

1918-1920 Diary of Jettie Short Gardner



Isaac Newton Gardner
1851 – 1909
(Williams Gardner's father)



Nancy Ellen Williams
1856 – 1887
(Williams Gardner's mother)



John Clark Short
1854 – 1945
(Jettie Short's father)



Aurora Belle Howard
1860 – 1926
(Jettie Short's mother)



Williams McBain Gardner
1881 – 1950



Jettie May Short
1881 – 1973

At the outset of this diary, which covered the last five weeks of 1918, all of 1919, and nine days of January 1920:

Williams McBain Gardner (born 14 Jan 1881) is 37 years old.

Jettie May Short Gardner (born 24 Sep 1881) is 37 years old.

Lloyd Norval Gardner (born 13 Sep 1907) is 11 years old.

Lawrence Dale Gardner (born 12 Jul 1909) is 9 years old.

Marie Belle Gardner (born 1 May 1918) is 7 months old.

"Pa" – Jettie's father – John Clark Short (born 4 Jan 1854) is 64 years old.

"Ma" – Jettie's mother – Aurora Belle Howard (born 1 Mar 1860) is 58 years old.

Ina Ellen Short is Jettie's sister (born 27 Apr 1885) is 33 years old.

Ira Elvin Short is Jettie's brother (born 27 Apr 1885) is 33 years old. Ina and Ira are twins.



Lloyd and Dale in about 1912



Marie in about 1920

Jettie used a copy of the U.S. government's Farm Record book as a diary, to record daily events and the weather. The Farm Record Introduction stated:

Since the beginning of the war many new responsibilities have been placed on all of us. One of the most troubling to the average person is that of making the new Income Tax Report. To make an accurate report, one must keep a record of his receipts and expenditures.

The farmer is the only business man doing a large volume of business who is not compelled by the nature of his work to keep permanent records. Consequently he will have the greatest difficulty with the report. That is why we combine a yearly farm record with an analysis of the tax law.

In presenting this book our officers suggest that an entry be made each day. After a few weeks the habit will be formed, and it will not be overlooked. At the close of the year, if the record is kept up, there will be no trouble with the report....

She entered "Number of children under 18: 3"

1918

Timeline: World War I ended in November of 1918, with Woodrow Wilson as the U.S. President. This was also the year that Russian revolutionaries executed the former Czar and his family. The Pulitzer Prizes in Fiction, Drama, and Poetry made their debut. The Nobel Prize in physics was awarded to Max Planck of Germany for discoveries in quantum theory. In the World Series, the Boston Red Sox defeated the Chicago Cubs, 4-2. The Kentucky Derby champion was Exterminator.

Wed Nov 27 – Mr. Kelly helped us butcher. Big snow at night.

Thu Nov 28 – Ate Thanksgiving dinner at Kellys.

Fri Nov 29 – Rendered lard. Made sausage. Put cattle in stalls.

Sat Nov 30 – Sold 13 hogs to T. Howe - \$521.68. Averaged 241 pounds.

Sun Dec 1 – Pa, Ma, Ina, Bernice came out in sled.

Mon Dec 2 – Went to town in car. Stayed all day Christmas shopping. Ran out of gas coming home on hill.



Thu Dec 5 – Williams built a shed on the hen house. Sold 30 dozen eggs, got \$18.60.

Fri Dec 6 – Williams went to Osceola with A. E. Miller & bought a sow & six pigs of Jake Shader for \$35. Dale learned to play “Marching through Georgia” on the piano.

Sat Dec 7 – Finished the hen house. Newt McBride died at Creston.

Sun Dec 8 – Ate dinner at Benton Erb’s. Fine baby boy born Oct. 3. Shut 225 chickens in the hen house.

Mon Dec 9 – School started. Closed since October 16 due to the flu. Williams dug out the parson. Helped McNichols shred in afternoon.

Wed Dec 11 – Uncle Bill Wade died suddenly of heart failure Tuesday. Funeral today 2 p.m. Williams went with J. D. Garwood, Taylor & Aunt Belle Lewis. Williams helped Oscar shred in forenoon.

Thu Dec 12 – Williams helped Mr. J. J. Kelly butcher. We washed. Rained today. Mrs. Kelly sent Marie her baby’s high chair for a Christmas present. The chair is 21 years old this Christmas. Lloyd & Dale split big chunks of wood. Marie weighs 19 pounds.

Fri Dec 13 – Rained all day. I churned & ironed. Williams’ shoulder & neck hurt so bad. Boys played.

Sat Dec 14 – Williams hauled logs for Pearl Saddoris. Took a treatment of Dr. Lauser. Sent Ma butter 3 pounds at 50¢ to town by Oscar Sharp’s. Jim Wade died.

Sun Dec 15 – Mr. & Mrs. Kelly came here for dinner. Brought ham of meat home. Funeral for Jim Wade today.

Mon Dec 16 – Lloyd & Dale rode old Flossie, Williams rode Black Bob. Boys went to Wayne & Eugene Yates’s <their cousins> to play and rode stilts. Came home at 3:30. Made stilts when they got home.

Tue Dec 17 – Boys walked stilts. I sewed. Williams tried to buy sows to keep.



