

# A-CHS Newsletter

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## BERTHA SCRIBNER'S DIARY -- MARCH 1940



BILLY HOLST (about 1950)

We return to the home of Leon and Bertha Scribner on the Airline Road in Alexander. The year is 1940. Living in the house is "Aunt" Eda (Dwellely) Varnum as a boarder. She is the widow of True Varnum and suffers from arthritis. Bertha's nephew, Billy Holst, is still at home. His sister Winnie has gone off to Nursing School. Bertha's diary continues:

**MARCH 1 - FRIDAY:**  
Pleasant, but quite cold, wind blew hard all day; Calvin and Sidney (Perkins) after groceries; Noland (Perkins) and Hubert (Dwellely) here; Mr. Higgins and Mr. Butterfield here at noon time; Leon hauled 1 load of firewood for Bert (Flood), then hauled 2 loads of birch for Fay (McArthur); Ross and Eva (Sadler) here, also Ira (Perkins) called; Adla (Varnum) came home.

**MARCH 2 - SATURDAY:** Pleasant, not too cold; Leon hauled 1 load of wood for Bert, then went up to mill after load of edgings; Got hung up in front of Carlows' (and) had to throw them off; Came home, went to Calais with the car; Allen Strout went out with him; Ollie F came up before she went to Meddybemps, was here to supper; Adla, Margaret, and Kenneth (Varnum) were here sliding; Noland and Gladys (Perkins), Morris (Perkins), Calvin, and Sidney.

**MARCH 3 - SUNDAY:** Pleasant, not much going on; Leon went down 19 with Lyston (Frost); Mell (Hunnewell) here for grain; Adla went home about 2:30; Aunt Eda (Varnum who was boarding with the Scribners') not feeling very good; Roland, Donnie, Carl, and Melva (Perkins) called for some groceries; Thomas (Blaney) and Manley (Bohannon) here for pork and beans.

MARCH 4 - MONDAY: Pleasant, not very cold, east wind; Aunt Eda had terrible pain in lungs or indigestion at about 4 o'clock; I got up, made hot things, she is better tonight; Leon hauled 2 loads of edgings; Carrie (Varnum) came up this PM; Ruth and Wayne (Dwellely) after grain, also Ira, Noland, and Max (Berry) called; Floyd (Frost) had our horse to haul out some hardwood this AM, Donald (Frost) was with him; Mrs. Davis called to see Eda, her boys (Carleton and Vinal) after grain; Tom Long here, too.

MARCH 5 - TUESDAY: Everything covered with ice this AM and very slippery; Leon hauled 2 loads of birch for Max, Max here to dinner; Ben (McArthur) called for me to phone out to Calais, his mother is better today; Floyd and Donald here, also Roland and Eva (Perkins); Gas man here this PM; Aunt Eda better today; Rained all the PM and is raining hard now; Quite a wind.

MARCH 6 - WEDNESDAY: Cloudy and foggy; Leon went up and got his edgings he had to leave at Carlows' when he got hung up; Floyd, Donald, Noland, Tom (Long), and Clinton (Flood) called; Ella (Flood) here in PM; Leon took Noland out to the train to meet Mr. Hollway, the state auditor; Lester Crafts here; Foggy.

MARCH 7 - THURSDAY: Snowing this AM, about 8 inches fell last night; Leon shoveling snow in yard, it rained some and snowed most all day; Hubert here for things, Sidney and Max here; Mr. Tewksbury called this PM; We made ice cream for dinner, not much going on; Aunt Eda up today.

MARCH 8 - FRIDAY: Cloudy and foggy all day; Leon hauled 2 loads of edgings; Lyston and Bert F. called; I had a sick spell today, not feeling very good. Eva Flood and (daughter) Pauline here in evening; Adla came home, telephone out of order, so she and Carrie came up for awhile.

MARCH 9 - SATURDAY: Cloudy most all day; Leon went to Woodland with cream, then down to Calais after some things for the store in AM; In PM took me up to Church, Mort and Clara (Dwellely) were already there; We swept and cleaned it, fixed the stove pipe; Then Leon went to the mill after sawdust for bedding; Donald, Frank (Dwellely), Beatrice (Frost), Laurence (McArthur), and Fay called; Carolyn (Flood) and Celia (Perkins) after candy.

