

Dear "Nina" readers, I'm afraid that there will not be a 1919 Nina Winn diary shared with the List in the upcoming year 2019. But take heart . . . there's something better in store. The simple reason for no 1919 diary is that Nina appears to have never purchased a diary for that year. Instead, she crammed a short line of text for each day in the "end matter" of the 1918 diary volume -- pages that were intended to be used for other information (with printed page headings such as "Church Notes," "Record of Guests," "Card Parties," and "Addresses," among others). Nina often got her diary for the new year underway by this means, except she eventually would get around to buying a diary early in the year and then make complete entries based on her short notes, eventually getting caught up and accounting for her days on a more-or-less "real time" basis. She tended to sit down and write several days' or even a week's worth of entries during the course of the year. For 1919 she got as far as May 14 before she ran out of room. Thus we don't have the makings of engaging time-travel. And, truth be told, now that Nina is working a full-time job in Somerville (and has a five-and-a-half-day workweek), her entries don't consistently share enough Arlington-specific information, and the overall variety of topics has diminished. This is understandable: when Nina writes (over and over again) along the lines of "usual things to do and hustled for 8:30 car, at desk 9-12 and in bindery 1-3, etc." it's an accurate reflection of how her life has become extremely routine. It was what it was, but it doesn't make for interesting reading.

For 2019, I'll be presenting Nina's diary for the year 1921. She has a bit more to say to engage us on aspects of life 98 years ago, and in places where the narrative drags, I'm going to use the devices of plot summaries, or flashbacks from what Nina wrote in 1919 and/or 1920 on the same date, as the situation demands. So we'll still get to read Nina's take on major events that are known to us, such as women getting full suffrage, plus sometimes get double (or even triple) doses of New Year's, birthday, and other celebrations; adventures in shopping, and other good stuff. Nina Winn lived to be 81 years old, and wrote in her diary almost until the day she died in 1958, so it's practical and more interesting to follow her life's progress on a speeded-up basis when it comes to furnishing a daily historical entry to the Arlington List. I hope that 2019 will be enjoyable for Nina's many fans.
Richard A. Duffy

[Note from Richard Duffy: Happy New Year, A-List historical diary readers! Welcome to a bit of Arlington from 98 years ago. You'll find below today's diary passage (and its footnote) some snips from Nina's 1920 diary because January 1 is a holiday. When it comes to flashbacks they'll appear where some additional "seasoning" is desirable, or to account for gaps in the narrative from 1919 and/or 1920.]

Saturday, January 1, 1921

Clear early but clouded up later -- quite warm. Did a bit wash in PM & cooked some. La over to spend the day & Dad [*], Herbert & Althea awhile late in PM. Dad gave me some fine apples. La & I to the Frosts to call later -- nice call. Home 7:30 & had a late supper & to centre with La who wouldn't stay all night. Read & bed about ten.

[*] "Dad" is Nina's nickname for her second cousin, George A. Prentiss, who is a 73-year old farmer at 206 Prospect St. in Belmont. He is the father of La (Eleanor), who, in addition to being a

relative, is one of Nina's closest friends. At this moment in time Nina is 43 years old, and La is 36. Like Nina, La is a never-married woman employed in a library (Belmont Public Library).

Flashback to an excerpts from Nina's 1920 New Year's Day entry:

Thursday, January 1, 1920 . . . Aunt Mame & I in town & movies and dinner -- found Marston's & Cook's [restaurants] closed and finally had to eat at DuPont's -- not much good. . . . To Mrs. Deshon's to tea & Woman's Club in evening with her. Scotch songs [**]. Half-filled [auditorium]. Wore black satin. Very good time. . . .

[**] Traditional Scottish yuletide celebrations place strong emphasis on New Year's. So a musical program of "Scotch songs," as Nina terms it, would be especially fitting for this time of year.

Sunday, January 2, 1921

Showers early but clear and beautiful in PM and very warm -- quite a contrast to last year. 62 degrees above 0 at 3 PM. Amy over in the morning at 10:30 as I was eating breakfast. Ironed & then we talked & later I wrote five letters. Had a nice nap & red in the evening. Jr. up for a while. Flashback to an excerpt from Friday, January 2, 1920: . . . Lunch at Blake's . . . rent paid for stove [*], errands & home at 3. Mary Alice had been washing & cleaning. Off at six to New Year's party. Sat at same extra table with Lucy B., Myra W., Marion B. & Edith Fowle. Nice supper & a great time. Orchestra of young people. [Niece] Barbara sang "Comin' through the rye" in a 60-year old dress of Aunt Sue's. . . .

[*] What we learn from the throwaway comment about Nina paying rent for a stove is the likelihood that the gas line that was installed to her home in 1918 (provisionally supplying the house with the fuel until she could "afford a wee stove") has been put into full service. I'm not sure if she's actually renting the stove versus making installment payments towards owning one outright. By 1921 the once-significant market share of rented stoves had shrunk considerably, with many gas companies (which sold and serviced a wide array of equipment) getting out of the leased-appliance business.

Monday, January 3, 1921

Pleasant. Usual work and then mended quite a lot. Off by 12:20. Central [library] 1 -5. Supper with Hayes & Morse & off for East [branch] at 5:45. Worked 6 - 9. Fairly busy but not a rush. Olive Gleason on [duty] so up together. Tired, as I was at [circulation] desk most of PM & _busy_. Home 9:50 & bed by 10:30.

Tuesday, January 4, 1921

Clear & warm early but cloudy by night. Up 6:30 -- fires, eats, etc. Had to put patches on both elbows in blue dress. Library by 9:10 & a busy day -- reserves, desk & overseeing overdues [books] in PM. Home 6:40. Supper & read. Flashback excerpt: Sunday, January 4, 1920 . . .A wonderful moon. Skating good. [*]

[*] Nina was not herself ice skating, but from her home at 37 Summer St. she had a very pleasant view of the large mill pond that today is occupied by the Arlington Catholic and Buzzell playing fields. On this day in Arlington history 99 years ago she enjoyed seeing ice skaters by moonlight there. In the later years of her life, Nina was dismayed at how the mill pond vanished before her eyes, drained and used for years as the site of a town sanitary landfill -- a multi-year municipal rubbish dump.

Wednesday, January 5, 1921 #

Up 6:45. Cloudy & rain in PM & night but nice and warm. Some rush in AM with Registration, a book meeting and the desk. Luckily Miss Gormley helped me. Felt punk in PM but did reserves and left for home at 3:45. Up with Miss Teele. Made a bee line for couch & slept & rested until Aunt Sarah came in as noisily as usual. Light supper & on couch & read in eve. Bed early.

Thursday, January 6, 1921

Up 6:45 -- usual things to and off by 8:20. Library 9 - 6 and very tired -- tho not such a busy day. Home by 6:40 & read & bed early. The prior year was a bit more interesting; some excerpts: Tuesday, January 6, 1920 . . . Desk, early lunch & in town, bot an ash can at Houghton's [*], had an ice-cream soda and back at 2. . . . Up [to Arlington] on trains. [**] Emily Alden here in eve until 10:30, in Aunt Sarah's mostly. Bed at 11.

[*] Houghton's was Houghton & Dutton department store at the corner of Tremont and Beacon streets. It's interesting to realize that it would be cheaper to purchase an ash can in Boston and have it delivered to Arlington, versus, say, getting one at Shattuck's hardware store. To attract more local shoppers, merchants in Arlington tried advertising "Boston prices." But another consideration was that Nina didn't have an automobile, so no matter what, buying a rubbish barrel or anything awkward or bulky would mean having it delivered.

[**] I believe that this is the first time I have read of Nina taking the train (steam railroad) rather than the trolley cars for her local travels. From the Somerville Public Library, Nina would have walked a short distance to the Winter Hill station (closed in 1927) for the short journey to Arlington Center via Somerville Junction. The fare on passenger trains generally was twice that of the trolley cars.

Friday, January 7, 1921

Clear early, snow by night & quite warm. Up at 7. Some washing, dusting, made pie crust and an apple pie & muffins & dog weary. [Assigned to] East [branch of Somerville Public Library] from 1 - 9 & still wearier & so small and confused. Olive there in PM but Gilman (evening head [supervisor]) & Hughes in PM. Ached all over so bed felt good. Ducky-daddles arrived in AM from Coz. Lib. [Cousin Libby in Illinois] -- she says he is the one that laid the wonderful wooden egg. [*]

[*] Ducky Daddles was one of the animals who were warned by Chicken Little that the sky was falling. (Depending on the telling of the tale, the protagonist is named Henny Penny.) Not sure why Nina says that "he" laid an egg, but since it was a wooden egg, I guess that anything is possible where Ducky Daddles (or Drakey Lakey, for that matter) is concerned.

Saturday, January 8, 1921 [*]

Clear & warm. Library 9 - 1 & home for a change -- did a few errands on way, lunch, some tired so on couch & had a good sleep & rest in PM & again in eve. Bath & bed about 11.

[*] The Arlington Advocate for this week in 1921 included this announcement: "Telephone Arlington 51652 (Middlesex Sportsmen's Association) and they will send a Boy Scout to take away your discarded Christmas tree. The association needs the trees to build a shelter for the ducks which frequent Spy Pond and brood there." The Middlesex Sportsmen's Association had recently taken over the site of the Arlington Boat Club (where the Arlington Boys and Girls Club is located today), and it later owned Elizabeth Island, where it set up shelters for ducks as well as pheasants. Unfortunately, prank fires would be set by ice skaters visiting the island, and the Arlington Fire Department would have to respond more than once that winter.

Sunday, January 9, 1921

Clear & fine. Up about 9. Eats, etc., cleaned wool dress. Legs very achy so on couch, reading and sleeping most of day. Marion Buttrick here late in PM & wanted me to go back to tea with her: so up with car and saw the milk depot [*], on to house & had the nicest visit. No idea it was so late but when I came out it was 10:30 so hustled home & to bed.

[*] The "milk depot" was Buttrick's new building at 30 Mill St., remembered best today as the Brigham's ice cream plant. In 1921, Buttrick's had not yet entered the retail (home delivery) dairy business, or the ice cream business. It was a strictly wholesale operation that advertised to the general public: "To people who appreciate fine butter, we offer an opportunity to secure five-pound bricks of fresh creamed at wholesale prices: five-pound bricks and 60-pound tubs only." The depot was built to take advantage of proximity to the railroad tracks to receive milk. In later years Brigham's was among the very last businesses on the Bedford branch line to receive freight shipments after regular passenger rail service was discontinued in 1977. By that time, the milk was arriving at Brigham's by truck; large quantities of strawberries were the principal product coming via the railroad until all rail operations ceased in 1981 on what is today the Minuteman Bikeway.

Monday, January 10, 1921

Pleasant. Up at 7. Washed & dusted, etc. At aunts a few moments. Off by 12:20. Library 1 - 5 & Dorothy Spear back from vacation so had quite a free PM. Charged quite a lot of school books. Jolly lunch with Hayes & Nicky. [Went to] East [branch] at 6 -- not at all busy. Olive & I together. Home at 10 & bed.

Tuesday, January 11, 1921

Up 6:45. Library 9 - 6. Busy with school work -- grading & changing deposits [*]. Floor I from 11 - 1, not busy, straightened most of time -- dirty work and only fit for an apprentice. Nelly to dusty-musty Nellie. Lunched with Hayes. Miss Bosworth there in PM to pick out her Americanization books [**] also 2 other teachers. Some busy. Home at 6:30, eats, ironed & read awhile & bed about 10.

[*] School libraries of the era often had their own reference works permanently on the shelves, and received a changing selection of circulating books "deposited" there by the main public library.

[**] Americanization classes were held for all ages in a variety of settings. As part of daytime classroom work in schools with high populations of recently arrived students from outside the U.S., during evenings at the same school buildings for adults, or places such as the YMCA, in factories and other places of employment,-- almost anywhere there was a mutual desire for learning the English language, American history and civics, and even the prevailing social and practical customs around homemaking and sanitation. There would be courses of study sponsored by public school departments specifically for naturalization, following standards set by both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as well as the U.S. State Department. For some it was enough to gain additional skills to move up the economic ladder and they pursued the study without having sought citizenship. The "Americanization Movement" was already in place in the 1910s, but really gained steam during World War I and subsequent years. In 1921 the Arlington school department had a "supervisor of Americanization classes." Adult classes met three times a week at a rented house on Decatur Street in East Arlington (separate classes for women and men), and in the Junior High School Centre (site of today's Arlington Senior Center and other organizations). The women's class disbanded, possibly because the demands of the home inhibited attendance, and also because the male students would more readily find value in the workplace by learning English than would the adult women in the family.

Wednesday, January 12, 1921

Pleasant and warm -- colder by night. Library 9 - 6. Sent off deposits in AM & mended some in PM & also at desk. Edith Hayes back with me for the night & we mended & embroidered until about 11 -- then bed.

[Following is a link to a short album of historical photos depicting the interior and exterior of the Somerville Public Library as Nina would have known it: <

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/somervillepubliclibrary/albums/72157694548588862>

Thursday, January 13, 1921

Pleasant & warm. Up at 6:40 -- usual rush & we ate by 7:45, down on the 8:45 [trolley car to Somerville]. Mended [books] most of AM & some in PM. To Union Square [branch library*] with Viv at noon. Miss Blunt & a lot of Simmons [College] girls there to look over the library -- 28 in all. Served tea & I had to pour. [Working] on [main] floor later. Home at 6:30 & read in eve. Bed 9:30. 10 degrees above in AM.

[*] The Union Square branch (no longer in existence) was located at Washington and Bonner streets.

Friday, January 14, 1921

Snow early then started to rain & poured all day. Did a bit of wash, dusted, washed kitchen floor & busy most of AM. East [branch] 1 - 9 -- mended all their books in PM. [*] Not busy & not tired much. [Arlington] Centre at 9:30 & bed very soon Had a nice letter from Alice Shoemaker.

[*] In 1920 Nina had been promoted from Senior Assistant to Librarian for School Deposits "by examination." Nina was not a high school graduate and the principal pathways for additional training and promotion were to possess a college degree or to pass various examinations. Despite bearing a job title of "librarian," this did not relieve Nina of crossing between duties that were manual/technical and professional in the course of her daily work.

Saturday, January 15, 1921

Cloudy & warm -- 42 degrees in AM. Up 6:45 -- usual things and off for the 8:30 car. Library 9 - 1. Interchanges, teachers, etc. Lunched at Georgian, a few errands, to Miss Ferguson's & out about 4:40 & home. Started supper & read until six when Hayes'y came. Read & talked in eve. Bot this diary with Coz. Jim's Christmas [gift] \$1 and another one added.[*] Bed about 12.

[*] The price for Nina's 1921 diary was \$2.00. In year-2019 consumer inflation-adjusted terms this is roughly \$25.00. Nina's diary was just an ordinary book, "Daily Reminder 1921," measuring 4 x 6 inches, not embossed with her name or having any special features. Most of us would balk at a \$25.00 price tag for such an item today.

Sunday, January 16, 1921

Clear & warm -- windows and doors open most all day. Up about 9, fires, lamps, etc. Had chicken to fricasee & made a hungry cake [*] -- also a mince pie that we had for dinner. Both of us up to feed rabbits & pigs. Walked to Belmont in PM "across lots" -- a great day for it. At Prentiss's a few moments -- saw Dad & Ma. La [was] away. Down the hill with Ma & walked home, Pleasant St. Went at 4 & home again at six -- bit weary but a fine walk. Read & wrote in eve. Mabel at Aunt Sarah's. Bed soon after ten.

[*] Hungry cake is a spice cake that is baked in layers. Between the layers is a filling of a light uncooked meringue with chopped raisins. There are variations on the theme, but that's the classic. It struck me as odd that both hungry cake and mince pie were being made (both being heavy on dark spices and raisins), but perhaps these were intended for different meals.

Monday, January 17, 1921

High winds and cooler & much colder by night, but clear and nice. Up at 7 -- fires, etc. & we ate about 8 & Edith left by 8:30 for Roslindale. Dishes, bit of a wash, dusted some, _mended_ & did

various odd jobs. Off by 12:20 but just lost [trolley] car. Library 1- 5 -- not scheduled much this week. Mended books etc. in PM & down to East [branch] at 6. Fairly busy. Olive & I up together. Missed the 9:30 & home by [the] 10 [10:00 p.m. trolley car]. Fixed fires & to bed by 11. Room cold and a fire felt good there.

[Flashback to January 17, 1920: Nina and her best friend Vida Damon went to the Hollis Street Theatre to the Saturday matinee performance of Otis Skinner, starring in the three-act play "The Rise of Peter Barban," which later would be re-titled "Pietro." They paid \$2.20 each for their seats and Nina wrote that she "throughly enjoyed it."]

I received a few off-list inquiries asking me whether or not Nina wrote anything about the Great Molasses Flood that occurred in Boston on January 15, 1919, so I'll answer on-list and take the opportunity to remind readers that Nina did not keep a full diary in 1919. We have about a line a day for several months of that year, crammed in the back matter of her 1918 diary. And then she just ran outta room. When Nina says anything about molasses, it's often about baking molasses cookies, and sometimes buying molasses kisses candy for Aunt Georgianna! On January 15, 1919, Nina had a little scribble, mostly about a staff meeting at the library whose end time meant that Nina had an early lunch hour in Boston. She was back on duty in Somerville by 1:00 p.m. The molasses tank exploded in the North End at about 12:30 p.m. so Nina was "ahead of the wave" in a manner of speaking. If Nina had gone into Boston for a typically later lunch break she would not have been near the site of the disaster but she could have been caught up in the commotion if her public transportation had been disrupted. Still, in such a case she might have simply written that she was late getting back to work. Nobody in his or her right mind would think "killer molasses flood" when hearing fire alarms (which were very frequent occurrences back then). If the molasses flood had happened a handful of years later, broadcast radio would have spread the news quickly. It will be interesting in future years to see if the immediacy of receiving news by radio inspires Nina to include it in the personal narrative of her days.

Tuesday, January 18, 1921

Woke with a shiver. Clear but cold & windy. [Temperature] Down to 0. Fires & water O.K. Missed 8:30 [trolley] car again. Not on [library desk or registration] schedule so revised school library books -- 141 -- graded and shelved them. Discarded 24 and washed some -- so good and busy all day & room quite clean. Short lunch hour. Home by 6:35 -- coldest day all winter & glad to get in. House very comfortable. Library fine & warm all day. Mrs. Evans ill and Mr. Evans in only a few moments. Read & wrote here in eve & hugged the fire & to bed early. [Here's flashback except from Nina's diary entry of Sunday, January 18, 1920: " . . . [went] snowshoeing. Hard work but had the best time. Went to the pines & back. Blew me over once or twice. Bloomers and new wool stockings were fine. Came home all aglow."

Note: "the pines" likely refers to "Pierce's Pines," a stand of pine trees on the farm of Augustus Pierce (note Pierce and not Peirce, in this case), off Hutchinson Road near today's Lantern Lane and Oldham Road.

Wednesday, January 19, 1921

Cold, fine & clear. 2 degrees below -- [water] meter O.K. & house nice & comfy. Up 6:30 & started wood fire so a nice warm room by 6:45. Down with Miss Meserve on 8:30 [trolley] car. Registration & looked over a few books for school libraries. Lunch with Vivi 12 - 1 & then to East as Olive Gleason is out with a cold. So hot I nearly gave out. Miss Fisher there at 2 -- quite busy. Up [home to Arlington] on Medford Hillside [trolley] car & Misses Meserve & Hess on at Gilman Square so quite a library crowd. Home by 6:35 or so. Chicken & potato, apple, etc. for supper. Dishes. Wrote here & read some & bed "quite" early. A little warmer by night & house very good. Put on heavy union suits for the first time this winter. B.V.D.'s have been O.K. till now.

Thursday, January 20, 1921

Warmer - cloudy - cleared in PM -- windy. Up at 6:30 to start fire & [up] at 6:45 for keeps. Fires, lamps, eats, lunch, etc. & off at 8:20 -- down with Miss Meserve. Not scheduled during day so worked on school books & shelved about 158 -- graded them, etc. Lunched with Vivi & had some time for fancy work. Home 6:30 -- met Edith Rice & had a chat. Eats & read some & Mary, Amy & Edith [Winn] over for an hour or so. Girls [Amy and Edith] and [their mother] Mary to see Aunt Sarah. Fires, read, & bed about ten.

[Flashback to January 20, 1920: This was the day that the post offices in Arlington began the use of numerical designations that were the precursors of today's ZIP Codes. As branch stations of the Boston Postal District, the postal zones were: Arlington 74, Mass. and Arlington Heights 75, Mass. There was not as yet an East Arlington branch post office. It's curious that the web site of the United State Postal Service, in its list of "Significant Years in U.S. Postal History," ignores the 1920 milestone and just cites 1943 as the year that "the postal zoning system began to be used in 124 large cities." As a consequence, the Wikipedia page on the ZIP Code traces its origins to 1943, when the concept had been implemented in Greater Boston almost a quarter-century earlier.]

Friday, January 21, 1921

Showers in PM -- clear early. Up at 7. Some washing & brushing up, etc. & busy all of AM. Very few moments for mending. Off at 12:20. Paid Hutchinson [*], had a [shoe?] shine & at East [branch] at 1:15. Olive there in PM and Miss Matheson. Quite busy then & in eve -- every chair was filled. Pretty tired & glad to get home at 10 & more glad to get into bed.

[*] Walter K. Hutchinson had a small chain of grocery stores, with locations in 1920 in Arlington Center, Arlington Heights, Lexington, Winchester, and Boston. The Walter Hutchinson farm supplied much of its own produce and was located at the end of Appleton Street; most of it is covered by the "Poets Corner" neighborhood and Route 2 today. In January 1921 Hutchinson's advertised an extensive fish department, including (spelling as per original): "lobster, scollops, spawns, eels, smelts, and oysters."

Saturday, January 22, 1921

Pleasant, warm. No snow and some garden things quite green. Up at 6:40. Usual things and off by 8:15. Paid for wood -- last of Uncle Warren's [Peirce] bill of \$81.37 -- seemed good. Library 9 - 1 - - teaching mending, shelving and in Children's Room. In town & met Edith H. & Abbie & lunched at a little tea-room near Dartmouth [Street]. Looked in windows & priced a few things. Ices at Murray's [*]. Not much shopping -- dead tired at last and left them at Shepherd's [department store] & out. Errands & home at 6. Read in evening and to bed early. Mrs. Hobbs at Aunt Sarah's and they to aunts -- cards -- ___of course___.

[*] Murray's was a small chain of ice cream and sandwich shops, similar to Bailey's in Downtown Boston (a model followed by Buttrick's in Arlington decades later).

Sunday, January 23, 1921

Very warm and clear and summery. Warm south winds. Up about 8:30 after reading a bit. Eats, ashes & read papers. Had veal steak & made a mince pie and tapioca pudding. Boys in & Barbara later & again about 6 to read. Cards as usual part of PM, then up to the aunts for awhile. Poor things -- house is just saturated with skunk. Read, wrote to Nellie Dean & read again. Wonderful full moon at night. Bed & bath at ten.

Monday, January 24, 1921 [*]

Some colder than yesterday and much colder by night. 5 [degrees] when I got home at 9:50 [p.m.]. Up at 7. Washed & ironed, dusted, read, looked over a lot of old magazines for discarding. Off at 12:15, Library 1 - 5, partly in Children's Room, supper & East [branch] 6 - 9 -- not at all busy -- too cold. Up with Olive part way. Nearly froze hands coming home & moved about for quite a bit while they were thawing out. Fires & bed about 11. House quite warm, except [bed] chamber & airtight [heating stove] soon warmed that up.

[*] January 24, 1921 was a big day in Arlington with two events: The first branch post office in East Arlington opened at 162 Massachusetts Ave. This had been urgently requested for many years by the residents of East Arlington (a point of comparison would be to imagine residents of the neighborhood nowadays hoping to be wired for high-speed Internet). Less than ten years later, the East Arlington post office moved to 240 Massachusetts Ave., where it remains today. It was assigned the numerical designation within the Boston Postal District of Arlington 73, Mass. Much more significantly, on this day in 1921 ballots were cast at a Special Town Meeting (what we would call a town election in modern times) that ran from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Town Hall, to determine if Arlington would establish seven voting precincts and replace open town meeting with limited town meeting (elected representatives from each precinct to serve as town meeting members). Out of 7,700 eligible voters, just 210 cast ballots, of whom six were women (who had received the right to vote in such elections in 1920). So we can see that Nina was in the mainstream of Arlington's women by not going to vote. The election results: 184 Yes, 14 No, and 12 Blanks.

Tuesday, January 25, 1921

Coldest yet -- below 0 [degrees] here & more so in other places & a high wind. Water frozen [in the house] for the first time [this winter] but the oil heater [*] had it thawed by 8:30. Dishes, etc. & had the dazzles [**] so had to rest a bit. Down on the 9:30 [trolley] car. Worked on extra school deposits most of the day -- 2 ready & others started. Children's Room 4 - 6. Home by 6:30 & _same_ old water frozen again. Also a window partly broken up in [bed] chamber by blind [exterior window shutter] slamming. Barbara up in evening to read. House very comfortable. Thawed water at 9:30 in cellar after I found it didn't come, with help of oil heater in dining room. Left [faucet] dripping. Bed by 10 & slept fine & warm with piles of clothes & _not_ _much_air_. Wind still blowing hard.

[*] Nina does not have central heating. By 1921 she has various types of heating apparatus in the house: open fireplaces to take the chill off the rooms in cool weather, and for winter she had parlor stoves burning coal or wood or oil and the kitchen range. A room-sized oil heater made of sheet steel ranged in price from \$6 to \$10, depending on features. Oil heaters were convenient (instant lighting and no ashes), but were more hazardous, with not- infrequent newspaper reports of explosions, some fatal.

[**] The verb to dazzle was used in 1921 in the same way we do today. Nina saying she "had the dazzles" means that she felt a bit woozy. The term could refer to someone was disoriented or suffering from mild to severe hallucination, but in Nina's case I think it's a bit of intentional hyperbole.

Wednesday, January 26, 1921

10 [degrees] above at 7 & moderated some during the day. Up at 6:30 & lit fire & nice and warm when I got out [of bed] for good at 6:45. Fires, stoves, etc. Piles of dirt blew in yesterday so brushed up some. Off at 8:35 -- bit late. Worked on school books all of AM & got 3 more deposits ready to go & the Lowe School. [*] Desk 1 - 3 with Miss Eaton & 3 - 6 in children's room -- some rush there. Up on Medford Hillside [trolley] car with Meserve & Hess. Supper & wrote here, read paper, eats, broth, and bed fairly early.

[*] The Martha Perry Lowe School was in the Davis Square area at 185 Morrison St. in Somerville. Today it is a residential condominium building where a two-bedroom loft-style unit recently sold for north of \$700K. Here's an image from the early 1900s:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Martha_Perry_Lowe_School.png

Thursday, January 27, 1921

Clear & glorious. Up at 7 & busy until I left at 10:30, washing, fires, lamps, etc. In to the Massachusetts Library Club [*] meeting at College of Pharmacy. Very good meeting. Sat with Jennie Frost in AM. Round-table on current literature --saw quite a lot I knew. Helen Smith hung around so long I was late for lunch and 25 of us had to wait for second table but had a jolly time with E. Louise Jones and Kathleen Kennedy -- very good eats (at 2:30). Sat with Miss Whipple and the training class later. Mr. Minot [*] of Boston Herald spoke on the Pilgrims and Miss Hewis-

Hartford on children's books. Saw Kathleen Jones a moment & then to Somerville Public Library. Arrived at 5:40 and rushed down to a nice supper that Hayes'y had for me & in Children's Room 6 - 8 & then did some S. L. [school library] books & left for home at 9. Bed & bath by 10.

[*] The predecessor name of the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA).

[*] John Clair Minot (1872-1941) was literary editor of the Boston Herald. The Herald in 1921 was very much an "establishment" newspaper. The current iteration of the Herald as a tabloid bears the Herald name but shows its descent (all pun intended) from the Hearst newspaper, the Boston American (best remembered today in as the old Boston Record-American).

Friday, January 28, 1921 #

Clear & glorious & quite warm. Up at 7 & one busy morning. I swept, dusted & washed floors in dining room & kitchen and edge of parlor which I "brushed" up & dusted. Also, brushed, dry mopped & dusted upstairs & then found "dear auntie" [*] had come when it was time for me to dress for work. Lunch, etc. & off at 12:20. East [branch] 1 - 9 -- behaved very well; not very busy in eve. Up on Medford Hillside [trolley car] & home at 9:50. Fires and bed & not so very tired.

[*] "dear auntie," as discussed once previously, is Nina's reference to her menstrual period (along with her "hastag" notation). Given that Nina has in her life Aunt Sarah Daniels Winn in the other side of her duplex at 37 Summer St., aunts Sue and Georgianna at the Winn family homestead at 57 Summer St., and Aunt Mary Alice "Mame" Bacon Peabody as Nina's frequent "boarder," not to mention aunts Elizabeth and Altannah, it bears repeating that "dear auntie" is none of the above female relatives.

Saturday, January 29, 1921

Pleasant and warm. Up 6:45, fires, etc. Ironed a bit and off at 8:20. Library 9 - 1. Interchange and children's room. In town [Boston] for hair, etc., not out [arriving back in Arlington] until nearly five -- everything slow. Errands & home & got the supper -- creamed patties, [*] etc. Edith B. H. [Hayes?] came about 6:30 & we ate & talked -- did dishes & read & talked in the evening & as usual she brot some dandy candy. Wrote in here, etc. & bed about 10:30

[*] Creamed patties typically were made from leftover chicken, ham, or other meat, to which might be added mushrooms or other items. A medium-thick white sauce (sometimes called English Sauce in the 1920s) of butter, flour and milk would be used to bind the ingredients, which would be formed into patties and baked in the oven.

Sunday, January 30, 1921

A lazy day -- some rain & warm. Up at 9 & we finished breakfast at 11:15 so didn't want any dinner & just read & talked & ate candy until about 4. Marion Buttrick over but had to leave her as the C.C. [Nina's "Christmas Club" of her friends] met with La [Eleanor Prentiss's home in Belmont]. Walked over & back & not very tired. Had a nice time and a fine supper. Jo, Jennie, Marjory only ones not there. Rest did pine-needle baskets. Home soon after nine & bed soon after

that.

Monday, January 31, 1921

Up at 7 & we had breakfast at 8 & then Edith H. left for Roslindale & I did dishes, washing, etc. Fairly busy all of the morning. Library at one. Miss Randall sick so [to] East [branch] by 3 & stayed until 9. Worked on bindery most of PM. Good luck & up [to Arlington] on 9:30 [trolley car] & bed very soon.

Tuesday, February 1, 1921

Up 6:45. Eats, washes, etc. & off by 8:20. Central [library] all day and _no_ schedule so did all sorts of odds and ends & in PM mended all of Gladys Hasting's books. Home by 6:30, supper, etc. & read in the evening.

Wednesday, February 2, 1921 [*]

Clear & nice. Up at 7:30. Didn't think I had much to do but was busy all the morning: washing, ironing, dusting, mending & cooking & pretty tired. Left at 12:20. Desk 1 - 3 -- some teachers in & stayed until 5:10. Then supper & to East [branch] & rode as I was too tired to walk. Not at all busy -- worked on bindery books. Out in good season and home by 9:40 -- fires, and bed by 10:30.

Thursday, February 3, 1921

Light snow early. Cleared and warmer later. Up 6:45 & off by 8:20. Had some [school library book] deposits to do, 2 teachers, some telephoning, etc. & Miss Whipple [Nina's supervisor] sprung it on me that I was to help out at High School. Left at 12 and in [to Boston] to pay Dr. Bailey, had a bit lunch, did a couple of errands and out [to Arlington] by 2:20. Over for rent [*] and to Town Hall & paid \$90.00 on [real estate] taxes of \$196.80. [**] Also paid gas & Hutchinson [grocer] & home with \$1.65. Stopped at 146 [Mystic St. -- home of her brother George's family] & paid for eggs. Bunch there sewing for the [church] fair -- 4 of them. Home by 3:30 & fixed up accounts and wrote here & rested & slept. Supper & read & embroidered some in eve. Barbara up to read. Bed by 10.

[*] Nina Winn owned a rental income property at 12 Russell Terrace. Her tenant for many years, the oft-mentioned Mrs. Belyea, told Nina in 1919 that she was "giving up," to mean that she was retiring from running her boarding house there. After Mrs. Belyea left, Samuel Beattie rented the home and also operated it as a boarding house. Today the property is owned by the non-profit Caritas Communities and is classified as a "lodging house" in the town assessor's records.

[**] The tax bill was for premises that included the house assessed at \$5,000 (today valued at ~\$430,000), one stable assessed at \$400 (demolished in 2011), and a nearly 13,000 square foot parcel of land, assessed at about \$1,400 (today valued at ~\$562,000).

February 4

Clear & nice. Up at 7. Not a very busy morning & read, sewed, etc. Hustled eats & dishes. Off at 12:20. East [branch library] 1 - 9 -- did their bindery and mending in PM -- not a very busy evening. Usual crowd of boys in. Home by 9:45, fires, & bed. 5 years today since I came here to live. [*]

[*] When we first "met" Nina Winn through her diary transcriptions posted on the Arlington List, she was keeping house for her widowed father and her single brother, George, at her childhood home at 146 Mystic St. After George was married in 1903, his bride, Mabel Hartwell, became the other "lady of the house." Nina's father died in 1907. In 1911 George and Mabel were expecting their third child, so Nina moved to the Albert Winn, Sr., family homestead at 57 Summer St., where her paternal aunts Susanna ("Aunt Sue") and Sarah Georgianna ("Aunt G.") lived for their entire lives. Nina was unhappy with that living arrangement (which seems to have been poor inter-generational "fit"), and in 1916 she persuaded her brother that she should occupy half of the duplex house at 37 Summer St. to set up housekeeping for herself, at almost age 39. Her widowed aunt-by-marriage, Sarah Daniels Winn, lived in the other half of the duplex, which she owns in her own right -- an enclave in the surrounding Winn family land and buildings.

Here's an excerpt from Nina Winn's diary of Friday, February 4, 1916: "Moved to my new home today - at 37 Summer St. Up 6-40. Dishes etc - George in & got him to carry stove from attic & Aunt G & I bro't down the small table and three chairs - & [Winn farm laborer] Mike [Canniff] carried them to 37 in P.M. Down [to 37] to build fires & then to 77 [Summer St.] and [cousin] Edith and I brought a small table for dining room & 2 chairs. Busy washing them all and getting rooms in order. Dinner with Aunt Sarah. Carried 3 heavy loads from Aunts in P.M. -"

Saturday, February 5, 1921

Pleasant & warm. Misty at night. Up 6:45. Usual things to do & lunch to put up & off by 8:20. Quieter & worked on S.L. [school library books] in AM. East in PM 3 - 6 -- not very busy. Errands & home by 6:50, supper & read & bed at 9:30. So hot, even with window opened that I just _gasped_. The three cronies [*] at Aunt Sarah's for cards.

[*] My guess is that two of "the three cronies" are aunts Sue and Georgianna, and that the third is most likely Nina's sister-in-law, Mabel, or perhaps Aunt Sarah's friend, Mrs. Hobbs, who's often around. The walls between the two halves of the duplex at 37 Summer St. must have been mighty thin, because Nina often expresses a lot of irritation and exasperation when Aunt Sarah has company. Too bad we don't have a diary for Aunt Sarah to see what she might think of Nina's Christmas Club gatherings.

Sunday, February 6, 1921

Rained during night but hot and pleasant and summery during day. No snow and cars flying by all the time. [*] Too windy for the woods. Up at 9:30 after reading an hour. Fires, tho' house was really too hot with them. Breakfast, dishes from 3 meals, etc. Cooked a tongue & in PM made a

chocolate cake with chocolate frosting. Also chocolate blanc mange. Barbara in before & after S.S. [Sunday School] to read & boys also for a few moments. At aunts about 5 (fine sunset) & stayed to supper with them; house is still quite "skunky." Over to see Florence Harris in eve -- nice call and home at 9 & _bed_.

[*] Nina apparently is still adjusting to the fact that, little more than two years earlier, formerly dead-end Summer Street became Summer Street Boulevard, a major east-west artery through Arlington. In 1921 many car owners made little-to-no use of their automobiles during the winter months, so when a spate of good weather beckoned, unusually high numbers took to the roads for Sunday pleasure drives.

February 7, 1921

Pleasant & warm. Began to snow about 8 PM. Light & fluffy. Up at 7 & some busy. So warm I cleaned out the stovepipe, fired thing [*] & it surely needed it. Then washed dining room curtains (also needed it) and they dried so ironed them & got them up by 11:30. Washed kitchen floor, etc. Time to read paper, lunch to put up & to eat & off at 12:30 so 15 minutes late. Not much doing 1 - 5, then lunch & tired so rode to East [branch]. Olive back from vacation. Quite a busy evening. Home 9:30 & bed very soon.

[*] I interpret this to mean that Nina fired-up the stove after cleaning the stovepipe. She would have needed to do so in order for the curtains to promptly dry, and to heat the flat irons to press them. Although Nina has a gas stove for quick and relatively maintenance-free cooking, the coal or wood-fired kitchen range was a necessary fixture for heating part(s) of the house, making hot water, drying laundry indoors, and for slow-cooking foods.

Tuesday, February 8, 1921

Snowed a little during night but cleared early & most of it melted. Up 6:40. Usual house things & off at 8:20. Miss Bunker didn't show up so [I] had the registration to do. Then lunch & to High School from 1 - 2:30 to observe. Home for Aged [*] returned their deposit of 100 books, [I] carded them & picked out fifty more. Home 6:35, eats & read, wrote here & mended a bit. Aunt Sarah at aunts for cards. Bed & bath at 9.

[*] The Somerville Home for the Aged was established in 1898 as a rest home for low-income (often no income) persons who were at least 65 years old (the age threshold had only recently increased from age 60), and who had lived in Somerville for a minimum of five years. It was located at 7 - 11 Grandview Ave. and accommodated 21 men and women. Adjacent to, and operated in conjunction with the Somerville Home for the Aged, was the Hutchinson Home, established in 1913 and housing nine "aged and indigent Protestant women." Admission to these homes was a flat \$200 per person. A larger new facility was built in 1927 on Summer Street and eventually renamed The Somerville Home, which ceased operations at the end of 2018.

Wednesday, February 9, 1921 [*]

Overcast -- mist by night & warm. Up 6:35. Fires, ashes, eats & lunch. Library 9 - 6. Staff meeting of two hours; some new books at last, etc. [**] Finished deposit of 50 [books] for Home for Aged. Desk 1- 3 and 5 - 6. Home 6:30. Eats. Mabel up awhile in eve. Read, directed Valentines & bed by 10.

[*] Flashback to February 9, 1920: On that day was the funeral for Mrs. Emma Harris, widow of Dr. Jonas Harris and mother of Nina's friend, Florence Harris. Nina was away for a few days' vacation at a boarding house near Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire when Florence's mother passed away. Mrs. Harris was a dear friend of Nina's Aunt Sue Winn, who wrote in her diary of getting to the funeral at Mrs. Harris's late residence, 23 Academy St., through snowdrifts so difficult that at the conclusion of the service, the casket had to be carried by pallbearers down to Massachusetts Ave., because neither the hearse nor the carriage could make it up even the short distance from that point to 23 Academy St.

[**] The budget squeeze on acquiring new public library books in Somerville has received wide discussion in that city for a few years, and helps to explain why, in previous diary entries, we see Nina spending so much time in the bindery, to keep the circulating collection in good repair.

Thursday, February 10, 1921

Pleasant -- misty by night & later snow. Up at 6:40 Usual things & off at 8:30. Called at the Cutler & Lincoln schools & at [central] library at 10:30. Busy & at high school 11:45 - 1, observing. Lunch & finished 2 deposits for Lincoln School in PM & in Children's Room 5 - 6. Home 6:30. Read & bed by 10.

Friday, February 11, 1921

Snow storm -- first real one but not very bad. Up at 7 -- fixed fire in living room & then crawled up over the kitchen and cleaned out the chimney; got out a hod full of soot -- some dirty but fire burned fine. Cleaned some silver and brass on door & pipe. Busy all of AM. Library at one. Worked most of PM on circulating books. East [branch] 6 - 9 -- too tired to walk down -- not very busy there. Home 9:30 & to bed.

Saturday, February 12, 1921

Clear & glorious. Few inches of snow on the ground. Up at 6:40. Fires, eats, etc. & off by 8:20. Interchange & then had to show Mrs. Seaver of Woburn about the school library & had time for a few [moments?] in circulation cards. Left at one [p.m.] for my week's vacation which looks good and know I need it. Felt punk in PM after lunch & during shampoo -- few errands & out [to Arlington] -- had to stop at [Robbins] library, so talked with them & home about 6:20. Crowd here -- surprise party for Aunt Sarah but I had a headache, etc. & didn't dare eat. Read & talked some. Some of them played cards until 11 or so. I went to bed at 8:30 -- feeling punk. Lame from cleaning yesterday & hard work to walk. Bot some gauntlet gloves with Christmas money from

George.

Sunday, February 13, 1921

Clear and beautiful. Woke up about 8 and read and napped until 10. Felt a bit dizzy -- better after I'd eaten a bit. Fires, etc. & saw Annie Prentiss a moment. Read paper & had another sleep in PM. Marion [Buttrick] & Marion [?] here & drove me to La's & later we went to Rachel's C.C. [Christmas Club] meeting. [*] Everyone there but Marjory -- had some meeting, good eats, etc. 5 of us & home by 9:30. Talked a bit with Aunt Sarah & Mrs. Hobbs, wrote here & bed about 11.

[*] This meeting of Nina's purely social club is unrelated, but coincided with activity during this week in 1921 at the premier women's organization in town, the Arlington Woman's Club. Established in 1896, and was concerned mostly with educational cultural, social, health, and civic aspects of community life. In February 1921 it began to act as a sort of "censorship board" for motion pictures to be shown in Arlington. The Capitol Theatre had not yet been built, so the only movie house then in town was the Regent. As reported in the Arlington Advocate: "Mr. Hoffman, the present owner of the Regent Theatre, is cooperating with the Woman's Club to secure a higher standard for his theatre. He is giving the Education Committee an opportunity of seeing the films ahead and has already changed the Star Rover advertized for this week at their suggestion." Based on the "The Star Rover," a novel by Jack London, the film most likely offended the committee members due to strong content involving a torture device used at San Quentin prison. The Arlington Woman's Club stayed involved in overseeing the movies shown in Arlington for many years to come. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Star_Rover

Monday, February 14, 1921

Snowed early -- cleared by noon. Up soon after seven -- fires & eats, read paper & then dishes & had a nice, lazy mornig. Met La at Harvard Square at 11:30 & shopped a bit [in Boston] -- had a nice lunch at Filene's. Visited Jordan's [Jordan Marsh department store] library for the employees & found Miss Darling, the librarian, very delightful. On to Dr. Bailey's [dentist] & had a root out -- didn't hurt, but he had to tug to get it & was all in. Novocaine made my face swell so we waited awhile for it to subside then came home. La to Belmont & I on the couch & to bed early.

Tuesday, February 15, 1921

Pleasant. Bit chilly early but soon warmed up. Up at 8 -- some wash & did all the [bed] chamber draperies. Felt very tired all day. Nap in PM & rested a lot in AM. Aunt Sarah to Newton. Edith [likely Edith Winn, Nina's cousin who lives at 50 Academy St.] over in PM & asked me to supper -- so went along with her. Got some tonic (Dr. Percy's prescription) [*] on the way. Sewed & talked & [left for] home at 9, but met Edith Rice on way so talked some more & house at 9:30 -- fires & bed - - almost too tired to go upstairs.