Norman Rockwell: Boy on Stilts

Wed Dec 18 – We washed. Pearl Saddoris, Mr. Husted and Williams went to the Farmers Union Store near Del Ray in the afternoon and bought 16 sacks of Old Honesty flour (\$2.95 a sack), 14 lbs of coffee (23¢ each). Lillie Mullen Jeffers died.

Thu Dec 19 – We all went to town in the Ford, Christmas shopping. Ate dinner at John Clark Short's. Asa Talbott died.

Fri Dec 20 – Rained all day. Williams solicited for Red Cross in forenoon, got \$23 altogether.

Sat Dec 21 – Very muddy. Marie weighed 19½ pounds, 1 new tooth.

Sun Dec 22 – Mr. & Mrs. Will Talbott ate dinner here. Turned cold.

Mon Dec 23 – Lloyd and Dale started to school. School closed October 14 on account of the flu, opened again December 9, but boys didn't go for fear of flu. 6,000,000 deaths in U.S. of flu. Snowed and blowed all night.

Tue Dec 24 – Cold and stormy morning. Cleared off in the afternoon. Snow drifted Christmas Eve. Lloyd and Dale went to bed at 6:30 but couldn't go to sleep. We went at 9:30 & took a piece of bread & butter & glass of milk for them.

Wed Dec 25 – Christmas morning. Boys found Erector toys in stockings. Williams and Lloyd started out in Ford to see if we could get through to go to town. Came back & got us & we went home & ate dinner with Ma, Bernice & Ina. Had Christmas tree. Ira's went to Yates's. Pa worked.

Thu Dec 26 – Marie has two more teeth. Boys went to school. We washed. Williams helped scoop snow for mail carrier up west. Williams, Oscar & Andrew butchered black white-faced calf in the afternoon. Asked \$50 for calf.



Model T Ford

Fri Dec 27 – Delivered beef. A. E. Miller got a front quarter, \$10.50. Will Talbott front quarter \$11.28. J. C. Short's \$13.28 hind quarter. Our hind quarter \$19.42. The hide \$8.65. Extra meat 15 pounds @ 14¢ \$2.10. Took eggs to town, 5 dozen 55¢ a dozen. Got boys overalls \$1.50 apiece.

Sat Dec 28 – Marie waves hands bye-bye.

Sun Dec 29 – Hitched Bob & Bet up to sled to go to Miller's for dinner. Williams tied one horse to a hayrack. Came to house to get ready & Bet turned Bob & sled around, upset the hayrack and broke it and broke the tongue of the sled, broke the bridle all to pieces. We got in the Ford then & went visiting. Had everything good for dinner. Lloyd & Dale took their sled & went up the creek. Had small Christmas tree on table with 2 red ribbons that reached to Lloyd & Dale's plates. Presents for boys on the end of ribbon under Christmas tree, 2 wash rags & 4 sticks.

Mon Dec 30 – Williams went to town in the Ford to get the sled tongue fixed. Pa gave him one for Christmas. I made mince meat. Boys wore new overalls to school. Cost \$1.50 a pair. Sugar 11¢ a pound. Boys' shirts 89¢. Boys got a letter from cousins Orville & Leona.

Tue Dec 31 – Snowed all day.

1919

Timeline: The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted, prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages in the United States. Dial telephones were introduced by AT&T. Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity was confirmed when the Royal Astronomical Society saw the predicted effect during a solar eclipse. Charlie Chaplin, D. W. Griffith, Douglas Fairbanks, and Mary Pickford established United Artists in an attempt to control their own work. Cincinnati defeated the Chicago White Sox 5-3 in the World Series. The Kentucky Derby champion was Sir Barton.



Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, D. W. Griffith, Charlie Chaplin

Wed Jan 1 – Marie is eight months old, weighs 20 pounds and has 5 teeth. Scoots around. Plenty of snow on the ground. Farmers Union oyster supper postponed on account of cold day and drifted roads.

Thu Jan 2 – 10 degrees below zero. We washed. Williams hauled fodder after washing was done. Clint Sampson & two sons have the flu. An 11 year old girl on the way to school north of Osceola stepped in a hole & broke her leg ¼ mile from school when 9 o'clock bell rang, didn't get there till noon. Graham was her nurse.

Fri Jan 3 – 18 below zero. Boys set 1 trap.

Sat Jan 4 – Williams sold 8 hogs to Fred Howe \$16.55/pound – weighed 1670; \$278.68. One sled load. Telephone batteries 96¢.

Sun Jan 5 – Pearl, Lena, Wayne, Eugene <Yates cousins> & Mabel Garwood <Gardner cousin> came over, drove little sled, walked & rode, upset. Got here about 1 o'clock. Snowing tonight. Boys set 2 traps.

Mon Jan 6 – Warmer & clear. Williams went to Mark Counce's sale on Mart Hosier farm with A. E. Miller in our sled. Pauline Fouche kept boys after school to make up ½ hour because she dismissed too early Friday evening.

Tue Jan 7 – Boys stayed at house. Williams finished hauling fodder. Went to telephone meeting at Vernon at night. Ray Curnes took his place as Secretary. Teddy Roosevelt died.

