

The 1908 Journal of
Charles Wesley Fitch

Transcribed
Fall 1997
by
Donald Gene Chinnery
Grandson of Charles Wesley Fitch

Introduction

Charles Wesley Fitch maintained daily journals or diaries, if you will. We do not know how many remain to this day. This transcription was undertaken to make available to descendants of Grandpa Fitch, these excellent records of life nearly a century ago. We hope that this transcription is only the first of many. Currently we are trying to determine how many of the journals remain and their current whereabouts.

It is our understanding that the journals found after the death of grandpa were divided amongst the surviving children. This journal for 1908 was in obtained by Hazel Marguerite McDonald daughter of Charles. This year being significant to Hazel as she was born on July 16, 1908 and her birth was referenced on that day. Another important happening recorded during this same period is building of the family home on Blundell Road in Riverton Twp. The house was being built on 30 acres on the South side of the road. His father John Henry Fitch lived on 40 acres across the road. Various entries record his progress as he worked and completed portions of the house, eventually adding a barn and stable.

From a genealogical standpoint I have added footnotes that are printed at the end of this transcription. These footnotes attempt to identify members of the family. Many other names are referred to in the Journal and are no doubt recognized by many as individuals prominent in the early history of this area of Mason County. We retained the spellings and punctuations as recorded in the diary, except for adding periods or hypens to separate entries for clarity purposes.

Donald Chinnery
15 November 1997

January 1908

1. Wed.

Made Sheep Rakh(Sp?)

Fixed cutter fills.

Went to sleep. Ethel went to set up with her father.¹

.....
.....2. Thurs.

Went over on Ball place

Willie and I went up and payed our taxes in Eden. Willie took girls home. Ethel and I went set up with her father

.....
3. Fri.

Payed our taxes and Roses taxes. Went over to Roses.

.....
4. Sat.

Came home and done chores. Roses sent for me to hurry back.

.....
5. Sun.

Father Rose² died at 2 o'clock A.M. I came home and done chores. Went to see undertaker George Pepper.

.....
6. Mon.

Ethel and I went to town. Came home and stayed all night.

.....
7. Tues.

Sent my team to town after rought

Box. Went to George Peppers. We buried Father Rose.³

.....
8. Wed.

Ethel and I went over to her folks. Her mother came home with her. Took Fred and Mable⁴ to cover pipes with manure.

.....
9. Thurs.

We went to the house brought back some stuff.

.....
10. Fri.

Mother Rose⁵ and I went over to the house . I went and sold Frank Stearns the Place for #2500.-. \$5.00 Paid down.

.....
11. Sat.

Went to town to get a abstract for Roses Farm. Ethel and I went to Grange ate Oysters.

.....
12. Sun.

Awful Storm
I went over and fed mother Roses chickens.

January 1908

.....
13. Mon.
Ethel and I went over to the house and got a load of stuff. Mother Rose and I went over to make out papers, but did not.

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.....
14. Tues.
Went to Scottville to see Ben Pradle - to Ludington to get Bill out for Mother Roses Sale - nailed up.5 on way home.

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.....
15. Wed.
Went east to Wiley and north 2 miles - put up Bills. Ethel and I went to Misenhimers ???? to John Kistler to Witley S. -put up bills.

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.....
16. ThursI went to Nicholsons School house to McKees East to Bethel Church -putting up bills. Paid D. Morton up to date.

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.....
17. Fri.
Ethel and I went over and worked at the House - brought home Bed Steades and Books.

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.....
18. Sat.
Ethel and I went to the House. Shot the cat. Picked up potatoes and corn.

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.....
19. Sun.
We all went to Sunday School and

preaching.
.....
.....
20. Mon.
Went to town after lunch for sale. Nels and Estella came.⁶

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.....
21. Tues.
Looked after the sale.

.....
.....
22. Wed.
Hauled two loads of stuff from mother Roses.

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.....
23. Thurs.
Cleaned out sheep pen. Pulled up well hook. Took horse over to french's.

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.....
24. Fri.
Wewnt to town - Some furniture for Mable and Dean.
Bought 660 lb of stove coal - 2.51

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.....
25. Sat.
Pulled up well rods - went to store after leathers. Brought spare home - Ethel and I went to Grange.

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.....
26. Sun.
We all went to Summit Sunday School. Ate dinner with Benidicks.

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.....
27. Mon.
Took mother Rose to town. She settled

January 1908

with Wing, Dr Gray and Hobarts. Made
out pension papers.⁷

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.....

28. Tues.

Went to Willies.⁸ Helped him cut
wood. Unloaded some coal.

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29. Wed.

Went to town to Levi McClathies after
corn but he was away. Set up shop
stove over in my house.

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.....

30. Thurs.

Bridged up joist in the new house -
laid rough floor.

.....
.....

31. Fri.

I took mother Rose to town - got the
insurance papers signed. Awful
stormy.

.....
.....