[*] David T. Percy, MD, was a general- practice physician in Arlington. I'll write more about him in notes to future diary installments. I wish I knew which pharmacy filled the prescription for Nina, and I really wish I knew what ingredients were in that medical "tonic" (not to be confused with

"tonic" as a generic name for carbonated soft drinks among "old-time" New Englanders, -- and including myself in that group).

Wednesday, February 16, 1921

Pleasant and nice. Up by 7 -- ironed muslin curtains. Not much left of mine but other chamber fairly good. At aunts & telephoned some. Had dinner with Aunt Sarah. Alice Buttrick there for the day. Met La at Harvard Square and [into Boston] to the Hollis Street [theatre] to see Drinkwater's "Abraham Lincoln" [*] -- a fine play, well played -- house packed. La home with me for the night. Talked & at Aunt Sarah's awhile. Dave Buttrick there. Bed by 10:30.

[*] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln_\(play\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln_(play))

Thursday, February 17, 1921 [*]

Clear & glorious -- very warm. Up about 8 & La & I had breakfast at 9 or so. Dishes & talked awhile. To aunts & telephoned some & then La left for Belmont & I came home. Made beds, mended some & did a lot of odds and ends. Felt good -- first time this week. Aunt Sarah to Mrs. Deshon's for lunch & Woman's Club. Nap great in PM & over town about 4:30. Library, a few errands & home by six & read in evening & bed about 9:30.

[*] On this date in 1921 was the funeral of John J. McCarthy, the first soldier or sailor from Arlington whose body was returned from a temporary war grave in France to be re-interred in his home town. McCarthy had lived at 31 Grove Street Place. He was a cook in the U.S. Army and died of disease on October 18, 1918, in France, at the peak of the Great Influenza pandemic in that country. McCarthy's body arrived in Arlington on February 15, 1921, and the bells of the town's churches tolled at special intervals on February 16th, as townspeople filed by his casket from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the town hall auditorium. On February 17th, McCarthy reached his final resting place at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Friday February 18, 1921

Clear & glorious -- sharp but not cold. Up 7:30 or so. Breakfast & fires & washed quite a lot, made nut bread and some nut cakes -- carpet-swept & dusted lower rooms & ready for a nap in PM. Also cooked a ham & had it off & baked by 4. Marion Buttrick over & we went for a little walk & then sewed. Had a good supper & sewed & talked in eve & I went part way home with her at 9:30. Aunt Sarah at the aunts.

Saturday, February 19, 1921

Pleasant - warm. [*] Up about 8, fires, etc., breakfast, read paper, washed some, lamps, ironed & after dinner cleaned a lot of silver. Nap in PM & read some & over town about 5. [Robbins] Library and errands, stopped at 146 on way home. Ice cream for supper & carried some to the aunts. Wrote here in eve and to Grandma Sturgis and Cousin Jim. Bed soon after ten.

[*] The winter of 1921 was considered to be a "very open" one in terms of temperatures never falling below 10 degrees above zero all season. By this point in the winter the Arlington and Belmont Ice Co. had only brought in about half of what it expected to harvest from Spy Pond. Starting on a Tuesday, it was cutting ice at a thickness of ten inches, but by the following Sunday it had to suspend operations, "as the cakes broke as they came on to the runs" that led to the ice houses on the shore of Spy Pond. The ice company was prepared to go back to harvest but prospects were poor. This drove retail prices higher the following summer, which was bad news for Arlington households now that most of the ice crop was being consumed locally rather than being shipped elsewhere. Plus, there was no longer the usual inventory that would build-up from a previous cold winter. Just two years earlier (1919), the winter was so mild that not a single pound of ice had been taken from Spy Pond. Soon the ice-harvesting industry would leave Arlington, as companies worked on ponds in New Hampshire where freezing conditions were more reliable and operations overall more profitable, even when adding the costs of shipping by railroad to the storage and distribution ice houses in Arlington.

Sunday, February 20, 1921

Snowed hard all day -- a real blizzard storm, blowing and drifting. Up by 9, fires, breakfast, etc. George in with eggs and spinach. Read paper & figured income for year in PM & had a nap. No one out but the snow ploughs & the paths filled right up again. Saw two blue jays in orchard & a little sparrow about 5:30 apparently finding a place in the lilacs for the night. [Mystic Street trolley] car off the track at Summer St. Felt a bit punk in PM so didn't get out the snowshoes. Wrote to Coz. Jennie & Miss Hatch & card to Harriet Isabelle Penstone. Bed quite early.

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> Is Nina referring to steam-powered snow plows on the rail line? > Or to electric plows on the streetcar lines? > Or to plows on the streets? Motorized or horse-drawn? > > I never even considered what might have been happening in the snow during > that transitional time! >

In 1921 most snow plowing in Greater Boston was done by gas-motor equipment; specifically, in order of prevalence: plow-equipped passenger cars, trucks of various descriptions, and tractors. There existed dedicated snow plow vehicles, but those were rare. Railroads had their own plows and carried on as they had for many decades. Depending on the snow, a railroad might be able to clear only a single track on dual-tracked sections, which meant that rail service operated, but often with substantial delays. As Nina noted in her diary entry of February 6, 1920: "very few trains -- no passing." Picking up on a non-snow related thread on the Arlington List of the past day about where to store a suitcase, when Nina returned from a winter's vacation in New Hampshire on March 6, 1920, another blizzard was in progress. So when she arrived in Arlington Center she left her suitcase at Blake's (where she's a frequent customer at their soda fountain), and her brother went to fetch it a day or two later. Nina made it to her home using the snowshoes ("part way over slush") that she had brought on her vacation. As for the street railways (the trolley cars), there was always a lot of finger-pointing when it came to their performance in keeping their tracks clear. Even though there were many fewer automobiles, there were a great many that were disabled in the snow and stuck in inconvenient places, which hindered snow removal from the streets. Not to be left out of the discussion were the masses of adult men hired by municipalities to

shovel snow (preference given to married men and ex-servicemen in obtaining this day work). The going rate was 40 cents an hour in 1921.

Query: >>Would [Nina's brother] George have arrived in a Febraury blizzard with spinach from an Arlington greenhouse?<< Richard Duffy replies: It's perfectly possible that the spinach was greenhouse grown locally; however, in 1921 most fresh spinach during the winter was shipped to Boston by rail from Texas. The quantity of spinach coming from the south was dramatically increasing each year, so it doesn't seem likely that the Winn farm would have been able to compete profitably by growing it in its own greenhouses. Demand proved to be higher than anticipated, so my guess is that George took advantage of market-close timing on Saturday to purchase an abundance of spinach at a good price, and the next morning he brought some to share with his sister. Local spinach tended to be a field crop in Arlington. In the past Nina has written of eating "new greens" around the beginning of April, which suggests that those were local -- perhaps grown under solar-heated hotbed sash rather than in steam-heated greenhouses.

Monday, February 21, 1921

Snow very deep -- heaviest snowfall for 20 years. Men down early and shovelled us out several feet in drifts. Up about 7:30. Fires, etc. & to aunts about 10 & telephoned [Somerville] library that I wouldn't be down today. All in again. Rang La also. Lunch, etc. Maggie [occasional household helper] up about one & stayed until five -- did all the rooms and halls. Expected to rest some but didn't. Made fruit jelly, cut up dates, figs, bananas & nuts in glasses and poured raspberry Jell-O over. Looked quite good. Over town at 5 -- bot a pink hyacinth, did some errands. All in so to [Robbins] library to rest & stayed and read until 7:45. Home, supper & bed.

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Tuesday, February 22, 1921 [*]

[Brother] George's 48th birthday. C.C. [Christmas Club] here. Pleasant, warm. Up about 8. Fires, etc., to see to & after breakfast finished setting table. cooked a lot of potatoes to cream, sliced ham, opened peas, etc. To 146 with George's present -- just a card and \$5. Marion Butrick arrived first & then Amy, Edith & Florence -- later La, Edna, Jennie & lastly Myra. Johnsons didn't show up. Jo down late in PM & for supper & Jennie left by 5:30. Sewed, talked & everybody helped & all brot something, cream cake, salad dressing, spanish rice, lettuce, olives, milk & butter. Mabel in a moment in PM late. Amy goes to Denver, Colorado, Sunday for a six-weeks' treatment at Dr. Tilston's -- starch in system. [**] Had a nice day. La & Edna stayed longest & then it was only 9:15 or so. Put things in order, put up my lunch for tomorrow & bed about 10:30.

[*] February 22 is the official Washington's Birthday holiday in 1921. Exactly 50 years later, the federal Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1971 changed the observance of Washington's Birthday to the third Monday in February. Because the corresponding dates range from February 15 through February 21, this means that the holiday never can fall on George Washington's actual birthday.

[**] "Starch in system" could pertain to one of various theories about the result of eating too many starchy foods (potatoes were often identified as a particular culprit) or difficulty digesting modest

amounts of starch (a supposed remedy for the latter was to consume fruits along with starches, so that the fruit acids would break down the starches). One condition then believed to result from an excess of starch was vaginal discharge classified as abnormal leukorrhea. But a 1921 diagnosis of "starch in system" does not necessarily translate into either condition described above, and isn't likely to fit neatly with a modern medical diagnosis. Indeed, we cannot know if cousin Amy Winn is suffering from a condition that actually pertains to starch in her diet, or if she is about to pursue yet another type of cure to deal with a physical or psychological condition of unrelated etiology.

Wednesday, February 23, 1921

Pleasant, part of time -- some rain during day -- clear by night. Up 6:45 -- ashes, eats, lamps & off at 8:20. Car early so down for Medford Hillside [trolley car] & who should be there but Edith Rice, also Miss Meserve. Library 9 - 6. Registration & book meeting. Miss Stone taken with a nervous chill and had to be sent home -- looked very bad & shook all over. Someone had broken in and stolen all our pens & pencils from trays, erasers, [rubber ink] stamp, etc. [I worked on] [s]choolwork books, etc., in PM & on floor 5:30 to 6 for Hayes. Home 6:45 in centre & house about 7. On trolley car with Louis [sic] Stickney. [*] Eats & wrote here, fire, read paper, & bed early.

[*] Lewis (not Louis) Stickney was in the hardware business in Somerville. He was born in Arlington in 1872, and grew up at 23 Russell St. Lewis is very close in age to Nina's brother, George. His father was Sylvester Stickney, a tinsmith (a vital occupation in 19th-century Arlington because they dealt with the installation of heating stoves and the care of their all-important tin chimneys). Sylvester Stickney got his start in Arlington at Shattuck's, and later opened his own competing business across the street at 466 Massachusetts Ave., mirroring Shattuck's product and service lines in stoves, hardware, and plumbing. His son, Lewis, became manager of the enterprise while still in his twenties, following his father's death, but apparently the retail plumbing business was not for him, and a few years later he entered a wholesale hardware firm. In 1921 Lewis Stickney and his wife, Lela, made their home at 88 Appleton St. in Arlington Heights.

Thursday, February 24, 1921

Up 6:35 & off about 8:30. Down on late car -- got in at 9:15. Books to finish & Miss Harris helped write up the 2 deposits. Telephoned teachers and one sent for them in PM. High School 11:45 - 1, lunch at desk, 3 - 4 for Miss Gormley while she did magazines. Home at 6:40, easy supper, dishes, read awhile but couldn't keep awake so to bed by 8:45.

Friday, February 25, 1921

Clear, quite cold -- 8 [degrees] above 0. [*] Up 6:40. Usual eats, fires, & lunch to put up & off for the 8:30 [trolley] car. High School 11:45 - 1 -- worked on J.H.S. [junior high school] books earlier. 2 boys in in PM with 25 books to exchange. Showed Miss Banfrid something about mending until 6. Home by 6:40, eats & read & darn sleepy again & bed by 8:30. Aunt Sarah in all day with a cold. Said Aunt Georgianna wasn't as well -- found her in a heap at top of stairs & Aunt Sue had to have Mike [**] help her. Got her to bed but mind wasn't very clear.

[*] The most widely accepted record for the low temperature in Arlington in the winter of 1921 was 10 degrees above zero, which I imagine to be the reading taken where it was most relevant to the local economy -- at the ice houses on Spy Pond. Of course there would be spots elsewhere in Arlington with lower temperature readings.

[**] Mike is Michael Canniff, who is a laborer at the Winn farm and rents his home from the Winns at 19 Summer St. Mike is about 54 years old in 1921 (the census enumerators at various points over the years assigned different ages to him). He has been working about 20 years on the Winn farm. Mike Canniff was born in Ireland and immigrated to the U.S. in 1888. He is married to fellow Irish immigrant Margaret "Maggie" Canniff, about ten years his junior, who in her single years was a regular domestic helper at the Winn's home, and since marrying and having children, she works more occasionally -- at least where Nina's home is concerned. I think that Maggie helps out at the homes of other Winn family members perhaps more often than at Nina's.

February 26, 1921

Pleasant & warm -- a real _spring_ day. Up at 6:35. Usual things & off at 8:20. Library 9 - 1 -- interchange & mending. In town with Gladys H. Paid Chandler [*] -- small bill for underwear -- lunch & to Miss Ferguson's for [hair] treatment & nails. In Arlington by 4 & registered [to vote] at Town Hall & talked with [Town Clerk] Tom Robinson about duties of an election officer. They (Edna Peirce) rang me in AM to see if I would serve on election day March 7. [**] At Deshon's awhile & to Winn's to say goodbye to Amy who goes to Denver tomorrow. Home about 6 -- up with Mabel & later to aunts awhile. Aunt G abed but quite bright & ate a fair supper -- [she had] slept from 6 to 5 last night. Home about 7. Supper & later Marion Buttrick came over and stayed until 9:30, chatting. Fires & bed & read awhile & light out at 11.

[*] Chandler's was primarily a ladies' specialty store in Boston. Today its eleven-story building at 150 Tremont Street, on the south corner of West Street, is a residence hall for Suffolk University students. Conrad's was one of its competitors. Nina shops at both establishments. In 1958 the two stores merged to create Conrad & Chandler. Many Arlington women of our era will remember shopping at Chandler's first and only branch store in Cushing Square in Belmont, which opened in 1948. Afterwards, as Conrad & Chandler, there were branches in Burlington, Peabody and other locations. Conrad & Chandler entered bankruptcy in 1972 and only the Belmont store survived as part of the financial restructuring, until it lost its lease in 1978.

[**] Although women obtained the right to vote in all elections following ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, Nina apparently waited until there was a possible job opportunity before she registered to vote. On the date of the 1920 presidential election, Tuesday, November 2, Nina wrote in her diary <snips>: "Women voting full ticket for first time Harding, Republican, elected." What Nina means by "voting full ticket" is that, previously, women in Arlington participated only in elections for School Committee. Now that Nina has at last registered to vote, let's see if she actually makes use of her franchise. Arlington Town Clerk Thomas Robinson died in office in 1923, and "Robinson Rock" at the junction of Gray Street and Endicott Road is dedicated with a plaque in his honor. Edna Pierce was the assistant town clerk, who also went by the name E. Caroline Pierce. She became the first woman in Arlington to win

individual elected office in local balloting in 1924.. Previously, women had been elected to School Committee since 1896, and since 1921, as Town Meeting Members.

Sunday, February 27, 1921

Cloudy, rain. Up at 10 -- eats, fires & wrote here and read quite a lot during day. Good dinner: steak, baked sweet potato, salad, etc., but felt punk in PM -- indigestion, heart, or something. Read most of PM. Mrs. Deshon in to return a book & see Aunt Sarah. Dressed later, fed rabbits an apple, at aunts with some biscuits & to Florence Harris to tea. Nice hot scones and talked -- had a nice time. Raining when I came home at 9. Bath & bed by 10:30.

Monday, February 28, 1921

Dr. Percy. Poured early and streets were rivers. Cleared by night. Up at 7 -- fires, eats, lamps, & washed some -- had to dry [clothes] in house [*]. Had another faint turn so had to stop a bit & rested awhile. To aunts to telephone library that I'd be late. Lunch etc. & to Dr. Percy's [**] at 2 -- thot it anemia but found my blood was 90% to the good so tested for blood pressure and found it was high -- 160 when it should have been 135 -- also poor circulation. Heart: not to be worried about it; diet: meat every other day _nice_. On to library and arrived 3:30 but didn't do much. Light supper at 5 & desk 6 - 9. Hayes on the floor. Quite busy. Home 9:45 -- got oranges. Fires & bed very quickly. Back to B.V.D.'s today it was so warm.

[*] Nina is drying her clothes indoors because it's been raining. It also was safer to do that in Arlington in the winter of 1921 for another reason: there was a crime wave of people having their clothes stolen from their clotheslines if left out overnight.

[**] David T. Percy, Jr. , M.D. (b. 1868 - d. 1941) was an 1891 graduate of Boston University Medical School, which had a strong homeopathic approach to medicine. Dr. Percy had his office at his home at 11 Water St., where he saw patients from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 8 p.m. (Other times he would have been making house calls or hospital visits.) Dr. Percy's house was razed and today is the site of the modern addition to the 5 Water St. office building, the original section of which in 1921 housed the electric substation to convert AC power generated by the Boston Elevated Railway Co. (a predecessor to today's MBTA) into DC electric power to run the trolley cars. There were in 1921 four streetcar lines operating in Arlington (Mass. Ave., Mystic St., Medford St., and Broadway).

March 1, 1921

Clear & warm & lamblike. Up 6:40, fires, lunch to put up, eats & dishes & off at 8:20. Ordered fish (gave Aunt Sarah last of my steak). Library at 9:10. Mended with Miss Boniford until 11:30, then Children's Room until one: lunch & fooled away part of PM, watching [police] officers [. . .] at house back of library which they raided, as one of the boys broke-in a week ago & stole a lot of little things from us. Did floorwork 3 - 5 & some at desk. Miss Whipple excused me about 4:40 so went to couch as I felt a bit off. Looked over mending & put books away & left for home at 5:45 -- had a

strawberry sunday [*] at Blake's & shredded wheat at home. Read in eve. Ella Burrage down from aunts for awhile -- had pictures of Sam Dodge & his 2 children. Bed & bath & read, soon after 9.

[*] "sunday" is how Nina regularly spelled what should be "sundae." This is not an alternative spelling from the era. In early 20th-century Arlington (and in many other places) a cold treat called a "college ice" was served in different establishments. Some authorities consider that a college ice was a sundae by another name. Others identify it as a less-elaborate version of a sundae, so just ice cream and syrup, without other toppings (or in some cases, shaved ice instead of ice cream). One thing to keep in mind in our "supersized" food era is that in the early 20th century, an advertising attribute of ice cream sundaes at chain drug store soda fountains was that they were "dainty" -- which could just be a synonym for "tasty," but when we compare the size of typical glassware used back then to containers of more recent times, I think we can imagine that the standard product that Nina was enjoying would nowadays fit a definition of "junior sundae."

Wednesday, March 2, 1921

Pleasant & nice & very warm. Up at 6:40, usual fire, eats & lunch, bed, etc. & off at 8:15. Library 9 - 6. On floor in PM 3 - 5 & desk 5 - 6, not a bit busy. House 6:45 -- light eats, read some & bed early & tired.

Thursday, March 3, 1921

Rained -- poured early -- clear by night. Up at 7:15. Usual things & some ironing, mended, & read paper, dusted, etc. Of by 12:20; slow [trolley] car. Desk 1 - 3:20, busy collecting money for a present for Miss Hayes. Desk in eve 6 - 9, not very busy but managed to feel tired. Home about 10, fires & bed quick as I could get there.

Friday, March 4, 1921

Harding inaugurated as President. Coolidge as vice president. [*] Clear and fine -- much colder. Up 6:35. Fires, lunch, breakfast & off by 8:15. Paid a bill & bot donuts for Miss Matheson, so lost car & walked to Winter St. [**] -- 10 minutes late at library. Various odd jobs -- children's room 11:30 - 1, lunch, did some mending for Gladys & in PM. Home 6:30. Supper, wrote in here, read paper & bed early. Bath & read a few moments. Too sleepy for much.

[*] Calvin Coolidge previously had been governor of Massachusetts. After he became president following Harding's death in 1923, Dennett Road in Arlington was re-named Coolidge Road in his honor.

[**] When Nina writes that she "lost car" she means that she missed the trolley car. On this day, she's referring to a Broadway streetcar. so she walked from Arlington Center down Broadway to Winter Street, where she boarded the next one. The Broadway cars ran at 30-minute intervals, so I suspect that Nina was trying to make up time by catching the the streetcar a few stops closer to Somerville and perhaps to stay warm walking, rather than standing around in the cold. Also, in the event that the next streetcar were delayed, she would have continued to walk to Clarendon Hill in

Somerville (right across the Arlington line), where she could pick up a frequent car to take her to the Somerville Public Library via Highland Avenue. When Nina returns from work, she usually takes a Medford Hillside car (which then had one of its termini at Sullivan Square, whereas today's #80 MBTA bus from Arlington Center via Medford Hillside terminates at Lechmere). The Medford Hillside car was a one-seat ride and it was a downhill walk from the library to reach that line. But on her way to work, Nina most often took a Broadway streetcar and transferred, because the Medford Hillside car left her at the corner of Pearl Street and Walnut Street; from there it was a very steep walk uphill to reach the library.

Saturday, March 5, 1921

Pleasant, rain by night & a little warmer -- then raw & cold during day. Up 6:40, usual duties & off at 8:15. Registration & talked most of the rest of the time until 1 o'clock. Light lunch here [at home] & soda at Blake's, over [to 12 Russell Terrace to collect] rent, did a few errands & home before 3. Read & rested. Made some pie crust & Indian bread [*] after supper. Read again in eve - - bed by 10:30.

[*] Indian Bread was not naan in Nina's time. It was essentially a variant of Boston Brown Bread, but it didn't include rye. The grains involved were graham flour and cornmeal. It was steamed rather than baked. Another popular steamed bread was made with "Arlington Meal" which used to be manufactured at Fowle's mills right across the street from Nina -- the site of Arlington's first water powered mill in 1637. The recipe for that steamed bread excluded rye and cornmeal, and was geared towards those who couldn't digest cornmeal. Here's what we'd probably call an "advertorial" talking about Fowle's mill and Arlington Meal:

https://books.google.com/books?id=saA_WHTOxbEC&pg=RA6-PA17

Sunday, March 6, 1921

Pleasant, warm, very windy. Woke soon after six, dozed a bit & read until after 9. Fires, eats, fixed bread, etc. & read. Barbara in for awhile. Light lunch, read & slept in PM. At aunts about 5 with some bread & tried to telephone Florence Harris to come to supper -- [she was] not at home, so down about 6 & ate alone. Read in eve & Mary & Edith [Winn] came over about 9 and stayed half an hour [they had received] letters from Amy on [her] way to Denver. Bed soon after 10.

Monday, March 7, 1921

Cloudy, showers, etc. Up at 7. Fires, eats & washed some & made a mock cherry pie. Too tired to go over & vote & too late at noon. [*] Off [on trolley car] at 12:15. High School by 12:50. Closed up, etc. -- had a nice, quiet crowd. Desk 3 - 4 & had some rest later. Desk 6 - 9 & one busy evening. Hayes: Floor I. Miss Abrams (N.Y. girl) Floor II. All of us dog weary. Miss Hayes up with me for the night. Had a bite of pie but didn't waste much time getting to bed.

[*] Nina was not "too late" because the polls weren't open; she was too late to go vote (for what would have been the first time in her life, having just registered the prior week) because she hadn't budgeted her time to do so. On this date in 1921 it was the annual town election.

Tuesday, March 8, 1921

Foggy & cloudy & raw. Poured about 7 a.m. Up 6:35. Fires & eats & we left by 8:20. E. B. Hayes I went into town. Met Gladys & Miss Mayhew at Winship's [*] & bot a stunning pocketbook for E.B. Hayes. Then got a \$5 gold piece with rest of money to put in it. Back to library by 10:30. High School 11:45 - 1. Restless crowd & glad to leave. E.B.H. [Hayes] & I had a nice lunch together, salad, etc. Explained school library to the New York girls. Desk 5 - 6 & glad to get home at 6:40, weary. Felt rather punk during day -- done up just looking in windows in town. Read, wrote here & bed early.

[*] W.W. Winship was said to be Boston's oldest luggage merchant (doing business under different partnership names over the decades). In 1921 it had two downtown Boston locations, at 71 Summer St. and 16 Tremont St. Later that year it closed the Tremont St. store and opened a new one in the Back Bay. It specialized in "traveling goods," to include trunks, luggage, and leather items, such as the purse that Nina and her colleagues have purchased for Miss Hayed. The establishment's signature item was the "Winship Wardrobe Trunk" -- the kind of steamer trunk fitted out with swinging doors, drawers, etc., which it manufactured at its own factories in Utica, N.Y. The W. W. Winship Co. was sold to London Harness Shop in 1973.

Wednesday, March 9, 1921

National Fish Day [*] Rain, showers, warm. Up 6:40, fires, eats, etc. & off by 8:20. Not scheduled. & didn't do so very much. High School 11:45 - 1 & a restless crew. Tired & glad to get back [to central library]. E. Hayes waited lunch & we had tomato salad & luscious chocolate cake. Desk 5 - 6, and then Hayes and I in town to dinner. Went to the Liberty [**] on Boylston. Nice eats. Chicken, lobster chop-suey, etc., and then wandered down Boylston & Tremont streets window shopping & left each other at Park Square. Home about 9:20 -- _not_ tired for a wonder. Fires & bed.

[*] Boston's Fish Pier was decorated in flags in observance of the day. The idea was not only to encourage people to eat more fish, and to acquaint the public with lesser-known varieties of fish, but in promoting variety in diet, to help deal with the rising cost of meat.

[**] The Liberty Restaurant was at 373 Boylston St., between Arlington and Berkeley streets.

Thursday, March 10, 1921

Pleasant, bit sharp but fine. Song sparrows singing lustily & starlings whistling & calling. Rhubarb starting up, grass quite green, poppies, etc., beginning. Up about 7:15 & busy all the morning. _2_ fires to build, bit wash, ironed & made a mock cherry pie (supper for Hayes & I). Off at 12:20 & High School 1 - 2:30, did odds & ends rest of PM. Florence Harris in during supper hour & then Helen Smith. Desk 6 - 9, mighty busy & so tired I couldn't see straight coming home. Bed as soon as I could make it.

Friday, March 11, 1921

Clear, warm & springy. Birds singing, song sparrows & common ones, etc. Felt quite rested. Up 6:30. Fires, ashes, eats & off at 8:15, paid W.K.H. [Walter K. Hutchinson grocery] bill. Down with Miss Meserve & later Miss Randall got on. Not much to do all day. Miss Hayes more than delighted with her pocketbook. High School 11:45 to 1 & then met Gladys Hastings & Edith Hayes & all in town to E&I [Women's Educational and Industrial Union] where we met Abbie & had lunch & a jolly time. Hayes on to Framingham & Gladys & I back to library at _3_ (more time to make up). Showed Miss Sewall some mending & then Gladys & I got busy on some books to transfer to her room from school library. Home 6:30. Light supper, at aunts' a few moments. Susie D. [Dupee], Mrs. D. [Deshon], & Aunt Sarah there for cards. Squared accounts, wrote here, read, & bed early.

Saturday, March 12, 1921

Clear & warm. Up 6:40. Usual things. Down on the 8:45 car and stopped at the Town Hall and paid \$60 more on taxes. Down with Marion Meserve. Registration & then sewed a lot of books for Gladys H. while I talked to E. Hayes. [It was] her last day and we had lunch together for the last time. In town with M. Meserve, few errands, hair & nails & started for home but held up awhile in subway so not out until nearly five. More errands & home on couch. Light supper, read in eve & bed about 9. Mrs. Hobbs at Aunt Sarah's. Arthur up in eve for stamps.

Sunday, March 13, 1921

Frogs peeping, butterflies out. A wonderful spring day, clear & warm. Woke soon after 6, napped & read until 9. Fires, eats, dishes, lamps, & beds. Arthur in a bit. Left about 11:45 & walked to Simm's Swamp [*] Home 1:30 -- weary but nice walk, found some pussy willows, violets had started, saw junckos, robins & hen pheasants & butterflies, heard frogs & bluebirds -- quite different from a year ago. On couch & a late lunch. Others out. Barbara up with John & Donald Gillis & just gone [had just left Nina's home] when Hal Daniels [**], Annie May & Robert came so had a nice call from them until Aunt Sarah returned & then Laurence Collins came & stayed to supper & we had a nice visit togetehr. Wrote here & bed about 10.

[*] Simm's is a misspelling for Symmes, which if written at an earlier point in history might not surprise me, but by 1921 the Symmes Arlington Hospital had been receiving patients for nine years and the name was one of the most frequently appearing in the Arlington Advocate. Anyhow, the Simm's Swamp was not located anywhere near the Symmes Hospital campus. Rather, it was off of Old Mystic Street, on the extensive landholdings previously belonging to Stephen Symmes, the late benefactor of the hospital, who intended that it be built on his land; however, the site was considered unsuitable due to the presence of too many underground springs and permission was given by the Probate Court to sell the land and build the hospital on the former town wood lot above the almshouse on Summer Street, which closed in 1907. The Symmes Arlington Hospital was built in 1909 but it was not until 1912 that it was equipped and admitted its first patient.

[**] Hal Daniels is a nephew of Nina's aunt-by-marriage, Sarah Daniels Winn, who lives in the other side of the duplex at 37 Summer St.

Monday, March 14, 1921 #

Pleasant, warm & springy & birds joyous. Up at 7 -- eats, fires, washed, carpet-swept & dusted dining room -- rested a few moments and read paper. Off by 12:15. At High School 1 - 2:30 -- mended, fixed shelf-list after transferring books to Children's Room. Desk 6 - 9 -- only had a dizzy spell at 8 -- so rested awhile & then they sent me home & Gladys H. took my place. Left at 8:20, just connected with both [trolley] cars & in house by 8:50. Fires & bed soon after nine. Found complications which might account for dizzy. [*]

[*] Nina's hashtag (#) symbol on diary pages indicates the start of her menstrual period, and these are almost certainly the "complications" to which she refers.

Tuesday, March 15, 1921

Pair of bluebirds in lilacs & apple tree in PM late. The lady was perched on the weather vane when I first saw her. Pleasant tho not very clear; warm & springy. Up about 8. Fires, eats, etc. & to aunts by ten to telephone library that I wouldn't be down today. Also talked with La (quite awhile). Vida at door with ice cream for aunts, so they gave me a heaping dish -- good, too. Read, mended, rested rest of day, bit of ironing, light lunch. Out doors from 5:10 to nearly six, working in garden, clearing grass from the poppies. Supper & read some more in eve & to bed quite early. Bit achy but not so dizzy.

[Flashback to March 15, 1920. Not from Nina's diary, but that of her aunt, Susanna Adams Winn, who resided in the homestead of the Winn farm, at 57 Summer St. I thought this passage about one of Aunt Sue's hens was picturesque and amusing: ". . . Good Old Anna laid a monstrous egg for us today. It weighed 4 ounces and was our first one for six months I guess." A jumbo egg from a chicken weighs about 2.5 ounces, just to help us visualize what Good Old Anna accomplished. Are there any backyard chicken keepers on the Arlington List with a "Good Old Anna" to brag about?]

Wednesday, March 16, 1921

Clear & nice. So warm I didn't build a kitchen fire. Lunch, etc. & off by 8:20. Down with M. Meserve. Staff meeting -- all there except those on desk, etc. Mr. Dougherty [*] spoke on "Loyalty" -- good, too. Mr. Evans & Miss Whipple both said a little. Picked out 14 books for the dental dispensary at Proctor School. [**] At High School 1 - 2:30 & floor 4 - 6. On couch 1/2 hour so got along very well, but glad to get home at 6:40 Barbara up awhile in eve. Bed 8:30 & light out by 9:10.

[*] Harold T. Dougherty was head librarian of the Newton Public Library and an officer of the Massachusetts Library Club, which changed its name in 1936 to the present one of the Massachusetts Library Association.

[**] In 1921 here in Arlington, a joint initiative of the Board of Health and the School Committee operated a pediatric dental clinic weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon, on the second floor of Town Hall. The charge was 25 cents "per sitting." The mission was broadened to promote regular dental hygiene in the elementary school classrooms, by having the teachers lead pupils in "toothbrush drills."

Thursday, March 17, 1921

Clear & glorious -- a little colder. Up at 7. Fires, eats, a small washing, lamps, bed, etc. Hunted for an old poem in attic and found a lot of forgotten "treasures." Expected to wash windows & garden but time flew too quickly. Ironed a bit, made some gingerbread & carried some to aunts & off by 12:20. High School -- not much to do rest of PM. Desk 6 - 9 & not at all busy. [Trolley] cars late & slow so home at 9:50. Fires & bed.

Friday, March 18, 1921

Clear & nice but cold. Up 6:35 -- fires, eats, lunch, etc. & off at 8:20. Stopped for cards & down on the 8:45 car. Quite a busy day but not tired, felt better than for a long time. Floor I 10 - 11:30, High School 11:45 - 1. Desk 3 - 4 & desk in Children's Room 4 - 6. Ate at library and in Arlington at 7:30. Missed [trolley] car at Clarendon Hill (much as usual) so talked with a fur-coated dame who answered with a brogue & turned out to be a Mrs. Barry [*] who lived in one of our [rental] houses 20 years ago -- and I'm in rags. Went to Dr. Percy's & 1/2 an hour later who should walk out but Myra Wood (up for ears). Dr. had an urgent call & I had to come home. Fires & bed where I read awhile. Aunt Sarah out, as usual.

[*] Julia Barry, born in Ireland in 1875, came to the U.S. in 1892. She was the wife of Michael J. Barry, a fellow Irish immigrant who in 1900 was a laborer at the Winn farm. The Barrys had moved to 17 Lewis Ave. by 1902. Mr. Barry was still a farm laborer and Mrs. Barry was still a homemaker in 1920, by which time they were renting at 70 Franklin St., living there with their three children.

Saturday, March 19, 1921

Pleasant, quite cold, 22 [degrees]. Up 6:40. Usual rush & off at 8:20. Registration & not much else. Lunched at library & in town with Jessie Bennett. Had hair & nails done & out about 4 -- a few errands and home. Wrote here & read a bit. Supper at six & over to Dr. Percy's again at 7:15. Had to wait until after 8. Heart fine and blood pressure down to 145 -- nearly normal -- which was fine news. To [Robbins] library until 9 & Edith Rice and I had ices at Blake's. Errands & home 9:40. Fires & bed.

Sunday, March 20, 1921

Clear & warm -- or rather _hot_. Up at 9, fires, etc., eats, made 2 kinds of cake & a custard pie. Wanted to garden but too many autos (boulevard) [*] Read, etc. So hot in PM went up &

stripped & read in bed. La & Edna over so into clothes & later we all went to Vida's to supper. Myra there & Mrs. Damon. Home about 9. Bot a fine new broom made by the blind. [**] Fires, bath & bed by 10:30.

[*] "Boulevard" refers to Summer Street as a major east-west artery through Arlington. Clearly, Nina is still finding it difficult to have gone from living on what until a few years previous was a country road that dead-ended at Brattle Street, to a busy street serving a burgeoning population and especially a surge in private automobile owners who were eager to enjoy the once-ubiquitous "Sunday drive."

[**] The making of brooms, mattresses, cane-seat chairs, and other skills of dexterity had been taught in "asylums for the blind" for generations. Although these products often were produced in group workshops, the skills enabled some to set up businesses for themselves. Charles Dudley (for whom Dudley Street in Arlington got its name) was one such person. See this article I wrote ten years ago: ><https://arlington.wickedlocal.com/article/20090129/news/301299844><

Monday, March 21, 1921

Clear & hottest day ever recorded for this date -- 82 degrees -- cooler by night. [*] Both fires out & used gas stove. Up at 9. Eats & washed some, swept & dusted, read paper and did a little gardening. Men ploughing and planting rhubarb. Off at 12:15. To High School and did various small jobs until 5. Supper & desk in eve. Miss Bosworth had her class in Americanization at library to find its uses and register -- very interesting & nice crowd -- mostly Italians. [**] Home about 10 -- much colder. Bed quickly, tho not much tired. [*] Boston recorded a high of 83 degrees that day, which was then a record-breaker. The highest recorded temperature for the month of March was 90 degrees, reached on March 31, 1998.

[*] This would have been a field trip for the Americanization pupils, as they were then called, even though they were adults. In addition to offering evening classes in school buildings, the Somerville school department also held them at several of the factories in the city. There used to be extensive meat-packing establishments in East Somerville that will be remembered by some folks on this List.

Tuesday, March 22, 1921 [*]

Clear & much colder. 32 degrees so built a kitchen fire. Off at 8:20. Worked on books transferred to Children's Room from S. L. High school 11:45 to 1, lunch & a jolly time with Miss Eames. Some deposits returned & card[ed] in PM & finished a letter to Amy. Home 6:45 as [trolley] cars were held up. Good supper, chop, etc. & directed Easter cards & wrote here in eve & bed soon after 9.

[*] Flashback to March 22, 1920, when Nina Winn wrote in her diary <snip>: "Beautiful northern lights all over the sky -- drifting & changing like draperies."

Nina Winn wrote in her diary <snip>: >>Both fires out & used gas stove<<

Todd Cooper wrote: >>When Nina says "gas"stove I assume she means propane and not the kind of gas we use in our automobiles now."

Richard Duffy replies: It was neither of the above. The gas was piped into Nina's home from the street and was manufactured from coal and coke right here in Arlington. In 1921 two gas-manufacturing plants were in operation: the original one that began production in 1859, occupying part of the section of Mount Pleasant Cemetery west of Mill Brook, and the modern plant (1914) on Grove Street that houses the Arlington DPW today. With improved transmission of gas over longer distances, the manufacture of gas from coal ceased in Arlington in 1930. And in the 1950s came the conversion from manufactured to natural gas took place in the 1950s.

Wednesday, March 23, 1921

Clear, quite cold & windy. Only a kitchen fire, eats, dishes, etc. Missed [trolley] car so in at 9:10. Book meeting, lunch & High School 1 - 3 & desk 4 - 6. Mrs. Totman [*] in for a few books. Ran for car first time for weeks & OK after. Home 6:30 -- eats, read & bed about 8:30. I _was_ so sleepy.

[*] Mrs. Mabel C. Totman was a sixth-grade teacher at the S. Newton Cutler School on Powderhouse Boulevard, near Raymond Street in West Somerville.

Thursday, March 24, 1921 [*]

Clear & fine & windy. Up 7:25. Feld tired all day and the work dragged. Bit wash & a bit ironing, etc. & morning fairly flew. At aunts just a moment. Library 1 - 9. High School, floor & desk in eve. Home 9:45 and bed.

[*] Flashback to March 24, 1920: "[Brother] George in. Said town pays \$300 for the corner taken for boulevard. Goes back for taxes. Gave him \$80 towards them." Nina is referring here to the land taking for the widening of Summer Street, which broadened the corner at the intersection of Mystic and Summer streets and Mystic Valley Parkway. The next time you round the corner past the Gulf station there, that's the land for which the Winn's received \$300. Being located on Summer Street Boulevard was pushing up the value of the Winn farmlands because of their improved potential for housing development. It was getting more and more difficult for Arlington's market gardeners to stay in profitable business under such residential growth pressures.

Friday, March 25, 1921

Pleasant, warm, windy. Up at 6:40. Usual things & off at 8:20. Fixed books for bindery -- only scheduled at High School 11:45 - 1. Home 6:30, eats & read some in eve, bed early but read until 12:15 and finished that confounded "Main Street." [*] Left a bad taste in my mouth tho not at all a vicious book.

[*] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Street_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Street_(novel))

Saturday, March 26, 1921

Cloudy AM. Showers PM & thunder & pouring at 6. Clearing eve. Up 6:45. Eats (light: very), fire etc. No George so no more taxes paid. Down [to Somerville Library] with M. Meserve. Registration, etc. In town with Gladys H. Bot a waist at Chandler's & a petti at Conrad's. Lunched at Acorn. Hair & nails, bot candy at S. S. Peirce [sic] for Grandma Sturgis 90th birthday next Friday, some pink English daisies for the aunts, out [to Arlington] by 4:45, bot a pot of yellow tulips for the cemetery, errands and home. Up with flowers [to aunts] and a thunder shower so asked me to supper. Helped with dishes, home 7:30, wrote here, etc. Quite a lot of Easter cards & a fine picture of [maternal aunt] Altannah and the girls.

Sunday, March 27, 1921

Easter Cloudy, very foggy, some rain. Up at 9. Slept well. Fire in kitchen only, eats, etc. & then made a dark fruit cake for Mrs. Sturgis's birthday -- took most of AM. Read some. Had salmon, beets, etc., for dinner. Bed late in PM & Aunt Sarah out so [she] missed a call [visit] from Madeline Dyar -- [I] didn't know who it was & was too negligee for door. Strawberries & cream for supper. Only the boys in. Wrote to Altannah & Mrs. Sturgis. Bed soon after 9.

Monday, March 28, 1921

Rain, thunder shower at night. Clear & fine. Up at 7. Washed & ironed. Grew much warmer as it was hot by noon & freezing cold by 9 PM. Aunt Sue in awhile -- worked in garden for half an hour -- usual rush of eating & leaving. Mailed cake & candy to Mrs. Sturgis. High School 1- 2:30 then back to Central [library] & did various things until 5. Desk 6 - 9. Not busy as it grew very cold and windy with a sharp thunder shower & heavy rain. Had on thin suit & fated hat [*] so home in a taxi from [Arlington] centre. Bed.

[*] I don't know what Nina means by her hat being "fated," but she underlines the term, which makes me wonder if perhaps this particular hat had been often on her head when bad weather unexpectedly struck. A lot of attention was given to maintaining and repairing hats, updating their trimmings, etc., which is not part of most of our American lives in modern times. Hats also helped to keep women's hairstyles in place in the era before hairspray. In 1921 both men and women rarely appeared bareheaded in public; indeed, doing so could be newsworthy. Of the record March heat described by Nina a few days ago, one of the subheadlines in the Boston Globe reporting was that men were walking on the sidewalks carrying their hats in their hands, and that only one [hot-weather appropriate] straw hat was spotted. I can almost hear some Globe readers gasping: "Imagine that!"

Tuesday, March 29, 1921

Very cold again and windy -- down to 22 degrees. Up 6:45, built both fires once more, eats, etc. Off by 8:15 & then car was late so it was 8:58 when I arrived. One floor 9 - 11, then High School, lunch & did discards for nearly 4 hours. Home 6:30 -- eats & wrote here. Good to be in a warm place again. Shivered all day except at High School. Read & up to bed at nine -- bath & read a bit

more. Aunt Sue in awhile in eve. Brod down the old bread mixer I gave them two or three years ago.

March 30, 1921

Clear & fine -- not quite so cold, 24 degrees. Up at 6:40 -- eats, fires, lamps, lunch, [made] bed & off at 8:20. Down with Marian Meserve. Book meeting, discards, lunch 12 - 1. High school 1 - 3, discards & floor I 4 - 6. Home 6:40. Read after some good eats & wrote to Edith Hays & here & bed soon after 10. No George & no tax money yet -- these promises and waiting are enough to drive me mad. [*]

[*] Nina apparently has been covering the property tax bill for the family farm and dwellings because her brother George, who manages the whole, seems to be having cash flow problems. The real estate tax rate in Arlington was at that time \$29.90 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Thursday, March 31, 1921

Clear & fine -- windy, rather cold. Up at 7 -- morning flew, dishes, made cake & soft custard, washed & a bit of ironing, in garden for ten minutes, rested & read paper, brushed up and dusted & off at 12:15.? High School -- good as could be.? Library at 3 & quite a lot of floor work -- and desk in eve, very quiet then.? Home at 9:30 & bed quite soon.

