

## The Diary of Carrie Ingalls 1913-1919

Similar to the 1886-1893 transcription, I have copied word for word for the years 1913 - 1919.

The routine is the same - I type a year's worth, show Leona the text and my questions, and make corrections.

An **advisory or two** is in order before continuing. Since Carrie Spalding Ingalls is the diary writer, events are obviously filtered through her perceptions and awarenesses. Other people mentioned herein may have seen it otherwise. Second, my interpretation of information, despite my best efforts, is simply that - an interpretation. So, I'm trying to caution that while I hope to be fair to this family, the reality is that there's lots of room to come to other conclusions. Reading the diary will let you decide whether your interpretation is close to mine. And too much time has passed that most of the people mentioned in the diary are not alive to defend themselves. But, on I press.

**The obvious questions arises.** The last diary entry was in 1893. Nineteen years are skipped before restarting in 1913.

Why? No one alive knows that answer. One can suspect that four kids, age five or younger, with five more to come, played a role. If there are other reasons, they are not stated.

**Does the diary show anything different about Carrie's style?** The answer, for me, is a definite yes. Entries are two to three times longer, meaning more detail is given (and a year's typing takes longer!). There's a flow and maturity that wasn't there two decades earlier. Her position in life has changed from young housewife to middle-aged grandparent. The punctuation, at times, still is sparse so the subject of one sentence following the verb of the previous one makes for some humorous juxtapositions (We cooked Trum..., The girls washed the men..., Arch butchered Trum..., etc.) And constant is the weather beginning each entry. Her punctuation of contractions are still the same, putting the apostrophe in front of the n instead of the t (has'nt). Carrie notes the details of life without much giving away of her own emotions but she does it more often than her first eight years of diary. Also, Carrie does not miss a single day during these seven years. All the diaries during the teens are done on one day per page books whereas most of the earlier diaries placed two or three days per page.

When we last visited this Ingalls family at the end of 1893, Trum and Carrie lived in the big half of the house owned by his father and mother, Ransom

and Adaline (Losee) Ingalls, on what today we call Old Plank Road, near the intersection with Johnny Cake Lane. The ages of the family members would be as follows:

- Trum 29
- Carrie 30
- Warren 5
- Ransom 3
- Carrie 2
- Stanley 1
- Ransom 57
- Adaline 53

**After nineteen years go by**, and 1913 begins, we find this family:

- Trum 48
- Carrie 49
- Stanley 20
- Clarence 17
- Elgirtha 15
- Ruth 12
- Dorothy 8
- Leona 6
- Ransom 76
- Adeline 72

The three oldest children are married and live elsewhere. Warren (24) has married Margaret Tremmel in 1910, and have one son, Gerald, who was born June, 1912. Gerald is the pride of Grandma. Ransom (22) has married Ethel Abrams in 1912. Carrie (21) has married third-cousin Ed Ingalls, the son of Calvin and Mary (Rockefeller) Ingalls in 1911. All three married children live close enough so that Trum and Carrie can visit.

What happens during these 19 years are missing, at least in diary form. The details of the first children leaving the nest, changes in lifestyles, loss of loved ones, etc., are left to the imagination. **And, so we start with 1913.**

First, to be fair, the big brush strokes of life should be painted first. It would be easy to focus on all the "different" events and lead the reader into thinking it was normal.

Actually, the basics of life have not changed much. **Farm life and agriculture consume a major part** of Trum's life; the other major part still is hauling loads to markets. Although the farm work probably needs as much time as it did twenty years earlier, the diary shows Trum spending much more time in the **lumbering business**. In addition, the trips to Cox-sackie do not dominate the market destinations as they once did. This may be a result of the other men going more, but it's also a reflection of a greater variety of markets for the Ingalls. The names of hired men play a lesser role than before and this is mostly

due to the availability of strong, young sons. Even though Warren and Ransom no longer live home, they still help out. Furthermore, Stanley and Clarence are dutiful sons and obviously do their share of the work. Thus the need for hired men is more limited, even though at least seven different men work parts of the 1913 at the Ingalls, Arch Matthews appearing to be the one who works most of the time. However, at a particular timber job here and there, Trum could have 5-10 hired men.

**For Carrie, the housework dominates her life.** However, the influence of her children plays an increased role in her life and much of the increase of detail of her diary is the noting of activity in the children's lives. She still has hired young women but the presence of daughters Ruth, Dorothy and Leona means much of the housework gets done by family members now. The wash is often sent out, and usually one hired girl is used. And she still suffers from her sick headaches. Carrie travels from upper place to homestead and notes on September 14, 1914, "it is beautiful in the wood A great variety of life is mine. Sometimes in the wilds of the forest & again nearer the metropolis."

Adding another dimension to their life is politics. **Trum is Town Supervisor** and is finishing the last year of a four year term. Since Greene County used the Board of Supervisors (instead of a County Legislature, as present), Trum is expected to travel to Catskill most months. In addition, he presides over Town of Greenville Board meetings. His term expires, and he and his family are glad to see his exit from politics. However, he does continue serving on the County Republican Committee. His brother Edgar and Carrie's brother Lon also get involved in local politics. Eventually, his older sons are Republican committee members.

One last piece, before getting into the details of 1913, is the role of technology. It appears the **Ingalls have a telephone**, although use of the telephone in the town appears somewhat limited. Still, the ability to call changes what once was isolation (or self-sufficiency, depending on your point of view.). The other major shaker of their world will be the automobile. **Starting 1913, no one in the family has a car. But by mid-decade**, the horse-dominated way of life is being pushed aside, despite whatever feelings one has for horses. And by the end of the decade, even though the horse is still a major force, the automobile and truck is now the mover of goods. All the sons have a truck and/or car, and Trum has bought a car.

And now on to the nineteen-teens, but I will use 1913 as a base.

The first few entries for January 1913 was a clear break from the diary style of twenty years earlier. Trum and Carrie go visit each of their married children, and **Carrie notes the State Road from Greenville to Oak Hill**, as well as Trum patronizing the parcel post mail for the first time. Warren is driving the west end stage, and Clarence is serenading a couple. Other details are basketball games (usually on Saturday), butchering of pigs and fixing the rigs. One major event for the family is Ruth's impending appendicitis. At first, Dr. Lathrop treated it with olive oil and ice packs but within a week, she was taken to Albany Hospital, where Carrie stayed for over a week before going home. Ruth would come home in mid-February.

Ruth's condition so dominates the diary in February that the rest of month seems quiet. James Evans' house burns, grandson Gerald is in pink rompers and getting lots of attention from Grandma, the men saw wood, draw ice, and go to the blacksmith. Trum strains his back and Carrie has another bad headache, something which happens so periodically and with such consistent symptoms that one is forced to conclude that she suffered from migraine, at times so bad that she is debilitated for a couple days, although usually it is part of a day.

**This a good place to mention two new terms - the upper place and the lower place.** In 1913, the Ingalls are maintaining three different farms. The first is their homestead on Old Plank Road. The upper place seems to be a Spalding property that Carrie inherited. It is located on today's Steadman Road, a right hand road just past McCafferty Road on the downhill section of the road to Medusa. The house is the residence at the end of the dead end, although it appears that it was a through road in 1913. The lower place appears to be a small farm on Big Woods Road about one-quarter mile before the junction with Carter Bridge Road. No structures from that farm exist. This location was convenient, being no more than a half mile from the homestead. Thus, Carrie and Trum do spend time at the upper place, sometimes during the week days, going home on the weekend. Since Carrie does not always note where she is at the time, it can be confusing to determine which place she is writing from.

And in March, the go to the upper place for a day or two. Clarence is driving the stage to Medusa, Carrie is looking for a hired girl, and Ruth and Elgirtha go to the dentists (a lot of teeth get pulled in this decade from Ingalls' mouths). Loads of straw and coal are being delivered, coal especially to the Durham creamery. Ransom has a stage accident in which 13 people are hurt on the 1st; Trum goes to visit some of the injured on Wright Street five days

later. Warren buys the old Gideon Hickock place from Dr. Lathrop and takes up what turns out to be a long residence on today's Ingalside Road and the farm that would become Ingalside. Stanley and Clarence help load the contents for the Lacey store in Freehold for the "jews" who are moving the contents. And of course the mud is so bad that travel is tough.

In April, the family finally gets a new hired girl - Amelia Austin - who lasts until fall. The men are near finishing sawing lumber for the year, this time at the lower place. One of the hired men has his horse die and seems quite despondent about it for a couple weeks. A Morris chair finally arrives, it being a Christmas gift from the married children. Austin Winan's dog must be stoned on the upper place. One night they espy a fire in the east and find out the next day it was the old Bogardus place which was housing A. Cunningham's truck. Trum & Carrie take a ride in Henry O'Keefe's auto, which is one of the first mentions of traveling by auto. Warren is preparing to spray his fruit trees, a process that is mentioned in a half dozen entries. It is described as a messy, dirty job. The reader realizes with some shock that they are spraying with arsenate of lead. Ransie is driving the mail route. Once or twice, the family goes to a drama or moving picture at Norton Hill. Carrie goes to the milliner, Mother sprains her knee, Stanley is unloading coal in Cocksackie, Clarence is drawing stone, the women are cleaning the back kitchen to make way for the new stove that was just bought, and Arch is honing the roads; and April rolls along.