Wed Jan 8 – Boys went to school. Williams bought 6 young sows of Link Fisher, 18¢ a pound. Sold Lloyd Norton and Pearl Saddoris 4 spring calves, 2 at \$35 each & 2 at \$30 each. Went to Farmers Union meeting at school house at night. Boys made some flinch cards and we played.

Thu Jan 9 – Boys took their sleds to school. Link Fisher delivered 7 sows, weighed 1490 lbs – 18¢ a pound.

Fri Jan 10 – Farmers Union oyster supper at school house. 54 people there. Williams bought 2 3-year old heifers of Lawrence Alvis at \$50 each.

Sat Jan 11 – Lawrence Alvis & Burdell brought our new heifers up this morning. Williams rode to town with A. E. Miller. Marie scooted out in kitchen.

Sun Jan 12 – We expected Bent Erb's but Daisy phoned us they couldn't come – they are going to have company so we went down to J. J. Kelly's.

Mon Jan 13 – Aunt Sarah Garwood's birthday. Williams chopped in timber. Boys at school.

Tue Jan 14 – Almost finished my blue calico dress. Marie weighs 20¼ lbs. Has the 6th tooth, 4 above & 2 below.

Wed Jan 15 – We washed. Boys' axes came. Such happy boys. Williams busy cutting trees in timber. January thaw. Fine weather. He went to Farmers Union meeting at night. Fishers, Pearl Millers & Woods have the flu.

Thu Jan 16 – Fine weather, warm.

Fri Jan 17 – Williams bringing up wood from timber – I sewed.



Stock photo: cutting trees the old way

Sat Jan 18 – Boys chopped wood. Williams hauled up wood & went to town in wagon this afternoon. Took harnesses to have them fixed and oiled. Got Pillsbury's Best flour \$3.35, potatoes \$1.50.



Stock photo: boys chopping wood

Sun Jan 19 – Ate dinner at W. B. Talbott's. Went up in the wagon. Very muddy.

Mon Jan 20 – Washed. Arthur Miller came to chop wood in the afternoon. Stayed all night and chopped Tuesday too, \$2.00 a day.

Tue Jan 21 – Boys chopped wood on pile. Williams hauled up more. Chopped lots of wood.

Wed Jan 22 – Williams went to school house to Farmers Union meeting at night. Got 5 pounds of coffee 27¢ a pound. Got coffee from Farmers Union store near Del Ray at Mr. Ritchie's house, 37 pounds of it.

Thu Jan 23 – Arthur chopped wood all day. Williams hauled up wood. Marie got her 1st colored dress.

Fri Jan 24 – We sawed wood with Albert's saw. Oscar, Arthur, Mr. Talbott, Mr. Ryan & Mr. Kelly helped. Mrs. Kelly helped me. Lillie S. & 2 children came up in the afternoon to grind coffee.

Sat Jan 25 – Borrowed A. E. Miller's spring wagon & we drove Bob & Bet to town. Bought gingham at 29¢ a yard for aprons & percale at 35¢ for apron. Telephone directors bought wire on main line for \$120. Muddy.

Sun Jan 26 – Stayed at home. Got up late. Had dinner at 4 o'clock.

Mon Jan 27 – Wash day. Williams went to Van Wert on 11 o'clock train and back on 4 o'clock. Dale's garden seeds came from Henry Field. Warm weather.

Tue Jan 28 – Williams went to town & brought out wire for telephone stubs.

Wed Jan 29 – Neil Ryan, J. J. Kelly, Williams, and Lloyd worked all day on phone line.

Thu Jan 30 – Mrs. Barnes & Orpha came along in buggy going to Sylvia's & wanted Marie & I to go with them. Williams, Neil Ryan and Lloyd worked all day on phone line. Pearl Saddoris helped till noon. V. Collins sale.

Fri Jan 31 – Mr. Fairall's sale. Seems like spring, some people are plowing. Same men worked on phone line, set poles on our line. Husted's party for Ladies Aid Society, ice cream & cake.

Sat Feb 1 – Williams, Lloyd & Dale went to Osceola in Ford after reel to unroll telephone wire. Neil went with them. Brought Charles Kelly & wife from Ottumwa out to J. Kelly's. Sold eggs 36¢. Bought Williams overalls \$1.98. Boys went to Wendell's in afternoon.

Sun Feb 2 – Gilhams & us went to Pearl Yates's. Doyle was sick. Ira & family were there a little while. Had good old fried chicken for dinner.

Mon Feb 3 – Williams worked on the phone line. Boys at school. I sewed.

Tue Feb 4 – Turned cold.

Wed Feb 5 – Old tramp here begging. Snowed some.

Thu Feb 6 – Ladies Aid met at Ethel Emory's. Husted's have the flu & Orr's & Phil Miller's. Williams went to town and to Alexander's sale.

Fri Feb 7 – We all went to Gilham's in car. Boys missed school. Gilhams had no school.

Sat Feb 8 – We went up home in afternoon. Ma was rendering lard & making sausage. Williams went to sale east of town.

Sun Feb 9 – Stayed at home all day. Tired & lazy.

Mon Feb 10 – Kelly's sawed wood. We went in evening. Williams went after Pillsbury flour that Mr. Cooke had ordered – 5 sacks at \$2.80 each. Farmers Union took 92 sacks.