Friday, April 1, 1921

Poured early, cleared later & rather cold. Up 6:45.? Fires, eats, lunch, etc. & off at 8:20.? Went to bank and drew most of my money out and up and paid the last of the taxes.? Library 9:15 and on floor until 11:35, then High School until 1:15. A rather wild period -- 5th.? Lunch & desk 3 - 4:45 and Children's Room until 6.? Up with Marian Meserve and home 6:45.? Eats. Mabel & Barbara up in the evening until 8:30.? Wrote here, read a bit, bath & bed.

Saturday, April 2, 1921

Pleasant, cool early but warmer during day. Up 6:30, fires & made some muffins. Off by 8:20. Registration. In town & to Chandler's & bot a beauty of a dress -- brown crepe-de-chine with henna embroidery & facings & pipings & lining of sash. Fit just right. All done by 2 -- had lunch & to Miss Ferguson's [for] hair & nails & shopped a bit -- then [treated] myself to candy. Home about 6. Marion Buttrick at Aunt Sarah's & they asked me in to supper. Ironed a bit. Aunt Sarah at aunts for cards, so Marion in & Richard Deshon called & they stayed until 9:30 (when the light went out). Squared accounts, etc. & read awhile in bed. Missed car in AM so called for [to collect] rent. Didn't have bill for work on barn [*] reckoned up so paid \$14.00 towards the whole.

[*] The barn at 12 Russell Terrace survived until 2011. Despite being in the Russell Historic District, it was condemned after a long period of neglect.

Sunday, April 3, 1921

Clear & glorious & warmer. Up at 8:30 after reason some. Eats, fires, etc., only one fire started: kitchen. Worked an hour in the garden beds, opened 3 small lobsters, etc. Read paper & rested some in PM. Bradley Frost's funeral in PM. [*] La here about 4 & Ma later & to supper. Edith called but wouldn't stop. Emma Barker and her Jr. here & Geo. Daniel's wife & mother all called. Asked Aunt Sarah & Mabel to supper. Lobster salad, hot biscuit, tea, strawberries & cream, & cake. Talked until 9 or so & then did dishes. [Nephews, George] Jr. & Arthur up in eve & all three here earlier to read funny-page. Bed by 10. Tried dress on & all liked it.

[*] Bradley Frost was the brother of Nina's friends and fellow Christmas Club members, Jennie & Jo Frost. Here is an adapted excerpt about him from my "History of Arlington Street Names" series that appeared in the Arlington Advocate: "Bradley Frost was born in Arlington in 1892, graduated from Arlington High School and was a member of the Class of 1914 at Dartmouth. He was in graduate school at Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering when he decided to enlist to fight in World War I. He underwent pilot's ground formation at MIT in 1917 and was commissioned a lieutenant, after which he received flight training in Great Britain. In April 1918 he was assigned to the 17th Aero Squadron under British command. After four months of front-line duty in France, he was promoted to flight commander -- five days before his 26th birthday. Later that month, while 'leading his patrol in a battle with enemy planes he was seen to fall behind German lines. He was at first reported missing, and later his family were informed that he was alive and a prisoner in Germany.' But six months later, it was confirmed that Bradley Frost had died at a wound-dressing station on August 26 -- the same day his Sopwith Camel aircraft was shot down. Lt. Frost was buried at the military cemetery in Boursiers, France. After the war, Josephine Frost traveled to France to locate her brother's grave and arrange for the return of his body to Arlington. On April 3, 1921, Lt. Frost's funeral was held at his boyhood home at 58 Old Mystic St. In a procession with hundreds of veterans and civilians, his casket was borne on a gun caisson drawn by six horses to the family lot at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Bradley's father had been laid to rest there little more than six months earlier."

Monday, April 4, 1921

Clear & warm. Forsythia very lovely. Up at 7. Washed & ironed some, lamps, beds, eats, dishes, etc. & morning flew & no time to work in the garden. Made some muffins & rushed to aunts with a few. Off late & on 12:45 [trolley] car but only 5 minutes late at High [School]. Small crowd & very good. Not scheduled -- did a little floor work, desk 6 - 9, not busy except in bunches & at 9, so not home until nearly ten & bed as soon as I could get there.

Tuesday, April 5, 1921

Clear & warm early, east wind in PM and much colder. Up 6:30 -- fire, eats, etc. & off 8:15, paid wood bill, down on 8:30 [trolley car]. Floor 9 - 12, lunch, High School 1 - 3 & then nothing to do for rest of the PM -- lots more tiresome than working. Home 6:30 Fire _out_ & colder, so cooked and heated with gas stove. Up to feed the rabbits some lettuce -- found only one and that one outside. Arthur up later & found only one. He & the cat came in for quite awhile -- all but the cat

reading. Bed about 10.

Wednesday, April 6, 1921

Up 6:41. Fire, eats, lunch & off at 8:30. Book meeting after hanging around for ages. Didn't have to go to High School. Picked out a lot of old school collection books for Miss Worthen at Union. [*] Children's Room 3 - 6, not at all busy. Home 6:30 or so. Read & bed early.

[*] This refers to the Union Square branch library, which in 1921 received a special gift from the Locatelli family, who a few years later built the Capitol Theatre in Arlington and had their commercial real estate and insurance businesses headquartered in that building. To serve the Italian-speaking residents of Somerville who frequently used the Union Square branch library, the Locatellis engaged an Italian scholar to select books to be imported from Italy. These included works of Sir Walter Scott that had been translated into Italian, in order to make accessible the knowledge that in the era was being gained by English-speaking residents. Following is a link to a photograph of Albert J. Locatelli and his son, John E. Locatelli:

http://www.losttheatres.org/album.php?frame=main&album=central&file=10_Locatelli1926c.jpg

The Locatellis are buried in St. Paul's Cemetery in East Arlington.

Thursday, April 7, 1921 [*]

Pleasant. Up at 8 -- felt punk all day. Eats, bit cooking, etc. & on couch most of AM. Missed [trolley] car and next one late so late everywhere. High School -- on couch until 5 & desk in eve. Home 9:30 & bed quick as I could get there.

[*] Tomorrow is going to be Nina's 44th birthday, and I hope she'll be more perky than punky. Following is a flashback from her entry of her birthday in 1920, which I include because so few of her gifts are items that we would consider to be suitable birthday presents nowadays. Let's see what tomorrow brings to her. Meanwhile: "Thursday, April 8, 1920 . . . a nice day for the 43rd. . . . Aunts down early & brot a beautiful cake with grapes of cherries & lovely green leaves, some money & a stamp book. . . . Children up with gifts. Jr., crabmeat; Arthur, pineapple (sliced); and Barbara, a dozen eggs. . . . Mabel gave me a \$2.50 gold piece & George, 2 lbs. of candy."

Friday, April 8, 1921

My 44th Misty & showery all day, began to rain hard just as I got in the house at night. Not cold. Up 6:30, usual things to do. Aunt Sarah in with a box of choc's & plants that Barbara brot up: a geranium from Arthur and a heliotrope from Barbara. Jr. up later with a basket full: 2 cakes of soap from him, 2 lbs. of candy from George, brown silk stockings and coverall for dress from Mabel & some oranges & grapefruit. Aunt Sue down with \$2 from Aunt G. Two bucks, coffee, cocoa, and chocolate spread from herself. Off at 8:20. Wore new brown crepe-de-chine [dress]. Much admired. Busy all day. Nicky sick so did registration, also high school, floor & desk. Left at 5:30 -- met Marion Buttrick at Scollay Sq., had a good dinner at Marston's, and went to the Tremont to see "Call the Doctor" -- comedy, quite good. [*] Home 11:30 or so & read paper & light out at 12:30.

[*] "Call the Doctor" was a 1920 stage play starring Janet Beecher, a doctor who faints at the sight of blood and practices as a "doctor of domestic difficulties." She saves a marriage in trouble, and in the course of so doing, she gets a husband for herself. The performance attended by Nina and Marion was the next-to-last of the play's three-week run in Boston. The Tremont Theatre, built in 1889, faced Boston Common. It became a movie house under the same name. In 1947 it was extensively remodeled and renamed the Astor -- one of Boston's better-known first-run movie theatres. Today the Loews multiplex cinema occupies the site.

Jr.'s 13th birthday
Saturday, April 9, 1921

Pouring but warm. Forsythia still lovely. Up 6:30 or so -- light eats, no fire to build. Gave Jr. \$2 and a Sawyer necktie & he seemed quite pleased. Library 9 - 1, registration & floor. In town & lunched at the Georgian -- had hair & nails done, few errands & home. Poured when I got here (had cleared at noon) so taxied home, changed dress & taxied to Belmont Library. [Unreadable] for us Edna's, so Miss Leonard & Rachel & then Herbert came for us, so up to beans & in eve Ma, Pa & I to the [Belmont Town] Hall. La went early & Herbert drove us down. [Belmont] Woman's Club gave a pageant of Belmont & it was mighty good. [*] Aunt Elizabeth there so had quite a _long_ talk with her. Also saw Sammy & wife later. Back with La for night & talked until nearly 12 & then _bed_.

[*] The pageant involved 250 participants in seven episodes of tableaux vivants and dances depicting the history of Belmont from Native American days ("Chieftainess" Squaw Sachem being a personage shared in the histories of Belmont, Arlington, and Winchester), to the "Dance of the Tornado of 1851," to America welcoming the Nations to her land with Progress welcoming them to Belmont. Immigrant groups represented were English, Irish, Swedish, Russian, French, Italian, Dutch, "Scotch" (Scottish), and Spanish. It seems odd that Germans were omitted, but then World War I still was fresh in people's minds. What's amusing as a product of its time is that the ladies running the pageant thought to express the diversity of the different national groups in dance, but almost all of the participants seem to have been from the elite Yankee Protestant stock that then predominated at the Belmont Woman's Club.

Sunday, April 10, 1921

Clear & fine early, colder & cloudy & showers in PM. Slept great & woke about nine after everyone else had eaten. Talked, etc. all of AM. Edna up to dinner which was mighty nice, as usual: beef, lots of vegetables, etc. Walk in PM -- caught in rain. La & I to Edna's to supper & Charlie McCormack there & had such a nice time. They had 60 little downy chickens in the cellar. Home at 9 in taxi & bed quite soon. A fine week-end.

Response to query about meals:

It depends on the day of the week. Today's date entry in 1921 is for a Sunday, so the morning, midday, and evening meals would have been breakfast, dinner, and supper. On other days of the

week, using the "Household Department" of the Boston Globe as good indicator of local usage (or what was being suggested by "tastemakers" as desirable usage), the meals would be breakfast, luncheon, and dinner. Etiquette doyenne Emily Post thought that "luncheon" in everyday use was pretentious and its use became more restricted. And lots of people paid no attention to what the Boston Globe editors used and ate their supper when they got home from work in the evening. The above said, Nina's own usage tends to almost always refer to the evening meal as supper, except that she calls it "lunch" when she packs a meal to eat at work -- no matter whether it's her midday or her evening meal. Another exception would be if Nina goes to a restaurant for an evening meal, in which case she calls it "dinner." In my home (born and reared here) the meals were breakfast, lunch, and supper and the only time it was dinner was Sunday midday. A supper party was distinct from a dinner party by the relative formality and types of food served. In general, the usage of "supper" as the name of a meal has been in steep decline for generations. Except when there's a revival of the musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," and Snoopy sings "Suppertime."

Monday, April 11, 1921

Snowstorm. Much colder & blowy & some light snow. Up 7:30, washed some clothes, kitchen floor, dusted & busy most of AM. At aunts to telephone. Usual rush with lunch & off by 12:20. High School & then Central [library] and on floor awhile helping out & desk 6 - 9. Felt better & not very tired. Home 9:30 & to bed.

Tuesday, April 12, 1921

Pleasant, cold, warmer by night. Up 6:30 & had time to iron some. Off 8:20. Floor I 9 - 11 & also did registration, as Miss Bunker didn't show up. High School 11:45 - 1. Boys up with 25 books to exchange & then worked on books going to Union (Square Branch). Floor 5 - 6, not busy. Home 6:30; first early time for a week and good to have it so much lighter. Found Aunt Mame here; first time I'd seen her since last fall. Had a nice supper with Aunt Sarah & had a good long evening talk. Mended some. Couldn't make her stay & she left for home at 9:30. Read a bit & bed about 11.

Wednesday, April 13, 1921

Pleasant, warmer. Up 6:30. Eats, fire, ironed quite a bit & off on 8:45 car. Wednesday morning [staff] meeting. High School -- worked on transfer of books & in Children's Room 5 - 6. Up with Marion Meserve. Home 6:30. Supper & wrote here & read -- quite tired. Had some beautiful mayflowers from Bessie Boardley [in] Mashpee. Bath & bed by 10.

Thursday, April 14, 1921

Quite pleasant - warm. Up about 7. Eats, very small, wash, brushed rooms & dusted downstairs, worked in garden for nearly an hour -- at aunts a few moments. Florence Harris there -- [she] goes to Washington tomorrow for a week. Library 1 - 9. High School 1 - 3, children's room 3 - 5 & desk 6 - 9. Just missed cars so home at 9:50 & bed very quickly. Good not to have fires to bother with.

Friday, April 15, 1921 [*]

Regular April weather -- poured at times and then sun would shine for a bit. Up 6:40, fire, eats, lunch & off at 8:15. Library 9 - 6. Worked on transfer of books until 11:30, lunch, High School 1 - 2:30, floor 3 - 5 & books again until 6. Home 6:30, but rained so hard I waited in Hardy's [bakery and catering establishment] until 6:45. Supper, wrote here, fixed accounts, read a bit, bath & bed early. Rang Miss Hooper of Brookline about a position but don't think I want to go after all.

[*] Flashback to April 15, 1919: A strike by New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. operators and electrical workers began at 7 a.m. on this date. As Arlington did not get dial telephone service until 1955, self-service connections were not possible. During the strike, only local emergency calls (physician, police, and fire) were placed by the chief operator of the Arlington exchange (then located on Medford Street, a building that is part of Fidelity House today). Arlington was described as "practically cut off" at night (when there was no telephone service whatsoever), because the nearest telegraph office was located in Harvard Square. The strike ended at 7 a.m. on April 21, 1919. In the language of the era, the "girl operators" received a pay increase from \$16 per week to \$19 per week (this pay point was based on seven years of service). The deal for the "men" -- which referred to the electrical workers--was an increase of 50 cents per day in Metropolitan Boston, and 62-1/2 cents per day in the outlying region.

Saturday, April 16, 1921

Cloudy & some rain early -- quite clear by one & heavy fog by 5:30 [p.m.] & on. Up 6:15 or so. Eats & finished packing box. Off at 8:20 & to cemetery with a pot of hyacinths for Papa.

[*] Missed [trolley] car & next one slow. Registration & the floor until 1 & desk 1:30. In town. Lunch & a few errands & to South Station by 3:30 -- read & La came soon after 4 & we left at 4:30, express most of the way. More errands, etc. at Sandwich & over with Mark Ellis as Bessie didn't understand the time. Cold & a driving mist so the sedan was very comfortable & arrived about 7:45. House not damp & quite clean -- started fire. Lewis & Ilene over with some [baked] beans & brownbread & they were _fine_. Used oil heater upstairs & dried out bedding by it & bed soon after 10. No one in any of the other three houses. [**]

[*] A memorial anniversary. Nina's father died on April 17, 1907.

[**] The Winns have a summer house on the west shore of Mashpee Pond on Cape Cod, with cottages owned by neighbors fairly close by theirs.

Sunday, April 17, 1921 [Mashpee]

Woke to hear it pounding and blowing, so stayed abed reading and sleeping until 11 when we both got up. Oil heater good upstairs & hugged the kitchen stove all day. Finished breakfast at one -- & then read & talked. Brightened about 4:30 so out in Oakley's pasture and found some fine mayflowers -- very pink in spots. Poured again just after we got in. Read in eve & talked until 11 & then bed. Didn't see anyone -- too wet to go to Sturgis's or downtown & houses near all empty.

Monday, April 18, 1921 [Mashpee]

Cold & pouring most all day. Just a mist in PM so La & I walked to John's Pond -- good walk & found some fine flowers -- [we were] some wet when we got back. Up about 8:30. Eats, brushed up rooms, read & talked. Poured in torrents -- east -- all the morning. Sawed some wood & just in again & Etta & Al Hill & her friends Maria & husband came to call -- drove down from Brant Rock. & thot they might find George. Walk after they went -- into dry things & over to see Grandma Sturgis & Gussie & wife & boy. Back at 8 -- supper -- more beans & salad, last of both. Bed by 10. _Very_ _cold_ & hugged the kitchen stove.

Tuesday, April 19, 1921

Cold, cloudy & windy, but not much rain. Sun out for awhile at noon & moonlight when I went to bed. Up about 9. Eats & brushed up some & packed things away. Got banged up some more, wood in barn, some bits. Children up from Sturgis's. La & I opposite Mrs. Hammond's found loads of beautiful flowers. Saw Bessie a moment, lunch & in woods a bit & over to say goodbye to Grandma & then had to hustle into clothes & Bessie drove us over -- only a few moments to spare. Train not crowded. Boston at 7 & had a nice dinner at the DeLuxe -- home by 9 00 -- left some flowers at George's & home by 9:30. Unpacked, put flowers in water, bed & read some.

Wednesday, April 20, 1921

Clear & glorious and much warmer -- now that we are home again [from vacation at Mashpee]. Up 6:30. Eats, etc. -- carried flowers to aunts & gave Aunt Sarah some. Went to Edith Rice's and carried a bunch to library. Library 9 - 6. Staff meeting. Miss Eames & I to Union Square & had a very poor lunch with Miss Worthen & Miss Stack. Back to High School, then had the floor an hour & desk 4 - 6 & tired by then. Home 6:30, supper, wrote here, read some & to bed early.

Thursday, April 21, 1921

Pleasant & warmer towards night. Tired, so read until 7:30. Some washing [*] etc. & worked in garden quite a lot, few moments' rest, lunch & off at 12:20. Man on 12:30 [trolley car] didn't stop for me, so late everywhere. High School & then worked on school library books until 5. Desk 6 - 9 -- not very busy. Marion Meserve at Desk II, so up [to Arlington] together. Had sodas at Blake's. Vida [Damon] there. Home soon after 10. Not so tired as last night and read a little in bed.

[*] As a single person, Nina presumably uses a washtub and scrubbing board to do her laundry. She doesn't have electricity, so owning a washing machine was not an option; indeed, it would have been a luxury. But if Nina had a larger household she might have taken advantage of "wet wash service" that picked up laundry, washed it, and returned it still wet to be hung to dry by the customer (as opposed to "finish work" which was wash-dry-iron service). Here's the next from a display ad in the Arlington Advocate in April 1921: CLOTHES LAUNDERED WITHOUT ABUSE The new management of the Arlington Wet Wash Co. wishes to announce a decided

improvement in the process and service to be rendered to customers in the future. Improved Machinery -- Years of Experience Sanitary Methods -- A Checking System That Guarantees Every Piece Returned. Clean, sweet clothes, ready to hang on the line. We save you time, worry, labor and money. Try one bundle and be convinced. PHONE ARLINGTON 2020 ~ PROMPT DELIVERY Our Solicitor will call and explain our process and reasonable prices. WORKS -- 42 DUDLEY ST., ARLINGTON

Friday, April 22, 1921

Warm & showers early -- clearing & cold again. Up 6:30. Eats -- had my first asparagus for breakfast. Off by 8:15, paid a bill, down with Marion Meserve. Floor I 9 - 11:30. High School until one, lunch, a conference with Miss Whipple -- usual round & not a thing to get hold of -- no results. Floor 4 - 6, up [to Arlington] with M.N. [Myrtle Nicholson] & M.M. [Marion Meserve]. Home 6:40 & started fireplace, gas stove & wood fire in front room (sounds like H.P. Smith)

[*] Nice letter from Edith Hayes. Wrote here & to M. & N. Dean. [*] Nina's handwriting is indistinct here. At first glance it looks as if she wrote "Hop Smith;" however, on closer look there's a period after the letter "p," which suggests a pair of initials, possibly forming H. & P. Smith. Can any knowledgeable readers make sense out of this comparison by Nina? A literary or popular-culture reference, perhaps?

Saturday, April 23, 1921

Stormy -- poured about all day. Regular holiday weather. Up at 7 -- eats, lamps, & so damp had to build a fire. Ironed some & off by 9:25. In town with Maizie Simpson Patterson. Had hair & nails done at Miss Ferguson's, lunch & a few quick errands & out just after one to library 1 - 9 for a change. Poured, so not many [patrons] in. Marion Meserve & I up together. Squared accounts & read in bed until 11.

Sunday, April 24, 1921 [*]

Daylight Saving begins -- Darn it Cool. Poured about all day, but cleared about 6 (new time). Slept until 9 yesterday time, up & eats & brushed up some, closet, etc. Read paper -- dinner about 2:30 & a nap & read in PM. Children in during day. _hang_this_pen_ [**]. Jr. cut part of grass yesterday, so [I] engaged him for as long as he will stick to it.

[*] This was a red-letter day for Calvary Methodist Church, which had held worship services at the G.A.R. Hall (today's American Legion building) for the prior five years and whose church building was nearing completion at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Linwood St. It was announced that a "real Bulfinch belfry" was to be donated by the owner of the former Van Norstrand Brewery in Charlestown, which was adorned by the belfry for the 33 years (after its first "home" was demolished). The belfry originally was atop the Boylston Market in Boston. That building was designed by Charles Bulfinch in 1809. Bulfinch also was the architect of the Massachusetts State House, among other famous buildings. The Calvary Methodist Church building was designed by Boston architects James H. MacNaughton and William J. Perry. Perry went on to national fame as

the architect of the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg. Perry & MacNaughton patterned Calvary very closely after the exterior of King's Chapel in Boston (something that is difficult to appreciate in a building built of wood, given the iconic presence of King's Chapel built of stone). In 1921 it was erroneously publicized that Bulfinch had designed the columned portico of King's Chapel in 1785 and that he contemplated adding a belfry, which never was carried out. While it was true that there had been plans for a belfry, this was before Bulfinch's time, and the only reliable information about Bulfinch and the architecture of King's Chapel is that he made detailed sketches of the existing colonnade, prior to traveling to Europe to study architecture. Nonetheless, it was this apocryphal story of Bulfinch and King's Chapel that led the architects of Calvary Methodist Church to design a structure to resemble the "complete" King's Chapel as supposedly Bulfinch had envisioned it. No matter the lack of a Bulfinch architectural connection to King's Chapel, a bona fide Bulfinch relic of great integrity and significance remains an ornament sitting high above Arlington today.

[**] Nina writes "hang this pen" because it was writing unevenly and starting to leak yesterday, before giving up the ghost today. For the next few days' entries, Nina switches to pencil.

Monday, April 25, 1921

Wet early but pleasant awhile. Up at 7:20, fire, washed, etc., worked in garden for half an hour -- at aunts a few moments & usual rush to get off at last. High School 1 - 3 & on floor some, desk 6 - 9 & quite busy. Home 9:45 & bed very soon.

Tuesday, April 26, 1921

Quite pleasant. Up 6:45 Eats, quite warm so no fires needed. Library 9 - 6. Registration, then library, eats worked on Union [Square Branch Library] books in PM. M. Meserve & I up together. Supper over by 7 & went to ride with Marian Buttrick. [*] Barbara & Arthur -- delivering taxes and then Marian in until 9. Bed soon after -- read a bit. [*] Speaking of driving on the roads of Arlington, this week in 1921 Arlington created its first one-way street: the section of Grove Street between Dudley and Summer streets heading towards Summer Street. It's generally thought "once a one-way street, always a one-way street," and while many other one-way streets have been created since then, this section of Grove Street as a one-way did not endure. It came about because of increased traffic on Summer Street, using the street as a cut-through to Mass. Ave. Between the high volume of traffic generated by the plant of the Arlington Gas Light Co., and the narrowness of the railroad underpass, it was felt urgent to impose a one-way restriction. In 1921 there was not yet today's Route 2, and not even Gray Street extended past Lincoln St., so the traffic volume on the principal east-west streets was rapidly exceeding reasonable travel capacity.

Wednesday, April 27, 1921

Cloudy and misty all day. Up 6:40 Kitchen fire -- damp. Eats, etc. & washed a waist. Off at 8:20 & down with M. Meserve and Florence Moore. Quite an exciting day as Jessie Bennett cornered me & told me about Miss Perrine [*] asking girls in "cat" [the library's cataloging department] if they wanted to make some money. J.B. & Bunny went in town with her last night. Wildcat scheme to

sell copper etc. but Jessie was up in stacks so 0 [nothing] doing. Had a talk with Mr. Evans [head librarian] in PM & quite worked him up. Book meeting AM. Early lunch. High School. Gladys & I to a sale at the Home for the Aged. Mr. Evans showed me about varnishing books. Up with M. Meserve, drizzling rain. Eats & read. Arthur in awhile in eve.

[*] Mrs. Edna C. Perrine was employed at Somerville Public Library "for a few months [as] chief cataloguer" in 1921. I get the idea that her employment at the library might have been shortened because of her dubious outside-of-work antics into which she was drawing library staff.

Thursday, April 28, 1921

Foggy and mean all of AM, but cleared beautifully in PM. Up soon after 7. Had a little washing to do, made pie-crust and a rhubarb pie & some sauce. Rested a very little & some weary. Off for 12:30 [trolley] car & down with Marion Meserve. High School, floor, etc. & desk 6 - 9. M[arion] M[eserve] Desk II, so up together & had strawberry sundaes at Blake's. Home about 10.

Friday, April 29, 1921

More showers, fog, etc. Up 6:45 when whistle woke me. [The regularly scheduled morning test blow of the fire alarm, then located in the old town hall.] Usual rush & off 8:15. Library 9 - 6. Floor I, then High School, varnished some books in PM, not very successful [varnish] too thin & bubbles. Helped do odds & ends. Supper at Blake's, light but quite good. To [Robbins] library with Edith Rice & stayed until 7:40. Met Marion Meserve & to the movies to see "Nomads of the North" -- very good. [*] A baby bear & puppy were the star performers -- rest also good. Had sodas at Blake's and home 10:30 & bed. Rained all the evening. Aunt Sarah out as _usual_.

[*] This film was playing on Friday and Saturday at the Regent Theatre (the programs changed frequently in the pre-television era). The main feature was preceded by a Fox News newsreel, a Sunshine Comedy short feature, and cartoons. As for the "Nomads of the North" here's a Wikipedia page on it: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nomads_of_the_North

Saturday, April 30, 1921 [*]

Rain and more rain -- heavy April showers. Everything nice and green but too wet to work in garden or clean or anything. Up 6:40. So damp [that I] started a kitchen fire. Eats, etc. Off by 8:15. Registration & then on floor -- not busy _there_. Arlington by 1:45, various errands & home 2:30. Some eats & read, mended & wrote here. Had planned to dig garden but poured all of PM. Aunt Sarah out (as usual), so good chance to rest. Going to doctor's in eve but too wet so read some more, wrote to Cousin Libby, hot bath & bed 10:30. Poured hard all day.

[*] April 30, 1921 was "Button Day" in Arlington for the American Committee for Relief in Ireland, a humanitarian organization providing food, clothing, and medical supplies destined for the many thousands who were starving during the years of hard conflict during Ireland's fight to secede from the United Kingdom and become a wholly independent nation. A group of Arlington women canvassed the town selling lapel buttons to raise funds. John A. Bishop was the local treasurer of

the Relief Committee, and general donations could be sent to him at the Menotomy Trust Company, a local bank of which he was the treasurer. Bishop (b. 1878 - d. 1944) was a member of the Arlington School Committee in 1921. His long and distinguished service on that body led to naming the Bishop elementary school in his memory.

Sunday, May 1, 1921

Poured in torrents all the morning -- cleared & fine late in PM & the sun certainly looked good. Didn't wake for keeps until 9:30 & then read for a bit. Breakfast at 11, made a citron cake, read awhile, up with milk for farm cat & 2 cute kittens. Children in during day. Dinner about 3, some fine salmon. Rested & red. Mabel at Aunt Sarah's & in there awhile & Laurel Toult down for awhile. Out with a letter [to mail *]. Richard [Deshon] hailed me so in for a while [to his home at 5 Academy St.] & then up to Winns' [at 50 Academy St.] -- hadn't seen Amy since Denver -- [she] looked thin & quite pale but say she's fine tho' tired. Home at 10 & bed.

[*] Mail was not delivered on Sundays; however, there were pick-ups Sundays in Arlington at 2:00 p.m and 6:00 p.m., at the mailbox outside the main post office (which in 1921 was located where Mr. Sushi restaurant is today).

Monday, May 2, 1921

Didn't _rest_ very well so not up until 8. Breakfast, dishes, lamps & to aunts to telephone that I would not be at library -- also rung La. Very small wash & then swept & dusted rooms & seemed good to do it & not look at clock, but I was all-in and achy, so on sofa for 2 hours in PM: sleeping some & bath & seemed good to have time for it by daylight & not to hurry. Worked in garden awhile & then La came. Talked & up to feed kits [kittens] & supper & hustled her off as I went to the doctor's. Quite a wait. No more pills, [Dr. Percy] said [blood] pressure was better & heart fine -- no heavy meat for summer. [*] Home by mill -- 9 PM. Jr. up and did grass again in AM. Family all to Mashpee in PM -- left cat at home & I boarded dog.

[*] It's a wonder that Dr. Percy didn't recommend that Nina take up bowling. Following is the text of a display ad for the Arlington Bowling Alleys that appeared in the Arlington Advocate in May 1921. The newly renovated alleys (described elsewhere in the Advocate as being "in the pink of condition") occupied the building that still stands today as VFW Post 1775, adjacent to the Cambridge Savings Bank branch in Arlington Center. "RESERVED FOR LADIES Screened Section for Lady Bowlers ARLINGTON BOWLING ALLEYS Eight Alleys C. A. LeBreque, Proprietor at R.R. Crossing Fine Sport ~ Cures Indigestion Mr. LeBreque will give instructions as to bowling whenever desired. "

Sunday, May 3, 1921

Pleasant, not very warm. Up 6:40, fire in kitchen, eats, etc. & off 8:15 -- paid [news] paper bill. Down with Marion Meserve & Miss Payn-Sills. Registration 9 - 12 & floor 12 - 1. Lunch & various things in PM. Floor 5 - 6. Mrs. Smart of Winchester telephoned me in PM and said Jessie Burnett's friend Bill Kenney died Sunday -- was run into by an auto at Devens on his bicycle last

Thursday. Jessie is prostrated, poor girl, we all feel so sorry for her. Up with Marion M. & at home by 6:40 -- salad & berries & then up for asparagus & fed the mother cat & 2 kittens: all came running across the floor to me, ready for eats. Read, wrote here & up to bed at 9.

Wednesday, May 4, 1921

Cloudy & cold. Up 6:45. Had to build kitchen fire -- house damp & cold. Eats, etc. & off by 8:15. Library 9 - 6. No book meeting. Floor I 4 - 6. Up with M.M. [Marion Meserve]. Had supper with Aunt Sarah. Susie D., Charles & Mame there & they played cards in eve. Up to feed cat & kittens & telephoned Jennie Frost & to La & talked a bit with Aunt Sue. Said Aunt Georgianna didn't feel well and had gone to bed -- her mind not clear during day. Read and to bed about 9:30.

Thursday, May 5, 1921

Cloudy, very cold & showers in PM. Up at 6:45. Eats, washed, etc. J. Frost here with a ticket for Radcliffe entertainment. Mike down early for Aunt Sarah, as Aunt G. was much worse & Aunt Sue up all night with her. Miss Luard here by 9 & took one of Jr.'s kittens (living in wash-house) [*] for Miss Ridley -- 6 weeks [old] & a darling. Postman took the other later on. In garden awhile & _no_ rest. Library 1 - 9. Worked on school-list in PM, condensing records & writing in book. Desk 6 - 9 [and back to Arlington] with M. Meserve. House 9:30 and to bed quite soon. George's cat up to be fed & petted in AM & again after I got home at night & stayed all night.

[*] The wash-house refers to the building on the Winn farm where produce would be washed before being taken to market. Of course, during harvest time it would be a busy place, but in spring, it was quiet-- thus attractive for a cat to stash her kittens.

Friday, May 6, 1921

Pleasant, cold & a few showers during day -- I think. Rain at Mashpee. Up 6:40. Fire, eats and ironed some and off at 8:30, late [trolley] car but made it up at noon. Worked a school-list all of A.M., floor 1- 3 & then varnished rest of the Union Square [branch] books & very tired from standing. Up [to Arlington] on the 6:15 car -- happened to meet La & Herbert at centre & he brot us over. La to supper & we went to the Radcliffe fund entertainment [at Arlington Town Hall auditorium] with Ruth Draper [*] monologist & very clever -- good audience. Sat with Agnes. Home soon after 10 & to bed. Aunt Georgianna worse -- head. Dr. Percy says it is hardening of the arteries and is gradually affecting her brain. Poor Aunt G. -- of all people. Can't leave her as she wants to get out of bed and isn't able. Mrs. Price there with them.

[*] Ruth Draper (1884-1956) was a formidable talent whose legacy continues to be celebrated on stages in the English-speaking world. In fact, just a few weeks ago -- on March 20, 2019 -- Draper's recordings were among those inducted into the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress. For Draper, 1921 was a pivotal year. Although she had already made her Broadway debut as an actress, in 1921 her lasting fame as a performer of character-driven monologues really took off. Soon Draper would be in constant demand on stages vastly more prestigious than that of Arlington's town hall, so Nina was luckier than she knew to have been in that audience.

Unfortunately, very little of Draper's material is available for a quick listen on YouTube. And the audio samples on the Library of Congress's Twitter and Facebook accounts barely scratch the surface (pardon the pun) of her records. I was introduced to the work of Ruth Draper in 1992 when Jean Stapleton appeared in Boston in a one-woman, two-act show that combined Draper's monologue "The Italian Lesson," and the second-act was recreating a Julia Child television episode. Stapleton was brilliant (some critics disagreed with me), but of course, Stapleton could only offer an homage to Draper herself. Here's an excellent website about Draper:

<https://www.ruthdraper.com/>

Saturday, May 7, 1921

Aunt Georgianna very sick. Pleasant (quite) still cold, not nearly so nice as March. Up 6:30, eats, etc. La awake but not dressed when I left at 8:15. Library 9 - 1. Registration & an hour on floor & so tired and sleepy and achy. In town -- lunch & tried to shop but no success; had hair & nails done & out home & did some errands. Bot pot of yellow daisies to carry to the cemetery: 28 years today since [Nina's brother] Arthur died. Called at Beattie's but both away. Up to aunts & stayed with Aunt Georgianna while Aunt Sue & Mrs. Price had supper. Poor Aunt G. is out of her head most of the time, and very thin but strong & heart good. [She] sees cats and queer things & waves her arms about, eyes wide open and no signs of sleep. Aunt Sue out on errands & I came home when Aunt Sarah came. Had supper, wrote here. George & Jr. in -- just back from Mashpee. Jr. had some wonderful violets & Arthur up about 9 with a trout. Up to bed by 9:30 -- too tired to even wash my _face_.

Sunday, May 8, 1921

Mother's Day Clear & glorious but quite cold. Woke at 8:30 or so but read an hour & then up. Still tired so didn't do much of anything & had a chicken to boil. Trout for breakfast (at 11), at aunts & read a bit. Aunt G. asleep: a nurse came last night so others had a chance to sleep. Read in PM, a salad about 3 & some berries. Old Maggie Farrington to see Aunt Sarah, but she had gone to Brookline to Hal Daniels, so I had to entertain her for 1-1/2 hours. Up to aunts again about 7 & stayed with Aunt G. while others ate. (Nurse a queer duck.) George in to see her. Home 8:30 & had a piece of toast & wrote to Cousins Lib & Jim. Bath & bed about 10. It is horrid to be _so_ tired all the time.

Monday, May 9, 1921

Cloudy most of the time & cold. Tired but up at 6:45. Eats, fire & washed & then tackled my room & washed all small ornaments & pictures, took everything from closet, cleaned bureau drawers & in PM Maggie came up & gave it a fine clearing & everything looked so nice when I came back at ten-- bed all made & everything shining. Library 1 - 9. High School & then varnished, worked on figures, etc. & desk in eve. Nicky on her vacation & Miss Whipple back from hers. Bed soon after 10

Tuesday, May 10, 1921

Pleasant -- cool. Up 6:40. Usual things about the house & rush off at 8:15 -- called at Russell Terrace for rent -- house looks fine -- Mr. Beattie has painted, etc. & done a lot & it only cost me \$17.00 (paid \$10.00 last month) -- a very pleasant surprise. Library 9:10. Had registration, then at High School from 12-1, lunch & varnished a lot of books in PM -- look much better than at first, smooth and nice. Home 6:45. Up with Marion Meserve. Supper & to aunts with some ice cream. Mabel back with me & in while I ironed a waist. Read awhile, bath & bed 10:30. Still tired but legs not quite so bad as yesterday.

From Malcolm: Varnishing books refers to covering the call number label or (more frequently) the lettering and numbers written on the spine of the book. Varnishing (with a special varnish!) covered the call number so that it wouldn't be worn off with use. Some library conservators today lament this necessary practice because of the permanent damage it did to the books. Finding methods of permanently adhering call numbers to the books was a problem for librarians for years. Many libraries also wrote the call number on the back of the cover and on a certain page in the book so that if the call number fell off or the binding was destroyed, you could still find the call number. Among the thousands of brittle books we owned at the Andover-Harvard Theological Library were several with no call number left on the spines and titles pages that had disintegrated. But on page 7 the call number had been written, so we could identify the text for digitizing.

Response to queries:

@ Malcolm: Thank you for the "insider's look" at the purpose of varnish in some library collections -- and the unfortunate long-term effects you witnessed from the practice. In such a specialized library, which intended to keep much of its collection indefinitely, varnishing certainly was a practice with more severe consequences than at public libraries, which eventually discarded most of its collection over time. Even in relatively recent years, there have been errors in the care and storage of books. Twenty-five years ago, the Local History Room at Robbins Library was fitted with beautiful new oak shelving. Oops! That's a terrible surface on which to place books intended to be kept indefinitely (because oak is arguably the worst wood for emitting acids), so a decade later the shelves were lined with mylar. It's not as pretty as the interior architects envisioned, but conservation must win over style.

@ Linda: In addition to Malcolm's expert explanation for the once-universal practice of using varnish for the call numbers, liquid varnish would be applied to the entire covers of many public library books to protect them. This protection offered water-repellancy, and to a degree saved the covers from scuffs and made the covers easier to clean. Public libraries routinely covered their books with buckram (a coarse cotton cloth) and if the buckram was varnished, the libraries could enliven their shelves by using lighter colors of the fabric, as varnish gave it a washable surface. Previously, they would choose black, brown, dark green, etc., because the cover would "hide the dirt" better. In 1921, Barco library varnish was a national brand that was produced in Norwood, Mass. Its manufacturer, the Holliston Mills, went so far as to claim that Barco was "fine for children's library books -- it makes the bindings antiseptic." Nina doesn't tell us what books

she's varnishing, but we know that her job title now is "Librarian for School [Library] Deposits" -- students definitely were a group of library-book users whose books would be varnished to help save the volumes from presumably rougher-than-average handling.

@ Peter: "Had registration" meant that Nina spent part of her day in book registration -- what we would call the circulation desk today. Nina has a "vertically integrated" role at Somerville Public Library, which sees her assigned to the reference desk to assist patrons one hour and in the next hour she's wielding a varnish brush in a workroom.

Wednesday, May 11, 1921

Clear & fine -- but cold. 38 degrees and a frost Mike said. Up 6:45, fire, etc., eats and off by 8:20. Down with M.M. [Marion Meserve] & Miss Payn-Sills. Library 9 - 1. Dorothy Spear & I did registration, also had a book meeting. In town, paid Chandler bill [for] brown crepe dress. Lunched at Huyler's, bot a lb. of Bailey's [a pound of candy] & met La at the Schubert [sic -- Shubert Theatre] at two. Faversham in "The Prince and the Pauper" [*] & mighty good. Walked thru Public Gardens [sic -- Garden] & home at 6 -- got a basket of yellow pansies & set them out in the evening & did some ironing. Mabel in & both [of us] to the aunts for awhile. Aunt G. had a good night and looked much better; didn't talk so much. Home & wrote here & read a bit in bed after 9. Not nearly so tired.

[*] Following is a link to a wonderful advertising image of this production of "The Prince and the Pauper," with actor-director William Faversham. The production was a Broadway revival of the play in November 1920. After its Broadway run, the original cast went on tour. The play had a ten-day run in Boston in May 1921, then went to Hartford.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Prince_and_the_Pauper#/media/File:Prince-and-Pauper-Faversham-Findlay.jpg

May 12, 1921 [*]

Clear & fine, rather cool. Up at 7. Eats, washed out place in shed & men put stove out later. Had quite a large washing, swept & dusted living rooms, rested just a few moments & quite tired when I left at 12:15. High School, had some books to fix for exchange & desk in eve. Marion Meserve [assigned to] Desk II, so we had strawberry sundae at Blake's at 9:45. Missed cars all along the line. Bed soon after 10. Aunt Georgianna had a good night.

[*] This date was, by proclamation of President Warren G. Harding, the first National Hospital Day in the United States. May 12, 1921 was the 101st anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. In Arlington, Symmes Hospital held a well-attended open house. Barely known today was Arlington's other general hospital, the privately owned Young's Hospital, which stood at 788 Mass. Ave. The site is now the "Rev. Laurence Barber Grove" of white pine trees, to the right of the Jason Russell House. In 1898, Dr. Roy Demas Young, a Harvard graduate who had earned his medical degree that year from Colombia University, opened his practice in Arlington, which included two beds for overnight care. This "hospital" set-up was on top floor of his home and office at 42 Pleasant St. (this half of a double-house is today the location of the Arlington Chiropractic

practice). In 1901 Dr. Young built a large home at 788 Mass. Ave. to expand private hospital facilities for his surgical and medical patients. He later began to offer admission to the patients of other physicians, and established Young's Hospital as a legal entity in 1910 (Symmes Hospital would not admit its first patient until 1912). The hospital expanded to include obstetrical cases and, although a for-profit institution, it offered free beds to a limited number of inpatients. Dr. Young's wife, Georgia E. Young, R.N., was the hospital superintendent, and Fannie Robbins was the supervisor of nursing. Young's Hospital had seven private rooms and one four-bed ward in 1921. This is from a front-page display ad in the Arlington Advocate of May 6, 1921: "Come and see our ideal accommodations for the sick and our especially convenient service for accidents and emergencies. Do not forget our long-established successful [nurses'] training school. You need us; we are here to serve you in the future as in the past. Remember the day: May 12, 1921 -- First Annual Hospital Day!" Young's Hospital ceased operation by 1930 and Dr. Young later moved to 374 Massachusetts Ave., where he remained in medical practice for many years. In 2019, May 12 marks the start of National Hospital Week.

Friday, May 13, 1921

First [head] cold for months. Rainy, not very cold. Up 6:40, fire and eats, etc. & off 8:15. Down with M. Meserve and E. Hartwell. Registration & then High School in a pouring rain & later a cold developed: either from the stack dust or one of the girls [library co-workers]. Desk & floor 4 - 6. Home 6:45, supper & did quite a lot of ironing. At aunts but not in, on account of cold. Wrote here, hot bath & bed. Aunt Georgianna not so well -- a poor night & Mabel says she looks much worse than when I saw her Wednesday. Nice letter from Coz. Jim.

