

## The Carrie Ingalls Diary 1940-1951

This is a good time to step back and look at the changes the 1930s decade has made.

Trum and Carrie have been blessed with the good fortune of sharing another decade with each other in fairly good living conditions and average to better health. A close-knit family is continually involved with Trum and Carrie, with daily trips and visits a staple of the diary. They appear to lead a modest but comfortable lifestyle with mention of the changing items of life – cars, radio, electric and oil heat, etc. Carrie's health seems reasonably good with an occasional strong flu during the decade, bad enough for her daughter Leona to be the diary writer; meanwhile, Trum had started the decade still working at the mill but at decade's end, he apparently is not well enough to tackle the daily trips that his family is involved in. He often stays home when everyone else goes, and his working life, other than some light work, is restricted to advising and observing. The truth is that they are one of a small number of couples who can boast of celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Still, the ravages of age are bound to take their toll, and Trum is 75 and Carrie is 76 as the 1940s start.

The importance of having Leona to live with them cannot be understated. Although the family, I am sure, would have taken very good care of Trum and Carrie, the day-to-day presence of Leona means the little inconveniences are taken care of. Carrie will feel guilty about tying her daughter to them but Carrie is especially appreciative, and it appears the rest of the family is there to give Leona a break.

The trips Carrie takes have dwindled. She and Trum still travel but nowhere as much or as long. It's been noted that Trum often stays home, and as the 1940s open, Carrie's traveling is affected by her husband's declining health.

Also already noted has been the importance of family. **However, it is the**

**placement of the children, and Carrie's noting of what they are doing that keeps the diary an even more interesting inventory of the mid-20th century.** Elgirtha's husband is the principal of GCS and so the school events are often noted. Stanley has started GNH in Norton Hill and is the Superintendent of Highways or Supervisor, and thus we see some politics of the town. Carrie's daughter Carrie's husband Ed is today's equivalent of a contractor / builder, as is Clarence. Ruth lives at the Old Plank Road homestead and thus serves as a link to the past, as well as keeping a boarding house with her husband Merritt; Merritt is also active in the community. Although Carrie will not claim that any of her children merit any special place, and I'm not about to claim it either, it is her proximity to Warren and his boarding house Ingalside, and all the activity that goes with it, that garners more mention than the others, except for Leona. Leona gets herself involved in many of the community activities as well as taking care of her parents. The dark spots are the deaths of two of her children, the story of Dorothy told so heartbreakingly in 1926, and of Ransom in 1937. Thus, Carrie could have written a book about her children and it would have served as an image of Greenville life, and one may argue that the diary does that.

Keep in mind events unfolding in the late 1930s, war in Europe. Two events in 1941 are events that change one's life, and war will be one of them.

### 1940

On the 1st, **Leona is "Matron of the Lodge** now & think she is capable & hope she will be able to go thro' in flying colors." The oil man makes his usual delivery of oil and does so with such regular frequency that the reader almost ignores him; please keep in mind the oil man does make his deliveries, usually 50 gallons at a time, and any departure from his routine would impact Carrie's comfort.

The card playing continues, and bridge is still the game that dominates. Ethel's move to

the corner below facing Route 81 is a pleasant part of Carrie's life. Carrie obviously enjoys Ethel and Ethel's mother Mrs. Abrams.

Pop is hardly mentioned and we occasionally wonder what has happened to him. Trum and Carrie do not get out nearly as often. Of course, being old and Northeast winters do not mix well. Besides, there's a lot of illness this winter, Elgirtha's especially.

Buddy is in to lunch frequently and Carrie enjoys these short visits. **The newest apple of her eye is baby Edna Ingalls.** Otherwise, in January, some neighbors' wells are going dry, Carrie gets books at the library, Leona is out on Eastern Star (OES) business, Carrie is listening to Pot of Gold on the radio, cold weather is freezing the pipes, and a four generation picture of Trum, Warren, Gerald and Edna is taken.

In February, basketball season is in full swing, John Low has an accident, **Leona goes to Albany to see *Gone With the Wind*** (a great event), Leona and Carrie go to Greenville to see Swannee River, 18" of snow fall on the 14th, Leona goes sleigh-riding at Warren's with Annella, 27 more inches fall late in the month, Irene is working at Central Hudson, Mr. Mateer is shoveling snow, and the cistern does not have much water in it.

In March, Carrie and Leona called on "Uncle George. found him quite comfortable altho' he does'nt like to admit it." Basketball is played against Hunter and Westerlo. (It's not always clear that sometimes these games are town teams.) A neighbor runs out of wood, Leona takes her dress to Mrs. Ellsworth for alteration, Leona and Carrie go to the florists in Catskill – Person and Hanson – for Easter lilies, Ron Elliott has an appendectomy (it seems there are not many appendixes left in the Ingalls family), the Woodstock Dam is very high, Ken and Buddie stop in regularly for lunch, and on the 12th, "Clarence stopped for us to-night all went to Gerald's to an Anniversary party for Warren & Margaret been married 30 years. Had a grand time. 30 people there. They were some

surprised but had a feeling something might be up. Mr. Cunningham read an original pome very good."

In April, Leona is organizing some big event, the census takers come around, Gerald has his tonsils out, the first herring of the year is eaten, Mrs. Tallman who has been staying with Ethel all winter is going home, Pop and Carrie visit Ella King who is 82, a Ladies Aid Social draws over 100, and Leona and Carrie "went to the store. came home by Maple Ave. saw some old houses fallen down which were houses years ago." Also, Carrie is crocheting, knitting, reading, and listening to the radio. Leona wheels Edna down from Warrens, and a grass fire gets out of control near the house and scares them but quick work by Warren and Gerald keep them out of trouble.

May means more trips to Richfield Springs to Edna and Norman, the buds are on the trees, "the foreign war is beastly", Mother's Day is a beehive of activity as usual, Thelma and Ethel are helping out frequently, lightning strikes near Hattie Winan's house and damages many of the appliances, Phyllis plays a violin solo at GCS, Clarice is helping, Leona goes to see the Junior Prom, and *Gone with the Wind* comes to Greenville. On the 21st, Carrie notes "war clouds. They sure are fighting wicked in England & Germany. Let us hope we keep out of it." The next day, Leona goes with Warren's boarders to Howe's Cave and later that evening to OES business. Carrie will often wonder at Leona's energy.

On June 2nd, "Leona took us to South Westerlo with the Laundry. Carrie was'nt home so we went for a ride. Over thro' by the Newry School House which is a dwelling house now. on thro' by a Butler place & out on the East Greenville road & home & thanks again. 60 people at Warrens."

Edna is christened on the 9th, "**War is raging in the old Country. Italy has joined the Germans to try & whip France. Barbarous. & inhuman**" on the 11th, and the bridge club is holding a dinner at Valatie before

going to an Albany picture. Mrs. McAvoy, a nurse that helped the family during hard times, dies, the girls have ice cream in Freehold at Palmer's place, Father's Day is the 16th, the family is undergoing blood tests to see if they can help Mrs. Atwater who is in critical condition, a fire is needed for heat on the 21st, Keith and Claribel graduate, Leona won \$30 in the Greenville theater, France surrendered to Germany, and the Ingalls reunion takes place at the Norton Hill hall.

In July, Clarence is working at Baumann's, Leona is doing Red Cross work, Carrie goes to fireworks at Warren's, Warren pays Carrie \$50, the Weldon house annex and barn burn, Carrie and Trum sit under the butternut tree, and the spring gives out. Leona is spending her time at Warren's, Carrie has not had a roomer yet this summer, Phil's wife Anne is helping, Phil and Anne celebrate their first anniversary by going to Lake George, Ann (Carrie uses and does not use the final "e") is going to school at Delhi, the weather is hot during late July, Mrs. Abrams turns 85, Floyd Bear breaks his hip, and on the 23rd, "Pop Anne & I went with Annella & the baby to take Helen out to Gilboa to visit her Aunt. Came home by Pratsville Windham etc. A grand ride & such a nice time with the Baby. All home for the eve. under the tree. Saw some of the tallest oats we ever saw near Ashland."

In August, a fire burns the barn at Rotsol's (in Norton Hill, I believe), Carrie finally has some roomers, Leona goes to Saratoga, there's a fire drill at Ingalside, clam fritters is dinner one night, Janice and Helen are camping, Carrie goes to an Old Home meeting in Lambs Corners, Pop is wearing dark glasses, and Carrie complains about the cool summer (even though the end of July was hot). Irene Ingalls is teaching fourth grade at GCS, Leona and Carrie ride with Anne to Bear Swamp where Anne's family used to live before a fire destroyed the house, and Merritt has a good crop of oats – 419 bushels.

In early September, an early frost has killed corn on the mountaintop, Leona has tips of \$44.50 for Labor Day weekend, Clarice is still helping, the three of them go to Freehold and Ralph Story's for produce, Raffo's garage burned, Leona goes with Annella to Gilboa to take Helen and her brother Page to visit Helen's aunt, the moonlit nights are wonderful, Leona goes with the Ingalside crowd to Cobleskill, Leona goes to visit the Gays, the barn on Hattie Winans' place burned, Phil visits Anne at Delhi, Warren or Gerald come with the Sunday paper, and "Some of our Boys Kenneth one of them went to Albany last night and Enlisted for training in case of war. No one knows what it will mean later." Of course, in retrospect, the reader knows what this will mean.

In October, Detroit and Cincinnati are in the World Series, John I delivers groceries, a draft for all men ages 21-35 is instituted, and Hattie is having her barn rebuilt. The clambake is held on the 18th but it is interrupted by "**Stanley gone haywire. His pardner Jim Freeman turns out to be an Embezzler.**" Otherwise, Curt and Ellen are married and "serenaded", Bony Showers is cleaning a pipe, and for Halloween, "Three witches called on us. Margaret Bertha & Ann. & Warren in plain clothes. Don't think they upset any thing."

In November, Frances Graf is a new OES member, **soccer is mentioned for the first time**, FDR wins a third term, Eleanor has high blood pressure, Armistice Day is quiet, Ken and Keith put on Carrie's storm windows and doors, **Trum and Carrie's 55th anniversary is celebrated**, Trum and Carrie celebrate Thanksgiving at Clarence's (a change from the past years when it was at Stanley's), and on the 30th, "A hard snow squall this morning but clears very nice for the Bride. Pop Leone & I **went to Stanleys to the wedding of their daughter Claribel to Lenard Gardner. Married by Norman Adams her brother in law.** A very pretty wedding every body very happy. The young people had some sport for the send off. Throwing rice & stealing the bride."