February 1908

1. Sat.
Worst day I never seen -
George Shappee came after cow, but
did not take her. I took her to Unkle
Lew's
.....
.....
2. Sun.
Stayed home all day
More wind than snow.
.....
.....
3. Mon.
Went to Scottville with 46 1/2 bushel
of Rye - Sold it at 70 cents. Got some
repairs for wind mill.
.....
.....
4. Tues.
Went to see John Johnson - brought
home some wood. We went to
Gleaner- Oyster supper - got home 3
o'clock A.M.
.....
.....
5. Wed.
Made 2 Saw Horses
Put on 125 lath
Stormy wind & snow.
.....
.....
6. Thurs.
Lathed in new house.
.....
.....
7. Fri.
I went to town after Ethel's mother but
she did not come. Brought home 1360
lb coal and 400 ft of plaster board.
.....
.....

8. Sat.
Unloaded load got 45 bu Corn from
Levi Mc Clutchie. We went to Grange.
.....
.....
9. Sun.
I went to Sunday School and
preaching.
.....
.....
10. Mon.
Went to town after Ethel and mother.
.....
.....
11. Tues.
Took Ethel and her mother to the
Depo - Brought home stuff from the
folks barn.
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.....
12. Wed.
Fixed wind mill - Unloaded stuff in
Shop. Fred Brye came over to look at
horse - Went to Grange.
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.....
13. thurs.
Went over and helped Willie Cut
Wood.
.....
.....
14. Fri.
Went to John Hoffman's to Buy Bean
Straw. but did not. Went to See Fred
Caus colt.
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.....
15. Sat.
Lathed in New House - Churned 1 gal
of butter. Shaved. Took Pig over to
French's.

February 1908

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.....
16. Sun.
I went to Sunday School and
Preaching.
.....
.....
17. Mon.
Put Plaster Board on new House. Went
to Kistlers Shop - got no work done.
brough a grist home.
.....
.....
18. tues.
Lathed in New House
Went to Gleaner meeting.
.....
.....
19. Wed.
Nye helped me Lath in afternoon.
.....
.....
20. Thurs.
Nye helped me Lath and put Partiction
in - also cellar stairs.
.....
.....
21. Fri.
Went to town after Ethel
Went to Manistee Junction to meet
her.
.....
.....
22. Sat.
Went to Kistler's Shop to have some
Shoes set but he was sick -
I mowed.
.....
.....

23. Sun.
I went to Sunday School and
Preaching.
.....
.....
24. Mon.
I took 900 feet of hardwood lumber to
town.
.....
.....
25. Tues.
Went over to Richard.s⁹
.....
.....
26. Wed.
Worked at Stairs
.....
.....
27. Thurs.
Worked at Stairs
Ordered a Furnise (\$140)
Went to Shop
.....
.....
28. Fri.
I went to town to Prohibition
Coinvention - Took a load of wood to
town. Brought home 2400 of wall
plaster.
.....
.....

March 1908

1. Sun.
Took Rev. Taylor to Scottville.
Went to meeting.
.....
.....
2. Mon.
Nye went after the Mason. I hauled
sand - they slacked 2 barrel of lime.
.....
.....
3. Tues.
Nye and Homer tended mason - I
hauled Sand and Wood - Went to
Gleaner meeting.
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.....
4. Wed.
Willie helped me tend mason.
.....
.....
5. Thurs.
Went to town. after two sacks of wood
pulp.
Tended Mason putting on hard finish.
.....
.....
6. Fri.
Tended mason
.....
.....
7. Sat.
Tended mason
Took him home to town.
.....
.....
8. Sun.
Went to Sunday School
.....
.....
9. Mon.
Nye Stoddard and I went to town after

my flooring.
.....
.....
10. Tues.
Went to Eli's, Richard's and Dave
Mortons. Dave and I went after bean
straw. I skinned a sheep.
.....
.....
11. Wed.
I hauled some stuff out of the peach
house.
Went down and borrowed a horse
collar from Dave.
.....
.....
12. Thurs.
Dave Morton and I went to Englbes
after corn stalks. Carried peach
baskets up stairs.
.....
.....
13. Fri.
Nye and I finished the bed room floor.
Took our hard wood flooring to town
again for a better job.
.....
.....
14. Sat.
I took Barney and Unkle Charley and
brought up all the flooring.
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.....
15. Sun.
We went to Sunday School and
Preaching.
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.....
16. Mon.
Nye helped me lay floor in dining
room. Pa¹⁰ and I went to meeting.

March 1908

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.....
17. Tues.
Nye helped me lay floor in Kitchen
room. I went to Gleaner meeting.
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.....
18. Wed.
Nye helped me lay floor in setting
room.
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.....
19. Thurs.
Nye Stoddard helped us move across
the road. Paid Nye \$6.00
.....

.....
20. Fri.
Helped Pa clean out shop - took Black
Cow over to Roses. Went to Wm Engles
after 125 Bundles of stalks at 2 1/2.
.....

.....
21 Sat.
Buried a sheep - Oiled wind mill.
Worked in the house - Sold Unkle
Charley Horse for \$50.00
.....

.....
22. Sun.
Went to Sunday School and Preaching
- I was sick all day - Homer done my
chores at night.
.....

.....
23. Mon.
Layed in bed the fore noon., hauled
Some Stuff from the folks. and one
load of wood.
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.....
.....
24. Tues.
Took my big cow to town- Sold her for
\$26.-- brought part of the furnice ????
.....

.....
25. Wed.
We put new leather on the well-
Went to town after rest of Furnice.
.....