Saturday, May 14, 1921

[Head] cold fierce, "dripped" and felt "achy" all over. Up 6:45. Usual things & off by 8:15. Registration & in town at eleven with Gladys H. [Hastings], Dorothy Spears & Edith Miller to a book conference at the E & I [*] -- very interesting. Mrs. Cronan of the Boston Public [Library] (the story-teller) spoke. Lunched later: we 4, Abbie Glover, Miss Mayhew, Lucy Harris, Miss Luitweiler & friend of Newton. Back to [Somerville] library by 2:20 & rested a bit, then finished registration, Mr. Barnard [Frank M. Barnard, one of the library trustees] there, so talked about book varnishing & left for home at 4:15. All in, but had to spend _25_ minutes waiting [for trolley car] & home at _5_. Had a few things to do & then on couch until Edith Hayes came about 8:30. She had a cold, too -- a cough. Talked until 10:30. Hadn't seen her since she left Somerville 2 months ago. Up to bed & then talked until nearly 12.

[*] There's an interesting Arlington historical connection to the E & I -- the Women's Educational & Industrial Union, which in 1921 was located at 264 Boylston St., across from the Boston Public Garden, in the block where the Four Seasons Hotel is today located. The link below shows how the building looked in Nina's time. In 1921, the WEIU was headed by Miss Marion Churchill, previously the dean of women at Colorado College. She resided with her parents at 21 Kensington Rd. in Arlington. In 1922 Churchill married William Muller, a prominent real estate developer and civic leader in Arlington. Churchill Avenue in Arlington is named after Marion Churchill. It is a

street in Muller's 1923 "Lockeland" subdivision. <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/item/pencil-and-ink-drawing-weiu-264-boylston-street-boston-ma>

Sunday, May 15, 1921

Felt much better and cold better. Clear & fine & much warmer. Up soon after 9, some weary but so much better than last night -- thought then that I'd be abed for a week. Breakfast ten or so and a nice, long, chatty one, then we both did some washing -- the dishes & about 12 went to the florist's who is just below us and have the Duncan greenhouses. [*] Found such lovely, lovely flowers: every place full & boxes outside; bought some pansies, hardy larkspur, a pink calceolaria [a.k.a. "Pocketbook Plant" or "Lady's Purse"], pink petunia and a bunch of sweet peas for Aunt Georgianna. Up with them when we came back & then set out the pansies & things. Ironed, read -- the paper -- & rested. Aunt Georgianna seemed quite calm & talked with me quite well. Had our dinner at 6 -- salmon, asparagus, cucumber & tomato salad, berries & cake. Read, talked, & embroidered in eve. & up to bed soon after 10.

[*] David Duncan, of whose floral business Nina wrote about often in earlier years, died in 1917. His son, George, took it over and ran it for four years. It was sold in 1921 to Joseph Sztobbe who re-named the business Mystic Greenhouses. It had both wholesale and retail operations. The residence was at 133 Mystic St., catty-corner from Nina's childhood home (in 1921 the home of her brother George and his family) at 146 Mystic St. Number 133 Mystic St. is still standing, but the three large greenhouses to the rear of it are long-gone. They stood on land that today is part of Mount Pleasant Cemetery to the northwest of Mill Brook.

Monday, May 16, 1921

Poured early but cleared by 10. Cool. Up 6:45, eats, etc. about 8. Dishes & lamps & took down pictures & curtains in front chamber, ready for Maggie to clear. E.B.H. [Edith B. Hayes] & I left by 10 -- she for Medford & Framingham, I to Dr. Bailey's & then Somerville. Found I'd forgotten my money & bought a few rolls & cookies & had a light lunch in Somerville & to High School at 1. [Head] cold still with me and felt very tired. Didn't do much in PM. Desk 6 - 9 in eve, quite busy. Home at 9:30 & to bed as soon as I could get there.

Tuesday, May 17, 1921

Pleasant, rather cold. Up soon after 7. Cough had developed during night and kept me awake. A busy morning. Washing, a bit ironing, washed outside of windows in front chamber, cleaned out my last bureau drawer. At aunts a few moments etc., etc. Off at 12:20 car; went early on Medford Hillside [trolley line]. High School 1 - 3, some interchange for High School etc. & desk 6 - 9 in eve -- worked for Nicky. Good luck & home at 9:30 & had a sundae. Too tired to read. Bed & slept fine. Glorious moon.

Wednesday, May 18, 1921

Pleasant, quite warm by noon. Up by 6:45, cough better & not so tired. Eats & off 8:15. Book meeting. Lunch early & High School until 3 & then various things & varnished some books. Home by 6:40 -- supper & ironed some. At aunts for lilacs (nearly some). Didn't speak to Aunt G. as she had such a bad night last night. Talked too much late. Wrote here. Arthur in for a few moments. Bath & read in bed awhile.

Thursday, May 19, 1921 [*]

Clear & fine -- quite cold. Up 6:45 & did quite a lot, fixed fresh flowers, washed lettuce, cut grapefruit, etc. as I expected Marion Meserve to supper, but she was moving to Somerville so could not come. Library 9 - 6. Registration 9 - 12, lunch 12 - 1, High School 1 - 3 & desk 4 - 6. Home 6:30, eats, & up to aunts a few moments & bed early, as I was so tired. Aunt G. about the same.

[*] On this day in 1921 finishing touches were being made on a regulation nine-hole golf course at the Arlmont Golf Club (a.k.a. Bay State-Arlmont Country Club), adjacent to a "short" nine-hole course. The Arlmont Golf Club had an Arlington Heights address and many members lived in Arlington, even though most of its original 119 acres were located in Belmont. (This is similar to the situation of the Winchester Country Club, which lies mostly on the Arlington side of the town line.) The 23- acre section of the Arlmont Golf Club that was on Arlington territory "moved" to Belmont in 1938, when the Arlington-Belmont boundary was relocated to mostly run down the center of the recently built Concord Turnpike (Route 2), the construction of which also nipped-off some of the club's land. Each town gained or lost some territory when the new municipal boundary was rationalized. The Arlmont Golf Club fell into financial difficulties during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Contrary to some local lore, the "Arlmont Village" subdivision of Arlington was not constructed on the site of the former golf course. Standish Road essentially bordered the Arlmont Golf Club. Indian Hill Road bordered what is now the Belmont Country Club. For players or fans of golf, it's amusing to read this May 1921 description of how to play an 18-hole round at Arlmont Golf Club: "A 'new nine' holes course has been laid out under the skillful management of Eugene 'Skip' Wogan and will measure approximately 3,000 yards. It is now playable, and combined with 'old nine,' 16 consecutive holes are in order. [At] present 18 holes can be played by doubling back over numbers 1 and 5 holes, making a yardage for the 18 [holes that's] close to 6,000."

Friday, May 20, 1921

Pleasant, warmer by noon. White frost in morning. Fire in fireplace. Up 6:45. Off 8:15 & library 9 - 6, make out usual schedules in AM & did various things. High School 11:45 to 1, lunch & mended in PM & finished all at hand. Home 6:30. Nicky part way [with me]. Eats. Mrs. Price & Mrs. Everett down to see our gardens & in house awhile. In orchard & found plenty of Stars-of-Bethlehem. Read some, bath & bed early (ish).

Saturday, May 21, 1921

Clear & very warm. 90 degrees -- a wonderful summer day. Woke at 6 but dozed & read until 7. Eats. Jack down & at last took off the storm windows. Off by 9, met Ruth at Harvard Square at 9:25, had been there since 9:10. Others late but just got car at Watertown. Edith Miller & Gladys Hastings. New England School Library Association meeting at Waltham High School with Miss L. _____ [?]. Quite a lot we knew. Miss Bleurchasset [?] - Belmont, Miss Combe from Providence, Miss Kennedy, Betty Reed, Mrs. Spofford [*]. Good meeting. Ruth, Miss Kennedy & I left at 12:30 (lunch time) & in town. Ruth & I ate at Filene's -- good, too. Up for hair & nails & then bot some new corsets at Chandler's & dress goods at Stearns & had a few errands & home 5:30. Ice cream for supper & up with some for Aunt G. Found her quite rational tho Aunt Sue said she had been wandering badly. Read & embroidered & wrote in here in eve & up to bed quite early. Nice breeze.

[*] Mrs. Lucinda Field Spofford was librarian at Attleboro Public Library, but later would spend most of her career in Arlington. She became librarian of Robbins Library in 1928, and retired in 1951. The last major project of many during her tenure was the 1950 development of a proper facility for the East Branch (today's Edith M. Fox Branch) of Robbins Library, which since 1917 had occupied rooms in the basement of the Crosby Elementary School. <
<https://robbinslibrary.wordpress.com/2017/10/26/100-years-of-fox-branch-library-part-two/>>

Sunday, May 22, 1921

Very hot, with a strong south wind; pleasant. Woke 6:30 & so hot read & dozed for about 3 hours. Eats light all day. Made a cake. Children & Mabel in. Read on couch & then upstairs, trying to stay cool. At aunts about 5 for awhile. Aunt G. asleep then-- had a bad night--quieter during day. Bed about 9.

Monday, May 23, 1921 #

Rain & much cooler -- windy. Up soon after 6, eats, etc. & got parlor ready for cleaning. Took out books, all ornaments, & small pictures & had plenty of time so cleaned the closet, too. Wrote to Clara Collins thanking for the beautiful bunch of lilies- of-the-valley & a card to Jennie Frost. Maggie up in PM & cleaned room. Looked fine when I came home from library at 9:50. Put books all back, and then "auntie" [*] came, so to bed. Read a very short time.

[*] "Auntie" is Nina's nickname for her menstrual period. The hashtag on her diary page also indicates when her period starts, whether or not she makes mention of it in her narrative. I repeat this information for readers who might mistake it for aunts Sue, Georgianna, or Sarah Winn.

Monday, May 24, 1921

First big red poppy out this morning -- 8 inches across. Pleasant & cold. Up 6:45. Eats, etc. & off by 8:15. Registration & Gladys & High School for me. Didn't do much in PM so finally came home soon after 4. Up to see Aunt G. -- [she] about the same -- looked worse to me -- sicker and weaker

and mind bad. [Nina] on couch & supper later. Fire in fireplace -- bed early & hot bath & read awhile. Finished "Potterism" [*] Unusual -- never care to read it again.

[*] Today a "Potterism" would relate to what "Potterists" engage in as fanatics of the Harry Potter series of novels. Nina is referring to a 1920 novel "Potterism," by English writer Rose Macaulay.

May 25, 1921

Pleasant early -- raining by noon, cold. Up 6:45. Made muffins, lunch, etc. & off by 8:15. Carried a box of peonies. Book meeting. Whipple conducting [it]. Early lunch & High School 1 - 3, on floor an hour or so & varnished some books -- late AM & late PM. Home 6:30 & have a nice fire in fireplace as I write. House none too warm. Bed 9:30 or so.

May 26, 1921

Pleasant -- quite cool. Wore coat all day at library. Busy with school work early, told to report to Mrs. Perrine if I had any leisure time. (I hadn't.) Early lunch & High [School] 1 - 3 -- found a teacher, Mrs. Bryant [of] West Junior High, with a list of Greek books & took me rest of PM to pick them out for her & how my legs began to ache. Marion Meserve up with me for the night, supper & to movies to see "Black Beauty" [*]. Aunt Mame here but with Aunt Sarah & I didn't know of it until we had had our supper so only saw her for a few moments. Bed soon after we got home.

[*] Following is a links to a preview of this 1921 film on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-szLmVdpO4>

Friday, May 27, 1921 [*]

Pleasant, cool. Up about 7. Had quite a lot of washing to do after breakfast. Called [upstairs to] Marion at 7:30 & she left for library by 8:20. Busy all the morning. Ironed a little. Library 1 - 9. High School, books ready for Western Jr. High & desk in eve. Not at all busy. Up on early [trolley] car & home 9:30 & bed early.

[*] Also on May 27, 1921 at the Park Avenue Congregational Church was the funeral of Florence Dwelley, who had died at her daughter's home in Detroit on May 20. Mrs. Dwelley was a "pioneer" resident of the 1872 real estate development of "Arlington Heights," in which her husband, George, was a business partner. Florence Avenue was named after Mrs. Dwelley

Saturday, May 28, 1921

Clear & nice -- quite hot again by AM. Up 6:45. Usual things. Off by 8:15. Library 9 - 1 on registration & varnished some books. Lunched at Acorn [in Boston] & at Miss Ferguson's by two -- hair & nails done. A few errands and out 4:30. To old Rawson green house [*] but didn't see anything I wanted -- back to centre -- few errands & home. Too weary for supper. Up to see Aunt G. & found her quite rational. [Nina's] Legs ached very much & intended going to Dr.'s but telephoned & found he had gone away. Down to florist's [Mystic Greenhouses?] & they fixed me

two baskets of flowers \$1.25 each. Stayed & talked quite awhile. Bed by 9:30, but legs ached so I couldn't sleep very well.

[*] By 1921 the Rawson family had left the agriculture business a few years earlier, after decades of outstanding success in Arlington (with extensive holdings elsewhere) developing new varieties of produce and flowers, primarily for the sale of seeds. The Rawson Conservatories at 142-144 Warren St. operated as retail florists under a couple of different owners, with a retail storefront at 443 Mass. Ave. The storefront and conservatory parts of the business would soon be separated. The conservatory business was taken over and renamed by G. O. Anderson & Sons (who in 1923 advertised "over 100,000 square feet of glass devoted to flowers"). Anderson's moved operations to the present site of the Mystic Wine Shoppe (adjacent to Stop & Shop). The last section of the former Anderson's greenhouses there was demolished in recent years. Anderson's Florist today is located at 830 Mass. Ave.

May 29

Pleasant in morning -- heavy mist by night & very dark. Up about 9 -- light eats, no cooking, water being used for [irrigating] celery [beds on the Winn farm]. [Walked] up in the woods, found the hills & walking pretty hard & had to fairly force myself along & then only went to brook where I hoped to find buttercup, but none there. Birds were many & several varieties & young trees were wonderful -- everything fresh & nice. Found one wild lily-of-the-valley & climbing honeysuckle. Light lunch & to bed awhile; all in. Marion Buttrick here & drove Aunt Sarah to cemetery so [they] took along my two baskets [of flowers]. La came about 5 & we went to Frosts. Christmas Club [meeting]. Myra, Edith & Vida there. Amy too sick to come. Nice talky time. Fire in fireplace, good salad, cake & lemonade. Home by 9:30. Edith & I walked down.

Monday, May 30, 1921 [*]

Misty trails and very wet early, but cleared by ten and was fine with good air. Up by 7, light eats & picked flowers & to cemetery soon after 8. Mabel with me. Flowers everywhere and very lovely. Back by 9:30. Bit washing, set out some yellow daisies that I brot from cemetery-dishes, etc. & busy all of AM. Made a cake & oatmeal muffins. Bacon & egg & potato for dinner at 2. Rested & mended in PM & dusted a bit. Florence Russell called while I was resting but Aunt Sarah didn't call me & I felt very sorry not to see her. Legs ached badly tho felt better after a rest. Read awhile & bed soon after 9.

[*] May 30 was Memorial Day in 1921. The holiday was fixed on May 30 until the Uniform Monday Holiday Act took effect in 1971 to make it the last Monday of May. Because the fundamental meaning of the day has come to be diminished by the popular view that it's merely a start-of-summer holiday, some veterans' groups have tried to have the holiday restored to the fixed day of May 30, just as they did when Veterans Day stopped being "moveable" in 1978 and was fixed as November 11 (observed on another day only when November 11 falls on a weekend day). As it happens, very few private businesses schedule November 11 as a holiday, preferring to grant the Friday after Thanksgiving as a paid day off, so the success of changing that holiday back to November 11 has been hugely diluted. I suspect that moving Memorial Day back to May 30

would result in companies tacking a paid day-off onto July 4th in lieu.

Tuesday, May 31, 1921

Pleasant, quite hot, nice breeze. Up 6:30. Eats, read paper, lunch & off 8:15. Wore brown crepe-de-chine [dress] & the wind blew the blamed thing up to my knees coming from High School. Registration in AM then High School, lunch & sent off school recall notices in PM. Put books away, etc. Ate supper there & up [to Arlington] at 7, [into Robbins] library a bit and then to Dr.'s -- measured me for new elastic stocking. Home by 8 & at aunts. Aunt G. knew me & talked quite well. Aunt Sue out playing cards. Wrote here & to Edith Hayes. Jr. in a few moments. Bed at 9:30.

Wednesday, June 1, 1921 [*]

Pleasant & nice. Up 6:45. Eats, ironed a bit & off 8:15. Registration, as Nicky is out with a cold. High School 1 - 3 & various things later. Home 6:30, eats, etc. & up to aunts. Found Aunt G. quite rational. Talked a bit & bed soon after 9. Mabel up to say Carrie Peirce wanted to leave early tomorrow, so Aunt Sarah had to rush. 11 poppies & very gorgeous. Garden looks fine this year. Pink rambler [rose blooms] out & a beauty -- around the door.

[*] A fatal accident occurred on this date when 80-year old Pierre Hedu was struck by a trolley car as he crossed Massachusetts Avenue near Linwood Street. Mr. Hedu lived at 7 Melrose St., at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Augusta and Eugene F. Paradis.

Thursday, June 2, 1921

Clear & glorious -- a perfect day. Up 6:45. Aunt Sarah left by 7:20 for White Horse Beach for the month. Eats & washed, brushed up & dusted a bit & put down "parlor" rug. Left at 10 for city to Dr. Bailey's & he put in a crown. Nice lunch at Ginter's Seville [*], and only 10 minutes late at library. High School & then had to do registration as Myrtle is still out. Desk in eve & _very_ busy but not so very tired -- thank goodness. Home 9:30 & to bed & read awhile. Locked my [bed] chamber door & slept like a log even if I was alone in the house. 17 poppies.

[*] The Seville was one of the restaurants in the Ginter chain. It was located at 132 Boylston St., facing Boston Common.

Friday, June 3, 1921

17 poppies in AM. Another wonderful day, clear & just warm enough -- quite windy. Up 6:40, eats & ironed a bit etc. & late for [trolley] car so down on 8:45. Carried some of my poppies. Nicky back so on floor 9 - 11:30; not a bit busy. High School until one. Varnished, etc. in PM. Up on Medford Hillside [trolley car] for _5_ cents [*]. Off at cemetery & brot home a couple of dishes as we are not allowed to leave them after June 14, basket plants, etc. Supper & ironed a waist & wrote here. Aunt Sue in a moment. Bed & bath soon after 9. _Not_ tired.

[*] The Boston Elevated Railway Co. (a predecessor of today's MBTA) had implemented on May 28 a nickel fare (reduced from a dime) on the Medford Hillside streetcar line, whose termini were Arlington Center and Sullivan Square. (Today's bus route via Medford Hillside terminates at Lechemere.) The ten-cent fare between Arlington and Somerville (the Broadway line via Clarendon Hill) remained in force.

Saturday, June 4, 1921 [*]

26 glorious poppies. Clear & beautiful, bit warmer. Up 6:45 & off 8:15. Library 9 - 1, registration & in children's room. In town & had hair & nails done -- a few errands & not very good luck -- out [to Arlington] by 5. Bot a few things, met Mabel so had ices. Light supper -- the first raspberries & carried some to Aunt G. [She] has slept during day after being awake for four nights. Down to the florist with some poppies & syringa & he (Mr. Sztobbe) gave me a calceolaria. Later Mabel & I to the Winns' [at 50 Academy St.] with poppies for Amy who is still abed. Home 9:30, bed & read quite awhile. Beautiful, clear night.

[*] In 1921 the Middlesex Sportsmen's Association (located on the former site of the Arlington Boat Club on Spy Pond, where the Arlington Boys and Girls Club stands today) owned Elizabeth Island and managed it as a bird sanctuary. The superintendent of the club, Bill Bowler, had noticed for a couple of spring seasons that the ducklings were disappearing in great numbers shortly after learning to swim. So he sat in wait on the island and discovered that a snapping turtle was eating them. Bowler captured the turtle, which weighed 75 pounds, and brought it to the clubhouse. The fate of "Sir Snapper" is unknown; some members wanted to have a turtle soup dinner at the club, but none seemed to be prepared to undertake such a literally enormous culinary task.

Sunday, June 5, 1921 [*]

24 poppies & 100 buds. Cool, clear -- glorious -- a wonderful June day. Woke at 8, but read for two hours. Very light breakfast, dishes, etc. Carried some poppies to aunts, found Aunt G. quiet-- napping -- exclaimed over size of poppy. Hoped someone would take me to ride but no one did. Read, etc. All 3 children in. Into white things [clothing] for first time [this season] and under apple tree for 4 hours. Wrote here, to Miss Hayes, and Jessie Alcock in eve. Bed soon after 6.

[*] On this afternoon was held the military funeral of Lt. Charles H. Upton, whose body was returned to Arlington from its temporary burial place in France. Upton, a graduate of Tufts College in the class of 1916, was in the U.S. Aviation Service and was killed in action on the war front in France in August 1918, when the plane he was flying landed in a tree. His funeral began at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Upton of 19 Whittemore St., and his body was borne on a caisson to the First Baptist Church. En route to burial at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, church bells tolled and flags were flown at half-staff in public mourning.

Monday, June 6, 1921

About 17 poppies. Clear & fine. Up 6:30 & a busy morning. Some washing & ironing & then did all I had time to the dining room and Maggie came up in PM & cleaned it & it looked so fresh & good when I got home at 9:45. Both ways on Medford Hillside [trolley] car & for 5 cents so put the other five in bank. High School 1 - 3, then various things, teachers reporting lost books, etc. Desk 6 - 9 & busy. Put dining room in order when I got home -- bath & bed.

[*] On this date, the Arlington Twilight baseball club faced the First National Bank of Boston Nine at the Spy Pond athletic field. The bankers were a very strong team expected to prevail, but the Arlington club defeated them, with an upset score of 14 to 3.

Tuesday, June 7, 1921

Up 6:45, eats, etc. & off 8:30. Lost [missed trolley] car so down at 8:45. Stopped at Dr. Percy's for new stocking for right leg -- pink silk. Registration. High School, lunch & off with Gladys at 2:30 for Boston Public Library. [Saw] Miss Mayhew on [trolley] car & met Dorothy Spear & Miss Whipple there, also saw Miss Stone a moment. Meeting of committee for helping in information booths at the A.L.A. [American Library Association meeting] at Swampscott. Over by 4 & all walked to Tremont St. Had ices at Murray's on the way. Chat with Sue Curtis at B.P.L. Back at 6 & on to Helen Smith's to dinner & the night, such good eats & sat on piazza & embroidered & then in house & it was so restful & good. Bed about 11.

Wednesday, June 8, 1921

Clear and nice -- not too hot. Woke about 7. Talked a bit and dressed leisurely and it seemed so good. Had a nice breakfast. Helen left for city & I for library about 8:40. Book meeting & my first lot of books came back -- 1,300 of them -- [which] didn't arrive until 12 o'clock. Then lunch & High School -- last day I hope -- back 2:15 & carded books until 5, did nearly all of Jr. High. Miss [Mary S.] Woodman & Miss [Dorothy S.] Bamford helped a little while. Children's Room 5 - 6. Helen & I up on Medford Hillside [trolley car] -- long tiresome wait for car. Stopped at cemetery & brot the 2 baskets of flowers home -- quite wilted -- supper & watered plants some & wrote here -- read a bit & bed.

Thursday, June 9, 1921

Clear, nice -- everything very dry. Up 6:45. Library by 9 & worked on books all day & telephoning & being telephoned to. In town at noon, had lunch & did various errands. Home 6:30 -- light eats & at aunts awhile. Aunt Georgianna pale, but quiet and knew me. Bed fairly early.

Friday, June 10, 1921

Clear & glorious. A busy morning at home as I washed & ironed and cleaned all the kitchen closets & left in a grand rush at 12:20. Lost [missed trolley] car so had a soda at Blake's. [*] Carded books all of P.M. Jessie did a lot in A.M. & helped all of P.M. and was fine. Union [Square branch] 6 - 9

& not at all busy, but not home until 10. Laurel telephoned to me there [**] & came for a couple of nights so we chatted awhile & got to bed soon after 11.

[*] Blake's, located at 641 Mass. Ave., advertised in 1921: "OUR Ice Cream Sodas and Sundaes satisfy the most critical"

[**] The way Nina has explained this is confusing. The "there" to which Laurel telephoned Nina was the Union Square Branch of the Somerville Public Library. Nina does not have a telephone in her home in 1921; she does not yet have electricity. Her two utilities are water and gas, and from the sounds of things the gas is just for cooking and space heating, not for lighting.

Saturday, June 11, 1921

Clear, very windy. Up 6:40. Made muffins & Laurel and I had breakfast at 7:30 & I left her doing dishes at 8:15. Registration & then worked on books & made up extra time so didn't leave until 4:30. Got all books carded & a good many on shelf. Jessie helped me in the morning and Louise Joyce replaced in P.M. Errands & home 5:30. Joe had been to see Laurel & she left at six to meet another chap in town. Very tired. Man gave me wrong shoe so Jr. went over for me. [*] With Barbara and Mabel in eve to Barbara's first recital [at] Miss Proctor's -- whole thing was very nice. Marion there & we all had ices at Blake's & then had to wait for taxi as it poured. Laurel back soon after 11 & we talked until 12.

[*] There's no antecedent to this passage, so my best guess is that Nina may have had a shoe repaired and the cobbler gave her a shoe belonging to another customer, so Nina's nephew "Jr." seems to have run the errand to return the wrong shoe and bring back Nina's.

Sunday, June 12, 1921

Pleasant, warm, very breezy. Woke 8:00 or so & read awhile. Aunt Sue down to see if Laurel would go to church with her. "Children's Day," but Laurel had been sick in the night. [Aunt Sue] came in with me & we talked until 10 -- light breakfast & washed some waists and then under tree for several hours & Laurel had a nap while I went up and picked my first box of home strawberries. Dinner & then we dressed. Called at the aunts & then at Winns at [50] Academy St. Amy very, very thin -- quite ghastly -- but dressed for the first time in four weeks & knitting. I saw Laurel off and then on the Deshons' piazza awhile. Helen & Clayton there. Susie Dupee over with me & into the aunts. Home & read awhile & bed 9:30.

Monday, June 13, 1921

Pleasant & cool early -- then some short showers & hot in PM. Up 6:45 & busy until 10 AM. Eats, watered a bit, washed & ironed, got kitchen ready for cleaning & washed ceiling & Maggie did rest in P.M. so house is nearly all cleaned. Eats, etc. & down on 12:45 car, but only 5 minutes to make up & did that at night. Carded books & telephoned in PM, did 7 baskets of books [*] Desk 6 - 9 in eve -- not very busy, not rushed at any time & home at 9:30. Bed & read awhile. A wonderful night -- moon, clouds & evening blue.

[*] The type of basket most likely would be what we would call a heavy-duty wicker trunk or hamper today.

About Nina washing the kitchen ceiling . . . June 13 is on the late side of the season for Nina to be at this chore (no doubt because she's got a full-time job), but it's an annual routine for her (and for the typical household of Arlington). Since the 1950s in Arlington cooking has done with either electricity and/or natural gas. And because most homes have kitchen exhaust fans, we don't face the accumulation of soot and grime that Nina experienced. By 1921 Nina is burning either wood or coal in her black cast iron kitchen range, which in winter is being used continuously for not only cooking, but also her hot water, and it partly heats the house. And although producing less particulate matter than the range, her gas cooking stove is fueled by manufactured gas (made from coal). Manufactured gas was much better purified in the 1920s than in previous decades, but it still wasn't as clean-burning as natural gas. Homes that were illuminated by gas often had wallpaper on the ceiling because it was easier to wipe soot off the wallpaper than was the case for plaster. And of course, there's the matter of grease from cooking becoming airborne, which is a never-ending problem but one which takes longer to show up today than in earlier times. Anyhow, Nina can enjoy the results of a freshly scrubbed kitchen for a good long while after the spring cleaning. When the range is put back into everyday service in the fall it ordinarily will take a while for the ceiling to accumualate noticeable grime, and soon enough the poppies will bloom again and it will be time to freshen-up the house.

Tuesday, June 14, 1921

A glorious day & night fine -- moon. Pleasant, very windy & quite cold by night. Up 6:45, eats picked some flowers & watered some & off at 8:20. Registration & worked on books, carding rest of the day. Miss Woodman & Miss Bamford helping a little and Ruth Hayes in P.M. for 2 hours. Home 6:30. Barbara here with some strawberries she had picked. Supper & ironed & sewed some and at aunts with some poppies and sweet william & found Aunt Georgianna quite rational. Bath & bed by ten.

Wednesday, June 15, 1921

Pleasant, very windy. Up 6:45, ate, pressed out & wore brown dress but changed to an apron as I carded books all day. Ruth helped for 2 hours in AM & we finished all, replaced a few & mended a few. Left early for Helen Smith's where we had a nice dinner (but the windw blew a gale and my _dress_ - -). Mrs. Smith away & a Mrs. Ketcham (?) there. All to the church -- 3 plays, all very good and then ice cream, berries & cake. Up alone & home soon after 11 & to _bed_.

Thursday, June 16, 1921

Clear & nice but oh-so dry. Watered garden some & with pail & watering pot. Eats & off at 8:20 -- missed car so walked to Syda's [*] but he wasn't home -- on [trolley] car with his niece. Telephoned & to schools & carded books all day. Tired & nothing good to eat so rang

Helen Smith and met her at Marston's & had spanish omelette -- slow service so made up time by staying at night. [**] Ruth Hayes helped in PM & we did all but 4 of 32 packages. Home 7:30, ate a little & went to bed at 8:15, read until 9:30 & slept rest of night _fine_.

[*] Charles B. Syda was a carpenter and jobber who lived at 189 Broadway; his carpentry shop was at 313 Broadway.

[**] Marston's was one of the largest dining establishments in Boston in 1921, with several locations in the city. Some of its outlets were simple lunch-counter style eateries, but the restaurants featured separate dining rooms for gentlemen dining together, ladies dining together, or ladies accompanied by gentlemen. A "Spanish Omelet" typical of this era would not be the one made with potatoes and onions that is familiar to many of us today, and eaten warm or cold (a.k.a. "tortilla espanola"). In 1921 the Spanish omelet that Nina ate was most likely a plain egg omelet with a tomato sauce in the center and around the edges of it -- a quick sauce of sauteed onions, tomatoes, mushrooms, a bit of cayenne pepper and some sliced green peppers.

Friday, June 17, 1921 [*] #

Clear & wonderful all day -- not too hot & a nice breeze. Fine moon. Up about 8:30 after 12 hours in bed. Breakfast of oatmeal. Watered plants & garden. Arthur in & [brother] George in PM talking about fixing up the house at Mashpee -- [I] said I had not money at present & should use it on this [house] if I had -- consider it much more essential than [spending] on a summer place: all serene. [George] up later & said he would do it & I could pay him when I could. [He is] going to paint and add a piazza. Light eats all day -- had my first peas at night, George brot me. Under tree for 3 hours -- reading & sleeping. Hemmed & pressed pink voile. Up to see Aunt G. -- found her about the same. Wrote here -- read & bed.

[*] June 17 is Bunker Hill Day and was a public holiday for Nina. It is still observed as a public holiday in Somerville today. (Somerville was part of Charlestown until 1842.) And although a large part of Arlington also was part of Charlestown until 1842 (a big chunk of recently acquried West Cambridge [Arlington] territory was hived-off in in 1850 along with larger sections of Woburn and Medford, to create the new town of Winchester), June 17 in Arlington has for many years just been any other day.

Saturday, June 18, 1921

Clear & nice. Up 6:45. Usual things & off at 8:15. Registration & finished carding books. Felt like the deuce but better in PM & in town -- bot a blue mohair [?] coat at Chandler's & had lunch before two -- hair & nails & bot some shoes at Tuttle's & then home. Few errands. Met Mabel & had ice cream & house 5:30. Up to see Aunt G. & then over with books for Amy & down town with Mary & Edith. Caught in rain but loaned me an umbrella. Put \$20 in bank. [*] Home 7:30. Read and mended a bit. Nice pouring rain but cleared by 9 & bed.

[*] On Saturdays in 1921, the Arlington Five Cents Savings Bank was open from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, then again from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 19, 1921

Clear & nice after last night's showers. Up by 8:30. Light eats, ironed some, made a cake. Arthur up & later Mabel, so picked some flowers for her. Picked some peas for dinner. Read paper under tree but found it quite cold so came in & had a nap on couch. Up to aunts & saw Aunt G. a moment [*] & then over town & taxied to Edna's C.C. [Christmas Club] meeting. All there, but Amy & Marion. A friend of Edna's, Miss [Ellen H.] Packard of Perkins Institute, also there. Berries the chief feature. Walked back -- felt rather sick so right to bed. [**]

[*] Aunt Georgianna Winn ("Aunt G.") has been seriously ill -- Dr. Percy recently diagnosed her as being at a terminal stage. Flashback to one year earlier, June 19, 1920, in Nina's diary: "Aunts [Sue and Georgianna are traveling] to Winchendon in Toutt's car. Aunt G's first auto ride -- [she] has always said she'd __never__ ride."

[**] There is a penciled addendum to this day's diary entry, written many weeks later. Its content will be revealed at the time it would have been made, to not create a "spoiler." I will say only that the matter does not pertain to Aunt Georgianna.

Monday, June 20, 1921 [*]

Clear & fine. Up 6:45. Didn't feel very good so ate no breakfast. Had some mending to do & then cleaned the large hall closet. Picked flowers for library. A.L.A. [American Library Association] meetings at Swampscott this week and visitors [at Somerville Public Library] expected. Desk 1 - 2:30, did some books in PM & desk again 6 - 9. Home 9:45. Bath, packed bag & bed.

[*] On this date the Massachusetts League of Women Voters announced an Arlingtonian in a key leadership position at the state level: Mrs. True Worthy White (born Martha Davis) of 122 Appleton St. was elected chairman of publicity. This role was of great importance as the LWV embarked on an educational campaign for a reduction in international armaments -- the idea being that the women of the United States could lead the women of all nations to move public opinion into a universal movement towards disarmament. Mrs. White was a well-regarded author and platform speaker on civics, among other topics of good citizenship. Incidentally, her husband, True Worthy White, had earlier spent a highly controversial year (through no fault of his own -- he walked into a creation of the School Committee's making) as superintendent of the Arlington Public Schools. In order to deal with the awkwardness of not continuing Supt. White's appointment, the School Committee sidestepped the matter by eliminating the position of superintendent of schools!

I received a few off-list messages commenting on how entertaining (one writer said "charming") it was to read the "flashback" about Nina's Aunt Georgianna embarking on her first ride in a motor car, after claiming she'd never do it. Because there happens to be a 1920 diary of Nina's aunt Susanna Adams Winn (the latest year available for her). I thought that it would be fun to look up what Susanna, as a fellow passenger, had to say about "Sister's" (Georgianna's) first journey in an automobile. And I intend this bonus historical installment as an homage to Aunt Georgianna, because up to now in 1921 it seems that she is "leaving the canvas."

>From the diary of Susanna Adams Winn Saturday, June 19, 1920 "Auto ride to Winchendon."

A pleasant day at last after all the stormy times. We were so rejoiced on account of our trip. Was very busy all the morning. Lots of telephone calls congratulating me on this change of weather. We did not know just when Russell [Toult] would come; had packed our bags and got ready by 10:30. He came about noon & I had not had lunch. Had to wait until 2:30 for Laurel [Toult] to come from Plainville, and started out about 1/4 of 3. Sister was not at all scared on her first ride, the auto (a Hudson) was easy, the country beautiful & weather was perfect. We went through Concord, Littleton, Ayer, Fitchburg & Ashburnham. Got here at 1/4 of 6. [] All seemed glad to see us. Laurel is around for good. After a nice supper Sister went right to bed, none the worse apparently for her trip.*

[] The automobile trip that took 3-1/4 hours in 1921 (in good driving conditions) from 57 Summer St. in Arlington to the center of Winchendon would take little more than one hour today in average traffic.*

Tuesday, June 21, 1921

Swampscott -- New Ocean House A.L.A [American Library Association] Up 6:40. Pleasant, warm & grew hot during day. Eats, packed bag & off at 8:40. Registration & did a few books & Bunny & I left at 11:45. Light eats at Cann's Sea Grill [*], met Rachel Johnson & to Lynn & Swampscott on the 12:40 train. Found many people we knew: Dorothy Kinney, B.B.K., Abbie G. & all the other libraries. Wandered around awhile & then to the children's [book] meeting in the garage & didn't get much of practical value -- 6 of us: Sue Curtis, Abbie, Edith Hayes, Ruthe Fales, Miss Judkins. Into the Whittier House, very good eats -- not elaborate. The latter two went with me to Cora Sutherland's -- hot walk of a mile but nice when we got there: 10 Norfolk Ave. Into pink -- much cooler than the brown crepe-de-chine. They brot us back in the car. On beach awhile and on piazza with rest & B.K. later. Rachel had to leave by 5 & work in the evening. School library meeting in the sun parlor & later adjourned to dining room & some good speakers. Kathleen Kennedy sat with us & later Miss Askew. NJ who is a wonder. With Helen Follansbee & Madolyn Murphy then & they walked part way back with me as their room was in same direction. After 11, washed up, & to bed, but couldn't sleep for ages.

[*] Cann's Sea Grill was close to North Station, at 122 Canal St. in Boston

Wednesday, June 22, 1921

Swampscott. Pleasant and hot again. Woke early & rested & dressed slowly, only to find it was 9 o'clock & I was to meet the girls at 8:30. Said a hurried goodbye and thank you to Cora. No [trolley] car, so walked. Found Helen eating, Madolyn laid up with a sick headache. Good eats & on to hotel. Checked bag, met Ruth Fales and some friends & to school library meeting with them - very good. Miss Zachary [?] spoke. Lunched in cafeteria with Miss Newton & Edith Rice [both of Robbins Library]. Looked around a bit at books, etc., at children's meeting with Ruth Swett & M. Kelly & T. Kennedy & [staffed] information desk 4 - 7. Interesting work. At dinner with Miss Luitricelar [?] -- cafeteria under the trees & then sat on piazza, talked with people, etc. & left with

Ruth Fales & crowd. Cars to Lynn, quite a wait & talked with a Miss Knapp of Detroit. Met Miss Newton and E. Rice again in North Station, so home with them. House hot -- but O.K. Bed _good_.

>>Today's diary entry was full of people and activity. I wonder how Nina makes distinctions with how she addresses people. * * * Why Ruth Fales but Miss Zachary? Why Miss Newton & Edith Rice (she knows both of them but why Miss Newton, but Edith Rice)? Familiarity, elders? Any thoughts?<<

Richard Duffy comments: There's also variety within the way Nina refers to people and how she might address them. All for a variety of reasons. I would add to familiarity and elders, the category of relative social position. Where Miss Elizabeth J. Newton is concerned, she already was the librarian of the Arlington Public Library (later renamed Robbins Library) before Nina was born, so knowing her for a lifetime in such a senior role would mean that Nina would never call or refer to her as just "Lizzie." For historical persons about whom I'm giving a biographical program, I'll tend to refer to them as Miss Bradshaw, Miss Brown, etc., whereas I make an exception and refer to Nina as Nina, Aunt Sue as Aunt Sue, etc., because of the forum. Otherwise my commentary would be overwhelmed with all the different Miss Winns on the canvas. By contrast, the late, lamented Stu Galley always referred to Nina as "Miss Winn." As for Edith Rice, most people in Arlington probably called her Miss Rice at the library. But because Edith is Nina's contemporary (both were born in 1878) and a friend since childhood, it's forever first names. Exceptions would be that in some workplaces, employees who outside of work or behind closed doors called each other by their first names would not do so in front of others. Think of the old British TV comedy "Are You Being Served?" The "default" form of address by the prevailing American etiquette of 1921 would be Miss or Mrs. Last Name, unless Nina considered the person to be a peer (as at work). There's a lot more chumminess and getting quickly into first names now that Nina is meeting a wider circle of people at the Somerville Public Library. First-name-privileges also typically are extended across family peer groups, from in-laws to the in-laws of in-laws who were all in the same general age bracket. But it would not be a definite sign of a lack of closeness and affection that a son- or daughter-in-law always addressed his/her parents-in-law as "Mr. or Mrs. Toplofty." Also being addressed by first name by Nina would be domestic servants and farm laborers, except in the case of the men; they might be called by just their last name instead of their first, with no title appended. The part-time attendant at Somerville of whom we recently read was probably called "Arthur" by Nina, but I'd bet he called her Miss Winn, due to their different rank and gender. Independent business people and those in the skilled trades would be Mr. or Miss/Mrs. So-and-So to their faces, and often just their last names in indirect reference to men only -- so the carpenter could be Mr. Syda or Syda, but hairdresser Miss Ferguson is always Miss Ferguson in all usage.

Thursday, June 23, 1921

Overcast, hot still -- a few sprinkles in AM. Up at 7 -- felt rather tired and lazy. Aunt Sue down. Some washing & ironing & watered plants. Off at 12:20 [trolley] car -- slow, so quite late. Had some telephoning and worked on books until 5 with Arthur [*] replacing Ruth -- [she]

didn't show up. Home 9:30 but so tired I could scarcely make it and had to stop to rest. Legs gone out -- didn't ache much -- but just tired. __Bed.__

[*] Besides the head librarian, Arthur Hayes was one of the few male employees performing library work in Somerville in 1921. He was classified as a "part-time attendant."

Friday, June 24, 1921

Very hot, pleasant and _so_ dry. Not up until 8:30 and then telephoned to the library that I wouldn't be down -- just tired out and legs refused to work. Read, slept and rested all day. Quite a good breeze but hot. Plaguey little in house to eat. Watered plants in eve and [to] bed quite early.

Saturday, June 25, 1921 [*]

Clear and pleasant and much cooler. Still weary. Up 6:30, watered some, ate a bit, etc. & off at 8:15. Registration & time to card a few books. Too weary to go to Swampscott [to A.L.A. meeting] tho I did so want it. Quite a lot [of colleagues] went [to Swampscott] at one. In town & ordered some candy for Cora Sutherland, had hair done, a couple of errands & home. Met Mabel in Blake's so home together & she came up for awhile. Nice breeze on piazza. Light eats & read & mended some & to bed very early.

[*] On this date Dorothy L. Bacon, only daughter of widower Arthur Linden Bacon of 241 Mystic St., married Harold Shoemaker of Brookline. It was "immediate family only" at the ceremony held at New Thought Church in Cambridge. Dorothy, born in 1893, was Nina's first cousin on her mother's side (the late Melissa Bacon Winn). The Shoemakers settled in Belmont after their honeymoon.

Sunday, June 26, 1921 [*]

Thundershower that was mostly some much-needed rain, so stayed abed. Up about 10:30 -- had a shredded wheat. Barbara up with some peas, so had them for dinner and she was here most of the morning. Quite a lot cooler. Bed & read in PM. Boys in to supper and Mabel here at six for two hours. Up to aunts. Aunt Georgianna not so well but knew me and tried to talk but voice was very faint -- kissed me goodnight. Down to 146 [Mystic St.] for ice cream. George back from Mashpee about 9:30 -- rode up with Laurence [Collins]. Home & bed very soon.