In December, Leona slips in Albany and hurts her finger, Pop has a bad nose bleed, Thelma's dog Buddie dies, the Senior Play is held, Ina Green is selling handkerchiefs, Carrie's brother George breaks his hip, and Warren has jury duty. On Christmas Eve, "I peeled a lot of potatoes. Leone peeled the turnips & stuffing two turkeys. & helping out on a good many corners. Elgirtha called with an errand for me. Leone & I went to the old creamery, "The Bergmans" with a little Christmas for them. Leone gone to Greenville to Church this eve. Ellen & Thelma helped Leone set the tables at Warrens. Clarence called. Rec. packages from William Gay. Leone felt the tremors of an Earthquake this A.M. It was felt in a good many places." On Christmas Day, "40 Very pleasant & warm. Not really Christmas weather. Warren came for us went up about noon. Kenneth came this morning helped Leone out with some of her jobs. **Had a grand time everyone able to come. 44 for supper.** Tree full of presents. **Two new grand sons-in-law to be with us now Ellens husband Curtis Applebee Claribels' Len. Gardner.** We came home with Clarences folks. Stood the day good one more Christmas for us. Later Leone went out with the young croud."

On the 29th, Carrie gives a little bit about FDR. "**We have just listened to a Speech by President Rosevelt. He is a great speaker. Wish we had more confidence in him.** Talking on War." For New Year's Eve for Carrie, "Mostly cloudy & some colder. Warren in to fill the stove. Leone went to the store. We had baby Edna here this P.M. while Annella went to Catskill. Leone took Pop & I to Chas. Ruggs to a Golden wedding for Will & Carrie Palmer a very large croud of friends & relatives. Had the wedding ceremony all over by Rev. McIntire. Warren came for us home around 11 o'clock. Leone came home early & went out with their croud & came home late. Another yr. ended."

## 1941

1941 starts out just as routinely, with many of Carrie's entries listing Leona's comings and goings. January starts with six inches of snow, Leona goes with Warren, Gerald, and Annella to pictures in Greenville, George Palmer has a chimney fire, Elgirtha is a Matron in OES, Clarice is skating at Norton Hill with Clarice Husted, Clarice is helping Carrie while Leona goes to Richfield Springs, Gaylord Lockwood's house burns, the oil man delivers 50 gallons, the Ladies Aid Society has a bake sale, the bridge club is at Gen Mabee's, a foot of snow falls, and Carrie listens to FDR's Inaugural address. Ken is enlisting, getting ready to leave for Ft. Bragg, and making Carrie cry when she sees him in a uniform. Stanley has built a house over the saw mill.

In February, Dr. Bott is in to see Leona, Warren and Gerald are filling the stoves for Carrie and Trum, Eugene Spalding dies and has a Masonic funeral, Ken goes off to Fort Bragg, the 9th-11th are bitter cold, Annella is at a rag bee, Carrie is getting water from the spring again, Len and Claribel stop in to see Carrie for the first time since they've been married, the Ellises are sick, Keith picks up Trum and Carrie for dinner at Ed's, and Carrie worries that it is lonesome for Leona on a few nights. On the 22nd, "Aunt Bertie called up from Georges' telling us he passed out this morning at 7 o'clock 80 yrs old. Been in poor health most of the time. & is at rest." Two days later, "We went with Gerald to Brother Georges' funeral at the Norton Hill Church last one of the brothers. Minnie & I all there is left of our family & "so it is". Howard & Eleanor sang very nicely. Quite a large funeral. All our boys & Howard were bearers. Four ministers present."

In March, Ken writes. **This is a good place to pause and remind the reader that Carrie was known as a letter writer.**

Practically everyone in the family gets a letter if they live away from the area. Otherwise, Carrie listens to the Saturday night program Uncle Ezra, Mateer shovels the walks, 15 inches of

snow falls on the 11th, oil is 7½¢ (down a half-cent), Carrie sends Ken apples and cookies, the GCS basketball team plays Delmar and has a dance afterward, Ken maintains his one letter per week average, every heater is on to battle the cold on the 19th, the big woods is wild country, Warren and Gerald switch houses, and Ann and Bertha are in from Nebraska.

April starts with concern about war.

**“War is raging in Europe. To bad people over there cant act civilized. I’m afraid we cant keep out of it.”** Carrie notes Leona’s busy schedule, Charlie Simpson’s death takes them to the “dreary” scene of the county house, Leona sings in church with Mrs. O’Keefe, Elgirtha has her appendix out and Carrie is busy helping the Ellis family, Trum and Carrie have a shad “as big as a whale”, grass fires reage east of Freehold, the ice man left ice, Ellen’s report from the clinic is bad and she is recuperating at Applebee’s, and Warren and Ed celebrate their birthday together on the 30th.

May starts routinely. A few other details are Anne (Phil’s wife) has her appendix out, Edna is still the apple of Carrie’s eye, Ethel is taking care of pension business, there’s a new place in Greenville to have ice cream, and on the 13th, “Leona & I went to see Ellen. she went to Albany to go in a Sanitarium she & Curt. went just as we left. I cant tell how sorry we are for them all. Trying to look on the bright side.” **Mother’s Day is the usual but instead of glossing over this year’s, here’s the two days that detail it.**

May 10, 1941

Very nice clear day. Rather cold. Scott & Elgirtha called this morning. Leona doing some house work. Went to Warrens for pie plant. We went this after-noon to Vosburgs hot house to order flowers. Went with Elgirtha & Mrs. Bliss. Leona got some sweet peas for me. Home around 4 oclock Leone went to Warrens to write letters after we got home. Had cards from Carrie & Ruth Elgirtha Clarence & Irene came for the

eve. brot a plant. Leona & Annella went to Clarices at 9-30. Alex mowed the lawn.

May 11, 1941 Sunday

Very pleasant but cold & windy. Leona & I went to Church at Greenville with Warren & Marg. Leona went on up to Warrens to take care of Edna a while. Marg. left me a Mothers day present. Merritt Ruth Robert & Ronald brot presents. Stanley came brot a grand rose bush. Ed. Carrie & Irene Lampman came brot a present. Been remembered by all the children. Ethel & Thelma called brot tulips lillies of the valley & pinksters. Elgirtha brot a present yesterday. Another Memorial day.

**All this relative calm is shattered** on the 20th.

May 20, 1941

Pleasant but dry. Leona at Warrens the most of the day. Clarice off to School. Pop & I around as usual thro’ the day. Commenced to feel bad after supper but sat up thro’ the eve. & listened to the radio. Leona stayed down stairs with me all night. Got Dr. Stevens to come around 2-30. Had to Call Warren & Clarence to help us out.

May 21, 1941

Hot & dry. **Pop growing worse called Dr. Lacy gave another pipe\*. Kept him fairly comfortable but passed away at 11-30 the family all here to comfort me & each other.** Cunningham came took the body to take care of. We sure was surprised to think he should go out so sudden but glad he didn’t have to suffer long. It was as he would like to have had it. I cant imagine how I shall miss him.

May 22, 1941

Hot & dry again. Callers & then some. Marvin Williams & wife & Cousin Hattie. They brot the body home & he looked as tho’ he could speak. Who reads this page will have to read between the lines to understand what I would like to say. Kenneth came from Fort Bragg got

here around noon. Wonderful cooperation in the camp to get him started.

May 23, 1941

Sunshine again this morning & so dry been showers around us yesterday. We have a little sprinkle this P.M. Callers all day. Leland came with the flowers four baskets. Children grandchildren & Mr. McCulloch & mine & a piece from the Great Grandchildren. Annella Adams & Baby Edna Ingalls. Aunt Francis & Hattie were among the callers. William I. Gay came to-night with Scott from Delhi, Philip & Anne came home. Kenneth stayed with us to-night.

May 24, 1941

A very pleasant day but so dry & a high wind. We had our funeral for Dear Pop to-day from the Cunningham Parlors a very large funeral, 21 pieces of flowers. Rev. Mr. Harder our home minister & Norman Adams our grandson in law. Had a very nice service. The families all present. Bill Gay & his Mother came. We were so pleased to have them come. Kenneth in to bid us good bye for some time goes back to Ft. Bragg tomorrow morning. William Gay Jr. stays with us to-night.

May 25, 1941 Sunday

Cloudy & smoky & to-night we hear of some forest fires think they have them subdued. Leona & I went to Ed. & Carries to dinner. Nice visit & dinner came home around 4 o'clock & called at the Cemetery. Lonely coming home but glad to come. We expect to stay alone to-night. "alone." Elgirtha called awhile just at night. I'm never alone & I can't be thankful enough for the wonderful Loyal family we have.

On the 27th, Carrie opines that "I sure miss the old empty chair." The next day, she states that "Leona has the cards all answered & we have sent them on to-day. We had about 70 cards to acknowledge beside flower pieces 14 pieces. Had another nice shower this after-

noon." Carrie will miss her husband terribly, often noting that she does not have Trum to talk things over with.

An immediate effect of this, however, is that the family makes sure she is not alone.

**After a period of subdued entries, Carrie is almost as busy as she was ten years earlier. Some one of the children, if not more than one of them, make sure to involve Mom somehow,** and Carrie's quiet schedule is not quiet any longer. Many of the entries are details of what her children are doing because now she is involved with at least one of them most days.

In June, Carrie acknowledges Leona's help. "don't know what I would do without her." A list of all the people who stop in to help and visit is a list of the entire family. Carrie is blessed with a family that is supportive all the time. Of course, one might suggest that Carrie certainly has done her part in raising such a family. Still, Carrie's seeing other people's misfortune at old age is a reminder to her what she has.

A few other details of June include a big event on the 21st. **"Randall, (Stanleys) oldest son, to Cornelia Yeomans. A very pretty wedding & all the usual pranks stealing the bride etc. Norman Adams married them.** Clarice stayed here. Leona went to Ingalside after we got home. I rested & thot' things over. Every thing comes so fast so many things happening I can't keep pace. Can't talk things over with pop any more." Otherwise, Muriel graduates, Carrie does not attend the Ingalls Reunion this year, and "Leona & I ... Called in at the Cemetery. Pops' grave is smoothed off very nice. What a world this is. Clinton Weeks has died from an Auto. Accident. A tragedy. Leaves a wife & two Children."

July is sort of routine, as long as one realizes that Carrie is busy taking a trip practically every day with some family member. She's so busy that she muses that "it is hard to grow old gracefully..." Other details includes the dust from the busy road, taking some

roomers (including Page Dinnel), and Ellen's health seems to be improving.

