president so must be true. So we have had two days of celebration.

**November 13:** The whole world is so excited and glad that they don't know what to do. But how much more it must mean to them across the water who have

**November 14:** had to listen to the terrible bombarding for years and have lost nearly all and in many cases all. Oh how dreadful.

**November 15:** Of course it will be sometime before every thing is straightened <sic> out and everlasting peace made sure. The whole world has suffered.

**November 16:** Marian has been having influenza and we were all quite alarmed, but she is gaining now, and will soon be up again.

**November 17:** Eggs 1.00 per dozen and oranges anywhere from .85 to 1.00a dozen. I wonder of the ending of the war will change some of these conditions.

**November 18:** Butter is 74¢ a pound and still going higher.

**November 19 and 20:** blank

**November 21:** Oscar is joining the "Hooks & Crooks" club at his school in Fitchburg and they are making preparations for a big time tomorrow eve.

**November 22:** Nina Moore arrives to attend Oscar's school party & dance also initiation and installation of officers. Of course I went, Pa couldn't get away.

**November 23:** This P.M. the young people went to the movies and we have Oscar's birthday cake for supper. They are glad to go to bed quite early and make up for lost sleep.

**November 24:** Nina went back today and Oscar went as far as Clinton with her. We all attended Church in the morning.

**November 25:** blank

**November 26:** Ruth is developing a couple of stys for the holiday. I don't see what makes her have so many. It must be an eye strain.

**November 27:** Did quite a lot of baking and cleaning up & went to Thanksgiving service at the Methodist Church- a union service.

**November 28:** Effie's folks were up for the holiday and Ruth & I went back with them for the weekend. It was quite cold but we were well bundled up.

**November 29:** Quite dull all day. Ruth & IU went downtown in the morning. Steve came down at night.

**November 30:** It was tonight Steve came. He left Oscar & Tim in the store so arrived a little earlier than expected.

## **December 1918**

**December 1:** Tom brought us all home toward night and it was a very comfortable trip considering the time of year.

**December 2 to 7:** blank

**December 8:** Cloudy dull day quite a little snow on the ground. Ginger & Marian & baby came over. Steve is having one of his headaches.

**December 9:** Influenza is raging again everywhere, but doesn't seem to be quite so serious as it was before but nobody wants it if they can help it.

**December 10 11 12:** blank

**December 13:** Spent the P.M. working at the Red Cross rooms and brought home 10 chemise to make for the refuges abroad.

**December 14:** The call for worker is more urgent than it was before the close of the war, so many people have been made destitute by it.

**December 15:** We were all over George's in the afternoon and evening, baby is so good and cunning.

**December 16:** Boys are coming home from over here now although of course many will have to stay for a long time yet.

**December 17:** Our president has gone abroad to attend the peace conferences. It is the first time ever a president has gone out of the country while in office.

**December 18:** George is having influenza not so very hard for which we are all grateful.

**December 19:** Read missionary letters at a missionary meeting at Mrs. Lyons. Am not much in love with public reading.

**December 20:** Christmas shopping seems quite a problem with prices double and in some cases three times what they used to be.

**December 21:** Baby George has influenza seems to be a mild case, and I hope he will get along all right.

**December 22:** Gave each of my Sunday school class a little handkerchief & sachet bag. We all went to the Christmas concert. White gifts for the king was very impressive.

**December 23:** Got the last of my parcels off today and it was quite a relief. Hope I haven't forgotten anyone that I shouldn't.

**December 24:** Ruth & I were going to Marlboro tonight but I wasn't feeling very well, dreadful cold and it rained hard, so didn't venture out.

**December 25:** We all went to Marlboro to spend the holiday and had a very pleasant time. Emma & Leona were there. So glad to spend the day together.

**December 26:** I was sick all night and all day today felt very miserable. Ruth does the house work. William came up with Oscar.

**December 27:** I don't know whether I have been having a spell of indigestion or a slight touch of influenza but I feel better today anyhow.

**December 28:** I feel a whole lot better today and so a big days work, but got a little more cold with it.

**December 29:** Just go to Sunday school and we all stay at home the rest of the day.

**December 30:** We have had no cold weather so far and very little snow. If I would stay like this Winter would be very agreeable.

