

1903-1909.

Mrs. Jane Savory went to House of Mercy Hospital  
in Pittsfield April 21, 1903. Came home May 20.

Telephone installed in our house August 29, 1906.

Began going to school October 8, 1906.

Charles Ferris and wife 20th anniversary surprise party  
on November 10, 1906.

Had a snow-storm May 11, 1907.

Josephine Houle Waters, wife of Willbur Waters  
died June 16, 1907.

Mr. Tracy, mill superintendent of Bancroft  
died January 9, 1908 - 82 yrs. old.

Ida Sharkey Houle, wife of Ephraim Houle  
died February 11, 1908.

Sugaring season was March 29 - April 6, 1909

1910.

Price of a barrel of flour was \$7.25. February 2, 1910  
Will Lighton caught 65 trout 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. April 17, 1910  
Girls wages up to \$1.25 a day, 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. Paper Mill  
(Lillian Savory). Made First Communion May 8, 1910  
Saw Halley's Comet May 26, 1910.  
Among our fireworks, best one was Whistling Jack July 4, 1910  
William Houle took picture of Grandma Perry  
on August 14, 1910.

(Play - Clouds of War in Town Hall August 20, 1910)  
(Four of us went with Bill and 2-seated wagon)  
Edward, John and W. Lighton went to Blandford  
Fair with horse and carriage - 2½ hours way  
7 A.M. to 7.30 P.M. on September 15, 1910.

Stopped subscribing to Chester Chronicle September 23, 1910

Mr. Fuller of Becket threshed our oats October 5, 1910

Edward and John built a room back of  
our kitchen to be used as a shed  
August to November 1910.

1911.

Have 2 2½ cords wood chopped by January 13th.

Peter Boyer to small building back of old boarding house Jan. 25

(Cleworth home and other buildings burned 9. A.M. Feb. 6)  
(Mill help including John helped save furniture.)

Aunt Nancy Wheeler, formerly this town, died Sat. March 4

Emptied well, bad tasting water, only leaves found March 12

Sugaring season was March 14 - April 26.

Chimney fire at McElwain Home, Called help. Night March 15

got bad hay at Wolmans 700 lbs \$4.25. Five cents per pound  
April 4.

Painting cow-barn May 28 to June 24.

Took my first violin lesson of George Martin, May 28

Elma Houle of Bancroft died Saturday July 1.

Aunt Minnie, wife of Uncle Edward Perry died July 17.

New potatoes are \$2.40 a bushel July 25.

1911.

I was confirmed in Becket. Class of about 40. Sept 4  
Had heavy frost on September 14.

Began repairing our farmhouse on October 3.  
Sides boarded for 5 rooms up stairs, shingled by Oct. 9.

Uncle Joseph Savery and family of Bancroft  
moved to Pittsfield in October.

Tore down big chimney in our house Oct 21-26.  
Cleaned up 1250 bricks, about 1600 needed.  
for new small chimney built Nov. 5-10.

Mr. Fuller of Becket thrashed out Oct. 31.

George Millet new-house built - Fall 1911.

Carrie Pelkey and Edward Kenney. married  
Joseph Pelkey and Margaret Slavin Dec. 2.

New part of our farmhouse all clapboarded  
by December 7.

Started making floor for a piazza late December.

1912.

Peter Boyer building house where old boarding house stood <sup>January</sup>

14° Below zero - January 6 - 42° below - parts of Canada.

12° below zero January 13. Ed had frozen ear and nose.

World's largest horse is dead. weight 2960. February

I stopped going to school about January 8.

Charles Ferris bought Edward Morgan farm, <sup>Feb. 29</sup> Weyben.  
Moved to it about March 21.

Town meeting was March 4.

Mrs. Bell, mother of Ida Carnes buried March 12

Mr. Chase of Becket plastered room 3 days \$11.00 <sup>March</sup>  
<sub>28-30</sub>

Ethel Graves and Paul Nickerson married April 20.

Cousin Francis Perry Huntington married April 30.

Ship Titanic sank, about 1600 lives lost of 2300. Apr. 16

Picked arbutus only budded. April 21

Washed 133 parts used for sugaring April 24

Harold Cone family are going to live in F. Gruns house  
April 29.

Had our old dog Prima, age 12, put away April 29.

1912.

Mr. Carmody fell under train. Both legs cut off June 10

Minnie Houle and Duane Broga baby born Tula May  
Broga. July 11

Elizabeth and John stopped working at  
Upper paper mill on July 24.

(Burlington Vt.)  
Aunt Amelia Tracy, Holyoke, Aunt Josephine  
Mumir, Eva and Anna Mumir came visiting  
Aug 16.  
First time ever saw them.

John started work lower paper mill Sept. 17.

Elizabeth started work there too on November 12.

Put the first mail box down at our corner Oct. 22

Mr. Twining of Chester killed by train - October.

First big snowstorm this fall on November 25

(Christmas Day. Fair-sunny. Bridget and rosary)  
December 25. among my presents)

1913.

- Grandmother Perry's brother, Peter Bleau visited Sept 20.  
Homer Bush and Malina Graves married at home Oct. 1.  
(Picked 159 bu. apples in Wood Lot. 168 bu. Gamwell Lot  
574 bushels cider apples \$85.33 sold by October 23.  
Over 600 bushels picked.)  
New-ice pond about finished October 7.  
Weighed team oxen in Becket 2840 lbs. Oct. 31.  
(Gas engine broke while sawing wood Nov. 25.)  
Got new engine on December 23.  
Building new icehouse 21 feet long. December 15.  
John Savery joined Grange - December - 1913.
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- Have 29 cords wood chopped this winter.  
Elizabeth got through Lower paper mill Jan. 14.  
Thunder showers and warm January 18.  
Making home made candles. January 21.  
Tapped few trees Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 Temperature  $52^{\circ}$ .  
(Willie Munn of Bancroft died in hospital Feb. 27  
about 20 yrs. old.)
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Henry Pelkey died March 9.

Got photo of Geo. Boshan farm house March 3.

1913.

Got 2 big arm chairs - M. Ward Co. March 25 - <sup>69°</sup> raining  
got bedroom set of M. Ward on April 21.