August still is quiet, with the Ingalsiders going to the Saratoga races, Claribel going to the Ida Miller house, Clarice is roller skating, Ken visits, Carrie burns the succotash, and Ken has a piece of steel in his arm. A "groggy" man asked directions to Norton Hill and finally left to go on his way. Carrie is still decrying the war news. "The news papers are full of war news. It does'nt seem possible our Nations could be so inhuman at this day & age to want to stab shoot & kill each other."

September starts with a busy Labor Day, and Warren taking some boarders to the old Mt. House. Gerald is filling silo, Irene is showing a diamond ring, Carrie notes the Northern Lights, and Leona is looking for bittersweet. On the 14th, Carrie goes on a longer ride with Leona to Windham and Gilboa. The dry summer is taking a toll on neighborhood wells.

In October, Carrie and Leona go to the Gays, Marian Peck has a bridal shower for Irene on the 14th, **with the wedding, on the 25th, of "Irene to George Williams Jr A very pretty & large party.** Brides maids maid of honor best man flower girl & ring bearer. Little Carol Ann Borthwick flower girl. Ronald Elliott ring bearer. They had all the pranks as usual stealing the bride & throwing rice. & a very nice time This is our fourth wedding. in a little over a year." The annual clambake was at Ingalside with 70 people including all the help and a few others.

November starts with:

Nov 1, 1941

Rained quite a lot thro' the night last night. Helps out some. Stanley in this A.M. brot' me \$5.00 he had sold an old motor of Pops'. Leona doing the house work. Bertha Anderson died this noon in the Catskill Hospital. Been in there since Oct. 8th. I rode to Greenville with Warren & Edna. Leona Ethel & Thelma went to call on Ann at Warrens. Elgirtha & Roy here for the evening.

Nov 2, 1941 Sunday

A beautiful morning & not very cold clouds up later. Leona & I went to Greenville to Church. I called at Warrens to see Ann. It is a pitiful situation. They had a funeral service at the funeral parlors in Greenville. A large party of friends there but not a relative. Warren Marg. Annella Leona Wilbur Bertie & Mrs. Nelson went to Albany to see Ann off with the body to Nebraska. "And so it is." I went to Hobart with Clarence & family a nice ride. Went to Ethels for the eve.

Otherwise, Keith is working at Voorheesville, Elgirtha stays with Carrie while Leona goes with Gerald and Annella to NYC, the family has a bridal shower for Irene, and a turkey raffle is held to benefit the army boys. November was election time and the usual trip to Scott's. "A beautiful day for Election. Leona & I went to Scotts for lunch & the day. Fourteen of the family came for supper had a covered dish supper. Stanley won out for Supervisor by 18 majority. Freddie Kaiser the opponent. Had quite a jubilee after the returns refreshments after etc. Town of Greenville have now a majority of republicans in the board of Supervisors. An old acquaintance Orrin Stone & wife called at Scotts to see me. Was here on a visit 42 yrs ago."

Pearl Palmer is a missionary to India, Clarence is doing the roof on Ethel's garage, Carrie likes a speech that Hoover made, Carrie turns 50, and Ed and Carrie celebrate their 30th anniversary. Carrie celebrated Thanksgiving early this year when she "went to Thanksgiving dinner at Clarences' a grand dinner & nice visit. Mrs. Beers & Mrs. Worth were there. Clarence brot us home. We ate our little supper & went to a picture "Seargant York" It was a wonderful picture."

December events include Warren stopping in while the women are at OES, Irene is showing her wedding pictures, Leona is president of the Ladies Aid, Leona buys Lillie

Armstrong's car, six inches of snow fall on the 13th, and **Husted buys Leona's car for \$25.**

It's still dry as Christmas approaches. Carrie and Leona are making cookies and fudge for Kenneth. Christmas Day was "**Another grand Christmas party come & gone. Every one seemed very happy. No signs of depression.** Had our usual feast but had Virginia baked ham instead of turkey. All had lots of presents. Norman & family had to go home soon after-dinner. The children gave me \$50.00 some present. It seems most to much as I'm past doing any thing for them. Grand children gave me 1 yrs sub. to the Readers Digest. Leona gave me a nice sweater & various other things & thanks to every body."

The sink and bath drains are giving trouble, Ken is in for a visit from his training. Finally, "The last day of another year. & I am left here yet. Been an eventful year but looks as tho' it might be more so another year. **War all over the world. I guess except West Greenville.**"

This reference to war is something Carrie has been noting and dreading for a few years. As almost every American knows, December 7 is the "day of infamy." This is how it sounds in Carrie Ingall's diary. "**Japan has declared war on the United States so says the Radio. A terrible disaster lost a lot of our men at Pearl Harbor.**" The next day, "**Papers are full of war news. Japs blew up one of our big vessels great loss of lives.**" On the 10th, "**Both home for the evening. Germany & Italy declare war on us.**" even as Carrie is enjoying the company of her great-granddaughter. On the 11th, "**War declared to-day. on Germany & Italy.**"

And the war will be a major player in Carrie's life for the next 3½ years. From one perspective, the war years energizes her and this will be seen in the next few years.

## 1942

The first full war year will highlight the effects of the war on the Ingalls family. For

Carrie, that will mean noting where her grandsons are as the year goes on. The war news is disturbing to Carrie but life in a small town in upstate New York can distance the horror of that war to a great deal. The family is constantly checking in, and whenever Leona can't be there, someone else is staying overnight, or Carrie goes to stay with someone.

In January, Hattie Winans dies. On the 3rd, "In the after-noon we went to Cousin Hatties funeral at her home. Quite a large funeral all her family there. Her daughter Addie seems just the same stoical not speaking to any one. We went with Warren. He, Stanley, Clarence, Harrison, Lawrence Powell & John I. were the bearers."

**Stanley is sworn in as Supervisor,** early month is so cold that church service is cancelled one Sunday, some graft uncovered at the county level makes Carrie hope that Stanley can stay free of it, Norman and Edna are leaving soon for Troy to his new church, William turns 16, and Leona starts to work for Mr. Hook at the insurance building. The serendipity of this last piece will be evident this year and next.

February starts with Husted repairing Leona's car, an early snap is a major annoyance, chains are needed for the slippery hill at the start of Ingleside Road, Betty is helping out a few days, Leona is taking a first aid course, Norman and Edna are treated to a church reception by their Troy church, Leona takes Carrie to the Saulpaugh Hotel in Catskill for dinner and evokes some memories for Carrie, and Carrie plays dominoes with Robert Elliott.

**The first mention of a lights blackout** is mentioned on the 9th, the same day Carrie is taking calomel for her ailment, calomel being Carrie's regular fix for her ailments at this time. Carrie notes the fighting going on in the Pacific.

In March, Clarence and Irene go to Fort Bragg to see Ken. On the 11th, "Ellen came this after-noon says she is a well woman. She had an Xray yesterday & her Dr. pronounces her all fit to go to keeping house. And we are all so glad for her. She sure looks grand & weighs 140 lbs.



Thelma called. I went down & stayed to Ethels this eve. while I went to First Aid. **Had another black out about 9-30. We heard the Church Bell at Greenville as the signal to put lights off.** Ellen's news is especially heartening for Carrie. Warren and Margaret's 32nd wedding anniversary is a good reason for the family to get together, the quarterly conference is held at church, Norman is speaking on WABY radio and Carrie likes his sermons, and Carrie hears the peepers on the 27th, a rather early start for the peepers.

There is some talk whether the war is able to be won. **Carrie thinks the war is "Dastardly & inhuman infernal machines to kill people with. We seem to be helpless to do any thing right here in our homes. Better try & look on the bright side if possible. I'll be glad when the baby gets back it helps a lot."** And great-granddaughter Edna provides many bright spots for Carrie.

April sees an Easter service in which several babies are christened, six inches of snow falls on the 10th, Leona is working most of the month at the office, and Carrie's dizziness in late month means a home visit from Dr. Bott. On the 27th, **"The men in this locality are taking turns in staying thro' the night at a little cabin west of Norton Hill to listen & report if there any air planes go over. I don't understand much about modern war fare. & I guess no one knows."** Leona will be a regular spotter during the war years. On the 28th, "Warren called this A.M. He & all men from 45 to 65 had to register for service yesterday." On the 29th, "We are rationed on sugar ½ lb. to a person. We can get along with a little sugar. I wonder if our higher ups know what they are about." Carrie will support a good cause but it better be fair for all!

In May, on the 1st, "I made up my mind quite sudden to go to Ed. & Warrens birth day party at Carries. We had a grand time & very nice supper. Gerald, Nell, Edna, & Helen. Mr. Wooster & Muriel were in the party. All seemed to enjoy the party & I sure did. I don't like to

miss a family party." Meanwhile, the teachers are helping with the rationing, Edna has a baby boy (we'll find out it's Noel in six days), Mother's Day is the 10th, and Carrie goes to Troy to see the new baby.

As for the war news, "The Government is shutting down on transportation sugar & gas. Making it a struggle for some to do business. A pity. This beautiful world to be fighting & doing no good. Hope something turns up to end it before we are destroyed." Otherwise, Carrie goes with Warren and takes the ferry to Hudson, an uncommon event since the new bridge. The Elliott children are inoculated against typhoid, Carrie notes the first anniversary of Trum's death, and geraniums are put on Ransom's and Dorothy's grave during the Memorial weekend.

June starts with some usual and unusual. The usual, of course, is the continued presence of family, and the start of the busy season of Ingalside. The strange news is on the 3rd, when "We hear they have taken two German Spys'. One Margraf had been doing business at Leeds for some time. Contradictaded later." It must have been difficult to have been of German ancestry during these times.

Leona starts her summer work, a noisy skimmlen is held for Ken and Margaret, Baccalaureate is delivered by Rev. Norman Adams at the Methodist Church, GCS graduates 42 students in '42, and the alumni banquet is held.

In July, Leona's garden of peas, lettuce, beet greens, and Swiss chard is grand. Clarice is helping out, and Carrie houses a roomer or two. A little family history is revealed when Carrie and Leona "Went on to Harry Long's left sugar. "Memories" for me. Uncle Williams & family used to live there. Grandmas' brother." Gas rationing is beginning to make life a bit more restrictive, and on the 24th, "Leona got up in the night at 1-30 went with Gerald at the listening Post. home at 4-."