[*] At the Regent Theatre in Arlington this afternoon a lecture took place (which was not unusual because it would be many more years before movies were allowed to be shown in Arlington on Sundays). The speaker was Dr. William J. Walshe, "veteran lecturer." He spoke as part of a membership drive on behalf of the American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic. Founded in Chicago in November 1920, the A.A.R.I.R. had as its primary goal recognition by the United States government of, and full diplomatic relations with, an envisioned Irish republic that would follow secession from the United Kingdom. These lectures were happening across Greater Boston this week as part of a national tour of major American cities. (Although an Irish Free State was created in 1922 as a Dominion of the U.K., the Republic of Ireland would not become the form

of government until 1949--70 years ago this year).

Monday, June 27, 1921

Pleasant -- quite hot. Up 6:45. Aunt Sue down early to say Aunt Georgianna was much worse. Washed and then went up there, and waited until Dr. Percy came; [he] said it could be only a few days and she is not suffering at all. Mabel & George there. Library 1 - 9. Books in PM, desk in eve and very busy -- missed cars so home about 10 -- not so very tired. Bed, read a very few moments. Telephoned at six and Mrs. Price [*] said there had been no change.

[*] Mrs. Price has been helping to care for Aunt Georgianna for the last several weeks, possibly as a live-in nurse (or more likely as what we would consider to be a hospice home health aide). She does not appear to be an Arlington resident.

Tuesday, June 28, 1921

Foggy but only a few sprinkles. Muggy at times. Up at 6:30, light eats, at aunts, found Aunt G. about the same, sleeping, not suffering at all. Off 8:15, sent money order [*] to Mr. Syda \$26.60 for Russell Terrace work -- small repair on roof. Registration and did school books in PM, getting things in order. Home 6:30. Marion Buttrick here awhile. Did quite a lot of ironing and then at aunts -- everything about the same -- talked quite a lot with Aunt Sue. Wrote here, bed, and read paper.

[*] Nina banks at the Arlington Five Cents Savings Bank. The bank did not offer checking accounts until after Massachusetts banking regulations permitted this in the the mid-1970s (strictly speaking, these were NOW accounts). In 1921, a U.S. postal money order was commonly used to send secure payments by mail, when getting a cashier's check from a bank would not be called for. The cost for a money order of a value over \$20 up to \$30 in 1921 was 12 cents. In Consumer Price Index adjusted terms it's cheaper today to purchase an up to \$500 postal money order, because what cost 12 cents in 1921 would cost \$1.62 in 2019, but a money order would be just \$1.50.

Wednesday, June 29, 1921

Aunt Georgianna died at three o'clock this morning; has not suffered any, has been unconscious for two days. 78 years old. [*] Muggy and foggy with occasional showers. George down at six and told me he and Mabel went up at three but she had gone. Mabel in a few moments and then Aunt Sue came down -- said she would like to go to Mashpee with me for a week. Back with her and then down with eats, etc. Telephoned to library & then to bank & errands. Aunt Sue very calm. Wrote to Cousin Jennie & Mrs. Sturgis. Mabel in in PM, mended some & later we went to florists but I didn't like his flowers. Mabel busy telephoning all day: all the ministers [are] away. Finally got Mr. Fister. [**] Word came that Richard Hittinger [***] died very suddenly this afternoon -- hardening of the arteries of the heart. [He] had a good dinner & had been out in the morninng. George to Mashpee for a day to see about workmen. Had supper with Mabel & home about 9. Pouring then. Bath & bed.

[*] Here is a link to a very touching photograph of Aunt Georgianna in later years. Once on the Arlington Historical Society page, you can click the image for a larger view:

<https://arlingtonhistorical.pastperfectonline.com/photo/D74A1F2F-20C0-4352-97F5-253911416838>

[**] Aunt Georgianna was a lifelong Unitarian, and taught Sunday School at the First Parish (Unitarian) Church for many years. The Rev. Harry Fay Fister was in Milford, Mass., in 1921, but previously had been pastor of the First Universalist Church in Arlington for many years.

[***] Richard Hittinger was Nina's uncle by marriage to her maternal aunt, Elizabeth (nee Bacon) Potter Hittinger, of Belmont. He was 64 years old. Following is a link to a c.1895 photograph of Hittinger, a tremendously successful market gardener, as well as of the Hittinger Fruit Co. farm office in the lower image: <https://books.google.com/books?id=gU3-jvhbqEkC&pg=PA27>

Thursday, June 30, 1921

Pouring most of the time. Up soon after 7, bit of dusting. At aunts awhile -- got ready for town & waited for rain to stop but no use. Ordered flowers at Rawson's: a pillow for Aunt Sue & a basket of roses for George, Mabel, & I. To Somerville [library] for pay and to see about [getting time-off] for next week & then in town. Lunch, bot nuts, etc. & a bunch of forget-me-nots for Aunt Elizabeth.[*] Out by 3:30 & home & up to 57 [Summer St., Aunt Sue's home]. Mabel there & Aunt Sarah later (just back from White Horse Beach) & Aunt Mame came by 4:30. She came down with me to supper & I asked Aunt Sarah in -- had our first swordfish. Over town with Aunt Mame & then at 146 [Mystic St., George & Mabel's home] for awhile. George up from Mashpee. Home soon after 8. Talked awhile & then to bed.

[*] Elizabeth (nee Bacon) Potter Hittinger of Belmont is Nina's maternal aunt. Her husband, Richard Hittinger, had died unexpectedly the day before.

Friday, July 1, 1921

Aunt Georgianna's funeral today. Wet & cold and rainy -- poured most of PM. Up soon after 7 -- headache, stomach not very good. Had a shredded wheat, bit washing, etc. -- at aunts -- many beautiful flowers, sprays of roses, pinks, galidolii, pansies, coreopsis, lupine, stock, etc. Sweet pea wreath from class of '69 [*]. Aunt Sue very calm. Over for rent & a few errands. _Very_ light eats. Aunt Sarah & I up [to Unitarian Church] by 2. Abbie Boynton, Sarah Holbrook, Mrs. Toutt & Russell [Toutt] there. It [funeral] was in vestry at 2:30. [The Rev.] Mr. Fister was very nice. Russell Abbott [**] sang, the flowers were beautiful, and Aunt Georgianna looked so calm & nice. Too wet for service at cemetery but most of us got out. Back to 57 [Summer St.] for awhile. Mabel in [to Nina's house] & I made tea & carried to Aunt Sarah's. House _very_ cold so lit gas oven for awhile.

[*] This refers to the graduating class of 1869 of Arlington's public high school (then called Cotting High School). Aunt Sue was a member of that class. There was no public or private high school in Arlington (then West Cambridge) when Aunt Georgianna was leaving grammar school. At the time she turned 14 (October 16, 1856) she was enrolled as part of the inaugural class of the Agassiz School for Young Women in Cambridge, which was operated by Elizabeth Cabot Cary Agassiz

from 1856-1863. Mrs. Agassiz, the wife of naturalist Louis Agassiz, went on to become the co-founder and first president of Radcliffe College. For more about Aunt Georgianna and to see photographs and items catalogued with her name visit:

<https://arlingtonhistorical.pastperfectonline.com/byperson?keyword=Winn%2C+Sarah+Georgiana>

[**] J. Russell Abbott of Brookline was a well-known tenor and a leader in music at the American Unitarian Association. He was a prestigious presence at Aunt Sarah's funeral in an era when church music was a large part in the lives of people of all religious persuasions.

Saturday, July 2, 1921

One busy day. Aunt Sue & I to Mashpee. Woke at 6:30 to find it still pouring. Did various things during the morning, packed, at aunts, bit wash, etc. Walkinshaw [*] came for us at 2 (Aunt Sue & I) and took us to the South Station. Asked him to just drive in at the cemetery so we could see the flowers. [He] found us a porter who carried our bags into car & got us separate seats. Only crowded from Brockton to Onset. Bessie met us at station and we did a lot of errands and had ice cream at the "Lavender Kettle" run by Barbara's sewing teacher, Miss Lavender, her sister, & Abbie Russell. Arrived at six & Eben had the house clean and a fire going. The new piazza is wonderful -- about as big as a house and a gorgeous place to _live_. Eben had some flowers on it and we brot out the little serving table and had our beans and brown bread that Bessie brot over, after we had unpacked and made beds. Later we went to see Grandma Sturgis, found Eben there and had a nice call. Bed by 9:30 & slept fine. [Clouds] cleared away by seven and was starlight once more.

[*] This could refer to Robert Walkinshaw or his son, Norman Walkinshaw, both then of 14 Belknap St. Robert was the owner of Arlington Taxi Service. Later Robert would own an ambulance service in Arlington. Norman left the livery business and in the 1930s was associated with the Saville and Kimball (later Saville and Grannan) Funeral Home at 418 Massachusetts Ave. The Walkinshaws stayed in the funeral business until July 2009, when David Walkinshaw sold the records to DeVito funeral home (the "Saville Chapel" name appears on the awning at DeVito's) and 418 Massachusetts Ave. (the historic Henry Swan House) was sold.

Sunday, July 3, 1921 [Mashpee]

Foggy early but cleared and was glorious later -- hot, but a fine breeze. Woke at 7 or so but read and dozed until nine & dressed leisurely. Aunt Sue up at the same time. Eben's flag up. Fruit, coffee, toast and donuts for breakfast. Dishes, picked up a bit, etc. Brod small table from George's room and with a blue cloth it was _very_ attractive. Of course we ate on piazza. [*] Read and rested on piazza nearly all day. Bessie over awhile and we went in for a swim at their landing. Fine & felt refreshed. Supper out and bed quite early. Bit foggy.

[*] Following is a link to a blog post I wrote three years ago, to discuss both the use of the word "piazza" and indeed, the whole "piazza craze" of the late 19th/early 20th centuries:

<https://arlingtonhistorical.org/on-the-piazza/>

Monday, July 4, 1921 [*]

Foggy early but cleared off, hot nice breeze. On piazza all day. Boston very hot. Up 8:30 or so and had the eats to get of course -- beans and fruit & did dishes together & embroidered a lot on the piazza & [I] wrote to Nellie Dean. Just [ate] a bite about 2 o'clock -- a hand-me-out. [**] Bessie over later & we got into our bathing suits & all went to her mother's in South Sandwich for a swim. Bit cooler coming back & much cooler in eve but ate outdoors just the same. At Bessie's later & watched their fireworks and Aunt Sue saw them from piazza. Bed about 10. Grandma Sturgis to Hyannis in AM to see the circus parade -- [she is] 90 years old -- or young.

[*] Flashback to July 4, 1920: Nina has been attending a meeting of the New England Library Association, held on the Isles of Shoals July 1 - 3, featuring a special program on extending library services in immigration work and with children in residential hospitals. Nina stayed an extra day for the holiday and wrote: "Kathleen Jones came up & asked if I would accept a position with the Hospital Library people. Rutland [State (tuberculosis) Sanatorium]. \$1,200 a year & living expenses -- took my breath away, but sounds interesting & they all seem to think I can do it." Occasional 1920 flashbacks will be featured in coming installments of the diary to see how this story unfolds.

[**] Nina's "hand-me-out" was probably a sandwich or other cold snack. The expression "hand-me-out" was used to describe what might be given to itinerant homeless people (referred to as hobos or tramps in that historical era) who would ask for something to eat at the back door of a home. Hand-me-out became a noun that derived from the request to whomever answered the door to "please hand me out something to eat." Today the expression to give a "handout" is familiar to us. The term "hand-me-out" vanished because "handouts" now have a wider sense of giving aid (money, clothing, food, or other items of value) to those in financial need, but not likely directly from one's home or place of business. And "handout" as a word has come to be viewed as more pejorative than descriptive in this usage today.

Tuesday, July 5, 1921

Clear & fine, much cooler. Up about 8. Fish cakes, etc. for breakfast, ate on piazza, but near kitchen it was so windy. Washed out a few things and carried white shirt to Bessie -- had a lot of grease on it, and stayed and talked with Grandma [Sturgis] a long time. Embroidered awhile, had a light lunch, rested and read on an army cot which I brot out on piazza & then Aunt Sue and I went in for a short swim & later down town & called on Anna & Clara Collins & saw Mrs. George Coombs when we went to the P.O. Few errands & back. Woods in good condition, not badly eaten [*] & wild roses lovely. The married Porlanett [sp.?] by mill pond has a beautiful St. Bernard "Jack" who came to them. Beans, etc. on piazza & tired again.

[*] Due to presence of gypsy-moth caterpillars.

Wednesday, July 6, 1921 [*]

Clear & beautiful, nice breeze. Woke at 5 and the lake was pink -- a mist rising & the morning star shining. Back to sleep & woke at 8. Down for milk so eats about 10. Oh-so-nice on piazza, almost too cool and a sweater felt good. Wrote some cards, read paper & embroidered & napped a bit. Grandma Sturgis over in PM so had supper with us; chose coffee to drink and we had scones, creamed beef, raspberries, cheese and crackers & she had a chance to ride back with Bessie. We sat on piazza a while after doing dishes and then went over with bean pot and dishes. Back at 9:30 & to bed & read awhile. Too cool to swim.

[*] Flashback to July 6, 1920 Nina is considering a job offer to be in charge of the library at the Rutland State Sanatorium (referred to as "Rutland Hospital"). Here's an excerpt: "Talked with Mr. Evans [head librarian of Somerville Public Library] and Miss Whipple [assistant head librarian] about the new position. [They] offered me the school librarian [position] at \$1,000 [annual salary] & the Union Square [branch librarian] at \$1,100 & rather discouraged me from going. Miss Luard rang and said by go by all means." [Note: Lucy D. Luard was head librarian at the Belmont Public Library. Nina knows her because she sometimes filled-in at Belmont before taking the full-time job at Somerville, plus Nina's cousin and very close friend "La" (Eleanor J. Prentiss) is an assistant librarian at Belmont, so there's ongoing personal connection.]

Thursday, July 7, 1921

Overcast but nice and warm. Up about 8. Fruit, coffee & griddle- cakes -- buttered & sugared. Made a cake. Ilean and Mervin down for milk. Wrote to Amy and Olive Gleason & a card to Edith Hayes. Aunt Sue to Sturgis's in AM & I went over later & while there the Bessies and Ed McKay came for me & I went to Cotuit with them. Drove like the wind & my hair a _sight_. Embroidered a while & then went in swimming at Bessie's with _her_ -- so late Aunt Sue didn't go. Supper about 7:30 & left dishes for morning. Read & embroidered on piazza & bed by nine but read a bit.

Friday, July 8, 1921

Popponessett. Hot during day. Woke about 7 & read awhile. Oven [was] slow cooking my johnnycake so ate about 10. Read & embroidered on piazza & over to Bessie's about 2 & found her getting ready for Pop. so home & rushed some lunch & she came about 3:30 and Aunt Sue, Grandma, Eileen and Mervin. Bot more food at Irving's. Nice ride down. 3 autos there, people from Forestdale, but they left before we got ready to go in. Water was fine, tide high, but good, and all but Grandma went in. Had nice eats in edge of woods -- too cold on the beach. Back up to Mr. Bugbee's camp [cottage] & found he was there (down for 2 weeks) so [he] came to car to see Aunt Sue & then we all went up to see his rugs -- seven of them & beauties. [*] Fog had settled in very thick. Home at 9. Wrote to Mabel & read in bed awhile. Light out by 10:30.

[*] Readers were introduced to Mr. Bugbee in Nina's diary of September 20, 1914: " . . . saw Mr. Bugbee . . . & _called on him. Used to _dance_ in Arlington 50 years ago & knew Papa. Had some beautiful rugs he had made."

Saturday, July 9, 1921 [*]

[Mashpee] Cloudy, warm. Woke about five to find it raining & the thunder pealing. Kept it up for two hours but slept most of the time. More of it about 11. Up at 8. "Johnny Woodchuck" was feeding back of the barn. Breakfast on the piazza about 9:30 and Aunt Sue did the dishes while I put away George's clothes, etc. Heavy rain with thunder at 3. Cleared somewhat in PM as Aunt Sue went to Cotuit with Bessie & I, & I had a swim. Beans & brown bread on the piazza. Left dishes & read & embroidered & up to bed about 9. Another thunder shower then & kept it up about all night & poured most of the time. [**]

[*] Flashback to this day in Nina's 1920 diary: She accepted the position at "Rutland Hosptial," to start September 1. In addition to her \$1,200 salary, she also would receive "expenses" (i.e., room and board in one of the staff residences), which made this job offer exceptionally attractive. Nina wrote that she accepted "Much against Miss Whipple's advice, but everyone else said ___go___." It's interesting to me that Nina does not record having discussed the Rutland job offer with members of her family, or with close friends such as Vida Damon -- but perhaps she did and these people are among the "everyone else" who are so emphatic in their encouragement.

[**] The heavy thunderstorms that Nina describes also struck Arlington on this date, wreaking havoc. A road washout at the base of Lindood Street covered part of the steam railroad tracks and delayed early trains. Trolley car tracks were submerged in surface water. And the steeple of the Universalist Church (today's High Rock Church) was pierced by lightning. The steeple (which gave the building a height of 90 feet) would live to die another day after the Hurricane of 1938 damaged, but didn't topple it. It was considered a bit controversial to remove the spire and replace it with the present cupola, but it was undeniably the prudent choice for the Universalists.

Sunday, July 10, 1921 [Mashpee]

Pouring all day with thunder every little while. Up soon after 8. Aunt Sue hulled strawberries & I made a Littleton corn cake. [*] Ate on piazza -- by window, rest was soaked. Read & embroidered after dishes were done. Too wet even for piazza. Nearly finished [embroidery on] towel for [Somerville High School librarian] Edythe Miller. Bessie over & asked me to supper and Aunt Sue went soon after 5, but Eileen & I went down for the milk & to pay bill. Mrs. Young also down for the summer & she was also at Grandma's. Bessie served & it was fine quahog chowder, lobster salad & fruit: pineapple, orange & banana; and very nice spice cake. Music later & Bessie brot us back in auto. Bed soon after 10.

[*] Littleton corn cake was a difficult-to-track-down recipe, as it does not appear to have been widely known. It was one way for a cook to use up sour milk. Today's cooks usually make "soured milk" by adding one tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice to fresh milk, and letting it stand for five minutes. Following is the recipe I located (of course I made it yesterday -- and yes, I'm going to launch a TV series called "Arlington's Historical Test Kitchen"). Littleton Corn Cake isn't too sweet. The milk poured over the top makes the finished product look interesting when sliced, and creates a sort of veru thin layer of cooked milk inside. It's tasty just as-is (no butter needed), and it's

nice served with jam or dusted with powdered sugar. I used it as a dessert along with a homemade strawberry-rhubarb compote, which made it more interesting than using shortcake or pound cake. The recipe below doesn't say this, so I'll add: (1) grease the 9-inch layer cake pan; and (2) don't let the batter stand--it's supposed to be thin. So, after mixing, pour it immediately into the pan, top with the last cup of milk, and pop it into the preheated oven right away. It should take the entire 50 minutes if your oven is true. LITTLETON CORN CAKE 1-1/3 cup corn meal [yellow stone ground -- not masa flour] 1/3 cup flour 1 cup sour milk 1 teaspoon baking soda 2 well-beaten eggs 2 cups sweet [fresh] milk 1/4 cup sugar 1/2 teaspoon salt 1-1/2 teaspoons butter Mix & sift corn meal and flour; add sour milk mixed with baking soda, eggs, 1 cup of the sweet milk, sugar, and salt. Melt butter and turn into the above mixture. Spread batter into a nine-inch round cake pan. Pour the other cup of sweet milk over the top and bake 50 minutes in a moderate oven [350 degrees]. Cut into pie-shaped pieces for serving. Submitted by: "The Little Mrs." The Boston Globe (Confidential Chat) March 8, 1938

Monday, July 11, 1921 #

Home again. Up 6:30 and had our last meal on the piazza -- still foggy and quite cool. George, Mr. Rand, Mr. Day & Mr. English came just as we had finished & started work on piazza. Bessie [came] for us at 9:15 & [Aunt Sue and I] left Sandwich at 10:17 -- felt like the deuce on way to Boston -- [menstrual] pain. Water very high & wash-out that didn't delay us. Had lunch at the South Station -- very nice one & left Aunt Sue to get taxi & her bag. (Didn't get it until 6 PM & _waited_ there for it.) [I went] out to Somerville by 1:20, found I was scheduled so at desk, school books later & desk again 6 - 9 & very busy: 190 books [checked] out in the last hour. Oh-so-tired & had my suitcase so taxied home. Mrs. Price still at Aunt Sarah's & Aunt Sue in my front room but eating at Aunt Sarah's. Talked a bit, unpacked & bed soon as I could make it.

Tuesday, July 12, 1921

Still overcast & foggy -- cool. Up soon after 7 -- quite a bit rested. Had a nice breakfast in Aunt Sarah's, did up accounts, etc. & left for Boston about 10. Much later than I should have but in time for Miss Askew, who was fine, as usual and oh-so-bright & quick. Sat with Miss Eaton awhile & later talked with girl next me. who proved to be a Miss Merrill from Amesbury, friend of Helen Folansbee, so we were together at lunch (cafeteria at Simmons) & then I rushed back to Somerville or tried to -- [trolley] cars very slow. Worked on books getting deposits for playgrounds: 175. [*] Home 6:30. Library closing at 6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays til Sept. 1. Supper at Aunt Sarah's & wiped dishes. Mabel up in evening. Edith Winn over awhile. Arthur up with eggs & Aunt Sue back from 57 [Summer St.] at 8:30. Wrote here & bed by 9:30.

[*] Creating a depot for books to be borrowed and returned at playgrounds during summer vacation was an important outreach of the Somerville Public Library -- sort of an early "bookmobile."

Wednesday, July 13, 1921 [*]

Hot and muggy & glad to get into something cooler at night. Up 6:45 & got my own eats -- put up lunch & off by 8:15. Said goodbye to aunts, who go to Aunt Mame's for a week or ten days. Registration & then in children's room, lunch & worked on books rest of PM -- getting out 175 for the playgrounds. Home 6:30, or at [Arlington] centre -- met Edith Rice & we talked for half an hour -- had fried banana & toast & lemon pie that Aunt Sarah left. Embroidered & to bed early. Bath. [Door] Bell rang but couldn't go (stripped) & it was Mrs. Richardson (Ruth Ferguson) to take me to ride. Read paper, quite a good night to sleep but no extra clothes needed.

[*] Flashback to Nina's diary of July 13, 1920: " . . . Ironed white dress to wear and off at 8:30. Perfectly good man asked me to ride to Boston, but found I had to stick to Somerville"

Comment: I'd like to know exactly who this "perfectly good man" of unknown name was! And regarding the lead-up to the job that Nina had accepted to become the librarian at the Rutland State Hospital: " . . . Rang me for Miss Jones & said I'd have to run a Ford."

Thursday, July 14, 1921

Hot & muggy but a good breeze & cooler by night. Up 6:45, eats, etc. & off at 8:30 so a bit late at library. Ruth & I worked on books all the morning & did quite a lot of mending & some on circulation. Marion Meserve & I in town at one and had a nice lunch at the Georgian. Paid Dr. Bailey -- bill of \$17.00 and up Tremont St. & window shopped. To Miss Ferguson & found she could have me -- nails & a shampoo. Marion did some errands & then came back to me & we went to DeWolfe & Fiske [*] & paid my bill, then Jordan's & finally to Little Brown -- just before closing & bot a copy of "Little Women," illustrated by Jessie Wilcox Smith, for Barbara's [10th] birthday. Frog Pond [on Boston Common] was filled with boys and girls. Sodas at Huyler's & then each [of us] went home. Stopped at 146 [Mystic St.]. Barbara back with me until 9. Mr. Syda [carpenter] up in evening to see about Russell Terrace, so asked him about new panels in -- [he] stayed about an hour. Bed 9:30, read a bit.

[*] DeWolfe and Fiske was a wholesale and retail bookseller in Boston.

[**] To view the charming color illustrations by Jessie Wilcox Smith in the edition of "Little Women" that Nina bought for her niece Barbara's birthday, click this link:

Friday, July 15, 1921 [*]

Pleasant early, muggy, poured most of PM. Up 6:45 & a busy morning at home. Clothes to wash & iron & shrunk & ironed 6 yards of green & white gingham. Had to wash kitchen walls & floor where it leaked in while I was away. Off 12:15 & library 1 - 9, at desk most of time & Ruth & I mended a lot of books. Home 9:45 & bed very soon.

[*] From the Arlington Advocate: "Through the efforts of the Middlesex Sportsman's Association [located on the site of today's Boys & Girls Club of Arlington] a batch of several hundred black bass was let loose in Spy Pond. Napoleon J. Hardy receiving the young fish and seeing that they were liberated into the pond. It is the intention of the association to stock the pond with fish of the

variety that will delight the fishermen, and as the law covers game fish of this kind and the open season is limited, it is not long before the pond is stocked with several kinds of game fish."

Saturday, July 16, 1921 [*]

Clear & cool -- best day for ages. Up 6:45 & off by 8:15. Registration desk 11:30 - 1, lunch, school circulation & desk 4 - 6. Home soon after 7 & had a lamb chop. First meat for ages & mighty good. Barbara up & later Mabel & gave me some steak for tomorrow. Aunt Sue had been here in PM & brot raspberries from Aunt Mame & cream from S.A.W. [Susanna Adams Winn -- Nina's Aunt Sue] & had had some to eat herself. Bed 9:30, read awhile.

[*] 1921 was an interesting year at the Middlesex Sportsman's Club in Arlington. In addition to creating a waterfowl refuge on Elizabeth Island and stocking Spy Pond with game fish, it enjoyed a social gathering on this day listening to music performances from different parts of the country, by means of the "wireless telephone" -- what would soon be known as simply "the radio." This is the earliest reference I have found thus far to radios being in use in Arlington for other than Morse Code transmissions between amateurs. On May 21, 1921, the American Radio Company's "sending station" in Medford Hillside (experimental license 1XE) began regular evening broadcasts, which are likely those that were picked up at the club. By 1922 this pioneering radio station received a commercial license and the call letters WGI. For more about its brief but colorful existence check out this article: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WGI_\(radio_station\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WGI_(radio_station))

Sunday, July 17, 1921

Clear & fine -- rather hot. Woke by 8 but read until 10. Melon, donuts & coffee for breakfast. Dyed Miss Hayes's jersey bathing suit -- black & had faded last _year_ when I had it. Florence Harris over after church (9:30 during summer) but wouldn't stay to dinner. Found plenty of little things to do. Steak ([my] first for 4 months) & onions & later sat under apple tree & read. Edith Winn over about 5, so changed dress & went back with her & had supper at Florence's. Etta Smith there. Home 9:30, bath & read awhile & light out at 11. Rang Aunt Mame from Florence's so talked with the other 2 aunts. Up to farm to feed cat, so climbed in hay-mow [*] and saw the 3 new kittens -- eyes not open yet - 1 yellow & 2 gray striped.

[*] The hay-mow (the "mow" rhymes with "cow") would have been the hay stack kept inside the barn, based on Nina's description of "climbing in."

Monday, July 18, 1921 [*]

Barbara's 10th birthday. Gave her "Little Women," illustrated by Jessie Wilcox Smith & some candy. Up by 6:45. Mabel & Barbara in quite early, eats, and off at 8:20. Registration & worked on school books -- bindery rest of the day while Ruth mended. Home 6:30, stopped at 146 awhile. Boys & George at Mashpee. Chop & toast for supper. Read & embroidered in evening & bed at 10.

[*] On this day a major fire broke out in the chemical storage room next to the laboratory at Arlington High School, presumed to have been started by combustion of the chemicals from the heat of the sun coming through the glass window. The firemen had a very hard time fighting the blaze, needing to don gas masks, and then running extraordinary lengths of hose because the high-pressure hydrant was on the opposite side of Massachusetts Avenue and the chemistry lab was on the third floor of the building. The loss was \$23,000 (about \$330,000 in today's dollars, based on consumer inflation rates -- but to understand the extent of the damage by another means of economic comparison, in 1921 \$23,000 could purchase one of the finest new homes occupying a large lot in Winchester). The point is that the loss was quite substantial and made worse by the fact that the town wasn't as well-insured against property losses as was first believed. This led to significant reforms in the policy coverage placed on town assets. Oh, and a high-pressure fire hydrant soon was installed on the same side of Mass. Ave. as the high school.

Tuesday, July 19, 1921

Rather hot & muggy but a good breeze all day -- not clear. Up 6:45, slow dressing, too weary to hurry I guess. Eats, lunch to put up & off 8:15. Worked on school books all day, finished bindery 297, and discarded 150, revised Ruth's mending, did a little on circulation & mended Aunt Sue's copy of "Little Women." Fed barn cat after supper, poor thin little mother, wrote here & read some.. Cloudy in eve.

Wednesday, July 20, 1921 [*]

Pleasant & fine all day, with heavy rain and thunder at night. Up 6:45 -- made muffins & gingerbread before breakfast. Had quite a wash & did a little ironing, busy about all of AM. Off 12:15, desk 1 - 3 & 6 - 9 & busy rest of time. Began to rain in evening & poured at nine -- had umbrella & rubbers so managed to get a [trolley] car when it let up a bit -- mess in street. Had to wait at Clarendon Hill -- crowd there -- our Italian, read Trojano, among them. [**] [Rain] Nearly stopped when reached Arlington so walked home. Everything O.K. Rain had not come in at all. Bed very quickly.

[*] Also on this day, the Association of Economic Entomologists held their summer field meeting in the Boston area. They inspected various eradication practices in nearby communities on pests such as the European corn borer and the satin moth. Their day concluded with a visit to the U.S. Entomological Laboratory at 10 Court St. in Arlington. This site, and an adjacent parcel to the north, became the location of the U.S. Post Office in 1936.

[**] I assume that "our Italian" refers to an Italian laborer on the Winn farm, whose name Nina has spelled as "Trojano," although I suspect that's merely a phonetic attempt at spelling his first or last name.

Thursday, July 21, 1921

Rain early, then pleasant & hotter again. Up 6:45 & off 8:15. Most of day to work on books & got a lot done, circulation, and odds & ends of things & some mending. Home 6:30 & left some books at 146, eats & fed cats, embroidered & read some and bed at 9:30.

Friday, July 22, 1921

Pleasant, much cooler and suit comfortable -- except about 3 PM. Up 6:45 & usual eats. Frank Whittemore here to do lawn -- fine when I came back in PM. Library 9 - 1. Registration & odds & ends of school-work. In town with Katherine Eaton & lunched at Georgian & to Winter St. together -- did a number of errands, paid \$25 on [unreadable] coat & bot a white skirt -- much needed. Out by 4, few errands & at 146 & Mabel & Barbara back with me to supper. Had quite a lot to iron first. Swordfish as usual & over later for ices at Blake's & home at 9. Wrote here & bed by 10.

Saturday, July 23, 1921

Clear & nice -- rather cool. Up 7:45, read awhile in bed. Light eats, washed several things & ironed some & did a lot of mending. Aunts home about 10:30 after a nice ten days in Belmont with Aunts Mame and Elizabeth. Library 1 - 9, school work in PM and desk in evening -- not too busy & not very tired. Home 9:30 & did several errands so house about ten & bed very soon. Mabel & Barbara to Mashpee on early train -- [they] couldn't find [their] cat so had to leave him behind.

Sunday, July 24, 1921

Clear -- quite hot. Woke soon after 8 and read for a couple of hours. Had a waist and the pongee skirt to iron. Fed farm cat, read, etc. & [wrote] note to Edith Hayes. Tried to telephone La but nobody home. Read most of PM & slept some. Late & light lunch. Intended to go to Winn's [at 50] Academy St. but it was too hot & I was too tired. Gert Crocker & Carrie Peirce at Aunt Sarah's late in AM. Aunt Sue there.

Monday, July 25, 1921 [*]

Hottest day for two years. 95 degrees but no humidity so fairly comfortable. Up 6:45 & library by 9. Registration and rest of the day for school work & good and busy & accomplished quite a lot. Building quite hot. Circulation [statistics showed] 6,700 more [books borrowed] than last year -- very nearly 50,000. Home 6:30, bot some ice cream for our supper. Read & to bed fairly early. Aunt Sue with Aunt Sarah.

[*] With regard to the heat in the summer of 1921, the Arlington Advocate editorialized: "With the summer comes vacation time, and of course the boys and many girls avail themselves every chance they can get, to sport in the cool waters. A town of about 20,000 inhabitants, and with two large bodies of water in its limits and another on the Winchester side, we have no place for the boys and girls to swim. From time to time there is agitation about bringing the matter before . . . town meeting but each year sees nothing accomplished. . . .With little expense a sandy bottom could be

put in at some section of Spy Pond, the place roped off to prevent swimming beyond the safety line and the same could be done at the Heights reservoir. All around us we find swimming facilities for the old and young and just why Arlington cannot do it is beyond understanding to many of our citizens. It is perhaps too late to consider it for this year, but that it should receive the attention of our townspeople for the sake of safety to our boys and girls, seems not out of the question."

Tuesday, July 26, 1921 [*]

95 degrees or so. Very hot again and some more. Up 6:45. Mosquitoes busy during night so [I] felt a wreck. Off 8:15. Not scheduled so did a lot of school work during day & mended mostly and got all odds and ends together. Had to leave at 6, as lecture hall was unbearably hot. Up with Opha M. [Opha B. Matheson, a colleague of Nina's who worked in the Circulation Department] & home by mill [via the now-vanished continuation of Water Street that connected Mass. Ave. and Summer St.]. Quite uncomfortable. Ate a little, read & embroidered on piazza awhile. Bed quite early & read awhile. _More_ mosquitoes but everybody has them.

[*] Flashback to Nina's diary entry of July 26, 1920 <snip>: " . . . Miss Kinsman telephoned me so went in to see her -- rather bad news. A.L.A. [American Library Association] may put over their part to Welfare & I may lose 1/2 pay [at new job] at Rutland. All in the air, but said I was _game_. Bit worry tho. . . . To bed without light. More weary than tired -- eyes just wouldn't keep open -- fagged, I guess." Note: The "Miss Kinsman" may be Annis Louise Kinsman, who had served previously as the librarian at the Chelsea Naval Hospital. In 1921 the A.L.A. had a change in policy regarding its direct involvement in various lines of library work, to include institutions such as the Rutland State Hospital, where Nina was supposed to start a new job on September 1. The reference to "put over their part to Welfare" is not crystal clear, but from context it seems that funding towards Nina's position was being sent elsewhere from a budgetary perspective. The A.L.A. had been a tremendous presence during World War I, but with wartime over, the thinking of its leadership was that it needed to primarily focus on libraries serving the general public.

Wednesday, July 27, 1921

Very, very hot -- 90 degrees in library at desk. Busy [earlier at home] with washing and ironing and mended a bit & off at 12:30; some bit late [to work]. Books all of PM, discards, etc. & at desk 6 - 9. Not many in -- too hot to go out. Home 9:30 & had a poor soda at Blake's. So hot and so many mosquitoes that I slept on couch in front room. Awake quite a lot but cool and no mosquitoes. George's cat up & slept on floor all night. Aunt Sue at Maria Hill's for the day.

Thursday, July 28, 1921

Beautiful sunset. 95 degrees and the hottest day yet had a nice breeze all day -- fairly good early, but later: oh my. Busy with school books most all day & desk 1 - 3 and read most of the time. Home 6:30 nearly done up. Beans & ice cream for supper. George up from Mashpee and in awhile but didn't eat -- didn't feel well. Fed barn cat and wrote here & to Mabel. Read & embroidered some & bed at 9. Slept in my room -- mosquitoes not so bad; woke me once.

Friday, July 29, 1921 [*]

Not so hot -- a slight east wind once more, but everyone exhausted from the heat. Up 6:40. George here to breakfast -- not a heavy one. Down on late [trolley] car & left a bit early as I met Helen Smith at Schrafft's for lunch -- very good. To Miss Ferguson's at 2 & later tried to shop a bit but too tired, so home. Few eats to buy & at [Robbins] library awhile. Began to rain so home -- poured all the evening. Read, rested & embroidered. Bed 9:30. Aunt Sarah at Mrs. Hobbs' for a few days.

[*] The Arlington Advocate reported this week in 1921: "Bathing [swimming] is becoming very popular at the Heights Reservoir, but many forget that there is a law that requires proper covering for the body of the bather. So far as those bathing on the Arlington sides of the reservoir are concerned, they comply, but those bathing on the upper (Lexington) end are the ones who ignore this regulation and have caused complaint to be made."

Saturday, July 30, 1921 [*]

Clear & nice & cooler. Up 6:45. George to breakfast. Had a good busy morning tho not a hard one. Gave the living rooms a much needed dusting & brushing, mended some, etc. Aunt Sue in a moment; [she was] at L. Day's last night and going to the Dyers for over Sunday. Library 1 - 9, had an extra desk person so had Miss Eaton take the Desk II. I helped on floor desk, did a little school work & had a chat with Annie Prentiss. Home 9:30 -- read quite awhile in bed. Alone [in her duplex house] again.

[*] On July 30, 1921 a rather scary (by both standards of yesterday and today regarding mental-health treatment) commitment was ordered by the criminal court and reported the next day in the Boston Globe. The story has a "tabloid" quality to it (even though the Globe in 1921 was a broadsheet), and it reminds us that although the Boston Globe evolved to become the city and region's "newspaper of record," in 1921 it had a scrappier editorial style that was not aimed at a "Boston Protestant" readership. I don't know what newspaper Nina took, but I suspect it would have been the Boston Herald (a mainstream broadsheet that's far removed from the current Herald). At all events, following are excerpts of the tale as published in the Globe: **DELICATE BRAIN SURGERY MAY CURE LAD'S CRIMINAL TENDENCIES** Plan to Operate on Arlington Youth Who Has "Jekyll [sic] and Hyde" Personality. Special Dispatch to the Globe NEW HAVEN -- July 30. An operation calculated to relieve the pressure of a bone on the brain is expected to save Theodore Scanlan, 24, of Arlington, Mass., not only from prosecution . . . but also to effect a cure of his criminal tendencies. . . . He will be placed in the hands of Dr. Ross Diefendorf, a Yale Medical School alienist [psychiatrist]. A fall from a tree when Scanlan was a boy is said to have resulted in a "Jekyll and Hyde" personality, that becomes prevalent during the Spring months of the year when the young man engages in criminal escapades, though at other periods of the year he appears normal and repentant for his rash actions. . . . [Note: I haven't yet learned what became of this plan for young Mr. Scanlan.]

> Isn't it likely that Scanlan was bipolar? Dr. Allen Ross Diefendorf, > 1871-1943) (a distant relative of mine, several times removed) studied > manic > depressive disorders and wrote THE standard textbook of the day on clinical > psychiatry.

Dr. Diefendorf, who translated, adapted, and condensed for American students and practitioners the sixth edition of Dr. Emil Kraepelin's German textbook "Psychiatrie," didn't publish a case study that I could locate that resembled the description of the Theodore Scanlan case. (Note that "Scanlan" is also spelled variously as "Scanlon" in the Boston Globe article.) The notion of a surgically reversible brain injury as the reason for Theodore Scanlan's criminal behavior was put forth by someone who was not Dr. Diefendorf and I don't know how far he pursued that in his diagnosis and care of the patient. Moreover, as sensational as the initial story was, I can't see that the press maintained any additional interest in it. Scanlan had a long police record, but the arrest pertaining to his psychiatric commitment was theft of money order blanks and money order stamps from a U.S. Post Office in Bridgeport, Conn. I think that if the case had been for a violent crime, the press might have followed it beyond this one known report. Someday my curiosity will get the better of me and I'll attempt a judicial archives search to see if I can discover how the story developed! -- Richard Duffy --

Sunday, July 31, 1921

Vacation. Clouds & heavy thundershowers, hail, rain in torrents and sun. Woke about 7, read awhile, slept, woke again at 10:30 when the first thunder shower arrived. Had to shut all windows so put on kimona & down on couch. Read paper & had some eats about 12 & back to bed again soon after 1 and read and dozed until 4:30 when it began to thunder & grow very dark, so dressed & downstairs again & such rain & hail. Streets flooded & could barely see across the pond.

[*] Cleared later & a beautiful pink sunset. At 146 [Mystic St.] & telephoned to La. Talked awhile with Maggie, wrote here & bed about nine again. Getting a few good Williams apples. [**]

[*] This refers to Fowle's mill pond, directly across Summer Street from Nina's home. In the 1950s it was drained and used as a sanitary landfill (read: rubbish dump). Today it is the site of the Arlington Catholic High School field, and the Town of Arlington's Buzzell Field.

[**] Williams apples (also called "Williams Pride") is a variety that is difficult to find today. It's an early-ripening apple that was developed in Roxbury and was cultivated extensively in Arlington. The orchard on the George Peirce farm (extending from Mass. Ave. into Spy Pond, between Marion and Elmhurst roads) were renowned in Boston for its Williams apples. For more information on the Williams apple, visit this page from Adam Auster of Arlington's colorful blog "Adam's Apples": <http://adamapples.blogspot.com/2008/08/williams-pride.html>

Monday, August 1, 1921

Plymouth pageant with President Harding present, parades, etc. [*] Clear & glorious -- the day of a year -- air bracing. Up about 7, eats & had quite a lot of washing to do, and read and rested, sewed & had a good day's vacation. Up for a nap soon after 2 & a few moments later heard a rattle & yell & there was Aunt Sarah down for warmer clothes so of course no rest for me (more luck). Mrs.

Hobbs here later & then Aunt Sue (back from Dyers). Over town at 4 with first two, some errands & to library, found Florence Harris at home & we went to the Winn's to call -- didn't see Amy as she was just back from her "posture" doctor. Back to supper with Florence & lagter to [Robbins] library together & to Deshons awhile. Richard over with me and in for a bit. Aunt Sue _abed_.

[*] This was part of a year-long extravaganza celebrating the tercentary of the establishment of the Plymouth Colony (subsumed by Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1691). In September 1921, Cyrus Dallin's well-known statue of Massasoit was unveiled.

Tuesday, August 2, 1921 [*]

Cloudy & quite cool. Up about 7, as I had to get ice & he comes very early. [**] Eats & had quite a lot of ironing & then sewed, fixed an old voile for mornings at Mashpee. Lunch at 12 & so sleepy went up to bed & had a nice nap without being interrupted. Sewed some more & over town about 5. Met Marian & Alice [Buttrick], just up from Cape -- had a fine time & [they] like piazza. Marian over in eve. Aunt Sue down about 8:30 -- had been to Weston with Mary Winn. Bed 9:30 -- few mosquitoes.

[*] Flashback to August 2, 1920: " . . . Letter from Miss Kinsman. Nothing more heard about Rutland & A.L.A. . . . "

[**] The iceman cometh . . . very early!

Wednesday, August 3, 1921 [*] #

Clear and nice -- rather cool. Woke at 8 and up. Aunt Sue had eaten but talked so long it was 9 before I did. An easy, quiet AM. Made a dutch cheese [**], fed barn cat, read paper, mended, washed & ironed guest towel for Edythe Miller, etc. On couch reading and sewing until 4 PM and then dressed. Aunt Sue down later and Alice & Marian came for us at 5:30 for a picnie to the Concord Reservoir -- beautiful spot & fine view, rather hazy. Drove us to the Middlesex School to see grounds, then to Carlisle, Bedford and home. Here by 9 & had had a fine outing. Talked awhile & then bed. Found note from Mabel that George had left [for Mashpee].

