

BERTHA SCRIBNER'S DIARY -- JANUARY 1940

Leon and Bertha (Chandler) Scribner lived here in Alexander on the Airline (presently the home of Fred and Linda Wallace at 1288 Airline Road). This was Leon's family home. In our August newsletter we published entries from Leon's mother's autograph book.

Leon and Bertha raised her sisters two youngest children. William and Sara (Chandler) Holst had six children, five girls and the youngest a boy. After the deaths of their parents, Winifred and Billy came from Brooklyn, New York to live with their aunt and uncle in Alexander.

Leon started to keep this diary in 1940, maybe to keep tract of the loads of wood he hauled for various people. During January, Bertha took over the job.

We thank Mildred Holst for loaning A-CHS the diary and helping with details, especially providing last names. Information added to the diary here is in (parenthesis).



THE HOLST CHILDREN -1930 - DORIS, MARTHA, HELEN, EMMA, WINIFRED, BILLY

JANUARY 1 - MONDAY: Clear and cold; Edna McArthur here to dinner; Olive (Edgerly) went to Machias; Bertha (Scribner) and Alda (Varnum) to Calais; Bill (Holst) and I (Leon Scribner) hauling birch for Stanley (Jeffery).

NOTE: The birch was hauled to the Stowell-MacGregor on Pokey Lake. See issues 69, 72, and 76 for information and pictures on the mill.

JANUARY 2 - TUESDAY: Clear and cold; Hauled one load of edgings to Calais; Went to St. Stephen, got radiator fixed; Bill cleaned out ice house.

JANUARY 3 - WEDNESDAY: Clear and cold; Bill and I hauled birch for Stanley; Margaret Frost and Luniela Perkins here to dinner; Eva Perkins here.

JANUARY 4 - THURSDAY: Clear and cold; Snowed in PM; Bill and I hauled birch for Stanley; Hermon (Wallace), Eva (Sadler), Laura (Jeffery), and Fay (McArthur) called.

JANUARY 5 - FRIDAY: Clear and cold; Bill and I finished Stanley's birch, 4.33 cords; Went to Woodland for Stanley; Mell (Hunnewell), Bob (Thistlewood), Ella (Flood) here; Adla here to supper.

JANUARY 6 - SATURDAY: Clear and cold; Bill and I finished Stanley's pulpwood; Almond Frost got in Meddybemps Lake; Bill and I to Calais; Adla here all night.

JANUARY 7 - SUNDAY: Clear and cold; Adla, Ira (Perkins), Elwood (Perkins), Shirley (Hunnewell), Rose (Seavey), and Eva here; Made ice cream.

JANUARY 8 - MONDAY: Partly cloudy and cold; Bill and I to Calais to get motor tuned and brakes lined; Bertha washed; Almond Frost, Lyston Frost, and Ira called; I got myself a new thermos bottle today, one quart.

JANUARY 9 - TUESDAY: 5 below zero; fair and cold; Bill and I hauling edgings today; Took apples in to Albert (Varnum) at noon; Earl Higgins and Mr. Butterfield called; Max Berry, Frank (Dwelle), Clinton (Flood), and Ira also; Eva (Perkins and son) Ivan after grain and groceries; Fay and Ben (McArthur), and Donald Frost called. Fay wants me to haul his birch; Bertha doing her regular work.

NOTE: Earl Higgins lived in Dennysville and sold grain to farmers and retailers in this area. Leon needed grain for his livestock and resold to those who didn't need grain by the truckload.

JANUARY 10 - WEDNESDAY: 4 above zero; Nice day, not so cold; Leon and Bill hauling birch for Max Berry; Duffy (Flood) and Robbie (Lehan) here in pm; I fried doughnuts; Vern (Perkins), Fay, and Ira called; They are installing officers in Grange tonight; I called to Ellas (Flood); Got letter from Win (Billy's sister who was away in nursing school).

NOTE: Starting with January 10th entry, Bertha kept the diary.

JANUARY 11 - THURSDAY: 10 above; Pleasant, not so cold today; Leon and Bill hauling birch for Max; Had a flat tire, only got 3 loads; Cattle buyer here; Almond Frost, Ira, Fay, and Ben called; Also Harold

Cousins after grain; Got a telegram, bad news, today; Have not heard any particulars yet; Myra (Chandler Staples, Bertha's sister) died after an operation.

JANUARY 12 - FRIDAY: 10 above; Pleasant, not very cold; Leon and Bill sanded the hill and other places out towards Baileyville line, then hauled two loads of birch for Fay; Leon went to Calais in PM; Bill got one load of wood for Max; Ella called this AM early, I decided not to go away; Donnie (Perkins), Bob, Ralph (McArthur), Clinton, Mell H. after groceries; Lawrence McArthur got groceries, Fay also called; Ira came for milk; Adla came up, stayed all night.

JANUARY 13 - SATURDAY: Adla went home; Partly cloudy and not so cold, cleared away, sun came out; Leon and Bill hauled one load of birch for Fay, then went hauling birch for Max; Adla and I went to Calais about dinner time; Ollie (Taylor) came up and stayed with Aunt Eda (Varnum, who was bedridden and lived with the Scribners); Ira came for milk; Elwood came for kerosene; Ella called; Adla and I took Aunt Ollie down to Emma's (Henderson), they were both here to supper; Adla stayed the night.

JANUARY 14 - SUNDAY: Nice day, not cold; Not much going on today, Adla stayed until 2 o'clock; Ivan and Stanley called; Morris and Sidney (Perkins), Ross and Eva Sadler called.

JANUARY 15 - MONDAY: Cloudy with east wind, started to snow, rain, and hail about 10 o'clock; At 2 o'clock everything covered with ice; Raining hard tonight and wind blowing, too; Leon and Bill hauled 2 loads of birch for Max before it got too bad, ate their dinner here; Duffy, Max, Vern, and Ira called; Leon went up to store and down to see about cutting and hauling ice; My stove pipe burned out in the kitchen-dining room this AM; I was frightened as usual; Washed, put my clothes in the kitchen.

JANUARY 16 - TUESDAY: Squally when we first got up, but cleared away by 8 o'clock; Leon went up to P.O. then up after Lewis Frost to kill pig; Leon, Noland (Perkins), and Max sanded the hills; Max and Lewis here to dinner; Billy doing odd jobs; Percy Hanson called; Leon took a load of potatoes out for Tom Long, Pliney (Frost) went too; Ira was also here; Moved the ice cream cabinet in the outer kitchen so it would thaw out; It is very cold and windy tonight.

JANUARY 17 - WEDNESDAY: Pleasant and very cold, the coldest yet and wind blowing hard; 4 below zero tonight, wind not blowing so hard; Della (Dwelle), Lee Ward and another woman called on way home from Calais; Max here to dinner; Leon and Bill hauled one load of birch, then went down to lake (and) got one load ice for C. L. B. (Charles L. Brown) Bill doing odd jobs; Wilfred Robbins called; Clinton here this evening.

JANUARY 18 - THURSDAY: Pleasant and cold, not so cold this PM; Leon hauled 2 loads of birch for Max then 3 loads ice for C. L. B.; Bill doing odd jobs and cut up pig; Leon got dinner up to Lizzie's (Brown); Rev. Tewksbury called; Fay, Clinton, Ross and Eva, Mell H. and Ira called; Mr. Higgins came with grain at supper time.

JANUARY 19 - FRIDAY: 6 above zero; Some cloudy thru the day and squalled a little; Charlie Brown's Store and House above it all burned this afternoon, the fire caught in the basement; Leon was hauling ice for Charlie, too, also got 2 loads of birch for Max; Max here for