In August, Muriel is helping earlier, and later by Clarice. Carrie's sister Min is ill and recovers very slowly. Carries notes she is doing

her “foolish tatting”, oil is 9.4¢ a gallon, Ken is a Master Sergeant, Don Powell is home on leave, and Stanley and Eleanor vacation in the White Mountains, partially to get away from his hay fever.

In September, Carrie twists her ankle and it is sore a few days, **Ingalside has over 200 boarders for Labor Day dinner**, Matt Chesbro is papering and painting, and Leona and Carrie and Ruth pay a surprise visit to the Gays. On the 15th, “Buddy goes for examination to-day. The army is calling for more & more men. Nothing we can do only swallow hard & take it.”

October starts with the canning of tomatoes, Min is still miserable, Keith goes in for a service physical, there’s a Collins show at the school, Len Gardiner is taking a service examination, and Buddy will be going soon to Camp Upton on Long Island. Clarice Cunningham “has a grand nice home. It is the Dr. C.P. McCabes’ old home. Who was our old family Dr.” An old mill in Preston Hollow burned, Carrie watches Warren’s milking machine work, and for Halloween, “Five little witches came in to scare us. Edna & Carol were in the party. Some of the Mothers were with them.”

**Church attendance should be noted as being more consistent and** November starts with going to church. Leona is at OES, Carrie voted for Dewey in the elections, Carrie goes to a donation at the Norton Hill church, Ingalside has their annual reunion, Carrie is knitting socks, a shower is held for Ken’s wife Margaret, and the spring is full so they switch over from the cistern. **On the 10th, Carrie’s sister Minnie has a “shock”, dies on the 13th, and the “last of the brothers and sisters” is buried on the 15th. Carrie notes the feeling of being the last of her family.** Otherwise, Leona is fingerprinted for a reason Carrie doesn’t know, and Warren and Margaret go to Rochester, probably to visit her family.

December starts with mention of Carrie writing to the boys in the service, something she

regularly mentions for a few more years. Leona is at work at the office again, and on the 6th, Carrie **“Went again in the after-noon to the Theater for a Service for a flag with 40 stars on in memory of the boys who are in service flag raised on the village square. Several speakers & moving pictures.** Seth Cole & some of our own prominent men speakers. All very good.”

Annella and Edna (Adams) had gone to Peekskill to visit Ruth Grecni, fudge and brownies are made for the servicemen (Ken, Keith, & Buddy), Irene Williams is in Rhode Island, and the weather is very cold in the late teens and early 20s of the month.

For Christmas Day, “A perfect Christmas day. Leona went to Ingalside & put the hams in the oven. I got myself ready & Leona went for Lena Bishop to help with work for our big Christmas party. The family all there for supper except Ken. & Keith & Phil & Ann. Ken & Keith are in Texas. Phil & Anne with her people. Geo. & Irene came from Rhode Island, Muriel home from Schenectady, Helen Dinell home from Oneonta School. Buddy home from Virginia. Norman & family from Troy. A grand time, but we miss the absent ones. Margaret read a poem about the boys in service composed by herself.”

Rounding out the month, three days of ice and icy conditions make the hill almost impassible, and on the last day of the year, **Carrie muses, “The old Year about gone Leona gave me a new Diary for Xmas. I wonder if I will write another one through. Good night Leona got home early. 1942.”** Carrie is full of wonder that she is still alive and the thought of living through another year is reason for more wonder.

Finishing off the diary is the writing and updating of addresses, especially of the servicemen.

## 1943

1943 can be seen as an extension of 1942. The war will dominate news, the family

takes care of Carrie with Leona being the main support, and news of the family's goings-on and trips are noted.

In January, the telephone is back in service after a couple days being out-of-service, Carrie goes with Leona to pictures in Greenville, a flag is dedicated in Norton Hill for the service boys, the hill is icy, and the fourth grandson, Phil, is to be tested for the service. A bridge game is cancelled because of a ban on pleasure driving, and on the 12th, Carrie notes "Not much to write about only war these days. Too complicated for me to understand. A big world this is to be at war."

Uncle Ed sells his cows, now that Min has died, more blackouts are called, Leona is president of the church's women's society, mid-month is icy, Carrie continues to write the boys, and the servicemen's short leaves are noted. Phil and Anne's goods are moved back to Greenville from Schenectady, Margaret is operated on at Catskill for something that never is identified, Leona is working half days at the office, and great-granddaughter is making pictures and reading stories with Carrie.

In February, Carrie visits Margaret who will be home from the hospital on the 11th, Don Shorr is visiting on leave, Ken is home for ten days, the pipes freeze, Carrie is knitting for the Russians, the Fibber Magee & Molly show is on the radio, George Williams expects to go into the service, and **Dr. Bott goes to the Catskill Hospital to have his appendix removed.**

In March, **with Phil Ellis in the service, Carrie now has four grandchildren and one in-law in the service.** John I's store is mentioned often, and an occasional pot luck dinner at the church is attended. Otherwise, Carrie is sewing rags, more blackouts are called, Warren has his appendix out, and Claribel is home from seeing Len at Wilkes-Barre.

In April, George is home for a brief visit, Muriel has her appendix out, Irene has her tonsils out, and Robert Elliott fell in the barn and hurt his knee. The usual noting of flowers, baking, listening to Dr. IQ, and taking oil

deliveries is made. An attempt to combine the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations falls short.

In May, the Ladies Aid is a center of activity, oil is 10¢, Mother's Day is a big event, Leona goes to Catskill to have her hair permed, John Salsbury ("poor old codger, pitiful") is at Warren's again, a ban on pleasure driving is instituted, Buddy is in Africa, Leona plants her garden, and the boys are home on their leaves.

**In a quirky side note**, in an empty page dividing the months (the only diary that used this format), Carrie writes "Mothers day May 9th - A little story of a big rock. Which fell in the creek, just across from Clarences house. Size about as big as half our living room. Slackened cracked & fell in the creek, very sudden. There had been a little boy playing under it about fifteen minutes before. Very lucky for the boy. Why?"

In June, Leona is mowing the lawn, Thelma ends helping Carrie so that she can help watch her grandmother, meat is hard to get, potatoes are scarce, Carrie goes to the South Westerlo Children's Day Concert, Keith is in California, Edna continues to brighten great-grandma's life, 31 graduate from GCS with no Ingalls in the class, traps are set for woodchucks and rabbits, and Warren pays Carrie \$25. These monthly payments are noted regularly; the reason for them is not clearly made.

The empty page between May and June is written with the words of a hymn.

Oh! solitude where are thy charms  
That Sages have seen in they face  
Better dwell in the midsts of alarms  
Than reign in this horrible place.  
The mid summer sun shine but dim,  
The skies look in vain to look gay  
But when I am happy in him  
Decembers' as pleasant as May.

**July starts with bad news for Stanley.** "There was quite a scare around dinner time. A fire at Stanleys lumber yard burned the plainer & the building over it a total loss. No other buildings burned lost some lumber." Next

comes news of some roomers, and "Leona Janice & I went to Cairo to the old Walters Hotel to dinner. Seemed quite like old times. Pop & I used to stop there once in a while." Carrie and Leona get ice cream at the Cabin, Scott has his appendix out, and Janice is helping out at the house. Carrie continues to worry about her grandson's safety, and the first mention of Darius Rundell is made on July 24: "Leona at work for ½ day. Went with D.H. Rundell this after-noon to act as Clerk at a sale at Westerlo."

**Near the end of July is this revealing piece. "Warren & Margaret called. Tells us Annella is in the Hospital.** A miscarriage we never used to write down such things for young people to read. but times have changed." This is the same woman who never gave us a clue that she was pregnant until the day of the birth!

August is more knitting and gardening and mowing the lawn. Leona's rides with D.H. are frequent, twenty planes are seen overhead, Stanley is going north for vacation and an escape from hay fever, Leona left sugar out of cookies, a bake sale raises over \$100, water is put in the cistern, and Leona gets a wage increase. A trip early in the month takes Carrie and daughters Carrie and Leona to the Gays for a visit. While there, someone locked the keys in the car and had to get a policeman to knock the window out. In the empty page between August and September is "A leaf from our beautiful tree. In West Greenville." And the leaf is still in good shape.

In September, Leona is the chair of the war bond selling effort, Leona and D.H. have a chicken dinner at Dormansville, Janice is back home, Carrie eats outside under the tree, Scott and Elgirtha go to Crystal Lake with Bill Stevens, Ken is in Camp Maxey in Texas, Leona and Thelma are at the spotting post, Gerald brings water to put in the cistern which has gone dry, and Norton Hill has another dedication service for the boys in service.

In October, Adrian and Muriel give blood for war needs, Leona is chairing a big

Lodge meeting that seats 160 people, Carrie opines that the gas shortage is only for some people, "Warren & Gerald have gone to New York to the Base Ball game. I'm not quite up to par. Leona went to a Committee meeting at Mrs. Edith Evans. Talking up painting the Parsonage. Seems quite like a mans job to decide such questions", Carrie pays insurance at Powell's, Carrie is writing her letters, and Gerald and Annella celebrate their 10th anniversary.

Early November means local elections, and Stanley is re-elected. Claribel is in Florida to be with Len, nine inches of snow falls on the 23rd, a plane leaves a vapor streak in the sky, and Carrie turned 80 years old on the 14th. What an 80 years she has seen. On Thanksgiving, "A beautiful day sun shines & thawed. Stanley Eleanor & Walter came at 8-30 took Leona & I to Troy to a Thanksgiving dinner at Norman & Ednas. Had a grand Turkey dinner & a very nice visit. They have a nice little family Annella & Noel a lively little pair."

December is full of the doings of the servicemen, there's a firemen's party at Warren's, Stanley's birthday on the 7th is the second anniversary of the war, Bill and William Gay pay a surprise visit, Carrie visits Uncle Ed Rivenburg, and on the 18th, "We have a new Great Grand-son born this morning. Irene Elliott Williams the Mother. The father is in the Aleutian Islands. Irene is in the Catskill Hospital." Wayne Williams is welcomed into a tough world.

**Christmas is close by.** Leona gets a good bonus at work, and for Christmas Day itself, "Cold. There were 38 of us present Christmas morning I guess I'm ready to go to Ingalside for another party of our big family. Quite a lot of absent ones. Buddy Keith Len. & Geo. Buddy in Africa Keith in Texas. Len. in Alabama, Claribel with him. Irene in Catskill Hospital with a new baby. Geo. in the Aleutian Islands. Norman went to Denemora Prison to see some friends. There were presents for all no signs of hard times. Peace & harmony in the family. We hope to see Peace in the world soon.