Tue Feb 11 – I washed – Williams carried some water. Boys helped wash till 8:30. Williams went horseback to help Mr. Kelly butcher. Afternoon – Gilham <Williams's brother> started to town, had tire trouble & didn't go on to town. He & Verda & Doyle came here. Went back home by Leslie. Eugene sick.

Wed Feb 12 – Williams butchered. Mr. Kelly helped all day. Gilham's came at noon & helped. Arthur Percy the assessor came in P.M. We had 1550 dozen eggs in 1918. We sold 1450 dozen. Leslie school closed. Weldon school closed, Groveland stopped last week. Lots of flu <the Spanish flu pandemic>. Fine warm day. Rained at night. We went to union meeting in car with Albert.

Thu Feb 13 – Williams helping Mr. Talbott move. Very muddy. Lloyd rode Flossie & brought cattle home from up west. Dale went to school. Lloyd went at noon. I ironed. Williams got home after 8. Turning cold.

Fri Feb 14 – We rendered lard in the house. About 13 gallons. Cold, windy & freezing ground. Bill Wade sale.

Sat Feb 15 – Very cold & stormy. Cleaning up grease. Dale sold Mrs. Sharp some seeds. Mother sick Friday & Saturday. Jack Wilsons moved.

Sun Feb 16 – Baby & I have such colds. Marie's new shoes came from Montgomery Ward & Co., 47¢. We stayed at home all day alone.



Sample page, 1919 Wards catalog

Mon Feb 17 – Williams went to town in wagon to get horse shod, sold 20 dozen eggs 30¢ & 33¢, bought dried peaches 25¢ a pound. Carl & Jessie Luce's baby boy born.

Tue Feb 18 – Williams went to Persel's sale. I fried sausage down.

Wed Feb 19 – Jessie Luce died at 7 P.M. Williams, J. Wilson & J. Kelly went to Roy Lewis's sale. Williams bought a cow of R. Baysinger for \$81.50. Mr. Hagerty bought a hog of Williams for \$40. Dr. Dean called to see baby.

Thu Feb 20 – Dr. Dean stopped on his way to Shepherd's to get Williams to take him as his car balked on him but Joe Fouche fixed it and he went on in it. Francis Arnold family on Meade farm all sick with flu. Mrs. Arnold walked to L. Fisher's at 1 A.M. to get a doctor. Neighbor men went in & put up a telephone line & Williams & Jack took a phone down & put it in for them. Took the washing to town to mother, Aunt Belle too busy. Bought apples 4 for 25¢, oranges 40¢ a dozen.

Fri Feb 21 – Rainy & bad. Boys stayed at home.

Sat Feb 22 – Boys went to school house & got their book. Williams & Jack drove to Osceola.

Sun Feb 23 – Mrs. Landa Cook died of flu. Lots of sickness & deaths. Warm & muddy.

Mon Feb 24 – Oh so muddy. Mr. Snell chopped wood in the afternoon.

Tue Feb 25 – Williams & Jack walked to Clifford Goodrich's sale. Mr. Snell chopped wood in the morning. Cold.

Wed Feb 26 – Arthur Millard & Mr. Snell chopped wood all day. Turned colder. Dale got his knife & tools for premium from selling seeds.

Thu Feb 27 – Arthur chopped in afternoon. Warmer. Turned colder in the night.

Fri Feb 28 – Worst storm of the year. Bad old blizzard. Not so bad toward evening. No school.

Sat Mar 1 – Cold & clear. Mother's birthday – 59 years old. Williams went to Osceola with Jack Wilson in forenoon. Hauled straw in the afternoon. Wendell Norton brought his sled down and played with boys all afternoon. John Tablers moved. Marie weighs 20½ lbs.

Sun Mar 2 – Our 15th anniversary. Pa & Ma, Bernice & Mildred drove out in the sled, 2 hours on the road. Girls brought their sleds but no sledding.

Mon Mar 3 – No school all week. Williams helped Oslands move to Leslie, Oscar helped. Mr. Husted helped George Snell, Jack Wilson helped Will Welkes, Jack Kelly helped Niblos load on train. Very muddy. So warm that snow melting raised the creek.

Tue Mar 4 – Pearl Wilkinson's sale. Williams & Jackie walked straight south from here. Stormy.

Wed Mar 5 – We washed. Susie's birthday & Bernice's.

Thu Mar 6 – I ironed. Boys made ice cream. Fine day. Williams went to Swede Colfack's sale & bought 7 little red shoats \$12.74 per head. Charley Carnes hauled them home.

Fri Mar 7 – Boys hauled 3 loads of manure & 1 load of bedding before noon & 2 loads of wood after noon on the sled.

Sat Mar 8 – Jackie helped Williams deliver 3 heifers he sold to Asbury Neff in Osceola. 2 Alvis heifers \$125, 1 breachy heifer \$65.

Sun Mar 9 – Jackie & family drove down in carriage for dinner.

Mon Mar 10 – School started again. Boys went. School election: Williams, Orland, & Lloyd directors, Jack Wilson secretary. Arthur Ryan's baby boy born.

Tue Mar 11 – Williams helped Oscar saw wood in the morning & Chas Ryan until 4 o'clock – they went to the school house & sawed wood.