**December 31:** It tried to snow a little today but it didn't amount to much. I ironed all day long.

## 1919

### January 1919

**January 1:** We are having a sleet storm. This morning it was laughable to see the people try to keep on their feet. George & Marian came over in the P.M. & the 4 of us went to the pictures in evening.

**January 2:** Dull weather continues and I always enjoy it. I can seem to get a lot of sewing & mending done.

**January 3:** No school today on account of the rain. Ruth has a good time sewing with me. Looked for Aunt Nina but she didn't come.

**January 4:** It seems to be clearing and going some colder. I haven't had to go out for a whole week (only to the pictures and what a good time I have had).

**January 5:** Oscar & I went to Church. Steve & Ruth & I went to George's after dinner. Oscar was too interested in a book to go with us.

**January 6:** One of our neighbors passed away with pneumonia following influenza last night and her daughter is sick into death with the same affliction.

**January 7 8 9 10:** blank

**January 11:** A trip to Asburnham.

**January 12:** Our president had gone to France to hold a peace conference and try to form a league of nations.

**January 13:** The nations abroad seem to depend a whole lot on President Wilson to bring order out of this awful war conditions.

**January 14 – 19:** blank

**January 20:** There have been socials missionary meeting and so on that I have neglected to jot down.

**January: 21-29** blank

**January 30:** President Wilson stayed several weeks and then came back to adjourn Congress.

**January 31:** and went back to Europe again to finish up business at the peace conference.

**Memoranda:** Everybody is hoping for a lasting peace throughout the world.

## February 1919

**February 1 – 6: blank**

**February 7:** I have neglected this poor little book most awfully all winter, I don't know what makes me.

**February 8 -12: blank**

**February 13:** Went to Marlboro along about this time, can't tell just what day.

**February 14 – 28: blank**

## March 1919

**March 1- 2: blank**

**March 3:** Went to Ashburnham. How easy it is to make these little visits when we think they may be ill.

**March 4 -14: blank**

March 15: We have had a most delightful Winter. We couldn't have asked for anything better

**March 16 -17: blank**

**March 18:** Oscar is having a hard cold and stays in bed all day.

**March 19:** and nearly all day in bed but is better.

**March 20:** Oscar gets out and around just in time to take Steve's place in the store for he is sick with neuralgia and

**March 21:** Sciatica and of course is in a good deal of pain. We have the Dr. for him.

**March 22:** So Oscar is out of school a whole week. I don't know what we do if he were not here.

**March 23 – 24: blank**

**March 25:** Went up to Oscar's school to have a talk with his teachers.

**March 26 – 27: blank**

**March 28:** Lovely warm day. Hardly a trace of Winter left around town, but there is still a lot of snow in the country. Missionary exercises in the Sunday school. Went over to George's.

**March 29 – 30: blank**

**March 31:** Not one freeze up and I guess we won't have one now-. It was such a treat after such a winter last year.

## April 1919

**April 1:** The social circle met but I was too busy to go.

**April 2:** Have made Ruth a pretty new blue & white voile for Easter with lots French knots on it, lots of work but it is pretty.

**April 3:** Mrs. Smith and her daughter who teaches school in N.H. called this afternoon, also Mrs. Conway.

**April 4:** Laura Smith came over in the evening to learn how to make "monkey face" lace that I have been making.

**April 5:** Drizzled all day. The Yankee division arrived in Ayer today that is the first of them. It will take some time for them all to come.

**April 6:** William Cutler came up and stayed over night and went to his work in Boston in the morning.

**April 7:** Am making a cape coat for Ruth, they seem to be very popular this Spring, but I don't know how long they will last.

**April 8:** Had callers, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Johnston & Mrs. Lyon spent a very pleasant afternoon.



**April 9:** We're having a lot of rainy days lately and showers seem to come up very suddenly typical April weather.

**April 10:** Made a very quick trip to Fitchburg for material to sew with and hurry back to work.

**April 11:** Have been hurrying on a dress that I was making over to wear to a social tonight but didn't get it done and was too tired to go, but Ruth went with neighbors.

**April 12 – 30: blank**

## **May 1919**

**May 1-31: blank**

## **June 1919**

**June 1-25: blank**

**June 26:** School finished today Ruth goes into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade next year.

**June 27:** Steve starts on a trip to Nova Scotia to see his people and I am going to run the business while he is gone.