[*] Flashback to August 3, 1920: " . . . Letter from Miss Kathleen Jones. Position [at Rutland State Hospital] practically done for & she is terribly upset. Also, Mr. Evans [head librarian of Somerville Public Library] acceptance of my resignation. Showed him the letter [from Miss Jones] and he was mighty nice -- said [library] trustees hadn't passed & we'd tear up our notes & offered me the same 2 positions [as his earlier counteroffer to Nina]. Rather a blow, but took it joking -- loss of Rutland, I mean. . . . "

[**] "Dutch cheese" is most likely what we would term cottage cheese today. It was yet another recipe that was popular to make at home because it made good use of sour milk. In this recipe, it was important that the milk be "freshly sour;" otherwise the sour milk would best be used in baked goods, such as the Littleton Corn Cake Nina made a few weeks ago.

Thursday, August 4, 1921 [*]

Clear and glorious, not hot -- 70 degrees. Up about 8 -- some weary & achy. George to breakfast - dishes, washed a waist & skirt, in garden at 11 and pulled grass & weeds until one -- some job but much needed. Had an egg nog, wrote to Mabel & read & rested for an hour or so. Aunt Sue to Framingham to see Florence Russell. Aunt Sarah going to stay with Mrs. Hobbs another week. Ironed & then had a nice hot bath & over town late in PM to do a few errands. Read & mended some in eve. [**] Aunt Sue home about nine -- had had a fine day & called on Miss Hayes.

[*] Flashback to August 4, 1920: " . . . Back on Somerville Library staff. Party called off (no one going [away]). Broke the news to Miss Whipple in PM -- quite pleased and everyone jollying me more or less. Gave me 5 weeks vacation, which is the best thing I have had happen for ages. . . ."

[**] The preceding sentence in the 1921 entry was crossed out, but Nina then added beneath it "O.K." to indicate that she hadn't written it in error, after all. Nina often writes multiple days' worth of diary entries at a time, and the fact that she usually remembers all of the small details of her very busy days, down to the quarter-hour, is amazing to me. Not as amazing as seeing how she spent a vacation day today.

Friday, August 5, 1921

Pleasant and fairly cool. Up at 8. Had a bit more washing to do & various other things & then ready for Boston. Edith Winn over, so over town together. Did a lot of shopping, talked with Miss Jeffries & then with Abbie Glover. Got some cakes at E&I [Women's Industrial and Educational Union shop], to Georgian for lunch, and met Carrie Fowle so ate together & then did a lot more errands & so tired. Home 4:30. Paid water-tax, had egg shake [*] at Blake's & for rent [from tenant of 12 Russell Terrace]. Found I had over \$10.00 to pay out for repairs. Home at 5:30, tried to telephone Florence Harris but no answer. Tired enough to rest & read & go to bed early. Aunt Sue with Richard Deshon at Maria Hill's for auction.

[*] This should not be confused with an egg cream, a soda fountain beverage that contains neither egg nor cream, and is said to have its roots in Brooklyn, N.Y. An egg shake that Nina would have enjoyed came under the category of a "food drink" at a soda fountain, in that it was a nutritious concoction that people often would have as a sort of light meal during summer. It contained an egg, shaved or cracked ice, flavoring syrup(s), milk, and seltzer water. There were many variations of the recipe and proportions of ingredients, but the above is the basic outline of the formula.

Saturday, August 6, 1921

Clear & not too hot -- and a busy day. Up at 6:45 when Dave B. [David Buttrick, Mabel Winn's brother] called to me [literally, stood outside and shouted up to Nina's open bedroom window] to say Mabel had telephoned for Florence Harris to come with me, so up by 7:30 & telephoned [*] and [Florence] said she'd go [to Mashpee]. Back and had eats. Aunt Sue in awhile & later Aunt Sarah down & both talked a lot of course. Had some washing and a bit of ironing to do and plenty of picking up. Fed barn cat, etc., bath & left at 11:40. At Maggie's a moment, paid gas bill, to bank and in town to S.S. Pierce's for candy & then South Station. Had a quick lunch, met Florence and

left for the Cape at 1:25. Bessie with Mabel & Barbara at station, had ices at Lavender Kettle & at house by five. Beans & chop on piazza in eve. Florence in front room & I am sleeping in little front room. George and children on piazza.

[*] Nina would have walked to her brother's home at 146 Mystic St. to make the phone call to Florence. In this era, the Arlington Directory only published names, addresses and occupations of adult men (and women, if heads of households) in the residential listings. Telephone numbers were only published for businesses. Starting in 1930 the Arlington Directory included residential telephone listings.

Sunday, August 7, 1921

Clear & nice -- good breeze all day. A day of rest for all of us. Up about 8:30. Two meals -- 9:30 and again 6:30 or so. Read and on couches resting about all the day, talking, etc. George, Barbara & Arthur with the dog to John's Pond in P.M. for a swim (walked). Showered a bit in P.M. -- only for a few moments. Bed about 10. Florence, Mabel, Barbara, Arthur & I to the Mill Pond in eve.

Monday, August 8, 1921

Rained early and cloudy most of the morning but cleared off by afternoon and was fine. All hands up by 8 -- had a nice breakfast, helped with dishes and later we all sat on the piazza and read, slept, and embroidered. Jr. to "Pop." [Popanneset] with Collins's. Dinner about 2 & more sewing & about 5:30 Mabel, Florence, Barbara & I went for a swim. Water good and not mossy. Arthur cut his hand quite badly in the morning -- nearly fainted when having it fixed. Read in PM & later made a nut cake for Arthur's birthday that Florence frosted with pink, had A.H.W. and the dates on in chocolate with candles in the corners, red, white & blue. Late dinner & then [at] 8:30 boys & George down town & rest of us read & talked on the piazza until 10:00 then bed.

Tuesday, August 9, 1921

Arthur's 12th birthday. Clear & glorious. Up at 8. Florence in for an early swim. Arthur had his cake and presents and was happy. A many-bladed knife from George, \$2 from Mabel, 50 cents from Florence, 2 ties from Barbara & candy from Jr. Stamps & court plaster [*] from Aunt Sue by mail & I gave him a book and dollar bill in a toy golf bag & when he went downtown the Collinses gave him 75 cents. I washed & Florence wiped & then we went over to see Grandma Sturgis & to see if Bessie would take us to Falmouth but she was too busy. Embroidered & read paper, dinner at 3 & George left for home at 4. Rest of us on the cots, reading & napping, boys downtown & Barbara at Ileen's [Eileen's]. Downtown in eve & called on all the Collins & Luprenes [?] two in house. Met Gus Francee [?]. Over Mr. Oakley's house later & then wrote a bit to Aunt Sue & in here & bed at 10. Decided to sleep out. Nice and warm but dog and cat were noisy and it was nearly two when I finally went to sleep.

[*] In 1921, a court plaster was a coated fabric used to protect superficial wounds of the skin. In a manner of speaking it was an ancestor of adhesive bandages often referred to generically by the brand name of Band-Aids (which had been invented the year prior but were not yet at all well

known). It's hard to imagine that Aunt Sue had received word the day before of Arthur's cutting himself, just as it's hard to imagine that she sent along court plasters by coincidence. But if George had happened to speak with Aunt Sue on the telephone, the speediness of the mails in the 1920s (with multiple daily deliveries) could very well mean that Aunt Sue could have purchased court plasters on Monday, put them in the mail, and they would have arrived in Mashpee on Tuesday. As concerns the gift of stamps, this is uncertain. It might be U.S. savings stamps--either War Savings Certificate, stamps that earned interest, or Thrift stamps to be accumulated to purchase a War Bond. It also could be U.S. postage stamps, not to mail letters, but to be used as a form of currency to pay for small mail order purchases.

Wednesday, August 10, 1921

A wonderful clear day, some warmer but good breeze. Up about 8, various things, embroidered & on piazza. Mabel washed & I put up a lunch and after the mail came we went to Canomet. 2 boats. Jr. rowed Arthur, Mabel & the dog over & I rowed over & Florence back. Barbara & Eileen with us. Water was fine and warm & after lunch & a walk we all went in & then Florence & the girls & I went up to the bluff & back. Home soon after five & sat on piazza & read & slept out with Arthur & Barbara.

Thursday, August 11, 1921

Clear & fine again & quite warm but good breeze on piazza all day. Woke up soon after 7 & talked with Barbara & Arthur & up 7:45 -- built fire & dressed. Florence & Barbara for a swim. Did quite a lot of mending & ironing & another nut cake. Most of us in for a swim at 2:30, then eats & Florence, Jr., Mabel & I to Falmouth with Bessie. Did quite a lot of shopping & home about 7 or so. Light eats, wrote to Eleanor ["La"] and here. Laurence [Collins], Lydia, Marian & Elliot up in evening with some clams & stayed awhile. Bed about 11.

Friday, August 12, 1921

Cloudy early & a little distant thunder but cleared later. Up 7:30 & in for a swim. Florence, Barbara, Junior, & I -- good game of tag. Eats & dishes & helped brush up & dust up. Did quite a lot of scallops. Florence made Spanish rice which we had for lunch & carried sandwiches with us to Popp. [Popponesset] where we all went with the Collins on Laurence's invitation. In for a swim of course & water was glorious -- stayed an hour. Marian a good swimmer. Home soon after 6 and on piazza most of eve & Florence & I slept out, also Barbara & Arthur. A fine moon.

Saturday, August 13, 1921

[Mashpee] Woke about 8 and all but Mabel in for a swim at 8:30 -- water good. Eats later & Florence & I did dishes and then I made a cake for Mabel's birthday & Florence decorated, with white roses on a yellow background. Bessie along & took Florence & Barbara to Cotuit & rest of us ate as dinner was ready at two -- others back at 3 and ate & Florence got ready & left at four with Bessie for Sandwich [Massachusetts train station] and home. Mabel & I sewed on piazza until 5 &

then took our sewing over to Grandma Sturgis's. Back at 6:20. George here & beans and brown bread for supper. All hands downtown later & Mabel, Barbara, & I to library. Some good books sent by Mass. Library Commission. Arthur to Pop [Poppanesset] with the Collinses & later to Falmouth with them. Tired when we got back & to bed very soon -- slept in the front room.

Sunday, August 14, 1921 [*]

Woke at 6, 8 and 9 & read awhile & all but Mabel in for a swim. Showered later with distant thunder & showered most all day. Wrote a lot of letters -- see below. Wills over for quite a while. Another swim before the dinner of steak and onions, read on piazza later & George, Arthur & Barbara down town. Jr. started but George was cross so he returned. Let him have a pocketbook to give Mabel [as a birthday present] tomorrow. Great time doing up [wrapping] later. Clothesline & candy from Barbara, and pins & candy from Arthur. Bed 10:30. Wrote cards to Cousin Hattie & Jessie Bashforth and letter to Nellie Dean, Mrs. Damon, Olive Gleason and Aunt Sue.

[*] On this date was the funeral of Pvt. Joseph W. Zwinge, the first soldier from Arlington to die in World War I. He died April 16, 1918 at age 26 from wounds received near the town of Toul in northeastern France. His body was returned from its temporary resting place in the American Cemetery at Commercy. Zwinge was a cross-country track star at Arlington High School, noted for having beaten both the Harvard and Brown freshmen (in an era when interscholastic sports could include competitions between high schools and college teams). He was waked at his sister's home in Brighton for two days before being brought to Arlington Town Hall to lie in state for one day prior to his funeral service at St. Agnes Church. His body was placed on a caisson drawn by six horses, followed by a French 75M field cannon, also drawn by six horses. At his burial, a salute was given from the field cannon "whose report echoed and reechoed from across the Mystic Valley." (To hear the intensity of a French 75M being fired, here's a short clip from a program on the History channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgAkh5WOaU>) In Zwinge's memory, Caira Robbins donated to the Russell School a copy of "Captured But Not Conquered," by Cyrus E. Dallin. See an image of this statue and a description of it here: https://www.1stdibs.com/furniture/decorative-objects/sculptures/figurative-sculptures/captured-but-not-conquered-cyrus-dallin-1918/id-f_6897773/

Monday, August 15, 1921

Mabel's 45th birthday. Clear & fine, the best day yet, quite cool so no one in for a swim early. Up about 8. George & boys out for fish for cat. Brushed up some, mended a bit & ironed. Great excitement early getting all the presents and cake on the breakfast and quite an opening. All down for a swim before dinner. Read & embroidered in late PM and evening. Nice moon.

Tuesday, August 16, 1921

Clear--very--and windy. Fine moon. On piazza a good share of day. Hemmed two small made-over sheets & washed them. Early dinner & George to with the dog -- got lost and not home until 7:30. Rest of us all but Mabel to head of pond for a swim, also Eileen; gone three hours on beach mostly

with Mrs. Collins, Maria & Elliott. George, Mabel & I to Collins' in evening; rode back with Bessie. Moon was wonderful. Bed about 11.

Wednesday, August 17, 1921

Clear & fine again & windy. Up 7:30, eats, brushed up some. Irving O. here awhile and George and boys off fishing & Mabel & I in another boat & I rowed beyond Rothery's and then we walked to Peter's & Pimlico ponds. Picked Mabel's hat full of blackberries on the way back: bushes near Pimlico were loaded with them. Found mushrooms, which we cooked for dinner & Mabel made shortcake. Had a quick swim. Dinner at 2:45 & left at 4 with Bessie, Mabel & George -- latter went back to Arlington. Rest of us did a lot of shopping. Home at 6:45. Light eats & read & embroidered. Mrs. Young over for awhile. All but Jr. slept out. Wrote to Florence & had a card from her asking me for over Sunday.

Thursday, August 18, 1921

Wind blew so, and it began to rain, so in house at 3 & it poured after that. Mabel went in earlier & Barbara later. Poured most of AM but blue sky by 12. Mended & embroidered. Boys fishing & Barbara over to play with Eileen. Did a lot of embroidery -- nearly 18 scallops on bureau scarf. [*] All hands over to Bessie's at 5:30 for a swim with her. Water cold but good, supper when we got back & enjoyed the moon from piazza later. Slept inside.

[*] This probably does not refer to a decorative motif of scallop shells, but rather the scalloped edges of the piece, which usually were embellished (and reinforced) with embroidery, either tone-on-tone, or contrasting.

Friday August 19 1921

A glorious day again -- quite hot in PM -- good breeze all the time. Up 7:30 or so. Some washing, ironing & brushing up & helping. Boys fishing but not much luck. Embroidered a little & mended some. Put up a lunch in PM. Bessie over at 5:30 & seven of us to "Pop" [Poppaneset]. Mabel, Jr., Arthur, Barbara & Eileen. Rather cool, so late, but water was fine. Ate in pines but mosquitoes were thick. Moon came up while we were eating & was glorious & we stayed & watched it quite a long time, reflected in bay & ocean. Home 9:30. Arthur, Barbara & I slept on the piazza -- a wonderful night.

Saturday, August 20, 1921

Clear & wonderful warm but a good breeze. Woke at 7, talked awhile & Mabel down to talk & start fire, rest of us for a swim at 7:45. Had some washing & ironing to do, brushed & dusted room & sewed a little. Boys fishing & Arthur caught a 3 lb. pickerel, a beauty. Early dinner & later into bathing duds & over to see Grandma Sturgis. In for a swim, dressed, and finished packing. Bessie over at 4. Will & Marion with her & Mabel & Barbara went. Met George at Sandwich to go back. Up on 4:45 [train] -- hot in Boston. Flowers beautiful all the way. Supper at South Station, errands

& in house about 8:45. Close -- no one here. Aunt Sarah at Ruth Peirce's & Aunt Sue at L. Day's, so quiet. Unpacked & bed by 10. Good breeze & cooler after I'd shed my coat.

Sunday, August 21, 1921

Clear & beautiful, cool and like October. Woke about 8 & read a bit, breakfast & made a coffee cake and busy all of AM. To 146 & telephoned to Florence. Cooked swordfish, wrote to Mabel & in here, sent -- or got ready to send -- "Fairies and Chimneys" [*] to Cousin Libby for her birthday, read paper, etc. To farm & fed cat. On to Florence's. Edith Rice there & we sat under the trees, very lovely but too many mosquitoes for eating out, so had delicious chicken & corn & apple pie inside and _some_ talking. House 9:30 or so, read a bit in bed.

[*] "Fairies and Chimneys" is a book of light whimsical verse by Rose Fyleman, published in 1920, with a charming color frontispiece of the era See the book here:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=ddEEAQAAIAAJ>

Monday, August 22, 1921 [*]

Cool & fine & hardly a cloud. Up at 7. Some washing & ironing, bit mending & morning just flew. Fixed Spanish rice. Up to barn to feed cat & kitten & hunted all over the loft for kitten -- only to find it downstairs. Taught it to lap milk. Lunch & off at 12:20. Not scheduled until 6 -- lot of talking to do -- several off on vacations & some others just back. Check up 300 bindery books & carded some while Ruth stamped them. Busy in the evening but home at 9:30. Aunt Sue abed & I went by 10:30.

[*] "Arlington: One of the best games of the season, the Colored Independents of West Medford at Spy Pond field this evening. This game plays off the tie," announced the Boston Globe on August 22, 1921. This was a follow-up game to the six-inning tie of the previous week (game called early on account of darkness; typical after-work games had standard seven-inning play, rather than nine innings, because the fields were not illuminated). At this re-match, the Arlington Twilight club soundly defeated the Independents. Note that the West Medford team did not have the word "Colored" in its official name, but was referred to that way, as were other African American teams with such appended designations as "Nunkamps of Lynn, colored," or "Boston Giants, colored." Racial make-up of the teams typically would be noted because amateur and semi-pro teams often publicly solicited games with one another. Apparently there were teams that would decline to play others on such a basis (or another objection, such as seeking to play only against a team that was "uniformed"). Arlington was a big baseball town that welcomed all opponents in 1921. The West Medford Independents were organized in 1901 and reorganized at various times (with a pause due to World War I player shortages). A Causasian team in Medford of the era was the Medford White Sox, often just referred to as "Medford." The Independents' home field in West Medford was the Brooks Playstead (now known by the tautology "Playstead Park"). Its members were made up of local-born talent and newer players who arrived in the "Great Migration" from the American South.

Tuesday, August 23, 1921

Clear, cool, wonderful. Up 6:45. Up to feed wee yellow kitten early in AM. Eats, etc. Talked to by Aunt Sue but managed to put up a lunch, etc. Marian Buttrick over so drove me to centre, down [to Somerville Public Library] on the 8:30. Books early, desk 11:30 to one & busy with mending, carding, etc. Wrote up books all of PM while Ruth stamped and pasted Home 6:30, nearly thru supper when Florence Harris came with her sewing. So cool started a fire in the fireplace. Aunt Sue at Mrs. Deshon's, home by 10. R.W.D. [Richard W. Deshon] with her. Read paper & "Man with Three Names" in bed so light not out until 11:40. [*]

[*] The proximity of mentioning R.W.D. and Nina being in bed with "Man with Three Names" produces unintended comic effect. Here's the novel that Nina was reading:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.hn1lm1&view=1up&seq=1>

Wednesday, August 24, 1921

Clear & fine -- cool. Up 6:40. Some of a rush as I made oatmeal, whitened shoes, pressed skirt, etc. George to breakfast but rather late so ate alone. Down on the 8:30. Registration & then worked on bindery books all day; nearly finished them. Home 6:30, up for 5 cents. Last of [Spanish] rice & some bread & cold coffee. Fed farm cat & wrote here. "Gert" Crocker in [*] to see Aunt Sue. Edith Rice & Florence Harris to see me & we sewed and talked. Bed 10:30 or so & read awhile there.

[*] Gertrude Crocker was a 53-year old stenographher who was a neighbor of Aunt Sue's. Her home stood catty-corner on the other side of Mill Street at a 104 Summer St. (demolished, and until recently the the parking lot of the NAPA auto parts store; today that of FoodLink).

Thursday, August 25, 1921

Clear & gorgeous -- quite cool. Up 6:40, made oatmeal muffins & had cream of wheat & coffee. George here about 7:40. Into pink voile & off at 8:20. Desk 9 - 11: 30 & then books. Mae Gromley, Bunny & I to Lillian Mc Gowan Dion's to lunch. Marion Fall & Mrs. Kidder there. Jolly time & so _much_ to eat -- not back until _3_. Felt punk when I went & walked both ways & all in when I got back but worked until 4:45 & then home. Here by 5:30 & on couch & read, a light supper & to bed by 8 but read quite awhile. Aunt Sue in about 5:30 & then to cemetery & over town for her supper & not back until I'd gone up to bed.

Friday, August 26, 1921

Clear & wee bit warmer. Not up until 9:30, eats & to farm. Fed cat & yellow kitten & in to see to telephone to Somerville that I wouldn't be down. Aunt Sue there [at her own home at 57 Summer St.] & Mame Gannett called to say that Charles isn't well, so they wouldn't have her (S.A.W.) [Susanna Adams Winn, to stay with them] at Harvard [, Mass.] next week. Wrote here & to Mabel & on couch about all the day. Had blanket & pillows & in sun under apple tree for 3 hours in PM. Aunt Sarah & Aunt Sue back at 6, former had been at Winthrop a week. Bed early.

Saturday, August 27, 1921 [*]

Up 6:45, breakfast, etc. & off at 8:15. Registration then saw [head librarian] Mr. Evans & told him I was leaving October 1 on account of health, to see if I can begin to feel well once more. Rang Florence Harris just before one & she told me the awful news of Vida's Damon's death. Word of Vida's drowning at Kennebunkport yesterday [was] in the morning paper. A terrible shock to everyone. Found floating on water, brot pulmonator from Old Orchard by airplane, but useless. [She] would have been 44 the 14th of October -- a lifelong friend. PM off, errands & home soon after 2, a bit of lunch. Mrs. Hobbs down so talked some. Did some washing & up to 57 & rang La, Edith, & Marjory Wood. Christmas Club sending a basket of yellow roses. Florence to supper & until 8:30 or so in the evening. Very tired & to bed by 9 & read.

[*] Nina's entry on this diary page has been re-ordered to make the story of her day flow chronologically. Bear in mind that Nina often writes several days of diary entries at once and sometimes adds topics so that her record will be complete, but these items are not placed in the main body of the text. Nina certainly never imagined a time when her diaries would be minimally adapted (and extensively annotated) to create continuity in a story that is followed followed by thousands of readers. Nina went back to yesterday's diary page and wrote at the top "Vida drowned at Kennebunkport." And then back to June 19 to add at the bottom of the page, "Last time I ever saw Vida."

Sunday, August 28, 1921

Clear & fine, much warmer. Up at 8:30, woke at six & leg ached so I couldn't sleep or read. Busy all of AM, had some ironing to do. Mr. Sztobbe [florist at rear of 133 Mystic St.] up for poppy seeds & brot me a beauty bouquet -- snapdragons, verbena, delphinium & gilly. Carried my poinsettia back to doctor-up. Almira Barker & Gertrude at Aunt Sarah's & in awhile. Everyone all talking of Vida. Florence over to dinner -- had roast lamb, sweet & white potatoes, string beans, tomatoes, & coffee & Florence brot a fine apple pie. Wrote here after dishes & to Mabel about Vida & over to Florence's at five. She went early to meet Fitchburg cousins & I got there just in time to meet them. Out in hammocks until dark & had a bite & & Florence & I into the Deshons' for a while. Home by 9:30.

Monday, August 29, 1921 [*]

Pleasant and very hot. Up at 7. Mabel had breakfast with me but had a sick-headache so went home to rest. Had a little washing & ironing to do, dusted, fed cat & kitten. Mabel back to dinner at 12 & then we talked awhile & she left by 1:45. Into brown dress & over town at 2:30, met Florence Harris at the [Robbins] library & La, Rachel & Mrs. Frost were there, so all to Vida's together. Mabel with Mrs. Foster. Helen wanted to see me, so upstairs a moment. [**] Sat in sitting room & it seemed as if Vida must come in at any moment. Every room filled -- flowers were very beautiful as we glimpsed them, but when Rachel & I saw poor Vida, we rushed out. It was a most awful sight, gray and old, not a thing like our Vida. Had to go to work & there soon after 4. Gladys Hastings back, so in to see me and we talked for over an hour. Desk 6 - 9, not nearly so

busy as usual. Home 9:30. Met Maggie and talked awhile & aunts were still up so talked a while longer & then read in bed until 11.

[*] To view a photograph of Vida Damon taken in 1916: <https://arlingtonhistorical.org/ninas-world/attachment/2001715/>

[**] Helen G. (Damon) Smith was Vida's elder sister by two years. It would not be uncommon in 1921 for some family members to be secluded from visitors at a wake or funeral. Much depended on the nature of the passing, so for someone who died in advanced years, the family members might be inclined to receive all callers. In this case, we must suppose that Helen was indisposed and that just certain intimate friends were asked to visit with her, by special request. In the 1920s and 1930s, when there were fewer home wakes and/or funeral services, and to be able to offer this type of seclusion, some of Arlington's funeral homes advertised a side area in their chapels, where the grieving family could be seated, unseen by the other attendees at the funeral service. This fell from fashion as people either chose private services or "public" ones, and of course there was variety in practices according to generation, religion, national heritage, family tradition, and the advance wishes of the deceased.

Tuesday, August 30, 1921

Clear, very hot, about the most this year. Up at 6:45. Eats and off by 8:20. Carded books from playground in AM, desk 1 - 2:30, & mended most of PM. Closed at 6 & everyone home. Hot and very tired; legs almost refusing to work. Passed in my resignation to Mr. Evans -- [he] didn't seem sorry to get it -- quite the other way, in fact & wanted to know if I was willing it should be made public. Home 5:30 & supper. Aunt Sue in talking & Aunt Sarah to cemetery to see Vida's flowers but she couldn't find grave -- not in the _old_ family lot. We found later she was in Agnes's lot with Damon. [*] Bed at 9.

[*] Agnes Damon Wellington was one of Vida Damon's elder sisters, and married to Arthur J. Wellington. Their son, Damon Wellington, died May 4, 1917, aged just 14. The reference to "Agnes's lot" means that it belonged to the Wellington family and not that Agnes herself was buried there, as she was living on this date in 1921.

Wednesday, August 31, 1921

Pleasant & hot early but much cooler during day. George had breakfast with me up from Cape last night. Had to hustle and left dishes, which aunts kindly did for me during the day. Off at 8:20. Had a small registration and mended books most of the day. Desk 4 - 6 & home 6:30. Very tired, legs mostly; heart rather pumpy and obvious -- not bad, but uncomfortable and unpleasant. Florence Harris over in the evening. Mrs. Deshon & Carrie Peirce at Aunt Sarah's for cards. Bed at 9 & read awhile.

Thursday, September 1, 1921

Clear & fine -- a nice comfortable day -- neither hot nor cold. Up 6:40 as I had biscuit to make. George to breakfast. Had time for dishes. Library by 9, part way with Vivian M. Expected to mend all of AM but put in part of it giving Mr. Evans figures on school work. Left at one, long wait for [trolley] cars & off to see Mrs. Damon. Found her much calmer than I was -- very talkative of Vida & other things & [I] stayed nearly two hours. Few errands & had a coffee egg-float [*] for lunch. Home at 5, fed cats & read. Light supper. Mended a bit, wrote here & to Edith Miller & to bed. Aunts both away. Mabel & Barbara came in about 9 & stayed an hour -- just up from Cape & in smoker [railroad train passenger car where smoking was permitted] -- very hot & dirty.

[*] I believe that "coffee egg-float" is a synonym or some variant of the coffee egg shake, calling for coffee syrup, cream, ice, and a raw egg.

Friday, September 2, 1921

Clear & very hot, about the most of summer. Up at 6:50 or so. Mabel & Barbara to breakfast, then they left for Canada for a week. [*] Dishes & some washing -- fed kits, bit of cooking & morning was gone. Library 1 - 9, desk PM & eve & looked over a lot of books, punched some for sewing & did quite a cleaning up. Desk stifling during evening. Home 9:30 & bed very _soon_. [*] Mabel Clare Hartwell Winn was born in Canada in 1876. The Hartwell family immigrated to the U.S. in 1880. I would imagine that Mabel and Barbara are going to visit with cousins in Canada.

Saturday, September 3, 1921

Hottest September [day] ever recorded -- 93 degrees. Some hay fever. Pleasant, but very hot. Tornado of 20 seconds in PM in Woburn blew down a leather factory. [*] Up at 6:45 & off at 8:15, after feeding baby cat & he ran to meet me for first time. Registration, lunch early & in the cut-room mending all of PM, as I wasn't needed at desk & Miss Whipple told me to leave at 5:30. Felt rather punk. Few errands, home & supper & then up to feed kitten, crying for his supper. [I] unlocked big door & in and hunted for mother cat but couldn't find her anywhere. Hay made hay fever quite bad & I was glad to get home & cool off a bit, have a cold bath & go to bed.

[*] The tornado in fact destroyed two leather works: the Riley and Murray patent leather plants across from one another on Salem Street. The injuries were very few due to the fact that when the storm struck at 2:15 p.m. it was a Saturday and just a skeleton crew was present at the facilities.

Sunday, September 4, 1921

Cool & clear & _so_ good. Not up until nine, read & napped. Eats & to farm to feed cats. Kit hungry but couldn't find the mother. In to see something of Aunt Sue but Mary & Josie there so didn't have a chance. Florence Harris rang up & wanted me to come to dinner so I had to rush a bit -- glanced at paper. Nice fricasee chicken & then we sat in hammocks & read & dozed & were generally lazy. At 7 Florence came over with me. Fed kit; mother cat there once more but very thin & weak & not eating -- just water to drink. Hard time to unlock padlock. Had cinnamon toast & tea &

some cake that Aunt Sarah brot in. Edith Whittemore & Aunt Sue with her. Bed by 9:30 & read awhile. Blanket in use again.

Labor Day

Monday, September 5, 1921 [*]

Clear and glorious -- coolish. Up at 8 after reading awhile and had a very busy day -- did a lot of washing & ironing & made a dark fruitcake. Up to feed kit -- not hungry but ready to play. Helped Aunt Sue bring down a trunk. Read paper & rested for a few moments before dinner. Finished ironing at 3 and then had a shampoo & dried it under tree, but the flies kept me from sleeping, so up to bed for awhile. Tried some waffles for tea -- rather crisp but good. Fed cat in eve. Mother cat there again, very weak & thin but purring & drank a little milk, and wee one a bit sick & coughing. Wrote La in eve & read some. Finished "Soul of Susan Yellam in PM -- quite sad but well written. Aunts away. Aunt Sue to Mary Winn's & Aunt Sarah to Deshons.

[*] This date was the funeral of Mrs. Margaret Dale of 113 Medford St. Mrs. Dale was an immigrant from Cork, Ireland, who came to the U.S. as a 14-year old. She married Patrick Dale of Charlestown, who was a clothesline manufacturer. The Dales moved their ropewalk to the Decatur Street area in Arlington, where they also manufactured mops. Mrs. Dale was always involved in the business, while being the mother of ten children. She was widowed at age 37 and took over all management of manufacturing and sales, which led her to travel as far west as Chicago. Her mop, "The Dale," was a best selling product at Jordan Marsh, among many other stores. After the original ropewalk burned, Mrs. Dale set up a comparatively modern manufacturing operation in the lot to the rear of her Medford Street home (this was in the pre- zoning era, of course). Mrs. Dale was awarded in 1892 the highest honor of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association, the diploma for excellence in work. She was a remarkable figure in women's history in Arlington.

Tuesday, September 6, 1921

Hot again -- foggy early, cleared and a nice shower in PM. Up 6:40. Eats, up to feed kits -- both sick, poor little yellow most forlorn. Found them better a bit when I went up at night & the mother cat drank a bit of milk and washed herself some. Off at 8:20, down with Eleanor Randall. Mended books 9 - 12, lunch, desk 1 - 2:30 & mended until six & got a lot done. Ruth with me in AM. Up with Eleanor R. part way. Home 6:30, eats & to barn with food. Read paper, wrote here & to Mabel (Canada), bed early & read awhile "Brimming Cup." [*]

[*] "The Brimming Cup" was a novel by Dorothy Canfield Fisher. It was the number-two bestseller of 1921, according to Publisher's Weekly. "Main Street" by Sinclair Lewis was number one that year, "The Mysterious Rider" by Zane Grey was number three, and "The Age of Innocence" by Edith Wharton was number four.

Wednesday, September 7, 1921 [*]

Pleasant, fairly cool. Rained early but cleared by twelve. Up 6:40, eats, etc., lunch to pack & off at 8:15 & library 9 - 6. Registration, early lunch, desk 1 - 2:30 & mended & nearly finished &

discarded 124 [books] -- mostly primers. Home 6:30, eats & up to feed cat, couldn't find little, sick, yellow one anywhere. Susie Dupee, Carrie Peirce & Mrs. Deshon at Aunt Sarah's to tea -- sort of a farewell party for Aunt Sue. Gertrude Crocker also there & in to see me for awhile. Bed about 10, read awhile. Aunts up later and Aunt Sue "announced" that she is going to keep house for winter (_anyway_) and Mrs. Price will be with her & we both like her plan very much.

[*] This date was the opening of the public schools in Arlington, but that wasn't the only thing greeting returning vacationers. Effective August 1, 1921 the town had introduced its first parking time-limit rules. On three stretches of Massachusetts Avenue (between Henderson and Lake streets; Medford and Central streets; and Daniels Street and Paul Revere Road), parking (then referred to as "standing") was limited to 30 minutes between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Sundays and holidays excepted.

Thursday, September 8, 1921

Clear, fairly cool. Up 6:45 and off by 8:20. Aunt Sue left for the Toutts [in Winchendon, Mass.] to be gone until October. Library 9 - 6, mostly on school, last of mending finished & began to pack the Junior High baskets. Schools open next week. Book meeting in AM. Left early but [trolley car] was late or slow & waited 25 minutes. Home 6:30 and tired. Mike [worker at the Winn farm] said he found little yellow kitten dead this morning -- poor wee mite. Read in evening and bed by 9.

Friday, September 9, 1921

Clear & fine. Up soon after 7. Light eats, washed a few hanky's (hay-fever), brushed up and dusted living-rooms & rested a few moments. Did some weeding & picked flowers for house. Off soon after 12 & paid W.K.H. [Walter K. Hutchinson's grocery] & gas bills [*]. Desk 1 - 2:30 and 6 - 9. Very busy in evening. And packing jr. high books in PM. Home 9:30 & to bed very soon after. Aunt Sarah left early in A.M. to stay with Laura Peirce while others are away on a trip.

[*] The appliance showroom and business office of the Arlington Gas Light Co., where Nina would have paid her gas bill in cash, was located in the storefront occupied by Tryst restaurant today.

Saturday, September 10, 1921

Clear & hot with a heady thunder- shower about 7 PM. Up 6:45 after reading half an hour. Eats as usual & off at 8:20 but just missed [trolley] car so walked part way. Registration took most of the morning. Up [back to Arlington] on the 1:30 car, errands and an egg float and at [Robbins] library awhile & home about 3 -- called for rent on the way. Up to feed cat, read & mended rest of PM & read & wrote here in evening. Dorothy Bacon and husband [*] over with some peaches & Daly left cat -- to Mashpee & back in the truck today. Up to bed about 10. Veterans giving a "block" party at centre. Music quite good at the distance. [**]

[*] Dorothy Bacon (Mrs. Harold Shoemaker) was Nina's first cousin on her mother's side.

[**] The location was Pleasant Street, between Mass. Ave. and Swan Street and went from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. This section was closed and brightly illuminated for a "block dance" held by Post

39 of the American Legion. Northbound traffic was diverted via Swan Street and Swan Place to Mass. Ave. and southbound traffic was diverted via Academy and Maple streets to Pleasant Street. This was not as much of a detour as it would seem to us today. In 1921 Pleasant Street and Mystic Street were not aligned, so there already were right and left turns involved in taking those roads between Winchester and Belmont.

Sunday, September 11, 1921

Pleasant, rather cool. Up at 9, eats & made a peach pie & cake. Up to feed cat & telephoned [cousin Dorothy Bacon Shoemaker] to thank for peaches. Talked with Aunt Mame. Read most of day. First Sunday alone for ages; only George's cat with me most of the day. Bed 9, but read until 11.

Monday, September 12, 1921 [*]

Rained early but cleared during afternoon -- rather warm. Up 6:45, usual eats, packed some lunch & off by 8:20. Aunt Sarah back from Carrie Peirce's. Packed books most of the day. Finished East Jr. High and began West. 600 in baskets in all -- a good day's work & _not_ very tired. Home 6:30. Eats & up to feed cat & then Mabel & Arthur up to have a book covered and she stayed until nine. She met Aunt Sarah in PM & full of trouble. [Complaining about] Aunt Sue, me & world in general, but calmer in evening. Read & bed by 10.

[*] Speaking of trouble, on this date, Mrs. Eva M. Carpenter, of 51 Marathon St. in East Arlington, appeared at the Middlesex County courthouse at East Cambridge, for a rehearing of the divorce granted in June to her husband, James Carpenter. Mrs. Carpenter was Mr. Carpenter's fourth divorced wife, whom he had married in 1919, and he stated that he had "no fifth wife in view," according to coverage of the scandal by the Boston Globe. As for Mrs. Carpenter, it was reported that "she admitted that she had been frequently in the company of Mr. Carroll E. Bragg, that she had taken automobile rides with him, and that she had entertained him at her home. When questioned, she said it was true that last February 24 the police and some detectives had come to her house . . . and taken her and Bragg to the [Arlington] police station. She stated, however, that Bragg was fully dressed, and that, although she was wearing a kimono, because she was not feeling well, she, too, was fully dressed." At a later trial, the police testified that when they entered the home, Mrs. Carpenter, "who was in her night dress, fainted, and that a man carried his trousers and shoes from the room. Mrs. Carpenter denied the truth of the statements as to the attire of herself and the man." In the end, Mrs. Carpenter was awarded \$10 per week of support from her ex-husband, reduced from the \$20 originally ordered. In the 1921 Annual Report of the Town of Arlington, the police recorded two complaints of adultery brought that year, but I don't know if those pertained to the above case. Among other court complaints that involved the Arlington police issuing summonses and warrants were: one case for bastardy, five for "lewd and lascivious cohabitation," and one for "keeping a disorderly house" (i.e., a brothel).

Tuesday, September 13, 1921

Clear & glorious -- warm but not hot. Up 6:30 & ironed a waist before breakfast & washed one after. Off at 8:20. Library 9 - 1 & sent notices to 22 graded schools. Gladys & I in town, met Abbie & Edith Hayes at the E & I [Women's Educational and Industrial Union] and lunched there & had a chat & then Gladys & I looked at books -- not much new. Walked to Park Street for car & in subway met Aunt Mame so to North Station together. She and Aunt Elizabeth going to have Charles's cottage near York for a week. Home 6:30, eats, up and fed barn cat & found her hungry for the first time in two weeks. Wrote to Aunt Sue, in here, read & bed soon after 9.

Wednesday, September 14, 1921

Clear & nice. Home all the morning with the usual washing & ironing, removed some torn screens, washed a window, etc. & morning flew as usual. Deak 1 - 2:30 and 6 - 9 and very, very busy all the evening -- 157 in last hour. Home 9:30 & bed very soon. Not so tired as usual. School opened today [in Somerville -- Arlington had opened one week earlier]. One teacher in for books and one telephoned for some.

Thursday, September 15, 1921

Another wonderful clear day. Up at 6:45 & off by 8:20 and busy with books. Finished packing the West Junior High -- 600 in all. Did some desk-cleaning; busy all day anyway. House 6:30, fed cat, read, & bed early.

Friday, September 16, 1921

Pleasant, nice. Up 6:40. Eats & off at 8:20. Busy all of AM with lists, books & telephoning. In town to shop -- first time for six weeks. Hunted for cretonne. Found one for front chamber in pinks & blues, but nothing good in yellow. Met Mabel at [Arlington] centre so had soda & did errands & then went to see Mr. Stobbe's [sic - Sztobbe] flowers -- gave us each a beautiful bouquet: asters, gladioli, snapdragons & delphinium. Deshons, Lu & Carrie at Aunt Sarah's in eve playing cards & R.W.D. [Richard W. Deshon] in to see me until 9. Made bread earlier. Read in bed as usual. Moon glorious.

Saturday, September 17, 1921

Changeable, some rain in PM. Up at 7. Felt rather mean but kept busy. Washed & ironed a little, cleaned some brass and silver and rested a little. Mike put in a new clothes post -- much needed. Off at 12:30, just missed car so 15 minutes late at library. Talked with Edith Rice while waiting. Did a lot of little things in PM and packed 300 books for South Jr. High. Desk in evening 6 - 9 -- not nearly as busy as usual. Home 9:30, up with Carrie part way. Read a bit in bed until I had rested. Light out about 11.

Sunday, September 18, 1921

Clear and wonderful -- windy. Tired and read in bed until after 9. Breakfast, boys in & up with them to feed cat and see Arthur's pumpkins. Some fine ones. Made a peach pie, read paper & wrote here. Aunt Sarah to church. Read & rested all day. Nap in PM. Light supper & fed cat. Bed by 9.

Missing September 19 and can't be found in messages

Tuesday, September 20, 1921

Pleasant, nice, not very warm. Up at 7. Washed out & basted a white sateen petticoat & measured and cut cretonne for front chamber curtains. Aunt Sarah to Gloucester with Mrs. Hobbs, Dora [?] & Charles P. Off at 12:15, [to Somerville Public Library] -- books in PM, writing, etc. and 4 teachers in to select [books], so I ate at 5:45 & Gladys H. went up to the desk for 10 minutes for me. Quite busy in evening. Mr. Bernard in, so showed him some used books. [He] said he is very sorry I am leaving -- the only trustee to say so. Home 9:30 & to bed.

Wednesday, September 21, 1921 [*]

Pleasant early -- quite cold. Cloudy & rain later & a fire felt good in PM at library and at home. Up 6:45. Eats, lunch & just caught 8:30 car. Tiresome, long book meeting. Worked on teachers deposits all of PM & legs ached with the going up & down stairs & glad to get home at 6:30. Carried some fish to farm cat. Ate & read & wrote here. 3 teachers in [library] with lists in PM. Bath & light out at 10.

[*] A literal cops-and-robbers scene was played out this week in 1921 in East Arlington. Lafayette Street was in a state of frightened excitement shortly before midnight two days earlier, with rounds of police gunfire during a foot pursuit of two men who were suspected of robbing and beating a North Cambridge woman in her home. After fleeing into Arlington, the pair turned onto Lafayette Street and ran into the then-swampy area on the lower east side of the street. They were believed to be hiding in the thick underbrush. A team was assembled of Cambridge, Arlington, and Belmont police officers who promptly arrived on the scene. At daybreak, the area was thoroughly searched, but the suspects had successfully eluded capture.

September 22

Clear & warm. Up 6:45 & off 8:20. Felt very, very tired so didn't go up in the stacks very much, but kept busy all the time. In town & met Helen Smith at 12 for lunch at Marston's. Back at 1:30, felt a bit rested but not "eaty." Conference with Miss Whipple & Miss Hastings, as latter is to have charge of the school-work and Miss Harris to do the writing up. Home visiting, etc. Gladys also to supervise the children's workers at branches. Said workers to visit schools in their section: Mrs. Lawton rang up at 3:30 to say the last teachers' meeting was at 4 and I had to go over & talk -- made

it very short. A busy time later as 5 teachers came in for books. Up with Eleanor Russell & home at 6:30. Had an egg shake at Blake's. At 146 a moment. Up to feed cat & then glad to rest & read & bit later Mrs. Rice & Edith & Florence Harris here until 10; nice call. Bed at 11.

Friday, September 23, 1921

Pleasant, warm, cooler by night. Up about 7:30 & more tired than I was at night. Did some washing, ironing and dusting and a very little mending. Made muffins, not eating much so went light all day. Off at 12:30. School work in PM, writing up and picking out deposits, etc. Desk 6 - 9 in evening. Not at all busy and wrote up four books. Home 9:30 & to bed very soon.