Wed Mar 12 – Williams & I & Mr. & Mrs. Kelly went to Jack Wilson's & stayed all day. Men helped cut wood to get ready to saw. Bernice came home from Des Moines Tuesday.

Thu Mar 13 – Jack sawed wood in the afternoon.

Sat Mar 15 – Rained all afternoon. Williams went to town with Jackie in carriage. Awful muddy.

Sun Mar 16 – Boys rode old Flossie to Ross Shepherd's birthday party, he's 10 years old.

Mon Mar 17 – Jackie helped Williams get posts.

Tue Mar 18 – Williams helped Jackie sow timothy seed.

Wed Mar 19 – Spark's sale. Bought 6 heifers – twin calves \$258.

Thu Mar 20 – Sold 92 eggs.

Fri Mar 21 – Wade's sale. Mrs. Barnes, Sylvia & Orpha & Mrs. Talbott came here & stayed all day. Sold 89 eggs.

Sat Mar 22 – Dale went to Norton's in the afternoon. Williams & Lloyd went to Osceola & brought out 5 sacks of Pillsbury's Best flour \$2.85 per sack.



1919 Pillsbury ad

Sun Mar 23 – Norve & Bertha, Marie & Glenn were here for dinner. Charley's, Pearl's, Ira's, & Pa's came in the afternoon.

Mon Mar 24 – Wash day. Williams took 50 walnut posts 12¢ to Ira's farm by Uncle Bill Gardner's. Little black calf was born.

Wed Mar 26 – Williams took baby & I to town & stayed all night. Williams found Hi Mitchell's gold watch.

Thu Mar 27 – Williams & boys came after me after school. Betsy's calf.

Fri Mar 28 – Williams took Jake Schader his sow bought Dec 6 for \$41.71.

Sat Mar 29 – Williams & boys went to Charley Gardner's to get colt of Norve's to work this summer. Took 49 dozen eggs to town in evening. Got boys blue jackets \$7.50 each.

Sun Mar 30 – Jack Wilsons & us went to Jack Kelly's for dinner.

Tue Apr 1 – April Fool day. Borrowed vinegar of Maggie Wilson. Williams went after it in car. Suspected April Fool job. Sowing wheat that afternoon. Daisy Erb operated on by Hollenbeck for appendicitis. Got along fine.

Sat Apr 5 – Sowing oats. Williams took 55½ dozen eggs to town at 40¢ + 38¢. Bought boys overalls \$1.50 each. Bought Lloyd shoes, \$3.50.

Sun Apr 6 – We went up home & ate dinner.

Mon Apr 7 – Monday evening Ina came home from Des Moines.

Tue Apr 8 – Joe & Sarah brought their cow out & turned in pasture. Ate dinner with us. Rained.

Fri Apr 11 – Kellys came after meat we smoked. Williams is sick.

Sat Apr 12 – Williams & boys went to town in old buggy.

Sun Apr 13 – Gilhams were here. Rained at night.

Tue Apr 15 – Baby sick. Cutting double teeth. Weighs 21½ lbs.

Wed Apr 16 – Rained. Hauled in little calf.

Thu Apr 17 – Williams went after 15 dozen eggs to set at Bert Erb's.

Fri Apr 18 – Eggs from Kelly's 6½ doz. Last day of school. Picnic dinner. Some men broke down in car north of Conley's & Williams took them to Weldon & back to Osceola. Made \$6.00.

Sat Apr 19 – Putting in oats. Lloyd harrowed, Dale sick. Went to Elliott but was sick. Williams & Lloyd went to town after supper. Sold 48 dozen eggs, 4½ pounds butter. Eggs at 39¢ & 42¢, butter 50¢.

Sun Apr 20 – Easter. Boys took some eggs to the pasture, made a fire & boiled them. I went over & ate with them. About 4 o'clock we took a car ride. Went over to Pearl Yates's a while.

Mon Apr 21 – Boys went to Lingle to Miss Ashby's school – last day. Went on to town. A big rain came up & they stayed all night. Too muddy to bring the pony home.

Tue Apr 22 – Dale rode the pony home. Rained Tuesday night.

Wed Apr 23 – Lloyd came home on the train. 42 little chicks hatched. Cleaning upstairs.

Thu Apr 24 – Sold white faced heifer to Pearl Johnson for \$62.50. Harvey Orn's Roundup.

Fri Apr 25 – Williams & boys took 7 head of cattle to pasture to Mr. Jesse Kline's.

Sat Apr 26 – We all went to town in the afternoon, had a blowout. Aunt Ing Davis's funeral.

Sun Apr 27 – Rainy. Jack Kellys came over in the rain. Marie has 10th tooth.

Mon Apr 28 – Williams & Dale fixed fence. Lloyd & I washed. Cloudy – Rainy in the night.

Wed Apr 30 – Williams went to Jack Wilson & J. Kelly's. Boys went to Orland's.

Thu May 1 – Mrs. Kelly gave Marie little gold pins. Williams, Marie & I went to town in buggy – Lloyd & Dale took turn about riding old Flossie & "Little Billy." I went with Ma to Mrs. Chas Holt's funeral.

Fri May 2 – Cleaned the bedroom. Williams took Norve's colt back home. Big rain at night.