.....
26. Thurs.
Helped Ethel wash - Mr. Mason came
to put Furnice in - We layed
foundation for it.
.....

.....
27. Fri.
We worked at the Furnice.
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.....
28. Sat.
Took Mr. Mason to town
Went to Grange meeting.
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.....
29. Sun.
We went to sunday School and
Preaching. Ethel went to Summit at
night with Gilletts.
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.....
30. Mon.
George took my team after a load of
goods for our folks. I started to build
a chicken house.
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.....
31. Tues.
Worked at hen House.
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March 1908

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April 1908

1. Wed.

Worked at Chicken coop. George and I moved some straw off Pa's hay. Went down to Castors for meeting.

2. Thurs.

Picked up a load of Furnice wood up in the woods. Went down to Nehms after a load of wood. Ethel went to Aid.

3. Fri.

Hung the cellar door- dug hole for privy.

4. Sat.

Worked at Privy

5. Sun.

Rained
Stayed home all day.

6. Mon.

Went after a load of bean straw, stopped at hall and voted. Raised privy

7. Tues.

Worked at Privy

8. Wed.

Hung kitchen door, oiled dining room floor.

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9. Thurs.

Went to town - Shipped some furnice pipe back - also some canned Fruit to Fred Dean.

.....

10. Fri.

Went over on Ball Place and got some checked Fence
Worked at well - piled lumber
Made a chicken yard.

11. Sat.

Made a chicken yard.

12. Sun.

We went to quarterly meeting at school house. Willies folks was here for dinnier.

13. Mon.

Pulled up well rods. Went to Warrens - also to Frank Stearns - went after a load of bean straw.

14. Tues.

Helped pull up well Rods. Went to sale of L. Peterens in Amber. Bought a fork and barrel.

15. Wed.

Worked at Privy
Counted how many trees I needed.

April 1908

16. Thurs.

Went after a load of wood. Fished on the way. Caught five trout. Brought over six qt can fruit.

17. Fri.

Pa went with me to Hart after trees. We brought Willies trees - I went over to Stowells after Willies hoes.

18. Sat.

I took Willies trees over to him. Put shingles on south side of privy.

19. Sun.

Went to Sunday Scool.

20. Mon.

Went over and helped Willie Spray.

21. Tues.

Willie helped us put up wind mill. Ethel and I went to gleaner meeting.

22. Wed.

Willie helped me spray.

23. Thurs.

Started to plow sod for trees and corn.

24. Fri.

Helped Willie spray.

Rained.

25. Sat.

Helped Willie finish spray. Layed around did not feel well.

26. Sun.

Went to Sunday Schhol. Ethel stayed home. Eli's came up for dinner.

27. Mon.

Plowed sod.

28. Tues.

Plowed sod.

29. Wed.

I mowed - put hinges on chicken coop door. Hung stair door. Horner helped plow 1/2 day.

30. Thurs.

Willie helped me spray.

May 1908

1. Fri.
Helped Eli spray 1/2 day.
Finished planting Apple Trees.
Picked up two load of stone.
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.....

2. Sat.
Put Picture moulding in Setting room.
Disced my apple tree ground over
twice. Snowed like everything.
.....
.....

3. Sun.
The girls¹¹ and I went to Sunday
School and preaching.
.....
.....

4. Mon.
Draged ground for apple trees and set
25.
.....
.....

5. Tues.
Went to town - renewed note. Bought
churn \$3.00 & Alpalfa 3/4 bu. at
11.75 Bu. Sick.
.....
.....

6. Wed.
Set 65 hills chili peach tree. Hauled
two load of wood. Prayer meeting was
here.
.....
.....

7. Thurs.
Spouted potatoes. Cut one Bu for
seed. Sorted apples an worked at
stairway.
.....
.....

8. Fri.

draged for cherries and plums. Went
after a load of bean straw.
.....
.....

9. Sat.
Set 50 cherries and 50 plum trees.
Went to grange.
.....
.....

10. Sun.
We went to Sunday School and
preaching. The preacher came home
with us.
.....
.....

11. Mon.
Took two calves over to Eversolls for
Warren ???? - 439 - 440¹²
Took Ethel to town to see Dr.
.....
.....

12. Tues.
Set 32 peach trees. Picked up stone
and rocks. Made stone boat. Went to
prayer meeting at Fathers.¹³
.....
.....

13. Wed.
Helped work at well - painted 4 doors
inside. Worked at stairway. Rained.
.....
.....

14. Thurs.
Went to see Allie Peters wife she is
sick. Hired Denie Morton. Worked at
stairway. Rainy.
.....
.....

15. Fri.
Went after bean straw.

May 1908

Helped put new rods in the well.
Plowed with Pa's team- They took
myne to town.

.....
.....
16. Sat.
Plowed sod.
Planted garden.

.....
.....17. Sun.
Went to Sunday School.

.....
.....18. Mon.
Helped pull Brass cilinder out of the
well.

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.....19. Tues.
Helped Jason French shear sheep.

.....
20. Wed.
Went to Gleaner meeting.
Plowed sod.

.....
.....
21. Thurs.
Culivated Rasberry, Denie trimmed
Rashberries. Went over to Willies after
his horse.