Saturday, September 24, 1921

Clear, quite warm. Up 6:45. Library 9 - 1, doing school work and showing Gladys H. a few things. In town. Did some shopping & to Mrs. Richardson for hair & nails & out by 4:30. More errands & home. Fed cat, had some ironing to do. Not much supper -- still on the blink. Wrote here & read. Carrie P. [Peirce] & Susie D. [Dupee] at Aunt Sarah's & Mabel there in evening for cards. Barbara up with her. Sat up until ten for Edith Hayes whom I invited but had no word from [and] she didn't show up _and_ I bot two pounds of steak for our dinner, muffins, etc. Bath & read until after 11.

Sunday, September 25, 1921

Clear early, cloudy PM & poured in the evening & cooler -- very windy. Clocks back to old time [*] so had the pleasure of waking, setting the clock back & sleeping that nice extra hour. but the lights had to be on very much earlier at night. Read quite a lot in bed & up at 9. Steak, etc. & good. No word & no E. Hayes all day. Read some -- fed cat twice & telephoned to the Woods to La -- hadn't heard from latter for a month. [She] may _possibly_ go to Mashpee with me. George says they want to go down over the 14th -- suppose they'd like to kick me out entirely. Read in evening. Rather a stupid day. Bed at 9:30. Aunt Sarah to church time. No callers but Barbara.

[*] Daylight Saving time ended, to the general joy of farmers and people in rural districts, who generally found it to be inconvenient. Also, new train schedules had to be issued, because the railroads did not change their clocks from Standard to Daylight time. The "fall back" to Standard Time on the last Saturday night of October did not become common until many years later, and the to the current first Saturday night of November in even more recent years.

Monday, September 26, 1921 [*]

Clear & cool & fine. Woke at 5:45, napped & read until 6:45. Eats & off at 8:20. My last week at Somerville Library. Had a conference with Miss Hastings until 11 & then to Superintendent of Schools office for teachers list, lunch & busy with books & all sorts of things in PM & finished packing the South Jr. High & showed Gladys some about it. Up with Eleanor Randall. Home 6:30,

more steak, fed cats at farm, wrote here & read some. Had to eat supper with a light for the first time. Bed at nine _sleepy_.

[*] Also on this date the new Junior High West (today's Ottoson Middle School) opened--three weeks after schedule. It was the second junior high in Arlington (Junior High Centre at the corner of Academy and Maple streets had been used for that purpose since 1916), and was Arlington's first purpose-built junior high school building. This solved the overcrowding problem for grades seven and eight, but Arlington High School was operating at capacity, and the elementary schools were on split sessions (a.k.a. "the platoon system"). Collectively, the public schools were groaning under the weight of an approximately 70% increase in town population over the previous ten years, which was trending even higher.

Tuesday September 27 1921

Clear & hot. Up about 7:30. Had some washing to do. Mended some & spent a lot of time hunting up some old accounts of money loaned, bills, etc., to George; Russell Terrace expenses, etc. Lunch early & off at 12:20 -- just got car. Busy with books and odds and ends all of PM. Two teachers in but went by five so had time for lunch. Desk 6 - 9 & fairly busy but Miss Hess and I had time to write up some circulating books. Home 9:30 and met Edith Hayes at centre (she telephoned earlier) and home with me for the night. Sat up & talked until 12 & had a good gossip time. Ruth Fales in library in PM -- [she is to be] married the 8th of October -- shower for her at Vivian's in eve.

Wednesday, September 28, 1921

Pleasant & hot. Up 6:30 and E.B.H. [Edith B. Hayes] and I had breakfast at 7:30 and left at 8:30. She went to Boston & I went to the Somerville Public Library & worked hard all day except during book meeting. Picked out deposits for two schools and packed two others in baskets. South Junior High went in early PM. Girls busy writing up books. Three teachers in to choose books, some [time] on telephone, etc. Shortened noon hour & stayed over at night and made up lateness of morning. House 6:45. Fed cat, no eats -- stomach wuzzy _again_ -- wrote here, read, bed early & bath.

Thursday, September 29, 1921

Pleasant, hot. Busy all day. Miss Harris & Gladys Hastings both in for instruction & we sent off 2 schools & got 3 ready to go tomorrow. Went in town to change "middy" & had lunch there & then back to work. Home, light eats & read & bed at 9:30. Florence Harris over in the evening until 9, talking Mashpee.

Friday, September 30, 1921

Clear & hot early. Rained PM & bit cleared by 9. Swept & dusted all the house in the morning and had a little ironing to do. Off by 12:15. Late car (as usual). Miss Harris working with me in PM & I house-cleaned desk, washed glassware, etc. Desk 6 - 9; poured, so people didn't come in. Home

9:30 & bed.

Saturday, October 1, 1921

My last day at the Somerville Public Library & too excited to work very much. Did a last few things & talked of course. Staff gave me "Star Points" by Richards [*] to my delight. Came home, did errands at [Robbins] library & house by three & seemed to have so much time. Mended, read, telephoned, etc. & then it was only 5. Supper done by 6 & read in evening & so sleepy I was abed soon after 9 & _asleep_. Hay-fever still rather in evidence.

[*] "Star-points," by Gertrude Moore Richards (a.k.a. Mrs. Waldo Richards) was a recently published book of "songs of joy, faith, and promise from the present-day poets."

Sunday, October 2, 1921

Clear & glorious, warm. Didn't wake very early & read & up about 10 -- just eating when La came for the day and we had a good time. Made some date cakes & soft custard to pour over oranges & banana & had ham, mashed potato, celery, lettuce, & carrot -- latter a big one that Arthur brot in. Up to see his pumpkins & in to telephone & looked at pictures & then home & talked. Over to Blake's at 7 for ice cream & La home. Read paper & bed at 9:30.

Monday, October 3, 1921

Pleasant early, rained hard later. Up at seven after reading awhile. Did a lot of washing in AM & most of the ironing in PM, mended, & packed suitcase to send to Mashpee on truck. Mended & read in PM & over town about 5. Library & a few errands. Met Jessie & Jo [Frost] so talked awhile & they walked up as [trolley] car didn't come. Read in eve & bed by 9.

Tuesday, October 4, 1921

Clear & nice. Up at 7. Had quite a lot more washing & ironing to do -- kimonos, etc. & busy all the morning & part of PM. Short rest, nap & over to Dr. Percy's. Talked with Mrs. Appleton while waiting. Anemia this time -- heart & circulation all right. Met Agnes Wellington as I came out. Over for rent, paid some bills & then down to see Mrs. Damon & while there Agnes & Virginia came in. On to the Woods's & found Edna there & going into a French lecture so in together. I went on to Marston's & met Edith Hayes & had a fine dinner after which we window shopped & got home soon after 9. Mame, Florence & Mrs. Deshon at Aunt Sarah's playing cards. Sat up and talked until nearly 12.

Wednesday, October 5, 1921

Clear & quite cool, windy & air very bracing. Up 6:45 and Edith & I ate at 8. Daley here with truck & carried things to Mashpee. We left at 9. Went to aunts & looked at bed in shed chamber. To Town Hall & paid \$55.00 on taxes & \$19.68 insurance & then in town where we separated; she to

shop & I went up to register with Library Commission. Had a nice talk with Kathleen Jones & asked for \$1,200 [annual pay] when I'm ready to start again. Called on Helen Smith, did some shopping & met Vivian & went about a bit. Bought some cretonne for dining room, met H. Smith & lunched at Seville & then went up to see Abbie across Common & home on car with Jennie Frost so into Blake's & later met Marjory Wood & baby. Waited to see Uncle Warren but gave up after 1/2 hour & home. Telephoned La. Supper with Aunt Sarah & Marion Buttrick & in there during evening. Read paper & bed by 10. Moon fine.

Thursday, October 6, 1921

First coal fire of the fall. Still clear & fine; cool AM, got warmer -- house still cold. Nice moon at night. Woke early as usual and read awhile. Up at 7:30, did a lot more washing, including a small blanket, and ironed. Dry-mopped rooms, washed kitchen floor, looked over and destroyed all the old bills, back to 1915 or so. Telephone to Mrs. Price & Gladys Hastings in PM. Edna Frost over & we visited until four. Wrote to Aunt Sue, down to 146 & Barb & I over to Mr. Sztobbe's & got some flowers: calendula & everlasting and carried them to the cemetery for Papa's birthday, then up to Blake's & had sodas, to the library & home with Barbara and then house. House warm. I had a fire in fireplace. Eats & wrote here and read some & to bed soon after 9.

Friday, October 7, 1921

Mashpee again. A busy day. Up at 6:45 & many last things to do and if someone didn't ring at farm & told Mike they'd ring again at 9:10, so up & had to trot and waited a long weary half hour & no ring until I had got home, so let it go hang but upset all my plans. So I was an hour late starting & couldn't see Uncle Warren [Peirce]. Stopped at 146, had a few errands at centre & a few more in town & lunched at the Acorn. Met Florence Harris at one & left on the 1:25. Train half hour late. Brockton fair & a wreck of some kind. Errands again at Sandwich & Bessie met us about 4:30. George on his way home; had varnished piazza floor again so has to dry until Sunday. Had some supper, unpacked, made beds, read & so sleepy went up to bed at nine.

Saturday, October 8, 1921

A changeable day -- clear & very warm until PM, then cloudy & later a heavy rain that splashed and dashed & flew along the ground & over by six. Clear & beautiful in evening with the young moon. Read in bed until nearly nine -- eats & Florence & I over to see Grandma Sturgis and then for a walk along the shore road to Rothery's, resting every little while on the way & stopped at Burgess's wharf while Florence paddled. Read, rested & embroidered a bit & over for beans when it stopped raining & after supper Florence & I walked to the library for reads & stayed with Miss Collins until nearly nine. Read & bed about 11.

Sunday, October 9, 1921

Clear & glorious, god breeze and warm enough to sit on piazza and read and write. Woke about seven but read until nearly nine, ate in kitchen as it was so nice and sunny and Florence thot piazza

was too cool for her. Dishes after one late meal and now the day is before us. Felt a bit punk, also thot that Ruth Richardson might come down so kept near house and only walk was in the Oakley pasture. Dinner about 4. Wrote to Aunt Sarah and the Somerville Library staff thanking for "Star Points." Read most of the day and some in bed. Cloudy & colder in PM & windy as usual.

Monday, October 10, 1921

Pleasant & nice still & warm. Up about 8. Florence in for a swim & I started breakfast. Sewed quite a lot -- on piazza most of the time until it grew too windy. Ate our breakfast out, and put up a lunch. Wandered through woods to the next open field & rested on the warm hillside for over an hour and tried to sleep & so weary that we rested on couches when we got back and then went over to see Grandma, etc. Supper about 7, embroidered in evening until I was so weary I had to go to bed. Florence sat up awhile longer but all abed soon after 10. Moon fine.

Tuesday, October 11, 1921

Clear, warm & wonderful -- a regular summer day. Florence in for her swim and I started fire & then dressed. Had bit breakfast and dinner outside and sat out and sewed most of the day. Felt rather punk. The minister, Mr. Ives, called in the morning and was very interesting. [Florence and I] started out about 4 & walked around to the Brown's camp -- no one there -- went to the post office & to the Collins's. [They] have a fine new piazza & so weary we (or I) could hardly get home & Florence was good enough to set the supper while I went on couch on the piazza. Moon growing better and better and no clouds & warmer than last August. Wrote here & letters in evening to Cousin Jamie, Amy, & Edith Hayes.

Wednesday, October 12, 1921 [*]

Pleasant, warm early so we had breakfast on the piazza and sat out and sewed but turned cold and windy so we had to crowd into the kitchen later. Expected Gannetts who didn't show up but 2 autos came and had La, Jr., Charlie & Laura Williams and Miss Williams, a district nurse and friend from Hyannis. Some went fishing & all to Mrs. Sturgis, and had their lunch on the shore and then back to house to get warm. Made them coffee and cocoa before they left. Nurses for Hyannis -- others to go home. We walked over with beanpot and called on Grandma. Read & embroidered in evening and went to bed at 9 & Florence a bit later.

[*] In 1921 the Columbus Day holiday was celebrated on October 12; hence, the number of visitors coming to Mashpee for a day's outing.

Thursday, October 13, 1921

Clear and bracing cold. Moon wonderful. Woke for good at 8 when Ida came over with some biscuit for our breakfast. Too cold for Florence to swim. Ate in the kitchen where it was warm & cozy. Did some washing & then over to see Bessie -- not home & Grandma alone & not feeling very well, so home & sewed a bit while waiting for stage and then Florence & I over for two

hours. Ironed & had dinner, walked up to Hix's & found some cranberries. Home & rested awhile, read (in kitchen) and wrote here. Light supper at 8 & bed at 9.

> *In this entry, Nina says she "sewed a bit while waiting for stage" > Was she talking about a stagecoach? That term conjures 19th century to me; > were there still stagecoaches in Massachusetts in the early 1920s? >*

Indeed, Nina Winn is referring to the stage that carried the mail between Sandwich and Mashpee, the latter of which was the only town on Cape Cod that did not have rail service. In addition to the contract with the U.S. Post Office, the stage owner earned money by transporting goods and passengers. In 1921 Darius Coombs, a 75-year old member of the Mashpee Indian Tribe and a Civil War veteran, had been operating the stage for over 40 years. Coombs continued his horse-drawn stage service until not long before his death in 1924. That there persisted stagecoach service in 1921 was extremely unusual. The advance of the steam railroad in the mid-19th century already had given rise to the expression "stagecoach era" as meaning "old fashioned" or something from the distant past. _ Richard Duffy_

October 14, 1921

Clear & somewhat warmer. Up at 8 & ate on piazza -- bit washing, etc. & out at 11. In boat & fished in our Cove, Hix's & Pickerel. Had a walk on Canomet [?] & home at 5 -- weary and well-burned -- a good outdoor day. Colors beginning to show a bit in spots. Had a good dinner & at Grandma's a bit in evening -- carried pork for the beans & stayed to hear the Victrola. Moon better every night, very lively on the water.

Saturday, October 15, 1921

Clear & warmer. Up soon after 6 & had breakfast before 7 on the piazza & left at 8:45 with Grandma, Bessie & Irwin for White Horse Beach. Found Susie D. & Carrie. On the beach most of the day, had a walk, then Bessie, Florence & I went for a swim. Water very cold & first plunge knocked my breath away so had to come out. Ate on the beach, with a million or two flies. Hot and had good eats. Walked to brook later & left for home about 4. Bessie drove in to Sagamore Heights Beach. Home 5:30. Florence [went] for beans. Downtown in eve, to library & called at the Collins's. Bed when we got back at 9, but read paper.

Sunday, October 16, 1921

A wonderful summer day, hot and with birds singing. Lake very calm & boats out, etc. Up about 8:30 or so, after reading & napping. Florence in for a swim. Ate out of course & Florence did dishes & went sketching. Bessie's laundry. Made a mock cherry pie, cleaned up a bit, wrote here & cards to Barbara, Cousin Hattie and E.B. Hayes and Mrs. Deshon & later a letter to Jr. & Aunt Mame. Over to Sturgis's awhile and hunted up Florence who was by ice house sketching. [I] stretched out in sun & read & listened to the birds for several hours. Fried chicken for dinner & it was delicious -- one of Irving's and only a dollar. So very warm we ate on piazza. Went to church in evening with Bessie & Nannie in car. Quite a lot of singing and enthusiasm. Quite a lot colder &

wind northeast & cloudy. Eclipse of the moon early in evening.

Monday, October 17, 1921

Cloudy and much colder. Woke fairly early but read and slept & didn't get up until after nine. Breakfast inside at ten. Lamps to fill and sewed quite a lot during the day & nearly finished a white sateen petticoat. Over to Grandma's about one for awhile, down to see Bessie & back by shore of pond and at dusk we went away up the Forestdale road. More chicken. Wrote here, letters, & read in evening. Letters to Emily Penstone & Miss Hatch. Up to bed soon after 9.

Tuesday, October 18, 1921

Rather cloudy & cool, sun at times. Warmer by night & house very hot at present 8:30 P.M. Woke at 6 & read & napped until 8, bit cool but had breakfast on the piazza, did some washing & stitching & later Florence, Marion and I went fishing -- usual luck -- very small perch & "skinnies" (?) [*] and one pout that Florence cleaned and we had for supper or dinner (6:30) with the rest of our chicken. Downtown about 5 and did some errands, paid for milk for a week, asked Irving about a chicken for Sunday, etc. Dinner when we got home. Florence fixed the bolt on my chamber door. Wrote to Aunt Sarah, read paper and bed soon after 9, but read again. Letter from Aunt Sarah with flowers from home that revived in water. Coreopsis, hardy larkspur, and ladies' delight.

[*] The question mark in parentheses is Nina's notation. Given that Nina isn't sure what kind of fish she caught, I'll hazard a guess that it could be a nickname she had heard referring to skinny bass.

Wednesday, October 19, 1921 [*]

Woke at 6 to find it pouring -- a few showers -- stopped by seven, clear, beautiful & warm the rest of the day. Up at 6. Florence built fire & then packed & I got breakfast and we ate by 7. Did dishes and sat on front piazza until stage came. Hated to have her go. Swept & dusted the house, fixed lamps, did a little washing and ironing & mended, lunch on piazza at one & then to the lake with a book and shawl and stayed most of the afternoon. No paper. Over to see Grandma & Bessie & latter gave me some finnan haddie & potato that tasted ever so good for supper. Wrote to Mabel and Florence & in here in evening. Read & bed early. Moon fine -- clear & golden reflection in lake.

[*] Meanwhile, back in Arlington during this week of 1921, construction got underway on the Park Circle water tower, --both a new standpipe as the distributing reservoir, but also an ornamental "Greek Temple" style exterior structure to include an observation gallery. A new metal standpipe three times as large as the existing one was planned. It was built around the old standpipe because alternative sources that today would provide water via another part of the system did not then exist.

Thursday, October 20, 1921

Changeable, poured early, cloudy all day with glimpses of sun -- some colder and windy. Woke at 6, rested & then read & up at 8. Didn't do much all day, felt very sleepy & tired so read & dozed on

downstairs bed most of day. Missed Florence very much. Over to see Grandma for an hour late in P.M. and back at dusk to find the wood had just come -- 2 ft. of oak. Put some in barn, all I could see to do & brot some in house. Finished reading "Heather Moon," one of the Williamson romances -- Scotland and very good. Light supper and wrote to Dora Dana [?] in evening & up to bed soon after 8, read awhile. Some colder in eve.

Friday, October 21, 1921

Clear & nice, quite warm. Up 8:30 or so, felt much better than yesterday & not sleeping during day so did some washing, ironing, sewing, etc. Too many hunters to make walking quite safe. Bessie along in PM & asked me to ride so went around to Gordon's goose camp -- had shot 12 geese, poor things. Took me down to pay for wood \$3, & taxes \$3.95 & to post office with cards & a letter & home about 4:30. Carried paper to Grandma [*] & stayed awhile but home before dark. Read in the evening & up to bed at 9, but read until 10.

[*] Grandma refers to "Grandma Sturgis," who is not Nina's grandmother, but who is called "Grandma" as sort of an honorific (think of "Grandma Moses"). Rhoda Attaquin Conant Sturgis is half-Native American of the Mashpee Indian tribe, and at this point in 1921 she has recently turned 91 years old. In earlier years Nina referred to her as "Mrs. Sturgis," but this evolved into "Grandma."

Saturday, October 22, 1921

Pleasant, extremely high winds in PM & eve. Up at 7:30 & quite busy. Ate in kitchen (I think). Made pie crust and two pies -- one for Bessie -- lamps, little sewing, etc. Lunch, read paper & sewed. Bessie here about 2:30 & we went to Sandwich, did a lot of errands & met Edith Hayes at 3:45 -- her vacation & down for a weekend & mighty good to have her. Thot we'd blow away -- ocean a mass of whitecaps, street strewn with things. Bessie over with our beans & we ate by 6:30. Started for library in evening & Bessie overtook us so drove us down. Some dark coming back but had the flash. Went to library & stayed quite a while, up for milk & home by 9, read, talked & ate S.S. Pierce's [*] & enjoyed life. Bed about 11. [*] My guess is that Edith and Nina are having a few pieces of S.S. Pierce's assorted chocolate candies.

Sunday, October 23, 1921 [*]

A glorious & clear, warm day. Up at 8:30 or so & had our breakfast on the piazza. Lake was fine & colors in foliage gorgeous. Dishes, etc. & then went for a long walk. To Stugis's & by shore path to Hicks's [Hix's ?], followed road to Pimlico & Peters & back by path to Rothery's road home. Rested frequently. Sambo [dog?] with us. No chicken so had to have sausage, boiled potato, tomato soup, coffee & mock cherry pie. Ate on piazza & had hard work to see dessert. Walked up road to see the last of the sunset, dishes & read and talked until after ten & then to bed.

[*] Back in Arlington, the waters of the Reservoir in the Heights had gone inexplicably stagnant. Although it hadn't served as the public drinking-water supply for over 20 years, it still

was being used for non-potable purposes. The odor coming through the pipes at the Menotomy Indian Hunter fountain, and at the old town hall (where Uncle Sam Plaza stands today) had a foul odor that could be detected at a distance. It was planned to release all the water in the Reservoir and to replenish it with fresh water from the brook.

Monday, October 24, 1921

Another nice day, clear early, a bit cooler & cloudy & colder in PM. Up at 8, had our breakfast on the piazza and didn't do much of anything but dishes & then went to walk, to head of pond where we stayed a long time & then on to Brown's camp, back to village & paid for milk & home about 2. More sausage & so cool we ate inside. Dishes & just time for a walk to lake -- Sturgis's, out to road & home by dark. Read & talked & wrote post cards & then Edith showed me "Canfield" [*] & I watched her play a long time. Bed soon after 10 & both felt a little bit sick -- we'd eaten so much. Sent cards to Edith Rice, Carrie Fowle, Marian Meserve & Ruth Richardson.

[*] About the solitaire card game called "Canfield"

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canfield_\(solitaire\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canfield_(solitaire))

Tuesday, October 25, 1921

Changeable, colder and windy. Up at 6:45. Raining but let up for awhile, poured at times during AM. Cleared late in PM & much colder. Breakfast in the house at 7:30 and Edith left with Mrs. Pocknett. Hated to have her go. Dishes, beds, etc. & then sewed. Finished the plaid skirt & pressed it, mended stockings & sweater and also had time for Canfield. Lunch at 2, read paper & to Sturgis's at 4. Gave me nice little mince pie & some corned beef for my supper. Wrote here in eve, letters & more Canfield. Feeling much better. Letters from Mabel, Barbara, Aunt Sue, Mrs. Deshon & La. Latter going to Waltham Hospital for operation. Rain in evening again. Wrote to La and R.W.D. [Richard W. Deshon].

Wednesday, October 26, 1921 [*]

Clear & fine, but cold with a sharp north wind. Up at 8. Stage [was] early so letters didn't go [to post office at Sandwich]. Read first. Breakfast about 9. Dishes, lamps & quite a lot of washing, cleaned out & filled wood boxes, split some & picked up some in bushes. Lunch by 1:30 & ironed. Flock of geese [flew] in and most of them shot. Poor things. Down by pond & over to see Bessie & Grandma S. Dead goose floated into cove so B. got it at dusk. Played Canfield & lost as usual. Supper at 6:30 & finished "Doctor's Daughter." [?] Wrote here & to Linda Black & Florence H. & up to bed at 9, but read. So cool had oil heater in chamber.

[*] Also on this date, Arlington High School's "very green" cross-country team (there had been a four-year hiatus in the previously highly ranked sport at AHS) was victorious in a 3.4 mile course at Danvers, against St. John's Prep. The AHS "harriers" (a term to describe cross-country runners that was in common use in the 1920s and is very rarely heard today, literally meant "hare hunters" -- think of the mechanical rabbit that is chased around the track in dog racing) were back on the interscholastic scene in a big way under the coaching leadership of Dr. W. F. "Doc"

McCarthy. From this victory forward, the rebooted sports team at AHS returned to the nationals (1924) and by 1926 the team's success was led by Johnny Kelley, whose successes in the Boston Marathon and making the U.S. Olympic team would make him the most famous AHS alumnus in the sport.

Thursday, October 27, 1921

Very heavy white frost -- first of the season -- mist rising from lake. Up at 7:45 as I had mail to put out. Grew much warmer and was a clear, glorious day. Eats, etc. & up to Hicks Cove & picked a quart of cranberries. Light lunch & then sat on steps & sunned & read Herald & 2 Advocates that Aunt Sarah sent. Walked around shore of pond and then to see Grandma for the second time today. Back at dusk. [Played] cards until time for supper, read some in evening & wrote to Mabel & Aunt Mame. Up to bed at 9. Hot bath & tried to read but too sleepy. Cold but not nearly so sharp as last night.

Friday, October 28, 1921

Clear, warm. Another frost, not so heavy and it soon burned off and the day was fine. Washed a sheet, made chocolate blanc-mange & sat on piazza in sun and read. Carried Grandma paper about 1, lunch at 2 & downtown. In to see Mrs. Hammond on the way and Nannie gave me biscuit when I came home. Called on Collins sisters, to P.O., in to see Charle C.'s piazza -- fine & so cozy, errands & home by 5:30, just at dusk. Cards until supper & some in evening. Wrote to Aunt Sue & a card to Helen Smith & in here. Up to bed by nine & read some.

Saturday, October 29, 1921

Clear, a bit cooler than yesterday, hardly a cloud in the air. Up at 6:30, made crust & just had two mock cherry pies [*] in the oven when Bessie, Will and Marian came along for me to go flat fishing. [**] Took pies out, left dishes, bed, etc. & went. [It was] about 10 then & back at 4 & I didn't land one fish; others had good luck. Hustled fire, baked pies, made bed, filled lamp, chopped wood, etc. before dusk. Bessie sent over a fish so cooked part for my supper. Read paper & played Canfield in evening. Up to bed at 9 & read awhile. Found piazza widows [had been delivered] on piazza when I got home.

[*] Nina has been making mock cherry pie frequently during this vacation to Mashpee. It's a cranberry-raisin pie. In her diary entry for the day before, she had written about picking a quart of cranberries growing in the wild along Hicks Cove.

[**] Flat fishing takes place in a broad expanse of calm, relatively shallow water (typically not deeper than 10 feet), in pursuit of species that favor those conditions.

Sunday, October 30, 1921

Clear & fine again -- light breeze from the northeast -- all windows open during day. Up soon after 9, after reading & dozing from 6, and jumping up when the _guns_ went. Ate in kitchen, brushed

up lower rooms, etc. & into white things at 11. Carried a pie to Bessie & paper to Grandma & stayed & talked. Flock of 12 geese went over, nearly made up their minds to stop but circled around and off. Grandma & I to edge of woods for kindling. Ezra & Harry there. Sat on front steps & wrote letters & just eating dinner with all doors & windows open when Clara Collins came to call & when I'd finished we walked to the Sandwich line & back & had a fine tramp & then she came in and stayed until 7. Wrote here [in diary]. Quite cold by night & frosty. Bed by 10. Card to Aunt Sarah & letters to Aunt Sue & Jessie Bashforth & Nellie Dean & bed by 9.

[*] Back in Arlington, Elizabeth Island in Spy Pond had just been purchased by Freeman "Brig" Young, treasurer of the Moxie company who lived at 372 Mystic St. Young was one of the leaders of the Middlesex Sportsman's Association, a hunt and social club located on the present-day site of the Arlington Boys and Girls Club. The island, jokingly referred to as "Brig's Island," was purchased by Young essentially on behalf of this club, which used it as a bird sanctuary for nesting waterfowl. The club also kept goats on the island (presumably to control vegetation) as well as a couple of steer, being fattened for one of the Association's fabulous feasts.

Monday, October 31, 1921 #

Heavy white frost but very warm during the day and had breakfast on the piazza at 8:45. Up at 7:45 & just caught stage. Mrs. Chase & Mr. Ives aboard. I had letters. Dishes & lamps. George, Rand & another carpenter came down to put in the windows on piazza, coming about ten. Having their meals at Amos's. George off with dog late in PM. I had some washing & ironing and made up all the beds. Very light lunch. Out to pick up kindling, up Hix Road & to Sturgis's. Bessie invited me to dinner -- had the roast goose [*] with squash & fine turnip & potato. Back about 7:30. One man abed & George and Rand went to centre later. Wrote to Edith Hayes, Florence H. & Barbara. Had snap-shots & Hallowe'en card from E. Hayes & a chocolate cat from Florence & Hallowe'en card from Edith Rice.

[*] I imagine that this would be "the" goose mentioned on Wednesday, October 26: "Flock of geese [flew] in and most of them shot. Poor things. Down by pond & over to see Bessie & Grandma S. Dead goose floated into cove, so B. got it at dusk."

Tuesday, November 1, 1921

Pleasant, quite warm, not so nice as the other days. Up at 7:30. Men to Amos's for breakfast & carpenters at work all day, all windows in but not finished by night when it began to rain. George off gunning with Collins. Did lamp, beds, etc. Made a mock cherry pie for Nannie & a small apple pie for myself & a bowl of pie crust, read paper, mended stockings, out for kindlings & over to Sturgis's in PM. Read in evening some & bed about 9. Men reading & talking. George downtown soon after 8 & rest to bed. Letter from Mr. Davis -- Waltham Library offering me a position there at \$1,100.

Wednesday, November 2, 1921

Our first cold rainy day, wind from north & blowing hard. Rained in gusts all day. Up by 7:30, rest off to breakfast & George away most all day. Carpenters finished by 3:30. Fire feels good. Made 2 apple & 1 mock cherry pie, lamps, 6 beds to make so kept busy all of AM. Had a broiled partridge for lunch. Nap in PM & nearly froze upstairs, but fine & warm now at 8 PM with oil heater in living room. Walked over to Mrs. Sturgis & back at dusk. George back soon after & Mr. Rand & Day later and about 6. Trafford Hicks and Philip Dunbar came. Expected Jack Hardy too but he couldn't come. Beans, raised biscuit (Nannie's), apple pie, coffee & cold partridge (1/2 of one). Wrote to La & to Mr. Davis (Waltham [Public Library]) in evening. Mr. Day up to bed early to read. Rest in kitchen smoking & talking. Bed at 9 but didn't sleep very well.

Thursday, November 3, 1921

Rather cloudy & a bit frosty -- some rain in evening. Up soon after 6 & had breakfast at 7:30. Oatmeal, bacon, eggs, toast & coffee. Had a razzle-dazzle of the eyes & felt punk. Put up a lunch for the men & they left by 9. Dishes, beds -- 5 of them, etc. and washing & ironing (towels) & fairly busy all day. Over to Grandma's but not out much during day. Rand & Day for dinner in PM & fishing in lake in PM & had their breakfast at Amos's & Mrs. Collins invited them down to supper. Boys back about 6 & had had quite good luck. Dunbar had his first duck. Helped with dishes & then they all went to see the Holways at South Sandwich -- asked me but [my] head was still wuzzy, so went to bed by 8 & slept like a top. Didn't even hear them come in.

Friday, November 4, 1921

Clear early, cloudy some during day. No rain until night & not very cold. Up soon after 6. Bacon & eggs again & George made griddle cakes. Put up a lunch & they left at 9 for East Sandwich to shoot & work their way home during the day. Missed them, too. Carpenters had meals at Collins's & went flat-fishing & to my surprise decided to stay another night. Fixed chambers & changed back my things, dishes to do, etc. To Cotuit with Bessie & Marian at noon, nice ride. Walked downtown in PM & paid for milk. Read in evening & up to bed at 8, read an hour or more in new W.H.C. [*] I got at Cotuit.

[*] Women's Home Companion, an American monthly magazine published from 1873 to 1957, was among the country's most popular in 1921. To enjoy the November 1921 issue along with Nina, simply visit books.google.com and enter Women's Home Companion November 1921 to land on the cover page (other issues of this digitized version of the magazine are in this multi-month volume). Period fiction and long-form pieces occupy the first part of the magazine, so many modern readers will enjoy most "thumbing" towards the second half to see the wonderful product ads (many in color) and shorter "how-to" pieces that give us a window into the handicrafts and housekeeping that Nina describes in her diary. Perhaps she finds inspiration for her embroidered gifts that she exchanges at her Christmas Club in the pages of the WHC.

Saturday, November 5, 1921

Rained early, cleared and very windy all day, but quite warm. Much colder by night tho' not _very_ bad. Up by 6 & had beans, toast and coffee for the men and they left by 7. Busy all of AM. Swept most of house & gave kitchen floor a good washing. Folded bed clothes, cleaned lamps & did some washing & ironing. Expected Florence on the stage but she didn't come and it seems pretty lonesome. Marian with me while Bess & Will went to Pop [Poppannesset]. Too early for stage so I wouldn't go. To Grandma Sturgis with food, etc., about 12 & stayed awhile. Back for eats. Picked up carpenters' wood around house & then over there [back to Grandma Sturgis's] with my embroidery until 5:30. Nice little moon. Sambo [dog] with me most of day. Wrote to Helen Bashforth & Florence in evening. Cold & clear in evening & nice northern lights in a low semi-circle. Bath & bed at 9 -- read awhile. Oil stove good to have busy.

Sunday, November 6, 1921

Clear & quite cold. Woke fairly early but read and dozed until nearly ten -- had breakfast at 11 in the sun on piazza without any other heat. Over for Bessie but she had gone to walk, so went alone to Pickerel Ave. Watched a gray squirrel while I rested on hill. Coming back, startled about 8 partridge in locust at Hicks's. Bessie gave me some chicken for my dinner & I ate on the piazza. Sun gone so had oil heater & was very comfy. Walked to Porlento's [?] later & nearly froze -- even feet were cold, so back & hugged fire. Bessie in on her way home from Cotuit & stayed until 9 & it seemed good. Sambo here all night. Wrote to Aunt Saray, George Prentiss & up to bed by 9:30.

Monday, November 7, 1921

Warmer again. Rained early but quite nice during day -- a fine moon. Woke 6:30 & up at 7:40. Ted up with milk. Eats for Sambo & I, lamps, washed four of the piazza windows, cut out dark gingham dress & after lunch washed four more windows -- a tiresome job. Over to see Grandma & found I had snapped new lock & great time getting in but with Mrs. Paine's help finally found a window [unlocked]. Light supper. Wrote to Mabel, La & Marion Buttrick in evening. Sambo asleep by fire. Bed at nine. Fine moon. Colder by night.

Tuesday, November 8, 1921 [*]

Clear & fine. Cold early & late but fine & warm during the day. Woke soon after 6, but not up for keeps until 7:30. Did a little washing & ironing, made some custards & outdoors most of the day. Picked up a lot of kindling & sat on kitchen steps to read paper & letters from R.W.D. [Richard W. Deshon] & Florence. Walked to the next bluff through [the] woods -- piles of greenbriar -- got 2 rattlesnake plantains. Over to see Grandma and then to village & called on Cristine, Mrs. George Coombes & both Collins families -- had nice clam chowder at the latter. Walked up with Tom Jonas who was bringing wood to Mrs. Hammond's. Nice moon so not dark tho' it was 6 o'clock. Sambo waiting for me & is asleep by stove -- [he] went downtown but missed me somewhere. Wrote cards to Aunt Sarah & Florence.

[*] Among the news from Arlington that week: the "silent policeman" (a flashing traffic beacon) at the T-junction of Pleasant Street and Massachusetts Avenue (the current alignment with Mystic Street was still 40 years into the future) "came to grief" when it was struck by a truck and "put out of business." There was not as yet a full set of traffic lights in Arlington. Imagine trying to control traffic in that spot with merely a flashing light on a platform on a traffic island. There was not remotely the same volume of motor vehicle traffic as in modern times, but the operating context in 1921 meant that cars and trucks had to contend with two sets of trolley car tracks, horse-drawn carts, bicycles and pedestrians . . . to say nothing of the proximity of a very active steam railroad line.

Wednesday, November 9, 1921 [*]

Rained hard all day -- a north-east storm, but not very cold. Came in the piazza under the windows, so had to do some mopping up. Up soon after 7 & "Sambo" & I had our breakfast by 8 & he slept by fire most of day. Lamps, swept most of the rooms, took out screens & did quite a lot of stitching. Over to Grandma's about 3 & embroidered until dark -- back with Mrs.. Paine. Read in the evening. Up to bed at 9, hot wash & read until 10. Card from Marion Buttrick that she couldn't come down.

[*] Also on November 9, 1921, the Boston Transit Commission announced completion of the Arlington subway station on the "Boylston Street line" that is today's Green Line. There was an inspection of the modern facility for invited officials and the station was scheduled to go into service December 1st, for the Christmas-shopping season. But the opening suddenly was moved up to November 13, to accommodate the large crowds expected the next day to see Marshal Foch of France on his visit to Boston. The name of Arlington station led to years of occasional confusion for out-of-towners, not least because signs at the Park Street subway station advertised connections at Harvard to Arlington. For "past-and-present" views of the now-closed Arlington subway entrance that was located inside the Public Garden, click the following link:
<http://lostnewengland.com/2015/09/arlington-station-boston/>

Thursday, November 10, 1921

Rained early & cloudy all day and cleared about 5 -- a little colder but not so cold as in Boston, according to paper. Up soon after 8. Eats, etc., embroidered some, over with paper for Grandma & down to see Bessie. 4 there ironing. Lunch & packed box to go home. Expected to go today but too wet. Found that Tom Jonas brought the wood while I was at Sturgis's yesterday so spread it out in barn (he put it inside) & had the oven full all day, drying it. Back to Grandma's with embroidery & home soon after 5. Wrote to Mabel & Edith Hayes. Made a spider cake & hot chocolate. Solitaire, read & up to bed quite early.

[*] Following is a link to a recipe for New England spider cake, along with a fine description of its origins. It is very similar to the comparatively obscure Littleton Corn Cake that Nina made when she was in Mashpee on July 10, 1921: <https://www.thekitchn.com/new-england-spider-cake-22948875>

Friday, November 11, 1921

Armistice Day. Burial of Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Up 7:30 or so & busy all morning, clearing up some, washed, etc. Grandma over about 11:30 to have the paper & read it to me at 12 M. [midday] & we had tea & toast & talked until 2 when I went over with her & stayed awhile. She brot me a fresh killed chicken to take home [to Arlington] with me. Brot in wood & piled the rest up in barn. Over with a coat for Nannie & all the children back with me for an hour. Ironed, baked potatoes, & made another spider cake for supper & wrote here.

Saturday, November 12, 1921

Rather cloudy, but nice & not very cold. Up 7:30 & a busy morning. Some last washing, sweeping, lamps & wood to bring in, water to empty, etc. Will over to see about painting on piazza. Carried last things to Grandma & had to say goodbye. Down by pond for a last look. Oaks very gorgeous. Bessie over at 3 & we went by woods by Spectacle Pond, Camp Cotuit, etc. to West Barnstable. Had to wait 3/4 of an hour for train. Ride over was through a country of oaks & fine colors. Read in train after dark. Boston at 7 & house by 8. Met Amy & Edith [Winn] at centre. Suitcase heavy but so husky I could carry it. Aunt Sarah here & glad to see me & gave me some supper. Had a fire in my stove but house was very cold -- much more so than Mashpee & my room & bed were frigid in spite of the oil heater. Unpacked, talked & bed at 11.

Sunday, November 13, 1921

Cloudy & cold all day & so gray & dull; none of the red foliage of the Cape. Up about 7:30 & had a nice breakfast with Aunt Sarah. Invited to Florence Harris's to dinner so I went soon after 12. House very cold & either that or my cold room started a nice cold & my nose ran a stream. Fine roast beef dinner & one of Aunt Sarah's mock cherry pies. Sat by fireplace all of PM & until I came home at 8. Met Richard who came over with me [he] had been to see Laurel off. Aunt Sarah to the Baptist concert. Bed by 9.

Monday, November 14, 1921

Foch parade in Boston [*] Snow early, began to rain in PM & poured rest of the day. Up a bit eight, [head] cold fierce & bad all day, dripping nose, etc. Fire to build & had fire in fireplace. Had all my meals with Aunt Sarah & they were very nice. Did quite a lot of mending. Aunt Sarah to Aunt Sue's in PM as Toutts were down & they played cards. Marion Buttrick over about 3 & we had a nice time, sewing & talking by fireplace. Aunt Sarah got me some supper & then they all came in here. Herbert over for Marion soon after 8. Bed 9:30.

[*] French Marshal Ferdinand Foch (b. 1851 - d. 1929) had been the Supreme Allied Commander during World War I. He was on an extensive tour of the U.S. in the autumn of 1921, which included the entombment of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery three days earlier. The one-day visit of Foch to the Boston area was filled with many different events, the grandest of which was the parade where an estimated 500,000 came out to cheer the war hero. Gov. Channing

Cox presented Foch with a gold medal commemorating his visit to Massachusetts, which was designed by Arlington sculptor Cyrus E. Dallin. An image of a bronze version of this medal can be seen via the below link. There is a "Show Description" button within the frame of the photographs that explains the design details and supplies a brief biography of Marechal Foch.

<http://beta.medallicartcollector.com/artist/dallin-cyrus-e/medals?scrollTop=0>

Tuesday, November 15, 1921

Clear & fine -- quite cold. Cold better -- coughing now. Woke at 5 & full moon just setting. Up 7.15 & had a nice breakfast with Aunt Sarah. Roasted my Mashpee chicken, beds, etc. & busy all of AM. Nap in PM & over town later. Met Amy & Edith, called for rent, went to library to see exhibit [for] children's book week -- very good. Home with my arms full of bundles, some eats at last. Called at 146 [Mystic St., the home of Nina's brother and his family] -- only Arthur there. Waited for Edith Hayes but [she] didn't come so at 6:45 Aunt Sarah & I ate chicken, mashed potato, bread, plum sauce, tea, mince pie & cheese. Chicken & pie that Grandma Sturgis gave me. Read & talked & sewed in evening. Cold _mean_ and to bed quite early. Moon _wonderful_.

Wednesday, November 16, 1921

Clear & fine & warm -- a regular Indian summer day. Not up very early for I coughed so much it made me tired. Fire & breakfast in "my side" [of the duplex shared with Aunt Sarah]. Dusted a very little & washed a few things & mended some. To aunts [*] to telephone, rang Somerville -- Bunny Watt -- and Waltham but didn't get to Mr. Davis. Asked me to dinner but didn't stay & later Aunt Sue came down with roast beef & sweet & white potato. Nap & read awhile in PM. Telephoned again & talked with Mr. Davis. [of Waltham Public Library] -- first position filled but has another at the same salary: school & children's work. Over town & to Buttricks' [home at 15 Swan St.]. Alice there & Marion came later. Stayed to supper & had a nice time. Home 8:30, talked awhile & then to bed. Nice moon.

[*] This refers to Aunt Sue's home at 57 Summer St. Nina continues to refer to "the aunts'," perhaps out of force of habit, even though Aunt Georgianna passed away earlier this year.

Thursday, November 17, 1921 [*]

Another rainy day but not nearly so cold. Up soon after 7, eats, fire, etc. Made a cake -- that fell -- chopped celery, fixed dutch cheese & made a rice pudding in AM. Wrote here & to Grandma Sturgis. Cold still quite bad, head some stuffy. Nap & read & fixed [sewing] machine, so stitched on cretonne drapes until too dark & then over town for meat & suet for pie-meats. [**] Met Mabel & back together. Alice Buttrick over & we all had supper with Aunt Sarah. Mabel up in eve. Sewed & talked until 9, when they went home & we went to bed.

[*] The Arlington High School cross country track team continued its successful season with a win against Cambridge Latin (the prior week it had competed with a perfect score against Ringe Tech), on the three-mile course at Menotomy Rocks Park. We read earlier this month about the team being

referred to as "harriers." Another nickname applied in 1921 was the "Arlington dalers" -- short for "hill and dalers."