This is probably a good time to digress again. The men's chores is such a routine part of life that it is easy to take for granted. **However, a typical routine on the Ingalls farm can be established.**

- April means the plowing of the ground for the summer crops, to be followed by the harrowing.
- In May, oats are sowed, and corn is planted.
- In June, the men are cultivating corn.
- July means the drilling buck wheat, reaping of wheat, working in hay, mowing English grass, and drawing in oats.
- In August, oats are still being cradled and the corn is cut.
- September means the buck wheat is cut, the last of the corn is cut, and the fall plowing starts.
- In October, rye is rolled, buckwheat is threshed, and the pumpkins are brought in.
- During November, the corn is husked and grain is ground, and the pigs are often butchered.
- December means more husking and shredding of corn.

Throughout the entire year, but especially during fall and winter, hay and a variety of straws are pressed, most of it for the purpose of being sold.

In addition, the fruit trees need looking after, especially the apple and pear trees planted years before, some of which are mentioned during the 1890's. Fruit trees are sprayed in the spring. September and October means the picking of pears and apples, keeping some for themselves but much of this harvest is sold, usually to Cocksackie.

Fence needs fixing. Some of the younger, rambunctious cattle test the wire but the worst seems to be the pigs. Occasional mention is made of setting up a boundary line fence.

Stone is still being drawn from the fields. Brush and bushes get cut. Manure needs drawing. The setting up and taking down of stoves is done in season.

Of course, **spring time means the continuation of the routine for the women.** All the rooms get cleaned, one or two at time. The kitchen floor gets mopped. Every so often, a room gets painted and papered. The rugs, quilts and curtains are cleaned. This cleaning often is repeated in the fall. Of course, the day-to-day dirt and dust is taken care of, especially on Saturdays which is the designated day. The washing often goes out to one of the community members, but some washing does get done at home. The need of washing, always a big task with nine children, grows even heavier with the lumbering business expanding. Of course, cooking and baking must get done and feeding the Ingalls family and help often means an average of ten people get fed, and I bet they were hungry from the physical life they led. Carrie often notes the Saturday work gets done, and that usually is cleaning, washing and cooking.

Typically, **Carrie and the girls doing their half of the house;** Mother (Trum's mother) is responsible for her half. Still, the cooking and baking needs to be done and the garden planted. The women pick berries in their season. Thus, strawberries mean mid- and late June, followed by raspberries in July and then the blackberries in late July or early August. The vegetables are sometimes mentioned at the appropriate times.

But **back to May.** So, in addition to the usual life, the boys are finishing off the basketball season and Grandma is having more grand times with Gerald. The men clear Mr. Gerrity's auto wreck on the state road, and comment is made that the auto looks mammoth on the wagon. The Surprise mill burns and Mrs. Cameron loses \$900 cash, a large enough amount that Carrie notes it. The men are hauling wood and manure, and laying stone for the foundation for the barn on the lower place. Trum is buying tons of straw in the area that will be taken to Cox-

sackie. On the 11th, ice is one-half inch thick. **A purchase that brings pleasure for years is a piano** and they had “fun, fun, fun” the first night or two, all except Stub who is annoyed. Stub is Stanley’s nickname and is used only a very few times. Henry Tryon buys the Harrison Ingalls farm. Trum is writing his Supervisor reports, and Mr. O’Hara, the County Superintendent, visits later in the month. The girls break a looking glass, and Clarence is working with a new horse. The saw mill gets moved to the Jennings place, and is moved as the job changes site. Bridges are fixed and strawberry shortcake is eaten. Great excitement happens on Decoration Day on the 25th. A special service was greeted with lightning which struck a tree and the current ran along the length of the fence and felled several horses. One team ran away and two ladies were thrown out and hurt badly. Supposedly, this service was not held again.

**Another digression. Church attendance** during the first eight years, according to the diary, is fairly regular. But the passage of two decades shows a sharp break in this aspect. It’s a rare Sunday that a mention of Trum or Carrie go to church. It appears the girls go semi-regularly, occasionally the minister visits, and during June, the family does go to church for Children’s Day. Other than that, it appears church attendance is limited to funerals, weddings, and donations.

Back to June. Trum is still “chasing straw”, slabbing wood and looking after the fruit trees. Trum and Carrie are back in Catskill for political reasons and even hear Governor Sulzer speak on the Court House steps. Later this month, Trum and Carrie would be back in Catskill for a few days for the Fireman’s Parade and Carrie emphasizes the noise and hoopla for this event. There’s a heavy frost on June 9, and lightning strikes the Greenville Presbyterian parsonage on the 25th. Of course, there is a comment or two how grand the mountains are. The girls are planning on selling ice cream on the 4th of July, school exams are given and commencement is held in Greenville. The dinner table is a busy place with family, hired help and the usual visitors. Eighteen were for dinner on the fifteenth, but on the 9th, Elgirtha comments that Elgirtha is the only child home which is a rarity. Carrie has a dress made at Grace Head’s, Trum gets a “panama hat” at Catskill, and Frank Arnold’s horse runs away and causes some damage.

July rolls around and Greenville has some 4th of July celebration. There are “auto mobile floats” by business, some comic. There are fireworks and a drama, and other activities too numerous to write. The Ingalls family gets home at 2:30 and Carrie notes, “I guess we won’t forget it soon.” Ransom and Ethel drive the stage for the last time. July 1st was so hot

that they lay on the ground in the evening to cool off. The men are involved in moving a stone crusher and a stone crib; apparently they’re working on one of the state roads. Carrie notes that the sight of nine horses moving the crusher was a “day not to forget.” Elgirtha and Stanley have teeth pulled, Carrie has another sick head ache. Grandma Spalding stays for a week and they stop at the burying ground. Trum, Stanley and Arch are building bridges in Norton Hill.

The last month of summer, as Carrie identifies August, starts with Clarence and Elgirtha going with other Greenville-ites to Crystal Lake, a popular day outing along with Warner Lake. Apparently some bridge accident has occurred because Trum spends a couple days looking at the Freehold bridge. Soft coal and straw and wood is still being hauled. The crib is being moved to the stone crusher, and the men help out with the forest fire at A. Blenis’, especially since Trum is still Town Supervisor. Mid-month, the family goes to a clam bake in Greenville, and start preparing for the County Fair at Cairo, which they attend for two days. The West Shore freight station in Catskill burns on the 21st, and Trum is glad he has no paid freight there. On the 24th, Henry O’Keefe invites Trum and Carrie to a day long car ride, from home to Albany to New Salem and back by Indian Fields. The upper place’s oat crop is small but the lower place’s seems regular. Later in the month, some people on their way to Gilboa stop by, and one day Carrie mentions that lots of autos are passing. Trum calls on the phone from Cocksackie once.

September means school and the girls head back to Norton Hill and Greenville. Wood is drawn for the West Greenville school house. A hard frost hits on the 10th and 14th causing some damage. Mid-month sees Carrie thinking Leone has appendicitis but everything is OK. Grandma is sick. Trum returns from three days in Catskill. Bertha Davis is the new hired girl. Stanley and Ed are drawing loads of fruit, probably Baldwins and Greenings apples and Sheldon pears.

In October, the town Republicans hold their caucus, Trum declines the supervisor’s nomination which instead goes to Luman King, with whom Trum campaigns. The Democratic caucus nominates Lewis Hoose. Son-in-law Ed Ingalls goes hunting, something which runs against the Ingalls habits since because no one owns a gun in the family. Pigs are butchered, a bit earlier than usual, the girls go to the skimming station, the horses’ teeth are fixed, the coal stove is put up, and four teams are sometimes heading to Cocksackie. Carrie has been ill the whole month and comes downstairs for the first time in six weeks on the 27th.

In November, Trum celebrates his 49th birthday on the 2nd. On the 14th, Carrie turns 50 thinking, "I must be getting old but cant hardly realize it." Elections are close and much to the Ingalls disappointment, the Democrat, Hoose, won. Trum must oversee the town Audit Day, a trip is taken to Cherterville (Westerlo), and John Goodwin's lumber yard in Cocksackie burned, which soon becomes a source of business for the Ingalls. The family goes to a chicken pie social at Norton Hill. Arch's horse ran away, injuring itself badly enough to be put in a sling. Anna Kelsey is the new hired girl, coal is delivered to Durham, sausage is made, and the wagons are readied to draw lumber. Carrie gets a bad sick headache, something she says she hasn't had in quite a while. For Thanksgiving, seven fowl are dressed, and all the family is present except for Stanley, who goes to NYC with his wife-to-be Eleanor.

**Another digression. The teamster business** has been a regular source of income for the family for decades. Pressed hay and straw, fruit (especially apples and pears), and eggs are going to Cocksackie; coal, phosphate a number of lesser drawn items return; and all of these plus more are hauled locally. The Ingalls teamsters are a lifeline for their community.