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.....
22. Fri.
Plowed sod with three horses.
Denie trimmed rasberries.

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.....
23. Sat.
Plowed sod with three horses.

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.....
24. Sun.
Went to Sunday School and Preaching.

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.....
25. Mon.
Dragged for corn.
Dennie trimmed rasberries.

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.....
26. Tues.
dragged for corn.
Homer dragged 1/2 day.
Dennie trimmed rasberries.

.....
.....
27. Wed.
We marked corn and planted 4 acres.

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.....
28. Thurs.
Rained - We planted 4 acres of corn, 2
rows of potatoes - went after a load of
wood at Nehms

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.....
29. Fri.
Went to town with 85 lbs wool, 10 bu
wheat at 90 cents. Wool at 16 cents
per lb. Denie planted potatoes. & set
some cabbage.

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.....
30. Sat.
Layed floor upstairs.

.....
.....
31. Sun.
I went to Sunday School and
Preaching.

May 1908

Rainy

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June 1908

1. Mon.
I layed floor.
Went after girls in evening.
Dennie plowed on Ball place - 1/2
day. Helped me move lumber and
basket.

2. Tues.
Layed Floor.
Denie plowed and worked in
rasberries.

3. Wed.
Finished lay Floor. Put partitions in
upstairs. Denie gathered up brush in
Rasberries. - helped me.

4. Thurs.
Helped Willie spray. Denie plowed &
dragged for beans.

5. Fri.
We marked for beans.
Planted, carrots, Mangles, Sweet
Corn, Squash, Pumpkin and beans.

6. Sat.
We cultivated rasberries.
Hived a swarm of Bees.
We all went fishing at Hopkins Lake -
caught 19.

7. Sun.
We went to Sunday School. I went to
Meisenheimers Funeral.

8. Mon.
Plowed around trees. Hung two screen
doors. Denie hoed weeds and plowed

9. Tues.
Trimmed trees
Denie plowed.

10. Wed.
Trimed peach trees
Denie plowed in orchard.
Went to John Livingston to prayer
meeting.

11. Thurs.
Went to town to graduating exercises.
Denie plowed in Orchard.

12. Fri.
We all went to Sunday school picnic
except Ethel she went to Eli's.

13. Sat.
Denie plowed
I trimed trees.
We hauled in small load of hay.

14. Sun.
The girls and I went to Sunday School
and preaching.

15. Mon.
Vernon mowed Hay for me 1/2 day. I

June 1908

mowed around stumps. Denie plowed
- I cultivated Corn, Denie hoed garden.
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.....

16. Tues.
Denie hoed garden and plowed.
I cultivated corn - mowed around
stumps. Went to gleaner meeting.
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.....

17. Wed.
Cultivated corn. Raked hay. We hauled
inb 2 loads. Went to prayer meeting at
Levi McClutchies.
.....
.....

18. Thurs.
Raked Hay. Earnest and Dennie Piled it
up. We hauled in three loads.
.....
.....

19. Fri.
Earnest, Denie and I took Stable out of
Ball barn - Hauled in 7 loads of Hay.
Paid Denie up - \$15.10
.....
.....

20. Sat.
Raked stuble 3 hours-
Went to county grange at Summit
Town hall. Piled Hay 2 hr.
.....
.....

21. Sun. The girls and I went down to
Sunday School and Preaching.
.....
.....

22. Mon.
Gorge, Earnest and I Hauled 2 load of
hay for me and 5 for the folks.
.....
.....

23. Tues
Set some tomatos - Rained.
Put mortise lock on stair door. Plowed
in orchard 1/2 day.
.....
.....

24. Wed.
Weent to james McDonald raising.
Helped the folks haul in two load of
hay. We shook some out. Went to
prayer meeting.
.....
.....

25. Thurs.
Folks helped me haul in 4 load of Hay.
We piled up 5 acres for them.
.....
.....

26. Fri.
We hauled in 5 load of hay for the
folks. Cultivated corn 3 h ours.
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27. Sat.
I cultivated garden - beans, corn, &
rasberries. Went to town Hall but no
grange.
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Jun 28 thru July 11 pages are missing.
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July 1908

July 1-11 1908 entries missing

12. Sun.

Girls and I went to Sunday School and preaching.

13. Mon.

Hauled a load of wood from Ball Place. Cultivated corn. Went to town at 7 o'clock pm

14. Tues.

Picked up brush. Willie plowed around trees for me.

15. Wed.

Fixed the oil stove for the girls. Cultivated with the sulkey.

16. Thurs.

Stayed around the house - A baby¹⁴ came here. Went to town after a nurse. Got Barney shod. Rained.

17. Fri.

Cleaned up cellar. Went to town at 6 pm.

18. Sat.

Cultivated corn. Went down to John Mortons. Went to town at 6:30 PM.

19. Sun.

The girls and I went to Sunday School.

20. Mon.

Picked berries. Went to town at 6 pm.

21. Tues.

Talied and picked berries. Homer took them to town.

22. Wed.

Talied and picked berries. George took them to town with my team.

23. Thurs.

Talied and picked berries.

24. Fri.

Talied berries. Went to town - the nurse went home.

25. Sat.

Talied berries, went to town- Emma S went with me.