[**] Nina is getting ready to prepare homemade mincemeat, which traditionally contains beef and suet (also suet in the pie crust). Mince pie was and remains a traditional Christmas-season food in England, but because the Puritans who settled in New England did not celebrate Christmas, mince pie came to be associated mostly with Thanksgiving.

Friday, November 18, 1921

Still cloudy & misty, warm. Up 7:30 & busy: fire, eats, lamp & then stitched on draperies, finished & put them up in guest-room. Lunch, telephoned & found Flora was out, so over town -- errands, in library & read awhile & then down to call on Mrs. Damon. Few more errands & home by 5:30. Looked over currants & raisins in evening & cut up citron. Wrote to Edith Hayes. Aunt Sue & Mrs. Price down to see Aunt Sarah (who has _the_ cold now) & in here for a little. Bed by 10.

Saturday, November 19, 1921

Cloudy, some sun, very warm. Woke by 7 & read & some busy after I got started. Fire, eats & started on mincemeat & took me until 11:30 to get it all together -- most of the time to peel the peck of apples. Brushed up & dusted living room & blacked stove for living room -- hands a sight but lemon helped. Had 8-1/2 quarts of mincemeat; put 6-1/2 in jars. Some tired & to bed for 1/2 hour, then over town, errands, met Mabel so had sodas -- first for 2 months. Aunt Sue & Mrs. Price at Aunt Sarah's & I was also asked in, back & wrote here, cards & mended some in evening. Little farm cat down for meals during day & very much at home. Bath, read & bed 10 or so.

Sunday, November 20, 1921

Cloudy & wintry, tho' not cold. Up soon after 8 & made pie- crust & two pies -- bum crust. Fixed vegetable stew with pie-meat broth, chicken, etc. Florence & Aunt Sarah in to dinner & supper. Florence to meeting in Town Hall in PM but our colds were too bad. To farm & telephoned to La & talked a bit with them & back again at 5. Fire in fireplace then -- had been too warm for it during day. Bed by 10, soon after Florence went. Little farm cat here & insisting on staying.

Monday, November 21, 1921

Pouring again -- not cold. Read in bed & up at 8, some ironing, made pie-crust & fussed around. Long rest in PM, still feeling tired. Not out all day, read in evening by open fire which I had going all day. Little cat in my lap and most happy. Caught mouse later. Bed at 11.

Tuesday, November 22, 1921

Clear & nice & warm. A good Mashpee day, with open piazza window, red oaks and the lake. [*] Up at 7. Made 3 mince pies after breakfast, a big one for George & a wee one for Barbara, one for

Mike [farm worker], and one for myself. Off soon after 11, gave Mabel the pie & in town. Went to [State Library] Commission. Miss Kennedy just ringing up about me for Wellesley. Saw Helen Smith for a moment, errands & up to E & I [Women's Educational & Industrial Union] & saw Abbie & Edith Hayes -- latter going to N.Y. tomorrow for rest of week. Helen Smith there later & all but E.H. had lunch. Across Common with Helen & to Waltham to interview Mr. Davis, or to be interviewed. Had a long conference & interesting & wonder if I _know_ enough. Chats with Miss Smith & Henderson later. Home at 6, few errands. Little lady cat waiting for me & later caught a mouse. Down with Mike's pie. Read & wrote in evening. Cloudy again.

[*] I believe that the reference to piazza window, red oaks, and the lake refer to Nina daydreaming of being in Mashpee, rather than describing a scene from her home in Arlington.

Wednesday, November 23, 1921

Clear & fine & not very cold. Up soon after 7. Fire, eats, lamps and some washing & ironing. Made two cranberry pies with lattice, washed kitchen floor & ready for a rest by PM. Barbara up some in AM & with Donald Gillis in PM & to read & play cards in evening as I felt too weary for movies & a bit chilly & we enjoyed the fireplace. Over town with Mabel in PM (also Barb). Errands, library & hot chocolate. Bath & bed about 11. Busy thinking over the pros and cons of Waltham library.

Thursday, November 24, 1921

Thanksgiving Day [*] A wet, snowy, rainy, slippery & quite cold day. Up about 7 & felt so good that I gave the living room a good cleaning -- everything out, washed floor, etc. All ready for the stove [parlor heating stove to be installed] -- took most of AM. Barb in to ask Aunt Sarah down [to Thanksgiving dinner] as it was too stormy for [Aunt Sarah to go to] Newton & besides Dora is sick, so Aunt Sarah & I down at one [to 146 Mystic St.]. Had a fine turkey dinner, baked potatoes, Cape turnip, pies, etc. Rest played cards & I hemmed towels in PM. Supper of lobster salad & fruit jelly & we were oh_so_full. Mrs. Price back as we were eating & she & Aunt Sue went about 9 & then Mabel & I played against Aunt Sarah & Junior (preference) until 10:30. Fire still going & house quite comfy & little cat purring. Bed at 12.

[*] Flashback to Thanksgiving Day one year before: Thursday, November 25, 1920

Thanksgiving. Snowed all day. Not up until 10, had read some but slept mostly. Washed, etc. & busy. To aunts at one. Aunt Sarah there. Had dinner from the Community Kitchen in Winchester -- everything very nice: cream of celery soup, turkey, sweet & white potatoes, squash, cranberry sauce, pineapple and grape salad, squash & mince pies & delicious ice cream & all for \$2.00. Came home about 4, mended, read & rested. Barbara up awhile - for a book. ** Additional note: In 1921, November 24 was the earliest that Thanksgiving Day could be, because the holiday fell on the last Thursday of November, which could be as late as November 30. In 1941, the holiday was changed to the fourth Thursday of November, making the earliest and latest possible dates November 22 and 28, respectively.

Friday, November 25, 1921

Clear, not quite so cold. Up at 8, swept & dusted & washed floors in both chambers and in PM went in town. Left towels for fair with Alice Buttrick & as she was going in town we went together and it happened we came out together. Went to Chandler's sale & bot a dark blue work dress for \$25.00 (a charge) [*] & a few other errands & had a talk with Uncle Warren [Peirce] about the estate, Uncle Will house, etc. Home by 6, nice salad & wrote my library history to Mr. G. C. Davis [head of Waltham Public Library] in evening & in here & read some. # when I left for Boston, but not bad. [**]

[*] Bear in mind that the price of this "work dress" was more than half of a typical week's paycheck for Nina. The dress would cost \$356 in today's inflation-adjusted dollars for consumer goods.

[**] The # means that Nina experienced the start of menstrual bleeding.

Saturday, November 26, 1921

Cloudy, snow in AM & quite a storm by night but turned to sleet. Up 7:30. Busy with various things. Men put up stove, so [I] finished blacking it--dirty job but good for the stove, acquired quite a shine. Barb & Gertrude Hesselstine in, also Aunt Sue. Napped & read in PM. Down to 146 for a moment & to Mr. McKenna's for cream. Read all the evening, bed at 11, but read until 12. Finished "Palmetto" -- a delightfully Southern story with good descriptions: Louisiana, New Orleans, Mississippi River, etc.

Sunday, November 27, 1921

Sleety rain all day, not very cold but house chilly so Aunt Sarah & I started our living room fires. _Some_ hot then. Up at 8:30, eats, lamps, etc. & read & talked. Barbara & Junior in. Wrote to Nellie Dean and Jessie Bashforth & began "Mitch Miller" [*] in evening. Invited to Amy's to tea with rest of the crowd but began to pour so didn't dare to venture out. Bed about 10. Slippery out & most people staying inside.

[*] Not to be confused with Mitch Miller of "Sing Along with Mitch" 1960s television fame. The 1920 novel "Mitch Miller" was written by Edgar Lee Masters, about two boys who try to emulate the adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn in their Illinois town.

Monday, November 28, 1921

Woke to find everything bowed with a heavy coat of sleet & storm still bad. Poles & branches broken and a constant snap and crack all the time. Papers report _very_ large flocks of geese flying over. Up about 7. Too wet and dark to do much. Washed, read paper & sewed some. Note from Mrs. Deshon asking me over for tea so after a nap in PM [I] dressed and telephoned from aunts. Also made crust and a mince pie in PM & carried over. Not bad going, only the fear of the branches falling. Academy St. very bad & slippery. Nice time: up to see Carrie Perice & later Susie D. [Dupee] & Mame [Ganett] came in. Richard [Deshon] tried for a taxi but all busy, so came over

with me. No [street] lights but he had a flash. Only nine & seemed like midnight. [*] Read a bit & then to bed.

[*] Arlington was particularly hard hit by this storm. It was among several communities where Boston Edison preemptively cut out the electric circuits to reduce the potential for personal harm by downed live wires. (This makes me think of the recent preemptive power cuts to reduce risk of wildfires in California this autumn.) In the 1890s Arlington neighborhood improvement associations were successful in promoting the planting of street shade trees, which unfortunately suffered greatly in this storm and whose broken branches took down many adjacent electric and telephone lines. Three of Arlington's four electric trolley car lines fared better, the exception being the Mystic Street line from Arlington to Stoneham via Winchester. More tales of Arlington braving this storm would emerge in the days to follow, which I'll share as notes to Nina's diary entries.

Tuesday, November 29, 1921 [*]

Branches & poles snapping and crackling all night & day. Up about 8. Still sleeting and ice from 1/2 inch to 2 inches thick on branches. Managed to reach ash can by bending double. Sewed some, time flew with not doing much. Tried to draw threads into a linen hanky but the darn things broke so had to give up. Aunt Sarah to aunts for first time & I went up later with bit of apple pie & muffins that I made in AM. While there Mabel came up & later she & I went over town. Most stores using candles, a few lucky enough to have gas [lighting]. No street lights & very dark; came back soon after 5. Trees in ruins everywhere. Mabel & Junior up to play cards in evening. Junior & Aunt Sarah beat. Millions of dollars all over Mass, lights, telephone, trees, etc. No school yet. Heard a bird in PM & saw a sparrow. Put out bread & suet but don't think they found it.

[*] Since Nina has neither electricity nor telephone at her home, it's business-as-usual in her domestic life, despite the severity of the storm. One amusing anecdote was of an Arlington home where the last of the candles had gone out in the middle of supper. The homeowner got in his automobile and positioned it facing the house so that the headlights would illuminate the dining room.

Wednesday, November 30, 1921 [*]

The sun once more, warm and ice melting and dropping branches & still falling some, lilacs and others lifting their heads again. Lights on in part of center, candles in many stores. Trees lovely in sun. Up 7:30, built fire & then dressed, had liver & bacon, first time for a year or so. Ashes to empty, dusting & did some washing. Rested in PM. Aunt Sue in, over town later. Library closed about 4:30 so Edith Rice & I did errands & [had] hot chocolate together. Home 5:30 and very tired, hard walking. Read & wrote here in evening & to Grandma Sturgis.

[*] This link is to an image from November 30, 1921, depicting the severe damage from the ice storm on Hillside Avenue: https://books.google.com/books?id=Y91HT_U_XIYC&pg=PA76

Thursday, December 1, 1921

Quite clear & nice & not very cold. Was too weary & achy to get up but did so at 7:30 & busy with usual things and some ironing & left for Boston soon after 1. Called at 146 on way. Changed [exchanged] blue twill [work dress] at Chandler's for a brown, and quite a lot of little errands & a whole lot of looking -- purse too empty to buy very much. Light lunch at The Pilgrim [*] & out by 4:30 -- up with Florence & Gert Crocker. Looked over cards & read a bit in evening but very tired & to bed at 8:30.

[*] The Pilgrim Lunch had three locations in downtown Boston: 33 West St., 25 Temple Place, and 55 Franklin St. It was a "ladies" establishment which was the case at The Acorn, where Nina occasionally goes. A "ladies" restaurant never admitted an unaccompanied (by a lady) gentleman, and some did not admit gentlemen at all. It was not considered proper for a lady to dine by herself in a public restaurant that was not a "ladies" restaurant. Two ladies together could dine in quality restaurants serving the general public without reproach (as Nina has done at a Chinese restaurant, for example). In her own home town, Nina could go solo, say for a sandwich and coffee at Blake's, without risking social scandal. But doing so in Boston would not have been generally considered proper behavior. Another thing to bear in mind with regard to this "separation of the sexes" is that a crowded establishment might sit two ladies together who were not previously acquainted. From an operations perspective it would never have done to ask a lady if a strange gentleman could be at her table.

Friday, December 2, 1921

Quite cloudy, no rain but melting. Sun out a few times. Up 7:30. Fires, ashes, eats, lamps, bit cooking, etc. Not quite so tired as yesterday but not up to the mark. Rested but legs ached & were nervous. Embroidered awhile & over town. Called at Florence Harris's but she was out. In to see Mrs. Deshon awhile, errands & home. Aunt Sarah to Newton in AM & at Aunt Sue's to tea. Read in evening & bed soon after 9.

Sunday, December 3, 1921

Fine & clear until about 9 & then cloudy & rather raw. Up at 8 & Mike up a bit later & put in 5 new window panes for me. Gave him a quart jar of mince-meat, not much pay but a bit & he was so good. I wonder if my brother would have done it for me. !!! Washed one window while it was out -- the lower part & busy until 12 & then read paper. Aunt Sarah to church. Dinner about 2. Went to lecture in Town Hall [*] -- Woman's Club. John Spargo [?] on after-the-war problems in Europe -- fine, hall packed. Went with Gannetts & Florence. Later asked me there but no street lights so that I'd better come home. Aunts Sue & Sarah to Baptist concert. Aunt Sue down in AM as I was making pie crust.

[*] Today's visitors to Arlington's town hall can still see gas light sconces in various places. The town hall opened in 1913 and relied primarily on electric lighting but it also had some gas light fixtures as backup. Following the recent ice storm the Arlington Gas Light Company placed display advertisements in the Arlington Advocate asking the public to be patient, because it had

received an overwhelming number of requests from electric- light customers to install gas light figures in their homes and businesses.

Saturday, December 4, 1921

Pleasant, not cold. Up 7:30. Usual things & then cleaned the dining room, washed curtains & ironed them later & all in order. Wiped paint, washed floor, etc. Ate lunch in kitchen. Quite tired & up for a nap & over town later. Went to library & at 5:30 lights went out so I helped Edith Rice with a flash until six, when we went shopping. Up with Emily Aldean. Aunts & Mrs. Price to movies in evening. [*] Read, bath, & bed at 11. Card from O.C.D. [Mr. Orlando C. Davis, head librarian] saying he would send me definite word about Waltham position on Wednesday. Still feel done up to start in, but purse is low and taxes high. [*] At the Regent Theatre (in 1921 the only public cinema in Arlington), this date's program for 8:10 p.m. was Thomas Meighan in "The Conquest of Canaan" as the main feature. There were also cartoons, a Sennett Comedy short feature, and Fox News. Fun fact about "The Conquest of Canaan": it was considered a lost film for 70 years. In 2010 a digital copy was presented to the United States by Russia from its film archive, Gosfilmofond. of Canaan."

Monday, December 5, 1921

Pleasant, quite cool early but warmer during day. Up at 7, stoves, cat, etc. Down for sugar at little store [*] & put marmalade to cook, cleaned silver, washed old muslin curtains -- pretty much gone - - washed storm window & outside of the four others they go on and then had an attack of the razzles and had to give up for an hour and by then the marmalade was ruined. _Some_ day. Put in jars & on couch for an hour, dressed & [went] for rent & to sale at church -- tea with Florence Harris. Only bot an apron. Head ached & home. Gave \$5 pledge money to Unitarian Association - - came mighty hard just now. Wrote to Miss Hayes, Miss Hatch and Cousin Jennie in evening.

[*] The "little store" was a recent arrival in Nina's neighborhood. It was a small grocery store operated by Charles H. McKenna in half of the first floor of the home (still standing) at 24 Summer St., a short distance from Mystic Street and backing onto the Arlington Catholic High School athletic field. This modest structure has a colorful history. It was a carriage house on the estate of Samuel Fowle on Mystic St. (Fowle's home was moved and still stands at 8 Farrington St.). The carriage house was moved by Fowle to what was then the shore of his mill pond, made into a dwelling for an employee, presumably to have a regular overnight presence at the mill complex. Although the mill had converted to steam power for most of its work after construction of the Arlington Reservoir in 1872, as late as 1911 it still was using water power for some of its operations. By 1921, the mill pond was entirely disused, Fowle's mills having gone bankrupt and ceasing operations in 1913. The Huff Electrostatic Separator Company, engaged in separating ores in a dust-free electric process, was doing business on the site in 1921.

Tuesday, December 6, 1921

Pleasant, quite cold & windy. Up 7. Did some washing, etc., hemmed new brown dress & pressed it & wore it & left by 11:30 for Belmont. Stopped in to see Flora and there half an hour & had a nice visit. On to Prentiss' -- up old hill, trees broken everywhere. La in town but had a nice time with the rest & Joe brot me home about 5. Down for bread & at aunts to show them the dress. Into a middy. [*] Very light supper; still a bit wuzzy. Read in evening.

[*] A middy was a style of blouse with a sailor's collar (the name "middy" deriving from "midshipman"). The link below goes to an excellent website with many illustrations of ladies' blouses of the 1920s: <https://vintagedancer.com/1920s/blouses-of-the-1920s/>

Wednesday, December 7, 1921

Clear & fine with a blue, blue sky. Up 7:30. Fires, ashes, light eats, lamps, dishes & then began to wash windows, did all inside downstairs, then did the upstairs & so good I finally finished the rest on outside -- "parlor" & kitchen. Lunch & ironed & just done when Mrs. Price came in with an apple pie for Aunt Sarah & I & stayed until 4 -- had a nice call. Into other clothes & over town. Telephoned & tried to get Gladys Hastings but no luck. Called at Deshons, library, & Buttrick's & home about 8 & had toast & ice cream. Little cat had another mouse in evening. Read, bed at 11.

Thursday, December 8, 1921

Clear, cold, warmer in middle of day. Up 7:35. Usual bits & lots of little things to do, dusted, etc., bit to wash & iron, made an apple pie & gave [it to] Mike & 2 small mince -- one for Aunt Sarah & one for Edith Hayes. Bit rest in PM & read paper. Telephoned to La & Gladys Hastings, over town, called on Florence, then Mrs. Deshon -- Aunt Sarah there & we went in to see Susie Dupee & over to Universalist Fair. Met Mrs. Hobbs there. Not much of any use: bot an apron & some tea & coffee. To library. Met Jennie Frost so to [trolley] car with her & saw Myra Woods a moment. Home by 6. Gert Crocker at Aunt Sarah's & they asked me in to supper & had a real nice time. Little cat purring away -- poor thing. Bed & bath soon after 9.

Friday, December 9, 1921

Up 6:45 & quite a rush with ashes & eats. Left both fires going, started out at 9. George up for bed & had to stop & fold clothes; also, laundry man came & put those away. Went to post office & found Waltham [Public Library] letter with my appointment at \$1,200 [annualized salary]. Into South Station and on 10 o'clock to Framingham. Trees smashed all the way & in ruins in many places and very bad in Framingham -- much underbrush piled high & being burned, etc. Edith [Hayes] met me at train & we went to the house where I met Mr. & Mrs. Partridge & daughter, Mrs. Caine -- very pleasant & jolly. Left before 12 & had lunch at Wellman's [restaurant] -- oyster stew. [Trolley] car to centre & nice chat with Sue. Up to see Florence Russell & bot a few things at a nice little shop. With Sue to centre & had dinner with her & then we went to Edith's room -- she

had to leave at 8 & I had a nice time reading. Edith back at 9 & we read & talked until 10:30, then to bed. She had a big, nice, comfortable room, heated, on the 3rd floor. [*]

[*] This is the private home of Walter and Averick Partridge, at 14 Lexington St. They are a retired couple in their 70s who over the years have rented a room to other female roomers (as opposed to boarders where the persons took their meals at the house). Edith B. Hayes had been assistant librarian at Somerville Public Library and has become good friends with Nina. Miss Hayes took a job earlier this year at the Framingham library as "first assistant librarian." It was a two-minute walk from the Partridge's home to the Framingham library.

Saturday, December 10, 1921

Pleasant, rather cold. Up soon after 7 & to Wellman's for breakfast -- omelet, etc. & very nice. Sue there and all to centre together. Read in AM & at noon went around the square & up by cemetery & back. Shopped a bit & lunch on the corner of Edith's desk. [Trolley] car to Framingham at 3:30 & walked to Hollis Street Branch [library] & visited with Olive Gleason [*] until six. Met Edith for supper at Wellman's & shopped & did window shopping. Bot quite a lot of things at Hazel Carpenter's. [**] Back at 9 & in den awhile & then up to bed but read & talked until after 11.

[*] Olive Gleason had been East Branch librarian at Somerville until she, like Edith Hayes, took a job in Framingham. In 1921 there was significant staff turnover at Somerville Public Library. It would not be unusual in any of the female-dominated occupations to see high turnover, given the prevailing expectation that, once married, a woman would end her outside employment to become a homemaker. In the case of Somerville's library, we see single women departing for other library jobs, or in Nina's case, leaving without any job.

[**] Hazel Carpenter's shop was for "Ladies Furnishing Goods" -- the 1921 classification for what we would term ladies apparel and accessories.

Sunday, December 11, 1921

Clear & fine & warm. Up soon after 8 & down for breakfast at nine. Walked about a bit & back to house & Mrs. Caine went to walk with us. Started for the "Temple" & a friend of theirs came along in his car, took us to the centre then back & we climbed the hill while he got some water [for the automobile's radiator] -- not a bit in car -- & then drove us around a different part of Framingham & by aviation field [*] & then we walked to stores, had a soda, etc., & home by one. Into kimono & on bed, reading most of PM & embroidered some. Out for dinner at five, went to the hotel which had a very attractive dining room. Mrs. Partridge & Mrs. Caine up with their sewing in evening & later we went downstairs & had tea, toast, crackers & cheese & saw the big cat fed. Bed about 11.

[*] The aviation field in Framingham was on Route 9. The Massachusetts State Police Headquarters is located on part of the airfield site today. It was a highlight of Nina's tour due to its recent celebrity. On October 23, 1921 it had the distinction of receiving the first air mail delivery to New England. (Scheduled air mail service previously existed in the Washington, D.C.-Philadelphia-New York corridor.) The plane from Washington landed at Framingham (after a stop on Long Island, NY), then the mail had to be trucked the rest of the way to Boston. Just four days earlier, the

postmaster of Boston said to the Boston Chamber of Commerce that he didn't envision a need for "aerial mail service" to the city but pledged to pursue the notion if enough demand for it expressed by the business community. Of note, there was then no airport in Boston. What eventually became Logan Airport didn't open until September 1923.

Monday, December 12, 1921

Cloudy, began to rain by noon, poured later & light snow by ten. Up at 7, down for breakfast with Edith & to library with her. Read about all day as it rained too much to go out. "View Vertical," "Where the Young Child Was," etc. & Morley's "Hide and Seek." Had to buy some [rubber shoe] tips as streets were rivers. Mrs. Caine met us & we had a fine dinner at the Chinese restaurant & then Edith bot some ice cream to take home so Mr. & Mrs. Partridge could enjoy it with us. Into kimonas later & read & embroidered. Finished bureau scarf & then had a fine hot bath in _tub_ & how good it seemed. Bed at 10:30.

Tuesday, December 13, 1921

Overcast and some snow at intervals. Up at 7 & out for nice eats. Sue with us later & all up in [trolley] car, Olive & Miss Oakes. Read most of AM & Edith & I left at 11:30, in on cars. Snow made everything very lacy & dainty, trees broken everywhere. Left Edith at Park St., had some lunch, and home at 2. Glad to get here, had a fine time & they were ever so nice but felt as if I had stayed a day too long. Aunt Sarah had built both fires so house was nice and warm. Unpacked, etc. & put on pie meat to cook. Up to see Aunt Sue & to telephone. Rang Mr. Davis [of Waltham Public Library] & told him I'd begin on December 27th -- said I'd be a Christmas present. Aunt Sarah asked me to supper: full of trouble as usual when I go away -- poor little cat bothered [her]. [Water] shut-off [valve] broke & flooded the cellar, etc. Wrote here & [went] to [town] hall. Junior High operetta "Goldilocks & the 3 Bears" -- very good and hall was packed.

[*] Sat with Ruth Peirce [in balcony?]; rest on floor. Back with Aunts Sue & Sarah. Bed 10:30 or so. Cloudy out but light with snow. [*] Tickets were 50 cents each, with proceeds going to the music fund of the school.

Wednesday, December 14, 1921

Cloudy all day -- not very cold. Up at 9, so late eats, ashes -- many flying -- washed some and directed most of my post cards, made an apple pie. [*] Leg ached in PM so on couch and slept nearly an hour & read some & over town at 4. Library as usual and did a few errands. Gert Crocker at Aunt Sarah's & both in later. Aunt S. with another cold. Put stamps on Christmas cards and did up [gift wrapped] a few things. Much colder in evening. Bed at 10.

[*] I suspect that Nina was well supplied with apples from trees on the Winn property. Nina does not record what variety or varieties of apples she is using. In December 1921, these apples were advertised heavily in the Arlington Advocate: APPLES APPLES A few more Ben Davis Apples at \$2.00 a bushel while they last. Order now by calling Arlington 1466-J. Free delivery. The Ben Davis cultivar is very rarely seen today, but in 1921 it was prized as a late-

season apple that kept well in storage.

Thursday, December 15, 1921

Clear & cold, but warmer during day. Up about 7 & usual things. To aunts to telephone & over town about 12 to do errands. Called at Florence Harris's for theatre tickets. She had a fierce cold. Leg cramped so I could barely walk. Aunt Mame over at my request and I asked her about keeping the house if I work in Waltham. She would dearly love to do so, nothing better, but thinks Aunt Elizabeth needs her very much. The Hittinger money is very much tied up, notes, etc. & very hard sledding. [*] Had a nice afternoon. Aunt Sarah in to supper with us. Over to car with Aunt Mame at 9. Full moon & wonderful out -- 14 degrees above. Cut out pictures & bed at 11.

[*] On June 29, 1921, the same day as Aunt Georgianna's death, Nina's uncle by marriage to her Aunt Elizabeth, Richard Hittinger, died suddenly. From the sounds of this diary entry there apparently were significant difficulties in settling his estate.

Friday, December 16, 1921

Clear & cold. 14 degrees above. Up at 7:30. Fire O.K., also water. Eats, ashes, etc. Wrote to Edith Hayes & here & in town about 11:30; not a bad crowd. Out by 3:30 as I had very little money to spend. Met Mr. Preston, so up to give his message to Mrs. Price [Aunt Sue's companion, living at 57 Summer St.]. Cut out more pictures & directed some more cards in evening & bed soon after 9.

Saturday, December 17, 1921 [*]

Pleasant, not very cold. Up at 7 & a busy day. Made mincemeat and had 5 quarts. Didn't seem quite so good as the first lot to me. Usual other things & so tired by PM I had to rest an hour instead of going to Dr.'s. Barbara up in AM with a fowl from George. Left at 3:30 for Edna Frost's & walked over. Leg and foot ached so I nearly gave up but it was much worse walking home. For a wonder I was the first one. The dining room table was covered with papers, then paste pots for each one & pictures & we all made scrap-books for sick children. Some cut, some pasted & some did both. Nice eats at little tables in living room. Jo, Jennie, Myra, La, Rachel all there from C.C [Christmas Club] & Dot Coe, Annie & Sarah Wellington & Marjory Frost. Not home until 10:30 -- fires, and bed.

[*] At the lodging house of Mrs. Mabel "May" Farnham at 8 Harvard St., Arlington Heights, 21 fur overcoats stolen from Moeller's shop in Roxbury were recovered by police from a room rented there by suspected thieves Joseph Gallagher and William Roach, both of Roxbury. The value of the loot was \$1,500, which is about \$22,000 in today's dollars (adjusted for consumer inflation), but for better context, note that \$1,500 was \$300 more than Nina's prospective annualized salary as a library assistant in Waltham.

Sunday, December 18, 1921

Poured & blew hard early, but cleared later, warm enough to go out with a coat and dandelions & ladies' delight were out. Bro't in some bulbs that had started in pots outdoors, also a pansy root. Fire out in living room, cooler by night so built it up. Cut up and cooked a fowl that George gave me & made a mince pie. Barbara up in PM & again in evening with a composition she was writing -- a Christmas story and very good. Read some. Leg ached so I kept quiet. Bed at 10. Happened to think that _possibly_ Miss Stone would take [my] house for the winter.

Monday, December 19, 1921

Clear & sunny -- not cold, tho not so warm as yesterday. Up 7:30, ashes, eats, wood, coal, etc. Wrote here & did up some Christmas things, rested & read some in PM & over town: library & helped Edith Rice a bit. Leg cramped and pained & glad to get home. Looked over and destroyed a lot of old Christmas cards -- several years' collection. Bed about 10. Aunt Sarah at Aunt Sue's for cards. Susie Dupee & Carrie Peirce there.

Tuesday, December 20, 1921 [*]

Clear and glorious, a wonderful sunny day: like late October. Up at 7:30. Did some washing and some old other things. Rested awhile in PM, bath, & to Dr. Percy's. Leg bad again -- clot there this time & had to be elevated, ice bag, cold compress, etc. Library, errands, at 146 a moment & up to Aunt Sue's. Telephoned Mr. Davis [at Waltham Public Library]. I wouldn't come [to begin new job] next week, as Dr. said absolute quiet for two _weeks_ anyway. Some more iron pills to take. Quite a lot of Christmas cards coming. On couch with bag of cold water & wrote here & cards, etc. & a letter to Vivian Morse & to Grandma Sturgis. Jr. up and Grace & Ed Kelley. Bed at 10.

[*] On this date an interesting event took place. >From the Arlington Advocate: "Students of the penmanship classes in the commercial department at the Senior High School are busily at work preparing for their annual exhibit which will be given on Tuesday, December 20, in Room 15, from two to four in the afternoon. Miss Leila Wiggin, the instructor of penmanship, is much pleased with the work which has been accomplished and predicts that this year's will be one of the most interesting exhibits of its kind that has ever been held at the High School. Budgets prepared by the students, containing all kinds of plain and fancy penmanship work, will be on exhibition and in addition, a number of pupils, under Miss Wiggin's direction will take part in a model penmanship class. There will also be specimens of penmanship work done by some of the world's master penmen. It is hoped that all people in Arlington who are interested in good writing and who wish to co-operate with the school in encouraging better writing among its students, will lend their support to the exhibit by being present."

Wednesday, December 21, 1921

Much colder by night. 8 degrees above at 10 p.m. Snow early & cloudy rest of the time. Up 7:30. Fires, eats, lamps & then on couch with the cold water, read paper, etc., more cards to do & kept quiet until 12, then lunch & into good clothes & off to see "Mikado" at the Arlington [*] &

mailed a lot of cards on way & drew a bit from my small deposit at bank. In [to Boston] with Alice Whittier. Met La at theatre. Enjoyed performance as usual. Koko was especially good & light and well costumed. Saw Florence a moment afterwards. Leg ached & [I went] right home -- good luck & all the way with cars & crowds. Bot chocolate at Blake's and [took] a taxi home & on sofa all the evening. Jr. up & brot up coal for me in eve & carried poor little cat up to put her in the barn. Read & bed at 10. House nice & warm.

[*] This refers to the Arlington Theatre (previously and afterwards the Castle Square Theatre) on Tremont Street, not far from today's Wang Center. The following link includes a postcard image and provides a brief outline of the theater's history: <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/15773>

Thursday, December 22, 1921

2 degrees below. Clear & fine & cold. Not a cloud in the sky. Up at 7:30, room cold and I felt some chilly all night -- all right downstairs, only water was frozen. George in & brot up some coal for me and emptied ashes, Breakfast & brushed up some, lamps & on couch about 9:30. Read paper & amused myself & read quite a lot during day. Bunch of Christmas cards, including one from E. J. Trepper, to my surprise. Hard to keep house warm. Cold outside all day. Jr. up in eve & brot up coal & shut off water & Barbara with him & stayed sewing & talked until 8:30. Made bed about 9 & read until 10 & slept well with help of _cold_ water bottle. Mabel sent up an ice bag by Barbara (Buttrick's) [*]

[*] Mabel Winn's sister is Alice Hartwell Buttrick, so I assume that is to whom the ice bag belonged.

Nina Winn's 1921 diary - December 23 [*]

Cloudy all day & snowed at intervals. Up at 7:30, leg lame. Built fire & then dressed. Ashes, lamps, eats & on bed at last. Read paper, wrote to Clara Collins & Bessie Boardley. Had some nice holly & greens & a little pine tree from Bessie. Jack Welch set out the tree for me. Couch again in PM by 1:30. Marion Buttrick over to see both of us & to tea with Aunt Sarah. Another lot of cards came. Taxi for Marion at 8 & a bit later Richard Deshon & Florence Harris came over laden with bundles & stayed over an hour. Leg lame but weather so hot I slept upstairs.

[*] On this date an electrical explosion during the morning commute led to a multi-hour suspension of subway service in the "Cambridge-Dorchester Tunnel" (part of today's Red Line). It also caused a shorter suspension of subway service in the Washington Street Tunnel (part of today's Orange Line). Today bus service would be provided to cover for such an interruption, but in 1921, extra "surface cars" (what we would refer to as trolley cars) were deployed in various ways to get people to their destinations via substitute connections. A modern motor bus has much more flexibility in taking passengers on alternate routes. Still, the transportation system in 1921 had the advantage of the elevated rapid transit line on Atlantic Avenue onto which it could re-route "Orange Line" trains. In addition to thousands being late to work that day, there was a major slow-down in telephone service. Over 1,000 telephone operators were delayed during the system's peak-volume shift (there was not yet dial telephone service), and with so many operators missing from their

positions, delayed travelers had the additional frustration of not being able to telephone their offices and stores to inform them of their whereabouts.

Saturday, December 24, 1921

Cloudy & showers, warm. Day before Christmas. Leg felt better so did a lot in AM & felt rather under by PM. Up soon after 7. George emptied kitchen ashes & Aunt Sue others later, had them on steps. Fires, breakfast, lamps, beds & dusted -- on couch an hour with ice bag & then ironed for an hour & then used up last of pie crust & made one large & 2 small pies & Aunt Sarah carried a small one to Miss Newton for me. Ready for couch by one & glad to get there.

Sunday, December 25, 1921

Christmas. Cold & snowy; bad walking (they say). Up 8:30 or so, leg lame & didn't seem very Christmassy but had lots of callers so "it" improved. Jr. up before I was dressed & Barbara & Jr. & Mabel later -- after Sunday School and church. Work & eats & then Aunt Sarah brot in her bundles & we opened them together: a lot of nice, useful things. See list at end of book. Invited to Aunt Sue's to dinner & tea but of course couldn't go & got a little lunch on my own -- not much of a celebration one. Just dressing when Miss Lawson & Richard came & stayed about an hour, brot some balloon flowers & chrysthanthemums. A little later Amy, Edith & Esther came for an hour -- a nice call. Barbara up again in evening with jelly from Aunt Emily. Read paper between times & wrote here. Mr. Sztobbe [florist] up at noon with my Katrina poinsettia -- most beautiful with five great blossoms. [*] Wrote to Cousin Libby and Aunt Elizabeth in evening & bed at 10.

[*] This is the poinsettia that Mr. Sztobbe had taken on August 28 to "doctor up" for Nina. I believe that Nina was keen to enjoy the plant every year, because it had been given to her as a gift by Katrina Shoemaker. The Shoemaker family of Griggsville, Illinois, were close friends of Nina's cousins there (where she traveled in 1911 and to where she writes to "Coz Jim," "Coz. Libby," or "Coz. Jennie" from time to time). In 1918, Charles Shoemaker was at the U.S. Naval Radio School at Harvard University, In 1919, Katrina came to Boston to attend the Training School for Nurses at Massachusetts General Hospital, and died of illness during her first academic year there.

Monday, December 26, 1921

Pleasant, quite mild, bit sharp by night. Up 7:30 & usual work & then on couch. Barbara up & I said I'd come down there. Mabel up awhile later. Aunt Sue down for day with Aunt Sarah who had a fine turkey dinner. Jr. brot up his sled & pulled me down & George hauled me back so I went very easily. Venison dinner & talked PM. Nice big tree. Up to see Barbara's new rose walled room. Jr. to 37 early & Mabel up at 8 when George brot me. Mrs. Price back so in with me until 10:30 while the rest played cards. Bed about 11:30.

Tuesday, December 27, 1921

Clear & glorious & warm. Up at 8. Fires, eats, emptied ashes & filled lamps & ready & glad for couch & ice bag at 10. Read paper, mended some, wrote to Mrs. Damon & Mr. Davis in AM & Cousin Jennie & Edith Rise in PM. Aunt Sarah brot in a fine turkey dinner with nuts, raisins, figs, & dates. Couch most of PM. Jennie Frost here & made a nice long call; didn't know I was laid up. Read, etc. Jr. up later in PM & again in evening when he & Aunt Sarah played cards & Emily came in evening & stayed until after 9. Bed at 10. Not very cold.

Wednesday, December 28, 1921

10 degrees above but didn't seem cold. An even better day than yesterday, clear & fine. Good sleighing. Up at 8. Usual bits, washed a middy & cooked rice for chicken soup. Dora Daniels over to spend the day with Aunt Sarah so we had to talk "legs" as she has a bad one. Had a nice dinner with them. On couch all of PM. Wrote to Cousin Jim. Dora & Aunt Sarah over town at 3 & soon after Marjory Wood & Viola came for 1/2 hour -- the dearest baby, not a bit afraid & sat in my lap all the time. Early supper & read all the evening. Finished "An African Adventure" by [Isaac F.] Marcossou -- mighty interesting. Bed 9:30, bath & hot water made leg ache a bit.

Thursday, December 29, 1921

Leg not so sore, but swollen Cloudy with snow spits, cleared in PM & windy & colder. Up at 8. Poor Aunt Sarah chased the [news]paper all over the yard. Usual things & on couch at 10. Jr. up with stockings to be mended & brot up coal. Read paper. Edith Rice here and made a nice call, brot some of her Christmas cards to show me & some oranges and mustard pickle. Nice lunch, chicken soup & apple. Ironed handkerchiefs & washed a couple of things & on couch by 1:30 Wrote to Helen & Jessie Bashforth. Several letters [received] -- one from O.C. Davis [of Waltham Public Library]. Edith Winn here & we had a good visit together (Aunt Sarah out). Brot me some fine cakes & charlotte russe. Read in evening, much colder & wind howled & blew. Slept upstairs & found it very cold. Bed at 9.

Friday, December 30, 1921 [*]

Lilac buds in pink room all budded. 2 degrees below 0, but clear & beautiful. Up at 8 & shivering. Fire on in air tight [parlor stove] felt good. Fires, etc. Laurel Toutt down while I was eating breakfast & then we sat in front room. House cold for first time this winter. A little later Jennie Frost came and we had a nice visit & I did lamps & breakfast dishes at noon. Couch in PM. Leg not sore but much swollen. Wrote [to] Nellie Dean. Little cat down for some food. Aunt Sue in & brot a nice jar of apricot. Pond [**] full of skaters. Read and wrote to Nellie Dean. Aunt Sarah in & out. Mabel up in evening, had a stunning new coat -- dark blue with opossum collar. Sewed & talked. Slept downstairs; rather _too_ warm, moderated during night.

[*] On December 25, Nina wrote that she had listed the Christmas presents she had received "at end of book." Today I consulted the diary and share some items from that list. No doubt some of Nina's gifts will be amusing modern readers: Christmas presents received [1921] Mabel: Small percolator Junior: Bottle _rubbing_ alcohol Arthur: Writing paper with Indian

Barbara: Waterproof bag, hairpins, toothpaste & powder Aunt Mame: "Mouse" sandwich recipes, wee box candy, case of needles Aunt Elizabeth: Jelly, lettuce, apples Edith: Glass knife Florence Harris: Marmalade & bag of cones RWD [Richard Deshon]: Book: Winifred Fales "Household Dictionary" Marion Buttrick: Handkerchief drawn in [drawn thread work] Cousin Libby: Mother Goose & "rubber hangers" [for hanging hand-washed items] Mrs. Damon: 1/2 dozen fresh eggs "Cards galore" [Incidentally, Nina received a total of six other handkerchiefs, so with seven in total she's got a new one for every day of the week, it would appear!]

[**] This refers to Fowle's mill pond across Summer Street. It later was drained and used as a sanitary landfill for solid waste. The playing field of Arlington Catholic High School, and the town's Buzzell Field, occupy the millpond site today.

Saturday, December 31, 1921

Pleasant early but soon clouded up. Not so cold. Up 7:45, fires, emptied ashes, breakfast & up a bit & glad to get on couch again at 19. Leg quite swollen, not very sore. Read paper, etc. Arthur in, brot donuts from Mabel & brot me some coal. Lunch by 12 & ironed a bit & into middy & couch by 1:30. Wrote notes to Birdie and Holly. Aunt Sarah over town -- errands for both of us. Such a lot of callers, regular donation party: first, Florence Harris with a basket of doughnuts, then La, Amy & Edith. La with pickles from Pa & fresh bread & plum pudding from Ma. Amy with pea soup powder [*] & potato salad & Edith's squash biscuit. Still later Edna Frost with cream & rocks [**] & she & La stayed until 6. Aunt Sue, Laurel & Mrs. Price at Aunt Sarah's for supper & asked me in -- nice eats & back to couch by 7. Arthur up with a tongue George got me in town [Boston]. Laurel in most of evening. Bed 10:30 & asleep before the New Year. Leg about the same.

[*] This is what we would call dry soup mix. In 1921 it was a novel convenience food product. Green pea soup mix rose in popularity after World War II under various brand names, such as Susan Baker. Lipton introduced it to its array of other dry soup mixes in 1956, and even went so far as to promote it for a sour cream dip. Dry green pea soup mix (meaning in this situation in powdered form, rather than a mix with visibly separate split peas and spices) has essentially vanished from our supermarket shelves. Knorr brand of dry pea soup mix can still be regularly found in Europe and in Canada.

[**] In the 1920s, "rocks" in this context referred to what we'd call hard candies, sometimes referred to as hard rock candy. Rocks would be cut by machine (the way we often buy them individually wrapped in bags), but homemade rocks could be poured and then broken up by hand. Rocks should not be confused with clear crystals of sugar that we know as "rock candy," which we often see today as a clump of large sugar crystals on the end of wooden sticks, to be used as drink-sweetening stirrers.

*Nina wrote <snip>: >>Dry green pea soup mix (meaning in this situation in powdered form, rather than a mix with visibly separate split peas and spices) has essentially vanished from our supermarket shelves. Knorr brand of dry pea soup mix can still be regularly found in Europe and in Canada.<< Uri Guttman commented: >>market basket carries alessi brand split pea soup mix (called spaccarelli). it has powdered split peas and pasta and some dried veggies. it is very good, especially when you add some ham when cooking.<< Richard replies: To be clear, spaccarelli bears no resemblance to the "pea powder" product that Nina received as a gift. The plain powdered green pea soup was a mix that produced a thin puree. It would go on to become an everyday supermarket product, but it indeed has *essentially* vanished from the shelves. Multiple manufacturers in the U.S. abandoned it, leaving Lipton occupying what had evolved into a niche, with its packets in a box to be prepared on the stovetop. In 1972, there even followed a green pea soup product extension into Lipton's "Cup-A-Soup" instant line. People who loved it, loved it. But not enough people loved it. So while today some small producers offer a similar dried soup to what Nina knew (Alessi not being among those), it's gone from the mainstream to the margins.*