**June 28:** Ruth is getting ready to go down to Effie's for a little while. Ruth Maynard helps me in the store.

June 29: Effie came after Ruth today such a beautiful day.

June 30: It seems as though it will be a long time before Steve comes back but two weeks usually rolls by quickly enough.

## **July 1919**

**July 1: blank**

**July 2:** We are having an exceedingly hot spell, and I guess I just as soon be working in the store as trying to do housework.

**July 3:** Ruth & I had to work pretty hard today, good weather for ice cream and tonic and we went over the top in business,

**July 4:** Oscar & I were invited over to George's for dinner and then for a ride. It was too hot to be comfortable anywhere.

**July 5 - 9: blank**

**July 10:** Steve came home today and I was glad indeed – had worked hard to have the store all spic and span.

**July 11:** George came over to hear the news from N.S. He is planning to go later.

July 12 - 31: blank

## **August 1919**

**August 1- 3: blank**

**August 4:** I keep thinking I will go somewhere on a vacation, but I don't seem to find any place to go and am quite satisfied to stay at home.

**August 5 – 8: blank**

**August 9:** Bradford Cutler is up for a week and they have a splendid time.

**August 10- 22: blank**

**August 23:** Oscar went to Lake Sunapee today to spend a week at a house party with other young people and a chaperone.

**August 24:-31: blank**

## September 1919

**September 1 -11: blank**

**September 12:** Aunt Nina has been up for a while and did quite a little sewing for us.

**September 13-20: blank**

**September 21:** Had a nice long ride with George's folks countryward.

**September 22: blank**

**September 23:** Frank J is over from Rochester & today he came here with Effie and Vesta Maynard and we all went to see Jen & Bert in in Ashburnham in his Studibaker.

**September 24 -30: blank**

## October 1919

**October 1-5: blank**

**October 6:** Mr. & Mrs. Brown came today from Marlboro, and wanted me to go back with them but of course I couldn't on such short notice, but are coming for

**October 7:** me later for a few days visit and I must try and be ready.

**October 8 – 12: blank**

**October 13:** I have neglected this book awfully all summer and I am ashamed. There has been something going on continually.

**October 14:** Frank Johnston & Vesta Maynard are married in Rochester N.Y. today. Hope they will be spared to each other for many years.

**October 15: blank**

**October 16:** The Brown's came for me today and we went to the Chinese restaurant in Marlboro to supper- to the movies then to Crown and had ice cream then to their house.

**October 17:** Roamed about the farm a bit in the morning and to the Woman's Club in the P.M. a vary interesting reading of a play.

**October 18:** Picked apples in the morning and a noon went up to Effie's to go with them on a trip over the Mohawk trail, just a glorious mountain day. We go as far

**October 19:** as Turner's Falls stayed there last night and went to movies, rode all day through the beautiful Berkshires. The most wonderful trip I have ever had.

**October 20:** The left me here at home about 9 o'clock last night. I don't feel tired today at all, but my face is awfully burnt.

**October 21:** I feel as if I have had about two weeks vacation, there was so much going on in the little time I was away.

**October 22:** Ruth proved herself to be a good little housekeeper, doing rather more than was necessary.

**October 23:** We have had rain mist every day and hardly and sunshine. I don' know what the reason is but I am glad I like dull weather.

**October 24:** The first Church social of the season. Captain Johnston lectured on the Rhino – Splendid time.

**October 25:** We have ordered one of the new pipeless heaters to be installed right away. I hope it will be satisfactory.

**October 26:** I haven't missed but one Sunday from Sunday school in about 9 months. Haven't I done well?

**October 27:** We went to the pictures tonight with Mr. & Mrs. Niles who live in the house with us.

**October 28:** Mrs. Brown sent me my picture taken as a farmerette at their home.

**October 29:** Ironed nearly all day so that if we should have one pleasant day this week I might clean house.

**October 30:** I cleaned two rooms today and went to a concert in the evening.

**October 31:** Went to a State Convention in Fitchburg today – very interesting speakers.

**Memoranda:** The Whatever class had a party tonight but I am too tired to go after potting about 100 bulbs for Winter blooming.