26. Sun.

We went to Sunday Schools and Preaching.

27. Mon.

July 1908

Talied berries.
Went to town.
Could not get crates.

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.....

28. Tues.
Went to Scottville after crates.
Went to Ludington with same team.

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.....

29. Wed.
Talied berries.
Went to town.

.....
.....

30. Thurs.
Finished cultivating corn for second
time.
Took three boys down to Bass Lake.

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.....

31. Fri.
Cultivated corn for 3rd time.
Went to town.

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.....

August 1908

1 Sat.
Cultivated corn for 3rd time.
Went to town.
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2. Sun.
Went to Sunday school
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.....
3. Mon.
Finished cultivate corn for 3rd time.
Went to town.
.....
.....
4. Tues.
Talied berries.
Went to town.
.....
.....
5. Wed.
Went to C. Kistlers raising.
Took berry pickers to town.
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.....
6. Thurs.
We picked apples peaches, and
berries.
Went to town.
.....
.....
7. Fri.
Started to go berring - but it rained.
Went after a load of wood. dusted in
orchard.
.....
.....
8. Sat.
We went Huckleberring and bathing at
Bass Lake.
.....
.....

9. Sun.
We went to Sunday School.
.....
.....
10. Mon.
We picked triumph peaches.
Went to town.
.....
.....
11. Tues.
Run disk in orchard.
Painted windows and frames down
stairs.
.....
.....
12. Wed.
I helped our folks pick peacxhes.
Went to Ball game in Unkle mike's
field.
.....
.....
13. T hurs.
Helped the folks pick pick peaches. I
owe them three days work.
Painted south door.
.....
.....
14. Fri.
Disted in orchard. Put netting on four
windows and painted stair window.
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.....
15. Sat.
no entry
.....
.....
16. Sun.
We went to Sunday School
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.....

August 1908

.....
17. Mon.
Disted in Orchard.
Help Elie pick peaches.
Got some oats at Sullivan.
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.....
18. Tues.
We went to picnic at Amber.
.....
.....19. Wed.
Draged in Orchard - 1/2 day.
I shingled the privey.
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.....
20. Thurs.
Draged in Orchard 1/2 day. Made a
cuboard for can fruit.
.....
.....
21. Fri.
Draged in Orchard 1/2 day.
Went after a load of wood down to
Nehns.
.....
.....
22. Sat.
Finished dragging orchard. Put
cornish on chicken coop.
.....
.....
23. Sun.
We went to sunday School and
Preaching.
.....
.....
24. Mon.
I helped the folks pick peaches 1/2
day. James dug cistern. We put 2 1/2
bundles of shingles on chicken coop.

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.....
25. Tues.
I went to town after a load of shingles.
James dug cistern. We shingled
chicken coop. Helped Richard bail
hay.
.....
.....
26. Wed.
Went down to school and earnd \$5.00.
Graded for Barn - went after Oats - 10
bushels at 55 cents.
.....
.....
27. thurs.
Ethel and Emma went to town. Worked
at singled chicken coop - worked at
barn.
.....
.....
28. Fri.
Went down town after a laod of
lumber.
.....
.....
29. Sat.
Picked peaches.
Went to town.
.....
.....
30. Sun.
We all went to Sunday School and
preaching.
.....
.....
31. Mon.
Started to town at 4:30 am after
tinner to put eve troughs on house.
.....
.....

August 1908

September 1908

1. Tues.

Worked at house.

Took tinner back to town.

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.....

2. Wed.

Picked peaches - took them to town.

brough home 72 - 1 x 12 x 12 .

James helped me.

.....
.....

3. Thurs.

Went over to Stowell's and Richard's

Upon our other place and over to

Willie's. Jame shelped me.

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.....

4. Fri.

Walked down town with Willie. ¹⁵We
went Detroit and to Belle Isle. Started
for Woodstock.

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.....

5. Sat.

We got to Woodstock at 5 o'clock am.

Went to Unkle George's.

.....
.....

6. Sun.

Ate 3 meals and drove 16 miles
around the country near Woodstock.

We went to bed shortly after.

.....
.....

7. Mon.

We rolled out at first light.- 2:30 .

Started to town at 4. Arrived at fair

9:45. Came away from fair about 11

o'clock. Walked streets to keep from
freezing.

.....

.....

8. Tues.

Went to Beaverton. Got back from
Toronto at 10 PM. Stayed in waiting
room.

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.....

9. Wed.

Started for Detroit at 8 AM. Arrived at
3:30 went to train.

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.....

10. Thurs.

Started home at 2 AM. Got in

Ludington at 12:00 PM. Got home at 6.

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.....

11. Fri.

Went to town after Lumber.

.....
.....

12. Sat.

Cut 45 shocks of corn.

Shaved

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.....

13. Sun.

Went to Sunday School and Preaching.

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14. Mon.

Cut 70 shocks of corn.

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.....

15. Tues.

Cut 18 shocks of corn. Picked 8
bushes of peaches on Ball place.

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.....