**But a reader soon realizes that the lumber trade will grow even bigger by 1914.** In November 1913, Trum enters into contract with a Mr. Fiero for 180,000 feet of lumber on land just above Medusa, and December 1914 signs for 50,000 more on Cheese Hill just above Preston Hollow. Typically, this means that the men will cut down the trees, skid them out of the woods (often during winter), trim them out, cut into lengths, saw them into boards, and then deliver to Mott of Jefferson, or Hoy of Catskill, or Lenahan of Athens, or into Cocksackie, as well as a local business. Early on, this business started late autumn and continued through to mid spring for the crops. However, by 1914, the lumbering business becomes a year round operation. Eventually, Trum sets up his saw mill, moving it from project to project, utilizing the steam power. Sometimes it would be too cold for the water needed for the engine. Slab wood becomes a side business. So, winter, which used to be a slow time of the year becomes a tough, dangerous and rewarding part of the year; summer is spent farming and lumbering; and Trum and his boys are filling orders for the river towns as well as supplying their own area. Wagons and sleighs strong enough for such heavy load must be built, bridges must be shored up or fixed, and farm work must be still be done, in addition to the usual hauling Trum has done. Despite the danger, no one ever gets seriously injured during the time of this summary. During the teens, Carrie will

note the various breakdowns of the hauling equipment and of the steam engine that drives the saw mill.

**Another digression. The first eight years of diary had constant mention of Greenville happenings.** This is due mostly to Trum's father and mother consistently attending church in Greenville and attending other functions, and Carrie notes much of that. Two decades later, Carrie is writing about her family, and possession of the upper place means Medusa is mentioned much more often. Of course, Norton Hill is the 'center of the universe.'

In December, Trum and Carrie are back in Catskill both early in the month and at the end, when Carrie buys flowers for Harrison and Loretta's Golden Anniversary. They also see the Nelida Minstrels. The men are piling lumber in the pasture across the road from the house, basketball practice has started, and Carrie is crocheting slippers for Gerald. Henry O'Keefe has bought a new auto - an Overland. Harry Yeomans had to shoot Arch's horse, the men fix the bob sleighs and more pigs are butchered. Christmas comes and all the children are there; however, for the first time in years, Trum's brother Edgar's family are not present. Edgar lives just across and up the street from Trum.

**And thus ends 1913. Many of the digressions have emphasized major strands in the Ingalls family life, and do not have to be repeated.** One can assume that most of these digressions hold true for the rest of the nineteen-teens. Therefore, I pick on some of the newer major developments as they arrive, and draw attention to the different details of each year.

**So 1914 starts off with the large wood project,** with the heavy dragging of wood done during the winter. Each week until spring, thousands of feet of lumbar is drawn. Even during the summer, wood is still be drawn and cut into boards, and Trum is out looking for more wood. Sons Ransom, Stanley and Clarence are regular helpers, both at the lumber business and at the farm. In addition, Trum always has an eye out for someone to help out, and by the end of the year, has had a dozen or so men work for him at various times. Warren is busy at his farm and boarding house and is more likely to help out at the farm occasionally.

**On February 10, Stanley marries Eleanor Goff and honeymoon in NY** for several days. On October 23, they have their first child, the second grandchild for Carrie and Truman. On October 22, Carrie is called to go down to Surprise to Stanley's, a sure hint of a baby soon to be delivered, even though no mention of the pregnancy has been made.

Weather follows its usual Northeast patterns. However, a cold February snap lasting a couple weeks seems especially potent, often reaching minus 10° to minus 20°. A few summer storms saw lightning damage, setting barns on fire and killing horses. A couple times, Carrie can see a fire in the distance and we find out the next day where it was.

**On about April 25, Trum sort of disappears,** Carrie gets a couple letters from Warren on the 28th, and on the 30th, Carrie goes to Coxsackie, across the river to Newton Hook, by train to Tarry Town and arrives at White Plains where Trum is. The two of them stay in town, taking walks about town, resting, writing letters, going to Woolworths, playing cards, listening to the rain on the roof, thinking about home, going to pictures, etc. To the uninitiated, it appears they're vacationing but they've never done this before. A letter informing them of the death of one of their best horses is especially upsetting to Trum, whom Carrie notes is nervous on a couple occasions. On May 8, a mad dog runs through town and is killed. Finally, on May 10, the two of them take the trolley to Tarry Town, took a car to Highland Depot, train to Coxsackie and Clarence brought them home. **No explanation of the purpose of the trip is given,** and both return to farm, house and family duties as usual.

In early August, Warren cuts his hand and it apparently becomes infected. There is enough concern that the doctor is sent for several times, Warren goes to Albany for an examination, and Trum and Carrie care for Warren for a short spell. By early September, the hand appears better and is not mentioned again.

**In October, Trum and Carrie go on their first extended car ride, a three day trip.** Traveling with Peter Stevens and wife and William Seabridge and wife, Trum and Carrie spend October 13 going to Albany, Schenectady, Ballston for dinner, Lake George and Glens Falls for supper. They went to pictures at night, stopped at Saratoga Springs for a drink of mineral water during this 119 miles. On October 14, they continue to Manchester Center to a good dinner and on to North Adams for supper. They covered 100 miles and three different states. On October 15, they started for Pittsfield, then to Great Barrington, had dinner ("all dinner, and not much style") at Hillsdale, went to Claverack and Hudson, before ferrying to Athens, and finishing through Catskill, Cairo and on home. The weather was great and they had only one tire puncture. "We never will forget this trip" is Carrie's verdict on these three days.

Earlier in the year, Trum and Carrie, along with about a dozen others had **rented an "Auto Buss" and traveled to the Ashokan dam** which is just being constructed and was a major point of interest.

In December, Trum is setting up his lumber project. He'll be cutting on Cheese Hill, rents a house to stay, has Ransom and Ethel to live with them, buys a saw mill and engine from Mr. Frazer. This engine needs 200 pails of water to get it started and by the end of December just start bringing wood off Cheese Hill.

Although probably not listed anywhere, **visiting is a major part of their life.** Although it may be unfair to say that Trum and Carrie seem to have few close friends outside of family, the truth is the family is so big that just to visit them is quite an accomplishment. In addition, it seems like half of Norton Hill is related to the Ingalls, and just saying one's hellos to these people takes time. Combined with Trum's business contacts, Trum's political contacts, Carrie's hired girls, the in-laws, and the children's friends, who has the need for other people to be close to? How do they keep up with what they do anyway?

**On November 24th Carrie notes: "It is 29 years ago to-night since we were married.** Is it possible we are getting old". Finally, Thanksgiving is another time for the Ingalls to be together. Carrie notes: "The children all came home to dinner & supper had a grand time music & a great visit. We had chicken pie ice cream etc Oyster stew for supper"

A listing of some of the details by month are:

#### **January**

- Trum finishes his term as Town Supervisor
- more basketball
- the last butchering of the season
- the making of sausage
- cutting ice
- great sleighing
- making a silk petticoat

#### **February**

- lots of music on the piano
- the bear sees his shadow on the 2nd
- shopping at Freehold for clothes
- a Vaudeville concert with Prof. Pratt
- a variety of illnesses
- Ezra Cleveland buys out Mr. Bennett's stage line
- travelers to Mitchell Hollow warm their horse
- shoveling the roads
- 160 logs to mill in one day
- Trum & Carrie spend the night tending to a sick Gerald
- 5 horse teams at one time
- tipping a wood load 7 times

#### **March**

- telephone broke
- 3/4 eclipse of the moon
- new pole tongue for cutter
- no more money to open roads

- Tom horse cut his legs
- GFA friends have surprise party for Elgirtha
- Dorothy is sick most of month

#### **April**

- a horse drops dead
- to Greenville for a shave and a haircut
- look for horses in Cocksackie
- cut brush around the house
- set a hen
- deliver telephone poles for Greenville and West Greenville
- got someone to wash clothes

#### **May**

- new car for Ed & Min Rivenburg (Carrie's brother)
- draw stone
- Ransom and Ethel have a car
- wash curtains, carpet, quilts
- bad head ache
- visit burying ground
- spend time at upper place

#### **June**

- Elgirtha goes to Silver Lake and High Peak
- set out apple trees
- saw a separator work
- Leone sang in Children's' Day
- 4th of July drill practice
- concert at Medusa
- pick cherries
- Trum wants to insure the help

#### **July**

- 7 men to upper place
- soft coal taken to skimming station
- trip to falls
- dance to Greenville
- Ethel has poison ivy around the eyes
- Clarence & Elgirtha go to Lake Myosotis
- Horace Hunt has boarders

#### **August**

- 5 boarders at Warren's
- Trum to Tannersville for Republican Convention
- Cairo fair
- picnics at Lambs Corners & Rensselaerville

#### **September**

- Jerry horse has a rupture
- Sunday School picnic
- 28' pole for Masonic Hall at Greenville
- Gerald stays at grandparents
- Rev. Chandler at supper
- put troublesome pigs in orchard

#### **October**

- help Edgar (Trum's brother)
- poor rye crop
- Teachers' Institute at Windham, school off a week

- blacked stove
- clean sitting room
- to Freehold for clothes

#### **November**

- Warren's calf broke it's neck
- Trum is 50
- washed windows
- new coal bin for Grandpa (Ransom Sr.)
- foot of snow on the 19th
- John Parks - Freehold vet

#### **December**

- nail in horse's leg
- Trum, Warren, and Ransom go to Republican Reception
- brought apples to cellar from barn
- rented a house on Cheese Hill
- Christmas at Carrie's mothers

**1915 is one of those golden years**, a year that is looked back upon with a golden glow. Of course, at the time, I'm not sure Carrie knew that, but she writes during this time as if it were special. And that event is the lumbering off Cheese Hill just above Preston Hollow.