## **November 1919**

**November 1:** Helen Walcott of my Sunday school class gave a Halloween party this P.M. so of course I went. They had quite fun. quite warm

**November 2:** How it rained but cleared by noon. Oscar had a friend Howard Sherman to dinner. We went over to George's after dinner. It had grown quite a bit cooler.

**November 3:** Dull all day. I don't believe we will ever get through house cleaning.

**November 4:** Cleaned some in the kitchen, not fit to clean anywhere else.

**November 5:** Finished cleaning in the kitchen and went to the Sircle. [sic]

**November 6:** Clothing and shoes are terribly high shoes around 19 dollars and more if you will pay it.

**November 7:** With no Red Cross work to do it would seem we would have time for ordinary work, but I don't seem to get as much done as when I spent two days a week for them.

**November 8:** Thirty-nine cents a yard for a yard wide outing flannel and not very heavy at that.

**November 9:** Effie's folks drove up today. She has been miserable since the Mohawk Trail Trip.

**November 10:** Our furnace has been ordered for a long time but it doesn't seem to get along.

**November 11:** Most every day there is a new strike reported somewhere and something else goes high.

**November 12:** Have invited the Brown's up to celebrate Oscar's birthday later in the week.

**November 13:** Poured all day so didn't look for company but made Oscar's cake.

**November 14:** Mr. & Mrs. Brown came this P.M. but couldn't stay long – a hurried lunch and went. Howard Sherman was here to supper.

**November 15:** We try to have somebody in Saturday night to help us eat beans. They last so long if we don't.

**November 16:** Church & Sunday school as usual. Haven't missed but one Sunday for a long long time.

**November 17:** Am spending a lot of time preparing a missionary paper and wish somebody else would do it.

**November 18:** Did some errands uptown today.

**November 19:** Read a paper at the missionary meeting on India.

**November 20:** Spent most of the day soliciting money for the Woman's Missionary Jubilee Drive.

**November 21:** Was on the "kitchen committee" at the Church tonight.

**November 22:** Flower is \$15 a bbl [sic] and sugar almost impossible to get, worse than it was during the war.

**November 23:** We all went to church. A crowd of young people came in the evening, had trouble with their machine and didn't get home till after two.

**November 24:** Baked minced meat pies fruit cake, made cranberry sauce etc. - for Thanksgiving.

**November 25:** They promised the furnace for Thanksgiving so I had planned to work in the store so Steve helped set it up but didn't come so I didn't have to.

**November 26:** Squash pies, light cake stuffed the Turkey and got my vegetables ready for tomorrow.

**November 27:** The folks from Marlboro were up for the day and Ruth went back with them for the weekend.

**November 28:** Oscar went to Marlboro too for the rest of the week.

**November 29:** It is so lonesome with both children gone and the turkey hangs on well. Mrs. Phillips came.

**November 30:** Effie's folks came up and brought Ruth home. Oscar came later in the cars.

**Memoranda:** We have had very little sunshine although November.

## **December 1919**

**December 1:** Something happened to my wash at the laundry, it came home like unbleached cotton and I had to send it back.

**December 2:** The wash came back again looking about the same, so I sent it again, and they brought home at night all dry, and blue enough to hide the yellow, quite a combination.

**December 3:** This is the first real snappy weather we have had, everybody's nose looks red.

**December 4:** We are having a one pipe heater installed, they are quite new and we wonder if we will be satisfied with it, it seems very reasonable. The preliminary work is all done.

**December 5:** Just waiting for the plumber to put it together. I worked in the store all day while Steve worked on that. The girls went after laurels and berries.

**December 6:** We had hoped the heat would be in by tonight but it isn't, we are comfortable so it doesn't matter so much.

**December 7:** Our first snowstorm came last night and it is pretty sloppy walking. It won't last long. Dull all day after church we read & snooze the rest of the day.

**December 8:** They finished the work on the furnace and we had our first fire tonight. I had the honor of touching the match to it for the first time.

**December 9:** And now the dinning room floor had got to be varnished so today I have moved out everything that can be moved in readiness.

**December 10:** Went to our class social at Mrs. Phillip's house today, had a pleasant time. quite cold

**December 11:** I haven't got much done for the Christmas, someway I never get time to do much till the last minute and then I have to hurry.