Violet Ferris of Wyden married January 17.

Elizabeth started work in Huntington May 5.

Painted farmhouse, also shed. May 6 - Sept. 9.  
(Temp. 84°)

Freight wreck in Bancroft. 1200 bu oats - <sup>wreck of</sup> spilled May 15

got woven rag carpet of Mrs. Snow Becket May 22

Bancroft Lower paper mill burned 1-3 AM. Wed. May 28

Arnie Munn. born in Bancroft about May 30.

There are 24 small pox cases Huntington June 21.

Painted 217 cap buckets this spring.

(Edward sick with erysipelas. Lined July 5 - Aug 3  
Fever to 104°. Had Dr. Dearborn 24 times. Pd. \$48.00

Cousin Charles Perry of Huntington helped for <sup>Came</sup> July  
haying. Was 18 yrs. old on July 26. 14.

John and Charlie fell through bed at 11 P.M.  
Shook floor and woke everyone August 5.

Report Bancroft Upper paper mill sold for \$60,000  
to Guger July. 1913.



1914.

Amasa Graves fell on ice. Unconscious a while Feb-5

Bad storm, roads blocked - Feb. 14.) Nice day 45° Feb. 27

John and Amasa Graves went whist party Arthur Cook  
Feb. 27.

Ellsworth house and furniture burned 2nd time March 9  
First time Feb. 6. 1911.)

Bought 500 lbs. coal for blacksmith shop 40¢ a hundred  
March 4)

Easter Sunday April 12. - Bought ½ ton hay Owen Pease  
April 13.)

Used 201 pails for sugaring this year

Harold Pease delivered our fruit trees April 26.

Got new Quija Board game May 9.

Mother's birthday 58 yrs. - June 2.

Had doctor 4 times for bad ear lately.

Had 129 chicks and 79 poults = 208 by June 17

Fire in Salem Mass. Burned half of city June 26.

Over 10 qts wild strawberries picked in one day.

20 ½ quarts of them canned by July 5.

Sold pair oxen, weight with yoke 3015 lbs. Aug. 10

1914.

Weight of horse Dan (4 yrs) 965 lbs with harness Sept. 3  
First two frosts. also Middlefield Fair - Sept. 9 + 10.

Put in new white kitchen sink Sept. 20.

Arthur Cook's auction was. October 2.

John played for wedding dance - Churchills Oct. 10.

Uncle Joe Savery, Pittsfield, formerly Bancroft died Oct. 13

Finished husking field corn 81 bushels. Oct. 29.

Sold hams to D. Kabatschuck, first time Nov. 10.

Willis Graves mother (Mrs. Barton Graves) died Nov. 14.

Hunting season began, also Mrs. Graves funeral  
Nov. 16.

John sawed wood all day for Mr. Drazd Nov. 21  
Had no dinner. Sawed wood by hand for our use.

Mr. Dyer - Middlefield, disappeared Dec. 16.

Ed and John sawing neighbor's wood Dec.

Had first chimney fire in new chimney Dec. 25

Malina Graves Bush died on December 30.

Left 3 weeks old baby. (died soon after.)

(She married October 1, 1913.)

1915.

Charles Baker of Huntington visited us Feb. 21-23.

Elizabeth had teeth pulled Aug. 14, 1914. Got new set <sup>March 20</sup> 1915.

Fire at Ed Cook's house to night. Not much damage <sup>March 26</sup>

Hatched 112 chicks from 10 hens by April 14.

John and Ed are building new blacksmith shop April

John went fishing April 18. Caught 39. - April 18

Washed sap buckets, about 225 used - April 19.

Surprise Party at John Bryan's. 30th anniversary <sup>April 28</sup>

Grandmother Perry of Huntington died May 31.

Buried on Mother's 59th birthday - June 2.

Have 165 chicks and 65 hens = 230 - June 14

John went to see Annie Slavin to J. Pelbey - <sup>July 4</sup>

Mamie Pelbey Willey, wife of Charles Willey died Aug. 2.

Got lawn swing, table and bench of C. Baker. <sup>Aug 24</sup>  
and <sup>Sept. 4</sup>

Began selling milk - first time, Tahan of Springfield <sup>Sept 19</sup>

Bought rifle of stranger who passed by. October 5.

1915.

Picked and sold about 550 bu. Cider apples - October

Building first milk house - November.

Deer Season started. Ed killed first deer 197 lb. buck Nov. 15

Bad chimney fire. Snow on roof saved it November 16.

Have husked 67 bushels of field corn - November.

Building chimney on new blacksmith shop - Nov. 22

Lost colts, Fan - 3 yrs. old, of lockjaw November 30

Had got nail in her foot on November 18.

Bad snow storm. Roads blocked up. Dec. 14 + 15

Have to warm bricks on stove to build chimney  
in Blacksmith shop. December 29.

1916.

Arthur Cook sold store Middlefield Center. January 6  
New owner coming March 15.

Putting roof on our new blacksmith shop. Jan. 21 + 22

Tapped 10 trees. got 30 gal. sap. January 27 - to February 1

(Dana at Middlefield Center. Snow storm blocked road)  
People could hardly get home. John was one of them Feb. 18

Hill filled with snow. Graves folks go through pasture  
to get down our way with milk - March 14

(Bad storm March 15-16. Broke road March 17.)  
Shoveled snow off piazza roof. Higher than railing  
snow by piazza

Had 71 chicks by March 24. Began sugaring March 31

Easter day was on. ————— April 23

Peter Boyer had mule colt from new mare. April 27.

I sent maple sugar to Clara Ruch - Nebraska. April 12

Got photo Anna Mearns, Burlington, Vt. May.

(Have been selling cream to Mr. Allen, Springfield)  
Now going to sell milk to Tait Bros. May 28

Have 205 chicks by June 13. ————— June 13.

Planted 25 qts. field corn this spring.

1916.

Had cold rainy weather in June.  
Wearing felt boots it was so cold - June 16

Picked 4 bushels (128 qts) wild strawberries this year.

Picked 37 quarts in 2 days. July 4 + 9.