MARCH 10 - SUNDAY: Some cloudy in the AM, but cleared away; First Church Service, Mr. Rogers, District Supt. here; Good crowd for first time; Mr. Higgins here tonight with grain and groceries; Donald and Evans (Frost) called; Adla went home after supper, went to Church, then waited for Mr. Higgins.

MARCH 11 - MONDAY: Fair and colder, wind blew hard all day; Did not put my clothes out until after dinner; Leon took grain out to Uncle Hi (Hiram Staples) first thing, then went and got a load of edgings and took them to Calais; After dinner went to Calais (to) get some groceries for store; Donald, Floyd, Noland, Ben and Edna (McArthur) Fay, Bert F., and Roland here in evening; Cold and windy tonight.

MARCH 12 - TUESDAY: Pleasant and wind blowing hard; Leon hauling edgings, or took one load out, and on way back brought up a load of wood for Evans F.; Evans called in AM.

MARCH 13 - WEDNESDAY: Pleasant, but wind blowing hard; Leon hauling edgings up to Calais and got overload spring fixed, got some things for store; Noland, Gladys, and Ira called; Floyd and Donald here, had horse; Max called for Tom here.

MARCH 14 - THURSDAY: Pleasant and warm today; Leon hauled 2 loads of birch for Max, then got load of ice for Roland; Roland then helped him get a load of edgings; They done chores, then took them (the edgings) to Calais; Roland here to supper; Fay, Ben, and Ira called; Eva spent evening, she came down after Roland; Duffy (Doris Flood) and twins (Joan and Jean) called this AM. Beatrice (Frost) here all AM; Bill (Holst) working for Floyd.

MARCH 15 - FRIDAY: Cloudy all day, wind strong and quite cold; Leon hauled one load for Max and loaded up 1 for Fay before dinner; (He) took that up then got one more for Max; Floyd and Donald here, had horse working down in woods; Carrie Ryan and Helen Leighton called this PM. Mr. Higgins came with grain; Fay and Ben called; Lewis (Frost) and Vinal (Perkins) here for some things; Vinal and Hubert here, Hubert got some things; Bill working for Floyd; Mell Hunnewell's truck after grain.

MARCH 16 - SATURDAY: Pleasant and snow going fast; Leon went to Calais after some things in AM; Went to Farm Bureau in PM; Lawrence, Arline, and baby (Virginia McArthur) called when I was taking bath; Ira was here in AM, also night; Lawrence (Frost) here; Adla came up to supper and all night.

MARCH 17 - SUNDAY: Pleasant and warm today; Was up quite early this AM; We were just getting ready for Church when Austin and Edith (?) came, so did not get to Church; Adla came home about 3:30, took a car load of things; Lawrence F. Evans, Gerald (Craft), and Tom L. called.

MARCH 18 - MONDAY: Pleasant, wind blowing in AM, put my clothes out later; Leon went to Calais with edgings; Lawrence F. called; Celia, Seth, and Martha (Perkins) after ice cream freezer.

MARCH 19 - TUESDAY: Snowed or squally all day, did not thaw; Leon hauled 3 loads of birch for Max, then brought back a load of edgings for Ira; Ira here for things, Calvin P. also; Bert Flood's girls after groceries.

MARCH 20 - WEDNESDAY: Pleasant and warmer; Leon got one load of birch for Max, brought back edgings (and) went to Calais after dinner; Lyston went out with him to see Veil's horses; Robbie (Lehan) called; Martha and Seth here; Eva P. after some things; Max and Fay called, also Pliney (Frost); Bert Flood called.

MARCH 21 - THURSDAY: Cloudy most all day; Leon hauled 3 loads of birch for Max, then he and Fletcher (Perkins) got 1 load of cordwood for Mr. McVay, got back about 6:15; Ira, Calvin, Pliney, Merle (Perkins) and Buster (James A. Holmes) called; Mr Higgins called at about 4 o'clock.

MARCH 22 - FRIDAY: Cloudy and the wind is cold, snowed about 2 o'clock, terrible storm, snowing and blowing hard tonight and cold; Leon took 1 load of hardwood to Mr. McV. and had flat tire; Then got 1 load birch for Max; Ernest Seavey called to see Aunt Eda; Calvin and Ira after some things; Beatrice here at supper time; Adla came home for 1 week vacation for Easter; Ira called.