September 1908

16. Wed.
Picked 4 bushel peaches and 1 apple.
Went to town. Brough back Battens
for barn.

17. Thurs.
Cut 52 shocks of corn.

18. Fri.
At corn.

19. Sat.
Cut corn
Took load of peaches to town for Pa.

20. Sun.
The girls and I went to sunday school.

21. Mon.
Helped our folks pick peaches. Cut a
little corn. Ethel and Nora¹⁶ went to
town.

22. Tues.
Helped the folks pick peaches.
Took a load to town for Pa.

23. Wed.
Helped the folks pick peaches and
took a load to town for them.

24. Thurs.
Helped the folks pick peaches and
took a load to town for them.

25. Fri.
Cut corn
Hauled load of wood for Nehn.

26. Sat.
Pa and I went to sale at Marbles. I
bought some Spice? scythes and
Lumber.

27. Sun.
The girls and I went to sunday School
and preaching.

28. Mon.
Rainy - Nailed handles on baskets.
Went to Marble after Limber. Picked 8
bushes of peaches.

29. Tues.
Picked peaches.
Went to town
Pa sent three men to help me 4 hours.

30. Wed.
Rainy
Picked peaches.
Went to town
Wind blew like two of a kind.

September 1908

October 1908

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1. Thurs.
Picked 30 bushels of Lemon Free peaches. Nailed handles on 50 baksets. Hauled in peaches and 30 bushels for our folks.
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.....
2. Fri.
Picked peaches.
Went to town.
.....
.....
3. Sat.
Picked Peaches
Went to town
Brought home 4 barrels of cement.
.....
.....
4. Sun.
The girls and I went to Sunday school and preaching.
.....
.....
5. Mon.
Finished dig cistern.
Packed 55 baskets of peaches.
.....
.....
6. Tues.
Packed peaches.
Went to town, came home by Willie's.
.....
.....
7. Wed.
Helped Ethel wash. Dug 1 bushel of potatoes.
Picked 13 bushels of peaches (Smocks?)
.....

.....
8. Thurs.
Packed peaches.
Shot Giflitte's Nellie horse.
Went to town.
.....
.....
9. Fri.
Helped Willie pick apples.
.....
.....
10. Sat.
Helped Willie pick apples.
Raise chicken coop.
Went to grange meeting.
.....
.....
11. Sun.
Gladys and I went to Sunday School.
Alice is sick.
.....
.....
12. Mon.
Willie and I worked at cistern.
We went over to richard's after some pumpkins.
.....
.....
13. Tues.
Willie helped me at cistern and barn.
.....
.....
14. Wed.
Went after a load of wood.
Gladys¹⁷ and I picked 10 bushels of Apples. Some pumpkin and squash.
.....
.....
15. Thurs.
Fixed frame over cistern.
Went after a load of 2 in hardwood

October 1908

lumber down to Hidstroms.
.....

16. Fri.
Husked five shocks of corn. Worked
at cistern.
.....

17. Sat.
Willie helped me cement top of
cistern. Worked at the barn. Dr. came
to see Alice.
.....

18. Sun.
Stayed home all day. Gladys went to
Sunday School. Dr. Gray came to see
Alice.
.....

19. Mon.
Worked at barn.
dug 2 bushel of potatoes.
.....

20. Tues.
Sold sheep.
Willie helped me put the plates and
beams on barn - boarded up 2 sides.
.....

21. Wed.
Worked out the rafters.
Went after a load of wood. Thel went
to prayer meeting at Richard's.
.....

22. Thurs.
Willie helped me. We finished board
up below and one gable.
.....

.....
23. Fri.
Willie helped me. We finished the
north gable and most of the south
one.
.....

24. Sat.
Sewed strap on Dans collar. Nailed my
shoes. Cut some kindling wood. Went
to to(wn) after shingles, lumber,
paint, pump and sink.
.....

25. Sun.
Gladys and I went to Sunday School.
.....

26. Mon.
Willie helped me, we finished the
South gable, cut rafters - quit at four
account of rain.
.....

27. Tues.
Willie and Vernon helped me put up
rafters. and two thirds of sheeting on
roof.
.....

28. Wed.
Willie and I finished sheet roof. and
put some cornish on roof. hauled up
some shingles. Ethel went to prayer
meeting.
.....

29. Thurs.
Willie and I put on 3 1/2 thousand
shingles.
.....

October 1908

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30. Fri.

Vernon and Willie and I finished
shingles - east side of roof. I went to
look for a corn husker in afternoon.

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31. Sat.

Husked 2 shock of corn. dug potatoes.
- shaked -?
Went to Rineharts sale bought a
harness.

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December 1908

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.....
1. Sun.
Gladys and I went to Sunday School.
.....
.....
2. Mon.
We all went to town but Alice.
Borrowed \$1450- due in five years.
.....
.....
3. Tues.
Put one double coarse of shingles on
west side of barn. Went to Election.
and after a load of wood at Nehms.
.....
.....
4. Wed.
Went after Emma Shaffer. Put some
posts for a stable partition.
.....
.....
5. Thurs.
Put the joists over the stable. Vernon
helped me shingle in the afternoon.
.....
.....
6. Fri.
Vernon helped me shingle.
.....
.....
7. Sat.
I finished shingle the barn. I went with
Dave Morton to see Bert Rutty about
husking corn.
.....
.....
8. Sun.
No Sunday Schools at the school
house. We went to Simmit ate dinner
at Anna's.