**December 12:** Something happens every day so we can't get our laurel to make wreaths of. It rains a great deal.

**December 13:** Ruth & I went shopping this P.M. Got an early start and got quite a lot done. Very warm too warm for fires. Shoes for Ruth \$10.

**December 14:** Rains very hard in the forenoon clearing and much colder. Every member canvas day at the church

**December 15:** So cold & windy, Ruth went the woods and brought home pine trees. She is trimming the store window.

**December 16:** Went to Fitchburg with Mrs. Lyon in their sedan and it was very comfortable Although it was very cold outside. We don't go very often on the electrics at 10¢ fares.

**December 17:** The coldest day we have had, some below zero at night quite a test for our furnace but we are very comfortable.

**December 18:** Sixteen below zero today, quite cold enough for me and I hope it wont stay long like this.

**December 19:** Shopping with Ruth today. No freeze up so far I'm glad to say.

**December 20:** Doing up and sending away parcels takes quite a lot of time, but we got the last one sent off today. A little bit warmer.

**December 21:** Spend the afternoon and evening writing Christmas letters and cards stopping long enough to go to the Christmas concert.

**December 22:** I gave celluloid bookmarks to the Sunday School girls this year. Effie's folks are coming up here to spend Xmas. They will bring Emma.

**December 23:** Every day it looks like snow, but manages to clear away without any. Am not doing much cooking for the holiday.

**December 24:** Spent a couple of hours today doing up parcels to distribute among the less fortunate. It seems as though I couldn't spare the time but I guess I won't miss it.

**December 25:** A little snow came in last night which makes it look very Christmassy, just enough to cover the ground. The folks came and we had a most enjoyable day & lots of gifts.

**December 26:** Steve gave me an electric toaster so we are enjoying electrified bread from the bare table spread with a pretty luncheon set which Aunt Marie gave us.

**December 27:** The skating is good and Ruth is trying out her new skates that Oscar gave her. Mrs. Scott one of our tenants was taken to the hospital with pneumonia today.

**December 28:** Bertwell Woodbury spent the afternoon with us and George's folks were here to supper.

**December 29:** A big box came from California today filled with gifts and blossoms from their garden and such a bunch of their beautiful pepper berries.

**December 30:** They are planning family group meetings at our church for the study of work of the Northern Baptist Convention. Ten families

**December 31:** grouped together with a leader meeting at various houses. Nobody wants to be leader.

## 1920

### January 1920

**January 1:** Ice men are harvesting splendid firm thick ice and having good weather but help is scarce.

**January 2:** a letter from Bert says his house had been broken into twice within a year, and many things taken. That surely is very serious.

**January 3:** Oscar has gone to Marlboro for the weekend. It is very cold.

**January 4:** I learned today that I will have to be the leader for the family group in this section. I don't want to but maybe it won't be so hard. Lyons family called

**January 5:** Daddy-long legs tonight everybody feels they must see that- and it was worthwhile – good-clean- and extremely funny.

**January 6:** The group meeting here with eight present. Mr. Slocumit a retired minister helped wonderfully.

**January 7:** Another good picture tonight William Farmer we're reckless. Social circle making baby dresses for our missionary work in Africa.

**January 8:** To prayer meeting and report our group meeting. Had never attended in mid week before, shameful.

**January 9:** The Mother's association are having a drive for new members and I will have to work on that. The loosing side must finish dinner.

**January 10:** About six & eight inches of snow has fallen and now the sun is coming up clear and bright. Oh to be in the country this morning and look off over fields and pastures and into the deep woods and see the stretches of undisturbed whiteness, bushes bearing up their loads, pines that have caught and held their armful, & hemlocks bending to the ground.

**January 11:** We all went to Church. George's folks were over to supper

**January 12:** We have the telephone in the house now which comes in pretty handy when I have so much outside work to do.

**January 13:** Group meeting at Mrs. Lyons.

**January 14:** Did some errands uptown and called on Mrs. Johnston & her mother who has broken her collar bone, biting cold.

**January 15:** Spend all my spare time calling up people to join the mother's association and have gotten two new members.

**January 16:** A committee meeting here to plan for the teacher's & officers supper for the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**January 17:** It snowed about all day and the wind came up. Steve is having a bad headache.