Also 18 quarts raspberries. Good many blueberries

Made strawberry and raspberry wine besides canning.

Had new mare colt June 7. - 5 puppies - Kept Bronnie June

Weather very smoky. Forest fires in Quebec July 29 + 30.

Mr. Ballou of Bechet gave Ed his first auto ride Aug. 19.

Have sunflower 9 ft. high. Aug. 20. - 1 green tomato ill. Sept 17.

Willie Houle of Bancroft has a Maxwell auto Sept. 3.

Some garden things froze Sept. 3 - Have 5 ear corn stalks  
Sept. 17.

(Dan Gallivan, Bancroft died Friday September 8.)  
Julia Gallivan, sister died 13 days earlier.

Mrs. Harold Pease was buried September 15

Mary Jane Perry and I had pictures taken - Pittsfield Sept. 22.

John took pictures. M. Jane and dogs in potato field  
Sept. 27

also Eva and I and big dog on  
October 22

High wind like hurricane. Part of a maple  
fell on sugaring arch - October 17.

1916.

Finished husking 143 bu. corn. Corncrib-full, some left Oct. 24.

Barn left filled with corn stalks. Half of floor packed to ceiling — October 24.

Elizabeth, Eva and I went across brook, foot of our road where house once stood. Could see our house from there. October 27.

Changing milk dealer Tait to Gandan - also first snow November 5

Wilson won for president (Nov. 7.) Coldest Nov. 15 in 43 years.

Mr. Meade keeping store up to Center November.

Flour sells \$11.00 a barrel November 15.

(John killed a deer Johnny Cake Hill - November 23)  
also our dog Bob found killed on railroad.

Dr. Shepardson of Chester buried November 26.

Had chimney fire to-night Sunday. December 3

(Milk strike settled before starting by Board of Trade)  
We'll get 5 1/2¢ a quart till May 1. - December 16

High wind and snow drifting. Buildings shake Dec. 22.

Cold - windy 16° above P.M. — December 25.  
Elizabeth, also Mr. Martin here for Christmas

1917.

Ice all in. 336 cakes in icehouse - January 31  
Put vinegar in wake batteries. Got gas engine started Jan 21  
Killed old mare and skinned her. Raised 4 colts of her <sup>March 7.</sup>  
(Ed and John went to Arthur Cook's auction - April 12)  
Surprise party, as they are leaving town - party on Apr. 13  
Sugar season ended, 45 gal syrup. 145 lbs. sugar April 20  
some soft sugar -  
Weighed 2 horses in Becket. Fan and Dan 970 & 930 lbs. May 2  
Mallott's house burned, stormy, 4 or 5 inches snow - May 5.  
Cousin Charles Perry enlisted - leaving for service May 28  
(Town people had bee. putting up barn for Geo. Mallott <sup>May 31.</sup>  
Ed and John rode up in E. Cook's auto. Had to push it up hill  
Have planted 28 qts. corn - 1 1/4 acre by June 6.  
Bought pair pigs. \$14.00 June 8. - Apple blossoms out June 9.  
Cousin Delvina Blean came to visit July 1 to July 18.  
Have picked 85 quarts wild strawberries by July 20  
Heat wave. Temp. up to 97° (95° in our bedroom, July 29-Aug 2  
on August 1.)  
Every thing frozen, even plums on trees - September 11



1917.

Ed and John took ride in W. Houles auto to Russel. <sup>Oct</sup> 7.

Have sold about 213 bu. cider apples by November 1.

(Threshed our oats. Used Alderman's fanning mill )  
Had about 4 2 1/2 bushels after cleaning - November 10

Elizabeth was in hospital from November 4 to December 2

John killed a deer, 2nd one he has ever had - December 3.

Got gold cross and white shoes, some of my presents  
December 25

Bucket was 38° below. 1 place New York state 69° below.

Only 4° below here. on December 30.

Had a very cold December. Near zero mark  
about half of the month.

1918.

Long spell zero-weather  $10^{\circ}$ - $18^{\circ}$  below to  $6^{\circ}$  above Jan. <sup>1-3</sup>  
Even cider barrels freezing in cellar - January 4.

(Coal famine in some cities. Sugar and flour scarce.  
got 254 sugar from Fleming's store. 6 lbs. on hand.  
No flour to buy either Middlefield or Becket January 16+17

All mills to be closed 5 days for coal shortage January 17

Very short of water for our cattle - January 20.

Quilting the Comic strip figure quilt - January 21

(Sold 2 hind quarters beef from 13 yr. old Jersey cow  
to Romano's and Fallons. 88+89 lbs. 154 lb. January 25

Coldest day of winter, high wind - roads blocked.  $24^{\circ}$  below  
February 5

Warmest day of winter.  $51^{\circ}$  above - February 12.

Got ice on Graves pond 18 inches. Reservoir ice 27 in. - Feb. 18+19.

Mr. Mundell (depot agent) brother) killed by train - March 7  
(watching ledges)

Mr. Wanzer of Middlefield taken to insane asylum - March 9

Have cut 357 cakes ice this winter - March 9.

John Romano, Bancroft, died in hospital to-night.  
Both legs cut off by freight - March 19.

1918.

Fleming's dog bothered all the time. Fired bird shot at him. Haven't seen him since - March 22.

New-daylight saving plan started, (set clocks ahead 1 hour) March 30.

Spring has come. Heard frogs - March 30.

Easter Sunday was fair and warm March 31.

Mr. Hatch is new store keeper, Middlefield Center April 2.

Man killed by train Banorcroft. (3rd one recently) April 5.

Washed sap buckets. Used 225 this year. - April 26.

Got our first automobile (Black 1914 Ford.) - May 10.

There are 50 head cattle in Taylor Pasture - May 10.

Had 3 new puppies - May 20.

Planting corn, very cold, some snow in Pittsfield - June 13.

Cold weather June 19-23. Frosts for two nights June 19-20.

Amasa Graves received his mounted deer head. July 2

(Allowed to buy only 2 lbs. sugar at one time)  
(Can't get potato bug poison around here) July 6.  
Stores need license now - to sell it

Picked 2 1/4 bu. wild strawberries this year. July 7

1918.