.....
.....
9. Mon.
Cut-clover for Seed. racked it up.
George helped me haul one load.
.....
.....
10. Tues.
George helped me haul one load of
clover. I had 100 pounds of seed. paid
2.08
.....
.....
11. Wed.
Layed floor in Barn.
Prayer meeting was here.
.....
.....
12. Thurs.
Helped Dave Morton husk corn. I
hailed with my team.
.....
.....
13. Fri.
Helped Dave Morton husk corn.
Hauled in corn for him.- snoed.
.....
.....
14. Sat.
Helped Dave husk corn in fore noon.
Helped George put shaft up in the
barn. Shaved. - snowing.
.....
.....
15. Sun.
We all went to sunday school and
preaching.
.....
.....
16. Mon.
Went over to Witteys and Warrens.

December 1908

Went after a load of wood.
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.....

17. Tues.
Worked at floor above stable.
.....
.....

18. Wed.
Worked at Barn 1/2 day. Went to town
after 2 barrel of cement-brought
painters up for Pa.
.....
.....

19. Thurs.
Dug for sewer pipe.
We husked 80 bushel of corn.
.....
.....

20. Fri.
We husked corn till 4 o'clock - broke
a belt.
.....
.....

21. Sat.
We finished husk corn. Started to
husk for Homer.
.....
.....

22. Sun.
Went to Sunday School.
.....
.....

23. Mon.
Rainy
Cut some kinling wood.
Took 70 bushel of corn over to Willie.
.....
.....

24. Tues.

Cut holes in stable for windows.
Hauled 1 load of Sand.
.....
.....

25. Wed.
Went to Sheldons sale.
Rained
.....
.....

26. Thurs
We all went to Willies
.....
.....

27. Fri.
Went over to Warrens after a calf.
Helped Bender husk corn.
.....
.....

28. Sat.
Helped Bender husk corn.
We all went to grange meeting.
.....
.....

29. Sun.
The girls and I went to Sunday School
and Preaching.
.....
.....

30. Mon.
Worked at cement wall around stable.
Went after a load of wood.
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December 1908

.....
.....

1 Tues.
Made a cold air flue.

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.....

2. Wed.
Went down and strated to put
Albastone on Summit Town Hall.

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3. Thurs.
Cut a laod of furnace wood.
Worked a Summit hall. Went to
meeting at Summit.

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4. Fri.
Went down and worked at Summit
hall. Went to meeting.

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.....

5 Sat.
Went down and painted in the hall.
Ethel went to meeting.

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.....

6. Sun.
The girls and I went to Sunday School
and Preaching.

.....

December 1908

.....
7. Mon.
Vernoon Gillitte and George Pepper
and I went down and cleaned the town
hall.
.....

.....
8. Tues.
I went to town - took back paint &
albastone. Brough home 400 feet of
matched lumber.
.....

.....
9. Wed.
We butchered a hog that weighed 384.
Pa cut my han. Five girls ate supper
and went to meeting with us.
.....

.....
10. Thurs.
We all went to town to get the girls
Pictures taken. Got a barrel of salt and
box of crackers.
.....

.....
11. Fri.
Helped Richard shingle Shappee house
- a fine day.
.....

.....
12. Sat.
Helped Richard shingle Shappee
house.
Snowed like everthing.
.....

.....
13. Sun.
The girls and I went to Sunday School
and Preaching.
.....

.....
14. Mon.
Went to town to Nehms after a load of
wood. cut half a load of furnace wood.
Shot a rabbit.
.....

.....
15. Tues.
Helped Richard shingle Shappee
house.
A awful fine day.
.....

.....
16. Wed
Helped Richard shingle 1/2 day.
Snowed a little. Put papper on chicken
coop. Ethel went to meeting.
.....

.....
17. Thurs.
Emptied a barrel of vinegar. Ground
lard and sausage meat.
I went to meeting.
.....

.....
18. Fri.
Put sewer pipe in.
Went to meeting.
.....

.....
19. Sat.
Went down to nehms after my last
load of wood. George helped me cut
load of furnace wood. Went to
meeting.
.....

.....
20 Sun.
The girls and I went to Sunday School
and Preaching.
Ethel went to meeting

December 1908

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.....

21. Mon.

Went to George Shappes after a oil tank. Measured my oil. Took a laod of wood to town for George.

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.....

22. Tues.

Went to Henry Agens sale. bought a purless plow.(4.00) and a box of iron.(.10)

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.....

23. Wed.

Went to Nehms after 20 Bu Potatoes at 55 cents a bushel.

.....
.....

24. Thurs.

Piled up two cords of wood in cellar. Went up in the wood and cut a load of furnace wood.

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.....

25. Fri.

We all went to Unkle Michaels, I went over to Agens and got my plow. I got a little sore on finger.

.....
.....

26. Sat.

Sick till noon. Ethel sick all day, I went to grange in afternoon. They elected me Secretary and insurance man.

.....
.....

27. Sun.

Ethel has headache all day. I went to

town to see. Dr. Atwood about my finger. He said I had blood poison.

.....
.....

28. Mon.

Ethel was sick with her head all day. I laid around with a sore hand.

.....
.....

29. Tues.

Ethel is sick yet and i have a sore hand.