Ken. & Phil. were here. Ken. from California. Phil. some where along our Coast. Cornelia was with her people.”

On the 27th, Carrie “Recd. a package from Mrs Gay & William. a pretty bed jacket & box of letter paper.” The last day of the year, it is “6° above cold but pleasant beautiful sunshine. Leona at work home a little early. Norman & his family called. A lively bunch. You know somebody has been here. We went to the store took Clarice home. ate supper there. Irene has a very nice baby. Clarice & Betty came home with us. We took them to the Canteen party at Greenville they came back here & stay all night. **good night 1943 We wonder what awaits us. Hoping for the best.**” Fifteen addresses follow.

#### 1944

This year will be dominated by the big brush stroke of family, and this seems to be repeated but to not keep this in the back of the mind is to forget the biggest part of Carrie’s life as shown in the diary. All the other events outside of family mentioned here are secondary in importance. So, with that in mind, a look ahead this year will see that the war is mentioned frequently, and a change of living style must be made. Stay tuned.

January starts with **Carrie’s note that Buddy is in Italy and has jaundice.** Leona is working at the office still, and this keeps her from working at Ingalside during boarding house season as she has done the previous few years. On the 5th, “They had a fire in the Insurance building this morning It was in the basement & mostly smoke. All under control very soon. Warren called on way from Chas. Hortons funeral. Thelma called this evening. Seemed like old times to have a neighbor call in the evening.”

Eleven inches of snow falls on the 6th, Leona, D.H., and Carrie often play double nine dominoes for evening entertainment, daughter Carrie is in the hospital from the 7th until the 14th, and on the 14th, “Ellen Applebee came

home to-day been in Hospital a few days for a miscarriage.”

**Mumps are going around, the Husteds suffer damage from a fire to the hen houses,** Stanley and Eleanor go to NYC to a Lumberman’s Convention, Carrie goes with Warren to a pot luck at Norton Hill, a ham is taken to brother-in-law Ed’s to smoke, and D.H. and Leona are mentioned together often.

February events include the selling of war bonds, the bear sees his shadow, Leona is still playing bridge, 40 people celebrate Stanley and Eleanor’s 30th anniversary, Clarice is helping out at the house and putting pictures in photo albums, basketball season at GCS is going full bore, Keith’s change of address to NY seems ominous to Carrie, Stanley is attending the supervisors’ meeting in Catskill, Leona is working until 10 at night sometimes, and the Tick Tock Inn burned.

March has a note that Phil’s letter to Carrie is censored, neighbor Cliff Mateer is in service, Edna goes to Carol Cunningham’s 5th birthday party, Ken is on the Atlantic Ocean someplace, Annella and Edna Adams visit Ruth Grecni, Don Mabee is carried off the field on the players shoulders as GCS beat Cairo in basketball, Warren rents the Griffin house to the Rice family, Claribel is going to Indiana to be with Len, and Keith has pneumonia in England. Carrie continues to write and receive letters from her boys in the service, the suspense of not hearing is hard to take, and Warren leaves \$25 a month for Carrie.

In April, George Williams is in Attu, the Rices move in, a grass fire burns the Sherwood Miller place, the Medusa Church celebrates its 111th anniversary, and a party for Ed and Warren’s birthday is a joyous family get-together with singing. In a sign of things to come, Carrie stays at Warren’s for a few days, then a week at Ed and Carrie’s, and then back home.

On May 5th, “Just as we were ready to sit down to dinner the Siren began to scream. **Big fire at Stanleys lumber yard.** Greenville

Engine gone to another fire, came as soon as they could 3 or 4 other ones got there. The saw mill all burned down dont know the whole dammage yet. Leona & I went to the fire. I was foolish to go but did'nt hurt me. It was an awful spectacle. An awful croud there."

As Carrie ages, she **muses sporadically about her mortality. On the 6th, "It is all right I have had my day. & have mostly outlived my usefulness. Trying to grow old gracefully."** Other events include the ice man coming, strawberries cost 54¢ a quart, and D.H. is a regular visitor. A reader begins to wonder if a marriage is in the works.

**June starts with news that Norman Adams is going into service as a chaplain,** followed soon by news of D-Day. "The radio all going full blast. The D day has come & Invasion is started. We are trying to whip the Germans. I dont understand it. I do know we have two boys in England where a lot of the trouble is. Ken & Keith. & a million other boys that belong to some one are there too."

The last bridge party of the season is held, and on the 8th, a little piece of South Westerlo local history shows in "We had soda at the Corner Cupboard a little store Leander Lockwood sold merchandise parigoric & camphor when I was a child. Chas. Bogardus now owns it."

The Elliotts get together and arrange for a four generation picture of the family, "Jane Eyre" is playing at Greenville, and Carrie remembers reading the book when she was young. The girls are at work, Frank O'Hara the assessor leaves the assessment the same, high water in Greenville has Scott's garden under water, and graduation sees Janice graduating.

The 26th is "**A wonderful day for me. A beautiful day. Carrie & I rushing around getting ready to go to Franklin to Williams graduation.** Leona came with D.H.s' car to take us. Elgirtha & Clarice went too 5 of us. Started at 2 oclock drove to Oneonta had supper, & went on to Mrs. Gays, Bill & his family were there. Went to the School & saw all the

exercises. William had a lot of prizes for so many things I cant put them on this little page. \$40 in prizes & a silver cup. for Honors I think. William was Valedictorian."

**The big event of the month, and a big change in Carrie's life is Leona's wedding.** On the 17th, "A beautiful day. This is the day. Leona & Darius were Married at 4 oclock by Rev. Chas. P. Harder a very nice service. No guests except Mrs. Harder Elgirtha Martha Rundell Clarice & myself. Had a very nice lunch of ice cream cake strawberries & coffee Elgirtha & Clarice doing the work. Anne made the cake. Elgirtha brot me to Ed. & Carries." Carrie will note that Leona has an office party. One cannot escape the thought what will happen to Carrie now that Leona is gone. The next few months will answer this question.

In July, Carrie is still living in her West Greenville house but Janice or Phyllis or Clarice are always staying with Carrie. Clarence is doing odd jobs, the thimble club meets, an attempt on Hitler's life has been made, FDR is sure to get the Democratic nomination in Chicago, Carrie continues to write and receive cards to the boys, William and Bill Gay visit and William stays for a week, Clarence is doing the roof on the garage, Ken sees keith in France, and Clarence and Irene are home from a trip to Niagara Falls.

In August, Thelma's kitten dies, Janice is 17, Phil and Anne Ellis have a son Bradley Turner, the temperature is almost a hundred on the 11th, there's a serious accident between Adelbert Ingram and Bogia's taxi, lightning burns barns in Newry and Gayhead, a roomer or two is mentioned, the pictures at Greenville are well attended, Emily Winans and daughter 'Marjory' calls, and Carrie goes on a ride to Phonecia.

On the 30th, reality takes hold. "Edna came to stay with us. her Mother & Margaret went to Catskill. I shall miss the little dear when I leave my little home." And this leads directly into September.

**On the 2nd, “I suppose this is my last night here for awhile.” On the 5th, “I’m packing to leave my home.** Janice is also packing to go to Ellens & the 10th to go to Oneonta to College. God pity her & watch over her. I’m writing this days doings in bed at D.H. Rundells. Where I never expected to be. It is all right & a very nice home. Leona went to the Office for the eve. guess I’m a little meloncholy. There have been earth quake tremmors on our coast this A.M.” In a metaphoric sense, Carrie’s life is going through a tremor.

Other September events include note of Matt Chesbro falling off a roof and walking home, D.H. & Leona are at the Altamont Fair, and Janice is at school in Oneonta. Also, a part of Carrie’s life that changes when she moves out of the West Greenville house is the noting of what happens where she is staying. Because D.H. has a business of actioneering, we are introduced to D.H.’s business world, and to many of the places he is going. A study of the diary could certainly develop a side story of the world of D.H. and the world of an auctioneer, a story that will be glossed over in this account.

In October, William fails his physical with a 4F rating, Carrie visits and loves to “talk, talk, talk” with daughter Carrie, Ken is in Belgium, William is going to ag school at Ithaca, Keith is awarded a Bronze Star, and Carrie is traveling back and forth to Leona’s, then Warren’s, and to daughter Carrie’s. When she is at Carrie’s, a visit across the street to Clarence is often made.

In November, Carrie and Carrie are at a WCTU meeting at the Session Room in South Westerlo. The temperance movement is mentioned only in South Westerlo in all the diary reading I have done. Carrie sends cards out to her seven boys. The elections means “Rosevelt gone in with a bang. Well I guess it is what we could expect. Some disappointed. We will be led around an other 4 yrs by the big man. Gov. Tom Dewey may not be asleep yet. Hope he can do some good in Albany.” Otherwise, the household is playing double-9s, the family

celebrates Carrie’s birthday, Carrie goes on a ride to Huntersland and says she’s never been there before, Carrie visits Ella King, and Cy Grecni’s family is in for dinner. On the 18th, “Gerald & Annella have a new baby girl this A.M.”, and on the 20th, “Gerald & Annella have named their baby. Stephanie Ellen. Hope we get used to it.”

December starts with a wedding. “All busy. getting ready for the wedding. Martha Rundell & George Turon were married at 2 oclock. His father Mother & sister & a couple of their friends Mr. & Mrs. Snyder of Freehold who were Brides maid & best man was the party. Mr. Webb the minister from So. Westerlo married them a very nice wedding Leona made a brides cake.”

Meanwhile, Carrie is staying at her children’s house, most of the time at D.H. and Leona’s, and sporadic and shorter stays with the ones previously mentioned. This a pattern that will become routine for the years ahead, with one exception, to be explained during the coming summer.

On the 4th, “Leona & I went to South Westerlo got Carrie She Elgirtha & Ruth & I went to Catskill I got glasses & we all did some shopping I got a dress had dinner at the New York restaurant. I enjoyed the day with my four girls. very much. They are all grand company for me. Pleasant memories for me to go to the old Restaurant where Pop & I used to go so much.”

News of heavy fighting reaches Carrie just before Christmas. Christmas Day is “Very cloudy. some icy. D.H. & Leona are entertaining his family. Cy. Ruth & Elayne Geo. & Martha & Alston St. John. Ed. & Carrie came for me I went with them to Merritts at the Old Homestead for our Christmas party. 35 there. Norman Adams the only one in uniform. 6 other of my grandsons in the Army. Had a Xmas card from Buddy in Italy. One from Geo. in Aleutian Islands Ken. in Belgium Keith in England Philip on the Coast.”