Brought up load of 6000 shingles from station July 13.

Went Huntington with car. Took 1 hour + 45 min. to come back July 21.

First good rain in 6 or 7 weeks. - August 29.

Fuel Administrator ordered cars to stop running Sundays August 29.

First frost, froze some of corn - September 11

Ed and John registered for the draft - September 12

Have 59 stalks field corn. tomatoes of 16 oz. Best  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. September 26 - October 11.

Had auction at John Bryan place - October 1.

Influenza Epidemic over Nation - October 7.

Jane Savery 62 yrs - weight 125. Elizabeth 42 yrs - 104 lbs. October.

Phone rang 1.A.M. Said peace signed (False Rumor) October 13.

Henry Pease threshed our oats Oct. 28 - Nov. 1.  
95 bushels of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Will Graves has oats and barley to thresh.

Put up hitching stone by house November 3.

Kaiser has given up. Armistice signed 2 days holiday Nov. 11  
Nov. 11 + 12.

Finished husking field corn - 119 bu. - November 16

Temperature 5° above - Middlefield Center November 26 -

Warm weather - much bare ground. December 12 - 24.

1919.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt died - January 6  
The Flu. Epidemic is now in Becket and Bencroft. - Jan. 9.

Received our deer skin rug, all finished - January 10.

Cousin Anna Mcunier of Burlington Vt. married Jan. 20  
a 237 million gal. molasses tank broke and flooded Boston. Jan. 16  
(some people killed)

Made  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gallon maple syrup - January 18-28.

Harold Boyer, son of Fred Boyer - married February 4.  
Gaymel Nickerson borrowed 2 eggs. Needed for Amara's birthday  
February 8

Finished icing, 11 layers on February 19.

Mrs. Geo. McElwain was buried to-day.

Two Dr. Dearborns of Becket gone back to New-Hampshire  
April 13

Temperature 20° above, Becket 10° above, lots snow - April 25

Mrs. Bernard Fallon. (Bridget Tobin) died June 2.

Aeroplane went by. First one seen around here June 4.

Frank Green and wife and Myra Wheeler came June 15

Lightning killed 6 of Ralph Bell's cows. - June 21.

Ed. Cron is living in a tent, Green's Lot, by Graves'. July 10  
Wind knocked down his tent. Had to go sleep

1919.

Fire in Cranes bungalow, across brook, not much damage  
July 23.

Cousin Clara Blean of Pittsfield married Wm. Eagan - Aug 12

Arthur Groves of Pittsfield died Aug. 28. - Funeral Aug. 30.

(Ed and John walked up to Middlefield Fair - September 4  
Had a team there all day to pull cars out of mud. )

Celebrating Westfield's 250th anniversary this week - September 6

Mr. Barnes has sold his place to Peter Boyer - September 7.

Have seen 2 or 3 airplanes fly by here - June to Sept. 18.

John went hunting with dogs. Tired our old black cat twice  
October 26.

Went to Huntington with open car. Nearly froze. - November 15.

Mr. Day, father to Mrs. Fred Boyer died - November 20.

Cold spell 10° below to 12° above zero - December 16-19.

Had chimney fire on - December 26.

Sawing wood for town people - December 8-31.

Oct. 22  
1919  
To the Editor of the Post:  
Sir—Under the prohibition amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which goes into effect next January, can a person legally make alcoholic drinks to be consumed in his own home, but not for sale?  
An authority on such matters has answered the foregoing question, as follows:  
"Yes; this may be done out of fruit juices. That part of the law reads: 'The penalties provided in this act against the manufacture of liquor without a permit shall not apply to a person for manufacturing non-intoxicating cider and fruit juices exclusively in the home, but such cider shall not be sold or delivered except to persons having permits to manufacture vinegar!'"

1920.

Mary Jane Perry married Emile Smith, Huntington, - January 5

New doctor has come to Becket. (Hugh Heaton) - January 8.

Ed and John are making second garage. - January.

Mrs. Day, mother of Mrs. F. Boyer died in Rockland. - Funeral January 16.  
Her husband died Nov. 20, 1919.

Prohibition started. Also Corby Graves taking census. - January 17.

Floyd Boyer of Middlefield died of pneumonia - January 30.

Huntington Hotel burned. Built by Grover Chaslands' grand mother  
about 150 years ago - February 1.

Bad storm on February 5. Took 3 hours to get to mail box.  
Have to shovel or break crust for horses to go through. Feb. 6.

Dr. Lyman has left Chester - February 9.

Flu. Epidemic, Cumington 200 sick of 700 people Feb. 9.

Our horse Dan (10 yrs) dead this morning of pneumonia. Feb. 12.

Shoveling road, Garnwell Hill for Graves to get out. Feb. 27.

Very bad storm. No mail or milk carried - March 6.

Took all day to shovel way out. Graves' can't get out. March 7.

Bought mare of Dr. Brachins Pittsfield - March 11

1920.

Still shoveling snow - Towards Graves' house. - March 17.

Road is dug out like tunnel through drifts: in Gamwell Hill.  
Ed Coron visiting around. Said new clothes on his back worth \$90.  
March 27.

Using 325 parts for sugaring - April 7

Finished shingling Big barn. Put up fox weather vane - May 7.

Dan Fleming got trout 25 in. long -  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs - June 14.

got our marble top table, other furniture - June 18.

got side board for dining room. - July 21.

They are digging ditch to lay water pipe to spring  
about 1360 feet,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep. August.

One of our cats had 33 kittens Aug. 1915 - 1920.

Henry Pease place burned early this morning September 1  
between 1 A.M. and 2 A.M. Ed and John went.  
Lost a bull and 60 tons of hay, about all furniture.

Middlefield Fair was September 8 + 9.

Had high wind like hurricane, cold temperature. Sept. 17.

Cutting and stooking corn, very hot  $84^{\circ}$  temp. - September 26

Have picked 2 bushels grapes from our vine - October 3.

First frost of the season - October 7.



1920.

Have gotten in about 14 loads of pumpkins.  
1 pumpkin weighed 45 lbs. - October 8.