**The first timber deal of this year** is the one continued from the end of 1914. From January through March, a typical schedule would show Trum and Carrie leaving on Monday morning, working until Saturday midday, returning home until Monday morning, and repeat the cycle. Ransom and Ethel agree to do the same and thus are mentioned frequently during this time. A house was rented; once, Carrie intimates that they were less than perfect tenants but doesn't explain.

A roadway must be cut to the lumber site, trees cut and skidded, trimmed, sawed, piled onto wagons and drawn away to the market. This was made much more difficult by the steepness of the terrain of Cheese Hill and the weather. Icy conditions and spins are mentioned several times; sawdust is sometimes used to cover the ice. Repairs are made, often by going to Preston Hollow, and thus meeting a new array of people. Carrie is drying out gloves and clothes, and frequently washing all the clothes at a dirty job. During early February, Ethel's cat Shadow disappears and Ransom and Ethel take parts of two days to look for their cat but they never see "Shaddie" again.

The end of this job appears nearing an end by the end of March and Carrie is making preparation to pack up and head back home. But within a month, Trum has another contract on a wood lot near Scrub Creek which is the stream that borders Cheese Hill and runs into Preston Hollow and the Catskill Creek. The men must climb up and down the hill, cut another

er road down to the creek and haul wood out. In addition, the men are erecting a building that Carrie refers to as the shack, shaak, or shanty, usually with some fondness. In addition, a horse shed must be built, the saw mill and engine set up, and the sawing pit established. This wood lot seems to straddle the creek because the men are often getting wet in the stream. Another roadway appears to go down by this stream into Preston Hollow. (Several pictures of this stage of the year have been duplicated from Leona Rundell's photo albums.) This project continues well into the summer, and Carrie notes the wonderful scenery, the moon and sunrises, the hard work and some surprise as to her relishing this experience and its differentness from the farm. She goes back to the farm on Saturday afternoon and Sunday, except on a rare week when some minor calamity at home keeps her from returning to the hill.

This wood business does slow down in the fall but Trum is still selling and drawing lumber sporadically until December when another rush of lumber is drawn. On both December 7 and 8, 12 loads representing about 10,000 feet of lumber is drawn. Another project of 100,000 feet is in the works by mid-month at the Hedges/Jennings farm. On the last day of the year, Trum has 10-12 men working there and are being paid by the hour.

**The stories of Cheese Hill and Scrub Creek** still reverberate to this day, despite the hard work and crude living conditions.

One of the reasons lumbering takes a back seat in the autumn of 1915 is that **Trum is nominated by the Republicans to be the County Supervisor of the Poor** on August 16, and so he actively campaigns, often with Carrie. On September 30, Trum and Carrie are in Freehold and Gayhead, October 5 sees them in Grapeville and Greenville Center, October 11 in East Durham and Cairo, October 13 in New Baltimore, Medway, and Cocksackie (staying at the Park Hotel) while returning the following day to New Baltimore again, and October 15 to Lime Street, Athens (staying at the Stewart House), and October 16 to Flatbush Rd, New Baltimore and Cocksackie before returning home. On the 18th, Trum hires Will Bear's car, with chauffeur Fred Lampman, to campaign on the mountain top. He and Carrie go to East Windham, Hensonville, Windham, Mitchell Hollow (stay at the Davis Hotel at Windham), and on the following day on the 19th continue to Hensonville, Big Hollow, Ashland, Jewett. On this day he is at times accompanied by County Committee man LeRoy Phelan and Assemblyman Chase. It's on to Ashland where Carrie notes they stay at and have dinner at a "humble hotel". On the 20th, they go to Ashland, North Settlement, West Settlement, Sutton Hollow; Carrie

amused herself by embroidering a dress. On the 21st, they are in Prattsville, Lexington, Hunter, Tannersville, Haines Falls. Carrie notes the drilling for rock to build the dam for the reservoir for NYC is going on (Gilboa Dam). She also notes a famous lumber camp above the Laurel House, which was an old memory of 32 years ago (no explanation given). On the 22nd, they are in Haines Falls, Conesville, Hunter, followed by the Republican Convention, where a brass band played and 200 people attended. On the 23rd, they head home through Hensonville, Windham (did some shopping), Mitchell Hollow, Durham and Oak Hill. They would rent Henry O'Keefe's car on the 26th to go to Cocksackie and Catskill, the 27th to Cairo. On the 30th, they hire Earl's car to campaign in Cocksackie Athens and Catskill. Two days later is election, and Carrie is consoled that even though Trum loses, the whole family was so supportive. Trum will not run for office, county or town, in the rest of the decade. Meanwhile, Carrie's brother Lon is reelected at Supervisor for the Town of Westerlo.

Eventually a reader will ask who is minding the farms. Never fear! Stanley seems to be responsible for organizing the usual trips to Cocksackie and other places and Clarence is also a big help. A couple of hired men, especially Arch Matthews, round out the core of the farm hands. The household chores are done by the girls. Occasionally, Warren will help out although he is obviously busy with a fledging farm / boarding house. Trum and Carrie are on the farm more during the harvesting of late summer and early autumn.

**Another major event of 1915 is the death of Carrie's mother.** Carrie is at Scrub Creek on May 14th when she gets news that her Mother is failing. She hurries home but is too late by an hour to witness her mother's death. Her father had died before the continuation of the diary. Mother is buried on the 17th, with all 6 grandsons acting as bearers. Carrie notes "Father & Mother are both laid to rest. We miss them so much. but cant wish them back they had lived a long useful life. & have earned a rest & reward." Lon is appointed administrator and the children start dividing things. The two days between Mother's death and burial, Carrie has a bad sick headache.

A last note of major trends, although this one doesn't seem so important at first. **Elgirtha and Ruth are of dating age.** Elgirtha's main date is a Scott Ellis, who lived in Lambs Corners. Most of you recognize the rest of the story. Ruth is goes out with a couple different guys. Second or third on the list is a Merritt Elliott. And, of course, many of you know the rest of that story.



**A sampling of other diary notes**, somewhat in order of appearance, are:

- ice is drawn
- bucket rope broke
- greasing the harness
- the temptation to buy an auto
- coal deliveries to the Durham creamery
- dance at Preston Hollow
- Warren's cow dies, bad luck
- school recitations
- 43 loads of manure drawn one day
- occasional letters written
- census enumeration
- cistern runs dry
- set up oil stove
- burn pine knots for mosquitoes
- a horning in Livingstonville
- Herb Utter's sawmill burned
- getting caught in rain storms
- 4th of July festival on King Hill
- ice box finished
- poor hay crop
- 20 boarders at Warrens
- broken glasses
- new batteries for telephone box
- Grandpa feeling miserable
- a sweater from Trum for birthday
- Merritt to Albany Business College
- banked cellar
- to Drama in Norton Hill
- 3 feet snow on December 14, worst since 1888
- roads blocked, separated own milk

**By comparison to 1915, the year 1916 seems somewhat ordinary.** All the major strands of life make up the tapestry of the Ingalls' life.

**The timber business** dominates the men's life until late summer and early autumn. They finish the Jennings wood lot, as well as a few other jobs whose name or exact position is not mentioned. Often, one can tell generally because Carrie notes what town they're going to. In December, they take on the wood lot they've bought from the heirs of Ira Hunt and stay in one of Howard Shaw's (on today's Big Woods Rd) houses. Everything said before about the nature of the wood business still holds true. In addition, Carrie is noting a little more often the day-to-day breakdowns of the saw engine, name of parts, who goes where to get it fixed, etc. Ransom and Clarence help out, as do a changing number of hired men.

**The farm work** is often done by Arch Matthews and Clarence. In late summer and early autumn, Trum spends more time on the farm. In the background of all this, the teamster business is going strong. A major change takes place on the first of Jan-

uary when Carrie notes that Stanley goes into business for himself. Stanley buys three black horses and a whole outfit, "a big undertaking for the kid". Five days later, Stanley paid for his dinner at his mother's, and Carrie is feeling quite guilty about it. However, the topic never comes up again. Either it became matter of fact, or Stanley was never charged again.

**Carrie goes about her usual life.** Her grandchildren, Warren and Edna, bring frequent mention in the diary. The girls are invaluable helpers in the household chores. In addition, the girls are going here and there, with their friends coming over. By the time, Carrie notes what her married children are doing, the diary shows a big family in typical activities that can only mean a life of bustle.

**A few events departing from the normal do attract the reader's attention.**

**Infantile paralysis** must have worried every parent during the summer of 1916. This disease is already prevalent in the cities but when a neighboring child dies, Carrie fears for the worst. The girls are allowed to go swimming but do so with note of mom's trepidation.