At month's end, Carrie learns that Ken is in a French hospital with a broken leg, and Keith is in an English hospital. In a separate piece of the diary, Carrie notes that "My Grandmother Spalding was born in 1787 & died in 1833 Mother of 9 children and died at 46 yrs. old." Seventeen address follow, most of them the addresses of her grandsons and grandsons-in-law to whom she writes.

## 1945

1945 continues with the end of war in sight, and Carrie continues to stay mostly with D.H. and Leona, with sporadic stays at Ingalside and South Westerlo, and once in a while at Ruth's.

January starts with New Year's dinner at George and Martha's. Leona's gift of a diary prompts "Leona made me a present of this Diary so I expect I shall try to keep writing the events of the days so long as I am able to. The years grow shorter every year."

Otherwise, Cairo beats GCS in basketball in an exciting game, 17" of snow fall on the 16th, below zero weather hits in the 20s, and Betty has her appendix out. Great-granddaughter continues to bring great pleasure to Carrie. On the 14th, "Edna stays all night. & is sleeping with me. We are in bed now. Edna is going to sleep when grand ma goes to sleep. We tell stories until 10-30." The neighbors of Leona include Fish, Budd, Baker, Velie, and Armstrong, and will be mentioned consistently. D.H. has a hen house that provides almost regular mention. Carrie stops into Scott's and has ice cream, cookies, and coffee to go along with dominoes. Scott's get-togethers most frequently mention what is eaten. The war increasingly affects their life for on the 21st, "No school here to-day again. There is a great shortage of fuel in Albany. Schools, stores & theaters closed."

In February, Carrie gets apples from Rundells, Leona is active in the Red Cross work, Ransom would have been 55, Ken is in a Utica hospital, Norman is in France, and

listening to the radio is mentioned several times. On the 14th, "Leona house working I'm knitting a pair of sox for the Russians. Guess we dont know who we should knit for. Harrison Gardner called for me to sign a Deed guess I have sold a wood lot. Stanley has done the business & I'm sure it is all right."

In March, basketball still stirs mention, Ken is in Virginia, Warren and Margaret celebrate their 35th anniversary and Carrie stays up to 1:30 AM for the party, D.H. deals with the antiques dealer Smith, and Ken is back in Utica. A family accident shakes things up for a while. On the 29th, "We got news Anne & baby, Sisters & Mother, were on way home had a bad accident Scott & Elgirtha went out to get them all so bad were in a Hospital. Leona gone to Scotts to help out. D.H. & I came home." On the 30th, "Leona & I went to Scotts to help out. They went to Stamford brot' the little baby Bradley home. All the others were taken to the Catskill Hospital by Cunninghams Ambulance. In pretty bad shape broken bones etc."

In April, Carrie is asked to rent her house out but decides not to for the moment. April 12th is an important national date. **"Franklin Delano Roosevelt Died at Warm Springs Ga. Been our President for 12 yrs. 4 months.** Been a great man so to speak. Many men of many minds. It is a calamity to the Nation just now we hope he had some plans for peace. Harry Truman takes over as President." Even Carrie Ingalls will give a Democrat one kind word. Later in the month, Truman makes a national speech, Ken is home on furlough and on crutches, and Carrie ends her day with a bath and then to bed, a routine she will mention frequently from now on.

**Great news awaits the end of the month. "Good to get home Some radio news that the Germans have surrendered to England & the United States. Hope it is true."** However, the next day, "Last nights reports about the war are contradicted this A.M."

In May, the end of the war in Europe is announced. On the 7th, "We hear the Germans



have surrendered, but they say peace is not declared until tomorrow." On the 8th, "President Harry Truman announced the V.E. day Victory this morning at 9 o'clock. Also Churchill announced from England. The European war is over. We are to hear from Stalin yet." On the 9th, "All getting things ready for a big family party at Ingalside. A sort of a picnic party in the amusement hall for the boys who are home on furlough. Ken. & George Williams, I think the whole family were there except Janice, a very nice time. Hope all the boys will be home soon for another picnic."

Other May news includes Carrie's skepticism that 50¢ for a Greenville picture is affordable, Mother's Day is the 13th, **Leona is president of the Alumni Association**, and the 21st is a day to think back. "**Four years ago today Pop died. I never that I would be here so long after he went.**" Also, Memorial Day is memorable. "D.H. Leona & I went to a little celebration for Memorial day in Greenville A parade & to the Cemetery to decorate some Soldiers graves. Very nice."

The first of June is "A beautiful day & the first of the summer months, & how soon the summer will be over. We must get all the good out of life we can. by living one day at a time." Daughter Carrie is in the hospital for a few days, Harold Bell turns the water back on the West Greenville house, and \$7000 of bonds are sold. A June 15th ride sparks this comment. "D.H. & Leona went to Windham I went with them a beautiful ride. I have that so many times It would possibly be my last ride thro' those beautiful Mountains. Guess I cant tell Many happy memories all thro the old roads with horses & wagons."

**The 22nd is moving back day, and Carrie will spend the summer in her West Greenville home**, with Janice helping mostly. Phyllis and Clarice are among the graduates, and Len Gardiner is home for a 30 day furlough.

In July, Clarice is off in Rye Beach, and the 7th is a grand day for Carrie. "A beautiful day. Leona came before I was up. Brot some

things from the store. Ethel called this morning Thelma this P.M. Also Ina Green. Leona came after supper brot a Chicken all ready to cook a pie & cookies. Took Janice & I with her to Westerlo she for an errand & we for the ride. Called in So. Westerlo at Carries & Clarences. A grand day for me." D.H. and Leona go on a vacation to Kansas, Edna came down for a visit but ran back home without permission but would apologize a couple days later. The LAS fair clears \$500, the garden is planted, Warren paints the silo, Leona goes to the thimble club, and Norman Edna visit with Norman's parents from Ohio with them. Edna is back in good graces (not that she ever wasn't). "Edna went home this A.M. to go to Sunday School. She & I were visiting after our breakfast in bed. And she says I think you are a pretty nice great grandma to me so I said thank you Edna you are a pretty nice great grand child to me. Well bye & bye you will be gone & I'll be a big girl & bye & bye I'll be gone & maybe we'll meet." Mrs. Abrams, Ethel's mother, celebrates her 90th birthday, and Ella King dies on the 30th. "Eleanor phoned us says Ella King is dead. she is quite a bit older than I. Been a very smart busy woman. Her husband & Pop were own Cousins. The old people are passing along."

Early August is full of war news, or, more exactly, the bomb. On the 6th, "**There has been an awful Bom called Atomic bom dropped on Japan.** A terrible invention it seems to me. May be it is all right?" On the 8th, "There has been a terrible Bom invented to burst & kill an been let down on Japan. I should think they would give up." On the 10th, "Very pleasant all day. Early news on the Radio that the Japs have Surrendered but not unconditional. Hasnt been announced Official yet." On the 12th, "The news came on the radio that the Japs had surrendered on our terms, & imediately was contradicted. They are investigating to found out who gave such a report." Finally, on the 14th, "a great day. Peace is declared & the War is over. The Japs have surrendered. But expect it will be a long time

before our boys will all get home. There are some demonstrations around sirens blowing & bells ringing. Janice & I went down to Ethels for a call just as the news came thro'. ... Thank God it is over But we will have to keep vigil & 'keep the powder dry.'"

Otherwise in August, there was "a very bad fire in East Durham this morning early. A large Grange house used as a dance Hall where the fire started. Several other buildings burned." Stanley and Eleanor go to Maine, John I is robbed, a few peach pies are made, and Ken is in a Long Island hospital.

In September, 'JV' Day is celebrated, Stanley rents Carrie's house for Edna, and **Carrie vacates her West Greenville house to live with Leona.** Of course, she will take the occasional trip to one of the other children's homes. A trip to Cheese Hill brings back memories, Clarice goes to Cobelskill (college?), D.H. gets 1,000 chickens, Len and Claribel are looking for a place to live, Martha Turon has a daughter (Sally Jane), Ellen and Curt have a boy (Alan), and Ken is home.

In October, Carrie goes on a few rides, mention of an ill Alston St. John is made several times, Clarence turns 50, Keith is home, and William Gay hitchhikes back home after a visit to Greenville.

In November, Phil is home on furlough and will be home to stay soon. On the 24th, Carrie remembers "60 yrs ago this eve. We were married. Snowed all day & eve. & very bad road. Ward Rundell & Della Stevens, best man & bridesmaid. Had quite a large wedding. About all that were at my wedding are all dead. My generation about all gone." A late November storm dumps fourteen inches of snow.

In December, Buddy is home, as is Erwin Yeomans and George Williams. Carrie mentions the radio frequently, and D.H. is busy with his sales. Carrie notes a total eclipse of the moon, and Leona gives a dressed chicken to Rev. Harder. Carrie celebrates Christmas dinner with the Rundell family on the 23rd, while the

Ingalls family celebrates on the 25th. "Merritt Adrian & Ronnie were sick so couldnt come. So sorry. Cloudy not quite so cold Snowed some & rained when we came home at 8-30. We went to our great family party at Ingalside. A few absent on account of sickness, & some at the other side of the family. Stephanie was sick kept her up stairs all day. All had a grand time. Lots & lots of presents. I had a lot of grand presents. A beautiful white sweater from the Grand children & numerous other things. We had a turkey dinner. ice cream & apple pie. etc. The best of all the boys are all home all there except Norman." Of final note is Norman Adams had an hernia operation in France. Twenty addresses are listed at the diary's end.

## 1946

This year continues much the same way that 1945 ended, especially with the war's effects mostly gone, at least the immediate concern for the boys' lives.

Carrie is staying at her children's houses, mostly D.H. and Leona's house, with irregular stops at the houses of Scott and Elgirtha, Ed and Carrie, Merritt and Ruth, and occasionally Stanley and Eleanor. Carrie does not seem to mention Clarence and Irene's house much, and she can stop in anytime she wants when visiting Ed and Carrie since the two houses are across the street from each other.

Carrie is still reasonably active, although her trips are not as long as five years previous. She is frequently out for one or two local trips a day.

**D.H.'s business is an interesting addition to the diary, and Carrie will note where D.H. and Leona go on insurance business** or the sales business. When she stays at the others' houses, she will often note what they are doing but we see more of D.H.

There are the usual number of details in the diary, and Carrie, to use her words, still writes "smart." Thus, I pick out some of the details that might stand out, above and beyond

the usual, and sometimes as a reminder of the usual.