**January 18:** The storm seems to be over, but the wind is a regular gale, the snow is piling up in places, and it is almost impossible to stand up against it.

**January 19:** A bitter cold day, but I had several errands which took me out & made 2 calls.

**January 20:** Work in the store just about all day while Steve thaws out the pipes. Group meeting here in the evening.

**January 21:** Wises acres promised us an open Winter, but it is a long ways from it. We have had a lot of snow and it keeps so cold it all stays.

**January 22:** Did up the last errands in preparation of the supper. It is quite a lot of work.

**January 23:** The teachers & officers supper tonight with about 50 present. I never was chairman of a supper before & dreaded it, but it was quite successful.

**January 24:** More snow. Ruth went snowshoeing today, thinks it great fun.

**January 25:** Had the Smith family over to lunch. Laura is soon to be married and go to Winchester N.H. to live.

**January 26:** Only 12 & 14 below zero this morning and snow banked up everywhere. An electric car stalled this side of Hudson with passengers all night & half a day.

**January 27:** Oscar has begun to take music lessons again and I hope he will keep it up. Turned very warm, snow is melting fast. Made two calls.

**January 28:** More snow- and there is so much on the ground now that it is hard getting round.

**January 29:** Lovely day for Laura Smiths wedding, but cold.

**January 30:** Called at Mrs. Smiths on invitations to see the wedding gifts, and got some wedding cake.

**January 31:** Oscar started early this morning for Boston on a truck with someone and it proved to be some 17<sup>o</sup> or so below zero and stays cold all day. I know he'll perish but he wouldn't give it up.

**Memoranda:** One day of thaw is all we got this year, we have had a terribly cold month.

## **February 1920**

**February 1:** Oscar brought William C. home for over Sunday. So cold last night that it froze and broke our water meter. Steve had to work all day.

**February 2:** We are thankful to find it is growing warmer. It is almost equal to two years ago.

**February 3:** Group meeting at Mrs. Lyon's.

**February 4:** Influenza is raging again this year. The cases don't seem quite as severe although there have been a few deaths.

**February 5:** Snowed all day by night there was a blizzard, - and we had enough already.

**February 6:** Traffic is tied up everywhere. Trains are stalled in out of the way places and much hardship is endured.

**February 7:** Never do I remember seeing so much snow on the ground. Impossible for motor vehicles to get around.

**February 8:** A most beautiful day. We attend church. Just room on the sidewalk for walking singly. The country roads are impassible.

**February 9:** Paul Lyon has scarlet fever not severely though & Ruth is coming over to stay with us, so she can go to school, if she doesn't have it herself.

**February 10:** Group meeting at Mrs. Smith's. There hasn't been any express in or out of Leominster for four days.

**February 11:** Hannah & Ruth Maynard both have influenza quite mild cases and are quite comfortable now.

**February 12:** Influenza is quite prevalent but not as severe as last year so far, and we are just hoping it won't be.

**February 13:** Oscar has been at home for two days with a sore throat.

**February 14:** The two Ruth's went to a costume party this evening. And had a lovely time. A beautiful day we don't have many.

**February 15:** We wake up to find four or five inches more of snow on what we already have, we will soon be burried up.

**February 16:** We talk California quite a bit these days, when everything is burried in snow and ice. Very few trolley lines in operation.

**February 17:** Group meeting here nine present. So many people have colds or someone sick in the family.

**February 18:** Annual Missionary meeting at the Church. Dr. Perry spoke on American organizations.

**February 19:** The board of health are taking great credit upon themselves for the wave of influenza. I can't see where they can claim any credit. They know so little about it.

**February 20:** Mrs. Bert Lyon has broken her arm so we do a little mending for her today.

**February 21:** Am feeling miserable and go to bed for the afternoon, the girls go snowshoeing.

**February 22:** Spend nearly all day in bed unusual for me. The girls go snowshoeing.

**February 23:** A holiday that I guess many people want. Nothing to do and so much snow you can't get anywhere, I feel better today.

**February 24:** blank

**February 25:** Missionary meeting at the church. I am press correspondent this year and had to report my first meeting. (This was on the 17th of March) mistake.