Mrs. John Cody died - December 14

Christmas was fair and cold. - Got wrist watch, 6 lbs candy  
among presents December 25.

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1921.

John helped Will Graves butcher pig - weight 390 lbs. - January 14

Ellen Eden and Gus Dryd married - January 28.

We had two Holstein calves. - January 23.

Jim and Jennie Morrison and baby (about 2 yrs) visited  
January 29.

Mrs. Helen Cook, first woman selectman in town February 15.

Ed and John bought and tore down old house - March  
in Bancroft to make our henhouse. To April 19.

Paper mill in Bancroft got a fire to night - March 2.

Uncle George Boshan, Huntington, died - March 24.

Ed, Mother and I went funeral walked to Bancroft  
and back March 26.

They are putting piazza on Fred Boyer house - March 28.

Grass fire in Taylor Lot, probably from railroad March  
30.

1921.

John Ferris bought <sup>Frank</sup> Green place April 9. - Moved in Oct. 5.  
Cousin Hattie Boshan and Ed Everton married Saturday April 9

I sold a turkey gobbler to Mrs Harry Pease \$10.00 - April 18

Ed and John went to Frank Green auction - prices high - May 14  
Auction to Mr. McKesson's at Crane place - Bought big scales <sup>May</sup> 25

Ed and John went to Barn-raising. Henry Pease Thursday June 16.

Have sold maple logs to a Mr. Rogers. May and June.

Boyers have sawmill set up in old orchard, our woodlot. <sup>May</sup> 12

Have 245 hens, chickens and other poultry - June 15

Went to Dwight Conis' house. Played violin for us. July 10

Mrs. Alice Culver - wife of milk driver died. Aug. 11, buried Aug 14

Charles Reno and family at Middlefield Fair - Sept. 1.

Lived years ago in town, now in Pittsfield.

Four of us went to Eastern States Exp. Friday Sept 23  
hot, 75,400 people.

Our family went to Huntington except John. - Sept. 30  
One of our big maples fell in front of house while gone.

Mr. George Martin visited. Birthday Oct. 17 - 74 yrs.  
Born 1847.

Finished digging ditch for water pipe. October 28

Began laying pipe - October 29.

1921.

Have 70 bushels threshed of field corn. This fall.

Mr. Caron of Chester soldered our water pipes and faucet  
Have water in the house from our spring - November 6

Mary Jane and Emil Smiths boy, Edward, born - November 7

Finished covering ditch for water pipe - November 11.

Worst ice storm we ever had - November 27.

Truss stayed frozen till November 30. Roads blocked.

Our wood lot, sugar maples about ruined.

Telephones are out. Ice on wires - 6 lbs. to a foot

720 lbs from 1 pole to another.

Started having telephone again after ice storm - Dec. 24

Been out since November 27. - 4 weeks.

Cleaning pantry. Old revolver went off. - December  
Elizabeth and I narrowly escaped being hit. <sup>13</sup>

Started putting up new 2-story henhouse; Decem  
<sub>21</sub>

1922.

got music cabinet - Garbin. Co. - January 3.  
Pope Benedict XV died - Pope Pius XI chosen. - February 5.  
January 22. (Achille Ratti, 65 yrs. old.)

got Mr. Roth, Crane place to cut ice - January 27-28

Kmcherbrocker Theatre Roof, Washington D.C. fell in - January 28  
Caused by weight of snow. 100 killed, 100 injured

We are quilting Basket of Tulip Quilt - January 31.

Henry Sternagali found dead in barn, hung - January 31.  
He had won office of 2nd selectman yesterday

Finished filling our ice house. February 10.

great Uncle Peter Blean nearly 89 yrs. died February 15.  
Born May 2, 1833, 4 yrs. younger than Grandma Perry

Ed has gone with John Ferris on jury duty - Feb. 19  
Both are staying with Charles Ferris of Weyden.

got excused from jury duty. Came home February 26

Elizabeth and I went to see Uncle Ans, Pittsfield Feb 18  
Sloan St.

Had news of Canada. Great Aunt Selma 95 yrs. March 21.

Shingling new henhouse. April 9 - Easter, cool fair - April 16

Mr. Durant is store keeper and postmaster - Center April 20

Very smoky - grass and brush fires, 100 acres burned - April 28.  
Becket.

Cooley Graves is assessor this year.

Harry Pease pulled out stone in road near shop - May 13

1922.

Mr. Cady of Huntington around selling silos - May 24.

Eva and Albert Lilley's baby boy died - May 25.

Had 3 puppies of Brownie May 27

Bad tornado. Felt in Pittsfield June 12.

80 or 90 people in small boats died N. Y. harbor

Moved my hens in new henhouse - June 14.

Have set 810 cabbage plants by - July 5.

Had 28 stormy or cloudy days of 35 - June 1 - July 5.

Have 47 fowls - 158 chicks - 23 turkeys - 17 guineas = 245 - July 11

Bought hire of bus of Aldermans - July 15.

Have picked 3 bushels wild strawberries this year by July.

Went to see Pond Lilley at Cove, Rany Day Camp Road - July 30.

Winnie Graves of Lee has a new Chevrolet car - August

August had 19 bad days out of 31. (268 chicks hatched <sup>this</sup> year)

Have sold about (60 pairs) - 15 bushels of plums - Aug. + Sept.

Will Graves started putting up silo - September 19

Four of us and Ethel McPerson went Eastern States Exp. (September 21)

Had a hard frost this morning - September 26

New driver on milk team. Sam Madsen replaced Culver.

Heat records broken. 92° Springfield - October 5. (October 2.)

1923

Have 17 head cattle and 3 horses this winter - January 4  
(Explosion at gas Light Co. - Water St. Springfield - February 1.  
3 dead - 50 to 60 injured, 20 families homeless

(Sold wood lot (sugar orchard) to J. C. Ballou, Becket - March 5  
(Saw-mill here March 22 - April 25, 120,000 feet cut

Bought new Ford car - Westfield - March 31.

(Easter Sunday. 3<sup>o</sup> above A.M. Nearly froze going to church. April  
John, Elizabeth and I went to church. Walked both ways. 1.