**Grandpa (Ransom) dies** at 9 PM on October 30th, sooner than was expected. Cunningham comes over, and all get to bed by 2 in the morning. The next day, the family gathers, and Trum, Carrie, Edgar and Emma go the undertaker's to pick a casket. Cunningham comes that night to put Grandpa in the casket. The funeral is held on November 2nd at the house, with over a hundred people attending. Carrie notes that "Mother and Nellie have been living with us since father's death. He has suffered a year not been able to walk a step in a year. So no one can wish him back. Rev. Libby of Greenville preached. Trum is 52 years old to-day." They would later select a monument for placement in Locust Cemetery.

Another event is probably the most emotion Carrie ever shows in her diary. But because it's for a horse, it is almost easy for the reader to smile while reading about an event that bothers Carrie so much. Old Maudie, her favorite horse dies. On September 24, Maud was sick and John Parks was called, but she grew worse fast and died about 9 o'clock, probably from a lung infection. The family had had her for over ten years. Carrie feels "as though we had lost a friend & indeed she was as good as some folks & knew about as much." The next day, Ren Palmer digs a grave and Maud is buried. Carrie writes "so the old faithful is at rest under the sod below the bridge. We shall miss her so much. She has been so handy for the little girls & me. & all these years for Trum & the boys So her career is ended & all we have left is the memories of her. & a shoe & lock of her main." They have to find another horse, but no one can replace

Maud until about a week later when a new Maud arrives.

Otherwise, 1916 seems like a year with a routine that doesn't stray too much. A listing of some other items, somewhat in chronological order, goes as follows:

- a January full of Grippe colds
- 108 ice cakes fill the ice house
- loan a horse
- Don Stevens ran away, found in Catskill
- partial eclipse of sun
- bought a washing machine
- Leap Year party
- Eleanor gets dowry from Ant Mary Mattice \$969.98
- too cold to take fruit to Coxsackie
- oil stove smoked - had to change sleeping rooms
- Ed & Carrie spend four months with Trum & Carrie
- 15" snow on March 15
- Carrie gets inheritance of \$400
- crossed Hudson River by Athens on sleigh
- 4" snow on April 9
- Reed & Powell of Coxsackie are bankrupt - a little influence on the Ingalls
- horse sells for \$150
- mill slab pile catches fire, put out the next day
- last division of inheritance - \$26.11
- Trum & Carrie go to Kingston aboard the Washington Irving
- Scott Ellis graduates from high school
- Carrie - "Beautiful world" - Crystal Lake, Hawversville, Livingstonville, Preston Hollow & Oak Hill
- 4th of July at Norton Hill
- Carrie broke Trum's gold watch
- Ransom & Ethel work one month at the Freehold Central phone house
- Dorothy leads the horse on the hoist
- stack of hay spoils at upper place
- Warren goes to State Fair with Wm. & George Vanderbilt
- tough time fencing pigs
- pears & elderberries picked
- the young adults go to High Rock
- Melvin Dennison barn hit by lightning, burns, 2 horses killed
- oil dining room floor with turpentine & paraffin
- 294 bushels buckwheat from three places
- John Parks runs out of gas
- small Lambs Corners picnic turnout
- engagement part for Scott & Elgirtha
- Clarence is 21
- an enjoyable Sunday ride (note: did not stay home, which is standard)

- heard Gov. Whitman at Catskill
- Mother goes to Edgar's - her first trip out of house in over a year
- elections - the Ingalls disappointed with the Democrats winning
- Stanley's horse got loose and ate too much feed
- 17 come for Thanksgiving dinner
- Ren Gardner laying kitchen chimney
- \$125 for monument for Father
- Christmas dinner - ham, ice cream; super - oyster stew, ice cream cake, salad; splendid lot of presents
- Trum & Clarence butcher 7 pigs; Carrie & Ruth work on the rough fat

**1917 is another year with few distractions from the usual Ingalls life.** Of course, "usual" means keeping the house, noting the goings and coming of all the children and grandchildren, indicating what Trum is doing, documenting the weather, etc.

A few weather events are worth noting. Six inches of snow fall on April 6th. The spring of 1917 was cold and wet, and throughout this season, a reader can see that the normal progression of natural events are at least two weeks behind schedule, something that is noted numerous times. There's even a dusting of snow on May 5th, and on May 21, Carrie notes the mountains are free of snow for the first time. The first strawberries are picked on June 22nd (veteran wild strawberries know this is late). The other extreme is a hot and dry spell in late July. But, the cold returns with a heavy, killing frost on September 5th, and again a couple days later, and twice more before the month is out. The men must scramble to save as much as the crop as possible, with the most damage at the upper place. Actually, the crop is not as bad as feared but there are two or three weeks where a poor crop seemed probable. Another cold spell hits in early - mid-December, and even harder is the cold snap that hits the end of the month: -10, -21, and -18 on the 29th, 30th, and 31st. And this cold snap extends for another week and a half into January. Of course, the usual range of weather occurs during the year.

**The other key distracter during 1917 is World War I.** Carrie has noted the war and its evils a couple years earlier but the US finally enters in 1917 and the threat of the draft concerns her, especially with Clarence of prime draft age. Since Clarence is the only male child home, his absence would have a noticeable effect on the farm because Clarence is the one handling most of the homestead farming duties. On April 7th, Carrie notes that war has been declared, and that one of their farm laborers, Will Gedney, is enlisting. On April 23rd, she notes "talk &

speculation about the war.” Elgirtha, on June 12th, goes to Norton Hill to register for the war, something Carrie doesn’t understand. The bad news falls when **Clarence is drafted** on July 20th, and Carrie hopes he won’t be held. Two days later, he goes for an examination. On August first, Clarence receives notification he must go to Catskill for the notice of draft on August 6th. He passes the physical. On August 14th, Trum goes to the exemption board for forms to fill out. On the 17th, Clarence gets his notice of draft, and Trum sends the exemption form. On August 18th, they get an answer from the exemption paper, and Harrison (lawyer) will answer it. On September 18, there is a parade in Catskill for the boys in service, and Clarence is in the parade even though Carrie is pray he will get the exemption. On October 7, the exemption papers are readied; on October 30th, Clarence receives his discharge papers which is a great relief to Carrie.

The war has an effect on prices, first noted about the cost of a barrel of flour. On November 19th, Carrie notes that hay is bring \$25-\$36 per ton, unheard of prices.

**Another unusual event is a month’s absence of Trum.** On February 6, Trum goes to White Plains, no explanation given. Carrie calls it a “black & blue day.” He’s only mentioned by Carrie noting a letter was received or that she is writing a letter, and by a visit by Warren. On March 4th, Carrie goes to meet him after he is dropped off at Cairo, and husband and wife meet each other at Woodstock. Carrie once writes that one has to read between the lines, but there isn’t much to read. Trum returns and resumes everyday life as if this had never happened.

**Another sidelight, seemingly minor at the time, but it changes life eventually is Stanley’s purchase of a truck** on February 19th, and makes his first delivery on the 23rd. (Only two weeks earlier, one of Stanley’s horses died.) Although horses will be used, the truck increasingly is used to haul loads to market.

**Changes and additions to the family** arrive, usually it being good news. A baby girl (we find out later, it’s Thelma) is born to Ransom and Ethel. Of course, Carrie was picked up by Roy Abrams to come down. Ed and Carrie have been staying at the homestead and wood shack during the winter wood season, and they return to their Surprise home in late March. On May 6, Alliene Beers is at supper with Clarence. On May 22nd, Harrison Gardner transfers the deed of the farm to Truman for \$3,000. On August 15, Carrie and Elgirtha gets Elgirtha’s wedding dress, have a variety shower on September 1st, make the bride’s cake and a fruit cake on September 4th, to be followed the next day by the wedding. Carries entry for

the 4th reads: “**A Beautiful day. for the wedding. Scott Ellis & Elgirtha** were married at Noon. All the children were here. Mrs. & Mr Ellis Mrs. Merritt, Harrison & Lucy constituted the party. Had a very nice time. Everything went off nice The children trimmed the carriage very nicely They went up to Ellis to-night. Rev. Reynolds married them...” the next day the couple, along with Clarence and Alliene go to the Ashokan and back home to a reception to the Ellis homestead. The day after that, Scott and Elgirtha come home to pick up their things. And a day later, Carrie misses Elgirtha. A second wedding in the family is being prepared for on November 28th with chocolate walnut cake, fruit cake, ice cream and the dressing of 5 chickens. Sugar is tough to come by (war). The next day, Clarence and Alliene are married at noon at her father’s by Rev. Yeomans. Trum and Carrie go to the wedding in Fred Lampmann’s car. a reception was held in the evening followed by a serenade from Norton Hill. It appears no trip was taken because the next day, the new couple are getting their things from Freehold to move in with Trum and Carrie.