In January, Edna is renting the West Greenville house, **a double head stone is bought for Pop and Carrie**, Len and Claribel are living in a house by Scripture Bridge, the basketball game between Cairo and GCS attracts the usual attention.

In February, Carrie notes the grand care she is getting, ten inches of snow fall, the doctor is in to see Leona and her low blood pressure, and Len and Claribel move to Harrison Gardner's to keep house. Carrie continues to write her procession of letters.

In March, great-granddaughter Edna is over and sharing stories with Carrie, the cemetery is burned over (presumably to clear the dead grass), Alston St. John is moving to be cared for at Mrs. Wilday's, and Ina Green is mentioned here and there, one of the more interesting neighbors.

In April, Leona gets a new vacuum cleaner and Carrie questions the \$82 spent for it, a bridal shower for Betty is held and the wedding to of Betty and Fred McAneny is mentioned, a turkey supper at South Westerlo is held, Warren contracts for butter from the Durham Creamery for the summer, and Keith has his appendix out.

In May, D.H. visits his hill farm, Leona and Carrie go to see "Bells of St. Mary" at Greenville, and Mother's Day was "Another grand day for me. I'm wondering I did'nt hardly expect to be here for another Mothers day. never can tell. I have a very good mind yet, can do a very few useful things yet." The "Butlers at Greenville are selling out, It is the old Daniel Fish farm." Internal national strife was bothering her also. "A great Railroad strike on Hard to overcome. Our great men (if we have got any) have an awful struggle. Hope we dont have another war." Memorial Day was made more memorable with the first parade after the war's end.

In June, Carrie is checking on her house, moves in, and has Janice helping most of the

time. Lights are off from a storm, Daylight Savings Time is noted, and the US performs a nuclear bomb test.

In July, milk is 19¢ a quart, butter is \$1 a pound, John I's is mentioned as the store to shop at, Leona & D.H. are vacationing at Yellowstone, Carrie goes to the airport at "Burmans", Muriel shows off her diamond, Walter stops by with a friend on horseback on the way to swim, and a reception is held for the new minister at South Westerlo.

In August, prices are high for grocery goods, Uncle Ed sells his farm, and on the 15th, "A beautiful day in every sense of the word. The girls were going to surprise me. but thot best to let me know. So all the girls came Carrie Elgirtha Ruth Leona Margaret Eleanor Ethel & Irene ten with Janice & I all brot food set the big Fanny table out under the maple tree. We had a grand time. & I'm so thankful for such a grand family they are all so good to me." Ingalside is busy, Norman is in NYC, Carrie feels "this may be my last summer here. Well – I surely have enjoyed it. The children have been wonderful to come & see me", Carrie spots notice of Phil's divorce in the local, followed two days later by his marriage to Ramona Hueg. The 31st is her last night at the house, and would prove to be the last night ever at the house.

September is spent mostly at Leona's, Eleanor goes to Catskill for an operation, John Lowe pastured his sheep at D.H.'s, and ken is renting the West Greenville house and will do so for a few years.

In October, beef is \$1 per pound, Keith is married, the women are making grape jelly, a reception for the teachers is held at the Academy Building, and the 19th was "Pleasant. Another great day. The Ingalls Reunion all met at the South Westerlo Church Hall. Quite a big croud altho' not all there, But there was 80 there. Had a very nice visit & lunch They elected officers. Elgirtha is President. A good collection. Two people there from Wisconsin one a cousin." On the 29th, Carrie and Leona "came across Norman & Noel in Greenville

they rode over to their home with us. Noel says to me you are sort of old arnt' you. Children & fools tell the truth no offense." Mrs. Fish, a neighbor of Leona's dies.

In November, Carrie is staying at Ruth's for a few days and stays in Grandma's room, election day is the usual event at Scott's, a surprise birthday party is held, George and Irene Williams have a baby girl, and the 28th is "A wonderful nice Thanksgiving day. Warren Marg Gerald & family & Helen all went to Cairo to the old Waters Hotel for a turkey dinner a very nice dinner. but a long wait for it. I stopped of at Kens. when we came home. Clarence & family were there They all but Marg. & I went to Greenville to the funeral parlors for Byron Jackons I stayed to supper. Stanley & Eleanor called in here to night. I have had a very nice day."

In December, eight candidates join OES, Carrie writes to Mrs. Herman Ingalls of Wisconsin, Rev. Harder is mentioned, and Carried stayed home to the Rundell dinner because she wasn't feeling good enough to go to the Ingalls dinner. Carrie continued to feel ill, and on the 30th, Leona writes the entry.

## 1947

The same comments that fit 1946 fit here, with one exception, to be seen during the summer.

**In January, Norman Adams and his family move to Oil City, PA** to Norman's new church. This location, of course, will be visited and mentioned in Carrie's diary. Basketball season heats up with the Cairo basketball game, and Red Cross work gets its mention. Carrie continues to make a variety of short trips.

In February, Leona is mentioned actively selling fire insurance, the first mention of valentines is made, chains on tires are needed to go driving, and a friendly game or two of dominoes is played many a winter night.

In March, a white elephant sale is held, and bowling is mentioned.

In April, Ken starts a laundry business, something Carrie wonders about, the senior class goes to Washington, Phil and Ramona live in New Scotland, and "D.H. & Leona at a sale near Freehold, the Vol. Phinnie place where we lived when on a timber job with Clarence & Alliene."

In May, Waldo Powell is helping D.H., the travel itch to go out west has most of the family talking of summer vacations, frozen strawberry shortcake is mentioned, the cemetery stone will soon be set, Leona gets her small pox vaccination, and Clarice graduates from Cobleskill.

In June, Leona has a brush demonstration party, and Carrie "Then went to Merritts to a big family party. the old Homestead. All the Mothers & sisters were here. A grand party such a congenial bunch. I guess I'm pretty tough to stand such a lot of confusion. They took pictures of the whole croud. I'm so thankful for such a grand time." Betty is at her new home, sugar ration is finally off, Phyllis graduates, and Stanley and Walter go to NY to see a ball game.

**The onset of July leaves a giant gap. Carrie will not return to her West Greenville home.** It appears the few years of having one of the girls watching her for the summer is not going to work out, even though the family certainly would have stopped in regularly. Carrie will not be left alone, and has never been left alone during her lifetime. Other July events include Stanley and Eleanor going to Sioux City, Phil and Ramona have a baby girl (Ramona), and Eleanor writes from Washington State.

In August, Norman and Edna have a boy (Tim), and Carrie is using a fan to keep the heat at bay.

In September, Carrie suffers bouts of not doing well, and hopes calomel will cure the illness. Scott and Elgirtha celebrate their 30th anniversary, Carrie has a picture taken with Ruth and Muriel and Susan, Clarice is going out

with a Charles Adamson, and Gerald has a new house.

In October, Clarice's wedding is held, and on the 18th, it's a "A great day again for the Ingalls Reunion. Held in the Norton Hill Hall 86 there. A lot more could have been eligible to have been there but it was a good crowd & every one seemed to enjoy it several there that does'nt usually come. Elgirtha was president & she did very well indeed. Edmund Ingalls elected for president next year." Bad fires in Maine are noted, just as some of the Ingalls are vacationing there.

In November, Len Gardiner is campaigning as Town Superintendent, and will win, the election is the usual Ingalls event at Scotts, a surprise birthday party is thrown for Carrie, and "Howard called brot an old book & Deed of the old Church at Lambs corners. Quite interesting to me & Clarence & Irene over here for the eve. Mrs. Worth called. Lambs Corners used to be called Westerlo Four Corners. at the time the church was built. Trumans grandfather Ingalls was instrumental in building the Church." **A curious note is made on the 28th, stating it was the last time Carrie had seen Warren alive**, especially when Warren is mentioned several times in the next few days.

In December, **that curious note, and its awful import hits hard. Warren had some bad spells on the 3rd.** The rest of the story is best told with the diary's words.

Dec 4, 1947

A clear cold day. Elgirtha & Stanley came about 7 o'clock to tell us that Warren died last night. We can't make it seem possible, had heart trouble similar to Pop apparently. Carrie, Ed, Ruth, Merritt and Clarence called in A.M. also Rev. Mr. & Mrs. Potter to express sympathy and help with some comforting words. In the afternoon Darius, Leona & I went to see Margaret, Gerald & Nell. Cora is staying with Margaret so good she can be there. Plan for the funeral from the Church on Sunday.

Dec 5, 1947

Snowing a little fine snow nearly all day. All home in fore-noon. D.H. went for the mail. Leona D.H. Scott Elgirtha & I went to the funeral Parlors this P.M. Warren lying in a beautiful Casket ready for the funeral & burial Sunday afternoon. Looked as tho' he could speak to us. Ruth & Irene called this P.M. Leland called this evening.

Dec 6, 1947

The ground is white but not much snow. D.H. Leona & I went to see Margaret this A.M. Scott Elgirtha & Stanley called this P.M. To night George & Irene came to stay with me while D.H. & Leona went to the parlors. They had a Knights funeral service. Warren was a member. I went to the Parlors this after noon. & such a lot of flowers it make me cry. Merritt Ruth & Adrian came in after.

Dec 7, 1947 Sunday

Mostly cloudy. I dont hardly know how to write this day. We have layed Warren away this afternoon in the Greenville Cemetery. He is at rest but how I shall miss him thro' my last days. Rev. Potter spoke very nicely. A Male Quartett sang The old Rugged Cross. 6 nephews were the bearers. Ken. Buddy. Phil. Adrian Keith & Lenord Palmer. The Church was full. the Galery & Session room & some chairs inc. And such a lot of flowers I cant describe them. Ed Carrie Keith & Sandy, Scott & Elgirtha called. Stanley is 55 yrs old to-day.

Dec 8, 1947

Mostly cloudy not very cold. D.H. out on business off & on thro' the day. Leona drove over to Kens' to get D.H.s hat. & on up to Margaret a few minutes. In the after-noon Ruth Irene Muriel & their children came for a nice call Wayne & Alayne are Irenes children Susan is Muriels. Had cards again & a letter from William he wrote such a nice letter. My sons and daughters help sustain me in my grief.

Leland tho' there were over 400 people at Warrens funeral yesterday.

On the 20th, "We all went to Margarets to dinner. D.H. went out in P.M. came for us at night. It is terrible hard for one to go there yet every thing is so vivid." Warren's death is a major blow to Carrie. Even though she expresses no favoritism toward any of her children, the proximity to Ingalside and the years that Warren had involved Carrie in the goings-on of Ingalside have left many a memory for Carrie. She notes that the rest of the children are filling in well for Warren. As for the November note about Warren, my guess is that Carrie was re-reading her diary and mistakenly placed it in that spot.