(12 feet of snow in Town Hill Road. - April 3.  
Cutting crust with ice saws to open road.

Some snow left. Had maple syrup wax on snow. April 28

Fire at Arthur Pease's Barn and some sheds burned - May 7

Some snow - May 9 + 10. - Frost and ice on May 11

Owen Kelly of Gee, formerly Bancroft, is dead - May 10

Ed and John putting up 2nd garage. south end, shed  
May 12.

(Hindy, famous Boston Post cat died blood poisoning)  
We have his picture - May 15.

New henhouse was all painted by - May 20

Cousin Stella Perry, Huntington died May 24. Funeral  
May 26.

Sold old Ford June 4. Got new Ford June 5.  
To Mr. Hearn.

Have about 220 different fowls - June 5.

1923.

Mother went to hospital June - 14 - 20. Pittsfield.

Having very dry summer. Even grass roots drying. July 15  
Carl Droyd. here. Says foxes got 18 hens and 128 chicks  
Now even his dog is gone. - July 23.

(President Harding died San Francisco. Aug. 2 - Funeral <sup>Aug 10</sup>  
Almost all nations business stopped for funeral. (Marion Ohio)

Have white blackberries, but not many black. Aug. 12  
George Cottrell of Middlefield died - September 10

John Ferris made foundation Sept. 13, put up silo 14th  
and put corn in it - September 15.

First killing frost on - October 7.

Finished digging potatoes 90 bu. - October 12.

John Ferris' baby, Ralph, 11 mos. died Hillcrest Hospital  
October 13,

Elizabeth working part time in mill. - October 29  
also started working for Mrs H. E. Stanton

Bought old Chevrolet car of Pelkey; November 1  
to make a small truck

Got hand made aprons of Ethel Nickerson  
for Christmas presents - December 25.

1924.

Mrs. George McClavin buried. Left month old baby - January 2  
(Lotte Goodkind married to Mr. Maschin - Westfield - January 1924.  
His first wife, her sister Lillian Goodkind, died December 1922)

Having spell mild weather. Cattle and hens out - January 17  
Spent \$23.36 in year for newspapers and magazines - January.

Mother had glasses of Dr. Post, Westfield. Help her sight - Jan. 22

Still using wagons, mostly bare ground. - January 24

It was 17° below here, 20° below - Mald. Center, 49° below - N. Hampshire,  
January 27

Woodrow Wilson died - February 3.

John and Helen Ferris had 11 lb. boy born - Feb. 28. 1924.  
Loy - 11 mos died Oct. 13. 1923

Gale wind - Blew away windmill and part of weather vane  
(March 11.)

Folks are making home made soup. at home - March 2

Robert Pease - son of Arthur Pease died - March 14.

Making truck out of old Chevrolet car - March 17.

John Mayette took a cat of ours to Bancroft.

She got away. Came back same night - March 30

Grace Marten, Dalton, 38 years. died. Burned by gas stove.  
(John) (April 5.)

Have made 33 gal. syrup. 35 lbs. sugar, 52 lbs soft sugar  
Used 120 pairs - April

Easter Sunday - snow flurries - April 20.

Bought 2 pairs shoes for \$2.00 - Westfield - April 4



1924.

Paper mill closed in Huntington - April 21.  
Elizabeth works for Mrs H. E. Stanton

Selling a lot of firewood around town. April

Had John Ferris to dynamite stones across road from house. June 10

Shingling horse barn - July 2. - Bought 500 cabbage plants - July 7

Calvin Coolidge, 16 yrs old. - died July 10

Cousin James Perry - Huntington - graduation - June.

Elizabeth missed train, forgot pocket book. - July 14.

Went to see inside paper mill, first time since 1912.

500 people 1st day of Middlefield Fair - 600 last day Aug. 28

Man went by to night, acting queer. Asked if our place  
was the Aspin wall. Town's 2nd wild man - Aug. 28  
(First one found August 23.)

Lightning struck in cellar and back of barn. - Sept. 2  
Burned phone wire, knocked mother down in shed

Heard Elizabeth Smith of Cody family had died - Sept. 7

Had letter of Ed Coron on - September 9. Can't come  
camping around here. His landlady would be too  
lonesome.

Found a coin, English half penny 1775 by grape vine  
September 11,

Loeb and Leopold have death sentence for  
killing Robert Frank. - September 11

Ethel Nickerson to Northampton about her divorce - Sept. 11

1924.

(38,000)

Four of us and Mr. Martin went Eastern States Exp. - Sept. 19

a sprung pullet has been laying. Began setting - Sept. 21

House in Bancroft by arch bridge burned - Sept. 23.

All gardens froze - Sept. 24 - 5 cabbages weigh 53 lbs. <sup>Sept</sup> 30

Mrs. Donoghue, Bancroft, had leg taken off. - hospital - Oct 11

Got a walnut bed and commode - Old Flynn house - Oct. 3

Got quinces of man named Quana, Russel road - Oct 18

J. H. Fleming had stroke in his store. Ed there. Helped him  
(October 30)

Coolidge won for president. November 4.

There are 44 forest fires in Massachusetts - Nov. 4.

Painting shed and 2nd garage. November 7.

Had first rain in over a month - November 12

Flemings had sale on rubbers! <sup>Bought.</sup> 2 pairs - 29¢ a pair -  
(December)

Received our copy of Middlefield History - Nov. 19.

Christmas Day - fair - cold. - December 25.

Elizabeth gave me hand made bed bag.

Thermometer Readings as  
Recorded in Valley and  
Western Massachusetts  
(Unofficial.)

Swansey, N. H. ....	42 below zero
Evarts, Vt. ....	40 below zero
Hanover, N. H. ....	36 below zero
White River Jet., Vt. ....	30 below zero
Athol ....	29 below zero
Windsor, Vt. ....	26 below zero
Keene, N. H. ....	25 below zero
Hinsdale ....	24 below zero
Springfield, Vt. ....	24 below zero
Pittsfield ....	23 below zero
Becket ....	22 below zero
Brattleboro, Vt. ....	20 below zero
Westfield ....	15 below zero
North Adams ....	12 below zero
Suffield, Conn. ....	12 below zero
Northampton ....	9 below zero

- January 27 - 1924.

