

I have a little journal book that belonged to a widower who lived in the village during the first decades of the 20th century. He is not related to us at all, and I don't recognize the family names of many people he mentioned, but it is interesting to compare our journal entries a hundred years apart. I decided to see how his June, 1917 corresponds to my notes from the same month in 2017. His entries are in italics, mine in standard print. Here is what I found:

*June 1—46 above 6 a.m. Cloudy and moderate NW wind this morning. It has been a cool wind all day. I hauled some wood today and dragged my potato ground with Smith's horse.*

June 1: 30 degrees. Ice on the windshield this morning. We had covered plants and strawberries in the garden, so all was okay. But, it was chilly in the cabin. I started a fire and kept it until mid afternoon. A nice day.

*June 2—44 above 6 a.m. Raining and strong SE wind this morning. It has rained all day, near a cloudburst this afternoon. I made an apple and elderberry pie this evening.*

June 2: 40 degrees. No frost. This afternoon, I went to the garden and tried to work, but the wind was awful. I did plant three beds, and I have all of the onions out of the greenhouse now. Planted a bed of beans, too, and some beets, chard, and cilantro.

Took us quite a while to put in the sheep tonight. They were all over—in every corner of the pasture.

*June 3—50 above 7 a.m. Sunday. Clear and strong NW wind this morning. It has been a fine day. I had dinner at home and went to ME church this afternoon and went out to the cemetery after church.*

June 3: 41 degrees. The first day this year that has really seemed too warm. Guess we are not used to it, because I was really tired. In the afternoon we worked in the garden. Runo flame-weeded a lot of one area. Then he planted the Painted Mountain corn and sweet corn.

*June 4—56 above, 6 a.m. Partly cloudy and strong SW wind and warm this morning. It has been a fine day. I finished hauling my old ties (railroad) for wood this forenoon and had Smith's horse. I dragged Smith's garden this afternoon for him. He is lame from rheumatism. It began to rain lightly this eve. I got a small load of wood from McClintock.*

June 4: 58 degrees. Rained 1/10 inch over night. They put the beaver guard in the lake, worked well. Then, Runo cleaned out the swimming area with the tractor.

In the afternoon, I churned twice and made chocolate cupcakes with maple sugar. The last job was putting the sheep into the night pasture.

*June 5—52 above at 6 a.m. Raining and night NE wind this morning, did not rain much. Drizzled until towards 9 o'clock. I went to the Leroy creamery and got a gallon of buttermilk this forenoon and dragged for Smith this afternoon.*

June 5: 45 degrees. We didn't separate milk today. I made feta cheese after doing the washing. Later, we went to Leroy and bought some petunia plants, and Runo brought me good dirt to fill pots for them. We splinted Helga's lamb's leg tonight.

*June 6—54 above at 6 a.m. High SE wind and raining lightly. It has been a wet*

*day all day, a heavy rain this afternoon. I cut some seed potatoes today and made an apple and elderberry pie this morning.*

June 6: 45 degrees. Doctored a lamb with fly strike when we let the sheep out of the night pasture. I worked in the garden later, planted a few things, but then went over every potato plant and found 14 or 15 potato bugs. Picked them off and killed them. Before evening chores, I made rice pudding.

*June 7—50 above at 6 a.m. Cloudy and high SW wind this morning. Began to rain about 9 o'clock and rained all day, a heavy thunder shower about noon. Went to Grand Rapids this afternoon. (Daily train service from the village to Grand Rapids)*

June 7: 39 degrees. Worked in the garden. Finished cleaning out one large bed of peas and also hoed the potatoes and looked for bugs. Mulched, too, till I ran out of straw.

*June 8—In Grand Rapids all day. Cloudy and cool. Came home in the afternoon.*

June 8: 40 degrees. Went to the dentist and also picked up my new glasses. We worked in the garden until we had visitors—one of the local Amish families plus their parents. We had coffee and iced tea and cookies.

*June 9—48 above at 6 a.m. Clear with light northeast air and cool this morning. I planted a few taters and Evergreen corn and some white pop corn, my garden is too wet. It has been warm this afternoon.*

June 9: 55 degrees. Went to the library to return books and borrow more. We also had our women's book group meeting today.

*June 10—58 degrees above at 7 a.m. Sunday. Clear and warm, NE air. I went to the cemetery this forenoon and took a few flowers from home. Had dinner at home. Attended ME church this afternoon. It has been a fine day.*

June 10: 58 degrees. We worked in the garden all morning. I weeded, hoed, and mulched. Runo hauled another batch of straw for mulch, and we also used grass clippings on some of the small vegetables. In the afternoon, we checked on the cattle and moved them to a section of new pasture and plenty of water. Sheared Philip Miller's sheep in the evening.

The month goes on, both in 1917 and 2017, with rain and wind, some warm days and some cool, and summer's work proceeds, as well, as it has done for the last century and much, much longer.