.....
.....

30. Wed.

No entry

.....
.....

31. Thurs.

No Entry

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.....

Trip to Canada

Details of Trip to Canada as recorded on several pages in back of the Journal.¹⁸ September 4 thru 10th. See other entries for these dates.

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Friday September 4, 1908

Got up at 3 - started to town at 4
Left town at 7 - changed cars at Baldwin at 8:15 am. Crops froze badly between Baldwin and Grand Rapids. Changed at Grand Rapids at 11 am. Ate our lunch. Arrived at Detroit at 3. Mailed postals home.

Went to Belle Isle on boat.

Got back to Detroit at 7 o'clock. Ate our supper. Walked around town. Took train at 11:40 for Woodstock. Willie had a good sleep. I tried to sleep with one shoe off and one on.

We got to Woodstock at 5:15 a.m. Stayed around town till 9:30. Walked out to Unkles¹⁹. Ate our dinner on our way under a tree. Unkle was away fishing. We met him near barn yard tried to hire to him. We went down to river in afternoon. We went to bed at 10.

Got up at 7.

We drove 16 miles saw four stone houses. All kinds of good farms.

Sept 7

We got up at 2.30

Started to walk to town at 4 - took the 5:20 train for Toronto - we saw seven or more Stone houses from train windows. Our train consists of 9 coaches - landed at Fair 9:15.

Saw white Yorkshires- 1015 lb- 175 small pens..

From Grandstand we saw Bear Dance,

drink out of the bottle while sitting in chair, kiss man, telephone weasel, man throwed bear, bear throughed man, rode tricycle. Cub rolled over, slide on wire, Roll Ball, Three bears eat off table. Drink out of bottles, Cub lays on back to drink.

Four Elephant stood on head, walked with front feet on head ones back. Man hung trapice²⁰ on trunk and swang. Played ball. Layed on man. Man walked on their back, stood on head. They washed and wiped men. Man shot a man and the Elephant carried off.

Cavery drilled

12 ponies parraded

By the performers

Man danced on rope

One man fell-carried away on stretcher.

Pony fell backwards on top of boy.

Six carriage teams Parrade.

Had an old horseman and woman chase each other through windows through hole in roof.

Lyons performed.

Horse jumped fence with man on back.

One horse fell

A man knocked a nigger down as fast as he would get up.

Had a sham battle.

Auditorium seats 15000.

120,000 people at Fair.

We started for Beaverton at 7:50 with four or five coaches and double header. Changed at Balckwater - arrived at Beaverton 11:30.

Walked out to peat factory 2 miles.

Ate dinner under a tree.

Seen freight train - 50 cars, 2 engines.

Trip to Canada

Started home at 5:50 arrived at Toronto 10. missed 10:10 train. Layed in waiting room all night. Left Toronto on the 8 AM train at 8:30.

Threwed a bread wagon off the track. Killed horse. Got to Woodstock at 11:10. [September 8] . Bought our ticket for Detroit- no excitement then till we got to near Windsor when inspector came around to see where we were going and what for. Landed from ferry at 3:30. Went to Fair. Got back from fair at 10:00. [September 9, 1908]

Seen flying maching.

Started home from Detroit at 2:20²¹
Changed at Saginaw 6:30-50.

Footnotes

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- 1 Ethel Rose wife of Charles Wesley Fitch.
Her father being Andrew Jackson Rose.
- 2 Andrew Jackson Rose, b. 24 Jul 1839
- 3 Andrew Jackson Rose. d. 5 Jan 1908
- 4 Fred Dean and Mabel Rose Dean. Mabel, sister to Ethel, b. 10 Jan 1867
- 5 Mary Melissa Heath Rose.
- 6 Nels Hansen and wife Estella sister to Ethel and Mabel. Estella b. 3 Dec 1868
- 7 Andrew J. Rose was receiving a pension as result of his civil war service. His wife was eligible to receive a widows pension. The pension file was reviewed in *The Four Drive*, Vol I, No. 8, page 2
- 8 William Fitch brother to Charles.
- 9 Richard Fitch brother of Charles.
- 10 John Henry Fitch, b.19 jan 1847, d. 18 Nov 1916.
- 11 The “girls” being Gladys, age 4, b. 18 Sep 1903 and Alice, age 3, b. 27 Oct 1904.
- 12 Last name of Warren unclear. Numbers are probably the weights of the two calves.
- 13 John Henry Fitch, & Harriett Cecila Lano
- 14 Hazel Marguerite Fitch, b. 16 Jul 1908
- 15 This was the beginning of a trip to the World’s fair in Toronto and a visiting to Woodstock, his birthplace. Additional details of the trip were written in the back pages of the journal. They have been included in this transcription at the end also.
- 16 Nora Bell Fitch b. 11 Jul 1883, m. George Albert Hayes 27 Nov 1902. Nora Bell a sister to Charles.
- 17 Daughter Gladys would have been 5 yrs old at this time.
- 18 These supplemental notes have been typed and rearranged in sequential order. It appears the first page was entered and then subsequent pages recorded on the preceding page. etc.
- 19 Probably George Fitch (b. 20 Apr 1858)
- 20 trapeze
- 21 September 10, 1908