**February 26 to March 1:** blank

## **March 1920**

**March 2:** There doesn't seem to be many places to hold our group meetings so they come here again.

**March 3 to 5:** blank

**March 6:** The worst blizzard of the season and with what we have already got on the ground I don't know what we will do.

**March 7:** blank

**March 8:** Went to church but not many there. We have had many bad Sundays this Winter.

**March 9:** The chairman on work for the missionary hospital has backed out so all falls on me. We have \$15 to use for material. Group meeting here.

**March 10 to 12:** blank

**March 13:** Ruth Lyon went back home today.

**March 14:** Electric roads are severely crippled many lines haven't been able to run for weeks.

**March 15:** Steam trains have just got to running again though not always on time.

**March 16:** Group meeting at Mrs. Lyon's not largely attended, only six present.

**March 17:** Missionary meeting Children's day with appropriate exercises.

**March 18:** Went to Marlboro today, hadn't seen the folks since Christmas but it makes a short day.

**March 19:** Another snowstorm and I hope it will be the last, we have seen about all we to for one winter.

**March 20:** We have Ruth's picture enlarged and we are terribly disappointed with it. I would rather not have any.

**March 21:** Quite cool today and no janitor at the church and everyone was cold.

**March 22:** The snow is going fast and no damage around here, but there can't help but be some near the rivers.

**March 23:** Such lovely days - A combines group meeting at Mrs. Smith's.

**March 24:** A most interesting lecture at the Mother's assn and then shopping for missionary work.

**March 25:** Had five ladies here this P.M. to cut out garments for the new missionary hospital in South India after which we had a social time.

**March 26:** Went uptown without rubbers today such a treat we have worn them so long.

**March 27:** The crosstown cars went over the lines today. The line is just thawed out. It hasn't been before for a good many weeks.

**March 28:** Baby George has chicken pox but is not very sick.

**March 29:** Ruth is home with an ulcerated tooth, very painful.

**March 30:** Ruth's toothaches until nearly night, we find some ice in a bag is the greatest relief.

**March 31:** Went calling and shopping with Mrs. Hutchinson.

**Memoranda:** I guess spring will be early as usual, after such a hard and tedious Winter.

## **April 1920**

**April 1:** Had ten ladies here to sew on the garments we cut out last week, and we made 15 little slips, and had a pleasant time.

**April 2:** Attended good Friday union services in the Congregational Church.

**April 3:** Beautiful day tried to do a little Easter shopping but there was such a crowd doing the same thing I gave up.

**April 4:** Easter Sunday dull & gray with snow & hail at noon and pouring rain in the afternoon, however the concert was attended.

**April 5:** Rained all day. In the evening I attended a talk, one of a series for the benefit of parents & children in choosing wisely a high school course.



**April 6:** A meeting at church preparing for the great 100 million dollar drive for missions which will start soon, great enthusiasm.

**April 7:** About 3 inches of snow fell last night. Will winter ever leave us. We took the Missionary sewing to social circle, but not many out, so didn't get much done.

**April 8:** William Cutler bobbed in last evening. Is going to Detroit Saturday. Expect Oscar will be uneasy to go. Squalled all day & cold as can be & no coal.

**April 9:** Potatoes \$1.25 a pk. I thought I would have a new suit for Easter but \$65-\$100 looks most too big for me now.

**April 10:** I had my S.S. class here for a little party 12 in all and they had a fine time. In the evening I went to a "kids party" in Middle House and short skirt, at Mrs. Tuckers. Steve could not go. There were 20 others and a rollicking time.

**April 11:** Had some headache after such riotous living but went to church. Oscar brought his girl home for supper.

**April 12:** Tried to catch up with some work that was left over from last week, did my regular work and went shopping in the afternoon. Ruth & I went to a vocational guidance talk in the evening while dad stripped the paper from the hall that is to be papered.

**April 13:** A rainy day, Mrs. Smith was in a while this morning - we always find so much to talk about, and she says when she comes here she never knows enough to go home and such an intellectual woman too. I feel quite honored.

**April 14:** A meeting at the church getting ready for the great hundred million dollar drive which starts soon. Also the entertainment to the winning side in the contest for new members in the Mother's Assn. furnished by the losing side. It was splendid. I spent a little time at both.