Sat May 3 – Williams went to town with 41 dozen eggs – 41¢ & 44¢, 7 pounds butter at 50¢.

Sun May 4 – Stayed at home & rested all day. Boys went barefooted a little while.

Mon May 5 – Washing, ironing & cleaning up.

Tue May 6 – Williams found mushrooms, brought them in & cooked them for supper.

Thu May 8 – Leslie Ladies Aid met here. Mrs. Emory, Lena Hattie Wilson & Aunt Sarah Wilson, Mrs. Jen Shepherd, Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Sylvia Millard, Mrs. Husted, Mrs. Orr, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Maggie Wilson, Mrs. Mary Miller, Susie & Arthur Husted, Pauline Orr & Burl Schaffer.

Fri May 9 – Wayne & Eugene Yates came after school & stayed all night.

Sat May 10 – Boys went home with Yates boys & stayed all night. Dale was sick. We went to the show at night. Marie's first one. Pearl had gone to Des Moines with Dave Mac this evening.

Sun May 11 – Went to Yates's. Stopped in at J. D. Garwood's to see Coral & family. We took Dale to the doctor this evening.

Mon May 12 – Dale got better in a few days.

Thu May 15 – Williams & Dale went to Leslie to get harrow cart & marker fixed. Traded some with Hank. Planted corn in the afternoon & then all day Friday. Didn't unhitch for dinner.

Sat May 17 – Worked one of Jack Wilson's horses all day. Dale went to Osceola and rode Mildred's pony home. Williams & Lloyd went up at night.



Farmer and horse-drawn harrow

Sun May 18 – Shepherd's & A. E. Miller's here for dinner & Harold Pound. Ina's came out in the afternoon to get chickens I had hatched for Erma & mother. Mrs. Stubblefield's funeral today.

Mon May 19 – Wash day.

Tue May 20 – Cleaned & sprayed hen house.

Thu May 22 – Williams took me to Ladies Aid at Uncle Bill Gardner's in the afternoon & came after me after he turned out. Supper ready so we stayed for supper. Came back by Leslie & got plow lays at blacksmith shop & gallon of blackberries at Cox's.

Fri May 23 – Groveland school last day. Boys went in the afternoon, then to show at night.

Sat May 24 – Went to town at night.

Sun May 25 – Washed the Ford. Drove down to Charley's in the afternoon. Norve & Bertha were there.

Mon May 26 – Wash day.

Tue May 27 – Ironed. Finished plowing the garden.

Wed May 28 – Went to band concert.

Thu May 29 – Finished planting. Boys cutting sour <illegible> for 1¢ a dozen for 4th of July money.

Fri May 30 – Planted potatoes in the morning, went to Osceola in the afternoon.

Sat May 31 – Williams plowed a little corn. At 5:30 we went to town, back at 6:30. Rain coming up. Rained all night.



Farmer plowing

Sun Jun 1 – Bert & Daisy came down in their wagon & stayed all day. Big rain about 1:30. Boys first coveralls. Marie weighed 21½ pounds. Louis Benton 20½ pounds.

Mon Jun 2 – Williams & the boys brought cattle home from Cline's. Paid \$15.55 pasture bill. Rained all afternoon.

Tue Jun 3 – Rained most all day. Marie takes a few steps.

Wed Jun 4 – Washed – showery. Marie has 12 teeth.

Thu Jun 5 – Lloyd sick – felt better by noon so we went to Husted's in the afternoon. Marie & Lloyd rode Billy, Dale & I walked. Rode back with Maggie & the girls. Went to Osceola in the wagon. Bought 100 pounds of sugar. Rained hard in the evening.

Fri Jun 6 – Roy Curry & wife stopped & stayed all day. Rained all evening.

Sat Jun 7 – Williams & Dale drove to Charley's, took heater down. Went to town at night.

Sun Jun 8 – Went up home. Come up a bad cloud so we hurried home. Didn't rain. Went up to Jackie's a while. Lots of company there.

Mon Jun 9 – We went to Gilham's.

Tue Jun 10 – Wash day.

Wed Jun 11 – Ironed. Disced garden. Rained all afternoon. Wendell & Ardeth came to play.

Thu Jun 12 – Williams & boys went to town. Stayed all day. Mildred & Martha Alz came out after pony.

Fri Jun 13 – Sold 5 heifers to F. Howe for \$341.35, took them to Leslie. Made first garden – rained in the afternoon.

Sat Jun 14 – Rained most all day. Williams & boys picked some goose berries in the forenoon.

Thu Jun 19 – Ladies Aid met with Mrs. Kelly all day.

July – Corn plowing, wheat & oats cutting.

Wed Jul 9 – Big rain & hail.

Sat Jul 12 – Dale's surprise. <His 10th birthday>

Sun Jul 13 – Williams ran the binder all day.

Mon Jul 14 – Big rain in the evening.

Sun Jul 20 – Gilhams were here all day. Edna McBride & children brought Florence Jones & children in the afternoon.

Sun Jul 27 – J. Wilsons, Alina Shepherd & us went to J. Kelly's. Caught setting hens at night.

Mon Jul 28 – Williams took 18 hens to town, sold for \$15.