#### 1948

The early months of 1948 have Carrie fighting a nasty cold, frequent mention of Alston St. John because D.H. is tending to him and Alston will die in March, some prices are high, the making of baby sox, and Ken's new son is sickly.

The spring months find Carrie enjoying the hustle and bustle of the Elliott house, Horace Rundell and wife Dot open the Corner Cupboard in South Westerlo, the church in South Westerlo dedicates a new organ, and William Gay marries Millie Chapman.

The summer months show that Walter graduates with three prizes, Leona and D.H. celebrate their 4th anniversary at Rainbow End, Ken's son Edward is slowly gaining, D.H. and Leona are vacationing in the south and west, Howard Shaw has his sheep over to D.H.'s, the last of the Spalding side of the family Aunt Frances Spalding is in bad shape, Babe Ruth dies, Buddy and Cornelia have son Stanley (the 6th great-grand child, Carrie notes), and Harrison Gardner dies.

The fall months mention the Rhinebeck fair, 515 students at GCS, a theft of tools from Stanley's sawmill, the Ingalls Reunion on

October 8, a pancake supper at Norton Hill, and the theft of Stanley Lawyer's car.

The late months detail a bad accident of Ramona, the Democratic landslide in the elections, a birthday, nine great-grandchildren (maybe the six mentioned before was wrong?), Thanksgiving, the taking of the new drug Penicillin, the senior play, Christmas at Merritt's and at George Turon's, and on December 31, "The last of 1948 is it possible. It has gone so fast. I dont feel as tho' I would ever fill another diary. But Leona has got me one so I must try."

#### 1949

Another year is another year of the same trends. The early months mention Leona's activity (church treasurer), a warm February, valentines, parts of the Ingalls clan go to Florida, and Carrie's illness in late February, one that is debilitating enough that Leona writes in the diary from February 28 until March 5th.

The spring months mention D.H. deeding his hill farm to the Pepler family, Phil Ellis and his partner Rudy building a house and trying to sell it for \$1800, a stork shower for Betty, a new department store where Reuben Gedney used to live, an eclipse of the moon, D.H. busy on Greenville cemetery business, and D.H. and Leona are married for five years.

The summer brings note of Orloff Bear building a new house, the vote for the new school addition passes 454-64, Merritt and Ruth are renovating the house into one or two apartments, George and Martha's son Leland is sick, the town druggist Mr. Bartholomew is moving, the Adams are out to their summer home in Norton Hill, and Carrie muses that the old Catskill Mt. House, in its disrepair and a "thing of the past", is like her.

The autumn brings a Greenville pond nearly dry, a shower for Edna Jennings Elliott, half day sessions at school, the Ingalls Reunion on October 15, and an art show at the Corner Cupboard.

The late months mentions a fire of a barn at Nicholsons's, Grace McCulloch living at the Lampman schoolhouse, family night suppers, grand skating, Christmas with the Ellis', and 76 Christmas cards.

## 1950

Early 1950 mentions bids on the school addition, Stanley's wife's death (just as they were remodeling the house), Ruth turns 50, coal strikes, a ski run near Round Top, the sighting of deer, and Leona and Lorraine O'Keefe singing.

Spring shows Merritt and Ruth buying Peter Stevens house and leaving Adrian with the farm, D.H. is going to give up his auctioneering and sales and staying with the insurance, Mrs. Elliott has her appendix out, and Edna's son Tim is a "live wire" (I think most of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren were live wires).

The summer presents Robert Elliott graduation, a carnival near the Legion Hall, Edna back for the summer, a trip to Freehold for vegetables, and Phyllis studies to be a stewardess.

The fall's event is Walter's marriage to Shirley at the Oak Hill church, with 125 guests at the Catskill Country Club, the Ingalls Reunion on October 21, and Carrie's fear she has lost some hearing in her right ear.

Finishing the year is Dewey's election, a quiet Thanksgiving, a feeling of weakness, a Christmas at home, and a choking spell that has the doctor in and a catheter down the throat.

## 1951

The last chapter arrives. However, Carrie is strong, active, sharp in her diary until two weeks before her death. She still writes about the doings of her children and family. She will still take a number of short trips, still stay at the homes of the other children, and we expect this to go on forever.

In January, a red fox is noted, Leona is vice-president of the library, Ina is recovering from a broken arm, she watches television at Stanley's or Len's, Carrie goes to Potter Hollow to see Uncle Ed, Ed Long and his wife celebrate a 55th wedding anniversary, and the girls celebrate a surprise party with Carrie.

In February, Carrie is knitting and crocheting, she continues her routine of finishing a day with a bath, she listens to the radio regularly, plays dominoes, and feels dizzy once in a while. She receives a visit from William and Millie, and Ken is still renting her West Greenville house.

In March, Stanley marries Ariel Smith Weeks in Athens, school is closed on account of illness, a new restaurant opens in Norton Hill and run by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Edmunds. We will find out this is the Chatterbox, the building on the corner of Carter Bridge Road and Rt. 81. Carrie writes in the diary from the 16th to the 20th. Carrie will continue on the 21st and express concern for Elgirtha's upcoming operation in Boston, and seven of the family go to Pittsfield to donate blood in case Elgirtha needs it. Carrie notes high water over the Gilboa Dam and in Greenville. On the 31st, she notes that her mother's birthday was that date and was born in 1830.

In April, the family receives promising reports about Elgirtha, who will return from Boston on the 22nd. Carrie remains upbeat and thankful for all that her family does for her. Len and Claribel's house is going up, Leona's committees are mentioned, and Noel Adams suffers bad burns from a stove and his mother Edna suffers burns on her hands trying to put it out. Hot rod racing is in vogue in South Westerlo and Carrie notes this, especially when she is staying with Ed and Carrie. A few meals are taken at the Chatterbox, Carrie is writing letters, and the hot rod racing is fought with the Blue Laws, at least for a while.

In May, Clarence is in St. Peter's Hospital for a week, Ken pays his rent, usually with Gail and/or Eddie accompanying him, an

event Carrie enjoys immensely (the children, not taking rent from a grandchild). D.H.'s business callers are noted (actually, Leona's too since she is helping), it's been ten years since Pop died and Carrie can't believe she has lived so long, and the Memorial Day parade is noted.

In July, Carrie again notes the disrepair of the Mt. House, Ingalside is busy, a meal at the Rock Face Diner is noted, and Pearl Palmer is still a missionary to India.

August starts with Leona making candy for the fair and Carrie is feeling miserable. One will realize, in retrospect, that the 12th is Carrie's last words in the diary. "Sunday. Cloudy & lousy all day. None of us went to Church. It was 9-30 so Carrie couldn't make it. Their minister Mr. Higgins is leaving so they are having supplies. I have felt miserable all day but have eaten 3 meals nice meals just the same. Am getting to bed early. Hope to feel better tomorrow. Keith went for a ride after dinner. Clarence folks went to Cooperstown with Company they have been entertaining. they came here. Mr & Mrs. Dice very nice people. Clarence came in to see me early."

Leona will bring Carrie from daughter Carrie's house back to her own house two days later, and Leona is writing in the diary from the 13th. Dr. Bott is in the 17th, and visitors are noted. The number of visitors on the 18th and 19th suggest this time that Carrie's illness is quite serious. The visitors continue throughout. Somewhere in here, I catch myself saying, "C'mon, Carrie, pull through one more time." But it is not to be.

August 24, 1951

A beautiful day. Mother very bad all day. Ruth, Carrie, Margaret Ingalls here most of the day. Clarice Adamson came home Wed. and not feeling well. A pretty trying time for Ruth trying to be home & here too. D.H. around on business. Dr. Bott in twice. Clarence, Irene, Carrie sat up the first part of the night & Stanley, Ariel & Carrie the last part. Scott & Merritt called in also.

Saturday August 25, 1951

Very cloudy in A.M. some sunshine later, part of the time. Dr. Bott in at 9:00 A.M. Mother very very low. Seems to be nothing to do for her. Scott, Elgirtha & Ruth in during A.M. Irene Ingalls doing housework. An extremely blue time. Carrie went home around 10:30 A.M. Margaret, Ruth & Edna Adams here when Mother passed away at 4:00 P.M. She just quietly slept away, "Thank God." We have so much to be thankful for He has been good to us.

And thus ends the diary of Carrie Spalding Ingalls. Born in 1863, married in 1885, Carrie Ingalls started this diary in 1886. Except for a 19 year gap from 1894-1912, Carrie chronicled the events of import in her life, many times reflecting the times of her town, nation and world.

And she has seen some changes. In the 1880s, Norton Hill, and many towns of its size and location, are encapsulated within the confines of a day's ride of a horse. The automobile is the wedge that will bring the change that characterizes the 20th century. The telephone and radio help make what was impossible every day occurrences.

Carrie's diary is a reflection of a woman who adapted to many changes, hewed to the bedrock principles of her faith and beliefs, hoped for the best that planning and luck would bring her way, and willed herself to accept the misfortunes thrown her way. A weaker person could have fallen sooner; Carrie persevered, made stronger by a network of family who shared many of her values.

Just as the last pages of a worthwhile book or series of books elicits a wistfulness about an ending coming too soon, so too does the last few hundred pages of this diary. Having viewed Carrie's long life, the temptation to wax a bit philosophical about our purpose of life (assuming you too accept that such a thing exists) may be inevitable. I hope that the reader of the diaries or of my summaries gain both a



historical perspective and a chance to look at his/her life more closely.

Almost five years of typing thirty minutes every day, five years of Leona allowing me to pester her for more information and for explanations of what she remembered, and my remembering stories of Edna's and Gerald's, and the vicarious sharing of the life of this diary in meetings like this reunion and at local history meetings and at town board meetings and with several of the families who claim Carrie as an ancestor, have given me a gallery seat, even if a bit distant, to a way of life that most of this century has forgotten.

However, it is the lessons taught in it, the timelessness that encourages us today to live life as fully as we can, knowing full well that pain and joy and acceptance and satisfaction and minutia and goals and worry and wonder comprise our existence.

Carrie Spalding Ingalls, thank you for letting others look over your shoulder (and I think you knew others would be looking), and, Leona, thank you for a delightful spin on tales that led to today and yesterday. May the Ingalls family hold dear the pride that Carrie held for her family.