Other selected events of the year are as follows:

- Ed & Carrie & Clarence stay at the Hunt wood lot
- Carrie cans 5 qts of spare ribs - her first experience
- Jerry horse drops dead
- lumber going to Athens and Coxsackie
- 9,300’ lumber cut on March 16 & 17
- Ransom and Stanley move to the Wakely house
- Old Harry horse runs away
- early peepers - April 2nd
- Carrie gets Gerald a man’s hair cut, and hopes his parents won’t mind
- measles scare in mid April - most of the children get it
- put new batteries in phone
- to Cantata at Freehold
- go to upper place on May 28
- Leone sick in June, blood test, no typhoid
- Red Cross ball at Greenville
- barn raising at Reuben Palmers
- Stanley has a second horse die within a six month span
- 450 cabbage, 50 cauliflower plants set out
- clothes line broke
- 18 of Ingalls family at Cairo fair on August 22
- Lambs Corners picnic on August 24
- 52 qts of blackberries picked in two days
- Trum buys Sisson potato ground for \$20
- Bill horse fell in well twice, and is killed
- Clarence has appendix symptoms
- Election - Harrison Gardner loses, brother Lon

- wins
- Camp fire dance
- fix barn door
- 70 lbs of sausage
- to Farmers' Institute at Greenville
- 1½ snow on December 14th
- Cameron burial delayed because of snow

**1918 continues the major strands of the Ingalls life.** A little less emphasis on lumbering seems evident through the diary but it is still one of the major factors in their life. The Jennings wood lot is finished and other mill sites are set up. Farming seems to be mentioned a little more and the details form the other major piece of the men's lives. On October 29, Trum buys the Ira Hunt place - 82 acres for \$410, a site on their south. Now they have four farms to work! Meanwhile, Carrie has the house to look after and watches her nine children going in different directions.

**A few more family changes** should be noted. Ruth marries Merritt Elliott on December 4, a somewhat quieter affair than the other weddings, judging from the diary. "The guests assembled about noon. Our own family except the small children & Mr. Elliotts family. To witness the marriage of Ruth & Merritt. Every thing passed off very nicely. They went to Elliotts about 4 o'clock. Don't expect her to be with us much anymore." is the extent of Carrie's notice. Two more grandchildren are born. On May 17, a baby boy (Kenneth) is born to Clarence and Alliene, and on September 16, a boy (Randall) is born to Stanley and Carrie. Carrie seems to thoroughly enjoy having the "sweet heart" (the grandchildren) around her.

One of the reason for a subdued wedding celebration could be one of the major outside distractions during the year. **The first mention of influenza** is made on October 12 and it apparently makes for an agonizingly worrisome season. Half the deaths Carrie notes this year come during this season. This epidemic seems to have hit the area hard, with practically the whole Ingalls family contracting it. Carrie goes to Ravena to take care of Ransom for a few days. She seems to get a "minor" case of it but it is bad enough so that Elgirtha, on one of her visits, talks with her mother from outside Carrie's bedroom window. Eventually, the whole family gets through the epidemic but Warren's case early in 1919 is severe enough that Carrie fears he will die, even with a special nurse from Albany there. All the work is affected and it seems that it is Clarence who is the healthiest. Since this epidemic started in mid-autumn, this period leading in winter and lasting until spring must have been a particularly gray time. The epidemic was bad enough that when a close family friend of the girls,

Grace Verplank, dies, they don't attend the funeral for fear of the epidemic. Even Halloween this year was "rather gloomy for many pranks", due to the mood of the area.

Another outside strand that finishes up from **last year is the Great War**. Carrie mentions it numerous times. Many know that November 11th is the surrender date but the war is much more for the Ingalls. In the quotes section, one will read two of Carrie's feelings about the war. Her attention obviously comes from the close call she has with her son going. (Though Carrie never admits to such, I think there's a little guilt that there son doesn't serve and managed to accomplish it with some possible political connections. Just a feeling!) On January 14, Clarence gets his 2-B classification which Carrie confesses to understanding the meaning of. The family attends some of the Red Cross functions and in mid-year purchase \$25 of War Savings Stamps. On April 5, there's a send off for the 30 boys from the county who leave to fight. When Carrie is in Ravena visiting Ransom's family on June 9th, there's an encampment of Texas boys. On September 11th, Carrie notes a "grand send off for boys gone to the Navy", with a brass band playing in Norton Hill. On September 29, relics of captured German forces are displayed in Catskill. Finally, on November 7th, Carrie notes the reports that the war is over, with celebration, great noise, and fire whistles, and four days later, it was true. A side note about the war's effect is the price of practically everything. Carrie notes several times she can't believe the prices they're getting for lumber and some food goods. Of course, the flip side is they're paying higher prices at the store. This trend continues through the following year also.

A few other minor highlights of the year could be noted. **Carrie votes for the first time on November 5th**, noting "I cast my first vote. All women have the right to vote now. I have not desire to be in the ranks of voters but thought it my duty to vote." Edgar's operations at Albany Hospital is mentioned several times; I believe this Edgar is Carrie's nephew (Lon's son), and his death on August 20th distresses Carrie. Ransom goes to work for Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company driving truck, moves to Ravena, and gets a pay raise from \$8 to \$22 a week. At this point, Ransom is the child living the farthest from home. Meanwhile, Stanley moves from Surprise to Norton Hill. The moving ahead and back of clocks one hour is first mentioned this year and Carrie is skeptical of its value. On May 20, Ruth has a terrible pain shoot through her shoulder area, terrifying the whole family. The doctor comes, eventually gives morphine for the pain, but apparently discovers no cause and Ruth seems to have continued life with no long-lasting

consequence. On a humorous note, Merritt's car suffers damage while riding through East Windham. The cause was a dog who tore one tire and bit another. Finally, Christmas seems a little scattered this year. On December 22nd, Trum and Carrie go to Ransom's in Ravena. On the 23rd, they're dressing 4 roosters in preparation for their own. On the 25th, the big celebration obviously is at the homestead and everyone is there except Merritt and Ruth for fear of spreading whooping cough.

One especially interesting sidelight of this **Christmas is Carrie's listing** in the Memorandum section of the diary which notes all the gifts that the listed people got and from whom. The list goes as follows:

Other scattered notes of 1918:

- bought a book and joined the Circle
- Ed Ingalls buys out Mr. Hanney's business and truck
- corned 90 lbs of beef
- 82 MPH gust of wind - March 10
- boiler bolt broke, machine in mud
- gypsy camp at Carter bridge mill
- Gerald starts school - "big world for little fellow"
- planking for Scriptor (Scripture) bridge
- Lenahan lumber contract - \$5 per thousand feet
- found fox den
- Trum. burns hand from woodchuck hole gas ball
- Benson wood lot bought for \$750
- Steiner (long time hired hand) moves to Connecticut
- hay prices high
- Clark lost his pocket book with \$128
- to Cobleskill fair
- Merritt Elliott has appendectomy
- barb wire mentioned for first time
- clam bake at Warren's
- Merritt has whooping cough
- Grandma & Nellie go to Edgar's for the day

**The grand patterns for the Ingalls family in 1919 stays the same** - lumbering, farming, house-keeping, keeping track of the children and grandchildren, etc.

**A major distraction in late January is a serious illness of Elgirtha.** Dr. McCabe consults with Dr. Vanderveer of Albany. On February 4th, they operate and blood is found on the spleen and otherwise nothing to be too concerned about. Carrie is greatly relieved, probably fearing worse. Elgirtha comes home on February 22nd.

Another event is the **purchase of a Ford** from Cedar Hill for \$350. Trum, Clarence and Warren go and the diary does not say whose car it is. Clarence and Trum seem to drive it most of the time. I'm guessing the car is Trum's responsibility. However, the car means a different view of the world. Carrie has driven in a car tens, maybe hundreds, of times before but it's always been somebody else's car or truck. Technology has finally caught up with Mom and Pop.

In the memorandum section, Carrie includes the following

Quantities of material for our clam bake.

- For 25 grown people
- 200 clams
- 4 chickens
- 3 good sized fish
- 6 qts sweet potatoes
- 4 pies & cake to suit crowd. But be sure & have a plenty. For the Ingalls crowd.
- Mother.

A few details of 1919 are as follows:

- New Year's dinner at Elgirtha's
- lumber order for Saranac Lake
- Carrie eats dinner alone - Feb 18 (a rarity!)
- blizzard on March 28
- lightning on Durham Mt. burns barn and 19 cattle
- foreigner looking for work - causes great excitement
- snow on High Peak - May 13
- Kenneth's first steps
- Germans sign peace treaty, "we hear" - June 28
- grasshoppers ruining oats
- almost a freshet on Sep 3
- lumber - 10¢ per foot, very high price
- Clarence living at Vol Phinney's old place
- elections: Edgar wins, Lon loses, Harrison Gardner wins
- clam bake at Stanley's - Nov 7
- Armistice Day celebrated
- buys Sunside timber lot - \$1500
- entire family for Thanksgiving
- Sam McCulloch considering buying upper place
- Christmas - all 25 there

The diary continues to be a source of **vital records**. Carrie seems to note death much more than marriage and birth.