1924

## Man, Naked and Weakened by Starvation, Discovered in Woods of Middlefield

Stranger, Who Says His Name Is Charles Burt,  
Formerly Employed Here, Had Hair Grow-  
ing Over Shoulders and Only Food  
Had Been Wild Berries.

Emaciated until he weighed less than 80 pounds, with a three months' growth of beard and long black curly hair hanging over his shoulders, naked and so weakened that he was unable to walk, a man who says his name is Charles Burt, son of a Boston builder, and that he worked for the Hendee Manufacturing Company here sometime ago, was found in the thick woods about a mile below Middlefield just before dark Saturday evening. - *Aug 23-1924*

Laborers working on the railroad tracks were the first to discern the form of the "wild man" attempting to hide in the underbrush. They told Sheriff G. E. Cook of their discovery and a searching party was formed to seek the man out in his hiding place in the heavily wooded section around Walnut Hill near Bancroft. Sheriff Cook came upon Burt at 6 o'clock, finding him prone on the ground, too

weak from starvation to attempt to escape.

### Body Almost Black.

His body was tanned almost black from constant exposure, his feet were sore and he was scratched and torn from the thorns and briars of the underbrush.

Sheriff Cook, with the assistance of some of the railroad men, brought the man down from the mountain to the watchman's shack occupied by Jerry Romano. There he was clothed and carried to the jail at Sheriff Cook's home.

Burt was in such a weakened condition that all that could be given him at first was hot tea and bread and milk. He was barely able to talk and did not get up from his bed in the cell until after 8 o'clock last night.

### Remembers But Little.

He said he could not remember anything except that he had worked at

[Continued on Second Page.]

## Starving Man Found in Woods of Middlefield

[Continued from First Page.]

the Hendee Motorcycle plant in Springfield. He said that his father was a builder in Boston, the last that he knew.

Romano told Sheriff Cook that a man who might have been Burt came to his shanty about a week ago and asked directions to all towns in the neighborhood and said that he wanted to send a telegram.

Engineers on the Boston & Albany railroad say that last week they saw, at various times, what they thought was a naked man disappearing in the woods as the train approached.

Burt, as he calls himself, said last night that he remembered being given a ride in an automobile from Springfield to Pittsfield and then working his way over the mountains from Pittsfield to Middlefield, a distance of about 18 miles.

His clothes were lost about a week ago, Burt says, but he does not know how it happened. He had been living on nothing but wild berries and was only skin and bones when he was brought in Saturday night. Sheriff Cook says that if he had not been discovered he would have died in a day or so more.

### Food Robberies Recalled.

Some little time ago there was a series of robberies in Becket. Houses were broken into every night of the week and nothing but articles of food was taken. No one can be found who saw the thief in these affairs but in one case a house owner shot at the disappearing form of the thief and the fire was returned.

There have been no reports in the section around Middlefield of a "wild man" being seen in the woods and it is considered that Burt must have remained well hidden in the mountains during the daytime. He was asked why he had not gone down to a house for food and clothes and said that he had been ashamed to come out of hiding unclothed.

### Appears Well Educated.

Sheriff Cook says that he seems to be a man of good education, perhaps 25 years old. His mind seems to be a blank for he answers "I cannot remember any more" to the majority of questions that are asked. His hands are soft and are not those that would be found on a man accustomed to hard manual labor. He has a number of gold fillings in his teeth, and from all appearances appears to come from a good family.

Springfield police have been notified and asked to check up his connection with the Hendee Manufacturing Com-

pany here. John Brand, employment manager of the Hendee Company, made a hurried search of the employment files last night and reported that he had no trace of an employe who would answer to the description and name of Burt could be found as far back as 1916. It is possible, however, that Burt might have been an office employe or worked with one of the salesmen of the company.

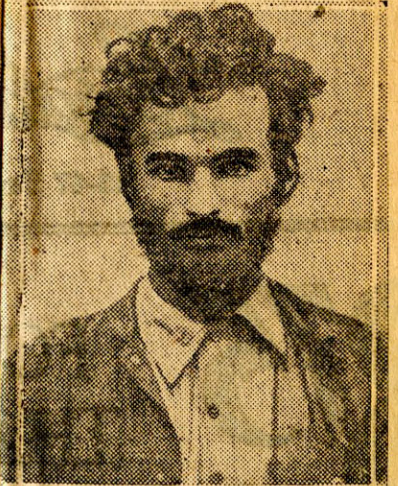
### Considered Insane.

Those who have seen Burt consider that he is out of his head. His statements are disconnected and he is reluctant to talk. Last night he was beginning to show the effects of the nourishing food he had received, and had brightened considerably.

Sheriff Cook will take him to court in Northampton this morning when he will be tried on charges of vagrancy and probably sent to Northampton for observation. There are many summer resorts in the section where Burt says that he has remained in hiding and it is considered remarkable that he had not been discovered before.

Many hypotheses have been advanced to account for the condition in which he was found. Some say that he might have been drugged and robbed and turned loose in the woods, and others have suggested that Burt might be a veteran of the World War suffering from shell shock.

## Brother Says "Wild Man" From Brighton



JOSEPH PILLION BEFORE AND AFTER LIFE IN WOODS  
Middlefield's "wild man," who was identified at the Northampton Hospital for the Insane by his brother as Joseph Pillion of Brighton. When found, starved and clotheless, he insisted that his name was Charles Burt.

SPRINGFIELD, Aug. 28.—Despite the fact that the Middlefield "wild man" captured in the depths of the desolate Middlefield gorge forest Saturday, was positively identified today by George Pillion, of Brighton, as his brother, Joseph, who disappeared last June, the young man himself vehemently denies that he is Joseph Pillion.

Brought face to face with the Brighton man, at the Northampton State Asylum, he declared that he had never seen him before. He was sincere in this statement, the hospital authorities believe. Apparently he has a strongly defined dual personality, and is now living the incarnation of a character for whom he has adopted the name of Charles Burt. He insists that his name is Burt and any recollections of his life as Joseph Pillion have been wiped out, at least temporarily.