**April 15:** I had another sewing bee today and we nearly finished 16 little shirts for the missionary hospital. Eleanor Meyer came home with Ruth and helped with the refreshments. We had two guests of honor Mrs. Meyer was able to be out, and Mrs. Johnston who is leaving so soon.

**April 16:** Rather tired today. A few errands uptown was about all I accomplished today.

**April 17:** Well I suppose you'd say I'm crazy. I've taken a boarder. A young chap working with Oscar with whom he is very chummy. He has no home here, and no parents, was lonesome, so I did for him what I would be glad to have anyone do for Oscar.

**April 18:** Am not feeling awfully well today but go to church just the same, everything is missionary drive, and I hope they will go over the top. Effie's folks came up this P.M. First trip this Spring. Quite a comfortable day.

**April 19:** A holiday, nothing doing and I don't like holidays. Steve helps George part of the day. The children are off here & there and I am alone all the afternoon, don't feel like going out - George's folks over for the evening and had their hair cut.

**April 20:** A lovely spring day, the first warm day we have had. It seems so good.

**April 21:** Sugar is getting awfully scarce again and seems to be going higher. Some are getting \$20 a pound for it.

**April 22:** I really think we would sell our place if we could get a good price for it and go to California. Real estate is high.

**April 23:** Supper at church for all the canvassers in the big drive and we select the names of the ones we are to see.

**April 24:** It keeps awfully cold. Elinor Meyer was down to visit Ruth.

**April 25:** Attend church services and then start out on the big drive to raise \$100,000,000 in the Baptist Campaign, and I was some tired at night.

**April 26:** The most delightful party at Mrs. Goodhue's, many worth while people and such a good time. Her mother Mrs. Velter from Penn was there.

**April 27:** Rained – Ironed and mended. Oscar gave up his job in the piano shop, too small pay. They didn't hold up their agreement.

**April 28:** Rained all day, and Ruth and I sew and mend all day – there are so many things to be done before house cleaning.

**April 29:** Did a little canvassing for the drive and went to prayer meeting to report.

**April 30:** Just started house cleaning today. We haven't had much weather for cleaning and I have been so busy with the outside work.

**Memoranda:** Not much Spring work done yet outside, it rained a great deal and is cold.

## May 1920

**May 1:** This is the first year that Ruth hasn't made and hung May baskets. She thinks she is too grown up.

**May 2:** Real warm in the sunshine we sit out on the piazza for a while. It seems as though our summers are so short.

**May 3:** Oscar has given up his job at Jewetts. They didn't hold to their agreement and he couldn't make a comfortable wage.

**May 4:** So dad is using him in the store while he does some home repair work.

**May 5:** We really are getting the automobile fever, dad declares he is to have one. A used one of course will be the thing for us.

**May 6:** I have been arguing with myself pro & con about getting a new suit for some time and now have made up my mind to get one.

**May 7:** Am having trouble with my feet sore and tired, went to see the foot Dr and he fitted me for arches, uncomfortable things, don't now whether they help or not.

**May 8:** Got my suit today, blue tric-o-tine quite plain and pretty. Sixty-five dollars original price, marked down.

**May 9:** It rains the greater part of the time now, we had three sunny days this week in succession, the most we have had for a longtime.

**May 10:** Steve & I went to Fitchburg today to look at automobiles. He surely has the fever didn't see anything interesting.

**May 11:** Mrs. Conway sews with me today making a few changes on my suit, such a dear woman.

**May 12:** I wore my new suit tonight. Went to George's. Cleaned the sitting room today.

**May 13:** If dad should get his price for the place I am sure he would sell and then California.

**May 14:** Different ones are coming to talk automobile to Steve but so far he hasn't decided anything.

**May 15:** Quite cool, I spent the afternoon in bed. Ruth & I did a little shopping in the evening.

**May 16:** A lovely day we went to Church and just before dark we went to walk after sunning ourselves on the piazza all the afternoon.

**May 17:** The grandest day- the birds are mating joyously the leaves are bursting out everything breathes of the Springtime and I am washing.

**May 18 – July 2: blank**

## July 1920

**July 3:** Rained hard all day which put a damper on business in general. Ruth & I did our shopping in the morning rain.

**July 4:** A Union Sunday School Service on the common, large attendance. Dad & I went to walk and got caught in a shower, very cold for this time.

**Last notation, nothing more**