### **Births**

- new baby boy to Arch Mathews last night - 17 Sep 1913
- Edna Carrie to Stanley and Eleanor - 23 Nov 1914
- baby girl to Ransom & Ethel, 10:30, 8½ lb. - 20 Feb 1917
- 9 lb boy to Vera Ostrander - 17 Sep 1917
- baby boy to Clarence & Alliene - 17 May 1918
- boy to Stanley & Eleanor - 16 Sep 1918
- girl to Merritt & Ruth - 14 Sep 1919

### **Marriages**

- Susie Hunt to Mr. Beer of the City - 10 Sep 1913
- Raymond Ingalls to Carrie Moore, at home - 15 Oct 1913
- Jack Cameron to Nellie McCulloch - 13 Mar 1914
- Fred Jones - 10 Dec 1914
- Floyd Brand & Hattie Gifford - 17 Nov 1915 (a shower for Hattie on 13 Nov)
- Howard Spalding to Lucy Covenhoven, at South Westerlo, at noon - 10 Feb 1916
- hear of Anna Kelsey to a Western man - 19 Apr 1917
- Elgirtha Ingalls to Scott Ellis - 5 Sep 1917
- Clarence Ingalls to Alliene Beers - 29 Nov 1917
- Ruth Ingalls to Merritt Elliott - 4 Dec 1918
- Ruth Sanford to Homer Hook
- Margaret Stevens - 11 Sep 1919

### **Deaths**

- Frank Bryant, hung himself - 28 Jan 1913
- Amos B. Story, fell out of a wagon - 9 Feb 1913
- Mr. Ostrander's father - 11 Feb 1913
- Harold Spaldings baby, dyptharetic croup - 2 Mar 1913
- Mr. Sweet buried - 8 Mar 1813
- Truman Smith, suicide, asysphated, Catskill - 25 Mar 1913
- Luther Stannard, pneumonia - 22 Feb 1913
- Mr. Philo Covert, funeral - 1 May 1913
- Ernest Lamb, typhoid fever - 27 Nov 1913
- Aunt Diantha Smith - 11 Jan 1914
- Mrs. Henry Barker - 3 Feb 1914
- Mrs Hannah Palmer buried - 10 Mar 1914
- Mrs. Searls, at son's Luman house - 13 Mar 1914
- Jerry Tucker - 16 Apr 1914
- Aunt Loretta - 7 Aug 1914
- Kate Ann Smith - 31 Aug 1914
- Seymour Etheridge - 23 Sep 1914, hanged himself

- Alonzo Norton, at NJ, brought back to Henry Ingalls - 21 Nov 1914
- Reuben Gedney buried - 22 Nov 1914
- Ethel's (Abrams) grandfather - 26 Nov 1914
- Malvina Bear buried - 7 Dec 1914, from Mrs. Peter Bear's
- Lester Palmer - 10 Jan 1915, pneumonia
- Joseph Knowles buried - 1 Feb 1915
- Mrs. Hannah Delamater buried - 8 Feb 1915
- Stanley Craw, suicide by taking Rough on rats - 2 Mar 1915
- William Smith - 9 May 1915
- Mrs. Mary Hunt - 11 May 1915
- Aunt Eleanor Winegard - 11 May 1915
- Mother - 14 May 1915
- Theodore Cheritree - 2 Jun 1915, (last week)
- Simeon Guild buried - 27 Jun 1915, from daughter Susie's
- George Cunningham's daughter - 1 Jul 1915, leaves little boy a week old
- Reuben VanDyck - 11 Aug 1915
- James Meddaugh - 15 Nov 1915, suddenly, shoeing a horse
- Horace Bryant - 27 Nov 1915, last night
- James Knowles buried - 25 Dec 1925, from Preston Hollow
- Dayton Smith's wife - 27 Dec 1915, chimney fell on her, fastened her on stove & burned her to death
- Dick Lee - 28 Dec 1915, in Lovitt & Heads barn, "poor old fellow out of his misery"
- Peter Rivenburg - 6 Jan 1916
- Daniel K. Fish - 6 Jan 1916
- Frank Rugg - 16 Jan 1916
- Barton Miller - 24 Jan 1916
- Ira Hunt, in Catskill Hospital - 30 Jan 1916
- Clair Weeks, appendicitis, last night - 15 Feb 1916
- Sarah Augusta Palmer - 23 Feb 1916
- Albert Hale, cancer, Albany City Hospital - 26 Feb 1916
- Fred McCulloch - 29 Feb 1916
- J. Magilton & William Jones, of Catskill & Cairo, in car accident in Albany - 3 Mar 1916
- Mrs. Smith buried - 9 Mar 1916
- Captain James Stevens - 13 Mar 1916
- Min Rivenburg Jr. - 29 Mar 1916
- Addie Sisson, tuberculosis - 23 May 1916
- young child of Mr Austin, infantile paralysis, lived at Susie Beers - 28 Jul 1916
- William Caldwell, car accident, Coxsackie - 2 Aug 1916
- Mrs. Clarissa Dibble, buried, from Andrew Cameron Jr - 7 Aug 1916
- Will Rivenburg's girl, Cheese Hill, infantile paralysis - 7 Sep 1916

- Grandpa (Ransom Ingalls) - 30 Oct 1916
- Mrs. Elizabeth Robbins, Trum a bearer - 2 Jan 1917
- Mrs. Adaline Jennings buried - 24 Feb 1917
- Mrs. Eleanor Avery, funeral tomorrow - 22 Feb 1917
- Eliza Dawson - 15 Mar 1917
- Shadrac Palmer (Elgirtha writes) - 29 Mar 1917
- Emmet Matthews, "poor little fellow, his troubles are over" - 8 Apr 1917
- Eugene Spalding's wife Maggie, didn't recover from operation- 28 May 1917
- Romaine Gifford -28 May 1917
- Will Bell, on fairground, heart trouble - 22 Aug 1917
- Ella Medaugh, buried from Norton Hill - 9 Dec 1917
- old Mr Andrew Cameron, last night - 11 Dec 1917
- David Tallman - 12 Feb 1918
- James Taylor - buried from Greenville Church - 14 Feb 1918
- Mrs. Brouilliard - 14 Feb 1918
- Mrs. Payne, died yesterday - 14 Feb 1918
- Raymond Story, shot & killed himself, insane - 14 Feb 1918
- Edgar (Lon Spalding's?) - 20 Aug 1918
- Amanda Robison funeral, Trum is bearer - 25 Aug 1918
- Lucy Palmer, yesterday, died suddenly, found lying outdoors but died in few minutes - 28 Aug 1918
- Asbury Lamb, last old Land Mark of Lambs Corners - 29 Aug 1918
- Orlando Ivory, suddenly - 19 Sep 1918
- Fred Hillicuss' baby, 3:30 a.m. - 4 Oct 1918
- Ray Winans, we hear - 12 Oct 1918
- Joe Goff, pneumonia - 26 Oct 1918
- Grace Verplank, influenza, at Coeymans - 27 Oct 1918
- Irving Gardner, of Cocksackie - 29 Oct 1918
- Ray Stanton, of Cocksackie, influenza - 30 Oct 1918
- Albert Tremmel buried - 10 Nov 1918
- Uncle Harrison Ingalls, a.m., in bed, last of family, Trum is bearer - 24 Dec 1918
- Penfield Pratt, pneumonia - 20 Jan 1919
- & his wife, a few hours later - 20 Jan 1919
- Israel Utter - 14 Apr 1919
- L. Leroy Austin, lawyer of Albany, great friend of Trum's - 16 Apr 1919
- H. Botsford's wife, at Albany Hospital - 17 Apr 1919
- Alonzo Hitchcox, yesterday - 8 May 1919
- Mrs. Joe Alverson - 27 Aug 1919

- Andrew Roe - 8 Sep 1919
- Norman Cunningham, Sunday night - 18 Nov 1919
- old Mr. Cunningham, at Horace Hunt's - 4 Dec 1919

Although Carrie's language is fairly straight forward, **an occasional phrase stands out.** A selection of them are below:

- it's as dark as tar - 5 Jan 1913
- bad luck - 28 Jan 1913
- such is life - 14 Mar 1913 (and many other times)
- taking care of old trumpery in the back kitchen
- notice my better half if very agitated over the way work is progressing on the saw mill - 6 May 1913
- Noise is a tame word to express it - 19 Jun 1913
- John goes back to Warrens. they have my sympathy - 26 Jun 1913
- Gerald improves very fast he can pull hair & scratch fine - 29 Jun 1913
- Last day of the summer months. Time flies. O how swiftly - 31 Aug 1913
- old fashioned rainy day - 26 Oct 1913
- Carrie & I have visited a blue streak - 12 Nov 1913
- This is my 50th birthday I must be getting old but cant hardly realize it - 14 Nov 1913
- They (her children) are a lively bunch without an exception - 27 Nov 1913
- cold enough to freeze a dog - 24 Feb 1914
- snow banks beginning to slump - 16 Mar 1914
- Jerome played on his violin awhile before going home - 27 Mar 1914
- a blue time for us - 24 Apr 1914
- baby as good as a little pig - 28 Oct 1914
- We pity the horses but I suppose that is what they are for 15 Dec 1914
- The same old moon shines here as does on the old home & does at Norton Hill - 1 Jan 1915
- Very cold. We haven't any thermometer here so don't know how hard to shiver - 10 Feb 1915
- Mr. Haskins is having a lot of trouble with us as tennents - 9 Mar 1915
- It seems quite old fashioned to back to the old farm (upper place) - 26 Apr 1915
- Tides are out & in spirits are up & down 12 May 1915
- Trum. has been working trying to make an ejector work if you know what that is I dont - 9 Jun 1915
- Great competition in trucking the Auto. Truck against us but the old horses get their share so we feel quite proud yet - 17 Sep 1915
- Great variety of life for me. some change from Scrub Creek (referring to campaigning) - 14 Oct 1915