He will remain at the hospital for treatment and as he is gaining weight daily and improving mentally, hope is held out that his mind will clear eventually, leaving him normal again.

## "WILD MAN'S" IDENTITY MAY BE LEARNED TODAY.

Burt, Dazed in Hospital,  
Fails to Answer Any  
Questions as to

Family.

Charles Burt, the "wild man" of Middlefield who was discovered at the point of starvation on Walnut Hill, Saturday, slept last night in the State Hospital in Northampton where he had been committed on temporary papers for observation. Burt has been shaved, his hair trimmed, and the thorough cleanup he received at the hospital has worked a striking change in his whole appearance.

Burt remains in an apathetic condition, and it is with great effort that he talks at all. All that he seems able to say is, "I don't remember." He was placed in bed immediately after his arrival at the hospital and fell into a deep sleep.

Dr. E. E. Thomas, the Northampton physician who committed Burt to the hospital yesterday morning, thinks that he might be normally brilliant but is now laboring under the burden of some heavy strain. Burt showed signs of emotion for the first time yesterday when he was questioned about his relatives. He seemed to be on the point of breaking into tears when asked about his parents and gave visible evidence of being greatly moved.

### Fails to Comprehend.

Dr. Thomas said that he passed the temporary commitment papers to Burt during the hearing in the Court House. Burt read the papers aloud but did not seem to comprehend what he was reading. Burt was asked if he was a former soldier and seemed to understand the question. He answered "No." Dr. Thomas said that he thought Burt knew he was being sent to a hospital for the insane, but he did not show any signs of emotion except when questioned about his relatives.

Dr. Edward W. Whitney of the Northampton Hospital expressed the opinion that Burt was undoubtedly insane and that he might be an escaped inmate of some state institution. As soon as Burt is rested and able to take nourishment regularly, the authorities feel confident that his mind will clear up to a certain extent and that it will be possible to establish his identity and clear up the case. In the mean time his description is being forwarded to all state institutions from which it is possible he might have escaped.

### No Marks of Wounds.

State Policeman Joseph V. Daly, attached to the Greenfield branch of the state police, said last night that he understood that some one was coming from Boston to attempt to identify the man but would not give any further information. Dr. David E. Harriman, head of the Veterans' Bureau in Springfield, who has handled nearly 10,000 cases of disabled veterans from this section of the state, said last night that he would be glad to go to Northampton and attempt identifica-

[Continued on Second Page.]

Found Aug 23 1924 in Middlefield Mass Boston Post.

1925.

Chicken plague in country. Hundreds dying - January 1.

Had earthquake shocks in Eastern Massachusetts - Jan. 7 + Feb. 28

Funeral of Beatrice Mayette husband - January 12.

Mr. Robertson, Middlefield minister took Farm Census. - Jan. 15.

Cross word puzzle fad in newspapers. - January 18.

Report panther seen, Huntington and Southampton - January 20

Temperature  $56^{\circ}$  below. FT. Fairfield Maine - January 20.

Deep snow. Ed used laserwood boards for snow shoes for milk  
February 4.

Floyd Collins died. Has been imprisoned 17 days in cave. Feb. 17

Began making bathroom. March 3. All done. painting it. Apr. 30

Olvi and Winnie Graves. came visiting. Sat in 2 chairs  
riding in a sleigh on bare ground from their place. March 7

Western tornado, 850 killed more than 2900 hurt. March 19

also Palm Beach hotel of Florida fire of \$5,000,000. - March 19

Robins have been here 2 weeks. Heard frogs. March 26

Ovid Carnes came to assess property and take census. April 13

Funeral in Becket of Mrs. Kate Bordin Kelly - April 16.

Digging ditch and putting tile for bathroom - April.

Tornado in Cherokee - April 15. Stevens auction - May 14.

Ovid Carnes injured in saw mill accident, died - May 6

John and I, Mrs. Graves and Ethel to funeral - May 9.

1925  
Man around from New England Power Co. to  
buy land if line goes through - May.

Will Graves was in his orchard. Had sled with bells. <sup>May 27</sup>  
riding around.

Tait Brothers named Eastern Dairies - changed - May 3

Had lettuce and radishes from our garden - June 1.

Temperature at noon. 84°. First time cats didn't lay behind  
The stove - June

Very hot spell of weather - June 3-7

Visited Alice Church. Showed us over her house - June

Joseph Fallon - Margaret Fox, married - Dalton - June

Went to see Cone family. They are camping this summer  
by Factory Village school house - July 4.

Went across brook, where house used to be - July  
at foot of our road. Looked for snow-ball shrub.

Boston Pickwick Club collapsed. - 44 dead - July

Have 11 hives bes this summer - July 18.

William Jennings Bryan - lawyer died - July 27

Stevens house - Crane place burned 3 A.M. - July 27

John went with Roy Graves so he could get  
license to drive his new Star car. - August

George Fraser. Huntington, drowned 18 yrs - August

1925.

Excursion boat boiler exploded - Rhode Island  
about 50 killed and 200 hurt — August 19

Four of us and Ethel Nickerson went E. S. Exposition Sept. 25.

Alpheus Wakefield died in Becket - September 26

Grace Olds and George Olds married, windy and snowy - Oct. 10.

Ethel Boyer - Felix Langlois married - October 12

Ethel Sternagali - Frank Pelkey married - October 14.

John went on jury duty off and on - October 19 - Nov. 6.

Martha Gedwell brought up Dr. Sanders for mother - Oct. 21

Tornado in Woburn - Oct. 25. - Got our bathroom outfit - Nov. 11

Have 315 cabbages in cellar, besides those sold. - October 30

John went to party at Henry Pease's Saturday - Sept. 26

Started digging pond - November 4 - Finished November 19

Killed black dog Jack - Nov. 14. Got hot water tank - Dec. 1

Ed fixed pipes. Turned on water in bathroom - Dec. 15

John Crane - Springfield 73 years - died - November 17

Mrs. Charles Heno, Pittsfield, 82 yrs, formerly of this town  
died.

Also Oliver Crow - Dalton 74 yrs. died the past week  
(formerly Banoroft.) December 26