Tue Jul 29 – Helped Daisy Erb cook for threshers.



Early threshers knocking kernels off wheat



Twenty years later, mechanized threshing

Fri Aug 1 – Williams sold his hogs at 22¢ a pound, 13 head – truck hauled them in. Brought \$484.

Sun Aug 3 – Went down to S. M. Eddy's in the afternoon, Uncle Monroe Williams here visiting from Colorado. Big crowd there.

Mon Aug 4 – We threshed wheat & oats in the afternoon. Sold wheat \$200.64.

Tue Aug 5 – Took Orpha Barnes home.

Wed Aug 6 – Wash day. Wayne & Eugene Yates came & stayed till Friday.

Thu Aug 7 – Mildred & Bernice came with Arlene Robbins. Stayed till Saturday.

Fri Aug 8 – Got a bushel of apples at J. Kelley's.

Sun Aug 10 – Stayed at home all day.

Sun Aug 17 – Went to Will Talbott's.

Sun Aug 24 – Took our dinner and ate at Rumley school house south of Van Wert. Ate supper at Gilham's. Dave McPherson's baby died on their way to the State Fair.

Mon Aug 25 – Williams went to look at Kirby farm.

Tue Aug 26 – We went to look at the Kirby farm & bought it Wednesday night. 100 acres at \$166.50 per acre. Boys carried water for Kelley's on Wednesday & Thursday.

Sat Aug 30 – Took Marie to doctor, cutting teeth, temperature 104½. Took Dale to doctor yesterday for sprained foot.

Sun Aug 31 – Williams & the boys went to Ike Riley's & got watermelons.

Mon Sep 1 – School started. Miss Frazel is the teacher.

Wed Sep 3 – Oscar Sharp's started to Wisconsin.

Thu-Fri Sep 4-5 – Williams, Thanny M. & Carl Layton cutting burrs in Thanny's corn.

Sat Sep 6 – Orland's & us went to Filical's Grove to a Farmers Union picnic. 11 o'clock train nearly hit us. Lloyd stepped on a nail.

Sun Sep 7 – Stayed home till evening & went after watermelons.

Wed Sep 10 – Threshed 51 bushels of timothy. Dinner here.

Thu-Fri-Sat Sep 11-12-13 – Fireman's Carnival – we went Friday night, Saturday afternoon & night. L. Norton's had a baby boy.

Sun Sep 14 – Charleys came up.

Tue Sep 16 – J. Wilson bought Jim Glass car.

Sat Sep 20 – Cut corn for Ehner.

Sun Sep 21 – Rainy. Bert & Daisy came in the afternoon.

Wed Sep 24 – Took Williams to J. Kelly's to cut corn & stayed till after dinner. He made \$8.

Thu-Fri Sep 25-26 – Thursday morning & Friday morning took Williams to L. Wade's.

Sat Sep 27 – Gasoline engine arrived from Sears Roebuck Co.

Thu Oct 2 – We all went to Lloyd Norton's sale. Bought Henry for \$88.20 cash. Marie cutting stomach teeth.

Fri Oct 3 – Took Marie to Dr. Dean & he lanced both teeth.

Sun Oct 5 – J. D. Garwood & Vera Wilson & Pearl Yates & family & Pearl's mother came in the afternoon. Marie sick.

Mon Oct 6 – Williams cut corn for Ed Switzer, made \$12.

Tue Oct 7 – Williams took 4 horses out to Kirby place to plow but sowed timothy seed & disced & came back Wednesday evening.

Wed Oct 8 – Farmers Union aimed to have ice cream supper but it rained so it was postponed till school.

Sat Oct 11 – Williams helped L. Norton load his car.

Sun Oct 12 – Gilhams came up and in the afternoon we went to Kirby farm. Boys stayed at home. Sold 12 pounds of lard at 30¢ to Gilham's.

Mon Oct 13 – Williams cut corn by hand for Charley Brown in the morning. I washed.

Wed Oct 15 – Mr. Conley died. I went to dentist.

Thu Oct 16 – Cleaned house down stairs. Williams at Calkins, Roberts trial.

Fri Oct 17 – Went to Mr. Conley's funeral.

Sat Oct 18 – Went to the County Fair in the afternoon.



Clarke County Fair - Some things never change

Sun Oct 19 – We went to Smith Pollock's funeral.

Mon Oct 20 – Hauled coal for school house. Commenced shucking corn.

Tue Oct 21 – Williams & J. Kelley made 2 end gates.

Wed Oct 22 – J. Kelley vaccinated our 7 calves.

Thu Oct 23 – Ladies Aid met with Mrs. Ernest Miller. Presents from Ira at Rogers, Nebraska.

Fri Oct 24 – Rainy. Layton boy went home. Williams bought hog of Phil Lantz \$45.

Sat Oct 25 – Williams shucked 2 loads of corn. Lloyd shucked by himself for the first time. Got 10 bushels – 3 rows.



Corn shucker

Sun Oct 26 – We went to Mr. Barnes – cold & damp. Turned clocks back 1 hour.

Mon Oct 27 – Rainy and damp – took 13 young chickens to Leslie – 17¢ a pound, took 17 pounds of lard to Leslie at 35¢. Lard brought \$5.95, chickens \$9.13.