- I called on Mrs. Waldron She is a terrible wreck of humanity - 6 Jun 1916
- little pet Maud she can sift right along - 6 Oct 1916
- Beautiful day, only cold. I call it a Republican day - 7 Nov 1916
- the days are so short it is hard work to eat three times - 10 Dec 1916
- Varigated life I'm leading - 14 Dec 1916
- Another year gone. Hope we have accomplished something - 31 Dec 1916
- War is declared between U.S. & Germany to-day. Hope it will not be bloody war. We cant know until the finished. Hope we can keep some of our best boys home. - 7 Apr 1917
- Dora Arnold called telling her troubles - 20 Apr 1917
- embroidered seems like silly work in war times - 19 Jun 1917
- Clarence got his notice of draft... We never though any of our boys would be drafted for War. a cruel war between Germany & about the whole world - 1 Aug 1917
- drove up to Warrens found them so busy with boarders he was afraid he would get run over. so he came right home. - 12 Aug 1917
- Perhaps we can get accustomed to this weather if we dont freeze to death trying - 3 Jan 1918
- Old Ed Palmer called looking for a job. He looks as though he might be about on his last legs. - 13 Jan 1918
- commenced to rain suds about 11 oclock - 19 Feb 1919
- I came to upper place to-night Trum. glad to see me it is up hill business for him to keep house - 29 May 1918
- never was in such a house-hold in all my life positively nasty. - 24 Aug 1918
- I got some things ready for the Belgians. This cruel war is torture for a whole world. - 26 Sep 1918
- The last day of 1918 a year to be remembered. Peace declared after a terrible War with Germany. Hope we never see such a war again. - 31 Dec 1918

Sometimes the details of work of everyday life are so huge that we lose sight of the **wealth of interaction with a large number of people**, a bigger number than we might expect for a time that is just getting cars. A listing of most of the people mentioned in the diary are below.

Roy Abrams	Ren Gardner	Luman King
Harry Adriance	Hazel Garrett	Obadiah King
Frank Alger	Dennison Garrison	Harry Kirchner
Gus Armstrong	Will Gedney	Edgar Knowles
Dora Arnold	Harry Gibbons	Rosco Lacy
Frank Arnold	Alton Gibson	Ernest Lamb
Henry Barker	Hattie Gifford	Hannah Lamb
Orloff Barrows	Niles Gifford	Edith Lampman
Edna Baulch	Ren Gifford	Fred Lampman
Burdett Bear	Ruth Gifford	Roy Lawyer
Leona Bear	Carrie Goff	Ren Layman
Will Bear	Charles Goff	Noah Lobdell
David Bell	Evangeline Goff	David Losee
Grover Bell	Jerry Goff	Libbie Losee
Harold Bell	Leslie Goff	R. Celia Losee
Mary Bell	Charles Goggins	John Lowe
Henry Botsdford	Linda Gordon	Frank Lusk
Bill Brusie	Arthur Gransbury	Leon Mabey
Bill Bryant	John Gransbury	Orville Mabey
Clark Bryant	Charles Green	Phoebe Mace
Horace Bryant	Dan Greenwood	Pearl Mackey
Orson Bryant	Burt Griffin	Emmet Matthews
Andrew Cameron	John Griffin	Harold Matthews
Irving Cameron	Ren Griffin	Pearl Matthews
Jack Cameron	George Groben	Dr. McCabe
Potter Cameron	Frank Hagadorn	Sam McCulloch
Irene Chesbro	Lester Hallock	James Meddaugh
William Chesbro	Utter Haskins	Walt Miller
Ezra Cleveland	Will Haswell	Will Miller
Ed Cornell	Grace Head	Almeron Moore
Alex Cummings	Frank Hilliker	Edward Moore
Bertha Davis	Lewis Hoose	Miss Navom
Chauncey Davis	George Hubbard	Elisha Nelson
Eldora Davis	Ira Hunt	Melvin Newman
Carl Dewitt	Ray Hunt	Hattie Niles
Clark Dewitt	Roy Hunt	Clara Nolan
Roy Ellis	Willard Hunt	Nina O'Keefe
Seymour Etheridge	Maurice Husted	Bogardus Oathout
Arthur Evans	Harrison Ingalls	George Oathout
Frank Evans	Wendell Ingalls	Bertha Palmer
Bertie Farley	Ann Irving	Celia Palmer
Charles Finch	Aaron Jennings	Charles Palmer
Sam Francis	Bertha Jennings	Clara Palmer
Arthur Frost	Clarence Jennings	Cora Palmer
Harrison Gardner	Lincoln Jennings	Delia Palmer
Lucy Gardner	Burt Kelsey	Emory Palmer
	Charles King	Everett Palmer
	Ella King	Gideon Palmer



Herb Palmer  
 Leland Palmer  
 Ray Palmer  
 Ren Palmer  
 Sheridan Palmer  
 John Parks  
 Hazel Perry  
 Roy Phinney  
 Anna Pierce  
 Charles Pulsifer  
 Carrie Reynolds  
 Ed Rivenburg  
 Herk Rivenburg  
 Milan Rivenburg  
 Min Rivenburg  
 Will Rivenburg  
 Cecil Rivenburgh  
 Ford Roe  
 Ida Roe  
 John Roe  
 Charles Rugg  
 Jerry Rundell

John Rundell  
 Ward Rundell  
 Frank Sanford  
 Ruth Sanford  
 Will Seabridge  
 Luman Searls  
 Paul Shaad  
 Howard Shaw  
 Edgar Showers  
 John Siegel  
 Charles Simpson  
 Frank Simpson  
 Gladys Simpson  
 Phyllis Simpson  
 James Sisson  
 Ernest Slater  
 Ariel Smith  
 Eva Smith  
 Howard Smith  
 Jim Smith  
 Jim Smith  
 Joe Smith

John Smith  
 Lyle Smith  
 Margurite Smith  
 Vern Smith  
 Ben Snyder  
 Millie Snyder  
 Roxy Snyder  
 Bertie Spalding  
 Chauncey Spalding  
 Eugene Spalding  
 Frank Spalding  
 Hattie Spalding  
 Izora Spalding  
 Lon Spalding  
 Margie Spalding  
 Helen Squier  
 Marion Stevens  
 Matt Stevens  
 Perry Stevens  
 Peter Stevens  
 Pierce Stevens  
 William Story  
 Wellie Tallman

Ray Traver  
 Curt Tripp  
 Ernest Tryon  
 Floyd Tryon  
 Henry Tryon  
 Humph Tryon  
 Lloyd Tryon  
 Cora Tucker  
 George Tucker  
 George Vanderbilt  
 Wm. Vanderbilt  
 Rob VanHouten  
 Grace Verplanck  
 John I. Verplanck  
 Lillie Verplanck  
 Howard Walker  
 Hattie Winans  
 John Winans  
 Ray Winans  
 Scott Winans  
 Court Wood  
 Wm Wright  
 Dell Yeomans  
 Harry Yeomans

### Food items mentioned in diary:

oyster  
 shad  
 fish  
 veal  
 rhubarb  
 plumbs  
 blackberries  
 peaches  
 pears  
 apples  
 ginger cakes  
 ice cream  
 maple sugar  
 mustard pickles  
 plumb conserv  
 catchup  
 fowl  
 cranberries  
 cabbage salad  
 mince pie  
 chicken dinner

beef stew  
 pie  
 cake  
 Johnny cake  
 beans  
 pickled beans  
 sweet corn  
 corn fritters  
 pigeon pie  
 candy  
 ginger snaps  
 sugar cakes  
 fudge  
 popcorn  
 potatoes  
 herring  
 spare ribs  
 succotash  
 huckleberries

### Summary:

How does one summarize the nineteen-teens for Carrie Ingalls family, based on her diary? On one hand, they live an **ordinary life**, coping with the trials and tribulations thrown their way, celebrate the joyous moments, give thanks in retrospect. Somehow, the extent of the ordinariness of their lives the **special-ness of their lives**. Nine children, being involved in politics, deviating from the agricultural life into the lumbering business, being related to many in Norton Hill / Lambs Corners area are facets that flavor this diary. I see Carrie as a cautious optimist. She hopes and prepares for the best, knows the worst could be just around the corner, gives thanks for past good fortune, and both worries about and accepts the tribulations placed in her way. She has had the good fortune of having no one in her family die prematurely (except for sister Rissie), watching her children lead productive lives and have her grandchildren; at the same time, Carrie does not gloat or take credit above and beyond her place in life. She works hard, accepts her lot in life and tries to better what she can. The modern day reader may question some of the assumptions of that society but many of us can realize that the spirit in which this Ingalls family lived and left behind is the core we would do well to achieve.

**On to the 1920's.**