Tue Oct 28 – Williams helped Elmer saw wood in the forenoon. Lucile Wilson's 13th birthday party, 35 present. Oysters, fruit salad, cake for supper.

Thu Oct 30 – Rained nearly all day. Carl Layton went home I washed.

Fri Oct 31 – Williams hauled up wood this afternoon. Wienie Roast at Leslie school house but we didn't go.

Sat Nov 1 – Williams helped Mr. Coons saw wood. I ironed, baked, & churned.

Sun Nov 2 – Sarah Garwood phoned out, they were coming out if we would be at home. They came for dinner.

Mon Nov 3 – Arthur, Neil, Elmer, Jack Kelley, Oscar, Albert sawed wood with Albert's saw. Oscar's brother-in-law Bill Bray shucking corn. Election Day, Memorial Building – Mrs. Kelley helped me.

Tue Nov 4 – Mr. Steele hauling torn down barn.

Wed Nov 5 – Washed. Williams hauled a load of lumber for township.

Fri Nov 7 – Ladies Aid met with Mary Miller. Williams sold J. Wilson 2 cows, \$410.

Sat Nov 8 – Dale rode Billy to town in the morning & rode back with Williams & Lloyd in the evening. Got grocery order from Des Moines.

Sun Nov 9 – Rained Saturday night & all day Sunday. Jackies came down in carriage.

Mon Nov 10 – Colder – Marie says “oh oh” at everything that drops.

Thu Nov 13 – We went to town in the afternoon. Corn shucker quit. Got 2 sacks of flour.

Fri Nov 14 – Conley’s sale – Williams bought 4 heifers and 1 sow, 4 x \$50 = \$200. Sow \$35.

Sat Nov 15 – Wayne & Eugene came over and stayed all night. Ryans had meat stolen.

Sun Nov 16 – We went to Pearl Yates’s. Norve & Bertha there & Ira’s & Pa & Ma.

Sun Nov 23 – Pearl Yates’s and us were at Ira’s for dinner. Drove out to our farm in the afternoon. Ina was at home.

Mon Nov 24 – I washed. Williams hauled fodder.

Tue Nov 25 – We went to town. Stayed all day.

Wed Nov 26 – Boys walked to Leslie, stayed all night.

Thu Nov 27 – Thanksgiving at Leslie church. Wayne & Eugene came home with us & stayed all night.

Fri Nov 28 – Snow storm.

Sat Nov 29 – Snowing – sun shone in the afternoon, first time since Monday.

Sun Nov 30 – Home all day. No company. Real cold – good sledding.

Sun Dec 21 – Charles Gardner’s, Gilham’s, Pearl Yates, Mrs. Yates & Billy Harris were here all day.

Wed Dec 24 – Sold Bet & Kit for \$450 to J. Jackson. Christmas tree at Leslie.

Thu Dec 25 – Went to town to Pa’s. Ma sick in bed. Stayed all night at Ira’s.

Sat Dec 27 – We aimed to go to Gilham’s; Ab Mitchell came from Weldon & brought 2 men & Williams & them went to look at our farm.

Sun Dec 28 – Shepherd’s, Jack Kelley’s & us ate dinner at J. Wilson’s.

Mon Dec 29 – Williams aimed to go to Des Moines but didn’t go till Tuesday morning.

Wed Dec 31 – Went to Osceola & stayed all night. Williams stayed at home alone. Came back Thursday. Boys met Orville & Leona at train depot in Osceola & they came home with us. Stayed till Saturday.

1920

Timeline: The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, giving women the right to vote. Due to Prohibition, speakeasies replace saloons as the center of social activity. American chemist William Draper Harkins postulates the existence of a subatomic particle, the neutron, a heavy particle of no electric charge. Eugene O'Neill's first full-length play, Beyond the Horizon, is produced on Broadway and wins a Pulitzer Prize marking the beginning of modern American drama. Cleveland defeats Brooklyn 5-2 in the World Series, and the Kentucky Derby Champion is Paul Jones.

Sat Jan 3 – Had a little party, 10 children ate dinner here.

Sun Jan 4 – We ate dinner at A. E. Millers.

Sat Jan 10 – Rented our farm to Jim Inyard for \$40 an acre for pasture & half the grain.

Sun Jan 11 – Ate at J. D. Garwoods.

Tue Jan 13 – Rented Grandma Wilson's house for \$20 a month.

Wed Jan 14 – Helped Charley move. Sold 8 brood sows \$50 each, \$400. Dad's birthday.

Fri Jan 16 – Sold A. E. Miller 3 heifers for \$220.00. Sold Mr. Enyard implements \$50. Sold Pearl Saddoris hogs – 33 at 16¢ for \$668.80.

Tue Jan 20 – Sold Orland Elliott a cow \$87.50.

Wed Jan 28 – Sold calves & steer calves 9½¢ & 2 Conley heifers 6½¢ & 8¢. Boys heifer 446 pounds at 8¢, \$35.68. Total – \$1,096.95.



*Alice Esther Lewis and George Franklin Schaffer's family in the 1920s:
L-R: Pearl, Earl, Wilma, Lloyd, Helen (to be Dale's wife), Gerald, Lela, Harley, Louie*